



# Cancellation Club NEWS

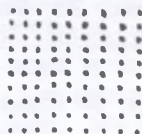
Vol. 27, No. 2, Whole No. 251, May 2004

## Clayville, N.Y. Patent Cancel

by Jim Kesterson

One of the numerous patent punch cancels which Schmalzriedt classifies as "unknown" is D-19.<sup>1</sup> The illustration of this cancel, shown here as Figure 1, shows the design as consisting of 90 small squares (pins) in a square format of 9x10 pins and measuring approximately 17x16 mm.

Figure 1



His description states "Illustration probably not exact." The Skinner-Eno book has the same cancel designated as PN-D19, again without attribution.

I have six covers bearing what I believe to be this cancel but there are only 80 pins in a layout of 10x8 pins and measuring about 16.5x16. These covers are all from Clayville, N.Y. The dates range from February 5 to September 28 with one having docketing of 1866. There is no duplexing.

The further interesting feature of these covers is that the cancels of February 5, February 23 and July 28 all exhibit square punches while those of August 26, September 3 and September 28 exhibit a mixture of short lines changing to rectangles as they progress from one side to the other on the overall canceler. The February 23 and September 8 covers are illustrated as Figure 2.

It thus appears that:

- (1) D-19 has been identified as to source – Clayville, N.Y. – and needs a new illustration; and
- (2) there are actually two devices that can be ascribed to Clayville – a corrected D-19 and a new entry of D-19A.■

<sup>1</sup> Schmalzriedt, Fred R. "Patent Cancellations (1847-1887)" appearing in *Cyclopedia of United States Postmarks*, Volume I, edited by Delf Norona (1933) Quarterman Publications reprint (1975), pp. 155-6.

Figure 2





Dear Reader,

The Garfield-Perry March Party in Cleveland was a fine show and a good venue for the U.S. Cancellation Club. I want to thank Vince Costello, John Donnes, Alan Parsons and Roger Rhoads for helping out at our society table as we greeted a number of members and others, sold copies of the Whitfield book and the Burr articles reprint and recruited six new members.

The U.S. exhibits at the show were remarkably good with particular emphasis on 1869 issue stamps and their postal history, but also including outstanding presentations on other aspects of U.S. 19<sup>th</sup> century philately. Three USCC members entered one-frame exhibits: Vince Costello – "Fancy Cancels on the Large U.S. Banknotes," Roger Rhoads: "Unusual and Uncommon Usages of/and Markings on the First Postal Cards," and Roger Curran: "Canceling the U.S. Large Numeral Postage Dues" with the latter winning the USCC award for this year. Our annual meeting focused on two of the three exhibits with amplifying remarks and questions and answers on the material presented in the frames.

I trust that all Club members who ordered a copy of the Burr articles reprint (see page 8 of the February 2004 *NEWS*) have received them. If anyone has not, please let me know. We have a limited supply and are still accepting new orders. The reprint is available at \$12 postpaid.

Work on the Phase 2 report of the "Boston negatives" project is still underway. It has proven to be a more formidable task than first anticipated. Hopefully it will be included with the August *NEWS*.

By the time this issue reaches your hands, convincing evidence of Spring should be present in all locales. We in central Pennsylvania have had two winters in a row that were decidedly colder than normal. The return of warm (even hot) weather is eagerly anticipated.

Roger Curran



### Help Our Club Grow

Please notify us of the names and addresses of philatelic acquaintances who are not USCC members but who you think might be interested. We'll send them a completely no-obligation sample of the *NEWS* plus a flyer outlining membership benefits.

Thanks!!

### The U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

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### More on Waterbury Listing

An article in the February 2004 *NEWS* reported on Waterbury, Ct. cancels not listed in the standard reference book on the subject, published in 1979, by Paul Rohloff. One of the cancels noted in February is shown here as Figure 1. It was listed in the Whitfield book as a Waterbury cancel noted on "70" issue stamps. Mr. Whitfield intended "70" to include

Figure 1



not just 1870 issue stamps but all subsequent issues that involved the same design. Therefore, it means that the cancel was noted on any one or more of the National, Continental, American or re-engraved printings.

As a result for the article, Wendell Triplett reported the cover illustrated here as Figure 2, postmarked Stafford Springs, Ct. The tracing was provided through the courtesy of John Donnes. A comparison of the tracings shows definite differences. While they are very similar in terms of the size of the overall round killers, the "SS" letters, while of the same general style, are considerably larger in the Figure 2 killer. Does this mean that they are two separate killers? Not necessarily, in your editor's opinion. We know that inking and strike variations can produce very different results, but whether they would produce these particular differences is questionable. Mr. Whitfield stated that he sometimes made his tracings from reduced size lot illustrations and then approximated normal size. While the diameters of the overall killers are very similar, a reduced-size illustration, as produced 50 years or more ago when the tracings were made, might not have given a really clear picture of the shape of the letters. All speculation, of course. However, given the fact that the "SS" cancel is quite unlike any other reported Waterbury cancels and the fact that it is now known that Stafford Springs did use a decidedly similar cancel, it seems prudent to withhold judgment on whether the Figure 1 cancel is from Waterbury until a confirming cover is located. Let's consider it withdrawn, for now, from the Waterbury listing.■



Figure 2

### Unusual to Say the Least

The ellipse shown in Figure 1 (used in this case as a backstamp) really does seem to be a breed apart. It is duplexed to a Washington C.H., Ohio postmark dated September 13, 1899. A portion of the outer flange of the handstamp face is visible at the top left. What makes this ellipse so remarkable is the presence of two "splits" which divide the design into three vertical sections. Was it produced in that format or was it cut down by the post office for some reason? What material was the facing of the handstamp made from – rubber, wood, or metal?

"Split" ellipses are, of course, by no means rare but all types known to your editor contain only one "split" or negative line and that is down the middle. Baltimore produced the largest number of split ellipses and one example is shown as Figure 2. The *NEWS* has discussed on several occasions

Figure 1

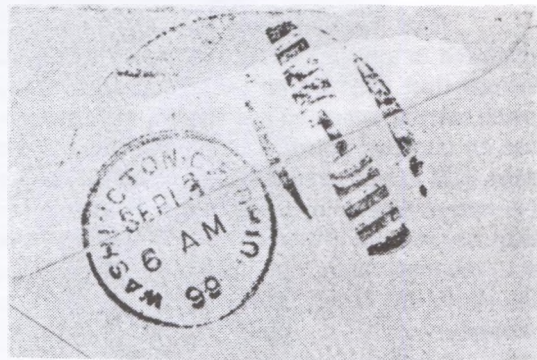
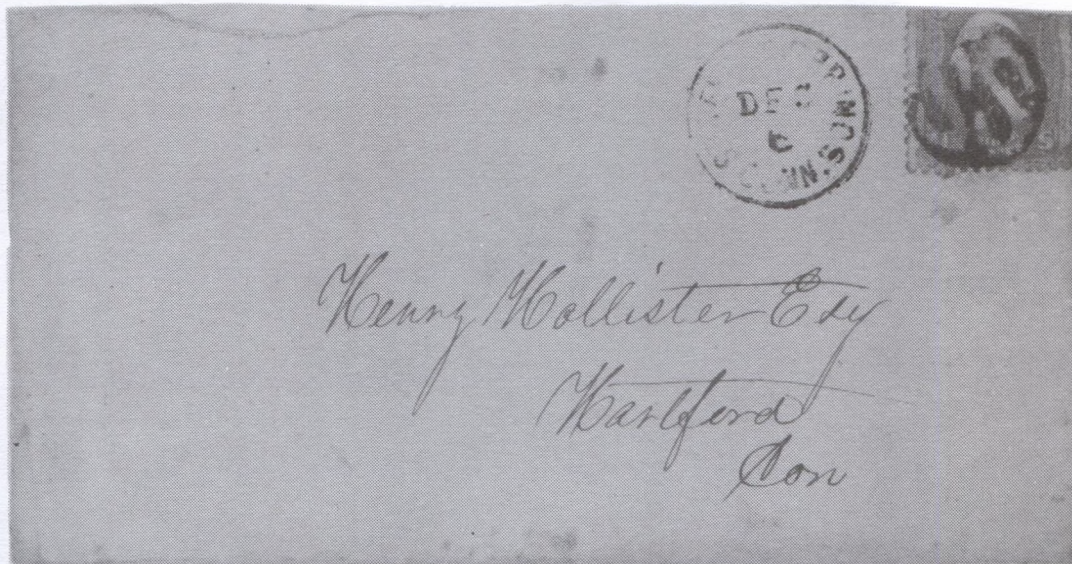


Figure 2



the split "2" and "3" ellipses from the "fishtail" set used by Washington, D.C. in the 1880s. Readers who can report other unusual ellipse splits are encouraged to do so.

Thanks to Gil Levere for submitting the Figure 1 cover.■





## Canceling the U.S. Large Numeral Postage Due Stamps

by Roger D. Curran

This article discusses representative and noteworthy cancellations found on U.S. large numeral postage due stamps issued from 1879-1894. Canceling practices on due stamps differed markedly from those involving postage stamps. Due stamps were added at the addressee's post office which, in the great majority of cases, was not the originating post office. They were normally affixed to the fronts of envelope and, since the typical canceler of the day duplexed a dated town postmark to a killer, it was inappropriate to use such a duplex to cancel most due stamps because it might then be interpreted that the letter entered the mails at the addressee's post office. This, and the fact that due stamps were affixed by post offices rather than individual postal patrons, opened the door to several interesting and distinctive cancellation approaches.

The circumstances are as follows: (1) cancels duplexed to a postmark are seen much less frequently on due stamps than they are on postage stamps; (2) precancels are much more common on due stamps; (3) cancelers designed for use on outgoing non-first class mail (double ovals, typically) were used to some extent on due stamps by larger post offices; (4) cancels applied by handstamps designed for purposes other than as canceler ("DUE," "ADVERTISED," rate numerals, etc.) are much more common on due stamps; and, because of the above, (5) "fancy" cancels are much less common on due stamps.

### *The Duplex Handstamp*

Only occasional cover fronts show dated postmarks duplexed to obliterations that were used to cancel due stamps. Figure 1 provides an example and is a double weight letter for which only one weight was paid. A pencil "due 3" notation can be seen beneath and to the right of the February 1, 1881 Portland, Pa. postmark. This was undoubtedly added at Port Chester, N.Y., the originating post office.

Figure 2 is also a double weight letter for which only one weight was initially paid. The Asbury Park, N.J. duplex

and "Due 3" in a circle are struck in a magenta ink. The barred ellipse was the most common cancel on postage stamps prior to machine cancels. However, it is infrequently seen on due stamps since it was normally duplexed to a dated postmark. The duplexed ellipses here were applied in such a way as to avoid the New York Station G postmark. The back of the cover shows a received marking from the main NYPO and a "G" received marking. Both were dated September 15, the former 11AM and the latter 1PM. Thus we have a letter that originated at Asbury Park on September 11, 1879 being received at Station G of the NYPO at 1PM the same day after passing through the main PO. Impressive timeliness, wouldn't one say? Within months of September 1879, double oval station cancels were introduced and became the cancelers of choice for due stamps. Incidentally, in a 1987 *American*



*Philatelist* article by Warren Bower and George Arfken, the Figure 2 cover was identified as the earliest documented cover bearing a J2 (2¢) stamp.<sup>1</sup> An earlier J2 cover may well have come to light in the ensuing 16 years but, if so, we haven't seen it published. The APS Expert Committee published in 1998 the very helpful *Pocket Guide to United States EKU/EDC Dates* but it doesn't address most of the earlier due stamps.

Figure 3 shows another example of the application of a duplex handstamp to avoid showing the postmark while positioning the killer to cancel the due stamps. In this case it involves the well-known fancy cancel consisting of "MB" (with the letters joined) to denote Mystic Bridge, Ct. The rim of the duplexed postmark can be seen to the left of the top stamp.

Figure 4 is unusual in that it is a local letter sent with postage due. The corner card is to be disregarded as the cover was mailed at Palatine, Ill. Since the cover bears a Palatine



Figure 1



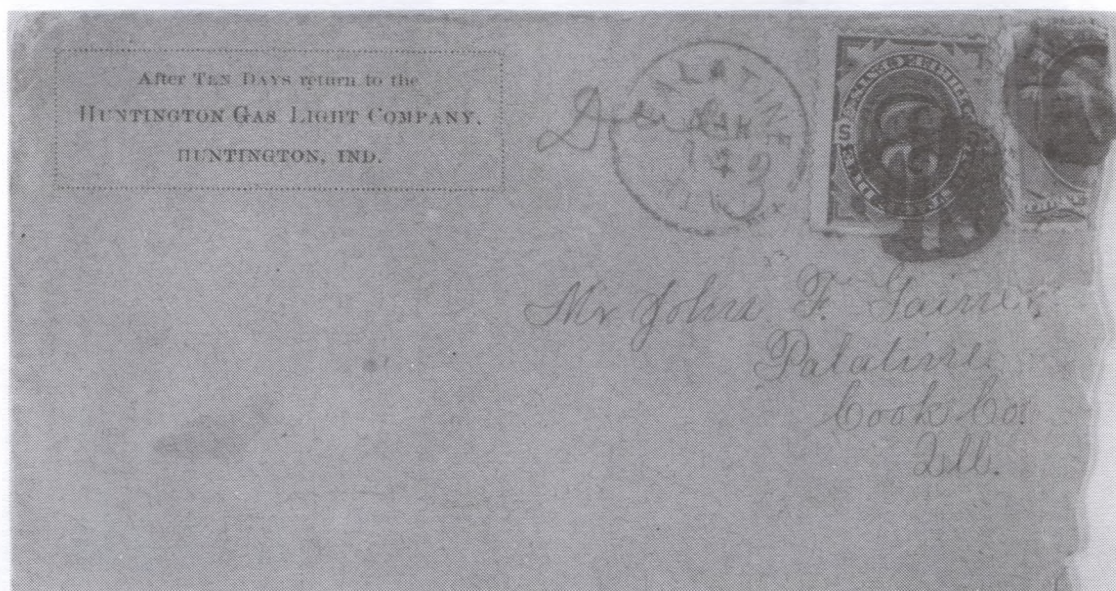
Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4





addressee, it was, of course, appropriate for the Palatine PO to add the due stamp which it obviously did before the cover was postmarked with a duplex handstamp. As with the Figure 2 killer, there is a pencil "Due 3" notation present. It shows underneath and to the left of the Palatine postmark. We assume the Palatine clerk (or postmaster) determined that the letter was overweight, made the note, and set the letter aside during his regular processing of mail for later attention. Uses of an "OK" killer on a due stamp are rare.

stamps affixed to the backs of covers since they would provide a dated postmark that could serve as a received marking. Figure 5 is one of two reported covers bearing due stamps canceled by the "kicking mule."

(To be continued)

<sup>1</sup> Bower, Warren R. and Arfken, George B. "The Search Goes On" *The American Philatelist*, January 1987, pp. 53-6.

Duplex handstamps were well-suited to cancel due



Figure 5





### The Rauchtown "R"

The May 2003 *NEWS* reported on a 19<sup>th</sup> century advertisement for post office handstamps that had been reproduced in the November 2002 *La Posta*. Among various items, the ad illustrated an ellipse cancel with an interesting hollow "R" in the middle duplexed to a Rauchtown, Pennsylvania postmark. The ad also contained a testimonial from the Rauchtown postmaster. The duplexed markings and the testimonial are shown here as Figure 1. We speculated that perhaps the Rauchtown postmaster wasn't supplied with a handstamp that produced those specific markings but rather the image was presented for illustrative purposes only. We had not seen any examples of these markings nor were we aware of any reports in the literature. Also, another version of a hollow "R" in an ellipse had been noted from Redwood, N.Y.

Well, we can now say that Rauchtown was supplied with a handstamp containing a postmark and ellipse of the illustrated design – see Figure 2. This moved us to look more closely at other ellipses illustrated in the ad. Figure 3 shows two examples along with their testimonials and Figure 4 shows three examples for which there were no accompanying testimonials. Can readers show covers bearing these actual markings? If so, please contact the *NEWS*.

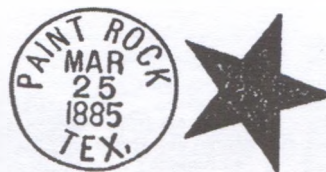
Thanks to John Donnes for the tracing in Figure 2.■



Rauchtown, Pa., January 27, 1885.

J. Goldsborough—Dear Sir—The brass marker and canceler came to-day. It is a perfect gem; the best thing of the kind I have ever seen. I am ever so much pleased with it. Enclosed is check for the amount (\$3).  
(See Sample.) Yours Respectfully, GEO. RAUCH, P. M.

Figure 1



Paint Rock, Texas, April 29, 1881.

J. Goldsborough—Dear Sir—I am well pleased with the work, think I have done well to order from you, and that your \$5 patent postmarker and canceler is a piece of perfection. It is the best stamp made—according to my judgment. (See Sample.) Yours Truly, N. A. PROCTOR.



Union City, Conn., April 7, 1885.

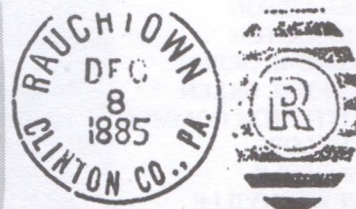
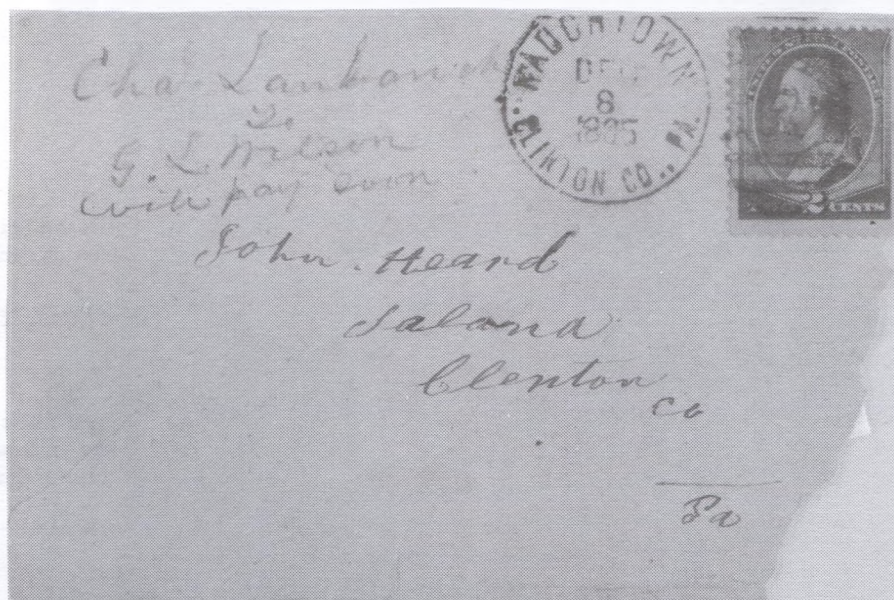
J. Goldsborough—Dear Sir—The dater you sent me works like a charm, and you can assure yourself that no one makes any better. The letters make a clean, clear impression when the stamp is properly used.  
(See Sample) Yours Truly, C. H. SMITH, P. M.

Figure 3

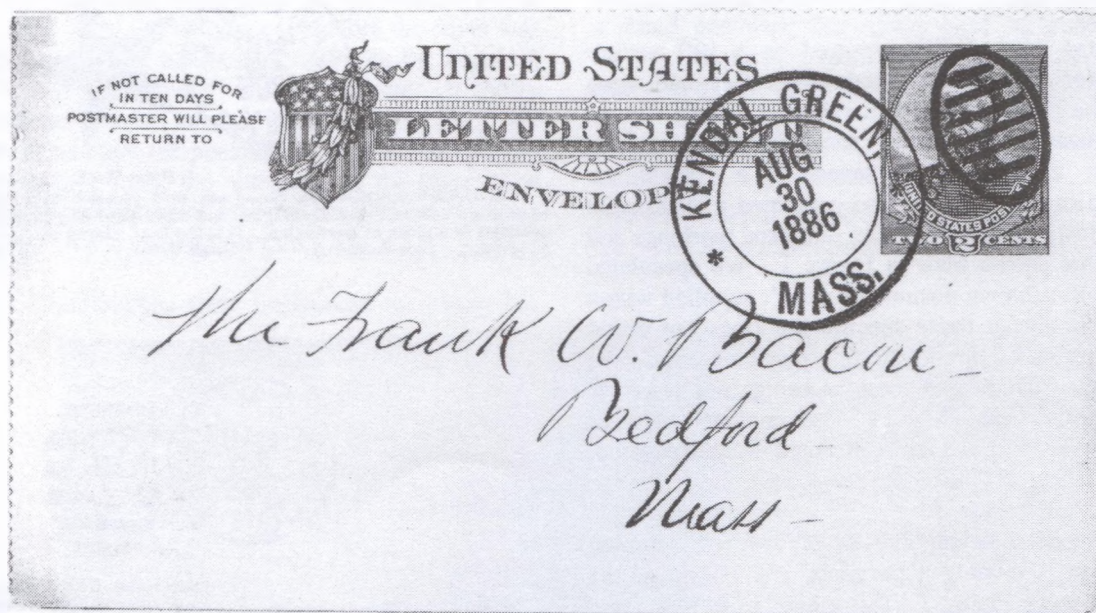


Figure 4

Figure 2







### Massachusetts Scarabs

Arthur Beane submits the following table of Massachusetts scarab cancels in his collection accumulated over a thirty year period. The list includes 22 different post offices and, in three cases, two different inks. Who can add to Arthur's list?■

#### MASSACHUSETTS SCARAB CANCELS

<u>POST OFFICE</u>	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>STAMP</u>	<u>COLOR OF CANCEL</u>	<u>OPERATING P.O. OR D.P.O.</u>	<u>MAILING DATE</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
ABINGTON	ABINGTON	#213	BLACK	D.P.O. 1907	6/3/89	
ABINGTON	ABINGTON	#220	BLACK	D.P.O. 1907	9/5/90	
SOUTH ABINGTON STA.	ABINGTON	2¢ env.	BLACK	D.P.O. 1898	8/19/87	
BARRE PLAINS	BARRE	UX8	BLACK	D.P.O. 1975	8/17/86	Received stamp
BRIDGEWATER	BRIDGEWATER	UX9	BLACK	O.P.O.	9/10/87	
CHAPINVILLE	NORTHBORO	UX8	BLACK	D.P.O. 1909	8/8/87	
EVERETT	EVERETT	UX8	DARK BLUE	D.P.O. 1906	9/7/86	Formerly S. Malden
EVERETT	EVERETT	#210	MAGENTA	D.P.O. 1906	2/1/87	Formerly S. Malden
FELLS	MELROSE	2¢ env.	PURPLE	D.P.O. 1902	1/27/86	
GRAFTON	GRAFTON	#210	BLACK	O.P.O.	3/31/84	
HINGHAM CENTRE	HINGHAM	#210	BLACK	D.P.O. 1936	11/27/86	Became Center in 1892
HOLLISTON	HOLLISTON	3¢ BN	MAGENTA	O.P.O.	4/17/79	
HOLLISTON	HOLLISTON	3¢ BN	BLACK	O.P.O.	6/14/80	
KENDAL GREEN	WESTON	#210	MAGENTA	D.P.O. 1943	3/10/86	
KENDAL GREEN	WESTON	U293	PURPLE	D.P.O. 1943	8/30/86	
LITTLETON COMMON	LITTLETON	#210	PURPLE	D.P.O. 1964	4/7/86	
LUDLOW	LUDLOW	#220	PURPLE	O.P.O.	9/1/90	
NORFOLK	NORFOLK	#250	BLACK	O.P.O.	2/4/95	
NEWTONVILLE	NEWTON	3¢ BN	MAGENTA	D.P.O. 1897	4/30/79	Became Sta. of Newton Center
ROWE	ROWE	#220	BLACK	O.P.O.	12/19/91	
SHERBORN	SHERBORN	1¢ BN	BLACK	O.P.O.	8/13/?	3 <sup>rd</sup> class
SOUTH WILLIAMSTOWN	WILLIAMSTOWN	U349	BLACK	D.P.O. 1906	3/10/94	
WAYLAND	WAYLAND	UX9	PURPLE	O.P.O.	6/13/87	
WESTMINSTER DEPOT	WESTMINSTER	#250	BLACK	D.P.O. 1909	3/30/95	
WATERTOWN	WATERTOWN	UX10	BLACK	D.P.O. 1909	6/18/92	oval a little larger and the 6 bars touch the oval rim





### Where the Common Becomes Uncommon

As has been noted repeatedly in these pages, by far and away the most common cancellation used before machine cancels was the ellipse-shaped grid of canceling bars, usually with a number or letter in the center. But there were some decidedly uncommon applications of ellipse cancels. For example, it is quite surprising how scarce ellipse cancels are in colored inks, with one exception. The Washington, D.C. post office used ellipse cancels in a blue-black ink from early 1879 through mid-1880. Otherwise, what one finds are rather isolated colored ink examples and these mostly involved rubber-faced handstamps where black printers ink would not have worked satisfactorily.

Another unusual situation is the use of an unduplexed ellipse. We have in the past discussed such uses on circular mail by the New York Post Office where the CDS was not necessary. The August 2003 *NEWS* illustrated examples from

Bart, Pa. and Blairstown, N.J. used on first class mail.

We now feature in Figure 1 another unusual application of an ellipse canceler – one that is duplexed to a non-circular town postmark. A quick review of Edward Willard's exhaustive work on the two cent red brown stamp of 1883-1887 yielded about 325 tracings of ellipses duplexed to a circular townmark and *no* examples of ellipses duplexed to non-circular townmarks. Of course we know that other examples exist, at least later than 1887 – the emergency handstamps (featured recently in the *NEWS*) by Washington, Philadelphia and New York duplexed an ellipse canceler to an oval townmark. But, as a general proposition, the approach of duplexing an elliptical killer to a circular townmark was very much the standard.

Readers who have examples of non-circular townmarks duplexed to ellipse cancels are encouraged to submit photocopies to the *NEWS*. ■

Figure 1





## "Great" Cancellation Covers

by Roger D. Curran

We occasionally write about covers that are thought to be "great" cancellation covers. When we have done so, it is in regard to the extraordinary cancels that the covers bear. In the present article, however, it is not the cancels per se on the two covers at issue but rather the extraordinary circumstances of their use. Both covers appeared in the 1993 Siegel sale of the Stanley Piller collection of U.S. 1851-57 three-cent issues.

The first cover (Figure 1) illustrates two samples of multicolor "encaustic" tiles. The lot description notes that the left tile is in cream, blue and red and the right is in cream, red and black. It states that the images were probably produced from one plate requiring multiple operations and at a prohibitive cost (for the purpose of stationery illustrations), which would explain why it is such a rare design. The cover is described as "... one of the greatest advertising covers in existence, and certainly the most important example from this period. ..."

So we have this beautiful and most unusual cover mailed at the NYPO. The postmark canceling the stamp is of interest. In July 1860 the Post Office Department issued a

supplemental regulation forbidding the use of the town postmark as a canceler and required the use of a separate obliterator. The NYPO reacted quickly to this doubling of workload by introducing, at least as early as August 8, 1860, one or more handstamps that duplexed the town postmark to a grid obliterator. An August 8 example is shown as Figure 2. Now it is known that there was a transition period at the NYPO to full use of these duplex handstamps because covers are seen dated August 8 and later for a short while bearing grids and postmarks that are not duplexed. An example dated August 13, 1860 is shown as Figure 3. However, this writer has not seen examples dated August 8, 1860 or later of NYPO postmarks used as cancellers except as very isolated examples over the ensuing years. We have the idea that the simplex postmark used on the Figure 1 cover is directly related to the configuration of this advertising cover, as follows. The clerk didn't want to deface the remarkable tile illustration and chose to just go ahead and use an unduplexed townmark as the killer, despite the regulation, rather than trying to wedge in a duplex marking that would have still placed part of the townmark on the stamp unless struck vertically with the townmark at the bottom. Of course, if there are some 1860 New York covers dated August 8 or later where the stamps are similarly canceled by a simplex townmark, the above explanation becomes very unlikely. Are there examples? Readers who

Figure 1



Figure 2

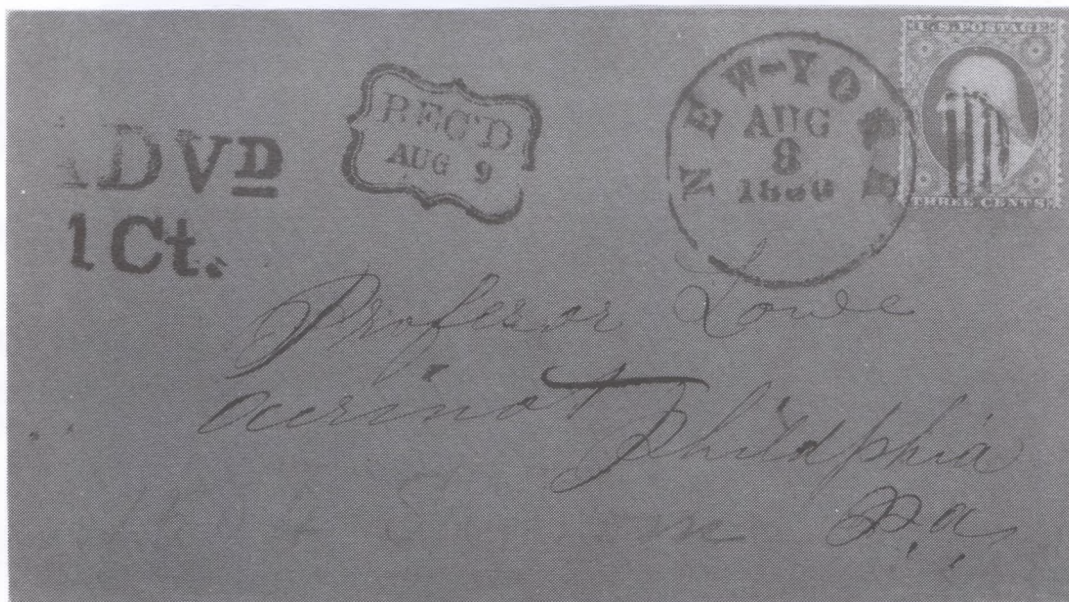
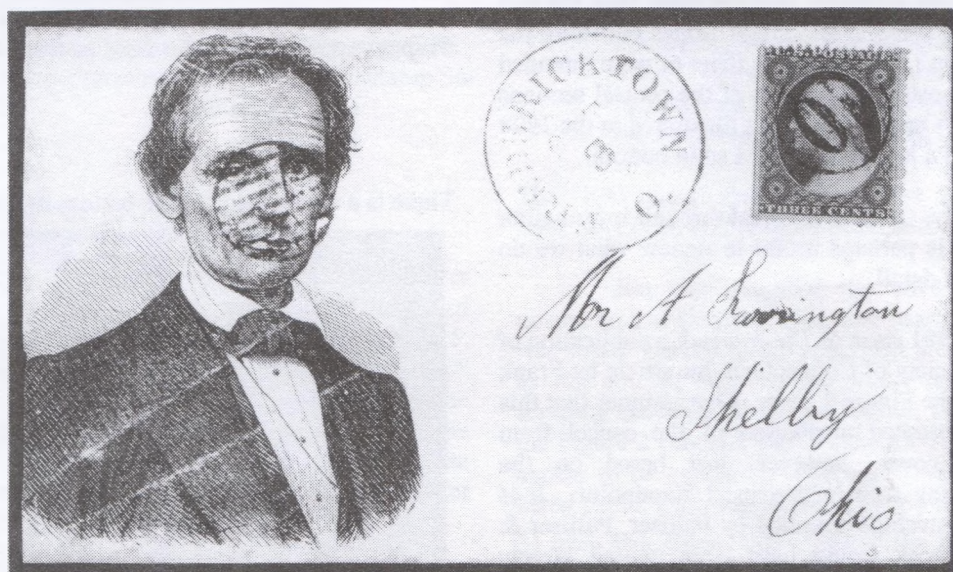




Figure 3



Figure 4



can report such are encouraged to do so.

The second cover (Figure 4) speaks for itself! Here we have the enclosed 7-bar grid used, not to cancel the stamp, but to make a political statement in opposition to Abraham Lincoln. We occasionally see grids obliterating erroneously applied postal markings but the Figure 4 usage must be very rare if not unique. It is interesting to note that the Fredericktown, Ohio post office applied an old rate marker – a “10” in a circle – to cancel the postage stamp. Why not just use the grid to obliterate both? Did the postmaster want to convey the idea that his feelings about Lincoln differed from his feelings about Washington? We’ll never know, of course, but it’s fun to think about. Comment is invited.■

### Cole Tracing Update

Jim Cole’s book contains the tracing shown here as Figure 1. A cover with a clearer strike has recently come to the attention of John Donnes, which enabled him to execute the tracing shown here as Figure 2. A particular aspect now becomes clear: there is a negative “H” – undoubtedly for Hinsdale – in the design. An interesting and very extensive

Figure 1

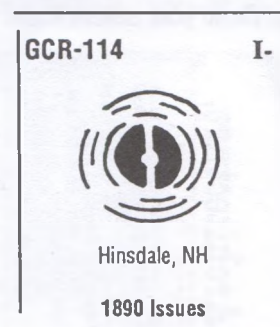
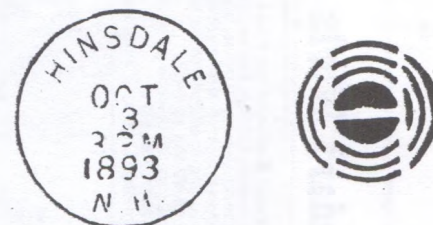


Figure 2



showing could surely be made of killers incorporating the first letter of the post office name.■

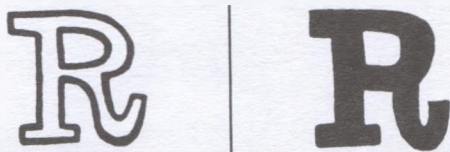


## More on "R" Precancel

by Roger D. Curran

An article in the Winter 1998 *NEWS* discussed an intriguing "R" precancel found on 1879 and 1881 one cent stamps – intriguing because it seems extremely difficult to find it on cover notwithstanding the fact that a fair number are seen off-cover. Two varieties are noted and illustrations from Cole are shown in Figure 1.<sup>1</sup> The "R" cancels vary somewhat

Figure 1



in size and a multi-subject device was surely used to lay down the cancels on the stamps. Indeed, parts of more than one "R" image are sometimes seen on the same stamp. Your editor has wondered whether two distinct varieties were really planned. Does the hollow variety represent nothing more than the fact that some of the "R" subjects had slight ridges outlining the letter that either weren't intended to be there or were intended but became lost in most cases because of the central sections filled with dried ink? One of the stamps illustrated in the 1998 *NEWS* article showed a hollow top and a solid bottom.

Unfortunately, there is no breakthrough information to report now but it is perhaps useful to review what we do know and add a bit of detail.

In the Fall 1981 issue of *The Journal*, a publication of the Postal History Society of Connecticut, an article by Frank Reischerl illustrated the Figure 2 cover. One assumes that this report led to the accepted attribution of the cancel from Bridgeport. This cover, however, just based on the illustration, is puzzling from a precancel standpoint. It is apparently a return envelope supplied by Palliser, Palliser & Co. and such envelopes would have been mailed largely (perhaps entirely) from post offices *other than* Bridgeport. How would those post offices know or be expected to accept a

precancel that originated elsewhere? Anyway, as we mentioned in the 1998 article, David Smith stated in his precancel book, under Bridgeport, Connecticut heading, the following.

"solid or hollow R 18mm. High serifed. 2 reply covers known. Both had stamps added at a later date. Known legitimate use: On wrapper – No city of origin.

Delete as a CT type.<sup>2</sup>

"CT" here refers to Connecticut.

Illustrated in Figure 3 is an example of the "R" on what is likely a wrapper. The way the cover is crinkled on the right side is suggestive of a wrapper and of wrapper paper. Indeed, this may be the wrapper referred to by Smith. This illustration, incidentally, appeared in an article on precancels that ran in the August 15, 1988 *Linn's Stamp News*. The wrapper appears to be addressed as follows:

O.H. Myers Esq.  
Sparta, Mo

There is a date written at the bottom that is probably "Dec 13<sup>th</sup>

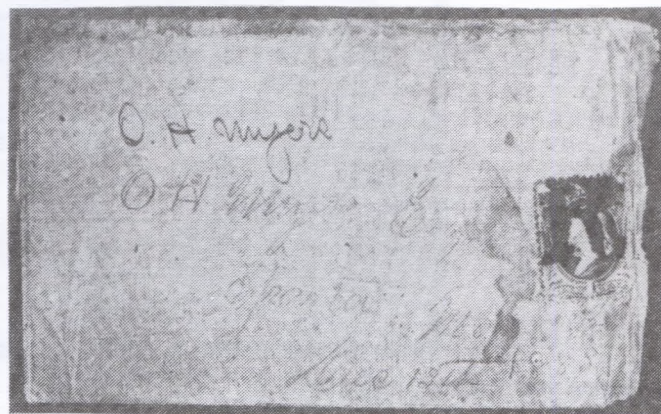


Fig 3

Figure 2

**Standard Works on Architecture.**

Palliser's Model Homes, 24 6x9 plates, 100 pages, tenth thousand, \$1.00  
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1883." The "3" in the year is not clear but more likely a "3" than an "8" which would mean a late use of the postage stamp.

Jim Cole attributed the hollow "R" to Bridgeport and the solid "R" to Gloucester, Massachusetts.<sup>3</sup> While there was a report from Gloucester, Jim and I believe it needs confirmation.

There is quite a bit to be learned about this precancel. If it was only used on stamps that were subsequently affixed to wrappers and if the wrappers all have no corner cards, such as in Figure 3, we can surely understand why the origin of this far-from-rare cancel has not been clearly nailed down. Wrappers were not normally saved, of course. And without a corner card, absent any docketing, we would also need to have the wrapped newspaper. How often would newspapers be saved in their wrappers?

Comments and additional information are invited. ■

<sup>1</sup> James M. Cole *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1879-1894*, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society (1995), page 199.

<sup>2</sup> David W. Smith *Silent Precancels* The Precancel Stamp Society (1995), page 10.

<sup>3</sup> Cole, page 199.

### More on Patent Cancellers

Jim Kesterson submits the remarkable cover illustrated in Figure 1 showing two strikes of an unlisted patent cancel from Washington, D.C. It is dated November 5, 1862. Jim describes the cancel as having at least 15 "blades" which scraped counterclockwise. On at least one of the strikes, Jim reports that a few of the blades go through the stamp and envelope, likely because the device didn't hit quite parallel to the envelope. This cancel is obviously not duplexed to the large double circle postmark.

The Summer 1997 *NEWS* carried an article on early Washington duplexes and the earliest reported duplex was

December 4, 1862 and it involved a different postmark. The double circle postmark on the Figure 1 cover was reported in the 1997 *NEWS* article used by itself as a canceler and also accompanying a fancy killer that was not duplexed.

The outstanding pioneering student of patent cancellers, Fred Schmalzriedt, quotes a Postmaster General Annual Report dated October 31, 1863 on the subject of patent cancellers as follows:

"No improvement of this nature has yet been perfected, (rendering it impossible to use stamps a second time for payment of postage) though much attention has been given to the subject, and many ingenious devices for this purpose invented. Instruments for cancellation, with cutting or abrading edges, have been submitted by various parties, and upon being thoroughly tested were found to be inherently defective, owing to their liability to injure, or to be injured by, the contents of letters or packets. These instruments, furthermore, speedily became dull or disarranged by ordinary use, requiring frequent sharpening or adjusting."<sup>1</sup>

The "instrument" that produced the Figure 1 cancel surely must have been one of those evaluated.

Jim also reported the cover shown in Figure 2 postmarked at Delphos, Ohio and bearing a Sc 65. The cancel was struck heavily in the upper left area. Now it so happens, as Jim pointed out, that the holder of two 1877 patents for scraping cancelers, George F. Almy, lived in Delphos.<sup>2</sup> Was the Figure 2 cancel a patent cancel? Jim stated that it doesn't appear to be except for the general design being similar to a listed patent cancel reported on Sc 65 by Schmalzriedt (Figure 3) from Fall River, Mass.<sup>3</sup> Both the Delphos and Fall River cancellers are unduplexed. Was Mr. Almy involved with both of these cancellers? His patents, as mentioned above, involve

Figure 1

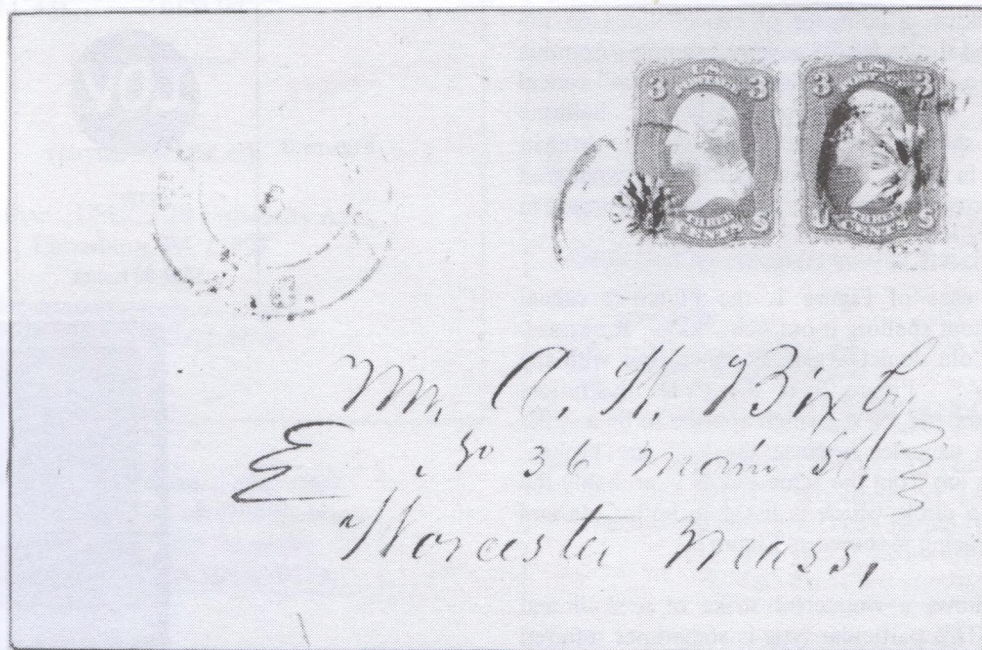




Figure 2

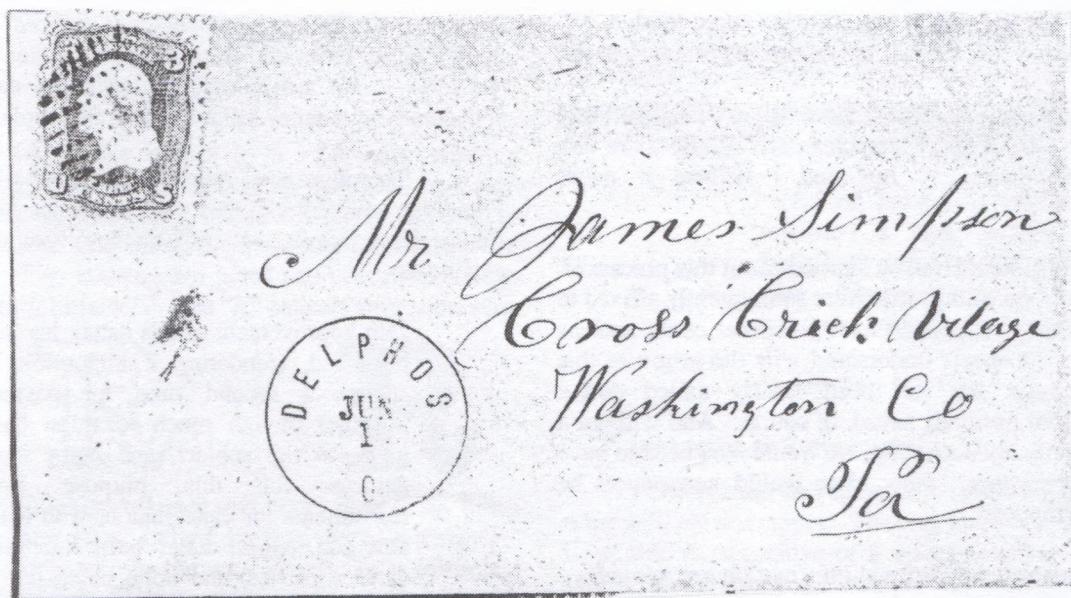
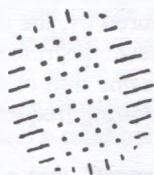


Figure 3



cancels designed to scrape rather than punch postage stamps, but possibly early experiments by Mr. Almy involved the punch idea.■

<sup>1</sup> Schmalzriedt, Fred R. *Patent Cancellations (1847-1887)* appearing in *Cyclopedia of United States Postmarks*, Volume 1, edited by Delf Norona (1933) Quarterman Publications reprint (1975), p. 142.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 148.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., pp. 151-2.

### Cancellations on Sc 220

Merritt Jenkins, a collector of cancellations on the 1890 issue, submitted to the *NEWS* several examples from his collection. First is a lovely socked-on-the-nose "D4" cancel denoting Danforth, Maine. Unfortunately our halftone illustration will not show it with the desired clarity. Merritt acquired the stamp in about 1978 and had always wondered about its origin. A cover bearing this cancel was illustrated in the February 2004 *NEWS*.

As in the case of Figure 1, the Figure 2 cancel conveys a word without spelling it out – an "xxxx" for kisses. Both Salkind and Cole depict a similar cancel but with the "xxx" below "LOV." Figure 3 is the Cole illustration, attributed to Schuylersville, N.Y., which appears to be a strike from a rather worn canceler because the "xs" are broken. Surely both versions are from the same PO as is probably the negative "LOV" in a circle which is listed in both Cole and Salkind. The Cole tracing is shown as Figure 3.

Figure 4 shows a wonderful strike of a skull and crossbones cancel. This particular type is sometimes referred

Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

ML-210	II+	ML-211	II+
"LOV"	"LOV"	"Love & XXX's"	"Love & XXX's"
1887-90 Issues	1887-90 Issues	Schuylersville, N.Y.	1890 Issues

Figure 4





to as a "laughing skull" and was normally used in the 1880s. In the 50th Anniversary issue of the *NEWS* published in 2001, portions of an 1890 C.A. Klinkner & Co. catalog of rubber handstamps were reproduced. One of the images is shown as Figure 5. The accompanying postmark was there for illustrative purposes only and does not mean that a duplex handstamp using that postmark and the skull and bones cancel was actually produced. Indeed, my January 1884 *Postal Guide* shows no Shell Mound, Cal.

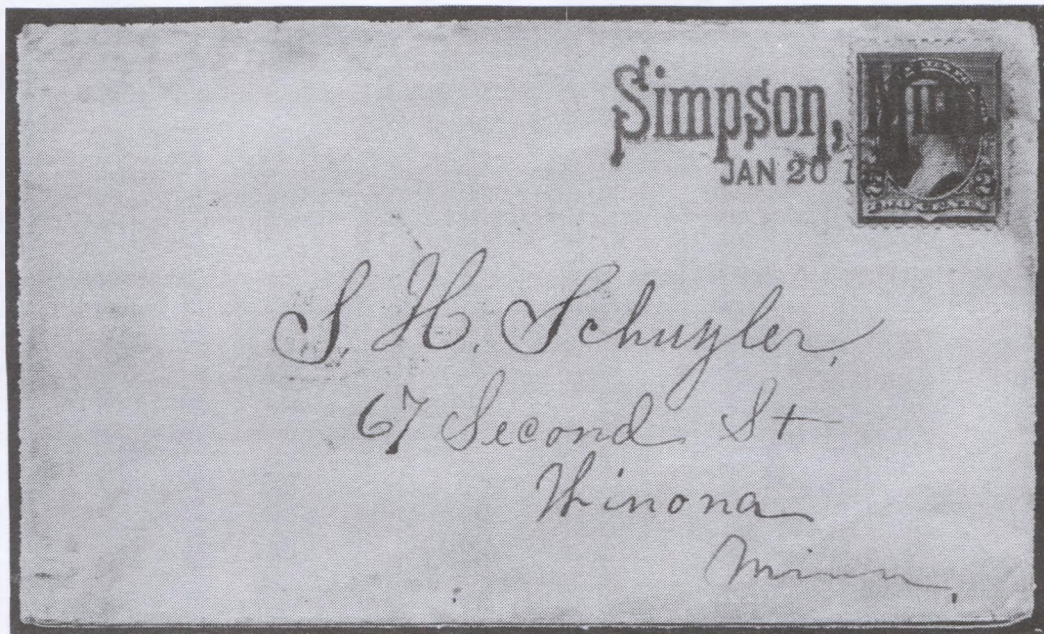
Finally, Figure 6 illustrates a fancy Simpson,

Figure 5



Minnesota straight-line cancel struck in a dark magenta ink. What nice cover that cancel creates!■

Figure 6



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## Hand-Carved "5"

by Roger D. Curran

Years ago I came across the stamp shown on the left in Figure 1. It has, of course, a distinctive and primitive shape indicating, one would certainly suppose, that it was hand-carved. I had not seen an example before or reference to it in

Figure 1



the literature and assumed it was one of those oddities collectors encounter about which it is unlikely more will be learned.

About five years later, the second example in Figure 1 was found. And then, three years ago, I had the pleasure of looking over a portion of Hubert Skinner's wonderful collection of cancellations. There, on one of the pages, was a cover bearing a Bordentown, N.J. postmark and a 3¢ imperforate stamp canceled by the same "5."

Case closed, wouldn't you say? Well, not completely. Actually, some interesting related information could have been located with minimal effort but wasn't pursued at the time. Not long ago I became aware of the cover illustrated in Figure 2, which originated in Bordentown, with the stamp canceled by a primitive "3." "5" wasn't the only hand-carved rate numeral used. This led to a quick check of Alexander's *U.S. Postal Markings 1851-61*. Although no "5" rate numerals are listed as cancelers on 1851/57 issue stamps, the Bordentown "3" was reported, as was a Bordentown "10"! The two tracings from Alexander are shown here as Figure 3. Who can show the Bordentown "10" used as a canceler on or off-cover?■

Figure 2

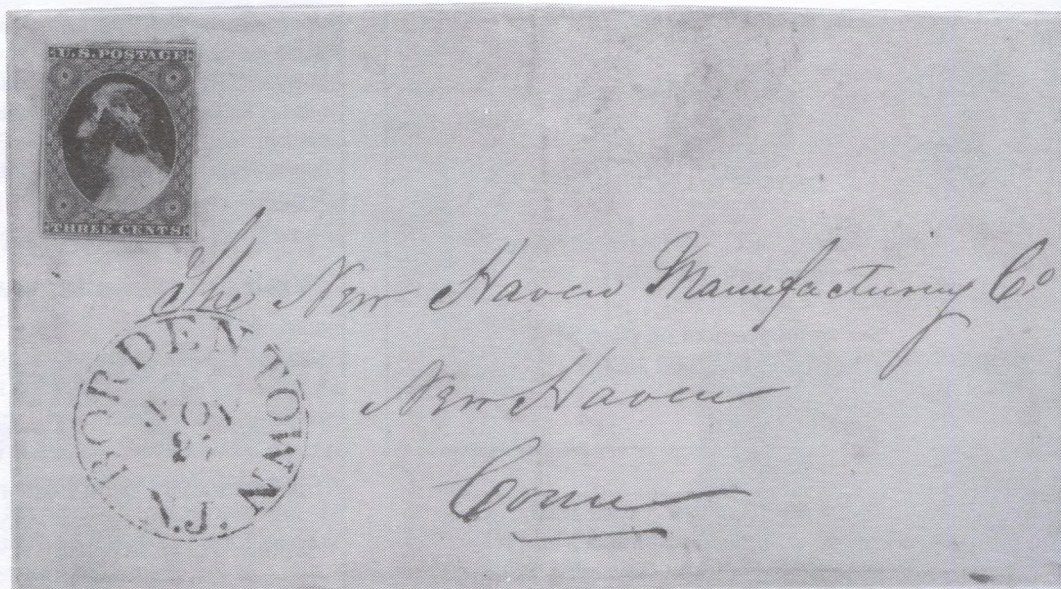
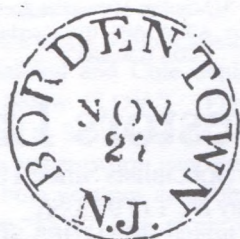


Figure 3

3 10

## Scarab Combination

Figure 1 illustrates a pair of Sc 213 stamps, one stamp canceled by a scarab and the other by a hand-carved quartered cork cancel. What gives? Without the cover it is

Figure 1



hard to tell but we can speculate. Your editor assumes the cover was initially struck with a duplex handstamp that applied both the town postmark and the scarab cancel. To cancel the stamp on the right would involve (1) a second strike of the postmark, (2) a glancing strike of the handstamp so that the postmark die didn't hit the surface of the cover, or (3) a vertical application of the handstamp so that the postmark was off the cover at the top. From the appearance of things – perfect strike of the scarab – we suspect our conscientious postmaster was put off by the idea of some make-shift or messy result and decided to apply an unduplexed killer, from days gone by, that was perhaps on hand for such purposes. That cancel, too, we note, was carefully applied.■

