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## United States Navy Cancellations.

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(EDITOR'S NOTE.—The grouping of a number of cancellations, varying greatly in sizes and shapes, and the necessity of confining them within the page limits of THE SOUTHERN, presented some difficulty, forcing "overlaps" as well as a shortening of the bars in several instances. A few notes will clarify the illustrations.

Type 8 (U. S. S. Kentucky): the bars measure  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches (center bar).

Type 9 (U. S. S. Orion): the two stars are part of this canceller.

Type 10 (U. S. S. Borie): the three bars extend  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch beyond illustration.

Type 14 (U. S. S. Nevada) the seven wave-lines are part of canceller.

The illustrations are actual size.)

On June 1, 1908, a number of ships of the United States Navy were made post-offices, or at least, had a mail clerk appointed to perform the usual duties of a postmaster.

Until recently no one has paid any attention to the cancellations used on the letters sent from the ships, and as a result very little is known about the earlier forms.

I have given here tracings of such of these cancellations as I have been able to secure. It is hoped and requested that those who have forms not shown will loan them for tracing, so that a record, as nearly complete as possible, may be compiled.

It may be that all of the ships used the same type at first. If that is so, it is possible that number 1 shows the type, for it is not likely that any change was made in nine months.

Between numbers 1 and 2 there is a period of more than four years, and it is quite possible that other types were used during this time.

These early cancellers were evidently made with the postmark and canceller attached to one handle so that one blow cancelled the stamp and post-marked the letter. And the same thing may be said of the majority of the designs shown.

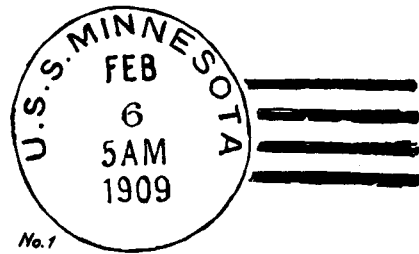
In 1914 and 1915, however, some of the ships had postmarks without the canceller attachment as shown by numbers 17 and 18, while some others were using a new type as shown by number 7.

Only one war-time cover has come to my notice. It is cancelled U. S. Navy. Possibly all the ships used this cancellation while the war was going on.

From then until 1924 my data is blank.

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supply-

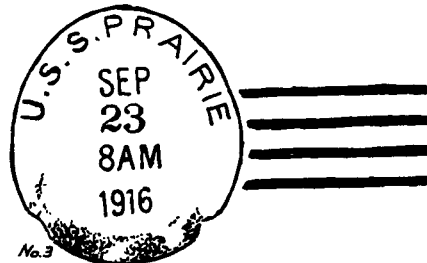
held in



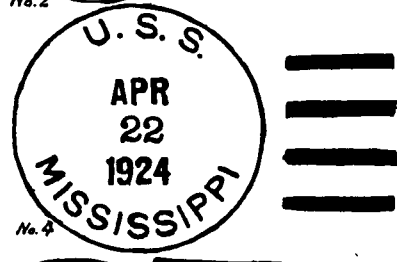
No. 1



No. 2



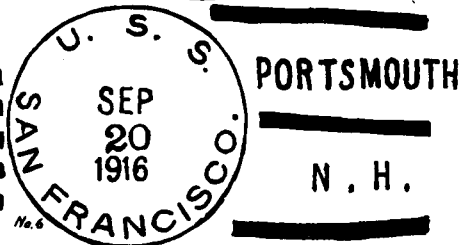
No. 3



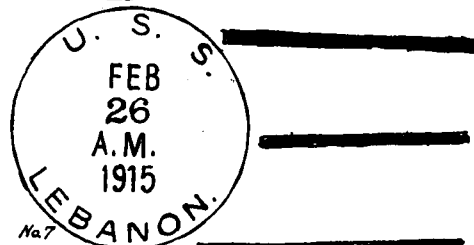
No. 4



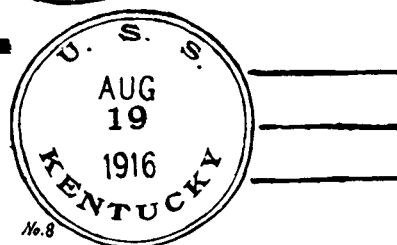
No. 5



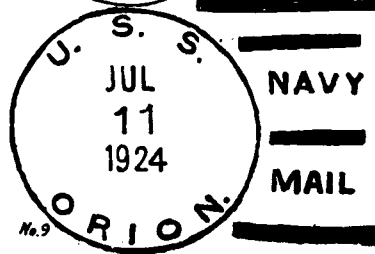
No. 6



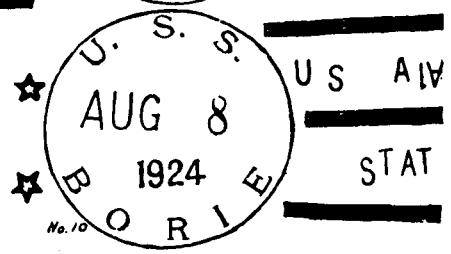
No. 7



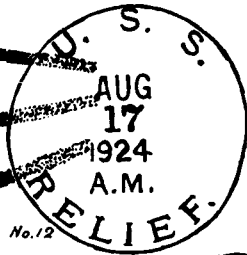
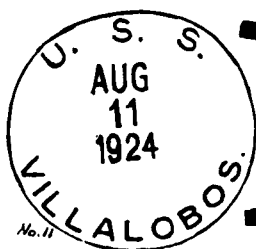
No. 8



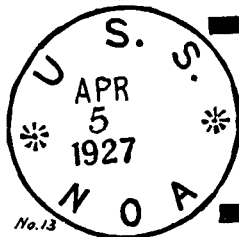
No. 9



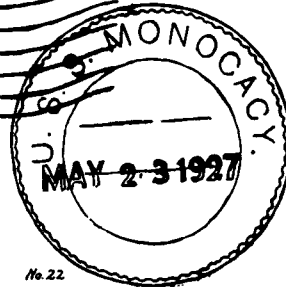
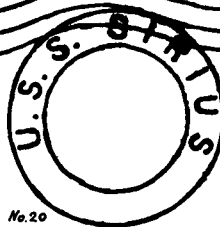
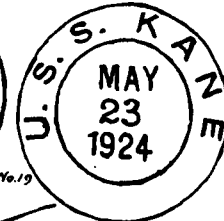
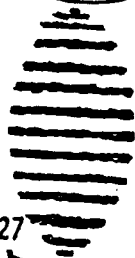
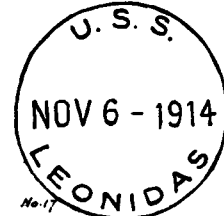
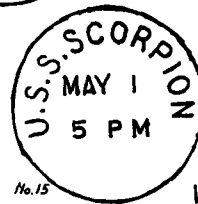
No. 10



U.S. NAVY  
SEATTLE W



↑ SHANGHAI ↑  
↓ CHINA ↓



**U.S.S. Gannet**  
No. 21

SMOUTH  
H.  
STAT

In 1924 a fairly representative collection was secured and it will be seen that several types were in use. Most of the ships retained one or the other of these types in 1927, but a few new ones had come into use.

In 1924 the distribution of those noted was:

No. 2. 1 ship.	No. 10. 1 ship.	No. 15. 3 ships.
No. 4. 1 ship.	No. 11. 8 ships.	No. 19. 15 ships.
No. 6. 90 ships.	No. 12. 1 ship.	
No. 7. 1 ship.	No. 14. 7 ships.	

And in 1927 it was:

No. 5. 1 ship.	No. 13. 1 ship.	No. 18. 3 ships.
No. 6. 122 ships.	No. 14. 4 ships.	No. 19. 20 ships.
No. 11. 1 ship.	No. 15. 17 ships.	No. 22. 1 ship.
No. 12. 2 ships.	No. 16. 1 ship.	No. 23. 1 ship.

It is to be said in regard to No. 6 that a number of the ships do not insert the name of the port in the spaces provided for this purpose. A few use other words such as, "At Sea," "Join the Navy," etc.

A few ships use two kinds of postmarks, and I have seen one or two covers with both No. 6 and No. 19.

Black ink is used most frequently, but purple, red, blue, and green are sometimes seen.

One other postmark has been noted. The Scorpion was in European waters for several years and used a postmark like those seen on letters coming from Europe.

No doubt there are others and if those who have them will be kind enough to loan them, an effort will be made to get the record complete. They will be promptly returned to the owners.

#### Of Interest to Collectors of Confederate Material.

Among the prized possessions of the late Capt. John F. Mayer, dean of Richmond collectors, there was an old Confederate Scrap-Book containing a mass of interesting material gathered by the owner since his boyhood in the early sixties. The heirs are offering this scrap-book for sale—as a whole, or in its sections. Among other material, such as newspaper clippings, Confederate papers, autographs of famous leaders, war-time *carte-visite* photographs of statesmen and generals, there is a *complete* collection of Confederate States paper money, and the famous war cartoons, etched by Volck.

Those interested may obtain detailed information by addressing the Editor.