

**AMERICAN
STAMPLESS
COVER
CATALOG**

*THE STANDARD REFERENCE CATALOG
OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY*

**Intro &
General Information**

AMERICAN STAMPLESS COVER CATALOG

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OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY*

VOLUME I

A listing with valuations of American handstamped and manuscript town postmarks by States, including Colonial and Territorial periods, U.S. Possessions and Unorganized Territories from the early 1700's to 1870.

FIFTH EDITION

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INTRODUCTION

GENERAL INFORMATION

This catalog is a listing with valuations of American handstamped and manuscript town postmarks by states, including Colonial and Territorial periods, U.S. Possessions and Unorganized Territories, from the early 1700's through the 1860's.

The Town Postmark column lists the towns in alphabetical order. Upper and lower case letters are used as they appear in the actual postmark. The town name is listed, including any comma, period, star, etc. connected with it.

Colonial and Territorial townmarks are listed in alphabetical order preceding the Statehood markings.

Statehood townmarks are separated into two groups: Handstamped and Manuscript, then listed alphabetically. Abbreviations are frequent, such as RICH. for Richmond, LAN. for Lancaster, etc. When these occur, the listing for that town is in chronological, rather than alphabetical order.

Ornaments of various types are used in some townmarks and are indicated by the terms "Ornament", "Fleuron", etc.

Confederate States of America stampless covers are listed in Vol. III of this catalog.

Other types of markings appearing on American stampless covers, some of which are referred to in the listings in this catalog and including:

- Inland Waterway
- Maritime
- Official U.S. Exchange
- The Express Mails
- Forts
- Free Franks
- Railroads
- Way Markings
- Independent Express & Local Mail Service
- Telegraph Stampless Covers
- Confederate Stampless Covers
- Auxiliary Markings, etc.

are now listed in Vols. II and III of this catalog. Information is available from the publisher.

The absence of a listing of a specific marking in this catalog does not necessarily imply unusual scarcity or high price. Information is invited in regard to unlisted markings, and significant variations in markings appearing in the listings. This information should be directed to the attention of the publisher.

ABBREVIATIONS FOUND IN TERRITORIAL & STATEHOOD POSTMARKS:

A.T.	can refer to	Alabama Territory or Arkansas Territory
C.N.	can refer to	Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation (see Oklahoma listings for locations)
la.	refers to	Indiana (not Iowa)
I.T.	can refer to	Iowa Territory, Idaho Territory, Indian or Indiana Territories
Miss., Mi.		All normally Mississippi
Mis., and MI		All normally Mississippi
Ms.		Normally Massachusetts, also can be District of Maine
M.T.	can refer to	Minnesota Territory, Mississippi Territory or Michigan Territory
N.T.	can refer to	Nebraska or Nevada Territories
O.T.	can refer to	Oregon or Orleans Territories
Mo., T.M.		All Missouri Territory
Mo.T.,		All Missouri Territory
Ter. Mo.		All Missouri Territory
W.T.	can refer to	Washington or Wisconsin Territories

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED IN THE CATALOG LISTINGS:

Arc	Arc or semi-circle
Box	Single line box or rectangle
DL	Double Line
C	Circle
DC	Double Circle
DLC	Double Line Circle
DLDC	Double outer line, double circle
CD	Circle Date ("Bishop Mark" or "Franklin Mark")
(E)	Earliest known date
(L)	Latest known date
F	Fancy
FC	Folded Cover (consists of address leaf with postal markings but no message leaf.)
FL	Folded Letter (entires containing both address and message leaves of letter.)
Irreg	Irregular circle or oval
Ms	Manuscript
MD	Month Date only
MDD	Month and Day Date
YMDD	Year, Month and Day Date
NOR	No Outer Rim
O	Oval
DO	Double Oval
DLO	Double[outer] Line Oval
DLDO	Double Line, Double Oval
Pmk	Postmark or Townmark
SL	Straight Line
*	Star
/	Beginning of new line

MEASUREMENTS:

All measurements are given in millimeters to the nearest full millimeter. Horizontal measurements are given first, then vertical. Circular measurements are diameter of circle as reported and may be outside to outside or center to center of a thick circle. Measurements of NOR markings are of an implied circle, through the extremities of the letters. Boxes and geometric are usually measured outside to outside. Variation in the method of measurements can easily cause variations of a full millimeter or more in recorded dimensions.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

Illustrations are not necessarily to actual size or to a uniform scale throughout the catalog.

AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY GENERAL INFORMATION

BRITISH COLONIAL PERIOD

1639	The first colonial postal service was created by resolution of the Massachusetts General Court on November 5, for the handling of overseas letters at the house of Richard Fairbanks in Boston. Posts for carrying letters in and between the several colonies developed later.
1673	The first inter-colonial post, started January 1st, was inaugurated between Mass., Conn. and New York.
1692	The British Crown granted to Thomas Neale in England a patent for postal service in all the North American colonies. At the request of Andrew Hamilton, Neale's deputy in America, the American Colonial and Provincial Legislatures of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania, passed acts between November 11, 1692 and May 10, 1694 establishing posts which ran from Portsmouth (Piscataqua) in New Hampshire to the James River in Virginia.
1707	The Crown repurchased the Neale patent and operated the posts in the colonies as a branch of the British Post Office under the Acts of Parliament of 1710-11 and 1765, until these posts were closed during the Revolution.

INTRODUCTION

AMERICAN CONTINENTAL CONGRESS AND CONFEDERATION PERIOD

- 1774 As the struggle for independence approached, a new "Constitutional Post" was organized by William Goddard of Baltimore with funds donated by "Friends of Freedom" and operated under their patronage.
- 1775 The Second Continental Congress passed a postal act on July 26th. Benjamin Franklin, who had served as Associate Deputy Postmaster General for the British North American colonies from 1753 to 1774, was appointed Postmaster General by the Congress. The offices and routes established gradually superseded those of the British postal service. Where the sphere of influence was Tory the British posts overlapped the new American postal system, so that some British colonial postmarks are found after the start of the Revolution.
- 1778 The posts were operated under the Articles of Confederation adopted by the thirteen colonies on July 9th.
- 1782 An ordinance was passed on October 18th, with supplements on October 28th and December 24th, forming the basic law of the Confederation and United States Post Office until 1792.
- 1783 All British operations of every kind in the thirteen Colonies ceased with the signing of the Treaty of Peace in this year.
- 1788 Congress first met on September 13th, under the new Constitution of the United States of America and a temporary postal act was passed on September 22nd. For the purposes of this catalog all British colonial postmarks ceased to exist on September 22, 1788, except in North Carolina, which joined the United States on November 21, 1789, and in Rhode Island, which joined the United States on May 29, 1790. The Colonial period continued to various later dates in areas under Spanish rule.

BRITISH OCCUPATION PERIOD

After the start of the Revolution on April 19, 1775, British troops occupied the towns listed below. Several postmarks are known to have been applied by the British during occupation and are exceedingly scarce.

- Georgia - Savannah, occupied by the British from the fall of 1778 to 1781.
- Massachusetts - Boston, occupied until March 17, 1776.
- New Jersey - Princeton, occupied until January, 1776. Trenton, occupied until December 29, 1776.
- New York - New York City, captured on September 15, 1776 and held until October 25, 1783.
- Pennsylvania - Philadelphia, occupied from September 26, 1777 until June 18, 1778.
- Rhode Island - Newport, occupied in December, 1776 and held until late in the war.
- South Carolina - Charleston, captured on May 12, 1780 and held until December 14, 1782.
- Virginia - Norfolk, held until December, 1775. Richmond, occupied from May, 1781 until the fall of that year. Petersburg, captured on May 20, 1781 and held until the fall of that year.

THIRTEEN ORIGINAL STATES

State	Joined Union
Delaware	December 7, 1787
Pennsylvania	December 12, 1787
New Jersey	December 18, 1787
Georgia	January 2, 1788
Connecticut	January 9, 1788
Massachusetts	February 6, 1788
Maryland	April 28, 1788
South Carolina	May 23, 1788
New Hampshire	June 21, 1788
Virginia	June 26, 1788
New York	July 26, 1788
North Carolina	November 21, 1789
Rhode Island	May 29, 1790

TERRITORIAL AND STATEHOOD PERIOD

NUMBER OF UNITED STATES POST OFFICES

1789	75	1837	11,117
1792	200	1838	12,553
1800	903	1839	13,028
1805	1,558	1840	13,468
1810	2,000	1845	14,183
1815	3,000	1847	15,146
1820	4,500	1848	16,150
1826	6,150	1850	18,417
1827	7,000	1852	20,901
1828	8,000	1853	22,230
1830	8,450	1854	23,548
1835	10,770	1856	25,565

UNOFFICIAL "TERRITORIES", "STATES", or "REPUBLICS"

Covers addressed to some of these entities exist, but very few if any postmarks with these designations are known.

DESERET - a Mormon "State" created by Brigham Young, March 5, 1849. Deseret was never recognized by the United States and ceased to exist when Utah Territory was created September 9, 1850.

FRANKLIN or **FRANKLAND** - a "State" formed in August, 1784, in the northwest corner of what is now Tennessee. It existed until 1788 and was never officially recognized.

JEFFERSON - a "Territory" created by local authority on October 24, 1859, embracing portions of the then existing territories of Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Utah and Washington. Never recognized by Congress, it ceased to exist when Colorado Territory was created February, 28, 1861.

REPUBLIC OF WEST FLORIDA - Proclaimed in 1810 by Americans living in the area of Spanish West Florida west of the Pearl River. A request to Washington for annexation to the U.S. was denied, and the area was administered as a part of Orleans Territory.

TERRITORY OF EAST FLORIDA - This 1812 attempt by a 'Patriot' group to overthrow Spanish administration led to selection of delegates to write a constitution, and election of a 'Director' of the 'Territory'. In 1813 the U.S. Senate refused further covert aid to the 'Patriots', and the adventure collapsed.

ADHESIVE STAMPS MADE MANDATORY

Act of March 3, 1855 said that "from and after January 1, 1856, the Postmaster General may require postmasters to place postage stamps on all prepaid letters upon which stamps may not have been fixed by the writers of the letters". While most of the post offices adhered to the intent of the law, many stampless covers with rates are reported after this date. Usually they were mailed from smaller post offices where adhesive stamps were not available at the time. Stampless covers sent free or under special laws such as the mustering act in the early days of the Civil War, which permitted soldier's letters to be sent collect, are the basis for stampless usages in later years. This also applies to certain types of waterways covers.

INTRODUCTION

TERRITORIAL AND STATEHOOD EFFECTIVE DATES

NAME	TERRITORY	STATE	PREVIOUS STATUS AND REMARKS
ALABAMA	Sept.25,1817	Dec.14,1819	Cut from Mississippi Territory
ALASKA	Oct.11,1867	Jan.3,1959	Purchased from Russia June 20, 1867
ARIZONA	Feb.24,1863	Feb.14,1912	From New Mexico Territory
ARKANSAS	July 5,1819	June 15,1836	Cut from Missouri Territory
CALIFORNIA	---	Sept.9,1850	Ceded from Mexico Feb.2,1848
COLORADO	Feb.28,1861	Aug.1,1876	Cut from Kansas, Nebr., N.Mex & Utah Territories
DAKOTA	March 2,1861	---	Cut from Minn. & Nebr. Territories (became N. & S. Dakota)
FLORIDA	March 30,1822	March 3,1845	Ceded by Spain Feb.22,1819
HAWAII	Aug.12,1898	Aug.21,1959	Transfer to the U.S.
IDAHO	March 3,1863	July 3,1890	Cut from Oklahoma, Nebr. & Wash. Territories
ILLINOIS	March 2,1809	Dec.3,1818	Cut from Indiana Territory
INDIAN TERRITORY	---	---	Never formally organized as a territory. With Oklahoma, became state of Oklahoma Nov.16,1907.
INDIANA	July 5,1800	Dec.11,1816	Cut from Territory NW of Ohio River
IOWA	July 4,1838	Dec.28,1846	Cut from Wisconsin Territory
KANSAS	May 30,1854	Jan.29,1861	Made from unorganized public domain
KENTUCKY	---	June 1,1792	Part of Virginia until statehood
DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA	Oct.1,1804	---	All of Louisiana Purchase except Orleans Territory
TERRITORY OF LOUISIANA	July 4,1805	---	Formerly District of Louisiana
LOUISIANA	---	May 1,1812	Made from Orleans Territory
MAINE	---	March 16,1820	Part of Massachusetts called District of Maine
MICHIGAN	July 1,1805	Jan.26,1837	Cut from Indiana Territory
MINNESOTA	March 3,1849	May 11,1858	Made from public domain, formerly Iowa Territory
MISSISSIPPI	May 7,1798	Dec.10,1817	Enlarged in 1804 and 1812- originally British and Spanish
MISSOURI	Dec.7,1812	Aug.10,1821	Made from Territory of Louisiana
MONTANA	May 26,1864	Nov.8,1889	Cut from Idaho Territory
NEBRASKA	May 30,1854	Feb.9,1867	Made from Unorganized public domain
NEVADA	March 2,1861	Oct.31,1864	Cut from Utah Territory
NEW MEXICO	Dec.13,1850	Jan.6,1912	In area ceded by Mexico Feb.2, 1848
NORTH DAKOTA	---	Nov.2, 1889	Part of Dakota Territory
NORTHWEST TERRITORY	July 13,1787	---	Territory NW of River Ohio. Ended March 1,1803.
OHIO	---	March 1,1803	Part of NW Territory
OKLAHOMA	May 2,1890	Nov.16,1907	Formed of Oklahoma and Indian Territories
OREGON	Aug.14,1848	Feb.14,1859	Made from the Oregon Country
ORLEANS TERRITORY	Oct.1,1804	---	Made from Louisiana Purchase-became state of Louisiana May 1,1812
SOUTH DAKOTA	---	Nov.2,1889	Part of Dakota Territory
SOUTHWEST TERRITORY	May 26,1790	---	Called "Terr SW of River Ohio". Became Tennessee
TENNESSEE	---	June 1,1796	Formerly SW Territory
TEXAS	---	Dec.29,1845	Independent Republic of Texas since 1835
UTAH	Sept.9,1850	Jan.4,1896	From area ceded by Mexico Feb.2, 1848
VERMONT	---	March 4,1791	Region claimed by NY and NH.
WASHINGTON	March 2,1853	Nov.11,1889	Cut from Oregon Territory
WEST VIRGINIA	---	June 20,1863	Taken from Virginia during Civil War
WISCONSIN	July 4,1836	May 29,1848	Cut from Michigan Territory
WYOMING	July 29,1868	July 10,1890	Cut from Dakota, Idaho & Utah Territories

*There was no specific Act of Congress admitting Ohio as a state until 1953. While March 1,1803 has been long since accepted, many federal documents give Ohio's date of admission as Nov.29,1802, the date when the "Enabling" Act was passed for Ohio to be organized as a state.

INTRODUCTION

AMERICAN STAMPLESS COVERS

From the earliest days of the American post office, until January 1, 1856 when the prepayment of postage on domestic letter mail was made compulsory, postage could either be prepaid by the sender or collected from the addressee. The same rate of postage applied to either form of handling until July 1, 1851 when a newly enacted rate structure, and the widespread distribution of postage stamps exacted a higher postage charge for letters which were not prepaid by the sender.

A typical cover sent without stamps prior to July 1, 1851 bore three postal markings:

1. The town of origin marking either in manuscript or handstamp form, usually incorporating a month and day date and sometimes a year date.
2. The rate marking, in either manuscript or handstamp form.
3. The word PAID, indicating prepayment of the postage by the sender, or (much less frequently) FREE applied to mail sent free of postage under existing regulations.

Absence of the words "PAID" or "FREE" indicated that the postage was to be collected from the addressee upon delivery.

EARLY U.S. ENVELOPES

In mid-July, 1836 U.S. Commissioner of Patents H.L. Ellsworth applied his free frank to handmade envelopes containing a printed brochure explaining the new patent law passed by Congress on July 4, 1836, thus creating one of the earliest known uses of envelopes in the U.S. mails.

Prior to July 1, 1845, postage was determined by the number of sheets of paper comprising a letter and the use of an outer wrapper or envelope resulted in an additional postage charge. As might be expected the use of folded letter sheets predominated, and very few envelopes passed through the mails before mid-1845.

After July 1, 1845, with the use of envelopes no longer subject to a postal penalty, the way was opened for a rapid growth in the use of this convenient form of stationery. The first machines for the manufacture of envelopes were patented in the U.S. in 1848, and in October, 1852 the first government contract was awarded for production of envelopes bearing embossed stamps.

KEY TO THE CATALOG LISTINGS

1. TOWN POSTMARK

A. Manuscript town postmarks

The earliest town postmark recorded in this catalog is a 1703 manuscript marking of Boston, and for 50 years following this date all posted covers listed bear manuscript markings with the exception of the New York Bristol packet marking. Nevertheless, manuscript markings are not restricted to the early period of American stampless covers, and are found throughout the stampless period, especially from smaller post offices.

B. Handstamped town postmarks

The earliest handstamped town marking recorded in this catalog is the NEWYORK Bristol packet marking of 1710. The earliest listed handstamped marking incorporating year, month, and day dates is that of BALTIMORE/Aug. 15/1782.

Handstamping instruments were made of metal - brass, lead, iron, and cast steel as well as of wood, and more than a few of the early straight line postmarks are known to have been assembled from printer's type.



In 1799 an initial effort was made by the U.S. Post Office Department to supply a few post offices with uniform handstamps. These had the town name engraved in brass, enclosed within a circle of 26mm diameter. They were supplied to the postmasters of twelve offices: Washington City, Petersburg, Alexandria and Fredericksburg, Va; Augusta, Ga; Georgetown Potomac, D.C.; Newark and Trenton, N.J.; Newport and Providence, R.I.; Pittsburgh, Pa; and Newburyport, Mass. An accompanying letter from Postmaster General Habersham to the respective postmasters contained instructions regarding their care and use and indicated that either printer's ink or common writing ink could be used, but recommended writing ink as the printer's ink would clog the handstamps and care was to be taken to prevent their loss.

Many abbreviations found in the early handstamps are not particularly obvious, especially when the state designation is unclear, as evidenced by this sampling:

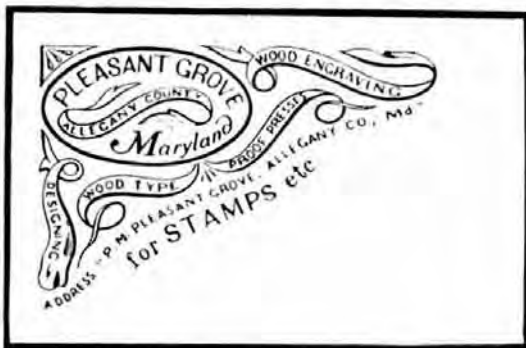
SMYRA. D. ("A" high)	Smyrna, De.
ALEXA. CA. (both end "A"'s high)	Alexandria, D.C.
GEORN. CA. ("N" and "A" high)	Georgetown, D.C.
HARRG. K. ("G" high)	Harrodsburg, Ky.
LOUISE. Ky. ("E" & "Y" high)	Louisville, Ky.
DONALDSON. V.L.	Donaldsonville, La.
SPRID. MS. ("D" & "S" high)	Springfield, Mass.
CHARLE. N.C. ("E" high)	Charlotte, N.C.
RALE. N.C.	Raleigh, N.C.
MARIA. O. ("A" high)	Marietta, Ohio
COLUMA PA. (Both "A"'s high)	Columbia, Pa

In the years between 1800 and 1815, the number of post offices in the United States more than tripled, and between 1815 and 1835 there was another threefold increase to more than 10,000 post offices. Postal regulations of the period specified a minimum amount of postage collections necessary for postmasters to be furnished handstamps by the Post Office Department. Although prior to 1852 this amount was only \$300.00 or \$400.00 a year, many offices did not qualify. Postmasters who wished to spare themselves the tedious task of pen and ink marking either made, or bought privately, handstamps in various sizes, shapes and styles.

By 1830 cast steel, a harder and more durable material, was superceding brass in handstamp manufacture, and at about the same time handstamps of wood came into wide use. Boxwood, a hard, durable material favored by wood engravers, offered the advantages of ready availability at low cost, and good quality of impression with any type of ink.

INTRODUCTION

ZEVELY COVER, ADVERTISEMENT & HANDSTAMPS



E. S. ZEVELY
WOOD ENGRAVING
ALLEGANY CO., MD.

STAMPS STAMPS

Those Post-offices not entitled to receive marking and rating Stamps under the \$100 regulation of the Department are referred to the following comprehensive

CIRCULAR AND PRICES
REFERRING TO THE P. O. STAMPS SUPPLIED BY
E. S. ZEVELY,
Of Pleasant Grove, Allegany co., Maryland,
(CUMBERLAND.)

These Stamps will do good service many years, when used with ordinary care, as per directions sent with them. Stamps promptly forwarded, on receipt of the amount due for them, by mail free, by special authority.
(E. S. ZEVELY is prepared to furnish superior stamps promptly to any extent at the lowest prices.)

PRICES

Large circular stamp, name of office, with changes for dates	50 00
"Paid 1" or "Paid 2"	25 00
"Free" or "Paid 3", each	25 00
10 for rate stamps 25 to 25 cents	25 00
For office business—Free	00 00
Rating stamps, figures below the month	50 00
Uncommon names of names of post-offices, in straight line, each	50 00
N. B. A cheaper kind of stamps, but authorized for small offices, supplied in sets	50 00
one-half less than above	50 00
Set of seven superior stamps and ink for 25	50 00
Directions sent with all	50 00

REMARKS and Private Stamps of all kinds made and sent prepaid.
For full particulars see "The Paper and Monthly Bulletin" a postal paper published at Pleasant Grove and Cumberland at 75 cents a year.

A number of handstamp makers catered to the needs of postmasters, perhaps the best known being E. S. Zevely of Pleasant Grove and Cumberland, Maryland. Zevely, himself a postmaster, and brother of A. N. Zevely, Third Assistant Postmaster General of the United States from 1859 to 1869, commenced his handstamp manufacturing in 1850. At the time, Post Office Department policy called for the supply of town marking and rating stamps in metal only to those offices collecting postage totalling \$300.00 or more per year, and handstamps of wood were furnished to offices collecting postage of a least \$200.00 per year. Postmasters of offices collecting less than \$200.00 per year were to fend for themselves, and many chose to purchase from Zevely, or other handstamp makers, wood engraved town marks, rating marks, etc., at \$1.00 to \$3.00 per set.

**THE BASIC TYPES OF HANDSTAMPED
TOWN POSTMARKS
ILLUSTRATED AND IDENTIFIED**

TYPE 1: STRAIGHT LINE (Including boxed)

The earliest handstamped townmarks applied to stampless covers were straight line markings, usually fashioned from printer's type and generally without any boxed frame lines or ornamentation. Frequently, the date appears alongside the town name, and it is not uncommon to find a separate straight line date marking used in conjunction with the town marking.

Certain type-set straight line markings show significant variations in type size, spacing, and punctuation, and these are recognized in the catalog listings -- see Ft. Adams, Miss. Terr., Nashville, Tenn., and St. Louis, Mo., for typical examples. Minor varieties, presumably resulting from the replacement or cleaning of worn letters, minor type substitutions, etc., can be expected and may not be included in the listings. In later usage, straight line markings are often found boxed within framelines.

In general, straight line markings were gradually replaced by the early circle types and by ovals from about 1800 onward, although scattered examples are to be found as late as the 1860's.

The sizes of the straight line townmarks (measured in mm, the horizontal being first) include the town name plus star, period, or other such marks connected with the town name, but in no case is an additional straight line date included, as month-day and year dates vary in length. When the town name appears in two lines the length of the longer line is shown and the height dimension includes both lines. Where letters in the postmark vary in height the maximum dimension is used.

A slash line (/) indicates the start of a new line.

The following are illustrations of the three basic types of straight line townmarks.

SL - One, Two or Three Straight Lines

Pinkneyville MT, Jan 1

WANTON P. O.
E FLO 6/11

UPPER
RED HOOK
NY. APR 2



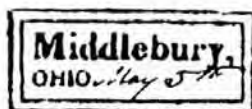
INTRODUCTION

There are two basic types of boxed town marks.

Box - Single Line Box



DL Box - Double Line Box



TYPE 2: OVALS

Townmarks in oval shape were widely used in various parts of the country from the early 1800's to about 1840. In common with straight line markings, the ovals show wide variations in type sizes and style as well as in the size of the markings. Thus, the huge 53mm x 44mm Newport, R.I. oval of 1820-23 is in sharp contrast to the Coshocton, Ohio 22mm x 21mm rimless oval marking of 1828.



New York City employed an ornate oval marking from 1798-1804 known to collectors as the "Clam Shell"; the Smyrna, N.Y. marking of 1848-49 is one of the cruder ovals listed.

There are four basic types of oval townmarks:

O-Oval



DO - Double Oval



DLO - Double[outer] Line Oval



DLDO - Double Line Double Oval



TYPE 3: CIRCLES



Although the earliest known circular townmark used in America is the CHARLES/TOWN- S.C. Colonial marking of 1778-80, circular townmarks did not gain widespread use until after 1800. In their types they account for the majority of the listings in the catalog.

CD - Circle Dates



Covers of the Colonial and pre-1800 period are frequently found to bear one or more circle date (CD) markings. The day appears over the month abbreviation in a small circle, usually measuring 15-17mm in diameter. The British versions of this marking have a horizontal dividing line separating the day and month and are known as "Bishop Marks" while the version used in America has no dividing line and is generally called a "Franklin Mark".



Though day and month dates were customarily shown in the early circle townmarks, the inclusion of year dates such as those shown here was very uncommon.



"QUAKER DATED" CIRCULAR TOWNMARKS are those in which the month is designated by number, 1st through 12th, rather than by name as the Quakers considered the names to be of pagan origin. Typical examples are shown here.



"ATTACHED RATE" handstamps. Circular townmarks showing integral rate marking numerals alongside, and frequently the words FREE or PAID vertically, characterize the appearance of these patented handstamp devices which saw use in the 1830-45 period largely from post offices in New York State and the New England states, Philadelphia, Pa. and Richmond, Va. attached rate devices of a different pattern saw use after 1845.

INTRODUCTION

During any given time period, larger post offices frequently used multiple townmarking devices. When the impressions from these devices clearly differ, they are listed separately. However, variations in dimension up to 1mm may frequently be found due to progressive wear in the handstamp, strength of the impression, paper shrinkage, and other factors. Small variations in dimensions of markings do not ordinarily constitute sufficient cause for separate listing.

There are five basic types of circle town marks:

C- Circle



DC - Double Circle



DLC - Double [outer] Line Circle



DLDC - Double Line Double Circle



NOR- Circle with No Outer Rim



TYPE 4: FANCY TOWNMARKS

Fancy townmarks are those markings which are sufficiently distinctive in design and appearance to set them aside from the more conventional straight line, oval and circular markings. Many of the markings in this category rank as the scarcest to be found in the catalog listings.

Pictorial Fancy Townmarks



Ornamental Mortised Handstamps

During the 1830's -1850's several types of handstamps, usually of metal, in ornamental designs, and characterized by a central mortised cavity for the insertion of printer's type, secured by a set screw, were sold for general marking purposes. They were used for personalizing linens, quilts, clothing, books, etc., and their use by postmasters as townmarks provided some of the most desirable fancy markings known to collectors.



INTRODUCTION

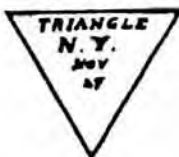
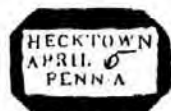
Negative Letter Townmarks



Stencil markings



Arc, Octagon, and Markings in other Configurations



AURORA, N.Y.
1852



ALDIE, VA.
1851-53



WHEELING, VA.
1851-53



HUNTSVILLE, ALA.
1845-51



HARTLAND, MICH.
1850



EUTAW, ALA.
1845-48



AMHERST, N.H.
1851-55



MT. AIRY, MD.
1849-55



No. CAMBRIDGE, MASS.
1852



NORTH EASTON, NY
1845-51

2. DATES SEEN

This column lists the earliest (E) and latest (L) dates reported. In the case of scarcer Colonial and Territorial period markings these dates are recorded in day, month, and year form when known, and in the case of later markings, dates are indicated by a span of years.

HANDSTAMPED dates appearing in straight line, boxed, oval, fancy and certain early circle markings are denoted by these symbols in the listings:

- MD - month date only
- MDD - month and day date
- YMDD - year, month and day date

3. SIZE

All measurements of markings are given in millimeters, horizontal dimension is given first, then the vertical dimension.

4. OTHER MARKINGS

This column lists other markings appearing on covers, either manuscript or handstamped. Markings most commonly listed are PAID and FREE. Less commonly found are the handstamped auxiliary markings ADVERTISED, MISSENT, FORWARDED, etc.

Handstamped rate markings of unusual design are of special interest to collectors and they enhance the value of covers on which they appear. Those shown above are among the scarcer types.

When letters required double, triple, or higher rates of postage, and postmasters did not have the appropriate rating handstamps, they sometimes resorted to multiple strikes of a single rate handstamp, or a combination of rate markers to total the proper rate. Covers showing such usages are uncommon, and frequently command premium prices.

5. COLOR OF MARKINGS

Manuscript markings are commonly found applied in black ink. This catalog makes no distinction in scarcity and value for manuscript markings applied in colors other than black except in the case of Territorial and Colonial markings.

Handstamped markings are commonly found applied in black, blue and red, and generally no distinction is made in evaluating markings in these colors. Handstamped markings applied in green, purple, magenta, yellow, brown and orange are considerably scarcer and listings in this catalog often reflect increased valuations for markings known to exist in these colors. Red markings sometimes turn brownish with age.

INTRODUCTION

6. VALUE

Price fluctuations in stampless covers, in common with other types of postal history material, are to be expected in view of changes in available supply, competitive interest in certain areas by collectors and dealers, and general economic trends.

Prices indicated in this catalog are not intended to represent a 'dealer price list', but are based on the following considerations:

Known recent selling prices by private treaty or at auction.

Quantity of the item known to exist.

History of prior sales.

Values expressed by leading specialists

Listings preceded by an asterisk (*) indicate institutional ownership of the item. Such listings remain unpriced except in those cases where similarly dated, privately owned examples are known.

A letter written by and/or franked by a famous person, or one containing significant historical or descriptive content will greatly increase the value.

CONDITION OF MARKINGS AND COVERS DEFINED

Prices quoted in this catalog represent current retail prices for fine, clear strikes on clean, sound covers.

UNUSUALLY CLEAR AND ATTRACTIVE MARKINGS ON VERY FINE STAMPLESS COVERS MAY BE EXPECTED TO COMMAND PREMIUM PRICES, WHILE COVERS AND MARKINGS IN POORER CONDITION HAVE LESSER VALUE.

A. CONDITION OF HANDSTAMPED TOWNMARKS:

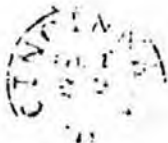
VERY FINE



FINE



VERY GOOD



B. CONDITION OF COVERS

Though the prices quoted in this catalog are for fine strikes of the postal markings, overall condition of the folded letter, folded cover, or envelope bearing the markings is also very important in determining value.

Many early covers show docketing in manuscript, and unless this disfigures the face of the cover excessively, or obscures townmarks or other postal markings, it is not normally regarded as a detriment, and to the contrary may often provide useful information regarding the date and usage of the cover. Covers 100 or more years old normally may be expected to display signs of wear, including a light degree of age toning, small tears, light edge wear, and in the case of folded letters, file folds or refolds. However, covers showing large tears or separations, portions missing, extensive repairs, heavy water stains or discolorations, or retouched markings, are not defined as 'fine' and valuations for such covers should be heavily discounted.

C. PREMIUM VALUATIONS APPLICABLE TO SPECIAL MARKINGS FOUND ON STAMPLESS COVERS.

Some stampless covers show markings which warrant a premium valuation over and above the value of their normal townmarks. A general range of these premium values is given here.

(See respective city listings for pricing of various special handstamped markings.)

Advertised	75.00+
Dead Letter Office	75.00+
Delayed Mail	75-100.00
Drop Letters	75-100.00

First Day of Rate Covers - Covers dated the first day of a new rate, for example July 1, 1851 with a 3¢ rate, are quite scarce and have brought substantial prices at auction and private treaty sale.

First Day of Statehood markings frequently command premium prices.

Forwarded	50.00+
Free	5-20.00
Missent	75-100.00

Paid, common to stampless.

Paid All 100.00+

R (Handstamp on Recorded letters) 1845-52, commonly to Philadelphia 50.00 and up

Undercharged 50.00+

Overcharged 50.00+

Unpaid Letters, 1851-55. From June 30, 1851 to April 1, 1855 the rate under 3,000 miles was 3¢ prepaid but 5¢ unpaid. This unpaid 5¢ rate between these dates commands a premium.

TURNED COVERS: Folded letter sheets, or envelopes, used twice, are valued at a little more than the sum of the values of both postmarks, such covers used three times are known.

For further information see POSTAGE RATES section of this catalog.

Volume II of this catalog includes the following sections:

- Private Letter Mail & Express Carriers
- Local City Delivery Post Markings
- Hotel Mail Markings
- Maritime Mail Markings
- Inland Waterways Markings
- Way Markings
- Express Mail of 1836-39 & 1845
- Railroad Route Agent Markings
- American Military Posts
- Free Franks & Franking
- Official U.S. & British North America Exchange Markings
- British North America SL & Oval Townmarks

Volume III of this catalog includes the following sections:

- Stampless Telegraph Covers
- Confederate States Stampless Cover Catalog
- Auxiliary Markings
- Comprehensive Index

