

# THE PRECANCEL FORUM

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## **PRECANCELS PURCHASED**

I have established the reputation of paying fair, or even generous prices for estates, lots, collections and accumulations of precancels. I can pay better prices because I have acquired, through years of experience, the knowledge of how best to liquidate all types of precancels, not just the cream. I have found new homes for tens of millions of precancels in the past eight years. If the time has come to sell your precancel holdings or to line up your affairs, because no one in your family is interested in precancels, please consider me as the one to handle everything fairly and discreetly. I travel anywhere, and can provide impeccable references.

## **PRECANCELS SOLD**

As stated above, I take pride in finding new homes for the precancels that I acquire. If you are interested in obtaining any variety of precancel, as single stamps, packets, mixtures or entire collections, be sure I know what you are looking for. If I don't have the specific item(s) at the moment, you can be assured that I will keep you in mind for when the right stuff comes along.

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and leave the porous sheet exposed, so the ink could be forced through to print on paper as it was fed past the rotating cylinder. Thousands of pages could be printed and the stencil stored for later use. Mimeographs became very popular because they were easy to produce, durable, and much cheaper than press printing.



Some of the most intriguing precancels were made on a mimeograph machine. There are 109 mimeograph precancel L-types listed in the *PSS Town and Type Catalog* (Their type numbers all end with M). Many of these started with the Washington/Franklin series, and they can be found throughout the years, some on stamps as late as the 1970s. Different typewriter fonts and characters have



created some of the unique precancel styles. (Note: mimeograph printing leaves no impression on the paper – direct printing with a typewriter often leaves a visible impression that can be seen on the back of the stamp.)

In addition to the precancel types, mimeographs were also used to apply the user initials and date to comply with the dating order of 1938. The earliest was National Bellas Hess (NBH), a mail order company based in Kansas City. They began using mimeo stencils on their dateds in January 1940, and used several different fonts and patterns for 30 years. Some of the distribution centers for Sears, Roebuck and Company (SRC) started using mimeos in the early 1950s and continued into the 1970s. Because the mimeograph machine is considered a printing process, these controls are listed in the *PSS Printed Dated Type Catalog*.



Because the stencils were cut by typing, mimeos are subject to all sorts of variations: changing typewriters often meant a different font, and as shown in the examples on page 9, there are spelling errors and spacing varieties. At least one subject in the Ft. Lauderdale L-2 M stencil had a missing hyphen. Also note the variation in line spacing; that indicates the lines were drawn separately, not with the typewriter.

## Precancels Wanted

If you're giving up precancel collecting or have inherited a collection that you are not interested in, I'm interested in buying entire collections and accumulations of precancels. I will travel to inspect your holdings if they require that. Please contact me if it's time to sell.

**Phil Cayford, Box 497, Dublin NH 03444**  
[npcayford@myfairpoint.net](mailto:npcayford@myfairpoint.net) 603-563-8021

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Curtis Gidding curtstamp  
Mike Gutman msg94  
Steve & Marlene Gunesch leni915  
Woody Hann & Bob Noble blititz  
Tim Hebel Landscapertim  
Reynold Hilzinger Reinholdstamps  
Mike Hynes mnhynes  
Susan Kolze kool\_akkumulator  
Dick Laetsch precancel44uw  
John Lane precanceljohn  
Dale Malzahn wyandotte2  
Chris Masters christmas1942  
Norm Macneall stampinman  
Mike Molle red-rose789  
Larry Patterson burocouter  
John Ross jro256  
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A Spelling Error  
(MOV)  
and  
a Spacing Variety  
(SRC/Mar53)



Ft. Lauderdale L-2 M

One of the unique varieties results from the stencil being placed on the printing drum with the wrong side out. The stencil would print as a mirror image of what had been typed. Even today, decades later, unreported dates and varieties can be found. Whether your interest is precancel types or printed controls, mimeos offer lots of opportunities for seemingly infinite variety and new discovery.



Mirror Images:  
Corpus Christi TX L-2 M  
and a Kansas City NBH  
OCT 50



## ANOTHER OPTICAL ILLUSION WILMINGTON, SC TYPE 841?

Arnold Selengut, PSS 194-4385

Here is another one of those interesting “optical illusions” like the Dallas Star Bureau I described for *The Forum* a couple of months ago.

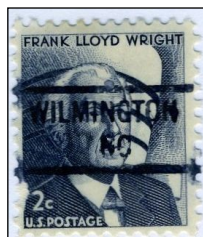
The stamp pictured to the right seems to be an 841 from Wilmington, SC, but when you try to find that town in the *Catalog*, you won’t.

The right upright of the “N” of NC did not print properly, exposing the bottom curve of architect Wright’s nose, which makes the top of the “N” look a lot like an “S.”

Your eye then compounds the illusion by assuming that it is seeing an “S” because of the curvature of the bottom of the diagonal of the “N” due to poor inking of that feature as well.

The fact that the bottom of the letter is open where the “S” loop should be does not seem to matter.

Have you found one of these optical illusions yet? If so, why don’t you tell everyone about it.



## WHICH WAY IS UP?

Lynn R Batdorf, PSS #8048

Precancels have been printed on postage stamps in various orientations. That is, the precancel might follow the stamp design, or be inverted, up, down, or even diagonal.



Taking this into consideration, the question might arise, “Which way should the stamp be oriented in an album?” The correct answer is, “In any manner the collector wishes.”

Wishing to give priority to the precancel, my Town and Type stamps are orientated to easily read the precancel. In this manner, the occasional stamp might be inverted or turned sideways.

This question recently arose in an E-Mail exchange with a prominent precancel dealer who commented, “Personally, I mount my stamps in the direction that the design intended. The inverted precancels are mounted with the stamp in the design orientation, so that the precancel is inverted. I see collections occasionally that mount the precancels in the direction the precancel reads, which means that stamps with inverted precancels are mounted with the stamp inverted so that the precancel reads normally.

“In this manner, it is much more obvious that the precancel is inverted (when it is). I tend to concentrate first on the precancel, and next on the stamp that the precancel is on. So, it is easier for me to see if I have an invert if all the stamps are mounted in the design-intended orientation. Then the inverts stand out better.”

This sage observation resonated with me. Primarily a general US stamp collector, I mount all US stamps according to their design orientation. Why had I made an exception to this policy for my precancel collection? Unintentionally, I was subordinating the thoughtful design orientation, giving priority to the, at times, capricious precancel orientation. Again, there is no one way to display any stamp or precancel. But for me, I easily realized my stamp orientation was simply and fundamentally flawed.

So, for countless hours, I had the rare and delightful pleasure of examining my entire Town and Type collection to correct the intermittent, errantly orientated stamp. Because my precancels are mounted in Hager Stock Sheets this change was easy to implement. Once completed, it resulted in a nice, subtle, and satisfying improvement to the entire collection. I found this new, more logical, orientation easy to accept, and I’m delighted with the results.

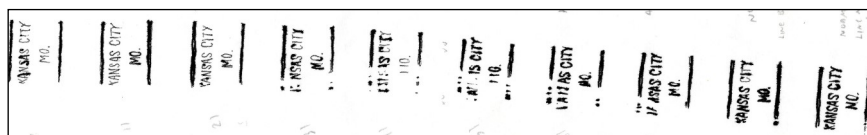
## FOLLOWUP ON DALLAS 242 DLE VARIANT

Dave Smith, PSS 123-4406

That is a nice article written by John Williams. I do not have his e-mail or I would respond directly.

One big reason for the gaps is plate damage. Plates were dropped. Things were set on top of them. Missing portions of top, bottom, and end lines are the most common signs of this type of a casualty, of which the Dallas plate is typical. Things also accidentally went into the press and damaged the plate.

My favorite example of this is on the plate for the Kansas City, MO Type 205 wp (with period). Apparently a large, full can (of ink?) was set on top of the plate. Perhaps another was then set on top of the first one. The rim of the can damaged the plate permanently. By gathering multiple impressions, I have a partial showing of the rim of the can. Yes, I also have part of the other side of the plate showing the same curved damage that would complete the circle.



An example of debris (a paperclip) entering the press is shown with Peoria, IL Type 202. The error is relatively easy to obtain.



These items are collectable by specialists.

I like to find what seems to be an error, but I sometimes find an example that shows the wear of the plate.

An example of this is found with Niagara Falls Type 247. The 25-cent shows the last "A" in Niagara worn away. The 8-cent shows it missing. If you found just the 8-cent you would think you had a real find. But with the 25-cent you can see how the plate's damage progressed over time.

As both stamps are right end positions, the damage must have been somewhere in the right vertical row of the plate.



## SOUTH CENTRAL STATES T & T COUNTS NOVEMBER 2020

Arnold Selengut, PSS 194-4385

The upcoming deadlines for reporting your counts are as follows:

New England Group	January 15, 2021
Atlantic Group	March 15, 2021
Western Group	May 15, 2021
Overall (All States)	July 15, 2021*

\*This count is a summary of all five (5) State Groups. Counts will be pulled from the database so reporters need not submit a separate report. However, those reporters who wish to refresh the database to include their latest statistics can submit reports using the normal form anytime up to the deadline shown.

Reports are maintained on the database until refreshed by a new count, or for five years, unless the reporter requests deletion or drops out of the PSS. Established email T & T Reporters will automatically receive a reporting form a few weeks before the deadline. Other PSS members who would like to participate must request the form and reporting guidelines from the writer via e-mail to [arnsel@verizon.net](mailto:arnsel@verizon.net).

Last year we had 48 reporters of South Central Group counts, and now we have decreased by four to 44. Five former reporters were deleted due to closed albums or failure to report during the 5-year window. Two of these were in the top 20. The five drops were offset by one new reporter. The new reporter is Bill Grady, who e-responded to my request for new reporters in a previous *Forum*. We welcome our new reporter to the group and hope that he will participate for a long time.

We would like to see increased member participation in these counts. If you are a T & T Collector, why not join in? It is fun to see your holdings compared to those of your fellow collectors and to monitor your progress as your collection continues to improve. I will be happy to guide your participation if you request being added to the group.

Of the 44 current reporters, 32 submitted a fresh count at some point in 2020. The aging of the rest of the reports is as follows: 2019 (3), 2018 (2), 2017 (4) and 2016 (1). Please check your name and the date of your last report on subsequent pages. Do not let your counts "age out" of the rankings. Although no one is in danger

(continued on page 17)

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**Locals:** Try one of our approval books. We have towns & types, 1938 Presidential (our specialty) and all newer issues, plus approval books for general collections.

**Bureaus:** Mounted 10 stamps to a page in the order of the PSS Bureau Catalog. We also accept Bureau want lists.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ALBUM PAGES

**Gunesch Loose-leaf Album Pages** designed specifically for precancel collecting. Try our #36 for Towns & Types or Bureaus. We also have our #B for blank pages (border only), #115 for Coil Pairs or Commemoratives, #209 for blocks of 4. Printed on 70# acid free paper, punched for a 3-ring binder. \$17.00 per hundred, postpaid to the U.S. Combine any of the styles to total a hundred.

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**Collections.** We have starter town & type collections for a large number of states. We also have Bureau collections available on Noble or JW pages.

### GUNESCH

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**We also purchase collections and accumulations.**

March 2021

SOUTH CENTRAL TOWNS												(Page 1 of 3)
COLLECTOR	DATE	RANK	AL	AR	KY	LA	MS	OK	TN	TX	TOTAL	
ARNOLD SELENGUT	15-Nov-20	Tie 1	341	406	277	287	409	395	422	906	3443	
TOM CRICHTON	15-Nov-20	Tie 1	341	406	277	287	409	395	422	906	3443	
JOHN FOSTER	15-Jul-20	3	341	405	277	286	409	395	422	906	3441	
CHARLIE ADRIAN	15-Nov-20	Tie 4	341	405	277	286	409	395	421	905	3439	
T. G. REHKOP	15-Sep-20	Tie 4	341	405	277	286	409	395	421	905	3439	
DUANE SPIDLE	15-Nov-20	6	341	405	277	286	409	395	420	905	3438	
JIM CROSBY	15-Nov-20	7	341	405	276	286	409	395	419	905	3436	
LARRY PATTERSON	15-Nov-20	Tie 8	340	405	277	283	409	395	420	906	3435	
STAN TRIM	15-Nov-20	Tie 8	341	405	277	286	409	395	419	903	3435	
STEVE PARKER	15-Nov-19	Tie 8	340	405	277	286	409	395	420	903	3435	
CHRIS MASTERS	15-Nov-20	Tie 11	340	405	277	286	409	395	419	902	3433	
JACKIE ADKINS	15-Jan-19	Tie 11	340	405	277	286	408	395	420	902	3433	
RICK SCHWARTZ	15-Sep-20	13	340	405	276	286	408	394	418	903	3430	
JOHN ROSS	15-Nov-20	14	340	405	275	286	409	395	416	901	3427	
BILL BLANFORD	15-Nov-17	15	340	405	277	286	408	394	416	900	3426	
ROBERT NOBLE	15-Mar-20	16	340	405	277	286	407	393	418	899	3425	
JOHN LANE	15-Nov-20	Tie 17	341	403	271	286	409	394	418	902	3424	
LYNN BATDORF	15-Feb-20	Tie 17	340	403	277	286	407	394	415	902	3424	
GEORGES DENIS	15-Mar-18	19	339	405	277	285	408	392	412	902	3420	
ROBERT E. CHALLEY	15-Nov-20	20	340	405	264	286	408	395	417	903	3418	

SOUTH CENTRAL			TOWNS								(Page 2 of 3)
COLLECTOR	DATE	RANK	AL	AR	KY	LA	MS	OK	TN	TX	TOTAL
			341	406	277	287	409	395	422	906	3443
RICK SCHRIER	15-Nov-17	21	339	401	271	285	408	391	413	901	3409
JAMES REIBER	15-Jul-20	22	339	402	273	286	405	391	411	897	3404
IVAR TJERNSHAUGEN	15-Nov-17	23	339	400	275	276	409	395	403	900	3397
JOHN EARLE	15-Nov-20	24	336	405	274	280	404	394	397	899	3389
RANDY GIBSON	15-Feb-20	25	339	399	273	285	382	394	395	849	3316
RICH FEHLER	15-Nov-20	26	339	401	188	282	403	394	406	892	3305
MARTY ADAMS	15-Nov-20	27	340	405	223	283	339	393	410	901	3294
DENNIS EWERT	15-Nov-20	28	323	398	258	248	367	389	408	896	3287
BILL LATCHIC	15-Nov-20	29	333	396	263	256	356	379	408	891	3282
DAVID BIRCH	15-Nov-17	30	330	405	235	266	388	392	388	863	3267
BILL DERRICK	15-Nov-16	31	212	363	236	244	400	393	392	901	3141
JAMES KEEVIL	15-Nov-20	32	287	322	209	265	398	353	388	829	3051
JIM HIRSTEIN	15-Sep-19	33	283	326	197	214	361	383	365	877	3006
MIKE STROTHER	15-Nov-20	34	260	218	277	264	327	369	333	789	2837
WILLIAM GRADY	15-Nov-20	35	288	371	156	204	396	342	282	791	2830
TRACI HANSON	15-Nov-20	36	304	354	185	223	276	279	375	764	2760
WILLIAM WEBER	15-Nov-20	37	318	173	139	240	364	296	217	775	2522
JACK FRANZ	15-Nov-20	38	306	390	169	148	219	161	145	763	2301
ED OWENS	15-May-18	39	70	282	47	255	366	365	19	853	2257
JOHN PANHORST	15-Sep-20	40	287	391	208	279	371	381	239	0	2156

SOUTH CENTRAL			TOWNS								(Page 3 of 3)
COLLECTOR	DATE	RANK	AL	AR	KY	LA	MS	OK	TN	TX	TOTAL
			341	406	277	287	409	395	422	906	3443
DUANE SHIFFERT	15-Nov-20	41	175	150	196	228	136	198	380	375	1838
JOHN ADAMS	15-Jan-18	42	204	166	229	95	145	209	215	353	1616
DAN BAUGHER	15-Mar-19	43	19	234	270	260	164	69	30	144	1190
SEAN KENNEDY	15-Nov-20	44	8	1	3	257	3	9	409	30	720

of being aged out of the report for the near future, if you haven't sent in your status since 2018, you should seriously think about doing so.

The top ten (10) Town collections are all within 8 towns of completion, as they were at the prior report. The top two positions have all of the towns and are tied as they have been for several years. Foster maintains his hold on the 3<sup>rd</sup> rung. One of the previous 4<sup>th</sup> place holders has dropped out. As a result Rehkop, who was previously tied for the 4<sup>th</sup> rung would have been alone there had it not been for the improvement by Adrion from his former tie at the 6<sup>th</sup> place. Spidle was also formerly tied at the 6<sup>th</sup> position but is now alone there. Crosby jumps forward from his former tie at the 14<sup>th</sup> rung to now hold the 7<sup>th</sup> step on the ladder. The former 8<sup>th</sup> place holder has dropped out. Patterson and Parker, formerly tied at the 9<sup>th</sup> rung are joined with Trim, formerly 11<sup>th</sup>, to make a three-way tie for 8<sup>th</sup>. Atkins moves up from her former 12<sup>th</sup> position into a tie at the 11<sup>th</sup> position with Masters, formerly 13<sup>th</sup>. Schwartz moves out of his former tie at the 14<sup>th</sup> position to take the 13<sup>th</sup> slot. Ross moves out of his tie at the 17<sup>th</sup> rung to hold the 14<sup>th</sup> position and Blandford moves up from 16<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. Lane is still tied at the 17<sup>th</sup> position, but now his tie is with Batdorf, who moves into the top 20 from his former 21<sup>st</sup> slot. Denis moves up one rung from 20 to 19 and Challey, formerly 22<sup>nd</sup>, closes out the top 20.

In the Type rankings, the top three positions are unchanged from last year. The former 4<sup>th</sup> place holder is no longer reporting. Foster moves up one rung to now hold the 4<sup>th</sup> spot. Spidle moves up from 7<sup>th</sup> to overtake Adrion,

(continued on page 20)



SOUTH CENTRAL T Y P E S											(Page 1 of 3)
COLLECTOR	DATE	RANK	AL	AR	KY	LA	MS	OK	TN	TX	TOTAL
			548	623	490	453	629	770	712	1883	6108
ARNOLD SELENGUT	15-Nov-20	1	548	620	490	453	629	770	711	1875	6096
TOM CRICHTON	15-Nov-20	2	544	621	485	453	625	765	705	1864	6062
T. G. REHKOP	15-Sep-20	3	543	612	479	449	623	761	704	1827	5998
JOHN FOSTER	15-Jul-20	4	522	607	470	441	613	747	705	1833	5938
DUANE SPIDLE	15-Nov-20	5	538	608	467	442	613	753	695	1815	5931
CHARLIE ADRIAN	15-Nov-20	6	544	607	473	441	617	743	697	1801	5923
JIM CROSBY	15-Nov-20	7	534	608	466	442	618	749	693	1783	5893
STEVE PARKER	15-Nov-19	8	528	602	462	437	607	747	690	1790	5863
CHRIS MASTERS	15-Nov-20	9	529	599	456	437	609	743	689	1777	5839
JACKIE ADKINS	15-Jan-19	10	520	600	451	443	600	744	693	1764	5815
STAN TRIM	15-Nov-20	11	521	603	455	436	606	734	691	1767	5813
LARRY PATTERSON	15-Nov-20	12	517	597	457	433	600	719	683	1753	5759
LYNN BATDORF	15-Feb-20	13	516	582	461	439	592	732	675	1733	5730
ROBERT E. CHALLEY	15-Nov-20	14	524	599	419	435	600	735	666	1747	5725
RICK SCHWARTZ	15-Sep-20	15	518	597	447	426	591	725	685	1723	5712
JOHN ROSS	15-Nov-20	16	516	590	440	429	585	739	672	1729	5700
ROBERT NOBLE	15-Mar-20	17	506	583	429	424	581	707	669	1707	5606
BILL BLANFORD	15-Nov-17	18	508	585	453	424	591	699	655	1673	5588
JOHN EARLE	15-Nov-20	19	496	586	427	412	560	732	632	1697	5542
RICK SCHRIER	15-Nov-17	20	498	579	426	427	576	702	642	1639	5489

SOUTH CENTRAL T Y P E S											(Page 2 of 3)
COLLECTOR	DATE	RANK	AL	AR	KY	LA	MS	OK	TN	TX	TOTAL
			548	623	490	453	629	770	712	1883	6108
JAMES REIBER	15-Jul-20	21	505	570	413	409	565	678	630	1648	5418
IVAR TJERNSHAUGEN	15-Nov-17	22	491	554	429	394	616	676	623	1616	5399
GEORGES DENIS	15-Mar-18	23	502	572	402	414	562	656	608	1600	5316
RANDY GIBSON	15-Feb-20	24	543	550	421	411	514	655	570	1570	5234
MARTY ADAMS	15-Nov-20	25	481	546	316	416	423	699	635	1673	5189
RICH FEHLER	15-Nov-20	26	494	570	266	412	556	707	616	1532	5153
DENNIS EWERT	15-Nov-20	27	451	559	331	316	467	645	593	1571	4933
BILL LATCHIC	15-Nov-20	28	486	579	390	317	465	566	568	1480	4851
BILL DERRICK	15-Nov-16	29	252	482	331	324	516	695	573	1669	4842
JIM HIRSTEIN	15-Sep-19	30	370	434	242	284	451	647	522	1497	4447
JAMES KEEVIL	15-Nov-20	31	372	391	284	352	511	513	560	1272	4255
TRACI HANSON	15-Nov-20	32	403	464	254	282	343	427	548	1214	3935
MIKE STROTHER	15-Nov-20	33	354	268	471	358	401	495	452	1025	3824
WILLIAM GRADY	15-Nov-20	34	382	463	183	261	429	489	388	1172	3767
WILLIAM WEBER	15-Nov-20	35	437	195	180	318	439	393	267	1214	3443
JOHN LANE	15-Nov-20	36	341	403	271	286	409	394	418	902	3424
DAVID BIRCH	15-Nov-17	37	330	405	235	266	388	392	388	863	3267
JACK FRANZ	15-Nov-20	38	425	531	217	197	260	225	201	1106	3162
JOHN PANHORST	15-Sep-20	39	389	533	262	392	471	603	312	0	2962
SEAN KENNEDY	15-Nov-20	40	13	3	8	357	5	18	604	1593	2601

SOUTH CENTRAL										T Y P E S					(Page 3 of 3)	
COLLECTOR			DATE	RANK	AL	AR	KY	LA	MS	OK	TN	TX	TOTAL			
					548	623	490	453	626	768	712	1883	6108			
DUANE SHIFFERT			15-Nov-20	41	236	179	273	317	164	255	549	520	2493			
ED OWENS			15-May-18	42	80	284	58	265	369	390	41	914	2401			
JOHN ADAMS			15-Jan-18	43	253	185	260	106	170	237	256	411	1878			
DAN BAUGHER			15-Mar-19	44	33	288	371	352	212	82	54	228	1620			

who maintains his hold on the 6<sup>th</sup> rung. Crosby overtakes Parker to jump from 10<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>. Parker maintains his hold on the 8<sup>th</sup> rung. Masters improves from 12<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, overtaking Adkins, who improved from 11<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>. Trim moves up from 14<sup>th</sup> to hold the 11<sup>th</sup> rung, while Patterson advances from 13<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. Batdorf advances several steps from 17<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. Challey advances one step from 15<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> while Schwartz skips from 18<sup>th</sup> to now hold the 15<sup>th</sup> slot. Ross holds firm at position 16 and Noble moves up from 19<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. Blanford also rises two positions, Earle comes up from 22<sup>nd</sup> to grab the 19<sup>th</sup> step and Schrier advances from 21<sup>st</sup> to close out the top 20.

The top collection still lacks 12 types, the same as last year. The 10<sup>th</sup> collection now lacks 283 types, three less than last year.

## LOGANSPOORT, IN L-3 HS REVISITED

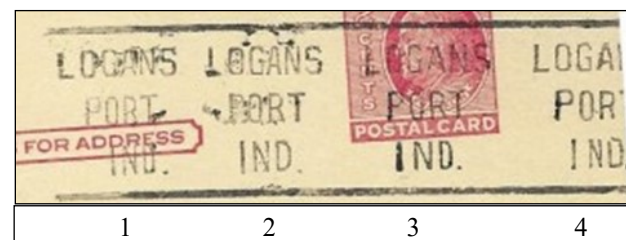
Dave Smith, PSS 123-4406

LOGANSPOORT, IN L – 3 HS (3,23) had the (3) added when it was noticed that there was a large “A” in one unknown subject of the device. Recently, I acquired the postal card shown on the next page; there are 4 subjects of the device visible.

This is proof that the “A” was not the only letter with different sizes. There as also a large “N” and “R” while the leg of the “R” is straight on some subjects and curved on others.

Upon comparing the card with stamps in my collection, I found some stamps that did not fit any of the above subjects. However, I had a few pairs. By using them for comparison, I concluded the L-3 HS was a six-subject device.

Position 1 has a medium “A,” narrow “N,” and a narrow, short-leg “R.”



Position 3 has a wide “A” and “N” and an “R” with the leg pointed out.

Position 4 has a medium “A,” a narrow “N,” an “I” spaced away from the “N” in “IND.” and a short-leg “R.”

Position 5 has a medium “A” and a large “R.”

Position 6 has a medium “A” and a short-leg “R” with the leg pointed out.



Logansport was a big railroad city until the 1920’s when the city supported a strike by the workers against the Pennsylvania Railroad. The company retaliated by cutting back on its rail hub. The roundhouse was turned into a facility to repair damaged rail cars. It has yet to regain the population it had in the 1920 census. Today it has several small manufacturers and a large packing plant. Many Hispanic workers work at the plant and have made Logansport their home.

The card was undoubtedly made in the early 1950’s. Two members of the Logansport stamp club worked at the post office, and the club had annual shows. The two created several interesting post cancel combinations in their work. Most can be dated to the early 1950’s. When I first moved to Indiana the club was very active with about 30 attending some meetings. One of the members was in his 90’s and was a Boy Scout Scoutmaster, a position he had since becoming the first scoutmaster in Indiana before Word War 1.

By the mid 1970’s membership had dropped, and the club was dissolved. I was its last president.

Below are other examples of the type.



<a href="#">1920</a>	21,626	13.5%
<a href="#">1930</a>	18,508	-14.4%
<a href="#">1940</a>	20,177	9.0%
<a href="#">1950</a>	21,031	4.2%
<a href="#">1960</a>	21,106	0.4%
<a href="#">1970</a>	19,255	-8.8%
<a href="#">1980</a>	17,899	-7.0%
<a href="#">1990</a>	16,812	-6.1%
<a href="#">2000</a>	19,684	17.1%
<a href="#">2010</a>	18,396	-6.5%
<b>2019 (est.)</b>	17,584	$\frac{1}{3}$ 1 -4.4%
Source: US Census Bureau		

I need an example of position 3 on a stamp.



The four shown below are all from position 5.



## PROVISIONAL USE OF POST OFFICE HANDSTAMPS FOR PRECANCELING

Arnold Selengut, PSS 194-4385

While preparing to mount in my album some vintage precancel covers that I had obtained several years ago, I noticed the three presented nearby as Figures 1, 2 & 3.

These all originated in France during the months of March through November 1910 and all were sent to the same person in Hartford, CT, no doubt by a relative, and possibly Mr. Starr. They were all short paid, so were subject to the double-deficiency penalty then in effect. The postage affixed was deemed to be 3¢ short by the PO clerk at the port of entry, so the NY “opera glass” was stamped on each cover on the front at lower left with the due penalty assessment of 6 cents. Upon arrival in Hartford, that PO Clerk affixed 6¢ worth of 1895 postage dues which were paid for by the addressee. The postage due stamps were precanceled, and this is where the story becomes interesting to both the precancel collector and the postal historian.

For whatever reason, a suitable device designed for precanceling was not available, so the PO clerk used a wide rubber handstamp to precancel the stamps while they were still part of the original pane. His purpose in so doing was to avoid the extra work of having to apply the stamps and then cancel them after they were on the envelope. As was a typical practice at the time, the precanceling was probably done sometime before the need arose, so that the already precanceled stamps were available at his workstation for the clerk to use when he needed them.

The words and partial words on these due stamps are provided in the block under each envelope on the following pages.:





March 23, 1910 cover – 2¢ pair “correct address”; 2¢ single “of your”.



Sept, 17, 1910 cover – 1¢ single “ublisher” (INVERTED); 5¢ single “address”

### TEXAS PRECANCEL CLUB

Y'all come to our Spring Meeting!

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[retsoftware@hotmail.com](mailto:retsoftware@hotmail.com) or [kh.foster@hotmail.com](mailto:kh.foster@hotmail.com)



## CATALOGS

*National and Service Inscribed Precancel Catalog* (NSI) contains precancels formerly included in Part III of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition *Bureau Catalog* and precancels released by USPS after publication of that *Catalog*. All known NSI precancels illustrated in color. Pages are three-hole punched and are the same size as those of most PSS Catalogs.

Print copy, \$20.00; PDF copy \$15.00

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Payment by check, drawn on a US bank, or PayPal.

Larry Patterson, PO Box 3442, Cary, NC 27519-3442

or [larryofjtrack@bellsouth.net](mailto:larryofjtrack@bellsouth.net)



Nov 22, 1910 cover – 2¢ single “Noti” (partially under the left 2¢ of the pair; 2¢ pair “ur correct address”.

From this data we can reconstruct what the wide office handstamp said. It was “Notify publisher of your correct address”.

The use of a long handstamp like this enabled the clerk to quickly precancel a large number of stamps still in their pane with a minimum number of strikes. This was apparently considered an expedient substitute for not having an appropriate precancel device (if one was even available in the office at that time) or using the more usual pen & ink or crayon approach.

Note that each of these covers has a correspondence number written on the front. The first one has 53, the second 81 and the third 99. The span of time covered by the three covers is 9 months, give or take a week. Mr. Starr was writing to his wife at least once per week and sometimes twice. There should be many more examples of this correspondence out there, probably having the same or similar provisionally precanceled due stamps. Keep your eyes open!

## WASHINGTON NOTES

Jack D. Blanchard, PSS 3427  
Washington Catalog Editor

Over the years there have only been a limited number of errors that have occurred on precancel devices. The most obvious of these were committed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) itself with the OIHO from Cincinnati. The BEP also committed another error from Ventura, Calif. with Ventura below Calif. on one subject. I am familiar with errors from Washington as I only follow this state. Other states probably have similar errors on precancel devices as mentioned below.

There are couple of rubber handstamps errors from Washington of which I am aware. The first is on a Bellingham 413 device which has an “n” for the “m” somewhere on this rubber device. Someone in the Olympia Post Office altered the Olympia L-1 HS and L-2 HS devices after they had been used for a while. The “a” was cut off on this 3-subject hand stamp. I have strips showing both versions of these 2 types.

The Potomac Electroplate Company of Washington, D.C. made many of the metal hand-electros. The only one I have is the Wash. below Bong on the 729 Bong, Wash device. I am not aware of any other hand electros from Washington with errors. The Postmaster at Fairfield, WA was an amateur printer and at some time he flattened the 734 hand electro, mounted it on a wood block and used the flattened device to precancel stamps. So, if you have a Fairfield 734 that looks printed, it could be.

A few errors, or alterations, occur on 100-subject electroplates. All of these plates are known as correct, as far as I know. Some liberties have been taken, such as the plate being cut to provide a smaller device. Wenatchee, WA is known to be hand-applied. Spokane 205 was cut by a Sears Roebuck employee to make a few precancels.

When it comes to the vinyl devices, Baumgartner, the manufacturer of most, if not all, of the vinyl devices really dropped the ball. The Littleton, MA. device has the top two subjects of this 841 device with WA instead of MA. Another very visible vinyl error occurs on the Kapowsin 904 device. Subject 7 of the 10-subject device reads “Akapowsin.”

Subject 3 of the Solomon, AZ 841 device reads “Solomon.”

I’m sure other states probably have similar stories.





**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



While you continue to isolate at home.  
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2/21

**WANTED:** Wisconsin Precancels. Send your list of available stamps or ask for my want list. Steven R. Bassett, P.O. Box 930066, Verona, WI 53593, bassett@srbassett.com

6/21

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Given the current situation, it is suggested  
everyone verify an event before leaving home.**

**January 18 - 21, 2021 (Mon - Thur, Florida Winter Meet: CANCELED)**

**March 20, 2021, Texas Precancel Club Spring Meeting:  
CIRCUMSTANCES PERMITTING**

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**June 4-5, 2021, New England Precancel Club Meeting:** Marriott Courtyard,  
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**August 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 2021 PSS Convention,** Best Western Royal Plaza  
Hotel in Marlborough, MA.

**November 5-6, 2021, New England Precancel Club Meeting:** Marriott  
Courtyard, 3 Eagle Road, Danbury. CT, Exit 8 off I-84, Friday 9AM to 9PM, Saturday 9AM to 3 PM

**(Accuracy of the above is based on information provided to the Editor.)**

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Ralph Kimball. email: ralphcollector@gmail.com. (831) 338-2088

Handstamp Dated and Printed dated questions answered by Gene Byers.  
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