The Progression Of The New York Foreign Mail Cancellation 1870–1878

Introduction

New York Foreign Mail (N.Y.F.M.) cancellations were designed for use in the Foreign Mail Department of the main New York City Post Office. They were first identified by J. Murray Bartels in 1926 as *'... attractive cancellations used in New York City from 1870 to 1876 on outgoing foreign mail'*. This was later qualified by William R. Weiss, Jr in 1990 as *'... a group of cancellations usually applied to mail which usually originated in New York City and was usually destined for a foreign country (other than Canada)'*. He extended the period to 1878.

The aims of this exhibit are twofold

By treating N.Y.F.M. cancellation production 1870-1878 chronologically the exhibit demonstrates;

a) that hand-carved designs sequenced logically from **grids and wedges** to **basic fancy** designs to **classic intricate fancy** designs leading to the eventual replacement of all types by the **steel ellipse**

b) that production of the **classic intricate N.Y.F.M. fancy** designs commonly associated with the period 1870-1878 occured in the narrower timeband **Feb 1873 to Sept 1875**

Material on display

Whilst highlighting cancellation production the exhibit shows a wide range of N.Y.F.M. such as Supplementary, mail originating outside of New York City but attracting a N.Y.F.M. cancellation, mail leaving New York City by train for transit through San Francisco or New Orleans, Postal Cards, Entires, mixed issue frankings, advertisement, propaganda, mourning and steamship usage.

Numbers of cancel types

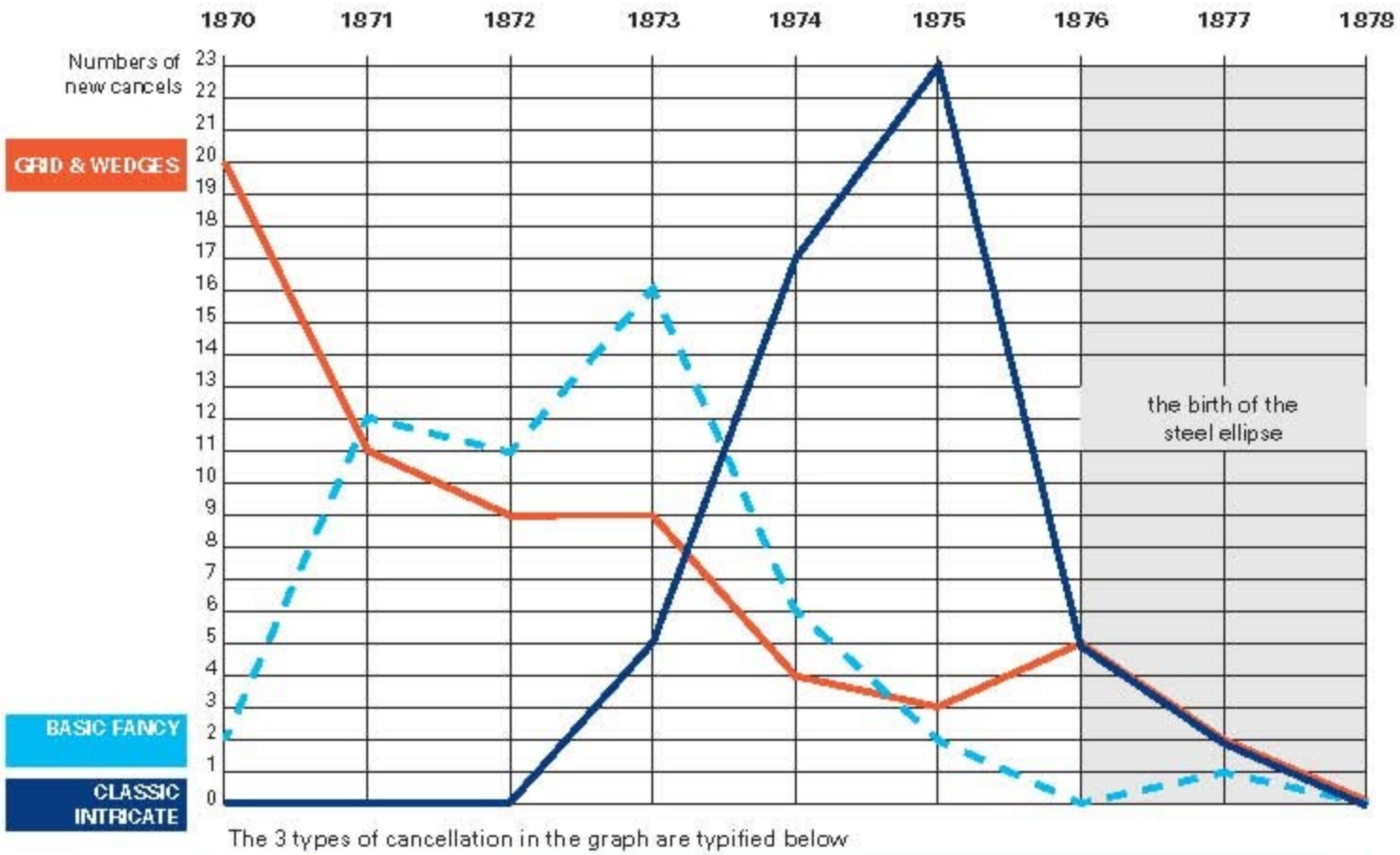
After excluding under/over-inked or broken varieties of one umbrella design, numeral and other cancellations designed for domestic use or cancellations proven not to have originated in New York City the exhibitor believes there are currently **165** distinctive N.Y.F.M. cancellation designs. He illustrates **147** of these with emphasis on the classic intricate fancy cancels which so became the hallmark of the period (55 of the reported 58 are displayed). Classification numbers are shown, when recorded, according to Vlissingen/Waud (VW), James M. Cole and William R. Weiss, Jr.

Dates of cancel use and numbers of covers

Dates for first and last cancel use (seen below each tracing) and numbers of covers are based on existing evidence and can change as new material emerges.

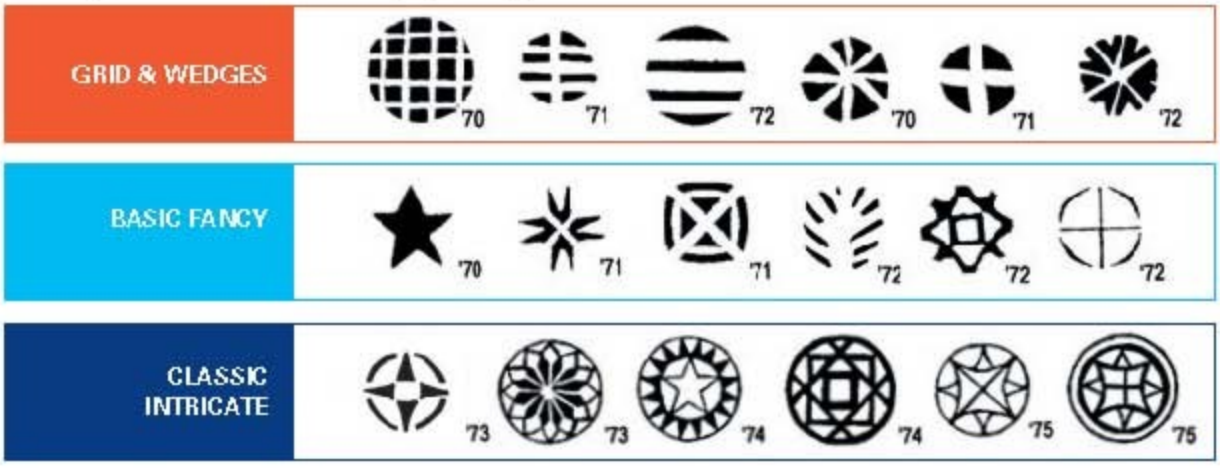
Exchange Office datestamps, where indistinct, are replicated as originally intended. They were used exclusively in the Foreign Mail Department and conveniently show dates of departure from New York.

GRAPH OF CHRONOLOGICAL PRODUCTION OF 165 N.Y.F.M. CANCELLATIONS



The 3 types of cancellation in the graph are typified below

tracings 50% of actual size



Conclusions

a) 1870 to 1873: **grids and wedges** predominate. Emergence of the **basic fancy cancellation**

b) 1873 to1875: introduction and predominance of the **classic intricate fancy cancellation**

c) 1875 to 1878: all handcarved cancellations diminish prior to the introduction of the **steel duplex ellipse cancellation**

1870 – THE 1st YEAR

Grids & wedges predominate

WEDGES

3/5/1870
to
10/15/1870

VW S13
WEISS TR-W6
COLE NYFM98

PAID ALL

10/15/1870 to Austria

A worn and latest use of 3 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 4¢ Circular Mail rate via North German Union (NGU) Direct

GRID

8/19/1870
to
11/4/1875

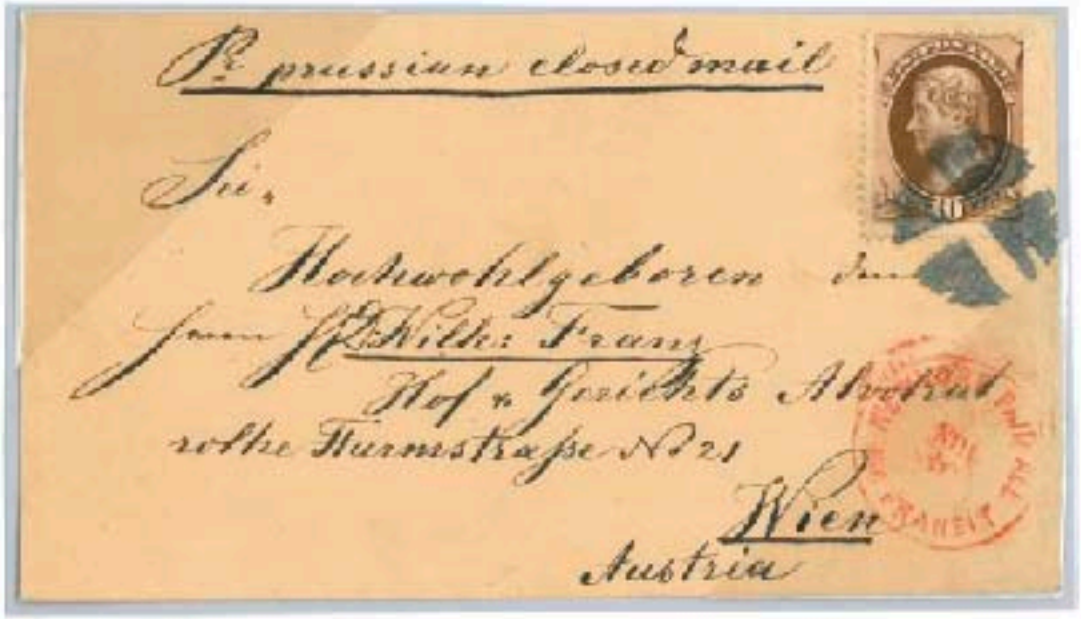
VW F14
WEISS TR-G37

8/10/1872 to France

Postage of 42¢ paid the French Mail rate, via England, for 40 to 50 grames

1870

WEDGES



20 mm diam

4/2/1870
to
6/10/1876

VW F7c
WEISS TR-1A

11/30/1870 to Austria
Although this quartered cork family spans virtually the whole of this N.Y.F.M. period this smaller type is relatively uncommon

Postage paid the 10c NGU rate via England

GRID

4/26/1870
to
6/11/1872

WEISS TR-G25A

2/22/1872 to St Croix (via St Thomas)
8 covers reported with this cancel (note the negative lines in the segments)
10 N.Y.F.M. uses reported to Danish West Indies
(the Virgin Islands consist of 3 islands, St Thomas, St Croix & St John)

Postage of 20c paid double the 10c Packet rate via St Thomas

1870

WEDGES

4/14/1870
to
4/23/1879

VV F9
WEISS TR-C1

2/6/1873 to Germany
The most common N.Y.F.M. cancel spanning the period 1870-78
Off cover uses are difficult to confirm as N.Y.F.M.'s because this style of killer was used in many U.S. towns

Postage of 6c paid the NGU Direct rate via Hamburg

BASIC FANCY 'STAR' (first reported basic fancy)

5/4/1870
to
4/13/1875

VV A29
WEISS ST-5 P1
COLE NYFM-60

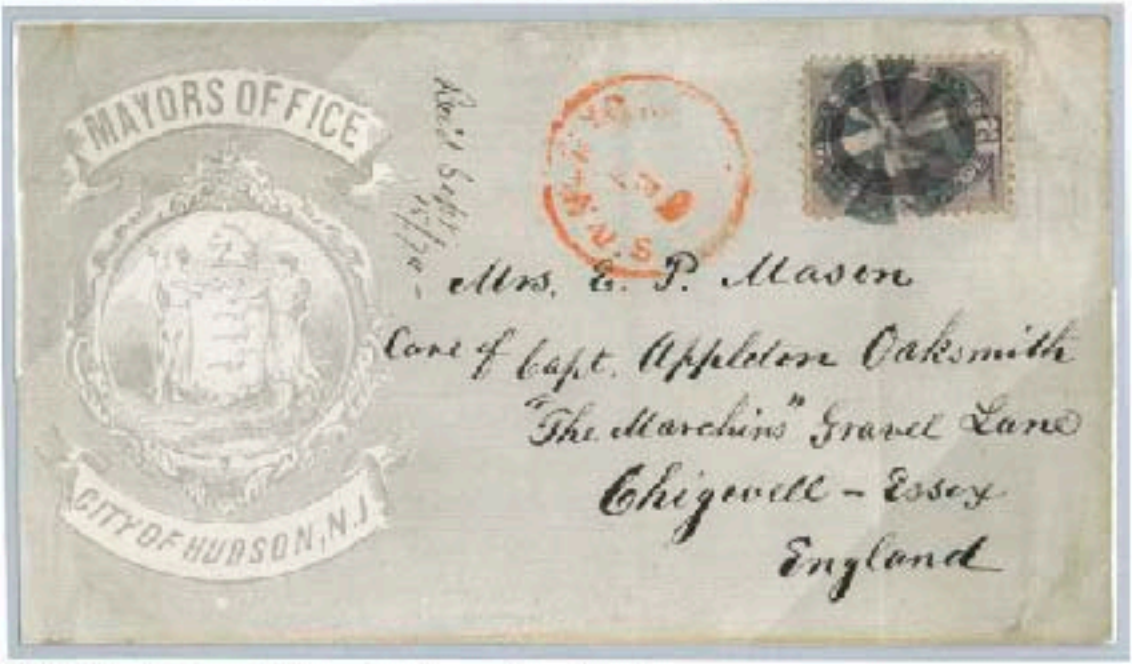
10/31/1871 3 colour franking to Germany
10 covers reported with this cancel

Postage of 6c paid the the NGU Direct rate via Hamburg
(the Direct Steamer rate was reduced from 7c to 6c on 10/1/1871)

1870

WEDGES

NOT ORIGINATING IN NEW YORK CITY YET ATTRACTING A N.Y.FM. CANCEL



9/3/1870 to England. Although addressed as from the Mayor's Office, New Jersey, this was most probably carried out of the mails for transit from New York City

Postage paid double the 6c British Treaty rate

5/14/1870
to
2/15/1874

VW R4 family
WEISS TR-W12

As originally intended

"NOTES" & "20" omitted & adapted as a postage due marking on outbound mail

GRID

6/1/1870 to Italy
2 covers reported with this cancel

Postage of 20c overpaid by 1c the 19c NGU Closed Mail rate

6/1/1870
to
7/20/1872

VW F19 var
WEISS TR-G8

Exchange Office datestamp
On the rear

1870

WEDGES

4/11/1870
to
12/19/1875

WW S17 family
WEISS TR-W4E

3/17/1874 to England
Many varieties of this circle of wedges exist
A note on the rear reads '.. *at anchor on account of gale 7 swell*'

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

WEDGES

10/7/1871

WEISS TR-W4C

10/7/1871 to England
The sole reported example of a 'Dot in Centre' variety on cover (from 1871)

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

1870

WEDGES

5/28/1870 redirected from Italy to Spain
An earliest reported use of this cancel

Postage of 10c paid double the previous 5c British Open Mail rate with 4 reales due in Spain

5/28/1870
to
6/18/1870

VW S22
WEISS TR-C3
COLE NYFM-93

use on an 1869 30c stamp

WEDGES

8/29/1874 to Mexico
Latest reported use of this cancel which is worn or overinked

Duplexed in black as was normal for mails to Central America

Postage paid the 10c American Packet rate

7/?/1870
to
8/29/1874

VW S23
WEISS TR-C5
COLE NYFM-94

use on an 1869 12c stamp

1870

GRID

3/15/1872 to Valparaiso
40 covers reported with this cancel
3 N.Y.F.M. uses reported to Chile

Postage paid the 22c British Packet rate via Colon

7/12/1870
to
12/4/1875

VW F13a
WEISS TR-G26

GRID

5/27/1871 to England
10 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

7/21/1870
to
9/13/1875

VW F19
WEISS TR-G10

1870

WEDGES

2/19/1870
to
1/22/1873

VV F5
WEISS TR-W11

7/27/1870 to Downpatrick. Various sizes & styles of this cancel exist
15 covers reported with this cancel
12 N.Y.F.M. uses reported to Ireland

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

GRID

9/9/1870
to
5/9/1871

VV F15
WEISS TR-G41

Front dated 9/14/1870
8 covers reported with this cancel
6 N.Y.F.M. uses reported to Algeria (part of France)

Postage of 4c paid the British Open Mail rate (5 centimes due on arrival)

1870

GRID

9/20/1870 to Talcuhuana
4 covers reported with this cancel
3 N.Y.F.M. covers reported to Chile

Postage paid the 22c rate by American Packet to Panama and then by British Packet to Chile

9/20/1870
to
6/12/1873

VW F14
WEISS TR-G30

WEDGES

11/29/1873 to Finistere (a province in Brittany, France)
68 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 10c British Mail rate via Great Britain

10/20/1870
to
8/2/1879

VW F4
WEISS TR-W13

Sole 30c block
reported with this cancel

GRID

11/20/1870
to
7/10/1872

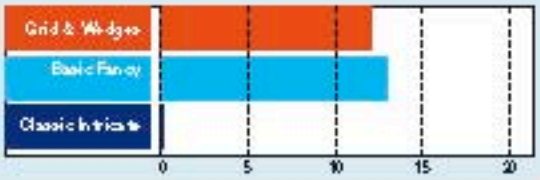
WEISS TR-G9a

7/10/1872 to Germany
A worn example of 2 uses reported uses of this cancel on cover

Postage paid the 7c NGU rate

1871 – THE 2nd YEAR

Grids & wedges compete with a sharp rise in basic fancies



GRID

1/11/1871

WEISS TR-G11A

1/11/1871 to England
The sole reported use of this cancel on cover

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

BASIC FANCY 'CIRCLE OF ARROW HEADS'

3/25/1871
to
9/28/1972

VW S16
WEISS TR-C7
COLE NYFM-84

3/13/1872 to France
The sole example of this cancel reported on a 15c on cover
Following the 90c & 30c the 15c is the scarcest on cover N.Y.F.M. adhesive. From over 1,700 N.Y.F.M. usages, under twenty 15c covers are reported, a 10th of 1%

Postage of 16c paid the French Treaty rate for 10g to 15g via Great Britain

1869 Issue stamps

WEDGES

3/25/1871 to England
A first day of reported use of this cancel

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

3/25/1871
to
10/5/1878

VW S20
WEISS TR-C4
COLE NYFM-91

WEDGES

10/25/1871 mourning cover to England
2 cover reported with this variety 'square in centre' (from 1870)
(it is debatable whether this was a deliberate variety or an ink speck)

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

7/?/1870
to
10/29/1871

VW S21
WEISS TR-C4A
COLE NYFM-92

1871

GRID

4/19/1871

VW P12 family
WEISS TR-G21

4/19/1871 to England
The sole use of this cancel reported on cover

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

BASIC FANCY 'ROSETTE'

5/9/1871
to
7/22/1871

VW A26
WEISS TR-M6
COLE NYFM-89

7/22/1871 to England
A latest use of 2 reported covers with this cancel

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

Early under-inked
state on a 90c
1 – 15

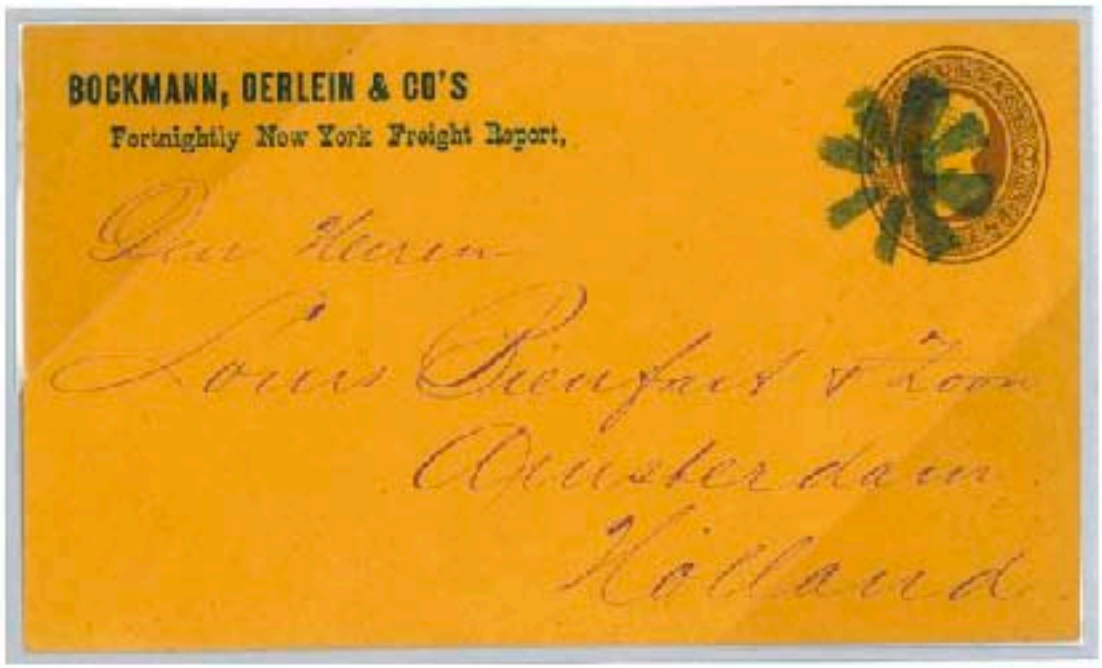
BASIC FANCY 'SPOKES'

5/9/1871
to
7/?/1876

VW S4
WEISS TR-S3

7/11/1871 to England
13 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 6¢ British Treaty rate



7/?/1876 Stamped Envelope to Holland (dated per rear backstamp)
Latest use of this cancel reported on cover
The new extended time from for use of this cancel (previously contended to have been withdrawn from service in 7/28/1871) illustrates that clerks would use old devices when to hand. The cancel measures precisely to the original

Postage paid the the 2¢ Circular rate (flap ungummed & unsealed as was required)

1871

GRID

5/13/1871
to
6/20/1871

VW F13e
WEISS TR-G17

5/13/1871 red Supplementary Mail Type 'A' to England (type 'A' had reported use 25/8/1870 to 11/6/1873 and the cachet is only known in red)
An earliest use of 2 reported covers with this cancel
Postage of 12c paid the 6c Treaty Rate plus 6c Supplementary Mail fee

Supplementary Mail was a system which allowed a sender who missed the regular mail at the main PO to go down to the quayside, pay a fee expressed with additional postage, and get the letter taken directly onto the ship.
From 7/10/1873 this service was available at the main P.O., not at the pier.

BASIC FANCY 'STAR WITH NEGATIVE CENTRE'

5/23/1871
to
7/14/1877

VW A25
WEISS ST-9 P1
COLE NY FM-62

red cachet missing

7/27/1872 red Supplementary Mail Type 'A' to France
Type 'A' cachets were rarely fully struck or occasionally missing completely (as here)

Postage should have been 4c British Open Mail rate plus 4c Supplementary Mail fee = 8c so postage paid of 12c was 4c overpaid. Possibly brought to the pier with stamps already affixed – people were not so familiar with the changing rates during this 'no treaty' period

BASIC FANCY SHIELD

6/6/1871
to
7/3/1871

VW C10
WEISS RE-E2
COLE NYFM-69

6/8/1871 to Belgium
The sole 2 strikes of this cancel reported on a pair of 10's
This shield cancel was a further indication that someone in the Foreign Mail Dept was prepared to experiment carving more imaginative & elaborate designs

Postage of 20c paid double the 10c Belgium Closed Mail rate

1871

GRID

7/20/1871

WEISS TR-G39

7/20/1871 to Germany
The sole reported use of this cancel on cover

Postage paid the 7c NGU Treaty rate

BASIC FANCY "SPOKES"

7/24/1871
to
11/8/1877

WW S1
WEISS TR-S1

2/1/1873 to England
5 covers reported with this cancel, the smallest 'spoke' variety

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

1871

GRID

6/22/1871
to
8/8/1871

VW F13
WEISS TR-G35

8/8/1871 to England
A latest use of 8 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

GRID

8/8/1871
to
10/14/1871

WEISS TR-G27

8/8/1871 to England
The earliest use of 2 covers reported with this cancel
Is this a distinctive type or a broken cancel? Probably a distinctive type as no trace of ink touches the 'missing' segments at top left and right

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

BASIC FANCY 'CIRCLE OF DIAMONDS'

10/10/1871
to
2/10/1873

VW A28
WEISS TR-W8
COLE NYFM-100

10/10/1872 to Germany
19 cover reported with this cancel
The sole reported 1c/6c combination with this cancel

Postage paid the 7c NGL Closed Mail rate via England

10/11/1871 to Germany
The sole reported of this cancel to Ireland

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

1871

GRID

9/21/1871

VW F15 family
WEISS TR-G41C

9/21/1871 to England
1 of 2 covers reported with this cancel both dated the same day

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

BASIC FANCY 'CROSS'

9/26/1871
to
10/20/1871

WEISS RE-S3
COLE NYFM-79
family

9/26/1871 Stamped Envelope to Bavaria (Germany)
The earliest use of 4 covers reported with this cancel

Stamps Envelopes account for approximately 3.5% of N.Y.F.M. usage

Postage paid the 7c NGU Direct rate

BASIC FANCY

11/19/1871
to
12/15/1871

VW G26
WEISS GE-S3
COLE NYFM-53

11/25/1871 to England

Postage of 12c paid double the 6c British Treaty rate

BASIC FANCY

1/19/1871
to
5/18/1872

VW F23
WEISS RE-S2
COLE NYFM-79

8/2/???? domestic use to New York

4 uses reported abroad and 2 domestically

The high value off cover uses tend to confirm this cancel was designed for use in the Foreign Mail Department

WEDGES

11/22/1871 mourning cover to England
Discovery and sole reported copy of this cancel on cover
Proved by being distinctly different to the earlier more rounded version. The 'arms' of the right angles are completely rectangular & straight whereas the 'arms' are rounded in the earlier version

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

11/22/1871

WEISS TR-C1A

Earlier rounded style
For comparison

GRID

12/28/1871 to England
An earliest of 8 covers reported with this cancel

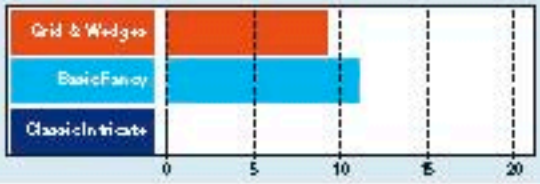
Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

12/28/1871
to
9/21/1872

WW F16
WEISS TR-G32
COLE NYFM-80

1872 – THE 3rd YEAR

A year that saw the first decline of grids and wedges and the continuing emergence of the basic fancy



BASIC FANCY LETTERS 'NYPO'

4/30/1872
to
5/14/1872

WEISS RE-L4
COLE NYPM-71

5/14/1872 to England
A latest use of 3 reported covers with this cancel spanning 14 days
A unique style of N.Y.P.M. cancel where 'NEW YORK POST OFFICE' is abbreviated to a two line 'NYPO'. The sole reported example with 2 strikes

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

BASIC FANCY 'LEAF'

5/16/1872

WEISS RE-LF1
COLE NYPM-63
family

5/16/1872 to Holland
The sole reported use of this cancel on cover

Postage of 20c paid double the 10c Netherlands Closed Mail rate effective Feb 1870

1872

BASIC FANCY 'LEAF'

5/30/1872 to Aspinwall (Columbia)
2 N.Y.F.M. uses reported to Panama

Postage paid the 10c American Direct Packet rate

5/18/1872
to
7/13/1872

VW C1
WEISS RE-LF3
COLE NYFM-63

BASIC FANCY – 'BEAR'S PAW'

6/6/1872 to England
7 covers reported with this cancel with use spanning 11 days

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

6/5/1872
to
6/15/1872

VW F1
WEISS TR-M4
COLE NYFM-97

1872

BASIC FANCY

5/1/1872
to
5/11/1872

VW G27
WEISS GE-S2
COLE NYFM-52

5/1/1872 to Saxony (Germany)
A first day of use of 7 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 7c NGU rate

GRID

6/20/1872
to
12/4/1875

VW F12a
WEISS TR-G6

1/24/1874 to Austria
The sole Postal Card reported with this cancel

Postal Cards account for approximately 12% of N.Y.F.M. usage

Postage paid the 6c NGU Direct Mail rate via Stettin

BASIC FANCY

6/26/1872 to France
A worn example & the earliest of 5 covers reported with this cancel

Due to the fragility of the carving the design seemingly started to break up almost from the 1st day of use and was taken out of service after 4 days

Postage paid the 10c French Treaty rate

6/26/1872
to
6/29/1872

VW G9
WEISS GE-S7
COLE NYFM-83

6/27/1872 front to England
A broken state of this cancel

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

1872

GRID

7/25/1872
to
8/21/1873

VW F11
WEISS TR-G31

7/27/1872 to England
8 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

BASIC FANCY

10/16/1872
to
3/2/1873

VW G24
WEISS GE-S1
COLE NY FM-54

11/5/1872 to Palermo
14 covers reported with this cancel
4 N.Y.F.M. uses reported to Sicily

Postage of 10c paid double the 5c Universal Postal Union (UPU) rate

1872

BASIC FANCY

on the rear
in black

11/9/1872 to Italy

Postage paid of 6c should have been 10c (per NGU Direct rate)
leaving 4c (55 Centesimi) due on arrival

1872

WEDGES

10/19/1872

WEISS TR-W2C

10/19/1872 to Germany
2 covers reported with this cancel both dated the same day

Postage paid the 7c NGU rate

WEDGES

10/10/1872
to
9/14/1875

WEISS TR-W3A

10/10/1872 to England
Earliest use of 2 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

BASIC FANCY A NEWLY DISCOVERED N.Y.F.M. '4 SPOKES' CANCEL

12/14/1872
to
12/21/1872

12/14/1872 to Germany
A new N.Y.F.M. cancellation confirmed by a twin below dated 1 week later

Postage paid the 6c NGU Direct Mail rate

BASIC FANCY

12/21/1872 to Cardenas (North coast of Cuba)
'NAI' translates *'Norte America 1 Real'* which was due on arrival in Havana

Postage paid the 10c American Packet rate

1872

BASIC FANCY 'TANKARD'?

12/12/1872
to
12/14/1872

WEISS TR-M9

12/12/1872 to France
An earliest reported use of 2 covers with this cancel spanning 3 days
It is not possible to say for certain what this 'fancy' represents

Postage paid the 10c French Treaty rate

GRID

12/28/1872
to
1/1/1873

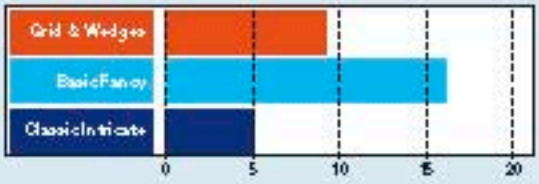
WEISS TR-G34

12/28/1872 to Germany
An earliest reported use of 3 covers with this cancel

Postage of 9c overpaid by 2c the 7c NGU Closed Mail rate

1873 – THE 4th YEAR

Emergence of the first intricate fancies whilst grids & wedges decline. Was a clerk encouraged to use his artistic skills? Or did the Department engage an agency for more recognizable cancels?



BASIC FANCY LETTER 'H'

1/9/1873
to
8/2/1873

VW C5
WEISS RE-L3
COLE NY FM-74

8/2/1873 6c Stamped Envelope to Prussia
A latest use of 2 covers reported with this cancel

Postal Cards above the 3c value represent a fraction of 1% of N.Y.F.M. usage

Postage paid the 6c NGU Direct Mail rate via Bremen

GRID

1/9/1873
to
1/11/1873

WEISS TR-G14

1/11/1873 to Norway
4 covers reported with this cancel. All show the negative zigzag at lower left

Postage paid the 12c NGU Closed Mail rate

BASIC FANCY 'NEGATIVE SQUARE'

1/29/1873
to
3/5/1873

VV C12
WEISS TR-M1
COLE NYFM-88

2/15/1873 to France
4 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 10c French Treaty rate

BASIC FANCY '4 BLADES'

1/29/1873
to
12/2/1873

VV F17
WEISS TR-M5
COLE NYFM-76

1/29/1873 to England
An earliest use of 5 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

1873

BASIC FANCY

2/19/1873
to
3/15/1873

WW G25
WEISS GE-S9
COLE NY FM-81

3/13/1873 to France

6 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 10c British Mail rate

WEDGES

5/18/1873 to Prussia (Germany)
7 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 7c NGU Closed Mail rate

2/24/1873
to
2/10/1873

WW S9
WEISS TR-W18

(duplexed)

WEDGES

3/1/1873 to England
A latest use of 3 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

2/25/1873
to
3/1/1873

WW S9
WEISS TR-W19

THE FIRST INTRICATE FANCY CANCEL

INTRICATE FANCY

2/27/1873 front to England
An earliest use of 3 covers reported with this cancel

Postage of 18¢ paid the triple 6¢ rate (6¢ per ½ ounce per the British/US Postal Convention of 1869 effective 1/1/1870)

2/27/1873
to
3/5/1873

VW G23
WEISS GE-S4

GRID

3/8/1873 front to England
The sole reported use of this cancel on cover

Postage paid the 6¢ British Treaty rate

3/8/1873

VW P15
WEISS TR-G39

WEDGES

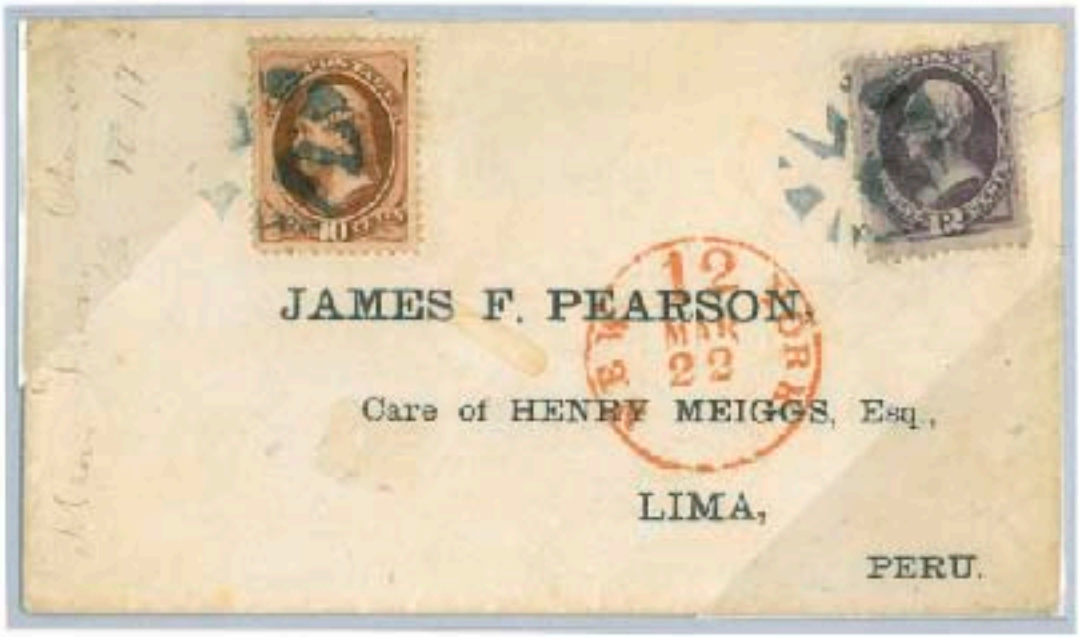
3/8/1973

WEISS GE-S5

3/8/1973 to France
1 of 2 covers reported with this cancel both used on the same day

Postage paid the 20c French Treaty rate for 15 to 20 grams

BASIC FANCY WEDGES



3/22/1873

WEISS TR-M8

3/22/1873 to Peru
Sole use of this cancel reported on cover
Carried on British Pacific Steam Navigation Co's ship via Aspinwall, across the Isthmus to Panama & then onward to Peru

Postage paid the 22c rate by American Packet to Colon, then British Packet to Peru

BASIC FANCY NEGATIVE 'H'

3/24/1873
to
10/1/1873

VW C3
WEISS RE-L2
COLE NYFM-72

9/6/1873 to Mexico
6 covers reported with this cancel

Postage of 20c paid double the 10c American Packet rate

grilled

INTRICATE FANCY

4/19/1873
to
5/19/1874

VW A1
WEISS ST-8P11
COLE NYFM-1

8/27/1873 to France
Although more than 120 N.Y.F.M. covers reportedly exist with this cancel this is the sole use known with a 15c stamp

Postage paid the 16c French Treaty rate for 10 to 15 grams

INTRICATE FANCY

3/14/1874 to Cairo via Southampton, Brindisi & Alexandria
5 N.Y.F.M. uses reported to Egypt

Postage paid the 15c NGU Direct rate

sole 6c block reported with this cancel

sole 12c block reported with this cancel

grilled

sole use of this cancel reported on a 90c Department of State

INTRICATE FANCY

presumed missing type 'A' cachet

7/12/1873 red **Supplementary Mail Type 'A'** to England

Postage of 24c paid double the 6c British Treaty rate plus 12c Supplementary Mail fee

It is thought that during the period June/July 1873, procedures at dockside were probably changing as type 'A' cachets can be found missing from other covers during this period. Senders came to the pier & the postal clerk did not have with him the cancel devices because they were in the process of being changed to type 'D'

largest reported 12c multiple with this cancel in red

INTRICATE FANCY

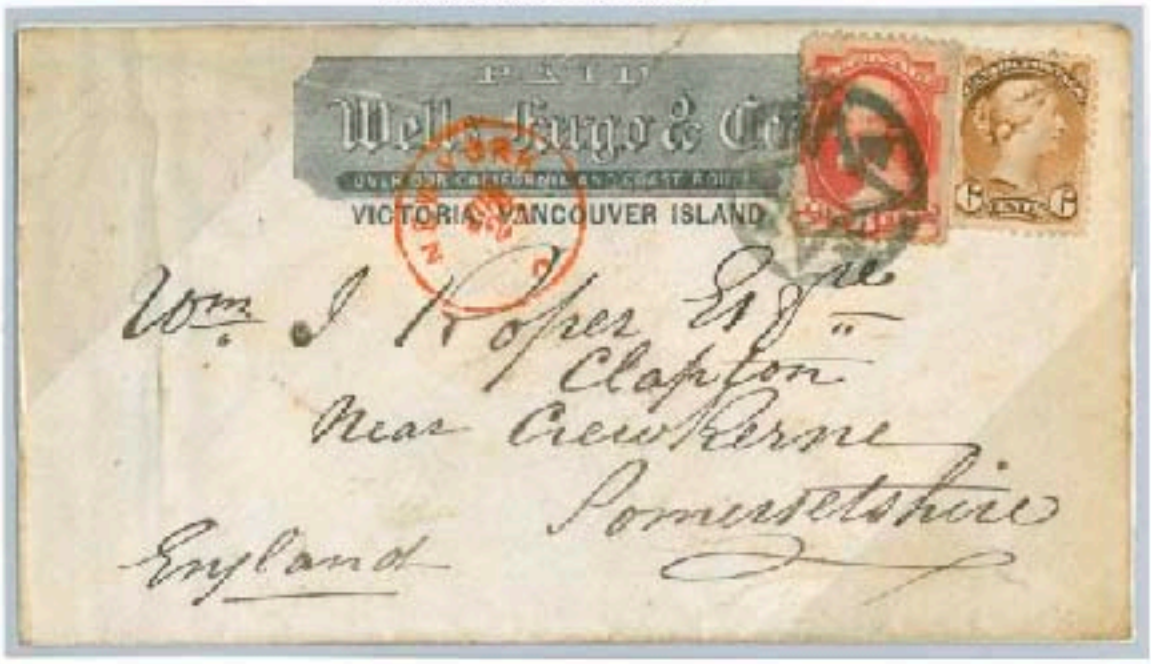
MIXED ISSUE FRANKING

3/20/1874 to Germany
4 mixed issue frankings reported with N.Y.F.M. usage
1861 5c brown (a late use of this stamp) with an 1870 1c ultramarine

Postage paid the 6c NGU Direct rate

INTRICATE FANCY

MIXED ISSUE FRANKING



3/26/1873
to
4/10/1875

VW A4
WEISS ST-8 P10
COLE NYFM-4

7/25/1873 **Wells, Fargo & Co from Canada** via New York to England

Franked with an uncancelled Canadian 6c as per directive and carried from Canada to the US out of the mails

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

INTRICATE FANCY

7/13/1873 from Cuba inbound to New York carried on 'MORROW CASTLE'
1 of 2 NYFM steamship covers reported with a N. Y. F. M. cancel

Postage paid the 10c American Steamship Rate

grilled
worn state

grilled
largest 3c strip reported with this cancel

largest 6c strip reported with this cancel

6c cut square

INTRICATE FANCY

8/21/1873 red **Supplementary Mail Type 'D'** to Belgium
Type 'D' was in reported use 8/9/1873 to 7/18/1874 (24 datestamps are known in red and 7 in black)

72 covers reported with this cancel

Postage due was 8c Belgium Closed Mail rate plus 8c Supplementary Mail fee = 16c. So postage of 28c was 12c overpaid

BASIC FANCY 'NEGATIVE H'

5/1/1873
to
7/10/1873

VW C4
WEISS RE-L1
COLE NYFM-73

a captured 'NEW YORK' on the 24c confirms NY origin. A part captured red Exchange Office datestamp does not

5/1/1873 to Mexico
An earliest reported use of 10 covers with this cancel

Postage of 20c paid double the 10c American Packet rate

INTRICATE FANCY 'NEGATIVE ROSETTE'

4/24/1873
to
6/11/1873

VV G22
WEISS GE-EP11
COLE NYPM-38

6/5/1873 red Supplementary Mail Type 'A' to France (cachet at low left of 10c pair). *5 covers reported with this cancel*
An unusual N.Y.P.M. cancel – being more common in red and scarce to rare in black. An explanation might be that this cancel was possessed uniquely by the clerk who conducted the Supplementary Mail service on the pier who would use red ink as a matter of course

Postage of 20c paid the 10c Anglo-French (1869) and US-British (1870) convention rate plus the 10c Supplementary Mail fee

WEDGES

9/6/1873
to
11/30/1875

VV R8
WEISS TR-W15

10/23/1873 red Supplementary Mail Type 'D' to France
8 covers reported with this cancel

Postage of 32c paid the 16c British Treaty Progressive rate for letters between 10-15 grams plus 16c Supplementary Mail fee

BASIC FANCY 'STAR IN CIRCLE'

4/10/1873
to
10/8/1873

VW A23
WEISS ST-8P2
COLE NYFM-61

4/10/1873 to Mexico
An earliest reported use of 8 covers with this cancel
There are 24 N.Y.F.M. covers reported with 30c stamps

Postage of 40c paid the quadruple 10c American Packet rate

BASIC FANCY – 'J' AT CENTRE

10/1/1873

10/1/1873 to Germany
The sole reported type with this variety. Can we speculate that the carver's Christian or Surname began with 'J'?

Postage paid the 6c NGU rate via Bremen

1873

BASIC FANCY

6/6/1873
to
8/30/1874

VV F3
WEISS TR-M7
COLE NYFM-85

8/7/1873 to France

7 covers reported with this cancel

The sole 6c/10c franking reported with this cancel

Postage of 16c paid the 6c British Packet Treaty rate of Jul 1870 for 1 third oz to half oz

worn state

1873

BASIC FANCY 'HEART'

7/24/1873

WEISS RE-S5
COLE NYFM-67

7/24/1873 to France
1 of 2 covers reported with this cancel both dated the same day
A first month use of a 1873 Banknote stamp

Postage paid the 16c French Treaty rate for 10 to 15 grams

WEDGES

9/25/1873
to
12/3/1873

WW S10
WEISS TR-W9

10/11/1873 stamped envelope to Germany

The sole stamped envelope of 11 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 6c NGU Bremen/Hamburg Direct Rate

1873

GRID

9/24/1873
to
10/8/1873

WEISS TR-G2

10/8/1873 to Germany
1 of 2 covers with this cancel both dated the same day

Postage paid the 7c NGU Direct rate

BASIC FANCY CONCENTRIC CIRCLES

12/21/1873

WEISS TR-T1
COLE NYFM-51
family

12/21/1873 Stamped Envelope to England
The sole reported cover with this cancel

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

INTRICATE FANCY

12/10/1873

VW A21
WEISS ST-MP5
COLE NY FM-59

12/27/1873 red **Supplementary Mail Type 'D'** to France

3 covers reported with this cancel all dated the same day

Postage paid should have been 20c (French fully prepaid rate for 15 to 20 grams) plus the Supplementary fee of 20c = 40c.
Postage of 44c was therefore 4c overpaid

INTRICATE FANCY

5/7/1874 red Supplementary Mail Type 'D' to England

12/18/1873
to
5/15/1875

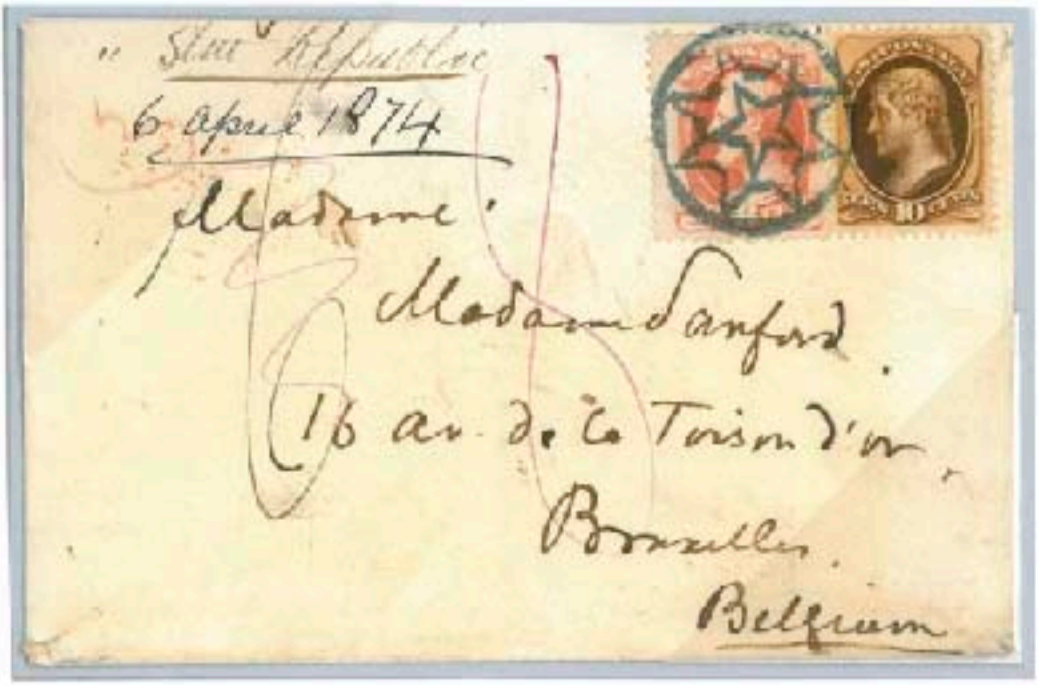
VW A 20
WEISS ST-MP3
COLE NYPM-29

Postage of 12c paid the 6c British Treaty rate plus 6c Supplementary Mail fee

2c Department of Post Office

sole reported 6c block with a red N.Y.F.M.

INTRICATE FANCY



on the rear

3/28/1874 to Brusselles
80 covers reported with this cancel
11 N.Y.F.M. covers reported to Belgium

Postage paid double the 8c Belgium Closed Mail rate (16c) but was sent as British Open Mail rate leaving postage due to be paid in Belgium

5/23/1874 to Amoy, 1 of 14 N.Y.F.M.'s to China
Departed N.Y. by train overland to San Francisco then by 1st Pacific Mail Steamship to Japan where it left on 6/13/1874 arriving via Yokohama at Hongkong on 7/15/1874.
Thence on Peninsular & Oriental's ship 'Norma' via Swatow arriving Amoy on 7/18/1874

Postage paid the 10c American Packet rate

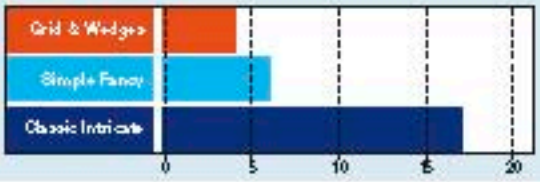
INTRICATE FANCY

6/6/1874 Postal Card to Switzerland

Postage paid the 2c Postal Card Switzerland Closed Mail rate via Bremen

1874 – THE 5th YEAR

A consistant increase in the production of intricate fancies whilst grids, wedges and basic fancies decline sharply



WEDGES

7/7/1874

WEISS TR-C9

Undated to Germany
1 of 2 undated covers reported this cancel both used abroad
Year dated using shipping data (Rhein decommissioned early 1875)

Postage paid the 2c Printed Circular NGU rate

GRID

1/27/1874
to
5/14/1874

WEISS TR-G33

1/27/1874 to Germany
The earliest and sole use on a Postal Card of 5 reported uses with this cancel

Postage paid the 2c Postal Card NGU rate

1874

BASIC FANCY 'SPOKES'

1/?/1874
to
9/11/1875

VW S3
WEISS TR-S4

11/21/1874 to Amoy. 14 N.Y.F.M. uses reported to China
Travelled from New York to San Francisco by train. Then by Pacific Mail Steamship Company steamer stopping at Yokohama enroute to Hongkong. Then by Peninsular & Oriental branch steamer from Hongkong, via Swatow, arriving Amoy 1/13/1875.
Rev Kip, a missionary, is buried in Greenwood cemetery, Brooklyn, NY

Postage paid the 10c American Packet rate

WEDGES

29 mm diam
2/2/1874
to
25/5/1879

VW F6
WEISS TR-W17

8/19/1876 Stamped Envelope red Supplementary Mail Type 'E' to Germany
Type 'E' datestamp was in reported use 8/8/1874 to 3/7/1877 (31 are known in black and 15 in red)
Various sizes & styles of this wedge design exist

Postage of 10c paid the 5c UPU rate to Germany plus the 5c Supplementary Mail fee

1874

WEDGES

10/7/1876 to Bahia
5 N.Y.F.M. uses reported to Brazil
Carried on White Star's 'Britannic' to England & then by Pacific Steam Navigation's 'John Elder' from Liverpool to Brazil

Postage paid the 2½ British Mail rate via Great Britain

WEDGES

sole 5c
block reported with this cancel

8/26/1876 red Supplementary Mail Type 'E' to Sachsen (Germany)

Postage of 10c paid the 5c UPU rate plus the 5c Supplementary Mail fee

INTRICATE FANCY

5/14/1874 to Germany
2 Postal Cards reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 2c Postal Card NGU rate

2/12/1874
to
10/16/1874

VW W2
WEISS GE-C7
COLE NYFM-45

sole 6c block reported with this cancel

worn state

INTRICATE FANCY

5/16/1874 red **Supplementary Mail Type 'D'** to Germany
The outer ring of this cancel is often broken or missing as shown in the examples below

Postage of 12c paid the 6c NGU Direct rate plus the 6c Supplementary Mail fee

6c cut square worn state

largest 12c strip reported with this cancel

INTRICATE FANCY

2/17/1875 to Germany
2 Postal Cards reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 2c Postal Card NGU rate

3/5/1874
to
4/20/1875

WW G2
WEISS GE-EN1
COLE NY FM-15

NOT ORIGINATING IN NEW YORK YET ATTRACTING A N.Y.F.M. CANCEL

Carried out of the mails from Mexico to New York for onward transit to England
There are 5 such reported N.Y.F.M. usages

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

1874

WEDGES

3/14/1874
to
12/19/1876

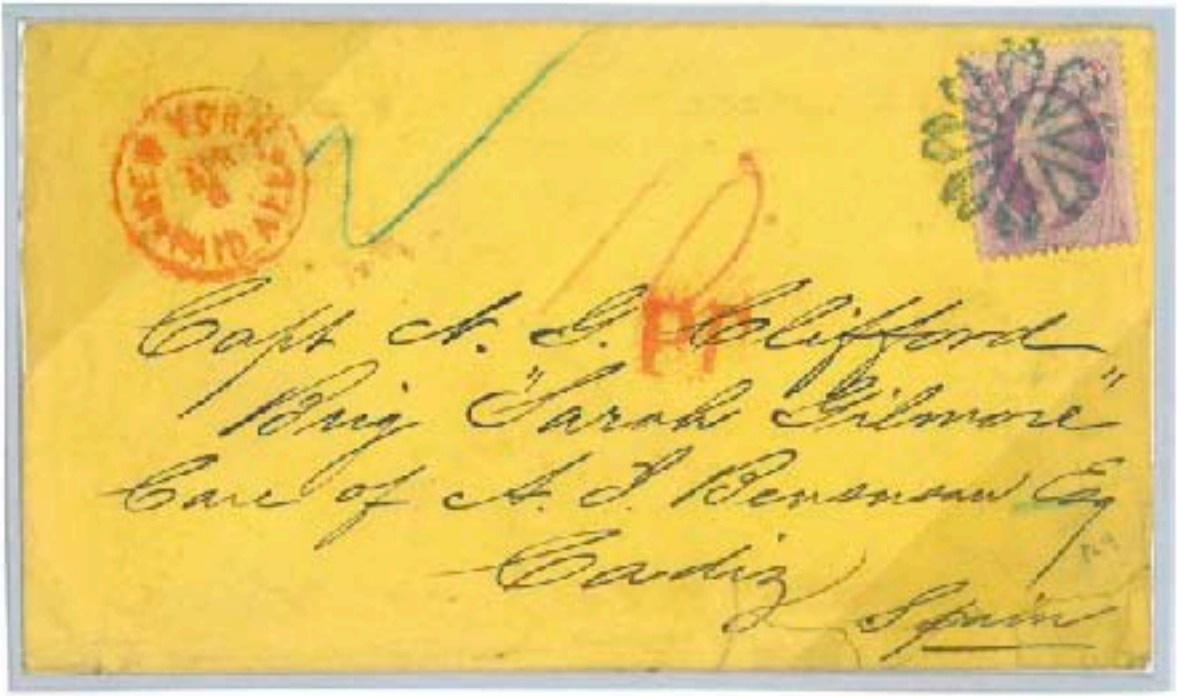
VW S18
WEISS TR-W4
family

12/12/1876 to Belgium
A latest reported use of this cancel & the sole one on a Postal Card
3 reported uses with this scarce sub-variety of wedges

Postage paid the 2c Universal Postal Union (UPU) Postal Card rate

It is difficult to confirm off cover uses as other US towns used this cancel type

INTRICATE FANCY 'CIRCLE OF HEARTS'



3/30/1874
to
9/12/1874

VW S14
WEISS TR-W5
COLE NY FM-99

4/8/1874 to Spain

Postage of 24c paid double the 12c UPU Closed Mail rate

INTRICATE FANCY

4/25/1874 to Bucharest
1 of 2 N.Y.F.M. uses reported to Rumania

Postage paid the 10c NGU Closed Mail rate

6/4/1874 Stamped Envelope to France

*Sent under the open mail provisions of the 1868 U.S/British Convention. The rate was 4c per half ounce, so postage paid of 6c was 2c overpaid. The cover was therefore more than fully paid to England. However the scarce '**PAID TO ENGLAND**' Exchange Office datestamp indicates payment TO England, not THROUGH England. Britain sent the letter to France under the 1869 Anglo/French Convention. The London debited France 40 centimes per 30 grams bulk weight. France charged 10 decimes postage due, a double rate, indicating the letter weighed more than 10 grams, but less the half an ounce (about 15 grams).*

1874

INTRICATE FANCY

1c/15c combination

late use on an 1856 24c

Department of Treasury 24c

WEDGES

7/14/1874
to
7/15/7874

WEISS TR-13E

7/15/1874 to Germany
A latest use of 2 reported covers, the other dated one day earlier
It is possible some of these wedge types are altered or worn variations of one original design

Postage of 14c paid double the 7c NGU Closed Mail rate

BASIC FANCY

6/?/1873
to
6/?/1875

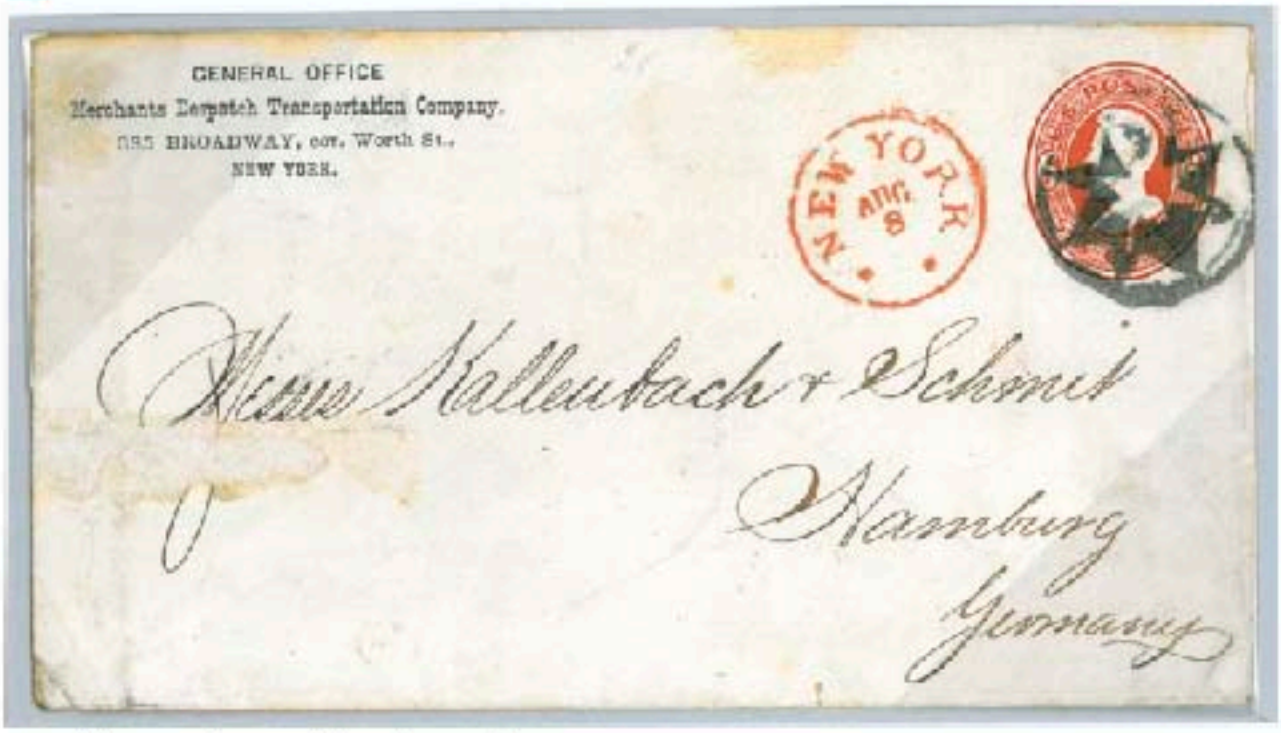
VW A5
WEISS ST-8P3
COLE NYFM-7

8/15/1874 to France

Postage paid the 9c French Mail rate

1874

BASIC FANCY



6/?/1873
to
6/?/1875

WW A8
WEISS ST-8P4
COLE NYFM-9

8/8/1874 6c Stamped Envelope to Germany

Postage paid the 6c NGU Direct Rate

1874

INTRICATE FANCY

9/5/1874
to
9/29/1874

VW A22
WEISS ST-MP4
COLE NYFM-59

8/26/1874 to England
10 covers reported with this cancel

Postage of 12c paid double the 6c British Treaty rate

largest reported multiple in red

3c/12c combination

worn or
overinked states

INTRICATE FANCY

10/9/1874
to
12/16/1874

VW G5
WEISS GE-EN3
COLE NYFM-19

11/14/1874 to Nizni Novgord
46 covers reported with this cancel
The sole strike of this cancel reported on a pair of 12c stamps
Although Nizni Novgorod is crossed out, that is where it eventually arrived on 1/7/1875 (according to the backstamp)

Postage of 24c overpaid the double 11c Closed Mail rate of 22c by 2c

11/17/1874 to France
Cancel breaking up - outer ring only partially showing

Postage of 16c paid equated to 80 centimes. As a double rate cover 125 centimes should have been prepaid leaving an insufficiency of 45 centimes

1874

INTRICATE FANCY

worn state - no outer ring

cancel complete crisp early state

over inked on worn state

largest reported 6c strip with this cancel

INTRICATE FANCY

9/17/1874
to
11/20/1874

WW A19
WEISS ST-MP1
COLE NYFM-55

9/24/1874 Stamped Envelope to Germany
24 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 6c NGU Direct rate

9/24/1874 to Germany
The sole use of this cancel on a Postal Card

Postage paid the 2c Postal Card NGU rate

INTRICATE FANCY

COMBINATION FRANKING U.S./G.B. STAMPS

9/24/1874 to East Grinstead, England - redirection to Shaftsbury
Sole such reported combination G.B./U.S. stamps with N.Y.F.M. usage

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate plus GB 1 penny red for the redirection

10/7/1874 to Germany

Postage of 14c paid double the 7c NGU Closed Mail rate

1874

INTRICATE FANCY

10/7/1874 to France

Postage paid the 9c French Mail rate

INTRICATE FANCY

9/13/1874
to
6/12/1875

VV G8
WEISS GE-EN7
COLE NYFM-21

12/19/1874 to Austria
3 covers reported with this cancel
This cancel is rarely found fully struck, on or off cover

Postage paid the 6c NGU Direct rate

INTRICATE FANCY 'COMPASS ROSE'

9/2/1873
to
5/?/1875

VV A27
WEISS ST-4P2
COLE NYFM-26

1/27/1874 to France
9 covers reported with this cancel
One of few N.Y.F.M. cancels to depict a known object

Postage paid the 9c French Mail rate

1874

INTRICATE FANCY

6c cut square

worn state

overinked or
worn state

INTRICATE FANCY

10/1/1874
to
12/14/1874

VW A17
WEISS ST5 P3
COLE NY FM-56

10/1/1874 to London
An earliest use of 10 reported covers bearing this cancel

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

10/6/1874 to Fiume, then a city within a corpus separatum of the Kingdom of Hungary (now part of Croatia)

Postage paid the 6c NGU Direct rate

INTRICATE FANCY

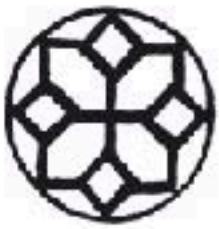
8/?/1874

VV W3
WEISS GE-O5
COLE NYFM-45

8/?/1874 Stamped Envelope to England
The sole copy of this cancel reported on cover

Postage paid the 2c Printed Circular Rate (unsealed & ungummed leaf)

INTRICATE FANCY



10/17/1874
to
11/14/1875

VV G5
WEISS GE-EN5
COLE NYFM-19

10/24/1874 red Supplementary Mail type 'E' to Germany

Postage of 12c paid the 6c NGU Direct Rate plus the 6c Supplementary Mail fee

1874

INTRICATE FANCY

BONA FIDE N.Y.F.M. CANCEL USED DOMESTICALLY

12/??/1874 to New York City
Unlike some this is not a 'look-a-like' domestic N.Y.F.M. cancel
Somehow the cover was processed expediently in the Foreign Mail Department

Postage paid the 1c Circular rate

over-inked state

worn or over-inked state on a 1c cut square

crisp early use

15c@3c combination

worn state

INTRICATE FANCY

9/5/1874
to
10/31/1874

VW G10
WEISS GE-EN8
COLE NYFM-22

9/8/1874 to Germany
3 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 6¢ NGU Direct rate

rare in red

worn or over
inked state

INTRICATE FANCY

11/25/1874
to
2/27/1875

VW W9
WEISS GE-C1
COLE NYFM-90

12/15/1874 advertising cover to Switzerland via Hamburg
13 covers reported with this cancel
Benziger was an importer of church furnishings & books

Postage paid the 8c Switzerland Closed Mail rate via Hamburg

worn or over-inked state

2 x 15c's

1874

BASIC FANCY

12/13/1874

WW A14
WEISS ST-4P1
COLE NYFM-13

12/13/1874 to England
The sole reported use of this cancel on cover
Whilst apparently unique on cover, off cover stamps with this cancel are relatively common

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

in claret

1874

BASIC FANCY

19 mm diam

12/2/1874

VW W7
WEISS TR-T2
COLE NYFM-51

12/2/1874 to Holland

1 of 2 covers reported with this cancel both dated the same day

Postage paid the 10c Netherlands Direct Mail rate

The off cover copies seem to show crisp thin concentric circle more likely to have been impressed with a STEEL cancelling device

INTRICATE FANCY

12/9/1874
to
12/24/1875

VW A13
WEISS ST-8R5
COLE NYFM-12

12/24/1874 to Montevideo

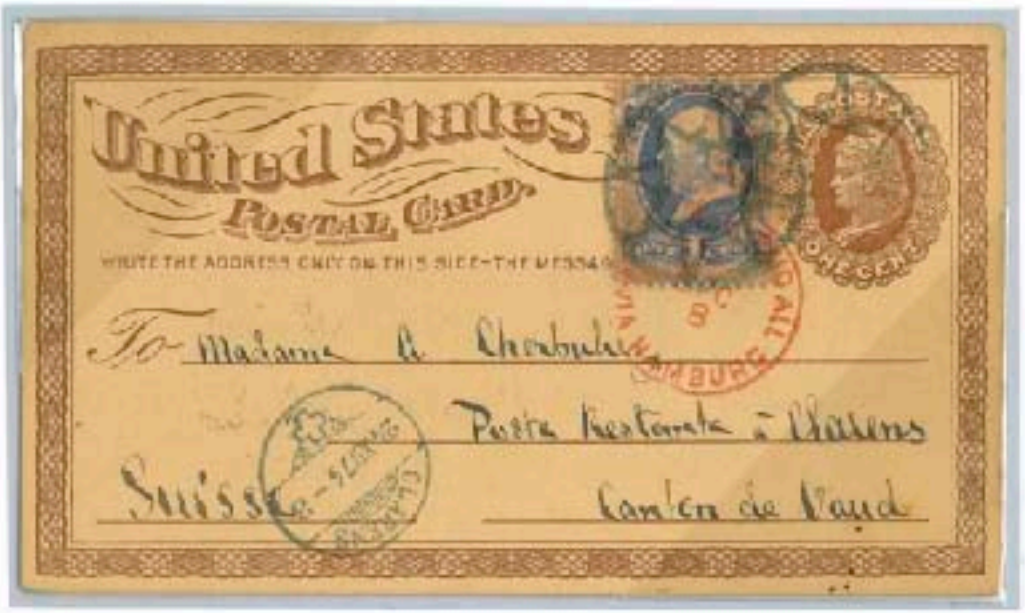
15 covers reported with this cancel

1 of 2 covers reported to Uruguay, one of the most scarce N.Y.F.M. destinations

Postage paid the 18c rate via American Packet to Rio de Janeiro, thence by British Packet to Montevideo

1874

INTRICATE FANCY



12/8/1874 to Switzerland
The sole reported use on a Postal Card & the earliest use of this cancel

Postage paid the 2c Postal Card rate Switzerland Closed Mail via Hamburg

in brown

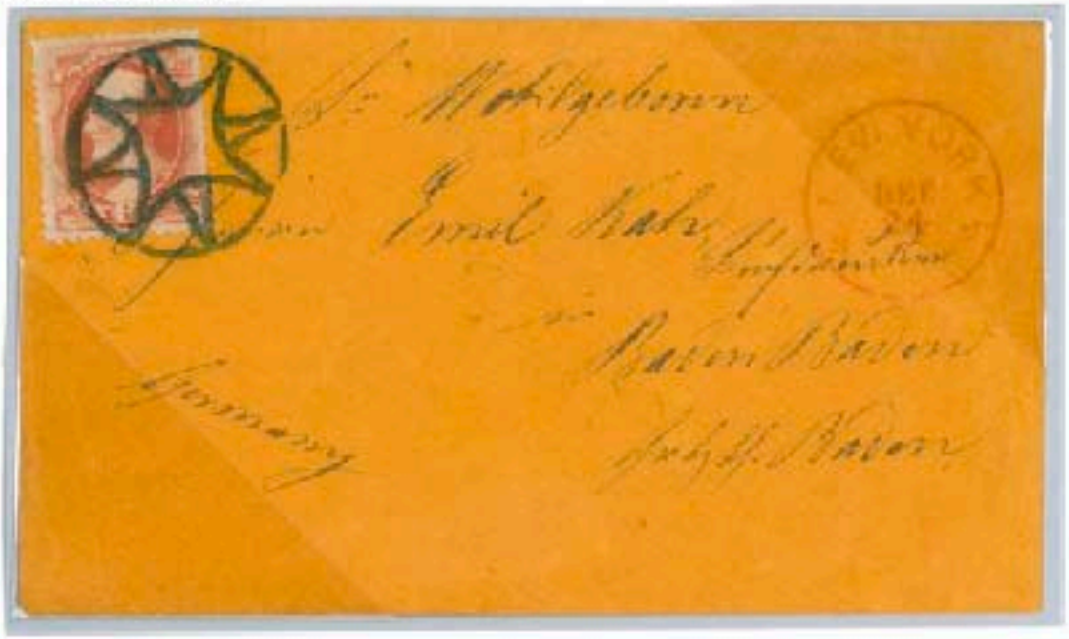
1/6/1875 3 colour franking red **Supplementary Mail type 'E'** to Italy
17 covers reported with this cancel

Postage should have been 10c direct Mail rate plus 10c Supplementary Mail fee, a total of 20c, so postage paid of 18c was 2c underpaid

in claret

1874

INTRICATE FANCY



12/24/1875 to Germany
Latest reported use of this cancel on cover

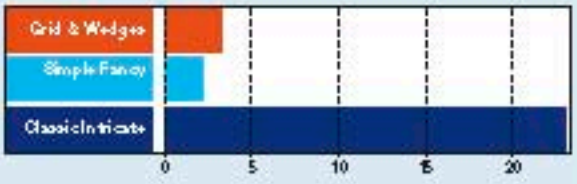
Postage of 6¢ overpaid the 5¢ UPU rate by 1¢

over-inked or
worn state

largest reported strip with this cancel

1875 – THE 6th YEAR

THE INTRICATE FANCY's GOLDEN YEAR



A continuing rise of intricate fancies peaking at 23.
Basic fancies, grids & wedges slump. However, from 12th Sept no further intricate fancy cancels appeared.

Was that when the P.O. relocated? (the new building was ready for occupation on 25th Aug).

Was there a reorganisation of staff or working practice?

Did the introduction of the General Postal Union on 7/1/1875 lead to a need for standardisation paving the way for the steel ellipse?

INTRICATE FANCY

30 mm diam
12 SPOKES
9/9/1875

WEISS GE-C3

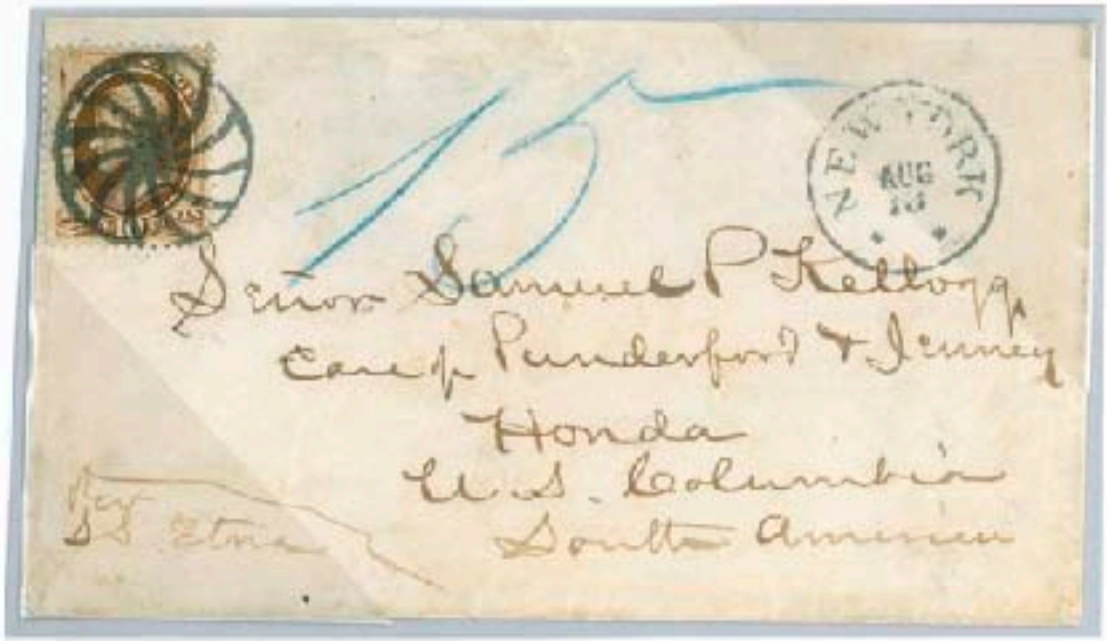
9/8/1875 to France
3 covers reported with this cancel all dated the same day

It was previously assumed this cancel existed only with 12 spokes
This type is also larger than the other 2 spoke designs

Postage paid the 9c French Mail rate

Cut square

INTRICATE FANCY



27 mm diam
12 spokes
8/7/1875
to
10/?/1875

WW W5
WEISS GE-C4
COLE NYFM-42

8/13/1875 to US. Columbia, South America
21 covers reported with this cancel
The sole reported N.Y.F.M. use to Columbia

Postage paid the 10c American Packet rate

largest 3c strip reported with this cancel

INTRICATE FANCY

9/8/1875 Stamped Envelope to Germany
2 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 5c UPU rate

INTRICATE FANCY

25mm diam
12 spokes
9/21/1875
to
9/25/1875

WEISS GE-C4A

9/21/1875 to India carried from N.Y. on Guion's 'DAKOTA' to England & then onward via Brindisi arriving Moradabad 12/2/1875 (backstamp)

The earliest reported use of 2 covers with this cancel spanning 4 days
It is smaller than the 12 and 13 spoke varieties with thicker spokes

Postage of 28c overpaid by 1c the prepaid ½ ounce Letter rate of 27c to India via England & Brindisi. This rate was used for 12 months from 7/1/1875 until the UPU rate of 10c became effective on 7/1/1876

INTRICATE FANCY

1/9/1875

VV W4
WEISS GE-05
COLE NYFM-47

1/9/1875 Postal Card to Prussia (Germany)
Although this cancel is relatively common off cover this is the sole reported use on an entire
The stamp is more commonly cancelled in red. In black it is scarce to rare

Postage paid the 2c Postal Card NGU rate

In claret

INTRICATE FANCY

1/11/1875
to
7/27/1875

VV G3
WEISS GE-EN4
COLE NYFM-16

7/27/1875 to Germany
16 covers reported with this cancel

Postage of 6c overpaid by 1c the 5c UPU rate

INTRICATE FANCY

2/24/1875 Stamped Envelope to Germany

Postage paid the 6c NGU Direct Mail rate

1875

INTRICATE FANCY

largest reported 6c strip
with this cancel

INTRICATE FANCY

1/13/1875
to
1/25/1875

VV A9
WEISS ST-8 P5
COLE NY FM-5

REAR

1/14/1875 2 sided advertisement cover to Prussia (Germany)
20 covers reported with this cancel

2 N.Y.F.M. covers reported with a strip of 6 x 1c stamps
The 4 strikes can be seen to weaken right to left as the device lost ink

Postage paid the 6c NGU Direct rate

1875

INTRICATE FANCY

1/15/1875 redirected to Italy

Postage paid the 9c French Mail rate

1/23/1875 to Prussia (Germany)
The sole reported Postal Card with this cancel

The sender writes on the rear *'Can you find me a portrait of Rudolph II Emperor of Germany 1552-1612?*

Postage paid the 2c Postal Card NGU rate

INTRICATE FANCY

blue/black

1/23/1875 to Hamilton
6 N.Y.F.M. uses reported to Bermuda

Postage paid of 28c shortpaid by 2c the triple 10c rate due of 30c

worn or overinked state

worn or overinked state

1875

INTRICATE FANCY

2/6/1875 to Spain

The cancelling device can be seen to lose ink as it moves right to left

Postage of 48c paid the quadruple 12c NGU Closed Mail rate

INTRICATE FANCY

1/13/1875
to
1/15/1875

VW A12
WEISS ST-8 P7
COLE NYFM-6

1/15/1875 to England
A latest reported use of 5 covers with this cancel, in use for 3 days

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty rate

outer line beginning
to break up

1875

INTRICATE FANCY

1/12/1875
to
2/17/1875

WW A15
WEISS ST-9P9
COLE NYFM-23

1/23/1875 to France
4 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 9c French Mail rate

INTRICATE FANCY

COVER NOT ORIGINATING IN NEW YORK CITY YET ATTRACTING A N.Y.F.M. CANCEL

on the rear

Originating Newark N.J. on 2/15/1875 via New York to Moradabad
14 N.Y.F.M. uses reported to India

Bears mixed issue stamps - an 1866 24c stamp & 2 x 1870 Banknote 2c stamps

Postage paid the 28c British Mail rate via Brindisi

Van Vlissingen notes on 3/30/1963 on the rear *'The only cover I have ever seen that was mailed and post-marked elsewhere, but still received a NY Foreign Mail cancel'.*

Since he made that note at least 4 further such uses have emerged

INTRICATE FANCY

2/6/1875 to France
4 covers reported with this cancel

This smaller version is scarcer than the earlier larger type shown previously

Postage paid the 9¢ French Treaty rate

25–26 mm diam

1/21/1875
to
2/17/1575

WW A11
WEISS ST-8 P8
COLE NY FM-6var

larger more common earlier type
(29-32 diam)

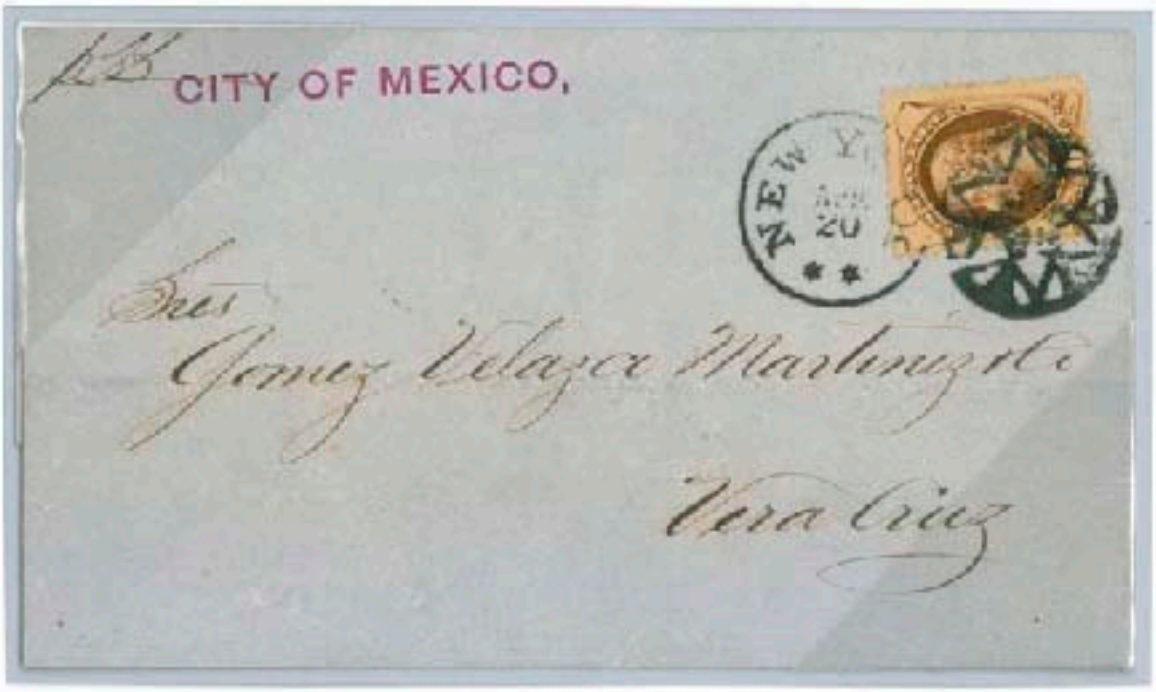
INTRICATE FANCY

2/26/1875
to
4/23/1875

VW G19
WEISS GE-EP5
COLE NY FM-29

4/15/1875 to Havana, Cuba
8 covers reported with this cancel

Postage of 20c paid double the 10c American Packet rate



4/20/1875 to Vera Cruz, Mexico

Postage paid the 10c American Packet rate

INTRICATE FANCY

TWO DIFFERENT N.Y.F.M. CANCEL DESIGNS ON ONE COVER

RETURNED FOR POSTAGE

5/11/1875 to Havana, Cuba, carried from New York on NY & Mexican's 'CUBA' arriving Havana 5/18/1875

The sole reported example of 2 different N.Y.F.M. cancels on one cover

Initial postage of 14¢ at the right did not pay the correct 20¢ due (double the 10¢ American Packet rate). The cover was returned for 6¢ to be added at the left. It was then that a different type cancel was applied

Below are shown the 2 types of cancel used on this cover

at right

All three worn or over-inked states

at left

VW G15
WEISS GE-EP3
COLE NYFM-35

INTRICATE FANCY

NOT ORIGINATING IN NEW YORK CITY YET ATTRACTING A N.Y.F.M. CANCEL

2/27/1875
to
8/19/1881

VW G4
WEISS GE-EN5
COLE NYFM-17

From Cuba to Spain via New York
12 covers reported with this cancel

Bears **mixed issue stamps,** 1869 Issue 2c, 5 x 1873 Banknote Issue 10c's and 2 x Cuban 50 cents peseta stamps

Cuban stamps were required for Cuban postage even though the cover did not enter the Cuban postal system. U.S. stamps were not valid in Cuba however they were available through the U.S. consul to assist senders to prepay mail via, or through, the U.S.

The endorsement 'Via E(stados) Unido' translates 'Via United States'. The endorsement beneath the top stamps reads 'Duplicate of letter sent 25th Feb 1875'

The cover travelled by direct US steamer from Havana to New York

US postage paid 20c for double the 10c Steamship rate to the US (to 1oz) plus 32c British Open mail rate, via France, to Spain (half to two thirds oz), a total of 52c. The total of 62c was therefore 10c overpaid. Two 25c Cuban stamps totalling 50c were added internally

1875

INTRICATE FANCY

1 of 2 N.Y.F.M. cancels
reported on an 1851 issue 90c

INTRICATE FANCY

3/13/1875
to
6/7/1875

VW G21
WEISS GE-EP10
COLE NY FM-34

4/10/1875 mourning cover to Italy
12 covers reported with this cancel

Postage of 16c overpaid the 11c NGU Closed Mail rate by 5c

INTRICATE FANCY

3/27/1875
to
5/12/1875

WW G1
WEISS GE-EN2
COLE NYFM-14

4/3/1875 to Germany
The sole reported cover bearing 2 x 7c stamps with this cancel

Postage of 14c paid double the 7c NGU Closed Mail rate

late use of a 1869 issue
15c with this cancel

Worn/over-inked

worn or over-inked

hole in centre variety

INTRICATE FANCY 'FOULED ANCHOR'

3/30/1875
to
12/23/1875

VW C2
WEISS RE-E4
COLE NYFM-68

3/30/1875 to Mexico
An earliest reported use of 8 covers with this cancel

Postage paid the 10c American Packet rate

4/1/1875 to Havana, Cuba
The sole reported cover with 4 strikes of this cancel

Postage of 20c paid double the 10c American Packet rate

1875

INTRICATE FANCY

The 'fouled anchor' is an unusual N.Y.F.M. cancel. It is one of only several that represents a known object ie an anchor with a chain wrapped around it – hence the 'fouling'. Being particularly intricate it is rarely found well struck on or off cover. The 2c & 15c stamps below show unusual 100% strikes.

The cancel is found more often to Central America than Europe. So was this cancel designed primarily for use in the Central American desk? It might also indicate that was where the designer worked.

INTRICATE FANCY

4/1/1875
to
20/5/1875

WW A16
WEISS GE-EP9
COLE NYFM-24

5/15/1875 to Germany
15 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 7c NGU Closed Mail rate

5/18/1875 to Cuba
'N(orte) A(merican) (due) 1 Real' on arrival handstamp

Postage paid the 10c American Packet rate

1875

INTRICATE FANCY

largest reported 6c strip with this cancel

worn state

1875

INTRICATE FANCY

5/29/1875
to
6/14/1875

VW G13
WEISS GE-EP1
COLE NYFM-32

6/5/1875 red **Supplementary Mail Type 'E'** to France
5 covers reported with this cancel, the most scarce of this type

Postage of 18¢ paid the 9¢ French Mail rate plus the 9¢ Supplementary Mail fee

worn state

INTRICATE FANCY

6/22/1875
to
9/10/1875

VW G11
WEISS GE-EP7
COLE NYFM-25

7/14/1875 red **Supplementary Mail Type 'E'** to England
12 covers reported with this cancel

11c postage paid the 5c UPU rate plus 6c (Supplementary Mail fee of 5c plus 1c overpaid)

underinked state

INTRICATE FANCY

6/24/1875
to
8/24/1875

VW W6
WEISS GE-EP8
COLE NY FM-39

8/24/1875 to Mexico
A worn example and latest reported use of 7 covers with this cancel

Postage paid the 10c American Packet rate

INTRICATE FANCY

7/17/1875
to
7/22/1875

VW A2
WEISS ST-MP2
COLE NY FM-2

7/17/1875 to England
A first day of use of 5 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 5c UPU rate

INTRICATE FANCY

25-26 mm diam

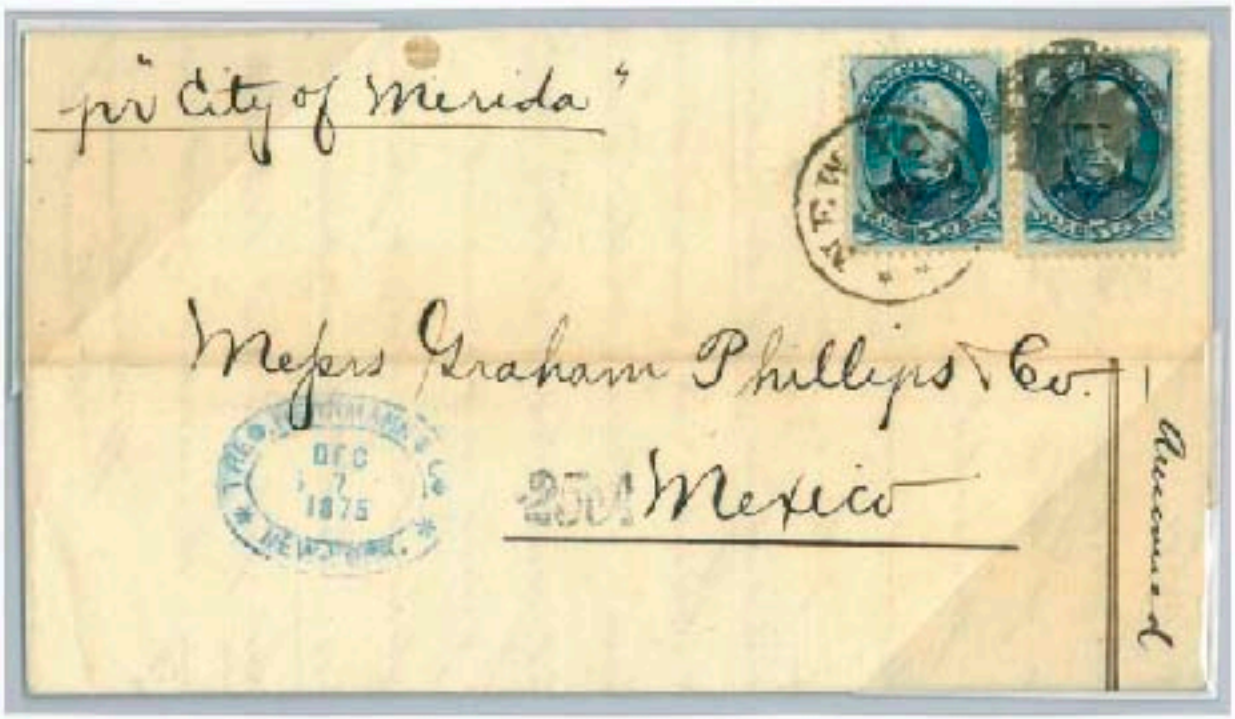
9/1/1875
to
9/2/1875

VW G14
WEISS GE-EP2
COLE NYFM-33

9/2/1875 claret Supplementary Mail Type 'E' to England
2 N.Y.F.M. cancels reported in claret *(probably an inadvertant mixing of inks)*
A latest reported use of 2 covers with this cancel

Postage of 10c paid the 5c UPU rate plus the 5c Supplementary Mail fee

INTRICATE FANCY



12/7/1875

VW GU4
WEISS GE-EPU2

12/7/1875 to Mexico
The sole reported copy of this cancel on cover
The on cover strike corresponds accurately to the off cover stamps. However, it remains debatable whether this is merely an overinked or worn or broken variety of the cancel on the cover at the top of this page

Postage paid the 10c American Packet Rate

1875

INTRICATE FANCY

5/4/1875 to Moradabad
13 N.Y.F.M. covers reported to India

27 mm diam
4/26/1875
to
9/6/1876

VV G15
WEISS GE-EP3
COLE NYFM-35

2c Department of Post Office

10c Department of State

This common cancel defines the intricacy of the classic N.Y.F.M.

Travelled by 'Lessing' arriving Plymouth 5/15/1875, the cover trained to London & then Packet to Calais. It trained to Brindisi, Italy via the Mount Cenis Tunnel, then by Packet to Alexandria (Egypt) & train onto Suez onto a Packet to Bombay, India, where it received a SEA POST backstamp & finally by train & postal wagon to Moradabad

Postage paid the 28c British Mail rate via Brindisi

1875 BASIC FANCY

11/25/1875 Stamped Envelope to France
A earliest reported use of 22 covers with this cancel

Postage paid the 5c UPU rate

11/25/1875
to
12/7/1876

VV S2
WEISS TR-S5
COLE NYFM-96

BASIC FANCY

11/7/1876 Postal Card to Budapest

2 N.Y.F.M. reported uses where Hungary is specified by name (Hungary was mostly referred to by the names of other countries within the Hungarian Empire or mistakenly as Austria or Germany)

Postage paid the 2c UPU Postal Card rate

11/4/1876 Stamped Envelope to Germany
2 red 3c 1876 Plymton envelopes reported with N.Y.F.M. cancels

Postage paid the 5c UPU rate

1875

BASIC FANCY

10/13/1875
to
10/30/1875

WEISS TR-M10

10/30/1875 to Mexico
An earliest use of two covers reported with this cancel

Postage of 20c paid double the 10c American Packet rate

GRID

12/4/1875

WEISS TR-G6a

12/4/1875 to England
The sole reported cover bearing this cancel

Postage paid the 6c British Treaty Rate

1875

INTRICATE FANCY

30 mm diam

9/22/1875
to
12/23/1876

WW G18
WEISS GE-EP4
COLE NYFM-37

9/22/1875 to Germany
The largest size of this cancel style & earliest reported use

Postage paid the 2c UPU Postal Card rate

NOT ORIGINATING IN NEW YORK CITY YET ATTRACTING A N.Y.F.M. CANCEL

12/20/1875 Postal Card from Mansfield, Ohio via New York to Germany
Worn state of this cancel

Postage paid the 2c UPU Postal Card rate

INTRICATE FANCY

1/13/1876 mourning cover to Hamilton

6 N. Y. F. M. uses reported to Bermuda

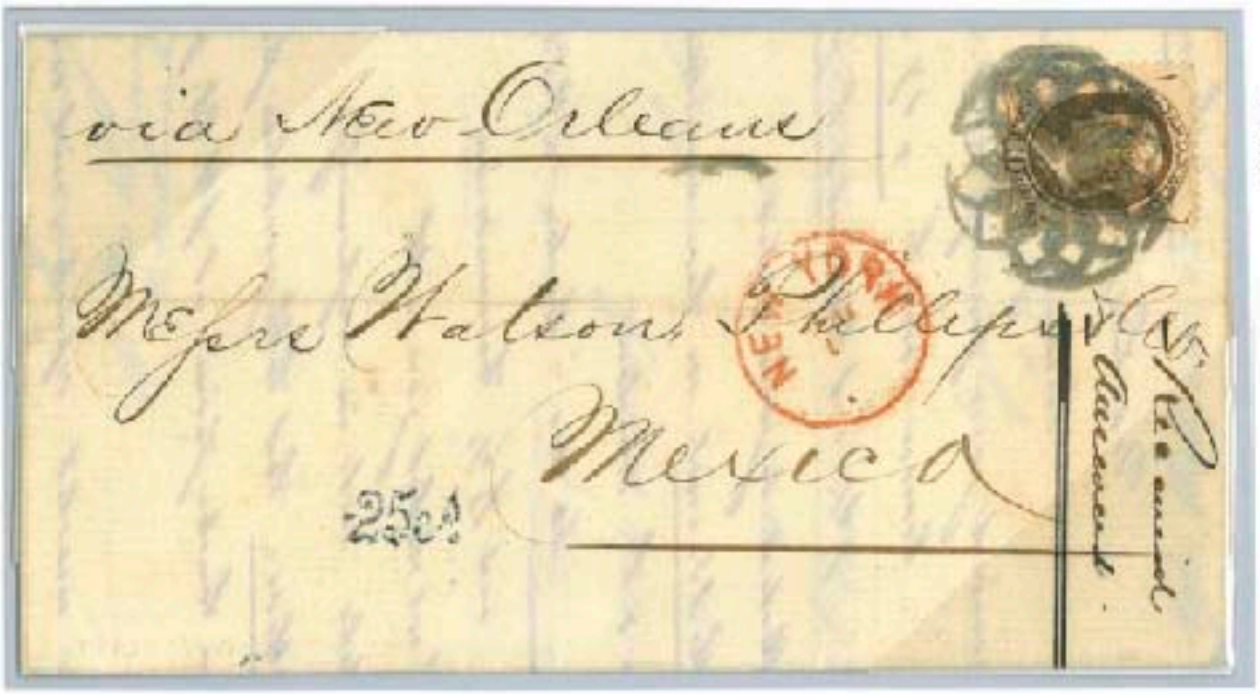
Postage paid the 5c American Packet Direct rate

1/??/1876 mourning cover to France

Postage paid the 9c French Mail rate

INTRICATE FANCY

LEAVING NEW YORK BY TRAIN RATHER THAN SHIP



5/1/1876 to Mexico

Most Central America mail left New York by ship down to Vera Cruz & onward. However, 4 covers are known to exist endorsed 'Via New Orleans'. It is assumed these covers left New York by train for New Orleans, then onto Vera Cruz by ship (mailship service commenced New Orleans to Vera Cruz Oct 1874)

This cover arrived May 12th taking 11 days. So this routing was faster by at least a day. Or perhaps, as with the El Paso routing, it was a matter of convenience favoured by the sender (3 of the 4 reported covers have the same addressee and address)

Postage of 10c overpaid the 7c Land rate by 3c

1875

INTRICATE FANCY

THE SOLE REPORTED PROPOGANDA COVER WITH N.Y.FM. USAGE

12/9/1876 to England

John S Thompson advocates gold demonetization along with the introduction of an inter-convertible bond system for the use and benefit of individuals so as to make banks redundant

'Let each Nation adopt the inter-convertible bond system suggested by Horace H. Day of New York .. these (bonds) take the place of gold in all transactions.... No banks are necessary... There is more real democracy in this system .... To demonetize gold or any other merchandise that can be monopolized is to (condone) all forms of monarchy and despotism on earth'

Postage paid the 5c UPU rate

5c cut square

6c cut square

The latest reported use of a NY FM cancel (on an 1883 2c stamp). Either a device that turned up in a dusty box and was used for fun by the clerk. Or a forged cancel

24c Department of Post Office

1875

INTRICATE FANCY

This cancel, in use for 12 months, demonstrates how strikes differ due to softening or break up of the original design or under or over-under inking.

Additionally, if the cover was on a hard surface the strike would be crisper than if it was atop a pile of others

breaking up state

hollow centre (more likely worn)

crisp early use

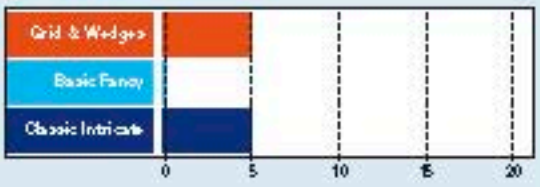
3c/15c combination

imprint

1876 – THE 7th YEAR

THE DECLINE OF ALL TYPES CONTINUES

The precursor of the end of the handcarved cancel came in Dec - the 1st steel ellipse reported on a N.Y.F.M. cover



INTRICATE FANCY

NOT ORIGINATING IN NEW YORK CITY YET ATTRACTING A N.Y.F.M. CANCEL

1/14/1876
to
12/9/1876

VW GU2
WEISS GE-EP13
COLE NYFM-41

PANAMA
20JA1876
TRANSIT

1/14/1876 from Peru via Panama & New York to Marblehead, Mass
An earliest use of 3 covers reported with this cancel

The 1868 Peru 1d green paid postage to the Peruvian exit port thence to Panama via British Packet where it was stamped with the British 3 line 'PANAMA 20 JAN 1876 TRANSIT'. The 1875 USA 5c paid Panama to New York via US Packet

The handstamp '12' (cents), equalling 6d, represents the British debit to the US for transit Peru to Panama. However, a depreciated currency handstamp 'Due 14 US currency' was applied because settlements with England were in Specie, or it's gold equivalent, while the US due was paid in depreciated currency. This increased the debit from 12 to 14

12/9/1876 mourning cover to France
A latest reported use of this cancel on cover and the sole known use to Europe

Postage paid the 5c UPU rate

INTRICATE FANCY

3/8/1876
to
3/18/1876

WW A18
WEISS ST-MP2.A
COLE NYFM-57

3/8/1876 to Mexico
An earliest reported use of 3 covers with this cancel

This cancel is rarely fully struck on or off cover. Often it can only be identified by one or two of the half shaded segments seen on the stamps below

Postage paid the 10c American Packet rate

WEDGES

33mm diam

3/20/1876
to
6/17/1876

VW F7a family
WEISS TR-W1F

6/17/1876 Stamped Envelope red **Supplementary Mail Type 'E'** to France
A latest use of 3 covers reported with this largest of N.Y.F.M. quartered cork cancels

Postage of 20c paid the 10c French Treaty rate plus the 10c Supplementary Mail fee

WEDGES

4/8/1876
to
9/?/1876

WEISS TR-W14

4/8/187(6) Stamped Envelope to Germany
An earliest use of 6 covers reported with this family of cancel
(note the circular negative lines in the wedges)

Postage paid the 5c UPU rate

INTRICATE FANCY

4/26/1876

WW W10
WEISS GE-C9
COLE NYFM-49

4/26/1876 2c Circular Stamped Envelope to Holland
An earliest use from 2 reported uses abroad and 1 domestic use
This cancel is invariably over-inked & barely recognizable. But one curved negative arc at 7.30 clearly distinquishes.

Circulars were processed in the CIRCULAR MAIL DEPARMENT so may be regarded as N.Y.F.M. hybrids. Often the cancels are rare and only reported used abroad

Postage paid the 2c Circular UPU rate

INTRICATE FANCY

5/30/1876
to
6/15/1876

WW W11
WEISS GE-C8
COLE NYFM-49

5/30/1876 Circular to Austria
A first use of 4 covers reported with this cancel

Postage paid the 2c Printed Circular UPU rate

1876

INTRICATE FANCY

1/5/1876

VV GU1
WEISS GE-EP12
COLE NYFM-40

1/5/1876 to Italy
The sole use of this cancel reported on cover

A complex cancel seemingly discarded on the day of inception probably because the lack of negative space in the design too easily filled with ink. Even though this example is overinked the central negative 'diamond' & two upper 'spokes' are defined.

Postage paid the 5c UPU rate

1876

GRID with 4 WEDGES

DISCOVERY N.Y.F.M. CANCEL

6/16/1876

6/16/1876 Stamped Envelope black **Supplementary Mail Type 'E'** to Germany

Postage of 10c paid the 5c UPU rate to Germany plus the 5c Supplementary Mail fee

WEDGES

7/21/1876
to
12/11/1877

WEISS TR-W10

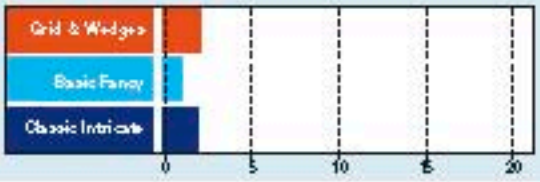
7/21/1876 to Germany

An earliest reported use of 3 covers known with this cancel

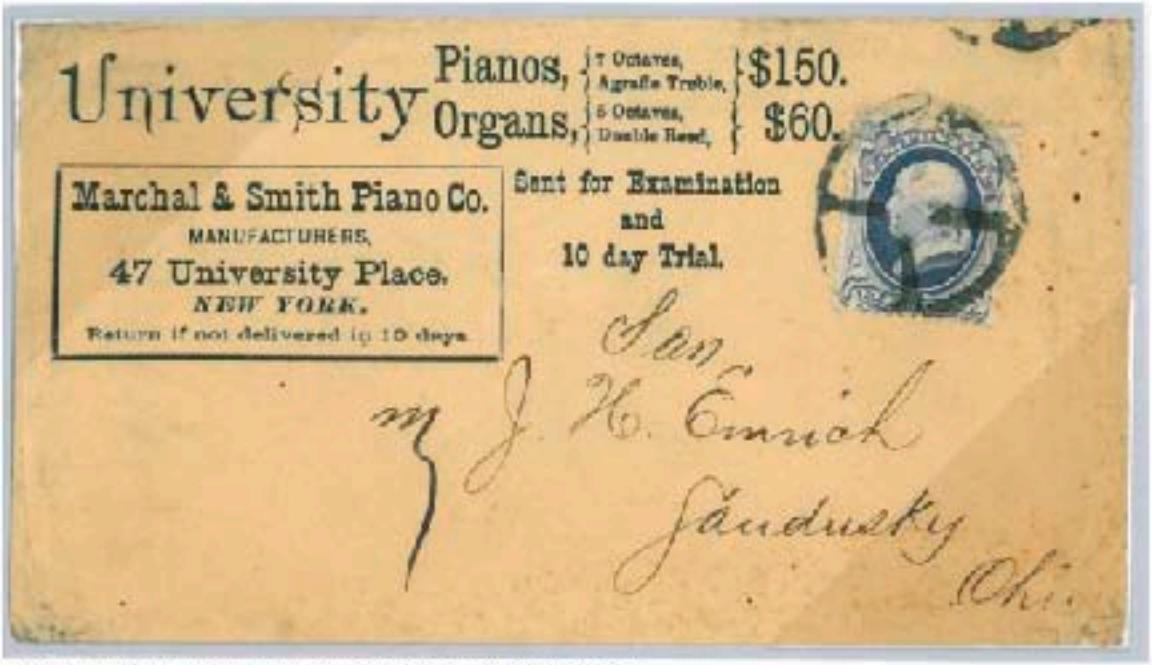
Postage of 6c overpaid the 5c UPU rate by 1c

1877 – THE 8th YEAR

Handcarved cancels continue to diminish as the steel ellipse is phased in



SIMPLE FANCY



7/7/1877

WEISS GE-S1A

3rd Class domestic post undated New York to Ohio
Another identical cancel reported to Denmark dated 4/21/1877

On balance the usages might simply prove this cancel was used both domestically and abroad (although the high off cover value lends weight to a design intended for use in the N.Y.F.M. Department)

WEDGES

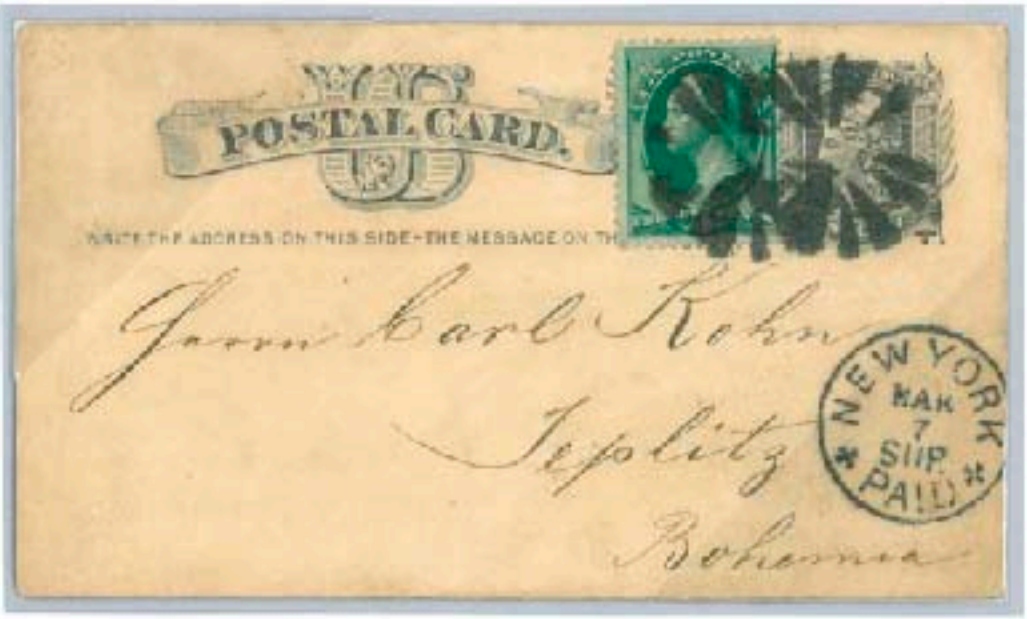
3/2/1877

WEISS TR-W16

3/2/1877 2c to Germany
The sole reported use of this cancel on cover

Postage paid the 2c Printed Circular UPU rate

WEDGES



3/7/1877
Broken design of an earlier wedge cancel

3/7/1877 black **Supplementary Mail Type 'E'** Postal Card to Bohemia (then part of the Austrian Hungarian Empire, now a region of the Czech Republic)
A latest reported use of Type 'E' Supplementary Mail

Postage of 4¢ paid the 2¢ UPU Postal Card rate plus the 2¢ Supplementary Mail fee

INTRICATE FANCY

3/10/1877

WW A30
WEISS GE-C10
COLE NYFM-10

3/10/1877 Printed Letter to Sweden
2 uses of this cancel reported on cover both dated the same day
5 N.Y.F.M. uses reported to Sweden

Postage paid the 2¢ UPU rate

The design above was an apt swansong for our carver. Beautifully intricate, it typified the 'Perfection of Form' of the classic NYFM fancy cancellation.
Our best wishes to him wheresoever his spirit now resides.

1877

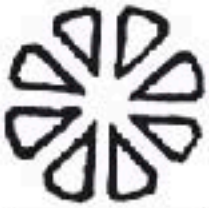
AN EARLY EXAMPLE OF THE NEW STEEL CANCELLING DEVICE

ELLIPSE #5

3/27/1877 to England

Postage of 10c paid double the 5c UPU Rate

N.Y.E.M. PROVED ON COVER – OR THE RE-USE OF AN OLD & WORN KILLER?



WEISS TR-WU-5A

WEISS TR-W5

12/15/1877 to Switzerland

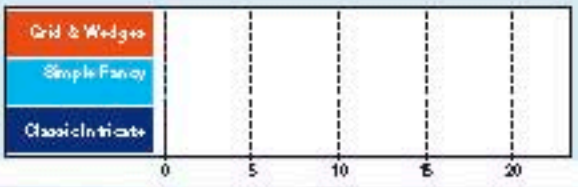
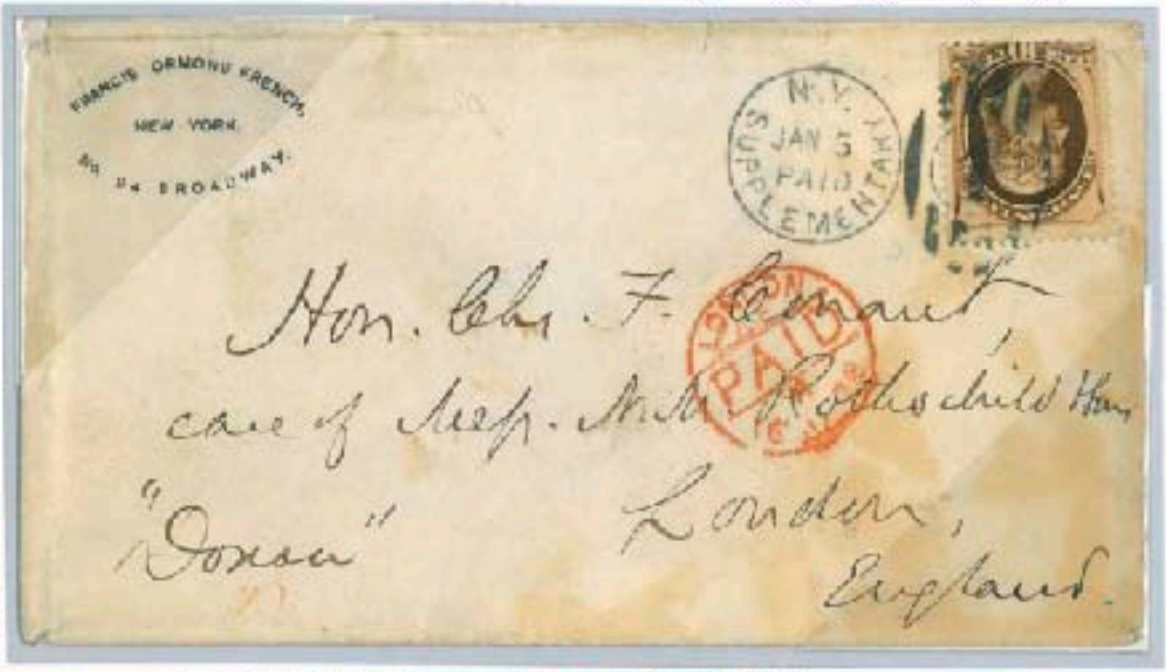
The segment on the left strike at 2 o'clock upper right and on the right strike the segment at 10 o'clock show negative segments surrounded by a regular rectangular frameline which is critically straight at top, not heart shaped. This would appear to be neither an over or under-inked 'heart. However, it might be the clerk used an old cancel which had degraded

For comparison the traditional 'circle of hearts' on the 6c stamp at right shows the pronounced 'heart shapes' at the tips

Postage paid the 5c UPU rate

1878 – THE 9th YEAR

ELLIPSES FINALLY RULE THE ROOST



Postage of 10c paid the 5c UPU rate plus 5c Supplementary fee