



Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 28, No. 4, Whole No. 261, November 2006

Personalized Cancels and More: Durham, Maine

by Roger D. Curran

There is a lot yet to learn about some interesting "cancellations" used by the Durham, Maine post office. We use quotation marks because it is not clear that the more elaborate markings were intended as cancels, technically speaking.

The tracing in Figure 1 is by Nancy B. Clark and appeared in her excellent article "The Alphabet Cancels of Maine" published in the June 1999 *Postal History Journal*. She also illustrated the cover from which the tracing came, which was addressed to "H.F. Eveleth." The cancel is not on the indicium of the postal stationery entire. There is a separate cancel that Nancy concludes may be an "E" on the indicium.

Figure 2 is from Whitfield and we don't know if it was used in this instance as a canceler. Figure 3 is an interesting cover. The "J.H. Eveleth/PM" marking, the Durham CDS and all writing on the envelope are in the same purple ink – a new color beyond the brown and black reported by Whitfield. The "snake eyes" cancel is black. What was the purpose of the "Eveleth" markings? Did postmaster Eveleth just want to personalize envelopes sent to a relative?

Whitfield shows (Figure 4) an Eveleth monogram cancel. What is probably the same cancel is listed by Cole as

Figure 1

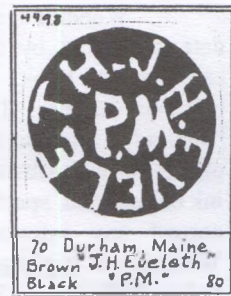


Figure 2

ML-199. The cover in Figure 5 illustrates it used as a canceler. An "E" for Eveleth shows up (Figure 6) on an April 24 Durham cover. Clark reports it on a May 14, 1885 cover and Whitfield shows it without attribution as #5692. According to the Boston received marking, the Figure 6 cover was received in Boston at 7PM on the day it was postmarked in Durham. Durham is in southern Maine not far above Portland.

All three covers illustrated here and the one illustrated by Nancy Clark were addressed to the same person. Was mail not addressed to family members handled any differently? Readers who have in their collections Durham covers from the late 1870s through the mid-1880s are encouraged to report them to the *NEWS*.

(Continued on page 51)

Figure 3



Dear Reader,

Enclosed with this issue is the Phase IV report of our study of Boston "large negative" cancels. This report concludes the project, although we expect to provide updates to the listings presented in Phases I through III. These "large negatives" are the most immediately recognizable cancels used during the Banknote era. Fortunately, they are also common and offer excellent opportunities for collecting, study, and exhibiting. The *NEWS* will continue to give attention to interesting examples and invites further reports from Club members.

Wendell Triplett has been hard at work compiling the data submitted by Club members to update the Whitfield cancellations book. He is also integrating data from other reference sources. I want to take this opportunity to make a "last call" for data to be included. If you can report post offices for unattributed cancels or other data such as additional ink colors used, specific dates or date ranges, etc. or if you can correct any information currently listed, please contact Wendell at triplettusa@yahoo.com or 3606 New Colony Drive, Wilmington NC 28412-2075. And if you have been meaning to go through the book to see what you can add, please do so now and report not later than February 1. We will be most grateful and all contributions will be acknowledged. Your help is needed! Thanks very much.

Also enclosed you will find a combination dues notice/ballot form. Please complete and return it promptly. If you have suggestions or comments about club operations or projects, jot them down on the reverse.

Season's greetings to all!

Roger Curran

Closed Album – Ted Bozarth

by Roger D. Curran

Word has reached the *NEWS* of the death of Ted Bozarth in December 2005. He was a USCC member for a number of years and pursued an interest in postal cards and the cancellations found on them. Over the 1981-1984 period, he presented in the *NEWS* an outstanding ten-part study of Wesson "Time-on-Bottom" handstamp cancellations. The work was subsequently compiled and edited by Russell Hanmer and published in monograph form by La Posta Publications in 1990. Ted also authored an informative 30-page brochure entitled *The OTHER Side of the Card* based on a six-part article in *Postcard Collector* that ran in 1984 and 1986. It explained the meaning of a wide range of 20th century postal markings for collectors unfamiliar with postal history.

Ted was a very competent and knowledgeable researcher who provided expert advice and information about subjects appearing in the *NEWS*.

It is through the efforts of students such as Ted that we have today the wonderful body of knowledge that exists in the field of U.S. postal markings.■



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(Continued from front page)



Figure 4

Figure 5



Figure 6

The three covers shown here are from the collection of Arthur Beane and the tracings were provided by John Donnes.■

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Skinner/Eno Cancellation SD-G 9 – Springfield, Massachusetts

by Jim Cate

The Skinner-Eno cancellation SD-G 9 of Springfield, Massachusetts (Figure 1) on the 3-cent stamp of 1861 is reported by the authors in blue ink. It was produced in both blue and black.

Figure 1



Another aspect of the SD-G 9 cancellation not previously reported is a similar "mirror image" or reverse version. Figure 2 is SD-G 9 in black while the "mirror image" (Figure 3) is in blue. The "mirror image" is known in blue and black. The cancellations are so similar that the basic difference is seldom detected. The writer purchased the two items shown several years ago from stamp dealer Tom Mills primarily because one was blue and the other black. A third cover in Mills' stock showed an SD-G 9 in blue as reported in Skinner-Eno. It was not purchased.

Figure 2

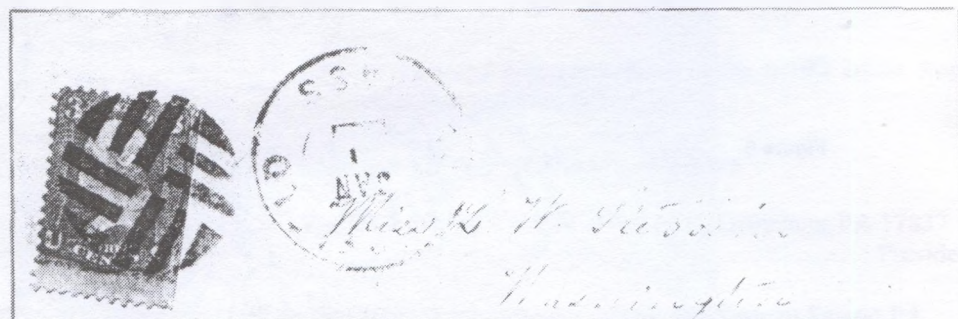


Figure 3

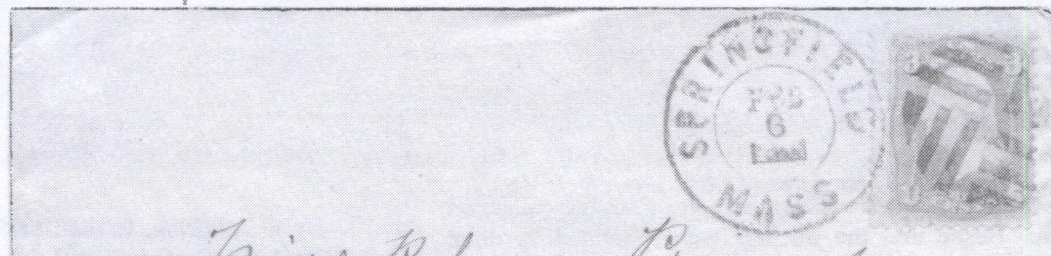


Figure 5

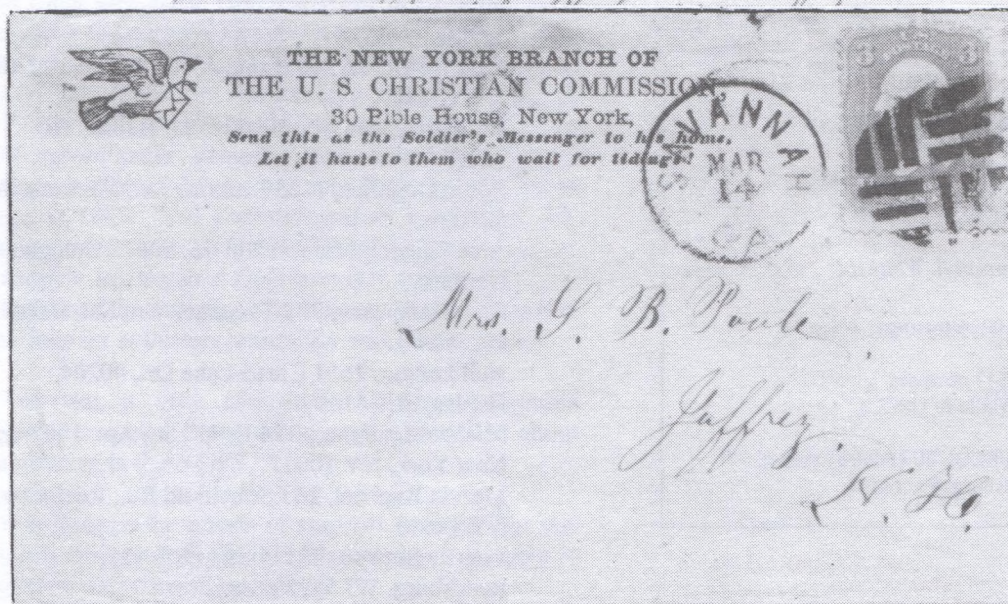


Figure 4



On returning home from the show site, these items were prepared for mounting when the difference was noted. The writer phoned Mills to acquire the other copy, but it had already been sold. It resides today in the collection of someone.

Other cancellations similar to SD-G 9 are known as illustrated in Skinner-Eno on page 24. These include SD-G 10 of New Orleans (?), SD-G 11 of Putnam, Connecticut and SD-G 12 of Romeo, Michigan, shown here as Figure 4. Figure 5 is a similar but unlisted cancellation of Savannah, Georgia that probably dates to 1865 after General William Sherman "marched to the sea" from Atlanta to Savannah and occupied the area for the Union.■

Editor's note. A transparency was made of the SD-G 9. It fits very well over the Figure 2 cancel. Only when the transparency is flipped over, however, does it fit over the Figure 3 cancel.

Early NYPO Cancels on Postage Due Stamps

by Roger D. Curran

The most common cancel found on large numeral postage due stamps is the "New York pearls" precancel that was used by the main NYPO from 1879 to 1887. The *NEWS*



discussed this subject in the August 2004 issue. A cover was illustrated bearing an early use of the pearls precancel with a New York backstamp date of August 8, 1879. There is a report in the literature of an August 1, 1879 use.¹

Interesting questions arise as to when the NYPO first applied postage due stamps – after all, they were distributed by the POD for use beginning July 1, 1879 – and whether the pearls were used by the main NYPO from the outset.

Until recently I was unaware of any due stamp usages by the NYPO before the August 1, 1879 cover mentioned above. Now we can report the cover in Figure 1 postmarked at Bellport, N.Y. on July 21, 1879 in a pale magenta ink. Addressed to New York, there are two New York backstamps – one "REC'D" marking dated July 21, 1879 (no doubt applied by the main NYPO) and the other a Branch Station "D" duplex dated July 22, 1879. The blue cancels on the J3 due stamp are precancels because no area extends to the cover at any of the five places where a portion is on the edge of the stamp. The "DUE 3" marking, which was applied by the main NYPO, is also in blue ink. The J3 cancel may be somewhat akin to a quartered cork cancel with a strike or two possibly on the top of one another.

Did the main NYPO use the Figure 1 cancel before adopting the pearls precancel that appeared by August 1 or was it the product of Branch Station "D"? I have a September 15, 1879 cover with two due stamps canceled by New York Branch Station "G" ellipse cancels. Certainly the basic practice during the period of the large numeral due stamps was

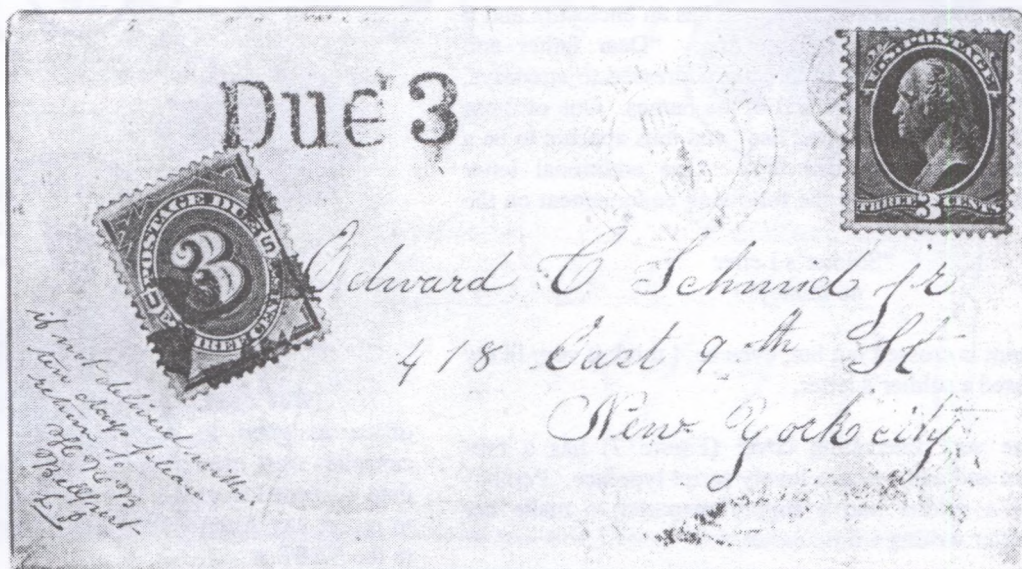
for the NY branch stations to affix and cancel the dues, but did that begin with the first use of due stamps? The fact that the canceling ink is blue suggests to me that there may well have been a brief period where "due" mail passing through the main NYPO for delivery by the branches received due stamps by the main NYPO. Of course, this is speculation and readers are urged to report any July 1879 covers to New York City bearing due stamps to help in obtaining a clearer picture.

We'll move now to a somewhat related and definitely unusual due cover (Figure 2) in the collection of John Donnes. It was mailed at Franklin, NH on January 26, 1880 and received a New York backstamp of January 27, 1880. Several curious things. It was franked with 4¢ postage which, of course, does not equate to any 1880 first class intercity postage rate. Was the sender concerned that the letter might be a double weight and then added what postage he or she had on hand beyond the 3¢ stamp? The NYPO obviously had difficulty with the situation given the "Due 2" (struck in blue) and the contradictory 3¢ stamp. What *did* the NYPO intend to collect? I think we can say it initially determined that 3¢ was due because the letter was overweight. To that end, what is undoubtedly a "Due 3" blue marking (partially obliterated) was struck and the 3¢ due stamp added. Then there was a change of mind. It was decided to credit the 1¢ toward the unpaid rate, at which point the "3" in "Due 3" was obliterated as was the due stamp, and a "Due 2" was struck in lieu thereof. The 1879 *Postal Laws and Regulations* are not clear on such a partial payment:

"Sec. 270. **Postage-due Stamps for Insufficiently-paid Matter.** – All mail-matter of the first-class upon which one full rate of postage has been prepaid shall be forwarded to its destination, charged with the unpaid rate, to be collected on delivery; but postmasters, before delivering the same, or any article of mail matter upon which prepayment has not been made, shall affix, or cause to be affixed, and canceled, as ordinary stamps are canceled, one or more

(Continued on page 55)

Figure 1



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Washington in August, 1864

by Roger D. Curran

Bob Markovits recently sent to the *NEWS* a group of 21 covers postmarked Washington, D.C. with dates ranging from August 3 to August 19, 1864. All have hand carved star cancels. With the addition of four more examples, an analysis was undertaken and the results are presented below.

The earliest type of star (Figure 1) has a hollow center and is enclosed in a circle. Ten examples were noted from August 3 through August 17. The second type (Figure 2) is a hollow star without a circle with seven examples noted from August 7 through August 13. Three examples of an outlined star with dot in the center (Figure 3) are noted, one dated August 10 and two on August 11. Whitfield tracing 3148 is shown as Figure 4. The stamps on two August 19 covers are canceled by a solid star in circle as illustrated in Figure 5. Incidentally, one of these cancels showed no portion of the circle, due presumably to the pressure of the strike, but the stars are unquestionably the same. On an additional August cover, there is a distinctive solid star with no circle (Figure 6) but the two day numerals are unreadable, conceivably being "18."

Twenty of the 25 covers were addressed to a "Miss" or "Mrs." I believe each of these was a soldier's letter. Only one has a remaining enclosure and it is a soldier's letter. Of the five letters addressed to a man, one has an enclosure and it is a soldier's letter with the greeting: "Dear father and mother." Two letters were apparently addressed to attorneys, since "Esq" was added at the end of the names. One of these was addressed to: "O.F. Young Esq" and thus appears to be a business letter, but who can say? One additional letter addressed to a man contains the following endorsement on the cover

"Soldier's Letter
no money"

This statement is crossed out but, even so, I think it very likely that it enclosed a soldier's letter.

One very interesting cover (Figure 7) has a pre-printed name and address in a lovely script typeface. Perhaps the wife of a soldier had a supply prepared to make her husband's letter writing a little easier.

Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

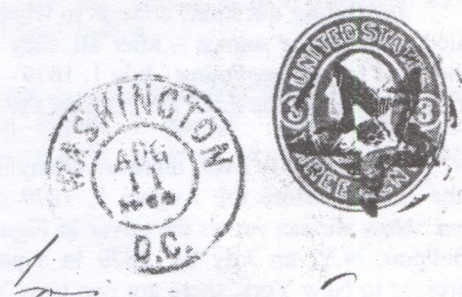


Figure 4

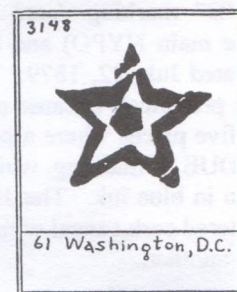


Figure 5

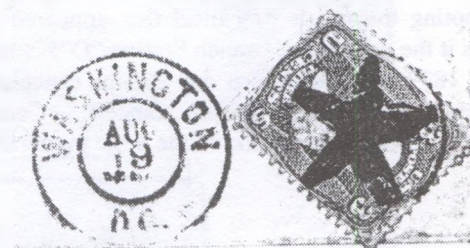
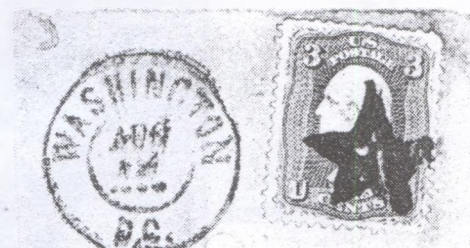
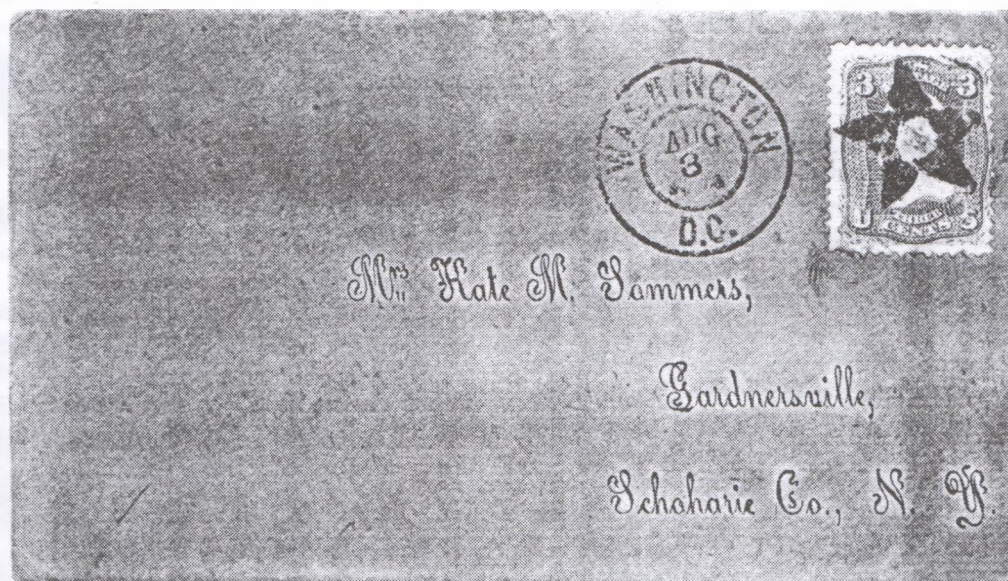


Figure 6



Was there a clerk or two in the Washington post office assigned to process soldier's mail? What other cancelers were used concurrently? As with all such questions, data is needed to provide answers and readers are encouraged to report any August 1864 Washington domestic mail covers to the *NEWS*. ■

Figure 7



(Continued from page 53)

stamps equivalent in value to the amount of postage due on such an article of mail-matter . . ."

Perhaps the correct charging procedure was made clearer in a subsequent POD guideline.

From a cancellation standpoint, the use of the "UD" double oval is very interesting. "UD" is thought to stand for "Unpaid Division" or something similar. It may not be visible in the illustration but the due stamp in Figure 2 is also canceled by the New York pearls precancel. Did the clerk think that the precancel wasn't bold enough and added the double oval on impulse since he had it in hand, having just used it to obliterate the "3" in "Due 3?" The "UD" double oval in blue, as in Figure 2, is occasionally seen on due covers but not to cancel stamps. However, years later, after the New

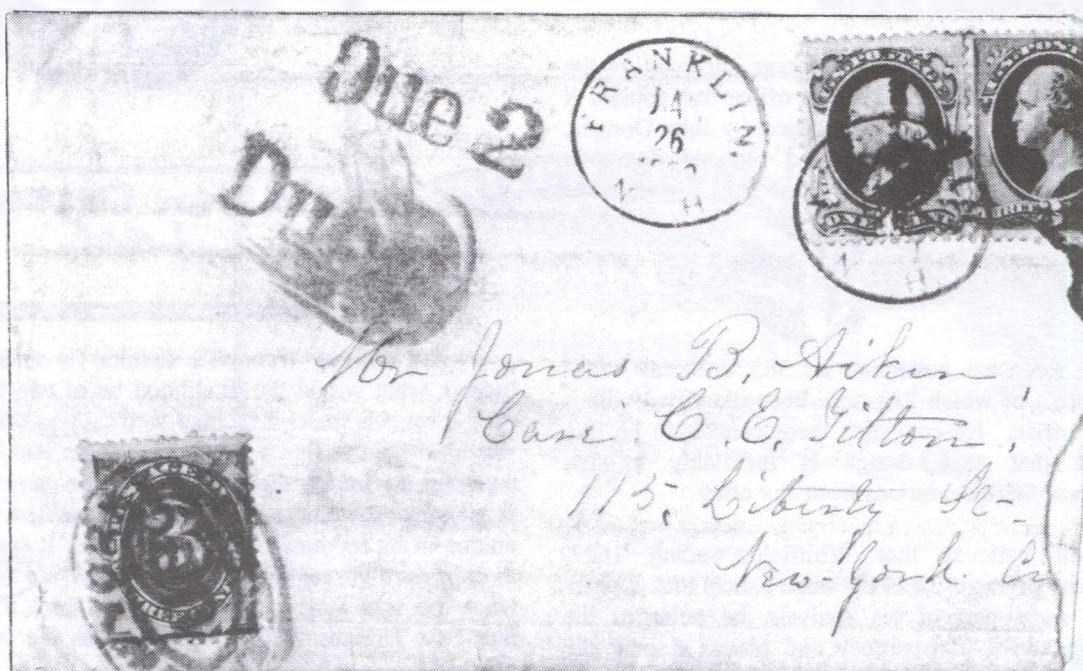
York pearls precancel was discontinued, the "UD" in black was used as a common cancel of due stamps by the main NYPO.

It is the view of John Donnes that the strike of the "UD" double oval on the due stamp was not a cancel in the traditional sense of rendering an adhesive stamp unusable for future use but rather voiding the presence of the due stamp altogether in favor of the "Due 2" marking. I agree with this explanation.

Double oval cancels were introduced by the NYPO in late 1879. The Figure 2 example is an early example and probably the earliest double oval thus far noted on a due stamp.■

¹ R. Malcolm Hooper *A Historical Survey of Precancels*, Cardinal Spelman Philatelic Museum (1979), pp. 23, 104.

Figure 1



Canceling the Rarest U.S. Stamp

by Roger D. Curran

The front page of *Linn's Stamp News* for December 27, 2004 illustrated the stamp shown here as Figure 1 under the headline "Ribbed-paper 24¢ Continental brings \$357,500 in Siegel sale." The reason for such a high price was that the stamp is the only certified example of a 24¢ Continental (Sc 164). As the *Scott Specialized* catalog explains, students believe that only the Continental Bank Note Co. used ribbed paper and, apart from this characteristic, Sc 164 and the 24¢ stamp produced by the National Bank Note Co. (Sc 153) are indistinguishable based on current knowledge. The stamp in Figure 1 was certified as a Sc 164 because of the ribbed paper.



Figure 1

A "Letter to the Editor" from Larry Sherman of San Diego, California in the January 2, 2006 *Linn's* makes the point that, at least for now, the Figure 1 stamp deserves the title of "America's Rarest Stamp." The one cent Z-grill stamp, Sc 85A, may be more famous as an extremely rare stamp, but there are two known copies of that stamp, as opposed to only one example of Sc 164.

Club member Wendell Triplett was intrigued by the Sc 164 cancel and wondered if the post office that applied it could be identified. (A tracing of the cancel by John Donnes, taken from the *Linn's* illustration and reduced down to essentially actual size is shown as Figure 2.) Wendell has

Figure 2



accumulated a reference collection of 365 different hand-carved leaf cancels of which 219 have been identified with a particular post office. He considers these cancels to be like fingerprints in that each design is inevitably unique, possessing at least small deviations from any other.

Wendell believes that Whitfield tracing 1607, attributed to New Orleans, LA is the same cancel that appears in Figure 1. As a part of his analysis, he enlarged the Whitfield tracing on a transparency and placed it over the enlarged image of the stamp as it appeared in *Linn's*. While not the exact size, he found the Whitfield cancel to fit very

well over the *Linn's* image. In addition, he measured the angles in the cancel. He ruled a line down the center of the leaf stem which he designated "90°" degrees. He then ruled the lines that formed the lengthwise sections of the leaf and measured their angles from the "90°" degrees line. (See Figure 3). He then measured the angles on the Whitfield tracing (Figure 4) in the same manner. Readers will note how similar the angles are.

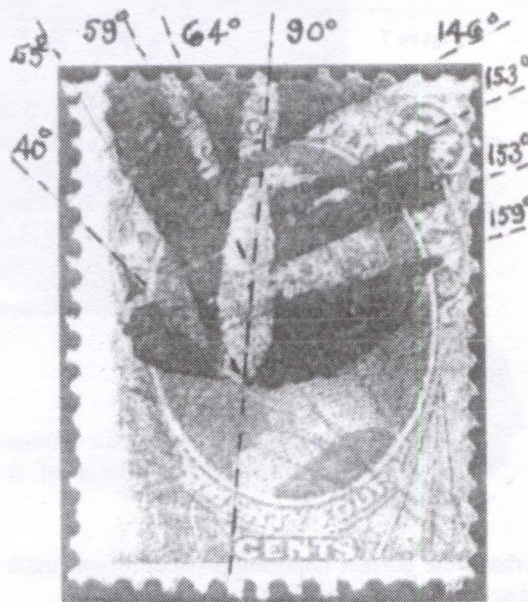


Figure 3

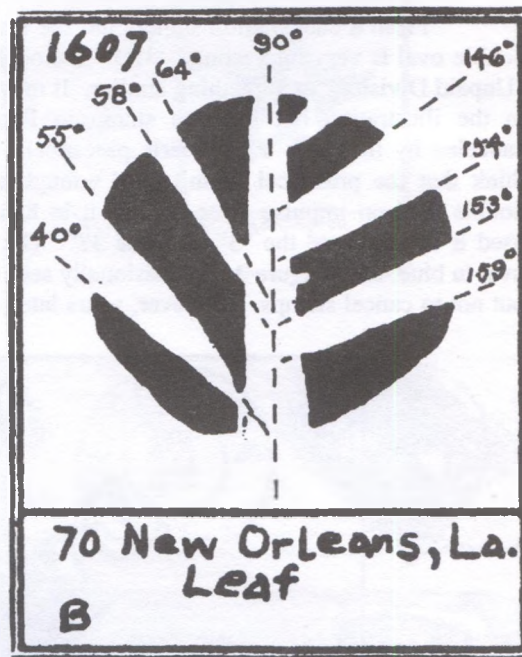


Figure 4

I believe Wendell's opinion is entirely plausible. Indeed, what would the likelihood be of two different hand-carved cancels matching up so well? Of course, it would be very desirable to find a confirming cover and I urge all Club members to search their collections for covers bearing leaf cancels like the one at issue here. Wendell says this cancel is unique in its asymmetrical arrangement. It seems reasonable to suppose that covers with this cancel are "out there" and when one with a clear strike is found, I think it likely, indeed, that New Orleans will be confirmed as the originating post office. ■

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More on Weston "W"

by Roger D. Curran

One of the best-known U.S. 19th century manuscript cancels is the Weston, Massachusetts manuscript "W" that has been noted on 1857 issue stamps and on later issues well into the large Banknote era. A typical example is shown as Figure 1. These cancels have often been thought of as precancels

Figure 1

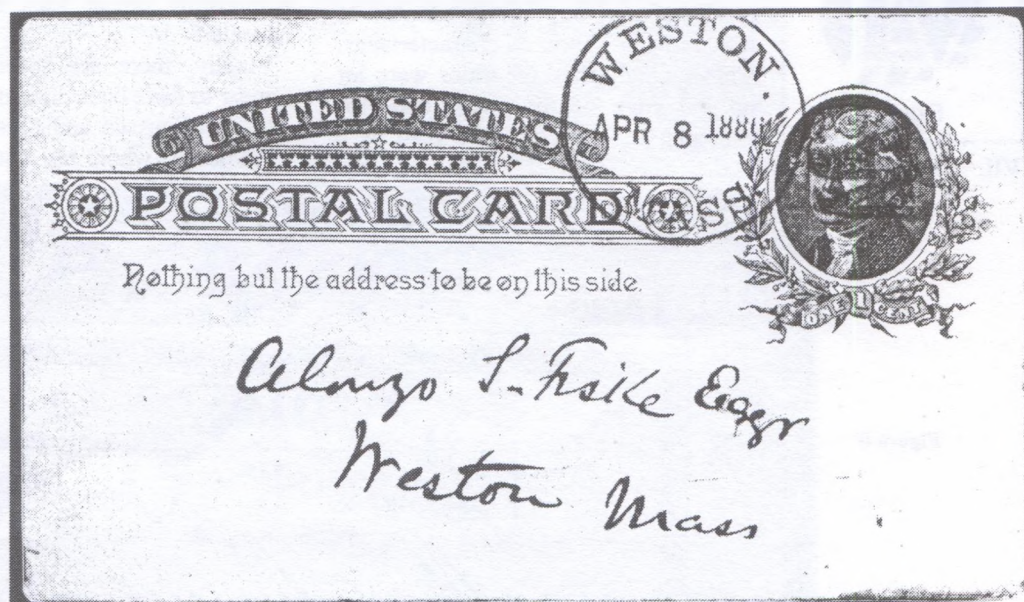
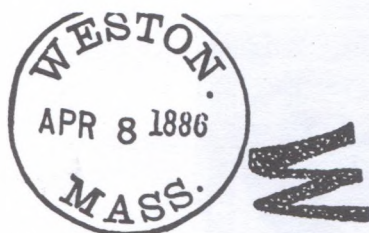
because they are frequently placed on the center of stamps. In fact they are currently listed as such in the excellent book *Silent Precancels* by David W. Smith, published by the Precancel Stamp Society in 2004. However, since collectors do see examples that are clearly tied to the cover, the question arises as to whether those that are fully placed on the stamp are just carefully applied post-cancels. I would welcome comments and additional information on this subject.

The August 2000 *NEWS* illustrated three covers bearing Weston "W" cancels. Two covers, dated September 13, 1883 and June 10, 1884 (Sc 207 and Sc 210 stamps respectively), involved "W" cancels rather similar in shape to the commonly encountered "W" but thicker. They were probably made with a wide-tipped quill pen. An August 27, 1884 cover franked with a pair of Sc 210, each canceled by a "W" with serifs at the top, was also presented. Since the cancels appear to be the same, it is assumed they were not manuscripts but rather applied by a handstamp.

In the present article, two additional Weston covers are illustrated. The Figure 2 CDS and "W" are in a magenta ink that borders on purple. It is doubtful that the "W" was duplexed to the CDS. The CDS gives every indication of being the product of a rubber-faced handstamp and one would not expect a killer to rotate in such a handstamp. There is a very light second strike of the "W" to the right of the first "W." The Figure 3 cover, dated July 23, 1883, bears two strikes of what appears to be a handstamped "W." These cancels are, of course, unduplexed and carefully placed on the stamp. It is most unlikely that they are precancels because we wouldn't expect to see the cancel right side up on the one stamp and upside down on the other. These cancels surely

(Continued on page 59)

Figure 2



New York City Roman Numeral Cancels

by Roger Rhoads

Roger Curran reviewed duplexed Roman numeral cancels used in August to September 1874 in the May 2006 issue. I would like to expand a bit on this article as well as cover some misconceptions. Most of what follows was covered by my original articles on NYC cancels in the Fall 1985, Winter 1986, Spring 1986, Fall 1990, and Winter 1991 issues of the *NEWS* (whole nos. 186-188 and 206-207).

Mr. Curran noted in his article that no Roman "I" cancel has been reported while Arabic "1s" were being used in the same time span. This was apparently done to avoid confusion with letter-designated Station I that was operated in the years 1875 to 1877 (Figure 1).

Figure 2 in the May 2006 article illustrated a "1" with both horizontal and vertical bars used on August 8 with the assumed year of 1874. I have the same cancel on a UX3 dated August 9, 1874 to confirm that year. Figure 2 below shows a similar cancel with only horizontal lines dated October 31, 1874. My notes from the original articles show that Arabic "1s" with background bars were used from August to December, 1874.

Why were Roman numerals used at all? It seems ever since number cancels were adopted there was an on-going effort to improve both legibility and durability. The negative Arabic numbers that were first used had a lifespan of about five weeks and became illegible rather rapidly as many of you can attest. Positive Arabic numbers with a circular rim were far more legible and were used throughout 1874, primarily in the months

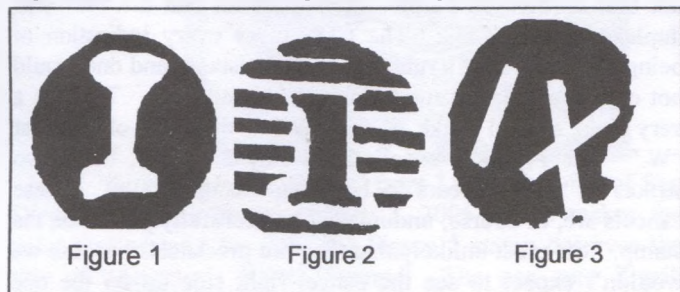


Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

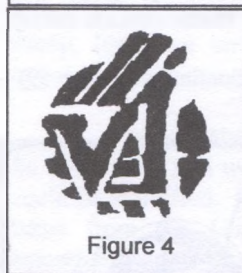


Figure 4

of April and May. However, they quickly wore out and lasted only about two weeks. Roman numerals with background bars had more surface area, and may have been adopted to test their wear characteristics. Unfortunately they oft times were hit on the edge of the cover and, for example, a VIII would be read as a

VII. Thus legibility suffered.

Please note that negative Roman numerals were used as well, primarily in the months of August and September 1874, supporting the supposition that cancel durability was being tested. (Figure 3)

Mr. Curran touched on the subject of style, noting that some Roman had vertical as well as horizontal bars as did the Arabic "1s". Some Roman numerals even sported diagonal bars (Figure 4).

Background bars were also used with Arabic numbers. Figure 5 shows cancels from my earlier article with positive "5", "6" and "14" showing horizontal bars. Figure 6 shows two UX3s with a similar "14" and a "3" (inverted), the latter having diagonal bars. An illustration of a multi-barred "5" was shown in an article by Mr. Curran in the Fall 1996 (whole no. 221) entitled *Cancelers with Numbers in NYC Handstamps - First Class Mail*.

Lastly I would like to discuss the supposition that while one set of handstamps was being used, another set was being adjusted by a central clerk to reflect the next half-hour

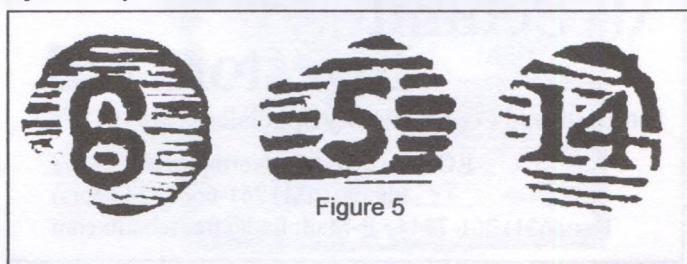


Figure 5

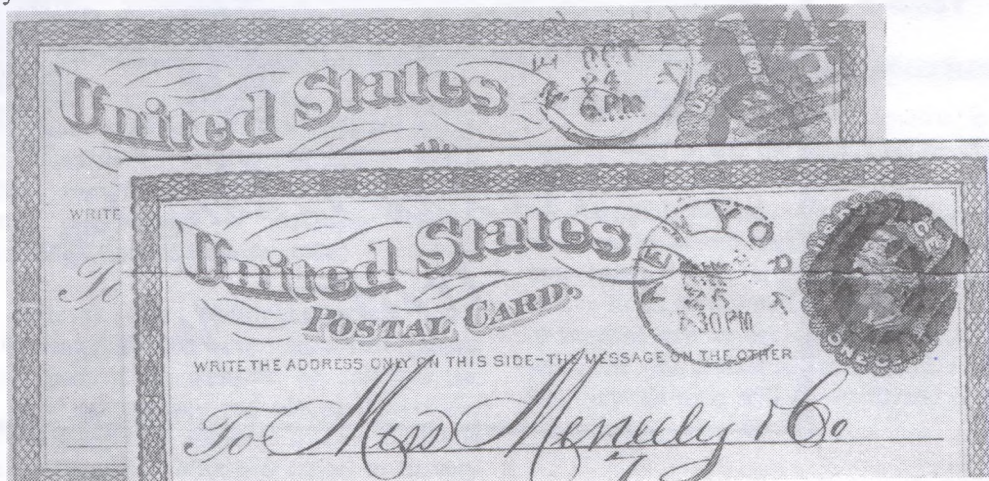
increment in the CDS. I can find no justification for this statement during the hand-carved numbers era.

First of all, I found twenty occasions when the same number design was found separated by 3 to 38 days. At no time was another design of the same number found used between these dates. In other words, a single person was identified by that number, and that design was used until it wore out.

Furthermore, I was able, using transparent overlays, to distinguish eleven sub-varieties of the CDSs used in conjunction with the number cancels. When the times were changed in the CDS, the CDS itself was not changed. (see Spring 1986, whole no. 188 for the method used.) With these two points in mind, it would be apparent that each clerk was responsible for at least the time and date changes of his canceler.

Finally, there are several styles of Arabic numbers that appear to have been carved by different authors, in sets of 1-14. This is discussed and illustrated in the first article in the Fall 1985 issue (whole no. 186). Small and large, serif and sans

Figure 6



serif, stencil-like, etc.; each series has its own particular style.

I suggest that each clerk was assigned the duty of whittling a set of numbers 1 through 14, thus their individual natures. They were then given to a central person until needed. This central clerk was responsible for keeping the cancellers in good mechanical condition and fitted duplicate hammers with new numbers and another CDS to issue to the clerks when worn ones were turned in.

Later when steel ellipse killers were used starting in May 1876, two sets were used concurrently. Therefore it's practical to assume that a procedural change had been made and that a central clerk may have been assigned to make time and date changes to allow for greater clerk efficiency. ■

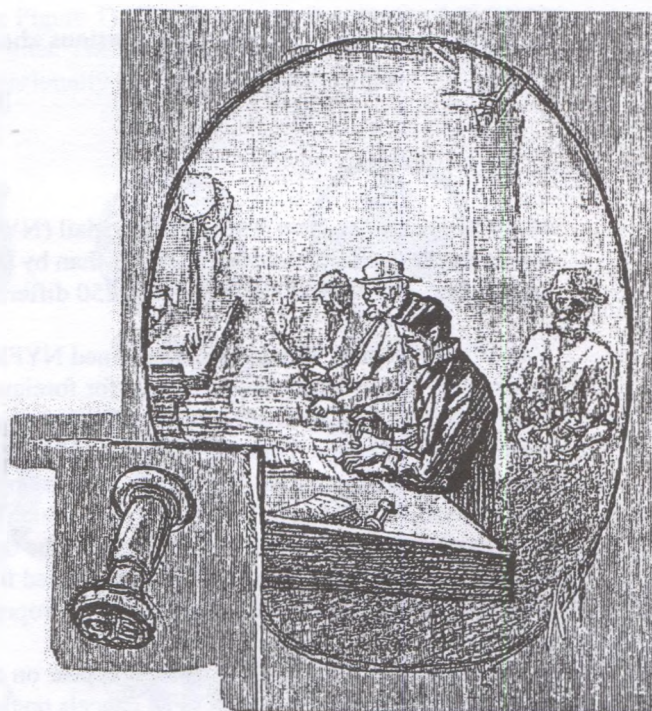
Editor's comment. It is interesting to note that in an 1878 Scribner's Monthly magazine article, the New York postmaster was quoted as follows:

*"... Every letter received here is stamped at once with the hour of its arrival. All letters coming in between ten and eleven o'clock in the morning are stamped '11 a.m.' When the hour turns, the stamper wipes his stamp clean of ink, lays it away in a drawer, takes a new one with the next hour upon it, and proceeds again."*¹

While the quote is in error about the change of times occurring just on the hour (as opposed to half hour increments which is evident from surviving covers), I think it reasonable to assume the quote is correct about the procedure of picking up a new handstamp, prepared presumably by a designated clerk who worked on all the handstamps, when the next time period needed to be shown. What procedure was used in

(Continued from page 57)

were applied after the stamps were affixed to the cover. The right cancel, incidentally, may have been applied with a bit



STAMPING.

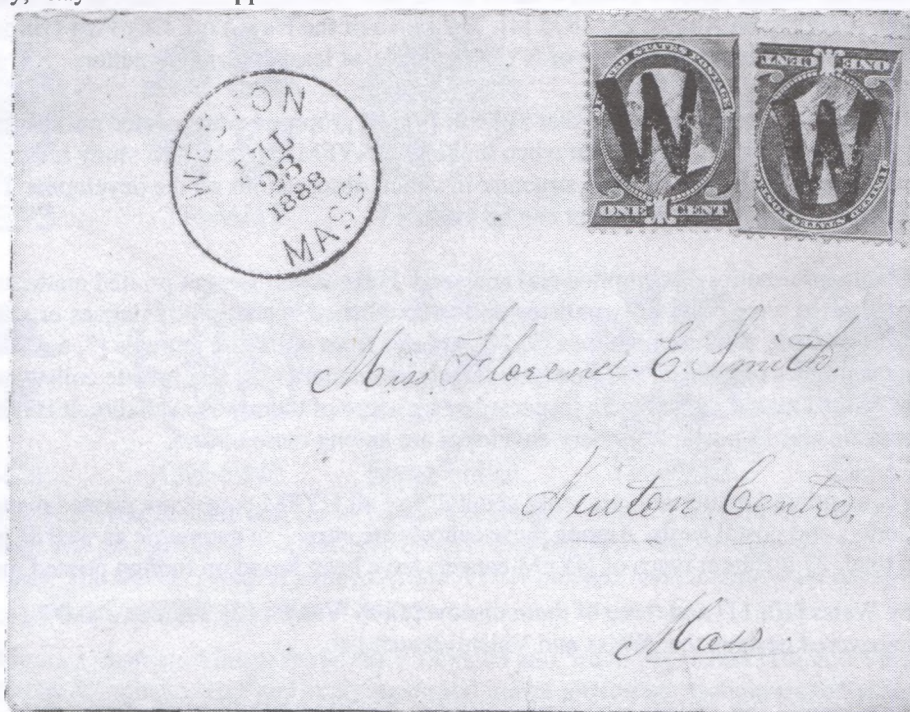
1878, of course, doesn't prove anything about what was done earlier in the decade.

An interesting and pertinent illustration accompanied the Scribner's article. It shows the stampers working at a long table with a space near the viewer unoccupied. Walking up behind the stampers is a man who may be holding a group of handstamps showing the next half hour time increment.

¹ Koenig, Duane "Looking at the New York Post Office in 1853 and 1878 – Changes in Mail Management in Single Generation" in *The Congress Book* (1986), p. 27.

more pressure. Thanks to John Donnes for the tracing in Figure 2 and to Arthur Beane for reporting the cover in Figure 3. ■

Figure 3



Some Observations about NYFM Cancels on Printed Matter

By Alex Gundel

Introduction

Most studies on the New York Foreign Mail (NYFM) cancels of the years 1870 to 1876 have been guided by their attractive geometric designs rather than by their usages. The cancels were classified according to their appearance, and Weiss [10] lists about 250 different designs.

Van Vlissingen and Waud [9] have defined NYFM cancels as having been used "for cancelling stamps on mail originating in New York City destined for foreign countries other than Canada. They were not for use on local mail in the United States or on mail to foreign countries initially mailed at other post offices even though clearing through New York City". Weiss [10] adopted this definition in general. As he was aware of NYFM cancels on a small number of domestic covers and on a few covers not originating in New York City he has softened the definition slightly "...on mail which usually originated in New York City, and was usually destined for a foreign country (other than Canada)". The definition of NYFM cancels is based on the assumptions that the Foreign Mail Division was physically separated from the Domestic Mail Division in the New York City Post Office and that all mail was routed to the appropriate Mail Division.

Weiss noted that some NYFM cancels appear on circulars only. He believed that this is a coincidence. And he considered the occurrence of NYFM cancels on domestic covers as the result of misrouting in the process of mail handling.

Valenti [5, 6, 7, 8] has studied the New York cancels used on both foreign printed matter and domestic circular mail. He came to the conclusion that foreign and domestic printed matter was processed at the same desk in the New York City Post Office using cancels that he named New York Circular Mail (NYCM) cancels. While a census of NYFM covers including circulars has been well developed over the years [9, 10], it seems that no one has yet attempted to compile a census of NYCM domestic usages. Valenti reports also new types of NYCM cancels on foreign printed matter [7].

With this article I would like to present some new NYFM printed matter covers including two new types of NYFM cancel. Using all available information the NYFM printed matter census will be expanded by about 50% in relation to that of Weiss [10].

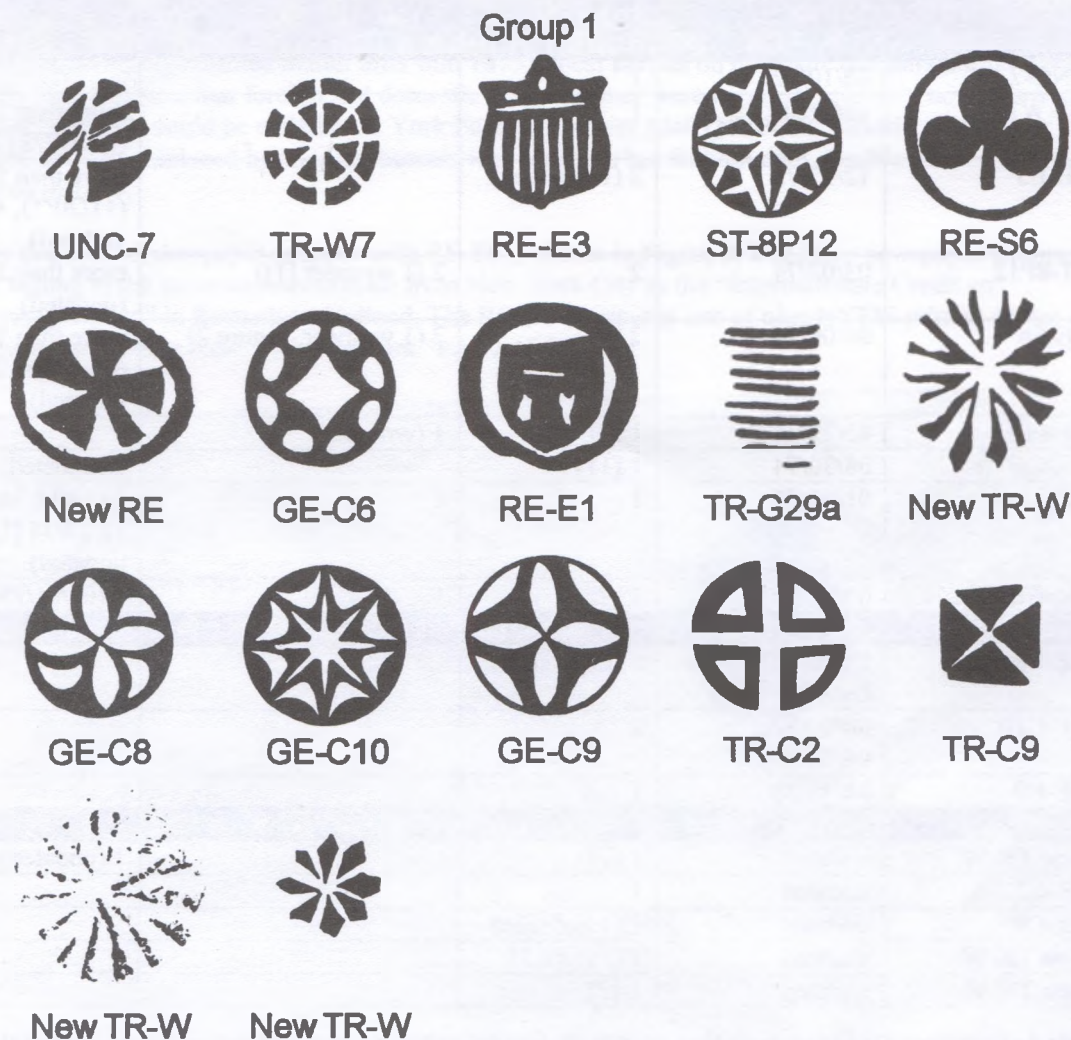
Furthermore, I will provide support to the view of Valenti [5, 6] that some NYFM cancels occur exclusively on printed matter, and show that the joint processing of domestic and foreign printed matter probably ended in 1875 concurrent with the start of the General Postal Union on July 1, 1875 and with the move of the New York City Post Office from the former Middle Dutch Church to the new location at City Hall Park. The City Hall Park Post Office could be occupied on August 25, 1875 [4]. The move of the New York City Post Office to the new site may present an important break in the use of NYFM cancels, at least on printed matter.

To achieve this goal I am using a method that Skinner [3] has proposed who pointed out that new insight may be gained if a postal history approach is taken when looking at NYFM cancels. This study arranges printed matter usages in chronological order providing a structure in which observations on the development of the postal history of NYFM cancels on printed matter can be made.

First, the available information is compiled and analyzed. Forty-seven foreign printed matter usages are described of which ten were previously unlisted and not published in auction catalogues or sales lists. Sources of information for this study were monographs [9, 10], articles from philatelic journals [5, 6, 7, 8, 11], internet sales, auction catalogues offering NYFM cancels on printed matter [1, 2] and private collections. Thirty-five of the 47 foreign printed matter covers were inspected or a picture of them was available. It is noted that 7 postal stationery wrappers and 13 postal stationery envelopes are among these covers.

NYFM cancels on printed matter are rare, only about 2% of all NYFM covers are printed matter usages, the others being letters and postal cards. Among these cancels are attractive geometric as well as traditional designs (Figure 1). In total, 27 different types of NYFM cancels have been found on foreign printed matter covers, 22 of them listed by Weiss [10, 11] and three of them discovered by Valenti [7]. Figures 5 and 7 present covers with two newly discovered designs that Weiss and Valenti do not list.

The cancels of this study are divided into two groups (compare Figure 1). The first group is comprised of cancels that are found on foreign circulars and not on letters or postal cards. The second group includes those NYFM designs that appear on numerous letters or postal cards and occasionally on foreign printed matter.



(Reduced in size 10%)

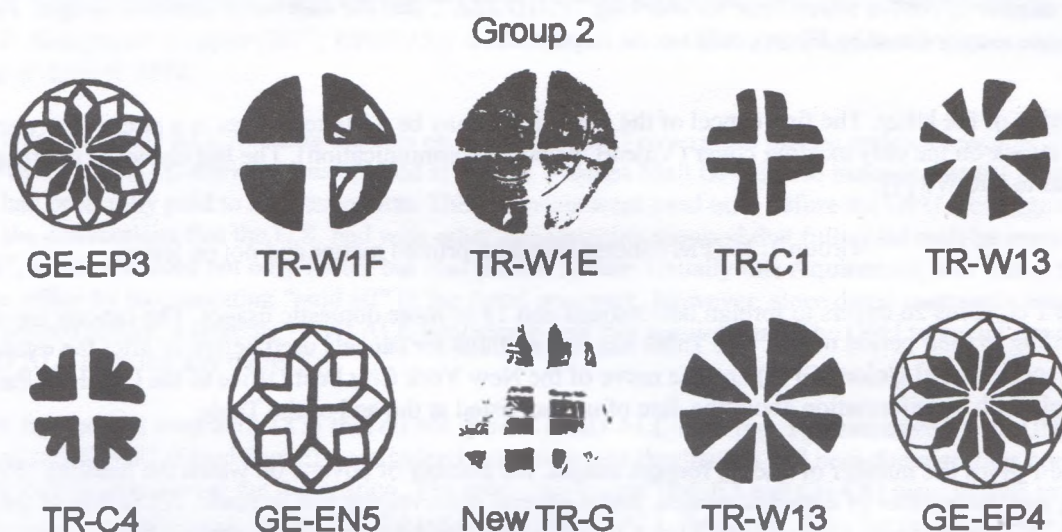


Figure 1: Display of 27 NYFM cancels that occur on foreign printed matter. Two groups of NYFM cancels were formed for this study. The first group is comprised of cancels that are found on foreign circulars and not on letters or postal cards. The second group is formed by the NYFM designs, which appear on numerous letters or postal cards and occasionally on foreign printed matter.

The drawings of Figure 1 have been taken from van Vlissingen and Waud [9], Weiss [10] and Valenti [7]; some have been produced by scanning covers and applying digital image processing techniques to the scans. These filter methods allow to exactly reproduce details of the cancels including the influence of an embossed stamp on

Type (Weiss)	Period of Use on Foreign Printed Matter	Known Foreign Usages	Covers with Red NYFM One-Line Marking PAID ALL	Number of Domestic Usages
Usages before the NY Post Office moved to the City Hall Park location and the GPU was established				
UNC-7	02/10/72	1		
TR-W7	undated	1		more than 1 (07/15/72 [7])
RE-E3	12/17/73	2 (1 not seen)		more than 5 (11/20/73, 4 undated)
ST-8P12	03/03/74	2	2 (1 wrapper [1])	more than 2 (undated)
RE-S6	04/09/74	2	2 (1 wrapper, Figure 2)	more than 3 (03/25/74, 2 undated)
New RE	05/22/74	1 [7]	1 (wrapper)	
GE-C6	08/30/74	1 [11]		2 (undated)
RE-E1	01/01/75	1	1	4 (12/14/74 [6] – 12/18/74 [1], 2 undated)
TR-G29a	05/07/75	1	1	1 (05/01/75)
Usages after the NY Post Office moved to the City Hall Park location and the GPU was established				
GE-C8	05/30/76 – 06/23/76	5 (2 not seen)		
GE-C10	03/10/77 – 04/?/77	2		
GE-C9	04/30/78	1		
Designs with no information about dates				
New TR-W	undated	1 [7]	1	1 (undated)
TR-C2	undated	1		
TR-C9	undated	2 (1 not seen)		
New TR-W	undated	1 (Figure 5)		
New TR-W	undated	1 [7]		

Table 1: Seventeen NYFM cancels that appear on foreign printed matter but not on letters or postal cards. The cancels are arranged according to their period of use. The Table presents the number of known foreign usages, the number of covers which bear the marking "PAID ALL", and the number of domestic usages. Four of the foreign usages listed by Weiss could not be inspected.

the strike of the killer. The first cancel of the second row may be a Maltese cross in a circle; the cancel is not fully struck on the only existing cover (Valenti, personal communication). The last cancel of the first group is similar to TR-W8 [7].

Group 1: NYFM cancels found on printed matter and not on letters

Table 1 contains 26 covers to foreign destinations and 19 or more domestic usages. The cancels are arranged according to their period of use. The Table has two sections for cancels used before or after the establishment of the General Postal Union (GPU) and the move of the New York City Post Office to the City Hall Park site. Cancels with no information about the date of use are listed at the end of the Table.

Table 1 gives the number of known foreign usages, the number of covers, on which the marking "PAID ALL" is seen, and the number of domestic usages. Some general observations can be made. All strikes of the killers are in black. No cover shows a dated New York City postmark, the dates have been derived from the receiving marking or from the content. The dates of foreign and domestic usages are remarkably close. If both dates are known for a cancel, the receiving date on a foreign cover lags behind the domestic usage by some days (compare Table 1). The scarcity of the cancels of Table 1 is underlined by the fact that no more than five covers to foreign destinations have been found for any of the designs.

Notably, the cancels of Table 1 appear on foreign and domestic usages until mid 1875. This suggests that domestic and foreign circulars were cancelled at the same desk only prior to July 1, 1875 when the GPU was

established, and prior to the move of the New York Post Office from the Middle Dutch Church building to the City Hall Park location. Valenti [5, 6] calls these cancels New York Circular Mail Cancels (NYCM). There are more domestic than foreign covers that bear NYCM cancels.

Cancels used for foreign printed matter after mid 1875 appear neither on domestic circulars nor on foreign letters (Table 1). This indicates that foreign and domestic printed matter were handled separately now. Consequently, this group of cancels could be called New York Foreign Circular Mail (NYFCM) cancels. They occur at least until 1878 and were replaced by simplex cancels with numbers but without date. Double oval cancels were introduced in 1879.

A newly discovered newspaper wrapper with RE-S6 is shown in Figure 2. The three newspaper wrappers of Table 1 belong to the same correspondence from New York City to the "Internationale Credit en Handelsvereniging" in Rotterdam, Holland. The RE-S6 wrapper is one of nine NYFM printed matter usages that show a red one-line New York postmark "PAID ALL".

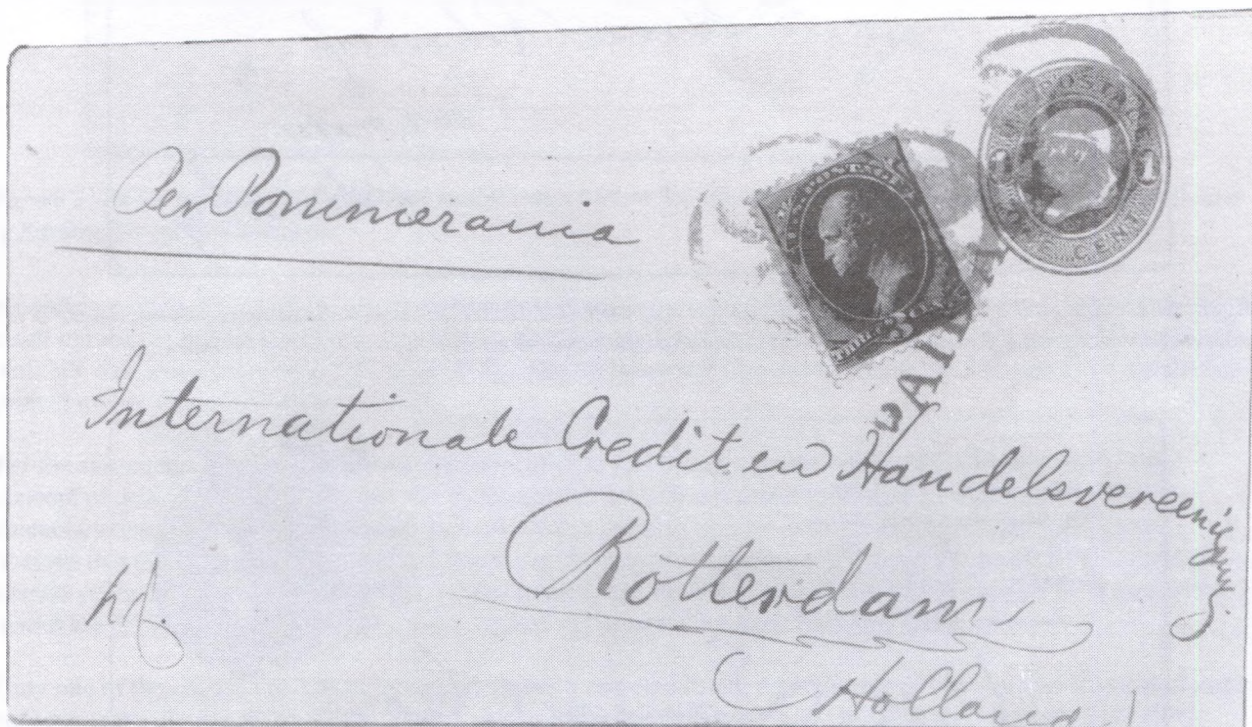


Figure 2: Newspaper wrapper (W77, UPSS 153) with a clover cancel (RE-S6). The reverse shows an arrival marking of April 9, 1874.

The red one-line PAID ALL marking appears on seven pre-GPU covers and on one undated cover of Table 1. The one-line PAID ALL marking was applied at the NY Foreign Mail Division to indicate that the printed matter postage had been fully paid to the destination. These cancels were used only before the GPU went into effect because the conventions that the U.S. had with other governments required that fully paid mail be marked as "paid all", which included not only letters but also printed matter. Usually this requirement was met at the exchange office by incorporating "paid all" in the dated postmark. However, since dated postmarks were not used on printed matter, a separate PAID ALL handstamp met this requirement. The GPU rules did not require the PAID ALL marking any more.

There are four covers used until 1875 that do not show a PAID ALL marking. The two covers with UNC-7 (Trinidad) and TR-W7 (Guadeloupe) were indeed not paid to the destination and bear due markings applied on incoming foreign circulars at the destination. The other two covers (RE-E3 and GE-C6) were mailed to England. The U.S.-U.K. conventions of 1868/1869 did not require PAID ALL markings. Also the undated cover (Natal) with a new TR-W that is similar to TR-W8 shows a due marking.

The next three figures present later NYFM designs of Table 1 on covers that do not show a PAID ALL marking. The GE-C8 cover in Figure 3 was mailed to Germany in 1876. Figure 4 presents the second known GE-C10 cover. It was mailed to France and received there in April 1877.

The cover shown in Figure 5 comes from a series of seven covers (all UPSS 324) to the same address. Four of these covers are shown in Figures 3, 5, 6 and 7. Two of the covers are undated (Figures 5 and 7), the other dates

are: TR-C1 (Group 2 in Figure 1) received on 04/25/76 and on 04/23/77 (different types), GE-C8 (Group 1 in Figure 1) received on 06/23/76, TR-W1E (Group 2 in Figure 1) received on 07/26/76 and on 08/26/76. These receiving dates suggest that it is a monthly printed matter mailing from a single sender that arrived between the

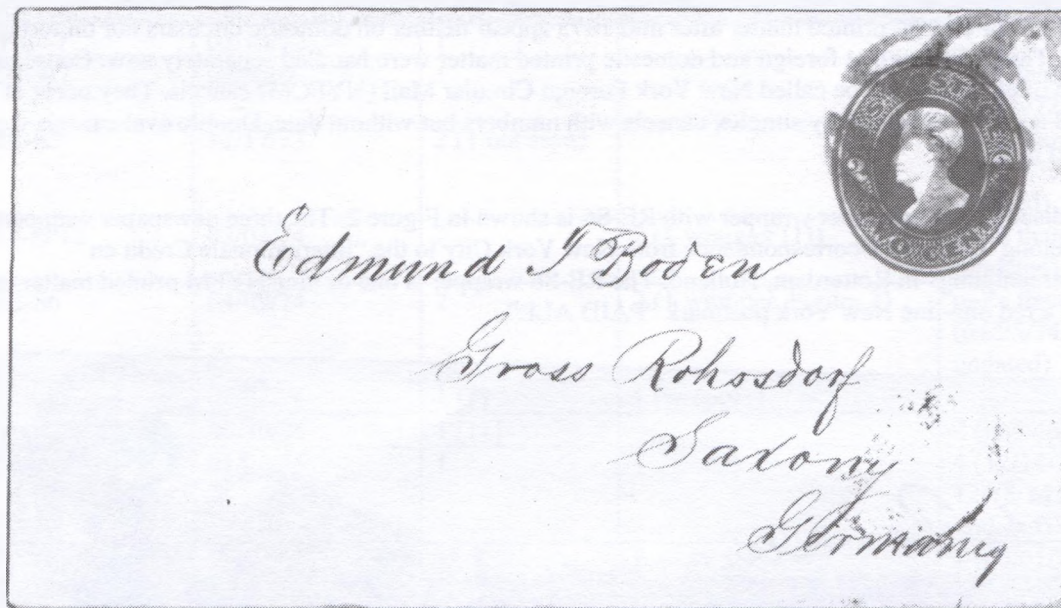


Figure 3: Double strike of GE-C8 on postal stationery cover (U142, UPSS 324) to Saxony, Germany. There is a receiving marking on the reverse (06/23/76). Note that the cover does not show a PAID ALL marking.

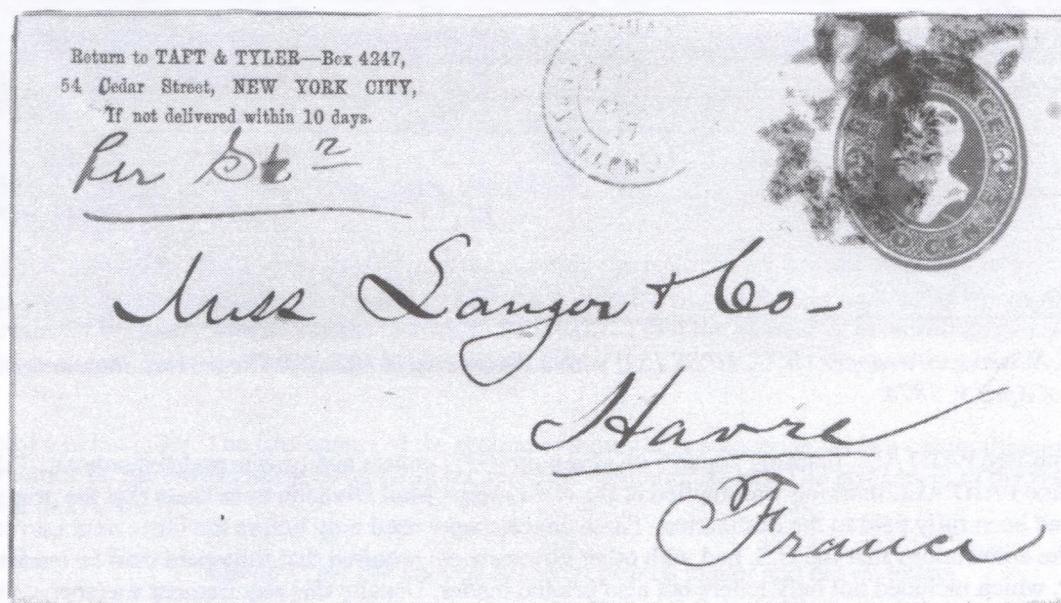


Figure 4: Double strike of GE-C10 on postal stationery envelope (U142, UPSS 324) mailed to France. Left to the NYFM cancel there is a red French marking with "ET.-UNIS SERV. ALLEM." of April 1877.

23rd and 26th of each month. Since there is at least one cover with an undisputed NYFM cancel; i.e. GE-C8, I believe that the same company posted all covers from New York to Saxony. The two undated covers presented in Figures 5 and 7 show so far unreported NYFM cancels.

Group 2: NYFM cancels found on letters and also on printed matter

Now I would like to compare the NYFM cancels of Table 1 with the other 21 foreign printed matter usages that also form a distinct group (Table 2). This group comprises nine designs that are found mainly on letters and postal cards in contrast to those of Table 1. Printed matter usages present a minority of the covers.

Table 2 lists about 400 letters and postal cards showing only nine different designs. The cancels are arranged

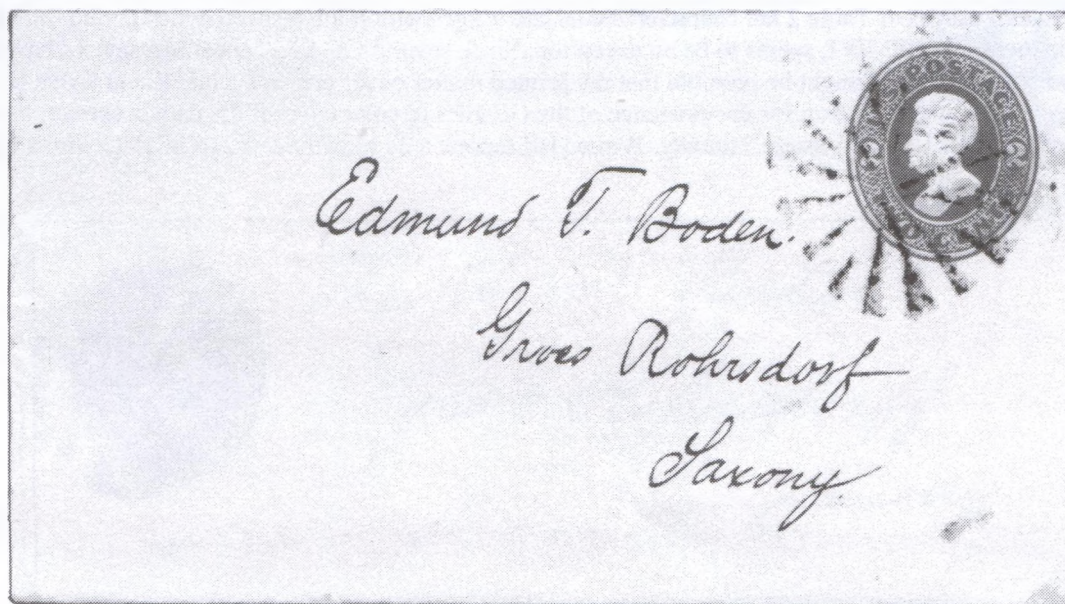


Figure 5: So far unrecorded traditional wedge cancel (New TR-W) on postal stationery cover (U142, UPSS 324) to Saxony, Germany (undated).

according to their period of use on printed matter. There are between 11 and 111 letter usages [10] and only a small number of printed matter covers. Only a single domestic use is known within this group (TR-C1 duplexed with NY date stamp on a letter [10, page 282]). The cancels were introduced between 1870 and 1875 but the first printed matter usage is of October 1875.

For the subsequent discussion it is helpful to recall that van Vlissingen and Waud [9] have introduced the concept of design families. A design family comprises cancels produced by different devices with common characteristics. The cover census [10] does not always differentiate between family members but it seems obvious that different devices must have been used for cancelling letters and printed matter if there is a gap of several years between letter and printed matter usages, e.g. for TR-C1 and TR-C4. The cancels used on printed matter are NYFCM cancels and they were applied in the new City Park Hall Post Office.

Only one of the covers, the TR-C1 wrapper, shows a one-line PAID ALL marking. The wrapper is undated and I suppose that a device of the family TR-C1 was used on printed matter prior to the establishment of the GPU. This TR-C1 is probably a NYCM cancel. It is noted that two stamps have been removed from the TR-C1 newspaper wrapper.

Table 2: Nine NYFM cancels that have been found on foreign printed matter and on letters or postal cards. The cancels are arranged according to their period of printed matter use. The Table gives the number of known foreign printed matter usages and the number of letters and postal cards. In addition, the period of use on letters or postal cards is presented. The letter f in brackets marks a family of designs; seven out of the nine designs are families of cancels.

Type (Weiss)	Period of Printed Matter Use	Known Printed Matter Usages	Period of Other Uses	Known Other Usages
GE-EP3 (f)	10/08/75 [6]	1	04/26/75 – 04/26/77	111
TR-W1 (f)	03/20/76 – 08/26/76	3	04/02/70 – 12/09/76	54
TR-C1 (f)	04/25/76 – 06/01/78	9 (4 not seen), 1 wrapper	01/15/70 – 11/22/74	54
TR-W13 (f)	??/76 – 08/02/79	2 (not seen), 1 wrapper [10]	10/20/70 – 05/13/78	68
TR-C4 (f)	10/05/78	2 (1 not seen)	10/06/70 – 11/05/71	13
GE-EN5	08/19/81	1 (wrapper [10])	03/10/75 – 05/28/75	13
TR-G30 (f)	Undated	1	09/20/70 – 12/06/73	11
TR-W17 (f)	Undated	1 (not seen)	02/02/74 – 05/25/78	49
GE-EP4	Undated	1 (wrapper [2])	12/15/75 – 09/07/76	40

The printed matter usages of Table 2 are characterized as late usages within the respective design family. The first cancel in the Table, GE-EP3, seems to be an exception. Since several GE-EP3 cancelling devices have been used also concurrently [10] it might be possible that the printed matter cover presents a late use of an early device. I have no better explanation for the existence of the GE-EP3 circular cover if the date is correct; Weiss [10] lists the cover as a 10/08/76 usage. Notably, Weiss [10] reports a 2c brown Scott 210 of 1883 with a GE-EP3.

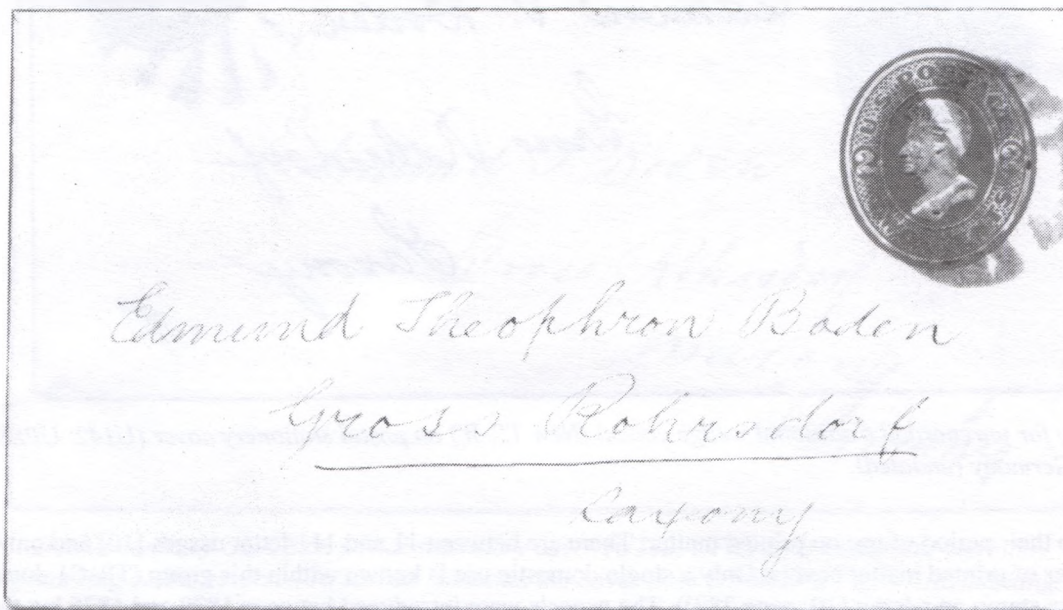


Figure 6: TR-W1E on postal stationery cover (U142, UPSS 324) to Saxony, Germany. There is a receiving marking on the reverse (08/26/76).

Figure 6 shows an example of TR-W1 of August 1876 (received August 26). TR-W1 is a family of seven or more cancelling devices with characteristic differences [10]. The one shown here is TR-W1E, and the cover of Figure 6 presents the latest known usage for this family member. Weiss [10] lists also a printed matter cover with a red TR-W1F to Mexico, the only known red NYFM cancel on printed matter (03/20/76). A later usage of TR-W1F (05/02/76) exists in black on a letter.

TR-C1 presents another family of different cancelling devices. All dated printed matter usages are later than the letter and postal card usages. However, there is one TR-C1 that was applied to a German round-the-world postcard in 1879 [10, page 280]. Type TR-W16 has been integrated into TR-C1 for this study since I think the difference is not large enough to exclude TR-W16 from the family TR-C1; this does not influence the conclusions of this study.

TR-C4 was used on printed matter again later than on letters. In addition, the device used on printed matter is different from that used on letters. Finally, the wrapper showing GE-EN5 presents the latest usage of any NYFM cancel under consideration except of the above mentioned 2c brown of 1883.

It remains to discuss TR-W13 which again presents a family of different cancelling devices. The 1879 usage is the latest known but since I have not seen the wrapper usage of 1876 it cannot be said whether a cancelling device has been used on the wrapper that has been used for letters at the same time.

For three designs only an undated printed matter usage is known. Since the cover with TR-G30 (Figure 7) belongs to the above mentioned correspondence it was used probably in 1876 or 1877. Moreover, it is a postal stationery envelope of the Plimpton issue of 1874 issued after TR-G30 was used on letters. Therefore, the printed matter usage again presents the latest use of TR-G30.

In summary, the foreign printed matter covers of the second group of cancels show mainly very late usages of the respective family of cancels. At least some of the traditional cancels have been applied by special devices that were not used for letters and fall under the category of NYFCM cancels.

As stated above the domestic usages of Table 1 are circular usages. One might ask at this point about the other domestic covers with NYFM known to Weiss [10] and Valenti [5]. Besides the letter usage of TR-C1 there are

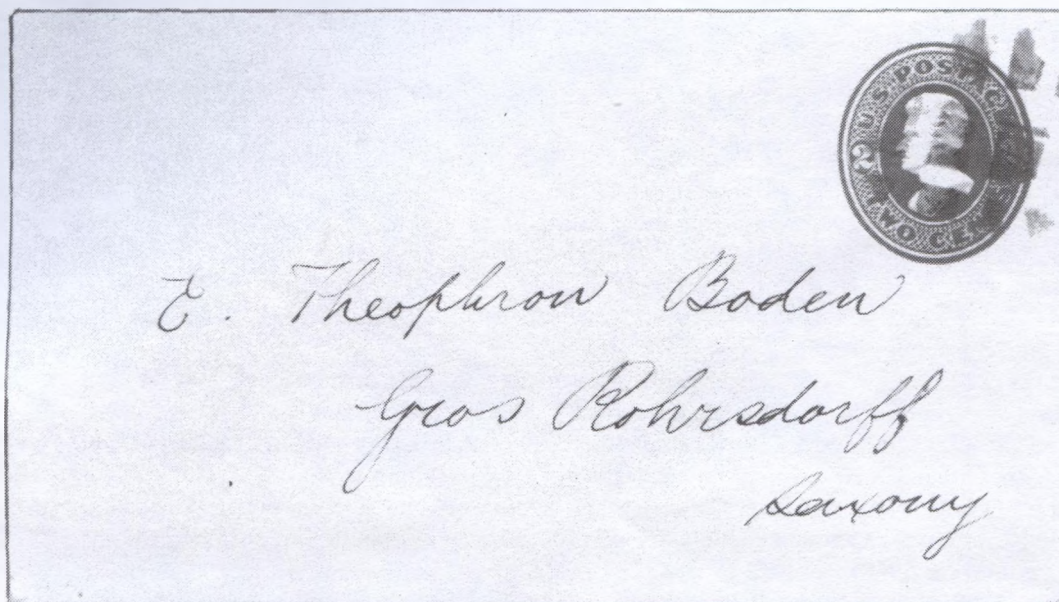


Figure 7: So far unrecorded traditional grid cancel (TR-G30) on postal stationery cover (U142, UPSS 324) to Saxony, Germany (undated).

domestic covers with cancels ST-8P11, GE-EN6 and ST-8P10, which I have not seen on foreign printed matter and, therefore, are not displayed here.

The cancel ST-8P11 seems to present an exception. It is found on numerous foreign covers, on three local covers duplexed with a postmark and on several domestic printed matter covers concurrent with the use on foreign letters. I have no explanation for the use of ST-8P11.

The situation with the other two cancels, GE-EN6 and ST-8P10, which are known on domestic mail, is different. ST-8P10 is common on foreign mail until 04/10/75 and there are several undated domestic 1c covers. GE-EN6 is known on nine foreign letters until 11/24/74, on a circular with no postmark but dated 12/?/74 and on an undated circular. These facts put the two cancels in a special position and it would be very interesting to find more dated circular usages to domestic and perhaps also foreign destinations.

Conclusion

The expanded NYFM printed matter census helped to demonstrate that the period of NYCM cancels that were used for domestic and foreign printed matter seems to end prior to the establishment of the GPU and prior to the move of the New York City Post Office to the City Hall Park building. NYCM cancels do not appear on letter mail.

Most of the NYFM cancels that occur on printed matter after mid 1875 are neither seen on domestic circulars nor on foreign letters. New York Foreign Circular Mail (NYFCM) cancels may be a proper term for this subgroup of NYFM killers. On some printed matter covers, strikes of NYFM cancels appear after the period when they occur on letters.

Three covers possibly do not fit into this picture of printed matter usages. They show the cancels GE-EP3, TR-W1F (red) and TR-W13. These cancels are from design families that are not fully analyzed and, therefore, it cannot be excluded that they appear also on letters.

Certainly, NYFM printed matter covers exist that are not included in this discussion. I would be grateful if readers could provide information about additional covers, in particular if the covers contradict the conclusions of this discussion. The author can be contacted by email (Alexander.Gundel@DLR.DE) or by mail (Mainzer Str. 76, 50678 Cologne, Germany).

Acknowledgement

I am grateful to Richard Winter and John Valenti who reviewed earlier versions of the manuscript and helped to

improve the article largely.

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Book Review

Chicago Postal Markings and Postal History
By Leonard Piskiewicz

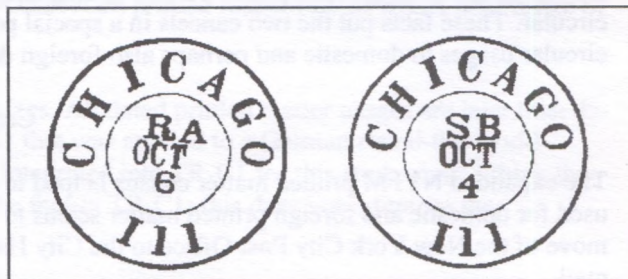
Len Piskiewicz has been for many years the editor of the *Illinois Postal Historian* quarterly and an expert exhibitor in a variety of philatelic fields. Though a native of Chicago, he has lived for many years in Santa Clara, CA. He started collecting Chicago postal history back in the 1970's, putting together material that has resulted in this magnificent 572 page book published by Jim Lee, the noted Chicago dealer.

With 63 chapters covering the postal history from Chicago's founding in 1831 to the mid-1950's, this book has everything you might like to know. Even if you are not a Chicago specialist, this font of knowledge should be of great value when studying the U.S. postal system.

Though it is to be expected that the 19th century is heavily covered, the 20th century was not left out. From manuscript markings to handstamps and all of the machine manufacturers, the first 149 pages cover all of them. To allow for completeness, drop letter, circular rate, parcel post, foreign mail, airmail, registered mail, special delivery, MOB, DLO and even pneumatic tube mail and RFD (yes, there were three such routes in the Chicago system) as well as others are covered in individual chapters. Then there are the auxiliary markings, not just including "Forwarded", "Missent" and "Advertised", but the less commonly seen handstamps such as "Returned for Better Direction", "Received in Bad Order" and "Fictitious" and "Fraudulent". And of course the infamous "Found in Empty Pouch".

One of the small items I gleaned from the book is the chapter "Postmarks with Letters, 1863". In the following

figure are two postmarks with letters "RA" and "SB". The chapter also covers "GA", "X" and "U" letters as well.



Turns out these do not identify office clerks but are related to the geographical distribution of the letters. "RA" covers are addressed to states east of Lake Michigan while "SB" covers are addressed primarily to Illinois towns outside of Chicago. Similar routings are for the other letters. Turns out Len published an article in the *Chronicle* on this subject back in 1996, but then I'm not a member of the Classics Society and didn't see it.

If you are a postal history specialist for any era, I heartily recommend adding this book to your shelves. Such an all-encompassing volume rarely comes our way. Now if we can just get someone to put together a similar work on New York City.

For pricing and details see Jim Lee's website at www.JamesLee.com.

Roger Rhoads