

 **S**INCE 1961  
**Stamp**



and



**Congress**

**Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society**  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> (7:30pm) Wednesday's

Edgemere Retirement Center  
8523 Thackrey  
Dallas, TX

Volume 55

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## The Spotlight is on Mailer's Permit Postmarks

*By Ken Lawrence*

Would you like to cancel the stamps on the letters you mail? Although many collectors aren't aware of it, mailers in the United States are allowed to obtain and use their own cancellation devices. In fact, **mailer's postmarks** have been authorized and in some cases, required - since 1924.

For more than 70 years, mailer's postmarks have been associated with **precanceled postage** - first with precanceled adhesive stamps, later as a way to precancel stamped envelopes and postal cards. Even though most precancel collectors would not regard these postal markings as part of their specialty, the current regulation for use of mailer's permit postmarks is titled, "*Precancellation by Mailer.*"

### **Precanceled Stamps on First-Class Mail**

On August 7, 1924, Third Assistant Postmaster General **W. Irving Glover** ruled that precanceled postage stamps could be used on first-class mail. To qualify for this privilege, mailers first had to secure a permit. They were required to presort the mail by city and state, and to face all the pieces uniformly in the same orientation.

In essence, these were the same requirements that had applied to users of precanceled stamps on mailings of advertising circulars and samples of merchandise since the 19th century, but extended to business letters, orders, invoices, and payments.

Glover's order concluded, "Postmasters will please bring this matter to the attention of all persons using uncanceled stamps in coils on first-class matter and advise them that for their future needs the department will, in cases where the quantity mailed is sufficient to make use of precanceled stamps advantageous, furnish 2-cent precanceled stamps in coils which they may use on their first-class matter after obtaining permission therefor in the manner above set forth, thus expediting the handling of their first-class matter."

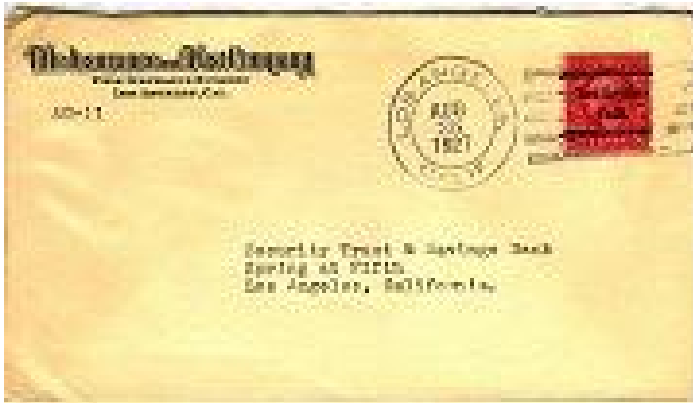
However, unlike the use of precanceled postage on second-, third-, and fourth-class mail, users of precancels on first-class mail were required to add dated cancellations, so that the stamps could not be reused: "The date of mailing in connection with lines similar to those used in a cancellation postmark shall be placed by the mailer on each piece of first-class matter."

Many precancel collectors have cursed this requirement ever since. Most specialists prefer to collect precancels without added cancellations, but many precanceled 2-cent coil stamps were used almost exclusively on first-class mail, and therefore have added mailer's postmarks. But while precancel collectors shun them, postmark and cover collectors can discover some wonder-

ful, nonstandard postal markings by browsing dealer stocks for examples of precanceled stamps on first-class mail.

Here are six examples, showing the variety available:

The **Figure 1** cover bears a 2-cent carmine George Washington coil stamp, Scott 599, with a Los Angeles, Calif., precancel overprint applied by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, canceled by the mailer on August 26, 1927. The cancellation consists of a double-ring datestamp adjacent to five horizontal killer bars. The cancel is sufficiently distinct that it can easily be identified as a mailer's postmark.



The stamp on the **Figure 2** cover is a Milwaukee, Wis., Bureau precanceled 2-cent Washington sheet stamp, Scott 634. The handstamped cancellation has seven wavy lines in the killer, and the time of day is included inside the large August 15, 1931, circular datestamp.



A year later, the cost of a first-class letter rose to three cents.

The **Figure 3** cover shows a couple of other interesting aspects of these usages. The 3-cent deep violet George Washington sheet stamp, Scott 720, has a local precancel of Lafayette, Ind., in contrast to most others, which bear Bureau precancels. Even more interesting is the blue ink of the mailer's postmark, at a time when official postmarks were required to employ exclusively black ink for cancellations and magenta ink for registry and other special-purpose post-



marks. Permit holders could use whatever colors of ink they wished.

**Figure 4** shows a Boston, Mass., Bureau precanceled 3-cent Washington coil stamp, Scott 721, with a July 3, 1934, machine cancellation. In this instance, the cancel was applied



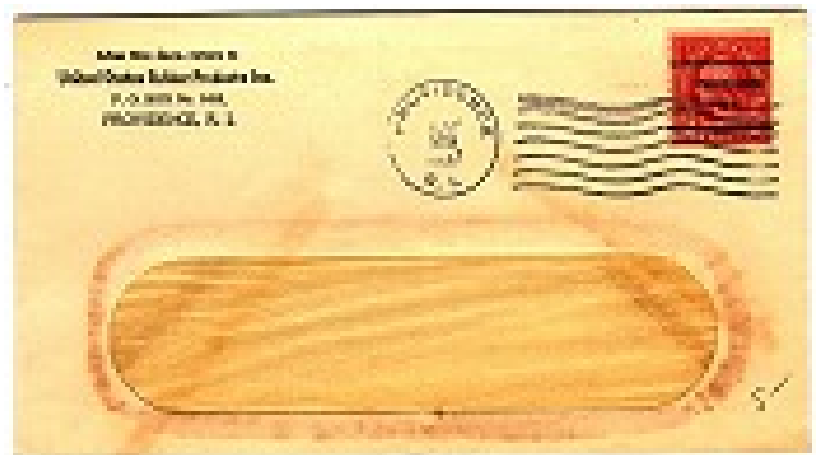
by the same Multipost equipment that affixed the stamp to the envelope.

On the **Figure 5** cover, the 3-cent Washington Bureau precanceled Chicago, Ill., coil stamp has



a double-ring datestamp with seven wavy killer lines, but also includes a boxed inscription that advertises the sender's business, a truly scarce cancellation style from what I've seen of mailer's postmark types.

The **Figure 6** window envelope lacks contents, but the 2-cent usage in 1937 suggests that it was a local letter to an address in Providence, R.I., where the cover was mailed. The handstamped mailer's postmark mimics a standard machine cancel.



### Kings of England on Stamps

Edward 7th was father of the "Edwardian era" in England and son of Queen Victoria. He reigned from 1901 to 1910. His son George V reigned from 1910 to 1936 and was succeeded by his son Edward the Abdicator, also known as the 8th. Edward VIII ascended and gave up the throne in 1936 so he could marry a divorced American woman. That left the throne to George VI, who was father of Elizabeth II and husband of Rose, called the Queen Mum, who is 100 years old this year. George VI reigned from 1936 until 1952, at which time Elizabeth II was coronated.



## Meeting Minutes

**February 24, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm., Geoff Owens presiding.

24 Members were present.

### Officer Reports

- Secretary's report – Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without being read.
- Treasurer's report – None
- Program VP's report – Rail Post Office, TexPex, Guest speaker, Tom Allen, from Wineburgh Philatelic Research library.
- Editor's report – No report.
- Membership report – 28 members have paid their 2016 dues.
- Publicity report – Chris has created a Table Tent to publicize the DPCPS club at TEXPEX.

### Old Business

- Club one page exhibits were delivered to TEXPEX committee.

### New Business

- The Club Social will be held on March 23.

### Program

- Tom Siegel gave a very nice introduction to the RPO Video and the importance of Rail Post Office in moving our mail. The Rail Post Office DVD was shown.

### Announcements

Rick, Stuart and Peter had material for sale.

### Trivia/Show & Tell

- Tom Siegel showed and talked about Rail Post Office stampless cover from Eastern R.R..

### Door Prizes/Album Drawing

- George, Stuart and Stan graciously donated door prizes for the membership. The Jack's album drawing was held. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

**March 9, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm., Geoff Owens presiding.

21 Members were present.

### Program

- Dr. Thomas Allen, currently University Archivist at UTD, gave a presentation on the Wineburgh Philatelic Library.
- Secretary's report – Secretary was absent today.
- Treasurer's report – Total club cash assets are \$11,705.20.

### Officer Reports

- Program VP's report – Presentation on the Wineburgh Philatelic Library tonight; club social on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, TSDA Stamp Fair in Richardson on April 8-9, Board meeting and TEXPEX displays on April 13, quarterly auction on April 27<sup>th</sup> and Tom Koch's presentation on Texas Postal History Transatlantic Mail on May 11.
- Editor's report – No report.
- Membership report – Membership chairman was absent today.
- Publicity report – Chris Titus reported additional followers on Instagram and Twitter.

### Old Business, New Business

- None.

### Announcements

- Stuart described the difference between two types of fakes: "counterfeit" which is intended to defraud the postal system and "forgery" which is intended to defraud the stamp collector.
- Paul Witthoef announced the club's TEXPEX exhibit tied with the Oklahoma City club for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. He showed the certificate and the prize – an airmail cover.
- Stuart offered large heavy-duty storage bags and a UN album with stamps for sale.
- Jack, David and Ben offered items at auction.

### Trivia/Show & Tell

- Jack Urish attempted the use of hydrogen peroxide to effect a color changeling.

### Door Prizes/Album Drawing

- Sam Phillippi graciously donated door prizes for the membership. Jack's album drawing was held.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

## Stamp & Tongs

### APS GOLD AWARD

Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society Newsletter

**Rick Houghland, Editor**

2016 DPCPS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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