

# August 2018

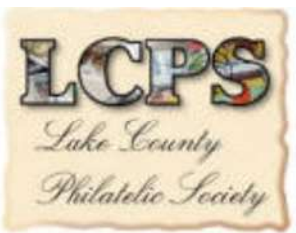
Volume 18 Number 08

Newsletter of the Lake County (IL)

Philatelic Society - Established 1933

Website: [LCPSHOME.ORG](http://LCPSHOME.ORG)

## Perforations



Game of Thrones Meets the USPS and APS?

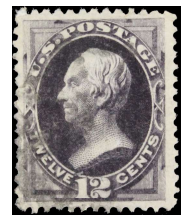


Last month, member brought in their favorite album/philatelic item and tell us why it is of interest. We say a wide range of items from pin/badges , Japanese covers, to a collection of that much maligned Pictorial Issues (1869-1870) (that leads into this month article).



This month, Bill Schultz will present on distinguishing some of the paper types and other materials used in stamp production. He will also be bringing along some pictures from the summer APS convention in Columbus, Ohio this month. The theme of the show was 'There will be dragons.' Feel free to bring along stamps made with unusual paper or other materials, or if you have any philatelic items with connections to dragons. We will be raffling off a first day cover of one of the 4 new dragon forever stamps, which were released at the show.

**Why Secret Marks** — A couple of years ago, I picked up a used 12c Henry Clay stamp. The values ranged between \$135 to \$210 depending on what printer produced it. In the process of figuring out which one (Scott 151, Scott 162 or Scott 173), I came across an interesting bit of history ... With the public's disliked of the Pictorial Issue for reasons, including among other things, the design, shape, and the ineffectiveness of the gum in affixing stamp to envelope. The USPO went back to the standard rectangle shape with the National Bank Note Company (NBNC) issue of 1870-71 (Scott 134-155).



In 1872, the Grant administration was "pressured" to review USPOD stamp printing practice to open the Competition again to see if cost could be "reduced".

In this procurement process, the Continental Bank Note Company (CBNCo) (founded in 1863) promised greater efficiency and profitability than its competitors. It melded business savvy, independent and highly skilled engraving, and well-connected entrepreneurs to secure important contracts, among them the U.S. Treasury Department's sole currency contract. CBNCo triumphed where the more established National Bank Note, American Bank Note, and Butler & Carpenter failed. This an incredible accomplishment for such a newly-formed company, a new company that also happened to occupied space owned by a senior assistant to the Department of the Treasury (appointed by the Grant administration)

### Treasures' Report: Total – \$3,501.03

Local  
Stamp  
Shows

MSDA Chicago Stamp Show  
Holiday Inn Oakbrook Terrace  
17 W 350 22nd St  
Oakbrook Terrace IL  
September 8 and 9



MILCOPEX 2018  
Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport  
6401 South 13th ST  
Milwaukee WI  
September 14, 15 and 16

MSDA Fall Show  
Ramada Inn Wheeling  
1090 S Milwaukee Ave  
Wheeling, IL  
October 13 and 14



Next meeting:

7-PM on Monday 27 August 2017  
at the Grayslake Library  
100 Library Lane - Grayslake IL 60030



Officers:

Dr Tom Willer – President  
Bill Schultz – Vice President  
Dave Sadler – Secretary  
Ed Pieklo – Treasurer



In our case, the Continental Bank Note Company's greatest accomplishment, however, was securing the sole contract to print U.S. postage stamps. On 01 May 1873, the firm became National Bank Note Company's successor (NBNC had held the contract since 1851). In 1877 CBNCo secured another four-year contract to print U.S. stamps. The following year (1878) Continental merged with the American Bank Note Company, and the contract transferred to this new name. In this period, the Continental Bank Note Company produced 25 major issues (Scott 156-181)

At that time, Continental took over some of the dies and plates used by the National Bank Note Company who had held the previous contract. In order to establish whether these stamps had been printed by National or Continental, "secret" marks were added to many, if not all of the plates used to produce the Continental Bank Note stamps.

We'll now look at the 1¢ Franklin, 2¢ Jackson, 3¢ Washington, 6¢ Lincoln, 7¢ Stanton, 10¢ Jefferson and the 12¢ Clay issues.



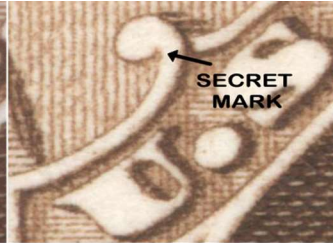
Scott 134 and Scott 145 - No Secret Mark  
National Printing -  
There is no dash in the scroll ball



Scott 156 and Scott 182 - With Secret mark  
Continental & American -  
There is a dash in the scroll ball



Scott 135 & Scott 146 - No Secret Mark  
National Printing - There is a gap where the  
scroll ball meets the scroll above "U.S."



Scott 157 - With Secret mark  
Continental Printing - There is a subtle dash of  
color added where the scroll ball meets the  
scroll above "U.S."



Scott 136 and Scott 147 - No secret mark  
There is only light shading below the upper  
ribbon under "THREE"



Scott 158, 184 and Scott 207 - With Secret Mark  
There is added shading below the upper ribbon  
under "THREE".



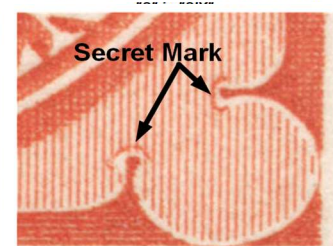
Scott 137 and 148 - No Secret Mark  
National Bank Note Co. - There is no extra shading  
in the lower ribbon below the "S" in "SIX".



Scott 159 and 186 - Secret Mark  
Continental Co. - Four lines of shading have  
been reinforced in the lower ribbon below the



Scott 138 and 149 - No Secret Mark  
National Printing - There is no "C" above the  
center of the lower right ball



Scott 160 - With Secret mark  
Continental Printing - There is a shaded "C"  
above the center of the lower right ball.

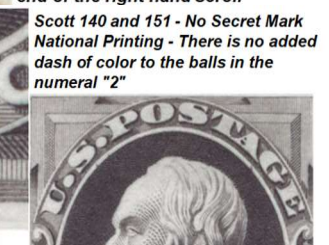
It must be noted that a "secret" mark has never been found on either the 24¢ or 90¢ stamp, and only on the later (after merge) American Bank Note Company printing of the 30¢ stamp. The 24¢ Continental is impossible to distinguish from the 24¢ National, other than a possible few copies printed on ribbed paper, *presumed* to have been used only by Continental. On many of the higher denominations the quality of the printing plate is evident; often the National stamps show a finer detail, especially on the earlier printings while the plates were still new.



Scott 139 and 150 - National Printing -  
No secret mark  
There is no semi-circle in the ball at  
the end of the right hand scroll



Scott 161 and Scott 188 - Continental  
Printing - With Secret Mark  
There is a semi-circle in the ball at  
the end of the right hand scroll



Scott 140 and 151 - No Secret Mark  
National Printing - There is no added  
dash of color to the balls in the  
numeral "2"



So the stamp (outlined in red above) I picked up is a ???.