

**Second Edition**  
**U.S.MACHINE**  
**POSTMARKS**  
**1871-1925**

by  
**R.F. Hanmer**

TE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE-THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The success of my "Survey of U.S. Machine Postmarks," published in 1981, and the exciting results of my own searches for machine postmarks since then, have led me to expand coverage of the subject very greatly in the following pages. As before, my aim is to present in one book a mass of information available only in widely scattered newsletters, articles, and books. I wish to attract the new and relatively inexperienced collectors of machine postmarks rather than to compete with the specialized catalogs which are available for some of the machines - these are mentioned in the Bibliography.

To assemble so broad a spectrum of machine postmarks, I had to reach well beyond the limits of my own collection. One of the country's foremost authorities on machine postmarks, Robert J. Payne of California, came to my aid with scores of copies from his remarkable collection - and lots of encouragement. Over the course of many years Reg Morris, the erudite engineer and author of many books and articles on machines and postmarks, has stimulated my searches and very generously answered my questions. Like nearly everyone else in our hobby today, I have great appreciation for John McGee and John Koontz, Co-editors of Machine Cancel Forum, for publishing the discoveries and information we need to pursue the hobby. My friend, Gilbert J. Levere of Connecticut, has contributed many helpful ideas to this book. J.T. Holleman of South Carolina has kindly permitted me to illustrate a few rarities from his collection. My father-in-law, Curtis H. Thompson, designed the front cover and rescued some of the most difficult postmarks from my own faltering enhancements. My thanks go also to the hundreds of collectors and booksellers who supported my first edition and have encouraged me to continue.

I invite collectors to write to me about new finds so I may share the news with appropriate authorities. Please, if you wish a reply, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Happy hunting!

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June 1984

## INTRODUCTION

## INTRODUCTION

This book is intended to be an informative introduction to a very large, complex, and sometimes obscure subject, the impressions in ink called postmarks and made by machines. This book deals with the first half-century of the use of such machines in the United States, from 1871 to about 1925. It may well be many years before a complete history of such postmarks and postmarking machines can be written, for postal historians and collectors are still delving into old records and making new discoveries.

The development of postmarking machines parallels the invention and development of many other machines which we now take for granted. The typewriter, the telephone, and the electric light had their beginnings in the 1870's when postmarking machines first appeared. There was for many years no electricity in even the largest postoffices to run the early machines, so hand cranks and even pedals were provided. Nor was there a telephone to use to call a repairman when a machine broke down - which may explain why there are long periods of no known use of some postmarks. From what we might call crude beginnings they were slowly developed into the sophisticated machines we have today. When "electronic mail" supersedes conventional mail, the need for postmarking machines may disappear.

Whether you collect for fun or profit, to satisfy the old acquisitive urge or the wish to own something rare and interesting, the following pages can introduce you to a hobby that finds new devotees every day.

What is a machine postmark? This question has been answered in many ways. Collectors are far from unanimous about what considerations are essential. Is a hand stamp a machine? Most collectors would probably say not if they were thinking of a simple rubber stamp and ink pad. But there are far more complicated versions of that simple idea. The postmarks shown in this book as being machine-made probably came from machines powered by hand cranks or electric motors and had some provision for feeding the envelopes and cards into the machine automatically. The earliest postmarking machines were probably fed by hand. The mechanisms are or were covered by many patents, a subject now being explored by a few collectors who combine detective work with engineering expertise.

Before putting envelopes and cards into a postmarking machine, a postal clerk had to "face" the mail, that is, put all the address sides face up. Ordinarily that resulted in all the stamps being in the upper right corner so that the cancellation would hit the stamps as the envelopes and cards went through the machine. Errors in facing and stamps in irregular positions usually resulted in stamps remaining uncanceled. If detected, the piece would be run through a machine again or be cancelled by hand stamping. Such repetitions and variations can make very interesting, humorous, and unique collections.

Dials of various types have long been used to indicate the place from which a letter was mailed. They antedate the use of stamps. The primary purpose of a cancellation is to prevent a stamp from being reused to prepay postage. Postmarking machines typically perform both functions. The part that cancels the stamp is usually called the "killer." The killer can be a set of bars or wavy lines or a flag or a slogan. Sometimes the killer contains the name of the station from which the letter was mailed.

For a few decades, postmarking machines were used to record the date and hour when a letter arrived at its destination for delivery. Usually applied to the back of an envelope, such postmarks are called "backstamps" and "service markings." The Post Office Department discontinued the practice of stamping the received date on most letters in mid-1913.

Collecting machine postmarks is one of the least developed branches of philately and one in which new discoveries seem not only possible but probable for years to come. Serious study of postmarking machines grew slowly after World War II but has accelerated strongly in the last decade. It is also a hobby still remarkably open to rich and poor alike.

This is not a hobby for typophiles. With the possible exception of the short-lived involute flag postmarks of the American Postal Machine Company, utility, not art, was the apparent goal of the makers. Postmarking machines are required to print with great tolerance for variations in thickness, shape, paper quality, dust, and humidity - and machine operators. So it is not surprising to find imperfect impressions.

The ideally collectable postmark is a clear, complete impression well positioned on a clean, complete envelope or card. Whether one prefers cards or envelopes or advertising pieces, assembling a noteworthy collection of postmarks is likely to require a degree of tolerance atypical of philately. Leavitt postmarks are found on postal cards, rarely on envelopes. Registry receipt cards commonly are handstamped, but there are a few International Postal Supply Company machine postmarks and American Postal Machine Company postmarks that were designed especially for registry use. The more scarce or rare the postmark, the less important what it is printed on. The importance of condition is necessarily relative, too.

Problems with inking mechanisms and feeding mechanisms produce the majority of imperfect impressions. Perfect condition is quite unknown for some postmarks. The most horrendous problem by far is the way envelopes were opened, probably the only aspect of the postal system that the government has not tried to control. Recklessly torn envelopes abound. Ink starvation causes light and incomplete impressions and so frustrates identification. Generations of stamp collectors have cut, peeled, and soaked stamps from mail, leaving ugly gaps in the few covers that survive such vandalism.

Repairing cards and covers is a perilous activity. Rubber cement and cellophane tape are ruinous. Airtight plastic sleeves may accelerate deterioration. Unless expert assistance is available, it is hard to know how to protect, much less repair.



# BIBLIOGRAPHY

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- American Machine Cancels by Reg Morris Published 1978  
Covers 1884 - 1890. Available from Machine Cancel  
Forum (see below)
- American Machine Cancels 1884-1898 by Reg Morris  
Possibly out of print -
- Barry Machine Cancels by E.M. Funk and A.H. Bond  
US Cancellation Club, Box 286, Bonsall, CA 92003
- Early Rapid Cancelling Machines of Canada by David F.  
Sessions. Available from Unitrade Press, P.O. Box 172,  
Sta. A., Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Descriptive Catalog of Leavitt Machine Cancellations  
by Frank B. Stratton. Available from United Postal  
Stationery Society, Box 48, Redlands, CA 92373
- Postal History of the A.E.F. by Theo. Van Dam. Available  
from American Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 8000,  
State College, PA 16803
- History of the Krag-Hansen Postmarking Machine and Its  
Factory by Frederick Brofos, Warner, NH 03278
- International Postal Supply Company of New York, Catalog of  
Machine Markings 1888-1910 by Reg Morris Available  
from Machine Cancel Forum (see below)
- History, Machinery and Postal Markings of the International  
Postal Supply Company of New York 1882-1905  
by Reg Morris Available from Machine Cancel Forum
- Machine Cancel Forum (newsletter format with illustrations)  
Co-editor John R. McGee, Box 98, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Co-editor John Koontz, Box G, West Bowie Sta., Bowie, MD  
20715
- Standard Encyclopedia of Doremus Machine Cancels  
by Frederick Langford, Box 802, Pasadena, CA 91102
- Standard Flag Encyclopedia by Frederick Langford (above)
- Street Car RPO Service in Brooklyn and New York City  
by John M. Price (monographs for other cities also)  
Mobile Post Office Society, RFD 1, Box 91, Contoocook,  
NH 03229

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Time Marking Machine Company and the B.F. Cummins Company  
by Geschwindner, Morris and Koontz. Available from  
Machine Cancel Forum (see above)
- United States Postal Slogan Cancel Catalog by Moe Luff  
12 Greene Road, Spring Valley, NY 10977
- U.S. Machine Postmarks 1871-1925 by R.F. Hanmer Published  
1984 Available from the author, Box 614, Wallingford,  
CT 06492 and from many philatelic booksellers

Original or updated studies of several machine postmarks  
are understood to be in preparation as this book goes to  
press: Barr-Fyke, Leavitt, Pneumatic, Universal, Barry,  
and others. In the past, Machine Cancel Forum has carried  
announcements of nearly all new material.



## IDENTIFICATION OF POSTMARKS

Like telling one make of car from another, telling one make of postmark from another is largely a matter of observing closely and remembering salient characteristics. And referring to guides like this book. In dealing with the many US machine postmarks from 1871 to 1925, it is surprising how few are the really confusing postmarks. The novice may be encouraged to know that this becomes increasingly apparent as one gains experience.

The first task is to decide whether a postmark was made by a machine or by a handstamp. Machine-made postmarks tend to be parallel to the top edge of an envelope or card, and handstamped postmarks are likely to be anything but like that. Nonetheless, machine postmarks are occasionally seen registered at odd angles, so the rule must be applied with judgment. During the period covered by this book, 1871-1925, handstamps tended to be duplexed, and the only machine-made postmarks that look much like them are some of the more common Leavitts (which are anything but common). Here the rule about parallelism applies: Leavitt postmarks almost never occur at odd angles. Moreover, Leavitt killers are shorter from top to bottom than are most duplex handstamp killers. Note the illustrations.

The year in a postmark is an important clue to identification. There are no known machine-made postmarks before 1871 in the U.S. By comparing the year in a postmark with the years in the Time Chart on page xiii, one can quickly see what makes of machines should be considered. Then by comparing with the illustrations for the possible makes of machines, it will ordinarily be easy to arrive at a correct identification. In some instances one will have to refer to specialized catalogs.

The really tricky ones to identify are the 6- and 7-bar killers with small round dials. While at first the potential for confusion may seem overwhelming when one considers how very many such killers there are, the question becomes much more manageable after the time chart has been used. Similar reasoning applies to wavy bar killers. Taken in isolation from their dials, killers can be hopelessly confusing, and the reverse is also true. Some wavy bar killers were apparently installed upside down, giving rise to more varieties and more confusion.

## SCARCITY and VALUE

No one can tell how many postmarked letters and cards have survived the innumerable housecleanings and paper recycling drives that have occurred since the machines discussed in this book were in use. Scarcity depends not only on survival but also on the extent to which a postmarking machine was used, a somewhat easier factor to estimate. Zillions of American Postal Machine Company flag cancels have survived, and yet some style-town-year combinations are scarce or rare. In contrast, Constantine machine postmarks were probably never common.

There is no simple and reliable rule for determining whether a postmark is common, scarce, or rare. It is likely that a postmark is relatively scarce if the make of machine was not long in use. In many instances no one yet knows how long some machines or some designs did last, nor how many and how long may have been the periods of disuse within any reported dates of use. The best sources for such information are the specialist catalogs, supplemented by data in publications such as Machine Cancel Forum, U.S. Cancellation News, and the like. In many instances there are as yet no catalogs to which one may refer.

Scarcity depends also on geography. Mail from New York City probably had as wide a distribution as, and a greater volume than, that of any other U.S. city, certainly more than the mail from Oswego, New York. Consequently, New York City Barry postmarks may show up anywhere, and Oswego Barry postmarks may be hard to find even in Oswego, the home of the Barry Postal Supply Company. Similarly, it must be easier to find a scarce American Postal Machine Company postmark in New England than in New Mexico, for APMC was a Boston company with many machines in use there for decades.

Scarcity is a matter of opinion. No one really knows how many copies of even the rarest postmarks actually survive. At best, the specialists keep track of how many copies are reported by collectors. Not all collectors report their holdings, and not all postmarks have been adequately identified. Experienced collectors generally get a feeling for how common a given postmark seems to them to be. The most reliable data is the consensus of experienced collectors over a broad geographical area. Specialists welcome reports from collectors.



As one searches through cards and covers to find postmarks, it is important to look at the backs as well as the faces of the mail. Service markings are commonly backstamps, and entire dial and killer impressions can be found as received marks.

Many of the postmarks illustrated in this book are common as to type but scarce or even rare as to date or period of use. When appropriate, these are designated "Common Type, Scarce Date," and the like. Earliest reported postmark (ERP, or EKV for earliest known use) and latest reported postmark (LRP or LKV) usually command a premium.

Value is created by demand, and demand is stimulated, if not created, by the availability of catalogs and studies. For example, Frank Stratton's excellent catalog of Leavitt postmarks has generated a lot of interest in collecting Leavitts. As comparable studies appear, interest rises, demand rises, and values rise.

Condition of the postmark, condition of the card or envelope, value of the stamp, etc., may greatly affect overall value. Without market demand, value is only potential. Paradoxically, a postmark may be rare without necessarily being very valuable. There are many postmarks which were in use for only a few hours or a few days, or are simply varieties of otherwise abundant postmarks. Only a specialist is likely to value such postmarks exceptionally. In some instances a type of postmark used in a particular city (a Leavitt in Cincinnati, for example) is much more valuable than the same type used elsewhere (a Leavitt in Hartford, for example) because the latter are relatively abundant and many people collect Leavitts.

For simplicity, the following terms are used in this book:

- Common Types - worth 10¢ to \$5
- Scarce Types - worth \$5 to \$50
- Rare Types - worth \$50 to \$200
- Possibly or nearly unique types, very few copies known - worth over \$200

## SERVICE MARKINGS

Most postmarking machines were used for service marking as well as for printing the usual date-place-killer on envelopes and cards. Service markings can designate many different happenings, such as:

- Received (implicit or explicit)
- Postage Due or paid in full
- Train Late - Mail Delayed
- Found in mail box intended for packages
- Forwarded to another address
- Resorted at transfer office (transit)

"Received" markings are usually backstamps (on the back of an envelope), but service markings may turn up on fronts or backs.

## SLOGAN CANCELS

Slogan cancels are a form of advertising inserted into the killer die on a postmarking machine. Some slogan cancels were used for years in advance to advertise expositions, and others were used very briefly to advertise local events. The Post Office Department used them widely to urge people to address mail properly, etc. Slogan cancels should be distinguished from killers indicating branch post office, exposition stations, service markings, and the like.



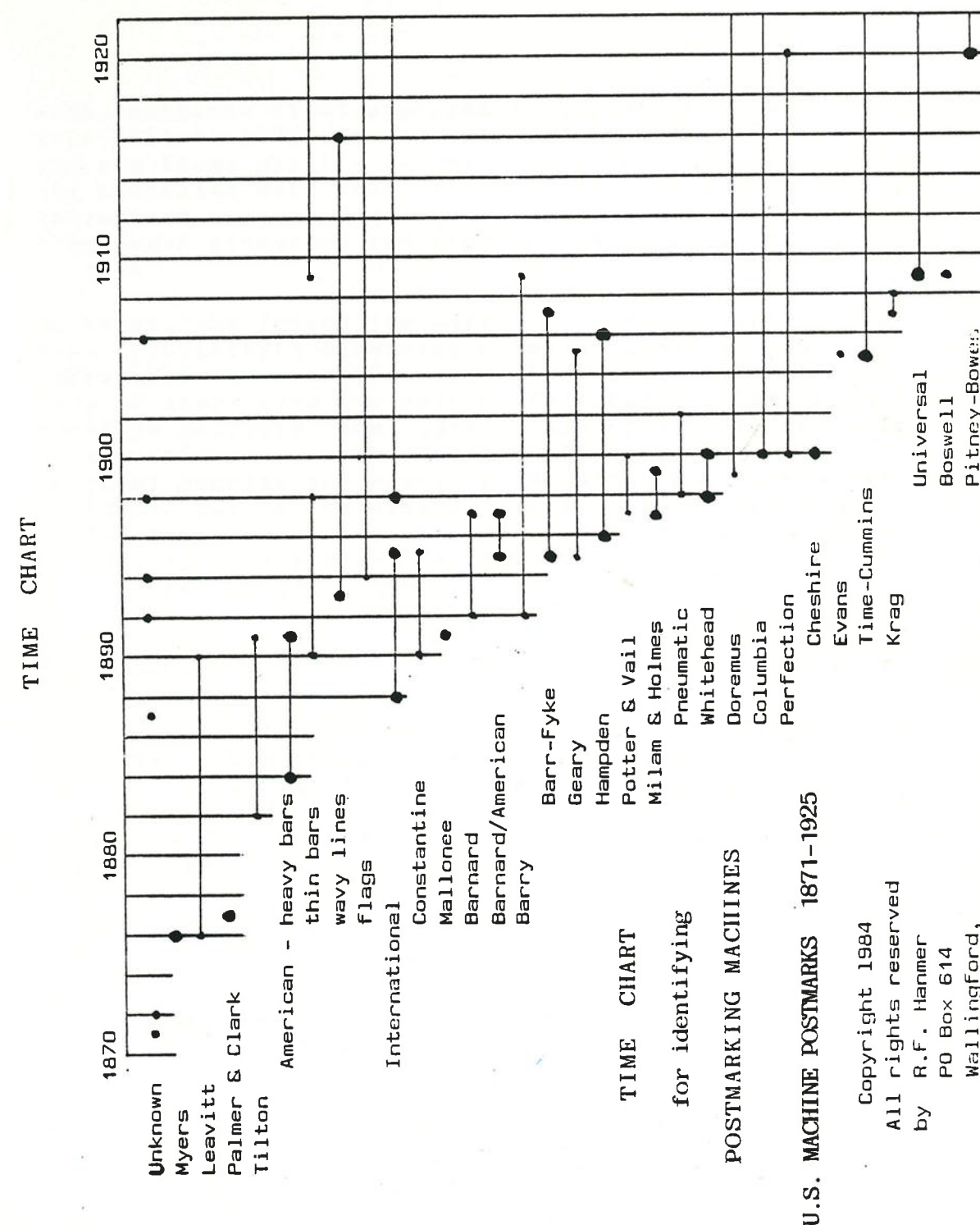
## CLASSIFICATIONS

### CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

This is a book for classifying machine-made postmarks by name of manufacturer and for illustrating the rich history of postmark designs during the first half-century of use in the United States. As mentioned in the references, there are type charts for some, not all, of the makes of machine postmarks. Some type charts are easy to use and others are not, depending on both the complexity of the postmarks and the degree of detail which the specialist-author chose to recognize. For example, the classification of Barry postmarks by use of the Funk and Bond type chart requires exceptionally close attention to detail. Classifying flag cancels by the Langford type chart is notably less complex. Complexity can be either an aid or a hindrance, depending on one's point of view. Type charts must be as complete as possible if they are to be useful. They are not included in this book because such completeness and specialization are beyond the scope of this book.

An extent to which analysis and specialization can be carried is illustrated in this book by examples from Machine 5, Boston. The sometimes subtle changes in dials and in killers can lead willing collectors on a fascinating quest - and be utterly alienating to others. It would be presumptuous to label one group right and the other wrong. Nonetheless, the search for things remarkable invariably generates a host of distinctions and refinements, as specialized catalogs on any subject amply illustrate.

## TIME CHART





## AMERICAN POSTAL MACHINE COMPANY

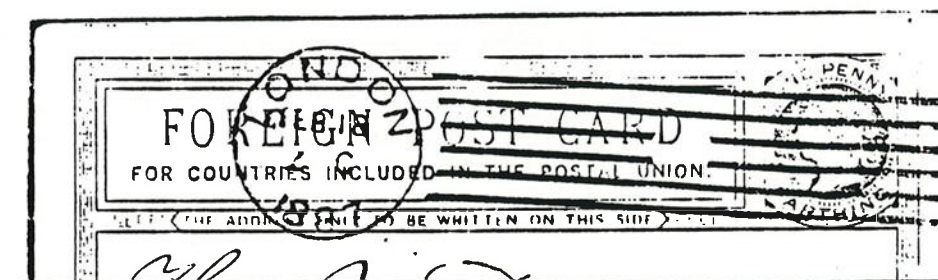
APMC postmarks first appeared in Boston in 1884. The style from 1884 to 1890 was very distinctive: a large circle dial and six long, usually heavy, killer bars. By 1890 competing companies were producing similar postmarks. The APMC introduced several different styles in the early 1890's, then began producing the popular, long-lived flag cancels in 1894.

As types, the Boston postmarks of 1884-1891 are fairly common. Specialists recognize numerous dial and killer changes, differences in letter/numeral sizes and positions, and transfers of dials from one machine to another. The early Constantine postmark looks like an APMC postmark, but Constantine machines were never used in Boston. The early International machine postmarks of 1888-1891 are somewhat similar to APMCs, but the relatively short distance between dial and killer which is characteristic of APMC postmarks makes identification fairly easy. Moreover, Internationals were not used in Boston until 1900.

## References:

The extensive and erudite study of early APMC postmarks and machines by Reg Morris, "American Machine Cancels," published in 1978, is an invaluable guide to these postmarks. It covers 1884 through 1890. It supersedes his earlier handbook, "American Machine Cancels 1884-1898," which remains essential for the 1891-1898 (and somewhat later) period.

Machine Cancel Forum published an update of the above on pp 1375-1379.



Experimental Use in England

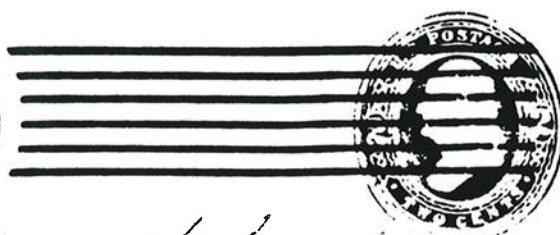
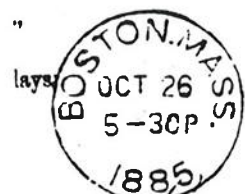




The first APMC postmark.  
Known also with date and  
time.  
1884 rare



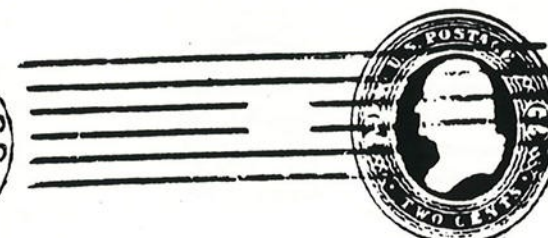
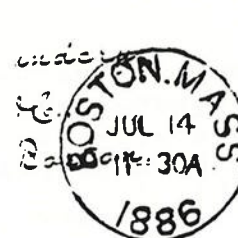
1885 postmark like 1884  
Scarce



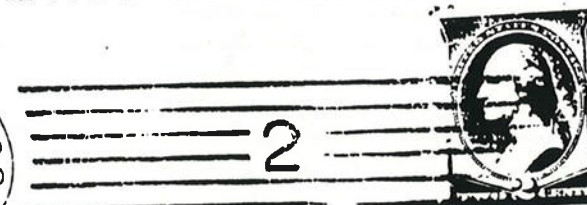
Note curved left end of  
killer - type used until  
1891. Uses range from  
common to rare



Rare 1885 service mark-  
ing, used only a few  
months



Killers with holes  
(diespaces for numbers  
of machines) appeared  
briefly in 1886. The  
type is somewhat  
scarce.



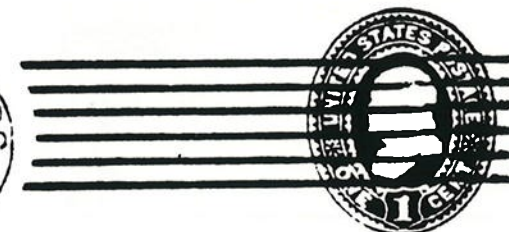
machine number 2

Machine numbers first  
appeared in 1886.  
Numbers range from 1  
to 15 as the number  
of machines increased.  
Numbers may disappear,  
probably misprints or  
new machines.  
Most are not common,  
a few are rare



Miniature "2" used  
very briefly.

Rare



No date/time given  
for Third Class mail.  
Solid bars again,  
perhaps introducing  
a new machine



Machine 14 was added  
in mid-1889. Note  
irregular pattern of  
bars at left end of  
killer.

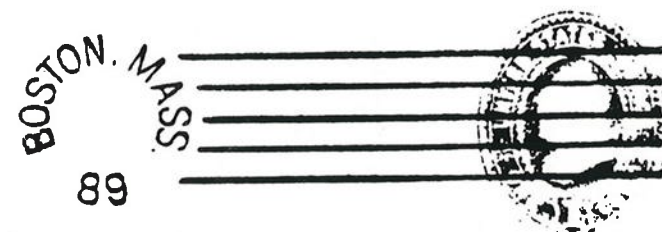
Scarce





The rimless dials of 1889-1890, generally believed to be APMC postmarks.

All are rare.



Rimless dial, two digit year  
5 bars

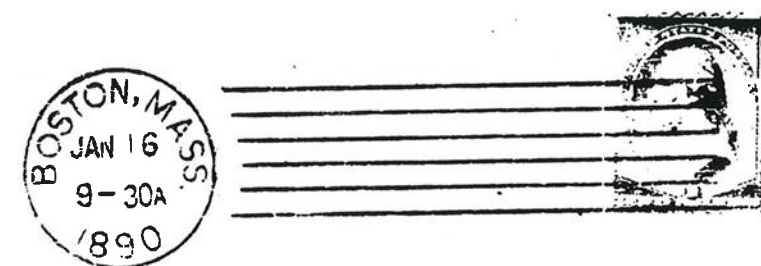
Rare

Third Class mail

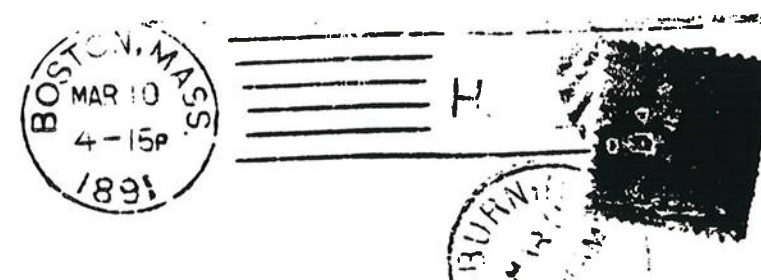


Rimless dial, four digit year  
6 bars

Rare



Possibly an ancestor of the first flag cancel - see below



The only reported instance of a letter in this type killer, and the only reported use of this postmark in 1891. Appears to be same dial as in Jan. 16 above, and perhaps the same killer with diespace added.

## AMERICAN BAR CANCELS

1890 - 1897

In 1890 the large dial, heavy bar killers of 1884-1891 were gradually replaced by smaller, light designs. The evolutionary nature of the changes is illustrated here by a summary of the postmarks from Boston's Machine Number 5. Actually, there were more varieties than are illustrated here, but all the known types are shown. Similar summaries can be constructed for the other Boston machines (1-15 and A-H), though no other types but those shown here are presently known.

Until 1890 APMC postmarks were used only in Boston. About March 1890 one of the small, light designs appeared in Philadelphia. Machines were gradually introduced into the Boston suburbs and into a few dozen other postoffices from New Hampshire to Virginia to Illinois. The great explosion of APMC machine use began in 1895 after the introduction of the flag cancels and the suspension of International Postal Supply Company contracts by the Post Office Department in mid-1895.

## References:

Reg Morris, "American Machine Cancels 1884-1898"

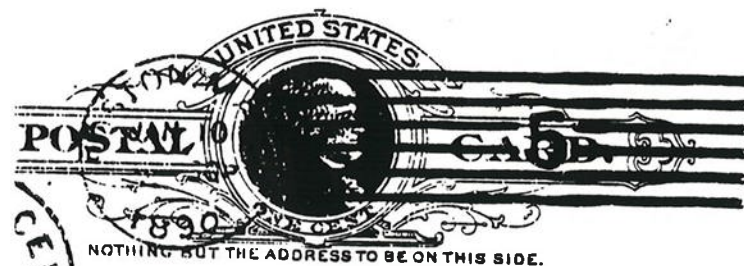
Copyright 1978, published in England by the author who now resides in the United States

Machine Cancel Forum, pp 635-640, an update of the above

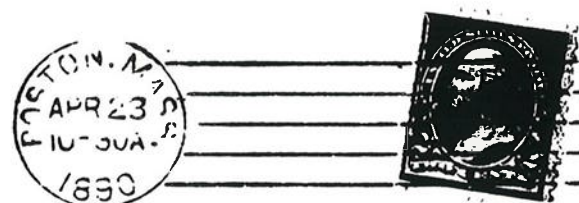


# AMERICAN

A progression of postmarks from Machine 5, Boston  
(not complete)



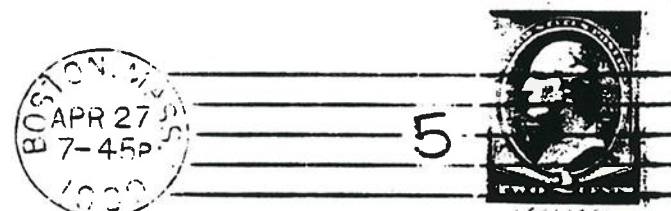
1884-1891 type postmark  
used January-April 1890.  
Scarce



New size and style of  
dial and killer intro-  
duced in 1890.

Scarce in 1890, common  
thereafter

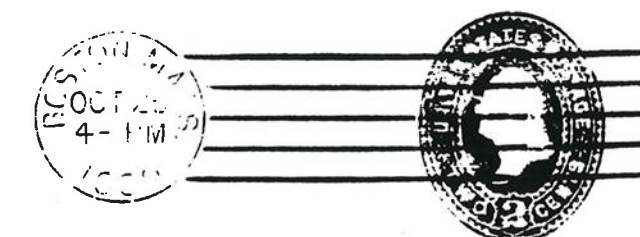
There is a 5 in killer



A new dial and perhaps  
a new killer



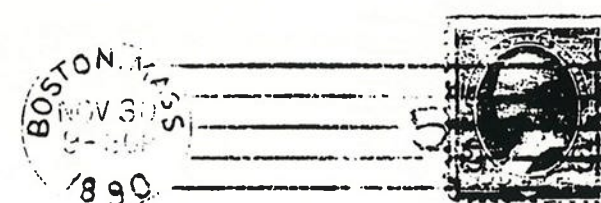
Probably the same dial  
and killer distorted by  
slippage



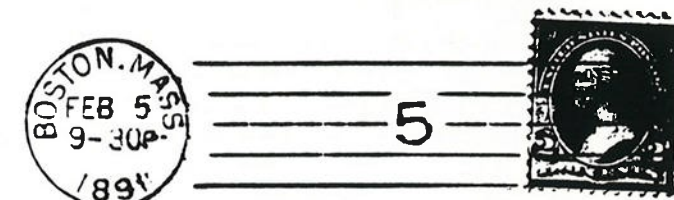
Another new dial

# AMERICAN

A progression of postmarks from Machine 5, Boston  
(not Complete)

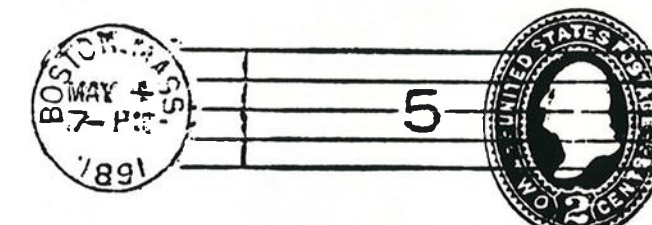


New dial



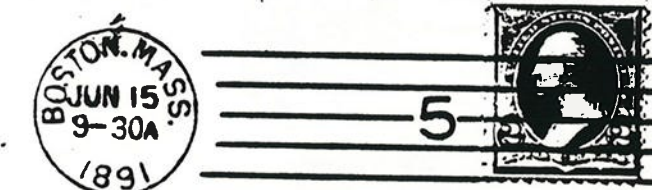
New style postmark,  
more space between  
dial and killer

Common type

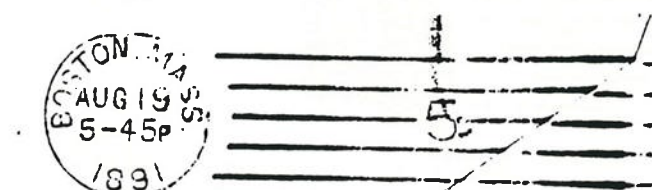


Another new style of  
killer

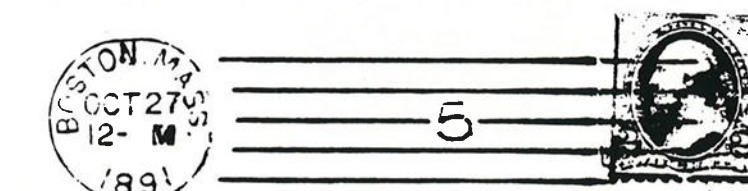
Somewhat scarce type



New dial. Back to  
February type killer



Another new dial.  
Here postmark was used  
as a service marking

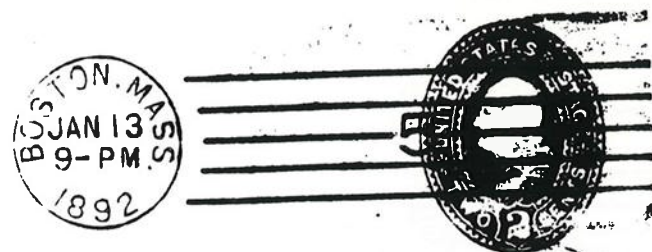


Further damage or  
new dial?  
(not retouched)

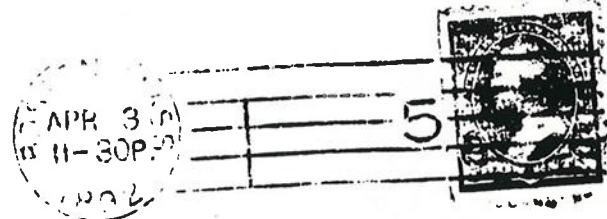


AMERICAN

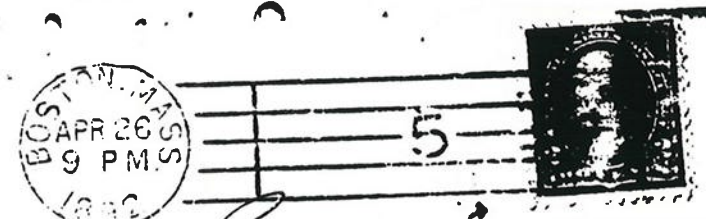
A progression of postmarks from Machine 5, Boston  
(not complete)



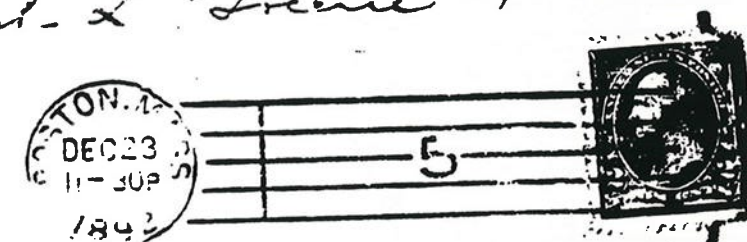
New year, new dial.  
Common type



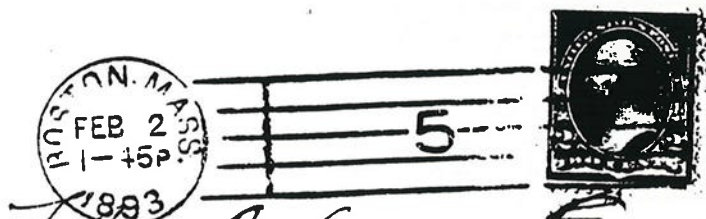
New dial. Style of  
killer revived from  
May 1891. Short  
vertical bar may be  
from ink starvation.



New dial?  
Entire vertical bar  
now appears



Another dial.  
Somewhat scarce type



New year, new dial.



New dial.  
New style killer,  
common type.

AMERICAN

A progression of postmarks from Machine 5, Boston  
(not complete)



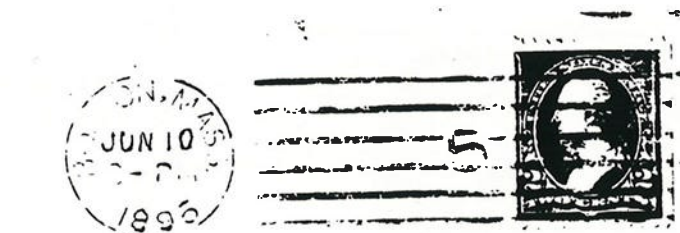
New dial  
Common type postmark



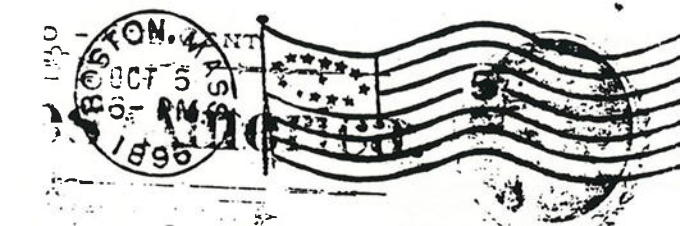
New year, new dial



New year, new dial

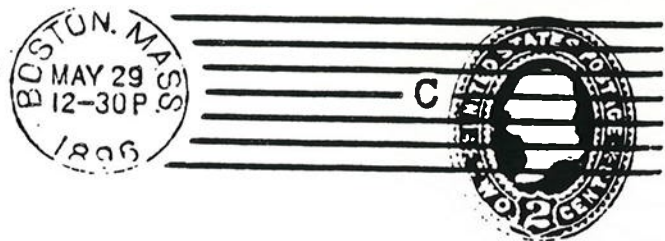


Another dial

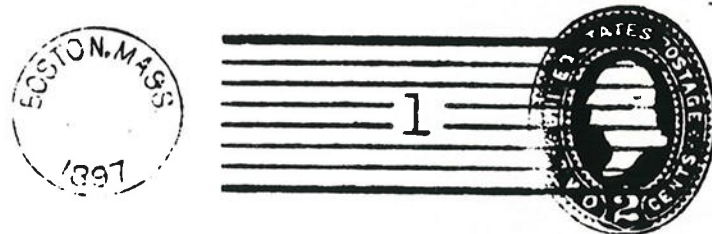


The 1895-1896 flag  
cancel. Stars in oval  
is common type.  
Note split dial (upper  
and lower halves) new  
to this machine

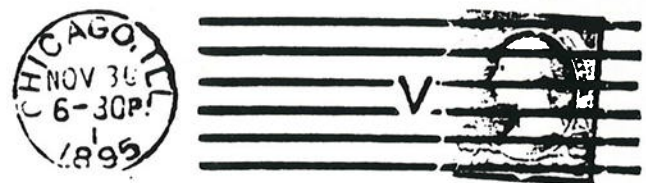




7-bar killer. Rare.  
This may or may not be  
an APMC postmark



8-bar killer. Rare.  
This may or may not be  
an APMC postmark

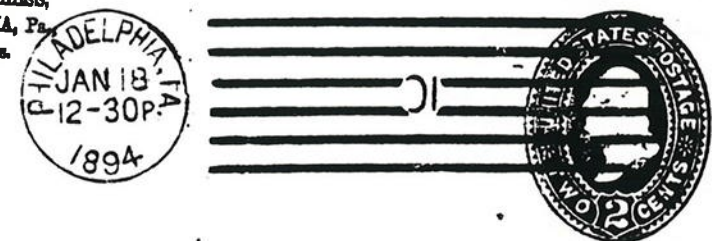


"1" in dial over year.  
Known also with E in  
killer in 1894.  
Both very scarce.

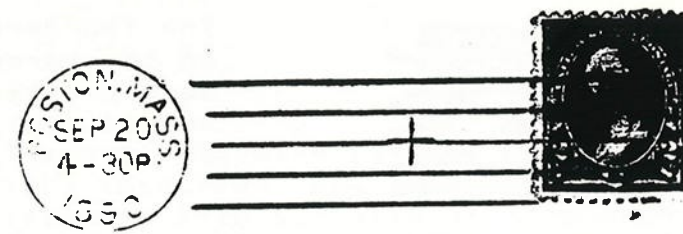


"2" in dial over year,  
known only in 1894  
Scarce

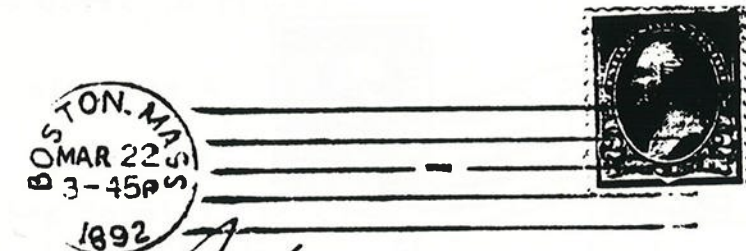
REFLESS,  
PHIA, Pa.  
days.



Inverted "10" in  
killer.  
Scarce

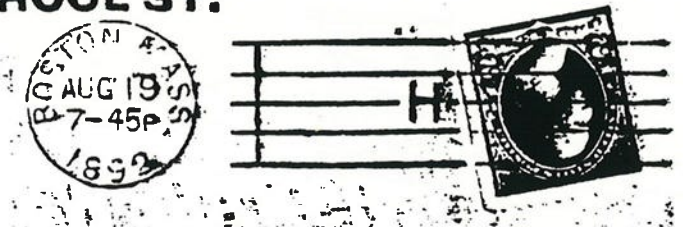


+ in killer, known in  
1890 and 1891  
Scarce

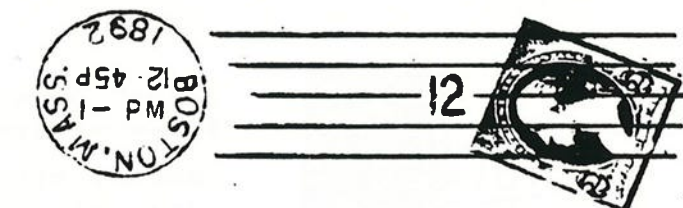


- in killer, actually  
and incomplete H  
Known in various states  
of perfection. Scarce

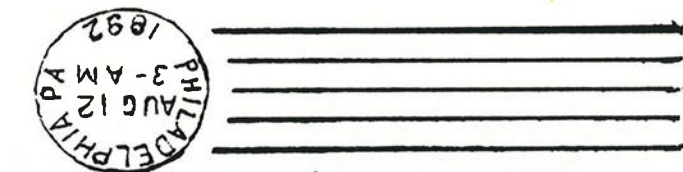
SCHOOL ST.



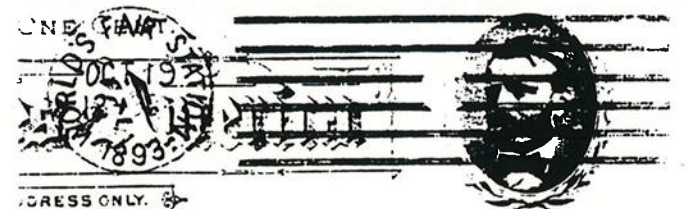
Known with H in 1892 and  
1893. Scarce.  
Known without H in 1893.  
Rare.



Inverted dial. Rare



Inverted dial. Rare



Columbian Exposition  
Postmark, 1893  
Very scarce.  
Compare with similar  
International postmark.

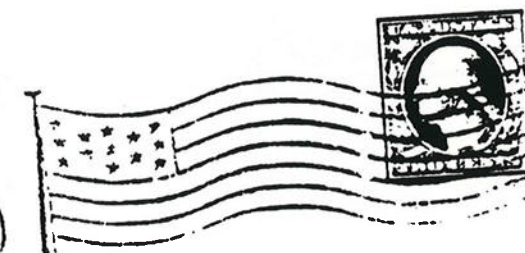




The Thunderbird, one of the rarest and most sought-after US postmarks. Only known day of use.



A rare slogan cancel



Misaligned dial and killer  
Scarce



Slogan cancel.  
Somewhat scarce.  
Compare with similar International cancel.



Used in several dozen large towns from 1909 to mid-1920's.  
Common type, some scarce uses.

## AMERICAN WAVY BAR CANCELS

These distinctive killers are known from several cities from 1893 into 1900, and from Philadelphia and a few other cities into the 1920's. Some of them were probably from Barnard or Barnard/American machines - the relationship is not fully understood (1984).

## References:

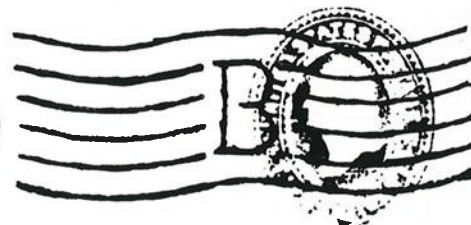
Reg Morris, "American Machine Cancels 1884-1898".  
Published in England by the author who now resides in the United States. Possibly out of print.



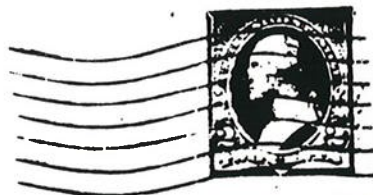
## The Chicago Wavy-Bar Postmarks



Very scarce



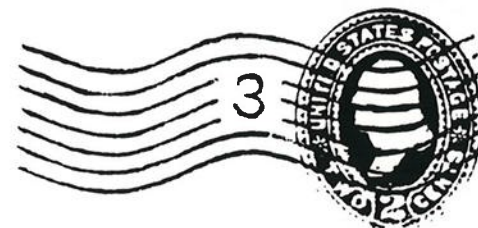
Very scarce.  
There is another very  
scarce variety with  
"111" over the year



"1" over year in dial.  
There is also a "1" in  
the killer diespace  
Scarce



"11" over year in dial.  
Scarce

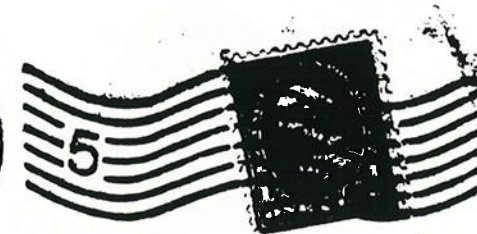


Scarce

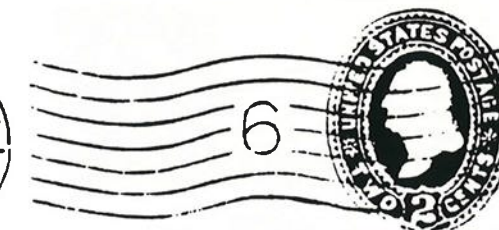
## The Chicago Wavy-Bar Postmarks



Scarce



Scarce



Scarce

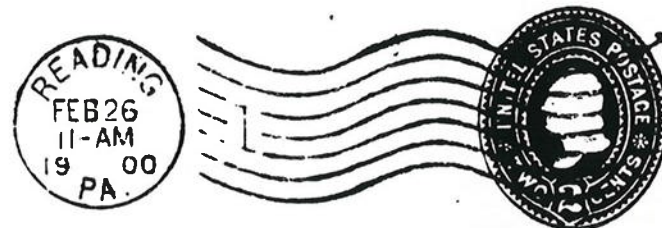


## Some Wavy-Bar Postmarks



Used in 1894-1895 in Reading, Chicago, and a few other cities. Most are scarce.

Compare nearly identical Barnard cancel

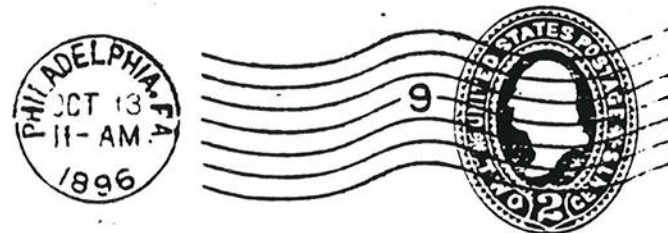
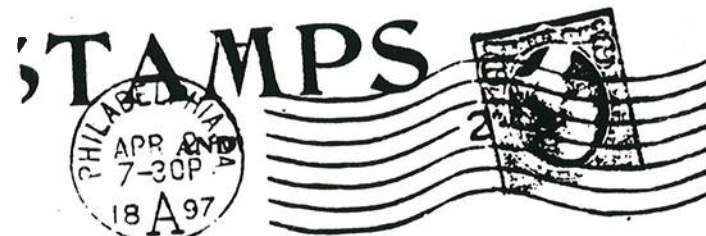


A similar postmark used very briefly in Reading in 1900. Rare



This and the following two postmarks illustrate types used in the Philadelphia postoffices for many years. Used in a few other cities.

Common types but there are scarce uses.

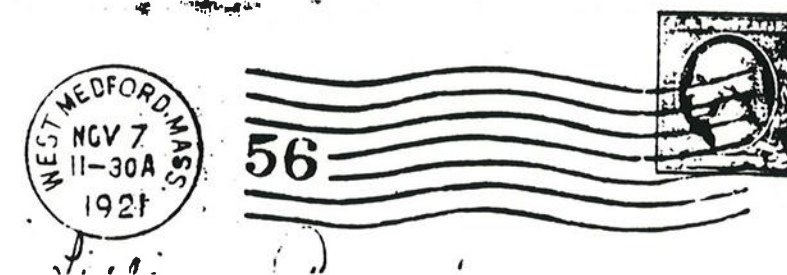


## Some Wavy-Bar Postmarks

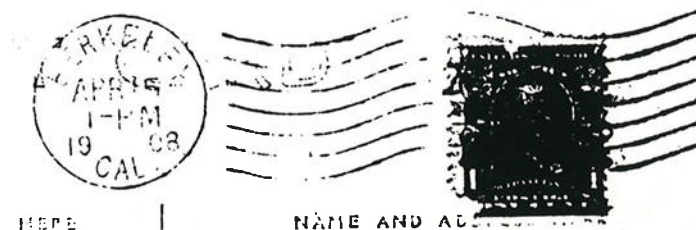


Except for Philadelphia, wavy-bar killers were used in very few cities.

Scarce uses



Postal Zone 56



Scarce



## AMERICAN FLAG CANCELS

The earliest known APMC flag cancel is dated October 31, 1894, Boston, Mass. A few APMC flag machines were still in use when World War II was raging. A complete set of flag postmarks for the intervening years would number well over 10,000 examples - counting places and types and varieties of use. The subject is covered expertly in a monumental book by Frederick Langford, "The Standard Flag Cancel Encyclopedia," now in its third edition.

A few other manufacturers produced flag cancels, most such cancels being rare or exceedingly scarce. Most are easily distinguished from APMC flags. The Barnard/American flag cancels are listed separately in this book, a distinction Langford does not make except in a footnote.

The most popular flags are doubtless the involute flags used in Boston and about thirty other cities from 1896 to 1899

## References:

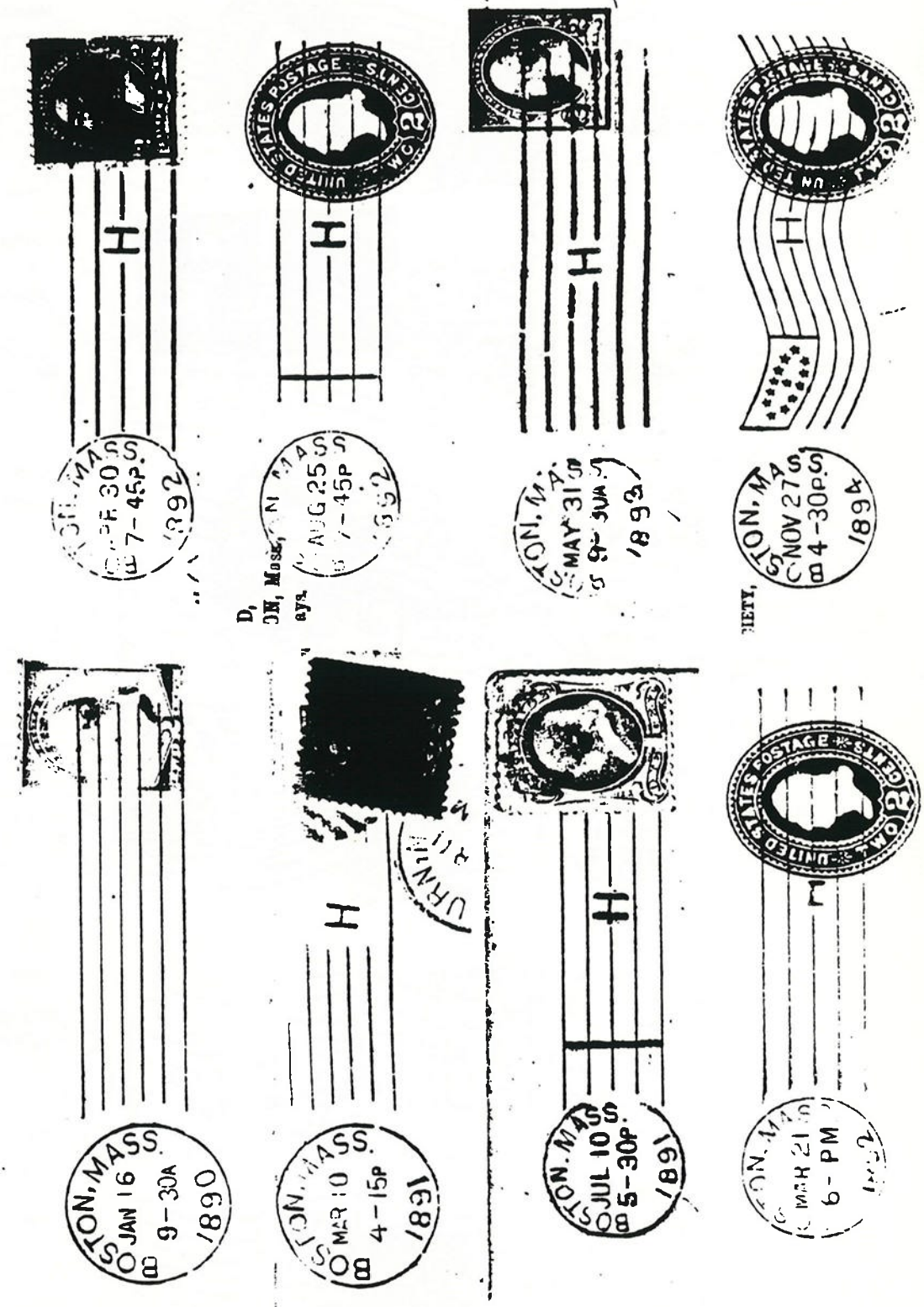
Frederick Langford, "Standard Flag Cancel Encyclopedia"  
Copyright 1976 and published by the author



Mismatched Halves of Split Dials - Rare

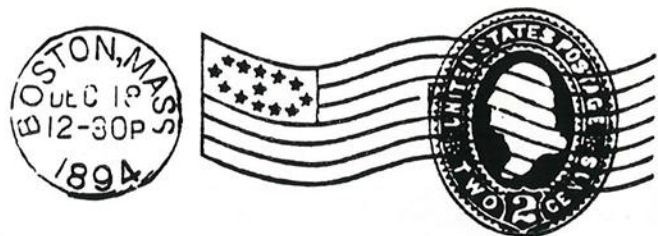
## Evolution of the First Flag Cancel - Machine H

Both the dials and killers for 1890 and 1891 appear to be the same but for the year and the added "H". These and the 6-bar (May 31) are rare, the others scarce. This Machine H may well have been more an experimental unit than a production unit.

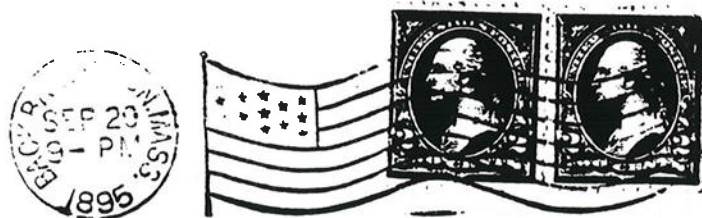




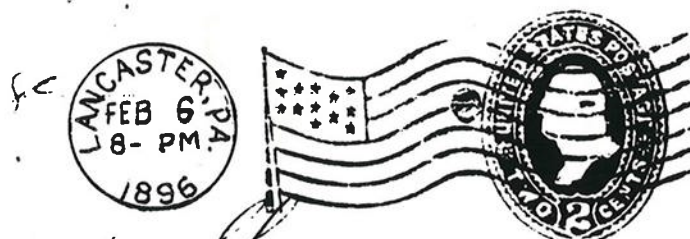
## Some of the Flags



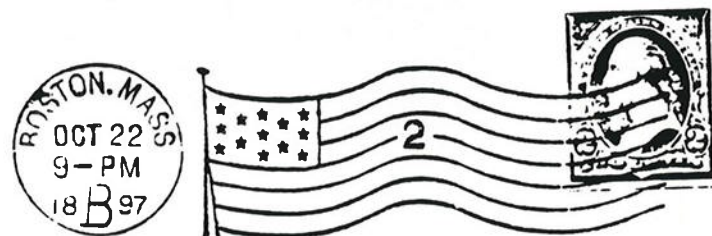
Machine F, very early use  
Very scarce in 1894, less  
so in 1895. Note stripes  
closed at left, no staff,  
no halyard.



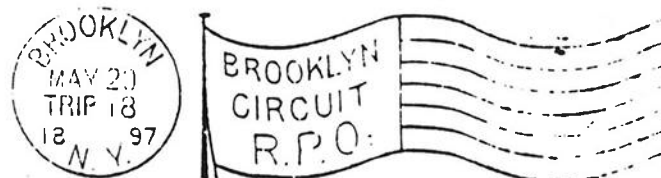
Note flag staff, no hal-  
yard. Type is common,  
some uses scarce



Black disk in diespace,  
disk scarce, flag common



Boston Station B  
Type common



One of several RPO types.  
Range from somewhat  
scarce to rare



Very scarce use

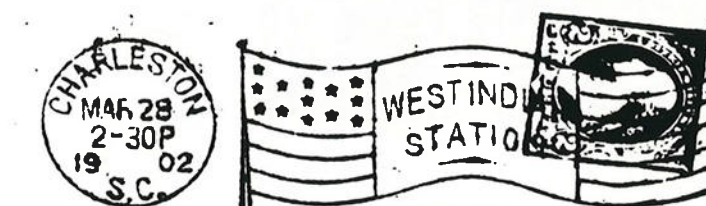
## Some of the Flags



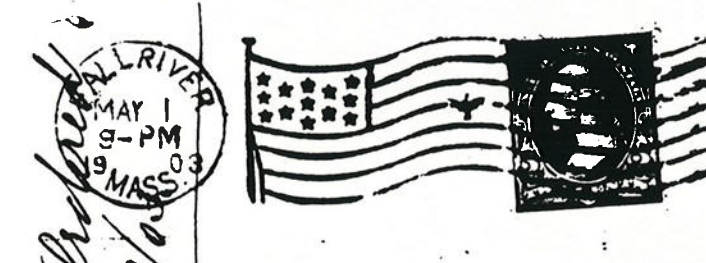
Station T  
D = deposited (as  
distinguished from  
C = collected)  
Scarce



Very scarce use



Rare use  
This type of flag was  
used at Newton Station,  
Mass. - uncommon



Eagle in diespace  
Scarce



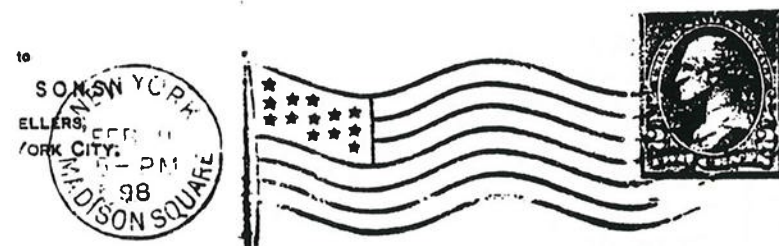
A very common type  
for stations



## Some of the Flags



One of several RPO types  
Range from somewhat  
scarce to rare



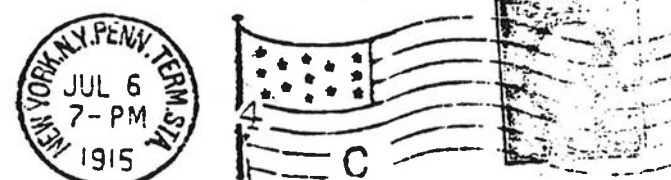
Note halyard extends  
to top of staff.  
May not be an  
American postmark.  
Very scarce



Rare



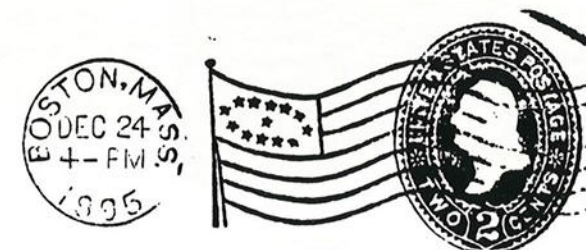
A ship-board cancel  
Generally scarce



Uncommon



Scarce

A progression of postmarks from Machine 5, Boston  
(not complete)

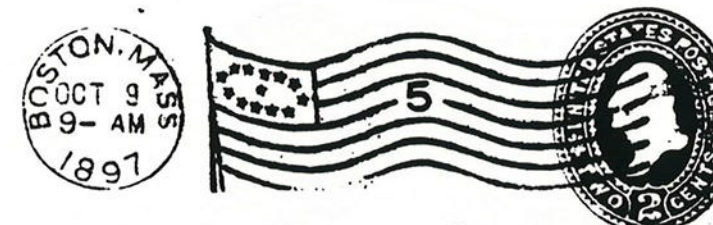
A flag cancel first  
appeared on Machine 5  
in 1895  
Common type



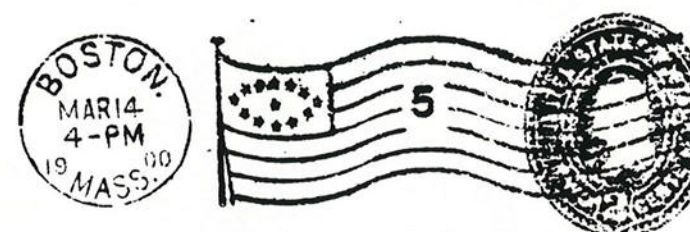
New dial



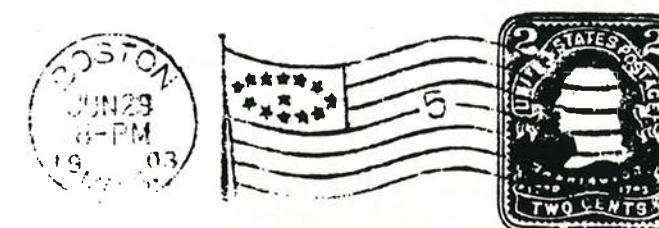
New type dial  
Common



Return to old type  
dial



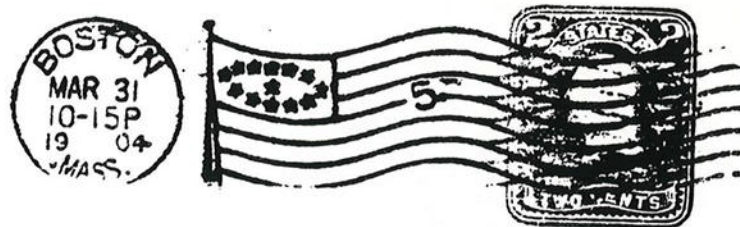
New dial, new flag



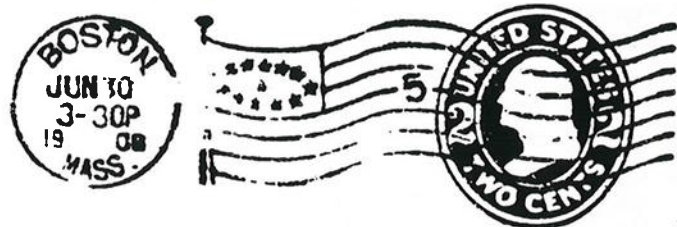
New dial, new flag



A Progression of Postmarks from Machine 5, Boston  
(not complete)



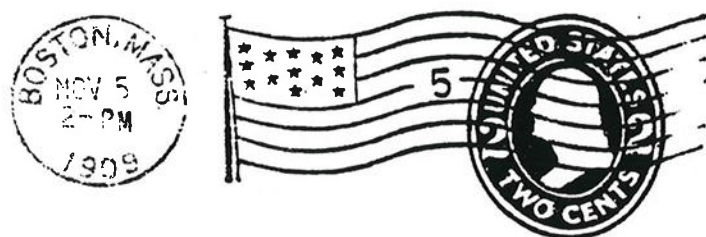
New dial  
Note narrow year  
New flag?



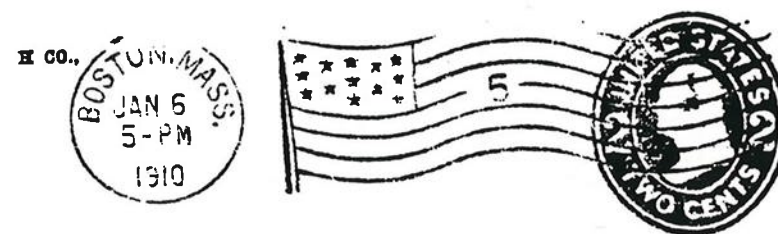
New dial, new flag



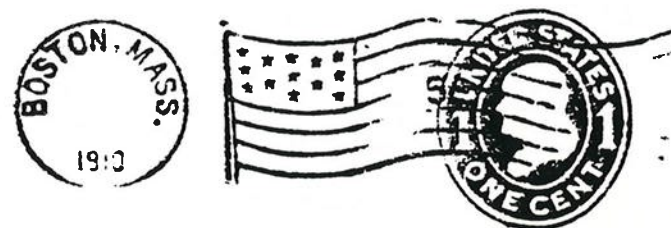
New dial  
Wide year



1890's type dial  
used briefly.  
Scarce

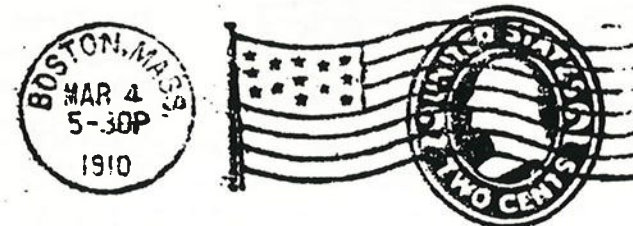


New dial

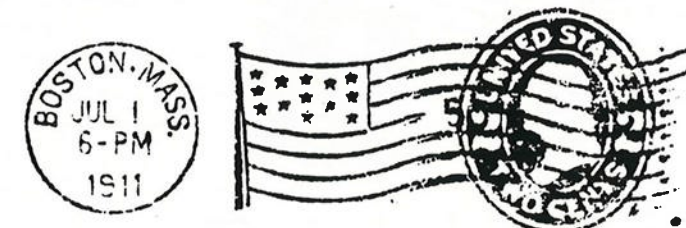


New dial  
3rd Class Mail

A Progression of Postmarks from Machine 5, Boston  
(not complete)



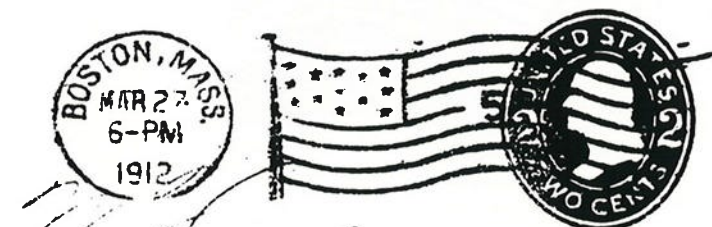
New dial  
All are common types



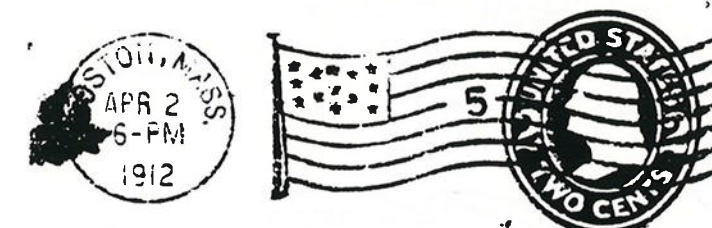
New dial



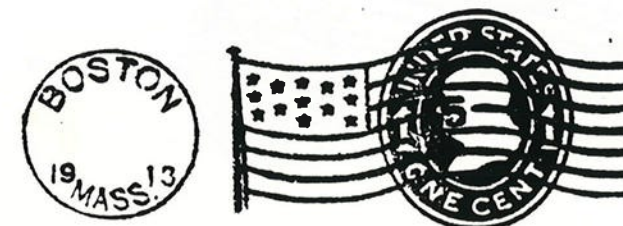
New dial



New dial



New flag with small  
field of stars



Return to earlier type  
dial and large field  
for stars.

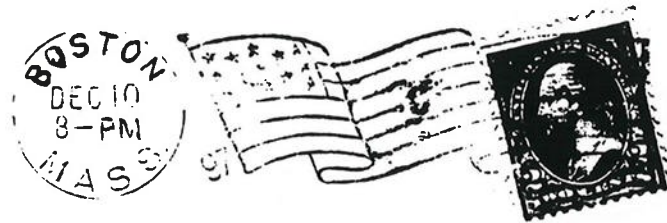
Machine 5 flags ended  
in 1914



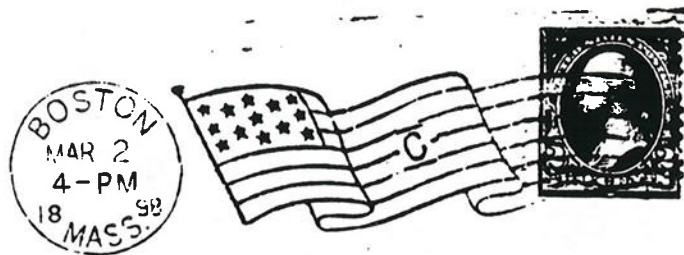


The first two involute flags shown here may or may not be APMC postmarks.

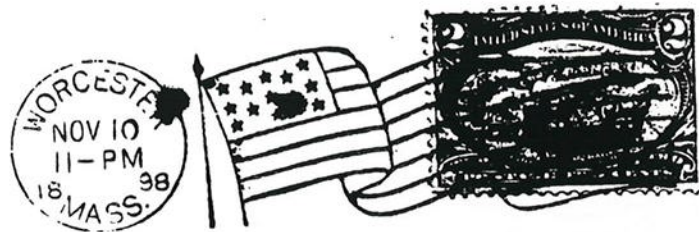
The first is rare.  
Note year in two places.



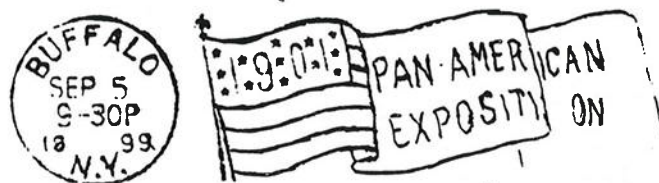
Scarce



Uncommon



Scarce



Rare



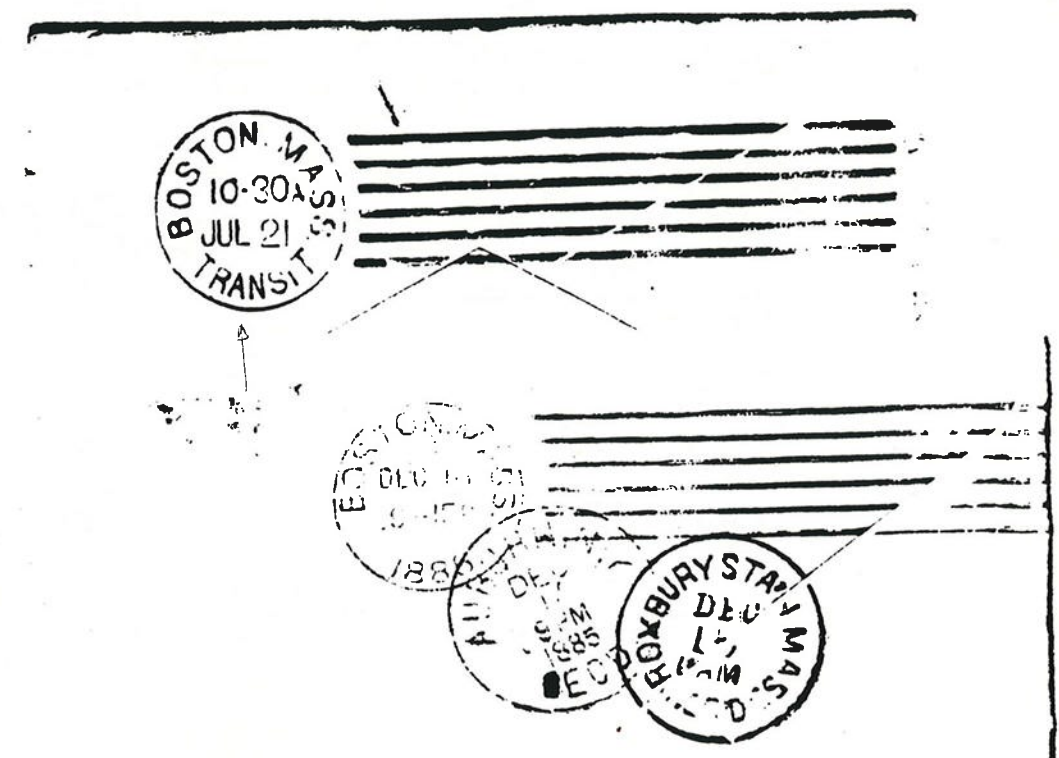
Scarce

## AMERICAN SERVICE MARKINGS

In 1885 APMC created a transit backstamp which was used briefly that year. It is rare. From 1885 to 1890 a full postmark was occasionally used as a transit backstamp. They are scarce. Late in 1890 the then new small dial without killer began to appear as a received backstamp. These, too, are scarce. Thereafter dials alone are found commonly. In 1893 the idea of a service marking reappeared in the form of a "train late" backstamp, and thereafter special purpose backstamps in many designs were offered for APMC equipment. Far more frequently, regular postmarks were used as received backstamps. In mid-1913 the Post Office Department discontinued the practice (frequently overlooked) of backstamping first class mail with the time and date received, and APMC service markings became a thing of the past.

## References:

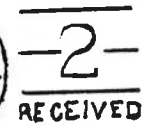
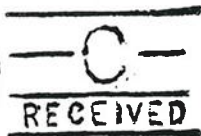
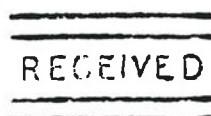
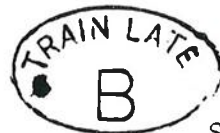
Machine Cancel Forum pp 663-682



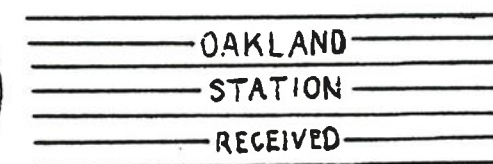
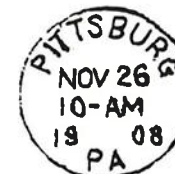
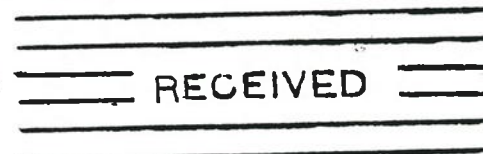
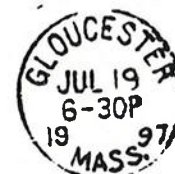


## Some Service Markings

S = Scarce



## Some Service Markings





# BARNARD

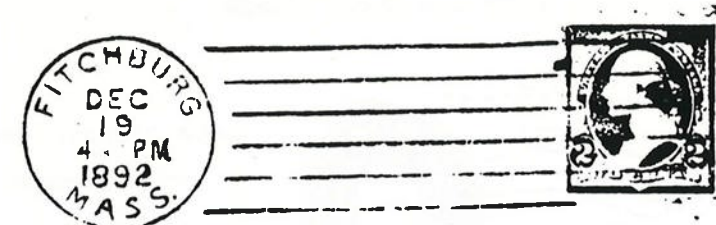
## BARNARD and BARNARD/AMERICAN

George E. Barnard of Fitchburg, Mass. produced a machine used in Fitchburg in 1892-1894. It made a six-bar killer somewhat like the American Postal Machine Company's killers of 1884-1891 but with wider spacing between bars. A seven-bar wavy killer was used in 1894-1897 and a coarser five-bar wavy killer was used in 1895 - these were used in a few places in the Boston area and are believed to be Barnards or Barnard/Americans. The relation of Barnard to the APMC is known but not fully understood (1984). Some authorities think it likely that Barnard and the APMC are together the originators of some exceptional flag cancels used in a few of the Boston suburbs.

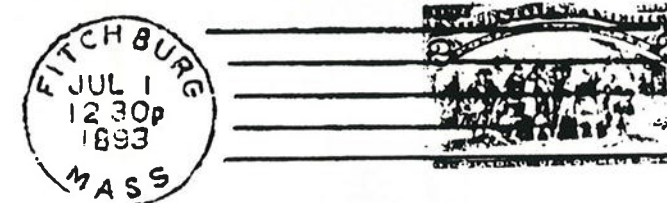
### References:

Machine Cancel Forum pp 523-532

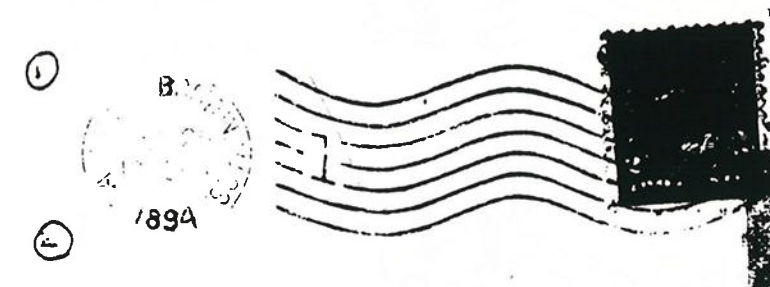
# BARNARD



6-bar  
Four lines for date  
and time  
Very scarce



6-bar, bottom line  
did not print  
Three line date/time  
Scarce



Gripper marks (in circles)  
Scarce  
This type gripper mark  
is characteristic of  
Barnard machines.



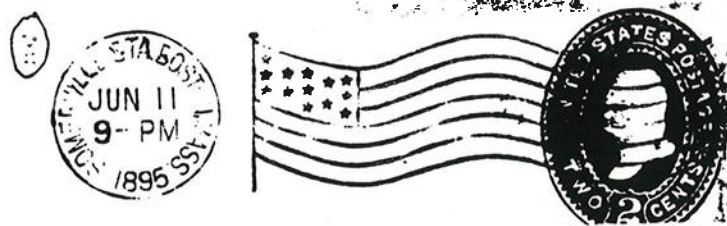
Gripper mark at top only  
(in circle)  
Scarce



Gripper mark at top only  
Rare



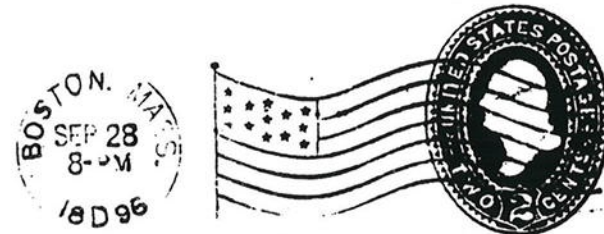
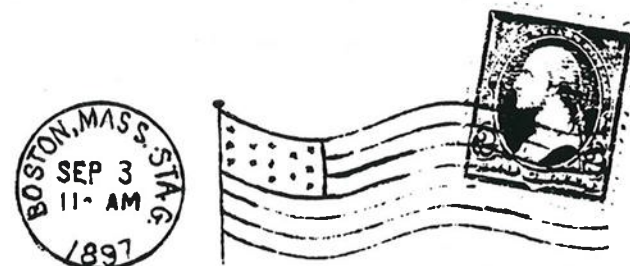
## Long and Short Flags



Note gripper mark (in circle)  
Staff, no halyard  
Somewhat scarce



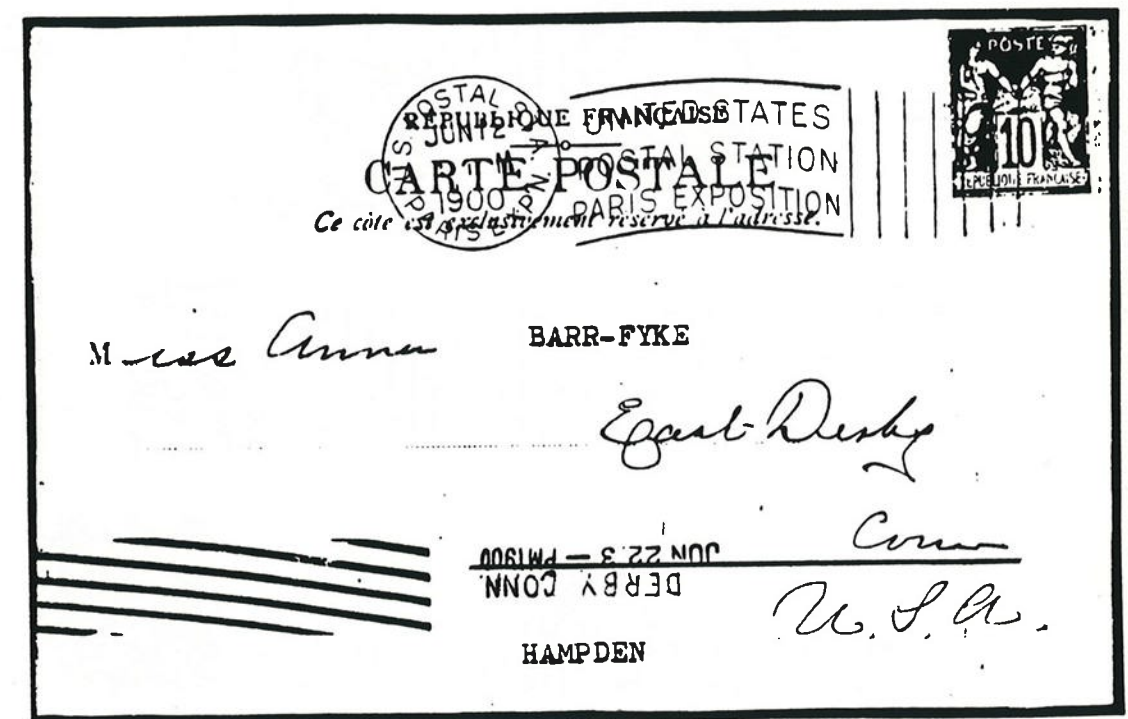
Two of the short flags  
used in stations of Boston  
Somewhat scarce  
No gripper marks



Station D  
Scarce

## BARR-FYKE

The Barr-Fyke Machine Company of Kansas City, Missouri produced a small number of postmarking machines and some of the most distinctive postmarks of the period from about 1897 to 1905 or a little later. There is no catalog of these postmarks. A listing of then known types appeared many years ago in "XX Killers," long out of print. One collector is known to be working on an update for eventual publication.





Experimental Types 1896 - 1897

Most were used only a few days, hence are rare

ANY,

KANSAS CITY, MO.  
JUN 12 7 PM '96

TO  
COMPANY,

KANSAS CITY, MO.  
JUL 10 7 PM '96



KANSAS CITY, MO.  
SEP 28 8 PM '96



Possibly the most  
common of these  
rare postmarks

FROM

JGGIN,

KANSAS CITY, MO. STA. A.  
SEP 19 4 PM '96



WASHINGTON, D.C.  
11 6 — PM  
1897

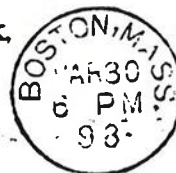


Experimental  
Rare



Experimental  
Rare

NK,



Type used in a few  
large cities.  
Somewhat scarce



Station in dial  
Somewhat scarce

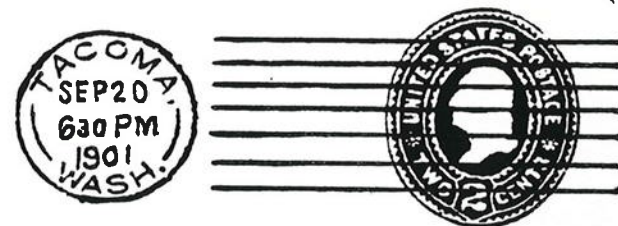


Probably the most  
common Barr-Fyke  
but still uncommon

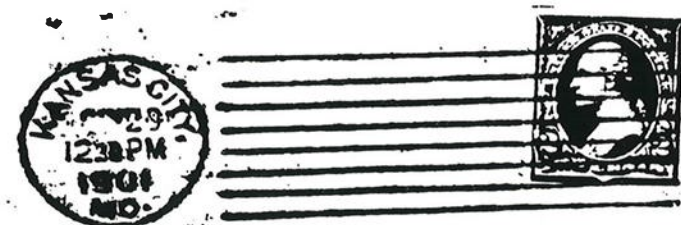


Somewhat scarce





7-bar, scarce type  
Arcs often indicate  
Barr-Fyke



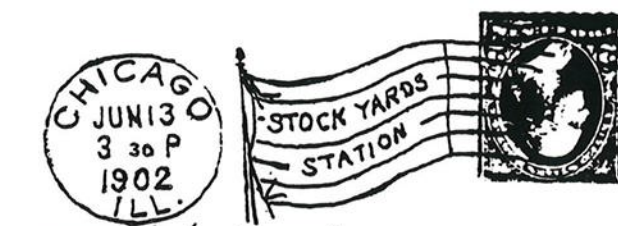
8-bar, very scarce



8-bar, station in dial  
Very scarce



7-bar with screw hole,  
not a diespace  
Very scarce



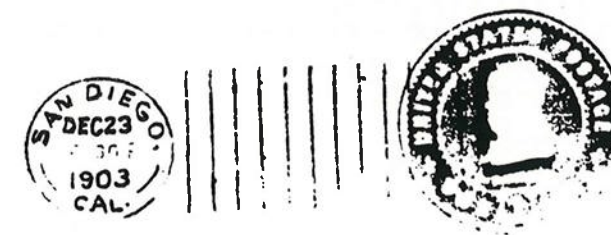
Barr-Fyke flag  
Not APMC. Scarce  
Known from several cities



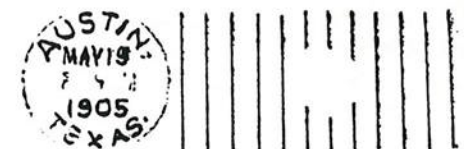
Generally considered to  
be a Barr-Fyke, but very  
atypical. Very scarce.  
This station only.



Small dial  
Somewhat scarce

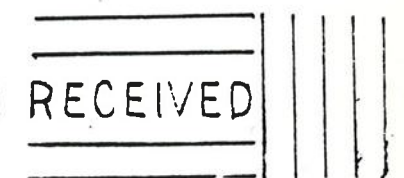


Small dial with arcs,  
arcs often indicate Barr-Fyke  
Somewhat scarce



Not a repeater -  
two separate  
impressions

## Barr-Fyke Service Markings



All are scarce





The Barry Postal Supply Company of Oswego, New York created a wide variety of postmarks between 1895 and 1909. During that period Barry was a significant factor in the market. The first slogan cancels came from Barry machines - for the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York.

After International Postal Supply Company machines were discontinued by the Post Office Department in 1895, Barry was a prominent contender for the business. The reintroduction of IPSC machines in mid-1900 created competition which ultimately Barry could not meet.

Barry dials are in circle, oval, and bar form - about fifty types and subtypes. Killers can be straight or wavy. Barry postmarks are usually easy to identify in spite of the many types. Barry slanted bar killers must be distinguished from the far less common Hampden killers which have lower angles.

#### References:

Funk and Bond, "Barry Machine Cancels"  
published by US Cancellation Club

#### Experimentals

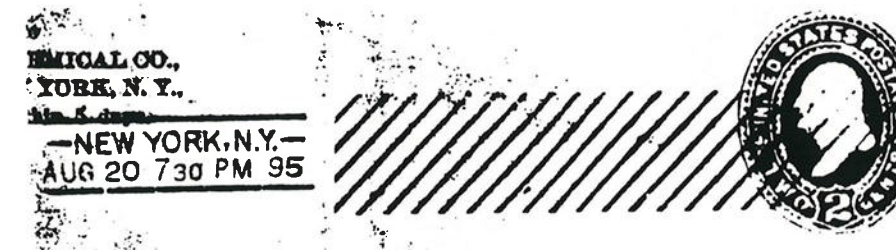


Rare type



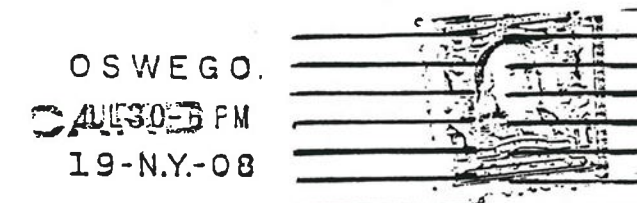
Considered experimental  
if dated June 1895

Very scarce



Production model  
similar to experimental

Somewhat scarce if  
this early



Note two sections of  
killer

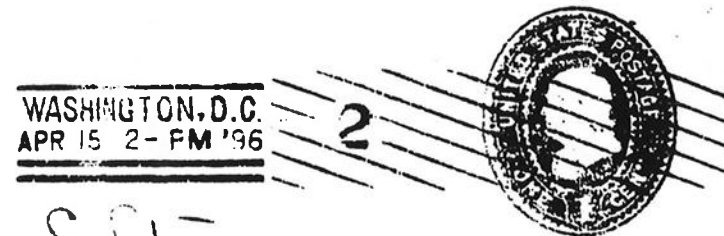
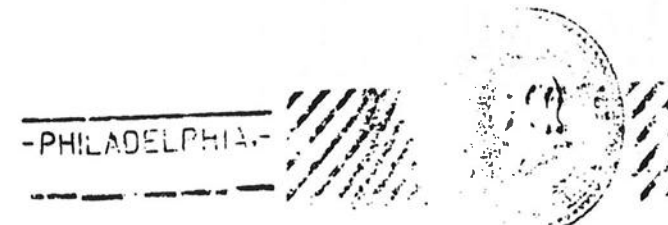
Considered experimental  
Known only from Oswego  
in 1908-1909

Somewhat scarce

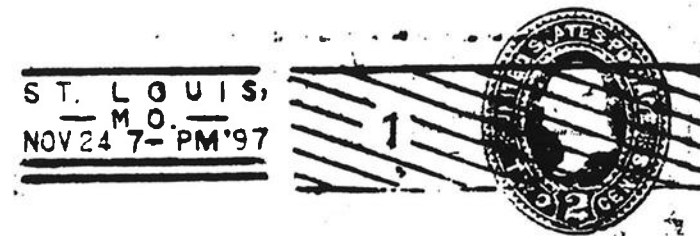
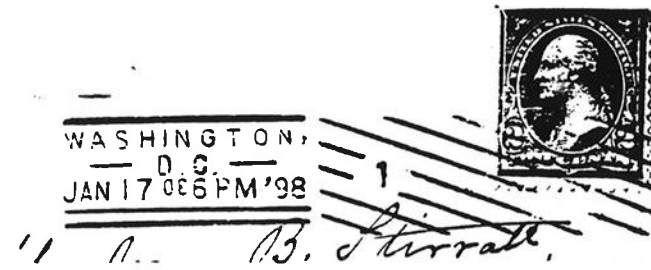




Some common types



Return to



Known also from  
Brooklyn and  
Rochester  
Somewhat scarce type



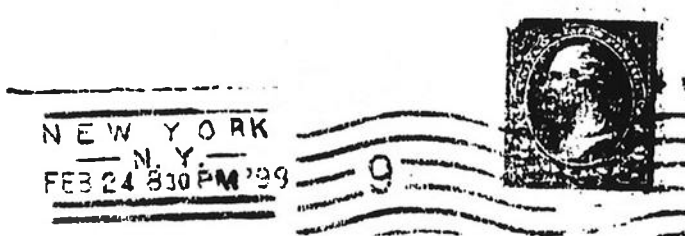
Common type



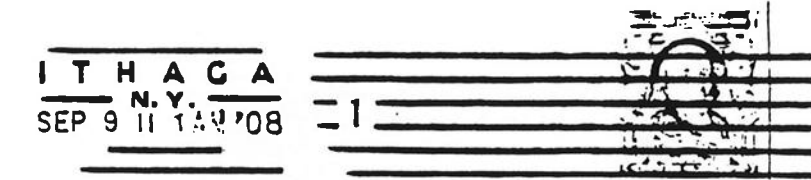
Not common



"CALA"  
Not common



Not common



Common type  
Damaged bars



Common type



NEW YORK, N.Y. STA. O.  
SEP 4 330 PM '96

*nd. Morris*



Uncommon type

NEW YORK, N.Y.  
P.O. BRANCHE  
DEC 6 830 PM '98



Uncommon type

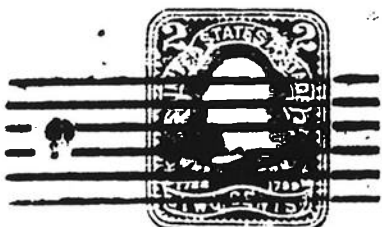
CHICAGO, ILL.  
STATION U.  
SEP 2 5-PM '00 STATION W



Redundant

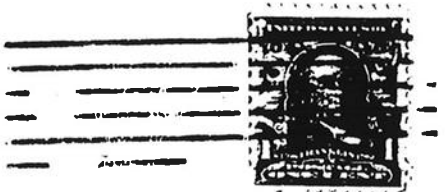
Scarce

SAINT LOUIS, MO.  
ANNEX STATION  
MAR 13 7-PM '06



Uncommon

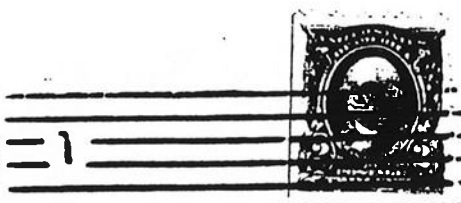
PO BUFFALO, N.Y.  
STATION A.  
AUG 7 1-PM '07



Common

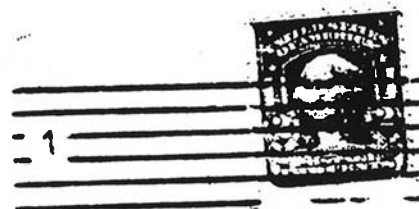
Co.

OSWEGO, N.Y.  
JUN 27 1030 AM '02



All are somewhat scarce

OSWEGO, N.Y.  
MAY 28 830 PM '05

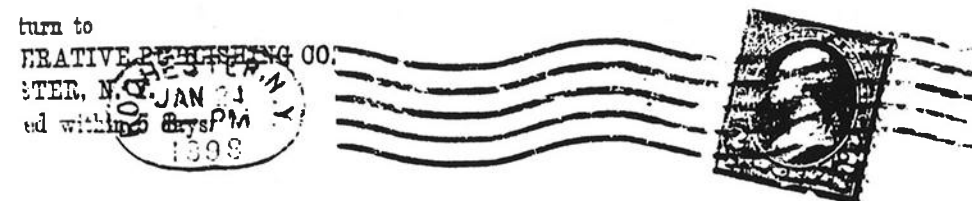
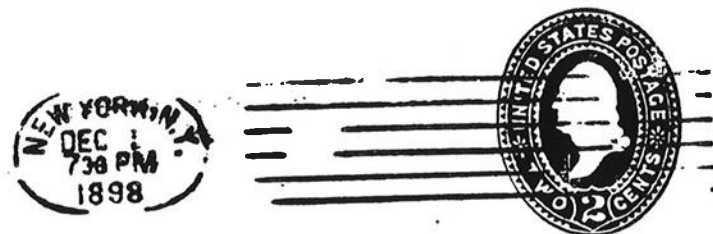


OSWEGO, N.Y.  
MAR 8-PM '08  
POSTAL CARD





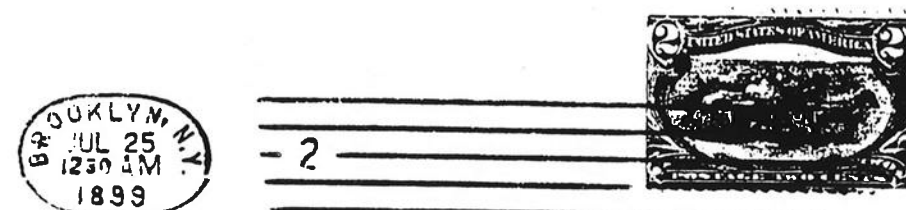
All are common



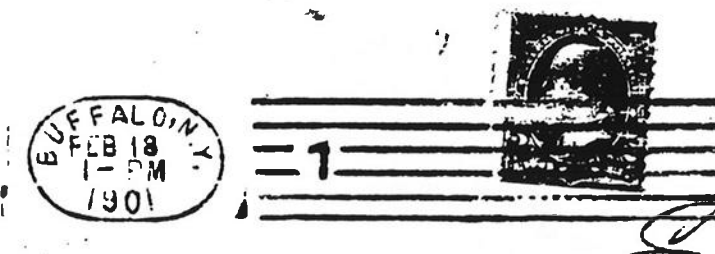
Very common



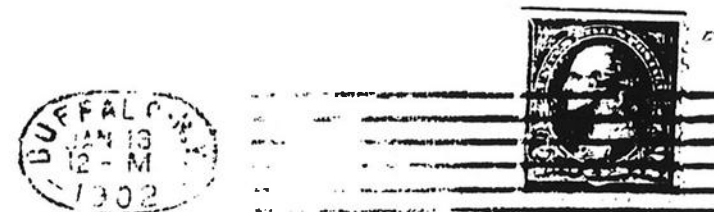
Common



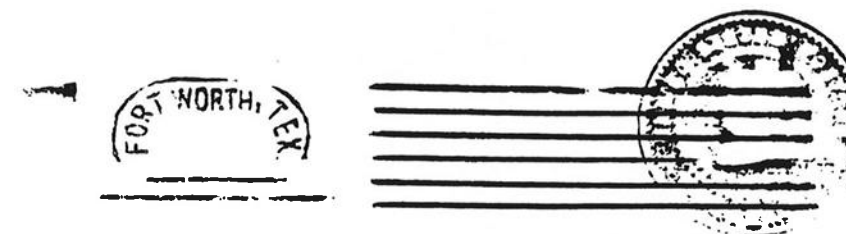
Common



Not common



Very scarce

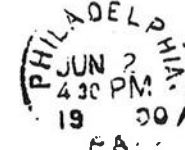




Type not common



Type not common



Type not common



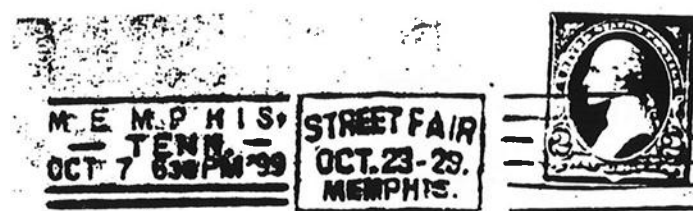
Scarce type  
Dial similar to  
American Machine  
dial



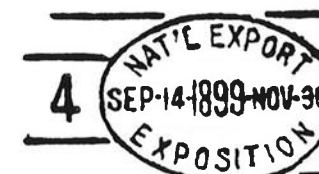
Type not common



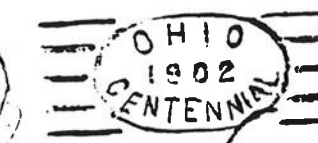
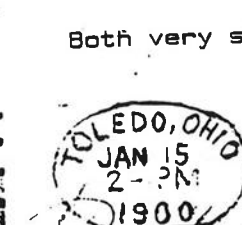
Rare type



Rare



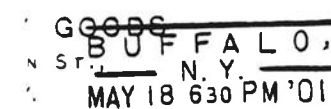
Very scarce



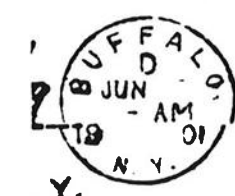
Both very scarce



Somewhat scarce



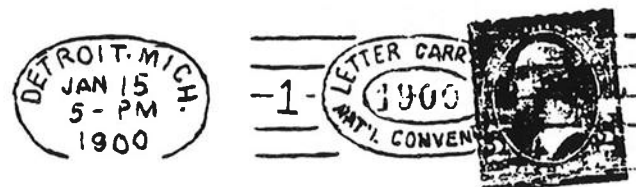
Somewhat scarce  
Similar postmark from  
PanAmerican Station  
is rare



Barry flag, not APMC  
Rare  
Also known with "D"  
at bottom of dial



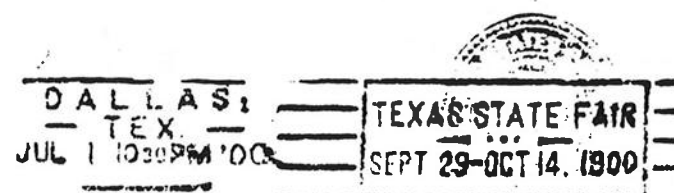
## Some Slogan Cancels



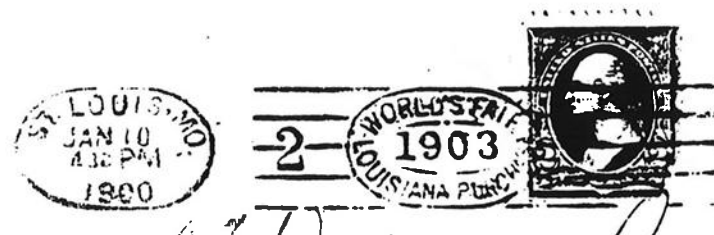
Rare



Rare

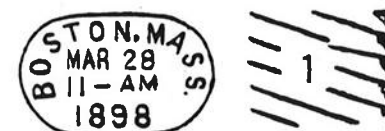


Rare

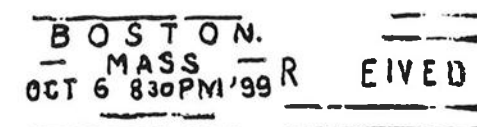


Somewhat scarce

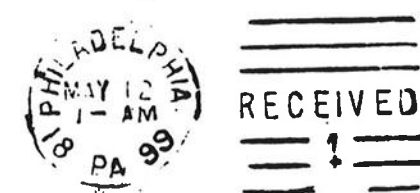
## Some Service Markings



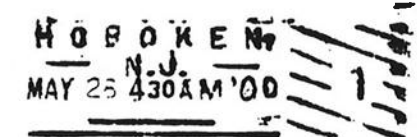
Common type



Somewhat scarce



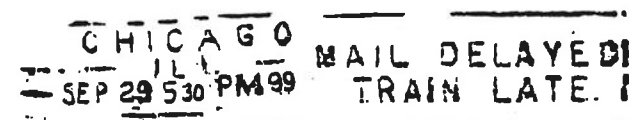
Somewhat scarce



Somewhat scarce



Scarce

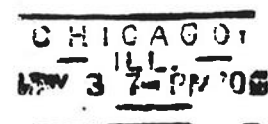


Scarce

## Some Service Markings



Scarce type

Oval dial without killer  
Common type

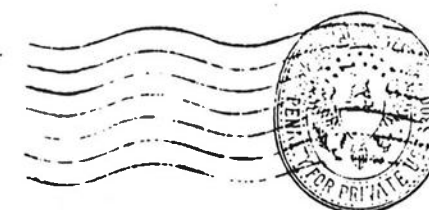
Common type

Service Marking (entire)  
used as a postmark.  
Somewhat scarce type

## BOSWELL

Apparently little is known of Washington, D.C.'s Francis G. Boswell except that he was in some way responsible for producing the postmark illustrated here. The name, "Electro Post-marking Machine," is associated with him. There may be some connection with the Universal Stamping Machine Company, the makers of Universal postmarks. Boswell postmarks are very rare.

Department of the Interior,  
BUREAU OF PENSIONS.





# CHESHIRE

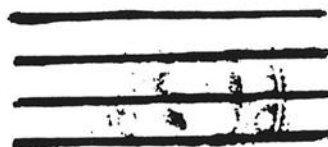
## CHESHIRE

Edward Cheshire of Cleveland is credited with inventing a machine which produced a four-bar cancel, illustrated here, and a very similar five-bar cancel. Both are rare. Even more rare is a three inch long oval postmark also attributed to Cheshire.

### References:

Machine Cancel Forum pp 1349, 623-633

CLEVELAND  
AUG. 8 11 A.M.  
19 OHIO 00



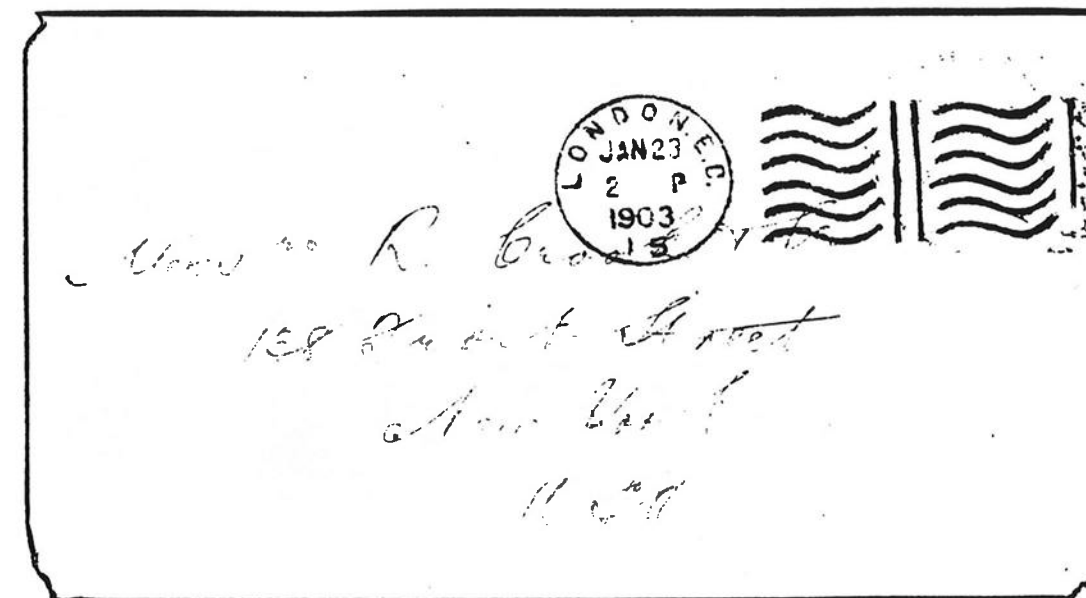
# COLUMBIA

## COLUMBIA

The Columbia Postal Supply Company of Silver Creek, New York produced a striking variety of postmarks beginning about 1900 and continuing for several decades. Some types of Doremus, Time-Cummins, International, and Universal postmarks resemble some Columbia postmarks, but most Columbias are distinctive and easily identified. They have been the subject of many articles, type charts, and town/year listings, notably those published in Machine Cancel Forum.

### References:

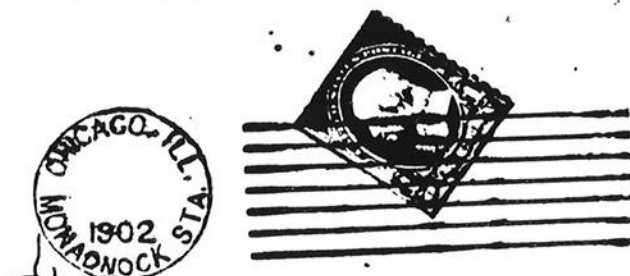
Machine Cancel Forum, pp 686-702 type charts  
also pp 252-256, 295-299, 329-339, 620-621, 1307-1320





Uncommon type

Compare with Doremus of same period. Columbia killer is longer.



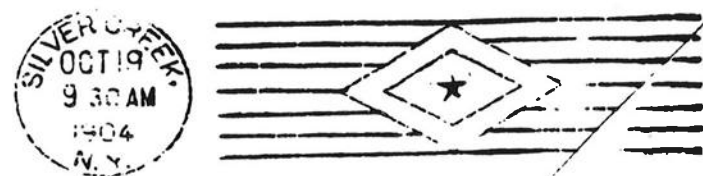
Station in dial type

Not common



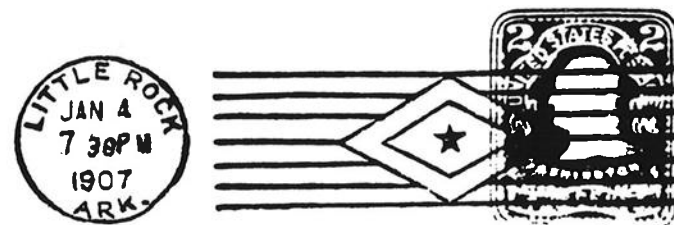
Common type

Compare with Doremus after 1910, and with American postmark.



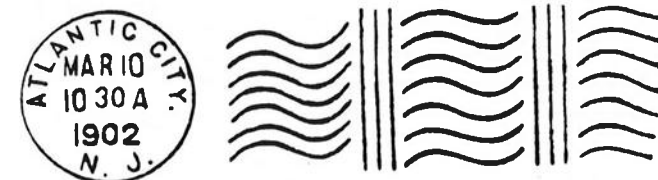
Postmark used as Service Marking.

Scarce type



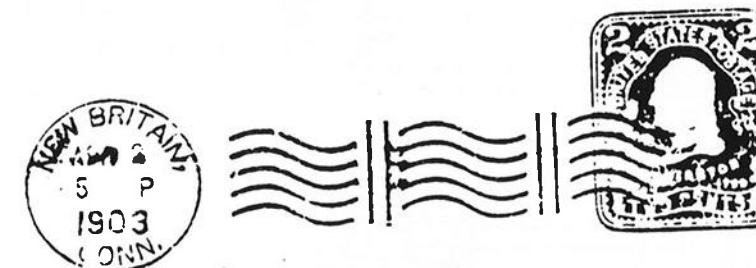
Type known only from Silver Creek and Little Rock.

Scarce



Triple vertical bars known only from Atlantic City and Marshall, Mich.

Scarce



Several types with regular and irregular patterns known.

Common types



Common



Common



Station in dial  
Not common



PATERSON, N.J.  
 POST  
 APR 8 87  
 8 -AM



Top bar did not print.  
 Also known with lines <sup>above</sup>  
 and below dial  
 Common type

POST CARD  
 EAST ORANGE, N.J.  
 MAR 8 09  
 6-30 AM



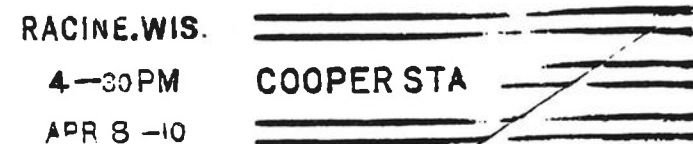
Paired bars  
 Larger print than above  
 Common type



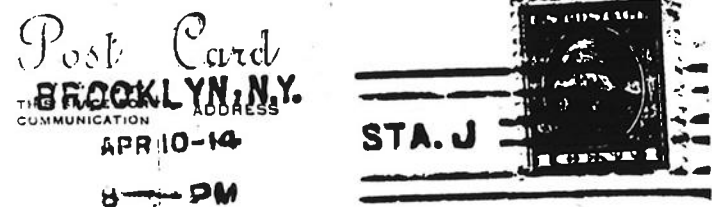
Another variety  
 Common



Station in killer  
 Very small print  
 Common type



Uncommon



Uncommon



3rd Class Mail  
 Uncommon

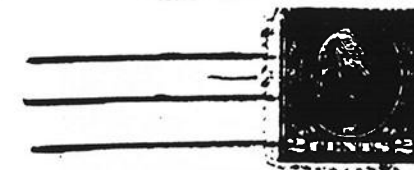
8-Bar Cancels

JOHNSTOWN,  
 OCT 31-13  
 1-30 PM  
 N.Y.



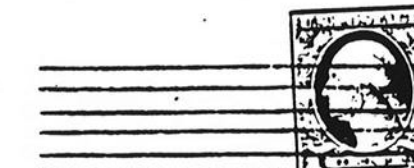
Common type

AMHERST,  
 MAR 25  
 4-30 PM  
 MASS



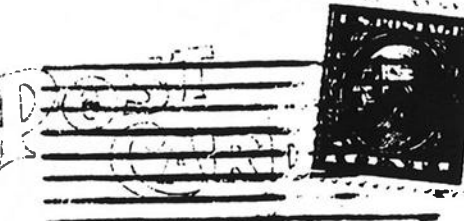
Four bars and year  
 did not print  
 Common type

PROVIDENCE, R.I.  
 APR 6 17  
 12-30 PM  
 ELMWOOD STATION



Paired bars  
 Common type

DETROIT, MICH.  
 NOV 13  
 12-30 PM  
 STATION, C.



Station use  
 Uncommon

SAGINAW WEST SIDE  
 OCT 3-14  
 5-30 PM



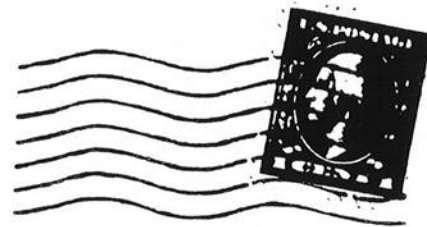
Station use  
 Uncommon

CARD IS MICH.



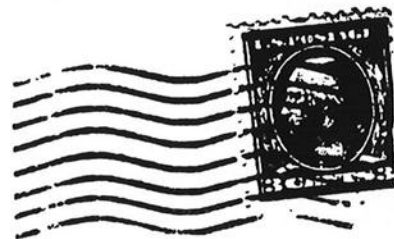
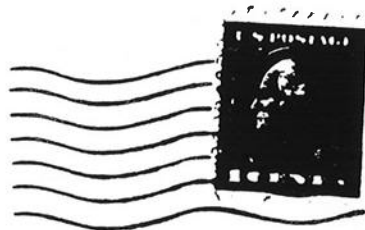
Inverted name  
 Scarce

ALMA CHUNK  
APR 17-15  
PA.  
UMINOUS COALS.  
PA.

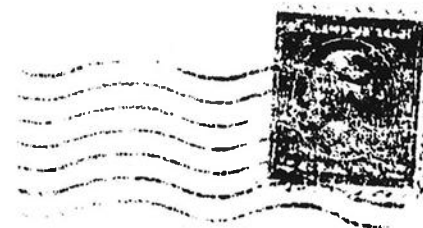
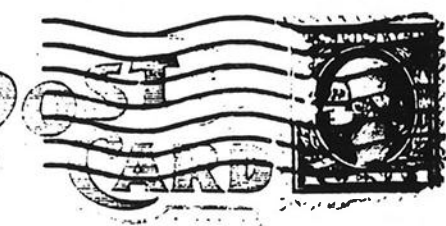


All are common types

ALMA CHUNK  
FEB 16-16  
US 60456 PM  
P A.

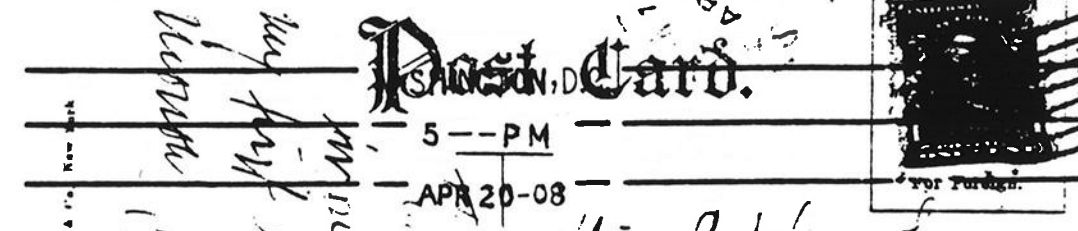


*Tracy L. Graham*

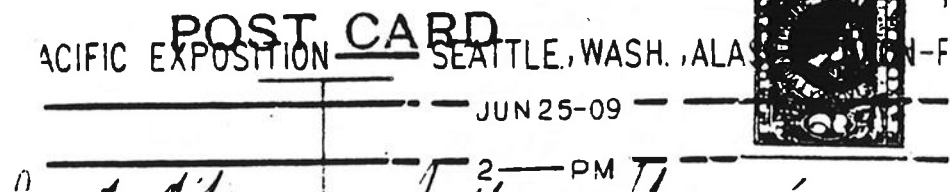


Columbias can usually be distinguished from Universals by the distance from dial to killer - Columbias are closer.

Repeaters and Slogans

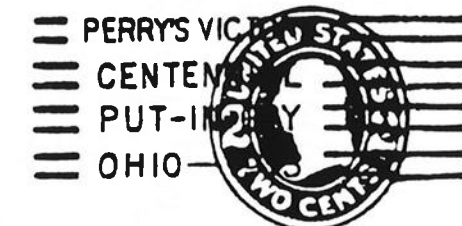


Repeater  
Rare



Repeater  
Rare

SANDUSKY  
MAY 17-13  
8-PM-  
OHIO



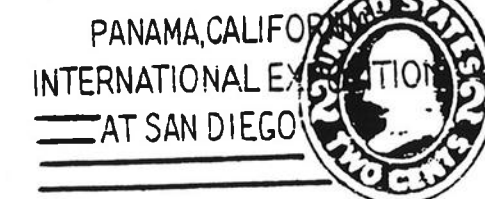
Slogan  
Scarce

AUSTIN  
MAY 1-16  
8-PM  
TEXAS



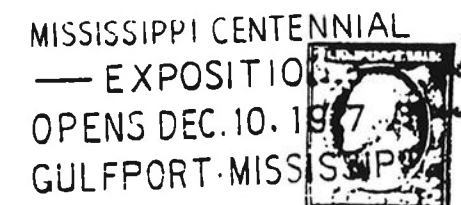
Scarce

REDLANDS,  
SEP 15-16  
8-PM  
CAL.



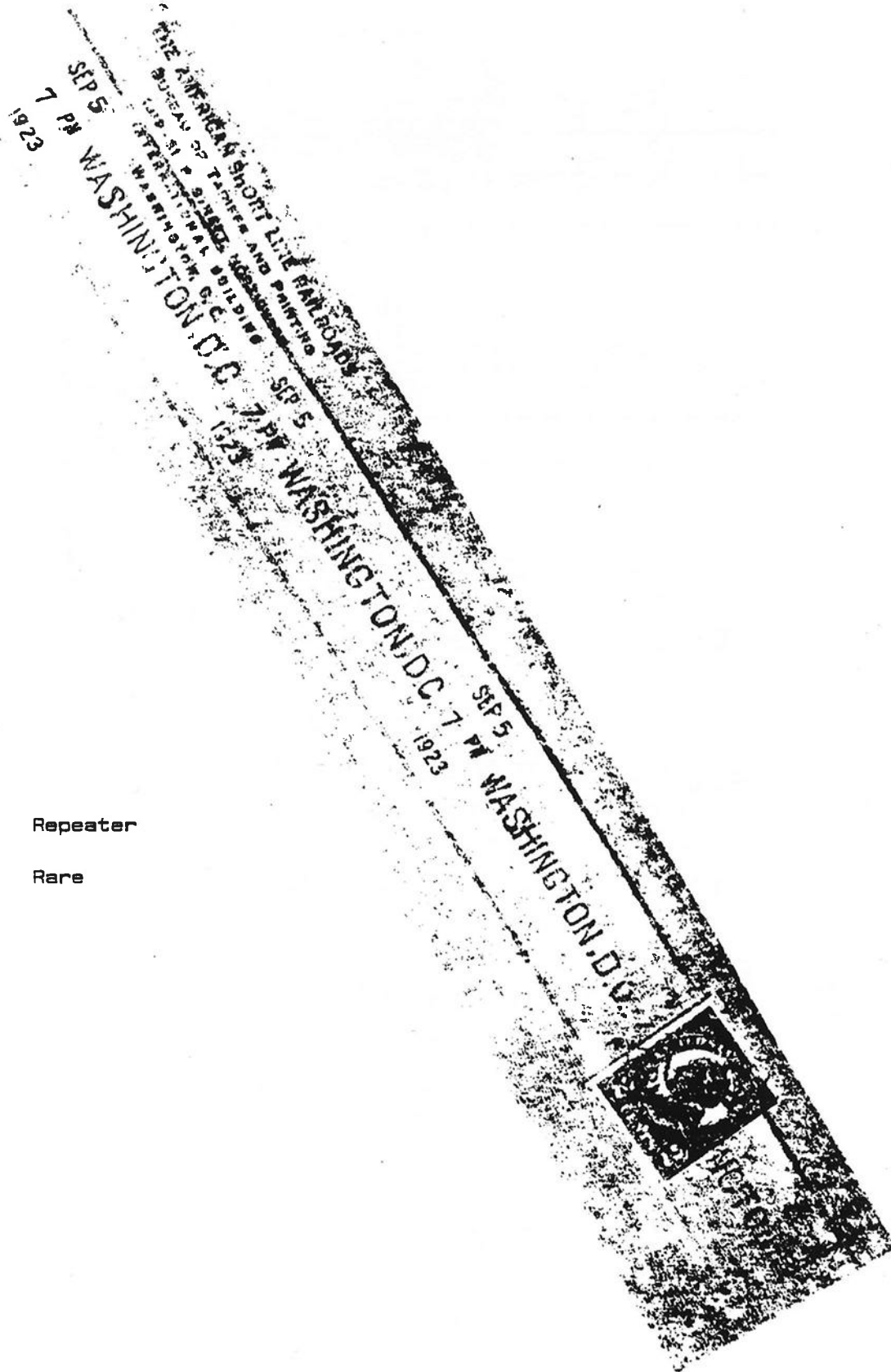
Scarce

GULFPORT  
APR 28 17  
3-PM  
MISS.



Scarce

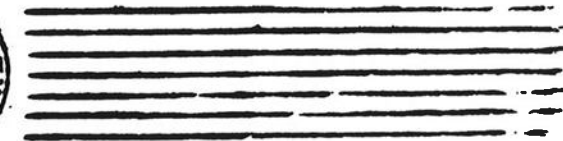




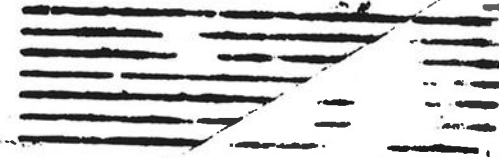
Repeater

Rare

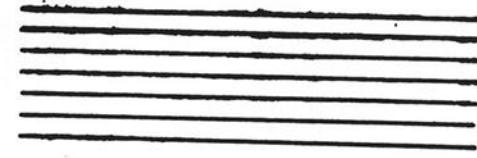
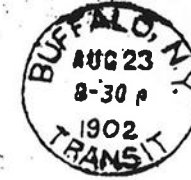
Service Markings



Common



Uncommon



Uncommon



Note stars  
Scarce

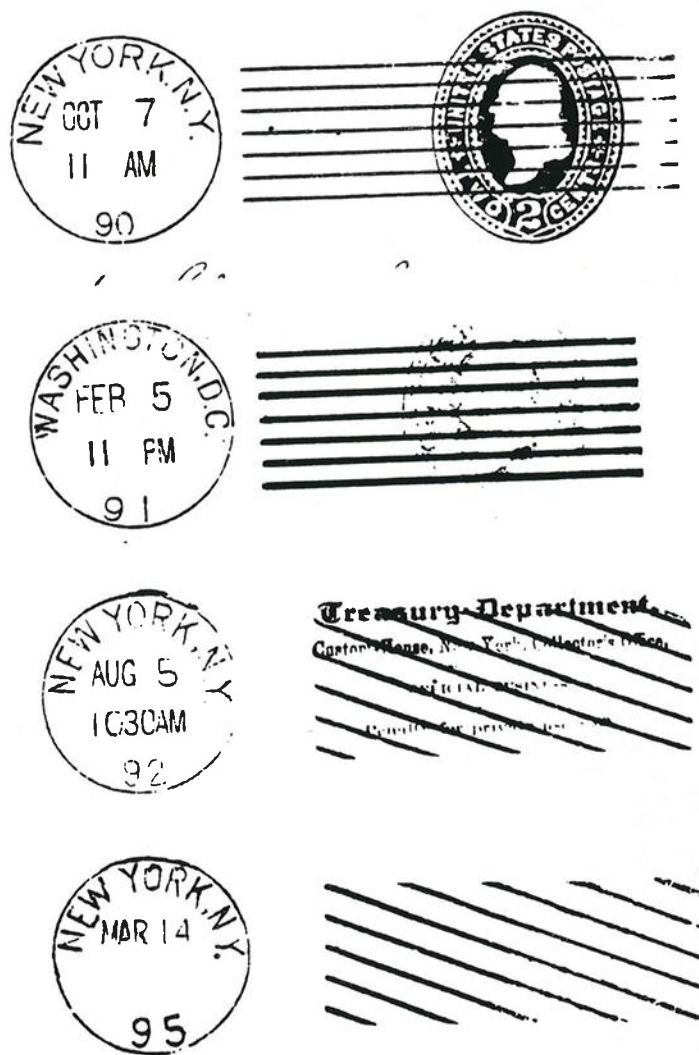
ST. JOSEPH, MO  
2—PM  
MAR 23-10

Uncommon

# CONSTANTINE

## CONSTANTINE

George Constantine seems to have been an inventor who struggled and lost the attempt to build and market a successful postmarking machine. His horizontal bar machine had six postmarking dies on it. Researchers are trying to determine if, as suspected, the six dials and six killers were in fact interchangeable and sometimes interchanged - if so, the number of possible combinations is large indeed. Research is hampered by the scarcity - rarity is a better term - of Constantine postmarks. To date little has been published about these machines. Constantines are known only from New York City and Washington from 1890 to 1895.



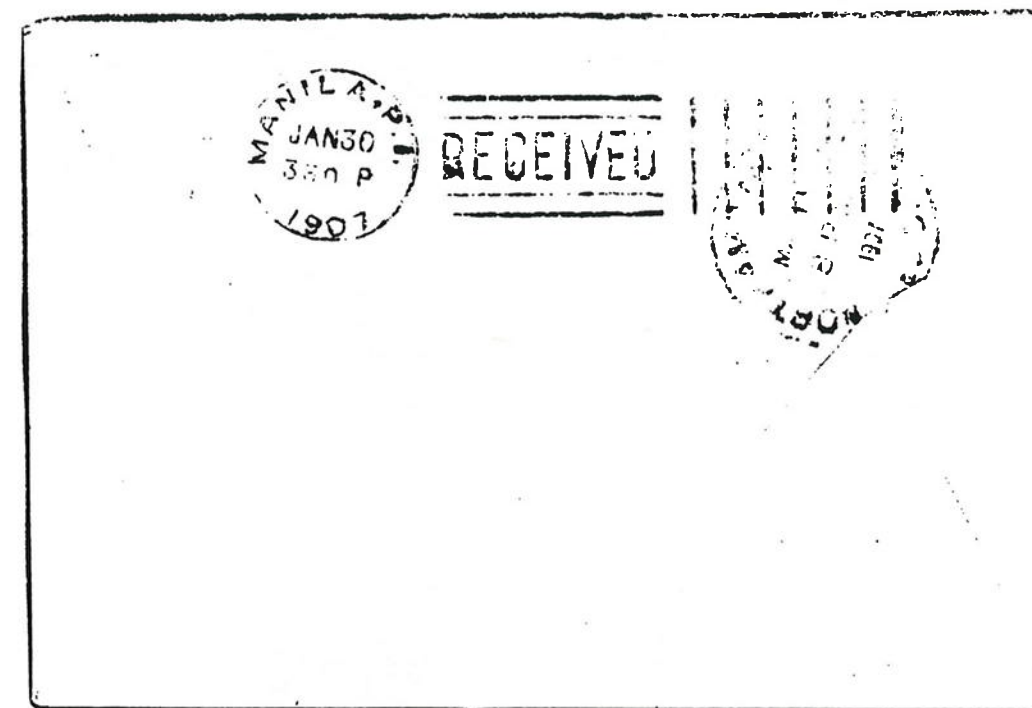
# DOREMUS

## DOREMUS

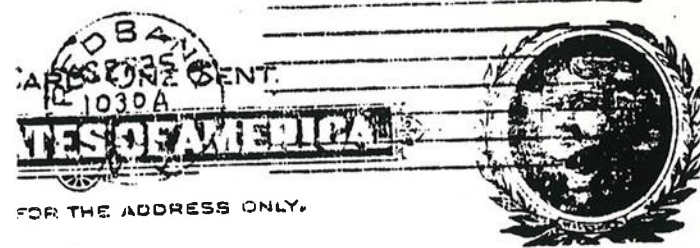
Willard Doremus of Washington, D.C. invented a brand of machines widely used in the U.S. beginning in 1899 and lasting after World War I in a few places. Most Doremus postmarks are rather distinctive, unlikely to be confused with those of other makes if the time chart is used. There are only a few principal types of Doremus postmarks, each of them illustrated here, plus a few variations. Perfect prints are surprisingly uncommon when one considers how many and how long the machines were in use.

### References:

Standard Encyclopedia Of Doremus Machine Cancels  
by Frederick Langford, copyright 1968

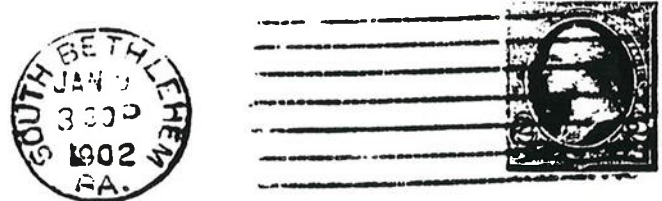






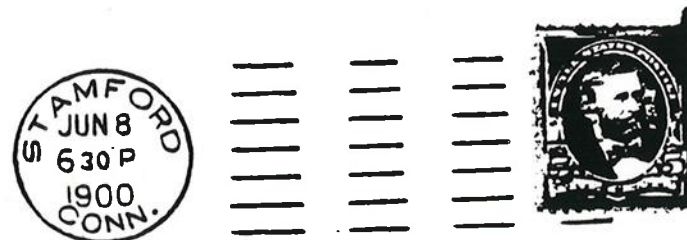
Earliest type. Solid lines. Scarce

Bars shorter, finer than similar Columbia killer



Dotted lines, unique to this city

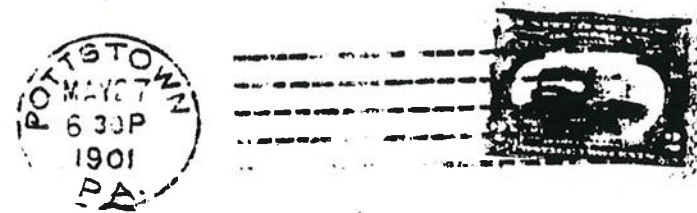
Very scarce



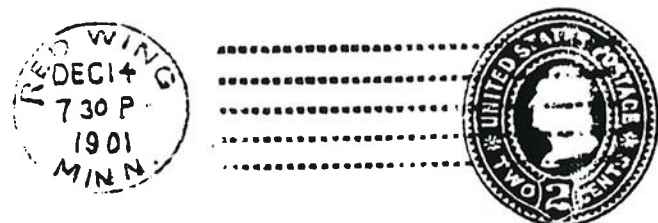
Uncommon type



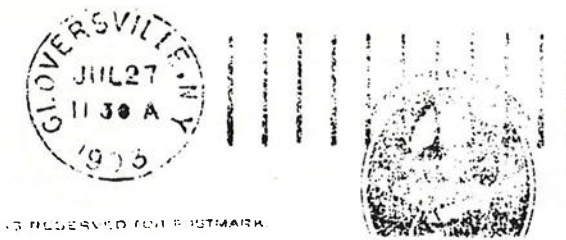
3rd Class Mail, somewhat scarce



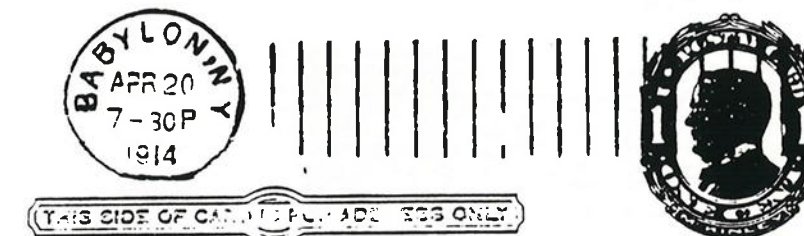
Large dashes in killer  
Somewhat scarce



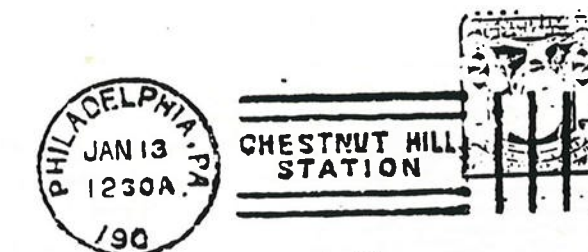
Small dashes in killer  
Uncommon type



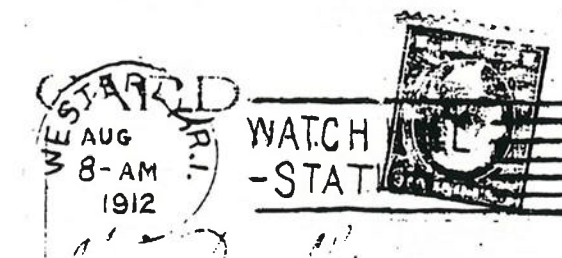
These first two postmarks are the most common of the Doremuses.



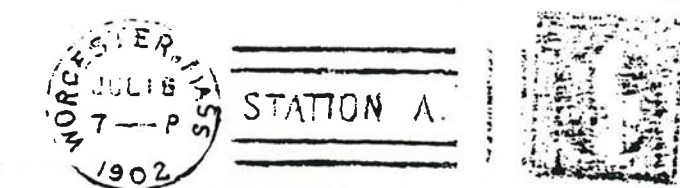
(THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADD. SEE ONLY)



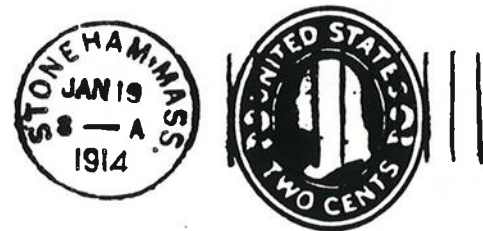
There are many variations in station dials. Most are uncommon. A few are scarce or rare.



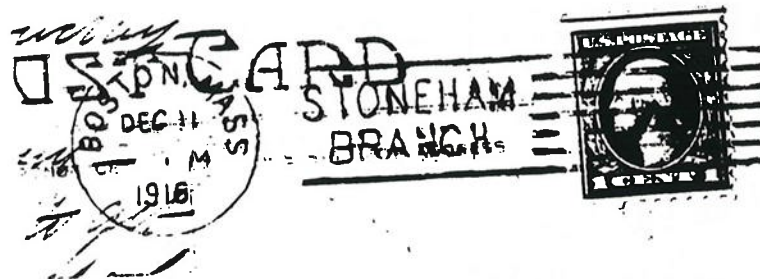
Scarce type







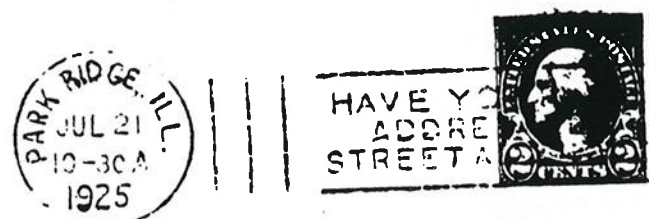
Very common type  
Stoneham independent



Scarce type  
Stoneham as branch



Somewhat scarce type  
First used in 1911.  
Compare Columbia and  
American postmarks.



All Doremus slogan  
cancels are scarce.



Scarce RPO



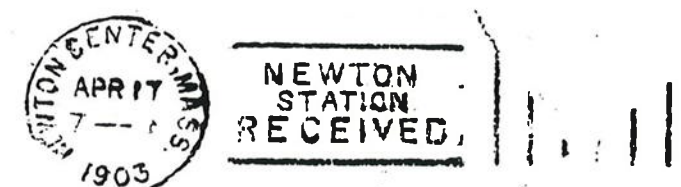
Scarce RPO



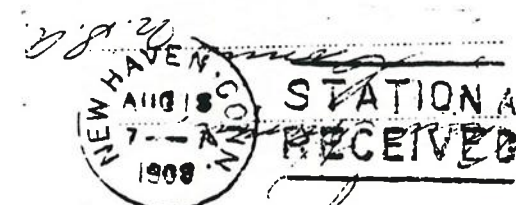
Scarce type



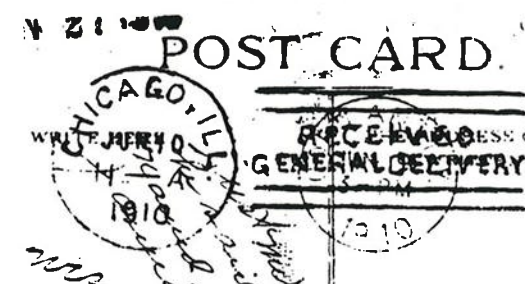
Common type



Type not common



Type not common



Very exceptional: printed  
in red ink.

Very scarce



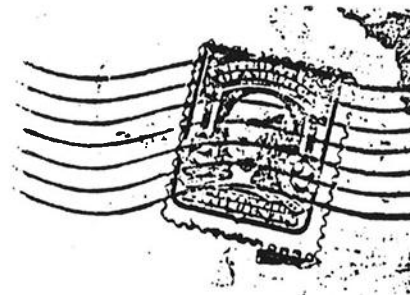
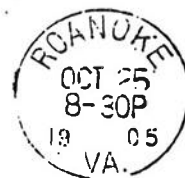
# EVANS

## EVANS

Samuel J. Evans of Roanoke, Virginia, is known to have received at least four patents for postmarking devices, but what his postmarks looked like is far from certain. Two possible types are known, the one illustrated here and another with seven bars, dotted lines resembling one of the Doremus bar killers. In both cases the dials look very much like American Machine flag dials, and a flag machine is known from Roanoke in the same period. Whatever the truth may be, examples are exceedingly rare.

### References:

Machine Cancel Forum pp 643-647



# GEARY

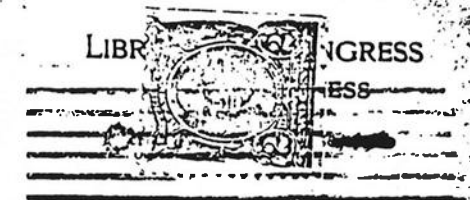
## GEARY

James Geary of Bradford, Pennsylvania was the founder of the Geary National Supply Company and the inventor of one or more machines which produced several varieties of postmarks between 1895 and 1905. Most of these postmarks were made in the Bradford postoffice. Some of the killers are very similar to the vertical line Doremus killers of the same era, but Doremus did not use straight-line dials as Geary did. All Geary postmarks are rare.

### References:

Machine Cancel Forum pp 401-408, 493-496

For use of Geary machines in Canada, see MCF pp 1507-1522



BRADFORD PA.

DEC 26 4 PM '97



All are rare

BRADFORD PA.

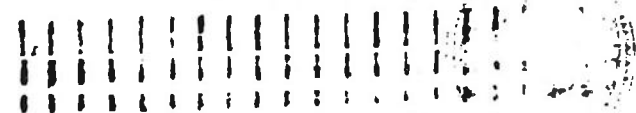
OCT. 4 7 PM '99



CO.

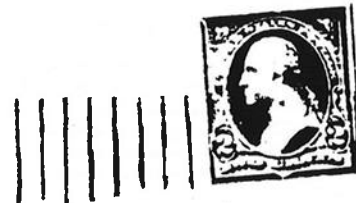
PA BRADFORD PA.

SEP. 25 7 30 PM '00



WASHINGTON, D C

MAY 27 9- PM '01



Oval dial

HAMPDEN

The Hampden Cancellling Machine Company of Holyoke, Mass. produced a few score of machines which eventually saw use in 125-150 postoffices. The first known postmark was a one-line dial with four horizontal bars as a killer, used briefly in 1896 and now generally considered to have been experimental. It is rare. Nearly all other Hampden machines produced a one-, two-, or three-line dial with slanting bar killers. The size of type in the dials varies from about 2.5mm to 4.5mm. The slants in the killers measure from 8° to 15°, much more flat than the contemporary Barry killers.

Hampden postmarks are uncommon and good examples are especially hard to find. Poor inking and ink smudges are frequent. Service markings are sometimes dials without killers and can look deceptively like impressions from rubber stamps.

The Hampden flag cancel is rare indeed. The Hampden flag dial is two lines of type; the common American Postal Machine Company flag cancel has a circle dial.

Hampden machines were in use from about 1898 to about 1905. There is no up to date catalog of them.

New York  
NEW YORK, N.Y. MAR 21 12 30 PM '96  
WILLIAM ST.



Experimental - Rare



ELIZABETH, N.J.  
AUG 10.630PM-98

Uncommon

EASTON, PA. NOV 25.4 — PM -98

Somewhat scarce

ANN ARBOR, MICH.  
APR 13.7 — AM -99

Unique - this city  
only - Very scarce

NEW YORK, N.Y. STA. S. SEP 28.4 — PM -98

Station use  
Scarce

WASHINGTON, D.C. STA.  
APR 27.1030AM 1900 G

Rare

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.  
STA. A.  
JUN 25.5 — PM 1900

Scarce

PONCE  
PORTO RICO APR 26.130PM 1900

Territorial use  
Scarce

NEW BRITAIN, CONN.  
FEB 16.7 30 AM 1901

Uncommon

ITHACA, N. Y.  
MAR 29.11 30 AM 1902

Uncommon

BRIDGETON, N. J.  
JUN 24.6 — AM 1903

Uncommon

Some Service Markings

ST. LOUIS, MO.  
FEB -7 1900

ST. LOUIS, MO.  
FEB 13.1030 PM 1900

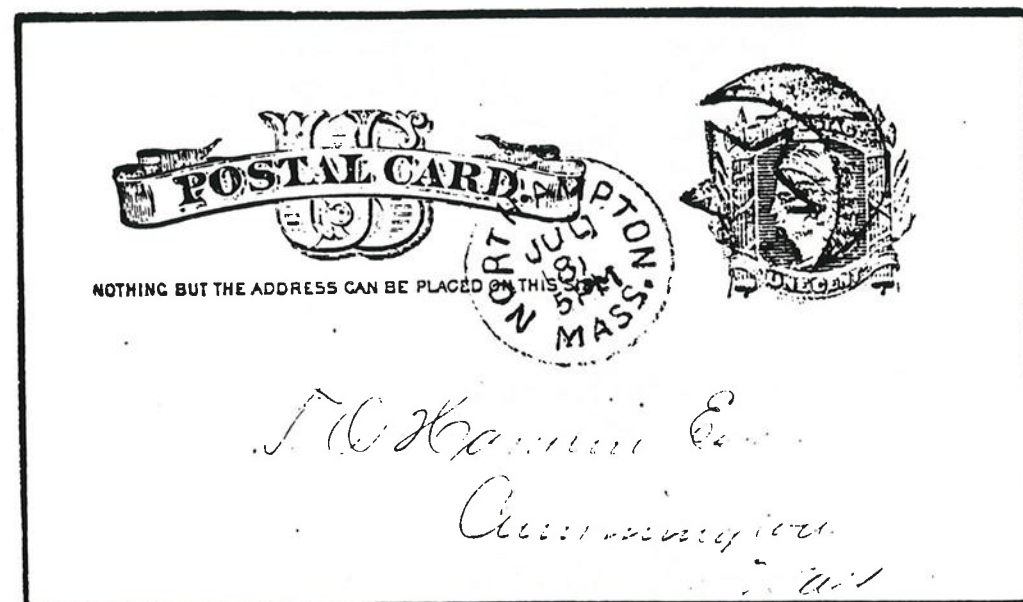
Both uncommon

# HANDSTAMPS

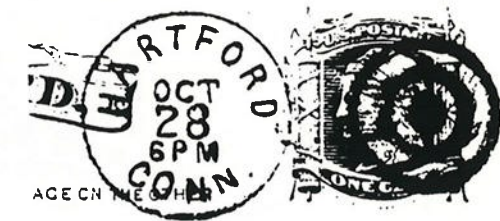
## HANDSTAMPS

To help new collectors differentiate between handstamped postmarks and machine-made postmarks, the next two pages illustrate some of the common handstamps in use during the period this book covers. Dials were usually made of rubber or metal, and killers could be that or smudgy cork. These postmarks vary in quality at least as much as machine-made prints. The number of designs and variations seems infinite. The so-called "fancy cancels" have been the subject of innumerable books and articles.

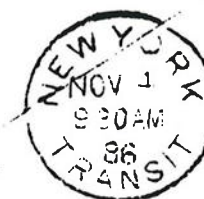
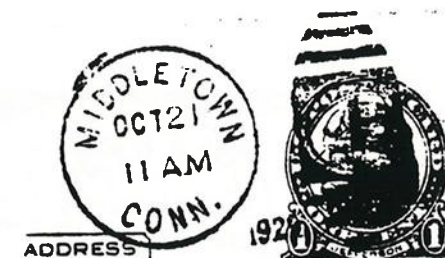
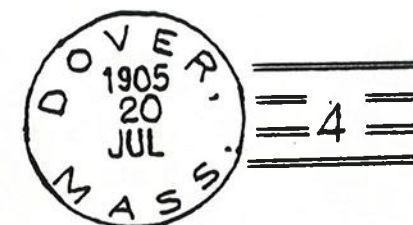
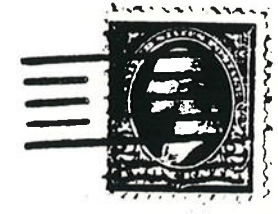
Handstamps are otherwise outside the scope of this book. The U.S. Cancellation Club is an excellent source of information on the subject.



# HANDSTAMPS



R. F. D.  
LUDLOW,  
APR 21 1902  
MASS.



Compare with very similar Leavitt service marking.







## INTERNATIONAL

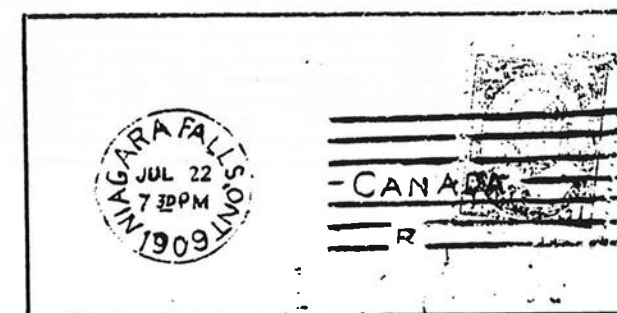
The earliest postmarks of the International Postal Supply Company of New York appeared in Brooklyn in March 1888. By mid-1895 International had become the leader in the canceling machine business, with machines installed in significant cities all over the U.S. - except in Boston and a few other American Postal Machine Company strongholds. For complex reasons well described in Reg Morris' fascinating book on the IPSC (see below), the Post Office Department cancelled the IPSC contract as of July 1, 1895. In mid-1900 the IPSC came back strongly and was soon the dominant force in the market.

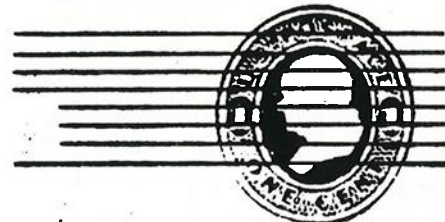
Early International postmarks superficially resemble American Postal Machine Company and Constantine postmarks of the same period. Constantines are rare, and all large-dial Americans come from Boston, so differentiation is fairly easy. In many, many instances the smaller International dials, beginning about 1893, show an arc or dash just above the year. It is a highly reliable clue for identifying International postmarks of the next several decades. Until heavy wear or damage occurs, International postmarks are more sharply and finely engraved than those of comparable size and shape from other machines. Until at least 1925, International dials almost always have the year as an arc at the bottom of the dial - most exceptions to this rule are service markings or substations.

## References:

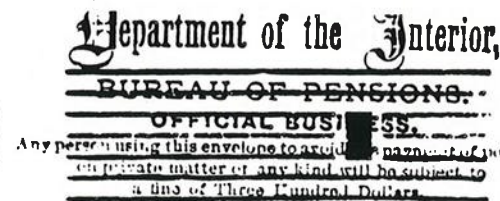
"the history, machinery, and postal markings of the International Postal Supply Company of New York" by Reg Morris Copyright 1982

"The International Postal Supply Company Catalog of Machine Markings 1888-1910" by Reg Morris copyright 1982 published by Machine Cancel Forum



BROOKLYN, N. Y.,  
COUNTY

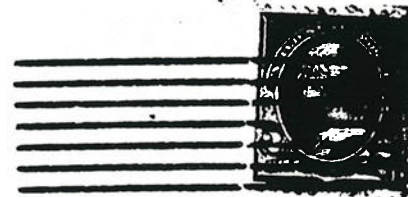
Known only from New  
York, Buffalo, and  
Brooklyn in 1888 -  
very scarce.  
1889 scarce



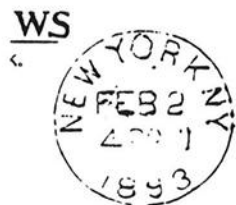
Note block in die-  
space - scarce



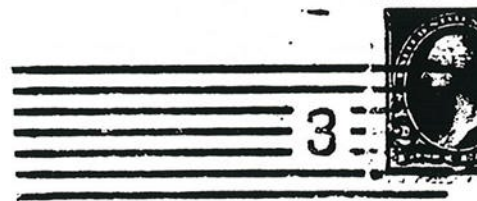
Uncommon



Uncommon



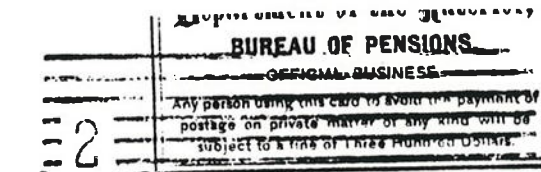
Common



Very common



Very common



Rare

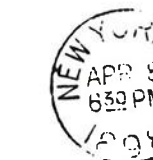
J. & O. TEA COMPANY,  
181 N. 4TH ST., NEW YORK, N. Y.,  
opened within 5 days  
JUN. 14  
12-M.  
1894



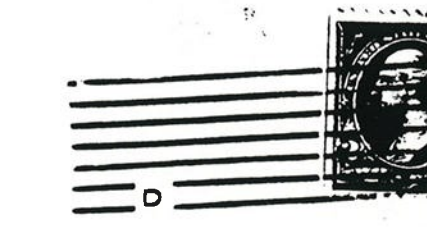
Two different dials  
and different killers  
are known from New  
York. Similar killer  
used in Brooklyn.  
All are rare



Very common



Uncommon type, known  
in 1895 and again in  
1898-1900. IPSC post-  
marks from 1898 to  
mid-1900 are considered  
experimental



Uncommon type





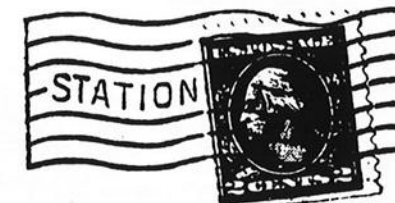
Very common

Known only from New Haven  
in 1903-1904

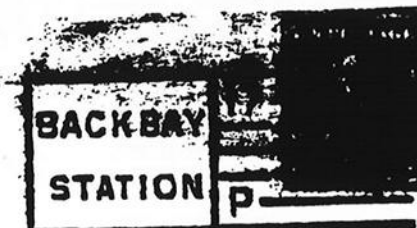
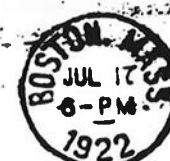
Rare



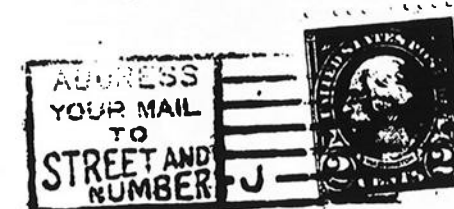
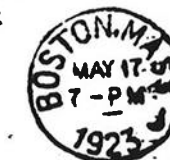
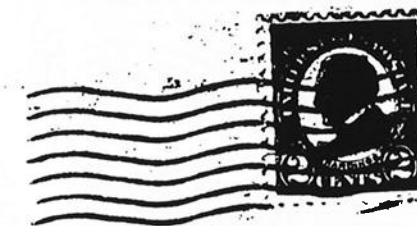
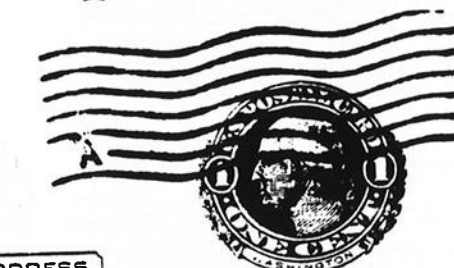
Very common

Station use  
Very commonStation use  
CommonCompare very similar  
Time-Cummins and  
Universal killers.  
Uncommon type

Type not common



Common type

AYB  
RRedundant "J"  
Common typeStation use  
CommonRedundant "A"  
Common type

OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Station use  
Common type

# INTERNATIONAL

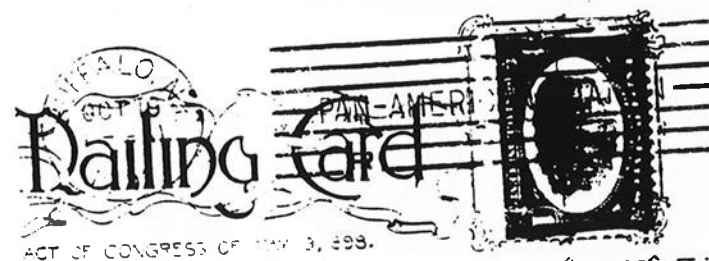
## Exposition Stations and Slogans



Exposition Station,  
Very scarce. Compare  
similar American  
postmark



Common slogan type  
Year may appear in killer.



Exposition Station, type  
used at several fairs.

Scarce.



Slogan postmark. Scarce.  
Compare similar American  
for this event.



Exposition Station  
Scarce



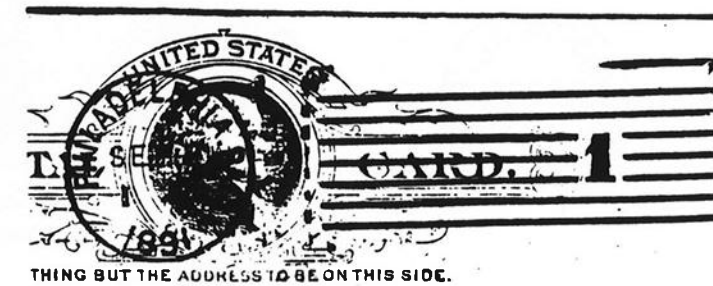
Station use  
Slogan postmark  
Common type



Slogan postmark  
Somewhat scarce

# INTERNATIONAL

## Some Curiosities



Screw heads show



Quaker date (12-15)  
Oversize 3 in year  
Scarce



Horizontal stretch



Top bar missing



Inverted killer  
Scarce



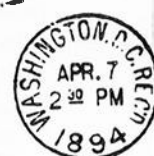
Military postmark  
used in USA  
in World War I  
Not common



# INTERNATIONAL

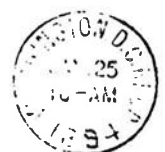
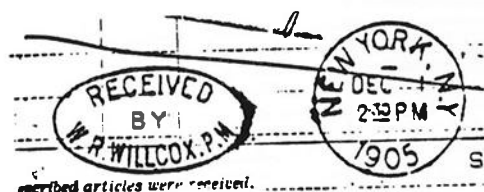
Some Service Markings

S = Scarce



Machine 5

Machine 8



LATE MAIL



MAIL DELAYED  
IN ARRIVAL  
5 HOURS



# KRAG

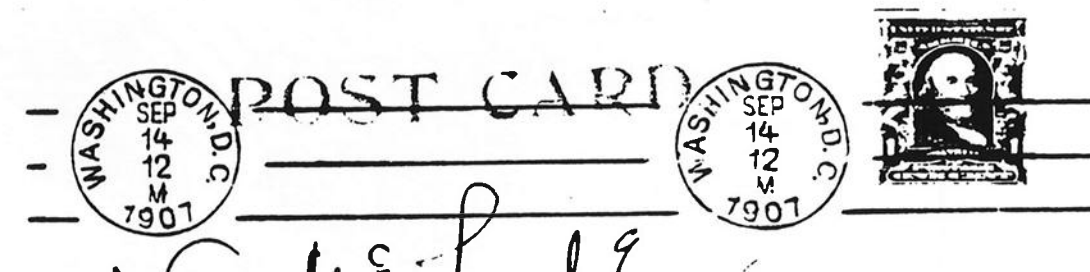
KRAG

Krag may be the only European postmarking machine used in the U.S. prior to World War I. Krag is a Norwegian company which still produces postmarking machines for world markets. They have been used only experimentally in the U.S. postal system. Examples are rare.

## References:

Machine Cancel Forum pp 155-156, 342-345

Frederick Brofos of Warner, N.H. has written and published several monographs on the history of the Krag company.



THE ALONZO O. BLISS COMPANY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
BLISS BUILDING,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
FEB 26 - 08

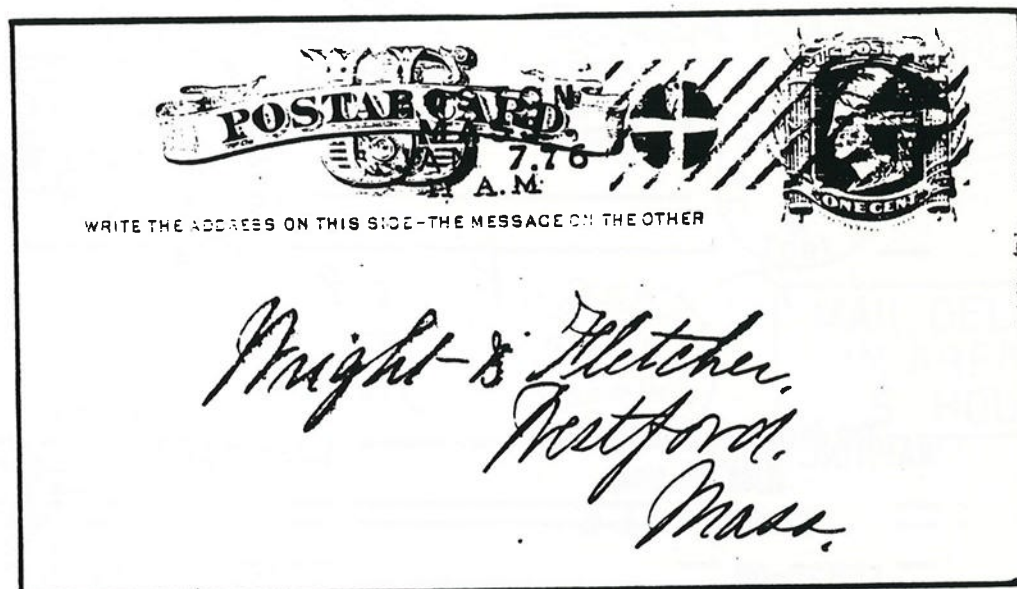
Thomas Leavitt developed a machine which was first used in Boston, Mass. in 1876. Apparently it did not work well on envelopes, for Leavitt postmarks are found almost exclusively on postal cards. The earliest type and subsequent experimentals are likely to be found on envelopes, and all are rare. By 1880 Leavitt machines had been used in about two dozen cities. Impressions from some cities are very scarce, even rare. Note that Leavitt oval killers have eight bars (there is one from Boston which has only seven) in a wide oval. Handstamp oval killers are far more common, are usually higher, and usually have more than eight bars. Leavitt machines were used until 1892.

## References:

Frank B. Stratton, "Descriptive Catalog of the Leavitt Machine Cancellations," published in 1976 by The United Postal Stationery Society. A first-rate guide.

Machine Cancel Forum p 826 updating the above

Mr. Stratton has prepared a second edition of his catalog. Publication is expected in 1984 by UPSS.



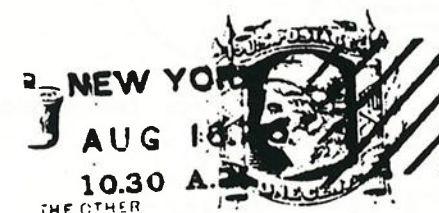
Earliest type

Rare



Known 1876-1878 from Boston.

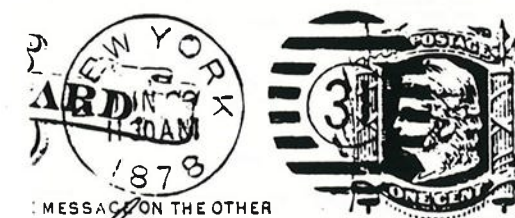
Somewhat scarce



Rare



Rare



Very scarce



Leavitt type most widely used - in about 25 cities. Type somewhat scarce, several are rare. May show C or D in killer.





SIDE

Type not common



Type not common



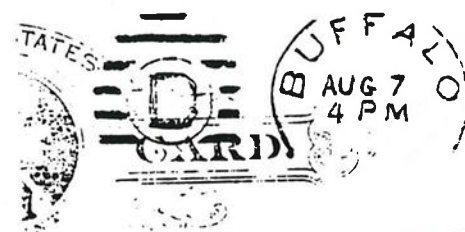
inside

Known also from Indianapolis  
Rare



ON THE OTHER

Inverted D in killer  
Very scarce



Killer before dial, 1891  
Rare

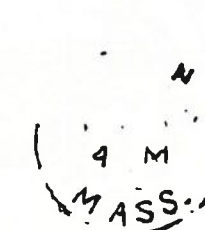


Smallest and most common  
Leavitt postmark  
Not common

Some Experimentals  
All are rare



5 2/5 10 ..



Boston only

## MALLONEE

Joseph D. Mallonee invented a time-stamping device which was used experimentally as a postmarking machine. Impressions are rare. The Mallonee machine is considered a member of the Time-Cummins family of machines. Note the exact time in the accompanying illustration, 1:04 PM, a feature that later is seen on Time-Cummins postmarks.

## References:

Machine Cancel Forum pp 848-851

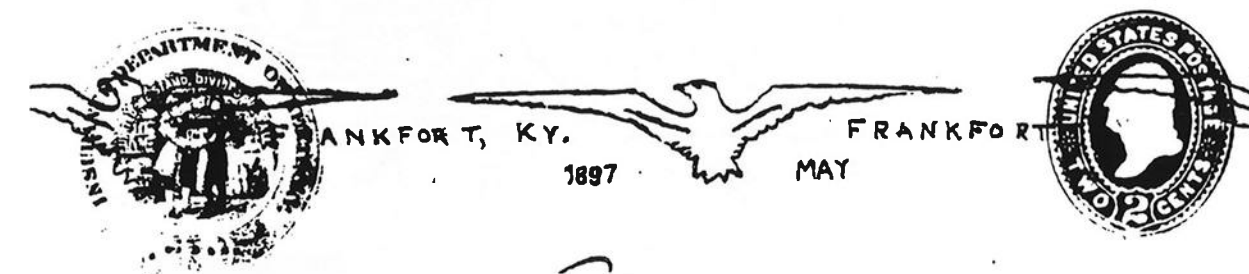
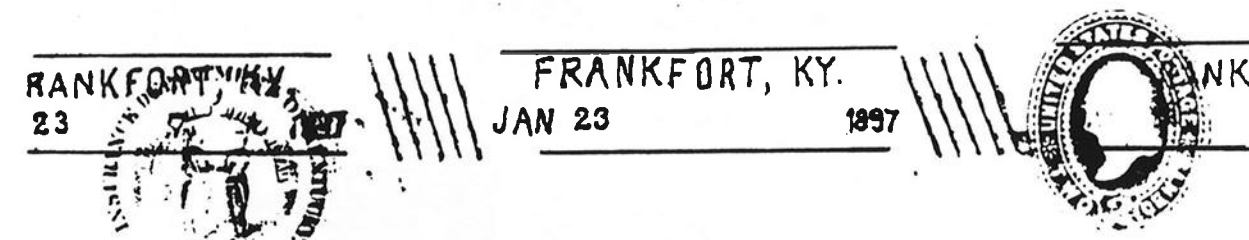


## MILAM and HOLMES

Some of the most spectacular postmarks ever used in the U.S. came from machines created by John W. Milam and Samuel B. Holmes of Frankfort, Kentucky between 1896 and 1899. Unfortunately, they were more spectacular than practical. All are rare.

## References:

Machine Cancel Forum pp 1567-1577



FRANKFORT, KY.  
JAN 1 10 AM 1898

FRANKFORT, KY.  
JAN 1 10 AM 1898

LOUISVILLE, KY.  
DEC 27 8 AM 1898

LOUISVILLE, KY.  
DEC 27 8 AM 1898



One of the very early U.S. postmarking machines was that invented by Frederick R. Myers of New York. All known copies of his postmarks are dated 1876 and are very rare. They may easily be mistaken for handcancels.

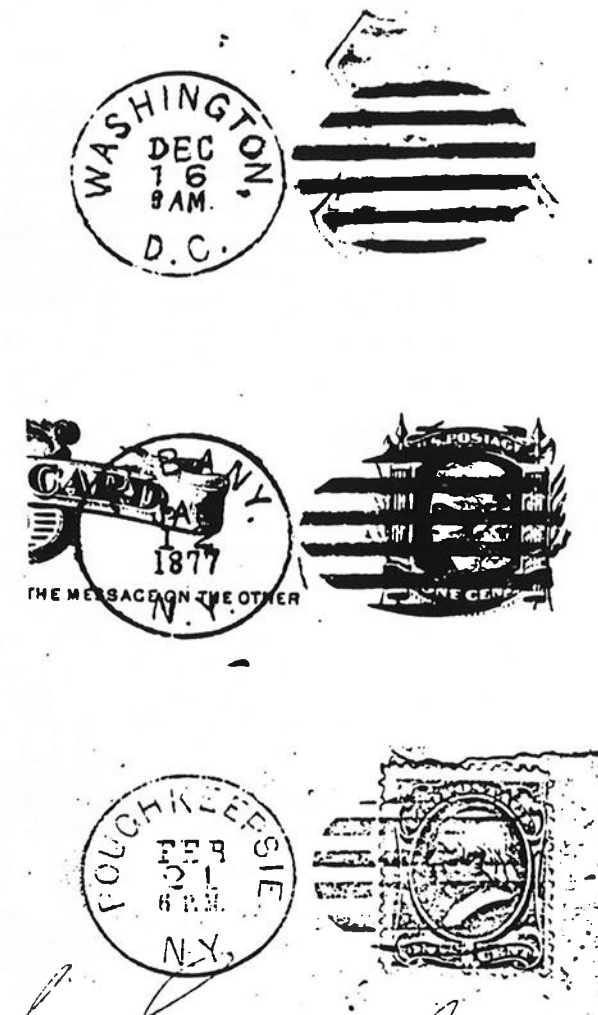
Compare Myers postmarks with Palmer and Clark postmarks. Both have been attributed by some authorities to other inventors. Further study and more examples are needed.

## References:

Machine Cancel Forum pp 161, 301-305, 500-501



The identity of the postmarks shown here has been a subject of controversy for a long time. Current expert opinion attributes them to Timothy G. Palmer and Henry F. Clark. The patents are described in Machine Cancel Forum pp 227-234. The similarity between these and the Myers postmarks is discussed briefly in MCF p 821.



# PERFECTION

## PERFECTION

The origin and operation of this device is obscure. It is generally believed to be a simple hand-operated mechanism for postmarking. It was used in small towns from 1900 to about 1920. Consequently, some uses may be scarce but in general the types may be termed uncommon. Whether or not this device should be considered a machine postmark depends upon the criteria applied.

### References:

Machine Cancel Forum pp 1272-1281 types and uses



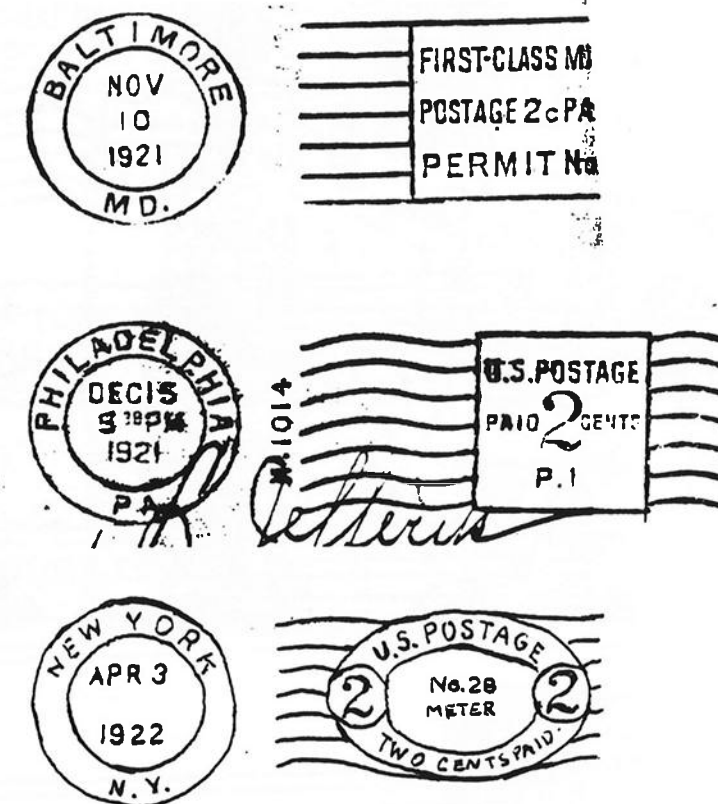
# PITNEY-BOBEW

## PITNEY-BOWES

The Pitney-Bowes organization resulted from a merger of the American Postage Meter Company with the Universal Stamping Machine Company in 1920. Their early products must be considered meter postmarks rather than stamp postmarks. The Universal machines continued to appear and by the middle of the decade there were also Pitney-Bowes postmarking machines with dials very similar to the meter dials. The earliest use of a Pitney-Bowes meter was December 10, 1920.

### References:

Machine Cancel Forum pp 833-835, 1345-1347





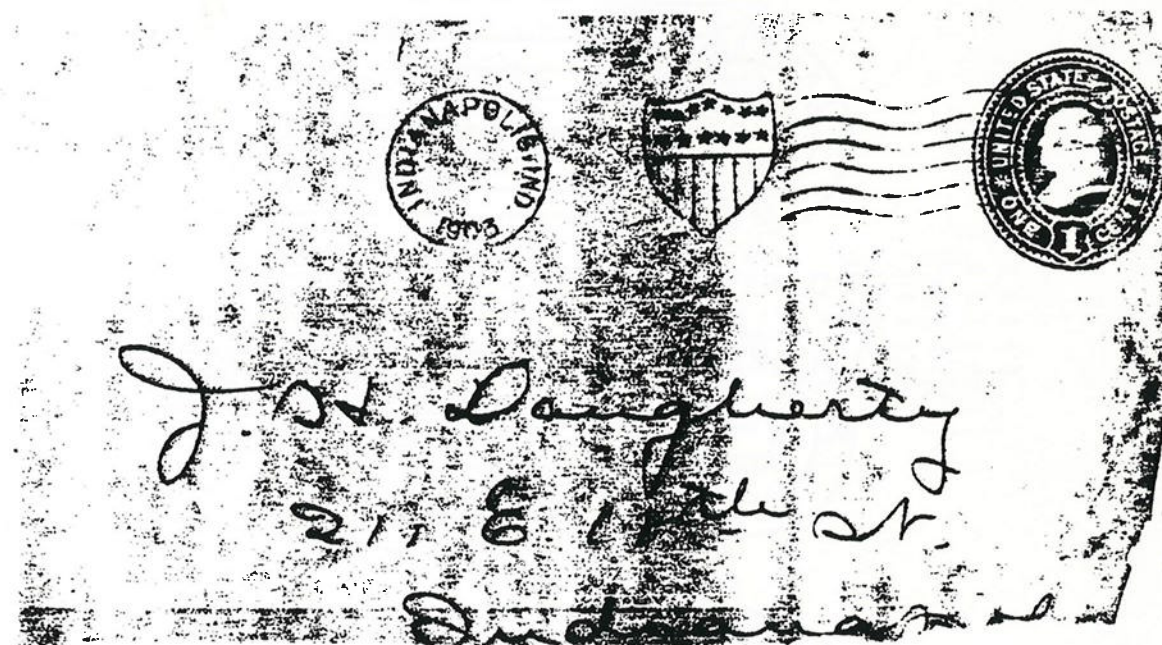
# PNEUMATIC

## PNEUMATIC

The Pneumatic Cancellling Machine Company of Indianapolis, Indiana produced some very distinctive postmarks from about 1898 to 1904. Except for the very rare shield and wavy bar design, and for the early straight bar experimental, all Pneumatic postmarks consist of straight line dials and killers of eight horizontal bars arranged in pairs, the length of pairs and even of individual lines varying considerably from type to type.

### References:

Machine Cancel Forum pp 189-193, 472-473, 573, 1223-1225



# PNEUMATIC

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.  
APR 20 '98  
9-



Experimental  
Rare

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.  
NOV 11 5 PM 1898

STA 1



Parallel bar types  
are somewhat scarce,  
station use even  
more scarce.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.  
JUL 25 7 PM 1900

STA 1



Many variations in  
length of bars.

NEW YORK, N.Y. ST P  
JUN 16 2 PM 1900



HARTFORD, CONN  
SEP 11 7 PM 01



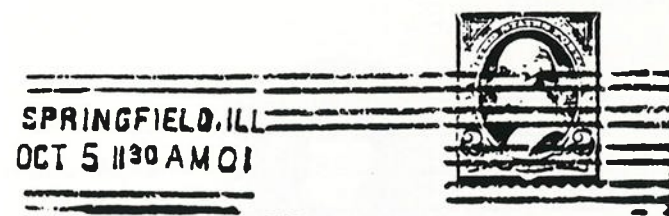
Note squarish  
numbers in year.

HARTFORD, CON.  
OCT 12 1900 PM 01

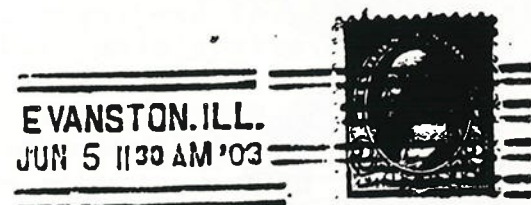




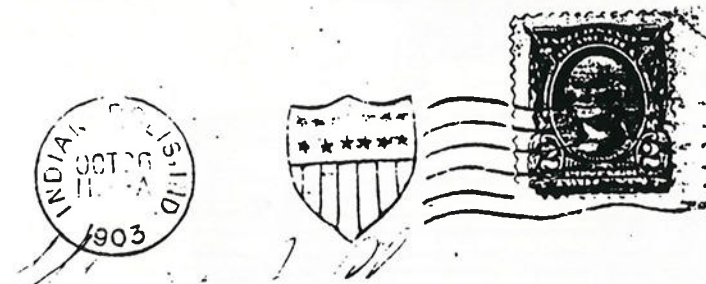
# PNEUMATIC



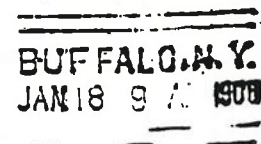
Parallel bar types are somewhat scarce. Holes, screwheads, and plugs sometimes show in bars.



Many variations in length of bars.



Known only from Indianapolis in October 1903  
Very rare

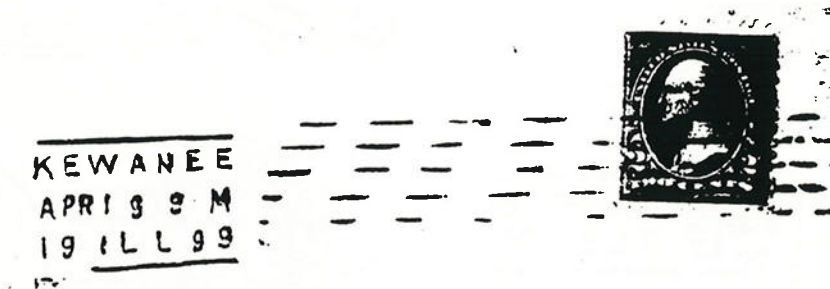
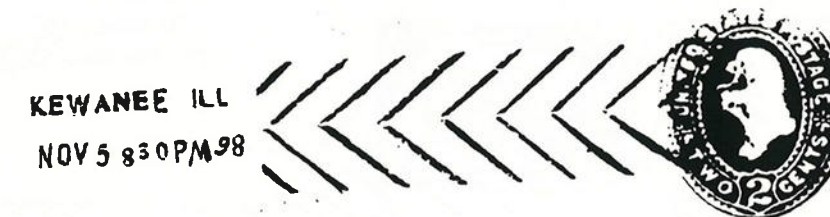
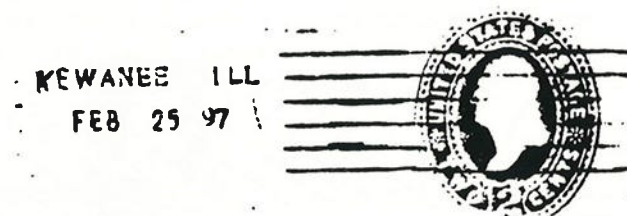


Scarce type. Service Marking used in very few cities, sometimes with "Received" at right. Compare with Barry, Potter and Vail.

# POTTER & VAIL

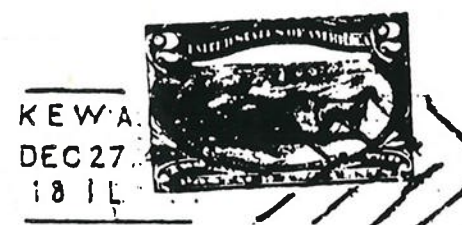
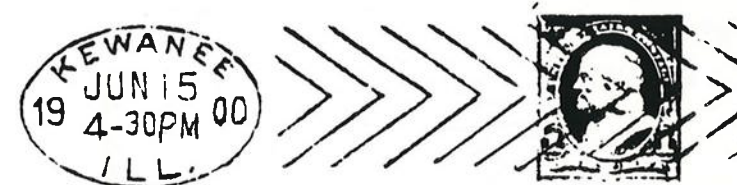
## POTTER and VAIL

Potter and Vail were unsuccessful inventors of postmarking machines. Their machines were used experimentally in Kewanee, Galesburg, Canton, and Chicago, Illinois in 1897-1900. The herringbone killer is particularly distinctive. All Potter and Vail postmarks are rare.





All are rare

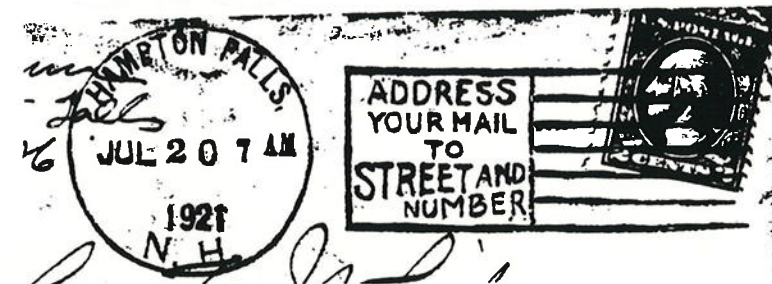
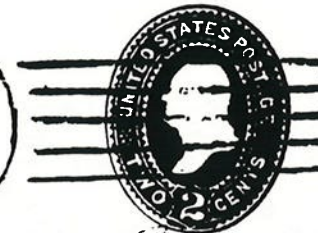
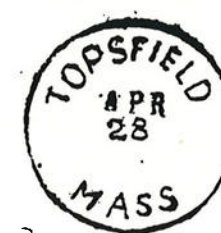
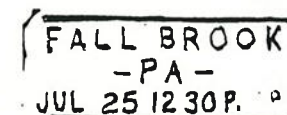


Similar to Barry  
and Pneumatic  
Service Markings

## PSEUDO-MACHINE POSTMARKS

The postmarks shown here resemble at least superficially the types of postmarks known to have been made by machines in much larger towns and cities. Pseudo-machine postmarks may actually be vanity items. Whatever the case, they show up from many small towns beginning about 1890 and continuing to the present time.

One or more of these postmarks may have been made by some relatively simple mechanical contrivance such as that imputed to Tilton and the well known English Pearson Hill. Whether such a contrivance should be considered a machine or not depends on the criteria applied.

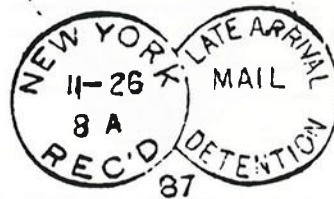


## TILTON

Perhaps Leonard Tilton of Brooklyn, New York does not deserve a place in this book, for his postmarks may have been made by a device comparable to the Pearson Hill "machine" widely used in England, which might be considered a handstamp. Impressions are usually found on the backs of envelopes and are seldom parallel to the top of the envelope, an indication that a feeding mechanism was probably not employed. Known from New York City from 1882 to about 1890, then briefly from Buffalo, N.Y.

## References:

Machine Cancel Forum pp 655-658, 883, 1232-1234



## TIME-CUMMINS

These postmarks began to appear about 1905 and for at least two decades thereafter were widely used in the U.S. The Time Marking Machine Company was taken over by the B. F. Cummins Company, and specialists find no reliable way to tell which machines made which postmarks during the transition years. Note also the rare Mallonee postmark (which see); it can be considered a prototype of the Time Marking devices.

During the early years the machines, when working properly, could automatically advance the time shown in the dial, resulting in times like 9:03 AM and 10:07 AM as illustrated here, rather than the more conventional 9 AM, 10AM, etc.

## References:

Machine Cancel Forum has published an excellent and highly comprehensive series of articles and type charts, etc., for Time-Cummins postmarks: MCF pp 837-868, 889-912, 929-948, 969-986, 1009-1024, 1089-1166. This material has also been published by MCF as a separate volume.

MCF pp 1596-1599 for update



TIME-CUMMINS



First year of use  
Rare

Note time: 9:03 AM  
Common type

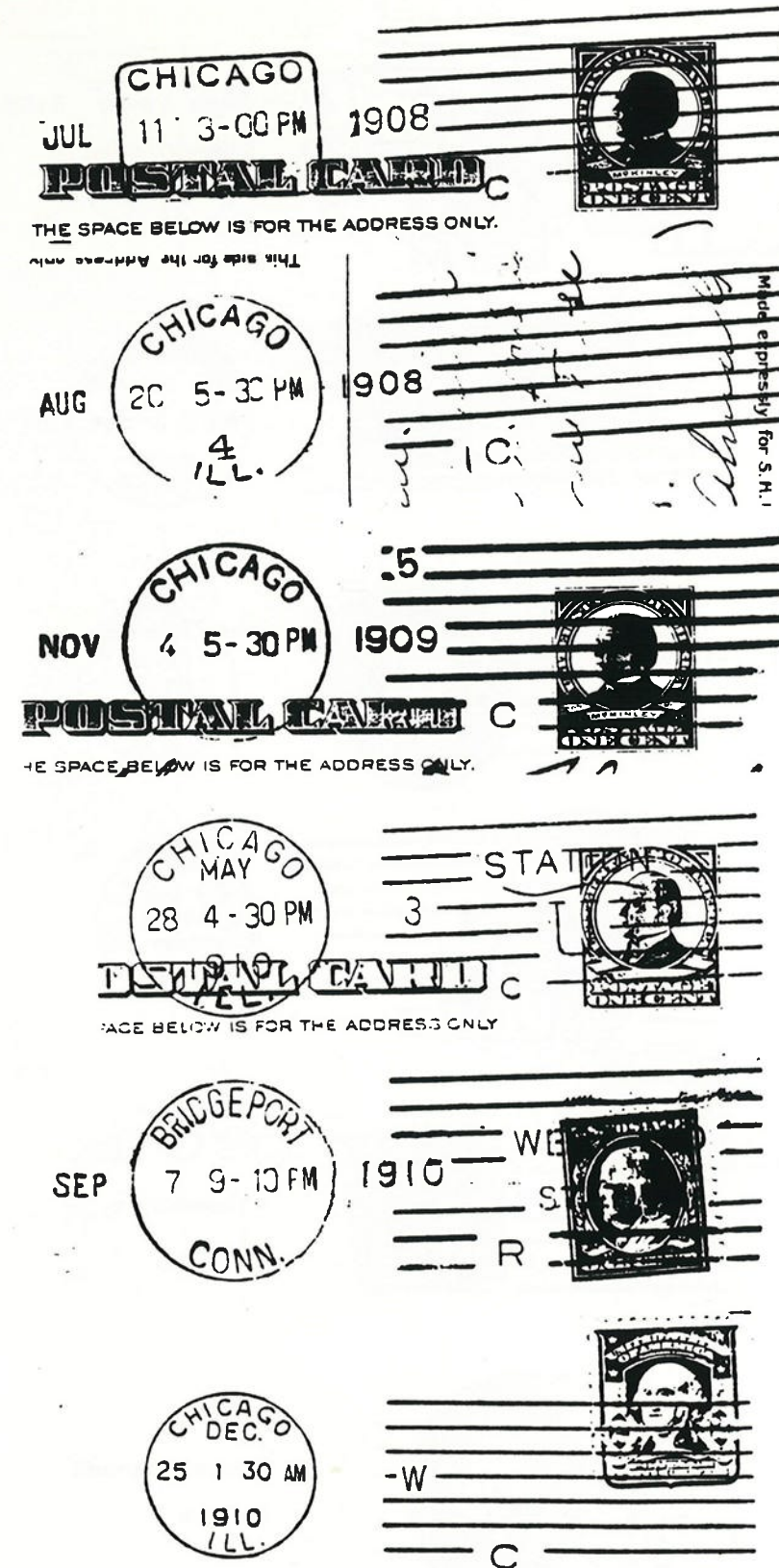
Common

Common

Common type.  
Dial changed

Common

TIME-CUMMINS



Box dial. Scarce.  
Similar dial from  
Pittsburgh reads  
"TRANSIT."

Common

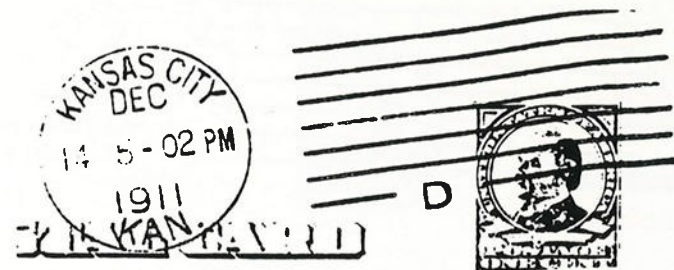
Common

Station use.  
Common

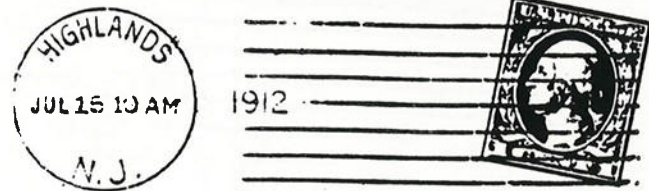
Station use. Note  
time: 9:10 PM  
Common

Common

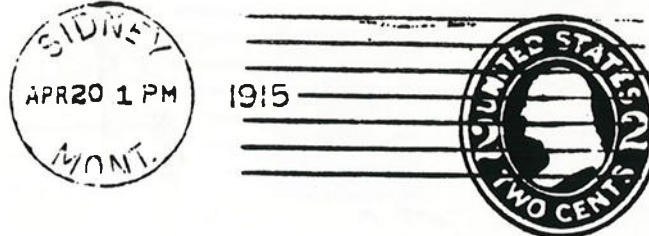




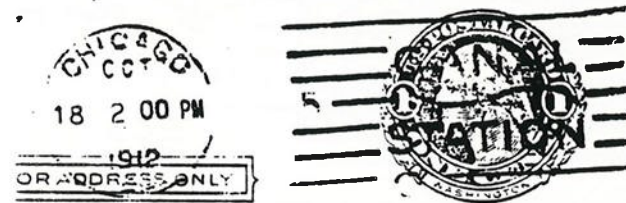
Note time: 5:02 PM  
Common type



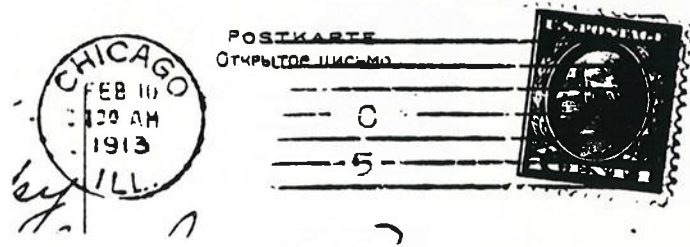
Very common



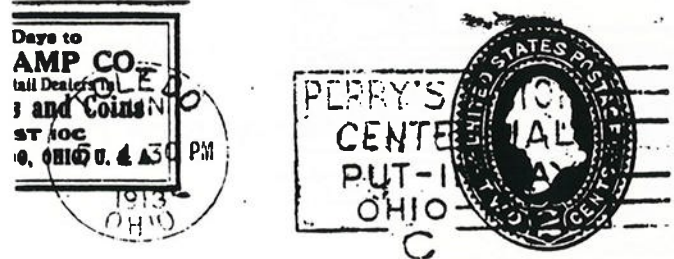
Very common



Station use  
Common



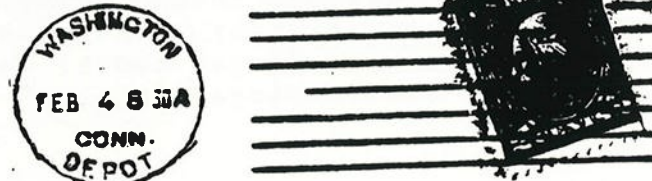
Uncommon type



Slogan cancel  
Scarce



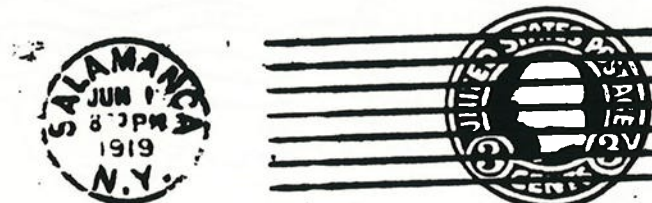
Exposition slogan  
Common  
Compare International  
and Universal killers



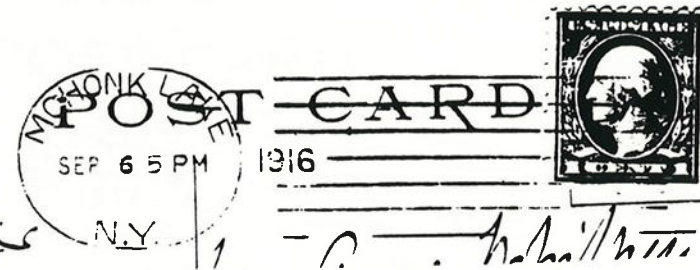
Year missing from  
killer - scarce



Size of letters varies  
considerably  
Common type



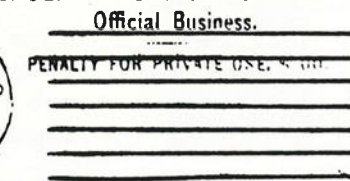
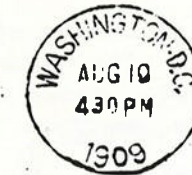
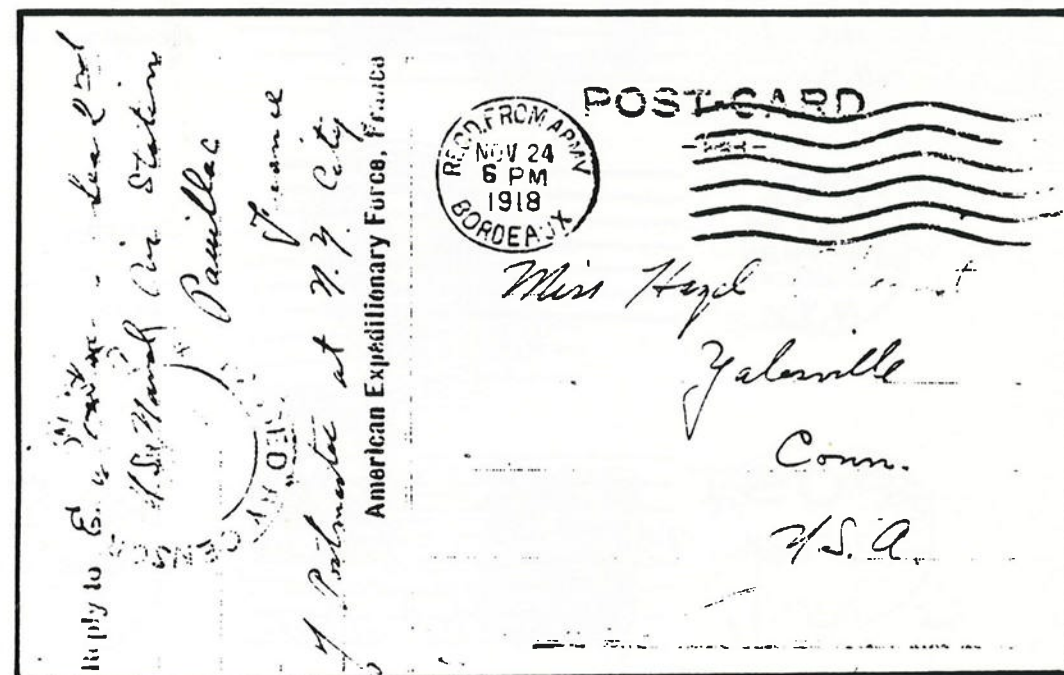
Common



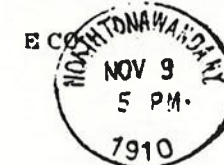
Oval dial used only at  
Mohonk Lake and  
Stevensville, N.Y.  
Somewhat scarce



Collectors who enjoy interesting designs are likely to find Universal killers pretty dull, but collectors of slogan cancels will have a seemingly endless list of possibilities. The Universal Stamping Machine Company of New York produced its first postmarks in 1909. About 1920 Universal was taken over by the Pitney-Bowes organization, though Universal machines remain on the market to this day. There is as yet no catalog of Universal postmarks. Slogan cancel collectors will find the "United States Postal Slogan Catalog" by Moe Luff a worthy aid.



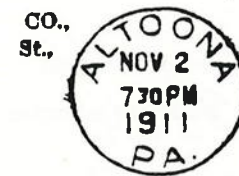
Experimental  
Rare



Somewhat scarce type

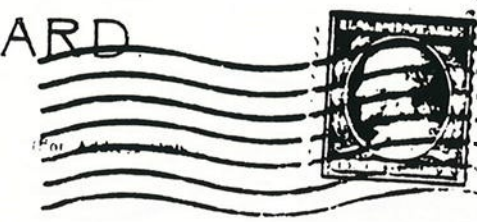


Station use  
Common



Common

POST CARD



Double year  
Station use  
Scarce



Station use  
(machine 7)  
Common type



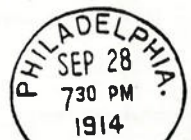


Dots at bottom of dial remain after year was cut out. Known with double year.

Scarce



Station use  
Common



PostCard

ADDRESS ONLY

Common



Common type  
Scarce slogan



Common

THIS SPACE FOR WRITING



Common



BUY NOW  
U.S.  
GOVERNMENT BONDS  
2ND LIBERTY LOAN



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Uncommon type  
Compare with  
International,  
Time-Cummins



FOOD  
WILL  
WIN THE WAR  
DON'T WASTE IT

Uncommon



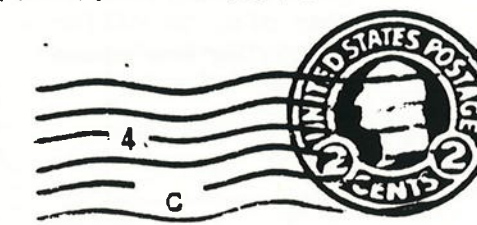
FOOD  
WILL  
WIN THE WAR  
DON'T WASTE IT

Uncommon

POST CARD



Scarce type  
(machine 1)



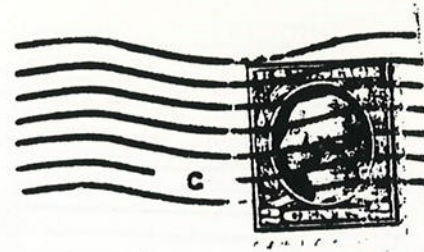
Common type



Common type  
(machine 2)



# UNIVERSAL



Common type  
(machine 1)



Common



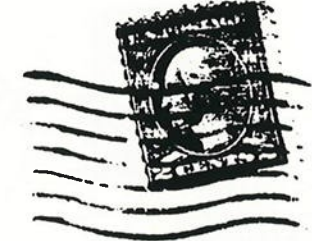
Scarce use

Universals can usually  
be distinguished from  
Columbias by the distance  
from dial to killer -  
Columbias are closer.

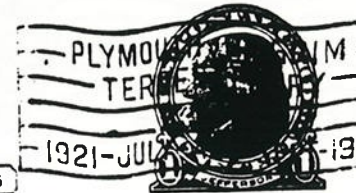
# UNIVERSAL



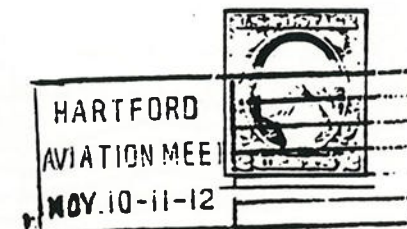
Common type



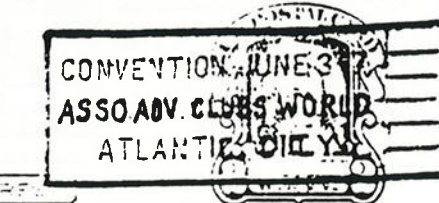
Common type



Slogan cancel  
Uncommon



Slogan cancel  
Uncommon  
(Machine 2)



Slogan cancel  
Uncommon

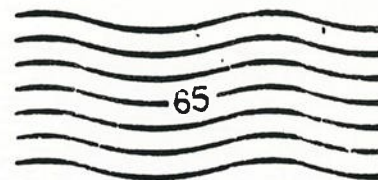
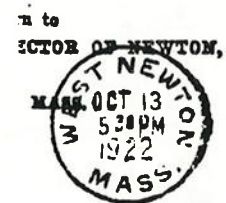




Redundant number,  
machine 15  
Common



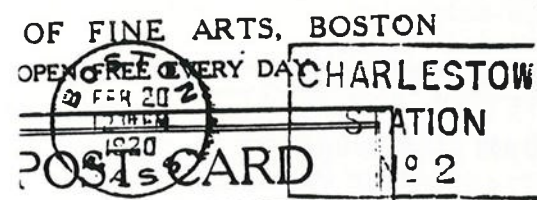
Postal Zone 33  
Common



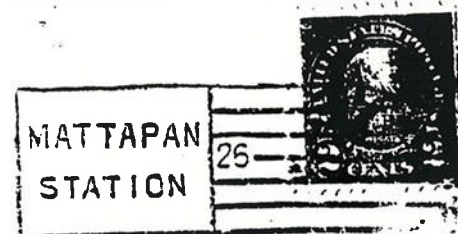
Postal Zone 65  
Common



Machine 27  
Common



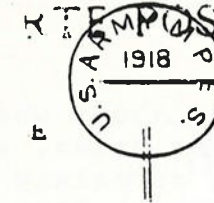
Station use  
Uncommon



Postal Zone 26  
Common

*Soldiers Mail.*

POSTALE



Uncommon



Wrapper, 3rd Class Mail

Machine postmarks on wrappers  
are very scarce



Uncommon



Uncommon  
Compare with  
very similar  
International



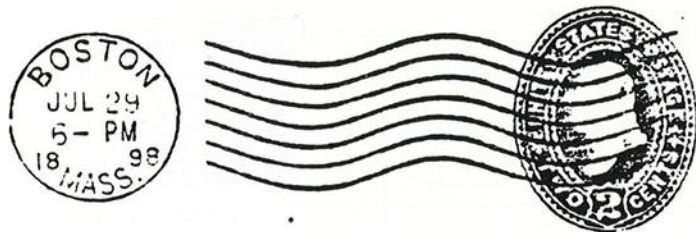
Though there are hypotheses and even theories about who made the machines represented on the following pages, expert opinion is divided. And there is no present certainty that all of them were made by machines. The first two Pittsburgh postmarks look more like handstamps than machine-made postmarks. The Pittsburgh shield postmark, probably made in 1872, is almost certainly a machine product as evidenced by the offset impressions on the back of the same envelope.

The U.S. Patent Office has many postmarking machines on record but patent drawings sometimes give no clues to what the postmark would look like.

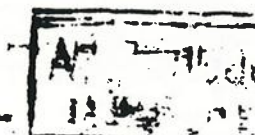
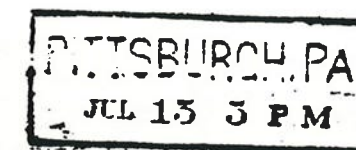
The New York, Philadelphia, and Washington postmarks of 1892 shown here are quite certainly machine made. Whether they came from one or several machines is not known. Are they Americans or Internationals, or Constantines or Barnards, or what?

The Chelsea Station postmark looks remarkably like an impression from an English mechanical stamping device, the Pearson Hill. Is it that, or might it be a vanity handstamp acquired to please some anglophile?

These and other problem postmarks await the conclusions of detective-engineer-historians.



The only known wavy-bar from Boston





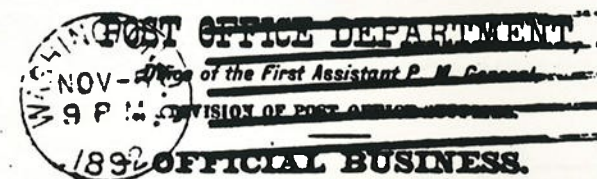
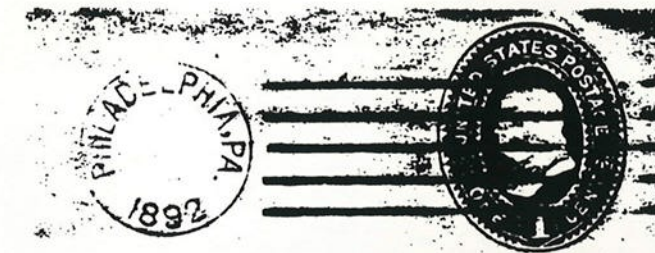
UNKNOWN



*My dear Mr. [illegible]  
 The house is rented  
 & I am glad to hear  
 that the house in [illegible]*



UNKNOWN



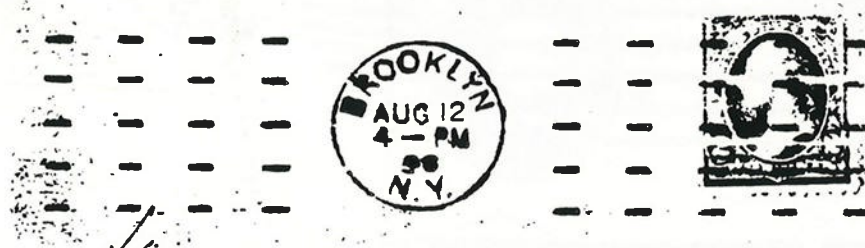


Not content with laying ink on postage stamps to prevent reuse, Alfred E. Whitehead of Brooklyn, N.Y. (and there were others before and after him with similar eccentric ideas) constructed a machine to print postmarks and cut into stamps. Apparently it cut into envelopes, too. Not many pieces of mail seem to have survived the trip through his machine - impressions are rare. The type used as a backstamp shows no sign of causing lacerations.

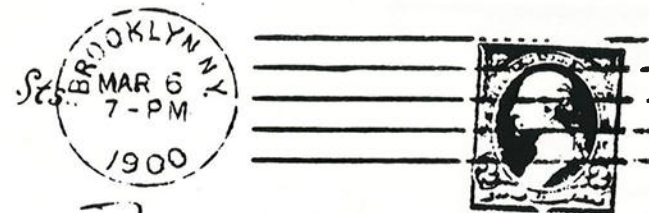
Known in 1898-1900 from Brooklyn only.

## References:

Machine Cancel Forum pp 214-217



Print and cut  
Rare



Print, no cutting  
Rare

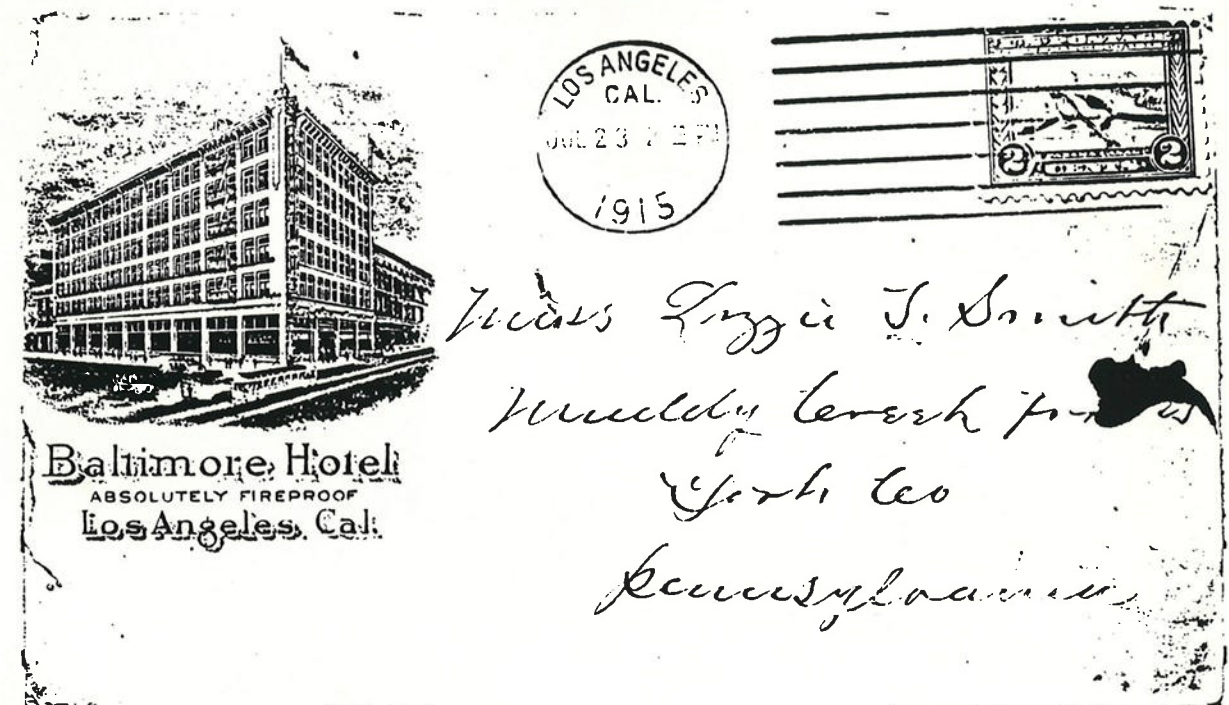


Backstamp  
Rare

Hours before delivering these pages to the printer, friends have come forward with new material and more helpful ideas. To the extent practical, I have incorporated these into the text, but a few items would require more changes than I care to make at this time:

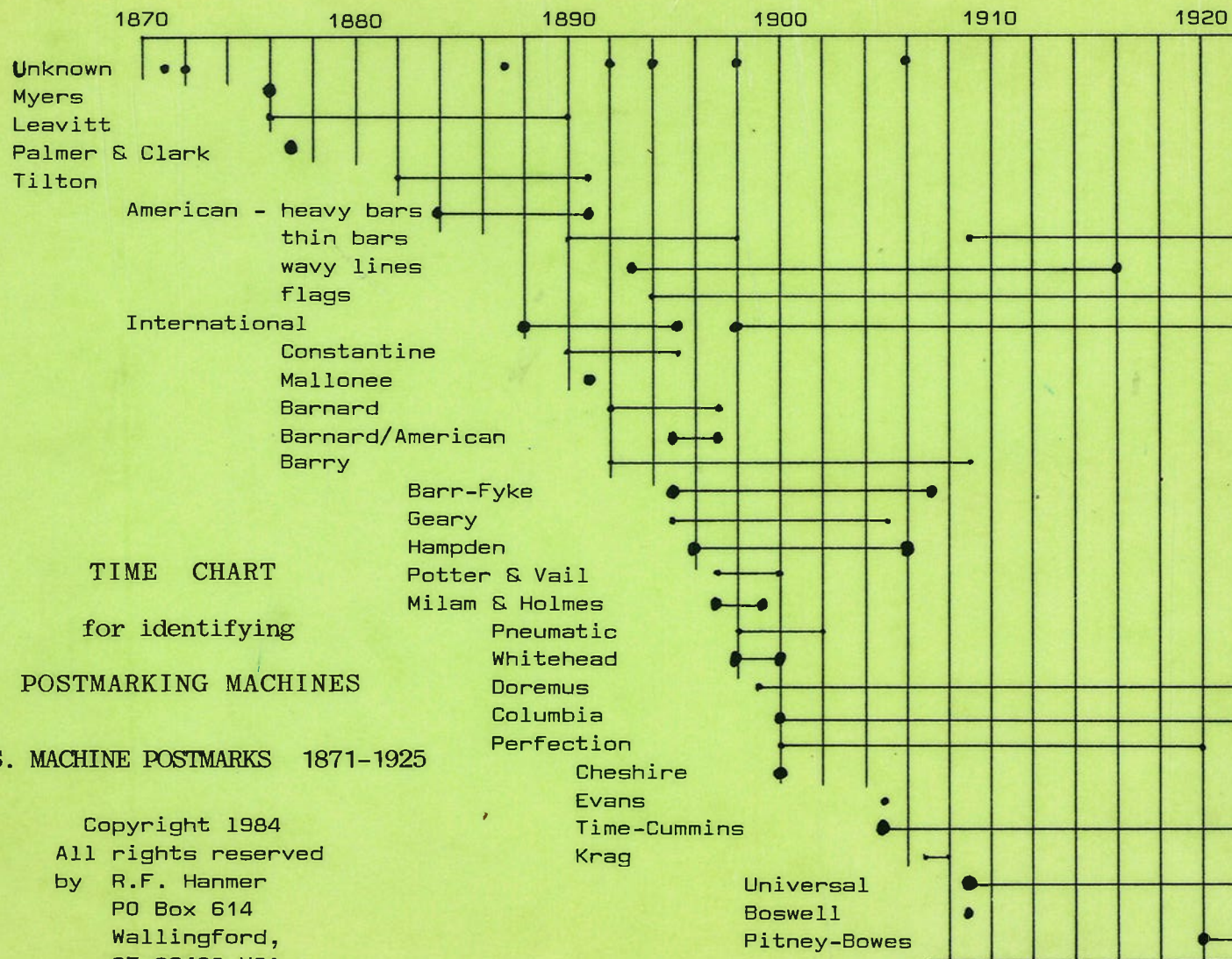
Page 22 - the Madison Square flag cancel is probably a Bickerdike, a machine used in Canada and in many places in Europe. Bickerdikes are related to American Machines.

The only known full-cover example of a Mack Machine postmark looks like this:





# TIME CHART



## TIME CHART

for identifying

POSTMARKING MACHINES

U.S. MACHINE POSTMARKS 1871-1925

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