

# LA POSTA: A JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

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## PUBLISHER'S PAGE

### La Posta at 30!

This year we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> year of continuous publication. I find it a bit hard to believe that I've actually written those words. In retrospect it has been a long and challenging road, but I feel the quality and content of the journal has improved and expanded continuously through the years, especially considering that it started with mimeographs printed by hand. There have been times – fortunately not many — when I really did not know what the next issue of the journal was going to contain, and there have been other times when I frankly wondered if I should pursue this activity instead of working at a real job. *La Posta* has never been a profitable venture in the normal sense of that term, but it has allowed me a degree of freedom to work how and when I want that is undoubtedly a luxury in our society. Still, it seems inconceivable that I could have ever stayed with this publication if it hadn't been for all the generous, kind and wonderful people I have met along the way.

The list is too long to name names here, and sadly many of these wonderful folks have long since closed their albums, but it is easy to identify those who have been most responsible for keeping this undertaking alive over the years by thumbing back through issues past to see the names of editors, authors, advertisers and sustaining subscribers. These people, along with the hundreds of readers whose names have not appeared on our pages over the years, are the real reason that our journal has managed to continue publishing into its 30<sup>th</sup> year. Frankly, I find that an incredible testament to the character of people in this hobby. Although our numbers have never been large, we have been blessed with the participation of men and women of exceptional good will. It has been my honor to be associated with American postal historians for all these years, and I look forward to many more enjoyable experiences in the decade to come.

While on the subject of the future of *La Posta*, I would like to offer a few comments and, perhaps, put to rest any unfounded rumors that



may be circulating regarding my continued participation with the journal. As most readers are now aware, Cath and I have begun wintering in Australia, and have been producing *La Posta* and running some of the auctions from the southern hemisphere. In order to achieve the kind of mobility needed to keep the business running smoothly while living overseas, I needed to have someone else store and distribute the years worth of books and journal back issues that had piled up in our house before we sold it. Thus, I entered an arrangement with James E. Lee of Wheeling, Illinois, last autumn whereby he would have sole distribution rights to all past and future titles produced by La Posta Publications. Furthermore, a second agreement was negotiated with John Van Alstyne and Sherry Straley of Sacramento, California, whereby they would acquire sales and distribution rights to all back numbers of La Posta journal.

The announcement of those agreements apparently convinced some people to believe that I might be positioning myself to withdraw from a relationship with La Posta. I know this is true because I was asked if it were on at least two occasions. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. While Cath and I have made some fairly drastic changes in our lifestyle, we have found that the journal can be published as easily in Australia as in the U.S., since we can transmit the contents via the Internet where it is printed and mailed from Florida. *La Posta* continues to be a vital part of our plans for the future. With the continued support of our creative authors and editors and your patronage, we will keep on publishing six numbers per year just as long as we are physically able to do so.

As you may have gathered, I do not anticipate a traditional retirement. In fact, having

James Lee distribute my books and agree to sell all new **La Posta** publications has freed up my time to write more postal history books, which is what I most enjoy doing. Since I began this relationship with Lee, I have completed two volumes of the new *U.S. Post Offices* series - *The West and The Great Plains*, which will eventually total 8 volumes. I also have plans to update and reprint *Postmarks on Postcards*, and have several other projects in the works. Our move to live part-time in Australia has also freed up Cath from her previous full-time work to where she can help with the Journal and the Subscriber's auctions, which is another factor which has enabled me to continue publishing **La Posta** while undertaking other book projects at the same time. In addition to publishing the journal, it is our hope to continue periodic La Posta Subscribers' Auctions. This is discussed in detail later in this issue.

While we enjoy wintering in Australia, our ties with the United States remain strong. We will always maintain a mailing address in the U.S. for the convenience of our subscribers. We also plan to make a point of visiting national stamp shows during those times we are living back in the states. I will be at the Cleveland show in August of 1999, and hope to see some of you then.

### About the Subscriber's Auction

The Subscriber's Auction is a relatively new addition to **La Posta** which was begun about 12 years ago. At that time, several postal history auction houses had closed their doors, and there was virtually no outlet for individuals to sell small lots of moderately valued material.

I began the auctions both as a way to bring a little more money into the business, and as a service to subscribers. Little did I realize when I initially embarked on describing auction lots what a huge, time-consuming, detailed task it is to concisely describe 500-700 individual pieces and come up with a reasoned estimate on its value! The fact is, especially when there are many low value lots, the effort expended is only marginally compensated by the amount gained. Still, many of our subscribers seem to truly appreciate our offering these auctions, so we have continued them even while we undertook large lifestyle

changes, and we have now run three of them from Australia.

While the production of the **La Posta** journal has gone off smoothly during our stays in Australia, we have found that there are some minor obstacles to conducting a mail auction. I am convinced that most of these obstacles are perceptual, rather than physical. Because of the distance between the U.S. and Australia, the main differences between conducting auctions here are the length of time it takes to fulfill photocopy requests, and phoning in bids or requests for opening bids near the end of the auction.

After making a few mistakes in logistics, we have made adjustments on our end to make the auction run smoother while we are in Australia. These include a longer lead-time between release of the catalog and closing, mailing lots directly from Australia to the U.S., posting an auction web page where many lots can be viewed, and posting opening bids on the web about 10 days before closing. In the future, we will also be establishing deadlines for requesting photocopies by mail to ensure all requests can be answered in a timely way.

What we need from our subscriber's in order to keep the auction going is for you to keep sending in lots for consignment, and for you to consider modifying the way you place your bids and request information. This does not mean you have to run out and buy a computer! All you may really need to do is request photocopies early rather than later, and consider making a quick overseas phone call to get opening bids or increase a bid you've already made. (This can be done for under \$2 if you keep your call short.) What I'd like to emphasize is that there are now quicker ways to contact us than by sending a letter, especially if you need to get through fast. The suggestions below are both for people who do and do not have access to computers.

If you plan to request photocopies, please keep in mind that the exchange of information via traditional mail is very slow, and plan ahead accordingly. It takes about three weeks to complete an airmail exchange between the U.S. and Australia. In other words, if you request photocopies of an auction lot on December 1<sup>st</sup>, do not

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The following individuals have expressed an interest in corresponding with other collectors via e-mail. Names are followed by specific interest (where known) and complete e-mail address. If you would like to join this list in future issues of La Posta, send us a note via e-mail at [helbock@la-posta.com](mailto:helbock@la-posta.com)

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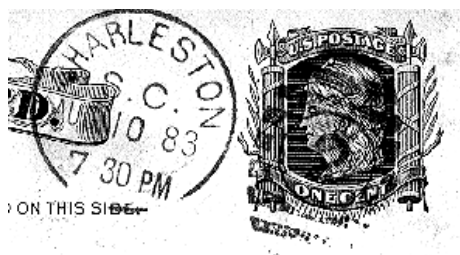
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## WESSON Time-On-Bottom Study Continues

Ralph Edson and Gilbert Levere send word that their research intended to expand and update our knowledge of the popular Wesson Time-On-Bottom cancels is continuing. They would like to thank those who have sent along information regarding earliest and latest dates of use, and to encourage other collectors to contribute information.

Please send photocopies of any Time-On-Bottom markings that are believed to be earliest or latest dates, plus any thought to be new varieties or types to **Ralph A. Edson, 365 Westland Avenue, Cheshire, CT 06410**. Photocopies should show the entire cover/card or be at least 2 inches high by 2 1/2 inches wide in order to include the entire cancel for possible illustration in their catalog.

## MAIL BOXES ETC. TO POSTMARK MAIL

Ronald Ward reports a very interesting development on the ongoing privatization of certain postal functions in the United States. According to a report of the "Maryland Section" of the Washington *Post* of November 26, 1998:

*Several Mail Boxes Etc. locations in Maryland will offer U.S. postal products and services as a result of a new partnership to increase access to postal services. Products include Priority Mail, Express Mail, Global Priority Mail, first-class mail and insured, certified and return receipt mail. Postage stamps will be sold at face value.*

*Mail Boxes Etc. locations in Montgomery County are 9812 Falls Rd., Suite 14, in Potomac; 113 N. Washington St. in Rockville; 4838 Hampden Lane in Bethesda; 11160 Viers Mill Rd. in Wheaton; 13017 Wisteria Dr. and 19709 Frederick Rd. in Germantown.*

Ron continues his report:

*On the possibility that our local Mail Boxes Etc. store had some type of canceling device, I paid them a visit on Nov. 28. They did indeed have a self-inking date stamp as follows: Outer ring 38 mm. diameter, inner ring 27 mm. diameter with a 9 mm. opening at either side. Between the two rings at the top was: Rockville, MD 20650 and between the rings at the bottom was: USPS-MBE. In the center was the date: NOV 28 1998. Red ink was used. The Zip code 20650 is the one for the main Rockville, MD post office and the initials "MBE" are obvious.*

Ron suspects that other Mail Boxes Etc. stores in his county have similar handstamps, but with the name and Zip code of the main post office in that town or city. He does not know whether this is a local experiment by the USPS or whether similar arrangements have been undertaken between USPS and Mail Boxes Etc. (which is owned by United Parcel Service) in other parts of the country.

# RANDY STEHLE MAIL BID SALE NUMBER 81

16 Iris Court, San Mateo, CA 94401

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## CALIFORNIA

001 ALBERTA, 1913 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (10-14). EST. \$75  
 002 AQUEDUCT, 1909 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (08-10). EST. \$40  
 003 ATOLIA, 1909 VG DOANE ON PPC (06/44). EST. \$6  
 004 CAMP ROBERTS, 1942 F MACHINE ON PPC. "FREE" USAGE. E\$4  
 005 CHUALAR, 1906 G DUPLEX ON GPC. EST. \$4  
 006 CONSTANCIA, 1916 VG 4-BAR ON COVER. (12-27). EST. \$10  
 007 DAVISVILLE, 1901 G+ DUPLEX ON CVR W/ENCL (68-07). E. \$4  
 008 DEADWOOD, 1912 G+ 4-BAR ON PPC (86-15). EST. \$20  
 009 EUBANKS, 1906 F DOANE ON COVER (05-18). EST. \$12  
 010 GENEVA, 190X VG 4-BAR REC'D ON PPC W/SM TEAR(96/11)E\$10  
 011 GRANITE HILL, 1896 F CDS ON CVR OPENED ON 3 SIDES & ROUGH AT RIGHT W/ENCLOSURE (74-08). EST. \$25  
 012 HOOKER, 1910 VG LITE 4-BAR ON PPC (85/28). EST. \$12  
 013 INDIAN GULCH, 1910 VG CDS ON PPC (58/12). EST. \$20  
 014 JOLON, 1910 VG DOANE REC'D ON PPC. EST. \$4  
 015 JOLON, 1912 G LITE 4-BAR REC'D ON PPC. EST. \$4  
 016 KINSLEY, 1908 G+ CDS ON PPC (96-28). EST. \$10  
 017 LAKEPORT, 1880 G BLUE LAK-1050 ON GPC. EST. \$10  
 018 MALTERMORO, 1905 G DUPLEX ON PPC (94-13). EST. \$15  
 019 MILO, 1911 F DUPLEX ON PPC (88-22). EST. \$12  
 020 PAICINES, 1910 F 4-BAR ON PPC. EST. \$4  
 021 PEBBLE BEACH, 1921 F 4-BAR ON PPC. EST. \$4  
 022 PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY STA, 1944 VG MACHINE ON "FREE" PPC. \$5  
 023 SOLEDAD, 1915 F DUPLEX ON PPC. EST. \$4  
 024 TRENTON, 1906 VG DOANE REC'D ON PPC (87-14). EST. \$20  
 025 TUTTLETOWN, 1893 G CDS ON GPC (57/22). EST. \$8  
 026 WALSH STATION, 1910 VG LITE 4-BAR ON PPC (76-17). EST. \$10  
 027 BASHOR, 1910 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (09-18). EST. \$12

## COLORADO

028 CLIFFORD, 1908 F 4-BAR ON PPC (08-13). EST. \$35  
 029 COLEMAN, 1918 VG DOANE REC'D ON PPC (15-19). EST. \$35  
 030 ELBA, 1910 F 4-BAR ON PPC. (10-58) EARLY. EST. \$6  
 031 ELKHORN, 1907 F DOANE ON PPC (79-17). EST. \$20  
 032 HARGISVILLE, 1909 F 4-BAR ON PPC (08-15). EST. \$20  
 033 ILSE, 1915 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (84/29). EST. \$12  
 034 JUNCTION CITY, 1916 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (12-16). EST. \$12  
 035 MUSTANG, 1928 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (14-40). EST. \$12  
 036 NORRIE, 1909 F 4-BAR ON PPC (94-18). EST. \$20  
 037 SWIFT, 1916 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (10-19). EST. \$40  
 038 WINFIELD, 1907 F 4-BAR ON PPC (81-12). EST. \$20

## MONTANA

039 ALDRIDGE, 1909 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (96-10). EST. \$20  
 040 BELGRADE, 1908 F TYPE 11E (DATE ONLY) RFD. EST. \$6  
 041 CLEAR LAKE, 1913 F 4-BAR ON PPC (11-19). EST. \$35  
 042 DANE VALLEY, 1911 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (08-12). EST. \$35  
 043 HAWARDEN, 1913 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (10-16). EST. \$35

## NORTH DAKOTA

044 BENSON, 1909 F LKU DOANE ON PPC (05-09). EST. \$35  
 045 SEABORN, 1909 F 4-BAR ON PPC (07-12). EST. \$12  
 046 URBANA, 1907 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (07-23). EST. \$20

## OREGON

047 ELWOOD, 1909 F 4-BAR ON PPC MAILED W/O STAMP (92-14) E \$20  
 048 WILSON, 191X VG 4-BAR ON PPC (96-17). EST. \$20

## SOUTH DAKOTA

049 BURDETTE, 1914 VG 4-BAR O/S ON PPC (83-20). EST. \$10  
 050 COLINA, 19XX (NYD) VG 4-BAR ON PPC (09-12). EST. \$35  
 051 DRIGGERS, 1909 VG 4-BAR ON PPC W/CREASE (08-11). EST.\$35  
 052 FLORA, 1906 G+ WATERY CDS ON PPC (02-08). EST. \$75  
 053 HANSON, 1908 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (96-11). EST. \$20  
 054 HORSECREEK, 1909 F 4-BAR ON PPC (08-14). EST. \$35  
 055 LAKESIDE, 1907 G UNLISTED DOANE REC'D ON PPC (82-08) \$35  
 056 PAXTON, 1911 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (10-17). EST. \$50  
 057 SYLVIA, 1911 F 4-BAR ON COVER (01-15). EST. \$20

## WASHINGTON

058 DEWATTO, 1910 G+ 4-BAR ON PPC (85-28). EST. \$5  
 059 ECHO, 1910 G+ 4-BAR ON PPC (90/21). EST. \$10  
 060 ORIN, 1911 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (02-44). EST. \$6  
 061 PORT STANLEY, 1914 F 4-BAR ON PPC (92-40). EST. \$6  
 062 WELLINGTON, 1908 G+ LITE DOANE ON PPC (94-29). EST. \$5

## RPO's (Towle Types)

063 AMARILLO & VAUGH, 1930 F (928-A-2) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 064 ARLINGTON & CONDON, 1933 F (896.1-A-2) ON COVER. EST. \$15  
 065 ASHFORK & PHOENIX, 1907 G+ (967-A-1) O/S ON PPC. EST. \$10  
 066 BAKERS & PORTLAND, 1924 VG (898-C-1) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 067 BOISE & NAMP, 1909 F (898-E-4) ON PPC. EST. \$10  
 068 CAIRO & TEXARK, 1913 VG (450-A-2) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 069 CANASTOTA & ELMIRA, 1912 G (133-C-2) ON PPC. EST. \$5  
 070 CLOVIS & CARLSBAD, 1930 F (966-C-2) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 071 CRAFTONV & LOS ANG, 1911 G+ (994.2-A-1) ON PPC. EST. \$12  
 072 DEN & SIL PLUME, 1907 G (852-E-1) ON PPC. EST. \$10  
 073 DRIFTWOOD & RED BANK, 1921 G+ (217-E-1) ON COVER. EST. \$6  
 074 DWIGHT & PEORIA, 1931 F (707-B-1) ON GPC. EST. \$5  
 075 EASTPORT & SPOK, 1935 F (906.2-A-2) ON GPC. EST. \$8  
 076 ELK & GREENBURG, 1942 F (669-G-1) ON GPC. EST. \$5  
 077 ENID & VERNON, 1935 VG (921.2-A-2) ON GPC. EST. \$5  
 078 ERIE BUTLER & PITTS, 1911 VG (NEW TYPE) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 079 EUG & COOS BAY, 1949 F (900.2-A-1) ON GPC. EST. \$6

080 EUGENE & POWERS, 1935 F (900.2-B-2) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 081 EVANS & HOP, 1938 F (535-B-2) ON GPC. EST. \$5  
 082 FARGO & DEVILS LAKE, 1937 G+ (NEW TYPE) ON GPC. EST. \$4  
 083 FARGO & EDGELY, 1937 F (888.4-A-6) ON GPC. EST. \$5  
 084 FARGO & EDGELY, 1937 F (888.4-A-5) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 085 FARGO & MARION, 1937 VG (888.5-A-2) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 086 FARGO & STREETER, 1950 F (888.4-B-1) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 087 FARM & WELLS, 1937 VG (882-B-4) ON GPC. EST. \$5  
 088 FAYETTE & OKMULGEE, 1935 VG (462-B-1) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 089 FERRIDAY & ADDIS, 1936 VG (444-A-2) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 090 FLORENCE & AUGUSTA, 1935 G (340-Q-3) ON GPC. EST. \$4  
 091 F. DU LAC & JAMES, 1937 F (839-H-1) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 092 FORG & W. FALLS, 1950 VG (490-E-1) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 093 FT. KENT & OAK, 1937 (16-H-1) ON GPC. EST. \$5  
 094 FT. MAD & OTTUMWA, 1937 VG (785-A-1) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 095 FTS MON & RICHMOND, 1937 F (303-AQ-1) ON GPC. EST. \$5  
 096 FOSTORIA & PEORIA, 1936 G+ (566-F-3) ON GPC. EST. \$4  
 097 FRANKLIN & CORNELIA, 1923 F (369.5-A-1) ON PPC. EST. \$8  
 098 FRANK & CORNELIA, 1938 F (369.5-B-1) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 099 FREEPORT & CENT, 1931 F (709-C-3) ON GPC. EST. \$5  
 100 FULTON & BIRMINGHAM, 1936 VG (514-C-2) ON GPC. EST. \$5  
 101 GALESBURG & BURLINGTON, 1937 VG (698-F-1) ON GPC. EST. \$5  
 102 GAR & YANKTON, 1937 VG (878.8-B-2) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 103 GLASS & BRIDGE, 1938 F (NEW TYPE) ON GPC. EST. \$8  
 104 GLOBE & BOWIE, 1931 G+ (969.1-D-4) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 105 GLOBE & BOWIE, 1941 F (969.1-D-2) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 106 GRAFTON & CEN/DAY, ca1890 F 571-D-6 W/TN ON CVR. EST. \$5  
 107 GRANGE & LEWISTON, 1935 F (904.3-B-1) ON GPC. EST. \$5  
 108 GRANGE & WEISER, 1940 F (904.4-A-1) ON GPC. EST. \$8  
 109 H.F. & STRAS JUNC, 1909 F (273-J-1) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 110 KANS CITY & ELLIS, 1925 F (907-P-2) ON PPC. EST. \$4  
 111 K.C. & GD ISLAND, 1907 VG (913-G-1) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 112 L.A. & REDONDO BCH, 1940 VG (998-K-1) ON 3x5 CARD. EST. \$6  
 113 LOW & TAUNTON, 1912 G+ (57-C-2) ON PPC. EST. \$4  
 114 MICH CITY & IND, 1911 F (657-C-1) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 115 MINOCQUA & NEW LISBON, 1921 VG (848.1-D-2) ON CVR. EST. \$4  
 116 MUSKOGEE & DENISON, 1935 F (923.3-C-1) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 117 NEW IBERIA & EUNICE, 1911 VG (446.3-B-2). EST. \$15  
 118 NORMAN & COLLINSTON, 1936 VG (438-K-1) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 119 NO TOP & MARYS, 1950 VG (913-J-1) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 120 OMAHA & CHADRON, 1911 G+ (936-Q-2) ON PPC. EST. \$4  
 121 OROVILLE & SPOKANE, 1916 G+ (902.1-F-1) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 122 OROVILLE & WENATCHEE, 1931 F (902.3-B-2) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 123 PAJARO & SANTA CRUZ, 1909 VG (980-AB-1) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 124 PARKERS & PALESTINE, 1912 VG (291.3-A-1) ON PPC. EST. \$15  
 125 PENDLETON & YAKIMA, 1949 F (904.2-B-1) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 126 PHOENIX & LOS ANG, 1915 G+ DOUBLED (967.2-A-1) ON PPC. EST. \$15  
 127 PHOENIX & MARICOPA, 1911 VG LITE (968.2-A-1) ON PPC. E \$15  
 128 PITTSBURG & EMPORIA, 1937 F (909-AG-1) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 129 POCATELLO & BAKER, 1920 G+ (893-L-3) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 130 PORTOLA & SACTO, 1935 F (995-D-1) ON GPC. EST. \$18  
 131 REDDING & SACRAMENTO, 1895 VG (982-N-1) ON GPC. EST. \$15  
 132 ROOSEVELT TOWN & FAUST, 1936 F (48-I-1) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 133 RUMSEY & ELMIRA, 1909 VG LITE (992.8-B-4) ON PPC. EST. \$10  
 134 SALEM & CHESTER, 1939 F (738-C-1) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 135 SALIDA & MONTROSE, 1940 F (957-L-1) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 136 SALIS & KNOX, 1917 F (329-K-6) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 137 SAN BERDO & L.A., 1930 F (993.1-D-1) ON GPC. EST. \$12  
 138 SAN FRAN. NEWARK & S CRUZ, 1917 VG (991-B-1) ON PPC. E \$6  
 139 SAN FRAN & PAC GROVE, 1912 VG (980-I-3) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 140 S.F. & PAC GROVE, 1932 F (980-AA-2) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 141 S.F. SANTA CRUZ & PAJARO, 1910 F (980-T-1) ON PPC. EST. \$25  
 142 SAN FRAN & VISALIA, 1911 F (936-AD-2) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 143 SELMA & FLOMATON, 1936 VG (407-B-1) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 144 SHEFFIELD & PARRISH, 1938 VG (414.2-B-1) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 145 SHELBY FALLS & N HAVEN, 1909 VG (85-E-2) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 146 SOO & M'NPLS/W.D., 1907 VG (856.2-G-1) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 147 SPENCER & RAVENSWOOD, 1910 G+ (291.4-A-2) ON PPC. EST. \$10  
 148 SPOKANE & COULEE CITY, 1909 F (906.6-D-2) ON PPC. EST. \$15  
 149 SPOK PASCO & SEAT, 1912 VG (898-O-2) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 150 SPRING & JACK, 1938 F (584-D-1) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 151 STAPLES & OAKES, 1937 F (881.5-A-2) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 152 TACOMA & PORT/AGT, 1883 G (895-A-2) ON CVR. EST. \$12  
 153 TRENTON & LONG BR, 1936 VG (245-F-1) ON GPC. EST. \$6  
 154 TRINIDAD & ALBUQ, 1926 F (911-BC-1) ON PPC. EST. \$5  
 155 TRIN & CIN, 1912 VG (570-D-1) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 156 TRUCKEE & LAKE TAHOE, 1922 G (997.4-A-1) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 157 TUCSON & NOGALES, 1912 VG (965.2-A-1) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 158 ULYSSES & PT ALLEG, 1912 VG (166.6-B-1) ON PPC. EST. \$15  
 159 WELLS & BELL, 1908 VG (554-M-2) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 160 WILLIAMS & LOS ANG, 1907 F (964-Q-1) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 161 W'MS & MAHAFFEY, 1909 VG (136-I-1) ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 162 COLUMBUS, OHIO/TRANS CLK, 1908 VG (601-E-11) ON PPC. E \$3

## Street Cars (Towle Types)

163 BROOKLYN CIR, 1905 VG (BR-5-b) REC'D ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 164 BROOKLYN SO SHORE, 1906 F (BR-6-a) REC'D ON PPC. EST. \$6  
 165 CLEVELAND CIRCUIT, 1908 F (CL-1-b) ON PPC. EST. \$4  
 166 PITTSBURG PA ST, 1907 G+ (PI-2-c) ON PPC. EST. \$10  
 167 ROL P'K & HIGHLAND, 1911 G+ (BA-4-k) ON PPC. EST. \$5

**Minimum Bid \$3.00 please. Phone bids**

**accepted: 650-344-3080.**

**CLOSING DATE: April 14, 1999 (10 PM Pacific)**



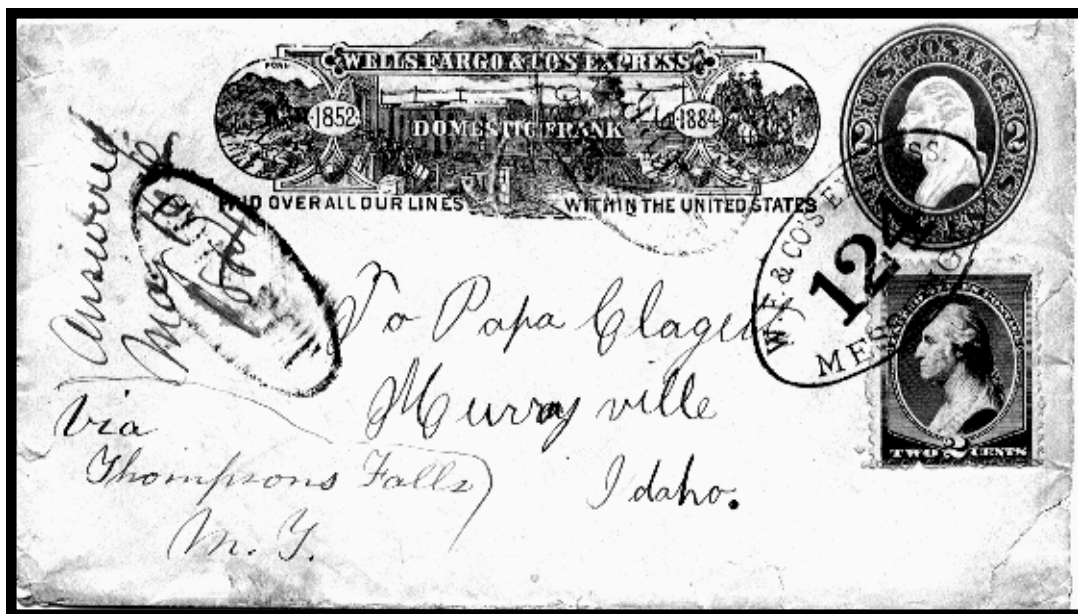


Figure 1. This cover displays a variety of printed, handstamped and manuscript markings. In addition to the elaborate Wells, Fargo & Co. Express frank, there are three separate oval handstamps, and, including the address, three distinct manuscript notations. Which of these markings are postal markings?

## What ARE Postal Markings?

By L. Steve Edmondson

Philatelic writers, not to mention ordinary collectors, often misuse of the terms *marking* (or to be a bit more precise, *postal marking*) and *cachet*. Let me outline my own views on the definition of the term *postal marking*. Most often, one sees the term described along the following lines: *a postal marking* is a marking applied by the government post office to mail while it is being processed, transported or delivered. For many, perhaps even most purposes, this is sufficient. However, notice that the term *marking* is not defined. Also, note that the definition limits postal markings to those applied by a government post office. Finally, the definition restricts the term to markings applied only while the mail is in the

possession of the government post office.

Actually, the meaning of the term *postal marking* is not as simple as most authorities make it seem. In fact what is, and what is not, a postal marking can be quite complex. Moreover, the debate is not of recent origin, but has roots that stretch back almost to the beginning of philately. In order to understand the debate, let us review a little history.

In the late nineteenth century, when J. Walter Scott and the other early stamp catalog makers were at work itemizing all the stamps of the world, they were presented with a number of labels that raised questions. For example, the listing of such things we now call Private Local Stamps and Postmaster Provisionals was debated (sometimes heatedly) over the course of many years. And contained within the category so blithely labeled Private Local Stamps are the labels of a bewildering complex of companies which offered vastly different services. There were purely local delivery companies that picked up and delivered mail within one city. There were

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also large national express companies that operated over the entire United States; and a host of businesses that provided services in between. The early philatelists had any number of arguments over whether the labels of a local letter carrier should be treated the same as those of the Pony Express - and whether either sticker should be called a stamp and given a place alongside the official government issues. A very similar controversy smoldered beneath the surface with respect to the markings applied by private carriers.

Another historical aspect concerned the catalog treatment that should be accorded postage stamps issued under the authority of a local postmaster as distinct from those issued by the Federal Government. In this debate, the issue wasn't whether the emissions were authorized by the post, but instead, the concern was whether stamps issued by local authorities should be given equal billing with those issued by the national postal bureaucracy. Still another issue concerned the stamp-like creations that slithered out of the many relationships between private business and the government post. Perhaps the most famous was the privately franked postal stationary of the western express companies, notably Wells, Fargo Company. In many cases, these franks were impressed on government issued postal stationary envelopes, but the question was - did the presence of the private frank create a different postage envelope issue? Most of these issues have been resolved in today's catalog and if there is any discomfort with the compromises that made by past editors, the debate generally is left to the specialists. But it is still a debated question whether the marks left on the envelopes during the ordinary course of these private express businesses should fall within the definition of the term *postal marking*.

If all this seems esoteric, let's consider some specific examples. First consider the markings applied to letters carried aboard the steamboats that operated up and down the Mississippi River and other Inland Waterways of the United States. Some of these boats were under contract with the Post Office Department (POD). They carried postal agents on board and these men, known as route agents, were authorized to cancel mail picked up enroute. In many respects, these route agents operated like postal clerks. The

handstamp markings they employed are considered true postal markings by every philatelist. However, most steamboats operating on the Mississippi during the nineteenth century were not under direct contract with the POD. Nevertheless, they were specifically authorized, by United States statute law, to collect letters from the public and to transport them, often over great distances, to a post office where they were to be entered into the official government mail. The statutes that gave this authority also spelled out how much the steamboat operator was to be paid for each letter. Quite a number of these non-contract steamboats applied the name of the boat (often with a handstamp) to each letter they carried. These markings were not required by the statute; apparently they were applied as an advertisement of the boat's ability to carry mail. Are these name-of-boat handstamps postal markings? Apparently, few philatelic students of this mail consider these private advertisements to be postal markings. Still, they memorialize a very close working relationship between the government post and the private steamboat operators. The relationship was not contractual but it was completely legal and fully recognized in the statutes of the day. Perhaps the author is alone in thinking they are postal markings, albeit private ones.

Another set of examples is offered by the private express companies that operated (and operate today) either to supplement service not provided by the government post or in direct competition with it. The stamps and other labels used by these companies are avidly collected and treated as private postage stamps. Philatelists have even developed a term for them - local stamps or locals. However, the markings used by these companies in the ordinary course of their business usually are not considered postal markings because they were applied by private concerns. Just as in the case of the non-contract steamboats, many of these private express and local carrier companies operated within specific guidelines established by federal statute or official POD regulations. Some of these businesses (such as most of the western express companies) provided exactly the same kind of service that the government post supplied. The private express companies however, served areas that the government post did not then reach. Other express businesses



*Figure 2. The VIA AIR MAIL/Special Delivery markings applied to this cover were required by postal regulations, and whether they were applied by postal employees or the sender does not alter the fact that they are postal markings.*

(the Pony Express being an excellent example) provided a service that the government post did not offer. [Remember, that during the same period that the ponies were running between Missouri and California, the government post also provided an overland mail service between these same two states, it just wasn't as fast.] Whether the markings of these private expresses are considered postal markings depends very much on one's point of view and the scope of the definition of the term that one adopts. This is not a purely historical matter either. For today, express companies such as United Parcel Service and Federal Express compete vigorously with the USPS; and virtually every city has one or more courier services that provide, among other things, door to door letter delivery between lawyer and doctor offices, real estate firms, medical laboratories, hospitals and banks. Whether handstamp markings applied by UPS or the local legal courier service during the ordinary course of their delivery businesses are postal markings, again, is mostly a matter of definition.

These considerations do not exhaust the complexity of the matter. For we've failed to con-

sider the many markings applied by the senders and the recipients of written communications. Just consider the many pieces of air mail handstamped VIA AIR MAIL. At one time, such handstamps were part of the mail room inventory of virtually every business office in the nation. In some cases, identical handstamps were used by the local post office - often made by the same manufacturer. However, many postal history collectors would say that a given VIA AIR MAIL marking is a postal marking only if it was applied by a post office clerk. However, once again, these markings were required either by statute or by official POD (and later USPS) regulations (which have the force and effect of law). These markings reflect the very close working connection between the government post and its customers. So, whether the VIA AIR MAIL (or CERTIFIED or

REGISTERED) handstamp that the sender handstamps on a business letter is a postal marking - or not - depends on how one defines the term.

To take matters, perhaps, to the extreme - what about the address? The address has always been required by common sense, as well as by postal regulations and statute. Moreover, the form of the address and its placement on the envelope has been stipulated in detail by official regulation for quite a long time. Still, the address, itself, is seldom supplied by the post office. Accordingly, very few postal history collectors (other than this author) would consider the sender supplied address a postal marking. The return address (or in the case of the corner card, simply a printed business return address) was not usually provided until well after the Civil War. Today, its form, content and placement on the envelope are covered by USPS regulations. But does that make it a postal marking? Well, that depends on the definition.

Now, let's consider an altogether different facet of the matter - the question whether manuscripts can qualify as markings. Before the introduction of postage stamps in the United

States, the POD required postmasters to inscribe each piece of mail with the date and place of mailing. Except in the larger cities, this almost always was done in manuscript. Furthermore, if the letter had been prepaid, POD regulations required the postmaster to mark the envelope with the word PAID and the amount. Again, in the smaller post offices usually this was accomplished by pen and ink. The question arises whether such manuscript inscriptions are postal markings. But note, this issue turns, not on whether the inscription is official, but whether a manuscript notation is a marking!

But wait - why should it matter? What difference does it make if officially required information is supplied by handwriting or by handstamp ( or in modern days by machine or inkjet printer)? Well, there are two reasons why it may matter. The first has to do with authenticity; the second has to do with collectibility.

When this author was a novice postal history collector, the wisdom he received was that handstamp markings were easier to authenticate than manuscript markings. Therefore, it was only a short leap to the widely held position among postal history collectors that only information handstamped or mechanically applied to the mail should qualify as a marking. Everything else should be treated as a mere inscription - which, after all, anyone could add at any time to an envelope. Following this line of reasoning, collectors felt such marks were easier to authenticate - because official postal handstamps could be tracked to a particular post offices by comparing similar pieces of mail handled during the relevant period of time by that office. Thus, for reasons of easy (at least in theory) authentication, handstamped information was more trustworthy, more legitimate. Well, one can poke all kinds of holes in this reasoning and forgers continue to have a field day duping the uninformed and unwary. Still, the hard fact remains that virtually all classic listings and catalogs of postal markings limited their coverage to handstamps. To the extent that manuscripts were recorded at all, they were relegated to "back-of-the-book" status in an appendix. In recent years, of course, students have

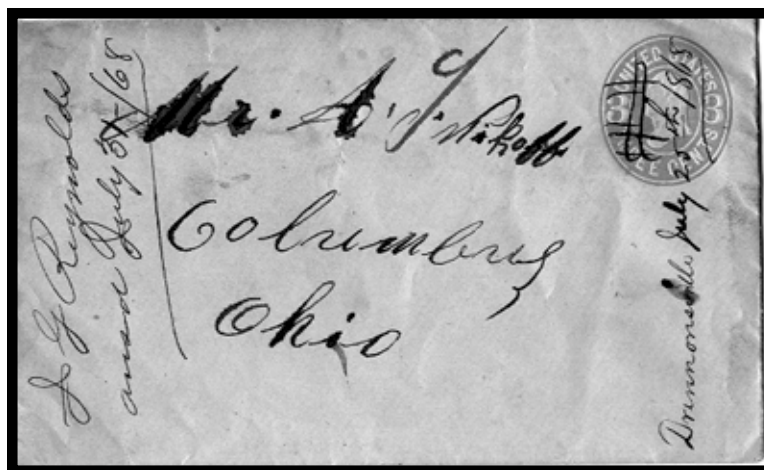


Figure 3. This cover displays a manuscript marking from Drennonville (Ohio) dated July 25th 1868. Markings such as this were commonly applied to mail originating from small town post offices in the mid-to late 19th century.

focused more on the question of officialness and less on the matter of form. Among modern postal historians, it may not be too much to say that the media is not the message, but rather, substance and the official or private character of the source is of more relevance.

The second historical reason that handstamps have been deemed more important has to do with collectibility. Simply put, early (as well as some modern) postal history collectors valued handstamped markings more highly than manuscript inscriptions. Well, perhaps that is too simply put. For following the Civil War, the POD went through a rather remarkable shift in the way mail was handled. Prior to 1860, non-local mail was routed through fixed postal facilities called Distributing Post Offices. These offices collected the mail, sorted it according to destination, bagged it and shipped it. After the Civil War, the distribution of mail was taken away from postal clerks working at fixed sites and delegated to route agents working on moving train cars - the era of "mail by rail" was inaugurated. This shift in philosophy affected the way mail was handled in just about every local office, large or small. Suddenly, meeting a train schedule became a matter of intense concern and local postmasters began to put a much higher premium on efficiency. Since hand stamping any required postmark or other piece of official information on the mail was more efficient than writing it by hand, a trend developed for even the small post offices to equip themselves



with handstamps. The POD, itself, encouraged this trend in the most effective way - by standardizing postmarks and providing them to all, even the smallest, post offices. By the end of World War I, virtually all postmasters, except in emergencies, relied on POD supplied equipment to mark the mail handled by their office.

This meant that every existing post office (and many that have been discontinued) went through the same evolution in post office mail handling procedures. First, manuscript markings were used exclusively; next, handstamp markings were employed; then, during the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, these were replaced by machines. Today, any local mark on a piece of mail usually is evidence that it has been misrouted or mishandled, because all normal postmarking and barcode route marking is done at a regional facility. Thus, from the postal history collector's point of view - especially the early collectors who tended to collect only nineteenth century postal history - handstamp markings represented a more mature development in the mail handling practices of just about every post office. Covers with mature postal markings (the handstamps) were preferred over covers with only manuscript markings. Indeed, many collectors considered only handstamped (or machine applied) markings to fall within the definition of postal marking.

But kindly note that this development in postal practices (and the collector preference that it, at least arguably, gave rise to) has nothing to do with the official quality of a genuine manuscript postal marking. Whether an office had handstamps or not, it was still required to postmark the mail and get it delivered either to the local customer or to the vessel, wagon, train or plane that would haul it to a distant recipient. Still, today, the issue of whether a manuscript falls within the definition of a marking (much less a postal marking) remains subject to a continuing debate. Most modern philatelic writers and editors simply avoid any ambiguity (and beg the question) when referring to a handwritten, official, postal message by using a phrase such as manuscript postal marking.

To my way of thinking, the definition of the term postal marking needs to be divorced from all issues of collectibility. In my view, the relevant considerations are 1) whether the text of the mark-

ing concerns the transportation of a letter or other piece of mail; or 2) whether the text of the marking concerns the way in which that piece of mail is to be (or has been) handled by the carrier; and 3) whether the text was placed on the envelope by a customer (sender or recipient), a potential customer (for example an incorrect addressee) or by a person or firm legally or contractually tied to the conveyancing of that piece of mail. Complex - you bet. But so is the way our social, commercial and legal institutions handle the delivery of written communications (mail, if you will). If there is a short way of saying it (and oversimplifying it along the way), in my view, *every notation or message on an envelope is a postal marking if it deals with getting that letter delivered*. To my way of thinking, many privately applied notations are postal markings because they are connected (often intimately) with the handling, transportation or delivery of a particular piece of mail. From this point of view, whether a given marking makes the cover desirable (or repugnant) to a particular collector is irrelevant to whether or not that marking furthers a postal purpose.

When the above considerations are applied to certain specific markings - currently the matter of much contention - this author comes up with the following results:

#### **First Day of Issue (FDOI) postmarks.**

Of course, they are postal markings. In the first place, they are postmarks. They can only be applied by the USPS and only under specific regulations dealing with a specific class of mail. The fact that certain postal history collectors don't like the FDC is irrelevant. All of the objections they have raised are based on their distaste for a particular classification of mail - First Day Covers. Perhaps the most contentious objection is the oft heard comment that most FDOI's are fraudulent postmarks because the date of the postmark isn't necessarily the day the marking actually was applied. Equally contentious is the objection based on the fact that many FDOI postmarks were applied in Omaha, Washington, DC or some other place different from the city specified in the postmark. But these are not valid objections! A modern FDC is not simply another piece of first class mail - it is another class of mail entirely. The postal marking and handling of FDC's fall within a special classification of souvenir mail and must be

analyzed according to the regulations applicable to that class - not by the rules applicable to another class of mail altogether. It continues to amaze me how so many otherwise intelligent people continue to confuse these philatelic apples and oranges! And collectors on both sides of the controversy are equally at fault. Some FDC collectors try to insist that their collectibles should be judged and treated the same as ordinary mail; FDC's aren't first class mail, they are a special kind of souvenir mail. For their part, traditional postal history collectors attempt to judge FDC collections against criteria they've adopted for other, more mundane, classifications of mail. Both points of view are just flat wrong. FDC's should be collected (and judged) by what they are, not criticized (or collected!) for what they aren't.

**Special Pictorial Postmarks.** These markings are also postal markings. Like FDOI postmarks, they fall within a similar, albeit different, category of souvenir mail. As this is being written, pictorial markings can be applied up to 30 days after the date in the postmark. However, this doesn't mean that these postmarks are not postal markings. They still have to be applied by USPS employees (or under the authority of, if not the direct supervision of, the USPS); they have to meet stringent USPS regulations regarding subject matter content and they have to be applied in conformity with all regulations applicable to that class of mail. If not, only then might they be fraudulent.



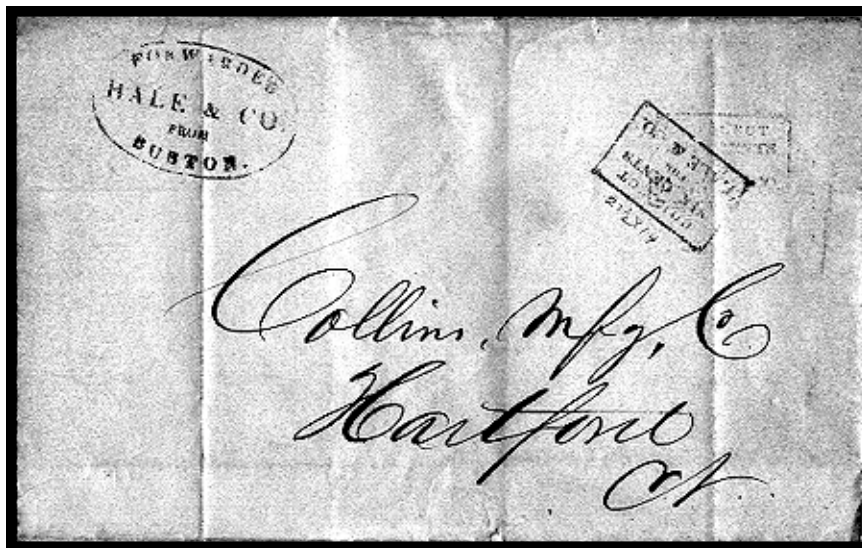
Figure 4. This cover displays two different first flight cachets apparently applied by the San Antonio post office. In the author's opinion, such cachets qualify as supplemental postal markings.

**First Flight Cachets.** Most, almost all, are postal markings. Once again, these are markings officially applied to a specific POD or USPS classification of souvenir mail. The fact that many of them look for all the world like a FDC cachet is irrelevant. Most were applied by the POD or USPS; some, especially the more recent examples, were applied by the contractor - almost always an airline company. First Flight Cachets were intended to identify mail carried on specific air mail flights; the specific regulations regarding which flights qualified for First Flight status changed a number of times over the years and currently First Flight handling and marking isn't authorized at all. At no time, insofar as this author is aware, were First Flight Cachets intended to substitute for postmarks and in most cases (perhaps all) it was improper for them to be used to obliterate stamps. First flight mail has always been handled differently than regular air mail. [Just as one other example, for many years first flight covers were backstamped with a receiving postmark, which served to verify the route.] In my opinion, First Flight Cachets qualify as a type of supplemental (or auxiliary) postal marking intended to identify a particular type of mail for which special handling procedures applied - in the same way that Registered or Certified mail is marked with unique supplemental markings to alert postal clerks that it is to be handled differently than the usual first class mail. Again, the fact that some collectors choose not to collect (or even not to appreciate) such souvenir mail is irrelevant to the proper analysis of the markings on the envelope.

**First Trip Highway Post Office Cachets.** Just like the First Flight Cachets, almost all of them are postal markings. They were legitimately applied to a particular class of mail destined for special handling in the ordinary course of handling that class of mail. The fact that they are not popular with many postal history collectors because they are official souvenirs, is irrelevant.

**Private Express and Private Local Carrier Markings.** Markings applied to envelopes by private express companies (in the nineteenth century as well as today) most often are postal markings because they were applied in the ordinary course of the transportation and delivery of a written communication or other piece of





*Figure 5. The Hale & Company markings displayed on this stampless folded letter from Boston are postal markings because they were applied in the ordinary course of the transportation and delivery of a written communication or other piece of mail.*

mail. The extent to which parcels, packages and other shipping containers fall within the term, mail, is another very complex issue. Quite obviously, not every container hauled by a teamster constitutes a piece of mail. To my way of thinking, the laws and official regulations in force at the time of carriage govern this question. However, their interpretation is complex and difficult - not simple. Furthermore, it may very well be that a privately applied marking (a UPS label, for example) from one container is a postal marking while an identical label from another container is not. At the other extreme, the fact that the item under consideration is an ordinary envelope stuffed with an ordinary piece of paper with a written communication doesn't make it a piece of mail. For example, the special service provided by today's local legal courier services may legally exempt from postal duties what otherwise would be an ordinary letter; similarly an envelope containing a bill of lading could have been carried by a nineteenth century steamboat legally free of government postal regulations and fees. The proper analysis of any given parcel post and the extent to which private companies can lawfully carry written communications outside the government post often involve complex investigations. Whether the markings on the containers are postal

markings is not easy to decide in the abstract - a specific example often needs to be under scrutiny. The best generalization that this author can offer is the observation that anything carried outside the government mails - that could have been carried within the mails - needs to be carefully analyzed in the light of then existing regulations to determine whether it was legally or unlawfully carried; the markings (at least those relating to the carriage) on those carried outside the mails lawfully in competition with the government post or carried lawfully within a courier system offering supplemental services not provided by the government post

are private postal markings. All other markings, probably, aren't postal markings.

**Privately Written Notations on Redirected or Returned Mail.** Manuscript inscriptions, such as "not here" or "deceased," in my view are postal markings. Even though many of these are private in origin (and perhaps as many more are ambiguous as to origin and either could have been privately inscribed or written by a postal clerk), these notations are intended to assist the postal service in carrying out its statutory mandate. Every one of us who uses the mails is involved with the postal process. At least in my view, when our private writings act to further a postal purpose, those messages and markings we leave on pieces of mail are postal markings. All the other things we write or doodle on an envelope aren't - such as grocery lists, telephone numbers, messages to the spouse that we've gone to the funeral home. These have nothing to do with the envelope as a piece of mail.

**Advertising Covers.** Private advertisements, cachets, drawings and other uses of the envelope to illustrate or transmit messages unrelated to the carriage of the mail or with no postal purpose fall outside the scope of postal markings. Obviously they can be interesting, collectible and form part of one's study of the social, civic and commercial uses of the mail. But they aren't postal

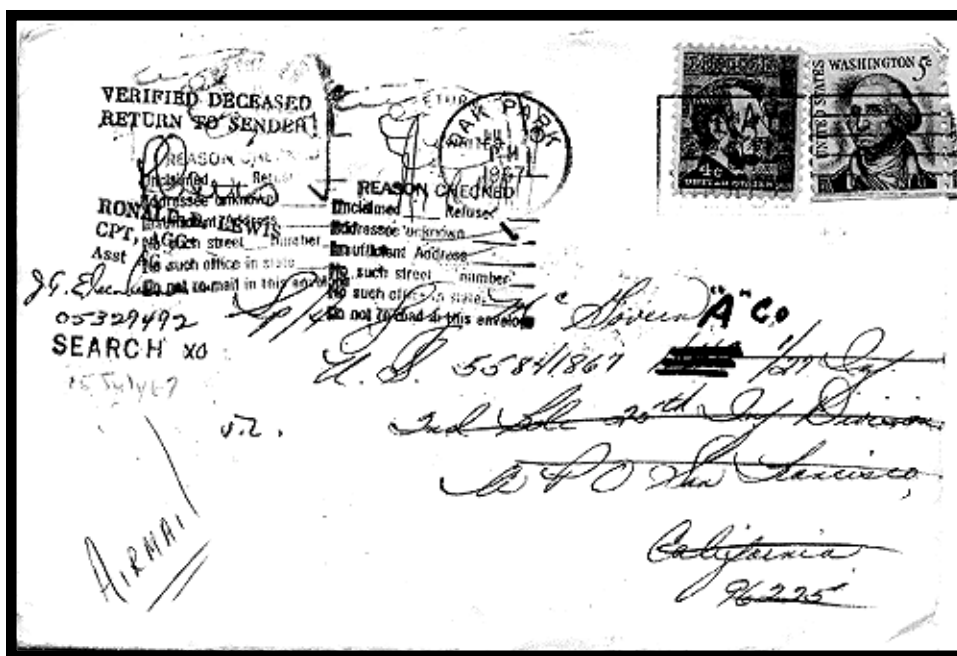


Figure 6. All of the auxiliary markings shown on this cover are postal markings regardless of who applied them because these notations are intended to assist the postal service in carrying out its statutory mandate to locate the addressee.

markings.

#### Private Service or Routing Requests.

Privately applied requests for particular postal services are postal markings. Such messages may relate to the route a customer may wish the letter sent or request some special security such as registration or certification. A customer's request to send an envelope by a particular named steamboat or via air mail are intimately connected with the delivery of the mail and, in my view, are postal markings.

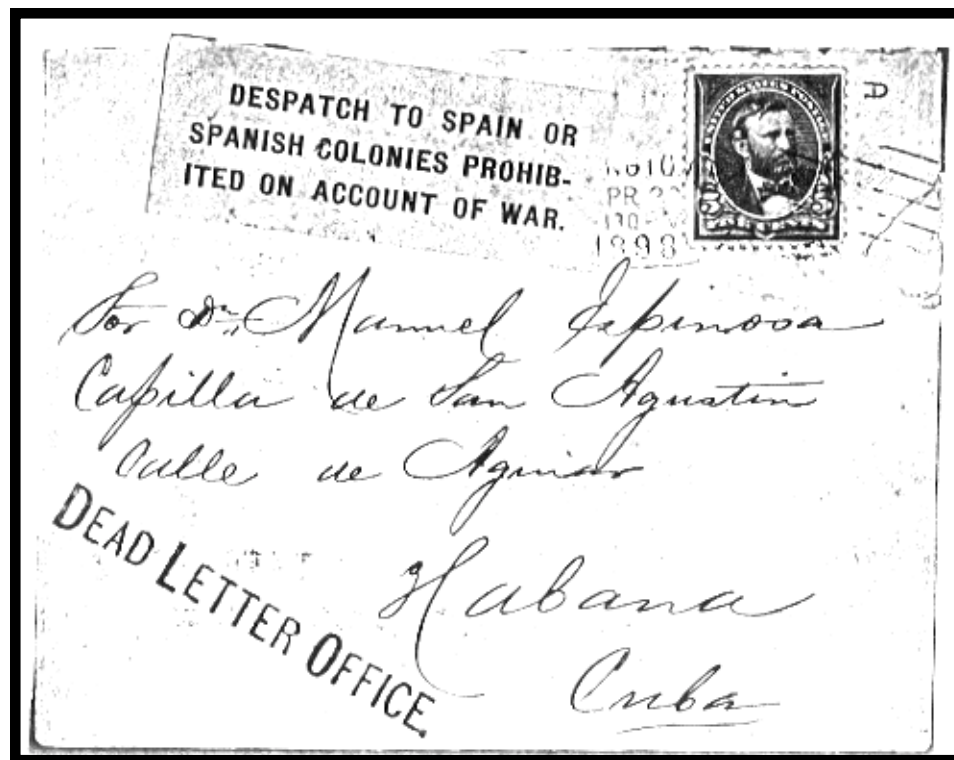
**Docketing.** During the nineteenth century, it was common business practice to file received written business correspondence. Many businesses wrote on the outside of the lettersheet or envelope a short description of the contents, who wrote the letter, the date received, the date answered, or other business related information. Generally speaking, such notes are called "docketing notes" and covers so treated are said to be "docketed." Sometimes, these notes deal with mail transportation, but the purpose is business related and has little or nothing to do with the transportation of the mail. As such, these notes speak about the efficient running of a business. In my view,

they are not postal markings.

**Private Receiving Mark.** A private handwritten or handstamped receiving mark often was applied by an individual, more often by the secretary or a company mail clerk. Since the government post does not mark the date or time it delivers any piece of mail, such notations are intimately connected with the delivery function. In my view, they are postal markings. But they are also the product of a particular personal or business office policy. Thus, little damage is done to the definitional scheme suggested in

this article, regardless of how such markings are treated.

Doubtless, many other difficult markings and messages could be considered here. But this article already is long enough. Hopefully, the above examples illustrate that the breadth and scope of the meaning of the term postal marking is complex indeed. As noted, standards relating to collectibility, such as the segregation of markings based on "philatelic," "souvenir" or whether a piece of mail is collector prepared or commercial in origin have been avoided. If collectors or philatelic judges want to recognize certain categories within any particular set of rules or collecting philosophy, they are free to do so. But I object strongly when they attempt to inject their point of view into the definition of philatelic terms intended for the general use of all collectors. It is far better to define general philatelic terms, such as postal marking, by reference to postal purpose, not the concerns of a group of collectors. Finally, regardless how you may define any term, don't forget to have some fun collecting whatever it is you like to collect.



*Figure 1. U.S. letter to Cuba in late April, 1898, when war was declared against Spain. The affixed label indicates that mail between Spain and the United States was suspended*

## Early Disrupted Wartime Civilian Mail

By Michael Dattolico

Military mail is one of the most popular topics collected and studied by today's postal historians. Its popularity is partly based on two factors. First, an ample supply of military covers - U.S. and foreign - can easily be found. From dealers stocks to various auctions, any interested collector can find just about any sort of military topic to study.

A plethora of books, monographs, pamphlets and specialized articles which catalog and explain aspects of military postal history is the second reason why military postal history is so popular. Indeed, the wealth of accurate, published information has made this area of our hobby especially enticing. I am one of the "smitten" ones who became a military postal historian many years ago.

It's always thrilling to find a soldier's, sailors, or marine's letter that fits in my collection. But somewhere along the way, I got interested in the *civilian* side of things, especially non-military mail delayed by the start of a war. Finding such items can be an excit-

ing treat. If you're like me, encountering such a cover will turn you into a detective as you work to discover its story.

My primary collectible interest is Spanish-American War postal history. To many postal historians, the term "Spanish-American War" is synonymous with the military postal stations established in Cuba, the Philippines and Puerto Rico, and the plentiful supply of patriotic covers. My interest in early war-disrupted civilian mail was aroused when I discovered the cover shown as **Figure 1**.

On April 25, the United States declared that war against Spain had existed since April 21. Many departments of the Federal government, including the U.S. Post Office, responded to the situation. One of the POD's first orders was to suspend postal exchanges with Spain and her colonies. Mail addressed to Spain and her satellite states, especially Cuba, was to be detained and returned to sender if possible. Labels and hand-stamp markings were created and affixed to U.S.



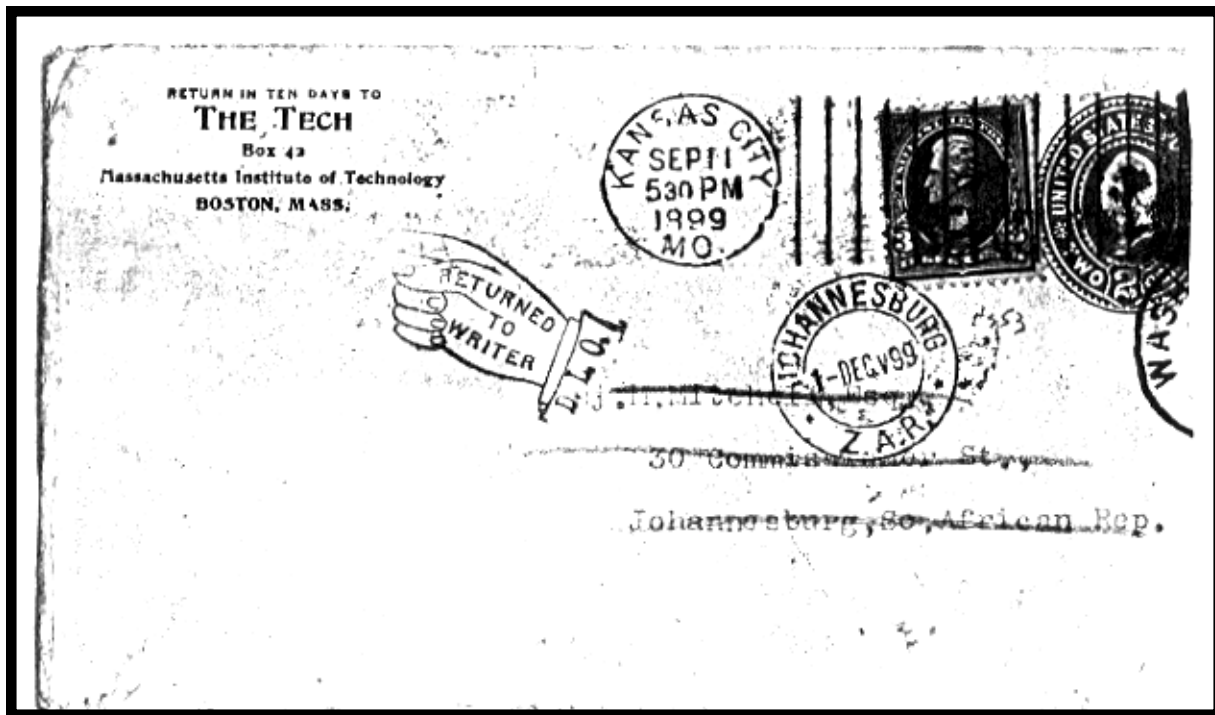


Figure 2. U.S. letter addressed to Johannesburg, South Africa, September, 1899. The cover was returned to the United States in March, 1900

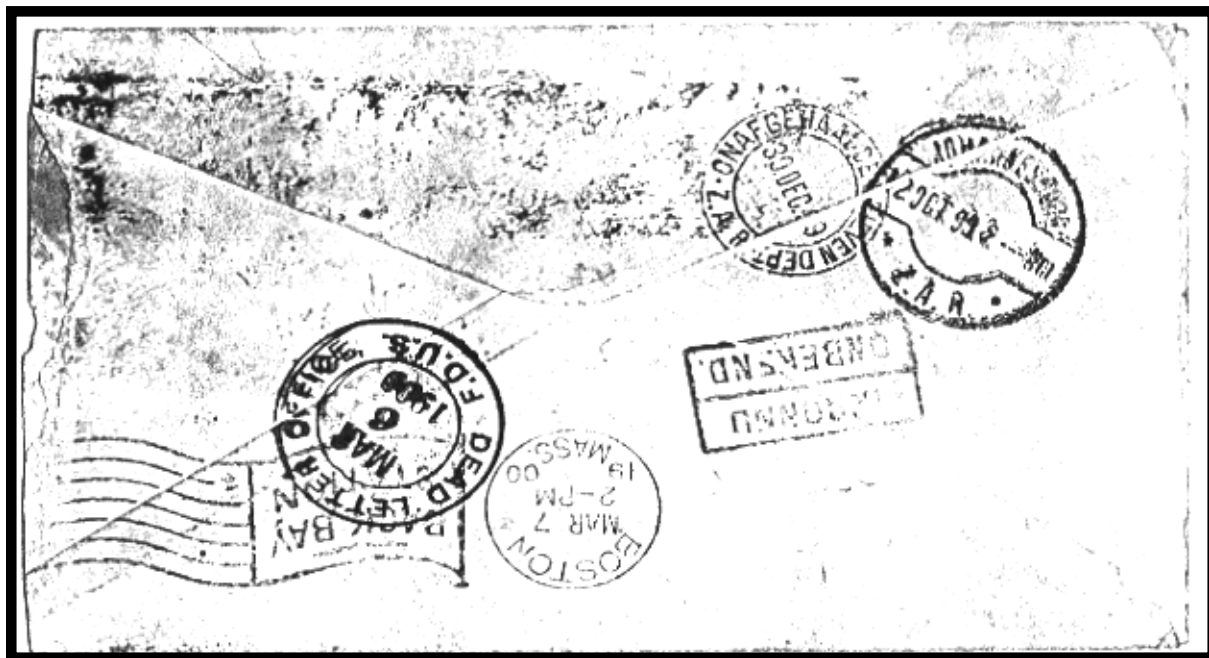


Figure 2A. The backside of the Figure 2 cover showing a variety of markings. Note the Dead Letter Office marking dated March 6, 1900, and the return to sender marking dated at Boston on March 7, 1900.

mail, explaining that items addressed to Cuba, Spain and her other colonies would not be forwarded. Those letters which had a return address were returned to senders. Those without return addresses were sent to the Dead Letter Office.

The Figure 1 cover is a U.S. letter addressed to Cuba in late April, 1898, when war was declared against Spain. The cover was mailed at New York, where the label was affixed to the cover's front. Lacking a return address, it was eventually sent to the Dead Letter Office. Such labels as the one applied to the Figure 1 piece have been studied and accurately catalogued by Dr. Yamil Kouri of the Cuba Philatelic Society. Besides printed labels such as the one seen on the Figure 1 cover, handstamp markings were also used at some post offices.

The United States was not the only world power fighting a colonial war far from home at the turn of the century. America's staunchest ally, England, became embroiled in a colonial war with South African Boer settlers in the fall of 1899. Civilian mail disruptions at and between South Africa and other countries occurred with predictable delays. **Figure 2 & 2A** is an example of disrupted civilian mail caught in South Africa in the early days of that conflict.

The cover was handled at the Kansas City, Missouri post office on September 11, 1899. War commenced between England and the Boer settlers on October 12, 1899. The letter was handled by the South African postal authorities on October 20<sup>th</sup> and again on December 1<sup>st</sup>, as shown by the marking on the front. It remained there until it was returned to the United States, was declared undeliverable, and was sent to the Dead Letter Office on March 6, 1900. Apparently, someone

there saw the cornercard address and forwarded the letter to Boston. It arrived there the next day, March 7<sup>th</sup>, and was sent to *The Tech*, the magazine of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Figure 3** is a unique piece of postal history that fits within this text. It is a Japanese postal stationery card mailed at Shanghai, China by a German civilian on May 10, 1900. The card was posted at the Shanghai Imperial Japanese Post Office (I.J.P.O.) on May 10, 1900, presumably carried aboard the Japanese ship, *Hong Kong Maru*, which was bound for the United States. The Yokohama post office handled the card on May 17, 1900. It arrived in Germany in August, 1900. The message on the back states, "...We are advised to leave China, since we cannot return to Peking. It is not safe and heard that mail was not getting through..."

The writer was referring to the Boxer Rebellion which erupted in northern China in the spring of 1900. On May 17, the United States ordered marines and infantry to Taku, China, to relieve the American embassy at Peking. Combat between American and European forces and rebel Chinese Boxers erupted in June.

The postcard featured as **Figure 4** makes me wish I spoke German. The sender wrote the message in Germany on July 26, 1914. It was handled by the German postal folks on July 28<sup>th</sup>. It was addressed to Columbus, Ohio.

The 28<sup>th</sup> of July, 1914, was a tense day throughout Europe. Austria declared war against Serbia. Russia responded by mobilizing against Austria. Germany told Russia that continued mobilization of its army on behalf of the Serbs would mean war with them as well.



Figure 3. Japanese postal stationery addressed to Germany via the United States on May 17, 1900. The card was mailed as the Boxer Rebellion began in northern China, disrupting mail to the region.

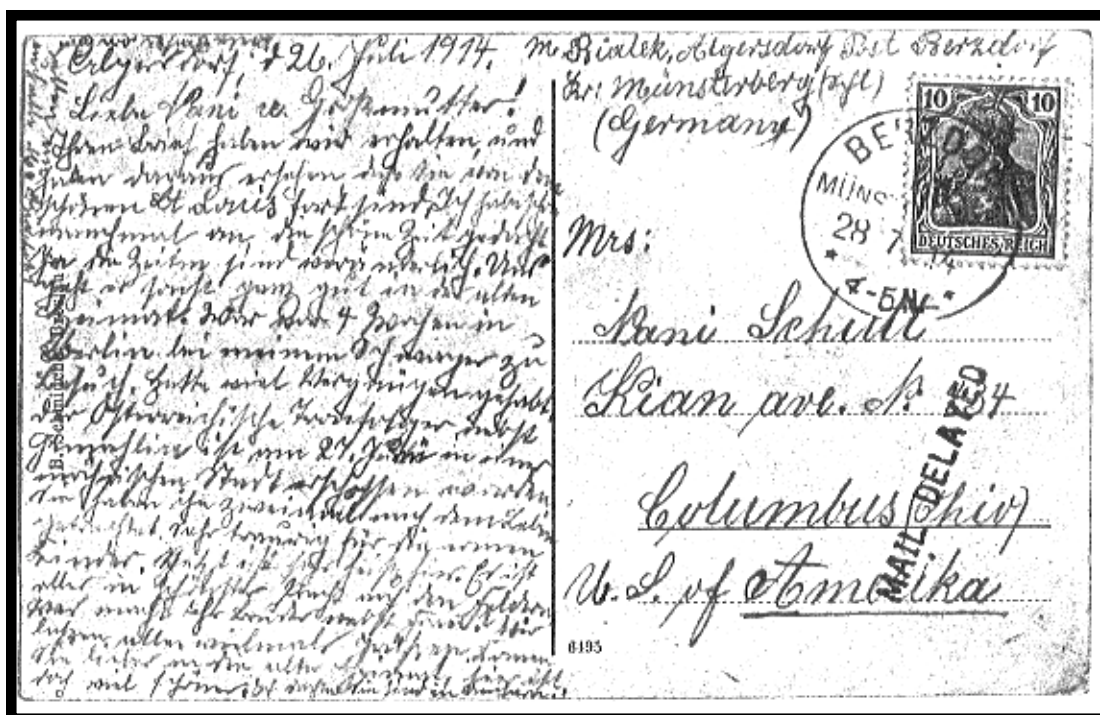


Figure 4. German postcard mailed on July 28, 1914, to Columbus, Ohio. The straightline, "MAIL DELAYED" was applied to the postcard, indicating that the newly declared war disrupted outgoing mail from Germany.

Three days later, Germany declared war on Russia. As the impending war approached, the sender of the postcard must have been very excited.

What first caught my eye was the straightline "MAIL DELAYED" marking, which was applied to the postcard as it wended its way from Europe to Ohio during that explosive summer. One wonders when the postcard actually arrived in Columbus for delivery. There are no other markings on it.

The cover shown as **Figure 5** is beyond my knowledge of World War Two postal history. I found it at the Garfield-Perry Show in Cleveland five years ago. While Alaska mail does not normally excite me, the cover's origination point and date of mailing made my heart skip a few beats.

It was mailed at Sitka, Alaska, on the late afternoon of December 6, 1941. The cover was sent to Portland, Oregon. Judging from the shape of the envelope and the season during which it was sent, it's likely that the cover contained a Christmas card. And based on the fact that both the sender and addressee were banking personnel, one might also assume that they were not only bankers but personal friends.

What cannot be explained, however, is the rectangular "PASSED" marking on the cover's front. One

wonders when and where the "PASSED" marking was applied, and what it signified. Adding to the mystery is a "FEBRUARY 3, 1942" straightline marking on the cover's back.

World War Two censor markings are well-documented, and the marking on the cover's front does not appear in published catalogues. That fact does bring some interesting questions to mind. Is it a U.S. censor marking? Was it a Canadian marking, or was it some sort of provisional censor cancel used in the earliest days of the war? Could it have been some sort of routing mark applied only to *Alaskan* mail entering the United States during those early days of 1941 when invasion by the Japanese was feared by Americans? I don't know.

Having a favorite collectible area of postal history is gratifying. But equally satisfying is finding a closely related topic to collect and study.



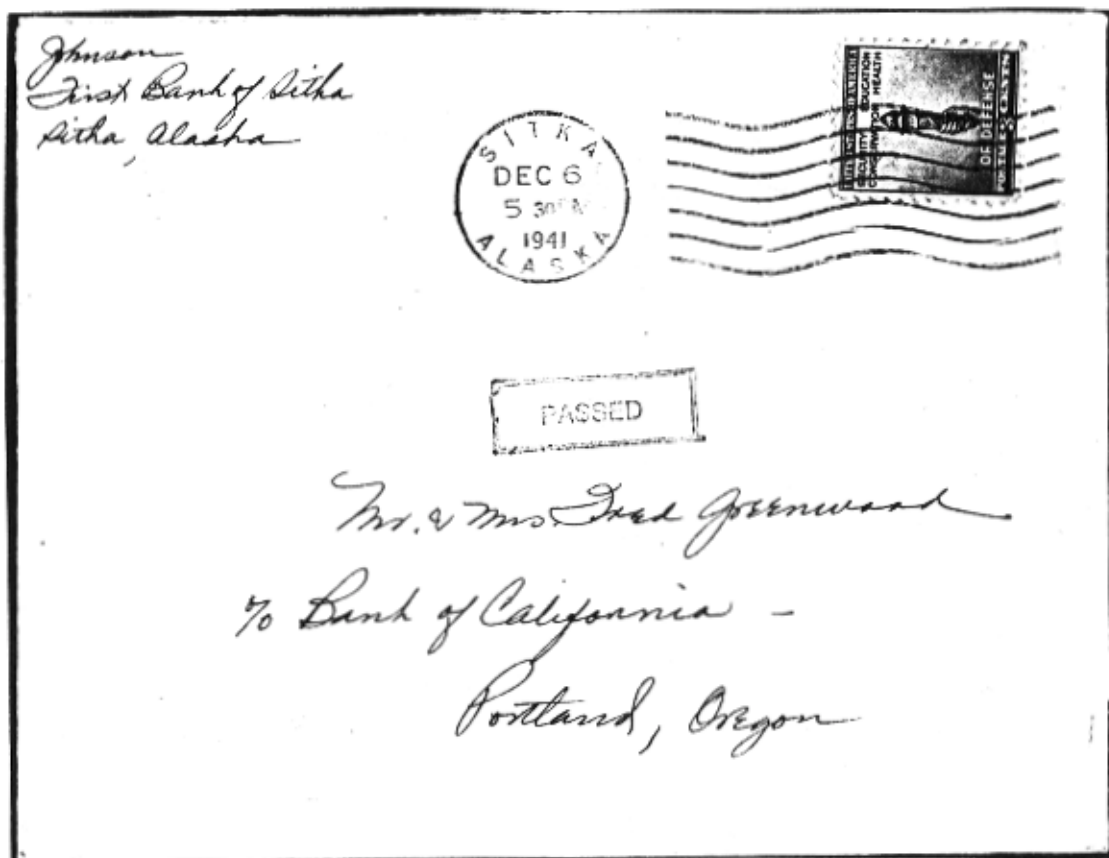


Figure 5. Cover postmarked December 6 (5:30 PM), 1941, to Oregon. Note the "PASSED" cancel on front. This uncatalogued marking was likely a routing cancel used by either Canadian or U.S. forces.

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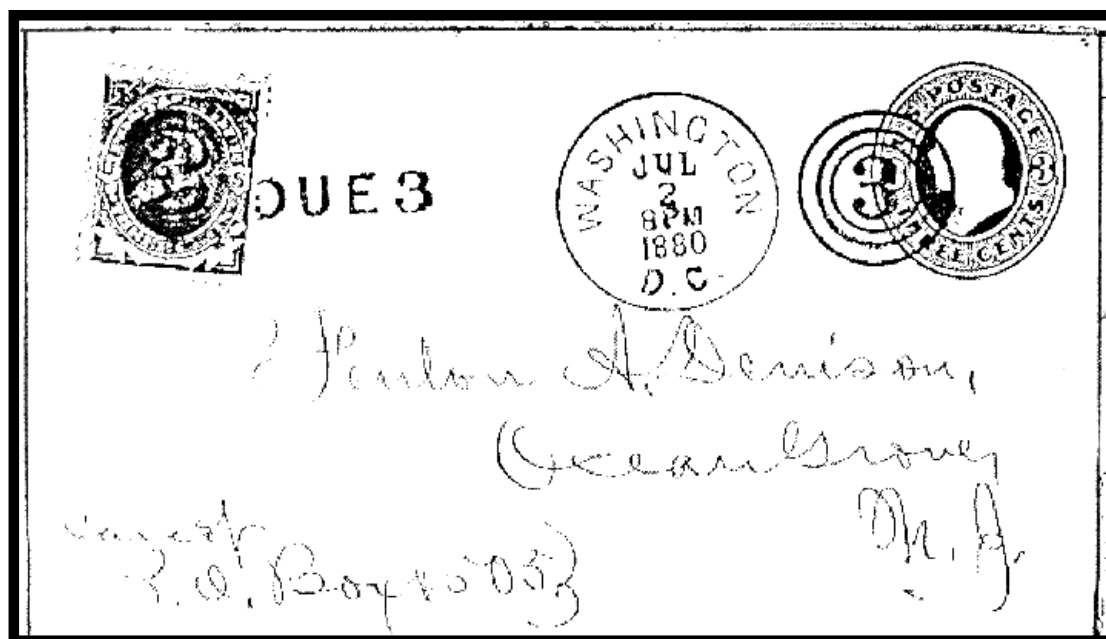


Figure 1 - Example of Type II a-1880 Duplex Showing the Killer Portion with the Numeral 3 within Three Concentric Circles

## Early Numeral Duplexes of Washington, D.C.

By Carl L. Stieg

I collect the cancellations of the District of Columbia up through 1910, and while there are many varieties of postal markings throughout this period, the numeral duplexes have always had a special appeal for me. This interest is probably because there are many unanswered questions with no analysis published of them, and I have always had a well-developed curiosity lobe. Jim Cole's article, "Washington, D.C. Ellipses", in the Summer 1988 issue of the *Cancellation Club News*, includes examples of the numeral killers from 1879 up to 1890. That article whetted my appetite because, while it covered the killers for many of the duplexes, it also raised many questions about them.

This article provides as many pertinent details as I could establish from researching my collection and data from Tuck Taylor and Dennis

Schmidt. I don't know how long the numeral duplexes remained in use (I only collect to 1910), but it is at least to 1928. I am attempting to identify and describe all the numeral duplexes through 1910, but have limited this article to coverage of duplex varieties which ended their usage in 1890. I have not been able to clearly understand the later duplexes because of a lack of sufficient material to study. Hopefully someone else will be sufficiently interested to complete this study beyond 1910.

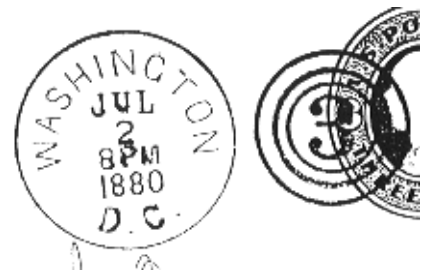
The following listing groups those duplexes having the same circular date stamp (dial) and those varying only slightly. I have divided them into Types I through V, with corresponding illustrations covering all of the dial varieties. Please note that where the sub-categories are left blank, this is to leave room for sub-types that are likely to exist which may be discovered in the future.



Type Ia



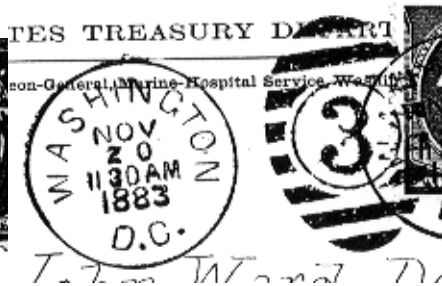
Type Ib



Type IIa



Type IIIb



Type IIIa



Type IIIb



Type IIIc



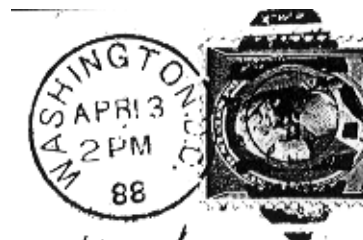
Type IVa (1)



Type IVa (2)



Type Va (1) (a)



Type Va (1) (b)

**TYPE I: Dial 27 mm diameter; obliterator - numeral in 12 mm circle within a nine barred ellipse.** (Aug 79 - Jan 80)

a. Numeral 1, 'IN' of 'WASHINGTON' centered at top, printed in blue. (4 Oct 79 - 12 Feb 80)

b. Numeral 2, 'N' of 'WASHINGTON' centered at top, type size of year, month and day slightly larger than for I. a, printed in blue. (11 Aug 79 - 9 Feb 90)

Dispatch Times - 12 M, 1 PM, 2 PM, 3 PM, 4 PM, 7 PM, 8 PM

The difference in usage of these two markings, which were used concurrently, is not understood. Two other handstamp dials were used during this period with various cork killers.

**TYPE II: Dial 28 ½ mm diameter; obliterator - numeral within circles.** (24 Feb 80 - 4 Nov 82)

a. Numerals 1 through 6 within three concentric circles. Smallest circle measures 11 ½ or 13 ½ mm; either one or the other, but not both, for any individual numeral. There are minor differences in the dials for the different numerals, but no variations identified for a single numeral. (24 Feb 80 to 20 Oct 82)

b. Numerals 1 through 6 within two concentric circles with six broken bars between. There are minor differences in the dials for the different numerals, but no noted variations for a single numeral. Smallest circles measure 11 and 12 ½ mm, but only one of the two dimensions for a single numeral. (10 Sep 80 to 4 Nov 82)

Dispatch times - 7 AM, 2 PM, 3 PM, 5 PM, 6 PM, 7 PM

Types 'a' and 'b' were used concurrently and there has been no explanation for the large number of stamps in use. However, the Official Postal Guides show that Washington had six carrier stations in 1883-88, eight in 1888 and eleven in 1890. It would appear possible that the carrier stations were responsible for applying dispatch markings on outgoing mail, and that a separate numeral was assigned to each individual carrier station. However, this doesn't explain the two different sets used concurrently.

Could each of the subtypes represent one of two different working shifts? A preliminary survey of a limited sample over three different types showed each of the two subtypes to have dispatch times somewhat different from the other, but not completely so. Would there have been a single shift on Saturday or Sunday or both, which would result in having each of the two shift groups periodically covering all the dispatch times? Extended study of this hypothesis is necessary to confirm or deny it.

**TYPE III: Dial 27 mm diameter; obliterator - large fancy numerals in 14 ½ mm circle within bared ellipses.** (Nov 82 - Jun 85)

a. Ellipse of eight bars for numerals 1 through 6. (27 Nov 82 ?? - 4 Jun 85)

b. As 'a', except center four bars solidified (barrel). Numerals 3 and 5 within 14 and 14 ½ mm circles. (14 Nov 82 - 15 Oct 84). Note: (I have a #2 used out of period - 24 Sept 87)

c. As 'a' with vertical colorless line through center of ellipse. Numerals 2 and 3. (28 Mar 85 - 17 Jul 85). Numeral 2 known, but not seen.

Dispatch Times - 630 AM, 3 PM, 330 PM, 4 PM, 430 PM, 730 PM, 830 PM

**TYPE IV: Dial 23 mm diameter; obliterator - large numerals in 12 ½ mm circle within bared ellipses. Year date outside of dial.** (11 Dec 84 - 31 Jul 86)

a. Numerals 1 to 7 within ten bar ellipses (17 Dec - 15 Apr 86)

(1) Right leg of 'N' points between split bars 2 and 3 from top

(2) Right leg of 'N' points to middle of third split bar from top

All of the Type IV duplexes appear to show two varieties for each numeral as shown in (1) and (2) above, which actually reflects numeral 3. Not all of the other six numeral duplexes show these exact differences, but each numeral duplex does have two similar varieties. There also are variations in the positions of the DC stops, but it is not entirely clear (due to a limited sample) whether they fall within the two dial/killer position relationship varieties and thus there are no





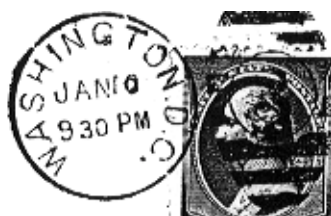
Type Va (2)



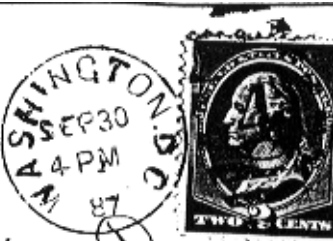
Type Va (3) (a)



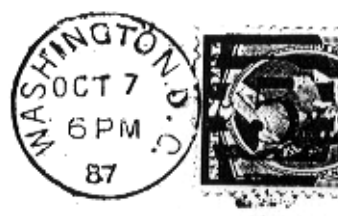
Type Va (3) (b)



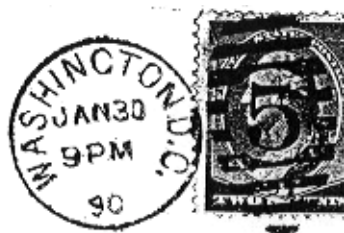
Type Va (3) (c)



Type Va (4)



Type Va (5) (a)



Type Va (5) (b)



Type Va (6) a



Type Va (6) (b)



Type Va (7) (a)



Type Va (7) (b)

more than two varieties for each numeral.

b. As 'a', except center four bars are solidified (barrel). Numerals 1 to 7 with no varieties noted for individual numeral duplexes. (11 Dec - 31 Jul 86)

Dispatch Times: 7 AM, 730 AM, 1030 AM, 1230 PM, 1 PM, 130 PM, 230 PM, 3 PM, 430 PM, 530 PM, 730 PM, 8 PM, 9 PM and 12M.

**TYPE V: Dial 24 ½ mm diameter; obliterator - numeral within barred ellipse.** Period after WASHINGTON in dial. (Jan 87 - Jun 90)

a. Numeral within barred ellipse of 8 or 10 bars. (21 Jul 87 - 19 Jun 90)

(1) Numeral 1 within 12 mm circle within pointed ten bar ellipse

(a) Long WASHINGTON.D.C.; stop centered between N and D; straight line of D points to top of bar; N,D,C further apart.

(b) Short WASHINGTON.D.C.; stop closer to D; straight line of D points between bars; N,D, C closer together.

(2) Numeral 2 within 12 mm circle - eight bar ellipse; right leg of N points to bottom of first split bar.

(3) Numeral 3 within 11 ½ circle - eight bar ellipse

(a) Short WASHINGTON.D.C.; right leg of N points to top of bar

(b) Long WASHINGTON.D.C.; right leg of N points to bottom of bar

(c) As (3)(a) without year date (10 June 90)

(4) Numeral 4 with 12 mm circle - eight bar ellipse

(5) Numeral 5 without circle - ten bar ellipse

(a) Straight line of D points to middle of top split bar; stop centered between N and D.

(b) Straight line of D points to bottom of top split bar; stop close to D.

(6) Numeral 6 without circle - ten bar ellipse

(a) Straight line of D points to middle of top split bar; stop centered between N and D.

(b) Straight line of D points to bottom of top split bar; stop close to N.

(7) Without circle - ten bar ellipse

(a) Straight line of D points to top of top split bar; stop close to N.

(b) Straight line of D points to bottom split bar.

b. Numerals within barrel with two or three bars above and below

(1) Numeral 1 in circle, with three bars above and below.

(a) Short WASHINGTON.D.C.; NG at top

(b) Long WASHINGTON.D.C.; G at top

(c) As (1)(b) without year date (13 Jan 87)

(d) As (1)(b) with year date inverted (21 Feb 87)

(2) Numeral 2 in circle with two bars above and below

(a) Short WASHINGTON.D.C., NG at top, no year date 14 Jan 89

(3) Numeral 3 in 11 ½ mm circle with two bars above and below.

(a) —

(b) Long WASHINGTON.D.C., G at top

(4) Numeral 4 in 12 mm circle with 2 bars above and below

(a) —

(b) Long WASHINGTON.D.C., G at top, Stop closer to N than to D.

(5) Numeral 5 without circle with 3 bars above and below

(a) Long WASHINGTON.D.C., Wide space between D and C

(b) Short WASHINGTON.D.C., D and C close together

(c) —

(d) As (5) (b) without year date (3 Feb 88)

(6) Numeral 6 without circle with 3 bars above and below

(a) G at top, stop closer to D than C; extension of right leg of N is above barrel

(b) GT at top, extension of right leg of N intersects barrel

(7) No data

Dispatch Times: 7AM, 10 AM, 1130 AM, 0030 PM, 2 PM, 230 PM, 0330 PM, 4PM, 430 PM, 5 PM, 530 PM, 6 PM, 630 PM, 7 PM, 730 PM, 8 PM, 830 PM, 9 PM, 930 PM, 10 PM, 11 PM, 12 PM.





Type Vb (1) (a)



Type Vb (1) (b)



Type Vb (1) (c)



Type Vb (1) (d)



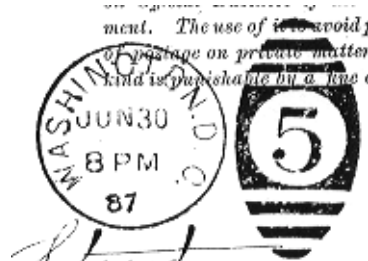
Type Vb (2) (a)



Type Vb (3) (b)



Type Vb (4) (b)



Type Vb (5) (a)



Type Vb (5) (b)



Type Vb (5) (d)



Type Vb (6) (a)



Type Vb (6) (b)

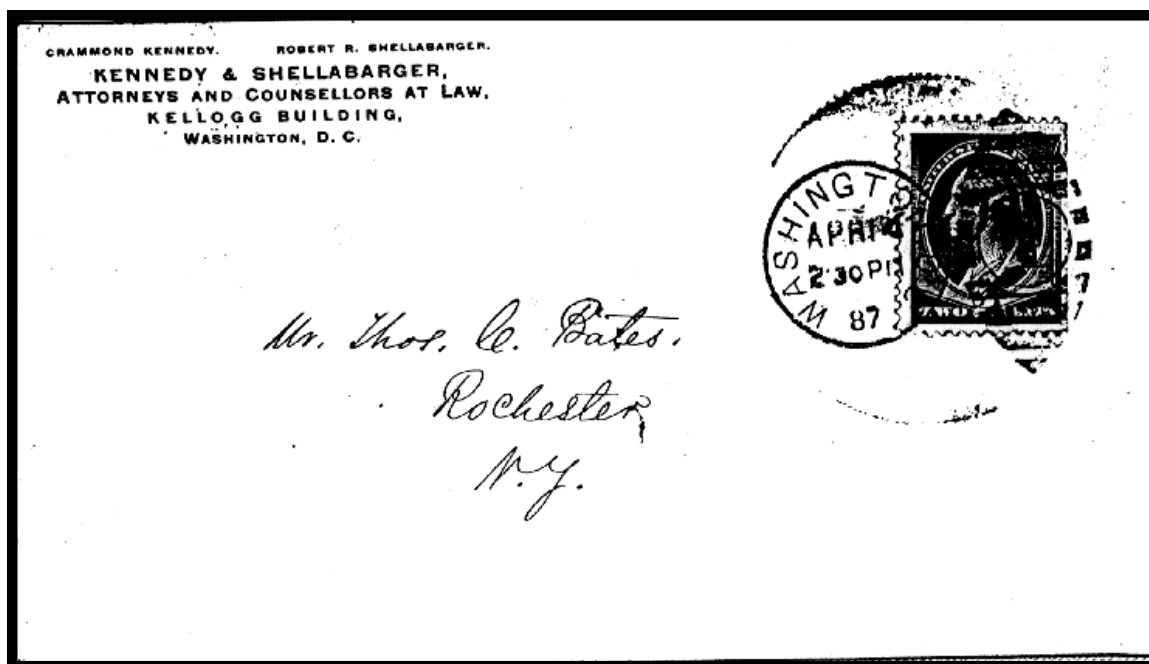
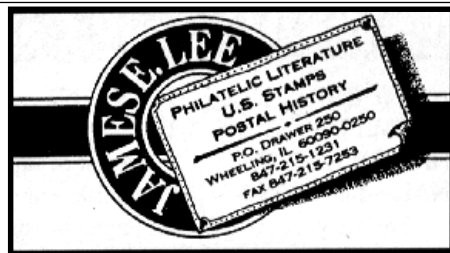


Figure 2. This exceptional bold impression of duplex Type Va (1) (a) shows clearly all aspects of the postmark and cancel, but a partial outline of the mounting plate as well.

In TYPES IV and V there are two varieties of most of the 'a' and 'b' subtypes; they probably exist in every case but they have just not been recorded. It is interesting that two varieties were used concurrently, indicating the need for additional stamps to handle an increasing workload.

I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of any covers showing varieties not in the listing and copies of Va(2), Va(4), Vb(3) and Vb(4). There also is a serious need for copies of all numeral duplex covers from 1890 through 1910 if I am to extend the listing through that period.

Col. Carl L. Stieg  
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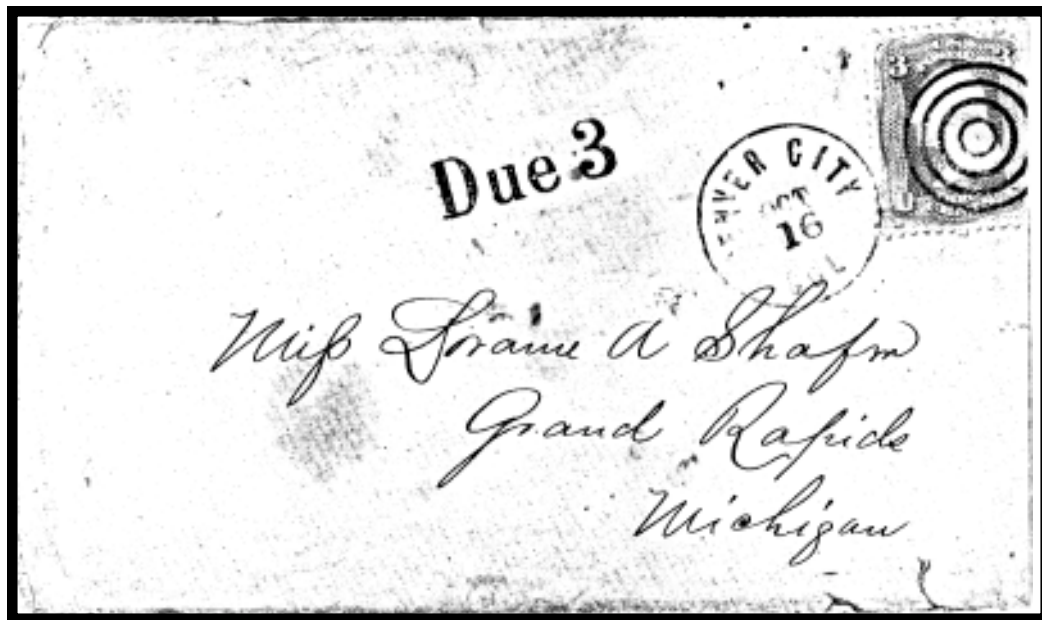


Figure 1. This cover was postmarked Denver City, Col., Oct. 16 (1865). It carried a letter from an Army doctor stationed a military post in Dakota Territory (now Wyoming), and travelled to Denver either by military courier or as a favor by a private party.

## A Doctor's Letter from Big Laramie, Dakota

By Kenneth Pitt

It was my pleasure to recently discover the cover illustrated in **Figure 1** and the interesting letter it contained. Since the letter provides a unique individual insight to the life of a doctor serving with the U. S. Army on the Great Plains, it seemed an appropriate subject to share with La Posta readers:

*'Not any letters yet, not since Sept 21st. This mail arrangement isnt worth a poor mans shirt - any letters are all at Salt Lake or some other miserable place - but I am well, and am agoing to write. We have been visited by another snow-storm - for two days it has snowed off & on - fall two or three inches - and then the cold damp winds from the West would sweep it off - untill it ends off tonight with bare ground cold & dark. It has been good hunting - the results are 9 antelope - some hunter from Hallock*

*killed a grizzley - two elk - & several antelope yesterday - the bear was huge - fore claws 7 inches long - they wanted 50 cts pound - so I ate sparingly of it. The detachments of the 6th & 7th are en route for Utah are beyond Hallick now - have had a mighty rough time, since they left here - facing those cold West winds rain snow. They left here four days ago - and many times since then I pittied them - and as oft congratulated myself upon my good luck, of not being one of their number. Major Darling - is expected down from Hallock tomorrow or next day and then we will pull up, and proceed to Camp Collins where we expect to be mustered out soon after arrival - by the 1st of Nov, anyway - 'Bully for us' The following officers ar among those bound for Sale Lake - Col Briggs, Dr. Richards, Captains- Clipperton, Carpenter, Bimey, Glavin, McCormick, Lieutenants - Frank Clark, Masten, Dummett, Ferris, Canfield, Hill, Tubbs, Buck. I shall ever*

*be thankful to Col Briggs, for leaving me out. I had a long conversation with him in regard to my going & the result was, I came off clear. I dont know of a single officer, that wanted to go - some offe \$500,00 for their release. Dr R- felt very bad over going - The number of men from this regiment - was about 160 - about the same from the 6<sup>th</sup> with four Officers. When they arrive at Fort Bridger the 1st, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7th will be consolidated - with Briggs as. Lieut. Col - no doubt they will have a good time - once at Salt Lake -but "I'll pass". We are feeling very well indeed-prospects are pretty good for our muster out. Of course it will occupy some time to make out the finale statements. Once free I shall take coach for the M.O' river and in a few days after I shall breathe the air again, in the freedom of my own beloved home. But dont look for me. well I will write again, at Collins - and tell you the prospects - until then rest quiet - I am having considerable business, in private practice now - and paying business too - I make them come down with their little fives & saw bucks.*

*Capt Fisher was sick all last night with Bilious colic - is better to night. There is a big train coming in tonight from Idaho bound for America! Perhaps a couple of jobs out of there - if I do I'll bleed 'em ten dollars worth "you may bet". Every body is here for money - except the poor soldiers - and by jove - they make money too. Dinners \$2.00 per meal - Medicine \$5.00 a pop. I have my clothes sponged and brushed up - valice packed ready to start home - at any moments notice - I have seen enough of this country - I want to quit before it gets any colder. Mountains are covered with snow - and only a few days ago such nice weather. You see I dont know which might come next. Health of the command is excellent. I haven't lost a single soldier patient since I left Leavenworth - some ten have died though. I have cured scores of this Mountain fever, which is nothing more or less than Typho malarial fever - in fact I have had extremely good luck in every particular - I hope I may always do as well as I have in the army - I don't "dope" my patients to death - but the do stand heroic doses of some medicine, out here - Quinine - fo instance - The reason is there is a disproportion to an arsenic state of*

*symptom - I am sure, that I have sustained one or two men with that medicine - until I could bring other remedies to bear on disease - But I didn't intend to write a "thesis" so I'll quit - No Indians - around - General Upton, was through here several days ago - and he ordered no more coach escortt - because he sayed he thought it useless - as there was no Indians around so the soldiers have a pretty easy time of it now - Co "A" time was out today - hope they will soon be around for their horses - Coach hasn't come in from the West yet to night - but I mu hurry up or else it will - After I get through writing I will take a game of California Jack with major - and then go to bed - I haven't heard any conversation to day, among the men - only what was about home how they were agoing, how long it would take them - &c &c Home fever is raging - but I'll abide my time like a good little man - must go over and see Capt Fisher and see how he gets along - Dr. U - is at Collins Frank Clark sayed he would write me from Bridger and so if a letter comes before I get home - take it out or please have my name put on the side(?) in your box - because every body will write to me - in a month or so - Hoping this will find you all happy - is my best wish - You want to sett "a heavy" table when I come. "Oh I guess not" you neednt be particular about having any salt pork and cold biscuits on table - give m plenty of "sass" yes "sass" that's it - such as biled cabbage - squash - But dont you try to fool me on any thing new - I wont touch a thing that I dont know what it is - I have no time for proof reading - so excuse My best wishes &c*

*M A Shafer Act Surg  
7 Mich Cav Camp Collins'*

# Philadelphia's Circular Postal Markings, 1765 to 1870, II

by Tom Clarke

The double dot, 33mm **PHILADELPHIA. Pa.** balloon cancel [Fig 21] covered last time brought us to a crossroads in the postal life of every city and town post office, the era of the flat rate, beginning July 1, 1845. The drastic rate reduction from 12 1/2, 18-3/4, or 25 cents to just five cents for letters under 300 miles and 10 cents for those beyond 300 miles, was a joyful *cause celebre* for the public.

But it was a wrenching change for postal clerks to readjust. The tedium of writing manuscript ratings on each piece of mail was happily surrendered, but in its place a second, rate handstamp would have to be employed — two individual devices and two individual arm motions. These associate devices were the new double-circle 2, 5, and 10 cent auxiliary markers, in matching blue [Fig 22], instituted in July 1845.

As was previously mentioned, at least one of the old double dot balloon dial markers was held over for the express purpose of easing at least one clerk's work load. From April 1846 to January 1847, the devise was adapted to accept a **Bold 5** instead of the **Pa.** [Fig 23].

In the meantime, other clerks continued to double mark each piece of mail. Surely the Bold 5 was an in-house experiment. But why would it take nine long months to comprehend the immediate economy of time and effort by using half the energy to move letters?

Mail volume no doubt rocketed immediately as letter rates dropped that summer. The Bold 5 must have done as much work in the ensuing months as in any two or three year period of its previous incarnation. Realizing the merits of single-motion stamping, when it is retired on or about January 29, 1847, it will be in favor of a

ready-made integral 5 cent devise [Fig 33]. Henceforth, as the double-dot marker's complicated life implies, letters and covers would bear a variety of marker styles and combinations.

## Small Philadelphia Dials

A new type of dial was employed almost concurrently with the balloon double dot. Thirteen months into the latter's use, the first of several similar, smaller diameter **PHILADELPHIA Pa.** cancels appeared.

Why were these added devices introduced? That cannot be proven but applying Ockham's razor, the simplest solution will probably be the valid one: as the piles of mail increased, another clerk or two was required, and with them more equipment.

The first of these was the blue **PHILADELPHIA. Pa.** type — note the two periods [Fig 251]. Its earliest usage is July 24, 1841, and continued for only a year. So early a demise, possibly it became damaged. But curiously, one example is known used in 1844 (4/29) canceling a trans-Atlantic letter to England.<sup>1</sup>

Immediately on its demise, a very similar type was introduced, but with no period following the town name. It will be joined by a very close sibling canceler, with the same lettering and design, but with the town name slightly shifted to the right. Thus the first type [Fig 26] has the D-E of Philadelphia at 12 o'clock, while its kin [Fig 27], which was introduced 1 1/2 years later, has the lone D straight up at 12 o'clock.

The D-E style was employed between June 30, 1842 and July 22, 1846, while the D style had a life span from November 12, 1844 to July 27, 1848.

1. This is an odd occurrence. At this time foreign mail was apparently handled along with ordinary mail because foreign mail bears standard townmarks. This is the earliest use of a hand-me-down devise which apparently was saved after it was otherwise terminated and later transferred from the domestic desk/section to the foreign desk. The first specifically designed markers for outgoing foreign mail will be the cannibalized double-line octagons of 1849-50 mentioned in Part I of this article.

continuing Multi-Rate Period Cancels, pre-1845



Fig 21



Fig 23

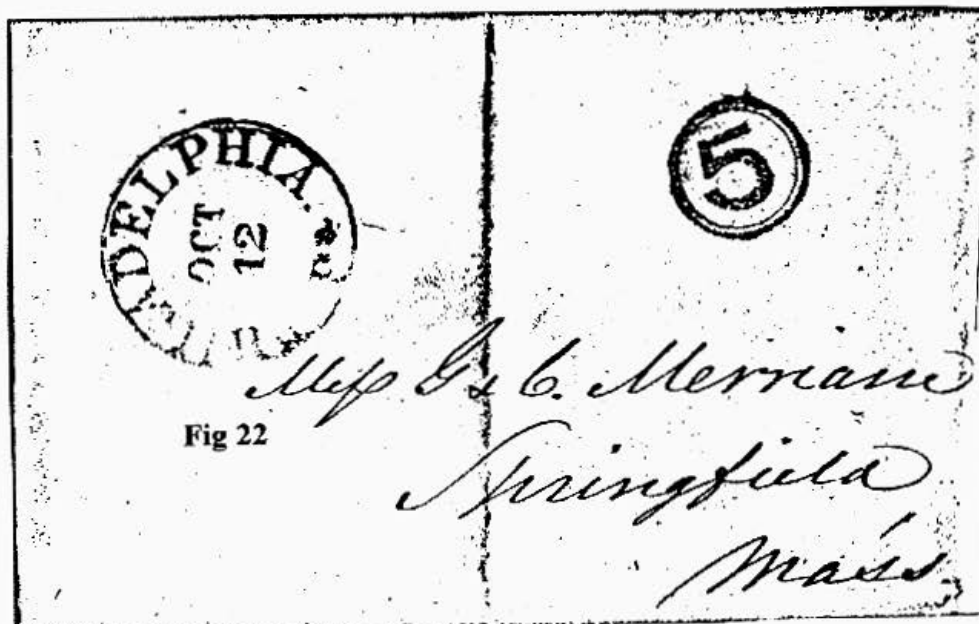


Fig 22



Fig 25



Fig 26



Fig 27



2

Fig 28

The duplexed "10" cancel was one of the earlier experiments of this type in the country.

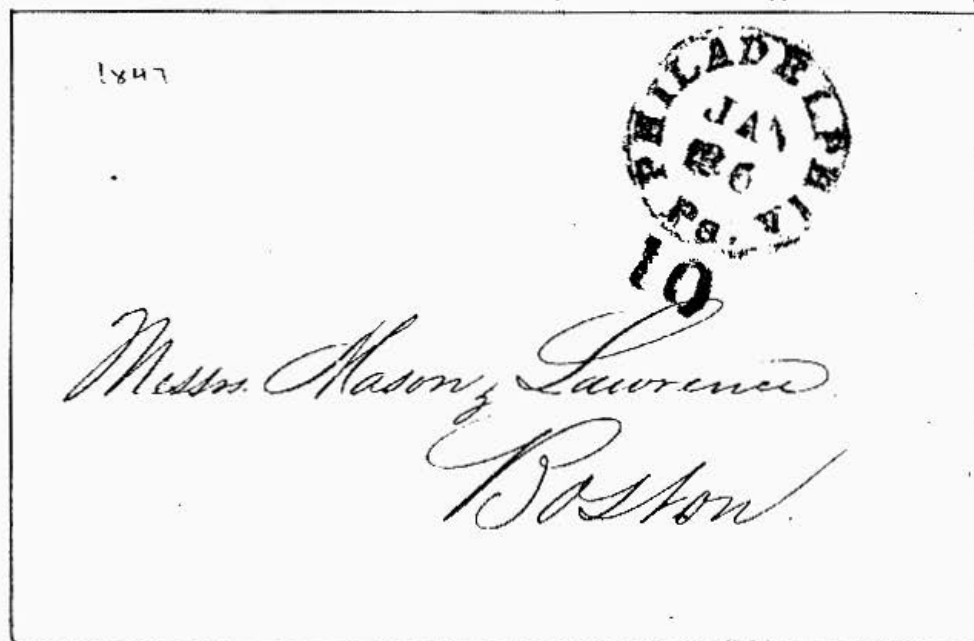


Fig 29



## The 1845-1847 Series

### Attached-Rate cancelers

Between July 1, 1845 and May 1851, there would be five rate changes and adjustments. It was a period that saw the birth of integral townmark-rate devices and an array (surely bewildering to the clerks of the day) of handstamps that cluttered their work space.

To relieve some of the clerks' wasted motions when canceling letters, the balloon double dot was converted into the rated Bold 5 as mentioned. But now, to further increase efficiency after the July 1845 rate changes, one of the two current small dial cancelers also underwent a substantial alteration

The double circle 2, 5, and 10 auxiliary stampers, created to replace handwritten rates on letters after July 1845, along with the Bold 5 canceler, allowed two methods to properly cancel ordinary rated, 5 cent letters. The two and the ten cent rates will have their own parallel to compound handstamping.<sup>2</sup>

The D-E small dial device was converted after three years of life, after the introduction of

<b>Act of March 3, 1845, effective July 1, 1845</b>	
<b>Half-ounce letters</b>	
-under 300 miles	5 cents
-over 300 miles	10 cents
-local, drop letters	2 cents
-circulars per sheet	2 cents
-carrier fee	2 cents
An additional rate for each 1/2 ounce, etc.	

the new rates, into a time saving duplex marker. It could carry either an interchangeable "2" or "10" numeral beneath the dial to stipulate either the local or beyond-300-mile rate [Fig 28, 29]. Since local and beyond-300-mile letters were fewer in number than the quantity of standard, less than 300 miles, letters, it is reasonable to assume that one or more clerks maintained a desk for standard mail while another clerk or clerks, a separate desk for the local and distant mail. Each area would have had its own specialized, rated markers.

These creative rated canceling devices were the vanguard of two dozen different cancel types that will follow. They will be in use for short or longer periods between 1845 and 1860. The accompanying chart shows that there is a definite and obvious correlation between two great rate changes of 1845 and 1851 and the revolutionary Act of 1847, and the conscious changeover to new canceler types.

The plain D-E and the D cancelers were carried over from the multi-rate period, whereas most all other pre-Civil War markers commence or terminate with the new rate laws. It is gratifying to see the columns line up so neatly, showing two 'sets' of devices: (1845) plain dial, 3, 5, and 10, and (1851) plain dial, 3, 5, 6, 9, and 10 cent integral markers.<sup>3</sup>

### PHILAD<sup>A</sup>./Pa.

As the heir-apparent for the D-E dial, the PHILAD<sup>A</sup>./Pa. marker [Fig 30] was introduced immediately after the D-E was withdrawn (late use July 22). Its early use date is August 5, 1846 and it ceased work on approximately May 2, 1851.

Its color is the standard blue and has been found with the double-circle 2, 12 and italic 20, 30, and 40, and large 24 rate marks, so it seems to have been allocated to the "non-standard" mail clerk/clerks. Given this, plus its non-traditional, wide-lettered, "spacey" look, we can presume that this is the initial dial that will be employed for specific use by a young, soon-to-be foreign desk, established to handle the new rates of 1847 (see chart below).

### PAID/3/Cents

Integral markers had come into their own, after a waiting period of about one year. Probably one of readjustment and reorganizing.

The Act of March 3, 1847 (effective July 1) of course authorized postage stamps. But it also increased the circular rate by 50%, to three cents, effective immediately, on March 3, 1847. Thus a new integral hand stamp was needed for this purpose. [Fig 31]

2. These auxiliaries will have a short life, similar in length to the dials they were complementing. The 2 cent double circle has dates of definite known use extending from August 12, 1845 to September 26, 1850; the 5 cent, from July 2, 1845 to October 2, 1846; the ten cent, from July 7, 1845 to April 22, 1846.

3. Multiple rate letters are not abundant. Most higher rate examples (using auxiliary 12, 20, 40, etc. hand stamps) are either steamship letters or trans-Atlantic mail; see March 3, 1847 chart.

## Series of 1845-1847 Cancels



Fig 30



Fig 31



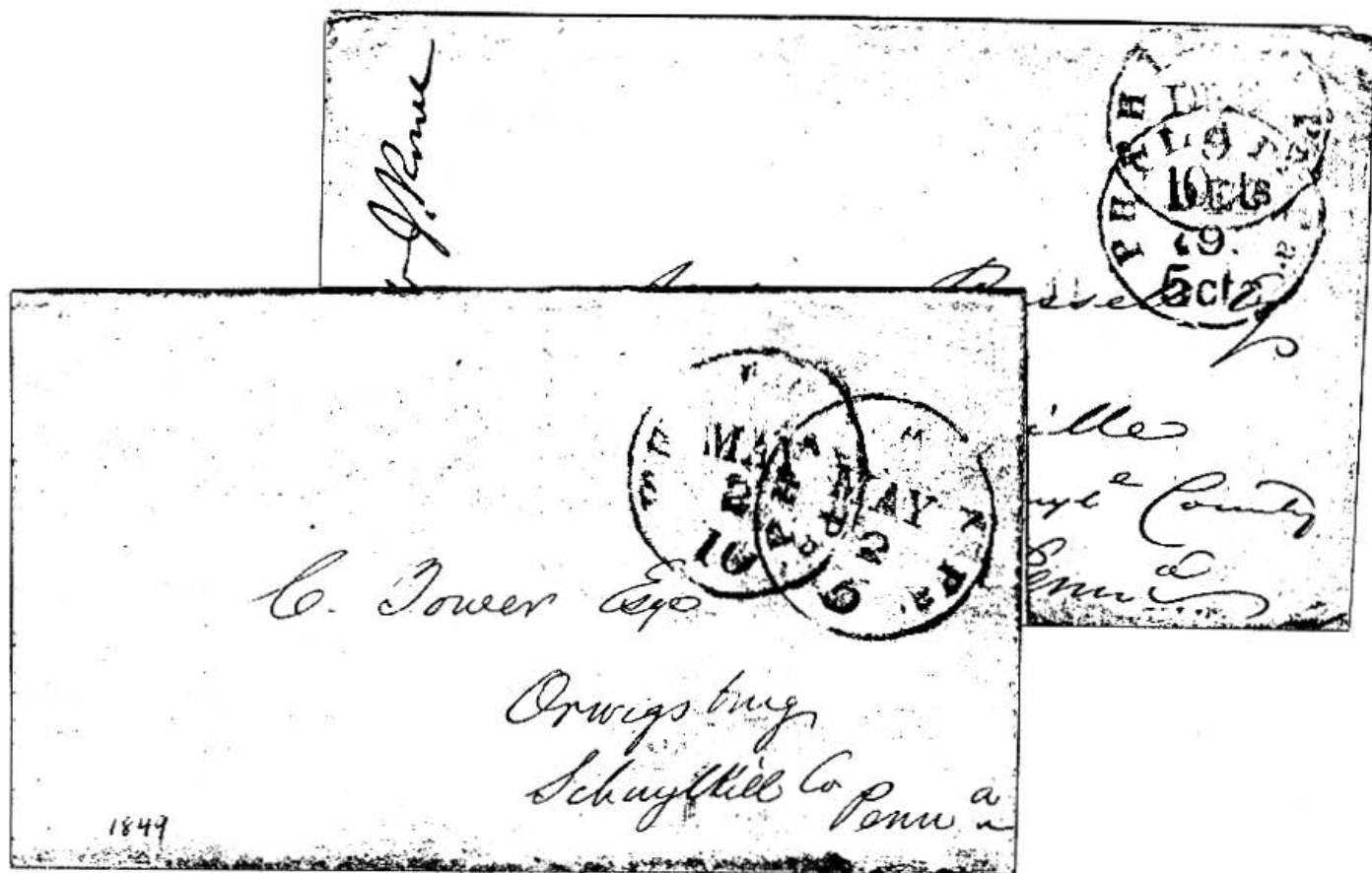
Fig 32



Fig 33



Fig 34



Which mistake was made first? Theory says each letter was mis-stacked and struck in error, noted and set aside, then restruck when the proper slug was re-placed in the device in order to cancel the succeeding batch of letters.



Fig 35



Fig 36



Fig 37



Fig 38

Unfortunately, the first type is rare due to the fact that it was little used, maybe owing to its late arrival or rapid demise, or to the fact that it was dateless. No dated examples are known, but it is reported in blue and was probably used

Act of March 3, 1847, effective July 1, 1847	
Authorizes postage stamps	
Circular rate @ sheet prepaid	3 cents
Foreign rates	
-to or from Havana	12 1/2 cts
-...Chargres	20 cents
-...Panama	30 cents
-...Astoria Oregon...	40 cents
-...other Pacific terr.	40 cents

briefly in March and April 1847. There is little doubt that it preceded the following type.

### 3 Cts (flat 3)

A second integral three cent device with a *flat 3* was in use from at least April 9, 1847 to April 21, 1851 (*the round* styled 3 device will be born seven years later in 1854 [Fig 45]. This marking, also in blue, bore the date [Fig 32]. It is known used from April 7, 1847 and through April 21, 1851. Earlier and later dates are sure to be found.

This same cancel in red will be rededicated to the new three cent first class rate on July 1, 1851, and as such, is listed further on as a Series of 1851 canceler.

### 5cts PHILADA<sup>A</sup>. Pa.

This is the second five cent dial but the first to be manufactured as such [Fig 33]. It took the place of the locally produced balloon double dot interim canceler, and was first used approximately January 1, 1847.

There are two basic varieties of this device, proving there were at least two of them supplied. The first has the period following Pa placed high, and the second, with the period placed normally.

The second variety was in use for only a short while, between at least February 10 and April 23, 1847. Perhaps this second device was for emergency use, or perhaps ordered for an estimated growth in the mail that never material-

ized.

It has become clear recently, having toyed with these covers in ignorance for a dozen years, that just like the following italic type handstamps, the **5cts** and the **10cts** [Fig 36] types were one and the same cancel, except for different rate slugs! Transparency comparison proves this true. Read below to hear some further reasoning.

### PHILADA<sup>A</sup>. Pa. 5 italic

After only 18-19 months, the 5cts canceler was replaced by this device, the italicized **5** [Fig 34]. It is known used, in blue, between October 19, 1848 and September 1, 1849.

What was the problem in general with these devices that each lasted only a year and a half or less? Perhaps the manufacture, were they cheap rubber or quality boxwood or brass, or was the mail volume so great that it would have worn out the best? The latter is probably the truth.

(This same dial will be hastily used as a Series of 1851 canceler. If the 5 were truly a removable slug as were the month and day characters, then it was reversed, and used as a plain dial cancel along with a new one cent drop rate handstamp [Fig 34A].

The most interesting thing about this cancel is that it probably did have a rate slug. The italic 5, in fact, was not replaced by the next canceler, but in reality it became the next canceler; see the **5 cts** type following

The five cent italic has also been seen in black by the writer, though undated. The black suggests its original slug was reinserted and used after January 1854, when black became the official postmarking ink color ever more. However, a **10cts** type [Fig 36] is found in black dated December 16, 1847, so perhaps a black stamp pad kept rearing its head when least expected from that early date.

### 5 cts PHILADA<sup>A</sup>. Pa.

Note the space between the **5** and **cts** [Fig 35], compared to the 5cts in Fig 33. The **5 cts** superseded the italic 5 directly and was used from at least October 26, 1849 through the latest known usage date of May 3 1, 1851.

The basic dial is precisely the same as the preceding italic 5 except for the rate



character(s). Either the rates were removable slugs, as seems most likely given the evidence, or several identical (even to incorrect period placement) handstamps were inventoried at the same time and successively used over 2 ½ years.

Using transparencies, the letters of the dial —and the wayward period after Pa., can be shown to coincide. What's more, the italic **10**, a part of this same series, also is a clone copy of the **5** italic dial too. Would a clerk spend his day, though, routinely exchanging slugs to fit the rate required on the mailing piece? Seems unlikely, but the facts speak for themselves.

### 10cts PHILAD<sup>A</sup>. Pa.

A twin of the 5cts version, as explained above, this cancel is in reality the same physical device, or a precise copy of it, but with a different slug.<sup>4</sup> It was used from February 6, 1847 to November 7, 1848, somewhat similar in extent to the 5cts type. It was used in blue as usual, but at least on December 16, 1847 it was used in Black [Fig 36] perhaps in error.

A “variety” with color not indicated is listed in the *American Stampless Cover Catalog*. It claims a missing “a” in “Pa,” but the writer has never seen one or any copies.

### PHILAD<sup>A</sup>. Pa. 10 italic

The italic 10 type of canceler was used between May 12, 1848 and May 10, 1851 [Fig 37]. This is a much longer period than the italic 5. The italic 10 slug became the permanent alternate choice but the 5 cts. slug was acquired to replace the italic 5 slug, perhaps when it became damaged or lost.

It can be found in three colors; the normal blue throughout the full period stated, and also black (December 16, 1847), and in an example in red (February 1, 1851).

### 10 cts PHILAD<sup>A</sup>. Pa.

The last cancel in the Series of 1845-47 is the “tall” 10 cts version of its 5 cts sibling [Fig 38]. It was producing between July 2, 1850 and May 23, 1851, a short time but found, so far, on a

few uncommon covers to the California gold regions.

There are so few examples of this cancel it is difficult to draw firm conclusion about it. Tentatively, it is an independent type as listed, but it is very possible that it is a deteriorated form of Fig 37, with the 10cts slug added from the Fig 36 type.

Why not a bit more of postal cannibalism? All was in preparation for the changeover to new devices in the Summer of 1851, and the new devices had probably begun to arrive already, though were forbidden to use.

## The 1851 Series PHILADELPHIA/PA.

With the advent of further reduction in postage rates in July 1851, all cancelers were replaced with new ones in accordance with the “new broom sweeps clean” concept. With one exception, none of the former listed cancels will be used again in Philadelphia.

The initial 1851 Series handstamp was the **PHILADELPHIA/PA.** dial familiar to collectors of 1851 imperforate issues [Fig 39]. This one cancel was able to slip through the quality control of the day and was used the week prior to the new reduced rates. It was used from June 25, 1851 through June 12, 1853. (Orange brown #10s of 1851 are especially attractive combined with this blue cancel fully struck.)

This canceler was used with a variety of auxiliaries too. The Double octagon 1 for the new low cost drop rate, an italic 5 and 10, Double octagon 6 and PAID, circle 7, inverted double octagon 6 (=9 cents), and the double circle 12 plus PAID. Of course, higher rates, as before, would probably be an inconu'ng trans-Atlantic.

### PHILAD<sup>A</sup>. Pa. (slug)

The deceased **PHILAD<sup>A</sup>. Pa./5 italic**, last used approximately September 1, 1849, was resurrected for use during the first month (or longer) of the new rates in July 1851. The lone example is dated July 26, and bears a double octagon PAID

4. It has been suggested that precision duplicates were technologically impossible before the 1880s. Interchangeable parts were still a rare industrial element at mid-century.



## Series of 1851 Cancels



Fig 39



Fig 40



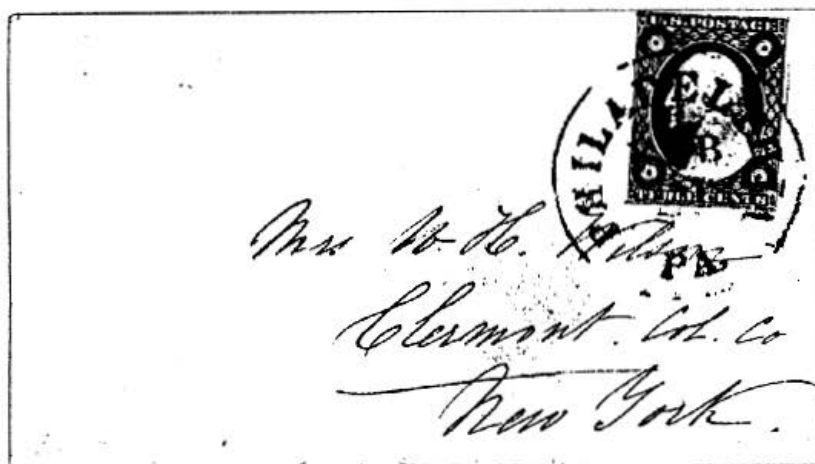
Fig 41



Fig 42



Fig 43



Above: A small, ladies envelope showing a nice color combination of blue Fig. 39 cancel and orange-brown #10

Below: A decent quality, early impression of Fig 45 on a first-class envelope to Centre County PA



Fig 44



Fig 45



Fig 46



Fig 47

and 1, both in red. The 5 slug has been reversed and an inky rectangle appears in its place. The only extant copy is currently unavailable for illustration.

Perhaps there was a large backlog of

Act of March 3, 1851, effective June 30, 1851	
Half-ounce letters	
-prepaid to 3000 miles	3 cents
-collect to 3000 miles	5 cents
-prepaid beyond 3000 miles	6 cents
-collect beyond 3000 miles	10 cents
-local, drop letters	1 cent
-advertised letters, add...	1 cent
-pntd m after @ oz. to 500 mi.	1 cent
-ditto, 500 to 1500 miles	2 cents
-ditto, each add'l 1000 miles	1 cent
An additional rate for each 1/2 ounce, etc.	

circulars and catalogs delayed till the July 1 67% decrease in "3<sup>rd</sup> class" rates from 3 cents to 1 cent? This old canceler might have been pressed into use to meet that need.

## PHILADELPHIA./PA.

A cover bearing a unique cancel that seems to date from this period came to light at auction in 1990. It is a large 34mm black inked item of October 25, with the town name squeezed tight at the top of the dial and it is punctuated with a period. [Fig 40]. The black ink certainly suggests a post-January 1854 date since that is when black ink replaced blue, though we know there have been exceptions.

The succeeding cancel (see next) will last a long four years. In such a satisfied climate it seems unlikely that anyone would want to test an experimental device. Perhaps it was a salesman's sample? It has been tentatively placed in 1855, but anywhere from 1854 to 1859 might do just as well.

## PHILADELPHIA/PA.

The PHILADELPHIA/PA. is one of the longest lasting cancels of this burgeoning letter mail period. It is first used about July 1, 1853 and persists until June 18, 1858 [Fig 41]. It was begun for six months in blue ink. These are startling to see, since for 80% of its existence it was canceled in black. It can be found with double octagon 1 and 6 auxiliary hand stamps.

Without a doubt, a new system of procuring devices had developed by this time since this device is known in at least 6 sub-varieties. Very possibly this is proof that six domestic mail clerks were doing the domestic postmarking, whereas in 1840, probably only two were needed. (By the early 1890s, twenty-three will be on duty, as the duplex handstamp numbering scheme will attest.)

## PHILADELPHIA PA./1 PAID

Specific, integral rated cancelers came into their own between 1851 and 1860. Interim combinations of markings were first applied to letters. This device will take care of the job in one stamping motion and clearly shouts "1 PAID" at the bottom [Fig 42]. It was introduced no doubt a month or two late after the new rates were introduced, with the earliest known of September 4, 1851.

Then, almost a year to the day after the rates of 1851 went into effect, a change seems to have required the date be removed on circular mail. Therefore, the first usage bears a date, till June 1, 1852, and afterward, from about August 1, 1852 till the cancelers demise on or about March 1, 1853, it was used without any date. It is a blue cancel.

## PHILADELPHIA/2

Jarring and remarkable, this king size black "2" cancel of Philadelphia is not easily forgotten once seen [Fig 43]. Yet few are seen that are full impressions. It dates to about 1858, though none are definitively dated so far.

The two cent rate covers an ounce of prepaid printed matter mailed between 500 and 1500 miles away in 1851 and 1852, more or less from the Carolinas to Illinois to Chicago in destination. After October 1, 1852, two cents will send three ounces of prepaid printed matter throughout the United States. Sad that such an outstanding design is relegated to such transitory and hard to find —unsaved— material.

## PAID 3 Cts.

This is a very short-lived cancel that represents the new three cent reduced half ounce letter rate as far as California [Fig 44]. It has been found used in red between July 1 and August 28,

## Series of 1851 Cancels

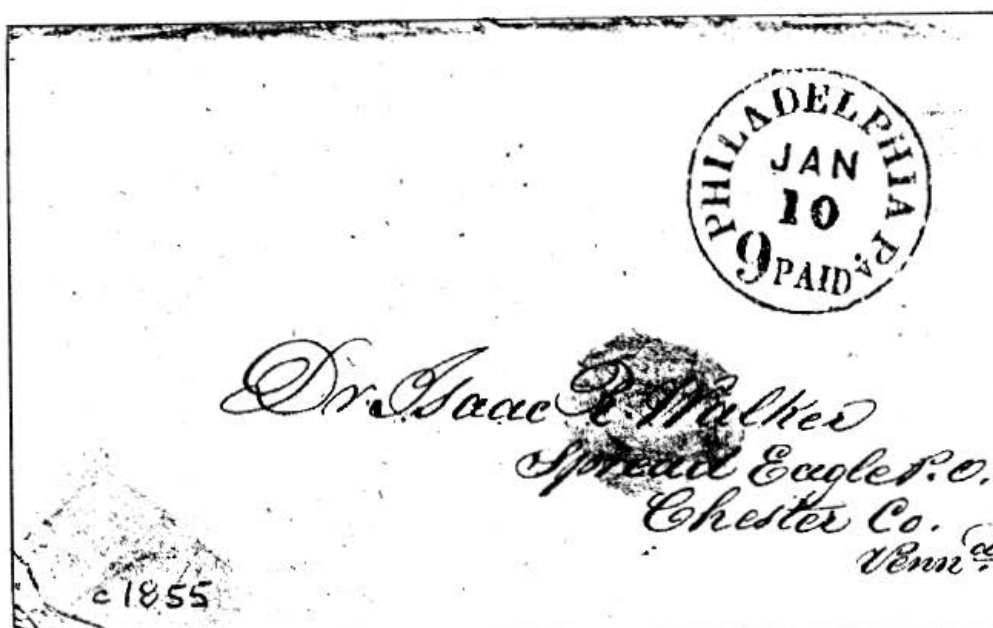


Fig 48



Fig 49

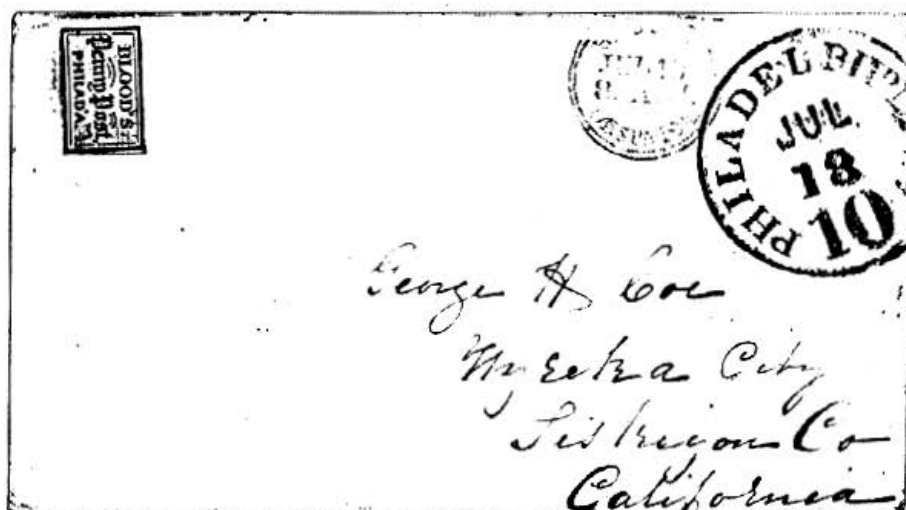


Fig 50



Fig 51

A nice combination usage with a Blood local to California showing the uncommon, domineering, Bold 10.



1851.

It's impressions suggest that it may have been of a frail construction and did not hold the date slugs well. Its successors, of substantial fabric, will get a lot of use.

### 3 cts./PAID (3 flat)

Making a comeback *in red*, this re-invigorated cancel was used to indicate the new nationwide letter rate of 1851. Four years before it had been used, [Fig 32] *in blue*, to indicate the single sheet prepaid, circular rate. It will be re-placed into operation on or about July 9, 1851 and continue in use till March 11, 1854.

It can also be found without date slugs. This is either a first class mail oversight or standard method for marking overweight, prepaid printed matter. If the latter, it would have probably been used between July 1, 1851 and September 30, 1852.

### 3 CTS/PAID (3 round)

This canceler [Fig 45] will parallel and then supersede the previous 3 cent/PAID type and will be always found in red. The switch to a distinct style of "3" might indicate a second clerk, particularly as there is an overlap of several months of dual usage. It is known used between January 28, 1854 and December 10, 1855.

Oddly, despite the general changeover to black ink in January 1854, this one uses red ink for almost two years beyond that date. Perhaps, for convenience, circular mail had to be distinguished separately from letter mail.

### PHILADELPHIA P<sup>A</sup>./5cts

Continuing the set of "P<sup>A</sup>." cancelers, the /5cts canceler [Fig 46] suggests that it, and the others, came from a single order. It is known only in blue (that is, before January 1854). Once in a while it is met with as a compound rating combined with the double octagonal 1 or with carrier label and/or a carrier's red star handstamp.

Its use dates are September 9, 1851 through August 29, 1853. The *American Stampless Cover Catalog* claims a use of it in black, which would suggest another late emergency use, maybe during a day or week of heavy mailing.

### PHILADELPHIA P<sup>A</sup>./5 bold

This [Fig 47], and the bold 10 to follow, is part of the "P<sup>A</sup>." set alluded to above. It overlaps the preceding cancel's usage by half a year, and, again, suggests increasing mail volume requiring more utensils to do the job.

Its dates of usage are February 19, 1853 to March 11, 1855, and thus is known in both blue and black. This five cent rate is for collect letters.

### PHILADELPHIA P<sup>A</sup>./6 PAID

Six cent PAID handstamps [Fig 48] indicated the half ounce rate beyond 3000 miles or simply a (double) one ounce letter. As such it is infrequently seen but is known from July 27, 1854 to September 26, 1855.

### PHILADELPHIA P<sup>A</sup>./9 PAID

Nine cent PAID [Fig 49] cancels in red are less common than the 6 PAIDS. The one known to the writer is tentatively dated to January 10, 1855(?). Oversized (triple, 1-1/2 ounce) mailings, perhaps legal papers, might be where this cancel would be found. Preciously guarded legal archives in attic trunks may hide additional copies of it.

### PHILADELPHIA P<sup>A</sup>./10 bold

The "10" in this striking cancel is very pleasantly prominent. [Fig 50]. Unfortunately, it saw limited use since the 10 cent rate was either a prepaid double letter collect or a plain half ounce prepaid rate beyond 3000 miles — not common.

For this reason it was employed for only three months, but the year date is questionable from the few examples known: from July 18, 1853? to October 29, 1853? It is in blue so a date beyond this would not be feasible.

### PHILADELPHIA P<sup>A</sup>./PAID

Plain PAID cancels [Fig 51], from the "P<sup>A</sup>." family, saw limited use on domestic mail. It is better placed with ship markings as it is mostly met with in red on incoming mail in conjunction with the redundant shipmail PAID/10 and PAID/12 markings. Its known usage is November 11, 1851 through June 30, 1853.

(The circular cancels of the 1860s will conclude this article.)

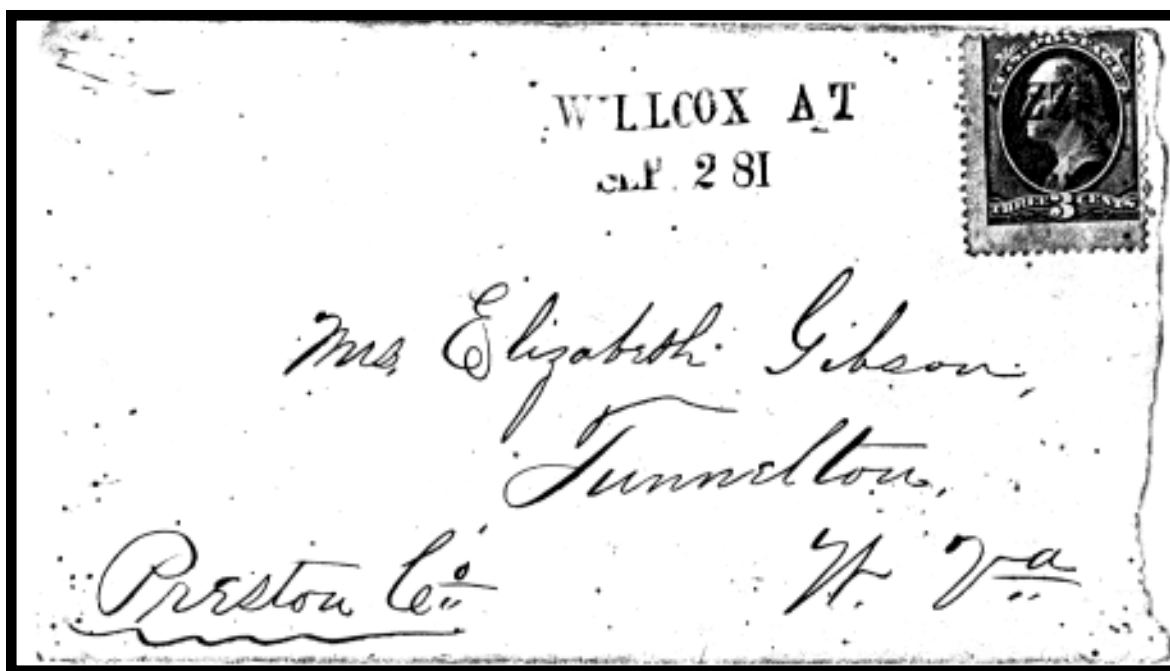


Figure 1. This cover displays a recently discovered two line typeset handstamp from Wilcox, Arizona Territory, dated September 2, 1881.

## An Early Wilcox, Arizona Territory Letter

By Kenneth A. Pitt

The recently discovered cover from Wilcox, Arizona illustrated in **Figure 1** displays a new addition to the listing of known Arizona Territory postmarks. The WILCOX AT is struck in bright blue ink and obviously uses type from a local printer. Not so obvious is the killer (Figure 2) which features “ZZ” in the first line of type and a set of four commas in the second line. This



Figure 2. This enlarged view of the 3-cent green franking the cover in Figure 1 better shows the unusual typeset killer “ZZ/,,,”.

Wilcox postmark predates the earliest listed in Kriege’s Arizona Territorial Postmark Catalog for the office but only by 25 days suggesting that this straightline variety probably had a very short lifespan.

The enclosed letter speaks of an Indian assault on Fort Apache. It is transcribed here in its entirety.

*Willcox Arizona Sept. 2-1881*

*My dear Sister Lizzie:*

*Just rec’d a telegram from Mr. Brunell to go to a Mining Camp in the Santa Ritas to look after a claim in which we are both concerned. I will be away one or perhaps two weeks as our business will necessitate me going to Tucson. I have not been there yet, but Mr. Wilisch knows of me being here and wrote me how pleased they would all be to see me and what the little ones said they would have a big picnic when Mr. Brown came to see them, but I think that Herbert or Clay would be equally as well pleased to*



see me and I know that I would them. I often wonder how they are getting along and picture them to myself as I have seen them many times. Well I hope that I shall be able to see you all before long.

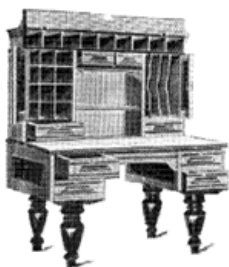
About two weeks ago it was rumored that the Indians at Camp Apache were on the war path and the soldiers in the different camps were concentrated at available points, waiting orders to move, but the telegraph lines being down nothing further was heard of the outbreak and all the troops went back to their different stations. But night before last the wires were repaired and word came that the soldiers in Camp Apache were surrounded if not all massacred. That night the soldiers from the other camps began marching toward Apache. One company from Camp Bowie reached here last night and will go ahead this morning. Camp Apache is over 100 miles to the north of us. We heard that 17 soldiers were killed the first day of the assault.

We are both well and have made this place our home since coming here. They were very glad to see us. Lizzie says that she is much disappointed at not hearing from you – more especially that you did not answer her last letter and I have not heard a word from home myself since I came away, but I hope to do so soon. Now Lizzie, write to me and also to Lizzie (to L. First as she is expecting it). L. Joins me in best love to all,  
Your affectionate brother,  
Herbert

Wilcox, Arizona Sept 7, 1881  
My dear sister Lizzie: I have just read a telegram from Mr. Sumner to go to a Mining Camp in the Santa Rita Mts. after a claim in which we are both concerned. I will be away one or perhaps two weeks as our business will necessitate me going to Tucson. I have not heard from you yet but Mr. Wilcox knows of me being here and says he has promised they would all be to see me and that the little ones said they would have a big picnic when Mr. Brown came to see them, but I think that Mr. & Mrs. Clay would be

Figure 3. First page of the Wilcox letter.

## An Unsolicited Endorsement



### The Connecticut Postal History Society Journal

The Connecticut Postal History Society publishes a quarterly *Journal* which is both interesting and a joy to behold. With lively articles and crisp illustrations, *The CPHS Journal* presents itself as a well designed little quarterly which could well serve as a model for other state and regional publications. The latest 18-page issue contains articles on a Connecticut first day of rate cover from 1845, commercial deep sea diving in Connecticut, and new discoveries in Connecticut manuscript cancels.

Annual membership in CPHS is just \$12 per year, and interested parties should contact the Society Secretary Robert Lorenz, P.O. Box 1231, Old Saybrook, CT 06475

# Postal Markings of North Dakota Territory

Part VII: Griggs, Hettinger, Kidder, La Moure and Logan County

**By Mike Ellingson**

Post Office Box 21402

Eagan, NM 55121

E-Mail: mikeellingsong@juno.com

This is the seventh installment in an effort to catalog all known postmarks used in the portion of Dakota Territory that later became North Dakota. Please continue to send updates to the author at the above address. Thanks!

## Griggs County

Code	Earliest	Latest	Killer	Notes
<b>Abbotts (1880-1882)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Cooperstown (1882-Date)</b>				
1 C21HNIR27	8 May 1883	17 Nov 1887	target	
2 C1GS1B31	31 May 188?	18 Apr 1889	target	
<b>Durham (1880-1881)</b>				
1 Ms	15 Dec 1880		pen	
<b>Gallatin (1881-1905)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Hannaford (1886-Date)</b>				
1 C1GN1B27	14 Jul 1891		target	
<b>Helena (1882-1912)</b>				
1 C22H11N1B30	13 Jun 1885	26 Oct 1886	star	
<b>Jessie (1884-Date)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Lybeck (1881-1882)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Montclair (1882-1886)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Ottawa (1882-1892)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Romness (1883-1903)</b>				
1 C1GN1B27	? Mar 1891		target	(1)
<b>Willows (1883-1892)</b>				
1 C41GN1B27	19 Dec 1883	26 Aug 1885	cork grid	(2)

## Hettinger County

Code	Earliest	Latest	Killer	Notes
<b>Mayflower (1887-1887)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>New England City (1887-1894)</b>				
1 C1HN1B27	13 Dec 1887		target	
2 C1GN1B27.5	10 Apr 1888	26 Feb 1890	target	

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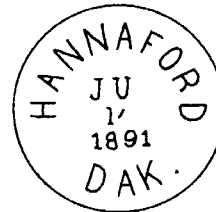
1



2

*Durham DT*  
*Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 1880*

1



1



1



1



1



2

## Kidder County

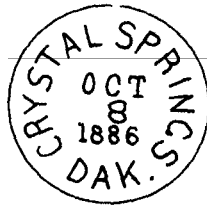
Code	Earliest	Latest	Killer	Notes
<b>Crystal Springs (1884/1993)</b>				
1 C1GN1B27	24 May 1885		pie cut cork	(3)
2 C1GN1B26.5	8 Oct 1886	9 Jun 1889	pie cut cork	
<b>Dawson (1881-Date)</b>				
1 OC1GN1R27	8 Jun 1882	24 Sep 1883	maltese cross	
2 C1GN1B25.5	27 Feb 1885	31 Dec 1885	target	
3 C1GN1B26.5	23 Oct 1886	27 May 1889	target	
<b>De Morris (1884-1887)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Hazlebrock (1886-1887)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Langedahl (1888-1915)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Lendrum (1883-1883)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>McGuire (1884-1890)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Peters (1886-1887)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Steele (1880-Date)</b>				
1 C41HN1R33	5 Mar 1883	2 Apr 1885	cork	
2 C21HN1R28	15 Sep 1884	6 Aug 188?	target	
3 C1GN1B25.5	18 Jul 1884	16 Jun 1886	target	
4 C1GS1R31	15 Mar 1888	19 Oct 1889	target	
5 C1GN1B26.5	25 Nov 1886	8 Apr 1889	target	
<b>Tappen (1882-Date)</b>				
1 C1GN1B26.5	12 Aug 1883	4 Oct 1883	target	
2 C22GS1R33	1 Jun 1886	29 May 1887	cork grid	(4)

## Logan County

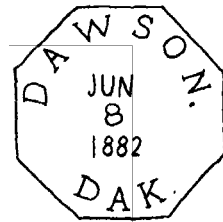
Code	Earliest	Latest	Killer	Notes
<b>King (1889-1914)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Napoleon (1886-Date)</b>				
1 C1GN1B26.5	21 Oct 1889			
<b>Paul (1884-1886)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Steidl (1889-1894)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				



1



2



1



2



3



1



2



3



4



5



1



2



1

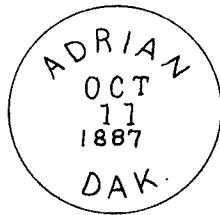


## La Moure County

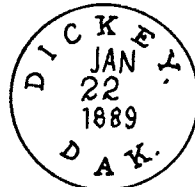
Code	Earliest	Latest	Killer	Notes
<b>Adrian (1887-1984)</b>				
1 C1GN1B27	11 Oct 1887		target	
<b>Dickey (1884-Date)</b>				
1 C1GN1R24.5	22 Jan 1889	8 Jun 1889	cork grid	
<b>Edgeley (1886-Date)</b>				
1 C1GN1B27.5	6 Jun 1887	28 Apr 1890	target	
<b>Grand Rapids (1880-1966)</b>				
1 C41HN1B29	12 Dec 1881	10 Mar 1884	target	
2 C21GN1R27.5	6 Oct 1886	3 Sep 1888	target	
<b>Griswold (1886-1909)</b>				
1 C1GN1B27.5	29 Feb 1892		target	
<b>La Moure (1882-Date)</b>				
1 C41FN1B27.5	30 Sep 1883	17 Sep 1884	target	(5)
2 C1GN1B26.5	15 Feb 1885	15 Aug 1888	target	
3 C1GN1B27	13 Nov 1889	15 Nov 1889	cork	
<b>Lakeview (1884-1887)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Medbery (1886-1893)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Newburg (1888-1892)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Russell (1884-1899)</b>				
1 C22GN1BR30.5	16 Aug 1884	30 Apr 1887	star	
<b>Saint George (1884-1886)</b>				
1 C2GN1R26	17 Dec 1886		target	
<b>Saratoga (1881-1884)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				
<b>Verona (1886-Date)</b>				
1 C1GN1B27.5	2 Mar 1886		target	
<b>Wano (1886-1886)</b>				
<i>None Reported</i>				

## Notes:

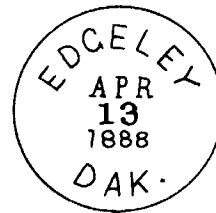
- 1 - No traceable copy available.
- 2 - Note spelling, 'Willow'.
- 3 - Note spelling, 'Crystal Spgs'.
- 4 - Minor variation of 'C22'. This mark has decorative inner circle instead of outer circle.
- 5 - Seen in 1884 without inner circle.



1



1



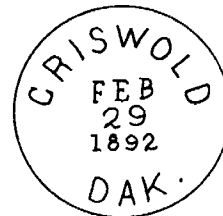
1



1



2



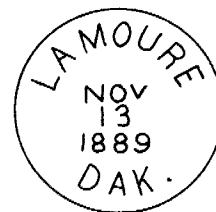
1



1



2



3



1



1

## Two Out of the Mails 20th Century Ferriage Covers

By Robert G. Munshower

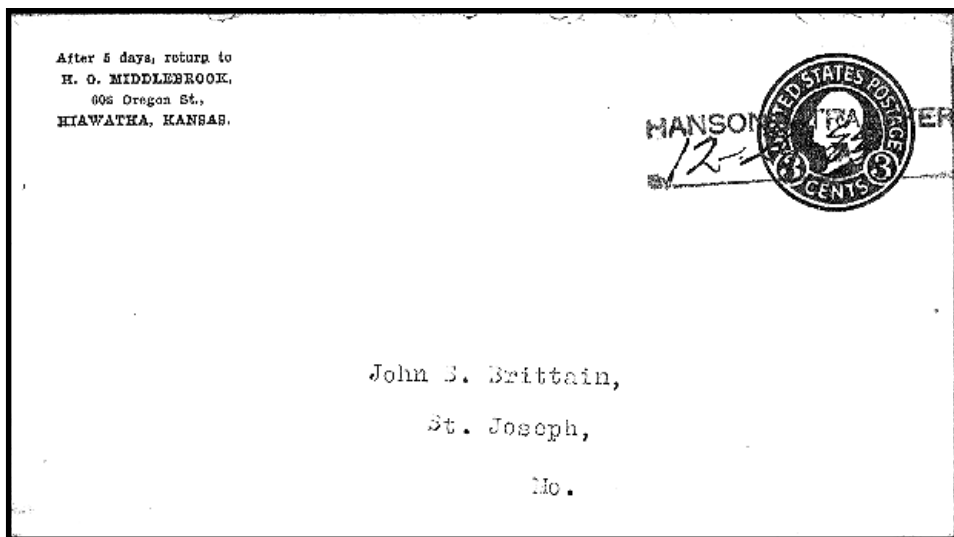


Figure 1

Our readers are asked for information and opinions on the two covers shown here. Both seem to have been carried out of the mails across major U.S. rivers. The cover shown in **Figure 1** bears a blue straight-line handstamp reading: Hanson's Transfer 12-29-33, and was carried from Hiawatha, Kansas, across the Missouri River to St. Joseph, Missouri; a distance of about 19 miles.

The cover in **Figure 2** also bears a straight-line handstamp. This one reads "Day \_\_\_\_ River Trans(fer), and bears an unreadable date (6-20-??). Since this cover has no cornercard, the point of origin and distance traveled is impossible to assess.

Neither cover bears a backstamp. Could either cover have been carried by boat? Out of the mails transit by courier via the local bridge seems to be a more reasonable scenario. One also has the feeling that either the addressee or recipient of either item may have been involved in the service that ultimately provided for the carriage of these items. Much like Railroad Business and other legal out of the mails means of transit, both covers are on the requisite government stamped envelopes. Please feel free to send any comments, criticism, or information about one, or both, of these interesting items to: R. Munshower, P. O. Box 45372, Westlake, OH 44145.

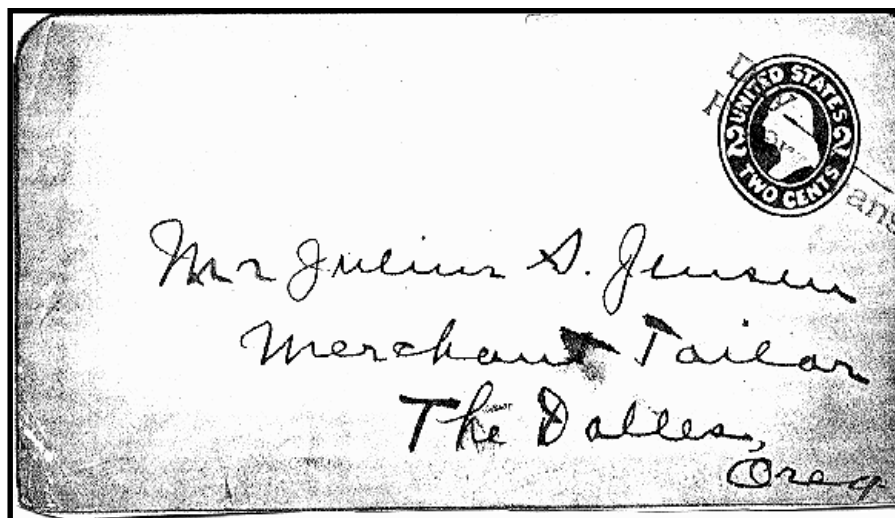


Figure 2

# The Post Offices of Robertson County, Kentucky

by Robert M. Rennick

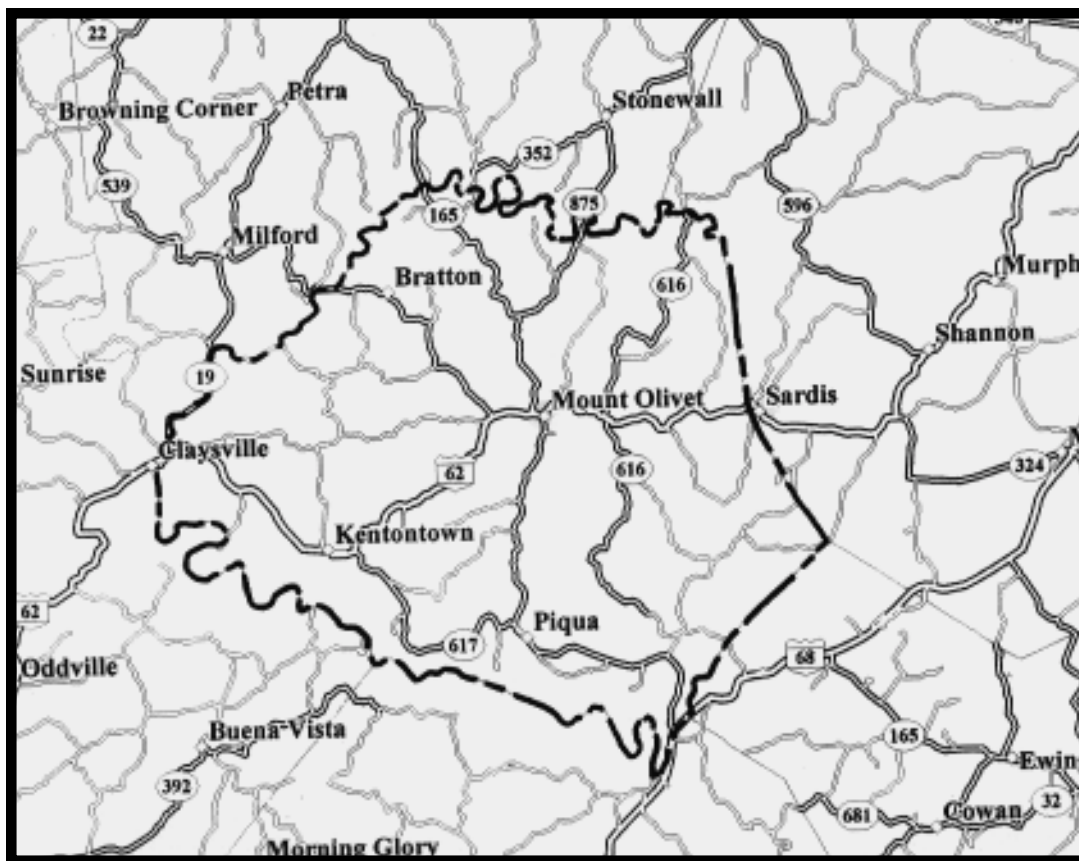
Robertson, Kentucky's 111<sup>th</sup> county, was created by legislative act on February 11, 1867 and named for George Robertson (1790-1874), a justice of the Kentucky Court of Appeals (1828-1843 and 1864-1871). Its one hundred square mile area was taken from parts of Bracken, Harrison, Mason, and Nicholas Counties, and it all but assumed its present boundaries at inception.<sup>1</sup>

Robertson's mostly hilly terrain is drained by the Licking River, which forms the county's western and southern boundary with Harrison and Nicholas Counties, and Licking's North Fork which separates it on the north from Bracken

County. Main interior branches are West, Greasy, Cedar, and Johnson Creeks (Licking River), and Drift Run, Mud Lick, Salt Lick, and Panther Creek (North Fork). The county is nearly altogether agricultural, though more than half of its gainfully employed adults commute to jobs beyond its borders.

According to the 1995 Census adjustment, Robertson had only 2,226 residents and is thus the state's smallest county in population.<sup>2</sup> It also had the fewest post offices of any Kentucky county. The eight offices described below will be located by road miles from the county's only extant office in its somewhat centrally located seat, Mount Olivet, twenty-four road miles southwest of downtown Maysville.

Robertson's oldest settlement with its first post office was *Kentontown*. On US 62, located 6 ½



Map 1. Robertson County, Kentucky Scale 1:250,000

Copyright 1993 DeLorme Mapping

miles southwest of Mt. Olivet, it was chartered in 1795 as *Newtown*. Since it was laid out by John Kenton, Simon's older brother, it was later renamed in his honor. The post office also operated as *Kentontown* from September 23, 1830 through November, 1918. Andrew Cameron was its first postmaster.

The county's seat, and its largest and only incorporated community, is a fifth class city with a 1990 population of fewer than 400 people. *Mount Olivet*, founded around 1820, incorporated in 1851 (and again in 1871), traces its name to the Bible, though no one knows why or just when it was applied. There is no evidence that it was first called *Hell's Half Acre* as is popularly believed.<sup>3</sup> The post office, with Joshua Burlow as first postmaster, has operated (though intermittently) since April 26, 1850.

Aaron H. and George Washington (Wash), the sons of John Bratton, founded a community on then Flat Lick (later Mud Lick) Creek, about a mile from Licking's North Fork. To serve his local store, mill, and tobacco prizing house, Wash established the *Bratton's Mill* post office on January 25, 1865. By then, or at least shortly thereafter, the community was also known as *Pinhook*.<sup>4</sup> The office closed in August 1875, but was re-established on May 10, 1882, simply as *Bratton*. Its closing in 1941 has left Mt. Olivet with the county's only extant post office. What remains of this place is still locally called *Pinhook*, and the names *Bratton* and *Bratton Mills* are barely recalled.

Whence *Pinhook*? Alta Mae Walton recalled the story of the boy who would fish in Flat Lick Creek using a bent pin for a hook. She and others believe that it was at this place that the term *Pinhooker* for a shady tobacco dealer had its origin.<sup>5</sup>

There never was much to the settlement of *Abigail* in the sparsely populated northeast corner of the county except for a church, school, store, post office, and a few homes. Only the homes remain, on Ky 616 located 6 ¼ miles northeast of Mt. Olivet. According to a local account, postmaster-designate James E. Pyles, seeking a name for his new office, was attracted by the name of a postal inspector's girl back in New Jersey.<sup>6</sup> The office operated between October 2, 1883 and mid-March, 1913.

The hamlet of *Piqua* [peek/wa, pihk/wa] lies just off Ky 165, 5 ¼ miles south of Mt. Olivet. Its vicinity was settled very early in the nineteenth century by a school teacher, Isaac Chamberlain, who had come from Piqua, Ohio - a town near the site of an old Shawnee village destroyed by George Rogers Clark's Kentuckians in 1780. This Robertson County post office, with John William Overbey as first postmaster, served a mill, at least two stores, a couple of churches, a leaf tobacco house, and some homes from September 14, 1889 to February, 1937.

The store and post office of *Burika*, [boo/ra/kee, byu/ra/kee, bihr/a/kee] operated from May 15, 1890 through August, 1916 on the present Rt. 1029, half a mile north of Ky 165 and 6 ¼ miles south-southeast of Mt. Olivet. It was named by Jesse Mullikin, the first postmaster, for "Dutch Henry" Burika, the local storekeeper. Only a home now marks the site.

On July 17, 1890 a post office called *Bridgeville* operated between September 1857 and April 1861; and from February 1875 to July 1877. The first post office served several stores and a mill on the Bracken County side of Licking's North Fork. It was later re-established, also as *Bridgeville*, on the Robertson County side. Zachariah Thompson was its first Robertson County postmaster. The fact that it was listed in Collins' 1874 history as a Robertson County community and in an 1876 Kentucky gazetteer as a small village in Bracken County suggests that, at the time, *Bridgeville* actually straddled the Fork, on both sides of the old bridge for which it was named. When the Robertson office closed in mid-January 1915, it was on the present Ky 875, located 5 ½ miles north of Mt. Olivet.

Frank Hitt gave his family's name to the post office he established on June 15, 1897 on the present Ky 165, five miles north-northwest of Mt. Olivet. The small settlement that once focused on the post office, the Hitt School, and the Corinth Christian Church was called *Hittsville*. The office, known only as *Hitt*, closed in August of 1910.

On the other hand, John D. Clark was not able to apply his family's name to the new office he was to establish near the Fleming and Mason County lines, eight miles southeast of Mt. Olivet. Since *Clark* was already in use in Jefferson County, he named his office *Alhambra* [haem/



bra, ael/haem/bree] instead, and it operated from May 22, 1900 through November, 1933. Why or even if it was named for the old Moorish palace at Granada, Spain, popularized in the 1820's by Washington Irving, is not known.

Mount Olivet, the county's only extant post office, may have had a biblical name origin. Of the other eight offices, four were named for local persons or families; one may have honored a distant person; one or two may have been named for distant places; and the name of another referred to a local bridge. One office had a name not originally proposed for it, and another served a community with a different name.

## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Shortly after its establishment, Robertson lost negligible acreage to Mason County to accommodate a local property owner.

<sup>2</sup> Robertson is Kentucky's second smallest county in area, only one square mile larger than Gallatin. Curiously, though its land area remained virtually unchanged since its creation, its present population is only forty percent of what it was in 1870.

<sup>3</sup> *Hell's Half Acre*, if for real, may have been inspired by the town's several saloons. E.S. Montgomery, who moved to Mt. Olivet in 1876, ascribed its name (in a letter to the local newspaper) to a stranger's belief that "all of it" deserved to be called "Hell's Half Acre." (Retold by Ross Moore in his *Echoes From the Century, 1867-1967*, 1967, n.p.)

<sup>4</sup> Collins' 1874 history refers to the community only as *Pinhook*.

<sup>5</sup> Pinhooking is a "tobacco marketing term describing the sharp trading practices of small time speculators - late nineteenth century and early twentieth century itinerants who would buy directly from the growers and resell at the regional markets for a considerable profit. They often purchased by deception, frequently using an assumed name, by taking advantage of the growers' ignorance of the market price or their unproficient grading practices, reclassifying the leaves and quickly reselling them before anyone was the wiser..." (Robert M. Rennick, "Pinhook as a Place Name in Indiana and Kentucky" in *Midwestern Journal of Language and Folklore*, Vol.

12, Spring 1986, Pp. 38-42, 39.)

<sup>6</sup> John Van Willigen, Professor of Anthropology, University of Kentucky, from his interview with a 92 year-old Abigail area resident, in a letter to the writer, February 8, 1980.

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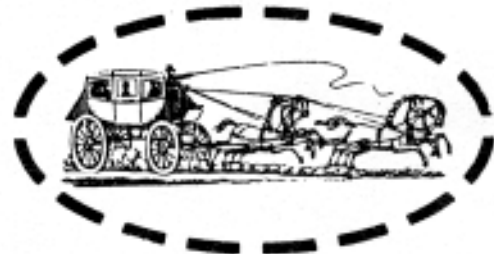
*Robertson Review Centennial Edition*, July 8, 1971.

Robinson, Lucian: Piqua, Ky, interviewed by the writer on April 22, 1972 and April 16, 1978.

Van Willigen, John, Professor of Anthropology, University of Kentucky, in a letter to the writer, February 8, 1980.

United States Post Office Department: *Site Location Reports - Robertson County, Ky*. Post Offices, National Archives (Washington, D.C.).

Walton, Alta Mae: Mount Olivet, Kentucky, in a letter to the writer, June 5, 1984.



## La Posta Backnumbers

Backnumbers of *La Posta* may be purchased from John Van Alstyne, 1787 Tribute Rd., Suite J, Sacramento, CA 95815. An index of all backnumbers through Volume 28 has been completed by Daniel Y. Meschter and is available on the La Posta website at [www.la-posta.com](http://www.la-posta.com).

To order backnumbers call John or Sherry at 800-297-3929 or send them an E-mail at [sherjohn@softcom.net](mailto:sherjohn@softcom.net).

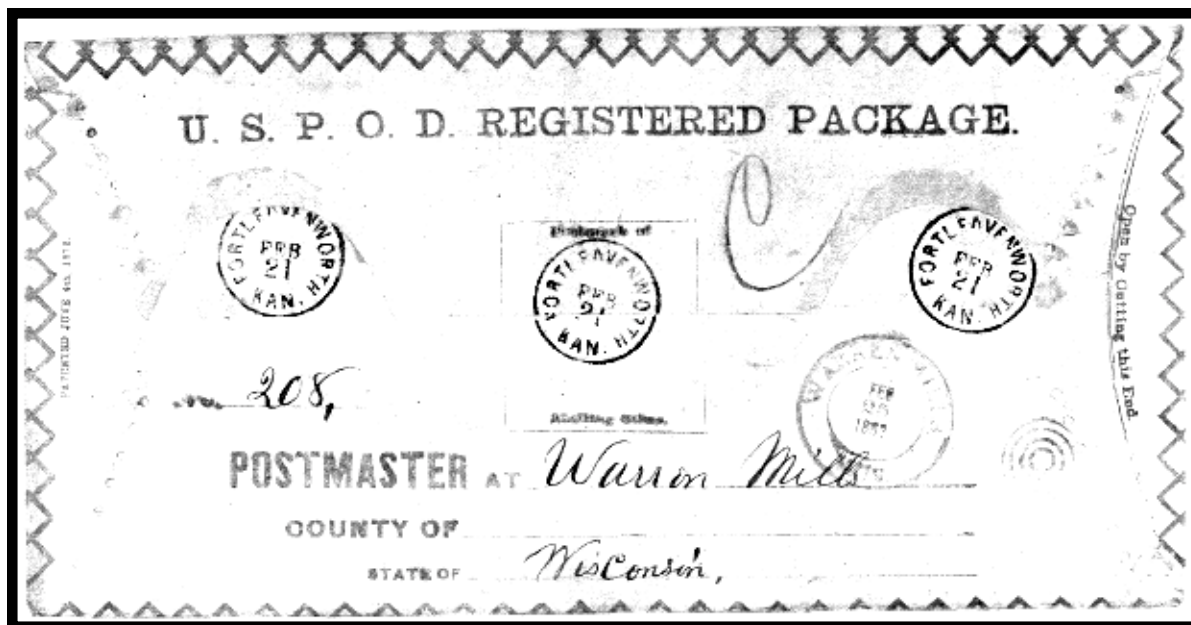


Figure 1. U. S. Post Office Department registered mail package postmarked by three circle-datstamp strikes made at the Fort Leavenworth, Kansas post office on February 21, 1882 to Wisconsin.

## Solving a Riddle: Who Sent Registered Soldiers' Mail?

by Michael Dattolico

The September, 1998 issue of *La Posta* featured soldiers' mail processed at U.S. military postal stations in China during the Boxer Rebellion. Among the items highlighted were registered letters mailed by American troops. Adjectives such as "scarce" or "rare" could easily describe them, although most postal historians tend to shy away from using such words. One occasionally sees registered military letters in dealers' stocks or auction catalogs. But registered soldiers' letters from the post-Civil War period to the 1<sup>st</sup> World War are elusive.

Why is such mail so hard to find? One reason is that the majority of soldiers, the enlisted men, were not prolific writers. A glimpse at the sociological makeup of the soldiers of the era might be helpful.

The army's enlisted ranks centered around a nucleus of veteran soldiers. They were "regulars", the backbone of American forces that defeated Mexico in the 1846-48 conflict, fought

Indians in the American hinterlands and regrettably, other Americans in the Civil War. They were tough, older sergeants, many of whom were bachelors who rarely corresponded with anyone. If they wrote at all, it was usually to other soldiers with whom they had previously served. Did these older career men send registered mail? Most likely not.

Just as America has been called a "melting pot" when referring to its foreign newcomers, the U.S. army was a similar mixer. When enlistments lagged in the lean years after the Civil War, it accepted many immigrants. Often they were bachelors who spoke little or no English and wrote few letters. If they wrote at all, their letters were likely addressed to their former homelands. Did foreign-born enlisted soldiers use registered mail? Probably not.

Young teenagers joined the army to escape the drudgery of farm life or the squalor of the big city tenement. Many of these boys were barely literate and wrote infrequently. But those

who were literate sometimes refrained from writing because they didn't want anyone to know where they were. Did this category of troopers send registered letters? It's highly unlikely.

The ranks were riddled with another sort of enlistee who bears scrutiny. They were men running from the law or "social" situations. Many joined under false names, and their goal was anonymity. Did those troopers send registered mail? Most assuredly not.

For the most part, the majority of the army's enlisted men were good soldiers, men of excellent character who performed well in garrison and in combat. But many of those soldiers were only marginally literate, although they maintained correspondences with family and friends. Did they send registered mail? Probably not. Most had no reason to send registered mail, since 1<sup>st</sup>-class letters to and from folks at home satisfied their mail needs.

But within the officer corps, things were different. Most officers were educated, had good writing skills, and wrote letters often. West Pointers were especially prolific writers who wrote not only to family and friends but also to former acad-

emy classmates. Officers commissioned from the ranks also were avid correspondents. Did the army's officers of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century use registered mail? The answer is  $\frac{1}{4}$  definitely. Either as personal mail or documents written in an official capacity, examples of registered mail sent from officers do exist.

Civilian workers at some army forts also used registered mail. Ironically, some were postal workers. **Figure 1** is an example of a registered envelope handled by the postal staff at the Fort Leavenworth post office.

Some civilians worked on army bases as sutlers, men who operated stores that offered personal supplies to soldiers. They were the forerunners of today's base exchange stores which operate on military bases. At some 19<sup>th</sup> century army posts, those civilians worked closely with the army's supply & logistical officers. Did they use registered mail? On occasion...yes.

**Figure 2** may be an example of that sort of registered letter. It was mailed at the Fort Reno, Indian Territory post office in 1890. The registered letter was sent to Lilly & Company of Co-



Figure 2. Fort Reno, Indian Territory (Oklahoma) registered letter mailed on May 16, 1890, to the Lilly & Company of Columbus, Ohio. The addressee was a major military supplier at the turn of the century.



lumbus, Ohio, a major supplier of military uniforms, leather goods and accessories. Since an official War Department penalty envelope was not used, one might assume that it was personal mail sent either by an officer or sutler working at Fort Reno. The manuscript, "military supplies" written at the bottom of the cover's front supports that contention.

If the volume of registered mail sent by troops after the Civil War is sparse, those numbers changed when war against Spain commenced in April, 1898. Thousands of national guardsmen called to active duty presented postal personnel with an overwhelming volume of mail not seen since the Civil War. This staggering load inundated some post offices located near mobilization camps. Luckily, the Railway Mail Service provided assistance by stationing railway mail cars near the camps. While most soldiers' mail was 1<sup>st</sup>-class letters and cards, the amount of registered mail sent by military personnel was higher

than before.

The saga of our overseas military postal stations established near the fighting fronts in Cuba, the Philippine Islands, Puerto Rico and China in 1900 is an oft-told one. Registered mail was one of the mail services offered to U.S. troops at each locale. Soldiers serving at overseas locations did send registered mail, examples of which exist and are exciting finds for today's postal historians.

**Figures 3 and 3A** illustrate the front and back of a soldier's registered letter processed at Military Station No. 1, Manila, in November, 1898. It was sent by a Utah artilleryman serving as a gunner in Battery A of the Utah Light Artillery Regiment in 1898. The Utah men were part of the second contingent of U.S. soldiers that landed at Manila in July, 1898. The detachment was a small one and consisted of only four cannons. But Utah men were regarded as first-rate soldiers and were placed in the center of the American lines on July 29, 1898. They were engaged in one of the first firefights with

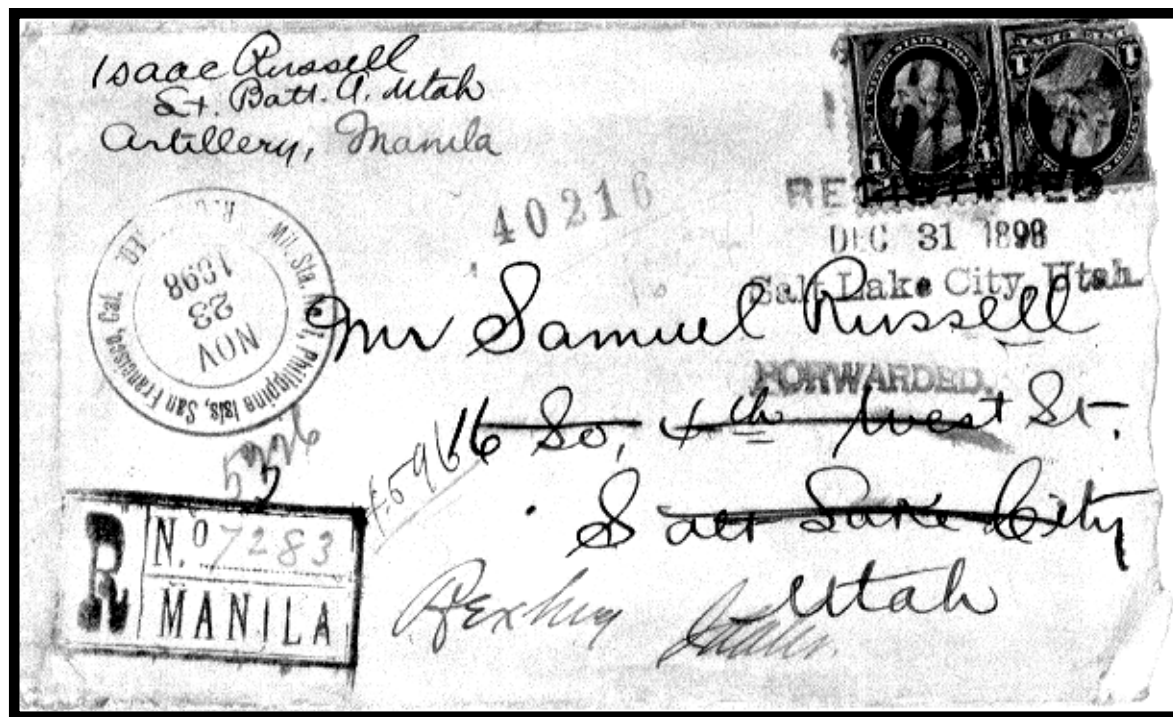
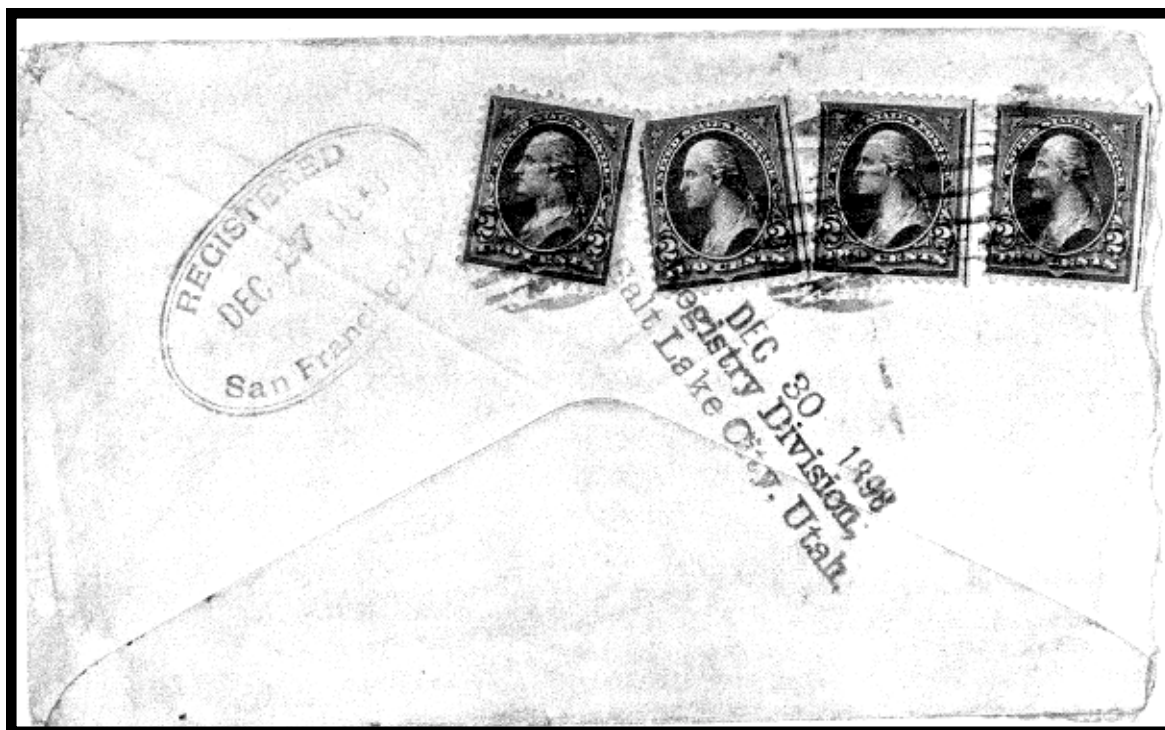


Figure 3. Registered letter mailed at Military Station No. 1, Manila, on November 23, 1898, by a soldier of Battery A, Utah National Guard Light Artillery. It was sent to Salt Lake City, Utah. Three registered markings appear on the cover's front, two of which were applied at the military post station. One is a red double-circle marking dated November 28, 1898. It is listed in Phillip Baker's catalog as #DR-1, and in Goodale's publication as #RG-1. The second military station registry marking is listed as Goodale's RG-4. The third registered marking is the "REGISTERED, Dec. 31, 1898, Salt Lake City, Utah" 3-line strike which ties the 1-cent stamps to the envelope.



*Figure 3A. The back of the cover features an oval purple San Francisco registry cancel applied on December 27, 1898. Also shown on the back are four 2-cent stamps (#279b) which likely were cancelled by the same black grid which marked the 1-cent stamps on the front. A December 30, 1898, 3-line marking ties two of the 2-cent stamps to the back.*

the Spaniards on July 31. The cover was sent by registered mail to Salt Lake City, Utah, from Isaac Russell, a member of Battery A. He posted the registered letter featured as Figure 3 on November 28, 1898. Two of the early postal station registry markings are seen on the cover's front. The first one, seen in red, is the double-circle cancellation on the cover's upper left side. It is dated November 23, 1898. The second registry marking shown on the cover's lower left-front is a large, rectangular "R" with the word, MANILA, seen at the bottom.

The two 1-cent stamps on the cover's front were cancelled by a black grid at Manila. The four copies of U.S. #279b seen on the back are also tied by the same black grid. The 10-cents total postage paid the 1<sup>st</sup>-class and registry fee in full to the addressee in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Figure 4** is a Spanish-American War-era registered letter mailed at Aibonito, Puerto Rico, after the fighting had ended. It was mailed by an army surgeon, Dr. Herbert McConathy, to

his wife at Louisville, Kentucky in 1899. Aibonito, located south-southwest of San Juan and north-northwest of Ponce, was one of 13 unnumbered military postal stations that served American troops from December 1, 1898, to March 15, 1899. On that date, military station officially ceased operations and the civilian Department of Posts in Puerto Rico took over. It should be noted, however, that U.S. military postal station cancelers were used months after the civilian post office took control, and U.S. postal personnel remained there for a time.

As the 20<sup>th</sup> century began, U.S. troops were dispatched to fight at other foreign locales. Some of those places required military postal stations similar to those established in Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines and China. One such military venture was the U.S. intervention into Mexico in 1914.

After American sailors were detained by Mexican authorities while ashore at Vera Cruz, President Wilson demanded their release and an



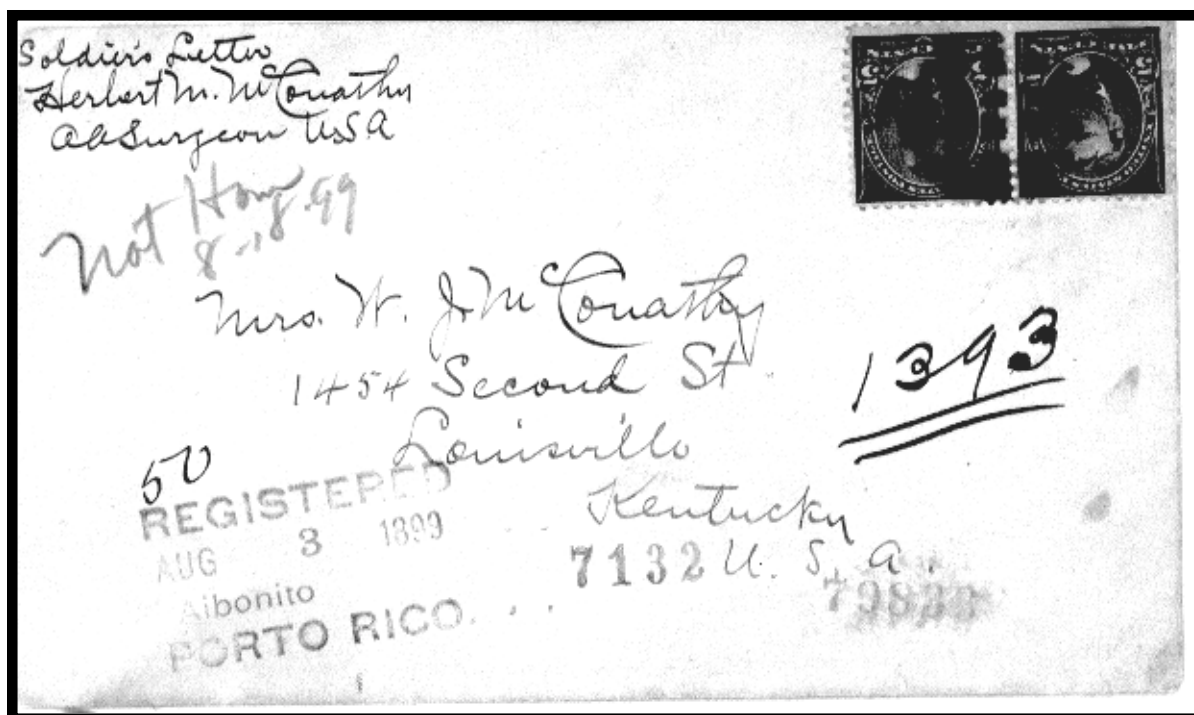


Figure 4. Registered letter sent from Dr. Herbert McConathy to his wife at Louisville, Kentucky, on August 3, 1889. The Aibonito, Puerto Rico three-line registered cancellation is not recorded in most postal history books or auction catalogs.

apology. The Mexicans did release the sailors but refused to acknowledge our flag in a “contrite” manner. In response, President Wilson ordered U.S. soldiers, sailors and marines to land at Vera Cruz. They took control of the area in April, 1914. It was later decided that U.S. troops would remain in Mexico for an indefinite period.

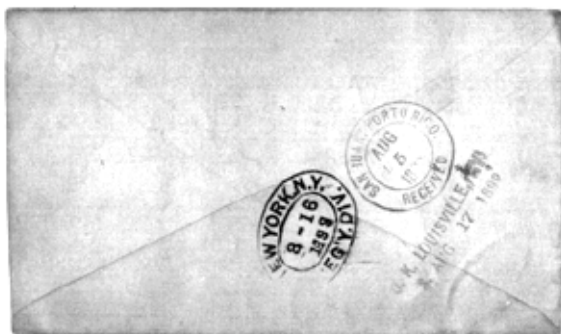


Figure 4A. Back of the Puerto Rico registered cover seen as Figure 4. The large, double-circle “SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, ...RECEIVED” marking dated August 5, 1889, is unlisted in many books used by postal historians who study Spanish-American War postal history or its military postal stations.

To accommodate the postal needs of our troops, the U.S. Military Postal Agency was established at Vera Cruz, Mexico. It was managed by Henry Robinson, the RMS chief clerk who had handled our postal operations in Puerto Rico in 1898 and China in 1900-1901. He arrived at Vera Cruz with nine clerks, and relieved Commander J.M. Luby, a naval officer from the U.S.S. South Carolina who had been detailed to handle the growing mountain of postal pieces. It took Robinson’s staff nearly six weeks to process the mail already there, plus the daily loads that arrived. The agency at Vera Cruz offered a full range of domestic postal services, including registered mail. One such item is viewed as **Figure 5**.

From all indications, there were three different cancelers used on registered mail. The front of the Figure 5 letter shows two of the registered markings. One is a standard registry box cancel showing a capital “R” with VERA CRUZ, VER. And a number line. The second registry marking is a rectangular marking which shows the words, VERA CRUZ, MEXICO & U.S. MAIL AGENCY.

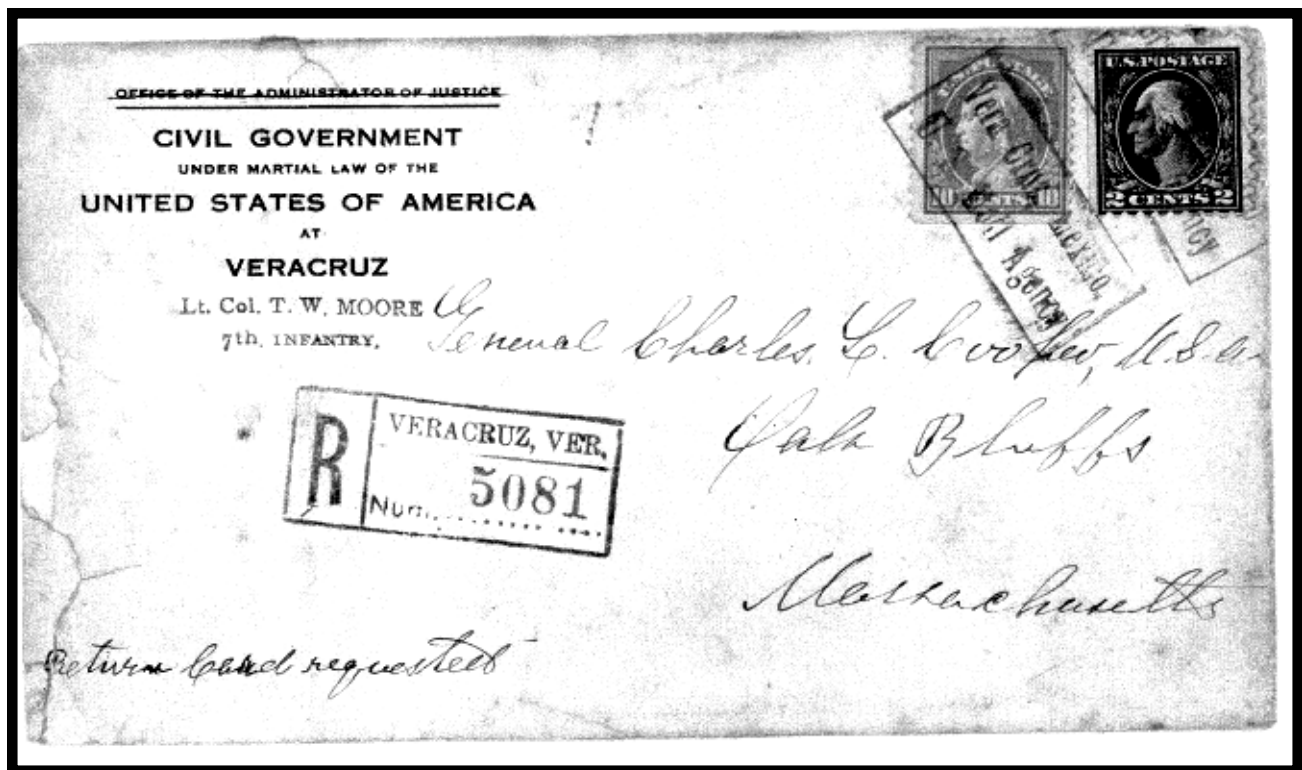


Figure 5. Registered letter processed at the U.S. Postal Agency, Vera Cruz, Mexico, on Saturday, August 29, 1914. It was mailed by Lt. Col. T.W. Moore of the 7th U.S. Infantry to retired General Charles Cooper. Shown on the cover's from are two of the three registry cancelers designed for usage at the U.S. mail agency. One is a rectangular boxed marking, "Vera Cruz, Mexico, U.S. Mail Agency", which ties the two stamps. The other is a rectangular marking featuring a large "R", the cover's registry number, and "VERACRUZ, VER."

The back of the cover, shown as **Figure 5A**, features the third registry cancel. The marking is a purple double-circle canceler showing the words, VERA CRUZ, MEX. - U.S.M.A.G.

The cover was sent to General Charles Cooper, then living in Massachusetts, from Lt. Colonel T.W. Moore, 7<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry. One wonders what was so important that it had to be sent by registered mail. But it doesn't really matter. What is most important is that General Cooper left this legacy to today's postal historians.

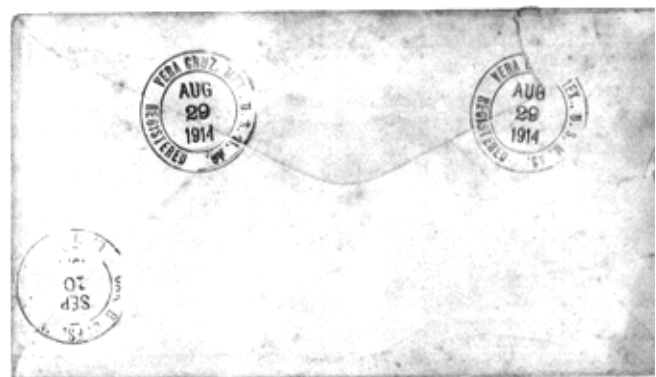


Figure 5A. The back of the cover shows a double-circular registered marking also used at the U.S. Postal Agency at Vera Cruz, Mexico.

Henry Robinson was in charge of the postal agency, which operated until late October, 1914, when postal operations were closed.



have seen hundreds and hundreds of straight-line markings and estimate that less than ten per cent of them are Type K.

Most of the Type K markings have killer bars. A few have upper and lower frame lines (K-10, K-60 and K-100). Some have very fancy killers such as Vista Grande, CA, which features a triple circle surrounded by seven double circles (K-380). The shape and form of the killer does not matter. If it accompanies a straight-line town, state and date marking, it is a Type K (normally in our study of non-standard markings, the shape of the killer determines how the markings is classified).

One decorative motif that appears on seven different markings consists of stars and/or star bursts. Some of them are so similar that a

common manufacturer seems likely. Some of the killers are quite interesting. For example, Agricultural College, NM (K-20) used six letters, while Smiths Ferry, ID (K-340) used a WWI slogan. The one listed Type K marking that appears to have no killer – Latty Postal Station, IA (K-200) – actually has several bars. The lone example seen during the course of our research is too spotty to allow a tracing to be made with any degree of accuracy.

The number of reported non-standards now stands at 3,877, which is an increase of 35 over the past six months. This rate of new reports has remained slow for the past year. Please send reports of any new discoveries to Randy Stehle, 16 Iris Court, San Mateo, CA 94401. Next time

## NON-STANDARD POSTMARK & CANCELING DEVICES - TYPES J & K

CODE TOWN, STATE	DATES	EKU	LKU	POSTMARK	KLR	S/IN
J-10 BIBLE SCHOOL PARK, NY	1911-	11 SEP 1941	09 JAN 1942	35	23x21	2
J-20 HOMESTEAD, IA	1852-	05 MAY 1922	09 JAN 1924	32	23(4)	3
J-30 HOMESTEAD, IA	1852-	20 JUN 1928	17 MAR 1931	32	21(4)	3
J-40 HOMESTEAD, IA	1852-	28 DEC 1933	12 FEB 1938	31	22(3)	3
J-50 SAN LUIS, CO	1862-	27 APR 1987	25 AUG 1988	33	19(4)	1
J-60 SUPAI, AZ	1896-	27 MAR 1977	12 MAR 1981	38.5x26	17	1
K-10 ADAMSVILLE, MA	1834-14	25 JUL 1910		47x14		2
K-20 AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, NM	1905-12	19 JAN 1906	26 JAN 1906	48x16	16.5(3)	6
K-30 ALBANY, OR	1850/-	22 AUG 190?	22 AUG 1910	20	12(3)	2
K-40 ALTONA, NY	1858-	21 JUN 1918		42x17	13(6)	3
K-50 BARROW, AK	1901-	10 JUN 1902		21	28(4)	8
K-60 BECKET, MA	1866-	16 DEC 1927		25x22		2
K-70 BINDER, SD	1912-27	08 FEB 1913		45x10	10(2)	3
K-80 CONCEPTION, MO	1864/-	22 JUL 1907		39x11	12(2)	3





KEEP  
EM  
FLYING

J- 10



SHOW YOUR  
RETURN ADDRESS  
ON ALL MAIL

J- 20



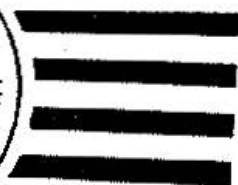
SHOW YOUR  
RETURN ADDRESS  
ON ALL MAIL

J- 30



RETURN ADDRESS  
ALL YOUR MAIL

J- 40



J- 50



THE  
MULE TRAIN MAIL  
HAVASUPAI INDIAN  
RESERVATION

J- 60

ADAMSVILLE, MA  
JUL 25 1910

PRD

K- 10

Agricultural College  
JAN. 27 1908  
N. Mex.

K- 20

EA  
HG  
WC

ALBANY  
OREGON

K- 30

ALTONA  
JUN 21 1918  
N. Y.

K- 40



BARROW.....  
June 10.....  
1902.....  
ALASKA.....

K- 50

BECKET, MASS.

DEC 16 1927

CANCELLED.

K- 60

BINDER S.D.  
FEB. 8 1913

K- 70

Conception, Mo.  
JUL 22 1907

K- 80



EWMONSBURG N.Y.  
DEC,

K- 90



## NON-STANDARD POSTMARK & CANCELING DEVICES - TYPES J & K

CODE TOWN, STATE	DATES	EKU	LKU	POSTMARK	KLR	S/I N
K-90 EMMONSBURG, NY	1859-19	DEC 191X		49.5x10	13(4)	3
K-100 EPHRATA, NY	1827-19	17 APR 1908	23 DEC 1911	17x49		2
K-110 FAIRFIELD, NY	1804-	27 FEB 1932		45	13	2
K-120 FOREST HOME						
POSTAL STATION, NY	1902-19	22 FEB 1902	06 MAR 1903	40x13.5	13.5(4)	6
K-130 GUINDA, CA	1889-	30 JAN 1901	25 MAR 1901	19x14	13.5(4)	3
K-140 HAINES, OR	1884-	13 FEB 1911	16 JUL 1911	22x29	8(1)	2
K-150 HERREID, SD	1901-	18 JAN 191X		26x23	15	3 1
K-160 HOOPLE, ND	1890-	16 NOV 1917	25 DEC 1918	16.5x43	18(7)	3
K-170 IDITAROD, AK	1910-29	06 AUG 1910	18 SEP 1910	49x12		7 1
K-180 ISLE OF SHOALS, NH	1914-17	18 JUL 1914	26 JUL 1914	11x54	12(2)	3
K-190 LADORA, IA	1862/-	23 DEC 1914	31 DEC 1914	46		3
K-200 LATTY						
POSTAL STATION, IA	1902-04	19 AUG 1902		32x13		6
K-210 LOWRY, ID	1902-12	11 AUG 1912		30x16.5	17(3)	6
K-220 MADISON, CA	1877-	09 FEB 1912		26x11.5	10.5(5)	3
K-230 MELVILLE, LA	1889-	15 FEB 1908	21 FEB 1908	42	8	3
K-240 MILLBROOK, MI	1867-	26 MAR 1934		43x17	13(6)	3
K-250 MINTERBROOK, WA	1922-28	19 JUN 1922		27	13(4)	6
K-260 NAPA, CA	1890-	1900		21x19	13(3)	4

EPHRATAH NY.  
DEC 23 1911

K- 100

FAIRFIELD, N. Y. \*

FEB. 27, 1932. ➔☆☆➔

K- 110

FORESTHOMEPALSTATION  
SEP 22 1902 P. M.  
ITHACA, N. Y. POST OFFICE.

K- 120

GUINDA  
MAR 25 1901  
CAL.

K- 130

HAINES,

APR

9

P. M.

1911

ORE

K- 140

JAN 18  
S. D. PM 19  
Herreid,

K- 150

HOOPLE  
DEC 28 1918  
NORTH DAKOTA

K- 160

IDITAROD, ALASKA.

SEP 18 1910 \*\*\*\*

K- 170

ISLES OF SHOALS.  
JULY 18 1914 N. H.

K- 180

Dec. 31 1914  
Ladora,  
IOWA.

K- 190

LATTY POSTAL STATION  
AUG 19 1902  
Burlington, Iowa

K- 200

➔LOWRY➔

Aug 11-1912

☆ IDAHO. ☆

K- 210

MADISON  
FEB 9 1912  
CAL.

K- 220

MEVILLE LA. ➔☆☆➔  
FEB 15, 1908

K- 230

MILLBROOK  
MAR 26 AM  
MICHIGAN

K- 240

MINTERBROOK  
JUN 19 1922  
WASH

K- 250

N A P A  
CAL

K- 260

NUTWOOD, OHIO

SEP 30 1912

K- 270

## NON-STANDARD POSTMARK & CANCELING DEVICES - TYPES J & K

CODE TOWN, STATE	DATES	EKU	LKU	POSTMARK	KLR	S/I N
K-270 NUTWOOD, OH	1890-54	30 SEP 1912		38x14.5	15(3)	3
K-280 OAKWAY POSTAL						
STATION, SC		08 SEP 1902	1905	39x12	12(4)	6
K-290 OSNABROCK, ND	1883-	21 SEP 1916		29x43	14(3)	3
K-300 PAGO PAGO, SA	1900-	04 MAR 1918	16 DEC 1918	41.5x17.5	13.5(6)	6
K-310 POPEJOY, IA	1888-	31 AUG 1914		43		3
K-320 RICE/R.R. STA., CA	1933/63	20 JUN 1933	13 MAY 1934	32	30(6)	2 1
K-330 ROANOKE, IL	1858-	27 MAY 1902		14x28	11(5)	3
K-340 SMITHS FERRY, ID	1913-64	26 FEB 1918	27 AUG 1918	21x19	18	5
K-350 SPIVEY, KS	1886-	09 AUG 1912		45x3	13(4)	3
K-360 TIOGA, WI	1898-53	22 FEB 1915		28.5x16.5	13(4)	3
K-370 TOCALOMA, CA	1891-19	19 JUL 1917		41x17	13(6)	4
K-380 VISTA GRANDE, CA	1908-13	07 APR 1908		40	16(7)	4
K-390 WATFORD, ND	1914-16	26 JAN 1915		37.5	6(3)	6
K-400 WESTVILLE POSTAL						
STATION, CT		04 JUN 1903	18 MAY 1903	46x16	12(4)	6
K-410 WHALAN, MN	1869-	09 SEP 1914		29.5x19	18(8)	3
K-420 ZACHOW, WI	1907-	04 NOV 1914		24	15(5)	3

NOTES: (1) EARLIEST KNOWN ON PIECE.

OAKWAY POSTAL STATION,  
SEP 8 1902  
WEST MINSTER, S.C., POST OFFICE

OSNABROCK.  
SEP 21 1916

PAGO PAGO  
MAR 4 1918  
SAMOA

K- 280 NORTH DAKOTA K- 300

Popejoy Iowa ☆☆  
AUG 31 1914

K- 310

R. R. STA.

MAY 13 1934  
RICE, CALIF.

K- 320

ROANOKE  
MAY 27 1902  
ILL.

K- 330

SMITHS  
FERRY  
AUG 27 1918  
IDAHO

F	WILL WIN	F
O	THE WAR	O
O	SAVE IT!	O
D		D

K- 340

SPIVEY, KANS.

AUG  
9  
AM  
1912

K- 350

TIOGA,

FEB  
22  
A.M.  
1915  
WIS.

K- 360

TICALOMA

JUL 19 1917

CALIFORNIA

K- 370

Vista Grande, Cal.

APR 7- 1908

K- 380

WATFORD, N. D.

JAN 26 1915

K- 390

WESTVILLE POSTAL STATION,

JUN 4 1903

NEW HAVEN, CONN., POST OFFICE

K- 400

WHALAN,

SEP 9 1914

P.M.

MINN.

K- 410

Zachow, Wis.

NOV  
4  
A.M.  
1914

K- 420

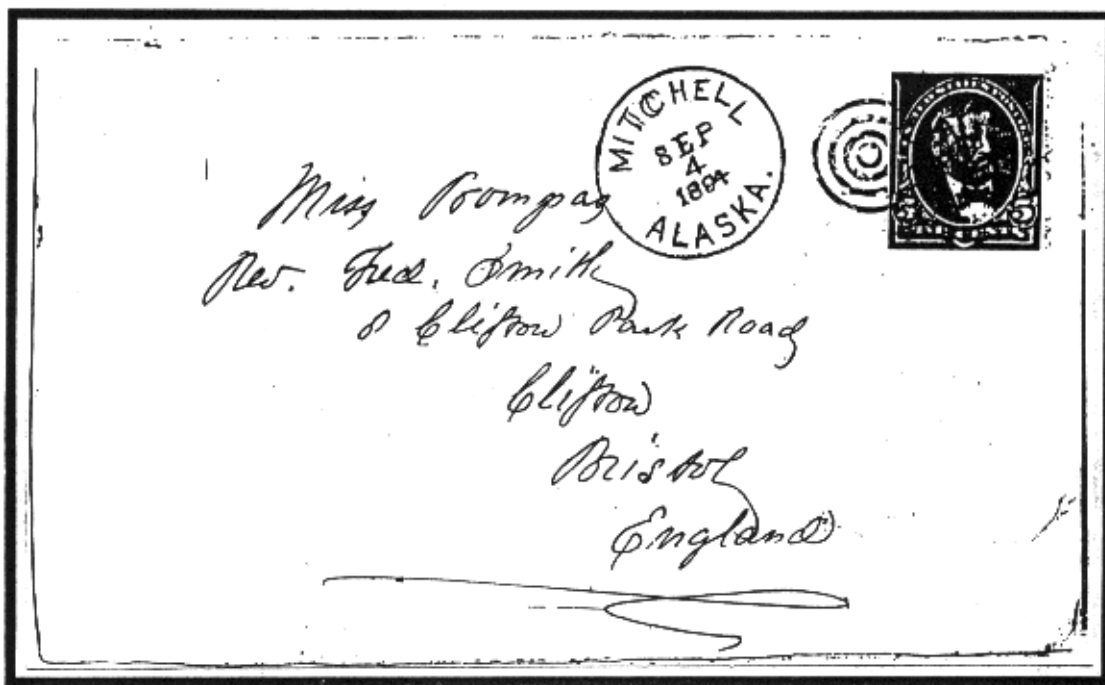


Figure 1. This cover bears a postmark from Mitchell, Alaska, which was the first U.S. post office to be located in interior Alaska in 1889. Unfortunately, the site of the office was later found to be in Canadian rather than U.S. territory.

## A Few Recent Discoveries in Alaskan Postal History

By Richard W. Helbock

It has been nearly 25 years since I first compiled *Postmarks of Territorial Alaska*, a catalog of postmarks used by Alaska's civil post offices between 1867 and 1959. Since then, the book has gone through two major revised editions, and I have promised my good friends in the Alaska postal history fraternity that I would soon update the latest — 1986 — edition. While this brief article is not, in any way, intended as the long promised update, I have been made aware in recent months of some spectacular new discoveries and I would like to share them here with interested readers.

The first these discoveries was reported by **Alan Selby** of Ontario, Canada. It is the third, and in my opinion the most attractive, cover or card discovered from the fascinating Mitchell post office (Figure 1). The Mitchell post office, for those not familiar with

the peculiarities of Alaskan postal history, was the first office to be established along the Yukon River in interior Alaska. Opened in 1889, at a time when the boundary between U.S. and Canadian lands was uncertain, the office served the tiny community of Forty Mile, which, as it later turned out, was actually located in Canada's North West Territory. Since this was several years before the famous Klondike gold discoveries, the area was of no great concern to either Washington or Ottawa and so a United States post office operated at Mitchell for about five years at a trading post operated by Jack McQuestern.

I have always been intrigued with this particular post office, and for many years I was the caretaker of the only two postal items reported to have originated there. One is a lovely U.S. postal card with additional 1c Columbian attached to pay the international rate to Germany. (See Seely Hall's article in the January 1999 issue of *La Posta*). The



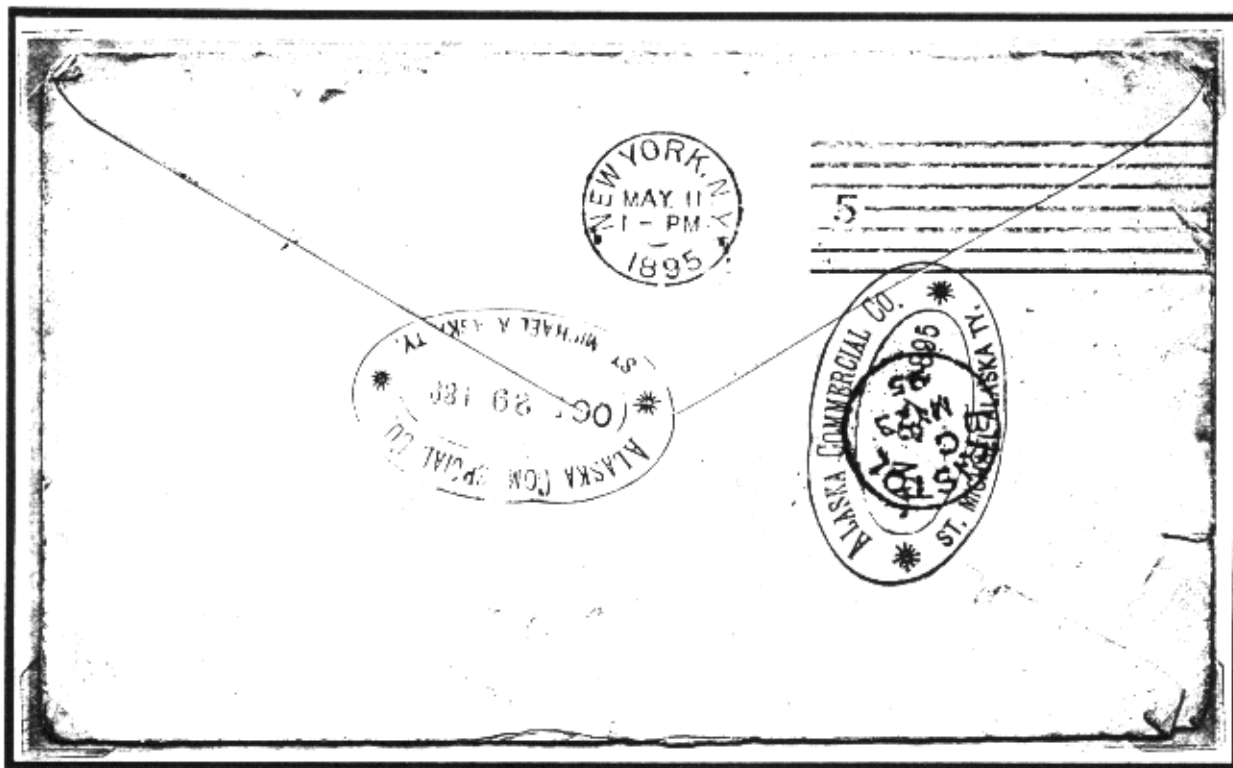


Figure 2. The reverse of the Mitchell cover illustrated in Figure 1 presents step by step evidence of its routing and transit time. Shown here are two Alaska Commercial Company oval handstamps from Saint Michael, a New York City transit machine marking, and an arrival handstamp applied in Bristol, England.

card was probably of philatelic origin, that is, it was likely created as a favor to the addressee in Germany, but it is a beautiful little piece from a very remote and — at the time — isolated place. The only other piece recorded from Mitchell during the 24 years I've cataloged Alaskan postmarks is a cover with a light, but readable circular date stamp (cds) from 1895. This cover, as I recall, was part of the Bishop Bompas Correspondence, but, frankly, it has been near 20 years since I've seen the cover and I do not recall too many details.

With this as preamble, you can imagine my surprise when I gazed upon the photocopy of this new Mitchell cover reported by Alan Selby. Not only, does the cds appear very well struck and accompanied by a clear target cancel tying a 5c Grant, but the reverse reveals two Alaska Commercial Company oval handstamps from Saint Michael, a New York City transit machine marking and an arrival handstamp from Bristol, England (**Figure 2**). The two Saint Michael ACC ovals have been strengthened, and

are reproduced thusly in **Figure 3**. My best guess at a routing is down the Yukon on an Alaskan Commercial Company river steamer to the company's store at Saint Michael where it re-

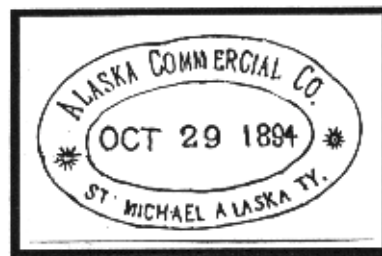


Figure 3. Strengthened ACC oval handstamps.

ceived the Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> marking. There was no civil post office at Saint Michael until 1897. I have no idea why it was given a second handstamp in January. There certainly were not any ships underway during the frozen days of late January, although it is possible that the letter was moved from the company store to a vessel waiting for the Spring thaw. Apparently, sometime in mid or late April, the letter sailed from Saint Michael and reached New York on May 11<sup>th</sup>. It was subsequently loaded on a trans-Atlantic steamer and finally reached Bristol on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Great piece!

The next two discoveries have been reported by my good friend **Randy Stehle** of San Francisco. Randy, as many of our readers know, is an expert on auxiliary markings and has written many fascinating columns on this and other subjects for *La Posta* over the years. What most of you may not know is that Randy has an incredibly detailed knowledge of many aspects of 20<sup>th</sup> century U.S. postal history, and is, in my opinion, one of the most efficient *gleaners* of postcards in the United States. Randy has attended postcard bourses from coast to coast, and has made

some really incredible finds over the years. With an unbeatable combination of knowledge, patience and energy – plus a little bit of luck from time to time – Randy has repeatedly made discoveries which have expanded our knowledge of postal history. His two latest finds from Alaska demonstrate the point.

**Figure 4** illustrates a postcard with two typeset lines reading “SALCHAKET/NOV 27 1909”. The card is addressed to Seattle. The card itself is an embossed greeting card in floral design with the added printed text of “Greetings from ... Salchaket, Alaska.” The Salchaket post office, which served a small road house on one of the Territory’s trails, was established in late 1909. This straight line marking was a provisional handstamp used by the postmaster for a short time – probably only a few weeks – until the official four-bar handstamp could be supplied from Washington. There are less than a dozen such provisional handstamps known used from Alaskan post offices. All are prized by their caretakers and all are very rare.

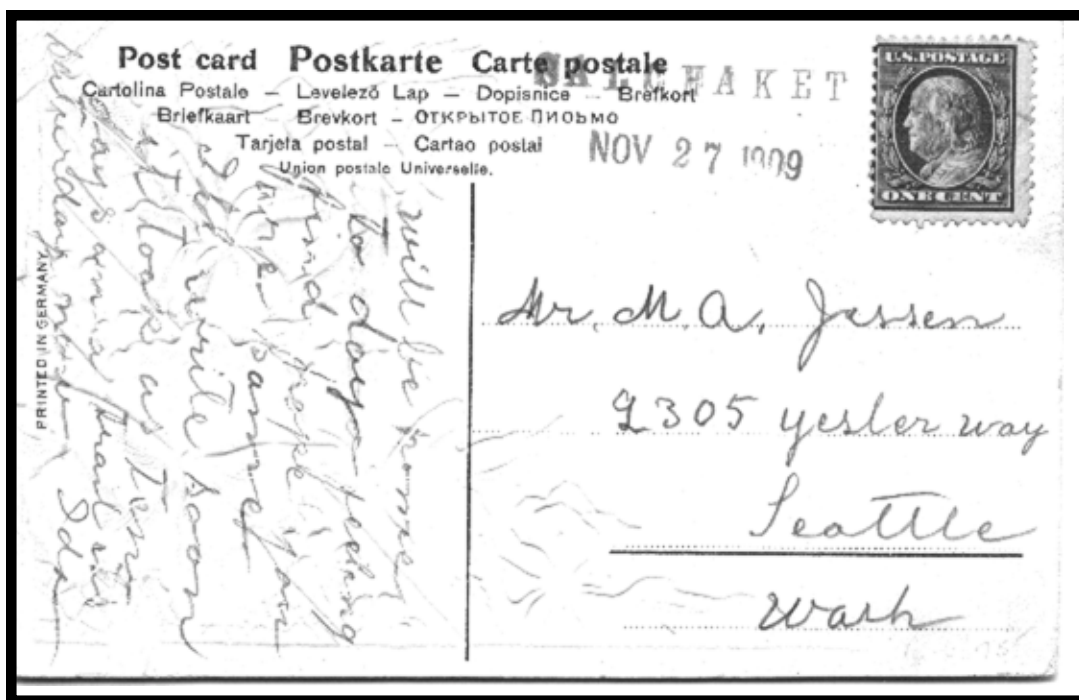
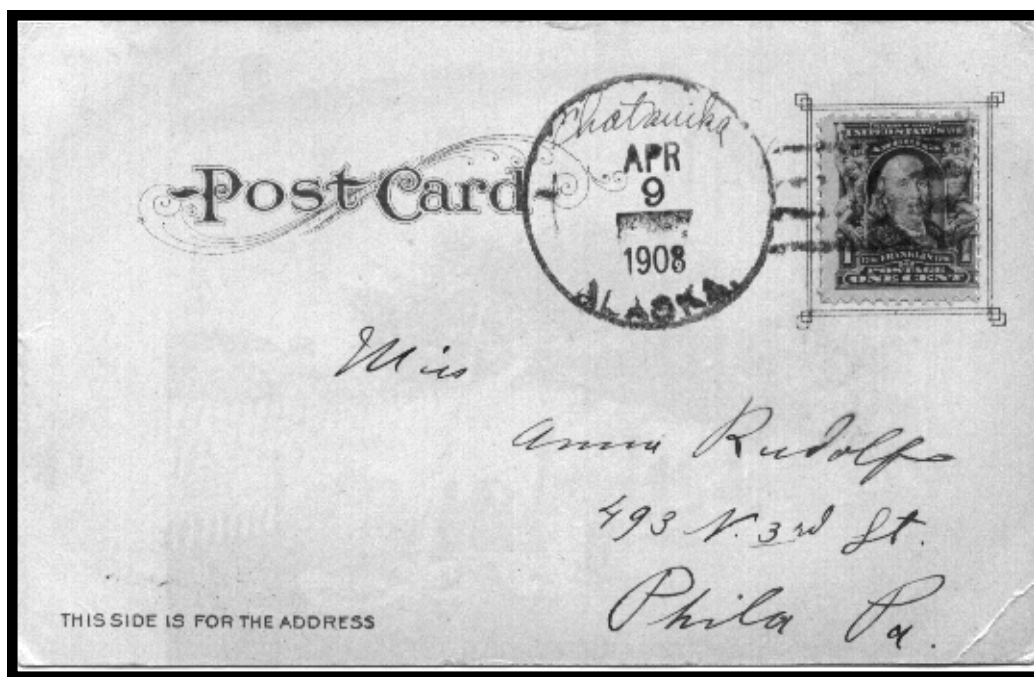


Figure 4. This postcard bears a recently discovered two line handstamp provisional postmark from Salchaket, Alaska, a post office located serving a small roadhouse community. Such typeset provisionals are exceedingly uncommon in early 20th century Alaskan postal history.



*Figure 5. This postcard displays a provisional postmark used by the Chatanika post office. The unique handstamp was created by cutting off the "FAIRBANKS" on the Type 3 Doane handstamp that was used at nearby Fairbanks from late 1904 to mid 1906, and adding a manuscript "Chatanika" in place of the missing type.*

The postmark appearing on the postcard in **Figure 5** is even more significant. It has ramifications both for Alaskan postal history and our knowledge of the use of the popularly collected Doane handstamps. The postmark features a cds where the type which appeared at the top of the dial has been removed and a manuscript "Chatanika" has been substituted. The date "APR/9/bar/1908" is typeset in what appears to be the original date slots. The killer bars, upon close inspection, reveal themselves to be a rather worn impression made by a Type 3 Doane and the number within the bars is "15".

The Chatanika post office was established in late 1907. It served a small mining camp not far from the bustling town of Fairbanks. The first postmark recorded from Chatanika is a manuscript dating from December 1907. It appears as though the Chatanika postmaster must have tired of applying handwritten postmarks while waiting for the new date stamp to arrive from Washington. We can imagine that he must have communicated this to the Fairbanks postmaster, who then offered to provide his friend from Chatanika with an old rubber postmarker that had been superseded by

Fairbanks' heavier duty equipment a few years earlier. The latest recorded use of a Type 3 Doane with "15" in the bars from Fairbanks is December 1, 1906. It is the only example of a Type 3 Doane with the number "15" used in Alaska, and one of only two or three known in the entire United States. This postmark represents the first verified example of the modification and reuse of a Doane handstamp issued to one post office by a second post office in the United States. Others are suspected, but the fact that such a high number device shows up as a postmark in use by a neighboring office would appear to be incontrovertible evidence of reuse.

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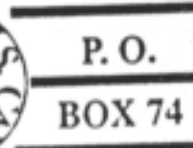
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  - 278 LAS VEGAS, 1906 VG Ty 3/11 DOANE, Early (03-Op) Est \$ 6.00
  - 279 LEMON VALLEY, (RUR STA), 1964 F Ty F 4-Bar on FD cover(64-67)\$15.00
  - 280 METROPOLIS, 1916 VG+ Ty B 4-Bar (Elko 11-42) Est \$ 15.00
  - 281 MILLETT, 1910 VG bit lite Ty 3/1 DOANE (Nye 06-30) E \$ 8.00
  - 282 PARADISE VALLEY, 1915 Fine Ty A2 4-Bar Est \$ 4.00
  - 283 RAWHIDE, 1912 VG Numeral Duplex (Mineral 07-41) Est \$ 6.00
  - 284 ROCHESTER, 1916 G+ Ty B 4-Bar (Pershing 13-26) Est \$ 15.00
  - 285 RYE PATCH, 1908 G+ bar grid duplex (Pershing 72-16) \$ 15.00
  - 286 SILVER CITY, 1906 FINE Ty 3/4 DOANE Est \$ 6.00
  - 287 SMITH, 1907 VG TY 3/2 DOANE , view of Mohawk Mines, Goldfield \$8.00
  - 288 STEAD STA, 1975 VG+ Magenta DCDS on Philat Cover Est \$ 5.00
  - 289 STEAMBOAT, FINE Ty A2 4-Bar (Washoe 80/74) Est \$ 5.00
  - 290 WILKENS, 1961 Fine Ty F 4-Bar (Elko 48-63) 10.00
- ### NORTH DAKOTA
- 112 AETNA, 1909 VG bit lit Ty A1 4-Bar, 1/2" closed tear (07-14) \$15.00
  - 113 ANTELOPE, 1908 VG bit lite Ty 2/1 DOANE (86-54) Est \$ 5.00
  - 114 ASHTABULA, 1909 G+ CDS/Target,"UL" part off (82-13) E \$ 4.00
  - 115 EASBY, 1910 VG Ty 3/2 (84-57) Est \$ 6.00
  - 116 ELLISON, 1911 G Ty A2 4-Bar (99-12) Est \$ 4.00
  - 117 DOGDEN, 1909 Fine Ty A1 4-Bar (06-27) Est \$ 6.00
  - 118 HALEY, 1909 VG Ty 2/3 DOANE, part on stamp (98-65) Est \$ 5.00
  - 119 HOFFLUND, 1908 Fine Ty A1 4-Bar (95-36) Est \$ 8.00
  - 120 JEROME, 1911 VG+ Ty 3/1 DOANE (06-14) Est \$ 8.00
  - 121 KLARA, 1909 VG Ty 3/1 DOANE (98-09) Est \$ 25.00
  - 122 LOWELL, 1910 VG Ty 2/1 DOANE (90-26) Est \$ 14.00
  - 123 MANGER, 1909 Fine Ty A1 4-Bar (06-13) Est \$ 15.00
  - 124 MORaine, 1908 G+ Ty 2/1 DOANE (04-13) Est \$ 12.00

## DOUG DE ROEST MAIL BID SALE NORTH DAKOTA (Cont.)

125 OTTER CREEK, 1954 Fine Ty A3 4-Bar on LD cover \$ 3.00  
126 POWERS LAKE, 1908 VG Ty 3/1 DOANE, part on stamp(06-Op) 5.00  
127 SHERBROOKE, 1918 Fine Ty B 4-Bar, part on stamp (85-19) \$22.00  
128 TOBACCO GARDEN, 1910 Fine Ty A1 4-Bar (06-16) Est \$ 12.00  
129 TURNBRIDGE, 1955 Fine Ty F 4-Bar on LD cover Est \$ 3.00  
130 WALCOTT, 1916 VG Ty 2/5 DOANE, part on stamp \$ 4.00  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
131 ADELAIDE, 1911 VG+ Ty B 4-Bar (10-14) Est \$ 40.00  
132 BRENTFORD, 1908 VG Magenta STRAIGHT LINE Provisional  
Handstamp ties stamp, on neat main street view! (06-Op) Est \$ 20.00  
133 EDDY, 1912 VG bit lite Ty A1 4-Bar (04-13) Est \$ 6.00  
134 HORSE CREEK, 1910 G+ Ty A2 4-Bar (08-14) Est \$ 40.00  
135 JONESVILLE, 1909 Fine Ty A2 4-Bar (08-23) Est \$ 15.00  
136 LAMRO, 1907 G+ lite Ty A1 4-Bar (07-11) Est \$ 10.00  
137 MENTOR, 1912 VG+ Ty A2 4-Bar as rec'd (09-17) E \$ 15.00  
138 MYSTIC, 1910 Fine Ty 2/2 DOANE (95-54) Est \$ 8.00  
139 ORMAN, 1907 Ty 3/1 DOANE (06-14) Est \$ 12.00  
140 SMITH, 1911 VG Ty A1 4-Bar, on stamp (01-19) Est \$ 20.00  
141 WARNER, 1910 VG Ty 3/4 DOANE (81-Op) Est \$ 4.00

## OREGON

142 APPLGATE RUR STA, Jacksonville, 1967 G+ Ty F 4-Bar E \$ 4.00  
143 BRADWOOD RUR STA, Clatskanie, 1962 FINE Ty F on LD cover \$10.00  
144 CENTER RUR STA, McMinnville, 1950 FINE Ty F 4-Bar on #10 Cover \$10.  
145 CHERRY GROVE RUR STA, Gaston, 1963 VG Ty F 4-Bar "ON" off @  
top \$ \$5  
146 CONNOR CREEK, 1909 G Ty A1 4-Bar as Fwd (Baker 87-11) Est \$ 30.00  
147 DEERHORN, 1909 VG+, rim off @ top (Lane 07-13) Est \$ 10.00  
148 ECOLA, 1912 VG Ty B 4-Bar (Clatsop 10-24) Est \$ 6.00  
149 FLANAGAN, 1908 VG Ty 3/1 Doane (Wasco 05-18) Est \$ 40.00  
150 HARBOR RUR STA, 1961 VG Ty F 4-Bar, small card sized cover, Est \$  
5.00  
151 HARNEY, 1910 VG+ Ty A1 4-Bar (Harney 85-19) Est \$ 20.00  
152 HILLSDALE RUR STA, Portland 1939 VG Ty C 4-Bar, window cover \$ 10.  
153 HOOVER, 1909 VG Ty A1 4-Bar (Marion 07-16) Est \$ 12.00  
154 KLUMB, 1908 Fine Ty 3/1 DOANE, bit O'strk (Marion 93-10) Est \$ 15.00  
155 LEABURG RUR STA, Eugene, 1963 VG Ty F 4-Bar, cover trim @ Lft \$ 5.00  
156 MCCOY RUR STA, Dallas, 1962 Fine Ty F 4-Bar, part on stamp Est \$ 7.00  
157 PLEASANT HILL RUR STA, Eugene 1963 VG Ty F 4-Bar Est \$ 4.00  
158 RILEY, 1910 G++ Ty 3/3 DOANE ( Harney 85-19) Est \$ 15.00  
159 ROSE CITY RURAL STA, Portland, 1909 VG Ty A 4-Bar Scarce rural  
(09-10) 30.00  
160 SALMON, 1910 VG Ty 3 DOANE (Clack 91-10) Est \$ 20.00  
161 SEC BASE COOS BAY BR, Marshfield, 1943 Fine DCDS & Navy 3 Bar on  
Philat Cover (Coos 42-43 only) Est \$ 20.00  
162 SINK, 1914 G+ Ty B 4-Bar (Lake 11-20) Est \$ 40.00  
163 STANLEY RUR STA, Portland, 1946 VG Ty F 4-Bar, card size cover E.\$10.  
164 SUMNER RUR STA, Coos Bay, 1959 G+ Ty F 4-Bar on PSE \$ 8.00  
165 WARREN, 1908 VG Ty 1/2 DOANE (Columbia 85/61) Est \$ 5.00  
166 WESTPORT RUR STA, Clatskanie, 1963 VG+ Ty F 4-Bar on PSE \$ 5.00  
167 WEST STAYTON, 1913 VG Ty B 4-Bar (Marion 11-53) Est \$ 8.00

## WASHINGTON

177 AINSWORTH, WASH'N, 1887 G+, strengthened Octagon on PSE  
trim @ Rt TERRITORIAL (Franklin 79-85) Est \$75.00  
178 AZWELL RUR STA, Chelan, 1966 FINE Ty F 4-Bar, Philat cover (58-73)  
Est. \$ 7.00  
179 B&M RUR STA, Lake Stevens, 1973 VG on commer. cover Est \$ 5.00  
180 BLOCKHOUSE, 1906 VG CDS/Target (Klick 72-30) Est \$ 15.00  
181 BOSSBURG, 1932 FINE Ty C 4-Bar on PSE (Stevens 91-41) Est \$ 8.00  
182 BRENTS, 1888 G+ CDS/Target on PSE, trimmed @ Lft, bit strengthened  
(Lincoln 82-90) Territorial, Est \$ 180.00  
183 COLUMBIA STA, Seattle, 1970 DCDS on Commer cover Est \$ 4.00  
184 COOLIDGE, 1909 VG Ty A1 4-Bar as rec'd (Benton 07-12) Est \$ 35.00  
185 CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN BR, Enumclaw, 1966 FINE Ty F 4-Bar, Window  
cover \$6.00  
186 DEER HARBOR, 1908 VG Ty 3/2 DOANE, elusive, as rec'd  
(San Juan 82-64) E 12.00  
187 DEWEY, 1912 G+ Ty A1 4-Bar (Skagit 98-18) Est \$ 15.00  
188 DISAUTEL RUR STA, Omak, FINE Ty F 4-Bar on Philat cover (55-58) \$15  
189 DUSTY, 1907 VG Ty A1 4-Bar (Whitman 99-09) Est \$ 50.00  
190 DYER, 1917 VG Ty 2 DOANE part on stamp (Douglas 96-17) Est \$ 25.00  
191 EAST STANWOOD, 1914 G+ Ty B 4-Bar, Early (Snohomish 13-61) \$ 5.00  
192 EDEN, 1908 Fine Blue Ty 2/1 DOANE (Wahkiakum 99/35) Est \$ 10.00  
193 HARVEY, 1910 G+ Ty 2/2 DOANE (Stevens 87-25) Est \$ 12.00  
194 HOH, 1909 VG Ty 2/1 DOANE as rec'd (Jefferson 04-35) Est \$ 12.00  
195 FREDONIA, 1891 G+ CSD/Target on GPC (Skagit 90-06) Est \$ 25.00  
196 FINDLEY, 1953 Fine Ty F 4-Bar on Philat GPC Est \$ 4.00  
197 FORT SIMCOE, 1884 VG Octagon/Target on stamped Indian Agency cover  
(Yakima 70-22) Est \$ 100.00  
198 GEROME, 1908 VG++ Ty 2 DOANE (Stevens 03-39) Est \$ 10.00  
199 GETCHELL, 1915 FINE Ty B 4-Bar (Snohomish 90-18) Est \$ 15.00  
200 GODFREY, 1910 VG Ty 3/1 DOANE (Stevens 05-12) Est \$ 25.00  
201 GOSHEN, 1910 G+ Ty 2/1 DOANE (Whatcom 91-18) Est \$ 6.00  
202 JERRY, 1911 VG magenta Ty 3/1 DOANE (Asotin 06-18) \$ 22.00  
203 KIESLING, 1912 G+ Ty A2 4-Bar, rec'd/O'Strk (Spok09-20) \$ 12.00  
204 KENMORE BR, Seattle, 1978 DCDS on Commer cover Est \$ 4.00  
205 KNOX, 1911 VG+ Ty A1 4-Bar, edge stain (Lewis 05-13) \$ 25.00  
206 LAKE CUSHMAN, 1915 Fine Ty B 4-Bar (Mason 93-22) \$ 12.00  
207 LARSON AIR FORCE BASE BR., 1951 DCDS Philat cover (51-66) 6.00  
208 LUMMI ISLAND, 1948 Fine Ty F 4-Bar on Philat cover Est \$ 4.00  
209 MARY HILL, 1910 G+ Ty A2 4-Bar, part on stamp (Klick 09-13) 25.00  
210 MCHORD FIELD BR, 1940 FINE DCDS ties stamp to Dedication cover  
(Pierce 40-47) Est \$ 20.00  
211 MOUNT SOLO, 1916 VG+ Ty B 4-Bar, "NT" bit off (Cowlitz 15-23) \$ 20.00  
212 NAVY 10117 BR, Manchester, 1943 Fine DCDS & Navy 4-Bar on Philat  
cover (Kitsap 43-46) Est \$ 20.00  
213 NELLITA, 1903 VG CDS/Target on Registered PSE (Kitsap 00-24) \$ 20.00

214 NEW DUNGENESS, 1887 VG++ Purple DCDS/Target on neat cover w/pair  
of Scott #205 to Victoria BC (Clallam 58/92) Est \$ 100.00  
215 NIGHTHAWK RUR STA, 1968 Fine Ty F 4-Bar on Commer cover (62-78)  
\$ 12.00  
216 OSCEOLA, 1908 VG Ty A1 4-Bar as rec'd on picture side, (King 77-09) 20.  
217 PAINE AIR FORCE BASE BR, 1964 VG+ DCDS on Philat PSE (65-68)  
E 10.00  
218 PROVIDENCE HEIGHTS RUR STA, 1965 on Philat PC (61-69) Est \$ 8.00  
219 REX, 1911 VG Ty A2 4-Bar as rec'd on cover back, some stains (05-13)  
Est. \$12.00  
220 SAINT HELEN, 1909 FINE Ty A1 4-Bar (Cowlitz 93-36) Est \$ 10.00  
221 SECTION BASE BR, Port Angeles, 1942 VG Ty F 4-Bar on Philat cover  
(42-45) 25.00  
222 SCHWARDER RUR STA, 1956 VG Ty F 4-Bar, monarch cover (42-77) 6.00  
223 SHAW ISLAND, 1912 Fine Ty 3/1 DOANE, elusive cancel Est \$ 20.00  
224 SHINE, 1911 VG +Ty A2 4-Bar (Jefferson 09-23) Est \$ 15.00  
225 SLIGHTLY, VG Ty 2/1 DOANE (Cowlitz 84-13) Est \$ 12.00  
226 SPRING VALLEY, G+ Ty A1 4-Bar (Spokane 07-42) Est \$ 5.00  
227 TIMBER VALLEY, 1912 VG Ty 2/1 DOANE (Klick 05-19) Est \$ 15.00  
228 TRENT, VG Ty A2 4-Bar (Spokane 88-13) Est \$ 12.00  
229 TRENTWOOD BR, 1969 Fine DCDS on cover Est \$ 4.00  
230 UNION GAP RUR STA, 1947 Fine Ty F 4-Bar on card size cover (18-53)  
E5.00  
231 VAN ZANDT RUR STA, 1963 G+ Ty F 4-Bar on commer cover(55-70) 6.00  
232 WACO, 1909 VG Ty A1 4-Bar (Douglas 07-10) Est \$ 25.00  
233 WAHLUKE, 1937 G+ Ty B 4-Bar on cover (Grant 07-36) Est \$ 10.00  
234 WATERLOO, 1910 FINE Ty 2/1 DOANE (Stevens 93-14) Est \$ 25.00  
235 WINLOCK, c 1885 CDS/Target on PSE, lite soil, TERRITORIAL Est \$ 50.  
236 WYNOOCHE, 1890 G+ CDS/Target on cover W/Letter (86-01) Est \$ 50.00  
237 YARDLEY RUR STA, 1914 VG purple Ty B 4-Bar, Dbl Strk (Spok 13-20)E12  
238 YESLER, 1914 G+ Ty B 4-Bar (King 90-17) Est \$ 12.00

## WYOMING

240 BIGTRAILS, 1921 VG Magenta Ty B 4-Bar (Washakie 98-42) Est \$8.00  
241 BORDER, 1908 VG Ty A2 4-Bar, Wyo, not struck (Linc.00-33) \$ 6.00  
242 CLOVERLY, 1911 Fine Ty 2/1 DOANE (Bighorn 98-29) Est \$ 15.00  
243 ETHETE RUR STA, 1968 VG+ Ty F 4-Bar, on Philat cover Est \$ 6.00  
244 FORT MACKENZIE, 1917 VG+ Ty B 4-Bar (Sheridan 05-18) \$ 22.00  
245 FORT RUSSELL, 1909 G+ Ty 3 Doane?, part on stamp (Lara 83/30) Est \$  
6.00  
246 GAS HILLS RUR STA, 1959 VG+ Ty F 4-Bar on FD Cover Est \$ 10.00  
247 HAILEY, 1899 G CDS/Target on soiled cover (Fremont 87-24) E \$ 15.00  
248 HELLS HALF ACRE, 1953 VG Ty F 4-Bar (Natrona 40-59) Est \$ 6.00  
249 HOME ON THR RANGE RUR STA, 1975 VG+ DCDS on Philat cover \$  
4.00  
250 JELM, 1948 G+ Ty E 4-Bar (Albany 98-65) Est \$ 5.00  
251 KENDALL, 1910 G+ lite Ty 2 DOANE (Sublette 99-35) Est \$ 6.00  
252 LONETREE, 1909 G+ lite Ty 3 DOANE (Unita 88-85) Est \$ 4.00  
253 MORSE, 1911 Fine Ty 2/1 DOANE on illustrated ranch cover W/branded  
cow & horse 1/3 of cover front. letter inside on same illut. letterhead of W.E.  
Morse. recollection of Buffalo & Indians. Very rough @ Rt, math figures detract  
Est \$ 30.00  
254 MOUNTAINVIEW, 1909 G+ Ty 2/2 DOANE, bit O'Strk, tear @ bottom E \$ 5  
255 PATRICK, 1908 VG+ Ty A1 4-Bar (Goshen 87-14) Est \$ 20.00  
256 SPOTTED HORSE, 1932 Fine Ty A3 4-Bar on philat cover  
(Campbell 21/64) \$ 4.00  
257 SWEETWATER, 1910 VG lite 4-Bar (Sweetwater 96-14) Est \$ 22.00  
258 UVA, G+ Ty 2/2 DOANE (Platte 80/51) Est \$ 5.00  
259 WIDDOFIELD, 1908 VG lite Ty 1 DOANE (Carbon 95-09) Est \$ 25.00

## R.P.O.'s - (Towle Types)

291 ASH.ABB & MILW, 1912 VG 849-G-1 (Tr104) Est \$ 10.00  
292 ATCH & LENORA, 1890 G+ 908-C-? Unlisted Type, PSE trim @ Lft \$10.00  
293 BELLINGHAM & SEAT, 1908 VG 901.1-B-1 (Tr4) Est \$ 8.00  
294 BOUNDARY & SPOK, 1938 G+ 902.1-A-1 on cover Est \$ 15.00  
295 DEADWOOD & EDGEMONT, 1911 VG 947.4-E-1, part on stamp \$ 6.00  
296 DODGE C. & BOISE C., 1932 Fine 918.5-D-1 on Philat GPC Est \$ 15.00  
297 ELPASO & LOS ANG, 1909 Fine 963-M-4 part on stamp Est \$ 8.00  
298 JAMISON CITY & BLOOMS, 1909, VG 166.1-A-2 on cover E \$ 15.00  
299 KETCHUM & SHOSHONE, 1912 G+ 896.8-A-1 Est \$ 15.00  
300 LOS ANG & SANTA BARB, 1905 VG 890-E-2 (T98) E \$ 6.00  
301 MANSFIELD & WENATCHEE, 1914 G+ 902.3-A-1 E \$ 20.00  
302 McCALL & NAMPA, 1929 VG 896.9-A-1 (SOUTH) on PSE 25.00  
303 MILES CITY & SPOK W.D., 1912 VG 892-L-3 (Tr4) E \$ 15.00  
304 MISSOULA & WALLACE, 1904 G 891.11-A-1 on PSE \$ 10.00  
305 OROVILLE & SPOKANE, 1914 VG 902.1-F-1 Est \$ 8.00  
306 PULLMAN & GENESEE, 1912 G+ 906.4-A-1, (NORTH) off @ top \$ 10.00  
307 POCATELLO & BAKER, 1926 VG 898-L-2 on cover W/Scott # 627  
Illustrated back ad of "Dodge Bros Works, Detroit" Est \$ 18.00  
308 PAC JCT & DENV, 1907 G 933-P-1 (TR 2) Est \$ 6.00  
309 PASCO & YAKIMA HPO, 1957 Fine 4 Bar on Philat cover Est \$ 8.00  
310 PUEBLO & ALAMOS, 1932 VG 955-1-2, cover bit Rough Lft \$ 6.00  
311 RENO (& GOLDFIELD, 1907 G+ 977.2-B-1 off @ top Est \$ 6.00  
312 S B'DNO & SAN JACINTO, 1913 VG 987-J-1 (T506) E \$ 20.00  
313 SEATTLE & SEA(TTLE), 1912 Partial SE-1-a (Street Car) \$ 12.00  
314 SPARKS & SAN FRAN, 1917 G+ 976-W-1 (TR23) E \$ 18.00  
315 SPOKANE & LEWISTON, 1929 VG+ New Type on GPC \$ 10.00  
316 TUOLUMNE & STOCK, 1908 VG 989-G-1 (WEST) Est \$ 15.00  
317 WALLA WALLA & PASCO, 1911 G+ 901.5-B-1 part on stamp \$ 7.00

Phone bids accepted: (541) 963-6350, If no answer,  
keep trying (call waiting)

*e-mail: deroest@oregontrail.net*

**CLOSING DATE; TUESDAY, APRIL 13th,  
1999 (10 PM Pacific)**

# LA POSTA CLASSIFIED ADS

**Only 5 cents per word delivers your message to the  
largest and best informed group of postal historians in  
America**

Word Count	1 issue	3 issues	6 issues
1-25	\$1.25	\$3.12	\$5.94
26-30	\$1.50	\$3.75	\$7.14
31-35	\$1.75	\$4.35	\$8.28
36-40	\$2.00	\$4.98	\$9.48
41-45	\$2.25	\$5.61	\$10.68
46-50	\$2.50	\$6.24	\$11.88
51-55	\$2.75	\$6.84	\$13.02
56-60	\$3.00	\$7.47	\$14.22
61-65	\$3.25	\$8.10	\$15.42
66-70	\$3.50	\$8.73	\$16.62
71-75	\$3.75	\$9.33	\$17.76
76-80	\$4.00	\$9.96	\$18.96
81-85	\$4.25	\$10.59	\$20.16
86-90	\$4.50	\$11.22	\$21.36
91-95	\$4.75	\$11.82	\$22.50
96-100	\$5.00	\$12.45	\$23.70

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**EXPOSITIONS:** William Bomar's collection of Exposition and World's Fair postal history, including everything from his award-winning exhibit, is being offered serially in my Mail Bid Sales. Write/ call for sample catalog. Jim Mehrer, 2405-30th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201. Phone: [309] 786-6539. Email: mehrer@postal-history.com. Internet web site: <http://www.postal-history.com>. [30-1]

## CARDS & COVERS: FOR SALE

**HAWAII, COMPLETE** territorial collection of all 91 towns cancelled Spring 1959. Territorial cancels on UX46. F-VF, \$250.00. Steve Sims, 1769 Wickersham Dr., Anchorage, AK 99507. Phone (907) 563-7281. [30-6]

**U.S. PACIFIC ISLANDS** exclusively. Guam, American Samoa, Wake, Midway, US Trust Territory forerunners (German, Japanese & US Administrations only), misc. small islands. I do not carry Hawaii or Philippines. How can I help you? Howard Lee, Box 2912, Del Mar, CA 92014-5912. [30-1]

**PRIVATE COLLECTOR** is selling his extensive flown Graf Zeppelin and Hindenburg cover collection - phone (805) 643-3987 [30-2]

## TOWNS: WANTED

**ALASKA & YUKON & HAWAII** postal history oldest to present wanted. APS life member. Steve Sims, 1769 Wickersham Dr., Anchorage, AK 99507 (907) 563-7281. [29-6]" All States and categories wanted! Better consignment material always needed for my bi-monthly Mail Bid Sales. Write/ call for consignment details. Jim Mehrer, 2405-30th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201. Phone: [309] 786-6539. Email: mehrer@postal-history.com. Internet web site: <http://www.postal-history.com>. [30-4]

**ARIZONA:** Blanchard, Cerbat, Curtiss, Cyclopic, Gillespie Dam, Gold Basin, Golconda, Hardyville, Huron, Lees Ferry, Reymert, Senator, Stockton, Wolf Hole and Providence. Send priced on approval or send photocopy for offer. Richard V. Wyman, 610 Bryant Ct., Boulder City, NV 89005-3017. (702) 293-1098. [30-1]

**CALIFORNIA - KERN & IMPERIAL** County covers and cards. Especially interested in Bakersfield corner cards. Send description or photocopies and prices to John Williams, 887 Litchfield Ave., Sebastopol, CA 95472 [30-1]

## TOWNS: WANTED

**CONNECTICUT - NEW BRITAIN,** stampless/stamped to 1955. Send on approval or photocopy with price to Bob Gaudian, 6914 Spanker Dr., Burke, VA 22015 [30-5]

**D.C. (DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA)** postal history. Washington Philatelic Society putting together a postal history of D.C. along with postmarks in various categories. as a preliminary we will publish a D.C. bibliography for which we solicit your input. In addition we would like to hear from collectors of D.C. postal history or postmarks. All letters will receive a response and contributions towards the book will be acknowledged. S.B. Stiss, 436 N. Park Drive, Arlington, VA 22203. [30-1]

**HAWAII,** Copies of all postmarks between ca. 1840 and 21 August 1959 seriously needed for postal history studies; including service, ship, transit and other related markings. I will pay copying and post, and credit each contributor. Phil Kay, P. O. Box 920, Kaunakakai, HI 96748. [30-1]

**DOODLETOWN, NY and FLAGG, NY** covers, cards -- stampless to 1980. Send on approval or photocopies. Will quickly respond. Roger Brody, P.O. Box 722, Westfield, NJ 07091. [30-1]

**MONTANA - CULVERTSON,** April 13, 1916 through April 30, 1920. Also, other Montana postal history - try me for your common S/I 1 & 2s. Also documents, checks, correspondence, advertising, pamphlets, books, ephemera. Ken Hamlin, 517 So. 5th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59715. [30-1]

**NEVADA:** Atlanta, Barclay, Bullionville, Coaldale, Columbus, Como, Comstock, Crescent, Deerlodge, Fort Churchill, Fort McDermitt, Gold Butte, Hornsilver, Kawich and Marietta. Send priced on approval or send photocopy for offer. Richard V. Wyman, 610 Bryant Ct., Boulder City, NV 89005-3017. (702) 293-1098. [30-1]

**EXPIRATION DATE  
SHOWN AT END OF  
EACH AD, i.e., [30-1],  
MEANS AD WILL EXPIRE  
WITH THIS ISSUE.**

**AD DEADLINE FOR NEXT  
ISSUE:  
MARCH 20, 1999**



## TOWNS: WANTED

NEVADA - Belleville, Broken Hills, Buena Vista, Copperhill, Coryville, Eagleville, Metallic, Montelle, Mount Montgomery, Rand, Redlich, Rhodes. Send priced on approval or send photocopy with price or for offer. Bill Helmer (APS, WCS), 82886 Bradford Ct., Creswell, OR 97426 [30-6]

NORTH DAKOTA: All postal history wanted, from territorial to modern. Send photocopies or on approval. Gary Anderson, 698 E. Hoyt Ave., St. Paul, MN 55106 [30-3]

OREGON, PRE-1950 cancels of all types - operating - and DPOs, especially 19th century. Washington Doane cancels and unusual cancels from any state. Send priced or on approval, or send photocopies for my offer. Doug DeRoest, 482 Modelaire Drive, La Grande, OR 97850 [30-6]

SOUTH DAKOTA postal history from territorial to modern wanted for my personal collection. Top prices paid. Ken Stach, 212 E. Woodglen Road, Spartanburg, SC 29301. [30-4]

UTAH: Alunite, Blue Acre, Diamond, Goldstrike, Grafton, Harrisburg, Hite, Iron Springs, Pine Valley, Robinson, Shauntie, Shem and Tintic. Send priced on approval or send photocopy for offer. Richard V. Wyman, 610 Bryant Ct., Boulder City, NV 89005-3017. (702) 293-1098. [29-6]

WEST POINT, NEW YORK covers -- stampless to WW II -- wanted for personal collection. Send on approval or photocopies. Prompt response promised. Richard Helbock, P. O. Box 1615, Copmanhurst, NSW 2460 Australia [30-4].

## DOANES: WANTED

DOANE CANCELS: Buy and trade Doane cancels of all states. Send photocopies or on approval. Gary Anderson, 698 E. Hoyt Ave., St. Paul, MN 55106 [30-3]

## ADVERTISING COVERS: WANTED

URGENTLY NEEDED: Pre-1900 Philadelphia, PA advertising covers illustrated with buildings and street scenes. Also any paper memorabilia or postal history from the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876. All correspondence answered. Member APS. Gus Spector, 750 S. Main Street, Suite 203, Phoenixville, PA 19460. [30-3]

## SUPPLIES: FOR SALE

Need collection protection? I have sleeves, albums, pocket pages, and storage boxes, designed for covers and postcards. Complete list on request. Jim Mehrer, 2405-30th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201. Phone: [309] 786-6539. Email: mehrer@postal-history.com. Internet web site: <http://www.postal-history.com> [30-2]

## LITERATURE: FOR SALE

NOW AVAILABLE: Post Offices and Early Postmasters of Virginia - \$49; The Post Offices and Postmasters of Hawaii - \$18; The Post Offices of Alabama to 1900 - \$18; The Post Offices of Georgia - \$18. Coming soon Post Offices of WV and SC. All available from the author, postpaid: Richard E. Small, 14502 Oak Cluster Drive, Centreville, VA 20120. [30-4]

SOUTH CAROLINA Post Offices: alphabetical listing of post offices, counties and years of operation. This is the first full list published for this state. Available in print or floppy disk. 60-page book (Specify comb-bound or loose-leaf): \$18.00 postpaid to U.S. addresses. Disk: (specify PC or MAC format): \$25.00. Illinois residents add 6.75% tax. Outside U.S. add 20%. Jim Mehrer, 2405-30th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201. [30-2]

## MISCELLANEOUS: WANTED

AIRMAIL COVERS - Commercial Only; No First Flights or philatelic -United States to destinations in Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania dating from before 1938. Also C1-C6 on commercial covers to foreign or domestic addresses. Send priced on approval or photocopies, or request my offer. Richard Helbock, P.O. Box 1615, Copmanhurst, NSW 2460 Australia [30-4]

## FOREIGN: FOR SALE

DANISH "WILD WILD WEST" INDIES stamps, covers, postal stationery, etc. Long-time student/collector/exhibitor. Ron Trosclair (APS), 1713 Live Oak St, Metairie, LA 70005-1069. PH: (504) 835-9611. [30-4]

**Let a La Posta Classified ad send your message to over 1,200 of North America's most energetic and interested postal history enthusiasts. As simple as 1, 2, 3!!!**

- 1) Write down your ad on a slip of paper;**
- 2) Count words excluding ZIP code and check the rate card on page 77 to find the cost & number of insertions, and**
- 3) send your ad along with a check to La Posta, 33470 Chinook Plaza, #216, Scappoose, OR 97056 and we'll do the rest.**

## About the Subscribers' Auctions

(Continued from page 4)

expect an answer until at least December 21<sup>st</sup>.

The quickest and most inexpensive way to contact us if you want a timely answer is to use E-mail. At least 20% of La Posta subscribers now have e-mail addresses, and the remaining 80% undoubtedly know someone who has e-mail or could simply stop by one of the commercial outlets scattered all across the country which offer e-mail service for a small fee. You can now sit down at Internet terminals at libraries, certain cafes, and even local photocopy shops. Imagine being able to look at the opening bids on 10 lots you really want a few days before the auction closes. All you have to do is call up the La-Posta Website and print them out, or ask a friend or a commercial Website to do it for you, all in the matter of a couple of minutes. What's more, you can place your bids via E-mail in about the same amount of time, all for the cost of a local phone call! We have several subscribers who don't have computers, but have discovered friends who do have them and who have an Internet connection who will place bids for them. E-mail is the cheapest, most efficient means of transmitting information around the planet available today! If you e-mail me that you would like an illustration of this or that lot in the Subscribers' Auction, I will scan the lot and attach it to an answer. The whole process takes minutes! The cost is that of a local phone call.

Let's say you are simply not interested in dealing with e-mail. You do not have a computer. You live in a small town in a remote valley in the Rockies. And you do not know a soul that has an email capability. If this describes your situation, the fastest way to obtain information from me – or anyone else – is to pick up your telephone and make a call. To call Australia from the US, costs 75 cents a minute or less depending upon when you make the call. The January issue contained some detailed instructions on how and when to call Australia.

Only time will tell if we can successfully continue to conduct Subscribers' Auctions. If bidders continue to participate in the sales, consignors will continue to submit worthwhile material

for future sales. In my opinion, there is no real reason why conducting Subscribers' Auctions from overseas should be any different than conducting them from Oregon, or Illinois, or anywhere else in North America. But perception is all important in an activity such as this. If enough of you believe that Subscribers' Auctions will not work if they are operated from Australia, then you will soon be proven correct and the auctions will come to an end.

The printed catalog for **Subscribers' Auction 63** accompanies this issue of *La Posta*. I have built in adequate time for interested readers to look it over and request photocopies of lots via the mails, but if you choose to use the mails it is imperative that you not delay your request. Mail service – even airmail – is slow, and if you wait too long, your photocopy request will not reach you in time for the sale closing.

For those of you who have Internet technology or are willing to drop by a local print shop or Internet café to try it out, I have greatly expanded the number of lots illustrated on the La Posta Website. Simply type in our URL – [www.la-posta.com](http://www.la-posta.com) – and follow the links to the Subscribers' Auction. Illustrated lots will be highlighted in blue and can be seen with a simple click, and, please remember, if the lot(s) you are interested in is not illustrated, I can send you a scan as an e-mail attachment in a matter of minutes.

Again, let me emphasize that you do not HAVE TO use E-mail or make an International phone call to participate in a *La Posta* auction. I just want everyone to know of the various options available to contact us quickly when needed. Unlike auctions which are totally run on the Internet like ebay, we are striving to keep our auction accessible to people who still wish to participate primarily by mail. We also provide the same service that a full-fledged auction house will give you - that of researching and highlighting the value of each lot by describing and estimating it in the auction catalog. I do hope sufficient numbers of you who have bid in our auctions over the years will be willing to work with us to keep the Subscribers' Auctions viable. Your comments, suggestions and feedback on this matter are most welcome.

Richard W. Helbock

## ADVERTISING IN LA POSTA

**La Posta** publishes two types of Ads: Display & Auction/Net Price. Details for placing each are as follows:

**DISPLAY ADS** - May be run on a contract basis for one, three or six insertions. Ad contents may be changed at any time, provided proper notice is given. Contract rates for ads of varying sizes are as follows:

Ad Size	One Issue	Three Issues	Six Issues
1/8-page	\$13.00	\$29.90	\$54.60
1/4-page	\$30.00	\$69.00	\$126.00
1/2-page	\$55.00	\$126.50	\$231.00
1-page	\$100.00	\$230.00	\$420.00

These charges include Type setting & Layout

### AUCTION/NET PRICE ADS:

The charge for placing a 1/2-page ad is \$45.00; 1 -page \$90.00; 2-pages \$170.00  
These prices are for prepaid camera ready copy. Add \$15 typing charge is for 1/2-page auctions, \$35 for 1-page auctions; and auctions over 1-page must be camera ready, transmitted via E-mail or provided on computer disc.

**Ad Deadlines are as follows: Dec/Jan issue - Nov 20; Feb/Mar issue - Jan 20; Apr/May issue - Mar 20; Jun/Jul issue - May 20; Aug/Sep issue - July 20; Oct/Nov issue - Sep 20.**

**La Posta, 33470 Chinook Plaza, Suite 216, Scappoose, OR 97056**

or

**P.O. Box 1615, Copmanhurst, NSW 2460 Australia**

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