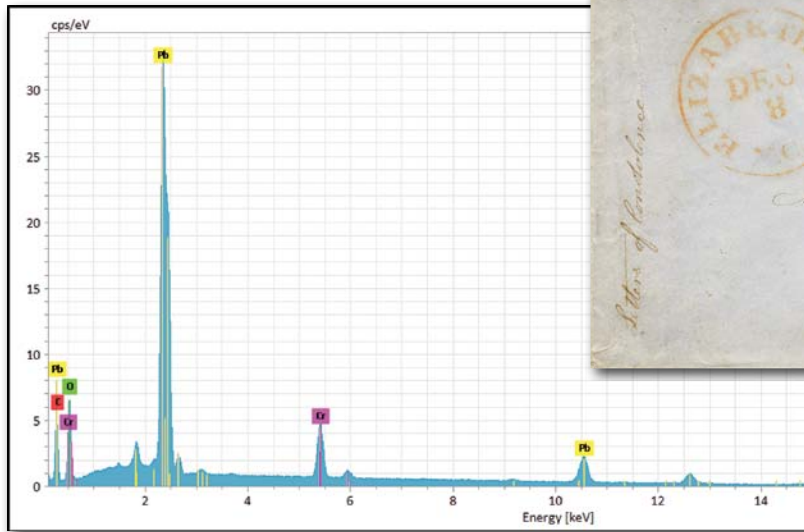
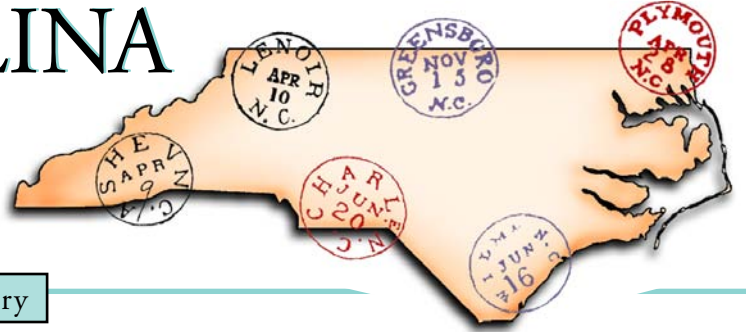


# NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

The Journal of North Carolina Postal History

VOLUME 40, NO. 4 FALL 2021 WHOLE 156



Characteristics of  
Cancellation Inks

Illustrated Official  
Business Envelopes



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I feel honored, as the newly elected President of the North Carolina Postal History Society, to greet our members with yet another fine and interesting issue of the *North Carolina Postal Historian*, an excellent journal published by an equally excellent organization.

Ever since joining the Society in 2013, I've been impressed with every aspect of its life. Along with its quarterly journal, the Society can boast of a superb website which hosts an unparalleled database of state postmarks organized by city and county, as well as its additional resources for the collector and historian. Upon joining the Board, I was immediately impressed with the talents and capabilities of its officers and directors. And I continue to be impressed with the Society's astute and active members who collect, research, publish, and exhibit, with awards attesting to their knowledge and expertise.

The general meeting of the Society was held on July 24 at CHARPEX 2021, which occurs each year in Charlotte. Attending members enjoyed Scott Steward's informative power-point program on "U.S. Domestically Mailed Circulars to 1900." The Society presented awards (reviewed later in this issue) to members whose research and writing represented outstanding contributions to North Carolina postal history.

The reports and actions of the Board of Directors at its annual meeting continue to reflect a strong Society. Harry Albert once again presented a sound financial report. He reported that the current membership of 136 reflects a net increase of four members. The Board elected George Slaton as President, Scott Steward as Vice President, and Harry Albert to continue as Secretary-Treasurer for the next two years. Retiring President Frank Hall reflected on a fulfilling six years in office, and the directors expressed their gratitude for his leadership. The Board also voted to approve an "Adopt-a-Library" program outlined below.

Two years ago, the Board decided to send our quarterly journal at no cost to twelve regional public libraries in North Carolina that maintain large, growing collections of books and

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archives relating to the history of their region and, in many cases, to the history of the entire state. These collections are typically housed in a special "local history room" and supervised by a librarian who is very knowledgeable in the history of that area. Each room has an open shelf display of publications like our journal. These local history rooms host legions of browsers, researchers, and genealogists. One library has since joined the Society, and we hope that others may follow as their trial subscription ends this year.

The *Postal Historian* is a valuable resource which belongs in our North Carolina public libraries, where it can be seen and used by anyone with an interest in the state's history. Its presence in the public sphere helps fulfill our Society's mission "to promote, study, and educate the public about North Carolina postal history."

We hope that you will consider adopting a library or other historical institution for the coming year by providing it with a gift membership! The Adopt-a-Library effort is yet another opportunity for our members to support the Society's outreach, as well as to support a library or historical society in their city, county, or region. The membership renewal form provides an option for adopting a library or other historical organization of your choice.

Your membership renewal form for 2022 is enclosed with the present issue of the *Postal Historian*. Please continue your membership by filling it out and sending a check as early as possible.



## NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

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Membership in the Society is \$15 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the Secretary/Treasurer. Submissions for the *Postal Historian* or inquiries may be addressed to the editors.

President	Vice-President	Secretary/Treasurer	Editors	
George Slaton 1230 South Street Cornelius, NC 28031 <a href="mailto:geoslaton@gmail.com">geoslaton@gmail.com</a>	Scott Steward 16311 Manning Road West Accokeek, MD 20607 <a href="mailto:scott_steward@hotmail.com">scott_steward@hotmail.com</a>	Harry Albert 105 Gatestone Court Cary, N.C. 27518 <a href="mailto:hlabert78@gmail.com">hlabert78@gmail.com</a>	Tony L. Crumbley PO Box 681447 Charlotte, NC 28216 <a href="mailto:tcumbley@bellsouth.net">tcumbley@bellsouth.net</a>	Richard F. Winter 5432 Geneva Terrace Colfax, NC 27235 <a href="mailto:rfwinter645@gmail.com">rfwinter645@gmail.com</a>
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# Characterization of the Cancellation Inks used on Three North Carolina Covers



by Daniel Brinkley

The purpose of this study was to examine the cancellation inks used on three North Carolina covers mailed during the 1845 to 1857 period. The cancellations were compared to images maintained by the North Carolina Postal History Society website (<http://www.ncpostalhistory.com/>) in their “North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update.” The three covers examined had the following cancellations: (1) an orange Graham (Alamance County) cancellation, (2) an orange Elizabeth City (Pasquotank County) cancellation, and (3) a red Raleigh (Wake County) cancellation.

The Graham cancellation matched the Type 2 cancellation that is listed as a red 37-millimeter diameter single line circle with “GRAHAM NC” inside the circle, along with the month and the date. This cancellation is listed as being used from October 1, 1852 to August 24, 1858.

The Elizabeth City cancellation most closely matched the Type 4 cancellation that is listed as a red or black 32-millimeter diameter single line circle with “ELIZABETH CITY N.C.”

inside the circle, along with the month and date. The cancellation on the cover showed only “ELIZABETH CI N.C. DEC 8” in the postmark. The Type 4 cancellation is listed as being used in red from December 16, 1848 to January 7, 1852.

The Raleigh cancellation matched the Type 4 cancellation that is listed as a red or blue 31.5-millimeter diameter single line circle with “RALEIGH N.C.” inside the circle, along with the month and date, and “5” beneath the numerical date. This cancellation shows a single line between the “5” and the date number. This cancellation is listed as being used in red from June 23, 1845 to November 30, 1852.

The first cover (Figures 1 and 2) had a description on its back that was attributed to Dr. Carol Chase. This description states: “Graham, N.C. in rare orange shade. Subject, which has four intact frame lines, and no inner side lines, is from the bottom row of sheet. The letter was addressed to ‘Merry Hill’, and no doubt it was worth while climbing!” Additional notations were made by the previous owners of this cover. (Lot 1445, Robert A. Siegel Sale 1011)

This cover was submitted to the American Philatelic Society’s Expertizing Service in 2011, and they provided the following opinion: “United States, Scott No. 11, Pos. 99L7, 1857 brownish claret shade, used on cover (flap mended) with ‘orange’ Graham NC postmark, genuine.”



▲ **Figures 1a and 1b.** Scanned images of a cover with a 37-millimeter diameter Graham cancellation. Although not signed or initialed by Dr. Carol Chase, the handwritten notes on the back are believed to be Dr. Chase’s description of the cover stating that the “Graham, N.C.” cancellation is a rare orange shade. Expertized by the APS in 2011, this cover was described as “United States, Scott No. 11, Pos. 99L7, 1857 brownish claret shade, used on cover (flap mended) with ‘orange’ Graham NC postmark, genuine.”



▲ **Figure 2.** An enlarged and higher resolution, scanned image of the Graham cancellation.





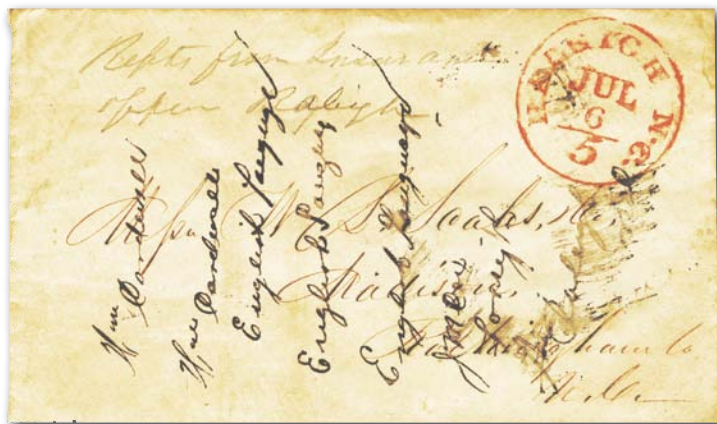
▲ **Figure 3a.** An enlarged and higher resolution, scanned image of the Elizabeth City cancellation.



▲ **Figure 3.** Scanned image of a cover with a 32-millimeter diameter, Elizabeth City cancellation. Expertized by the APS in 2018, this cover was described as “United States, Scott No. 10A, deep orange brown, position 18L0, used on cover with red grid cancel, genuine in all respects, cover torn upper left.” The APS did not offer an apparent opinion on the color of the Elizabeth City postmark.

The second and third covers (Figures 3 and 4) were purchased from Mr. Tony Crumbley and had no notations about their usage. The second cover had a 3¢ 1851-57 stamp with a grid cancellation on the stamp and with an orange Elizabeth City postmark on the left front of the cover. This stamp was an “A” relief, and had four frame lines, two inner lines, a single line recut in the upper left triangle, and a dash at

All three covers were examined using a Hitachi S-3700N scanning electron microscope (SEM). This SEM has a variable pressure mode that allows the examination of electrically non-



▲ **Figures 4.** Scanned image of a cover with a 31.5-millimeter diameter, Raleigh Type 4 cancellation addressed to Madison (Rockingham County). While the year is not shown, this postmark is known used in red ink from June 1845 to November 1852.



▲ **Figure 4a.** An enlarged and higher resolution, scanned image of the Raleigh cancellation.

the top of the upper right diamond block. Using the “StampPlating.com” link at the U. S. Philatelic Classics Society website, the stamp was determined to be position 18 on the left plate of Plate 0. The cover was submitted to the American Philatelic Society’s Expertizing Service in 2018 and they provided the following opinion: “United States Scott No. 10A, deep orange brown, position 18L0, used on cover with red grid cancel, genuine in all respects, cover torn upper left.” No opinion was provided on the city postmark.

conductive materials (such as paper) without altering the item by applying conductive coatings. This is a key point. In the past, a non-conductive specimen would have to be coated with carbon or gold in order to image it. The variable pressure mode allows one to examine non-conductive specimens without altering them. The SEM also has an energy dispersive X-ray spectrometer (EDS) that can detect X-rays from elements starting with beryllium through uranium on the Periodic Chart of the elements. It should be noted that SEM/EDS analyses

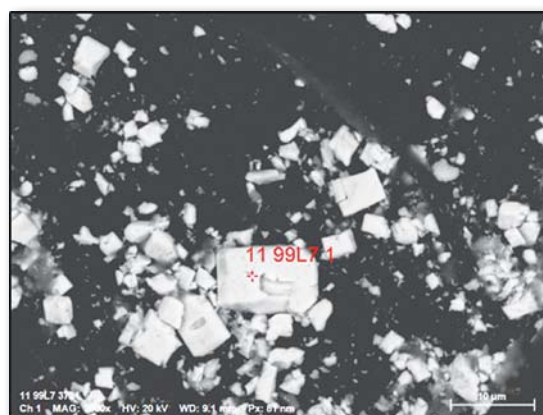
only identify the presence of an element. This technique does not identify the chemical compound. The SEM has a secondary electron detector and a backscattered electron detector to image the specimen. The secondary electron images, which are more sensitive to surface topography, were not used because the detector requires high vacuum conditions. The backscattered electron images use atomic number contrast for image formation and can be used in high vacuum or partial vacuum conditions. The atomic number contrast means that higher atomic number substances (such as lead) will provide a stronger signal and appear brighter than lower atomic number substances (such as paper fibers). Normally, the electron beam scans over the sample (hence the name ‘scanning’ electron microscope), but the beam can be fixed on a single point or a smaller area

for X-ray analysis of the selected feature(s) in order to obtain an elemental composition of the desired feature or features. It should be noted that even with the electron beam focused on a spot that X-ray are being generated in a larger volume surrounding the spot.

In the case of the Graham cancel, a backscattered electron image of the letter “R” is shown in Figures 5a and b. The letter “R” is shown at low magnification and magnified 2,500 times. The ink pigment is shown to consist of micron (i.e., one thousandth of a millimeter) sized particles and most of the larger particles have a “blocky,” almost cubic shape showing that they are crystalline materials. As shown in Figure 6 the beam was placed on one of the larger particles (cross hairs in red), which was found to consist primarily of lead, oxygen,

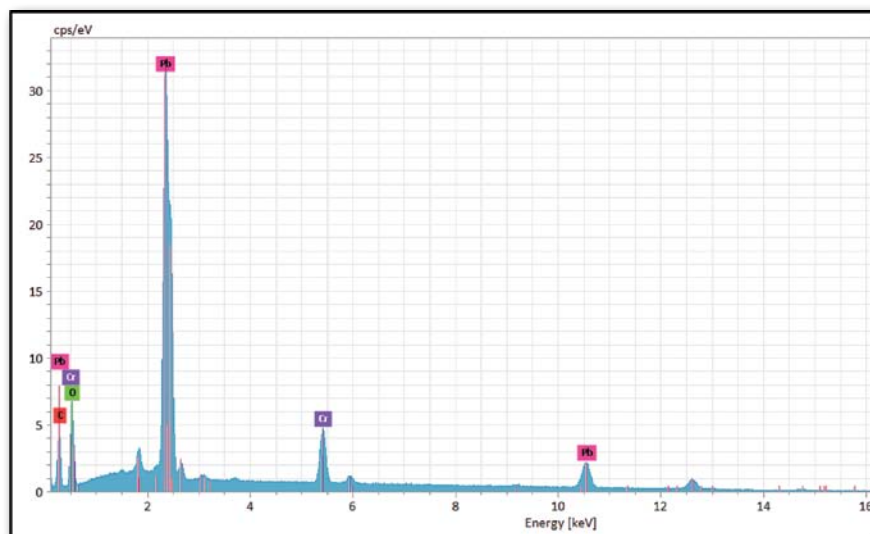


Backscattered Electron Image 10X

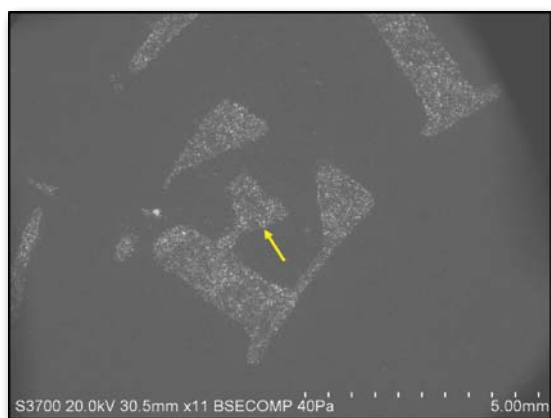


Backscattered Electron Image 2500X

▲ **Figures 5a & 5b.** Backscattered electron (BSe) images of the letter “R” in the Graham cancellation at 10X and 2500X. The location of the 2500X magnification image is marked with a yellow arrow in the 10X image. Note the “blocky” appearance of the particles comprising the cancellation ink pigment. The largest particle in this field of view is about 10 microns in length (0.01 millimeters or 0.0004 inches).

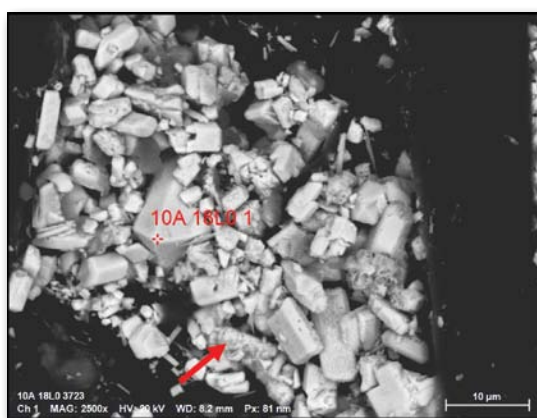


▲ **Figures 6.** An energy dispersive X-ray spectrum of the largest particle in the 2500X BSe above marked with a red cross hair showing the elemental chemical composition of the pigment. This particle consists primarily of lead, oxygen, chromium, and carbon. This composition is consistent with a lead chromate ( $\text{PbCrO}_4$ ) pigment.



Backscattered Electron Image

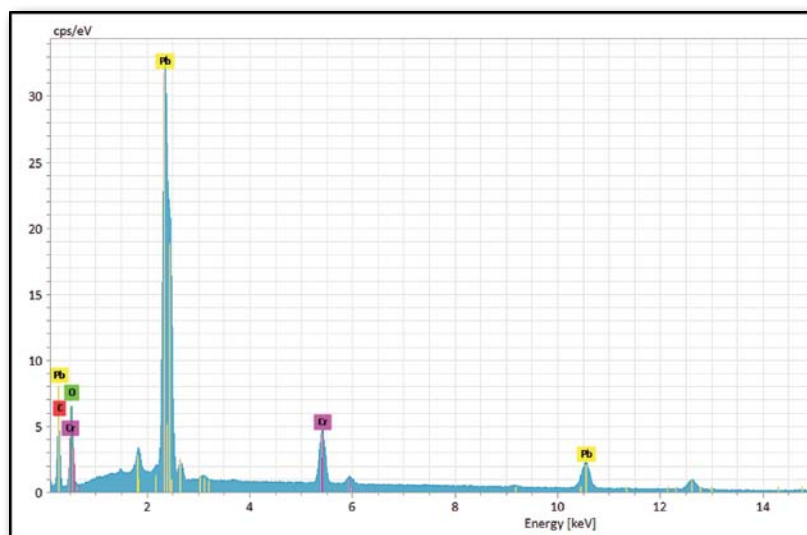
11X



Backscattered Electron Image

2500X

▲ **Figures 7a & 7b.** Backscattered electron (BSE) images of the letter “E” in the Elizabeth City cancellation at 10X and 2500X. The location of the 2500X magnification image is marked with a yellow arrow on the 10X image. Note the prism shaped appearance of the particles comprising the cancellation ink pigment. The largest particle in this field of view is about 10 microns in length (0.01 millimeters or 0.0004 inches).



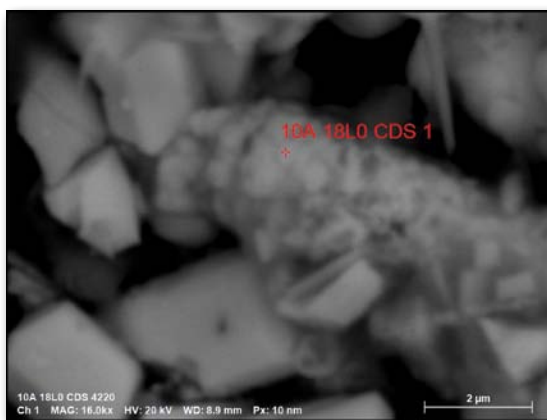
▲ **Figures 8.** An energy dispersive X-ray spectrum of the largest particle in the 2500X BSE image above marked with a red cross hair showing the elemental chemical composition of the pigment. This particle consists primarily of lead, oxygen, chromium, and carbon. This composition and morphology are consistent with a lead chromate ( $\text{PbCrO}_4$ ) pigment. An analysis of the particle marked with a red arrow is shown in Figure 9.

chromium, and carbon. The proportions of the lead, oxygen, and chromium concentrations ( $\sim 64\%$  Pb,  $\sim 16\%$  Cr, and  $\sim 20\%$  O) were consistent with lead chromate ( $\text{PbCrO}_4$  or chrome yellow). One of the main uses of this compound is as a paint pigment.

In the case of the Elizabeth City cancel, a backscattered electron image of the first letter “E” is shown in Figures 7a and 7b. This letter is shown at low magnification and magnified 2,500 times. The particles comprising the ink pigment are micron sized and they appear to have a prism shape (angular corners) compared to the more cubic appearing particles of the

Graham cancellation ink. It also appears that there are at least two different particle morphologies present in this ink – the larger angular particles and smaller, more porous particles. As shown in Figure 8, the electron beam was placed on one of the larger particles (cross hairs in red), which was found to consist primarily of lead, oxygen, chromium, and carbon. The proportions of the lead, oxygen, and chromium concentrations were consistent with lead chromate ( $\text{PbCrO}_4$ ). A nearby particle (Figure 7c), having a different morphology, was found to consist primarily of lead, carbon, and oxygen, with trace amounts of chromium and calcium (Figure 9). This second



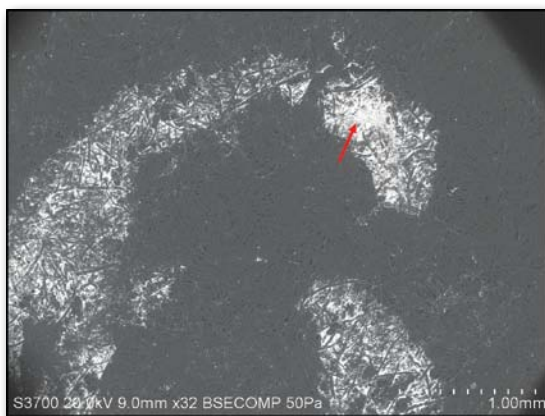
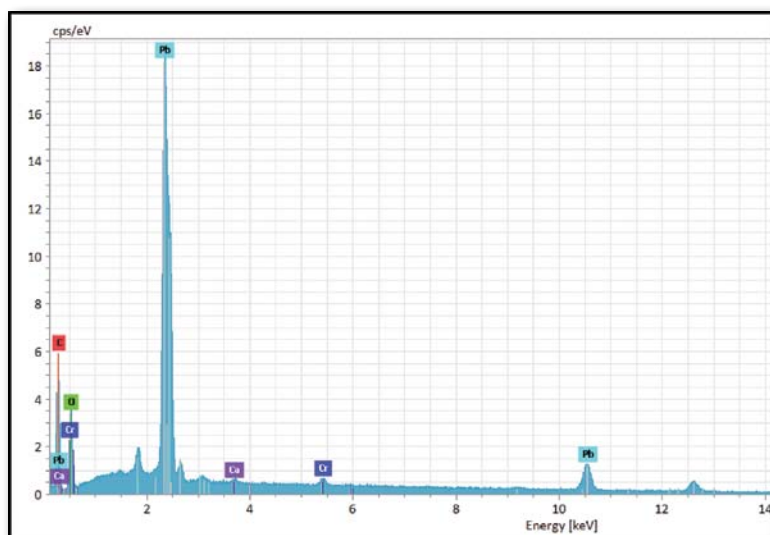


Backscattered Electron Image 16000X

◀ **Figure 7c.** The red arrow in Figure 7b points to a nearby particle having a different morphology shown in this BSe image of greater magnification.

**Figure 9.** ▶

An energy dispersive X-ray spectrum of the particle marked with a red crosshair above (marked with a red arrow in Figure 7b) showing the elemental chemical composition of the pigment. This particle consists primarily of lead, oxygen, chromium, and carbon, but the chromium concentration is significantly less than that of the particle illustrated in Figure 8. This composition and morphology could be consistent with a lead oxide (e.g., minium -  $\text{Pb}_3\text{O}_4$ ) pigment.



Backscattered Electron Image 32X

◀ **Figure 10a.** Backscattered electron (BSe) image of the top of the number “6” in the Raleigh cancellation. The location of the higher magnification image in Figure 10b (next page) is marked with a red arrow.

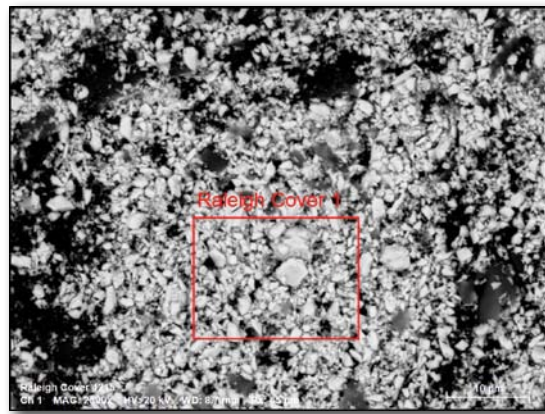
particle had a chromium concentration that was about an order of magnitude lower than the first particle, and may represent a lead oxide material (e.g., minium –  $\text{Pb}_3\text{O}_4$ ). These results suggest that the Elizabeth City cancel maybe a mixture of pigments.

In the case of the Raleigh cancel, a backscattered electron image of the number “6” is shown in Figures 10a and 10b on the next page. The upper portion of this number is shown at

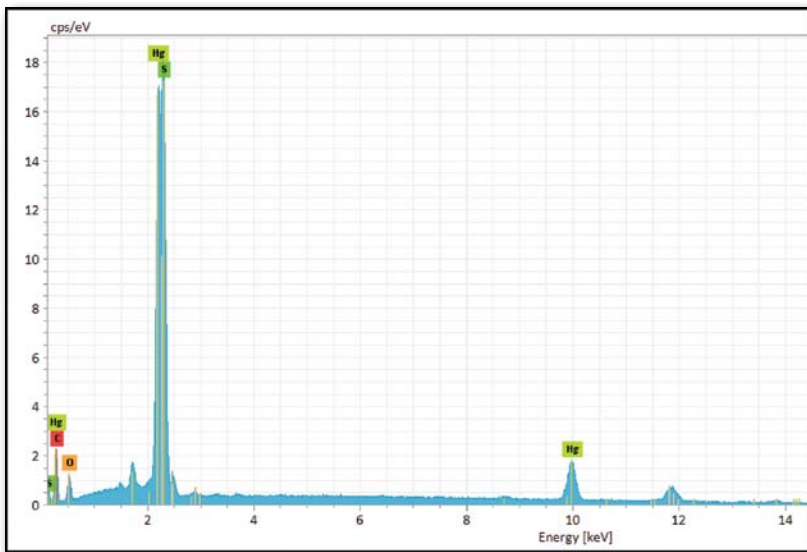
low and high magnifications. The site selected for the X-ray analysis is marked by the red box. The particles comprising the ink pigment are micron sized and they appear to have a more random shape compared to the two previous samples. Secondly, the particles of this red cancel are about an order of magnitude smaller than those used in the Graham and Elizabeth City cancellation inks. As shown in Figure 10b (see next page), the electron beam was placed on an area of particles, and these

**Figure 10b.** ►

The red box of this 2,500 times magnification of the position pointed to by the red arrow in Figure 10a shows the pigment particles selected to develop the graph in Figure 11 below.



Backscattered Electron Image 2500X



◀ **Figures 11.** An energy dispersive X-ray spectrum of the area in the 2500X BSe image above marked with a red box showing the elemental chemical composition of the pigment. These particles consists primarily of mercury and sulfur with lesser amounts of oxygen and carbon. This composition and morphology are consistent with a mercuric sulfide (HgS - Vermilion) pigment.

particles were found to consist primarily of mercury and sulfur (with lesser amounts of oxygen and carbon) suggesting that this ink pigment is mercuric sulfide which is also known as vermillion (HgS) (see Figure 11). This cancellation appeared to be a relatively pure compound.

The earliest pigments used for paints and inks were based on naturally occurring minerals or inorganic chemical compounds. There are older references (Ellis) and more recent references (Eastaugh) on these materials. For red inks or paints, the most used pigments are (1) vermillion [HgS], (2) cadmium red, (3) lead molybdate compounds [“molybdate orange”], (4) red lead or minium, and (5) Venetian Red [iron oxide compounds]. For yellow inks or paints, the most used pigments are (1) cadmium yellow, (2) chrome yellow [lead chromate compounds], (3) zinc yellow, and (4) yellow oxides of iron. The more recent reference discusses “chrome orange” pigments that consist of basic lead chromate. This reference states shades of chrome orange range from yellow orange to deep red depending upon how they are produced. Lead chromate occurs naturally as the mineral crocoite (PbCrO<sub>4</sub>) and produces an orange-yellow streak.

Older editions of “the Merck Index” list one of the primary uses of lead chromate (PbCrO<sub>4</sub>) as a pigment in oil based inks/paints and watercolors, also known as Paris, Leipzig, King’s, Cologne, or Lemon Yellow. This reference also lists a red lead chromate (PbCrO<sub>4</sub> · PbO) that is used as a pigment and is known as Persian red or Austrian cinnabar. Mercuric sulfide, also known as vermillion and artificial cinnabar, has been used as a pigment and is described as having a bright scarlet-red color.

The results obtained for the red Raleigh cancellation is consistent with most of the red cancels that I have examined on other stamps and covers. The most common red ink used to cancel stamps from this period is a pigment having a high concentration of vermillion (mercuric sulfide). Based on the obtained results presented in this article, the cancellations used on the Graham and Elizabeth City covers are a completely different pigment compared to the red Raleigh cancellation. The Graham and Elizabeth City cancellations consist primarily of a lead chromate pigment and should be considered orange (or orange red) cancellations rather than red cancellations.



## Acknowledgements:

Thanks to the North Carolina Postal History Society for their work on their “North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update” and to Tony Crumbley for introducing me to their existence. Thanks to the late Richard Celler who patiently answered my many questions on plating and other topics, and to James Allen for his time and communications about ink pigments. Special thanks to Bryan O’Doherty for developing the interactive web tools that facilitated plating of the 3¢ 1851-57 imperforate stamps. ■

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## Editor’s Note:

*Daniel Brinkley’s article introduces our readers to some highly technical information about tools that can be used for philatelic scientific analysis. While most of our readers are not scientifically trained, and may be surprised that we have introduced such an article, we feel it is important to make our readers aware of techniques available today to help solve philatelic problems, one of the most common ones being the identification of colors we see on stamps or postmarks.*

*The “North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update,” which is on the North Carolina Postal History Society website, makes no effort to differentiate between colors used on postmarks other than the basic black, blue, red colors and perhaps a few greens and yellows. This was intentional because there are a number of different factors that can cause variations of colors aside from the different ink pigments used. The determination of specific postmark colors was considered beyond the scope of the major effort to build our postmark catalog and certainly beyond the skills of the author. It will be left to others, using tools such as those used by Brinkley here, to develop more precise information on postmark colors.*

## New Cover

21 May 1861 - 3-cent red Star Die stamped envelope from Williamston (Martin County) to Fair Haven (Moore County). This cover can be added to the census published in the *North Carolina Postal Historian*, Whole No. 151, by Ken Miller, as an Independent State use. The cover was sold in Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions sale no. 97, 29 July-1 August 2021, as lot no. 2044.



# The Illustrated Official Business Envelopes used in North Carolina

by Mike Ludeman



This article will discuss the various styles and designs of pre-printed envelopes used by many different North Carolina state and local government departments and agencies during the conducting of official business by these offices. Many of these envelopes included decorative features or illustrations related to the office in addition to the identification of the office. The article is based on material encountered during the development of a new project for United States postal history, which is an effort to identify and illustrate the variety of these Official Business (OB) envelopes which were used by each of the fifty states. This article, and the associated project, should not be taken to be a complete listing of such envelopes, but presents a representative sample of what envelopes are known to the author. A description of the full project is presented at the end of the article. Figure 1 illustrates a typical North Carolina Official Business envelope from the Executive department of the State Government in Raleigh used on May 21, 1889.

## Background

By the 1850s, envelopes had replaced the folded letter as the primary method of carrying correspondence. Many state governments began to purchase or prepare envelopes which had some form of pre-printed information which identified the source of the mailing on the envelope. This would eliminate the need to add that information by hand, as well as to advertise the source of the contents in a distinctive manner. It was not until after the Civil War that similar envelopes which had been prepared for use by county and other local governmental entities began to appear.

For the purpose of this article, an OB envelope is defined as one which was prepared for use by any government department or agency which operated by using public tax funds. Also, I have also included in this definition any other entities which were established by law and operated using state funds, as

opposed to those financed by private organizations, churches, and fraternal organizations, etc. This criterion allowed for the inclusion of envelopes used by public hospitals, orphanages, asylums, some public supported old soldier's homes, and institutions for the deaf and blind. This also allowed the inclusion of envelopes from public schools, colleges, and universities, but eliminates those envelopes from private schools and those operated by religious institutions.

In the case of North Carolina, I find these OB envelopes used by the state departments representing the Adjutant General's Office, Auditor's Office, the Office of the Attorney General, the legislative bodies of the House of Representatives and Senate, the Executive Department or Governor's office, Public Education, the Treasurer's Office, the Secretary/Department of State, the Supreme Court, various district courts, as well as many other smaller departments.

At the county and city level, I find these OB envelopes prepared for use by the Tax Collector or Assessor's Office, the Sheriff's Office, the County Clerk or Recorder's Office, local courts, and other departments associated with the county or city governments.

These designs will be referred to as "corner cards" or simply "corners" throughout this article, with one exception

noted in the discussion of the OB envelopes prepared and used during the Confederacy. As part of the development of the underlying project, four informal categories of these OB envelopes were identified based on characteristics of the design of this preprinted information. The first category described was the envelope with an all-over design, typically with the state and departmental name integrated into the design background. These envelopes were generally printed using a lithographic process.

A second category included those envelopes designed with a large line drawing illustration of some feature related to the



▲ **Figures 1.** May 21, 1889, Official Business envelope from the Executive Department of the State Government in Raleigh to the President of Trinity College in Trinity College (Randolph County).

entity which ordered the envelope for use, such as the state capitol building, the state seal, or a courthouse or city hall, and often with some additional name or job title information. These were also produced by the lithographic process.

A third category was a corner card with no illustration, but which included some combination of the department name and address, which were set in a combination of ornate and/or multiple typefaces, together with additional lines or design elements.

The fourth envelope category was the simple corner card with some combination of the office holder name, department name, and address present in one or two simple typefaces. These latter two types were well suited for a letterpress operation, and no doubt many were prepared locally for their use in county and city departments.

### The Official Business Envelopes in North Carolina

The following section will describe and illustrate a sample of these OB envelopes used by the different government departments in North Carolina during the latter portion of the 19th century and into the early 20th century. It is hoped that the illustration of some of these envelopes will encourage readers to examine their collection and report new varieties to help complete the record.

It should be noted that the brief discussion of these OB envelopes will focus on the style of the corner card, and not the postal history aspects of the cover. With a desire to present the widest selection of examples, the condition of the cover was often ignored.

An effort has been made to include information about the dates of use to demonstrate how the design of these corner cards evolved chronologically when available, but the process of establishing these dates has been difficult during the years prior to the late 1880s, as most datestamp devices used by postmasters did not include year date information. For these OB envelopes, dates are estimated using the information that was available, such as docketing, enclosures, the postage stamps used, postal rates in effect (rates for letter mail changed from

3-cents to 2-cents on October 1, 1883), and the documented format of the circular datestamps as found in the on-line "North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update."

Because these OB envelopes were prepared for government use, it is believed that they would have been purchased and produced in limited quantities, generally sufficient to meet the requirements necessary for the current fiscal year. While information as to the identity of the printer or stationery business which produced most of these envelopes is not currently known, it is probable that the contracts were established each year in a competitive manner, and different firms would be awarded the contracts. As each firm had its own inventory of fonts and devices which would be used to lay out the design and print these corner cards and additional designs on the envelopes, a variety of corner cards should be expected. Because these were often similar in appearance, it is not until a series of these OB envelopes can viewed together that it becomes obvious how many variants actually would exist.

After completion of the initial draft of the North Carolina monograph for the project, I contacted Dick Winter and Tony Crumbley to solicit their assistance to expand the North Carolina monograph. Tony responded by providing scans of nearly 80 envelopes from his personal collection. Most of the envelopes and cropped corner cards illustrated in this article are from his collection.

Unfortunately, it appears that the state government of North Carolina never produced any OB envelopes of the all-over design either during or following the Civil War. There was one group of all-over envelopes prepared with a design that incorporated the name of the University of North Carolina, and which are known to have been used between 1858 and 1879. While some of these may have been used for official business it is believed that most were probably commercial products sold to the public to advertise the university. An example of one of these envelopes is shown as Figure 2, which is known to have been used on July 12, 1858. Figure 3 on the next page illustrates an envelope dated in 1878 with a University of North Carolina corner card that would have been used for the official business of the university.



◀ **Figure 2.** All-over illustrated envelope for the University of North Carolina dated July 12, 1858. Bottom line with "North Carolina" in a straight line. Known in blue, gray, lavender, brown.





◀ **Figure 3.** February 22, 1879, envelope with fancy corner card from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Orange County) sent to Sherrill's Ford (Catawba County).

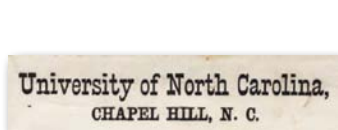


Figure 4a.



Figure 4b.

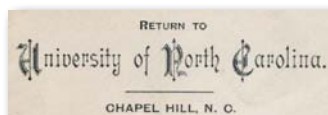


Figure 4c.

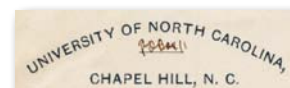


Figure 4d.



Figure 5.

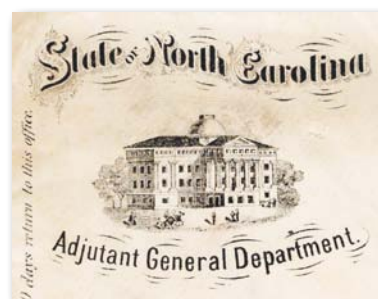


Figure 6.

Figures 4a through 4d illustrate four additional cropped corner cards from envelopes used by the University of North Carolina between 1878 and 1891. Figure 4a was used in 1878; Figure 4b in 1881; Figure 4c in 1889; and Figure 4d in 1891.

### Envelopes used by the State Departmental Offices in Raleigh

No state department office OB envelopes with corner cards have been encountered which were prepared and used prior to the Civil War. Some OB envelopes were prepared during the Confederacy and will be discussed in a later section.

The OB envelopes used by the North Carolina government in Raleigh have been found with printed corner cards from most of the major departments of the government, as well as many other smaller offices. The manufacturer of these envelopes is unknown, but it is likely that these were the products of several of the larger stationery suppliers in Raleigh or other larger North Carolina cities.

Even with the limited number of envelopes recorded to date, two trends can be observed. The first is that the design and

format of the corner cards for each department were changed regularly, both in the layout of the lettering and in the use of different fonts. However, some of these differences are so minor that unless the envelopes are compared side-by-side, these differences are not obvious to the unfamiliar eye. These variations are probably an indication that the contract for their production was awarded to a new printing company at some regular interval. A second trend which has been observed is that when comparing the appearance of these OB envelopes from different departments which were found to have been used concurrently, these comparisons will show that the OB envelopes prepared at the same time often utilized the same fonts and/or graphic designs, an indication that they were probably produced at the same time by the same supplier. It is these differences and similarities that is the focus of the present study.

The following section presents some envelopes which are typical of the ones encountered in my study. To provide a broad perspective of the variations encountered, some of the envelopes have been cropped with only the corner cards illustrated. All images are to the same scale.

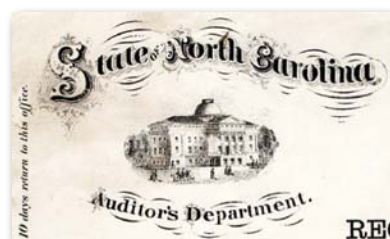
**Figure 7. ▶**

January 17, 1905, illustrated corner with state seal for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, on a letter to Norfolk, Virginia. This style envelope was used from 1905 – 1908. Other departments used this corner design as well.



Department of the Attorney General,  
Raleigh, N.C.

**Figure 8.**



**Figure 9.**



◀ **Figure 10.** April 4, 1898, small envelope to Troy (Montgomery County), slightly cropped at left, with design similar to that in previous illustration. Note that the capitol letters “S”, “N”, and “C” are different from those in Figure 9.

Figure 5 illustrates an OB envelope prepared for the Adjutant General's Office, with a line drawing of the state capitol, and the “State of North Carolina” in an ornate font above the capitol building. Below the capitol is the name of the department “Adjutant General” [circa 1890]. A second OB envelope from the same department is shown as Figure 6, where “State of North Carolina” is now shown in a slightly different ornate font. The department name reads “Adjutant General Department,” printed with a new sans-serif font [circa 1890].

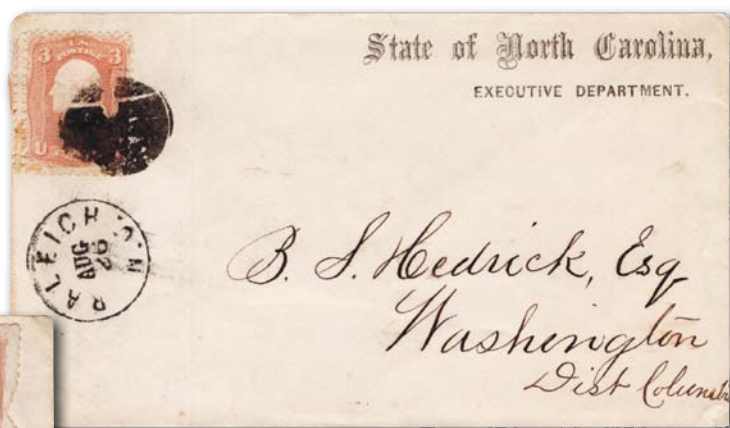
An OB envelope from 1905 is shown in Figure 7 on an envelope with the state seal surrounded by a circular border that identifies it as from the “North Carolina Department of Agriculture.” This circular design has been reported used on

OB envelopes to 1908, and will be seen later from other departments.

Figure 8 illustrates a corner card from an 1897 OB envelope with the “Department of the Attorney General” printed using an Old English font in blue ink. This type of corner card will be seen used by envelopes from other departments as well.

Figure 9 shows a corner card from a legal-sized envelope prepared for the Auditor's Department, dating prior to the rate change of October 1, 1883, similar to the style seen for the Adjutant General's office shown in Figures 5 and 6. Another example from the Auditor's Department, used in 1898, is shown in Figure 10. The fonts used with these envelopes are again similar but not identical to those used earlier.

**Figure 11.** ▶ Small envelope used after the end of the Civil War, with the stamp positioned at the top left corner, and the corner imprint for “State of North Carolina/EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT” at the top right.



◀ **Figure 12.** Another envelope used soon after the Civil War during the Reconstruction period. The corner imprint has now shifted to the top left, and different fonts used.

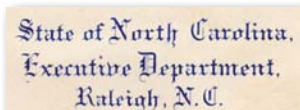
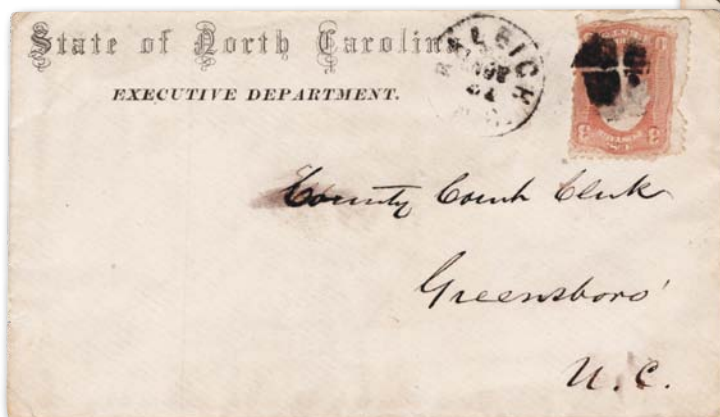


Figure 13a.

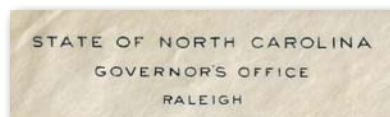


Figure 13d.



Figure 13b.

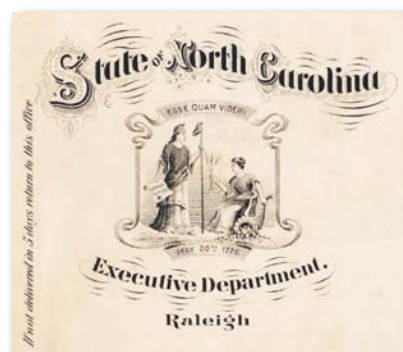


Figure 13c.

**Figure 14.** ▶ April 3, 1869, envelope with corner card of the Senate Chamber posted to Lenoir (Caldwell County), used in 1869 based on the blue circular datestamp.

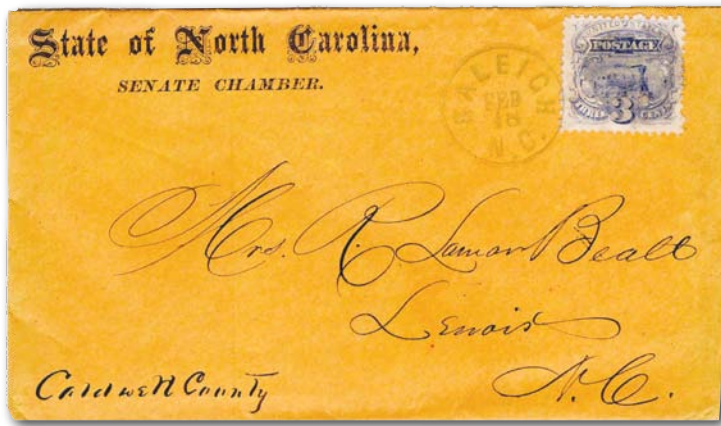


Figure 11 illustrates an envelope from the Executive Department used shortly following the end of the Civil War period. The corner card is located at the upper right corner rather than the more traditional upper left corner. The “State of North Carolina” is set using an Old English font, while

“EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT” is set in a simple sans-serif font. This design was used in the mid to late 1860s.

Figure 12 shows a similar corner card design which has been moved back to the upper left corner, where it can be seen that the “EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT” is now in an italic ser-





◀ **Figure 15.** Another OB envelope from the Senate Chamber posted to Lenoir with a more elaborate font used for “State of North Carolina,” printed on an orange (gold) envelope. Probably used in 1870.



Figure 16a.

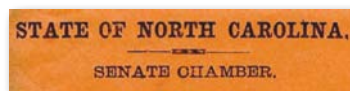


Figure 16b.

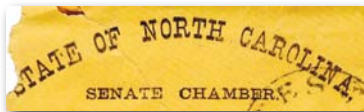


Figure 16c.

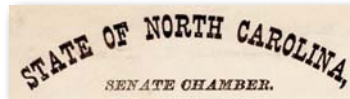


Figure 16d.



Figure 16f.



Figure 16e.

**Figure 17.** ▶  
January 25, 1870, envelope with the corner card of the House of Representatives sent to the sheriff of Yadkin County in Yadkinville.



ified font. Without further information I cannot determine which of the envelopes in Figure 11 and Figure 12 was used first. The illustrations in Figures 13a through 13d show other corner cards used by the Executive Department. Figure 13a was used in 1892; Figure 13b in 1893; Figure 13c in 1890s; and Figure 13d in 1927.

These OB envelopes are found to have been used by both chambers of the North Carolina General Assembly also. Figure 14 illustrates an early example from the Senate Chamber, used probably in 1869 based on the blue ink of the circular date-

stamp. Next in Figure 15, I show another envelope with a more ornate font, and with “SENATE CHAMBER” set in an italic font, printed on a orange (gold) envelope, and franked with the 3-cent 1869 pictorial issue, probably dated in 1870. Figures 16a through 16f show the corner cards from additional Senate Chamber use in the 1870s, with Figure 16e used in the 1860s, and Figure 16f with the state seal corner card used in 1897.

Figure 17 illustrates an early corner card from the House of Representatives, probably used about 1870 on an envelope sent to the sheriff of Yadkin County in Yadkinville. Figures 18a

through 18c show other House of Representatives cropper corner cards used in 1887 and 1897, each on an envelope with a dated circular datestamp. The design used in Figure 18c is the same as shown in Figure 16f for the Senate.

Figure 19 illustrates an OB envelope dated November 15, 1904, with a corner card comprised of the state seal, which was prepared for use by the Board of Health. The 1-cent stamp on this envelope was canceled by an American Machine Company flag cancel, Type B-14 (1). A corner cropped from an 1897 legal sized envelope is shown in Figure 19a, where the text is in a different font. Another corner card cropped from an OB envelope is from the North Carolina State Sanatorium, operated by the Bureau of Tuberculosis. It is similar in that it used the state seal in the corner card design, and is shown in Figure 19b. This facility was established in 1908 as the first state institution for the treatment of tuberculosis.

Next I show a group of envelopes and corner cards from the North Carolina Department of State. Figure 20 illustrates an OB envelope with both a Department of State corner and a pre-printed address for a mailing to the Superior Court Clerks, which probably dates from the early 1870s. Figure 21 illustrates a more elaborate design with the state seal, used in 1902. Figures 22a through 22c shows three corner cards with the capitol building and different fonts for “State of North Carolina” and “Department of State. It should be noted that the design in Figure 22a (used in 1888) has a series of curved lines above and below “Department of State,” while these are missing in Figures 22b (used in 1888) and Figure 22c (used in 1896). Finally, Figure 23 presents a series of other corner cards for the Department of State used between 1893 (Figure 23a), 1890s (Figure 23b), 1896 (Figure 23c) and 1944 (Figure 23d).



Figure 18a.



Figure 18b.

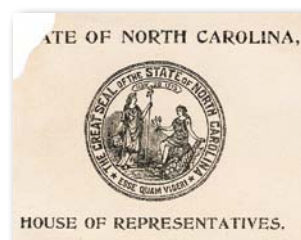
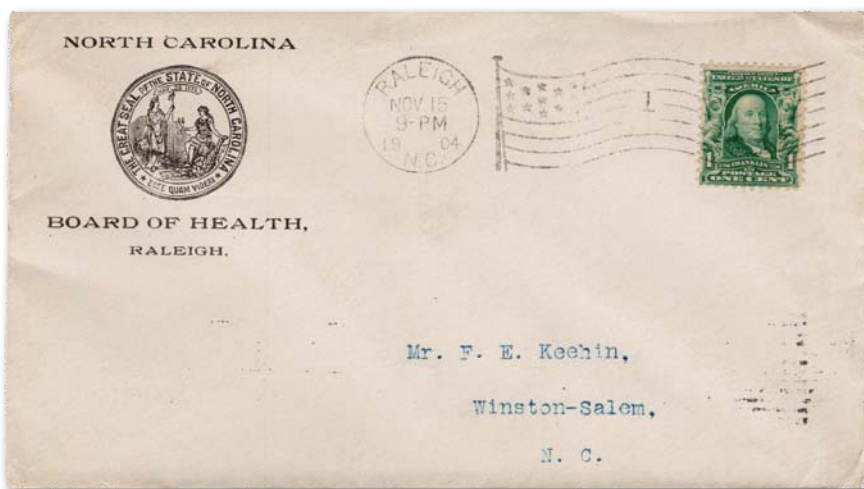


Figure 18c.



◀ **Figure 19.** November 15, 1904, envelope from the Board of Health in Raleigh sent to Winston-Salem (Forsyth County). An American Machine Company flag cancel, Type B 14(1), cancels the 1-cent stamp.



Figure 19a.

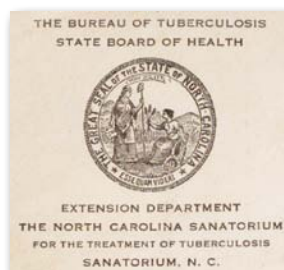
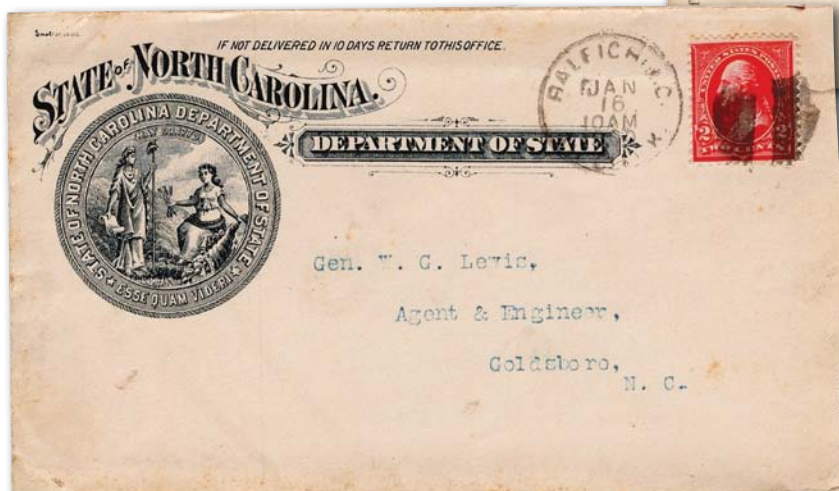
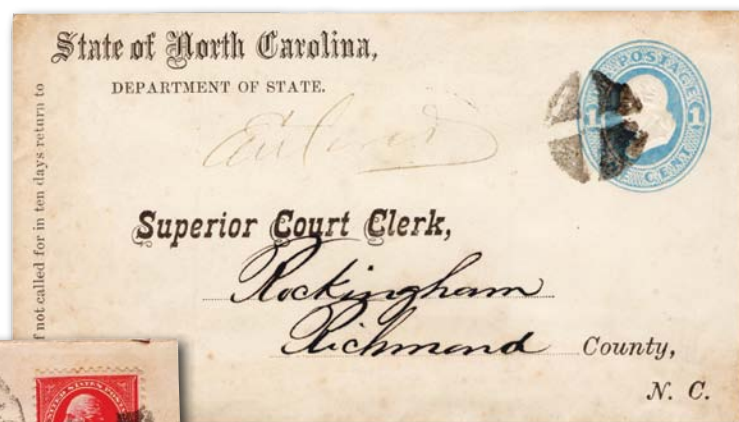


Figure 19b.

**Figure 20.** ▶  
Postal stationery entire with both a Department of State corner card and pre-printed address to the Superior Court Clerk at Rockingham (Richmond County), probably used in the 1870s.



◀ **Figure 21.** January 16, 1902, OB envelope with a new design for the Department of State with a state seal and design that extends across the top of the envelope, seen here on a cover to Goldsboro (Wayne County).



Figure 22a.



Figure 22b.



Figure 22c.



Figure 23a.

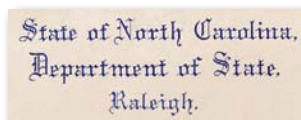


Figure 23b.



Figure 23c.

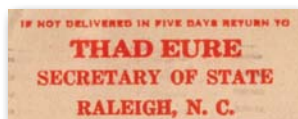


Figure 23d.



**Figure 24. ▶**  
Envelope with a design similar to that illustrated in Figures 22a, 22b, and 22c, but now with “Secretary of State” under the illustration of the capitol building. Probably used during the 1880s.



Figure 25a.



Figure 25b.



Figure 25c.

With Figure 24, I show an envelope similar with the variety of envelope corner cards shown in Figure 23, but now with “Secretary of State” rather than “Department of State.”

The basic design seen in both Figures 22 and Figure 24 also has been shown in illustrations of these corner cards for several of the different state departments discussed earlier. These are known for other departments, and there seem to be multiple variants of this design for each department. This is assumed to be the result of the design being reused by different printing and stationery suppliers over the 1880s and 1890s, when these envelopes are observed to have been used. The preliminary collection of examples is not sufficient to prepare any type of definitive listing of these design variants.

In addition to the examples shown previously, Figure 25 illustrates examples of these corner designs for the Railroad Commission, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Treasury Department. Figure 25a was used in 1892, Figure 25b in 1898, and Figure 25c about in the early 1880s.

### The Envelopes used by County and City Departments and Agencies

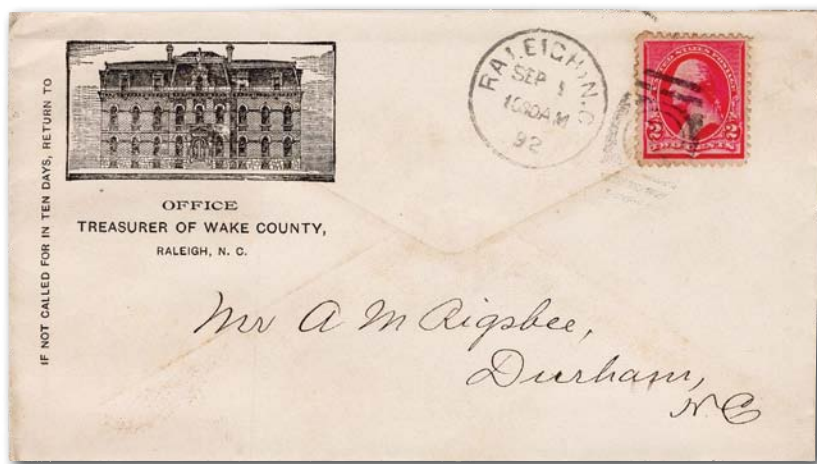
The search for similar OB envelopes used at the county or city level has been less successful, with most examples recorded being from local governments in those counties with large population centers. A few corner card designs from various

county and city offices will be illustrated in Figures 26 through Figure 33.

Figure 26 shows the Court House of Wake County on an envelope with a corner card from the Treasurer’s Office in 1892. Figure 27 presents a cropped corner card from an envelope of the Mayor’s Office at Raleigh with a fancy device and font, used something during the 1880s or early 1890s.

Figures 28 and 29 illustrate cropped corner cards from envelopes used at the county offices at Graham in Alamance County. Figure 28 shows the corner card of Chas. C. Thompson, who was the Register of Deeds for the county in 1903, while Figure 29 illustrates a cropped corner card from a registered envelope of the office of Armstrong Tate, the Superior Court Clerk in the late 1870s and early 1880s.

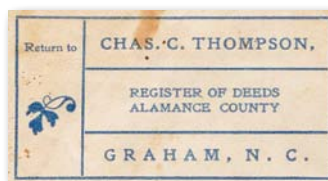
Figure 30 illustrates the cropped corner card of R.Q. Powell, the Register of Deeds in Whiteville, Columbus County in 1899. The 1909 cropped corner card of W.M. Long, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Charlotte (Mecklenburg County), is shown in Figure 31. The cropped corner card of the Board of Health of Charlotte is illustrated in Figure 32. Note that this design shows that the population of Charlotte was 11,000 in 1896, 40,000 in 1906 and was expected to be 100,00 by 1916. Lastly illustrated is the cropped corner card of T.T. Loftis, the Clerk of Superior Court in Brevard, Transylvania County.



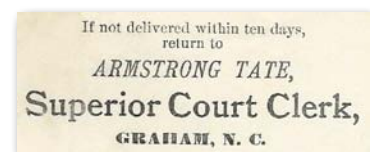
◀ **Figure 26.** September 1, 1892, envelope with graphic of the Wake County courthouse, used by the County Treasurer. Examples have been seen dated between 1892 and 1896.



**Figure 27.**



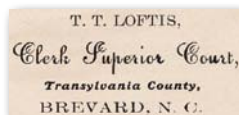
**Figure 28.**



**Figure 29.**



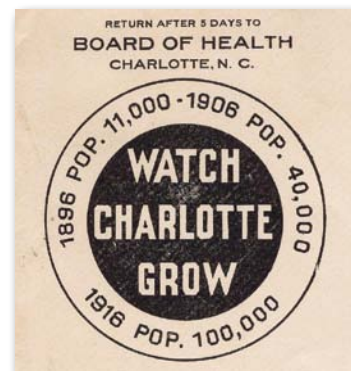
**Figure 30.**



**Figure 33.**



**Figure 31.**



**Figure 32.**

### Envelopes used during the Confederacy.

Between 1861 and 1865, North Carolina was part of the Confederate States of America. The earliest Confederate North Carolina OB envelopes recorded with corner card markings were produced during this time. These imprints have been documented in the *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook (CSACAT)* in three sections: Official Imprints; Semi-Official Imprints; and State Imprints. The most likely section to find North Carolina imprints is in the section for State Imprints, which identifies 38 different imprints found on the OB envelopes prepared by the state of North Carolina for their Departments and agencies (page 415). These OB envelopes required correct franking to be carried in the mails. The

imprints on these envelopes are sometimes indistinguishable in appearance from corner cards present on OB envelopes after the Civil War except by their franking and date of use. Each imprint is illustrated in the *CSACAT* by a small, cropped image of the printed area identifying the department which prepared and used the OB envelope.

The placement of the imprint on the envelopes varied, with most positioned in the upper right corner. The selection of fonts used was as varied as seen previously for the state departmental offices, very often with a variation of an Old English font used for one line, typically either "Confederate States of America," or the department name. I will show a representative group of envelopes prepared for the North Carolina state government's operation during the Confederacy. Full covers will be

shown. The imprints on these covers will be cross-referenced to the *CSACAT* catalog numbering in the format, S-NC-nn [State, North Carolina, and catalog number].

Figure 34 illustrates an envelope prepared for use by the Executive Department or Governor's Office. This imprint is similar in appearance to that seen used by the Executive Department of the state of North Carolina following the Civil War, which was seen earlier in Figure 11 and 12.

The Office of the Adjutant General was responsible for providing support and resources to the Army or the state militia. Figure 35 illustrates an OB envelope prepared with the imprint for the North Carolina Adjutant General's office, while Figure 36 illustrates a quite similar envelope in which the initial "O" in the word "OFFICIAL" is missing due to a typesetting error.

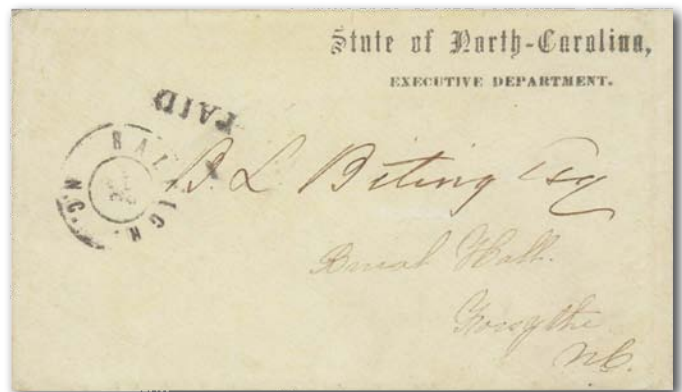
The Quartermaster Department's role in a military environment was to support the development, production, acquisition, sustainment, and distribution of supplies necessary for the

operation of the military. There were several Quartermaster's Departments established in North Carolina. An envelope with an imprint for the office in Raleigh is shown in Figure 37. A second envelope for the Quartermaster Department office at Salisbury is shown in Figure 38. One further example is an envelope with an imprint for the "Office of Chief Quartermaster" located at Raleigh, which is shown in Figure 39. Also illustrated in Figure 40 is a most unusual OB envelope from the Confederate States' Locomotive Shops of Raleigh and sent to Williamsborough (Granville County). The cover has been trimmed on the left removing the "C" of "C.S. Locomotive Shops."

Only a small number of these OB envelopes prepared for use by the state of North Carolina have been shown here. The reader is encouraged to examine the *CSACAT* sections to obtain a better idea of the variety of the imprints prepared and used during that troubled period of our country.

**Figure 34. ▶**

Undated OB envelope from Raleigh to B.L. Biting, postmaster of Rural Hall (Forsyth County) during the Civil War. This envelope with imprint from the Executive Department is similar to that seen earlier in Figures 11 and 12 used after the war. (S-NC-02)



**▶ Figure 35.** May 18, 186x, OB envelope from Raleigh to Goldsboro (Wayne County) with imprint from the Adjutant General's Office. Seven different versions of this imprint are known depending on the position of the "R" of "RA-LEIGH" under "Adjutant's" in first line. (S-NC-11)

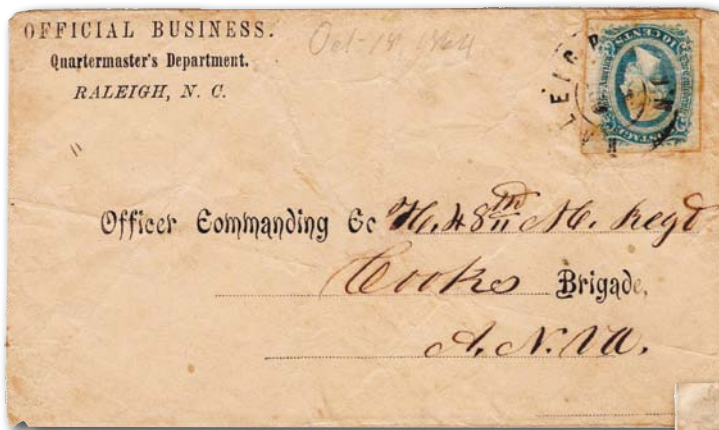


**Figure 36. ▶**

Another imprint for the state Adjutant General's Office, identical to previous example except the leading "O" in "Official" was omitted when the type was set for printing. It was sent to Shelby (Cleveland County). (S-NC-13)

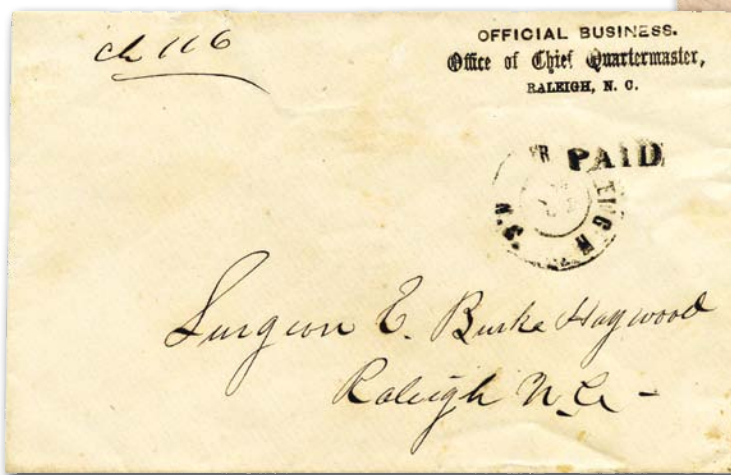






◀ **Figure 37.** October 14, 1864, OB envelope from the Quartermaster's Department of Raleigh to the Commanding Officer of Company H, 48th N.C. Regiment, Cooke's Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia. The letter's date in pencil was probably written by the recipient. (S-NC-29)

**Figure 38.** ▶  
Another OB envelope addressed to the Acting Quartermaster of Cooke's Brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia, originated from the Salisbury Quartermaster's Department in Rowan County. (S-NC-33)



◀ **Figure 39.** OB envelope from the Office of the Chief Quartermaster at Raleigh to Surgeon E. Burke Haywood, Chief Surgeon of General Hospital No. 13, Raleigh (The Pettigrew Hospital). (S-NC-30)

**Figure 40.** ▶  
A most unusual OB envelope from the Confederate States' Locomotive Shops of Raleigh sent to Williamsborough (Granville County). This corner card is listed in the CSACAT catalog in the section of "Semi-Official Imprints." The cover has been trimmed on the left side removing the "C." of "C.S. Locomotive Shops." (WD-QM-33)



## The Illustrated Official Business Envelope Project

The impetus for this article came from a project that I started earlier this year. With my personal collecting focus directed towards Texas postal history, I had developed a collection of these OB envelopes from the state and county offices of Texas. To make other collectors aware of the breath of this type of material which existed for Texas, I began to compile an illustrated monograph that documented and illustrated both the items in my collection and others which I had seen and recorded.

At the same time, two major eBay sellers suddenly listed a large quantity of these official business envelopes from about twenty different states, and almost all were either all-over style covers or included an illustration of a capitol building or a courthouse. This inspired me to “harvest” digital copies of these newly listed envelopes, and to duplicate my efforts for Texas with similar monographs for these OB envelopes as found used from other states.

The original effort was intended to focus only on the envelopes with all-over design or illustrations of the state buildings or seals, but it became apparent that many states had few of the envelopes with these more desirable designs. To provide an overall picture of the styles of envelopes used across the fifty states, I began to include OB envelopes with the less elaborate designed corner cards. Also, as a few enclosures were encountered with decorative letterheads, so I began to include these as well.

Each monograph was prepared as a Microsoft Word file and saved as a PDF file for viewing and distribution. With the sup-

port of Don Denman, the webmaster of the “Stamp Smarter” philatelic learning website, we have created a web page which serves as the home for these monographs from all fifty states. This can be found at <https://stampsmarter.org/learning/StateGovCovers.html>. From this page, the viewer can scroll down to the desired state, and view a copy of the monograph for that state, and if desired, download the PDF file. Each monograph will be updated as digital copies of new illustrated envelopes are received. A current version of the North Carolina monograph may be viewed there as well.

Help is requested from any member of the North Carolina Postal History Society to locate and provide digital scans of similar envelopes from other government departments or agencies located in North Carolina. Examples of envelopes not illustrated are particularly desired, as are examples with clear year dates or docketing that will help in establishment of the period of use for each design. A digital scan of the front of these envelopes, scanned at 300 dpi in JPG format, is preferred. A scan of the reverse would be desired only if it were to include an imprint that identified the printing or stationery company which produced the envelope or a datestamp which helped to date the use. Camera photographs can be used, but please take care to make sure that the result is of high resolution, and that the camera is held parallel to the envelope, as any angular distortion would corrupt the image.

Contributions of digital scans from envelopes of this type, which were used in any of the other fifty states, is also encouraged. I can be contacted at [mike@ludeman.net](mailto:mike@ludeman.net). ■

## Mystery Cover



The manuscript postmark on this 11 June 1876 cover was hastily written and could have been either “Camera NC” (Pender County) or “Camero[n] NC” (Moore County). Post offices existed at each location at the same time. The only other clue, “S. E. Johnson Ansd.” in manuscript on the reverse, hasn’t help solve the mystery yet. Can you help?

Send your answers to Tony Crumbley or Dick Winter (see masthead on page 2 for email addresses).

## North Carolina Postal History Society Annual Awards

by George Slaton



The North Carolina Postal History Society recently announced the winners of two coveted annual awards for significant work in the field of postal history. Each of the winners authored articles in the society's quarterly journal, *North Carolina Postal Historian*.

The prestigious A. Earl Weatherly Award for North Carolina Postal History Research was awarded to Darrell Ertzberger for his extensive research into the subject of North Carolina Rural Free Delivery (RFD), which resulted in a significant update of published information for this state. His principal effort was a two-part article that included a listing of all the known RFD offices and their routes, dates of establishment, as well as descriptions of the postal markings each office used based on a survey of known RFD covers. His listing in the first part (Volume 39, No. 2, Whole No. 150) identified RFD routes and years of operation from 1896 to 1903. This was a partial listing, with the full listing to 1911 placed on the society website under the Article Library page, and represents an extraordinary achievement in postal history research. The second part of his article (Volume 39, No. 4, Whole No. 152) listed and illustrated all the known postmarks used on the state's RFD routes. A third article in the society journal (Volume 39, No. 1, Whole No. 149) highlighted North Carolina's participation in the RFD postal carriers' use of Christmas cards to residents along their routes. All three of his articles can be viewed in the online library of society journals on its website, [www.ncpostalhistory.com](http://www.ncpostalhistory.com). Ertzberger's name will be added to the Weatherly award, which is a permanent award maintained by the society. Figure 1 pictures the replica award sent to Darrell Ertzberger who was unable to attend the CHARPEX general meeting.

The Society announced that this year there would be co-winners of its North Carolina Postal History Society Literature Award for articles published in the last completed volume of the *North Carolina Postal Historian*. One co-winner was Larry Baum for his "North Carolina Antebellum and Confederate Advertising Covers: Spotlight Wilmington." The article included a sumptuous gathering of illustrations of advertising covers from a variety of sources. In addition, the author compiled censuses of North Carolina advertising designs by type and by town. The article can be viewed on the society website (Volume 39, No. 1, Whole No. 149).

The second co-winner was Mark S. Schwartz, who contributed "The Colony Was Lost but the Stamp Remains," a study of the 5- cents gray blue Virginia Dare stamp issued at Manteo, North Carolina on April 18, 1937. Mark explored the genesis of the stamp, acknowledging that the sketch for the central design was rendered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He then provided illustrations of a number of interesting and unusual covers featuring domestic and foreign uses of the stamp. The article can be viewed on the society website (Volume 39, No. 3, Whole No. 151).

Figure 2 shows the award presented to Larry Baum at the annual meeting and Figure 3 shows the award sent to Mark Schwartz, who was unable to attend the meeting.

The North Carolina Postal History Society made the awards at CHARPEX 21, the annual show hosted by the Charlotte Philatelic Society and Fortnightly Collectors Club held July 24-25 at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, North Carolina. ■



Figure 1.



Figure 2.



Figure 3.



## carytj@yahoo.com

email: [srumsey@rumsevauctions.com](mailto:srumsey@rumsevauctions.com)

Kevin Porter - Greensboro

If you'd like to contribute information or articles to the Winter *POSTAL HISTORIAN* please submit them by

**November 15**

## NCPHS Postal Historian