



U.S. Philatelic Classics Society

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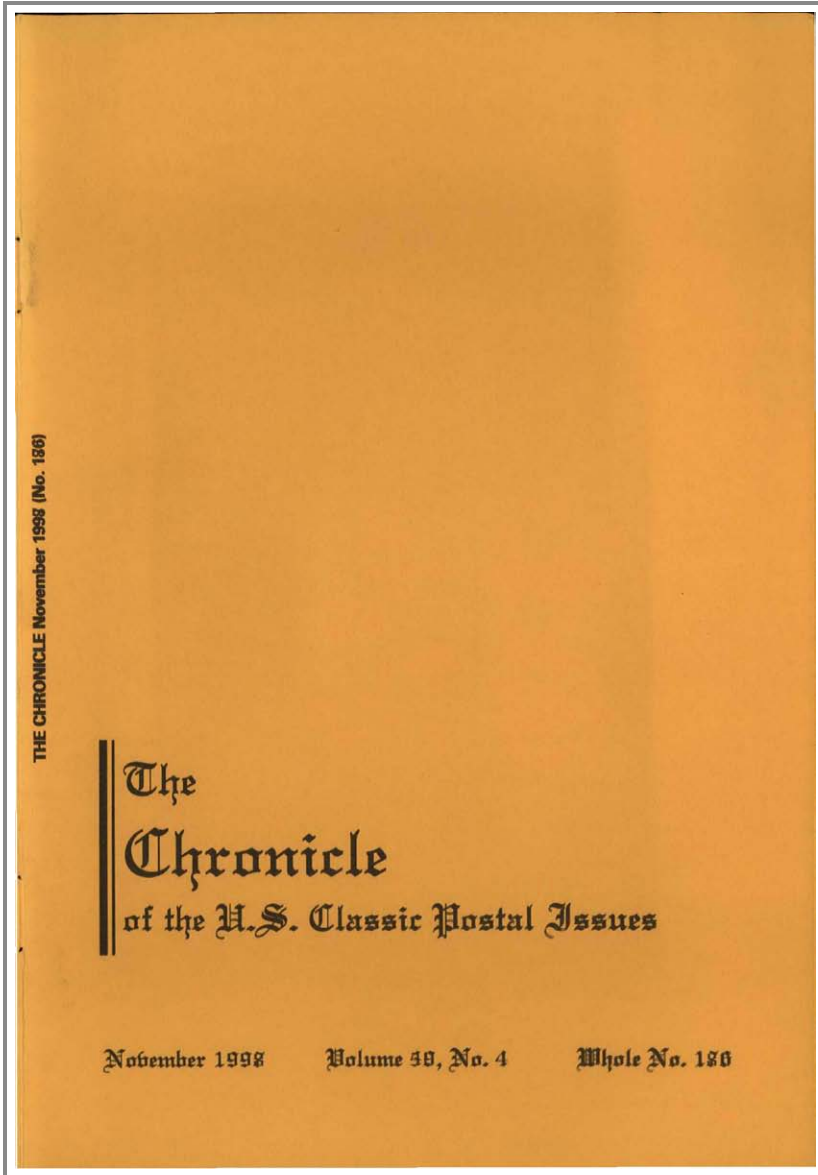


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PROBLEM COVERS FOR ISSUE 180

Allen Schefer submits the covers in Figures 5 and 6 from Cincinnati, Ohio to "Fleet Paymaster Thomas H. Looker / U.S. Flag Ship Powhatten / Care of U.S. Consul / Panama / S.A." There are no markings on the backs of these covers, but letters therein indicate that both were dated in 1868. The February cover was paid 10¢, the correct rate to Panama, but the April cover was paid only 3¢, the domestic rate.

Why was the second letter apparently accepted as fully paid by both the Cincinnati and the New York post offices with no indication of any postage due?

The cover in Figure 7 was submitted by Howard Ness. It appears to be a straightforward usage from "VANCOUVER / JUN / 18 / W.T." to Sacramento, Cal. where its receipt was docketed on "June 21 / 65." Postage was paid as indicated by the manuscript "Chg box 61 / W.W.K." The questions are why no amount of postage was marked, and where the "Chg box 61" was applied – at Vancouver or at Sacramento?

Figures 8 and 9 show the obverse and reverse of a 1874 cover to Paris from "POUGHKEEPSIE / APR / 20 / 6 PM / N.Y." Postage of 10¢ was paid by stamps, which was sufficient for the cover to receive a "NEW YORK / APR / 21 / PAID TO ENGLAND" CDS in red. A "15" in black indicates 15 decimes due in France and is overstruck on a weak "GB // 40C" accountancy marking, also in black. Routing is shown by a black "ANGL. / 4 / MAI / 74 / AMB. CAL." (on face), and by a red "LONDON / ? 4 / 74" CDS and a black "? ? PARIS / 5 / MAI / 74 / RESTANTE 1" (on back). Additionally, there are two handstamps "SHORT PAID" in black on the back, and a red crayon "2" crossed out by a blue crayon plus a blue crayon "3" on the front.

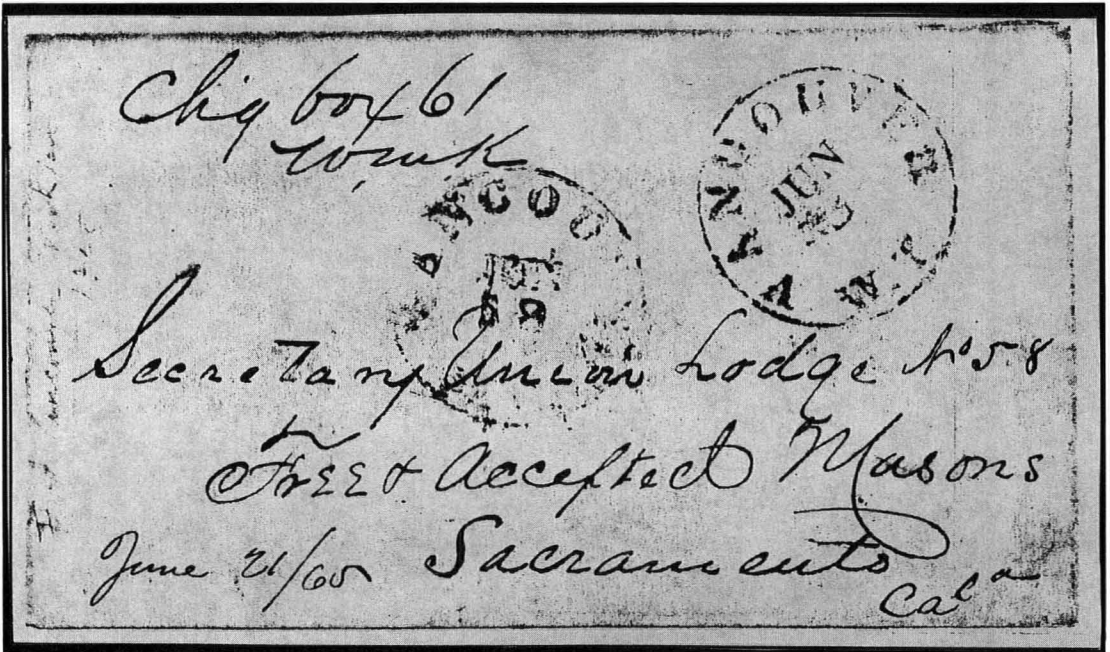


Figure 7. Vancouver, W.T. cover to Sacramento in 1865

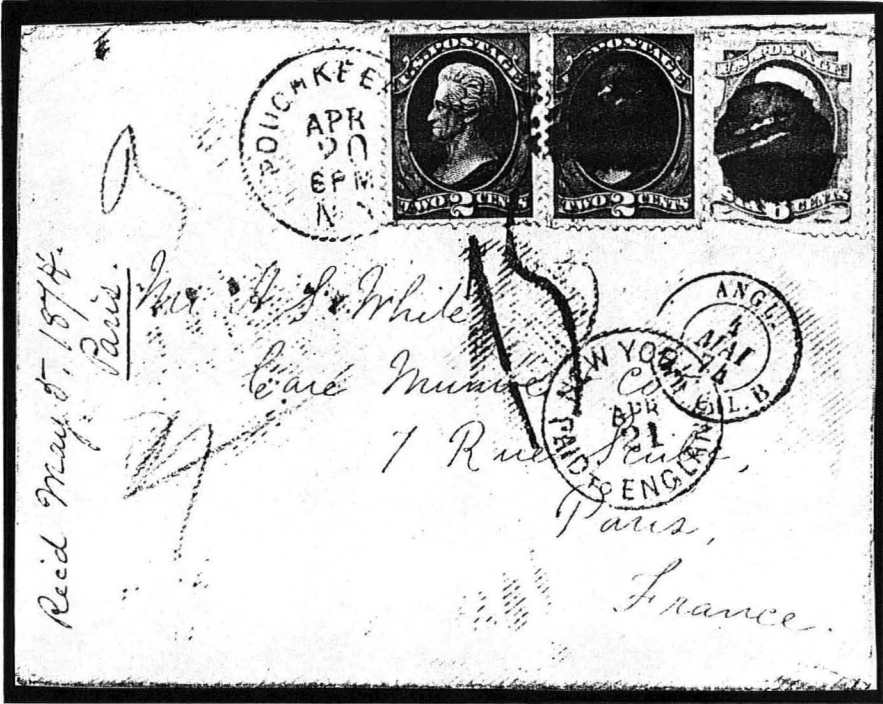


Figure 8. Face of 1874 cover to France with "PAID TO ENGLAND" CDS



Figure 9. Back of cover to France showing "SHORT PAID" handstamp

Please explain:

- Why the 10¢ prepaid postage did not carry the cover to France by direct rate or by the “phantom” rate via England.

- The significance of the blue and red crayon markings.

- The meaning of the “SHORT PAID” handstamps and where applied. Please send your answers to the problem covers for this issue, and any further discussion of previous answers to other problem covers, within two weeks of receiving your *Chronicle*. The “go to press” deadline for the February Cover Corner is January 10, 1999. I can receive mail at 9068 Fontainebleau Terrace, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45231-4808, as well as by Fax at (513) 965-4474 (Note this is a new FAX number).

We need some new examples of problem covers for The Cover Corner. We have successfully experimented with using copies of covers produced by high resolution copiers, either in black and white or in color, instead of requiring black and white photographs. This should make it easier to submit covers. Please send two copies of each cover, including the reverse if it has significant markings. It is also important to identify the color of markings on covers submitted in black and white. Thanks.

FROM THE EDITOR

POSTSCRIPT TO VOLUME 50

1998 has been a growth year for the *Chronicle*. The 96-page February issue (Whole No. 177) is the largest single number published, and the 320-page total [not counting the 4-page annual index] makes Volume 50 the largest annual volume ever. The issue you’re now reading is the first “regular” issue to weigh in at 80 pages, in contrast to the 72 pages which has been the norm for some 30 years.

There are two major reasons for this increase: (1) The USPS Board considers the Society’s publications as a primary benefit of membership, and has therefore formally authorized and instructed the Editor-in-Chief to increase *Chronicle* size to 80 pages to the extent that available material permits; in any case, minimum size will be 72 pages; (2) authors and Section Editors/Assistant Editors have responded with a sufficient supply of new articles to at least initially meet the demand for 11.1% more copy. [Anyone who suggests the increase was the initiative of the Editor-in-Chief obviously hasn’t discussed the matter with either the E-I-C or the E-I-C’s wife!]

Part of that new supply comes from Leonard Hartmann, whose concentrated focus on Confederate adhesives and their plating commences in this issue. As I did in the past when the *Chronicle* featured a long-term subject that didn’t fit within the walls of the established Sections, I’m giving Hartmann’s articles an “unofficial” section heading. (Our earlier “unofficial” section author, Bill Mooz, will be back next issue with an article on special printings of Post Office Seals.)

Still, the increased journal size provides plenty of space for new authors and new subjects/new looks at old subjects. My experience with the *Chronicle* has shown that we’ve had outstanding contributions from members who were initially reluctant to write anything for publication. If you might fall into that category, I encourage you to contact me or the appropriate Section Editor with your thoughts on what you’d like to see in print . . . and with your help, we’ll undoubtedly end up with one or more articles on the subject.