

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN POSTAL MACHINES COMPANY OF BOSTON MASS

THE 13 STAR IMPRINT OF CANCELLING MACHINES OF THE AMERICAN POSTAL MACHINES COMPANY, OF BOSTON, IS TODAY THE BEST KNOWN OF ALL OBSOLETE U.S. POSTAL MARKINGS. IT WAS IN CONTINUOUS USE FOR 47 YEARS, AND THE NEAR 3,200 towns OF USE INCLUDE MOST INCORPORATED PLACES OF SIZE IN THE U.S.A.

THE CHIEF INVENTORS OF THE COMPANY WERE BROTHERS, FRANK N. ETHRIDGE AND MARTIN V. ETHRIDGE. THE AMERICAN CO. INITIALLY ENTERED THE CANCELLING MACHINE BUSINESS THROUGH PURCHASE OF THE PATENTS AND BUSINESS OF A PRIOR BOSTON CANCELLING MACHINE MAKER, THE LEAVITTS. THESE PATENTS WERE NOT USED BY THE ETHRIDGES IN NEW MACHINE CONSTRUCTION, BUT THEY DEVELOPED THEIR OWN MODELS, WHICH WERE THE FIRST TRULY SUCCESSFUL "RAPID" CANCELLING MACHINES DEVELOPED IN THE UNITED STATES. THE AMERICAN POSTAL MACHINES COMPANY WAS INCORPORATED IN 1885, AND, ALTHOUGH FOR THREE OR FOUR YEARS ITS NEW MACHINES WERE IN USE ONLY IN BOSTON, IT WAS STRIVING FOR RECOGNITION FROM THE U.S. POST OFFICE DEPT. THIS WAS GAINED IN 1889, AND IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER ITS MACHINES WERE RENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR USE IN OTHER CITIES. IN THE YEARS OF THE 1890's, DESPITE COMPETITION OF OTHER RECOGNIZED, AND LEASE AWARDED, MAKERS, THE AMERICAN COMPANY WAS THE BIGGEST SUPPLIER OF MECHANICAL CANCELLING EQUIPMENT TO THE U.S. POSTAL DEPT.

OCTOBER 31st, 1894, THE FIRST FLAG DIE WAS USED, REPLACING A 6 STRAIGHT BAR CANCELLER, ON AMERICAN MACHINE "H" IN THE BOSTON MAIN POST OFFICE. BY THE END OF 1894, FLAG DIES WERE ALSO MARKING MAIL ON AMERICAN COMPANY MACHINES IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND CHICAGO; AND BY THE END OF 1895 THE FLAG WAS USED IN 16 CITIES AND TOWNS IN THE U.S.A.

A REPRESENTATION OF THE 13 STAR FLAG
IMPRINT OF CANCELLING MACHINES OF THE
AMERICAN MACHINE COMPANY OF BOSTON.

TYPE. D14 (1)



TYPE. E14 (2)

After 10 days, return to
IE CARTER'S INK COMPANY,
172 Columbus Ave.,
BOSTON, MASS.



Bugbee & Thompson
Providence
R.I.

TYPE. E13 (1) NO HALYARD
(JULY TO DEC 1896)



HERBERT H. BARNES
MANAGER.

Return in 5 days.



The Specie Store Co
Providence
R.I.

TYPE. D4 (3) STEEP

After 5 days, return to
RICHARDSON, HILL & CO.,
P. O. Box 5282,
BOSTON, MASS.



Miller & Vaughan
Providence R.I.

TYPE. A14 (3)

Copyright. L. F. Pease, 257 Laurel St., Buffalo, N.Y.

*Best wishes from
Dwight May*



Mr. Charles Dennett
Plympton
Mass
J-Dennett Bros

TYPE. D4 (4) STEEP

After 5 days, return to
RICHARDSON, HILL & CO.,
P. O. Box 5282,
BOSTON, MASS.



H. C. Cranston.

Providence.
R.I.

TYPE. A14 (4) DIFF DIE



TYPE. D4 (5) STEEP

Return to FOGG BROS. & CO.,
48 Congress Street, BOSTON, Mass.,
If not delivered within 5 days.

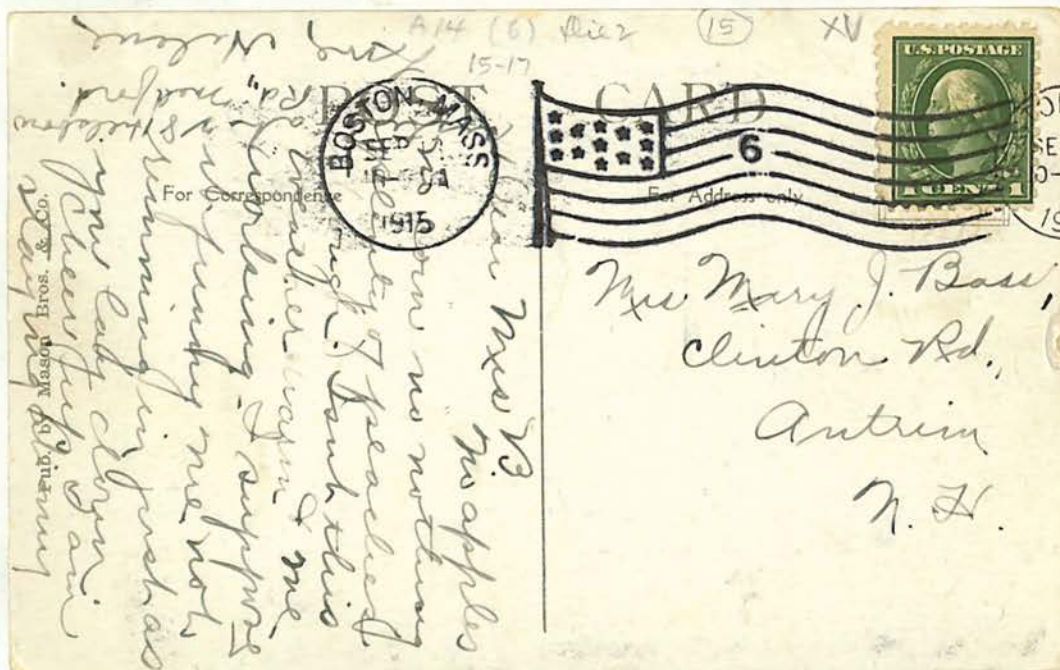


Fourth Nat Bank
Providence
R I

TYPE. D3 (6)



TYPE. A14 (6) D.D.



TYPE. D4 (7) STEEP

FARBENFABRIKEN
E. SEHLBACH & CO.
Aniline and Alizarine Colors
OF **ESSEN**
68 BATTERY STREET,
BOSTON.



SNOW & EARLE CO.,

8 Exchange Place,

Box 1297.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.

TYPE. B14 (7)



TYPE. D4 (8) STEEP

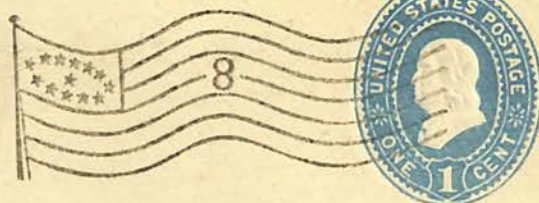
FROM
S. Hirshberg & Co.,
BOOTS AND SHOES,
118-118 PEARL ST., BOSTON.



Mr. R. M. Warehau
Westminster St
Providence
R.I.

THIRD CLASS USAGE

After 5 days, return to
P. O. BOX 1833,
BOSTON, MASS.



Chas. F. Chase Esq.
Westminster St.
Providence R.I.

TYPE D4 (9) STEEP


F. E. & J. A. GREENE,
34 TEMPLE PLACE, BOSTON, MASS..
PROPRIETORS OF
DR. GREENE'S NERVURA.
The Great Nerve, Brain and Blood Remedy.



Chambers, Calder & Co
Providence
R.I.

TYPE. D4 (10)
STEEP 3rd CLASS

After 5 days, return to
P. O. BOX 1833,
BOSTON, MASS.



Patrick P. Banigan Esq.
Providence
R. I.

TYPE. B14 (11) DD



TYPE. D4 (12) STEEP



TYPE. B14 ()



TYPE. B4 ()



BOSTON MAIN POST OFFICE
ALPHABETIC TYPES
NO HALYARD 1896

TYPE. D13 (A) DD

After 5 days, return to
WILLIAM O. GAY & CO.,
P. O. Box 1285,
BOSTON, MASS.



Messrs. Dean & Shibley
75 Westminister St
Providence R. I.

TYPE. D13 (B)

After 3 days, return to
C. A. CUNNINGHAM,
200 Franklin St.,
BOSTON, MASS.

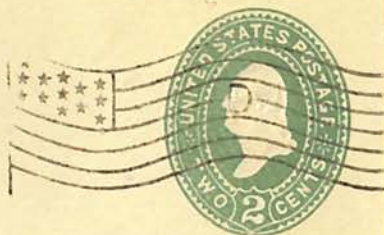


Mess. E. T. George & Co.,

Providence, R. I.

TYPE. D13 (D)

After 5 days, return to
WM. H. SWIFT & CO.,
45 Pearl St.,
BOSTON, MASS.



Chambers, Calder & Co.,
11 Exchange Place,
Providence,
R. I.

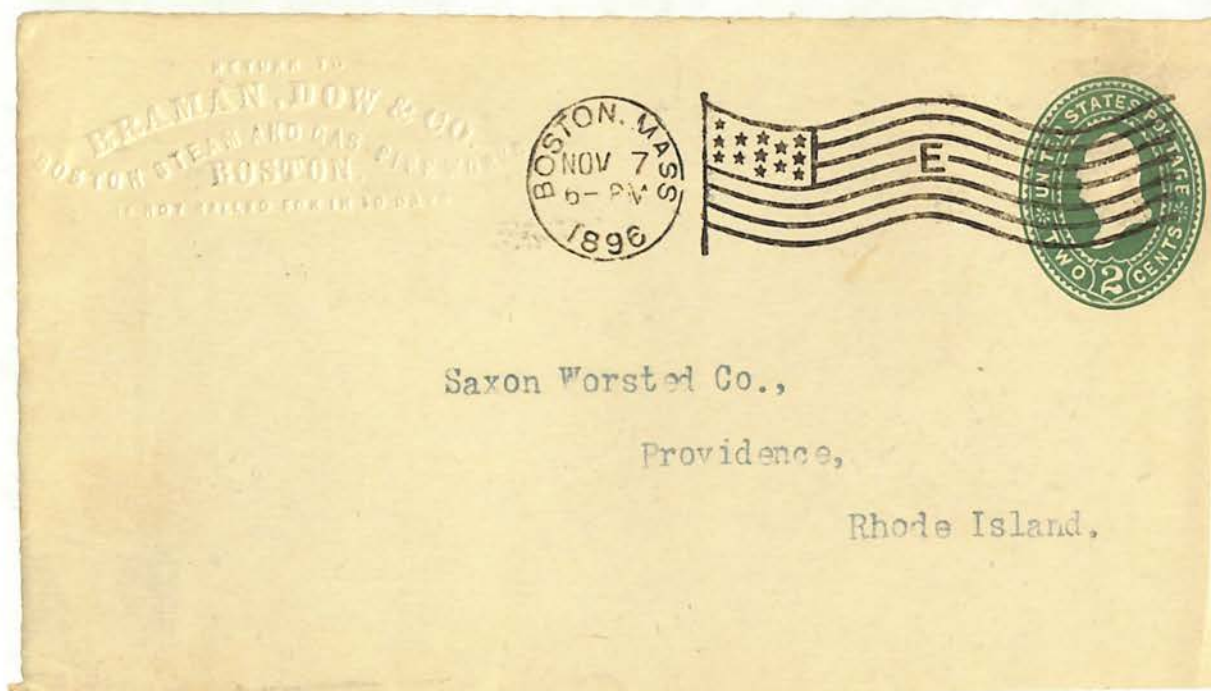
TYPE. D13 (D)

**RICHARDS & CO.,
METAL DEALERS,
60 Union St., BOSTON.**
Return in 5 days.



Mess. Wilcox & Congdon,
Providence, R. I.

TYPE. D13 (E)



TYPE. D13 (F)



TYPE. D13 (G)



TYPE. D13 (M)

