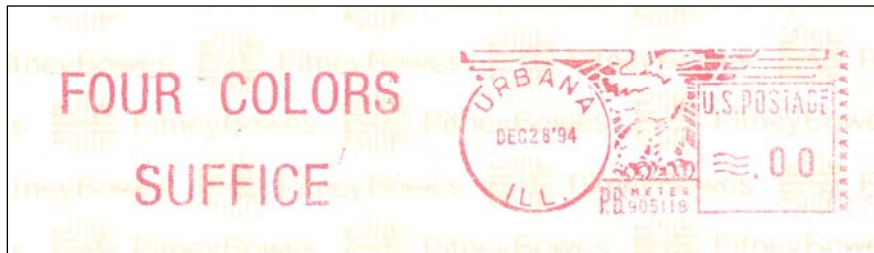


**Postmarks Used by
Department of Mathematics
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

Professor Paul T. Bateman, who served as Head of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from 1965-1980, is the person who set up the " $2^{11213} - 1$ " and the "Four colors suffice" postmarks.

The Department of Mathematics at Illinois used the prime postmark from the middle 1960's (soon after Don Gillies in the Computer Science Department at the University of Illinois discovered that Mersenne prime) until 1976, when Wolfgang Haken and Kenneth Appel proved the Four Color Theorem and the department's postmark was replaced by one that read, "Four Colors Suffice."



Additional documentation about the postmarks:

<http://primes.utm.edu/mersenne/>

<http://mathworld.wolfram.com/MersennePrime.html>

http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/Four_color_theorem

<http://www.maa.org/reviews/fourcolors.html>