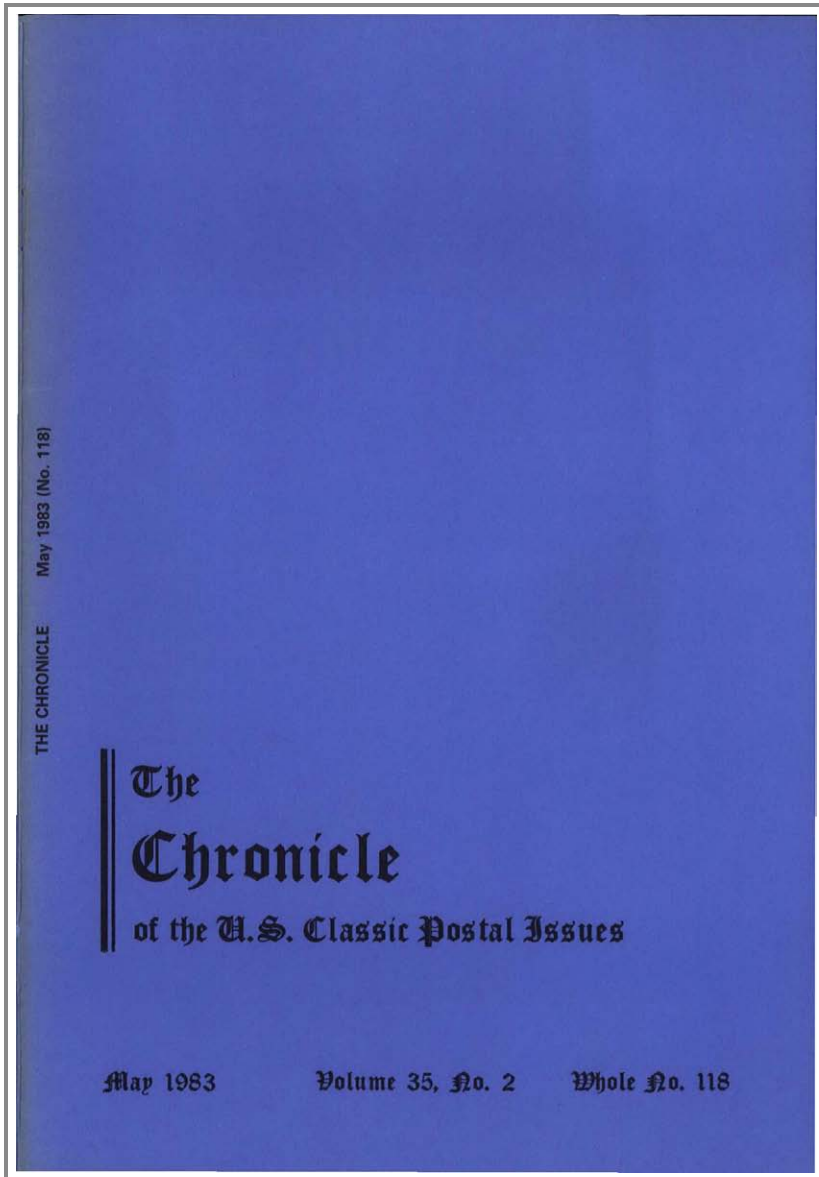




# U.S. Philatelic Classics Society

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Author(s): Herbert Bohren



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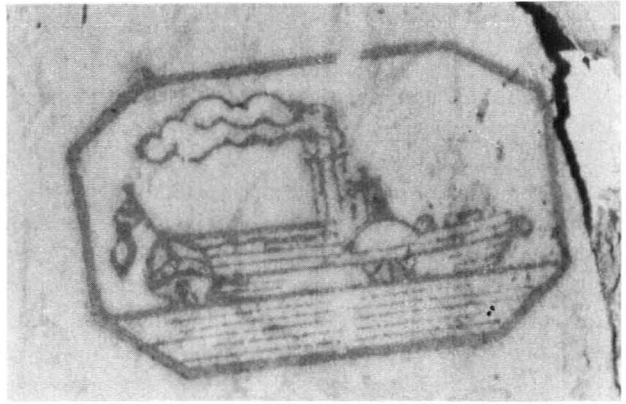
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**Figure 2. Enlarged view of octagonal handstamp.**



Wilmington. In view of the above information it appears that this marking should be listed under the category "Inland Waterways Mail Markings" in the *American Stampless Cover Catalog*. The 6¢ rate may very well be the rate for distances not over 30 miles, since Wilmington and Philadelphia are only about 25 miles apart.

Additional information about Tusculum would be much appreciated since I have not been able to locate it precisely.

**Review: Opinions: Philatelic Expertizing — An Inside View.** Edited by Elizabeth C. Pope. Published by The Philatelic Foundation, 270 Madison Ave., New York, N. Y. 10016. 150 pages, hardbound, over 60 photographs. \$20.00 from publisher.

I must admit that I'm prejudiced in favor of puzzle-solvers. Having neither the temperament nor the talent myself, I find what they do nothing short of magic. So, I'm more than mildly interested when a book comes along that combines problem-solving with philately.

*Opinions* is a fascinating collection of philatelic problems delivered to the experts of the Philatelic Foundation for solution — and, it's hoped, for the accolade of accolades — "Genuine in all respects." Often the conclusion is a surprise to the reader and not always a happy one, nor for that matter is there always a conclusion. I would be less than honest if I did not admit to fits of frustration that the decision is at times left up in the air — but these are minor challenges to a delightful and most informative collection.

For added spice, the cake includes an overview of the procedures followed by some of the more artful forgers and counterfeiters, with selected examples of their work as well as the methods used to expose their forgeries.

The five chapters of *Opinions* provide examples of problem stamps and covers originating in the United States, the Confederate States, the American Possessions, Foreign Offices, and the British Commonwealth and General Foreign. The sampling has been chosen to cover almost all fields of philatelic interest. Equally varied are the approaches taken by the experts to come to their conclusions. And the touch of humor every now and then as evidenced by such titles as: Genuine Stamp, Genuine Cover, Fake Use; Fancy Cancells, Fact or Fantasy?; and A Shade of Difference Makes a Major Difference adds to the pleasure of this scholarly collection of essays. The book is heavily weighted in the direction of U.S. Classics, on and off cover. This reflects the proportion of such material coming through the Foundation for expertizing. The authors of the articles in the U.S. Classics area are well-known members of this society.

Elizabeth Pope, the Editor, has concocted a brew that is palatable and addictive — a selection of articles by well-respected and most familiar names of philately intended for fits and starts of reading with the challenge — put me down if you can. I readily admit that I couldn't!

Herbert Bohren