

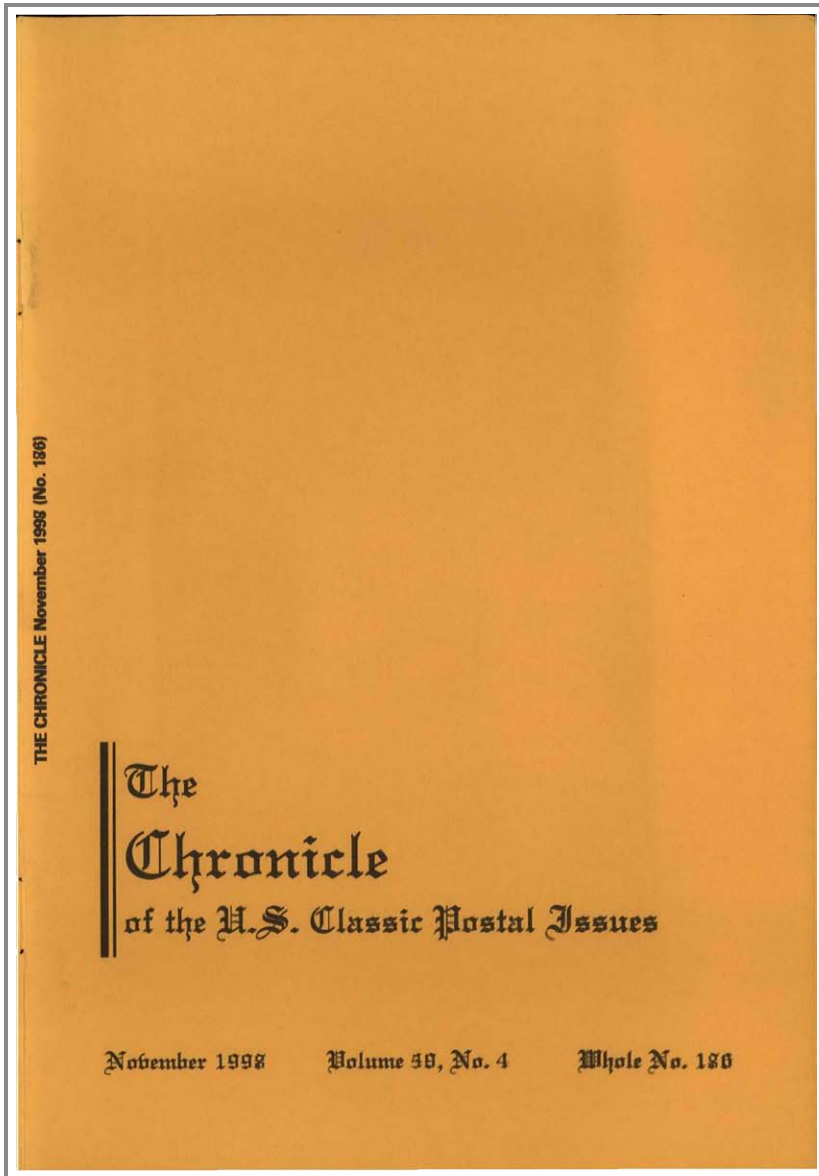


# U.S. Philatelic Classics Society

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Article: Answer to Problem Cover in Issue 179

Author(s): Ray W. Carlin



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Cover

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Back Cover

Other markings: the diagonal manuscript on the front reads “nicht gefunden” (German for “not found”), the red “Wfr 1½” is a German language transit marking abbreviation for “Weiter franco 1½” (meaning “Paid beyond 1½ groschen”); the blue crayon on the front is presumably the St. Petersburg “VN EKSP” negating of the address as well as the 27 September CDS where the stamp was removed. The dark blob on the lower right of the reverse is illegible but closely resembles the 1860s period “Paid” marking found on foreign mail – in which case the center line would read in Cyrillic capital letters “NAPLACHENO” (*i.e.*, PAID). I suspect that it might have been used to acknowledge that the letter had been fully franked, but had lost a stamp in its travels. The weak marking on the front lower left could have been transferred when the back marking was struck.

The most confusing marking turned out to be the simplest. When the manuscript “2 HHW...” on the reverse is rotated 180 degrees, it becomes the Cyrillic transliteration of “C.N. LINN”. For the Russian postman to find Dr. Linn, he had to know how to pronounce his name!

Now it remains for someone to identify the postage rate and the value of the stamp removed.

### ANSWER TO PROBLEM COVER IN ISSUE 179

The 2 cts. “PAID” cover in Figure 4, complete with an enclosed circular, posted in Boston in 1851, brought a response from Greg Sutherland who originally submitted the cover! He writes:

According to *The U.S. One Cent Stamp 1851-1857* by Stanley Ashbrook, the nine sub post offices in Boston in 1851 were authorized to receive mail and letters posted there required prepayment of one cent, besides the regular U.S. postage. These stations were referred to as “Penny Post-Receiving Stations.”

Therefore, the one cent Post-Receiving Station fee plus the one cent circular rate for not over 500 miles added to the paid 2 cts. Boston CDS. Does anyone have a different explanation?



Figure 4. 1851 circular rate cover marked 2 cts. “PAID”



Figure 5. February 1868 cover to Panama paid 10¢

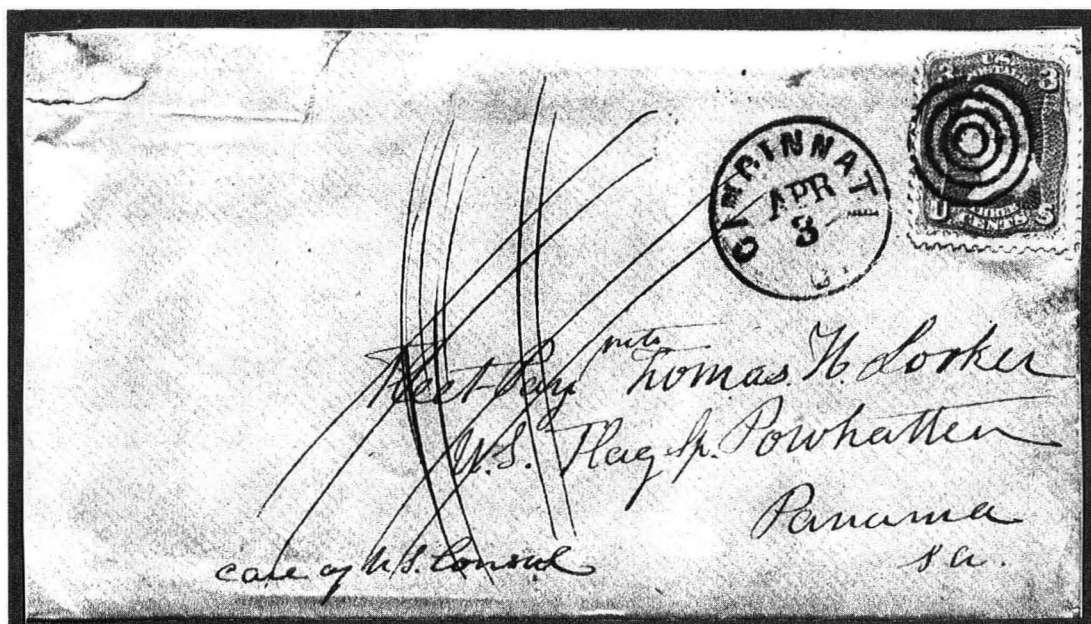


Figure 6. April 1868 cover to Panama paid 3¢