



# U.S. Cancellation Club **NEWS**

Vol. 31, No. 8, Whole No. 289, November 2013

## Ellipses With Blanks



**Figure 1.**

The August 2013 *NEWS* discussed on page 137 an ellipse with “27” in the center from the small post office of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania that surely didn’t have 26 other clerks processing the mail. Ads for handstamps with ellipse cancelers typically showed a number in the ellipse for illustrative purposes. Ellipse cancelers were used largely in metal-faced handstamps that were sold to the larger post offices employing more

than one clerk in processing the mail. However, ellipses were also featured in some inexpensive rubber-faced handstamps that appealed to small town postmasters. It is believed that orders for rubber-faced handstamps would have led, in a number of cases, to the illustrated number being in the ellipse die of the furnished handstamps.

There was a simple alternative that avoided the use of numbered ellipses

when a number would be irrelevant – just leave the central space blank. This, in fact, was done and examples are not hard to find – see Figure 1. Indeed, the Bryn Mawr post office itself used such a canceler in 1885, prior to the 1886 “27” – see Figure 2.

In the August article mention was made of Edward Willard’s comment about the Bryn Mawr “27” which he had only seen on off cover stamps. He thought it involved a “late usage” of a Sc 210 stamp and that a student of the 2¢ greens could probably identify the origin. Your editor is just guessing here but perhaps this was based on seeing or hearing about similar cancels on off cover 2¢ greens. Figure 3 is an example containing a “24.”



**Figure 2.**



**Figure 3.**



## The U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

Roger D. Curran, Editor  
20 University Ave, Lewisburg, PA 17837  
rcurran@dejazzd.com

Published four times a year by the U.S. Cancellation Club and included with membership. The U.S.C.C. is APS Affiliate #75.

Annual Dues: \$26 per year, \$31 for international members. Address inquiries to: Arden Callender at the address below.

Back Issues through 1997 are available at \$2.00 each postpaid. 1998 to May 2008 issues, \$3.00. August 2008 and later issues, \$6.00. Discount of 10% on orders of 25 or more issues. Contact: Vince Costello at address below.

Address library inquiries to: U.S. Cancellation Club Library, Box 2219, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. (See the August 2003 NEWS for details or write the editor.) See website for listings. Address all other communications to the NEWS editor.

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Half Page	\$110.00	\$400.00
Quarter Page	\$55.00	\$200.00
Column Inch	\$15.00	\$50.00

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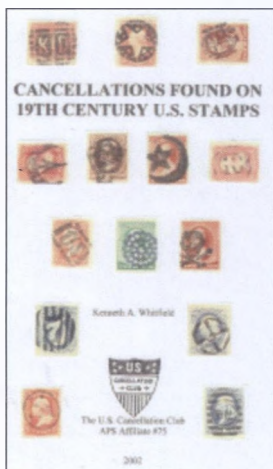
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## Eagle and Thunderbolts Cancel

Alex Savakis, editor of the *Machine Cancel Forum*, journal of the Machine Cancel Society, has advised the USCC of the availability of a machine cancel that is a replica of the famous Boston eagle and thunderbolts cancel employed on one day in 1895. The replica was used at the Warren, Ohio post office on September 10, 2013, but collectors can still obtain examples. It will have the September 10 date. If interested, you are asked to prepare the cover(s) with a stamp in the upper right corner about three quarters of an inch down from the top. Any stamp issued up to September 10 that pays the current first class postage rate may be used. Also, a return envelope with sufficient postage affixed to carry back the serviced covers must be included as the cancel is not provided at a USPS station. There is no charge, of course, for the application of the machine cancel. Covers should be sent to A.J. Savakis, PO Box 609, Warren, OH 44482 not later than December 15, 2013.

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**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.

**Cancellations found on 19th Century U.S. Stamps,** by Kenneth A. Whitfield, is now available again. The book contains more than 6,000 tracings and is a valuable supplement to the Skinner-Eno and Cole books. This printing incorporates the new Whitfield update that has been offered recently. \$50 postpaid to U.S. addresses.

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## President's Message

As usual, the November issue of the *NEWS* contains a report from the Club's Secretary/ Treasurer and a dues notice. It's encouraging to see that our membership has increased this year even with what some people might say is an overall decline in stamp collecting. Nonetheless, if you know of a member who has dropped, or of a prospective new member at your local stamp club, please encourage that person to rejoin or become a member. Also, let's give our new Sec./ Tres. a hearty welcome by all of us remembering to send in our dues as early as possible. Please take a second and fill out the form as soon as you've finished reading the *NEWS*.

Adry's treasurer report also shows a truly outstanding monetary contribution coming from Club members. I'd like to echo Ardy's appreciation by also thanking the members for the generosity given to our organization.

Many thanks to all the Club members for submitting articles and scans of stamps and covers with fancy and interesting cancels to our editor for publication. This makes our editor's job of producing a publication every three months a much easier and pleasurable endeavor. I'd also like to ask readers to contact Roger (or any Board member) with ideas and/or thoughts as to what sort of (or additional) articles you'd like to see published in the *NEWS*. For only with articles and input from Club members, together with Roger's editing, can the *NEWS* continue to be the great publication that it is.

In closing, I'd like to wish everyone a joyous and enjoyable upcoming holiday season.

John Donnes

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## Bottle Cap Canceler

The November 2007 *NEWS* carried an article about a cancel on an off-cover Sc 210 stamp that was applied by a bottle cap from the Stafford ink company. The raised letters and decorative features on the cap picked up the canceling ink and formed the canceler design which, of course, when struck, laid down the image in reverse. Recently, the card in Figure 1 came to the attention of the *NEWS*. It was posted on November 15, 1883 at what is assumed to be the Leavenworth (LEAV) & Topeka RPO. The bottle cap image in Figure 1 is very similar to that illustrated in 2007 except that it is smaller, no doubt due to the cap coming from a smaller bottle. Can readers report additional cancels applied by Stafford caps?

Dr. Samuel S. Stafford (11/3/25-2/15/95) was a trained physician, a graduate of Albany Medical College in 1843, but did not practice medicine. Beginning in 1858 he was associated with the manufacture of ink. In 1869 he began selling inks under his own name. His company was apparently very successful. He described his ink in at least one ad as "the ink that absorbs moisture from the air."



Figure 1.



## Color Cancellations on the 1869 Series: Green Cancels of Known Origin

by Ed Field

The Scott catalog assigns a \$900 premium to a green cancel on an off-cover 1-cent 1869 stamp. By way of comparison, a red cancel on this stamp, which is scarce, is assigned a mere \$65 premium. A green cancel on the common 3-cent stamp is assigned a \$400 premium, versus a \$200 premium for a much scarcer true brown cancel. For higher face values, the "green" premiums become almost bizarre: \$5000 for the 10-cent stamp and \$3500 for the 12-cent stamp. Though such premiums tend to be unrealistically high, the Scott valuations do send a valid message: 1869 collectors love green cancels.

The goals of this article are 1) present a catalog of towns that used green ink during the 1869-issue era, and 2) illustrate the range of green cancels that originated from these towns. On-cover examples are used to identify such origins. Overall, about fifty covers bearing 1869 stamps with green cancels are known. Half of these covers are from Owego, New York, eight are from Murfreesborough, Tennessee, and the remainder are mostly solitary examples from sixteen different towns.

The figures are arranged alphabetically by town. Some show full covers, but most are electronically cropped to show just the cancel and corresponding CDS. Four of the images are from the Philatelic Foundation website; the rest are from my own collection. Skinner-Eno designations (SE) are given for listed cancels. Annual postmaster salary as stated in the *Post Office Directory 1870*, is given for each town of origin.

Domestic datestamps typically show month and day. Docketing or enclosures sometimes specify the year, but are not usually available. Nonetheless, we can still get an idea of the year an 1869

issue cover was sent. This pictorial issue was released in late March 1869 and replaced by the 1870 issue a year later. Its use had slowed to a dribble by late 1870. A datestamp prior to March 20 cannot be from 1869 and it is unlikely to be from 1871 or later. Fall/Winter datestamps are most likely from 1869. However Spring/Summer datestamps are ambiguous as to year.

Figure 1 shows the duplexed quartered cork cancel of Bardstown, Kentucky (\$90). AUG 6 CDS. I know of no others.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Figure 2 shows the quartered cork cancel of Bryan, Ohio (\$1,500). Date illegible. I know of no others.

Figure 3 shows the target cancel of Cabell C.H. West Virginia (\$130) on a bisect use of the 2-cent stamp. JUN 8 CDS. It is the only known example of a green cancel on a bisect use and the only known example of the Cabell green target, although others might exist off cover. It is one of four green cancels known on a 2-cent cover.

Figure 4 shows the grid cancel of Cornish Flat, New Hampshire (\$210). APR 2 CDS, double struck. I know of no others.

Figure 5 shows a dreadful strike of the insect cancel of East Troy, Wisconsin (\$340). AUG 15 CDS. The Philatelic Foundation certified this example as "blackish green." The more I look at it, the more I think they are right. It is listed as black (SE PA-15). I know of no other green examples.

Figure 6 shows the quartered cork cancel of Emporia, Kansas (\$1,800). MAY 16 CDS. A second, equally unattractive example, appeared in Siegel Auction #752.

Figure 7 shows the 6-point star-in-star cancel of Farmland, Indiana (\$250). FEB 14 CDS, probably 1870. This cancel also exists in purple and black (NEWS, May 2012), but I know



Figure 3



of no others in green.

Figure 8 shows faint strikes of the target cancel of Fredonia, New York (\$1,700). SEP 29 CDS. This example, appeared in Siegel Auction #766. I know of no others.

Figure 9 shows quartered cork cancels of Greenwich, New York (\$960). DEC 27 CDS, probably 1869. One other example is known on cover, dated May 25.

Figure 10 shows the apple green target cancel of Hebron, Ohio (\$110). FEB 25 CDS, probably 1870. I know of no no others.

Figure 11 shows a cropped cover from Hennicker, New Hampshire (\$350) with a rate marking used as a green cancel. AUG 18 CDS. I know of no others.

Figure 12 shows an off-cover 1-cent stamp bearing the negative Masonic cancel of McMinnville, Tennessee (\$930 salary). A verifying on-cover example of this cancel on the 3-cent stamp appeared in Frajola's January 1986 auction of the Eno collection. I believe these are the only two examples extant. (SE FR-M3a 36)

Figure 13 shows the cogwheel cancel of Murfreesborough, Tennessee (\$1,700). DEC 30 CDS. Docketing verifies the year as 1869. It is the earliest known use of the cogwheel cancel, which appears on seven additional covers from this town. The latest known use is June 3 1870. One of these covers bears the 1-cent stamp; two others bear the two-cent stamp; four bear the 3-cent stamp. This cogwheel cancel is known on

several off-cover stamps.

Figure 14 shows the "waffle" cancel of Normal, Illinois (\$1,500). FEB 14 CDS, probably 1870. It bears the 2-cent stamp and is addressed to a woman. Probably a Valentine to a local sweetheart. I know of no other green cancels from this town.

With 25 known covers, Owego, New York (\$2,800) qualifies as the king of green cancels in the 1869 era. Whereas all eight covers from runner-up Murfreesborough bear its signature cogwheel, green cancels from Owego show some variety, including a few semi-fancies. Figure 15 shows a circle of wedges on an Owego cover dated OCT 19. Docketing establishes the year as 1869. The addressee is T.D. Woolsey, President of Yale University, 1846 to 1871. Three other examples of this cancel appear on covers mailed in October 1869. Figure 16 shows an Owego cover dated APR 11 bearing a broad green circular grid. Auxiliary information establishes the year as 1870. I know of no other examples in green, but I was amazed to find an Owego cover dated APR 29 (1870) bearing the same grid cancel, but struck in purple. Figure 17 shows an Owego cover dated FEB 28 (1870) bearing a spilt-square cancel. I know of two similar examples. A cover bearing a green keystone cancel from Owego was shown in the August 2012 NEWS. All other on-cover green cancels from Owego are quartered corks, mostly from Spring and Summer of 1870.

Figure 18 shows the target cancel

of Russellville, Arkansas (\$150). OCT 11 CDS. I know of no others.

Figure 19 shows a cover with crossroads cancels of Taunton, Massachusetts (\$3,300). Jul 24 1869 CDS. I know of no others.

Figure 20 shows an indistinct green cancel from Topeka, Kansas (\$3,600). MAR 29 CDS. I know of one other example, which has an equally weak strike.

Figure 21 presents a bit of mystery. It shows an off-cover stamp bearing a bold green cancel and CDS from a Mississippi town ending in "GH." Perusal of the List of Post Offices 1870 indicates eight possible candidates. One knowledgeable friend is certain it is from Vicksburgh. I wish I knew.

In summary, about 50 covers are known to bear green cancels on 1869 stamps. These covers identify 18 different towns that used green ink during the 1869 era. One such cover bears the 1-cent stamp, four bear the 2-cent stamp, and one (from Owego) bears the 6-cent stamp. The rest bear the 3-cent stamp. Green cancels exist on off cover 10-, 12-, 15-, and 30-cent stamps. They are rare. While green target and cork cancels are not common on off-cover 3-cent stamps, they are by no means rare.

As for any census, this one could be out of date by the time it is published. Please send additions, corrections, or comments to:

ecfjr@verizon.net.



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



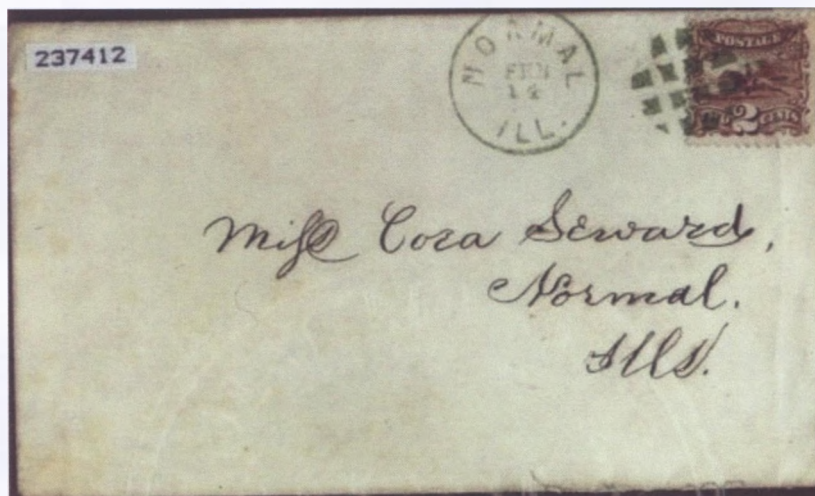
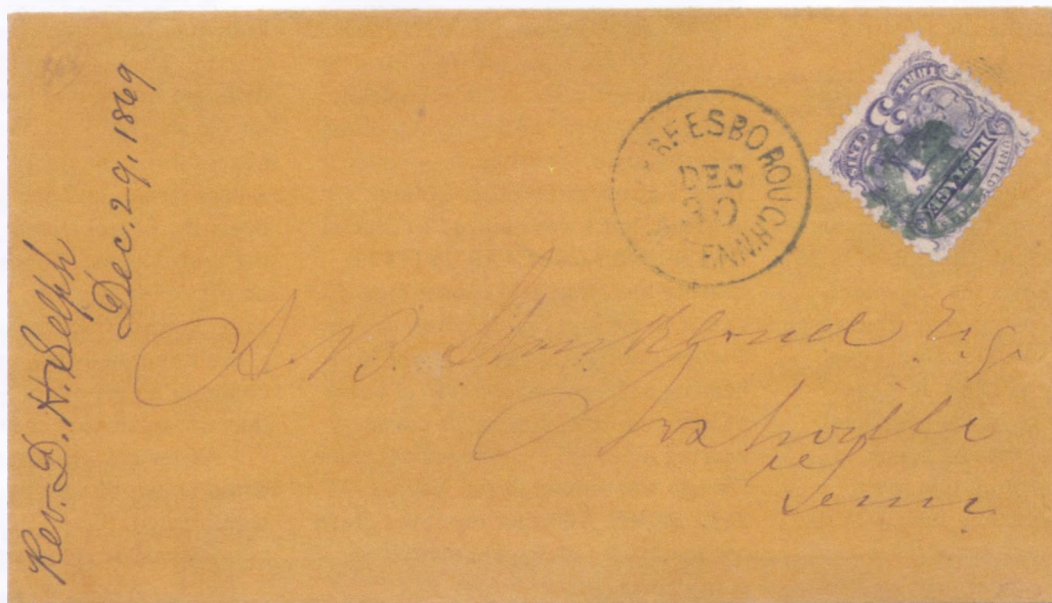






Figure 15



Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18



Figure 19



Figure 20



Figure 21



## Mechanical Handstamps for Processing Mail

by Roger D. Curran

Richard Small reported in the April 2013 *Machine Cancel Forum* on a mechanical handstamp he observed during a visit to the Railway Mail Service Museum in Boyer, Virginia. The Museum's curator is Dr Frank Scheer. An illustration of the device from Mr. Small's article is shown here as Figure 1. He also illustrated the



Figure 1

inscription that appears on the top of the handle – see Figure 2.

The May 12, 1874 patent concerns the use of a die plate that is detachable from the handstamp and thus allows the insertion of slugs (such as for dates) from the back. They would have then been held



Figure 2

fast when the die plate was placed in the handstamp. This eliminated the need for a setscrew on the side of the handstamp which was tightened to hold the slugs in place. Although not addressed in the patent, Goldsborough made use of slugs with a wedge shape to help make them self-holding. Mr. Small illustrated the die plate, detached from the Figure 1 device, and it is reproduced here as Figure 3.

The handstamp illustrated in the patent application, like that in Figure 1, employed an inked ribbon. However, Mr. Goldsborough described his invention as “applicable to both well-known styles of instruments” By that,

we can assume he meant the traditional non-ribbon handstamp we normally think of and the ribbon mechanical handstamp. This is supported by an illustration (see Figure 4) used by Goldsborough in his advertisements



Figure 3

of a traditional handstamp on which is inscribed the May 12, 1874 patent date. The ribbon handstamps were designed for both postal and non-postal uses. Regarding the latter, uses by banks and railroad ticket agents seem to predominate. Advertised postal

handstamps favored by smaller post offices and, I suspect, they were not well suited to the heavy volume of big city workloads.

The cover (electronically cropped) in Figure 5 has been in my collection for some years and the duplex marking shows texture that can be described as composed of horizontal dotted lines. The previous owner wrote “ribbon dater” on the back of the cover and I have wondered if it was that or whether the texture resulted from the pattern of the fabric used to cover the ink pad that transferred with the ink to the face of the handstamp and then to the cover. Now, however, it seems quite likely that the marking is from a ribbon handstamp. The lettering in the Figure 5 postmark is very typical, incidentally, of Goldsborough products.

Readers will note that the ellipse killer in Figure 3 is composed of nine bars while that in Figure 5 has seven bars. Goldsborough advertised star ellipses with both – see Figure 6, which is taken from a late 19th century Goldsborough ad.



Figure 4

applications are largely for uses on money order business documentation. How many were employed for regular postmarking and canceling work is an interesting question. My assumption is that such use was very limited. Ribbon handstamps would have been more expensive than the cheaper



Figure 5



Although having made no study of it, I have noticed some duplex markings from Minneapolis, Minnesota show a strong texture. Figure 7 is an example where the lines are diagonal



Figure 6

and are solid rather than dotted. The Sc 213 bisect paid the 1¢ rate for an unsealed circular. I assume now that the Figure 7 markings are from a ribbon handstamp but not from one that is a

Massachusetts. Although probably not evident in the illustration, the marking is composed of fine vertical lines. It's hard to be certain, but with the configuration of the postmark design, as well as the texture, I'm quite sure that a ribbon handstamp was involved.

An earlier example, dated October 8, 1868 from Monroe, Connecticut, is shown as Figure 9. In this case, the lines, etc. forming the marking are composed of small dots in a grid-like pattern.

If readers can show examples of



Figure 7

19th century postmarks and cancels that appear to come from ribbon mechanical handstamps, especially if they are duplexed, you are encouraged to contact the NEWS.



Figure 8

Goldsborough product.

As mentioned above, postmark/canceler ribbon markings that are duplexed are, I assume, decidedly scarce. Unduplexed postmarks applied by a ribbon handstamp are more frequently seen although they are not common. Figure 9 presents a likely example from Davis,



Figure 9



## Update on 1859 Double Circle Postmarks

The Post Office Department began distributing handstamps with double circle postmark dies to post offices in 1859. The outer diameter of the postmarks is 25/26 mm – see Figure 1.



**Figure 1**

They often show small, four digit year dates below the month and day slugs but many do not. Ultimately, a large number of post offices used these handstamps but they were not common until 1860 and beyond. In 1863, the Post Office Department discontinued this distribution and began issuing its first handstamp that duplexed a postmark and a canceler – see Figure 2. (This postmark is larger with a diameter of about 30 mm.) However, the older, smaller double

circle postmarks continued in service in some post offices for a while. Since the small double circles were in use before the July 1860 regulation precluding use of postmarks as cancels, they are found so used to a considerable extent and are thus a significant part of the story of U.S. 19th century cancellations.

In recent years the *NEWS* has been reporting occasionally on 1859 uses of the small double circles, as examples became known. With this article, we



**Figure 2**

have two new post offices to report – Gloucester, Massachusetts and Hartford, Connecticut. Also, thanks to Bill Crowe, a new earliest date for Waterbury, Connecticut. The updated listing is provided below:

New Orleans (7/15/59)  
Lawrence, KS (7/26/59)  
Delaware, OH (9/10/59)  
Milwaukee, WI (9/17/59)  
Atchison, KS (9/21/59)  
Waterbury, CT (10/15/59)  
Gloucester, MA (11/2/59)  
Mobile, AL (11/3/59)  
Troy, NY (11/23/59)  
Hartford, CT (12/15/59)

If readers can add new post offices to the 1859 list or new early dates for those already reported, please contact the *NEWS*.



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## More on Corry, Pennsylvania

Don Barany's article on the cover page of the August *NEWS* about a Corry face cancel has brought forth some further information about Corry as well as illustrations of Corry covers (Figures 1-3) showing three additional "face" cancels that are of the type collectors often refer to as "pumpkin heads." (The images have been electronically adjusted a bit, thanks to our long time Swiss member Victor Kuil,

to draw out the cancels). There is no year date indication on the covers but the postal stationery entire would, of course, be 1870 or later. Also the Figure 2 cover would almost certainly not be earlier than 1870.

As Don mentioned, the discovery of oil near Corry contributed dramatically to Corry's development in the 1860s. This is reflected in Post Office Department receipts from Corry. For fiscal year 1863,

receipts were \$246.09 and for 1865 they jumped to \$2,349.53, rising to \$4,067.78 in fiscal year 1867. Fiscal year 1869 receipts dropped slightly to \$3,762.05. The postmaster credited with Corry's fancy cancels is James Guy Foreman, a Republican appointed on September 20, 1867. He served for nearly ten years.

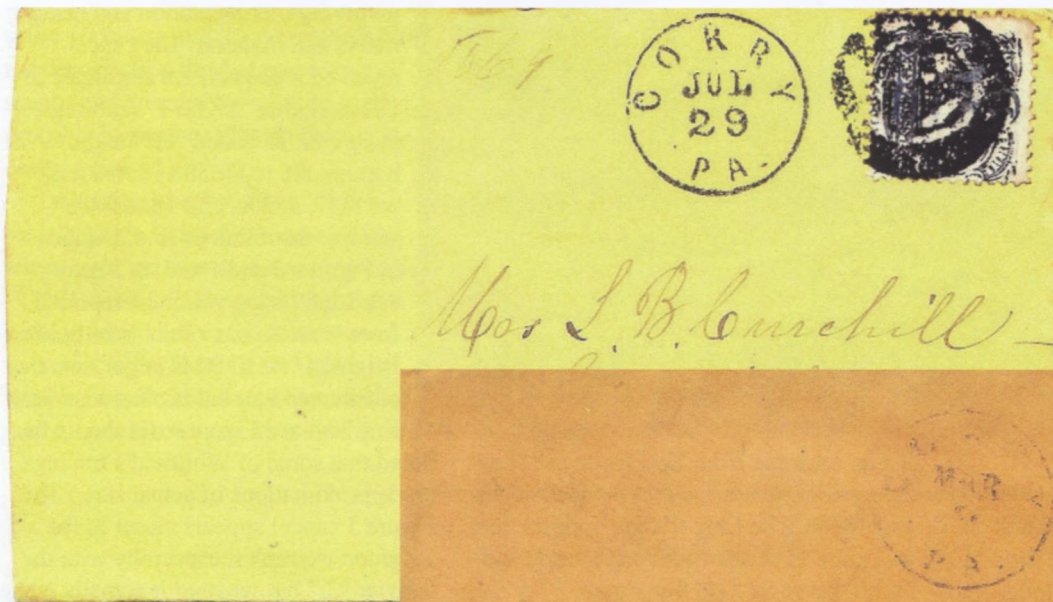


Figure 1



Figure 2

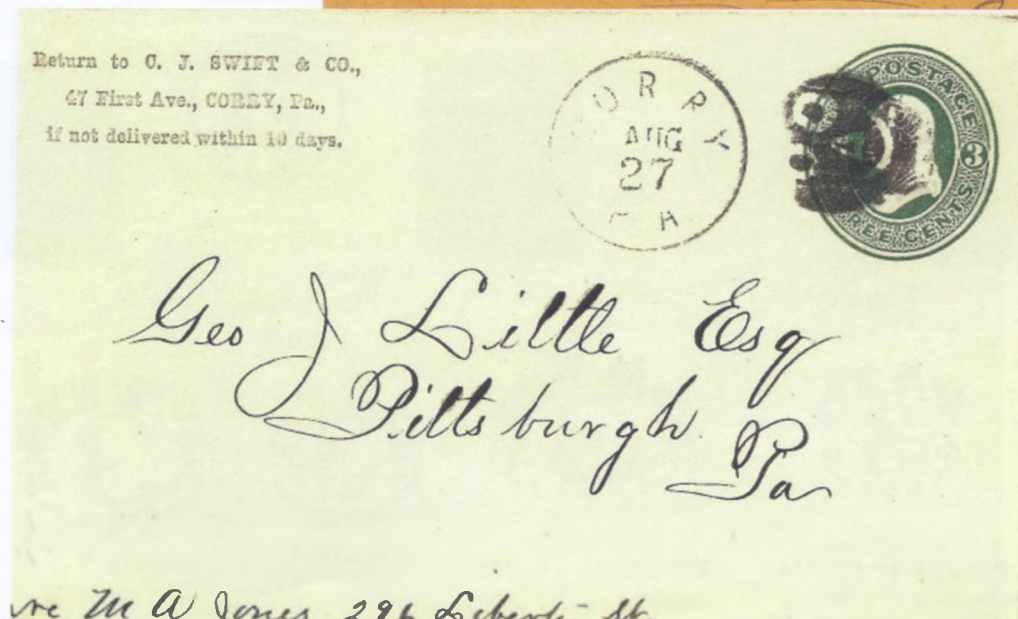


Figure 3



## "PAID" with Numeral "3" Markings

by Roger D. Curran

The card in Figure 1 was mailed on August 16, 1879. The Grafton postmark is unclear regarding the state name as is the dateline on the back. I believe it is either New York or New Hampshire. The cancel was applied by

hard to find. However, some designs are not often seen. "PAID 3" cancellations, typically within a circle, are quite common but a "3 PAID" within a circle is not. Cole lists no examples. Alexander, Whitfield, Linn<sup>1</sup> and Skinner-Eno all

widely reported in the literature, is from Bristol, Connecticut – see Figure 4 which includes the Skinner-Eno tracing. There must be a fair number of additional post offices that used "3 PAID" in circle cancelers. Readers are urged to report to the *NEWS* such examples as they have encountered.

The stamp in Figure 5 is a Sc 184 with a large "PAID 3" cancel involving ornamentation and heavy letters and numeral. The cancel received a good APES certificate in 2012. Similar "PAID 3" markings, most with an added "cts" at the bottom, are reported as cancelers on 1847, 1850s, and 1861 issue stamps. See Skinner-Eno listings in Figures 6 and 7 and, in Figure 8, a Linn listing which he reported from West Salem, Ohio. Whitfield's Brighton "PAID 3" is larger than that of Skinner-Eno but is otherwise very similar – see Figure 9. (It should be

noted that some of Whitfield's tracings are approximations of actual size.) The Figure 5 cancel appears closer to the Brighton examples, especially with the heavier "3," but whether it actually is the same as Brighton is not clear. Readers are encouraged to report strikes of this interesting design type on any stamp.



Figure 1

a handstamp designed for use on first class stampless mail sent during the July 1851 - December 1855 period. "PAID" handstamp markings with or without accompanying numerals, used as cancellations on postage stamps, are not

list an example from East Andover, New Hampshire. It was used in both the 1850s and 1860s. The Linn tracing appears here as Figure 2. Willard lists an example on an off-cover Sc 210. See Figure 3 for the stamp from his collection bearing this cancel together with his tracing. A very bold and appealing "3 PAID" in circle,

<sup>1</sup> Linn, George W. *The PAID Markings on the 3¢ U.S. Stamp of 1861*, Geo. W. Linn Co., Sidney, OH (1955), p. 72.



Figure 2



Figure 3



PM-PNc 28 1861-63  
Bristol,  
Connecticut

Figure 4



Figure 5

PM-PNc 34 1847  
Ozaukee,  
Wisconsin

Figure 6



PM-PNc 35 1854  
Brighton,  
Ohio

Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



## Precanceled on the Spot

The cover in Figure 1 entered the mails at Cleveland on April 21, 1888 and was addressed locally. A Cleveland general delivery postmark on the back is also dated April 21. The addressee was not at the address given and his whereabouts were unknown. Therefore, on May 6 the cover was advertised. The one cent postage due stamp (J15) was apparently affixed on that date. It was precanceled by the May 6 "ADVERTISED" marking. This letter as well as others were undoubtedly advertised at the same time and the postal clerk took a sheet or partial sheet of one cent due stamps and precanceled what he needed, probably just before affixing them to the covers being advertised.

Attorney Joseph J. Casey didn't initially come forward as a result of the advertising and thus the cover was marked "UNCLAIMED." However, during the waiting period before the cover was to be sent to the Dead Letter Office in Washington, D.C., his new Cleveland address must have been identified, as the

cover was opened and there is no DLO marking present.



Figure 1

## Letter Cancels

The back page of this issue shows the letters of the alphabet presented in 19th century cancellations. The use of letters in cancelers was, of course, very popular during this period and extensive collections

can be formed. Often they reflect the first letter of the post office or postmaster name but there are many cases where that is not the case. Sometimes, for example, they denote the lettered stations of big city post

offices. Figure 1 shows a negative "Z" (albeit reversed) from Zanesville, Ohio. An enclosure is dated 1875. "Z" is one of the less common letters. Figure 2 illustrates a negative "B" cancel on a newspaper stamp. While this is not common, "B" cancels are occasionally seen used on newspaper stamps. If any reader can identify where the cancel originated, please contact the NEWS.



Figure 1



Figure 2



## Noted in Passing

by Roger D. Curran

The card in Figure 1 was mailed from Nicholasville, Kentucky on June 3, 1890. Within the unlisted cancel is a monogram "WA" or "AW." We can speculate that these are the postmaster's initials. This style of monogram, involving "A" and "W," with a crossbar in the middle of the "W," has been seen from several post offices. The Nicholasville post office is an operating post office in Jessamine County established in 1806.

The unlisted cancel in the Sc 220 stamp in Figure 2 is dramatic and makes one wish to have seen the full cover. First of all, is the cancel right side up or upside down? What makes it particularly confusing is that there are two crossbars, which are hard to reconcile since they underscore the upside/downside question. Are the letters intended to form "AAM" or "WAA" or something else? Is there more to the design than what we see in Figure 2? If any reader can show the full design or provide a further explanation of the cancel, please contact the *NEWS*.

The cancel in Figure 3 involves a negative letter "A." There is a small "3" near the center. This design, with the "A" extending to the edges of the outer rim, together with the small "3," is reminiscent of a fairly common Chicago blue cancel of which a number of variations have been reported – see Figure 4 for a typical example. There are, of course, several differences between Figures 3 and 4. The cancel in Figure 3 is black. The Chicago blue cancels all have a diagonal bar on each side of the "A." Also, the Chicago blue "3" stopper is always right side up as opposed to the upside down "3" in Figure 3. So where was the Figure 3 cancel used?

The Sc 219D in Figure 5 bears what surely must be a Masonic cancel. That this is a trowel seems certain. Other "trowels" are occasionally seen but seldom with such a convincing design. And the use of fraternal design cancels – along with fancy cancellations generally – were considerably past their heyday by the time this stamp was issued in February 1890.

The postmark and scarab cancel in Figure 6 are clearly struck, but it is the placement of the cancel that caught your editor's attention. It was typical to cancel the indicium of postal cards but in this case it is perfectly positioned over the profile of Thomas Jefferson. Was this the result of happenstance or a very careful effort? This brings to mind an interesting point. In the case of the postal cards, a simple postmark struck at any point on the front of a card should/would suffice to prevent reuse. The addition of a cancel on a postal card really serves no purpose. By the time postal cards were first issued in 1873, most postmarking handstamps included a duplexed killer and it would have been unnecessary trouble to switch from duplex to simplex and back again in processing the mail. Also, it would be only a normal reaction of post offices to consider it proper that the portrait image be canceled, which appearance-wise, was the postal card's equivalent to a postage stamp on an envelope. And, of course, canceled images are largely what we find. However, I was told years ago that the Post Office Department did advise postmasters to cancel the portrait on postal cards, apparently out of concern that it might be cut out and used again. Can any reader report where such a guidance was given?

What to make of the unlisted cancel in Figure 7 submitted by Bob Markovits. "E" for Eaton is logical but why add a backwards "E" to the design? Do the two "Es," back to back in a circle, constitute a symbol of some sort? If any reader can provide an answer, please let us hear from you. According to the January 1883 *Postal Guide*, there were seven "Eaton" post offices operating at the time – in Illinois, Indiana, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. None of these state names seem to fit with what can be seen of the state name letters at the bottom of the postmark. There were also several post offices that have something added to "Eaton" such as "ton" and "ville" and several with a second word such as "Rapids" after "Eaton." John Donnes looked into the matter and, I believe,

solved the mystery of where this cancel originated. There was an Eatonton, Colorado post office established in 1882 in Weld County. It closed in 1883 and in that same year an Eaton post office was established in the same county and it is an operating post office today. One assumes that it was basically a renaming of the same post office. Note that "EATON" in the postmark is off center in relation the "DEC" month letters. John deduced that the postmarker originally read "EATONTON" and the "TON" was cut off the die when the Eaton post office was established. He noted that what appears to be "OR" at the bottom of the postmark fits very well with a full spelling of "COLORADO." What must be the horizontal line of the "L" appears to the left of the "O." Was "COLORADO" in the postmark also cut down in some way for some reason or did the other letters not show due to an inking or other problem? I assume the latter. John notes the dark red brown shade of the Sc 210 stamp, which is characteristic of the early printing and suggests that the December date may have been 1883, just after the post office name changed. John reports that in 1883 the postmaster was a James Hill, and that in 1884 an Andrew J. Eaton was appointed who served until 1892. Going out on a limb here, could one "E" in the killer represent the town or post office name and the other "E" represent the postmaster name, with one letter in the circle reversed perhaps just to enhance symmetry? Eaton must have been a small town in the 1880s as the 1890 census reported only 65 residents.

The November 2011 *NEWS* discussed the use of "PRE-PAID QUARTERLY" AND "PAID QUARTERLY" markings, intended to be struck on unstamped covers enclosing small periodicals, as cancelers of postage stamps. Two cent and three cent off-cover Banknotes were shown so canceled. Matt Kewriga now submits a 6¢ Banknote with such a cancel – see Figure 8. We are still eagerly seeking a first reported on-cover usage.



In the February 2011 and November 2012 issues of the *NEWS*, information about the first ellipse cancel used by Philadelphia was presented. It had 13 horizontal bars and apparently was not used in a set since only one number in the center, a "2," has been conclusively identified – see Figure 9 for a Gilbert Burr tracing. Until recently, only four covers with dates ranging from February 20 to April 16, 1877 had been reported. Norm Shachat now submits a fifth cover and it extends the period of reported use by one day to April 17, 1877.

Figure 10 shows a Maltese Cross cancel with an unusual aspect – an embedded negative star. On the back of the stamp is a penciled note referring to McGregor, Iowa. Perhaps a previous owner noted the origin after soaking the stamp off the cover, but a confirming cover would be helpful.

The cancel on the Figure 11 card appears to have been produced by a large washer engraved with the letters "E" and "J." The back of the card is datelined Jaffrey with date of February 28, 1877. We can say that there is no postmark

on the card since the two letters on the washer don't properly identify the post office and there is no date. East Jaffrey is a DPO that operated from 1846 to 1956. There was a Jaffrey post office that also operated during this period. Both were located in Cheshire Co., New Hampshire.

The cancel in Figure 12 demonstrates a passion for punctuation. Who knows what Massachusetts post office is involved here but enough of the postmark is visible to identify several unusual aspects. First, there is a comma after the town name at the top. How often do we see that? Second, there is a period after the month letters denoting, of course, that they constitute an abbreviation. Third, there is a comma after "26" which reflects the postmaster's acknowledgement that the postmark would be read as follows: "(town name), Apr. 26, Mass." There is a period after the state name abbreviation, although that cannot be said to be unusual. Albeit not punctuation related, we might also point to the quite unusual capitalizing of only the first letter of "Apr" but

that approach was not carried down to "MASS." A situation rather similar to Figure 12 (commas after PO name and date) is presented in Figure 13.

Who doesn't want to be number 1? Certainly the Waverly, New York postmaster did. Are there contemporaneous Waverly killers with numbers above 1? It seems unlikely, but possible. The 1890 population of Waverly was 3,654.

In conclusion I want to thank John Donnes for unattributed tracings that accompany this continuing "Noted in Passing" column and often appear elsewhere in *NEWS* issues. I don't usually credit John in the text where the cancels are discussed because to do so would be very repetitive, given the large number involved. Suffice it to say that his work helps immensely in conveying the essence of the cancels we discuss. In my experience, there is no one who traces as accurately as John and the *NEWS* is a far better publication because of these contributions.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



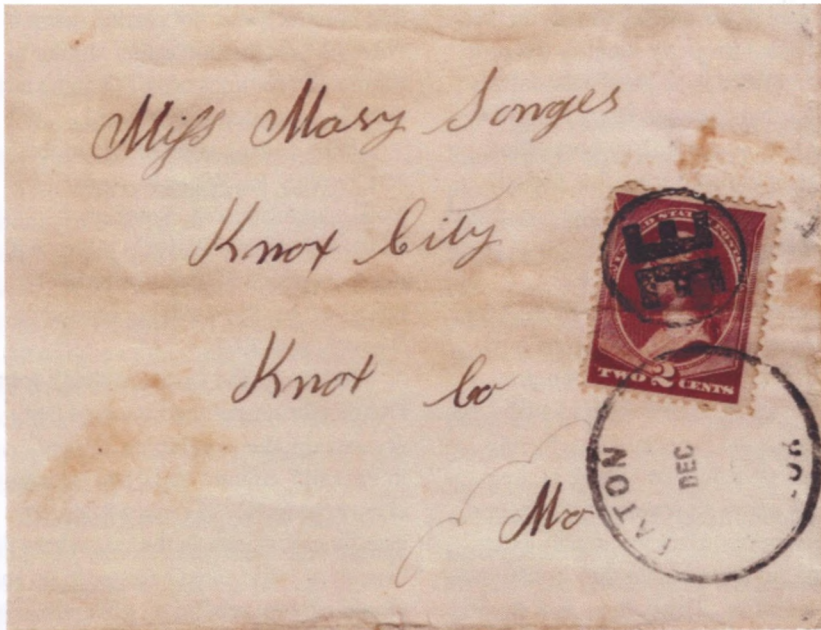


Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10

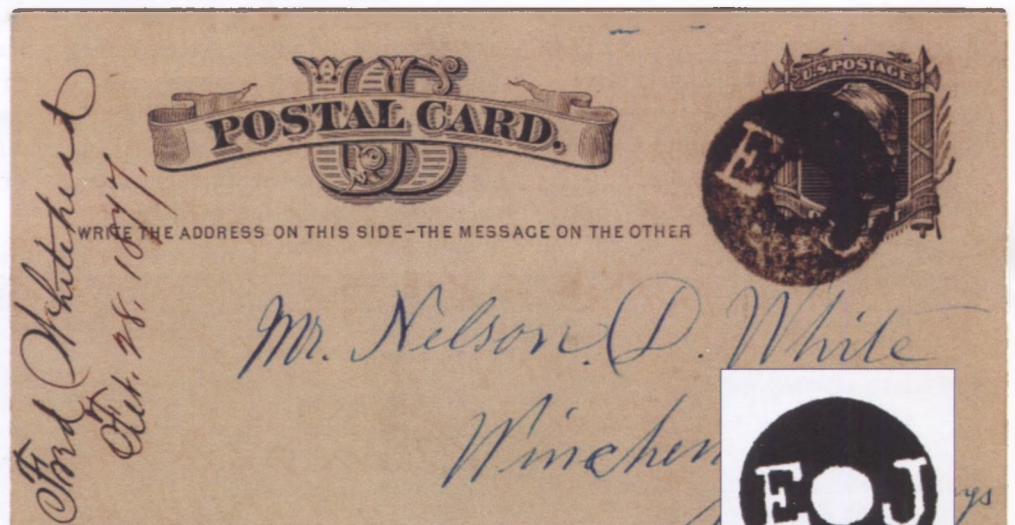


Figure 11



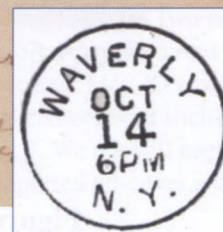
Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14





## Cancels to Ponder

by Roger D. Curran

Several cancels from the collection of Wendell Triplett are presented below. Figure 1 illustrates a Cleveland cover to Germany with three strikes of an enigmatic cancel. Cole's listing is shown as Figure 2. This is one in a large class of primitive cancels wherein collectors might argue about what the intended design, if anything, is supposed to be. I side with Jim Cole and Wendell that it is, indeed, a profile of a man's head. There are a number of design aspects of this cancel that, in my view, when taken together, support the idea of a profile and would be unlikely to occur together in just a formless cork cancel. Comment is invited.

The Danielsonville, Connecticut cancel in Figure 3 is very intriguing and,

to say the least, unusual. It appears to be, as Wendell points out, a "1/¢" which is, of course, consistent with the 1¢ postal card rate. Just why the postmaster would be moved to create such a cancel is a question. Perhaps it was just a flight of fancy. One wonders if he had a "3/¢" for letter mail. Have readers seen other examples of this or similar cancels? The card can be dated February 9, 1880. The Danielsonville post office was in operation only from 1878 to 1895.

Figure 4 illustrates a cancel used very late in the fancy cancel era. This particular strike was probably the basis for the listing HU-PR-17, page 43, in Sol Salkind's book *U.S. Cancels 1890-1900* wherein it is described as "Man With Hat in Profile." Here is another example

where opinion may vary on what is depicted. However, this is clearly not a formless cork – something specific was surely intended and the Salkind interpretation seems reasonable and better than any alternate explanation that occurs to me. Comment is invited.

There is no ambiguity surrounding the unlisted Sioux Falls skull and bones (Figure 5) in outline form. I have long wondered why the skull and bones was a popular cancel subject. Why focus on the macabre? Was it in some cases just to underscore the idea that the postage stamp's purpose was over or finished or, in the words of the 1851 era cancel from Fair Haven, Connecticut, "Used & Done For"?



Figure 1



Figure 2

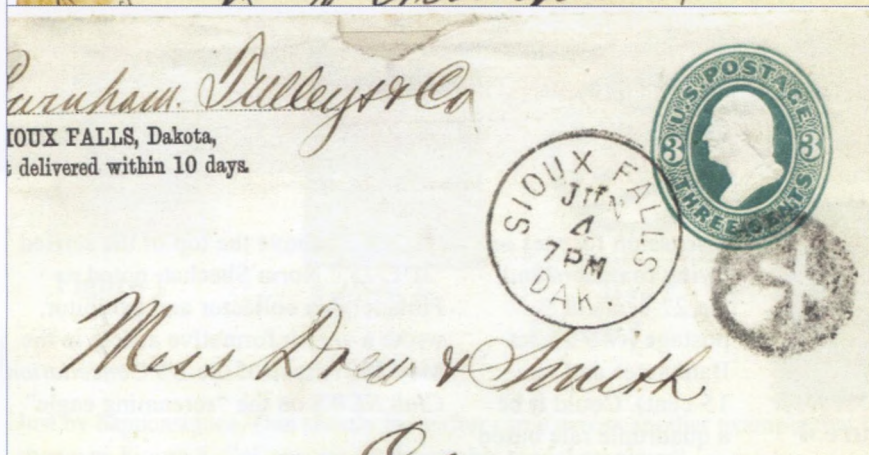


Figure 4

Figure 5



## “Screaming Eagles” Cover to West Chester, Pennsylvania

by William Schultz and Dan Haskett

The cover shown in Figure 1 was purchased by Bill Schultz for a minimal amount (under \$20) on eBay in early 2013. The main reason for the purchase was the “Westchester” (should be West Chester, two words) address and the multiple Banknotes tied by strikes of a particular fancy cancel. After some examination Bill sent the cover to Dan Haskett for a more comprehensive analysis from the perspective of the Banknote stamp cancels.

Dan and Bill have met at various stamp shows for a number of years and share an enthusiasm for cancels on Banknotes: Dan particularly for off-cover specimens and William for on cover. The Figure 1 cover holds much

interest for both writers of this article and incorporates a few challenges for each. We have completed our review and would like to share our conclusions/opinions with the philatelic community as we find this to be quite an exciting item.

So here are our findings:

**Addressee:** B. Franklyn Pyle was a prominent person in West Chester, listed in the 1857 Borough Directory as a lawyer in West Chester and admitted to the Chester County Bar in 1840.

**Rates:** We conclude that the cover is genuine in all respects and was most likely posted in the mail stream in July 1873 but NLT September 30, 1883 after which the rate was reduced to two cents from three cents. The rate

on weight and the 15-cents additional for registered mail handling?

**Banknotes:** The pair of 6-cent carmine stamps are Scott #148 and the 15-cent bright orange is Scott #152. These two Scott numbers of National printing would be time correct with the black ink 25mm CDS use.

**Cancels:** We are quite sure that the cancels are what collectors refer to as the Philadelphia “screaming eagle.” There are three strikes of the duplex handstamp with the postmaster applying more pressure to the CDS and killer on the left 6¢ stamp than he did on the other two stamps. Even in the left strike, the CDS is not clear but there is enough ink showing to see portions of the Philadelphia letters



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

discussion focuses on trying to understand the 27-cents of postage (two 6-cent Banknotes and one 15-cent). Could it be a quadruple rate based

“ADELP” above the top of the serified “JUL/23.” Norm Shachat, noted Philadelphia collector and exhibitor, wrote a very informative article in the May 2007 issue of the *US Cancellation Club NEWS* on the “screaming eagle”



cancel. On page 58 of Whitfield the subject cancel is shown but described as a "leaf" – see Figure 2. Cole illustrates the cancel on page 157 – see Figure 3. He also illustrates an on-cover example and notes that the head of the eagle doesn't show clearly in many of the strikes of this duplexed cancel. An off-cover example from Dan's collection that does show the head clearly appears here as Figure 4.

Returning now to the 27-cents postage: A big question is what is

this rate. The cover has a straight scissor cut on the left which we think removed approximately two inches. The removed two-inch section most likely included a return address. If this is truly a registered usage (15-cents stamp), the registered markings for the fee must have been on the removed section. The quadruple rate and the registration fee would account for the 27-cents rate. Note of conjecture – there were no receiving markings on the reverse (or they were lost when

the 2 inch section was removed). It is possible that this cover was the top piece of a package or other 3rd class mail "bundled up." Just speculation but worth thinking about. A nine (9) times 3-cent rate usage is possible and should be contemplated.

Final thought: This intriguing cover with very good color in the stamps is surely the only multiple 3-strike screaming eagle cancel cover confirmed to date.

**Editor's Note:** I believe we can say with virtual certainty that the year date of Bill's cover is 1873. The September 1996 *La Posta* carried an article by Tom Clarke entitled "1860s-1870s Fancy Cancels of Philadelphia-3." It notes that the cancel in question has been reported from July 16 to August 5, 1873. On another point, I think it is quite unlikely that the cover was used for registered mail. In his *Philadelphia Postmarks* book, Part II, Clarke illustrates postmarks designed specifically for registered mail, one of which is reported to have been used from May 1873 to February 1875. Norm Shachat reports that the several Philadelphia registered covers of the general period in his collection show a registered mail postmark and not the normal style postmark. One might speculate that a heavy legal document was enclosed in the cover requiring a 9X rate.



## EXHIBIT AWARDS WON BY USCC MEMBERS

July - September 2013

### MINNESOTA STAMP EXPO July 19-21

**Mike Ellingson:** Vermeil medal; also Machine Cancel Society award for "Leavitt Experimental Machine Cancels, 1875-1882"

**Gary Hendren:** Gold medal; also APS award of excellence--1900-1940 material, AAPE title page excellence award, and Postal History Society--postal history award for "St. Louis Street Car Mail 1892-1915"

### APS STAMPSHOW August 8-11

**Gordon Eubanks:** Gold medal for "The Issue of 1851-1856 and Its Role in an Expanding Postal System"

**Eric Glohr:** Gold medal; also USPPS multi-frame award for "Hawaiian Postal Cards and Envelopes: Kingdom, Provisional Government and Republican Issues"

**Nick Kirke:** Gold medal; also USCC award for best exhibit of U.S. cancellations for "New York Foreign Mail Cancels 1845-1878". Also Single Frame Gold medal for "New York Foreign Mail Fancy Cancels 1873-1875"

### BALPEX August 30 -to Sept 1

**Norman Cohen:** Gold medal; also Baltimore Philatelic Society award--best exhibit by a member for "The use of U.S. Postage Due Stamps, 1894 to 1986"

## Cairo, Illinois "Sloo" Cancel

Dan Haskett submits the remarkable item, recently found in a dealer's stock, illustrated here as Figure 1. Remarkable because of the combination of a distinctive and scarce fancy cancel struck on a 12¢ stamp. And for it to be on an official stamp, at that. An explanation of this cancel was provided in the Summer 1989 *NEWS* in a brief article that is restated here.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

"From the collection of Clyde Jennings comes this interesting cancellation. The name "Sloo" is carved in the central portion of the cork. The marking occurs on a 3¢ Continental stamp, first issued in 1873. After considerable research, it was found in the Official Registers that a W.A. and a T.J. Sloo were postal clerks at Cairo in 1877 and T.J. continued in 1879. Nice work Clyde."

Just by happenstance, Dan shortly thereafter came across another example that is shown here as Figure 2. A Whitfield tracing is shown as Figure 3. Can any reader report this cancel on cover?



## Cancellation Gallery

