



U.S. Cancellation Club **NEWS**

Vol. 32, No. 2, Whole No. 291, May 2014

Canceling and Postmarking Mail in the NYPO

by Roger D. Curran

The February 2009 *NEWS* carried a front-page article on a NYFM cover that provides insight into the likely procedure for processing 1870-76 mail in the foreign section of the New York Post Office. The cover was franked with four 3¢ greens at upper right and two 2¢ red browns at lower left. The 2¢ red browns were canceled by a geometric NYFM cancel and the 3¢ greens by two strikes of a red New York PAID 6 postmark. A third red strike of this marking was used to postmark the cover itself. From this we deduced that there was a two step procedure whereby the job of one of the clerks was to cancel the stamps (using an unduplexed killer) after which the cover was routed to a second clerk who selected and applied the correct postmark. Apparently, the first clerk overlooked the 3¢ greens, so the second clerk, presumably with no stamp cancelers available at his station, did

the canceling of the 3¢ greens with the handstamp he used to apply the postmark.

The cover in Figure 1, formerly in the stock of John Valenti, is interesting in terms of its handling both before and after it reached the NYPO. We know for certain that the sender made an error by underpaying the required postage. Was that because the sender thought that nearby Pelham was within the service area of the NYPO and the letter thus qualified as a local letter subject to the two cent rate at the time? It is assumed that the letter was mailed in one of the drops in the NYPO lobby that was designated to receive letters for delivery in New York City. That is said because NYPO ellipses with "PO" in the center and in the accompanying postmarks were used on local mail. Did the stamping clerk apply his local mail duplex because he didn't initially pay attention to the out of-town

address but rather assumed local delivery based on the 2¢ stamp and perhaps also that it was dropped through a local mail slot? Or did he note the address but think it more important to postmark the actual time the letter entered the mails, regardless of where it was deposited? Certainly events moved quickly to satisfy full payment as the sender provided the needed additional postage (including a 2¢ overpayment) within 24 hours. Given the use of an ellipse with a number in the center to cancel the 3¢ green, we know the cover by that time had been relocated to the section that processed out-of-town domestic mail. Whether it arrived there before or after the "HELD FOR POSTAGE" was applied is not known.

Comments and additional information will be welcomed.



Figure 1



The U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

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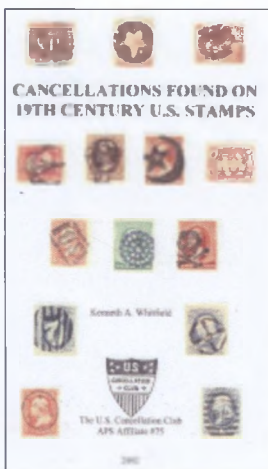
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U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS, Cross Reference Index for all issues: 1951-2009. Presented in three separate sections: Cancellations, Post Offices, and Article Titles, \$18 postpaid to U.S. addresses.

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.

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 at no extra cost the new Whitfield pages. \$50 postpaid to U.S. addresses.

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Canastota Insect

by Donald A. Barany

The cancels in Figure 1 from the village of Canastota, NY represent some type of insect. These five strikes are the only examples I have recorded. The year date is likely 1870. There are differences in the examples illustrated, but these appear to be from inking variations and/or cancel wear.

According to the 2000 census, the population of Canastota was only 4,425. Therefore it most likely was a very small town in the 1860's and 1870's. Noyes P. Chapman was the postmaster from March 28, 1867 until November 13, 1882.

According to Wikipedia, Kniste Stota

was the historic name of the village, a term used by the local Oneida Nation of the Iroquois Confederacy, meaning "cluster of pines near still waters." The village recently celebrated the bicentennial of its settlement by European-Americans. Canastota is well known as an "onion growing" town and, at one point, onions provided a large portion of income in the village.

The village was incorporated in 1835, but reorganized in 1870. Located along the banks of the Erie Canal, which was completed through the Mohawk River valley by 1825, Canastota was a vibrant

trading and commerce town during the mid-nineteenth century for a wide agricultural area. When the canal was superseded by construction of railroads, and later the New York Thruway, some canal towns such as Canastota were cut off from the main lines of commerce.

The Skinner-Eno book identifies an entirely different Canastota insect cancel, also on the 1869 issue—see Figure 2. It also identifies a Christian cross cancel on the 1861 issue. I am aware of no other fancy cancels from Canastota during this time period. Have readers seen other fancies from Canastota or any other examples of these Canastota insect cancels?



Figure 1

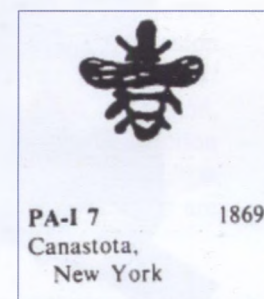


Figure 2

Taunton, Massachusetts Ink Color

by Donald A. Barany




Ed Field's article, appearing in the November 2013 NEWS concerning green cancels found on 1869 issue stamps included as Figure 19 a July 24, 1869 cover from Taunton. Ed writes

to clarify that while the cover was submitted to the Philatelic Foundation as having green cancels, the opinion coming back stated that the ink color is greenish blue. This very interesting

and distinct ink color is probably well known to a number of USCC members on not only 1869 issue stamps but on some Banknote era stamps as well.

Newly Identified Whitfield Cancels

by Wendell Triplett

92	1093	1577
		
78 South Lee, MA B "Roman Soldier"	73 B Sun Face	61 B Leaf

Whitfield cancel #92 was originally identified as a Roman soldier from South Lee, Massachusetts. It was struck in black with reported dates August 5 to September 9, 1882. Now another post office – Harmony, Kentucky – has been identified using this same cancel, but in magenta ink, with an earlier reported

period of use from April 5 to April 22, 1881. This cancel is not listed in Cole.

Whitfield cancel #1093 has now been identified as being from St. Louis, Missouri. It was struck in black ink on a Sc 158 stamp which has an earliest documented use of July 17, 1873. This cancel is also listed as Cole #J0-80,

page 164, but origin is unidentified.

Whitfield cancel #1577 has now been identified as being from Brooklyn, New York, struck in black ink on Sc 65 and dated March 31, 1863. This cancel is not listed in Skinner-Eno.

Editor's note. This is the first of what will be a series of brief articles reporting newly learned information about cancellations listed in the book "Cancellations Found on 19th Century US Stamps" by Kenneth Whitfield. Since the book was first issued in 2002, there have been two major updates published in 2007 and 2012. The compiler has been Wendell who is now collecting information for a third update planned for 2017. The reports in this and future articles are examples of what will be included in the 2017 update. Readers are asked to keep this very important Club project in mind and assist Wendell by making reports to him when new information about Whitfield-listed cancels is encountered. Thanks! Wendell's email address is triplettusa@yahoo.com and for regular mail is 3606 New Colony Way, Wilmington, NC 28412.



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The Listing of Postal Markings as Cancellations in *Scott Specialized*

by Roger D. Curran

The *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers* is, of course, the bible for many collectors of U.S. postage stamps and covers, and well it should be. It provides the established set of catalog designations ("Scott No. 147" as an example) accepted throughout the hobby to identify individual stamps, postal cards and postal stationery as well as listings of current retail values. Useful descriptive and historical information is also included. Of particular interest to the US Cancellation Club are the cancellation listings for many 19th century stamps. The practice of including cancellation listings goes back to the first issue of *Scott Specialized* in 1923. That catalog consisted of 70 small pages – see Figure 1. It was devoted exclusively to postage stamps. In the introductory section, the following was said under the heading "Cancellations."

Prices are for the commonest type in each group. For instance, a red cancellation on the 3¢, 1861 issue, priced at \$1.25 would be for the commonest red cancellation that could be found on this stamp, which, in this case, would be the cork or block type. Odd designs such as stars, numerals, animals, birds, etc., are worth premiums, depending on the scarcity and clearness of the design. Our prices for "PAID" cancellations are for the regular type and not for the common Boston "PAID" consisting of the word "PAID" within a gridiron. Prices for cancellations such as Railroad, Steamboat, "Steam," etc. are for specimens either on or off cover. If on the cover the cancellation may show entirely on the stamp or partly on the cover and partly on the stamp.

Then, as now, the cancellation

listings fall into two broad categories. One involves the color of ink used. This is of much interest but beyond the scope of the present article. The second involves the wide variety of postal markings that have been reported

amount. A premium of \$300 (by far the highest premium) is cited for "U. States" with 14 of the 27 postal markings listed at \$20 or higher. What has occurred along the way, of course, has been the identification of previously unreported postal marking cancellations that are considered scarcer (or at least more desirable) than the "Supplementary Mail" cancels.

In the introductory section to the 2014 catalog (page 18A) the following, in part, is stated under the heading of "Cancellations":

A complete treatment of this subject is impossible in a catalog of this limited size. Only postal markings of meaning – those which were necessary to the proper function of the postal service – are recorded here, while those of value owing to their fanciness only are disregarded. The latter are the results of the whim of some postal official. Many of these odd designs, however, command high prices, based on their popularity, scarcity and clearness of impression ... One type of "Paid" cancellation used in Boston, and shown in this introduction under "Postal Markings," is common and values given are for types other than this.

The cancellation listings in *Scott Specialized* are limited to those found on 19th century stamps. There are no listings for postal cards, postal stationery or postage due stamps.

There are a number of 19th century postal marking cancellations that are not yet listed for stamps on which they have been found by collectors. Presented on the next page are some examples. Readers are encouraged to submit additional items. Further discussion of this point will follow in a future issue.

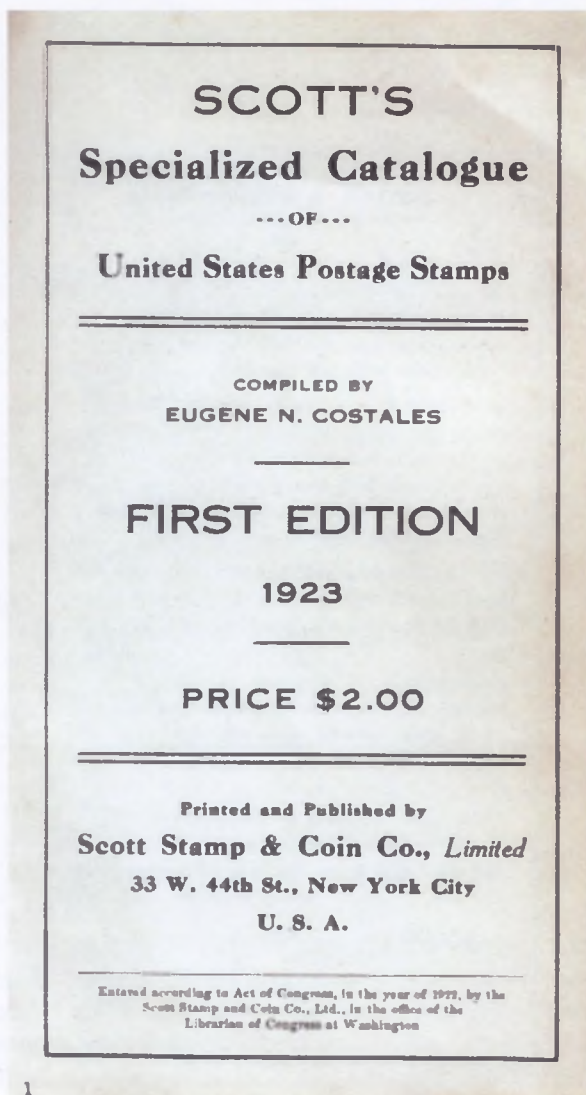
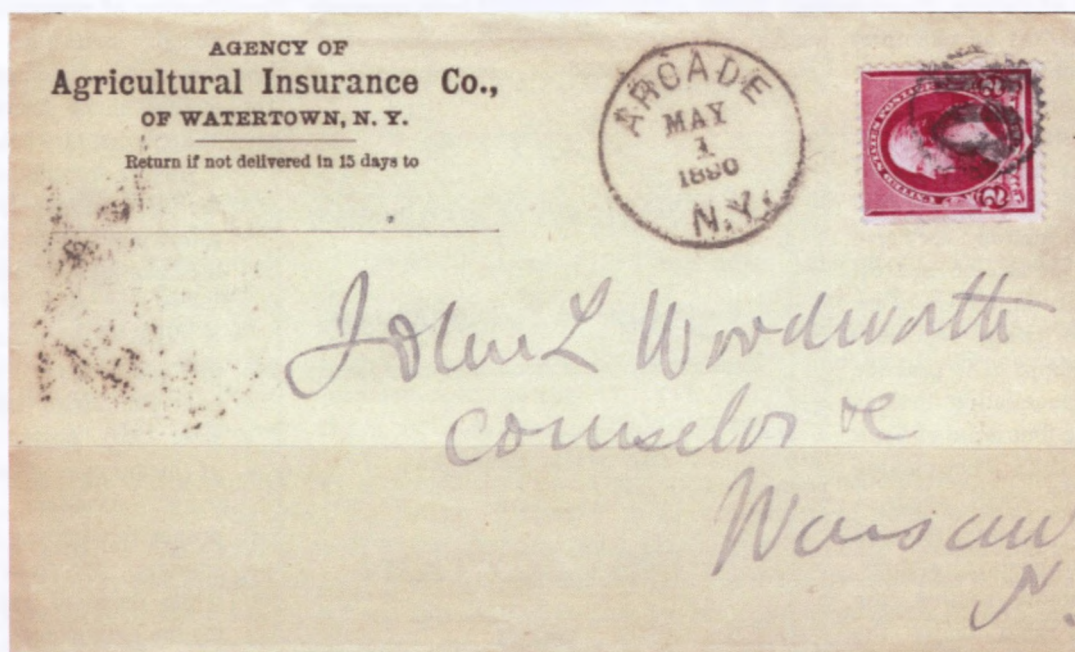


Figure 1

used as cancellations on stamps. In the 1923 catalog, for the Sc 65 stamp as an example, there are seven cancellations listed involving postal markings with the highest premium, \$7.47, going to "Supplementary Mail." The listings have expanded over the years so that for the 2014 catalog there are 27 Sc 65 cancellations listed involving postal markings. A premium of \$15 is given for "Supplementary Mail Type A, B or C" which is nowhere near the highest



Sc 24 and 71 with "SHIP," Sc 148 with "U STATES," Sc 179 with "PAID," Sc 208 with rate number, Sc 214 with "PAID," and Sc 219D (cover) and Sc 220 with rate numbers.

Rubber Mimics of Steel Cancelers

The February 2003 *NEWS* carried an article about a postal card in the collection of John Donnes canceled by the duplex marking shown here as Figure 1. The ink is described by John as a light violet, which strongly suggests use with a rubber-faced handstamp. Liberty Falls is reported to



Figure 1

have had a population of 100 in 1890, hardly enough to support the need for 11

clerks in the post office! The handstamp that applied this marking is another example, in my view, of an interesting type of inexpensive handstamp, using big city cancel designs (usually ellipses), which appealed to small post offices because of the cost. The "11" in this case probably appeared in a postal supplies advertisement. The "11" in four circles is very similar to the design of a set of Philadelphia cancelers that was used from 1879-1882. See examples in Figure 2. Merchant John Goldsborough undoubtedly supplied the Philadelphia handstamps which would have been steel faced, given the heavy workload of that post office. But Goldsborough also advertised a "\$2 rubber marker and canceler" and I'm confident that

he borrowed canceler designs he first used for steel facings for his rubber-faced versions. Liberty Falls is known, incidentally for having used a 43x10 mm two line "Liberty Falls, N.Y." stencil postmark in 1864. The discovery cover was illustrated in the Summer 1983 *NEWS*. This post office operated from 1850 to 1901.

John reports another example of the above situation, this time from Herndon, Pennsylvania. See the cover in Figure 3. John's tracings in Figure 4 allow a comparison of the Herndon "8" with the corresponding Philadelphia "8" cancel. The Philadelphia cancel is about one millimeter larger in diameter and the set from which it came was used from 1880-1883.



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

An Ellipse With a Story

by Roger D. Curran

In the September 1935 *American Philatelist*, Gilbert Burr illustrated the tracing shown here as Figure 1. He reported this cancel on a Sc 212, origin unknown. Cole illustrated the cancel (EL-145, pg.



Figure 1

324) and reported it on 1887 issues, also with origin unknown.

Several years ago the cover in Figure 2 came on the market. From a cancellation standpoint, it was eye-catching to say the least. Here is a Boston "time

markings on the back of the cover.

There are, unfortunately, aspects of the cover that are troubling. First, one would expect the CDS and ellipse to be duplexed but on this cover they apparently are not. The ellipse should be slanted more to the left to align with the CDS, as is routinely seen in "time on bottom" markings. Second, the ink of the ellipse, but not the CDS, has a very grainy quality. In an article on fake markings, Scott Trepel reports two factors in the production of fake cancels that can cause such a result.¹ It is beyond the scope of this article to delve into these matters but interested readers

postmark appears to be genuine and one supposes that there was previously a 5¢ stamp on the cover that was struck by one of the Boston "time on bottom" ellipses in such a way that no portion landed on the cover or, if it did, it is now under the stamp.

An ellipse with the same basic design as those in Figures 1 and 2 was used in Pasadena, California – see Figure 3. Through use of transparencies, there appears to be quite a close match between the Burr tracing and the Figure 2 cancel. The Pasadena cancel differs slightly from Burr. However, I assume Burr's tracing came from a Pasadena cancel. Perhaps the

particular strike he was working with was poor and it did not quite match the actual cancel design. I don't recall ever seeing before a faked ellipse cancel and suspect that they are decidedly scarce. If readers can report them, please do so. I think it safe to assume that the faker knew that the original cancel on the cover was an ellipse, so he wanted to use that style of cancel. Maybe he picked Figure 1 tracing from Burr's article because it is rather flashy and was also unattributed. Although the American Postal Machines Co. machines were handling the lion's share of the postmarking/canceling workload

in Boston by 1888, one does see limited use of Boston "time on bottom" duplexes during the late 1880s.

Alfred E. Smith is a prominent name in American political history. An Alfred E. Smith was elected four times as Governor of New York and was the 1928 Democratic Party nominee for president. He was born in 1873 and so would not have been the addressee in the Figure 2 cover. Wikipedia states that his father, born Alfred Emanuele Ferraro, took the name Alfred E. Smith, but he died while the future Governor was 13, which would have been in 1876 or 1877, so he also was not the addressee.

Comments, observations and additional information pertinent to any parts of the above will be welcomed.

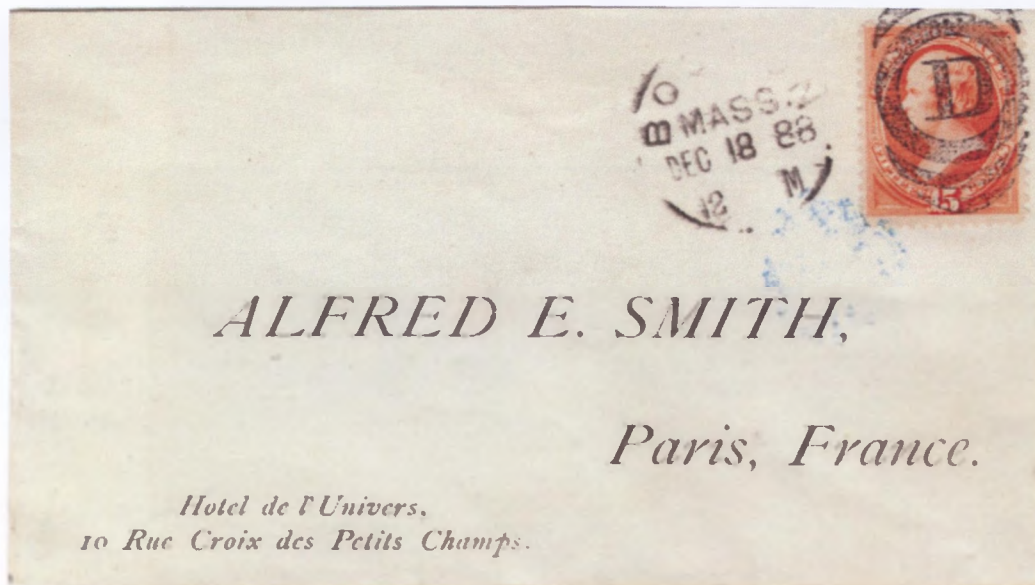


Figure 2

on bottom" CDS associated with a cancel that (1) had never before been reported from Boston (a major user of Wesson "time on bottom" hand stamps) and (2) was very unlike any ellipse

reported used with a "time on bottom" CDS from any post office. Also on the cover is what appears to be a very poor strike of a Paris received marking in blue that ties the 15¢ stamp to the cover. Finally, the stamp is also tied to the cover at the top by the ellipse cancel. There are no



Figure 3

are encouraged to review Mr. Trepel's discussion. A third aspect concerns the stamp. It is hard to understand a 15-cent rate because there is no indication from an examination of the cover that it contained a thick or otherwise heavy enclosure that would require triple the 5¢ UPU rate. The

¹ Trepel, Scott R. "Fake Markings on Covers" *U.S. Postmarks and Cancellations*, Scott Trepel editor, The Philatelic Foundation, New York, NY (1992), pp. 163-4.p. 29.



EXHIBIT AWARDS WON BY USCC MEMBERS January - March 2014

Southeastern Stamp Expo: January 31-Feb 2

Nancy Clark: Vermeil medal; also UPSS Marcus White award for "The U.S. Revalued Postal Stationary of 1971."

Gary Hendren: Gold medal for "St. Louis Street Car Mail 1892-1915."

TEXPEX: Feb 28-Mar 2

Matt Kewriga: Gold medal; also APS Pre-1900 Medal of Excellence for "The U.S. 2-cent Jackson Regular Issues, 1870-1879."

Les Lanphear: Gold medal and Grand Award; also USSS Statue of Freedom award and JCM Cryer Memorial Cup for "U.S. Departmentals, 1873-1884."

St. Louis Stamp Expo: Mar 21-23

Gary Hendren: Gold Medal for "St. Louis Street Car Mail 1892-1915."

Fake Cancels

Collectors need constant vigilance to avoid being fooled by fake cancels that appear on the market. Unfortunately such cancels are fairly common. Steven Hines has accumulated a number of examples over the years and we illustrate a few herewith. In the future we will show more. Readers who have examples in their collections, particularly those that are skillfully done, are encouraged to submit scans or color copies to the *NEWS*. Commentary would also be welcomed.



Noted in Passing

by Roger D. Curran

George McGowan submits a new latest reported use of the Wesson time-on-bottom "TRANSIT" marking – see Figure 1. The "TRANSIT" duplexed

It was struck in magenta ink and consists of the word "CANCELED" with a period at the end. Bob's cover shown here as Figure 2 illustrates the period clearly and

question raised about whether this indicates a simplex rather than duplexed killer. Matt Liebson has now reported the card illustrated here as Figure 3 which shows essentially the same CDS/killer alignment as that in the earlier article. We can thus conclude that it was a duplex handstamp used to apply the markings.

A new and important report of the New York 11-bar "5" ellipse has just been made by Dan Haskett – see Figure 4 with date of January 14. We can be reasonably sure the year date is 1875, given the other reports. Dan Richards has been studying this cancellation, considered by collectors to be the first manufactured ellipse used in the U.S., and made an initial report in the May 2010 NEWS, of seven covers bearing

this cancel ranging from 11/16/74-3/11/75. In the last NEWS, Dan Richards reported an eighth cover dated March 13 (1875). His reports have shown usages in November and December 1874 and in February and March 1875 but, until now, there have been no January reports. It appears that the 11-bar "5" wasn't taken out of service in January 1875 but was subjected to occasional use as it was in the other November-March months. Dan Haskett found the Figure 4 cancel, which is on small piece, at a dealer's table at the 2014 St. Louis Stamp Expo.

In response to the article in the November 2013 NEWS about cancels with a "PAID" and "3" in the design, Dan Haskett submits a pair (Figure 5) of 3¢ greens with a "3/PAID" cancel. "3/PAID" cancels are, of course, much tougher to find than those designed as "PAID/3."

John Valenti reports one more 1859 usage (Fort Dodge, Iowa, 8/3/59) of the Government-issued small double circle postmarks – see Figure 6. The total number of post offices known to have used these postmarkers in 1859 stands now at 13.

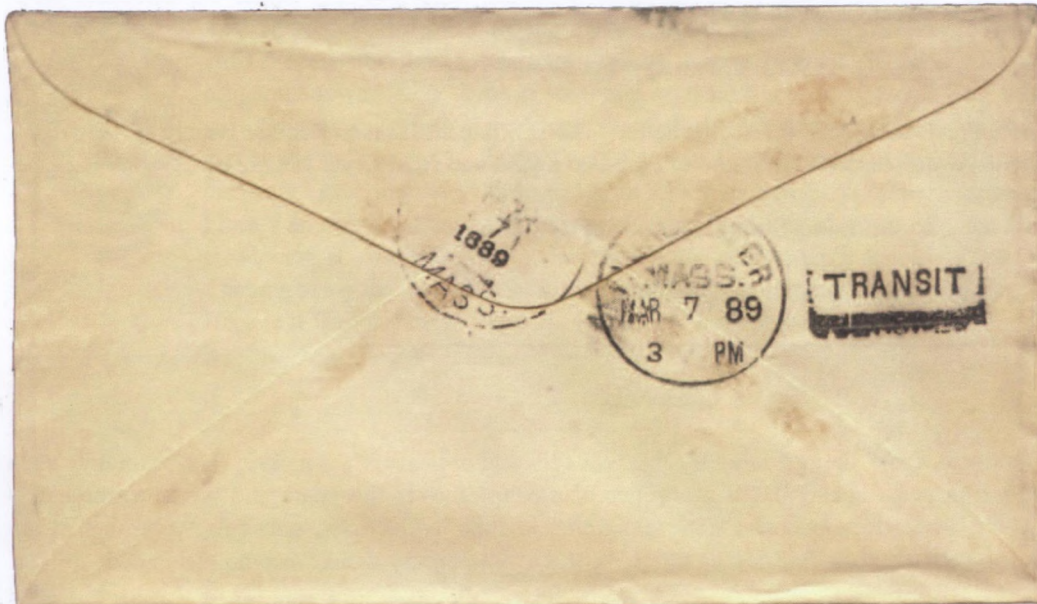


Figure 1

marking was only used at the Worcester post office. This date extends the previous latest reported usage, which was 2/23/1889 as listed in the 2010 Edson/Levere book *Wesson Time on Bottom Markings Revisited* which is sold through the USCC.

Page 10 and 11 of the last NEWS discussed an 1881 unduplexed negative "S" cancel from Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Bob Markovits writes to remind us of a very unusual cancel used by this post office several years earlier.

an enclosure is dated 1875. So here we have a cancel that not only obliterates the stamp but actually tells us that it has done so. The fact that, while the CDS is black, the post office went to the trouble of using a colored ink for the obliterator provides substantial evidence that the obliterator was rubber-faced.

Another cancel presented on page 11 of the last NEWS was the Cincinnati double circle "A" with bars between the circles. The lack of alignment between CDS and canceler was noted and the

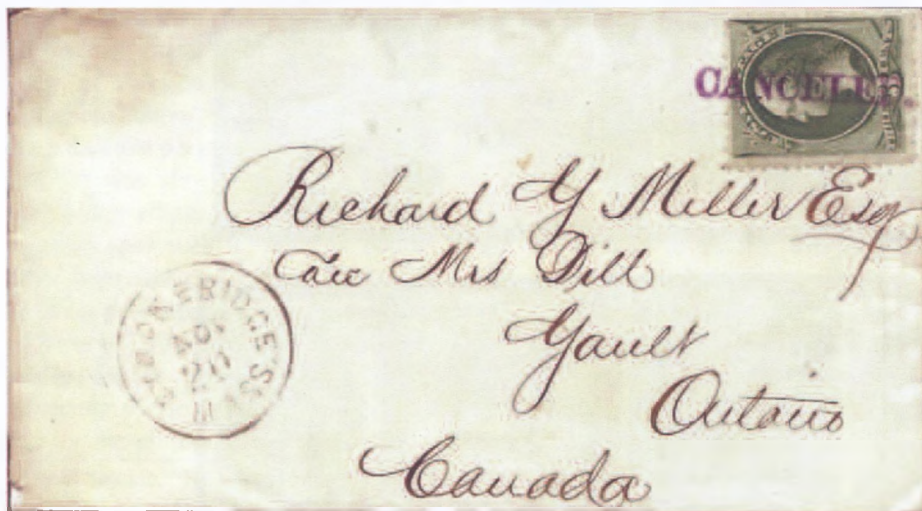


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

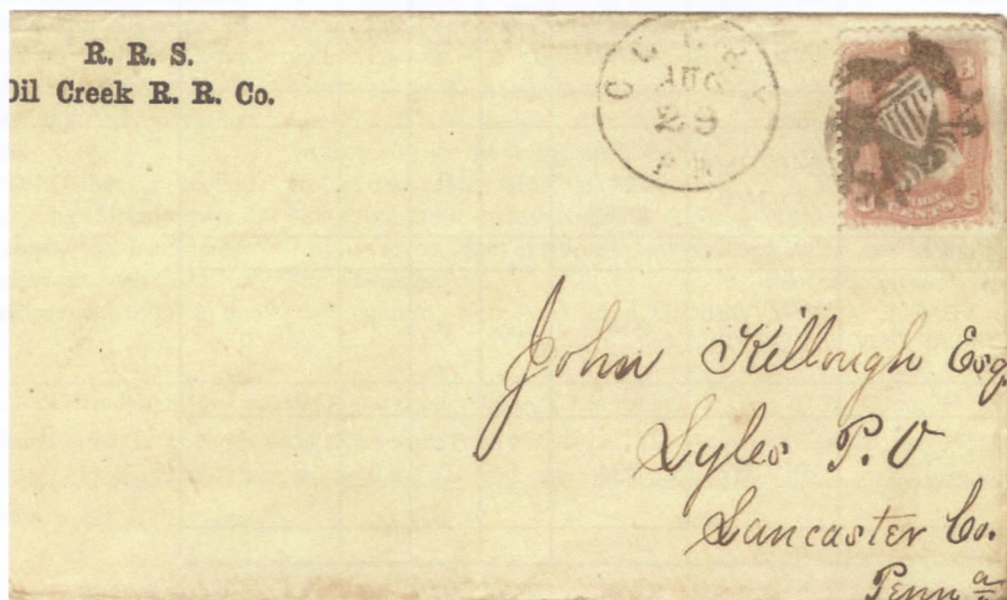
Corry Fancy Cancels

The last three issues of the *NEWS* have included brief articles on fancy cancels from Corry, Pennsylvania. In the February and May 1995 issues of the *Pennsylvania Postal Historian*, Clifford Woodward provided an extensive report of cancels used by the Corry post office. (Interested readers are encouraged to seek out this excellent article.) Several

new listings appeared in the August 1997 *Historian*. Cliff has continued to expand his census as additional information has become available and, beginning in this issue, the *NEWS* will present updated data from that census. Cliff has recorded 53 different cancel designs during the period of Corry's fancy cancels, 1866-1872, and all of the more artistic designs will be

included here. The Corry post office was established in 1861 and operates today.

The signature Corry cancel (or, more accurately, group of cancels) is the eagle, which was no doubt inspired, as Cliff has pointed out, by a design popular on 19th century U.S. coinage – see Figure 1.



Corry PA Fancy Cancel Census




TYPE	CLASS	DATE	STAMP	QUANTITY			NOTES
	EAGLE 6-BAR	7/6/6? thru 10/4/6?	#65	Covers	Pieces	Stamps	S/E # PT-E1 Whitfield #434
EA-1				8	2	7	
	EAGLE 5-BAR	10/3/66 thru 11/8/66	#65	10	2	3	S/E # PT-E1a
EA-2							
	EAGLE 4-BAR TY.I	8/5/66 thru 2/7/67	#65	12	1	5	S/E # PT-E3
EA-3-1							
	EAGLE 4-BAR TY.II	10/6/68 thru 1/11/69	#88, #93, #94, #114	17	1	3	S/E # PT-E4 Whitfield #435
EA-3-2							
	EAGLE 4-BAR TY.III	4/18/7?	#68, #147	1	0	2	
EA-3-3							
	EAGLE 3-BAR TY.I	11/23/67 thru 2/17/68	#63, #65, #73	10	0	3	
EA-4-1							
	EAGLE 3-BAR TY.IIa	4/20/68 thru 6/23/68	\$65, #68, #88, #94, #U58	18	3	16	
EA-4-2a							
	EAGLE 3-BAR TY.IIb	6/16/6? thru 6/28/6?	\$65, #94, #U58	4	2	3	
EA-4-2b							
	EAGLE 3-BAR TY.IIc	1/18/69 thru 6/29/69	#94, #114, #U58	14	0	0	
EA-4-2c							
	EAGLE 3-BAR TY.III	7/4/70 thru 11/7/70	#114, #147, #U58	12	0	5	
EA-4-3							
	EAGLE 3-BAR TY.IV	5/9/7? thru 7/29/7?	#147	3	0	1	
EA-4-4							
	EAGLE Solid Eagle	8/10/6?	#94	1	0	0	
EA-5a							



Figure 1

Ellipse Cancels With Two Letters in the Center

by Roger D. Curran

The typical 19th century U.S. ellipse cancel has a number in the center. To a lesser extent but still very common are ellipses with a letter in the center. In smaller post offices the letter would normally be the first letter of the post office name. In large post offices, the letters would usually represent branch stations. However, at least at Boston, letters, just like numbers, were used to identify clerk stations so that quality checks of work of the individual clerks could be made. These were used at the same time as Boston was employing numbers in ellipses. A much smaller ellipse category is comprised of those that involve two letters in the center. These include, but are surely not limited to, those discussed below.

In the 1880s, the Chicago post office introduced duplex handstamps for its eight stations, each with one or two identifying letters in their ellipse cancelers. Five of the stations' ellipses

center. Such handstamps were employed from the 1870s through the end of the century and beyond, albeit with reduced usage as machines took over. Variations in design were introduced over time. Examples are illustrated in Figure 2. One particular ellipse is highlighted in Figure 3. It has 12 horizontal bars and is very unusual in that regard. I know of no other NYPO ellipses with 12 bars. The tracing in Figure 3 is from Burr.² Arthur Bond reported seeing the Figure 3 cancel only in 1890.³ The accompanying CDS is, incidentally, slightly larger than the norm.

Figure 4 shows two strikes of an ellipse canceler used by the High Bridge branch station located uptown at the corner of Stockbridge Ave. and Depot Place. High Bridge became an NYPO station in February 1889. This cancel is scarce and has not been reported, as far as I know, in the horizontal bar format. Normally, NYPO stations used both

with "US" in the center. Two versions are shown in Figures 8 and 9 together with the corresponding tracings from Burr.⁴ Burr also reported a further variation shown here as Figure 10 and noted that he found the cancel "... on one of the earlier printings of the 3¢ greens ..." By "earlier printings" he meant before the re-engraved printing. I have not seen the Figure 10 cancel and readers who have examples in their collections, on or off cover, are urged to report them. I record the following date ranges – for Figure 8: 7/17/82-8/12/82 and for Figure 9: 4/14/82-12/10/88.

Lake Placid, New York and West End, New Jersey used the two-letter ellipses shown in Figures 11 and 12. The corresponding Burr tracings accompany the illustrations.⁶ For the Lake Placid "LP" I record dates from 5/15/86-7/20/89. The only confirmed date I have for the West End "WE" is 8/30/84 with a record of a second cover dated July 29 with a year date that appears likely to be 1884. Willard illustrates (Volume Two, p. 158) an August 17 tracing but without the year date. I suspect that the strike of the year date slugs was too unclear to trace.

Figure 13 is a hand carved 6-bar ellipse with "HK" in the center from Hancock, New York. The letters "HK" do not match the initials of the postmaster at the time of this cover. Possibly it was thought that "K" was better than "C" as a phonetic representation of the second syllable of "Hancock."

Figure 14 illustrates two examples of an ellipse with "PM" in the center that your editor has only seen off cover. Can any reader identify the post office of origin?

We would like to present additional ellipses with two letters in the center. Readers are encouraged to look through their collections and report such examples.



Figure 1

contained two letters – see Figure 1. The five stations were Cottage Grove, Madison Street, North West, South West and Stock Yards. Leonard Piskiewicz illustrates all of the eight station markings including the associated postmarks.¹ He illustrates two sets for Cottage Grove, Madison Street and Stock Yards with the ellipse differences being fairly minor but certainly noticeable.

The main NYPO had a section devoted to the processing of local mail and used, during the ellipse era, handstamps that duplexed a postmark with "P.O." at the bottom to an ellipse with "PO" in the

formats. Who can show the Figure 4 ellipse on cover?

Philadelphia post office stations used Wesson "time on bottom" handstamps with ellipses showing "PA" in the center – see Figure 5. Non-Wesson handstamps with "PA" in the ellipses were also employed by Philadelphia stations – see Figure 6. These stations also used non-Wesson ellipses involving solid "barrels" around the center with bars above and below, but these are less common. Figure 7 shows an on cover example courtesy of Norm Shachat.

Lockport, New York used ellipses

¹ Piskiewicz, Leonard *Chicago Postal Markings and Postal History*. James E. Lee Publishing, Cary, IL (2006), pp. 291-3.

² Burr, Gilbert M. "Standardized Hand Stamp Cancellations on the Bank Note Issues" *The American Philatelist*, May 1935, p. 398

³ Bond, Arthur "Numbers and Letters in New York City Handstamps 1879-1900" *US Cancellation Club News*, July 1968, p. 31.

⁴ Burr, op. cit., June 1935, p. 461.

⁵ Ibid..

⁶ Ibid..



Figure 2

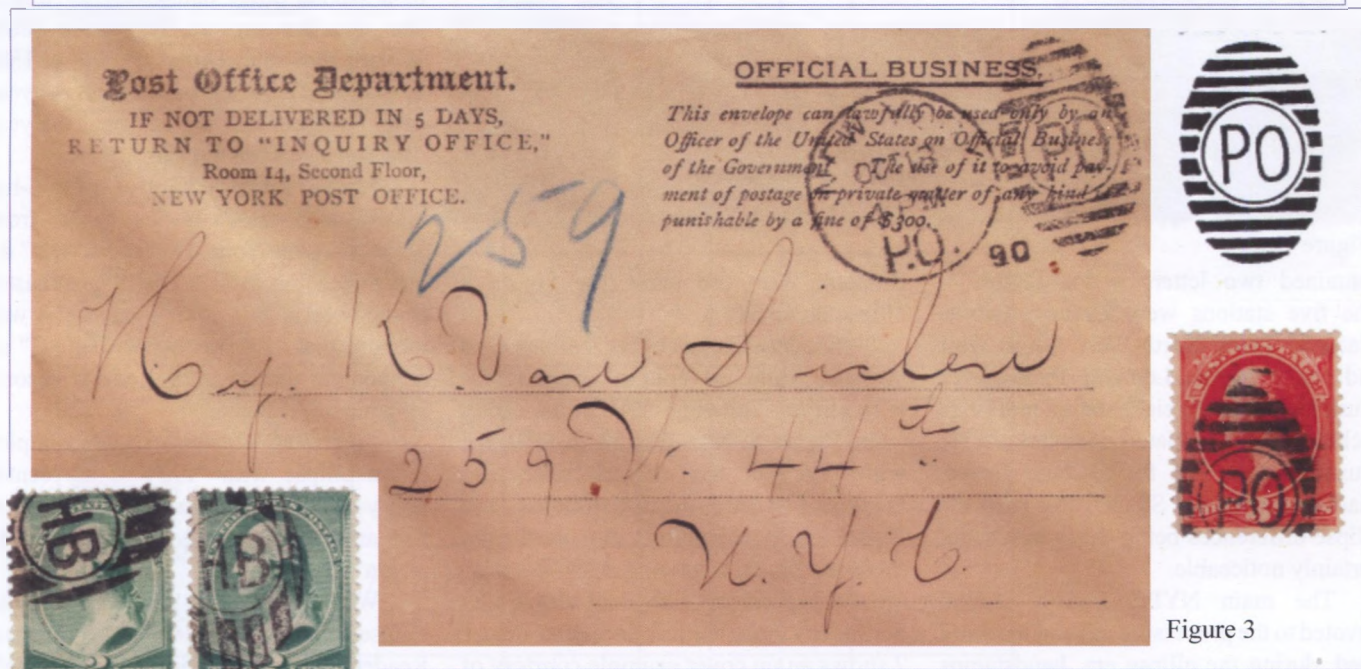


Figure 3

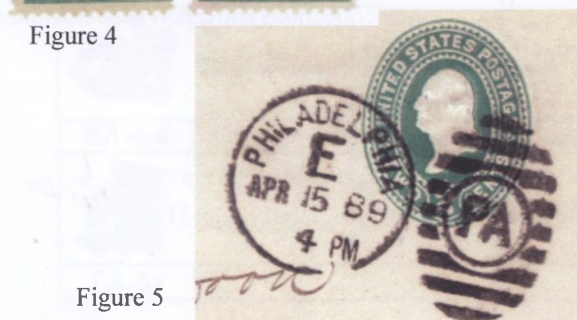


Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

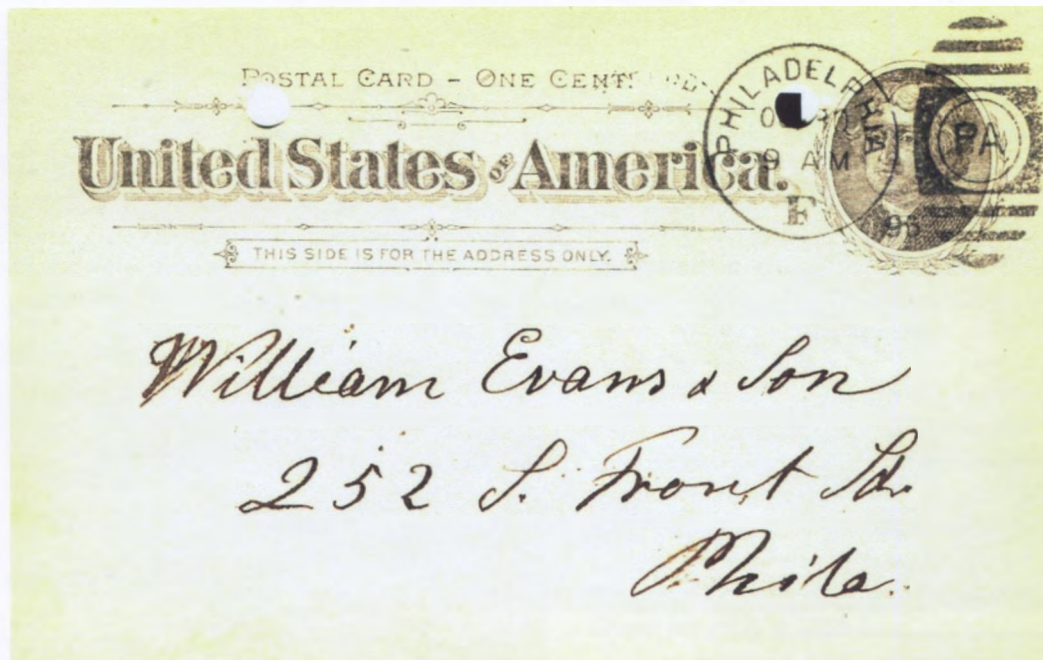


Figure 7

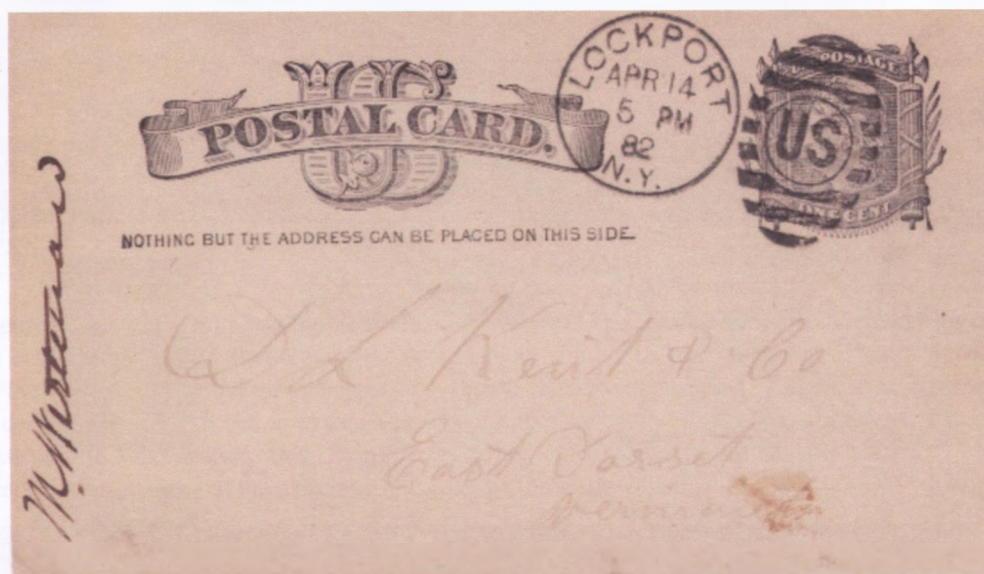


Figure 8



Figure 10



Figure 9





Figure 11



Figure 12

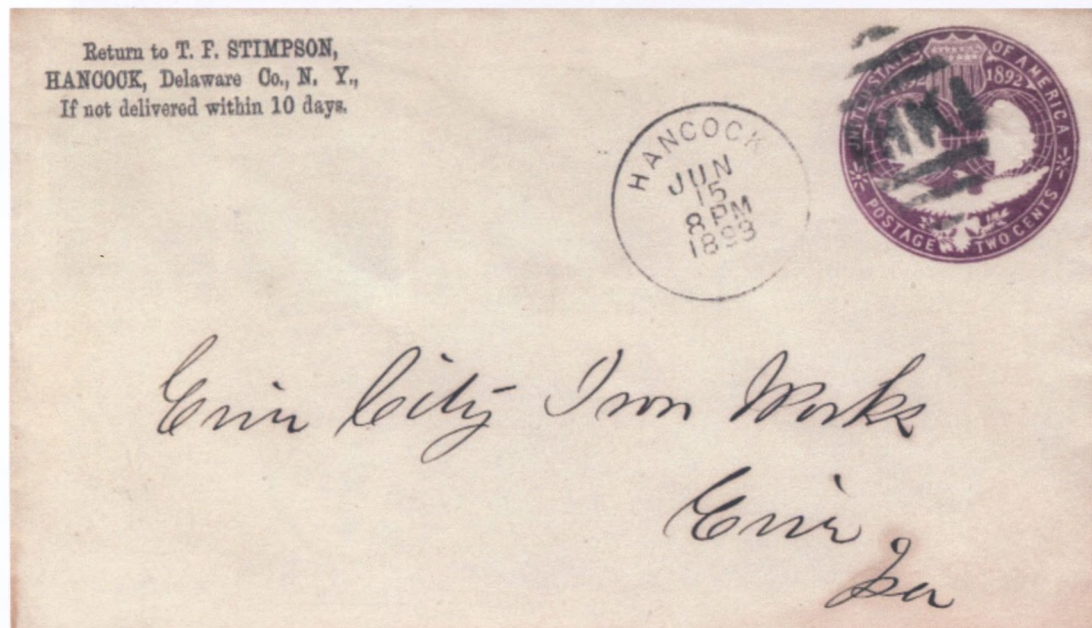


Figure 13



Figure 14

Color Cancellations on the 1869 Series: Savanna

by Ed Field

Though not widely appreciated for its cancellations, Savannah, Georgia produced at least ten intricate cancels in its signature blue color during 1869-70. Such cancels appear on both domestic and foreign mail, though the fanciest ones are found on domestic covers from 1869.

is dated December 24, 1869. Figure 2 shows a pristine strike of a "starburst" cancel on a folded wholesale commodity list sent to a New York merchant. The posting date is not known, and the printed list is dated simply 1869/1870. Figure 3 shows an undated piece bearing the

The next six figures show cancels on domestic mail sent at the 3-cent first-class rate. Figure 4 shows a colorful cover bearing a druggist's corner card and a circle-of-V's cancel. Figure 5 shows a cover bearing an asymmetric circle-of-wedges cancel. This cover originated outside of Savannah and was carried there by steamboat. Figure 6 shows another steamboat cover, this one bearing a small waffle cancel. Figures 7 through 9 show three electronically clipped corner squares bearing, respectively, segmented cork, complex grid, and small starburst cancels. The cancels in Figures 4 through 9 were struck during summer months, almost certainly in 1869.

The domestic mail cancels shown above are intricately carved, most are asymmetric, and several have a "freehand" look to them. All are distinctive and could be attributed to Savannah even if found on off-cover stamps.

Figures 10 and 11 show two different circle-of-wedges cancels from covers dated March 5 and May 16. Auxiliary information fixes the year as 1870. These generic cancels are much simpler than the distinctive ones shown in Figures 1 through 9. Absent the town stamps, they could be from almost anywhere.

Foreign Mail

My census has turned up 24 different foreign mail covers originating in Savannah. The earliest is dated October 9, 1869, the latest is June 25 1870. All but one are folded outer sheets addressed to cotton importers C.H. Wilson or W.A. Maxwell, both of Liverpool, England. The sole exception is a December 1869 cover to Spain, for which I do not have a decent scan to show.

Figure 12 shows a Wilson correspondence cover bearing the 6-cent stamp and dated May 14, 1870, just two days earlier than the domestic use shown in Figure 11. The cancels in Figures 11 and 12 are the same, demonstrating that Savannah did not use special cancels for foreign mail.



Figure 1

Figure 1 shows a bold "waffle" cancel on a folded Cotton Market Review sent at the two-cent unsealed circular rate to a company in Maine. As is typical for unsealed printed matter, this example bears no date stamp, but the circular itself

2-cent stamp and a cancel which, for want of a better term, I will call a "spiral of wedges". The tissue-like paper of this piece is similar to that of the circulars shown in Figures 1 and 2. I have seen a number of other Savannah circulars bearing similar cancels, but none as bold as the three shown here.

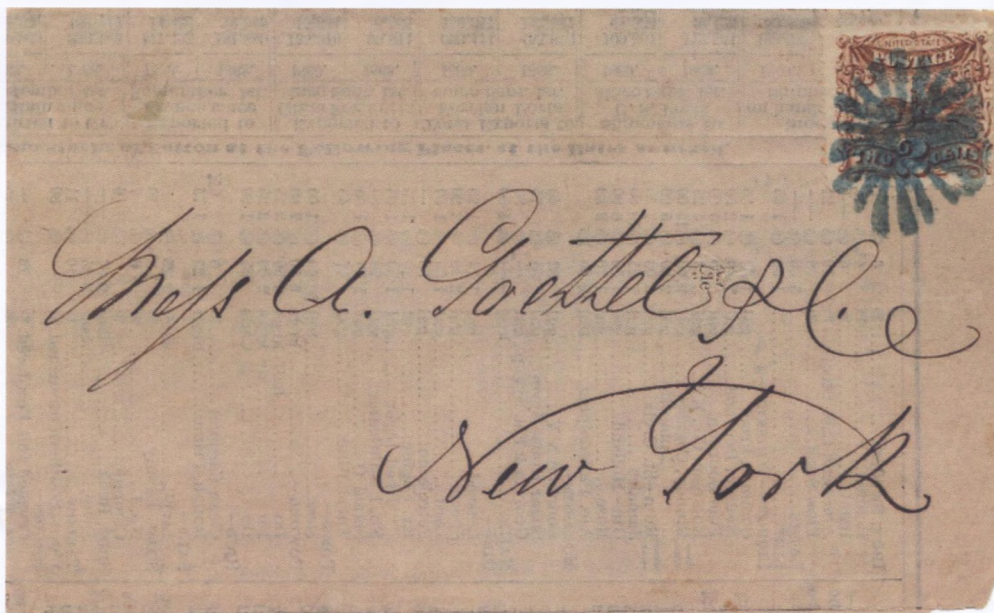


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13

Figure 13 shows a November 27, 1870 Maxwell correspondence cover bearing the 12-cent stamp and what appears to be a solid circular cancel. In fact, this cancel has much more structure than is apparent from this over-inked example. Close inspection of a clean, early strike reveals a multitude of negative dots similar to the dimples on a golfball--hence the nickname "golfball" cancel. (For a spectacular example see page 129 in the excellent book *Ten-Cent 1869 Covers A Postal Historical Survey* by Michael Laurence, Collector's Club of Chicago, 2010.) The cover shown in

Figure 13 is the earliest known use of the golfball.

Figure 14 shows a December 1869 Wilson cover bearing four 3-cent stamps and four golfball cancels. Figure 15 shows a January 1870 domestic cover bearing three 1-cent stamps and three golfball cancels. The addressee is the widow of Howell Cobb, Secretary of the U.S. Treasury (1857-60) and, later, an important Confederate general. This cover is the only domestic use of the golfball that I have seen. Figure 16 shows a corner square from a January 19, 1870 Wilson cover. This is the latest

documented use of the golfball, which had a lifetime just short of two months. A total of nine on-cover examples of the golfball are known; many more exist on off-cover six-and twelve-cent stamps. Aside from the circle-of-Vs and the golfball, the only 1869-era cancels known on Savannah foreign mail are simple quartered corks. However, simple does not mean cheap. A quartered-cork cancel on a Wilson cover bearing a 24-cent stamp appeared in Siegel's 1997 auction of the Rose collection. It sold for \$28,000!



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16