

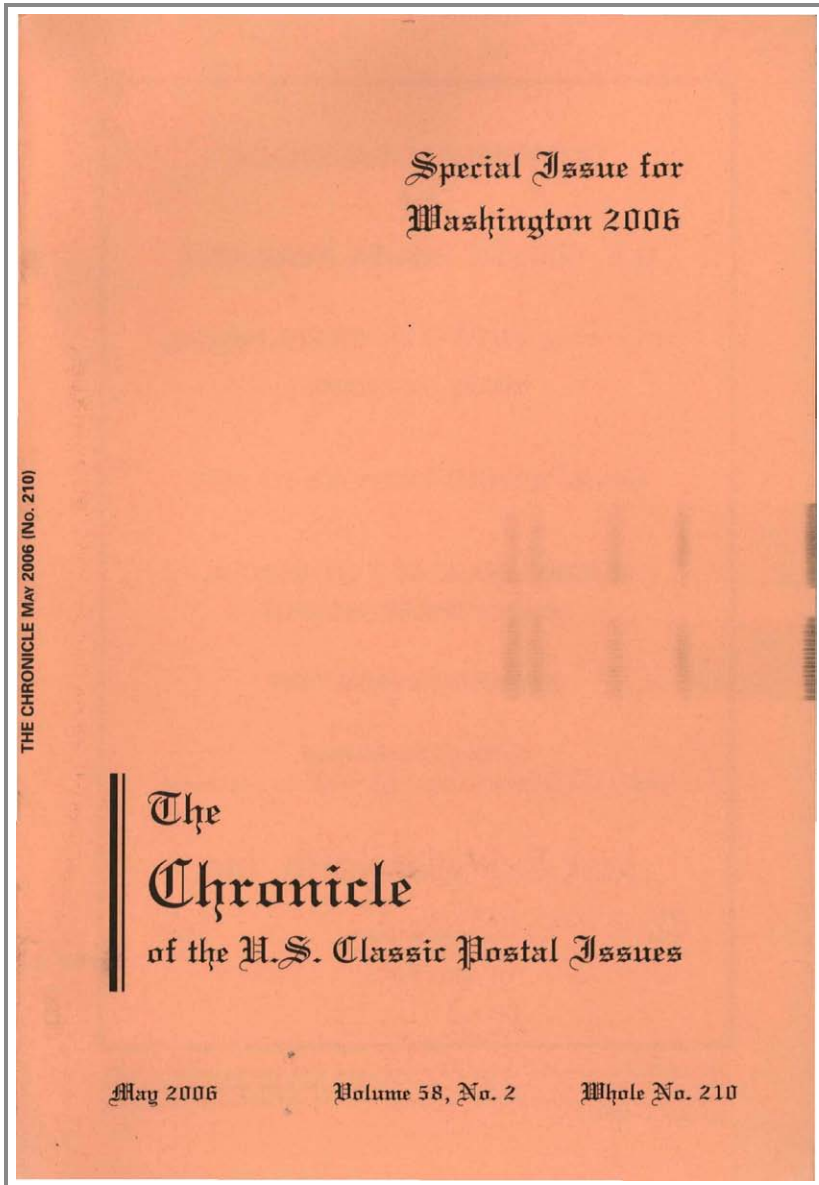


# U.S. Philatelic Classics Society

Volume: 58 Number: 2 Year: 2006 Chronicle: 210

Article: Display Advertisement

Advertiser: Stephen T. Taylor



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Payne and I agreed that the body of the Hoole-style handstamp could have easily been attached to the plunger of a mechanical stamping device. When the machine was removed from service, the handstamp body stayed with it.

Obviously, much of this is conjecture, based on a few facts. Better data is needed. Aside from the Pearson Hill device, which had a self-inking feature (and for which we have pictures and details of construction), little is known of whatever machines were tested per PMG Blair's pronouncement that devices were under construction in early December, 1862. We do know that the McAdams mechanical stamper was tested at New York in January 1863, and that its operation was by foot treadle with two men required to run it. A few other leads exist, and are being followed up.

In summary, the short spans of operation, the timing with Blair's comments, and the odd appearance of some of the markings of 1862, indicate tests were being conducted of experimental marking machines at Washington as well as at New York.

The possibility that some of the Washington markings were applied by a mechanical stamper was recognized not only by Payne and this writer, but by Thomas O. "Tuck" Taylor, whose large collection of Washington covers included page write-ups suggesting that mechanical stampers applied these markings. A few of the covers shown here were in Taylor's collection, which was recently sold.

Bob Payne, in the years before his death, had compiled a great deal of data on Washington machine cancels. This was an outgrowth of the many monographs and catalogs of U.S. machine cancels compiled by Payne, Reg Morris and Bart Billings, plus others. Yet Payne's work indicates that much remains to be learned about mechanical stampers of the 1860s and later, and other machines from the classic era, such as the Pittsburg devices of the 1870s.

The best tribute that could be made to Payne would be to carry on his projects. ■

## ***USA, Confederate States, & Possessions***

Stamps, covers & postal history at:

Washington 2006--booth 2632  
Washington DC, May 27-June 3

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