



U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

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More on an Insufficiently Paid Cover

The front page of the May 2014 *NEWS* carried an article on a cover addressed to Pelham, New York, franked with a 2¢ vermilion, that entered the mails at the NYPO on September 17, 1880. Commentary on what were or may have been the steps in handling the cover was offered. Victor Kuil has reflected on this matter and submitted what your editor believes to be an excellent explanation of the step-by-step handling, which is as follows:

- (1) the initial processing clerk canceled the 2¢ stamp and noticed the one cent postage deficiency whereupon he struck the "held for postage" marking;
- (2) the cover was returned to sender by placing it in the PO box indicated on the corner card as the return address;

- (3) the sender saw the canceled 2¢ stamp, assumed "held for postage" meant that the NYPO was asking for a full rate of postage to be paid and thus affixed the 3¢ stamp to the cover; and
- (4) the cover was returned to the NYPO where the 3¢ stamp was canceled on September 18 and the cover sent to Pelham.

As Victor pointed out, had the sender checked at a NYPO customer window, he would have learned that 1¢ in additional postage would have been sufficient. Also, if a one cent postage due stamp had been affixed, that would have clarified the situation.

Victor supplied a copy of the operative statute regarding the underpayment, *An Act Relating to the Postal Laws*, dated May 1, 1865. The

pertinent paragraph of "Instruction, Sec. 1" is quoted herewith:

(b) All domestic letters partly prepaid, and soldiers' and sailors' letters duly certified according to instruction 27 issued with act of March 3, 1863, must be forwarded to their destinations, charged with the amounts of postage due, at prepaid rates, to be collected on delivery, except letters bearing requests for their return to the writers if unclaimed, which, whether partly or wholly unpaid, must be marked "Held for postage," and immediately returned to the writers with stamps not canceled.

Thus we see that the initial processing clerk erred in canceling the 2¢ stamp. As stated above, the fact that it was canceled no doubt contributed to the sender's interpretation that a full 3¢ rate of postage had to be paid.

Fake Cancels

We continue in this issue to present examples of fake cancels. These were submitted by Steven Hines. Readers are invited to submit examples for future publication.



The U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

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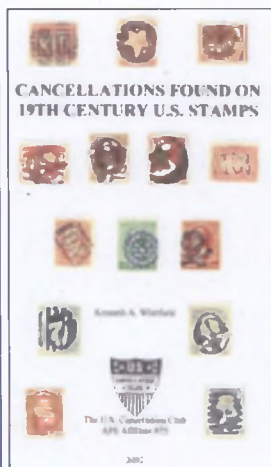
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U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS, Cross Reference Index for all issues: 1951-2009. Presented in three separate sections: Cancellations, Post Offices, and Article Titles, \$18 postpaid to U.S. addresses.

Wesson "Time-On-Bottom" Markings Revisited, Compiled by Ralph A. Edson and Gilbert L. Levere, update of 1990 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.

For Whitfield update pages only, \$8 postpaid to U.S. addresses.

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President's Message

Dear Reader,

Well, another two years have come to pass as can be noted by the Ballot/Dues insert sheet. The financial report indicates, I believe, that our Club's finances are in good shape thanks to the continuing level of enrollment and to the many members who graciously contribute an additional gift when paying their dues. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank you all for this support.

As also indicated on the Ballot sheet, I am not running again as a candidate for the Presidency of our Club. It has really been an enjoyable four years working with the Board and Editor and also having the opportunity of meeting so many of our members at the bi-annual group meetings. But I also feel that, at the age of 75, the reins would be better held by a younger and possibly more inspired and aggressive candidate. I'd like very much to continue working with our Editor by contributing more information and articles for the *NEWS* and continuing to do the tracings of postmarks and cancels submitted by our members for publication.

I feel that the Club is on the right track with its *NEWS* publication reflecting the range of outstanding collecting interests amongst the members. With this sharing of information I see only good things for the future.

In closing I would like to extend to the new slate of Officers, and all our Club members, my best for a happy and joyful holiday season.

Sincerely,
John Donnes

Nicholas Kirke – Cancels at Exhibition

A major event in French philately is the biennial Salon Planete Timbres held in Paris. This year it ran from June 14-22. The international exhibit competition was conducted with FIP (International Federation of Philately) recognition. Club member Nick Kirke won a Large Gold medal and was one of only two finalists

for the Grand Prix award with his *The Progression of New York Foreign Mail Cancels 1845-1878*. Nick worked hard on the development of this exhibit over a number of years and many attendees at national shows had the pleasure seeing it more than once during its evolution. Not only is the recognition


the exhibit received in Paris a notable personal accomplishment for him but it underscores the point that cancellations are, indeed, an important part of postal history. We congratulate Nick on a job well done!

USCC Membership List

Every few years our Club puts out a membership list so that members with like interests can contact one another. We will produce a new list in 2015. The information given usually consists of name, mailing address, email address, and a short list of collecting interests (we do not list home phone, or cell phone numbers, unless requested to do so).

If any Club member wishes his or her name not be included, or would like modifications to the above intended information, please make a note on the back of the dues renewal/election insert sheet to this effect.

Thanks to all members for their participation and we'll work to insure that your membership listing conforms to your request.



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EXHIBIT AWARDS WON BY USCC MEMBERS July - September 2014

National Topical Show June 27-29

Les Lanphear: Vermeil medal for "Go: The World's Oldest Board Game."

Minnesota Stamp Expo: July 18-20

Mike Ellingson: Gold medal; also Machine Cancel Society Certificate for "The Barr-Fyke Machine Cancels of Mexico 1900-1908."

APS Stampshow August 21-24

Gordon Eubanks: *World Series Champion of Champions* for "The United States Imperforate Issues of 1851-1856."

John Barwis: World Series Prix'd'Honneur for "Philadelphia-Great Britain Mails."

Eric Glohr: Silver bronze medal for "Wells Fargo & Co in the Hawaiian Islands." Also single frame vermeil medal for "Hawaii-The 1894 1-cent Coat of Arms Issue."

Matt Kewriga: World Series Prix'd'Honneur for "The United States 2c Jackson Regular Issues of 1870-1879."


Les Lanphear: World Series Prix'd'Honneur for "U.S. Departmentals, 1873 to 1884."

OMAHA September 6-7

Gary Hendren: Gold medal; also APS 1900-1940 Medal of Excellence for "St. Louis Street Car Mail, 1892-1915." Also single frame gold medal and APS Post-1980 Medal of Excellence for "Twisted Caps - Twisted Mail."

MILCOPEX September 19-21

Nancy Clark: Gold medal; also MPOS Towle Award for "The Development of Railway Routes in Georgia, 1846-1889."



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Ellipse Fakery and More

by Roger D. Curran

Elsewhere in this issue is the third in a series of brief presentations of fake U.S. 19th century cancels. The fakes that collectors overwhelmingly see are of known hand-carved cancels or are fantasy designs made to look like hand-carved cancels. Ellipse cancels have essentially escaped the faker's notice owing, one supposes, to the fact that they are, in the aggregate, extremely common and often considered (mistakenly in your editor's opinion) dull with little interesting variety. I have seen very few faked ellipses. Four are presented below and they may all come from the same source.

The fakes in Figure 1 all involve genuine New York City ellipses. The numbers in the center were altered to



Figure 1

create different numbers. The faker had some knowledge of New York ellipses because the numbers created, had they been genuine, would have presented previously unknown numbers in terms of those found on the Sc 210 stamp. New York ellipses on Sc 210 are reported with numbers "1" through "24" and then just even numbers through "52." With the Figure 1 cancels, of course, we would now have three odd numbers above "24."

The "33" involved an alteration of the "0" in a well-struck "30" to make it a "3." One can see where part of the left side of the "0" was scratched away. Then a protruding notch was added in the middle of the right side of the "0." Creating the "29" and "35" seems to have involved a different approach. It is not easy to remove just a portion of a cancel – in these cases a numeral – and the faker chose very incomplete strikes requiring little removal work. In the case of the "29" it appears that at least two of the horizontal bars were strengthened a bit.

The ellipse in Figure 2 appears to be from San Francisco and to have a "31" in the center. (The accompanying tracing and date range comes from San



12/85-6/88

Figure 2

Francisco Postal Markings 1847-1900 by John M. Mahoney.) This is of interest because no "31" in ellipse is reported from San Francisco by either Mahoney or Edward Willard. Both report ellipse numbers through "21." John Donnes and your editor have studied this cancel and believe that it is a San Francisco "21" ellipse with the "2" altered to create a "3." Remnants of the flat base of the "2" and of the sweep of the "2" down to the left end of the base are visible under magnification.

Although not reported by Mahoney or Willard, there was a "31" San Francisco ellipse reported many years ago by the pioneering student of ellipse cancels Gilbert Burr.¹ He presented the Figure 3 illustration in an attempt to clarify the differences between two



New York San Francisco
Figure 3



Figure 4

sets of ellipses he had reported earlier. However, an error was introduced in identifying the origin of the cancel on the right which is actually from Boston.

See Figure 4 which illustrates a tracing from a postal card in the collection of John Donnes. This particular set of Boston ellipses contains numbers up to "48."

Returning briefly to the San Francisco ellipse tracing in Figure 2, the ellipse in this set with a "2" in the center has always intrigued me. I have not seen an actual example but Figure 5 shows a Mahoney tracing.

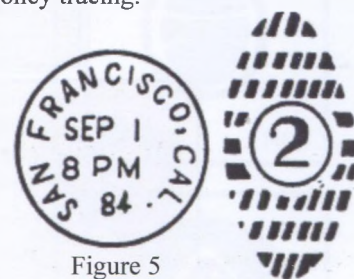


Figure 5

What an unusual ellipse having bars comprised of small rectangles. Not long ago I encountered the "10" in ellipse shown here as Figure 6. It is definitely from the same San Francisco set – see



Figure 6

the Mahoney tracing in Figure 7. The Figure 6 ellipse shows somewhat similar segmentation of the bars above the "10" but it is less pronounced. Perhaps this odd feature results somehow from the surface of a particular inkpad (or type of inkpad) in use for a short period. But just what it would take to cause this segmentation is quite a mystery to me. The views of readers will be welcomed.

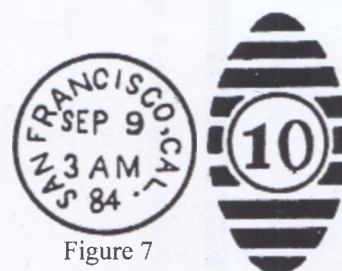
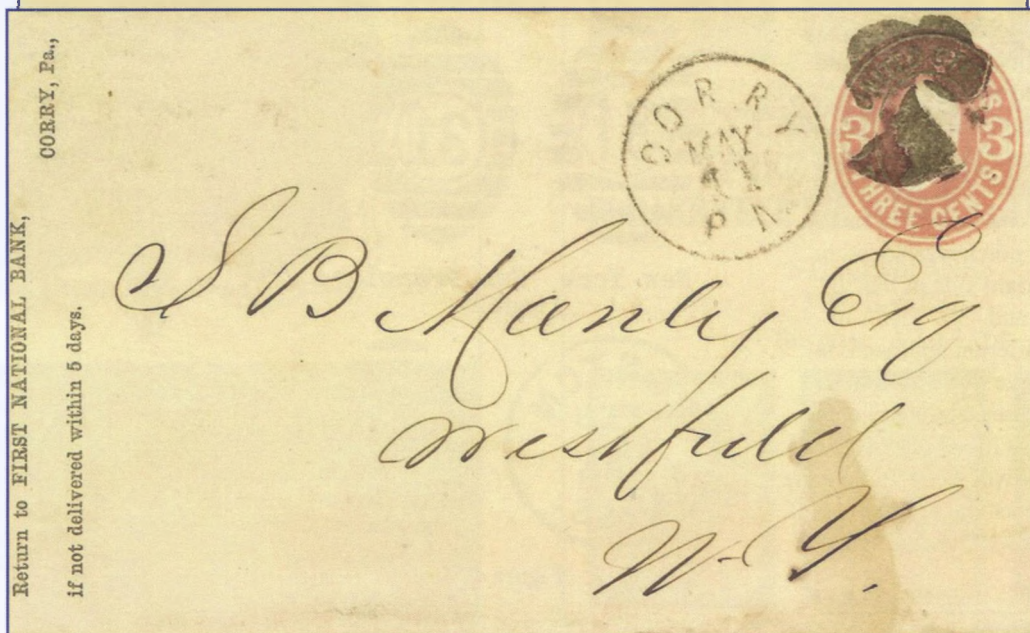
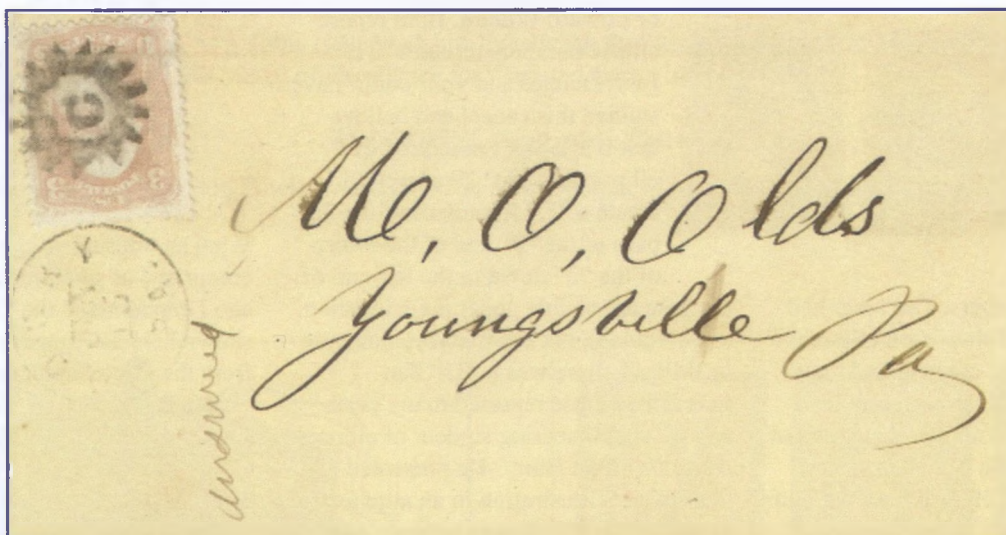


Figure 7











¹ Burr, Gilbert M "Standardized Hand Stamp Cancellations on the Banknote Issues," *The American Philatelist*, May 1935, pg. 395.

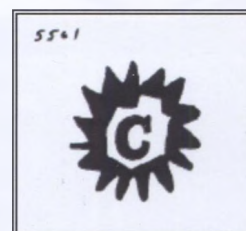
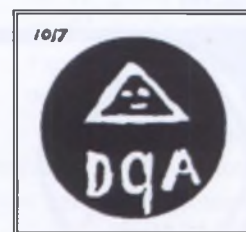
Corry Fancy Cancels, Part 3

Presented herewith is the third and concluding installment of Clifford Woodward's census of Corry, Pennsylvania fancy cancels, 1866-1872. Previous installments appeared in the August and May 2014 issues. As mentioned earlier, Cliff is interested in expanding his database and readers are encouraged to submit reports of on-cover and off-cover examples. He can be reached at vagabond3@comcast.net or 1805 Shaler Dr., Glenshaw, PA 15116-2140. The several full-size tracings are all from either Skinner-Eno or Whitfield.



Corry PA Fancy Cancel Census

TYPE	CLASS	DATE	STAMP	QUANTITY			NOTES
	OIL BARREL	4/24/6? thru 4/25/6?	#65	Covers	Pieces	Stamps	Skinner-Eno PO-Bb7
PT-1				2	0	1	
	WOMAN IN CIRCLE	12/17/6?	#65				Skinner-Eno PH-F64
PT-2				1	0	1	
	WOMAN'S HEAD	4/22/71 thru 7/17/71	#114 #147 #U58				Skinner-Eno PH-F8
PT-3				9	0	2	
	NAPOLEON	4/29/70 thru 5/27/71	#114 #U58				Skinner-Eno PH-F87 Whitfield #62
PT-4				5	0	2	
	MAN IN CIRCLE	12/3/66	#65				
PT-5				1	0	0	
	STRAWBERRY	4/23/7? thru 4/28/7?	#114				
PT-6				2	0	0	
	MAN'S HEAD	2/17/7?	#U58				
PT-7				1	0	0	
	TRIANGLE WITH INITIALS	8/14/66	#65				Skinner-Eno FR-NMd 2 Whitfield #1017
ST-1				1	0	0	
	"C" IN STAR	6/15/66	#65				Skinner-Eno LS-C21 Whitfield #5561
ST-2				1	0	2	
	PROFILE IN "C"	6/15/6?	#65				
ST-3				1	0	0	



Recently Identified Whitfield Cancels

by Wendell Triplett

Whitfield "pumpkin head" cancel #294 has been identified as being from Uniontown, Pennsylvania. It was used in black ink on Sc 156 and Sc 158. This cancel is not listed in Cole.

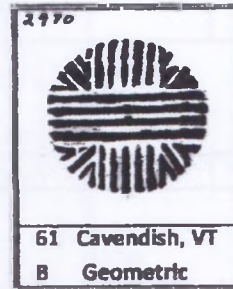
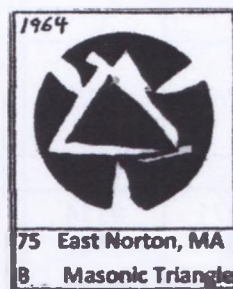
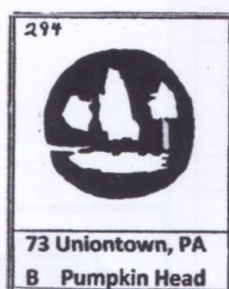
Whitfield "spade" cancel #1896 has been identified as being from Wallingford, Connecticut. It was used in black ink on

Sc UX12 and dated December 2, 1896. This cancel is not listed in Cole.

Whitfield "Masonic triangle" cancel #1964 has been identified as being from East Norton, Massachusetts. It was used in black ink on Sc UX5 and dated July 9, 1877. The East Norton, Massachusetts post office was in operation from 1876 to

1888. This cancel is not listed in Cole.

Whitfield "geometric" cancel #2970 has been identified by John Donnes as being from Cavendish, Vermont. It was used in black ink on Sc 65 and dated "MAR 18." Note that the Whitfield original image has been updated. This cancel is not listed in Skinner-Eno.



Chicago "Blues"

A few cancels from Chicago's blue ink period, 1870-1877.



Chicago Postal Markings and Postal History

By Leonard Piskiewicz

This phenomenal book is the culmination of more than 25 years accumulating Chicago postal history items by its author. It provides a comprehensive analysis of cancellations usage for all markings known used in Chicago from its beginnings as a post office in 1831 until the mid-1950s, a hugely useful book for members of the U.S. Cancellation Club! The book also includes those types of markings that continued to the end of the 20th century and are of interest to specialists (e.g., airmail, registry). 576 pages...packed with illustrations.

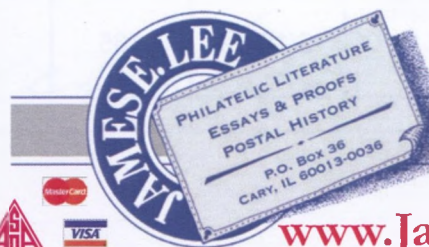
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Noted in Passing

by Roger D. Curran

A whimsical manuscript cancel appears as Figure 1 that thoroughly cancels the bust of our first president and

was reported to be from Hurley, New York – see Figure 2. Figure 3 shows a well struck example of this cancel. With

it could be a “W.” The stamp is a Sc 207. Thanks to John Donnes for the tracing. Can readers report further examples of this type of monogram?



Figure 1

also gives him a hat and pipe. It may not show in the image, but there is even a very thin thread of smoke curling up and away from the pipe. The July 28 postmark reads Naglesville, Pa. This post operated in Monroe Co. from 1845-1866.

The August 2011 *NEWS* briefly discussed several highly decorative letter cancels reported in Whitfield that appear to be a part of a set. They included letters “A,” “B,” “D,” and two versions of “H.” A fifth letter, an “S” of this type, not reported in Whitfield or Cole, from Sherwood, California was shown on cover. One of the Whitfield “H” cancels

all the filigree and the rather unconvincing crossbar, one wonders how many people would have recognized it as an “H.” The other Whitfield “H” much more closely resembles the actual letter. It is reported on 1881 issue stamps by both Whitfield and Cole.

While on the subject of unusual letters, the August 2009 *NEWS* illustrated two odd monogram cancels. One is well known, an “A.P.” from Golden, Illinois – see Figure 4 (Whitfield #5190). The other was a similarly styled “FHB” on a Sc 210. Figure 5 shows a third example which we will assume is an “M” although

The November 2013 *NEWS* presented ellipse cancels with blanks in the center where numbers or letters are normally found. The February 2014 issue continued this theme showing Chicago ellipses, not with blanks in the center, but holes in the bars. We’ll now add a further example of holes in bars from McLean, Illinois – see Figure 7. Docketing confirms the postmark date to be January 3, 1891. The poor strike of the postmark and ellipse may indicate a worn handstamp, especially since the accompanying Cole tracing lists the cancel as found on 1883 issue stamps.

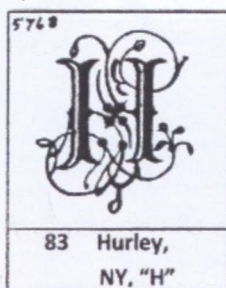


Figure 2



Figure 3

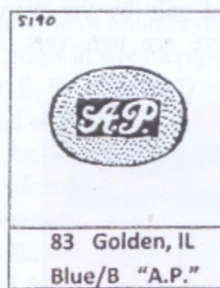


Figure 4



Figure 5

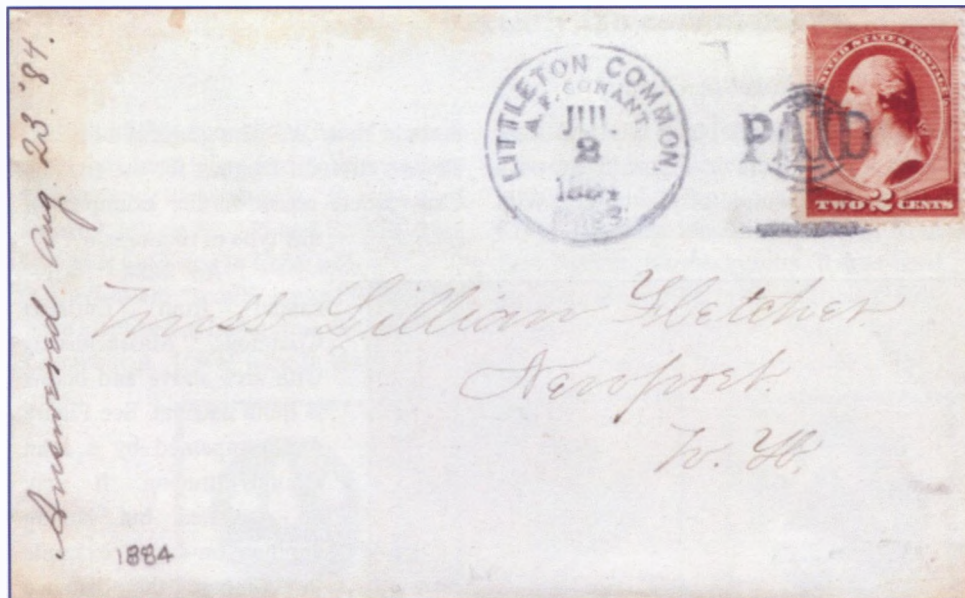


Figure 6

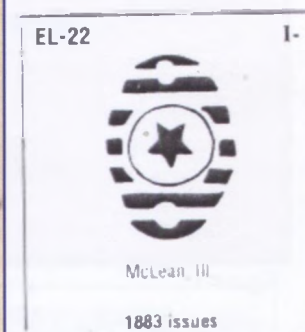
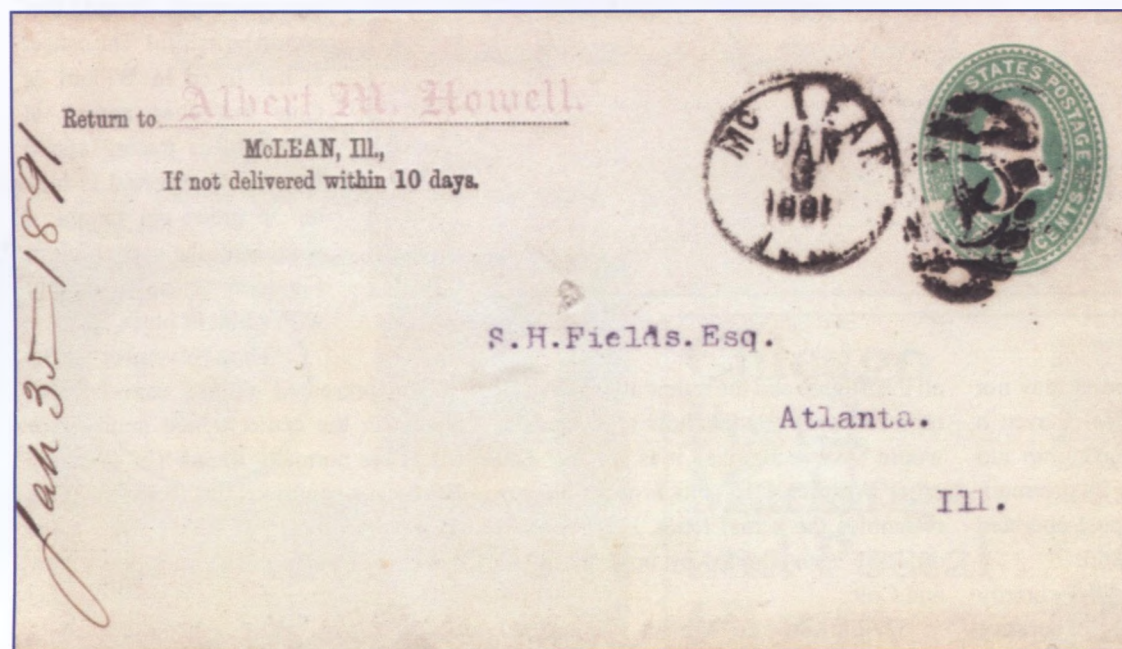


Figure 7

The May 2014 *NEWS* illustrated a new latest reported use (LRU), submitted by George McGowan, of the Wesson time-on-bottom “TRANSIT” marking – March 7, 1889. This duplexed marking was employed only at Worcester, Massachusetts. The previous LRU was listed as February 23, 1889 in the Edson/Levere book, published by the USCC in

2010, entitled *Wesson “Time on Bottom” Markings Revisited*. Bob Trachimowicz has now submitted an even later usage of the “TRANSIT” marking – see Figure 8 showing an April 27, 1889 strike. He also reported a new LRU for the Wesson duplexed “RECEIVED” which was also used only by the Worcester post office. There are two very similar Worcester

“RECEIVED” duplexes listed by Edson/Levere, the small differences having to do with how the CDS dies were engraved. The new late use date involves Edson/Levere Type B (1.1) which is now extended from April 4, 1891 to September 25, 1891 – see Figure 9.

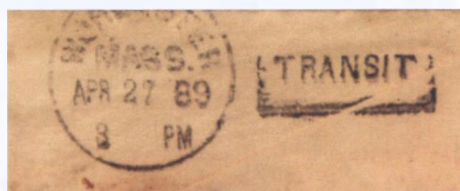


Figure 8

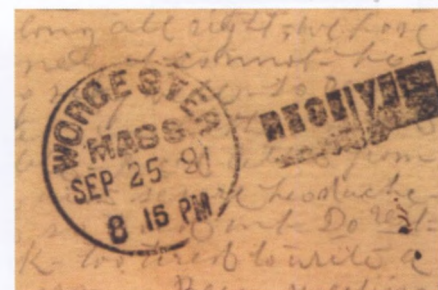


Figure 9

As has been noted many times in these pages, the introduction of handstamps duplexing a postmark to a canceler was one of the most important steps in the evolution of US 19th century U.S. canceling practices. The Worcester "TRANSIT" and "RECEIVED" markings are interesting in this regard because the universe of markings other than cancelers duplexed to postmarks during the 19th century postage stamp era is small, indeed, and here we have two examples. Worcester actually used a third such Wesson marking – a "NOT/ CALLED FOR." This was discovered by the late Bob Payne and only the one example, dated June 25, 1887 has been reported.

Figure 10, submitted by Bob Markovits, illustrates a cancel that is



Figure 10

noteworthy because the stamp on which it appears (Sc 283) wasn't issued until 1899. By then, of course, fancy cancels were down to a trickle. We may speculate that it is a Masonic cancel with the design referred to as Solomon's Seal or Star of David. Given the 10¢ denomination, the stamp was likely on a registered mail cover where a normally used duplex canceler was not employed so as to avoid placing the postmark on the front of the cover. In those cases a hand carved simplex canceler was sometimes employed even very late in the 19th and into the early 20th centuries.

The keystone cancels in Figure 11 (J16) are seen very occasionally on large numeral postage due stamps. (The



Figure 11

stamp on the right is in the John Donnes collection.) Pennsylvania is nicknamed the "Keystone State" and one might wonder (especially those of us who live there) whether this cancel is somehow Pennsylvania-related. The nickname derives from the fact that the State is

located in the center (or keystone) of the "arch" formed by the original 13 states. Much more likely, of course, is that a 19th century keystone cancel owes its design to the fact that the keystone is a Masonic symbol. As far as I know, the Figure 11 cancels have not been reported in the literature. If readers can report other uses or the post office of origin, please contact the *NEWS*.

The manuscript cancel on the 5¢ 1847 issue in Figure 12 is unusual. The 1847 POD regulations (Sec. 501) pertaining to how postage stamps were to be canceled specified that post offices not supplied with handstamp cancelers were to cancel stamps "... by making a cross x on each with a pen." The Figure 12 cancel complied fully, of course, and even went beyond. One can suppose that



Figure 12

the letters are the postmaster's initials, possibly with the idea that they provide some sort of authentication, but who can say. Have readers seen other examples of this or similar cancels?

A well-known cancel style is what collectors refer to as a "letter in wreath." See Figure 13 (Whitfield 5650) for a typical example. Robert Schoen reported a considerable study of these cancels in the September 1965 *NEWS* which was reprinted in the US Cancellation Club *NEWS* 50th Anniversary Issue, 2001. He reported uses from 1879-1886 and identified



Figure 13

11 post offices that employed such cancels at one time or another during this period. Letters in wreath reported were A, B, D, E, F, H, M, N, Q and T. The "T" was listed without an originating post office and I believe that post office has still not been identified. A supplement to the 50th anniversary issue illustrated covers from two further post offices and a November 2005 *NEWS* article added a third, but these did not involve additional letters. Schoen speculated that John

Goldsborough of Philadelphia was the handstamp supplier for these cancels but was unable to find a Goldsborough ad that illustrated this style. Schoen noted that letter in wreath cancels "... appear to originate from ... small post offices in the greater Philadelphia area."

One of the post offices listed by Schoen involved an "F" on its side inside the wreath – see Figure 14. He attributed it to a post office in Illinois but that attribution I believe to be in error – see February 2002

NEWS. Thus I would credit Schoen with 10 rather than 11 post office identifications. However, one of the additional post offices reported in the



Figure 14

Supplement does show the "F" on its side and we now know it is from Farmers, Pennsylvania.

All of the above is by way of introduction of the cancel in Figure 15, a letter "S" in wreath in blue ink. The clipping of the full cover represents



Figure 15

one of those small philatelic tragedies denying, as it does, knowledge of the originating post office. However, we should perhaps just be thankful that this much of the cover was saved. Reports of examples of letter in wreath cancels will be welcomed as well as any more general information about the use of the letter in wreath style.

Distorted strikes of "wheel of fortune" cancels are not rare. They are typically due to wear or to the malleable composition of the rubber facing of the handstamp. But what to make of the cancel in Figure 16. It appears to have been quartered, presumably cut that way



Figure 16

(Continued on page 76)

Ridge Lines on the Boston Negative Killers

by Bob Grosch

The construction and composition of the killers that produced the large Boston Negatives has always been a mystery. I would be willing to pay a tidy sum for a genuine duplex handstamp used for these cancels, but apparently none still exist.

On page 59 of the August 2014 *NEWS*, Figure 3 illustrates a very nice cover bearing an "L" in solid square with dramatic and nearly horizontal ridges in the background. This cover launched me into a study of my own reference collection of these covers.

When looking at the solid square and solid circle cancels, these ridge lines are quite rare. However, I found two examples in my collection with such lines appearing diagonally across the otherwise solid backgrounds. See Figures 1 and 2. I also found an example of a "1" in solid square with lines running vertically, the only example of vertical lines I have been able to identify in any of the large Boston Negatives – see Figure 3. Interestingly

these vertical lines appear on the earliest reported date for "1" in solid square, indicating that these ridges were most likely a part of the original design. However, since the vast majority of the solid square and solid circle strikes show no evidence of these ridges, either they quickly filled up with ink and became indistinguishable, or they were not included in the design for all the numbers and letters in the solid square and solid circle categories.

When we look at the two categories of designs that were introduced later – double circle and square with negative horizontal lines – we find that much smaller ridges are present in the backgrounds on the vast majority of these cancels. See Figures 4 and 5. They are found so frequently that I assume they were present on every cancel (all numbers and letters) in these two categories. The lines always run horizontally across the background. These somewhat more complicated killer

types have ridges so small that it would seem they were produced by a different method or on a different material than the earlier solid background varieties.

I have always assumed that the early large Boston Negative killers were made of wood. As partial evidence I noticed that in a number of cases the corners were rounded, presumably because they wore off with use of the cancelers – see Figure 6. However, one of the covers in my collection with rounded corners just happens to be the earliest known date for this particular cancel in the square cancel category. How could it have worn out so quickly? Could it be that some of the "squares" in this series were not really squares at all? Or perhaps was the quality of the initial killers such that the surface of the wooden killer was not a perfect plane and hand sanding unintentionally wore off the corner?



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

Color Cancellations on the 1869 Series: Town (CDS) Cancels

by Ed Field

The past two issues of the *NEWS* included articles on postal markings used as cancels. Here, I will focus on the subset of postal markings cancels listed as "town" (aka CDS) cancels in the Scott catalog. My criterion for inclusion is that the CDS be the only cancel on the stamp. Such cancels were forbidden by the Post Office Department in 1860 but, for convenience or by accident, they were used occasionally during the 1869 era. They are scarce.

Figure 1 shows a June 2, 1870 cover

a 25mm blue CDS dated March 16, 1870. Also on the cover is a faint 30mm CDS from the same town, but in black and dated October 16 (year unknown, probably 1869). Apparently, the cover was held by the PO for five months.

Figure 3 shows an October 6, 1869 cover short-paid from Baltimore to Rotterdam, Holland. The 6-cent stamp is canceled by a circular "BALT PAID ALL" datestamp. Of the forty-nine Baltimore foreign mail covers known to bear 1869 stamps, this is the only one

canceled solely by a CDS. The rest bear semi-fancy red killers.

Figure 4 shows a two-issue cover posted September 30, 1869 to France. The 16-cent postage overpaid the 15-cent treaty rate by a penny. The stamps are canceled solely by the blue 25mm CDS of Sonoma, California.

Figure 5 shows a "PHILA PAID ALL" exchange CDS used as a canceler on an April 10, 1870 cover to England. The color is the signature purple used by Philadelphia for foreign mail datestamps

at that time. The Philadelphia Exchange Office had a long standing policy against using datestamps as cancelers. This cover is a rare example of that policy being violated.



Figure 1

from Cincinnati to Germany. A pair of 3-cent stamps and a single 1-cent stamp pay the 7-cent rate. The pair at the lower left is canceled properly by the familiar Cincinnati blue target, whereas the 1-cent stamp at the upper right is canceled only by the CDS. Probably, the clerk was being a bit lazy. This cover shows how off-cover stamps with town cancels can originate on covers bearing other, properly canceled, stamps.

Figure 2 shows a drop cover from Templeton, Massachusetts. The 1-cent stamp is lightly canceled by



Figure 2

Figure 6 shows a block of nine 2-cent stamps bearing four blue 26mm CDS cancels of Yreka, California. The date was June 24, probably 1869. This is the second largest used multiple of the 2-cent stamp. The largest is a 2X5 block of ten.

Figure 7 shows a 1-cent stamp canceled by a blue September 26, 1870 CDS from an unknown Massachusetts town. Figure 8 shows a 2-cent stamp canceled by a magenta San Francisco datestamp. Figure 9 shows a piece (electronically clipped) bearing a 3-cent stamp canceled by a blue MAR 20 CDS from Lyme, New Hampshire. Figures 10-11 show, respectively, 30-cent stamps canceled by blue

Cincinnati, Ohio and Eire Pennsylvania datestamps.

Red New York CDS cancels are known on all ten values of the 1869 series. Figures 12-to-15 show four such examples. Figure 16 shows a piece (electronically clipped) bearing a 3-cent

stamp canceled by a June 3, 1870 blue CDS of the Northern Central Railway, Hanover Junction, Pennsylvania.

In the November 2013 NEWS I showed a green town cancel on a cover from Topeka, Kansas; it is not re-shown here.



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16

Noteworthy Sales of Cancellations

by Roger D. Curran

Two auctions held this summer provide a look at the market for premium examples of off-cover U.S. cancellations. The 2014 Siegel Rarities sale featured several outstanding cancels on Sc 65 and Siegel sale 1074 presented a portion of the Wade Saadi "Struck on Stamps" collection of 1851-1866 issue stamps. Presented below is a sampling of the lots contained in these sales. The images appear through the courtesy of the Siegel firm.

We'll begin with the latter wherein all the stamps offered were high denominations; i.e., five cents or higher. High denomination stamps are, of course, far less common than lower denomination stamps. Also, fancy and other distinctive cancels are proportionately less common on higher denomination stamps. Therefore, such cancels on high denomination stamps

constitute a dramatically smaller universe than that on lower denominations. The Saadi sale, because of the considerable number of stamps involved, provides a good picture of the types of desirable and distinctive cancels that are found in this rather narrow but very important category. Prices cited do not include the 15% buyer's commission.

Lot 557, a Sc 29 bearing a complete strike of a "PAID" in arc over "3" sold for \$750 against an estimate of \$3-400 – see Figure 1. It seems certain that the postmaster or clerk very carefully applied the cancel so that it would fully land on the stamp. Lot 568, a Sc 30A canceled by a spectacular "PAID/10" in circle sold for \$4,240 against an estimate of \$4-500 – see Figure 2. A



Figure 1



more prosaic cancel, a "PAID" in circle on a Sc 35 (lot 582), estimated at \$2-300, sold for \$1,500. The stamp showed wide margins and was beautifully set off by the socked cancel in red ink. Lot 583, another nice Sc 35, this with a full strike of a Dedham, Massachusetts "PAID" in "honeycomb" reached \$2,100 against a \$750-1000 estimate – see Figure 3. Skinner-Eno and Whitfield both list six Dedham elaborate "PAID" cancels, but neither show this particular variation above as well as below the PAID." There are fewer than 10 reported examples of the "New York Ocean Mail" cancel in



Figure 3

red ink, but the straight-edge example on Sc 35 in lot 589, also bearing a separate red cancel, achieved only \$90 against a \$2-300 estimate. One of the most distinctive and attractive rate number cancels in the sale (lot 600) was a tall "10" on a nice Sc 35 which sold for \$100 against an estimate of \$150-200. See Figure 4.

An outstanding Sc 36, Lot 607, with a fully struck green grid of small square and rectangular dots (Figure 5), estimated at \$1,000-1,500, shot through the roof and realized \$12,500! Lot 640, the iconic patriotic star from Three Rivers, Michigan, struck on a



Figure 4



Figure 5

of \$1,110, the Scott catalog value. Lot 669, a Sc 67a with socked star cancel estimated at \$500-750, sold for \$1,500. Lot 690, a bold negative "PAID" in shield (Skinner-Eno PS-C13) from Dedham, Massachusetts on a Sc 68, estimated at \$2-300, sold for \$160. Lot 743, a Sc 70a with an unusually large "9" in circle cancel realized \$1,100



Figure 6

against an estimate of \$3-400 despite some noticeably short perforations at the bottom.

Lot 783, a Sc 71 with small faults, socked with a red "PAID/30" in circle was estimated at \$400-\$500. It realized \$350 – see Figure 7. Lot 800, another Sc 71, socked with the well-known and popular "Union soldier's head" was estimated at \$1,000-1,500 and sold for \$2,500. This is a decidedly scarce but not rare cancel that is occasionally seen on higher denomination stamps. For something really unusual, how about the Masonic square and compass cancel in lot 802 on Sc 71. The strike is beautiful and the lot description "perfect" is not an exaggeration – see Figure 8. Estimated at \$4-500 it sold for \$700. Lot 805



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

was a rare pictorial cancel – a "rose in circle" from Amherst, Massachusetts. It sold for \$2,900 against an estimate of \$500-750 – see Figure 9. We'll close with the rather primitive square and compass on a Sc 76 (lot 858), estimated at \$3-400, that did better than lot 802 mentioned above, selling for

\$1,500.

Attention is now turned to the Rarities sale and to several of the gem cancellations offered there. Lot 1073, a truly magnificent and complete strike of a Corry, Pennsylvania eagle cancel, estimated at \$2-3,000, realized \$7,000 – see Figure 10. An excellent strike of the Hockanum, Connecticut fox cancel, also estimated at \$2-3,000, sold for \$4,000. A crystal clear strike of the whimsical "Uncle Sam Thumbing Nose" cancel in blue ink from Brattleboro, Vermont, lot 1075, estimated at \$1,500-\$2,000, was hammered down for \$7,500, notwithstanding the stamp having a rounded corner – see Figure 11. An outstanding strike of the Waterbury, Connecticut barrel, lot 1082, estimated at \$1,500 to 2,000 realized \$2,100. Lot 1072



Figure 10



Figure 11

offered three stamps, each with a Putnam, Connecticut negative month cancel – "Oct," "Nov," and "Dec" – with each strike being bold and well centered. The lot was estimated at \$2-3,000 and realized \$2,300. We'll conclude with one of the best-known and most popular Waterbury cancels – the Bridgeport Fireman. Lot 1079 presented a wonderful on cover example, estimated at \$20-30,000, that was hammered down at \$47,500.

Noted in Passing (Continued from page 71)

by a knife. Why that would be done is an interesting question. John Donnes, who made the tracing, noted that the outer rim of the top of the wheel does not appear to be cut. It extends to the edge of the stamp beyond the left side of the channel. However, the outer rim is missing at the two other visible ends of the channels. Reader analysis and comments are invited.

Wendell Triplett submits an auction

catalog clipping of the "I Cure U" cancel discussed in the last NEWS – see Figure 17. Unlike the two strikes shown in August, the angle of the Figure 17 strike is to the upper left of the stamp rather than to the upper right. Further reports are eagerly sought.



Figure 17



Iowa Cancels

This article presents fancy cancels in the collection of Jim Petersen who recently joined the USCC. Jim is currently president of the Iowa Postal History Society and has been a member for more than 30 years. He collects Iowa postal history from territorial through the 1869 issue, with emphasis on the 1851-57 issues, and also Iowa fancy cancels and fancy postmarks. Additional examples from Jim's collection will appear in these pages in the future.

Let's begin with a remarkable pictorial

cancel – see Figure 1. (Move over Corry, Pa. there is a new pig in town!) The Sac City pig is complete, as Jim notes, down to the curly tail. The cancel is not listed in the major cancellation references.

The card in Figure 2 has a lot going for it, including two Iowa fancy cancels. It entered the mails at Mount Ayr on April 12, 1883 and one day later was received in Tingley. Presumably the placement of the Tingley star over the date in the Mount Ayr CDS was by happenstance and not intended to “cancel” the date.

A primitive pumpkin head from Hull, dated March or May 1892 is shown in Figure 3. An attractive, commercially sold shield cancel (Whitfield #1185) from Glenwood, dated March 21, 1884 appears as Figure 4.

Jim submitted two examples of the commercially sold “POD” monogram which are illustrated here as Figure 5 along Whitfield tracing #4993. The accompanying postmarks, which are perhaps not duplexed, differ dramatically from one another.

Three Iowa examples of the well-known 6-bar scarab cancel are shown in Figure 6. The St. Paul July 4, 1895 strike is a late usage. The May 2004 *NEWS* presented a listing of 21 Massachusetts scarabs compiled by Arthur Beane and the latest usage noted was March 30, 1895. However, 30 different post offices in the U.S. are reported to have used scarabs as late as the early 1900s,¹ but these surely would all be from small towns and the number of examples to be found is no doubt very limited.

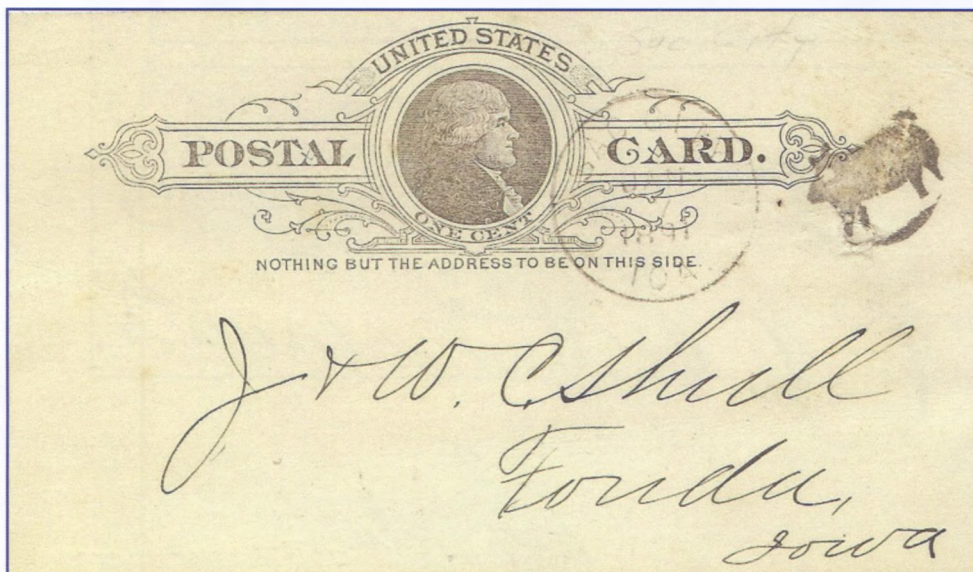


Figure 1

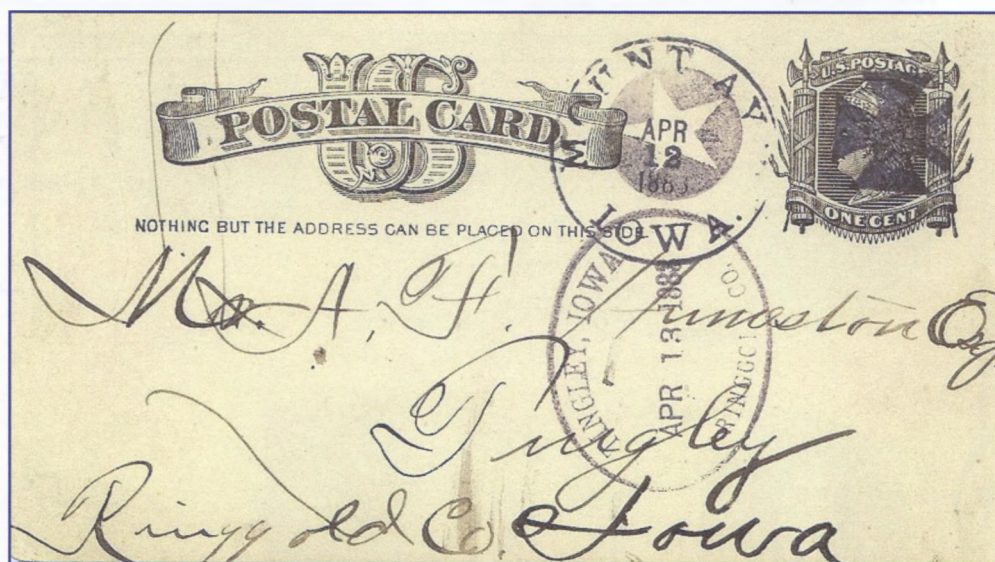


Figure 2

¹ Helbock, Richard W. *Postmarks on Post Cards*, La Posta Publications, Scappoose, OR (2002), pg. 76.

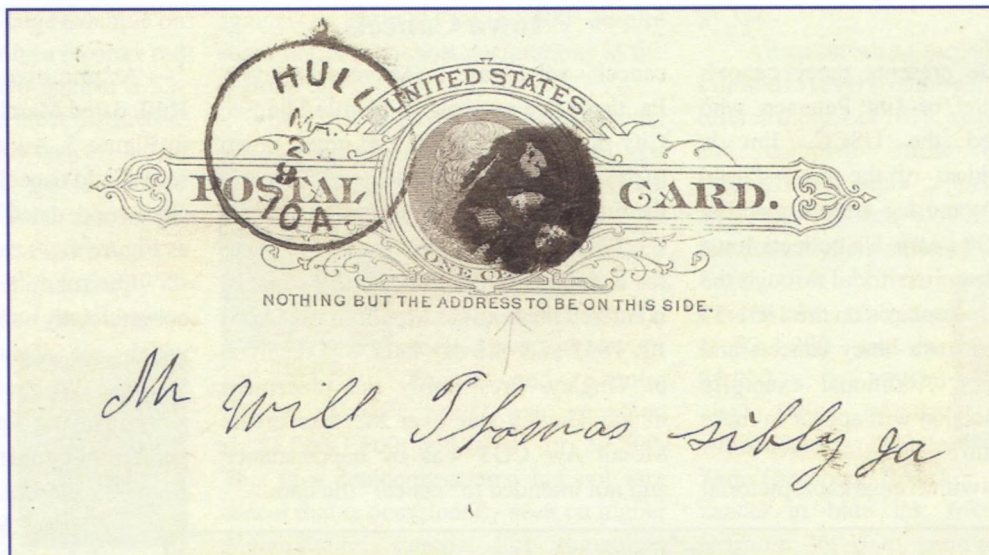


Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

Call it what you will, “floral” or “shell,” the geometric cancel in Figure 7 from Wallingford dated April 28, 1883 is attractive. The tracing is Whitfield #3605. It is interesting to note that of the Whitfield book’s listing of four post offices that used this cancel, two are

from Iowa and Wallingford is not one of them. The other two are from the states of Kansas and New York.

We’ll close with three cancels showing an evolution of star cancels from Brush Creek – see Figure 8. The May 18, 1882 strike involves an 18 mm

circle diameter, the December 21, 1885 strike is 20 mm and the August 25, 1890 cancel presents, of course, a completely different design. The accompanying Whitfield tracing #3215 is probably this latter design.

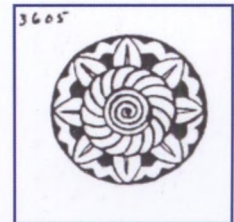
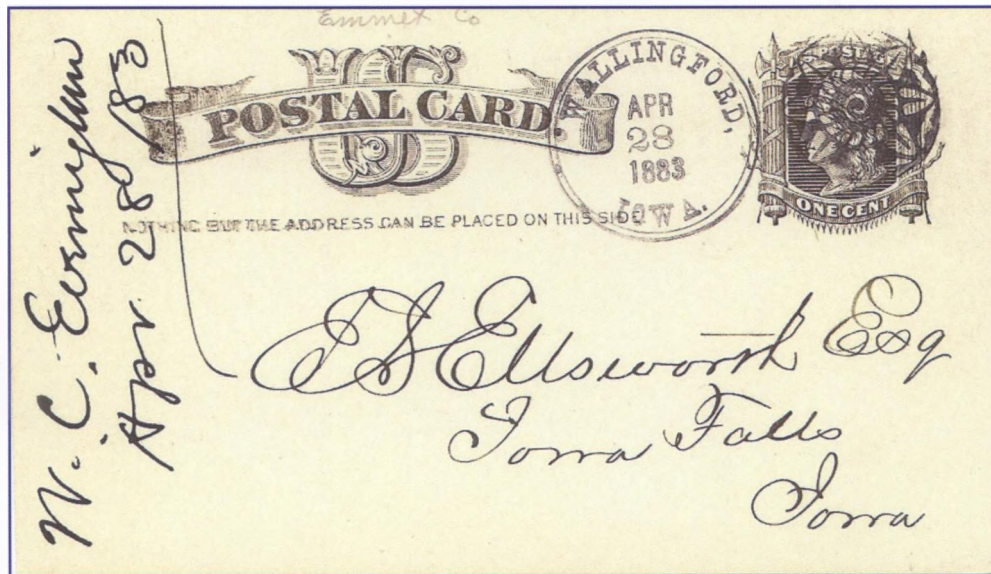


Figure 7

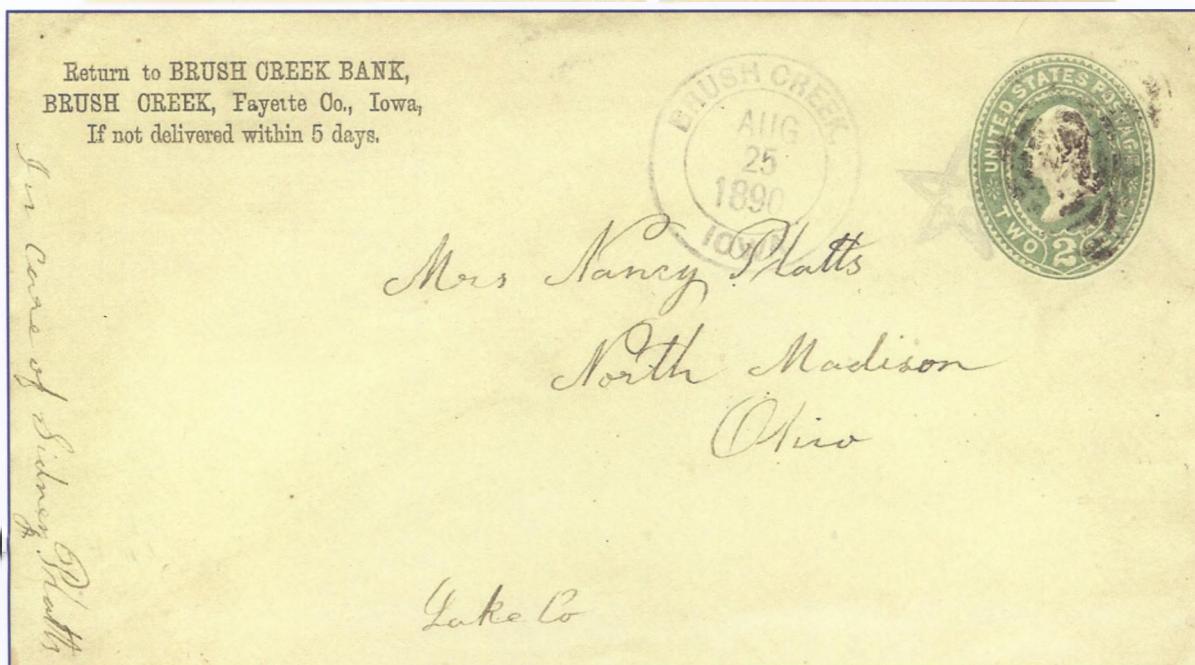


Figure 8

Rubber

With the advent of rubber-faced handstamps, many intricate and precise canceler designs came upon the market and were generally directed to small town postmasters who were responsible for acquiring their own postmarking and canceling supplies. Rubber-faced handstamps were out rather quickly and were not well suited to the high volume workload of large post offices. All these cancels are thought to be the product of molded rubber cancelers.

