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# AUXILIARY MARKINGS

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Issue No. 4

A journal that reports about and studies the myriad markings  
added to a letter that explain how it reached its final destination  
Publication of The Auxiliary Markings Club  
www.postal-markings.org

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## Editorial

by Tony Wawrukiewicz

Our membership has leveled off at the very satisfactory number of 154. One complaint I have received as editor from these members is the apparent paucity of articles concerned with foreign auxiliary markings. My response to this is simple. If such articles are sent to me, I will be glad to print them. Tim Bartsche was kind enough to write such an article, *Too Late Markings - Boer Republics and their Colonial Counterparts*, and it is found on pages 6 and 7.

From member Jeff Shapiro: “My only complaint is that in your listing of ROPEX 2004 Awards won by Society members, you neglected to mention my brilliant (!) Silver Bronze (but Most Popular) effort, “ConPHessions of a PHat PHilatelist.”” Sorry, Jeff.

In response to the article in the last newsletter, Roland Austin reports a new earliest known use of a machine cancel RMS 48 for a Return to Writer/Sender Message. This January 11, 1923, ‘RETURN TO WRITER UNCLAIMED’ example is presented by member Roland Austin on his web site (which can be accessed from our web site).

## The Weeping Woman by Tony Wawrukiewicz

There have now been three sightings of the ‘Weeping Woman’ unclaimed marking, a marking that was discovered by Don Tocher and first reported in the October 27, 2003, *Linn’s*, page 37.

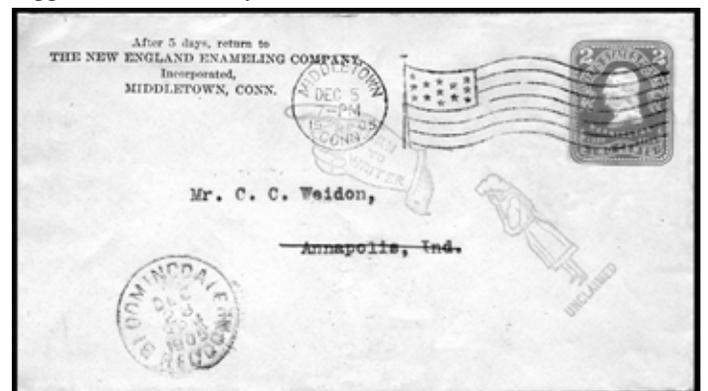
The initial discovery was struck on a February 4, 1911, cover from Selma, Alabama to Pierville, Alabama. The black rubber stamp auxiliary marking pictures a woman weeping over a letter that went unclaimed in Pierville, Alabama.

On February 9, 2004, again in *Linn’s*, a second such weeping

woman black marking was reported and illustrated on page 8. This second example was on a 1906 cover from Belva, West Virginia to a city in Kentucky, where it was returned to sender (‘RETURN TO WRITER’), unclaimed.

Illustrated in this report is a lovely green third example of this remarkable rubber-stamp auxiliary marking. This third example, owned by the editor, is on a December 5, 1905, 2¢/oz rate letter from Middletown, Connecticut to Annapolis, Indiana, from where it was returned ‘UNCLAIMED,’ with the help of the weeping woman. As with the other two covers, the weeping woman is accompanied by a small handstamped pointing hand reading ‘RETURN TO WRITER.’

The weeping woman rubber stamp has now been found used in three different states, Indiana, Kentucky, and Alabama, from 1905 until 1911. As Rob Haeseler, I think correctly, hypothesized, this widespread local use over a short period of time suggests that this delightful auxiliary was indeed sold by a midwest vender of post office supplies, in a relatively limited fashion.



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## AMC President Message by Nancy B. Clark

It's hard to believe that we are getting ready to start our second year as the official organization for auxiliary markings. In that short time we have established a web site which has drawn more than 34 members, held our first annual meeting and awarded our first Richard B. Graham and President's Awards. We've started work on a bibliography, library, by-laws and an exhibit copy service. Terms have been defined and a general outline of collecting areas has been laid out, with specialists willing to act as points of referral. You're holding the fourth issue of our Newsletter, where our first survey of auxiliary markings was announced. We've come a long way in a short time, with a future of growth and research laid out ahead for our membership.

The exhibit copying service currently has the first winner of the Graham Award, John Hotchner's "20th Century United States Auxiliary Markings Documenting Delay of, or Inability to Deliver, the Mail: The First Fifty Years." It's a ten-frame exhibit so your cost will be \$13.50 unbound and \$23.00 bound (with a plastic comb with clear outside front and back). The Club offers these copies at cost as a service to our membership. Should you decide to order a copy, do so by emailing Doug Clark at [dnc@math.uga.edu](mailto:dnc@math.uga.edu); or writing him at Post Office Box 427, Marstons Mills, MA 02648.

Remember, for any copy we offer, you will receive a second-generation copies. The quality will be enhanced or reduced by the quality of the original copy we receive.

With this issue you have received a form to fill out to update your membership information. Prepared by Membership Secretary, Jerry Johnson, your completed forms will make possible a Membership Directory. When he has in hand the information, we should be able to put together a substantive membership guide. With this information you can find fellow collectors in your area of the country and in your specialized area of collecting interest. Everyone's name will be listed with his or her area of interest,

but contact information may be limited, according to the wishes of each member. We will also list dealer members so that you can more readily contact them for your collecting needs.

This is also time to renew your dues. Gary Hendren will be keeping track of these figures. You can pay by check or money order directly to Gary or use PayPal by going to our web site at [www.postal-markings.org](http://www.postal-markings.org).

There has been talk of running a Club auction. This seems a good opportunity for the members but we lack one thing - an Auction Manager. This is a job for an organized individual who is able to write clear descriptions and arrive at reasonable estimates as well as coordinate between the sellers and bidders. If you think you would like to work in this area, please contact me.

Tony, our capable Editor, has a good supply of articles coming his way, but any editor likes a few articles ready to pull out when needed to balance the coverage. I hope that some of our section specialists will consider writing regular columns with information they have compiled.

I think you are finding this an exceptionally responsive Board. As members contact Board members, many ideas are incorporated into the organization. When our by-laws are in place, we will need to have formal elections. Hopefully that will occur before the end of the year.

For those of you who are not aware (where have you been?) our own John Hotchner won the award of a lifetime when he was recognized with the John L. Luff Award at StampShow this August. I can think of few who deserve it as much as he. Well done, John!

Our Club was recognized on APS StampTalk when Tony Wawrukiewicz was interviewed about auxiliary markings. The show is archived at [www.WSRadio.com/APSStampTalk/](http://www.WSRadio.com/APSStampTalk/) Registered mail was covered on a different show with Eliot Landau and can be found at the same site.

## All the Contemporary Handstamped Auxiliary Markings of Grand Rapids, Michigan by Douglas Quine

*There are so many ways to collect auxiliary markings.*

As indicated by this article, apparently not all postal workers find collectors to be people who get in the way of their jobs, and therefore are more than willing to help us. One of the Grand Rapids Post Office employees gave me examples of all the handstamped auxiliary markings presently being used by this city.

This listing makes a very interesting collection because it

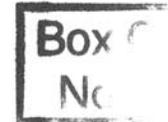
shows how many are typically available at a medium-sized Post Office system, and it allows us to see how many of the hand-stamps used appear to be generic.

To those who have even a small collection of contemporary auxiliary markings, a significant number of the 'Grand Rapids' markings are apparently available from national or regional vendors. (Editor's note: I have discussed this issue with a postal

worker who is also a collector, and he indicates that there are at least 30-40 such vendors out there. In a perusal of just a few of my RTS markings, I have found (west coast) duplicates of five auxiliary markings on the list on this page. *I now believe that many of the RTS auxiliary markings from 1870 to present are vendor-provided and duplicated.*)



**REFUSED**



**NOT DELIVERABLE  
AS ADDRESSED  
UNABLE  
TO FORWARD**



**UNCLAIMED**



PLEASE NOTIFY THE  
SENDER OF YOUR  
COMPLETE AND CORRECT  
ADDRESS THANK YOU

Found in supposedly  
empty equipment



Please notify you  
correspondents  
of your correct zip code

**RECEIVED  
UN-SEALED**



IF NOT YOUR MAIL,  
PLEASE RETURN TO  
SERVICE COUNTER

**POSTAGE DUE** \_\_\_\_\_

## Some Thoughts on a Classification Scheme for Auxiliary Markings - Part 2

### The MACHINE CANCEL Device Features

1. Description of the Canceling Machine - I would suggest using the various notations developed and led by the Machine Cancel Society for the following elements.

- a) Machine manufacturer
- b) Model
- c) Die hub style
- d) Auxiliary marking die style

2. Presence of the round die hub in the marking

- a) Present
- b) Not present

3) Orientation/Placement of die hub to message

- a) Die hub to right of message
- b) Die hub to left of message

NOTE: This feature relevant only when die hub is present. These two features, 2 and 3 could be combined into a single feature as follows:

2A. Round die hub position

- a) No die hub marking present
- b) Die hub to right of message
- c) Die hub to left of message

4. Distance measure between die hub and message, in mm.

5. Presence of message

- a) Present
- b) Not present

NOTE: May be redundant, as I'm not certain it makes sense to contemplate a Machine Cancel AM without a message.

6. Presence of pointing hand

- a) Present
- b) Not present

NOTE: Early Machine AMs were text only, but most of the modern ones I have seen include an outline of a pointing hand.

7. Position of marking on envelope

These marking typically appear at the lower left bottom corner of an envelope. Some also appear on the reverse of the envelope. This is not significant for identification but is it possibly useful for research studies.

### The LABEL Device Features

1. Paper type

- a) Plain paper (no adhesive, would require some external fastening method, such as glue, paste, or staple, etc.)
- b) Gummed paper, water activated
- c) Peelable label, with backing typically

2. Dimensions of the label

- a) Width (in mm)
- b) Height (in mm)

3. Type of corner

- a) Square, 90 degree angle cut
- b) Rounded cut

4. Color of paper (or background)

- a) White
- b) Yellow
- c) Others?

5. Type of printing mechanism used to create the label

- a) Handwritten
- b) Typewritten
- c) Mimeographed

d) Hectographed, other pre-Xerox technology reproduction equipment

e) Xerox/laser printer type technology

f) Dot matrix printer

g) Typeset/Letterpress technology

h) Modern multicolor press technology

i) Other?

6. Presence of message

- a) Present
- b) Not present

NOTE: Redundant?

7. Pointing hand presence

- a) Present
- b) Not present

8. Orientation of pointing hand to message. Use compass point notation discussed under handstamps.

9. Logo presence

- a) Present
- b) Not present

10. Orientation of logo with respect to message. Use compass point notation.

11. Message class

12. USPS label order or identification number

### The INK JET SPRAY MARKING Device Features

1. Message presence

- a) No message present
- b) Message present

NOTE: This may also be redundant, as I am not certain that it makes sense to co-template a spray marking that does not have a message.

2. Message class

3. Equipment manufacturer. I am not sure how well know this equipment is or if this type of information is available like it is for canceling machines. Or if relevant.

4. Position of spray marking on envelope. This is simply a suggestion. There may be a significance to this position based on equipment types.

### The DESIGN Components

This next section will look at the three DESIGN components I had identified earlier, together with an initial set of FEATURES and values for those features. Again, understand that these are simply a set of suggested features and values.

### The LOGO Design Features

1. The type of logo

a) The current USPS Eagle (stylized) with "UNITED STATES" and "POSTAL SERVICE" in two lines below Eagle.

NOTE: This is only logo I have seen to date, but assume there may be both other older USPS logos, and the older USPOD "Post Rider" as other possibilities.

2. Dimensions of logo

- a) Width (in mm)
- b) Height (in mm)

3. The color of ink used to print the logo

- a) Blue
- b) Red

- c) Black
  - d) Other?
4. The presence of the “red” line between “United States” and POSTAL SERVICE”
- a) Present
  - b) Not present
- NOTE: An alternative approach to this feature would be to define two different logo types, one with this red line, and the second without it.

### The MESSAGE Design Feature

1. The message class. This is included here as an alternative to having it included in the more general DEVICE features.
2. The actual message text
3. The layout of the message
  - a) Single line, straight line
  - b) Multiple lines, straight lines
  - c) Multiple lines, in form of check off list with boxes
  - d) Multiple lines, in form of check off list with shaded boxes.
  - e) Conforms to other geometric shape
4. Geometry/Geometric figure around message
  - a) Lines without any figure
  - b) Straight lines with rectangular box
  - c) Circle
  - d) Oval
  - e) Triangular marking, sharp corners
  - f) Triangular marking, rounded corner
  - g) Hexagonal
  - h) Others?
5. Dimension of marking or geometrical shape
  - a) Width (in mm)
  - b) Height (in mm)

NOTE: Some shapes require definition of measurements

6. Font style of letters in the message
  - a) Roman, any san-serifed fonts (no serifs)
  - b) San-serifed
  - c) Italics
7. Case of text used in message
  - a) All upper case letters
  - b) Combination of upper and lower case letters
8. Height of text in message (in mm)

NOTE: This may be complicated for multi-line messages which may use different size type.

### The POINTING HAND Design Features

This is certainly the most complex component to describe, although some of the multi-line check off box messages may come close. This discussion of features is based only on those included in Nancy Clark’s article on labels in the January 2004 Newsletter. I have no doubt there are more which others can add.

1. Which hand
  - a) Right hand
  - b) Left hand
2. Which direction is the hand pointing. Use the compass direction notation introduced previously.
3. Type of cuff(s) on wrist
  - a) None
  - b) Single
  - c) Double

- d) Double with one shaded
  - e) Triple
4. Other Cuff characteristics (multiple may be present)
- a) Ruffle present or absent
  - b) Broken cuff
  - c) Button, single circle
  - d) Button, two concentric circles
  - e) Others?
5. Fingernails
- a) Absent/not present
  - b) Present
- 6) Secondary (RETURN) message text. Because so many of these pointing hands have this standard message either within the hand or next to the hand, I have chosen to treat it as a part of the pointing hand as opposed to part of the message. This appears to be practical since there is a small number of message variants, and it makes it unnecessary to associate two different messages with a large number of the auxiliary markings. Discussion and comment on this assumption welcomed.
- a) No message inside or outside the pointing hand
  - b) Message “RETURN TO SENDER”
  - c) Message “RETURNED TO SENDER” (past tense)
  - d) Message “RETURN TO WRITER”
  - e) Message “RETURNED TO WRITER” (past tense)
  - f) Others?
7. Location of secondary (RETURN) message
- a) Inside the hand
    - i) Three straight lines
    - ii) Top line curved, entirely in palm or back of hand
    - iii) Top line curved, starting in thumb or fore finger, depending on orientation of hand.
  - b) Outside the hand
    - i) Location. Use compass direction notation
    - ii) Style of lines
      - aa) One straight line
      - bb) Two lines
      - cc) Three lines
      - dd) Curved line, follows shape of hand
      - ee) Curved line, follows shape of hand, sharper
      - ff) Others?
8. Font type in secondary (RETURN) message
- a) Roman (san serif)
  - b) Serifed
  - c) Italics
- 9) Dimensions of hand
- a) Width (in mm)
  - b) Height (in mm)
- 10) Color of ink used to print hand
- a) Black
  - b) Red
  - c) Magenta
  - d) Violet
  - e) Others?
11. Other characteristics
- a) Pointing finger missing
  - b) Pointing finger broken
  - c) Others?

# “Too Late” Markings - Boer Republics and their Colonial Counterparts

by Tim Bartshe

The Boer Republics, notably Orange Free State and South African Republic and their Colonial equivalents (after the British Occupation) Orange River Colony and Transvaal are known to have used markings equivalent to “Too Late”. To my knowledge, the first such markings are recorded from 1888 and continue into Union (1910). Each of the four main states in Southern Africa which also include the Cape Colony and Natal utilized numerous devices as well as manuscript markings to indicate timing of mail receipt at the receiving post office. Schoeman, 1973, references the O.F.S. Postal Laws, Chapter LIX which indicates that one hour before the departure of the mail, the post box for letters was “closed”. All letters and cards placed in the box after that time were to be marked “TE LAAT” and had to be dispatched on the next mail departure. Items could be taken to the counter and a late fee paid for dispatch and would NOT have been stamped as above. What follows are examples of mail with such markings related to simple mail arriving too late to make the day’s mail bag. There were no fees associated with these markings as no special service was rendered.

The first such markings related to mail entry timing is a hand stamp included in the original shipment of stamps and dies from Otto delivered to the ZAR in 1869 (Drysdall, 1997) and examples are recorded until 1879 into the first British Occupation. Drysdall, 2000, states that Postmaster Jeppe ordered 12 such stamps to be distributed to the major town post offices. This stamp is boxed and I have no original example to display herein, but a scan of a photocopied cover (Drysdall, various) is shown in figure 1.

hand stamp 21.5 x 4 mm (Drysdall, 1997 states 23 x 3.5 mm). An example from 1899 is shown in figure 3.



Figure 3

Other examples reported in the literature are from 1896 (van den Hurk, 1993). All recorded examples were so treated at the main post office in Johannesburg.

The Orange Free State similarly had a hand-stamp marking to indicate the arrival of an item too late to be included in the day’s mail, reading **TE LAAT**. Aside from Bloemfontein, it appears that a fairly large number of these were distributed to the major post offices. The measurements vary somewhat from one to another, but generally are within 1 mm. The examples shown in figures 4 and 5 are from Bloemfontein (1888) and Bethlehem (1886), respectively, the later being the earliest recorded date of usage.

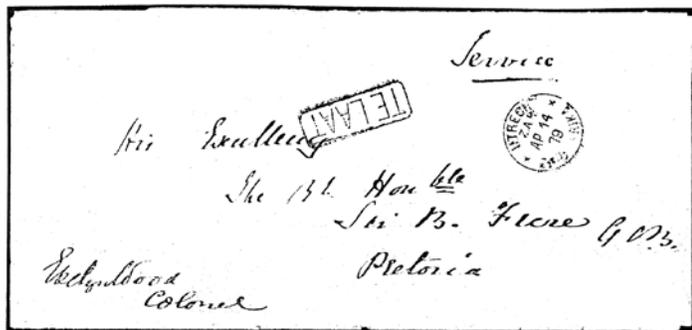


Figure 1

As with all First Republic mail, any examples would be extremely rare. In the same reference (Drysdall, 2000) the British introduced a new series of hand stamps which included a boxed **TOO LATE**. Both enlargements are shown in figures 1a and 2.



Figure 1a

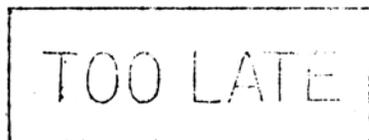


Figure 2

The Second Republic introduced another smaller sans-serif

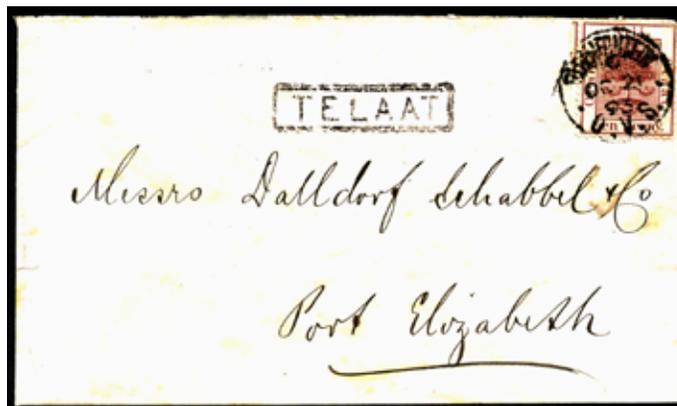


Figure 4

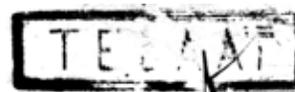


Figure 5

Other offices which are recorded with these marks are Bethanie (1894), Ficksburg, Harrismith (1892), Smithfield (1891) and Winburg (1888, 1895 [Stroud, 1997]). These items are relatively scarce with less than 15 recorded by the author. Another stamp reading **LAAT GEPOST** has also been reported from Bloemfontein meaning posted late. The examples recorded are very late in

Republican history being from August and September of 1899, just prior to the opening of hostilities.

Apparently, desiring to adhere to the postal regulations even though a hand stamp had not been issued, the postmaster in the small town of Cloclan wrote the reason for postal card not being included in the day's mail. He wrote on the back of the card 9 October 1983 "Procured too late - of same date" (Figures 6).

Figure 6

This is the only recorded example of such a marking from any post office.

Upon eventual return to civilian control of the postal service, the Orange River Colony continued the procedure in annotating the reason for mail delivery delay by producing a few hand stamps reading "POSTED TOO LATE" or "POSTED LATE". In all, some six different towns used these markings which are also quite scarce. It is interesting to note that the Transvaal had no reported markings for late mail arrival that were not associated with the TPO service. This is an entirely different subject not dealt with herein.



Figure 7

The **POSTED TOO LATE** is in a single line in sans serif capital letters measuring 73 x 7 mm. It is only reported by a single example from Bloemfontein dated 25 October 1904. The single-

line item shown in Figure 7 is a recently discovered hand stamp emanating from Kroonstad. The marking **(P)OSTED LATE** is composed of serified letters measuring 3.5 mm high and dates from 6 December 1904.

The **POSTED LATE** in oval measures 35 x 24 mm and is composed of sans serif capital letters 4.5 mm high in two lines (Figure 8).



Figure 8

These marks are recorded from Bethlehem (1/08), Boshof (10/10), Fouriesburg (5/09), Harrismith (10/07 and 4/08) and Heilbron (11/07). From the dates of know usage, it can be surmised that the devices were obtained sometime late in 1907 to replace the earlier mentioned handmade devices. These marks are also quite scarce which is certainly not unusual given the nature of most auxiliary markings from around the world.

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### Free Advertisements for Members

It is a board decision that henceforth, each member is allowed one free advertisement each year if it is 30 words or less, excluding address. The first such free ad follows.

I'm looking for covers with auxiliary markings that are franked with any of the stamps I specialize in - #859 Washington Irving, #1548 Sleepy Hollow, and #1940 Christmas 1981 Teddy Bear. Gary Denis, PO BOX 766, Patuxent River, MD 20670.

### 2005 Dues and Membership List

Enclosed with this newsletter is an Auxiliary Markings Club renewal form for use in sending in your \$15.00 2005 dues. The form also includes requests for additional information including members' auxiliary markings interests (the list mentioned is the one that was in Nancy's column of the July newsletter), members' willingness to serve the club and their interest in being listed in a membership list.

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