

Exhibit: The First 125 Years of Postmarks & Postal Markings of Hudson, New York

Synopsis ---->

This synopsis is broken up into two parts (Stampless & Stamped) only for the purpose of the synopsis itself. In the exhibit proper, no such delineation is made since the two eras flow naturally into one another with only a little overlap in dates during the transition to prepaid, franked mail.

Part One: The Stampless Era.

Stampless cover and stampless letter markings originating from the City of Hudson Post Office have been recorded from as early as 1794 and as late as into the 1850's, and are listed in various studies such as George Bernadt's *Postal Markings of New York State* and *The American Stampless Cover Catalog*, Volume I.

- **Types of Postmarks Used:**

Straight Line Cancels: many of these were typeset and came in different styles, sizes and configurations; these were the earliest postmarks used.

Straight Line Cancels from Hudson, New York tend to be difficult to come by. The most important of these, at 25 x 4mm, is to be found immediately following the title page and is dated 1794. Aside from the straight line cancel, there appears a Free Frank by Cotton Gelston, the first postmaster of Hudson. George Bernadt lists this type of Stampless Letter as '1 - 5 recorded.' As an aside, the contents of this SFL discusses the whaling industry in Hudson. This, along with the combination of postal markings, make this item unique.

Other straight lines shown, although appearing repetitious, illustrate different sizes of these postmarks. Most of these also have the same rating for scarcity in Bernadt.

Circular Date Stamps: these vary in diameter, color and lettering font; a 'fancy' and a variety are known.

Due special mention in this category is the Free Franking by Postmaster William H. Coffin under 'Circular Date Stamps 1820 - 1830' which shows a latest recorded use of the 27mm black CDS.

- **Types of Markings Used:**

These range from manuscript markings, such as those used to indicate the rate for that particular piece, to hand-stamp markings which are known in various sizes, styles and colors and were officially applied for various Post Office Department functions such as indicating payment of postal fees.

Part Two: The Stamp Era.

Markings of this era vary in the types, purpose of, and sizes of Circular Date Stamps used, including subtle variations such as the size of the letters used in the die or the location of the letters in the die itself. These can be accompanied by various forms and combinations of postal revenue protection such as cork and duplex "killers" and starting in 1900, a part of the machine cancellation.

There are many important pieces in this section; the following stand out the most:

Page 3 of Stamped era: A business size letter (folded at left to fit the exhibit page) sent intra-county at 5 times the domestic rate up to 2.5oz franked with a 12 cent issue of 1851 and a 3 cent red-brown of 1857, with two 32mm black circular date stamps and a manuscript marking on the 12 cent stamp for added revenue protection.

Page 10: A Mixed Franking to Great Britain (6 cent carmine Banknote Issue of 1870 with a one penny red) with a cork killer in the shape of a branch with leaf.

Page 1 of Machine Cancellations: Used only for a few weeks in 1900, The Doremus Type A shown took several years of searching to come across.

>>>Although this exhibit concentrates on officially used markings and cancellations, some postal history and identification of stamps used is included primarily to provide a 'feel' and a sense of completeness for each particular cover shown for the time period used. This is, however, not a postal history exhibit in the classic sense: the main theme here is marcophily.

Covers are shown roughly in chronological order of their use and illustrate the evolution of different marking and canceling formats from their recorded appearance (1794) through 1919. In the stamped era, the chronological progression in the types of circular date stamps used are generally utilized to delineate the progression in the use of various additional markings (eg 'killers') and their combinations associated with each particular cds.