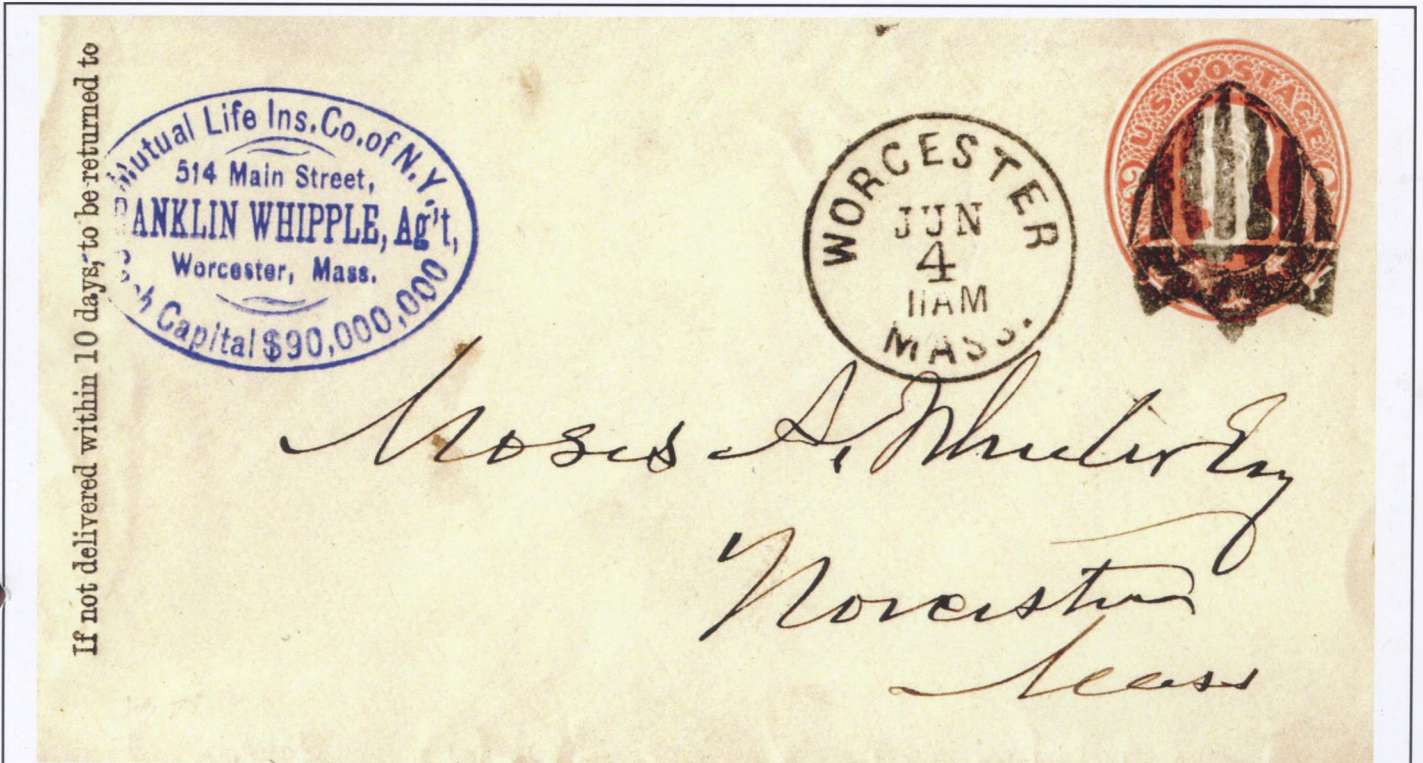




U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 35, No. 5, Whole No. 312, February 2020



Bob Trachimowicz is not quite finished with telling us about Worcester, Massachusetts – starting on page 107, he treats us to a gallery of Worcester fancy cancels, including the Cole SH-62 shield above.

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The Official Journal of the United States Cancellation Club



The United States Cancellation Club NEWS

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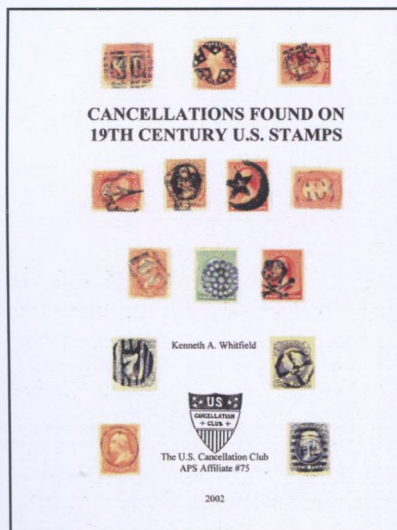
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The Fancy Cancels and Service Markings of Worcester, Massachusetts

Bob Trachimowicz

As a by-product of researching the oval and circular date stamp cancels used in Worcester (as published in the *NEWS* in August and November 2019), a number of fancy cancels and auxiliary marks were encountered. Some of the more interesting of these are shown below.

Skinner & Eno list a stylized butterfly on 1851 issues – PA-I 23. The example shown in Figure 1 looks to be a much clearer image than that shown in their book. The CDS is Style S-8.

Figure 2 is a Style S-11 CDS with a worn, or weakly-impressed, negative Star of David. Known on 1851 issues, it is listed as Whitfield 3400 and by Skinner & Eno as ST-6P 38a. The CDS style suggests a usage of 1854 or 1855.

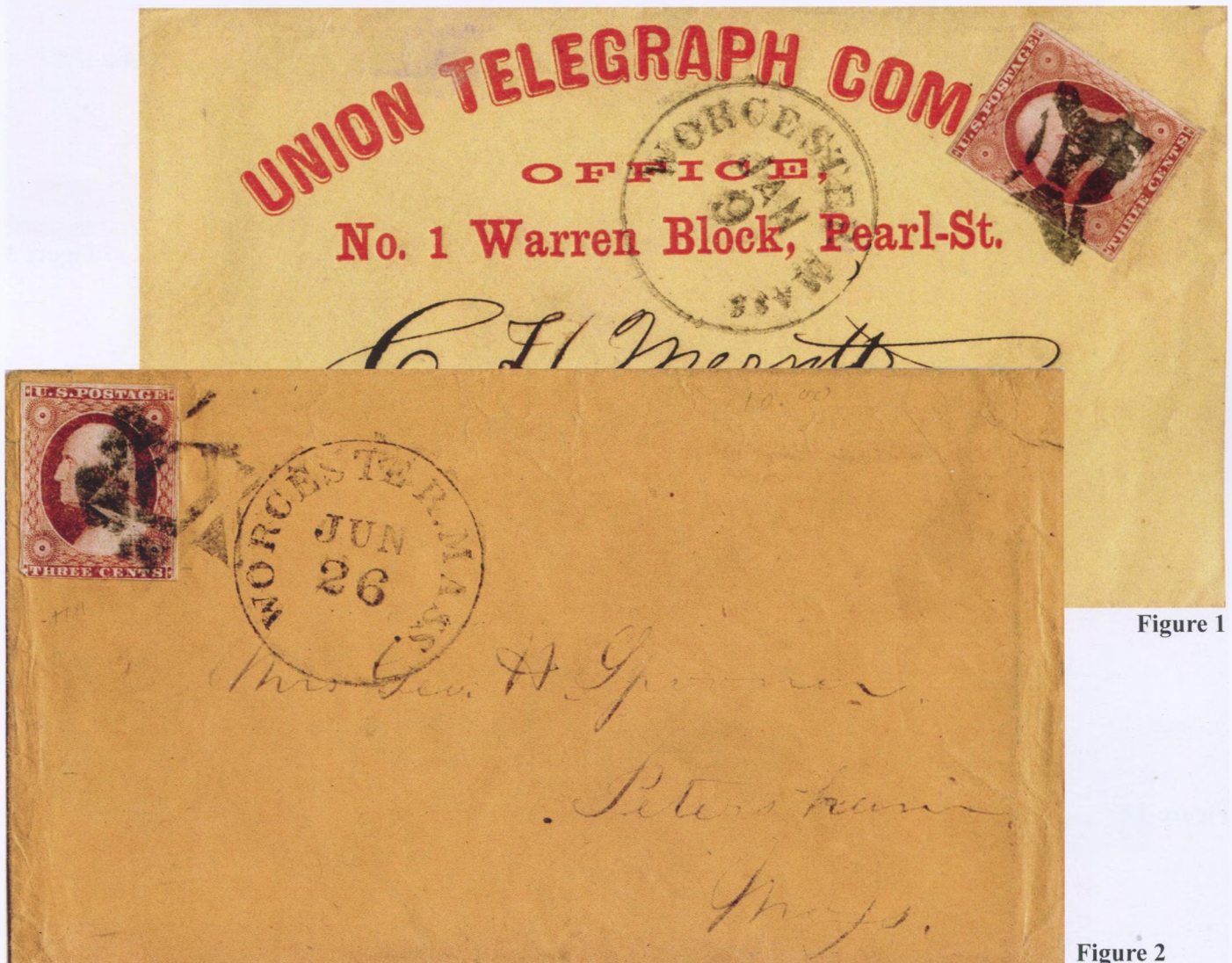


Figure 1

Figure 2

With a Style S-15 CDS, the cover shown in Figure 3 is franked by an 1857 issue stamp. As for the design of the killer, we will probably never know what the postal clerk was thinking when he carved it. It might be an unlisted spade, arrowhead, or quite likely, an inverted shield.

The cover shown in Figure 4 is cancelled by a Style S-16 CDS, now known to be in use in 1856 (and 1857). As for the unlisted fancy cancel, one might suggest it is a chess piece, possibly a pawn or rook.

The docketing on the cover illustrated in Figure 5 suggests a use of January 1869. The stamp is grilled, so it is a 1867 or 1868 issue. The CDS is a Style S-20, known in use from 1869 to 1875. 1869 appears to be correct! Some might see a right-facing profile of a man's head but it is anyone's guess what the two big cuts are meant to represent.



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

Figure 6 shows a Style S-22 CDS along with a lovely impression of a Whitfield 555, also known as HF-6 in Cole's book. The CDS style dates this cover around 1877-1881. Of note, Whitfield attributes the killer's motif with a fraternal (Odd Fellows) meaning, whereas Cole states it was to "help heal feelings after the Civil War." Earlier, the handshake motif is known to be seen on Union patriotic covers and was also part of the theme of posters supporting the 1868 presidential bid of Democrat, Horatio Seymour, who lost to Ulysses S. Grant. Cole notes a first use of December 21, 1880. The freshness of the killer on this postal card might suggest it was used earlier than that – on December 6, 1880.

The five-pointed star with an "S" in the center, seen in Figure 7, is not apparent in major literature sources. With the identical CDS style as the previous example, the postal card dates from c.1880.

Illustrated on the front page is an envelope impressed with a magnificent impression of a shield with six stars and six bars, classified by Whitfield as #1357 and by Cole as SH-62. Cole also offers a short usage period, April 21 to July 30, 1880, which accords with the known uses of this S-22 Style CDS.

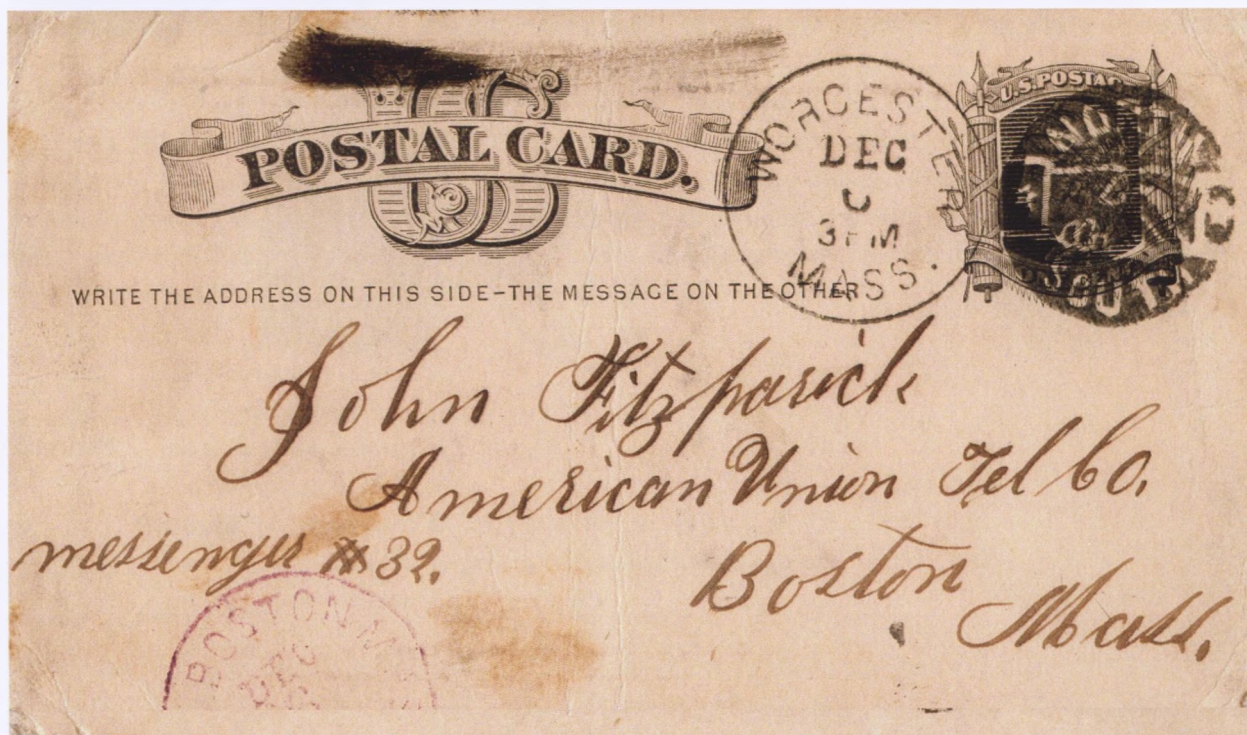


Figure 6

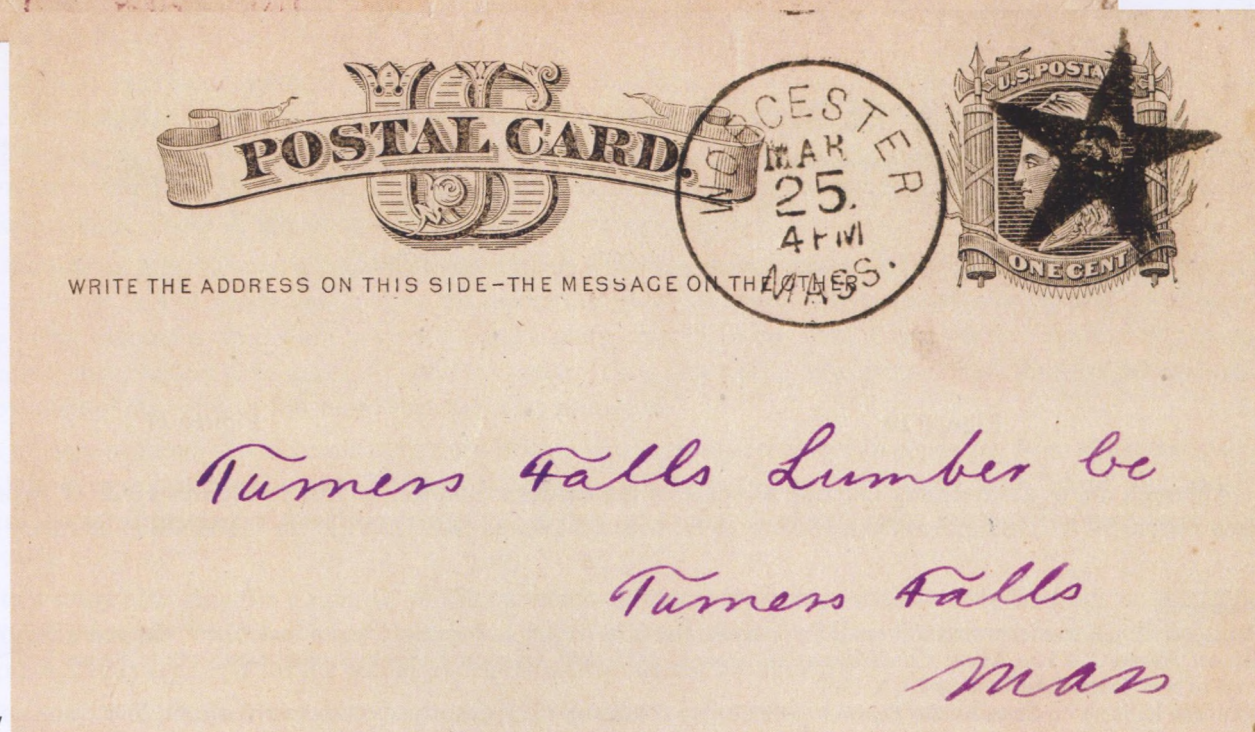


Figure 7

Figures 8 and 9 carry a CDS Style S-23 which incorporates a year date. A killer reminiscent of that shown in Figure 6 adorns Figure 8. Known by Whitfield as #557, Cole classifies it as HF-5 and attributes an EKU of December 4, 1881. The example shown here clearly brings that date back a full five months.

Our final fancy cancel, illustrated in Figure 9, shows a skull and crossbones inside a circle. This killer is known as Whitfield #170.



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11

Although not as aesthetically exciting as some of the earlier examples, as seen in Figures 10 & 11, Worcester also used a Style S-24 CDS, known from 1883 to 1891, with a duplexed "RECEIVED" or "TRANSIT" auxiliary marking. ■

References

Cole, James M., *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894*, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc., Napierville, IL, 1995.
 Skinner, Hubert C. & Eno, Amos, *United States Cancellations 1845-1869*, American Philatelic Society, State College, PA and Louisiana Heritage Press of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA, 1980.
 Whitfield, Kenneth A., *Cancellations Found on 19th Century U.S. Stamps*, U.S. Cancellation Club, Lewisburg, PA, 2002.

Large Negative Boston-Style Cancels of Portland, Maine Revisited (Part I)

Robert L. Conley

Among the most immediately recognizable cancels used during the U.S. Banknote era are the Boston "large negative" cancels, containing a single negative letter or number in the center, that were employed during the 1878-1883 period. These cancels are referred to as "large negative" cancels because Boston's post office had also used smaller cancels with a negative letter in the center just before the larger negatives appeared. While several other post offices are known to have used these Boston-style large negative cancels to some extent, Portland, Maine was by far the second-most prolific user.

In November 2005, the *NEWS* included an insert which listed the known Portland-originating cancels. Building on that, this new study has been in progress since the summer of 2018. Many USCC members were kind enough to share digital scans, information and, in some cases, entire collections were sent to me for scanning and recording.

Before we go any farther, I must acknowledge and thank the following who have assisted with this study: Nancy Clark, Vince Costello, Joe Crosby, Roger Curran, John Donnes, Bob Grosch, Dan Haskett, Christopher Perry, John Rdzak, Jim Stedman, Bill Tatham and John Valenti. Most of the illustrations seen here are from their collections.

The 2005 study adopted the classification system developed by Maurice Blake and Wilbur Davis in their 1949 book *Boston Postmarks to 1890*. That system is still appropriate and valid, and therefore it is perpetuated here. Further, given that a number of post offices used these same cancels, those originating in Portland are prefixed with the letter 'P'. The next subset of cancel description, in line with Blake and Davis is thus:

C	a solid circle
VC	an altered or varied 'C'
R	a 'C' with a negative ring
VR	an altered or varied 'R'
S	a solid square
VS	an altered or varied 'S'
L	an 'S' square with one negative, horizontal line above and below
VL	an altered or varied 'L'

The third subset is merely an indication of the alpha-numeric character – hence a 'J' in a solid square, from Portland, would be labelled 'P-S-J'. Beyond that, if there were two different types of '13' in a varied circle with negative ring, they would be known as 'P-VR-13-1' and 'P-VR-13-2'.

The earlier study into these Portland killers recorded 44 killer styles, of which 15 were illustrated. This study has found more than two dozen new styles and provides a tracing for every confirmed killer. The accompanying tables also provide additional usage dates, the number of strikes discovered to date, and any pertinent comments. Items listed as "Not seen" are those listed, but not illustrated, in 2005 and not detected or confirmed in this study – and therefore a tracing is not possible. Proof of existence would, of course, be welcomed.

Readers should note that the tracings shown are not in scale with each other – they are individually sized for consistency of presentation only. It will also be apparent to the reader that each style generally lasted no more than a few months, presumably being discarded once worn beyond a certain point. Yet there are some usage periods that extend beyond a year or more – these killers were generally used in clusters, i.e. a few uses over a month or so, then the device is put away for several months before a few more strikes occur, and so on.

Students of large negative cancels emanating from Boston will know that they began appearing from about the spring of 1878 and these were preceded by "small negative" cancels – for the purposes of this study, both "large" and "small" are considered together (as part of this "large negative" study), given that Portland's large and small cancels were used simultaneously.

Finally, this study also includes a number of killers which appear to have been made by the carvings of amateurs. They may, or may not, be considered "true" Boston-like large (or small) negative killers but they are included here given their contemporaneous use. It is for the reader to decide if they validly belong here.

The listing starts with the four unvariated styles used in Portland, followed by the varied styles.

Style	L/N	Description	EKU	LKU	#
P-C-5	5	in circle	20-Jul-80	25-Mar-81	16
P-C-10	10	in circle	29-Nov-81	8-Apr-82	21
P-C-11	11	in circle	21-Sep-81	22-Sep-81	3
P-C-12	12	in circle (somewhat oval)	19-May-82		1
P-C-13	13	in circle	4-Jan-82	17-May-83	3
P-C-A-1	A	in circle	24-Dec-80	18-Dec-81	13
P-C-A-2	A	in small circle	14-Aug-82	25-Sep-82	2
P-C-B	B	in small circle	6-Aug-83	16-Aug-83	3
P-C-D	D	in small circle	1-Nov-82	22-Sep-83	9
P-C-E-1	E	in circle, E with serif	3-Jun-80	2-Sep-80	19
P-C-E-2	E	in circle, E without serif	9-Jun-xx	Year unknown	1
P-C-H	H	in small circle	14-Aug-83	27-Aug-83	3
P-C-J	J	in small circle	15-Sep-82	22-Sep-82	5
P-C-M	M	in circle	3-Nov-82	30-Jul-83	25
P-C-N	N	in small circle	26-Oct-82		1
P-C-P	P	in small circle	20-Nov-xx	xx-Jan-xx	4

Note: Strikes for P-C-A-1, P-C-5 and P-C-H are in variable aspects in relation to the CDS.

Note: Generally, P-C-A-1 was used on an ink pad with a striated surface, similar to many strikes in Boston.



P-C-5



P-C-10



P-C-11



P-C-12



P-C-13



P-C-A-1



P-C-A-2



P-C-B



P-C-D



P-C-E-1



P-C-E-2



P-C-H



P-C-J



P-C-M



P-C-N



P-C-P



Compare the "normal" (or "large") circle size for P-C-5 and P-C-J's "small" circle – the former easily covers the entire Liberty indicia.



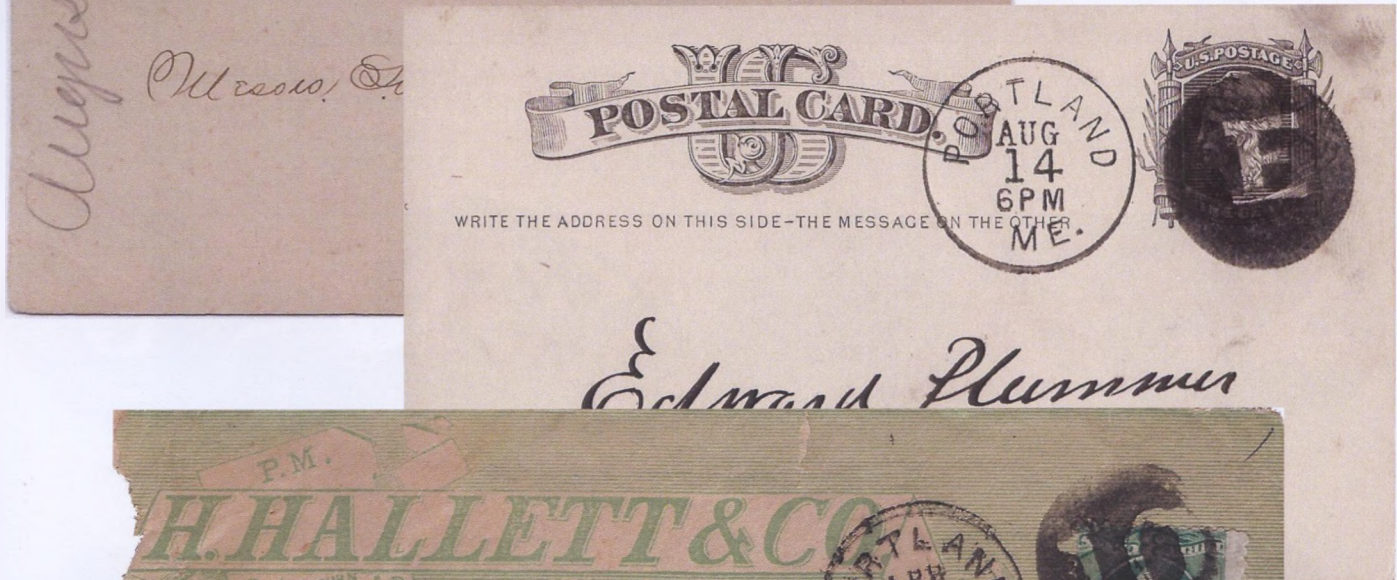
The resemblance between these two strikes of a negative D in a small circle is uncanny – yet they originate in two different post offices and were struck at least four years apart.



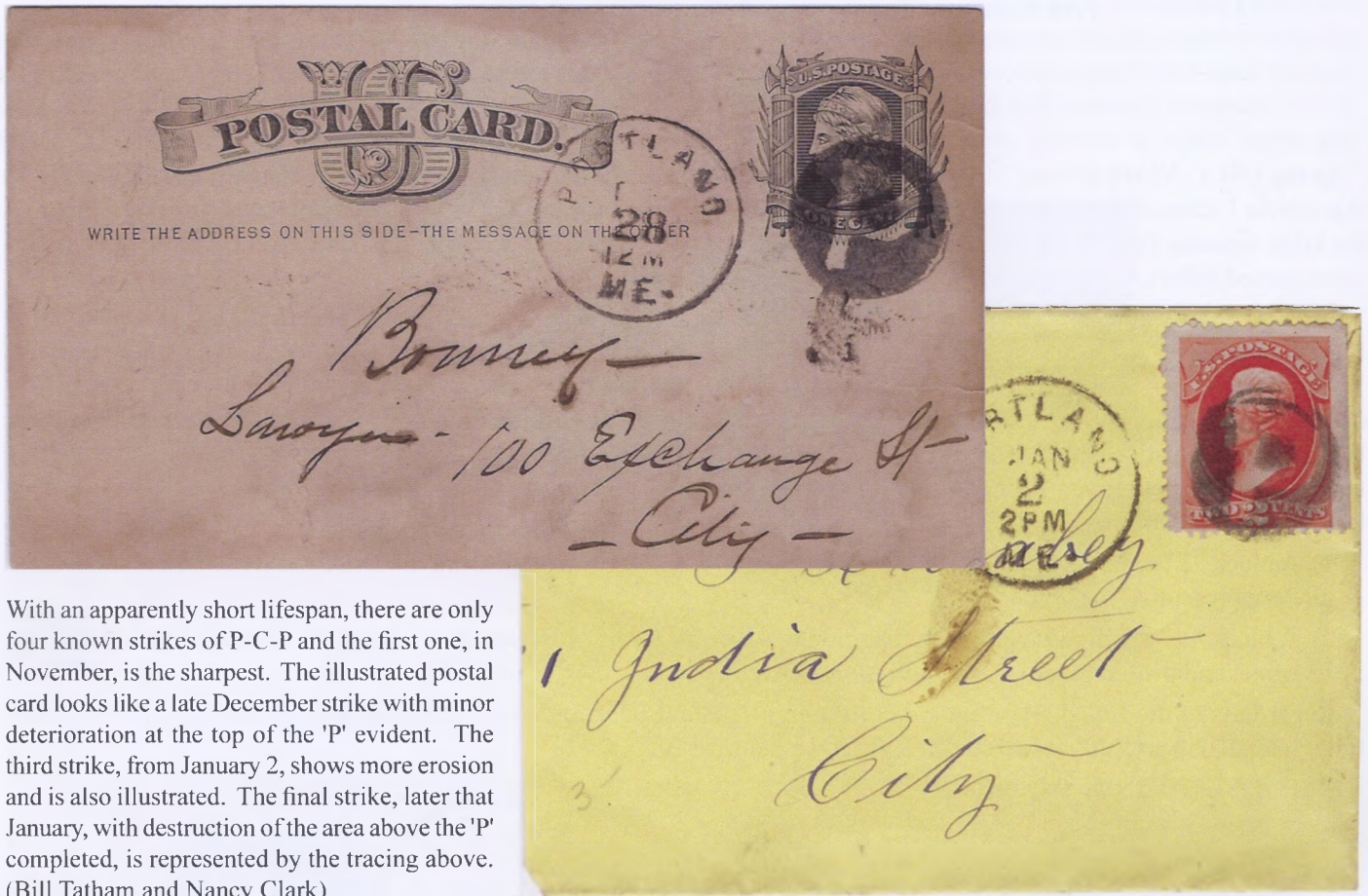
As noted above, P-C-5 was a killer that moved around. The two strikes above, just 24 hours apart, show a movement of over 90 degrees.



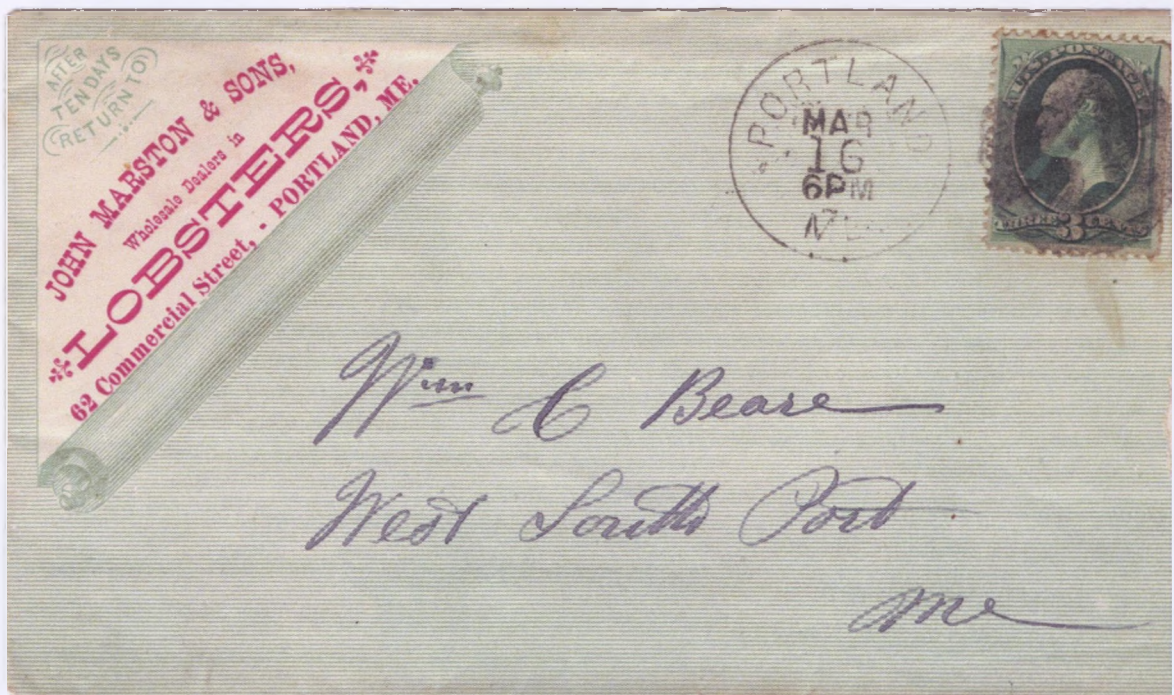
The direction of striations on strikes of P-C-A-1 was dependent on the angle of the ink pad in relation to the device.



A lovely, clean strike of the rare P-C-B, the very common P-C-E-1 and the last known strike of a P-S-10 showing the wear of over four months of heavy use. (From the collections of Bill Tatham and the author)



With an apparently short lifespan, there are only four known strikes of P-C-P and the first one, in November, is the sharpest. The illustrated postal card looks like a late December strike with minor deterioration at the top of the 'P' evident. The third strike, from January 2, shows more erosion and is also illustrated. The final strike, later that January, with destruction of the area above the 'P' completed, is represented by the tracing above. (Bill Tatham and Nancy Clark)



Unfortunately for those of us who appreciate the beauty and creativity that some advertising covers offer, Portland large negative cancels overwhelmingly adorn bland postal cards or plain envelopes. This 1881 cover is a welcome exception to the rule. Carrying a striated P-C-A-1 cancel, this delightful cover advertises a local wholesaler of Maine's iconic lobster. (John Donnes)

End of Part I.

19th Century Town-Named Hand Carved Killers: a Follow-up

John Valenti

In the USCC NEWS of May 2019, I wrote an article entitled “19th Century Town-Named Hand Carved Killers.” In that article I identified two killers, both from the 1870-80s Banknote period, where the town name appears as part of the killer separate from the town postmark. Further review of items that I have handled as a dealer revealed additional town-named killers, not previously identified in major references.

Lodi is in Seneca County, upstate New York in the Finger Lakes area and its post office has been around since 1829. Figure 1 shows a UX5 postal card postmarked in Lodi on August 25, (1877), when the town population was then around 1,900. The killer – not duplexed to the postmark – at first appears to be a large circle containing a possible geometric or letter combination. Figure 2 shows a close up of the cancellation impression with digital enhancement. I believe that close examination reveals that this killer spells out the LODI town name. Because smudging to the left center of the killer makes definitive reading difficult, I propose two possible ways that the four letters array to spell out the word LODI in capital letters:

- 1). A block “L” at left, a block “I” in the middle, a block “D” to the right (using the letter I as its spine), and the large circle representing the letter “O”.
- 2). A block “L” at left, a block “I” in the middle, a lower case “d” between the “L” and “I” that uses the letter “I” as its spine, and the letter “O” to the right of the letter “I”.

Regardless of the actual representation of the four letters, I believe that all can agree that the carver of this unusual killer intended to stylishly write out the Lodi town name in full.



Figure 2

Figure 1



Figure 3

A second new example comes from the west central Vermont post office in West Rutland, which has been operating since 1826. Figure 3 shows the detail of a duplexed strike on a UX7 postal card postmarked January 27, (1882). The killer reads “WEST RUTLAND ♦” in a circular layout surrounding a central hollow triangle.

Subsequent to the publication of my original article, it occurred to me that it did not address town-named killers that appear on registered mail from the late 19th century. Such mail will typically have a postmark entirely separate from the killer and in a style that may be unrelated to the stamp killer. Figures 4 and 5 show two examples that I have located. Bound for Philadelphia, the first example is from Denver, Colorado in 1886, cancelled with a simple unserifed font in black. The second example, dated December 1, 1897 hails from Woodland, California, the seat of Yolo County and situated 15 miles northwest of Sacramento.

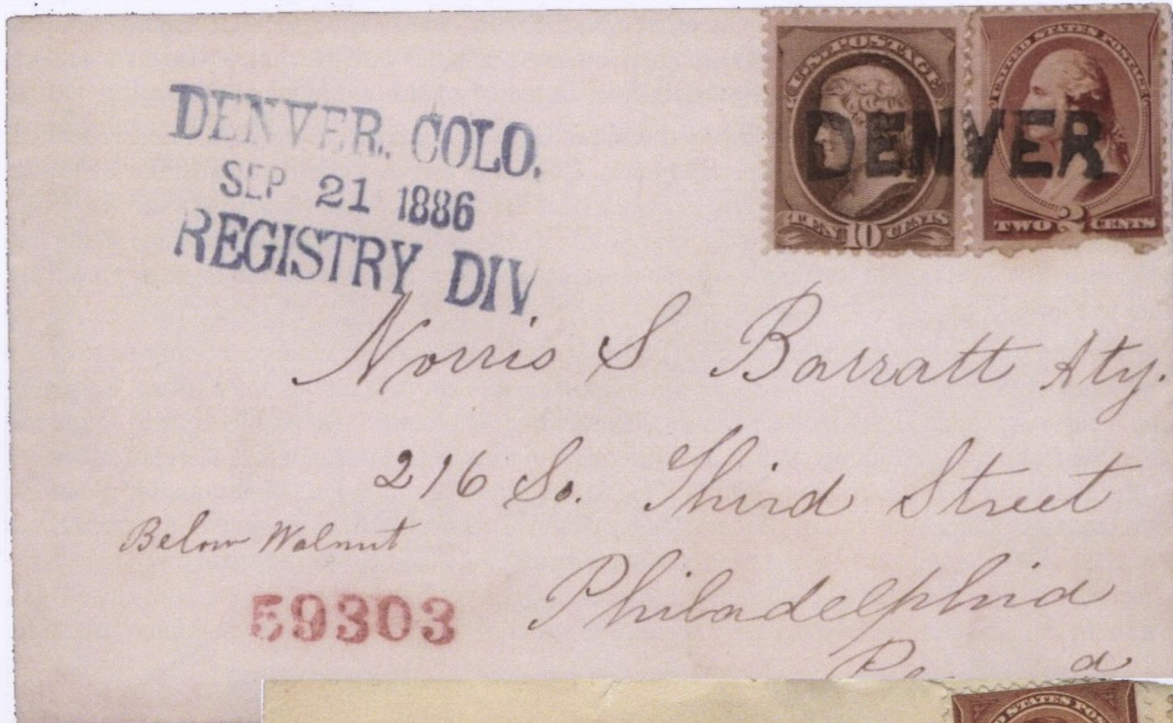


Figure 4



Figure 5

The author – contact information is on the masthead – would be most interested hearing from readers who can identify additional examples. ■

Slotted Baltimore Foreign Mail Datestamps

Ardy Callender

During the nineteenth century, postal treaties designated certain post offices known as exchange offices to rate, dispatch and receive correspondence between the United States and other countries. In 1861, Baltimore, Maryland, became an exchange office, exchanging mail with both France (April) and Prussia (May)¹. Treaties with the United Kingdom included Baltimore as an exchange office in November 1865 and subsequently in January 1868 and January 1869².

The Baltimore foreign mail office processed predominately transatlantic mail. Letters were weighed, rated, cancelled, sorted and placed in mailbags. Two steamship lines operated out of Baltimore carrying contract mails: the Baltimore & Liverpool Steamship Company with direct service to Liverpool (October 1865 - September 1868) and the North German Lloyd Line with direct service to Bremen with a call at Southampton (March 1868 until sometime in the late 1870s). Contract mails were not carried on all voyages, with the majority of contract mail transiting to either New York or Boston for departure to Europe.

A careful review of philatelic databases reveals the true scarcity of Baltimore foreign mail covers. Prior to 1865, Baltimore cancelled adhesives solely by the datestamp, a common practice in most post offices at this time. Baltimore used a large date stamp measuring about 31mm in diameter which was struck in blue ink. Dated July 8, 1861, Figure 1³ illustrates an example of the Baltimore datestamp used as an obliterator on a cover to Baden-Baden, Germany. Sent by Prussian Closed Mail, the 30¢ single rate was paid by a 30¢ 1857-1861 Regular Issue adhesive. This attractive mourning cover was addressed to Baroness Vincent de Lenill, Baden-Baden, Grand Duchy of Baden, Europe. Forwarded on to Boston from Baltimore, the cover received a Boston datestamp containing a "7 Paid" indicating the credit owed to Prussia. The cover departed July 10, 1861 on the Cunard Line steamer, *Europa*. On arrival at Aachen, Prussia, the closed mail bag was opened on a train by a postal crew and the mail was sorted and struck with the boxed "Aachen Franco" marking.



Figure 1

Between 1865 and 1868, Baltimore changed to duplex cancellations which were struck in both blue and black ink. The datestamp was smaller than that used earlier and was duplexed to a series of cut corks and target cancels. An example dated September 28, 1866 is shown as Figure 2⁴. It was sent at the fully prepaid 27¢ single rate to Rome, Italy. On arrival in New York City it received a "N. York Am Pkt Paid" marking dated September 19, (1866) and sailed on the Havre Line steamer, *Fulton*. The smudged cork cancellation ties the 24¢ 1861-1865 Regular Issue stamp towards the bottom (under a second strike of the datestamp).

After 1868 (but prior to the GPU/UPU), Baltimore continued to apply an array of duplexed cut cork and target cancellations. However, red ink was now used almost exclusively, except for a short period in 1873. A pristine mourning cover addressed to Rome, Italy is shown here as Figure 3. The cover is part of a large correspondence sent to the Rev. S. Chatard at the American College in Rome. Officially known as the 'American College of the Roman Catholic Church of the United States', the institution was opened December 9, 1859. Reverend Francis Silas Chatard was the rector from

1868 until he left to become the bishop for Vincennes, Indiana in 1878. The 10¢ 1870-1871 National Bank Note Issue (without grill) is cancelled "socked on the nose" by a red 4-ring target cancel. Unfortunately, the French receiving mark is struck too weakly to establish a year date but it is probably 1871 or 1872.

As mentioned above, a different color of ink (ultramarine) was used for a short period in 1873; an example is shown here as Figure 4. The cover, addressed in care of James W. Tucker and Co., Paris, France, was sent at a time when the postal treaty between the United States and France had expired. However, as Britain had treaties with both France and the U.S., mail could be sent to France via Britain. Fully prepaid rates at 10¢ per 10 grams were announced in October 1871. The three 3¢ and 1¢ 1870-1871 National Bank Note Issue (without grill) stamps pay the 10¢ rate and are cancelled by four strikes of a Baltimore ultramarine cut cork. Dated August 22, 1873, the cover was sent on to New York City arriving the next day sailing on the Inman Line steamer, *City of Montreal*. The "6" credit in the NY datestamp indicates the amount credited to Britain.



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

After the United States' entry into the GPU/UPU (on July 1, 1875), Baltimore continued using duplexed corks but now with black ink. A mourning cover dated just four months after the start of GPU/UPU Treaty is shown as Figure 5^s. The mourning cover is from the Reverend Chatard correspondence to the American College in Rome. Dated October 8, 1875, the 10¢ 1873 Continental Bank Note adhesive is cancelled by a duplexed cut cork struck in black ink. Baltimore's foreign mail office continued to use black ink well into the twentieth century. It is not known whether the 10¢ 1873 Continental Bank Note Issue stamp paid the older (October 1871- GPU) Treaty rate or is a double payment of newly established GPU rate. As there is no docketing regarding ship preference, the letter would have departed NYC October 10, 1875 on either the Inman Line, *City of Richmond* or the White Star Line, *Baltic*.

At least as early as April 1878, Baltimore employed a new duplex in which the datestamp had small breaks around the periphery. The author has referred to this style of datestamp as slotted. The slots or breaks remain consistent in all examples observed so it seems as if there was only a single device. Its use is confined to foreign destination mail and therefore it is assumed to have been used in the Baltimore Foreign Mail Office. The duplex was in use for at least 11 years as examples are known from 1878-1888. It has been found struck on foreign first class mail, postal cards and circular/printed matter rate material. Dated 2 April 1878, the earliest example is shown as Figure 6. Addressed to Monsieur L Paillet, A Chateau Les Sceaux, Pres (near) Paris, France, the overpaid (by 1¢) cover is franked by a pair of 3¢ 1873 Continental Bank Note adhesives cancelled by two strikes of the slotted datestamp/cut cork duplex. In New York City, the cover was placed aboard the Guion Line steamer, *Idaho* receiving no New York markings. The Chateau de Sceaux, located 6 miles from Paris, was built in 1597, destroyed during the French Revolution and rebuilt in 1862 and exists today as a museum.



Figure 5



Figure 6

Figure 7 illustrates another slotted datestamp on a folded letter to Messrs. Pouchan & Noel, Bordeaux, France. Most duplexed cork cancellations used in conjunction with the slotted datestamps are over-inked and appear smudged or smeared. However, the quartered cork cancellation struck on the 5¢ 1879 American Bank Note adhesive on this folded letter is clear. Forwarded on to NYC, the letter sailed October 30, 1880 on the Inman Line steamer, *City of Berlin* as noted on the docket at upper left.

A pair of postal card uses is shown as Figures 8 and 9. The earlier of the two dated May 21, 1883, was sent to Mous. L' Abbe Adam Pfab, Santa Maria in Mouterone, Rome, Italy. The up-rated postal card (1¢ 1881-1885 American Bank Note Issue adhesive) is struck by the Baltimore slotted duplex with the obliterator resembling two closely spaced cut corks. However, since there is no doubling of the datestamp, it seems a wider cork was simply cut in this fashion. This interpretation is confirmed by a second matching example (Figure 8) struck 19 months later. The postal card was sent on to NYC where it departed May 24, 1883 on the Cunard Line steamer, *Parthia*.

The postal card shown as Figure 9 is addressed to M. le Prof. Max Bonnet, Montpellier, France. Dated December 30, 1884, it received the same cancellation as seen on the postal card discussed above. Sent on to NYC, the postal card left the next day on the Cunard Line steamer, *Aurania*. The postal card includes a message regarding the review of a paper in the *American Journal of Philology*, a publication which first appeared in 1880 and is still published today.



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

Baltimore's slotted datestamp was also used to cancel circular/printed matter rate material. The datestamp was used as a simplex device, not duplexed to an obliterator. An example of a prices current flyer is shown as Figure 10. Sent to Messrs. Boninger Kramer & Co., Amsterdam, Holland, the flyer is franked by a 1¢ 1881-1885 American Bank Note issue stamp tied by a simplex strike of Baltimore's slotted datestamp. A purple merchant's oval on the reverse for Brothers, Boninger dates the circular to January 23, 1886. Forwarded on to NYC, it departed January 26, 1886 on the Guion Line steamer, *Wisconsin* and arrived in Amsterdam on February 5, 1886 (receiving backstamp).

The latest example recorded by the author is shown as Figure 11. Dated April 20, 1888, the cover is addressed to Frau F Deissner, Schoenebeck, Prussia and includes a four-page letter written in German. The 5¢ brown Garfield (1881-1885 American Bank Note Issue) is struck 'socked on the nose' by an indistinct cork cancellation. The cover departed Saturday October 21, 1888 on either the Cunard Line, *Servia*, White Star Line, *Baltic* or the Inman Line, *City of Chicago* as steamer is not specified by docket.

As previously mentioned, Baltimore foreign mail covers are not common. The Baltimore Foreign Mail office employed other styles of duplex devices concurrently with slotted datestamps. Baltimore's slotted date stamp appears to have been duplexed solely to cork cancellations. At least as early as 1886, the BFM office began using ellipse cancellations duplexed to a solid rimmed datestamp. Dated July 6, 1886, an example is shown here as Figure 12. Addressed to Miss Mary E. Homes, Midland Grand Hotel, London, England, the 5¢ 1881-1885 American Bank Note adhesive is tied by a solid datestamp duplexed to an indistinct 9-bar horizontal ellipse. Although illegible, a circled number appears at the center of the ellipse. The letter departed Thursday July 8, 1886 on the White Star Line steamer *Adriatic* from New York City.

Club members sharing interest in Baltimore Foreign Mail are invited to correspond with the author by contacting the editor. ■

Figure 10

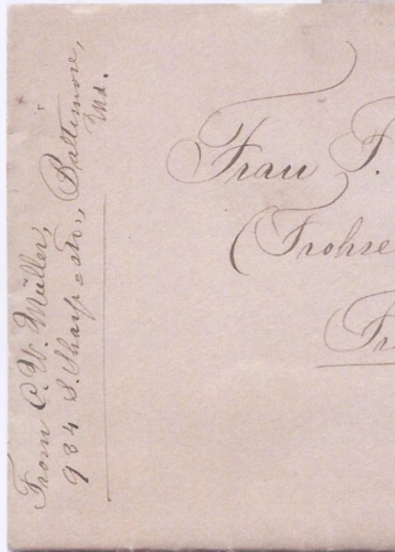
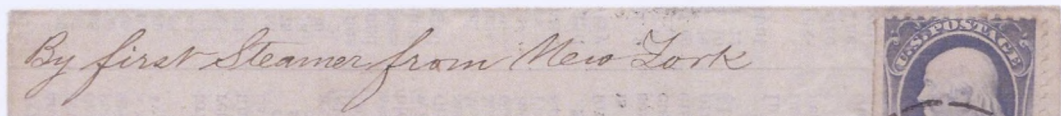
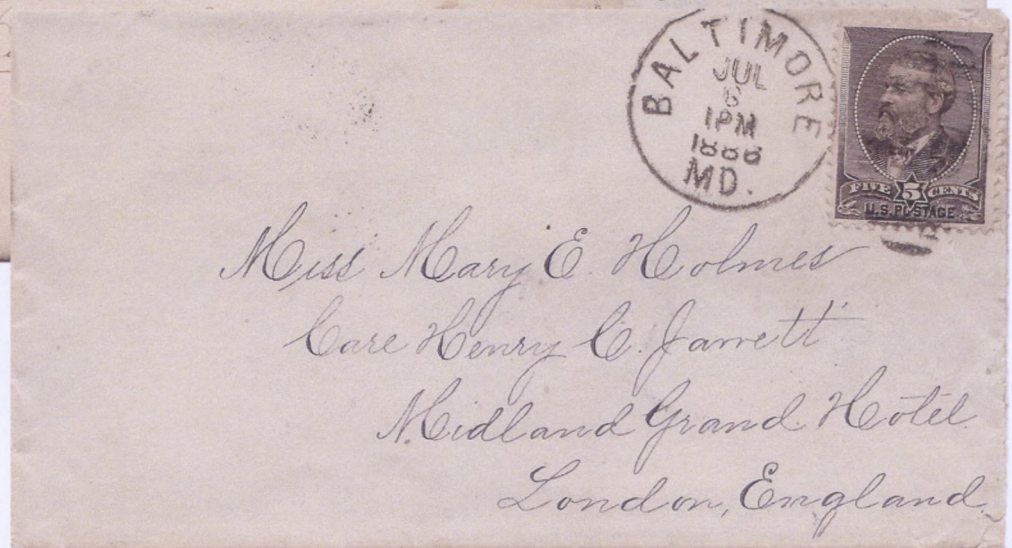


Figure 11

Figure 12



References

1. Winter, Richard, F, Understanding Transatlantic Mail Volume 1, American Philatelic Society, 2006, p. 451.
2. *ibid.*
3. Image from Schuyler Rumsey website 2017, Sale 72, lot 85
4. Image from Richard Frajola website – PhilaMercury Project, Cover ID 1762.
5. Image from Schuyler Rumsey website 2013, Sale 52, lot 1325.

Solid Center or "Black Ball" Ellipses (Part III)

Ardy Callender

Notched Barrel Solid Ellipses

Also within this Differing Ring/Core Category are solid ellipses which possess a notch on either side of the barrel with two horizontal bars above and below. These ellipses have a single ring which varies in thickness. Burr illustrates three examples¹⁰ which are shown here as Figure 21. Whether or not the first ellipse belongs within solid group is debatable as the interior core is no more than a small dot. Burr reports this small centered cancellation from Amsterdam, NY.

The second tracing has a thicker ring and heavier central core which measures 5mm. This style of ellipse was very popular as it has been reported from many different cities. Burr reports this cancellation from two cities: Schenectady, NY and Easton, PA. Cole illustrates the same ellipse from Moline, IL and Ottumwa, IA.¹¹ Willard includes reports one from Middleton, CT.¹² The author can report the same cancellation on cover from Amherst, MA, Brockport and Port Jervis, NY, Hot Springs, AR, Portsmouth and Painesville, OH and, out west, in Virginia City, NV. Two examples from these places are shown below.

The lovely paint brush advertising cover from Easton (Figure 22) is dated December 29, 1885 and is cancelled by a strike of the single ring, notched barrel ellipse. A Plimpton entire (Figure 23) from Moline appears to struck by by obliterator identical the one from Easton. Used as early as 1886, Moline's duplex saw usage into at least the mid 1890s.

The size of the solid core in Burr's third tracing is 6mm. It appears to have the same heavy ring as seen in the "Easton ellipse." An example on cover has not been seen by the author and its city of origin is unknown.

A notched ellipse possessing an interior core measuring 4mm has been recorded from three offices in Texas: Denison, Houston and Waco. Perhaps a local handstamp maker produced an ellipse modeled after the readily available "Easton" types, with a slightly smaller core size. The ellipse has the same sized heavy internal ring as seen within the "Easton" type ellipses but "Texas" variety ellipses are 1mm smaller in both length and width.

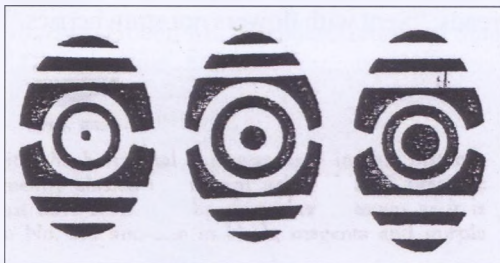


Figure 21



Figure 22

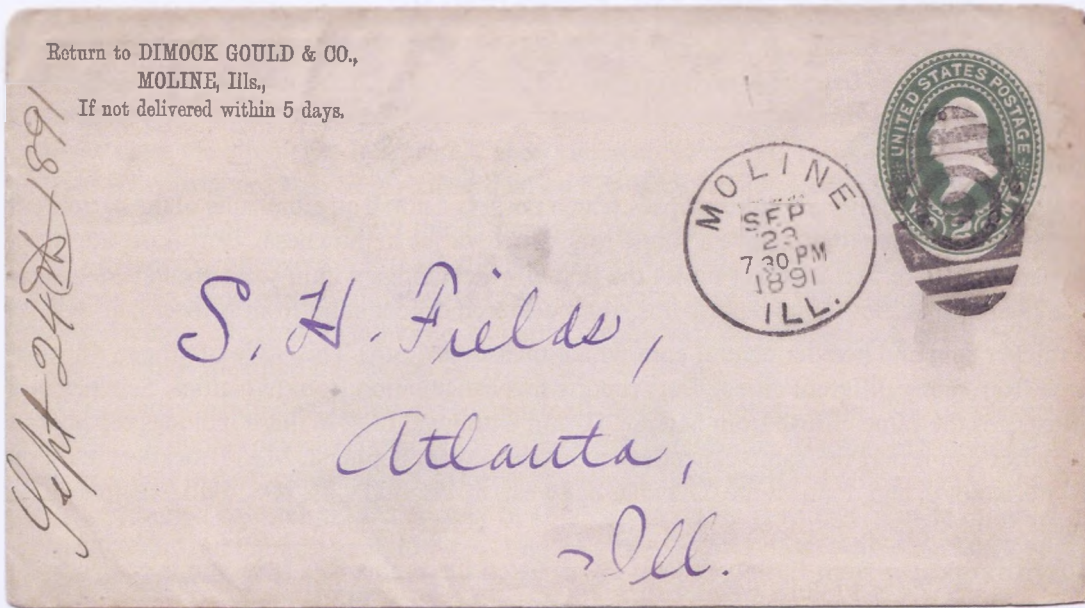


Figure 23

A penalty card originating in Denison, TX with the 4mm central core is shown as Figure 24. Dated November 12, 1894, it was addressed to Bakersfield, CA. The “request for better address” card states that a letter arrived at the Denison Post Office without a street address and the “party is unknown to us” but that the letter will be held in “General Delivery subject to call.” “If the sender could supply a better address” (to be written on the reverse of the card and returned to the Denison Post Office) letter carriers would deliver the letter. Whether or not the card was returned is unknown as the reverse of the card remains blank.

An example from Houston is shown as Figure 25. Addressed to Livingston, TX, the 2¢ Red Brown 1881 American Bank Note stamp is struck towards bottom with a clearly legible strike of the 4mm solid centered ellipse. The Houston datestamp indicates the letter was sent March 16, 1887. A cryptic docket at left reads: “Sent with flowers not strawberries.”



Figure 24



Figure 25

One final type of ellipse included in this group is shown as Figure 26. The figure taken from Burr's article¹³ has 11 thin horizontal bars but lacks the barrel observed in the other designs discussed above. There is a widely-spaced single ring encompassing the 5 mm central core. Burr reports the cancellation from Auburndale, OH and an example on cover is shown as Figure 27. Dated August 1, 1885, the 2¢ entire is addressed to The Boice Rivet Co., Muncie, Indiana. The indicia is cancelled by a legible strike of the duplex showing the wide spacing of the single ring in the ellipse. The doubling around the datestamp and margins of the ellipse is a result of the heavy strike of the duplex. The apparent extra ring just inside of the bars of the ellipse is also due to the same forceful strike and some over-inking of the cancelling device.



Figure 26

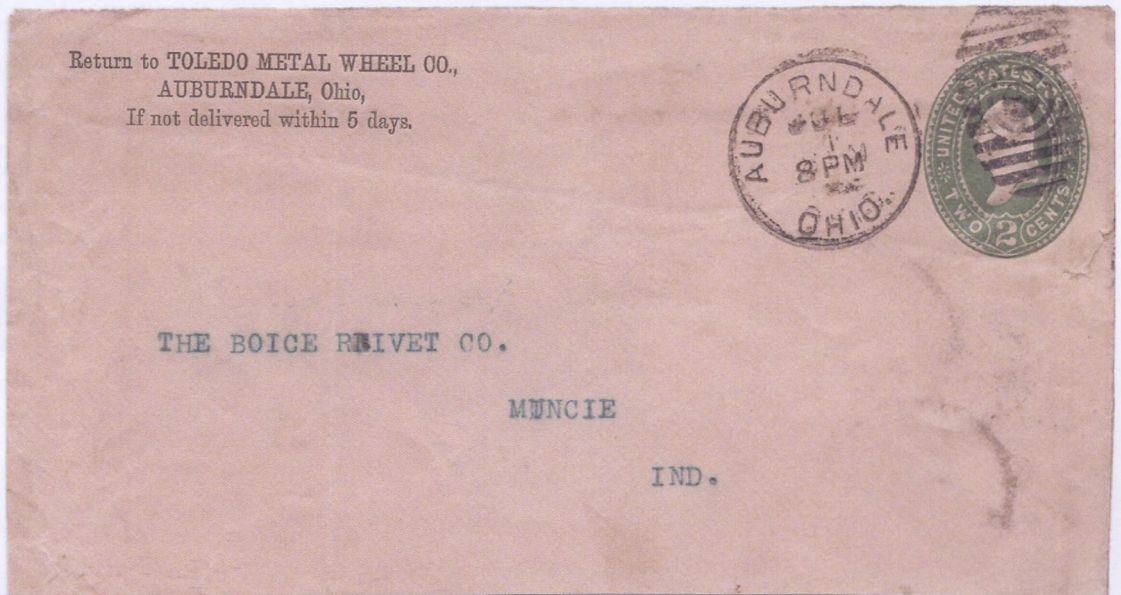



Figure 27

Notes:

- 10. Burr, Gilbert M., "Standardized Hand Stamp Cancellations on the Bank Note Issues", *The American Philatelist*, 1935.
- 11. Cole, James, M, *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era, 1870-1894*, The U.S. Classics Society, Inc., 1995.
- 12. Willard, Edward L., *The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887*, H. L. Lindquist Publications, Inc., 1970.
- 13. Burr, Gilbert M., "Standardized Hand Stamp Cancellations on the Bank Note Issues", *The American Philatelist*, 1935.




End of Part III.



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Noted in Passing

Roger D. Curran

Figure 1 illustrates a Baltimore, Maryland cover with the Scott 65 stamp canceled by a "PAID" marking. A considerable number of post offices, of course, used "PAID" handstamps on these stamps. Indeed, George Linn, founder of *Linn's Stamp News*, authored a 1995, small book specifically on this subject: *The PAID Markings on the 3C U.S. Stamp of 1861*. But to find a "PAID" cancel from a big city post office is very unusual. Boston is another example, but where else? I suspect the Figure 1 example was not part of any regular use of such a cancel but rather the result of a happenstance situation.

Linn's book does show what seems clearly to be the Figure 1 cancel, reported in blue ink, but Mr. Linn didn't know where it came from – see Figure 2. He also illustrated a second Baltimore cancel that is occasionally seen cancelling Scott 65 stamps – see Figure 3. This was used at an earlier time as a stampless cover marking.



Figure 2



Figure 3

Figure 1

The *NEWS* occasionally features fancy cancels occurring later than what is considered to be the fancy cancel era which ended in the 1890s. After 1900, use of such cancels was down to a trickle. The "V" cancel in Figure 4 was struck on October 30, 1902. The Fairview, Illinois postmaster at the time was Matthew V. D. Voorhees who was appointed on May

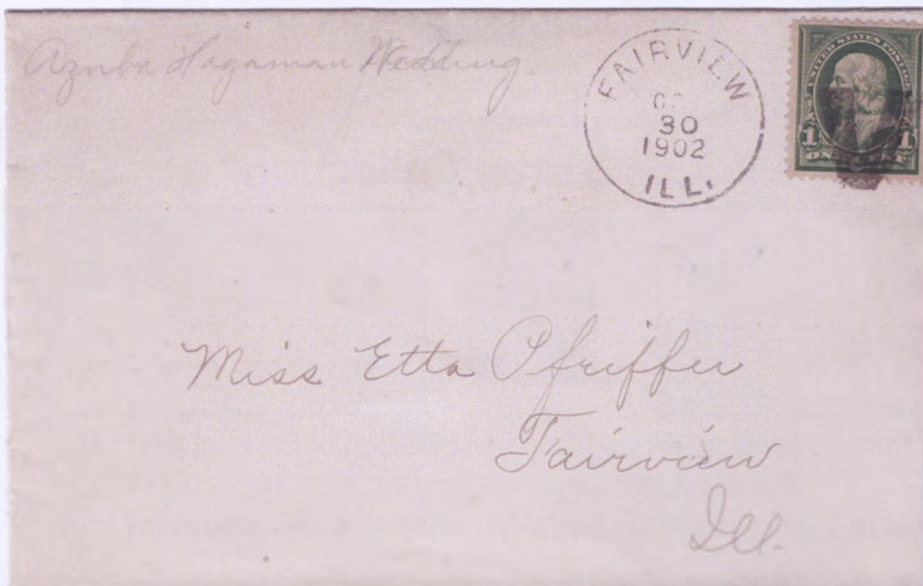


Figure 4

28, 1902 and served until July 6, 1908. The Fairview post office, Fulton County, is an operating post office established in 1838 and sits around 32 miles west of Preoria. There is a penciled reference to Azuba Hagaman's wedding at the top of the locally addressed cover. Thus it is possible that it contained a wedding announcement or invitation.

Editor's Note:

Indeed, Azuba Hagaman (1880-1966) did marry a Thomas T. Smith (1875-1952) on October 30, 1902 – the same day as the circular date stamp. Presumably, the writer was informing the addressee that he or she was attending the wedding later that same day – or the wedding was earlier in the day! Cpl. Smith was a veteran of the Spanish-American War and became a dentist. Never to produce any children, the couple spent their entire married life, and died, in Canton Township, Fulton County, IL.

The cover in Figure 5 could be described as bearing a “pumpkinhead” cancel, one that has not previously been reported in the literature. New York City cancels, of course, have been the subject of much interest and study and it would be rather surprising to see a newly discovered pictorial cancel from that post office. So it would be desirable to see if more could be learned about this somewhat ambiguous cancel.

John Donnes has made an extensive study of New York City's hand carved Banknote era cancels and he was able to clarify very convincingly what the Figure 5 cancel was really intended to convey. Figure 6 illustrates a November 17, 1873 cover in John's collection together with his tracing that shows the cancel to be an over-inked and perhaps deteriorated negative “3”. He has recorded this cancel used in the November and December 1873 period. A tracing appears in Figure 7.



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

We'll add here a brief word about the NYPO carved number cancels such as that in Figure 5. They were used basically in the 1872-1876 period and represent a significant step in the evolution of U.S. cancellation practices. For the first time, a system of separately identifiable cancels was employed by a U.S. post office for an administrative purpose. It is believed that the numbers were associated with individual clerks and records were kept, for each day, of what numbers were assigned to what clerks. This allowed the post office to determine who was responsible for poor postmark and cancel strikes. This system was subsequently adopted by all major post offices in the sets of ellipse cancels they used that contained a series of numbers (or occasionally letters) in the center. The first regular use of such an ellipse set, incidentally, took place in New York City with the earliest reported date being May 3, 1876.

The Scott 213 stamp in Figure 8 was canceled by an unusual, to say the least, cancellation. The design extends beyond the stamp on all sides and I wonder if it was applied by a roller. Have readers seen additional examples on or off cover? Thanks to John Donnes for the tracing. ■



Figure 8

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SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIP as at January 1, 2020: 198, consisting of 6 Life Members and 192 Regular Members. 35 Regular members remain unpaid for their 2020 dues.

Membership as at June 15, 2019:	197
New Regular Members:	1
Michael Ewen, Tallahassee FL	
Current Membership:	<u>198</u>

No deaths or resignations were recorded.

Cash at bank as at June 15, 2019:	\$22,231.07
Cash at bank as at January 1, 2020:	\$21,707.07

Aside from unsold publications and back issues, the USCC has no other tangible assets apart from a library currently housed at the Western Philatelic Library, Redwood City, CA. No monetary value has been attributed to the library, publications or back issues. The USCC has no liabilities.

Approximately 40 Members kindly made donations of up to \$100 in 2019.

Respectfully Submitted
 Joe Crosby,
 Secretary-Treasurer

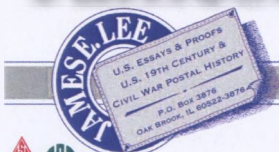
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