



Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 23, No. 7, Whole No. 222, Winter 1997

Free Delivery Carrier Markings - Part 2 by Roger R. Rhoads

When the original article was published in the Fall, '93 *NEWS* (Whole No. 214), I asked for any additional information, and a number of you responded. As a result there are a few corrections that need to be made and a lot of markings to be added.

In the earlier article, the carrier markings were categorized by the eras in which they were used. One more segment needs to be added to fill the time between the Banknote era and the turn of the century.

1. 1863-70 Types.
2. Banknote Era
 - a. City-mute CARRIER
 - b. City-specific CARRIER
 - c. Non-standard Types.
3. Late 19th Century Types.

The markings that are included in these articles are those that clearly indicate carrier service or can be interpreted as such by other means. All markings are in black unless otherwise noted. The figures referred to in *italics* refer to the original article. If there are no cover markings to establish the year of use, then the issuance years of the stamp or stationery piece are shown as "NYD (18XX-XX)".

1. 1863-70 Types

In the original article, the New York City marking in Fig. 1 (*Fig. 1*) appeared to be a carryover from the NYPO Penny Post era. Calvet Hahn in the Jan. '95 *NEWS* (Whole No. 216) disagreed with the reference I used when including this tracing, saying that there was no definitive evidence as to its use in the free delivery era which started on July 1, 1863. His evidence seems authoritative and with no rebuttal, I assume this marking was, indeed, not used in the free delivery period.

However, there does seem to be at least one marking that was used in both eras. Tom Clarke in his *A Catalog of Philadelphia Postmarks*, (Part 1, Revised Edition, 1991) reports the octagonal Philadelphia marking in Fig. 2 which

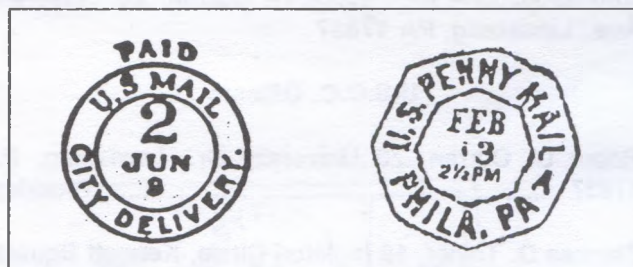


Fig. 1 and 2

originated with the Penny Post and was also used in the free period as late as August 1863.

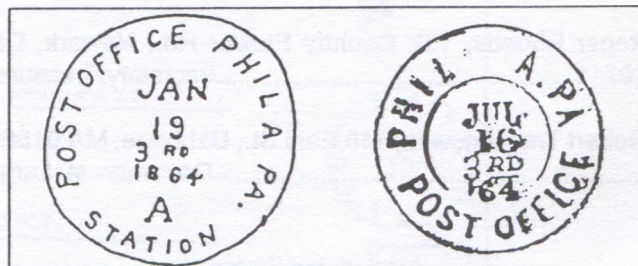


Fig. 3 and 4

Figure 3 at about 33 mm is a Philadelphia station delivery marking with an EKU of September 1863 and a LKU of February 1864 (Clarke). This means that Philadelphia began to use carrier markings at the very outset of free delivery, and this is the earliest reported from any city.

Fig. 4 again from Philadelphia is a double circle type (30 mm) used from early 1864 to 1868. Clarke describes it as for local use only.

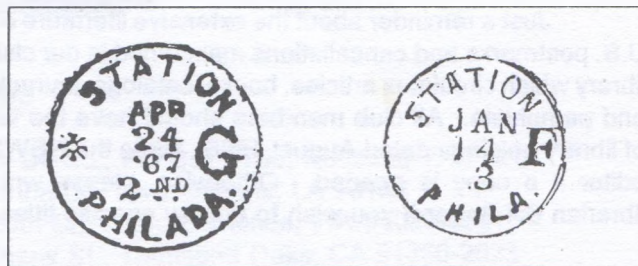


Fig. 5 and 6

(continued on p. 101)

A Most Unusual Marking

In the Fall 1996 NEWS, we illustrated an unusual duplex with the killer to the left, rather than the right, of the CDS and speculated that the reason was possibly that it was designed to cancel stamps placed in the upper left corner of the cover. As a related matter, our attention was called to an intriguing marking reported in a brief article by Bernard Biales in the Fall 1982 NEWS. (See Figure 1 below.) Entitled "A Strange Triplex Marking on the 3 cent 1861" we herewith quote his comments.

The cover illustrated shows a CDS with cancelers arrayed on either side (center to center distances of 31mm), one a solid rectangle about 5 1/2 x 6 1/2mm and the other a circle about 10-11mm at the extreme periphery. The stamp is an attractive deep red brown shade resembling the ones seen on some dated covers of 1863 vintage. The town and state are very poorly registered, but I believe them to be E. DAYTON MICH.

What would be the reason to create such a peculiar device? During the 1860s, duplex markings became prevalent as a convenient way to fulfill the postal regulations that the CDS not be used as a canceler. However, these devices had implicit limitations. One was the awkwardness in cancelling stamps on the left of an envelope without inverting the CDS. The introduction of a two "handed" device, as I believe this product to be, would alleviate this problem. The approximate 45 degree angling of the CDS relative to the line connecting the killers means that it could also be fully readable if struck in a vertical orientation, which would be convenient for certain arrangements of stamps and address.

In recent correspondence with Bernard, he suggested that the operation of the triplex be illustrated as it might apply to each of the four corner positions assuming a stamp was affixed there. Below is the resulting diagram. (If enough space below the address was available, stamps affixed in the bottom corners could, of course, be canceled by the handstamp in the horizontal orientation.)

If readers can add information about this marking, please do so! Who knows of additional examples? Can we confirm it as an E. Dayton, Michigan marking? Does any reader know of other types of triplex markings that add two killers to a CDS?

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Just a reminder about the extensive literature on U.S. postmarks and cancellations maintained in our club library which circulates articles, books, catalogs, journals and pamphlets. All club members should have the list of library holdings dated August 1996. Write the NEWS editor if a copy is needed. Otherwise, please write librarian Bill Bauer if you wish to borrow specific titles.



Figure 1

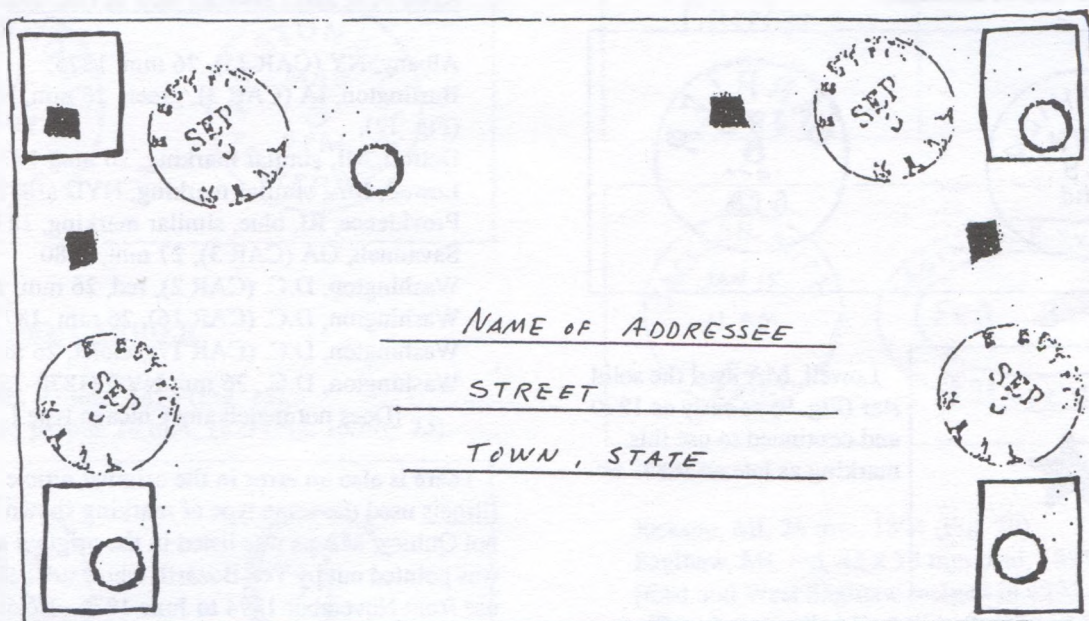


Figure 2

New and Renewed Memberships

NAME

John H. Barwis
 Raymond J. Burby
 Russell A. Fritz
 Robert J. Payne
 Kenneth A. Pitt

ADDRESS

c/o Shell Oil Co., PO Box 4704, Houston, TX 77210
 6318 Bertha Dr., New Orleans, LA 70122
 8707-236th St., S.W., Edmonds, WA 98026-8921
 363 Bethany St., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360-2023
 P.O. Box 87, Catharpin, VA 20143

(continued from front page)

Clarke shows a number of letter station delivery CDS cancellations of the type shown in Fig. 5 (27-28 mm) from early 1864 to 1876 which are for local, within the station area, use. Thus the CDS acts not only as a cancellation but also as a carrier designation. Variations of this marking include a cardinal (e.g. 4) rather than an ordinal (e.g. 4th) number for the delivery and missing the ornament at the 9 o'clock position. Most of the time this was used in combination with a 4 circle target killer. Another type of station delivery CDS is a smaller (24 mm) version shown in Fig. 6 which was coupled with a variety of fancy killers. Again both ordinal and cardinal numbers were used from 1867 through 1875.

The final marking from Philadelphia is shown in Fig. 7 (25 mm) is from the Germantown station with an EKU of January 1864 and a LKU of February 1868.

Albany, NY checks in as another of the few cities using markings prior to 1870. That shown in Fig. 8 dates from 1867 and is 25 mm in diameter.

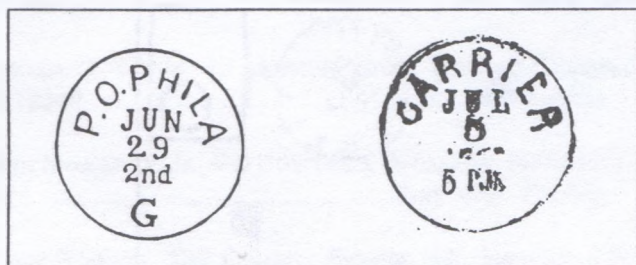
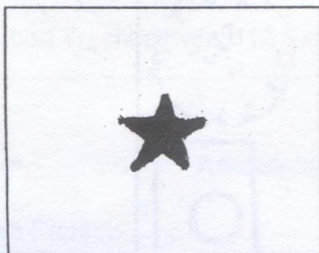


Fig. 7 and 8



Lowell, MA used the solid star (Fig. 9) as early as 1870 and continued to use this marking as late as 1884.

Washington, D.C. used early markings as illustrated in Fig. 10 at 24 mm diameter. Another type from the same time period is shown in Fig. 11 at 25 mm diameter. Though they were not year dated, the covers were franked with Black Jacks issued in 1863-69.

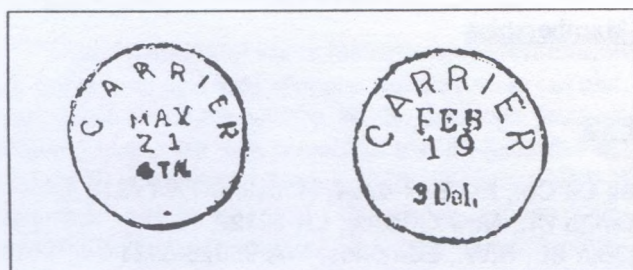


Fig. 10 and 11

So far, only eight cities have been recorded as using carrier markings prior to 1870: Albany, Boston, Chicago, Louisville, Lowell, Philadelphia, Rochester and Washington, D.C.

2. Banknote Era

a. City-mute CARRIER

Identification for the following Chicago-style markings follows the method established by Paul Berg in his *Chicago Blues* book with types CAR 1-6, 15-17.

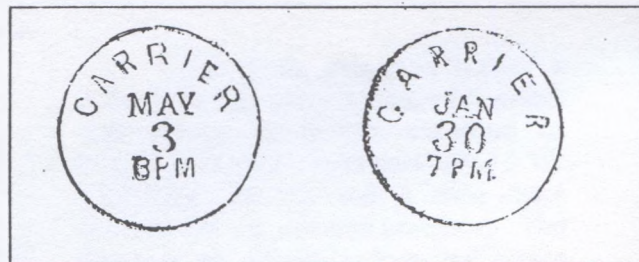


Fig. 12 and 13

Same Font and Lettering Size as Chicago

Albany, NY (CAR 15), 26 mm, 1875.
 Burlington, IA (CAR 3), green, 26 mm, NYD (1884-86) (Fig. 12).
 Detroit, MI, similar marking, 26 mm, 1874.
 Lowell, MA, similar marking, NYD (1877).
 Providence, RI, blue, similar marking, 1875.
 Savannah, GA (CAR 3), 27 mm, 1880.
 Washington, D.C. (CAR 2), red, 26 mm, 1873.
 Washington, D.C. (CAR 16), 26 mm, 1873.
 Washington, D.C. (CAR 17), violet, 26 mm, 1881.
 Washington, D.C., 26 mm NYD (1870-75)(Fig. 13)
 [Does not match any Chicago type.]

There is also an error in the original article. Quincy, Illinois used the same type of marking shown in Fig. 12, not Quincy, MA as was listed in the original article. This was pointed out by Ted Bozarth who extended the marking's use from November 1874 to June 1875. He did the same for the Cleveland city-mute from December 1874 to June 1875, meaning that this type and the city-specific types overlapped each other with the later being used at least as early as Nov., 1874.

Same Font but Slightly Larger CARRIER Lettering

Washington, D.C., red, 27 mm, 1875, 8 mm gap at 6 o'clock, (same as Fig. 10).

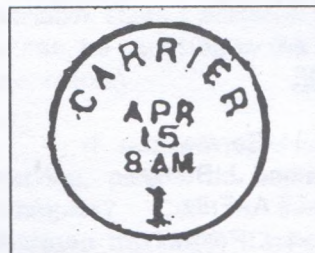


Fig. 14

Washington, D.C., 26½ mm, 1885 (same type as Fig. 14/Fig. 11) [Nos. 1, 3, 4, and 6 are known.]
 Washington, D.C., blue, 26½ mm, 1884 (same type as Fig. 14/Fig. 11) [Nos. 1 through 8 are known.]

In the first article I assumed that since I had only seen numbers 1 and 2 that they represented deliveries. Carl Stieg pointed out that numbers as high as 9 have been seen, and he believed they represented carrier stations. With a bit of research, I have come to agree with him. The *Official Postal Guides* for those years showed that Washington had 6 carrier stations in 1883-88, 8 in 1889 and 11 in 1890 which seem to agree with Carl's findings.

Carl also extended the usage dates of some of the previously noted Washington large CARRIER markings. The red one in this series identical to Fig. 9 has been used in 1886, and the black one shown in Fig. 10 was used from 1871 to 1876. The purple serif CARRIER (27 mm) was used as late as 1879 and the 26 mm version in 1881.

Notice that D.C. has many different types of carrier markings in different colors with some of them having rim gaps; at least 15 been reported to date. I can only guess that this was an effort to provide individual carriers with distinguishing markings similar to the number killers that were used in NYC in this period.

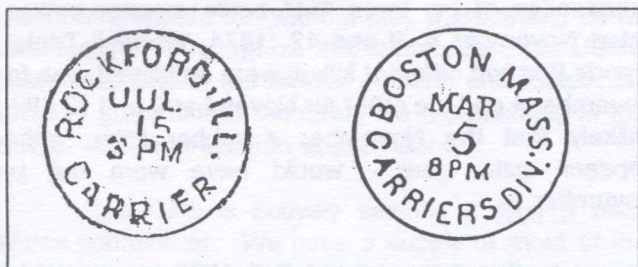


Fig. 15 and 16

b. City-specific CARRIER

Rockford, IL, 27 mm, 1890 (Fig. 15).
Boston, MA, purple, 28 mm, 187? (Fig. 16/15).

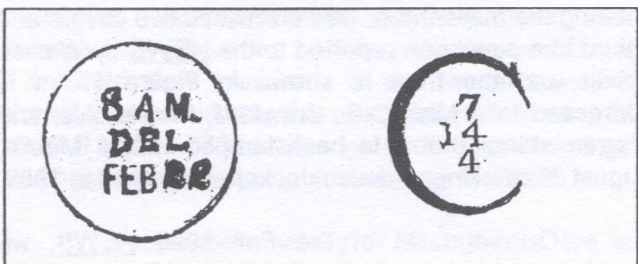


Fig. 17 and 18

c. Non-Standard Types

Washington, DC, violet, 25 mm, "Time/DEL/Date", 1883 (Fig. 17).

In the first article I noted NYC "CITY DELIVERY" markings along with the lettered stations A-F and K and L as having been used as late as October 1874. This has now been extended to February 1876.

As before, I'm including an update on the large, black "C" from New York City as shown in Fig. 18. This marking is

quite scarce with fewer than 20 reported, mostly on postal cards. The bottom two numbers are the month and day (e.g. April 14) while the top one is the delivery. In this case it is the seventh which is the highest number found to date. If this seems quite extraordinary, this is the same number of deliveries provided by Philadelphia to the main business area.

Also the first cover with this marking has turned up dated in April 1876. This extends the time period used by this apparently experimental marking to include March-April, 1875 and April and August 1876 with an off cover stamp indicating a usage in July with no year indicated. Again, I ask all of you to come up with more such covers to help us understand the use period. Was it used continuously from March, 1875 to August, 1876, or was it used in two discontinuous periods?

3. Late 19th Century Types

Selma, AL, red, 20 x 5 mm, "CARRIER 1", 1893, (Fig. 19).

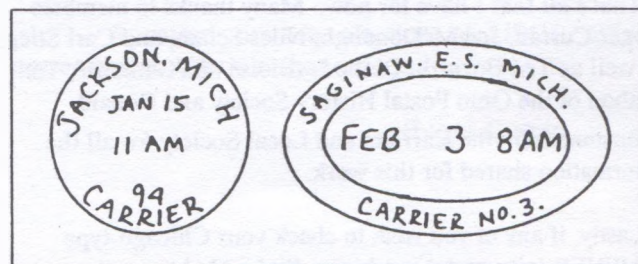
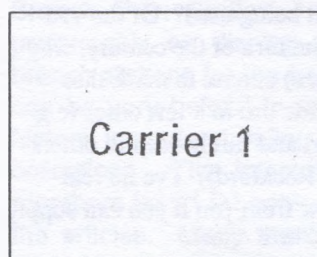


Fig. 20 and 21

Jackson, MI, 26 mm, 1894 (Fig. 20).
Saginaw, MI, red, 43 x 28 mm oval, 1894, (Fig. 21).
[East and West Saginaw merged in 1893 with their post offices being called East Side (E.S.) and West Side (W.S.) after that time.]

The last marking shown in Fig. 22 is a perforated adhesive stamp (measuring 30 x 20 mm between the rules) that was used by several large cities for mail that could not be delivered on a carrier's round. Much of the following was taken from Ken Lawrence's column in *The American Philatelist* of August 1994. The print is set in type boxed with a rule, printed in black on different colors of paper and reads:



Letter returned to the office by Carrier

If the address on this letter is correct, or there is any other reason why the carrier should have delivered it, please send the envelope with a statement of the facts to the Postmaster that he may inquire why it was not properly delivered."

The cities that are known to have used this adhesive are as follows:

Boston, white, 1887.
Chicago, yellow, 1884-85, white, 1888.
New York City, white, 1886-89, purple, 1893.
Philadelphia (Germantown branch), yellow, 1891
Baltimore, purple, 1887 (different font than the others).

The Germantown cover also had the notations "Not Known Barry 449" and "Ochner 357". I assume these were the names and employee numbers of the carriers that attempted the deliveries.

My final question is why were these carrier markings used? They seem to represent no real purpose other than to note that the piece of mail had been delivered by the post office. Were they simply used as receipt markings? If so, then why were "received" markings adopted in the 1880's when carrier markings were still being used? Of the 795 cities that had free delivery by the turn of the century, why did only 28 of them (count to date) choose to mark that service? Why was there such wide use in a few cities (e.g. Chicago, NYC and Washington) and rarely used in others (e.g. Evansville, Louisville and Rockford)? I've no real answers, and I would like to hear from you if you can supply some logic to this.

That's all that I have for now. Many thanks to members Roger Curran, Joe McDonough, Niles Schuh, and Carl Stieg as well as Ted Bozarth, Diane DuBloise of a'Gatherin', Tom Mahon of the Ohio Postal History Society and Donald Johnstone from the Carriers and Local Society for all the information shared for this work.

Lastly, if any of you wish to check your Chicago-type CARRIER (city-mute) markings, I'll be glad to send you a transparency of the various types for a #10 SASE. Send your requests to 132 Country Flower Rd., Newark, DE 19711.

Regarding Previous Articles

In the Spring 1996 NEWS, we illustrated a cover that entered the mails December 1, 1885 at Des Moines, Iowa, addressed to Palmyra, NY. On the front was a Palmyra, NY PAID CDS which appears to come from a handstamp held over from the stampless era. Is this a "received" marking applied by the Palmyra post office, albeit without a date added? Is it a business-related marking applied by the addressee? Or is it fraudulent? These questions were raised with the hope that readers would submit additional examples.

Bernard Biales reports now another cover from the same era to the same addressee, Garlock and Crandall, bearing the same Palmyra, NY PAID CDS.

Since both covers showing this marking are to the same addressee, it may well be that the old post office handstamp came into the possession of Garlock and Crandall and saw use there for recordkeeping purposes. Since, like the NEWS example, Mr. Biales' strike of the PAID CDS has no date, I'm inclined to think that it wasn't used as a Palmyra post office "received" marking. Let's hope more examples turn up.

A postscript is added to the discussion on page 71 of the Fall 1996 NEWS. We mentioned Roger Rhoads' finding that, during the 1873-75 period he studied, the NYPO apparently used only one killer with a particular number until it wore out. This was in contradistinction to the case of the rubber stopper "12" cancels where two handstamps were obviously used simultaneously; i.e., one at 4:00 PM and the other at 4:30 PM, on November 4, 1874. Roger speculated that possibly an experimental procedure involving the simultaneous use of two handstamps with the same number was underway briefly in 1874 and happened to include the bottle stopper killers. Upon a close examination of his three "11" bottle stopper strikes, dated November 4, 9 and 12, 1874, Wendell Triplett reports that two different killers were employed, one for November 4 and the other for November 9 and 12. It is unlikely that the November 4 rubber killer, which appears quite clear, would have worn out by November 9.

In the Summer and Fall 1996 issues of the NEWS, we discussed late examples of covers bearing STEAMBOAT markings. We noted in particular the practice of the Mobile, Alabama post office, technically incorrect, of backstamping mail turned over by steamboat captains. This mail should have been postmarked by Mobile on the front since it was first entering the mails there. We discussed two covers and a third has now been reported to the NEWS by Warren Bower and the front is shown in Figure 1. It is addressed to a Miss G.E. Crawford, Mobile, Ala. and Warren states that it is backstamped with a Mobile, August 31 marking and also docketed August 19, 1885.

On page 93 of the Fall 1996 NEWS, we reported a comment by Edward Willard in his outstanding work on the 2 cent red brown of 1883 that steamboat letters at the time were subject to double rates. On this point, as Warren brought to our attention, Mr. Willard erred. Such letters were subject to an extra charge of 2 cents, period. George Arfken covered the subject in his 1991 book on postage due stamps¹ and quoted the 1879 Postal Laws and Regulations as follows:

Sec. 253. Letters on Inland Steamboats. - The master of any steamboat passing between ports or places in the United States . . . shall receive from the postmaster two cents for each letter or

Dear Reader,

As incoming USCC president, and on behalf of the Club, I want to publicly thank Gene Schrier for his service to the USCC from 1991 through 1996. Gene was officially the Secretary-Treasurer but in reality worked many jobs because, during much of the time, some or all of the other officer positions were vacant due to lack of volunteer support. No one other than Gene will know the full amount of time and effort devoted by him to club operations but it was very extensive. There were the inevitable administrative and communications frustrations along the way but it is indeed remarkable that one person, in addition to all his own work responsibilities, was able to maintain the Club's viability through this lengthy period. A period that included, along with everything else, an orderly shut-down of the Sales Division. All of us who value the USCC and its rich tradition over the decades owe Gene a debt of gratitude for, without him, there would be no Club today. To recognize this contribution, the USCC Board of Directors (all elected officers) enthusiastically voted to grant him an honorary life membership in the USCC. Our appreciation to you, Gene!

The Club is actively seeking a NEWS back issues coordinator. We have a supply of most of the back issues and they represent a valuable resource of information. The coordinator would, of course, respond to requests for back issues, receive the payments therefor, and periodically remit moneys received to the club treasurer. Since there is a considerable volume of material involved, the coordinator will need to have storage space available. Also, it would be helpful if the coordinator lived somewhere not too distant from Pennsylvania, where the back issues are now housed, to facilitate their transfer. If any reader would be interested in considering this post, please drop me a line or call (717)523-0783. Although not time-consuming, it represents a very important service to the Club.

Through the courtesy of Tuck Taylor, we are offering photocopies of the set of articles written by Gilbert M. Burr in the American Philatelist over the January 1935 - April 1936 period entitled "Standardized Hand Stamp Cancellations on the Bank Note Issues." Although written 60 years ago, with considerable new information published since, Burr's work remains a very important general survey of ellipses and other "standardized" killers used prior to the adoption of machine cancellations. We will also include copies of an update to the Burr articles written by Dr. Robert deWasserman in the NEWS over the November 1957-January 1960 period. We expect the cost to be

approximately \$6.00 plus postage. The pages will be drilled for a 3-hole binder unless a request is made to not do so. This offer is made only to USCC members and if you are interested in these cancellations and don't already have the articles, they are definitely recommended. Please send your order within 30 days as we will wait a month and then have the sets produced. Send no payment now as you will be billed with the shipment.

While you are at it, you may also wish to order a photocopy of an 1890 "Outline Postal Map of New York City Showing Boundaries of Delivery and Collection Districts of the General Post Office and of Branch P.O. Stations." Copies of this map were presumably on display at the main post office and branch stations for the benefit of postal patrons. And it can be very helpful to present day students of postal history in understanding some of the covers in their collections. This interesting map is available to club members for \$1.00 postpaid or 75 cents if ordered with the articles. Many thanks to Paul Berg for making it available.

A report on the election of USCC officers appears elsewhere in these pages.

Roger Curran



Unusual New York Postmarks

by Roger D. Curran

On page 86 of the Fall 1996 NEWS, I illustrated an unusual cancel consisting of a "12" in an oval of thin horizontal bars and stated there has been speculation that it was produced by a mechanical handstamp. Figure 1 shows this cancel together with the accompanying CDS.

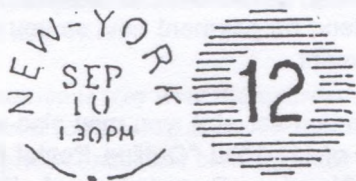


Figure 1

In his 1989 book surveying U.S. machine postmarks through 1925, Russell Hanmer presented this cancel with the notation "Pearson Hill?"¹ He was no doubt referring to impressions produced by either of two devices developed by Pearson Hill, son of postage stamp inventor Rowland Hill. One was a small table model introduced in 1858 and the other a wall-mounted unit in 1866. The principal mechanical feature of these handstamps was the self-inking operation activated by the normal raising of the stamper after postmarking a piece of mail. The December 1977 Machine Cancel Forum contains an article by Reg Morris on these two Pearson Hill devices including photos of both models.² In a subsequent article on another subject, Morris quoted sworn testimony of a George Collyer who had worked at the NYPO, apparently for a number of years, until the mid-1890s.³ Collyer was asked about what machines were tested at the NYPO during his time there as a handstamper. He mentioned several including a Tilton handstamping machine which he described as "rather like the Pearson Hill." One wonders if a Pearson Hill device was placed in the NYPO and that is how Collyer was familiar with it. Yet in all he did not list the Pearson Hill directly in response to the question.

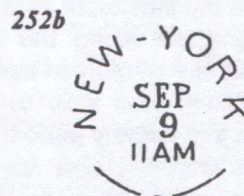
It is known from official records that a table model version was sent from London to Washington, D.C. in 1861 for testing and what was presumably the wall-mounted version in 1874.⁴ However, the sample postmark impressions in these records are not similar to the Figure 1 markings. But, at least in the case of the table model, the postmarking and canceling dies could easily be changed. An 1858 Pearson Hill killer (see Figure 2) is somewhat similar to the New York "12." Bob Payne, a machine cancel specialist known to many NEWS readers, records uses of the Figure 1 cancel from September 10 (1874) through October 26 (1874).

In the August 1996 Chronicle⁵, Dick Winter

continued updating the list of New York exchange office markings that appears in North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-1875.⁶ One of the new listings is shown in Figure 3, the basis for which is a cover in Michael Brown's



Figure 2



22 mm.
Red: 9 Sep 76

Figure 3

collection which is illustrated here as Figure 4. The Figure 3 marking appears to be the same as that duplexed to the "12" killer. I wrote Bob Payne on this matter and he offered the following observations:

(1) All the Figure 1 duplex markings in his records show month and day indicators with serifs but not the time. Michael Brown's example shows month and day indicators with serifs.

(2) The two Figure 1 examples of "SEP 10" CDS markings in Bob's collection measure 23x23 mm. An "OCT 26" CDS measures 22.5 mm. high and 23 mm. wide.

(3) Bob's measurement of a photocopy of Michael Brown's marking is 22.5 mm. high and 23 mm. wide. (Mr. Brown's measurement on the actual cover shows an approximate 23 mm. diameter from outer edge to outer edge.)

(4) The 1858 Pearson Hill duplex postmark could be separated and the CDS alone was in fact used as a receipt mark. A cover from Bob's collection showing a Pearson Hill receipt marking is shown as Figure 5.

(5) Noting that Mr. Brown's marking is in red ink, Bob mentioned that London receipt markings of the late 1850s, involving CDS-only mechanical handstamp impressions from Pearson Hill and his competitor Charles Ridout, used red ink to denote morning receipt and blue or black for evening receipt. Mr. Brown's marking is 11A.M.

In summary, it does appear that the device used by the NYPO for several weeks in 1874 to postmark and cancel domestic mail was reworked and put into service again, at least very briefly, nearly two years later for a very different purpose. Whether or not the device used was a Pearson Hill mechanical stamper, however, still seems uncertain but remains a tantalizing possibility. Comments and additional information are eagerly sought.

Appreciation is extended to Dick Winter, Michael Brown and Bob Payne for their very helpful responses to inquiries on the subject.

Footnotes

¹Hanmer, Russell F. A Collector's Guide to U.S. Machine Postmarks 1871-1925, David G. Phillips Co.,

Inc., 1989, page 175.

²Morris, Reg "The Pearson Hill Machines," Machine Cancel Forum issue no. 44, December 1977, pages 347-53.

³Morris, Reg "The Tilton Cancelling Stamp," Machine Cancel Forum, issue no. 59, March 1979, page 655.

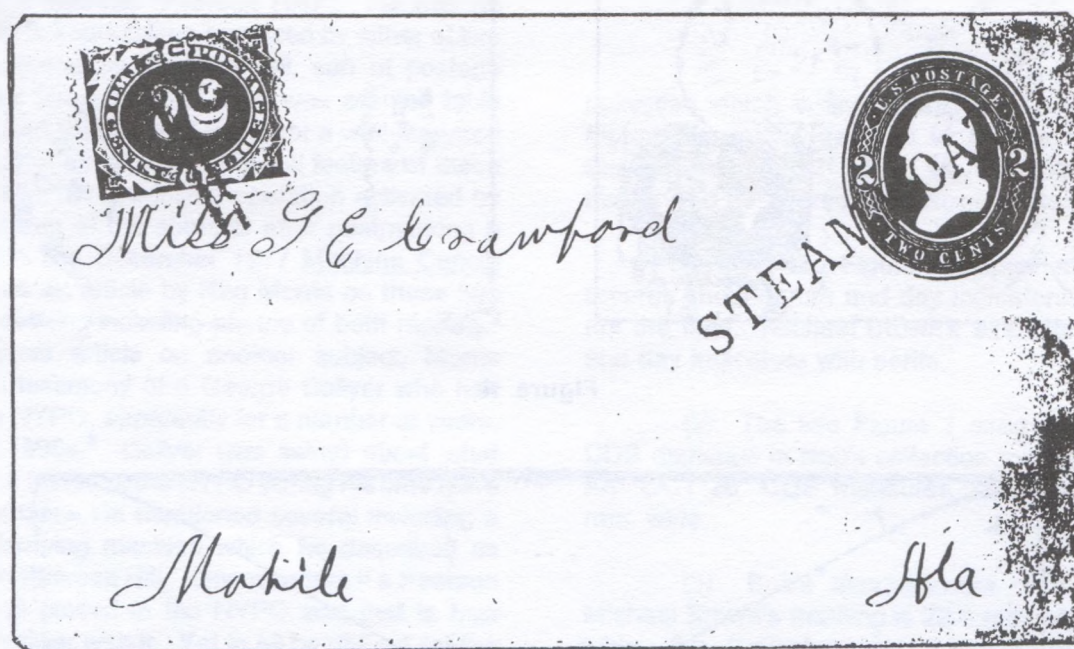
⁴Editors and Reg Morris "The Hill Machine," Machine Cancel Forum, issue no. 35, March 1977, pages 202-3.

⁵Winter, Richard F. "New York Exchange Office Markings - Update," The Chronicle of U.S. Classic Postal Issues, August 1996, Vol. 48, No. 3, Whole No. 171, page 201.

⁶Hubbard, Walter and Winter, Richard F. North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc., 1988.

(continued from page103)

Figure 1



packet so delivered . . .

He also quoted the 1881 Postal Guide:

267. Letters deposited for mailing in post offices by masters of steamboats plying wholly between ports of the United States, if prepaid by stamps, should be forwarded to destination charged only with the fee of two cents paid to the master of the vessel under section 253, P. L. & R. 1879. If wholly unpaid they [Steamboat letters] should be forwarded to destination charged with double rates of postage in addition to the fee of two cents.

Additional late (1880s or 1890s) steamboat covers into Baltimore were reported by Warren Bower and Van Koppersmith and two further examples were discussed in the Arfken book.

¹Arfken, George B. Postage Due The United States Large Numeral Postage Due Stamps 1879-1894, Collectors Club of Chicago, 1991, pages 101-04.

Late "PAID" Killers

by Roger D. Curran

Early uses of specific postmarks and cancellations evoke collector interest. To a similar but perhaps lesser extent, late uses are also considered noteworthy and garner special attention. Handstamps designed for stampless mail were frequently pressed into service to cancel postage stamps through the 1860s. By the dawn of the Banknote era in 1870, long after the stampless era basically came to a close in January 1856, such uses were decidedly less common but by no means rare. As time went on, these cancellations became scarcer.

The "stampless" marking used most frequently as a canceler of stamps was the simple "PAID." I have long been interested in late uses of "PAID" cancels. Before me, as these words are written, is the 1993 Scott Specialized Catalog. The latest stamp listed with "PAID" as a cancellation is the 2 cent green of 1887. Figure 1 illustrates a cover bearing a 2 cent green postmarked "EAST TROY/OCT/27" with no state abbreviation evident. I assume East Troy is a dead post office in either Minnesota or Iowa but this may be wrong. (Hopefully, a reader will supply the information and also a word about the "St. P.M. & O.R.R.") The handstamped "NOV 3 1888" in the upper left portion of the cover probably indicates the date received by the addressee.

Figure 2 illustrates a cover postmarked "STRAFFORD/MAR/4/1891/VT" with a 2 cent carmine of 1890 canceled by a "PAID" marking. This cover was illustrated in the September 1972 NEWS but with no accompanying text. It is the only cover I have seen bearing a 2 cent carmine canceled by "PAID" but there

are undoubtedly more in existence, probably a fair number, at least. Regarding off-cover stamps, I have also seen but one example. In the Slawson et al book, The Postal History of Vermont, 20x6 mm. "PAID" cancels are listed for Strafford on "Banknotes." The "PAID" on the Figure 2 cover appears to measure roughly 20x6 mm, perhaps a bit smaller.

In the Spring 1991 NEWS, a "PAID" cancel on an off-cover 2 cent carmine shield issue of 1903 was illustrated. Surely this must represent quite an isolated usage.

The 1949 Congress Book contains an article by early U.S. Cancellation Club member George Devlin on collecting nineteenth century fancy cancellations. Included on page 140 is the following intriguing statement:

"(The postmaster of some central New York town put a discarded PAID handstamp to use for a few days in the early 1930s when his machine canceler gave out.)"

A check of the Fishback and Walker revision of Loso and deWindt's 20th Century U.S. Fancy Cancellations revealed three "PAID" markings. Two were unattributed and the third was reported for West Baden, IN. All were used on registered mail. Incidentally, one of the two unattributed "PAID" markings was reported (page 22) in blue, green and purple ink with the note: "Colors used on alternating letters." I'd like to see that example!

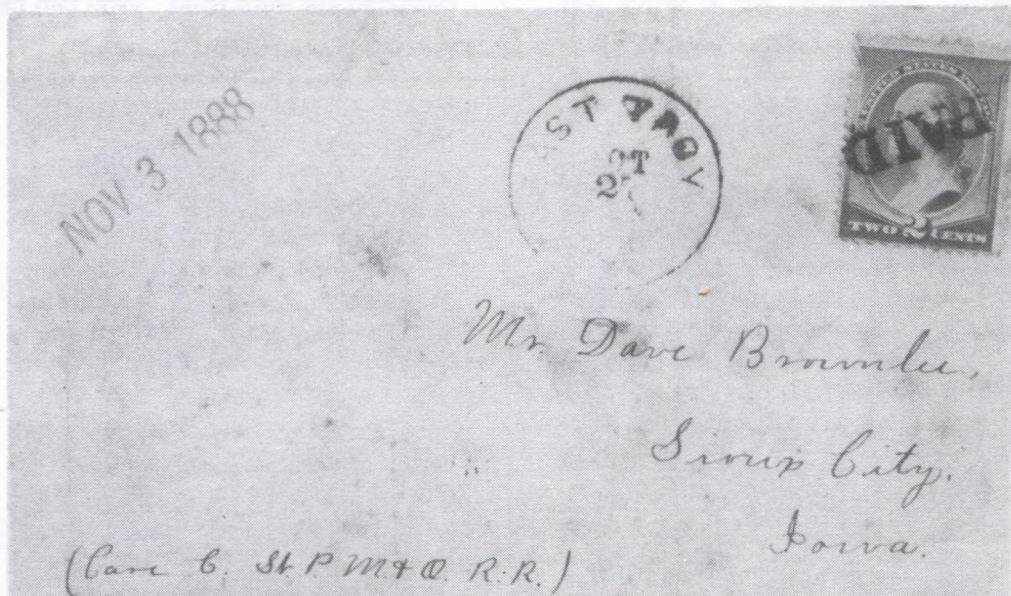
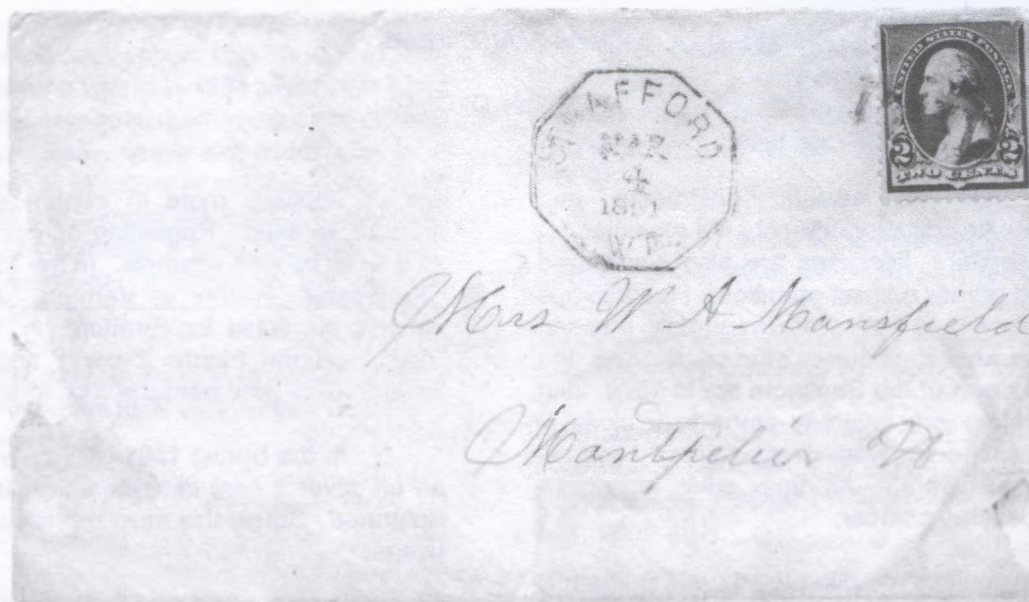


Figure 1

Figure 2



Readers are encouraged to add to the story. Additional examples of "PAID" handstamps canceling 1890 or later issue stamps, more information on Strafford's use of "PAID" cancels during the Banknote

era, identification of the central New York town that used the "PAID" in the 1930s and perhaps even an example of such use, etc. are eagerly sought for what will hopefully warrant an update.

"2M" Mystery

by Roger D. Curran

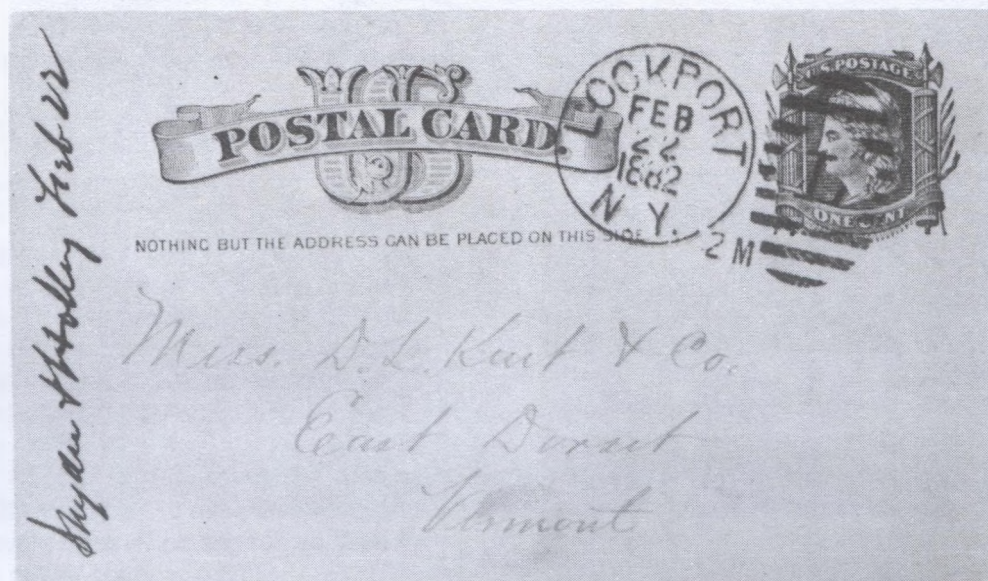
After Arthur White's fine explanation of time-of-day designations in the Summer 1996 NEWS, the USCC readership is surely among most well-informed philatelic groups on the subject. We know that noon is designated by "12M" standing for 12 Meridian. Otherwise, the designations are A.M. or P.M. as appropriate, including midnight which is denoted as 12 P.M.

What then of the time designation in the Lockport, NY postmark showing as "2M"? Since "2M"

cannot be, perhaps there was intended to be a "1" to the left of the "2." But is there enough space there, even if the "2" and the "M" could be pushed closer together? Seems rather doubtful. Actually, four spaces would presumably be needed to cover all time designations: two for the hour and two for the "A.M." and "P.M." Arthur commented that possibly something other than a time designation was intended - for example, a clerk's code. He pointed out that A.M. and P.M. could be shortened to "A" or "P" but two digits for the hour would still be needed for 10, 11 and 12.

What appears to be needed is a check of other examples of this Lockport postmark to see what designations were used. Who can help?

Figure 1



More on Rubber Bottle Stopper Cancels

by Roger D. Curran

As discussed in recent issues of the NEWS, it has long been considered that the numbers in certain cancellations denoted size of the rubber bottle stopper that was being used as a canceler. No doubt in my mind that this is true. However, based on an examination of a limited number of these cancellations, I have found that measurements are not necessarily easy to take, the numbers are sometimes unclear, and the results are frequently not consistent.

Wendell Triplett obtained from Rubbermill, Inc. of Liberty, N.C., information on today's standard sizes for rubber stoppers. Presented below is a table that

shows the current sizes reported by Rubbermill as well as the results of Wendell's and my examination of some 19th century strikes. As cancel collectors, we frequently encounter strikes that are not crisp and complete due to such things as glancing blows, too little ink, heavy strikes, etc. A clear line for the outer rim is, of course, needed to measure diameter and it may well not be present. Also, the "1/2" numbers may not show well enough to be recognized. Then, of course, there is the possibility that the stopper itself is shaved down for some reason. These factors and surely others influence what we see.

As Wendell points out, today's sizes don't agree with those from the 19th century. Indeed, even within the 19th century, there appears to be substantial variation. For example, see Figure 1 showing two 2

Rubber Bottle Stopper Sizes

Current Standard Stopper Size	Top Dimensions (mm)	Bottom Dimensions (mm)	19th Century Postmark Sizes Identified	19th Century Postmark Dimensions (mm)	Remarks
000	12	9			
00	15	10			
0	17	13			
1	19	14			
2	20	16	2	24	Nov. 1874, NYC
				19 1/2	2 cent carmine mid-1890s
			2 1/2	21, 21 1/2	3 cent greens (2 copies)
3	24	18	3	20	Feb. 1873 or 74, Adrian, Mich.
				19 1/2	3 cent National North Adams, Mass.
				19-20 1/2	3 cent green, #210 (6 copies)
			3 1/2		
4	26	20	4	17 1/2	3 cent National
			4 1/2		
5	27	23			
5 1/2	28	24	5 1/2	17	mid 1870's
6	32	28	6		
6 1/2	34	27			
7	37	30			
7 1/2 to 15					Modern day std. rubber stopper sizes by Rubbermill go to #15



Figure 1

cent red browns canceled by "3" killers. One killer measures about 19 mm. and the other about 20 1/2 mm. Wendell mentions that today the size number is printed on the top of the rubber stopper. Presumably that was also the case in the last century because one would expect the larger end to serve as the killer face. Otherwise, when struck, the stopper might pop out of the ring in which it was held unless it was set very tightly. Of course, if sometimes the number was printed on the bottom and the bottom used as the killer face, that could explain size variations involving the same number.

Wendell submitted a fine star killer carved from

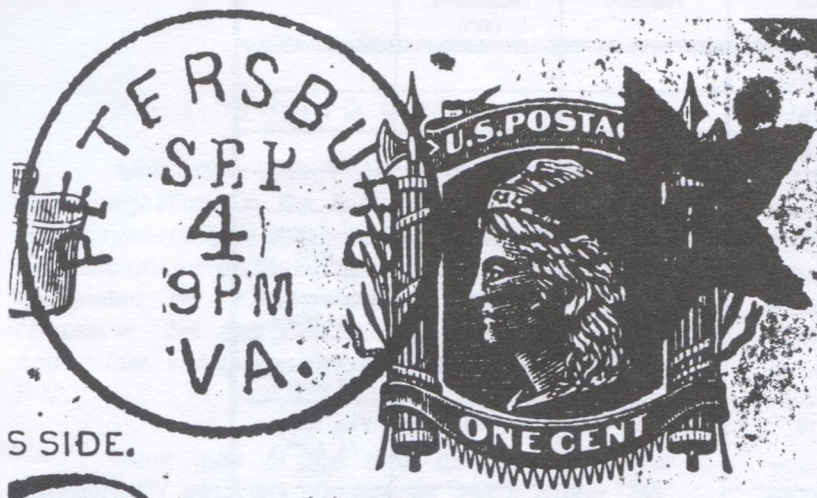


Figure 2

Fits and Starts

With the advent of major innovations in process and procedure, there is to be expected an initial period of trial and error before success is achieved. The contemporary account below describes briefly one early (presumably late 1862 and/or early 1863) attempt to mechanize the postmarking of mail.¹ No examples of covers postmarked by this "contrivance" have yet been reported. Does any reader know of a cover that might have resulted from this test?

a stopper with a "3" in the center dated September 4 (1883) and reports that a circle around the star would have measured 20 mm. See Figure 2. He also provided a card shown in Figure 3 dated October 13 (1883) and made the interesting observation which is quoted herewith:

"... I have a modern #3 bottle stopper (rubber) and the 18 mm. end (with no number, because the number is on the 24 mm. end) fits perfectly over the negative star cancel.

There is no way to prove it, but I suspect the Oct. 13, 1883 star cancel was also carved from a rubber bottle stopper, as was the Sept. 4, 1883 example."

Comments and additional information are eagerly sought.

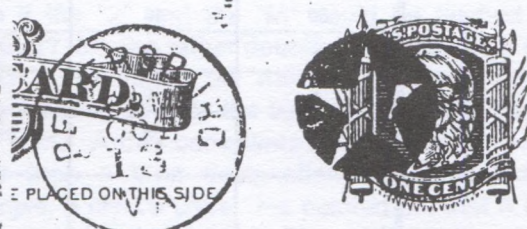


Figure 3

MACHINE FOR STAMPING LETTERS.—An ingenious contrivance for post-marking letters and cancelling postage stamps, has been in operation in the New York office recently. It is kept in motion with the foot, and requires two persons to operate it—one to arrange the letters, and the other to adjust them for receiving the stamp. It is as much work to feed it as it would be to feed a small family of children.—This prevents it from stamping with sufficient rapidity to answer the purpose, in large offices at least, where despatch is so essential. In fact one of the experienced stamping clerks, on a race with the machine, stamped three to its one with the common hand-stamp.

If all letters were uniform in size, and the postage stamps always in the same place, there would be less difficulty in inventing a machine to do this important part of post office labor.

¹Holbrook, J. *U.S. Mail and Post Office Assistant*, Vol. One, February 1863, page 114, as reprinted by the Collectors Club of Chicago, 1975.

Scientific Expertising

by Roger D. Curran

The October 14, 1996 Linn's contained an interesting article by Fred Baumann about efforts by the American Philatelic Expertising Service (APEX), operated jointly by the APS and ASDA, to raise \$35,000 to buy a device called the Crimescope CS-16. As described by Baumann, it "combines an almost infinitely adjustable variety of narrow-wavelength light sources and special filters with a video camera to record stamps, covers and other documents in light from the ultraviolet, visible and infrared spectra." Baumann quotes an APEX fundraising letter on the subject as follows: "Stamps with cancels removed, fake overprints, fake cancels and hidden faults are easily and conclusively identified. . . ." This equipment is currently being used by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Several years ago, club member and England resident Suzanne Nicholson forwarded to the USCC a 1972 report of a scientific analysis of a piece containing magenta Claremont, Minnesota CDS and registry

markings and two black skull and crossbones killers. Please see Figure 1. (A color photo accompanied the report and the item is lovely.) Ms. Nicholson stated that the analysis was done by a Victor Chanaryn through use of an electronic microscope. The interesting report is provided herewith.

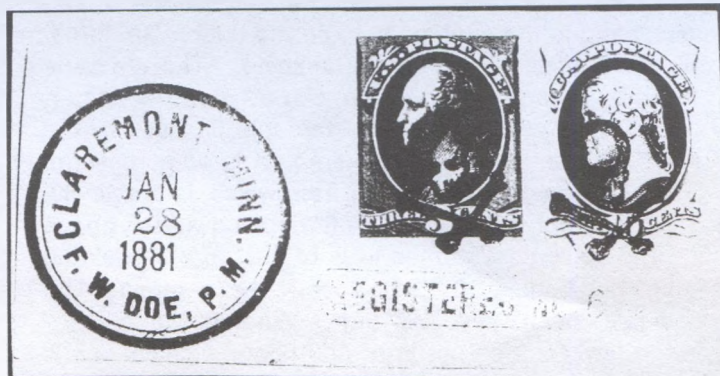


Figure 1

17th August 1972

THE CLAREMONT MARKS and SKULL & CROSSED BONES

Please accept my apologies for taking so long over this analysis. However, I have been away for long periods and the availability of the equipment at the University did not often coincide with my presence.

Your fragment is genuine in itself - although it has been subjected to a light water wash at two occasions, within the last 25 years. The second washing was effected on the right hand of the fragment only. The apparent freshness of the fragment is due to the washing - and I think that the original markings were over-heavy and subsequently rendered more attractive.

A. THE HAND WRITING.

1. When subjected to carbon refracted light, the age of the ink solution can be estimated at least 50 years (p. = 2.785).
2. When examined under a magnification X200, it is clear that the upper crust of the lines has been removed in many places, revealing the underlying carbon particles thus exposed to further oxidation.
3. The yellowish color of such particles suggest a comparatively recent origin of oxidation of, say, no more than 25 years.

B. THE SKULL & CROSSED BONES.

1. The carbon refracted light indicates an aging process equivalent to at least 75 years (p. = 2.779).
2. Traces of a significant warm water wash can be seen under X200 magnification and in the case of the 10 cent obliteration, some detergent action: all within the last 25 years.

C. THE CLAREMONT MARKS.

1. The aging period was found by comparing with red inks of known ages, under a pure white light, projected incidentally to the surfaces examined by 10 deg. only. I can confirm that the marks are at least 75 years old.
2. The appearance of a heavy water wash can be detected, particularly on the right hand side of the fragment, hence the discoloration of the register mark.

In conclusion, it is without a doubt a genuine piece of an unusually fresh appearance - an attractive philatelic item.

Who Paid for This?

Bob Payne submits the cover illustrated in Figure 1 and asks the question: "Who paid the 2 cents?" Very good question, it would seem. The cover entered the mails at NYPO Branch Station A at 5:00 PM August 30, and was received by the main NYPO at 8:30 PM, August 30, 1880. The cover, addressed to Panama, was routed to the "Foreign Dept." where, according to the oval marking on the back. George J. Gregory affixed the 2 cent Banknote. The stamp is killed by a vertical bar ellipse with a "2" in the center, one of a set with numbers "1" through "6", used by the NYPO on foreign mail at this time. A large manuscript "Due 2" appears on the cover front which, interestingly, is crossed out with a "... 16/80" notation written above it. The squiggle written in front of the "16/80" could be "Aug" but August 16, 1880 doesn't make sense. The squiggle doesn't look like "Sep." Whether the "B.S.P." in the lower left corner is of any postal significance is unknown.

A somewhat similar cover, addressed to Bermuda, appears on page 10 of The Foreign Mail Cancells of New York City 1870-1878 by Bill Weiss. It was initially franked with a 3 cent Banknote and on the back a 2 cent was added and canceled with a NYFM fancy geometric killer. The cover entered the mails at the NYPO on December 29 and Bill concluded that the year was probably 1875. Written in manuscript on the back of the cover was the following:

"Deficient postage added to avoid further detention
Geo. J. Gregory - Foreign Desk
N.Y. Post Office"

Written on the back also is "Short paid" and a "2" in crayon. The "Short paid" appears to be crossed out.

Who can explain whether and, if so, how the Post Office Department recouped the 2 cents? Also, who has seen other examples of the receipt marking on the Figure 1 cover? Is it correct to assume it was applied before the cover reached the "Foreign Dept."?

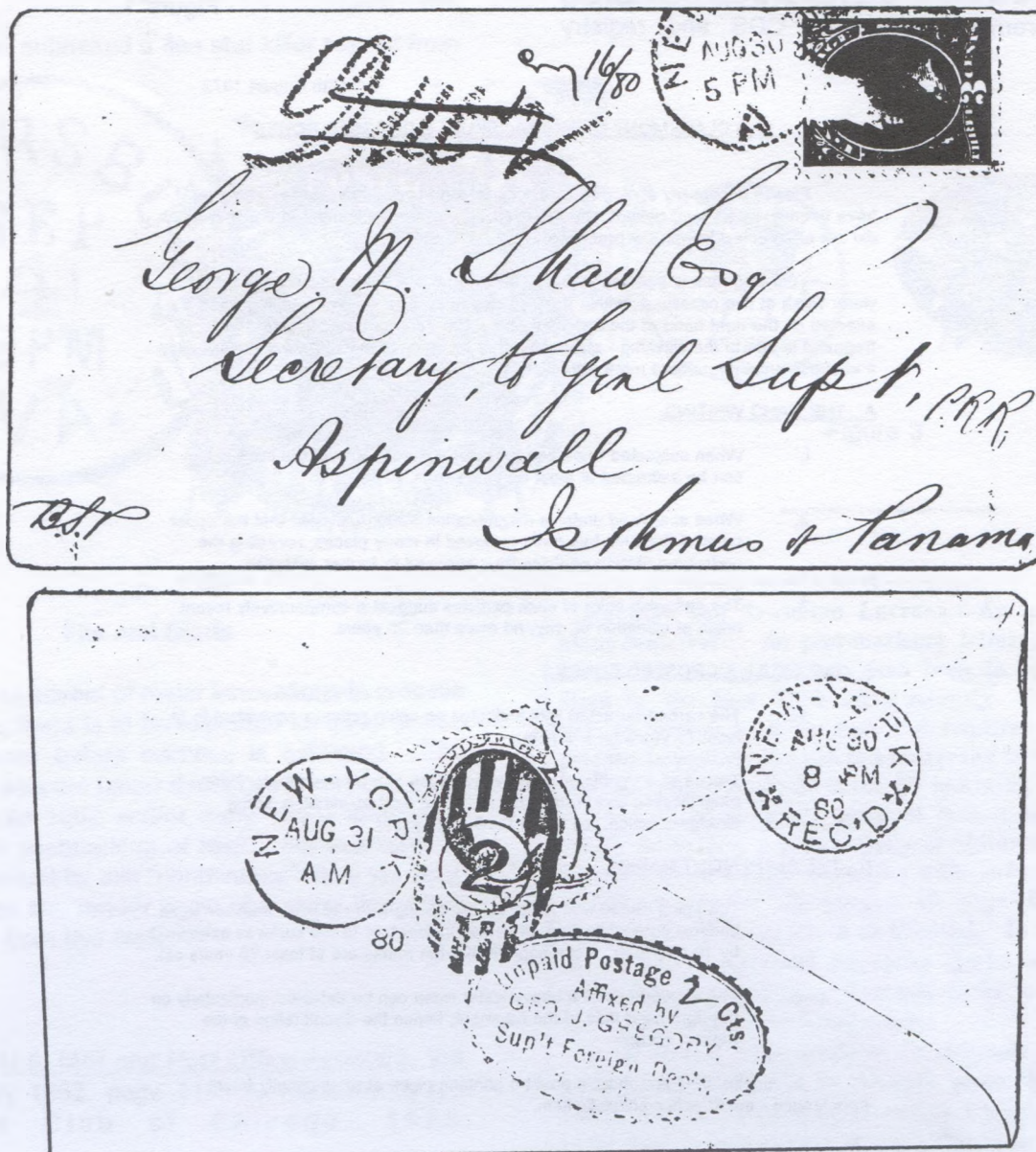


Figure 1