

The Treasures We Find!

by Josh Furman

One of my philatelic interests concerns U. S. Postal Cards, and another interest concerns the history of the New York City Post Office. This big city started small, like all other towns in the United States, but, perhaps sooner than most, it needed to add places from which to serve postal customers. Early on, these new places, called Postal Stations, carried the names of the areas in which they were located, or the name of a significant location in the district. One such station was first named Bible House Station, for obvious reasons. When the Post Office needed to know more about how its mail was handled, the alphabet became the new naming source, and Bible House Station became Station D (A, B and C having already been used). That name change occurred in 1874. (Just for reference, the *United States Official Postal Guide* of 1875 lists the address of Station D as 4 Cooper Union. That address no longer exists, but Cooper Union itself lies on the south side of East 8th Street between 3rd and 4th Avenues.)

So, what did I start to collect? Combining my two interests: Postal cards canceled in all the stations. Why not?

At this fairly early period cancellations of this kind were termed “alphabet duplex” cancels. These melded a circular date stamp with a killer indicating the name of the station from which the item was mailed. And they were made on one device, so required only one combined cancel on the part of the postal clerk.



Here is my treasure: a Postal Card with an alphabet duplex cancel from Station D. As you can see, the D appears both in the circular date stamp and in the six-vertical-bar oval killer.

This card was posted on Aug 9, 1878, fairly early in the history of the newly named Station D.

It is different in a couple of respects from other Station D cards in my collection. For one thing, the use date is earlier than

my others. The key difference, however, is the Postal Marking that appears in the upper left portion of the card. I reproduce it here enlarged for clarity.

If you look at the address on the card you will see that the sender directed the message to Ocean Port, NY. But the postal clerk recognized that Ocean Port is in New Jersey, not in New York, so he made the change (in red ink on the card) and applied the postal marking showing what he did. We probably wouldn't get that service today.

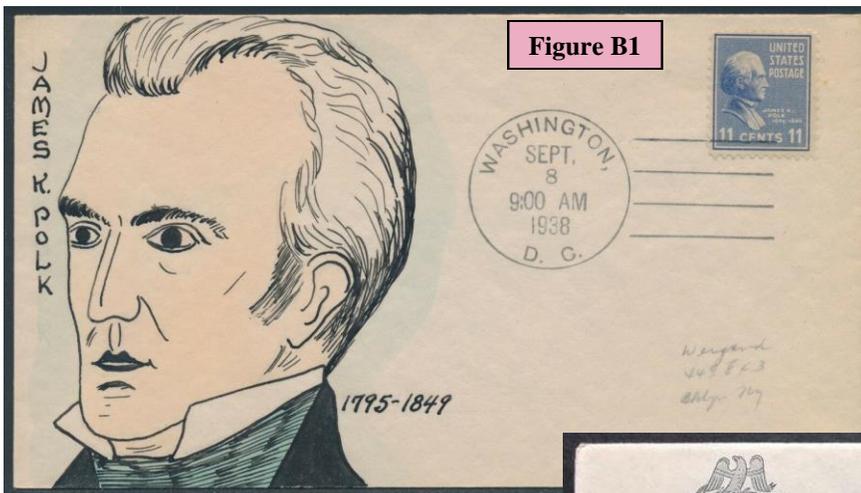
At FLOREX I showed this card to both Doug Weisz and Labron Harris, two esteemed dealers in Postal Stationery. Although this postal notice is new to me, apparently it is not uncommon on postal stationery of the time. But it is scarcely seen on Postal Cards, and very scarcely seen at all in blue ink! So, this is my treasure for today. What's yours?

James K. Polk: POTUS #11

by Jason Wells

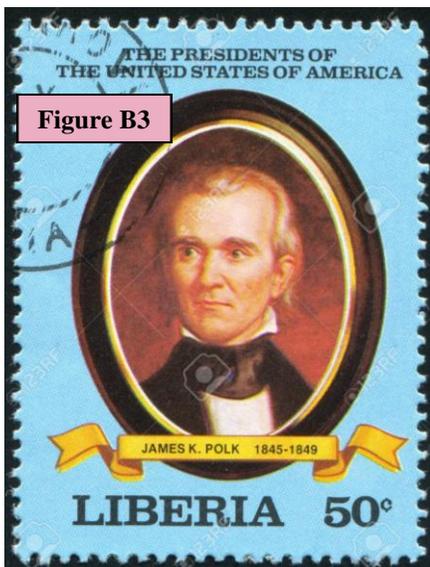
James Polk (1795-1849) was our 11th president and served from 1845-1849. A devoted ally of Andrew Jackson (he was called ‘Young Hickory’ to Jackson’s ‘Old Hickory’), he made a pledge during the 1844 election to serve only one term and is considered by many political and historical think-tanks to be one of our most effective presidents. He expanded our borders by acquiring the Oregon territory from Great Britain, annexing the republic of Texas, and winning a large part of the American southwest from Mexico in the one-sided Mexican War. Another significant event is the issue of the first US postage stamps in 1847. Upon issue, Polk stated “A well-digest cheap-postage is the best means of diffusing intelligence among the people”.

Polk died shortly after leaving office of cholera and exhaustion (Polk was a noted workaholic). Polk was honored a few times on stamps. The first regular issue for Polk was the well-known presidential series of 1938. Shown as **Figure B1** is a hand painted first day cover by Mae Weigand (Scott # 816).



Polk was honored again by the issue of the first day cover in 1947 featuring the souvenir sheet of the first two postage stamps [Figure B2].

While there have been other U.S. issues of President Polk, Liberia also issued a stamp celebrating the president in 1981 [Figure B3]. Surprisingly, Mexico to date has not issued a stamp honoring Polk (irony intended).



One of more obscure, but effective Presidents. He may be the only president to say that he accomplished all he set out to do in office. On top of issuing our first postage stamps he:

- Expanded U.S. territory.
- Re-established an independent U.S. treasury.
- Lowered tariffs.
- Prevented a war with Great Britain over the Oregon territory.