## POSTLL STATIOSERY



A Fresh Look At The Grant Letter Sheet
See Page 2

## BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE UNITED POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

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## POSTAL STATIONERY

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## A FRESH LOOK AT THE GRANT LETTER SHEET

By T. W. Bozarth<br>RFD 2, Box 168<br>Titusville, NJ 08560

The Grant Letter Sheet was issued in 1886, a little over a year after the death of the war-time leader and president, beloved by much of the country as a victorious general whose political short-comings could be overlooked. For many years it was a favorite item with stamp collectors, although it never seemed to reach the popularity with the general public that the originators had expected. But collecting fashions change and the Grant Letter Sheet Envelope, as it was officially styled, is now seldom collected and rarely offered by dealers. Perhaps, in anticipation of its centennial, it is time to take a fresh look at this insufficiently studied issue.

Minkus, the only current catalog to continue to price the item as a cut square, merely notes that ten major varieties exist, while Scott, although also assigning a single number, does price the ten readily distinguished varieties. Higgins and Gage, following the listing in the 1953 Thorp-Bartels catalog, recognizes 29 different types, including gum variations, whether vertical and horizontal perforations cross each other or have an imperforate intersection, and whether the folding guide perforations are located on the left or right side of the sheet. Perhaps this very complexity has discouraged modern collectors. Thankfully, all of the catalogs noted ignore the fact that the seven (or fourteen, or eighteen) varieties of the watermarked sheets of 1887 and thereafter may be found with the slanted block-letter "U S" watermark in any of four positions: normal, inverted, reversed, and reversed inverted.

Following this precedent of ignoring the watermark position, I would recommend that the general collector also ignore the gum pattern and whether the folding guide perforations fall at the left or right. I might later be persuaded to ignore whether the perforation lines cross or not, but as this may indicate priority of production, I'll leave it in until more data is accumulated.

The date that these Letter Sheets were first issued seems to be well established, and all four catalogs agree that August 18, 1886, was the date that they were first sent out. In his column in Stamps for February 10, 1934, Harry M. Konwiser reported that an Elizabeth, NJ, collector had a Grant Letter Sheet postmarked August 23, 1886, (presumably from New York City, from context) and bearing a "memo that it was originally sent forth as a First Day Cover." Konwiser added that USPOD records showed that 1,000,000 Letter Sheets were issued to the twenty-seven principal post offices on August 18, 1886, and that "first delivery was made to the New York post office on August 23, the date of delivery to the other offices ranging from the 23rd to the 30th of August." Now you may well ask: why did it take five days for the sheets to move from the printer, the American Bank Note Company, of New York, to the New York post office, just blocks away? My supposition is that the sheets were first shipped to USPOD Headquarters in Washington, DC, then redistributed from there. Anyone have a better answer?

As a result of Konwiser's article, Joseph L. Eisendrath, Jr., (now UPSS \#503), reported finding a Letter Sheet postmarked at Chicago, IL, on August 27, 1886 (erroneously - and confusingly - printed in Stamps of September 8, 1934, as August 7, but the correct date, which may be assumed by context, has been confirmed by Mr. Eisendrath) that was sent to Germany by an official of the Chicago post office to a family friend. The message inside starts: "This letter sheet was issued (sic) today . . .". This specimen would seem to confirm the statement that first days of use range from August 23rd to the 30th. Mr. Eisendrath's copy is at his bank. Does anyone know where the August 23, 1886 sheet is today?

By eliminating gum and folding guides, we have four major varieties for 1886: 83 perforations across the top (perf. 12 by the standard gauge), and 41 perforations (perf. $53 / 4$ ), with horizontal and vertical perforations crossing as on normally perforated stamps; and 33 perforations across the top (perf. $4^{3 / 4}$ ) and 41 perforations, without perforations at the folds. It seems likely that the completely perforated sealing selvage may have been too fragile for the mails, resulting in the receipt of opened or torn correspondence; the unperforated corners adopted later would be more substantial. Now let's try to find out when these major varieties made their first appearance. I've listed my own Earliest Reported Postmarks (ERP) with the full knowledge that they are sitting ducks, and will ignore for the moment the August 27, 1886 sheet from Chicago, just to see what other early usages are around. The

USPOD records quoted in Thorp-Bartels (p. 289) states $5,686,024$ copies of these 1886 varieties were delivered, but it is impossible today to estimate how many of each type were made. However, the sheets with 83 perforations seem to be as common as the other three types combined, and the 33 perforations are apparently scarce, so divide the figure as you will.

Description
83 perfs, perfs cross 41 perfs, perfs cross 33 perfs, imperf corner 41 perfs, imperf corner

USPOD Issue Date ERP
August 18, 1886 September 4, 1886
Unknown April 22, 1891
Unknown
Unknown (see Figure \#1) November 19, 1886


Figure 1
Beginning in 1887, the separate printings were assigned "Series Numbers," ranging from 1 to 7, as presumably similar quantities were printed at ever expanding intervals, indicating a steadily decreasing public demand. According to Thorp-Bartels, the USPOD records state that the manufacture of Letter Sheets was discontinued in 1894 and that they were withdrawn from sale in 1902. This apparently means that in 1894 the decision was made not to print any more as the 1892 and earlier printings were exhausted, but that stock on hand was sold over the counter until 1902. Scott, on the other hand, states that the Letter Sheets were withdrawn on June 30, 1894. Perhaps someone with access to records unknown to me can reconcile these differing statements.

Be that as it may, by again ignoring gum difference and folding guide position, we have seven major varieties, all bearing Series Numbers, all with 41 perforations across the top all on paper watermarked "US", and all with USPOD recorded delivery dates (to the Agent for shipment, hence presumably a day or two earlier than any possible "First Day"). The USPOD letter cited
above, in Thorp-Bartels, states that a grand total of 8,652,092 Letter Sheets were issued. Deducting the $5,686,024$ unwatermarked sheets attributed to 1886, we have $2,966,068$ sheets issued from 1887 on, in seven "Series," or 423,724 for each series, if we assume that nearly equal quantities were printed each time. Probably 500,000 were ordered for each printing at first, with one or more of a lesser number toward the end as usage dwindled, but, again, feel free to divide up the recorded quantity as you will. I don't know all the answers; I'm just beginning to know the questions. Now let's see what earlier used copies are out there for the watermarked sheets:

## Description

Series 1
Series 2
Series 3
Series 4
Series 5
Series 6
Series 7

USPOD Issue Date
Jul. 6, 1887
Sep. 7, 1887 (approx.)
Mar. 28, 1888
Mar. 13, 1889
May 13, 1890
Jul. 23, 1891 (see figure 2)
Oct. 25, 1892

## ERP

Jun. 14, 1888
Jun. 8, 1888
Mar. 25, 1889
Jan. 19, 1891
Aug. 18, 1891
Oct. 27, 1891
Aug. 8, 1894


Figure 2

Please send earlier dates directly to the author, accompanied by an office machine photocopy, if possible. Postage and nominal copying cost will be reimbursed upon request. All contributions will be acknowledged in an update of this study unless anonymity is requested. I will be disappointed if all of these dates are not moved backwards by the end of this year. What ones can you report?

## CANADIAN POSTAL STATIONERY

By Earle Covert

## Watermarks on Victorian Postal Stationery Envelopes Of Canada

The Victorian envelopes of Canada were printed on different papers, both laid and wove, and with and without a watermark of the paper manufacturer, or user's name. These have been described in catalogues, but I have never seen them illustrated.

The 1860 Nesbitt envelopes were printed on a laid paper with batonne lines about 18 mm . apart with C a / P $O$ D watermark. (See figure 1.) The closely-spaced, parallel lines of alternating dark and light are the laid lines while the more widely-spaced, light lines at right angles to the laid lines are the chain, or batonne lines.


Figure 1

The essays of the five-cent envelope are on POD/US watermarked paper. (See figure 2.) George F. Nesbitt and Company of New York was producing the United States envelopes at the same time and used POD/US paper for the essays. The white spots in Figure 2 are from thins where thick gum adhered to the front.


Figure 2

The 1877 issue was printed on laid paper with batonne lines 18 mm . apart, usually without a maker's or user's watermark. (See figure 3.) However, in 1887, the same envelopes were printed using laid paper with batonne lines varying from 24 to 27 mm . apart. (See figure 4.) In Figure 4, the lighter cross is due to the effect of the chemical in the gum on the back of the envelope migrating to the front over the last 90 years.


Figure 3
Two watermarked varieties are known: - the CPCo. and Old/Berkshire/ Mills/1881. The CPCo (not shown) could possibly stand for Canadian Paper Company. Additional information is needed. Old/Berkshire/Mills/1881 (see figure 5), which is obviously a manufacturer's mark, is on laid paper with batonne lines 24 mm . apart. This watermark has been found on both the onecent and the small three-cent envelopes. The one-cent and both sizes of the three-cent are known of wove paper, as are all the later Victorian issues. (See figure 6.)

With the exception of the Old/Berkshire/Mills/1881/ all the watermarks were obtained from mint envelopes not soaked or cut open. The exception had been soaked open years ago.


Figure 4


Figure 5


Figure 6
The watermarks were obtained by making contact prints in the usual manner from negatives obtained on X-ray film. The method of producing these x-ray negatives is as follows: - DUPONT CRONEX 4 film was cut to size in the dark room as was a cardboard backing. The film and cardboard were slipped into the envelope, or against the opened envelope, with the film against the watermark to be copied. The watermark, film and cardboard backer were placed in a cassette with a DUPONT HIGH PLUS SCREEN with the film against the screen of the cassette, which was then closed.

The cassette was exposed at a maximum of 25 MA at 1 sec . at 70 KV to a minimum of 100 MA at $1 / 10 \mathrm{sec}$. at 42 KV and developed in a PAKO 14 X processor.

Variations in exposure are needed to produce an acceptable negative depending on the thickness of the paper. This method has also been used to study watermarks on the aerogrammes and special order envelopes. Its biggest value appears to be obtaining illustrations without damaging the envelopes in any way.

The only other "watermark" on Victorian postal stationery is found more commonly on postal bands but may rarely be found on an envelope. It is a "stitch" watermark about 1 cm . long running perpendicularly across a long line. This represents the mark in the wet paper from a sewn joint on the base, or screen, the paper is made on.

My thanks to Mr. Ken Crippen, Registered X-ray technologist and Mr. Henry Douglas, Norseman Photography for their help and patience.

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## U.S. POSTAL CARDS

By Bill Falberg

In the May-June, 1978, issue of Postal Stationery I reasoned that the National Bank Note Co. could not have retained the first issue master die and transfer roll because the Post Office's past practices and contemporary statements indicated that it would never allow the engravings of a U.S. security to be under the exclusive control of a private company. As it turns out, I had the right general idea but the wrong specific answer.

The agreement between Third Assistant Postmaster General W.H.H. Terrell and National Bank Note Co. Secretary James Macdonough on the disposition of the first issue master die is contained in a September 3, 1872, New Yゆrk Journal of Commerce article. Since the Post Office doesn't usually detail for the press their agreements with the bank note companies for U.S. securities, I think it's worth reviewing the circumstances that prompted this unique action.

On August 23, eleven days prior to the Journal article, the Department's postal card program had been halted by Attorney General George H. Williams. It was Williams' opinion that while Congress had authorized the Department to furnish postal cards, the fact that they failed to provide any appropriations for that purpose made it illegal for the Department to incur any indebtedness for postal cards. Now the program would have to be postponed until the necessary funds $(\$ 167,000)$ could be appropriated. This would result in at least a three-month delay as Congress was in recess and would not convene in its third session until December 2, 1872.

When the program was halted, the National Bank Note Co. had just finished the master die and was preparing to print the bidder samples the Department had requested. Although the Department could not advertise for bids to furnish postal cards, General Terrell asked Macdonough to proceed with the 500 bidder samples and the 72 subject plates.

It didn't take long for the Department's political opponents to take advantage of the postal card delay caused by the lack of appropriations. Two days after Williams' opinion, the first of several articles appeared in the New York Tribune.

It appears we are not to have our postal cards this season. The process by which the Post-Office Department was preparing to launch them was, as usual, tainted by a real or apparent fraud. Business jealousies and rivalries succeeded in preventing the consummation of the plan, and at the last moment the Attorney-General decided that the action of Mr. Creswell was unauthorized. These things are growing an old story.

The next day's Tribune article was much worse.
The opinion of Attorney-General Williams on Saturday, in which he decided that the Postmaster-General had no authority under the new postal code to contract for postal cards, there being no specific appropriation made for that purpose, and he having no warrant for using other appropriations therefor, was brought about, it is said by a quarrel among certain engraving companies, which allege that the whole postal card business was a job to be put into the hands of the National Bank Note Company. It is known that the samplecard which was adopted by the Department was got up by the National Bank Note Company of New York, and that the Department was in the act of issuing an advertisement asking for bids for furnishing the card like the sample, to be opened in a time so short that no company could prepare a sample to accompany its bid. Thus it is claimed the National Bank Note Company being the only one to furnish a sample, the contract would be awarded to it. The competing companies being assured of this sought measures to kill the whole business, proper competition not being allowed, and secured legal assistance in the matter. That assistance was to the effect that the Post-Office Department had no power to get up the cards without an appropriation, and the Department being so informed asked an opinion of the Attorney-General, who decided as above stated. Postal cards will not, therefore, be issued until an appropriation is made for them by Congress at its next session. It was not intended to pass the postal bill without the appropriation, but in the desire of the administration party to pass the Ku-Klux and enforcement bills, that and other laws were passed in a hurry, without sufficient consideration.

These articles must have stung James Macdonough, as I am sure that the respected and dignified National Bank Note Co. didn't like being caught in political cross fire. Macdonough thought that the articles were "calculated to have an injurious effect, politically and morally." After the second Tribune article he wrote to General Terrell, "Would it not be advisable for the Department to furnish the papers a history of the 'postal card' down to date?"' There was good reason to be concerned because the accusations in the Tribune were serious and could result in a congressional investigation if they could not be effectively contradicted. (The Department would not be successful in this as an investigation into its postal card and stamp activities would be initiated by Congress when it convened in December.)

Apparently General Terrell thought that Macdonough's suggestion had some merit because a week later he authorized an interview with a correspondent from the Journal, the Journal being more favorably inclined toward the Department than the Tribune was. The purpose of the interview was to defend the Department's actions with respect to the lack of appropriations
and its relationship with the National Bank Note Co. General Terrell's interview is remarkable for its candid insight into the negotiations between the Department and the bank note companies. The first half of the interview which deals with General Terrell's explanation of how the Department expected to issue postal cards without an appropriation has been skipped and only the last half which deals with the National Bank Note Co. is given. The boldface type in the following quoted text is by the author for emphasis.

It was charged by some that General Terrell, Third Assistant Post-master-General, showed favoritism in the preparation of the design. Your correspondent has had a long talk with General Terrell on this subject. He says the charge is untrue and unfair. His first aim in getting them out was to fix upon the kind of card and style of printing. A large number of samples was presented by bank note engraving companies, and by lithographers and printers. All sorts of devices, some of them patented, were presented for adoption. After all were examined, and none approved, the Postmaster-General and General Terrell determined to suggest a design, and let one of the bank-note companies make a plate for the use of and to be owned by the Department. The bank-note companies at first refused to permit the plates to go out of their possession, as it was their inviolable rule to keep them locked up as a safeguard for security to the public. But the American Bank Note Company finally offered to make a special arrangement in this case, provided the PostmasterGeneral would allow the name of the company on the plate. This General Terrell refused.

The National Bank Note Company make the United States postagestamps, and General Terrell advised with Mr. Macdonough about the design. He did not want to do the work, but finally agreed, on a special arrangement, to furnish the plates desired. The agreement was that the National Bank Note Company should make a die to suit the Department, and, after it was approved, they were to make plates for surface printing, of the hardest material used in making them. Then the dies were to be destroyed and the plates given to the Department. These plates, once prepared, could be used in any printing-office.

General Terrell says there is no profit to any one in making the plates. He deems it a favor to the Department. They would not cost, he says, over $\$ 1,000$, and the Department would pay for them. Having secured the plates, he proposed to advertise for thirty days for proposals to print the cards, and anybody could see the plates and put in their bids to do the printing. The lowest bidder, if his bonds were satisfactory, would get the contract. The plates are finished, but nothing further will be done till next winter, after Congress has made an appropriation. This will no doubt be done promptly, soon after the meeting of Congress.

Thus General Terrell's agreement (probably verbal) with the National Bank Note Co. was the same as the Department's compromise with Rawdon, Wright, Hatch \& Edson over the engravings for the first (1847) issue postage stamps. From the Department's point of view destroying the master die must have been a compromise solution. Why the Department was forced to accept a compromise is not known; however, one of the major factors, if not the only one, must have been the fact that the Department probably could not have found an engraving company that would have complied entirely with its wishes. Postal cards were different than stamps, where the contractor did both the engraving and printing, in that the Department intended to issue separate contracts for the printing and engraving services. However, this was easier said than done as the engraving companies did not like to produce engravings for others (i.e., the Post Office Department) unless there was a profitable printing contract involved. Since none of the engraving companies were interested in just the engraving contract, the Department was not in a strong position to change to another engraving company.

General Terrell was replaced as the Third Assistant Postmaster General by his Chief Clerk, E.W. Barber, just two months before the postal card he worked so hard to create was issued. I can't help but wonder if the congressional investigation into the Department's handling of the postal card program and its relationship with the National Bank Note Co. was the cause or one of the causes of General Terrell being replaced. (The Department was also under investigation for the 1870 postage stamp designs issued under the 1869 stamp contract with the National Bank Note Co.)

## What's Next

The next article recommends that since we have an iconography, let's use it!

Reference:
House of Representatives Report No. 113, "Postal Cards and Stamps - Letter from the Postmaster General," Forty-second Congress, 3rd Session, pages 28-30.

## THIRD ISSUE OF ECHO CARDS FOR PREFECTURES

By Theodore W. Bozarth<br>RFD 2, Box 168<br>Titusville, NJ 08560

When we first listed the Japanese advertising cards in the SeptemberOctober and November-December, 1981 issues of this publication, we followed the Japanese custom of listing the Prefectures (political regions) from North to South, as reported by Mr. Imaizumi. This presented no great problem to
readers unfamiliar with the political geography of Japan as long as the lists were short, but with 49 advertising designs issued on February 1st, and another 50 forecast for March 1st, we believe that it is now time to arrange the Prefectures in alphabetical order. Note also that, for the first time, ECHO cards (as they have been named by the Japanese Postal Service) have been issued jointly for some of the smaller prefectures. All the cards listed below were issued on February 1, 1982:

## Prefecture \& \#

Aichi 3
Akita 5
Aomori 1
Chiba 1
Ehime 3
Fukui 1
Fukuoka 1
Fukushima 1
Giful
Gummal
Hiroshima 4

Hokkaido 4
Hyogo 1
Ibaragi 1
Ishikawa 3
Iwate 1
Kagawa 1
Kagoshima 1
Kanagawa 3
Kanagawa 4
Kochi 1
Kochi 2
Kumamoto 3
Kyoto 1
Kyoto 2
Mie 1
Miyagi 3
Miyazaki 1
Nagano 4
Nagasaki 1
Nara 1
Niigata 1
Oita 1
Okayama 1
Okinawa 3
Osaka 5
Saga 1
Saitama 1
Shiga 1
Advertiser
Kotobuki Chemical
Akita Sake
Kokusai Hotel
Chiba Nissan Co.
Matsuyama Co.
Iarumaya Dept. Store
Tokusui Sea Food Co.
Hotel Juraku
Nitto Arare Co.
Takasaki Fairy Land
Hotel New Hiroden

Rikkatei Confection
Nada \& Kobe Life Co-op
Ibaraki Milk Ass'n.
Daiwa House Co.
Morioka Terminal Hotel
Uno Ferry Co.
Honbo Sake
Food Division of Agriculture Dept.
Bunka Radio Studio
Tsukasa Botan Brew.
Himawari Milk Co.
Kotobukiya Super Market
Tawaraya Confectionery
Tsuruya Confectionery
Akatsuka Gardens
Kakitoku Oyster Co.
Nozaki Pickle Co.
Shiga Heights Tourist Ass'n.
Yatoro Inn
Yamato Farm
Japan Telegram \&
Telephone Co.
Yamauchi Food Co.
Kimuraya Bread Shop
Yamashiro Watch Shop
Yomiuri Press
Sun Seafood Co.
Saitama Nissan Co.
Asahi Do-It-Yourself Shop

| Design | Quantity (in millions) |
| :---: | :---: |
| Clean water \& leaves | . 3 |
| Girl in snow scene | . 1 |
| View of hotel \& flying cranes | . 1 |
| Flowers change to birds | . 2 |
| View of hotel \& red "A" | . 1 |
| Stylized wave in blue \& green | . 1 |
| Fishing boat | . 1 |
| Staff in red uniforms | . 1 |
| Rice cakes \& plum blossoms | . 1 |
| Roller coaster \& Kannon | . 1 |
| Gate and pine tree at shrine | . 1 |
| (Similar to Hiroshima 3, with |  |
| additional text at lower right.) |  |
| Bar of white chocolate | . 1 |
| "Each for All, All for Each" | . 33 |
| Cow in "Milk Village" label | . 1 |
| Model of pre-fabricated house | ? |
| New Bullet Train \& hotel | . 1 |
| Ferry boat in channel \& girl | . 1 |
| Smoking volcano near water | . 1 |
| Seven rice patties on plate | . 2 |
| "We Love Radio" | . 2 |
| Peony (Botan) | . 1 |
| Dairy farm | . 1 |
| Kumamoto Castle | . 1 |
| (Same as Kumamoto 1) |  |
| Traditional dragon design | . 2 |
| Traditional tea ceremony | . 2 |
| Commercial hot house | . 12 |
| Oyster pack and stylized waves | . 1 |
| Radishes drying on stack | . 1 |
| Rural sports, "Shiga Kogen" | . 1 |
| Hotel on hill overlooking bay | . 1 |
| Child on the Milky Way | . 1 |
| Baby with push-button phone | . 1 |
| (Same as Nagano 3) |  |
| Old ship in bay, plus head in relief | . 1 |
| Seeded loaf of bread | . 12 |
| Omega watch, "Swiss made" | . 1 |
| Rainbow | . 45 |
| Ship on a golden sea | . 1 |
| Multicolored butterflies | . 2 |
| Animals building a log house | . 1 |


| Shimane | (See Tottori and Yamaguchi listings.) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Shizuoka 1 | Kikugawa Tea Ass'n. | Wood-cut of tea field \& Mt. Fuji | . 1 |
| Tochigi 1 | Kanuma Country Club | Azaleas, "72" in large red letters | . 1 |
| Tokushima 1 | Marushin Dept. Store | View of department store | . 1 |
| Tokyo 3 | Fuji TV Station | Family in gondola of blimp | 1.0 |
| Tottori \& Shimane 1 | Nammoku Milling Co. | Sack of flour \& leaf origami | .1 |
| Toyama 1 | Sankyo Aluminum Co. | Drawing of city of the future | ? |
| Wakayama 1 | Six Co. Sake Ass'n. | Six sake cans | . 12 |
| Yamagata 1 | Kamiyama City | Memorial Hall \& monument | . 1 |
| Yamaguchi \& Shimane 1 | Utsumi-ya Stock Brokers | Birds and nest <br> (Same as Hiroshima 1) | . 16 |
| Yamanashi 1 | Yamanashi Meijo Brew. | Name in brush calligraphy on | . 1 |

Figure 1


For the first time, designs are reprinted, including the popular Baby Picture of the Telephone Company (see Figure 1). Since collectors are apparently absorbing large quantities of these advertisements, perhaps the advertisers feel that this is the only way they will ever get their message to the public intended.

## PENALTY OVERPRINTED ENVELOPES

By Leroy L. Ross<br>P. O. Box 91<br>Joplin, MO 64801

Back in 1975, in the January-February and May-June issues of Postal Stationery, I presented the first and second installments of a three-part article on the above subject. Illness then intervened and the last part had to be delayed. In the meantime, we have had some new items reported and we have one correction to make in the second installment of our article. Following those items, we will present the last part of our three-part article and also a check list of press-printed corner cards and a listing of rubber handstamped corner cards.

## A Correction

On page 137 of the May-June, 1975 issue of Postal Stationery, I listed a corner card as variety 32 which is, in reality, a duplicate of variety 6 on page 135. The corner card shown in figure 1 is the "real" variety 32.

> POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT Post Office, Washington 13, D. C. Official Business

Figure 1

## New Additions

The following additions have been reported, five of which are being added to the listings of known items and two that are being "provisionally" added:

Variety 37(1) has four dashes instead of a solid line above "OFFICIAL BUSINESS" and is a different press setting. (See figure 2.) Although this is a minor variety, it is of interest in the series of corner card varieties.

Variety 42 d had a printing of 10,000 in March, 1946. The instruction "RUSH - SPECIAL DELIVERY" is printed in red. A rubber handstamp "PENTAGON BRANCH" has been applied over the printed corner card. (See figure 3.)

Variety 42e had a printing of 20,000 in December, 1950. The term "PENTAGON BRANCH" was applied by rubber handstamp over the printed corner card. (See figure 4.)

Figure 2

## Zlat Offire Zppartment WASHINGTON 25. D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

# RUSH -. SPECIAL DELIVERY AUDITOR, <br> CITY POST OFFICE, <br> WASHINGTON 13, D. C. 

Figure 3

POST OFFICE DEPABATMENT

## INQUIRY SECTION.

## CITY POST OFFICE.

Figure 4
Variety 44a has the instruction "COLLECT $\qquad$ POSTAGE / ON DELIVERY" printed in the lower left hand corner of the envelope. (See figure 5.)

Variety 46 is a new discovery and believed to be the last of the printed corner cards from the Post Office Department in Washington, D.C. (See figure 6.)

Figure 5
Hinted Bates Joust (Office washington 13. D. C. official business

Q.S.T.

Hic) Titantranp
"O IA

## collect

postage
(0) 13:IISERT

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
F 0 WASNNGTON 13. D.C.
O\% -AL Busmen

Figure 6


A provisional overprint from Ketchikan, Alaska is of interest and has been assigned the indication "Type 1-Pro." (See figure 7.) The seven wavy lines of a canceling machine was used to "devalue" the embossed stamp. The inscription "IMPORTANT OFFICIAL MAIL / NO POSTAGE REQUIRED / (See Par. 3, Sec. 511, P.L.\&R.)" was stamped by a rubber handstamp in "Post Office Purple" to the top and left of the embossed stamp. This is the first provisional type of overprint known to the writer and is on Thorp No. 3652, Wmk. 42. Can anyone show me this "overprint" on any other envelope?

Another discovery is a "local" press printed Type XI overprint as shown in figure 8 on Thorp No. 3682, Wmk. 44. The overprint must have been applied in Detroit, Michigan based on the return address. The corner card, "UNITED STATES POST OFFICE," with a solid line underneath, would indicate that this penalty overprinted envelope would have been sent to various post offices. Only a mint copy of the envelope has been seen by the writer. A report of used envelopes would be appreciated to establish range of use.


UNITED ETATES POST OFFICE


## P. O. B0X 10 <br> DETROIT 31, michigan

Figure 8

## Type XI Penalty Overprints on Regular Stamped Envelopes

A new type of penalty overprint on embossed stamped envelopes was applied in New York, New York, San Francisco, California and Seattle, Washington during the last half of 1942 as illustrated in figure 9. This new overprint replaced the press-printed overprint that had been in use in Washington, D. C. since they began overprinting the Postal Savings Envelopes in 1914. The penalty overprint was applied over the embossed stamp by regular canceling machine equipped with a special die hub in much the same manner as a slogan cancel is used, although without the circular dial.

Figure 9
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $\$ 300$ OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Following is a listing of the denominations, sizes, paper and quantities with the Type XI overprint from the three cities to give an idea of what was placed into stock as penalty envelopes. ${ }^{1}$

| City | Denomination \& Type | Size | Style | Quality | Quantities |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| New York | 1t Regular | \#5 | Plain Front | Standard | 7,422 |
| New York | 1e Regular | \#5 | Window Front | Standard | 500 |
| New York | 1e Regular | \#13 | Plain Front | Standard | 14,497 |
| New York | 11/2¢ Regular | \#5 | Window Front | Standard | 1,007,500 |
| New York | 11/2e Regular | \#8 | Plain Front | Standard | 30,500 |
| New York | 11/2e Regular | \#8 | Window Front | Standard | 475 |
| New York | 2¢ Regular | \#5 | Plain Front | Standard | 900,000 |
| New York | 2e Regular | \#5 | Plain Front | Extra | 2,368,834 |
| New York | 2¢ Regular | \#5 | Window Front | Standard | 132,500 |
| New York | 2¢ Regular | \#6 | Window Front | Standard | 296,936 |
| New York | $2 \epsilon$ Regular | \#7 | Plain Front | Standard | 213,446 |
| New York | $2 \epsilon$ Regular | *7 | Plain Front | Extra | 3,714,462 |
| New York | $2 ¢$ Regular | \#71/2 | Plain Front | Standard | 5,316,235 |
| New York | $2 \epsilon$ Regular | \#71/2 | Plain Front | Extra | 2,125,500 |
| New York | 2e Regular | \#8 | Plain Front | Standard | 145,000 |
| New York | 2¢ Regular | \#8 | Plain Front | Extra | 164,202 |
| New York | 2¢ Regular | \#8 | Window Front | Standard | 102,500 |
| New York | 2t Regular | \#9 | Plain Front | Standard | 2,727,579 |
| New York | 2¢ Regular | \#9 | Plain Front | Extra | 4,587,339 |
| New York | 2e Regular | \#13 | Plain Front | Standard | 1,156,000 |
| New York | $2 ¢$ Regular | \#13 | Plain Front | Extra | 2,472,815 |
| New York | 2¢ Regular | \#13 | Window Front | Standard | 124,994 |
| New York | 3e Regular | \#5 | Window Front | Standard | 886,454 |
| New York | 4) Regular | \#7 | Plain Front | Extra | 4,975 |
| New York | 4¢ Regular | \#8 | Plain Front | Extra | 6,000 |
| New York | 4¢ Regular | \#9 | Plain Front | Extra | 3,950 |
| New York | 4e Bicentennial | \#8 | Plain Front | Extra | 2,747,500 |
| New York | 5¢ Regular | \#5 | Plain Front | Extra | 6,243 |
| New York | 5e Regular | \#8 | Plain Front | Extra | 3,375 |
| New York | 5e Bicentennial | \#8 | Plain Front | Extra | 1,368,213 |
| New York | 6\% Regular | \#7 | Plain Front | Extra | 786,958 |
| New York | 6¢ Regular | \#8 | Plain Front | Extra | 225 |
| New York | 6e Regular | \#9 | Plain Front | Extra | 1,000 |
| (New | York did not list the col | of pap | $r$ of envelopes o | rprinted.) |  |
| San Francisco | 11/2¢ Regular (blue) | \#8 | Plain Front | Standard | 249,328 |
| San Francisco | 2\& Regular (white) | \# $71 / 2$ | Plain Front | Standard | 206,046 |
| San Francisco | $2 ¢$ Regular (white) | \#71/2 | Plain Front | Extra | 549,576 |
| San Francisco | $2 ¢$ Regular (blue) | \#8 | Plain Front | Standard | 32 |
| Seattle | 2\& Regular (white) | \#9 | Plain Front | Standard | 157,500 |

This overprinting by the three cities is the only definite record known of which envelopes, along with their quantities, were overprinted at any time. This procedure opened up a new method of distribution for the penalty envelopes. The overprinted envelopes were sent to the Equipment and Supply Branch for distribution to various post offices in place of the official kraft envelopes that were normally used.

[^0]Type XI die hubs were then sent to regional post offices to overprint embossed stamped envelopes that were no longer saleable due to changes in postal rates, etc. Nearby post offices could send in their surplus envelopes and have them overprinted and returned to them by franked mail.

There are eight different dies of Type XI, numbered "a" through "h." These are shown as figures 10a through 10h. Minneapolis, Minnesota left the circular dial in the machine when they applied the penalty overprint and this gives us a clear picture of how the canceling machine was utilized to apply the overprint. (See figure 11.)

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $\$ 300$ OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Figure 10a: Type XIa


Figure 10b: Type XIb

| POST OFFICE DEPARTNENT |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| 工ENINTY-FGR PRIVATE USE TOAVCODF |  |
| Yiñ:NT OF | STAGE. |
| OFFICIAL | BUSINESS |

Figure 10c: Type XIc
POST OFFICE DEPARTME PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOILU:

PAYMENT OF POSTAGE. $\$ 3 C 0$
OFFICIAL EUSINESS
Figure 10d: Type XId


Figure 10e: Type Xle


Figure 10f: Type XIf


Figure 10g: Type XIg


Figure 10h: Type XIh

Figure 11



Figure 12


Figure 13

POST OFFICE OEPARTMENT
POST CFFICE, MILWAUKEE 2, WIS.
Inquiry Section
orficial musiness


QRSQEHRY SECTION,

Figure 14

PATRONS RELATIONS EEPARTMENT INITED STATES POST OFFICE NE JARK 2, NEV JERSEY

MAIL EARLY \& OFTEN LETTERS MAILED BY NOON MAY SAVE A DAY IN DELIVERY


| NATICNWIDE | P |
| :---: | :---: |
| IMPROVED | 0 |
| M A 11 | $R$ |
| SEkVICE | A $M$ |



Nexemere whtren © 425 finkughtuges one mement $14, x \mathcal{F}$


Figure 15

Figure 16a


Figure 16b HMPOPTANT CFFICIAL MAII. * 110 POSTAGE REQUIRED (Sea par. 3, sec: 511. P. Li \& R


Figure 16d


Figure 16e

Within a year or so these overprinted envelopes began to appear with a press-printed corner card of the Post Office Department in Washington, D. C. (See figure 12.) Rubber handstamp corner cards also made their appearance being used from the Post Office Department in Washington, D.C. These are illustrated as figure 13. Several cities press-printed a corner card on the overprinted penalty envelopes, which seems to defeat the economy of the original intent. (See figure 14.) Mimeographed corner cards and other information began to appear which also involved unwarranted time and labor. (See figure 15.) Most post offices used rubber handstamps to apply the return address of the mailing post office. Various rubber handstamps on the envelopes add interest to this penalty overprinted envelope and they are not common. Some of these are illustrated as figures 16a through 16e. Not illustrated is a rubber handstamp addition under the penalty box of "P.M.G.C" by the Postmaster at Plant City, Florida. This was not necessary as the initials would indicate printing done under contract with the Postmaster General. A press-printed overprint similar to Type XI was used at Detroit, Michigan and is the only known instance of such a "local" overprint. The corner card would indicate that it might have been shipped to other post offices but the writer has not seen a used copy. (See figure 17 for corner card, and see figure 8 for entire.)


Figure 18
Since the Type XI overprint appeared in the latter part of 1942, it covered the years of World War II and had a world-wide use as these envelopes were shipped to Army Post Offices, Navy ships and shore stations.

Just to mention a few of the far-flung places where the overprinted envelopes were used, we offer the following: Marine Barracks, New River, NC; Travis Air Force Base, CA; USS Fulton; APOs from 7BPO (APO 503) Yokohama, Japan; APO 29 in Munich, Germany; APO 502 in Noumea, New Caledonia and many others. (See figure 18.)

Following are the listings of press-printed corner cards and rubber handstamped corner cards known on penalty overprint types XI at this time. The author would appreciate receiving reports of any new discoveries on any phase of penalty overprints at the above address.

## Chest List Of Press-Printed Corner Cards

| Penalty <br> Type | Corner Card <br> Variety | Thorp <br> No. | Wmk. <br> No. | Penalty <br> Type | Corner Card <br> Variety | Thorp <br> No. | Wmk. <br> No. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a | 33 | 2718 | 29 | b | 36 | 3635 | 29 |
| a | 36 | 3635 | 29 | b | 37 | 2636 | 28 |
| a | 37 | 2636 | 27 | b | 37 | 2915 | 36 |
| a | 37 | 2636 | 28 | b | 37 | 3635 | 29 |
| a | 37 | 2726 | 29 | b | 42 | 2862 | 29 |
| a | 37 | 2727 | 33 | b | 42 | 3633 | 29 |
| a | 37 | 2727 | 36 | b | 42 d | 2724 | 38 |
| a | 37 | 2869 | 29 | b | 44 a | 3652 | 42 |
| a | 37 | 2870 | 29 | b | 44 a | 3661 | 42 |
| a | 37 | 3166 | 29 | b | 45 | 3652 | 42 |
| a | 37 | 3635 | 29 | b | 45 | 3661 | 42 |
| a | $37(1)$ | 2724 | 38 | c | 39 | 2626 | 41 |
| a | 39 | 2627 | 40 | c | 42 | 2627 | 40 |
| a | 40 | 2732 | 39 | c | 42 a | 2626 | 41 |
| a | 42 | 2732 | 30 | c | 42 a | 2626 | 41 |
| a | 42 | 2732 | 39 | c | 42 e | 2626 | 41 |
| a | 42 | 2820 | 38 | c | 46 | 2614 | 41 |
| a | 42 | 2913 | 39 | d | 40 | 2901 | 39 |
| a | 42 | 3134 | 29 |  | 42 c | 2862 | 29 |
| a | 42 | 3166 | 29 |  |  |  |  |
| a | 43 | 2732 | 30 |  |  |  |  |
| a | 45 | 2532 | 41 |  |  |  |  |
| a | 45 | 2563 | 39 |  |  |  |  |

Chest List of Rubber Handstamp Corner Cards

| Penalty <br> Type | Corner Card <br> Variety | Thorp <br> No. | Wmk. <br> No. | Penalty <br> Type | Corner Card <br> Variety | Thorp <br> No. | Wmk. <br> No. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a | 4 | 2724 | 38 | b | 4 | 3635 | 29 |
| a | 4 | 2726 | 29 | b | 5 | 3635 | 29 |
| a | 4 | 2727 | 33 |  |  | 6 | 2636 |
| a | 4 | 2870 | 29 |  |  |  |  |
| a | 4 | 3635 | 29 |  |  |  |  |
| a | 5 | 2727 | 36 |  |  |  |  |
| a | 5 | 3635 | 29 |  |  |  |  |

## MORE ON THAT "AROUND THE WORLD POSTAL CARD"

By Herman Herst, Jr. Box 1583<br>Boca Raton, FL 33432

May I suggest that the card accompanying the article by Harold M. Stral in the July-August, 1981 issue of Postal Stationery, pages $120-121$, is of philatelic origin, and that it really was not chasing the addressee around the world?

Towards the close of the last century, "round the world" cards were a philatelic fad. Stamp clubs had competitions, giving prizes for the card that was returned to the sender in the quickest time. Postcards were even issued with blank lines on them for one address to be crossed out and another added.

The writer has been collecting these for about a quarter-century and, in that time, has picked up fifteen or twenty of them. There was, of course, no air mail at the time. It was necessary to arrange with co-operative philatelists at each stage of the game to arrange to forward the card when it arrived. The risk was that a card might be forwarded back to the sender on the route it traveled, thus resulting in a card that went halfway around the world twice. However, by having it stop at least twice on its trip, and sometimes three times, this risk could be obviated.

In the 1950's, the writer, in his house organ, Herst's Outbursts, had a similar contest. The requirement was that at no point in the trip around the world would air mail be used. Unfortunately, some post offices sent the letter on by air, even though air mail postage was not paid, and, of course, these letters were eliminated. The winner was Mrs. Dorrice Morrow of Pennsylvania, who sent more than a dozen covers by various routes on their merry way. Almost all of them made the trip. Last year, Mrs. Morrow read in one of my columns that I was making a collection of these covers, so she sent the entire lot of them to me, greatly enriching my collection.

## AND STILL MORE ON UPSS S30a

By Henry W. Beecher<br>P. O. Box 1377<br>Ashland, OR 97520

Judging just from the facts presented by Bill Falberg (Postal Stationery, Whole No. 198, September-October, 1979, pages $156-158$ ) and Clark H. Stevens (Postal Stationery, Whole No. 211, November-December, 1981, page $\mathbf{1 7 3}$ ), I think there probably is a distinguishable variety of the blue McKinley
deserving of listing as UPSS S30a, but not with the current description, "On thin stock ( $.008^{\prime \prime}$ )." Describing it so a catalog user can reliably identify it may call for some ingenuity. But even failure to achieve such a description need not bar listing; after all, how reliably can the average collector identify the printers of "Bank Note" stamps on the basis of the Scott descriptions, "white wove paper, thin to thick" and "soft porous paper?"

The variety we aim to identify is a card which the POD would have redeemed from postmasters. Evidently the stock had insufficient sizing, so that lines of writing ink on it would spread, somewhat as on blotting paper. (But we might not wish to use the test recommended by the Third Assistant Postmaster General on cards now in collections!) Probably, becuase it was more limp, the poorly-sized stock would give the impression of being thinner. Perhaps it was, on average, slightly thinner than the acceptable stock. It is unfortunate that Bill Falberg did not note how cards which might be characterized as flimsy, porous, or with "spread" writing ink lines, were distributed among the thickness ranges. Incidentally, it would seem reasonable, if there were times when not enough acceptable paper was available to meet the demand, to have issued the cards printed on inferior paper only in sheet form. They should accept printer's ink well, and that would be the chief ink used on them; many would not even be addressed with writing ink.

# MORE ON NONPROFIT PRESORT RATES 

By Henry W. Beecher<br>P. O. Box 1377<br>Ashland, OR 97520

It may seem ungracious of me to criticize an article by Theodore W. Bozarth ("Second 9\& Presorted Postal Card Reported," Postal Stationery, Whole No. 211, November-December, 1981, pages 179-181) after his kind characterization of me in it (not to mention greater favors), but he knows I am also an indefatigable nit-picker. He should not use "post card rate" in reference to the card shown as Figure 2; all cards with the size and some other characteristics of post cards are not post cards in mail classification. This was obviously a printed circular, sent as third-class matter, bulk-mailed by an authorized nonprofit organization. If mailed in September, 1978, the aggregate of 0.7 for each card in the mailing should have been paid by ordinary or meter stamps affixed to the Statement of Mailing. Postal Bulletin 21111 of May 5, 1977, authorized the use of $2 \&$ nonprofit envelopes and 2\& precanceled stamps until October 15, 1977. Thus there was no general authorization for this usage nearly a year later. It could be that authorization
was given for this specific case, or perhaps the accepting post office permitted it without higher approval. I have noticed many $2 \&$ precancels (usually the 1954 series coil) used in periods when they were not generally authorized.

Yes, it would have been legitimate to use a precanceled $2 \&$ postal card, with the "Non-Profit Org." legend added, at any time when a precanceled $2 \&$ adhesive was permitted on such bulk mail. But inasmuch as the only possible form of precancellation on a $2 t$ card would be a Mailer's Postmark, I think the odds are very great that no such usage ever occurred. Now, if someone has some surplus $4 \boldsymbol{f}$ and $5 \boldsymbol{p}$ postal cards (all issued precanceled), an authorized non-profit organization could make a mailing with the stamp on the card paying the exact rate: $4 \&$ for qualifying pieces presorted to carrier route, and $5 \%$ for those presorted as prescribed to 5 -digit ZIP destinations.

A final nit: "Single piece rate" should not be used as synonymous with "minimum-per-piece rate." To the Postal Service, the former term means the rate applying to pieces not mailed at a bulk rate. (There was a period during which there were both single-piece third-class and minimum-per-piece bulk third-class rates, in different amounts, peculiar to nonprofit organizations.

## TOO SHORT TO SAVE

By Hawkeye

## Leavitt Update

UPSS member, Joe McDonough, sends us a photocopy of the back of an envelope with a receiving mark from Ottawa, Canada that definitely establishes 1882 as the year that Leavitt cancel X-T was used in the Boston postoffice. (See figure 1.)


Figure 1

This is the sixth Leavitt X-T reported according to Machine Cancel Forum. On the other five covers it was assumed from the postal rate and the manuscript markings that the year was 1882, but this is the first cover with a year date postoffice marking.

The six covers reported are:
November 10 TRANSIT below the hour
November 11 TRANSIT below the hour
November 20 TRANSIT above the date
November 20 TRANSIT above the date
November 21 TRANSIT above the date
November 27 TRANSIT above the date


Figure 2
It appears that the TRANSIT below the hour was used early in the month and then switched about mid-month to above the date. (See figure 2.)

## Supplementary Mail Markings

UPSS member, Peter Fowke writes to say that in the November-December, 1980, issue of Postal Stationery, Bill Maisel's article on supplementary mail markings stated that " . . . the writer has seen the following envelopes ... with supplementary markings covering the period 1880 to 1898 and the types $F$ and G."
"I have in my collection of Columbians a further envelope to add to Bill's list - namely a U350 entire addressed to London, Engiand, and cancelled with a type F Supplementary Mail cancel with ' 1 ' in the duplex, and dated July 2, 1898. The cover also carries an additional 5c. adkesive (Scott 281) being the fee for this service."

## More on U. S. Army Post Office in India

According to Henry Beecher, the $6 ¢$ U. S. airmail envelope discussed by Dr. S. Chowdhury ("Asian Area," Postal Stationery, Whole No. 211, Novem-ber-December, 1981, pages 174-175) was used to pay the $5 ¢$ rate for the first
ounce on a surface letter from a U. S. post office to an Indian destination. As it was not used for airmail, technically the stamp was invalid, and postage due should have been collected at the Indian equivalent of 10 f . But, no doubt, such "fine print" rules were never heeded in such a time and place, even if known. The lieutenant censored his own mail, as he was undoubtedly authorized to do, as shown by his signature in the lower left corner. I do not know whether it was proper to show the location in the return address, but it might well have been.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Hobbies Magazine, February, 1943

