



# *U.S. Cancellation Club* **NEWS**

Vol. 35, No. 4, Whole No. 311, November 2019



*As seen in recent issues of the NEWS, many a Maine postmaster had a liking for 'pumpkinhead' cancels. Nancy Clark has found another six cancels to add to the list including the Vanceboro example seen above. Her story starts on page 85.*

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*The Official Journal of the United States Cancellation Club*



## The United States Cancellation Club NEWS

Robert Conley, Editor,  
52 Vista Ridge,  
Glenburn, ME 04401-1829  
uscceeditor@mail.com



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### U.S.C.C. Officers

President: Matthew Kewriga, 1811 Castro Street, Apt. 6, San Francisco, CA 94131 matt@kewriga.com  
1st Vice President: Ernie Webb, 610 S. Kokomo Street, Derby, KS 67037 Ewebb02@aol.com  
2nd Vice President: Robert Conley, 52 Vista Ridge, Glenburn, ME 04401 uscceeditor@mail.com  
Secretary/Treasurer: Joe Crosby, 5009 Barnsteeple Court, Oklahoma City, OK 73132 joecrosby@cox.net  
Governor at Large: Roger Curran, 18 Tressler Blvd., Lewisburg, PA 17837 rdcnrc@ptd.net  
Web Manager: John Valenti, P.O. 211, Wheeling, IL 60090 classiccancel@att.net

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U. S. Cancellation Club NEWS



CROSS REFERENCE INDEX  
Presented in three separate sections:  
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Compiled by Joshua B. Sartin

**U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS, Cross Reference Index for all Issues, 1951-2009.** Presented in three 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, 190pp. 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.** With more than 6,000 tracings, this book is an invaluable supplement to the Skinner-Eno and Cole volumes. Includes the latest Whitfield update. \$50 postpaid to U.S. addresses. For Whitfield update pages only, \$8 post paid.

Checks made out to U.S.C.C. should be sent to Roger Curran,  
18 Tressler Boulevard, Lewisburg, PA 17837.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings, fellow members. It is not often that I offer you a message through our august journal, and so I hope you'll take the following onboard as a missive of great importance.

You might never have thought about it, but your USCC is effectively run by just three people. Firstly, we have Roger Curran, a very long-serving member, past-president, regular contributor of articles for the *NEWS* and a magnificent source of experience and knowledge. Secondly, we have our fairly new editor, Robert Conley, a life-long philatelist but relative novice to 'postal history.' Both of these volunteers would rarely have a week go by where they aren't doing something to advance your Club and the *NEWS*. Your secretary/treasurer, Joe Crosby, is also a veteran of the Club and he ably handles most of the administrative tasks.

That's all very fine – for now. Roger and Joe are both on the wrong side of 75 and your Club won't be able to count on them forever. As president, it is incumbent on me to oversee not just the daily business of your Club, but also the vexing issue of succession planning. There will inescapably come a time, whether it be tomorrow, next month, or in a few years, when Roger and Joe will not be able to serve the Club. Robert is a comparatively spritely young man of 55, so we might be able to hope for a few more years out of him yet. But in the absence of action, Robert will eventually be left alone to carry the entire can.

Robert already takes on the lion's share of the work needed to deliver your *NEWS*. Not only does he corral people into providing articles for publication, he also has to get them into a state fit for publication. He also undertakes projects in an effort to write his own articles for the *NEWS*. And now that the Whitfield update is long overdue, Robert has agreed to do that as well – all while working full time! And he earns nary a penny for his troubles. There is no scope, nor is it reasonable to expect, that Robert take on any other tasks that will inevitably come along. All from a guy none of us had heard of two years ago.

You are one of about 200 valuable members of the USCC. And it is time to ask you to seriously consider being part of the next generation of USCC volunteers. We need experienced collectors to step up and take on some of the 'intellectual' stuff Roger does – Surely, one of our learned members could be the next "Noted in Passing" columnist? We need someone with basic computer skills to learn to be treasurer and/or secretary. We need someone with a computer and an hour a month to compile a regular "Winner's Circle" column for members who have won recent show awards. We need people to write something for publication...do some research (about something you know lots about, or about something totally new), revisit a topic long forgotten that might benefit from the boundless information now available in this new digital age. Even if you don't think you can spare just a few hours a quarter to help, potential candidates for directorships are always needed.

Your USCC is still large enough and viable enough to continue indefinitely – if only we have some members put up their hands – now!



"running man"

## The Classic Cancel

Offering a Selection from

### The Roger Curran Collection



Select from a variety of covers from the collection of the long time past President and Editor of the USCC *NEWS*.

Available in a special section at <http://theclassiccancel.com/index.htm>

## Skinner-Eno U.S. Cancellations 1845-1869 Now Online

Joe Crosby

The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society has posted on its webpage, the first three chapter updates of the Skinner-Eno book, *United States Cancellations 1845-1869*. The first three chapters are Pictorial Designs, Plants, Humans and Objects. Go to [www.uspcs.org/resource-center](http://www.uspcs.org/resource-center) and click at the right on "Cancellations 1845-1869."

The efforts of Ed Jatho (recently deceased) and Charles Souder have added hundreds, perhaps thousands, of new cancellations to Skinner and Eno's original publication. This section of the website illustrates both old and newly-identified cancellations, using the same organization as in the original book. Besides tracings, also included are color images of the cancellations on off- and on-cover adhesives.

Classics Society members and non-members are encouraged to report any updates of cancellations and new listings to our fellow USCC member, Charles Souder at [ccsouders@hotmail.com](mailto:ccsouders@hotmail.com). By moving to the online format, the Classics Society is committed to keeping these important cancellation listings current and freely available to cancellation collectors everywhere. ■

## Whitfield Book Update

Roger D. Curran

In 2001 your club published Kenneth A. Whitfield's book, *Cancellations Found on 19th Century U.S. Stamps*. Prior to that, there were only two other principal U.S. cancellation references available to collectors – the Hubert Skinner & Amos Eno 1980 book, *United States Cancellations 1845-1869* and Jim Cole's 1995 book, *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870 – 1894*. Whitfield provided a third major reference with more than 4,000 tracings, typically of very high quality, covering the 1847-1900 period.

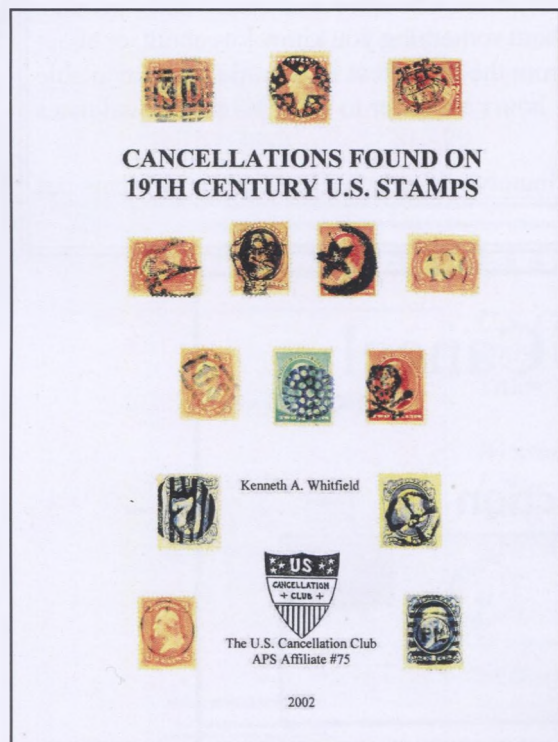
Wendell Triplett produced excellent updates to Whitfield in 2007 and 2012 but we haven't issued an update since then. The purpose of this message is to announce that your club is undertaking a new update and our editor, Robert Conley, has kindly volunteered to serve as coordinator.

Here is how it will work: Firstly, this third update, as with the previous ones, will only address cancels already listed in the book. What will be sought is "new" information; that is, information that is not already presented in either Section One, Cancels (pages 1-254) or Section Two, 2012 Revision List (pages 255-332). Specifically, this involves:

- (1) identification of post office of origin for individual cancels,
- (2) date or dates of use of the cancel,
- (3) color of canceling ink if not black, and
- (4) Scott # of stamp, postal card or postal stationery item on which the cancel was found.

Members are asked to either email scans of the items reported or send photocopies through regular mail to our editor whose mailing and email addresses are shown on the masthead of this journal. Information for this update will be collected over a period of several months.

The Whitfield book has proven to be a most valuable addition to the cancellation literature. Your help in adding to this important body of work will make it even better and we urge your support. If you have any questions or desire additional information, contact any of the club officers, all of whom are listed, with addresses, on the masthead. ■



## More Pine Tree State Pumpkinheads!

Nancy B. Clark

In the May 2019 *NEWS*, Roger Curran noted a new find of a Kittery Depot pumpkinhead in the collection of our editor, and he requested any other sightings of Maine pumpkinheads. As another student of Maine cancels, I have the great pleasure of adding six more to the record.

The year of this Machias cover is unknown but we see that the 1880 Federal Census reveals a 25 year old, Mr. W. P. Hadley residing in Stillwater, Minnesota with his Vermont-born wife, Hattie and their infant son. Mr. Hadley was a Maine native, as were his parents<sup>1</sup> – presumably the letter is from a family member or friend who chose not to head west.



Albert G. Clifford served as Benton Falls' treasurer (1866-67) and as a Selectman (1874-77)<sup>2</sup> aside from his other business activities. The accompanying CDS dates the cover in 1886. From January 30, 1883 to February 8, 1888, the postmaster at Oakland, formerly West Waterville, was George T. Benson, so this pumpkinhead was his creation.



1. Tenth Census of the United States, 1880; Stillwater, Washington, Minnesota; Roll: 637; Page: 266A; Enumeration District: 033, National Archives, Washington, DC.

2. Mitchell, Henry Edward & Daggett, Fred Eugene, *The Clinton and Benton Register*, H. E. Mitchell Publishing Co., Kent's Hill, ME, 1904.

Rather late in usage for Maine pumpkinheads, Readfield's postmaster, in 1907, used a tiny, 5mm cancellation, with an unusually (for a pumpkinface) unhappy expression. The postmaster, George C. Hunton died the following year, aged 39, from a shotgun wound which, officially at least, was deemed to be accidental.<sup>3</sup>



The fourth new find is a rather crude, 10mm pumpkinhead on a cover from Waldoboro. The addressee, Fannie M. Mank, daughter of Hezekiah J. Mank and Sarah Storer Mank, died in 1939 aged about 82 years and never married.<sup>4</sup> Perhaps this letter was from an unsuccessful suitor? Waldoboro lost its "ugh" September 20, 1887.



On an 1887 cover sent from Dubuque, Iowa to Fairfield Centre, then forwarded to Fairfield, the backstamps bear the Waterville pumpkinhead. In 1887, Waterville's postmaster was one Frank Lorenzo Thayer, a colorful political personality. He worked in the clothing business with his father early on and then moved into real estate and insurance where he earned sufficient financial comfort to build a block in downtown Waterville in 1890. He was the Democratic candidate for mayor several times, though he never was elected. He served two separate times as postmaster in Waterville (1885-

3. Maine State Archives, 84 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0084; 1908-1922 Vital Records; Roll Number: 28 Death Records, 1761-1922 [database on-line], sourced via Ancestry.com., Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Accessed October 19, 2019.

4. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/108895662#source>. Accessed October 19, 2019.

1889 and 1893-1897)<sup>5,6</sup> and died from Bright's Disease on April 6, 1900<sup>7</sup>, aged 45 years. Although Frank failed to gain political office, he would never know the success his son, Eugene, found as mayor of Waterville. Eugene was elected in 1933 but died in office the following year from complications also of Bright's Disease. Notwithstanding his short tenure, even today, a bridge and a hospital are named after him.<sup>8</sup>

This cover left Dubuque on September 17, made it to Waterville and also Fairfield Centre three days later. The next day, it visited Waterville again and Fairfield – quite the 'hot potato.' As to why the letter made two trips through Waterville is beyond me – but I am grateful for the two strikes of the 10mm heads.



As seen on the front cover, with an enlarged portion shown below, Vanceboro used a 10mm pumpkinhead cancellation in 1897, a product of George W. Ross' term. Mailed on Thursday, August 5, the receiving mark on the back indicates it didn't arrive in Mattawamke(a)g, a mere 63 miles to the west, until the morning of Monday, the 9th. This is easy to explain – nestled hard against the New Brunswick border, Vanceboro is remote, even by Maine standards!



Six more for the record.

Many thanks to Robert Conley for the tracings. ■

5. Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-1971. NARA Microfilm Publication, M841, 145 rolls. Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group Number 28. Washington, D.C. National Archives, sourced via Ancestry.com., Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Accessed October 19, 2019:

6. *ibid*

7. Maine State Archives, 84 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0084; 1908-1922 Vital Records; Roll Number: 28 Death Records, 1761-1922 [database on-line], sourced via Ancestry.com., Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Accessed October 19, 2019.

8. *History of the Mayors of Waterville*, <http://www.waterville-me.gov/mayor/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2017/06/History-of-Mayors-Rev-June-2017.pdf>. Accessed October 19, 2019.

## Cancelled, But No Stamp Present

Roger D. Curran

Figures 1 and 2 show two Boston covers bearing "Boston negative" cancels even though no postage stamps were affixed. Figure 1, an official business envelope not requiring postage, is the more interesting item due largely to the three remaining enclosures. Figure 3 shows a completed form used to report to railroad route agents errors in their work. In this case it was a report to Wilson Dewey and covered the 7/30/80 – 8/30/80 period. It reports three "incorrect slips" and three "errors", the latter entry I assume providing confirmation that the three slips accurately reported three errors. A light signature or facsimile signature of the Boston superintendent of the Railway Mail Service appears at the bottom. Scans of the front and back of what are apparently two of the "slips" appear as Figures 4 and 5. I assume, but this is conjecture, that the mail bags handled by route agents contained slips identifying on one side the agent who put the bag together. The other side was left blank for postmasters along the route to report to the Superintendent any distribution or forwarding errors found in the mail bag. The message on the slip in Figure 4 is headed "Post office Weatogue Conn" and reads "Received from train going North at 7 1/2 P.M Aug 9 1880 a package (3rd class) directed to Mr G O Hill Avon Conn" and was signed "Seymour Pettibone PM." The message in Figure 5 reads "one letter for Matfield, Mass" and signed "T.R. Kneil" who was the postmaster at Westfield, Massachusetts. Whatever happened to the third slip is

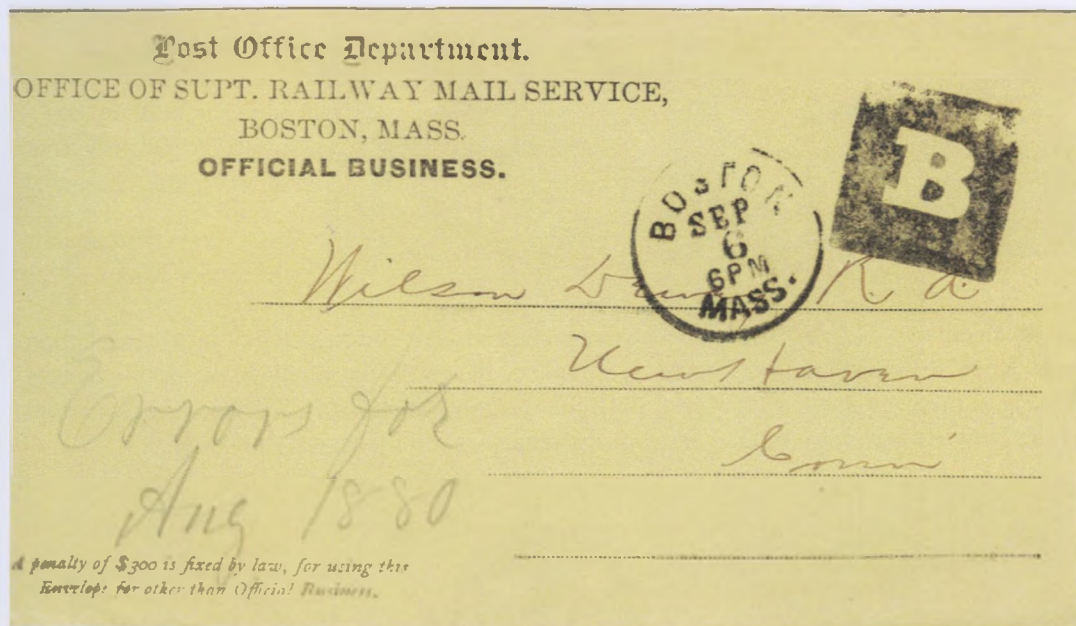


Figure 1

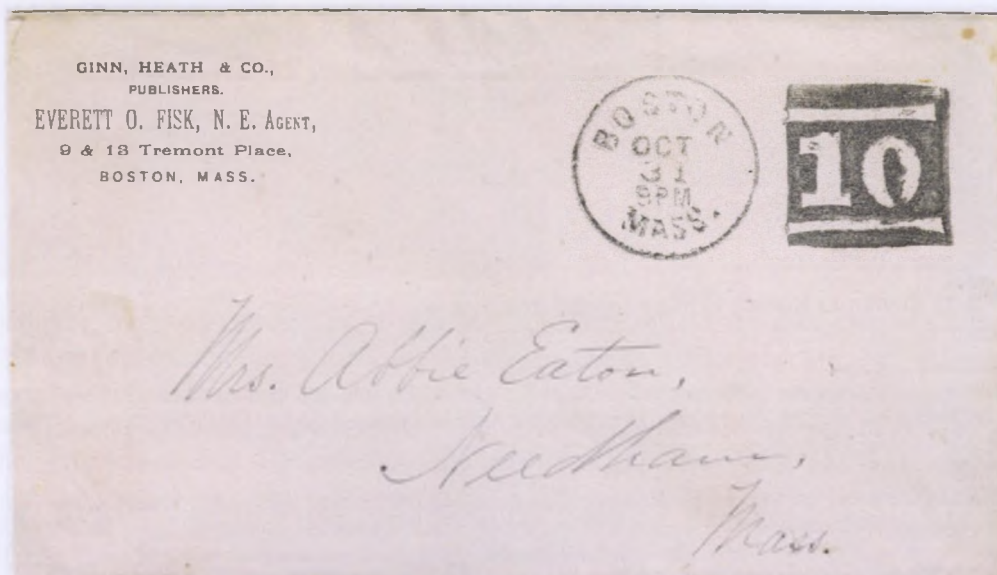


Figure 2

unknown. Reader comments and additional information on this procedure will be welcomed. For example, in the "W. Dewey" ovals on the two slips, he is identified as an agent with "W M S E. G. & N. Haven." N. Haven for New Haven, of course, but what does "W M S E G." represent?

[ R. M. S. 5006. ]

1st DIVISION.

**STATEMENT** of errors made in **DISTRIBUTION** and **FORWARDING** of mails by

Wm S E G. & N. Haven  
from July 1st to Aug 1st, 1890.

No. incorrect slips	- - - - -	<u>3</u>
No. errors	- - - - -	<u>2</u>
No. letter packages missent	- - - - -	
No. pouches missent	- - - - -	
No. canvas bags missent	- - - - -	
No. letter packages misdirected	- - - - -	
No. pouches misdirected	- - - - -	
No. canvas bags misdirected	- - - - -	
No. registered packages missent	- - - - -	
No. errors checked against other employes	- - - - -	<u>1</u>
No. trips run	- - - - -	

Wm S E G. & N. Haven  
Superintendent.

Figure 3

Postoffice Westport Conn  
Received from train  
going North at 1 1/2 P.M.  
Aug 9 1890 a package  
(3d class) directed to  
Mr G S Hill Avon  
Conn  
Seymour Pettibone  
Post



Figure 4

The Figure 2 cover seems to have just slipped through the Boston post office without postage. It was opened on the left side so it did presumably contain an enclosure. There are no markings on the back.

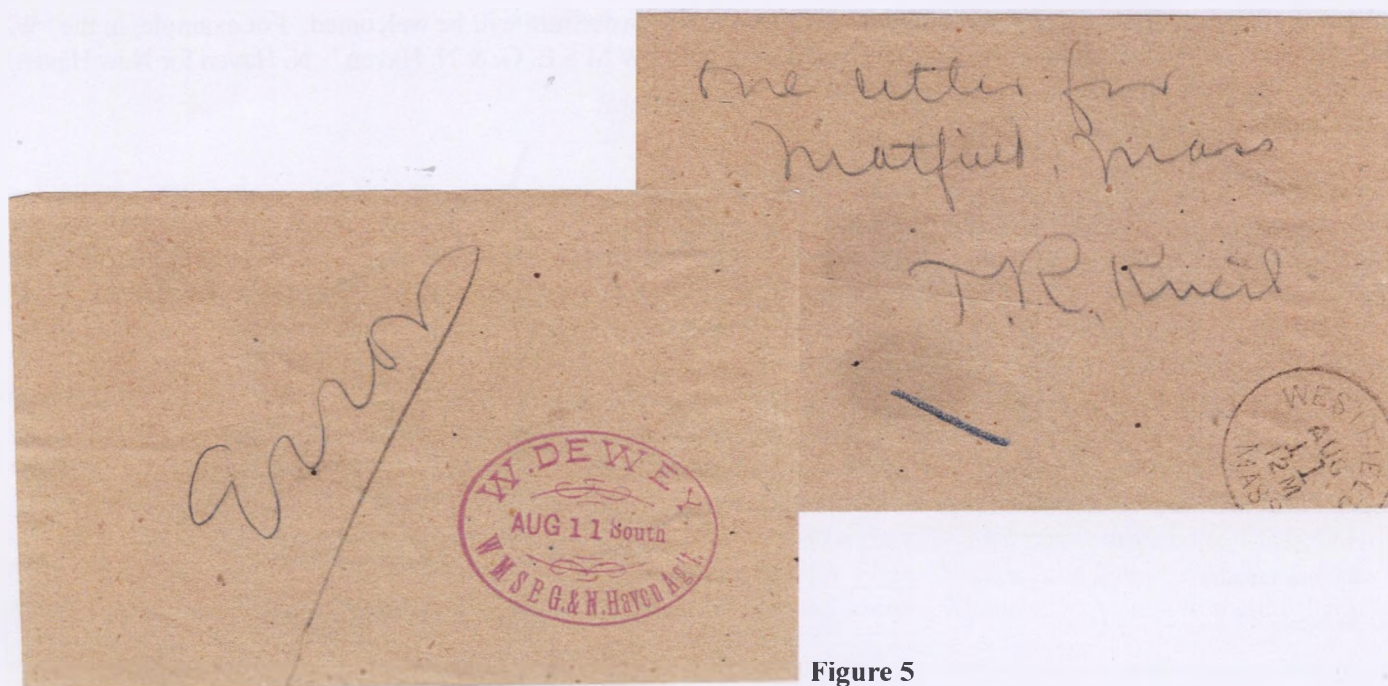


Figure 5

“Boston negatives” involving a number in a square with bars above and below have been reported from October 1881 to August 1883. ■

### Solid Center or “Black Ball” Ellipses (Part II)

*Ardy Callender*

#### Differing Ring/Core Ellipses

A number of “Black ball” ellipses with different interior core sizes and number of rings are included within the group. Most possess a heavy barrel with two horizontal bars above and below and a solid core at the center of the ellipse. Examples of four of these cancellations are illustrated in Burr’s article in *The American Philatelist*.<sup>6</sup> His tracings are shown here as Figure 10. According to Burr, the first example was used from Elgin, IL on “2¢ postage”. Burr’s illustration clearly depicts an ellipse with three rings enclosing the central core. Additionally, Cole illustrates the same solid cored ellipse surrounded by three rings.<sup>7</sup> However; the “on cover” example in the author’s collection from Elgin, Illinois, shown in Figure 11, possesses only two rings. It seems odd that Elgin employed both two and three ring ellipses. The Elgin cover shown here was addressed to David Casper, Esq., Fredericksburg, OH and is dated 11 May 1887. The 2¢ red brown 1883 issue American Bank Note adhesive is cancelled by a clean strike the duplex handstamp. Two thin rings surround the solid inner core measuring 7mm. in diameter. The search for an “on cover” three ring example from Elgin continues.

Similar to the Elgin two-ring cancellation, Burr’s second tracing illustrates a two-ring ellipse with a central core measuring 5.5mm. in diameter. Burr furnished no source of origin and the author has not observed an on cover example. The size of the central core is somewhat smaller than the others found in the study.

As seen in Figure 12, another two-ring ellipse cancellation has been recorded from Muskegon, Michigan. Muskegon’s ellipse has the central core measuring 6mm. The small reduced cover from Muskegon is addressed to Chene Inwood, 31 Winter St., Room 3, Boston, MA and is dated 23 May 1887. The 2¢ red brown 1883 issue American Bank Note adhesive is cancelled by a legible strike of the handstamp with the two rings clearly visible enclosing the central solid core.

One more two ring barreled ellipse with a 6mm. central core was employed in Keene, NH. The example shown here as Figure 13 is dated 27 June 1888 and addressed to Mr. Elwood Thompson, Pittsfield, NH. Although lightly struck on the 2¢ Plimpton entire indicia, the ellipse is distinct and appears rotated slightly towards the right (in relation to the datestamp).

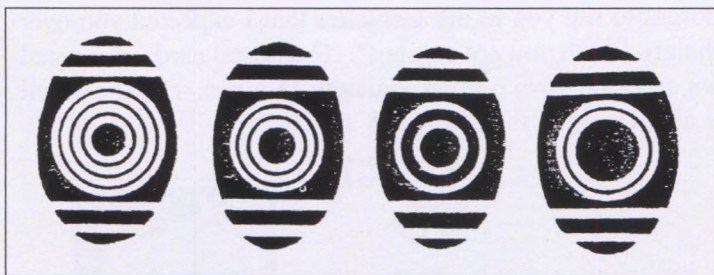


Figure 10



Figure 12



Figure 11

A two-ring cancellation has also been listed and figured in Sol Salkind's book.<sup>8</sup> Salkind classified the cancellation as PO-PM-32 but unfortunately provided no information regarding origin. His image is shown here as Figure 14.

Burr attributes the third image in Figure 10 to Scranton, Pennsylvania. The ellipse has a single thick heavy ring enclosing a 6mm. central core. The Scranton cover shown here as Figure 15, was sent locally and is dated 15 May 1890. The 2¢ 1890 American Bank Note (lake variety) adhesive overpays the local rate.

The final ellipse shown in Figure 10 was used in Providence, RI. The Providence ellipse represents the killer portion of a group of duplex cancellations known as "Time on Bottom" handstamps. Created by Walter Wesson, "Time on Bottom" handstamps positioned the time element at the bottom of the datestamp. Wesson produced many different varieties of these duplexes and held five separate patents between 1877 and 1883. The current reference on these handstamps is the 2010 USCC book, *Wesson "Time-On-Bottom" Markings Revisited*.<sup>9</sup> An example of the Providence ellipse on cover is shown as Figure 16. Addressed to Merriman Manufacturing Co. Durham, Connecticut, it has a corner card for WM. H Fenner & Co., Providence, RI. The cover is dated 26 April 1887 and is franked by a 2¢ red brown 1883 issue American Bank Note adhesive cancelled by the single ringed solid ellipse. Unlike Burr's tracing shown in Figure 10, the distance between the outer barrel and inner ring is different (greater) on this cover.

The author has documented three new single ring ellipses not included in Burr's articles. Seen in Figure 17, the first originated in Terre Haute, IN and is dated 17 March, 1888. The cover, sent to Dudley, IL, is franked with a 2¢ 1887 American Bank Note stamp. The adhesive is cancelled at the lower left by a barrel ellipse consisting of a single ring surrounding the 7mm central core.

The other two single ring varieties both have a central core of 8mm in diameter. The first comes from Allentown, PA and the example shown in Figure 18 is struck on an 1886 postal card issue. The year date is poorly struck but if the year in the datestamp was 1886, the card would represent a second day of use of the card (as mentioned in the pencil notation at the upper left). This is probably not the case as most single ring ellipses recognized in this study date from 1888. An excellent strike of the cancellation showing the single ring and solid core is struck at the left on the card. The message

from the sender on the reverse of the postal card states "I forgot to tell you in my last letter that I expected you over tomorrow; therefore please to let me know by postal immediately wheth you are coming". The postal card was posted at 10:30 AM (datestamp) and the distance between Allentown and Kutztown is approximately 18 miles. Did the postal card arrive in time for the addressee to reply with a message about visiting the next day?

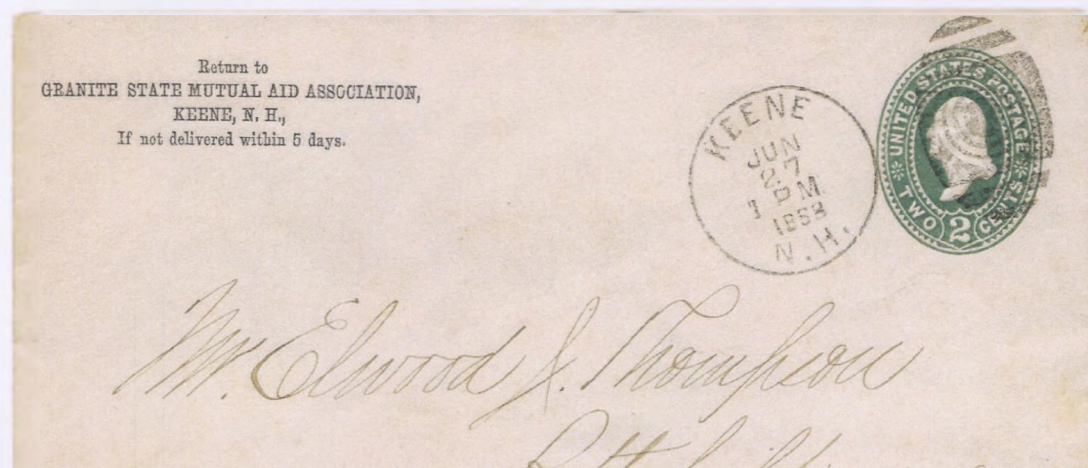


Figure 13



Figure 16

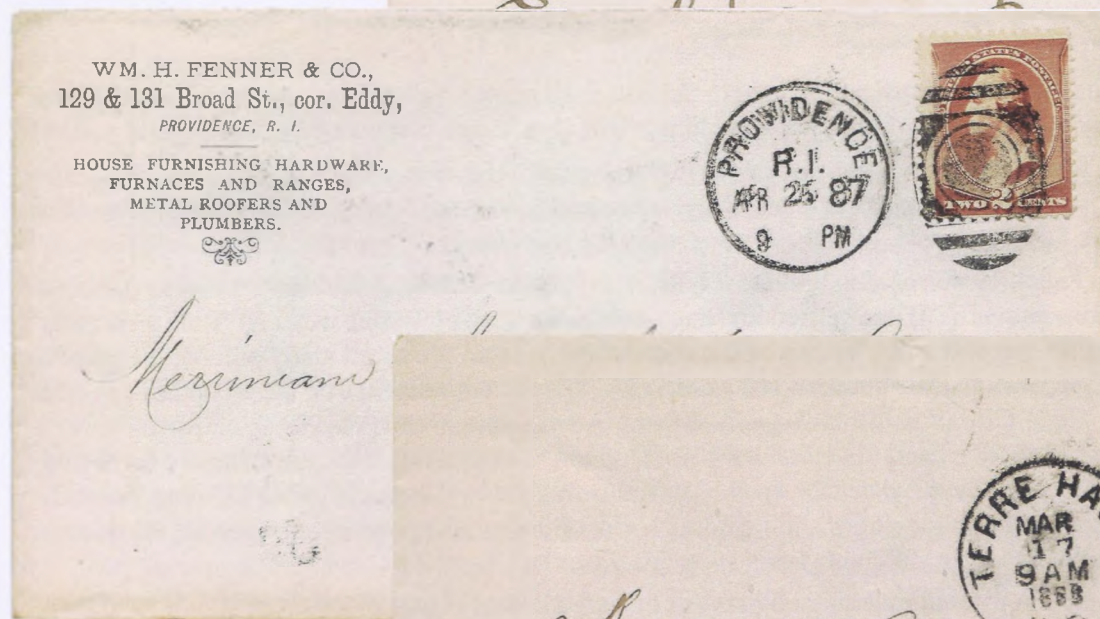


Figure 17



Figure 14

Figure 15

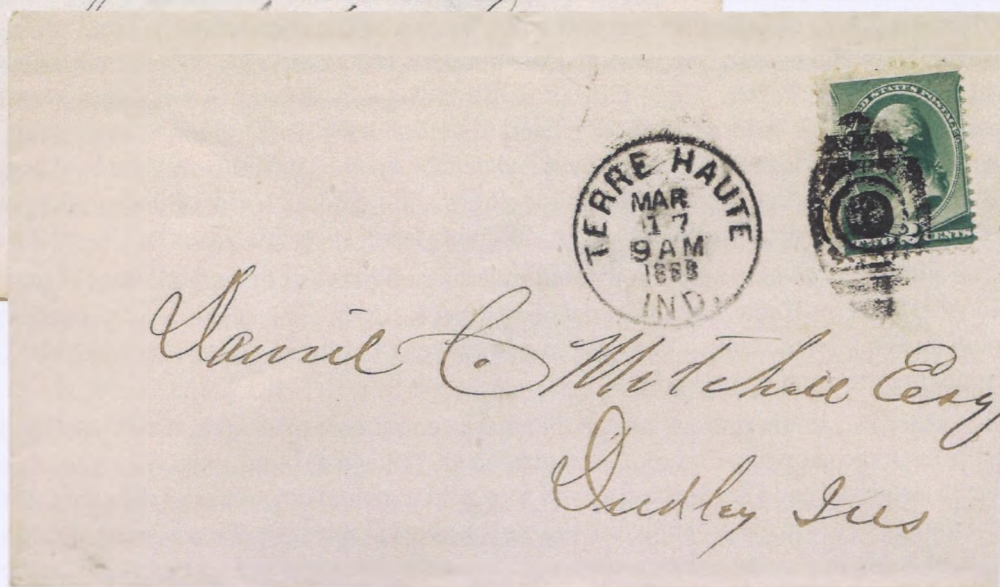


Figure 18



Figure 19

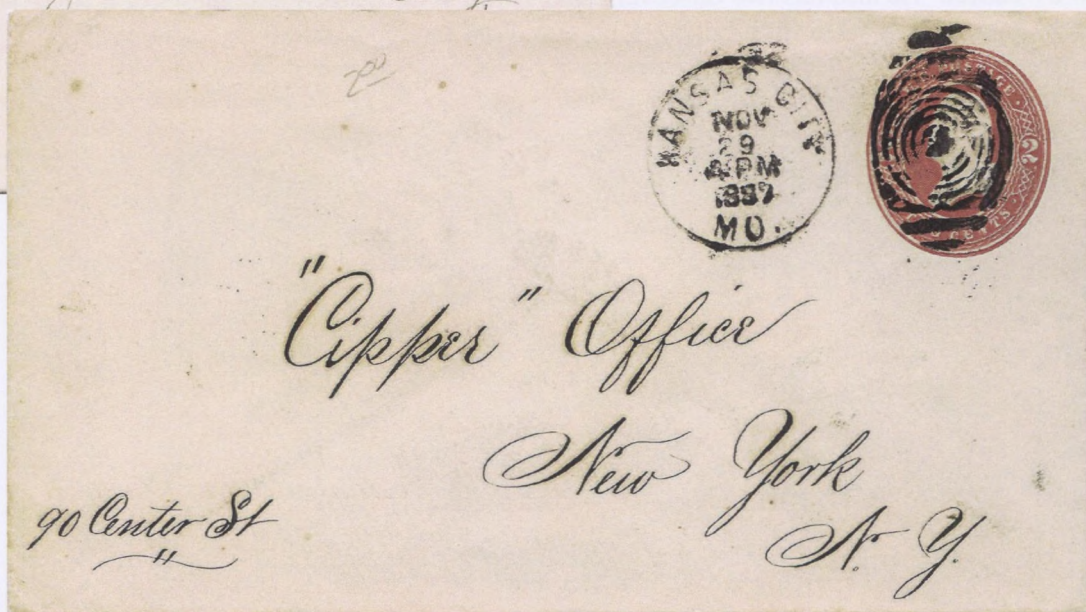


Figure 20

The second example with an 8mm. central core is recorded from Bay City, Michigan. The small cover shown here as Figure 19 has a corner card for Bay City Club, Washington Ave. and Sixth St. and is addressed to Menominee, MI. The backstamps indicate the letter reached Chicago (transit) the next day and arrived in Menominee the day after – on January 4th. Dated 2 January 1888, the 2¢ red brown 1883 issue American Bank Note stamp is tied by both the datestamp and the single ring solid ellipse.

Another solid ellipse type not reported by Burr is a type composed of four rings surrounding a 5mm central core. In the example shown here as Figure 20, the rings are much more delicate, measuring less than 1mm in width. The 1884 Plimpton entire, dated 29 November 1887, is addressed to the “Clipper” Office in New York City. The “The Clipper” was a weekly entertainment newspaper published between 1853 and 1924 covering such topics as theatre, music and sports. The entire originated in Kansas City, MO as noted by the smudgy datestamp and four-ring solid ellipse cancellation.

#### Notes

6. Burr, Gilbert M., “Standardized Hand Stamp Cancellations on the Bank Note Issues”, *The American Philatelist*, 1935, p. 622.
7. Cole, James, M., *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era, 1870-1894*, The U.S. Classics Society, Inc., 1995, p. 316.
8. Salkind, Sol, *U. S. Cancels 1890-1900*, self published, 1985, p. 106.
9. Edson, Ralph A. & Levere, Gilbert L., *Wesson "Time-On-Bottom" Markings Revisited*, USCC 2010.

*End of Part II.*

## Wheel of Fortune Cancels with Unusual Aspects

Roger D. Curran

With the exciting prospect of Larry Rausch's book on wheel of fortune (WOF) cancels, which may be available by the time these words are read, the present article is offered describing a couple of unusual WOF-related uses.

The first involves WOF cancels found on the large numeral postage due stamps. They exist but are quite scarce. Figure 1 illustrates the front of a cover that entered the mails at Coleville, Pennsylvania on May 2, 1881. Coleville is known to collectors to have used a commercially supplied skull and crossbones cancel which, on this cover, is lightly struck. The 2012 update of the Whitfield book lists 16 post offices that used the cancel. However, it is the J3 postage due stamp, of course, that is of interest here since it is canceled by a WOF. Postage due stamps were affixed at the destination post office which, in this case, was Meriden, Kansas. We can determine from the received marking on the back of the cover that it was likely struck on May 5, 1881. At the upper left corner of the back there is a lightly struck WOF that was undoubtedly applied, along with the Meriden CDS, from a duplex handstamp. Ray Porter, a specialist in cancels on the large numeral due stamps, reports the Figure 2 cover in his collection which shows a pair of 1c due stamps with a WOF cancel. He also has two off-cover stamps with WOF cancels and knows of a cover with a large numeral due stamp canceled by a WOF from Edgar, Nebraska. Who can report additional examples?



Figure 1



Figure 2

We move now to the second category of unusual uses. WOF cancels were generally struck from handstamps that duplexed the postmark and cancel. Examples where separate handstamps were used are seen but they are much less common. Occasionally, strikes from what clearly appear to be from duplex handstamps involve postmarks that are not in proper alignment with the cancel on the right side. Figure 3 is an example from Ritchie C. H. (C. H. for Court House), West Virginia. A second example from Raymond, Mississippi is shown in Figure 4. Finally, two examples from Scandia, Kansas appear as Figure 5.



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

The question arises as to how these erroneous alignments came to be; that is, what caused the problem. A couple of answers are put forth. First, especially when seeing a first example from a particular post office, there is a logical explanation that the CDS dies would screw into a holder on the face of the handstamp which could, and sometimes would, loosen and sit at an off-center location in relation to the cancel. The other explanation is that the postmark die was glued directly to the face of the handstamp and in the above cases was glued in error. WOF handstamps appealed to small town postmasters because they were inexpensive. A screw-in dial would entail additional cost. I favor this explanation which I believe gains support from a couple of additional observations. I have seen several examples of the Ritchie C. H. duplex with the Figure 3 alignment ranging in dates from September 1883 to January 1884. One might expect to see isolated misaligned strikes that would soon have been corrected, but to have such a misalignment last for several months, where it could have presumably been easily corrected, seems doubtful. Also, note the dates in the Ritchie C. H. and Scandia CDSs – they are right side up in terms of their orientation to the top of the cover. I think these two postmasters received erroneously made handstamps and decided to use them, rather than return them, and corrected the situation, as much as they could, by how they inserted the date slugs.

The Raymond, Mississippi case was handled differently, with the postmaster inserting the slugs to match the orientation of the lettering in the postmark. Perhaps this was done because the alignment wasn't as bad as in the other cases and could be read more easily.



Figure 6

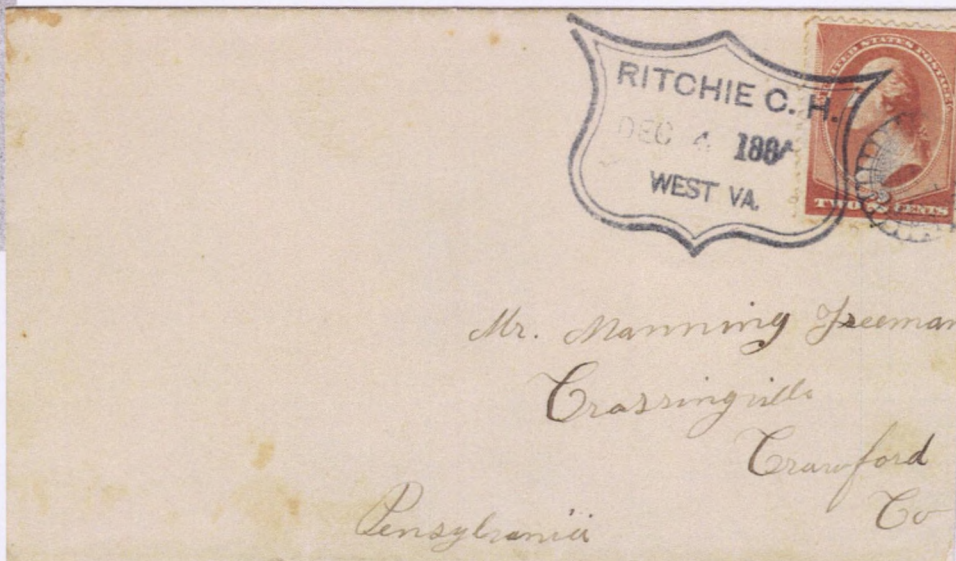



Figure 7

Two more Ritchie C. H. items to mention. First, Figure 6 shows a photocopy of part of a postal card with postmark dated June 19, 1882 involving an identical triple circle CDS and WOF duplex strike, but this time, of course, with correct alignment. I assume the handstamp used in Figure 6 broke or wore out and a new handstamp was ordered which turned out to have the error. The second aspect involves the remarkable postmark, apparently duplexed to the WOF cancel, used on December 4, 1884 – see Figure 7. There is a penciled note by Arthur Beane on the back of the cover stating that he had seen an April, 24, 1884 example on a postal card. The Ritchie C. H. Post Office, located in Ritchie County, is a DPO that operated from 1847 - 1895. ■

## The Classic Cancel

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"running man"

Observations on the Oval & Circular Date Stamps Used in Worcester, Massachusetts (Part II)

Bob Trachimowicz



Style S-14  
32.5mm  
1855-1857  
Black

Style S-15  
32.5mm  
1856-1860  
Black



Style S-16  
30mm  
1857  
Black

Style S-17

26mm/14mm

1860

Black



*T. F. Sharpe Esq.,*

*Reg 24*



*M. F. Blake  
S. J. Barton*

Style S-18

29mm/15mm

1860s

Black

Style S-19

32mm

1863-1864

Black



*Mrs Henry A. Hittidge  
P.O. Box 111  
Worcester, Mass.*



*W. J. Eveleth  
Hubbardston  
Mass*

Style S-20

24.5mm

1869-1875

Black



Style S-21  
25mm  
1873-1880  
Black



Style S-22  
27mm  
1877-1881  
Black

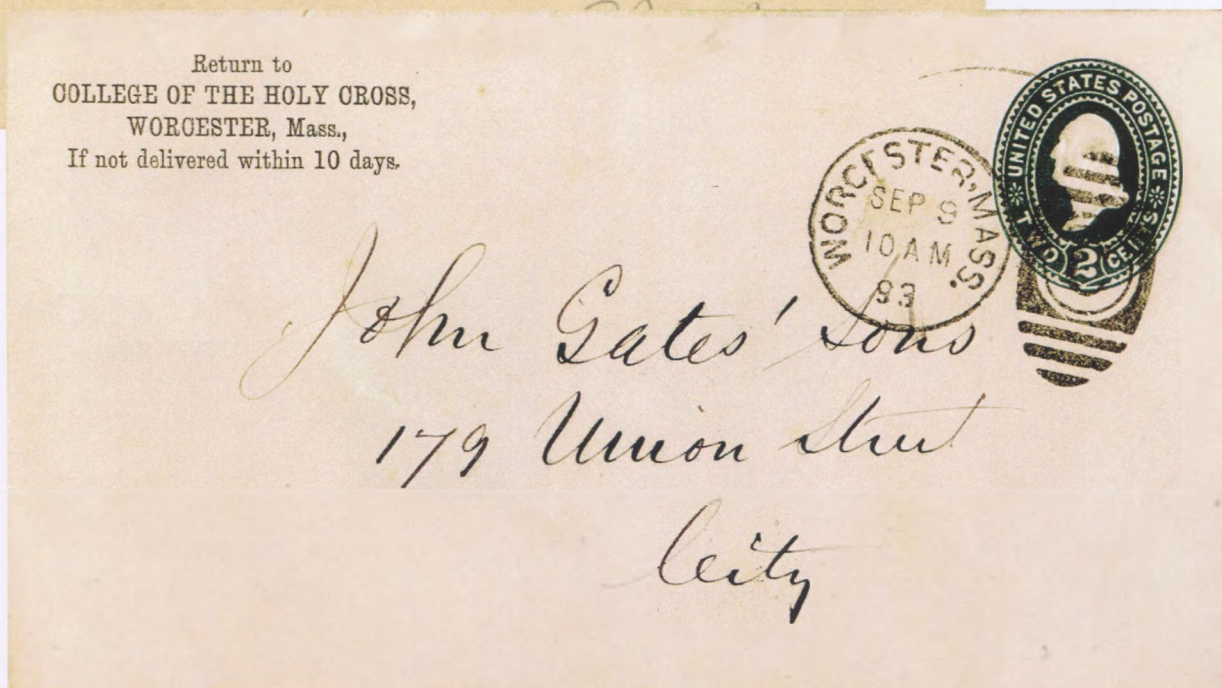


Style S-23  
26.5mm  
1881-1883  
Black

Style S-24  
26.5mm  
1883-1891  
Black



Style S-25  
24.5mm  
1891-1893  
Black



Style S-26  
26mm  
1892-1899  
Black

I welcome all responses, questions, comments and updated information that will help me make the Worcester CDS List as complete and accurate as possible. ■

End of Part II & Series.

## Cancellations on the 2¢ Issue of 1890 (Part III)

Merritt Jenkins

Here are a few multiple letter cancels:



Atwood



4-in-D

*A clever way to denote the town name: Danforth, ME*



HS

*Harry Sanderson was the postmaster at Winchester, IL*



ILP

An interesting multiple letter cancel but not a thing of beauty is the "WPF" killer from Winter Park, FL to Medford, MA.



*A Medford-bound cover sent from Winter Park, FL on December 15, 1891, with a "WPF" killer.*

The USCC NEWS has had at least two articles, in May 2004 and May 2009, concerning the Mexico, New York date cancels. I think most dates have been discovered except perhaps for April, July and September. I have only three examples on Scott #220; an "AUG" cover, a "DEC" cover dated 12/10/1891 that I bought in the late 1970s in a John Kaufmann Sale and a blob of an "OCT" single.

About 100 million of the 2¢ stamp were printed in the lake shade and more than 2.2 billion in the carmine shade. As it became harder and harder for me to find cancels to enhance the collection, I began turning my attention to the common cancels and over the next few years I accumulated more than 26,000 copies of this stamp.

I quickly learned that one of the most common cancel appeared to be varieties of the barred ovals. Trying to sort them into some semblance of order, I was forced to create a code to help me separate the minor differences encountered. To prevent boring my readers to tears, I will dispense with lengthy explanations on how my coding system works. I will simply show a portion of a page of horizontal barred ovals (or ellipses) and another of vertical barred. In both cases, the examples are of the same general type. There are many more types than shown here.

The last area I will touch on is fakes. As with any collections the possibility of fakes is almost unavoidable. The odds of unknown fakes residing in my collection probably approaches unity. If any reader spots a known fake, please notify me so I can identify it as such on my album page. Below are four examples of known fakes:



AUG, OCT and DEC examples of Mexico, NY's unusual month cancel.



An assortment of specially-classified barred oval cancels.



*Four fake cancels.*

Roger Curran and I both agree that the anchor cancel is a fake. As for the pumpkinface cancel, I have no doubt it is not genuine; I purchased this cancel at BALPEX about 15 years ago. As I was going through stock from a very well known dealer, I found a lot containing five #220's. All were struck in the same dark black ink but stamped on different areas of the stamps. In over 40 years of collecting, I have never seen such an accumulation in a dealer stock. I purchased one for \$5.00 to take it off the market. I did not confront the dealer as he possibly had been duped.

Roger gave me the two 2¢ stamps with the fake "ONE CENT" surcharges some time ago. Under magnification, one can clearly see that the surcharge is printed on top of the cancellation. All the cancellations shown are a representative of the collection. The fancy cancel album consists of a bit more than 100 pages. The common junk cancels, "The Gorp", as I call them, includes several other types of Horizontal and Vertical Bar cancels, Double Oval Registration cancels, Circular and Oval Target cancels, a smattering of Machine cancels, and a few Precancels.

Many thanks to Roger Curran for his help in correcting errors, providing information from Helmblock's books and general support.

Anyone want to buy a box of 26,000 or so used and sorted Scott #220 - cheap? ■

### *End of Part III & Series.*

## **Book Review: *New York Foreign Mail From 1870 to 1879 - A Research Project* by Alex Gundel**

*Roger D. Curran*

An informative 48-page book by Mr. Gundel on the above subject has recently been published. It contains several sections. The first presents his study of New York exchange office markings found on postal cards used during the 1873-1879 period. The focus is on postmarks rather than cancels. However, the two NYFM cancels most commonly found on postal cards (Weiss GE-EP3 and GE-EP4) are discussed in some detail. Mr. Gundel presents a census of 251 cards. These do not include cards processed by other exchange offices, mail to Canada, and supplementary mail. The 22 postmarks he has recorded are illustrated and discussed.

### **New York Foreign Mail from 1870 to 1879 A Research Project**



by Alex Gundel

A second section addresses NYFM cancels found on printed matter. Mr. Gundel presents two separate lists: (1) NYFM cancels found on printed matter but not on letters and postal cards and (2) NYFM cancels found on both printed matter and on letters and postal cards. Additionally, the NYFM cancels associated with each category are illustrated. These lists extend by more than 50% the number of such uses reported in the Weiss book.

A concluding section reports Mr. Gundel's study of NYFM postmarks and cancels on mail to Central and South America, 1872-1876.

A number of covers throughout the book, all in color, are illustrated, especially those involving printed matter. Several articles by Mr. Gundel on the subjects covered by the book appeared in past issues of the *NEWS* and these generated helpful information from USCC members for his studies. The book is recommended for anyone who has an interest in New York Foreign Mail sent during the 1870s.

*New York Foreign Mail From 1870 to 1879 - A Research Project* is available from Amazon.com for \$14.99 plus shipping. ■

## Large Negative Killers from Portland, Maine: Last Call!

Robert L. Conley

Readers with good memories will recall my intention to review the Boston-like, Large Negative Killers from Portland as mentioned in the August 2018 *NEWS*.

Several members have since provided me with scans and information from their collections and some others took up my offer of letting me do all the work for them – if they would just send me their collections – and they did! Vince Costello was the most recent member to do so and as a result, I found he owns the card illustrated below. It is yet another new discovery – a 'P' in a circle.

Almost everyone who was kind enough to contribute has been suprised by a new discovery they were not aware of. Thousands of these ubiquitous items from c.1880 survive today, yet I have only seen a few hundred. And even if there is nothing apparently new to see, every item gives a much needed clue as to dates of use – *EVERY cover or card with one of these killers is useful!*

However, it is now coming a time to wrap this study up – look for the full results of the study, probably in the next *NEWS*. So I urge you to send me scans of all of your Portland Large Negative items and where possible provide a year date of use. If you don't have the time for that, simply send your collection to me to record – Vince was without his collection of 60 or so covers for less than two weeks! Just let me know it is coming by sending an email at [uscceeditor@mail.com](mailto:uscceeditor@mail.com), wrap it up in a few layers of plastic, and head out to see your friendly, local post office clerk. ■



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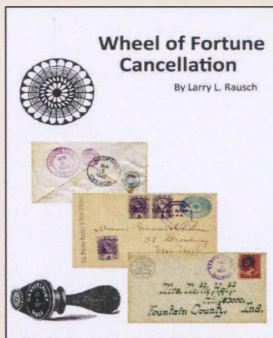
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