



Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 26, No. 3, Whole No. 244, August 2002

San Francisco Cog Considerations

by Jim Cate

In the November 2001 issue of the *U.S. Cancellation Club News*, Prescott Van Horn, Jr. presented an interesting and informative article on the San Francisco cog cancels. At the end he invited other members to submit information about these cog cancels. In presenting his article, Van Horn referenced an article, "The Story of the San Francisco Cog Cancellation," written by Dr. W. Scott Polland published in the April 1966 *Western Express*. I immediately obtained a photocopy of the article from the APS library for study. Presented below are some considerations about the cog cancels.

On page 5 as Illustration II of Polland's article, a patriotic cover with an eagle and shield is shown (Figure 1). This cover has a **single** US Scott #65 with a Type I cog cancel. Polland stated: "The earliest usage of the cog is a Type I, on a patriotic cover dated December 27, 1861, see Illustration #II." The cover is **addressed** to Pokeepisie, Dutches Co. (Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co.) N.Y. The US postal rate at the time, effective February 27, 1861, "between localities east of the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Coast" was 10 cents for ½ ounce. This cover should have had an additional 7 cents of postage. There are no indications of additional amounts due or paid to cover the correct postage sum. Unfortunately, the photocopy of the cover is not clear enough to make an adequate analysis. It appears that there are perforations on the top left part of the stamp that extend beyond the right tip of the eagle wing. It is impossible to determine perforations down the left edge of the stamp. It is noted that the bottom right

corner of the stamp is partially placed over the "c" of care. It would be most interesting to have the original cover to analyze. Did the postal clerk merely make a mistake and let the cover pass with the incorrect postage amount?

It has been my observation from viewing numerous San Francisco cog cancel covers that this cancel was used on mail *originating* from San Francisco to *states* outside California only. Mail within California at the time either had a different cancellation or was sent by one of the express companies. The only exception noted is a cover presented on page 9 of the *Western Express* article Illustration #XIII (Figure 2) showing a Collector's Office, U.S. Internal Revenue cover addressed to San Francisco on a Scott U9 (plus a Scott #63) with Type III cog used on October 18, 1864. Two other illustrations in the article, Illustration #XXIV and #XXV (Figures 3 & 4), show covers that have the San Francisco

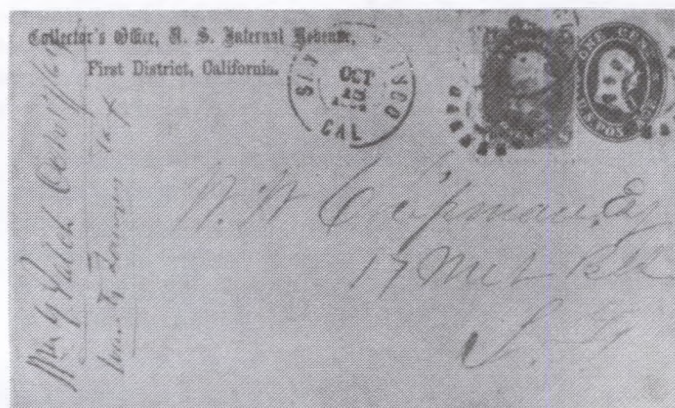


Figure 2

(Cont'd. on page 39)

Figure 1



Dear Readers,

We had an excellent time at NOJEX in late May where the USCC staffed a society table for three days. A USCC seminar was held on Sunday, May 26, involving a lively discussion on organizing and presenting cancels at exhibition, using the one-frame cancellation exhibits at NOJEX as a point of departure. And in this connection there is an important news item that the USCC is proud to report: Roger Rhoads won a platinum medal and the NOJEX Best One Frame award for his exhibit entitled "I Want to See STARS on the First Postal Card." There were 18 one frame exhibits entered. Congratulations Roger!

Roger Curran

Closed Albums

It is with sadness that we report the death of two USCC members. **Warren R. Bower** of Fontanelle, Iowa passed away June 4, 2002 at age 80. Warren was a mechanical engineer who worked for several large companies including Boeing Aircraft, Chemco of Los Angeles, Amana Refrigeration and Whirlpool Corp. He held various patents that are still used by the refrigeration industry today. He retired from Whirlpool in 1979.

Warren was a long-time stamp collector who specialized in U.S. postage due issues and the reasons for their use. Regarded as an expert in the field, he published more than 60 articles in national stamp journals. In the acknowledgements section of George B. Arfken's excellent 1991 book *Postage Due The United States Large Numeral Postage Due Stamps 1879-1894*, published by the Collectors Club of Chicago, Mr. Arfken stated the following:

"A look at the references cited in the text and in the end notes will make it clear that this book has drawn on earlier work published in books and in philatelic journals. Many, if not most, of the citations are to articles by Warren R. Bower. In addition, Warren has been very generous with his time and his help through correspondence over the past several years."

Warren was a co-author with R.H. White of Volume V, *The Postage Due Issues of 1879-1996, Encyclopedia of the Colors of United States Postage Stamps* published in 1986.

Warren was a wonderful supporter of the *NEWS*. He made numerous contributions over the years through his thoughtful commentary on articles that appeared, explaining in patient detail the postal history background for many markings that were discussed. He was always ready to respond to a question or help by supplying examples of particular due markings or uses.

Stephen E. Perilstein died on May 30 from lung cancer. Knowing this Spring of the outlook for his condition, Steve was eager to share his records on "PAID" cancels with

others in the USCC. This, of course, led to the offer of copies of his 18 page listing of PAID cancels on 1851-57 issue stamps noted on the insert to the May 2002 *NEWS*. We spoke with Steve just days before May 30 about the listing and he was focused on doing all that he could to be helpful. His cooperative spirit and concern for other collectors can serve as an inspiration for us all. ■



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(Cont'd. from front page)



Figure 3



Figure 4

CDS, cog Type III, for delivery in San Francisco. However, it should be noted that both covers came from an incoming ship and bear cancellations of "DUE 7" and "PURSER". So these covers did not actually originate in San Francisco.

Another San Francisco cog cancel has not been mentioned. This appears on page 29 as Figure No. 190 of "San Francisco Postal Markings, 1847-1900" by John M. Mahoney, published by La Posta Publications. The cancel is



Figure 5

shown here as Figure 5. The year of use is listed as 1868. The cancel has 13 cogs, an irregular heavy inner circle with a large blob type dot. I only remember seeing two of these cancels over the years. A few years back a major auction offered one of these cancels on a fancy green advertising cover that sold for a large sum. Details of the other cover are not well remembered.

A cog cancel that is somewhat difficult to find on cover is a Type I cog on a Scott #65 (Figure 6). The reason is that the postal rate of 10 cents existed for distances over 3,000 miles during a considerable portion of the Type I time of use. Generally a 10-cent stamp was used for mail to the eastern U.S. rather than a combination of stamps with the 3-cent stamp.

A most interesting San Francisco cog cover and letter was my first one acquired many years ago (Figure 7), sent from San Francisco to Niantic, Connecticut. The CDS is OCT 3 1864. The letter (Figure 8) was written on September 16, 1864 while on board the ship *Helvetia* bound for San Francisco from the east coast. It was to the man's aunt and uncle. He mentioned that the ship is "leaky" and must undergo repairs. He reported snow in July while going around Cape Horn at the tip of South America. The last paragraph (added October 2nd) states that the ship arrived "yesterday" after 155 days of passage.■

Note: Mr. Cate discusses at the beginning of the article the interesting cover that Dr. Pollard reported as the "earliest usage." Your editor examined Pollard's illustration of this cover published with an original copy of the *Western Express* article. Unfortunately, it is also rather unclear. No judgment could be made about the line of perforations down the left side of the stamp. This would have been helpful so that one could

Figure 6

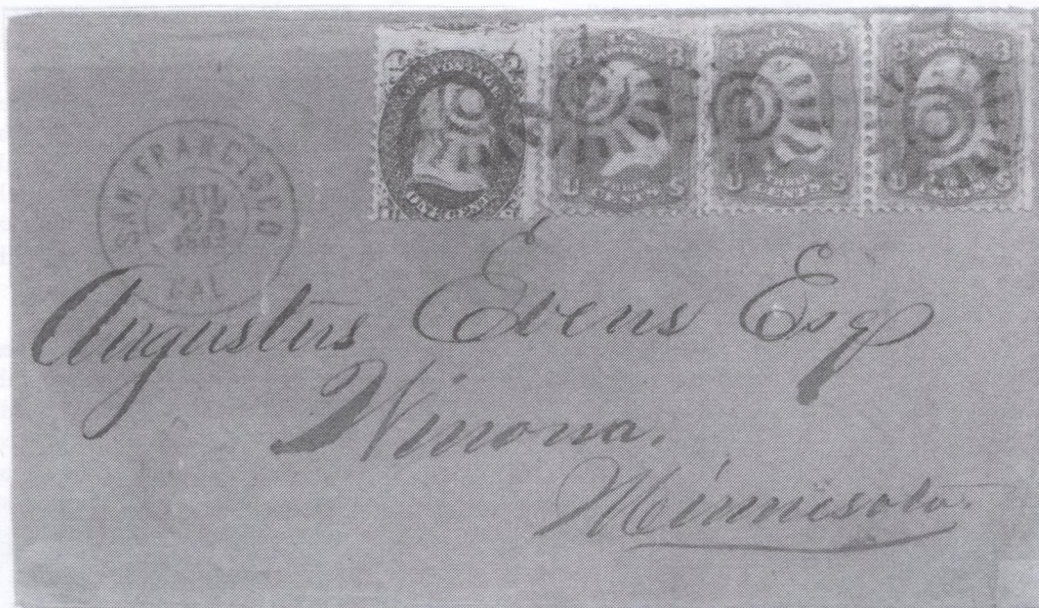


Figure 7

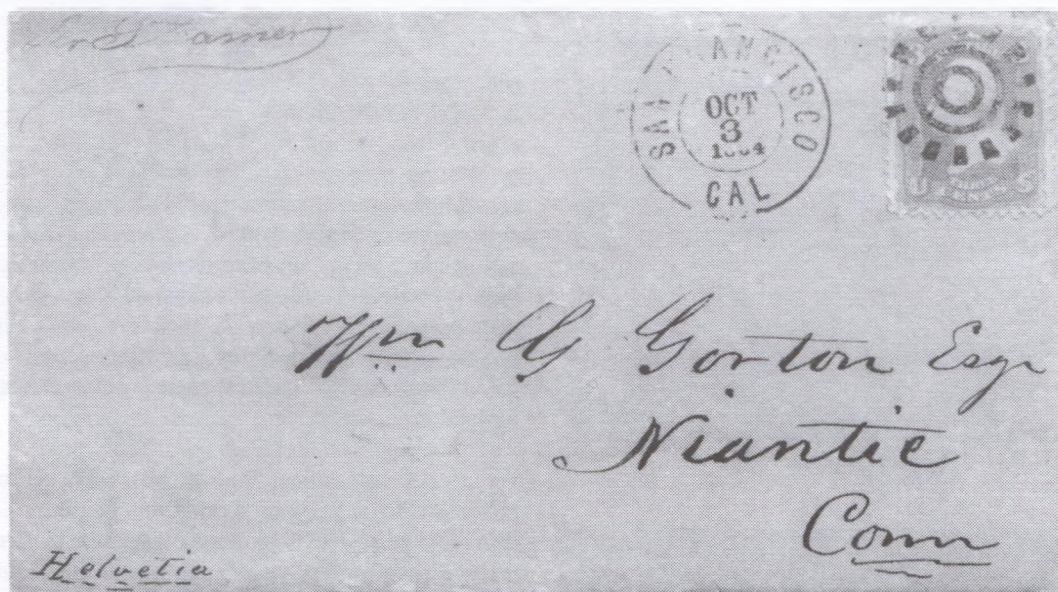
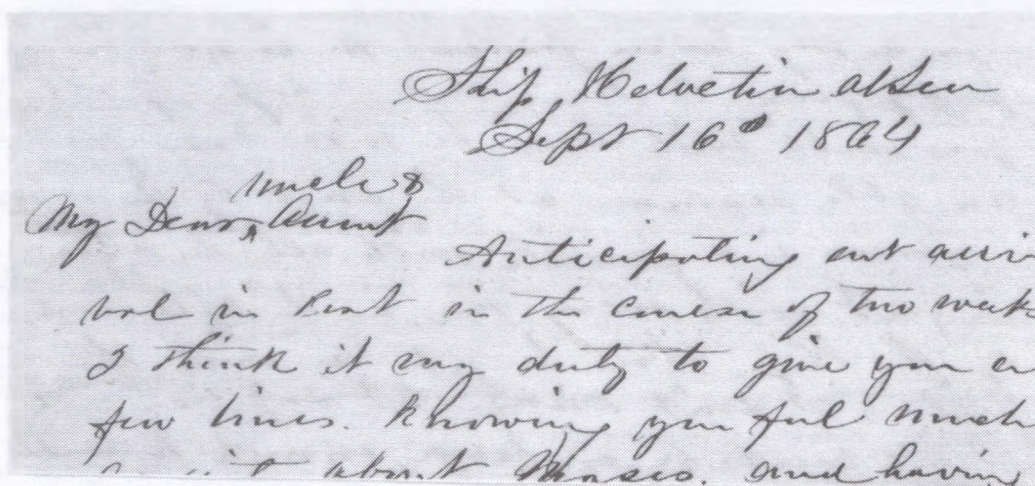


Figure 8



ascertain whether the stamp is tied to the cover. On another point, the year date in the CDS was studied. From the illustration, "1861" does seem most likely but the last digit is not clear. Finally, Dr. Pollard reported the cog on this cover to be a Type I cog. The Type I cog, according to Pollard (page 4) "... was used exclusively for about one year, 1862, and then was replaced by Type II..." He went on to say "... I don't think Type I was used after 1862." This suggests strongly that the date in the CDS, if not "1861," would be 1862." However, to your editor's eye, and once again we are dealing with a less-than-ideal illustration, the cog on this cover looks more like a Type II cog which, if true, would open up later years as possibilities. It would also presumably exclude 1861 as a possibility. Comments and additional information are invited.

"Letter in Wreath" Update

The 50th anniversary issue of the *NEWS* reprinted a 1965 article by Robert Schoen on "letter in wreath" cancels. Mr. Schoen reported an "M" in wreath from Malvern, Pennsylvania, on cover dated November 3, 1881. Figure 1 illustrates portions of two Malvern "M" covers in the collection of Arthur Beane.

The example on the left may be the cover recorded by Mr. Schoen because there is what appears to be a transit marking on the back of the full cover dated "NOV 5(?) 1881."

The example on the right, postmarked more than three weeks later, shows what your editor suspects to be the corrosive effect of using black printer's ink at this time with a rubber handstamp. Arthur Bond discussed the introduction of rubber handstamps (largely in 1877) in the chapter he wrote, entitled "19th Century Development of Postal Markings," of Volume I of *The Postal History of Indiana*. He reported that initially rubber handstamps could not be used satisfactorily with black printer's ink and it wasn't until 1883 that the problem was satisfactorily remedied.

The ink in both Figure 1 examples is an intense black. While the wreath with the November 3 postmark shows a somewhat clogged and poorly formed impression, the November 28 strike produced a very incomplete wreath (perhaps eaten away?) and the inner rim of the postmark shows evidence of the handstamp losing its firmness.■

Figure 1



More Hand-Carved Ellipses

The May 2001 issue of the *NEWS* presented a sampling of hand-carved ellipse cancels. These cancels, with few exceptions, represented the apparent desires of small-town postmasters to use cancels like those employed in larger post

offices. And they are found in remarkable variety over a considerable period of time. Figure 1 (courtesy of Arthur Beane) and Figure 2 illustrate three additional examples from Guysville, Ohio, Nicholasville, Ky. and Middletown, Pa. In each case, the first letter of the town name was used in the design.■

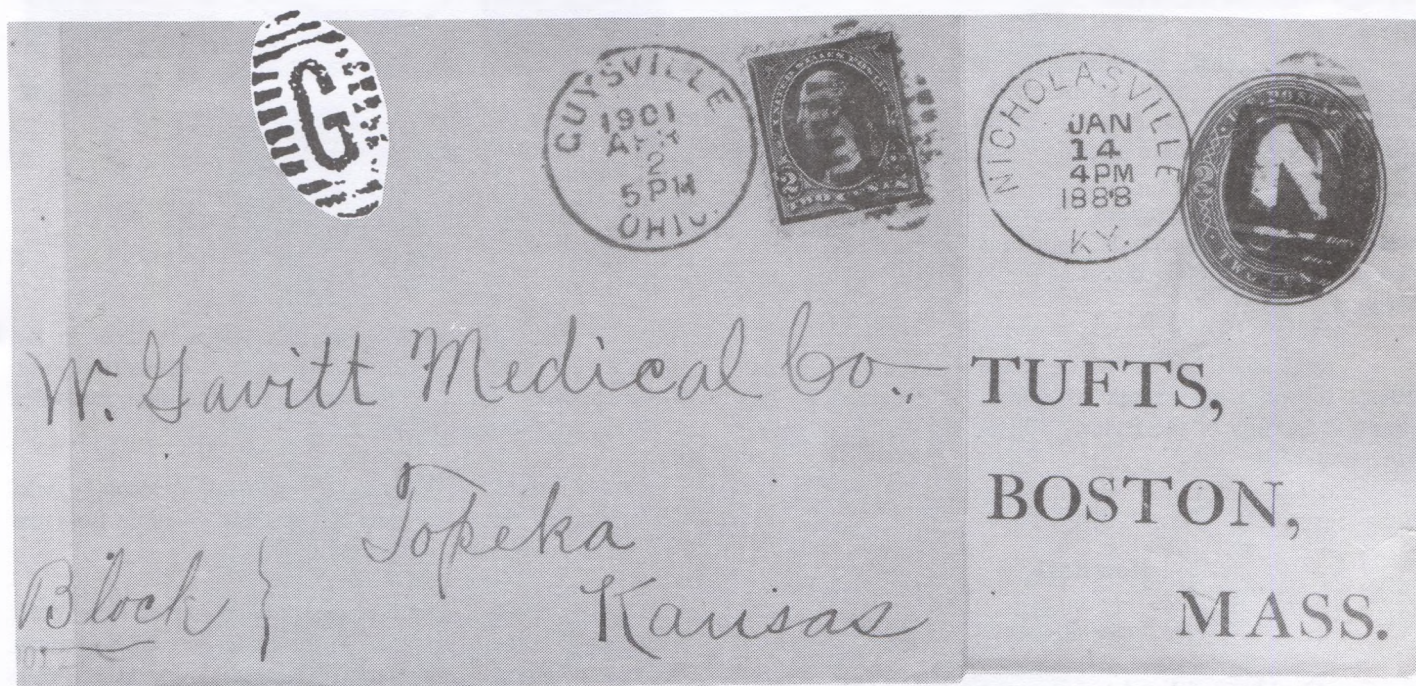
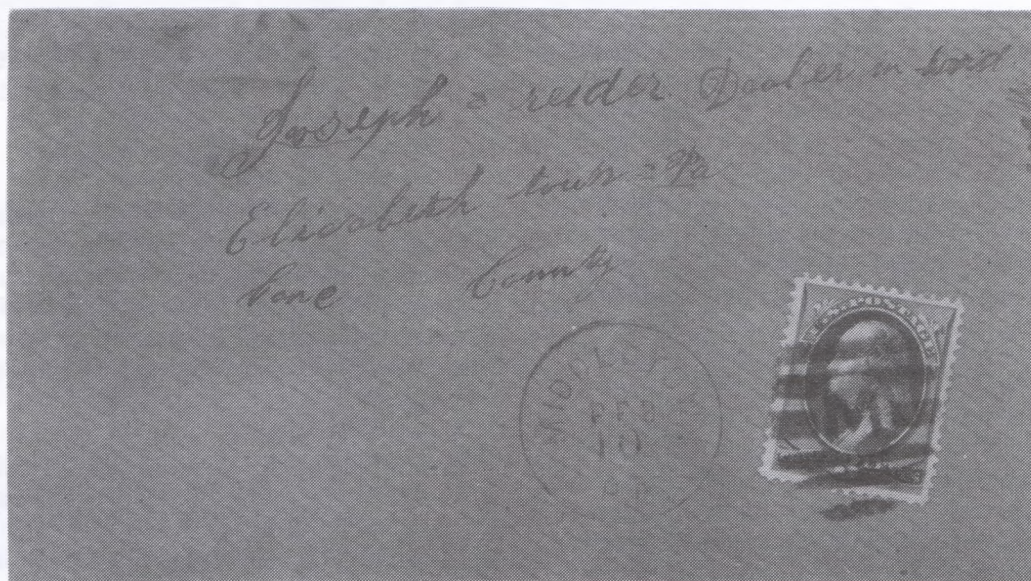


Figure 1

Figure 2



Please Note!

It will soon be time to elect USCC officers for the next two year term which begins in January 2003. All the present officers have served multiple terms and, as with any organization, it is very important to have a steady flow of new perspectives and ideas. Therefore, a special appeal is extended to the USCC membership for volunteers to stand for election. If you would be willing to serve in one of the positions listed below or if you wish to recommend another club member, *please* drop a note to our secretary, Roger Rhoads, at the address on the masthead or email at rrrhoads@aol.com.

The election will cover the following positions. (An abbreviated statement of duties for each position is provided.)

President. Presides at occasional board meetings (see below) and otherwise provides general supervision over officers and committees. (Such meetings are typically handled through telephone conference calls.)

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

Secretary-Treasurer. Serves as a member of the board, keeps official records, maintains financial accounting, and performs such other duties as the President or Board may assign.

The board has full power to manage the business and affairs of the Club except as otherwise provided by the Bylaws. A copy of the Bylaws will be sent to any member upon request.■

How Early?

by Roger D. Curran

Double oval handstamps were commonly employed by the New York Post Office in the 1880s and beyond to cancel stamps on registered and non-first class mail. A number of variations are noted, particularly in terms of what is contained in the center. Letters (for the different branch stations), numbers, "REG," "CR," "UD," "PO" and more are encountered.

These unduplexed cancels have postal history significance because they are believed to be the first rubber obliterated employed by the NYPO.¹ And it's interesting to consider just when they were introduced. In a brief discussion of NYPO double ovals in the May 1968 *NEWS*, Arthur Bond stated that they "... were used at least as early as 1881." Dating these cancels is difficult because they typically occur (although by no means exclusively) on mail that doesn't require a dated postmark. There is, however, one 1880s New York double oval that includes a date and that is the design shown in Figure 1 used on third-class outgoing foreign mail. Figure 2 illustrates the earliest date I have seen for this killer –

Figure 1



Figure 2

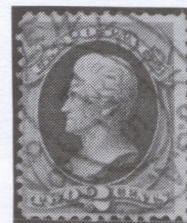


Figure 3

Figure 4



July 15, 1881. (Regrettably the date won't be clear in the illustration.) It is interesting to note what is considered to be an earlier cancel ("FD" in the center) for such mail, examples of which are shown in Figure 3.

The dated foreign mail double oval, incidentally, was not a concept discarded quickly. A 1941 example from the back of an envelope is shown as Figure 4.

By far the most commonly encountered New York double oval is that with "CR" in the center, assumed to mean "Circular Room." It is found overwhelmingly on one-cent stamps. A cover in the collection of John Donnes involves this "CR" double oval canceling a 2¢ vermilion on a first class local letter bearing two New York postmarks dated "JAN 12/80." It is shown here as Figure 5. This is the earliest date I know of for a NYPO double oval and readers are asked to report early dates not only for the "CR" but for any of these interesting cancels.

The July 1951 issue of the *U.S. Cancellation Club Quarterly* carried an article on double oval cancels including those from New York. Now, 50 years later, many questions remain. Was the "CR" canceler introduced first? Was it introduced at the same time as some other designs? Did Branch station letters appear later? Please help if you can.■

¹ What we refer to here are the first rubber obliterated *designed* as cancelers of postage stamps. We have discussed in these pages the use of rubber bottle stoppers by the NYPO as cancelers and they predate the double ovals, going back to 1874.

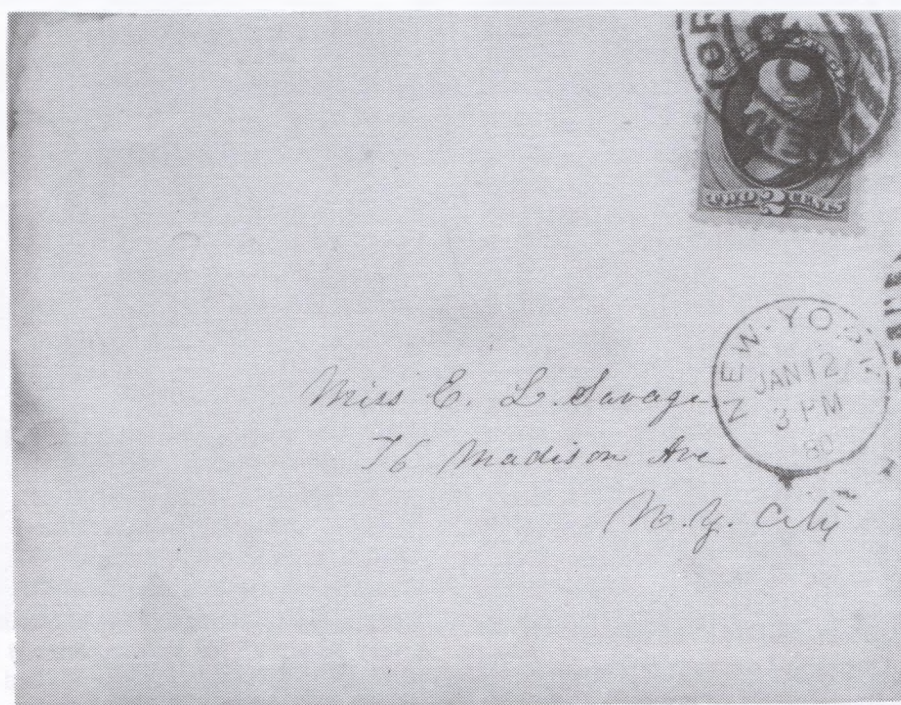
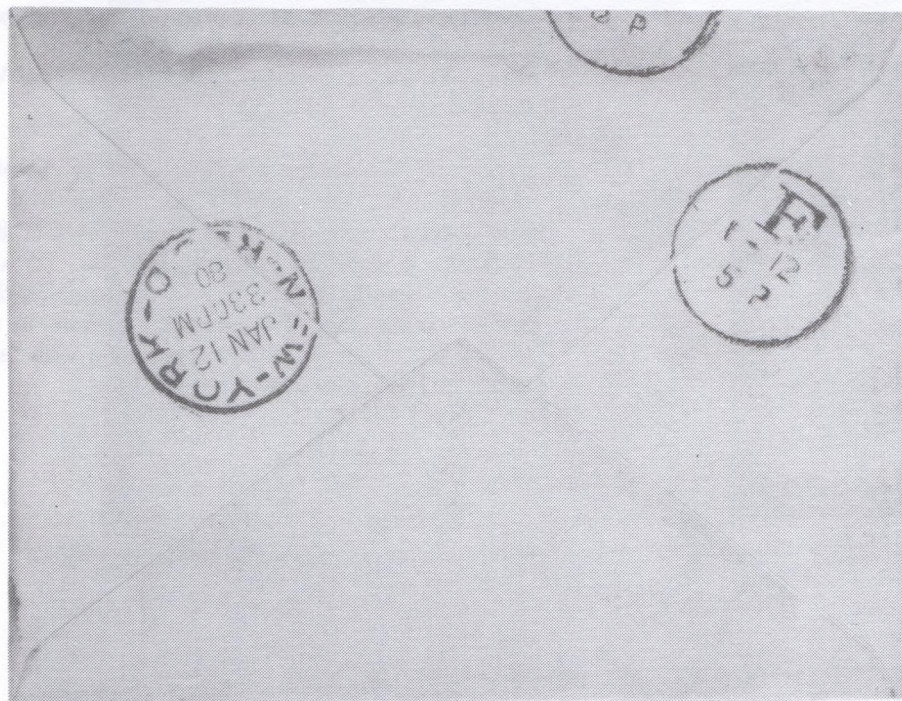


Figure 5



More on Station X

The February 2002 *NEWS* illustrated an 1896 New York City Station X duplex marking that is thought to be scarce. Club member Donald Vail writes to say that he has yet to find a Station X killer on an off-cover stamp after an 8-10 year search. However, along the way he has acquired two 1916-17 timeframe penalty covers postmarked at Station X. A portion of one cover is illustrated as Figure 1. Both were addressed to the same party and one still has an enclosure – the return receipt for a registered letter for a letter that had been delivered in Tahiti. Perhaps the other contained a return receipt as well. Who can tell us more about the operation of Station X and its location in the Bronx?■

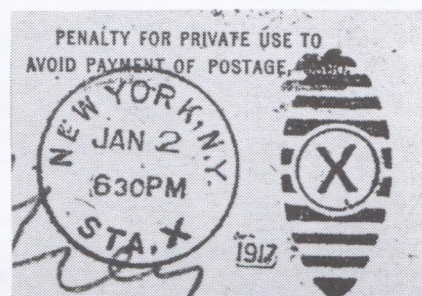


Figure 1

Cecilton, Maryland

On pages 21 and 24 of the May 2002 *NEWS* we briefly discussed cancels produced by altering a numeral "5" handstamp. Several post offices did this and we speculated that the intention generally was to make the "5" unrecognizable so that when the handstamp was used to cancel postage stamps, it would not create confusion. In other words, so it would not appear the "5" was intended to rate the letter and thus indicate "5" cents due on delivery. However, in the case of the post office that was the largest user of such handstamps, Cecilton, Maryland, the intent may have primarily been to create a "C" for Cecilton.

The earlier article illustrated a tracing of the Cecilton altered "5," taken from the Skinner-Eno book, but did not show any actual strikes. We are fortunate in this issue to show two remarkable examples, thanks to USCC members. The cancel in Figure 1 was submitted by Donald Barany and it is hard to imagine a more attractive example. The stamp has superb margins with a full strike of the cancel centrally placed. Mr. Barany reports the stamp to be a Scott #94 with a PF certificate.



Figure 1

These Cecilton cancels are reported on 1861 issue stamps by Skinner-Eno and Mr. Barany's example is on an 1868 issue stamp. The cover in Figure 2, submitted by Arthur Beane, is on an 1870 issue stamp. Note that the "C" is quite thick, suggesting a considerable build-up of ink occurring from use over a substantial period of time. This cancel is not listed in Cole's Banknote era cancels book and it would be interesting to determine the full time this cancel was used at Cecilton.

If readers can help, please contact the *NEWS*.■

Unusual Letters

"V" is one of those letters not often found in canceler designs. Herewith are two that have been noted on Scott #210 stamps. A very large "V" for Vernon, Iowa is illustrated in Figure 1. It is not listed in the Cole or Willard books. One suspects that if found on off-cover stamps, it would likely not be recognized for what it is. The date is September 26, 1885.

Figure 2 shows a negative "V" from Valatie, N.Y., dated October 21, 1886.

While we are at the far end of the alphabet we'll report (Figure 3) a lovely "Y" in a circle from Yardley, Pa. The cover resides in the collection of Arthur Beane and an enclosure is datelined October 21, 1886. "Y" cancels are at least as scarce as "V" cancels. Cole lists this cancel without attribution on page 290 and we illustrate in Figure 4 his tracing placed on its side to correspond with the way it was struck on the Figure 3 cover.■

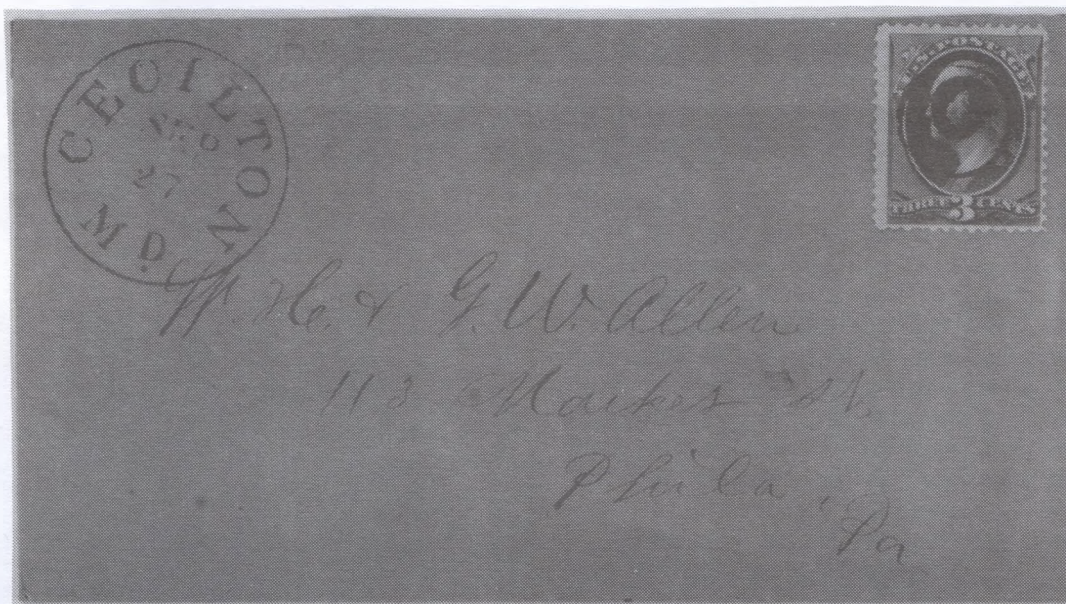


Figure 2

Figure 1

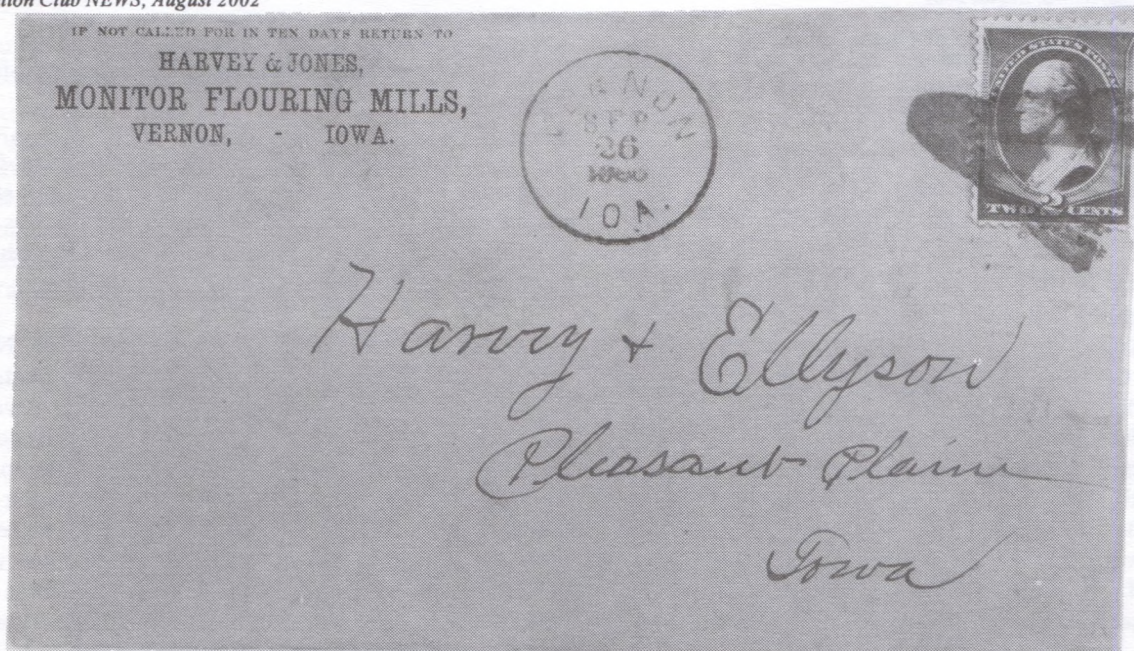
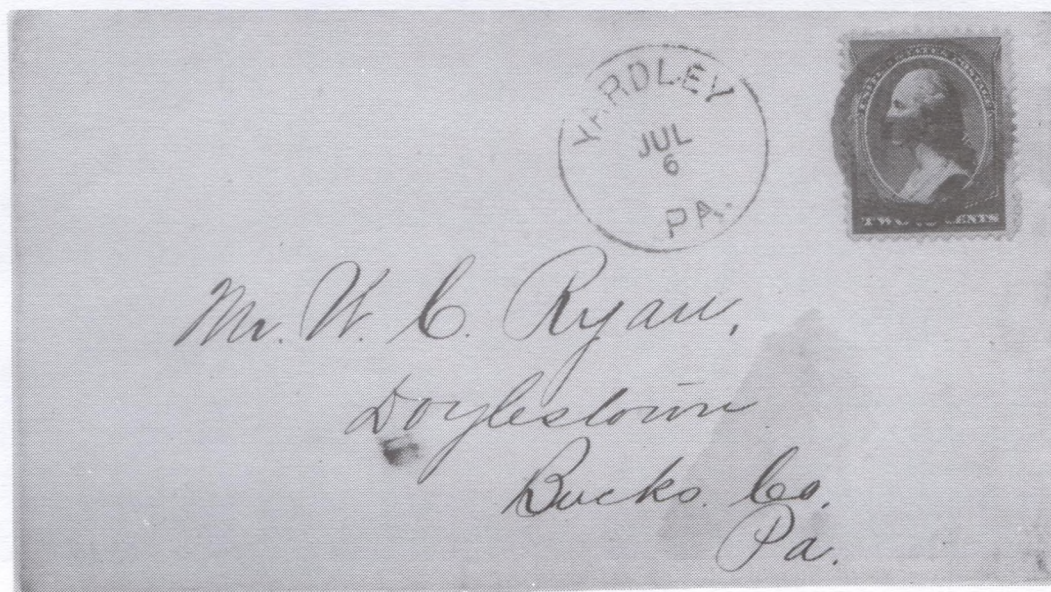


Figure 2



Figure 3



A Different Type of Cancellation

by Roger D. Curran

Figure 1 illustrates a type of 19th century cancellation that has not been addressed previously in these pages, at least not for a number of years. This is believed to be a roller cancel; that is, produced from a handstamp where the canceling surface is wrapped around or consists of a roller which, when applied to a cover, rolls as it is pushed creating a continuous cancellation. The examples I have seen from New York are all on circular mail which seems a little surprising. It would appear that the benefit of a roller cancel is that it saves time in canceling two or more stamps on the same cover. Circulars typically have only one stamp. Wrappers of packages would seem likely covers on which to find roller cancels. Perhaps roller cancels were thusly used but, unfortunately, very few package wrappers have been kept. Registered mail would also seem to be a likely category for using roller cancels. However, I have seen no examples from

New York but have seen a likely candidate from San Francisco.

Could it be that there was a self-inking feature to these roller cancel handstamps that led to their use, at least for a short period, on circulars? Or was it just the fact that they contained a killer only, and no town postmark, which is all that circular mail required? I doubt any self-inking.

In a January 1995 *NEWS* article entitled "New York City Cancellations on Circulars and Printed Matter, 1870-1878," John Valenti illustrated two interesting covers that I believe bear roller cancels. The first is a circular to Norway franked with a pair of 2¢ Banknotes with each stamp canceled by a series of horizontal bars. (A somewhat similar cancel is shown courtesy of John Donnes in Figure 2.) The second is a circular cover addressed domestically and franked with a 1¢ Banknote canceled by what Mr. Valenti regarded as the same cancel used on the Norway circular. Bill Weiss illustrated the

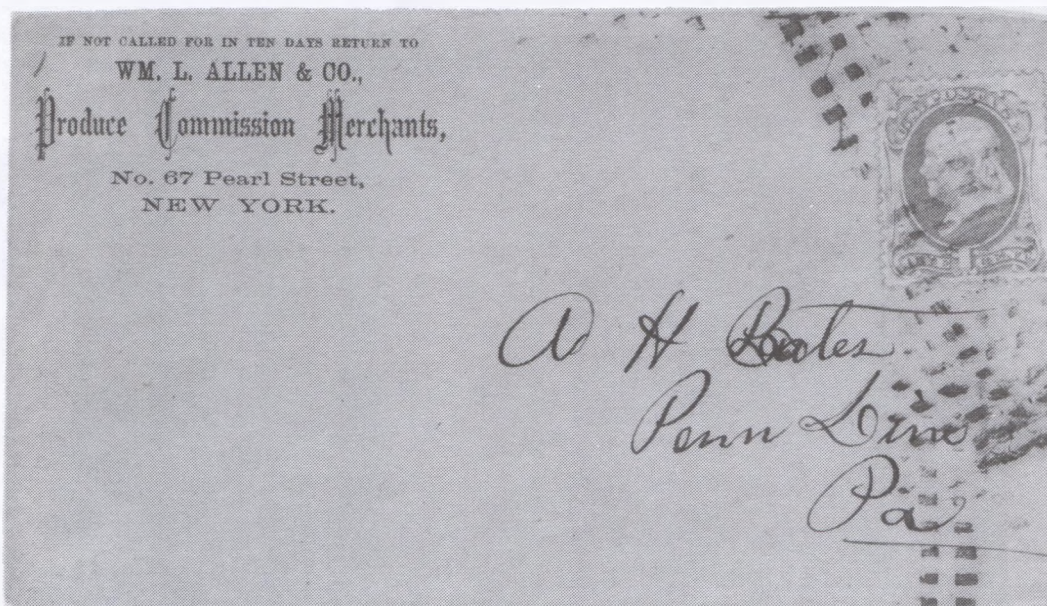


Figure 1

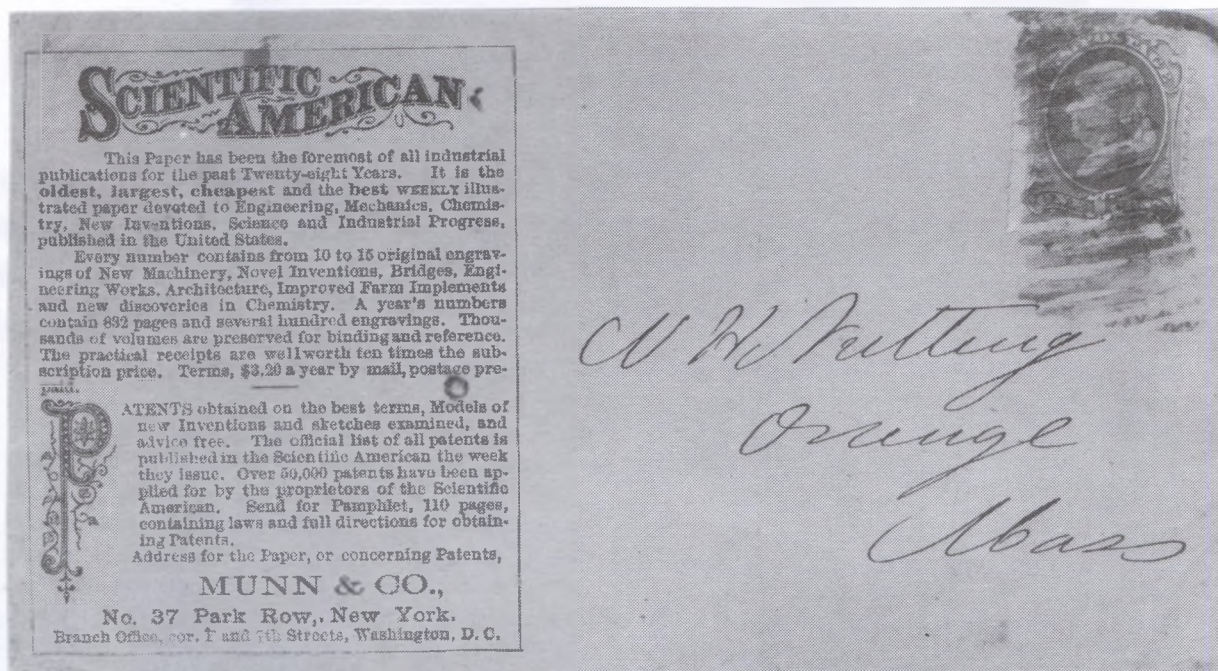


Figure 2

Norway cover on page 344 of his NYFM book and gave the cancel his designation TR-G29a.

Figure 3 (John Donnes collection) and Figure 4 illustrate two additional circular covers bearing what are assumed to be roller cancels. All four covers shown here have what appear to be Continental printing stamps. The Norway cover is dated May 7, 1875 and the domestic cover presented by John Valenti contained a circular dated May 1, 1875. The

Figure 3 cover contains an enclosure dated April 30, 1875. Did the NYPO experiment briefly with roller cancels in 1875?

Readers who have large Banknote era covers with roller cancels in their collections – from New York or elsewhere – are urged to report them to the *NEWS* for a follow-up report. Also, comments and information on early roller cancels generally will be very much welcomed. ■

Figure 3

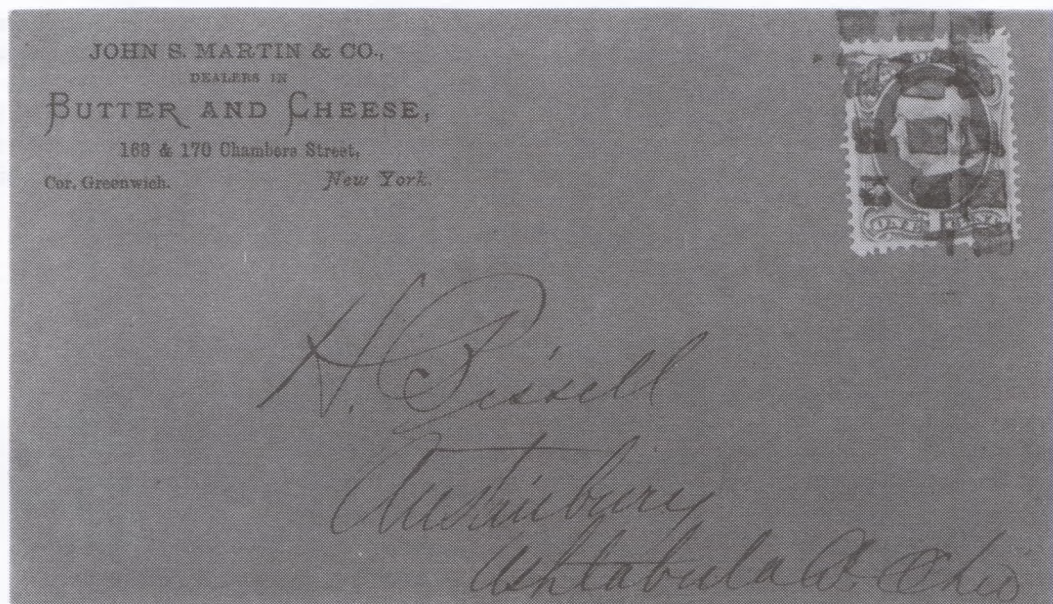
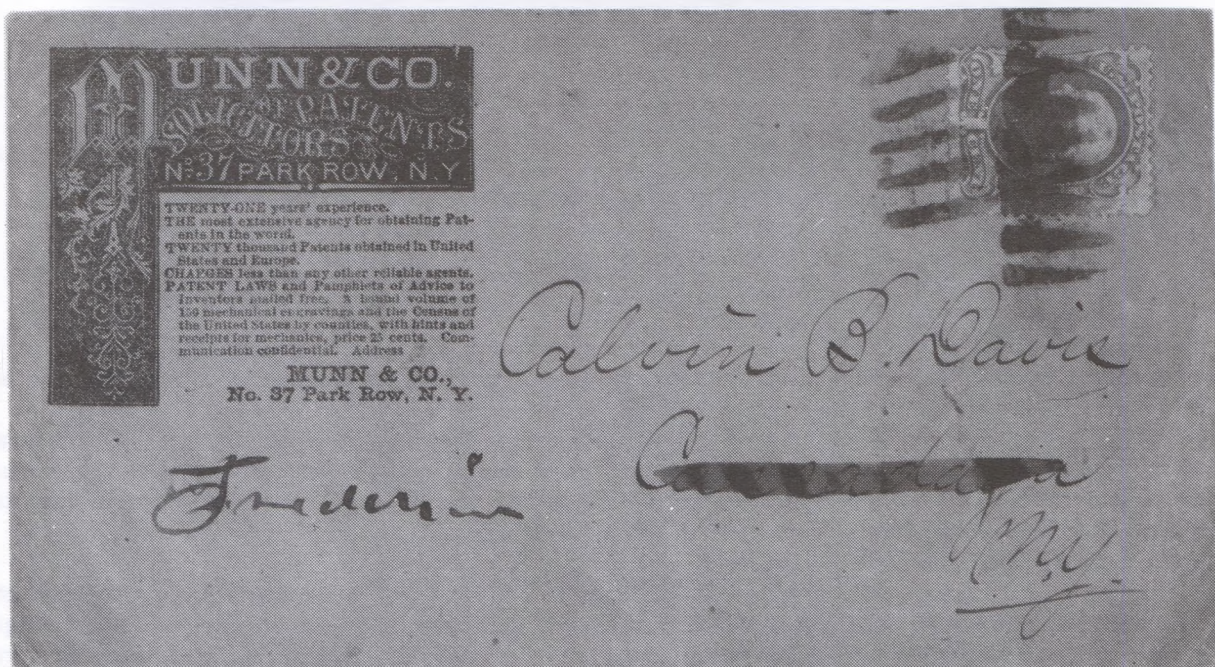
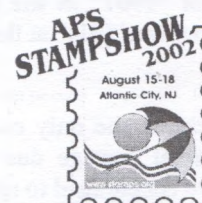


Figure 4



For Sale: Cancellations, 3 cent 1861.

Please send \$3.00 for 3 color and 3 black and white Xeroxes. Abe Boyarsky, PO Box 570, La Mirada, CA 90637-0570



A Most Unusual Due Cover

An interesting wrapper (Figure 1) has come to the attention of the *NEWS*. It was accompanied by a note, presumably written by a previous owner, that explains the rating as follows:

1901

Short paid printed matter from Argentina to U.S.:

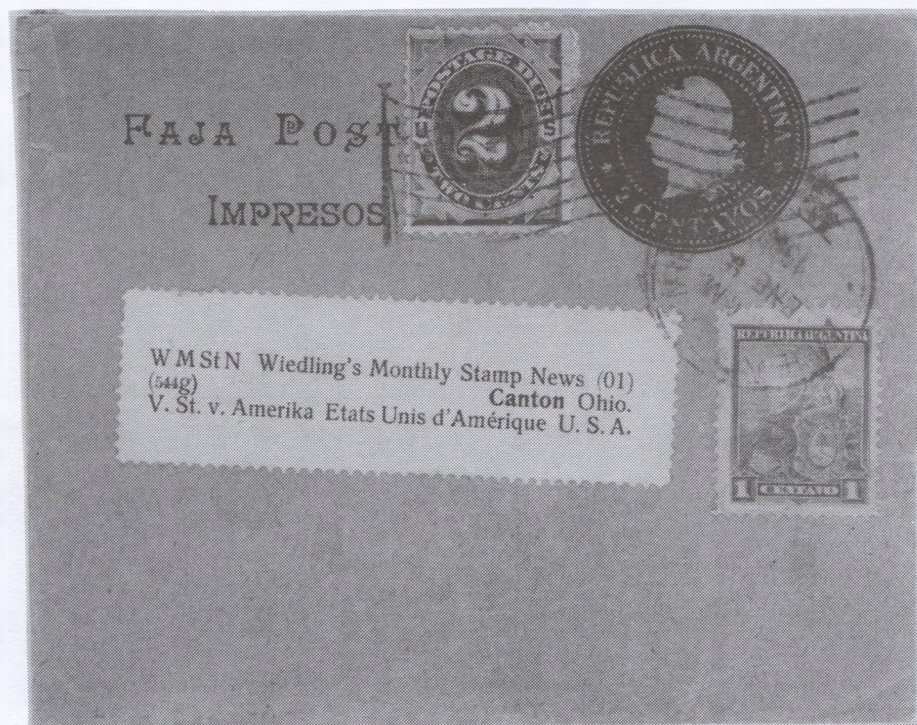
p.m. rate	6 cvo
paid	3 cvo
due	3 cvo
fine	3 cvo
due	6 cvo = 2¢

paid with late use of J16.

using a flag cancel of this type from 1899 to 1906. The Figure 1 flag is unusual in that there is no accompanying dated townmark. Third class mail didn't require the originating post office to show where and when it entered the mails and a limited number of postmasters used only the flag die to cancel stamps on circular mail. Since the Figure 1 cover didn't enter the mails at Canton, it was appropriate in this case also to use a flag die with no accompanying dated townmark to cancel a due stamp on the front of the cover.

Through the courtesy of Bob Payne, we show in Figures 2 and 3 examples of flags without dated townmarks. Figure 2 is a typical third class usage but Figure 3 is an anomaly. Here we have a postal card which is first class mail even when addressed locally. Could it be that the clerk at Boston's Everett Station thought the identification of the

Figure 1



There are no observable markings on the back although a separate piece of paper of the same tan color adheres to the back with the outer layer torn away. A small portion of what may be the rim of a postal marking shows near the bottom as does what may be a part of a manuscript notation near the top. Also, a fragment of white or cream paper, that was also largely torn away, is affixed to the top of the separate tan paper.

The Argentina stamp and imprint are canceled by an unclear circular Argentinian postmark that contains a year date. "190" is clear but the last digit is indistinguishable. We assume the citation of "1901" in the note that explains the rating was derived from the "(01)" at the end of the top line of the address.

This cover shows the only example your editor has seen of a large numeral postage due stamp canceled by a machine. (Readers are encouraged to report any examples that have come to their attention.) It is assumed that the due stamp was affixed and canceled in Canton, Ohio. According to Frederick Langford's *Flag Cancel Encyclopedia*, Canton was

station in the flag was enough and the date unnecessary?

We note, finally, that uses of large numeral postage due stamps on wrappers are, in and of themselves, elusive. Arfken stated in his book on postage due stamps the following:

"Newspaper wrappers were seldom saved. The number that were sent postage due and that were saved must be very small."¹

Comments and additional information will be welcomed. ■

¹ Arfken, George B. *Postage Due the United States Large Numeral Postage Due Stamps 1879-1894*, The Collectors Club of Chicago (1991), p. 108.

Figure 2

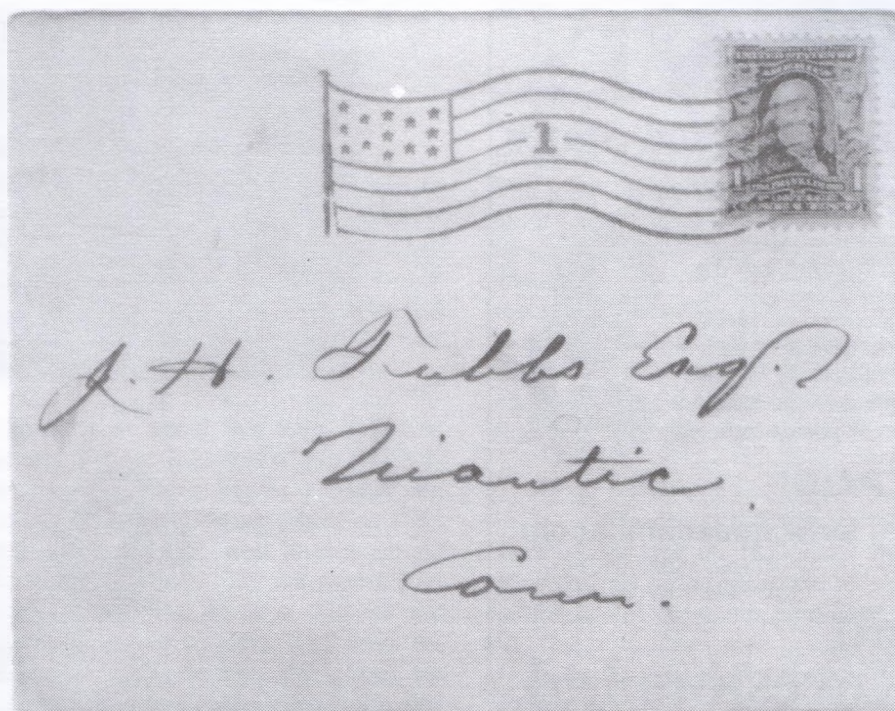
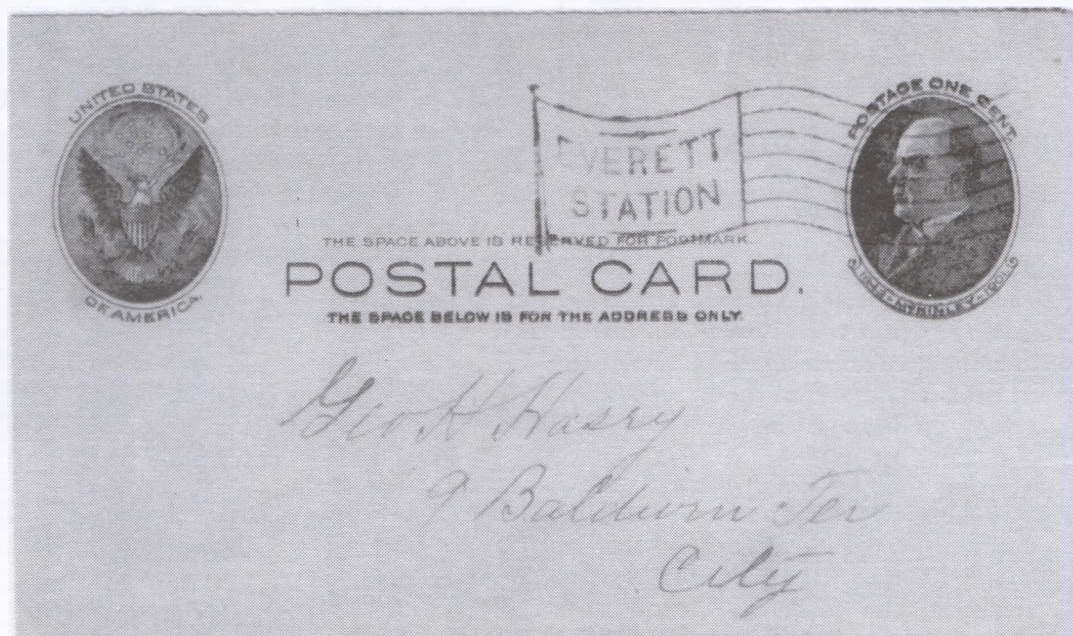
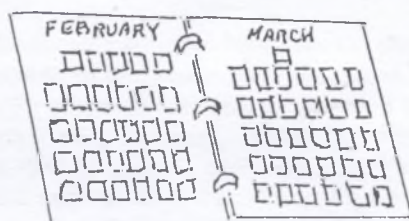


Figure 3



SPECIALTY PAGES FOR CALENDAR DATE COLLECTORS



8 1/2 X 11 100 lb. White Cascade
Deluxe Vellum Bristol Pages

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Suitable for 3¢-1851; 3¢-1861;
etc., etc.,

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for exhibition

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"Target" Updates

Abe Boyarsky writes to report that the socked-on-the-nose target cancel on the middle stamp on page 27 of the May 2002 *NEWS* is from Oaks Corners, N.Y. He also sent along a copy of a nice strip of three Scott #65 stamps, each bearing the same split ring concentric circles cancel shown on the left stamp on page 27. We still don't know where it originated.

Two reports were received identifying the slightly "psychedelic" cancel pictured on the right stamp on page 27. A cover in the collection of Dick Nunge, postmarked Meridian, N.Y. is shown as Figure 1. A section of a cover in Allan Schefer's collection, also postmarked Meridian, is shown in Figure 2. (An enclosure of this cover is dated 1862.)

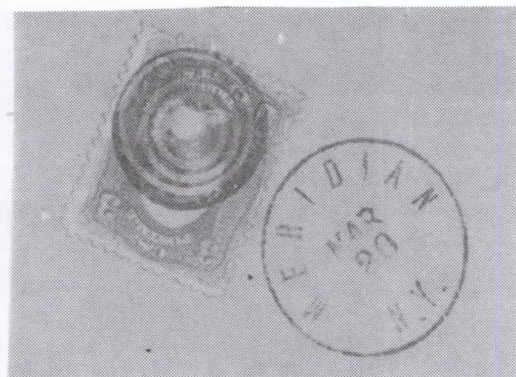


Figure 2

Figure 3

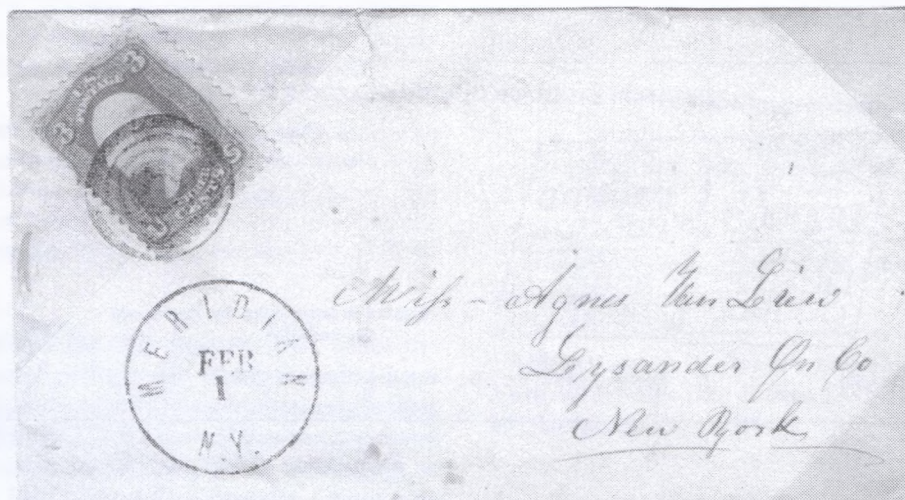


The postmarks and killers are all in blue ink. The page 27 cancel is in black ink. On page 36 of the Skinner-Eno book, a partial strike of the cancel is illustrated. Since no colored ink is reported, the listing is to be considered in black ink. Dick stated he believes that he has seen the cancel in black from Meridian and he thinks it was also used by other post offices. He also points out that Alexander's *U.S. Postal Markings* 1851-61 on page 135 shows a somewhat similar 3-ring cancel from Topeka, Kansas. Figure 3 shows the cancel. Alexander lists this cancel as "scarce" with 16-25 examples reported.■

Help Needed

Doing research on plate # singles
U.S. 3 cent 1861 issue.
On and off cover.
Please send photocopies.
I will reimburse postage/copy cost.
Abe Boyarsky
PO Box 570
LaMirada CA 90637-0570

Figure 1



A Colorful Star

by Roger D. Curran

Not long ago I bought the star cancel illustrated as Figure 1. Despite the fact that the bottom label block is missing, I was drawn to the stamp because the star is in red ink. There may well be other red stars known on 3¢ imperforate stamps – indeed, the Philadelphia red carrier star has been seen on 3¢ 1851s – but such cancels must be very scarce if not rare.

Wanting to know more about this item, I looked through the Alexander and Skinner-Eno books.¹ In Skinner-Eno, two tracings very similar to the Figure 1 cancel are shown – for New Alstead, N.H. and Chelsea, Mass. on 1851 issue stamps. Another similar cancel, well known among collectors, is listed for Jersey Shore, Pa., but not reported on the 1851 issue. Alexander also lists the New Alstead and Chelsea stars. The drawings appear to differ a bit from the Skinner-Eno illustrations but I assume they are in fact the same cancels. Alexander additionally shows a similar star from Marlow, N.H.

A cover illustrated by Alexander is very interesting. It is shown here as Figure 2. Note the placement of the star on

The above information was summarized on a page and included with a request for expertisation of the red star which was sent to the American Philatelic Expertising Service. In due course a “good news/bad news” opinion was received. The good news is that the “unrecorded fancy cancel” was opined to be “genuine in all respects.” The bad news is that no identification of New Alstead as the originating post office was made. I’ll admit to a little disappointment but, in truth, can surely understand any reluctance on the part of examiners to assign a definite origin to this cancel on an off-cover stamp when more than one post office used similar cancels. Also, of course, there is the point that the star is not listed in red ink from any post office.

If readers can add to the story by reporting other red stars of this type on 1851 issue stamps, or further on-cover New Alstead examples where we can examine the placement of the stars on the stamp, please let us hear from you.■

¹ Alexander, Thomas J. *U.S. Postal Markings 1851-61*, USPS (1979), pp. 136-7, 142-3

² Skinner, Hubert C. and Eno, Amos *United States Cancellations 1845-1869*, APS (1980), p. 91.



Figure 1

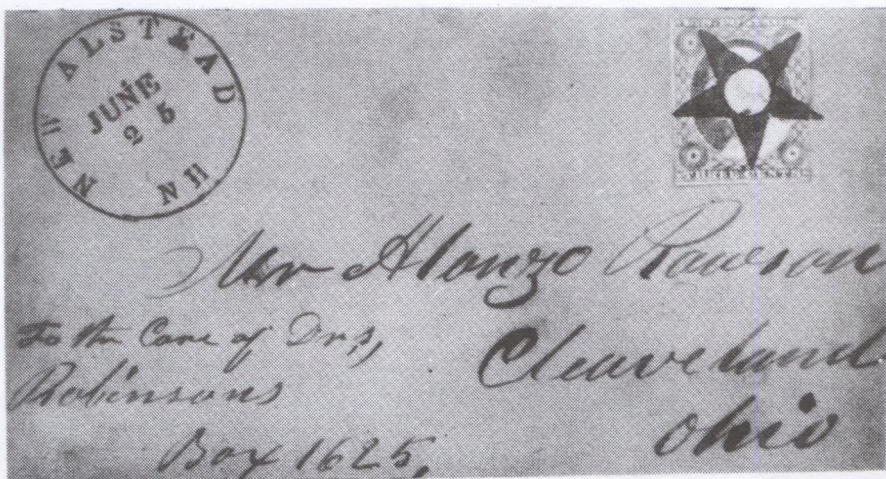


Figure 2

the stamp. It is virtually identical to the strike on the Figure 1 stamp. It appears that, in each case, the handstamp was carefully lined up by the postmaster with the middle of the left side of the stamp to assure a thorough cancellation.

In neither of the above-mentioned books are the stars reported in red ink. Because of the placement of the cancel, I decided to “zero in” on New Alstead and went to Volume 1 of the *American Stampless Cover Catalog*.² Listed for New Alstead, N.H., for the 1846-55 period, were blue (the New Alstead star is reported only in blue by Skinner-Eno and Alexander) and red markings with the same “Value” amounts, implying that use of one color was not much scarcer than the other.

The Classic Cancel

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“running man”

Weston "W"

Most 19th Century U.S. cancellation collectors are quite familiar with the Weston, Massachusetts manuscript "W" cancellations found with some frequency on stamps ranging from the 1857 issue until well into the large Banknote period. Cole lists the cancel through 1881. It has often been referred to as precancel and some stamps may have been canceled before application to mail. However, examples are regularly seen with the manuscript canceling ink tied to the cover.

This article reports on some later-use "W" cancels from Weston as noted on covers in the collection of Arthur Beane. Figure 1 illustrates a pair of covers with two different

'W' cancels. It is probable that these are manuscript "W" cancels made with a wide-tipped quill pen. There is a slight tie to the cover in each case. In addition to the cancels, please note the very unusual town postmarks.

Figure 2 illustrates two "W" cancels that appear to be the same and are thus, it is assumed, products of a handstamp. It is interesting to think of a change to handstamp "W"s after so many years of manuscripts. Incidentally, the right "W" clearly ties the pair of stamps to the cover.

Can readers add to the story by reporting other late-use Weston "W" cancels?■

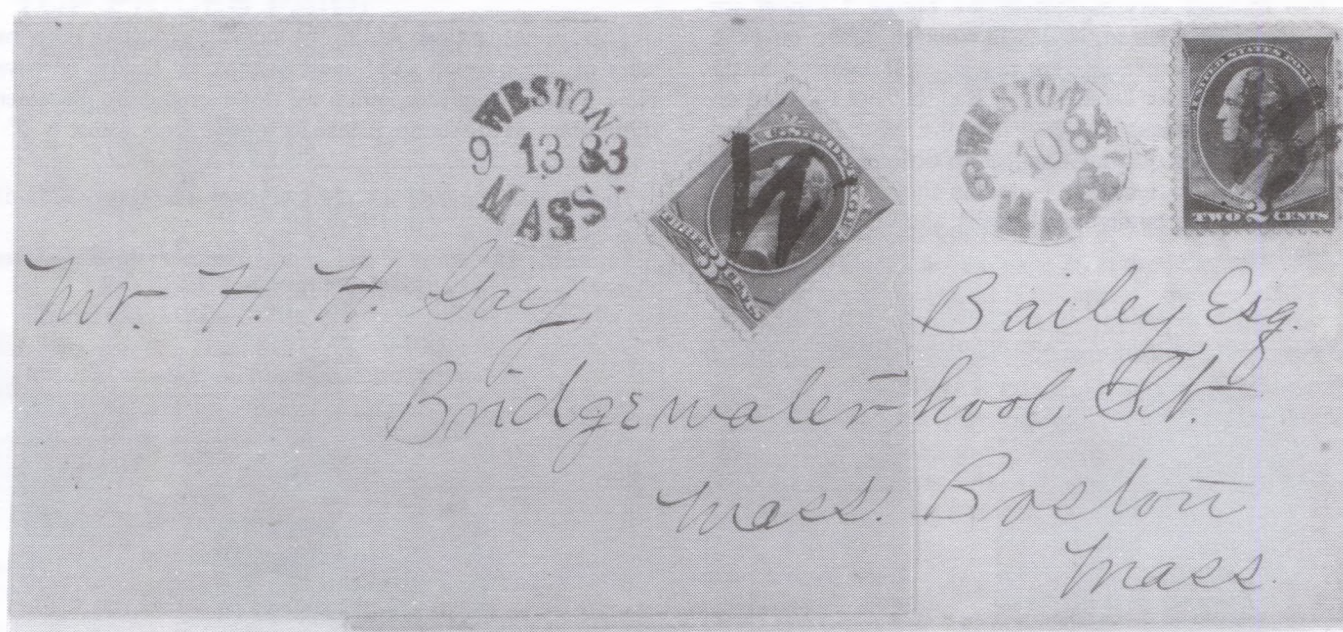


Figure 1

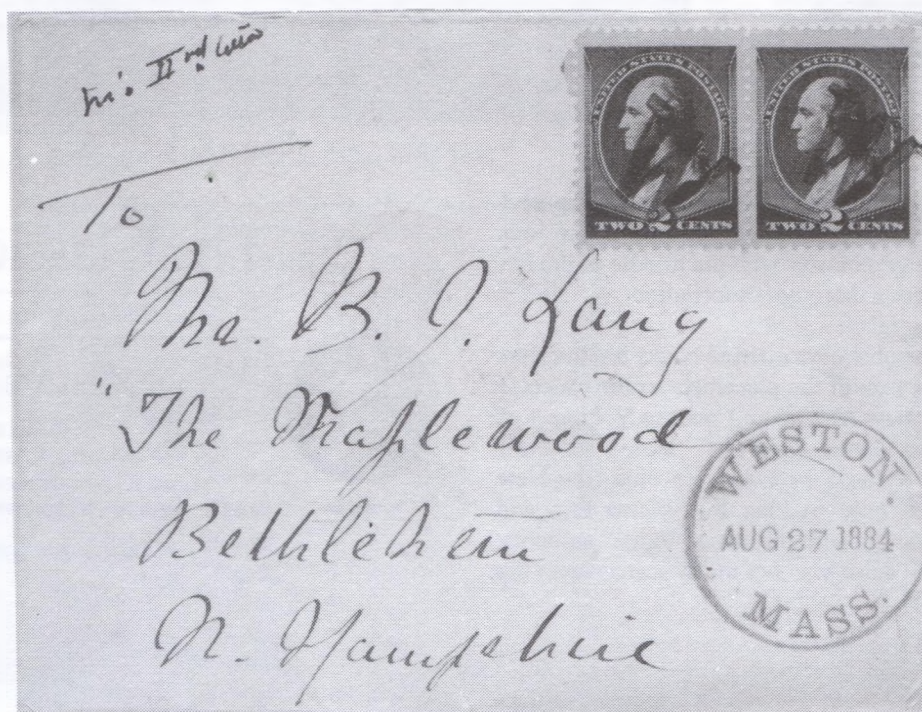


Figure 2