



U.S. Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 36, No. 2, Whole No. 317, May 2021



Originating in Memphis, Tennessee, this letter is addressed to Canton, Massachusetts, but fortunately for us, it was missent to Canton, Mississippi. Someone there affixed one of their infamous lyre fancies, and drew the pointed hand figure in an effort to get it sent north. Pointed hands on covers aren't all that common. Roger Curran shares more, starting on page 39. Image courtesy of Siegel Auction Galleries.

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The United States Cancellation Club NEWS

Robert Conley, Editor,
52 Vista Ridge,
Glenburn, ME 04401
uscceditor@mail.com



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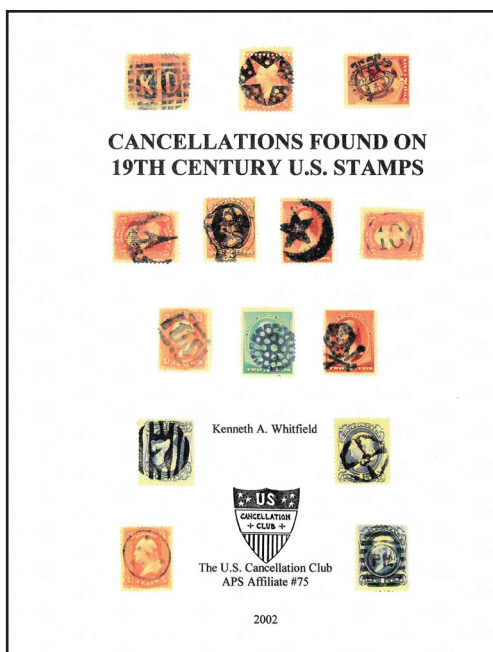
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President: Matthew Kewriga, 1811 Castro Street, Apt. 6, San Francisco, CA 94131 matt@kewriga.com
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U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB - PUBLICATIONS



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.

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Checks made out to U.S.C.C. should be sent to Roger Curran, 18 Tressler Boulevard, Lewisburg, PA 17837.



EDITOR'S NOTES



Greetings! With a little luck, this edition of your USCC NEWS has arrived in a more timely fashion and in a better condition than the February one did – many members reported not only an extraordinarily late receipt, but a copy that had kindly been given a bath before delivery!

This edition is a whopping 28 pages – that's a bonus four extra pages for you to enjoy. Sadly for several members, it is also the last edition they will see unless they pay heed to our illustrious secretary-treasurer, **Joe Crosby**, and remit their very late dues without even more delay. Fortunately, most of your fellow members are not in arrears and some were even kind enough to donate! "Thank you" to those gracious folk. Joe tells us all a bit more about that toward the end of this issue.

Your humble editor, and your club, are blessed with a couple of regular contributors in the form of **Ardy Callender** and **Roger Curran**. Together, they share 13 pages of their knowledge in this issue. First up, Ardy takes the time to tell us how not to confuse the NYPO Supplementary Mail Type-F marking with a similar cancellation used in Pittsburgh. Later on, he starts yet another series – this one on solid-centered date stamps. Roger regales us with a story about hands attached to pointy fingers and he throws in a one-pager on – of all places – Pittsburgh!

As foreshadowed in the February NEWS, Connecticut expert, **Bill Duffney** starts his showcase of fancy cancels from Putnam. You can look forward to seeing many lovely pictures from Putnam, Connecticut over the next several issues of the NEWS. The only other author in this issue is yours truly, with a one-pager to do with a delightful arrow killer which nobody seems to have seen before, and a second story about a orphaned Vermont boy who made it big in Bangor, Maine! If not for two of our terrific advertisers, **James Lee** and **John Valenti**, those two stories would not have happened.

As the misery of 2020 ever so slowly recedes in our collective rear vision mirrors, philatelic shows and other 'normal' activities are now coming back to reality. Yet it is unlikely that there will be an in-person USCC annual meeting this year. However, one might happen with the help of 'Zoom.' If so, you will know about it soon enough. Your editor is one who loves to travel and the prospect of a real, live meeting is something to look forward to. Maybe that will finally happen somewhere interesting in 2022. How about Pittsburgh?

Well, your editor is almost out of space but hopes you will enjoy your extended USCC NEWS. Until next time, may your god go with you. ■

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The New York Supplementary Type F Doppelganger from Pittsburgh

Ardy Callender

The significance of supplementary mail was first recognized by Dr. Warren L. Babcock in 1920. While visiting a stamp dealer in Liverpool, England, Babcock examined several hundred copies of various Bank Note Issue adhesives all struck with the Type F marking. This led to his research and eventual articles detailing all U.S. supplementary mail. He published several articles in the *American Philatelist*¹ before combining them into a pamphlet² published privately in 1939. Collectors' interest in these markings remained limited until Babcock persuaded the publishers of the *Scott Catalog* to list supplementary mail markings in their 1923 edition.

New York Supplementary Type F markings – see Figure 1 – are found commonly both on- and off- cover. The marking consists of a 23mm circular date stamp duplexed to a vertical 6-bar ellipse with encircled #1 or #2 (with serif). The wording within the date stamp includes “N.Y. SUPPLEMENTARY” surrounding the perimeter, a month/date at center and the word “PAID” just below the month/day slug. During 1877 and 1878, year dates were not included in the markings. Beginning in 1879, the last two digits of the year was set between the date stamp and ellipse as a triplex.

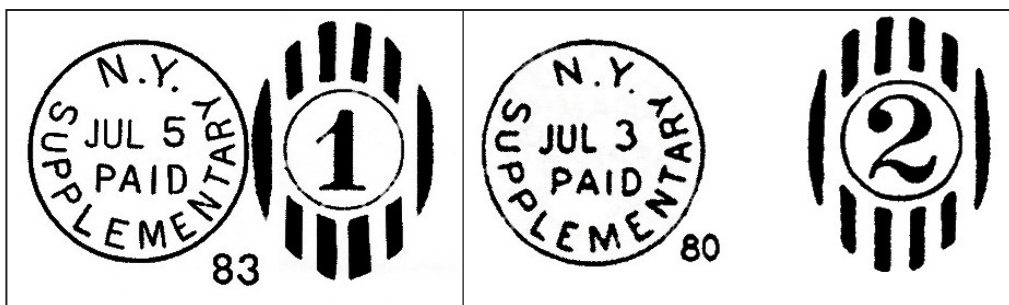


Figure 1

The earliest recorded example of a Type F is dated September 15, 1877 and is shown as Figure 2. The cover is franked by a pair of 5¢ 1873 Continental Bank Note Issue adhesives tied by two strikes of a #1 ellipse duplex. Departing on the Inman Line *City of Paris*, it was addressed to Paris, France, receiving a French receiving mark ten days later. The latest known example, illustrated in Figure 3, is dated May 31, 1899. The cover departed on the White Star Line *Majestic* addressed to Marburg, Germany. It is franked by a pair of 5¢ 1898 Bureau Issue adhesives and tied by two strikes of a Type F ellipse. A backstamp indicates the cover arrived in Marburg on June 8, 1899.

As an aside, acquiring off-cover stamps struck by the Type F on all the issues then in general use can be a challenging undertaking. In fact, the author has never seen a complete collection, on- or off- cover. Since the markings were used during the GPU/UPU period, most stamps encountered are multiples of 5¢ which was the UPU rate. Therefore, 5¢ and 10¢ adhesives are common as well as combinations of 2¢ and 3¢ stamps – seldom seen are the 1¢, 4¢, 6¢ and 7¢ Banknote values and the dollar-values of the Columbian, Trans-Mississippi and Bureau Issues. Perhaps surprisingly, 30¢, 50¢ and 90¢ Bank Note and Bureau Issues turn up fairly frequently.

Most 19th century ellipse cancellations found in the United States were produced in the horizontal bar format. Vertical bar ellipse cancellations were uncommon and used primarily in New York City, Boston, St. Louis, Baltimore and a few smaller post offices. Of these, many employed a letter rather than a numeral. The majority of ellipses with numerals occur in a sans serif (block) style rather than the serif. Thus, identifying Type F markings on off-cover adhesives is usually a fairly easy process, except in one case – Pittsburgh.

In 1883, Pittsburgh was rather “late to the dance” in instituting ellipse cancellations. As Willard notes³ “Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is surely a city of odd-ball ellipses.” The earliest set (numbers 1 to 4) had an ellipse composed of four thick vertical bars. An example is shown as Figure 4 – dated May 31, 1883, the cover’s 3¢ 1879 American Bank Note issue adhesive is tied towards bottom by a numeral #1 from the first set.

Used concurrently with the vertical bar cancellations was a horizontal 7-bar set with numbers 1 to 7. Figure 5 illustrates an example which is struck on an 1875-issue postal card. Dated January 4, 1884, it is cancelled by a clear strike of the numeral #4 from the set. Pittsburgh’s ellipse appears identical to a set used in New Orleans. Willard⁴ reports that the two sets “are hard to tell apart and in most cases, it is necessary to have a cover.”



Figure 2



Figure 3

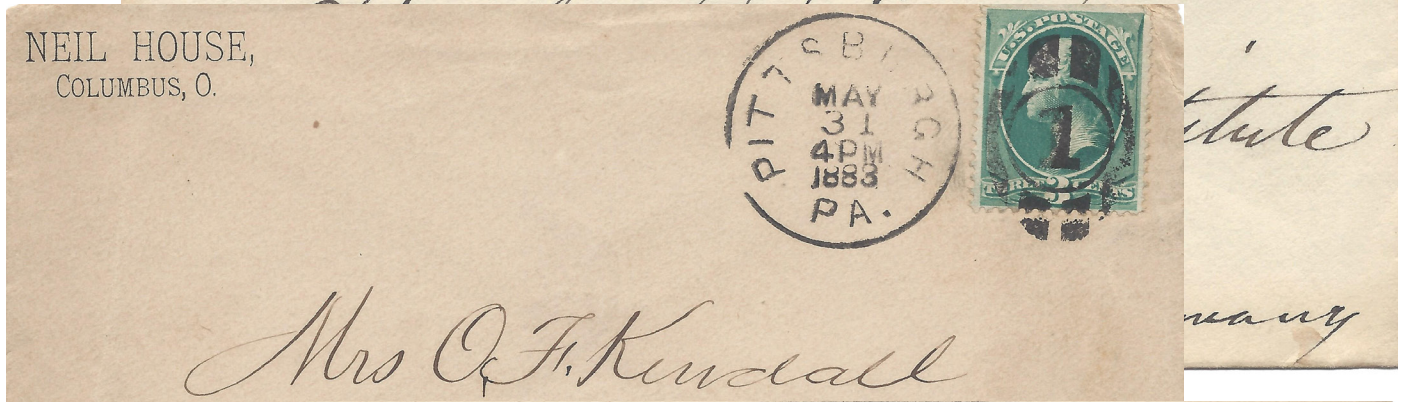


Figure 4



Figure 5

1884 was an interesting year in the Pittsburgh Post Office, as three new sets of duplexes were added; a nine-bar horizontal ellipse (13mm wide, numbers 1 to 6), a similar but slightly wider nine-bar horizontal ellipse (15mm wide, numbers 1 to 6) and a set of vertical ellipses consisting of two different styles – a 5-bar vertical ellipse (numbers 3, 4) and a 6-bar vertical ellipse (numbers 1, 2, 5 & 6). Examples of each marking can be viewed in Willard's excellent book on the two-cent red brown⁵. While this may seem like a diverse group, we need only to concentrate on the 6-bar vertical ellipse with the numbers 1 and 2 as these are the markings resembling the Type F.

Although somewhat similar, Pittsburgh's vertical 6-bar #2 ellipse should not be confused with New York's Type F ellipse. A comparison of the two, seen in Figure 6, reveals a very flat base on Pittsburgh's #2 while the Type F possesses a curved base which thickens and flares toward the end of the number. Further, the length of the two middle bars on the Pittsburgh ellipse is 8mm while the length on the Type F bars is 6mm, making the latter more rounder. An example on cover from Pittsburgh is shown here as Figure 7 – the 2¢ 1882-1886 Plimpton entire is dated October 13, 1885 and the duplex clearly shows the flat base on the #2 numeral.

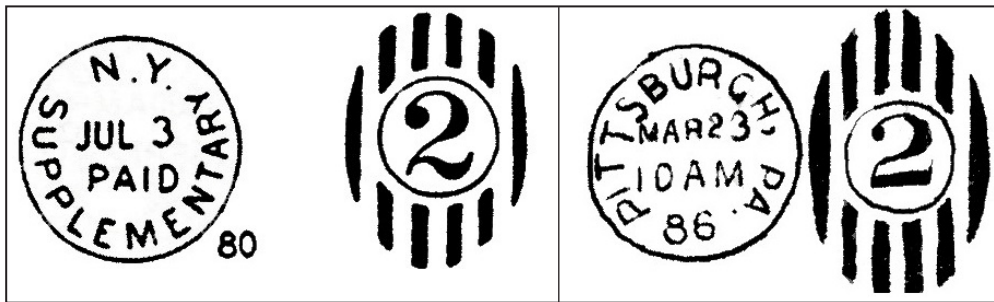


Figure 6

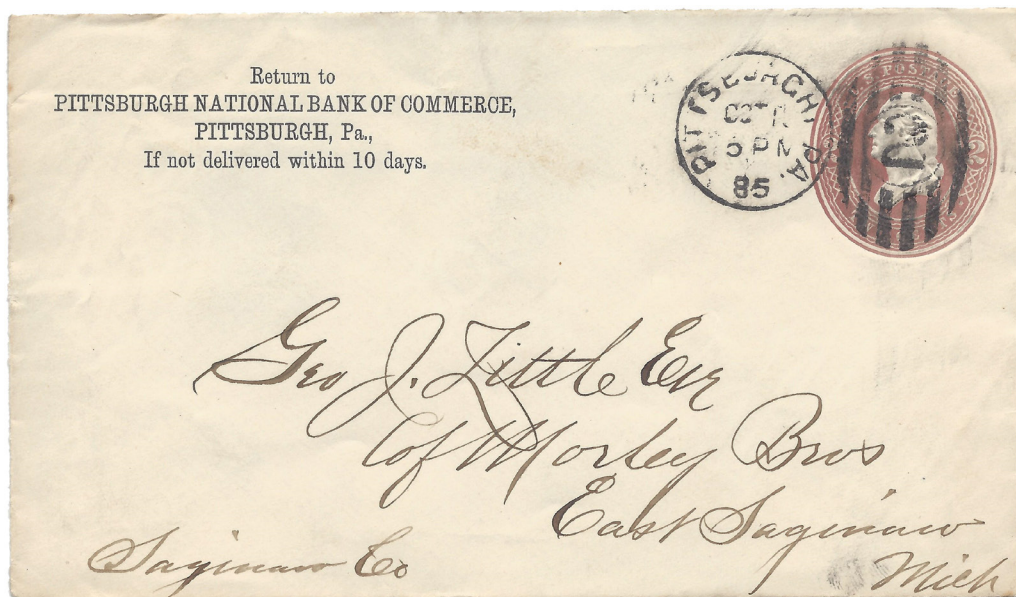


Figure 7

Pittsburgh's #1 ellipse is remarkably similar to its Type F counterpart. In fact, Gilbert Burr initially noticed the similarities in an article published in the *American Philatelist*⁶ where he wrote:

"The '1' of this set (Pittsburgh) is an almost exact duplicate of the '1' that is found used for the Supplementary mail cancels from New York City, the only difference noticeable is with the Supplementary Mail type there is a steeper slant to the serif at the top of the figure '1'. The ellipse is almost exactly the same except possibly the bars are slightly thinner, but this may be due to light or heavy inking of the hand canceller. Care must be exercised to distinguish the difference between these two cancels."

An example of Pittsburgh's #1 duplex and New York's Type F are shown for comparison as Figure 8. Measurements of the numeral indicate each is 2 mm wide and 8 mm high. Differences include the base line which is 4 mm on Pittsburgh's and 5 mm on the Type F numeral. Similarly, the angle of the upper serif to the vertical bar is less (or "steeper" as Burr remarks) on Type F's as compared with Pittsburgh's angle. Lastly, the length of the two middle bars of the ellipse is shorter (6 mm) on the Type F in relation to those of Pittsburgh's (8 mm).

A beautifully-struck example of Pittsburgh's #1 duplex on cover is shown as Figure 9. The yellow cover dated April 16, 1885 was addressed to Mess. Powell Bros., Springboro, PA. Powell Bros., was a successful livestock breeding/marketing firm and is known philatelically for their ornate advertising covers. The cover sent by Blair & Messmore probably contained correspondence regarding livestock feed as they were grain merchants based in Pittsburgh.

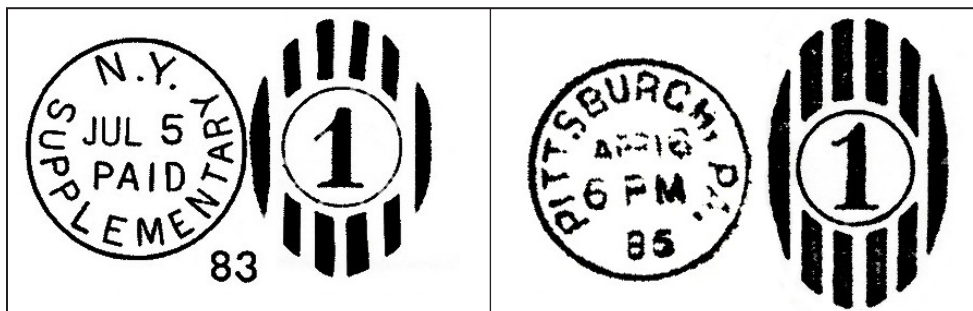


Figure 8

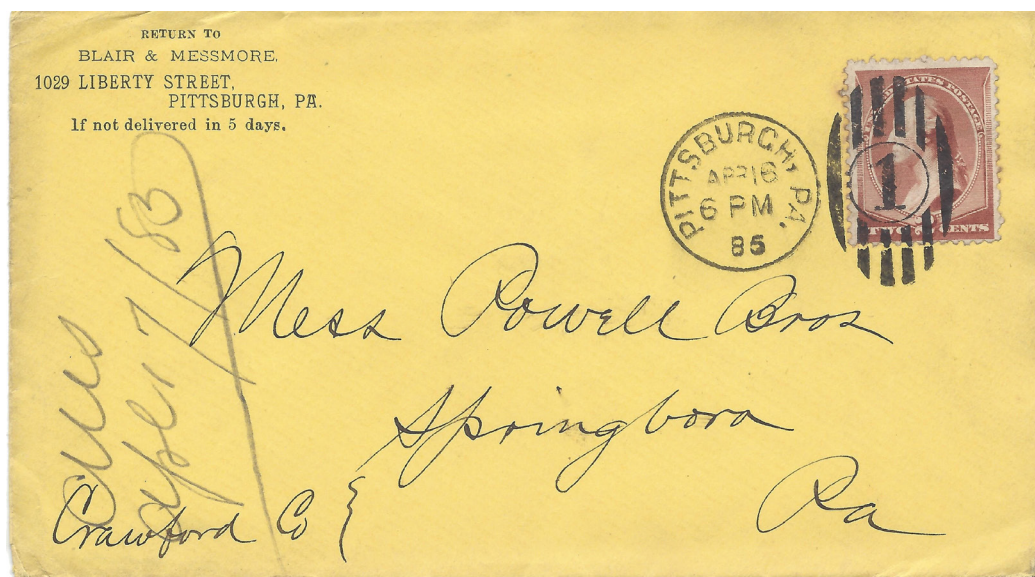


Figure 9

As strikes of the cancel struck on singles can often be only partial, measurement of the length of the vertical bars is sometimes impossible. Thus, measurements of the basal bar and/or angle of the serif to the vertical bar should be employed. In Figure 10, a particularly well-struck example of Pittsburgh's #1 ellipse struck on a single 2¢ 1883 American Bank Note Issue is shown compared to a similarly full strike of a Type F #1 ellipse struck on a single 3¢ 1881-1885 American Bank Note Issue. Examples demonstrating all characteristics are not always easy to find.

It is important to consider one final factor in determining provenance: period of use for each cancellation. Pittsburgh's vertical bar duplex was in use only during 1884-1885 and is found struck on only a limited number of issues whereas the Type F appears on all issues over a 22-year period. ■



Figure 10

Notes

1. Babcock, Warren L., A series of articles in *The American Philatelist*; Nov. 1922, Feb. 1923, Feb. 1924, May 1925 and Mar. 1937.
2. Babcock, Warren L., *Supplementary Mail Markings of New York City, Chicago, San Francisco, San Juan P.R., and Honolulu*, (Detroit: self-published, 1939), 32 pp.
3. Willard, Edward L., *The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887*, (New York: Lindquist Publications, Inc., 1970), vol 2, pg. 146.
4. *Ibid.* pg., 148.
5. *Ibid.* pg., 147.
6. Burr, Gilbert, L., "Standardized Hand Stamp Cancellations on the Bank Note Issues," *The American Philatelist*, Vol. 48, No. 9, (June 1935).

Putnam Observations Beyond the Stars

A Showcase (Part 1)

W.J. Duffney

As announced in the previous issue of the *NEWS*, this series of articles will showcase some of the 19th century fancy cancels produced by the Putnam, Connecticut, Post Office. The ‘showcase’ is not intended to provide a complete record, rather a visual review of the more impressive fancy cancel designs. Many of the fancy cancels illustrated have already been recorded by Skinner & Eno (S/E), Cole or Whitfield, but quite a few have eluded reporting until now. A full census is near completion and will soon be available for all to see on the USCC website. Items are loosely organized by time period while type of design takes precedence over strict chronology.

The Putnam Post Office was established on June 13, 1855, a month after the town was incorporated from parts of Pomfret, Thompson and Killingly. This Windham County post office had previously been named West Thompson (1834-1844), Wilkinson (1844-1849), and Quinebaug (1849-1855).

Quinebaug Postmaster, John Otis Fox (1817 - 1889) was a local farmer and stayed on as the first postmaster of Putnam. The use of fancy cancels began with President Lincoln’s appointment of Hiram N. Brown in June of 1861. Staunchly Republican and active in the Temperance Society, Brown ran a tailor shop for many years in nearby West Woodstock.

Brown’s appointment coincided with the beginning of the Civil War and the subsequent creation of some of Putnam’s most dramatic and beautiful cancels. As was common elsewhere in the Union, the Civil War spurred the use of patriotic designs, often incorporating stars. There is also an obvious penchant for symmetrical geometric designs. Putnam’s unique classic cancels of the era are on the small side with exquisite lines skillfully rendered. The fact that a certain fancy cancel appears during a specific postmaster’s term does not mean that he was actually the creator, although it is possible. Brown was postmaster throughout the remainder of the war and up until August 1867. We begin this series with the early 1860s.

Contributors:

Donald Barany, Joe Crosby, Robert Conley, Roger Curran, Gordon Eubanks, Richard C. Frajola, Robert Lorenz, José Rodriguez, John Valenti.

Sources:

Alexander, Thomas J., *U.S. Postal Markings 1851-61*, Second Edition, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Columbus, Ohio, 1979.

(Cole) Cole, James M., *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870 - 1894*, The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc., Columbus, Ohio, 1995.

(S/E) Skinner, Hubert C. and Eno, Amos, *United States Cancellations 1845-1869, Unusual and Representative Markings*, Published by the American Philatelic Society, State College, Pennsylvania and the Louisiana Heritage Press of New Orleans, 1980.

(Whitfield) Whitfield, Kenneth A., *Cancellations Found on 19th Century U.S. Stamps*, Published by The U.S. Cancellation Club, Lewisburgh, PA, 2012.:

Curran, Roger D., “Putnam Cancels”, *U.S. Cancellation Club News*, Feb. 2002, Feb. 2005, and Aug. 2006, various pages.

Key:

= Year clearly identified on address panel

(####) = Year identified by docketing, backstamp, or enclosure

(YrKn ####) = Year known established by similar example

(RAS) = Robert A. Siegel Auctions

(MBI) = Matthew Bennett International

(DFK) = Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions

1860s

Positive 6-Pointed Star with Hollow Center Square

S/E ST-6P 7

36mm AUG 28, ca. 1861

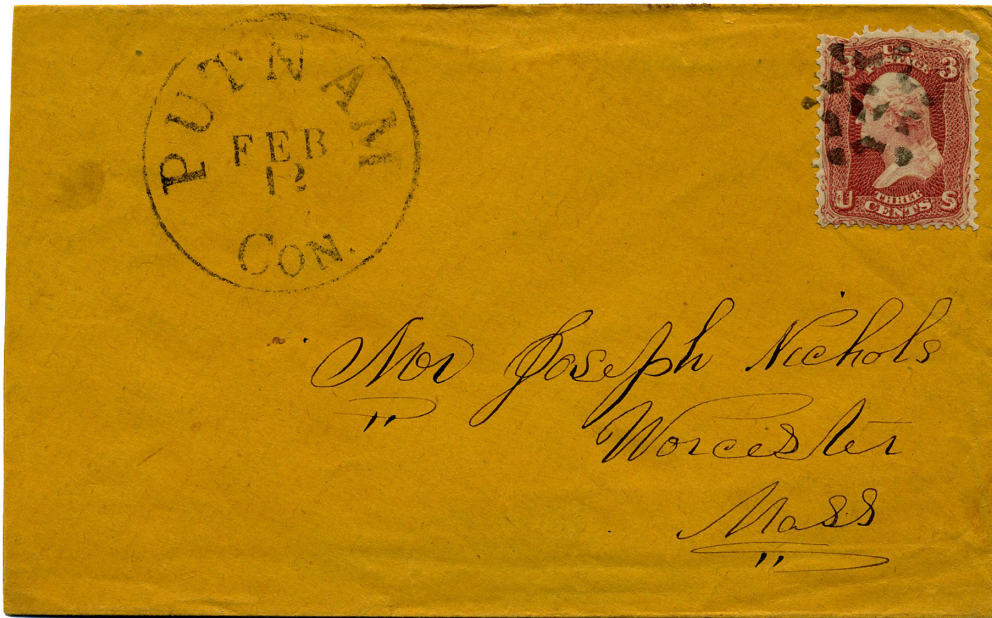
ex-Haas (courtesy of Gordom Eubanks)



The sender here used a 3¢ 1857 issue (for mail under 3,000 miles) during the month in which the Federal government demonetized stamps of 1851-1860 because of the Civil War. It would appear that this is a post-demonetization 'grace period' use of the stamp.

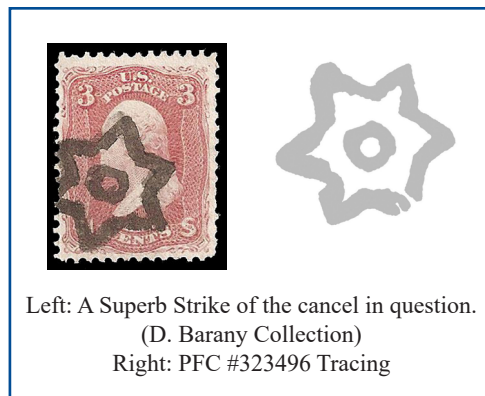


Chopped 6-Point Star
Unlisted Cancel
Balloon FEB 12, ca. 1862, CDS



Enlarged Tracing of above

The above early fancy cancel may be related to PFC #323496, which is a December “hollow 6-Point star with circle in the center” Putnam fancy on a Scott #64b cover (see tracing below). Unfortunately the resolution of the PF cover scan is too poor to display. It is possible that the cancel on the Philatelic Foundation cover was ‘chopped up’ into the condition that we see above.



Left: A Superb Strike of the cancel in question.
(D. Barany Collection)
Right: PFC #323496 Tracing

Elaborate Star or Stylized Daffodil
S/E ST-E 24



OCT 22 (Enclosure 1863); Black (Rare)
(D. Barany Collection) (Cropped)



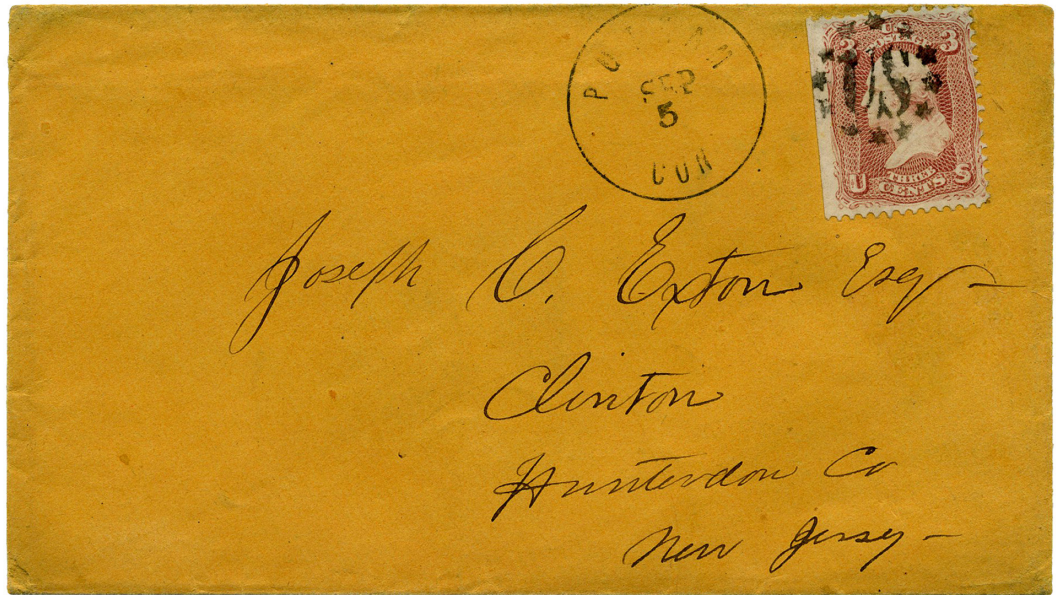
NOV 27 (Docketed 1863); Blue (Scarce)
(Courtesy of MBI) (Cropped)

Masonic Trowel
S/E GE-T 19

OCT 5, (Enclosure 1863);
(courtesy of MBI)



'US' in Circle of 12 Stars
S/E PT-C 21
SEP 5, (ca. 1864)



'US' in Fancy Frame
S/E PT-C 23
NOV 7, (Enclosure 1866)*



*This cover and cancel are dated by a clearly written 1866 enclosure. Two other examples from the Bluckmur correspondence are reportedly docketed 1864 within their enclosures by MBI.

5-Pointed Star within Segmented Circle

S/E ST-E 29

AUG 5, (ca. 1864)

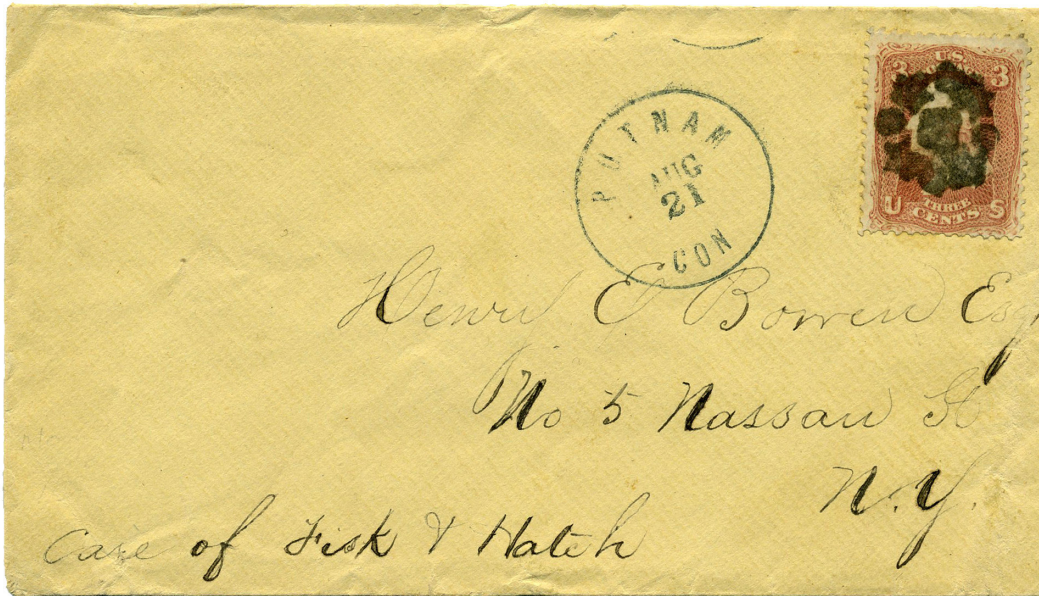


Small & Large Circle of Diamonds with Dots

DEC 8 (Enclosure 1864); S/E GE-R 53 (Cropped)/ AUG 19, (KnYr 1864); S/E GE-R 54 (Cropped)



Stars & Planets
1864 & 1865; S/E GE-E2



The above covers are both struck with the *Stars & Planets* (S/E GE-E2) fancy cancel. The top August 21, 1864, example is a typical use dispatched from the Putnam Post Office; the bottom May 20, 1865, cover is an unusual incoming use cancelled upon receipt. The bottom cover had been postmarked with a 33mm AUBURNDALE MASS/1865 Double Circle CDS with an inside serrated line and cancelled by a lightly struck 'Paid 3' in circle rate stamp. Apparently the Putnam postmaster did not think that the #65 was sufficiently obliterated, so added his own fancy cancel. The Philatelic Foundation records show a similar December 12, 1864, incoming Auburndale cover from the same correspondence treated similarly (PFC #286965). There is also a manuscript Champan's Point, VT, July 13, 1865, item (PFC #530561) with a weak pen cancel that received the Putnam fancy cancel upon arrival.

End of Part I.

The Pointing Hand

Roger Curran

A postal marking familiar to collectors of U.S. 19th century postal history involves the pointing hand. It exists in various sizes and designs and was used, of course, basically to point to the party to which a letter was to be returned. An example appears in Figure 1. Such markings were not always hand stamped but were occasionally hand drawn as seen in Figures 2 and 3. In these two particular cases, the pointing hand drew attention to the due charge.



Figure 1



Figure 2

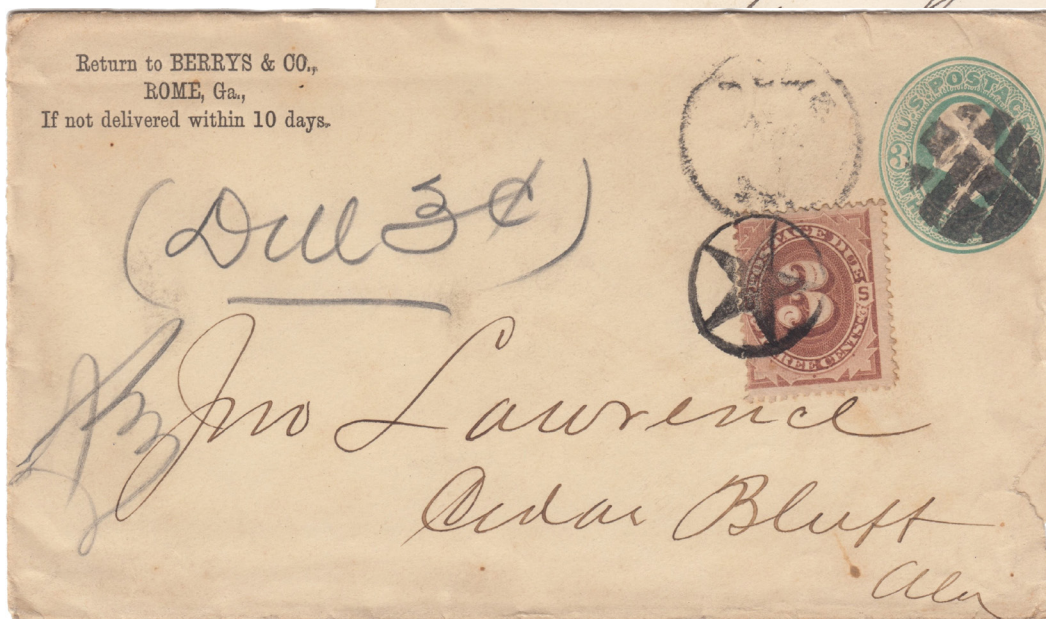


Figure 3

Pointing hand markings were sometimes used as cancelers. The cover shown in Figure 4 transmitted a registered letter. Based on the corner card, it apparently entered the mails at Harpursville, NY. The two postmarks are illegible. There may have been duplexed killers but, if so, the strikes are exceedingly weak. After the 1890 letter reached Dunedin, Florida, it was determined that delivery was not possible and the pointing hand markings were applied. I believe the strike on the Scott 209 stamp was specifically intended to cancel the stamp which otherwise shows virtually no evidence of a cancel. Figure 5 illustrates other examples of the use of a pointing hand handstamp as a canceler. The strike on the pair has been certified as genuine by the APEX.



Figure 4



Figure 5

There were also some hand carved cancelers in the shape of, or that incorporate the design of, a pointing hand. In these situations, they were not intended for use in pointing to some needed postal action but were rather just folk art representations of an object seen in everyday life. Figure 6 illustrates an example from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in blue ink. It is dated April 29 with no indication on the cover of the year. Whitfield¹ lists the cancel and reports a date of April 30, 1874. Cole lists it with the same date. Incidentally, Pittsburgh used a smaller version that Cole reports from April 22-27, 1874. Cole's listings are shown in Figure 7.²

Our editor suggested that a spectacular pointing hand marking from Granger, Indiana also be shown – see Figure 8 (shown with the kind permission of Siegel Auction Galleries). It is matched by the equally distinctive Granger postmark. This post office, located in Saint Joseph County, was established in 1875 and I believe it still operates today.

The date in the Granger postmark appears to be September 21, 1875. Baker³ provides a tracing of the Figure 8 postmark with a date of October 4, 1871. Surely the “1” in “1871” is in error, probably due to a poor strike of the handstamp.

Interestingly, there was another Granger, Indiana post office – in Monroe County – that was only open in 1875. The Saint Joseph County post office would have opened, of course, only after the Monroe County post office had closed. Thus the Figure 8 markings were used early, perhaps very early in the life of the Saint Joseph County post office.

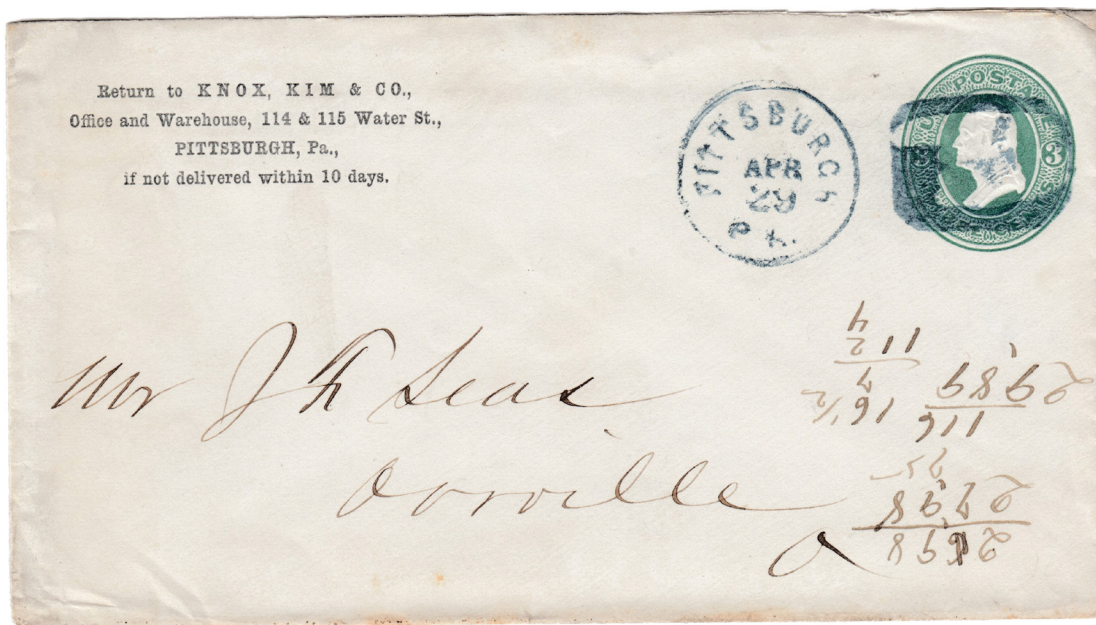


Figure 6

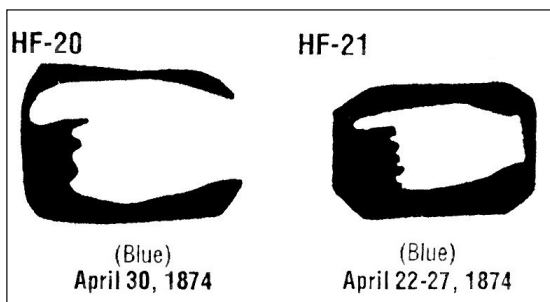


Figure 7



Figure 8

Readers are encouraged to report to the NEWS editor any additional examples of pointing hands used as cancels. ■

Notes

1. Whitfield, Kenneth A., *Cancellations Found on 19th Century U.S. Stamps*, U. S. Cancellation Club, 2010, p.20.
2. Cole, James, M. *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894*, The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc., 1995, p.173.
3. Baker, J. David, *The Postal History of Indiana*, Volume 1, Leonard H. Hartmann, Louisville, KY, 1976, p.447.

A New Arrow Killer from Cambridge, New York

Robert L. Conley

Around the middle of March, respected dealer and USCC member, John Valenti listed the cover shown in Figure 1 on his "The Classic Cancel" website. The accompanying commentary was, in part, as follows:

#65, fine, tied by an XF-superb strike of crossed arrows fancy killer, CAMBRIDGE, N.Y., NOV 16 postmark on fresh cover, 2021 PFC. This is a spectacular, unlisted fancy cancel and the only example that I have been able to locate in literature or auction catalogs. The PF describes it as "two strikes of fancy arrow cancel". I disagree and believe this to be a single strike, the killer carved as crossed arrows. It is obviously an early strike. By its delicate nature, this killer would likely remain intact but a short time. The cover is reduced 1cm at left with a repaired lower left corner, the stamp with a tiny tear at right. A rare fancy cancellation for the finest collection.



Figure 1

The deep black strikes certainly help to make this cover very attractive and after a cursory first look, I returned to it a few hours later to admire it further. One's eye is naturally drawn to the arrows, enlarged and illustrated in Figure 2, and then it occurred to me that perhaps the Philatelic Foundation certificate was correct – and the strike is actually the same arrow struck twice, at a perfect right angle.

A few minutes' worth of computer work managed to isolate the two arrows and place them side by side. It was then an easy matter to prove the cancel is actually two strikes of the same killer. Figure 3 shows the two arrows with lines added to highlight the more-obvious identical features. I let John know about my new information with which he concurred, and would be reflected in an amended description. A computer-derived, enlarged 'tracing' is provided in Figure 4.



Figure 2



Figure 3

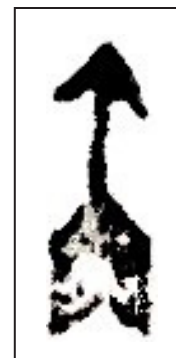


Figure 4

As a collector, albeit a fairly inexperienced one, I am often surprised to learn that such a lovely, unusual killer has evaded reporting anywhere for over 150 years. Has anyone ever seen another of these? ■

Solid-Centered Datestamps/Postmarks Used as Cancellation Devices - Part I

Ardy Callender

Readers will recall my article, presented in five parts, "Solid Center or 'Black Ball' Ellipses" which concluded in the November 2020 *NEWS*. This article, also to be serialized over a number of issues, will examine an analogous group of cancellations – date stamp/postmarks with a solid central core.

During the 1850s and into the early months of 1860, most large post offices cancelled adhesives with their domestic city postmark in a manner like that as shown in Figure 1. Complaints about the legibility of the strikes lead the U.S. Post Office Department to prohibit their use for that purpose – in 1860, Postmaster-General Joseph Holt issued a postal regulation (effective July 23, 1860) forbidding the use of datestamps as obliterations. From that day, two instruments (a date stamp and an obliterator) were necessary to process a letter, effectively doubling the amount of effort to "cancel" a letter. The development of the duplex cancelling device provided a way to accomplish both tasks with the one instrument. The New York City Post Office pioneered the development and implementation of the duplex. The earliest recorded example of a duplex cancellation is dated August 8, 1860 and is shown as Figure 2.

In each subsequent issue of the *Postal Laws and Regulations (PL & R)*, statements banning the use of postmarking devices continued to be included. As late as 1887, the *PL & R* outlawed date stamps as obliterations as follows:

“At Mailing Offices – Canceling and Postmarking. Sec. 517. The use of the office rating or postmarking stamp as a canceling instrument is prohibited, except for the cancellation of stamps at the delivery office which were not stamped at the mailing office.” (*PL & R*, 1887, Chapter Eighteen, Sec.517, no. 2, pg. 222).



Figure 1

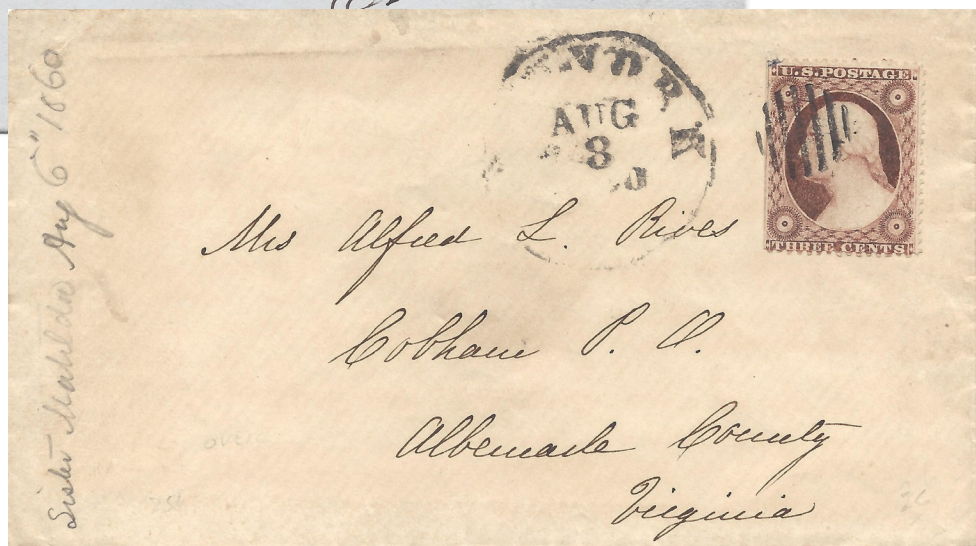


Figure 2

For the most part, the postmarking instructions listed in the *PL* & *Rs* generally referred to first-class letter mail. Regulations regarding second-, third- and later, fourth-class mail were not spelled out except in a very few cases. Thus, each city cancelled third-class mail (circular and printed matter) in a variety of different ways. For example, as seen in Figure 3, Jamesburg, New Jersey used their everyday dated duplex, Providence, Rhode Island simply struck a straightline cancel as illustrated in Figure 4, and San Francisco employed an old-style, double-circle date stamp without date, seen in Figure 5.



Figure 3



Figure 4

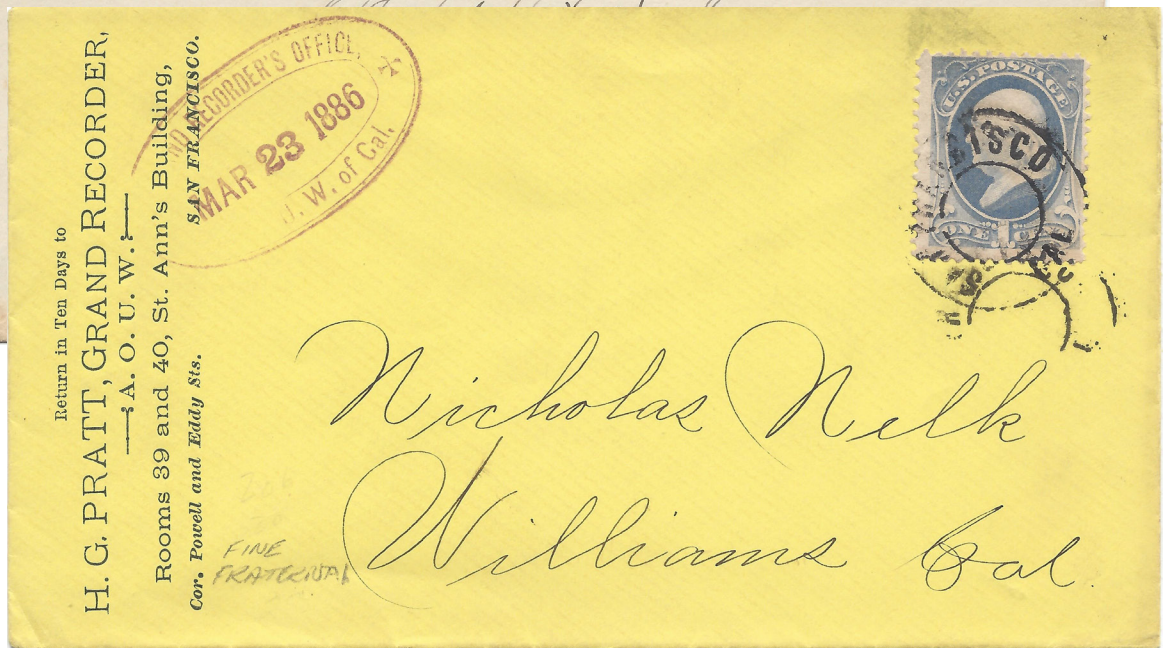


Figure 5

Beginning as early as the late 1860s, circular mail is commonly found cancelled solely by a cut cork simplex as seen in Figure 6. Lacking a corner card or contents, the absence of the city/state information causes problems for post offices – as well as for today's postal historians – as to where the circular originated.



Figure 6

Richard Graham, the preeminent postal historian of his time, recognized the problem with the lack of town/state information on circular rate mail in an article in the U.S. Philatelic Classic Society *Chronicle*¹. His article entitled “Circular Usage of the Two-Cent Black Jack: A Request for Assistance” reported:

“Search has been made in vain through postal laws and regulations of the period without finding any directive by the Department during the 1861-1868 era authorizing the omissions of the town postmark on circular mail.”

The author has inspected 1873, 1879 and 1887 *PL & Rs* and found not a single regulation allowing third-class mail from excluding town/state information. In fact, most *PL & R*'s include the statement:

“Making Up The Mails – Sec. 285. Letters received to be sent by mail should be carefully marked with the name of the post office at which they are received, and the abbreviated name of the State or Territory, the day of the month on which they are forwarded in the mail, and the stamp or stamps thereon cancelled. The name and date may be written or stamped.” (*PL & R*, 1873, Chapter XVII, section 283, pg. 222)

However, the 1879 *PL & R* includes a paragraph which may answer this question, providing a loophole for postmasters at first-class post offices:

“Distribution and Dispatch of Ordinary Domestic Mail-Matter. – Sec. 379. All Mail-matter other than Second Class to be Postmarked.– All mailable matter (except that of the second class) in any post-office for mailing or delivery must bear a postmark giving the name of the post-office and an abbreviation of the name of the State (and on first-class matter the date of deposit); and all letters received from other offices or post-offices for delivery or for redistribution to other offices or post-offices must be postmarked on the reverse side, with the date and, when possible, the hour on which they are received. ...First-class post-offices may be exempt from the operations of this section if upon evidence satisfactory to the Postmaster-General they shall show it to be impracticable to comply with its provisions. (*PL & R*, 1879, Chapter Eight, sec. 379, pg. 104)

The above paragraph exempts all classes of mail (other than first-class) from including the date, authorizes the use of back-stamping at receiving post offices and finally removing all of the “operations of this section” with the consent of the Postmaster-General. In effect, it allows first-class postmasters to use other measures to cancel circular rate mail (if approved by the PMG). Although this is the first reference of this exemption in the *PL & R*'s, it seems likely to have been in effect earlier as solitary cork simplex cancellations were in use at least as early as the 1860s.

Solid-centered date stamp/postmarks are most commonly found struck on circular rate mail and occasionally on first-class mail. The devices were created by removing of all month/day slugs and replacing them with a solid plug or design in as seen in Figure 7. In contrast, the cancellations seen in Figures 8 and 9 do not qualify as "Solid-Centred Datestamps" as the slugs do not replace the month/day information.



Figure 7



Figure 8

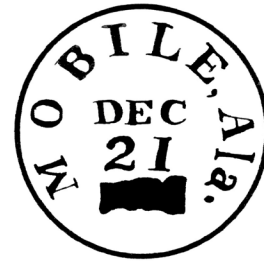


Figure 9

The earliest examples of solid-centered cancellations, like the example seen in Figure 7, were used experimentally on circular rate mail in New York City. After the Postal Act of March 3, 1851 (effective July 1), the NYPO was reorganized with mail sorted according to category, class or destination. This resulted in different postmarking devices for each department.

During the first few months, the NYPO Circular Department employed the same obliterators, such as the one seen in Figure 10, as the Domestic Department. However, some time in October 1851, the month/day slugs were removed and replaced with a solid block. It seems this was an early attempt by NYPO to provide a both the city name and canceller in a single device: a dual-purpose obliterator. Almost immediately, the central block began to develop cracks as shown in Figure 11. On the illustrated folded letter, dated October 2, 1851, the crack can clearly be seen running almost the length of the slug down the right side. At least as early as March 21, 1852², a new version of this cancellation appeared with six bars in the central area, seen in Figure 12. Scans of these "big slug" covers were graciously provided by club member, John Donnes.

Similar to NYC's 6-bar, Darlington, PA employed a date stamp with 4 segments in its core. The cancellation is figured in Simpson's U. S. Postal Markings 1851-1861³ and is shown here as Figure 13. Simpson lists the cancellation as Type K14 (contains bars or grid – not accidental) and indicates it is 31mm in diameter. An example on cover has never been observed by the author.

A cover dated April 1, 1861 from Falmouth, Indiana is shown as Figure 14 (image courtesy of eBay dealer liquidationgirl). The central split bar cancellation appears to be a repurposed date stamp containing two horizontal segments. Sent at the first-class domestic rate, the cover was required to possess a dated originating city/state postmark which is struck at the upper left. The split bar cancellation is weakly struck on a 3¢ 1857-1861 Regular Issue adhesive and is smaller in diameter than that of the postmark.



Figure 10



Figure 11

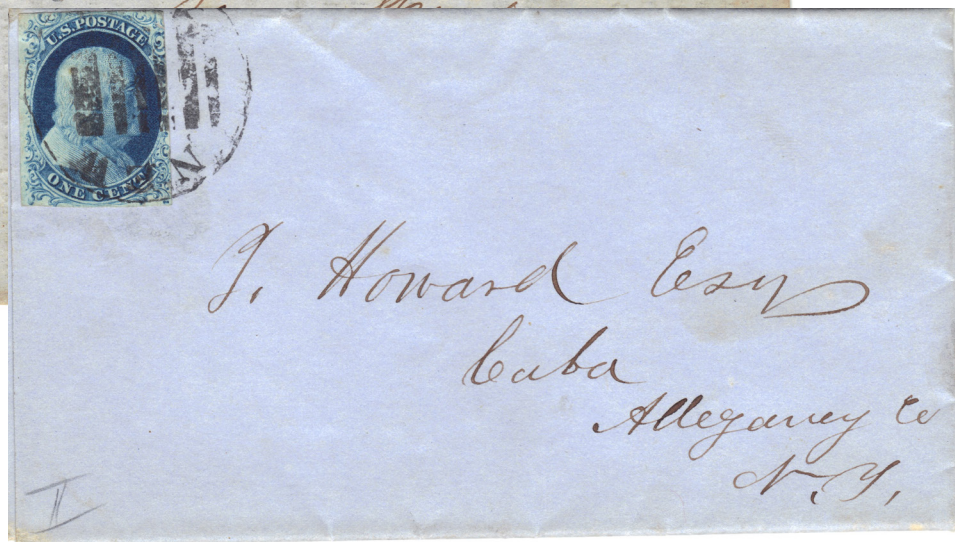


Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14

References

1. Graham, Richard, "Circular Usage of the Two-Cent Black Jack: A Request For Assistance," in the *Chronicle*, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Columbus, Ohio, 1967, no. 54, pg. 23.
2. Donnes, John, personal communication.
3. Alexander, Thomas, J., *Simpson's U.S. Postal Markings 1851-1861*, U.S. Philatelics Classic Society, Columbus, OH, 1979, pg. 69.

End of Part I.

A New Earliest Date for a Pittsburgh Postmark/Cancel Duplex?

Roger Curran

The adoption of handstamps that duplexed postmarking and canceling elements has received considerable treatment in the *NEWS* over the last 20 or so years. This step was one of the two most important in the evolution of 19th century U.S. canceling practices. The other was the introduction of machine cancels.

The New York Post Office was the first to use such handstamps and did so as early as August 8, 1860. Two other post offices – Cincinnati and Cleveland – followed suit later that month. Post offices in Chicago, Savannah, Pittsburgh, and Buffalo are known to have taken this step by the end of 1860. Our attention here is just focused on Pittsburgh. See Figure 1 for an early strike from a Pittsburgh duplex handstamp. The earliest reported date for this duplex marking is October 26, 1860.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Recently, the cover dated September 11, 1860 and illustrated in Figure 2, came on the market. The CDS and cancel, placed together as they are, appear as though they came from a duplex handstamp, albeit one involving a cancel with a rim enclosing the bars and showing no space between the CDS and cancel. One wonders if the handstamp used was cobbled together for some sort of preliminary test of a duplex handstamp. If this is a duplex marking, it would, of course, mean that Pittsburgh used such a duplex handstamp more than a month earlier than previously reported. Needless to say, a second example is needed to confirm that it is a duplex strike. Readers are encouraged to check their collections. ■

The Bangor Bookseller, the Blackjack and the Ringed-Star Cancel

Robert L. Conley

Aware of one's interest in Maine postal history, USCC member and highly-esteemed dealer, Jim Lee, recently contacted yours truly with regard to a cover and its contents that he had recently acquired. Said cover is illustrated in Figure 1.

Jim noted that the subject items were "... an exquisite piece of early direct mail, very clean and fresh. You rarely find direct mail with a response envelope at this early point in time. That coupled with the fancy geometric six point star (S-E GE-P 47) make this very special."

One can only agree that the cover is aesthetically pleasing – with a lovely, clean, 2-cent Jackson "Blackjack" and a clear impression of the CDS and fancy cancel. However, the tracing of the quoted Skinner & Eno¹ reference, shown in Figure 2, does not show a ring around the six-pointed star. The traced star does, however, look just like the one on the cover. It is pure speculation but one suggests that the star originally sat within the ring, which was subsequently removed. Does anyone have more examples of this star, with or without the ring?

Aside from the fancy cancel, Jim's mention of the early use of direct mail and response envelopes (the original contents of the cover are illustrated in Figures 3 and 4) was a revelation and of great intrigue – was the sender of this cover a man ahead of his time? Was his "direct mail, return envelope" strategy a winner?



Figure 1

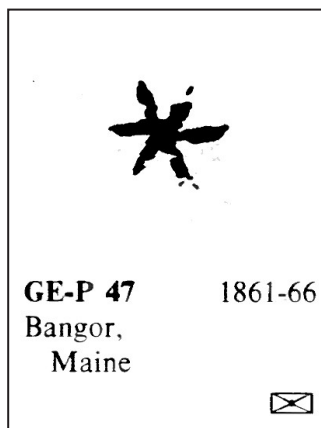


Figure 2

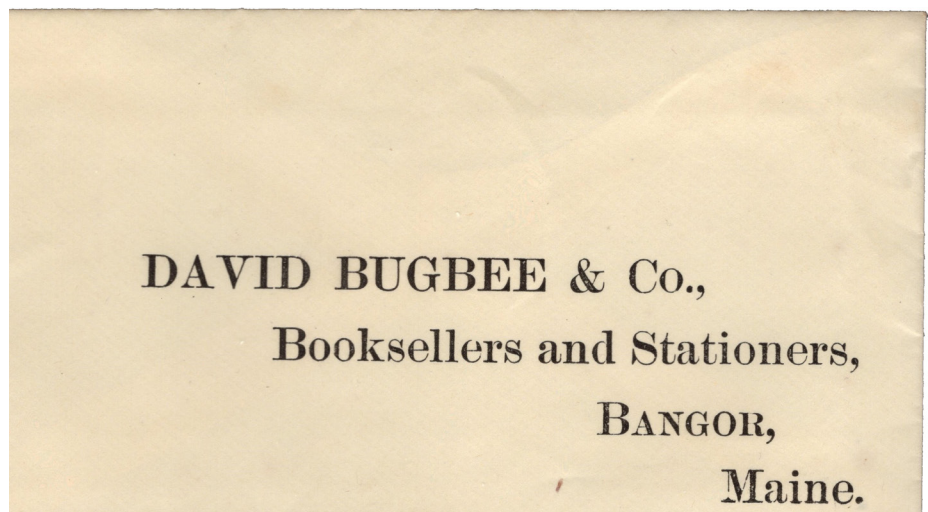


Figure 3

A little digging² found that David Bugbee, pictured in Figure 5, was born in Pomfret, Vermont, in June 1817, the ninth of ten children. His parents died in 1829 and, not yet a teenager, he was sent to Plymouth, Massachusetts and later, Boston to learn the trade of bookbinding. In 1834, he got a job in Portland, Maine, furthered his training and gained clerical and business skills. Two years later, he established his own bookbinding, book-selling and stationery store in the center of Bangor. His first advertisement in *The Bangor Daily Whig & Courier* newspaper, was on June 9, 1838 and is shown in Figure 6.

To cut a very long story somewhat shorter, David Bugbee married in 1847 but his wife took less than two years to file for divorce. One of his brothers, a young doctor who had also experienced an early divorce, died in 1848. The doctor's second wife (and widow and mother of his child), Jane, married her brother-in-law, David, in 1854.

Bugbee was a daily advertiser in the newspaper and his business did indeed go from strength to strength. As seen in Figure 7, in 1854, he went into partnership and traded as David Bugbee & Co.

..... 186

D. BUGBEE & CO., Bangor :
Send for use of the Town of

articles as below.

} *Selectmen Town*

 } *of*

VALUATION BOOKS—700 names, \$1.25.	
“ “ 900 “ 1.50.	
“ “ 1050 “ 1.75.	
	(Books of any size furnished.)
COLLECTORS' TAX BOOKS—Leather binding.	
“ “ “ 1400 names, .75.	
“ “ “ 2000 “ 1.00.	
“ “ “ 2600 “ 1.25.	
With Flap and Pocket, 2600 “ 1.50.	
HIGHWAY SURVEYORS' BOOKS—with Powers	
and Duties of Surveyors, .75 per doz.	
TOWN ORDER BOOKS—2 qrs., 2.25.	
“ “ “ 3 “ 3.00.	
“ “ “ 4 “ 3.75.	
“ “ BLANKS—,75 per qr.	
HIGHWAY SURVEYORS' LIMITS—,75 per qr.	
CAP PAPER, ruled—,25 per qr.	
LETTER PAPER, ruled—3,00 per Rm., ,20 per qr.	
COMMERCIAL NOTE, ruled—2,00 per Rm., ,15 per qr.	
GOOD LETTER ENVELOPES—,30 per 100.	

BLANK BOOKS and STATIONERY, of every description,
 furnished at the lowest prices.

Figure 4



Figure 5

No. 5 Main Street. June 9

PAPER

500 REAMS Wrapping Paper, different sizes,
 100 do. Letter, various prices,
 75 reams Cap, do.
 50 do. Pot, do.
 25 do. Printing, 24x30—Blank Books. &c.

For sale wholesale and retail low for cash by
DAVID BUGBEE,
 Blank Book Manufacturer and Book-Binder.
 No. 10 Smith's Block, Central street, Bangor, Me.
 June 1 Sw

Figure 6

Copartnership Notice.

THE subscribers have this day formed a co-
 partnership under the name and style of
DAVID BUGBEE & CO.,
 and will continue the
Book-Selling
 —AND—
Account Book Manufacturing
 Business, in all its branches,
AT THE OLD STAND,
No. 5 Kenduskeag Bridge.
 DAVID BUGBEE,
 E. F. DILLINGHAM.
 Bangor, Aug. 25, 1854 d&w3m

Figure 7

In 1860, aged just 42, he declared that his total wealth was a very substantial \$35,000, and that he and Jane had a live-in housekeeper! Jane Bugbee died in 1898, aged 82 years and after several months of ill health, David passed away in December 1899. Both are buried at Bangor's Mount Hope Cemetery.

According to Bugbee's obituary, which took up about a third of the front page of *The Bangor Daily Whig & Courier* (with whom he had been advertising for 60 years), his passing would "...occasion general sorrow in Bangor and elsewhere..." Further, Bugbee was "... one of Bangor's best known and highly respected citizens and one whose deeds of charity were many, although always unostentatious."

As for the questions posed earlier – yes, David Bugbee was undoubtedly a huge business and financial success, and a self-made man, no doubt in part due to his innovative "direct mail, return envelope" marketing strategy. ■

References:

1. Skinner, Hubert C. and Eno, Amos, *United States Cancellations 1845-1869* (State College, PA: American Philatelic Society, 1980), p.61.
2. Multiple database and newspaper searches conducted through subscriber-accessed websites: Ancestry.com and Newspapers.com.



SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT



Membership as of March 24, 2021 is 193, consisting of 6 Life Members and 187 Regular Members. 52 Regular Members remain unpaid for their 2021 dues.

Membership as of January 1, 2020	198
New Regular Members	+2
Deaths & Resignations	-7
Current Membership	193

Cash at bank as of January 1, 2020	\$21,707.07
Cash at bank as of March 17, 2021	\$22,844.38

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 financial liabilities.

Many thanks are due to the ten Members who kindly made donations, totalling \$352, since January 2020:

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Amy Wieting, Bowling Green, KY

Respectfully Submitted.

Joe Crosby
 Secretary-Treasurer
 March 24, 2021

THE GEM



Auburn, New York: Horizontal strip of four, 1873 Continental Banknote issue, 7¢ orange vermilion (Scott 160), tied by target cancels on October 1876 cover to Moradabad, India, with red "New York, 110, Oct 20" exchange CDS, red London transit CDS and 7d credit handstamp tying strip. A stunning & rare usage, ex-Newbury. Image courtesy of Schuyler J. Rumsey Philatelic Auctions.

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