



and



## Illustrated Glossary of Precancels

by Colin Philip and Dave Philcox

### **BOX CANCEL:**

Often very difficult to identify, but usually consists of the town and state names enclosed by a four-sided box, perhaps one of a series of boxes. These normally extend beyond the edges of the stamp, leaving perhaps part of the name and a vertical side between the parallel lines. They are frequently applied with a roller canceller. There are, however, a few precancels that are boxed and not between lines only; these are so designed to fit within the margins of the stamp. Examples of these are many of the City Type Coils (*qv*), *eg* Lynn MA, L-3 and Champaign IL, L-1.



### **BUREAU PRINT:**

A stamp precancelled by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing located in Washington DC. They are identified by having clear, distinct impressions using one of a small range of standard styles. Bureaus are listed in a number of catalogues, the most popular being the Noble Official Catalogue (64th ed., 1983) and the PSS Bureau Precancel Catalogue (4th ed., 1997). There are about ten thousand collectible varieties, covering towns, types, denominations and stamp issues and are one of the most popular aspects of precancel collecting.



### **CANADA**

From 1889 until 1978, a major precancel issuing country of North America. The various types which have appeared are described elsewhere (*see Bar Type, City Type and Numeral Type*). Canadian precancels have always been popular with collectors, and because demand usually exceeds supply, their prices have remained high. A number of catalogues and handbooks cater for Canadian collectors, the most general catalogue being the Standard Canada Precancel Catalogue, 5th Ed., (2002).



### **CITY TYPE:**

In Canada, a stamp which is precancelled with the names of the town and province (sometimes abbreviated) and a distinctive pattern of wavy or straight lines. Such stamps were used in 54 towns, some of which are extremely scarce. They were introduced in 1903 and were discontinued as the numeral types (*qv*) made their appearance in the 1930s. The term may also be applied to a precancel from any country that contains the name of a town or city in the cancellation. In some US catalogues, a City Type is any non-Bureau precancel bearing the name of a town or city.



**CITY TYPE COIL:**

Generally used to describe a non-Bureau coil stamp that has been precancelled by a special machine that also rewinds the coil in the process. These are covered by the PSS City Type Coils Precancelled by Coil Machines (2001).

**COIL PAIR:**

Pair of coil stamps, joined vertically or horizontally in the case of the City Type Coils, and horizontally only in Bureau issues. In Bureaus, one also finds gap pairs (qv), line pairs (qv), and combination (line and gap) pairs (qv).

**COMBINATION PAIR:**

Used to describe precancelled coil pairs where the gap between the ends of the lines showing the joining of the two halves of the precancel printing cylinder coincides with the line produced during the printing of the stamp themselves. In other words, a combination of a line and gap pair. Due to the different sizes of the cylinders used in the printing of coil stamps and the subsequent precancelling, a line-gap situation occurs only every 204 stamps, showing the scarcity value of such pairs. See Coil Pair, Gap Pair, Line Pair.

**COMMERCIAL OVERPRINT:**

In the UK, this term is used to describe overprinted security endorsements employed by private firms, local authorities, banks, etc., on ordinary postage stamps used for receipt duty and other fiscal purposes between 1853 and 1971. They have the appearance of precancels, but in general were not valid for any form of postage. With the abolition of the 2d receipt tax in 1971, the holders of printed stock were authorized to use up stocks as normal postage for a period of six months.



[top](#)

**COUNTERFEIT:**

A precancel made, usually fraudulently, to imitate a legally issued and used device.

**DANZIG:**

Until World War II, an enclave of East Prussia in what is now Poland and called Gdansk. In 1920 an order was issued that all stamps of 1 mark or over to be used for affixing to parcel cards should be cancelled with a rubber or cork cancellation before attaching the stamps. The most common designs of these precancels are stars and crosses.

**DATED CONTROLS:**

A term applied to precancels that have an extra marking in the form of a date and user's initials printed or handstamped upon them. In 1938 the US Post Office Department ruled that when an item of mail required postage of 6¢ or more, then all precancels used for the purpose must have imprinted on them the initials of the user and the month and year of usage. Collectors recognize several different categories in which to subdivide these issues; these are described elsewhere in this Glossary. *See Handstamp Dated Controls, Integral Precancels, Printed Dated Controls.*

**DIAGONAL:**

Precancel printed on a stamp at an angle from the normal horizontal or vertical position. Catalogues consider any cancel at an angle of 22° or more to be a diagonal.



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**DISPUTABLES:**

In 1995 the US Postal Service issued three stamps that were forerunners of many more which have caused dispute among collectors of Bureau issues. One of the originals depicts the front of an “automobile” for Bulk Rate usage while the other shows the rear of another car - “Auto Tail Fin” for First Class Cards. Bureau purists consider these not to be Bureau precancel issues, but this is countered by the fact that the USPS cites them as precancels in its own USPS Stamp Catalogue. The collector is left to decide what they are.

**DOUBLE:**

Precancel with two normal impressions, either both in the same plane, or one inverted.

**DOUBLE LINE ELECTRO:**

A distinctive and attractive type of precancel bearing the town and state name in a variety of styles between two pairs of parallel lines. Most of these are produced from electroplates consisting of 100 subjects supplied by the US Government. In addition, there are towns which have a similar style of precancel produced from locally made plates; these are not usually included in a DLE collection and are excluded from the standard catalogues on the topic of which the most recent is the 1999 edition of the Catalogue of Double Line Electro Precancels, published by the PSS.

**ELECTROPLATE:**

Also known as an electro, is a printing plate, usually of 25, 50 or 100 subjects, used when large numbers of precancels are needed. Such plates are generally made by the US Post Office and supplied to the various local post offices. Washington supplied the first electros in 1913. Precancels produced this way are easily distinguished by a sharp and clear impression, often in shiny black ink.

**EXPERIMENTALS:**

The earliest Bureau Prints (*qv*) which were issued in 1916 as an experiment in precancellation by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Only three cities were supplied with these stamps: New Orleans LA, Augusta ME, and Springfield MA.

**FAVOUR:**

A stamp which has been precancelled as a favour to a collector or individual post office customer and not genuinely issued in bulk to authorised users.



*Meeting Minutes***22 JUNE 2016**

The June 22, 2016 meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm., Geoff Owens presiding. 24 Members present.

Officer Reports

- Secretary's report – Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without being read.
- Treasurer's report – distributed separately.
- Program VP's report – This evening 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 June newsletter published.
- Membership report – 39 paid members and 8 members inactive. Sammie J. Wester application was voted on and accepted.
- Publicity report – 194 hits on Instagram.
- Exhibit – November and February shows need 15 pages for club frame.

Old Business/New Business

- None.

Program

- Geoff Owens spoke about "The Stamps of Maurice Fievet", painter, illustrator, photographer and explorer, and his impact on the stamps of Nigeria.

Announcements

- The TSDA Dallas Stamp Fair, Richardson Civic Center, W. Arapaho and Central (75), will be held on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 11-5 PM, and Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup>, 9-4 PM.

Trivia/Show & Tell

- Stan Bartnikowski gave away new 5 cent US stamp. Jack Urish provided information on and advised members to be on the look out for France packet boot cancellations. .

Door Prizes/Album Drawing

- The album drawing was held.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

**July 13 2016**

. The July 13, 2016 meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm., Geoff Owens presiding. 21 Members.

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 – Peter Elias will speak about "Alternative Postage"; July 27<sup>th</sup>, the entire membership will participate in the "Quarterly Auction"; August 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, APS Stamp Show, Oregon Convention Center, Portland OR; August 10<sup>th</sup>, Peter Elias will speak about "World Stamp Show 2016" held in N.Y.C. (tentative); August 24<sup>th</sup>, Five volunteers will speak about "The Story Behind the Stamp"; August 26-27<sup>th</sup>, TSDA Dallas Stamp Fair at Richardson Civic Center, W. Arapaho and Central (75), Friday 11-5, Saturday 9-4.
- Editor's report – The August newsletter will be published by the end of the month.
- Membership report – 40 paid members and 8 members inactive.
- Publicity report – Instagram has 223 followers and Twitter has 165 followers.
- Exhibit – Paul updated show exhibit requirements for Mid-Cities show in November and TexPex show in February.

Old Business /New Business-- NoneProgram

Peter Elias talked about the different types of "Alternate Postage". This discussion included Meter indicia produced by UPU member countries.

Door Prizes/Album Drawing

Peter Elias, Geoff Owens, Chris Sortwell, Chris Titus, and Ed Ulbricht 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 President **Stan Bartnikowski**Secretary **Joe Baker**Treasurer **Jack Urish**Directors **Jon Cagley****Chris Titus****Perry Denton**