

DIFFICULT TYPES

There are many types that give collectors trouble in identifying. These are not only the true PSS listed types, but also distinguishing between genuine types versus counterfeits and postcancels.

An area many collectors have a problem with is the PSS 500 series. I do not profess to be an expert in the above mentioned categories as I sometimes also seek advice from other knowledgeable collectors.

This column will try to assist new collectors and others to identify items that may cause confusion with their collections.



538

563

To begin, let's look at NORWOOD, MA. Here we have a 538 which is a "C" type versus a 563 which is a 50¢ type.

In the 563 the letters are much narrower and slightly taller. Note in particular the "O"s in Norwood. In the 538 the "O"s are quite a bit wider. This is quite apparent if the illustrations reproduce clearly.

If any member has a particular type that is giving them trouble, let it be known. Future columns will deal with types picked at random from other states.

I will also accept requests from any member who has a particularly pet difficult type. I do not guarantee help on all types, but an attempt will be made. □

OKMULGEE, OKLAHOMA

This town has two "500" series devices that are quite often classified wrongly in many collections.



572



573

There is a 572 that catalogs at 15¢ and a 573 at \$2.00. Confusion in discerning these two types can and often results in them being misclassified.

Looking at the illustrations you can readily see the 572 is much wider and more spread out. Rather than go into millimeter measurements, since these rubber devices can become distorted with heavy use, let's look at the "O" in "OKLA". Notice the 573 is flatter and narrower than the 572 which is much wider.

Okmulgee did a fairly good job with these devices and most copies are quite readable. Observing the "O's" in "OKLA" should enable collectors to properly separate these two types. □

TEMPLE CITY, CALIF.

This town has a rather difficult mimeo type.

The L-1 is a 15¢ type and the L-2 is rated as a "C".

I have to admit that these two types gave me a problem until my friend "J.R." showed me the difference. The easiest way to identify these two mimeos is the letter "P" in Temple.

Looking at the photos you will

notice that the L-1 has a much larger loop to the "P" than in the L-2. The loop in the "P" in L-2 is quite a bit smaller.

Occasionally the L-2 can be found classified and priced as an L-1. Good hunting!



L-1



L-2

OWENSBORO, KY

This town has two types that may be a bit confusing to some collectors.

There is a type 512 priced at \$2.00 and a type 513 priced at 25¢.

On both types the town name is almost identical. Also the distance between bars is about the same.

The major difference between these two types is the state abbreviation. You will notice on the 512 "KY" has much wider letters than Owensboro, whereas on the 513 "KY" is of the same font as the town name.

Hope this information is of help to some of you. □



512

513



Genuine

MINERAL HOT SPRINGS, COLO.

This month lets separate the wheat from the chaff or the good from the bad.

The above named town has one type listed, a 736, with Notes of 1 and 2. It is priced as a "B". The known counterfeit is lurking in many collections. If the difference is not known it can fool collectors from the novice to the advanced.

The genuine (left, above) has the "M" of Mineral directly over the "PR" of Springs. The imprint almost always comes somewhat uneven and hard to read.

The counterfeit (right, above) has the "M" of Mineral over the "SP" of Springs. The imprint is usually sharp and much easier to read.

The only stamp I have seen with either imprint is the one cent Defense issue. Check your collection.

Good luck!



Counterfeit

CONSHOHOCKEN, PA



578

This month we have a pair of dueces. Conshohocken, PA has a 578 and a 579, both cataloging at \$2.00 each.

The major difference between these two types lies in the state abbreviation. The 578 has the state abbreviation in capitals while the 579 is capital and lower case as shown in the illustrations.



579

While this difference may be apparent to the more experienced collector it may not be so with the less experienced or beginner.

Check your collections for accuracy. Hope you had them correct.

JOPLIN, MO.

Joplin, Mo. has two types that are very similar and can be difficult to properly classify. The 522, cataloging at 50¢ and the 558 at 15¢.

The letters on both types are almost identical. The "O's" in the 558 are more round than the 522, which are slightly oval.



The one positive identifying feature is the period after "MO." on the 522. The 558 has no period or other punctuation. With this in mind one



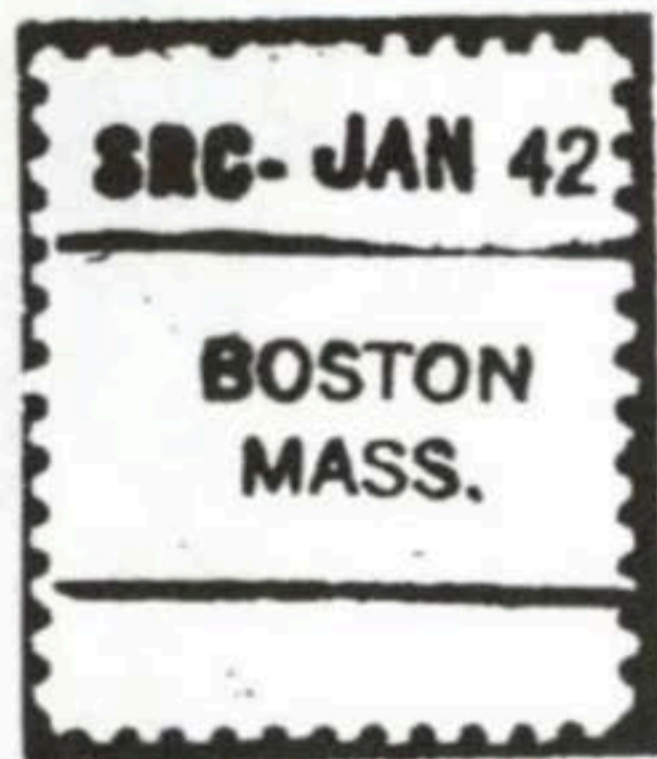
formation any 1917s can be sorted to the 522 in the event the period is hard to see on certain dark colors. □

can separate these two types.

The 522 was used as early as the 1917 perf 11s while the 558 started with the 1922 perf 11s. With this in-

BOSTON, MA

This month lets look at three Boston integrals that can be difficult to classify at first glance. Boston L-17 and L-18 cataloging at 25¢ each and L-19 at \$2.00



L-17 — Narrow spacing of about one millimeter between Boston and Mass. The “C” of SRC is almost closed. This device was used from November 1940 thru February 1942.



L-18 — Wider spacing of about two millimeters between Boston and Mass. The “C” of SRC is more open than in the L-17. This device was used from January 1942 thru August 1943.



L-19 — Almost identical to L-18 except there is no hyphen after SRC. This device was used from July 1943 thru June 1.

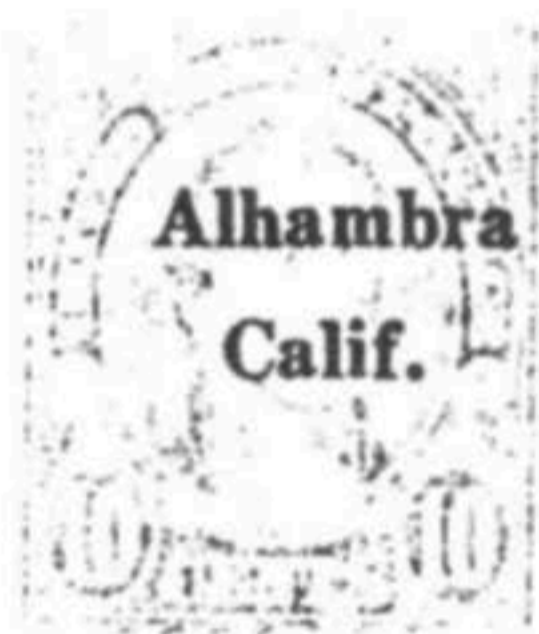


Typing integral devices can be rather difficult at times. The PSS catalog, due to lack of space, cannot give certain pertinent information. Town and Type or Integral collectors should purchase the 1962 Integral Type List and Handbook, if ever the opportunity comes along!

This month lets look at the Alhambra typesets without lines or bars. In this category we have the following:

- L-1 cataloging at \$1.00
- L-2 cataloging at 75¢
- L-3 cataloging at \$7.50
- L-4 cataloging at 75¢
- L-11 cataloging at \$2.00

Now to separate them —



Alhambra
Calif.



L-1

L-2

L-3

L-4

L-11

- L-1 Has larger and heavier letters and always comes with a comma.
- L-2 Smaller letters and again heavier face type. Has no comma.
- L-3 Very similar to L-1, but has lighter face type and has no comma. Comes only on the 1¢ 1926 compound. Any other denom has to be L-1.
- L-4 Similar to L-2 but lighter face type. Comparison is the best way to distinguish this type.
- L-11 Should pose no problem as the town and state are very close together.

My photo of L-3 is rather dark, but as I stated above, it has no comma.

WAVERLY, IOWA

I recently had a request to write up two similar types from Waverly, Iowa. First, we have a 548 cataloging at \$3.00 and a 549 cataloging at 25¢.



548



549

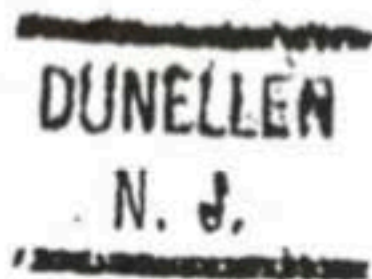
These two types can be confusing to the more inexperienced collector as well as the advanced collector. On the 548 the "O" of Iowa is much wider than the 549. Most important is the comma after the town on the 548. There is no comma on the 549. Using these two guidelines one can easily separate the two types.

The 548 was used mostly on the 1917 issue and very little else. The 549 also was used on the 1917 issue and saw extensive use well into the Bicent era. Check your collections; hope you have them correct.

Recently I reviewed the new 2nd edition of the New York State Catalog with over 78,000 listings. There is also included thirteen appendices and a town type cross index. Truly a labor of love and an absolute must for the New York State collector. A round of applause to editor Ed Leahy for this tremendous work.

NEW JERSEY DUNELLEN — UNION CITY

At the recent Darien, CT meeting I was kiddingly taken to task for overlooking the state of New Jersey. So to atone for this oversight, I will do a double header.



513



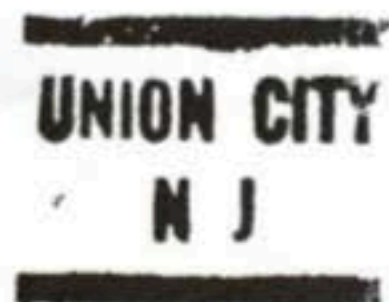
572



573

First let's look at the three 500 series types for Dunellen. We have a 513 cataloging at 50¢, a 572 at \$5.00 and a 573 at 50¢.

The 513 should pose no problem as the state abbreviation has periods. The 572 and 573 can be rather tricky. In the 572, Dunellen is spaced wider or spread out more than the 573. The type face on the 573 is a bit heavier than the 572. Dunellen on the 572 measures about 16mm, while the 573 measures about 14½mm.



573



577

Next, let's look at Union City. Here we have two very cheap types that can be difficult to distinguish. We have a 573 and a 577, both cataloging at the princely sum of 10¢. However, if you are going to collect these you might as well have them correct.

On the 573 Union City is spaced wider and measures 17mm. The 577 is more condensed and measures almost 15mm. Notice the "N's"—they are much narrower on the 577.

CLAREMONT, N.H.

This month let's look at a couple of types from Claremont, N.H.



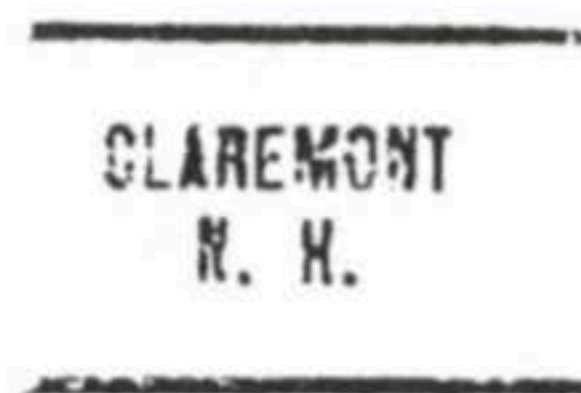
513



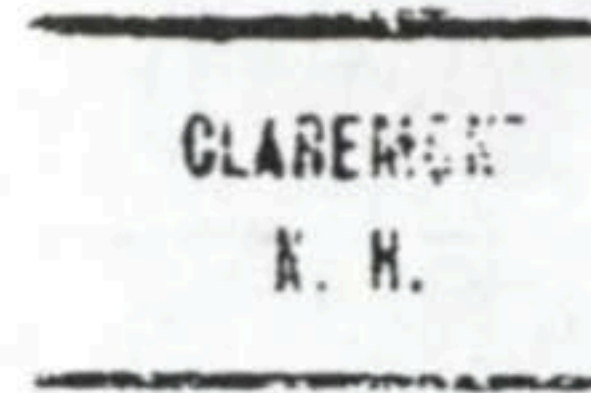
563

There is a 513 and a 563, both cataloging at \$7.50. Neither type saw very heavy usage. On the 513 the bars are much thinner than the 563, which are quite a bit more thicker. The state abbreviation is wider apart on the 513 and has punctuation, whereas the 563 has none.

Next, let's look at the two hand electros. There is a 704 cataloging at \$5.00 and a 713 cataloging at the magnificent sum of 10¢. The major difference is the spacing between town and state. The 704 is much narrower than on the 713. The 704 is known on about a dozen items and is quite scarce. The 713, on the other hand, was used on a wide range of issues from 1922 thru 1980 and probably later.



704



713

I recently reviewed a new publication titled "Guide to Identifying Chicago Local Types", prepared and edited by Jim Hemphill of the Northwest Precancel Club.

Every "L" number is illustrated along with all pertinent measurements. One type to a page and printed on one side only with extra space for notes.

If you collect types or Illinois general this booklet is a must for your library. It sells for \$7.50 and is available from Hemphill, P.O. Box 1321, Lake Oswego, OR 97035.

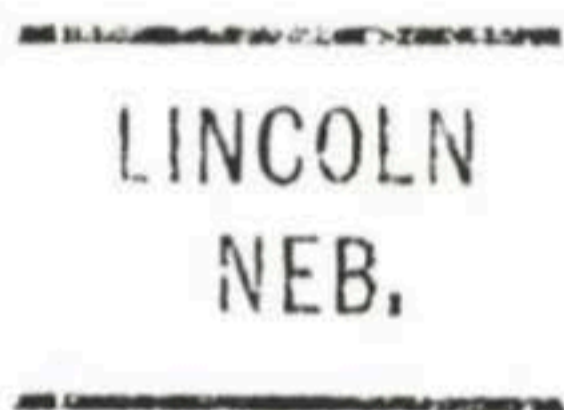
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Had a recent request to do the printed "L" types of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Here we have two typesets with a variety and two electros. At first glance they all look alike, so let's separate them.



L-2



L-3

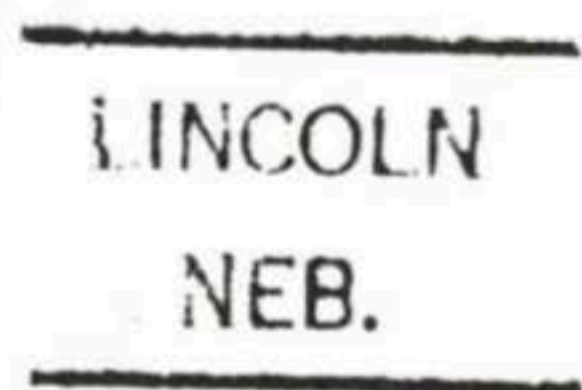


L-3 variety

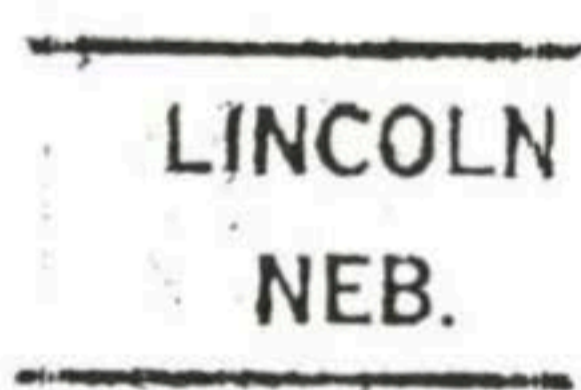
The major difference between L-2 and L-3 is the period after "NEB". Type L-2 has no period after "NEB" while L-3 does have a period.

There is a variety of type L-3 which has a wider spacing between "Lincoln" and "NEB.".

This variety was once listed as a type, but has since been combined with type L-3 and dropped.



L-5



L-6

Notice the "O"'s in Lincoln. They are very narrow compared to types L-5 and L-6. In type L-5 the "O" of Lincoln is more round and the letters are a bit more wider and not quite as tall.

Now for the type L-6. This is the tricky one. The "O" in Lincoln is wider than types L-2 and L-3, but narrower than type L-5. If my copy reproduces clearly enough you can readily see the difference.

None of these types are very expensive, but they should be collected correctly. My copy of the wide spacing of type L-3 is on the 15¢ 1908 issue. This in itself makes it a bit more scarier than the catalog price would indicate.

I hope the above will assist you in correctly sorting these printed types. If I am in error, I am quite sure my food friend, B.A. in Arkansas will soon correct me.

JOHNSON, IOWA

This town has two types: a 703 cataloging at fifty cents and an L-1 cataloging at two dollars.

With no illustration in the PSS T&T Catalog for L-1 and only a description "similar to 703", collectors don't quite know what to look for. So lets see if we can sort the two types out.

The "O"s on the 703 are a bit more round than the L-1 which are shaped more like an oval race track.

The spacing between town and state on the 703 is about 1mm, while on the L-1 it is about 1½mm.

Check your collection and see if you have it correct. If you don't have the L-1, you now have something to go by.



L-1

JOHNSTON
IOWA

703

HAZEN, ARKANSAS

Hazen, Arkansas has two types, a 708 and a L-1 HS, both cataloging at fifteen cents. At first glance they both look very much alike. However when compared side by side one can readily see the difference. The L-1 is a bit larger than the 708. Sort of like a big brother to little sister 708.



L-1 HS



708

On the L-1, Hazen is 13½mm in length while the 708 is 12½mm. Since the letters in the L-1 are larger, the space between the top line and "HAZEN" is narrower. Likewise between "ARK" and the bottom line. Also the space between Hazen and Ark on the L-1 is wider than the 708.

I hope the above has not confused you since I had promised not to bore you with a lot of gobbledegook about measurements. However with these two types I felt it was necessary.

PRECANCELS! by George!!

George W. Lupien, President
115 Clark Lane
Waltham, MA 02154

CONCORD, N. C.

This town has three typesets consisting of L-1, L-2 and L-3 cataloging \$1.00, \$3.00 and \$2.00, respectively.

At first glance they all look very much alike. L-2 is the easiest to classify as this plate was made up for the horizontal issues only.

Now for L-1 and L-3. The major differences between these two has to be the spacings. To begin, let's eliminate the line spacing as it is the same on both types. The two major differences is the spacing between the top line and the town name and between the town name and the state. The spacing between the state and the bottom line is the same on both types.

For the benefit of those of you that like measurements, the breakdown is as follows. Beginning at the top, that is between top line and town, they are:

L-1 measures 3mm, 3mm and 3½mm.

L-3 measures 2½mm, 3½mm and 3½mm.

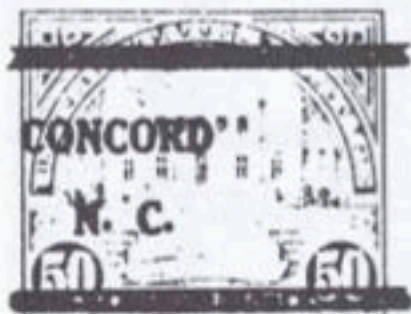
Check them over and see if you have them correct. I would be interested in knowing what denoms the L-3 exists on. □

[Editor's note: Inquiries regarding any of the precancels discussed in this President's column should be directed to him and not to the Forum Editor.—dp.]

CONCORD

N. C.

L-1



L-2



L-3

HARVARD, IL

At the Darien meeting last fall I was asked to take a look at two types from Harvard, Illinois.



466

This town has a 466 handstamp cataloging at \$5.00 and an L-1 electro cataloging at \$7.50. So here we have a rubber handstamp versus an electro plate.

As you can see the L-1 electro being printed is sharp and clear while the 466 has all the characteristics of a rubber handstamp. These handstamps more often than not exist with weak and uneven lettering.



L-1

The spacing between the top line and the town name is slightly more on the 466. Another point to consider is the spacing between the town and state, which is wider on the 466. Study the illustrations (if they reproduce clear enough) and you can readily see the difference.

I have only seen these two types on the one cent denomination. Do they exist on other denoms? Let me know. Thank you.

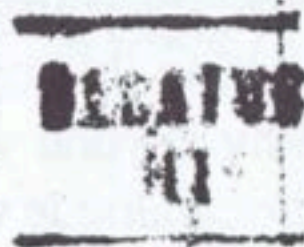
DECATUR, ILLINOIS

Here we have a 204 cataloging at five cents and a L-2 hand stamp cataloging at two dollars.

At first glance they both look very much alike. So lets separate them. I am illustrating three copies of each as I feel that comparison is the best test.



Notice the 204s being a printed type are sharp and clear. The angles on the letters are sharp and very well formed.



Now look at the L-2 handstamp. The letters are blurred, indistinct and with incomplete or rounded angles.

The illustration in the catalog is an exceptionally clear copy and can be misleading. For this reason I have avoided giving you measurements. However, for the record, the L-2 measures 1½ to 2mm. It is longer than the 204. Hope you have them correct. □

SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

This town has a 203 cataloging at ten cents and a L-5 electro that did catalog at five dollars, but has since been downgraded to three dollars.

Again, as in last month, comparison is the best test hence two copies of each being illustrated.



203



203



L-5

SAGINAW
MICH.

L-5

The letters in the 203 are much heavier and larger. Saginaw is about 3mm longer than on the L-5. The letters on the L-5 are of a much lighter type face.

If you are undecided, the final and sure test is the period after "Mich." on the L-5. Remember, no period it's 203, with period its L-5.

The L-5 plate was in use prior to 1913 and was used on issues from 1902 up to the parcel post of 1912. The 203 plate started with the 13¢ 1902 and was used thru the 1920s and probably beyond.

Look your types over for accuracy.



THE THREE RED OAKS



455



457



461

This month lets look at three look a-likes from Red Oak, Iowa.

Here we have a 455 cataloging at 25¢, a 457 cataloging at 50¢ and a 461 cataloging at 40¢.

To the uninformed, they all look very much the same at first glance. However when placed side by side the difference can be readily observed.

The 455 is the largest of the three with the 457 running a close second. The 461 comes in last. Sort of like a horse race—win, place and show.

At the risk of being accused of senility, I like to refer to these as the Three Red Oaks—Papa Red Oak, Mama Red Oak and Baby Red Oak. My apologies to the well known nursery rhyme.

Look over your collection. I hope you have them correct.

BUREAU PRECANCEL COLLECTIONS FOR SALE

(Not mounted—
on 5½x8½ Stock Sheets)

103. 1225 Wide Prexies .. \$200.00

104. 1457 Naro Prexies .. \$200.00

105. 410 Defense & War . \$ 95.00

GLOBE, ARIZONA

This month lets look at a pair of look alike from Globe, Arizona. Here we have an L-1 and an L-2, both cataloging at two dollars.



L-1

To separate them lets dwell on the L-2. If my copy reproduces clearly enough you will notice the letters in the L-2 are slightly larger than the L-1.

Notice in particular the "O" in GLOBE. The spacing between Ariz. and the bottom line is much narrower than the L-1.



L-2

The final clue is the period after Ariz. The L-1 does not have a period.

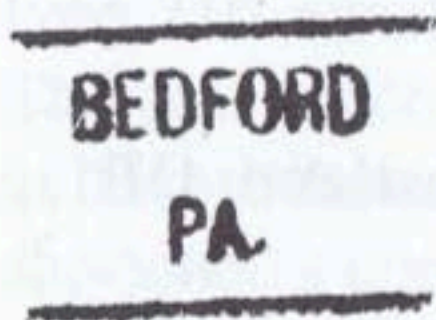
Will be glad to help any of you if you have a problem with a particular type. A SASE will be appreciated. Glad to say I have helped several members that have taken me up on my offer.

Till next month—good hunting!

PRECANCELS! by George!!

George W. Lupien, President
115 Clark Lane
Waltham, MA 02154

BEDFORD, PA



457



466

This town has a few types that may be a bit confusing to the beginner collector. First, we have a 457 cataloging at \$1.00 and a 466 cataloging at 75¢.

Both types have a period after the state, but the 466 has a comma after the town whereas the 457 does not. The letters in the 457 are a bit more wider than the 466 and not as tall.

Next we have a 549 cataloging at 25¢ and an L-1 HS cataloging at \$15.00.

You will note the L-1 is quite a bit larger than the 549. The space between bars on the L-1 is about 2mm wider than the 549. Also the 549 has a period after the state whereas the L-1 does not.

Check your types. Hope you have them correct.
Good luck!



549

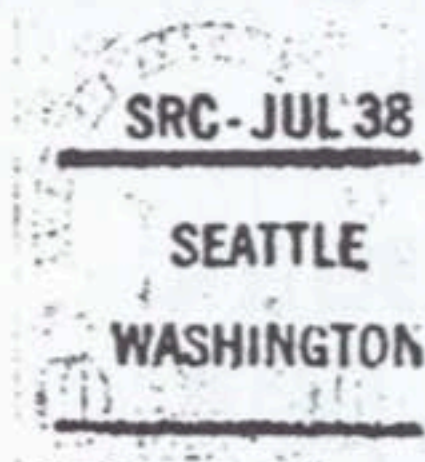


L-1 HS

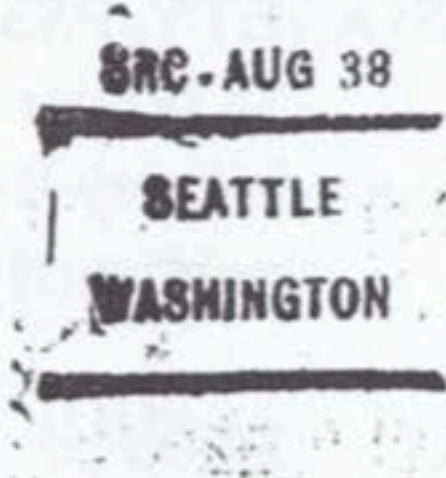
SEATTLE, WASH.

This city has several integral types that seem to give many collectors a problem. With that in mind lets sort them out and see what we have. The best and easiest way to classify them is by dates of usage:

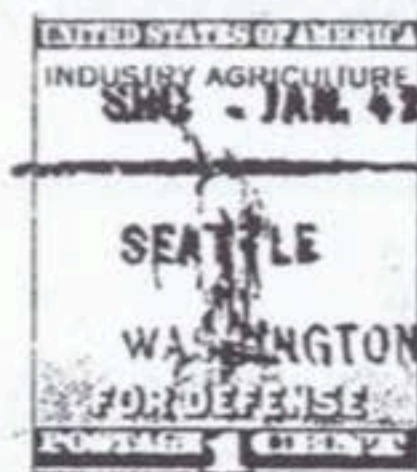
	L-11	cataloging at \$3.00	used July 38 only
	L-12	cataloging at \$1.00	used Aug 38 to Dec 41
	L-13	cataloging at \$3.00 and upgraded to \$5.00	used Jan 42 to Apr 42
	L-14	cataloging at \$2.00 and upgraded to \$3.00	used May 42 to Jan 44
Old	L-15	cataloging at \$5.00 in first edition PSS	used Feb 44 to Oct 44
Old	L-16	cataloging at \$3.00 in first edition PSS	used Nov 44 to Jun 46
Old	L-17	cataloging at \$2.00 in first edition PSS	used June 46 to Jan 53
	L-18	cataloging at \$15.00	used Aug 54 to Oct 54
	L-19	cataloging at \$10.00	used June 55 to Dec 55



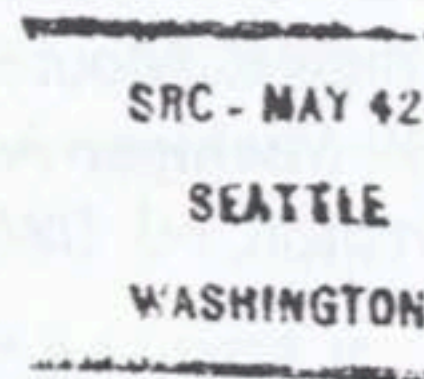
L-11



L-12



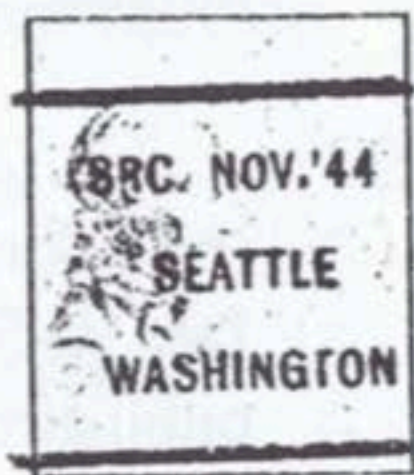
L-13



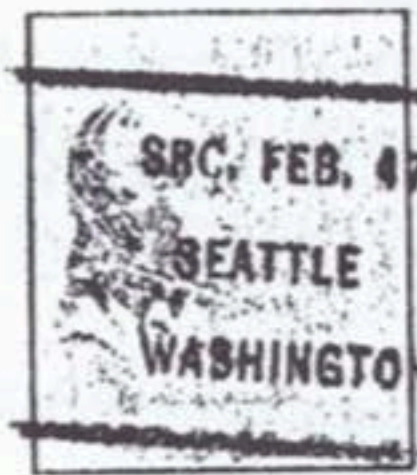
L-14



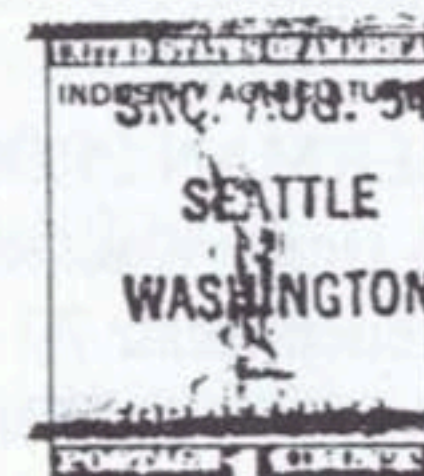
Old L-15



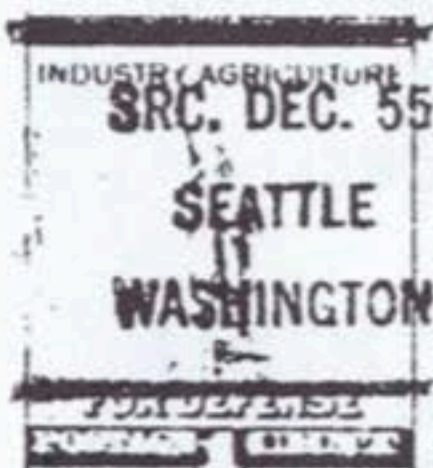
Old L-16



Old L-17



L-18



L-19

The only overlap in dates is the old L-16 and L-17 which were both used in June of 1946. The L-16 has an apostrophe before the year while the L-17 does not.

With the dates of usage in your records these pesky integrals can be easily identified.

If you ever have the opportunity to purchase the Integral Handbook issued in 1962, please do so. It will make the sorting of integral types much simpler. Dig them out and have fun. □

UNLISTED TYPES

Since this is my last column as your President I am going to do something different. There are numerous stamps lurking in collections masquerading as precancels. These stamps fall into several different categories. Postcancels that look like precancels, outright fakes and collector inspired emissions to name a few.

Many of the above named were once listed as legitimate precancels in many of the old state catalogs including the 1940 Hoover black book. Research over the years has disproved many items formerly listed as legitimate types.

When PSS first issued its Town and Type Catalog a set of ground rules was established as to what constituted a listable type. As a result many former types were discarded as they did not meet PSS criteria. This included single line handstamps that were

in many instances legitimately used as precancels.

Another victim of this criteria was typesets where the printer did not have enough type of the same font to make up an entire plate. Since two or more different type fonts were used in the same plate PSS considered it one type. Two examples of this: Covington, KY and Concord, NH.

I might also mention the old dated types such as Chicago, IL and Binghamton, NY. These were once listed as individual types but are now grouped into one. I am illustrating a few of the above such items.



EL DORADO
ARK



INDIAN HILLS
COLO



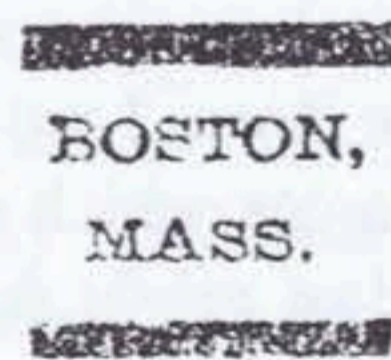
LAMONT
IOWA



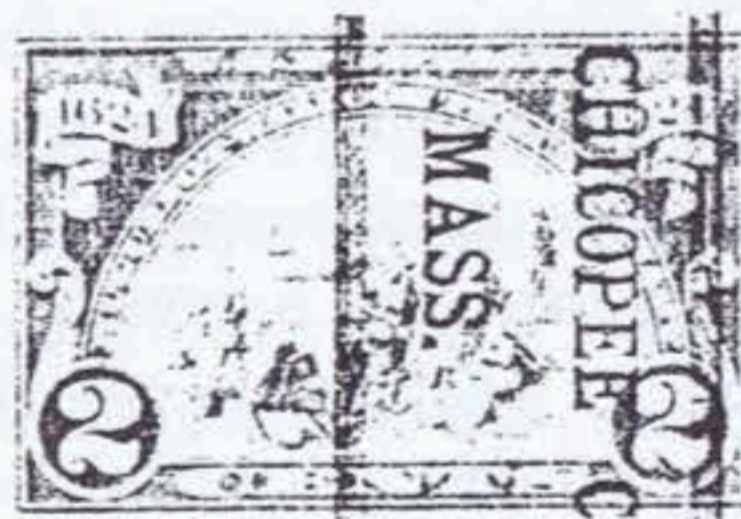
MAYSVILLE
KY



SAINT DAVID
MAINE



BOSTON
MASS



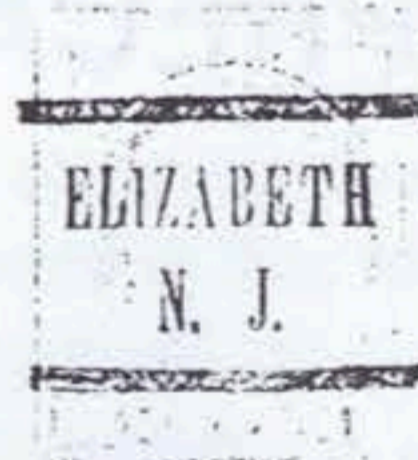
CHICOPEE
MASS



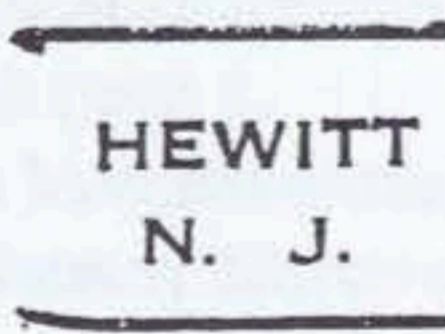
NORTHAMPTON
MASS



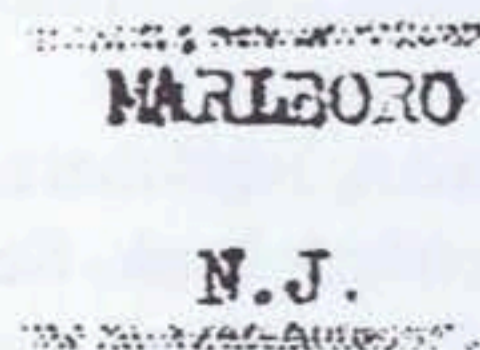
LULA
MISS



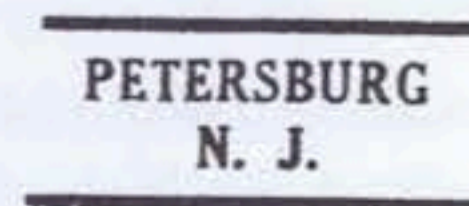
ELIZABETH
N. J.



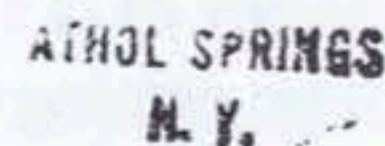
HEWITT
N. J.



MARLBORO
N. J.



PETERSBURG
N. J.



ATHOL SPRINGS
N. Y.



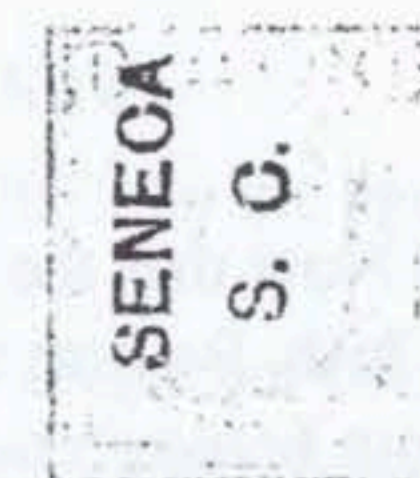
JAMESTOWN
N. Y.



WESTON
OHIO



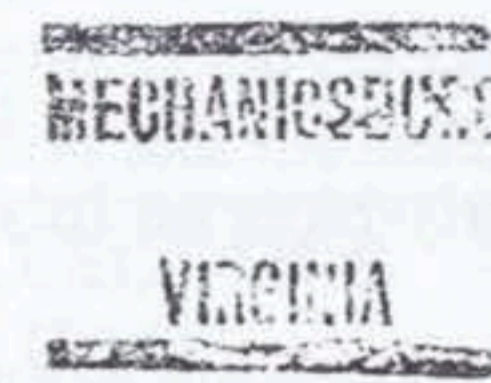
SALEM
OREGON



SENECA
S. C.



WORTHING
S. DAK.



MECHANICSBURG
VIRGINIA



GREENLEAF
WIS.



REESEVILLE
WISCONSIN

Over the past two years I have tried to cover some of the types frequently found misclassified in many collections. I hope I have helped some of you to weed out these mistakes. I have received many letters from around the country, even Europe, requesting help on types. Although I will no longer be writing this column my offer to help any collector to classify types still stands.

When you read the above your new President will be in office. Thank you for putting up with my ramblings the past two years. Adieu. □

[Editor's note: Surely the **Forum** editor would have no objection to your continuing with this help, even on an occasional basis, George. —dp.]

NEW LOCAL DEVICES

The listing of Item 762s (local precancel devices) for the months of June and July contains 16 towns. Surely most, if not all of them, will welcome your write-ins.

JUNE 1996

COMPTON AR 72624
MORROW AR 72749
PONCA AR 72670
SUMMERS AR 72769
RANSOM IL 60470
UTICA IL 61373
GERONIMO TX 78115
SANTA FE TX 77510

JULY 1996

HASTY AR 72640
MOUNT (MT.) JUDEA AR 72655
WINCHESTER KY 40391
MACHIAS ME 04654
WINTER HARBOR ME 04693
CLEVELAND OH 44101
GALLOWAY OH 43119
DONNA TX 78537 □