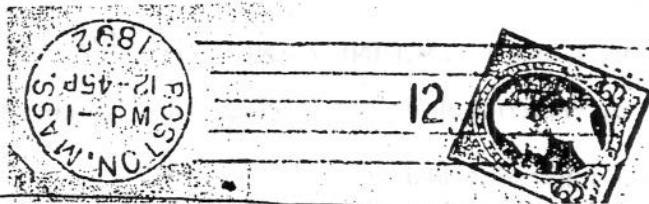


## A TWO-TIMING MACHINE MARK

by Frederick A. Brofos

"It can't happen?", an article by Ken Olson in FORUM No. 7, showed an interesting American Co. machine from Boston with inverted data head, a thing which supposedly couldn't happen on that type of machine. The date was October 15, 1892 and the machine number or letter was not distinguishable.

A similar mark in my collection shows more of a space between the circle and the bars. The machine number is "12" and besides the inverted data head it shows no day or month. Instead, two times are given, one right way up, the other upside down, namely 12-45P and 1-PM. Fortunately a back-stamp, as well as the dated letter itself, tells us that this intriguing error occurred on August 26, 1892.



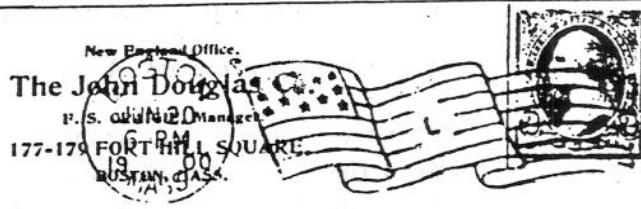
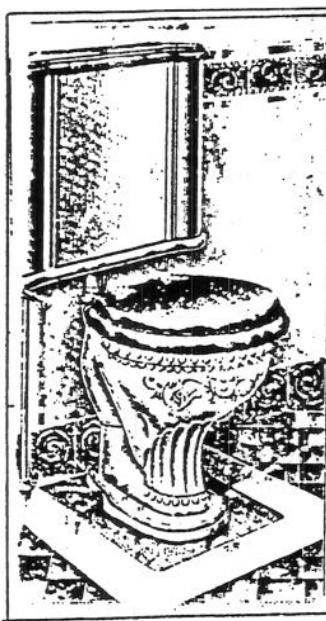
IT CAN'T HAPPEN?

by Frederick A. Brofos

It was supposed that the dials could not be inverted on the early American Co. machines, but *Forum* No. 7 and 8 show two examples from Boston, the one dated Oct. 15, 1892 (machine no. illegible), the other from Aug. 26, 1892 (machine no. 12). The latter one oddly enough carried two sets of time slugs, completely omitting the day and month. Now, a third one of these errors has turned up, also from Boston, but from two years previously, namely Nov. 5, 1890. It appears on a nice illustrated cover picturing a shotgun, pistol, billy club and handcuffs, one if not all of which items should have been used on the VANDAL who clipped off the worthless 1¢ stamp and with it the machine number!



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### A FANCY FLAG AND SEAT

by Frederick A. Brofos

Mr. W. R. S. Any involute flag on an illustrated advertising cover dresses up a collection or display very nicely, and this Boston die L cover from June, 1900, is a dandy. It shows, of all things, an elaborately decorated Victorian toilet. Why such a subject should be so prominently displayed in that staid age may be explained by the fact that flush toilets were rather a novelty in those days of outhouses and the like. Only the more affluent homes had an arrangement such as we nowadays consider indispensable.

See #28 p. 135  
#68 p. 821

### IS THIS AN EARLY MACHINE CANCEL ?

(Yes, and moreover) It is a Palmer & Clark

by Frederick A. Brofos in Black Lancer Forum, Apr. 1975 the first mention

of it.

Such a clear impression and yet rather awkward-shaped to be a hand-cancel. I suspect it may be an early unrecorded machine cancel, but of what make I don't yet know. Can anyone show other examples of its use? This one is from November 30, 1876, and is on a printed assessment card to a member of the D. C. Masonic Relief Association. Together with similar cards to the rest of the membership I imagine it would have formed a nice bundle of mail of equal size and thickness for a test run of a new machine at the Washington, D. C. post office.

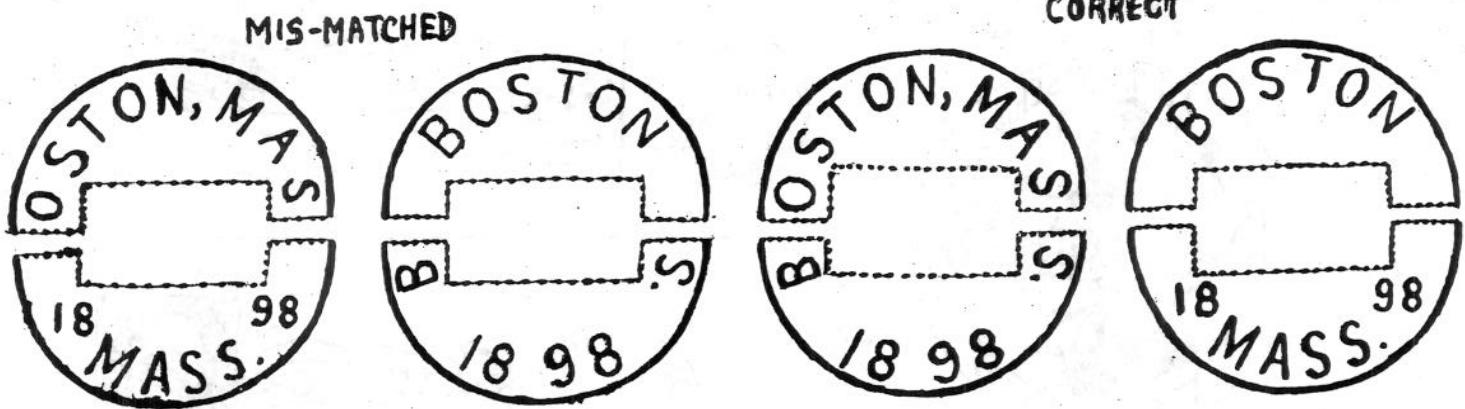


## THE BIZARRE BOSTON ERROR MACHINES

by Frederick Brofos

At the Boston main post office, during 1898, there occurred an almost unbelievable mix-up among the die parts on certain American Co. cancelling machines. This confusion produced a number of real gems for future collectors. In those days, the text dials were composed of two parts, which were sandwiched around the date in the center. Startling errors happened when a careless clerk joined together dials of two different designs. The result was a garbled text with the town name misspelled and the state abbreviation included twice (one misspelled) or almost left out entirely.

speculate that the "B&S" error, which appeared so briefly in May, was promptly noticed, thrown out or possibly repaired with a last replacement of that design. Later, when the "OSTON" error was seen, it couldn't be changed. Probably, tight appropriations allowed only for new dies at the end of the year, yet no machine could stand idle with the increasing volume of mail that poured in. The 1891 Postmaster General's Report includes an interesting picture (see also pg. 374, *MCF* #45) of the interior of the Boston post office. It clearly shows the rows of cancelling machines, which were probably arranged in numerical



For a long time, only the curious "OSTON,MAS MASS." error was known to collectors. One could imagine the opposite wrong part being used on another machine but, as no one had ever reported seeing a specimen in 78 years, its existence became doubtful. Then, after all those years, the honor fell upon me to suddenly find that missing link. This came about, when it was my good luck to uncover a store correspondence from the 1890's in a Vermont barn. Among the bundles of envelopes in the old wooden biscuit boxes I had hoped to find the well-known "Eagle and Thunderbolts" cancel. Instead, I was astonished to discover the unknown "B BOSTON S." error. It has been hailed as "one of the most remarkable and surprising discoveries" in the third edition of the *Standard Flag Cancel Encyclopedia*, by Frederick Langford. Ever since its discovery a few years ago, this rarity has remained unique, despite strenuous efforts by several experts to find another one. I have often reflected upon how easily it could have been destroyed, as many covers were, by rodents, rain, or simply vandals tearing off stamps.

Why one error was in use for a relatively long period is something of a mystery. One is tempted to

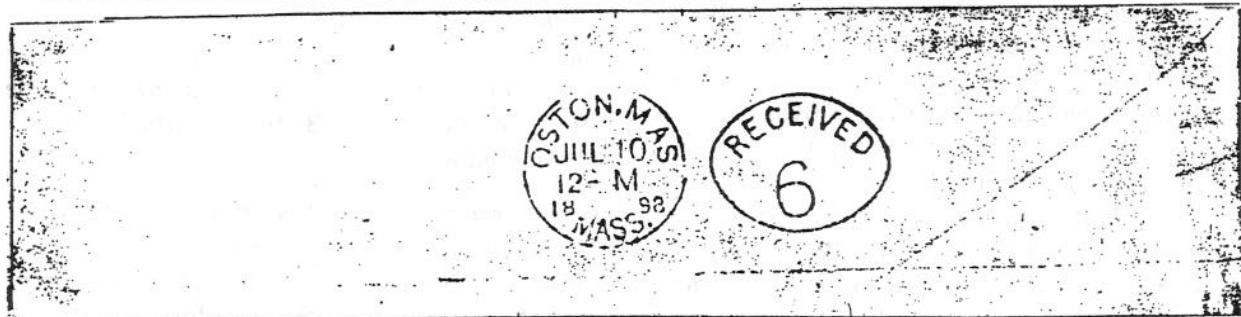
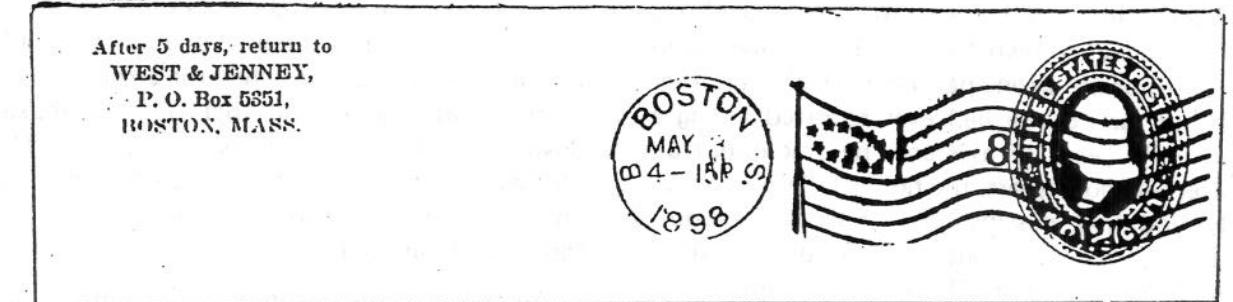
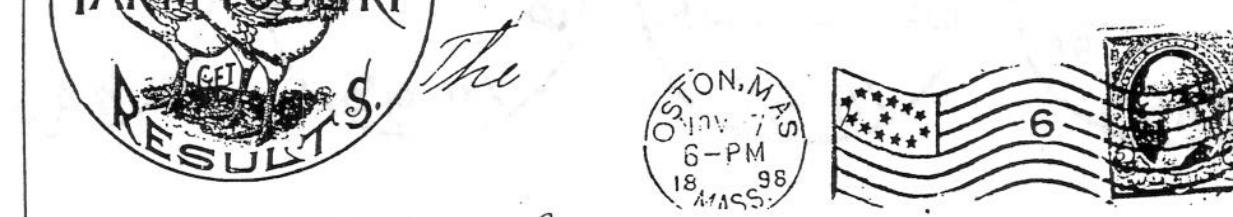
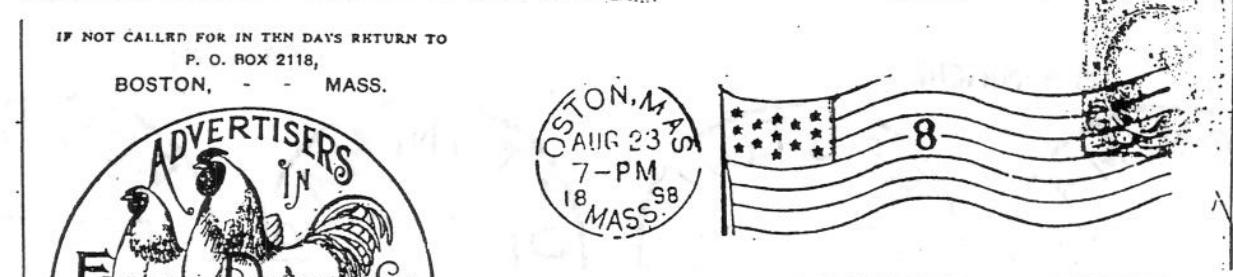
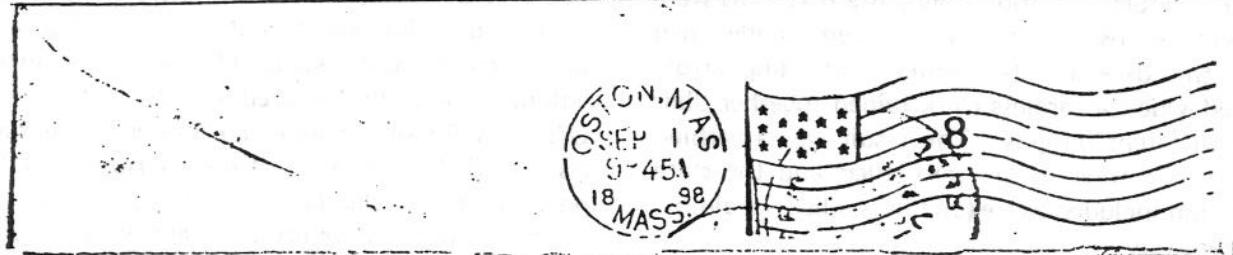
sequence. The mis-matching trouble occurred in the section of machines numbered 6 to 8. Could it be that a clerk secretly switched the error onto a nearby machine, as a joke, and that this was repeated on down the line? Be that as it may, the "OSTON" dial was used at various times on four different machines in the course of seven months until a correct replacement arrived early in December.

Among the accompanying illustrations (all complete covers) note the one which shows a nice combination of the latest known date of the "OSTON" error on flag die 8 (Sep 1 9-45A) together with Received die 6 (Aug 31 5-30P), which previously was combined with that error.

Although presumably not connected with the main Boston mix-up, mention should be made of another dial accident that occurred at a branch post office a couple of months before our story started. During a week in mid-February 1898, a machine with a flag inscribed "Dorchester Station" carried a dial which read "BOSTON,MASS MASS.". Now, for complete bliss, all I need is to get that one, plus the ovate flag 7 error and the Eagle & Thunderbolts, of course. I won't hold my breath though.

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 The following chart shows the chronological relationship of the errors as they appeared on the five machines.  
 BOSTON, MASS. oval rec'd. die 7 DATE 15 6:30A

Error	Type	Dates (1898)	Remarks
B BOSTON S.	Ovate flag, die 8	May 3 4-15P	Seen without error Apr. 28 12-45P
OSTON, MAS MASS.	Oval rec'd. die 6	May 11 - July 10	Probably used a bit longer
" " "	Ordin. flag, die 8	Aug. 20-Sep. 1	Latest error seen Sep. 1 9-45A
" " "	Ovate flag, die 7	Sep. 1 4-45P-SEP. 7 6P	
" " "	Ovate flag, die 6	Sep. 13-Nov. 29	Corrected dial seen Dec. 1 6PM



## THE BARRY ERROR: SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

by *Frederick Brofos*

I have observed a remarkable error of spelling on a Barry machine, a company not otherwise noted for misspellings. It is Bond type F-2 (open die space) from Springfield, Illinois, but the error was apparently unknown to him and is therefore not recorded in his handbook. The mistake is in the second letter of "ILL.", which is erroneously an "I", making it read "IIL." So far, I have seen this fault in use only four days, from May 19 to 22, 1896.

A corrected die (with slightly larger type) was hastily introduced by May 28 or possibly earlier. Later on, the killer portion was damaged somehow and a sweeping cut through the lower bars appears from at least July 18, 1896 and on out the year.

Funnily enough, this long overlooked spelling error was among duplicates traded to me last summer by a usually very eagle-eyed machine cancel specialist. Well, Maurice, I guess you can't win 'em all . . .

TO NATIONAL BANK,  
D. ILL.

ENVELOPE

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.  
MAY 19 4:30 PM '96



return to  
NATIONAL BANK,  
D. ILL.

Correction

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.  
MAY 28 4:30 PM '96



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BOSTON  
MASS.  
JAN 6 1876  
3 P.M.



## EARLIEST KNOWN LEAVITT

by Frederick A. Brofos

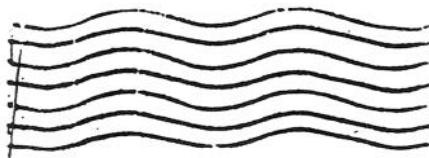
Eureka! Here it is, the Grand Daddy of them all! This corker was popped through the first Leavitt cancelling machine on its first day of operation at the Boston post office on January 6, 1876, at 3 P.M. It thus beats by one hour the postal card cancelled on the same first day (but at 4 P.M.) which is shown in the frontispiece of Frank Stratton's Leavitt handbook.

Pollard  
Lorraine  
St.

## THE RED "CPNY" MYSTERY

by Frederick A. Brofos

A curious looking machine mark appears in red on the back of several envelopes I have. It was apparently meant only for backstamping, as the dial-space is to the right of the seven wavy lines. In place of the usual circular dial there are just the curve-shaped letters: CPNY. The latter part stands obviously for New York, but the first part is a little more difficult to guess about. I have been wondering whether it could stand for Concentration-, Censorship-, or Control Point? This marking appears on mail sent from Concord, N.H. between November 1944 and June 1945 to U.S. military or naval personnel on various Army or Navy transport ships c/o P.M. or c/o FPO, New York, N.Y. All covers were returned to sender marked "Not aboard". One has a U.S. censor tape on one side, another has an additional mark reading: Port Terminals NYPE (N.Y. Port of Embarkation) Postal Section HQ. Can someone give any further enlightenment?



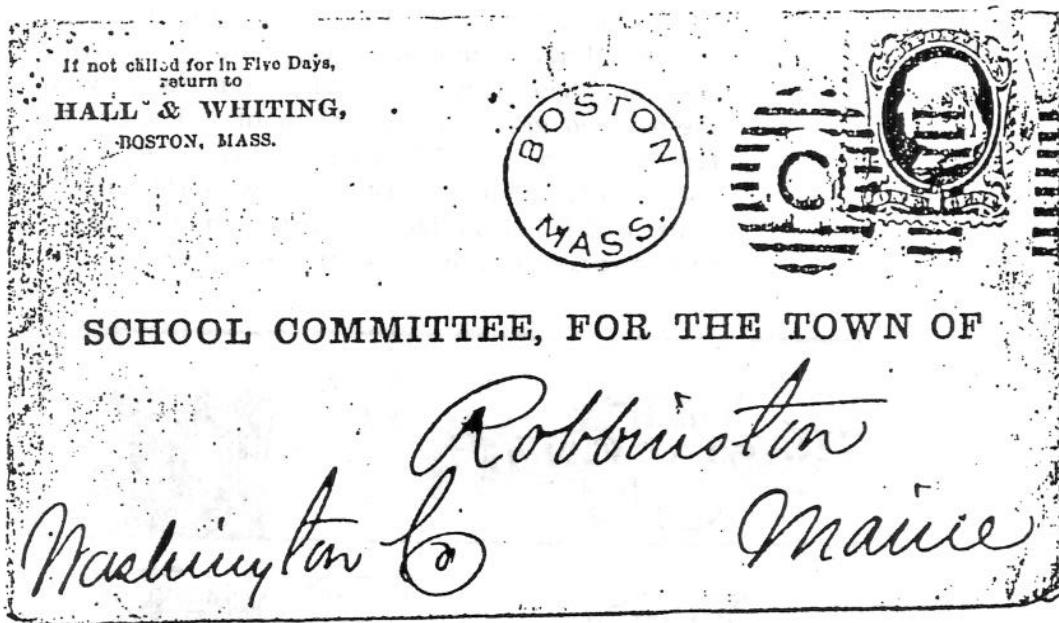
CPNY

## "THE BOSTON MASSACRE"

by Frederick A. Brofos

As we seldom see eye to eye, it is only occasionally that I drop in on a certain acquaintance of mine. He is an avid *stamp* collector and cares nothing at all for covers or postmarks. I remember well the particular day I called, when he was going through a box of old covers acquired cheaply at a country auction. As they were mostly common stamps, he had decided that it would take up much less room if the stamps were torn off the envelopes, soaked off the paper, dried and bundled. The marvellous cover illustrated here-

with was just going to be decapitated when I stopped the execution. A unique Leavitt experimental machine mark had survived for over 100 years, albeit unappreciated, was close to sudden oblivion. Fortunately, money talks, and I was able to ransom and save for posterity this heretofore unknown cancellation Type X1-3, see *Machine Cancel Forum*, pg. 416-17). Not another like it has ever been found since. It boggles the mind to realize that such massacres are being perpetrated all the time by the unenlightened.



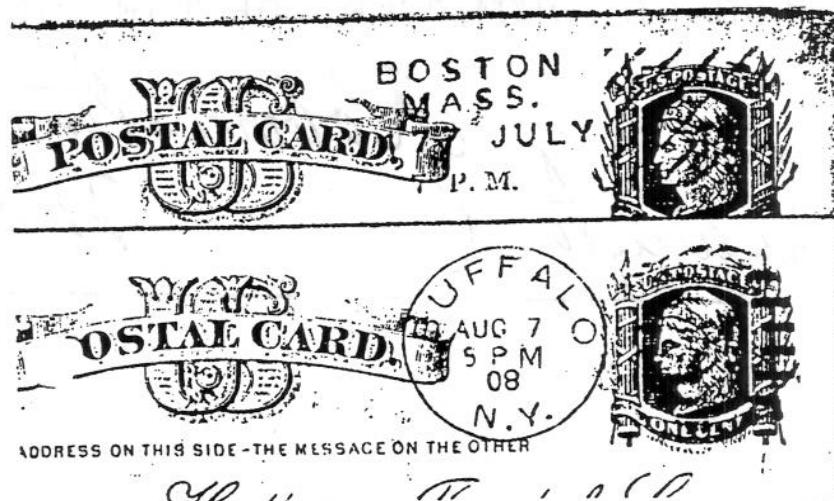
LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT

by Fred Brofas

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As we sadly surveyed the many imperfect impressions in his collection, the old commatologist said, with a wry smile, "One just has to love it or Leavitt . . ." After I recovered from his witticism, I remarked that the poor state of the majority made the clear ones just that more desirable and appreciated. He agreed and commented "In spite of all, even Leavitts can provide some levity . . ." He recalled how a rather pompous dealer had offered for sale, at a ridiculous price, a Leavitt machine mark from Buffalo dated Aug. 7 5PM 08. The dealer was somewhat deflated when informed that his "latest known date" had an inverted year plug, making the card from 1880 instead of 1908! The last Leavitt is on record as having pooped out in Indianapolis on Sep. 1, 1892. A similar inverted year mark is known from Detroit, reading Jul. 1 18 (instead of 81). But, it seems that most of the goofs occurred at Buffalo. From there, I have seen an inverted "83" (Sep. 14 4 PM), an inverted "84" (May 8 4PM) and the last known date of Leavitt usage from Buffalo (Feb. 4 92) shows the month inverted. Furthermore, the careless clerk even managed to get the whole killer and Buffalo postmark transposed on Aug. 6 (probably 1891). That inverted dates didn't occur more often, is partly due to the year being omitted altogether on many machines. It is, indeed, fortunate for us that we can usually find a year date written on the message side of cards.

"Quaker dates", with the day ahead of the month, are well known, but apparently not on Leavitts. However, there does exist a card from Boston with the day *and* year ahead of the month! The Leavitt type A-2 reads: 11 77 JULY (7 PM). "It's odd", said the old commatologist, "how we dislike to see flaws in the human face or form, but how we do enjoy errors on postmarks (stamps and coins, too)!"



## BOSTON TRANSIT

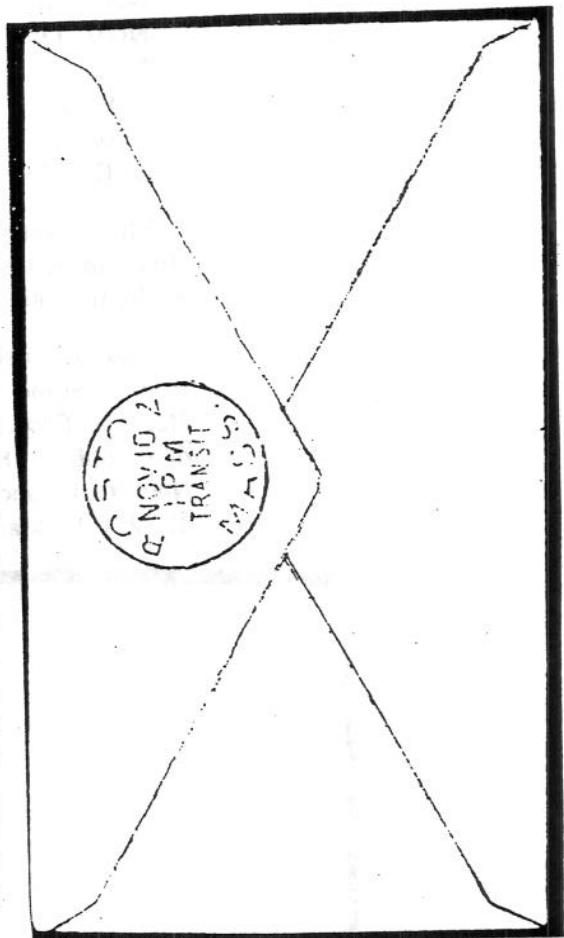
Fred Brofos sent us a photocopy of the illustrated postmark, used as a backstamp on a letter bearing a Scott #207 postage stamp, hence probably dated between 1883 and 1887. It appears to be a machine impression, but we do not find it listed as such in the Blake & Davis book *Boston Postal Markings to 1890*. The dating above would indicate that it may be from an American Co. machine. Can any readers help with photocopies of similar cancels?



## THE LEAVITT BOSTON TRANSIT MARK

by Frederick A. Brofos

A curious transit mark of Boston was briefly mentioned in *Forum*, vol. 12, pg. 48. Some inaccuracy in the description necessitates a re-evaluation. The mark occurs as a backstamp on a letter from Sioux City, Ioa. to Danbury, N.H. Unfortunately no year date appears in either the postmark or the backstamp. A pencil notation "1882" on the front of the cover may either refer to a long gone letter or the stamp issue itself. The stamp is Scott #207 (not #210, as previously stated) and is the 3¢ green Washington head printed by the American Bank Note Co. and issued July 16, 1881. As the postage rate for letters was reduced on Oct. 1, 1883 to 2¢, and the yearless postmarks read Nov., the cover is apparently from either 1881 or 1882. That was about the time of the Leavitt Type X-1 experimental trials in Boston. The accompanying photo shows the location of the mark parallel with the edges of the envelope and the dial in just the position one would expect from a machine with the killer portion removed. Upon consulting the experts, Messrs. Langford and Morris agreed with me that this was not an American Co. cancel but surely must be a Leavitt marking. Can any reader supply another example for comparison?



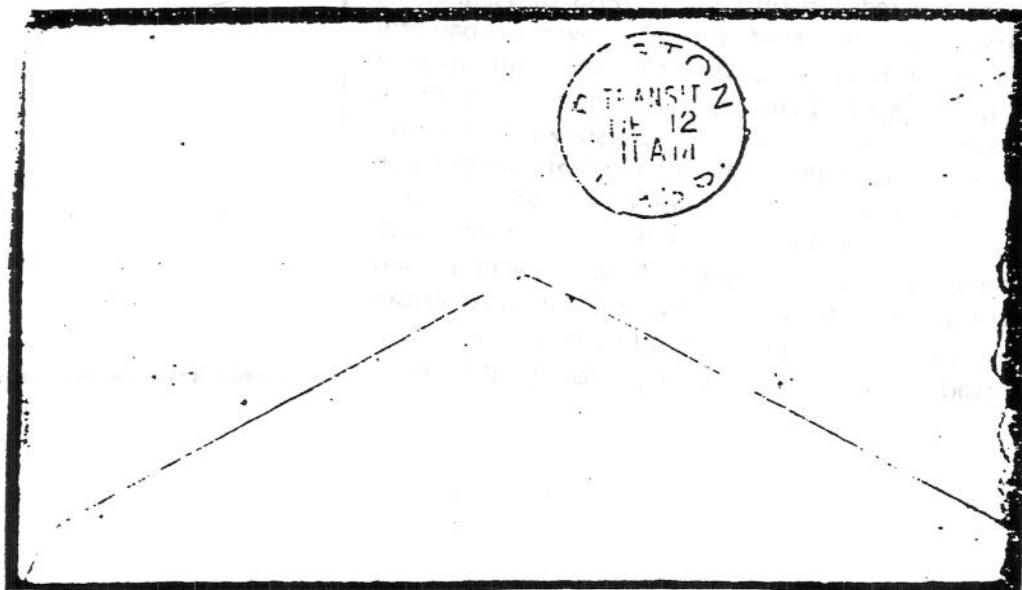
THE LEAVITT TRANSIT MARK OF BOSTON  
by Frederick A. Brofos

Since I first discovered this interesting machine mark back in 1975, I never saw another one until the other day — 7 years later — in spite of diligent searching. While all other reported examples are from November, this one is from December and therefore the latest recorded use. As far as we know now, this mark was only in use for about a month's time. My cover was sent from Taunton, Mass. to Rockland, Mass., franked with a 3¢ green Washington stamp. As on the other covers, there is no year date in the postmark, but, like them, it is also undoubtedly from the year 1882. An up to date list of the six known covers follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Finder</u>	<u>Type</u>
NOV 10	1 PM	Brofos	X-T a
NOV 11	4 PM	McDonough	X-T a
NOV 20	11 AM	"	X-T b
NOV 21	1 PM	Pollard	X-T b
NOV 27	7 PM	Grossman	X-T b
DEC 12	11 AM	Brofos	X-T b

The interchangeable line "TRANSIT," which at first was at top, I have called Type X-T a, and when at the bottom later on, Type X-T b.

Previous mention of this mark, as well as illustration of some of the actual covers has appeared in *Machine Cancel Forum* on pages 48, 160, 218, 416/417, 586, 1182 and 1371. Incidentally, the two New York candidates, mentioned on pages 1237 and 1372, I think are handstamps rather than machines.





ISSUE NO.  
113  
SEPTEMBER  
1 9 8 3

## LEAVITT TYPE X1—WASHINGTON, D.C.

by Frederick A. Brofos

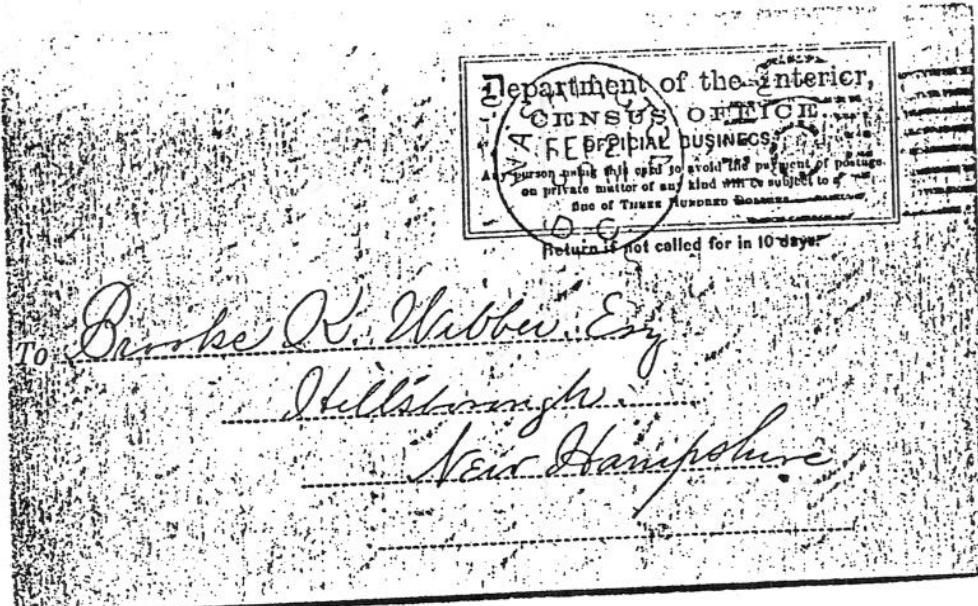
In Frank Stratton's excellent catalog of Leavitt machine cancellations, on page 28, are shown two killer die types used on the experimental Leavitt machine(s) tried out in Washington, D.C., in 1881/82. The purpose of this article is to report that a third killer die was also in use at that time. Composed of three segments, the 25 mm. dial seems to be the same on all types, but the two killer parts differ. The most distinguishing feature of the new type (renamed Die II) is the pile of unusually narrow bars in the third segment, which are similar in width to the two piles found on the unique Type X1-3 of Boston. These postmarks occur on Penalty envelopes and cards as well as on the regular Government 1¢ Liberty postal cards. A tabulation of the different dies follows:

**Die I** Dates noted: Feb. 21, Apr. 2. No year figures in dial, but it's 1881. Oval killer 25 x 20 mm. Third bar from bottom only very slightly cut into at top. Thin "C" centered.  
Wide pile of 8 bars, each 10 mm. in width.

**Die II** (new). Date noted: Oct. 31 81. Year figure now included in dial. Oval killer 25 x 20 mm. Third bar from bottom noticeably cut into at top. Thin "C" off center to left. General appearance of oval is thinner than Die I.  
Narrow pile of 8 bars, each 7 mm. in width.

**Die III** (formerly Stratton's die II). Dates noted: Mar. 27 82, Aug. 17 82, Oct. 13 82. Oval killer 25 x 20 mm. Third bar from bottom is split apart by cut. Thick "C" centered.  
Wide pile of 8 bars, each 10 mm. in width.

The last cover noted, from Oct. 13 82; shows only two segments. Whether the third segment is missing by chance, or was purposely removed during the final testing stages, must remain to be determined later when and if further examples are discovered.



Die I

Department of the Interior

General Department

TO BE RETURNED TO

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

If not delivered in TEN days,

Any person using this envelope to avoid the payment of postage on private  
matter of any kind, will be subject to a fine of Three Hundred Dollars.

Dear Mr. Bellard,

Washington,  
D. C.

Warren W. Kimball  
Pittsburgh  
Penn Co  
Pa.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
GENERAL OFFICE.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Any person using this envelope to avoid the payment of postage on private  
matter of any kind will be subject to a fine of Three Hundred Dollars.

-336-

Washington June 1865

Department of the Interior

PENSION OFFICE.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Any person using this envelope to avoid the payment of postage on private  
matter of any kind will be subject to a fine of Three Hundred Dollars.

J. A. Smith, Jr.  
Postmaster  
Mechanicsville  
Maryland



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
PENSION OFFICE

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
PENSION OFFICE



## PNEUMATIC MACHINE WITH RUBBER INSERT

by Frederick A. Brofos

The machines of the Pneumatic Canceling Machine Co. have been covered in detail by Arthur Bond in "U. S. Cancellation Club News", Nov. 1971 and Jan. 1972. I have now discovered some unlisted items from Station 1 of Indianapolis, Ind. The "STA 1" (in 2 lines) originally in metal (seen used Nov. 11, 1899—Febr. 1, 1900) was apparently broken or lost and a substitute in rubber type "STA 1" (in 1 line) was inserted instead (seen used Jul. 25, 1900). A different rubber insert "- 1" has been seen dated Aug. 4, 1900. A screw head in the killer appears on all items and the first "I" of Indianapolis is missing. The first type, dated Nov. 11, reads 1898 — although in reality it was 1899 (according to a backstamp). By Nov. 27, this erroneous "8" had been changed into a "9".

INDIANAPOLIS, IND STA  
NOV 11 5 PM 1899

1

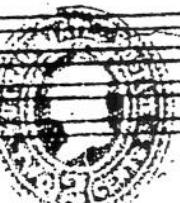


INDIANAPOLIS, IND STA 1  
JUL 25 7 PM 1900



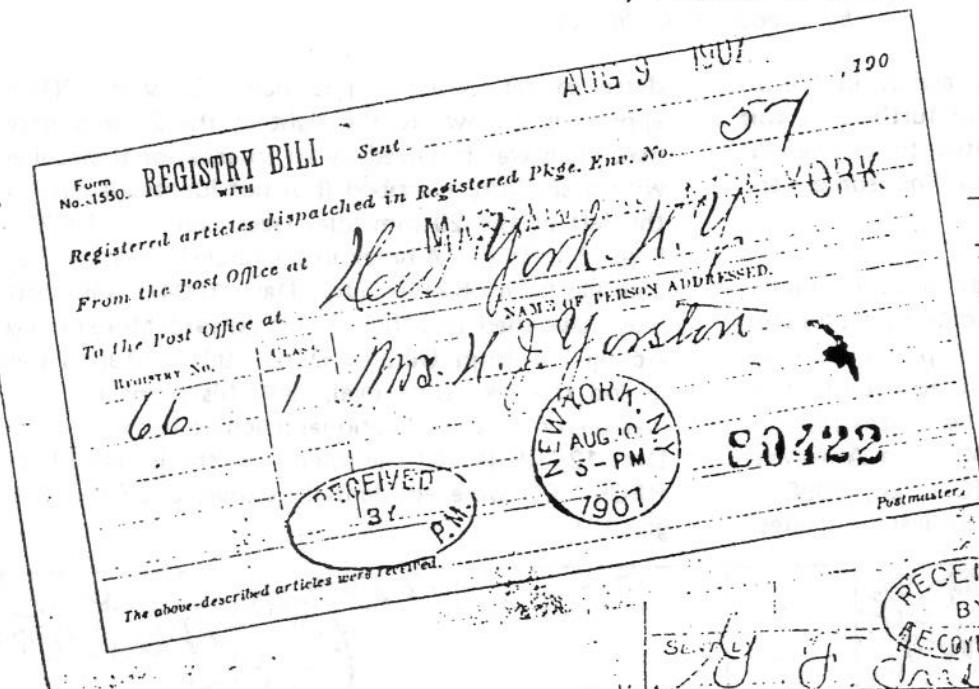
INDIANAPOLIS, IND  
AUG 4 5 PM 1900

1



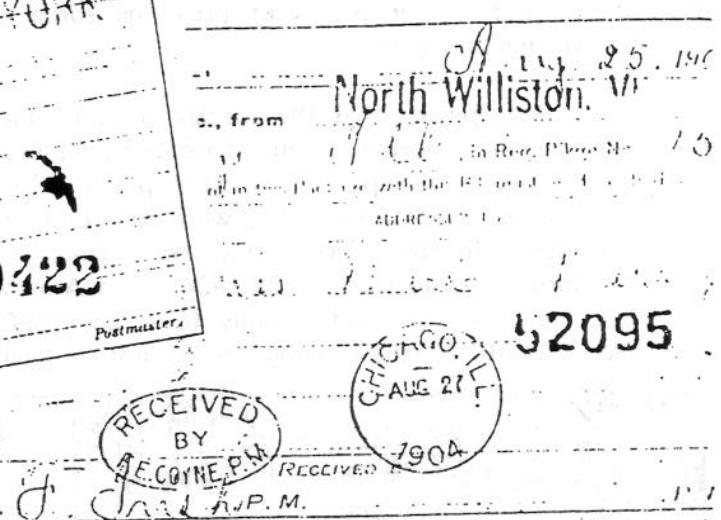
"INTERNATIONAL"  
REGISTRY RECEIPT MACHINES

by Frederick A. Brofos



A new marking has come to light which necessitates a revision of the text for Type S26 of the Special Service Markings mentioned on page 9 by Arthur Bond in his excellent catalog of International Machine Cancels. Bond describes these markings as showing the postmaster's name and says they were used between 1903 and 1905 at Chicago and New York on inter-office cards to certify receipt of registered packages, superceding handstamps.

The newly discovered item is from 1907 (Aug. 10) and is without the postmaster's name. Apparently due to a change in postmasters at New York, the old name (Does anyone know it?) was cut out from the die. The postmaster's name in the Chicago cancel was F. E. Coyne. All these postmarks are naturally scarce, as they were not used on public mail, only on penalty postal cards sent between post offices.



Actually, it is just an optical illusion that the egg-shaped postmaster's mark appears to the left of the circular dater. The engraving was purposely done inverted on each die to produce the desired result in a particular position on the cards. This is born out by the characteristic International dash or "tick" mark appearing at the "top", while in reality it is at the mechanical bottom of the dial.

I have not seen any, but if machines of other manufacturers may also have used registry receipt service markings, I am sure our readers would like to hear about them.

**MACHINE CANCEL**  
**FORUM**

ISSUE NO  
**27**  
JULY  
1976

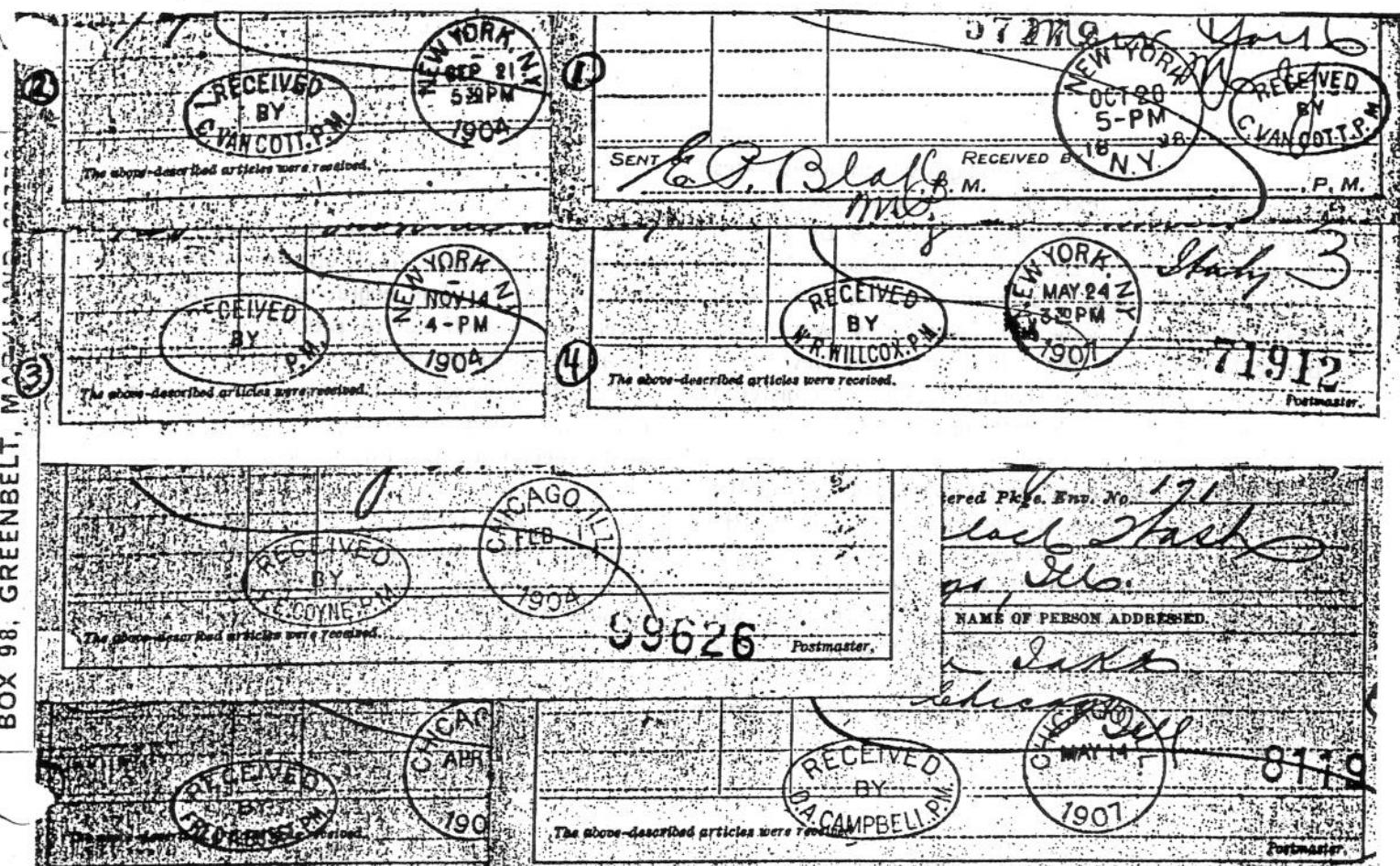
&  
**AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL  
REGISTRY RECEIPT MACHINES**

by Frederick A. Brofos

Responses from readers of my article in *Forum* #22, pg. 95, enable me to write further on this subject. I am particularly indebted to Charles W. Jones and Arthur Bond for providing some very interesting new data.

It now appears that the special machine marks, superceding handstamps, on inter-office postal cards for certifying receipt of registered packages, were used as early as 1898. They were apparently first introduced in New York during the postmastership of Cornelius Van Cott (1889-1904). An American Co. machine was used initially (Oct. 20, 1898 – Oct. 11, 1902), these being the earliest and latest

dates so far noted. The name C. VAN COTT appears in an oval to the right of the 22 mm. date dial. This was followed by an International machine with a similarly inscribed (but not identical) oval to the left of the 20 mm. dial (seen Jan. 12, 1903 – Sept. 21, 1904). A break in the circle below the year date has been observed (July-Dec., 1904). Van Cott may have died in office, since Edward Morgan was Acting PM from Oct. to Dec., 1904. During this period the Van Cott oval, with his name cut out, was used on the International machine (seen Nov. 14-Dec. 12, 1904). At the same time the letters RE of RECEIVED were accidentally damaged by the "engraver".



W. R. WILLCOX was appointed PM, effective Jan. 1, 1905, and a new oval with his name was introduced (seen Mar. 9, 1905\*— May 24, 1907). Willcox did not serve out his term either and Morgan was again appointed Acting PM on July 1, 1907 and PM from Sept. 1, 1907. A single card has been seen from this period, dated Aug. 10, 1907, and shows that the old Van Cott oval with the name removed had been saved and brought into use again. Whether Morgan had a new oval made with his name on, after becoming PM, has yet to be determined.

Meanwhile, the same idea had been used on an International machine in Chicago, superceding hand-stamps (latest h.s. seen Mar. 5, 1903). The ovals were again to the left of the date dial and show the names of the various postmasters. First comes F. E. COYNE (seen Feb. 1, 1904 — Jan. 2, 1906). Then a card dated Apr. 14, 1907 has been found with Fred A. BUSSE in the oval and another, dated May 14, 1907, with the name D. A. CAMPBELL.

The little "tick" mark shows up on some of these Chicago and New York postmarks, but not on all of them. It has been suggested that this mark may have been produced by some kind of pin that was used to secure the engraved die in position on the die-base. Whether or not the tick left a mark on mail may have been determined by the degree of tightness it was inserted with, which could of course vary from time to time. As the die was reversed, the tick mark appears under the town name, instead of above the year as is common on most International machines.

#### REGISTRY RECEIPT MACHINES AGAIN

by Frederick A. Brofos

Referring to my article on American and International Registry Receipt Machines, in *Forum* #27, pg. 129, readers A. Landino and C. C. Blair have kindly sent in photocopies that provide some further information on the subject.

The usage period of the International machine with the Van Cott oval has been extended thus: Jan. 12, 1903 - Oct. 26, 1904; and the one with the name cut out: Nov. 12, 1904 - Jan. 7, 1905. W. R. Willcox didn't get his name-oval immediately; he was

appointed PM on Jan. 1, 1905. However, an earlier date than we had noted before has appeared, so that the period of usage of his die is now: Feb. 25, 1905 - May 24, 1907.

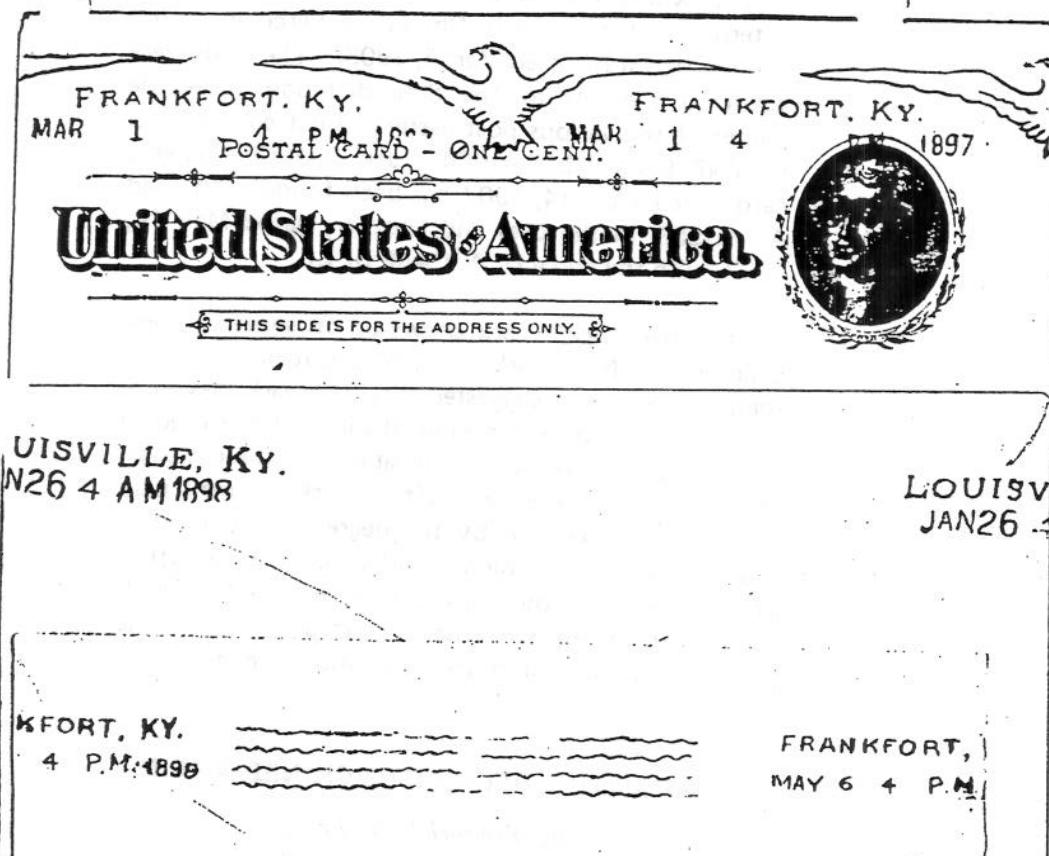
It is interesting to reflect that all these machine marks could also very well be included in a collection or display of the popular Postmaster and County handstamps to which they are closely related (descendents, one might say).

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MILAM & HOLMES MACHINES

by Frederick A. Brofos

It was quite a treat to see the pictures sent in by —  
the various lucky owners of the rare Milam & Holmes  
"Spread Eagle" (see FORUM pg. 111, 125, 134).  
Here is a fourth copy: on a postal card — which  
should finally put an end to the idea that this cancel  
was only used on large envelopes. Imprinted in black  
and dated Mar. 1 4PM 1897, it is the earliest date  
reported and may be from the first day of use.

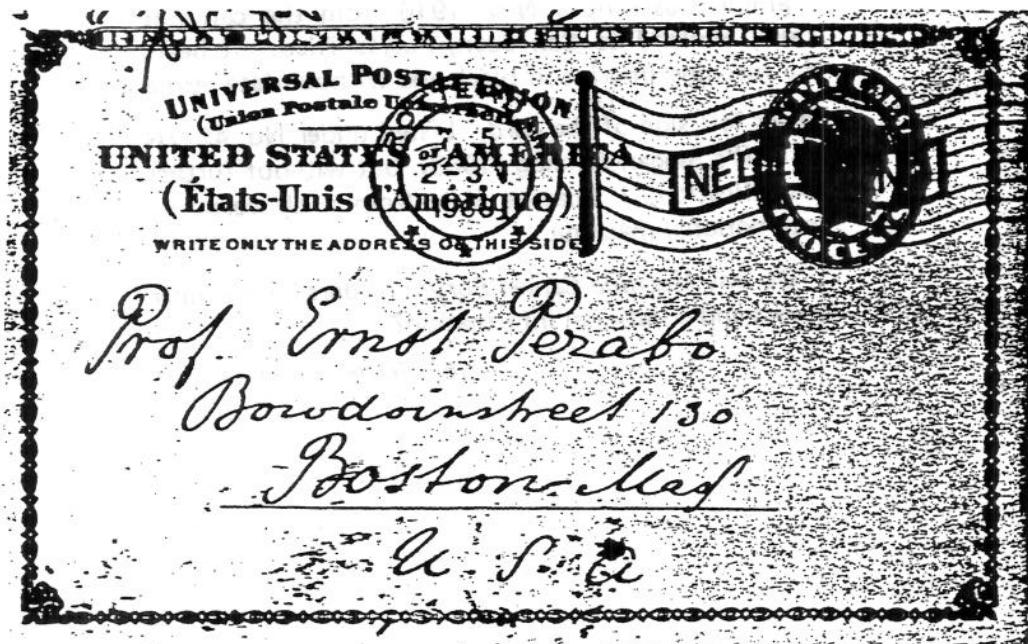


Also shown herewith are examples of the M&H  
repeater machines without the eagle that were used  
at Frankfort and Louisville, Ky. Both are in black.  
The Louisville backstamp I discovered several years  
ago and is, so far, the only one on record. Until it  
showed up, M&H repeaters were only known from  
three towns (Cincinnati, O. and Lytle, Ga., being the  
other two). Although not at all as spectacular as the  
"Eagles", the other types are probably even more  
difficult to find — for that very reason.

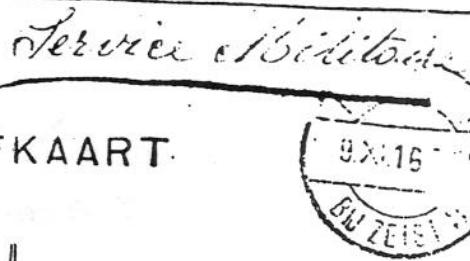
U. S. CARD WITH  
COLUMBIA FLAG CANCEL

By Frederick A. Brofos

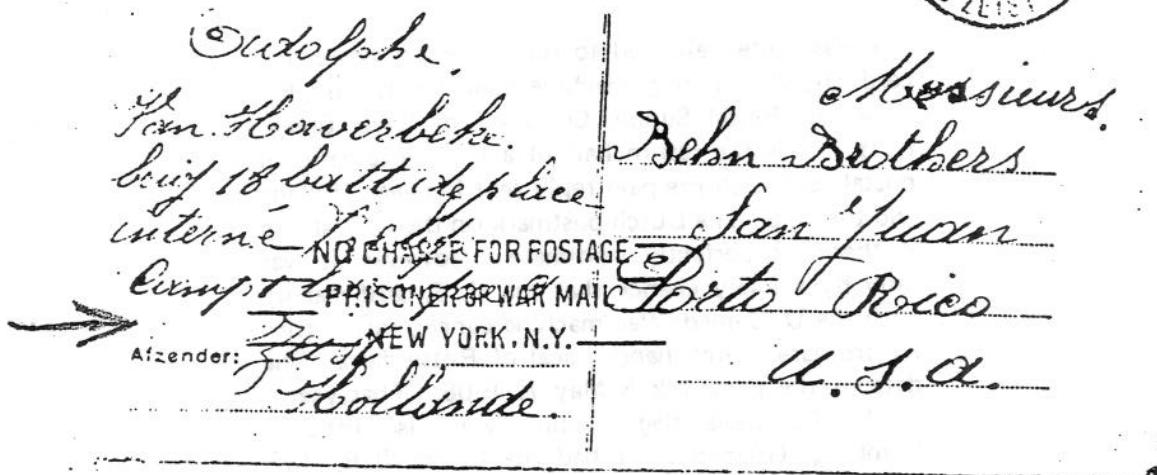
I was quite delighted to run across an interesting card showing a flag machine cancel made by the Columbia Postal Supply Company of Silver Creek, N. Y. It is the return half of a U. S. international postal card with pre-paid reply sent between Holland and the U. S. The Dutch postmark on the U. S. stamp is therefore perfectly legitimate. However, it was only by a lucky chance that the U. S. card met up with the U. S.-made flag machine cancel, rather than an ordinary Dutch hand-cancel of Rotterdam. The date of the postmark is May 7, 1906. That year a similar Columbia flag machine was also used in Hamburg, Germany. It had the letters "DR" (i.e. Deutsches Reich) in the center amid wave-lines. A Columbia flag machine pattern with "USA" in the jack and waving bars is recorded from about this time, but is not known postally used. The only Columbia flag machines actually used in the U. S. appears to be one at Cerro Gordo, Ill., in 1922/23, & at Centertown, Ky., in 1926. (See P. 124)



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## BRIEFKAART



### W.W. I P.O.W. MACHINE

Mail received from Prisoners of War on which there was no charge for postage (free under the Geneva Convention) was at one time stamped with a special machine mark at the New York P.O. The illustrated example was sent 9 Nov. 1916 from the camp at Zeist, Holland to San Juan, Puerto Rico. It bears the machine imprint in black and without date at the lower left side of the card. Listed under No. 4277N in Luff's Slogan Catalog (1968), but without further identification, I imagine it is from a Universal or International machine.

Do any *Machine Cancel Forum* readers have similar covers and additional information?

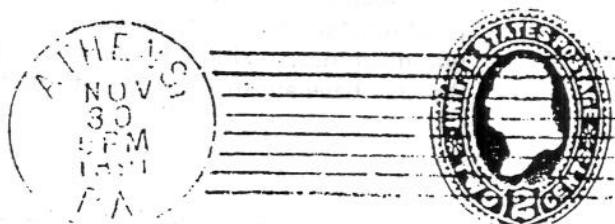
(by Frederick A. Brofos)

## THE ATHENS, PA., PSEUDO MACHINE

by Frederick A. Brofos



The accompanying illustration shows a cover from Athens, Pa., dated Nov. 30, 1891. It has been said that it is a handstamp. However, as anyone who has cancelled mail knows, such a perfect impression from such a large metal postmark is well nigh impossible—if just an ordinary handstamp. I have a hunch that some kind of extra contraption was attached in order to produce these clear markings. Perhaps something like the self-inking Perfection handstamps of a later era. Of course, old covers from Athens, Pa., are not found so often, but similar "pseudo" machines exist from other small places too. The whole subject bears watching and may eventually produce some surprises.



## WORTH A SECOND LOOK

by Frederick A. Brofos



Anything in repeater machine cancels from the US are generally worthwhile and some are rare, for instance the Krags. The accompanying International receiving mark from Washington, D.C., 1890, is however not a repeater, although I did do "a double take" when I first saw it. Due to the extra length of the envelope, it received two impressions of the postmark instead of just one. Some machines can also be specially readjusted to change them from single to multiple impressions.

## THE COUNTRY WITHOUT A CANCELLING MACHINE

by Frederick A. Brofos

It seems almost unbelievable, but there exists a country today which has *never* used a cancelling machine of any make. It is not a "new" African country either, but an "old timer" that has issued stamps continuously since 1877. The country is the Republic of San Marino, which is situated less than 20 miles from the Adriatic Sea, but its 24 square miles are entirely surrounded by Italy. Most philatelists are familiar with San Marino. Indeed, the country derives about 80% of its income from philately and tourism. Perhaps it is a good-will gesture to stamp collectors, that cancelling machines have been banned. All postmarking is meticulously done, even on the thousands of postcards dropped in the large mailboxes every day by tourists. Passing by the main post office one can hear the steady "thump-thump" of postmarks in a dozen hands busily processing the daily mail in a small basement room.

Incidentally, other little countries like Monaco, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg have all used cancelling machines. I don't know about Andorra though. We may have another "hold-out" there too.



## NEW YORK TRANSIT (INTERNATIONAL)

by Frederick Brofos

This postmark is described by Art Bond on pg. 10 of his fine handbook on International machines as follows: "Type S42 — New York, N.Y./TRANSIT. Another split date postmark, recorded from 1903 to 1905. Much scarcer than the PAID ALL type. This has been reported on domestic as well as foreign mail". He also illustrates it on chart 3. I just found a domestic cover which extends the known usage by another year. Too bad another mark collides with it on my cover, but at least that does provide a double-check on the date. The new LKU is Feb. 23 11.30 PM 1906.

## PRIVATE POSTMARKING MACHINES

*by Frederick A. Brofos*

A few Universal machines appear to have been sold or rented to private organizations for the sole purpose of date-stamping a receiving mark on their mail. Such a mark was illustrated in "FORUM" No. 7 and is repeated here in its proper appearance. The Hotel McAlpin, at the corner of Broadway and 34th Street in New York, is still active, but changed its name around 1961 to become the Sheraton Atlantic. A similar receiving mark was used at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, in 1926. These machine marks are not seen often for the simple reason that travellers had limited space in their baggage and after reading their mail generally threw it away.

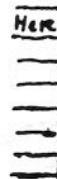
Another privately-operated receiving mark was used on mail as late as 1954 at the Presbyterian Hospital in New York. A box with seven lines appeared at the left together with the word "Here" at the end of the top line. Unfortunately the rest of the text doesn't show on my cover.

The two hotel marks are in black, while that from the hospital is in vermilion. They were all designed to appear in the lower left corner of the mail. These three private machine marks range from 1918 to 1954 and one would expect that other types also exist. Let's hear from you readers.

HOTEL Mc ALPIN  
NEW YORK



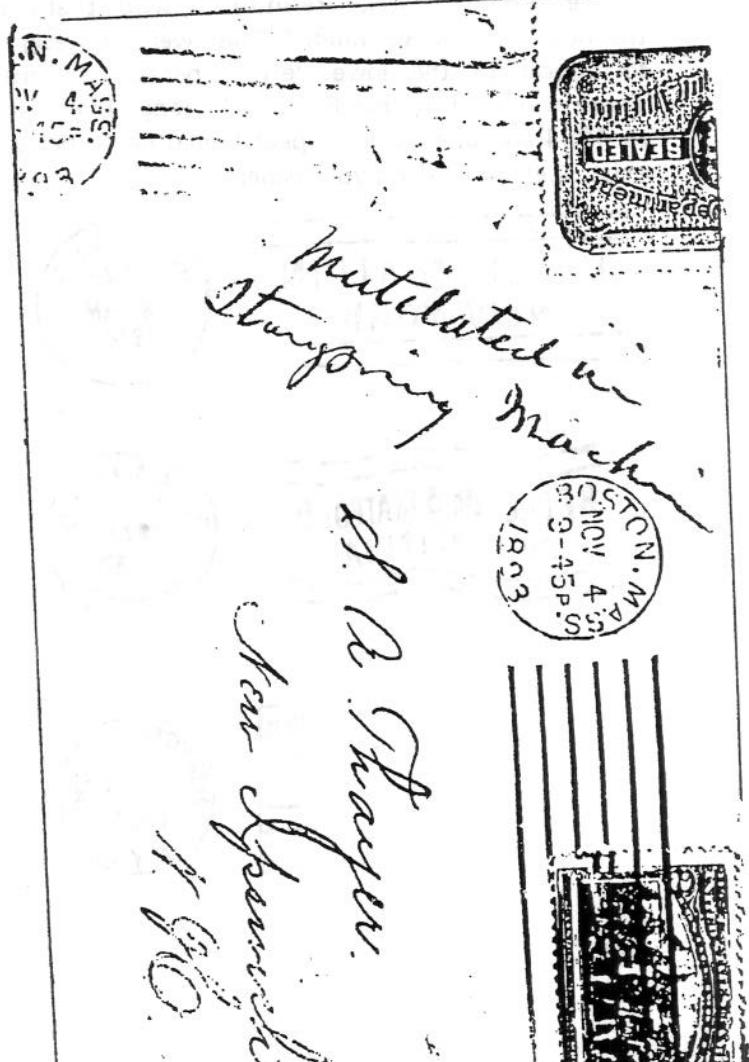
BELLEVUE-STRATFORD  
PHILADELPHIA



## AN EARLY MACHINE-DAMAGED COVER

By Frederick A. Brofos

The other day I ran across the earliest cover I have seen damaged by a cancelling machine. The letter went twice through an American Co. machine (killer "F") at Boston on November 4, 1893. The first trip was in a vertical position which left it crumpled and torn at the side. As the stamp remained uncancelled the letter was rerun in the correct position. The damage to the envelope required a small repair job, which was accomplished with a brown P.O. Dept. "Officially Sealed" label stuck over the corner. An explanation was added in pencil: "Mutilated in stamping machine". Whether the notation and patching was actually done by the machine operator or by someone else further along in the sorting line is difficult to tell now. However, the human touch has again been added to a job supposedly taken over by a machine. In those days the efficiency of manual postmarking was sacrificed in order to acquire that SPEED necessary to handle the ever increasing quantities of mail, but it didn't always work out. Special explanatory handstamps were soon introduced at various post offices to explain damaged mail and avoid written notations.



If not called for in 10 days  
return to

CENTRAL BROOM CO  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO.

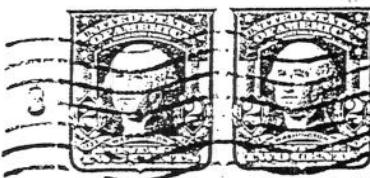


Dorelius  
machine

Boston Thread & Twine

Boston Mass

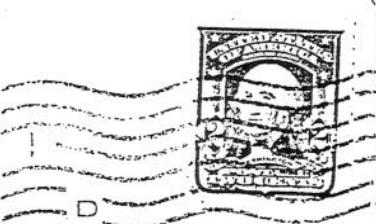
IF NOT DELIVERED IN FIVE DAYS, RETURN TO  
GEORGE B. GRAHAM, DISTRICT AGENT  
NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.  
1025 FIDELITY BUILDING,  
PHONES, FRONTIER 1236.  
BELL, SENeca 1236. BUFFALO, N. Y.



←  
Inter-  
national  
Machine

Mr Bijou's Fall and  
Proctorville  
Vt

Damaged by Cancelling Machine  
at Buffalo, N. Y., P. O.



Inter-  
national  
machine

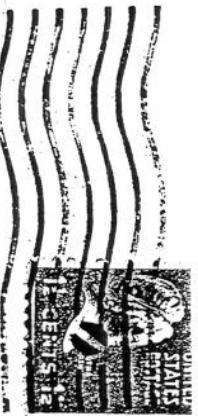
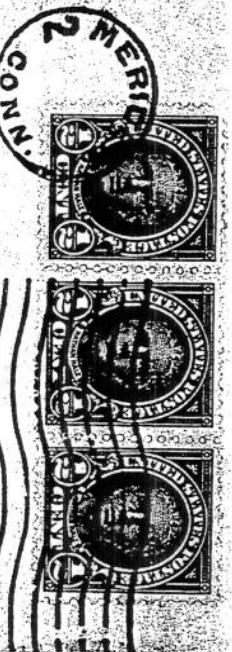
Mrs. M. White  
Church St

No. Adams

Mass.

MUTILATED BY  
CANCELLING MACHINE.

~349~  
"WHAT IS THE USE OF  
GETTING THE MACHINE  
OUT OF THE SHED AND  
MAKING A START ON THE  
HIGHWAY OF LIFE IF HALF  
THE NUTS ARE LOOSE?"



Return to

BASH, MIZE & SILLMAN HARDWARE CO.

Wholesale Hardware, Cutlery and Inware,

ATCHISON, KANSAS ATCHISON, KANS.  
If not delivered within 10 days OCT 30 5 - PM 1900



Peck, Stowe & Wilcox Co.,

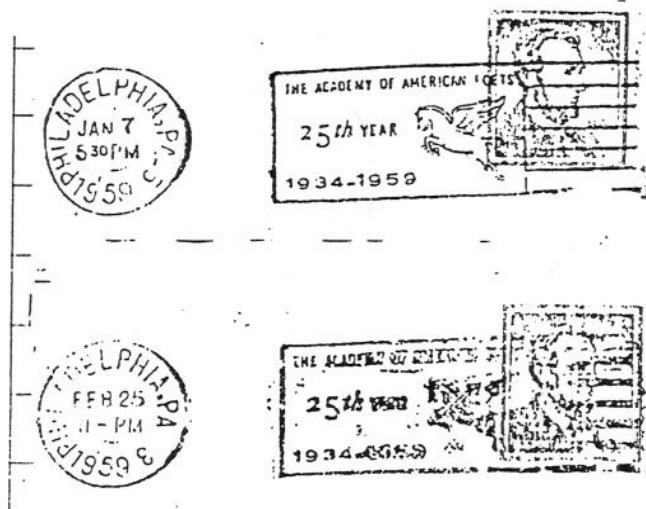
Southington,

Conn.

## WHEN A WHITE HORSE TURNS BLACK

by Frederick Brofos

The Silver Jubilee of the Academy of American Poets was postally celebrated by the use of a special commemorative machine postmark. Back in 1959, any pictorial addition was a welcome change from the usually dull type-face slogan cancels. This one showed the flying horse Pegasus, referring perhaps to poetical flights of fancy. Anyway, it was used on a number of machines around the country. But, in Philadelphia, an odd thing happened between January and February, when the horse suddenly changed color from white to black! This didn't happen to all the horses. However, the curious phenomenon could have a simple explanation: one of the pictures wasn't cleaned properly and got clogged with dried ink. Or maybe the horse simply got worn out and die(d) . . .



"I had a friend once, who collected postage stamps. He used to say that the one good thing about a postage stamp is that it sticks to something until it gets there!"

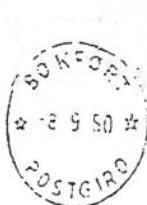
Said by Jimmy Stewart, in the film "Destry rides again".

New type Norwegian Money Order Machine

-351-

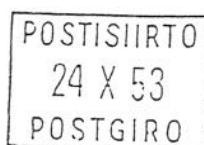
Here is shown a Norwegian Post Office money order pay-out card from 1989. Of special interest is the unusual-looking machine postmark, almost like a Siamese twin. The upper circle reads: BOKFØRT(book accounted) and below the date: POSTGIRO. The lower semi-circle reads: GYLDIG, meaning (valid until) and an extended date. Applied in black, I imagine.

Postgirokonto	0823 0100005	Postgirokonto	0823 0100005			
A/ST FRÅMSKRITT		Dato underkast	13.4.89 Anna Olsen			
POSTBOKS 56			GYLDIG OVER 1000 kr			
9999 STORESAND						
Melding til adressaten		Jacob Svehaug				
		Adr				
		Monsebakken				
		Postnr : Postkontor				
		7000 TRONDHEIM				
Gjenta kromedelaget med bokstaver/bokstavar: Ett>null>null>null*****						
Bl 70.570.00	Kroner	Ore	Kroner	Ore	Postgirokonto	Referansenum
H			1000 00	1000 00	>08230100005>8000015963 +59+	



27-10  
1953  
POSTGIRO

27-10  
1953  
POSTGIRO



Two single impression Kroy Type XX machines are known from before.  
One from 1950 and two from 1953, the latter from Finland.