



Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 24, No. 6, Whole No. 231, Spring 1999

A Commentary on the Hockanum "Fox" Killer

c. Calvet M. Hahn 1999

Philatelic literature on the subject of Hockanum, Ct. postmaster Dudley Fox's "fox" killer almost always draws attention to the famed Waterbury killers of John W. Hill and those of the Putnam, Ct. post office under Hiram Brown. Of the three men involved, Hill did not become a postmaster until 1870; he was the Waterbury sorting clerk during the period of the best Waterbury killers. To better understand these fancy killers, it is useful to position the towns in postal history.

From the earliest days, colonial settlements were made along the New World's rivers and bays. Consequently, communications between them over any distance was difficult except by ship, for there were otherwise numerous rivers to ford or ferry. This river-crossing factor was important in retarding intercolonial communications, particularly in the south, from colonial days virtually up to the Civil War.

When he blazed the first intercolonial land mail route between New York and Boston in the winter of 1672-73, Fordham manor lord John Archer cut along the coast from New York to New Haven and then turned inland up the river valley to Hartford, Ct. and Springfield, Ms. before heading east to Boston. This was the 'old post road' or the upper road. It did not touch any of the three towns.

In 1674, the Connecticut General Court established a post between Hartford and New London that necessarily passed through Hockanum so it was the first of the three towns to have postal service although a post office was not established until February 18, 1850. The 'old post road' (U.S. #1) from New York to New Haven was next extended to New London and Providence and on to Boston. Towns along it were mentioned in the 1711 Act of Queen Anne, but the service may have been as late as the 1750s due to the river crossing problem. This is the old 'lower post road.'

News of the battle of Lexington traveled by express letter across New England in 1775 at the rate of about four miles an hour, despite the use of horse "day and night" express riders. The news went from Watertown, Mass., just outside Boston, over to Worcester, Mass. and there two expresses went onward. One went on to Hartford, New Haven and New York over the upper post road. A second went south to New London via Putnam, Ct. which was on the late "middle post road". It was this copy that alerted Israel Putnam (1/7/1718-5/29/1790) and catapulted him into American mythology as our version of Roman dictator Lucius Q. Cincinnatus who had been called from his plow to run Rome between 458 and 439 B.C. Waterbury was still not on

a post road at this time, although it was on the subscription back post to Hartford. A Waterbury post office was established September 7, 1802. The Hockanum office was established February 18, 1850 while the Putnam office was established June 13, 1855, although a prior office had been established as West Thompson February 3, 1834.

The renaming of the West Thompson post office to Putnam reflected the unusually large need Americans have for myths, having stripped away the trappings of royalty and British institutional tradition at the time of the revolution. American myths accrete around the symbols of the flag and the physical documents of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution as well as around institutions such as the Supreme Court and Electoral College and men such as the founding fathers. In my current series running in *Postal History Journal* on the 'Intertwining of Philately and Social History' (an attempt to explain why we collect as we do), I allude to some of the myth consequences of Georges Sorel's basic studies on the subject that include his *Reflections on Violence*.

The story of General Putnam and the "wolf den", like the one about his "abandoning the plow" to take arms against the British, is an example of how myths attach themselves to the founding fathers. Some are untrue such as Mason Weems' famous story of George Washington and the cherry tree. Some embellish the facts as in the report of Thomas Paine's writing his *The Crisis* tract with its moving "summer soldiers and sunshine patriots" line using a drumhead as a writing desk. Some are true, but probably irrelevant, as in the Putnam "wolf den" story. However, myths are one of the defining characteristics of American social history.

The first report of the Hockanum "fox" killer was given by Cotton C. Doyle in the January 25, 1919 *Mekeel's*. This is within a week of the February 1, 1919 publication of W.E. Ault's *American Philatelist* article on cancellations which reported the Waterbury killers. Ray Sanborne of New Haven had acquired the Anderson Waterbury covers in June 1918 and put some 30 of them up for sale at the J. M. Bartels auction of February 15, 1919. As noted in my "Intertwining" series, the American era of philately was based initially upon the tripod of a new classicism including plating, the development of topical collecting and the introduction of postmark and cover collecting. The above-cited articles on fancy killers are among the first regarding that subject although the International Postmark Society had

(Continued on p. 83)

The U.S. Cancellation Club will hold its 1999 annual meeting and seminar at the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition (PNSE) which runs from October 1-3 at the Fort Washington Expo Center in Fort Washington, Pa. Our seminar/meeting will take place on Saturday, October 2. As mentioned in the last *NEWS*, the U.S.C.C. will again sponsor a one-frame exhibit competition. But I should hasten to point out that the emphasis is really not on competing but rather on encouraging the exhibition of cancellations on 19th century U.S. stamps. A one-frame exhibit, consisting of 16 pages, is a great way to be introduced to the exhibiting process or, for the experienced exhibitor, to develop a new exhibit without undue burden. I sincerely encourage members to consider participating. Although attending the show is ideal, it isn't necessary and exhibits can be mailed. Our exhibits representative is Tuck Taylor who lives in the area, and has exhibited at the Philadelphia show many times. Please write Tuck at the address listed on the masthead or call him at 610-388-2558. He can also be reached by FAX at 610-388-3424. Tuck is available to answer questions and assist with any needed logistics. He will coordinate all paperwork and provide liaison with PNSE officials regarding the U.S.C.C. one-frame exhibition. As we did last year, the 1999 seminar will consist of short presentations by our one-frame exhibitors present at the show about their material. And if last year is any guide, interesting dialog can be expected. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us regardless of whether exhibiting is feasible. The PNSE is a fine show and we'd enjoy seeing you.

This issue of the *NEWS* is a very full one. In addition to the catalog for Auction #3, we announce the initiation of two large information-gathering projects: one devoted to target cancellations and the other to the "large Boston negatives." Many thanks to those who have volunteered to serve as coordinators. Let's keep them really busy by submitting lots of reports of pertinent material. I'd like to emphasize one point made on the form. Please think of friends and acquaintances who are not U.S.C.C. members and send or give them copies of the form if they may be in a position to contribute. Also, please announce these studies at your local stamp club meetings. Obviously, we want to encourage as much reporting as possible. And suggestions and comments are always welcome.

Just as an example of an interesting aspect of the target cancel project, one type that has a noteworthy postal history aspect is illustrated below. Dick Graham described this type in his *Linn's* "Postal History" column of January 4, 1999 entitled "U.S. government-issued duplexes began in 1863." He reported that they were manufactured by Edmund Hoole and supplied by Hoole, as a government contractor or subcontractor, to more than 600 post offices during the circa 1863-1866 period and they were the first government-issued duplex cancels. Dick stated he has had reports of such duplex uses from as early as April 1863 and that they have been noted for some years after 1870. Let's see what the U.S.C.C. project can do to add usage information to this important subject.



The U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

Published four times a year by the U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB and included with membership. The U.S.C.C. is APS Affiliate #75.

Annual Dues: \$14.00 per year. Address inquires to: Roger Rhoads at the address below.

Address library inquiries to: William H. Bauer, PO Box 519, Unadilla, NY 13849-0519

Back Issues through 1997 are available at \$2.00 each postpaid. 1998 and later issues, \$3.00. Discount of 10% on orders of 25 or more issues. Address inquires to: Vince Costello, 318 Hoffnagle St., Philadelphia, PA 19111.

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With this issue we correct a numbering error that recently occurred. The Summer 1998 *NEWS* was identified on the front page as "Vol. 24, No. 3." The Fall 1998 *NEWS* was also identified as "Vol. 24, No. 3." It should, of course, have been "No. 4." The Winter 1994 *NEWS* was identified as "No. 4" and should have been "No. 5." Readers may wish to correct the numbering on their copies.

Best wishes to all for a pleasant summer.

Roger Curran

(Continued from front page)

been abortively formed in 1912. The J. Arthur Richie whose letter was reproduced in the Winter 1999 *Cancellation Club News* was one of the three pioneer postmark students. William L. Stevenson (of grilled issues fame) and A.H. Pike were the other two who covered the broad field. H.L. Wiley's 1914 series on the 3 cent banknotes was narrower in scope.

George A. Hall was the first postmaster when the Hockanum post office was established on February 18, 1850. The office was served by route 652 according to Eli Bowen's *United States Post-Office Guide* of 1851. There, the route was reported as:

"From Hartford, at 8 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, by East Hartford, Glastonbury, Marlborough, Colchester, Salem, Chesterfield and Hockanum, to New London, by 6 p.m. 44 miles, and back between 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. next day."

This route report suggests Hockanum was between Chesterfield and New London, which it wasn't, as it was between the offices of East Hartford and Glastonbury in Hartford County on the far side of the Connecticut River.

Hall, whose postal revenues ranged between \$60 and \$72 a year, served until sometime between September 1859 and September 1860, at which point Henry W. Holmes took over as postmaster. Holmes had postal revenues of \$82 in 1861 and \$120 in 1863. I don't have access to the 1865 *Federal Register*, but Dudley Fox replaced Holmes and is listed as postmaster for the year ending September 30, 1867, with postal revenues of about \$313. These revenues suggest this report covered about a two-year period rather than the normal twelve months, particularly when they are compared with prior and subsequent period revenues reported in the *Federal Register*. Fox was replaced by Holmes, who came back as postmaster and was listed in the *Federal Register* for 1869, the year ending September 30, 1869. Annual revenues were about \$132. Holmes introduced the Hockanum "H" in 1868, found on E and F grills. Figure 1 illustrates this cancel which the Skinner-Eno book designates as LS-H26.

Figure 1



The first fancy animal killer to be introduced into America seems to be the "running stag" of Shelburne Falls, Ms., the use of which preceded the Connecticut animal killers by about a decade. Probably the first auction-illustrated example was lot 393 in the Harmer Rooke "Steven Brown" sale of October 30, 1939. (U.S. stamp illustrations were illegal until 1938). While the evidence is not yet definitive, it appears that Dudley Fox was the first to bring fancy animal killers into Connecticut cancellation history. The Waterbury animal killers first arrived with the "dog" killer (Roloff A-4) used on January 9, 1866 cover and continued into the Spring.

The Doyle January 25, 1919 *Mekeel's* article on "McVittles" states that at least one Hockanum fox cancel cover was postmarked in 1864. It reportedly bore a dark red 3 cent Washington stamp that was confused with the new unlisted lake shade (Scott #66). A number of covers with apparently genuine "lake" shades have been reported both

by the late Perry Sapperstein, a student of the stamp, and Robert Myersburg. They are noted in the occupied South of New Orleans and Mobile as well as in the Midwest. Following Michael McClung's color sequencing of the 3 cent Washington in the *Chronicle*, issue #159, the reported postmark date of 1864 fits the color sequence.

If the fox killer was used in 1864 and postmaster Fox was not replaced until 1868, this gives perhaps a 3 1/2-4 year period of use. It means the Hockanum fox killers preceded the Waterbury animals, although Mr. Fox's cousin only remembers postal activity in 1866, a fact confirmed by the 1867 *Federal Register*.

Most of the Hockanum fox killers have been closely held by a few Connecticut collectors since they were discovered in 1919. This explains why covers with this killer are not found in major collections such as the Baker, Emerson, Eno, Faulstich, Grunin, Haas, Jarrett and Klein. Even the outstanding Katherine Matthies holding had only an off-cover example, despite the fact that she came from Connecticut. Even such an 1861 3 cent collector as Perry Sapperstein did not have a Hockanum fox cover in his holding.

Students such as Donald Evans (*United States 1 cent Franklin 1861-1867*), Maurice Cole (*Black Jacks of 1863-1867*), and Maryette Lane (*The Harry F. Allen Collection of Black Jacks*) were unable to report the Hockanum fox on their issues. It has only been noted on the 3 cent and 10 cent 1861 ungrilled issues. An off-cover 10 cent example is seen as Figure 2. It sold as lot 116 in the Christie's sale of September 1991 and is ex-Keightley.



Figure 2

Although I know of no census, a leading fancy cancel student, Scott Trepel, President of the Siegel auction firm and a fancy cancel student since his early teens, suggests only about a half dozen covers are known with the Hockanum fox killer, with about double or triple that number found off-cover. My own cursory search of auctions indicates even this may be a bit optimistic even with Trepel making his files available to me.

There are several ways to estimate the number of stamps originally struck by the Hockanum fox killer. Using just the 1867 *Federal Register* listing on Mr. Fox, the revenue reported (\$313) translates to 14,330 three cent stamps. If he had 3 1/2-4 years service (late 1864 to early E or F grill era), an average of the *Register* revenues of 1863, 1867 and 1869 suggests about 20,000 to 30,000 stamps. A series of studies of survival ratios of classic stamps suggests 4.0-6.0% survive. Survival reports on the high value 1869s are considerably lower (well under 1%). At a 4% ratio, this suggests for the 14,330 3 cent stamps of the 1867 *Register* about 600 would survive and at the 6% ratio almost 900 stamps. Mr. Trepel's estimated 32 surviving stamps represents a far lower ratio, about .002% for the confirmed 1867 period and .001% for a 3 1/2-4 year period. It approximates the survival ratio of the Type I 15cent 1869 as

reported by the 1869 Research Group.

A second approach involves destruction studies. Cancel students have carved, and tested to destruction, cork fancy killers. Most become unusable at about 15,000 strikes, while the more delicate carvings begin to deteriorate at about 1,000-2,000 strikes. These figures are confirmed by the Waterbury killer use as reported in my "Reply to Dr. Jackson—Analysis of Three Waterbury Killers" published in the March 1980 *Collectors Club Philatelist*. There I noted the more delicate were only used for 1-2 days (about 1,000 strikes) and the longest was for about 20 days (15-16,000 strikes). The Waterbury data confirm the destruction test studies. Mr. Fox could have been satisfied by one or two killers, yet we know of more and that he was "fussy," recarving with some regularity.

There are two basic styles of the Hockanum fox killers. Type I shows the fox facing left. The only example I record is on a cover addressed to Mrs. Charles Bidwell, East Hartford, Ct. postmarked July 31 (Figure 3a). It has a large stain at lower left that runs into the circular date stamp. It

Figure 3a

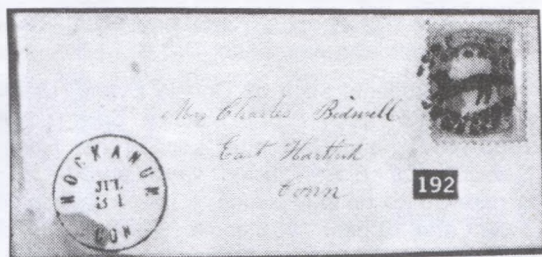
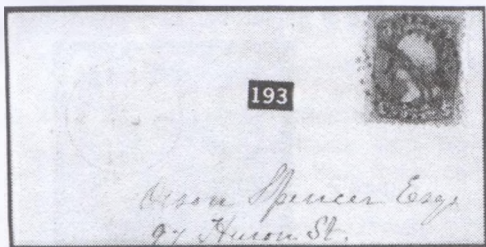


Figure 3b



sold as lot 978 in the Siegel sale #326 on January 9-12, 1968. It, and a companion Type II cover, Figure 3b, with the fox facing right, lot 977, were purchased by Judge Fay and dispersed in the Siegel Fay sale on September 14, 1983, where the covers were lots 192 and 193 respectively. The Type II (fox facing right) cover seems to be dated December 10 and is addressed to Orson Spencer in Ohio. It had previously been sold as lot 249 in the Carl Pelander auction of December 10, 1943. Mr. Trepel thinks he may have seen a second example of the Type I (fox facing left), but I have been unable to locate any example.

There are two major subvarieties of the Type II covers. Type IIa has an outer border of two parallel arcs of squares (about 10 each) above and below the fox. Type IIb has an outer border of a V-type of cross-hatching. Both can be seen in the Edward Knapp sale #2 at Parke-Bernet November 3-8, 1941, the first time they were illustrated. To date I have been unable to find a cover with the Type IIb style. The Knapp off-cover IIb example sold as lot 254 in the Knapp II sale, while the IIa cover was lot 505. It might be noted that the Knapp lots were accompanied by tracings, neither of which match any of the four in *Cancellation Club NEWS* #230. Figure 4 illustrates the Knapp tracings in reduced size.

The Type IIa killer is seen on the previously cited December 10 Spencer cover (3b) as well as the Knapp item

Figure 4



which appears to be addressed to Atwood, although neither addressee or date are clear. A much better strike is found in Figure 5, a December 17th cover addressed to Elder Amos Snell, Westford, Ct. It sold as lot 372 in the Robson Lowe/Christie's sale of September 16, 1983. A fourth cover with an excellent strike is seen in Figure 6. This cover, dated June 17, is addressed to Mrs. Preston Atwood, Watertown, Ct., a correspondence that is the source for several of the fox killer covers. This cover, together with a companion cover also addressed to Mrs. Atwood but bearing the Hockanum circled "H" (either for postmaster Holmes or for Hockanum) on an 1868 E-grill, constituted a pair of covers sold as lot 332 in the Siegel sale of March 23-24, 1994. This "H" marking is only known on E and F-grill 3 cent stamps. As the EKV (earliest known use) of the 3 cent E-grill is February 12, 1868, with the F-grill following shortly after, the covers suggest Fox was replaced by Holmes sometime in 1868 and that the Type IIa fox killer is probably the last used by Dudley Fox. A fifth Type IIa cover, also an Atwood cover, dated in May, was sold as lot 91 in the Harry Kieffer sale of November 12, 1959. (Lot 92 in the same sale was an example of the Hockanum "H" on a 3 cent F grill #94).

In off-cover Type IIa killers, the previously cited Matthies example is seen as Figure 7. Note the almost "C" look of the bottom two arc of squares, as well as the somewhat blurred fox face. Both are distinctive. This stamp previously sold in the Kieffer Collectors Shop of New Haven sale 110 of the B.W. Handy of Syracuse, N.Y. collection. There it had a *straight edge at left*, Figure 8, so that one can conclude the Matthies copy was re-perforated between that November 12, 1953 sale and the 1969 Matthies sale.

The earlier cited Figure 1 is an example of a deteriorated border Type IIb killer. A beautiful strike of it is seen as Figure 9. This was lot 86 in the Harry Kieffer November 12, 1959 sale of the Mattatuck Society material. A third off-cover example of IIb is seen in Figure 10, on a damaged #65. It sold as lot 1853 in the 326th Siegel sale on January 9-12, 1968. The differences in style can be seen in the cross-hatching above the tail as well as in the different rear legs.

Summarizing, one Type I cover, probably unique, is seen dated in July. Three examples of Type IIb, only recorded off-cover are shown. These were probably among the earliest examples discovered and soaked before cover collecting became significant. Then there are five Type IIa covers, with dates of December through June, as well as one off-cover re-perforated example. These probably date in 1867 and 1868.

Bibliography:

- Hahn, Calvet M.: "Postal Services of New Netherland", *American Philatelist*, February-May, 1973.
 "Provisional Post of the U.S.", *Collectors Club Philatelist*, May 1974-May 1975.
 "Lexington Express Mail", *Stamp Collector*, May 10, 1975.

Figure 5

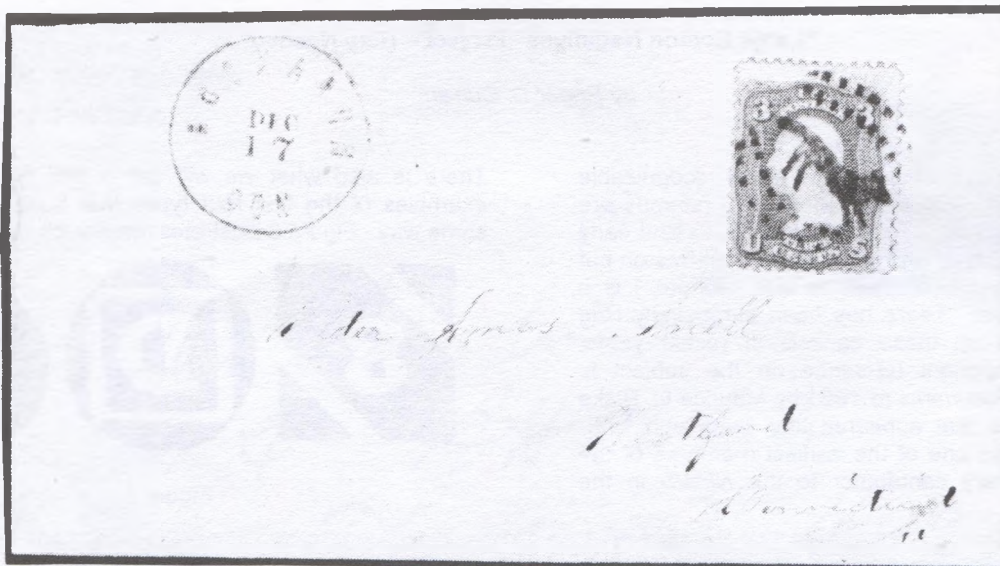
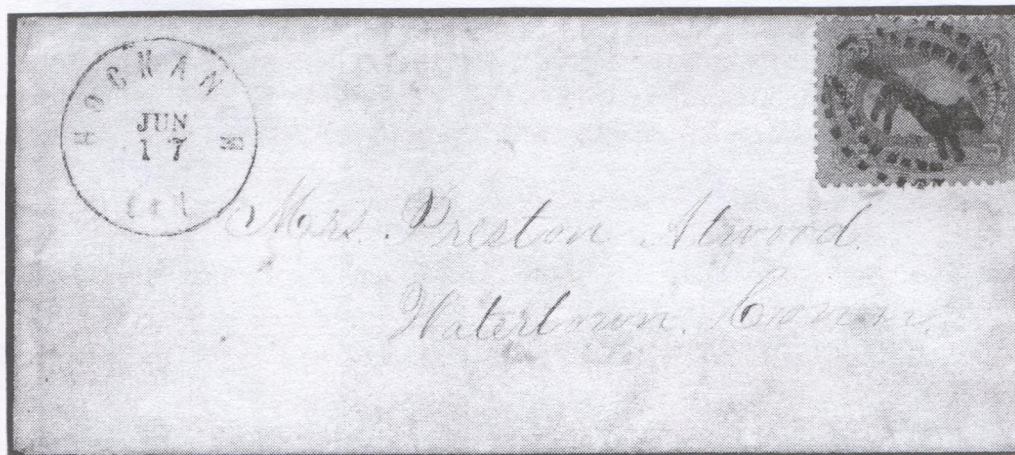


Figure 6



See
Christina Sale
9/31/10/1992
Lot 259
off cover

Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



____ "Newburyport Postmaster Moulton's Killers", *Collectors Club Philatelist*, March 1984.

____ "Analysis of 3 Waterbury Killers—Reply to Dr. Jackson", *Collectors Club Philatelist*, March 1980.

Federal Registers 1861-1869.

Rohloff, Paul C. *The Waterbury Cancellations 1865-1890.*

McClung, Michael: "Shades of the 3 cent 1861", *Chronicle* #149.

Ohio Update

The Ohio Postal History Society is planning to update the Ohio listings in the *Doane-Thompson Catalog of U.S. County & Postmaster Postmarks* by K. Gilman. This will be a major updating of the information as it will include manuscript, M.O.B., "collect" and backstamp usages, as well as the various colors. The largest single area of revision will be to define the period of use by month and year rather than just by year.

Your assistance is solicited. Photocopies are recommended for unlisted items, whereas dates of use, etc. can be reported by referring to the *Doane-Thompson* numbers. Please send to Jim Kesterson, 3881 Fulton Grove Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45245.

For Sale

Cancellations on the 3 cent-1861. Send \$3.00 for Colored Xerox's. A. Boyarsky, Box 570, La Mirada, CA 90637-0570.

Turtle Cancel Search

A non-member collector in Belgium specializes in documents and cancels about turtles and has asked the club for assistance in adding to his collection. He is aware of a 20th century cancel from the 1930's from Turtle, IL, but the pickings seem quite slim. If you have such items and wish to sell them, please contact him at the following:
Jacques Van Hove, 15D I.P.P., 4990 Lierneux, Belgium

"Large Boston Negatives" Project – Help Needed!

by Roger D. Curran

Among the most distinctive and easily recognizable cancellations found on nineteenth century U.S. stamps are the "large Boston negatives" used in the late 1870s and early 1880s. The vast majority of examples come from Boston but a few other post offices used them as well. Figure 1 is a typical Boston example. There has been surprisingly little information published on these cancels in recent years. Indeed, the most important reference on the subject is contained in *Boston Postmarks to 1890* by Maurice C. Blake and Wilbur W. Davies that appeared fifty years ago. Mr. Davis, incidentally, was one of the earliest members of the U.S.C.C. and a primary contributor to the *NEWS* in the 1950s.

There is also what we will call a fifth type consisting of examples of the first four types that have been altered in some way. Figure 3 illustrates three such items.



Figure 3

Figure 1



As mentioned in the Winter 1998 *NEWS*, the U.S.C.C. has decided to undertake a study of these interesting cancellations with the view of expanding the information contained in the Blake and Davis book. The results will appear in the *NEWS* or, perhaps, as a monograph published by the U.S.C.C. Since the study was announced, several club members have contributed a very considerable amount of information from their collections. These include Arthur Beane, Vince Costello, Gary Hendren and Ted Wassam.

The designs of the "large Boston negatives" may be broken down into the four basic types illustrated in Figure 2.

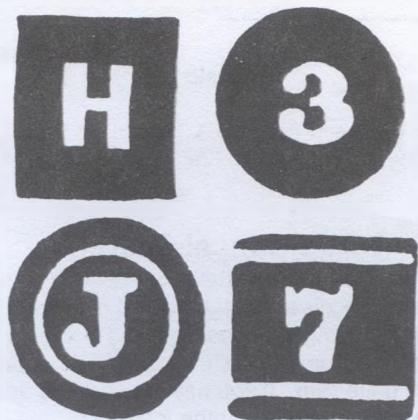


Figure 2

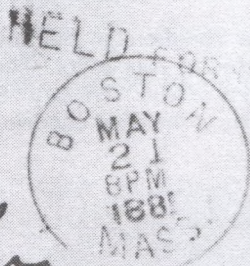
In addition to specific information on the cancels themselves, we also seek information on noteworthy individual uses such as those canceling demonetized or high value stamps, covers with strikes of two different cancels, especially nice strikes or covers, covers with unusual postal history aspects, etc. One such item is illustrated in Figure 4.

At such time as the above phase of the study is complete, we'll turn our attention to these large negatives as they were used by post offices other than Boston, which also is an interesting, albeit a much more limited, subject.

Included with this issue is a form devised for submitting data and an attachment that presents the data accumulated to date. It will be necessary to have access to the Blake and Davis book since the designations of the individual cancels all come from the book's numbering system. Using the form, readers are asked to submit information that (a) extends the dates of use beyond what is currently listed or (b) reports unlisted designs. Regarding the latter, this would include, of course, circles and squares with a number or letter not illustrated in the book, cancels with clearly different dimensions that are otherwise similar to illustrations in the book, and cancels altered in ways that are not the same as those illustrated in the book.

Please help us if your collection contains examples of these cancels that would increase our information. Also, pass copies of the form on to acquaintances who are not U.S.C.C. members but may be in a position to contribute. Thanks!

R. H. WHITE & CO,
BOSTON.



Mr Taylor
& H White
Chestnut Hill
Mass.



'POSTPAID'

Mailed without postage, this cover was initially backstamped with a duplexed "A" at 2 p.m. and stamped "HELD for POSTAGE" on front. Postage was soon forthcoming. The stamp was applied and canceled by a different duplexed "A" at 8 p.m. on the same day.

New Members

Bruce Baryl	1213 Ave. Z, #F-11	Brooklyn	NY 11235
Richard Meier	PO Box 597	Hemet	CA 92546-0597
John Donnes	202 Willow Dr.	Gretna	LA 70053

NYFM Covers

John Barwis reports four interesting New York Foreign Mail covers acquired during his current job assignment on the other side of the Atlantic. A fifth cover was noted by your editor. The numbering and type system employed by Bill Weiss in his 1990 book *The Foreign Mail Cancellations of New York City 1870-1878* is used in the listing below. Through the courtesy of Mr. Weiss, we also include his illustrations of the cited cancels.

	<u>Weiss#</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Stamps</u>	<u>Color of Marking</u>
1.	TR-M4	6/5/72	Amsterdam	10 cent (Sc. 150)	Black



Comment: Weiss lists 6 covers. This is a seventh cover. Narrow span of reported dates: 6/5/72-6/15/72. Year date based on 6/5/72 sailing of *Nevada*.

2.	TR-W2d	8/22/74	Paris	3 cent, 6 cent	Black
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Comment: Weiss also lists another cancel of the same general design: TR-W2b. See Weiss discussion, p. 384. He lists only one cover for each cancel. Barwis states: "The cancels W2b and W2d in the Weiss book are very different if my example is actually W2d. There are only six pie-slices. They are symmetrical, and within the deformed circle frame. Each wedge has a notch in it."



3.	TR-W19	2/26/73	France	one 6 cent two 20 cent, (Sc. 148, 150)	Black
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Comment: Weiss reports 2 covers and one piece. This is third cover. Narrow span of reported use: 2/26/73-3/1/73. Barwis reports that all 20 "cogs" or wedges are distinct, not welded together as in Weiss



4.	Unlisted	11/5/70	Amsterdam	10 cent	Black
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Comment: 6 wedges. See Figure 1. The accompanying tracing is a general approximation, taken from a photocopy. Weiss lists a number of cancels involving wedges but not this. Those that are similar have more than 6 wedges, except for TR-W2e, which has thinner, more widely spaced wedges.

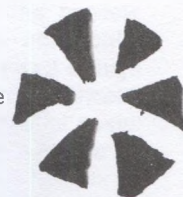
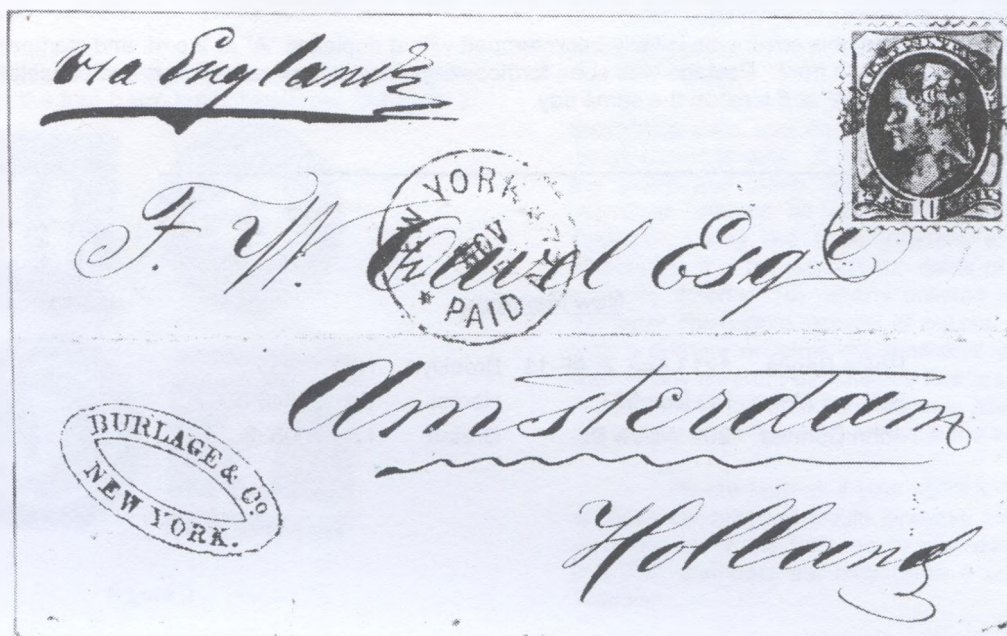


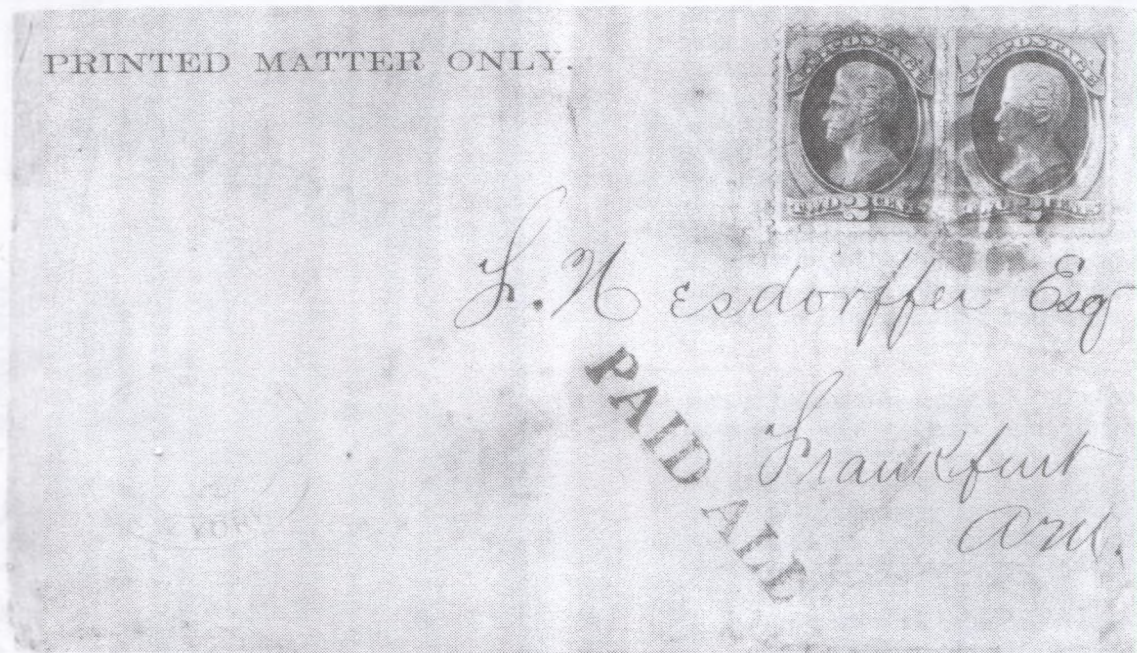
Figure 1





Comment: Very similar to Weiss TR-W7 that has seven wedges This cancel has eight wedges See Figure 2.

Figure 2



Herman Herst. Jr.

Numerous tributes to Herman "Pat" Herst have appeared in the press since he passed away earlier this year. He was, of course, a giant in philately and made innumerable contributions. However, most present U.S.C.C. members may not be aware that among these contributions was his vital support to the U.S. Cancellation Club. He served as president for the 1974-5 term and as Governor-at-Large for many years thereafter. He was also an important contributor to the *NEWS* with those entertaining and informative philatelic stories of years gone by written in a fluid and engaging style. Indeed I recall receiving an article from Pat shortly after taking on, with some trepidation, the job of *NEWS* editor for an earlier time in the 1980s. And I remember thinking "HE is writing to me!?" But I quickly realized that the desire to help others was a trademark of the man.

A major endeavor on behalf of the U.S.C.C. came at a time when the club faced a very difficult period. Charles Root had been the *NEWS* editor since 1951 and died in 1975 after surgery. Then came the resignation of the Club's executive secretary. There followed a one-year hiatus during which the *NEWS* was not published. However, new officers were being elected and the club re-established. The July 1976 *NEWS* carried the following report:

"Howard Mader, President of the U.S.C.C. has announced the appointment of Pat Herst as a new director for the club. There is no one in the philatelic world who is not aware of Pat's contributions, and there is no need to provide a biography for Pat. However, it was his efforts that held the

club together during the past year so that we are once again able to have a viable, functioning organization. Without the untold hours that he devoted to the club, it would not be in existence today. His willingness to again agree to help the organization as a Governor is only another indication of his continuing devotion to our organization."

Mr. Herst's outstanding support of the U.S.C.C. was and is sincerely appreciated

Roger Curran



**Banknote Era "STEAMBOAT" Marking With Serifs,
Measuring About 48 x 5 ½ mm.**

By Roger D. Curran

On page 80 of the Summer 1996 *NEWS* an off-cover Scott #210, canceled by a straight-line "STEAMBOAT" marking, was illustrated. This particular "STEAMBOAT" marking can be identified as coming from either Baltimore or Mobile but, because the stamp is off cover, it is probably not possible to tell which was the originating post office. Baltimore and Mobile "STEAMBOAT" markings used during this period are extremely similar (probably identical) and the handstamps must have come from the same maker. Incidentally, while relatively common during the 1851-61 era, "STEAMBOAT" markings in general are quite scarce by the time Scott #210 appeared in October 1883.

"STEAMBOAT" markings were applied by post offices to domestic mail received from steamboat captains who did not hold mail contracts. This was loose mail picked up along the route as a favor to the sender to be mailed when the vessel docked at a town with a post office. Insofar as postage charged on such mail, the January 1883 *Postal Guide* states it as follows:

903. Letters deposited for mailing in post offices by the 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 should be forwarded to destination charged with double rates of postage in addition to the fee of two cents.

Dick Graham kindly provided to the *NEWS* photoprints of Baltimore and Mobile covers bearing the "STEAMBOAT" marking in question from the files of the late Henry A. Meyer. (Dick also sent along transparencies of covers bearing clear Baltimore and Mobile strikes, which enabled a good overlay comparison showing that the markings are essentially identical.) The covers in Mr. Meyer's photo file have now been combined with covers reported to the *NEWS* by Warren Bower and Van Koppersmith and those appearing in books by George Arfken and Edward Willard. The result is the very preliminary census reported below in Tables 1 and 2.

Readers are urged to report additional covers from Mobile and Baltimore (and from elsewhere if they exist) bearing this marking so that we can develop a more complete picture of their use. Please also report additional off-cover stamps bearing this marking as a cancellation. All contributions will be gratefully acknowledged.

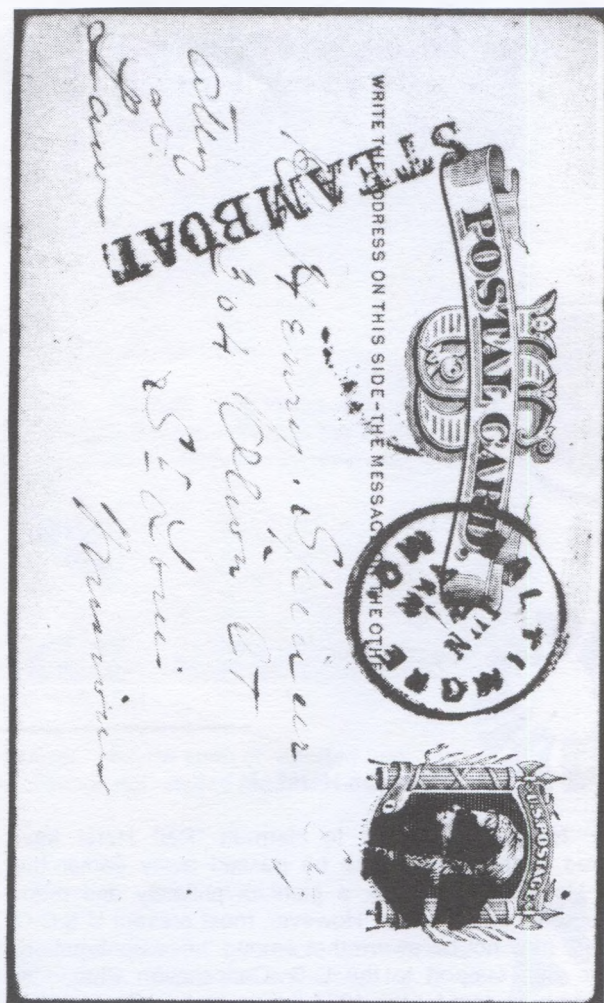


Figure 1



Figure 2

"STEAMBOAT" Covers Entering the Mails at Baltimore, Md.

Table 1

<u>Date</u>	<u>Postage Stamp</u>	<u>Other Markings</u>	<u>Postage Due Stamps</u>	<u>Addressed to</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1. 6/7/?	UX4/5	-	-	St. Louis	Cross-roads killer. Figure 1.
2. 12/27/?	Sent without postage	"Advertised Feb. 4(?) in circle	One 5 cent, Three 1 cent	Muscataine, IA	Since unpaid, the 3 cent rate was doubled with 2 cents added to cover payment to steamboat captain. See Arfken. ¹ No advertising fee allowed. Bower and Arfken estimate 1880-1881 usage. Figure 2.
3. 11/17/?	3 cent entire	-	One 1 cent (J1), heart punch cancels	Baltimore	Letter charged 2 cents postage as drop letter plus 2 cent steamboat fee. Since it is a 3 cent cover, it was rated due 1 cent. Bower and Arfken estimate 1879 or 1880 usage. See USCC News #225, p. 155.
4. 7/1/81	3 cent entire	"DUE 2" in circle	One 2 cent	Washington, D.C.	Backstamped Washington, D.C., 7/1/81. Warren Bower collection. Figure 3.
5. 5/1/(83)	3 cent BN	"2" in a circle	-	Richmond, VA	Docketed "1883". Perhaps the "2" is actually "DUE 2" if fully struck. Very heavy numeral "2." Figure 4.
6. 10/31/84	#210	"DUE 2" straightline	-	Maminee, IL	Figure 5.
7. 4/27/88 or 9	#213	"DUE 2" straightline	One 2 cent (J1) canceled by blue crayon	Alexandria, VA	Lot 370 in Frajola 9/82 sale. Probably 1889. Figure 6.
8. unclear	#210 or 213	"DUE 2" straightline	-	West Chester, PA	Ellipse is part of a set Willard reports from late 1884 until close to 9/87. ² Figure 7.
9. 11/14/?	#210 or 213	-	-	Baltimore	Ellipse appears to be part of ellipse set mentioned above but not with "O" in center. Figure 8.
10. 12/?/?	#210 or 213	"DUE 2" straightline	One 2 cent	Philadelphia	Probably 1887. Figure 9.
11. 7/4/90	#220	"Due 2" straightline	Two 1 cent	Georgetown, D.C.	Collection of Van Koppersmith.
12. 8/28/91	#220	"DUE 2" straightline	One 2 cent	NYC	Warren Bower collection. Figure 10.

¹ Arfken, George B. Postage Due. *The United States Large Numeral Postage Due Stamps 1879-1894*, 1991, pp. 103-4.

² Willard, Edward L. *The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887*, Vol. Two, 1970, pp. 120-1.

Figure 3



Figure 4

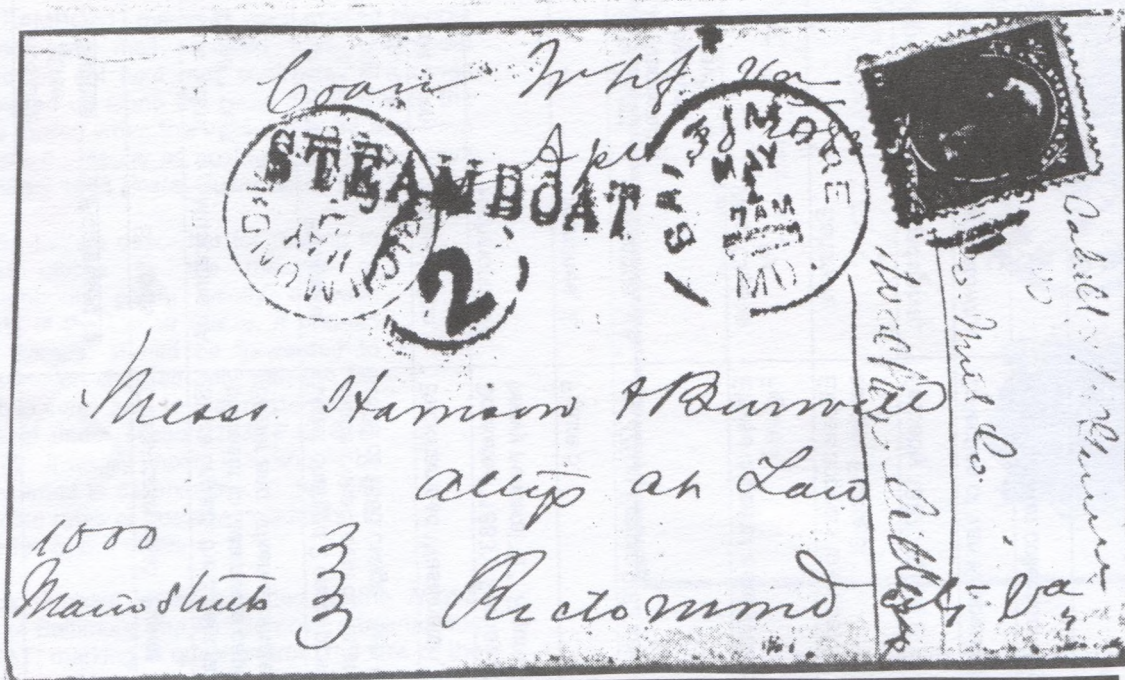


Figure 5

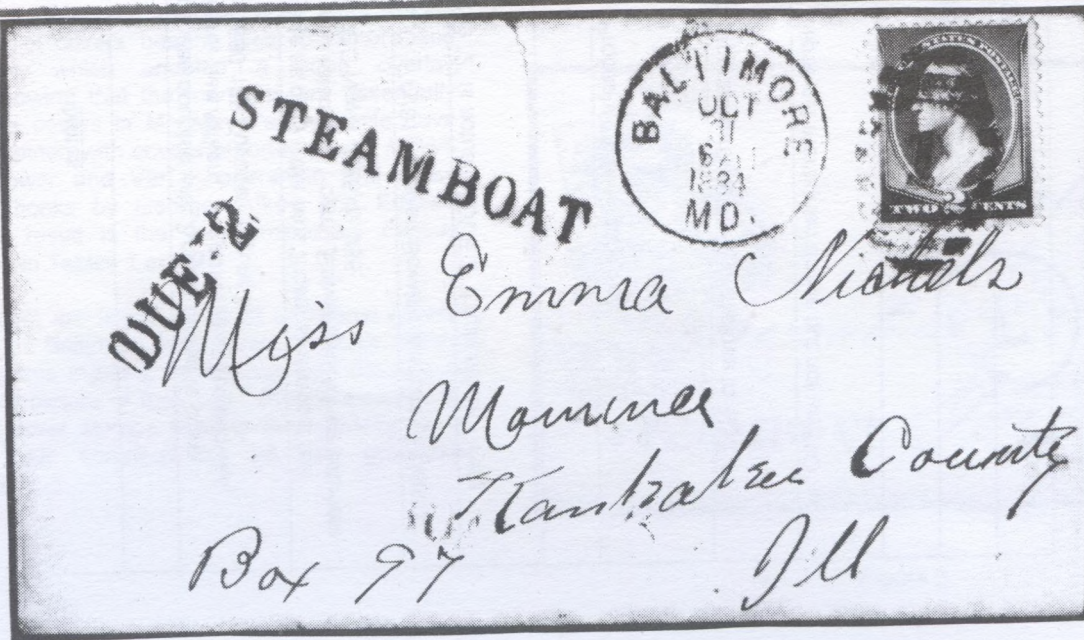


Figure 6



Figure 7

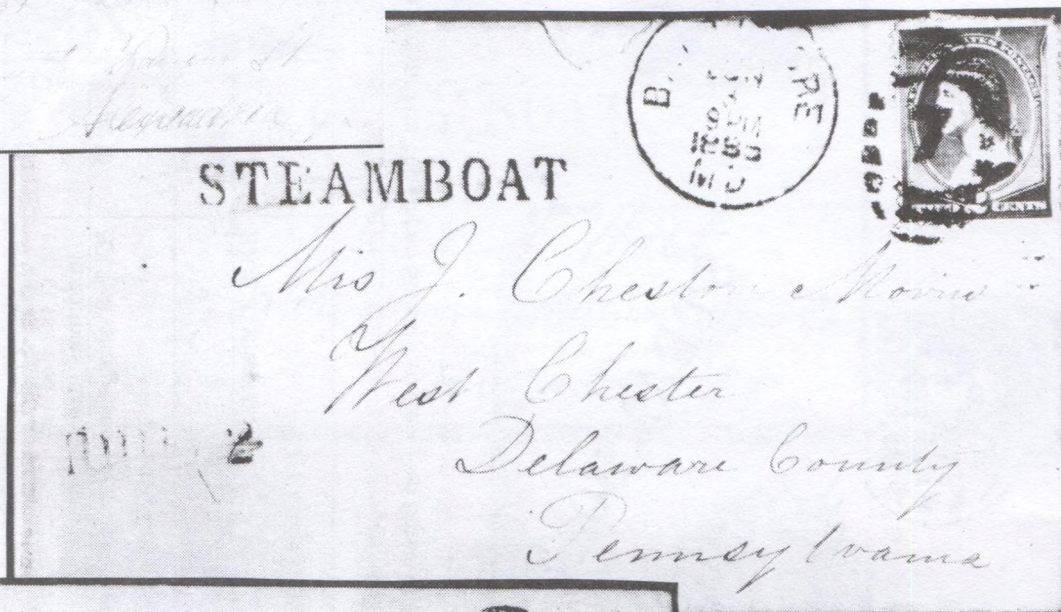


Figure 8

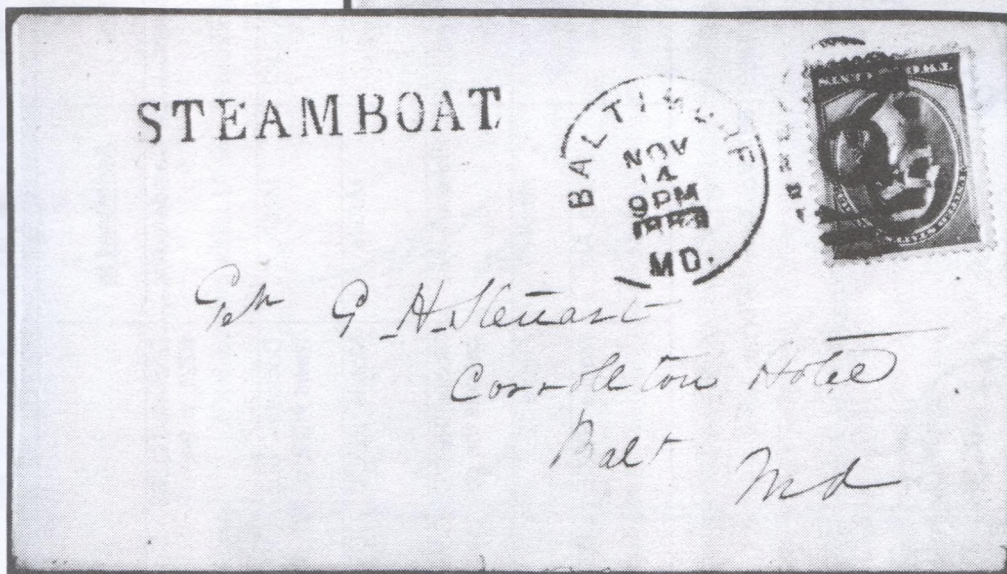


Figure 9



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"STEAMBOAT" Covers Entering the Mails at Mobile, Ala.

Date	Postage Stamp	Other Markings	Postage Due Stamps	Addressed to	Notes
1. 10/29/83	2 cent entire	"DUE 2" straightline, Camden CDS on front	One 2 cent	Camden, Ala.	Docketed "1883." Mobile "REC'D." CDS on back. See USCC News #221, p. 94.
2. 8/31/(85)	U232	-	One 2 cent (J16)	Mobile	Docketed "August 19, 1885." Mobile CDS on back. See USCC News #222, p. 107. Docket date earlier than Mobile CDS date.
3. 6/27/(87)	UX 4/5	"STEAMER MARY" etc. in serrated oval in carmine rose	-	Mobile	Mobile "REC'D." CDS on front. From Camden, Ala. Figure 11.
4. 5/4/?	#210	"DUE 2" straightline	One 2 cent	Florence, Ala.	Mobile "REC'D." CDS on back. See Willard ¹ The "STEAMBOAT" cancels the postage stamp.
5. ?	2 cent entire	-	One 2 cent	Mobile	Figure 12.
6. ?	#210 or 213	"DUE 2" straightline	-	Selma, Ala.	Mobile "REC'D." CDS on back. Figure 13.

¹ Willard, Edward L. *The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887*, Vol. One, 1970, pp. 128-9.

Figure 10

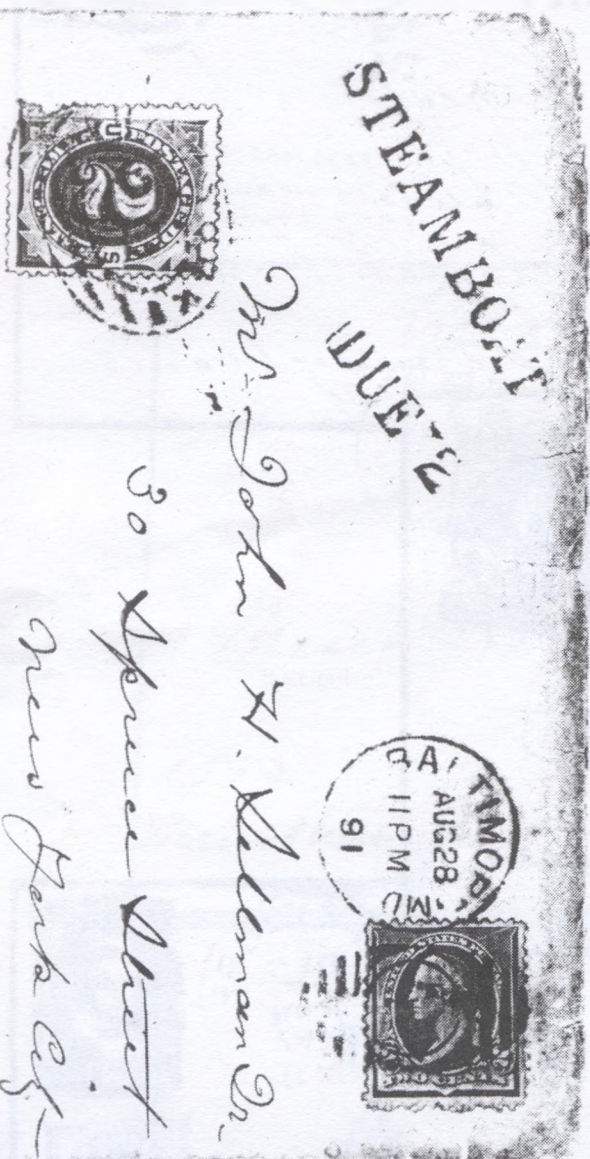


Figure 11

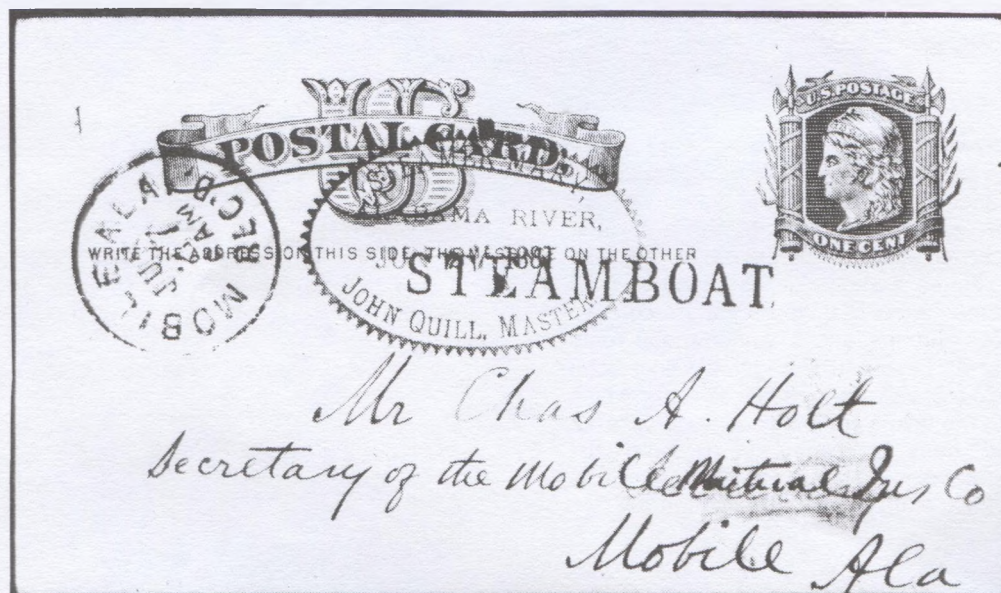


Figure 12

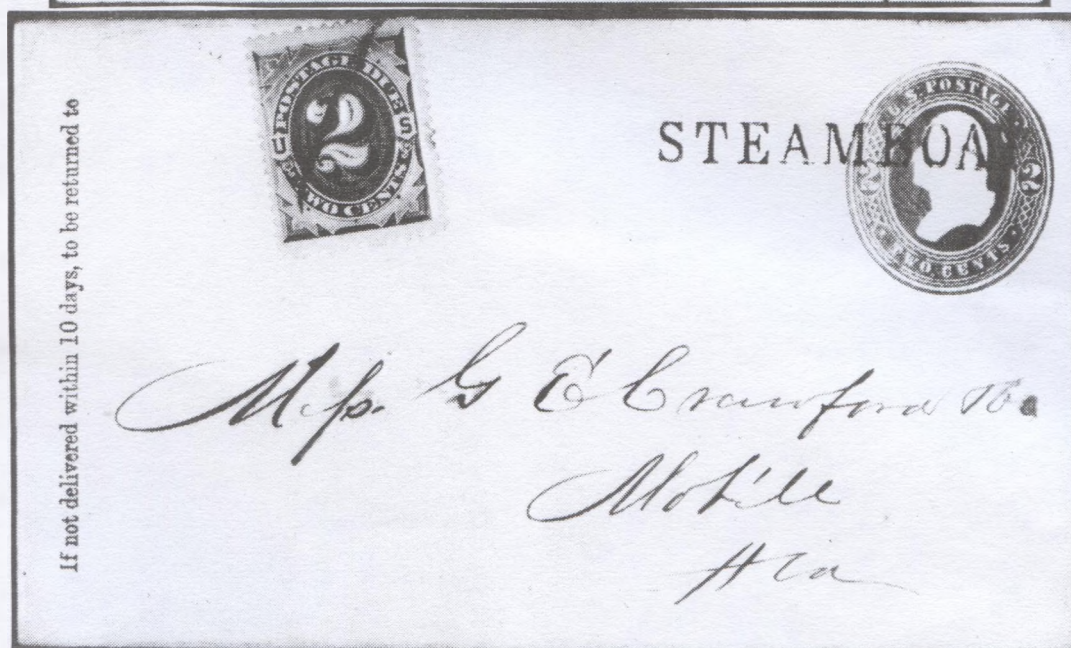


Figure 13



Mystery Cancel

by Jim Kesterson

I have been an ardent collector of fancy cancels for forty years, including the very philatelic 20th century fancy cancels that were used for awhile on registered mail. I was thus startled to see in a Herst 1962 auction the cover illustrated as Figure 1. Why was I startled? Well, Figure 1 shows an 1850s cover but I was familiar with the cancel in quite a different context. The bible for 1920s and 30s fancys, written many years ago, is the Foster W. Loso and Heyliger deWindt book *20th Century United States Fancy Cancellations* which was "dedicated to the unknown, imaginative designer of an undiscovered hairy specimen of a lascivious species." This statement in the front of the book is accompanied by the tracing shown here as Figure 2.

I was able to acquire the auction lot but have been unable to locate a second cover or even identify the town as the cover lacks a postmark. I believe the marking to be genuine. Not only does the ink "look right" but it has passed the water blot and UV tests. Could this be the same cover seen by Loso and de Windt?

Any input from readers would be appreciated.

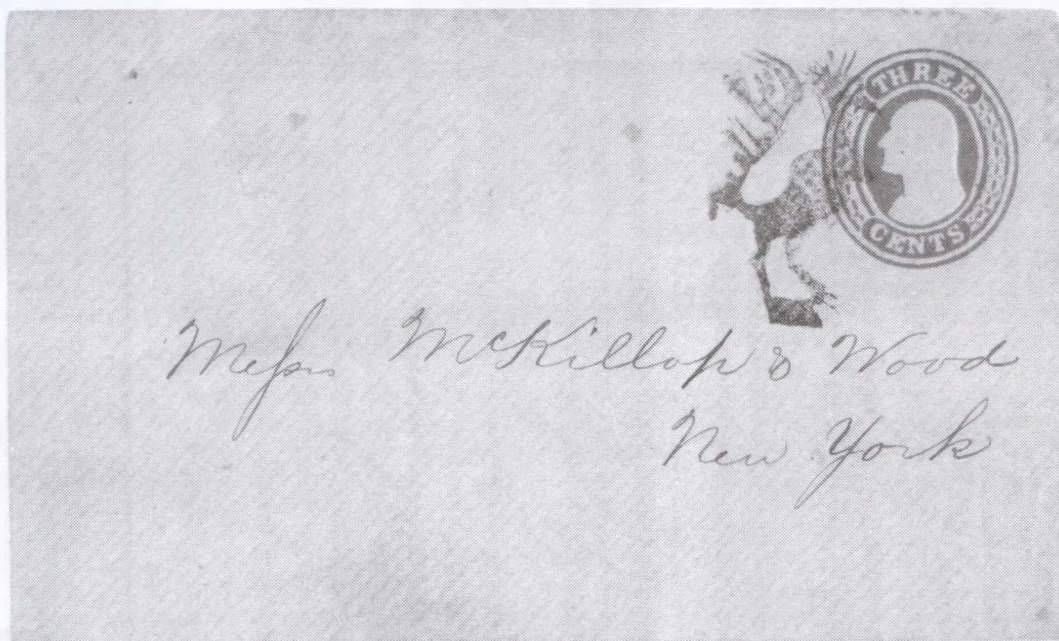


Figure 1



Figure 2



Help Wanted

Abe Boyarsky is doing research on early usage dates of the 1 cent 1861 stamp. The stamp above is an example with a Watertown, NY date stamp of August 21st. He would be interested in hearing from collectors who have such items on or off cover with August, 1861 dates. Photocopies would be appreciated. Abe's address is:

Box 570
La Mirada, CA 90637-0570

Upcoming Move?

Please remember to notify us of address changes before you move. You will save the U.S.C.C. unnecessary expense and receive the *NEWS* more promptly. It presently costs us 30.6 cents to mail a copy of the *NEWS* at the applicable bulk rate. If you have recently moved and the *NEWS* is forwarded to you, we receive an address change notification from the post office that costs 50 cents. If for some reason the *NEWS* cannot be forwarded, it is returned to us at a cost of \$1.36 or \$1.91, depending on weight. And then the U.S.C.C. pays the first-class postage, presently 77 cents, to mail the *NEWS* to you if we determine your new address, which we try very hard to do.

Moving, of course, is a disruptive experience, even under the best of circumstances, with many loose ends and things to keep in mind. However, it will be very much appreciated if notifying the U.S.C.C. is one of the things you do.