



U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 35, No. 8, Whole No. 315, November 2020



New York Foreign Mail, like this delightful example sent by Prussian Closed Mail on March 31, 1866 is rarely canceled in anything but black. Starting on page 181, Ardy Callender tells us more about these three-leaf clover killers in red.

Articles

The Multiple Letter "J.H.C." Manuscript Cancel of Nottingham, NH	180
New York City's Three-Leaf Clover Cancellation & NYPO Postal Procedures	181
Solid Center or "Black Ball" Ellipses (Part V)	186
Washington D.C. "Fishtail" Ellipses – A New Late Date	189
Early Government-Issue Duplex Handstamps	190
An Uncommon Italic "PAID" Cancel	194
Large Negative Boston-Style Cancels of Portland, ME Revisited (Part IV)	196
The Bonds Village, MA, "PAID" and Intertwined Star Cancel – A Follow Up	200

The Official Journal of the United States Cancellation Club



The United States Cancellation Club NEWS

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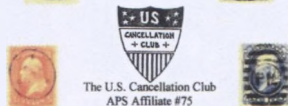
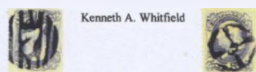
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U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB - PUBLICATIONS



CANCELLATIONS FOUND ON
19TH CENTURY U.S. STAMPS



Kenneth A. Whitfield
The U.S. Cancellation Club
APS Affiliate #75

2002

U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS, Cross Reference Index for all Issues, 1951-2009. Presented in three sections: Cancellations, Post Offices, and Article Titles. \$18 postpaid to U.S. addresses.

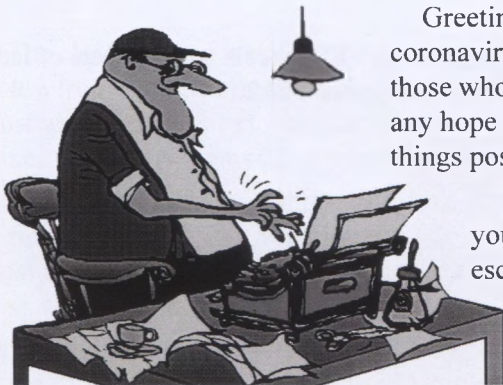
Wesson "Time-On-Bottom" Markings Revisited, Compiled by Ralph A. Edson and Gilbert L. Levere, update of 1990 La Posta monograph, 190pp. See p.70 of November 2010 *NEWS* for announcement. \$25 postpaid to U.S. addresses.

Cancellations Found on 19th Century U. S. Stamps, by Kenneth A. Whitfield. With more than 6,000 tracings, this book is an invaluable supplement to the Skinner-Eno and Cole volumes. Includes the latest Whitfield update. \$50 postpaid to U.S. addresses. For Whitfield update pages only, \$8 post paid.

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EDITOR'S NOTES



Greetings! This terrible, terrible year is finally drawing to a close and yet the coronavirus continues to amaze by infecting the highest and mightiest, bamboozle those who are supposed to devise schemes to protect us and, worst of all, preclude any hope of planning for 'normal' stamp shows for the foreseeable future. Could things possibly get even worse before they get better?

And so, in these troubled times, it is even more important than usual for your humble editor to provide you with some entertaining and educational escapism – fortunately, the usual characters have come to the party to help out.

First off, we have a typically light, short and fun read from the irreplaceable *Joe Crosby*. We then see that the unstoppable *Ardy Callender* has been chasing three-leaf clovers (for some much-needed good luck, perhaps) and reverse-engineering the floor plan of the old New York City post office. Then, as foreshadowed in the August *NEWS*, we conclude his five-part opus on "black ball" ellipses.

Governor-at-large, the one-and-only *Roger D. Curran* takes over with three stories – the first about newly-

discovered, late strikes of "fishtail" ellipses from the nation's capital, the second discusses some postmasters' creativity with early USPOD-supplied duplex cancellers, and then, a little piece on italic "PAID" hand stamps. Yours truly then presents the last chapter in the four-part study of Portland, Maine's Boston-style, Large Negative cancels.

Closing things out in this final issue of Volume 35, one of Chicagoland's finest residents, *John Valenti* offers us a little more information about the "PAID" and intertwined star cancel from Bond's Village, Massachusetts. This is followed by the second "Gem" ever to be shown, courtesy again of our esteemed president, *Matt Kewriga*, a very fortunate gentleman who actually makes a living playing with these things of intrigue and beauty!

With regard to matters outside the *NEWS*, members are advised that your web manager, the perpetually-preoccupied, *Stephen Tedesco* is closing in on establishing a wonderful, welcoming web presence worthy of our members and visitors. With a little luck, we will be 'live' by year's end.

That is all we have for now. Try to survive the rest of 2020 and stay safe. And may 2021 be a much better year.

Until next time, may your god go with you. ■

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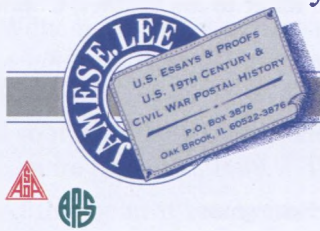


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The Multiple Letter "J. H. C." Manuscript Cancel of Nottingham, New Hampshire

Joe H. Crosby

I recently acquired a cover canceled on March 3, 1864 with a pair of manuscript "X" cancels and two sets of letters "J. H. C." The cover and the close up of the initials on the Scott #65 are seen in Figures 1 & 2.

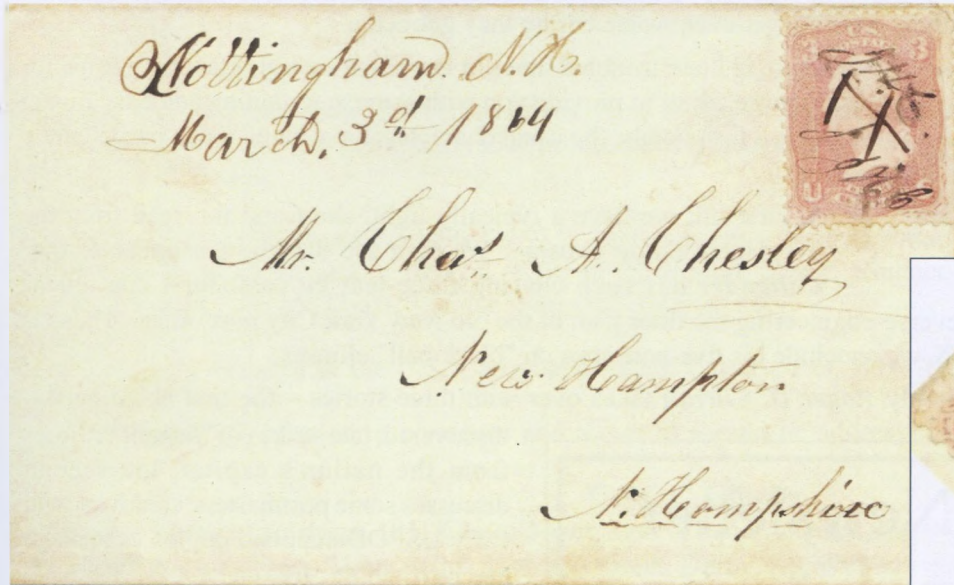


Figure 1



Figure 2

Why did I buy this? Those are my initials! But I really wanted to figure out whose initials they were, so I went to the Official Register of the U.S. for 1865¹ and found that John H. Chesley was Postmaster in Nottingham, NH. Now wasn't that easy, and satisfying, and even fun?!

Having the Official Register digitized online is a real advancement in researching postmasters. Unfortunately, the USPS website "Postmaster Finder - By City"² won't have your answer even half the time. Once I had that name, I searched on Family Search and found that Mr. Chesley's full name was John Hollis Chesley, born December 2, 1807 in Durham, NH. He died February 28, 1888.³ I did all of this research after I ordered the cover, and was finished long before it was delivered to me. I have to admit that I was somewhat pleased with myself at that point. A few days later, the cover arrives in my letter box, and I look at the back flap for the first time – and what do I find? See Figure 3!

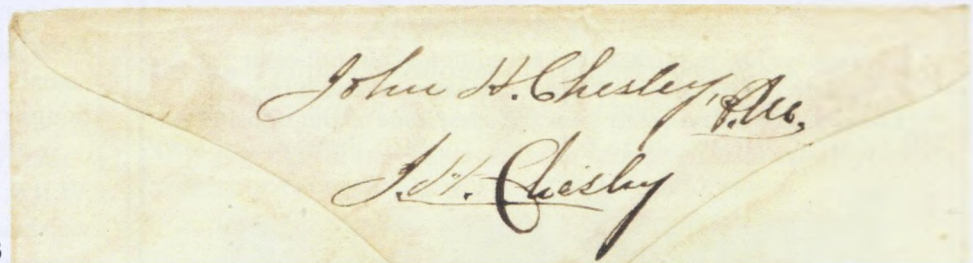


Figure 3

Quite often in the 19th century, postmasters and postal clerks would use their own initials to cancel their personal correspondence, especially to family members. In this case, Postmaster Chesley send a letter to his brother, Charles in New Hampton, 60 miles away.

Do you have any other manuscript initials cancels? If so, please drop a note and send a copy to our editor so we can all share. ■

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3. Website: <http://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/LZ6L-BW3/john-hollis-chesley-1807-1888>

New York City's Three-Leaf Clover Cancellations and NYPO Postal Procedures

Ardy Callender

The clover design was one of many early "fancy" cancellations struck on 19th Century adhesives. Alexander¹ reports its use from Cloverport, Kentucky and West Hampton, Massachusetts on 1851-1857 Regular Issues. Skinner and Eno² illustrate 29 different clover cancellations in use on the 1861-1866 Regular Issue and six more on the 1869 Pictorial Issue. Cole³ documents 22 examples and Whitfield⁴ illustrates a whopping 51 clover cancellations on Bank Note Issues.

Variations of the basic three-leaf design include cuts within the petals to simulate stems and/or venation, a negative or reversed clover with venation, outline of the clover shape, inclusion within another design and an encircled clover. Most designs were struck in black ink, although examples are known in red and blue.

New York City's first use of the clover design was in the foreign mail department during 1866. Skinner⁵ lists the cancellation, struck only in black, as NYFM 66-5 (seen in Figure 1) and Kirke⁶ lists the cancel as 66-04-14 PIC. Clerks in the foreign mail department used simplex obliterations to cancel stamps as regulations required mail to be canceled as soon as received. However, the datestamp was applied subsequently to coincide with steamship departures dates. The bulk of New York City's foreign mail adhesives were canceled with black ink and datestamps were struck in red if prepaid or black if unpaid. Whether due to a frenzied pace in the foreign department or a simple mistake, occasionally covers are known with the adhesives canceled in red ink.

An extraordinary example of a three-leaf clover struck in red ink is shown as Figure 2⁷ (and the entire cover graces the front page). The cover was sent via Prussian Closed Mail to Frankfurt, Germany. The pair of two-cent Blackjacks and a twenty four-cent Regular Issue of 1861-1866 adhesive pay the twenty eight-cent reduced single Prussian Closed Mail rate to Germany. Postmarked March 31, 1866, the adhesives are tied by two strikes of the NYFM three-leaf cancellation. The cover traveled inside a sealed mail bag bound for Ostend, Belgium where upon arrival, the closed mail bag was opened onboard a railway postal car where mail was sorted and marked with the boxed "AACHEN 12 4 / FRANCO" marking.

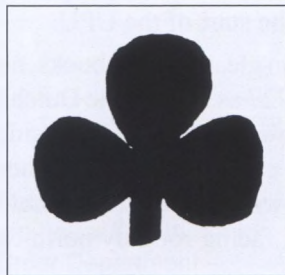


Figure 1



Figure 2

The other clover design employed by the NYPO consists of a three-leaf clover encompassed by a thick ring 27 mm. diameter (see Figure 3). It was first illustrated by Edwin Milliken⁸, along with four other unrecorded New York Foreign Mail cancellations. In 1968, Arthur Van Vlissingen and Morrison Waud⁹ published the most comprehensive study up until that time, entitled *New York Foreign Mail Cancellations*. Van Vlissingen and Waud included the clover cancellation in their "Conventional Designs" group designating it as "C7".

William Weiss¹⁰ was next to recognize the encircled three leaf clover cancellation in his book, *The Foreign Mail Cancellations of New York City 1870-1878*.¹¹ Weiss included the marking in his "Simple Representative Type" category as RE-S6. In his narrative, he points out "This cancel, is another NYFM where domestic usages outnumber the foreign, and so it is a controversial one." In fact, the only encircled three leaf clover foreign usage listed was a printed matter rate entire to Genoa, Italy.¹² The entire is shown here as Figure 4.

At this point it seems necessary to provide a definition of "New York Foreign Mail" as there have been differing interpretations. Early on, the most-accepted belief was that any letter emanating from New York City to a foreign

destination was considered New York Foreign Mail. Weiss held this view and thus the reason the below printed matter entire (and its cancellation) was considered to be an example of NYFM. Hubert Skinner's perspective differed as he reasoned NYFM should include only mail dispatched from the foreign mail office; not foreign mail emanating from other NYPO departments. Recently, Nick Kirke, the present-day, undisputed authority on NYFM, discussed this question in his landmark article¹³ in the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society *Chronicle*. Kirke holds the same view as Skinner – NYFM includes only mail emanating from the foreign mail department.



Figure 3

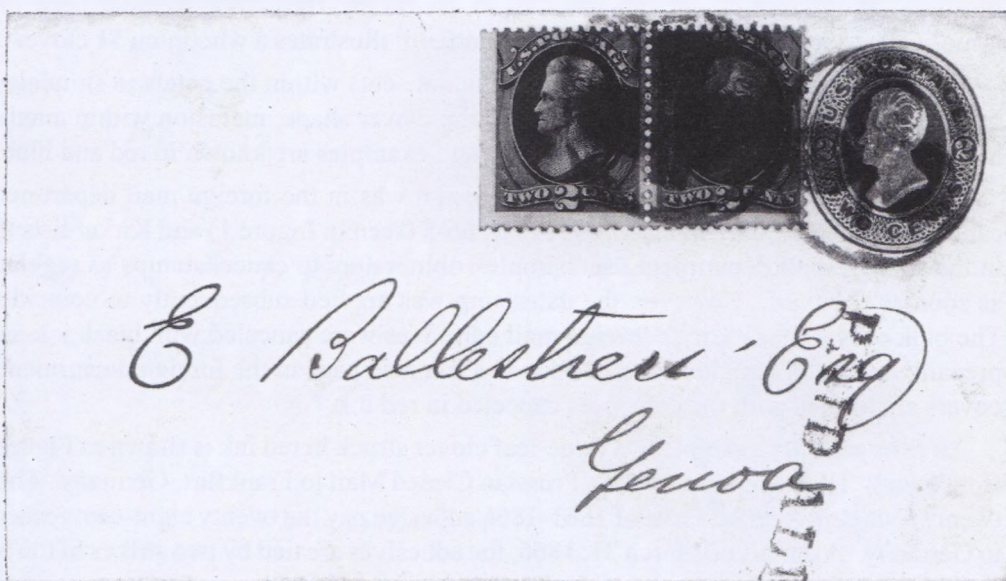


Figure 4

The author has undertaken a study of the Middle Dutch Church Post Office (MDC) in which the majority of classic New York City postal history (1847-1875) was handled. Examinations of MDC floor plans identify the locations of each department – providing insight into the mail flow process. The move to a new post office (City Hall Park Post Office) took place in late 1875, near the close of classic postal history era and after the start of the UPU.

A series of MDC floor plans have been created by the author using information gleaned from books, newspaper accounts, woodcuts/lithographs, magazine articles and congressional records. Built in 1727 as the Middle Dutch Reformed Church, the 75 by 100 foot building was composed of a main floor with galleries surrounding it on three sides. Repurposed as New York City's post office in 1845, a layout of the main floor and galleries circa 1870 is shown here as Figure 5. An interior view of the main floor in 1871 from a contemporary woodcut¹⁴ is shown as Figure 6. Demolished in November 1882 to make way for the Mutual Life Insurance Company, the MDC stood, facing roughly north east, at the southern corner of Nassau and Liberty Streets, Manhattan.

Referring to the floor plan of the ground floor in Figure 5, notice that domestic and local mails were received in mail drops (H) along the west side of the side lobby. Foreign mails were received at the Foreign Department drops (J) in the east corner of the main lobby at the south side of the building. Bulk mails, incoming NYC Station mails and incoming domestic mails from other states were received in the Mailing/Receiving department (A) at the rear of the MDC. All printed matter rate mail was first cancelled (by regulation), and sorted on tables within the Newspaper/Circular Department (L). Foreign bound circular mail was separated from domestic in this department after cancels were applied. This is the reason both foreign bound and domestic printed matter rate mail possess the same cancellations. First class foreign mails were canceled in the foreign department. As the foreign department had separate drops, NYFM had cancellations differing from other departments.

Due to the fact that New York City's encircled three leaf cancellation is found struck exclusively on foreign or domestic circular rate mail, it should be classified with other NYPO circular rate markings and not be considered a NYFM. Unfortunately other foreign usage circular rate cancellations have also been classified as NYFM's. Even NYPO local rate cancellations have at times been classified as NYFMs!

NYCPO's encircled three-leaf clover cancel usages to domestic destinations are somewhat rare while foreign bound examples are extremely scarce. According to Weiss¹⁵, two different sizes of cancellations exist; a foreign version measuring 27-29 mm. while the domestic version is 2 mm. smaller. However it seems more plausible the differences in

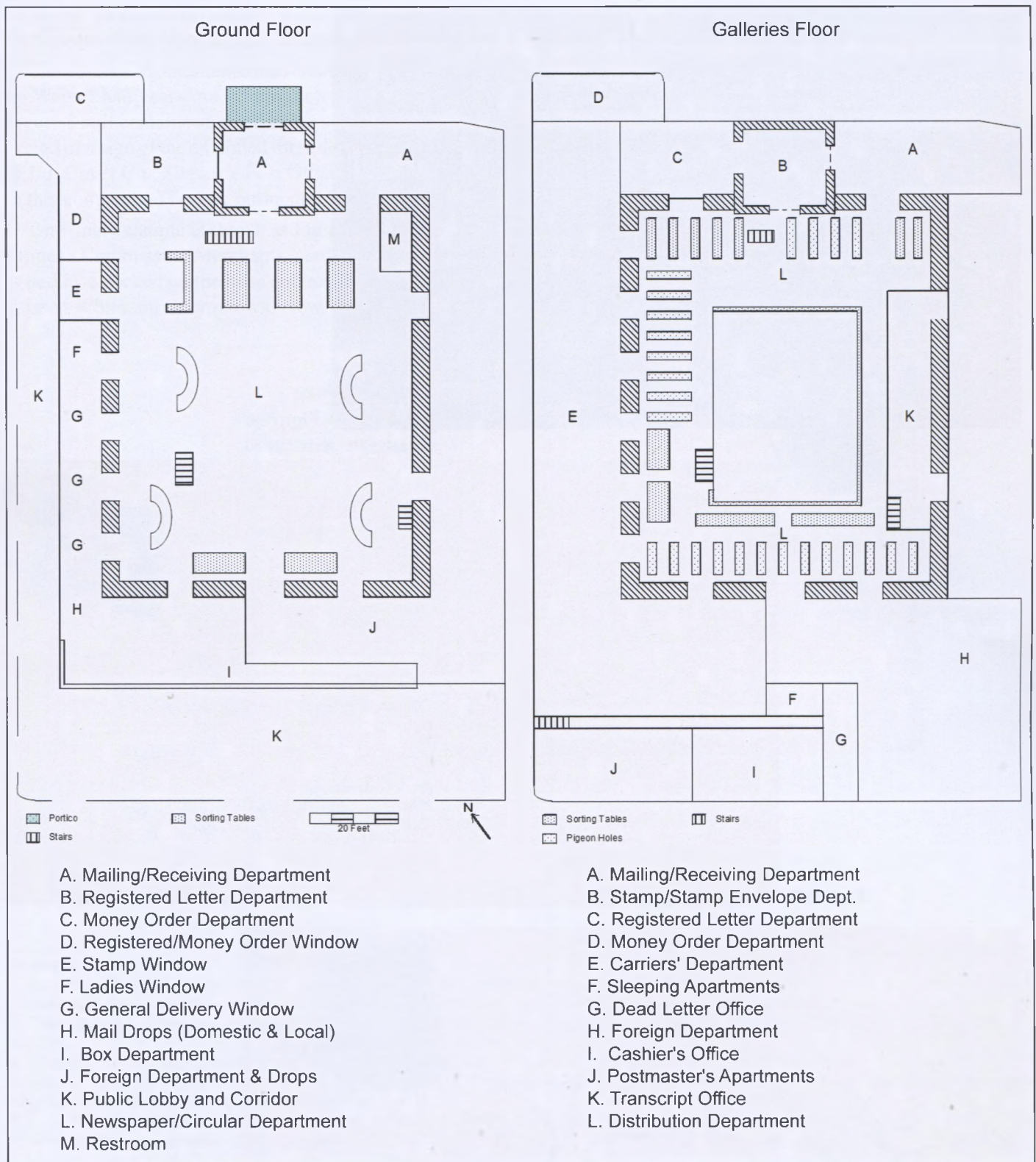


Figure 5

diameter result from the strength of strike or incomplete inking of the cancellation rather than two separate obliterators. All domestic examples observed by the author measure 27 mm. in diameter.

Origins of circular rate mail are often difficult to determine as larger cities were allowed to solely cancel adhesives and not apply a datestamp. Thus, unless possessing docketing, corner card, contents, advertising or distinctive cancellations, the provenance of the cover can remain undetermined. Such is the case with the cover shown in Figure 7 as the unsealed yellow circular rate cover contains no contents or any markings indicating origin. However, the presence of the encircled

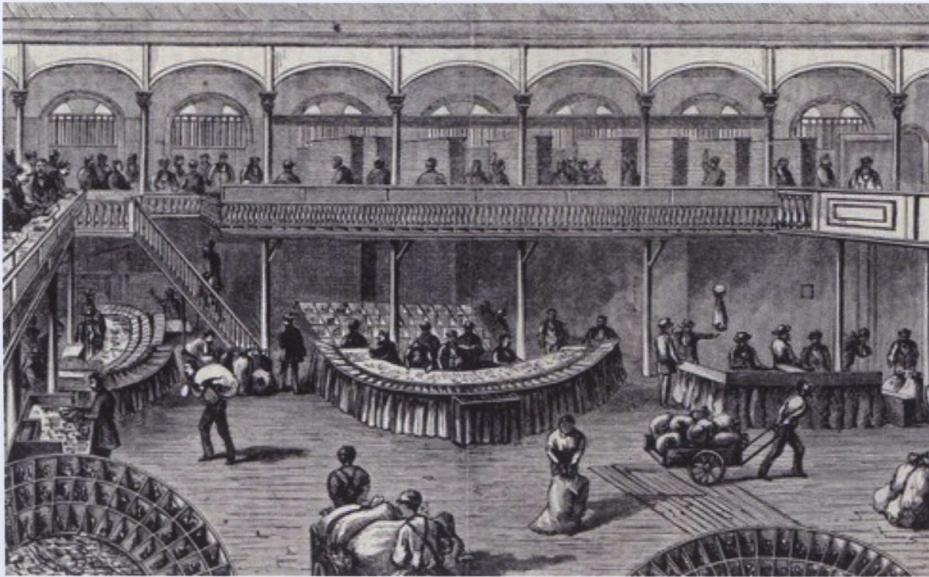


Figure 6

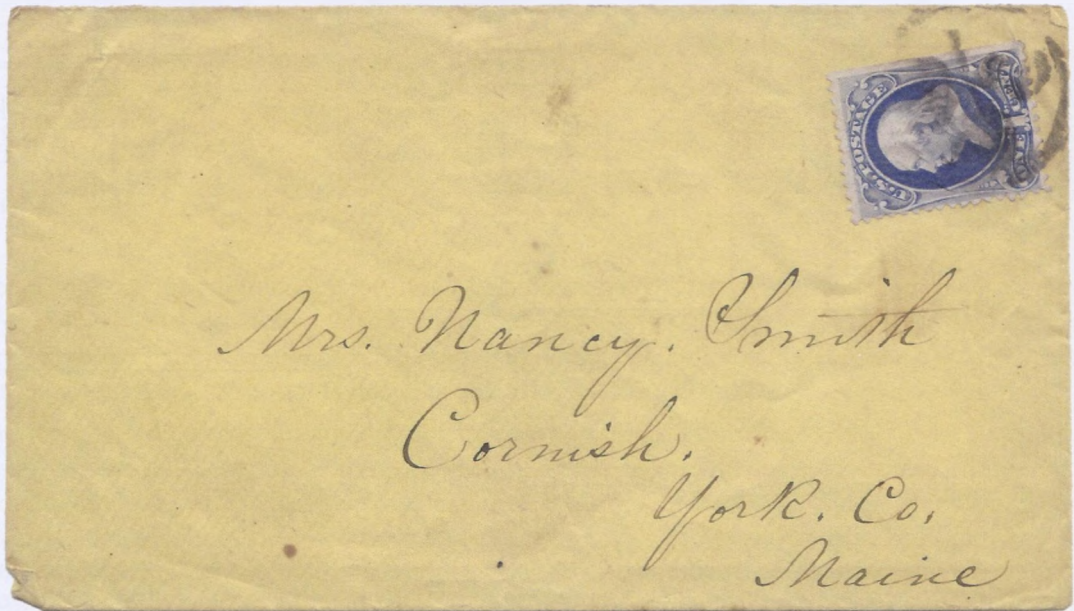


Figure 7



Figure 8

three-leaf cancellation confirms a New York City source. Addressed to Mrs. Nancy Smith, Cornish, Maine, the 1¢ 1873 Continental Bank Note Issue is tied at the bottom right by an incomplete strike of the encircled three-leaf cancellation.

The absence of datestamps also creates problems in dating covers/cancellations. Apparently none of the covers observed by Weiss¹⁶ had year-date information as all of his listings are missing a specific year. Fortunately the cover shown as Figure 8 still contains an advertising sheet dated April 7, 1874. As NYPO obliterations lasted only for a few months, the period of usage of the encircled three-leaf cancellation is probably early to mid 1874. The unsealed white cover addressed to J. J. Cover Co., Shauck's Post Office, Ohio is part of a very large correspondence of circular rate covers all addressed to this company. The 1¢ Continental Bank Note Issue adhesive is tied at lower right by nice strike of the clover cancel.

One final example is shown as Figure 9. The unsealed, undated white ad cover has a corner card for Davis & Sutton, Produce Commission Merchants, confirming its origin as New York City. The 1¢ Continental Bank Note Issue adhesive is tied by a socked on the nose encircled clover cancel with a partial strike of another just above. The cover was sent to Russell Whitman, Georgetown, New York.

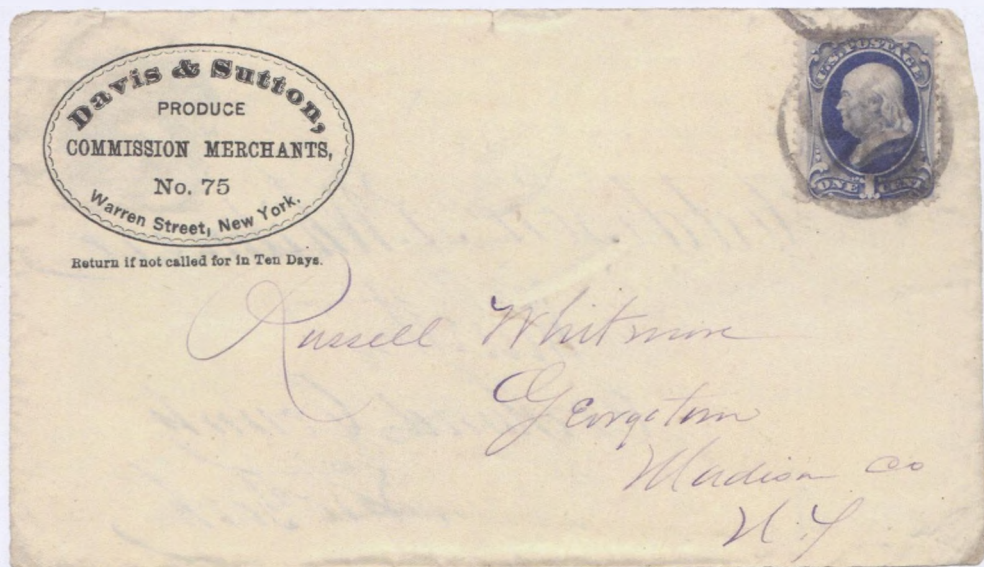


Figure 9

As always, any comments or further information are welcome. Contact the editor. ■

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6. Kirke, Nicholas, "A New Look at New York Foreign Mail," *Chronicle of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Whole No. 250* (May 2016), pg. 195.
7. Matthew Bennett International, LLC., Sale #248 (White), lot 137, pg. 26.
8. Milliken, Edwin, "New York Foreign Mail Cancellations 1870-1876," *U.S. Cancellation Club News, Whole No. 34* (May 1958), pg. 18.
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11. *Ibid.*, pg. 249.
12. Skinner, Hubert C., personal communication.
13. Kirke, op. cit., pg. 200.
14. New York Public Library, "Special delivery: The interior of the Dutch church turned post office in 1871" <http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/dgkeysearchdetail>.
15. Weiss, op. cit., pg. 251.
16. Weiss, op. cit., pg. 250.

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

Ardy Callender

A negative letter "O" is reported from Jersey City, New Jersey. A fine example struck on a postal card is shown as Figure 38. The ellipse is aligned in an angled or "cock eyed" orientation in relation to the datestamp. Dated February 5, 1878, the card was sent locally to William A. Lewis, 100 Hudson Street, City.

A second cover with a Jersey City strike is shown as Figure 39. Originating in Utica, New York, it was sent to Miss Katharine Krieg, Greenville, Jersey City. Apparently, the cover was sent to Jersey City where it received a "missent" handstamp as well as a duplex with a colorless "O" ellipse as a receiving marking. Curiously, there is a small circled dot along the side of the letter as seen in the enlarged scan of the ellipse (Figure 40). John Donnes, the owner of the cover, speculates¹⁹ that the dot may be some sort of foreign material stuck to the central area to the ellipse. It might also be a rivet holding it all together – you might see a suggestion of a second rivet on the other side of the "O".

A postal card from New Haven, Connecticut is shown as Figure 41. Addressed to George W. Cole Esq., Atty at Law, Plymouth, Conn., it is dated February 21, (1878). The negative "S" ellipse has been struck twice and appears duplexed to the datestamp. A tracing of the duplex is shown as Figure 42. A slight rotation of the ellipse (towards the right) can

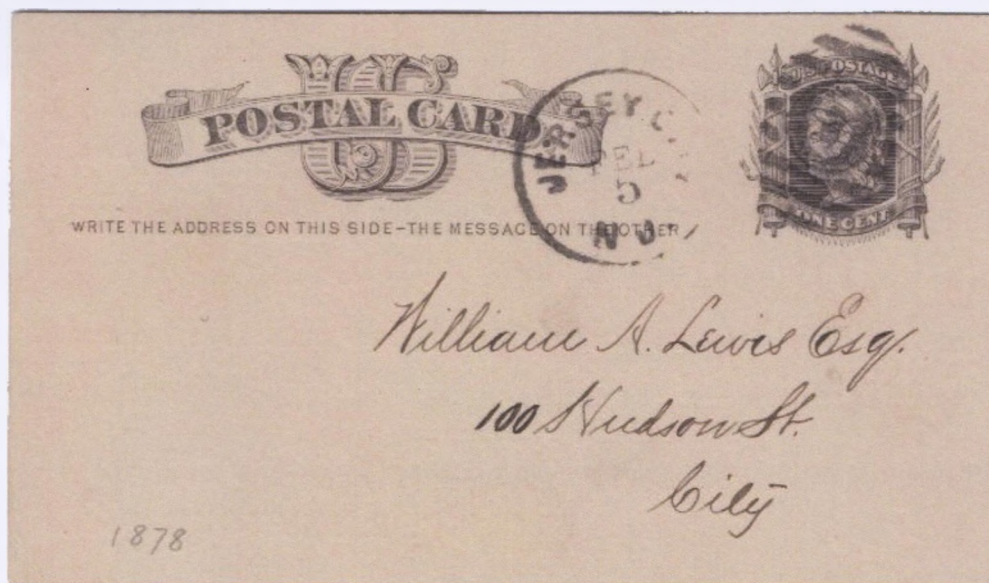


Figure 38



Figure 39



Figure 40

be observed in the tracing. Additionally, the negative letter "S" appears be upside down suggesting the ellipse may also have rotated 180°. Curran²⁰ reports that the New Haven postmaster between April 5, 1861 and April 20, 1885 was named Nehemiah D. Sperry (he served again from January 9, 1890 to March 14, 1894). Sperry may be the source for the use of the letter "S" in the ellipse.

A simplex strike of a negative letter "S" is shown as Figure 43. Its New Haven origin is confirmed by the corner card from State Educational Department, New Haven, Connecticut. The 1¢ 1873 Continental Bank Note Issue is cancelled by a poorly struck "S" ellipse with only the lower loop of the letter visible at the bottom of the central core. Sent by circular rate, the unsealed letter is addressed to Rev. John A. Hamilton, Norwalk, Conn.

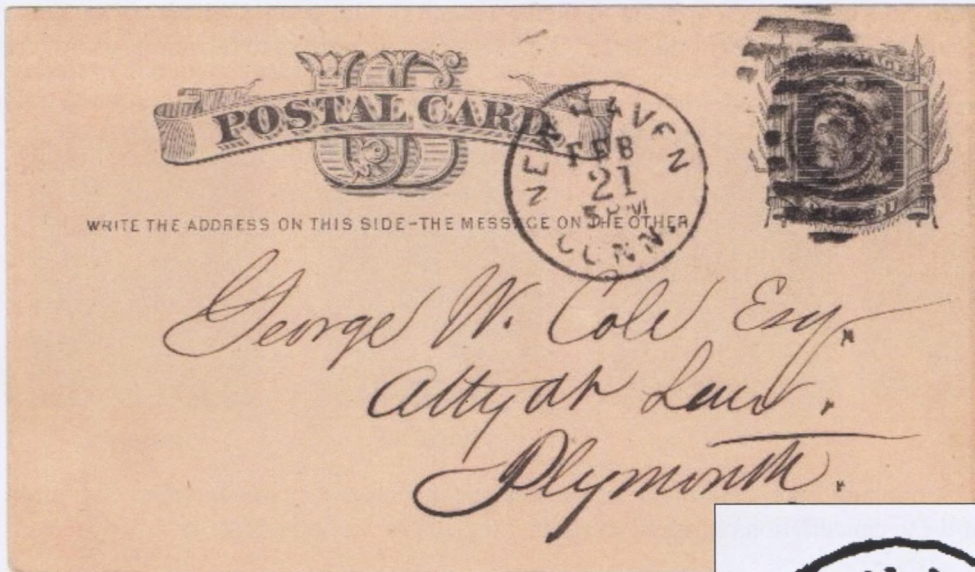


Figure 41



Figure 42

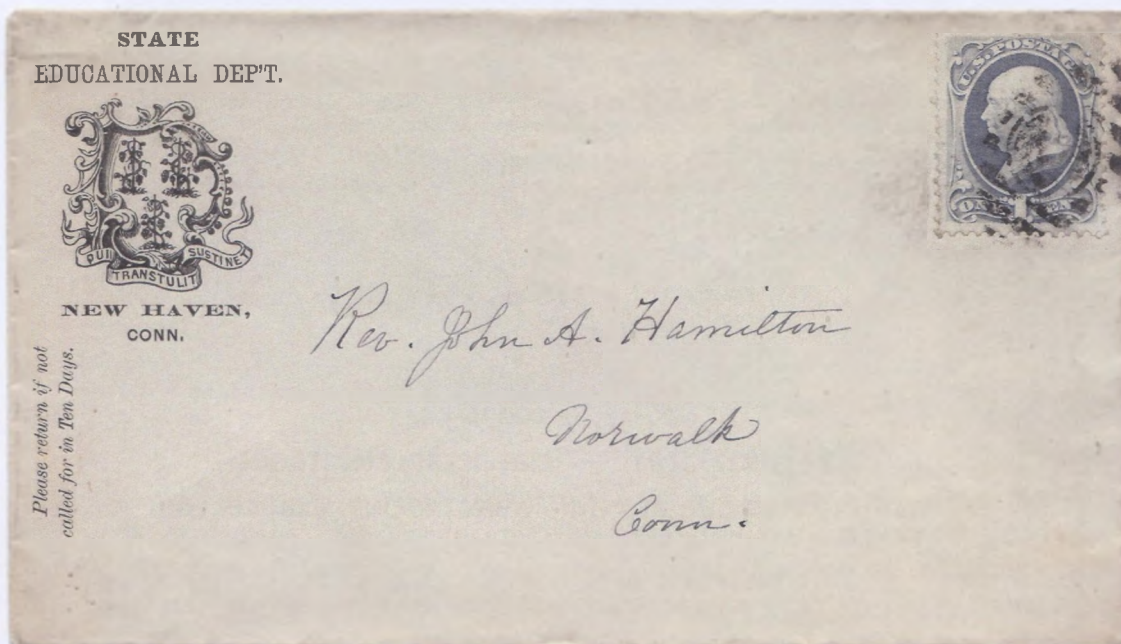


Figure 43

"On cover" examples of colorless lettered ellipses are quite scarce – the author is aware of only a handful of covers, some of which are illustrated above. Many negative letters are known only from 'off cover' stamps and thus their city of origin remains unidentified.

The letters "C", "G", "H" and "W" have been reported solely on individual stamps. A tracing of the negative letter "G" was illustrated by Whitfield²¹ and the letter "W" (as discussed above) was reported by Cole²². It seems that the majority of these cancellations are struck on Continental Bank Note Issue adhesives. Examples of the letters "G", "H" and "W" are shown as Figure 44 and letter "C" as Figure 45.

The final colorless design is probably the most intriguing. Roger Curran²³ refers to this cancellation as an "unidentified figure." Shown here as Figure 46, the colorless symbol appears to be the letter "I" with a crossbar across the center. Curran speculates that the symbol could possibly represent the letter "X". This cancel appears to be unique as no other examples have surfaced.



Figure 44



Figure 45



Figure 46

The author wishes to thank Roger Curran and John Donnes for their assistance in this article. Any member with further information regarding the origins of these cancellations is asked to contact the author via the editor. ■

Notes:

19. Donnes, John. Personal communications

20. Curran, Roger D., Personal communications

21. Whitfield, Kenneth A., *Cancellations Found on 19th Century U.S. Stamps*, U. S. Cancellation Club, 2010, pg. 194.

22. Cole, op. cit. pg. 325.

23. Curran, Roger, D., "Echo from an Earlier Civilization?", U. S. Cancellation Club News, Spring, 2000, p.19.

End of Part V and the Series.

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Washington, D.C. "Fishtail" Ellipses – A New Late Date

Roger Curran

The "Noted in Passing" article in the previous *NEWS* (pages 151-2) briefly discussed the Washington D.C. ellipses that included the fancy numerals referred to by collectors as "fishtail" numerals.

I have for a number of years studied these cancels and kept records about them. The latest date of use I had recorded is November 19, 1885. Recently, Jim Stedman sent a scan of a "fishtail" cover in his collection (Figure 1) dated June 9, 1887. Quite a surprise and very interesting. Although I don't know why it would be, I wondered if perhaps the handstamp that made that marking was set aside for use on official mail of the type in the scan. This led to inquiries to two specialists in such mails; Les Lanphear and Dennis Schmidt. Both graciously reviewed their collections and one additional late usage, from Dennis Schmidt, was identified (Figure 2) dated January 17, 1887.

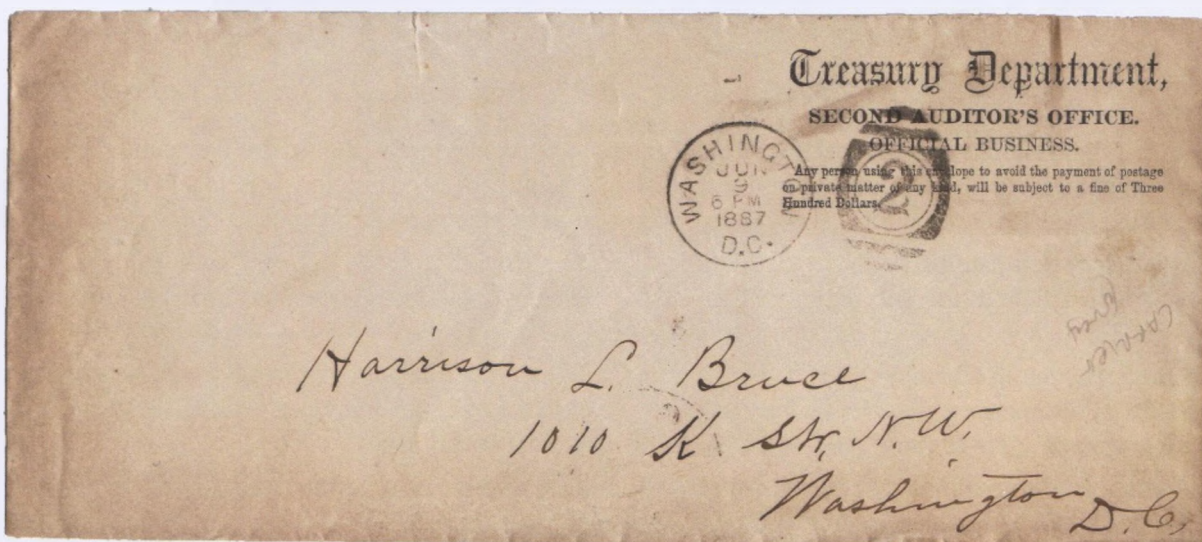


Figure 1

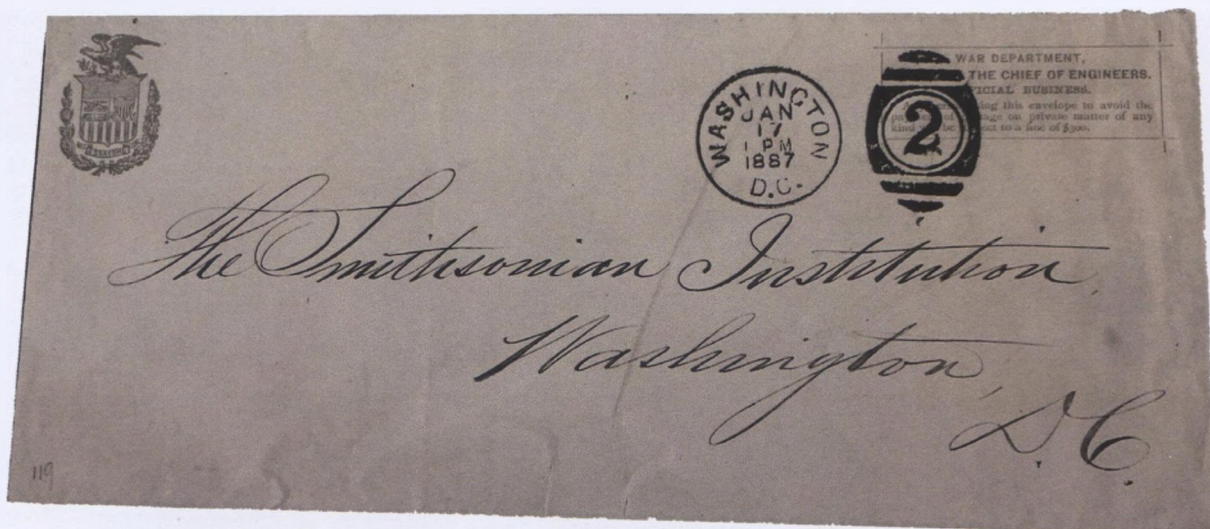


Figure 2

So what speculation can we advance regarding these late uses? It still seems, of course, that regular use of the "fishtails" did not extend beyond 1885. One handstamp, at least, was held over and perhaps used to meet special circumstances such as cancelling pieces of mail that slipped through the normal postmarking/cancelling process without being struck. If so, did this apply only to official mail or to non-official mail as well? I would guess the latter. Any readers who can report additional information, or have other explanations, are encouraged to contact the editor. ■

Early Government-Issue Duplex Handstamps

Roger Curran

Handstamps that combined postmarking and canceling elements under one handle were introduced in the U.S. by individual postmasters as early as August 1860, but it was not until 1863 that they were issued by the Post Office Department (POD). Figure 1 illustrates two examples of the first government duplex. The diameter of the double circle postmark is about 29mm. The cancel consists of four concentric circles with an outer diameter of about 19mm.



Figure 1

The contract that produced these steel-faced handstamps was let in March 1863 to the Fairbanks Scale Co. of New York which subcontracted the work to Edmund Hoole, also of New York, who previously held a POD contract beginning in 1859. During the 1863-1866 period, more than 600 post offices received handstamps of this style¹.

The earliest reported date of use is from Norfolk, Virginia – June 27, 1863 – Norfolk was by then under Federal occupation. In an article in the February 1986 *Chronicle*, Richard Graham reported an April 14, 1863 example from Camp Nelson, Kentucky. However, he later determined that the cover's enclosure was dated 1865 rather than 1863².

In late 1865, Benjamin Chambers, Jr. of Washington, D.C. assumed the subcontract and later he became the direct contract holder. (Following the issuance of the Figure 1 style markings, the postmark design ordered by the POD involved single circles, generally 26-28 mm in diameter, also with sans serif lettering).

Postmasters would sometimes replace the concentric circles cancelers in these handstamps with other cancelers. An example from Norfolk is shown in Figure 2. Indeed, John Hill of Waterbury, Connecticut duplexed many of his greatest cancelers to the Figure 1-style postmark, as illustrated in Figure 3, shown with the permission of the auction house, Christie's.

Occasionally, simplex postmarks of this style are seen. Whether they were ordered that way or were simply created by removing the canceler from what was presumably a socket in the handstamp is a question. Two Norfolk examples are shown in Figures 4 and 5. Perhaps the handstamp here was only intended for use on soldier's mail that could be sent collect and thus, of course, required no postage stamps.



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

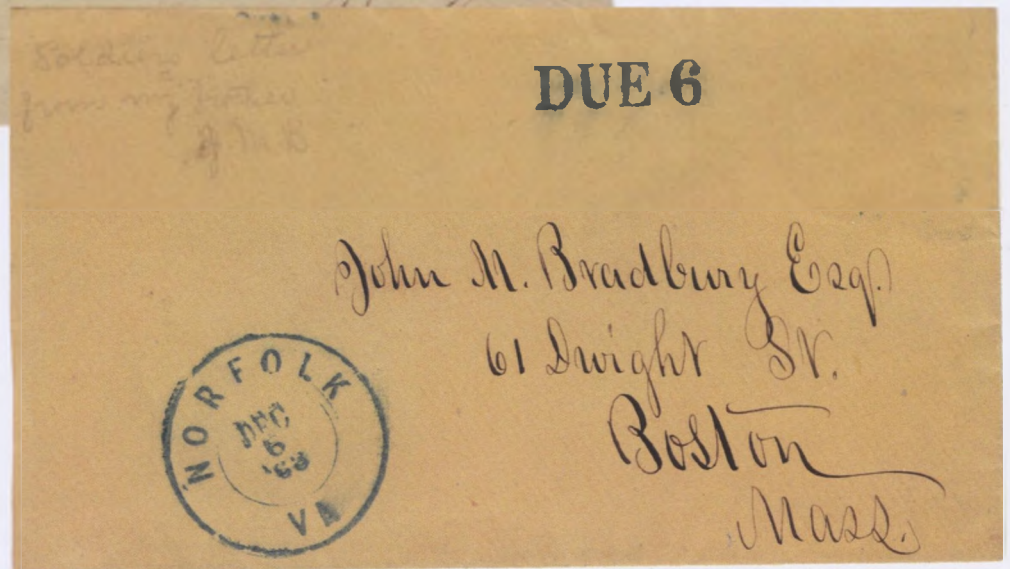


Figure 5

The Washington D.C. post office created an ingenious duplex arrangement with the Figure 1-postmark whereby a "DUE/3" marker was substituted for the concentric circles canceler in the handstamp and sat at the left side of the postmark. Examples are illustrated in Figures 6, 7 and 8. Such covers are seen with some frequency. I think it likely that more than one handstamp was used with this arrangement.



Figure 6

Figure 7



Figure 8

Beyond the "DUE/3" duplexes, strikes are seen to some extent where the cancel sits askew in relation to the postmark rather than directly to the right. Figure 2, of course, shows this as does the strike on the Figure 9 cover from Baltimore, Maryland, suggesting the possibility of a screw-in postmark dial. If so, perhaps they were loosened to permit the date slugs to be changed and, when screwed back, received varying degrees of tightness. Some may have loosened simply with use. Research is needed!

As one would expect, strikes of this duplex can be found in a number of ink colors although the vast majority are black. Figure 10 illustrates an example in red from Galion, Ohio.



Figure 9

How late were these handstamps were used is an interesting question. It was estimated by the Chambers Co. that steel-faced duplexes during this general period would last about a year in a busy post office such as Baltimore³. But what about smaller post offices? In at least a few cases, they were used into the 1880s. Figures 11 and 12 illustrate examples. The Berlin cover has an 1885 received marking on the back. (Why the inner circle of the cancel in this strike is missing is unknown.)



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12

Comments and additional information, provided via the editor, will be welcomed. ■

Notes:

1. Graham, Richard, "U.S. Government-Issue Duplexes Began in 1863," *Linn's Stamp News*, January 4, 1999, p. 19.
2. Graham, Richard; personal communication.
3. Bond, Arthur H., "Time-Saving Duplex Handstamp; Its Invention, Use and Manufacture," *Postal History Journal*, June 1963, p. 62.

An Uncommon Italic "PAID" Cancel

Roger Curran

"PAID" handstamps were designed for use on stampless mail which essentially ended on January 1, 1856 when prepayment of postage by the use of stamps became mandatory. In a considerable number of post offices, however, these handstamps were retained and employed as cancelers. This occurred with declining usage into the 1880s and even, to a very limited extent, into the early 1890s.

"PAID" cancels on the Scott 65 stamp are rather common, but examples in an italic-style font are decidedly uncommon. This article discusses one such cancel.

The cover in Figure 1, postmarked New London, New Hampshire, bears a Scott 65 stamp canceled by a "PAID" handstamp involving letters in italics (of which a tracing is seen in Figure 2). Let's begin with the reference to this cancel in the 1955 book¹, *The PAID Markings on the 3c U.S. Stamp of 1861* by George W. Linn. He said this about it:

"Since it is the only Italic PAID of which I have any knowledge, it needs a little description other than to say it is of the size of a 24-point letter in printer's type. It measures about 8mm in height by about 23mm in length, from the forward point of the P to the back of the D. Thus far I have seen but a single copy; it was on a handsome cover. The cancel is in a faint black color."



Figure 2

Figure 1

The Skinner-Eno book² shows no "PAID" in italics cancels of the kind used in New London. Whitfield³ illustrated the tracing shown here as Figure 3 and reported it on 1857 issue stamps but he did not identify the post office of origin. Alexander⁴ illustrated the tracing shown as Figure 4 and attributed it to New London. However, the cancel differs from the earlier impressions in that the base and top of the "P" extends below the "AI". This may have resulted from a distorted strike.

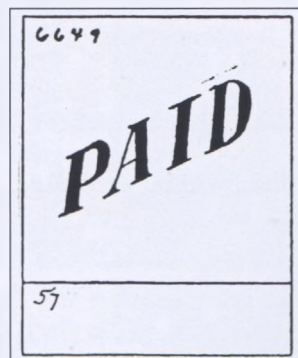


Figure 3

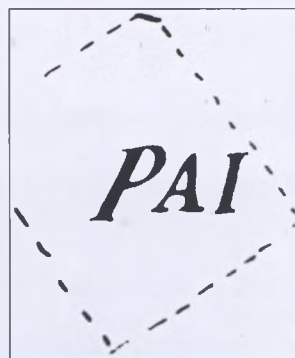


Figure 4

In Part 3 of the Siegel sale of the Wagshal collection (#996), lot 3119 illustrated a Brookline, Massachusetts cover bearing a "PAID" in italics cancel on a Scott 11 stamp that is at least very similar to the New London cancel – see Figure 5, courtesy of Siegel⁵. Did both handstamps come from the same commercial source?



Figure 5

Figure 6 illustrates an 1851 New London stampless cover where the "PAID" in italics marking was used as originally intended.



Figure 6

Readers who can supply additional information about these or similar cancels are encouraged to contact the NEWS editor. ■

References:

1. Linn, George W., *The PAID Markings on the 3c U.S. Stamp of 1861*, 1955.
2. Skinner, Hubert C. and Eno, Amos, *United States Cancellations 1845-1869* (State College, PA: American Philatelic Society, 1980).
3. Whitfield, Kenneth A., *Cancellations Found on 19th Century U.S. Stamps* (Lewisburg, PA: The U.S. Cancellation Club, 2012).
4. Alexander, Thomas J., *Simpson's U. S. Postal Markings 1851-61*, 2nd Ed., U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc., Columbus, Ohio, 1979, pp. 110-111.
5. Website: www.siegelauctions.com (accessed October 5, 2020)

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

Robert L. Conley

Style	L/N	Description	EKU	LKU	#
P-VS-1-1	1	in square, between 2 vertical bars, with sharp serifs	19-Apr-81	17-May-81	5
P-VS-1-2	1	in square, between 2 vertical bars, with softer serifs	23-Jun-81	3-Sep-81	4
P-VS-1-3	1	in square, between 2 vertical bars, without serifs	4-Oct-81	2-Nov-81	3
P-VS-2-1	2	in flat rectangle, 2 is tilted fwd, toe of 2 touches LL edge	6-Jan-xx	Year unknown	1
P-VS-2-2	2	in square, missing LR corner.		Not seen	0
P-VS-4	4	in square, inside vertical & horiz pairs of lines	22-Sep-81	21-Nov-81	5
P-VS-8-1	8	in square, between 2 vertical negative bars	30-Jan-82	21-Apr-82	10
P-VS-8-2	8	in irregular octagon	19-May-82		1
P-VS-13	13	in octagon	25-Sep-82	12-Jan-83	9
P-VS-D	D	in square, between 2 vertical negative bars	18-Dec-81		1
P-VS-E	E	in octagon, with rounded corners	13-Apr-81		1
P-VS-F	F	in octagon	10-Feb-81		1
P-VS-K	K	in narrow vertical rectangle (reclined)	20-Sep-81	21-Apr-82	13

Note: See following page for notes on identifying the three types of P-VS-1.

Note: The USCC NEWS of May 1958 (pp. 20 & 21) reported a varied square with a "3", similar to P-VS-1-1. This was not described in the 2005 listing and has not been seen since. Pending confirmation that the cancel originated in Portland, it is not listed here.

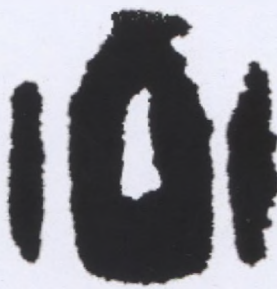
Note: P-VS-K is always in a reclined aspect to the CDS.



P-VS-1-1



P-VS-1-2



P-VS-1-3



P-VS-2-1



P-VS-4



P-VS-8-1



P-VS-8-2



P-VS-13

This chronological series of illustrations highlight the differences between the three types of P-VS-1.

The April 19 and May 7 examples are P-VS-1-1: the central band is narrow and flays out at the base. The "1" has sharp serifs and is closer to the right edge of the band than the left. The three bands have sharp edges and are at about the same level at their base. The overall height of the killer is about the same as the CDS.

The July 13 and September 3 strikes are P-VS-1-2: the central band is wider and has rounded, uneven corners at the base. The "1" has serifs with softer edges. The side bands are less defined, shorter than the central band and the left band being more pointed at its top than its bottom. The overall height of the killer is less than the CDS.

The October 17 and November 2 strikes are P-VS-1-3: the main differences from its predecessor are that there are no serifs (the "1" is little more than a vertical gash), the central band is more rounded and symmetrical at its base and the left band is now more pointed at its base than at the top.

(From the collections of Nancy Clark, Roger Curran, Vince Costello and the Author)





P-VS-D



P-VS-E



P-VS-F



P-VS-K



All struck in 1881 and all unique, we have three clear strikes of P-VS-D, P-VS-E and P-VS-F. (From the collections of Roger Curran and Bill Tatham)

Another unique strike, year unknown, this time of P-VS-2.

(From the collection of Roger Curran)



The winter of 1881-1882 saw frequent use of P-VS-K, duplexed and always struck in a reclining position. Although crudely carved and heavily used, it seems to have stood up remarkably well. The early and late uses shown here show no obvious signs of deterioration. (October cover from the collection of Bill Tatham. March cover courtesy of Jim Forte)

The presentation of my findings is now concluded. While it may be another decade or two before someone else takes up the challenge to again revisit these Portland cancels, any comments, corrections or updates in the meantime are always welcome. Anything of significance will be reported in the NEWS. ■

End of Part IV and the Series.

The Bonds Village, Massachusetts, "PAID" & Intertwined Star Cancel - A Follow Up

John Valenti

Further to Jay Kunstreich's article¹ in the August *NEWS*, I can report two more examples of this elusive cancel. These both originate from items once held in my dealer's stock.

Figure 1 shows an April strike (year unknown) on a Scott #26 – and, being in red, it is likely one of the earliest known uses – probably 1858 or 1859. Figure 2 is a strike in black on a Scott #94, likely a decade or so after the first-shown example.



Figure 1



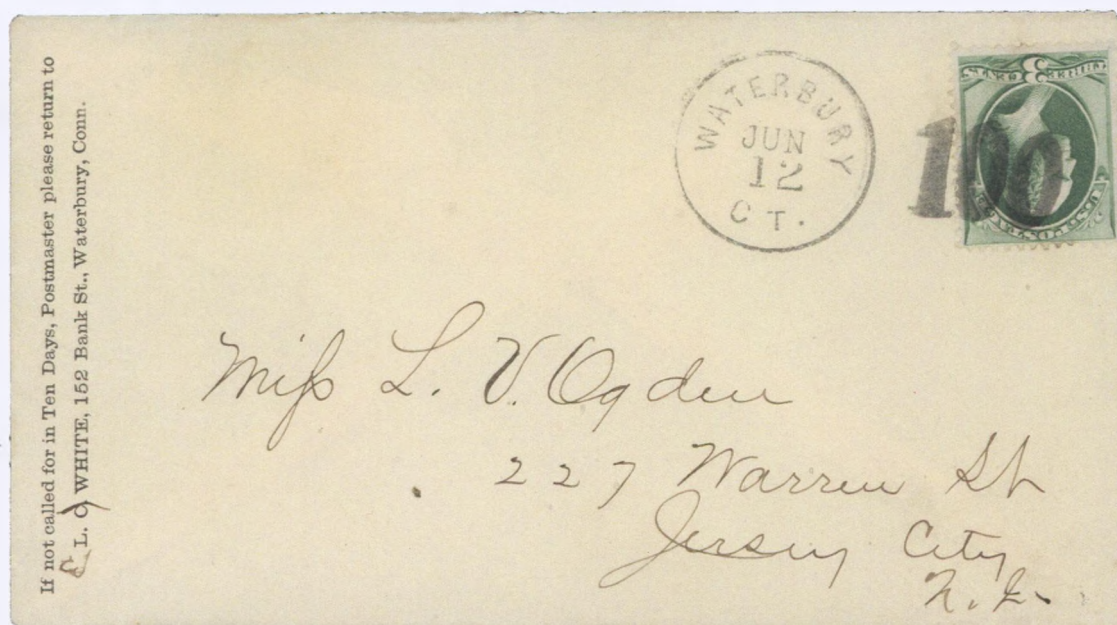
Figure 2

These two examples serve to confirm the impressive length of service of this cancel and the initial use of red ink – and there still remains but one example of an imperforate stamp bearing this distinctive cancel. ■

Notes:

1. Kunstreich, Jay, "The Bonds Village, Massachusetts, "PAID" & Intertwined Star Cancel" *USCC NEWS*, August 2020. pp. 160-161.

THE GEM



Waterbury, Connecticut Centennial "100" fancy cancel duplexed with sharp "Waterbury CT. Jun 12" cds ties 3¢ green (Scott 158) on 1876 cover to Jersey City, NJ. Waterbury was the only town to use a "100" fancy cancel to celebrate the Centennial. They also used a "76" like many other cities. Only a handful of examples of the "100" are known. Matt Kewriga collection.