



Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 26, No. 5, Whole No. 246, February 2003

Quincy Cancellations With Letters

The November 2002 *NEWS* illustrated on page 57 a large hand-carved "Q" in ellipse cancel from Quincy, Illinois. This led to correspondence with club member John Bean who is a specialist in Quincy postal history. He has provided the *NEWS* with considerable information about "Q" cancels from Quincy which this article reports. We thank John for his support. All cancels discussed herewith are in black ink and were applied in duplex handstamps.

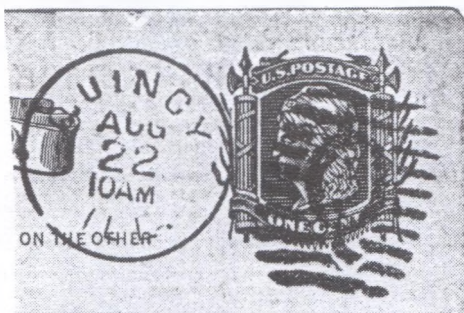
The "Q" cancel in Figure 1 was used in 1875. John has two examples, one dated July 17, 1875 and the other July 24, 1875.

Figure 1



As we know from the November *NEWS*, the hand-carved "Q" in ellipse was used on September 3. John reports two additional examples, one dated August 14 and the other August 22 (Figure 2). From a dateline on the reverse, the August 22 card can be dated 1881. The September 3 example shown in November was also determined to be 1881. Surely the August 14 example is 1881. It is interesting to note that this cancel rather quickly filled with ink. The August 14 strike shows quite thin bars. The bars in the August 22 strike are thicker and by September 3 the lower bars appear to almost join together.

Figure 2



The next two "Q" cancels were manufactured. John has 12 examples of the "Q" in ellipse shown in Figure 3 and they range in date from December 30, 1881 to September 19, 1882. The Figure 4 cancel was duplexed to a Wesson "time on bottom" CDS. John reports 79 examples ranging from April 9, 1883 to June 18, 1888. Bozarth lists this cancel as early as March 31, 1883.¹ John points out that two CDS dies

Figure 3



Figure 4



were used and we will call them Type 1 and Type 2 as illustrated in Figure 5. In Type 1, the second "L" in "ILL" is aligned between the "I" and the "N" of "QUINCY." John has noted this CDS used between April 9, 1883 and September 29, 1887. In Type 2, the second "L" of "ILL" is directly beneath the "I" in "QUINCY." John has found this CDS from November 22, 1887 to June 18, 1888.

Figure 5



Type 1



Type 2

One wonders if the "Q" cancel shown on page 57 of the November 2002 *NEWS* as Figure 3 is also from Quincy, Illinois. Does any reader know the origin of this cancel? If so, please notify the *NEWS*.

Figure 6



We'll close with an additional Quincy letter cancel but this time a bold and distinctive "S" in a circle (Figure 6). It is listed as Ls-44 in Cole and 6121 in Whitfield. John has it on six covers ranging from March 17, 1874 to June 27, 1874.■

¹ Bozarth, Theodore W. "Time On Bottom" Duplex Hand Cancellers, LaPosta Monograph Volume 5 (1990), p. 18.

Dear Reader,

Many thanks to all the members who have submitted their 2003 dues payments. Included as an insert to this issue is a reminder to those who have yet to re-up and we ask that you take a moment to respond now while it is fresh in your mind. We want to keep all USCC members and very much appreciate the support. Thanks!

The slate of officers presented on the ballot sent with the November *NEWS* has been elected and will be working to support your Club. As always, ideas, concerns, suggestions, etc. will be welcomed at any time and may be directed to any of the officers listed on the masthead. Let us hear from you.

As announced in the November *NEWS*, the 2003 annual USCC meeting and seminar will be held at the May 2-4 Philatelic Show, Northeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs, Holiday Inn, Boxborough, Mass., just outside Boston. We will staff a society table for all three days and hold our meeting/seminar at 1PM on Saturday, May 3 in the "Boxwood Room." Please drop me a note or email (rdcnrc@evenlink.com) if you would be available to help out at the table for an hour or two. The club is also sponsoring a one-frame cancellations exhibit competition and we urge members to consider submitting an entry even if not attending the show. One of the best ways to introduce and highlight a particular philatelic specialty is through the submission of exhibits. At the various shows where the club holds its annual meetings, a special effort is made to reach out to attendees to introduce the USCC and its area of study. Club member exhibits help greatly and offer a pleasant challenge to the exhibitor. So please join in if feasible this year. The exhibits chairman for the Boxborough show is Guy Dillaway and readers can get an exhibit prospectus from him by mail or email: Box 181, Weston, MA 02493 or PHBRIT@ATTBI.com. His telephone number (evenings) is 781-899-1181. I suggest prompt contact with Guy.

Hope you find articles of interest in this issue.

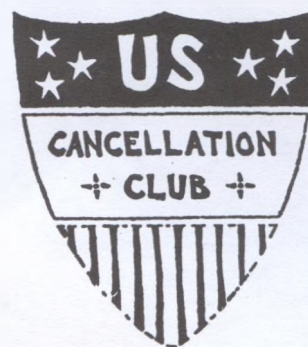
Roger Curran

OHIO Cancel

The November 2002 *NEWS* illustrated on page 57 a killer containing a negative hand-carved "OHIO" and we asked if readers could report any other hand-carved killers spelling out an entire state name. Wendell Triplett submits the Sc. 220 stamp shown in Figure 1 bearing a positive "OHIO" in what seems to be a triangle. The letters appear primitive enough to indicate that it was a hand-carved killer that applied them. Who can identify the post office of origin for this unusual item?■



Figure 1



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: \$16.00 per year. Address inquires to: Roger Rhoads at the address below.

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.

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

U.S.C.C. Officers

Roger D. Curran, 20 University Ave., Lewisburg, PA 17837.....President

Thomas O. Taylor, 19 Ingleton Circle, Kennett Square, PA 19348.....1st Vice President

Abe Boyarsky, PO Box 570, La Mirada, CA 90637-0570.....2nd Vice President

Roger R. Rhoads, 3 Ruthana Way, Hockessin, DE 19707.....Secretary/Treasurer

Arthur E. Beane, Jr., 290 Kings Town Way, #227, Duxbury, MA 02332.....Governor at Large

Advertising Rates

Full Page.....	\$60.00
Half Page.....	30.00
Quarter Page.....	15.00
Column Inch.....	4.00

(Twice these rates for nonmembers)

U.S.C.C. Internet Address

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

Unusual Baltimore Duplex

by Roger D. Curran

For an apparently brief period in 1878, the Baltimore, Maryland post office used what was, for a big city post office, an unusual duplexed postmark and cancellation marking. A tracing by John Donnes of this marking from a cover in his collection is shown as Figure 1. Ardy Callender has a

Figure 1



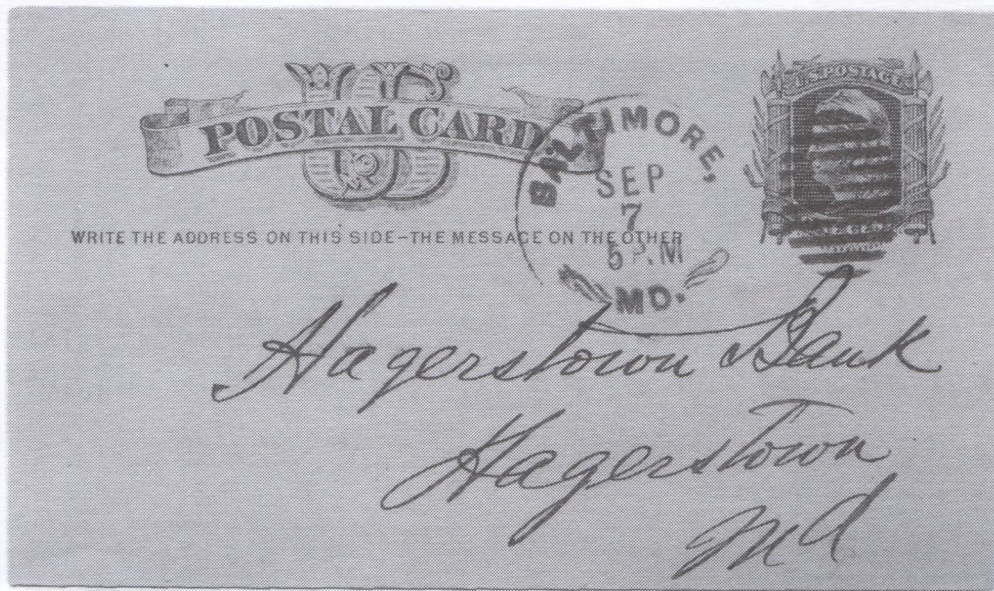
September 6 example and Van Koppersmith a September 4 and a September 7. The September 4 usage can be dated 1878. Baltimore postal history specialist Patricia Walker owns two examples. One is dated September 7 and the other September 8. The September 7 example is illustrated as Figure 2. On the reverse of this card is a bank statement dated "Sept 7th 1878." Magenta ink was used for each of the above strikes.

These markings are similar in appearance to markings used by small town post offices that acquired their handstamps on the open market. Given the overall appearance of the CDS, the time period involved, and the use of a colored ink as opposed to black printer's ink, I think we can assume this marking to be the product of a rubber-faced handstamp.

What we have here presumably is a brief trial of one or more inexpensive rubber handstamps in Baltimore which led to a judgment that they were not as good as brass or steel-faced handstamps. Probably they didn't hold up under heavy usage and perhaps the markings didn't consistently come out as clearly and completely as desired. Maybe also the need to use a colored ink was considered undesirable.

Comments and additional information will be welcomed.■

Figure 2



Could it be?

by Roger D. Curran

The November 2002 *NEWS* illustrated on page 58 a cover from Wooster, Ohio with a negative "W" and "O" in the cancel. (A tracing of that cancel was included.) To the right of the "W" there was a negative curved or indented section. I didn't pay much attention to it until examining another tracing of this cancel that appears in the Whitfield compilation as #6311 (Figure 1). Solid areas of a cancel, of course, often

Figure 1



don't show in particular strikes due to incomplete inking, application of uneven pressure of the handstamp to the cover, etc. However, your editor was struck by the same very clear presence of the curved or indented section in the Whitfield tracing. (Please note that the tracings are different enough in other respects to indicate that they are tracings of different strikes rather than two tracings from the same cover.) Looking over the Whitfield tracing led to the conclusion that the curved section was due to more than uneven inking or striking. I believe it plausible to suggest that this was an intentional mark and represents a comma as in "Wooster, Ohio." What a remarkable cancel, if true! Comment is invited.■

The Classic Cancel

Quality 19th Century U.S. Stamps, Cancellations and Postal History

John Valenti

P. O. Box 211

Wheeling, IL 60090-0211

E-mail ✉ jvalenti@theclassiccancel.com

Visit my Web Site at <http://www.theclassiccancel.com>

Member: APS, USPCS, USCC



"running man"

Late "Patent" Cancel

"Patent" cancels can be defined as those intended to cut or tear the paper fibers of adhesive stamps while applying the canceling ink. Some of the handstamps used for such cancels were patented but many undoubtedly were not. Regardless of whether the handstamp was patented, cancels are referred to, philatelically speaking, as "patent" cancels if they meet the above or similar definition. It probably goes without saying that determining whether a cancel was *intended* to cut or tear stamps, when that didn't actually occur, can be a difficult proposition and easily lead to differing points of view. For example, collectors will sometimes encounter cancels where a portion of the design has dented a stamp but not actually broken the paper. Can we generally assume indentations were intended to break the paper?

The first major study of patent cancels was conducted by Fred R. Schmalzriedt and reported in the 1933.¹ And as far as your editor knows, this study remains today – 70 years later – the most complete and authoritative report on the subject. Schmalzriedt lists patent cancels on 1847 issue through 1887 issue stamps and we will focus here on the late use end of the continuum. He reports two cancels on 1887 issue stamps and provides the illustrations shown here as Figures 1 and 2. The



Figure 1



Figure 2



origin of Figure 1 was unknown with but a single example noted. Ten examples of the Lebanon, Pennsylvania cancel were noted on Sc. 213, one on Sc. 212 and eight on what Schmalzriedt referred to as "2c Envelope #2510" which your editor assumes is a 2¢ brown PSE of the U67 design. This cancel was also reported by Schmalzriedt as "Not attached"

(meaning not duplexed to the postmark) on two copies of "1882, 1¢" which is assumed to refer to the one cent re-engraved (Sc. 206). Figure 3 is thought by your editor to be a very accurate tracing of a full strike of the Lebanon cancel. The person who did it is unknown.

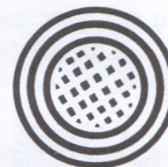


Figure 3

This cancel was noted by Schmalzriedt as common on Sc. 210, with one example found on Sc. 211. Willard illustrated the cancel and said this about it:²

"... another commercially prepared killer, and so far as we know was used at only one town, Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Lebanon must have had considerable mail as it occurs with great frequency in unpicked lots from all parts of the country."

He did not refer to it as a patent cancel.

Cole lists the Lebanon cancel as a patent cancel and reports a March 23, 1888³ date of use which raises the interesting question of how late, indeed, was it used. Let's throw down a marker and see how long it holds. Through the courtesy of Vic Reichenbach we illustrate in Figure 4 a cover postmarked June 19 bearing the cancel in question. Docketing on the front reads "Recd June 20/89." Readers are encouraged to report later uses.

Figure 5 illustrates a second Lebanon cover, also in the collection of Mr. Reichenbach, with a somewhat similar cancel on a Sc. 207. The postmark is November 3 but the cover cannot be year dated. It is, of course, very likely to be 1881 or 1882. Rather than a group of dots in the center, there

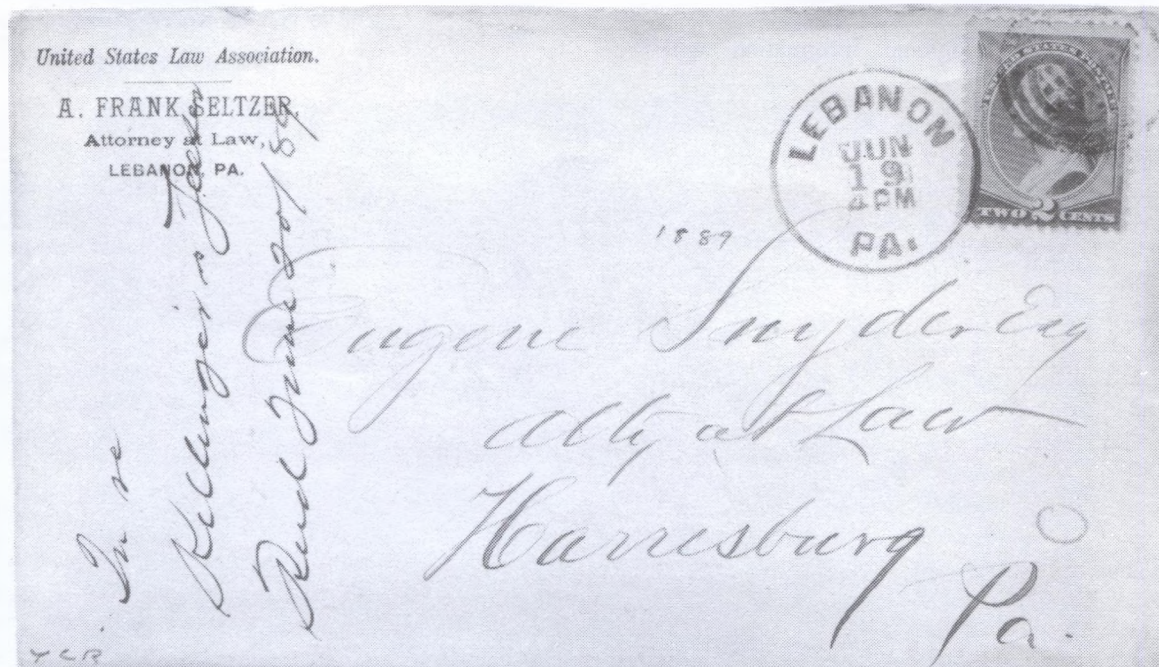
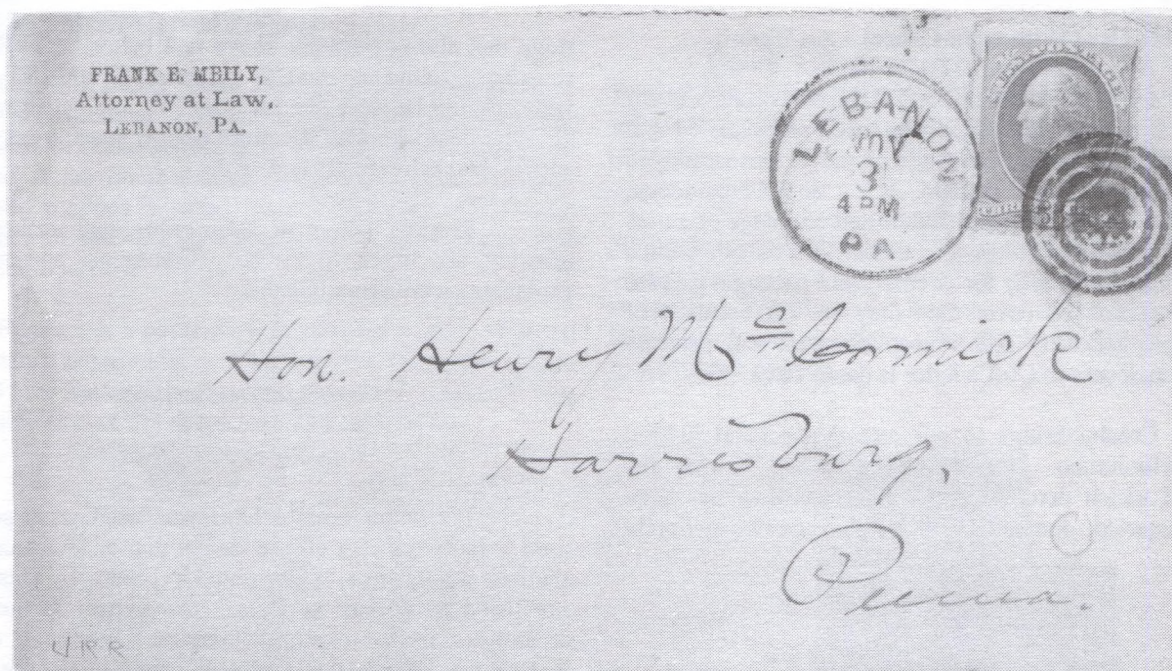


Figure 4

Figure 5



is what appears to be a solid core.■

¹ Norona, Delf (editor) *Cyclopedia of United States Postmarks and Postal History*, Quarterman Publications, Inc. (reprint 1975), pp. 142-69.

² Willard, Edward L. *The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887*, H.L. Lindquist (1970), p. 93.

³ Cole, James M. *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era, 1870-1894*, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society (1995), p. 203.

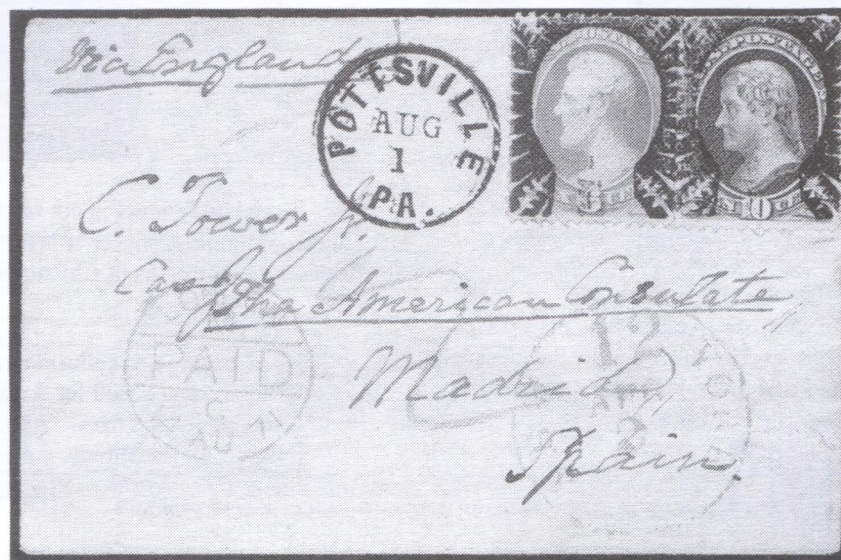
Noteworthy to Say the Least

The Fall 2000 *NEWS* carried an article about the cancels of Mittineague, Massachusetts. It began with a cover bearing a “seeing eye” cancel that was opined by your editor to be “. . . one of the great U.S. fancy cancellations . . .” Illustrated here as Figure 1 is a cover where the term “great” is thought to be equally applicable. Several things combine to make this cover wonderful. First is the cancel’s design

concept to surround but not intrude upon the vignette profile, which is possibly unique. Second is the very careful application of the cancels to achieve the design objective. Third is the overall attractiveness of the cover – two full strikes of the cancel in an intense black, the bright red Sc. 148 complemented by the brown Sc. 150, and the red New York and London markings. When the cover was offered by the Richard Wolffers auction house in October 1993, the lot description stated, in part: “. . . an exceedingly rare and fabulous showpiece, one of the most important Banknote covers known . . .” The Figure 1 image is a reproduction of the lot illustration.

This cancel has been described variously as a “keyhole,” “horseshoe,” and “picture frame.” What brought it to mind recently was lot 1006 in the Schuyler Rumsey auction of December 2002, an off-cover Sc. 148 bearing this distinctive cancel, similarly struck. Your editor has very occasionally noted off-cover examples coming onto the market but no other covers. Readers who can report additional covers or information about this cancel are encouraged to do so.■

Figure 1



Double Oval With Grid Cancel – An Update

The *NEWS* received reports from two readers about the distinctive double oval cancel discussed on pages 64 and 65 in the November issue. This style of cancel was employed by Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Buffalo, N.Y., and Chattanooga, Tenn., at least. Cliff Woodward submitted an image of a nice cover in his collection bearing the Buffalo cancel. Such cancels were used primarily for circulars and packages and are *much less* common on cover than they are off because, of course, people generally didn't keep circulars and package covers. An enclosure to Cliff's letter is dated 1889.

Joe Crosby brings to our attention several helpful pieces of information. He submits a Sc.230 bearing the Buffalo oval which demonstrates a later use than has been previously reported. Joe notes that Buffalo used two distinctly



different sizes of the double oval with grid, both of which are visible in Figure 4 of page 65 of the November *NEWS*. The two left stamps have "fat" bars with an overall cancel diameter of 25mm whereas the two right stamps have "narrow" bars with an overall cancel diameter of 22 mm. Joe also points out that the illustration of the Buffalo double oval in Cole shows two split bars between the oval rings rather than three as in the four stamps illustrated in Figure 4. He wonders if this represents a third version of this cancel. Can readers report examples of the Buffalo cancel with only two split bars?■

AYEIR, MASS.

Figure 1 illustrates a cancel in the collection of Joe Crosby that appears to be from Ayeir, Massachusetts. Only problem is that there was no such post office. However, an Ayer post office at the time was listed in Massachusetts.

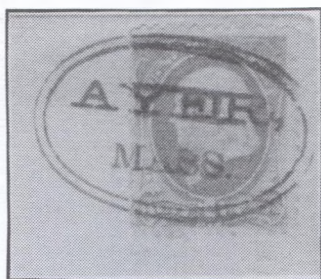


Figure 1

We can speculate that the shape of the "E" is in the form shown in Figure 2 and the rubber-faced handstamp was pressed down hard enough to stretch the lines in the design slightly. This pressure would also have been the cause of the



Figure 2

ridge that shows partially above and below "AYER," which contribute to the apparent "I" between "E" and "R." Note the wide spacing between the "A" and "Y" and between "Y" and "E" that contrasts with the more narrow spacing between "E" and "I" and between "I" and "R."

Readers who can show additional strikes of this marking are urged to do so. Comments and alternative explanations are also invited.■

Origin Determined

by Roger D. Curran

For some years I have wondered what post office used a quite unusual ellipse cancel that is found on Sc. 210 stamps. An example is illustrated in Figure 1. This cancel is not listed in Willard or Cole. The answer to the question recently came from the backstamp on a cover that originated in Boston. This backstamp is illustrated in Figure 2. Does any reader have the Hyde Park, Massachusetts cancel on a cover canceling a Sc. 210 or other stamp?



Figure 1

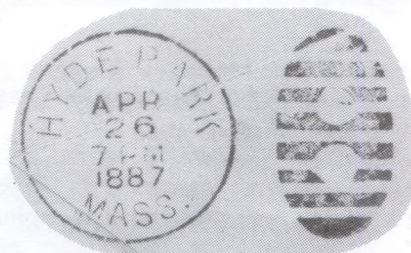


Figure 2



Figure 3

The above cancel is not unique from the standpoint of an ellipse containing one or more negative circles. Figure 3 illustrates an example from Chicago.■

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

Hand-Carved Ellipses – Again

Ellipse cancels with horizontal or vertical bars, usually with a number or letter in the center and normally made of steel or brass, are the most commonly seen cancels in the 1880s. A fair number of small-town post offices created hand-carved versions in wood. In the May 2001 and August 2002 issues of the *NEWS* we featured such examples and continue to do so here.

Figure 1 is a cover from South Butler, N.Y. with the Sc. 184 stamp canceled by an ellipse with a "B" in the center. (Is the "B" for Butler or perhaps the postmaster's name?) The small double circle CDS dated June 23 is in blue ink.

Figure 2 is postmarked December 30, 1887 from Wabash, Indiana with a cancel produced by a much more primitive carving. This ellipse apparently has a "1" in the center.

Figure 3 is postmarked August 22, 1887 from Nantucket, Massachusetts. Whether the center contains what is supposed to be a very large "1," or just a canceling bar, is unknown. We illustrated this cancel in the May 2001 issue but didn't know its origin. Our thanks to Arthur Beane who supplied the cover.■

Figure 1

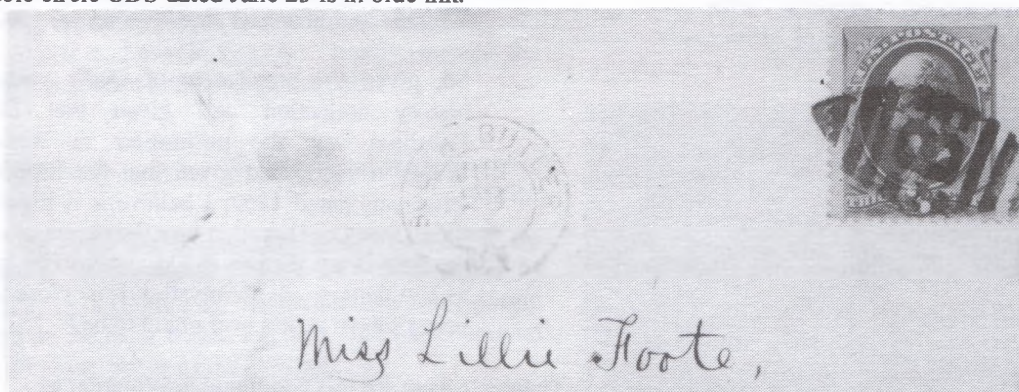


Figure 2

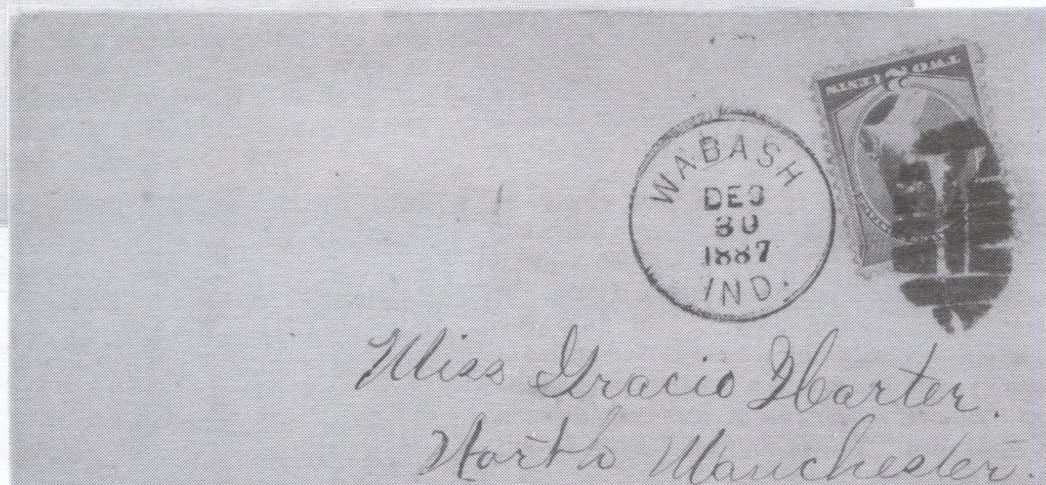
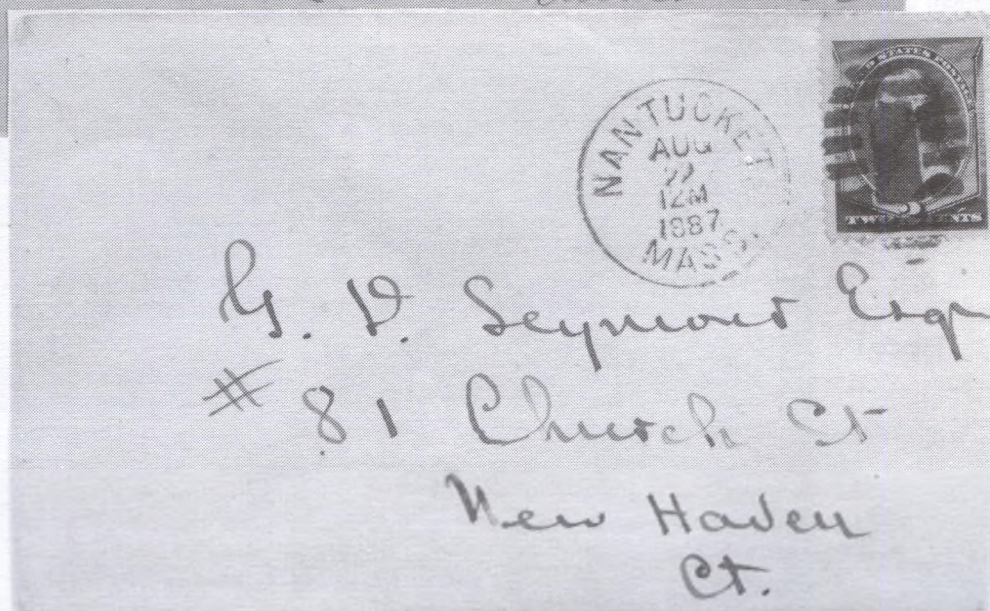


Figure 3



1852 Letter from Handstamp Supplier -An Update

The May 2002 *NEWS* reproduced, through the courtesy of Tom Keesling, the text of an interesting 1852 advertising letter from Rippon & Co. of New York City, a supplier of post office handstamps. Tom didn't know the addressee but speculated that it was a postmaster located in east central Indiana or west central Ohio.

We have now heard further from Tom and his letter is herewith quoted in pertinent part:

"... I think I've solved a mystery—with some help from a couple of postal history collectors ...

If you'll recall, the 1852 Rippon letter ... published in May (page 28) was a mystery as far as the addressee was concerned. I found it in an 1850 envelope where it clearly didn't belong. That envelope and a few others in Dad's small collection were addressed to Mr./Dr./Capt. R. W. Hamilton. Robert Hamilton was a physician who practiced in Hillsborough and White Water in Wayne County Indiana before moving his

practice a few miles north to Lynn in Randolph County in the 1850s.

A postal history collector, whose name I have regrettably misplaced, recently pointed out that one of the folded stampless letters addressed to Dr. Hamilton at White Water had "PM" below his name. I brought this information to the attention of Roy Weber, who now owns the Rippon letter. Roy found that according to ... *the 1851 Table of Post Offices in the United States* Robert W. Hamilton was the PM from White Water, Wayne Co, Indiana."

So, given the small size of Dad's postal history collection and given that Dr. Hamilton was the postmaster in White Water in 1851, and given that the Rippon letter was dated 1852, I believe it is highly likely that Dr. Hamilton was the recipient of the letter from Rippon & Co. At least as far as I'm concerned, the mystery is as close to being solved as it's ever going to be."

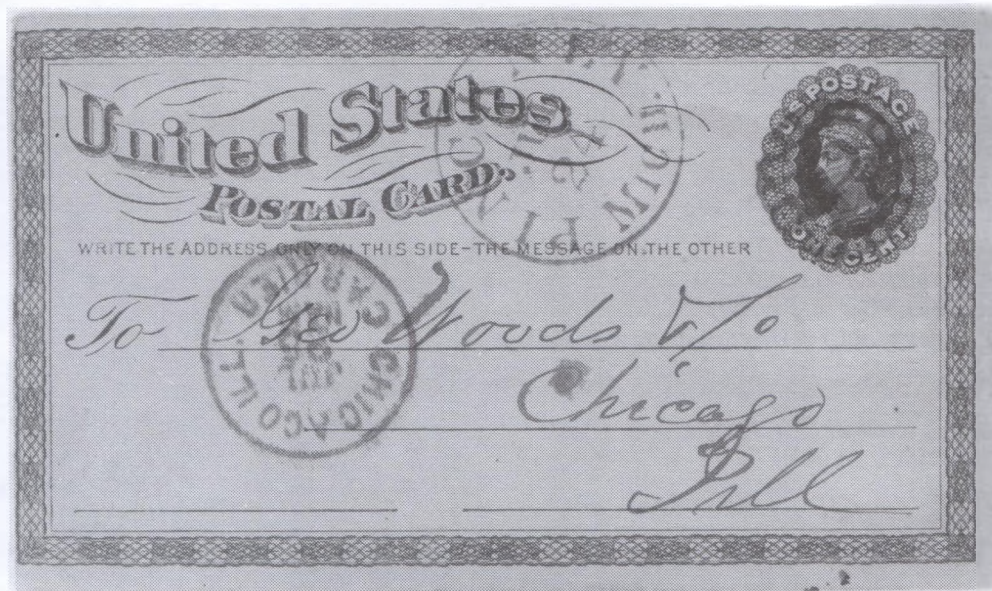
Thanks to Tom for this additional information.■

Pinckney, Michigan

We have taken up the subject of letter cancels in several issues of the *NEWS*, usually as they involve letters not commonly encountered. Figure 1, shown through the courtesy of Arthur Beane, illustrates a reasonably common letter, but what an unusual and pleasing design! The CDS and unduplexed killer as well as the Chicago carrier marking are in blue. Regrettably, even though it is a beautiful strike of the killer, it doesn't show up well against the dark background in the halftone illustration. Thanks to John Donnes for his excellent tracings.■



Figure 1



Philadelphia Registered Markings, 1876-1878

by Norman Shachat

The fancy purple datestamp struck by the Philadelphia Post Office from approximately mid-1877 to mid-1878 on the back of registered letters (November 2002 *NEWS*, p. 55) is not the only interesting postmark on such covers. On the front, one normally finds a 27-mm. circular registered postmark in black with a significant dent in the circle.

The earliest example that I have with this dented marking is dated May 27, 1876, well before Philadelphia began using the fancy purple backstamp. The double rate registered letter is shown in Figure 1. It only contains the following manuscript notations on the back:

"From John F. School
3011 Spring Garden St. and "Enclosed letter receipt May 30 / 76
West Phil^a P^a" WWD."

The other three examples in my collection are dated Oct. 8, 1877 (Figure 2), Oct. 24, 1877 (Figure 3) and April 5, 1878 (Figure 4). All contain the fancy purple datestamp on the back, across the flap. The backstamp on the Oct. 24 cover is illustrated in Figure 3a.

Because the fancy purple backstamp was used for only about a one year period, whenever I see an 1870's vintage Philadelphia registered cover with the dented registered marking, I instinctively turn it over hoping to find the fancy marking. ■



Figure 1

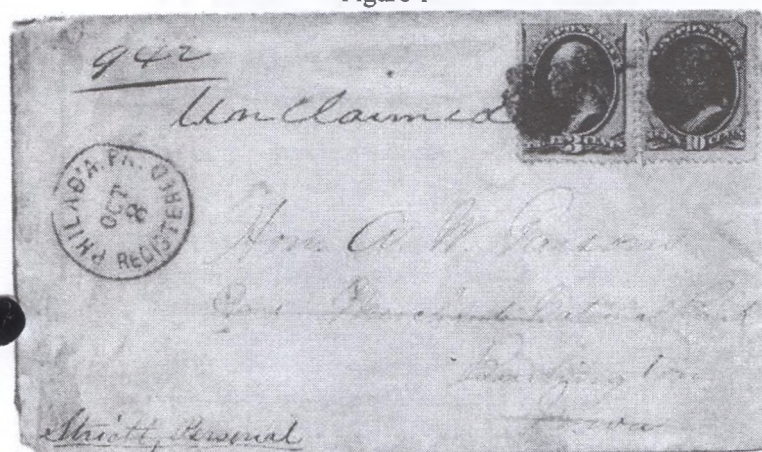


Figure 2

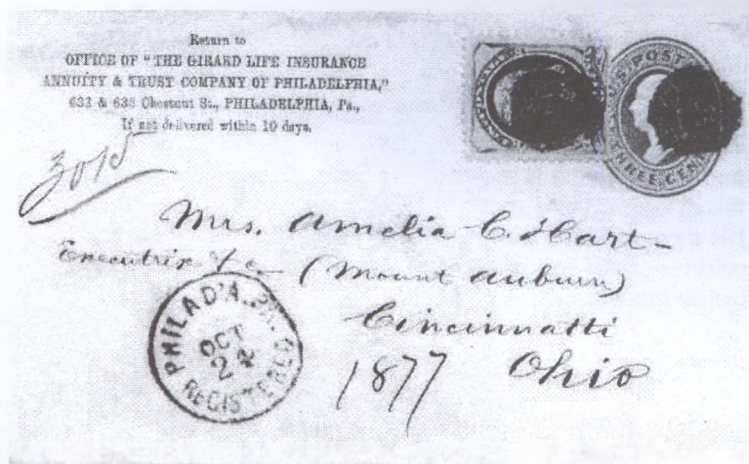
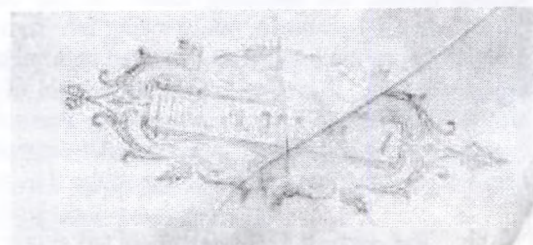


Figure 3



Figure 4

Figure 3a



NEW BOOK AVAILABLE

"Cancellations Found on 19th
Century U.S. Stamps"

by Kenneth A. Whitfield

6,000+ tracings

\$40 postpaid
(payable to USCC)

Order from: USCC, 20 University Ave.
Lewisburg, PA 17837

See announcement on page 54
of November 2002 *NEWS*

British Mechanical Handstamp

According to official records, a British mechanical handstamp was sent in March 1874 to the Post Office Department in Washington, D.C. for testing. A proof impression from it is shown as Figure 1. There is no evidence this device was ever used in the Washington, D.C. post office. But there are three markings from other U.S. post offices that machine cancel specialists think may be impressions from this British stamper.



Figure 1

Before we delve into these markings, however, a few words should be said about the two British mechanical handstamps of the day. The first was introduced in March 1858 and the second in November 1866. They are not considered to be machines because they had no feed mechanism. What they did have was a self-inking apparatus wherein ink rollers swept across the canceling dies as they were raised from the letters being marked. The earliest version was a table-mounted model. It was used in a number of British post offices and has been referred to as a "parallel motion" device. The second version, and this is the stamper assumed to have been sent to Washington, D.C. in 1874, was simpler and made to be attached to the wall or other vertical surface behind the stamping table. It has been termed a "pivot" device because it would swing out from the wall and move down to the letter being marked and back up. All this movement was, of course, under the control of the stamping clerk. Both versions were developed by Pearson Hill, son of Rowland Hill who in 1840 spearheaded the introduction of the Penny Black and Two-penny Blue postage stamps.

The earliest U.S. cancel to fall under suspicion of being a product of a "pivot" stamper is shown in Figure 2. Bob Payne has recorded usages from September 10, 1874 through November 9, 1874. The killer is quite similar to a design used in British killers, albeit a design used in the earlier "parallel motion" stamper. (See Figure 3.) Does this mean that the

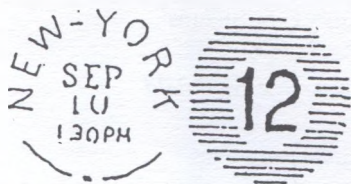


Figure 2



Figure 3

New York marking was likely produced by a "parallel motion" stamper? After all, one of those devices was sent to Washington for testing in 1861. Conceivable but not at all probable. The "pivot" stamper had replaced the "parallel motion" stamper in British post offices and logically would have been the stamper of interest to U.S. postal officials in 1874. Also, the fact that uses of the New York "12" occurred only six months after receipt in the U.S. strongly implies the testing of a just-received model, rather than one on hand for



Figure 4

13 years. Figure 4, on piece, is a variation of the Figure 2 duplex in that the "12" in grid is replaced by a circle of wedges. This is the only reported example. An 1876 U.S. cover to France bears a strike in red ink of the New York CDS (without an accompanying cancel) as a transit marking. (See Winter 1997 NEWS.)

The other two likely candidates are shown in Figure 5. The earliest date recorded by Bob Payne for the Chelsea



Figure 5

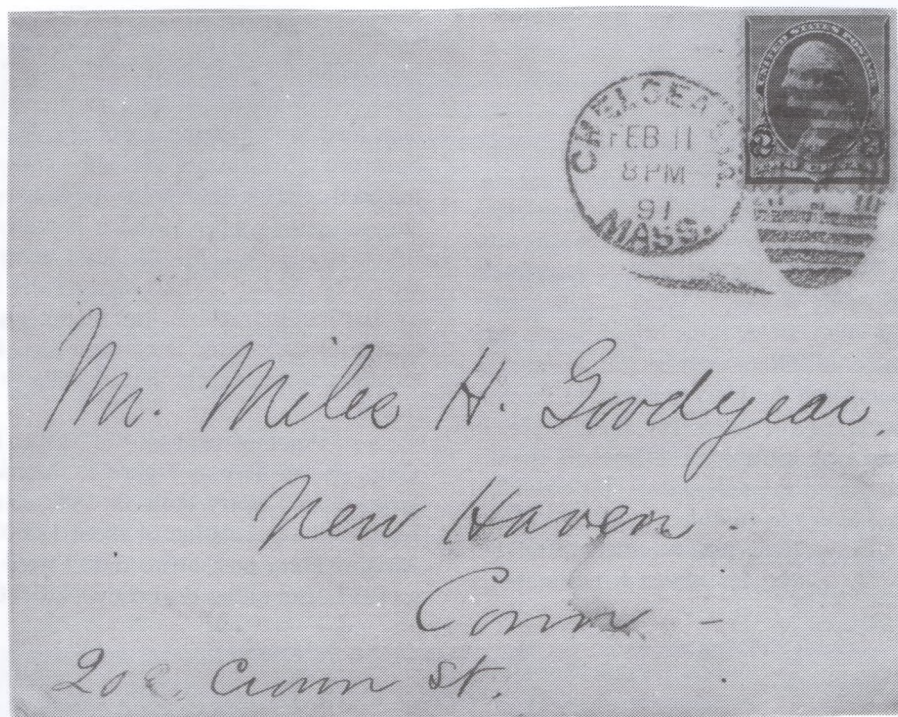
Station "7" is October 19, 1881. Figure 6 illustrates a cover bearing the latest date so far recorded, February 11, 1891. The Boston "C" is scarce, used to a limited extent in 1880 and 1881. The reason the Chelsea Station and Boston cancels were identified was because the vertical sidebars to the left and right of the "7" and "C" are of British – and not U.S. – style.

Wilbur Davis, co-author of *Boston Postmarks to 1890*, provided the Figure 5 tracings in an October 1952 *U.S. Cancellation Club Quarterly* article. He made some interesting remarks about the two cancels that are worth repeating here:

"The cancellation with the figure 7 is common. It is from the city of Chelsea, Mass. I have it on all the issues beginning with 1875 and running into 1890. The 7 denotes the station number. Chelsea is a station of the Boston Postal District, although it is not, nor never was, a part of the City of Boston. One noticeable feature is that the cancellation with its town mark is generally sharp and clear and well placed on the cover. It is very attractive.

The cancellation with the letter C is uncommon. I have been able to find, over a period of years, but six copies, including two on cover. They are all on the 2¢ vermilion soft paper issue of 1879. Apparently this cancellation was used only for local mail 2¢ rate. It was used only at the Boston main post office."

Figure 6



Perhaps the reference to "1875" above is a typographical error with "1879" intended.

Thanks are extended to Bob Payne for his very helpful review of this article while in draft. Reader comments and additional information will be welcomed.■

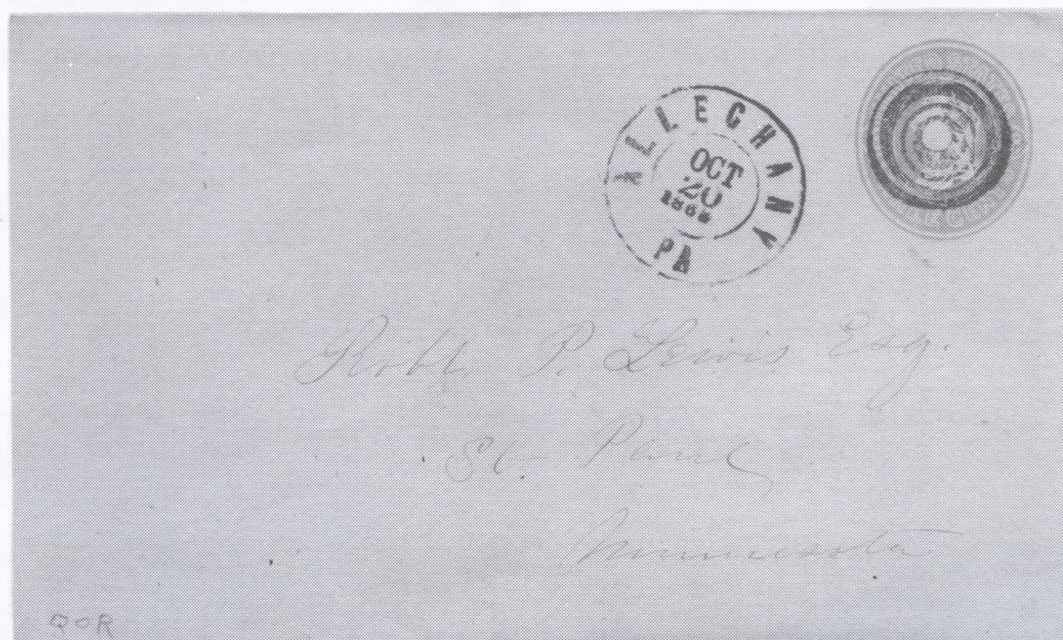


More on "Psychedelic" Cancel

In the May and August 2002 issues of the *NEWS* we discussed an unusual concentric circles cancel. It has a bit of a psychedelic look due to how the individual rings vary in width as they go around. At the outset we didn't know the origin but, after the May issue appeared, Dick Nunge and Allan Schefer reported covers bearing this cancel in blue ink from Meridian, N.Y. Allan's example can be year dated as 1862 based on an enclosure. Dick stated that he had seen this

cancel in black from Meridian and believed it was also used by other post offices. Through the courtesy of Vic Reichenbach we are now able to show in Figure 1 a cover bearing the cancel in black ink from Allegheny, Pennsylvania. Docketing on the back states "Rec'd Oct. 25th 63." Who can report uses from other post offices?■

Figure 1



Odd "11" Killers

by Roger D. Curran

Figure 1 illustrates a card in the collection of John Donnes postmarked at Liberty Falls, N.Y. with a date of November 17, 1887. I'll describe the ink as a lightish black with a slightly brown cast touched by a suggestion of magenta. (Everyone have a clear picture of that?!?) John's description of "light violet" is probably better. What's particularly interesting is the "11" in four circles killer which looks very much like the "11" in a set of killers used by Philadelphia in 1879-1880. John has compared the Liberty Falls "11" to that of Philadelphia and reports it to be "... very close in size to the Philadelphia '11' four ring killer with differences mainly in the spacing and thickness of the numerals." He consulted *Post Offices in the United States in 1890*, copyrighted 1973 by John D. Bennett, and Liberty Falls was reported to have a population of 100. Hardly a need for eleven handstamps in that post office.

It appears that the Philadelphia "11" simply provided inspiration for the Liberty Falls "11." However, it looks to have been made not of steel, as would be needed for the heavy workload in Philadelphia, but of rubber. The CDS appears to bow out slightly on the left, implying a slightly pliable material. The ink color possessing slight coloration is suggestive of rubber. And it is reasonable that a small post office would purchase the least expensive handstamp which would be rubber. The Liberty Falls marker was probably a duplex handstamp but that is not altogether clear. Further examples are needed to confirm this. Readers are encouraged to report any examples in their collections.

Another unusual "11" killer is from Martin's Ferry, Ohio, shown here as Figure 2. Martin's Ferry was probably larger than Liberty Falls in 1887 since by the late 1960s it registered a population of about 12,000. Surely, however, the Martins Ferry post office didn't need eleven stamping clerks in 1887. But rather than copy a killer that was used to identify

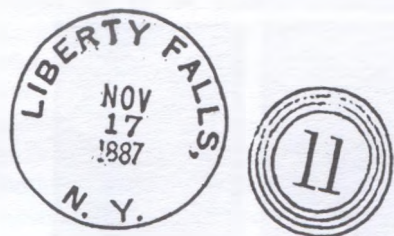


Figure 1

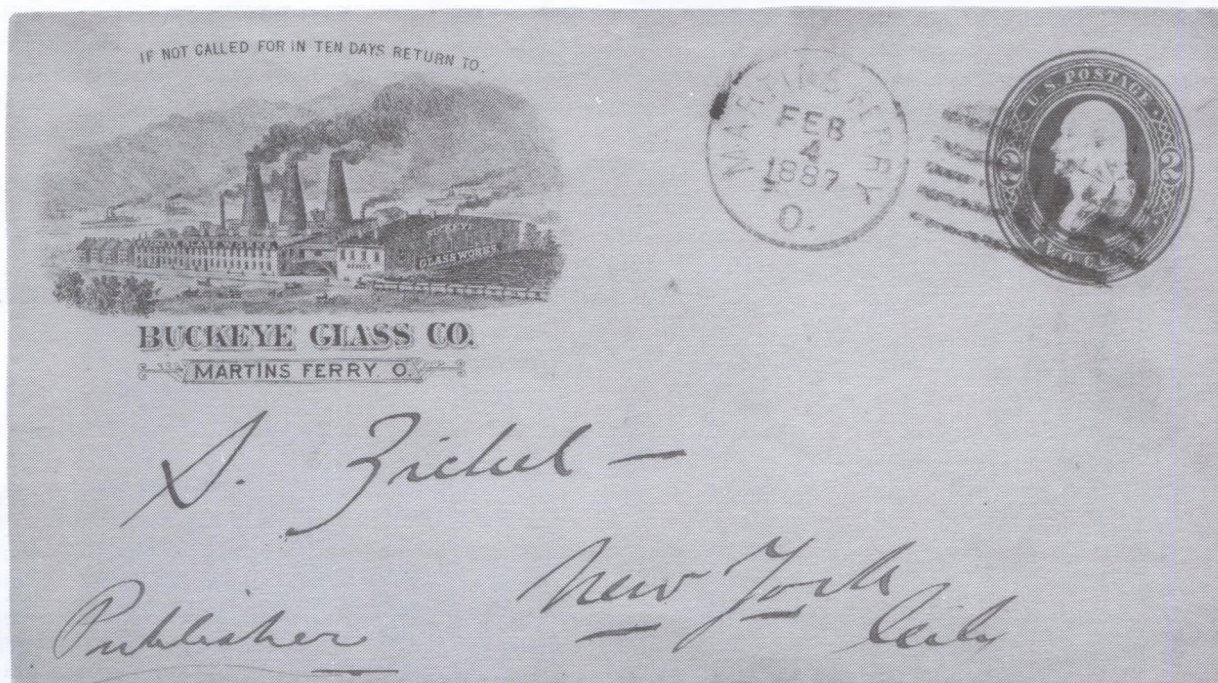
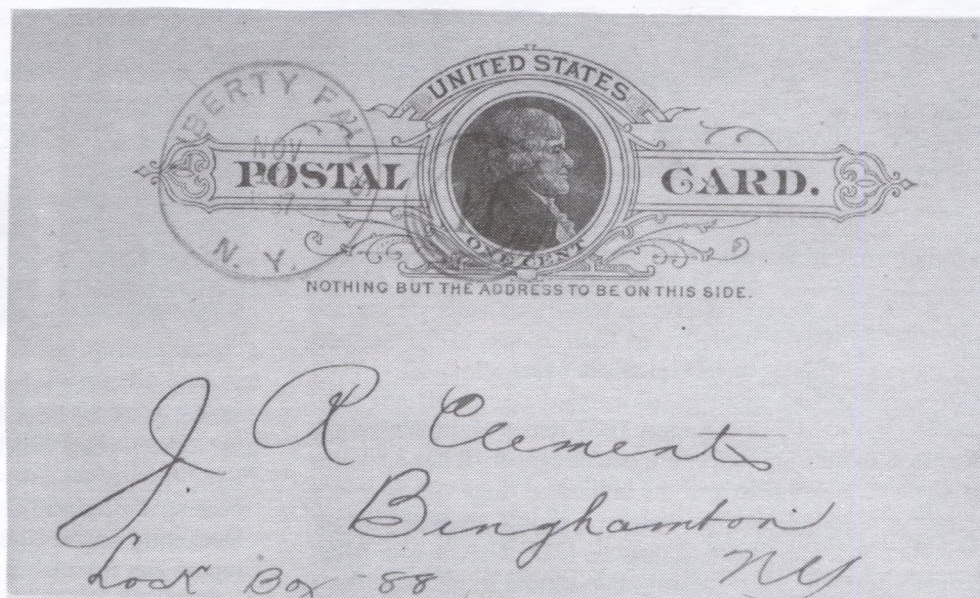
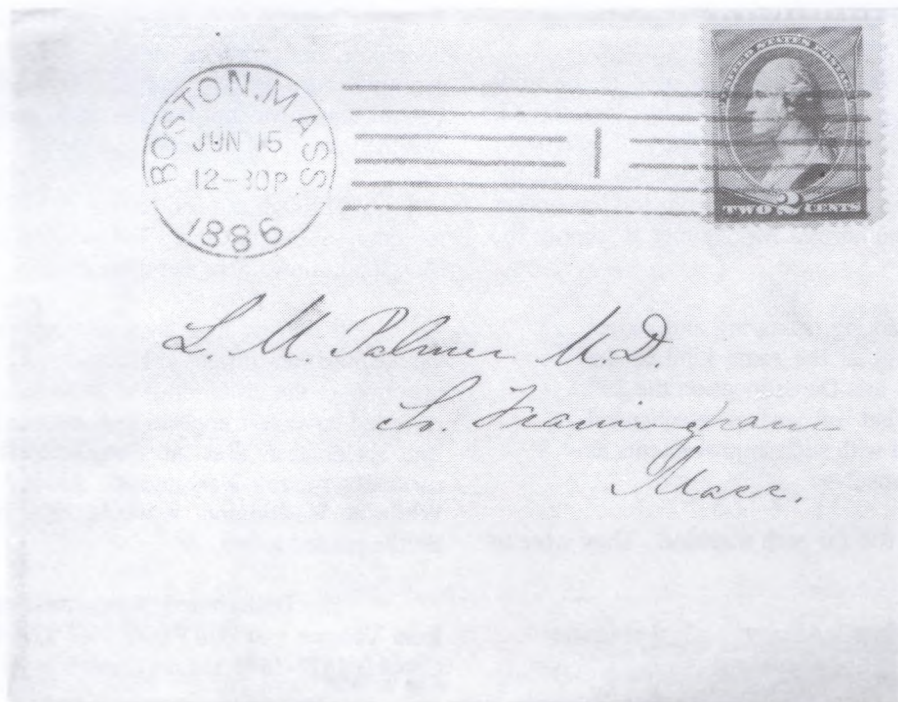


Figure 2

Figure 3



a particular stamping clerk, in this case we likely have a takeoff on a machine cancel. Such cancels are often referred to as "pseudo-machine" cancels of which there are a considerable number. By 1887, canceling machines produced by the American Postal Machines Co. had been processing mail routinely in the Boston post office for two years and in 1886 introduced cancel dies with the machine number placed within the killer bars. Numbers "1" through "7" were used in 1886 and an example of a "1" is shown in Figure 3.

Comments and additional information will be welcomed.■

Private Enterprise at Work

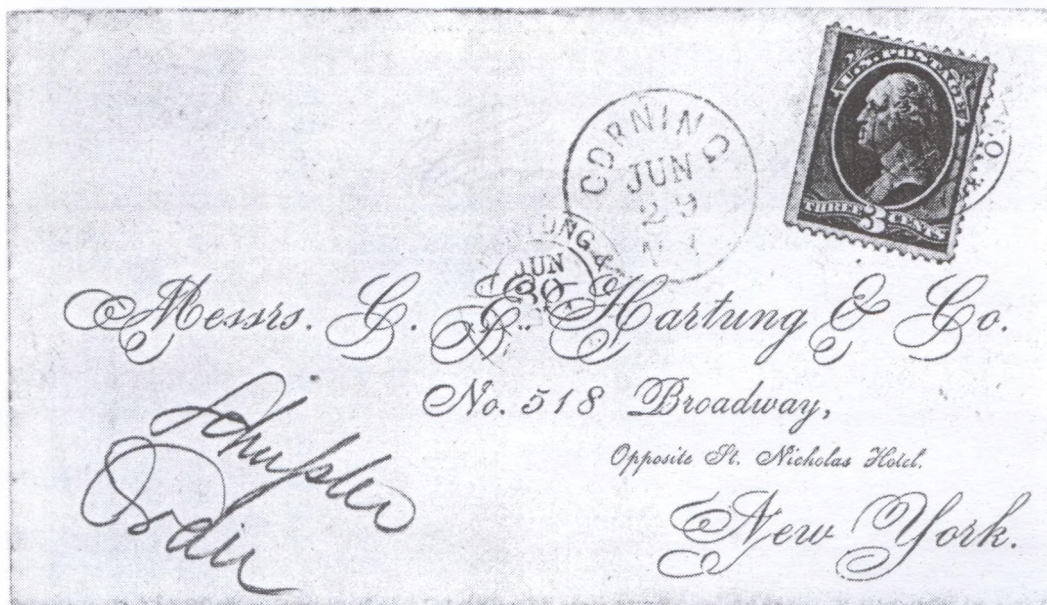
A business correspondence that has provided covers enhancing many 19th century postal history collections is that

of Messrs. C.E. Hartung & Co., located in New York City. A fortuitous aspect of this company's business practice was the use of a dated company handstamp on the front of incoming covers. These receipt markings have enabled the year dating of numerous covers.

Figure 1 is a cover originating in Corning, N.Y. and addressed to Hartung. A partial strike of the company handstamp can be seen a little below and to the left of the Corning CDS. There is, however, a second strike of this handstamp that makes the cover unusual. The 3¢ green stamp, for whatever reason, escaped cancellation in the Corning post office and the Hartung clerk, noting the omission, applied a cancellation with his handstamp.

We can tell from the company handstamp that this June 29 cover was posted in 1874.

Figure 1



A Newly Reported Palmer and Clark Cancellation

There is a rare cancellation noted used in the mid-1870s attributed to a machine developed by Timothy G. Palmer of Schultzs, N.Y. and Dr. Henry F. Clark of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. A March 30, 1876 letter on file at the Post Office Library in Washington, D.C. from the Postmaster General to Mr. Palmer authorizes Mr. Palmer to supply the Post Office Department:

"... ten postmarking, stamping and cancel printing machines of the same kind as the one exhibited in this Department on the 29th (March) inst., but of perfect mechanical construction and with such improvements as may suggest themselves..."

Palmer was to be paid \$100 for each machine. They were to be shipped as follows:

New York	2 machines	Albany	1 machine
Boston	2 "	Cleveland	1 "
Philadelphia	2 "	Washington	1 "

Markings have only been reported from Washington

(11/22/76-1/2/77), Albany (1/10/77-1/17/77) and Poughkeepsie (9/30/76, 1/30/77-3/27/77). A Washington example is shown as Figure 1. It is interesting to note that Poughkeepsie was not designated to receive a machine but it was the town of Mr. Clark's residence.

Through the courtesy of Patricia Walker we are able to report a Palmer and Clark cancellation from Baltimore, Maryland, shown here as Figure 2.

It is clear from available covers that the Palmer and Clark machine never did realize the expectations of its inventors or the PMG. Indeed, in looking over the dates of the recorded covers, it appears that one machine may have had a very brief test first in Poughkeepsie and then shipped successively to Washington, Albany and Poughkeepsie. While at Washington, it would have been taken to nearby Baltimore and tested.

The background information for this article comes from Volume 1 of Bob Payne's *An Exhibit of Classic Machine Cancellations 1871-1891* and we thank him for permission to use it.

Comments and additional information will be welcomed. ■

Figure 1

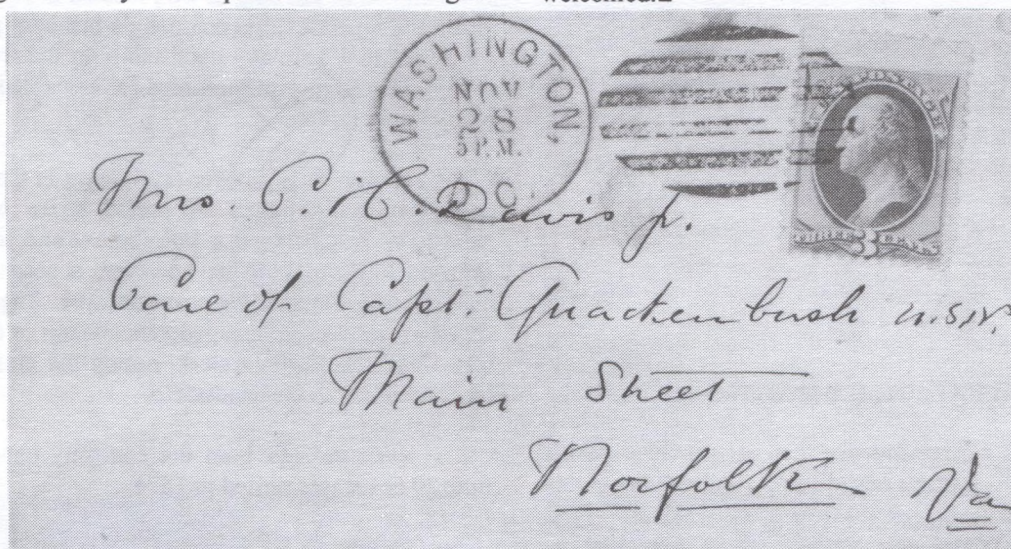


Figure 2

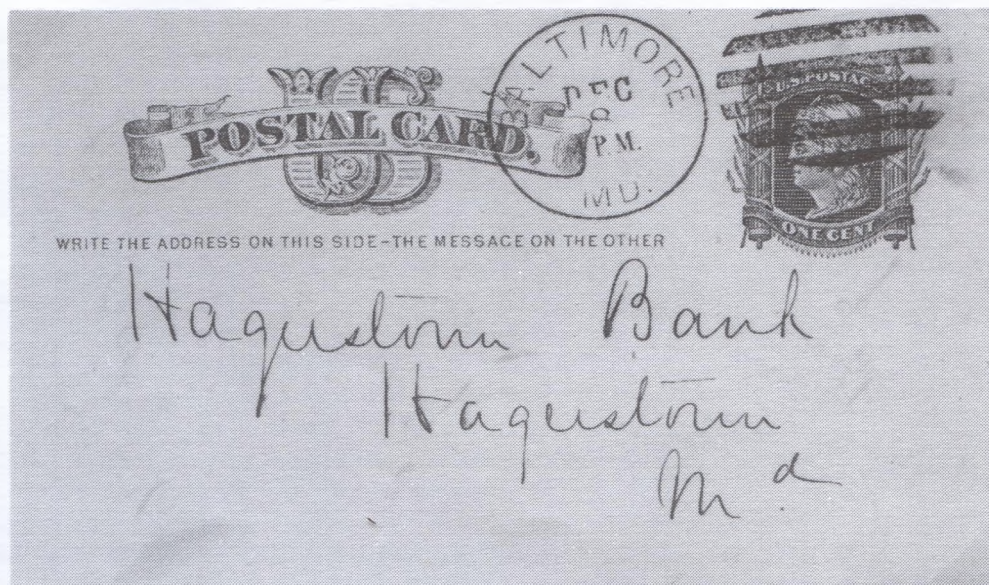


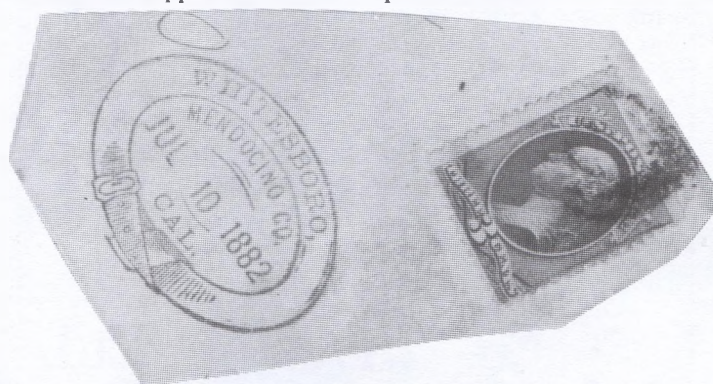
Figure 1

**A Remarkable Cover**

Figure 1 illustrates a cover bearing three strikes of a rare and noteworthy cancellation from Washoe City, Nevada. For many years this cover was in the collection of Abe Boyarsky. The cancel appears on page 102 of the Skinner-Eno book and is listed as ST-C 13. The book also illustrates a cover with this cancel and it, too, is also addressed to W.E. Elliott Esq. of Stockton, California. Please note the "MAY/7" marking just to the left of the stamps on the Figure 1 cover. On the Skinner-Eno cover, which is postmarked April 8, there is a similar "APR/12" marking. Are these possibly early examples of "receipt" markings?■

From the Sublime to the . . .

This small piece postmarked in 1882 from Whitesboro, California presents a startling contrast. The ornamental CDS, which is struck very clearly in a bright purple ink, shows fine detailing around and to the right of the buckle. The stamp cancellation, however, is a shapeless and poorly struck blob in black ink. The postmaster apparently made the most of a good thing – carefully applying his artistically designed postmarker – and gave the back of his hand to the application of the simple cork killer.■



STAMPSHOW 2003 in Columbus, Ohio

The APS is currently accepting exhibit applications and seminar requests for APS STAMPSHOW 2003 which will run from August 7-10, 2003 at the Columbus Convention Center.

The largest annual philatelic event will include more than 150 dealers, nearly 15,000 pages of exhibits, U.S. and foreign first day ceremonies, 125 Society meetings and seminars, a cachetmakers bourse, and at least one auction. Admission will be free.

Visit <http://www.stamps.org/Stampshow/intro.htm> for the latest information on the show. Also on the website, individuals may register for the show, sign up for a monthly e-mail bulletin, or volunteer to help. If you do not have access to the web, the APS can be reached at PO Box 8000, State College, PA 16803-8000, telephone 814-237-3803 ext 218, fax 814-237-6128. E-mail queries may be sent to stampshow@stamps.org.

New Club Members

Robert Buckler, 2 W. Hamilton Pl., Jersey City, NJ 07302
 Thomas Clarke, Box 290145, Davie, FL 33329-0145
 David Coleman, PO Box 4813, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762-0024
 Marshall Doyle, 12514 Boheme Dr., Houston, TX 77024
 William Doyle, 29 Golf Terrace, #107, Winter Springs, FL 32708
 Dan Fellows, 529 Eisenhower Ave., Janesville, WI 53545
 Merton Fulweiler, 256 N. Campbell Rd., Apt. D, Oshkosh, WI 54902-4002
 Joseph Harowitz, 7210 Newport Ave., Apt. 4, Norfolk, VA 23505-3914
 John Hayes, 5467 Rattlesnake Hammock Rd., Unit C-205, Naples, FL 34113
 Jeffrey Hayward, 163 Baden Pl., Staten Island, NY 10306
 Keith Lichtman, 37, Indale Ave., Staten Island, NY 10309
 Theodore Lockyear, PO Box 3515, Evansville, IN 47734
 Owen Merton, Jr., 1832 Chattahoochee Circle, Roswell, GA 30075
 Jack Rabin, 2103 Fairway Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17112
 Stan Raugh, 4217 8th Ave., Temple, PA 19560-1805
 William Robinson, Rt. 5, Box 93, Pikeville, TN 37367-9026
 Gerald Shaw, 7 Greenwood Circle, East Lyme, CT 06333
 Harry Straus, Jr., 4880 E. Placita Tresvidas, Tucson, AZ, 85718
 Charles Wood, 244 W. Breckenridge, Ferendael, MI 48220
 Jame Zimmer, 745 Trio Ct., Cincinnati, OH 45238