



Large Double Circle Postmarks – Correction and Update

Also in the article a late usage of this style of duplex handstamp was noted from Hillsdale, Michigan with an 1874 date. Charlie Wood, editor of *The Peninsular Philatelist*, a journal devoted to Michigan postal history, sent in a nice run of Hillsdale double circles including 1875 and 1876 usages. And, just by happenstance, your editor came across an illustration of a May 10, 1883 Hillsdale cover bearing a strike of what is apparently the same double circles markings. From this example, it appears that both the CDS and killer portions of the handstamp were breaking down. After what was probably upwards of 20 years of use (Charlie showed a January 1865 example), is it any wonder?■

This brief article presents two very unusual ellipse cancels. The postmark and cancel on the Figure 1 cover are noteworthy due to their small size. Indeed, it is the smallest duplex involving an ellipse that your editor has ever seen. Given the sharp lines (particularly the CDS circle) and the sharp numbers and letters with no serifs, we speculate that the handstamp face was made of a hard material rather than rubber, presumably engraved wood or manufactured metal.

The piece in Figure 2 shows a bottle stopper carved to resemble an ellipse. But the really interesting aspect, we opine, is how the raised “3” was used to create the typical ellipse design containing a number or letter in the center. Very clever, don’t you think?■



Dear Reader,

As this is written, I am recently back from the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition where the USCC held its annual meeting and one-frame exhibit competition. Congratulations to John Donnes for winning the USCC one-frame award – and a gold medal – for his exhibit entitled *New York City Ellipse Foreign Mail Cancels*. John put together the exhibit in the last several months and this was its first showing – quite an accomplishment! Club members who also entered one-frame exhibits were Vince Costello - *Fancy Cancels on Large Banknote Issues*, Bill Crowe - *Waterbury, Connecticut 1870-1890*, Roger Curran - *Ellipse Cancels in Colored Inks*, and Roger Rhoads - *Chicago: House of Blues*. Four of the exhibitors were present to discuss their exhibits at the meeting. The USCC provides an award at some national shows for the best multi-frame cancellations exhibit and this year at Philadelphia it was won by William Barlow for a six-frame exhibit entitled *The Boston Post Office and the Evolution of Machine Cancellations*. Club member Norman Shachat presented an excellent ten-frame exhibit entitled *Philadelphia 19th Century Machine Cancels*.

I am pleased to announce a project, under the leadership of Arthur Beane, that is being undertaken to produce a monograph on wheel-of-fortune (WOF) cancels.



By WOF we mean specifically the cancel shown herewith and not others that are similar but not the same. The report will consist basically of a state-by-state listing of post offices that used this cancel and data about those uses. We will also illustrate a number of noteworthy covers. Usages to foreign destinations, covers with multiple strikes, unusual or particularly attractive advertising covers, covers bearing highly ornamented postmarks associated with these cancels, etc. will be candidates for illustration. This report, of course, will by no means achieve completeness. However, the goal is to include as much data as possible and, in that regard, we are conducting a literature review and reaching out to cancellation and postal history collectors for information. Readers will find enclosed a WOF report sheet for those who have on-cover wheels in their collections and the time to assist. All contributions will be gratefully acknowledged.

Included with this issue is the Club's Phase 3 progress report on the "Boston-style" large negative cancels. Sincere thanks to all who contributed. Our next, and perhaps final, phase will involve the presentation of some exceptional covers bearing these cancels. More on this in the near future.

Please fill out the enclosed dues notice and return it with your check as soon as feasible. Our treasurer will really appreciate it. Thanks for your cooperation and support.

Best wishes to all for a happy holiday season.

Roger Curran



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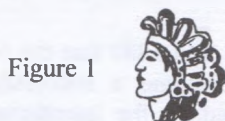
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Indian Head Update

A subject discussed in several recent issues of the *NEWS* is that of a finely detailed Indian head cancel used, at least briefly, by a fair number of post offices. Figure 1 illustrates the cancel and is Whitfield tracing #90. In the



August 2005 *NEWS* an unusual usage canceling a postage due stamp was shown. The November 2003 *NEWS* listed 15 post offices known to have employed this cancel and the August 2004 issue added a 16th.

From an old clipping file, we can now report #17 based upon the February 9, 1881 cover shown in Figure 2 from Pattersonville, N.Y. The accompanying large oval



postmark incorporates the name "G.M. Kern, P.M." and appears to be duplexed to the Indian head cancel.

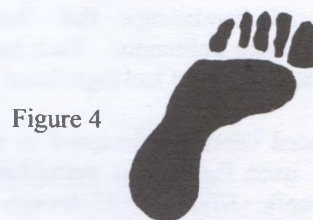
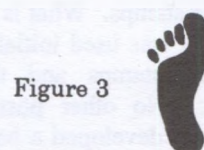
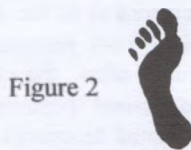
Who will report an 18th post office?■

Big Foot

A remarkable cancel in the collection of Arthur Beane is shown in Figure 1. Adding interest is the fact that it appears quite late in the fancy cancel era. By 1889, medium and large post offices had gone to ellipses and other standardized cancels and machines were beginning to make a substantial appearance. So it was left to the smaller post

offices to carry on the noble "fancy" tradition. The Eagle Mills post office, incidentally, operated from 1842 to 1915 and was located in Rensselaer Co., N.Y.

Dr. Robert deWasserman reported a foot print cancel on 1887 issue stamps from Eagle Mills, N.Y. in the May 1963 *NEWS*. However, his illustration was much smaller – see Figure 2. Jim Cole made the same report and his illustration was also smaller – see Figure 3. Cole illustrated a second



footprint, unattributed as to origin, which he noted on Columbian issue stamps – see Figure 4.

Can readers report covers bearing the smaller foot print from Eagle Mills, or the larger Eagle Mills foot print used during the Columbian issue era? Was there another post office involved? Please help if you can.■

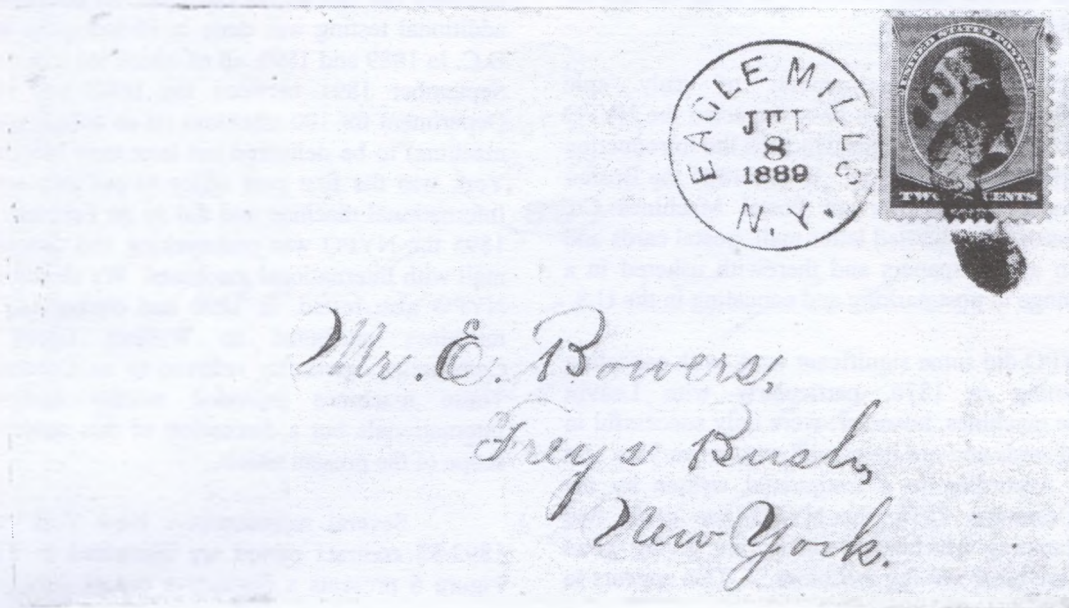
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Figure 1



The NYPO, Innovation and 19th Century "International" Machine Cancels

by Roger D. Curran

The NYPO was the prime mover in the evolution of 19th century cancellation practices. It was the first U.S. post office to take the following major steps.

1846. Introduced the first handstamp designed as a canceler of postage stamps. What is generally referred to as the 13-bar square grid was used initially on the New York postmaster's provisional stamps and then continued after the 1847s appeared. No other post office that issued postmaster's provisionals developed a handstamp designed to cancel these postage stamps.

1860. Introduced handstamps that duplexed the town postmark to a separate obliterator. Such handstamps became the norm for post offices that had significant volumes of mail.

1872. Introduced cancelers designed to be identified with the clerks who used them, thus permitting quality control checks of their work. Numbers "1" through "14" were carved into cork or soft wood killers which were used on out-of-town domestic mail. This "system" of cancelers became standard practice in large city post offices.

1876. Introduced manufactured metal ellipse cancelers comprised of horizontal or vertical bars that had a number or letter in the center. These were adopted by every U.S. large city post office and many of lesser size as well. Even some small post offices used ellipse cancelers, but not typically made of metal.

Another "major" evolutionary step was the introduction of rubber-faced handstamps in 1876 and particularly 1877. However, this was not, for understandable reasons, something the NYPO embraced as quickly or fully as many other post offices. The NYPO needed the durability of metal – undoubtedly steel – as rubber would have deteriorated quickly under the heavy use required. The NYPO did begin using double oval cancels made of rubber in 1879 but not for regular first class mail.

There was one development, of truly epic proportions, where observers might have expected the NYPO to be the pioneer, but it wasn't. This concerns the introduction of canceling machines for letter mail. In late 1884 the Boston post office introduced an American Postal Machines Co. machine that successfully handled letter mail, postal cards and bulky items such as newspapers and therewith ushered in a revolutionary change in postmarking and canceling in the U.S.

The NYPO did some significant work with canceling machines beginning in 1876, particularly with Leavitt machines. These machines, however, were only successful in processing postal cards and not letter mail with its varying size and thickness. According to a testimonial written by the postmaster in December 1878, the NYPO was using two "Postal Card Stamping Machines" which "are giving good satisfaction and are labor saving machines."¹ This appears to

have been production work, going beyond the experimental phase, but cards noted from this period don't extend beyond January 1879 except for several isolated usages that were presumably experimental. Brief and unsuccessful trials of a Leavitt machine on letter mail were conducted in New York in 1881.

It wasn't until mid-1889 that the NYPO conducted a test of what would become a successful letter-canceling machine, one developed by the International Postal Supply Co. (IPSC). By 1895, the IPSC had become the dominant supplier of letter canceling machines in the U.S.

But let's take a quick look back to the beginning efforts of the IPSC. The company was incorporated in New York in 1885 and its workshop (later factory) was located in Brooklyn. The first trial of an International machine was in 1888 at the Brooklyn post office. The Figure 1 cover bears a poorly placed strike of a rather ordinary appearing machine cancel. But it is actually a cover with some postal history significance. It shows a strike of the earliest reported date of the first trial of an International machine. The cover in Figure 2 shows a more properly aligned strike from the same trial.

After brief usage in Brooklyn, the machine was tested in the Buffalo, N.Y. post office for a short time in the summer of 1888. Next, what would be a rather extensive testing period in 1889 and 1890 took place in the NYPO. Several covers from that period are illustrated in Figure 3. In the standard reference book on the development of IPSC cancels, author Reg Morris reported that the assistant superintendent of the NYPO, in sworn testimony, indicated that there were three machines used in the NYPO in 1889/1890 and said:

"... one was used in the distribution department, one in the City department and I am not positive whether the third machine was used on circulars or backstamping. I think it was used for both."²

The distribution department would have handled out-of-town mail. International cancels of this time period are known on circulars but not as backstamps. In addition to New York, additional testing was done in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. in 1889 and 1890, all of which led to a contract signed in September 1891 between the IPSC and the Post Office Department for 100 machines (at an annual rental of \$400 per machine) to be delivered not later than March 1, 1892. New York was the first post office to put into service a contract International machine and did so on February 25, 1892.³ By 1895 the NYPO was postmarking and canceling most of its mail with International machines. We should mention that the NYPO also tested, in 1890 and during 1892-95, canceling machines attributed to William Groth and Thomas Constantine, generally referred to as Constantine machines. These machines provided worthy competition to the Internationals but a discussion of this subject is beyond the scope of the present article.

Several representative New York covers from the 1892-95 contract period are illustrated in Figures 4 and 5. Figure 6 presents a distinctive cancel variety referred to by

Figure 1

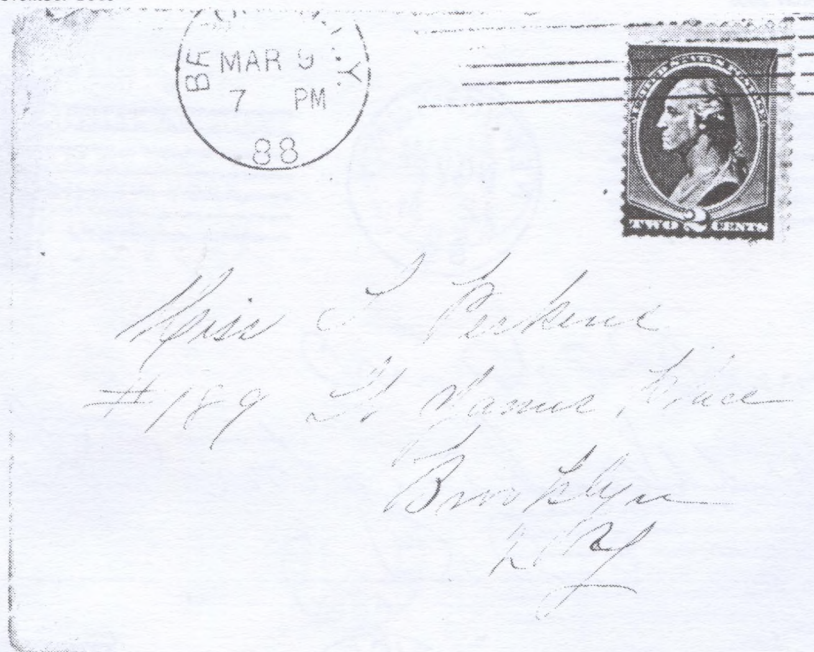


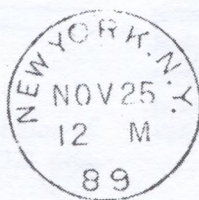
Figure 2



Figure 3



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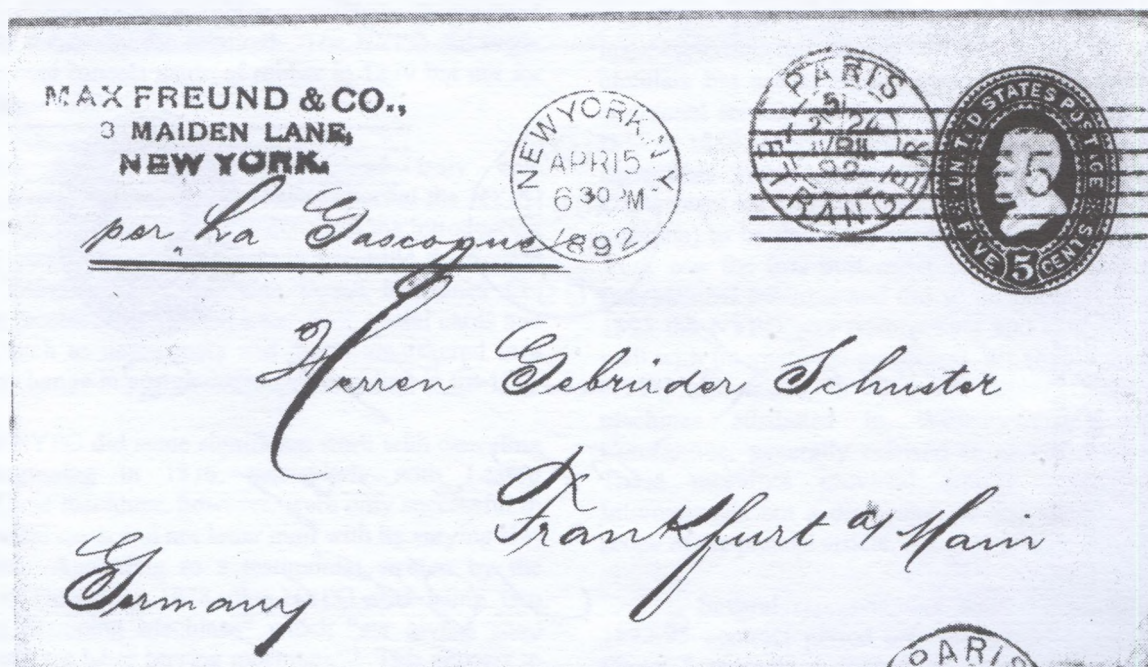


Mr Washington Case

Figure 3



Figure 4



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55689X

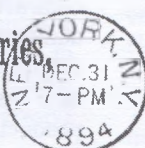


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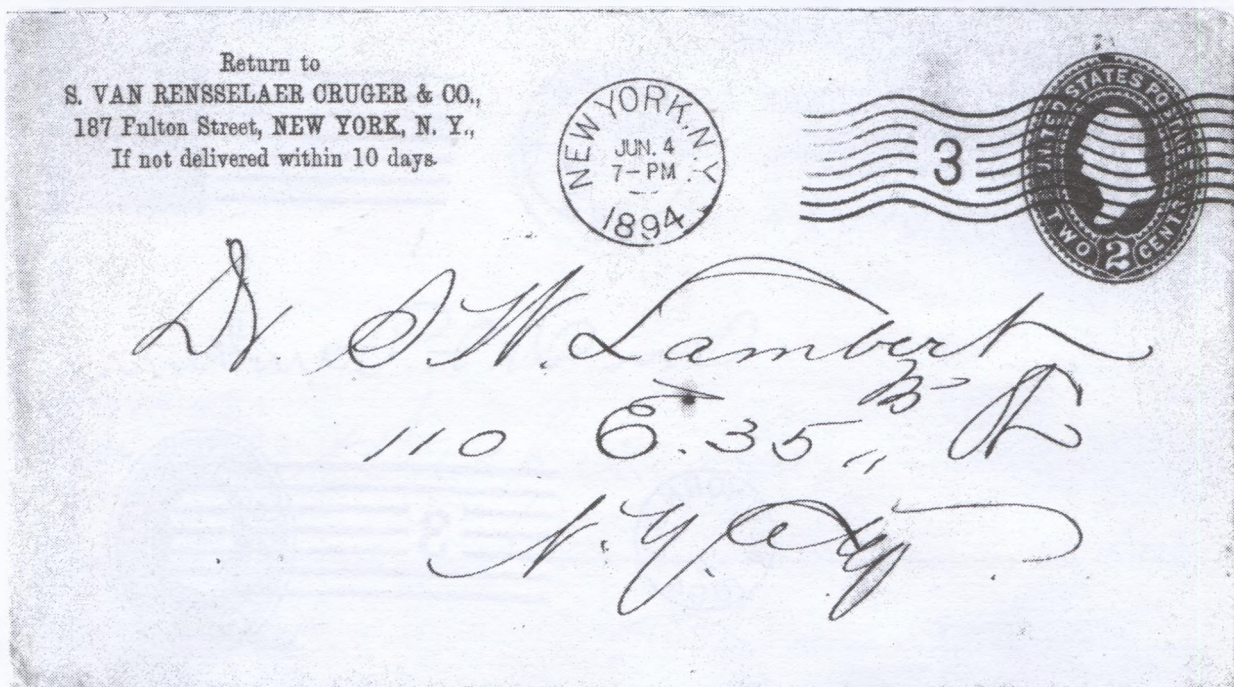
Minna Talcott,

SPRINGFIELD,

MASS.

Figure 5

Figure 6



collectors as the "wavy line cancel." It was used during the March-June 1894 period.

In 1895, the Post Office Department decided not to renew the IPSC contract, in whole or in part, when it expired that summer. The POD sent out a telegram on June 29, 1895 to all postmasters who were using International machines which is quoted herewith:

"Discontinue the use of the Hey & Dolphin canceling machines after June 30th, and employ a sufficient number of stampers to properly conduct the business of the Office."

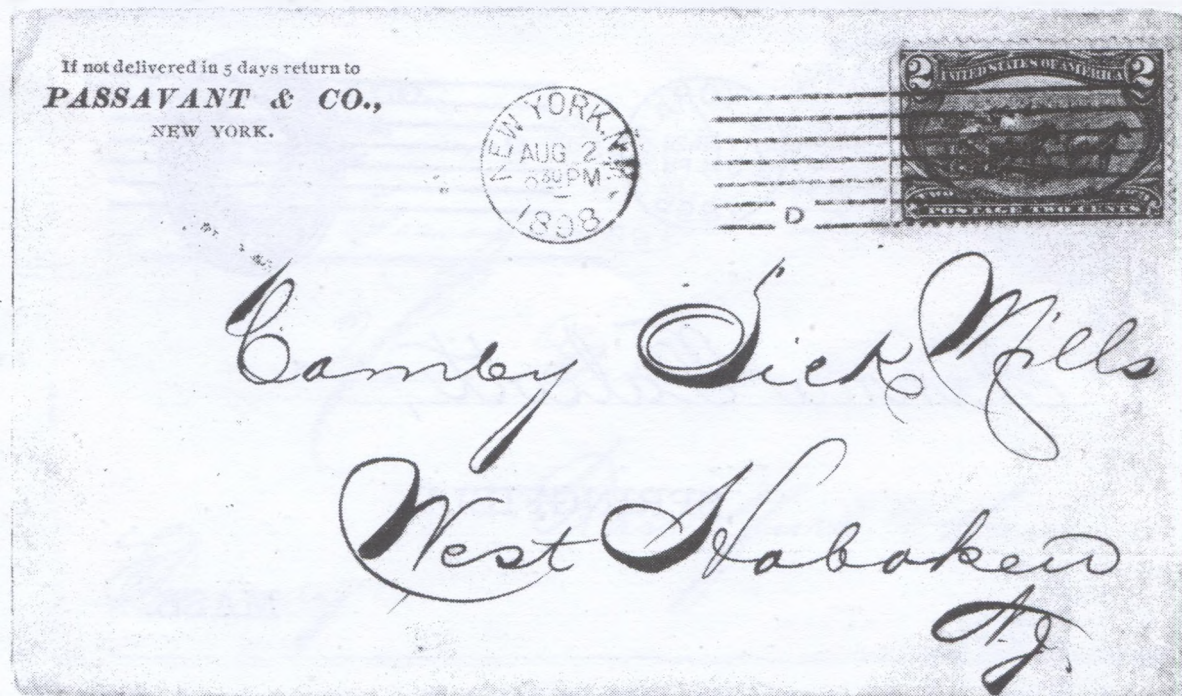
Hey and Dolphin were principals in the development of the IPSC.

The Barry Postal Supply Co. received a contract,

effective July 1, 1895, to provide 200 high speed machines. It never did supply that number and was never really equipped to do so. Meanwhile, the American Postal Machines Co. remained a major supplier with the flag cancel, introduced in late 1894, as its principal cancellation design.

The IPSC went into receivership after losing the POD contract. By 1897 it was clear that the Barry company, in addition to having problems supplying the requisite number of machines, was also disappointing postal officials in terms of how fast the machines operated. Although the IPSC had no production facilities at the time, the Company did manage to install in 1898 in the NYPO two machines to assist the nine Barry machines then in operation.⁴ They were used for most of 1898 through mid-1899. A cover bearing a cancel from that period is shown as Figure 7. With the dawn of the 20th century, the IPSC re-established itself as a major supplier of canceling machines to the nation's post offices.

Figure 7



So ends this brief introduction to early International cancels in the NYPO. In addition to the specific references cited in the footnotes, I'd like to recognize the handbooks in the machine cancel field. A number have been written focusing on specific manufacturers and the cancels produced. They are remarkably thorough and scholarly. Unfortunately, most are not in print, but they are sometimes available in the secondary market. The information provided by these handbooks and by *The Machine Cancel Forum*, journal of the Machine Cancel Society, which focuses also on more recent cancellations, is of great value to collectors.■

¹ Payne, Robert J. *Thomas Leavitt His History and Postal Markings 1875-1892*, United Postal Stationery Society, Inc. (1999), p. 106.

² Morris, Reg *The International Postal Supply Company of New York 1882-1905*, published by the author (1982), p. 54.

³ Payne, Bob *An Exhibit of U.S. Classic Machine Cancels 1871-1991*, Machine Cancel Society (1995), p. 91.

⁴ Ibid., p. 101

A Summer Vacation Cancel

by Roger D. Curran

One of the wonderful aspects of the field of U.S. 19th century cancellations is the presence of those many odd and unusual examples that motivate collectors to seek out the circumstances of their use. One such cancel is shown in Figure 1 with the tracing provided by John Donnes. I have seen several off-cover examples, all on 3¢ greens and always in a rather pale magenta ink.

Perhaps the first report in the literature was on page 70 of the November 23, 1935 issue of *Postal Markings*. The cancel was illustrated with very interesting but rather confusing commentary:

"The hotel in question used its own handstamp to cancel mail – or the P.O. may have been in it and this used by mistake. C.F. Bowman shows us it in black, 2 cent 1883 cover, tieing stamp, sans killer. Who was it that showed us a similar 2¢ '87 cover?"

The reference to the cancel in black on a Sc 210 cover is significant. Willard did not report such in his Sc 210 book and examples must be decidedly scarce. And there is even reference to a 2¢ 1887 (Sc 213) cover bearing this cancel! Can this be true?

The February 20, 1936 *Postal Markings* illustrates the killer along with a Spring Lake, N.J. CDS dated June 22, 1880. The accompanying narrative states, in part:

"George McNabb solves the 'Beach House' cancellation from Sea Girt, N.J., by the illustration here, which is a Photostat from a

Figure 1



cover of the 3¢ American. This will complete the story that C. F. Bowman started with the illustration of the killer alone, in black, from a 2¢ 1883 cover . . . the McNabb cover has all marks in magenta: 21 mm killer, 26 mm. town mark."

I have a record of covers with the cancel and a Spring Lake CDS dated June 22, 1880 (probably the McNabb cover), August 20, 1880 and June 27, 1881. In each case, the duplex markings are in magenta ink.

Cole reports a very similar cancel in purple on 1879 issues, the only difference being that it reads "Beach Haven" rather than Beach House. In all probability this results from an ambiguous strike of what actually is, in fact, a Beach House cancel.

Not long ago the cover shown in Figure 2 came on the market. It is quite clear that the CDS and cancel are duplexed in a single handstamp – the 1¢ Banknote on the right bears a strike of the postmark (perhaps two) with an indistinct cancel on the 3¢, which is assumed to be a duplexed Beach House cancel.

Sea Girt is located four miles from Spring Lake and became a post office in 1899. A cancel advertising a commercial establishment is rare. The person listed on the corner card, L.U. Maltby, was not the Spring Lake postmaster, so it wasn't a matter of the postmaster advertising one of his establishments. I had thought the Beach House cancel might have been designed to imprint corner cards on blank envelopes. However, given that Beach House is listed on the Figure 2 cover, this explanation doesn't seem very likely.

The Figure 2 cover was discussed by William Coles on page 22 of the *The Journal of the New Jersey Philatelic Society* of March 1986. He concluded, as did the present author, that the CDS and cancel were duplexed. He said that for a short period before 1899 there was a Seagirt post office from 1877 to 1882 when it was changed to Spring Lake Beach. (According to Mr. Coles, Sea Girt was one word at the time, even though the cancel used two words.) One would suppose that the letter came from one of the Spring Lake hotels since a Beach House letter would logically have gone to the Seagirt post office. But why the Spring Lake post office would have used this cancel is the \$64 question.

Monmouth Co., N.J. postal history student Steve Washburne reported that he has, in his collection, other letters from the same correspondence as Figure 2 with the same postmark but not with the Beach House cancel. He said that most Spring Lake mail of the period involved a different postmark and suggested the possibility that mail brought to the

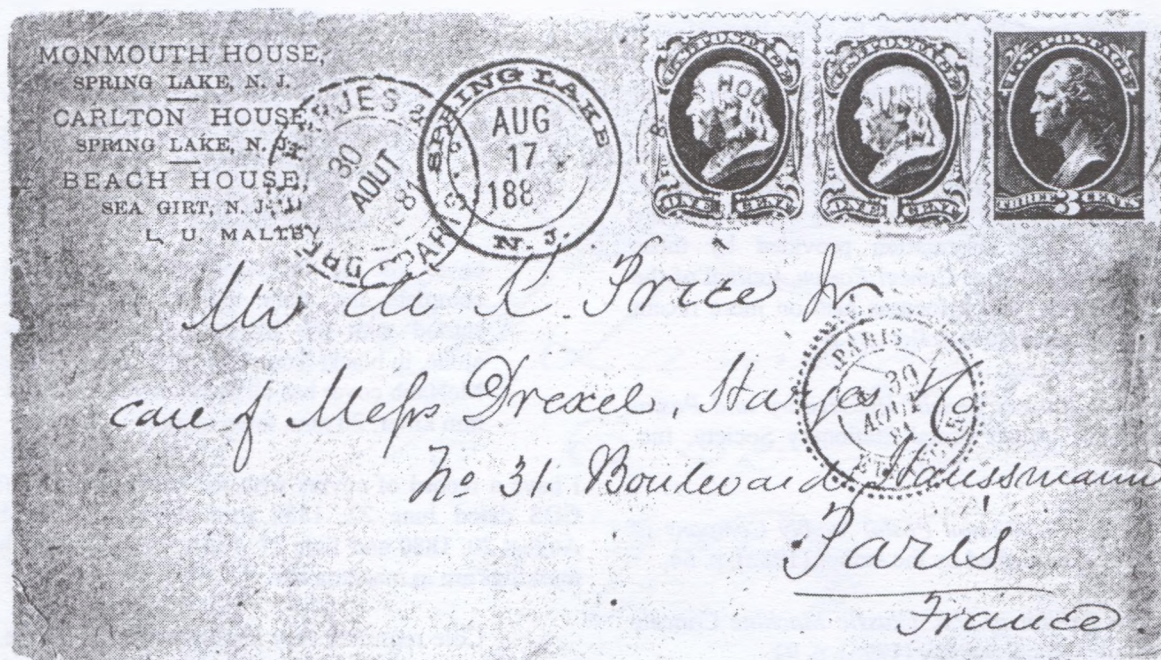


Figure 2

post office from the three hotels was postmarked and canceled with a separate handstamp. One might speculate a bit further that a hotel employee made runs during the summer months to pick up mail from the three hotels and transport it to the post office. And, as a service to the Spring Lake postmaster, the hotel employee postmarked and canceled this mail with a handstamp he maintained, so that the letters would be available for quick dispatch in the outgoing mails.

Reports of additional covers are eagerly sought as well as comments and other theories about what Paul Harvey might intone as "... the rest of the story."

Thanks are extended to Robert Rose, editor of *The Journal of the New Jersey Postal History Society* and Steve Washburne for their very helpful information.■

Late Bottle Stopper

Bottle stoppers began showing up as cancelers in 1874, based on Wendell Triplett's preliminary census that appeared in the August 2005 *NEWS*. It is interesting to note that not until 1877 did CDS impressions from rubber-faced handstamps appear in any significant numbers. Such handstamps remain very popular today but this is not the case, of course, with bottle stopper cancels. The latest example Wendell now records is shown in Figure 1 from Caneadea, N.Y. dated January 17, 1899 (tracing courtesy of John Donnes). The outer edge of the killer is rough and uneven, presumably resulting from a breaking away of small pieces over time. Who will report a later bottle stopper use?■

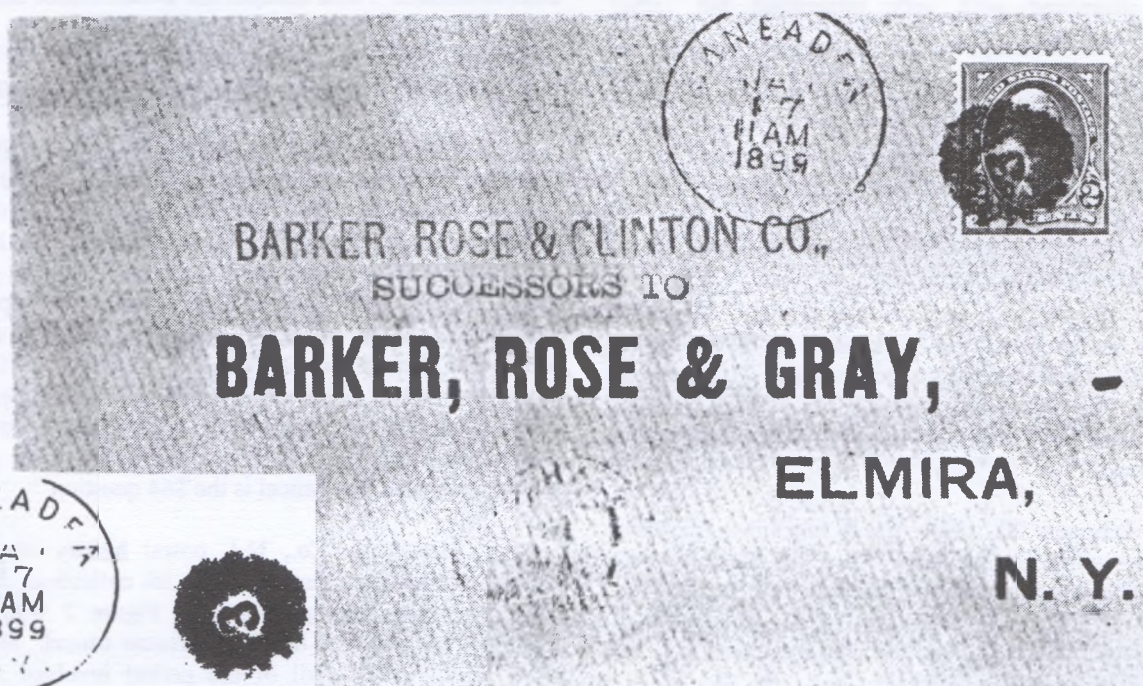


Figure 1

"Letter in Wreath" Cancels – An Update

by Roger D. Curran

There is a well-known and popular cancel, noted from a handful of post offices, referred to by collectors as the "letter in wreath" cancel. An example, Whitfield tracing 5650, is shown as Figure 1. Robert Schoen reported an

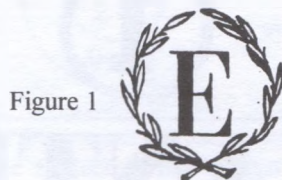


Figure 1

extensive study of these cancels in the September 1965 *NEWS*. (This article was reprinted in the 50th anniversary issue published in 2001.) He identified ten post offices that used the cancel and also mentioned a report, in the June 20, 1942 issue of *Postal Markings*, of an eleventh. In a supplement to the 50th anniversary issue, the *NEWS* added two other post offices to Mr. Schoen's list.

The February 2002 *NEWS* reported that the information in *Postal Markings* did not, in fact, identify an additional post office.

We now have a new post office to list – Bridgeport, Pa. Figure 2 is the discovery cover which resides in the collection of Arthur Beane. An updated summary of post offices known to have used the cancel is provided in Table 1. Mr. Schoen also reported a "T" in a wreath (Figure 3) in purple ink on an off-cover stamp with origin unknown. His study of these cancels, incidentally, noted uses only in the 1879-1886 period.

An anomaly reported earlier, but worth mentioning again, is the Farmers, Pa. "F" on its side – see Figure 4.

Given that most of the post offices using these

"Letter-in-Wreath" Cancels

Letter	Post Office
A	Ashley, Pa.
B	Breadysville, Pa.
	Bridgeport, Pa.
D	DeKalb, Pa.
	Delta, Pa.
	New Wilmington, Pa.
E	Ellenville, N.Y.
F	Farmers, Pa.
	Fremont, N.Y.
H	Hulmeville, Pa.
M	Malvern, Pa.
N	Niantic, Pa.
Q	Quinton, N.J.

Table 1

Figure 3



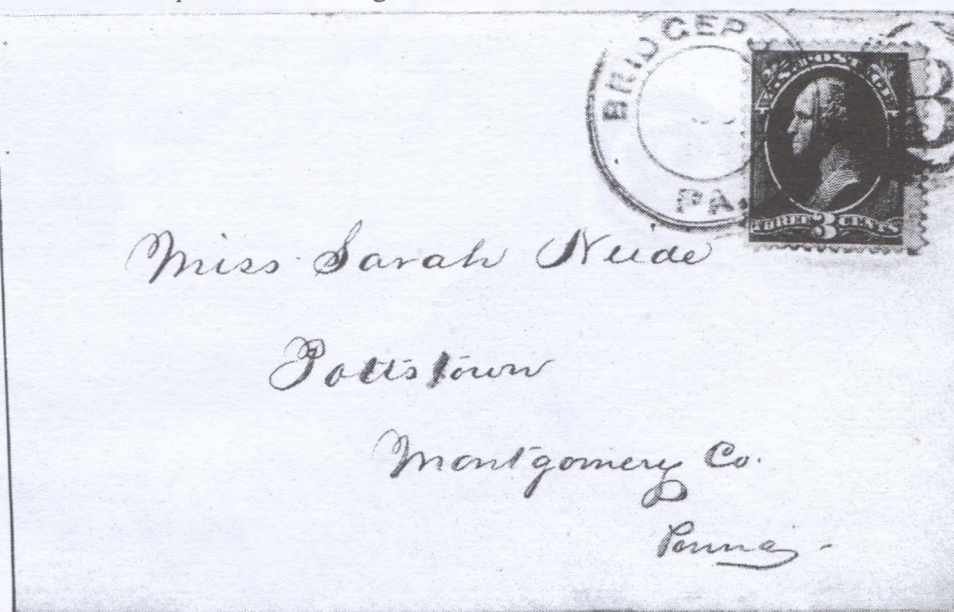
Figure 4



cancels were located not far from Philadelphia, Mr. Schoen speculated that handstamp supplier John Goldsborough, who was located in Philadelphia, may have produced them, but he found no proof.

Readers who can report additional post offices that employed this style of cancel, or any other pertinent information, are urged to contact the *NEWS*.■

Figure 2



Cancel Finds a Mate

by Roger D. Curran

A very distinctive "2" cancel has long been reported from Frankfort, Ky. Figure 1 shows Whitfield tracing #6506. He noted it with a February 28, 1884 date. As far as I know it has only been seen on 1883 issue stamps. Willard illustrated what is probably the same cancel, but showing no serif, as #435. He didn't know the origin and commented as follows:

"Figure 435, we believe, is a true rate marker and exhibits the pride of its creation in government action on lower postal rates."

He obviously didn't mean a "rate marker" in the sense of a handstamp held over from the stampless era but a contemporary handstamp designed as a canceler to reflect the then current (effective October 1, 1883) postage rate. The 1997 *American Stampless Cover Catalog*, incidentally, does not list a "2" rate marker from Frankfort, Ky. It only lists a "5."

Cole illustrates a "2" in circle (also with no serif) and identifies Frankfort, Ky. as the origin. Perhaps some strikes don't show the serif clearly or possibly there are two versions "out there."

Just recently, the stamp illustrated here as Figure 2 was noted. An examination of the small portion of the CDS on the left side of the stamp reveals what clearly appears to be a partial "RT" which happens to match the "RT" in the Frankfort CDS on the Figure 3 cover. (Thanks to John Donnes for his tracings in Figures 2 and 3.) I think we can confidently say now that there was a "set" of Frankfort cancels involving at least a "1" and "2." It seems that the "2," for whatever reasons, perhaps because it did match a new postage rate, is seen considerably more often than "1." Willard does illustrate on page 52 a "1" in a circle (Figure 4) which he does not attribute, but it may be the same cancel as in Figure 2.

Now, who will show a Frankfort "3"?■



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 4

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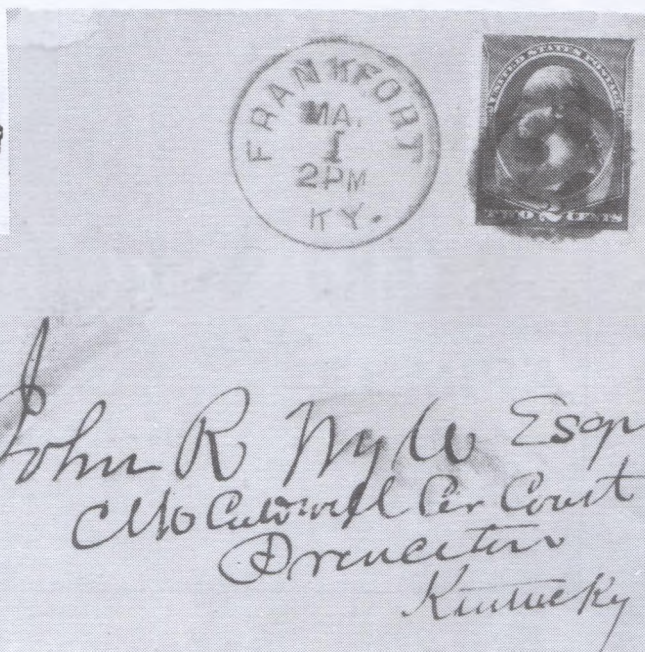
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Figure 3



Small Double Circle Postmarks

Collectors have noted small double circle postmarks used by a number of post offices during the 1860-1863 period. These postmarks, measuring approximately 25-26 mm. in diameter, were struck from government-issued handstamps.



They were actually introduced in 1859 but not many post offices have thus far been reported using them in 1859. We briefly addressed the subject in the August 2004 and May 2005 issues of the NEWS and can now add another post office that used this type of postmark in 1859 – Grand Rapids, Michigan. To date, our reports are as follows:

<u>P.O.</u>	<u>Earliest Date</u>
New Orleans, La.	9/16/59
Milwaukee, Wis.	9/17/59
Mobile, Ala.	11/3/59
Grand Rapids, Mich.	11/11/59
Troy, N.Y.	11/23/59

The Grand Rapids cover was noted in a 1989 photocopy of the Louis Ungrey exhibit of 19th century Michigan postal history.

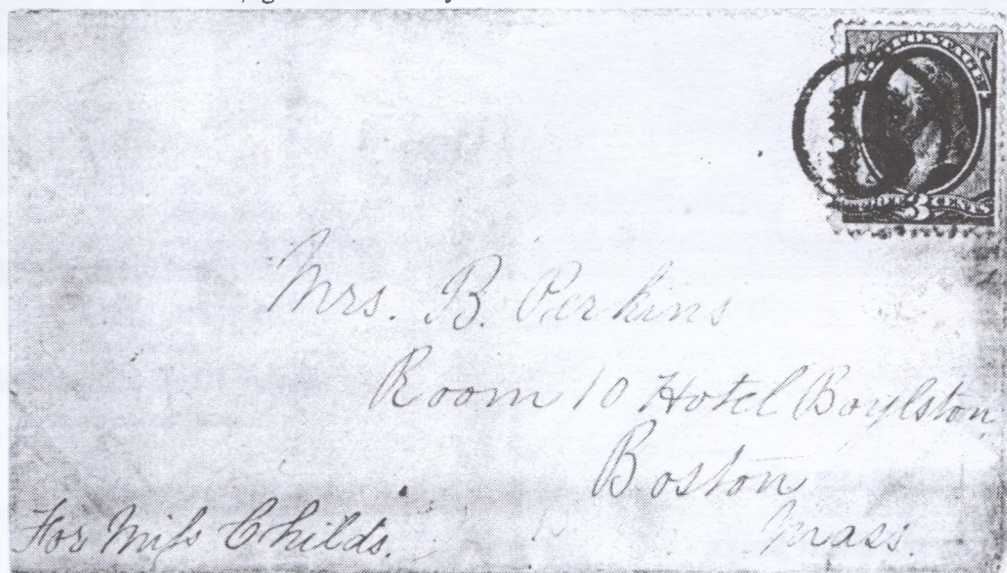
Boston, incidentally, was a well-known user of these double ring postmarks through mid-1865. And they were normally applied in red ink. However, the standard reference on Boston postmarks (by Blake and Davis) reports no usages before November 1860.

Readers are encouraged to check through their 1857 issue covers to see what other post offices can be identified as employing these postmarks in 1859.■

What Happened Here?

Figure 1 illustrates an intriguing cover in the collection of John Donnes. It bears a 3¢ green canceled by an

Figure 1



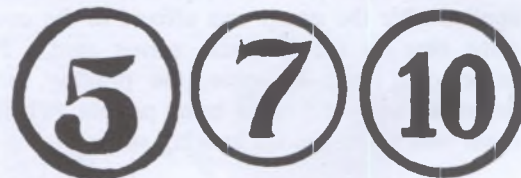
“8” in a circle killer that is not listed in any of the standard cancellation reference books. Curiously, there is no postmark. What can we say about the handling of this cover and the origination of the cancel?

Let's begin with the physical evidence.

- (1) The stamp on the cover appears to be a Sc 158 – current from 1873-1879.
- (2) The cover is addressed to Boston.
- (3) There are no markings on the back of the cover.
- (4) The cover was sealed.

Markings similar to the “8” in a circle are reported from Boston in 1874 and 1875 by Blake and Davis in a table headed “Boston Receiving Distribution Marks.”¹ Numbers “1,” “5,” “6,” “7,” “10” and “11” with heavy circles are listed and we

Figure 2



reproduce three of these markings here as Figure 2.

We'll speculate as follows. The originating post office, whatever it was, neglected to postmark the cover or cancel the stamp. When the cover arrived at the “receiving” section of the Boston Post Office, the uncanceled stamp was noted and canceled by a handstamp that was immediately available. (The “8” in a circle, in this explanation, is an unrecorded marking of the type in Figure 2.) No Boston postmark would have been applied on the front since the cover didn't originate in Boston.

Comments and alternative explanations will be welcomed.■

¹ Maurice C. Blake and Wilbur W. Davis *Boston Postmarks to 1890* Quarterman Publications, Inc. (1949, reprinted 1974), pp. 300-1.

Glastonbury "G." Precancel

One of the best-known classic precancels is the Glastonbury, Connecticut "G." It has been found associated with covers from J.B. Williams & Co. Smith reports it on one-cent stamps of the 1870, 1873, 1879 and 1882 issues.¹ "1882" is assumed to mean the one cent re-engraved issue although that stamp has been reported as early as November 2, 1881. Smith also indicates a report of the "G." on the three cent 1869 issue stamp but notes that there is "No known example."²

Figure 1 illustrates portions of the front and back of a cover in the collection of Arthur Beane. A representation of the offset by John Donnes, taken from the back of the cover, appears here as Figure 2 along with the markings on the front. What the offset proves, of course, is that the cancel was applied after the stamp was affixed to the cover and at the same time as the Williams corner card. Probably what occurred is that, by error, the printing mechanism was depressed without a cover being present. Then, the Figure 1 cover was placed on the striking surface to be printed and it

picked up the ink on the back from the previous strike as well as the properly applied corner card and cancel. Another possibility is that freshly struck covers were stacked and the Figure 1 cover absorbed some of the ink from the cover underneath that had been struck just before it. It seems odd that such a cancel would be applied by a company that, one assumes, had no printing-related business. The Glen Allen, Va. star, another classic precancel that was similarly applied, is associated with a company that did professional printing.

The Glastonbury printing was a carefully executed process. Has any reader seen an example of the "G." that is not fully struck on the stamp? Reports of such covers as well as comments and information pertinent to any aspect of this cancel will be welcomed.

This article adds detail to an article featuring the above cover appearing in the September 2001 *NEWS*.■

¹ Smith, David W. *Silent Precancels*, Precancel Stamp Society, (2004), page 13.

² Ibid.

Figure 1

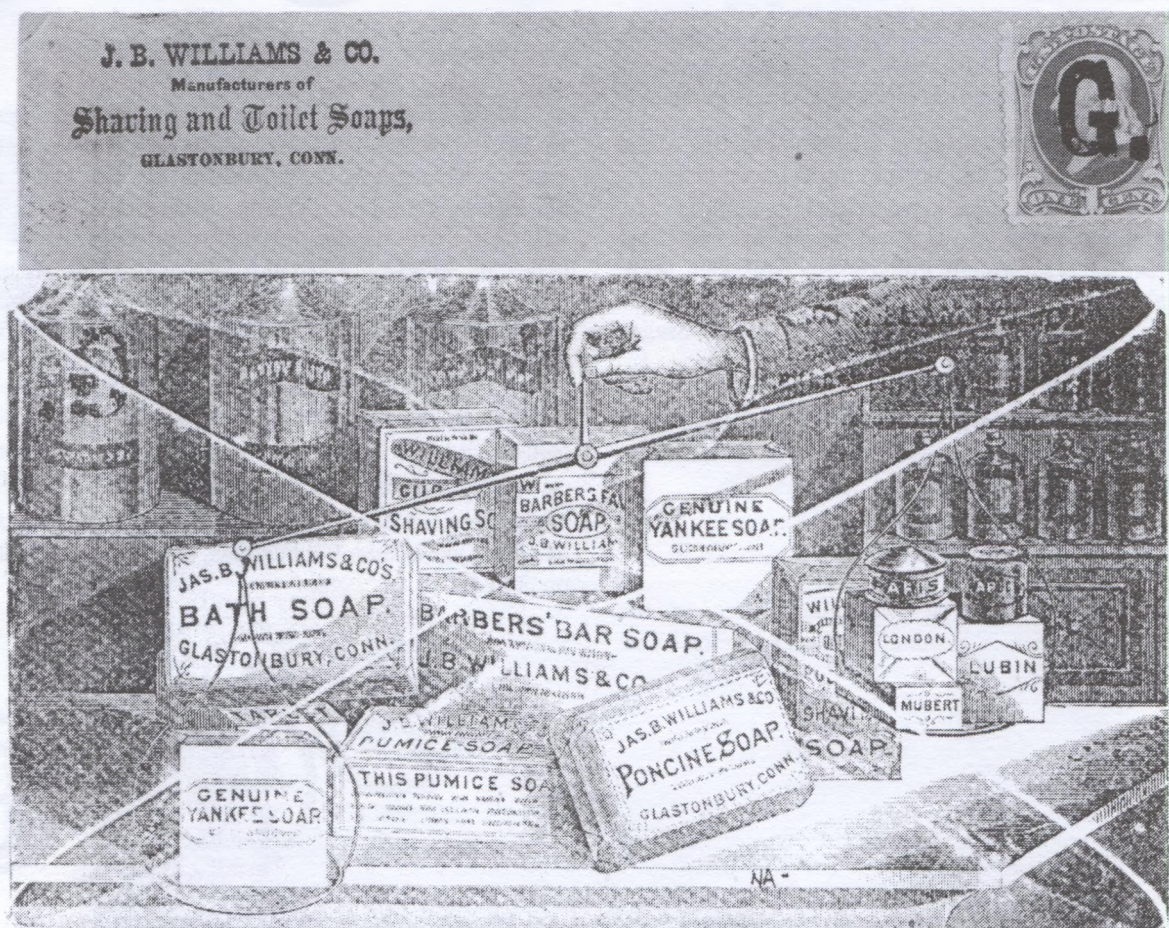
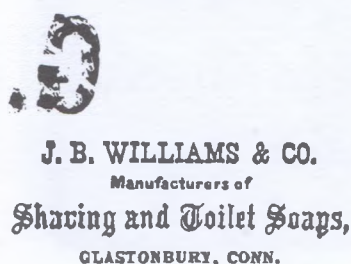


Figure 2



J. B. WILLIAMS & CO.
Manufacturers of
Shaving and Toilet Soaps
GLASTONBURY, CONN.

G.

Letters in Stars

The cover in Figure 1 bears an interesting postmaster postmark and an unusual star cancel enclosing a letter "B." Both Cole and Whitfield illustrate the cancel but do not identify the origin. Whitfield tracing 5470 is shown here as Figure 2. Note that the "B" is not well centered in relation to the star. Were the postmark and star markings duplexed on the same handstamp? It would be nice to see another cover or two to compare the position of the markings in relation to one another.

The Figure 3 cover bears a star cancel with a "D" in the center which is probably duplexed to the county postmark of Donner, California. These markings were struck in a rather light purple ink. In his book *California Town Postmarks 1849-1935*, John Williams reports these markings from 9/20/84 to 8/20/88. The cancel is not listed in Cole or Whitfield.■

Figure 2



The Classic Cancel

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Figure 1

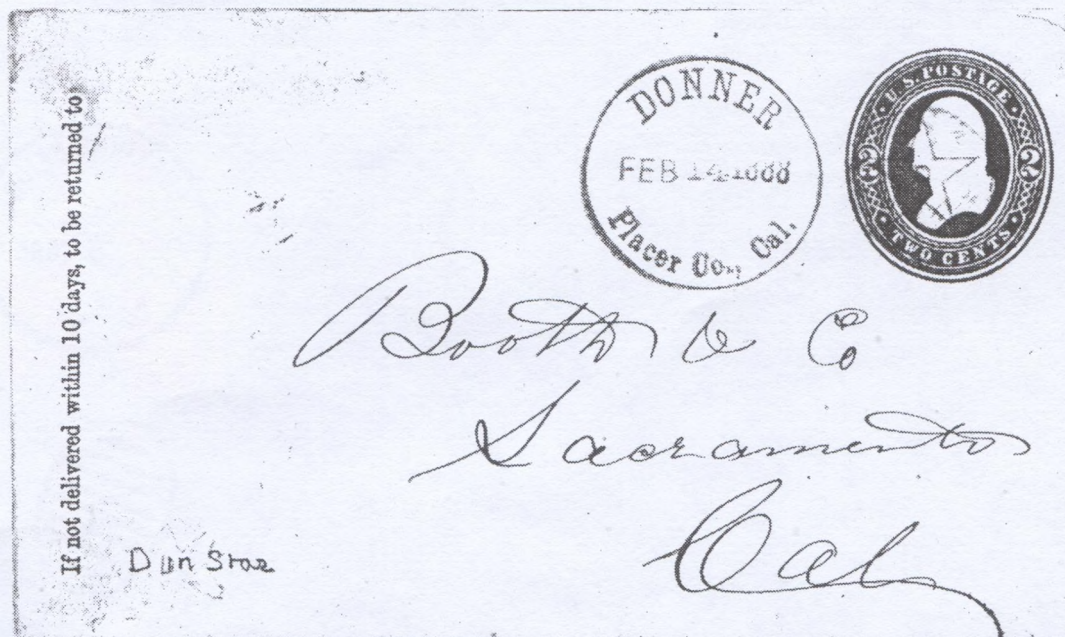
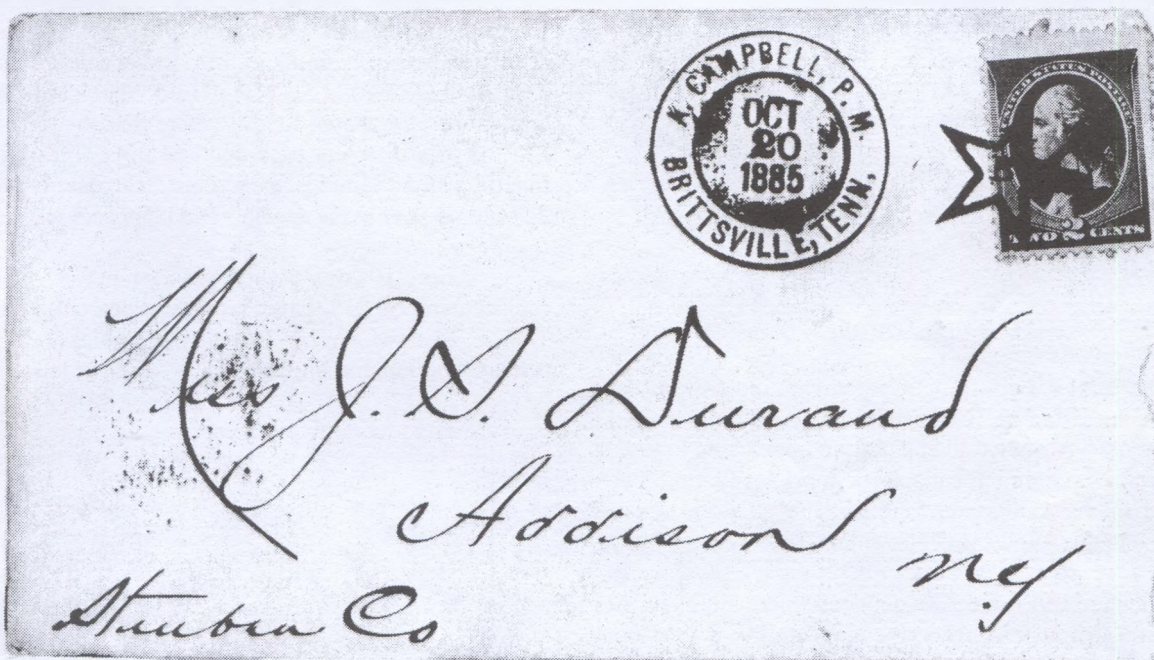


Figure 3

Further Report

The February 2003 *NEWS* carried an article on a distinctive New York cancellation, a tracing of which is shown here as Figure 1. It is speculated to be the product of a British mechanical handstamp. Dates reported run from September 10-November 9, 1874.

In the large majority of instances, it is found canceling a 3¢ green. Very occasionally it is noted on a 2¢ Banknote and one cover is known bearing two strikes of the duplex handstamp, one canceling a 1¢ Banknote and the other a 2¢. Figure 2 shows the cancel on a 6¢ in the collection of John Donnes. This is the first report on a 6¢. Presumably it originated on a double weight domestic letter as the cancel has not been noted on non-first class mail or on foreign or registered mail. Reports of additional unusual examples of this intriguing cancel are eagerly sought. ■

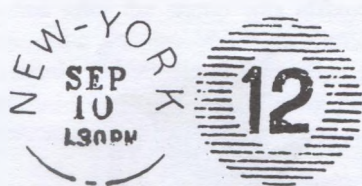


Figure 1



Figure 2

Unusual Scarab

The Sadler Publishing Co. of Baltimore, Maryland sold duplex handstamps with what collectors refer to as a "scarab" cancel. A Sadler ad illustration appears as Figure 1. This is a rather common cancel seen primarily on covers postmarked in the 1880s and 1890s. The *NEWS* discussed such cancels in the August and November 2003 issues.

The card in Figure 2 presents an interesting variation on the theme, struck in an attractive magenta ink with a touch of brown present. It is obviously not duplexed to the postmark. The postmark is surely from a rubber-faced handstamp but the material used for the killer is more difficult

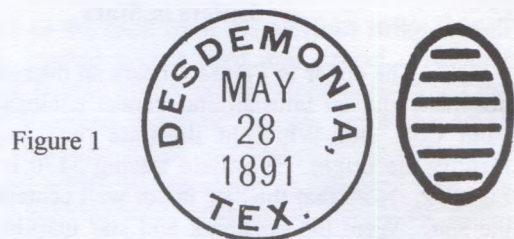


Figure 1

to determine. Buskirk's Bridge is a DPO that operated from 1814 to 1914.

Thanks to John Donnes for the two tracings. ■

St. Louis Shield Cancels – Revisited

by Roger R. Rhoads

Shortly after the original article on this subject was published in the last issue, John Valenti was kind enough to send yet another example of a St. Louis shield. This one is on a small cover with a Sc 210 affixed. The circular date stamp and cancel are shown below. Note that the 26 mm diameter CDS is of a different type than the three illustrated earlier in that the word "Saint" is spelled out. The date is probably May 22 with no year (as is normal) and it appears to be duplexed.

Sc 210 was issued on October 1, 1883 with its replacement, Sc 213, being reported as early as September 10, 1887. So now we can extend the shields well beyond the previous period and into the 1880s - 1884 at least.

Got any more out there? ■

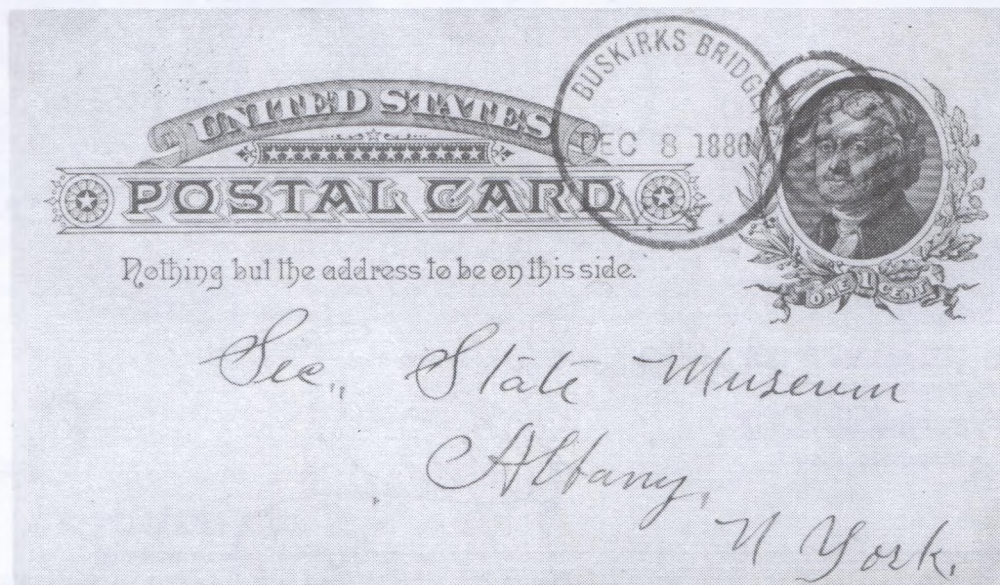
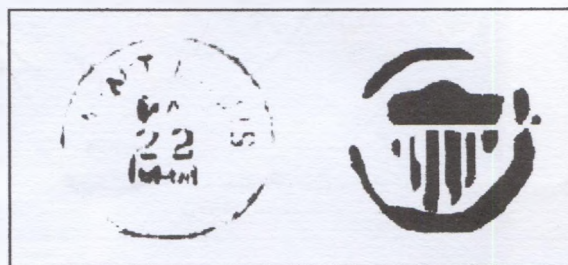


Figure 2