



U.S. Philatelic Classics Society

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Article: Problem Cover for This Issue

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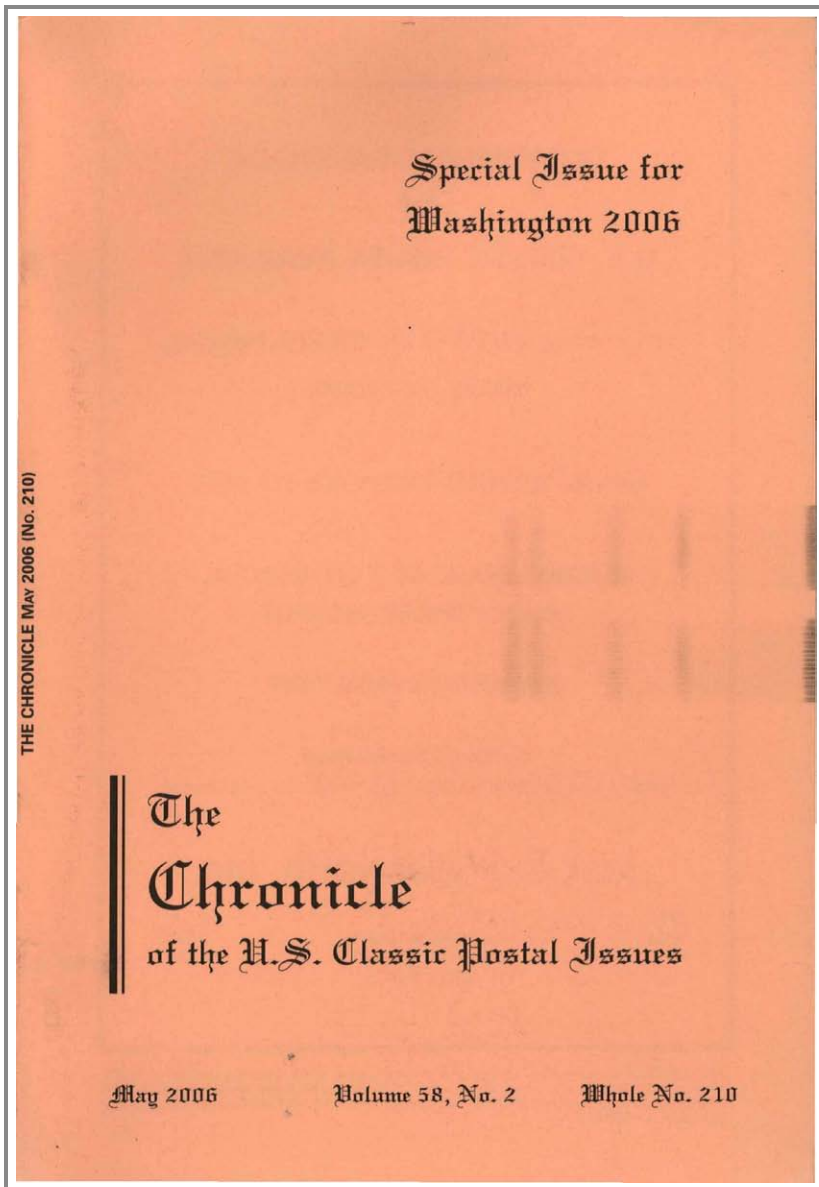


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ANSWERS TO PROBLEM COVER IN CHRONICLE 209

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 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.

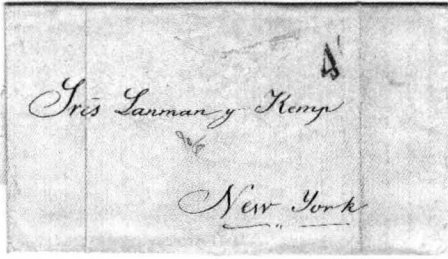


Figure 1. Our problem cover from last issue. The mysterious “4” due marking turns out to be a poorly-struck “40” – appropriate to an unpaid four-times-rate steamship letter coming in to the U.S. from Havana in the 1860s.

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 this 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?

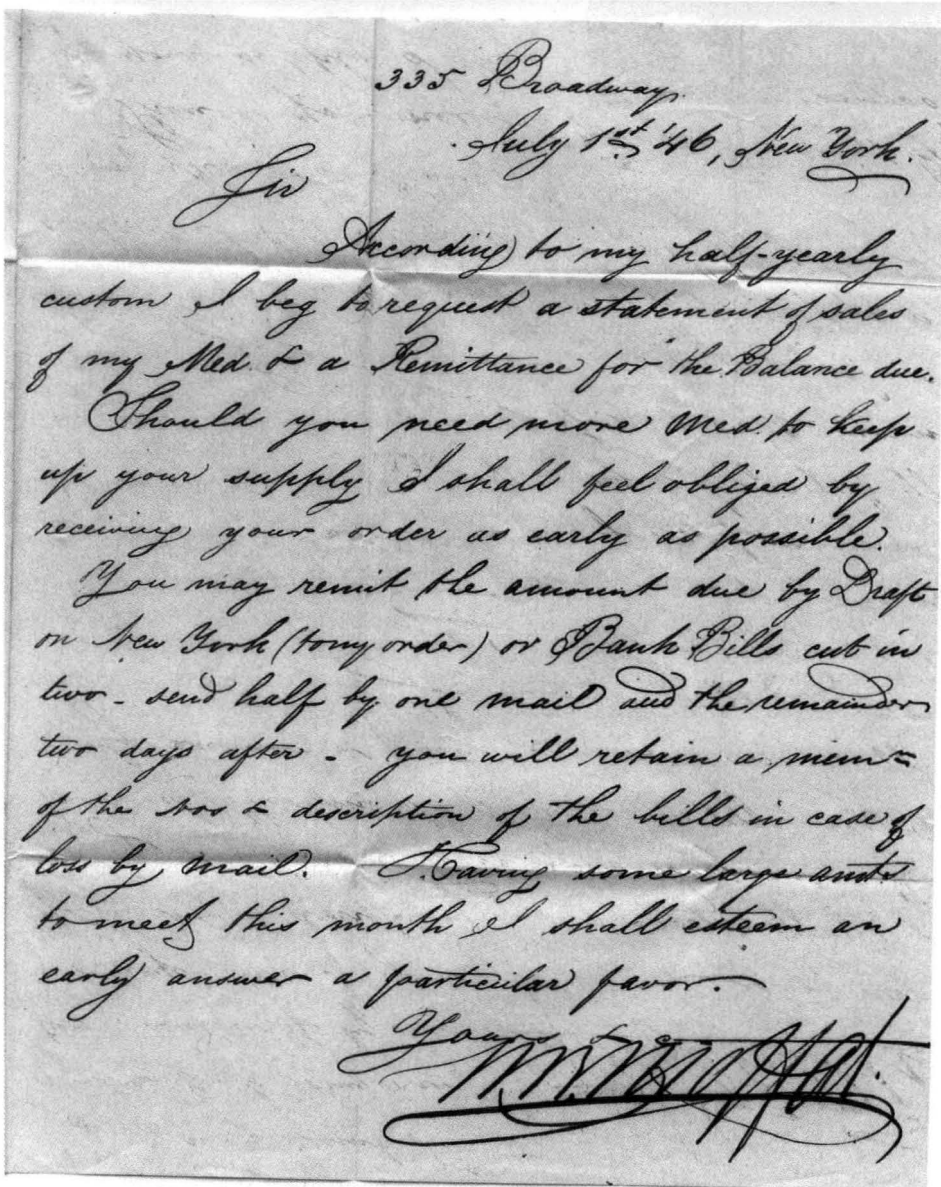


Figure 3. Contents of the problem cover shown in Figure 2.

COVER CORNER ON LINE

In an attempt to increase member participation in this, the only interactive section of the *Chronicle*, we're experimenting with posting problem covers on the Society website. If you visit the Society's on-line site (Google "U.S. Philatelic Classics Society" or go to uspcs.org) and click on the "Cover Corner" bar at the left, you'll be taken to an interesting problem cover that we've not yet featured in these pages. The site invites you to suggest your answers. If this new approach generates interest, we'll be able to take responses from the site and publish them in this section. Have a look. Get involved. ■