



ARMENIA ON PRECANCELLED STAMPS OF THE UNITED STATES

By Greg Balagian

One of the popular and interesting aspects of philately are precancelled stamps. Several countries issue precancelled stamps for purpose of using them for bulk mail. There are many precancelled stamps issued by Belgium, France, Canada and, of course, United States.

United States without a doubt issued the largest quantity of precancelled stamps. Typically, the US precancels are stamps with two horizontal lines and names of the city or town and the state where they are being mailed from between them. The United States Postal Services first authorized precancelled stamps in 1887. There are many different varieties of US precancels. Since 1913, most have been printed from 100-subject electroplates supplied to local postmasters by the Post Office Department. Beginning in 1923 Bureau of Printing and Engraving in Washington D. C. started to print precancels in large quantities for post offices of New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston and other major US cities. Precancels made by local post offices were made by various devices, such as electroplates, rubber handstamps, vinyl handstamps and stereotype handstamps.

There are many different styles of precancels. Some of them are all capitalized and some of them only capitalize the first letters in the name of the post office. Most have the names of the states abbreviated, but some have the state names printed in full. There are also different fonts used on precancelled stamps. The majority of precancels are printed in black, but there are some printed by using blue, purple or red ink.

One of my main collecting interests are US postmarks and precancels and I identified numerous Armenia related postmarks, and I was also able to identify three Armenia related precancels. Two of them related to Armenia directly – ARARAT, North Carolina and ARARAT, Virginia, as these two towns etymology has a direct relation to the Mount Ararat. The precancel of VAN, Texas wasn't named after the city of Van, but it is still worth to have it, as it is a namesake of it.

So far, I was able to obtain various precancels of these three post offices, as these precancels exist on number of different stamps. Because above mentioned post offices are from small towns, the quantity of precancels issued was not large, so it is kind of difficult to find them.



ARARAT, Virginia is an unincorporated community in Patrick County. The community's name comes from the Ararat River. The river takes its name from the "Jefferson Fry Map" of 1751, which calls Pilot Mountain part of "Mountains of Ararat". The Pilot Mountain was thought to resemble bullfrog and Indians named after the sound they thought bullfrogs made – "Ratratrat". Early white settlers thought what they were saying was.

ARARAT NC

ARARAT . North Carolina is an unincorporated community in Long Hill Township of Sury County . It is situated , and is named for Ararat River as well. which is a trbutary of Yadkin River in southwestern Virginia.



VAN TX



Van . Texas is a city in Van Zandt County about seven miles east of Dallas . The town was named an early settler and teacher Heny Vance.