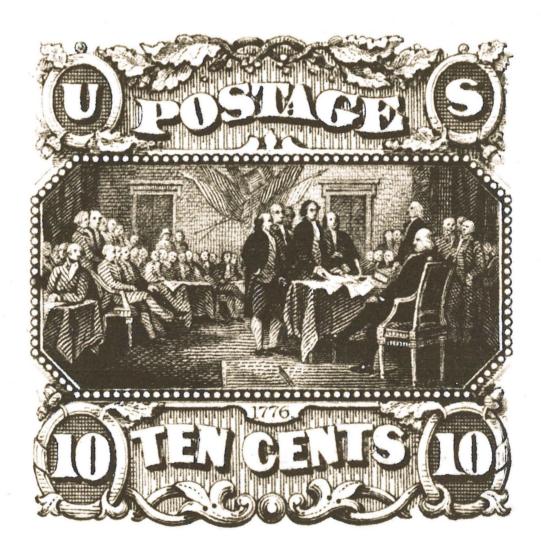
1869 TIMES

VOLUME 6, NO. 4

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WHOLE NUMBER 23

MAY 1981



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Jim Stever

JIM STEVER WINS GRAND AT ROMPEX ... Goes To C of C

The PRA has something to "whistle" about now! Associate and Secretary/ Treasurer Jim Stever grabbed the Grand Award at ROMPEX '81 at Denver.

The show, whose theme was "Rails West" and held over the May 15, 1981 weekend, gave top honor to Jim's 1869 Locomotive collection. Jim's exhibit, made up entirely of 3¢ 1869 stamps illustrating the locomotive, has been exhibited only a few times and is a premiere example of the variety and specialization which is possible within the U.S. 1869 issue.

Jim's win enables him to join the top-rated philatelists in the country in competition at the American Philatelic Society's $\underline{\text{Champion}}$ of $\underline{\text{Champion}}$ competition in 1982. This is indeed an honor, and is the first time an all-1869 exhibitor from the PRA will enter that hallowed court. (It is pointed out, of course, that $\underline{\text{Margaret}}$ $\underline{\text{Wunsch}}$ both was entered and $\underline{\text{won}}$

the 1969 APS Champion of Champion's Award with her all-1869 exhibit of that year; however, the PRA was not in existence then!) Maybe Jim will follow Margaret Wunsch's footsteps and win in 1982.

In keeping with the "Rails West" theme, Jim's award was a brass HO narrow-gague model 2-6-0 Freight Engine and coal tender. The model, in an ornate decorative box for viewing, was once used by the Colorado & Southern Railway to connect the east and west coats of America in the late 1800's. It was designed specifically for traversing the Rocky Mountain terrain.

In a recent telephone interview with Jim, this Editor learned that he is about to put the finishing touches on a new research article on $3\c$ 1869 plates, concentrating on a theory of usage dates. Jim's $3\c$ research has already been considerable, and apparently more is due soon. Watch for it in the 1982 REGISTER.

Also at ROMPEX, <u>Joe Crosby</u> won a Gold Medal for his exhibit of Fancy Cancels. His exhibit contained 1869 material and also other U.S. Classic stamps. Because the exhibit contained a large showing of 1869 items, Joe's collection won the <u>PRA Research Medal</u> (in Gold). (Jim's collection was not eligible for the PRA Medal because he has previously won it at El Paso last year.)

CONGRATULATIONS JIM AND JOE!

Elliott H. Coulter

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

ROMPEX was fun and work. The meeting of the Board of Governors that was held at ROMPEX on May 16, 1981 turned out to be a very enjoyable and productive meeting. Probably the most rewarding part of the events was not related to the Board Meeting at all, but rather to the fact that our Secretary-Treasurer Jim Stever won the Grand Award at the show for best exhibit at ROMPEX. This was a well-deserved acknowledgement to a collection that included good presentation and particularly fine research of important 1869 material. It was a very pertinent award since the theme of the show was "Rails West" and Jim is a locomotive collector of the 3¢ 1869 issue.

Another Board member, <u>Joe Crosby</u>, won the 1869 PRA Medal for his collection of fancy cancels which included many 1869 issues. Joe also won the informal Fellowship Award for taking 14 people (mostly PRA members) to the Denver Petroleum Club for dinner on May 15. Only the highest accolades could even remotely acknowledge the elegance and quality of this dinner. Our own Jeff

Forster won the award for most trips to the buffet table followed closely by all of the other members who were in attendance.

In spite of the conviviality, we actually covered the prepared agenda for the Board Meeting. The agends consisted of six points as listed below.

A) Rotation of Board Members - We had previously passed a rule about the number of times a Board Member could be reelected to his post without a mandatory gap of one year at which time he must be off the Board. The short discussion on this matter indicated that we did not have enough of the detail of our current By-Laws with us to come up with a satisfactory answer on this matter. Since there will be a Board Meeting in Port Lavaca, Texas at the home of Mr. Jim Cryer on July 18, 1981, we will make our decision at that point and in effect elect new Board Members as the old terms expire. Please make a note of this date and try to advise the President or any other officer of your wishes to serve on the Board.

B) Editorial Assistance for 1869 Times - Mr. Ben Chapman, our present Editor, has indicated that as soon as possible he would like to be relieved of this job and a search is underway for a successor. The discussion reviewed the possibility of a successor.

C) Census Program - This discussion concerned the progress of our census and the timings that must be develop in order to make our total presentation to Philately at the Chicago show in 1986. This discussion included not only the question of accumulation of material, but also the method of presentation when finally developed. Joe Crosby is going to prod the various section leaders for the various values of the census to keep the project moving, continuing and growing. In addition, he is going to discuss and review the method of printing for final presentation. Joe will be working with Michael Laurence and others he will select as a committee for accomplishing this action.

** "President's Page continues on pg. 7

1869 TIMES

MAY 1981

Published Quarterly, In February, May, August and November

VOL 6, NO. 4 WHOLE NO. 23

Official Journal of the United States Pictorial Research Associates, Inc.

\$2.00 Initiation Fee (Paid Once) \$15.00 Annual Dues "1869 Times" Back Issues Whole No's. 8-11, \$2.00 Whole No's. 12-Up, \$5.00

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THE FOREIGN MAILS

Michael Laurence, Editor

1869 Pictorial Stamps Used in Connection With Japan and China

290

by Ryohei Ishikawa



PART 4: 1869 COVERS TO AND FROM CHINA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD

INTRODUCTION

In the three previous installments of this series, the writer discussed 1869 covers that passed between the U.S. consular post offices in Japan; 1869 covers that passed between the U.S. consular post offices in Japan and China (Shanghai); and 1869 covers used to and from Japan and the rest of the world. This final installment will discuss 1869 covers used to and from China and the rest of the world. As in previous installments, all the covers illustrated are from the writer's collection.

1869 COVERS FROM SHANGHAI

The U.S. Consular post office in Shanghai started its operation in 1867. The 10¢ transpacific rate was avail-

Genge Mesekant Meseka

Figure 1. October 21, 1869, from Shanghai to New York City, four times the 10¢ rate paid by a 24¢ 1861 stamp and eight copies of the 2¢ postrider. This is a very early use of 1869 stamps from Shanghai. Does anyone know of an earlier use?

able to apply to mails to and from the Shanghai consular post office. The cover in Figure 1 was sent from Shanghai on 21 October 1869. This is quite early for 1869 use at Shanghai. The cover is addressed to New York City and routed "per Str. America from Yokohama." It bears eight copies of the 2¢ 1869 stamp plus a 24¢ stamp of the 1861 series, paying 40¢ postage—four times the 10¢ rate. It was carried on a branch line steamer of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company from Shanghai to Yokohama, where it was transferred to the main-line steamer America. Whether this transfer was accomplished through the U.S. post office at Yokohama, or directly ship to ship, is one of the many details of the transpacific mail service that is not yet known.

The cover in Figure 2 is the celebrated seven-times-rate cover from Shanghai to Pennsylvania. The cover bears a single 10¢ 1869 stamp along with a marvelous vertical pair of the 30¢ 1869. This is a large, heavy envelope, reinforced with fabric within, which probably contained documents, thus explaining the seven times rate.

The cover is addressed to Mr. A. B. Bradford. Another cover, illustrated below as Figure 4, is addressed to a Bradford in Shanghai. Most likely these two persons were members of the same family. It is known that an Oliver Bradford was U.S. vice-consul in Shanghai during this era. The straightline "U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL/SHANGHAI" marking on the front of the cover, and the embossed wax consular seal on the reverse, both suggest that this cover originated within the consulate.

The consular date stamp on the cover in Figure 2 reads JAN 14. The cover crossed the Pacific on the steamer *Great Republic*, arriving San Francisco on 17 February 1871.



Figure 2. The celebrated seven-times-rate cover, from Shanghai to Pennsylvania, with 70¢ postage paid by a 10¢ 1869 stamp and a vertical pair of the 30¢ 1869.



Figure 3. A single $10 \oplus 1869$ stamp, used on cover from New York City to Shanghai.



Figure 4. A double rate cover from Pennsylvania to Shanghai, with the seldom-seen combination of a 10¢ 1869 stamp plus a 10¢ Banknote.

1869 COVERS TO CHINA

The cover in Figure 3 was posted at New York City on November 11, 1870. It bears a single 10¢ 1869 stamp. It presumably crossed the Pacific on the *Great Republic*, departing San Francisco December 1.

The cover in Figure 4, posted somewhere in Pennsylvania, bears an indistinct town marking manuscript dated July 5. It is addressed to Samuel W. Bradford, and bears the unusual combination of a 10¢ 1869 stamp and a 10¢ Banknote. One assumes that the 1869 stamp was applied first, perhaps at home. At the post office the letter was found to weigh over ½ ounce, so that the thencurrent Banknote stamp was added.

This concludes our remarks about the uses of the 1869 stamps in transpacific correspondence. The transpacific covers are some of the most interesting postal history artifacts that survive from the 1869 period, and much remains to be learned about them. The writer urges all members of 1869 PRA to contribute whatever additional information they might have, for publication in these pages.**

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THE FOREIGN MAILS

Michael Laurence. Editor

THE "VIA OSTENDE" MARKINGS ON SWISS CONVENTION MAIL

by Allan Radin

In the May 1980 issue (Whole No. 19) of the 1869 Times Michael Laurence raised some questions about the "VIA OSTENDE" marking found on unpaid and insufficiently prepaid letters in the Swiss Convention mail. While the subject of markings on covers is at best only of peripheral interest in a publication devoted to the 1869 stamp issue, the matter should not be left up in the air.

Mr. Laurence inclines to the belief that this marking was applied by the New York Exchange Office. More definitely, James Van der Linden in "Catalogue de Marques de Passage/Postvertragsstempel Katalog," Volume I, designates it USA-P55 and lists it as a U.S. Exchange Office marking. His nomenclature system thus classifies it as a U.S. to Prussia marking, which is probably wrong, and the conclusion that it is a U.S. Exchange Office marking flies in the face of evidence.

In the first place, while the correct spelling in French and German is OSTENDE, in English it is OSTEND. The U.S. Post Office Department showed that it knew the correct English-language spelling in the circular "NEW YORK/VIA ENGLAND & OSTEND" marking (Van der Linden US-P54 (sic); neither is this a U.S. to Prussia marking). Incidentally, "via Ostende" is French; in German it would be "uber Ostende."

If, in spite of the foregoing, one is still inclined to the belief that the "VIA OSTENDE" marking was applied at New York, he must satisfactorily answer this question: "Why was this marking applied only to Swiss Convention mail?" To date it has not been found on mails transported pursuant to any other convention (North German Union,

for example) which, like the Swiss Convention mail, went in closed mail transit via England and Ostend.

Mr. Laurence notes that the "VIA OSTENDE" marking appears on eastbound insufficiently prepaid letters but not on fully prepaid ones. He also shows a westbound unpaid cover with this marking, which is by no means unusual. It appears on every westbound unpaid Swiss Convention cover that I have seen and although it may be excessively dogmatic to say that all such letters received it, I strongly suspect that is the case.

Thus the pattern emerges. The letters marked "VIA OSTENDE" were those which were unpaid or insufficiently prepaid, and hence had to be rated by the rating clerk. In an exchange office the rating clerk was at an upper hierarchic level; he presumably did not perform the menial task of opening bags and sorting mail. The sorter could easily distinguish between fully prepaid letters and those which had to go to the rating clerk by the presence of stamps or appropriate markings or both.

At Basel the "VIA OSTENDE" marking told the rating clerk that the letter was in Swiss Convention mail direct from Ostend and not in transit via the Prussian or French postal system. In New York it served the same purpose — denoting a letter in the Swiss Convention mail. Even though a more specific marking can be easily conceived there is no reason why the "VIA OSTENDE" marking could not serve the purpose of indicating the route of unpaid or insufficiently prepaid letters. The regulation requiring such indication is not to be taken, as Mr. Laurence did, for an implication that there was more



Figure 5. INSUFFICIENTLY PAID "VIA OSTENDE". Deficient postage 2¢, equated to 10 centimes. Unpaid fine of 20 centimes applied, making total Swiss postage due 30 centimes.

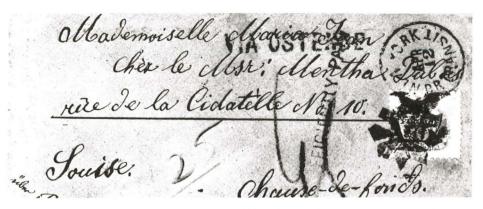


Figure 6. INSUFFICIENTLY PAID "VIA OSTENDE". Deficient postage 5¢, equated to 25 centimes. Unpaid fine of 20 centimes applied, making total Swiss postage due of 45 centimes. Note that despite "über Bremen" endorsement this letter went in Swiss Convention mail.

"Via Ostende" cont'd.

than one route for Swiss Convention mail, but rather that each unpaid or insufficiently prepaid letter have an indication of the service which brought it to New York so that it could be correctly rated for postage due.**

Note from the Section Editor: I am entirely persuaded by Michael Radin's logic, and very much appreciate his contribution to the record. ML

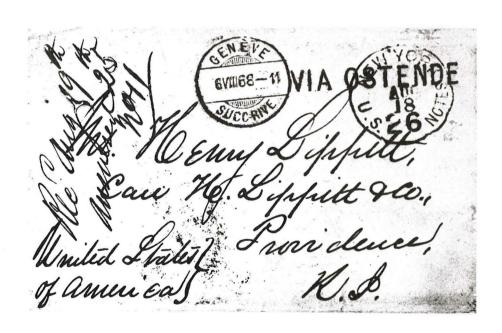


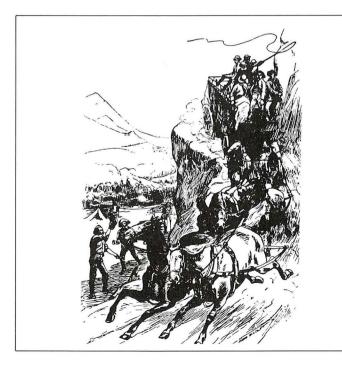
Figure 7. "VIA OSTENDE" on unpaid westbound cover. 15¢ postage plus 5¢ unpaid fine expressed as 26¢ in "greenbacks."





- D) Other Books and The REGISTER At the meeting a general discussion took place regarding what happened to the Specialized 1869 Catalog that is being developed by Jim Stever. It turns out that Jim has the material ready for a 3¢ Specialized Catalog and hopes that other people will help in developing the specialized material for all the other values. We have asked him now to prepare a 3¢ Specialized so that this may be used as a guideline for developing the other values. We have not heard from Fred Lopez who is writing a book on 1869 Essays. Hopefully this will be followed-up shortly. We are also interested in the progress of the 1982 REGISTER. Mr. Rose advised the group that many articles have been assigned for the edition that will be published in 1982. Again, all of you who have ideas for a REGISTER article should be prepared to submit a manuscript (final) by the end of this year (December 1981).
- E) Medals, Programs, Exhibits We must develop a better way of publicizing our medals and awards, since we are getting little press coverage of our current programs. In addition, the standards for the judges as to the purpose of the award must be reiterated and strengthened. As far as programs are concerned we are trying to develop:
 - 1. A slide program that will be made up of several sections of the various 1869 stamps, research programs, covers, and supporting material.
 - 2. A second slide program would be an all-essay program put together by Fred Lopez.
 - 3. Finally, an all-1869 exhibit at WESTPEX in San Francisco is on the drawing boards. The show would probably not be held for 4 years. However, Jeff Forster has been picked to be in charge of program development. Work will get underway immediately as far as organization work is concerned.
- F) <u>Subject of Research</u> Our program of research will start with the mandatory assignment of various people to develop research projects. This would be in conjunction with these items to be written for the <u>1869 Times</u>. At this moment we have selected ten research projects that will be assigned to various members who it is felt would be most conversant with the subject matter to write articles that will be published in the <u>Times</u>. We feel this will give us a constant flow of articles for the <u>Times</u> as well as a constant flow of efforts from people who are reticent about writing to present their works to the membership. If anyone has a pet research project, please advise Jim Stever who is in charge of this effort and he will help you in the development of your ideas.

The meeting ended after about two and a half hours with the slide presentation on 1869 usages and some discussions on upcoming auctions. I would like to personally thank all the members who came to the meeting and I would like to also encourage all of you who were not there to send in any comments or thoughts you might have, either about the agenda presented here or other ideas that would be helpful to the organization. I had a great time at ROMPEX and would like to thank the members of the ROMPEX committee for their good will and wonderful efforts in seeing to it that our meeting was held in a wonderful room with all facilities provided. Elliott H. Coulter **





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--- MIDDLE OF MAY ---

The 3¢ 1869 Issue Experimental Proofs (Brazer 114E-D)

by William C. Bartusek

Clarence Brazer, in his book "Essays for U.S. Adhesive Postage Stamps," lists three varieties of 3¢ 1869 Issue experimental proofs. They are cataloged as 114E-D and described as follows:

"Stamp design and color but with essay grill all over, squares up. Actually experimental proofs.

- a. Imperforate, gummed. With black 23 mm. circular cancellation 'NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. N.Y. SEP 27, 1869;' (rare): ultramarine
- b. Same uncancelled; (scarce) ultramarine
- c. Same, perforated with horizontal ink line cancellation; (scarce) ultramarine"

This essay grill is lightly impressed on heavy stamp paper and appears almost as a heavily woven paper.

One question raised by Brazer's descriptions is "why is the cancelled imperforate variety rare while the other two varieties are only scarce?" Were not the varieties printed in sheets or at least panes, or is the uncancelled imperforate scarcer than the perforated variety?

Answers to questions regarding the numbers of impressions printed of each variety is indicated by a block of four of 114E-Db (uncancelled, imperforate) sold in the Sotheby Parke Bernet Stamp Auction on November 20, 1978 (Lot 199). This lot was photographed in the auction catalog and showed a partial cancellation just touching the right side of the design of the bottom right stamp. This lot was described as "114E-Da-b, 3¢ Ultramarine Grilled All Over essay imperf block of 4 with three uncancelled and one with partial 'North American Bank Note' cancellation, thin specks in margin only, still Very Fine." This description is obviously in error as regards the "North American Bank Note" cancellation. Only the "N.Y." portion of the cancel was on the bottom right stamp and the cancel would be that of the National Bank Note Co., New York. The right side of the block also had a rough edge such as would be created from tearing paper along a fold.

Since the partial cancel appears on the 114E-Db proof block, the 114E-Da proof must come from the same pane. The "scarce" rating by Brazer usually indicates no more than one pane (one-half of a fully printed sheet) was printed. Therefore, the logical conclusion can be drawn that one full sheet (2 panes) of 114E-D was printed. The two panes were cut apart, with one pane being perforated and receiving an ink line cancellation to check absorption of pen ink by the grilled paper and ease of perforation separation caused by the grill.

The other pane was not perforated but a number of impressions received a hand stamp cancellation to check absorption of stamp pad ink by the grilled paper. Since the cancelled variety was considered "rare" by Brazer while the imperforate variety was considered "scarce," the



198 E #114F-Da-c, 3c Ultramarine grilled all over essays, o.g., includes "National Bank Note Co., N.Y. SEP 27 1869" cancelled and uncancelled imperfs, and a perf 12 with horiz, ink line cancel, minor faults on each, scarce and FINE-VERY FINE appearance(Photo) Est. 150-200

199 E⊞ #114E-Da-b, 3c Ultramarine Grilled All Over essay imperf block of 4 with three uncancelled and one with partial "North American Bank Note" cancellation, thin specks in margin only, still VERY FINE(Photo)

Est. 150-200

number of impressions receiving the cancel must have been relatively few; much less than half of the 150 pane impressions, otherwise, both varieties would be equally "scarce" or "rare."

The location of the partial cancel on the 114E-Da-b block of 4 indicates that vertical columns of impressions were cancelled. It is very doubtful that random or varying patterns of horizontal and vertical rows/columns would have been cancelled. Human nature and inspection procedures would usually provide for such cancellations to be made in the same pattern on adjacent columns if the hand cancelling pattern was vertical or adjacent rows if the pattern was horizontal. If vertical columns were cancelled, how many were cancelled? The author believes two vertical columns (30 impressions) were cancelled, at most three columns. If only one column was cancelled this proof would probably have been considered as "very rare," if more than two columns, at most three, were cancelled it would have been considered only "scarce.' This belief is reinforced by other observations.

The author has seen six cancelled proofs or photographs of the proofs. Three had almost no left margin, three had ample margins all around with the left margins approximately equal and no "jumbo" left or right margins. The right margin of the 114E-Da-b block of 4 was torn fairly evenly as if along a paper fold. Thus the pane could have been folded and torn along the fold line with the larger

left portion containing 114E-Db and the right portion containing 114E-Da. The author has no idea why the pane was not cut with scissors unless the person separating the pane did not want to take the time to find scissors and was not concerned about the appearance of the resulting rough margin. This rough margin would usually be trimmed with scissors or knife by most philatelists or for presentation to others by the National Bank Note Co. If the right two columns of the left pane were cancelled, the impressions of the left column would have almost no left margins and those of the right column could have ample but not "jumbo" margins, assuming the panes were separated equally along center lines of the top and bottom sheet margin arrows.

Assuming the pane margin separating the cancelled and uncancelled proofs was folded in unequal portions and hand torn, the tearing process could have been most conveniently accomplished by two methods: (1) grasping and pulling the smallest portion with one hand and holding the larger portion on a flat surface with the other hand, or, (2) placing the fold on a straight edge, e.g., table edge, and grasping the smaller side to pull and make the separation. Considering the size of an average person's hand, especially the distance between the palm and the end of the thumb, the neatest tear could only be made by grasping and pulling two columns of proofs; the two columns containing the cancelled proofs.

As a result of the above observations and their analysis, the author concludes that the following quantities of 114E-D experimental proofs were prepared.

114E-Da Imperforate, hand stamp cancel — 30 copies

114E-Db Imperforate, uncancelled —120 copies

114E-Dc Perforated, ink line cancel —150 copies

These conclusions could be verified by determining which proof variety has the left and right pane plate dots, which varieties have left or right sheet margins, which varieties have sheet margin guideline arrows, and whether 114E-Da multiples exist. The communication of such information to the author would be appreciated.

Two other observations regarding these experimental proofs are noted. First, the proof impressions show signs of some plate wear, especially the top left and right ornaments. Since impressions do show signs of plate wear and 114E-Da is cancelled with a date of September 27, 1869, a plate used for current stamp production was probably used to prepare these proofs. Do plate number and/or imprint blocks exist? The two copies with top plate dots would identify the plate number used to print these proofs even if plate number margins were trimmed-off.

Second, the hand stamp cancel on 114E-Da varies greatly in boldness among proof copies. Three degrees of cancel boldness have been seen by the author; heavy, medium and light. Did the individual using the hand stamp only ink the stamp once every three strikes?**

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Tidbits . . . Tidbits . . . Tidbits

Not only was ROMPEX a decided success for PRA members, but ARIPEX too saw two 1869 collectors win kudos for their showings. Jeff Forster won a Gold Medal with felicitations, as well as the PRA Medal for his collection of the 1869 regular and reissues. Michael Laurence, whose showing was his magnificent 10¢ 1869 covers, also garnered a Gold Medal. Mike presented Jeff with his PRA medal at the Awards Banquet with all due fervor, and the incident was one of the highlights of the banquet. Since both of these collections were situated right next to each other in the exhibition, the two were seen to compare covers, gossip about the holdings and endeavor to strike bargains or trade some material. In the end, neither was able to reach agreement about any item. Also, at ARIPEX, Michael gave a slide show on the 10¢ 1869 used on cover.

At Filatelic Fiesta, the annual stamp show held in San Jose and sponsored by the San Jose Stamp Club, again two 1869 exhibits were shown and both won medals. Jeff Forster won the Reserve Grand Award for his 1869 pictorial issue and reissue, and Brad Arch won a Bronze Award for his exhibit of New Jersey Circia 1869, which depicts the '69s used on cover from New Jersey.

The Mixed Franking Cover illustrated in the Auction Report by David Ogle, recently sold by Wolffers in San Francisco, which bears a 12¢ '69, 2¢ red-brown Banknote and 6¢ green Hawaiian is a recent find. The cover apparently was sold by the addressee's family, inasmuch as it had been in that family for over 100 years and only recently surfaced and allowed to be auctioned off. The Wolffers catalog showed both black and white, as well as color photographs. It went for \$10,500 plus 10% commission, and goes to show that new finds and discoveries from the 1869 issue continually pop up!



not include the 3¢?? It is up to you.

LA PASTORCILLA

Comments or dialog should be directed to Ravi at 707 Misty Lea, Houston, TX 77090.

Paul Bourke writes that he has gotten very little response from Associates regarding the 3¢ 1869 Census.

"By now I would have expected to have an attic full of census cards. I have less than a shoebox full -- and of these, about 1/4 fall into the plain, ordinary category. To be specific, I have the following information: Territorial uses - 5 covers; Railroad/RA - 5 covers; Revenue use - 3 covers; Foreign use - 14 covers; Registered - 12 covers."

.....Well, that is pretty pitiful, Paul! Hey, you 3¢ Locomotive collectors; where are your reports?? Let's get on the ball and help Paul. Sending in auction clippings is not going to cut it! Fill out the cards yourself and then send them to Paul. Go through your collections and make your reports! I know there are literally scores of 3¢ 1869 collectors who have hundreds of covers close at hand. Are you going to let the 2¢ collectors and the 12¢ collectors have a census and

Robert A.Siegel Auction Galleries of New York has announced the sale of an important collection of U.S. 1869 Pictorials in mid-June. The sale will feature a nearly complete set of 1869 used blocks featuring the extremely rare 24¢ and 90¢ blocks. The only blocks not represented are the 15¢ Types, however included will be a used strip of five of the Type I stamp. Among the other noteworthy items are complete sets of all stamps with blue, black and red cancels. All values through the 15¢ are represented on cover as well as six 10¢ values on piece with Hawaiian stamps. Also included in the cover section are mixed frankings with stamps of France and Great Britain. Additionally, a complete set of Inverts and a complete set of used re-issues will be sold. Catalogs for this sale are free of charge at their offices or \$1.00 with prices realized by mail at 120 E. 56th Street, NY, NY 10022.

SKY Magazine for April 1981 (the Delta Airlines seat-pocket slick-paper), ran an article on Associate Ken Laurence. Ken, as most know, is a "philatelic investment consulatant." He has been active in a number of areas in philately, including auctioneering, and has settled into this new and exciting profession.

The article, which is quite well done, explains what is happening in the area of tangible investments, and stamps in particular, guided by Ken's able comments. (Speaking of articles like this, have you read the one in Money Magazine for June 1981? Both are required reading for 1869 collectors.)

Ken can help you wind your way through IRA's, KEOGH plans and Syndicate investment portfolios. Just as nimbly, he works with Banks and Trust Companies, incorporating rare stamps in pension plans. Ken is also one of our more active Regional Vice Presidents and gets many new members!



Ken Laurence

. Tidbits

John Chapin sends the following report, after the request for help in last issue:

Some interesting facts are beginning to emerge from a research project that is underway on 19th Century U.S. plate blocks. The goal is to take a count on what exists up to Scott #205. Where no plate block is known, records of plate number imprint strips are being assembled. (Stamps only -- no proofs.)

One clear fact so far is the predominance of #24, #26, #65, plus a fair number of #114. For our #114; 3 plate number Imprint blocks of 12 of Plate #26, plus blocks of 16, 18, 20, plus 4 complete panes. One lone example of Plate #29 has been reported.

Another point developed is the tracing of the cutting up of larger multiples down to plate block size. Xerox prints of illustrations are invaluable for this. There will always be some uncertainty, however, as old-time auction catalogs often did not picture sheets or panes. One wonders what has become of all those fabulous panes in the Col. Green Collection?

Some unusual numbers have surfaced during the research so far: Great rarities such as #7, 37,64, 66a, 98, 119, 121a, 136, 136b and 156 in plate blocks, with some qually rare strips are among the numbers.

Outstanding help has been given to the researcher by a wide variety of collectors and dealers. More information is needed to make this as complete as possible. Any serious philatelist with pertinent data is asked to contact John Chapin, Ways Lane, Manchester, VT 05254. Telephone (802) 362-1745. A form for listings and SAE will be gratefully sent. Please help!

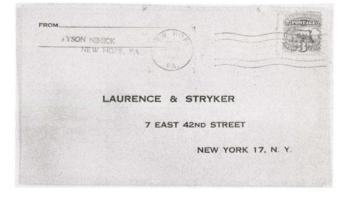
Elliott Coulter, our PRA President, has recently written Dr. Wyss, Director of the Swiss Postal Museum at Bern, Switzerland, asking for a photographic copy of the 1869 material in that Museum. It is understood that a great storehouse of knowledge in fantastic 1869 covers resides there. The 1869 PRA will bear the costs of reproduction of these photographs, if they can be secured, for the enlightenment of Associates and all philately.

Port Lavaca is coming! For those fortunate to receive an invitation to that affair, my your Editor suggest plans immediately be made to attend. It is an event which should not be missed. Mid-July has got to be philately's hottest attraction.

John Ginn, who as we understand it is Arizona-bound, sent in the photograph at right some time ago. It is an extremely late use of the 3¢ 1869 Locomotive. Posted on August 19, 1952, it represents usage of this stamp 83 years after issuance.

The addressee was Laurence & Stryker, an old time auction firm. The question arises, did Laurence & Stryker affix the stamp, or was it the sender, Tyson Numick, who through such generosity literally pleaded for prompt acceptance of his bids?

In either case, an interesting cover has come down to us. Can anyone show similar covers?



Dr. Joseph Rorke sends a photocopy of the Philadelphia Stamp News for March 22, 1913 (Vol. 3, No. 52, Whole No. 156). Page 853 carries a short squib on a "99 Cent 1869 Issue." This item is reproduced below:

PHILADELPHIA STAMP NEWS.

873

99 Cent 1869 Issue.

Mrs. E. Etcheverria has shown "The Philatelic Circular" (London) a variety of the 90 cent stamp of 1869. That journal, March 1, has the following to say about it:

"The square 90c. of 1869, with the figures in the top left-hand corner reading '99' instead of '90'! This is an extremely clever fake in which, we imagine by a very delicate 'thinning' process a figure 9 from another stamp has been substituted for the '0'. Whether the stamp would stand the test of boiling water we do not know, but it is one of the neatest fakes we have seen for a long time."

Writers for the 1982 REGISTER !!

Prospective writers having research articles which could be put into final form relatively quickly should be in contact with Editor Jon Rose, 30 Golf Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94566.

Jon is working hard on this publication and needs help, plus an article or two! Get on with it! **



MY FAVORITE 1869 ITEM WRITING CONTEST

MY FAVORITE 1869 ITEMS

by Grant Crowell

Miss Hattie Judd can be credited with doing a favor to us fancy cancel specialists. She must have saved most of her correspondence.

The cover before me shows a #114 with the large West Hampton, Mass. STAR cancellation. I have four of these stars in my collection and most I am aware of are from the Hattie Judd correspondence. The 3¢ 1869



Figure 1. Judd fancy cancel.

on this cover (shown in Figure 1) also shows a position dot, layout lines and also a faint crack or scratch which I do not believe has been reported.

This crack or scratch has been strengthened on the facsimile in Figure 2 to show as well as it actually does after careful study of the stamp itself. The facsimile has been marked to show the location of the dot, line and the scratch.

The ink starts in the top of the acanthus and goes at an angle off the stamp. Has anyone seen this before? Is it a cracked plate or a scratch? Reports of similar items would be appreciated.



Figure 2. Fascimile strengthened.



<u>Second Item</u>: Another intriguing cover in my collection bears a 2¢ of the 1869 issue. The collection is strong in fancy cancels which I am very fond of.

In looking for items that others have reported occasionally I find something different....and surprising. Has anyone seen this dot over the Post Rider's head? It is very strong and in the same brown ink as the rest of the design. A photo is shown in Figure 3.

The cancel is a nice dog or horse's head of Great Falls, New Hampshire.

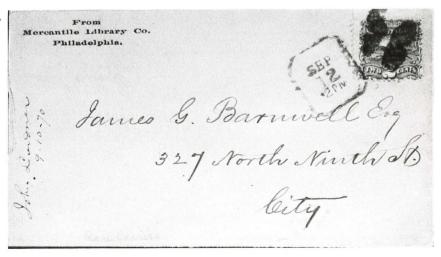
Third Item: Although not a "Favorite Item", I do have a thought in reference to Cliff Leak's article on the Philadelphia octagon cancel on #113 as discussed last time. It is my contention that this is a carrier cancel of a branch office.

Figure 3. Large dot over rider's head. rider's head.

Phillie was a large city even then. Of the carrier cancels of Philadel-phia I have two of the circular variety and one octagon. The circular cancels are dated May 31, 1869 and September 10, 1869; blue and black respectively.

The octagon shown here in Figure 4 is dated Sep 12 2PM. In pen on the side is "9-10-70." The 2PM leads me to believe it is a carrier. If the Mercantile Library Co. was near a branch office...Voila!

Figure 4. _ _ >





MY FAVORITE 1869 ITEM WRITING CONTEST

(Continued)

CORNERING THE MARKET

by Donald P. Skove

My interest in the 3¢ Locomotive probably began in early childhood when the steam engine was in it's heyday. I was fascinated with every facet of railroading and waited anxiously for every ride in a coach or Pullman car.

At this young age, I was not aware that my father had a large number of the 3¢ issue, among other things, stored in a trunk in our attic. One cold Sunday afternoon, when in my teens, Dad asked if I would help him sort through the Locomotive issue and think of some way to mount and display these stamps. The one approach we decided on was to form a collection based on cancellations. Over several months we categorized cancellations into stars, targets, pen scrips, grills, numerals, shields, masonics, red, green and blue cancels, cross-roads, postal markings, towns, and a few pictorials such as insects, beer mugs and padlocks.

My obvious question to Dad was, "How did you accumulate so many varieties of this one stamp?" His answer was, "In the 1900 to 1915 period, my brothers and I tried to corner the market on the 3¢ issue. We repeatedly sent \$1.00 to a dealer until his stock of this stamp was depleted. Then we would start on another dealer." As my Dad indicated, their money ran out before the dealers' stock of the issue.

We both enjoyed developing this collection and I still try to learn more about cancellations from it and from other knowledgeable sources. Because of my continuing interest, I would suggest collectors of the 1869 issue consider cancellations as a form of enjoyment. A few of my examples are shown below. **



































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The summer months are often a time of address changes. Please send any changes as soon as possible to Jim Stever, Bank and Trust Tower, BT 167, Corpus Christi, Texas 78477 to insure prompt delivery.

Also, please note that PRA dues for 1981-82 fiscal year are payable as of July 1, 1981. **

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90¢, 30¢ & 24¢— Dr. Richard M. Searing, 1300 Sao Paulo Ave., Placentia, CA 92670.

15¢ Type I — Elliott H. Coulter, Sterling Rd., Harrison, NY 10528; and Jonathan W. Rose, 30 Golf Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94566

15¢ Type II — Austin H. Menaker, P. O. Box 160, Locust Valley, NY 11560

12¢ covers — Jim Schreiber, 2720 McKinley Road, Chelsea, MI 48118.

10¢ covers — Michael Laurence, 919 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611.

6¢ covers — Millard H. Mack, 2133 Luray Ave.,

6¢ covers — Millard H. Mack, 2133 Luray Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45206.

3¢ covers — Paul Bourke, P. O. Box 125, Ashland, MA 01721; and Jim Tillinghast, Box 5, Marlow, NH 03546 (corner cards)

2¢ covers — John Rose, 30 Golf Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94566

1¢ covers — John Birkinbine II, 7225 North Oracle Rd., Tucson, AZ 85704.

All 1869 reissue covers — John Birkinbine II, 7225 North Oracle Rd., Tucson, AZ 85704

Mixed Franking — Jeffrey Forster, 99 Almaden Blvd., Suite 400, San Jose, CA 95113

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Another Quarto of 1869 Articles

by Cliff Leak

Last issue we ran four articles by <u>Cliff Leak</u> (PRA #174), and stated it was a record. Now, he's done it again! So sit back and enjoy Cliff's latest "quarto."

The Stamp That Could Have Been

To look upon the essay of the thirty-cent 1869 stamp which was submitted for the Postmaster's approval is to wonder why it was not adopted. The design is certainly most pleasing.

There is an apocryphal story that the design was not acceptable because the vignette of General Burgoyne passing his sword in surrender to General Gates would have offended the British. That story is difficult to believe. A country which had several times tweaked the Lion's nose couldn't have cared less about offending.

The entire range of specimen 1869 essays was sent "back to the drawing boards" to modify the denominations. As can be noticed, most of the essays lent well in some manner or fashion to accept the larger-sized numerals, emerging as stamps.

Two denominations, the 10-cent and 30-cent, did not reemerge in reconstructed format, but came forth in an entirely new shield and eagle design. The 10¢ "signing" essay enters into the scope of this article only to the extent that the same following logic can be applied to it. Would it have been the Bank Note of

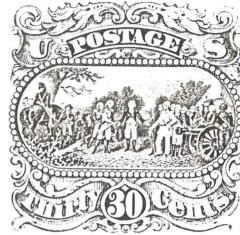


Figure 1. Unaccepted Burgoyne essay.

ing logic can be applied to it. Would it have been the Bank Note Company's decision and not that of the Post Office Department to depart from the original essay design?

To enlarge the numeral on this essay would have meant breaking into a design that was very compact, both in width and depth. Assuming such modification, the engravers perhaps felt that revamping this design would result in something that was really muddled. Engravers of that time were proud of their skills. So rather than submit to mediocrity, the National Bank Note Company set out to engrave the dies for a new design. What do you think? **CL

15¢ Type II Dots

The February issue of 1869 Times carried an article titled "Flyspecks" that related to the Type II 15-cent stamp of 1869. In the article I made the conjecture that a dot marking high in the apex of the stamp's "U.S." panel could perhaps represent a plate number position dot.

This idea was quickly brought to rest. <u>Dr. Joseph Rorke</u>, PRA #72, furnished a photo of a cover in his collection shown as Figure 2. The cover is franked with two Black Jacks and a joined pair of the Type II stamps. Each stamp shows the dot high into the panel apex.

Also pointed out to me was an illustration appearing in Fred Schueren's article in the <code>Essay-Proof Journal #106</code>. This shows a strip of 4 plate proofs of Type II (although the caption says Type I). It shows all 4 of the proofs to have highly elevated dots.

Most importantly though, the strip carries the plate number "No. 31", which was the only frame plate used in producing these stamps. This plate number shows no alignment to any dot nor "U.S." panel, but rather appears centered above the white space between two stamps. The dots must have had some purpose; I continue the opinion they were useful in lateral positioning. **CL



Figure 2. Dr. Rorke's combination cover w/dots.

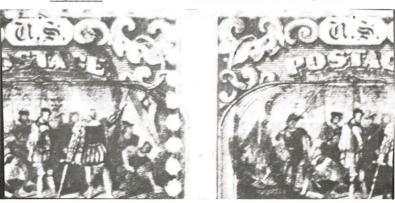


Figure 3. Close-up of pair of 15¢ Ty II from Fig. 2.



Eagles

Since over a century has passed, searching out the source of design for the ten-cent and thirty-cent stamps of 1869 is not easy -- and findings have to be more theory than substance.

Nevertheless, certain elements such as events, personalities, position, influence and patriotism can bring the theory nearer to being something objective. Some of the foregoing elements may have stimulated the idea for the eagle and shield designs.

On June 22, 1868 an advertisement was put forth requesting bids for a new stamp production contract. This advertisement was by order of Alexander W. Randall, Postmaster General. On July 23, 1868 Postmaster General Randall or-

dered the formation of a committee to examine specimens of postage stamps along with bidders' proposals. On July 28, 1868 this committee reported favorably on samples and proposals submitted by the National Bank Note Company of New York.

Finally on December 28, 1868, over five months after the advertisement for bids, agreement for a stamp-manufacture contract was made between the United States and the National Bank Note Company. In behalf of the United States, the contract was signed by Postmaster General Randall.

Keep in mind the repeated use of Postmaster General Randall's name in the previous paragraphs.

In 1861 the Civil War was already in progress and as the call went out for troops an organization known as the 8th Wisconsin Regiment was formed. This newly-created infantry regiment was presented an orphaned eaglet as a mascot. And what a mascot the eaglet grew to be. It was given the name "Old Abe," obviously in honor of President Abraham Lincoln.

The 8th Wisconsin Regiment took part in numerous engagements and the louder the sound of battle, the more "Old Abe" seemed to thrill and scream at the excitement. During the four years the bird was with the regiment he was often carried on a shield-shaped perch. The regiment gave its mascot to the state of Wisconsin in September of 1864.

1868 and 1869 were only a few years beyond the war's end. Heroism was yet fresh in mind and a subject to symbolize. "Old Abe" had by then become a national figure and very well served as a hero-symbol.

The postage stamp production contract as signed on December 12, 1868 called for an eagle and shield design for the thirty-cent denomination. This design almost appears to have been a hasty interim replacement for the original sample's "Surrender of Burgoyne" format.

In Stanley B. Ashbrook's book, "The United States Issue of 1869," it is indicated that no ten-cent denomination design, regardless of one being furnished as a specimen, was mentioned in the contract. The omission could hardly have been an oversight. Assuming that the ten-cent Lincoln essay design would not accept an enlarged numeral modification, a design for this denomination was in limbo or in a searching period for something that would be pleasing to Postmaster General Randall.

Fred P. Schueren in his excellent work that appeared serially in the *Essay-Proof Journal* and later in book form refers to a handwritten working copy of the contract. This does list the ten-cent design as an eagle and shield. So, with or without being called for in the contract, this design like the thirty-cent appeared to be a late-comer.

Could it have been that the design of a truculent bald eagle perched upon a battle shield was highly pleasing to the Postmaster General? Was there a reason for the repetitive designs of the ten- and thirty-cent stamps? Both questions have back-

First, Alexander W. Randall being from Wisconsin, should have found it quite easy to accept a design that was an allusion to his state's "Eagle" regiment. In addition to being from Wisconsin, Randall had also been that state's Governor for the term, 1857-1861. Patriotism may also have been meaningful to him for he enlisted in a militia regiment in 1861. From 1865 to 1869 he served as head of the U.S. Post Office Department.

ground potential that would support an affirmative answer.

Second, as to the double use or similarity of design: "the more the merrier!" A ten-cent denomination was much more visible to the public than the thirty-cent, which was a value too high for frequent usage. Using Brookman's figures, the ten-cent was issued in a quantity of 3,299,700 while the thirty-cent figure was 244,110, a ratio of better than 13 to 1.



Without too much stretch of imagination, some bits fall into place to justify a feeling that the designs of the two stamps were made to impart a story of patriotic pride -- one for "internal comsumption," and the second for our foreign neighbors. **CL

Salesmanship

Postage due stamps would normally sink to the bottom of the order for requiring security features which would preclude counterfeiting or fraudulent reusage for postage.

Applying that as rationale, it appears that the National Bank Note Company of New York may have employed substantial salesmanship to sell, or oversell, Peru the protective refinements that went into that country's postage due stamps of 1874-1879.

Six denominations made up the issue, and each was assigned a different color:

1 centavo - bistre 2 centavo - green 5 centavo - vermillion 10 centavo - orange 20 centavo - blue 50 centavo - brown

The two-centavo (as shown in Figure 4) was not regularly issued.

The entire set, excepting the one-centavo, has in the upper half of the design the same ocean and ship view that is the vignette for the U.S. 1869 twelve-cent stamp, also produced by the National Bank Note Company.



Figure 4. The 2 centavo Peruvian postage due of 1874-1879.

The lower frame design changed for each of the values, thus, requiring for that type, five separately engraved dies, and another for the one-centavo. Even in those days, additional dies represented added cost.

Another expense factor was the grill that was applied to the set. It would have been of little importance whether cancelling ink did nor did not migrate into the broken fibers provided by the grill. Postal validity through reuse of postage due stamps would be nil. Later, the series did appear without the grill.

Peru's use of the ocean scene qualifies a collateral tie with its postage due stamps and our U.S. 1869 Pictorial Issue.

.....One final word: Don't believe that the low catalog valuation of the Peruvian postage due set is an indication of abundant quantities. Anyone who is inclined to do a collateral approach should settle for one or two low denominations which may be in a dealer's stock. But, forget about the top value. **CL

Another Request For Help

Frank Mandel, 54 Barrow St., Apt. 1B, New York, NY 10014 writes about a philatelic research project he has undertaken, with the ultimate objective of publishing an ar-

ticle in The Chronicle of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, or some other similar forum.

Frank asks Associates to examine their collections and report to him similar outer line double circle markings as shown below, from the 1851-1871 period. The markings are the product of the Collin & Co. Although Collin type double lined circle markings on the 1869 issue appear to be late uses, perhaps PRA members can come up with a few examples for him. He believes them to be scarce.

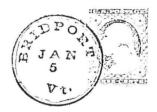
The original research article may be found in the May 1969 issue of *The Chronicle*, Whole No. 62, written by Arthur H. Bond. A number of these markings are illustrated in "Simpson's U.S. Postal Markings 1851-1861," published by the Classics Society.

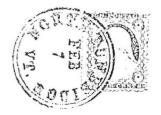
Markings from approximately 160 different towns from 29 states and 2 steamboats have been recorded. States with no listing to date include Alabama,

Arkansas, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska and Ohio. Other states seem underrepresented.

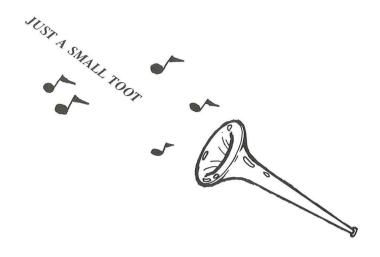
Frank would like full sized photostatic copies, from which he will prepare tracings. Please indicate the color of the marking and any docketing to help with year dating. Please do not send the actual covers.

Naturally, Frank will give the contributor credit in any form specified for use of the information. **









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This announcement should not be construed as our firm's entry into a "numbers race". Quite the contrary. We must admit, however, that it is pretty heady stuff to contemplate a realization of over \$1,167,000 for all lots in our WESTPEX sale. More importantly, it reminds us how many nice people joined us for the sale; sellers, consignors and buyers all apparently satisfied with Wolffers standards of quality and service.

Thanks to all of you, our staff walks a little taller. Now they are busy on our next sale September 2, 3 & 4. Won't you please send your name, address and \$2.00 for a catalog?

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The 1869 Cancellation Clearing House

By Scott R. Trepel

United States Cancellations 1845-1869 Unusual and Representative Markings, by Dr. Hubert C. Skinner and Amos Eno. A.P.S. Handbook published by the American Philatelic Society and Louisiana Heritage Press of New Orleans, 1980. ii + 362 pp., 4030 text figures, 155 halftones, city and state index compiled by Richard Sine. Regular edition \$25; Deluxe, bound in leather, gilt edging \$50.

Book Review

by Scott R. Trepel

 $U.S.\ Cancellations\ 1845-1869$ is a catalog of obliterations found on U.S. postage stamps during the pre-1870 period.

The format is similar to Zareski's Fancy Cancellations, with sixteen boxes to a full page and very limited text. Sections included are: Classification of Cancelling Devices, Notes on the Listings, Caveat Emptor, and List of Known Forgeries. The cancel list follows, and an index of city and state origins prepared by Richard Sine concludes.

The authors state they have surveyed existing cancellations in the pre-1870 period, intending to show every unusual design and a representative group of the more conventional devices. Using information compiled over a forty-year period, each cancel has been classed by design, origin, and chronology.

Prior to its release, this catalog drew much attention because of several innovations in cancellation cataloging made primarily by Dr. Skinner. His background in the earth sciences is certainly accountable for the system developed for this catalog.

Apart from illustrating the cancel and giving its color, the authors have devised a system which, theoretically, names and categorizes any cancel in objective terms. The "Classification" chapter describes their classes of design and each cancel is coded by class, subclass, number, and in certain instances a subnumber. All cancels are cross-referenced when necessary.

Another innovation is the inclusion of cancel varieties; that is, other examples of listed cancels which have a different appearance but probably were struck from the same device. These cancels, or strikes, are assigned letter suffixes. One number is skipped following each variety to allow for a separate listing in the event a variety proves to be an entirely different cancel.

The time period of use, in most cases, represents the year(s) of issuance of the stamp(s) on which the cancel appears. Exceptions, according to the authors, are the Waterburys and other cancels for which a definite period of use has already been established.

This reviewer counted 3,381 different fancy cancels and 140 varieties (with subnumber). The representative group of approximately 300 postal markings (pp. 319-347) is not included in these tally figures. There are approximately 2600 origins attributed to the different cancels and varieties. The number of cancels which the authors have verified by sight (indicated with a "cover" or "piece" symbol) is approximately 1700.

Readers will find the "Introduction" fascinating and useful as an account of past attempts to record early U.S. cancels. The "Caveat Emptor" and "List of Known Forgeries" do no more than warn readers of existing fakes and list those cancels which the authors have seen faked. Readers will find themselves frequently referring to Richard Sine's index which contains city/state origins found in the listings with pages for the cancels.

Critique

Catalogs of this type are difficult to analyze. Almost invariably, the analysis transcends the actual content of the book, resulting in a series of the reviewer's preferences or suggestions. The reason, or problem, is that the basis for criticism is in what is missing, rather than what is there.

Some important aspects of fancy cancels are missing or perfunctorily covered in this catalog. The authors' treatment of fakes filled no more than a page. The subjects of cancel inks, historical background of cancel designs, and the techniques used to examine, identify, and authenticate cancels were not discussed. These areas, until very recently, have been neglected in published literature. I had hoped they would be incorporated here.

The authors might argue that the coverage of fakes is beyond the scope of their survey. Nevertheless, they should concede that a list of 64 cancels which have been faked is not very appropriate nor useful to readers, especially without any illustrations.

One duty of standard reference books is to make rudimentary knowledge of the "how to's" accessible to readers. A general dissertation on examination techniques used for fancy cancels (including measurement, comparison of strikes, determination of wear, and methods of tracing) could have been given. This would assist students of genuine cancels and perhaps enlighten collectors of other material as well.

The absence of information on cancellation inks is one of the catalog's serious shortcomings. The basic identification of colored inks — green versus blue, red versus magenta versus orange — and what the inks are (and time periods during which the components were used) have strong bearing on cancellation study and should be contained in this work.

A section on cancellation designs and their historical background or genesis would make the Skinner/Eno catalog more comprehensive and enjoyable, too. Brief articles add interest and meaning to the cancel listings. Some mention of postmasters and the social/geographical context of cancel origins is useful as well. Herst/Zareski had the right idea in giving a brief but informative background of the "Shoo-Fly" cancels.

The authors preface their catalog by stating that it is "a compilation 'from scratch' based primarily on original philatelic material." Close study reveals that, in fact, certain "tracings" come from earlier literature, such as the Herst/Zareski book and the Wisconsin Postal History Society pamphlet on Wisconsin fancy cancels. As many cancellations are difficult to locate for retracing, this practice is understandably necessary. Where information has been derived from existing literature, however, source citation would be helpful. It enables the reader to judge the information's accuracy and acknowledges the fact that we all build on our predecessors' work. Ideally, every illustration should be identified ("personal exam-

ination", "H/Z", "W.P.H.S.", "Simpson", "Remele", etc.) and text data not personally verified by the authors should be similarly annotated. Credit to previously published data or conjecture of the writer also serves to protect the authors' credibility. In two instances the authors seem to agree; a Remele number is noted for ST-D 15 and the Knapp Sale II catalog is cited for ST-st 8.

Other problems have resulted from not verifying derivative information. Erroneous data have been entered into the listings; one disappointing example is the Stoneham, Mass. Skull & Crossbones il-

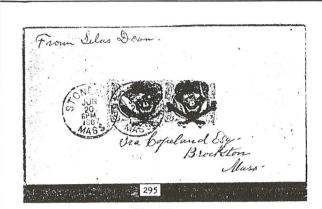


Figure 1.



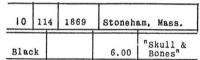


Figure 2.





19-O Skull and bones, Stoneham, Mass., 1879, green, purple, and black.

Figure 3.

Figure 4.

Stoneham. Mass. Skull & Crossbones. This cancel exemplifies the problems which can arise from incorporating derivative information into a catalog without carefully verifying its accuracy. The cover shown in fig. 2 is dated "JUN 20 6PM 1887" (Paige "Deluxe" Sale, Dec. 1952). The Herst/Zareski listing, shown in fig. 2. gives 1869 as a date of use; this datum is incorrect and the tracing is innacurate. The error is repeated by Skinner/Eno as shown in fig. 3. Interestingly, Dr. Skinner's "Used & Done For" column ("Strictly U.S.", Feb. 1977, p. 92) contains a listing for this cancel, assigning 1879 usage and three different colors (fig. 4).

lustrated with an inaccurate "tracing" (PH-S 17) identical to Herst/Zareski's (Pictorial #10). The incorrect date "1869", as published in the Herst/Zareski book and reprint, is repeated by Skinner/Eno. The cancel was only used in 1887. A spectacular Bank Note cancellation cover, sold in the Paige "Deluxe" sale (illustrated), shows the date of postmark to be "JUN 20 6PM 1887". The same error occurs with the Stoneham Padlock (PO-Pl 3).

Most of the catalog's tracings are very well done. All are approximately full scale and usually correspond in detail to the originals, making identification of the source items possible in many cases. Readers are advised that a number of fakes are included as separate cancels or varieties. In one instance a fake is illustrated instead of the genuine cancel; the Waterbury, Conn. "Shoo-Fly" (PA-Is 7) tracing can be identified with a cover illustrated as a fake in Paul Rohloff's Waterbury book (p. 253, fig. 298).

The classification system set forth is an excellent start to a standard method of categorizing fancy cancels. Recognized by the authors as a major problem here is the subjectiveness involved in naming cancels; for example, two similar cancels, GE-M 23 and PP-C 37. The owner of GE-M 23 is not going to sell his as a Miscellaneous Geometric while PP-C 37 brings the price of a beautiful Clover.

More cross-referencing is needed, too. The Star & Crescent cancels are not included with the "Elaborate Stars" and the Eagles are not with the "Birds". One must look under "Crescents" for the former and "Patriotics-Eagles" for the latter; not too difficult but not cross-referencing either.

The concept of listing cancel varieties, done by letter suffixes, is terrific. Unfortunately, the authors never clarify their definitions and the inconsistent use of terms (worn state, worn strike, etc.) creates ambiguity. Unless this reviewer is working with a series of dated covers, it is very difficult to determine whether a cancel strike is a "2nd state" or "3rd state." Why should not every example of a particular cancel be considered a different "stage"? What criteria are used for listing a strike as a definite sequential state of the cancel? Also, what qualifies a "badly worn state" over a "worn state"? Familiarity with cancelling devices and cancellation examples will certainly help identify partial strikes or worn cancelling devices. With the right material, the progression of wear can also be determined to a certain extent. This catalog does not precisely apply such methods, however, and can be confusing. A few examples show why:

PO-An 22a (p. 167) is called a "worn strike" of PO-An 22. There is a distinct size difference between the two which is not accounted for. Further, while both are attributed to Bristol, R.I., neither has been verified on cover by the authors and no basis for assuming that the two are related is stated. The same applies to PO-An 29 and 29a. These listings, therefore, must be considered conjectural although "worn strike" is stated definitely.

Three cancels, SD-G 133, 134, and 134a (p. 31), show another problem. All three appear to be the same cancel. On the other hand the authors indicate that 134 and 134a are two varieties (without explanation) of a cancel used at Plymouth, Mass., and 133, which looks like the same cancel turned 90° counterclockwise, is from Cambridge, Mass. (with "?"). The authors do not report these as verified on cover. This and similar situations can mislead and confuse the reader.

An inconsistency in the chronology of cancel varieties is evident in GE-C 49 and 49a when compared with GE-C 59 and 59a (pp. 42-43). The authors place 49a after 49 since wear has affected the cancel's design by hollowing the center dot. GE-C 59 and 59a reverses that situation; the hollow center dot is listed first and the solid dot follows. The reader is left to assume that one cancel wore hollow and the other wore solid.

Many times the authors let their class system interfere with the association of "worn" varieties. The Norridgewock Star in Circle, ST-O 20, without the small star in center, is not placed in sequence with the varieties showing the star, ST-st 26 and 26a. While ST-O 20 may not meet the criterion of a "star within star", it should have been cross-referenced as a variation of the ST-st 26 cancel.

Sometimes the authors fail to recognize and connect two examples of the same cancel. The Boston, Mass. "Preacher in Pulpit", PH-F 104, has been erroneously labeled for years. A full, unworn example, illustrated as GE-E 79 (p. 72), shows what this cancel is; an Elaborate Cross. The connection between this cancel and the "Preacher" was not made as both are listed in different sections and the Cross has no town origin noted. This reviewer has seen both on covers, each postmarked in Boston.

The authors also fail to identify PS-SD 40 (p. 205) which, when flipped upside down, becomes a more realistic version of the Trowel, PO-Tr 3 (p. 243). This may be an example of surveyed data overlapping derivative information.

The problems with the authors' dating method are inherent in any form of issue dating. Giving "1861" as chronological datum for a cancel, because it falls on an 1861 stamp, is an over-simplification which should not be made in a specialized catalog of this sort. There are many instances where research, published and unpublished, was available to determine more specific dates. Where a cover symbol is noted, a postmark date should have been included. Details such as this are useful to students and require little added effort than a cover symbol. It is hoped that a revision of this catalog will attempt to fill the void by illustrating every cancel with actual examples including postmarks.

The authors considered including a scarcity evaluation with the cancel listings but felt that it was inappropriate and virtually im-

possible to do accurately. It is expected that a form of scarcity guide will be attempted in due time. The value of such information is indisputable and must be a priority for students revising the Skinner/Eno catalog.

Progress will make this catalog obsolete. That is the fate of all philatelic research. For students choosing to assume the enormous task which the authors and their predecessors have carried this far, there will be endless hours of research, recording, and study. The foundation to work on has been strengthened and, if this review has served its purpose, the direction to work toward has been made clearer.**



Build A Better Mousetrap ... Together

On Reviews

by Metropolitan

The "book review" above by Mr. Trepel hardly satisfies. In my opinion a review should present a *balanced* picture of the work as a whole, as well as its contribution to philatelic literature. Brickbats have their place, but so do boquets.

In the boquet department, Mr. Trepel's writings are deficient—if not non-existant. It is as if a heavy chip has descended on the (w)right shoulder of this blooming chronicler. Is there some negative outside influence shoping thought patterns?

The Skinner/Eno cancellation book deserves better than this. And it has received far better elsewhere. Readers attentions are directed towards other sources.

Criticism is important in research in any area. It stimulates thought, spurs new action and solidifies opinion. Constructive criticism brings about meditation for new methods and presentation. Constructive criticism can result in further documentation for new generations of researchers to again expand.

Negative, biting or sarcatic criticism polarizes personalities. It can grow to pit one against another. Slanted, stilted unbalanced, nit-picking verbage hardly ever serves the common good. Often such actions even leave the mistaken impression that the suthor is being self-serving.

This is not believed to be the case in the present situation. However, each of us who write for general consumption should not lose sight of the adequacy/shortcomings of our fellow collectors, and strive for a *balanced* picture whenever we offer to review.**



1869 AUCTION REPORT



by David Ogle

Students of 1869 material continued their ever-increasing demand for stamps and covers during this past Winter. In some cases, scarce items brought over catalog or multiples of catalog, regardless of faults. Particularly noteworthy was the mid-February Siegel sale. Fifty-eight lots of 1869 covers sold. This has to be one of the largest groups to come on the market from one auction firm in recent memory.

In my first report, Editor Chapman and I asked for your help in gathering prices realized, especially postal history. I haven't had much response. Please keep in mind that this is your publication and if you are getting

bored, perhaps it is because you haven't communicated your needs and ideas. I have recently witnessed people arguing over who was going to be first to read a well-known philatelic magazine. The reason is simple enough. One of the many fine columns contained therein is written by a certain lady who never fails to provoke thought, enlighten or amuse. How does she do it? At first, I'm sure it wasn't easy. Now, since she receives cards, letters and telephone calls by the score, it's a snap to come up with fresh ideas and grind out a column which almost everyone enjoys because of the high contribution. Get the message?

I would like to thank <u>Jon Rose</u> and <u>Don Perkins</u> for their assistance in preparing this report. Catalog values are given in parentheses "()".

At Simmy's (New York) mid-December auction, quality off-cover items realized:

#112	1¢ used VF	\$130	(50)
113	2¢ used VF	48	(25)
113	2¢ light black grid, F-VF	34	(25)
116	10¢ used, superb	600	(85)
118	15¢ type I, used Fine	210	(200)

Similar events took place at the Siegel (New York) mid-January sale:

114a without grill, part OG PF cert XF	270	(500)
115 6¢ large margins, small thin, used, VF	68	(75)
116 10¢ 0G, XF	1050	(725)
116 10¢ used, HIOGO, Japan cancel, Fine	145	(275)
117 12¢ used, 3-line cork cancel, VF	250	(75)
117 12¢ used, VF	135	(75)
119 15¢ type II OG, Fine	375	(725)
120 24¢ 0G, Fine	1300	(2000)
121 30¢ OG, Fine	1700	(1750)
122 90¢ OG, VF	3750	(5500)
126 6¢ Re-issue, Part OG, Fine	375	(725)

At Wolffers' (San Francisco) late January and early March sales, 28 lots of 1869's were knocked down to new owners; highlights include:

112 l¢ Disturbed OG, XF	310	(200)
113 2¢ No Gum, Tiny thin, XF Appearance		(135)
114 3¢ used strip of 5, faint crease, Fine	75	(25)
115 6¢ used light cancel, F-VF	130	(75)
#116 10¢ used with Pen cancel, large margins, XF	210	(85)
118 15¢ type II, No Gum, Fine	900	(1500)
119b 15¢ type II, INVERTED CENTER, thin, margins	added	3500 (14500)
120 24¢ used, black and red cancels, F-VF		(525)
121 30¢ used, cork cancel, F-VF	150	(200)

A good range of quality material sold at the mid-February Harmers (New York) sale; some examples:

115 6¢ OG, Fine	475 (700)
115 6¢ used, cork cancel, VF	110 (75)
116 10¢ No Gum, Fine	230 (725)
116 10¢ used, fancy cork cancel, VF	130 (85)

117	12¢ used, light cancel, reperfed, VF	75	(75)
	15¢ type I, fancy cancel, VF	525	(200)
119	15¢ type II, used, VF	280	(100)
120	24¢ Nogum, perf faults, off-center, Fine	500	(2000)
121	30¢ used light cancel, perf creases, VF		(200)
122	90¢ used, small thin, XF Appearance	2200	(1000)!!!!!!
123	1¢ Re-issue, used XF	525	(175)
126	6¢ Re-issue, used XF	675	(400)
128	12¢ used, NY Reg. cancel, wrinkle, Fine	800	(850)
129	15¢ type III, blob canc, perf faults, VF	230	(450)
130	24¢ Re-issue, Tiny faults, VF Appearance	400	(450)
131	30¢ Re-issue, used, thin, VF Appearance	500	(1000)
132	90¢ light Reg. canc, XF Gem	12000	(6500)

Now, for some Postal History. Siegel's mid-February sale saw nw less than 58 covers change hands, many bearing pairs, strips and combo's. The following gives the range in realization for each denomination and the best of each within the range:

#112 1¢ - 15 covers sold at prices ranging from \$50 to \$1100 paid for a strip of 3 with "Top Hat" cancel from Bridgeport, CT (Est 800)

#113 2¢ - 10 covers \$45 to \$475 paid for brown all-over advertising cover from Charleston, IL, Fine (Est 150-200)

#114 3¢ - 10 covers \$37.50 to \$1550 paid for strip of six to Putnam, CT Very Fine (Est 750-1000)

#115 6¢ - 7 covers \$110 to \$525 paid for B. F. Stevens forwarded cover (Ex-Moody, Baker) (Est 375)

#116 $10 \ensuremath{\text{c}}$ - 3 covers \$125 to \$550 paid for March 1870 cover to France (Cat 400)

117 12¢ - 3 covers 170 to \$900 paid for XF November 1869 cover to England with leaf type cancel (Cat 400)

Substantial prices were obtained at the 9-10 March Sotheby Parke Bernet sale for 1869 covers:

#113 2¢ - Vertical pair on "Short Paid" cover New York to Paris via England, VF, brought \$1150 (Est 800-1000)

#116 10¢ - tied by New York "Steamship" to Keene, NH, VF just made the low end of the estimate at \$600.

#116 10ϕ - New York to Shanghai, China via San Francisco "Per Rail", some foxing, Fine \$325 (Est 400-500)

#116 10c - A number of covers bearing singles with various fancy cancels brought prices ranging from \$75-110.

#119 15¢ Type II - Pair and a single on oversize cover Richmond, IN to Lexington, KY, just missed the low end of the estimate at \$2700.



WANTED for personal collection

U.S. 1869 Issue used on cover showing NEW JERSEY usage



CORRESPONDENCE INVITED

Brad Arch 144 Hamilton Ave. Clifton, New Jersey 07011 Also, very recently the April 28 Stanley Gibbons auction of U.S. Classic covers was a smashing success. This sale featured uncompromising quality of a wide array of 19th Century U.S. items, presumably from the collection of a well-known New York financial-district personality.

The 1869 covers were but a fraction of the entire sale, however they were significant. Prices of the whole run of 1869 covers are reproduced at right, for those who got catalogs and not the prices.

Just find your favorite item(s) and look up the realization.

A quick review shows that \$6250 was the highest amount paid for lot 327, which was a cover signed by Ashbrook, originating in Yokohama, Japan and bearing a single 10¢ '69. The stamp was well centered and the cover showed docketing.

One of my favorites in this sale was a little 3¢ advertising cover, lot 317, which shows a quaint illustration of a horse-drawn coach, from Mount Joy, Pennsylvania. Picture-perfect, it sold for a modest \$180. The 1¢ + 2¢ 1869 combination items continued strong. A very fine cover, lot 309 in this category went for \$425. A very fine 2¢ advertising cover (illustrated) with a stamp with perfs \underline{in} at top sold for \$625 in lot 310.

A very fine 12¢ B.F. Stevens cover (given colorplate status) sold for \$575 in lot 334. Quite reasonable, I believe. On the other hand, a vf 12¢ mourning cover in lot 333 went for \$950!

A pair of 15¢ Type II's to France on a repaired cover sold for \$2000 in lot 342. The 1869 covers formally ended with lot 342, however many were to be found in later fancy cancel lots. See prices.

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304	450	343	1,250	382	325
305	2,000	344	300	383	130
306	300	345	675	384	145
307	200	346	625	385	325
308	300	347	625	386	475
309	425	348	850	387	325
310	625	349	425	388	190
311	170	350	170	389	280
312	110	351	270	390	525
313	270	352	110	391	270
314	200	353	550	392	200
315	600	354	900	393	125
316	160	355	110	394	100
317	180	356	200	395	325
318	210	357	475	396	325
319	375	358	375	397	300
320	1,000	359	425	398	400
321	3,250	360	300	399	400
322	800	361	300	400	150
323	300	362	130	401	100
324	500	363	190	402	130
325	600	364	225	403	110
326	1,800	365	170	404	50
327	6,250	366	200	405	280
328	800	367	400	406	55
329	700	368	325	407	110
330	600	369	475	408	230
331	475	370	190	409	325
332	1,300	371	190	410	250
333	950	372	1,250	411	300
334	575	373	160	412	270
335	1,200	374	270	413	75
336	1,350	375	100	414	400
337	1,600	376	150	415	90
338	1,000	377	160	416	90
339	950	378	675	417	42
340	1,200	379	110	418	70
341	625	380	150	419	85
342	2,000	381	100		



453

I saved the best for last. If the cover shown at left does not cause chills to race up and down your spine you should consider disposing of your 1869's and take up collecting precancels instead.

My boss at Wolffers gave me the honor of describing this jewel for his sale in March. I had a fine time in research. This is the kind of usage you hear or read about, but examples were not available when the book was written. It realized \$10,500 (plus 10%) with an estimate of \$5000-7500. **

Correspond with David Ogle 127 Kearney St. San Francisco, CA 94198

ECV \$5000-7500

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE GREAT 1869 COVER CENSUS.

90¢, 30¢ & 24¢— Dr. Richard M. Searing, 1300 Sao Paulo Ave., Placentia, CA 92670.
15¢ Type I — Elliott H. Coulter, Sterling Rd., Harrison, NY 10528; and Jonathan W. Rose, 30 Golf Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94566.
15¢ Type II — Austin H. Menaker, P. O. Box 160, Locust Valley, NY 11560
12¢ covers — Jim Schreiber, 2720 McKinley Road, Chelsea, MI 48118.
10¢ covers — Michael Laurence, 919 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611.
6¢ covers — Millard H. Mack, 2133 Luray Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45206.
3¢ covers — Paul Bourke, P. O. Box 125, Ashland, MA 01721; and Jim Tillinghast, Box 5, Marlow, NH 03546 (corner cards)
2¢ covers — John Rose, 30 Golf Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94566
1¢ covers — John Birkinbine II, 7225 North Oracle Rd., Tucson, AZ 85704.
All 1869 reissue covers — John Birkinbine II, 7225 North Oracle Rd., Tucson, AZ 85704
Mixed Franking — Jeffrey Forster, 99 Almaden Blvd., Suite 400, San Jose, CA 95113

Census Leader

Joe H. Crosby, 6943 S. Olive Way,

Englewood, CO 80112

Cover Census Continues:

Associates are asked to correspond with the volunteers listed at left and send in 1869 cover listings on the new 4" x 6" cards recently supplied.

Plans are being made to publish a Giant Listing of all 1869 covers in conjunction with the 1986 International Exhibition to be held in Chicago. This is a massive project and help from all Associates is urgently needed. Census Leaders shown here are accepting reports now. Additional cards may be obtained by writing Joe Crosby.

Cards will be available in any quantity needed to get the job done! Don't be bashful about asking for a supply to complete your listing.

Census Leaders listed at left are ready to accept your cover listings immediately or correspond about "problem areas." Direct your efforts to them right away.

Be sure to send duplicate reports to other team leaders and enclose Xerox copies of cover fronts and backs!!

Now Let's Get the Census Going!!

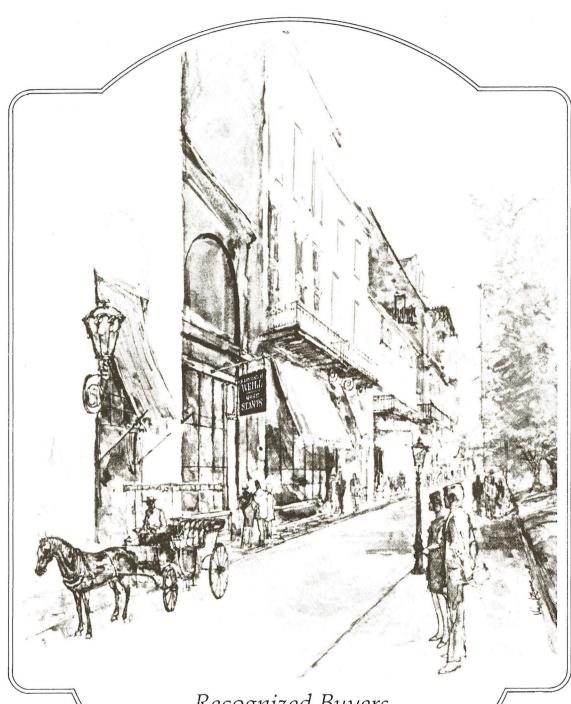
THE 1978 REGISTER

The 1978 Register will be sent free to all associates who were members for the 7-1-77 to 6-30-78 fiscal year. Additional copies, or copies for associates who joined after 7-1-78 may be purchased at the following prices.

1978 Register, retail price, \$20.00 ea. PRA member price, \$16.00 ea.

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