



Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. No. 25, No. 1, Whole No. 234, Winter 2000

"NOON" TIME

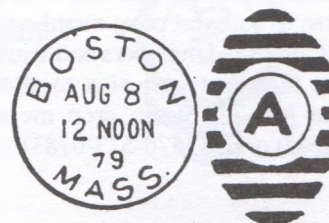
by Gilbert J. Levere

The above title is more philatelically related than it appears. It really does not apply in this instance to the customary or traditional mid-day period for lunch but to the actual time of day when a postal item was canceled at a post office.

To date, however, only three U.S. post offices (Boston, Mass., Brattleboro, Vt., and Greenfield, Mich.) are known to me to have used the word "NOON" instead of the conventional "12M" to indicate an item was cancelled at mid-day. The use of "NOON", of course, obviates any possible doubt or confusion as to whether the more commonly used "12M" indicated midnight or mid-day.¹ Oddly enough, it can be seen from the three figures shown below that each of the post offices used a different style designation incorporating the use of "NOON"; i.e., "12NOON", "NOON" and "12:00 NOON", the latter requiring two lines instead of one.

BOSTON, Mass. Of the extremely limited number of known "NOON"-dated items listed in the accompanying table, only the one in Figure 1 is in my collection. Somehow the dial became slightly distorted, but that did not deter me from acquiring it. The information regarding Figure 2 was found in *Boston Postmarks to 1890* by Blake and Davis. Figure 2 is a reconstruction of the duplex marking from their separate

Figure 2

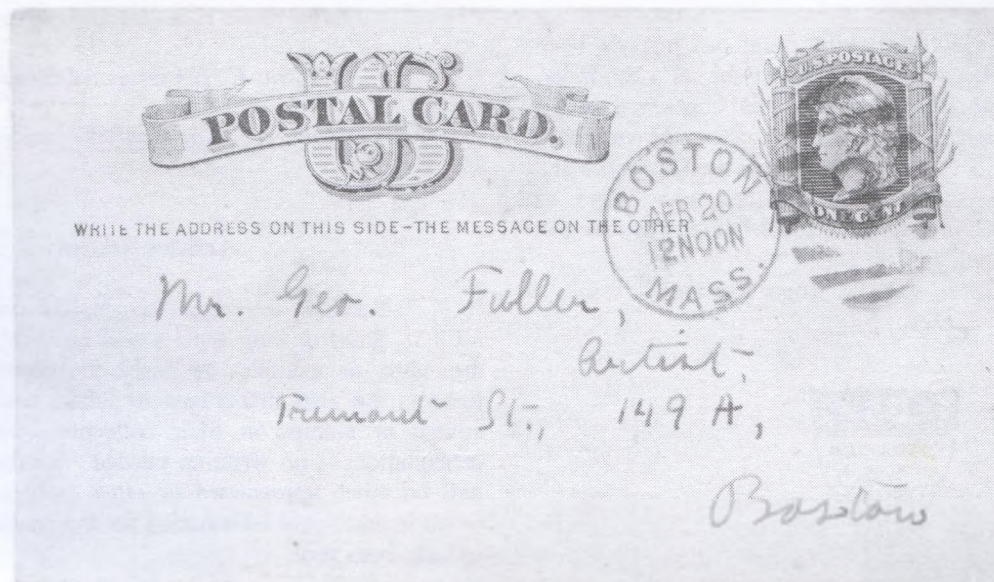


illustrations. Since Blake and Davis illustrations are tracings of actual markings, there is no question about the existence of the "NOON" postmark of August 8, 1879. As is typical in their book, no accompanying killer or ellipse was shown adjacent to the dial in illustration No. 2025. Illustration No. 2062 is that of the corresponding postmark per the book's list of references on p. 270. It is the only Boston "NOON" cancellation referenced by Blake and Davis.

As will be noted in the accompanying table, at some time during the more than three-year interval between the two Boston examples, another bar was added to a smaller ellipse with the letter "A" inserted within, which replaced the earlier centralized "3". Hopefully, yet to be found, are "NOON" cancellations with "1" and "2" in the corresponding killers, although such ellipses are not reported by Blake and Davis. The "3" is illustrated by Blake and Davis as No. 2022.

(Continued on page 4)

Figure 1



Dear Reader:

The U.S.C.C. will sponsor a seminar at the upcoming WESTPEX 2000 show in San Francisco. On Saturday, April 29, there will be a presentation, which I'll make, on the evolution of 19th century canceling practices on U.S. stamps. In addition to the presentation, there should be ample time for questions and answers and for discussion of additional matters of interest.

We are also organizing a breakfast meeting Sunday, April 30 at the Cathedral Hill Hotel, which is the show hotel. For this meeting, members are encouraged to bring a few noteworthy cancels for an informal "show and tell" and also bring interested friends who are not U.S.C.C. members. We have already written to our west coast members. However, we want to include all interested members and friends. Therefore, for non-west coast members who plan to attend WESTPEX and would like to join in, please drop me a note quickly (address on masthead) or call (570-523-0783). I hope you can participate.

The U.S.C.C. will be holding its annual meeting at the APS STAMPSHOW that runs from August 24-27, 2000 in Providence, R.I. We will staff a society table for the entire show, present at least one seminar on a cancellation-related subject, and hold a business meeting focusing on future club activities. We are eagerly seeking seminar speakers for Providence. I urge members to give this some thought and call me at the above telephone number if you are willing to consider speaking at the show. We would, of course, handle all logistics. This would be a fine way to support the Club and have some fun, too.

A hearty "thank you" to all buyers and sellers in the successful U.S.C.C. auction #4 that closed in January 2000. More than 90 lots were offered and the vast majority found new homes. Our auction manager, Sy Stiss, is now ready to turn his attention to the next auction, the catalog for which will go out with the *NEWS* distributed June 1. We are all encouraged to give thought to what unneeded items we have in our collections – covers or off-cover stamps – and consign some material to the auction *not later than May 1, 2000*.

If your year 2000 dues payment has not yet been received, there will be an insert in this issue as a reminder. Please take a few moments now to write that check and send it to our Secretary/Treasurer Roger Rhoads. We work very hard at retaining our members and you will save the Club time and money in follow-up contacts by responding now. And, as always, your U.S.C.C. officers seek feedback on ways we can serve you better. Thank you!

Roger Curran



The U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

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www.geocities.com/Athens/2088/uscchome.htm

Articles Needed

Readers are urged to consider contributing to the *NEWS*. Short or long articles will be equally welcomed and the editor is available to assist in preparation if desired. Readers are also encouraged to submit copies of individual covers or stamps in their collections bearing interesting cancellations – no write-up needed. Sharing of information will be much appreciated by other club members and may result in additional information for the contributor. Please let us hear from you!

Suffering a Reversal

by Roger D. Curran

Collectors occasionally see a reverse letter "S" in an ellipse cancel on 1890 issue stamps. Two examples are shown in Figure 1. The cancel is reported in Cole (see Figure 2) but the post office of origin is not identified. I know of no other manufactured ellipses bearing a reverse letter and will welcome reports of same.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Not long ago I encountered an example of the reverse "S" on cover (Figure 3). However, the CDS is not clear. The last letters in the town name appear to be "... VERSIDE" and the last letter in the state name at the bottom is an "L." The cover is addressed to Mr. J. W. Fowle in Somerset, Ky. and contains an interesting inscription on the side, in the same hand that wrote the address, as follows:

If not delivered in 10 days, return to Mrs.
J.W. Fowle, Bellefontaine, Ohio

With the "L" in the state name I thought of Illinois and located a Riverside near Chicago. I theorized that Mrs. Fowle was traveling away from her home in Ohio and perhaps mailed the

letter either on the way to or from Chicago. But there was an aspect that didn't fit. The fragment of a letter to the left of the "L" didn't seem to be part of an "L" for "ILL." In looking further, I checked a compilation of several hundred columns by William Evans, M.D. and William R. Reynolds entitled "U.S. Cancellations" appearing in *Stamps* magazine from 1932-1946. Lo and behold, there in a 1938 column (Vol. 24, No. 3) was the cancel shown here as Figure 4 identified as from Riverside, California on a "2¢ 1890-93 issue." Yes, that letter to the left of the L" *could indeed* be an "A" for "CAL."



Figure 4

The old "U.S. Cancellations" columns are not easy to access for a specific question. And it's true that a great deal of new information has been developed since those columns were written. However, they still contain valuable information as the above example indicates. It would be very nice if some club member would volunteer to prepare an index for this material. What is probably needed is an index by cancel type and by post office of origin where known. If any club member is willing to consider undertaking this project, please write me at the address on the masthead or call at 570-523-0783. Although there would be substantial work, I think the experience would also be enjoyable. And it would definitely make a contribution to the cancellation literature. If this sounds interesting, please let us hear from you!

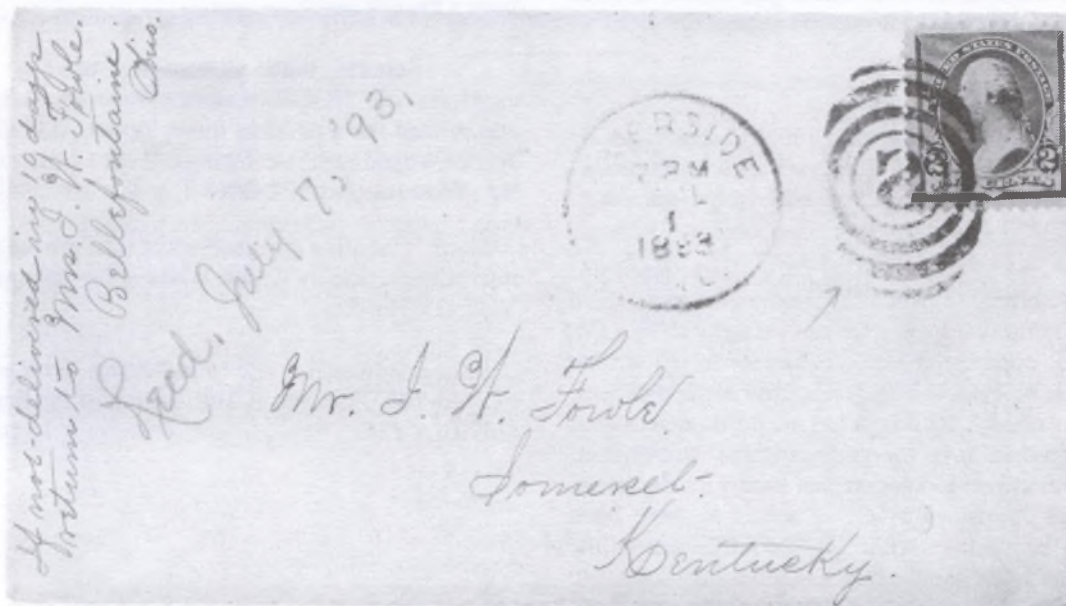


Figure 3

(Continued from front page)

Figure 3



BRATTLEBORO, Vt. Until further reports of "NOON" examples are received, it appears that usage in Brattleboro, as well as in Boston and Greenfield, was limited and sporadic. Readers will note that two Brattleboro handstamps were involved. The earliest handstamp duplexed an ellipse containing a "B" in the center to the CDS and the other duplexed an ellipse containing a "1" in the center. According to Willard, sometime during the latter part of the 1883-1887 period the handstamp with the "1" ellipse was introduced and then both were used concurrently.²

and examples of usage to the contrary are solicited and would be welcomed.



Figure 5

The differences between the two handstamps are considerable. The diameter of the dial was increased from 24mm to 25mm and the 9-bar ellipse was replaced by what is termed a "barrel" ellipse. These have a solid center section as illustrated in Figure 4 which is a reduced size tracing of the Brattleboro postmark from Willard.³ While the inner circle of the ellipse was retained, its diameter was reduced from 12mm to 11mm and the inner inscription changed from "B" to "1".

Inquiries made of the Brattleboro post office resulted in confirmation of suspicions that records regarding "NOON" no longer existed there.

Figure 4



GREENFIELD, Mich. This cancellation represents a departure from the use of the earlier hand-stamped "NOON" cancellations as it appears, at first glance, to be a machine cancel, but there is no evidence known to date to support such an observation. Actually, its origin has yet to be determined although it is suspected to be a pseudo-machine cancellation, but also without evidence to support that theory. The reason for the ovate dial is also elusive. It seems to have been utilized only in connection with the "NOON" wavy line pseudo(?) machine killer as all other Greenfield dials seen to date are of the conventional circular type. Information about

The foregoing is a summary of information known to date relative to "NOON" cancellations, including that previously published in earlier issues of the *NEWS*; i.e., VOL. 23, Nos. 4 & 5. For the benefit of collectors interested in foreign usage of "NOON", it has appeared in the past in cancellations of Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong, all English-speaking nations, of course. It would indeed be interesting to find its French counterpart "MIDI" from a French-speaking area.

Reports with photocopies of any other known examples of "NOON" cancellations would be very much appreciated for a possible future update, and all such will be acknowledged. Please forward them to me at 26 Ellsworth Rd., West Hartford, CT 06107.

¹ "Noon" and other designations of time are the subject of an interesting article by Arthur White in the Summer 1996 *NEWS*, VOL. 23, No. 5.

² Willard, Edward L. *The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887*, Volume II, H.L. Lindquist Publications, Inc. (1970), p. 124.

³ *Ibid.*, 123.

CIRCULAR DATE STAMPKILLER (ELLIPSE)

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DIAL</u>	<u>NO. OF BARS</u>	<u>INNER CIRCLE</u>	<u>INNER CIRCLE DIAMETER</u>	<u>INNER CIRCLE INSCRIPTION</u>
Boston, Mass.	4/20/76	12NOON	24 mm	8	NO	11 ½ mm ¹	3
	8/8/79	12NOON	24 mm	9	YES	11 mm	A
Brattleboro, Vt.	11/11/81	NOON	24 mm	9	YES	12 mm	B ²
	9/8/82	NOON	24 mm	9	YES	12 mm	B
	8/22/83	NOON	24 mm	9	YES	12 mm	B ³
	6/30/84	NOON	24 mm	9	YES	12 mm	B
	9/21/86	NOON	24 mm	9	YES	12 mm	B
	2/27/88	NOON	24 mm	9	YES	12 mm	B ⁴
	4/4/91	NOON	25 mm	Barrel	YES	11 mm	1 ²
	11/19/91	NOON	25 mm	Barrel	YES	11 mm	1 ²
	2/20/97	NOON	25 mm	Barrel	YES	11 mm	1
	5/4/99	NOON	25 mm	Barrel	YES	11 mm	1
	8/9/1907	NOON	25 mm	Barrel	YES	11 mm	1
Greenfield, Mich.	2/22/32	12:00 NOON	ovate	7-bar wavy-line pseudo(?) machine cancel. ⁵			
	12/31/32	12:00 NOON	ovate	7-bar wavy-line pseudo(?) machine cancel.			
	12/31/32	12:00 NOON	ovate	7-bar wavy-line pseudo(?) machine cancel.			

¹ Only a small portion of the circle is present in the Figure 1 strike. The Blake and Davis illustration (No. 2022) shows much more but is also incomplete. Strikes of this killer with full circle may not exist.

² Courtesy of Ralph Edson.

³ Courtesy of Roger Curran.

⁴ Courtesy of Bill Lizotte.

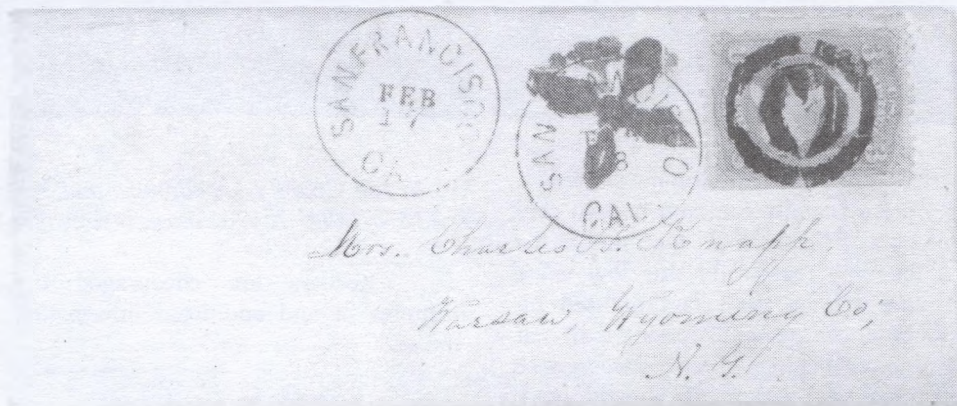
⁵ Previously illustrated in Machine Cancel Society's *An Anthology of Machine Postal Markings*, Vol. 1, March 1992.

San Francisco Oddity

The small cover illustrated as Figure 1 got a bit of unusual handling in the San Francisco post office. It was

initially struck with a February 18 CDS duplexed to a fancy killer with what may be a heart in the center. Apparently, someone recognized that the date was wrong and cleverly

Figure 1



The “heart” cancel is illustrated in *San Francisco Postal Markings 1847-1900* by John M. Mahoney. The pinwheel is not. For those not familiar with this excellent 120-page publication, it is part of the *La Posta* monograph series and contains quite extensive sections on cancellations.

The main NYPO used numbers in ellipse cancels on out-of-town mail beginning in 1876. Branch stations used ellipses with letters in the center on both local and out-of-town mail. This brings us to the question: What did the main NYPO use on local mail? And our *final* answer is: ellipses with “PO” in the center. A typical cover and several off cover examples are illustrated as Figure 1.

Figure 2 illustrates a Scott #211 that we assume was applied to a double-weight letter. Figure 3 is quite unusual since this large cover bears a ten cent stamp (Scott #209) canceled by the "PO" ellipse. There are no markings on the back of this letter and the ten cents must have paid a "five times" the normal two cent rate for a letter weighing 2 ½ ounces.



Figure 2

The earliest date of use of a NYPO "PO" cancel your editor has noted is the June 26, 1876 cover illustrated on page

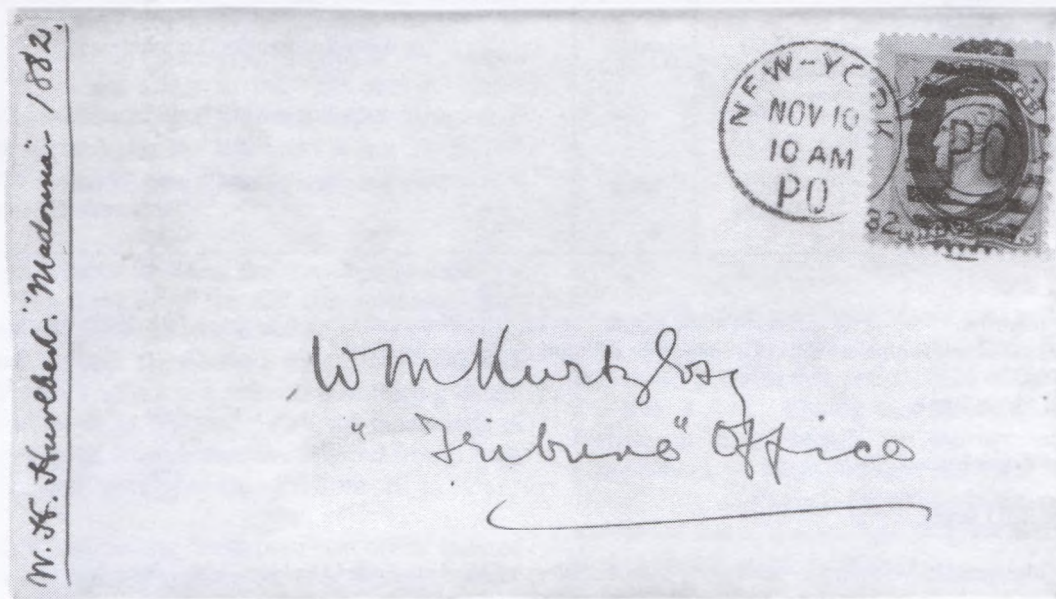


Figure 1



317 of Jim Cole's *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894*. A 1901 usage is shown as Figure 4.

Readers are encouraged to report interesting examples of and additional information about these “PO” ellipses.

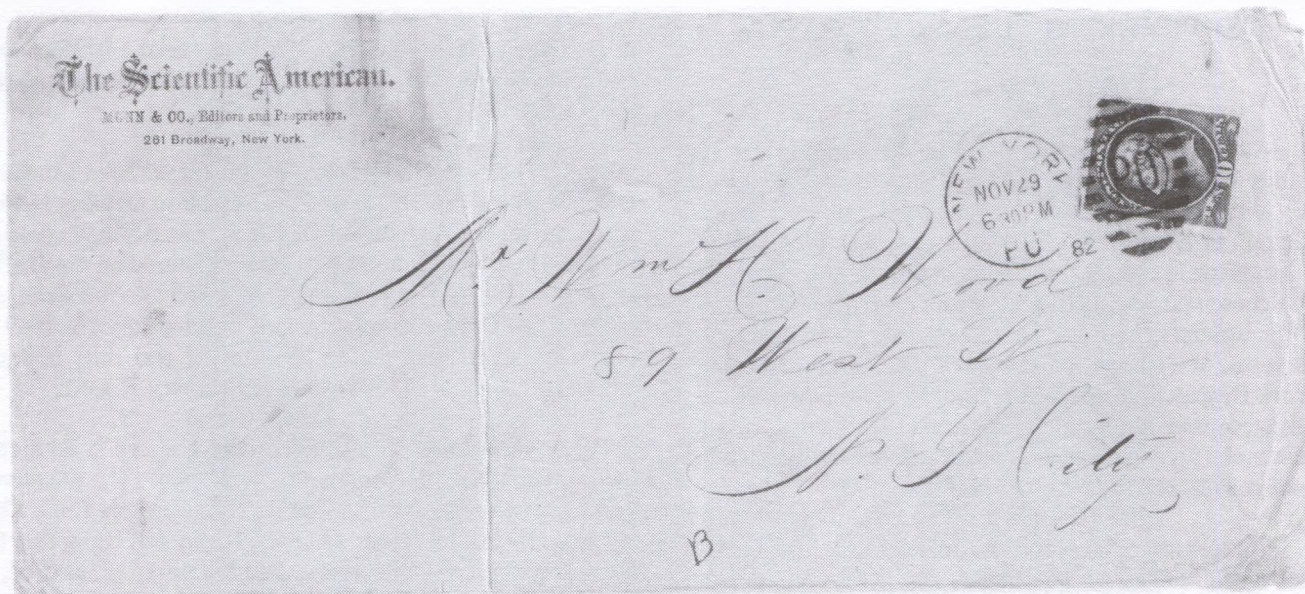


Figure 3



Figure 4

Noteworthy on Two Counts

Gil Levere submits the postal card illustrated in Figure 1. The killer falls into two categories of cancellations. First, in the center, there is a reverse image of a "3," which tells us that the killer was a rubber bottle stopper, size "3." The practice of carving cork and wood killers was, of course, well-established by the 1870s when bottle stoppers made of rubber came into use. Hence, although perhaps a little surprising, a fair number of rubber stoppers were also carved.

The particular carving on this killer leads to the second cancellation category – that of "Maltese" crosses and what we have here is a lovely negative example. Indeed, the strikes of both the CDS and killer are exceptional.

And there is one last point. Page 69 of the Summer 1996 *NEWS* illustrates this cancel on an off-cover one-cent banknote. Now we know the origin!

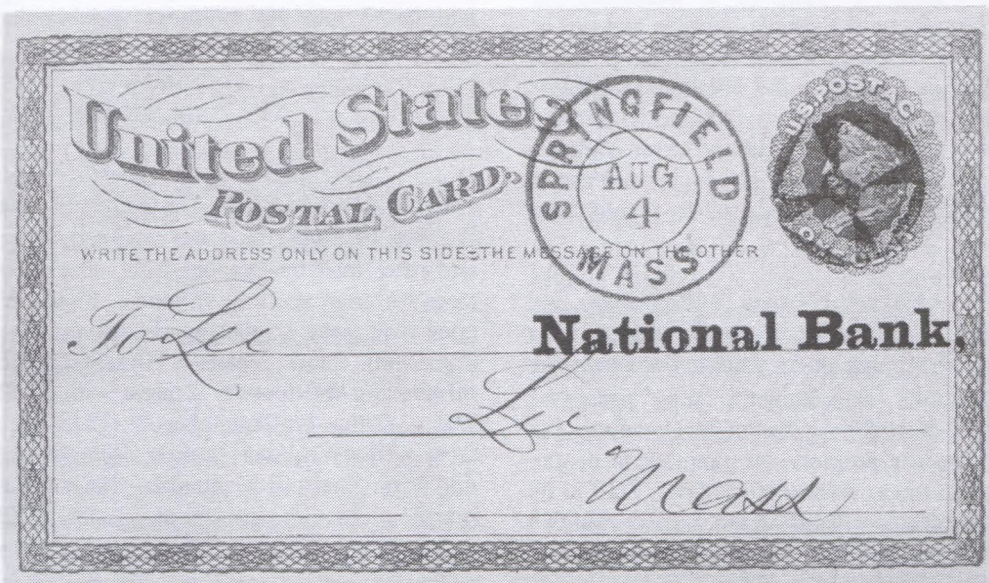


Figure 1

THE PONY THAT COULDN'T SPELL

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Although the first U.S. adhesives were locals (in 1842), this back-of-the-book field usually can be seen as a "riddle, wrapped inside an enigma, surrounded by a conundrum" to paraphrase Churchill's description of Russia. Many locals were very short-lived, didn't advertise, or get listed in contemporary city directories. Examples are often rare. For example, in New York, there are such apparently unique locals as Chowell's, DeGroot's, Empire Despatch, New York Despatch Post, Taylor's and Wilson's. All of these are only recorded as postal handstamped artifacts. Locals were the mid-19th century's equivalent of lemonade stands, a source of pocket money for young people.

Complicating the problem of researching locals is the fact that several of the earliest students were also fakers who used their knowledge to create forgeries in the 1850s or bogus examples as early as 1863. The collecting community's focus upon adhesives meant that cancellations and other postal markings are largely ignored to this day. This resulted in an excessive reliance upon one young, early student (Charles Coster), and a 20th century faker (Henry Needham), both of whom heavily influenced catalog listings into the 1970s and 1980s. Only a few students, notably the late Elliott Perry and George Sloane, seemed to appreciate the information conveyed by local postal markings.

Among the adhesive locals about which much is still a mystery is that of the Hanford pony express. This local used both handstamps and adhesives and was the first to promote itself as a "pony express" as well as the first to use the horse and rider theme as an illustration. Its adhesive was first illustrated in the 1862 Moen's local supplement and the 1864 carte de visites. Without illustration it was listed in the Mount Brown (1862), Oppen (1863), Zschiesche & Koder (1863), and Baillieu (1864) catalogs. The following year the local was being listed among the locals in most catalogs such as the Stafford Smith (1865) and A. C. Kline (1865).

The local post was organized as an independent mail operation initially by John W. Hanford, a Williamsburg, Brooklyn resident throughout the 1840s. He is not to be confused with John T. Handford, a New York stamp dealer who specialized in foreign stamps in the 1880s. During this early phase of operations the post was called Hanford's Williamsburgh Express and carried freight and express matter between Williamsburg and Manhattan. No covers are as yet recorded from this independent mail era which would have ended July 1, 1845.

Because of the distance between Williamsburg and the company's Manhattan office at 35 Cedar Street, it is possible that express matter and letters were carried by pony justifying the company's subsequent "pony express" handstamps and horse and rider adhesive. However, the phrase may have also been a promotional gimmick to denote speedy service similar to the government's express mail in its last stages in 1839 and 1845. None of the known Hanford covers are to destinations sufficiently distant to warrant a

horse rather than a foot post. The late Fred Lightfoot and I had an exchange of letters on this point that was published in the August 1982 S.P.A. Journal.

The post used an open oval red 25x22mm handstamp initially during the summer of 1845 and into October 1846. It was replaced by October 27, 1846 by the familiar horse and rider handstamp (Figure 1) that is also pictured on the Hanford adhesive. The horse and rider lasted in red into the summer of 1848. (The latest example I record is dated July 10, 1849 but this may be an error.) The black horse and rider is known from September 11, 1848 to at least February 7, 1851.

The earliest tied adhesive that I record is on a cover dated March 13, 1846 addressed to Canada. The adhesive is tied by the Canadian rimless circle of Queenston, U.C. There are several earlier untied examples, but by not being tied they are suspect. One is a February 12, 1846 cover to Hartford, Ct. (ex-Kapiloff) which earlier sold "as is" in the Zimmerman sale of December 3, 1974 and which went unsold at the Kapiloff offering. Richard Schwartz reported a second example on an August 16, 1845 cover that lacked a handstamp. If it belongs, it would be the earliest Hanford cover on record. Third, there is an untied adhesive on a cover addressed to the *Morning Courier & Enquirer* that also bears the open oval Hanford pony express handstamp. This cover was offered twice in the Peter Kenedi auctions (9/15/1972 and 4/13/1975). I don't record its date but based upon the handstamp it has to be prior to October 1846.

The adhesives have been counterfeited by S. Allan Taylor, George Hussey, and J. Walter Scott among others. Apparently one early faker attempted to use a cut out of the black horse and rider handstamp as an adhesive (or the Moens' catalog illustration), for a black on white was listed by Scott in his September 1889 listing of locals. Henry Needham in his 1918 portion of the *Concise History* reported he had never seen a genuine example of this black on white adhesive.

Mr. Needham did set the stage for subsequent confusion over the adhesives by splitting the shades of the genuine orange-yellow adhesive into two listings (orange and yellow). This practice was picked up by the *Scott Specialized* and lasted into the 1970s at which point they were again combined into one listing.

The Pony Spelling Errors

The red open oval with the company name/PONY/EXPRESS lasted until some time around October 20, 1846, for it was superseded by the red fancy horse and rider oval by October 27th. During its existence it had three different spelling varieties. Figure 2 shows the earliest open oval pony express handstamp that I record. It measures 25x22mm and reads HAMFORD'S/PONY/EXPRESS, misspelling the founder's name with an "M" rather than an "N." Written on September 29, 1845, the content is a notice from a New York corporation attorney writing to J.C. Griffin, 456 West Street in Manhattan. He is informed that there are marble slabs blocking the street, for which he is apparently responsible. The handstamp was apparently corrected by

Figure 1

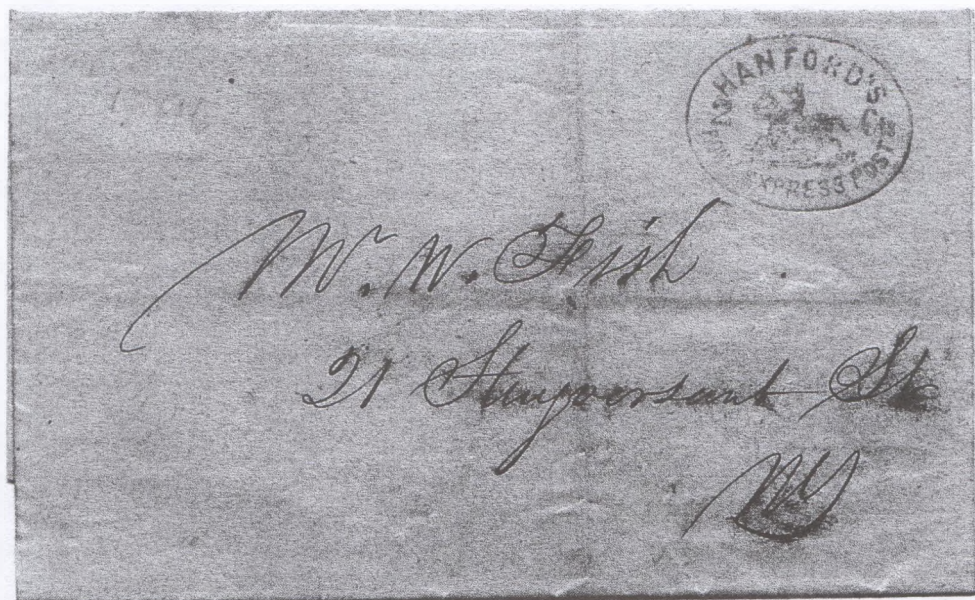
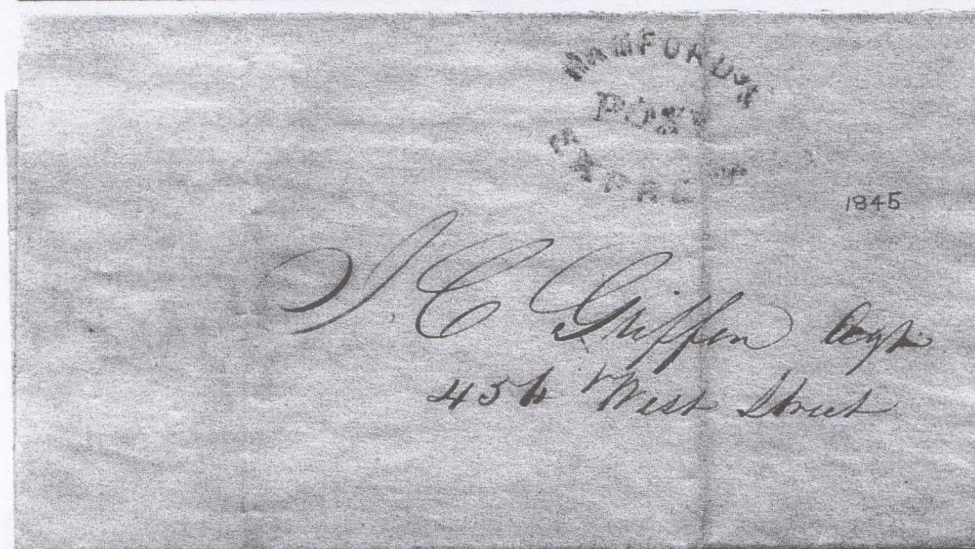


Figure 2



October 8, 1845 because a cover bearing that date was reported by Sloane where the "M" was recut to an "N." A second example from the corporation correspondence is dated November 24, 1845. It sold as lot 608 in the Kaufmann March 1976 auction. On this cover, too, the name is correctly spelled, HANFORD'S.

The third spelling variety is another error. This handstamp reading HANDFORD'S (with an added 'D' and a reversed 'S') was first apparently noted by British postal history dealer Robson Lowe who offered an example in his Basle I sale (March 15, 1972) as lot 1123. It is seen as Figure 3 and is a valentine addressed to Mrs. Mary Livingston, 80 Hammond Street in Manhattan. In describing it, Mr. Lowe stated:

The above is unlisted by either Scott or Patton.
We know of no other.

Although Lowe did not know of other examples, others are on record. I know of at least three. One is on the Kenedi auction cover, previously cited, with an adhesive. This example also has an orange PAID handstamp, as well as a manuscript one. I do not record this orange PAID on stampless Hanford covers but do note it with an untied

adhesive and a red horse and rider handstamped cover signed by Sloane that sold to a Lou Robbins client in the John Fox Hollowbush IV sale of 8/15/1966 where it was lot 283. A second misspelled HANDFORD's is in the Thomas Mazza holding. I believe its date is August 20, 1846. The Richard Schwartz holding also has an example, dated August 29, 1846. Addressed to Mr. Sanford, Vice Chancellor, 12 Warren Street, it discusses rent payments. It was previously in the stock of back-of-the-book dealer Bryon Sanfield. One of these two covers is ex-Boker.

The normal spelling of HANFORD's is found in November 1845 as noted above on the 24th. In the Golden sale as lot 1158 it is found slightly earlier on November 22, 1845. Figure 4 shows the normal spelling on an undated 1846 valentine with green decoration at left. It is addressed to Mrs. William Pierson, 101 Chambers Street, Manhattan. Two other examples are found on covers dated May 5, 1846. One is addressed to A. & S. Willets, 303 Pearl Street, while the second is to D. & A. Kingsland, 55 Broad Street.

In sequencing the open ovals, the very rare HAMFORD's comes first, then the corrected HANFORD's is known through Valentine's Day 1846 at which point the HANDFORD'S error is introduced. But it seems to be a

Figure 3

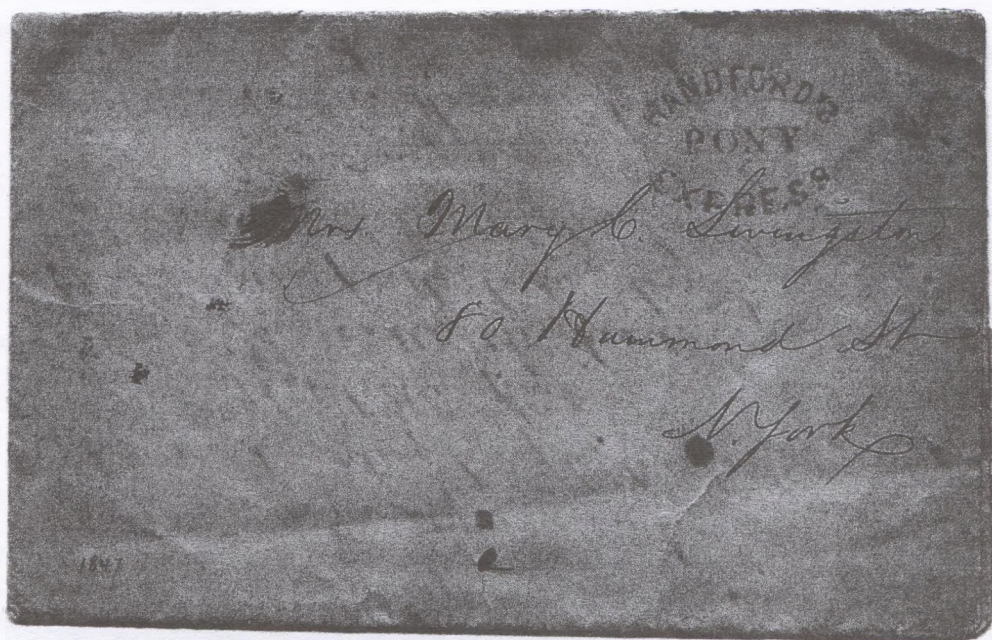


Figure 4

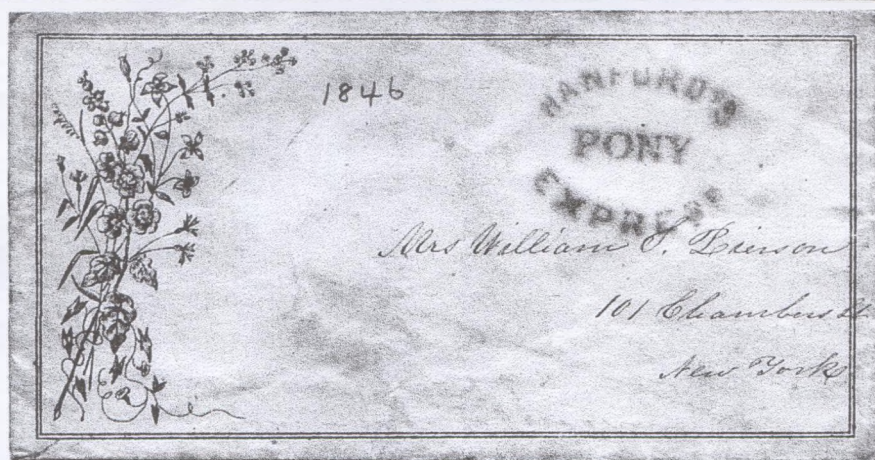
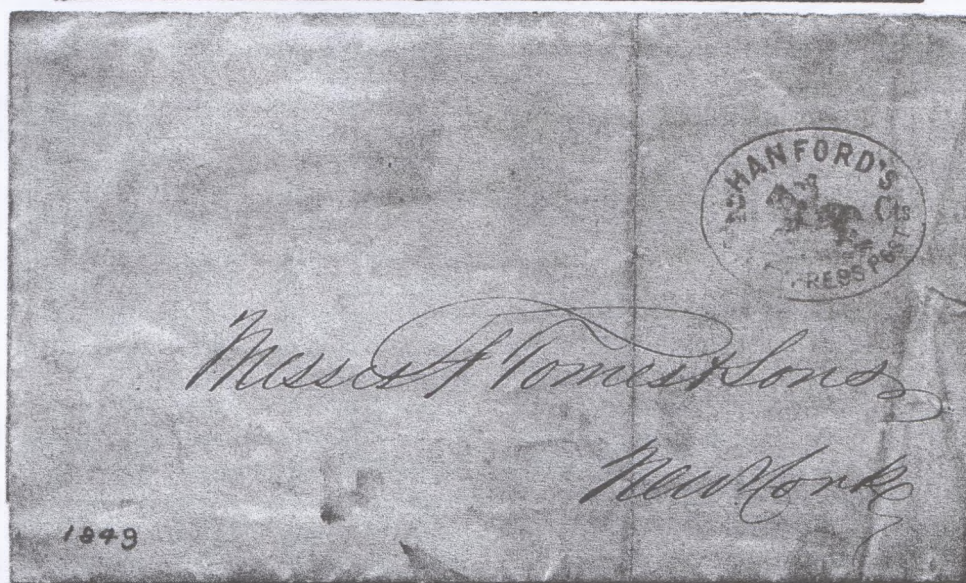


Figure 5



second handstamp, for the correct spelling is found subsequently, as is the HANFORD'S. Finally, in October 1846 the new horse and rider oval is introduced and lasts in either red or black versions into 1851. Except for some suspect non-tied items, the Hanford adhesive is not known until just after Valentine's Day of 1846, suggesting it was introduced for that occasion.

Most of the adhesives are untied unless hit by the New York city circular date stamps or receiving or transit handstamps. I have no record of examples where the company handstamps were struck on the adhesive. There are just two examples with a handstamp PAID, one already mentioned with a red horseman and the second as lot 1155 in the Golden sale. Some evidence exists that the handstamp and adhesives are mutually exclusive unless a "PAID" is present.

Desirable Cancels They Appear to Be

This article concerns two cancellations that came on the market in 1999. The first is illustrated in Figure 1. What is of interest, of course, is the "U.S." in octagon, not the smudges, etc. that are also present. Figure 2 is a tracing by the late Elliott Perry of a cancel used by the U.S. City Despatch Post (USCDP) for several years beginning in 1842.¹ (Please note there is no "." after the "S".) This post was operated by the New York Post Office for the collection and delivery of letters and it issued its own adhesive stamps. A USCDP stamp bearing the cancel is shown as Figure 3. This cancel has the distinction of being the first killer used by a U.S. post office to cancel stamps.

Figure 1



Figure 2



Now it is very interesting to note that the "U.S." in octagon is also known canceling the New York Postmaster's Provisional (NYPP) stamp issued in 1845. Philip Wall made an extensive study of the NYPP stamps, the results of which were published in a number of issues of the *Chronicle* of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society. He has estimated that 8-10 copies of the NYPP, on and off cover, exist with this cancel. There are no reported examples of 1847 issue stamps canceled by this marking but it is known canceling a one-cent 1851-issue stamp (see Figure 4.) This marking is also known used as an NYPO exchange office marking on stampless mail to Canada. Examples on both 1851 and 1852 cross-border stampless letters have been noted.

Figure 3



Figure 4



Based on the above, it was intriguing to see what appeared to be this same cancellation on an 1861-issue stamp. However, when the Figure 1 stamp was sent to the American Philatelic Expertising Service (APES), the opinion came back as follows:

United States, Scott No. 63, genuine,
previously used but with a fake
"US in Octagon" cancellation added.

We surmise that Perry's tracing served as the basis for making the fake design.

Moving to the second cancel, which is illustrated in Figure 5, readers will recall an article in the Fall 1998 *NEWS* about the 1872 Pittsburgh striped shield machine cancels. It reported two examples on re-engraved stamps which weren't issued until 1881. Significant design differences were noted between the cancels on these two stamps and those found on

Figure 5



several National printings that were current in 1872. Your editor is confident that the cancels on the re-engraved stamps are fakes.

The stamp illustrated as Figure 5 recently came on the market described as a Pittsburgh fancy shield cancel. The stamp is a Continental printing first issued in 1873. This is, of course, not as late as the re-engraved printing but later nonetheless than the range of dates known for genuine striped shield cancels. A comparison with Pittsburgh shields on National printings revealed some differences – smaller overall design than genuine examples, stripes that connect at both the top and bottom of the shield frame which is not characteristic of genuine examples, and eleven "stars" in each row rather than ten. Also, the stamp has a small smudge cancel that appears to be independent of the shield cancel.

For the above reasons, this stamp was also sent to the APES. Regrettably but understandably, the opinion rendered was that it is a fake cancellation.

¹ Perry, Elliott and Hall, Arthur G. *One Hundred Years Ago, 1842-1942*, American Philatelic Society (1942), p. 27.

Auction Guidelines Update

The Fall 1999 *NEWS* included a pink insert sheet setting forth U.S.C.C. auction guidelines. Please retain the sheet since these are standing guidelines. Our auction manager, Sy Stiss, has requested that one provision be emphasized and a second modified somewhat. First, it is important that sellers mount and describe their lots in accordance with guideline #3 unless they are agreeable to an additional service charge. Second, there will be a minimum \$2. mailing charge for smaller lot shipments to successful buyers. This is needed because such shipments are all sent with insurance, albeit the minimum amount. Priority-Mail is used for larger lot shipments.

The U.S.C.C. is fortunate in having a very capable auction manager who is committed to serving the needs of sellers and buyers. And our 250+ members present a very active collecting community where desirable material sells well. If you haven't yet given it a try as a seller, you are encouraged to do so.

Mark of Zorro?

A year ago the Winter 1999 *NEWS* discussed a distinctive "Z" killer from Zanesville, Ohio. Another "Z" killer is herewith presented, this time one that is hand-carved. Figure 1 illustrates the cover and Figure 2 a tracing of the killer. The CDS reads "T.CITY & HAWARDEN/R.P.O./MAR/6(?)1887."

To learn more about the origin of the markings, two helpful lists compiled by Jim Mehrer were consulted. The first, entitled *Abbreviations and Misspellings in United States Railway Post Office Postmarks*, includes two "T.CITY" references – Tama and Traverse City. The second publication, entitled *Cross-Reference Guide to United States Railway Post Office Postmarks*, lists on page 41 a Tama & Hawarden RPO. (In the introductory section, author Mehrer points out that the

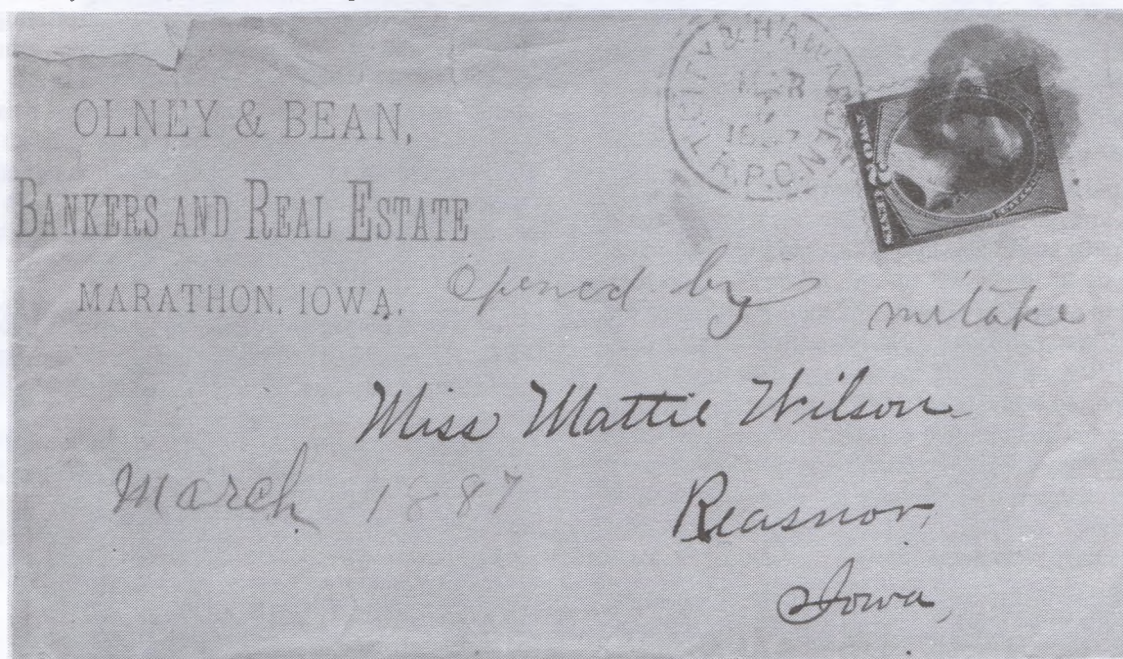
Figure 2



Guide "... shows complete town names and not the many abbreviations that are used in RPO postmarks.) Tama is located in central Iowa and Howarden in northwestern Iowa.

What is the significance of the "Z"? Does it stand for the last name of the RPO clerk? If readers can supply additional information about this RPO or the origin of the "Z," it will be much appreciated.

Figure 1



That Should Cover It

An unusually large grid killer from Keesville, N.Y. is illustrated in Figure 1. A tracing is shown in Figure 2. The way it is configured around part of the CDS circle suggests strongly a duplex marking. One wonders whether the strike

came from a commercially prepared device or, perhaps, from a handstamp cobbled together in the Keesville post office. If readers can report additional examples from Keesville or from other post offices, they are urged to do so.

Figure 1

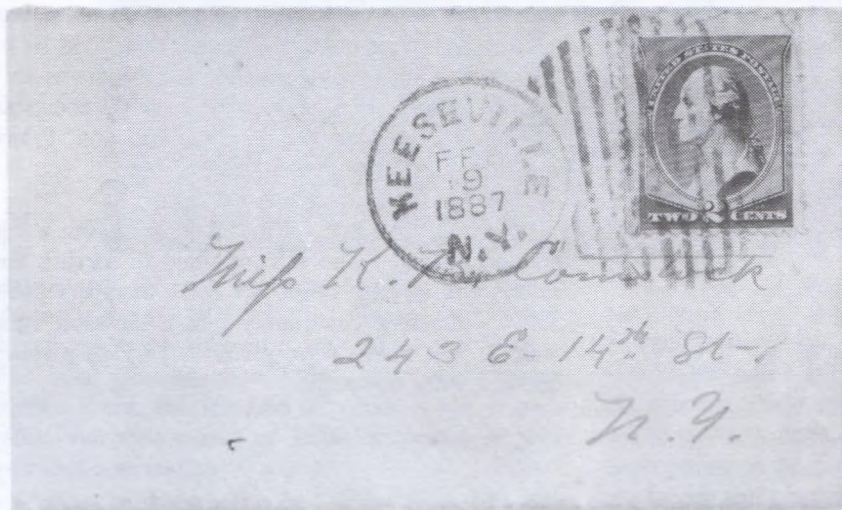
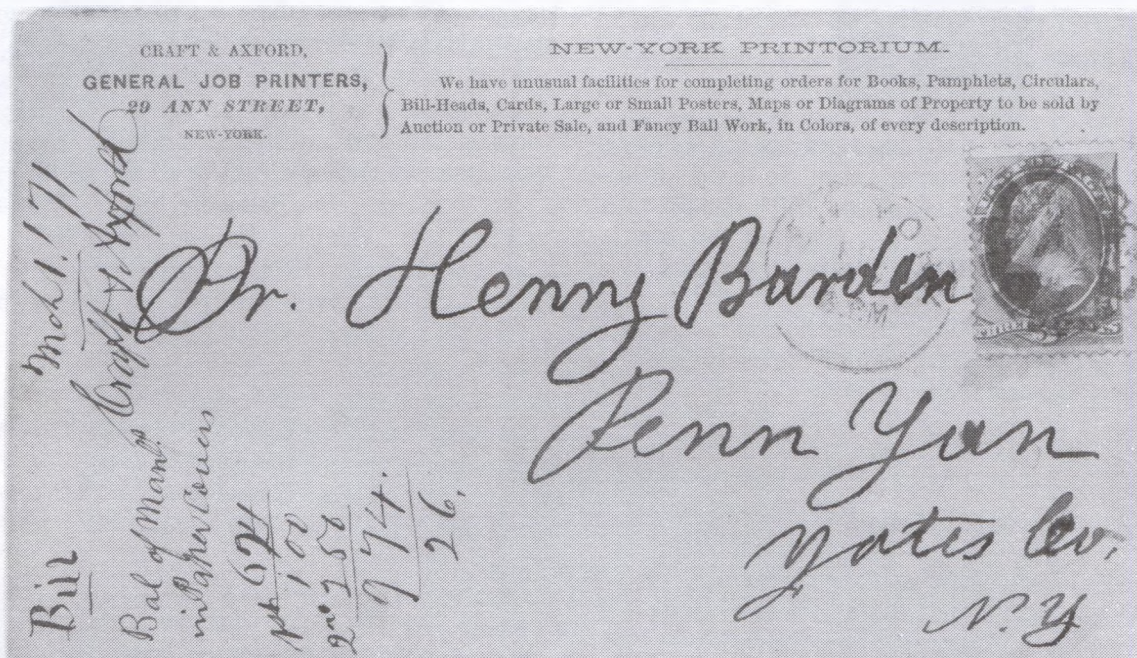


Figure 2

New York City Number Cancellations – Addenda #2

by Roger Rhoads

Figure 1

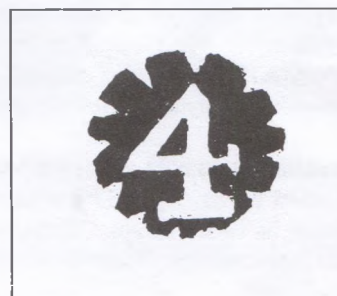


New finds continue to be reported by our members as they review their holdings and compare them to what we have published in the *NEWS*. In the last issue we reported the earliest hand carved number as a “7” dated Jan. 6, 1872. Also we summarized all 1872 reports which included only numbers “4”, “7” and “12.”

Now Wendell Triplett comes up with another “4” used Feb. 27, 1871. (See Figures 1 and 2.) This is nearly a year earlier than any previously reported number. Note the serif style which is a feature of all the other early “4”s from 1872 (April, June, Sept. and Nov.) indicating they were probably carved by the same hand, and several of them have notches carved in their outer rims.

It certainly appears as though clerk “4” was the number pioneer, but why only him and why did it take so long for others to begin to use them as well? Why is “4” the only number reported from Feb. 1871 to Jan. 1872?

Figure 2



As the year date can be most readily determined by docketing or an enclosed letter (seldom encountered), it is more difficult to date covers than postal cards. However, there must be more of these early numbers out there. Do you have other early numbers? Look through your holdings and write with what you have.

Glen Allen Stars

by Roger D. Curran

Surely one of the most celebrated classic precancels is the Glen Allen, Virginia star. It occurs largely (although it is certainly not common) on 1870s and 1880s Banknote stamps, but is also known on two later issues. It is usually found in black ink but does occur in red and green. The most common type has a solid .33mm border enclosing fine parallel lines. The star design measures 18mm. from tip to tip. An example of a typical strike is illustrated in Figure 1. Another example appears as Figure 2, but this is considerably less typical because of the presence of part of the CDS with the letters “N ALL.” In this case, the CDS was printed below the

Figure 1



Figure 2



star rather than to the left as would be produced by a duplex handstamp. An on-cover example was in the stock of Ventura Stamp Co. several years ago. Readers are encouraged to report additional examples of Glen Allen postmarks printed on stamps.

Figure 3



A less common type of Glen Allen star is a solid one noted only in black and measuring 13mm. tip to tip. It has been reported on Scott #206, #210 and #205 stamps. An example is illustrated as Figure 3. I suspect this star is generally unrecognized on off-cover stamps for what it is.

The above data on Glen Allen stars comes from the excellent 1995 book by David W. Smith, *Silent Precancels*, published by the Precancel Stamp Society.

Same Handstamp?

In the Fall 1999 *NEWS*, we illustrated on page 121 an unusual cancel submitted by John Barwis. It is a round killer with what apparently are four negative "3" numerals at right angles to one another. The post office of origin is unknown.

Curiously, a tracing of a *somewhat* similar killer appeared in the November 1962 *NEWS* under the heading of "INFORMATION WANTED." That tracing, shown here as Figure 1, was accompanied by the following text:

This cancellation on a 2¢ vermilion was sent in by Walton E. Tinsley (#376) who wishes information as to its origin. Illustration is oversize. Approximate diameter of cancel is 16mm.



The Barwis killer is a bit larger at about 18 mm and seems to possess significant design differences. But the designs are close enough – given potential inking, striking and killer wear variations – to make your editor think that they are *conceivably* from the same killer. However, a 2¢ vermilion would not have appeared before 1875 so we are probably dealing with a gap of some 20 years between the strikes, which makes the connection less plausible than it otherwise would be. Comment is invited.

U.S.C.C. Winners

Bruce Baryla

Gold and ARA gold: Balpex 99
Baltimore, MD

The Civil War Sun Picture Tax
Vermeil: Balpex 99

Uncle Sam's General Store: Stamp Taxed
Products Since 1862

Abe Boyarsky

Silver and AAPE creativity award: SESCAL 99,
Los Angeles, CA

Shades – United States 3¢ 1861-67,
An Original Research

Robert L. Markovits

Gold: China 99, Beijing

U.S. Special Delivery Issues, 1885-1944

Gold: Napex 99

U.S. Special Delivery Issues, 1885-1917

Lester C. Lanphear III

Gold, BIA and USPS awards: Omaha Stamp Show
U.S. Departmentals 1873-1884

Martin Margulis

Gold: Stepex 99, Elmira, NY

Staten Island (Richmond County) Postal History

Alan Parsons

Gold: Stepex 99, Elmira, NY

Corning, NY to 1900

Roger Rhoads

U.S.C.C. Best One-Frame Exhibit:

Philadelphia National 99

Cancellations on the First Postal Card

Norman Shachat

Gold, PaPHS and USPS awards:

Philadelphia National 99

Independent Post Offices of
Philadelphia County (1811-67)

Vermeil: also at Philadelphia
Evolution of the Letter Stations of
Philadelphia 19th Century

Nice, But is it Necessary?

Socked-on-the-nose cancels aren't just found on adhesive stamps. Figure 1 is a case in point. The postmark reads "HYREMANSVILLE/PA./JUN/1/1889." The cancel used on this UX-9 card is similar to Cole #US-138, illustrated here as Figure 2. This unduplexed killer is placed directly over the vignette of Thomas Jefferson, but probably won't show clearly given that it is largely a black on black situation. Indeed, a quick glance at the card itself might completely overlook the killer.

As a practical matter, applying a killer in addition to a townmark doesn't really seem needed since the card would be made a "used" card by virtue of the townmark alone. But this card was very carefully killed by a separate strike on the portrait, duplicating the procedure used on stamped covers. Actually, I have been told that the Post Office Department did advise postmasters to cancel the portrait on postal cards apparently out of concern that it might be cut out and used again. Comment and further information is invited.

Figure 1

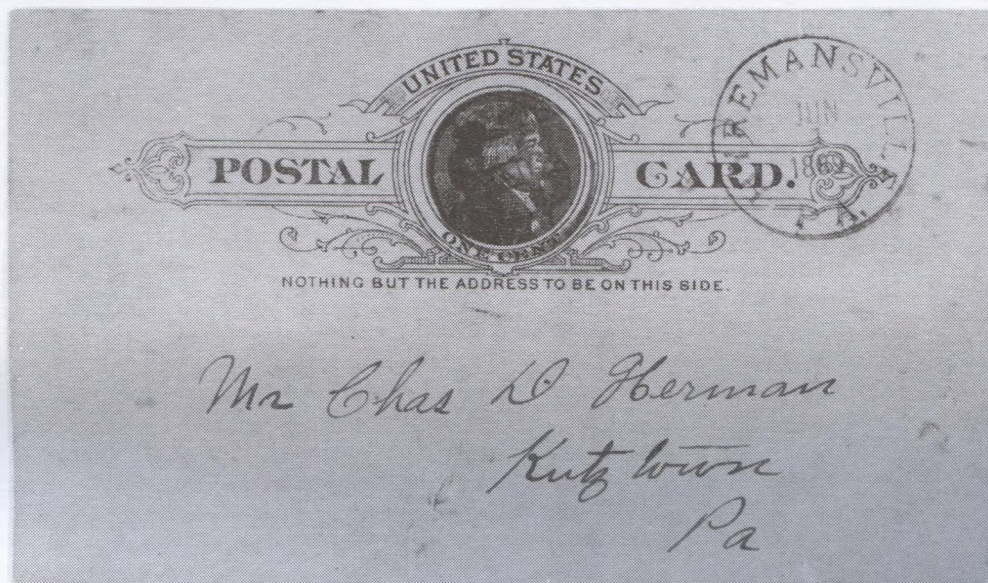


Figure 2

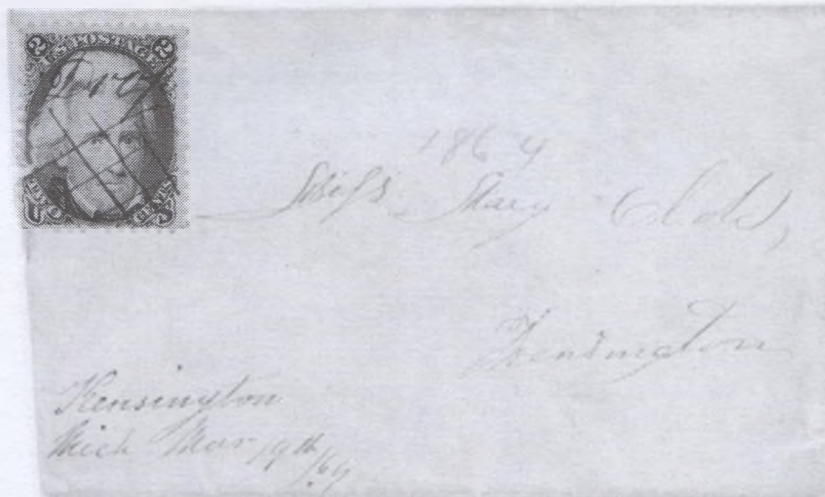
Drop Postage

Manuscript cancels usually consist of squiggles, crosses or lines. Sometimes they involve words. The Summer 1999 NEWS illustrated a few examples. Included were postal terms "Way" and "Paid." Figure 1 provides a further example. In addition to crossed lines, the stamp is canceled by a manuscript "Drop." In the bottom left corner is written "Kensington, Mich Mar 19th/64."

Additions to the Membership Roster

Bob Benjamin	1801 Patton Dr.	Modesto	CA	95356
Larry Roberts	18653 Ventura, #167	Tarzana	CA	91356
David Begin	PO Box 397	Byron	CA	94514
Albert Aldham	1660 Hemlock Farms	Hawley	PA	18428
Edgar Jatho, Jr.	1513 Michigan Ave.	Kenner	LA	70062
Zou Ziyang	Apartado No. 18-1645	Lima 18	Peru	

Figure 1



Unusual Card

The card illustrated in Figure 1 is, of course, not a postal card and was not mailed first class. The three cents postage was paid with Scott #206 and #210 stamps. New York double oval cancels containing a "1," "2," or "3" in the center, such as that in Figure 1, are generally seen on wrappers but not exclusively.

As is evident from the message side, the card was sent with cloth and rubber merchandise samples. This was fourth-class matter subject to a rate of one cent for each ounce or fraction thereof.

Your editor is not at all clear on how this card and the accompanying "samples" were packaged together but postal guidelines required that it be done in a manner permitting the contents to be easily examined.

Wanted

19th and 20th Century early US "butterfly" cancels, precancels, postmarks, etc. E-mail: butterflyfancycancel@eudoramail.com. Zou Ziyang, Apartado No. 18-1645, Lima, Peru.

Club Website

Don't forget when discussing with others the advantages of joining our club that we have a website at <http://geocities.com/Athens/2088ushome.htm>.

Bob Trachimowicz is our webmaster and he has very nicely illustrated the pages with fancy cancels. In addition to general information and club offerings, Track has included the library listing, recent *NEWS* article subjects and a membership application form. Look us up!

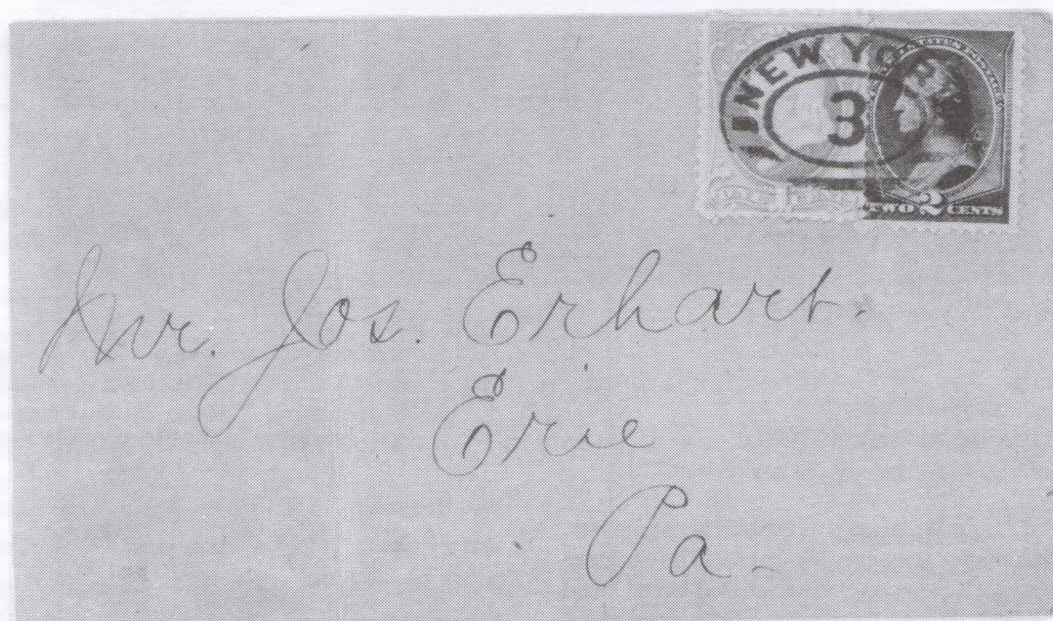


Figure 1

