



U.S. Cancellation Club **NEWS**

Vol. 32, No. 3, Whole No. 292, August 2014

More on Early Chicago Duplex

by Roger D. Curran

A most important step in the evolution of U.S. 19th century cancellation practices was the adoption of handstamps that duplexed a postmarker to a canceler. In recent years the *NEWS* has given attention to duplex markings from post offices that took this step early. We'll define "early" as appearing in 1860 which made it not long after the July 1860 Post Office Department dictate prohibiting use of the postmarker

as a canceler of stamps. One of the several post offices to adopt the duplex handstamp in 1860 was Chicago. In the summer 1998 *NEWS*, data collected by Leonard Piskiewicz was presented on Chicago's transition from using the postmarker as a canceler, to using a separate canceler handstamp as an initial response to the POD dictate, and finally to adopting the duplex handstamp. Mr. Piskiewicz reported updated data on this subject in his 2006

Chicago book.¹ In it he lists September 26, 1860 as the earliest reported date for a Chicago duplex and September 20, 1860 as the latest reported date for the Chicago separate grid, leaving a six-day gap between the two dates. We are now able to add a September 25, 1860 usage of the separate grid (see Figure 1) which allows us to assume that September 26, 1860 was likely, although not necessarily, the first day of use of a Chicago duplex.

Since it has been a while since 1860 duplex data reports have appeared in these pages, the box below is provided. Needless to say, if readers can report new earliest duplex dates for any of the post offices listed or any 1860 duplex dates for currently unlisted post offices, you are encouraged to do so.

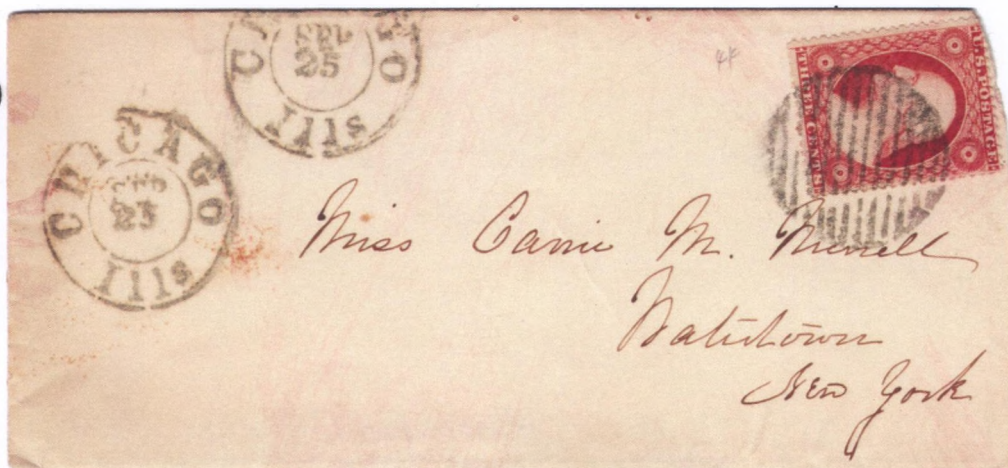


Figure 1

1860 Postmarker/Canceler Duplexes

PO	ERD	<i>NEWS</i> Issue
New York, NY	8/8/60	Feb 2008
Cleveland, OH	8/17/60	Nov 2007
Cincinnati, OH	8/17/60	Spring 1998
Chicago, IL	9/26/60	Aug 2014
Savannah, GA	10/14/60	Aug 2001
Pittsburgh, PA	10/26/60	May 2001
Buffalo, NY	12/9/60	Nov 2001



¹ Piskiewicz, Leonard *Chicago Postmarks and Postal History*, James E. Lee Publishing, Gary, IL (2006), pp. 28-9

The U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

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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.

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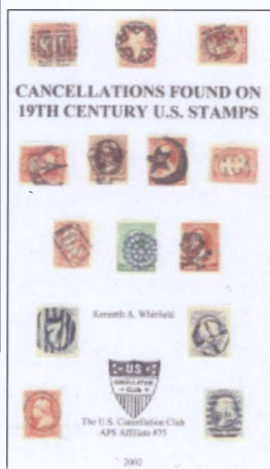
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Quarter Page	\$55.00	\$200.00
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Wesson "Time-On-Bottom" Markings Revisited, Compiled by Ralph A. Edson and Gilbert L. Levere, update of 1990 La Posta monograph, 190p. See p. 70 of November 2010 NEWS for announcement. \$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 latest Whitfield update pages. \$50 postpaid to U.S. addresses.

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Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

There will be an election of Club officers this year with the ballot going out in the November *NEWS*. Terms are two years and, as has been noted previously, all organizations benefit from the variety of perspectives and fresh ideas that an intake of new officers can provide. The officer positions are listed on the masthead and if you would be willing to serve as an officer or would just like to learn more about what is involved, please contact our president, John Donnes, or any of the other officers within the next six weeks. The officers work as a board to oversee Club operations and new initiatives. This is accomplished primarily through occasional telephone conference calls.

A hearty "thank you" goes to Judson Sartain for compiling the 3-part index covering the most recently completed volume of the *NEWS* which is included with this issue.

I'd like to renew a call made periodically in these pages for articles from Club members. Whether it concerns a single cover or stamp or the result of a long-term study of a broad cancellation subject, or something in between, please let us hear from you. This is your journal and what interests you will likely be of interest to our readers.

Roger Curran

President's Message

Dear Reader,

I'd like to announce that the Board of Directors has voted to hold the 2015 USCC general membership meeting at the American Philatelic Society's summer show in Grand Rapids, MI. The show is scheduled for August 20-23, 2015 and will be held at the DeVos Place (Convention Center). Our Club is planning on staffing an affiliates table for the four days and would truly appreciate any help our Club members might give in this regard. The date and time for our general membership meeting will be announced as soon as scheduled.

This would also be a good time for our Club members, whether first time or experienced exhibitors, to show a part of their collecting interest by submitting an exhibit in the single and/or multi frame competition. I personally feel it's not so much the winning of an award but the more gratifying and important sharing of one's material with interested viewers. Why not give it a try.

As pointed out in our editor's message, the *NEWS* is always in need of articles and short fill-in material. As we can all imagine, putting out a twenty page publication every three months is by no means an easy endeavor and I commend our editor, Roger, for having accomplished this for so many years. I would also like to echo his words that this is our journal and encourage the Club members to give as much support as possible.

Thanking all the readers in advance.

John Donnes

Advice on Making a Canceler

The United States Postal Guide and Official Advertiser was a privately published monthly publication that ran from July 1850 through June 1852. A full run was reprinted in book form by Theron Wierenga in 1982. Mr Wierenga noted in the Preface that one of the principals of the business producing the periodical had been for 14 years an auditor for the Post Office Department. The October 1851 issue (page 104)

carried the following commentary pertaining to cancellations:

"9. The Postmaster at E____, N.C. propounds several questions, to which we reply as follows:

1st. In relation to canceling stamps, the canceling is primarily required of the mailing office, and in an office like our correspondent's, it may be done by scoring the stamp with a pen, but in less

than a minute he can make perhaps the best instrument out of a piece of cork, by cutting it so as to leave a few ridges at one of the ends ..."

The cancellation produced by the above instruction would, of course, have been a circular grid, perhaps inspired by the enclosed 7-bar grid that had been supplied to the larger post offices beginning with the introduction of 1847 issue stamps.



EXHIBIT AWARDS WON BY USCC MEMBERS

April - June 2014

WESTPEX April 25-27

Matt Kewriga: Gold medal; also Chairman's Award-Best Traditional Exhibit for "The United States Jackson 2-cent Regular Issues 1870-1879."

Plymouth April 26-27

Eric Glohr: Silver medals for "Wells Fargo & Co in the Hawaiian Islands" and "19th Century Post Offices of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties, Michigan." Also, Single-Frame Vermeil medal and Peninsular State Philatelic Society Award for "Hawaii-The 1894 1-cent Coat of Arms Issue." St. Louis Stamp Expo: Mar 21-23

Philatelic Show May 2-47

Nancy Clark: Gold medal for "The Development of Railway Mail Routes in Georgia 1846-1889."

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

Matt Kewriga: Gold medal and Grand award. Also USPCS and USSS Statue of Freedom awards for "The United States Jackson 2-cent Regular Issues of 1870-1879." Also Gold medal and AAPE Award of Excellence (Title Page) for "The First United States and Brazil Steamship Company 1865-1875."

Rocky Mountain Stamp Show May 16-18

Nancy Clark: Gold medal; also USSS Statue of Freedom Award for "The U.S. Revalued Postal Stationary of 1971."

Les Lanphear: Vermeil medal (single frame) for "Penalty Clause Mail Used Outside the Continental U.S."

ROPEX May 16-17


Alan Parsons: Silver medal; also Women Exhibitors Sterling Achievement Award for "The Sullivan Commemorative of 1929."

NAPEX June 6-8

William Barlow: Gold medal; also USCC Award for "The Boston Post Office and the Development of the Machine Cancel."

Matt Kewriga: Gold medal; also Postal History Society Award for "Danish West Indies Foreign Mails: 1748-UPU." Also gold medal (single frame) for "U.S. 1870-73 2-cent Jackson Banknote: From Model to Completed Design."

Michael Plett: Vermeil medal for "U.S. Post Office Department Stamps: A Study in Black and White."



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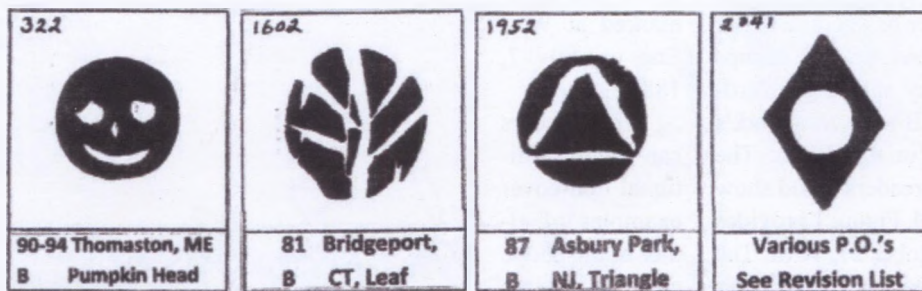
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Recently Identified Whitfield Cancels

by Wendell Triplett



Whitfield "pumpkin head" cancel #322 has been identified as being from Thomaston, Maine. It was used in black ink on Sc 220 (issued in 1890) and on other stamps issued as late as 1894. This cancel is not listed in Cole.

Whitfield "leaf" cancel #1602 has been identified as being from Bridgeport, Connecticut. It was used in black ink on Sc 207, which was issued

in July 1881. The postmark was dated "MAR 19." The cancel is not listed in Cole.

Whitfield "triangle" cancel #1952 has been identified as being from Asbury Park, New Jersey. It was used in black ink on Sc 213, which was issued in September 1887 and postmarked "May 2, 1888." This cancel is not listed in Cole.

Whitfield "circle in a diamond" cancel #2041 has been used by various post offices. Now we can add Mud Creek, Michigan. It was used in black ink on Sc 65 (issued in August 1861), with a postmark dated "DEC 15." Skinner & Eno list this cancel from Boston, but do not identify Mud Creek or other post offices.

More on Washington, D.C. "L" Ellipse

The May 2012 *NEWS* listed a date range for a large Washington, D.C. ellipse with an "L" in the center, used on local mail, as being 2/16/86-4/20/89. A report in the November 2012 *NEWS* extended the range to 1/5/90 and also stated that Carl Stieg, a student of Washington, D.C. postal history, had noted some years ago a gap in reported usage of the "L" ellipse which ran, based on his

records, from 8/28/86-4/17/89. However, he also noted use of a similar ellipse, but with a "C" rather than an "L" in the center, occurring within the gap period. Stieg recorded dates of 10/17/87-2/17/89 for the "C" ellipse. All reported covers bearing the "C" ellipse were also to local addresses. The above data show only a two

month period between a reported 4/20/89 use of the "L" ellipse and Stieg's 2/17/89 LRU for the "C" ellipse, but a nearly 14 month period between a reported 8/27/86 use of the "L" ellipse and Stieg's ERU of 10/17/87 for the "C" ellipse. The card in Figure 1 changes that long period. Dated 8/8/87, it shortens the interval to approximately two and a half months.

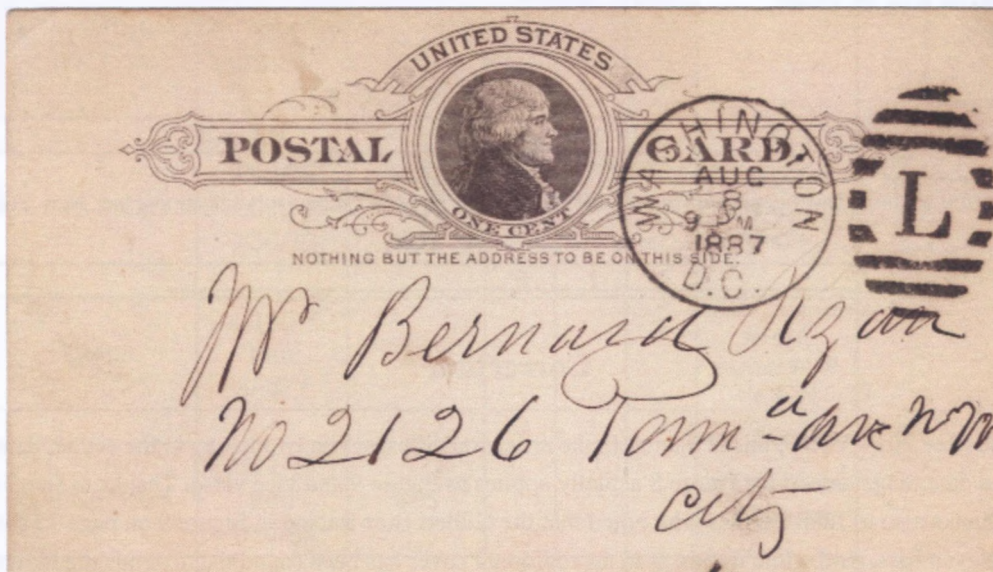


Figure 1

Ellipses with Two Letters – an Update

Two covers pertinent to the article in the May 2014 *NEWS* about ellipses with two letters in the center have come to our attention. Two off-cover Sc 213 stamps were illustrated in May showing a vertical bar ellipse with “HB” (for New York’s High Bridge station) in the center. The question was asked if readers could show a cover with this cancel. Figure 1 provides an example, dated October 27, 1896. The 1896 date suggests that the cancel was used for several years, at least, given the expected period of use of Sc 213.

The earlier article also illustrated a West End, New Jersey cover dated August 30, 1884 bearing an ellipse with “WE” in the center. Years ago, Edward Willard offered these interesting remarks:

West End, New Jersey, had a very interesting cancellation. We doubt that very many cancellations were made at this post office, but because it is unusual, we suspect a greater number were saved as it is not uncommon. There is the usual nine-bar ellipse with inner circle which encloses the letters WE which are formed so as to fill the entire inner circle. We know of no other exactly the same, and double letters inside the inner circle are not common.¹

We were able to report only one cover – the example illustrated in May. A second cover (Figure 2) can now be shown,

addressed to Paris, and post-marked at West End on July 7, 1884.

If readers can report additional on-cover examples of either of the above cancels, please let us hear from you.



Figure 1



Figure 2

¹ Willard, Edward L. *The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887*, Vol. II, H.D. Lindquist Publications, Inc., New York, NY (1970), page 159.

Correction

On page 33 of the May 2014 *NEWS*, third column, in the article on ellipses with two letters in the center, date ranges are shown for Figures 8 and 9. The date range shown for Figure 8 actually applies to Figure 9 and vice versa. Thanks to Dan Fellows for pointing out this reversal. And thanks also to John Donnes who noted that the Gilbert Burr tracing in Figure 9 on page 35 shows ten rather than the correct number of eleven bars. And while we are at it, an additional cover has been found that extends the Figure 9 date range from 8/12/82 to 8/18/82.

Corry Fancy Cancels, Part 2









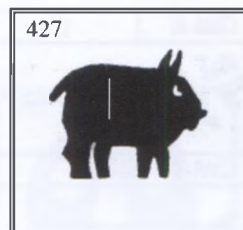
We continue in this issue to present data from the census of Corry, Pennsylvania fancy cancels, 1866-1872, developed by Clifford Woodward. The first part of this census was reported in the

May 2014 *NEWS*. Cliff is eager to expand his database and readers are encouraged to contact him with additional reports of on or off cover examples. He can be reached at vagabond3@comcast.net or 1805 Shaler







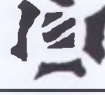


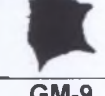

Dr., Glenshaw, PA 15116-2140. The several full-size illustrations are all from either Skinner-Eno or Whitfield.

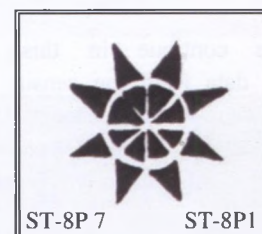
Corry PA Fancy Cancel Census

TYPE	CLASS	DATE	STAMP	QUANTITY			NOTES
	"NESTING DUCK"	10/5/67 thru 11/4/67	#65	Covers	Pieces	Stamps	
AN-1				2	0	0	
	PIG TY. 1-c	7/19/7? thru 7/22/7?	#158, #U84				Herst Sampson #1465
AN-2Ac				2	0	4	
	PIG TY. II	8/21/7?	#147, #158				
AN-2B				1	2	6	
	PIG TY. III	9/10/72 thru 9/30/72	#147 #158 #U?				Herst Sampson #1464
AN-2C				5	1	2	
	CAMEL	4/13/7? thru 5/3/7?					Herst Sampson #1438 Whitfield #419 Cole #AN-5
AN-3				3	1	1	
	LARGE CORK	12/1/63 thru 1/14/64	#65				approx. size of quarter
GM-1A				3	0	0	














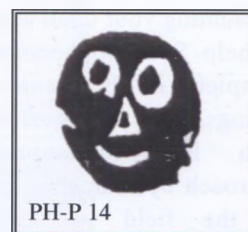
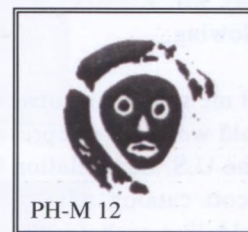
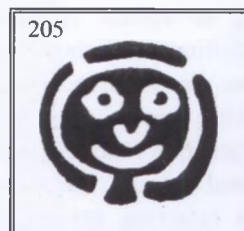
Corry PA Fancy Cancel Census

TYPE	CLASS	DATE	STAMP	QUANTITY			NOTES
				Covers	Pieces	Stamps	
	SMALL CORK	1/26/67	#U58				
GM-1B				1	0	0	
	WHEEL	1/1/67 thru 1/8/67	#65				
GM-2				2	0	1	
	8-P SOLID STAR	7/17/6?	#65				
GM-3				1	0	0	
	8-PT STAR-LG	1/1/6? thru 6/6/6?	#65, #U23, #U58				Center medallion 12 mm dia. Skinner-Eno #ST 8P7
GM-4A				15	0	2	
	8-PT STAR-SM	5/20/67 thru 6/24/67	#65				Center medallion 10.5 mm dia. Skinner-Eno #ST 8P7
GM-4B				4	0	0	
	HOLLOW STAR	5/20/69 thru 5/22/69	#65 #94				
GM-5				3	0	1	
	RECT IN WINGS	11/10/69	#114				
GM-6				2	0	0	
	FLYING V'S	6/20/70	#114, #116				
GM-7				1	0	1	
	5-PT STAR	9/23/7? thru 9/26/7?	#146, #147				
GM-8				2	0	0	
	6-PT WEB	4/11/7?	#147				
GM-9				1	0	0	
	DIAMOND	7/2/75	#158				
GM-10				1	0	0	



Corry PA Fancy Cancel Census

TYPE	CLASS	DATE	STAMP	QUANTITY			NOTES
	STARBURST	3/19/6?	#65	Covers	Pieces	Stamps	
GM-11				1	0	0	
	CIRCULAR GRID	August, 186?	#65				
GM-12				1	0	0	
	FACE w/TIE	7/24/6? thru 7/26/6?	#65				Herst Sampson #1350 Whitfield #205 Cole JO-110
MS-1				2	0	0	
	FACE IN FRAME	7/22/66 thru 11/21/66	#63, #65, #73				Skinner-ENO #PH-M12
MS-2				6	0	4	
	FROWNING FACE						Previously published but now invalid
(MS-3)	Found to be misinterpretation of MS-2			0	0	0	
	OVAL FACE	"1861"					believed to be a mis-attribution of MS-9
(MS-4)	No examples seen, only S&E PH-P14			0	0	0	
	FACE w/EARS	7/23/6? thru 8/10/6?	#114				
MS-5				4	0	0	
	JACK-O-LANTERN	1/18/70 thru 4/12/70	#114, #U35				Skinner ENO #PH-P4 Whitfield #302
MS-6				5	0	0	
	PUMPKIN	1/10/70 thru 4/14/70	#114, #U35				
MS-7				5	0	0	
	SUN FACE	9/18/69 thru 11/15/69	#114				
MS-8				6	0	2	
	OVAL FACE	7/18/72 thru 8/27/72	#135, #147 #158, #U?				Skinner ENO #PH-P147
MS-9				8	0	0	



Additions to *Scott Specialized* – A Proposal

by Roger D. Curran

An article in the May 2014 *NEWS* commented on the practice in *Scott Specialized* of listing postal marking cancellations on 19th century U.S. stamps. It was noted that a number of such cancellations could be added to the listings.

Recently, I wrote to Charles Snee, editor of *Scott Specialized*, asking what information the catalog editors would need to receive from collectors wanting to submit recommendations for additional listings. A prompt response was received from Mr. Snee and during conversation he expressed a very positive reaction to considering additional listings. He mentioned that he was referring my inquiry to Jim Kloetzel, who retired as the *Scott* catalog editor in 2012 but was still handling the editing and valuing of U.S. and Canadian stamps for *Scott*. In an email, Mr. Kloetzel stated, in part, the following:

Let me say at the outset that we would welcome a representative of the U.S. Cancellation Club as a *Scott* catalog advisor, if you would like to have the society appoint a qualified liaison to work with the *Scott* editors. At the present time, we add cancellations to the catalog when I notice them in auction catalogs or when our current 19th century advisors point them out to us. We do not have the time to rigorously pursue new listings of cancellations, as I am sure you can understand.

Assuming your Club would like to help *Scott* to become more complete in their cancellation listings, may I suggest we start with less-than-comprehensive approach by attacking a portion of the field we eventually want to cover completely? I would suggest we start with the Postmaster Provisionals and U.S. Postage from No. 1 to No.

39. I suggest this for two reasons. First, we have limited time in any one year to attempt massive changes to very large sections of the catalog, and second, it would probably be wise to tackle a smaller group of stamps, just in case what you wish to supply does not correspond exactly to what we would add to the catalog. Better to test the waters than for your Club members to engage in a massive amount of work and then find that it is not exactly what the catalog editors are looking for ... In order for additions to be considered, we would of course want scans or photocopies of material under consideration. Actual stamps would not have to be submitted. Certification is not necessary, as long as your Club members are satisfied with the genuineness of cancellations. Perhaps you would like to set up a *Scott* committee to gather and review submissions from Club members and confirm their genuineness. This would make us all feel confident in the input to be supplied to *Scott*.

As far as the present policy of *Scott* concerning such listings, we aim to be as complete as possible. As you no doubt know, we assume a generic cancellation in black for the basic listing of the used stamp, unless the listings indicate that some other color is more common (such as on Nos. 1 and 2). For the period covered by Nos. 1-39, the types of cancellations listable are pretty well summed up in the lists following Nos. 1 and 2. Remember that to be listed, the cancellation must fall on the stamp. There are exceptions to that rule that have been grandfathered into the catalog, such as the U.S. Express Mail

cancel on the cover instead of the stamp. Normally, we would only list such a cancellation if such a cancel is not known to fall on a stamp.

The purpose of this article is to propose that a USCC committee be formed to consider what additions our Club would wish to recommend to the current *Scott Specialized* listings of postal marking cancellations. This committee would presumably review suggestions from individual Club members and decide which would be endorsed and sent on to *Scott*. The committee would consider possible additional categories of postal markings beyond those already listed. For example, while there are separate listings for "Paid" and "Numeral," there is no category for the combination of "Paid" and "Numeral," such as "PAID 3," nor is there currently a "DUE" cancellation category. In the future, the committee might consider proposals to extend cancellation listings to postage due stamps, postal cards and postal stationery and also look at other issues. The overall objective would be to help *Scott* present a more complete picture of the existence of postal marking cancellations known to collectors. Also, it would be hoped that such additions would draw increased attention to the cancellation field and promote the collection and study of cancellations.

The comments of Club members are eagerly sought. Do you think this is a worthwhile project for the Club to undertake? If "yes," suggestions on how to proceed initially would be welcomed. If the Club adopts the project, it would probably organize to do so before the end of the year. Please send comments, etc. to Club president Joan Donnes or to me at our email or regular mail addresses on the *NEWS* masthead.

Postmarks as Censors

The Post Office Department in July 1860 forbade the use of the town postmark as a canceler of postage stamps. However, this didn't mean that the practice stopped

completely. Far from it, as we all know. Displayed on this page are examples of postmarks as cancels on the Sc 65 stamp from the collection of Abe Boyarsky. On

the two remarkable covers one wonders if the clerks made a point of using an unduplexed postmarker so as to avoid defacing of the appealing artwork.



Roller Cancels

Cancels applied by rollers in the 1870s and 80s exist but are not common. Those seen most frequently were used by the New York Post Office on circular mail. (See August 2002 and August 2003 *NEWS* issues.) Figure 1 presents an unusual case. What apparently happened was the initial application of two strikes of a duplex handstamp that did a very inadequate job both of postmarking and canceling, but especially of canceling. Subsequently, perhaps at a different station in the San Francisco post office, a roller was used to cancel the stamps. What material was

used for the roller surface is unknown. The cancels have a texture of fine lines flowing lengthwise. The style of the ellipse involved is shown in Figure 2 which included ellipses with "1," "2," or "3" in the center. The Figure 2 tracing is reproduced from *La Posta Monograph*, Vol. 8, *San Francisco Postal Markings 1847-1900* by John H. Mahoney which is an excellent resource. San Francisco is known to have used a roller cancel comprised of several rows of square/rectangular dots, on some registered mail – see May 2005 *NEWS*.

The cancel in Figure 3 involves, of

course, a revenue use of the 2¢ vermilion. The roller applied no ink but rather just impressed a strong half-inch wide grill that broke the paper fibers of the stamp in numerous places.



Figure 2



Figure 1

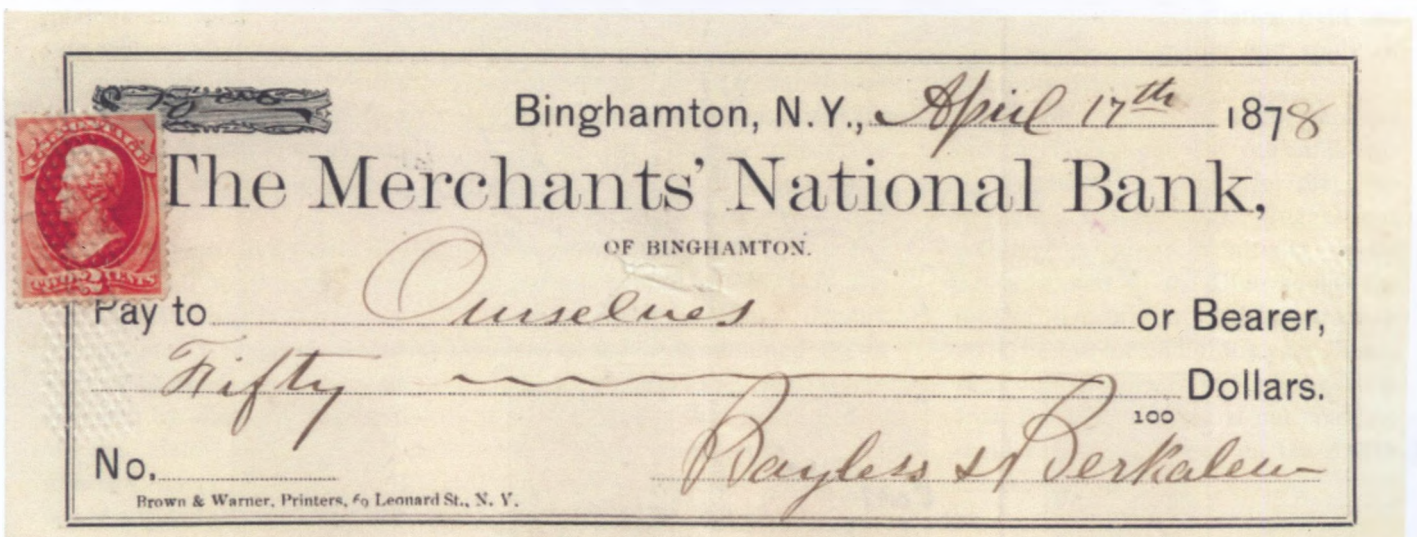
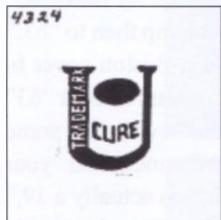


Figure 3

The "I Cure You" Cancel

The Harshaville, Pennsylvania post office used for some period a most unusual cancellation. See Whitfield tracing 4324



at Figure 1. What is shown as a dark oval is actually, I believe, more of a roundish blob. It is thought to be a representation of an "eye," thus creating in the cancel the message "I cure you." Whitfield and Cole both report the cancel, but only on 1883 issue stamps.

Willard reports it on Sc 210. It has been for many years regarded as a precancel. David Smith, a specialist in precancels, has reported it as a precancel used on the following: Sc 210, Sc 209, postal card UX8, Sc 212, Sc 213, and postal stationery U294.¹ He notes it used by a business named Armstrong's Diphtheria and Quincy Drops.

The covers in Figure 2, dated December 28, 1887 and March 21, 1888 show no evidence of being used by the above-mentioned business and appear to be personal correspondence. However,

with no remaining enclosures, that is not certain. One can say from comparing the two examples that the canceler was not duplexed. The distance between postmark and cancel varies. The cancel is remarkably clear in both strikes with the negative "TRADEMARK," in very small letters, being easily readable. The few examples and images your editor has seen all have the cancel fully struck on the stamp and tilted slightly to the right. Mr. Smith reports the cancel in two sizes, with the difference measured in terms of the size of the word "TRADEMARK" – 14 x 10 mm. and 14 x 11.5 mm.² If the canceler was made of rubber, the difference may be explainable as a function of the nature of the individual strikes – how much pressure applied and/or the angle of the canceler as it met the underlying surface.

The question arises as to whether this is truly a precancel. Or are the strikes the result of the careful application of the cancels to mail generally in the Harshaville post office. Answering this question surely requires more information than presented here and readers are encouraged to report images or any other pertinent information that would help in understanding how the canceler was used. Also, examples of any other Harshaville cancels used during or around the 1877-1888 period would be very much welcomed.

The Harshaville post office operated from 1859 to 1901. It was located in Beaver Co. on Pennsylvania's western border northwest of Pittsburgh. In the 1890 census report, Harshaville was listed as having a population of 67.



Figure 2

¹ Smith, David W. *Silent Precancels*, The Precancel Stamp Society (2004), p. 138.

² Ibid.

Large Boston Negatives – New Dates

It's remarkable to think that a standard postal history reference used today for a major U.S. city is 65 years old. But such is the case. *Boston Postmarks to 1890* by Maurice Blake and Wilbur Davis was first published in 1949. Several pages of this book are devoted to what collectors refer to as the large Boston negative cancels which were employed from 1878 to 1884. (See a typical example at Figure 1.) These



pages are where any study of those cancels today would likely start.

In November 2003 the USCC issued a Progress Report on a Club project to collect information on dates of use of these cancels. A list of 129 different cancels was produced, of which 126 had been reported by Blake and Davis and three were more recently discovered by Club members. Eight of those listed had not been fully dated.

In March 2012, Bob Grosch produced an unpublished update to the 2003 report. He was able to add four new cancels and one variant of a Blake and Davis listed cancel. He also provided dates for most of the previously undated cancels so that there were only three cancels without an established date.

Bob has now reported dates for two of the three undated cancels, the "S" and "N" in double circles – see Figure 2 and 3. This leaves only the Blake and Davis "16" in circle with no established date – see Figure 4. Bob and your editor now have some doubts about whether that "16" actually exists. As Bob points out, in the three categories of Boston negatives with a number (beyond the "numbers in a circle" category in which the "16" is reported), there are no listings for a "16" or even a "15." (Those three categories are "number in square," "number in double circle" and "number in square between two lines.") We wonder if a distorted strike was misinterpreted as a "16" when it

was actually some other number, say, conceivably a "10" – see Figure 5. In this we are reminded of a Boston ellipse set with most numbers reported by Blake and Davis up to "48" with a jump then to "63." Dan Haskett submitted a Boston cover to the *NEWS* with what appears to be a "63" in the ellipse cancel. However, after some analysis, Dan, John Donnes and your editor concluded that it was actually a 39," partially struck on the stamp and partially on the cover which led to distortion. See pages 145-6 in the November 2011 *NEWS*. We think this cover was probably the basis for the Blake and Davis "63" report.

We'll close with mention of two late use dates of Boston negatives. (Reference here is to cancels applied by the Boston PO directly, not by railway clerks on lines with a terminus in Boston.) The front page of the August 2005 *NEWS* illustrated a cover in the collection of John Donnes of a Boston negative ("T" in double circle) dated December 30, 1883 which, at the time, was the latest reported use of a large Boston negative. Several years ago Bob Grosch recorded a Boston negative "K" in double circle (see a Blake and Davis tracing of the generic design at Figure 6) dated May 22, 1884 that he recalls was sold on ebay. We would like to illustrate this cover and, indeed, any covers dated later than December 30, 1883. Did a USCC member buy the ebay cover? Do members have other late uses? If so, we urge that such covers be reported to the *NEWS*.



Figure 2



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 3

Fake Cancels



In response to the article in the May 2014 *NEWS* that illustrated fake cancels submitted by the Steven Hines, Vince Costello reports some fakes he has encountered over the years. The first three stamps in the top row bear fake "SHIP" cancels. There must have been a fair number of these made as they show up with some frequency. Strikes are typically incomplete as shown here. The red cancel on the next stamp bleeds through the stamp badly. The "liberty head" cancel on the last stamp in the top row has been opined to be a fake by APEX. A cancel with this general design is known from Naperville, Illinois – see Figure 1 which illustrates Whitfield tracing #88.

Reported examples are in "magenta" or "purple" ink.

The cancel on the first stamp in the second row has been judged a fake by expertiser Bill Weiss. (Incidentally, it would be rare occurrence to have a genuine cancel on a specimen stamp.) The cancel on the second stamp purports to be an exchange office marking (of a type going back to the 1850s) designed for use on mail to British North America. See a typical example in Figure 2.¹ The faker ran into a bit of trouble, as Vince points out, with the spelling of "STATES" as it apparently came out "STATS." The barrel cancel on the middle stamp looks like it might be a more elaborate Waterbury design

than the well-known Waterbury barrel that has been documented – see Figure 3 which illustrates Whitfield #527 and Rohloff #O1 tracings. Regrettably, the APEX certificate states that the cancel is not genuine. The cancels on the last two stamps in the middle row show two "NYFM" cancels that appear to be OK. However, as Vince noted, there is one big problem. Compared to genuine NYFM cancels, the spokes in these two cancels flow in the wrong direction.

The "running chicken" cancels in the bottom row are examples of a well-known fake that is said to be the product of a prominent dealer who was active in the mid-1900s.

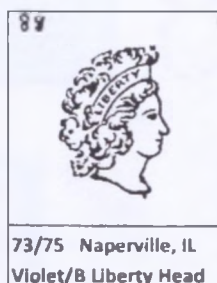


Figure 1

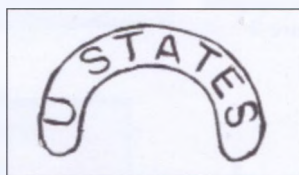


Figure 2



Figure 3



¹Alexander, Thomas J. *U.S. Postal Markings 1851-61*, USPCS, Columbus, Ohio (1979), p. 317..

Color Cancellations on the 1869 Series: Postal Markings Used as Cancels

by Ed Field

Either by accident or for convenience, postal marking handstamps not intended for obliteration were sometimes used as cancels. This article shows examples of such uses on the U.S. stamps of 1869. My criterion for inclusion is that the mark be the main cancel on the stamp; incidental postal markings on stamps also bearing bold killers are thus excluded. I will focus on red marks, which typically appeared on foreign mail.

Figure 1 illustrates the deliberate

use of a rate mark as a cancel. The cover front is from a mourning envelope addressed to South Australia and bearing a strip of three 12-cent stamps and a 3-cent stamp. Close inspection reveals three barely visible strikes of a black

stamp; Figure 3 shows a numeral "5" in a circle on the 10-cent stamp. The partial blue solid-circle cancel on that stamp might be from Savannah. Figure 4 (ex Grunin) shows PAID" and italic numeral "21" cancels on a 10-cent stamp. The centering of these cancels indicates the postal clerk was trying to make an attractive piece. I think he succeeded. Figure 5 shows large and small numeral "8" cancels on two 12-cent stamps. Figure 6 shows a numeral "24" cancel on the 24-cent stamp. It is probably unique. Figure 7 shows a British "1d" colonial credit marking on the 30-cent stamp. Though this marking is known on a number of covers, it is the only one I have seen used as a cancel.

Figure 8 (ex-Rose) shows a faint, partial "NEW YORK STEAMSHIP" cancel on the 1-cent stamp. I wish it were bolder. Figure 9 shows a partial "STEAMSHIP" cancel on the 10-cent stamp. I have seen one other. Figure 10 shows a piece bearing the 2-cent stamp and two nice strikes of a "U.S. SHIP" cancel. I have not seen another on an 1869 stamp.

Figure 11 shows a "SUPPLEMENTARY MAIL" Type A cancel on a 24-cent stamp. I have not seen another on an 1869 stamp. Figures 12 and 13 show, respectively, a partial "PAID ALL" cancel on a 6-cent stamp and a "PAID" cancel on a 10-cent stamp. A number of similar cancels are known on 1869 stamps.



Figure 1

use of a rate mark as a cancel. The cover front is from a mourning envelope addressed to South Australia and bearing a strip of three 12-cent stamps and a 3-cent stamp. Close inspection reveals three barely visible strikes of a black

sum in 1870.

The next six figures show red numeral cancels of unknown origin on off-cover high-denomination stamps. All are certified genuine. Figure 2 shows a large numeral "4" on the six-cent



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



U.S. SHIP

Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14

**Questions From Club Members**

Merritt Jenkins submits two recent acquisitions and asks readers for any available information on the cancellations involved. Figure 1 shows a cover from Panama Park, Florida dated May 27, 1891 bearing five strikes of what is apparently a negative “D” surrounded by a segmented rim of miscellaneous shapes. Panama Park operated in Duval County from 1885-1929. We can speculate that the “D” is the postmaster’s initial. The second item is somewhat similar, but with the center section giving the appearance

of a negative “4” inside a “P.” Merritt reports having another example of this cancel.

The Figure 2 cancel bears a strong resemblance to a cancel discussed in the February 2004 *NEWS* – see Figure 3. A “D” and a “4” for Danforth, no doubt! From the docketing we can determine that the cover entered the mails on September 20, 1893, which fits in the use period of the Sc 220 stamp. The notches in Figures 2 and 3 don’t match closely and Merritt’s example may be from a separately carved killer. However, it

seems reasonable to conclude that it is also from Danforth, Maine.

Bill Stearns writes about the cancel on a Brooklyn New York cover in his collection dated March 1, 1865. The cancel, shown here as Figure 4, is unduplexed. Tracings from Skinner-Eno and Whitfield are illustrated in Figure 5. As Bill points out, in each of the four wedges, some intended design appears to have been carved, but what?

Readers who have examples or records of the above cancels, or information about them, are urged to contact the *NEWS*. Speculation, especially in regard to Figure 4, will also be welcomed.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

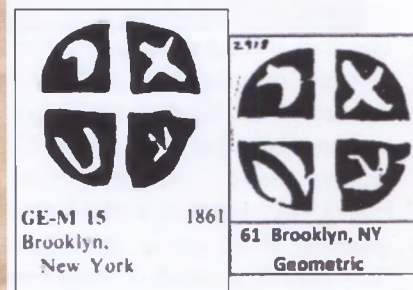


Figure 5

Noted in Passing

by Roger D. Curran

Ernie Webb writes with a 24th recorded cover bearing the "Lincoln and Stars" cancel. It is dated October 4th and addressed to Private Charles Reynolds. Also to be noted are two minor corrections to the listing of covers on page 18 of the February 2014 *NEWS*. The addressee of cover #6 is Lt. C.W. Flagler and for cover #10 it is Chappell & Dodds. Meanwhile, Abe Boyarsky has submitted two excellent strikes from his collection, one on cover and the other on small piece – see Figure 1.

It is, of course, a "Boston negatives" style cancel but since the "J" in circle has been reported from both Boston and Portland, Maine, we cannot say that it is definitely from Boston. The first thing to mention is the diagonal gash at the lower left side of the cancel. I assume these cancels were professionally engraved in wood and the gash was presumably caused by a slip of the engraver's tool. Readers will also note

the fine lines showing in the background of the cancel. (See the August 2004 Progress Report on the "Boston negatives" for a speculation on why such lines exist.) The basic question is whether they come from the surface of the canceler or reflect the texture of the cloth covering of the inepad. Where such a cancel appears on cover, one can examine the CDS strike to see if it also shows evidence of fine lines. If yes in a

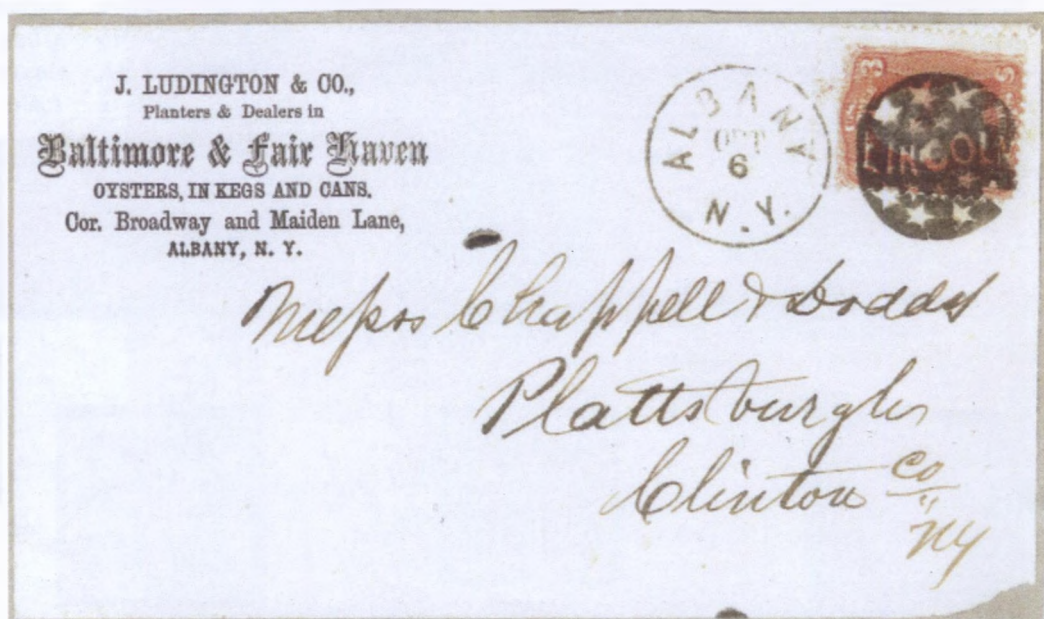
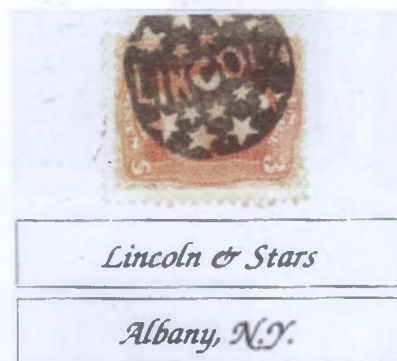


Figure 1

Dan Haskett reports two strikes of what clearly appear to be the same cancel – see Figure 2.

particular case, we can, of course, be quite sure it comes from the inkpad. In the case of Figure 2, even though the stamps are off cover, we can determine that the lines



Figure 2

come from the inkpad because the direction of the lines varies from one strike to the other. On the left stamp the lines are essentially vertical in relation to the "J" but on the right stamp they are somewhat diagonal to the "J." Dan submits a rather extreme example of a cancel with background lines – see Figure 3. There is no

evidence of this ribbing in the CDS and it is considered likely that the ribbing was, for some reason, on the face of the canceler.

When cancellation collectors think of Ann Arbor, Michigan they likely think of



Figure 4

the 1884 fancy cancels carved by Harry C. Nichols, a clerk who began work in the Ann Arbor post office in 1881. The two most outstanding examples are shown in Figure 4. The Fall 2003 *Peninsular Philatelist*, journal of Michigan's postal history society, presented an Ann Arbor

cancel that had been newly discovered by Dr. Frank Whitehouse – see Figure 5. It was noted in blue ink on two UX-1 postal cards dated August 10 1875. This the tenure ter Charles (1872 - the cancel to be ".... earliest of the Ann Arbor fancy cancellations." Can any reader report further examples of this cancel? Thanks to editor Charlie Wood for permission to reproduce the cancel. He stated, incidentally, that he has heard of no additional reports in the ten years since the Whitehouse article appeared.



Figure 5

The postal card in Figure 6 was postmarked at Bellefont, Virginia on January 27, 1882. The odd killer consists of



a circle of small wedges (some with squared ends) and a large open space in the middle. In the open space is a "27" in a different font than the "27" in the postmark. Using a canceler that tells the day of the month would hardly seem needed, although the accompanying very poor postmark in this particular case could use some help. The Bellefont

post office, located in Nottoway Co., had a short life, operating only from 1875-1882. Figure 7 shows two somewhat similar cancels, one with a "5" and the other a "12" in the center. Do these also repeat the postmark date? Reports of additional cancels like these as well as reader comments will be welcomed.

Figure 7



Figure 6



Joe Crosby reported in the February 2013 *NEWS* a very distinctive and fancy negative "P" cancel on an off-cover Sc 210 stamp. He noted that many years ago this cancel, along with 14 other negative "P" cancels, was reported in the literature by Richard Russell to be from Princeton, Illinois. A John Donnes tracing of Joe's cancel appears here as Figure 8. (This cancel, incidentally, involves a decidedly more fancy "P" than any of the other 14 cancels.) Recently, the cover in Figure 9 came to the attention of the *NEWS* which adds a Princeton negative "P" cancel that was not reported by Russell. (Thanks to John Donnes for the tracing that accompanies.) All 15 of the Russell cancels involved a solid background with no negative lines. The year



Figure 8

date of the Figure 9 cover is unknown.

The November 2012 *NEWS* briefly discussed and illustrated early examples of "Maltese Cross" cancels. Quote marks are used here because the term has more to do with what we collectors generally



Figure 9

is unlisted and if any reader can identify the post office of origin, please contact the *NEWS*.

Leavitt machine cancels are common on postal cards from the latter 1870s to the early 1890s. Their uniform size enabled



Figure 10



Figure 11

accept as an apt description than what is technically correct, at least in a strict sense – see Figure 10. An additional early usage is presented here as Figure 11. The cancel



Figure 12

Leavitt machines to handle cards effectively. Letters, of course, of varying size and thickness presented problems that the Leavitt company was unable to overcome, despite various machine reworkings and trials. In the case of envelopes processed by Leavitt machines, a considerable majority bore 1¢ stamps. They typically contained circulars and were presumably mailed in batches using envelopes of uniform size for which the machines, apparently to some extent, could be adjusted to accommodate. The cover in Figure 12 was probably canceled as part of a trial of mixed size first class mail that likely, in the aggregate, didn't go well, although this particular cover seems to have been processed satisfactorily.


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"running man"