



Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 28, No. 6, Whole No. 263, May 2007

Far from the Norm

by Roger D. Curran

On March 15, 1875 a post office was established in Granger, St. Joseph County, Indiana. Granger is a small town above South Bend and just below the Michigan state line. In 1969 the population was listed as 125. The first postmaster was a postmistress, Margaret M. Fallmer. Early in her tenure she did something that would endear her to postal history collectors: she employed several handstamps that produced very decorative and, to say the least, distinctive postal markings.

Figure 1 illustrates a cover in the collection of Arthur Beane. A Whitfield tracing of a later strike of the wonderful postmark is shown as Figure 2. Why Ms Fallmer used the pointing hand marker as a canceler is an interesting question since she did have a handstamp designed apparently as a canceler of stamps – see the Whitfield tracing shown as Figure 3. What an odd and unusual design choice! One can almost imagine that the large circle was intended to frame the face on the stamp. Readers will note Mr. Whitfield's misinterpretation of the postmark as "Ranger," an error that I believe a fair percentage of collectors would make and probably also postmasters in 1875 who received mail from Granger and didn't have a personal knowledge of the town.

I have before me the image of a cover, brought to my

Figure 3

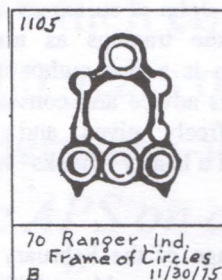
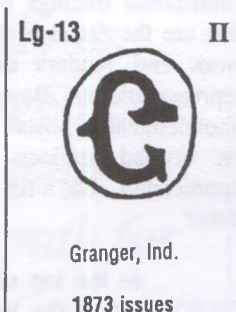


Figure 4



attention by John Donnes, that was offered on E-bay late last year. It has a Figure 2 postmark dated October 15, 1875 and a pair of 3¢ greens, each canceled by a strike of the Figure 3 killer. Also, a single strike of the pointed hand was placed on the pair. J. David Baker in Volume I of *The Postal History of Indiana* reports uses of the postmark in black ink in October and November of 1875. He also noted usage in purple in March 1876.

Cole illustrates another Granger killer as shown in Figure 4. Whitfield illustrates what must be the same killer (page 194, #5763) but upside down as it must have appeared on an off-cover stamp.

Who can report examples of these or other related Granger markings or provide more information about their use?■

Figure 1

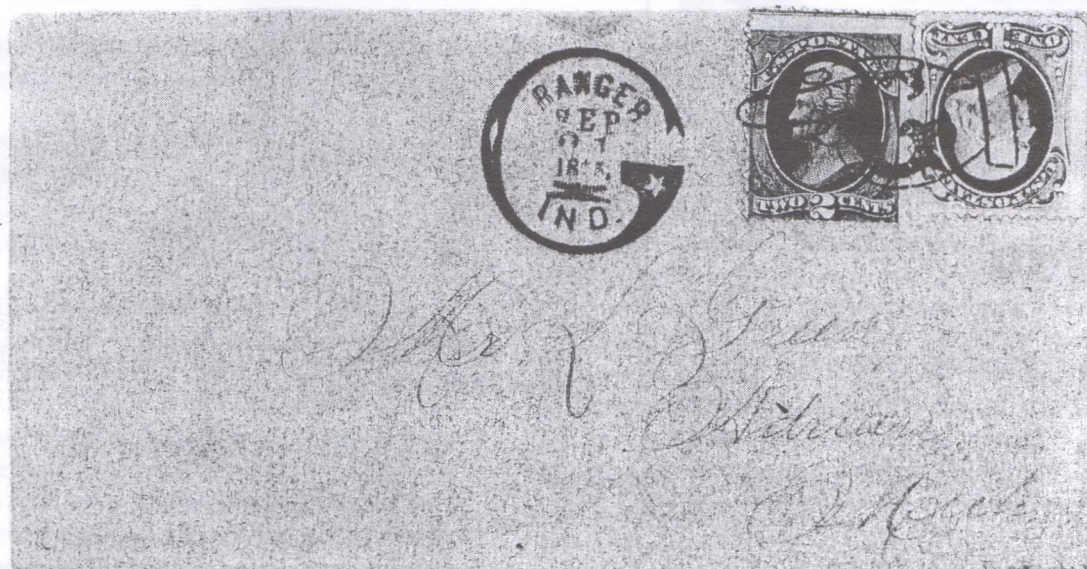


Figure 2

Dear Reader,

It is a pleasure to welcome our Club member from The Netherlands, Victor Kuil, as an author in this issue of the *NEWS*. Victor's article follows a January 2006 article by Alexander Gundel, our Club member from Germany, and deals with the same broad subject area – New York Foreign Mail cancels. International members of the USCC, incidentally, also hail from Canada, England and the Czech Republic.

I would like to recognize John Donnes for his outstanding support to the *NEWS*. In issue after issue he has contributed tracings of cancels and related postal markings that are the focus of our attention. John is an expert in this work and readers can rely on the tracings as accurate representations. Beyond that, John is a fine author a very knowledgeable postal historian. His advice and consultation on myriad subjects has been freely given and much appreciated. So, a tip of the hat and a hearty "thanks" to you, John!

At the top of the front page of the February 2007 *NEWS*, next to the Volume number, it should read "No. 5" rather than "No. 3." The other information on that line is correct.

Roger Curran

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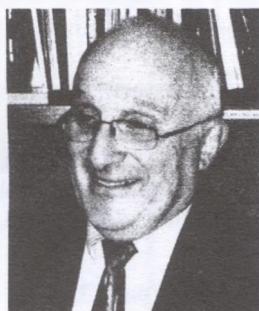


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Blairstown Monogram

by Roger D. Curran

One of the most popular and distinctive ellipse cancels is the Blairstown, NJ "JDV" monogram. It has a very intricate design and strikes often don't show it fully. A strike that does justice to the cancel is illustrated in Figure 1. The tracings are provided by John Donnes.

Two brief articles on the cancel appearing in these pages years ago are reprinted below with the thought that present-day readers may find them interesting.

The first article appeared in the October 1951 *U.S. Cancellation Club Quarterly*.

THE BLAIRSTOWN, N.J. MONOGRAM

By D. Peyton Bevans

The highly prized "JDV" Monogram cancel of Blairstown, N.J. was that of the postmaster, John Davis Vail, who served from April 1875 to May 1887, from Jan. 1890 to Nov. 1893 and from October 1897 to 1901. Thus he served about twenty six years less about eight years in two interruptions, caused no doubt by the fact that Grover Cleveland had two terms as President.

Through the courtesy of his son, Dr. William Penn Vail, of Blairstown I have the only envelope he could find, one addressed to his mother at Girard College, Philadelphia, Pa. showing the monogram as a killer on Scott #U243 Two Cent Red Envelope with postmark dated Feb. 23, 1884 and with printed return card to Jno. D. Vail, Blairstown, N. J.

Dr. Vail has written me about his father's experiences as postmaster. I quote some extracts from his letter: "Blairstown then was a 4th class Post Office. There were about four mails a day. The postmark and the killer were separate and required two operations to cancel add post-

mark. The monogram was used also in sealing the big brown envelopes in which all registered mail was enclosed at that time. Father had two signs, similar to R. R. semaphores, one red and the other white. As soon as the New York mail was ready for delivery the red sign was raised by a lever inside the post office. When the "Delaware" mail was ready the white sign would be displayed."

The second article appeared in the January 1981 *NEWS*. It was authored by Brad Arch and entitled "The New Jersey 'JDV' Monogram."

.. This New Jersey unique style of marking fits into almost any category of cancellation that you could think of:

As a County and Postmaster cancel—it's a borderline case, as the initials "JDV" represent the initials of the Postmaster's name, J.D. Vail.

As a Fancy Cancel—it's unusual in that it's in the format of the soon to be popular Duplex Grids; along with the fact that it is known in a variety of colors that match the rainbow.

As a Grid Cancel—it's most unusual because of the initials contained within it, and the fact that it is a separate hand-stamp from the CDS, although usually positioned as to appear as a Duplex.

Known in the following colors: Black (commonest), Magenta (2nd commonest), Blue, Green, Brown, Violet.

Known Period of Use: Earliest reported date—26 Oct. 1876, magenta; latest reported date—1879, magenta. Earliest reported date—1880, black; latest reported date—1886, black.

Cole reported the cancel as EL-166 on page 326 and illustrated two covers. He listed the following dates:

"JDV"

Blairstown, N.J.

(Black) June 8, 1879 - Oct. 26, 1886

(Magenta) Oct. 25, 1876 - 1879

"John D. Vail - P.M."

Return to CHARLES E. VAIL,
BLAIRSTOWN, N. J.,
If not delivered within 10 days.



Recd. L.W. Boardman & Co
Stanhope
N.J.

Figure 1

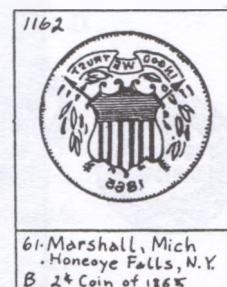
Brad Arch was for many years a leading student of New Jersey postal history. His listing of blue, green, and brown ink colors is very interesting. I believe I have noticed some variation in inks along the magenta-violet continuum, at least in terms of "brightness," but have never seen, or seen reported elsewhere, blue, green, or brown. "Brown" might possibly be some variation or degradation of magenta, but strikes in blue, and especially green, would be wonderful items, indeed. Who can provide additional reports of these rare colors? Also, reports that extend the dates listed for black and magenta are eagerly sought.■

Numismatics and Philately

Early U.S. cancellations may not be at the center of the collecting universe but one category can be said to represent a point where numismatics and philately meet. Primarily in the 1850s and 1860s but also in the 1870s, U.S. coins were used occasionally as cancelers. Almost without exception, it was the backs of coins that were employed.

The Skinner-Eno book lists eight "coin" cancels which are shown here as Figure 1. PO-Co1 was produced by a two-cent bronze coin issued from 1864-72. An illustration of the coin appears as Figure 2. A Whitfield tracing, which is particularly detailed, is shown as Figure 3. I suspect PO-Co3

Figure 3



shows the same coin, albeit from a strike with substantially less ink.

PO-Co2 probably is a five cent coin (the size is right) but, if so, the design has incorrect aspects. See Figure 4 for the coin, which was first issued in 1866. The motto is not enclosed in a ribbon. Also, a fully accurate tracing would have the motto and year date in reverse. Perhaps the person doing the tracing filled in some ambiguous or underinked areas with what he or she thought would have been there.

Figure 4



Figure 1

<p>"two cent coin"</p> <p>PO-Co 1 1865 Marshall, Michigan</p>	<p>"five cent coin"</p> <p>PO-Co 2 1866 Honeoye Falls, New York</p>	<p>"two cent coin"</p> <p>PO-Co 3 1865 South Gardner, Massachusetts</p>	<p>"1c coin" (reverse)</p> <p>PO-Co 4 1861 Milford, Indiana</p>
<p>"3c coin" (silver)</p> <p>PO-Co 5 1851-57 Vincennes, Indiana blue, black</p>	<p>"three cent coin"</p> <p>PO-Co 6 1861 Rome, New York</p>	<p>"3c coin" (nickle)</p> <p>PO-Co 7 1865 East Plainfield, New Hampshire</p>	<p>"three cent coin"</p> <p>PO-Co 8 1851 Green Island, New York</p>

Figure 2

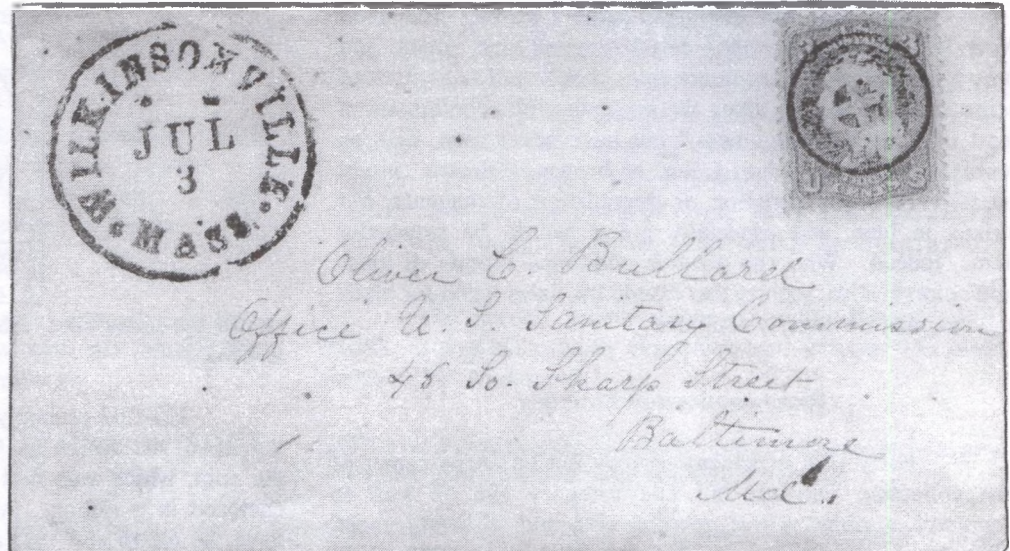




Figure 5



Figure 6



PO-Co4 is the back of an Indian head penny (see Figure 5) first issued with this design in 1860. Presumably the "ONE/CENT" was intentionally removed and then the crossroads (made of what?) was somehow added. Whitfield reports this cancel from Wilkinsonville, MA and such a cover is shown as Figure 6.

PO-Co5 was struck from a silver three-cent piece first issued in 1851 – see Figure 7. This illustration, incidentally, shows an "o" mint mark to the right of the III which is not present in most of these coins, including the one used as a canceler. Whitfield reports it from Plainfield, CT on 1851 issue stamps. In *U.S. Postal Markings 1851-61*, PO-Co5 is listed by Alexander from Felchville, VT. This coin, incidentally, was created to facilitate the purchase of postage stamps at the new three cent rate. PO-Co8 is another design

Figure 7



reported as a canceler on 1851 issue stamps, but no coin to match it was found. It was likely inspired by the Figure 7 three-cent silver piece, as probably was PO-Co6.

The three cent piece of 1865-8 (made of a nickel composition), shown here as Figure 8, likely inspired PO-Co7. Figure 9 from Whitfield seems to follow the Figure 5 design but is larger – another case, perhaps, of Figure 8 providing the inspiration. Figure 10 from Whitfield is intriguing. Could it be that a nickel three-cent piece was filed down around the rim and placed in a canceler that had the two outer rings?

A dramatic coin design is reported by Whitfield in Figure 11. Rather than an "Indian", it is actually a representation of Lady Liberty (Figure 12) with what is

Figure 8



Figure 9

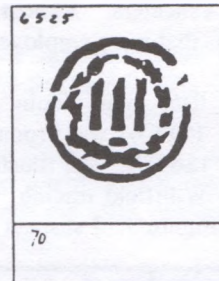


Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 13



Figure 12



described by coin collectors as "flowing hair." Note that the year date on the canceler that produced Figure 11 was apparently covered over. Just above the date area and below the bust is a three-leaf sprig that is characteristic of the 1793 large cent coin. This cancel is reported on Banknote era stamps by Cole as JO-117. Scott Trepel identified a cancel with this design on a Sc 210 (Figure 13) as a fake cancel.¹ It was offered in an 1977 auction catalog that Mr. Trepel described as containing many fake cancels.

Figure 14 from Whitfield returns to the Figure 5 Indian head penny. Again, as in PO-Co4, the "ONE/CENT" is not present. The design of Figure 14, however, is larger than the actual coin. I think it is significant that Whitfield reports the cancel in a colored ink rather than in black, because it suggests the canceler was rubber-faced. And for some reason,

Figure 14



Figure 16



Figure 15

the design was made larger. Figure 15 shows two Post Office Dept. stamps on small pieces from two different covers, struck by the Figure 14 cancel. They are shown through the courtesy of Northland International Trading, LLC. The cancels are in what we would more likely refer to today as a magenta ink. Whitfield's report of this cancel design from Milford, IN is confirmed by the same report in Volume 1 of *The Postal History of Indiana* by J. David Baker. What may have been the first report in the literature (Figure 16) is from the August 23, 1933 issue of *Postal Markings*. It is interesting to note the black ink listing. The coin images in this article are taken from several editions of *A Guidebook of United States Coins* by R.S. Yeoman.

There is much more to be said about coins used as 19th century cancels. Additional information and reports as well as reader comments are invited for what will hopefully lead to a follow-up article.■

¹ Trepel, Scott R. "Fake Fancy Cancels" in *U.S. Postmarks and Cancellations* (Philatelic Foundation), 1992, pp. 145-7.

"SW" Cancels

Not long ago Club member Joe Crosby acquired a Sc 210 stamp with a socked-on-the-nose strike of a cancel listed in Cole on page 221 and shown here as Figure 1. It came to Joe erroneously described as an S.W. in a fishtail from South Woodstock, CT. In addition to the tracing, the Cole book illustrates a piece with the cancel and a South Waterford, ME postmark dated June 23, 1884. Cole notes that the cancel is black and the CDS purple. This means that the CDS and cancel were not duplexed and the CDS in all probability was from a rubber-faced handstamp. Willard does not report the cancel and your editor assumes it to be decidedly scarce, at least.

ML-233

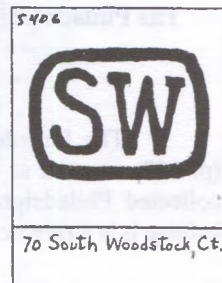
II

Figure 1



South Waterford, Me.
(C.D.S. is in Purple;
Cancel is in Black)
June 23, 1884

Figure 2



How would South Woodstock get confused with South Waterford? Joe points out that there is an "SW" cancel in Whitfield attributed to South Woodstock. It is illustrated here as Figure 2. Who can show this cancel on cover? It is also listed as a South Woodstock cancel in *Connecticut Post Offices and Postmarks* by Arthur Warmesley.

An intriguing, unattributed cancel in Whitfield, shown here as Figure 3, appears to be an "S&W." The ampersand is found on many railroad postmarks, so perhaps this is a hint about the cancel's origin. If any reader can identify it, please contact the NEWS.

Figure 3



Figure 4



And, finally, an ellipse with "SW in the center on a Sc 210 is illustrated in Figure 4. At the time of this stamp Chicago had eight stations including South West Station which used this cancel. Each of the stations employed an ellipse with its own designation (one or two letters) in the center. Assembling a set of all eight with nice strikes makes for a pleasing display on an album page.■

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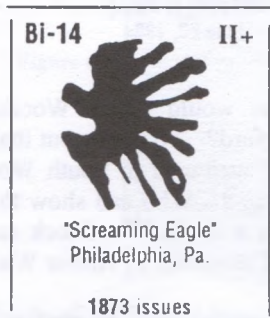
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The Philadelphia "Screaming Eagle" Duplex Cancel

by Norman Shachat

The Philadelphia "Screaming Eagle" shown in Cole (p. 157) is rated as a II+, scarce to rare (Figure 1). Having collected Philadelphia postal history for almost 40 years, I believe it is a rare item.

Figure 1



I purchased the cover shown in Figure 2 on E-bay for the very nice strike of the Philadelphia "RETURN TO WRITER" pointing hand. It happens to be the first pointing hand handstamp used by the Philadelphia P.O. and its use began in the very early 1870's. The E-bay listing indicated that there was a fancy cancel on the back, but did not show it. I suspect if they had, the successful bid would have been considerably higher than the price I paid.

Figure 2



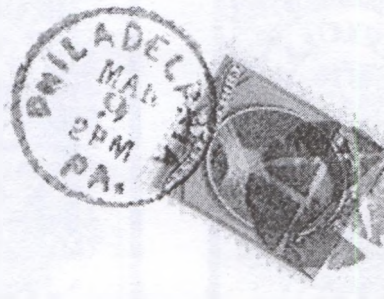
You can imagine my surprise when I received the cover and turned it over to find the rather nice strike of the Philadelphia "Screaming Eagle" duplex (Figure 3). Indeed the strike is more complete than the one shown on cover in Cole (p. 157) dated July 17, (187?) (Figure 4). The townmark portion of the duplex on both examples is the 25 mm. PHILADELPHIA/PA. (with day and date) known to have been used from 1870-1873. At the beginning of 1874, Philadelphia began using a larger townmark (26-27 mm.) which included not only the day and the date, but also the time (Figure 5).

Based on very limited data (my example and the one

Figure 3



Figure 5



in Cole), I currently believe that the "Screaming Eagle" cancel was used for a very short period of time – July 1873. Its complex structure certainly appears fragile and would not likely have lasted for a long period. Any input from our membership which might shed additional light on the period

of use of this cancel would be much appreciated.

Before concluding, it is important to note that I have observed a few of the more commonly found contemporaneous duplex cancels sometimes described as "Screaming Eagles." Two of these are illustrated in Figures 6

Figure 6

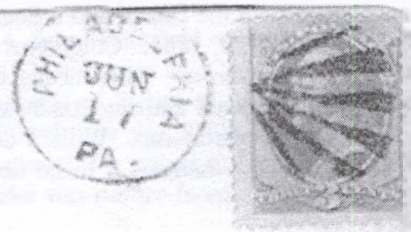
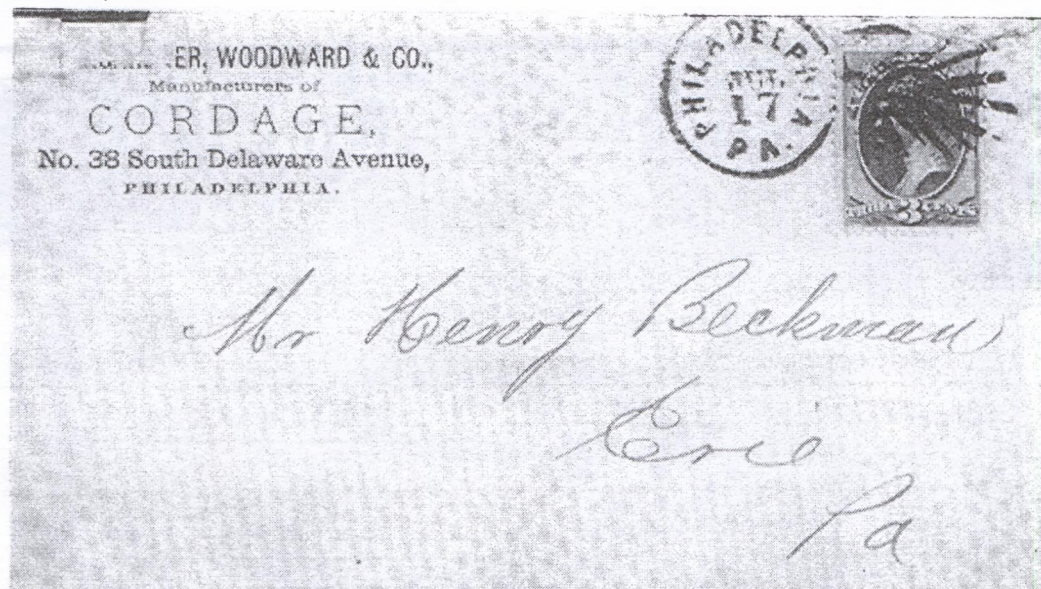


Figure 4



The Philadelphia "screaming eagle" duplexed cancel of the 1870s. As with many examples of these duplex handstamps, the head of the eagle doesn't show clearly.

Figure 7



and 7. Thus I caution, Caveat Emptor!■

Editor's note: The Whitfield tracing of the cancel in question is shown below along with his more prosaic interpretation.



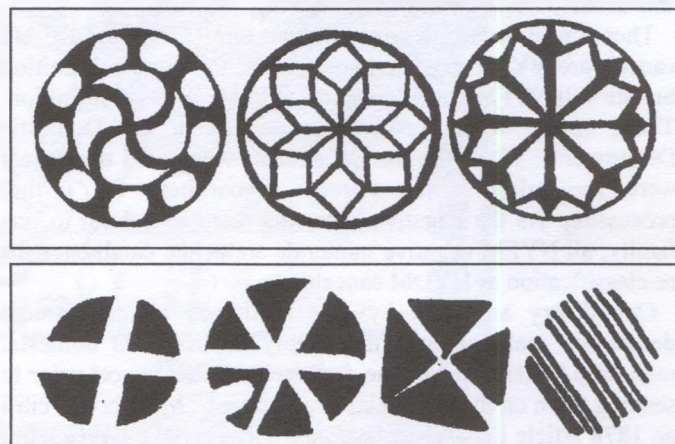
New NYFM Cancellation Discoveries

By Victor Kuil

The New York Foreign Mail (NYFM) collecting area received a tremendous boost by the work of William R. Weiss who assembled the most extensive cover collection of NYFM covers ever exhibited. And he published the book *Foreign Mail Cancellations of New York City 1870-1878* in 1990 and provided collectors with a valuable reference that contains over 250 distinctive cancellation types. In the seventeen years that have passed, only a few new types have been reported.

The NYFM cancels have been popular collecting items because of their appealing geometric and elaborate shapes. However, roughly half of all listed NYFM killers are not fancy at all. (see below, slightly reduced). Hence it seems that more than one whittler was active in the Foreign Department of the New York City main post office in the 1870s as it is difficult to accept that somebody who took the time and effort to carve

beautiful cancels would also produce the ugly ones. Look at the sets of cancels here to better understand the beautiful versus the mundane.



Mr Weiss lists as NYFMs all cancellations to foreign destinations (except to Canada) that originated in New York including those that were apparently not cancelled with one of the Foreign Department cancels. Mr. Weiss' definition of NYFMs as stated in his book reads, "...a group of cancellations **usually** applied to mail which **usually** originated in New York City, and was **usually** destined for a Foreign Country (other than Canada)."

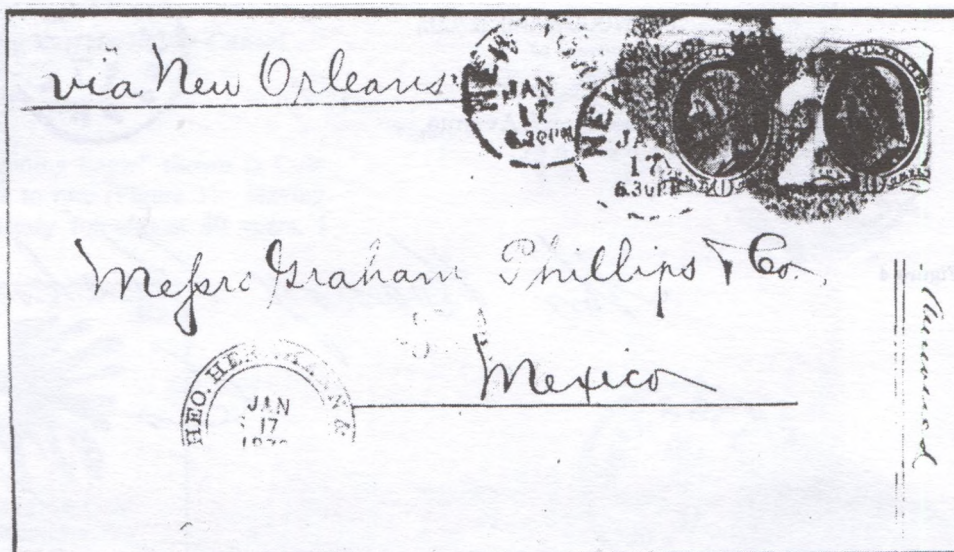
(Mr. Weiss' emphasis). This is a liberal approach as quite some of these cancels seem to be New York Domestic Mail (NYDM) cancels. It would perhaps be better to define NYFM cancels as those cancellations that were used at the Foreign Department of the NYC main post office. However, since there are no formal records for which cancellations were used in this department, the new definition doesn't bring us any further in the assessment of what are really NYFM cancels and what are not.

One class of such cancels is a candidate for declassification of its NYFM status, namely the numeral cancels. Weiss lists the types RE-N2 to RE-N5 and RE-N7 for the circular black cancels with negative numbers 2, 8, 9, 10 and 12 and the type RE-N6 for the positive 11 surrounded by a black rim. Note that only one cover had been reported for each example.

The RE-N2 cover, dated January 17, 1876, is shown in Figure 1. It is noted that all examples of these numeral cancels



Figure 1



Cover shown in reduced size.

in the Weiss book have NYDM time-of-day postmarks. The killer and the postmark in Figure 1 appear to be duplexed as also seems to be the case with the RE-N7 example in the book. The Foreign Department typically used simplex devices as generally there was more than one stamp on each cover and this avoided having extra CDS markings applied.

Therefore it is safe to conclude that the RE-N2 and RE-N7 cancels are NYDM postmarks according to the new definition but are still NYFM cancels according to Mr. Weiss' definition. These covers were apparently cancelled at the Domestic Department. When the foreign address was noted the covers were forwarded to the Foreign Department for further processing. As the negative numerals seem to belong to one family, all NYFM negative numerals are prime candidates for re-classification as NYDM cancels.

One theory advanced by Roger Rhoads is that foreign destination mail that was mistakenly deposited in domestic mail drop boxes received the duplexed number cancel prior to sending them on to the Foreign Department. Mr. Rhoads cites an 1878 article in *Scribner's Monthly* that reads, "Every letter that is received here is stamped at once with the hour of its arrival." Thus the priority that the mails immediately receive an arrival hour was upheld even though a NYFM cancel might not have been used on foreign destination mail.

The collection of Nick Kirke, an English collector who lives in Prague, Czech Republic, contains several examples of unlisted NYFM numeral cancels such as a negative number 5 on postal card UX3 to Tyrol, Austria, that is duplexed to a Domestic Department (NYDM) postmark dated Oct. 7, 1875 with a foreign exchange postmark dated October 9 that was almost certainly applied in the Foreign Department. He also has another negative number 5 duplex dated April 16, 1875 on a cover to Hong Kong and a third negative number 5 dated January 12, 1874 to Scotland, shown as Figure 2. Another unlisted type is shown in Figure 3. It is a postal card dated Jan. 23, 1874 to Austria with a positive 8 cancel. The last unlisted type is a positive 14 on a UX3 postal card dated February 24, 1874 to Germany, shown as Figure 4. Roger Rhoads has in his collection a domestic use of the same cancel dated April 16, 1874. All shown examples have a domestic type postmark, so it is up to readers if they want to adopt these new cancels as examples of NYFM or not.

Mr Weiss lists a few unproven NYFMs in his book. These cancels have been classified as NYFM candidates. However none had been found on cover to confirm their NYFM status when the Weiss book was published. One of these cancels is ST-5P-U1, We can report that this is a St. Louis, MO cancel as illustrated on the cover dated Sept. 29, NYD in Figure 5. I

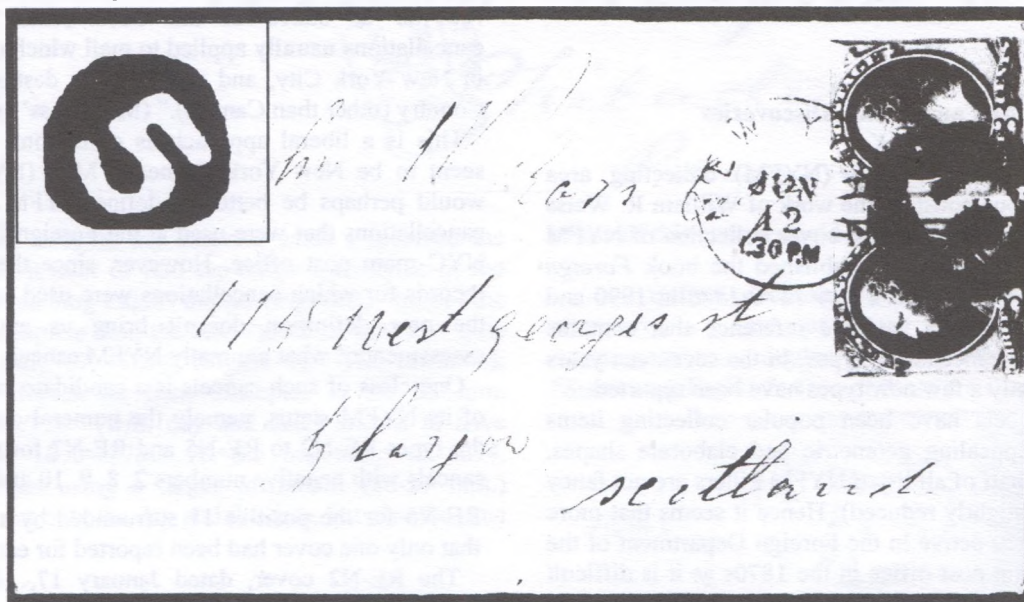


Figure 2

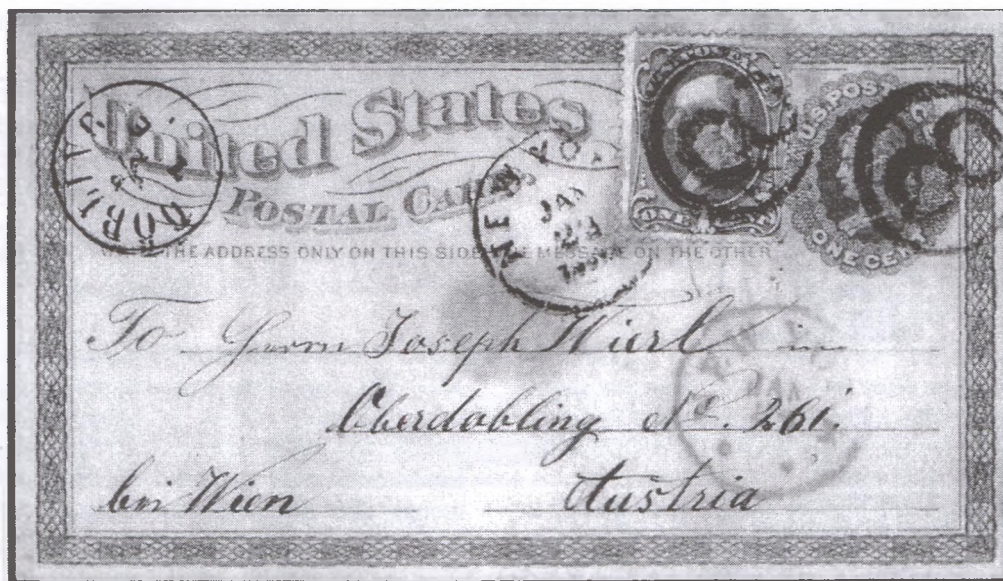


Figure 3

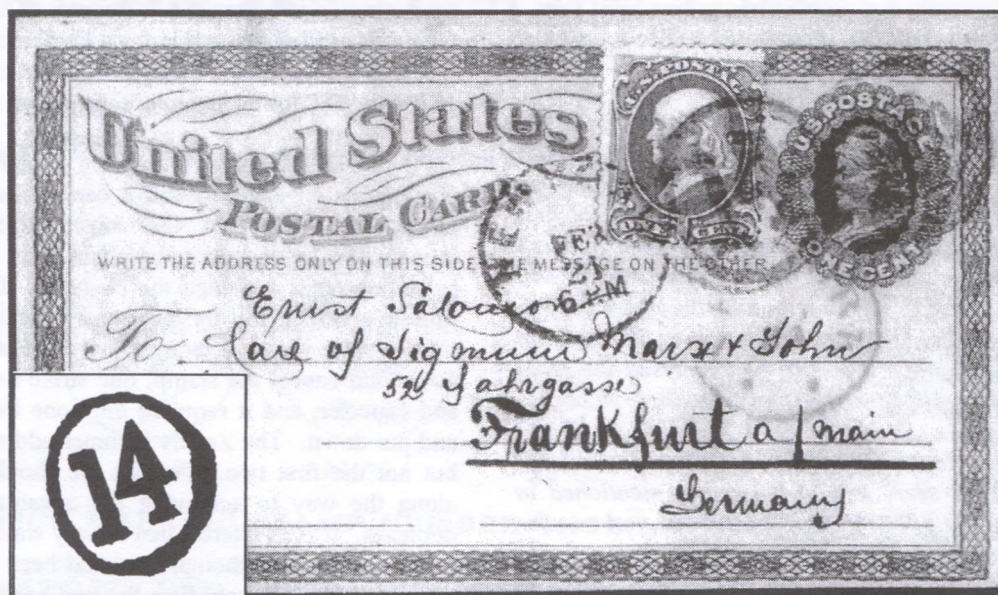


Figure 4

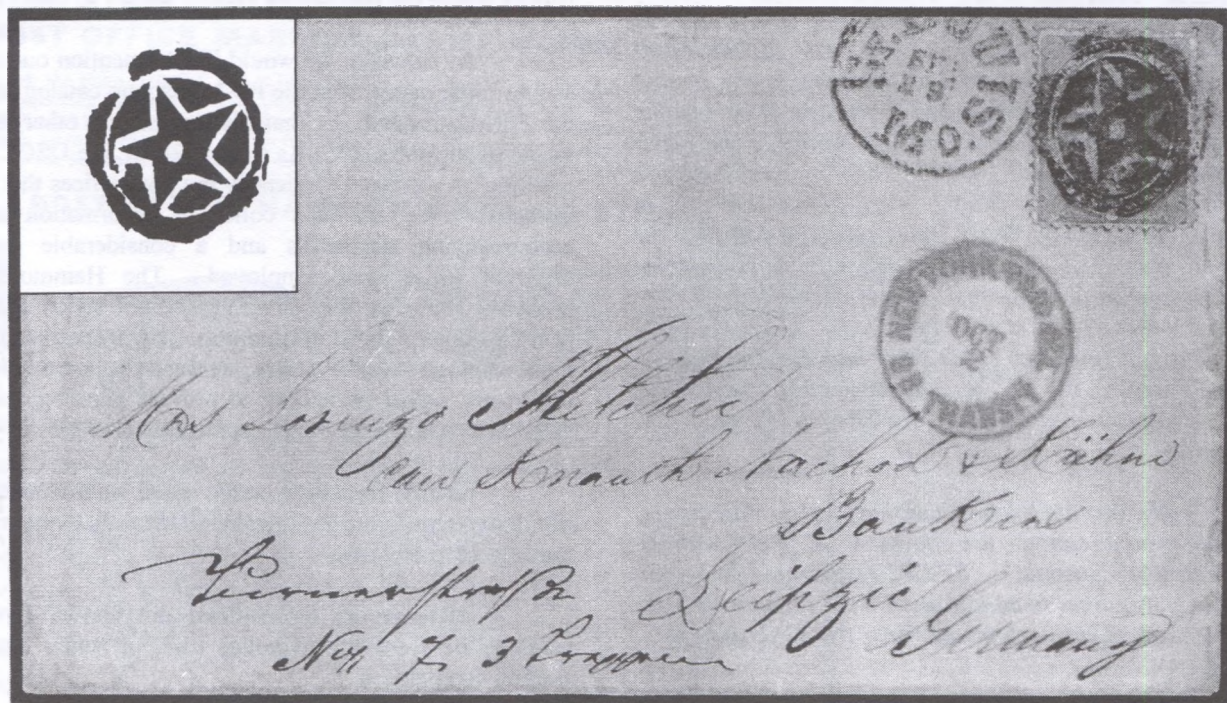


Figure 5.

believe that the Weiss tracing is not accurate enough as I have documented an off cover 6¢ Banknote example of this rare

Figure 6



cancel which was sold on eBay in July 2006. It clearly shows an octagonal outline of the outer rim (Figure 6). The same cancel is shown in the Whitfield book on p. 110, no. 3273, and it is attributed to St. Louis as well.

In summary, in my opinion, number cancels were limited to the Domestic Department and should not be considered as examples of the NYFM cancels. They were applied in the Domestic Department and only used on foreign mail when apparently the covers were dropped into the wrong mail slots.

Many thanks to Nick Kirke for sharing his finds with us and to Roger Rhoads for his editing of this article. ■

Editor's note: Mr. Kuil revisits a question that has, over the years, garnered considerable attention – the proper classification of NYPO domestic-style killers found on outgoing foreign mail. Indeed, what was probably the first discussion in the literature of this matter occurred in these pages in 1986 in response to one of a series of articles by Mr. Weiss on unlisted NYFMs. We will not take the space here to state the remarks of Mr. Weiss in support of including such cancels as NYFMs. Suffice it to say he addressed the issue directly in 1986 and again at several places in his 1990 book.

I would like to call attention to a couple of related matters. As we have seen, one of the points mentioned in support of treating the "time of day" postmarks and number killers as only domestic mail cancels, even though on at least rare occurrences used on foreign mail, is that they are duplexed. However, some unquestionably NYFM cancels are also duplexed. These involve primarily Weiss NYFM postmark #6 which is illustrated on p. 479 of this book. (Please note that this postmark has the stars at the bottom close together and is distinguished from two other similar types with more widely spaced stars.) A review of the Weiss book shows duplex usages from 1873-1876 on mail largely to Mexico with a couple to Danish West Indies and one to Guatemala. Indeed, Mr. Weiss states on page 440 that the majority of covers to Mexico that he has seen bear duplexed postmarks and killers.

Several duplexed NYFMs (very mundane) are shown with Weiss postmark #9, p. 479. The dates range from 1870-1872 and involve at least TR-G11-11a, TR-G24, TR-G25-25a, and TR-G36.

Finally, two duplexed cancels on foreign mail covers, that are not number cancels, are shown by Mr. Weiss with the standard domestic postmark: ST-5P2 (segmented five point star with negative cross in middle and TR-C6 (odd crossroad). A third such cancel may well be the Weiss RE-S2 (cross). ■

For Sale: Cancellations, 3 cent 1861.

Please send \$3.00 for 3 color and 3 black and white Xeroxes. Abe Boyarsky, PO Box 570, La Mirada, CA 90637-0570

PO Bulletin

Your editor recently had occasion to see a copy of the July 1873 issue of the *United States Post Office Bulletin*. This was a quarterly newsprint publication edited by John H. Zevely. As might be expected, there was a sizable ad for PO handstamps made and sold by the Zevely firm. With the thought that this particular ad may not have been seen by readers, it is reproduced herewith.

Prices are cited at several points for handstamps producing impressions "A." through "D." The impressions are not identified as such in the ad but undoubtedly begin with "A." for the postmark illustrated at the left and then running across to "D." for the postmark illustrated at the right.

The "hammer marking stamp" which had a postmarker on one end and a canceler at the other is quite interesting. One of the most important 19th century innovations in canceling practices was the introduction of handstamps that duplexed the postmark and killer – a crucial timesaver, especially for large post offices. The duplex saved time in three ways. It required only one strike to postmark the cover and cancel the stamp, one strike to ink the postmarker and canceler, and it required only one handstamp to pick up and put down. The Zevely hammer addressed the latter point but not the first two. Perhaps we should say it was a step along the way to achieving the advantages offered by the duplexes. It is of interest that Zevely wasn't offering a duplex in July 1873 even though they had been widely used for ten years. Was the Zevely firm focused basically on smaller post offices where the timesaving benefit wasn't so important?

As an aside, we would like to mention our interest in seeing some pages from the PO handstamp catalog sent out by the F.P. Hammond Co. that offered, among other things, the wheel of fortune killer. As readers know, the USCC has been working on a project to identify the post offices that used this canceler. We are also collecting information about the accompanying postmarks and a considerable number of different styles were employed. The Hammond catalog probably identifies the various postmark styles and perhaps provides other helpful information. If you should have one of these catalogs or know where one might be borrowed or where the owner would be willing to provide photocopies of some pages, we would very much appreciate hearing from you.

Finally, for a little comic relief, we reproduce the text of a letter sent to the Postmaster General that was reported in the July 1873 *Bulletin*.

Sections of the *Bulletin* are shown through the courtesy of Northland Trading LLC, a stamp dealing and auction company. ■

ESTABLISHED IN 1850.

These Stamps have been fully tested and approved many years.

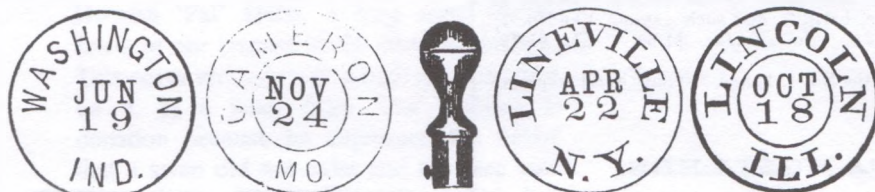
POST OFFICE MARKING AND RATING STAMPS.

Delivered by mail at the following prices.

To all Postmasters, who desire Post-Marking and Rating Stamps, I would say that I am fully prepared to furnish all kinds of Stamps for Post Office use, and respectfully call your attention to the following samples and prices.

POST OFFICE MARKING STAMP NUMBER ONE,

Is made of Fine Boxwood, with a Black Walnut handle, oil finish. The name of the Post Office and State is cut on the face in plain, neat letters. A full set of Dates for the months and days, made of hard type metal, and Brass Screw to hold the dates in the stamp, accompanies each stamp, I make four different styles of the No. 1, as shown in the following impressions. The cut in the centre shows the form, or shape of my Stamps. The price is given just below each impression.



\$1 25.

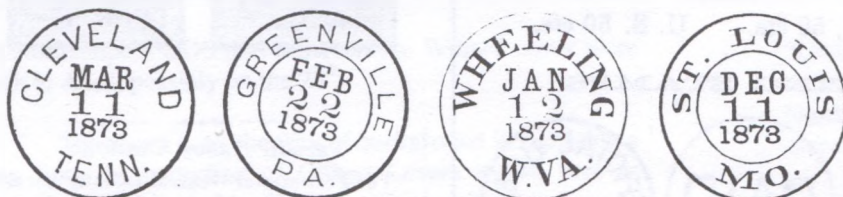
\$1 50.

\$1 50.

\$1 75.

POST OFFICE MARKING STAMP NUMBER TWO,

Is made of the same material, and is like the No. 1 stamp in all respects, with the addition of the date for the year, as shown in the following impressions.



\$1 50.

\$1 75.

\$1 75.

\$2 00.

POST OFFICE MARKING STAMP NUMBER THREE,

Is made of the same material, and is like the No. 2 stamps in all respects, with the addition of being Brass Bound and more neatly finished. For prices of the No. 3 stamps, add twenty-five cents to the price of each of the styles of No. 2 stamps. A. \$1 75. B. \$2 00. C. \$2 00. D. \$2 25.

POST OFFICE MARKING STAMP NUMBER FOUR,

Is made of the same material, and is like the No. 3 stamps in all respects, being Brass Bound with a Cancelling Stamp attached, thus enabling the stamper to mark the letters and cancel the postage stamp at one operation, and will be found to be very convenient and labor saving. Price with plain letters, \$2 50. With full roman letters like sample impression marked C. above, \$2 75. With full roman letters and double circles, like impression marked D. above, \$3 00.

POST OFFICE HAMMER MARKING STAMP,



Is made of the same material, and is like the No. 2 stamp in all respects, except that it has the marking stamp on one end, and the cancelling stamp on the other end, with a good hickory handle, as shown in this cut. The styles are the same as shown in the impressions of

the No. 2 stamps, with a Star Canceller on each stamp. Prices. A. \$2 25. B. \$2 50. C. \$2 50. D. \$2 75.

ADVERTISED AND REGISTERED STAMPS,

Are made of the same material, and are like the No. 1 and 2 stamps in all respects, and the same prices are charged for them.



\$1 25.

\$1 25.

\$1 75.

\$1 75.

POST OFFICE STAMPING OUTFITS.

Having had numerous applications for complete outfits for stamping and post-marking letters, I am now prepared to furnish the following outfits at the prices named :

NO. 1, P. O. STAMP OUTFIT,

Consists of one No. 1 Marking Stamp, with the name of P. O. and State, and full set of dates complete, \$1.25, One Canceller, 30 cents, Black Ink 25 cents, One Good Chamols Skin Pad, 30 cents—Total, \$2.10.

The above outfit complete, delivered by mail to any P. O. in the United States, on receipt of \$1 80.

NO. 2, P. O. STAMP OUTFIT,

Consists of one No. 2 Marking Stamp, with name of P. O. and State with dates for days, month and year, complete, \$1.50, One Star Canceller, (No. 1 or 2), 50 cents, One Good Chamols Pad, 30 cents, Black Ink, 25 cents, One Due 3, 30 cents, one Due 6, 30 cents, One Advertised, 30 cents—Total, \$3.45.

No. 2 outfit complete, delivered by mail to any P. O. in the United States, on receipt of \$3 00.

NO. 3, P. O. STAMP OUTFIT.

Consists of one No. 3 Brass Bound Marking Stamp with name of P. O. and State, with dates complete, \$1.75, One Star Canceller, (No. 1 or 2), 50 cents, One Good Chamols Skin Pad, 30 cents, Black Ink, 25 cents, Missent, 30 cents, Forwarded, 30 cents, Official Business, 60 cents, Name of P. M. in straight line, 60 cents, Name of P. O. in straight line, 60 cents, Due 3, 30 cents, Due 6, 30 cents, Due 12, 30 cents—Total, \$6.10.

No. 3. outfit complete—delivered to any P. O. in the United States, on receipt of \$5 00.

NO. 4, P. O. STAMP OUTFIT.

Consists of one No. 4 Brass Bound Marking Stamp with Canceller attached, with the name of P. O. and State, with a full set of dates for days, months and year, \$2.50, One Good Chamols Skin Pad, 30 cents, Black Ink, 25 cents, Due 3, 30 cents, Due 6, 30 cents, Due 12, 30 cents, One Star Canceller (No. 1 or 2), 50 cents, Forwarded, 30 cents, Missent, 30 cents, Correct, 30 cents, Registered, 30 cents, Advertised, 30 cents, Unclassified, 30 cents, Held for postage, 50 cents, Not called for, 50 cents, Name of P. M. in straight line, 60 cents, Name of P. O. in straight line, 60 cents, Returned to writer, (in hand), \$1.00, Official Business, 60 cents—Total, \$10.05.

No. 4—Outfit complete, will be delivered by mail to any P. O. in the United States on receipts of \$8 25.

Send money by Post Office Money Order, or by Draft on New York, payable to my order, or in a Registered letter.

Write your order plainly and distinctly, giving name of Post Office, county and State.

Address all letters and communications plainly to

JOHN H. ZEVELY,
STAMP CONTRACTOR WITH P. O. DEP'T.
Wheeling, W. Va.

ADVERTISED AND REGISTERED STAMPS,

Are made of the same material, and are like the No. 1 and 2 stamps in all respects, and the same prices are charged for them.



\$1 25.



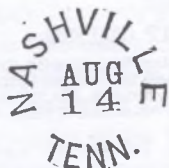
\$1 25.



\$1 75.



\$1 75.

POST OFFICE MARKING STAMP WITHOUT CIRCLES.

This style of stamp made without any circles, and generally used in foreign countries, is growing into favor in this country. To any of my patrons who desire this style, I will furnish such a stamp, like No. 1, marked A. \$1 25. C. \$1 50. No. 2,—A. \$1 50. C. \$1 75. No. 3—A. \$1 75. C. \$2 00.

These stamps are made like the No. 1, 2, and 3 stamps in all respects, except that they have no circle.

POSTAGE STAMP CANCELLERS.

30 cts



Star No. 1, 50 cts.



No. 2, 50 cts.



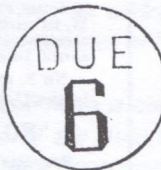
U. S. 50 cts.

IMPRESSIONS OF RATING STAMPS.

30 cts.



60 cts.



30 cts.



30 cts.



60 cts.

Registered, Advertised, Missent, Correct, Refused, Free, Paid 10, Paid 15, 10, 15, 24, Due 3, Due 12, Due 24, Due 30, Due, Ship, Fictitious, Misdirected, Unclaimed, Received, Unpaid, U. S. 6 cts., Not Found, and similar stamps, cut on fine boxwood, with oiled Black Walnut handles, price, each 30 cents.

Post Office Business Free, Missent and Forwarded, Held for Postage, Insufficiently Paid, Returned from Hotel, Quarterly Postage Due, Name of Postmaster, Name of Post Office, Name of Route Agent, and similar stamps, cut on fine boxwood, with Black Walnut handles, price 60 cts. each.

A good Pad made of Chamois Skin or cloth. Price 30 cents, by mail.

I am also prepared to furnish a first-rate article of Stamping Ink, which is acknowledged by all experienced stampers to be superior to any other. Price per box, for Fine Black, 25 cts., for Fine Blue, 50 cts., Fine Red, 50 cts. Black and Blue are the best colors.

Full printed instructions how to make Ink Pad, and Stamping Pad or Table, and how to prepare the Ink for use, with diagram showing the best way of arranging a stamping table, so as to keep everything in good order, neat and clean, and free from dust; also how to clean any kind of stamps and keep them free from gummed ink, without injuring them, is enclosed with all stamps sent out by me. A copy will be sent to any postmaster, on application by letter, enclosing two three cent stamps.

Describe what kind of a stamp you want if you do not see it here and I will give the price.

In writing for information only, always enclose a postage stamp to pay return postage.

In writing give the name of your post office, county and State, plain and in full.

No Stamps sent by express, "C. O. D.," but promptly forwarded, on receipt of price, by mail.

When it is not convenient to send money, postage stamps of any denomination will be taken in payment for stamps.

Remit by money order or registered letter when possible.

Address all orders and communications to

JOHN H. ZEVELY,

Stamp Contractor with P. O. Dep't.,
Wheeling, W. Va.

**Parson Nasoy Outdone.**

The Post-master-General recently received the following letter from a person who was recently appointed postmaster (at a salary of twelve dollars per annum) of a backwoods town in Iowa. We give it verbatim et literatim:

"to the general postmaster at Washington City my Deare friend i hope you will not appint me postmaster in this here town i haint got no time to do the thing up as it ort to be done. In fact i don't know hardly what is ago in to be done our shoemaker would be a very good man only he was Greley square out which you know onfits him for the position then there is our store-keeper jim B—that wants the position mighty bad but as shure as you are a livin man jim B—kaint read good writin and thats the trouble You see them that wants it dont know enuff to tend it and them their that does dont want to take it jim B—wus raised out in the country and jest come to town last week and don't know enuff to be postmaster but do as you think best only don't apint me i haint got time ever your friend. &c.

A New Look at an Old Cancel

by Roger D. Curran

One of the many cancellations that has generated debate among collectors over the years is a rather large 1880s cancel from Northampton, MS. Although somewhat ambiguous, the consensus of opinion has been that it is a "swan." A tracing from Whitfield is shown as Figure 1. Cole reports the cancel with the rather similar tracing illustrated here as Figure 2. Note the May 15, 1884 date. Willard shows a cover bearing the cancel and provided some interesting commentary about it:

"... has a history which we relate only because it was a gift, made by mistake. Herman 'Pat' Herst, a long time friend, knew of our interest in the two cent brown. This cover arrived, with a high price marked on it, in a letter from 'Pat' making it donation because he expressed the belief that a swan did not exist and the idea was just a dream of a broken killer. This has happened to some of this writer's 'dreams' so I can share chagrin with Pat. Since then, the killer has been verified and is a crudely cut swan from Northampton, Massachusetts."¹

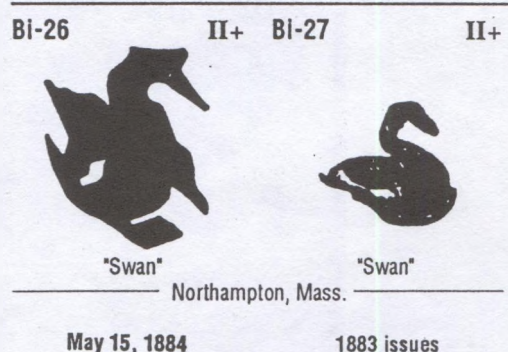
The Northampton CDS and killer on the Willard cover were struck in April, possibly on the 28th.

The above is by the way of background in reporting a cover from the collection of Gilbert Levere shown here as Figure 3, dated March 31. This cover bears what I believe to be an early strike of the "swan" cancel. This strike reveals some important detail lost in later examples presumably due to breakup of a fragile killer and some ink fill-in. Or did the whittler of this cancel do further work at some point after the original design became obscured? You be the judge.



Figure 1

Figure 2



Anyway, the Figure 3 cover was submitted to the American Philatelic Expertizing Service which recently opined:

"United States, Scott no. U227, used entire with Dragon fancy cancel from Northampton Mass., genuine in all respects."

Legend tells us that the ugly is sometimes transformed into the beautiful. Did that happen in this case?■

¹Willard, Edward L. *The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887* (1970), Vol. Two, pp. 3, 19 and 12.

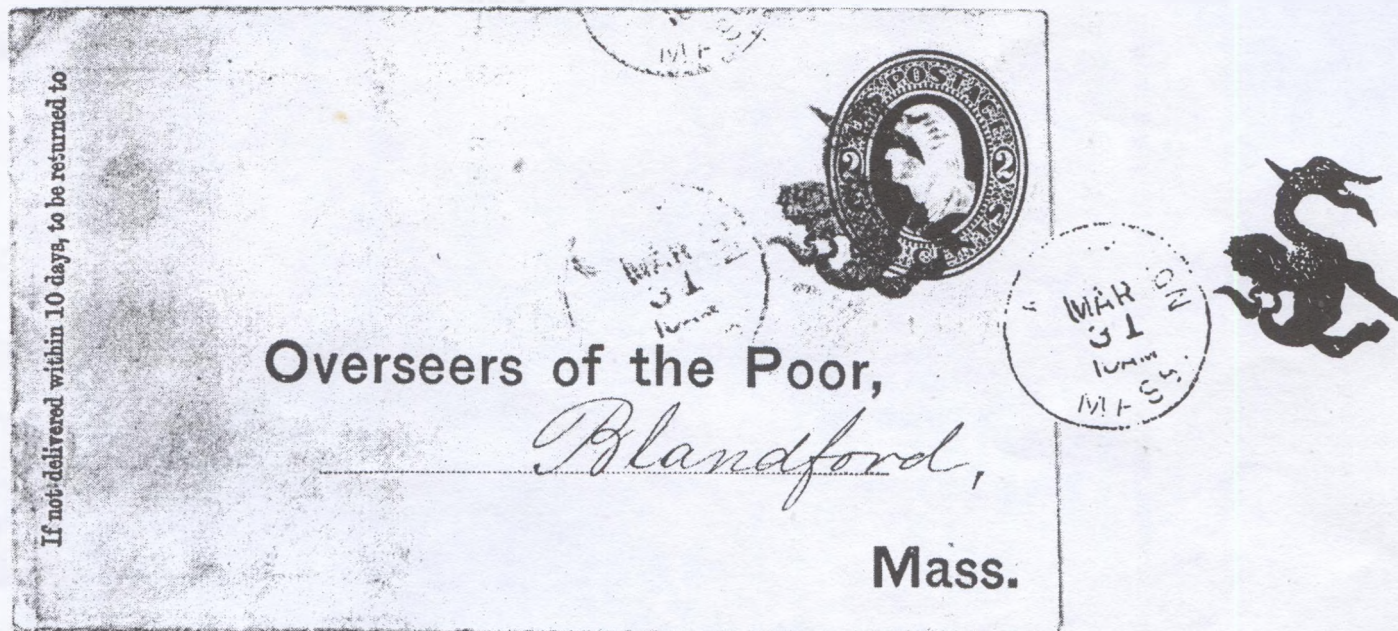


Figure 3

Unusual Rate Marker

Abe Boyarsky submits a "15" cancel on a Sc 63, shown here as Figure 1, and states that this is the only "15" he has recorded as a canceler on stamps of the period. Can readers report other designs of "15" rate markers used as cancels on 1861 issue stamps? (The Skinner-Eno book does report the Figure 2 "15" in red as a canceler on the 1861 issue.) Abe is particularly interested to learn if readers can report examples of the Figure 1 "15" used to cancel Sc 65 stamps. ■



Figure 1

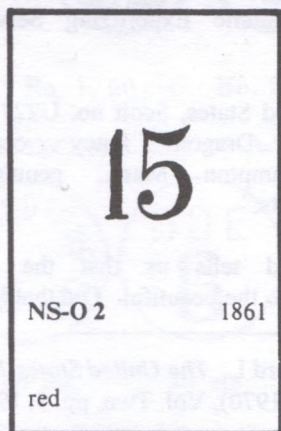
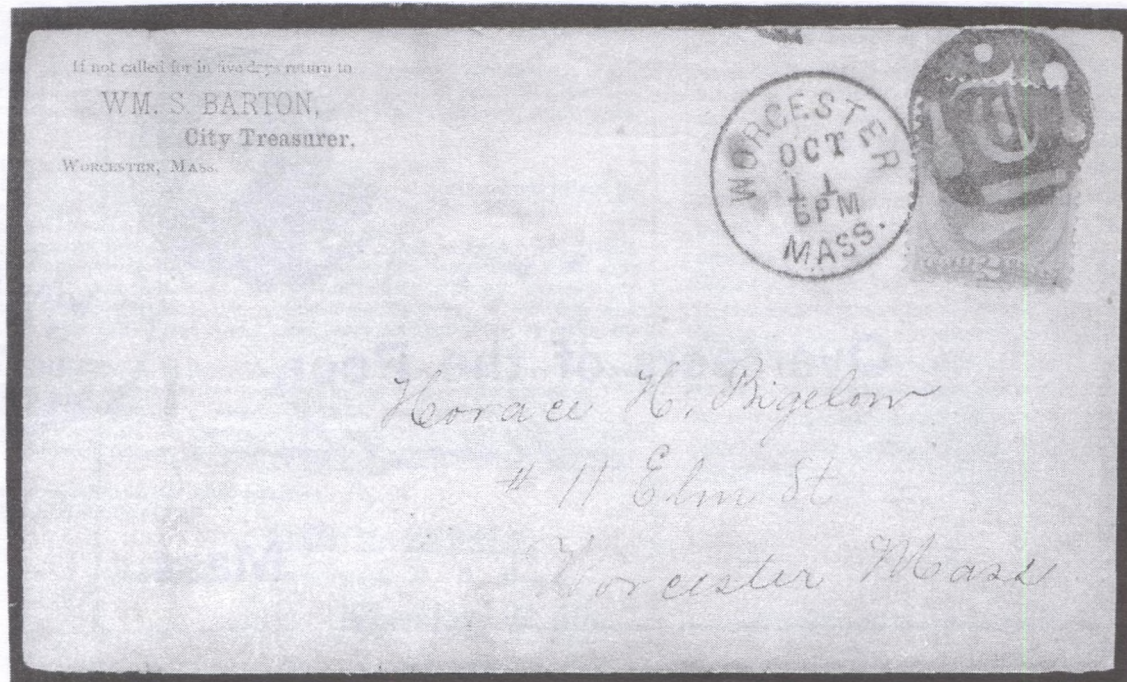


Figure 2



Figure 1

Figure 2



Help Our Club Grow

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

Thanks!!

Noteworthy

The front page of the May 2006 NEWS illustrated the Figure 1 tracing from the Whitfield book of cancellations. The accompanying article briefly described the Turner societies which the cancel represents. They were established to promote physical and mental fitness. Through the courtesy of Club member Matthew Kewriga, we show in Figure 2 a wonderful cover from his collection bearing a sharp strike of the cancel. The most widely known and "famous" Worcester cancels are probably the negative and positive "shaking hands" (Figure 3), the latter being much the rarer. However, the Turner cancel is every bit the equal of those, in your editor's opinion, in terms of aesthetics. ■

Figure 3

