Some Recent Pennsylvania Machine Cancels and Uses Not previously reported . . .

By A J Savakis, The Editor

The Machine Cancel Society has published an impressive list of books, and periodicals, since its inception. Added together with privately published books and manuscripts on the subject of machine cancels, a four shelf bookcase with three-foot shelving would be insufficient to hold the material!

Despite this information that is available in print, there are plenty of new uses, new towns, new machines, and types to be found and reported. Machine cancel collecting is an adventure!

Consider these Pennsylvania finds:

1. In the July 2009 issue of Forum, Matt Stoll reported this new date of use of a Type F 6 ( ) cancel used at Philadelphia, Station B.

Figure 1, above: A NEW DATE OF USE! American Postal Machines Company used at Philadelphia, Station B previously reported used on March 18, 1896, has been found used January 19, 1896 as well by Matt Stoll.

Bob Payne has previously reported machine #1, American Postal Machines Company, used at Philadelphia, Station B, on March 18, 1896[1] with a Type F dial, and Type 6 ( ) canceller. The Type F dial designation for the American bar cancels is the same style as the Flag Cancel Encyclopedia by Frederick Langford's type chart.[2] The bar cancellation Type 6 ( ) from the study on American Cancels[3] indicates that there are 6 straight bars, with a blank die space.

[1] Billings, Payne & Morris, A PRIMER – US MACHINE POSTAL MARKINGS (2005) at page 40.
[2] The Flag Cancel Encyclopedia is in its Fourth Edition and is ONLY available from the MCS. Please contact the Secretary to order. Address and email are listed elsewhere in this document.
[3] Morris, American Machine Cancels (1975 and 1978).

Bob Payne described the March 18, 1896, find as unique. With this new January 19, 1896, example, additional copies used in early 1896 are likely to be found.

AMERICAN POSTAL MACHINES COMPANY

PHILADELPHIA ** STATION B

Editor's Note: This list of use was provided by Bob Payne in January 2005 before he passed away. The new find by Matt Stoll is added.

Machine # 1

PA	**PHILADELPHIA**	**STA. B**	**F**		**6 ( )**	**NEW EKU!**	***1896 0119***	**1896 0318**
PA	PHILADELPHIA	STA. B	F		W2(1)		1896 0402	1898 0207
PA	PHILADELPHIA	STA. B	F		14 ( )	Flag	1898 0421	1899 0923
PA	PHILADELPHIA	STA. B	F		37 (1)	Expo.Flag	1899 0925	1899 1127
PA	PHILADELPHIA	STA. B	F		38 (1)	Flag	1899 1215	1899 1230

Machine #2

PA	PHILADELPHIA	STA. B	F		13 (2)	Flag	1896 0115	1896 0310
PA	PHILADELPHIA	STA. B	F	1	6 (2)		1896 0310	1896 0319
PA	PHILADELPHIA	STA. B	F	1	W2(2)		1896 0324	1896 0517
PA	PHILADELPHIA	STA. B	F	2	6 (2)		1896 0612	1896 0619
PA	PHILADELPHIA	STA. B	F	2	W2(2)		1896 0628	1898 0404
PA	PHILADELPHIA	STA. B	F		37 (2)	Expo.Flag	1899 1102	1899 1128
PA	PHILADELPHIA	STA. B	F		38 (2)	Flag	1899 1212	1899 1228

This new find proves that the lists of uses are ever expanding, and this is the discovery area available for collectors to engage.

The key of course is reporting. Not only does this add to the body of information, but it encourages others to look as well. Consider the next Philadelphia find:

2. David Vogtman reports a September 30, 1896, cancel, also from Station B, Philadelphia, with machine #2 noted in the cancellation bars. **See Figure 2, below:**

Figure 2, above: A NEW DATE OF USE! American Postal Machines Company used on September 30, 1896, at Philadelphia, Station B Type F 6 (2) previously reported used during two periods in 1896: March 10 – 19 and June 12-19. This report adds a third period of use in September. The find was reported by David Vogtman.

3. As this special issue was being assembled, a visit to a local Akron, Ohio, stamp bourse, produced for the Editor this interesting small town Pennsylvania marking used at Youngsville:

Figure 3, above: December 22, 1925, Columbia machine cancel used at Youngsville, Pennsylvania. This is a previously unreported town using a Columbia device.

The very busy cover with postal markings due to its forwarding and directory search draw the eye away from the lightly applied machine cancel a the top right corner of the envelope. The machine cancel is a Type G1W Columbia machine cancel, from a town not previously reported to have used a Columbia machine. **See Figure 4** for a closeup.

Figure 4, above: Type G1W Columbia machine cancel used December 22, 1925, at Youngsville, Pennsylvania.

Youngsville is a small town in Warren County, northwestern Pennsylvania.[4] In 1980, it had a population of about 2000. In the last census in 2000, it shrunk a bit. It is located in an area rich in outdoor opportunities like hunting, fishing, and camping. Finding this machine cancel – a new town – was a nice catch.

New dates of use, new towns are discoveries to be found and shared in common boxes of covers. There is a machine cancel adventure ready for you.

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[4] The webpage of Youngsville, Pennsylvania, says that it is an incorporated 'borough.'