



# U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 33, No. 2, Whole No. 299, May 2016

## Red Cancellations on Large Bank Note Issues

### Part 2: Foreign Mail

by Ardy Callender

Part 2 of the article will review the use of red cancellations on mail to foreign destinations. During the Large Bank Note Period (1870-1890), the majority of correspondence with adhesives cancelled by red cancellations is found on foreign mail originating from large exchange offices such as New York City. However, any city in the United States could employ red ink to cancel adhesives on foreign destination mail.



Figure 1



Figure 2

This mail would ultimately be forwarded to an exchange office, inspected and placed aboard an outbound steamer. Examples of non-exchange office mail will be considered first.

A cover to England from St. Helena, California is shown in figure 1. The datestamp indicates the cover left Saint Helena on 3, August 1873 (year date established by London "Paid" receiving mark) and arrived in Chicago, Illinois on 11 August 1873 as noted by Chicago "Paid All" Am Pkt. backstamp (figure 2). The pair of three cent National Bank Notes is tied by two strikes of a red five bar grid and pre-



Figure 3

paid the single rate (US/British Treaty of 1870). The red Saint Helena datestamp is of the old "double circle" style used primarily in the 1860's. The letter reached London on 13 August 1873 as noted on the London receiving at lower right.

A late use of a red cancel on foreign

destination mail is shown as figure 3. Addressed to Strassburg, Germany, the letter left Hennepin, Putman Co., Illinois on 6 June 1888. The five cent brown Garfield prepays the five cent UPU rate and is can-

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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: Joe Crosby at the address below.

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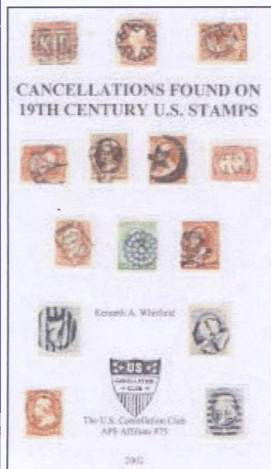
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Continued from front page

celled by a poorly struck red three ring target. The datestamp is also struck on the reverse of the cover at center (figure 4). The cover transited New York on 7 June 1888 (backstamp) and arrived in Strassburg on 20 June 1888. Today known as Strasbourg, the city lies on the border with France on the Rhine River.

Two interesting covers are shown in figures 5 and 6. The two appear to be from the same correspondence as the handwriting seems similar if not identical. Originally the author believed the covers originated at New York City but upon further examination the docket at upper left indicates the covers are from Forest Depot, VA which was a very small town in the 1880s. Both covers prepay the five cent UPU rate to England. Figure 5 is franked by two one cent and a single three cent Continental Bank Notes while the cover in figure 6 is franked by single 5 cent Taylor. The covers transited through New York City as a red New York datestamp appears on the front of both covers. The colors of both the NYC datestamp and cancellation appear similar on each cover - thus the confusion about the origin of the covers.

As previously mentioned, the majority of mail sent to foreign destinations with adhesives struck by red cancellations originated from exchange offices. Due to the detailed rules and procedures involved in handling foreign mail (primarily rating and the accounting issues), specialized (exchange) offices were created and staffed with knowledgeable clerks who dealt with foreign mail exclusively. Exchange offices were the central hub for foreign mail service. Mail addressed to foreign destinations was routed to one of these offices located throughout the United States, usually in port cities. Exchange offices were established by US postal convention or treaty with foreign countries, designating which cities could exchange mail in each country. During the Large Bank Note Period (1870-1890) exchange offices were located at one time or



Figure 4



Figure 5

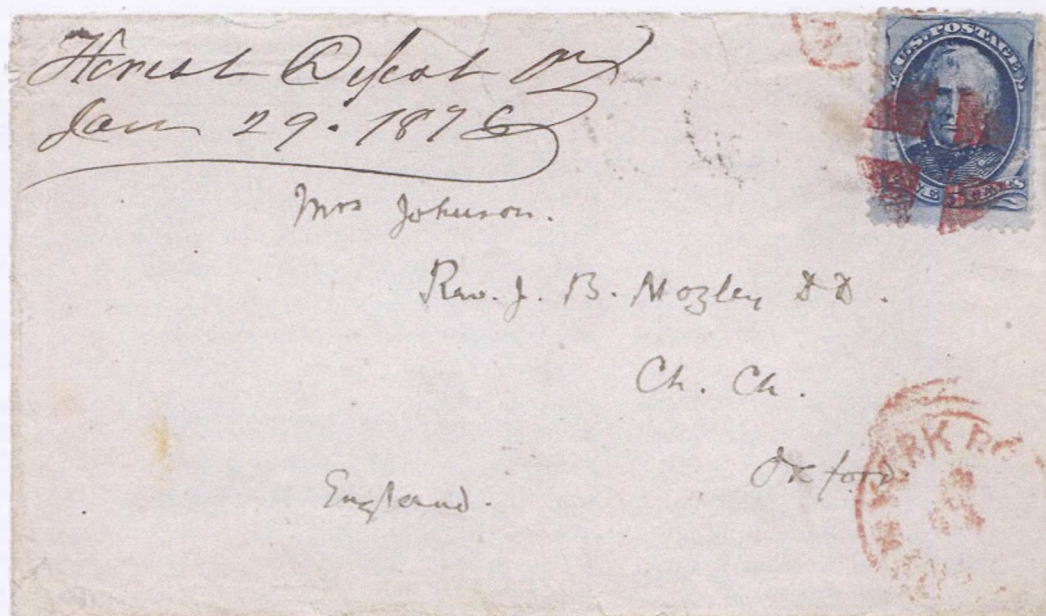


Figure 6





Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

another in Baltimore, Boston, Detroit, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Portland (Maine) and San Francisco.

In most exchange offices, adhesives were cancelled as soon as the letter arrived at the post office while the datestamp was struck at a later time after determination of steamship sailing departures. It was not unreasonable to have a letter remain in the foreign mail department for a day or possibly two until a specified ship sailed. Therefore, the datestamp and obliterator were simplex devices as they were struck at different times.

Datestamps were normally struck in red ink while the obliterations were struck in black, blue, purple and red. Of the nine exchange offices, only Baltimore and New York employed red ink in cancelling adhesives.

Baltimore has been known to use black, blue and red ink for cancellations during the Large Bank Note Period. Although red ink is not common, many different cancellation designs have been observed. A mourning cover from Baltimore dated 17 November 1875 is illustrated as figure 7. It is addressed to N. American College, Rome, Italy and is franked with a ten cent National Banknote cancelled by a red four ring target. An illegible New York transit datestamp is barely visible just below the adhesive. The ten cent franking appears to prepay the single direct rate via Germany.

Another Baltimore cover from the same correspondence as the letter above (the American College, Rome, Italy) is shown in figure 8. The cover dated 12 April 1875 (year established by Rome backstamp) transited New York on 13 April 1875. It departed



New York on 13 April 1875 on the steamer "Idaho" (Guion Line) arriving in Queenstown 25 April 1875. The adhesives prepay the single direct rate via Germany and consist of three - three cent and a single one cent stamps, all Continental Bank Notes. Although both the Baltimore cancellations and datestamp appear oxidized, the New York transit is not, suggesting the rusty red Baltimore color is natural and has not been affected. The smudgy quartered cork cancels tie the adhesives to the cover and each other.

A final cover from Baltimore to Paris, France is illustrated as figure 9. A result of math doodling, the busy looking cover is addressed to Paris but forwarded to Antony, a small community seven miles southwest of Paris. The cover left Baltimore 24 August 1874 and transited to New York on 25 August 1874. It left New York 25 August 1874 on the steamer "Idaho" (Guion Line) arriving in Brest 6 September 1874. The adhesives prepay the nine cent single rate (US/French Treaty of 1874) and consist of a seven cent National Bank Note and a two cent Continental Bank Note.

A red four bar grill cancellation is struck "socked on the nose" on both adhesives.

The fanciest red cancellations found on foreign destination mail during the Bank Note Issue Period (as well as on earlier classic issues) originate from a very specialized division of the New York City foreign mail department known as the supplementary mail system. Supplementary mail was a special service provided by the NYPO in dispatching mail after the close of regular mail. In 1853, the New York Post Office was approached by local merchants wishing their correspondence (bills of lading, waybills, late commodity price

quotes, etc.) to be placed aboard steamers at the last minute (after the regular mails had closed). New York Postmaster Isaac Fowler sought approval from the Postmaster General, James Campbell, and the system was authorized on 7 July 1853. Between 1853 and 1873 supplementary mails were collected at certain publicized (in the local newspapers) offices on the steamship piers and later collected at the main post office. The cost for the supplementary service was double the rate of postage. Only first class, fully paid mail was accepted. Although the supplementary fee and postage had to be prepaid, either could be paid by

cash or stamps. During the nineteenth century, foreign mail departments used a color code for particular markings; red ink indicated paid and black or blue ink represented unpaid. Since all supplementary mail had to be paid, there was no reason to take black ink to the pier and therefore, all supplementary markings are struck in red.

Supplementary covers are not known prior to 1858 and therefore it is surmised that distinct markings were not used during the first five years of the service. Between 1858 and 1941 five specific markings were employed which are listed in the Scott Catalog as Type A, Type D,



Figure 10

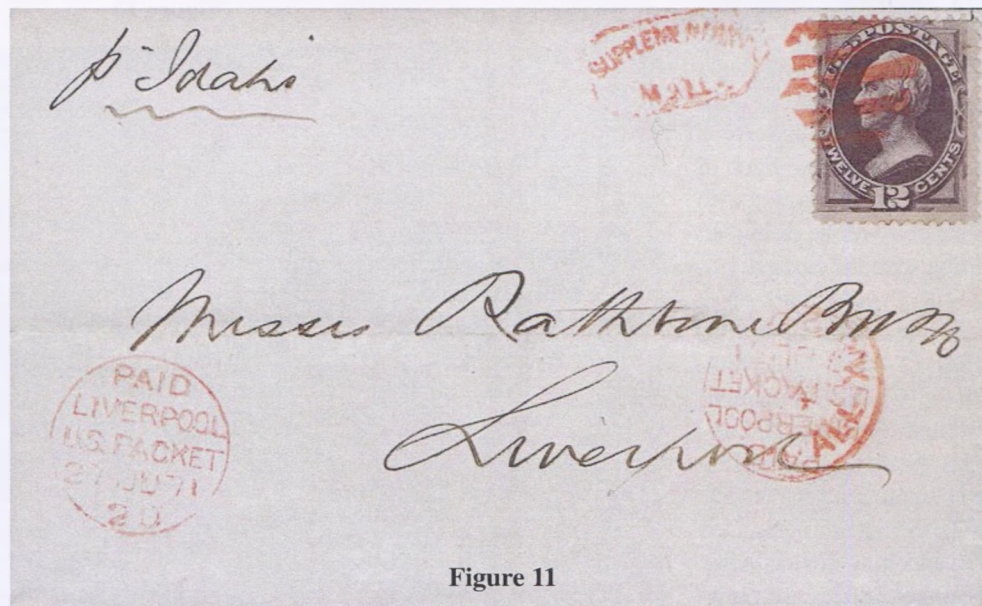


Figure 11



Type E, Type F and Type G. Type A, Type D and Type E are known with red cancellations during the Bank Note Period. New York City Foreign Mail (NYCFM) markings are some of the most beautiful fancy cancels known. They have been widely collected and described but few recognize the relationships between markings emanating from the foreign mail department versus those in use with the supplementary service. Type A cancellations were used exclusively at the pier and therefore not found on mails handled at the foreign mail department. In July 1873, when supplementary service was moved back into the GPO, obliterations used on regular foreign mail are also observed used on supplementary mail. Each of the three types known with red cancels will be discussed starting with the earliest.

The Type A marking is an oblong octagon approximately 12 1/2 by 22-23 mm. with the words "Supplementary" and "Mail" arched upwards and downwards inside the octagon. Early on (1858-1862), the octagon was used as a cancelling device. After December 1862, cork obliterations were employed to cancel adhesives. Beginning in November 1868, a stylized leaf cancellation was in use throughout 1869 and into 1870. During the latter half of 1870 the device began to show wear and disintegrate, becoming nothing more than a smudge. Between June 1871 and July 1873, fancier corks were employed which were in use for approximately a three month period. Figure 10 shows a Type A cover from New York to Johnstone, Scotland. It left New York 4 February 1871 on board the "City of Antwerp" (Inman Line) arriving at Queenstown 15 February 1871. The pair of three cent National Bank Notes pre-

pays the six cent single rate (US/British Treaty of 1870) while the supplementary fee was paid in cash. The adhesives are tied by a red smudged cork as discussed above.

Another Type A cover is illustrated as figure 11. Part of the well known "Rathbone Correspondence" the folded letter addressed to Liverpool, England left New York 14 June 1871 on the steamer "Idaho" (Guion Line) arriving at Queenstown on 26 June 1871. The six cent sin-

gle rate (US/British Treaty of 1870) and supplementary fee are prepaid by the twelve cent National Bank Note. The adhesive is tied at the upper left by a red five bar grill. This cancellation has been recorded between June and September of 1871.

A Type A cover dated 11 December 1872 is shown as figure 12. The folded letter addressed to London, England was put on board the steamer "Idaho" (Guion Line) which arrived in Queenstown on 23



Figure 12



Figure 13



December 1872. The six cent single rate (US/British Treaty of 1870) and supplementary fee are paid by a pair of 6 cent National Bank Notes. The red eight ray star cancel is very distinct and ties both adhesives. This cancellation struck in red is somewhat common off cover, often found in dealer's stock and on ebay. As previously mentioned, it is thought that the obliterated used on supplementary mail were unique to supplementary mail. Therefore, the cover shown as figure 13 is difficult to explain as it is clearly a six cent grilled National Bank Note struck (and tied) by the same eight ray star cancellation in black. This is one of two examples on cover which show a supplementary Type A cancellation struck in black.

One final Type A cover to Glasgow, Scotland is illustrated as figure 14. The yellow cover left New York 24 May 1873 departing on the steamer "Adriatic" (White Star Line) arriving in Queenstown 2 June 1873. The six cent single rate (US/British Treaty of 1870) and supplementary fee are prepaid by the twelve cent National Bank Note. The fancy red cancellation (GE-EP11 of Weiss) ties the adhesive at upper left of the adhesive. A single off cover example of this cancellation is known struck in black but is probably counterfeit.

An announcement in the 8 July 1873 issue of the *New York Times* reported the following:

"An order was made that supplemental mails to all European steamers will be dispatched to the steamer from the main office after the close of regular mail. The supplemental bags at the wharves will be discontinued. Letters forwarded in these supplemental mails will be charged double postage."

The removal of pier service to the "main office" resulted in the issuance of a new marking known as Type D, measuring 26mm., with the



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16



word "supplementary" at the base of the datestamp. Supplementary mail was now handled within the foreign mail section of the GPO. The obliterations employed on supplemental mail were the same as those used on ordinary foreign mail. Although the majority of the cancellations were struck in red, black cancellations are known. The earliest cover with a Type D cancellation is dated 9 August 1873. Since supplementary service on the piers was terminated as of 8 July 1873 and the earliest Type D marking is dated 9 August 1873, there is approximately a month gap between the two dates. There are a few covers dated within the month long gap which possess no supplementary markings but appear to be supplemental usage (red cancellations and double postage). The Type D marking was used until probably the end of July 1874 - approximately a year.

A cover to Geneva, Switzerland with a supplementary Type D marking is shown as figure 15. It left New York 29 November 1873 on the steamer "Main" (NGL Line) arriving at Southampton on 9 December 1873. The two ten cent National Bank Notes pre-paid the single closed mail rate via England (US/Swiss Treaty



Figure 17



Figure 18



Figure 19



Figure 20



of 1870) and supplemental fee. The NYCFCM cancel (TR-W9 of Weiss) ties the pair of adhesives which was applied sideways.

Another interesting Type D cover addressed to Paris, France is shown as figure 16. This cover was written up by George Hargest in the *USPCS Chronicle* (Vol. 3, No. 3) in 1969. The cover left New York on 20 June 1874 on the steamer "Neckar" (NGL Line) arriving in Southampton on 30 June 1874. What is interesting about this cover is the franking and credit marking. It appears to fully prepay the over 1/3 oz. but less than 1/2 oz. rate to France which was sixteen cents. However, the credit due Britain should be twelve cents (for a double rate) instead of the six cent credit (written in red pencil) at left. A six cent credit would indicate prepayment for a single rate (ten cents) cover to France. Therefore, the cover must have already been franked with the two adhesives (sixteen cents) and the sender must have additionally paid four cents in cash; prepaying the ten cent single rate plus the ten cent supplementary fee for a total of twenty cents. The adhesives are tied by a red NYCFCM (ST-MP3 of Weiss) and a circled PD at left.

The supplementary Type E marking, like the Type D marking, was struck on mail handled at the foreign mail section of GPO. The marking consists of a 25mm. datestamp with a single star on the either side of the word "Paid" at the bottom. Just above "Paid" is the abbreviation "SUP", referring to supplementary. The reason for the change was a result of the NYPO's desire to standardize its datestamps to 25mm. Red cancellations are found from 8 August 1873 until 20 March 1874. After March 1874 all Type E cancellations were struck in black.

The earliest Type E cover is illus-

trated in figure 17. The cover addressed to Leipzig, Germany departed New York 8 August 1874 on the steamer "Mosel" (NGL Line) arriving at Southampton 18 August 1874. The four seven cent Continental Bank Notes prepay the double closed mail rate (US/NGU Treaty of 1871) and the supplementary fee by adhesives. The NYCFCM cancellation is unrecorded.

A final Type E cover to Herault, France is shown as figure 18. The cover is part of the large "Douysset Correspondence" which contains both supplementary as well as non-supplemental letters. The cover departed New York 14 October

1875 on the Hammonia II (HAPAG Line) arriving Plymouth 24 October 1875. The twelve cent and six cent Continental Bank Notes prepay the nine cent single rate (US/French Treaty of 1874) and supplementary fee by adhesives. The adhesives are tied by a NYCFCM cancel (TR-G37 family of Weiss).

Occasionally, red cancels are observed on foreign destination mail originating in New York which appear to be supplementary usage but do not possess any supplementary markings. It is possible the adhesives have been struck with red ink by mistake. Two examples are discussed below.



Figure 21



Figure 22



The cover to London, England partially shown in figure 19, is part of the "Morris Correspondence" which contains the majority of Type D covers recorded. It departed New York 22 July 1874 on the Cunarder "Cuba" arriving Queenstown 22 August 1874. The datestamp is typical of the foreign mail department and not the Type E datestamp used on supplementary mail. The franking by the twelve cent Continental Bank Note could represent either prepayment of a double rate (US/British Treaty of 1870) or prepayment of a single rate postage and supplementary fee. The adhesive is tied by a NYCFCM (ST-MP3) at left. Both the franking as well as the red cancellation make this cover difficult to interpret.

A second cover without any supplemental markings but cancelled with a red NYCFCM cancel is partially shown as figure 20. The cover, addressed to Hamburg, Germany, possesses a very weakly struck undatable New York datestamp. Barely visible at the bottom of the datestamp is the word "direct", referring to the routing "by direct mail". There is also a docket at the upper left corner referring to the routing via Bremen. The adhesives are the two cent and twelve cent National Bank Note issues of 1870. The seven cent direct mail rate via Bremen was seven cents between July 1870 and October 1871. Therefore, the cover was sent direct mail via Bremen between 1870 and 1871. The franking of fourteen cents could represent either a prepayment of the double rate or payment of the single rate plus the supplementary fee. The adhesives are tied by a NYCFCM (TR-C1 of Weiss)

The United States established a postal agency in Shanghai, China during the years 1867 to 1922. Considered part of the US postal system, its cancellations qualify as part of this article. The postal agency employed red cancellations on Bank Note Issues rarely during the mid 1880's. According to Frajola, 1998 (United States Postal Agency in Shang-



Figure 23

hai, China, The George Y. Fisher Collection, Confidential Bid Auction #1) red ink was used for datestamps from 1882 to July 1886. Unfortunately, many covers are not year dated. Two examples are shown above.

A cover from Shanghai, China to Taunton, Massachusetts is illustrated as figure 21. The cover left Shanghai on 3 October (year unknown) arriving at San Francisco 30 October (year unknown). The five cent American Bank Note brown Garfield prepays the five cent UPU rate. The adhesive is cancelled "socked on the nose" by a red five bar grid.

Another cover from Shanghai, China is shown as figure 22. The cover left Shanghai, China 3 December (year unknown) addressed to Miss Kati Austin, lock box 1234 Richmond, Indiana. Backstamps indicate it arrived at San Francisco 2 January (year unknown), transited Chicago 7 January (year unknown) arriving in Richmond 8 January (year unknown). The five cent American Bank Note brown Garfield is cancelled "socked on the nose" by a red four ring target. The adhesive prepays the five cent single UPU rate.

A final category to consider is that of red cancellations on registered foreign destination mail. During the Bank Note Period, the New York City registry department employed five different datestamps which were struck in red, black, blue and purple. Early on, the datestamps

employed on foreign destination registered mail were struck in red while domestic datestamps were in the other colors. The obliterations, however, were a different story as they were always struck in black ink. Other cities such as Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia and San Francisco employed a similar system of black, blue or purple for datestamps and obliterations struck in black.

Having specialized in New York City registered mail for over twenty years, the author has seen only one example of a red cancel used on foreign registered mail (figure 23). The NYPO registry department was located in a separate section of the post office (security purposes) and, therefore, the cancellations used on registered mail were completely different from those used in other departments. The entire (U172) is franked with three five cent Continental Bank Notes and was sent registered to Copenhagen, Denmark. It left New York City 10 February 1876 and arrived in Copenhagen 24 February 1876 (backstamp). The twenty cents postage prepaid two times the UPU rate (double rate) and the ten cent registry fee to Denmark. The entire and adhesives are tied by five heavy strikes of a red seven? bar grill. The "New York Registered" datestamp is also struck in red three times close to and on the adhesives. It is possible that the registry clerk was in a hurry and used the wrong ink pad for the cancellation creating a true rarity.





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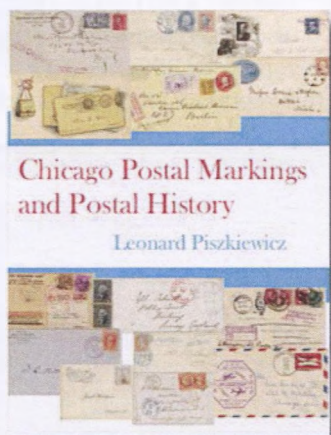
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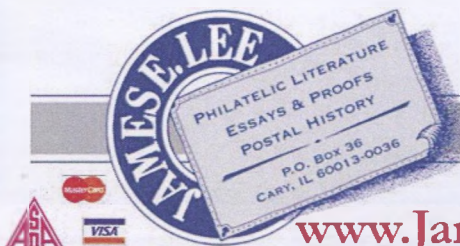
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When Roger Curran retired last summer as *NEWS* editor, John Donnes and Andy Callender became co-editors and began reviewing and editing articles from Club members and also writing articles themselves. Roger continued to oversee the page layouts, working with a technical person hired to do the electronic work. John and Roger assumed their roles with the idea that these would be transitional jobs leading to the identification of Club members who would assume the tasks more permanently. Both John and Roger will step down in 2016 and it will be necessary for one or more volunteers to come forward if our journal is to continue in 2017 and beyond. The Club is, therefore, seeking persons willing to take on one or both jobs. (The person doing the electronic page layouts, incidentally would probably be available to continue doing this work.) If you are willing to consider volunteering in some capacity or would just like to learn more about what is involved, please contact John (504.362.9711 or jdonnes@cox.net) or Ardy (713.705.6990 or callenderardy@sbcglobal.net) regarding editorial duties or Roger (570.523.0783 or rcurran@dejazzd.com) with regard to production aspects of the *NEWS*.



## Glen Allen Precancel - An Update

by John Donnes

During the large and small Bank Note period one of the more popular and certainly best known precancels is the Glen Allen, Virginia five pointed "star". For those not familiar with this particular cancel and its characteristics – it is approximately 18 mm in size (at its widest point), has a thin solid border around the star and is made up of numerous fine parallel lines within the star. The precancel is normally quite well printed on the stamp (see Figure 1) and is known in black, red and green, with red and especially green being hard to find. It can be said that all "on cover" examples are considered desirable items.

According to the latest edition of *Scott Specialized Catalog of United States Stamps & Covers* and a book published by the Precancel Stamp Society, *Silent Precancels*, by David W. Smith, this particular precancel is listed on the Continental Bank Note Company 1 cent, 2 cent (both brown and vermilion) and 3 cent denomination stamps (Sc. 156, 157, 158, and 178); the American Bank Note Company soft paper 1 cent, 2 cent, and 3 cent stamps (Sc. 182, 183, and 184), the 10 cent value with secret mark (Sc. 188) and the re-engraved 1 cent and 3 cent stamps by American (Sc. 206 and 207). The *Silent Precancels* book makes mention of later issued stamps with this cancel but, unfortunately, *Scott Specialized* lists virtually no cancels on stamps issued after the 1880's.

The purpose of this article is to report the existence of a previously unknown

6 cent Continental Bank Note Company stamp with the Glen Allen precancel and to show that not all of these "Glen Allen" precancels were well printed.

Some years ago I acquired the 6 cent stamp (Figure 2) from a stamp dealer at one of our local stamp shows here in New Orleans. At a quick glance the cancel appeared to be a Glen Allen precancel, but then, with the cancel being poorly printed and a 6 cent Glen Allen being unreported in the catalogs, my thought was that it must be a look-alike cancel from some other town, or even worse, a fake cancel. After viewing the stamp over time in my collection, and having doubts about the cancel, I finally sent it in for a certificate asking if it was a Sc. 159 with "USED, PRINTED 'GLEN ALLEN' STAR CANCEL". It took a few weeks before the stamp was returned but, when received, proved quite enthralling. The PF certificate repeated the above quote and made a short and simple statement - "IT IS GENUINE".

On the subject of poorly printed Glen Allen precancels, fellow U.S.C.C. member Matt Kewriga reports a fantas-

tic cover with Glen Allen precanceled stamps paying 5 times the domestic one cent circular rate (Figure 3). The stamps on the cover appear to be a 1 cent Continental (Sc. 156) and a pair of the 2 cent Continentals (Sc. 157). The printed precancels appear to be quite blurry, fairly weak and poorly printed. One might conclude that, given the Figure 2 stamp and the stamps on this cover, some portion of the earlier "Glen Allen" precancels were hastily, or even lackadaisically, printed.

As for the reporting of the 6-cent stamp with Glen Allen precancel, it should go without saying that, where there is one, there could be (and should be) others. I wish all readers successful hunting and, hopefully, the reporting of any new finds to the *NEWS*.



Figure 1



Figure 2

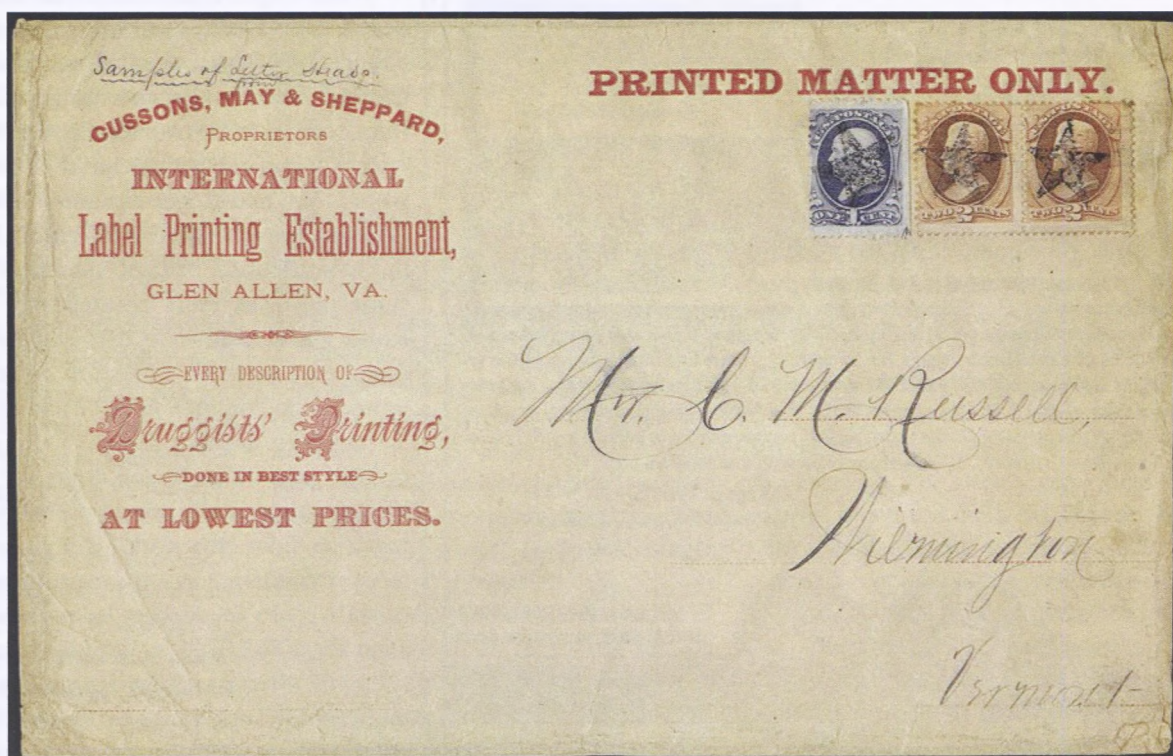


Figure 3



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Amy Wieting  
Ron Williams  
Dave Willig  
George Wood

## Closed Albums

Within recent months two members of the USCC, prominent nationally and well-known for their contributions to philately, have passed away. Obituaries with deserved accolades for both have appeared in the philatelic press and their broad biographies will not be addressed here. We wish simply to (1) recognize these long-time members who were generous in their encouragement and support for our Club and (2) remark briefly on some of their interests in early U.S. cancellations.

Robert L. (Bob) Markovits specialized in various U.S. stamp issues over the years including 19th century officials, special delivery and the 5¢ Taylor. But his interest in 19th century stamps was much broader than that. He brought to the attention to the NEWS the fact that finding fancy or otherwise noteworthy cancels on the 5¢ Garfield stamps (Sc 205

and especially 216) is surprisingly difficult. This led to interesting discussions and several *NEWS* articles on such cancels. The early special delivery stamps often escape the notice of cancellation collectors and, as Bob reported not long ago, finding examples with fancy cancels presents an even greater challenge. (It has been hoped that a *NEWS* article on this subject will become feasible before long if sufficient material can be identified!) His most recent *NEWS* contribution (November 2014 issue) was the 6-point star on a Sc 283 which is most unusual given that the stamp wasn't even issued until 1899.


William R. (Bill) Weiss, Jr. was for a considerable time an auctioneer who frequently offered selections of desirable cancellations and the catalogs from such sales remain today valuable reference sources. But it was, of course, in the area of NYFM cancels that he made his most important contribution. Bill developed an outstanding collection of NYFMs on and off cover that he exhibited with great success. He undertook a very detailed study of NYFMs, going far beyond what had been previously done. Nearly 40 dealers and collectors contributed to this effort that compiled data on close to 2,000 covers. Bill's 1990 book is the standard reference on NYFMs and it has led to an even greater interest in what has been a popular collection specialty for decades. A precursor to his book was an extended article in the *NEWS* "New York Foreign Mail Cancellations/Unlisted Types" that appeared in nine installments beginning with the Summer 1986 issue.

### The Classic Cancel

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

## John Valenti

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Member: APS, USPCS, USCC



"running man"



## Color Cancellations from Camanche, Iowa

by Jim Petersen

Camanche is a town in Clinton County located along the Mississippi River. Its post office was first opened on December 6th, 1837 and is still in operation today. It's believed the town was named for the Comanche tribe of Native Americans, but how the "a" was substituted for the "o" in the postmark is uncertain. I have been able to document three colors of cancellations used during the 1850s from this town. In all cases that I have seen where the CDS itself was used as the canceler, the ink color was black – Figure 1. I have noted one example with a dark olive green town marking used in August of 1857 (per enclosure) – see Figure 2. The stamp is canceled by a small olive green grid. There is also a blue town mark with an unusual rectangular blue grid – see Figure 3. I believe the blue cancel came later than the olive green with the black cancels occurring on either side. Carroll Chase made a note on the back of the blue cancellation cover that he'd never seen a grid like this before. Are there perhaps others out there from other towns?



Figure 1

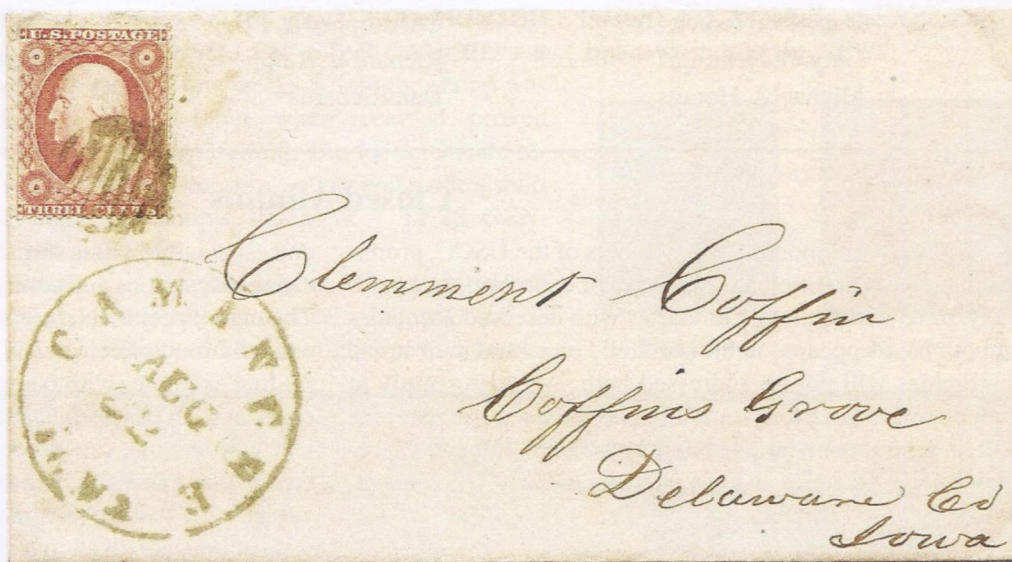


Figure 2

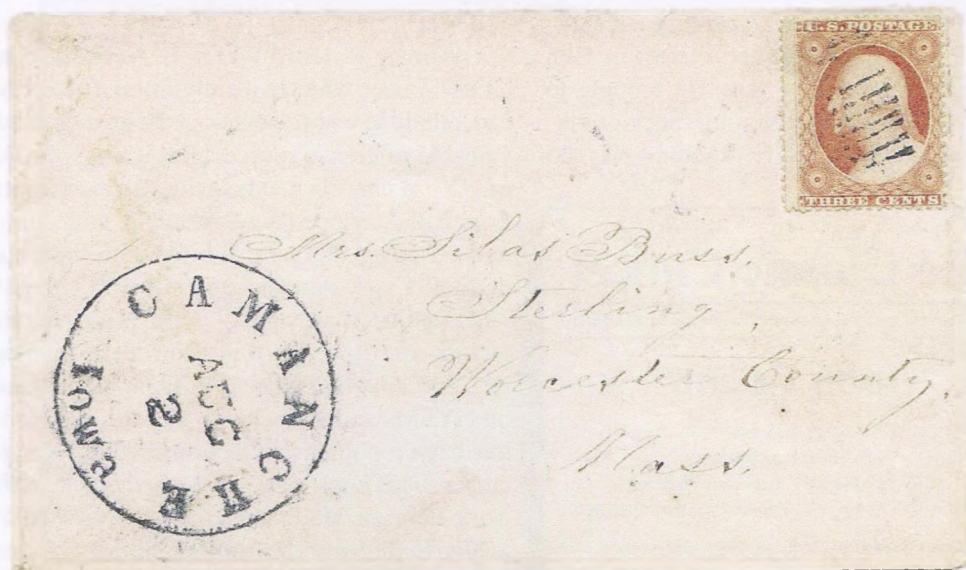


Figure 3



## Colored Cancels on the U.S. 1869 Series: Radials

by Ed Field

In this article the term “radial” refers to cancels that exhibit a symmetry that is roughly circular. Examples include rosettes, cogwheels, pinwheels, and wedges. Where known, towns of origin are indicated. Several of the on-cover examples are electronically clipped to conserve space. Though representative, the examples shown here are by no means exhaustive.

Figure 1 shows a cover bearing the negative blue 8-arm rosette cancel of Cannelton, IN. Posted on July 25, 1869, the cover was addressed to Frankfort, Germany, but was missent to Frankfort KY, where it arrived on July 27. It was then forwarded to its intended destination in Germany, passing through the NY exchange office on July 30. This is the only known on-cover example of this cancel, though I have seen another on an off-cover 1-cent stamp.

Figure 2 shows a unique mixed-issue registered cover from Grass Valley, CA. Posted on January 3, 1870, this cover bears four strikes of a seven-arm blue cogwheel cancel. The 15-cent stamp paid the registry fee, and the three 2-cent stamps paid double the basic first class rate. Besides the usual blue crayon registry marking, the cover bears an unusual circular “REGISTERED” handstamp.

Figure 3 shows a July 21, 1869 cover from Leominster Mass bearing a circular blue cancel nicknamed the “stovepipe”. This relatively common cancel is also known in black.

Figure 4 shows a portion of an Oct 28, 1869 cover from



Figure 1



Figure 2

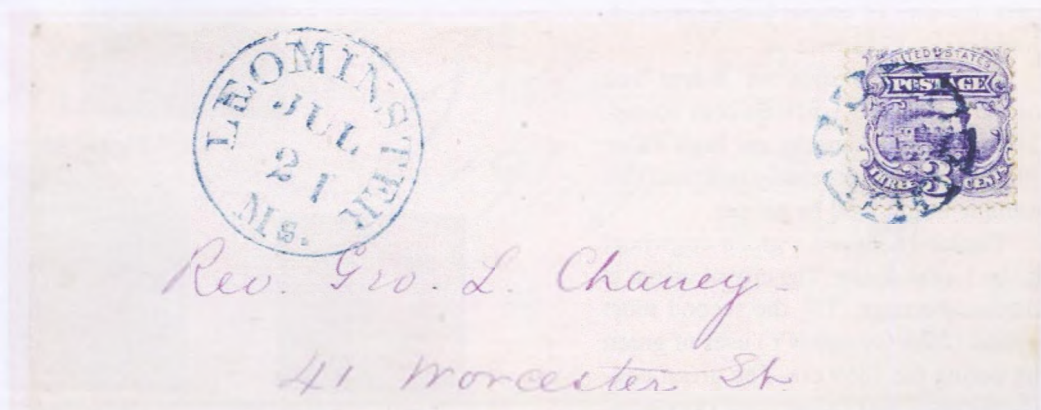


Figure 3





Figure 4

Chariton Iowa. It bears an exceptionally bold strike of a red 6-arm circle-of-wedges cancel. Such cancels are not rare on loose stamps, but this is the only one I have seen that can be attributed to Chariton.

Figure 5 shows a 5-arm blue cancel struck on June 22, 1869 in Saltsburgh PA. Its unusual shape consists of a negative pentagon embedded in a ring of five solid pentagons. I have never seen another, on or off cover.

Figure 6 shows a blue circle of Vs from Cleveland, OH dated June 2 (probably 1869). Cleveland was a blue city throughout the 1869 era, but produced few fancies.

Figures 7 through 18 show twelve different radial cancels on off-cover stamps. These figures are arranged in ascending order of number of arms, starting with five and ending with fourteen. Most are of unknown origin and self-explanatory. However, the following three warrant specific comment.

Figure 10 shows red rosettes on a vertical pair of 30-cent stamps. Six-arm red rosettes are by no means rare, but this example (ex-Juhring) on a high-value pair is almost certainly unique. I don't know the city of origin but, if pressed, would guess Baltimore.

Figure 15 shows an 8-arm red rosette on a type I fifteen-cent stamp. Colored fancy cancels on high-value 1869 stamps are extremely rare, and this example might well be unique.

Figure 18 shows a green cogwheel on the 1-cent stamp. The city of origin is Murfreesborough, TN, the second most prolific (after Owego NY) user of green ink during the 1869 era. The green cogwheel cancel was in use from December 1869 through June 1870.



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18



## Weiss GE-9a – Finally on Cover

by John Valenti

Ever since William Weiss published his book on New York foreign mail (NYFM) killers of the 1870s<sup>1</sup>, I have remained on constant lookout for examples of killers, presumed to be the NYFM killers, that had not yet been reported on cover. This article presents the first report of an on-cover example of Weiss type GE-C9a. As I have written in previous *NEWS* articles,<sup>2,3</sup> I believe that many if not most of these missing killers are associated with mail processed in the circular mail room (NYCM) before delivery to the foreign mail division for processing. The style of these missing killers for the most part differs from traditional NYFM geometrics in that their lines are thicker and involve curves more than angles. Weiss reported type GE-C9 used on a foreign mail circular dated 04/30/1878. Because of its similarity to GE-C9 (Figure 1), Weiss elected to classify GE-C9a (Figure 2) as a sub-variety of GE-C9 in contrast to previous students of NYFM.<sup>4</sup> GE-C9 is typically found on the 1875 Banknote issues (especially Scott #178, an example of which, courtesy of John Donnes, is pictured in Figure 3), while off-cover examples of GE-C9a are reported on the 1873 issues.

The newly reported example of GE-C9a on cover is illustrated in Figure 4 (killer detail) and Figure 5. This is a locally mailed pre-printed private mailing card for I. Tanen-



Figure 1



TYPE C9A  
NORMAL SIZE - 28MM DIAMETER



Figure 2

baum & Co., General Insurance Brokers, New York. The reverse (not shown) announces the removal of the firm's offices to new quarters and is dated April 10, 1875, three years earlier than the Weiss-reported example of GE-C9. The 1¢ stamp, a damaged Scott #156, bears two overlapping strikes of GE-C9a, the leftmost distinct and nearly complete, the rightmost much lighter. This on-cover example measures 26mm, smaller than what Weiss reports. However, this strike appears worn, so the size difference may simply be incidental to its length of use as a killer. Also no-



Figure 3



Figure 4

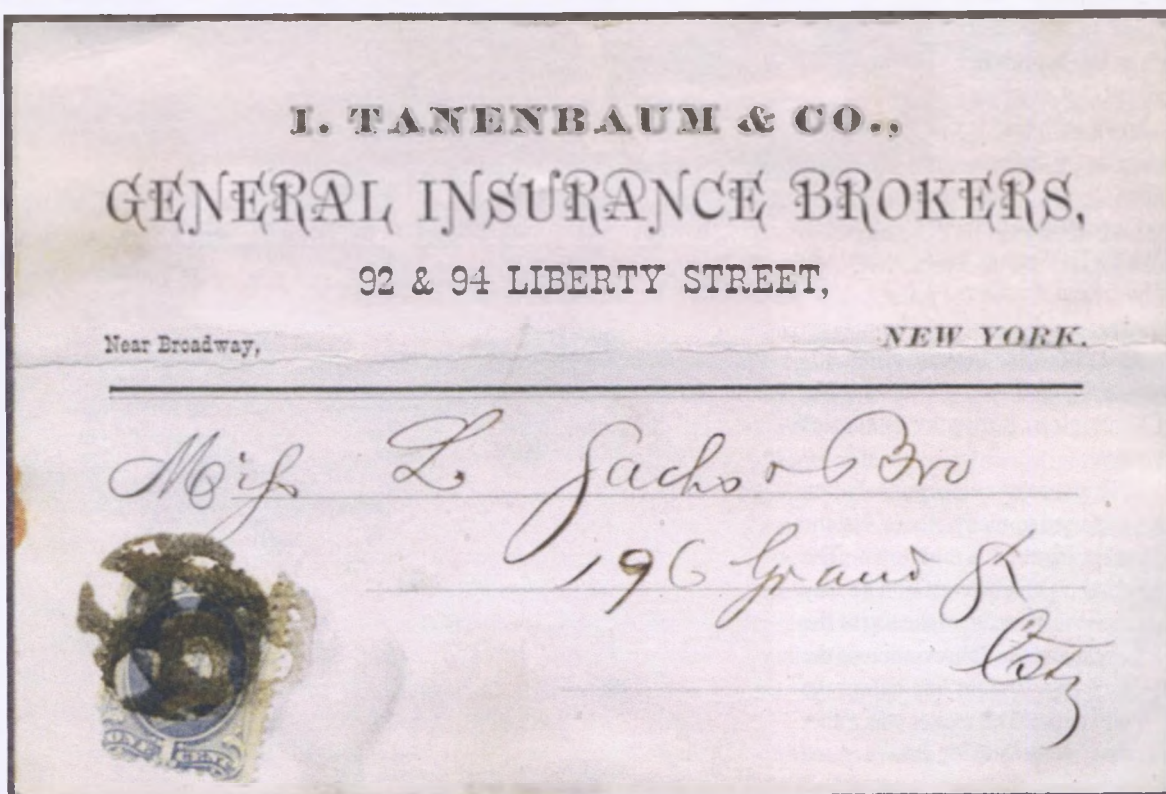


Figure 5



table is the killer's use on a private mailing card. Such cards are quite scarce. As is typical for New York Circular Mail, the killer is not duplexed to a postmark. Apparently the NYC post office treated private mailing cards differently than government postal cards. This may be due to the fact that there were no standards for such cards in terms of size or format.

So, now we have an example of a cancel, long presumed to be a NYFM, but not yet proven on cover, GE-C9a, confirmed on a NYCM cover. This does not preclude the foreign mail use of this killer. Indeed, off-cover examples of GE-

C9a exist in red ink, an almost exclusive indicator of foreign mail usage. Moreover, these red examples typically are more distinct and less worn, perhaps indicating an earlier period of use. Did GE-C9a start its life exclusively applied to foreign destination mail only to be re-tasked to cancel circular mail? Lacking confirming covers we may never know. As has been previously demonstrated,<sup>2,5</sup> the line between NYFM and NYCM is a blurred one.

<sup>1</sup>Weiss, Willliam R., Jr., *The Foreign Mail Cancellations of New York City 1870-*

*1878*. Published by the author, 1990.

<sup>2</sup>Valenti, John, "New York City Cancellations On Circulars and Printed Matter, 1870-1878," Part IV, *U.S., Cancellation Club NEWS*, Vol. 23, No. 2 (217), Fall 1995.

<sup>3</sup>Valenti, John, "NYFM Killers, Three Unusual Additions," *U.S., Cancellation Club NEWS*, Vol. 32, No. 1 (290), February 2014.

<sup>4</sup>Weiss, Willliam R., Jr., *op cit.*, pp. 67-68.

<sup>5</sup>Valenti, John, "New York City Cancellations On Circulars and Printed Matter, 1870-1878," Parts I-III, *U.S., Cancellation Club NEWS*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (216), January 1995.

## Wesson "Time on Bottom" Cancelers A Variation from the Norm

by Roger D. Curran

Nineteenth century ellipse cancelers were typically duplexed to a postmarker. One distinctive CDS design that is found associated with ellipse cancelers involves the time of day displayed in a straight line at the bottom of the dial. An example is shown as Figure 1. Handstamps that produced these markings are attributed to a Walter D. Wesson, based on a study of his patent drawings.

Edward Willard may have been the first philatelist to write about this style of CDS. In a 1970 discussion of Covington, Kentucky examples he wrote:

"This type of ellipse cancellation was used in many places, but the manufacturer is unknown. The dater is characteristic. The city name is in an arc at the top of the circle and the abbreviation of the state in a straight line before the city name. The maker was either in Connecticut or had a good salesman there as many towns use this type. We empirically call this the Connecticut dater."<sup>1</sup>

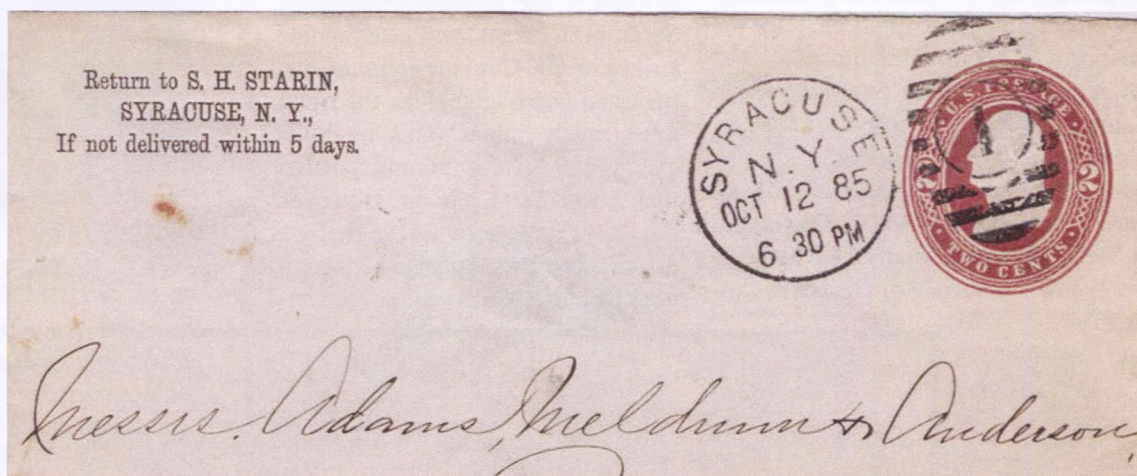


Figure 1



Figure 2



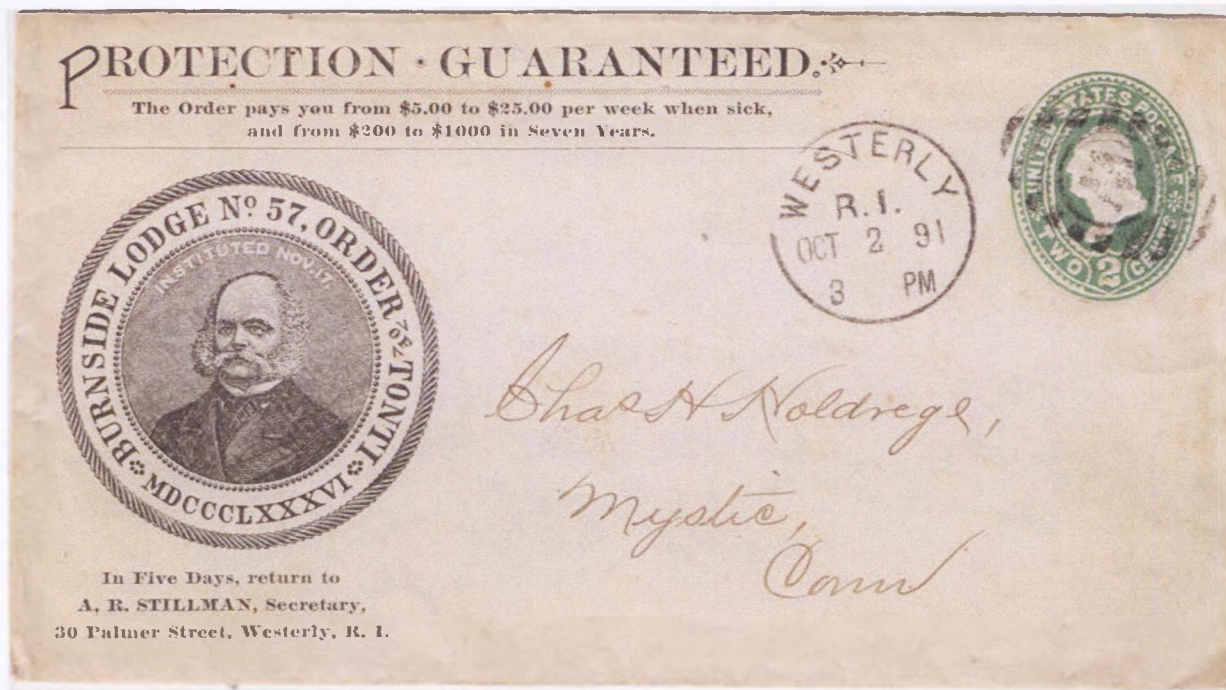


Figure 3

It was, of course, only in later years that Wesson's connection became recognized. And we know now that he was a clerk in the Worcester, Massachusetts post office where his handstamps were first used. Looking at the number of non-Connecticut post offices presently listed as having employed these handstamps and also the extensive use by the three largest post offices – Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago – Mr. Willard would today no doubt withdraw the "Connecticut dater" label.

Ted Bozarth wrote the first detailed study of the Wesson markings. It was presented in a series of articles published in the *NEWS* from May 1981 to Spring 1984. Ted established the link to Wesson and coined the "time on bottom" term. Russell Hammer compiled, updated and edited Ted's work in a 48 page monograph published by *La Posta* in 1990 entitled *Walter D. Wesson's "Time on Bottom" Duplex Hand Cancellers*. Most recently, Wesson "Time on Bottom" Markings Revisited, compiled by Ralph Edson and Gilbert Levere, was published by the USCC in 2010. It considerably expands the *La Posta* listings based on reports from numerous collectors over the intervening years and is available for purchase from our Club – see page 22 for ordering instructions. Members with an interest in these markings are encouraged



Figure 4



Figure 5

to consider adding this title to their libraries.

The above is by way of introduction to a Wesson ellipse strike that presents a variation that I think has not before been mentioned in the literature. The normal relationship between the Wesson CDS and ellipse is for the ellipse to be straight up and down next to the CDS as shown in Figure 1. This is, of course, not just true for Wesson markings but for US ellipses generally. There are exceptions, most notably in a set of handstamps used by Boston largely in 1878 and 1879 – see Figure 2. Recently, the cover in Figure 3 appeared on eBay showing a dramatic departure from the normal alignment. This occasioned a closer look at a few available Westerly, Rhode Island Wesson strikes. Westerly Wessons are reported by Edson/Levere from 3/29/83-12/15/99. Each of several strikes seen for 1883, 1884 and 1886 show normal alignment. An 1893 strike (Figure 4) shows a somewhat askew ellipse as does the 1895 example illustrated on page 90 of the

Edson/Levere book. Two of three examples in 1899 show normal alignment but the third shows the ellipse tilted slightly to the right – see Figure 5. There is clearly more space between CDS and ellipse in the 1899 examples than there is in the 1883, 84 and 86 strikes. Seeing no evidence that more than one Westerly handstamp was involved, I assume that it was constructed in such a way that the ellipse element could slide away from the CDS element and also rotate in terms of its up and down alignment with the CDS. Perhaps the other Wesson handstamps were similarly constructed but for some reason the device that fastened the ellipse canceler in the Westerly handstamp loosened on occasion. Comment and additional information will be welcomed.

<sup>1</sup> Willard, Edward L. *The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887*, Vol. II, H.L. Lindquist Publications, Inc., New York, pg. 128.



## More on the U.Va. Ellipse

by Roger D. Curran

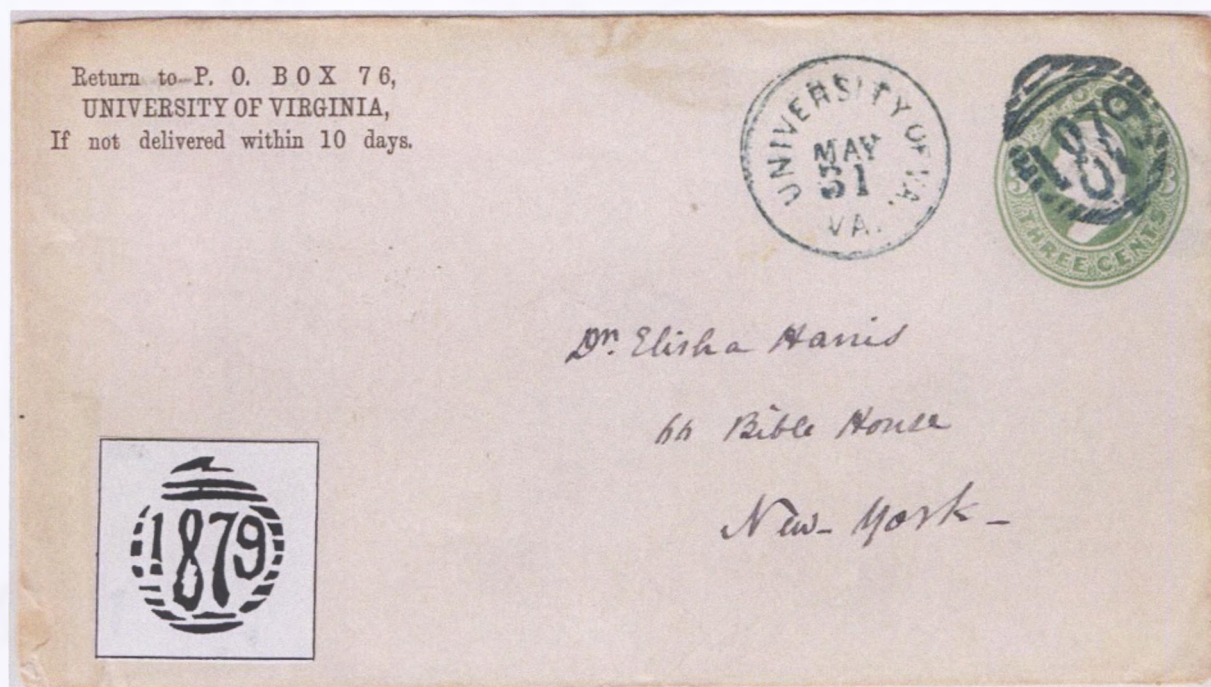


Figure 1

In his article on red cancellations on the large Banknotes in the February NEWS, Ardy Callender illustrated a red ellipse containing "1879" in the center from the University of Virginia post office which operated from 1826 to 1890. Ardy explained the interesting circumstance of its use on a folded letter postmarked May 1 to a student (no address) reporting, on a printed form, absences from lectures during the previous month. Figure 1 shows a different use, dated May 31, of the same ellipse, this time in the blue ink and involving a piece of out-of-town mail. (The tracing is Whitfield 4781). The NYPO received marking on the back confirms the 1879 year of use.

Both Cole and Whitfield report the cancel in blue ink, Cole from U.Va. and Whitfield from Charlottesville, Virginia. It is interesting to note the Figure 2 cancel from Cole. Since there is no ink color specified, one assumes the cancel is black. I have wondered if the Figure 3 cancel is Cole YD-128 with the idea that it was struck in both red and black – red conceivably when used for student notices sent from the U.Va. post office. This is, of course, somewhat of a stretch as the "79" numerals don't match closely those in YD-128. But while we

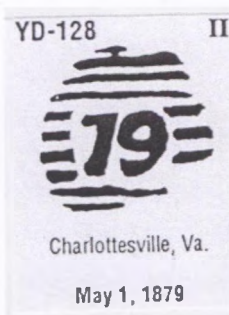


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

are at it, how about Cole YD-127 (Figure 4) and Whitfield 4894 (Figure 5). Could they be 1878 cancels from these post offices? If readers can shed light on the above, please contact the NEWS.



Figure 5

### Distorted Double Oval

In the November 2015 NEWS a distorted New York double oval cancel was shown applied by a rubber faced handstamp that had been subjected to a heat source that distorted the molded rubber design. Figure 1 presents a more dramatic example. The card was mailed in 1910 and was erroneously machine canceled on the back, necessitating a second cancel to do the job properly. The "H.T." in the center signifies the Hudson Terminal Station.



Figure 1