

H.S. Philatelic Classics Society

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Article: Answers to Problem Cover in Chronicle 209

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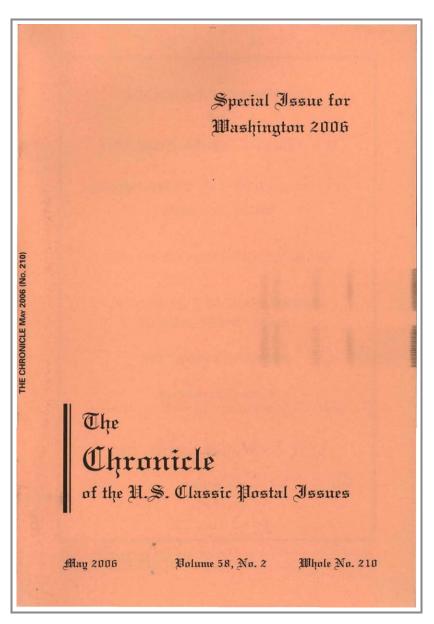


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THE COVER CORNER GREG SUTHERLAND, Editor

ANSWERS TO PROBLEM COVER IN CHRONICLE 209

We received two answers with regard to our most recent problem cover, presented in *Chronicle* 209 (page 75) and reproduced here as Figure 1. Route Agents James W. Milgram and Van Koppersmith both noted that the hand-stamp was poorly and partially struck, resulting in what appeared to be a "4" instead of the correct "40" New York due marking on



Figure 1. Our problem cover from last issue. The mysterious "4" due marking turns out to be a poorly-struck "40" – appropriate to an unpaid four-timesrate steamship letter coming in to the U.S. from Havana in the 1860s.

this incoming steamship letter from Havana. The 40¢ collection is appropriate for four times the 10¢ steamship rate on a letter weighing between 1½ and 2 ounces. The full sending (Cover Corner illustrated only the cover sheet) presumably contained enclosures.

The tracing of the "40" hand-stamp in the Hubbard-Winter book (*North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75*, page 370, marking 316) provided a good sample for comparison. An overlay copied from this sample was placed over the copy of the cover resulting in almost perfect placement for the "4" and a good match for what little can be seen of the "0" that appears on the Figure 1 cover.

PROBLEM COVER FOR THIS ISSUE

Route Agent Rick Leiby submits the cover illustrated in Figure 2. As can be seen, this cover originated in New York, N.Y. The contents are dated 1 July 1846 and the cover bears a red NEW-YORK JUL 4 circular datestamp with "2 cts". There is a second hand-stamped blue 2 rate mark adjacent.

The content is illustrated as Figure 3. While apparently handwritten, it seems to suggest a form or duplicated letter. Can anyone explain why, and where, the second hand-stamped "2" was applied? Should this cover have been rated as a letter, or was it properly rated as second class mail (circulars, handbills, and other printed matter)?



Figure 2. Problem cover for thus issue: July 4, 1846, New York City to Carlisle, Kentucky. Two questions: (1) Why two different "2" collect markings (one red and one blue)? (2) Should this missive have been rated as a letter rather than as a circular?