

1909 Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition Station Postal Markings

Seattle, Washington hosted the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition from June 1st to October 16th, 1909. The exposition was sited on the grounds of today's University of Washington. The event was organized as a commercial venture by the State of Washington and the City of Seattle. The United States Post Office Department (USPOD) maintained a working post office, Exposition Station, in the Government Building on the grounds of the exposition. Postal markings from the exposition are recognized by an "Exposition Station" indicia.

This exhibit showcases seven postmarks known from Exposition Station. Notable items in this exhibit include:

- The only known example of the registered mail double circle date stamp used at the exposition (S09-05a)⁽¹⁾
- The discovery of an additional two line non-postal marking used by the Superintendent of Exposition Station (S09-05b)
- Multiple examples and various usages of the duplex cancel used at Exposition Station (S09-01)
- An example of the American machine flag cancel (S09-04)
- Examples of the Columbia machine cancel (S09-03)

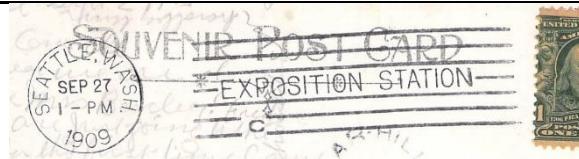
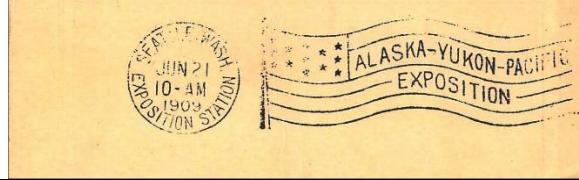
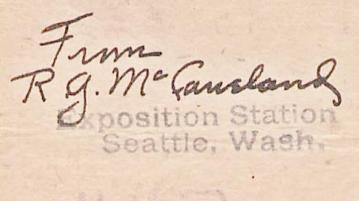
This exhibit also includes current data on when specific types of cancels were, and were not, available. It will also update the census of the cancels listed above.



References:

- (1) All references to postmark types and numbers (S09-XX) are taken from *William J. Bomar's Postal Markings and Postal History of United States Expositions*, 3rd ed., David Savadge, editor.

A Synopsis of the Postmarks:

Bomar #	Description	Illustration
S09-01	Steel die duplex cancel with a "1" in the killer die space	
S09-02A	International machine cancel with D in the die space	
S09-02B	International machine cancel with C in the die space	
S09-03	Columbia repeater machine cancel	
S09-04	American machine flag cancel	
S09-05A	Dated double circle marking for registry use.	
S09-05B	Return address stamp used on registered parcels	

The USPOD issued Scott #370, the red 2 cent Seward commemorative stamp in conjunction with the exposition. The official first day of use of the stamp is June 1st, 1909, opening day of the exposition.

Exposition Station Usage Data:

Current data from exposition station postmarks shows the office was in operation from before the grounds opened to the public (04-May-1909) until the last day of the exposition (16-Oct-1909).

The data also shows that not all postal markings were either available, or in use, during this timeframe. There is an interesting pattern to the markings:

- The S09-02A and S09-02B International machine cancels are by far the most common cancels from the exposition. The S09-02A represents the earliest known usage (EKU: 04-May-1909) and the S09-02B the last known usage (LKU: 16-October-1909).
- The switch between the D and C in the die space of the S09-02 varieties occurred on 24-Sept-1909. The D is found up to 23-Sept-1909 and the C is found afterwards up to 16-Oct-1909.
 - However, this cancel has not been found between the dates of 23-June-1909 and 30-June-1909.
 - Since this cancel was applied by electrically powered machine, it is speculated that there was some interruption to the power supplied to Exposition Station. However, the actual reason for the break has not been determined or researched.
- The result of this break in usage of S09-02 means that most of the scarce, manually applied postal markings, from the exposition (S09-01, S09-03, S09-04) are found in this time interval.

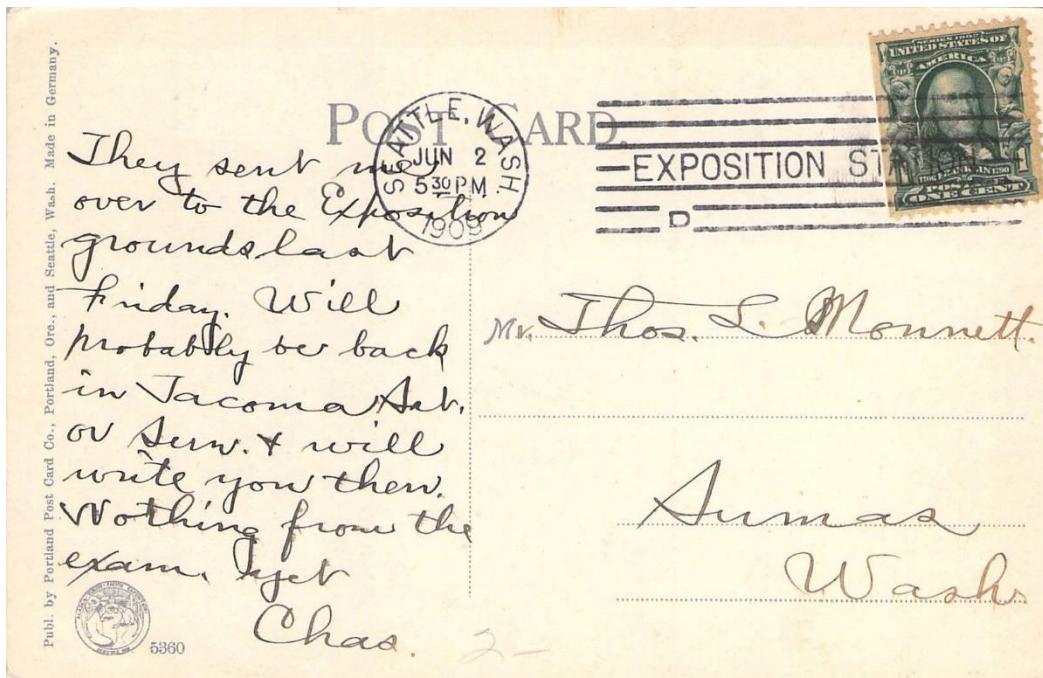


Figure 1: Typical use of S09-02A on a postcard with a Scott #300 definitive stampxxx.

Postal Markings: S09-01 Duplex Cancel

S09-01 is a manually applied postal marking and like the other manually applied markings from the exposition, it is quite scarce. Its EKU is 23-June-1909 and LKU is 13-Oct-1909. Bomar reports the number of examples to be less than 15. However, this writer currently holds 16 examples in his collection.

- Of these 16 examples, 13 are on postcards, and 3 are on covers.

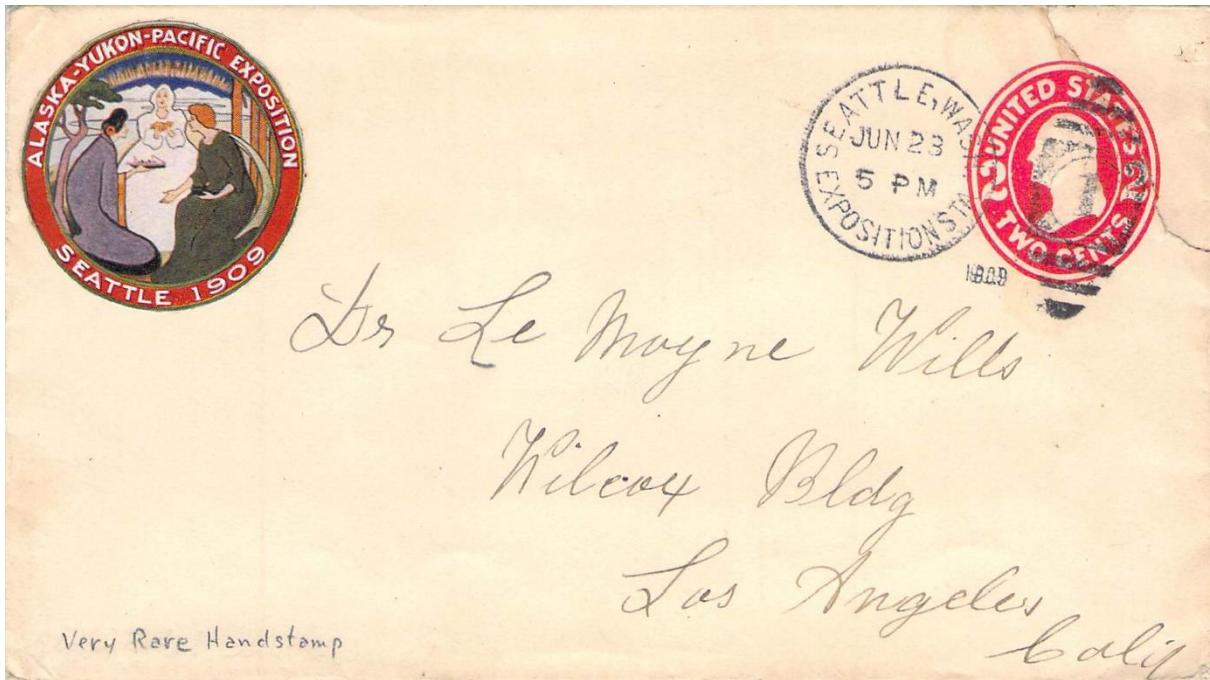


Figure 2: Earliest known use of P09-01 on cover

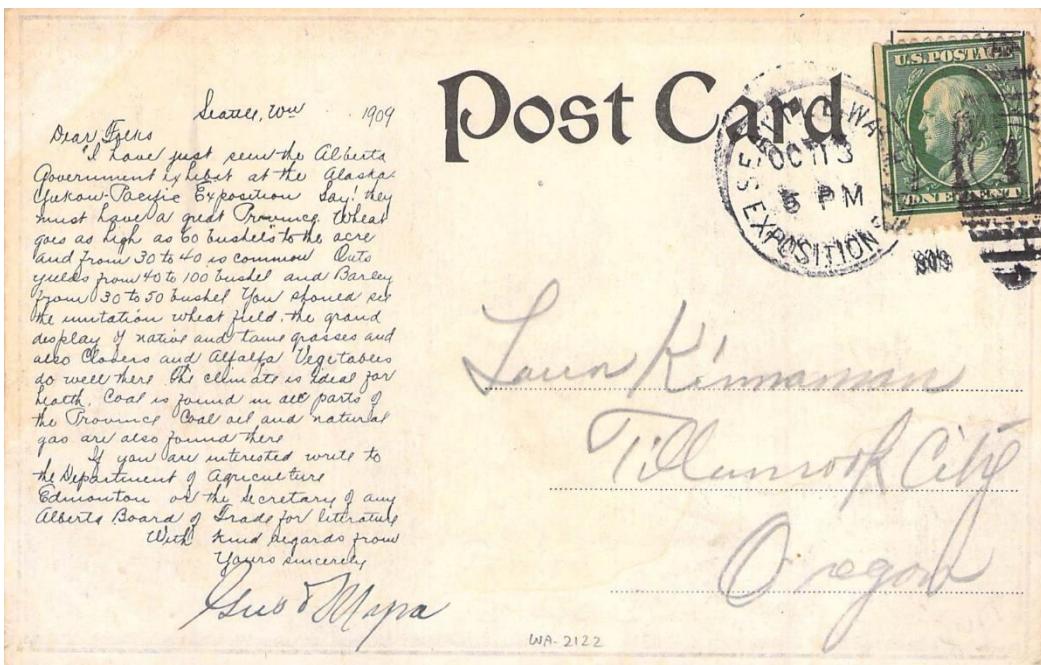


Figure 3: Latest known usage of S09-01 on postcard.

Postal Markings: S09-01 Duplex Cancel (continued)

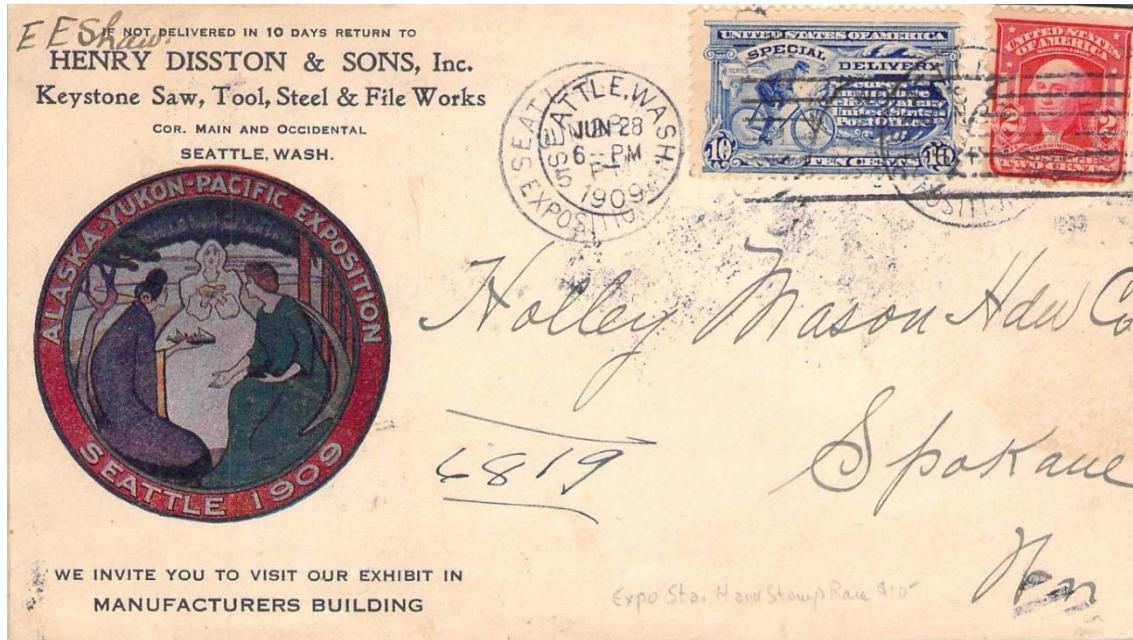


Figure 4: S09-01 on a special delivery cover to Spokane. The "World's Fair Seattle 1909" machine cancel was NOT applied at Exposition Station. Special delivery service was maintained out of the Seattle main post office, where the machine cancel was applied.

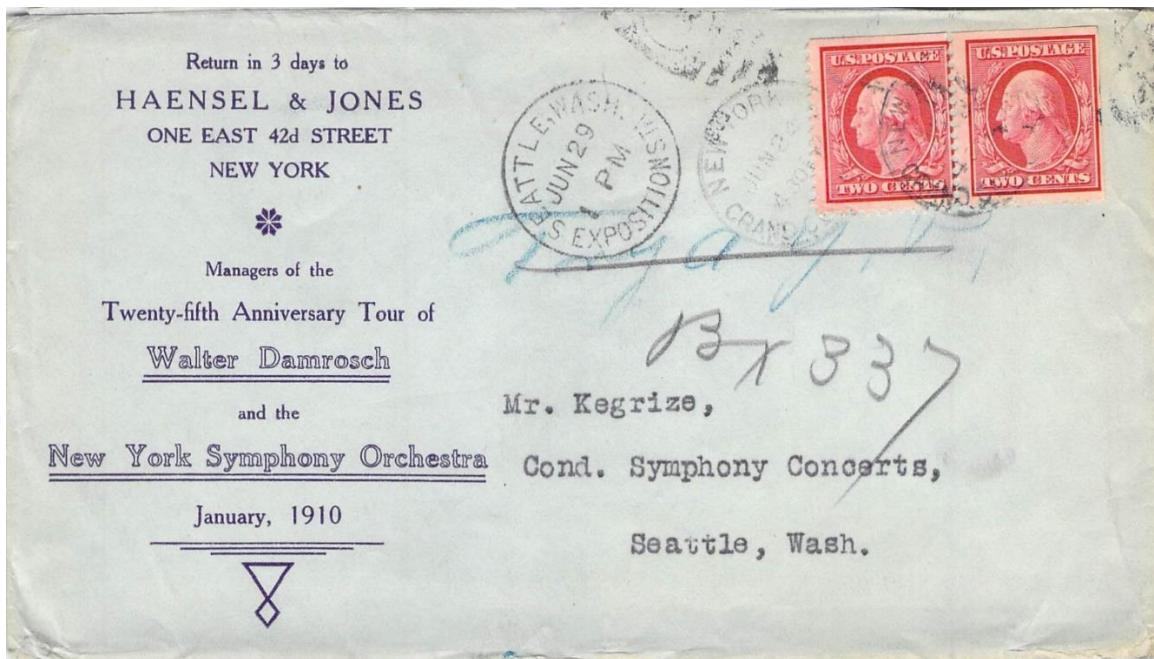


Figure 5: S09-01 on cover used to forward undeliverable mailpiece to the main Seattle post office. The Seattle Symphony played weekly concerts in the Forestry Building at the exposition. Michael Kegrize was conductor from 1907 – 1909. There is no indication this was returned to sender.

Postal Markings: S09-01 Duplex Cancel (continued)



Figure 6: S09-01 on postcard initially mailed from Exposition Station with Canada Scott #90. Sent to Seattle main post office and held for postage for nearly two months.



Figure 7: Nice example of a S09-01 on a postcard with San Francisco auxiliary markings. Forwarded to Santa Cruz, California.

Postal Markings: S09-02A Machine Cancel

S09-02A is the most common cancel available from the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition. Most examples are found on postcards and cancel common 1 cent definitive stamps of the day (Scott #300 and Scott #331)



Figure 8: S09-02A on postcard used the day before the exposition opened to the public.

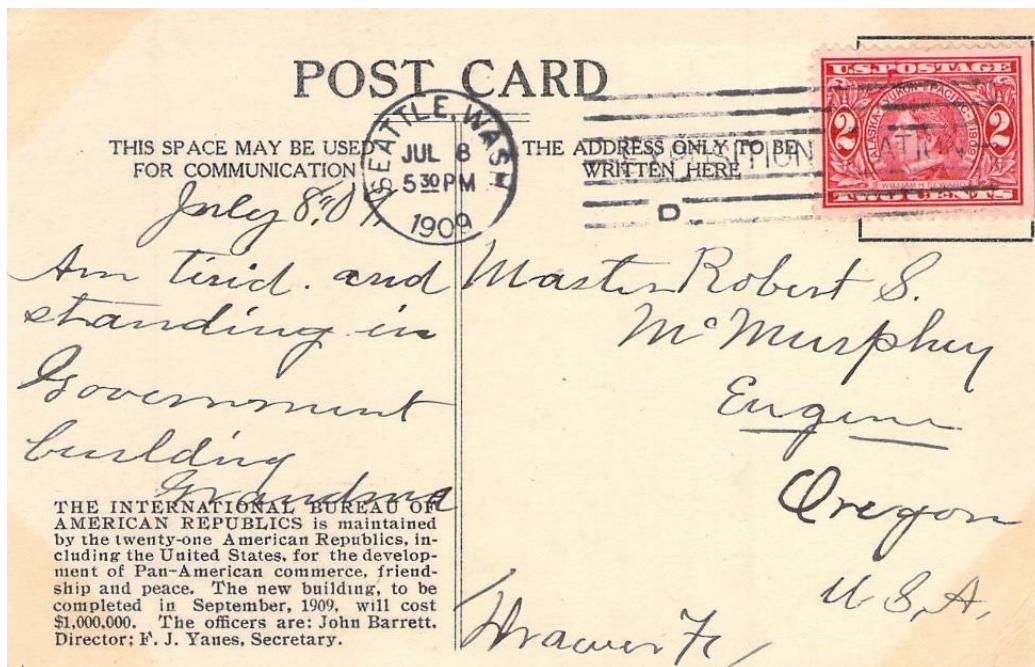


Figure 9: Typical use of S09-02A cancelling Scott #370. Note the sender is standing in the Government Building.

Postal Markings: S09-02A Machine Cancel (continued)



Figure 10: S09-02A cancelling Scott #367. Usage of this stamp from the exposition is rare. This is the only known example this writer has seen.

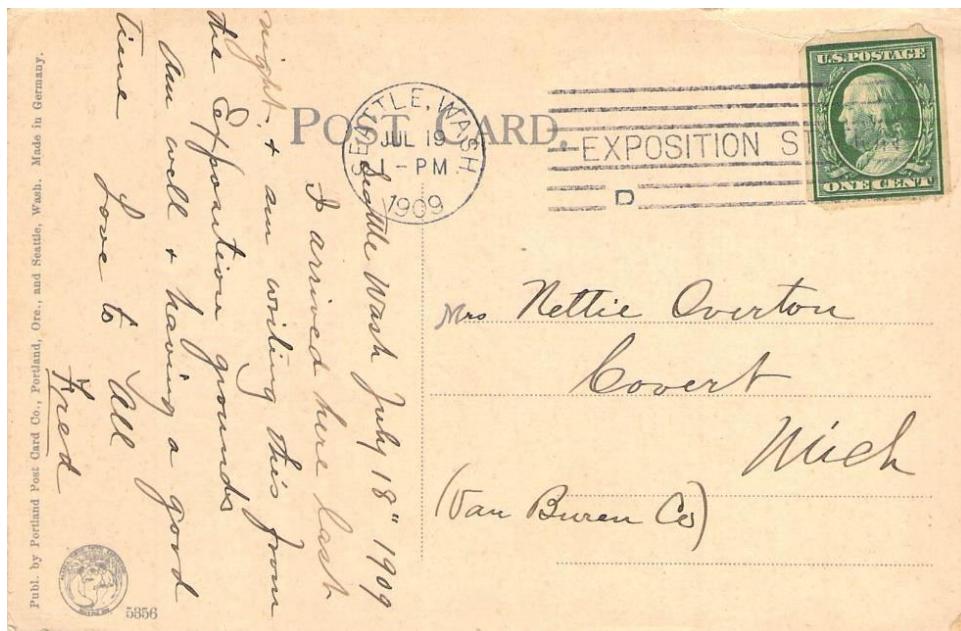


Figure 11: S09-02A on a Scott #343 U.S. Automatic Vending Company (USA V) privately perforated stamp. Bomar states, "The USAV provided 8 vending machines at the (exposition) for sale of stamps". Use of this stamp with any Exposition Station postal marking is rare.

Postal Markings: S09-02A Machine Cancel (continued)



Figure 12: S09-02A on cover with Scott #371; Use of the Scott #371 with an exposition station cancel is rare.



Figure 13: S09-02A on philatelic cover to/from B.W. Allen. Mr. & Mrs. Allen were collectors of exposition station postal markings. Items generated by them are also found from the Lewis and Clark and Jamestown Expositions. The seal at lower left may be a later addition.

Postal Markings: S09-02A Machine Cancel (continued)



Figure 14: S09-02A on postcard to Germany tying both Scott #370 and Canada Scott #90. Overseas usages of any Exposition Station postal markings from the Alaska Yukon Exposition are scarce.



Figure 15: Exposition Station also processed mail from exhibitors and vendors at the exposition. A S09-02A on a corner cover from the Clark County, Washington Exhibit.

Postal Markings: S09-02B Machine Cancel

For some unexplained reason, the replaceable die slug was changed on the S09-02 machine cancel from a (D) to a (C) on 24-Sept-1909, thus creating the distinction S09-02A and S09-02B.

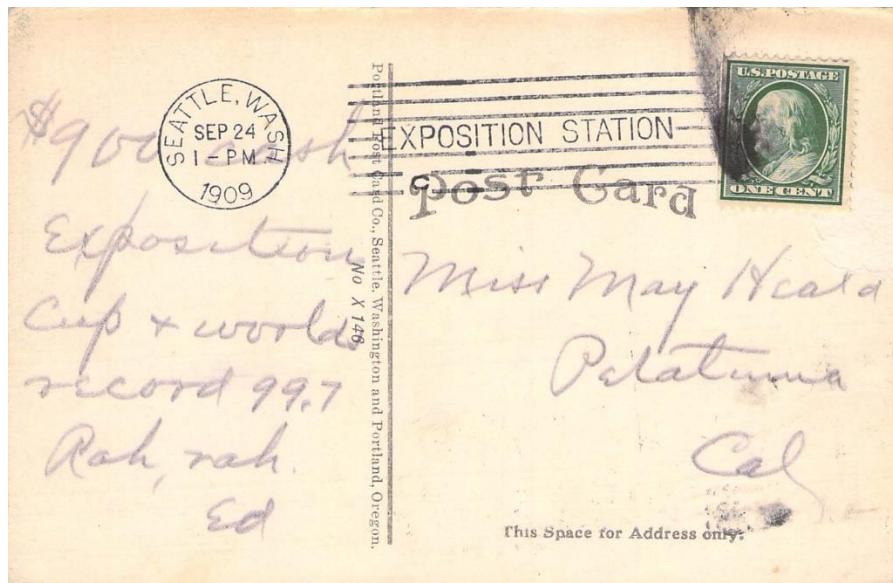


Figure 16: Typical example of S09-02B on a postcard. Many exist with the EKU of 24-Sept-1909.



Figure 17: Last day use of S09-02B. Sender mentions it's the last day of the fair.

S09-02 Usage Patterns

The chart below is a summary of this writer's Exposition Station postal collection. It shows usage of the S09-02 machine cancel (X), the dates of use of the S09-01 duplex cancel (DX), and the dates of use of the S09-03 Columbia repeater cancel (CR).

- An empty cell in the chart represents a date in which this writer has no example. It does not imply postmarks were unavailable on those dates.

S09-02 Dates	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
1			X	Sunday	X	X
2		X		X	X	X
3		X	X	X	X	Sunday
4		X	Sunday	X	X	X
5		X	X	X	Sunday	X
6		Sunday	X	X	X	X
7		X	X	X	X	X
8		X	X	Sunday	X	X
9	Sunday	X	X	X	X	X
10			X	X	X	Sunday
11			Sunday	X	X	X
12		X	X	X	Sunday	X
13		Sunday	X	X	X	X (DX)
14		X	X	X	X	X
15		X	X	Sunday	X	X
16	Sunday	X	X (DX)	X	X	X
17		X	X	X	X	
18		X	Sunday	X	X	
19		X	X	X	Sunday	
20		Sunday	X	X	X	
21		X	X	X	X	
22		X	X	Sunday	X	
23	Sunday	(CR) (DX)	X	X	D X	
24		DX	X	X	C X	
25		DX	Sunday	X	X	
26		CR	X	X	Sunday	
27	X	Sunday		X	X	
28		(CR) (DX)	X	X	X	
29		(CR) (DX)	X	Sunday	X	
30	Sunday	DX	X	X		
31	X		X	X		

Note: Other than the pre-opening dates, postmarks from early June are by far the most difficult Exposition Station markings to find. This table represents 20 years of this writer's attempt to obtain a postmark from every day the exposition was in operation.

Postal Markings: S09-03 Columbia Repeater Machine Cancel

S09-03 was a “repeating” cancel that produced a postal marking that extended completely across the face of a postcard or cover. The manually operated machine was made by the Columbia Postal Supply Company of Silver Creek, NY. This is a scarce postal marking, with about 25 known examples.



Figure 18: An example of S09-03 repeater machine cancel on postcard with overseas usage to Austria. As typical with many overseas usages, postage was placed on the picture side of the postcard.

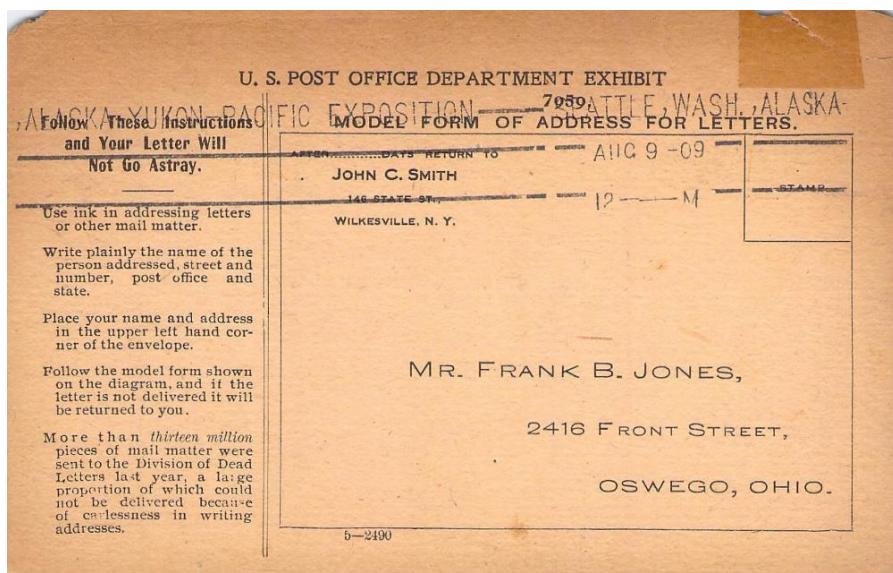


Figure 19: S09-03 on preprinted post office information card from Exposition Station. The printed address on the card is completely fictitious.

Postal Markings: S09-04 American Machine Flag Cancel

An American machine flag cancel was available at Exposition Station but is rarely seen in legitimate postal usage; there are approximately 3 or 4 known examples. Most examples are found on a postal information card that was available at Exposition Station.

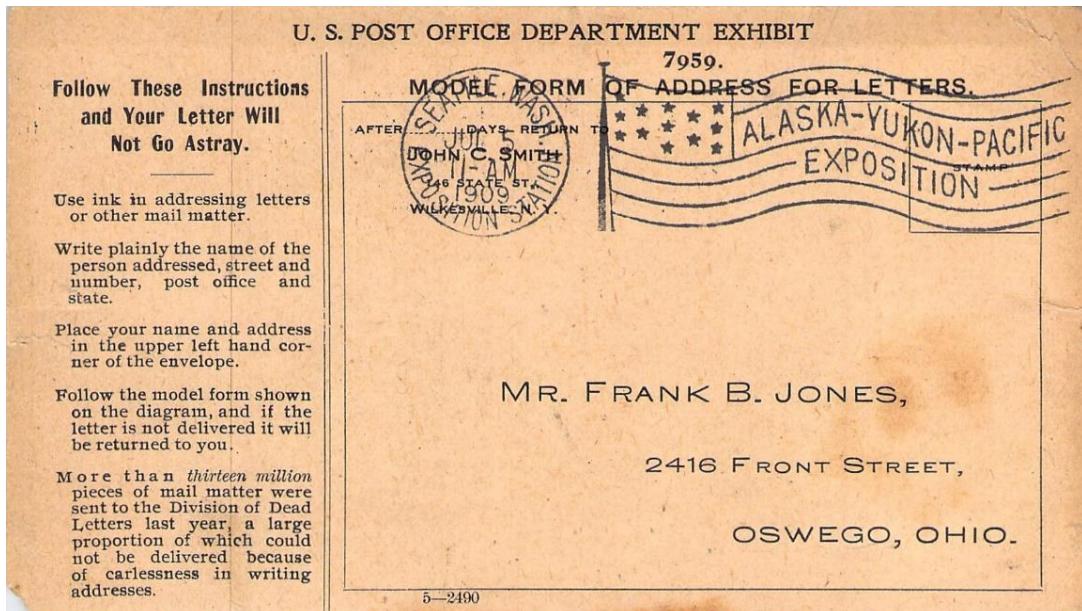


Figure 20: S09-04 on postal information card from Exposition Station.

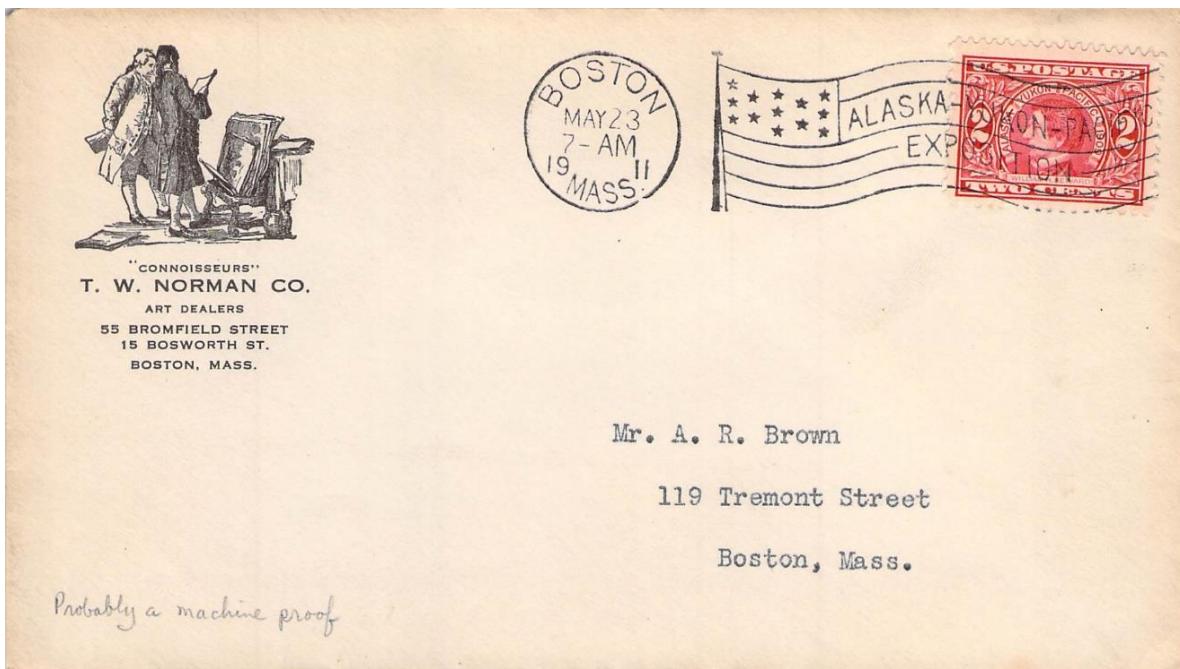


Figure 21: A collector-generated, illegitimate use of the S09-04 well after the exposition closed.

Postal Markings: S09-05A and S09-05B Exposition Station Registry Markings

These are extremely rare markings, as there is only one known example of the S09-05 double circle date stamp, and two known examples of the S09-05B return address marking. Both examples are included in this exhibit.

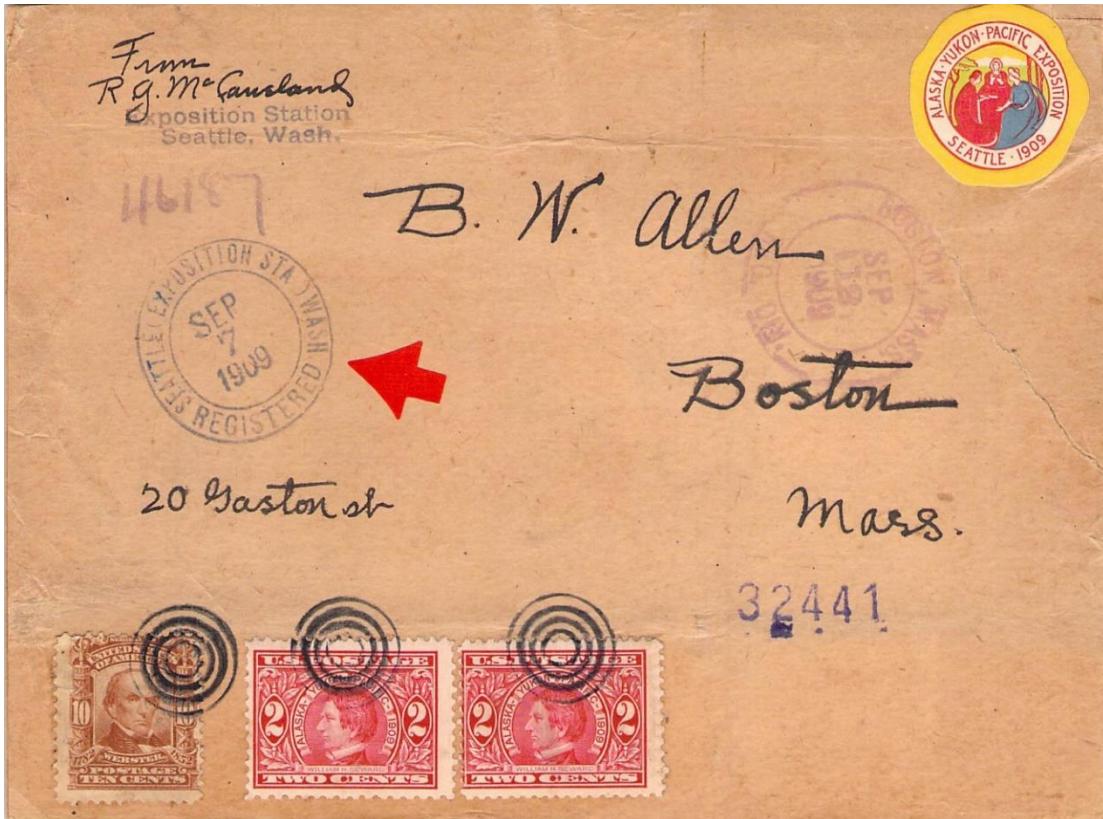


Figure 22: Only known usage of S09-05A from Exposition Station. This example also includes one of the two known S09-05B Exposition Station return address markings. The seal in the upper right was most likely added later.

Postal Markings: S09-05A and S09-05B Exposition Station Registry Markings (continued):

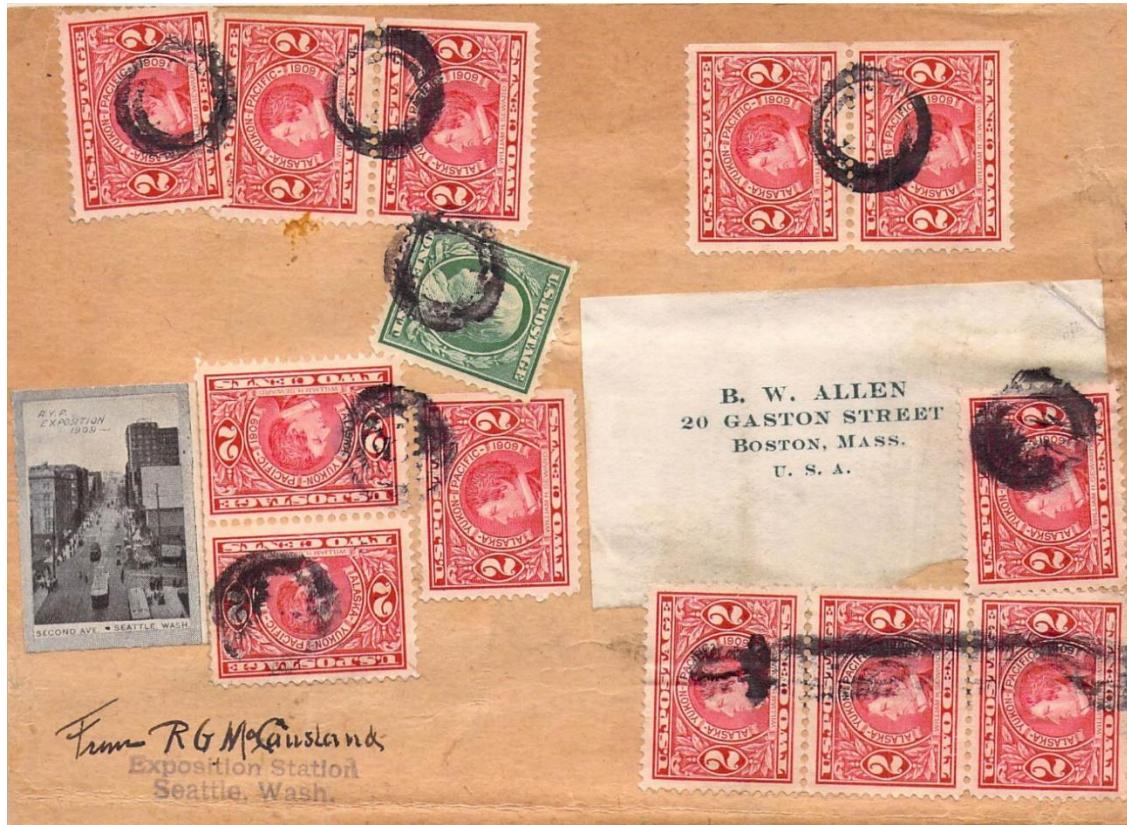


Figure 23: The newly-identified second example of S09-05B return address marking. The seal at left was most likely added later.

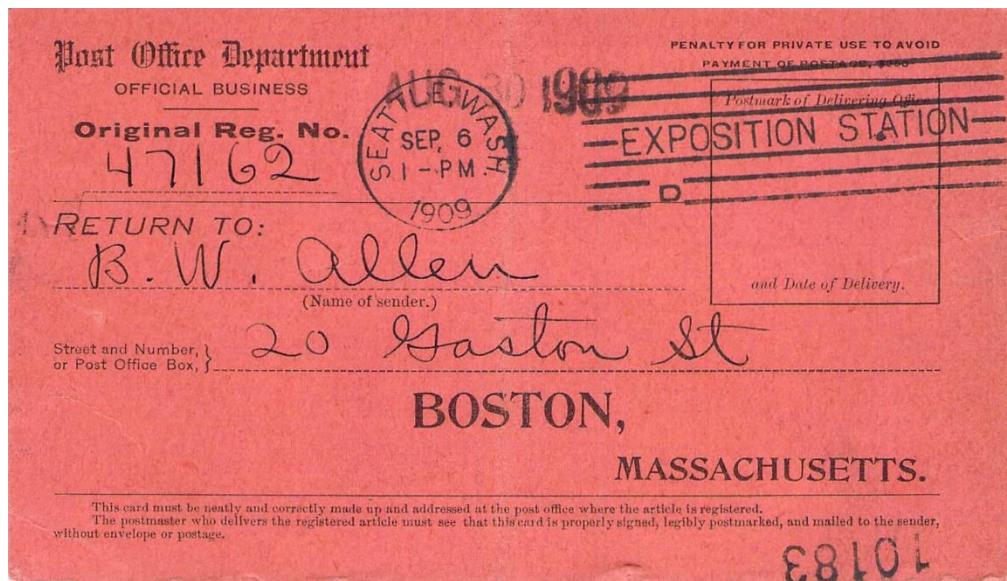


Figure 24: The only known example of a registered return receipt from the Alaska Yukon Exposition.