



U.S. Cancellation Club **NEWS**

Vol. 31, No. 1, Whole No. 282, February 2012

Eastern Auctions Sale of Jim Hennok's Canadian Fancy Cancels

By Donald A. Barany

On November 6, 2010, Eastern Auctions Ltd. of Bathurst in New Brunswick, Canada, sold Jim Hennok's outstanding collection of 19th century Canadian fancy cancels. Mr. Hennok was an avid collector and also ran an auction house based in Toronto bearing his name. He was a national philatelic judge and served on the Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation Expertizing Committee for many years. He passed away on May 9, 2005. His collection had been amassed over at least five decades. The sale featured 104 lots of fancy cancels (mostly hand carved) including 41 off-cover and 61 on-cover



Figure 1. Numeral 14 in fancy grid from Port Hope, Canada West (Ontario) dated May 17, 1870.
Ex. John Siverts.

examples, many of them rarities. There were also two group lots, including one lot of fake cancels offered as a reference collection. Most of the fancy cancels were on Canada's Small Queens. Eastern aptly stated in the auction catalog that this sale would set the benchmark for collectors of this area for many years to come. Collectors agreed as competition was fierce. However, compared to recent prices for U.S. fancy cancels, Canadian fancies are very affordable. For instance, the highest price paid for an off-cover fancy was \$745 and \$1,840 for an on-cover example (in U.S. dollars and including the 15% buyer's premium).

I am very pleased to have acquired seven covers from the Hennok sale. I illustrate five of them in figures 1 through 5.

Continued on page 4....

The U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

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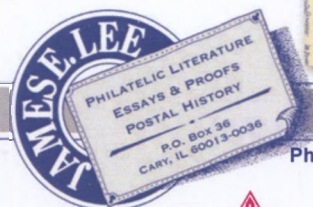
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Editor's Message

Dear Reader,

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthful 2012 with an ample portion of philatelic success mixed in!

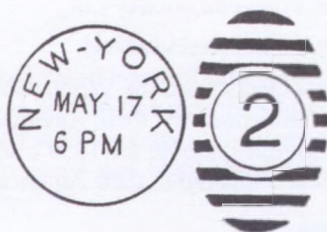
I have been meaning for some time to report several additions/corrections and will do so herewith. An important benefit of USCC membership is the One on One Advisory Service. A blue form was distributed to all members some time ago listing a considerable number of subject matter categories together with the names and contact information of Club members who have knowledge of the particular areas and have agreed to field questions. No one, of course, has all the answers but these persons constitute an excellent resource in specialty areas and we should all keep this service in mind. There is an addition to the list: John Barwis as number (19) for the subject of Philadelphia foreign mail. He can be reached at jbarwis@charter.net or PO Box 8035, Holland, MI 49422-8035. There is a correction to the email address listed for (6) Mike Ellingson. It should read mikeellingson@comcast.net.

In the May 2011 *NEWS*, there is an error in the discussion of the Figure 5 cover on page 109. It entered the mails in 1886, not 1866. Also, in the current USCC membership roster (August 2010), the current street address for James Magnus is 6563 Oleatha Ave., not 65623.

There are a couple of USCC "jobs" for which volunteers are being sought. First, we would like to resurrect a past practice in the *NEWS* of listing exhibit award winners amongst our membership. This would cover exhibits on all subjects and not just cancellations. A volunteer is needed to monitor the philatelic press and show websites during the year and compile quarterly lists for the *NEWS* to publish. A second job is to maintain a supply of USCC award plaques and ribbons and send them to the approximately 15 shows where they are currently being offered. Periodically ordering plaques from the Club's supplier would also be involved. If you would be willing to consider taking on one of these jobs, please contact me at (570) 523-0783 or rcurran@dejazzd.com and I'll provide more details on what would be involved. Support in these areas would be appreciated.

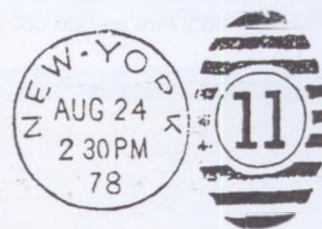
Roger Curran

Help Wanted – NYC Ellipse Cancellations



Dan Richards is engaged in an extensive study of New York City ellipse cancels. His focus thus far has been on the earlier ellipses noted in the 1876-1878 period. These primarily involve ellipses that are duplexed to a New York CDS that has no year date at the bottom. Dan is particularly interested now in seeking out examples of these non year dated New York ellipses with an "18" or "19" in the center. He would need actual size scans or photocopies of the fronts and backs of covers along with a scan or photocopy of any enclosure that is used to date the cover.

Dan is also studying New York City ellipses with year dated CDSs used during the July 1878-September 1878 period and would welcome reports of these. The above-mentioned scans or photocopies would also be needed for this part of the study. Dan can be reached at dh327@att.net or 10012 Hazlview Dr., Charlotte, NC 28277.



Help Wanted - "Lincoln" and Stars

Ernie Webb is undertaking a study of the "Lincoln" and stars cancellation used by the Albany, New York post office in the 1860s. He is interested in establishing dates of use and in examining the cancel itself as it appeared over time. Scans or photocopies of strikes on cover, on piece or on off-cover stamps are sought. If covers are year dated from enclosures or information on the backs of covers, scans or photocopies of these also would be needed. Ernie can be reached at ewebb02@aol.com or 10025 E. 29th St., Tulsa, OK 74129.



Hennok's Canadian Fancy Cancels from the front page...

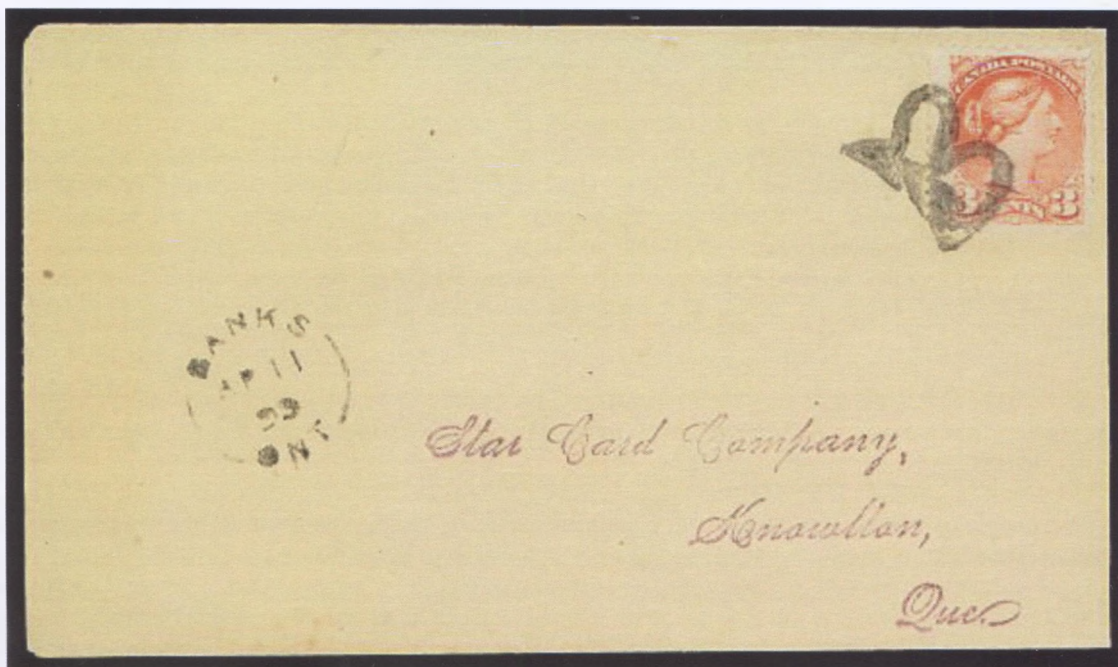


Figure 2. Fancy letter 'B' from Banks, Ontario dated April 11, 1890, ex. Stanley Cohen.

Before proceeding further, I would like to note that there are two handbooks that document the known Canadian fancy cancels from this period that every interested collector should have. They are:

1. K. M. Day & E. A. Smythies, *Canadian Fancy Cancellations of the Nineteenth Century* (British North America Philatelic Society, Toronto 1963, Second Edition 1981).
2. D.M. Lacelle, *Fancy Cancels on Canadian stamps 1855 to 1950* (British North America Philatelic Society Ltd., Ottawa Second Edition 2007)

To my knowledge, Canada is the only other country in which the postmasters and postal clerks from the various post offices produced hand carved fancy cancels in the 19th century. They appear to have been influenced by their American counterparts because, although the earliest recorded Canadian fancy cancels occurred in 1856, examples in both the 1850's and 1860's are very rare and do not display the same level of artistry nor variety of subject matter when compared to their American

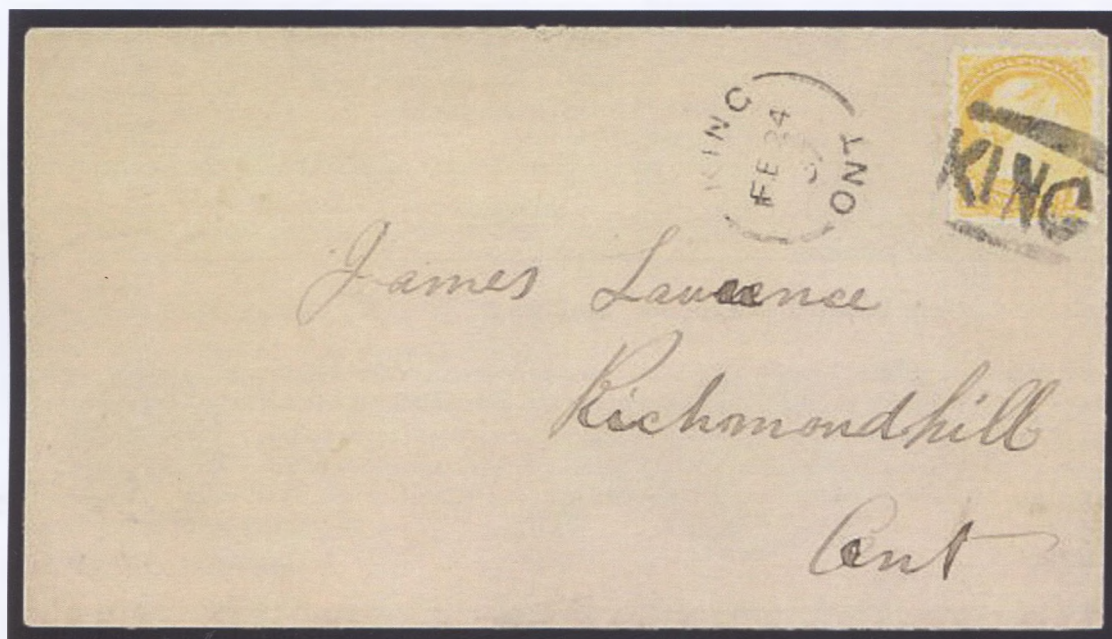


Figure 3. Town name 'KING' from King, Ontario dated February 24, 1887 ex. Abe Charkow



Figure 4. Six-Point Stars from Toronto, Ontario dated May 26, 1874, ex. Fred Jarrett.

counterparts. The bulk of the recorded Canadian fancies occurred during the 1870's and 1880's with the latest recorded example being in 1903. Even then, the subject matter represented was limited. According to Day & Smythies, the vast majority of cancels consist of names, letters and initials, followed by numerals. Geometrics, stars and leaves are next. Crown seals and Masonics are scarce. True pictorial type cancels are very rare with the subject matter limited to anchors, arrows, crosses, flags, hearts, insects, masks, shields, and skulls and crossbones. In addition, Day & Smythies illustrate only 1,039 fancy cancellations attributed to only 278 post offices, of which 165 were located in Ontario. By contrast, Hubert Skinner and Amos Eno (*United States Cancellations 1845-1869*) identify nearly 4,000 fancy cancels and 1,137 post offices spread throughout the country from the pre-1870 era alone. Even more examples are documented during the 1870's and 1880's by James Cole (*Cancellations And Killers Of The Banknote Era*).

Nevertheless, our neighbors to the north still produced some fascinating works of folk art. And the Hennok collection showcased many of them. It was heavily weighted towards various names, letters, and initials along with numerals. There were also several fine examples of year dates. There was also a smattering of masks, crown seals, flags, geometrics, leaves, masonics and stars. Several of the items are unlisted in both the Lacelle and Day & Smythies handbooks. Also, the provenance of many of the items was highlighted with seven of them being previously owned by Fred Jarrett and acquired by Hennok in 1960 from



Figure 5. Maple Leaf from Orangeville, Ontario dated August 11, 1870 ex. Stanley Cohen

Sissons in Sale 175. Jarrett had originally started the study of Canadian fancy cancellations with the publication of a catalogue in 1929.

Unfortunately the Hennok sale can no longer be viewed on-line. Those fortunate enough to have received a copy of the auction catalog now own a great reference for this interesting and fascinating field of study. Congratulations to those even more fortunate to have winning bids in this generational opportunity to acquire superb examples of folk art from our neighbors to the north. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words. With that in mind, the following two pages are from Eastern's prices realized report. They illustrate some of the most expensive lots in the auction. Prices indicated include the 15% buyer's premium.



Lot 318 Lacelle 178
Realized \$1,495



Lot 354 Lacelle 573
Realized \$1,035



Lot 358 Lacelle 611
Realized \$1,090



Lot 432 Lacelle 1270
Realized \$1,840



Lot 438 Lacelle 1273
Realized \$1,840



Lot 449 Lacelle 1372
Realized \$1,725



Lot 162 Lacelle 38
Realized \$485



Lot 176 Lacelle 166
Realized \$430



Lot 177 Lacelle 168
Realized \$400



Lot 178 Lacelle 169
Realized \$660



Lot 181 Lacelle 179
Realized \$660



Lot 182 Lacelle 186
Realized \$515



Lot 183 Lacelle 188
Realized \$660



Lot 202 Lacelle 396
Realized \$370



Lot 211 Lacelle 499
Realized \$630



Lot 213 Lacelle 516
Realized \$630



Lot 214 Lacelle 516
Realized \$660



Lot 241 Lacelle 795
Realized \$370



Lot 245 Lacelle 839
Realized \$745



Lot 289 Lacelle 1312
Realized \$630



Lot 291 Lacelle 1330
Realized \$660



Lot 292 Lacelle 1339
Realized \$485



Lot 299 Lacelle 1396
Realized \$485

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U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS, Cross Reference Index for all issues: 1951-2009. Presented in three separate sections: Cancellations, Post Offices, and Article Titles, \$18 postpaid to U.S. addresses.

Wesson "Time-On-Bottom" Markings Revisited, Compiled by Ralph A. Edson and Gilbert L. Levere, update of 1990 Laposta monograph, 190p., see p. 70 of November 2010 NEWS, \$25 postpaid to U.S. addresses.

Checks payable to U.S.C.C. and sent to:
U.S.C.C., 20 University Avenue, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

New York Foreign Mail Update, Part 4

by Dan Richards



Figure 1.

The NYFM cancel in our fourth and final installment is an 8-barred grid as shown in Figure 1. The grid, which measures 27mm, and the tracing were supplied by Nicholas Kirke. The odd thing about this grid is that it was only used for seven weeks in 1877, well after the advent of the vertical barred ellipse which was in usage starting mid-December of 1876. The only other known usage after 1876 of a NYFM non-ellipse cancel is the circle of wedges. Today we have only four recorded covers with this unlisted grid: one inbound cover from Cuba addressed to Germany and three Supplementary Mail Type E covers.

The following are the four recorded cover dates with this NYFM unlisted cancel:

| Date | Origin | Destination | Cancel | Notes |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------|--------------------|
| 1. June 9, 1877 | New York, NY | Hamburg, Germany | Black | Supplementary Mail |
| 2. June 14, 1877 | Cuba | Braunschweig, Germany | Black | Transit Mail |
| 3. June 16, 1877 | New York, NY | Mecklenburg, Germany | Black | Supplementary Mail |
| 4. July 26, 1877 | New York, NY | Montpellier, France | Black | Supplementary Mail |

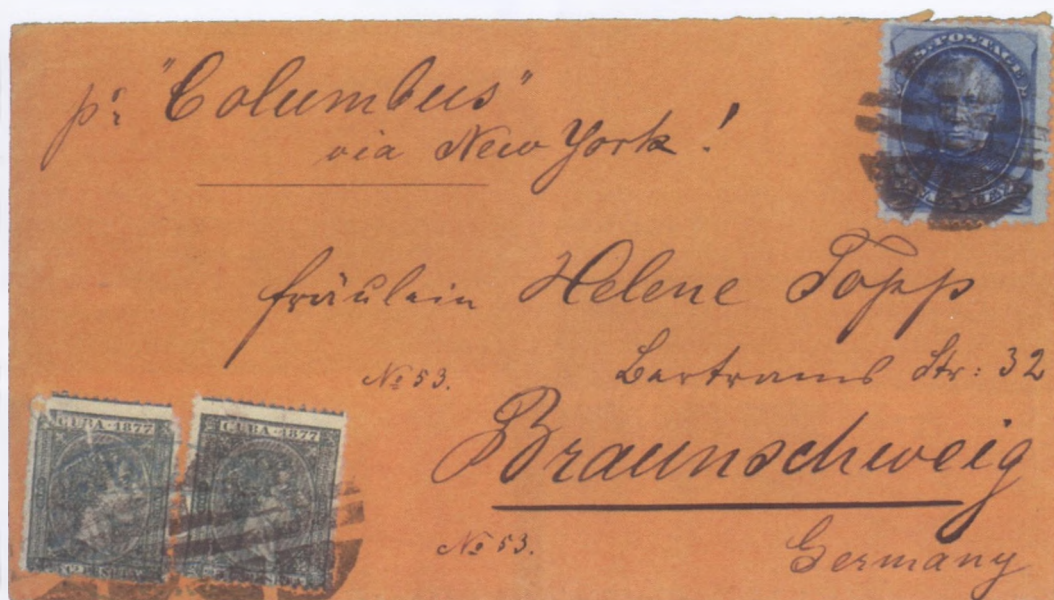


Figure 2. June 14, 1877 Cuba to Braunschweig, Germany. (Census #2)

The cover in Figure 2 dated New York June 14th 1877 is a spectacular mixed franking that prepaid both the Cuban postage and the GPU rate to Brunswick, Germany. It is franked with two 1877, 25c dark green Cuban stamps which prepaid the 50 centimos (10c U.S.) to New York. The Cuban stamps are tied with a faint Havana blue double oval date stamp and two strikes of our subject grid. A U.S. 5c blue (Sc. 179) is also tied by an additional strike of the unlisted grid. The 5c Taylor prepaid the GPU single letter rate. The cover has a sender's routing "pr. Columbus via New York!" and back stamped "New York Paid All JUN 14" cds and a Brunswick receiver.

The Figure 3 cover is a June 16th 1877 Supplementary Mail usage to Mecklenburg, Germany. The 3c entire (Sc. U219) is also franked with a 2c vermillion (Sc. 178) and a 5c blue (Sc. 179) and all tied by two strikes of our unlisted grid. The 10 cents paid the 5 cent Supplementary fee and the 5 cent GPU single letter rate. The cover also has a "NEW YORK JUN 16 SUP. PAID" Supplementary Type E cds and the sender's routing instructions for the NGL Line's "p Steamer Mosel".

The next illustrated Supplementary cover, Figure 4, is dated with Supp. Type E "New York July 26 SUP. PAID" cds and addressed to Montpellier, France. It is franked with four 5c blue (Sc. 179) tied by three strikes of our unlisted NYFM grid. The 20



Figure 3. June 16, 1877 Supplementary Mail usage to Mecklenburg, Germany. (Census #3).

cents prepaid the 10c UPU double letter rate plus the 10c Supplementary mail fee. A French red double circled "ETATS UNIS 7 AOUT 77 CHARBOURG" entry mark shows a 12 day trip in 1877 to France.

With approximately seven weeks of usage I am sure there must be more examples waiting to be discovered. Any additional information that can be supplied on this NYFM grid would be appreciated by this author.

I would like to thank the following philatelists for knowingly or unknowingly providing information needed to write these four "NYFM Update" articles: Matthew Kewriga, Nicholas Kirke, John Donnes, Ardy Callender, John Valenti, and David Willig.



Figure 4. July 26, 1877 New York to Montpellier, France. (Census #4)

Boston "Held for Postage" – Occasionally a Canceler

By Roger D. Curran

**HELD
FOR
POSTAGE**

Figure 1.

The distinctive Boston "HELD FOR POSTAGE" marking in Figure 1 has been reported by Blake and Davis from May 1883 to November 1887.¹ However, it has been seen as late as 1898 as the cover in Figure 2 illustrates. After receipt in the post office, this cover apparently went straight to the postmarking section where a clerk noted the lack of postage and ran it through the machine, face down, to create a received marking (CDS/flag duplex) on the back. The cover was then sent over to a special processing section where the handstamp received marking was applied with date of April 26 as well as the "HELD FOR POSTAGE." The "ID" postmark presumably denotes the inquiry or investigations division (or something similar) that would have had the job of identifying the sender so that person or organization could be contacted to supply the postage. This represented an extra step since no indication of the sender was present on the cover. The purple marking on the front reads "Forwarded from Boston, Mass on Receipt of Stamp." The cover was received at the Auburndale Station of the Newton Center, Massachusetts post office at what appears to be 4PM April 27, 1898.



Figure 2.

The "HELD FOR POSTAGE" on the Figure 3 cover predates the Blake and Davis range for this marking. The cover is postmarked August 16, 1882 on the right side. At the lower left there is a light and incompletely struck marking with a large "4" at what would be the top with "18 82" in the middle (the month slug was not struck) and "10 A" at the bottom. Blake and Davis refer to such markings as "Boston receiving distribution marks" and they incorporate large numbers "1" through

"12."² A Blake and Davis "4" tracing is shown here as Figure 4.³ Just what step in internal post office processing is documented by the mark on this cover is unclear. It is assumed that the cover was routed to the special processing section where the "HELD FOR POSTAGE" was struck. The sender was contacted, presumably by a letter carrier, and the postage provided. Upon return of the cover to the first class mail postmarking section, the added stamp was canceled by the "H" clerk. Unlike New York City where letters in the ellipse cancelers designated NYPO Stations,

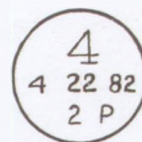


Figure 4.



Figure 3.

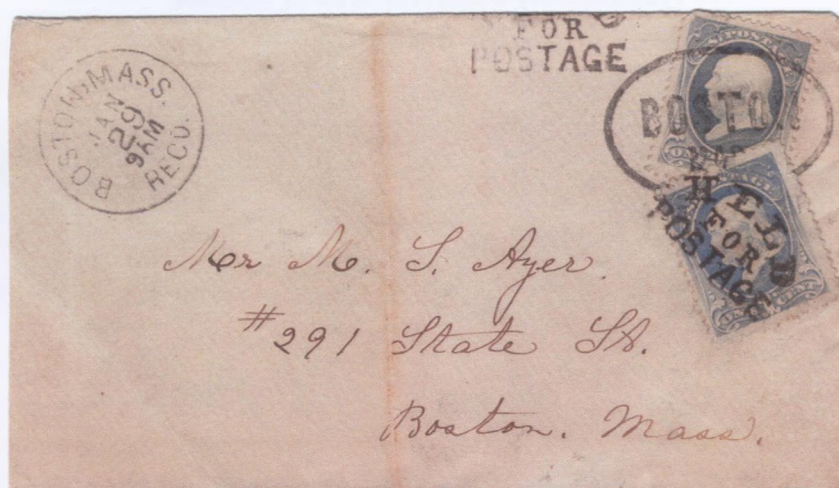


Figure 5.

the letter cancels, as well as number cancels, were applied by the main Boston Post Office.

The cover in Figure 5 is not year dated but, due to the presence of the Sc 206 stamp, it would be 1882 or later. The cover was sealed, thus requiring 2¢ postage for a first class local letter. This was noted *after* the letter was canceled in the circular section with the third and fourth class oval canceler. It is assumed that the January 29 received marking was applied in the separate section that handled deficient postage mail as was the partially struck "HELD FOR POSTAGE" at the top. After the one cent stamp was added, the same section canceled the bottom stamp and then sent the cover to the carrier delivery section.

Figure 6 shows a situation similar to Figure 5 except that the cover was first handled in the postmarking section for first class mail. At 1 PM on July 16, 1886 the clerk struck his duplex on the back as a received mark after noting the absence of postage. Like the other covers, it was referred to a special section that applied the received marking on the front as well as the "HELD FOR POSTAGE" that is partially under the Sc 210 stamp. The postage was subsequently provided and the stamp canceled in the special unit which had no handstamps designed as cancelers but did, of course, have the "HELD FOR POSTAGE." The July 17 postmark on the front at bottom left may indicate dispatch to the carrier section for delivery. Finally there is on the back another style of the Blake and Davis "receiving distribution" mark which is dated July 17 with the time indicator unreadable. I suspect these marks provided only internal to the post office routing information and not receipt in or dispatch from the post office.

The *NEWS* would welcome reports of other on-cover examples of this "HELD FOR POSTAGE" as well as comments on the handling of deficient postage covers by the Boston Post Office. Also, if readers can show examples of this marking canceling any stamps other than Sc 206 or Sc 210, please do so.



Figure 6.

1. Blake, Maurice C. and Davis, Wilbur W. *Boston Postmarks to 1890*, Quarterman Reprint (1974), p. 293.
2. *Ibid.*, p. 300.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 302.

Outstanding Cancellations at Auction

by Roger D. Curran



Figure 1.

The Siegel sale of the “Artemis” collection in October 2011 gives us a look at the current state of the high end U.S. fancy cancellation market. Who assembled this collection is not identified in the catalog. “Artemis”, incidentally, is the name of the mythological Greek goddess of the hunt and of the moon. The present article briefly discusses some of the more significant items, all of which are on-cover. Prices cited *do not include* the 15% buyer’s commission. Images are shown through the courtesy of the Siegel firm.

We’ll begin with what is described as the better of two reported on-cover examples (Figure 1) of the famous “Used & Done For” cancel from Fair Haven, Connecticut. This cancel appeared on the front of the auction catalog and was featured prominently in Siegel advertising for the sale. It realized \$60,000 against an estimate of \$15-20,000. The intricate carving and colorful language, coupled with the fact that it appeared so early in the fancy cancel era, make this one of the most popular and well known 19th century U.S. cancellations.



Figure 2.



Figure 3.

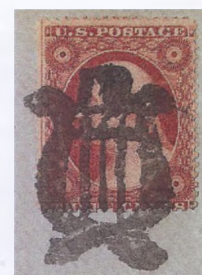


Figure 4.

Canton, Mississippi surely produced more noteworthy fancy cancels during the 1851-61 period than any other U.S. post office and several outstanding examples appeared in the “Artemis” sale. A superb strike of the elaborate Odd Fellows cancel (Figure 2) sold for \$4,250, a bold hand carved “PAID/3” (Figure 3) for \$1,300 and a “perfectly struck large Lyre” (Figure 4) for \$3,250.



Figure 5.

A rectangular cancel (Figure 5) with negative letters “AH” representing the initials of the West Charleston, Ohio postmaster Andrew Hoagland sold for \$3,250, much higher than the \$4-500 estimate. As far as I know, this cancel is unlisted. Hand carved postmaster initials are seen with some frequency in the large Banknote era but, on the imperforate issue, are very rare.



Figure 6.

A “perfect” strike of a blue star cancel (Figure 6) from Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania that is not rare reached \$1,000. Jersey Shore is a small central Pennsylvania town in



Figure 7.

Lycoming County and people often wonder how the name came about. The town was laid out on the west side of the west branch of the Susquehanna River in about 1785 by two brothers. A settlement on the east side arose at about the same time and the residents there referred to the west side as “Jersey Shore” because the brothers came from New Jersey. In 1826 the town name was changed from what had been Waynesburg to Jersey Shore.

A remarkable patriotic cover from Penn Haven, Pennsylvania (Figure 7), featured a large waving flag corner card and a Sc 26 stamp with a waving flag cancel. The combination proved to be irresistible with the cover selling for \$8,500 against the \$3-4,000 estimate.



Figure 8.



Figure 9.



Figure 10.

New York City is, of course, very popular with cancellation collectors and the cover in Figure 8 presents another interesting combination. In addition to showing an excellent example of a union soldier's head cancel, the cover bears the earliest documented use of a Sc 77 stamp. It sold for \$15,000.

A beautiful example of the slightly undulating “LINCOLN” in a bed of stars cancel (Figure 9) from Albany, New York brought \$9,000, double the \$4-5,000 estimate. This memorial cancel has, to my mind, an ethereal, almost dream-like quality.

I was very intrigued by the “linen marker” cancel (Figure 10) from Kingessing, Pennsylvania that sold for \$1,400. Several post offices at one time or another used such devices as postmarkers but how often are they found used concurrently as a canceler? I wonder if this may be a unique on-cover example. Kingessing, incidentally, was located in Philadelphia County and operated from 1828 to 1863.

We'll finish with several Waterbury cancels. Nice strikes of the more intricate and interesting designs have had for

years a status among cancellation collectors as the ultimate in desirability. The “Man Smoking Pipe” (Figure 11) realized \$17,500 and the “Large Bee” (Figure 12) \$20,000.

As we all know, the economy is, and has been for several years, difficult for many Americans, but from the “Artemis” sale we can say that the market for top flight cancellations remains strong, indeed.



Figure 11.



Figure 12.

Unusual Letter Cancel

Cancels that consist of or incorporate a letter of the alphabet are often seen on 19th century U.S. stamps. Usually, they represent the first letter of the post office name or, less often, the name of the postmaster or clerk. In some cases, there is no evident explanation for the meaning of the letter. The letters “N,” “S,” “E” and “W” are somewhat more common than the others because some railway postal clerks used them to designate the direction of the train.

Wendell Triplett submits an “E” cancel (Figure 1) which he has concluded to be from Decatur, Alabama. There were a number of Decatur post offices at the time this letter was sent and Wendell has considered the likely State abbreviations for all of them and found that none, other than “ALA” for Alabama, fit the indistinct letters at the bottom of the postmark. The letter was mailed to an Alabama addressee and a transit marking on the back is from an Alabama post office – Hartsells.

While it might be said that there is an element of ambiguity about cancel, it appears very much to your editor to be an “e” with an interesting and most unusual aspect. It is a lower case “e” of the sort that would, of course, have been seen in printed materials. The USPS online postmaster database doesn’t yet list all the names of Decatur, AL postmasters, so we could not check for a name match.



Noted in Passing

by Roger D. Curran

With the advent of rubber-faced handstamps came the practicality of producing cancelers with very intricate designs. Some of the cancels of earlier years, of course, also showed remarkable detail but rubber mold technology made it feasible to create designs incorporating minute details. The wheel of fortune cancel used by more than 1,000 post offices quickly comes to mind. Illustrated in Figure 1 is another example, one that as far as I know has not been reported in the literature. The tracing was made by John Donnes and demonstrates his truly outstanding skill in accurately capturing even the smallest aspects of cancellation designs. Hats off to John!



Figure 1.

We know the Post Office Department had a continuing and major concern about the loss of revenue occasioned by the reuse of postage stamps that had already served duty. The challenge of how to prevent the removal of canceling ink on stamps occupied much attention in terms of experimenting with inks of varying composition, impressing grills on stamps to break the paper and thus allow better absorption of canceling ink into the stamp fibers, and developing cancelers with points or sharp surfaces to mutilate the stamp or improve ink absorption. (Remember the extreme example of the canceler that was heated to scorch stamps that was discussed most recently in the November 2010 NEWS!)

Another major area of concern was how capably the "stamping clerks" did their job of obliterating the stamps. Human nature being what it is, considerable variation can be seen in this regard. Figures 2



Figure 2.

Figure 3.

and 3 show rather extreme failures in accomplishing the basic objective. Under magnification, one sees cancel ink on the tips of two perforations in Figure 2. In Figure 3, some ink

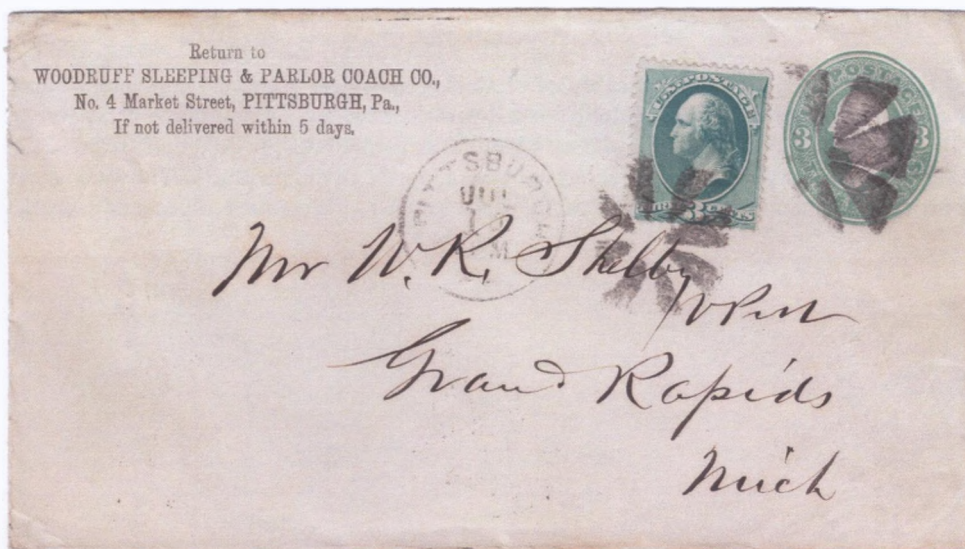


Figure 5.

is present along the stamp edges at left and bottom. With just a minor clipping of those areas, a stamp would emerge that looked to be unused. In both cases, it almost seems that the clerks were trying to avoid a satisfactory cancel.

The *NEWS* periodically shows covers with multiple strikes of wood or cork cancels that demonstrate the effects of varying amounts of pressure on a cancel's appearance. Figure 4 is the latest example. We might call the duplex marking to the left a "normal strike". The cancel on the right was applied with the handstamp at an angle (to avoid a second strike of the duplexed CDS) with greater pressure than was used in the first strike.

Can any reader identify what was originally intended in the center of the ellipse in Figure 5? Was some portion of the letter, number of figure cut away or did the anomaly result from some aspect of how the handstamp was struck?



Figure 5.



Figure 6.

Figure 6 illustrates two strikes of a New York City cancel. It's just one of many hand-carved "geometric" designs used by the domestic mail department of the NYPO during the early Banknote era prior to the adoption of cancelers with numbers in the center in late 1872. However, this particular cancel is a bit more complex and distinctive than the NYPO norm, albeit still quite primitive. Can readers show examples on cover?

On pages 131 and 132 in the August 2011 *NEWS*, an unusual star cancel with a "CG" in the center was presented. The originating post office, Casa Grande, California was a small post office in the 1880s. In a stamp dealer's advertisement sent out years ago, the pair of Sc 213 stamps, shown here as Figure 7, with the "C.G." star was offered. Can readers report further examples of this elusive cancel?



Figure 7.



Figure 8.



Figure 9.



Figure 10.

space at the bottom right was insufficient. The St. Louis clerk, good patriot that he was, put forth a determined effort to avoid covering in any way the portrait of the Union general or blocking out the name or the address of the addressee. The duplex postmark/cancel was applied in such a manner that the postmark was largely complete in the space that was available but, of course, with the target killer, attached to the right, then serving no purpose. The clerk took the extra step of applying a simplex grid to cancel the stamp. One wonders if the grid was applied by an old handstamp, well worn by this time, that was one of a considerable number distributed by the Post Office Department at the time of the 1847 stamp issue, and kept on hand years later to handle anomalous situations. Mr. Lawrence states that Major General Franz Sigel (name misspelled on the envelope) was a hero at the Battle of Pea Ridge and St. Louis was his hometown.

The Phoenix, New York post office was established in Oswego County in 1830 and operates today. Figure 12 illustrates an unsealed 1888 circular cover. The third class oval killer has a very unusual aspect. The "O" and "E" of "PHOENIX" are joined together. Two terms pertinent to this circumstance will be mentioned. A "digraph" is a pair of letters used to represent a single sound and one definition of "ligature" is a character or type containing two or more letters. The ligatures (or digraphs) "ae" or "oe" were, in earlier years, used in Latin or Greek words adopted into English. More recently, the preferred spelling of such words has become "e," dropping the "a" or "o" as the case may be. However, some words have retained the two letter format, but without combining them as one character, such as "aesthetics" and "archaeology" as the case may be. The above information comes largely from *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 14th edition, University of Chicago Press (1993), page 209.

Comments and more information on any of the above cancellations will be welcomed.

would appear to be a considerably earlier usage than examples on Columbian issue stamps but it could, of course, involve a late use of the Sc. 210 stamp. Readers who can show this cancel on or off cover are urged to do so.


The September 19, 2011 *Linn's Stamp News* carried an article by Ken Lawrence entitled "Confederate Versus Union Patriotic Envelopes" that illustrated the cover shown here as Figure 11. Among the interesting aspects of this cover is the approach taken by the St. Louis clerk in applying the postmark and cancel. There was no blank space in the upper right corner of the cover, nor in either of the corners on the left side, and the



Figure 11.

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Two Post Office Inks on Banknote Era Covers

by Roger D. Curran

There was a post office practice followed to some extent in the Banknote era that involved postmarks struck in a colored ink while the stamps were canceled in black. An interesting collection of these covers can be formed. Three examples are shown in Figure 1-3. The underlying reason for using two inks, surely in the overwhelming percentage of cases, is that the postmarkers were rubber-faced and required use of colored inks to avoid the harmful effects of black printer's ink on rubber. Rubber-faced postmarkers were popular with small town postmasters because they were inexpensive whereas large post offices preferred metal postmarking and canceling dies because they were more durable.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

As with other postal markings practices that occurred to any extent, unusual or anomalous examples are "out there" to be found. One assumes that the Medfield, Massachusetts postmaster routinely used two inks in mail processing, but he didn't follow through with the idea of a black cancel for both stamps on the Figure 4 cover sent in 1884. Perhaps, when confronted with the two stamps, he thought that having the postmark near the upper right corner was of overriding importance.



Figure 3.

The use of rubber-faced handstamps presented a problem for postmasters. While using the same ink for both postmarking and canceling would be easiest, the colored inks available at the time could be washed off the stamps leading to their reuse. The Post Office Department made it very clear that the colored inks supplied by handstamp merchants were not to be used in canceling postage stamps and black printing or writing ink was mandated instead. Thus we see two ink covers such as those illustrated above.



Figure 4.

for use with rubber handstamps were developed by 1883. In my experience most of the two ink covers seen are dated in the 1878-1883 period, although they are seen earlier (1876, 7) and to a significant extent in later years. Perhaps the Figure 6 cover simply reflects the aesthetic taste of the postmaster who was willing to go to the extra effort to produce two colors. We should note that there has always been, undoubtedly, the occasional cover that bears two colored inks. Figure 7 is a red and blue example that was probably posted in 1869 or 1870.



Figure 5.



Figure 6.

Virtually every two ink cover sent during this period that I have seen has involved a simplex postmarker, but Figure 5 shows a duplexed Liscomb, Iowa 1880 postmark. Presumably the postmaster didn't know or forgot about the colored ink problem when he ordered the handstamp. The cancel on this cover is a black three ring bullseye.

The 1888 Griswold, Massachusetts cover in Figure 6 involves two inks but in this case both are colored. How to explain this variation but to note that indelible colored inks satisfactory

We'll close with an example of a Banknote era cover with a colored postmark and black cancel that predates the introduction of rubber-faced handstamps – see Figure 8. This is a vestige of a postmarking practice going back before the issuance of postage stamps – red ink for postmarks and other postal markings on covers. Red was the most common ink color for many years and that practice continued through the 1847 stamp issue period and into the 1851 issue era. However, the increased use of the postmarker to cancel stamps beginning in 1851, combined with the Post Office Department regulation introduced in 1851 to only use black canceling ink, led to a shift away from red to black postmarks. However,



Figure 7.

tradition did persist in a fair number of post offices, albeit with continued decline, into and occasionally beyond the 1860s in post offices that did not use duplex handstamps. To me, the most startling example is Boston which continued red postmarks until 1865 when it finally switched to duplexes. Why one of the nation's largest post offices was so late in embracing the time-saving benefits of duplex handstamps, or to even adopt one as opposed to two inks, is an interesting question.



Figure 8.

United States Stamps and Postal History, and Worldwide Literature Specialized Fancy Cancels

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"Flying Witch" (Skinner-Eno PH-F47) of New Orleans, La., clear strike ties 3c red, F. grill (94), on circa 1868 cover to Scooba Station, Miss.

One of less than five recorded covers.

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