



Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 23, No. 5, Whole No. 220, Summer 1996

Remembrances of the Past

by Herman Herst, Jr.

In the days before turnpikes and modern highways, the road from New York to Boston went right through the main streets of each city along the way. There was no Merritt Parkway, and, more to the point, there was no pretzel in the middle of Waterbury, taking automobiles over the center city if one did not mind the twists and turns.

It is now many years since we have been to Waterbury, since we have lived in Florida more than 20 years and it is many more years since we have driven through the center of Waterbury, because of the aforesaid pretzel. Thus, our memories of the Hotel Elton are perhaps a quarter century old. We do not even know if it is still there.

But associated with our recollections of the Hotel Elton was the memory of a very pleasant purchase made there in the mid-1930s. It should be remembered that a half century ago, early covers were not as popular as they are now . . . even if they had fancy Waterbury postmarks.

A gentleman had come to the stamp show there with a shoebox of Connecticut covers, all bearing stamps between the 3 cent 1861 and the 3 cent greens of the 1870-1880s. It was apparent that the accumulation had been picked before it came to the show. There were no Bridgeport Fireman cancels, no arrow in hearts. But there were plenty of the less valuable Waterbury cancels, dozens of them.

The chap had been to every dealer in the show. Some pawed through them before they indicated a lack of interest; others simply told the gentleman that they were not interested in covers.

John Fox of Floral Park, NY, and the writer had driven up to Waterbury, just to look in to see

whether the dealers had anything to offer of interest. It should be remembered that in those depression days, dealers sold other dealers, and happily. In fact, at many of these shows there was far more business done between dealers than between collector and dealer.

A dealer who did not have a stand, seeing Fox and the writer, suggested that we look at the chap's box of covers on condition that we give him ten percent of whatever we purchased. We agreed with pleasure, since although we had not looked at the covers, the transaction left us with nothing to lose.

The owner of the covers complained that no one seemed to be interested and he was determined not to take them home. Apparently he had been trying to get rid of them for some time. He suggested that Fox and I go through them, taking what we wanted at 25 cents per cover, or if we took the entire lot, they would be fifteen cents per cover. When we saw dozens of Waterbury stars, leaves, geometrics, we took the latter option. Fox and I counted the covers, paid the owner, took care of the commission, and went to a quiet part of the hotel lobby to divide the covers.

How to divide the covers? That was no problem. We simply reversed the box and divided them backwards, one for Fox, one for me, and so on, until the last cover had been dispensed. (I do not recall now who got the better of the deal, whether there was an odd or an even number of covers.)

Today, with even common Waterbury covers bringing the kind of money they bring, I often wish that I could find another accumulation of them . . . at fifteen cents each!

Dear Reader,

Included with the next issue of the NEWS will be a ballot for the election of officers for a two year term beginning in January 1997. This is, of course, a crucial matter for our club's future. Many possible activities exist for the USCC such as national and perhaps even regional meetings, presence on the Internet, show tables, study groups, periodic auctions, specialized publications, etc. based entirely on the interests of our members and a willingness to help. The parallel consideration, it seems clear, is to grow our membership and there are many steps that might be taken. No doubt in my mind that the interest in cancellations is out there and the question is how well will our club serve that interest. The officers for 1997-8 will have the opportunity to lead the club during an eventful period. For openers, there will be Pacific 97 in May/June 1997 that will no doubt draw a number of members.

The election will cover the positions listed below. If you would be willing to serve in one of these positions or if you wish to suggest the name of another club member, please come forward as soon as possible. An abbreviated statement of duties accompanies each position.

President. Presides at board meetings (see below) and otherwise provides general supervision over officers and committees. (It seems to me such meetings could be handled through telephone conference calls.)

First Vice President, Second Vice President, Governor-at-Large. Serve as members of board and perform such other duties as the President or Board may assign. The First VP presides at board meetings in absence of President.

Secretary-Treasurer. Serves as a member of the board, keeps official records, and performs (or supervises performance of) membership and financial operations.

The board has full power to manage the business and affairs of the Club except as otherwise provided by the Bylaws. An updated "Purposes and Bylaws of the U.S. Cancellation Club" is very much needed and will no doubt be considered by the new officers. A copy of the current statement will be sent to any member requesting it.

As an outreach to potential new members, if any club member would like to have a complimentary copy of the NEWS sent to a nonmember friend or acquaintance who is interested in the field of U.S. cancellations, please let me know and I'll gladly do so together with a brief note about the USCC and a mention of your referral.

Regarding any and all of the above, let's hear from you!

Roger Curran



HELP WANTED

Many club members are familiar with Walter D. Wesson's "TIME ON BOTTOM" DUPLEX HAND CANCELERS by Ted Bozarth (compilation and editing by Russell F. Hanmer) published in 1990 by La Posta Publications. Eugene Meyer served initially as update coordinator for this monograph and presented an "additions and corrections" article in the November 1992 issue of La Posta. Mr. Meyer has passed away and Ralph Edson and Gil Levere are now undertaking a revision of Ted's publication and seek reports from readers of new earlier or later dates, types, towns, varieties, etc. with substantiating documentation in the form of photocopies. Let's do what we can to help Ralph and Gil in this important effort. Reports should be sent to Ralph at 365 Westland Ave., Cheshire, CT 06410.

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NOON REVISITED

by Arthur White

In a recent issue of the NEWS (Whole No. 219, Spring 1996, Pg. 63) a discussion was held regarding the relative scarcity of the time notation "12 NOON" in circular date stamps. The editor posed a rather logical question as to why wasn't everything simplified by noting "12N" for noon and "12M" for midnight. However logical the suggestion, these notations won't work "cause they just ain't right."

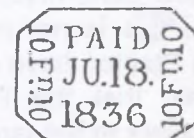
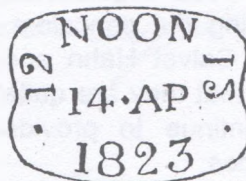
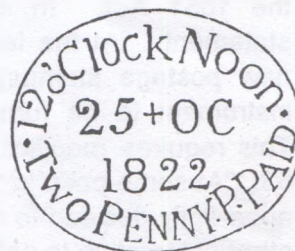
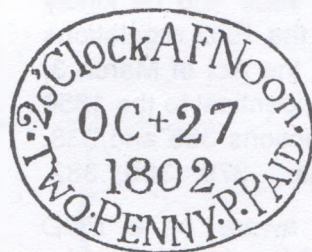
Perhaps a little primer here on time-telling might clarify the time designations found on postmarks and elsewhere.

When the sun rises in the morning, it progresses upward in the eastern sky until it reaches its overhead zenith at exactly 12 noon. This zenith point is referred to as the Meridian, and at exactly the moment the sun transits the meridian, it is said to stand at 12 Meridian, thus the use of 12M in postmarks to designate 12 noon. After the sun passes the Meridian and descends toward the west, it is considered to be setting. Prior to noon in the day is referred to as the antemeridiem (meaning before the Meridian) hence, A.M. The hours after noon are postmeridiem (after the Meridian) or P.M. Thus, 12 midnight becomes 12 P.M., and the cycle starts again with 12:01 A.M. or one minute after midnight. Insurance policies are usually timed to take effect at 12:01 A.M. to be concurrent with the policy day date.

The divisions of the hour between midnight and 1 A.M. are noted as 12:01; 12:02, etc. A.M. as a matter of convention because clocks have been traditionally divided into 12 hours. Technically (and as with 24 hour clocks), the minute after midnight becomes 0:01 hours, which more accurately reflects the time as the new day commences immediately after the midnight hour of 12 P.M.

It should be noted that the span of time before noon is the ante-meridiem, while the adjective is antemeridian, as, "The antemeridian hours are 12 in number." The same applies, of course, to the postmeridiem.

It is interesting to note that while U.S. postmasters in the early years were reticent to use easily understood time designations, their brothers in London in the late 18th and early 19th centuries were being more specific. Their notes were such as "12 NOON", "7 NIGHT", "4 A. NOON", etc. Several examples of these London handstamps from Alcock and Holland, The Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland are shown below. It will be seen that these time/date stamps also show the year. The bane of the U.S. postal historian is the nearly universal omission of year dates in postmarks struck on early U.S. covers and folded letters, making those with no contents or dockets difficult or impossible to assign a year date. Many such a cover has had the year determined only by the year appearing on a foreign postmark.



COMMENTS ON EARLIER ARTICLES

Ted Bozarth points out that the term of address used on the cover illustrated as Figure 6 on page 63 of the Spring issue is "Mess" and not "Miss." "Mess" is a shortened form of "Messrs" which is itself a shortened form of "Messieurs," the French plural of "Mister." "Messrs" was commonly used in the 19th century, of course, to address a group of men.

Bob Markovits added a handstamp rate number found canceling 1847 issue stamps to the list on page 54 of the Spring issue. Lot 271 in the December 1995 Siegel sale #771 was an off-cover 5 cent described as canceled in blue ink by a "1" in an octagon. As Bob mentioned, this is a rarity, indeed.

Calvet Hahn noted that sections quoted as "1851" POD regulations on page 53 of the Spring issue were actually those of 1856 and he kindly provided pertinent portions of the 1852 regulations that reflect implementation of the Act of March 3, 1851. The wording is virtually identical to the 1856 regulations but rather than Sections 336 and 338, they comprise three sections: 379, 380, 382.

However, I am also now aware of a POD statement of June 10, 1851, signed by the Postmaster General, which was apparently a less formal instruction to postmasters, on implementing the 1851 Act. In it, he makes the following statement. "At the larger offices, they (ed. - the new postage stamps) will be canceled with an instrument to be furnished by the Department." This requires modification of my statement on p. 53: "At some point in 1851, if not earlier, the POD apparently decided to no longer provide this or any other obliteration to post offices. In 1851, the POD was obviously still providing cancelers to some post offices. By the time of the "1852" regulations, did the POD discontinue sending out cancelers, since this is not mentioned? Calvet Hahn and Tom Stanton have advised me that they are quite certain that the POD did continue to provide cancelers to the larger post offices.

Incidentally, after examining a limited holding of #10s, I noted that the standard grid shows up quite a bit. This, I believe, contrasts with groups of #11 which typically show a greater range of obliterations, including other grids. A major

reason for the decline of the standard grid as time went on was undoubtedly that various of the larger POs switched to using the CDS as a canceler to save, of course, much needed time. Comment on any and all of this is invited.

Clyde Jennings reported that in his collection, before it was sold, there were examples of each of the bottle stopper numbers listed on page 55 of the Spring issue but none that were not listed. Surely there must be a "5" out there since "4", "4 1/2", "5 1/2" and "6" are seen but could it be that there is not a "1" or "1 1/2" or numbers above "6"? Clyde also showed a stopper with a "3" carved into a 6-point star. While we are on the subject, another carved example is illustrated below.



Many thanks to the above-mentioned writers and to all readers who sent information or questions. Your interest is sincerely appreciated!

SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY

Included as an insert to this issue is a list of USCC library holdings. If you have publications not included therein, pertinent to the field of U.S. cancellations or postmarks generally, that are duplicates or no longer of direct interest to you, consider a possible donation. Club librarian Bill Bauer would be glad to hear from you and our membership would surely appreciate your support.

POSTMARKS ON POSTAL CARDS

Gil Levere submits postal cards having interesting aspects. I'm guessing you thought, as I did, that the first day of January is January 1. But perhaps the postmaster at Essex, Connecticut had other information. Note the 1883 dated card illustrated as Figure 1 which surely appears to have a zero for the day date. (Now that Arthur White has done such a fine job explaining time-of-day designations earlier in this issue of the NEWS, we may need him to explain just when January 0 occurs!) Comment is invited.

The cancel in Figure 2 is similar to but differs from another East Capitol Station ellipse with a "0" in the center that was illustrated on page 105 of the Spring 1989 NEWS with known dates of usage from July 22, 1887 to February 17, 1889. The Figure 2 card is datelined "Sept. 21/92." Who will explain what appears to be a "10" between the CDS and ellipse?

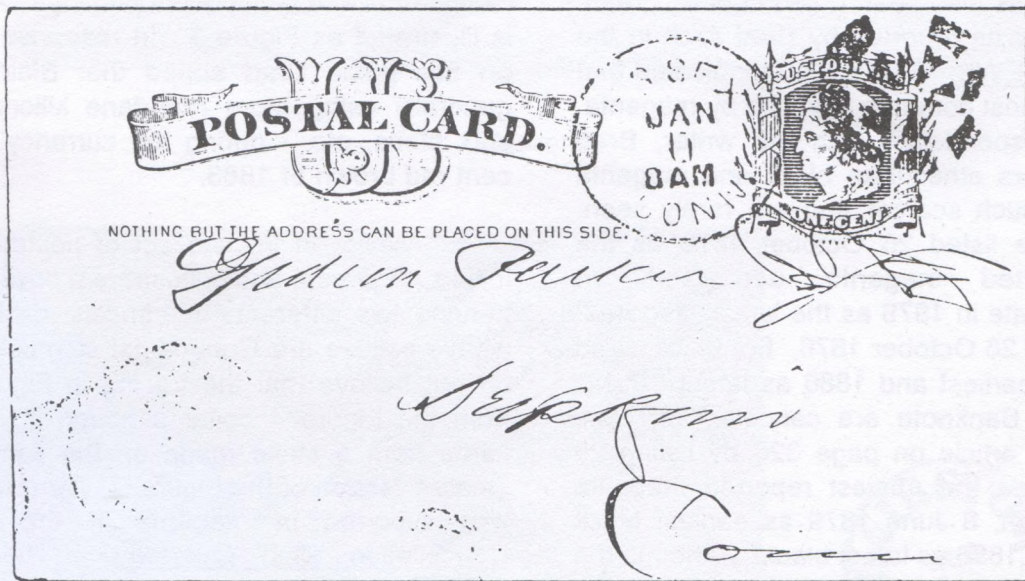


Figure 1

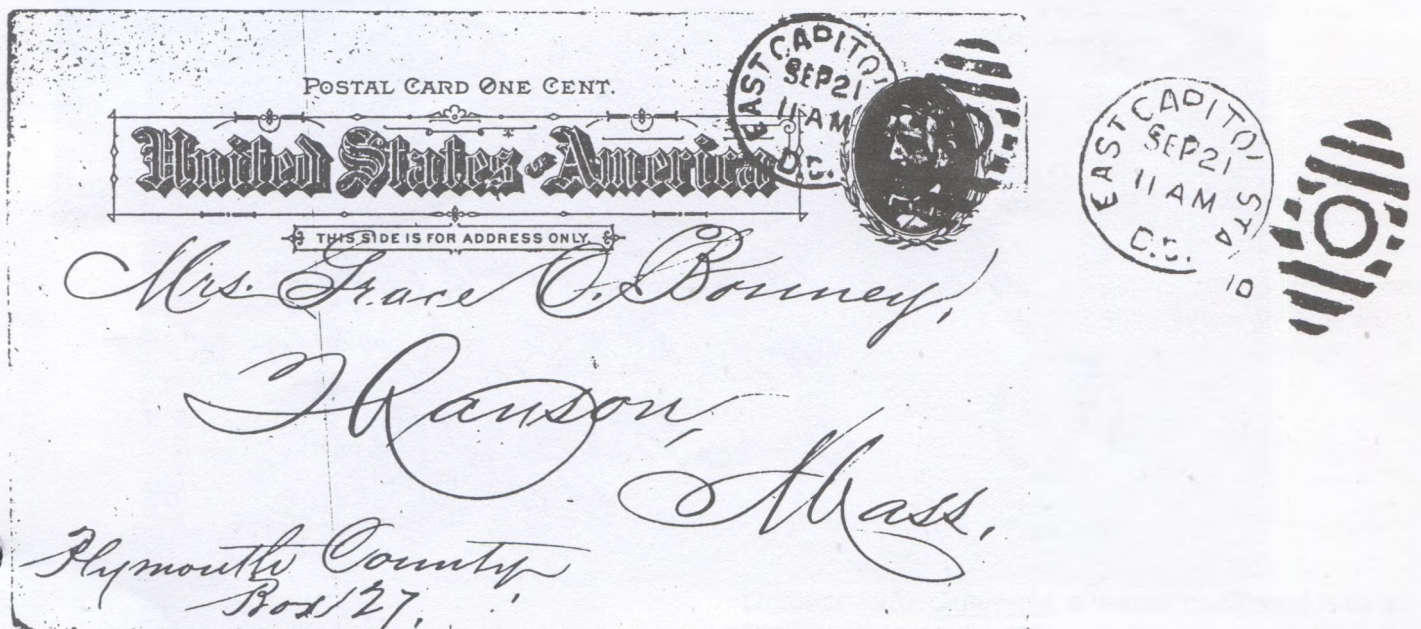


Figure 2

BLAIRSTOWN MONOGRAM

by Roger D. Curran

Ellipse cancels, containing horizontal or vertical bars, came to be the most common form of handstamp obliteration used in the U.S. before the adoption of machine cancellations. The overwhelming majority were duplexed to a CDS in a single handstamp. One of the few that was not duplexed is the very attractive "JDV" monogram ellipse (see Figure 1) that was used by postmaster John D. Vail of Blairstown, a small town in northwest New Jersey. Collectors who are familiar with this cancellation will probably be aware of black and magenta ink colors but may be surprised to learn that it has also been noted in blue, green, brown and violet as reported by Brad Arch in the January 1981 NEWS. Brad's report indicated that black was the most common followed by magenta. In recent correspondence with the writer, Brad stated that colors other than black and magenta are definitely much scarcer and are rarely seen. His 1981 article listed 26 October 1876 as the earliest reported magenta use and an undetermined date in 1879 as the latest. Figure 2 is a cover dated 26 October 1876. For black, Brad listed 1880 as earliest and 1886 as latest. In his 1995 book on Banknote era cancels, Jim Cole updated Brad's article on page 326 by listing 25 October 1876 as the earliest reported magenta "JDV" monogram, 8 June 1879 as earliest black and 26 October 1886 as latest black. Although the monogram is noted used until late 1886, my



Figure 1

experience suggests that it is quite a bit scarcer on 1883 issues than on the earlier 3 cent greens of Continental and subsequent printings. An example is illustrated as Figure 3. In response to a query on this point, Brad stated that Blairstown was generally using more mundane killers - targets, cork blobs, etc. - during the currency of the two cent red brown of 1883.

While on the subject of postmaster Vail's initials, Figures 4 and 5 illustrate a cover and piece bearing two different "V" cancels in black ink on what I believe are Continental stamps (Sc.158). I do not believe that the tracing in Figure 4 came from the Figure 4 cover although it undoubtedly came from a strike made on the same day. A smaller version of the Figure 5 killer (see Figure 6) was reported in magenta in the July 1952 Cancellation Club Quarterly. The submitter speculated that it was from Blairstown. In the

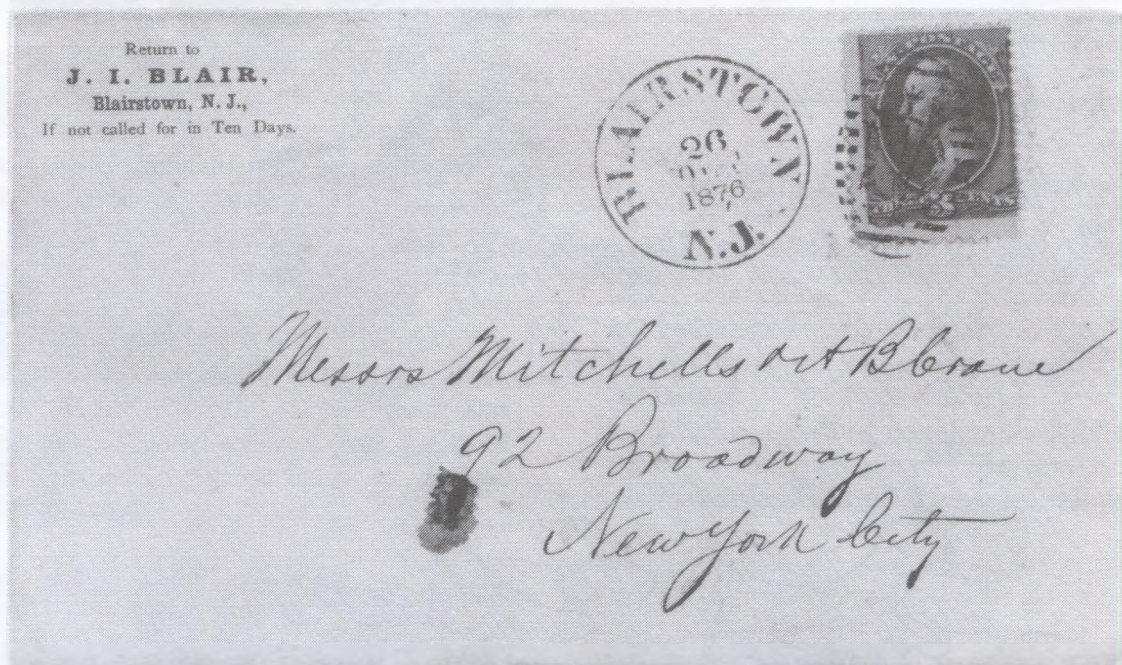


Figure 2

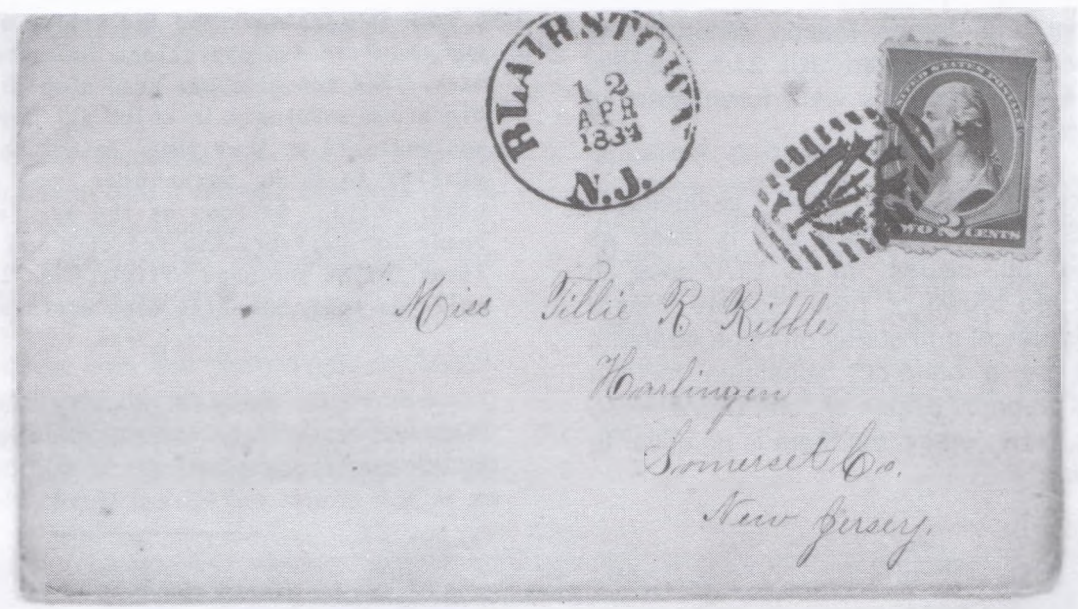


Figure 3

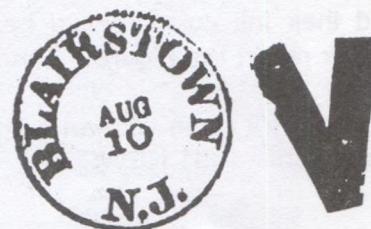
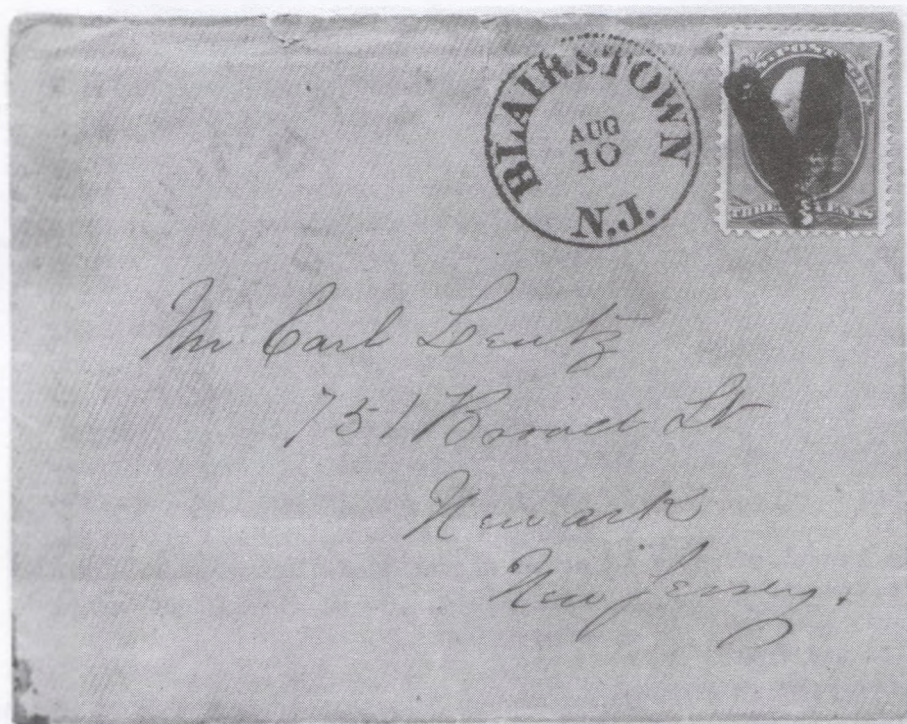


Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

October 1952 Quarterly, a reader confirmed it as a Blairstown marking. Through the courtesy of Brad, several questions were put to the readership of the

NJPH Journal and James Mason reported the Figure 4 cancel in black dated "JUL 21." Possibly the Figures 4 and 5 cancels were forerunners of the "JDV" monogram.

The cancel shown in Figure 7 is illustrated on page 326 of the Cole book and is listed as known on the 1883 issues. In his 1970 book on the two cent red brown of 1883, Edward Willard illustrated this cancel and stated on page 46 that it "... could be a hand-cut substitute for the commercially prepared ellipse of John D. Vail used at Blairstown, New Jersey, but there is no cover to prove the point."



Figure 7

Readers are urged to provide more information on these or any related Blairstown cancels. Dates of use for any and all such cancels and their ink colors would be helpful. Can any reader report the Figure 7 cancel on cover?

We'll close with an article that appeared in the October 1951 NEWS.

THE BLAIRSTOWN, N.J. MONOGRAM
By D. Peyton Bevans

The highly prized "JDV" Monogram cancel of Blairstown, N.J. was that of the postmaster, John Davis Vail, who served from April 1875 to May 1887, from Jan. 1890 to Nov. 1893 and from October 1897 to 1901. Thus he served about twenty six years less about eight years in two interruptions, caused no doubt by the fact that Grover Cleveland had two terms as President.

Through the courtesy of his son, Dr. William Penn Vail, of Blairstown I have the only envelope he could find, one addressed to his mother at Girard College, Philadelphia, Pa. showing the monogram as a killer on Scott #U243 Two Cent Red Envelope with postmark dated Feb. 23, 1884 and with printed return card to Jno. D. Vail, Blairstown, N. J.

Dr. Vail has written me about his father's experiences as postmaster. I quote some extracts from his letter: "Blairstown then was a 4th class Post Office. There were about four mails

a day. The postmark and the killer were separate and required two operations to cancel add postmark. The monogram was used also in sealing the big brown envelopes in which all registered mail was enclosed at that time. Father had two signs, similar to R. R. semaphores, one red and the other white. As soon as the New York mail was ready for delivery the red sign was raised by a lever inside the post office. When the "Delaware" mail was ready the white sign would be displayed."

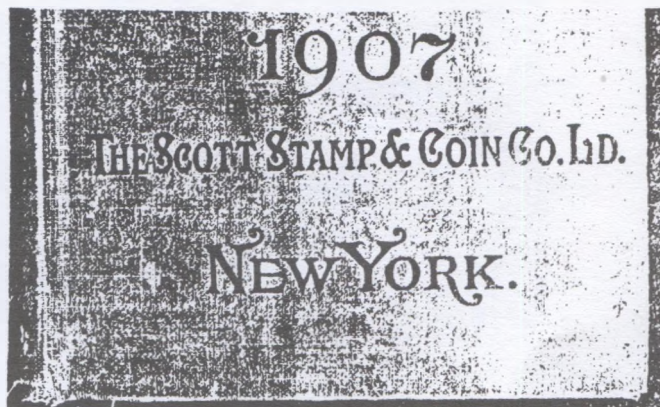
I assume that "ready for delivery" meant that the mail was ready to be picked up in the post office by the townspeople.

NOTED IN PASSING

From the "HINTS FOR COLLECTORS" section at the beginning of the 1907 Scott's catalog, we find the following:

The mark or obliteration put on a stamp by the post-office to denote that it has done service and is no longer available for payments, is called a *cancellation*. If it is made with a pen it is called *pen cancellation*. In some cases a stamp with a pen cancellation is not as valuable as one with a regular hand stamp cancellation. Thurn and Taxis used a cancelling stamp of concentric rings, which has grown to be distinguished as a *ring cancellation*. Great Britain used a *Maltese cross cancellation*, and stamps thus cancelled belong to the earliest period. Where the name of the post-office shows in the cancellation, it is called an *office cancellation*.

No additional discussion of cancellations or other postmarks was noted.



TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

by Roger D. Curran

The cover illustrated in Figure 1 is an interesting oddity in that it reflects two eras in the cancellation of postage stamps. Perhaps, more to the point, it reflects the transition from the handstamp era to the machine era.

The cover was first postmarked on March 24, 1897 by a Barr-Fyke canceling machine during this company's experimental period. Despite the long killer portion of the postmark, it wasn't long enough to effectively cancel the stamp due to an

apparent error in positioning the cover in the machine relative to the postmarking apparatus. Although the machine did slightly cancel the stamp, a conscientious postal clerk took the cover out of the mailstream and applied a handstamp ellipse to finish the job. It appears the clerk purposely struck the right side of the handstamp containing the ellipse because the CDS is barely visible.

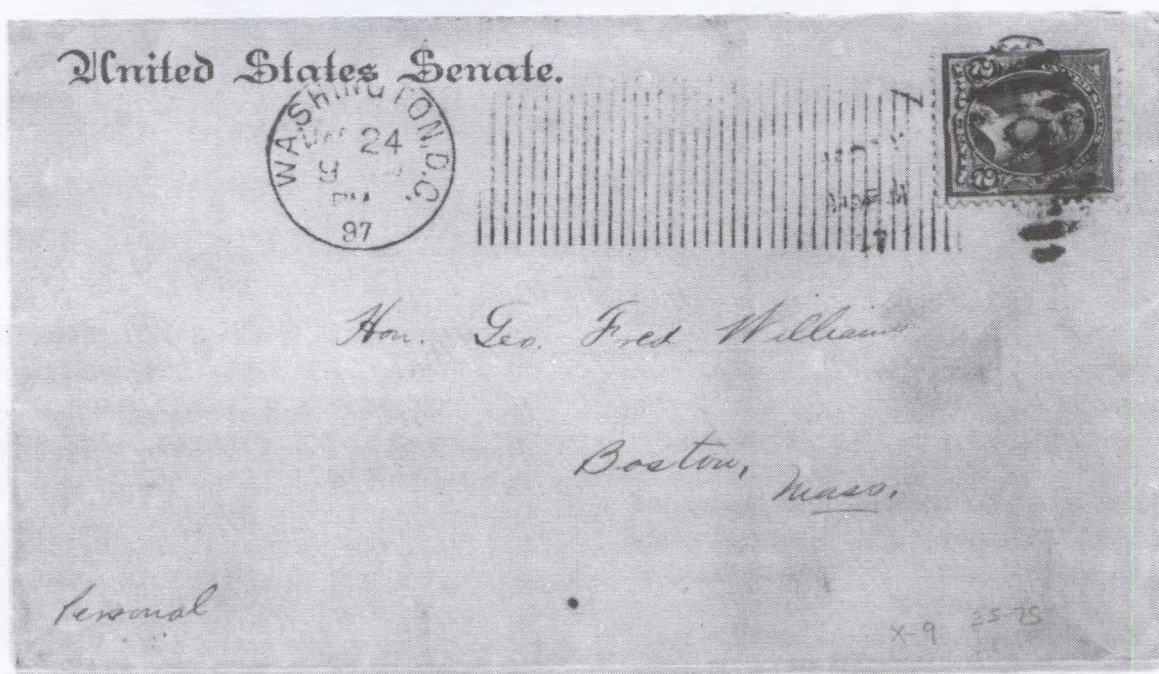


Figure 1

TURN ABOUT IS FAIR PLAY

by Roger D. Curran

"PAID" handstamp markings on 19th century U.S. stamps have long been of interest to collectors. One tends to think of them basically as markings originally designed for use on stampless covers to denote that the postage was paid in cash at the originating post office. And a great many are, but not all. In a number of cases, handstamps designed to obliterate adhesives contain the word "PAID." The 1979 Simpson's U.S. Postal Markings 1851-61 illustrates 56 such designs. The small and large Boston "PAID" obliterators (see Figure 1)

are among the most commonly encountered examples. Typically, the distinguishing feature of these obliterations is the presence of canceling bars in the design.



Figure 1

During the early years of adhesives, many thrifty postmasters who needed to cancel these stamps would turn to their stampless "PAID" handstamps to effect the obliteration. Much scarcer, however, are examples of "PAID" markings, designed as obliterations, used on stampless mail to designate that it is "PAID." One example is illustrated on p. 109 of the Blake and

Davis books Boston Postmarks to 1890 (Quartermaster reprint). This prepaid stampless cover bears the small Boston "PAID" in red and is postmarked July 24 (1851). Another cover, from Yantic, Connecticut is shown as Figure 2. Readers are urged to submit photocopies of other examples.

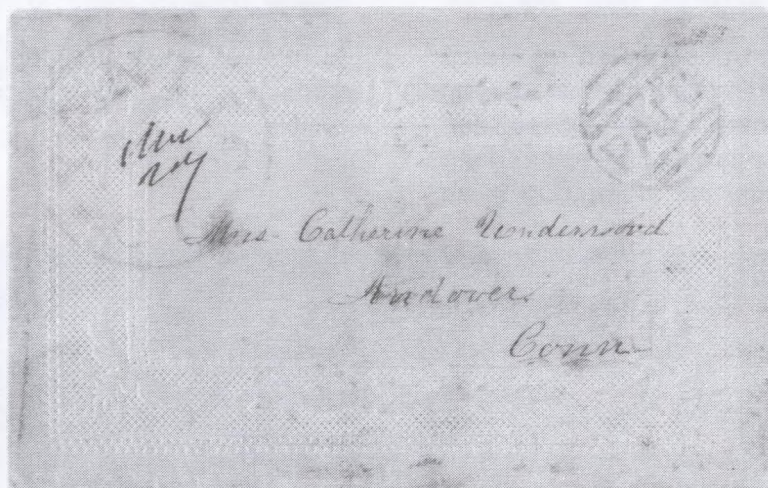


Figure 1

NOTRE DAME 'FOOTBALL'

by Roger D. Curran

Gather 'round sports fans, let's review the glory days. It would appear that a football might have been the inspiration for the shape of the killer in Figure 1 since we all know Notre Dame's tradition on the gridiron for many years. Only trouble is, as far as I can tell, Notre Dame's

prominence in football started later than 1899. Knute Rockne came to South Bend in 1910 as a freshman and it was in his senior year (1913) that Notre Dame electrified the football world with an innovative use of a forward pass to beat Army. Rockne became head coach in 1918 after serving as Assistant Coach and went on to compile a 105-12 won-lost record.

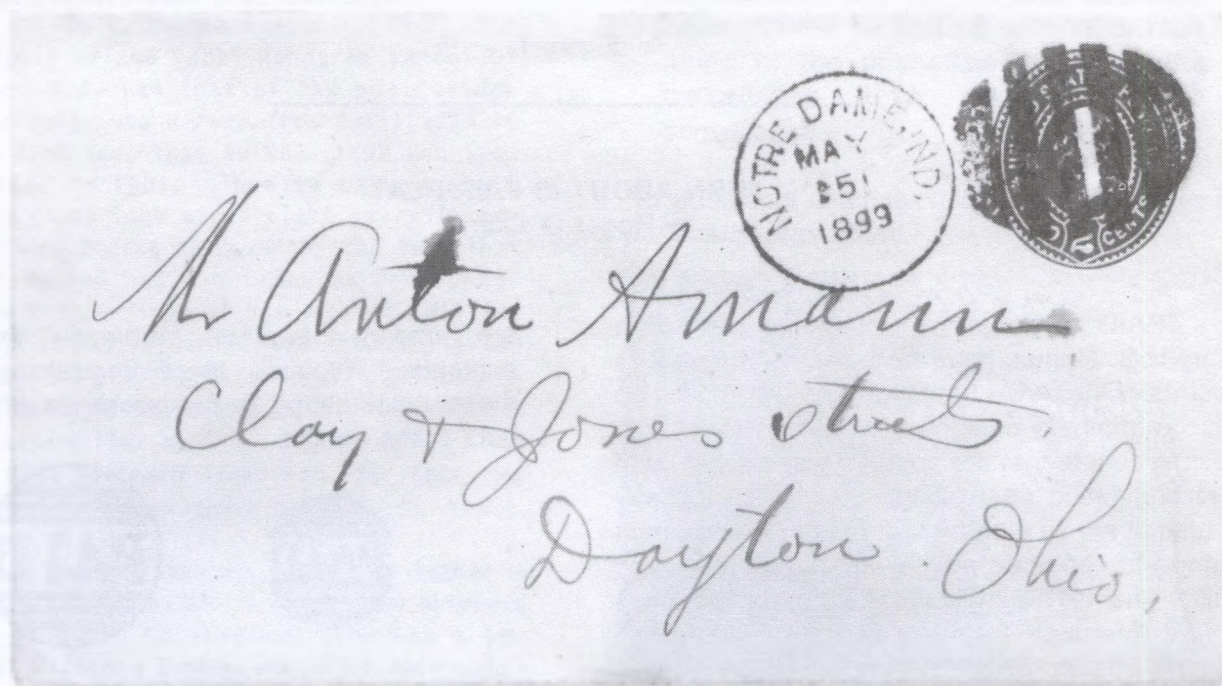


Figure 1

UNUSUAL 1847 ISSUE COVER FROM NEW YORK

by Roger D. Curran

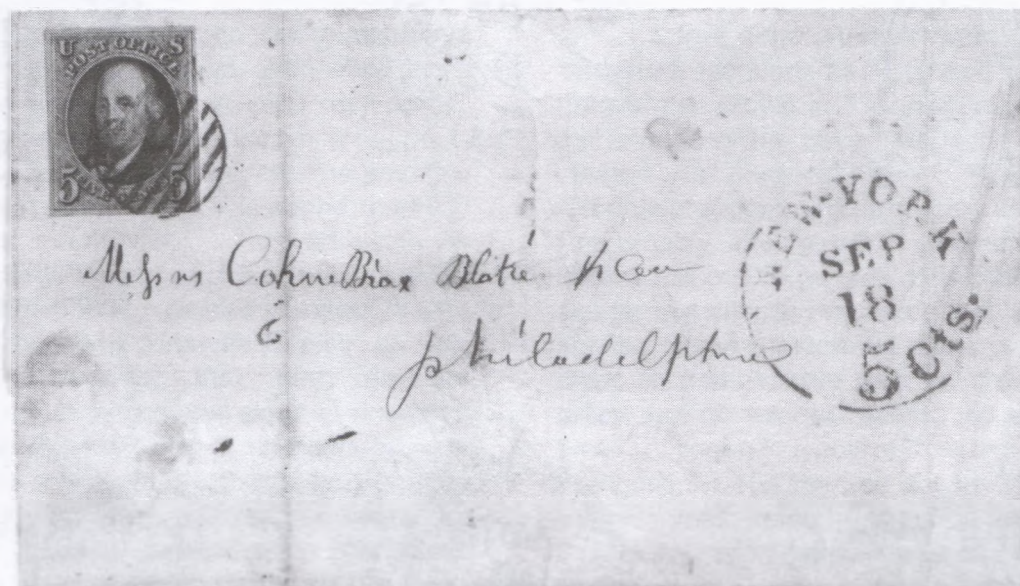


Figure 1

The cover illustrated in Figure 1 entered the mails in New York on September 18. There is no postmark, remaining enclosure, or docketing to tell us the year date. However, the CDS and grid killers are in black ink. This indicates a date after June 30, 1851 since there are no reported usages of a black CDS on an 1847 issue cover from New York City before the stamp was demonetized on July 1, 1851. It is thought that the orange-brown color of the 1851 issue 3 cent stamp generally led post offices to the switch to black canceling ink from the more common red. In the case of New York, the square grid was initially used as the canceler of 1851 issue stamps and the ink color was switched to black from red as early as July 3, 1851 with the CDS remaining red. In August 1851, the square grid gave way to the CDS as the regular canceler and the ink of the CDS then changed from red to black.

Thus far it appears that we have a post-demonetization use of an 1847 issue stamp but the question remains as to what year. The answer came as a result of a discussion of this cover at a meeting several years ago of the Baltimore-Washington Chapter of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society. Dick Winter pointed to the breakage in the rim of the CDS as instructive and mentioned an article from an early Postal Markings issue. Reproduced as Figure 2 is the data on 30 and 32 mm versions of this CDS as taken from page 92 of

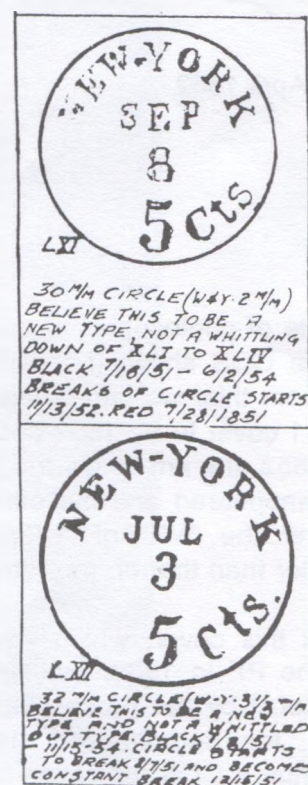
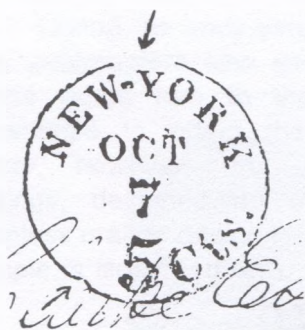
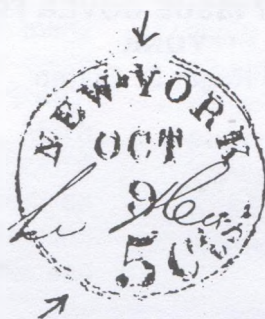


Figure 2

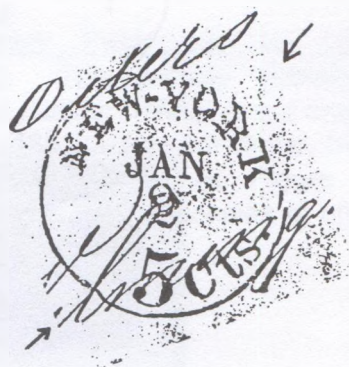
the July-August 1932 Postal Markings. The Figure 1 cover bears the 32 mm CDS. The notation below the 32 mm illustration in Figure 2 includes the following: "starts to break 8/7/51 and becomes constant 12/15/51." Dick kindly provided from his



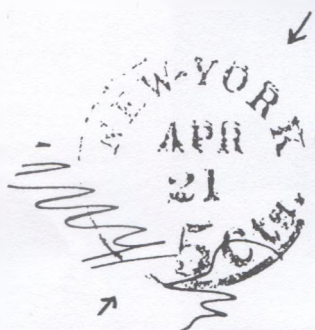
7 October 1851



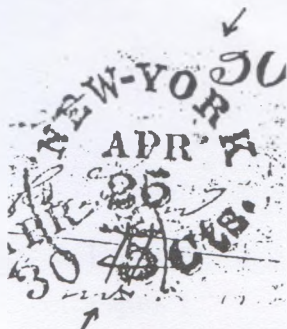
9 October 1851



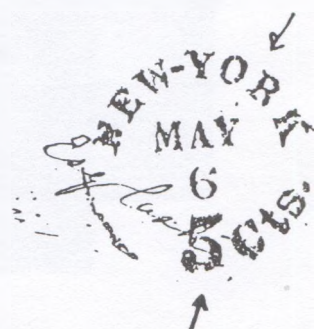
2 January 1852
(Transatlantic Use)



21 April 1852



25 April 1853
(Transatlantic Use)



6 May 1853

Figure 3

records a table of photocopies of dated examples of the 32 mm CDS showing the progression of breakage. From this, we can determine the year of the Figure 1 cover to be 1852 because by April and May of 1853, the rim below the "5" and "C" of "Cts." had disappeared and the other rim portion extending over the "NE" of "NEW-YORK" had become smaller than that on the Figure 1 cover.

I think this cover, which was certified as genuine by the PF in 1980, evidences a careful attention to detail by the processing postal clerk. As I view it, the demonetized stamp was not recognized, thus a CDS indicating five cents due was applied. Five cents was, of course, the rate at the time for unpaid single weight letters. This cover now consists only of the outer folded letter sheet. One or more inner sheets would have originally been present with the whole letter presumably not exceeding the single letter weight. From a cancellation standpoint, I wonder if this is the only known example of an 1847 issue stamp

obliterated with the standard circular grid in black at New York. Comment and additional information is eagerly sought.

MODERN CANCELLATIONS

by Roger D. Curran

As efficient as modern canceling machines are, they don't always do the job, even when there is only a single adhesive in the upper right corner of the envelope. An example is shown in Figure 1. In this case, however, it certainly seems possible that the diagonal strike of the Richmond machine postmark was intentional. The adhesive is canceled by a large time stamp (no arrow showing the hour appears in this example) in magenta with a matching "Received Unsealed" also on the envelope. I'm guessing that, early on, the envelope was noted by a postal clerk as unsealed and taken out of the mail stream whereupon it was taped shut and struck with the two handstamps that applied the magenta markings. Since the envelope still needed a Richmond postmark, perhaps it was manually inserted into the machine to produce the postmark without the accompanying cancel bars.

Large time stamps were often used as "received" markings as illustrated in Figure 2. (No hour arrow shows in this example, either.) From the reverse of the cover, we learn that the sender resided in Greensboro. Why the regular Greensboro postmark was not used is unclear. Presumably the regular postmark would have shown AM or PM as well as date but possibly the sender specifically requested that a handstamp be applied, as he handed the cover over to the postal clerk, to demonstrate with no chance of error or delay that he was submitting his tax payment on time! A second "Received" example is illustrated in Figure 3. The reverse shows the sender to be from Sanford. I see no clues on this postcard why the "Received" postmark was used. Comment is invited.

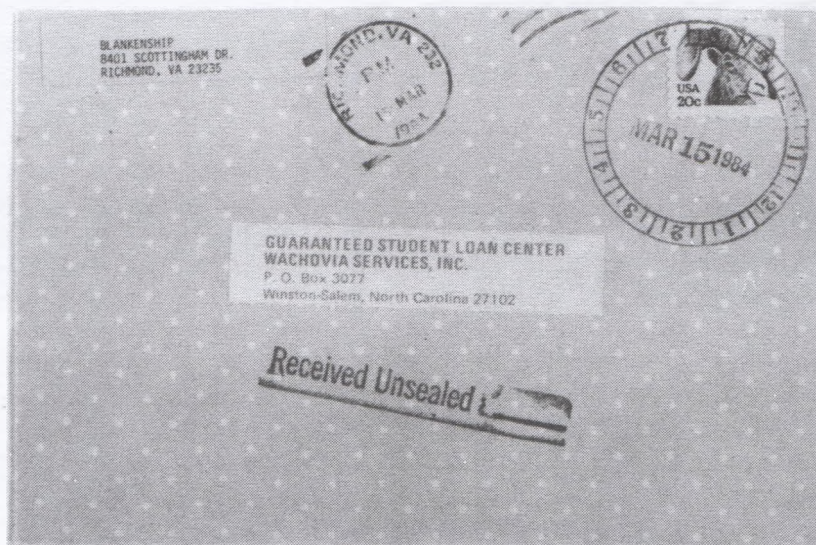
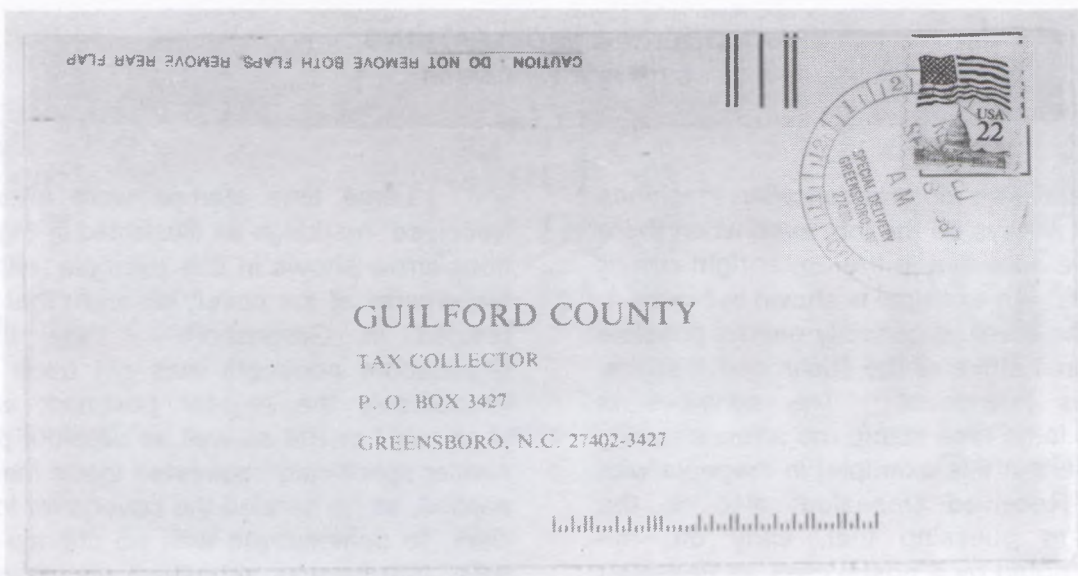


Figure 1





POSTMAN: DELIVER THIS ENVELOPE TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE.

FROM:

0003050000400022 007187085002

ROGERS BRUCE WAYNE
2423 NEW ORLEANS ST
GREENSBORO NC

27406

ADDRESS CORRECTION

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

Figure 2

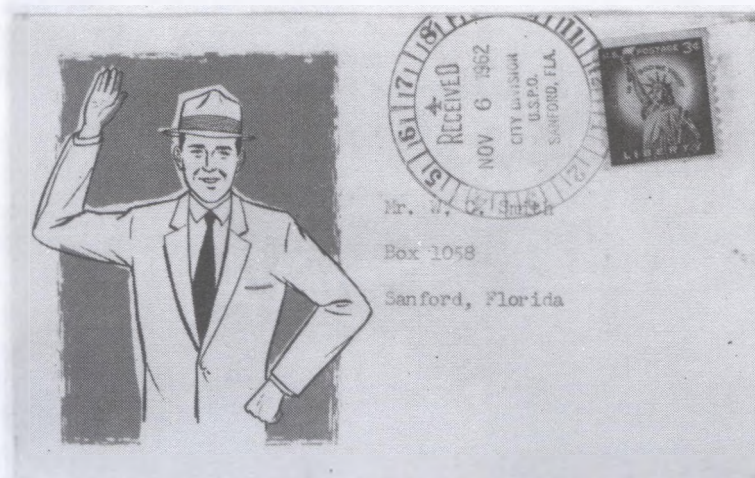


Figure 3

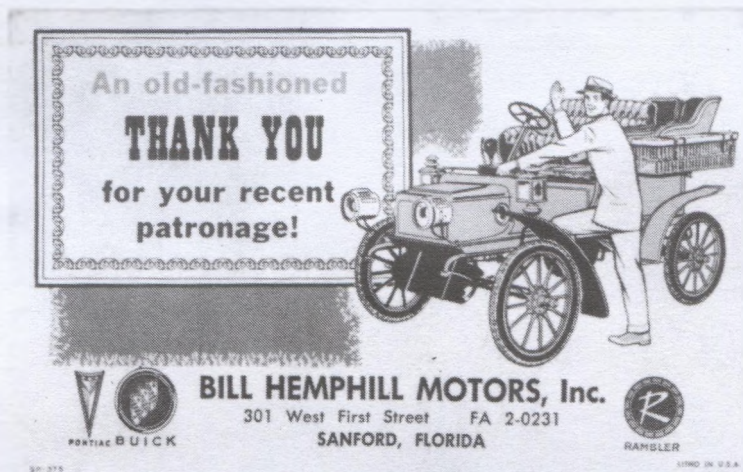


Figure 3

"Received" postmarks used as cancelers are, of course, noted with some frequency on late 19th century (1870's on) and early 20th century covers where such markings were commonly used by post offices as backstamps on incoming mail. A 1901 example of a "REC'D" used to cancel the adhesive is shown in Figure 4.

Readers are encouraged to submit examples of unusual modern cancellations for future installments of this column.

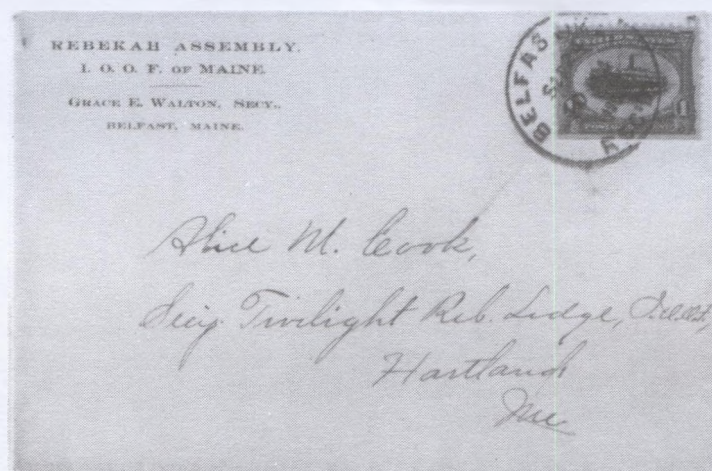


Figure 4

LATE STEAMBOAT MARKINGS

by Roger D. Curran

"STEAM" and "STEAMBOAT" markings are found with some frequency on covers of the 1850s and, in a number of cases, they are noted as cancelers. By the 1870s, however, their use was much less common. It is quite difficult to find examples of "STEAM" or "STEAMBOAT" as a canceler during the Banknote era. (Actually, I've seen no examples of "STEAM.") I have seen a one cent re-engraved canceled by "STEAMBOAT" and Figure 1 shows a 2 cent red brown so canceled. In his outstanding work on the 2 cent red brown, Edward Willard illustrated a partial "STEAMBOAT" strike as found on an off-cover stamp and went on to state: "We have just

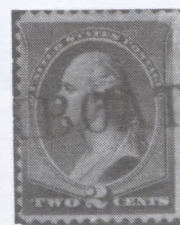


Figure 1

acquired a two cent red brown cover, on which the illustrated killer is used, but they are very difficult to find." The 1993 Scott Specialized lists

"STEAMBOAT" as a cancel on both the 2 cent red brown and 2 cent green.

Figure 2 and 3 are illustrations of lots 369 and 370 from the Richard Frajola sale of September 1982, the former (2 cent red brown) postmarked Washington, D.C. March 24, 1884 and the latter (2 cent green) Baltimore, Md. April 27 1888 (or 1889). Presumably the Figure 2 cover came up the Potomac River to Washington and the Figure 3 cover came up the Chesapeake Bay to Baltimore.

Just how late are "STEAMBOAT" markings noted? Figure 4 is a December 1895 cover bearing a "STEAMBOAT." Additional information is eagerly sought.

¹Willard, Edward L. The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887 (H.L. Lindquist Publications, Inc.) 1970, pp. 63, 5.

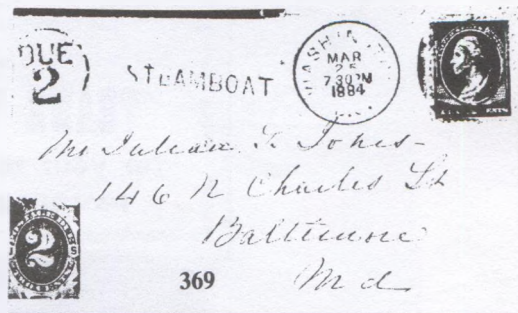


Figure 2

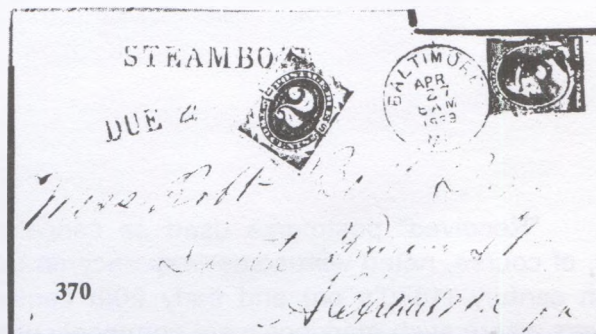


Figure 3



Figure 4