



Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 23, No. 8, Whole No. 223, Spring 1997

The First Swarts Locals and the First Issue of U.S. Postage Stamps c. Calvet M. Hahn, 1997

The U.S. Post Office abandoned its city despatch operation after a little more than four years of operation on November 28, 1846. Two days later, Abraham Mead announced an agreement with the New York postmaster to take over and create a private operation. On January 5, 1847, the U.S. Post Office next announced it was closing its branch office at Chatham Square. Its manager, Aaron Swarts, announced in ads that, effective January 15, 1847, he would operate a private 'branch post office' at the same location.

Two covers, both ex-Mason, are known from the initial days of the new Swarts operation. Both feature a spread-eagle handstamp. Figure 1 is the ex-Hollowbush example addressed to Mr. M. Compton at 92 Pearl Street. It is dated Wednesday inside (which would be January 20 or 27 in 1847) and docketed as being from Louise Burrill in January 1847. The rate was 2 cents, as denoted in magenta pen; there was also a pencil 'Paid.' Following these two January covers, Swarts disappears from the postal scene until December 16, 1847.

In his June 1941 APS handbook, The Chatham Square Post Office, Elliott Perry reports the earliest example of the 38x25mm oval SWARTS/B/POST OFFICE/N.Y./CHATHAM SQUARE is January 18, 1848. (Figure 2 illustrates an example of this marking which is reproduced from the APS handbook.) The Frank A. Hollowbush collection had three earlier examples, one of December 20 and two of December 16, 1847. Figure 3 shows my December 16 cover

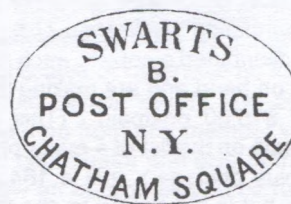


Figure 2



Figure 1

(Continued on p. 117)

The U.S. Cancellation Club News

Dear Reader,

Your editor has been grateful for the notes of encouragement and for the numerous contributions of data received pertinent to what is presented in these pages. Various members have also indicated their intention to contribute articles in future issues, and some, of course, have done so already. I want to take this opportunity to reinforce the obvious importance of this matter. What you are interested in will undoubtedly be of interest to others. We need variety in these pages and the broad subject of cancellations and postmarks surely provides for that. If you can find the time to write a brief or not-so-brief article, please do so. I am available and indeed eager to assist in any way that might be helpful. Whether the purpose is to present a single cover or cancellation, to raise questions in a particular area, or to report observations or data collected over a period of time, let us hear from you. I think you'll find it satisfying, our readers will enjoy it, and additional information may well be forthcoming. Beyond all of this, of course, such exchange is fundamental to the success of our collective undertaking.

Several years ago, during a lull in the production of the NEWS, the USCC purchased a supply of the excellent 1992 Philatelic Foundation publication U.S. Postmarks and Cancellations and distributed a copy to each member. We still have some copies on hand and are making them available to club members for \$15.00 postpaid. (This publication was recently noted for sale on the list of a major philatelic literature dealer at \$30.00 plus postage.) It is a 164 page soft cover book that includes, but is not limited to, the following articles: "The Development of Handstamped Markings in the United States" by Frank Mandel, "Exchange Markings on Trans-Atlantic Mails" by Richard Winter, "The Cancellations and Postmarks of New York City: 1845-1876, Their Usage and Their Postal History" by Hubert Skinner, "Postmarks and Cancellations on Adhesives" by Louis Grunin, and "Fake Fancy Cancels" and "Fake Markings on Covers" by Scott Trepel. For those who were not USCC members when the book was distributed, here is your chance to acquire a copy at a substantial savings. To order, write USCC, 20 University Ave., Lewisburg, PA 17837 enclosing a check made payable to U.S. Cancellation Club. Orders will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

Beginning with this issue, we report on recent award winners among our membership. This information will be gathered from Linn's. However, it is possible that (1) we will miss an occasional award and (2) some awards will not be listed in Linn's. Thus your help in reporting awards to Martin Margulis, 4159 Steck Ave., #113-H, Austin, TX 78759-8511 would be very much welcomed. Martin will periodically send lists for publication in the NEWS.

Forty-five members paying 1997 dues included an additional amount as a donation to Club operations. We thank you!

Roger Curran

Published four times a year by the U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB and included with membership. Back issues as available. Prices on request.

Annual Dues: \$8.00 per year plus a one-time admission fee of \$1.00. Address inquires to: Roger Rhoads at the address below.

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Back Issues are available at \$2.00 each postpaid. Discount of 10% on orders of 25 or more issues. Address inquires to: Roger D. Curran at the address below.

Address all other communications to: Roger D. Curran at the address below.

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Addenda

Roger Rhoads

Inadvertently, I missed acknowledging Tom Corette and his article in the Spring '94 NEWS as the source for Figures 20 and 21 of Jackson and Saginaw, MI.

Warren Bower adds that the NYC "Letter returned to office by Carrier" adhesive label was yellow during 1884-5 before being printed on white paper in 1886-89. Then in 1893, the same wording was applied using a purple handstamp, not a printed adhesive. Further he noted that all such uses in cities other than NYC are very scarce.

**U.S. Cancellation Club Officers' Report to Members
May 1997**

Your officers have met through teleconference three times this Spring and have also interacted through correspondence and one-on-one contact. What follows is a summary of actions taken to date and areas where member volunteer support is solicited.

Club Meeting at a Major Stamp Show. To help build a sense of community and permit a forum for face-to-face discussion of club affairs, the holding of a meeting was a priority subject. San Francisco (PACIFIC), Milwaukee (APS show) and the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition were considered. Philadelphia was selected because of the greater concentration of club members in the middle-Atlantic region. This show, which used to be called SEPAD, runs from September 26-28, 1997. The USCC will host on Saturday, September 27, a seminar by Roger Rhoads entitled "Collecting the First U.S. Postal Card (UX1 and 3) and its Markings" followed by a general membership meeting. We will also have a society table to introduce the USCC to show attendees. Please join us if at all feasible and if you can help out at the table please contact Tuck Taylor. We may also organize a dutch treat dinner that evening at a nearby restaurant. We hope this will be the first of a series of annual meetings at SEPAD or elsewhere. Incidentally, this show takes place in King of Prussia, PA which is close to Philadelphia and convenient to travelers.

USCC Award. For some years, the USCC gave an award at major shows for the best exhibit featuring cancels/postmarks. Due to lack of volunteer support, the administration of this program "withered on the vine." Your officers decided to formally discontinue the granting of this award as presently constituted to permit time for a determination of what would be the best approach today. The shows where the award was granted have been advised of this decision. Preliminary discussion suggests that, as a minimum, the club may offer an award at next year's annual meeting prior to which we would widely encourage the submission of cancellation exhibits to that show.

Publicize Club. Your officers consider this to be of great importance. The Club was advertised in the pull-out index of the February 1997 Chronicle of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society and we are running a display ad in the May and June 1997 issues of the American Philatelist. The May issue is especially important as that will be the PACIFIC 97 issue. In the April 21, 1997 Linn's, club member Dick Graham presented, in his widely read Postal History column, an article on target cancels and mentioned the USCC and its efforts to expand activities. Bob Trachimowitz has made several Internet postings about USCC activities and plans to develop a USCC home page for this increasingly important communications medium. The USCC will share a table at PACIFIC with the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society. We contacted members living in the western U.S. to see if they could help out with table sitting. If any other members are

planning to attend and can devote a couple of hours to the cause, please leave a note at the table when you get there and indicate how we can contact you. (We hope that this reaches at least some members before they depart for San Francisco.) The Club will also be contacting state and other postal history societies offering to swap ads in our respective publications. And we encourage all members who plan to attend stamp shows to contact Roger Curran to secure a supply of USCC applications and sample NEWS issues that could be placed on literature tables at the show or even given out by club members.

Encourage NEWS Articles. Club officers have taken it upon themselves to encourage people they know, who have an interest in cancellations and postmarks, to submit articles to the NEWS including persons who are not currently members. Your editor will contact the APS writers' unit to solicit contributions. Please note: articles that have already appeared in print but probably not seen by a large portion of the USCC membership are also very much welcomed. Through contacts with philatelic friends and acquaintances, let's all urge folks to help out.

New Initiatives. We have several ideas in the discussion stage and each would involve very considerable volunteer support. These include periodic auctions of material submitted by Club members. We all surely have stamps or covers that are duplicates or otherwise no longer needed and a club auction could benefit sellers and buyers alike. We would welcome hearing from any member willing to consider serving as auction coordinator and also from those who have suggestions on how an auction should be run. Cancellations Project. Dick Graham in his aforementioned article suggested that the USCC might undertake a project of assembling data on target cancels. As he pointed out, in 1861 and beyond, there was an explosion in the use of various target design killers and we believe it would be interesting indeed to study the usage of this canceler design so popular with postmasters in the latter years of the 19th century. Member reaction is eagerly sought on this project as well as on suggestions of other subjects we might collectively pursue. Expertization of Cancellations. As a perhaps longer range project, we will consider establishing a USCC-sponsored expert review committee for cancellations on stamps and perhaps extending to other postmarks.

The above describes briefly the various matters addressed to date by the USCC board. Now what we need most are your comments, suggestions and critiques and also learning of areas where you would consider helping out. Our next conference call will be held in mid-June and we hope to have lots of comments and ideas from members to consider. Please contact any of us with your thoughts. Our addresses are on the masthead.

Roger D. Curran
Peter Mosiondz, Jr.
Roger Rhoads
Thomas D. Taylor
Robert Trachimowitz

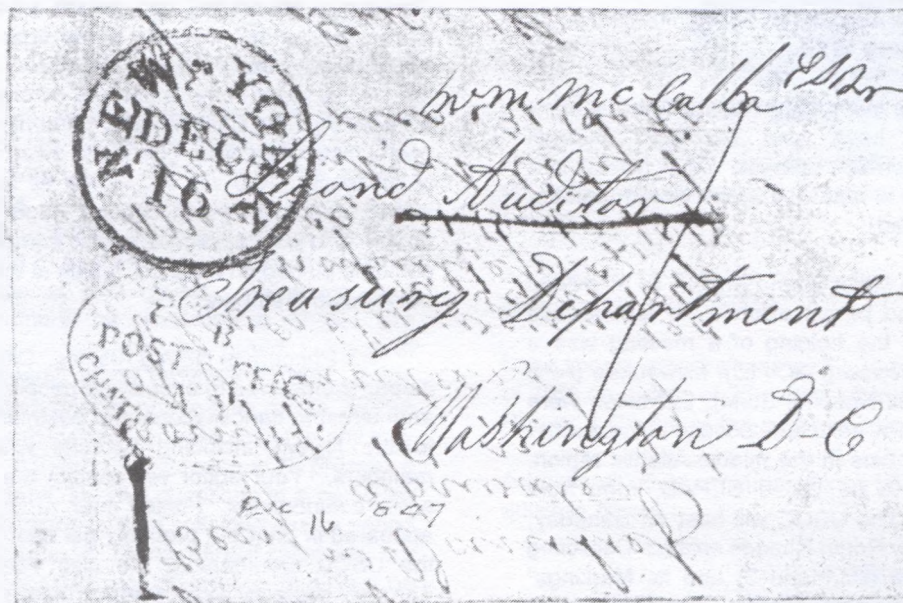


Figure 3

with the new orange-red oval to William McCalla, Washington, D.C. It discusses a man wounded at the battle of Chapultepec, Mexico and has a blue pen 'f' for 'free.' The other December 16, 1847 Hollowbush cover bore a 5 cent adhesive to bring it to Boston to go on the Cunarder Britannia sailing from there on the 16th, Figure 4.

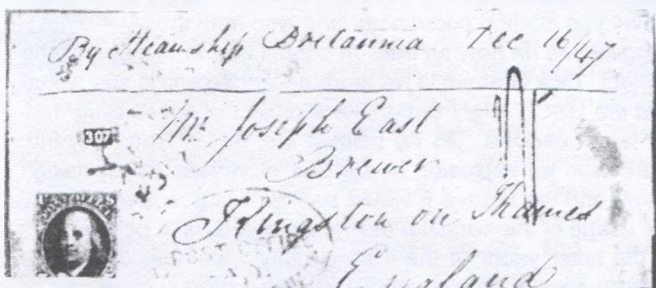


Figure 4

My records show the red-orange SWART'S/B oval is known until May 3, 1849 and then found in a brownish-red from November 1850 through April 1852, followed by a bluish-green version in May 1852 ending up with a black version in June 1852.

The marking is known in conjunction with a red grid tied 5 cent 1847 dark brown from the first printing on a March 20 cover, that is probably 1848, addressed to Boston. It sold as lot 309 in the Matthies 1847 sale at Siegel October 31, 1975. Another example from the first printing is the tied 5 cent gray brown postmarked February 22, 1848 that is ex-Duane Garrett. See Figure 5. It is datelined Islip, Long Island, February 19th and was carried outside the mails to New York where it was given to Swarts to take it to the post office. It is addressed to Rev. Cornelius Conkling, Upper Black's Eddy, Bucks County, PA.

A 10 cent 1847 example with the same markings

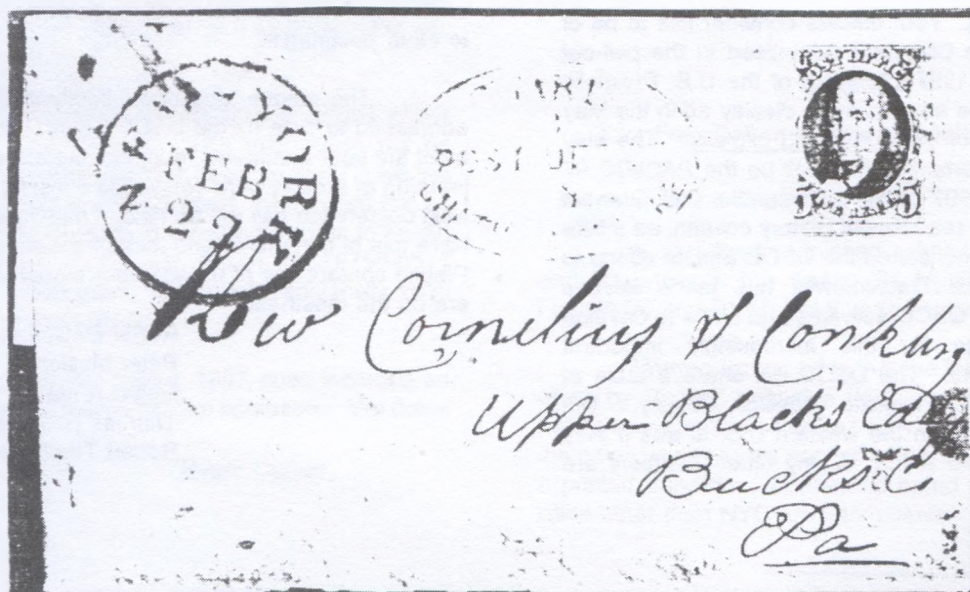


Figure 5

(Figure 6) was sold as lot 26 in the Henry Gibson sale at Ward on June 14, 1844. It, too, was part of Miss Matthies' holding. It is postmarked May 2, 1849 and addressed to John Snyder, a bank cashier at Pittsburgh.

Swarts used only handstamp markings until his acquisition of the John Bouton local operation whose history I recorded in the May 1973 Chronicle. With the Bouton operation, he got Bouton's 'Rough & Ready' adhesives. We don't know the precise date of acquisition but it falls between January 8, 1849 (latest date of the Bouton cover), and February 5, 1849, the date Swarts put his name on a Bouton 136L13 adhesive. This first use adhesive is illustrated on the title page of Perry's APS monograph already cited and is reproduced here as Figure 7.

Figure 8 shows a tied 5 cent dark brown 1847 together with the Swarts signed Bouton 136L13 on a cover of March 19, 1849 that is from the Garrett holding. The first printing 5 cent dark brown is tied by the New York red square grid and is addressed to Mrs. E. Hand, Baltimore. The 136L13 is validated by the red-orange straightline PAID with a bar beneath, that is typical of Swarts covers. It is the earliest of the combination Swarts adhesive and 1847 issue covers I record. (There are earlier 1847-issue and Swarts handstamp covers.)

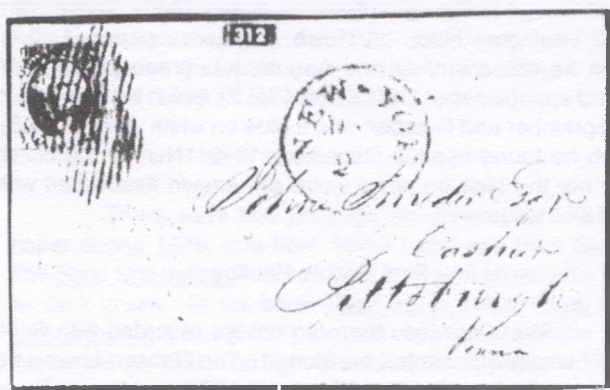


Figure 6



Figure 7

New Swarts Handstamps

Aaron Swarts introduced three new handstamps around May 1849. Figure 9 is an orange-red 32x22mm oval POST OFFICE/*SWARTS*/CHATHAM SQUARE that I record from my stampless example of May 18, 1849 to the ex-Caspary stamped version of January 10, 1850. (Figure 9 is reproduced from the Perry handbook.) Although there is a report of a Valentine example, I can't confirm it, nor whether



Figure 9

it is 1849 or 1850, although the latter seems more likely.

Garrett's holding had an example of this POST OFFICE/*SWARTS* oval on a May 18, 1849 cover, along with a tied 5 cent second printing brown, Figure 10. Addressed to Josiah White in Philadelphia, this cover also bears another new handstamp, the Swarts underlined PAID, in red. I also record the PAID in later years in blue-green and black.

The third new handstamp is on the back of this cover. It is a red-orange 35x23mm oval reading LETTERS FOR N. YORK CITY/DIRECT TO/CHATHAM SQUARE/POST OFFICE. Only known as a backstamp, I record this oval from my stampless example of May 1, 1849 to July 23, 1849, so that its limited time span is useful in dating Swarts covers. See Figure 11.

Perry illustrated two 'tracings' of this handstamp, both having a slanted-letter version of DIRECT TO and one using N.Y. CITY. I have never located examples of either and believe they represent transcribing or tracing errors. In his August 1952 Pat Paragraphs, Perry also expressed doubts about their existence.

Lot 310 in the Matthies sale is a 5 cent brown 1847 tied by New York square grids that also has both of the new Swarts ovals dating it into the May 18th to July 23rd period of 1849. The auction illustration doesn't give enough of the cover to say more. This is not the case for lot 311 where a 5 cent red brown 1847 is tied by the New York red square grid to a cover addressed to Christopher Woodruff, wagon-maker, Rahway, N.J. that is postmarked July 2 and dates from 1849



Figure 8

for it has the POST OFFICE/*SWARTS*, the underlined PAID, and the backstamp oval.

Swarts and Lithography

All of the Swarts versions of the Bouton 'Rough and

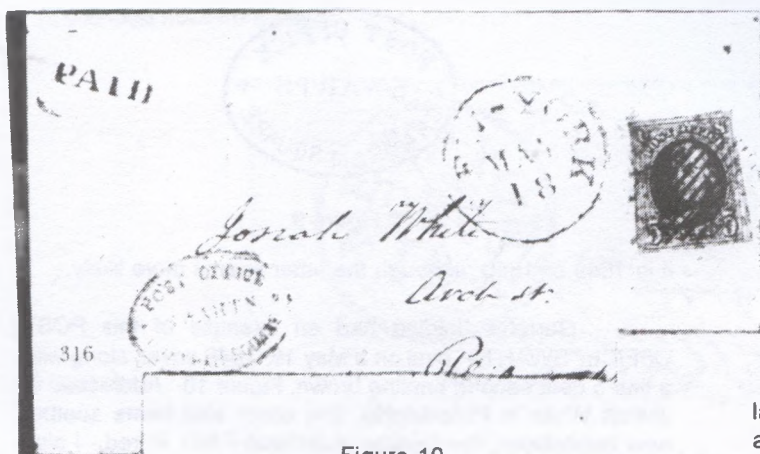


Figure 10

Ready' adhesives are lithographed. To help evaluate some of the rarer Swarts covers, a bit of background on lithography is helpful. Normally, the process of lithographic printing calls for a design to be drawn in a waxy or oily substance on a lithographic stone. It is then transferred by paper transfers to a printing block which, in turn, is used to lay down the printing stone from which the adhesives are finally printed. Transfer blocks should duplicate precisely, except at the edges where short transferring or clipped transfers can occur. Printing flaws can develop from anything from a bubble to a hair on the stone, but these do not replicate.

Only about 800-900 impressions can be pulled from a lithographic printing stone before there is clear evidence of wear as has been documented in studies of the French Bordeaux issues and the Confederate lithographs. When wear shows, the stone is scraped down, and a new set of block transfers is laid down. Additionally, a stone that is kept for a long time has the ink on it begin to flake or dry so that new transfers are needed over time even when a large number of impressions have not been pulled.

Apparently there are four printing stones that were used for the Swarts 'Rough & Ready' adhesives. Of these only the first two are of concern here. Stone IV is considered a production made for George Hussey in the 1860s to generate stamps for him to sell. It is laid down in transfer blocks of eight in four panes of 25 each for a sheet of 100.

Stone III is also of 100 stamps, but the transfer block is a horizontal strip of ten, according to the full sheet that Perry examined in the Eugene Costales holding. The sheet is probably a reprint, for it shows traces of diagonal scratches through 'Swarts' and 'Ready' similar to Stone IV, as reported in the text associated with the Donald Patton sale by Robson Lowe on March 15, 1972. The original Stone III printings were made for Benjamin Lockwood after his purchase of the Swarts local in 1857.

There are no multiples recorded for Stones I and II. Perry examined about fifty stamps from Stone II and found some 25 apparent varieties which suggested to him that the sheet was made up of several panes of 25 each (5x5). We have no knowledge of the size of the transfer block used to lay down this stone. The usual characteristic used to identify adhesives printed from this stone is a constant flaw, a small colored dash found in the background between Taylor's forehead and the 'H' of ROUGH.

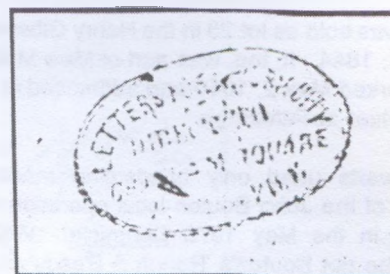


Figure 11

Donald Patton reports there is a Stone IIa, which lacks this flaw, but which otherwise matches the varieties associated with Stone II. Adhesives from the Stone IIa are reported on the 1850 and 1851 printings of Scott 136L4 and 136L6.

Stone I was only in production during 1849. It was replaced by Stone II some time during the year. None of the Stone II varieties have been identified on the known Stone I printings, nor are any Stone I printings known with the dash of Stone II.

Based upon an examination of the Mason holding and several others, Perry concluded that Swarts printed four of his 'Rough & Ready' adhesives during 1849. These were the 2 cent gray black on bluish gray wove paper (136L7), which he noted in July and August; two green printings on glazed surface paper (136L1 and 136L2), which he found used in September and October; and a blue on white wove (136L8), which he found used in December 1849. Neither the bluish gray nor the blue on white wove are known associated with the 1847 issue.

First Swarts Printing

There are less than ten covers recorded with Scott 136L7 which was printed on Stone I. The Robson Lowe sale of Donald Patton's holding (March 15, 1972) had three. There was an uncanceled example on an August 10, 1849 cover (lot 1268), which may be the same as lot 261 in the Harmer Rooke sale of March 1, 1963. That was on business correspondence with a Swarts/B/POST OFFICE handstamp as well. A second example (ex-Hollowbush lot 338) was lot 1265. It was tied on an August 30, 1849 cover to New Haven that bore a red c.d.s. of the N.Y. and New Haven railroad.

The third item was cancelled but untied on a Masonic notice of January 7, 1850 (lot 1269) that also had a late use of the POST OFFICE/*SWARTS* handstamp. It may be the Odd Fellows circular that sold as Hollowbush lot 337. Another cover was dated December 31, 1849 and sold as lot 547 in the Wolffer's sale of April 29, 1992.

The Caspary sale had two undated items. One was lot 978 with a POST OFFICE/*SWARTS* handstamp, that bore a cancelled but not tied adhesive. The cover was addressed to Mrs. Wm. Bloomfield, 28 Dominic St. and bore a pencil note 'Office 20 Nassau.' This cover subsequently sold in several Wolffers sales. Based on the handstamp, it can be dated to the second half of 1849.

The second Caspary item is the most significant. It is a manuscript Valentine addressed to Miss C. Schroeder, 3

St. Clements, that also bears Swarts' pencil notation of the same address. This cover was Caspary lot 977 and subsequently was offered as lot 753 in the Frajola dispersal of the Middendorf holding, where it was shown in color, Figure 12.

The significant facts about this cover are: 1) it is a Valentine, thus being from February and 2) it bears the orange-red SWARTS/B/POST OFFICE handstamp, which I do not record later than May 1849, establishing the use as February 1849. It is documentation that Swarts introduced his own Stone I adhesives very shortly after the acquisition of the Bouton operations.

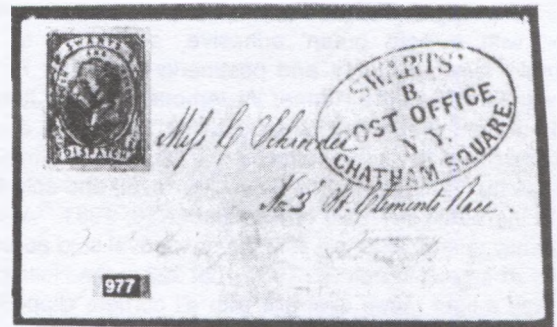


Figure 12

Skipping the two green printings for the moment, it is clear that the blue wove 136L8 Stone II printing was done in 1849. The earliest example I record (Figure 13) sold as lot 801 in the Robson Lowe New York sale of September 10, 1981. It was a cover addressed to Reading, PA dated December 4, 1849, that previously was lot 1275 in the earlier cited Patton sale. Other early items are a December 12, 1849 cover to Wm. Peter, British Consul, Philadelphia, that sold first as lot 164 in the Paige sale of 3/23/63, signed by Perry. Another is the ex-Judd item of December 19, 1849 addressed to Miss Ann L. Ash in Philadelphia; there is also a January 4, 1850 cover from the same correspondence, ex-Steven Brown. Perhaps the most spectacular 136L7 item is a Valentine with two adhesives that sold as Lot 163 in the Siegel sale of February 23, 1963. It was addressed to Michigan.

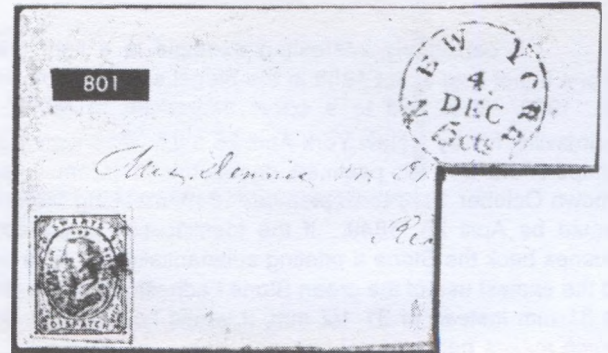


Figure 13

The Green Printings Stone I

There were two printings on green glazed surface paper during 1849, one from Stone I and one from Stone II. The Scott Specialized records 136L1 as light green and 136L2 as dark green. In his book The Private Local Posts of the United States, Vol. I (1967), Donald Patton records the Stone I example as 136L1 on light green surfaced paper and Scott 136L2 on bright or dull green surfaced paper as being from Stone II with its characteristic flaw. This is modified in the March 15, 1972 Lowe catalog of Patton's material, where the Stone I is now listed as 136L2 on dull green paper and the Stone II is noted as 136L1 on bright green surfaced paper. These colors match the Scott descriptions, but the stones are now reversed.

There are about ten examples of the 136L2 on cover, including several supposedly on 5 cent 1847 covers. One of the best dated is a cover postmarked August 26, 1849 and addressed to Rix Carroll & Co., New Orleans that is illustrated on page 38 of the Patton book where it is described as 'bright green'. It was lot 1270 in the Patton sale described as 'light green', and, offered as lot 798 in the Lowe, NY sale of September 10, 1981, as 'dark green'. It is Stone I.

Two examples from the same correspondence addressed to 32 South St., New York, with name crossed out, are known with the POST OFFICE/SWARTS handstamp. Both are described as dark green and 136L2. One was lot 369 in the Caspary sale, and the other sold as lot 305 in the Harmer Rooke sale of March 1, 1958. Lot 1271 in the Patton sale is a 'light green' 136L2, postmarked December 18, 1850, that was described as 'dark green' 136L2 when sold as lot 324 in the Frank Hollowbush sale to Perry, who bought it for Patton. It is addressed to Philadelphia, and may be the same

cover that was lot 843 in the October 1917 Worthington II sale. The John Boker holding had a 136L2 example addressed to Ann Ash, Philadelphia, as well as a cover from 'Miss Goddard' addressed to a minister at 271(?) Fifth Ave., which also had the SWARTS/B oval on the cover face.

In the Frajola Middendorf dispersal, there was a light green Stone I example in a mixed lot as well as an uncanceled light green Stone I adhesive on an October 1849 cover with the POST OFFICE/SWARTS oval. Addressed to James Wood, 67 E. Broadway, it sold as lot 747.

At least one late use is known, the Hollowbush lot 325 'dull green' that Perry bought for Patton; it was lot 1272 'light green' in the Patton sale. It is addressed to Philadelphia and bears a Scott #10, which the Hollowbush sale called orange brown and which Lowe labeled 'copper brown'. The postmark is March 28 (1852) New York & Phila. R.R. c.d.s.

Swarts Green Printings Stone II

Neither Caspary nor John Boker had a 136L1 Stone II cover, although Boker had an off-cover example. The previously cited Donald Patton sale had two covers, one with an uncanceled 'bright green' 136L1 on a front with the oval POST OFFICE/SWARTS (lot 1273), and the second (lot 1274) on a September 25, 1849 cover to New Haven with a New York & New Haven railroad c.d.s.

An even earlier example from Stone II is a cover, showing the defining flaw, that sold as lot 95 in an unnamed sale according to the Levi records. It is tied by a NEW-YORK/AUG 11/PAID/5 cts c.d.s. which would be 1849, for I record that c.d.s. between February 1848 and May 1850.

Among the other 136L1 examples are an ex-Grant cover, with a 'light green' adhesive, addressed to A.M. Sherman, Newburgh, NY and postmarked October 7, 1850 that was lot 920 in the Harmer Waterhouse sale of June 30, 1955. A light green ex-Hollowbush (lot 322) is on a cover front addressed to Leverett Bradley, 10 Chenlis (?) Street, that also has the POST OFFICE/*SWARTS* oval, and sold as lot 797 in the Lowe, NY sale of September 10, 1981. Another, apparently untied, example with the same oval sold as lot 674 in the Fox sale of March 31, 1966. Lot 323 in the Hollowbush sale was a light green example with all corners clipped; it is ex-Col. Green. Another light green example is seen on a January 1, 1851 cover with the Swarts PAID and the brownish-red (second shade) of the SWARTS'/B oval. It was lot 1889 in the Siegel sale of September 28, 1976.

A particularly interesting example is a light green Stone II that sold as lot 1888 in the Siegel sale of September 28, 1972. It is tied to a cover addressed to Mr. Hunt, Lairdsville, NY by a New York April 25 c.d.s. The high 't' and shape of the '5' in this postmark denote the 31 1/2mm version known October 1848 to September 1849, meaning the cover would be April 25, 1849. If the identification is correct, it pushes back the Stone II printing substantially to a date prior to the earliest use of the green Stone I adhesives. If the circle is 31 mm instead of 31 1/2 mm, it would be an 1850 date, which makes better postal history sense.

Green Uses With the 1847s

As has been demonstrated, the same adhesive on the same cover has been called 'bright green', 'light green', and 'dark green.' The reversal of the shade attribution with the stone between the Patton book and the Patton sale helps confuse the matter further. Therefore, it is necessary to look beyond sale attribution to see if an 1847 cover is 136L1 or 136L2. It needs to be checked to see if it is Stone I or II.

Jerome Wagshal in his Chronicle 169 piece picks up this discrepancy. He cites three green Swarts and 1847 combination covers. I know of four. Lot 52 in the J. David Baker sale at Siegel April 4, 1978, was a June 12, 1849 cover

to Mrs. Sarah Pratt, New London, CT, that was described as having a 5 cent brown 1847 tied to it along with the POST OFFICE/*SWARTS* oval and an untied light green Swarts, described as 136L1, which is clearly Stone 1. The 5 cent 1847 had a pen cancel removed, while there is a backstamp of the LETTERS FOR N. YORK CITY oval. This cover is shown here as Figure 14.

An even earlier dated combination is the Brigham cover that was lot 48 in the Brigham sale at Kelleher December 1, 1950 and which went into the Norcross collection. More recently it was lot 4012 in the September 27, 1995 Christie's sale. The two stamps are tied by the New York red square grid, and the cover is addressed to Thomas Woolman, Burlington, NJ. It has the POST OFFICE/*SWARTS* oval and a June 12, (1849) c.d.s. The green Swarts is clearly stone I, as it lacks the flaw. It was described as 'dark green' 136L2, which is the Scott designation for Stone 1. It is seen here as Figure 15.

A third example is the Matthies cover, selling as lot 308 in that sale. It has a tied 5 cent red brown together with an uncanceled dark green Swarts 136L2. The cover, which is addressed to famed Yale Professor Silliman's daughter, Julia, at New Haven. There are three Swarts handstamps, the underlined PAID, the POST OFFICE/*SWARTS* and, on the back, the LETTERS FOR N. YORK oval. This cover had been lot 1171 in the Harmer sale of November 12, 1953; lot 204 in the Pelander sale of September 3, 1955; and lot 130 in the Fox sale of March 24, 1958. The postmark date is May 19, 1849. Unfortunately, there seems to have been some undescribed damage on the face, so that the 'ROUGH' is not clear and there is a mark that might be the Stone II flaw, even though the color matches Stone 1, Figure 16.

The fourth Swarts green combination with the 1847 issue is a cover discussed by Stanley Ashbrook in his Special Services issue #34 in January, 1954 where it was illustration #133. As Wagshal noted, it is a second cover from the Sarah Pratt correspondence to New London. Dated June 8, 1849, it has a U.S. Express Mail c.d.s. and a red '5' as well as the POST OFFICE/*SWARTS* oval. The Swarts adhesive seems

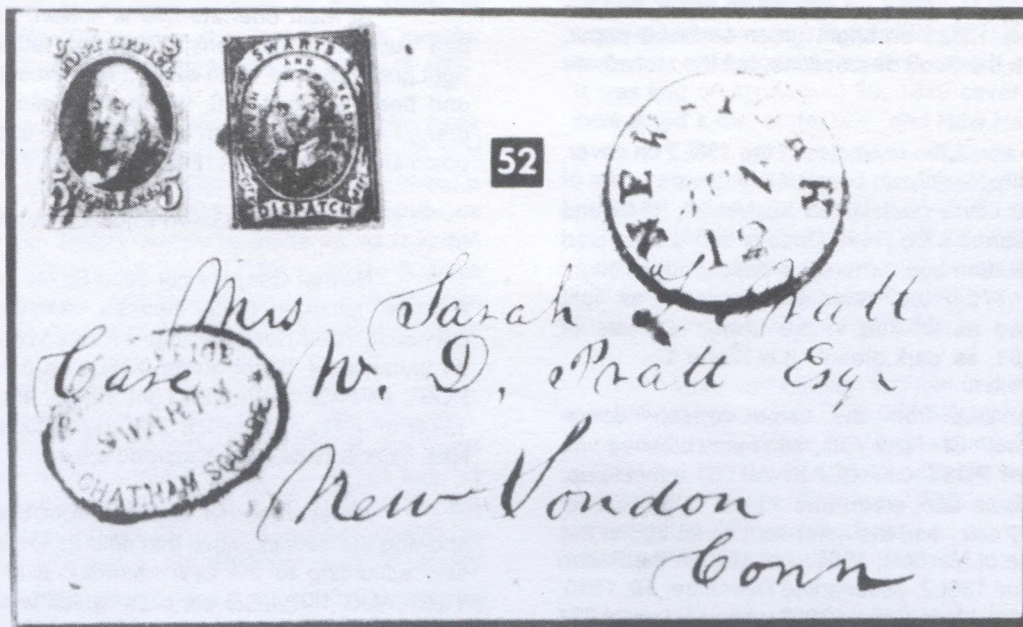


Figure 14

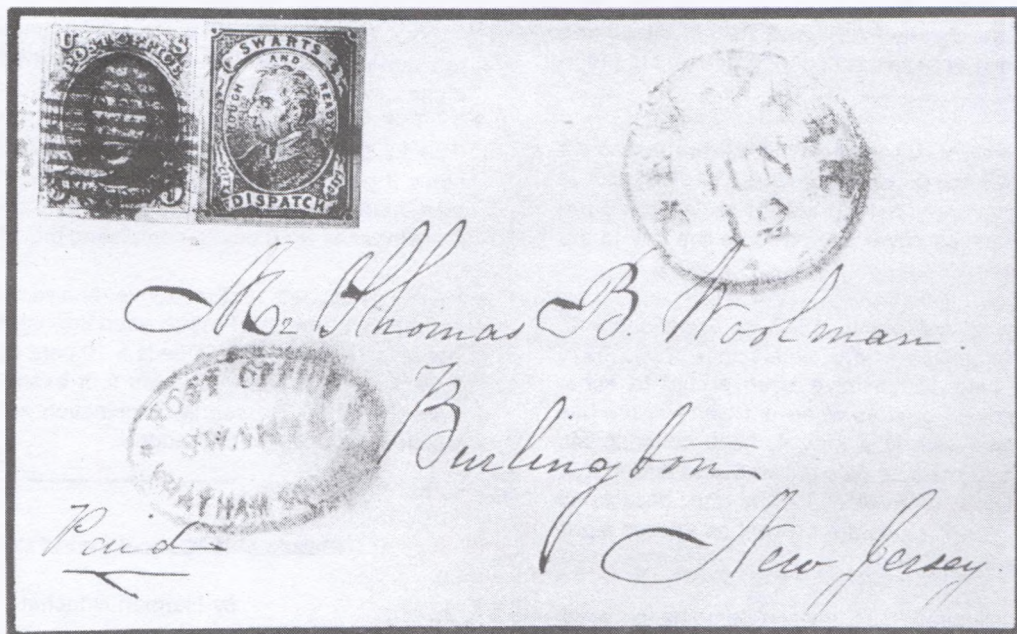


Figure 15

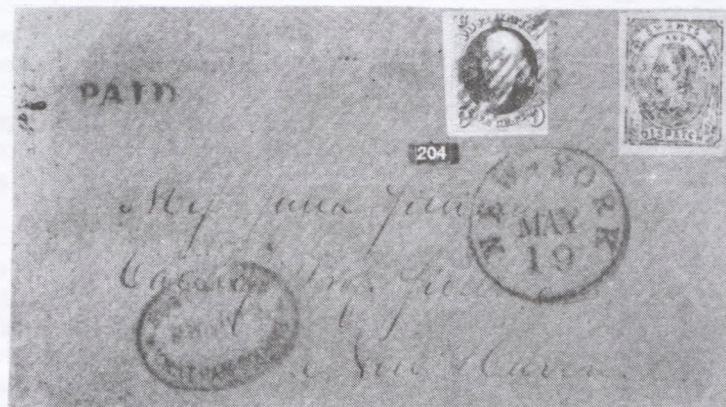


Figure 16

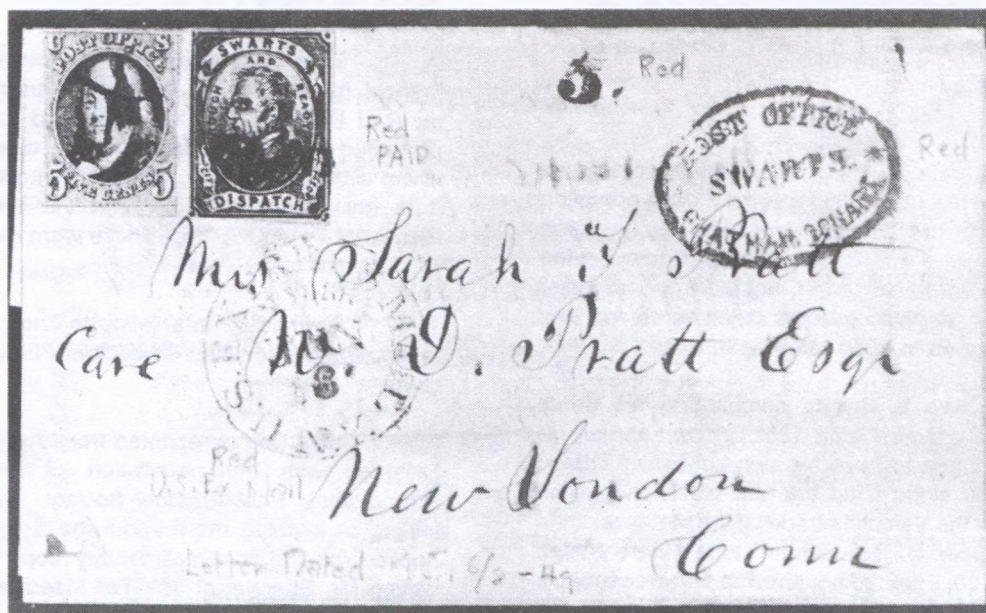


Figure 17

to be barely tied by the Swarts PAID. The 1847 is untied and pen killed. The Swarts adhesive is in dark green and is Stone 1. See Figure 17.

Ashbrook held that both adhesives were added. It seems fairly clear that the 5 cent 1847 doesn't belong, but at this period the Swarts could belong with its underscored red PAID killer. The Matthies cover seems to be the key to the analysis.

In addition to the above 1847 combinations with Swarts, there are examples where expertizing groups have determined that 5 cent 1847s have been added to either stampless Swarts covers or ones where a Swarts stamp has been taken off. One such is a May 4, 1849 cover to Mr. Parker, Meriden, Ct., that had a pale brown 5 cent added to it. Both the POST OFFICE*SWARTS* and the backstamp LETTERS FOR N. YORK ovals are present as well as signs that an adhesive was removed.

Another well-known 1847/Swarts combination cover is the ex-Emerson and Knapp cover with a 5 cent brown 1847 tied by red square grid to a March 23, 1849 cover with a Swarts 1 cent red (Scott 136L15) that is killed by a Swarts PAID, but not tied. The cover also has an apparent Swarts PAID separately on the other side, but no company handstamp. See Figure 18. The problem here is that it is far too early for a 136L15 to be found when almost all examples are from 1851 or later. There are also none of the characteristic Swarts handstamps of 1849.

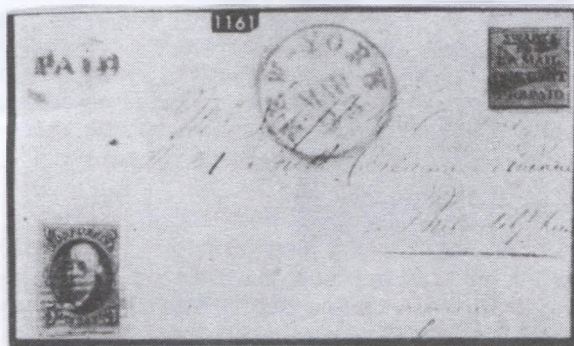


Figure 18

Summary

Summarizing the cover data presented above gives a fairly consistent postal history picture of the Swarts operation prior to 1850, and how 1847 stamps were used in conjunction with the local. There are a few surprising dates, moving the Perry dates back to an earlier period, but there are no major inconsistencies if the Matthies cover is taken as stone I and the Hunt cover assigned to 1850 rather than 1849.

What we have is Swarts surcharging his newly acquired Bouton adhesives (Scott 136L13) by February 5, 1849. He then arranged to have his own adhesives printed immediately from his stone I, so that the black on grayish 136L7 was ready for the Valentine trade. If the Matthies cover is 136L2, the dark green adhesives from stone 1 were printed shortly prior to May 10, 1849 from stone 1, a fairly reasonable date in terms of small quantities of the 136L7 known. Based upon the surviving copies, the 136L2 printing quantity was fairly large for the time, as reflected by the lower Specialized price for 136L2.

Apparently both the number of impressions taken and the June/July heat were sufficient to warrant scraping the stone down to make a new transfer to produce printing stone II. The new light green adhesive (136L1) was introduced in time for the August 11, 1849 cover use. Finally, a second stone II printing of the blue on white wove (136L8) adhesives was made in late November in time to be found on a December 4, 1849 cover, completing the 1849 Swarts issues.

Included in the above analysis are some eleven examples of the 1847 issue used in conjunction with Swarts' operation before 1850. One is a 10 cent example and six are 5 cent 1847s. There are also four examples of the stone I adhesive (136L2) used in combination with 5 cent 1847s of which one had the 1847 added.

Philadelphia "Cancel Freak" Circa 1890

by Norman Shachat

The rimless, townless cancel on the local Philadelphia letter shown in Figure 1 attracted my attention as soon as I saw it in John Kay's collection. The 2 cent green 1887 American Banknote issue, which paid the first class letter rate, indicated that the letter was posted around 1890. The stamp is canceled with a partial strike of a numeral containing ellipse normally used during that period as part of a duplex handstamp. The Philadelphia P.O. employed this type handstamp from 1885 to 1900 (Clarke type 170a). A typical 1890 example, franked with the same stamp, is illustrated in Figure 2.

That the Figure 1 cancel was a strike aberration rather than a new discovery became apparent when I superimposed transparencies of the cancels in Figures 1 and 2 and found that they matched almost perfectly (Figure 3). When the date and time lines were positioned over each other, the lines in the ellipses and the year fell on top of each other. Indeed, the small, elevated circle and the partial circle in the year date of the Figure 1 cover overlapped perfectly with the "90" in the Figure 2 cover.

Thus I conclude that the cancel in Figure 1 is a "cancel freak" and not a new Philadelphia type. It likely resulted because the date, time and year slugs somehow protruded from the handstamp so that they were the only parts of the circular townmark which received ink from the ink pad. It is unlikely in my view that the entire circle and the PHILADELPHIA, PA. could have worn out so uniformly as to produce the same effect.

It would be interesting to know if anyone else has found similar examples either from Philadelphia or any other town.

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Figure 1

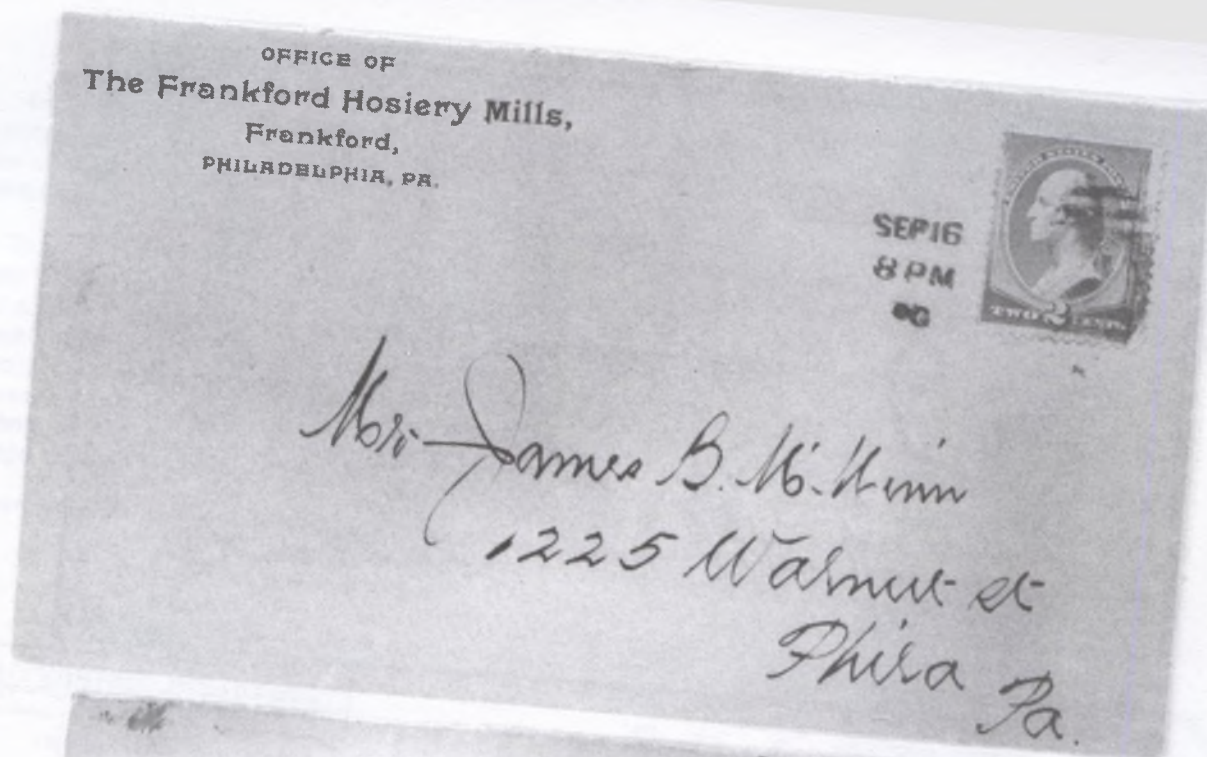


Figure 2

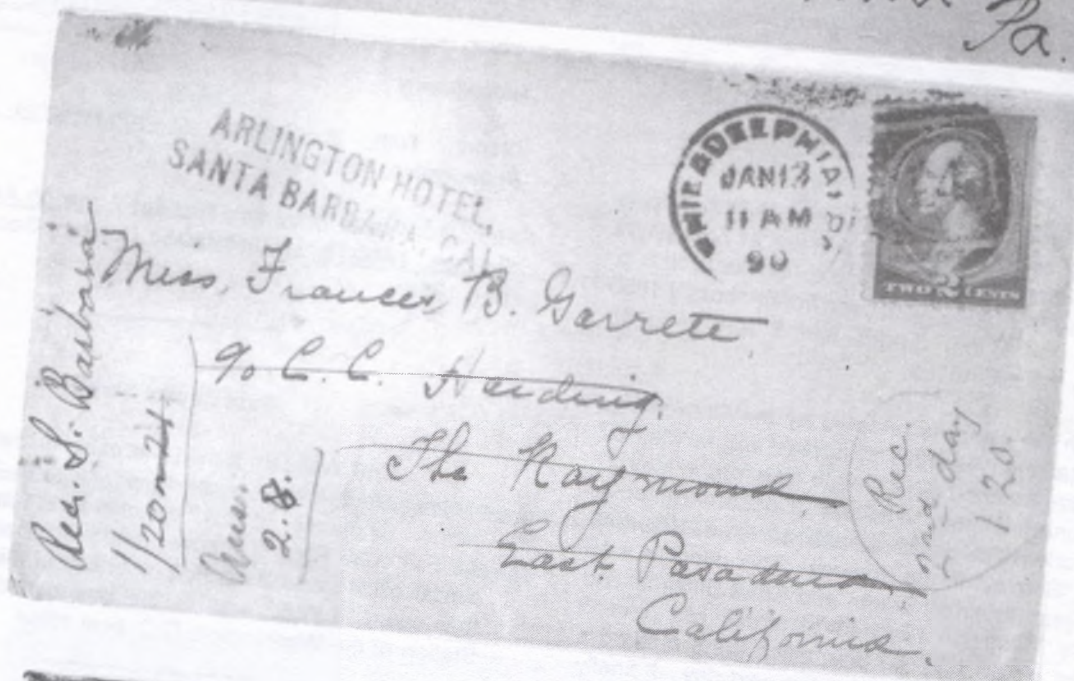


Figure 3

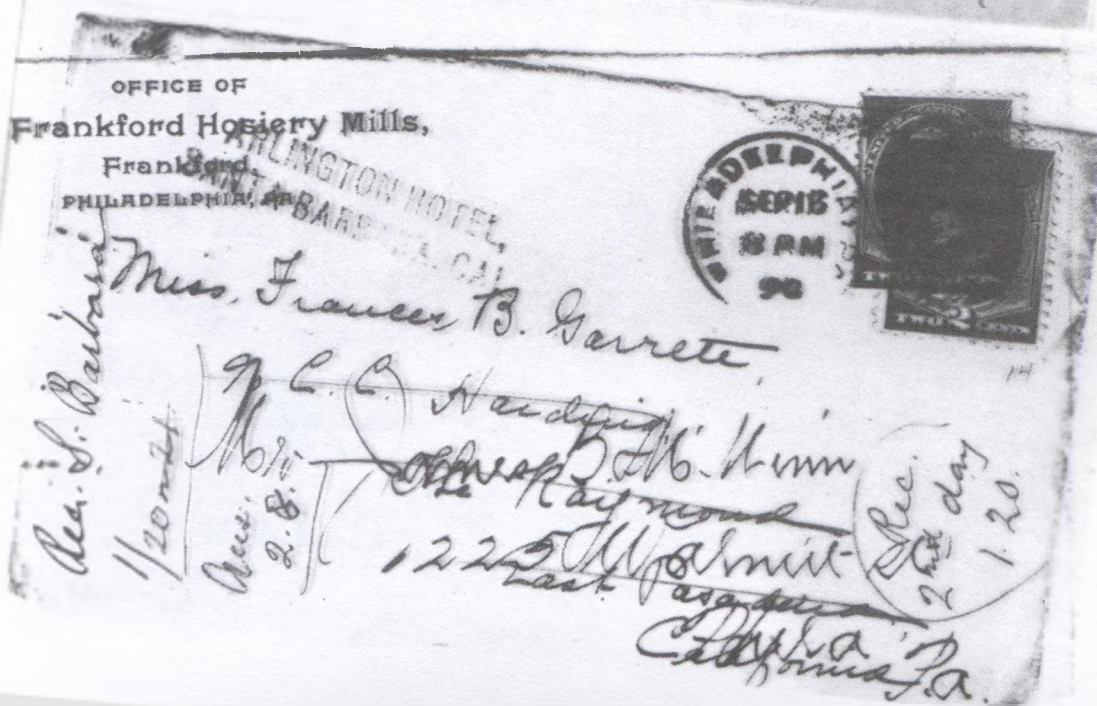
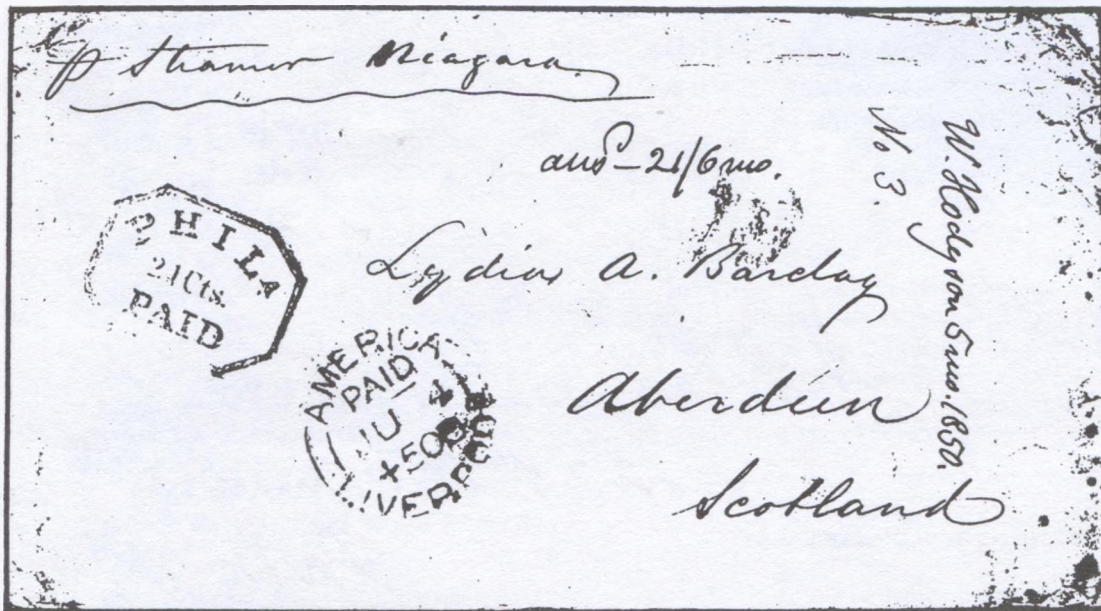


Figure 1



Philadelphia to Scotland via New York

by Tom Stanton

The illustrated cover is postmarked at Philadelphia with the red double octagon indicating that the 24 cent single rate of the Anglo-American treaty was paid. Clarke (Vol. II, p. 12-44) indicates that this device was used from February 1850 to March 1853. He further reports that it was used on domestic mails in the mid-1830s.

Although the cover is undated by the Philadelphia post office, the marking was probably applied around May 20, 1850. The missive reached New York in time for the May 22 sailing of the Cunard steamer "Niagara" (Hubbard-Winter, p. 28). The New York exchange office applied the red "19" which appears above "Barclay" in the address. This denotes a 19 cent credit to Great Britain for ocean and Great Britain inland postages. The "Niagara" reached Liverpool on June 3 (Hubbard-Winter, p. 28) and the post office there marked it with a red "America/Liverpool" device the next day. It finally reached Aberdeen on the 5th.

Bibliography

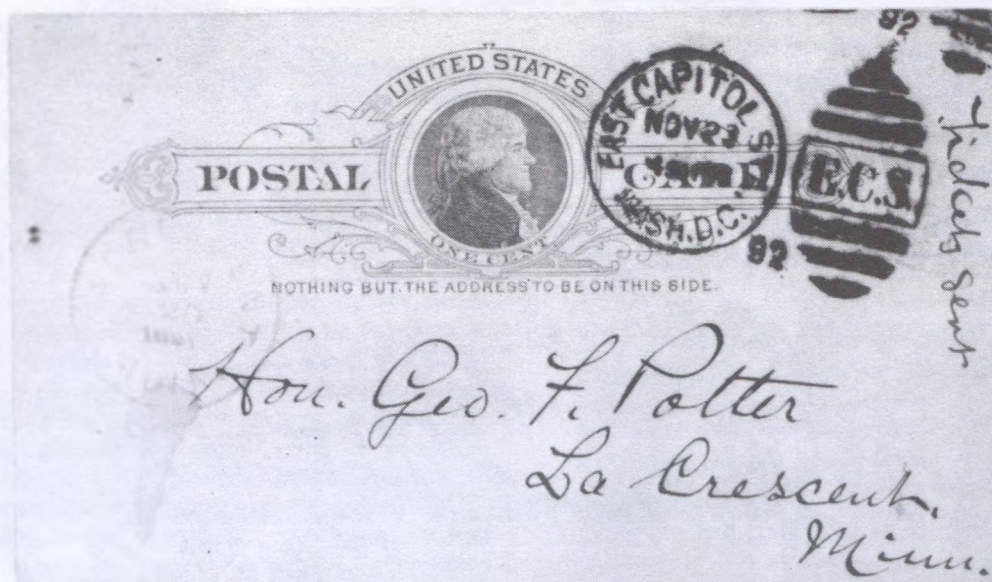
Clarke, Tom, A Catalog of Philadelphia Postmarks, Philadelphia, 1990.

Hubbard, Walter & Winter, Richard F., North American Mail Sailings, 1840-75, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Canton, OH, 1988.

East Capitol Station

Ted Wassem sends the card illustrated in Figure 1 bearing the interesting ellipse cancel with "E.C.S." in the center. Of course, "E.C.S." denotes East Capitol Station. In the Fall 1989 NEWS, a cover dated October 4, 1893 with a similar ellipse was illustrated, courtesy of Carl Stieg. But in that case, "S.W.S." was in the box denoting South West Station of the Washington, D.C. post office.

Figure 1



New York Anchor

Two examples of a splendid New York anchor cancel have been submitted by club members. Figure 1, in the collection of John Valenti, is dated January 17. Figure 2, in the collection of Gil Levere, is dated February 9, (1876).

In the Fall 1996 NEWS, we discussed killers, used during the 1872-76 period by the main NYPO, that contained hand-cut numbers in the center. Our focus was on domestic, out-of-town first class mail. New York also used killers with geometric and other designs on such mail. In 1877, after ellipse cancels had been adopted, a NYPO report stated that the numbers served to identify the clerks using particular handstamps and also to determine whether the piece of mail

was dropped at the main post office or at a lamp post box. By using some geometric and other designs during the 1872-76 period, was the NYPO comparing the legibility of these designs with the legibility of number designs for tracking purposes? (We know it experimented with different number designs.) If so, the numbers won out by May 1876 as ellipses with a number in the center were then introduced and "fancy" designs were not used on this mail thereafter.

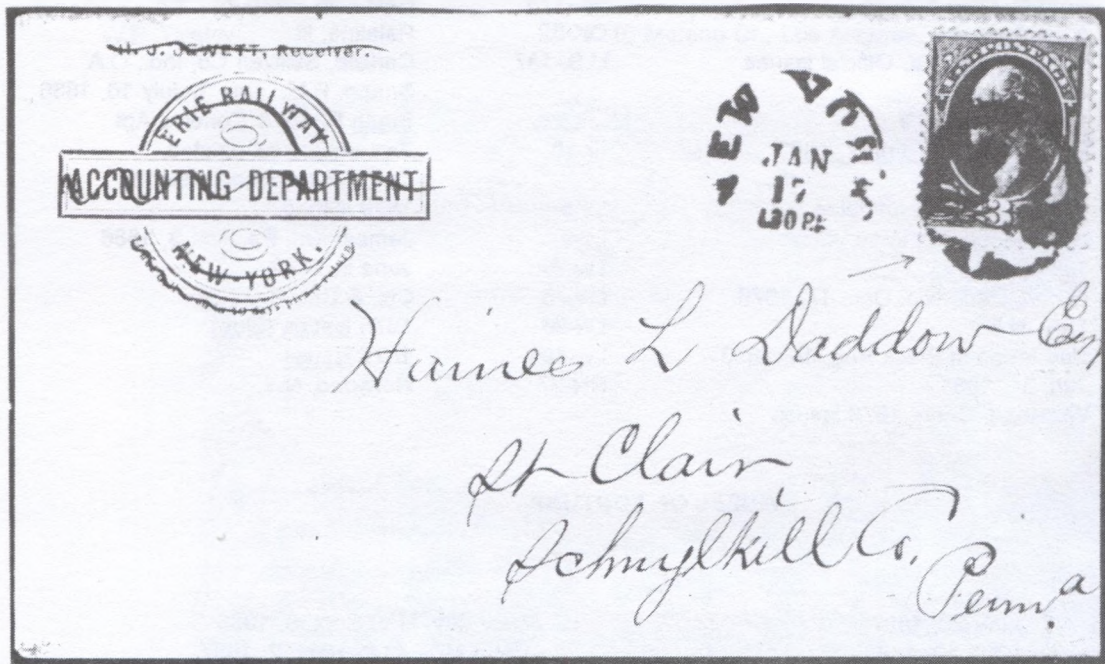


Figure 1

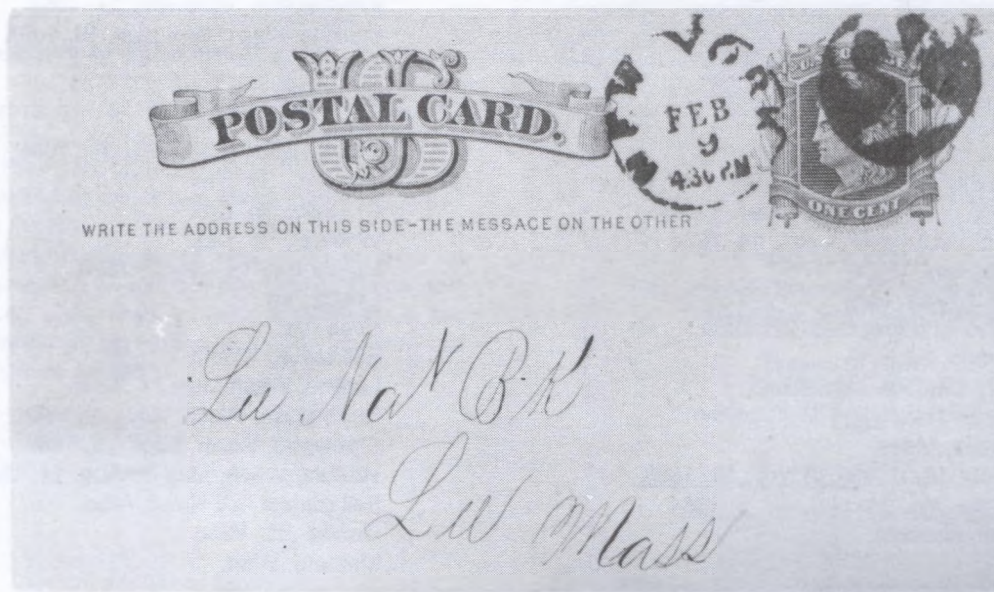


Figure 2



Cole Update

Presented below is a list of corrections and/or additions to the items already listed in Jim Cole's Cancellation and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894. Please support Jim in his excellent work by reporting further additions and corrections to his listings as well as noteworthy new cancels to be shown. His address is 804-D Orchardglow Close, Fairfield, OH 45014.

GE-32	1879 issues	HE-49	Official issues
GE-100	Savannah, Ga.	Pi-49	1887 <u>issues</u>
GED-26	1883 issues	HA-10	Mar. 9, 1874
GCR-129	Salisbury, Md.	SH-67	Oswego, <u>Ill.</u> not N.Y.
GCR-150	Hooker, Ohio <u>1/29/86</u>	SH-69	(Blue) 1870 issues
GCR-169	A. tol <u>Agt.</u>	ML-173	East End Pittsburgh, Pa.
GR-92	New Orleans, La. Official issues	OK-52	Palatine, Ill.
GL-88	1870-73 issues	U.S.-137	Carlisle, Sullivan Co, Ind., O.A.
STC-72	<u>New</u> Hudson, N.Y.		Snapp, P.M. June 1,-July 16, 1886
STC-83	Pyrmont, Ohio - <u>Apr. 7, 1882</u>	Ln.-23	<u>South</u> Pueb. & Conejos Agt.
STN-4	Oct. 24, 1883	Lr-10	This should be deleted
STN-36	Columbus, <u>N.Y.</u> , not Ohio		(Not a B.N. period cancel)
STN-54	Addison, <u>Ill.</u> , not Wisc.	Lv-5	1879 issues
STX-31	1881 issues	Lv-9	Jamestown, Pa. Apr. 3, 1886
STX-56	Asbury Park, N.J. Dec. 17, 1879	Lw-25	June 8, 1882
STU-28	Troy, N.Y.	Lw-76	Chi. & Det. R
CSL-3	also found in Black Aug. 14, 1893	Lw-96	1875 <u>issues</u> (Blue)
JO-45	Jan. 31, 1881	Lw-104	1875 <u>issues</u>
SK-4	Winstead, Conn. 1873 issues	RN-27	Norwood, N.Y.

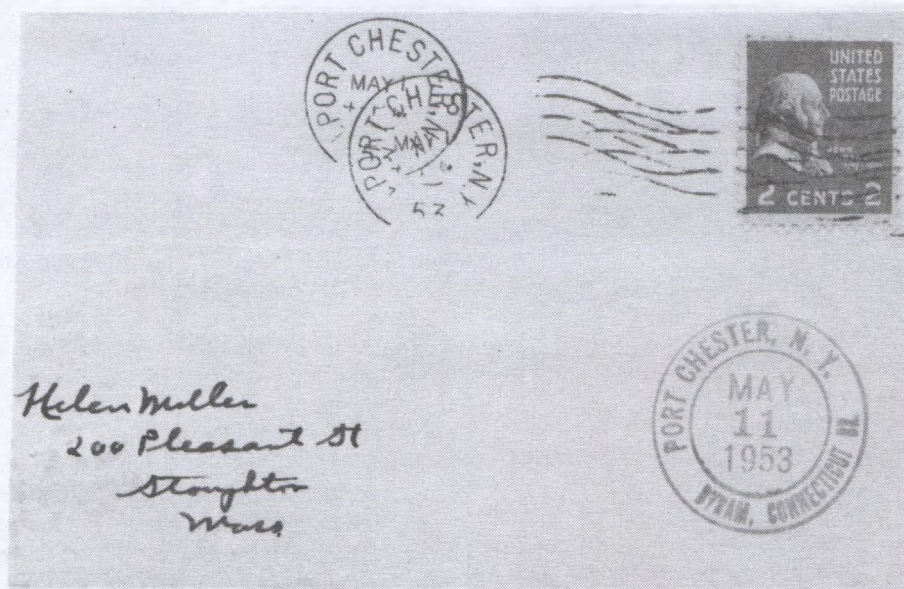
WHEEL OF FORTUNE

Thompson, Ala. June 28, 1887	New City, N.Y. Sept. 6, 1886
Prairie View, Ark. <u>Oct. 12, 1883</u>	Petra Mills, N.C. Sept. 2, 1887
Arkansas, Colo. <u>1880</u>	Elgin, No. Dak
Como, Colo, Aug 18, 1885	Freeport, Ohio <u>Apr. 10, 1884</u>
Ophir, Colo, 1881	Gilbert's Mills, Ohio
Satank, Colo. 1887	Martin's Ferry, Ohio <u>Feb. 2, 1887</u>
Telluride, Colo.	Westminster, Ohio May 17, 1887
Mill Brook, Conn.	Looking Glass, Ore. Nov. 16, 1887
Southford, Conn.	
Amboy, Ill.	Cloud, Pa.
Augusta, Ill.	Kantner, Pa.
Hettick, Ill.	Rice's Landing, Pa. (Purple) 1886
Norris City, Ill.	Estelline, So. Dak.
Odell, Ill.	Okobojo, So. Dak.
Clarion, Iowa (Blue) - <u>Jan. 14, 1886</u>	Wheeler, So. Dak.
Dakota, Iowa (Blue)	Liberty Hill, Tx. July 2, 1889
Lattners, Iowa 1885	Castor, Va.
Miles, Iowa (Blue) Dec. 22, 1884	Elmo, Va.
Stanwood, Iowa	Ellensburg, Wash. - <u>1886</u>
Cawker City, Ks. Aug. 1882	Larene, Wash. July 14, 1883
Bedford, Mass. <u>1884</u>	Snohomish, Wash. Nov. 29, 1886
Waterville, Mass.	Stanwood, Wash. Sept. 15, 1887
Fairmont, Minn (purple) Nov. 13, 1883	Wallula, Wash. May 25-Aug. 14, 1886
Ravenna, Mo. (Purple) Apr. 5, 1884	Fall (delete "s") River, Wisc.
Nelson, Montana	Genoa Jct., Wisc.
	Mathers, Wisc.



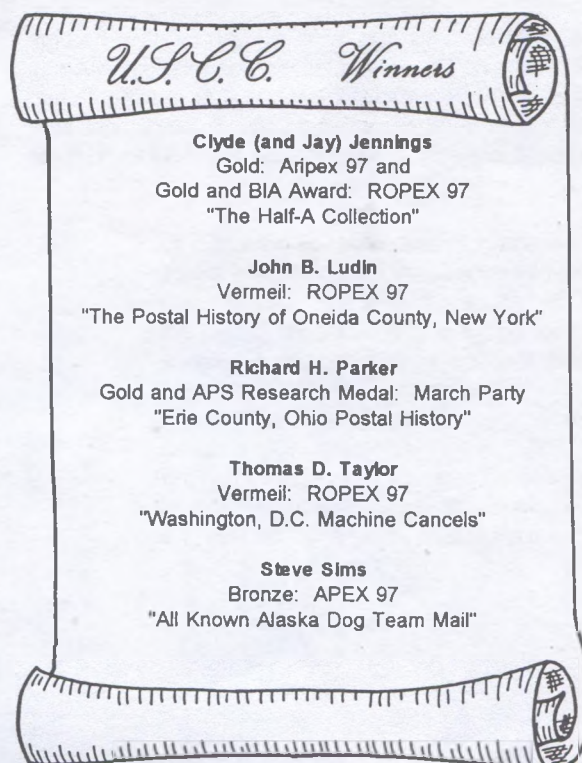
Additions to U.S.C.C. Membership Roster

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Stan Bednarczyk	5303 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43214
William H. Hatton	PO Box 622, Piqua, OH 45356
Victor W. Kuil	Van Derenterlean 9, 2271 TT, Voorburg, The Netherlands
Paul J. Kukstis	PO Box 130, Scituate, MA 02066
Rob Lund	3007 Panaview, Everett, WA 98203-6945
Kenneth P. Martin	PO Box 8084, State College, PA 16803
S.A. Rachootin	6051 Sadring Ave., Woodland Hills, CA 91367
D.M. Rice	PO Box 54, Granville, MA 01034
W.E. Tinsley	2210 Moreno Dr., Los Angeles, CA 93009



Two States on Same Handstamp

Gil Levere sends a 1953 cover that is, to say the least, unusual. It was apparently received initially in the branch office and then sent on to the Port Chester post office for processing. But what about two states being involved? Port Chester is on the New York border with Connecticut, and your editor assumes Byram is or was a small town or community not warranting a separate post office. Since post offices are Federal, state lines in and of themselves are presumably not mandatory controlling factors on how they are organized. Comment is invited.



by Roger D. Curran

On page 105 we illustrated as Figure 1 a New York City CDS duplexed to a killer consisting of a "12" enclosed in an oval of thin bars and noted that it has been reported used from September 10 (1874) through October 26 (1874). John Valenti sent a photocopy of a cover in his collection bearing this marking dated November 9, with "1874" docketing, thus extending the reported period of usage by two weeks.

On page 108 we illustrated a cover with a manuscript notation referring to the "St. P.M. & O.R.R." and asked about that as well as the location of the East Troy post office. Dick Winter reported that the notation stands for the Saint Paul, Minnesota and Omaha Railroad according to a railroad map he located. He went on to say: "East Troy is probably Wisconsin, near Milwaukee. Apparently the letter was directed by the rails via Saint Paul." Indeed, there is an East Troy southwest of Milwaukee.

On page 109 we illustrated a triplex marking showing a "2M" between the CDS and ellipse killer and wondered how there would be enough room in the space to accommodate three, and especially four entries such as "10PM" would require. Shown below is a "5PM" wherein, readers will note, the space does not seem to allow enough room for the full right side of the "M" or, indeed, the top left of the "5." Additional examples are still sought.



On the back page we illustrated a partially paid cover where the deficient postage was added by the Foreign Department of the NYPO. The question was raised about who paid the 2 cent deficiency. Dick Winter, after making it clear that he did not know the answer to the question, did offer some excellent conjecture. Regarding the NYPO "Unpaid Postage . . ." marking, he wrote:

"I suspect it was used, infrequently, to move insufficiently paid or unpaid letters that arrived there and couldn't be returned for proper postage. I suspect that the postmaster had an allowance from Washington, D.C. for such expenses. The initials and figure "16/80" noted alongside the crossed through "Due 2" manuscript marking appear to me to be record keeping of this transaction. Perhaps this was the 16th entry for 1880 and the initials are those of the clerk who authorized the payment of the missing 2 cents."

This article concerns the cancellation on the 3 cent 1861 issue (Scott #65) illustrated in Figure 1. Surprisingly, the marking is in red and I can find no reference in the literature to such "STEAMSHIP" markings in red ink. Under 10X magnification, it appears that there may be a few black strands in with the red ink. This item was examined by the Philatelic Foundation in 1995 with the resulting opinion that the cancellation was genuine.



Figure 1

In trying to identify the origin of this marking, I consulted Simpson's USPM¹, the American Stampless Cover Catalog² (ASCC) and Theron Wierenga's United States Incoming Steamship Mail 1847-1875³ and found no exact match. New York, New Orleans and Charleston used markings of this general type. Focusing on the location of the top of the "O" in relation to the "H" of ". . . SHIP," the closest match appears to be a Wierenga illustration of a Charleston STEAMSHIP/20 marking. The ASCC lists 1856-60 as the dates of known use for the companion Charleston STEAMSHIP/10 marking and these dates appear to apply to the STEAMSHIP/20 as well. Thus the Charleston marking on a 3 cent 1861 issue stamp would seem to be a late usage. Although the "O" on the stamp doesn't fully match the Wierenga tracing, strikes from the same handstamp vary considerably based on such factors as whether it is a "head on" or glancing blow, amount of inking, unevenness of the cover surface, etc.

My inclination is to believe the red ink was accidentally applied by the Charleston post office. The red ink implies that section or area of the post office processing outgoing foreign mail. Comment and information are invited.

The stamp appeared in an 1989 Satuit Philatelics Corp. auction and was one of a number of items described as coming from remainder lots from the Dale-Lichtenstein collection offered earlier by another auction house.

FOOTNOTES

¹Alexander, Thomas J. Simpson's U.S. Postal Markings 1851-61, Second Edition, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, 1979, pages 272-3.

²Phillips, David G. American Stampless Cover Catalog, Volume II, fourth edition, David G. Phillips Publishing Co., Inc., 1987, pages 93-4.

³Wierenga, Theron United States Incoming Steamship Mail 1847-1875, Theron Wierenga, 1983, pages 169-74.