



Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 27, No. 4, Whole No. 253, November 2004

Canceling the Large Numeral Postage Due Stamps (Continued from previous issue)

by Roger D. Curran

Non-First Class Mail Cancelers

Cancelers designed for use on non-first class mail were logical cancelers for postage due stamps and are found with some frequency, especially from the larger post offices, on the large numeral postage dues. We say "logical" because they did not contain, nor were they duplexed to, dated postmarks. Third and fourth-class mail cancelers of the period typically took the form of double ovals. Sometimes, as we have seen, non-first class cancels were used as provisional precancels but the ones discussed below, and indeed the large majority of all double ovals found on large numeral dues, are post-cancelers.

The most commonly seen double ovals on these due stamps are from New York. They were used for a number of years by the branch stations and, beginning in 1887, by the main NYPO. Figure 1 illustrates a cover that entered the mails at Bridgeport, CT on August 1, 1894, bearing no postage and addressed to Bloomingdale's in New York. In cases like

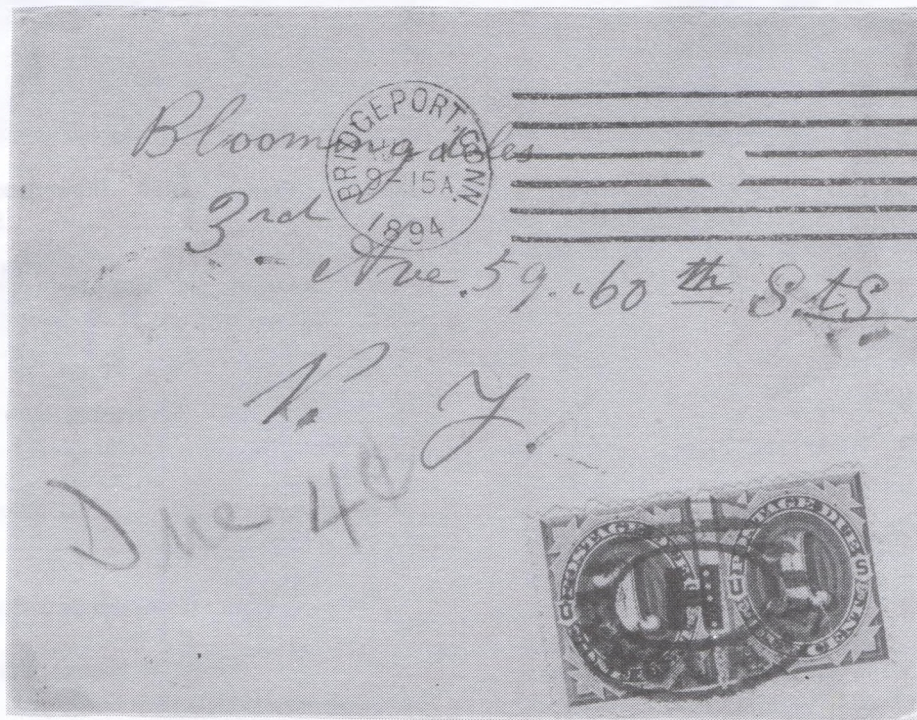
this where the sender is unknown (without opening the envelope), the letter should have been held for postage with notice to the addressee of the delinquent postage to be paid. This letter was inadvertently sent to New York whereupon the "Due 4¢" (blue crayon) was added as well as the due stamps. A Station H backstamp is dated August 1, 1894. Interestingly, Station H did not double the deficient postage, as was required by applicable postal guidelines, but rather affixed two one cent due stamps and presumably collected only two cents.

Figure 2 shows examples of New York double ovals with "PO" in the center. The main NYPO used this marking as a replacement for the New York "pearls" precancel. Initially, for a short period, it was applied in blue ink, thereafter in black. On-cover examples in blue ink are very scarce. I have recorded three such covers as follows: June 25, July 2, and August 27, all in 1887. The three cancels in Figure 2 differ from one another. The example on the left has a solid bar between the ovals below "PO." The middle stamp has a split bar with "2" in the middle. The stamp on the right has a split bar but with no numeral in the middle.

Figure 3 shows double ovals from Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Providence, RI, and New Orleans.

(Continued on page 56)

Figure 1



Dear Reader,

Your Board of Directors has decided that the 2005 annual meeting of the U.S. Cancellation Club will be held in conjunction with the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition, which takes place September 30 – October 2. This is a venue that our Club has visited before and found to be very enjoyable. Details will follow in upcoming issues of the *NEWS*. If possible, plan to attend this fine show!

For 2005 the Club will return to an earlier practice of issuing awards for the best "cancellations" exhibit at some national shows. We have selected 15 shows and the award will be the same attractive plaque that was awarded previously. The purpose of the award, of course, is to recognize exhibits of U.S. 19th century cancellations and to encourage further study and exhibition of such material. A qualifying exhibit for the award will contain, within the whole presentation, at least 25% of the material showing focus on cancellations.

A combination dues payment/election ballot form is enclosed. Why not respond right now while you are thinking about it. We all know how easy it is to set such forms aside and let them slip from our consciousness. As has been mentioned before, the Club tries very hard to retain its membership and undertakes considerable follow up in that regard. However, this requires quite a lot of effort by our Secretary and results in extra postage costs. So, please complete the form and return it with your check as promptly as possible. And if you have any suggestions for *NEWS* articles or for Club activities, please jot them down on the back of the form. We earnestly solicit your views. Thank you!

Best wishes to all for an enjoyable holiday season.

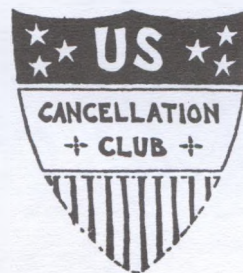
Roger Curran



Insert Missing?

We have learned that not every issue of the August 2004 *NEWS* was mailed out with the 8-page insert on Boston large negative cancels. If you did not receive this insert, please let me know at rdcnrc@evenlink.com or 20 University Ave., Lewisburg, PA 17837 and we will quickly make amends!

Roger Curran



The U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

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"Copycat" Cancels

The practice of postmasters copying cancels used in other post offices is by no means rare. Indeed, a considerable number of examples are to be found and these pages have touched on the subject several times. Most typically we see small town postmasters producing hand-carved wooden killers that look like the manufactured metal ellipse cancels that were widely used by large and medium-sized post offices. A similar thing happened after machine cancels came on the scene. Machine cancels were copied, but largely by handstamp makers rather than post office whittlers. They have been studied as an adjunct to machine cancel collecting and the May 2003 *NEWS* carried a two-page listing of 19th century pseudo-machine cancels compiled by Club member Bob Payne.

With the present article we focus on another type of "copycat" cancel, this time occurring before the ellipse era which began in 1876. For several years, beginning probably in November 1872 on a regular basis, the NYPO used killers with a hand-carved number in the center on out-of-town mail.

This number was intended to identify the clerk who used the particular handstamp so that his work could be assessed for quality control purposes. We illustrate in Figures 1 and 2 two examples of what your editor assumes to be "copycats" of these New York cancels. An enclosure to the Figure 1 cover, which is postmarked Westminster, Maryland, is dated April 13, 1874. This cover, submitted by Wendell Triplett, bears a killer with a light but unmistakable "11" carved in the center. The Figure 2 cover cannot be dated but the stamp is a National printing.

Surely the Westminster post office would not have had eleven clerks and the Keene post office ten. And, in the case of Figure 2, it doesn't appear reasonable that what seems to be clearly the product of a perishable hand-carved cork or soft wood cancel would be struck from an old "10" rate marker left over from the stampless era. The "stampless" rate markers that were used in later years as cancelers were typically manufactured handstamps made of longer lasting material. Additional examples and comments will be welcomed.■

Figure 1

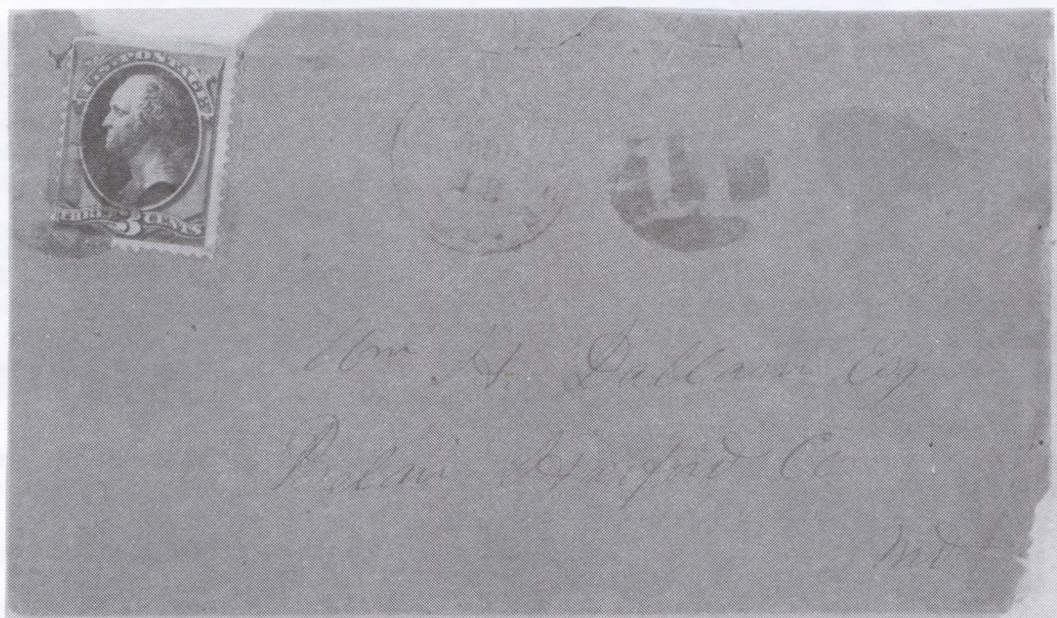
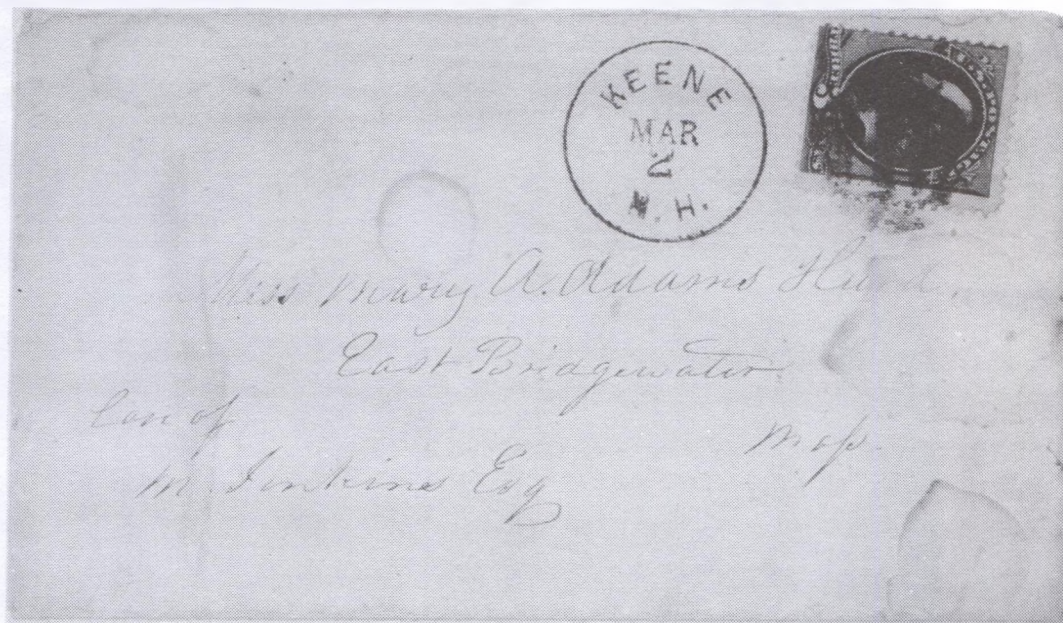


Figure 2



(Continued from front page)



Figure 2

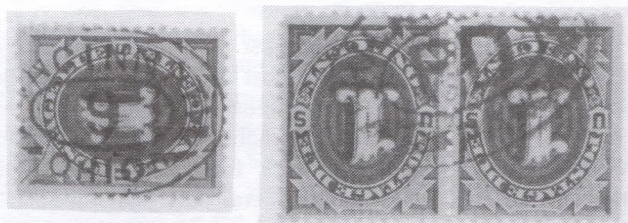


Figure 3

*Handstamp Cancellers Not Designed as Cancelers*

Compared to postage stamps of the period, the incidence of due stamps canceled by handstamps not designed as cancelers is exceedingly high. Since handstamps that duplexed a canceler to a dated postmark were normally inappropriate, many postmasters pressed other handstamps into service. Often they involved markings that were used on postage due covers. Figures 4-9 illustrate various examples. Figure 6 shows a J3 canceled by crossed strikes (upside down) of "Asst. P.M." in red ink. Figure 8 shows "DUE 1" through "DUE 6" markings, not all of which cancel a due stamp of the corresponding value. The "DUE 5" marking is of interest. There is a similar, rather primitive "DUE 3" from Philadelphia

that is fairly common, but I can find no record of this "DUE 5" from Philadelphia or anywhere else. Can readers help? Figure 9 shows dated postmarks from Philadelphia (rec'd), Mount Eden (probably KY), Saxony, KY, Brattleboro, VT and Elliott, ND.

Fancy Cancellers

Fancy cancellers are much less common on due stamps than on postage stamps. By 1879, the vast majority of fancy cancellers were duplexed to dated postmarks. We illustrated several fancy cancellers in the first installment of this article (May 2004). Figures 10-12 show additional examples. Figure 11 illustrates the only reported mask or pumpkinhead cancel on a large numeral due. Figure 12 illustrates an 1860s era San Francisco "cog" cancel brought back into service as a canceler of due stamps. This is one of two reported covers bearing a late use San Francisco cog. The unpaid cover from Italy came into New York where it was rated due 10 cents and sent on to its destination.

Miscellaneous "fancy" cancellers are shown in Figure 13. The most popular 19th century fancy cancel used on postage stamps was the five point star and this appears to be true also for due stamps. The Indian head cancel we have featured in recent issues of the *NEWS* is known, incidentally, canceling a J1 due stamp on a cover forwarded to Head Tide, Maine dated November 25, 1886.

Finally, the August 2002 *NEWS* illustrated a late (probably 1901) use of a large numeral due stamp (J 16) on a cover addressed to Canton, Ohio bearing a flag machine cancel. It is the only example reported thus far of a large numeral due canceled by a machine.

This concludes our survey of cancellers found on the large numeral U.S. postage due stamps. There is, of course, a great deal more to report and understand and readers are encouraged to submit comments and additional information.■

Figure 4

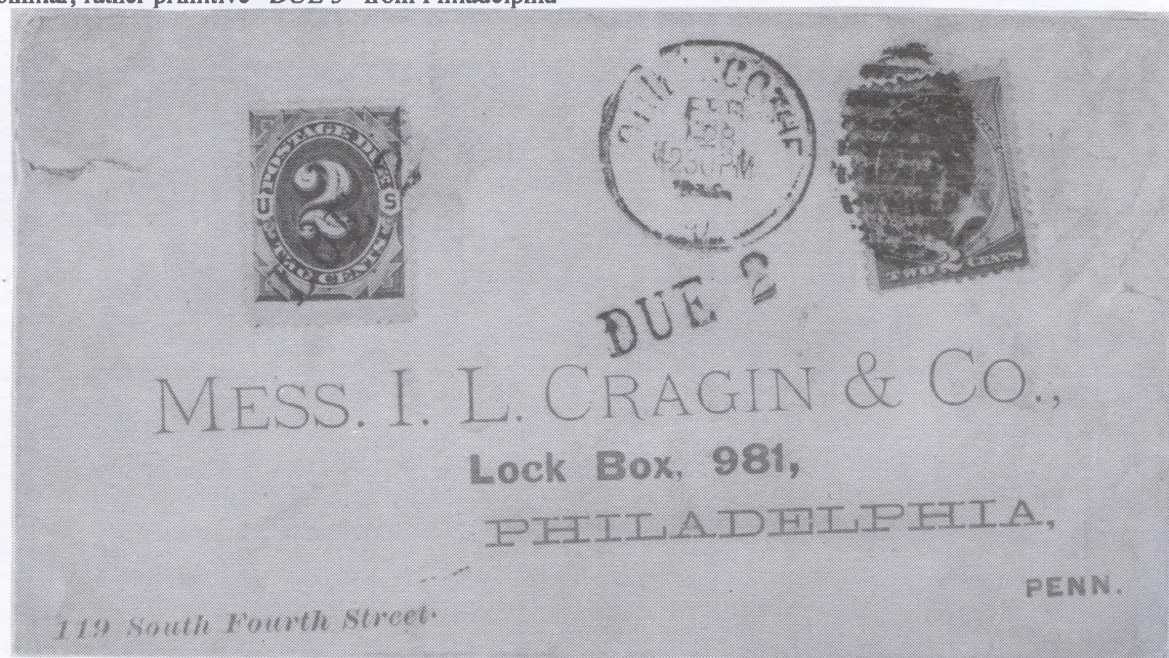


Figure 5



Figure 6

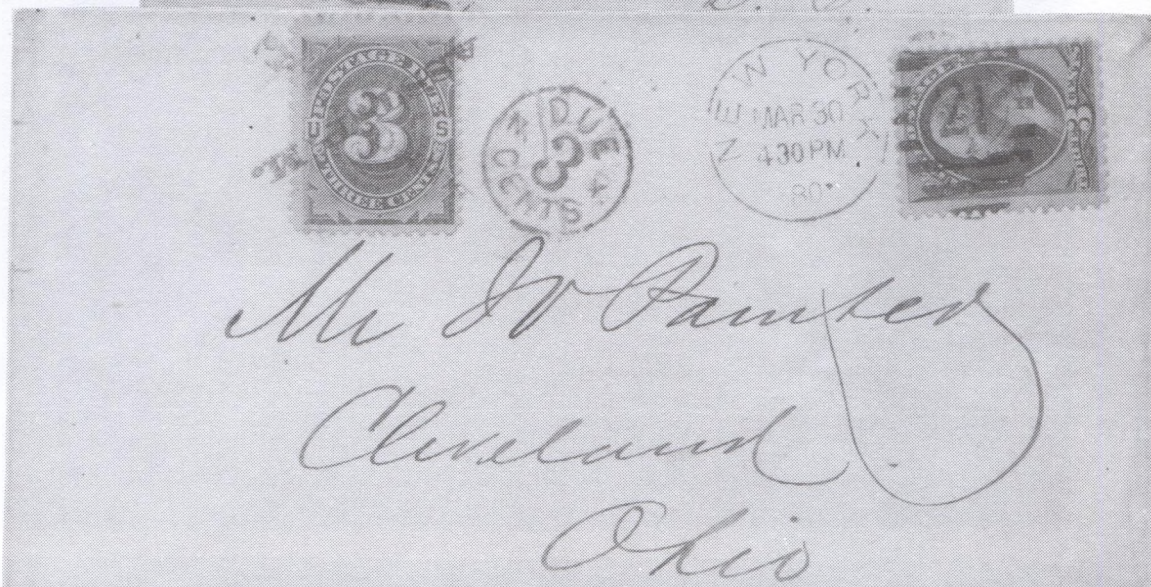


Figure 7

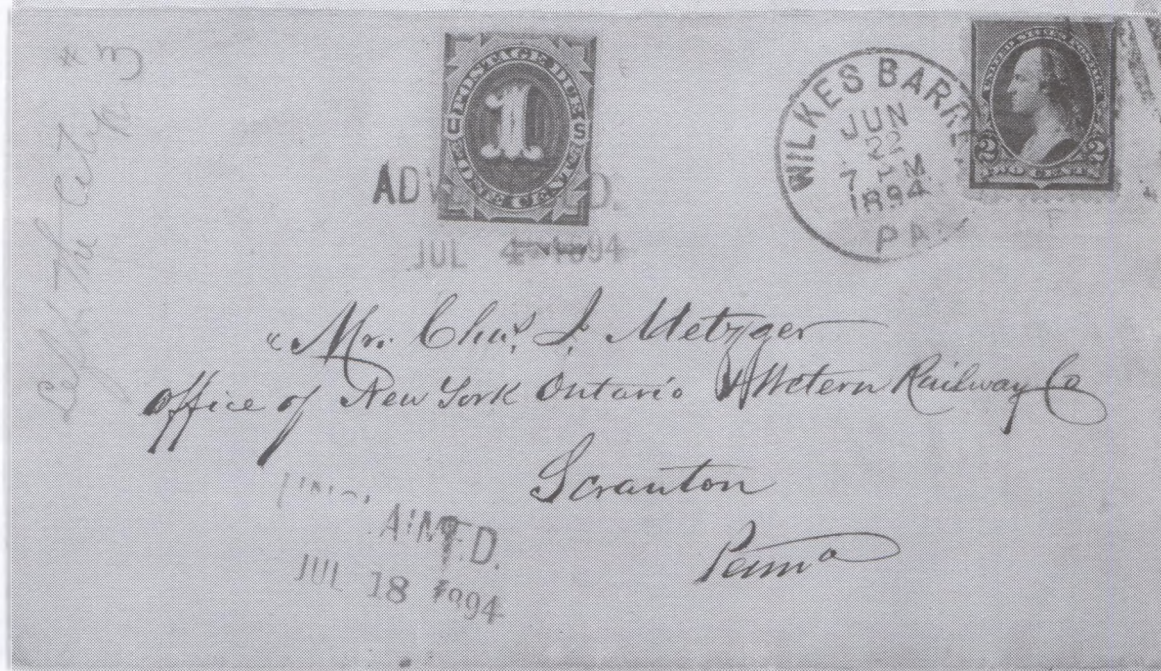


Figure 8

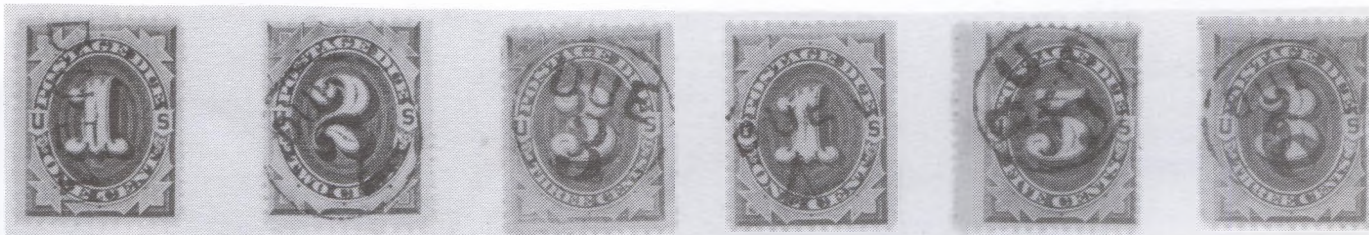


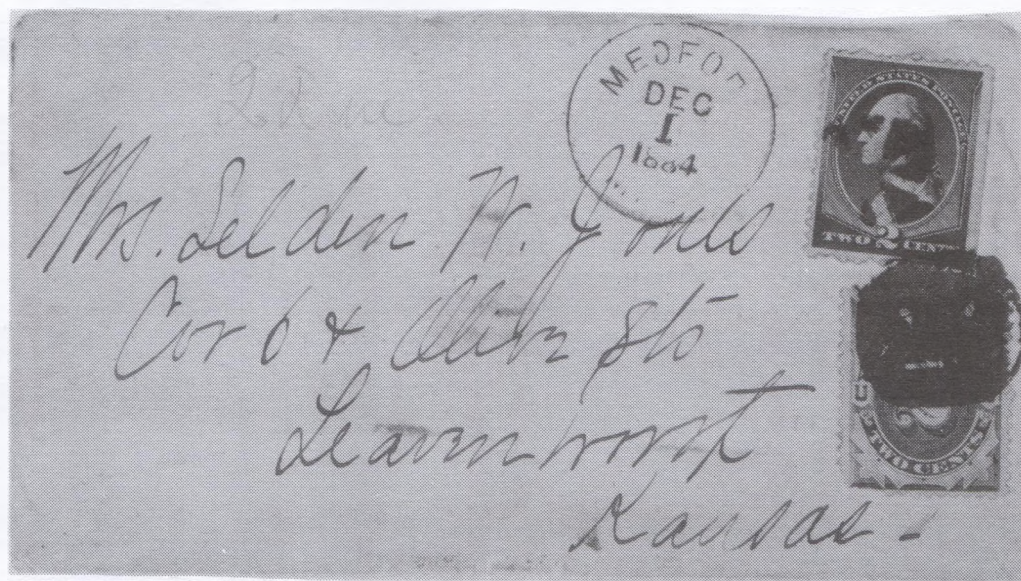
Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



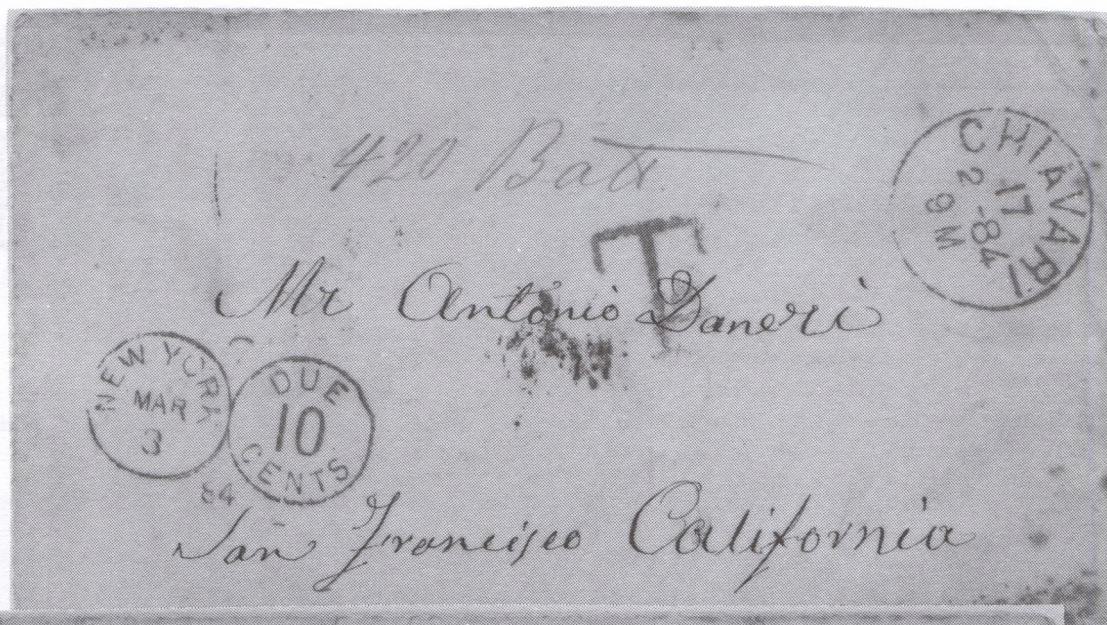


Figure 12

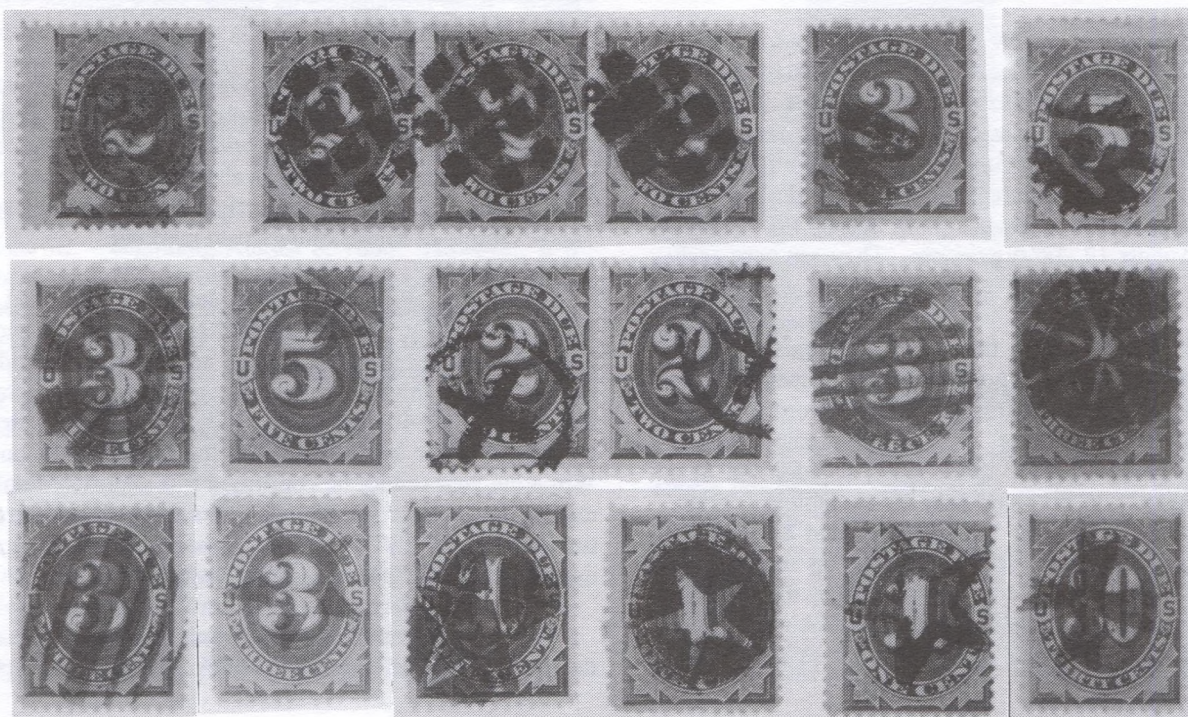
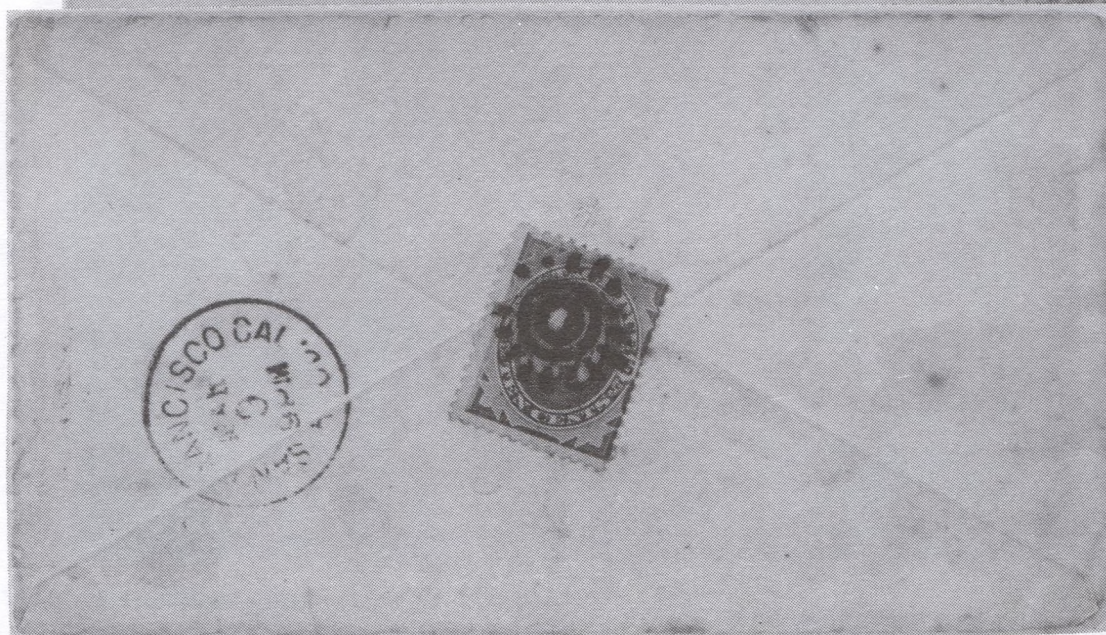


Figure 13

Anchor Cancel

Club member Joe Crosby wrote an article in the August 2000 *American Philatelist* about a wonderful Providence, Rhode Island cancel used on third class mail. He illustrated a tracing of this cancel that appears on page 132 of Jim Cole's book and said it was taken from a strike of a worn killer because he had recently acquired an example that showed much more detail.

Illustrated here as Figure 1 is Whitfield tracing 7116 which reflects what must be a very complete showing of the design. Figure 2 illustrates a nice strike of the cancel in the collection of Arthur Beane. Was there a skilled whittler in the Providence post office responsible for carving this very



Figure 1



Figure 3

attractive cancel?

A similar styled cancel from another Rhode Island post office is shown as Figure 3. It is Whitfield tracing 7115.■

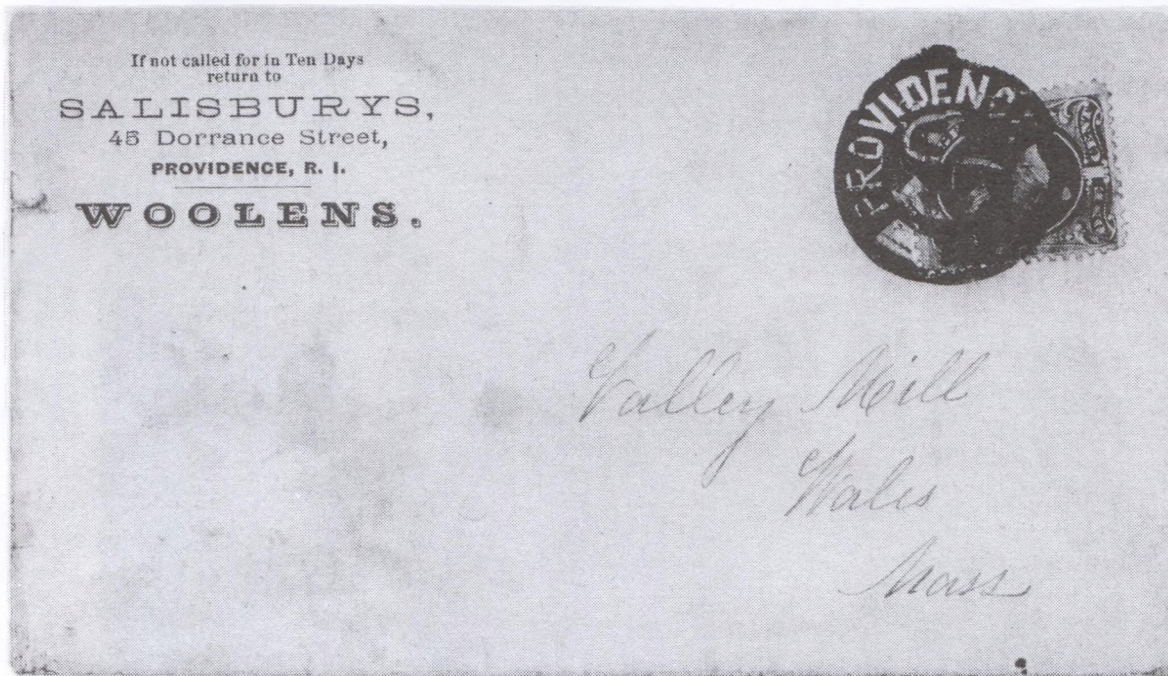


Figure 2

Early Cincinnati Duplexes

We have twice before discussed the adoption of duplex handstamps by the Cincinnati, Ohio post office. A July 23, 1860 postal regulation forbade use of the town postmark as a canceler of postage stamps and required a separate obliterator. In the Spring 1996 *NEWS* we illustrated an August 20, 1860 cover bearing a strike of a grid obliterator duplexed to a Cincinnati postmark. The Spring 1998 *NEWS* illustrated an August 17, 1860 example. They are very early examples.

The 1996 article also illustrated an August 7, 1860 Cincinnati cover showing the postage stamp canceled by an *unduplexed* grid. There was a transition period from using the town postmark as a canceler of postage stamps (which Cincinnati had been doing for some years) to adoption of a duplex handstamp. It involved use of unduplexed grids. Employing one handstamp for the postmark and another for canceling would have involved the picking up and setting down of each handstamp as it was used as well as the frequent inking of both handstamps. Such a procedure took much more processing time than using just the postmarker as a canceler.

Something had to be done and the duplex handstamp, of course, was the answer.

The early Cincinnati duplex markings involved a large (approximately 33mm. diameter) postmark. These soon gave way to duplex markings with a double circle postmark that was considerably smaller – about 26mm. diameter for the outer circle. The Spring 1996 article illustrated a November 1, 1860 example of a smaller duplexed marking.

In the present article we show two additional covers. Figure 1 is an August 1, 1860 (year dated enclosure) Cincinnati cover showing use of an unduplexed grid which represents, we think, a remarkably prompt implementation of the July 23, 1860 regulation. Figure 2 is an October 16 Cincinnati cover involving use of the double circle postmark. While the year cannot be confirmed it is almost certainly 1860 due to the postage stamp involved and its demonetization in the summer of 1861. Thus it appears that the large circle duplexes were replaced after about two months of use.

More covers are still needed, of course, to really nail down the timing of events involved in Cincinnati's response to

Figure 1

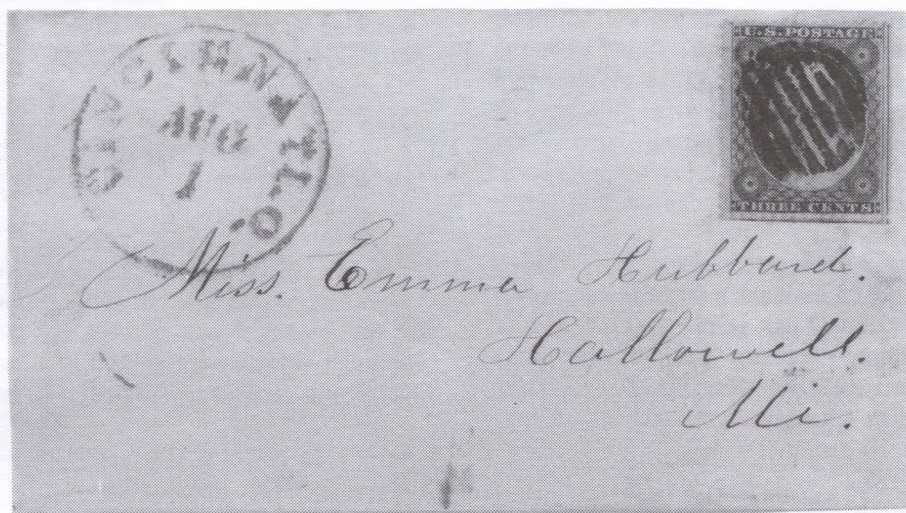
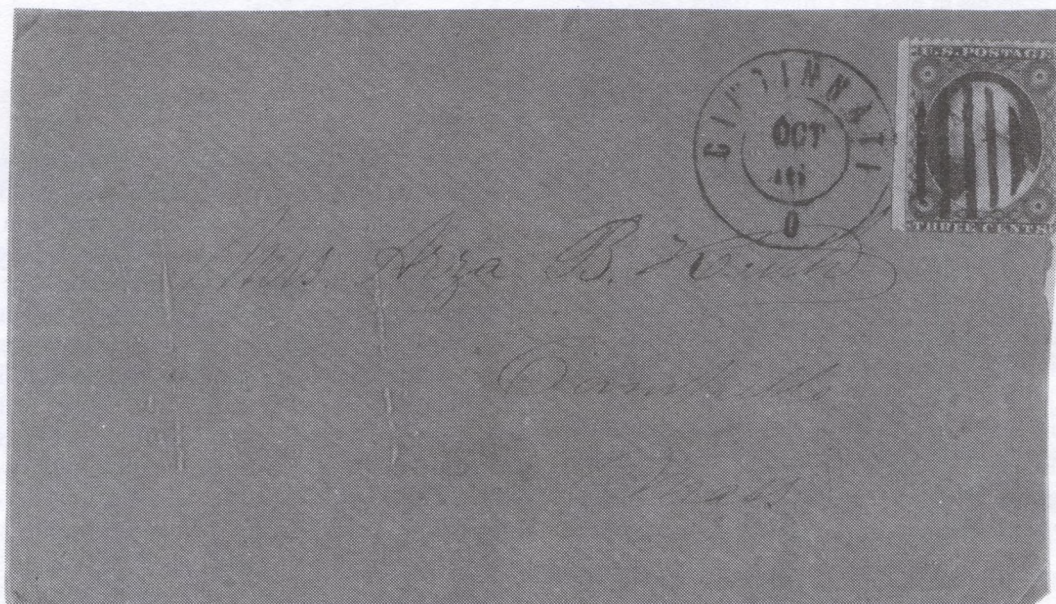


Figure 2



the July 1860 postal regulation. Exactly when did Cincinnati stop using the town postmark as a canceler of postage stamps? When did Cincinnati begin using an unduplexed grid? When did Cincinnati first employ a duplex handstamp as discussed herein? And were there periods of overlap when more than one approach was used? If readers can help by reporting covers that bear on these questions, please let us hear from you.

Only New York is reported to have used such duplexes earlier – beginning August 8, 1860. However, it is interesting to note that one other post office – Cleveland, Ohio – also used duplex handstamps as early as August 17, 1860. New York, Cincinnati, and Cleveland were true pioneers in adopting duplex handstamps which were destined to become the norm in all big city post offices and in a great many number of smaller post offices as well.■

Noteworthy Anchor

Anchor cancels have long been a favorite among cancellation collectors. John Donnes recently came across two very similar anchor cancels, each in a reddish magenta ink. One example, along with his tracing from it, is shown in

Figure 1



Figure 1. The stamp is a Sc 184. John reports that he is quite sure that it is the same cancel as Whitfield #726 which is listed without attribution and not in a colored ink. Can readers report additional examples?■

CLASSIC PRECANCELS

This brief article reports on two important precancel covers that recently came on the market. The first was lot 952 of the Siegel sale of April 27-28, 2004. It shows a 1¢ Banknote, bearing the “R” precancel we discussed on pages 29-30 of the May 2004 NEWS, on a wrapper addressed to Canton, N.Y. We had illustrated another cover (assumed to be a wrapper) with a 1¢ stamp canceled by the “R” precancel and made comment to the effect that if the “R” precancel was used

only on wrappers, identifying origin might be very difficult since few if any wrappers would likely be found with the newspaper saved as an enclosure. Although the wrapper sold in April had no enclosure, just like the one illustrated in *NEWS*, it is nonetheless a very scarce item showing how the precancel was used. (From another recent source, we learn that the "R" is now suspected to be from Rochester, N.Y.¹)

The Siegel 2004 rarities sale offered as lot 254 a wrapper, with 2004 PFC, that does make a major breakthrough on a well-known but unattributed pair of precancels found on one cent 1851 issue stamps. We say "pair" of precancels because two different precancels have been found on pairs of stamps. One is a "paid" in upper case type and the other is "paid" in lower case type.

The description for lot 254 refers to Ashbrook's discussion of the precancels in his *The United States One Cent Stamp of 1851-1857* (Volume 2) published in 1938. He illustrated two off-cover pairs bearing the two forms of "paid." One of those is illustrated here as Figure 1. Ashbrook also

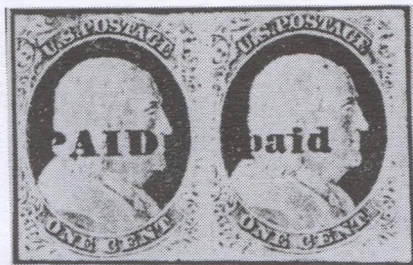


Figure 1

showed a single with an upper case "paid" and a pair with two lower case "paid" precancels. He concluded that these cancels were printed on the stamps using newspaper type, presumably applied at a newspaper plant.

Described as a "new discovery," the wrapper is accompanied by its original enclosure, which is a newspaper – *The American Eagle* from Cleveland, Ohio dated February 2, 1857. The wrapper, addressed to Southington, Connecticut, bears a horizontal pair of Sc 9, the left stamp canceled by an upper case "paid" and the right stamp by a lower case "paid." These precancels are very scarce, if not rare, and much, much less common than the mystery "R." If a wrapper with enclosure can be found bearing these "paid" precancels, we should probably take heart in thinking that to origin of the "R" will probably one day be clearly established.■

¹ Smith, David W. *Silent Precancels* Precancel Stamp Society (2004), p. 12.

A Real Puzzlement

The cover in Figure 1 has mystified its owner, John Donnes, and your editor. We have been unable to develop a satisfactory explanation of the post office processing involved. Let's begin with a description of the physical evidence.

1.) The cover bears two 2¢ Banknote stamps (a Continental and a grilled National) canceled by a killer duplexed to a "NEW K YORK / CITY DELIVERY" circular date stamp. It also bears a third 2¢ Banknote (Continental)

canceled by a killer duplexed to a "NEW YORK / P.O." CDS. The CDSs are dated July 27, 8 A.M. and July 28, 11A.M. respectively.

2.) The name and initial address of the addressee, including the "(care of John Wilmarth)," are written in purple ink.

3.) This address, including the reference to John Wilmarth, was struck out and a different address was written to the left. The new address and the marks striking out the original address were written in what is apparently the same purple ink used for the original address.

4.) A pencil notation appears on the cover reading "July 28/74."

5.) The New York Station "L" marking shown in Figure 2 appears on the back of the cover.

Discussion

The cover entered the mails at Station K of the NYPO on June 27 with four cents postage affixed. The June 27 city delivery CDS would only have been appropriate for intra city delivery. It would not have been appropriate for a letter mailed to another post office such as New Rochelle. Although the new address was written in what is apparently the same purple ink used for the original address, it is doubtful that it was written in the same hand. Note in particular the differences in the "Y" and "r" of "York." The July 28 CDS was applied by the main NYPO. CDSs with "PO" at the bottom were intended for use only on intra city mail. There is no indication (received marking) that the letter reached New Rochelle. Also, the July 27 and 28 markings, being one day apart, argue against the transmission to New Rochelle. It doesn't seem there would have been adequate time (1) for it to travel to New Rochelle (albeit close to New York), (2) for processing in the New Rochelle PO, and (3) for return to the NYPO. There is also no indication that the letter was not received by the addressee. The cover was opened and the contents removed and what may well be a receipt notation (July 28, 1874) is present. If the year date notation is correct, it is of interest to mention that in 1874 there was no free forwarding of drop letters. Drop letters were charged the full local rate if re-addressed to a new local address or a full domestic rate when re-addressed to an out-of-town destination. This letter doesn't appear to have initially been an intra city letter but how it was actually handled (with the city delivery postmarks) is certainly mysterious.

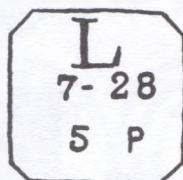
Theories on What Happened

One theory holds that the overpaid letter was dropped in the local mail slot at the Station K office and canceled before the out-of-town address was noted. Someone in the Station K office knew that the addressee was now in New York City and the letter was immediately returned to the sender. It was treated as a drop letter to be forwarded, perhaps because it didn't go to New Rochelle. Someone at the sender's residence readdressed the letter, added another 2¢ stamp, and dropped the letter off at the main NYPO whereupon it was postmarked and dispatched to Station L for



Figure 1

Figure 2



delivery.

Another theory is that the clerk at Station K, upon seeing the two 2¢ stamps, erroneously thought it was a double weight drop letter and thus used his city delivery handstamp. For some reason the letter was returned to the sender. Someone at the sender's address re-addressed the letter and took it to Station K which was the closest post office location and tried to remail it as a forwarded letter without additional charge. Upon being advised that there would be a 2¢ charge, the sender was told to take it up with the main NYPO office if he or she wished to press the matter, which the sender did. After being advised again of the 2¢ charge, the sender affixed the 2¢ stamp and mailed the letter at the main NYPO.

These explanations are not put forth with real conviction but are rather just attempts to describe what might have occurred, consistent with the evidence at hand. Reader comments and additional information are eagerly sought. ■

The Classic Cancel

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



"running man"

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A Noteworthy Boston Cancel

by Roger D. Curran

The October 1952 *U.S. Cancellation Club Quarterly* carried an article by Wilbur Davis, co-author of the standard reference book *Boston Postmarks to 1890*, in which he illustrated several cancels including the one shown here in Figures 1 and 2. About Figure 1 he said:

This cancellation . . . with its town mark from Boston is very common. It occurs on covers with the 2¢ brown of 1873 and the 2¢ vermillion of 1875, and apparently was used only on local mail of the 2 cent rate. The type of the town mark is unusual, having the hour denoted, usually by one figure only, and appearing above the month and the day date. In the oval cancellation, only the figure 1 is used denoting that it was used at the main Boston post office.

About Figure 2 he said:

The illustration . . . shows the cancellation inverted. It is the only one that I have seen. I have it on cover in my collection. The only way that the invert could have happened must be due to the fact that the oval cancellation was removable for some reason, perhaps for renewal, and it was replaced inverted.

Figure 3 shows a 2¢ brown canceled by an inverted "1" killer. This illustration comes from a listing sent out about ten years ago by dealer Charlie Wonderlin.

The use of this cancellation is interesting. Until recently I had never seen it on other than 2¢ stamps. In my experience it is scarce on the 2¢ brown (Sc 157) and occurs with some frequency on the 2¢ vermillion (Sc 178). Figure 4 shows a cover where the 2¢ local rate is made up with a pair of 1¢ stamps. Strikes of this cancel are typically grainy and

incomplete.

Notwithstanding Mr. Davis' comment, *Boston Postmarks* does report the cancel on a 3¢ National stamp, but this may well be based on a single observation. And it doesn't necessarily mean, of course, that it was used on an out-of-town letter. It could well have been an overpayment of the 2¢ rate. However, Figure 5 illustrates a postal card bearing the cancel addressed to Weld, Maine. It is dated June 24 (1875).

Boston Postmarks notes usages from 5/27/75 – 10/18/78 and shows two different postmarks which we

Figure 1



Figure 2

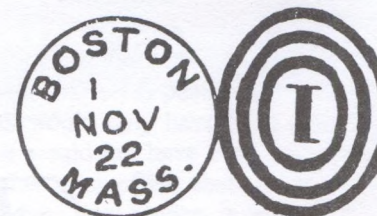


Figure 3



Figure 4

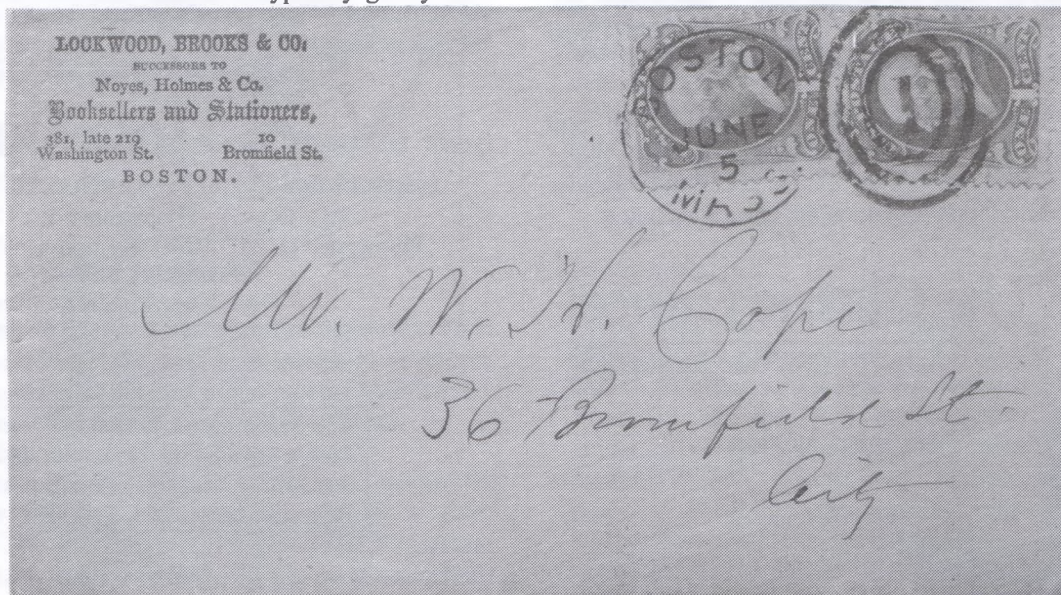
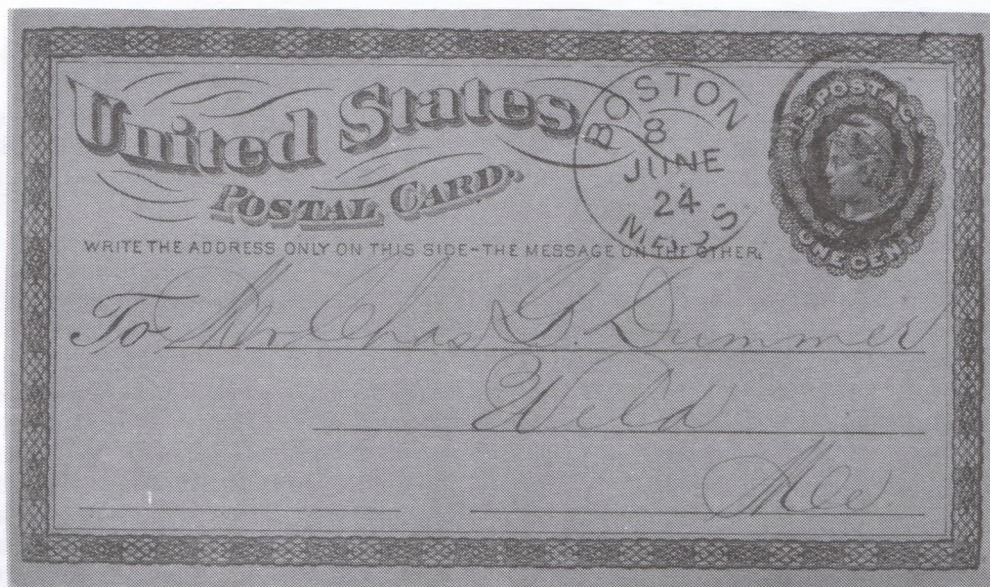


Figure 5



reproduce here as Figures 6 and 7, one with a number above the month and one without. (Figure 4, incidentally, shows the latter.) Mr. Davis stated that this number refers to the hour. Might it also have to do with the particular delivery – the “8” o’clock delivery, for example? It would be very unusual, I believe, to see a delivery marking used in the 1870s. Several large cities, including Boston, did employ such indicators in carrier postmarks of the 1850s.



Figure 6

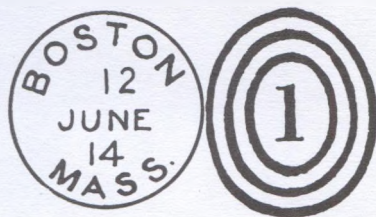


Figure 7

If you have information on this cancel or postmark, let us hear from you. Also, if readers can report this cancel on additional stamps, on covers mailed to non-Boston destinations, or other interesting usages, please do so.■

Identification, Please

Wendell Triplett writes to suggest a column be established where readers submit images of cancels in their collections that are unlisted, at least in terms of the originating post office. Readers would be asked to help out by identifying the post office where possible and providing any other pertinent information that they have on hand.

We gladly accept this idea and begin such a column with this issue. Your support is asked both in terms of submitting mystery items and in responding to inquiries where you know the answers. Indeed, readers are encouraged to submit items unknown to them even if they haven’t had occasion to thoroughly check the literature. We’ll be ready to assist in that regard.

A cancel from Wendell’s collection starts the ball rolling. Figure 1 shows a Sc 158 stamp canceled by a hand-carved ellipse cancel with what appears to be a negative reverse “4” in the center. But whether it is a reverse “4”

Figure 1



Figure 2



depends upon one’s perspective. Figure 2 shows the stamp with the ellipse horizontal and here it is a normal negative “4.” Which was intended? Manufactured ellipse cancels, which were produced in great quantities, overwhelmingly have a vertical orientation but for the odd item such as this, who can say? The only way to make a really informed opinion, your editor supposes, would be to have access to at least several on-cover examples where a consistent placement of the cancel would show intent. And beyond all of this is the question – where did it originate?

We’ll add two intriguing items (Figures 3 and 4) illustrated without attribution in the Whitfield book. (The “70” notation means that the cancel has been seen on one or more of the stamps from the 1870 National through 1881



Figure 3



Figure 4

Reengraved period.) In each case, the cancel appears to be one of some sort of set of cancels. This suggests use by a large post office. Your editor recalls seeing over the years one of these cancels on a wrapper with no evidence of origin and perhaps two off-cover examples. Who can report the origin of either Figure 3 or 4 or additional numbers used in the center?■

Additional Goldsborough Handstamps

The May 2004 *NEWS* reproduced portions of a John Goldsborough advertising circular and asked readers to report actual markings that matched illustrations in the ad. One match had already come to our attention from Rauchtown, Pennsylvania which involved a postmark duplexed to an ellipse with a hollow "R" in the center.

Ted Wassam responded with an example (Figure 1) of the Gardner, Mass. postmark duplexed to an ellipse with a "9" in the center. Willard (page 132) illustrated this cancel with a portion of the CDS but erroneously attributed it to Gardiner, Maine. (In his collection, however, he had several off-cover examples appropriately attributed to Gardner, Mass.) Willard made the interesting observation that the "Gardiner, Maine" ellipse was "much like Brady, Pennsylvania." Figure 2 shows a Brady cover dated January 25, 1888 that certainly appears to bear a Goldsborough handstamp marking. Brady,

incidentally, is a DPO, having operated from 1858-1890.

Cole (page 316) illustrates what appears to be the same ellipse in blue ink attributed to Benson, Illinois. One supposes that each of these three cases involves a small post office where the postmaster ordered from the advertising illustration and got exactly what appeared in the ad – a "9" in the ellipse – even though there weren't nine clerks in the office. Indeed, it seems likely that there was only one person stamping the mail.

Gilbert Levere submitted the card shown as Figure 3 from Union City, Connecticut dated September 26 (1894). The duplex postmark appears to be the same as the Goldsborough illustration presented in Figure 3 of the earlier article but without a year date being present. It is interesting to note that Gil's strike is dated more than nine years after the testimonial of the Union City postmaster reported by Goldsborough.

Figure 1



Figure 2

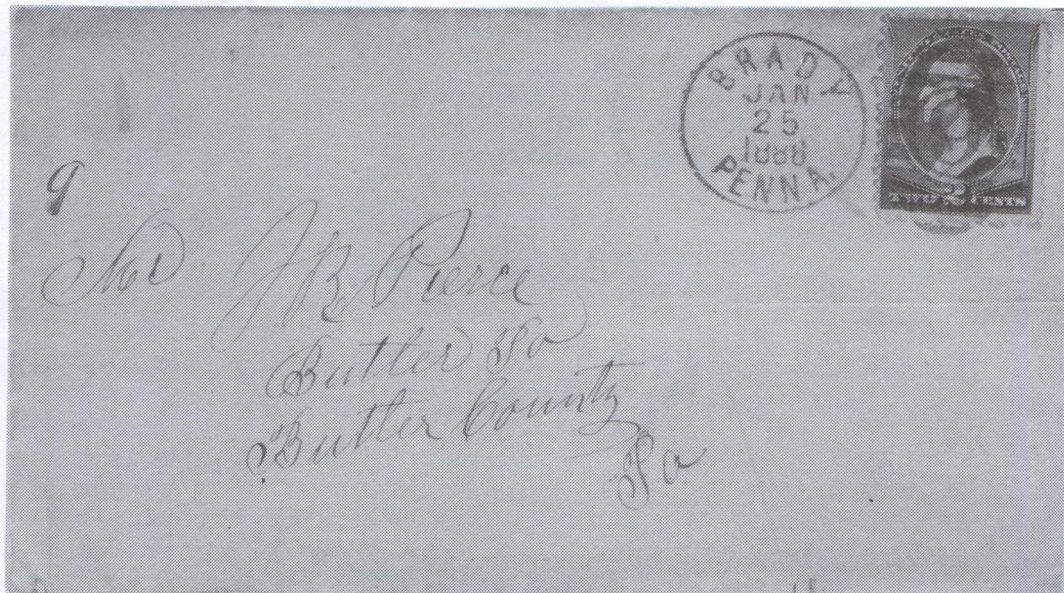


Figure 3

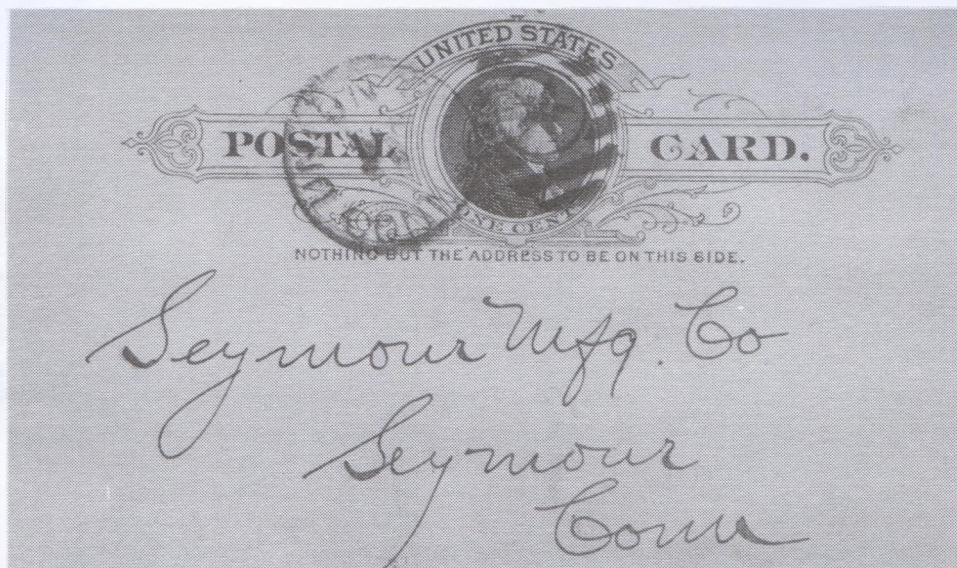
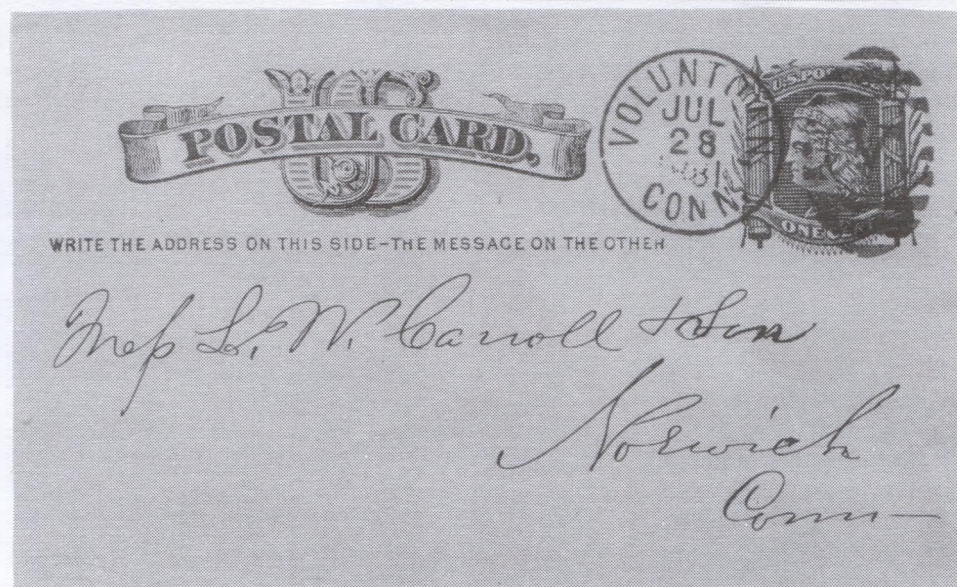


Figure 4



Gil also sent in two cards from Voluntown, Connecticut postmarked and canceled by what must be a Goldsborough device, albeit not one pictured in the advertisement referenced in the May 2003 and May 2004 *NEWS*. It is extremely similar to the Union City marking except that a "V" is in the ellipse center rather than a star. The Figure 4 card is dated July 28, 1881 and Gil's second example is dated August 5, 1881.

We are eager to report further uses of Goldsborough handstamps that are identifiable through his advertisement, and encourage readers to check their collections and advise the *NEWS* of any additional finds.■

"Love and Kisses" Update

The last issue of the *NEWS* reviewed a well-known cancellation that has generally been referred to as "love and kisses." An illustration of one version of this cancel is shown as Figure 1. It is a tracing from a cover in the collection of Bill Bauer. From a study of several covers we speculated that the letters might represent the initials of someone, perhaps the postmaster.

Figure 1



A recent check of the 1889 *Official Register* provided some interesting information. The postmaster at Schuyler's Lake, N.Y., as of July 1, 1889 was a Lucius O. Veber. Not much doubt but what the "LOV" letters represent Mr. Veber's initials.

From the covers reviewed, it appears that early versions of the cancel had no crosshatching (or "Xs") and one might theorize that Mr. Veber added the crosshatching as a bit of whimsy to create the "love and kisses" idea while still using this monogram. Or it could well be that the crosshatching was just ornamentation.

Two additional Schuyler's Lake "LOV" covers have been reported by Club members and they both involve later uses than we had thus far noted. First, a beautiful local cover was submitted by Donald Alec Barany bearing an Sc. 219 canceled by a negative "LOV" killer with crosshatching above

the letters. It is dated January 1893 with one of the day numerals being unclear. Don notes that the day is likely "18" but could be "13" or "19." A portion of this cover is shown as Figure 2. The second cover was reported by Dick Nunge and involves an 1894 strike of what appears to be a solid circular killer with negative "L.O.V" in the center. (Figure 4 in the



Figure 2

earlier article illustrates such a cancel.) This is interesting in that it presents a return to the less fancy killers (that is, no crosshatching) that characterized our early use reports. Dick advises that the month and day indicators are unreadable but the stamp is a Sc 220.■

Unusual Scarab Cover

The cover in Figure 1 bears a Moscow, Livingston Co., N.Y. postmark dated April 4, 1888 in a gray black ink. The date slugs were not well lined up. The "4" is lower than "APR" and the partial "1888" is higher. Moscow is a DPO that operated from 1819–1916.

The unusual aspect of the cover is the use of an unduplexed scarab. The vast majority of these scarabs were duplexed to the postmark. A Sadler Publishing Co. ad for a duplex handstamp incorporating either the scarab or a star-in-circle cancel was illustrated on page 112 of the August 2003 NEWS. Undoubtedly the scarab was offered in some advertisements as an unduplexed killer. We do know that F.P. Hammond and Co. offered the wheel of fortune cancel in both forms.

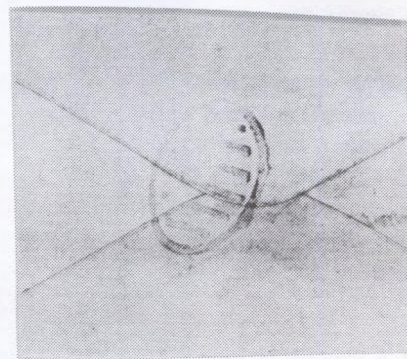


Figure 2

Figure 2 shows the back of the Moscow cover with a second strike of the scarab over the sealed flap of the envelope. Perhaps the postmaster thought it a good idea to put a strike there for security reasons.■

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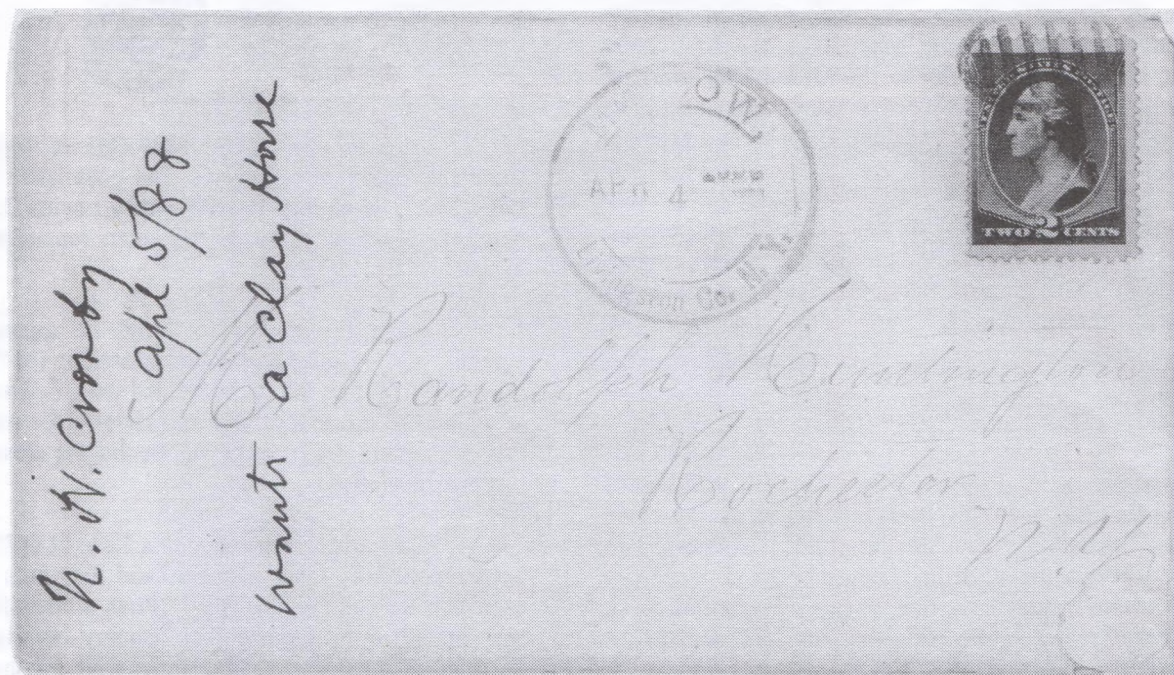


Figure 1