

# Selected Precancels – Banknote Postage Dues

## Synopsis – 2/18/2015

This is a one frame overview of selected precancels used on Banknote Postage Dues from 1879 to 1894. The primary focus will be the few large cities which had a precancellation program and secondarily to consider some of the smaller cities which used precancels.

As precancels may be applied at any time prior to use, the display begins with provisional usages, moving on to lesser known and punch precancels, before briefly looking at a number of smaller town precancels, and finally ending with the precancels used in the major cities of Chicago and New York. The exhibit will have both on and off cover examples of precancels. Most of the off cover specimens are well known, with a few unidentified as to city of use.

Because of the preponderance of mail used at the major cities many precancels are relatively scarce in comparison to the large cities. An example is the Binghamton NY star punch precancel. However, the large cities had their share of scarce precancels such as the Chicago black CPO and a number of the New York Pearl cancellation variations with regard to orientation.

Even though there is not an extensive volume of research on precancellations used on Banknote Postage Dues, the references listed below offer a comprehensive outline, leaving enough room to find new discoveries, as well as fill in the details.

*Postage Due: The United States Large Numeral Postage Due Stamps, 1879-1894*, George B. Arfken (1991)

*Silent Precancels - Lines, Bars and Designs*, by David W Smith (1995)

Roger D Curran

Chicago Cancels on the Large Numeral Dues, US Cancellation Club News, August 2008

Canceling the Large Numeral Postage Dues Stamps, US Cancellation Club News, November 2004

Warren Bowers

St Louis Precancels on the Banknote Dues, US Specialist, Jan 1978