



U.S. Cancellation Club **NEWS**

Vol. 32, No. 6, Whole No. 295, May 2015

Boston Foreign Mail During the Large Negatives Period An Update

In the last issue of the *NEWS* we speculated that for a period in 1883, foreign mail was processed exclusively in the foreign mail section of the Boston post office and one or two large Boston negatives cancels with an "F" in the center were used as the cancelers. For most of the 1878-1883 era of the large Boston negatives, the post office procedure for foreign mail seemed, at least to your editor, to involve initial postmarking/canceling in the domestic mail section since domestic mail postmarks were struck on the large majority of such covers that we have seen. Not long ago the cover in Figure 1 came to our attention, mailed at Boston and received in London on May 7, 1880, bearing an unduplexed cork cancel which may be a distorted strike of the Figure 13 cancel on page 95 of the February

issue. (That cancel had been reported by Blake and Davis on one cover dated September 7, 1880.) I think we can assume that the Figure 12 cancel on page 95 was also unduplexed because Blake and Davis associated it with three different foreign mail postmarks during the large Boston negatives era and no domestic mail postmarks. The three covers range in date from June to December 1882. I have a record of a November 15, 1882 Boston cover to Germany struck with a domestic

postmark/large Boston negative cancel duplex and a separate unduplexed Boston foreign mail postmark. And within the past several days of writing this update, a November 14, 1879 cover to Germany has been seen bearing a Boston foreign mail postmark and an indeterminate unduplexed cork cancel.

The period in 1883 mentioned in the earlier article was not the only time during the era of large Boston negatives that foreign mail was processed fully in the

foreign mail section and it is clear that this brief article and the one in the last issue constitute only a beginning point for analyzing foreign mail handling at Boston during the 1878-1883 period. Reports from readers will be welcomed.



Figure 1

"S" in Wreath, One More Time

Several reports of "S in wreath" cancels have appeared in the *NEWS*. In the February 2006 issue, an example in gray ink from Bardwell, Pennsylvania, dated December 17, 1986, was illustrated. In the November 2014 issue, a cut square with a blue "S" in wreath but no accompanying postmark was reported. A second example from Bardwell, in what is either a dark gray or black ink, with date that appears to be June 7, 1889 (possibly 1888), was

shown in the February 2015 issue with the comment that there was not enough information to say whether the blue strike was also from Bardwell. Cliff Woodward has now submitted an image from his Pennsylvania archives of a blue Bardwell "S" in wreath on cover dated May 23, 1883. Since the cut square bearing the blue "S" in wreath is of a 3¢ green issue, it seems very likely that (1) it is indeed from Bardwell and (2) this post office began

striking the cancel in blue ink initially and then at some point switched to black. We might also suggest that black printer's ink was probably used and contributed to the deterioration of the canceler face that is very evident in the February 2015 image. The Bardwell post office opened in August 1879 and the name of the first postmaster was Levinus Smith, no doubt providing the basis for the "S." The post office closed in 1906.

¹ Kay, John L. and Smith, Jr., Chester M. *Pennsylvania Postal History*, Quarterman Publications, Inc., Lawrence, MA (1976), p. 459.

The U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

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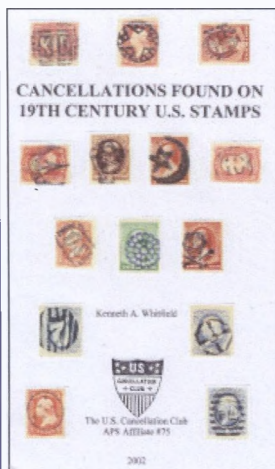
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Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

There are various reasons, of course, why 19th century U.S. cancels spark collector interest. First and foremost, in my opinion, is aesthetics. Legions of cancels are, in a word, beautiful. I'd say these primarily include geometrics if we use the term broadly. Up through the 1870s, many cancels were produced by the whittler's knife. A fair number are examples of American folk art and are among the most eagerly sought after cancels. Beyond aesthetics, cancels are often interesting because they challenge us to think about and explore their use – fraternal, patriotic, patent and pictorial come to mind. There is also a broad category that results from the use of handstamps, not designed as cancelers, but pressed into such service, either for thrift or simple convenience. A vast category, somewhat neglected in the literature as a whole, is that of ellipse and concentric circles cancels with a number or letter in the center. These are very amenable to further study which I expect will occur in the years ahead. And from an overall perspective, there is the fascinating evolution of canceling practices generally during the 19th century leading up to and through the early decades of machine cancels. There were lots of interesting fits and starts along the way but, most importantly, real innovation and ingenuity spurred by the pressure of a greatly increasing mail volume.

Just as a personal aside, the first fancy cancel that caught my attention many years ago was on an off-cover 10¢ Banknote (Sc 161). At the time I was working on filling spaces in a U.S. album and this stamp, printed in a nice shade that showed the fine engraving to good advantage, was canceled by a full strike of a pale purple Maltese cross. I bought it, not due to any particular interest in the cancel per se, but due to how it enhanced the overall appearance of the stamp. An unobtrusive cancel on stamps had been my goal but with this stamp came the realization that a cancel can be very much a positive feature and not just an aspect of a used stamp to be minimized. As time went on, focus shifted to the cancels and not the stamps primarily and then to include covers with all the additional information they provided.

Serving as *NEWS* editor has been a truly rewarding experience and I extend to the Club membership my sincere thanks for the support and encouragement over the years which has been terrific. This will no doubt continue for our new editors Ardy Callender and John Donnes. I hope to be at least an occasional contributor to these pages in the future and will look forward, as much as ever, to our continuing collective pursuit of information about early U.S. cancels and canceling practices.

With warm regards,
Roger Curran



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Chicago Postal Markings and Postal History

By Leonard Piskiewicz

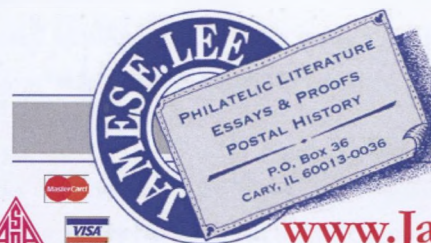
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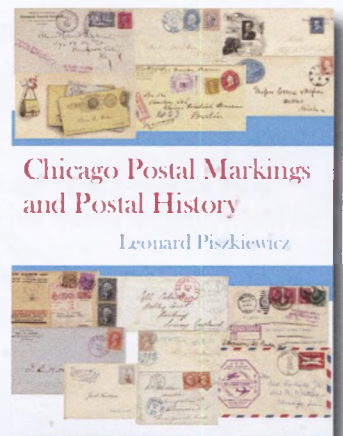
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Cancels on the 3¢ Green

Chuck Collins submits several interesting cancellations from his 3¢ green collection. Figure 1 shows an unlisted negative bird flying to the right. The negative pointing hand that is also shown is listed and reported from Mittineague. The similar, very delicate style strongly suggests that both were carved by the same talented hand.

Figure 2 illustrates an appealing heart within a star within a pentagon cancel. The rimless Upsonville postmark is also unusual with the "31" and "PA," but not the town name, in italics. Upsonville is a DPO that operated in Susquehanna Co. from 1836-1907.

Figure 3 shows strikes of two Waterbury cancels that Rohloff lists and refers to as "Garden Paths." Figure 4 presents a variation that is not listed in Rohloff but surely must also be a Waterbury cancel. Can readers show additional strikes, on or off cover, of the Figure 4 cancel?

The cancel on the left in Figure 5 is a

well known Pittsburgh cancel. The Spring 1986 *NEWS* carried a very informative article by Bob McKain on Pittsburgh fancy cancels, 1872-1882. He listed the Figure 5 cancel and reported two dated covers, 12/6/73 and 12/9/73. Figure 6 shows a Sc 136 bearing a similar skull and bones in coffin cancel but one that clearly differs from Figure 5. Can readers identify the post office of origin or show additional examples of this very nice cancel?

Finally, Chuck submitted the Figure 7 cancel which has a pencil note on the back: "torch or tree." It has not been expertised but Chuck states that the ink doesn't bleed through to the back of the stamp and the cancel appears to him to be genuine. He submitted this item to the *NEWS* because a 24¢ Banknote in the collection of Dan Haskett (Figure 8) with what is presumably the same cancel (also with no ink bleed through) was opined in 2014 to be a "counterfeit" by the PF noting also that a prior cancel on the

stamp had been removed. Dan wondered if perhaps the prior cancel was removed so that the high value stamp could be reused, whereupon the stamp was reused and a genuine cancel struck. Of course, such a theory presumes that the PF "counterfeit" opinion was based largely if not completely on the fact that a cancel was removed rather than on the cancel itself. Whether or not this is the case, we do not know. Dan found another example of the cancel as lot 796 in a 11/24/97 Kukstis auction. It was largely struck (90% plus) on a Sc 149 (7¢) and referred to in the lot description as a "sheaf of wheat." Chuck reports seeing a fourth example, this also on a 7¢ Banknote, but only a half strike. If readers can report further examples or any information about the cancel, please contact the *NEWS*. Incidentally, if it were up to your editor, the cancel would be called a "palmetto." Maybe this design qualifies as a philatelic Rorschach!



Figure 1



Figure 3

Figure 2



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8

Decorative Letter

The August 2011 and November 2014 issues of the *NEWS* illustrated examples of a highly decorative letter style that is occasionally noted as a canceler design. Letters reported are A, B, D, H and S. Figure 1 presents a "J" in

this style. Many thanks to John Donnes for the outstanding tracing here and for the great many others he has provided over the years that have so enhanced the *NEWS*!



Figure 1



EXHIBIT AWARDS WON BY USCC MEMBERS January-March 2015

SANDICAL: January 23-25

Ed Field: Gold medal; also U.S. Philatelic Classics Society Award for "Colored Cancels on U.S. Stamps of 1869". Also single-frame Vermeil award for "Bearer Bonds and the U.S. Supplementary Registry System".

Larry Haller: Gold medal; also USCC Award for best U.S. Cancellation Exhibit for "United States Hand Applied Flag Cancellations 1852-1949."

Matt Kewriga: Gold medal; also Reserve Grand award and APS Medal of Excellence, Pre-1900 for "The 2-cent Jackson Banknote Regular Issue of 1870-1879". Also Gold medal, Single-Frame Grand award, and Lighthouse Stamp Society Award for "The First United States and Brazil Steamship Line, 1865-1875".

Les Lanphear: Single-Frame Gold medal for "Go, the World's Oldest Board Game".

Southeastern Stamp Expo: January 30-February 1

Nancy Clark: Silver-Bronze medal for "Jamestown Settlement-400th Anniversary".

Gary Hendren: Gold Medal; also Collectors Club of Chicago award for "St. Louis Street Car Mail 1892-1915".

Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition: February 6-8

Gary Hendren: Gold medal; also USCC best cancellations exhibit award for "St. Louis Street Car Mail 1892-1915".

TEXPEX February 27-March 1

Nancy Clark: Vermeil medal for "Street Car R.P.O. Service in the USA"; Also Vermeil medal and AAPE Gold Award of Honor for "Jamestown Settlement: 400th Anniversary"; also single-frame gold medal and Mobile Post Office Society Charles E Towle award for "A Trip in the Mail Car".

Garfield-Perry March Party: March 19-21.

Robert B. Bramwell: Vermeil and AAPE Award of Honor for "Postal Markings of the Schnectady, N.Y. Post Office, 1797-1907."

Nancy Clark: Gold medal; also APS Research medal for "The Massachusetts Island Counties." Also Vermeil medal for "Street Car R.P.O. Service in the USA."

Matthew E. Liebson: Gold and USPCS medal for "Ohio Postal History to 1820." Also Garfield-Perry Single Frame Second and USCC best cancellations exhibit award for "Integral Rate Postmarks of Cincinnati, Ohio."

Alan Parsons: Silver medal for "Corning NY Postal History Including DPOs Now Served by the Corning Post Office".

More on Early Boston Duplexes

by Roger D. Curran

The August 2009 *NEWS* carried an article on page 108 about the introduction of handstamps by the Boston post office that duplexed a postmark and cancel. This began at least as early as February 27, 1865. The article also showed a Boston cover dated March 27 (1865) with the postmark struck in red and the unduplexed quartered cork cancel in black. There was apparently a transition period during 1865 from using simplex to duplexed cancelers and we remarked that, given the workload savings inherent in using a duplex handstamp, it is hard to understand why this step was adopted by this large post office so late. New York and several other large post offices did so in 1860, the same year in which the Post Office Department disallowed use of the postmark as a cancel.

Dan Haskett recently brought to our attention a December 20, 1864 usage of Boston postmark/cancel duplex. This important marking was neglected in the earlier article and will now be addressed. Figure 1 illustrates a July 28, 1864 example. Dan's cover is unsealed and encloses a dated circular. The Figure 1 cover is unsealed but with no remaining enclosure. Figure 2 illustrates a wrapper bearing this duplex marking with both

the month and year illegible. This duplex, incidentally, is typically associated with the 2¢ Sc 73 stamp. Note the odd placement of the cancel at the 5 o'clock position in relation to the postmark. A Blake and Davis illustration shows this angle in Figure 3.¹ (The "99" is undoubtedly an inverted "66.")

The handstamps that produced these markings were issued by the Post Office Department (POD). Handstamps of this style were ultimately distributed to more than 600 U.S. post offices during the 1863-1866 period and represent the first POD-issued postmark/cancel duplexes. The Boston examples (Blake and Davis illustrate five versions with slight variations²) depart from the norm by

placing the state abbreviation at the top, rather than at the bottom of the postmark, and adding "PAID" at the bottom. This continued, in a way, the long Boston tradition of including the word "PAID" in its obliterations beginning in July 1851. Of course, in this case the "PAID" was used in the accompanying CDS rather than in the cancel itself.

Readers are encouraged to report additional strikes of this duplex that add to the story. Was it used on first class mail? The earliest reported use in Blake and Davis is January 21, 1864³. Was it used in 1863? Was it used with the killer in the normal position just to the right of the postmark or at odd angles other than the one shown above?



Figure 1



Figure 2

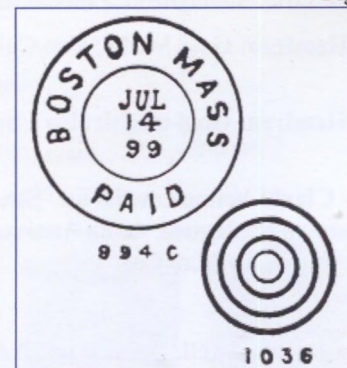


Figure 3

¹ Maurice C. Blake and Wilbur W. Davis *Boston Postmarks to 1890* Quarterman Publications, Inc. (Reprint 1974), pp. 200-1.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

A Fancy Cancel Throwback

To say that your editor is a little surprised to be writing about a non-philatelic, apparently hand-carved 1950 fancy cancel is an understatement. Indeed, I don't recall ever before seeing an example from this era, although one would have supposed that, in theory at least, they are out there to be found. Thanks to Ed Field we can show in four strikes of a large negative "N" canceling eight stamps on a registered mail tag postmarked Newport, Oregon, May 11, 1950. From the tag, we see that the bank's moneybag was received one day later in the Portland, Oregon post office. It would be interesting to learn just what led to the creation and use of this canceler as opposed to, say, one of the mute double oval cancelers or 4-ring targets that were commonly employed at the time. Letter cancelers showing the first letter of the post office name, both positive and negative, were common, of course, in the 1870s and 1880s, but here we have one 70 years later. If there are similar examples in Club members' collections, the *NEWS* would be eager to learn about them.



Fake Cancellers

Additional fakes submitted by Steven Hines are herewith presented.



The USCC Goes to Grand Rapids

As previously announced, the USCC will be holding its biennial meeting at the APS Stampshow in Grand Rapids this summer. There will be a Club meeting and seminar on Saturday, August 22 from 4-6PM. Roger Rhoads will make a presentation on Chicago Blue cancellers as found on the first postal cards. A USCC society table staffed for all four days will provide a convenient meeting place for members to meet and greet one another. With a field as broad as U.S. 19th century cancellations, there is always a great deal to talk about. If you plan to attend the show and would have some time available to help out at our table, please let one of the Club officers know. We'll put together a schedule at the show.

Hope to see you there!



Fancy Cancels of Union Mills, Pennsylvania

by Clifford Woodward

The fancy cancels of Union Mills, Pennsylvania have an almost celebrated presence among collectors of US 19th century stamps and covers. The legendary Union Mills "KKK Skull & Crossbones" and "Kleagle Mask" cancels conjure the frightening image of the Ku Klux Klan during the Reconstruction era in the South which terrorized African-Americans after the Civil War. This article will attempt to assemble some previously available material with census data and covers I've accumulated over the past 35 years and draw some conclusions regarding the usage of the various fancy cancels, some known but others unrecorded, from this small northwestern Pennsylvania town.

Erie County, Pennsylvania, occupies the extreme northwestern corner of the state, bordering Ohio to the west, Crawford and Warren Counties of Pennsylvania to the south and east, New York to the northeast and Lake Erie on the north. Situated in the southeastern portion of the county, about 27 miles from Erie and straddling both sides of the south branch of French Creek, Union Mills was founded in 1801 by Irish immigrant William Miles who built a gristmill and sawmill there. The area was little more than that for fifty years until about 1855 when businessmen from Warren, Pennsylvania upgraded the mills and started a store. A town proper was laid out and the Pennsylvania & Erie Railroad laid a track there instead of nearby Wattsburgh. The Atlantic & Great Western Railroad then did likewise. Business in the area began to pick up as a result and, since the early oil industry was just beginning about 20 miles south in Titusville, three small refineries were built around the village to accommodate the crude oil coming north from the oil fields to Union Mills, one of the few railheads close to the region.¹

This success was not to last, for most of the oil was soon directed through the town of Corry to the west (also in Erie County) and transportation revenue thereby lessened. The village carried on with successful wood products manufacturing businesses, chief of which was arguably the Union City Chair Co. (one of three chair manufacturers). It also managed to survive a devastating flood in

June of 1892. Nonetheless, the years of 1870-71 were exciting for the little village, but not for a reason that anyone at the time would suspect: the apparent sentiments of the postmaster.

John H. Beardsley was the postmaster of Union Mills from February 9, 1870, to March 16, 1871. The postmaster immediately preceding him was John D. Black, who served from July 10, 1867, until Beardsley's appointment in 1870.² Beardsley was listed as living in Hatfield, Crawford County in 1856 and Union Mills in 1870, but practically nothing else is known about him. Almost the only reference, if indeed it is a reference to John H., was to a meeting place in nearby Mill Village "...and there was a public hall in Beardsley's building."³

During what can be loosely defined as the Reconstruction era, Beardsley was a member of or had sentiments in sympathy with the Ku Klux Klan and used the famous fancy cancels on that theme. Such use is not hard to understand in the greater context of all postmasters who at the time frequently proclaimed their fraternal affiliations by the use of thematic fancy cancels, especially if that postmaster was a Freemason or Odd Fellow.

To understand these cancels, one must understand the Ku Klux Klan. It was founded in Pulaski, Tennessee in 1867 by six veterans of the Confederate army.⁴ The name is probably derived from the Greek word kuklos (κύκλος) which means circle.⁵ Covering most of the South by 1870, the Klan symbolized southern resistance to Reconstruction era policies that proposed economic and political equality for African Americans. Klan members undertook a campaign of violence against black and white Republican leaders and adherents, and are remembered for the terrorism of stark nighttime raids carried out by masked men that included the murder of innocent African American men. The Klansmen also used fantastic regalia to frighten their victims including masks and robes, pretending to be the vengeful ghosts of the Confederate dead returning to torture their victims.⁶

Legislation was passed by the Congress to restrain the Klan, and the Ku Klux Klan act of 1871 provided for the

suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, authorizing the president to arrest Klan members without charge and to send Federal forces to suppress Klan violence. This expansion of Federal authority, which Ulysses S. Grant promptly used in 1871 to crush Klan activity in South Carolina and other areas of the South, allowed the government to gradually reassert control by the late 1870's.⁷

During this first intense period of Klan activity, the famous Klan fancy cancels appeared at Union Mills:

- KKK Skull & Crossbones (ST-3)
- Bearded Kleagle Mask (ST-4)
- Kleagle Mask (ST-5)
- Horse in Hat (ST-7)
- Key in Cartouche (ST-8)

These stylized cancellations depicted several aspects of Klan activity. The "KKK Skull & Crossbones," the most widely known and fearsome of the group, was emblematic of Klan sentiments. The Kleagle masks represented actual masks worn by the Ku Klux Klan officer of that title, whose role it was to recruit new officers.⁸ The "Horse in Hat" is believed to reference the emblem of the secret society of the Horseman's Word in Scotland.⁹ The recently discovered "Key in Cartouche" (the cover is from the same correspondence as the sole known cover bearing the "Horse in Hat" cancel) may reference further Scottish esotericism. Known as a "jewel of office" in Freemasonry, the key symbolizes the rank of Master or Treasurer.¹⁰

An interesting analysis can be made regarding the appearance of the "KKK" cancels. The correct dates of the three surviving covers are: (1) April 13 (the Adams cover), (2) May 18 (the Winchester cover, assigned the year of usage as 1870 by both the descriptions in both the 1990 Elliott-Lindsay auction and the 1999 Siegel auction), and (3) August 15 (the Sill cover, now in the Swiss Postal Museum as part of the Hirzel collection). Given his tenure as postmaster of February 9, 1870, to March 16, 1871, Beardsley used this cancel for at least five months and given the boldness of the known strikes, it either held up remarkably well, or was only used on selected mail ("Negative Cross" GM-7

was in use at the same time as the "KKK" cancel). It should be noted that while all known strikes that are considered genuine exhibit the characteristic of the leg of the left "K" being aligned with the left side of the skull¹¹, the outside possibility exists that other examples, currently considered questionable, may be genuine but are second or third generation carvings. However, without further complete covers, this must remain only speculation.

Of greatest interest is the discovery, about twenty years ago, of the only known example of the "Bearded Kleagle Mask" (ST-4) on cover. Known by the two previously existing off-cover examples, both strikes on Sc 114, one on a piece and the other on a single stamp, no covers had surfaced and the attribution of this cancel to Union Mills was by style and subject matter alone. Unearthed by a prominent dealer, the Thickston correspondence yielded a small group of covers among which was the "Bearded Kleagle Mask" struck on a grilled 1867 stamp, Sc 88. The "Small Kleagle Mask" (ST-6), last seen in the Christie's sale of the Ishakawa collection in 1993, is unique and has not been verified on cover.

Other fancy cancels of the Beardsley period were:

- Negative Cross (GM-7)
- Wedge Geometric (GM-8)
- Diamond Grid (GM-9)

The Negative Cross cancel (GM-7), though dated May 9, 1870 by the enclosed letter, bears a grilled 1867 stamp, Sc 94. This is consistent with the usage of the Sc 88 on

the "Bearded Kleagle Mask" cover. Even though the Banknote stamps were issued in March of that year, either the Union Mills post office or the sender, Leonard Thickston (the same hand appears to have addressed both covers), had a supply of the earlier stamps on hand.

But whereas fancy cancels were thought used at Union Mills only during Beardsley's tenure as postmaster, evidence of earlier cancels now suggests that he was at work creating designs, prior to the Klan cancels, during the term of his predecessor, John D. Black. It is possible that he was the carver of fancy killers such as the striking "10 00 AM" (ST-1) and "2.40 PM" (ST-2), which probably refer to the arrival or departure times of trains on the Atlantic & Great Western Railroad. The letter enclosed in the ST-1 cover dates it as December 7th, 1868, well before his tenure as postmaster but the design does show a noted similarity in its execution to the "KKK" cancel. The same can be said of the "Null X" (GM-2) cancel. Whether

or not Beardsley was associated at this time with the post office or postmaster Black is currently undetermined.




One month after Beardsley's appointment ended, the name of the town was changed to Union City, on April 14, 1871¹². The new postmaster, Charles C. Thompson (3/16/1871 to 2/9/1880)¹³, continued the use of fancy cancels for a short while, creating two pumpkin heads, a shield, a hand and a negative "X" in a box. They are less sophisticated than the Beardsley's, and seem not to have been in use for very long. Except for these examples from the early 1870's, no other fancy cancels were created or used at Union City, based on this author's examination of many Union City covers of the 1870's through 1890's.

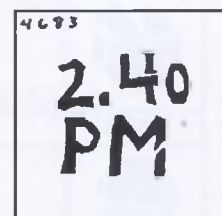
It is hoped that this article will stimulate discussion of these rare markings and perhaps bring to light additional information regarding examples, dated covers or correspondence, and historical information about Beardsley.













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- ¹² John L. Kay and Chester M. Smith, Jr., *Pennsylvania Postal History*, Lawrence, Massachusetts: Quarterman Publications, 1976, p. 166.
- ¹³ <http://webpmt.usps.gov/pmt002.cfm>.

Fancy Cancels of Union Mills, Pennsylvania

TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION	STAMP	QUANTITY			NOTES
	STYLIZED	"10 00 AM"	#65	Covers	Pieces	Stamps	
ST-1				1	0	0	
	STYLIZED	"2 40 PM"	#65	1	0	0	Whitfield #4683
ST-2							
	STYLIZED	KKK Skull & Crossbones	#114	3	7	7	S/E PH-S 29 Whitfield #1034
ST-3							



	STYLIZED	Bearded Kleagle Mask	#88	1	1	1	S/E PH-M 17 Whitfield #219
ST-4							
	STYLIZED	Kleagle Mask	#114	1	0	0	
ST-5							
	STYLIZED	Small Kleagle Mask	#114	0	0	1	S/E PH-M 18
ST-6							
	STYLIZED	Horse in Hat	#114	1	0	2	S/E PA-D 1 Whitfield #369
ST-7							
	STYLIZED	Key in Cartouche	#147	1	0	0	
ST-8							
	GEOMETRIC	5-Bar Grid	#94	2	0	0	
GM-1							
	GEOMETRIC	Null-X	#94	1	0	0	
GM-2							
	GEOMETRIC	Negative X	#94	1	0	0	
GM-3							
	GEOMETRIC	Donut	#94	1	0	0	
GM-4							
	GEOMETRIC	Circle of Wedges	#114	2	0	0	
GM-5							
	GEOMETRIC	Quartered Cork	#114 #95 #68	1	0	0	
GM-6							
	GEOMETRIC	Negative Cross	#94	1	0	0	
GM-7							






"Kleagle mask"

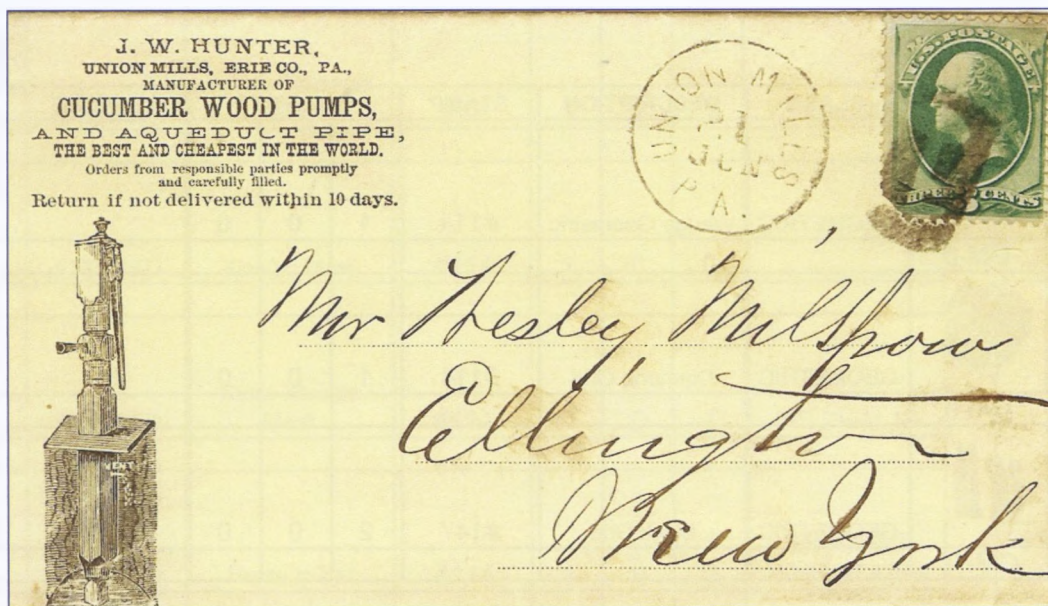


369

69 Union Mills, PA
Odd Animal's
B Head

TYPE	CLASS	DESCRIPTION	STAMP	QUANTITY			NOTES
	GEOMETRIC	Wedge Geometric	#114	1	0	0	
GM-8							
	GEOMETRIC	Diamond Grid	#114	1	0	0	
GM-9							
	GEOMETRIC	Block Grid	#147	2	0	0	
GM-10							





Odd Large Cancels With Numbers or Letters

This article returns to a category of cancels that have been discussed on several occasions in the *NEWS*. Examples first appeared in the July 1958 *NEWS* where Dr. Robert deWasserman illustrated those shown here as Figure 1. The cancel on the left appears in Whitfield as #6480 and is currently listed with the following numbers: 9, 13, 22, 25-7, 29 and 31. Normally seen on 1¢ or 2¢ stamps, the "9" was reported by Dick Nunge on a 6¢ stamp (Feb 2010 *NEWS*). Whitfield also listed a

design not illustrated by deWasserman – see Figure 2 and reported "numbers 6, 8, 11, 17 and 31." Dan Haskett reported a "3" in this design in the August 2010 *NEWS*. A heavily inked "3" on a Sc 179 is shown as Figure 3. Just recently, Dan submitted the stamp in Figure 4 which presents a new design that appears similar to (but is not the same as) the stamp on the right of Figure 1. It also, of course, contains a number rather than a letter in the center.

There were obviously a number of

different handstamps involved in this group of cancels, but how much they were used is an open question. It is interesting that we have no reports of where any of the cancels in this category were used. Presumably they were unduplexed and used largely on circulars and/or wrappers which, of course, were likely to be discarded. If any reader can report a post office of origin or other new information, please contact the *NEWS*.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

New USCC Members

It is a pleasure to welcome the following new members:

Dr Gerald R. Greene
Redlands, California

Stephen G. Gavula
Haines City, Florida

Richard A. Van Woolten
New Orleans, Louisiana

A 2015 Club membership roster is planned as an insert to the August *NEWS*.

Request for Reports

According to *Scott Specialized*, the earliest reported date for Sc 64 (pink) is August 17, 1861 and for Sc 65 is August 19, 1861. Abe Boyarsky writes to say that he would like to know if any Club members have examples of Sc 64 or 65, on or off cover, that can be dated August 21, 1861 or earlier. A Sc 64 in Abe's collection is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1

Correction

In the article about color cancellations on the 1869 issue on page 86 of the February *NEWS*, last sentence of the third column, the portion of the sentence reading "... many examples can be found on off-cover 6¢ stamps ..." should read "12¢" rather than "6¢."

The Classic Cancel

Quality 19th Century U.S. Stamps, Cancels and Postal History



"running man"

John Valenti

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Pennsylvania “Wheel of Fortune” Cancels

by Roger D. Curran

The fancy cancel used by 19th century U.S. post offices more than any other was undoubtedly the “wheel of fortune” illustrated in Figure 1. It has been associated with more than 1,000 post offices. The cancel possesses an attractive and highly intricate design which was produced from rubber-faced handstamps that could be made and sold at minimal cost. This appealed, of course,

to small-town postmasters who were more concerned about price than having durable cancelers that would hold up under heavy volume.

The Daniel F. Kelleher auction in January 2011 dispersed what was probably the most extensive collection of “wheel of fortune” cancels ever assembled. It was sold primarily in State lots. The collection was formed over a period of more than 50

years by Arthur Beane. In the August 2011 *Pennsylvania Postal Historian*, journal of the Pennsylvania Postal History Society, I presented data from the Pennsylvania holding of Mr. Beane along with several additions. Since then, four new post offices have been identified plus a few additional dates. The accompanying table provides current information. The three covers illustrated are from the Beane collection.

It is hoped that readers will submit further reports so that a more complete listing can be developed. Scans or photocopies will be appreciated and all contributions acknowledged. Reports should be sent to the *NEWS* editor, or to me at rcurran@dejazzd.com or 20 University Ave., Lewisburg PA 17837.



Figure 1



Pennsylvania "Wheel of Fortune" Cancels

Post Office	Date	County	DPO Status	Ink Color	Comments
Baxter	5/14/86	Jefferson	1875-1967	grey	also 1/16/84, 11/12/84, 12/10/86, 3/7/87 and 6/11/88. county postmark
Bayne	10/11/90	Allegheny	1884-1903	grey	
Boyers	6/25/88	Butler	operating	purple	From an old literature report.
Burnwood	4/20/86	Susquehanna	1884-1908	grey	
Cambria	4/4/84	Cambria	1870-1887	grey	
Cloud	7/2/86	Chester	1881-99	purple	county postmark
Cross Creek Village	10/16/89	Washington	1825-1900	black	
Dagas Mines	1/14/84	Elk	operating	black	
Fernwood	7/21/90	Delaware	1872-1932	black	also 10/10/90, 10/16/90
Gap	2/12/83	Lancaster	operating	grey	also 7/3/8? (magenta), and 8/12/82, 10/18/83. county postmark
Garrett	3/30/85	Somerset	operating	black	also 2/13/85 (red)
Gilfoyle	6 or 7/17/85	Forest Co.	1882-1944	bluish grey	county postmark
Glen Riddle	12/29/84	Delaware	1854-1973	black	
Good Spring	5/22/94	Schuylkill	1890-1960	blackish brown	
Goodyear	6/25/86	Cameron	1883-99	black	also 10/19/85, 12/18/85
Hauto	9/17/84	Carbon	1883-1916	greyish blue	
Highville	9/24/87	Lancaster	1850-1909	bluish grey	
Homestead	12/10/84	Allegheny	operating	grey	
Ironore	3/21/87	York	1803-1923	?	3/12/87
Ketner	?	Elk	1886-1889	?	From an old literature report. county postmark.
Lander	6/18/93	Warren	1862-1909	Purple	Used as a receiving mark. courtesy of Gordon Mathis.
Manor Dale	11/5/83	Westmoreland	1854-1907	bluish grey	
Millville Depot	10/2/83	Pike	1869-1888	greyish blue	also 5/31/84
Nanticoke	4/19/83	Luzerne	operating	purple	also 4/24/83 (purple) and 4/3/83 (grey)
Newtown Square	3/14/83	Delaware	operating	black	also 5/18/83, 5/30/84 and 12/9/83 (magenta) and 1/8/85 (dark grey). county postmark.
Paxtonville	10/19/87	Snyder	operating	black	
Rice's Landing	6/17/85	Greene	operating	grey	also 12/31/81. postmaster postmark
Royer	6/25/88	Blair	1874-1935	reddish magenta	county postmark
Schwenksville	4/6/86	Montgomery	1880-1974	greyish magenta	also 1/24/88
Smethport	4/3/84	McKean	operating	bluish grey	also 5/5/84 (bluish grey), 5/23/85 (grey), and 2/2/86 and 8/21/86 (magenta)
Stahlstown	1/29/87	Westmoreland	operating	grey	
Sydney	7/12/84	Armstrong	1884-9	black	unusual oval postmark
Thomasville	2/12/87	York	operating	grey	
Trucksville	8/5/87	Luzerne	1828-1960	grey	
Weidasville	5/24/92	Lehigh	1862-1907	grey	
Welsh Run	2/20/88	Franklin	1830-1906	grey	
White Haven	8/16/83	Luzerne	operating	black	8/6/83
Williams	6/13/85	Somerset	1883-1916	black	
Wilmore	8/8/83	Cambria	operating	grey	also 12/11/84 in ink with brownish cast probably attributable to ink degradation

Colored Cancellations on the 1869 Series: Designs in Circles

by Roger D. Curran

This article shows cancel designs within circles. It omits simple four-ring targets and stars, which will be addressed in a future article. Also omitted are in-circle cancels shown in prior *NEWS* articles, including: Masonics (August 2012), Red Anchor (Nov 2012), Crosses (May 2013), Letters (August 2013), and Postmarks (August 2014).

Figure 1 shows a cover posted July 5 (year uncertain) from Blackfoot City, Montana Territory to Canada West. It bears a horizontal pair of 3-cent stamps, each tied by a complex, slate-blue circular geometric cancel. This cover is one of two known to bear this cancel.

Figure 2 shows a drop-letter use from Watkins NY dated Oct 12 (probably 1869). The boldly struck blue cancel is an eight-arm circle of wedges in a simple circle.

Figure 3 shows a cover from Danville KY dated Oct 31 (probably 1869). Delivered locally, it bears a two-cent stamp tied by a bold crossroad carved into a blue outer circle surrounding a solid inner circle. Incidentally, the embossed design at the cover's left is the coat-of-arms of Phi Delta Theta, a college fraternity that has since grown to over a hundred chapters nationally.

Figure 4 shows a cover dated Sept 5 (1869?) from Indiana PA. The blue cancel is a quartered cork in a simple circle.

Figure 5 shows an off-cover 6-cent stamp

bearing a blue 8-arm circle of wedges surrounded by two thin-lined circles and a thicker outer circle. I have seen similar cancels on other off-cover stamps, but I have no idea as to origin.

Figure 6 shows a cover from Naugatuck CT dated Nov 8 (probably 1869). The red cancel is a grouping of small diamonds surrounded by a simple circle. I know of no other on-cover examples.

Figure 7 shows a cover from Irasburgh VT dated Sep 2 1869. Note the unusual double-ring CDS that shows the year date. The red cancel consists of four triangles within a simple circle. The only other on-cover example of this cancel is poorly struck.

Figure 8 shows a cover from Trinidad, Colorado Territory dated Aug 1 1870. The red cancel consists of ten radial lines within a simple circle. I know of one other such cover, which bears a severely damaged stamp. Was this cancel intended to depict a wagon wheel? Only the carver knew.

Figure 9 shows a cover to Philadelphia (scan provided by Steve Rose) that bears no CDS or street address. This cover appeared in the 1980 Gibbons auction of the Haas collection, then dropped out of sight until a few years ago. It bears a 2-cent stamp tied by a blue dot-in-circle and is the only known on-cover example of this cancel. Figure 9a shows an off-cover

stamp bearing a cleaner strike of the same cancel. I know of three other off-cover examples of this cancel, all on the 2-cent stamp.

The origin of the blue dot-in-circle cancel has been somewhat controversial over the years. In 1996, dealer Andrew Levitt offered an off-cover example, citing its origin as Baltimore. More than two decades later, the Ventura Stamp Company circulated a brochure that offered an off-cover example, described as possibly being a blue version of a similarly shaped, red Baltimore foreign-mail cancel (see Feb 2013 *NEWS*). That same stamp had been submitted to the Philatelic Foundation to certify the cancel's origin as Baltimore. The Foundation, presumably without access to the above cover, declined to opine as to the cancel's origin (see cert #481949 on the Foundation's website).

The cancel is not from Baltimore. Side-by-side comparison shows the blue dot-in-circle to be larger than the red dot-in-circle Baltimore cancel. Moreover, Baltimore was using black ink on domestic mail during the 1869 era. Philadelphia, on the other hand, was using blue ink on domestic mail in the Spring of 1869. And, in 1869, Philadelphia held parades and dedicated a monument to celebrate the birth centennial of geologist/writer Alexander von Humboldt, the name boldly printed on the cover front.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



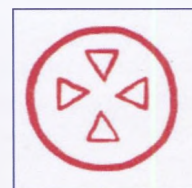
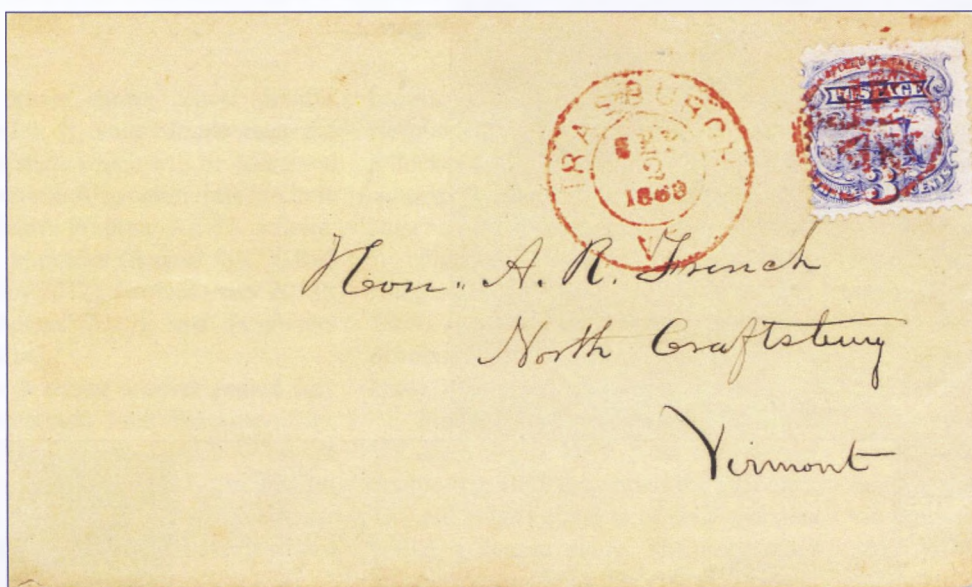


Figure 7

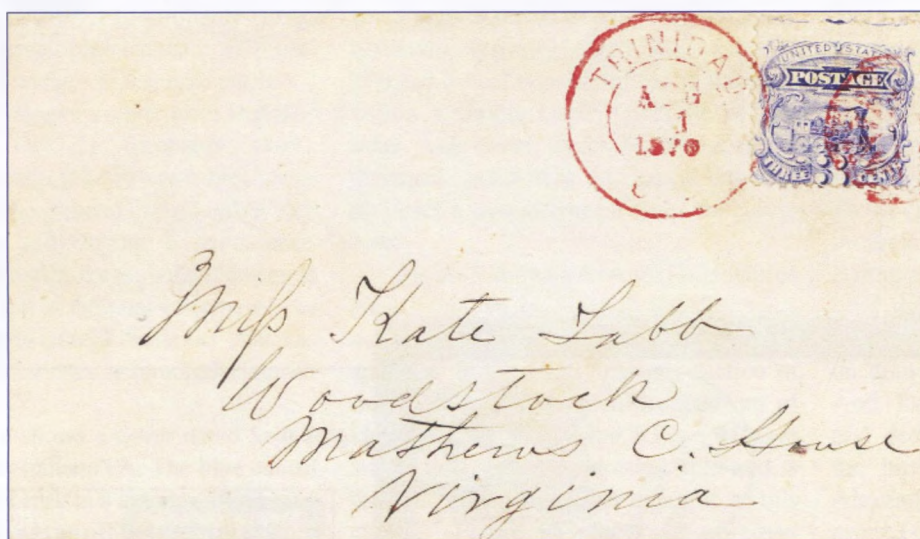


Figure 8



Figure 9

More on Columbus Square Grid

Not long after the article in the February *NEWS* about the Columbus, Ohio square grid cancel was written, a spectacular cover bearing seven strikes of this cancel came to our attention. It resides (or did as of recently) in the stock of dealer Richard Hilty, who operates the website rlhstamps.com, and is shown here through the courtesy of Mr. Hilty – see Figure 1. The cover to Shanghai was postmarked at Columbus on October 24 (1862) and arrived, according to backstamps, at Hong Kong on January 7, 1863 and Shanghai on January 17, 1863. The 1861 issue 3¢ pink entire is franked with a strip of four Sc 68 and two Sc 63 stamps making up the 45¢ rate to China.



Figure 1

Noted in Passing

by Roger D. Curran

The cover in Figure 1 received lots of attention from the handstamping clerk in the Rochester, New York post office. The strike at the bottom places the patent cancel over a manuscript "Miss" with the obvious intent of blocking it out. Perhaps the clerk thought it might be misinterpreted as some notation of postal significance. This strike, incidentally, was applied with considerably more pressure than the other two as in only this case does the small central circle indent through to the back of the cover. The blocked out "Miss" appears to be in

the same hand as the "Miss" above it. John Donnes speculated an interesting and very plausible explanation of the addressing of the cover which is paraphrased herewith. He envisions a young girl addressing what is likely her first envelope and starting at a place where she quickly realizes – or was told by her mother looking over her shoulder – was too low to accommodate the full address. The young girl then stated higher up but overcompensated a bit by now being too high, especially given the unintended upward slant, to

allow placement of the stamp in the upper right corner. After the postal clerk applied his handstamp to cancel the stamp and postmark the cover, he noted that the postmark was not fully struck and then applied it again in the upper right corner.

Figure 2 shows a cover with a manuscript postmark that reads "Dolingville Aug 12 1870" and a manuscript "Paid," both in a purple ink. This Pennsylvania post office in Jefferson County was short lived, operating only from July 15, 1869 to September 7, 1871, with service to the community subsequently provided by the Reynoldsville post office. The first and probably only postmaster was a Joseph Broadhead and one supposes that he never acquired any postmarking or canceling handstamps.

Figure 3 illustrates two strikes of a cancel that has puzzled me for years. Clearly there was some intended design but what is it? I think of it as a "wolf" with a positive head and negative ears! Undoubtedly this overall effect results from a happenstance strike



Figure 1

that created an unintended appearance, but it is unusual to say the least.

Dan Haskett submitted the unlisted Figure 4 cancel that he terms “a little man

looking left.” Have readers seen other examples or know information about it? The very attractive cancel in Figure 5, also submitted by Dan, is reported in Whitfield

as #5558 without attribution. Who can report further examples or the originating post office?



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

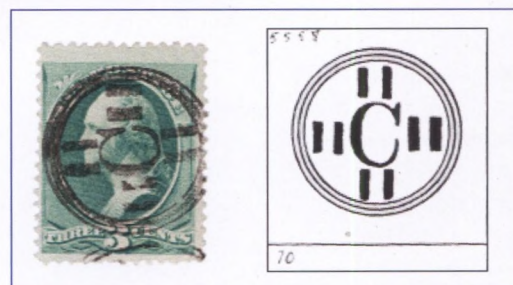


Figure 5

The Fort Leavenworth “Honeycomb” Cancel

One of the small but very intriguing mysteries of 19th century U.S. cancels is what material was used to produce the Fort Leavenworth, Kansas “honeycomb” cancels that were employed with some frequency to cancel official stamps. (Official stamps were valid from 1873-1884 but with declining use beginning several years before 1884.). A “honeycomb” example is shown as Figure 1 along with Whitfield tracings of

several variations. The distinct feature is that of the interlocking circles of small negative triangles. Alan Campbell wrote an important article in the February 2001 *Chronicle* on Fort Leavenworth cancels and devoted a section to the “honeycomb” cancels. He reported no dated covers but mentioned a cover in the Les Lanphear collection bearing a killer “resembling the honeycomb” and an indistinct backstamp “that must read 1893” which suggests

that they may have been in use for a considerable period. Alan speculated that the design might reflect a cross-section of some plant form such as the stem of a gourd. However, consultations with expert botonists were not supportive. Figure 2 shows a 12/27/88 usage with the cancel showing what are apparently worn triangles. If readers can add to the story in any way, please contact the *NEWS*.

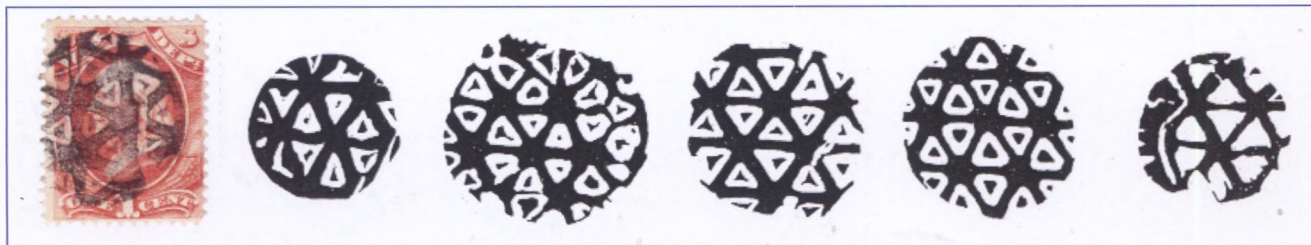


Figure 1



Figure 2