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The

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of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues

May 1991

Volume 43, No. 2

Whole No. 150

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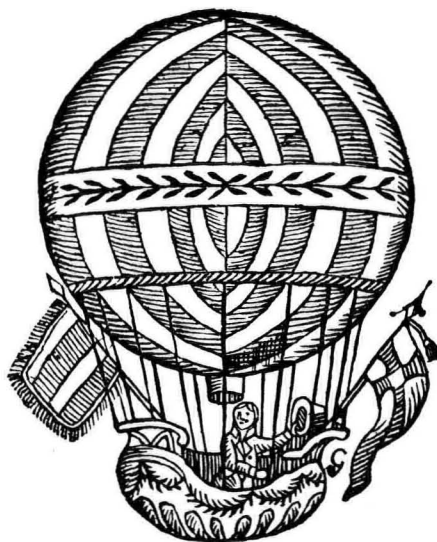
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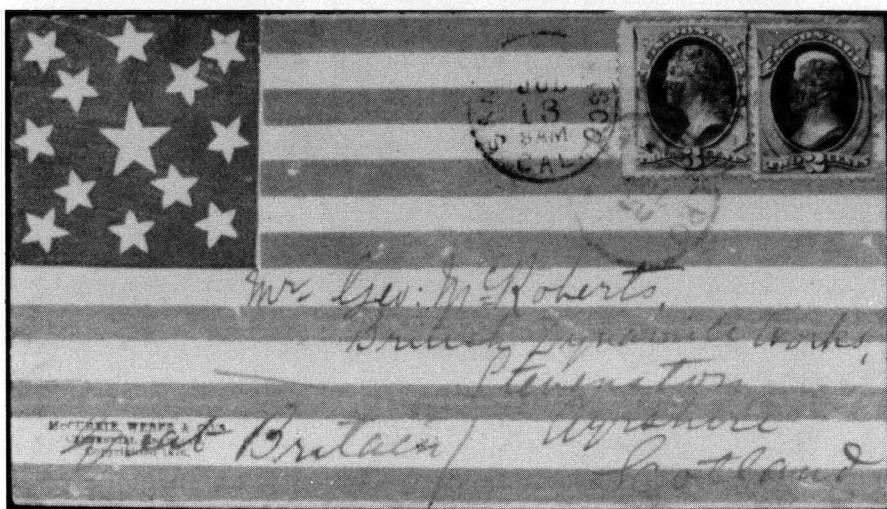
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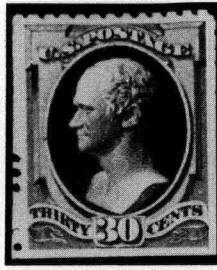
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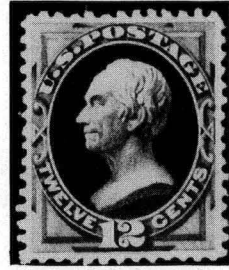
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1875, 6c Dull Rose special printing (Sc. 170)



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A DUAL PURPOSE CROSS BORDER MARKING

SUSAN M. McDONALD

In a recent Christie sale, March 13, 1991, there was a charming cross border cover which I greatly coveted and on which — as seems to happen with alarming frequency — I was the underbidder.

The cover is shown in Figure 1. The notable feature of it is, of course, the two line handstamp U.S. POST./FERRIAGE in red in lavishly serified capitals. This marking was used in 1829 and 1830 at Kingston, a prominent Canadian exchange office at the eastern end of Lake Ontario.

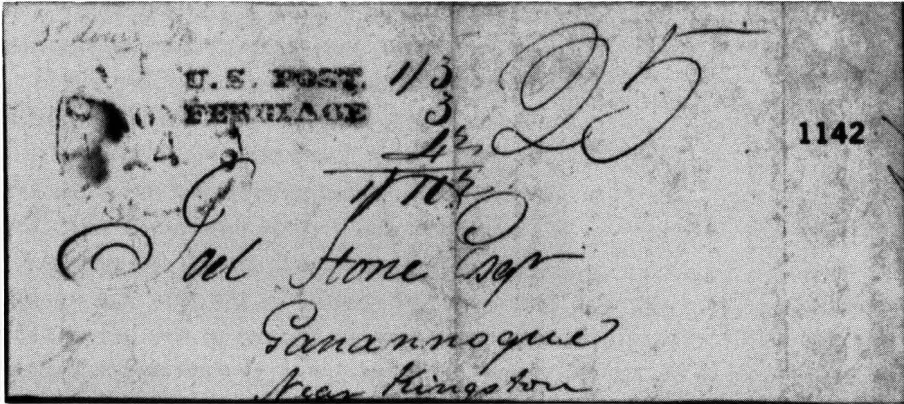


Figure 1. St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 24, 1829, to Gananoque. Red handstamp, in two straight-lines, U.S. POST./FERRIAGE applied at Kingston exchange office and used to itemize postage due.

From about 1829 until into the 1840s, many Canadian exchange offices on the U.S.-Canadian border employed such markings to itemize the components of postage due on mail from the U.S. Comparable markings were also used on letters from Canada to or through the U.S. It should be emphasized that, although the designation “U.S.” often appeared, these are, with one exception, strictly Canadian markings. Their variety and lack of uniformity suggest they were made up by individual postmasters at each office. An article I wrote for the November 1976 *American Philatelist* discussed and illustrated many of these markings.

The U.S. POST./FERRIAGE marking is rare. To date I have records of four examples, all in red. The earliest originated at New Haven, Conn., postmarked Oct. 9, 1829, and was addressed to Joel Stone at Gananoque. A straightline KINGSTON transit in red was struck on the back. The U.S. postage due was 25¢, converted to 1/3; with ferriage (for water transport) 3d and Canadian inland 4½d (under 60 miles), as on the Figure 1 cover. The New Haven cover, from the Harry Lussey collection, was sold in a J.N. Sissons auction, Sept. 26, 1956, realizing \$62.50. It surfaced ten years later in a Sissons sale of Charles de Volpi material in June 1966, where it brought \$85.00. Read 'em and weep.

The second example is the St. Louis cover illustrated here, which just sold for \$800.00 plus 10 percent. It is postmarked St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 24, 1829, addressed, like the New Haven cover, to Joel Stone at Gananoque, with the same postal charges. In 1985 Allan Steinhart reported that he had acquired two covers with the U.S. POST./FERRIAGE marking, from a correspondence from Brownville, N.Y., to Hallowell (now Picton), addressed to Benjamin Hubbs. On one cover, postmarked “Mch 13,” the U.S. postage due

was rated 10¢ (the 30-80 mile rate), while the second cover was rated 12½¢ U.S. due. Alan did not specify the year date (or the postmark date of cover two) but I assume it was 1830. The discrepancy in U.S. rates means the March 13 cover was marked U.S. POST. 6/FERRIAGE 3/4½ (Can.), total 1/1½, while U.S. postage was converted to 7½d on the second cover for a total of 1/3.

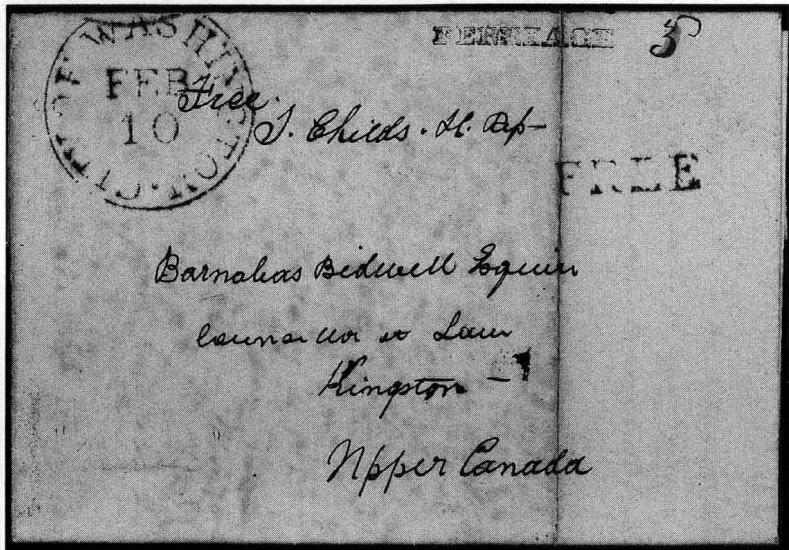


Figure 2. City of Washington, Feb. 10, 1830, to Kingston. Instrument adapted to strike single line only: FERRIAGE in red, on cover with U.S. postage free.

The U.S. POST./FERRIAGE handstamp was cleverly adapted to a variant purpose as the cover in Figure 2 shows. It originated at City of Washington, Feb. 10, 1830, addressed to Kingston. No U.S. postage was charged, as the cover was stamped FREE and franked by T. Childs, H. Rep. (House of Representatives). Timothy Childs served in Congress March 4, 1829-March 3, 1831, as a representative from New York; again 1835-39, and 1841-43. The handstamp device was carefully positioned near the cover's top edge so that only the FERRIAGE portion printed. Since the letter was addressed to Kingston, the exchange office, no Canadian inland postage was assessed, so that only the 3d ferriage was to be collected.

This is the only cover I'm aware of which shows the modification so that the single line FERRIAGE appears. In 1970 Dave Baker generously sent me duplicate slides of cross border material in his files. This cover was included. Many of the items were from Dave's own collection, but I'm not sure that this cover was. It certainly wasn't in the 1978 sale of the Baker collection, as I had purchased it a year earlier from a third party.

I would appreciate reports of additional examples of these markings, whether the two line or one line versions.

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UNUSUAL USES OF EARLY CARRIER CANCELLATION

ROGER D. CURRAN

The United States City Despatch Post operated in New York City from August 16, 1842, to November 28, 1846. Of interest to many philatelists are the adhesive stamps issued by the U. S. City Despatch Post to permit prepayment of fees for collection and delivery. A handstamp was prepared to obliterate the adhesives and it produced a cancellation of the design illustrated in Figure 1. Red ink was employed.



Figure 1. Handstamp used on stamps of the U.S. City Despatch Post.

1842 - 46

This brief article concerns uses of this handstamp beyond that of obliterating U. S. City Despatch Post adhesives or their forerunners issued by the City Despatch Post. As Philip Wall reported in the August 1982 *Chronicle*, examples of the New York postmaster's provisional stamp are known canceled by the "U.S." in an octagonal frame. In correspondence with the writer, Mr. Wall estimated that not more than 8-10 copies, on and off cover, are known canceled by this handstamp. On-cover examples reported to the writer are as follows:

1. Cover postmarked December 8 (1846) addressed to Albany, N.Y.
2. Cover bearing two singles, each canceled by the "U.S.," postmarked December 3 (1846), addressed to Sandusky, Ohio (Jeremiah A. Farrington collection).
3. Cover postmarked Washington City November 15 (1845) addressed to New York City (lot 102, Caspary sale).



Figure 2. New York Postmaster Provisional, cancelled by "U.S." marking, on cover postmarked Washington, D.C.

4. Cover postmarked Washington City December 5, addressed to New York City (lot 186 in Frajola Net Price Sale #4) (Figure 2). The stamp is canceled by both the curved red PAID of the New York post office and the "U.S." Mr. Frajola stated in correspondence with the writer that a year date could not be determined for this cover. Ex-Caspary, lot 103.

5. Cover postmarked December 5 (1845) addressed to Newport (information supplied by Stanley M. Piller).

Since the United States City Despatch Post was discontinued on November 28, 1846, it appears that the "U.S" handstamp was turned over to the clerks processing regular letter mail at the New York post office where it received some use, albeit apparently very limited. Perhaps it did not receive more use because the square grid, which was a larger and better canceler, had by then been introduced and precluded any real need for the "U.S." But how to explain the 1845 uses except as a result of the covers passing through the U.S. City Despatch Post, one being "from the mails" and the other "to the mails"? And then there is the intriguing report of Stanley Ashbrook in his 1938 one cent book of an 1852 "stampless to Canada" bearing the "U.S" in black. The existence of such a cover is verified by the editor-in-chief.

The writer would very much welcome comments and reports of additional uses of the "U.S" beyond that of canceling the U.S. City Despatch Post or forerunner adhesives. For example, we have heard mentioned that at least two one-cent 1851 series stamps may exist so canceled. It is hoped that additional information warranting a follow-up article will be reported.

References

Elliot Perry and A. Hall. *One Hundred Years Ago 1842-1941*, APS Handbook.

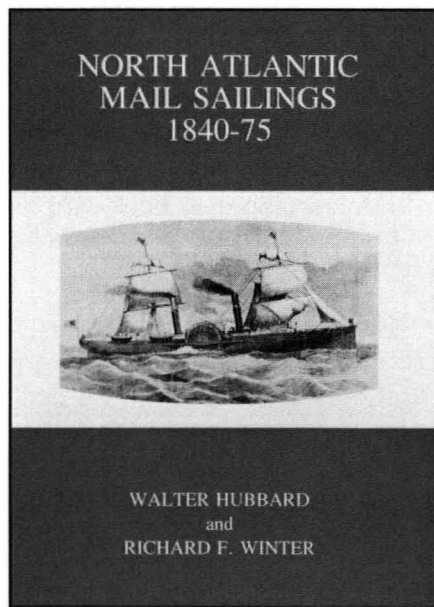
Stanley B. Ashbrook. *The United States One-Cent Stamp of 1851-1857*, Volume II (H. L. Lindquist, 1938).

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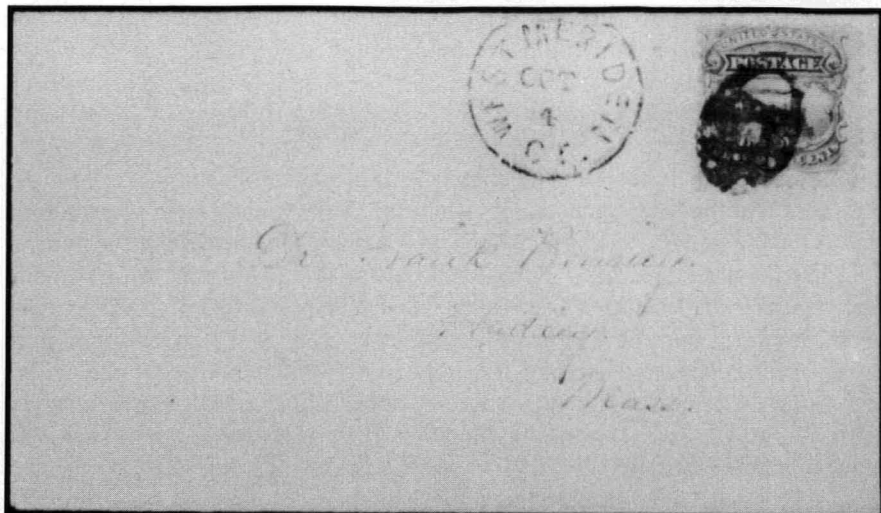
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Many of the covers and stamps that I offer to collectors only have to be offered once. This group of collectors see items that are not photographed or advertised for sale but sent to them for their consideration. Much of the material that I place into collections comes directly to me from collectors.

LETTER ON FILE

"I have come to appreciate the help I receive from friends like you ... It seems that some of the less scrupulous dealers seize the opportunity to take financial advantage once they learn what you are working on. A few lean over backward to help as you have done and this is both a tremendous help and a great encouragement and a pleasure to experience."

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THE 1847-51 PERIOD

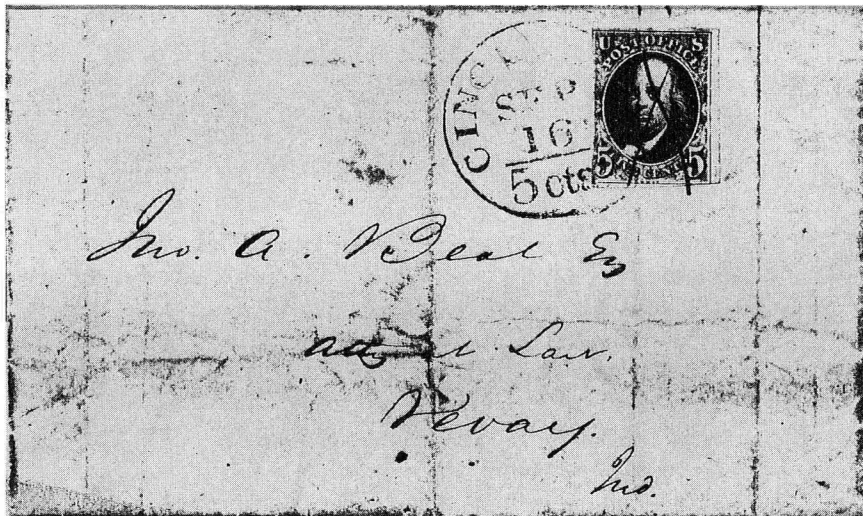
VEVAY, INDIANA

HERMAN HERST, JR.

I never know when some otherwise unimportant incident will trigger the gray matter in my brain, and bring to mind things that happened eons ago, and end up as a story for one of our stamp magazines.

Vevay, Indiana, is a tiny town on the Ohio River, with Cincinnati the nearest big city. I have never been there, and doubt that many readers of these words have, unless they live nearby. But it is a town whose name I can never forget. It is in Switzerland County, and it even has a zip code: 47043.

During the depression, collecting was quite a bit different from today. A much smaller portion of the philatelist's income was put into what is widely collected today. Many collected cacheted covers: stamp magazines listed these covers commemorating the dedication of a new Y.M.C.A., or the hundredth anniversary of the Madison Avenue street car in New York. (I sponsored that one.) For a dime one might buy a lovely cacheted cover postmarked on the anniversary date.



My thesis at Portland's Reed College in 1931 was about the growth of the Oregon metropolis and Oregon Territory as well. My knowledge of Oregon's geography got me started collecting Oregon covers when I came to New York to make my fortune in 1933. While California covers were popular, no one seemed to want Oregon covers and the pickings were glorious. Covers were not too popular, and every dealer had a box of them on the counter, the covers laden with stamps too cheap to soak off, and few paid any attention to the markings.

I recall the late 42nd Street dealer, Victor Weiskopf, who bought a stack of covers addressed to Henry Cummings, of Washington, who was then Commissioner of Pensions. Cummings had saved all his letters, and Weiskopf had hundreds of them. Cummings came from Eugene City, Oregon, and on the counter were dozens of covers from his family, all postmarked Eugene City. The curious thing was that the initials "O.T." followed the city name. Most were dated in the late 1860s. Oregon had become a state in 1859, but the Eugene postmaster was too lazy to cut off the "O.T." or too cheap to buy a new cancelling device.

My knowledge of Oregon geography was very much on my side as my collection of Oregon pioneer covers progressed. Eugene Costales had a lovely cover in one of his sales,

described as being from Port Orford, Ohio. Sure enough, the Postmaster there had his device made when "O.T." (Oregon Territory) followed the town name. Here again a Postmaster simply took a knife and deleted the "T" for territory. I got a lovely Territorial cover for about \$2.00. (Many auction lots in those days sold for a dollar or two or less.)

I started the collecting at that time of what I called "locality covers". Many collectors started looking for covers from their home towns or certain areas or even states. On my office wall I mounted a large map of the United States. When someone wrote in and asked for covers from Berkshire Co., Mass., I would glue a number on that portion of the map. An index card was then affixed with the collector's name and address, and the number affixed to Western Mass. When a cover would come in from that area, reference to the map for the number affixed there would then lead me to the index card with that number, and with a minimum of research, I could find who wanted that cover.

I had a letter from a doctor in the U.S. Navy, then stationed on the Yangtze river in China. "I was born in Vevay, Indiana," Dr. George Twomey wrote me, "and I want a cover from there for my collection." Periodically he would write me, renewing his quest for that cover.

I never found one. Vevay must have been a tiny town at that time, and perhaps it did not have so many people who knew how to write.

Dr. Twomey died about 25 years ago, but I continued to search for a Vevay cover, but without anyone to buy it if one should turn up. One just did, but how do you sell a cover to someone who has been dead for a quarter century? The cover shown with a 5¢ 1847 is pen cancelled and with a red CINCINNATI postmark. It is addressed to John A. Beal, Atty. at Law, Vevay, Indiana.

George Twomey and I became good friends, even though I could not help him realize his chief philatelic desire.

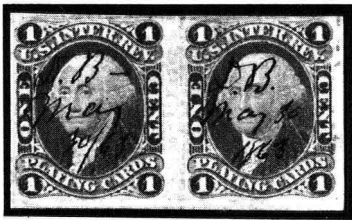
"Doc" Twomey had another lifelong ambition. He wanted to become editor of a philatelic publication. The opportunity came with the death of Robert Knobel, who had started a magazine called the *National Stamp News*. Knobel charged 50¢ per year for his magazine; postage for magazines at the time was negligible. Knobel got the idea to start a new stamp society, the National Philatelic Society. For a dollar a year, one could be a member and get the magazine free.

The A.P.S. at that time had about 5,000 members. Knobel's N.P.S. had no trouble in building up a mailing list of more than 5,000 subscribers, which enabled him to claim to be larger than the A.P.S. With Knobel's death, the magazine was up for grabs. I told "Doc" about it and he gobbled it up. A Marcia Byars-Warnok of Sullivan's Island, S.C., bought it for next to nothing and tried resuming it, but unsuccessfully. "Doc" Twomey stepped in and took it over.

"Doc" lived in St. Petersburg, Fla. I suggested the name *Southern Philatelist* which was the name of the magazine that August Dietz had published between 1924 and 1929. I told "Doc" that I was friendly enough with August Dietz that I would ask Dietz whether the name of his magazine might be used again. He said "Yes" with enthusiasm.

No one ever enjoyed publishing more than "Doc" did. Unfortunately it did not last long for his death ended the magazine. The odd thing I have found on doing this story is that there is no mention whatsoever of the name of Dr. George Twomey in the book published by the A.P.S. entitled *American Philatelic Periodicals*, by Chester M. Smith, Jr. The book is a gem. In no other publication can one find a listing of the thousands of stamp magazines that have appeared in this country. The Smith book tells us that the very first philatelic magazine published in this country was the *Stamp Collector's Record*, a photo of which is shown. This was a creation of the famous (and infamous) S. S. Taylor. It ran 42 numbers from December 1864 to October 1876.

But my problem today is this: Is there anyone for a Vevay cover?



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COUNTY AND POSTMASTER NAMED POSTAL DEVICES 1792-1869

JAMES W. MILGRAM, M.D.

(continued from *Chronicle* 149:30)

INDIAN TERRITORY

BAPTIST MISSION/C.N., C-31, 1850s, black. WM. MUSGROVE/Baptist Mission, two S.L. in frame, ms. Free and P.M.

This territorial cover from Cherokee Nation uses a handstamped corner card for the postmaster as a free franking postmark by adding the words "Free" and "P.M." in manuscript (Plate 4 - Photographs, A). There is only one known example.

IOWA

H.L. HOLCOMB/P.M./FREE., C-35, 1859, black. Cover bears a corner card of Holcomb at Amboy, Washington Co., Iowa.

The cover shown in Plate 4-photographs, B, used a corner card as a postmark, adding a manuscript date, "Aug 1, 1859." The circular postmaster's free handstamp is a very unusual format.

BEAR CREEK/POWESHIEK CO/IOWA, C, 1862, black.

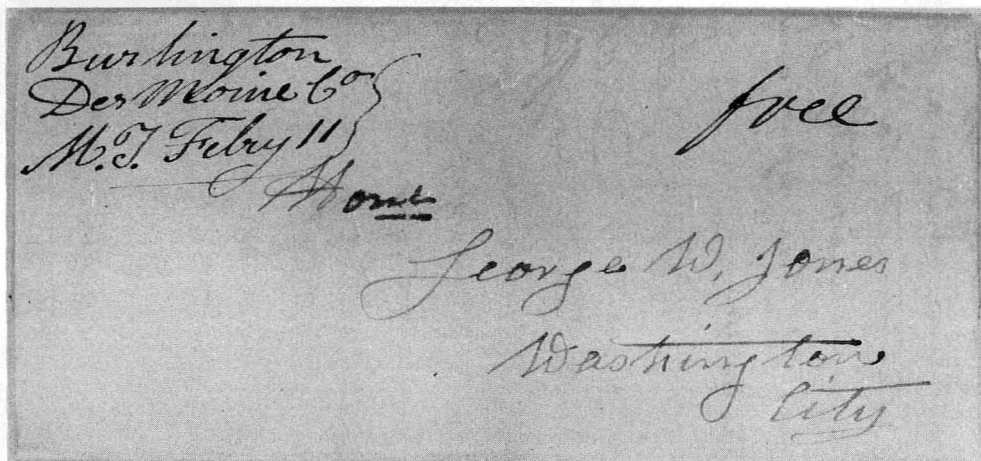


Figure 11. "Burlington Des Moine Co M.T. Febr'y 11" (1836), ms. county postmark from a territory, sent free to Congressman.

Burlington Des Moine Co. M.T., ms., 1836.

This cover (Figure 11) depicts Michigan Territorial usage with a county designation. Burlington became part of Wisconsin Territory later in 1836 and then subsequently Iowa Territory in 1838.

GEM/CLAYTON CO/IOWA, C-37, 1850s, black (Plate 3-drawings, A).

GUTHRIE CENTRE/GUTHRIE CO./IOWA, C-37, 1861, black.

The format of the Guthrie Centre county postmark (Figure 12) follows that of the Zevly balloon types with a tiny county name above the changeable date.

KENTUCKY

FREE/G.A. WHEAT/P.M./CREELSBORO, fancy oval, 1851, black (Plate 3-drawings, B).

LODGE-Fulton Co./Ky., C-37, 1850s, black.

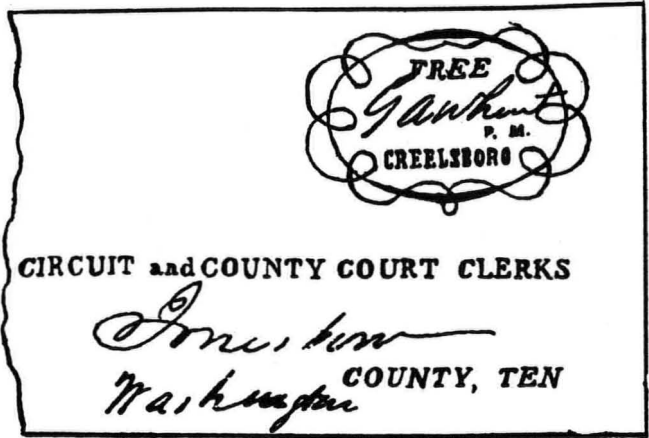
LODGE P.O./Fulton Co./Ky., three printed S.L., 1856, black.

The printed type of county postmark from this town is the only known example of its type (Figure 13). One can guess this was done by the postmaster. There is also a hand-

PLATE III



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I



J



K

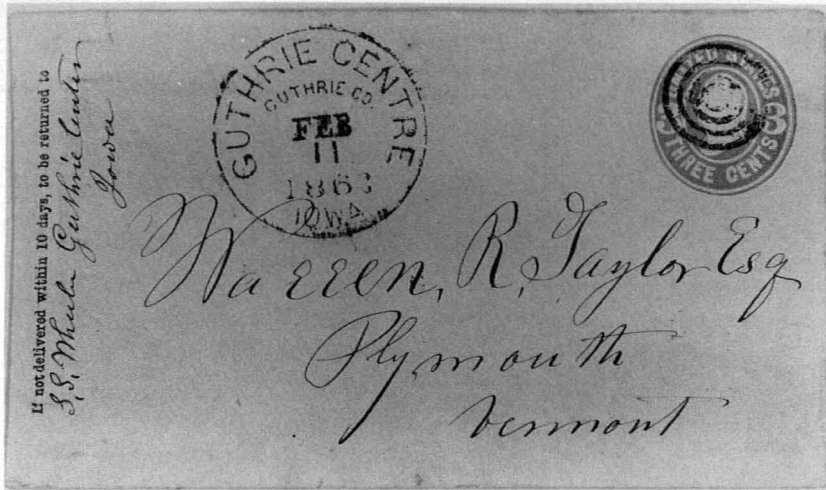


Figure 12. "GUTHRIE CENTRE GUTHRIE CO. IOWA FEB 11 1868" on 3¢ pink entire.
stamped circular county postmark from this town (Plate 4-photographs, C).



Figure 13. Printed county postmark from "LODGE P. O. Fulton Co., KY.," corner card "Robt. Morris," 3¢ 1851 stamp, ms. cancel.

MILITARY/INSTITUTE/FRANKLIN CO./KY./COL. E.W. MORGAN/SUPT., eagle and shield 51 x 35½, 1850s, blue, black (Plate 3-drawings, C).

MILITARY INSTITUTE/FRANKLIN CO./KY., C-34, 1850s, black. Three different sizes are known.

This fancy eagle handstamp is probably the most fancy county type postmark. It was both a corner card and a postmark.

LOUISIANA

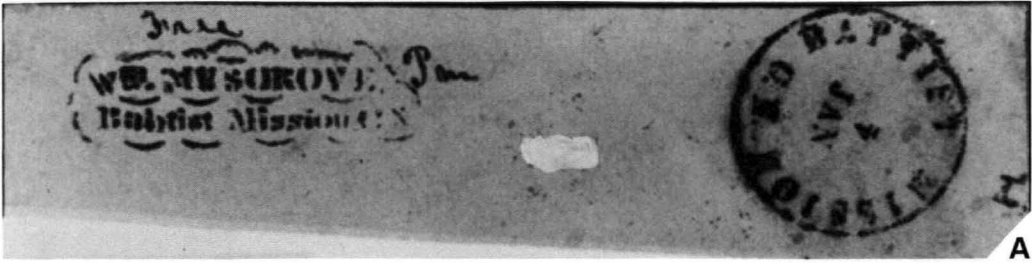
NEW ORLEANS LA., DC-25, 1861, black. J.L. RIDDELL, P.M., S.L., black. Used with two handstamps PD 5 CTS/N.O.P.O. and PD 10 CTS/N.O.P.O.

The New Orleans postmaster handstamp of J.L. Riddell was used on both stampless and stamped covers. The example depicted in Figure 14 was used in conjunction with a five cent stamp that was cancelled by the "PD 5 CTS N.O.P.O." handstamp. The Riddell handstamp seems to have functioned as a control marking authorizing the postal usage. The cover shown was an incoming steamboat cover carried by the *Laurel Hill*.

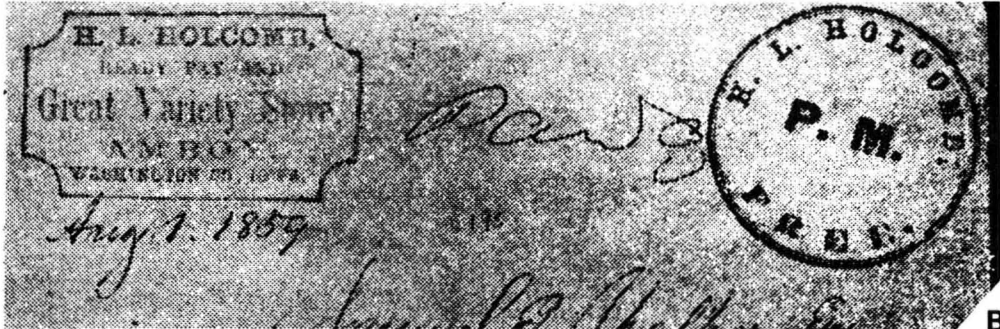
MAINE

CAMDEN, ME., C-32, 1855, black. Separate killer with negative eagle and initials "B J P," C-24, black.

PLATE IV



A



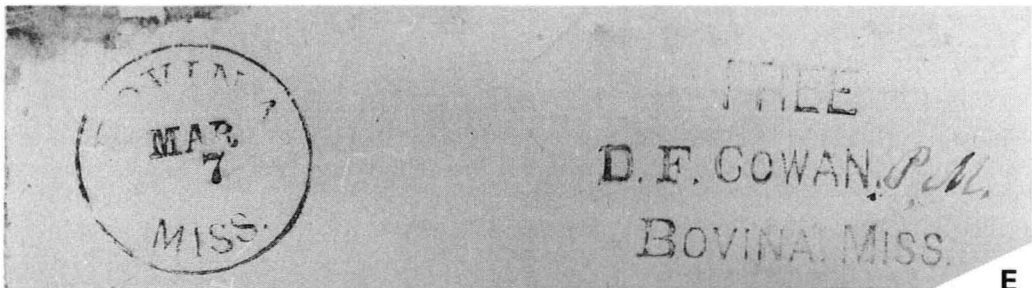
B



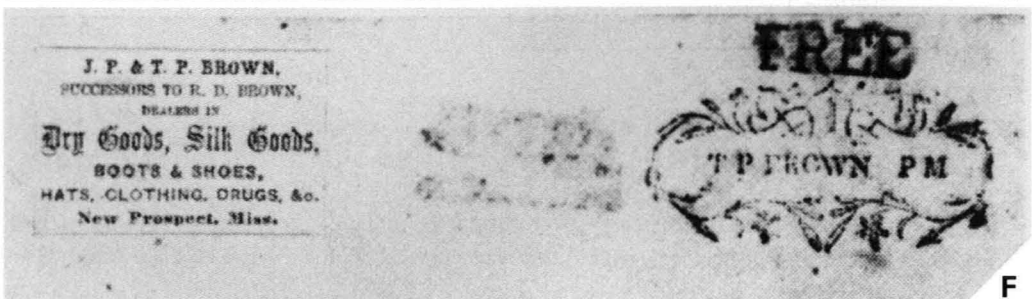
C



D



E



F

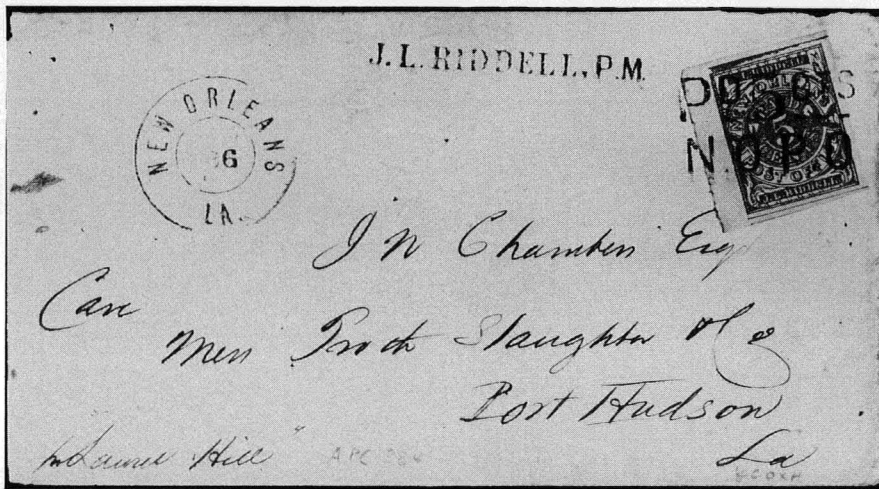


Figure 14. "J.L. RIDDELL, P.M." straight line control marking used at New Orleans during the Confederacy. Five cent brown PMP stamp tied "PD 5 CTS N.O.P.O.," town marking "NEW ORLEANS LA. ___ 26" and ms. "pr Laurel Hill" incoming steambot.

This fabulous illustrated killer shows an eagle with outstretched wings under which are the script initials "B J P" (Figure 15). The postmaster of Camden, Maine was B. J. Porter, and thus this unusual killer represents his initials.

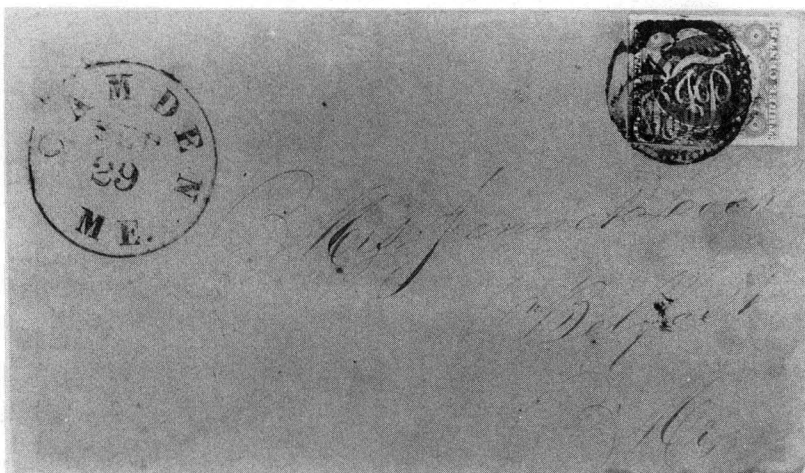


Figure 15. "CAMDEN ME. SEP 29" and 3¢ 1851 stamp tied fancy killer with negative letters "B J P" above which is an eagle, with head right and outstretched wings over a banner.

CORINNA, ME., C-25, 1866, black. Separate killer "V.A.SPRAGUE. P M" in double circle.

An example of this postmark used on a cover with a circular town postmark is shown in Figure 16. This is a rare postmarking device for stamps containing a postmaster's name.

MARYLAND

ALBERTON/HOWARD CO/Md., C-35, 1857, black (Plate 3-drawings, D).

CRUMPTON/QUEEN ANNE CO./Md., C-37, 1850s, black (Plate 3-drawings, E).

Fork Meeting Balto Co. Md., ms., 1865.

This cover (Figure 17) illustrates a manuscript county cancellation during the period of the 1861 series of stamps. It is especially interesting because of the foreign rate to Ireland.



Figure 17. "Fork Meeting Balto Co. Md. March 25th" in manuscript, 2¢, 3¢, and two 10¢ stamps cancelled with matching pen markings overpaying the 24¢ rate to Ireland, red "BOSTON BR. PKT. 19 PAID MAR 27" for 19¢ credit to Great Britain.

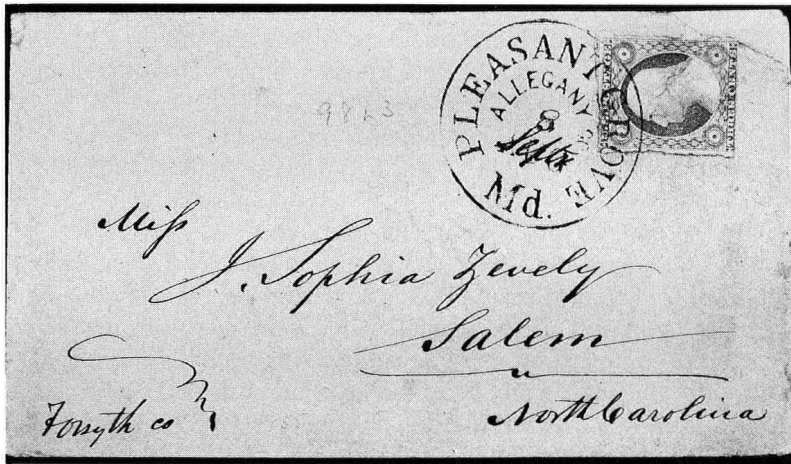


Figure 18. "PLEASANT GROVE ALLEGANY CO Md. 8 Sept" ties 3¢ stamp on cover addressed to postmaster's daughter.

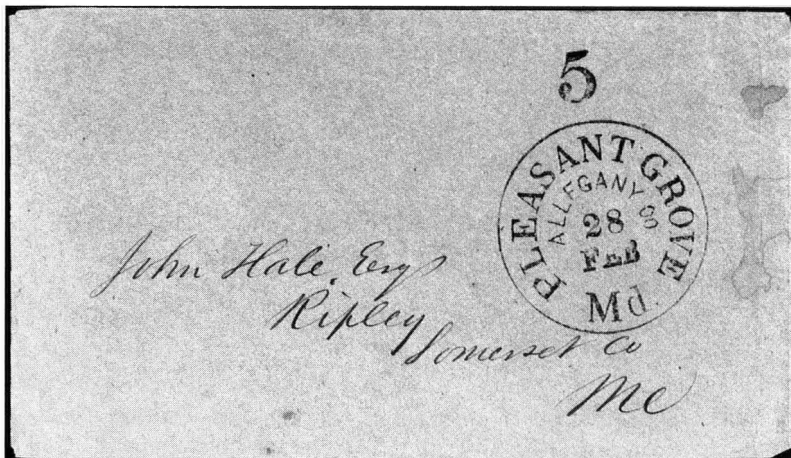


Figure 19. "PLEASANT GROVE ALLEGANY CO Md. 28 FEB" with attached "5" above postmark.

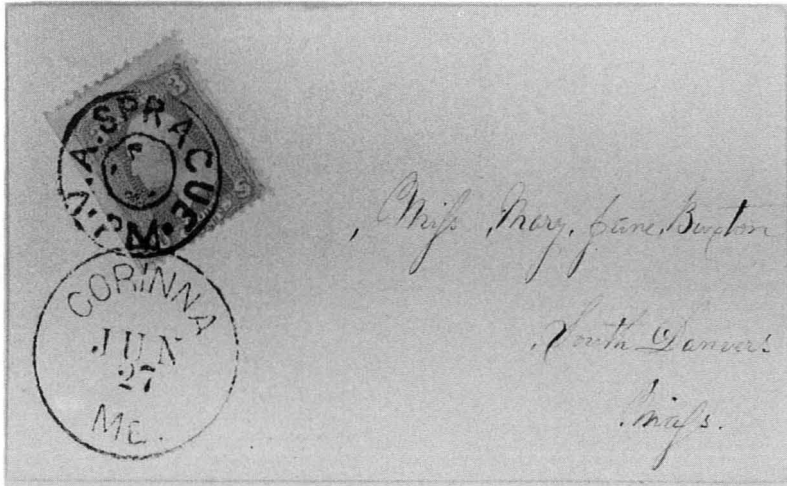


Figure 16. "V. A. SPRAGUE P M" in double circle, "CORINNA ME. JUN 27" tying 3¢ 1861.

PLEASANT GROVE/ALLEG'Y CO/Md., outer collar FREE/POST OFFICE STAMPS MADE HERE, C-40, 1851, red.

PLEASANT GROVE/ALLEGANY CO./Md, C-37, 1853, black.

PLEASANT GROVE/ALLEGANY CO./Md, 5 above circle, C-37, 1853, black.

PLEASANT GROVE/ALLEGANY CO./large 2/Md., C-40, 1850s, black.

PLEASANT GROVE/ALLEGANY CO./Md, PAID below circle, C-37, 1853, black.

PLEASANT GROVE/ALLEGANY COUNTY/Maryland, within elaborate red printed corner card, 1852.

PLEASANT GROVE/ALLEGANY COUNTY/Maryland, within elaborate black printed corner card, additional CIRCULAR and PAID and partially printed address, 1852.

The markings of Pleasant Grove, Maryland, are the most numerous group of county postmarks from one town. E.S. Zevely manufactured these markings, and he was also the postmaster. The basic circular town marking is the commonest type. It was also struck on letters written by Zevely (Figure 18). Then this marking was modified by the attachment of a "5" above the town mark (Figure 19) and an attached "PAID" below. The outer collar type which contained an advertisement for the handstamps is quite unusual (Figure 20). The rarest of all the handstamps is the one containing a large 2 (Plate 4-photographs, D). Finally there are two printed corner cards used as postmarks. The one in red is the more common type; it was used in conjunction with a circular dated "FREE" handstamp (Figure 21). The black circular envelope is very rare (Figure 22). Everything is printed but the address.

MASSACHUSETTS

GREENWICH VILLAGE MSS CO H (for County Hampshire), fancy sunburst. 1829, green (Plate 3-drawings, F).

GREENWICH VILLAGE MASS., double circle with sunburst 29mm, 1830, black. FREE W.P. Wing (name in manuscript) P.M. in black. Black handstamped W.P.W. script seal on reverse.

FREE W.P. Wing (name in ms) P:M/GREENWICH VILLAGE CO "HAMPSH" MASS, two S.L. 68 x 2, black.

This town used a number of fancy postmarks all of which are very scarce. The sunburst county cancel has solid rays. The open ray type does not contain the county's name or abbreviation. However, the cover in Figure 23 shows a handstamped type postmaster's marking, legal with the written signature.

The third type of postmark contains both a straight line county name as well as the

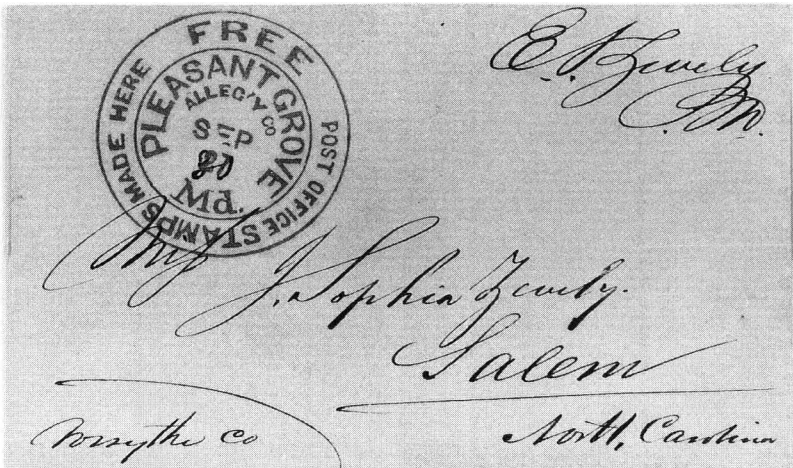


Figure 20. "FREE POST OFFICE STAMPS MADE HERE" in collar around "PLEASANT GROVE ALLEGANY COUNTY MARYLAND SEP 30" in red, ms. "E S Zevely P.M."



Figure 21. Red printed corner card from Pleasant Grove, Allegany County, Maryland, advertising printing supplies. Franked "E.S. Zevely P.M." and with a black "FREE JAN 17 1852." This corner card was used in lieu of a town postmark.

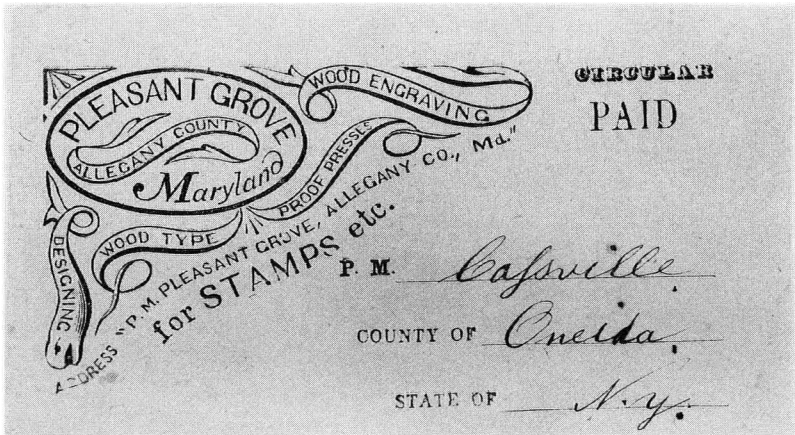


Figure 22. Similar black printed corner card with additional printed "CIRCULAR" and "PAID" postmarks, also partial address. Probably the finest example of a printed postmark. The two known examples each contained a printed circular.

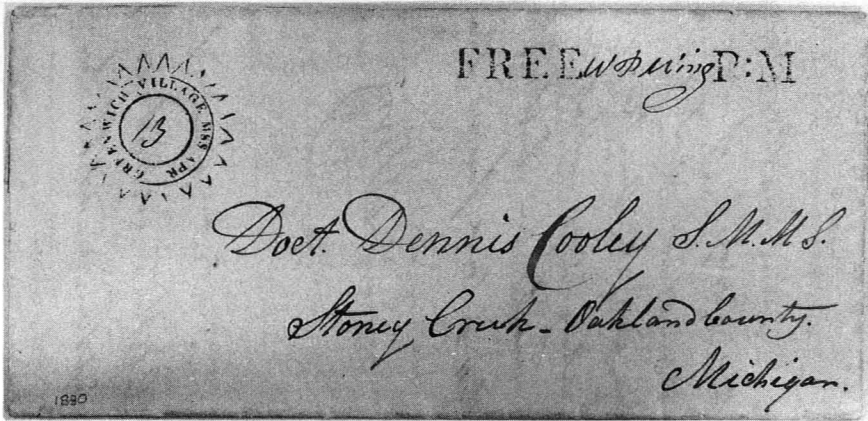


Figure 23. Fancy sunburst type town postmark "GREENWICH VILLAGE MSS APR 13" (1830) and "FREE W P Wing P:M" with ms. signature.

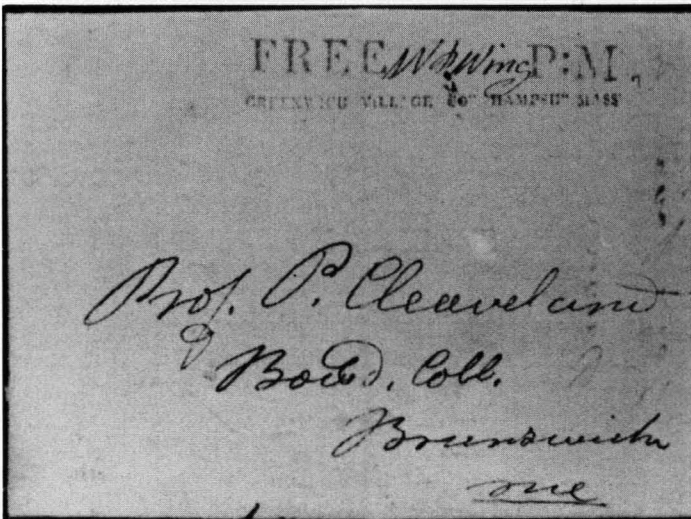


Figure 24. Same postmaster's handstamped frank with straight line county postmark "GREENWICH VILLAGE CO "HAMPSH" MASS" (1830). Second earliest known combination county postmark with handstamped postmaster's marking (earliest is Watson's Store, Georgia).

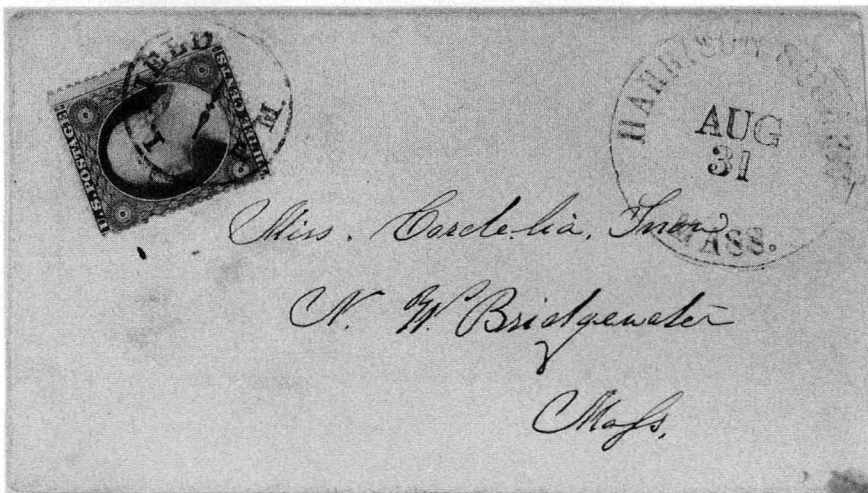


Figure 25. "HARRISON SQUARE MASS. AUG 31" and 3c 1857 tied "I. FIELD P.M." in circle with central ornament.



Figure 26. "STONEHAM MIDDLESEX CO. MASS. FEB 17 1872" with three cent stamp grid cancel.

same handstamped postmaster's frank (Figure 24).

HARRISON SQUARE, Ms., C-34, 1858, black. I. FIELD/P.M., circular obliterator for stamps, C-22, black.

The killer from this town (Figure 25) is one of the distinctive types containing the full name of the postmaster, even with the initials of his office in this case.

STONEHAM MIDDLESEX CO./MASS, double oval 24 x 22, 1850s, black.

The oval type postmark is shown in Figure 26.

STONEHAM MIDDLESEX CO./MASS., C-23, 1861, black (Plate 3-drawings, G).

WEST STOCKBRIDGE, Mass., C-30, 1846, red. Separate "PAID 5 C.H.W.," C-25, red (Plate 3-drawings, H). Cyrus H. Woodruff was postmaster at the time. The initials probably had no postal significance.

WOBURN MIDDLESEX CO. MASS., DC, 1867, black.

MICHIGAN

ALMONT, LAPEER CO., MICH./date/N.B. Late BRISTOL, three S.L. 58 x 14, 1846, blue.

The name of this post office was changed from Bristol to Almont. In Figure 27 is the straight line handstamp from Bristol in 1845 before the change of name to Almont. The very rare county postmark (Figure 28) is one of a few markings that indicate such a change in name. This is the only known county postmark of this type and is probably the most outstanding county postmark in existence. Another cover from the same correspondence as the county postmark is shown in Figure 29 with the new boxed "ALMONT, Mich." postmark in 1846. Note that the rating handstamps on all three covers are similar. The type face is also the same on the Bristol straight line as it is on the Almont county straight line type of postmark.

ALMONT LAPEER CO. MICH./date, two S.L., 1847, black.

MINESOTA MINE/ONTONAGON CO./MICH., C-37, 1858, black.

This is the typical balloon circular county postmark of the 1850s (Figure 30).

MISSISSIPPI

BOVINA MISS., C-31, black. FREE/D.F. COWAN/BOVINA. MISS. in three S.L., black, ms. P.M.

The Bovina, Mississippi, postmaster used a handstamp of his name, but he wrote in "P.M." for his title (Plate 4-photographs, E). This is an illegal type handstamped frank.

CANTON MI, C-32, 1861, black. PAID 5 with star containing negative P, C-27, black (Plate 3-drawings, I). The postmaster was William Priestley.

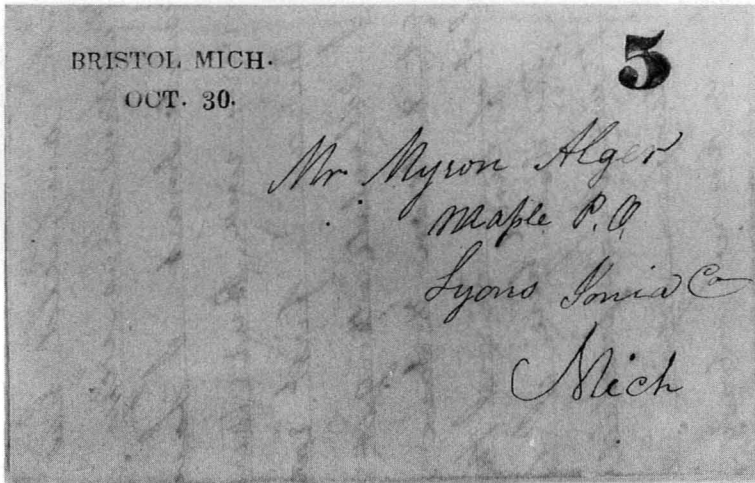


Figure 27. "BRISTOL MICH. OCT. 30." dated straight line postmark in blue, matching "5." Original town postmark before the change of name.

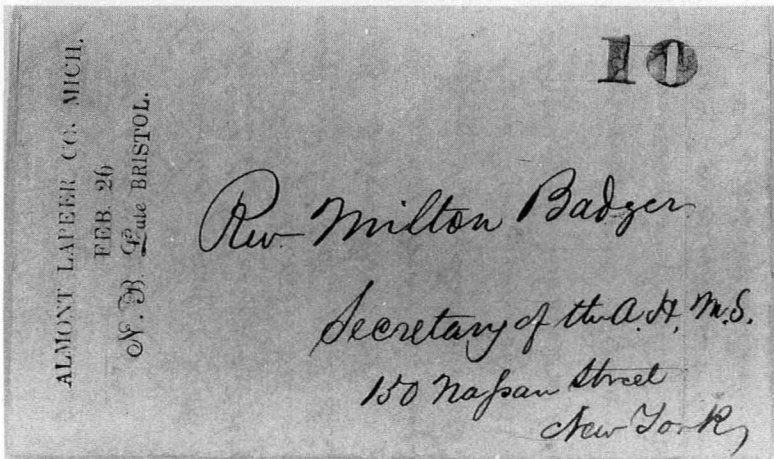


Figure 28. "ALMONT LAPEER CO. MICH. FEB. 26 N.B. LATE BRISTOL." in three blue straight lines, matching "10." The postmark is partly in a different lettering, but the town names are in the original type face. "N.B." means "note bene" or "please note."

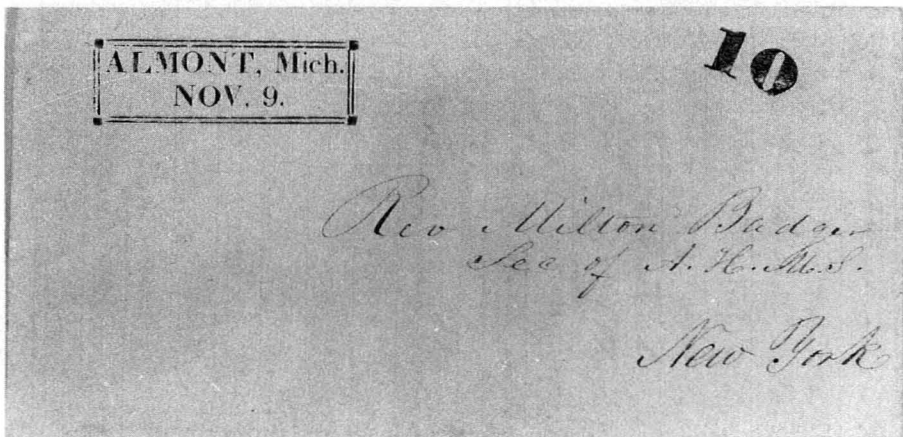


Figure 29. "ALMONT, Mich. NOV. 9." in ornated frame, different type style, used later the same year as the cover in Figure 28 (1846). Same blue handstamped "10" rating mark, from same correspondence too.

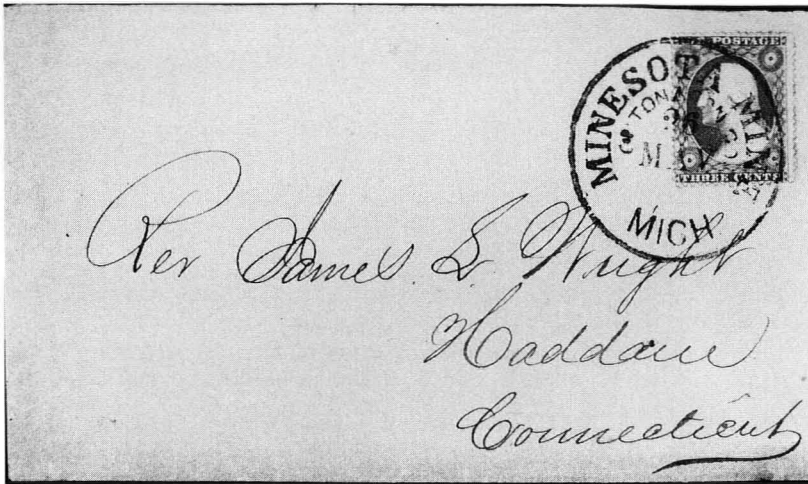


Figure 30. "MINESOTA MINE ONTONAGON CO. MICH 26 MAY" in large Zevely style circle, tying 3¢ 1857 stamp.

LEXINGTON/PAID/5/E.H.P.M./MISS., C-34, 1861, black (Plate 3-drawings, J).

LEXINGTON/PAID/10/E.H.P.M. MISS., C-34, 1861, black (Plate 3-drawings, K).

NEW PROSPECT MISS., C-27, 1850, red. T. P. BROWN P M in fancy frame, FREE, red.

This is one of two fancy postmaster free franks. The frame in the example illustrated (Plate 4-photographs, F) is inverted because the slug with the lettering was put in upside down. The same frame was used for five vessel-named steamboat markings.

(To be continued)

"PAID ALL" AS A CANCELLATION

ROGER D. CURRAN

In the June 1967 *Chronicle*, Tracy Simpson noted that *Scott Specialized* had for a number of years listed "PAID ALL" cancellations on Nos. 26 and 26a. He said he had never seen this marking on either stamp or noted any in auctions and asked if readers could report examples. Simpson mentioned he learned from George Hargest that such a marking "is known on a few covers to Europe via the Bremen Route mailed before 1851 ..." In the February 1968 *Chronicle*, Simpson stated, "Mr. W. Hubbard reports PAID ALL in red (about 42 x 6 mm.) on a folded printed circular sent under the Hamburg Mail arrangement from New Orleans to Germany, leaving New Orleans Aug. 2, 1859. ..." The circular was described as bearing two Scott No. 24s tied by a New Orleans postmark.



Figure 1. Two examples of 3¢ 1857s with portions of PAID ALL markings.



Figure 2. Another style of marking.

Figures 1 and 2 illustrate what I assume to be three examples of "PAID ALL" markings on Scott No. 26. The markings in Figure 1 are 8½ mm. high and 7 mm. in Figure 2. Thus they differ from the 1848-52 and 1859 examples mentioned above.

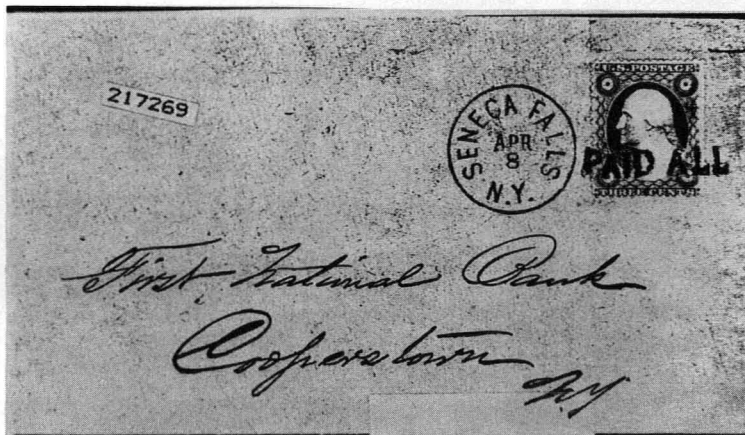


Figure 3. Cover postmarked SENECA FALLS N.Y. with fake PAID ALL tying stamp which does not belong.

This brings us to a purely domestic cover bearing the CDS and "PAID ALL" on Scott No. 26 illustrated in Figure 3. With Mr. Simpson's comments in mind, I acquired this cover when the opportunity was presented. And I reflected on the nation that perhaps the catalog listings did not come from foreign mail at all. (At the time, I had seen no other examples on Scott No. 26.) Since the "PAID ALL" did seem unusually crude, the cover was sent for expertization. Alas, the PF opinion was that the stamp did not originate on the cover and the tying cancellations were counterfeit.* The stamp has a sizable tear and possibly the faker decided to "cancel" an unused copy that had little value.

Dick Winter kindly reported the following uses of No. 26 in his printed matter records:

- a. Undated newspaper wrapper from Belleville, Ill., to Brunswick; single copy of #26; "PAID ALL" on other part of wrapper and doesn't tie stamp (Littauer collection), Bremen Treaty.
- b. Feb 1858 New York(?) to Wurttemberg; newspaper wrapper; two copies #26 tied by "PAID ALL" (Lightfoot collection), Prussian Treaty.
- c. *Chronicle* 107, pp. 200-201; 1861(?) Cape Vincent, N.Y., to Switzerland wrapper by Prussian mail; two copies #26 not tied by "PAID ALL"; wrapper made from patriotic envelope.

Additional information on any aspect of this subject would be very much welcomed.

*This same Seneca Falls cover was described and illustrated in the Cover Corner in *Chronicle* 74: 102-3 (May 1972) with other questionable items. Old fakes never die, nor do they even fade away. *Will somebody please destroy this cover?* S.M. McD.

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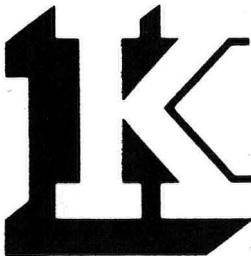
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One of the most interesting areas of United States Postal History is the collecting of rates to foreign destinations. Just by sheer experience, the postal history dealer or auctioneer acquires a knowledge of what is truly rare. For many years I had known of the existence of the 25c rate by Bremen Hamburg mail to the tiny German principality of Schleswig-Holstein. I recall seeing one a dozen or so years ago in a well known collection of foreign destination covers but I never "found" one or saw one come up for sale. Now, the rate was in existence from July of 1857 until February of 1867. You would think there would be a lot more than a couple of these rates known when it was in effect for almost 10 years. Last year our auction firm had the opportunity of selling the "Patrick Henry" collection of foreign destination covers. There were over 1650 lots and over 3500 foreign rate covers in the collection but only one 25c rate to Schleswig-Holstein and not in the finest of condition. The owner told me he had searched for this rate for almost 35 years and finally had succeeded in acquiring one about five years prior to the sale of his collection. You can imagine my surprise when earlier this year the above cover came up for auction with the simple description of a #37 and #24 tied on cover with no relevance to the rate. I considered myself very fortunate to have acquired the cover so that it could be placed in a collection where it will be appreciated.



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EDITORIALLY SPEAKING ...

The feature article of this section in this issue of the *Chronicle*, by Richard A. Thalheim, Jr., reverts to Scott Trepel's article on the 3¢ "biscuit" grill essays and their cancels that appeared here in *Chronicle* 134, for May 1987. I recommend that those interested in this subject reread Trepel's article before tackling Thalheim's essay.

Both Trepel's and Thalheim's articles have two phases. Trepel's article's first phase concerned itself with the various types of grills and how they are distinguished in terms of the grill roller details. His second phase concerned itself with what was previously considered by some experts of the past to have been fakes but what are now believed to be trial cancels. The important aspect was that he had located a cover to abroad that indicated the presumed trial killer was used in July 1867 to cancel outgoing foreign mail letters originating at New York.

The first phase of Thalheim's article lists out numerous stamps, of both high and low values and three more covers showing use of the identical cancel discussed by Trepel, as listed in various auction catalogs. The stamps presumably came from covers sent to foreign destinations and the covers were, respectively, sent to France, Germany and England, all from New York in July 1867. None of the stamps had grills, but, as Thalheim and Trepel both noted, this was the period when the National Banknote Company should have been experimenting with grills preparatory to putting grilled stamps into production.

The second part of Thalheim's article presents arguments, mostly in the form of questions, why the biscuit-grilled 3¢ stamps should be considered legitimately used stamps. The idea is that, as Trepel also discussed, that it wasn't impossible that a sheet or so of the experimental grills were issued by accident.

Whether one agrees with this premise or not, or whether one is willing to go as far as Thalheim does in his discussion, Mr. Thalheim is doing a real service in, particularly, compiling and presenting his evidence regarding the New York Foreign Mail Division's use of the same cancel as appears on the biscuit grills.

At this time, I am not willing to concede the cancels on the biscuit grills are other than trials, and not only for the reasons presented by Trepel and myself in the May 1987 *Chronicle*. I can reinforce this viewpoint by noting many factors, such as the obvious use of misperforated stamps for the presumed trials as displayed in Trepel's Figure 9 of his 1987 article. The strip of three at upper left has perforations deviating considerably from being parallel with the stamps, and the block of four has perforations out of parallel with the stamps but drifting the opposite direction. To me, it seems a reasonable assumption that fragments of sheets of stamps were used here for test purposes.

Still, badly perforated stamps did get issued at times so that the evidence that is really needed to prove Thalheim correct and leave the rest of us wrong but happy about it, would be to find a cover all consider genuine with some 3¢ biscuit grills properly canceled by this same — or a similar killer.

For this reason, while I find it difficult to believe that a 3¢ biscuit grill on such a cover wouldn't have been previously identified, it is suggested that all interested here check out their foreign rate covers sent in July 1867. There may be a lucky winner!

Richard B. Graham

RECONSIDERATION OF SO-CALLED "TRIAL CANCELLATION" OF THE THREE-CENT ALL-OVER GRILL ESSAYS (BRAZER 79E-Cg)

RICHARD A. THALHEIM, JR.

In Scott Trepel's article in the May 1987 *Chronicle* ("The Three-Cent All Over Grill Essays; Origin of the Trial Cancellation," *Chronicle* 134:114-125), he named what he referred to as a "trial cancellation" of the "biscuit grill" essays (Brazier 79E-Cg) on 3¢ 1861 stamps as "segmented diamond within circle." (p. 123). As Figure 10 of the article, Trepel showed a single instance of apparent postal usage of the cancel, an advertising cover bearing large numerals 269 inside which is inscribed "John S. Willard Manufacturer of Looking Glasses Picture Frames & Gilt Mouldings, 269 Canal St. Between Broadway & Central." This cover was mailed from New York on July 18 (1867) addressed to Mrs. Augustus Charles Murray in London, England and is franked with a 24¢ stamp of the 1867 era, Scott #78.

The same geometric cancel on the Willard cover also appeared on all known used examples of the so-called biscuit grill cited by Trepel. He accordingly wondered whether the distinctive cancel might be forged (p. 124). Alternatively, he implied that the genuineness of the cancel used on cover bolstered the case for the genuineness of the grills.

CANCEL NOT A FORGERY: CORROBORATION OF POSTAL USAGE

Since Trepel's article appeared in May 1987, a number of items have come to light which tend to confirm the genuineness of the cancellation. These corroborating items, which are illustrated herein as Figures 1 through 7, are:

1. Single used 30¢ stamp, Scott #71, pictured in William A. Fox, May 24-25, 1987, 173rd auction, lot 419, which is part of the Bergen collection of fancy cancels.
2. Single used 30¢ stamp, Scott #71, pictured in Virginia Stamp Auctions, P. O. Box 578, Chester, Va. 23831, May 18, 1990, 24th Auction, lot 102.
3. Single used 2¢ black jack, Scott #73.
4. Single used 15¢ stamp, Scott #77.



Figure 1. 30¢ stamp of 1861 with subject NYFM killer.



Figures 2, 3 and 4, left to right: 30¢, 2¢ and 15¢ of 1861-66, all without grills and with subject NYFM cancel.

5. Cover franked with 15¢ (5 x 3¢, Scott #65) addressed to Theodon Le Merad, Esq., in Paris, France, mailed from New York by French treaty mail, pictured (but dates not legible in auction catalogue photograph, although catalogue lists date as 1867) in Robert G. Kaufmann, November 26-27, 1989, auction 62, lot 619 (The "Patrick Henry" Collection).

6. Cover franked with 56¢ (vertical pair of 24¢ grayish lilac, Scott #78a; part imprint vertical pair of 3¢ rose, Scott #65; single 2¢ black jack, Scott #73) addressed in German script to Mr. Heinrich Boltz in Hessen-Darmstadt and in Roman script endorsed to Germany. All stamps are tied with the distinctive "segmented diamond in circle" cancellation. The cover was sent by the New York foreign exchange office, bearing red N.YORK BR.PKT./14PAID/JUL/2 in circle marking and boxed blue AACHEN 14 7/Franco. This legal size cover bears proper postage and markings for a double rate Prussian Closed



Figure 5. Cover to France with five 3¢ 1861 stamps, sent in 1867 and canceled with subject NYFM cancel.

Mail cover in July 1867. (56¢ rate: Charles J. Starnes, *United States Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations 1847 to GPU-UPU*, rev. ed., Hartmann 1989, pp. 17-18; blue boxed Aachen: Allan Radin, *Corrigenda-Aachen Franco Markings on Prussian Closed Mail*, *Chronicle* 109:61). It is described but not pictured in R.A. Siegel, October 24-25, 1989, auction 713, lot 646.]

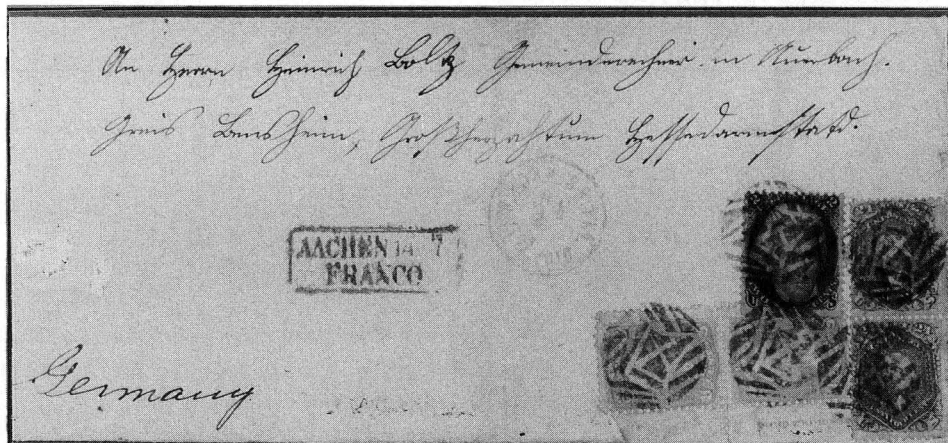


Figure 6. Cover with 56¢ in stamps of 1861-3, all canceled with subject NYFM cancel. Sent via Prussian Closed Mail to Germany, double rate, prepaid, in July 1867.

7. Cover franked with 24¢ (Scott #78a) addressed to Mrs. Beale in Kent, England, sent through the New York foreign mail office, bearing red N.YORK BR.PKT/PAID 19/JUL/10 in circle and black backstamp of JY 20/67.

On April 18, 1990, the Philatelic Foundation issued certificate no. 223329 declaring the Willard 269 cover illustrated in Trepel's article to be genuine.

With four covers from different correspondences, all passing through the New York foreign mail office, plus four additional examples of the cancel on singles of the 1861-67 series off cover, it seems likely that the geometric "segmented diamond in circle" is not a forgery but rather actually saw postal use in July 1867 as a New York foreign mail cancel.

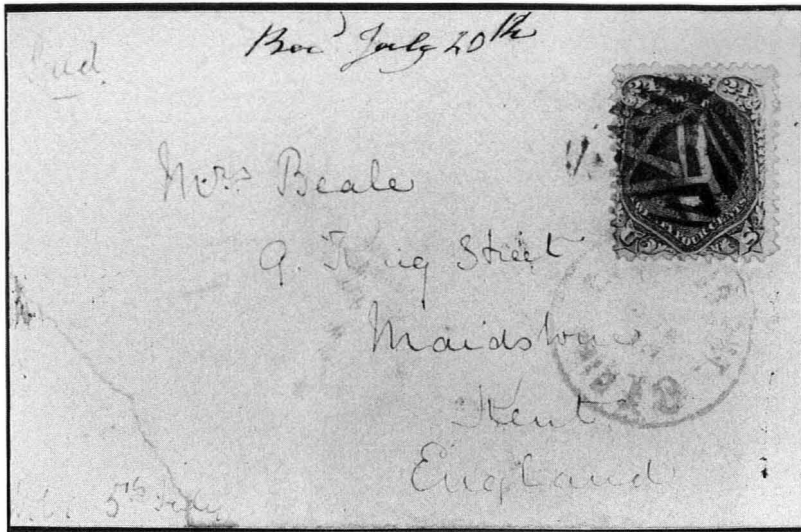
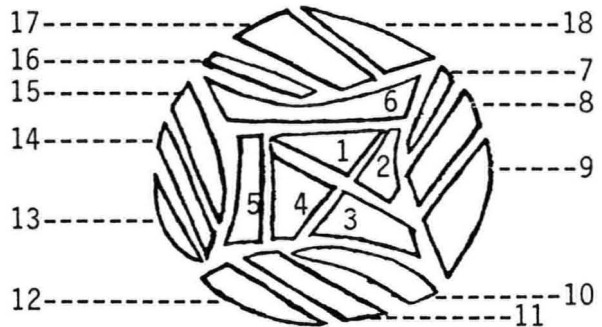


Figure 7. Cover sent to England, July 1867, prepaid with 24¢ grayish lilac canceled with subject NYFM killer.

WEAR OF THE CANCELLER

An enlarged illustration of the cancel with its components individually numbered is provided as Figure 8 to facilitate discussion of its wear.

Figure 8. Sketch of the subject NYFM killer with parts of the cancel identified for reference.



The overall pattern of the cancellation is circular, consisting of a central nucleus (which is four-sided and contains several components) surrounded by radiating spokes. The nucleus consists of an elongated horizontal curved rectangular shape (component 6), which is located above a shorter vertical rectangular shape to the left (component 5) and a rectangular shape to the right which has been divided diagonally into four roughly triangular parts (components 1 through 4). This nucleus is surrounded by three radiating members on each of its four sides (components 7-9 on right, 10-12 below, 13-15 on left and 16-18 at top).

The cancellation is very heavy and shows no sign of wear on the so-called “biscuit grill” items illustrated in Figure 9 of Trepel’s article. The same heavy cancel and lack of wear appear on an additional 3¢ biscuit grill item which surfaced after Trepel’s article. This additional item, Figure 9 herein, is photographed in William A. Fox Auctions, Sept. 19-20, 1987, 175th Auction, lot 354, and is part of the Bergen fancy cancel collection. Similarly, the July 2, 1867, cover to Hessen-Darmstadt (Figure 6) shows no wear of the canceller.

By July 10, 1867, wear or damage from use was evident in the nucleus of the cancel. A diagonal line (illustrated as wear line A on Figure 10) divided components 2 and 3 of

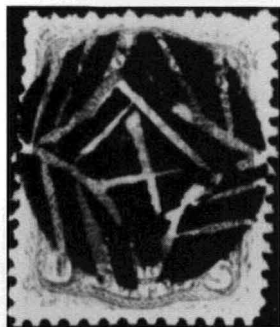


Figure 9. A 3¢ 1861 stamp with a "biscuit grill" having a clear, well-defined strike of the subject NYFM cancel.

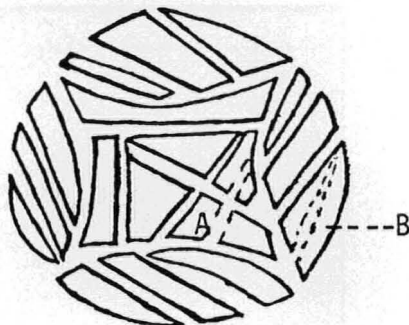


Figure 10. Sketch of later strikes of the NYFM cancel showing damage or wear from use.

the diamond as appears on the cover to Mrs. Beale (Figure 7). This identical diagonal line separating components 2 and 3 of the diamond is also present on the Merad cover to France (Figure 5), the July 18 Willard 269 cover (Trepel's Figure 10, *Chronicle* 134:123), and all four off-cover singles (Figures 1-4).

Additional wear, which does not appear in any of the biscuit grill items nor in the July 2 cover, is consistently present in the July 10 and subsequent covers and all four of the off-cover singles in the form of a line (illustrated as wear line B on Figure 10) which diagonally divides right radiating component 9 into two parts.

From these two consistent wear lines, it can be inferred that the canceller was apparently in its new state when applied to the so-called biscuit grill items and to the July 2 cover but that it had developed significant visible wear by the time it was applied to the July 10 cover.

This inference suggests that the biscuit grills were produced or were made available for cancelling (possibly by sale to the public) near the beginning of July 1867.

The evidence also indicates that the particular cancel (assuming it was the only one of its particular design) was in use from at least July 2 through July 18, 1867, at the New York exchange office. It saw usage on low as well as high denomination stamps. Since the four covers as well as the used singles off cover indicate discernible wear was already present after only a few weeks of use of this cancel, it would be of interest to know how long such cancels were normally used before they were replaced. Also, rate of wear might be approximated from the volume of mail passing through the exchange office requiring application of an original cancel, if such records are available.

A TRIAL CANCELLATION?

The fact that this intricate geometric cancellation is a genuine, postally used New York foreign mail cancellation does not justify the additional characterization of the cancel as a "trial cancellation." This second interpretation of the cancel's significance on the "biscuit grills" is suggested by Trepel, as a means to support the Scott classification of these "A" grills as unissued essays. He speculates that either the cancelling device was borrowed from the Post Office or the stamps were brought to the Post Office by a National Bank Note Company representative for trial cancellation (p. 124).

Is there any evidence to support these speculations? Trepel cites none. Did the Post Office at any other time in the 1860s either lend its cancelling devices to the National Bank Note Company or apply a trial cancellation at the request of the National Bank Note Company? Logically, it seems that either of these extraordinary deviations from normal practice would have required authorization. (For example, in 1859, Post Office Department permission had been obtained to test an experimental duplex handstamp. See,

Richard B. Graham, "The beginnings of duplex handstamp cancels," *Linn's Stamp News*, Sept. 24, 1990, p. 34.) Is there any documentary evidence that authority was requested or granted for such a loan of a canceller or for trial cancellation to be applied? If so, by whom and when? Why would such a request have been made to the foreign exchange office rather than the domestic mail office, which would presumably have had access to cancels used on the vast bulk of mail rather than the somewhat unusual or atypical foreign mail cancellations that could give a misleading testing result on cancellation efficacy on a grilled item?

If the order of manufacture on the biscuit grills was as Trepel indicates, namely, printing, gumming, grilling, pressing, perforating, (p. 118), then should not these biscuit grill items all still have gum if they were simply trial cancellations? If the items were submitted for trial cancellation to see if the cancel would take to a grilled item, was there any need to soak the sheet of essays? One might speculate that the soaking was done to determine whether the cancel would come off after use. Is there evidence of any other instance where National Bank Note Company soaked its product to determine how well cancellation ink remained affixed? No evidence is cited in Trepel's article.

Lack of evidence on any of the above questions casts doubt on whether these "biscuit grill" items were "trial" cancelled.

GENUINE POSTAL USAGE?

There are five used 3¢ stamps with the segmented diamond in circle cancel on the cover addressed to France shown as Figure 5. A triple rate cover in 1867 to France by French mail would have 15 of the 3¢ stamps, if the rate were paid entirely by 3¢ stamps. (C. Starnes, *U. S. Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations 1847 to GPU-UPU*, rev. ed., Hartmann 1989, p. 16). It so happens that there are apparently at least 15 used examples of the 3¢ biscuit grills in existence recorded to date — 14 mentioned by Trepel and the 15th from the Bergen collection. All of these "biscuit grill" items could have come from a single cover, which would explain all of them being "identical in shade and centering" (claimed by Trepel, *Chronicle* 134:123) and would be consistent with the cancels on all showing the same stage of non-wear.

While a 15 stamp cover may have been unusual, it would not have been unprecedented. The literature documents existence of a cover franked with 30 stamps of the same issue, albeit 1¢ stamps (Richard B. Graham, "Registration of Letters, 1861-1869," *Chronicle* 139:189, Figure 2).

These observations suggest that it is at least as likely that the biscuit grills were postally used as that they were trial cancelled.

LEGITIMACY OF THE GRILLS

The fact that the cancel is genuine does not necessarily establish that the so-called "biscuit grills" are genuine grills. Examination to determine whether the grills existed on the 3¢ items before the stamps were cancelled appears not to have been done. Such a study appears prerequisite to determining whether the grills are genuine. How the cancelling ink penetrated the paper may be instructive on whether the paper was already grilled when cancelled.

SHADES OF THE BISCUIT GRILLS & OTHER CONTEMPORARY STAMPS: DATING THE STAMPS

How do the shades of the used 3¢ biscuit grills compare to the other 3¢ stamps produced in mid-1867? A comparison to the items used by Michael McClung in the recent study of shades of the 1861 3¢ stamps (including grilled stamps), or to any color charts which may have been made pursuant to that study or others, could illumine the likelihood of the biscuit grilled items having been produced in mid-1867. See, Michael C. McClung, "Shades of the Three Cent Grills, 1867-69," *Chronicle* 147:173-177. While McClung's

published chart of shades of 3¢ grills (see his Figure 5, p. 177) does not include July 1867, it appears that his category of dull rose should be the shade of the biscuit grills, if the same shade can be extrapolated backward from August 1867.

Trepel reports that all of the recorded used examples of the biscuit grill 3¢ stamp "are identical in shade and centering." (*Chronicle* 134, p. 123). While it is evident that the centering of some of the items (namely, the strip of three illustrated in Trepel's Figure 9) varies considerably from the others, it should be instructive to compare all of these items to those which McClung studied. Also, do these match in shade the 15th recorded example of the 3¢ biscuit grill, which was apparently unknown to Trepel at the time he wrote the article because the Bergen fancy cancel specimen had not come to market until September 1987? Also, how do all of these items compare to the cover to France, Figure 5, bearing five non-grilled 3¢ stamps?

There is an apparent conflict between Trepel's and McClung's analyses of grill colors, which could create difficulty in coordinating their findings. Trepel claims that "The 3¢ 'A' grill stamps come in a Rose shade, unlike the typical 3¢ 'E' and 'F' grills of 1868." (*Chronicle* 134:116). In McClung's Figure 5 which shows the periods of usage of the various three-cent grills and their shades (*Chronicle* 147:177), McClung records that A grills, E grills and F grills *all* come in a dull rose shade — A grills from August through mid-November 1867, E grills from February through April and again from mid-May through mid-July 1868, and F grills from April through mid-May 1868. McClung's study thus shows that Trepel is inaccurate to assert that the rose shade of A grills is "unlike the typical" shade of the E and F grills.

The apparent contradiction of these studies may be reconciled when one realizes that the source of the conflict is the ascription by Trepel of a "typical" shade to the E and F grills. In fact, McClung shows that the E grills come in six different shades and the F grills come in five different shades. See McClung's text at p. 174 and his Figure 5 at p. 177, *Chronicle* 147. Thus, Trepel's proposition must apparently be modified to indicate that A grills come only in a dull rose shade, which is like the dull rose shade of some E and F grills, but which is different than various other shades in which E and F grills are found. With this modification, Trepel's and McClung's analyses are reconciled.

Also, this reconciliation comports with the earlier color analysis of the 3¢ grills ("flat dull shade") in William K. Herzog, "The Early 3¢ Grill Shades," *Chronicle* 109:43 which reads as follows:

The earliest grilled 3¢ stamps ("A" and "C" of late 1867, "D" and "Z" of early 1868, and the first "E" and "F") come in a flat, dull shade which appears quite washed out. The 3¢ "C," "D," and "Z" grills appear uniformly washed out, but the 3¢ "A" grills seem to run from washed out to a fuller-inked, but still dull shade.

Are the biscuit grills "washed out" or "fuller-inked?"

It would be helpful in dating the biscuit grills to see whether they are the same dull rose shade as the A grills. If so, one could infer that both the biscuit grills and A grills were placed on items that were contemporaneously printed.

CONCLUSION

Occam's razor suggests that the simplest explanation of evidence is to be preferred. Despite the absence of a cover to date with the so-called biscuit grills on it, the available evidence shows the presence of numerous used biscuit grill stamps bearing a cancel known to have been postally used in July 1867. While further research remains to be done, the simplest explanation at present seems to be that (assuming the grills are genuine) these items were issued and postally used in approximately June or July 1867. The intricate geometric "segmented diamond in circle" is a genuine New York foreign mail cancellation which was in use at the time the 3¢ biscuit grills were postally used and was applied to them just as to any other mail at the foreign mail section of the Post Office. More convo-

luted or fanciful scenarios for the biscuit grills or their cancellation can be hypothesized, but without evidence to necessitate them, the simplest explanation should be adopted for the time being as most likely.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

While the writer accepts full responsibility for this article, he expresses appreciation for assistance and insights of Dr. Hubert C. Skinner and Richard F. Winter and for translational aid received from Dr. Gary C. McCann and Dr. Kerbert W. Graf of Nicholls State University and Mrs. Tommie McDonald, a native of Germany who presently resides in Thibodaux, Louisiana.

BANKNOTE ERA GASTON PATENT AND ??? MACHINE CANCELS

RICHARD B. GRAHAM

Although the late 1850s saw the introduction of mechanical canceling devices in England, and other machines to cancel letters started to be used in Germany in 1866, it wasn't until 1876 that any machines were in regular use in more than one city in the United States. These were the Leavitt machines used to cancel postal cards, whose story has been told in *Leavitt Machine Cancels*, the latest edition being by Frank Stratton and Robert J. Payne. This work is currently available from the United Postal Stationery Society and it is recommended that this handbook be consulted for further information.



Figure 1. Very early machine cancels applied by a machine of unknown origin at Pittsburgh in 1871. Specialists consider the lower cover, dated July 7, 1871, to be the earliest known U.S. use of a machine cancel.

The idea of machines being used to cancel stamps on letters rapidly and legibly was always a target for inventors long before the Leavitt machines, however. The U.S. Post Office Department had interest in the development of such machines as early as the 1860s if not before. This is shown by an item in *U.S. Mail & Post Office Assistant* for February 1863 which was displayed in the *Chronicle* for November 1869 (No. 144), pages 269-70. This told of a mechanical contrivance being tested, without much success, at the New

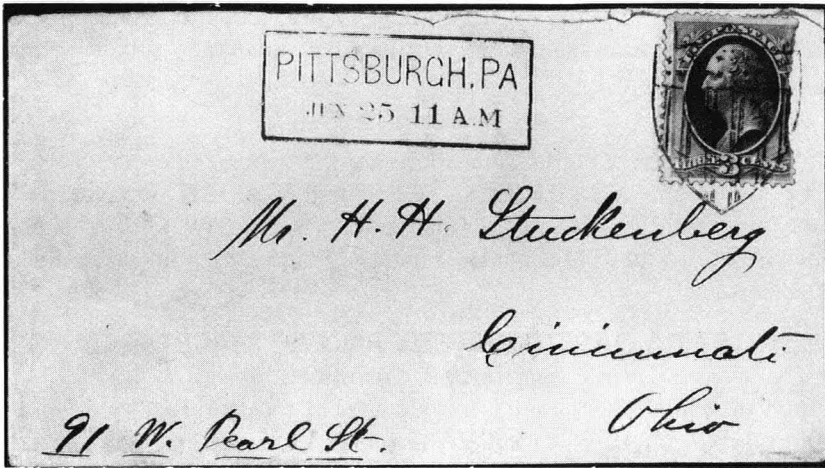


Figure 2. The fancy "striped" shield machine cancel of 1872, probably applied at Pittsburgh by the same machine that applied the cancels on the covers shown in Figure 1.

York post office. Along with this item was shown a reproduction of British style postmarks for Washington from the British impression books in London. These recorded dies were made for Pearson Hill mechanical letter stamping machines.

Figures 1 and 2 show covers postmarked at Pittsburgh in 1871 by a machine whose manufacturer or inventor isn't known. The upper cover of Figure 1 is dated Sept. 6 and has an open shield; the lower cover with an open star killer is postmarked July 7, 1871, and is considered by specialists to be the earliest known U.S. cover with a machine cancel. The two designs in Figure 1 are very scarce, but machine cancel specialists Robert J. Payne

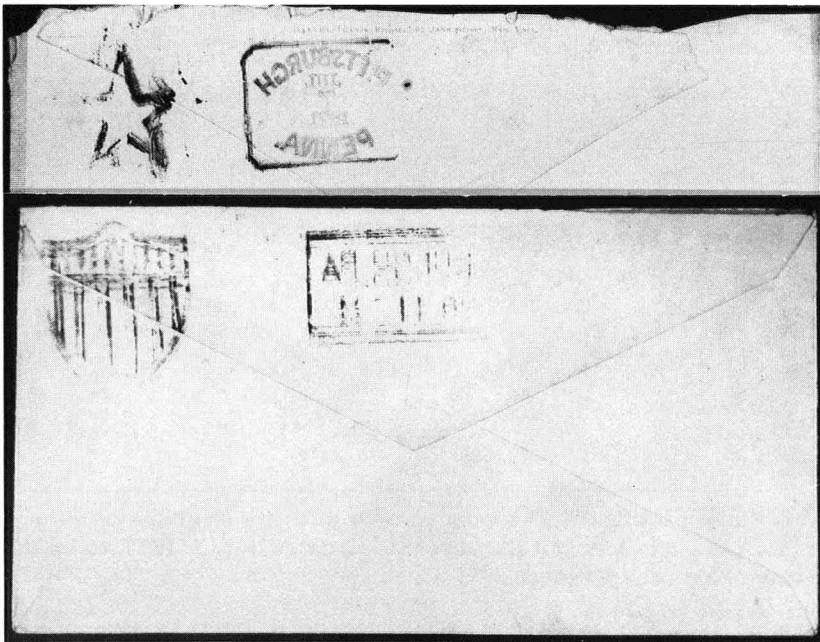


Figure 3. The neatly aligned mirror image offsets on the back of the covers shown in Figures 1 and 2 are important evidence the markings are machine cancels. Early inventors of canceling machines had not worked out devices for preventing inked impressions on back-up plates or platens when no letter was present, so that the impression in mirror image transferred to subsequent covers.

and Reg Morris have recorded over forty covers with a marking such as that shown in Figure 2, which they believe is probably a product of the same machine as produced the covers in Figure 1. Both styles of markings evidently were produced by a machine with two sets of postmarking dies, as the different dies of like design can be distinguished from one another by minute differences. Payne and Morris recorded their data and current opinions in an excellent article in *Machine Cancel Forum* for July 1987, titled "The Pittsburgh Star and Shield Machine Cancels of Unknown Origin." In it, they discussed the many reasons why they believe the Pittsburgh markings could not have been applied by a Goff-Hursy machine as had been thought by other specialists for many years.

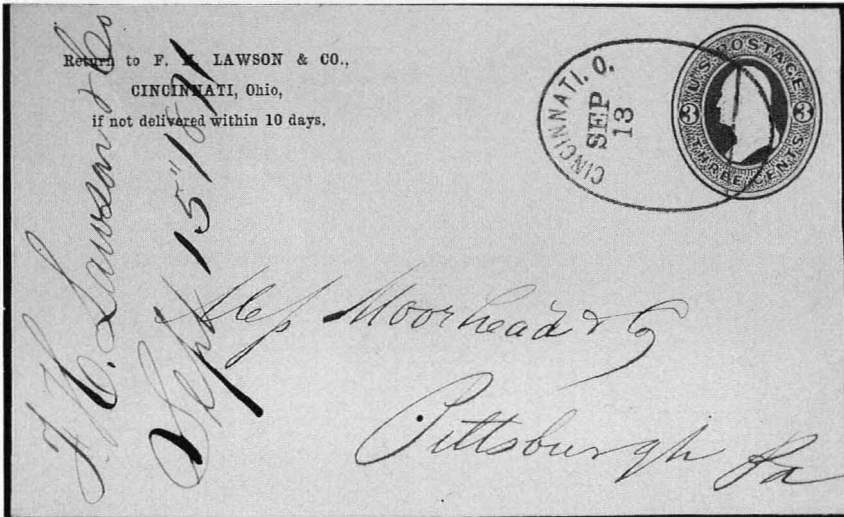


Figure 4. An oval "patent" cancel, applied by a Gaston patent handstamp on an experimental basis at Cincinnati, Ohio. Not surprisingly, Gaston was a Cincinnati inventor, but his handstamps, intended to provide pinholes in the paper of the stamp so that canceling inks could penetrate, were also tested at Columbus, and Cleveland, Ohio.

Their major reason was that the machine described in the patent, U.S. 147360 (issued to Goff and Hursy in 1874, three years after the covers shown in Figure 1 were sent), could not have produced markings such as are on the subject covers, but rather would have produced an entirely different "repeater" style marking. For further reasons, I refer all to

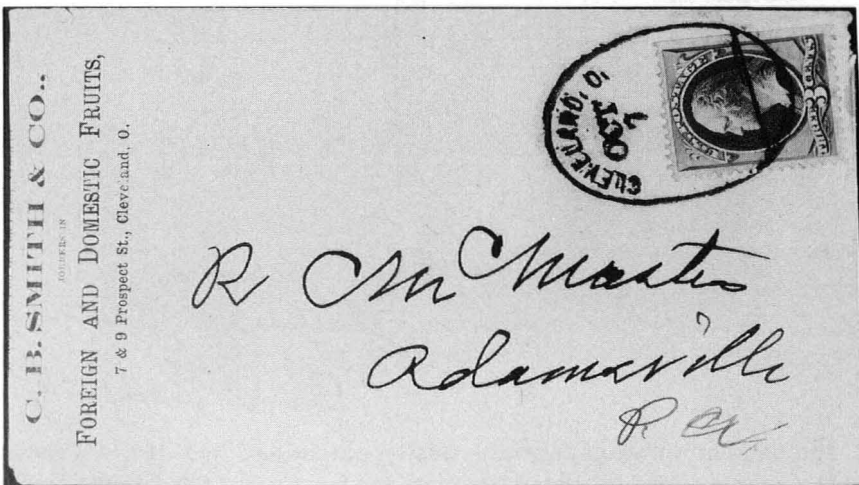


Figure 5. A Cleveland cover with a 3¢ banknote stamp canceled with the experimental Gaston patent handstamp.

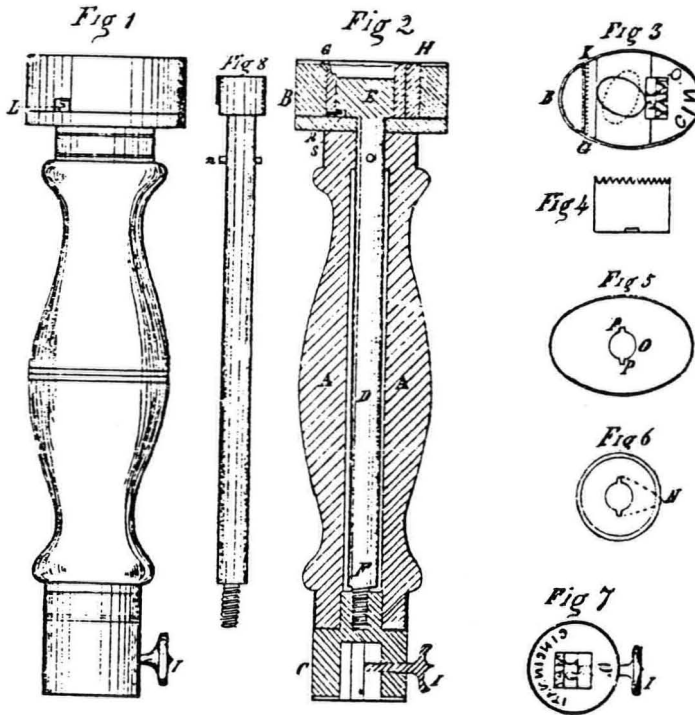
the article by Payne and Morris.

Machine cancel specialists rely on patent drawings, which often illustrate the actual die heads that make the postmark impressions, and also certain other features to identify cancels made by machines. Since the inventor and patents (if any) describing the machine that made the postmarks on the Pittsburgh covers are not known, their belief that these are machine markings rests on other factors, such as marks of feed mechanisms and offsets of markings on the back of covers. Most of the early machines didn't solve the problem of blocking off impressions made with no letter present so that an impression of the marking in mirror image often was made by the wet ink on the machine supporting platen or table

J. C. GASTON.
HAND STAMP.

No. 104,444.

Patented June 21, 1870.



Witnesses.
Wm. Chapman
Edm. F. Brown

Inventor:
Jeremiah C. Gaston.
Daniel Breed, Atty.

Figure 6. The page of drawings from the Gaston patent (U.S. No. 104,444) showing the details of the double ended handstamper. Note the faces with "CIN." in the oval end and "CINCINNATI" in the round marking. It is noteworthy that the design tested spelled out Cincinnati in full in the oval.

when the next letter was postmarked.

This is a considerable factor in the belief that the markings on the covers in Figures 1 and 2 were made by a machine, as may be seen by the photos of two of the cover backs, shown in Figure 3.

Figures 4 and 5 show covers with markings that, until recently, were also suspected of being machine cancels because of offsets on the back. However, Bob Payne recently acquired a copy of the patent under which the equipment making the markings was manufactured, drawings from which are shown in Figure 6. Obviously, this is a handstamp and the patented feature is that the handstamp had a line of pins intended to penetrate stamps, with a "stop" to prevent the pins penetrating through the envelope into the content. This latter was the main feature of the patent, although the claims were based upon other features as well.

The markings are quite unusual, and, from the new Machine Cancel Society Handbook, *U.S. Postal Markings Impressed by Machines*, edited by Bart Billings, the handstamps based upon the Gaston patent were first in use, probably on an experimental basis, as they weren't in use very long, at Cincinnati from Sept. 6-16, 1871. A second device was in use at Columbus, Ohio, about two weeks later and still a third example at Cleveland in the first week in October 1871. Reports of dates of use from these cities or elsewhere would be appreciated.

I would like to acknowledge the help of Bart Billings, Reg Morris, and Bob Payne in not only furnishing the data but some of the covers for photography which are shown here.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON COVERS BEARING THE U.S. 3¢ 1861 WITH MONTH AND 1861 YEAR DATE

ABE BOYARSKY

It has been 10 years since my request for information on 3¢ 1861 covers appeared in the Chairman's Chatter. Since that time I have recorded 879 covers with a month and 1861 year date.

The breakdown is as follows:

August	112
September	280
October	200
November	171
December	116

Of the 879 covers from this period, about 30 percent of this total are from the Pink family: Rose Pink, Pink, and Pigeon Blood Pink:

August	47
September	106
October	70
November	26
December	20

The earliest date I have recorded for use of a 3¢ 1861 is August 17, 1861. The earliest patriotic is August 21, 1861 (Rose Pink Methuen 10 C5, *Chronicle* 86:95-6).

The National Bank Note Company had printed shades earlier in the year that were rejected by the Post Office Department because the color was not satisfactory. Demonetization placed such a demand for the new 3¢ 1861 stamps that many of these earlier shades were sent to post offices. Some of these shades exist today without a proper name. Until a knowledgeable committee can agree on names, identification will have to wait.

I wish to acknowledge the following collectors who were kind enough to send material for study and others for information, slides, photocopies, etc.

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by Jesse L. Coburn

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THE FOUR DOLLAR COLUMBIAN STAMP
RICHARD M. SEARING

The design for the Columbian \$4 shows medallion portraits of Queen Isabella and Columbus. The origin of the Isabella portrait is believed to be a painting by Bartolome Bermejo who was born in 1442 and lived most of his life in Barcelona. However, there is no consensus on this point in the literature.

In 1982, the Bureau of Engraving issued a card for the ESPAMER '82 Exposition, held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, which reproduces the \$4 design and states that the portrait of Isabella is based on the well known painting by Bermejo, housed presently in the Palacio Real, Madrid.¹ However, Brookman was unsure of the origin of the portrait in 1965,² and a recent article by another author states that the portrait is based on a painting by Antonio Mongo-Defrain, hanging in Madrid.³ The jury is still out.

There is no proven surviving portrait of Columbus painted during his lifetime. The closest is an engraving of a painting once owned by Paulus Jovius, Archbishop of Nocera (1483-1552), who was an admirer of great men and collected their portraits. The painting vanished during the next 200 years, but was believed painted from life. In 1763 an altered painting was purchased by the Spanish Government from an unknown artist which may be this lost painting, but too little evidence is available to establish this fact conclusively.⁴



Figure 1. Plate proof of \$4 Columbian stamp.

The origin of the Columbus portrait on the \$4 stamps is attributed to Lorenzo Lotto who was born in 1480. The painting was said to be in the New York City area, but the records are mute on this point and show no record of the painting in this country.⁵ It is probable that the engraver used a composite sketch made from several paintings representing Columbus for his design.⁶

The U.S. Post Office circular of the period officially described the color of the \$4 stamps as carmine, but they range from pale to deep shades, with the deep rose carmine shade as most desirable to the collector. The stamp was designed by Alfred S. Major, the

1. *Postage Stamps of the U.S.* Washington D.C., 1957.

2. L.G. Brookman, *19th Century Postage Stamps of the US*, V III, p. 85, H.L. Lindquist, 1966.

3. P. Hamilton, "U.S. Columbian Stamps of Seventy Years Ago," *Philatelic Magazine*, vol. 71, p. 50, Jan. 25, 1963.

4. L. Schriber, *Designs, Designers, Engravers, Artists of U.S. Postage Stamps*, APS reprint, 1963, p. 70.

5. J.F. O'Brien, "Basis of the Design of the U.S. Columbian Exposition issue of 1893," *American Philatelist*, Sept. 1984, p. 899.

6. L. Schriber, *op. cit.*, p 70.

vignettes were engraved by Alfred Jones, and the frame, lettering, and numerals were done by George Seymour.⁷

In Clarence Brazer's study, *Essays for U.S. Adhesive Postage Stamps*, several essays are listed, in contrast with the \$3 design. These range from a unique sunken 33x44mm ferrotype of a $\frac{3}{4}$ length painting of Queen Isabella used to produce prints, all in red, to incomplete designs rendered in black-brown. In between, there are vignettes of Isabella in black, a partial design of both portraits on India paper in black and red, and a nearly complete design in grey black on heavy cardboard.⁸ Figure 1 shows the plate proof on card of the \$4 design.

According to official records, 26,350 of the \$4 denomination stamps were printed and delivered to postmasters. L.G. Brookman quotes John Luff that in June 1899, 3,357 \$4 stamps were destroyed by official government order. Assuming that no more were destroyed, that left 22,993 stamps sold to the public.⁹



Figure 2. Plate number imprint block of six of the \$4 stamp.

The stamp was printed from a single plate: CC107, and Figure 2 shows a plate number imprint block of six. I have been unable to locate an imprint plate block of eight for the \$4 value. Do they exist and can a reader supply a photo? I have recently been informed that many years back, a full pane of 100 of the \$4 stamp was seen at the Smithsonian postal archives. I have not had time or opportunity to verify this possibility. Can anyone verify this information? If true, it has remained a secret from modern collectors for many years and would be a great showpiece for 1992 in Chicago.

No blocks of four or pairs of the \$4 stamp are known to me as used on cover or piece. However, a collector recently sent me a photo of a pair of \$3 values on a philatelic local usage cover so I now can correct my statement in the earlier \$3 article that pairs were unknown on cover. Perhaps another reader knows of a \$4 pair on cover?

I have record of two used blocks off cover; one was sold only a year or two back. Both blocks are cancelled by a bull's eye target in the middle of the block. Other high value stamps (\$2 and \$5 of 1895) of this era are also known to me with this cancel. As such, they appear cancelled-to order for philatelic purposes, rather than a commercial postal usage. Such a usage of \$4 stamps would be unlikely in this era, unless it was on packages of heavy books to overseas embassies. I have record of single \$2 and \$5 1902 stamps that were used in this manner. Recent information from two different readers of these articles indicates that the high value blocks of Columbians were all favor-cancelled by a midwestern postmaster in the 1920-30 era.

The most sought-after souvenirs were those mailed directly from the fairgrounds.

7. *Ibid.*, p 16.

8. C. Brazer, *Essays for U.S. Adhesive Postage Stamps*, Quarterman reprint, 1977, p. 151.

9. L.G. Brookman, *op. cit.*, p. 86.

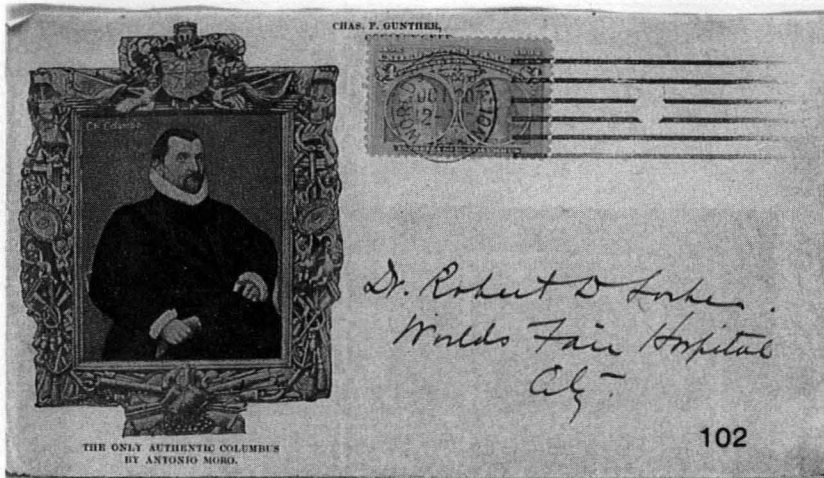


Figure 3. \$4 stamp on cacheted cover, postmarked October 30, 1893.

Figure 3 shows the \$4 cover from the Virgil Brand find. The corner card shows the only authentic portrait of Columbus painted by Antonio Moro and was privately prepared for sale at the fair by Chas. F. Gunther. All of these covers were addressed to Dr. Robert Lorke. This cover is canceled on October 30 which was the official closing day of the Chicago World's Fair.



Figure 4. Chicago to New York City, mailed at the fair, Aug. 22, 1893.

The most spectacular usage of the \$4 stamp at the World's Fair was illustrated earlier in the \$3 article of this series. I showed the small cover that came from the Ethel McCoy collection where the \$2 through \$5 value Columbians were on a 5¢ Columbus embossed envelope and canceled on November 10, 1893, at the World's Fair Station.

Figures 4 and 5 also clearly represent philatelically inspired covers that were mailed at the fairgrounds for souvenirs. The first is one of the series addressed to M.C. Trantvetter and canceled at the fair, August 22, 1893. The second cover shows the \$4 value and the \$2 value used together on registered mail to NYC, postmarked on Sept. 28, 1893.

Figures 6 and 7 show two different \$4 Columbian covers mailed to foreign destinations. The first cover was mailed to Hamburg, Germany, on a 1¢ Columbian envelope; while the second usage was on a refolded large business envelope to Paris by registered

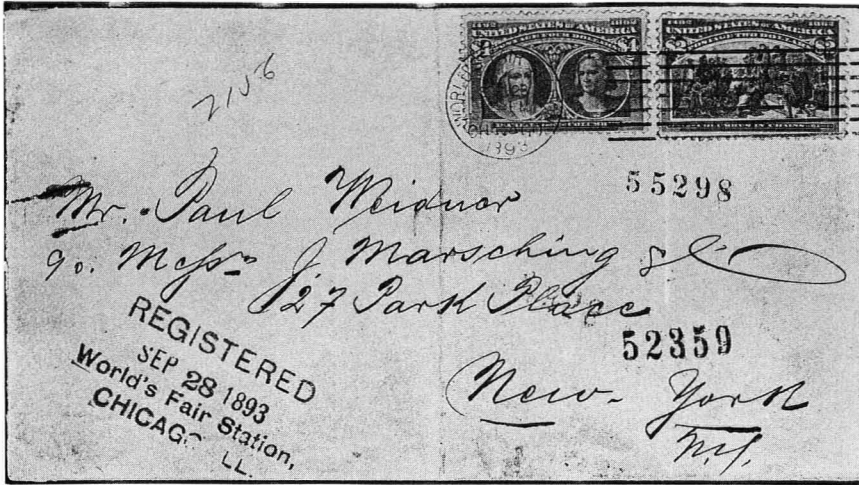


Figure 5. Chicago to New York with Chicago World's Fair cancellation, Sept. 28, 1893.

mail. Many high value regular stamps were used to mail correspondence to this same company.

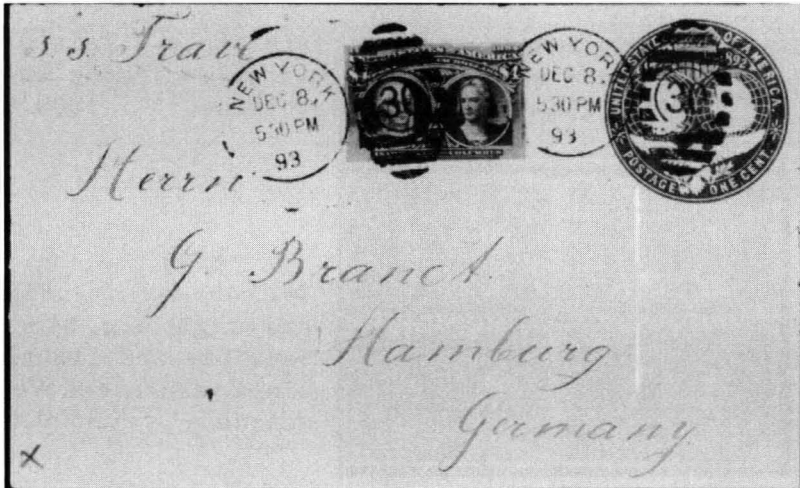


Figure 6. New York to Hamburg, Germany, Dec. 8, 1893.

New York City and Chicago mailings dominate most of the high value usages, but other cities are represented. Figure 8 shows a usage from San Francisco on a preprinted envelope.

The last cover shown is an example from Marion, Mass., to the First Comptroller of the Treasury in Washington, D.C., and was mailed on July 8, 1894.

The last part of this article again continues the results of my initial cover census on the surviving covers/fronfs/wrappers bearing at least one copy of a dollar value Columbian stamp. The census is by no means complete and I request that readers supply data on covers not listed herein. The data record the date, origin, destination, other stamps, descriptive remarks, and the source of the listing. Most covers have a photo, but some of those early auctions have little or no data available. Present owners, please supply the missing information.

Abbreviations have been liberally used throughout. The covers are filed by date with the year, month, and day. Dates shown as less than 93 are late uses and are 1900s. They appear last in the listing. At present, I have recorded 33 \$4 stamp usages on cover, but I feel that at least another half dozen to a dozen covers are still unrecorded. At the end of



Figure 7. New York to Paris with 5¢ 1890 issue, used October 13, 1893.

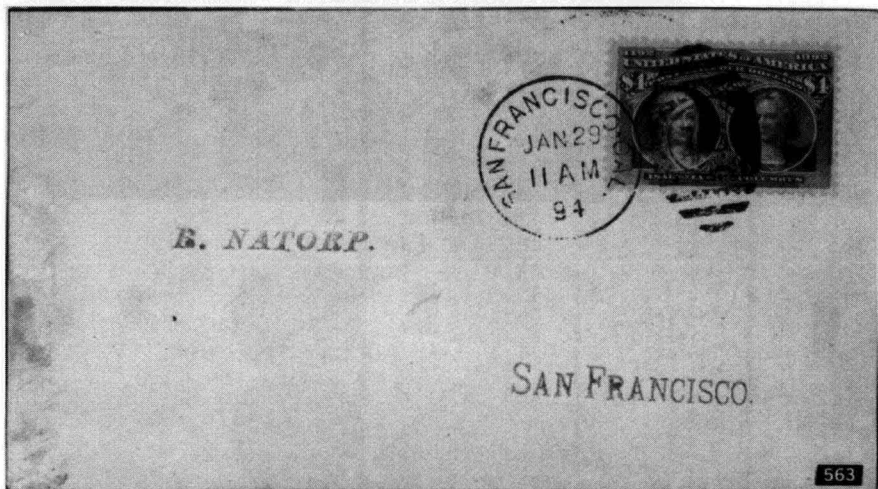


Figure 8. Local San Francisco usage, mailed January 29, 1894.

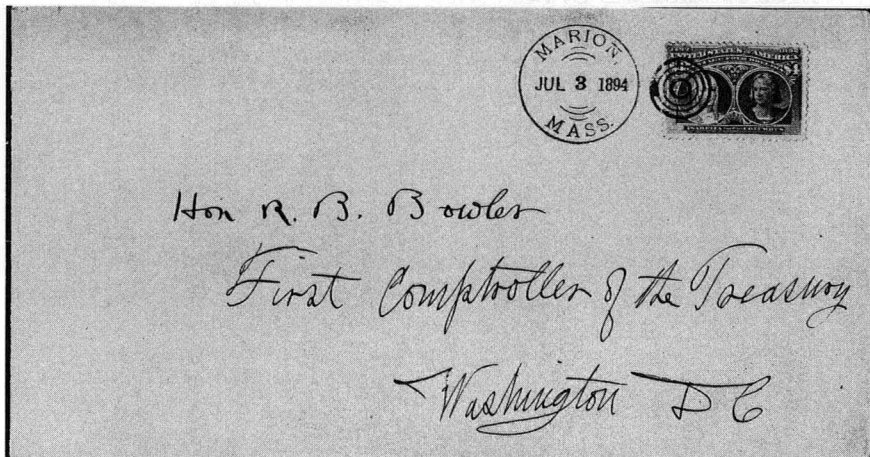


Figure 9. Usage on a large envelope to Washington, D.C., in 1894.

this series of studies, I will summarize the cover data for all the dollar values that are recorded, so please contribute if you are fortunate to possess dollar value Columbian stamps used on cover.

COLUMBIAN \$4 STAMPS USED ON COVER

Date	Origin	Destination	Stamps	Remarks	Source
93/01/??	NYC	??,Gmy	236,238,U351	T. NYC REG ovals, Sta O	Sgl 329/1143
93/04/06	NYC	Wien, Aus	none	NYREG 1bl; Siegelman Co. cc	Herst 139/3550
93/05/21	Crow Wing, Mn.	Pittsbgh	230-43,45	T. Chicago P.O., 3-ring tgts: \$5 st. edg top	Sgl 544/133
93/06/14	NYC	Hmbrg, Gmy	U351	T. NYC "C" canc 10c ent.; NYC REG label #94041; "G"	lvy 7/82-1220
93/07/17	Chicago	N.Ulm, Gmy	none	T. twm dated mach canc: mourning cvr.	Klher 563/985
93/08/22	Chicago	NYC	none	T. WFS duplex canc; SL REGISTERED #72751 & #40310	Sgl 679/270
93/09/22	NYC	NYC	none	T. NYC sta. P dupl.;	Sgl 511/1289
93/09/28	Chicago	NYC	242	O.G. Meyer & Co. T. CWF dupl.; SL REG #52359; WF sta. dated	collector
93/10/11	USGmn SeaPst	Bmrhvn, Gmy	none	T. oval "8"; N. Gmn Lloyd cc.	Sgl 452/749
93/10/11	USGmn SeaPst	Bmrhvn, Gmy	none	T. on env by killer "8"	Wunsch coll
93/10/13	NYC	Paris, Fra	223	T. blk twm; NYC reg label #74362; E. Boris rtn; per Gascoyne	Sgl 307/619
93/10/30	Chicago	Chicago	none	T. SON WFS mach. canc; Moro por. cc.	McCoy-102
93/10/30	Chicago	??/??	230-43,45,E3	T. CWFS canc. lge piece U351 ent.	Sgl 391/81
93/11/10	Chicago	Chicago	242,3,5,U350	T. WFS mach. dupl. lines; mostly SON	McCoy-106
93/12/04	NYC	NYC	243	T. by blk twm, dupl.; C.Witt addr	Sgl 271/549
93/12/06	NYC	NYC	230-243,45	T. twmMdy canc. on lge. cvr (Mrs. M. Witt); REG NYC sta "K"	Sgl 679/265
93/12/08	NYC	Hmbrg, Gmy	U348	T. NYC dupl.=/30/=oval; per SS Trave ms.	McCoy-103
93/12/20	Wash, D.C.	Wash., D.C.	none	T. mach canc.; sm. env; addr H.C. Quimley	Hrmr 4/23-680
94/01/4	Andover, MA	Cmbrdge, Ma	none	T. REG dupl. oval; bkstmp sm env.	Koeb 6/71-258
94/01/29	S. Fran.	S. Fran.	none	T. dupl. oval "16"; prtd addr, B. Natorp	Sgl 611/563
94/02/08	Dover, NH	Boston	none	T. lgl N.Ex.Bank env; viol. SL REG	JKfmn 12/83-227
94/02/13	Boston	Milwaukee	none	T. 5"x7" wrapper; red bxd REG, date: addr book pub	Klher 569/437
94/03/05	L. Angeles	Anacortes, Wa	none	T. LA duplex; SL REGISTERED, date; ms. rtn addr.	Sgl 421/407
94/04/07	Pittsbrgh	Mitlheim, Gmy	230,1,3,5,41,43	T. bk. canc. to 2c ent.	Sgl 555/673
94/04/10	Lyman, Md.	Wash., D.C.	none	T. blk tgt.; SL REG, date L	Sgl 342/1454A
94/04/13	NYC	NYC	none	T.=2=canc. on sm. cover; J. Wagner	lvy 12/88-911
94/04/13	NYC	NYC	24143, 45	T.=2=canc. (J. Wagner Esq.); full set 230-245 known	Kenedi 70-221
94/05/03	Lyman, Md.	S. Fran.	none	T. bk. tgt.; Reg. #7938.	Wunsch coll
94/07/07	Marion, O.	Wash., D.C.	none	T. tgt. duplex; lgl cvr; to treasury dept.	collector
95/03/26	NYC	Paris, Fra	258	T. oval "4" on lge lgl env; pr. stmr Majestic; NYREG #27702	Christ. 9/82-463
97/02/09	NYC	NYC	none	T. NYC duplex sta "K;" Reg env. (C. Witt)	Sgl 679/282
01/??/??	NYC	NYC	none	T. twm cire.; publishers cc.	Koerb. 9/74-440
01/??/??	NYC	?	230, U350	T. sm tgts on reg. 5c ent.	Sgl 307/620

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FROM THE EDITOR

In comparison with the regularly issued stamps, United States Officials and other back-of-the-book (BOB) stamps have not been extensively researched and studied. Philatelic knowledge in many of the BOB collecting areas is incomplete. Many odd or unusual BOB items and usages are either unexplained or incorrectly understood. Part of the problem is the general scarcity of BOB material, making it difficult or impossible for a single collector to accumulate enough examples of a given item or usage to decipher a characteristic pattern which then could lead to the appropriate supporting archival and/or literature reference sources. Cooperation, through the sharing of ideas, knowledge, and the reporting of items and usages from many different collectors and dealers can help to compensate for the limitations within the BOB area. This section of the *Chronicle* is intended to help fill this need by serving as a vehicle for the reporting and sharing of BOB information.

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC USE OF ORDINARY STAMPS FOR OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE BY THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT ALAN CAMPBELL

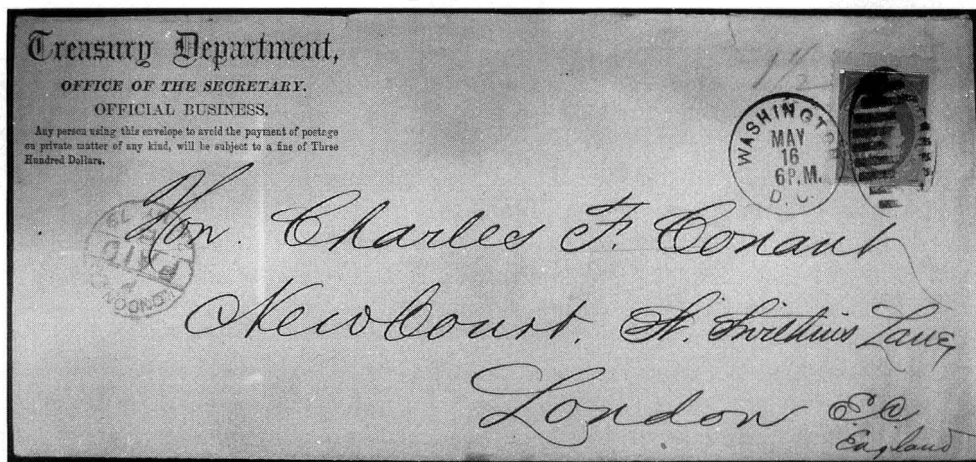


Figure 1. An example of a single 15¢ ordinary postage stamp paying the UPU postage on a triple weight Treasury Department correspondence to Charles F. Conant in London, England, postmarked Washington, D.C., May 16, (1879). This example was used during the first quarter (April 1 to June 30, 1879) of the UPU regulations which required the use of ordinary, rather than official, postage stamps.

The article by Alfred E. Staubus ("Stamps for Use on Official Correspondence to Foreign Destinations Under GPU and UPU Treaties") in the Aug. 1990 issue of the *Chronicle* (No. 147) called for readers to submit examples of official covers that used ordinary postage stamps for payment of postage to UPU countries during the first quarter of use, April 1 to June 30, 1879. Such a cover has been in my exhibit collection for several years. This cover (Figure 1), also from the Charles F. Conant correspondence, is franked with a 15 cent Continental Bank Note stamp paying triple the UPU rate and postmarked May 16 (1879), the year date confirmed by the red London receiving mark May 28, 1879. Located in London, England, Mr. Conant was in charge of the United States Agency for Refunding the Public Debt. Since this cover still contains a contemporary copy of a two-page letter which is headed "*Unofficial*" (Figure 2) and is from a bank vice-president to

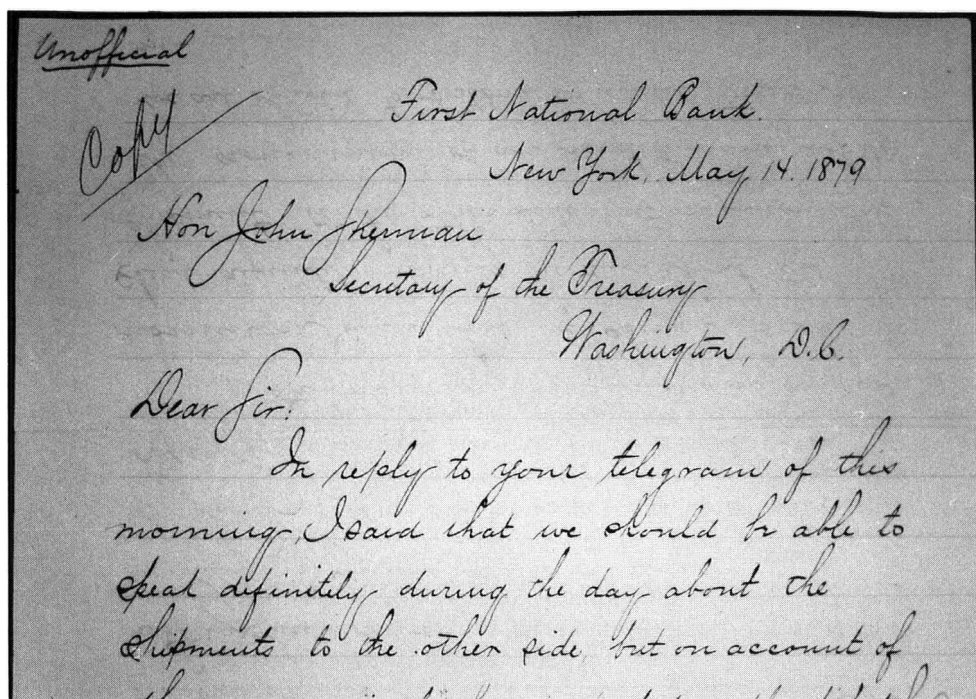


Figure 2. A portion of the surviving copy from the cover shown in Figure 1 of a two-page letter which is headed "Unofficial" — a term which can give a potentially false impression of referring to "private" correspondence.

John Sherman, Secretary of the Treasury, regarding a banking transaction to which Mr. Conant was party, I had previously assumed that the use of ordinary postage stamps demonstrated scrupulous care by some clerk who did not choose to use official stamps in an unofficial (private) capacity. This explanation is somewhat questionable because the term "Unofficial" in the context used in this letter does not appear to be the equivalent of referring to private correspondence. However, after the publication of the editor's research, it is clear that another explanation exists, especially since the weight of the cover and surviving lettersheets are less than one ounce, suggesting that some portion of the contents — apparently additional official correspondence — is now missing. Note that the cover was weighed and specifically marked "1½" (ounces).

I much prefer the interpretation that the presence of an ordinary stamp on this cover is an unofficial use adhering to the new UPU regulation, since unofficial uses of official envelopes and penalty franks are only of marginal interest to the true student of official mail. Until now, official covers franked with ordinary postage stamps have languished in philatelic limbo, with no possibility of redemption and elevation to the status of true official covers. Among my reference material, I have covers from most departments franked with 3 cent Bank Note stamps. I always believed that some of these must be official usages, partly because none of them has the "Official Business" clause crossed out. Being neither fish nor fowl, their principal value rests, I am afraid, in their potential to be used — because of their legitimate imprinted corner cards — as the raw material for forged official covers.

In the meantime, from the editor's research we now have a justification for the mailroom clerks at the Treasury Department having in their possession ordinary postage stamps. The possession of ordinary postage stamps by the mailroom clerks begins to explain how the registry fee on certain Treasury Department penalty envelopes (clearly official business, with the regular postage portion of the fee covered by the penalty frank)

could have been paid with ordinary postage stamps either through clerical error or, more likely, a temporary shortfall of 10 cent Treasury Department stamps. There may well have been a shortfall of 10 cent Treasury Department stamps in Washington, D.C., during part of 1882 and the first half of 1883 because official records indicate that the next to last delivery of 10 cent Treasury Department stamps (391,500) was in December 1879 (Stamp Bill Book No. 3, Record Group No. 28, National Archives, Washington, D.C.) and none were delivered during the years of 1880, 1881, and 1882. Stamp Bill Book No. 3 shows that the final delivery of 10 cent Treasury Department stamps (200,000) occurred during July 1883, presumably relieving, at that time, any existing shortages of this stamp. Support for the hypothesis of a possible shortage of 10 cent Treasury Department stamps during at least the latter half of 1882 is found in the use of a 7 cent and 3 cent combination of Treasury Department stamps in place of a single 10 cent Treasury Department stamp on the registered October 4, 1882, cover illustrated as lot #835 in Christie's December 14-15, 1989, auction of the Weill Brothers' stock. The use of lower denomination Treasury Department stamps versus ordinary stamps may have been left to the judgement of individual mailroom clerks.

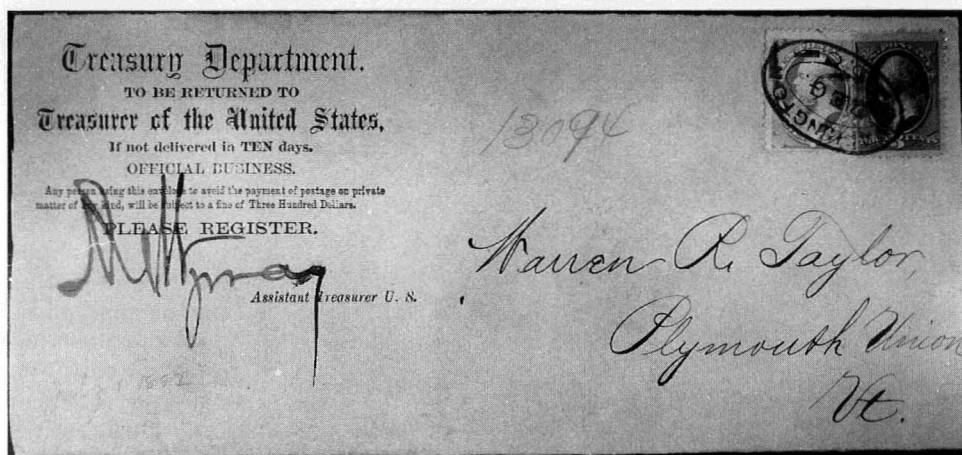


Figure 3. An example of the domestic use of ordinary stamps for the payment of the 10¢ registry fee on official Treasury Department correspondence. This cover is one of at least three known domestic examples of official Treasury Department covers franked with ordinary stamps and used between July 1 to October 3, 1882. It is probable that these ordinary stamps came from the stock intended for use on Treasury Department correspondence to UPU countries during a period of a shortage of 10¢ Treasury Department official stamps.

Figure 3 shows a cover where the registry fee is paid by a 7 cent National and a 3 cent American. The cover oddly lacks a dated postmark; the pencil-written date of July 1, 1882, falls within the transitional period when official stamps ought to have supplemented the penalty frank. Formerly in the collection of Rae Ehrenberg (lot #373, Robert A. Siegel, 577th Sale, April 10, 1981), this cover was franked by Assistant Treasurer A. U. Wyman, but the lack of a wax seal from the Redemption Division on the back indicates the cover did not contain new currency for mutilated bills and therefore was not entitled to free registration under the Congressional Act of June 8, 1872 (see article "A Joy Forever in the Eye of the Beholder? The 10¢ Treasury Cover Nobody Wanted" by Alfred E. Staubus in *Opinions V*, pages 150-157, 1988, The Philatelic Foundation, New York, N.Y.). In Eliot Landau's exhibit collection of the 6 cent Lincoln Bank Notes stamps, there is a similar cover from the same correspondence. This one, postmarked October 3, 1882, is franked with two 2 cent Bank Note stamps and one 6 cent Bank Note stamp to make up the supplemental registry fee. Another example of a similar registry use of 3 cent (Scott #207) and 7

cent (Scott #149) Bank Note stamps on a Treasury Department cover postmarked July 10, 1882, can be found as lot #269 in the Walter C. Klein Collection of United States Stamps and Covers, Part Three (Christie's auction, November 3, 1988). It seems plausible that all three of these makeshift frankings on official mail were drawn from stocks of ordinary postage stamps laid in by the Treasury Department to comply with the new UPU regulations during the time period of an apparent shortage of 10 cent Treasury Department official stamps.

MYSTERIOUS "PAID BY CHECK" HANDSTAMPS ON FIVE STATE DEPARTMENT STAMPS — WHAT ARE THEY?

JACK GOLDEN

Figures 1 and 2 show a set of five State Department stamps with blue "PAID BY CHECK" handstamps. The five stamps consist of the 2¢, 3¢, 7¢, 10¢ and 15¢ denominations. In order to enhance the contrast with the blue handstamp, Figure 1 shows the 10¢ denomination with and without an attempt to fade out the green background with filters. The five stamps lack gum, but because of their fresh appearance, do not appear to have been used for postal purposes. These stamps were purchased as a single lot by Golden Philatelics (Cedarhurst, NY); the seller was unable to supply any background information. The date of this handstamp appears to be April 30, 1883, or possibly 1882.



Figure 1. The 10 cent State Department stamp shown with and without an attempt to fade out the green background with filters in order to enhance the contrast with the blue "PAID BY CHECK" handstamp.

Consultation with a few official collectors provided only a range of speculative explanations for this handstamp — none of the collectors had seen the "PAID BY CHECK" handstamp before. The consensus opinion seems to be that this handstamp served as a favor cancel and was applied prior to the "presentation" of the stamps to an influential personage who had requested official stamps from State Department personnel. If the stamps were "presentation" copies, what happened to the balance of this State Department set? How many such sets were distributed?

Because other suspected "presentation" sets were favor canceled using either the red State Department received handstamp, the blue double oval State Department received handstamp, or one of the manuscript (magenta straight lines or black crosses) cancels, perhaps the "PAID BY CHECK" handstamp served a different function. By 1883, the postal need for State Department stamps was largely replaced by the penalty envelope. Is it possible that by 1883 the State Department was using its stock of departmental stamps for purposes other than postal or as gifts? Has anyone attempted to examine the archival records of the State Department to answer such a question? Does anyone know the story behind the mystery of these "PAID BY CHECK" handstamps on State Department stamps? Any such information would be greatly appreciated.

Figure 2. The other four denominations of the State Department stamps which have the same mysterious blue "PAID BY CHECK" handstamp as shown in Figure 1.



**THIRD POTENTIAL UPU SPECIAL PRINTING
COVER REPORTED
ALFRED E. STAUBUS**

A report on a third Post Office Department (POD) cover (Scott UO14) with a 5 cent Taylor stamp was received from Robert L. Markovitz; the cover is illustrated in Figure 1. This cover was sent on November 12, 1879, from the Third Assistant Postmaster General, Division of Stamps, Stamped Envelopes and Postal Cards, to an individual in Bucharest, Roumania, a Universal Postal Union (UPU) member country. The duplex postmark is in bluish black ink. The killer portion is one of the characteristic Washington, D.C., ellipses, having nine horizontal bars with a small numeral 1 in the center (Jim Cole, "Washington, D.C. Ellipses," *Cancellation Club News*, Summer 1988, page 51). The cover exhibits some foxing and other aging signs particularly at both ends. The 5 cent Taylor stamp shows brownish age stains on many of the perforation edges and tips.

This cover is owned by Howard L. Rosenberg. It was purchased as lot #82 from the Kover King, Inc.'s Postal History Public Auction #92 of May 21, 1981. Lot #82 was described as "185, UO14 'Washington 11/12/79' scarce cvr to 'Buchresti 11/29/79' Romania. Spotted around edges." The cover sold for \$100.00, a substantial amount above its estimated value of \$60.00.

The stamps from both this cover and from the cover previously reported on by Ravi R. Vora (Figure 2) were examined under UV light. With UV light, both stamps produced a violet glow which is a characteristic property of soft paper 5 cent Taylor stamps.

In normal light, both stamps exhibit very similar shades of blue with evidence of slight

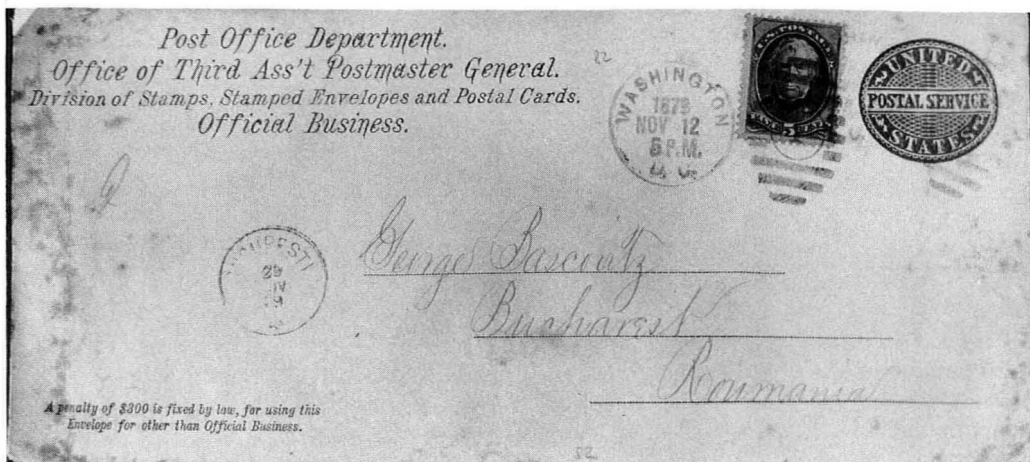


Figure 1. The most recently reported example of a 5 cent Taylor soft paper stamp used on a Post Office Department cover (Scott UO14) for POD correspondence to a UPU country. From the Howard L. Rosenberg collection. The Taylor stamp on this November 12, 1879, cover has a shade of blue that is very similar to the blue color of the Taylor stamp on the March 13, 1880, cover shown in Figure 2. The similarity in shades of these two known examples strongly indicates that both stamps apparently came from the same printing.

blue colorization over the white portions of the stamp indicating incomplete removal of excess ink on the plate prior to printing. The similarity in blue shades of these two stamps suggests that they come from the same printing batch. It is generally recognized that the normally issued 5 cent Taylor stamp comes in a wide range of blue shades reflecting difficulties by the printer in maintaining a consistent blue shade between printings. Since these two stamps were used four months apart and the rate of POD use of 5 cent Taylor stamps for the Department's UPU use was estimated to be 5,000 stamps per quarter (based upon a \$250/quarter allocation), it is logical to assume that a single printing batch of at least 6,000 stamps was purchased by POD from the Americana Bank Note Company sometime prior to Nov. 12, 1879. As previously discussed (*Chronicle* 147: 188-195, August 1990), as many as 30,000 5 cent Taylor stamps would have been needed to cover the time period



Figure 2. The previously reported example of a 5 cent Taylor soft paper used on a Post Office Department cover (Scott UO14) for POD correspondence to a UPU country. From the Ravi R. Vora collection. The existence of both this cover and the cover shown in Figure 1 was predicted based upon archival records found in the National Archives.

during which the POD lacked Congressional approval of funds to purchase, at face value, postage for the Department's usage to UPU countries and to account for the 6,864 remainders which were destroyed with the unsold remainders of the special printings in July 1884.

While it can be argued that the third assistant postmaster general had virtually free access to any postage stamp that Post Office Department needs required, inventory controls and archival records suggest otherwise. It should be remembered that postal employees during this time period had access to POD official stamps (Scott O47-56) and/or penalty covers for POD business. However, POD official stamps were not valid for use to UPU countries on and after April 1, 1879. Ordinary postage stamps were under inventory controls which included quarterly accounts, requisitions for stamps to the third assistant postmaster general for his approval and forwarding of the approved requisitions to the stamp agent at the bank note company, and the registered mailing of stamps by the stamp agent directly to the individual postmaster. With the exception of special orders for experimental trials, samples, proofs, and special printings, the records I found indicate that the third assistant postmaster general and his staff did not have free access to ordinary postage stamps for POD use to UPU countries, particularly in light of the ruling by the assistant attorney general for the Post Office Department who specifically found such use prohibitive without Congressional approval. Considering that I may be overlooking something, I would be interested in learning of documentation which would show that the third assistant postmaster general did have free access to ordinary postage stamps. Such information, if available, would weaken but not necessarily eliminate, the hypothesis that the third assistant postmaster general obtained ordinary postage stamps for POD use to UPU countries via the ordering mechanism used for the special printings.

The 30,000 5 cent Taylor stamps may have been purchased by the POD under the special printing mechanism from the American Bank Note Company at a base printing cost (rather than at face value from the Washington, D.C., post office) in one or more ordered printings. Since the normal special printing order was for 10,000 copies of a given stamp, there could have been a total of three separate UPU special printing batches ordered by the POD from the American Bank Note Company. Perhaps one batch preceded the examples shown in Figures 1 and 2 and another batch was ordered subsequently. Additional examples of 5 cent Taylor stamps on POD covers will be needed over the time period ranging from April 1879 to June 1880 in order to evaluate the number of separate printing batches ordered by the POD to obtain the estimated 30,000 stamps which were apparently needed.

Not having seen firsthand any of the known expertized soft paper special printings of the 5 cent Taylor, Scott 204, it is impossible for me to make any color comparisons. However, since the true soft paper special printings were not delivered to the POD until July 16, 1880, it is almost certain that the two examples shown in Figures 1 and 2 would be a different shade than that of the true soft paper special printing, Scott 204. Therefore, these two examples could have been supplied either from the American Bank Note Company's regular soft paper supplies of the 5 cent Taylor stamps (Scott 185) or from a soft paper UPU special printing which is as yet unrecognized.

As mentioned in my November 1990 *Chronicle* article, near the bottom of page 266, the existence of a distinct, but as yet unrecognized, UPU special printing would be supported if more than one shade existed for the known expertized copies of the soft paper 5 cent Taylor special printings. Comparison of the color photograph of lot #139 (Scott 204 with P.F. certificate) from Christie's June 15-16, 1988, sale of the Walter C. Klein Collection with that of lot #204 (Scott 204 with P.F. certificate) from Christie's October 12, 1989, sale of the Weill Brothers' Stock shows what appears to be a distinct difference in blue color. Admittedly, some or perhaps all of this color variation may be related to differences in color photographic techniques used to produce these auction catalogs. However, if these shade differences are, in fact, due to separate printings, one of these two exper-

tized copies of Scott 204 could correspond to one of the three proposed UPU special printing batches ordered by the POD to bypass the lack of Congressional funding for the department's UPU usage. If such color differences did exist, then one of the expertized copies of Scott 204 may correspond to the two examples shown in Figures 1 and 2 or, if not, to stamps from the probable previous or subsequent UPU special printing batches. In any case, if the shade differences of the expertized copies of Scott 204 are real, then some sort of a distinct, but as yet unrecognized, soft paper special printing apparently does exist. It would appear logical that a soft paper special printing order of 500 stamps should have been produced using a single mixture of ink pigments resulting in a single distinct shade. The existence of more than one distinct shade of expertized Scott 204 stamps should clearly indicate support for the existence of one or more UPU special printing orders.

In summary, one or more of the three probably 5 cent Taylor UPU special printing orders may have come from regular soft paper stocks. However, one of the probably 5 cent Taylor UPU special printing orders may correspond to one of the two apparent shades of known expertized copies of Scott 204. Readers are urged to report additional examples of 5 cent Taylor stamps used on POD covers sent to foreign countries during the time period of April 1879 through June 1880.

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HAVANA TO LONDON — UNUSUAL CIVIL WAR ROUTING

RICHARD F. WINTER

The mystery surrounding a puzzling cover from Havana, Cuba, to London, England, has recently been solved, providing an opportunity to demonstrate the value of some excellent sources of research material available to collectors through the National Archives and the Library of Congress located in Washington, D.C. The cover is illustrated in Figure 1.

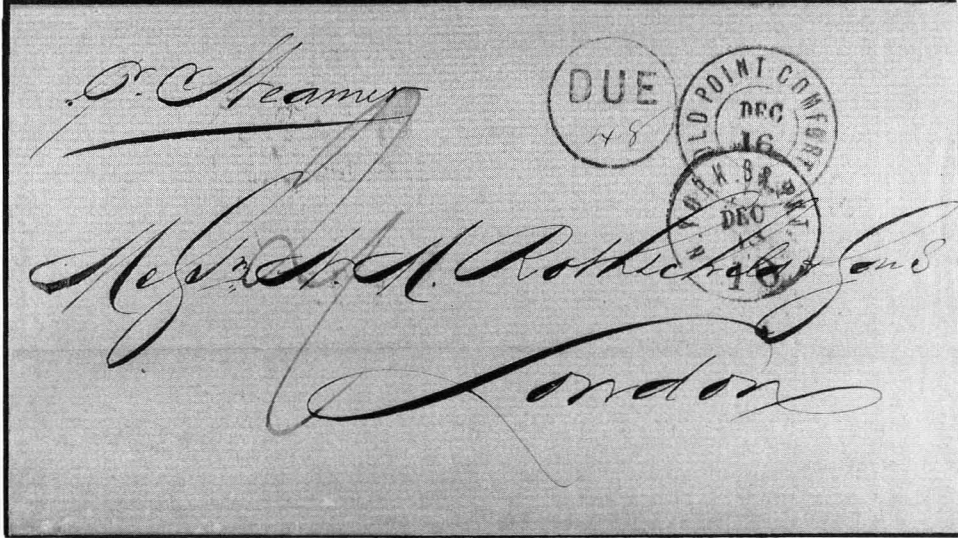


Figure 1. Havana, Cuba, to London, 11 Dec. 1861, carried privately to Old Point Comfort, Va., and mailed as an unpaid, double rate letter. N.Y. Exchange Office debited G.B. 10¢ and London marked 2 shillings postage due. Circle DUE marking applied at Old Point Comfort.

While the contents of this folded letter have not survived with the outer portion of the letter sheet, enough valuable clues remained on the cover to spark this writer's interest. The cover face indicated a normal unpaid, double rate letter to Great Britain under the U.S.-G.B. Treaty of 1848. A red London arrival marking, LONDON/D1/JA 2/62, is the only backstamp. The Old Point Comfort, Virginia, circular datestamp in black was an unusual point of entry into the U.S. mail system for overseas mails. The use of the black circle DUE marking with a manuscript 48 written had not been seen before by the author. Additional markings were a black circular datestamp N.YORK.BR.PKT.10¹ and a two shilling manuscript postage due marking. Docketing on the inside revealed that the letter had originated on 11 December by the firm of Cahuzae Bros. with a pencil notation "Havana" alongside. The docketing date was written 1862, but it was later determined that this was the year of receipt and not the year the letter was written, a common mistake in January of many years when letters were docketed upon receipt. Assuming that this notation was written on the outside letter sheet when the contents were removed, the intriguing problem then became, how did the letter get to Old Point Comfort from Cuba to enter the U.S. mails? The absence of a SHIP marking applied at Old Point Comfort indicated the letter was carried there privately. But from Havana? With only five days between the time

1. Walter Hubbard and Richard F. Winter, *North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75* (Canton, Ohio: U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, 1988), p. 358, marking No. 88.



FORTRESS MONROE, OLD POINT COMFORT AND HYGEIA HOTEL, VA

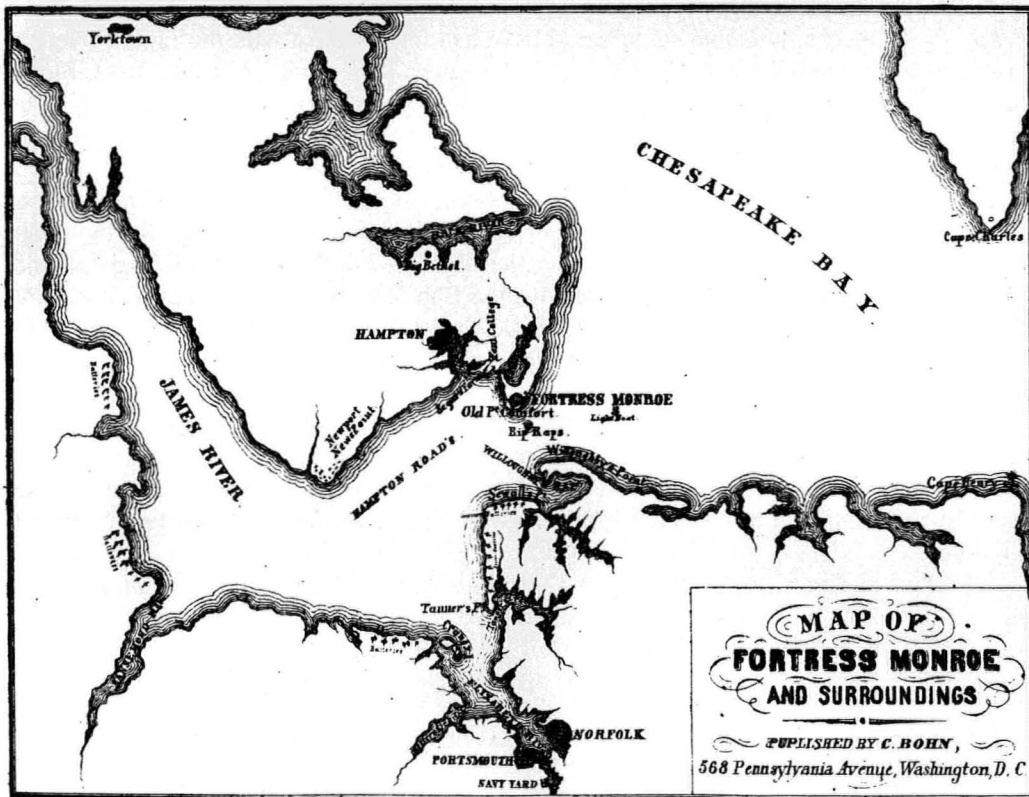


Figure 2. Map of Fortress Monroe and Old Point Comfort published by C. Bohn, Washington, D.C., in 1861.

the letter was written in Havana and the date it entered the U.S. mails at Old Point Comfort, Virginia, it seemed probable that the letter had been carried on a ship to the U.S. and that the ship must have been a steamship.

Old Point Comfort has been described as a “post-village and watering-place of Elizabeth City co., Virginia, 12 miles N. of Norfolk, situated at the entrance of Hampton Roads, on James River. The entrance is defended by fort Monroe. The beach in the vicini-

ty affords excellent bathing-ground.”² Figure 2 shows a period map³ of the Hampton Roads, Virginia, published in 1861 by Casimir Bohn, Washington, D.C. The Bohn map shows both the location of Fortress Monroe and an illustration depicting the fort with the small grouping of buildings along the sandy beach on two sides of the fort called Old Point Comfort. This portion of Virginia remained under Northern control throughout the American Civil War due largely to the presence of Fortress Monroe. Anchorages in the vicinity of Fortress Monroe were used continuously by Northern ships. The steamships that supplied the North’s blockading squadrons always called at Fortress Monroe on their resupply trips South and on the return voyages North. Could one of these vessels have carried this letter into Hampton Roads? Perhaps some other vessel directly from Havana called here and carried the letter?

Record Group 24, Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., contains approximately 73,000 logbooks of U.S. Navy ships, stations, and miscellaneous units from 1801 to 1947.⁴ The actual logbooks are available for inspection by researchers. Ship’s logs are an excellent source of information on specific locations of Naval vessels although they often don’t contain too much information on why the vessels were where they were. An inspection of the logbooks of the three principal resupply ships for the blockading squadrons, *Connecticut*, *Rhode Island*, and *Massachusetts* showed only *Connecticut* could have had involvement with the Figure 1 letter. This steamer entered Hampton Roads on 15 December 1861 having left Key West, Florida, on 10 December. But there was no call at Havana *en route* nor a meeting with any ship out of Havana which could have carried an 11 December letter. It was concluded that *Connecticut* was *not* the ship that carried this letter to the U.S.

The Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., has an extensive collection of newspapers and periodicals and an excellent reading room in its new James Madison building. Many of the newspapers are available on microfilm, including foreign newspapers, and can be viewed with very little wait to receive the film. The Havana newspaper *Diario de la Marina* was located on microfilm. The issue for 13 December 1861 mentioned the recent departure of an American steamship *Constitution*, Captain Fletcher, for Fortress Monroe! A second article in the newspaper reported that the United States steamship *Constitution* left at 7:00 o’clock on the morning of 12 December 1861. The article speculated that the steamer had delayed her departure to transport wounded sailors to Fortress Monroe from the recent naval encounter against Pensacola.⁵ There is a very famous Naval sailing vessel by that name but not a steamship.⁶ However, this newspaper lead was too important to ignore.

Further research on the steamship *Constitution* revealed the following information. On 25 May 1861, a new steamship was launched in New York by the well-known ship builder William H. Webb for the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, intended for use on the run from San Francisco to Panama City. This ship, named *Constitution*, was immediately

2. *A Complete Pronouncing Gazetteer or Geographical Dictionary of the World* (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1864), p. 1389.

3. Richard W. Stephenson, comp., *Civil War Maps, An Annotated List of Maps and Atlases in the Library of Congress* (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1989), p. 240, map listing #544.

4. *List of Logbooks of U.S. Navy Ships, Stations, and Miscellaneous Units, 1801-1947*, Special List 44 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, 1978).

5. On 22 November 1861, Naval steam sloops *Niagara* and *Richmond* and the guns of Fort Pickens joined to bombard the Pensacola Navy Yard, the Confederate defenses at Fort McRae, and Warrington. The attack was unsuccessful with the *Niagara* being holed twice above the waterline and the *Richmond* having a number of crew wounded. Both ships were forced to withdraw.

6. *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*, Volume II, (Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1963).

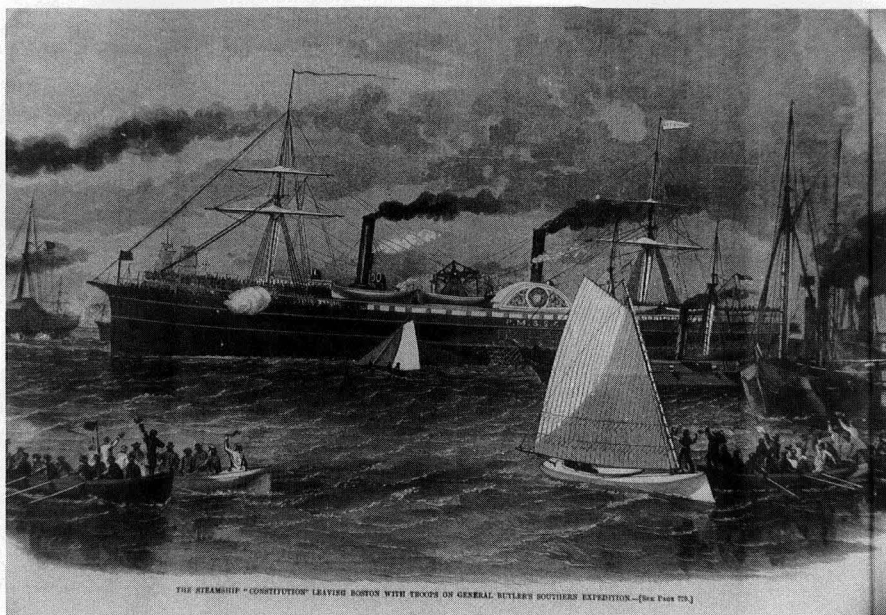


Figure 3. "The Steamship *Constitution* Leaving Boston With Troops On General Butler's Southern Expedition," engraving from *Harper's Weekly*, 7 Dec. 1861.

chartered by the Quartermaster's Department, War Department, to carry troops at \$2,500 per day.⁷ *Constitution* made four trips to Ship Island conveying troops to be used in the attack on New Orleans. She departed Boston on 21 November 1861 on the first of these voyages with the 26th Massachusetts and nine of the ten companies of the 9th Connecticut plus the 4th Massachusetts Light Battery, all a part of General Butler's division.⁸ Figure 3 is an illustration from *Harper's Weekly*, 7 December 1861, depicting the departure of General Butler's troops from Boston. *Constitution* proceeded to Portland, Me., to take on board Col. Shepley's regiment of the 12th Maine and then steamed South, arriving off Ship Island on 3 December 1861 where the troops were discharged during the next few days. With 3200 men aboard, this was the largest force, civil or military, ever embarked on one vessel, reported the *Boston Post*. The steamer left Ship Island soon thereafter and went to Havana, the arrival date there unknown. General J.W. Phelps, commanding at Ship Island, provides in a 15 February 1862 report the explanation why the *Constitution* would stop at Havana on the return trip when he refers to using that port as a coaling location for the ship.⁹ So, now there is good evidence that this may have been the means by which the letter was privately carried to Hampton Roads, but could it be proved that the *Constitution* arrived at Fortress Monroe in time to have the letter enter the Old Point Comfort Post Office on 16 December?

The answer to this question came again from the Naval vessel logbooks of the National Archives. Flag Officer Louis M. Goldsborough became the Commander of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron on 23 September 1861. He selected the *U.S.S. Minnesota*, a wooden steam frigate launched in December 1855, as his flag ship.¹⁰ Knowing

7. John H. Kemble, *The Panama Route 1848-1869* (New York: Da Capo Press, Inc., 1972 reprint of 1943 edition issued as Volume 29 of the *University of California Publications in History*), p. 222.

8. *Boston Post*, Saturday, 23 November 1861.

9. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, 70 vol. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901), Series I, Vol. VI, p. 691.

10. *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*, *op. cit.*, Vol. IV, p. 373.

that the flag ship usually spent a good portion of time at a selected anchorage, it was decided to examine the logbook for this vessel in hopes that she was at anchor in the Hampton Roads when *Constitution* arrived from Havana. *Minnesota's* logbook showed that the vessel was anchored in Hampton Roads off Fortress Monroe from 9 September 1861 to well beyond the December 1861 date of interest. Fortunately, the officers of *Minnesota* diligently recorded the arrivals and departures of all vessels in their anchorage during the period in question. The log entry on 15 December 1861 "From Meridian to 4 PM" read "Steamer *Constitution* came in from Ship Island!" Now there was sufficient evidence to conclude that the Figure 1 letter was carried privately on *Constitution* from Havana to Hampton Roads, Virginia. On the 16th of December, the letter entered the U.S. mails system at the Old Point Comfort post office.

Old Point Comfort used a practice not required, or in fact permitted, when it marked the letter for 48 cents postage due. Many postmasters marked unpaid foreign letters with the total postage due. Years later, specific notices would be published by the Post Office Department that "the practice at many offices in the interior, of marking in ink, or stamping, the full postage chargeable on UNPAID letters for Europe is wholly unnecessary and should be *discontinued*."¹¹ Use of the stock circular DUE marking for this purpose is the first seen on a transatlantic cover by this writer. The letter was sent to New York where the Exchange Office struck the N.YORK.BR.PKT.10/Dec/18 circular datestamp to show the letter would be forwarded on 18 December by British packet. On 20 December the Cunard steamer *Africa* departed New York two days late for her scheduled sailing¹² arriving at Queenstown on 1 January 1862. The letter reached London on 2 January where the red circular arrival datestamp was struck on the letter reverse. London rated the letter for a postage due of two shillings.

While the information on this cover is certainly interesting, the direct benefit to other collectors will probably not be the cover explanation as there may not be very many other covers exactly like this one. The author hopes the explanation of the research process used to unveil the mystery of this cover will prove to be the real value of this article.

11. Reprint of *United States Mail and Post Office Assistant*, (Chicago, Illinois: Collectors Club of Chicago, 1975), p. 314.

12. Walter Hubbard and Richard F. Winter, *op. cit.*, p. 47.

1848 CUBAN STEAMSHIP MAIL

YAMIL H. KOURI

"Steamship mails" (transit in the U.S. mail system by American contract packets between various domestic and foreign ports, at specified rates) were authorized by the postal Act of March 3, 1845. A following Act of March 3, 1847, which became effective on July 1st, changed the rates and provided for a contract steamship service between Charleston, S.C., and Chagres (now in Panama) via Havana, and between Panama City and Astoria, Oregon. Both the Eastern and Western runs had scheduled stops at several other ports along the route. The first contract steamers, however, did not start operating until the last quarter of 1848 when the *Isabel* left Charleston for Havana on October 17 (or 18?). This steamer was employed almost exclusively between Charleston and Havana and it ran regularly every two weeks until the Civil War broke out. I don't know when it arrived at Havana on its first voyage although the trip generally took about three to four days.

The cover in Figure 1 is a circular with prices current to Portland, Maine, datelined Habana Oct. 24, 1848. This letter, which was recently "discovered," was carried on the first return trip of the *Isabel* which reached Charleston on Oct. 31st. It was received in Savannah on Oct. 28 where the two line HAVANA./STEAM BOAT and cds were applied in red. This marking was not previously recorded and apparently it was later broken up and used as two different handstamps. The manuscript marking "12¹/₂" (cents due) was the sin-

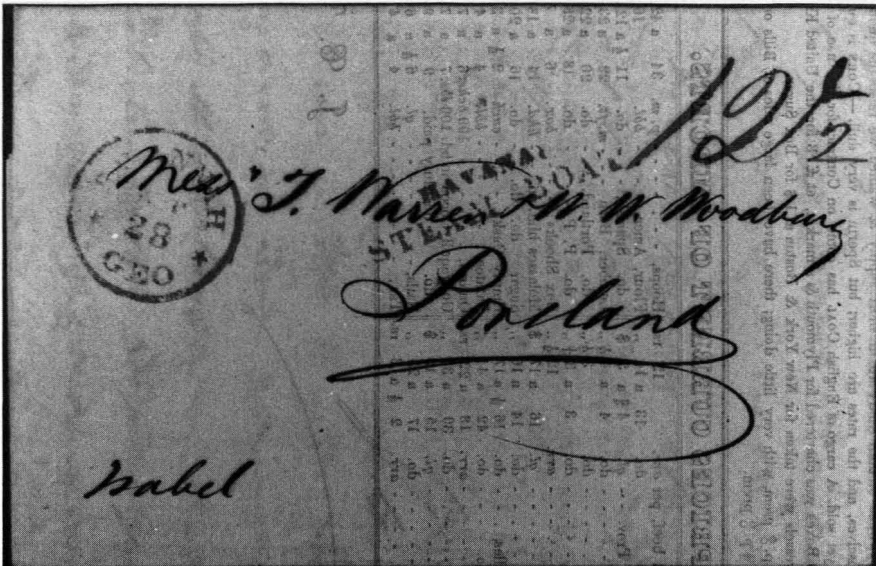


Figure 1. From Havana, Oct. 24, 1848, on first return trip of *Isabel*.

gle letter rate for Cuban mail and was effective until July 1, 1851. This is the earliest incoming steamship letter recorded.

The cover in Figure 2 originated in New York and was privately taken to Charleston where it was postmarked on Oct. 31 with a red cds and matching PAID. It was carried by the *Isabel* that steamed the following day on its second trip to Havana, where the cds "EMPRESA/N.AMERICA" and "1" (real due) were applied in red on Nov. 4, 1848. The "Empresa" was a private company, with a government contract to carry the mails between Spain and Cuba, that was also allowed to charge a local tax on incoming foreign letters. This is the earliest reported outgoing steamship cover although letters from the first southbound trip of the *Isabel* could still survive. The manuscript "12 1/2" indicated the prepaid single rate to Cuba. By January of 1849, rate handstamps for 12 1/2 cents were already in use at Charleston.

These are the only two 1848 steamship covers that I have recorded. Since the *Isabel* completed five round trips to Havana that year and the steamer *Falcon* left New York for



Figure 2. Cover (origin New York) mailed at Charleston Oct. 31, 1848, to Havana. Carried by *Isabel* on her second trip.

Chagres on December 1st, it is likely that careful scrutiny of maritime mail will reveal other examples. Additional information from the readers is gratefully appreciated.

Acknowledgment: The author is indebted to Theron Wierenga who provided a list of sailings and helpful discussions.

Reference

Theron Wierenga. *United States Incoming Steamship Mail: 1847-1875*. Muskegon, Michigan 1983.

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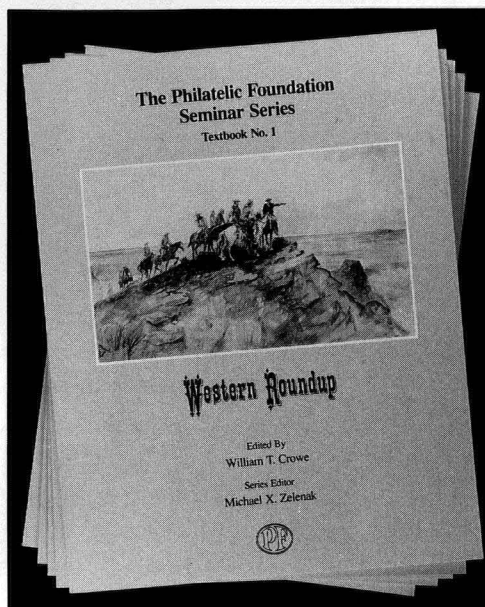


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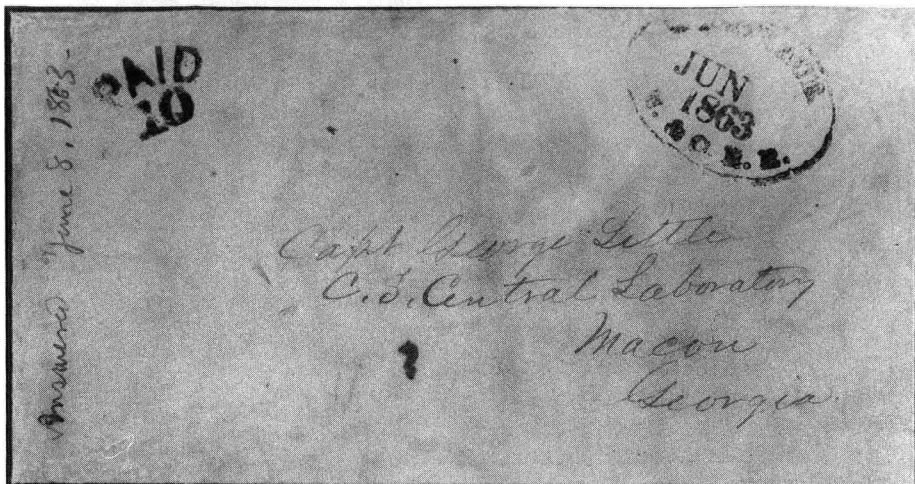


Figure 1. Confederate handstamped PAID 10.

Figure 1 shows a Confederate handstamped paid cover used in 1863 from Wartrace located in Tennessee about half-way between Nashville and Chattanooga on the N.&C. RR. For those interested in southern railroads during the Civil War the authoritative book is *The Railroads of the Confederacy* by Robert C. Black III. As published in 1952 by the University of North Carolina Press, it included an excellent map. The "Wartrace" in the oval marking on the cover was actually "Wartrace Depot" and prewar covers are known with this in manuscript. The nearby town of Wartrace had its own postal markings before and after the war. This cover is interesting because it is the only one recorded "PAID 10" and the basis of catalog listings. This is one of the "unique" C.S.A. items known and accepted as authentic, even though there is no reference material for comparison. A cogent

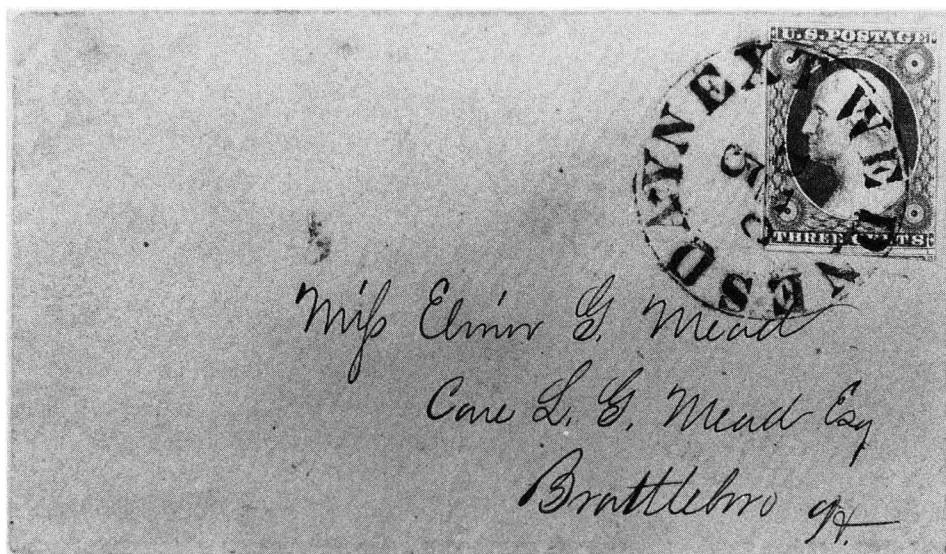


Figure 2. Unusual postmark on 3¢ 1851 cover.

comment concerning the address came in by Fax from Lewis Leigh, Jr., who correctly wrote:

The C.S. Central Laboratory at Macon, Georgia, was where Confederate ammunition, *i.e.*, small arms cartridges, were assembled, packaged and shipped from. It was one of a number of laboratories that the government operated to produce small arms ammunition, *i.e.*, cartridges for muskets and revolvers, and they always referred to these manufactories as laboratories.

Figure 2 shows a cover bearing a 3¢ 1851 U.S. stamp killed by an unusual marking. The only responder was William Hatton who writes:

The marking reads "NEXT WEDNESDAY" instead of "WEDNESDAY NEXT" because the "NEXT" starts under the date slug. The spacing was uniform until the last letters of "DAY," which were crowded in at the end. I've seen this cover before but cannot help explain the "why" or "where" of the marking.

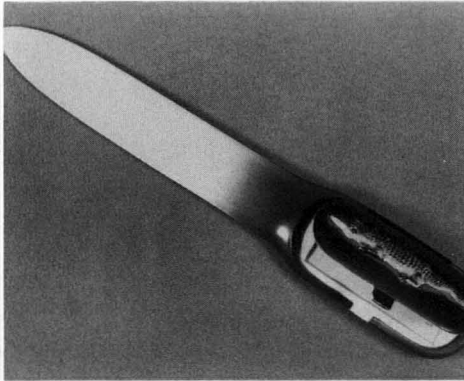


Figure 3a. Celluloid letter opener and stamp case.

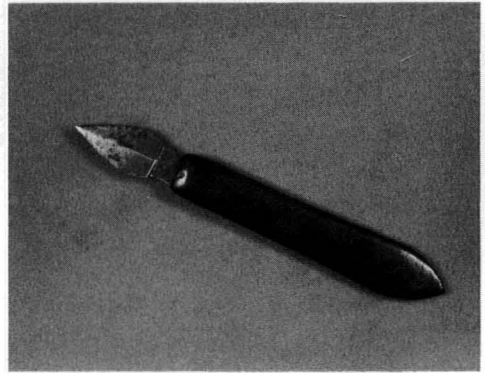


Figure 3b. Ink scraper or eraser.

Figures 3a, b and c show items related to letters. The response was resounding, with

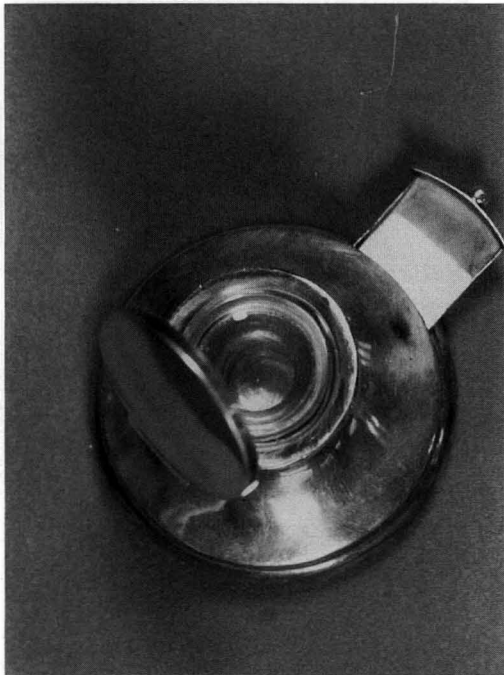


Figure 3c. Inkwell and stamp box.

requests for more. I purchased from Herman Herst, Jr., his collection of gadgets of this nature, and will show a few in issues to come. There were many verbal comments and written ones from Bernard Biales, William Hatton, Donald B. Johnstone, Bill Sturns and Frank Scheer of the Railway Mail Service Library. Most of the dozen or so responders correctly identified the objects. Here is a compilation of their comments:

Figure 3a. is a combination letter opener and stamp case. It is made of celluloid, a compound formulated over a century ago of nitrocellulose and camphor. Celluloid was once trademarked (by DuPont and American Cyanamid) and considered an exotic and valuable substance 100 years ago. It became common and generic, and is no longer made in the U.S. Objects made of celluloid can be found in antique shops and flea markets.

Figure 3b. is a scraper, or as described in an early (c. 1850) ad sent by Don Johnstone, a steel ink eraser. These were needed and used from the Middle Ages on, to correct errors on parchment. After papyrus, clay and wood, the writing surface used from the sixth century on was vellum, named from "veel," the skin of veal. Goats and lambs were also used, and the non-absorbent skin surface could have errors corrected by scraping ink off. Paper made in the 1800s could be scraped also, so these devices were widely used.

Figure 3c. is a combination inkwell and stamp box. From the size of the drawer, the stamps were of the 1894 Bureau Issue.

Chronicles No. 148 and 149 show a painting of a western fort, guessed to be circa 1850. No answer yet; and an interesting prize awaits the winner, who must submit some proof. The authorities now at Fort Bridger have written saying the location is not their's, and sent a sketch showing why. To one responder, the hills look like those of Dakota shown in "Dances with Wolves," the current Academy Award winner. Please take another look at the illustrations, and attempt a solution. It will be worth it.

PROBLEM COVERS FOR THIS ISSUE

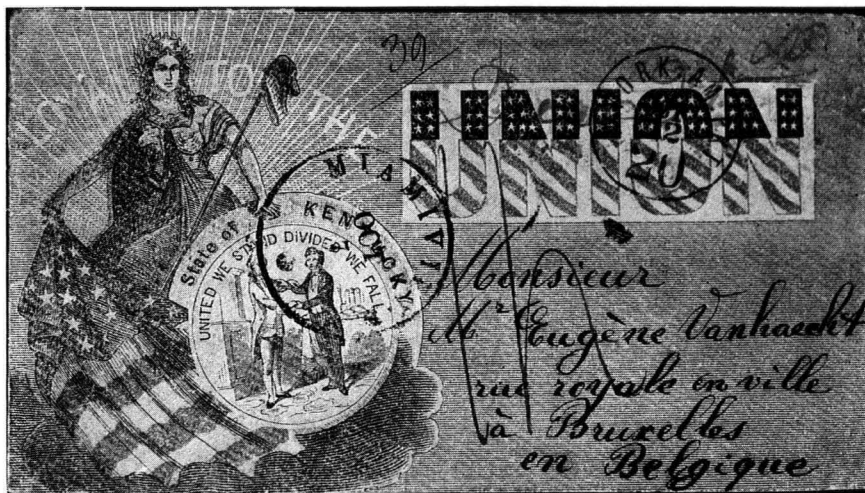


Figure 4. Patriotic cover to Belgium.

Figure 4 shows a Union patriotic sent to Belgium, with five markings. The cds of Miami, Ohio, reveals the year of usage. What is it? What was the postage charge, as shown by the markings?

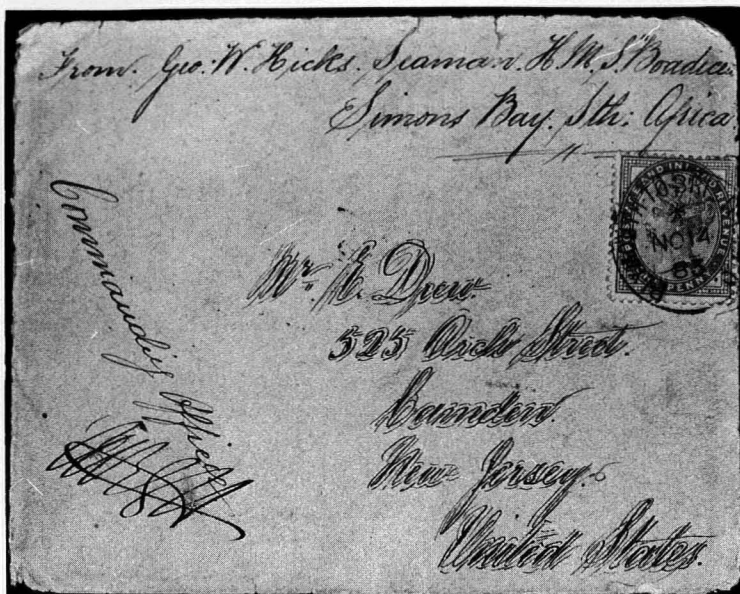


Figure 5a. Letter from South Africa to the U.S.

Figures 5a and 5b show the front and portion of the back of a cover to the U.S. in 1883. It bears a one penny stamp of Great Britain. We would all appreciate a reader's explanation of this cover, which originated at Simons Bay, South Africa.



Figure 5b. Reverse of cover in 5a.

Please send your answers, comments or suggestions soon after receiving your *Chronicle* to the Cincinnati P.O. Box or FAX, 513-563-6287.

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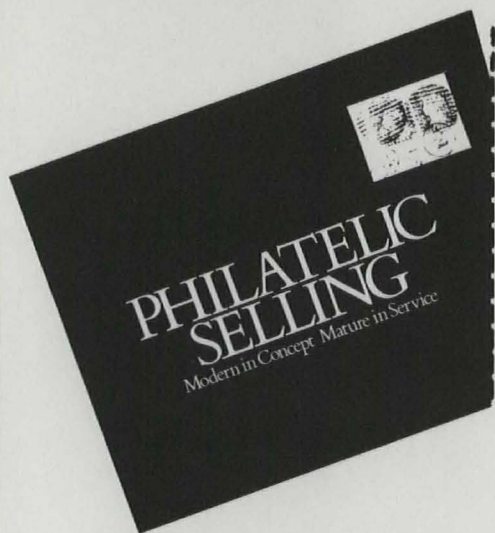
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