

SYNOPSIS

EXHIBIT TITLE: The Marcophily of Hudson, New York, 1793 – 1919.

PURPOSE OF EXHIBIT: To present the progression of postal markings used in Hudson from the earliest recorded of the pre-stamp era (1793), through 1919.

SUBJECT MATTER SPECIFICS (What this exhibit is about, and what its not):

This story is essentially a time-line showing the evolution of postal markings used at Hudson. It begins with the first markings recorded from Hudson: the type-set 'straight line' cancel. These came in different sizes, configurations, and even punctuation marks used. The majority of these straight lines are recorded as no more than five known (Bernadt-ESPHS).

Following the straight line cancels we see the fancy cancel used at Hudson during the stampless era, which is then followed by the ubiquitous circular date stamp along with any accompanying markings used, in various combinations. Eventually we enter the era of prepaid, franked mail and see the progression of the markings used therein.

This exhibit is strictly about the marcophily of Hudson. It is **not** about postal rates or routes as would be found in a traditional postal history exhibit. Some of the pieces shown have some very desirable stamps franking them. This exhibit isn't about the frankings either (and, yes, I have spent years hunting for an 1847 issue on cover from Hudson but with only two recorded (Alexander-USPCS), I suspect many more years will pass before I get a shot at one, if ever). Any mention of rates and franking are strictly to help the viewer understand the context of each individual cover; again, this story concerns the markings.

TREATMENT & PLAN: This story follows the progression of marks and markings used, and as such, are generally chronologically orientated.

Date Stamps (circular, straight line, etc)(**DS**) are treated as the baseline marking, with any additional markings considered a variable: **DS** or **DS + 'x'** or **DS + 'x' + 'x'** where 'x' = an additional marking such as a "killer," 'x' + 'x' = two additional markings used, and so on. Because of this, some items in a certain sub-heading (27mm cds, for example) will be slightly out of chronological order as an example with **cds + x** predates the found baseline of just the **cds** example. As will be seen in the exhibit, the 25mm cds that came into use c. 1857 had the longest run of use with many different additional markings used (killer, service, etc).

The story ends with the close of the year 1919: Starting in 1920, Hudson postal markings became more mundane and "run of the mill" and tended to be used for longer periods of time than their predecessors; aside from some service markings, simple machine cancels became the norm ending the era of exotic markings and fancy cancels. The early machine cancels used at Hudson are shown to both illustrate this transition and to dateline the end of this story.

KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT: The exhibitor, a postal historian with over 20 years of collecting experience, has spent thirteen years searching out material for this exhibit and has written articles on this subject for *Excelsior!* (Journal of the Empire State Postal History Society), *Stamp Insider*, and *US Stamp News*. In its varying and growing forms,

starting as a single frame exhibit of stampless material, this exhibit has been shown on the local (gold, gold & Best of Show) and national level for seven years. Last shown at Philatelic Show 2010 (WSP – gold medal), the exhibit has had covers added, and the title and plan pages have been completely redone (AAPE critique service).

CONDITION & RARITY:

- 1793 Straight Line Cancel discovery copy of the Earliest Known Use that surfaced in 2011. The current *Stampless Cover Catalog (ASCC)* lists 1794 as the earliest use.
- As mentioned, the straightline cancels of the stampless era are all one of five known. The second item in the exhibit stands out as it has been free-franked by the first Postmaster of Hudson and discusses the local whaling industry.
- The 1799 'Hudson' handstamp (p3) is an ASCC un-listed variety.
- The 30mm cds (p20) is in an unreported color (brown).
- The stampless era sub-heading '27mm Circular Date Stamps 1820-1830' shows a free-franked cover - latest recorded use.
- Several of the machine cancellations shown are latest known uses; the Doremus Type A, used only for a few weeks in 1900, took years to find.

Fourteen years of searching has resulted in a large collection of Hudson postal history: the items in this exhibit and their markings are the best available to this collector.

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