



and



**Tongs**

## Illustrated Glossary of Precancels

*by Colin Philip and Dave Philcox*

This Glossary has been compiled primarily to assist collectors new to the fascinating field of precancel collecting, but the authors hope that it also might help precancellists of longer standing who want a quick reference to a topic which may have slipped their memory. As in any sphere of activity, a wealth of terms and expressions has evolved in precancel collecting and this jargon is often confusing to beginner and specialist alike. We have attempted to include as many relevant terms as we can think of, but inevitably some obvious ones may have been omitted. Readers are invited and encouraged to submit new terms and definitions, supply corrections to errors that almost certainly have crept in, or to suggest more appropriate alternatives to the ones given here. This second edition, produced as an online version some 12 years after our original efforts, is an attempt to bring the subject matter up to date and to include any new information that has come to light in the intervening period. We have every intention of maintaining this as a live document, amended from time to time by our readers' comments and other expert opinion.

In much of the text, the descriptive material refers to precancels from the USA, being by far the largest user of these issues. To avoid monotonous repetition, it may be assumed that, unless stated, the US is implied.

A, B, C, D:

(1) These letters are used in most European catalogues and reference works to denote the aspect of the rectangular precancel overprint in earlier Belgian and Luxembourg issues. They are used as follows:

**A** - precancels in which the text reads up (*ie* from bottom to top of stamp),

**B** - text reads down,

**C** - text reads horizontally, and

**D** - text is inverted.

Types C and D are generally only found on roulettes (*qv*).

(2) The letters are also employed in the various Bureau Catalogues to denote the four levels of centring which determine pricing adjustments.

## Algeria:

During the time it was a province of France (*qv*) a number of precancels were issued for this North African country between 1924 and 1963. The styles of overprint in this period were identical to those used in France. Algerian precancels are listed and priced in French francs in Part 2 of the Yvert & Tellier Catalogue, and in US dollars in the PSS Catalogue of France, Algeria, Tunisia and Monaco (1983).



## Americana Series:

Set of definitive stamps, issued in 1975, which are commonly found precancelled, both as Bureaus (particularly in the decimal range of values, *eg* 7.7¢, 7.9¢ and 8.4¢) and as locals.

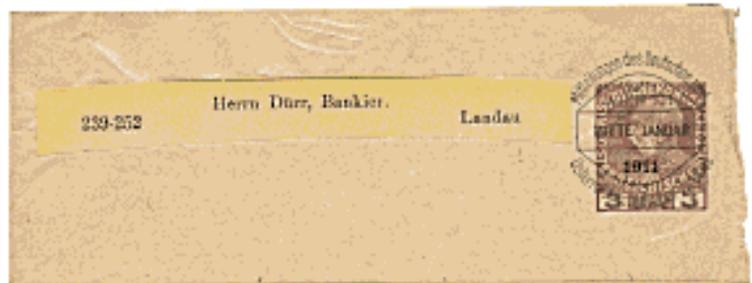


## Argentina:

Precancellation of stamps of this country was effected by means of oversized holed perfins. Little is known other than stamps defaced in this fashion often received additional cancellations at the office of destination.

## Austria:

A minor precancel issuing country of Europe that is best known for the precancelled wrappers of the German and Austrian Alpine Association. The first precancels were handstamps, but printed ones were in use from 1910 until 1922, since which time no further precancels have been issued. The precancel was printed on the wrapper and included a date in the form, for example, MITTE JULI (middle of July), ENDE MARZ (end of March), etc. The early journal stamps were also precancelled by sticking them to a blank sheet of newspaper and allowing the newsprint to provide the cancellation, thus paying the appropriate newspaper tax.



## Bar Type:

(1) In Canada, a stamp precancelled only by means of bars or lines, without other printed identification. Two main categories can be distinguished; the Early Bars issued from about 1889 to 1903, and the Later Bars which made their appearance in 1922. The Early Bars consist of various styles of parallel lines (sometimes including interrupted or wavy lines), which in most cases were applied horizontally across the stamp usually by means of rubber rollers. The Later Bars are straight, continuous and parallel and were applied using plates made for the purpose.



(2) In the USA, precancel forerunners were produced in the latter part of the 1800s by overprinting with bars or similar designs, and are commonly known as Bar Types. Similarly, some of the more recent National Bureau issues were precancelled with two parallel bars and can be called Bar Types. The term is also used to distinguish bars from lines in local precancels.

#### Bars and Lines:

In identifying local precancels where the town and state have straight bars or lines above and below, a bar is usually thicker than a line and does not extend beyond the boundary of the stamp. On the other hand, a line is generally thin and extends across many or all of the stamps in a horizontal row.



Bars

Lines

#### Battleship Proprietary Stamps:

This 1895 issue of revenue stamps was used to collect tax during the Spanish-American War. The tax was levied on medicines, pills, etc., it became easier to apply printed (usually dated) cancellations prior to the stamp being stuck on the relevant bottle, box or packet. This precancellation was authorized by the US Internal Revenue.



#### Belgium:

One of the major precancel issuing countries of Europe, its precancels can be neatly divided into two major categories: roulettes (*qv*) and typos (*qv*), the latter still being produced at the time of writing. Belgian precancels are easy to recognize, being a rectangular, or truncated rectangular, box containing town or country names and date, or more recently various styles of posthorn with or without dates. The main source of information is provided by the Catalogue Officiel des Timbres Préoblitérés de Belgique (1996).



#### Bicentennial Series:

Commonly known to collectors as Bicents, this series was first issued in 1932. It is found cancelled locally and with DLE's, but never with Bureaus. A Bicent catalogue was published in 1989.



#### Black Hardings:

Precancels on the Black 2¢ Harding Memorial Issue, 1923, in all states of perforation. A catalogue specifically for these issues was published by the PSS in 1983.



#### 'Bosch perforations:

The town of s'Hertogenbosch in Holland produced a large circulation Catholic newspaper. Stamps used on the postal wrappers were first stuck on to labels, then precancelled, and finally perforated again prior to being stuck on to the wrappers and returned to the post office for dispatch.



## Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2016

The May 25, 2016 meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm., Geoff Owens presiding. 25 Members were present.

### Officer Reports

Secretary's report – Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without being read.

Program VP's report – Today members get to dispose their excess stamps in the "Spring Cleaning Bourse"; June 8<sup>th</sup>, Stan Bartnikowski will speak about the "Travels of Pope John Paul II"; June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Geoff Owens will speak about "The Stamps of Maurice Fievet"; June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, TSDA Dallas Stamp Fair at Richardson Civic Center, W. Arapaho and Central (75), Friday 11-5, Saturday 9-4; and July 13<sup>th</sup>, Board Meeting at the Edgemere on Northwest Highway and Thackery and "The Story Behind the Stamp".

Editor's report – The May newsletter published.

Membership report – The club has 45 members.

Publicity report – Chris has placed a Google add.

The Google add has had 1100 hits.

Exhibitions report – no shows pending.

### Old Business/ New Business

•None./ The club has cast a ballot in the APS Election.

Announcements\*\*\* No announcements

### Trivia/Show & Tell

Stuart Barzune talked about a letter from Leslie Mann to Dinty Dennis about US Baseball participation in 1936 Olympics held in Germany. Jack Urish talked about Mafia Island, a German East Africa Territory, was occupied by British Forces in WWI and that stamps with valid overprints are hard to find. Ivan Zuniuga added additional clarification about Mafia island which complemented Jack Urish's talk on Mafia Island.

### Program

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM so members could trade stamps.

### Door Prizes/Album Drawing

Stuart Barzune, Ed Ulbricht, Jack Urish, and Richard Neinast graciously donated door prizes for the membership. The Jack's album drawing was held. The bourse ended at 9:18 pm.

June 8<sup>th</sup> 2016

The June 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 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 – The Treasurer's report will be distributed separately.

Program VP's report – Stan Bartnikowski will speak about the "Travels of Pope John Paul II"; June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Geoff Owens will speak about "The Stamps of Maurice Fievet"; June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, TSDA Dallas Stamp Fair at Richardson Civic Center, W. Arapaho and Central (75), Friday 11-5, Saturday 9-4; and July 13<sup>th</sup>, Board Meeting at the Edgemere on Northwest Highway and Thackery and "The Story Behind the Stamp".

Editor's report – published at the end of the month.

Membership report – 39 paid and 8 members inactive.

Publicity report – Instagram had 176 hits; Twitter had 148 hits; and our Google add had 20 clicks.

### Old Business /New Business

None.

### New Business

Stan Bartnikowski spoke about the "Travels of Pope John Paul II". The first non-Italian Pope in more than 400 years and was one of the most travelled world leaders in history, visiting 129 countries during his pontificate.

### Trivia/Show & Tell

Stuart Barzune showed a Tide Water Oil Co. advertising Post Card with a First Flight Zeppelin cancellation. Stan Bartnikowski showed a Star Wars Souvenir Sheet from Canada. Chris Titus showed a Star Wars presentation pack from Great Britain. Jack Urish talked about a fan letter from Israel with a 1951 post mark.

Ed Ulbricht, Jack Urish and Stuart Barzune graciously donated door prizes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm

## Stamp & Tongs APS GOLD AWARD

Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society Newsletter

**Rick Houghland, Editor**

2016 DPCPS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President **Geoff Owens**

Vice **Stan Bartnikowski**

President

Secretary **Joe Baker**

Treasurer **Jack Urish**

Directors **Jon Cagley**

**Chris Titus**

**Perry Denton**