

By George!

For some time I have been planning to write a column about hard-to-distinguish precancel types. Phil Cayford recently remarked to me that George Lupien wrote a classic series of 24 illustrated articles on hard-to-distinguish types when George was the PSS President from 1994 to 1996.

So I went to the members page of the PSS website, www.precancels.com, and found George's articles, which ran from October 1994 to September 1996. I was reminded of the great resource we have with almost all of the historical PSS Forums scanned into PDF form.

I downloaded all of the issues and made screen grabs of George's articles and assembled a single PDF with the 24 snippets in sequence. You can find the PDF at <https://www.precancels.com/articles/> Although some of the illustrations are a little indistinct, they are very useful even without Matt Stephenson's graphical magic. For the L-types mentioned, you can see Matt's wonderful renderings of those types in the 8th edition T&T catalog, keeping in mind that since 1994, some of the type numbers have been reshuffled.

George's articles were all headlined *By George!* The articles make great reading. If you knew George, his resonant deep voice seems to echo out of every page. His enthusiasm, knowledge, and desire to help collectors shows through so clearly.

George's topics were

October 1994 – Norwood, MA 538 and 563
November 1994 – Okmulgee, OK 572 and 573
December 1994 – Temple City, CA L-1 and L-2
January 1995 – Owensboro, KY 512 and 513
February 1995 – Mineral Hot Springs, CO 736 Genuine and Counterfeit
March 1995 – Conshohocken, PA 578 and 579
April 1995 – Joplin, MO 522 and 558
May 1995 – Boston, MA L-17, L-18, and L-19
June 1995 – Alhambra, CA L-1, L-2, L-3, L-4, and L-11
July 1995 – Waverly, Iowa 548 and 549
August 1995—Dunellen NJ 513, 572, 573 & Union City, NJ 573, 577
September 1995 – Claremont, NH 513 and 563
October 1995 – Lincoln, NE L-2, L-3, L-3 variety, L-5, and L-6
November 1995 – Johnston, Iowa 703 and L-1
December 1995 – Hazen, AR 708 and L-1
January 1996 – Concord, NH L-1, L-2, and L-3
February 1996 – Harvard, IL 466 and L-1E

This February column makes the important point that some handstamps have virtually same dimensions as a printed type from the same town, and the only way to distinguish them is by the clarity of the impression. A future month's column (by Ralph!) will expand on this point.

March 1996 – Decatur, IL 204 and L-1 (now L-2)

April 1996 – Saginaw, MI 203 and L-5

May 1996 – Red Oak, IA 455, 457, and 461

June 1996 – Globe, AZ L-1 and L-2

July 1996 – Bedford, PA 457, 466, 549, and L-1

August 1996 – Seattle, WA L-11 through L-19, including discontinued types L-15, L-16 and L-17

September 1996 – 22 unlisted types types from AR to WI

George's 24 articles are an inspiration to me, as I promised in 2018 to also write 24 articles as president. This is number 15. I have at least nine more topics in mind...