

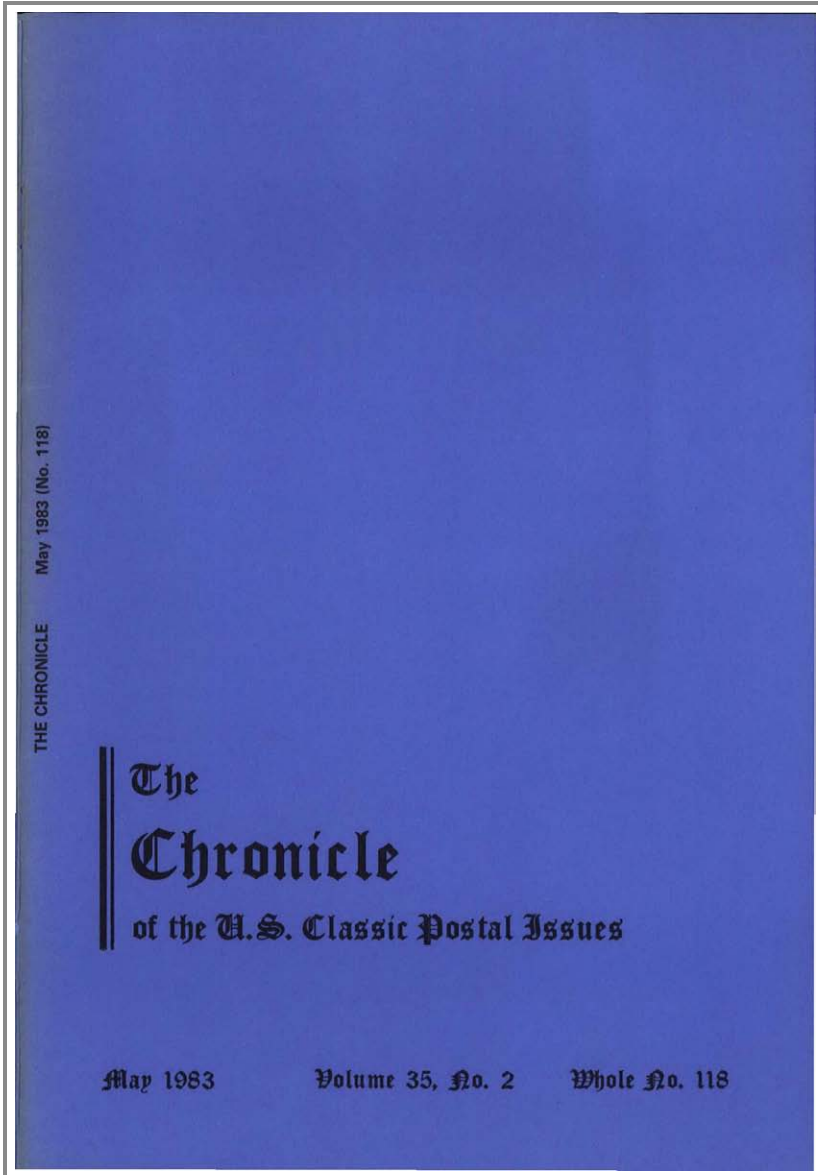


# U.S. Philatelic Classics Society

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Author(s): Philip T. Wall



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No. 1X2 is unique. It is cancelled with a small black straight line "PAID" marking. An apparently different and larger "PAID" marking is on the cover which does not have the customary boxed "5" marking. The cover also bears a black circular "Alexandria Nov 25" postmark.

### CONCLUSION

I hope readers will not think me unduly critical of the Blue Boy cover, but I do think there are certain unusual aspects of this cover that have apparently never been discussed before. I invite criticism and further discussion of my comments on this important cover. Anyone having more current information as to the whereabouts of any of the seven recorded items is encouraged to contact me.

As is usually the case, this article could not have been written without the assistance of many other people. Dr. Stanley M. Bierman of California has furnished me with much information from his library pertaining to the past history of the Alexandria stamps and covers. I hope I have previously mentioned in this article all of the other contributors to the story, but, if not, I hope they will forgive this oversight on my part.

### ONCE MORE, WITH FEELING

*Editor's note: Calvet Hahn has sent a rebuttal, reproduced in part below, to my comments in February on the 5¢ New York cover with Wilmington & Raleigh R.R. postmark. To save space and redundancy my responses are enclosed in square brackets. Unless new evidence appears, this should end, though not settle, the discussion, except for Charles Towle's remarks in the railroad section in this issue. S. M. McD.*

In commenting on the 9X1 cover, Mrs. McDonald makes two points regarding the postmarks: 1) she does not consider the difference between the subject cover's cds and Remele's W7c sufficient to condemn the cover. Obviously I and others disagree. The difference is in part philosophical. In the past I have repeatedly cited Sperati's advice from his *Philatelic Sans Experts* that an item should be examined as though it is bad with evidence gradually overcoming the initial presumption. Mrs. McDonald approaches from the other end assuming an item is good until proven bad. [Alas, I cannot so casually discard the long tradition of Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence.]

2) This 9X1 cds does not match the fake cds's she has recorded on 1847 covers. This viewpoint is a minority one not shared by most experts. For example, Herbert Boch has no patience with expertizing that examines the fakes and thus concluding because the item doesn't match it is good. He insists as did the late Edwin Mueller that comparison with the genuine is the sole test . . . [This involves a misrepresentation of my statement.]

Mrs. McDonald makes a third unrelated point that this letter was prepaid. I don't believe it was. I believe the item could well have been an out of the mail item to which both stamps and a cds were added. Note that the letter was docketed as received 3/1 on it but that the omitted table shows that by mail from Weldon requires it be received 3/3, additional evidence that this was not genuinely postmarked on the Wilmington & Raleigh. Carried out of the mail there were other trains and services between NY and NO that do make delivery possible, but not from NY or Weldon under U.S. mail contract service. [It seems bizarre that an invisible and perhaps misread docketing notation is given more weight than other aspects of the cover.]

## CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION SERVICE

**Professional university-trained paper conservators will undertake the cleaning and repairing of manuscripts and covers and the removal of soil, stains, ink and foxing from philatelic properties in accordance with strict museum standards.**

References supplied upon request

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