

THE CHRONICLE August 1989 (No. 147)

The

Chronicle

of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues

August 1990

Volume 42, No. 3

Whole No. 147

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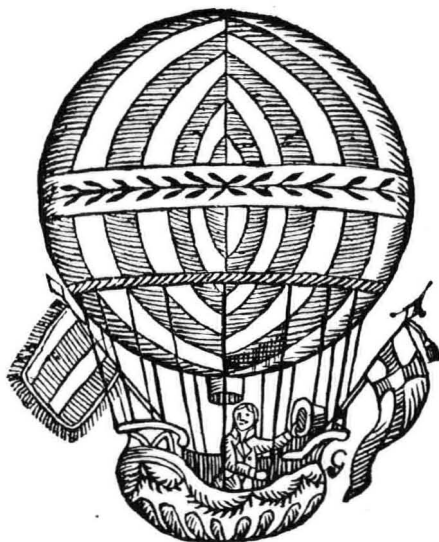
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The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues

ISSN 0009-6008

August 1990

Published Quarterly, in
February, May, August, and November

Vol. 42, No. 3
Whole No. 147

\$3.50 Members
\$4.00 Non-Members

Official publication of the U. S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc.
(Unit 11, A. P. S.)
\$15.00

Annual dues

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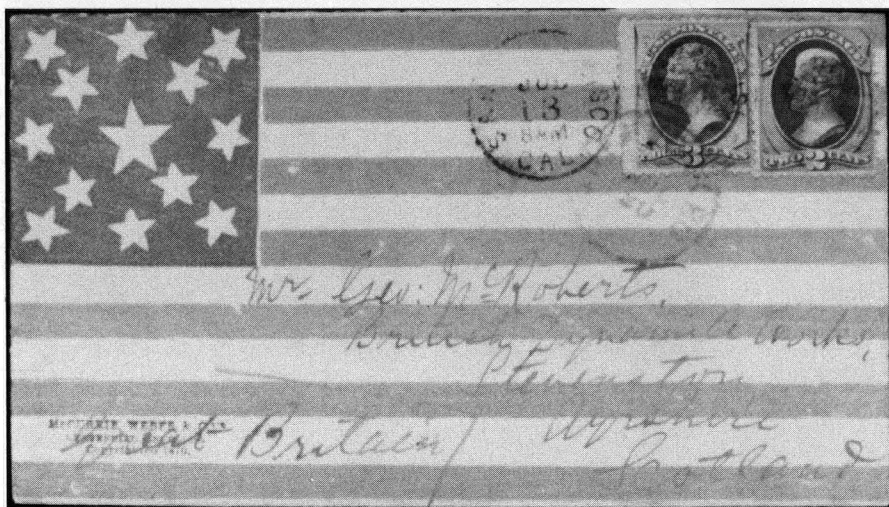
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THE EDITOR'S PAGE

This issue of the *Chronicle* introduces an experiment — a supplement consisting of a very fine monograph by Richard F. Winter on mails to Spain under British treaties in the period 1849-76. We have decided to include this bonus with the current issue so that we can avoid breaking up the article over several issues and so that the information is accessible in separate format for easy reference. If this innovation proves acceptable, we may attempt more such publications at irregular intervals in the future when a suitable manuscript is submitted and the additional funds are available. The editorial staff would be grateful for your comments on this experiment.

If you study the masthead you will see that there has been an extensive changing of the guard. Absent are the names of some individuals who have served faithfully for many years. We have a new slate of officers as well as a new Publicist and Chatter editor. Please help them to serve you by lending your cooperation. This seems a good time to remind you of some preferred procedures:

Changes of address should be sent to the Secretary, inquiries about application for membership to the Membership Chairman, orders for back issues of the *Chronicle* and for some other publications to the Publications Sales Chairman, other items from the individual addresses noted on the list attached to the dues notice, or in *Chronicle* ads. Reports of philatelic events, awards, and activities of members should be sent to the Publicist and/or Chatter editor. Articles or reports for the *Chronicle* should be submitted to the appropriate Section Editor or the Editor-in-chief. Questions or suggestions regarding the conduct of Society affairs are the domain of the President.

Speaking of awards, congratulations are due to our stalwart, Richard B. Graham, on receipt of the August Dietz Award from the Confederate Stamp Alliance for his research and writings on the 10¢ Knoxville cover.

* * *

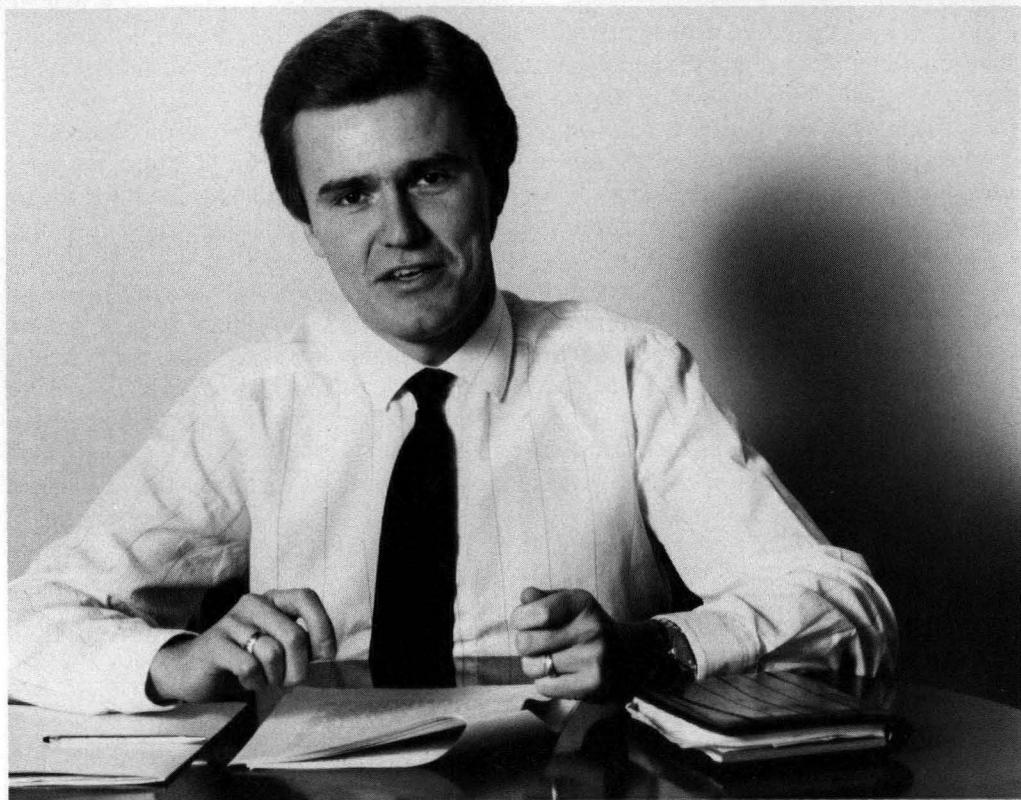
Review: Checklist of First Days and Earliest Documented Covers, 1847-1931. Compiled by Edward J. Siskin. Paperbound, 43 8 1/2 x 11 pages. Published by the American First Day Cover Foundation. Available @ \$12 postpaid from Robert Masto, AFDCF Sales, 119 Pinehurst Drive, Washington, N.J. 07882.

Although about two-thirds of this pamphlet concerns issues beyond the range of interest of the Society, there is much valuable information in the pages dealing with 19th century stamps. The compiler has made a careful effort to present dates accurately, to designate them consistently, and to identify sources. The introduction explains the categories and the rather formidable list of abbreviations. Siskin emphasizes strongly that many dates given are tentative and subject to revision. In fact, a prime reason for publication is to bring out reports of covers with earlier dates which can be authenticated for a future updated list.

This checklist should be of interest to both stamp and cover collectors.

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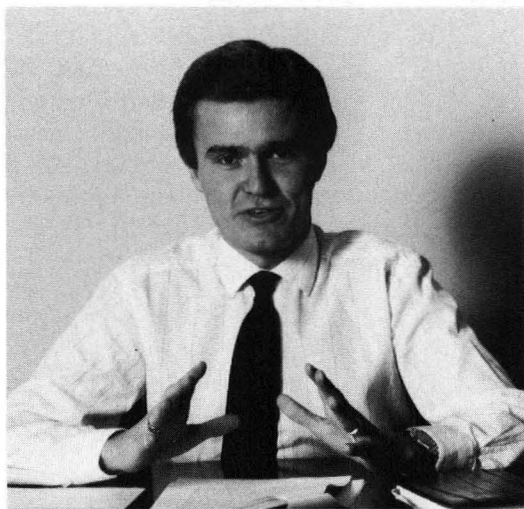
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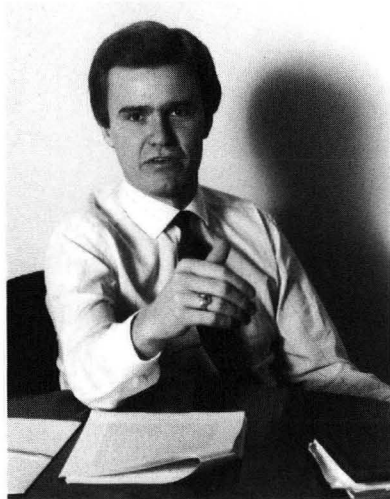
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VIGNETTES OF EARLY UNITED STATES TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

J. C. ARNELL

12. Early Boston Rate Handstamps

The previous vignette covered the activities of Thomas William Moore, the British packet agent, who was responsible for many years for the transfer of incoming and outgoing transatlantic mails between the Admiralty agents on the British packets and the Boston post office. Until the inauguration of the British and North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (the Cunard Line) service between Liverpool, Halifax and Boston in July 1840, virtually all the mail handled by him was associated with that of the Canadian provinces, as all American letters were being sent on the weekly American sailing packets or the occasional pioneer steamer out of New York.

However, simultaneous with the Cunard service, the General Post Office, London established a packet postage of One Shilling sterling per half ounce between any post office in Great Britain and either Halifax or Boston on letters carried by Cunard. The frequency and regularity of these steamers and the lower postage rates associated with them soon attracted American correspondence from the New York route to Boston.



Figure 1. From Liverpool, 18 September 1840, 1½ oz. letter prepaid 4/-, and rated \$1.14½ due.

As there was no agreement between the GPO and the USPO with respect to the collection of each other's unpaid postage, all outgoing British letters for the United States had to have the packet postage to Boston prepaid. Likewise, American letters for Great Britain required the U.S. inland postage to Boston to be prepaid. While this latter could be paid at the time of mailing, on occasion letters were sent privately to Boston for delivery to Thomas Moore, the British packet agent.

While the USPO, unlike the British, did not have an outgoing ship letter charge on letters destined for Liverpool via Cunard, it did treat all incoming ones as ship letters, charging a two cent ship letter fee, in addition to the regular inland postage. By way of illustration is a letter (Figure 1), which was carried on the maiden voyage of the *Caledonia*, a 1,138-ton wooden paddle wheel steamer. This was a commercial letter from David Malcolmson, Liverpool, dated 18 September 1840. As it contained several enclosures and weighed over 1½ oz., it was charged as a quadruple letter with 4/-Stg. postage prepaid. The *Caledonia* left Liverpool the following day and arrived at Boston on 1 October, where

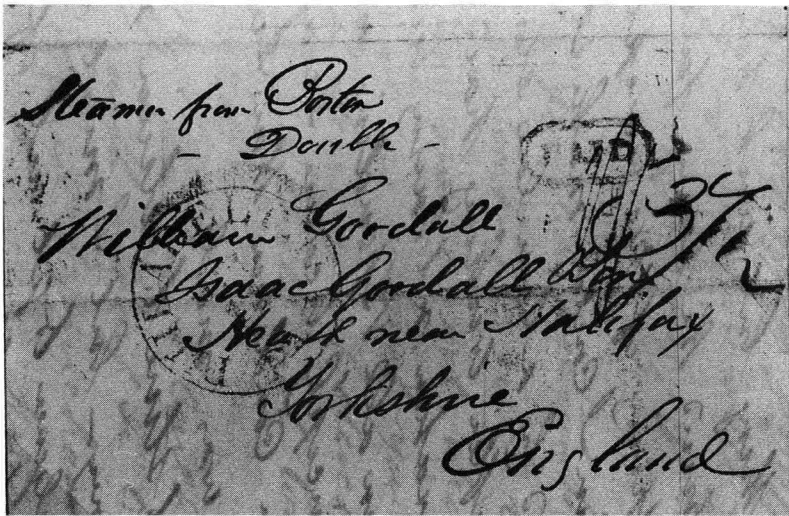


Figure 2. Philadelphia, 14 July 1841, prepaid at double rate, postage due rated as single.

the letter was datestamped with a “BOSTON SHIP” (very faint), and as U.S. postage was still based on the number of sheets in a letter, this having six, was rated \$1.14½ postage due, representing 2 cents ship letter fee and a $6 \times 18\frac{3}{4} = \$1.12\frac{1}{2}$ inland postage to New York.

Travelling in the opposite direction is a letter from R. M. Hilton, Philadelphia, dated 14 July 1841 (Figure 2). This was mailed on the same day and, having two sheets, was charged 37½ cents postage to Boston. Carried by the *Britannia* on her sixth return voyage from Boston on 17 July, it arrived at Liverpool on 30 July, where it was backstamped with a double oval “AMERICA/L” and struck with a 1/- handstamp to show the packet postage due.

For the first couple of years, the U.S. postage was shown in red manuscript, as had been the practice on ship letters since the turn of the century. In the Canadian provinces to the north, the surge in overseas correspondence after 1840, coupled with the establishment of 1/2 sterling as the packet postage between any post office in Great Britain and one in the provinces, led to the introduction of a variety of rate handstamps at that time. It was not until 1843 that the Boston post office adopted a similar practice, when the increase in



Figure 3. From Scotland, 25 December 1842; Boston rated postage due with small 20¢ handstamp.

the number of letters passing through required a more efficient method of charging them than that of methodically writing the postage due on each one.

When introduced, the handstamps were in the values of $20\frac{3}{4}$, $39\frac{1}{2}$ and 27, representing single and double postage for 151-400 miles and single postage for over 400 miles. Most of these handstamps had a circle around the numbers, although the first $20\frac{3}{4}$ was smaller and did not. Apparently there were not enough letters for the shorter distances to require $12\frac{1}{2}$ -cent and $14\frac{1}{2}$ -cent handstamps.

Figure 3 shows a letter from Forfar, Scotland, dated 25 December 1842 with 1/- Stg. packet postage prepaid. Carried by the *Caledonia* from Liverpool on 4 January 1843, it arrived at Boston on 25 January, where it was datestamped with a "BOSTON SHIP" and struck with the small "20" to show the postage due to New York.



Figure 4. An 1843 letter with large encircled 20 struck at Boston.

Figure 4, a letter mailed at Beaminster on 1 August 1843, went by the *Hibernia* from Liverpool on 4 August and arrived at Boston on 17 August, where it received the large encircled "20" as postage due to Philadelphia.



Figure 5. Greenwich, 30 November 1843; Boston encircled 27 for postage to Cincinnati.

Figure 5 is a letter mailed at Greenwich, London, on 30 November 1843, which was carried by the *Britannia* from Liverpool on 4 January 1844 and arrived at Boston on 20 January, where it was struck with an encircled "27" as postage due to Cincinnati.

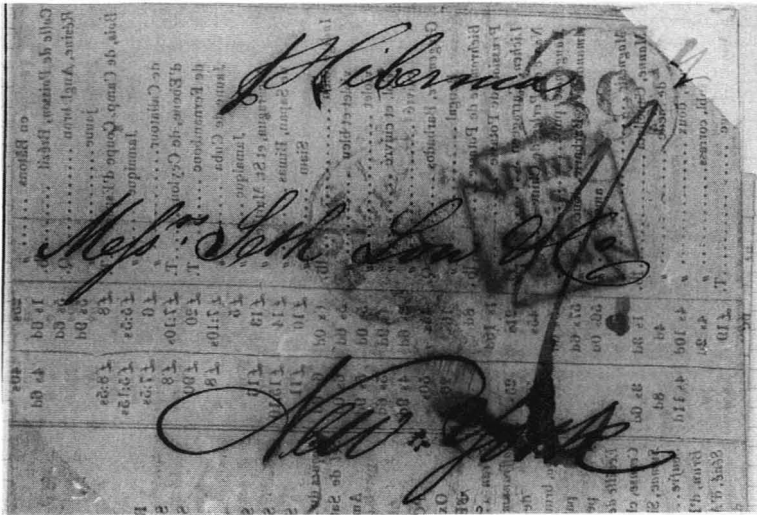


Figure 6. Letter from London 18 April 1844, rated at Boston as double with 39½ hand-stamp.

Figure 6 shows a London letter dated 18 April 1844, which went by the *Hibernia* from Liverpool on the next day and arrived at Boston on 4 May, where it was charged as a double letter sheet with an encircled “39½” postage due to New York.

There were obviously more letters than could be charged with the handstamps, for manuscript ratings are found during this same period until the inland postage was reduced on 1 July 1845. After this date, Boston and New York introduced “5” and “10” handstamps for inland postage and “7” and “12” for incoming ship letters, while other cities, such as New Orleans, followed suit.

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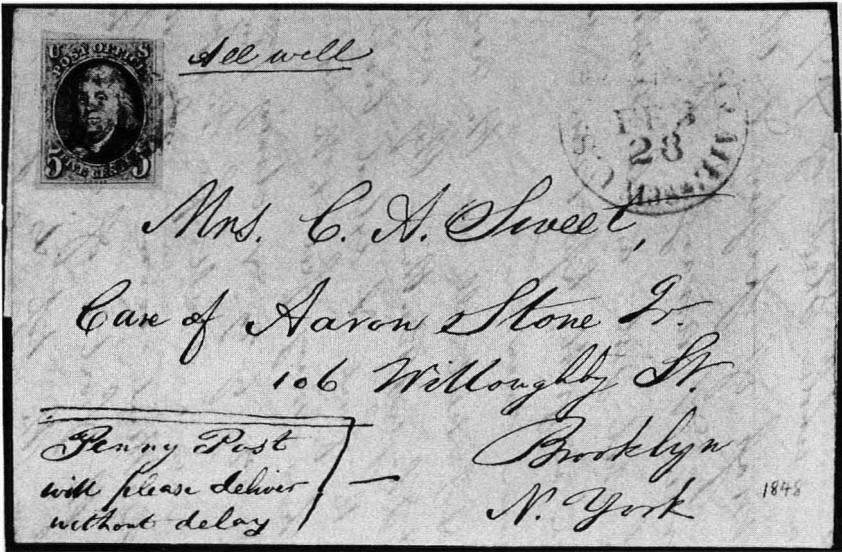


Figure 1. 1848 letter, Boston to Brooklyn (from the mails).

Brooklyn is selected as the subject for this chapter as an archetypal carrier system in a large community. No special adhesives were available for carrier fee prepayment; so the activities discussed herein may be considered generally applicable for the fifty-odd post offices offering similar carrier service by the end of the fee period.

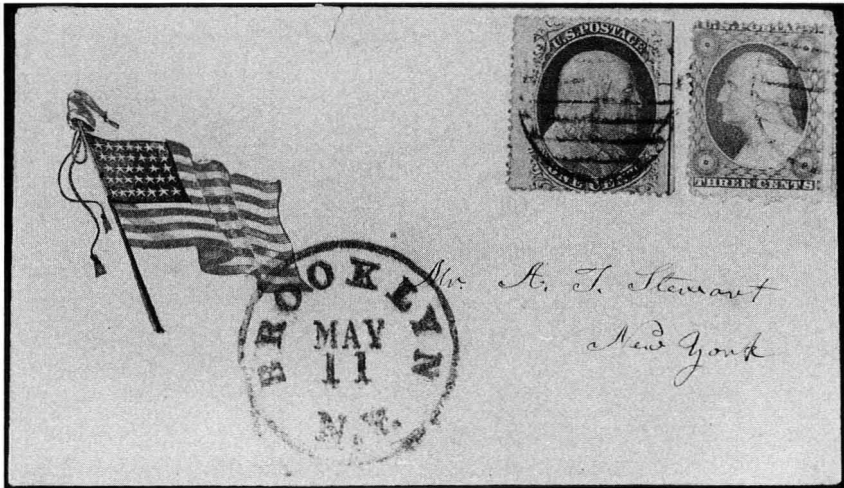


Figure 2. 1861 to the mails use with 1¢ and 3¢ 1857 stamps + 32mm CDS.

The exact year Brooklyn first provided carrier service is not certain, but it was at least as early as April 1845. Since the drop letter rate was increased from one cent to two cents effective July 1, 1845, and since examples of adhesive stamps used to prepay carrier fees in Brooklyn have not been seen before 1860, identification of earlier carrier covers from Brooklyn will have to depend primarily on interpretation of manuscript markings. In New York, just across the East River, carrier service was being provided by the U. S. City



Figure 3. 1860 to the mails use with 4 x 1¢ 1857 stamp + 32mm CDS.

Despatch Post, so we might expect that there would be a parallel in the modus operandi of Brooklyn's carrier department.



Figure 4. 1861 city letter with 1¢ 1857 stamp + 32mm CDS.

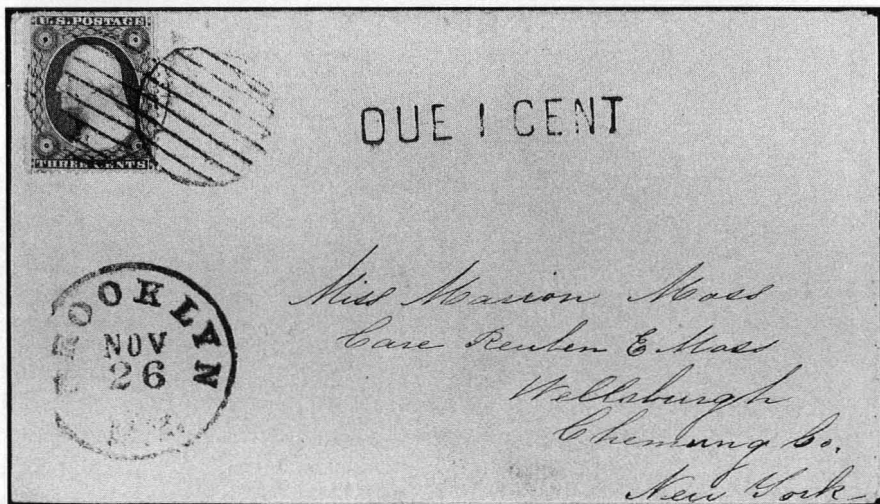


Figure 5. 1860 DUE 1 CENT (to the mails). Collection of Dr. D. B. Johnstone.

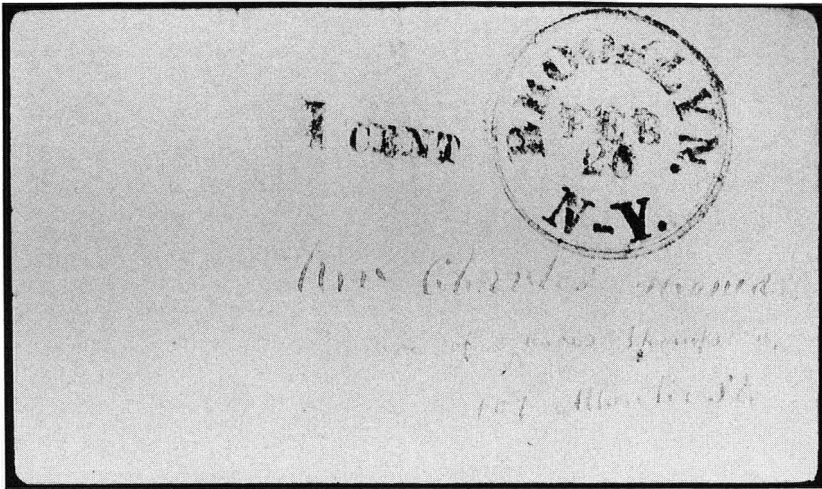


Figure 6. 1860 1 CENT (drop letter, carrier delivery).

During that portion of the fee period when adhesive stamps were available in some locales for prepayment, Brooklyn's population was exploding — from less than 40,000 in 1842 to almost 100,000 in 1850 to well over 300,000 at the end of the fee period in 1863. The only record of carrier service fiscal returns is for the year ending June 30, 1863, when almost 700,000 letters and 65,000 newspapers and pamphlets were handled; so estimates based on a conservative 1863 ratio of two letters per resident per year would produce enough carrier business in earlier years to warrant a sizeable and active carrier department. Clearly, the bulk of the services would have been in the delivery area. The carrier staff of the Brooklyn post office grew from three carriers in 1845 to 17 by June 1863. Between 1849 and 1855, one carrier was designated a special "post office paper carrier," presumably to deliver newspapers to a street address. This unique practice in carrier annals appears exclusively in Brooklyn. At the end of the fee period, in July 1863, 17 letter carriers were placed on an annual salary of \$700.

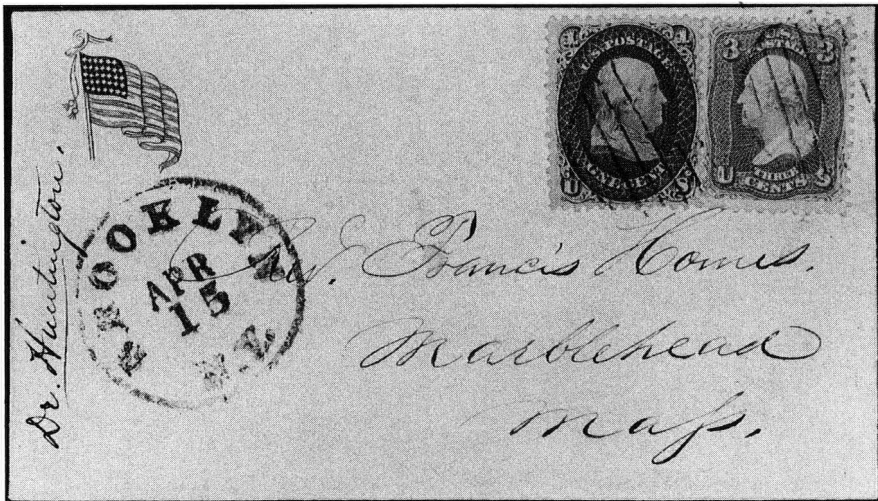


Figure 7. 1862 to the mails use with 1¢ and 3¢ 1861 stamps + 32mm CDS.

In spite of the substantial volume of service mentioned above, the tangible evidence of Brooklyn carrier activity is not great. This chapter is based on the examination of 26 covers available for the author's inspection. If any of the readers can provide additional information expanding this subject matter, it will be published as an appendix to this chapter.

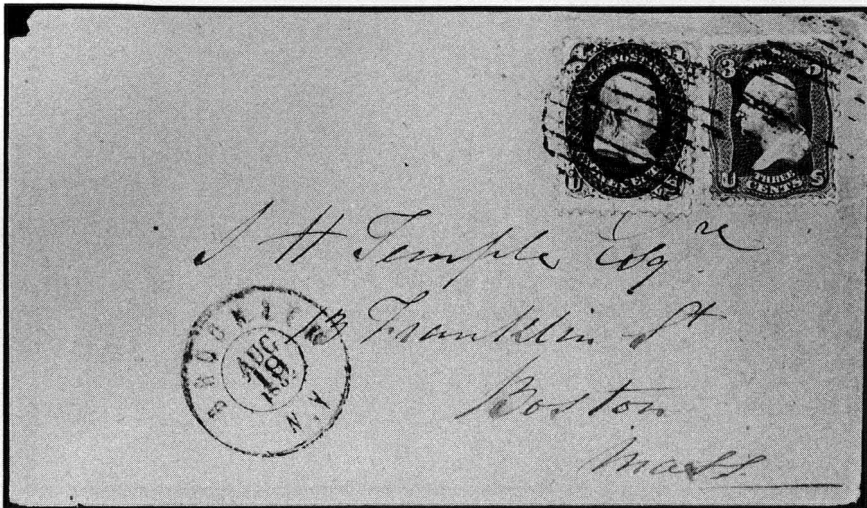


Figure 8. 1862 to the mails use with 1¢ and 3¢ 1861 stamps + 26mm CDS.

There is evidence that collection for the mails was free between 1856 and 1859. All the covers examined can be dated from 1860 to the end of the fee period except one mailed from Boston to Brooklyn in 1848 franked with a 5 cent stamp and endorsed "Penny post will please deliver without delay" (Figure 1). Fifteen of the covers are franked with 1857 series stamps, twelve (to the mails) with one cent plus three cent stamps (10 examples) (Figure 2) or four one cent stamps (two) (Figure 3) and two (city letters) with single copies of the one cent stamp (Figure 4); one cover, to the mails, bears a three cent stamp and a handstamped DUE 1 CENT. (Figure 5). In addition, there is an unfranked drop letter handstamped 1 CENT (due for carrier delivery) (Figure 6). All of the above are postmarked with a 32mm circular BROOKLYN, N. Y. strike enclosing the month and date. A second group of eight covers, all to the mails, bear one cent and three cent stamps of the 1861 series. Of these, three have the 32mm postmark (Figure 7) and five are postmarked with a 26mm double circle containing an 1862 year date (Figure 8). All stamps not canceled with the circular datestamp are canceled with a circular grid containing seven thin bars. In addition, there is a single cover franked with one and three cent 1861 stamps prepaying postage and the collection fee to the Brooklyn post office on February 27, 1862 (the earliest recorded 26mm CDS), but apparently too late for the mails until the next day, when the old-style 32mm postmark of February 28 was applied (Figure 9).

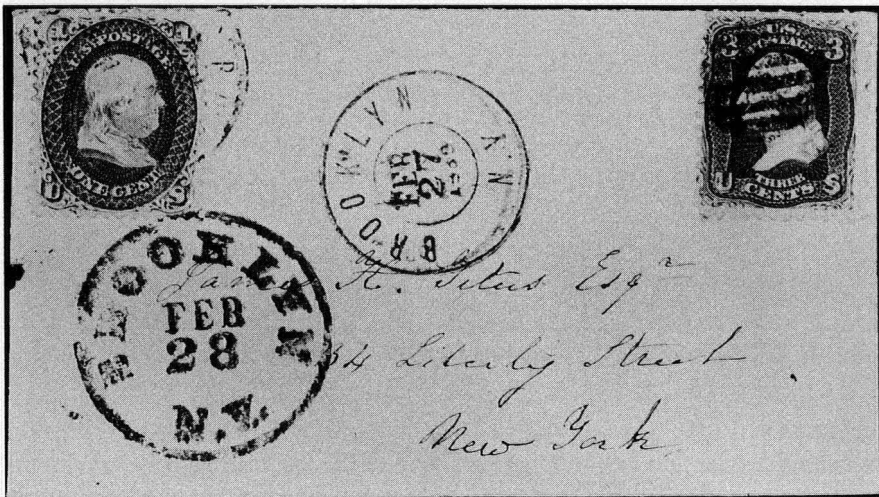
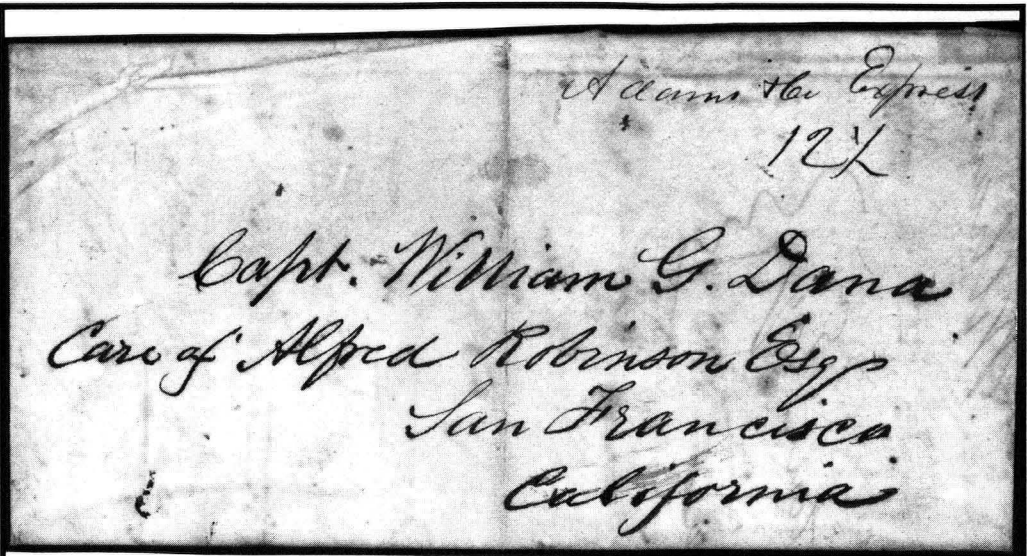


Figure 9. 1862 to the mails use with 1¢ and 3¢ 1861 stamps + 32 and 26mm CDS.

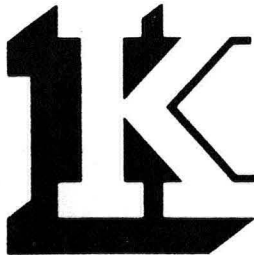


Recently we received the above cover as a consignment to our Western Cover auction which is to be held on September 15 of this year. The cover had just been acquired by a California collector as part of a new find. Now, the cover looks ordinary enough until one checks the date - New York, September 15 of 1849. I knew that the date was extremely early and some research yielded the following information - the New York Herald of September 4, 1849 contained this notice:

Adams & Co's Calif. Express. The subscribers respectfully give notice that they have extended their Express to Calif. and will transmit letters, parcels, packages, species, etc. etc., to San Francisco via the Isthmus of Panama by every steamer for Chagres sending a special agent through each trip who will take charge of our freight and attend in person to its immediate delivery. *Our first express will leave N.Y. on Sept. 15th*, in the steamer Empire City, under the direction of Mr. D. H. Haskell who has for several years been favorably known to the public as a clerk in our Boston office and who has been admitted as a partner to reside in S.F. and have the entire control of our business there.

Since the letter states "I have just learned of a private opportunity of writing you by the Steamer which leaves this noon of Chagres," this was on that first trip. Additionally, it is the earliest known transcontinental Western Express cover since Adams was the first to provide service to California.

An "ordinary" cover? Not so ordinary!



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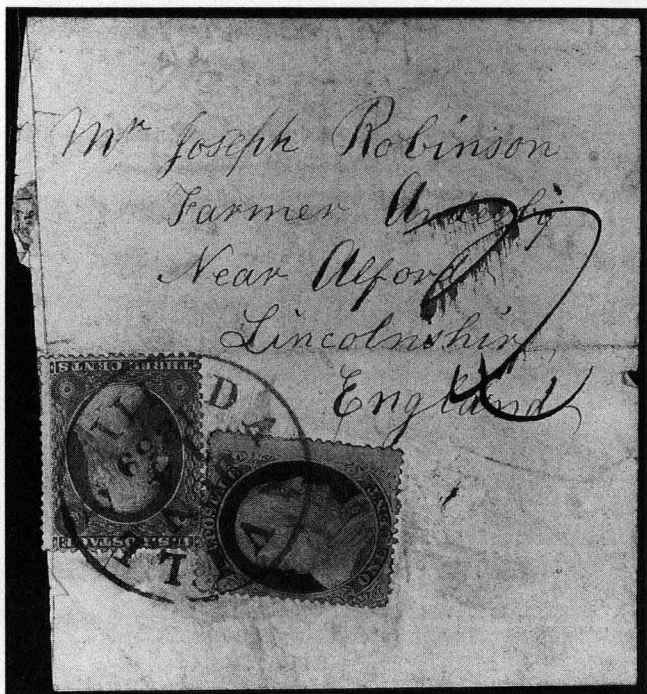
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A WRAPPER USED TO ENGLAND

The cover shown in the accompanying photo was reported last year by Robson Lowe. It is a wrapper postmarked DANVILLE ILL. JUN 14, 1859, addressed to Anderby, near Alford in Lincolnshire, where it was received July 3.



Wrapper mailed June 14, 1859, to England

The stamps are an 1857 1¢ type V and a 3¢ type I. The 4¢ rate charged is confusing to interpret. The 1859 *List of Post Offices in the United States...and Laws and Regulations of the Post Office Department* (p. 79 of the latter) in the table of postages to foreign countries, for Great Britain, under printed matter, lists the newspaper rate as 2¢ and "Pamphlets per ounce" as "(a)." Footnote (a) reads: "Pamphlets and periodicals 2 cents each, if not weighing over two ounces, and 4 cents an ounce, or fraction of an ounce, if they exceed two ounces, to be collected in all cases in the United States."

Article XVII in the 1848 U.S.-G.B. Postal Convention dealt with periodicals and stipulated that no accounts were to be kept, items should be sent in bands open at sides or ends for easy inspection, and subject to the laws and regulations of both countries. The article continues: "The rates to be levied in Great Britain, as well on the above-mentioned works addressed to the United States, as on those from the United States addressed to Great Britain, shall be as follows: 1st. For every work not exceeding 2 oz. in weight, one penny. 2nd. For every work above 2 oz. in weight, and not exceeding 3 oz., six pence." The rates progress 2d for each ounce or fraction to the maximum 16 ounces. The article concludes: "The rates to be levied by the post-office of the United States on similar works, addressed to or coming from the United States, shall not exceed the rates to be charged in the United Kingdom." Article XVIII provides that printed pamphlets to 8 oz. be treated as Art. XVII.

It is evident that the rate scale in both countries severely penalized periodicals over 2 oz., presumably to discourage the mailing of heavy papers.

To incur a rate of 4¢, the wrapper must have contained *two* items not over 2 oz. each. This would accord with the ms. 2d due and with the requirement for correspondence of rates.

There is some writing in pencil on the back of the wrapper; this must have been added after receipt or at a later date, as any writing present at the time of posting would have subjected the mailing to letter rates.

Susan M. McDonald

MORE ABOUT THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE, CIRCA 1859

Some rather interesting documents have shown up that shed some light on the internal affairs of the Dead Letter Office in 1859. First is a report on "Minor Dead Letters" for June 1859 by a Dead Letter Office clerk, probably one Israel Uncapher, as it accompanies a copy of a letter to Uncapher from Horatio King, 1st Asst. PMG, dated 14 Feb. 1860.

"Minor letters" is one of those terms of which postal historians suspect had somewhat different meanings in the Dead Letter Office at different periods, but the June report seems to indicate that in 1859 they were letters with enclosures with value but not as negotiable items such as money or jewelry, etc.

The second document, a letter draft, is in the same handwriting as the Minor Dead Letter report, that of Uncapher or his clerk:

Dead Letter Office, Dec. 30, 1859

Sir:

I have considered the letter of Mr. O'Brien, Clerk of the Dead Letter Office, dated Sept. 30, 1845, which you have done me the honor to refer to me for my opinion thereon, and beg to inform you that my three years experience in this office leads me to the conclusion that owing to the prepayment system, and other changes, there is but little in that letter which is now applicable to the existing state of things in this Office, though at that time his suggestions were doubtless valuable and worthy of consideration.

I will submit for your consideration, my views of the subject offered to me.

The openers should be instructed to preserve all letters containing money, of course, and *all* other letters containing anything of *apparent* value, and should hastily scan all manuscript letters they open, to ascertain if a note, check, Draft, Receipt or order be written upon it, as is sometimes the case. The Minor letters being taken to the room where they are sent out for delivery, should be all carefully examined by the corresponding clerk of the Dead Letter Office, and assorted, those manifestly worthless thrown away, and those which cannot or need not be returned to the writers, filed.

Letters which are of sufficient value to preserve at all, ought in all cases where possible be sent out for delivery, leaving as few as possible to be filed for future application.

During the past summer and fall the old files of Court papers, Insurance Policies and letters (excepting those in the cases in the cellar and in the 3rd story) have been re-examined, and a large proportion of them destroyed — and yet in my opinion too large a number of them preserved. The packages of miscellaneous articles have been sold, and the Daguerreotypes to the number of over 3000, indexed and filed alphabetically and consecutively as to number.

Referring to Mr. O'Brien's letter in its order, I would say:

1. *Deeds* — To be always sent out. If mailed by a Recorder and apparently misdirected, to be sent to the person addressed if he can be found. If sent to the Recorder who mailed them and again returned, to be then sent to the P.O. nearest which the property therein described seems to be, or perhaps first send a letter of inquiry to that office.
2. *Deeds* signed in part to be returned to the person who mailed them.
3. *Deeds*, or other papers not signed, to be destroyed of course. Mortgages, Releases, Agreements, and other papers of that character to be treated same as *Deeds*.

4. *Commissions* from Governors of States, to be returned in all cases.
5. *Bills of Exchange, Drafts, Checks, Orders, Treasury Warrants, and Certificates of Deposit*, to be returned in all cases where practicable to the writers, Excepting Second Bills of Exch. mailed from foreign countries, which are refused by persons addressed on account of postage, which may [be] destroyed, or filed.
6. *Certificates* ? If of any importance to be returned to writers.
7. *Receipts and Bills of Sale* to be returned to writers.
8. *Notes of Hand*, To be returned in all cases to writers or owners.
9. *Cash*, In all cases to be entered on books, where \$1. or more, and returned to writers or owners, of course, except in special cases.
10. *Policies of Insurance*. It is unnecessary to file them, as they are so rarely applied for. They should either be returned or destroyed.
11. *Powers of Attorney*. In all cases should be returned.
12. *Bills of Lading*. Are so numerous and of so little value that they are now not preserved by openers — are very rarely applied for.
13. *Court Papers*. Those which are merely copies of Court Records and may readily be duplicated or supplied again from the Court Records may all be destroyed. It is now the custom to destroy all copies of Summons & Complaint, copies of Notice of Action, copies of Petitions, copies of Answers and other similar papers. Sealed Depositions should be returned unopened. Commissions to take Depositions not executed may be destroyed. Original papers, Executions or Writs, or any other legal papers or documents, which are of value should be returned.

Certified Copies of Deeds, Wills, etc. being generally resupplied to the parties before they could reach them through the Dead Letter Office are not thought worth preserving.

The old Dead Letters which are filed in the cases in the cellar and in the 3rd story are unfortunately arranged according to the States to where directed, and, in such manner as to be entirely inaccessible should any of them ever be applied for, which is quite improbable, and might as well be destroyed en masse as to remain in their present arrangement. I think, however, they should be reexamined, if possible, by the Corresponding Clerk, and such as may be of possible value, properly filed, and all others destroyed.

Miscellaneous Packages should be returned when practicable, but those which cannot be sent out should be carefully filed in appropriate cases and indexed. Packages of value or of peculiar interest to the owners, the corres'g clerk should send letters of inquiry in regard to, and they should not be permitted to accumulate more than necessary. Packages worth say less than \$1. unless of peculiar interest, might be filed away for sale promiscuously, unless they can be readily & easily restored to the owners.

All Gift Enterprise Tickets are now destroyed. Lottery Tickets are usually filed, but are so rarely applied for that it is not thought necessary to continue to preserve them.

I estimate that according to the present usage of the Office, when so few letters are filed, the number to be returned would of course be greatly increased, and would amount to perhaps about 15,000 annually, which would keep two expert mailing clerks industriously employed throughout the year.

There is another class of letters in my opinion worthy of attention — Letters for foreign countries which are mailed in good faith and unpaid, or only paid in part should be at once returned to the Dead Letter Office, and opened, and those containing valuable enclosures returned to the writers as other valuable letters, and those containing no [valuable] enclosures should generally also be returned to the Postmasters for delivery to the writers, but need not be entered on the Dead Letter Office Registers. All letters which cannot be forwarded for want of proper direction should be immediately returned, not with other dead letters, but in a special return, and should in most cases whether valuable or not be returned to the writers, those not valuable not being registered.

The adoption of this suggestion would however greatly increase the duties of the

corr'g clerk, as I estimate the number of this class of letters to be examined and returned at about 3000 to 5000 per annum.

Letters Held for Postage should be opened and carefully examined soon as possible after their reaching the Dead Letter Office, and the valuable ones restored to the writers to persons addressed soon as practicable.

This letter, a matter of six manuscript pages, is endorsed "Report of/I. Uncapher/Chief Clerk, D.L.O./To 3d Ass't P.M. Gen'l 1859." The occasional deletions and inserts seem to indicate that it was Uncapher's composition copy, retained by him and surviving as private papers to enter the philatelic world.

Richard B. Graham

SAILINGS OF THE UNITED STATES MAIL

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

(Continued from *Chronicle* 146:104)

1853: Arrivals of Mail Steamships at the Port of New York from *Panama* and *Nicaragua*

(Continued)

Nov. 6, 1853. *N.Y. Herald*. NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 5, 1853. The S.S. Daniel Webster has arrived at the Southwest Pass with advices to the 16th of Oct. She reports that the Star of the West arrived out on the 31st ult. and started on the return trip on the afternoon of the same day. The Daniel Webster brings passengers, gold etc., received by the Steamer Sierra Nevada from San Francisco on the 16th ult. The Golden Gate and Uncle Sam sailed on the same day for Panama. The passage was made between San Francisco and New Orleans in 21 days.

Nov. 10, 1853, *N.Y. Herald*. ARRIVAL OF THE STAR OF THE WEST. This S.S. from San Juan on the evening of the 31st ult., with passengers etc., reached here 12 o'clock last night. She brings San Francisco dates by the S.S. Sierra Nevada on the Pacific side to the 16th of Oct.

Nov. 11, 1853, *N.Y. Herald*. ARRIVAL OF THE GEORGE LAW. This S.S. from Aspinwall on the 31st ult., arrived at quarantine yesterday noon. She brings Calif. mails of Oct. 16th, passengers, etc.

Nov. 29, 1853, *N.Y. Herald*. ARRIVAL OF THE S.S. ILLINOIS. The Mail S.S. Illinois arrived early last evening from Aspinwall whence she sailed on the 19th inst., bringing passengers etc., which left San Francisco on the 1st inst.

Nov. 30, 1853, *N.Y. Herald*. ARRIVAL OF THE PROMETHEUS. This S.S. arrived yesterday from San Juan de Nicaragua. She brings San Francisco dates of Nov. 1st. Her passengers left San Francisco per S.S. Cortes, arriving at San Juan del Sud on the 12th. The Prometheus left San Juan on the 17th, stopping at Havana for coal which port she entered at sunrise on the 22nd, leaving again at 11 A.M. on the 23rd, The Steamer Pacific of the Nicaragua Line, arrived at San Francisco on the 31st, in 25 days from New York. Her letters were answered by the Cortes leaving on the 1st inst.

Dec. 8, 1853 *N.Y. Herald*. ARRIVAL OF THE DANIEL WEBSTER AND EL DORADO AT NEW ORLEANS. The S.S. Daniel Webster from San Juan, Nic. with Calif. dates to the 16th Nov., is below. She reports the S.S. Star of the West left San Juan on the 1st inst., for New York. The S.S. El Dorado from Aspinwall is also below and reports that the George Law with Calif. mails etc., left Aspinwall on the 1st inst. for New York. The S.S. Golden Gate arrived up at San Francisco Nov. 16th.

Dec. 13, 1853, *N.Y. Herald*. ARRIVAL OF THE GEORGE LAW. The U.S. Mail S.S. George Law arrived here yesterday morning from Aspinwall whence she sailed on the 1st inst. The George Law brings mail, passengers, etc., which left San Francisco on the 16th ult., in the Steamer John L. Stephens.

N.Y. Herald, Dec. 13, 1853. The S.S. Star of the West. This S.S. which left San Juan on the 1st inst., with same dates from Calif. as the George Law, has been compelled to put into Norfolk for coal.

Dec. 25, 1853. *N.Y. Herald*. The S.S. Northern Light arrived at one yesterday from San Juan del Norte whence she sailed on the 16th inst. The Northern Light connected with the Sierra Nevada which left San Francisco on the 1st inst., for New Orleans and New York. The Winfield Scott left San Francisco for Panama on the 1st inst.

Dec. 28, 1853. *N.Y. Herald*. DESTRUCTION OF THE PACIFIC MAIL STEAMER WINFIELD SCOTT. PASSENGERS & TREASURE SAVED. The Mail S.S. Winfield Scott which left San Francisco on the 1st of Dec. for Panama went ashore on the following day on the coast of Santa Barbara and is a total loss. Passengers and treasure were all saved.

**Advertised Sailings of Regular U.S. Mail Steamships
from New York to Panama
January 1, 1853 to December 31, 1853**

NEWS: N. Y. Herald, Jan. 3, 1853. The latest from Havana messages of the smallpox. Sailing of Empire City for New York, etc. Charleston, Jan. 2, 1853. The U.S. Mail Steamship Isabel arrived here last night having left Havana on the morning and Key West the evening of the 30th ult. Small-pox was raging frightfully at Havana. The U.S. Mail Steamship Empire City from New Orleans sailed for New York on the 30th.

To San Francisco, *N.Y. Herald*, Jan. 3, 1853, U.S. Mail S.S. Co. Departure date, Jan. 5, 1853, Steamship Georgia via Aspinwall and Panama, connecting with Pac. Mail S. S. Co.'s regular steamer at Panama for San Francisco.

For California & Oregon Via Aspinwall & Panama. *N.Y. Herald*, Jan. 7, 1853, U. S. Mail S. S. Co. Departure date, Jan. 20, 1853, S.S. Illinois, connecting with S.S. Golden Gate for San Francisco.

To San Francisco. *N.Y. Herald*, Jan. 7, 1853, U.S. Mail S. S. Co. Departure date, Jan. 12, 1853, S.S. Empire City via Aspinwall, connecting with Pac. Mail S. S. Co.'s steamer for San Francisco.

NEWS ITEM. The S.S. Illinois with one day's late news from California was at anchor in the Bay yesterday afternoon, detained there by the violent snow storm. She will likely get up this morning. (no date, probably Jan. 13, 1853).

NEWS ITEM. N.Y. Herald, Jan. 14, 1853. From California: Arrival of the S. S. Illinois and California mail. The S. S. Illinois, Capt. H. J. Hartstein, from Aspinwall, whence she sailed the 3rd inst., arrived the 11th, lower bay, reaching her wharf yesterday. The ship touched Kingston, Jamaica, on the 5th, leaving same day. She brings California mails, specie and passengers which left San Francisco on Dec. 16, in the Pacific Mail S. S. Tennessee. The Illinois arrived at Sandy Hook 5:30 Jan. 11, and because of fog anchoring for the night; due to the bursting of a cylinder however was detained another day. The ship will go to Dry Dock for repair.

For California via Aspinwall & Panama. *N.Y. Herald*, Jan. 15, 1853, U.S. Mail S. S. Co. Departure date, Jan. 20, 1853, S.S. Ohio, connecting with Pac. Mail S. S. Golden Gate at Panama for San Francisco.

To San Francisco via Havana. *N.Y. Herald*, Jan. 23, 1853, U.S. Mail S.S. Co. Departure date, Jan. 27, 1853, S.S. Crescent City via S.S. El Dorado from Havana for Aspinwall and Panama and connecting with Pac. Mail S. S. California at Panama for San Francisco.

For California & Oregon via Aspinwall & Panama. *N.Y. Herald*, Jan. 21, 1853, U.S. Mail S.S. Co. Departure date, Feb. 5, 1853, S.S. Georgia, connecting with Pac. Mail S.S. Co.'s regular steamer at Panama for San Francisco.

(To be continued)

LETTERS OF GOLD

by Jesse L. Coburn

The absorbing story of the mails in California from Spanish control to 1869. Emphasis is placed on the Gold Rush period: mail routes by sea and overland, express companies and their markings, illustrated envelopes and letter sheets, and postal markings on stampless and stamped mail.

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A TEN CENTS 1861 TURNED COVER

KENNETH D. GILBART

As a collector of the 10¢ 1861 issue I am always on the lookout for eye-appealing or unusual covers. The cover pictured, front and back, presently resides in the collection of Jerry Schwimmer of Los Angeles and certainly qualifies as unusual. It may not be eye-appealing at first blush, but in many years of searching and looking, I have never seen a 10¢ turned cover until this one.

In a strict sense, this envelope is not “turned” in the same way so many Confederate covers are, *i.e.*, opened inside out and then readdressed. This envelope was evidently taken apart and reglued, as may be seen from the portions of the flaps.

The turned cover, its first side of usage shown in Figure 1, was originally mailed at Unionville, Ct., on October 25 (1862) with a 10¢ type II 1861 stamp to prepay the 10¢ “across the Rockies” rate to the west coast. As shown in Figures 1 and 3, the cover has been opened out so that both sides show, so the top edge crease appears as a dark shadow in Figure 1 and also is apparent in Figure 3.

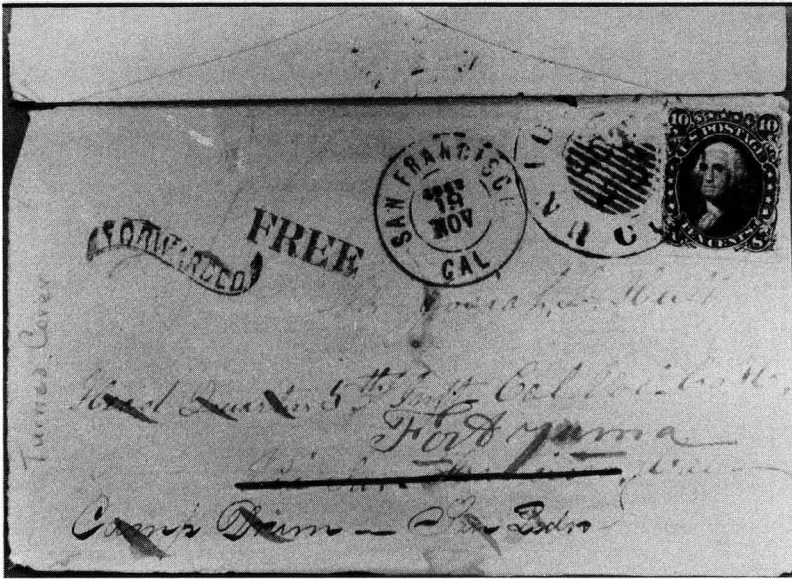


Figure 1. Original side of turned cover, as sent from Unionville, Ct., on Oct. 25, 1862, addressed to a soldier in the 5th California Volunteer Infantry “Via San Francisco” but with no specific location in the address. The cover, marked “FREE” and “Forwarded,” the latter in a fancy scroll at San Francisco, was sent to the 5th California at Camp Drum near San Pedro, now part of Los Angeles. There, it was readdressed to follow the 5th CVI to Fort Yuma.

The original side of the turned cover is addressed to “Mr. Josiah L. Hull/Head Quarters 5th Inft Cal. Vol. Co. H/ Via San Francisco, Cal,” although, since the writing of the address is not only faint, but some of it has been crossed out, it won’t all show in Figure 1. The sender, knowing the addressee’s military unit, but not his location, simply left it up to the San Francisco post office to locate him, which as it turned out, was done but not without considerable trouble.

Under an Act of Congress passed in the summer of 1861, and announced to Postmasters by an item in *U.S. Mail & Post Office Assistant* for August 1861 (Col. 5, page 42 of the Collectors Club of Chicago reprint) letters addressed to soldiers who had been trans-

ferred to another location in compliance with official orders could be forwarded free. At that time, no other type of mail, except that sent under the free frank of an official with the privilege, could be forwarded without adding another full rate of postage.

As of October 1862, Sacramento and San Francisco were the distributing post offices on the west coast, so the San Francisco office evidently had information as to the locations of west coast military units available. When the cover arrived, it was promptly readdressed to "Camp Drum — San Pedro," and the "Via San Francisco" crossed out. The date in the original Unionville, Ct., postmark was struck over with a grid and a San Francisco postmark, with date logos poorly arranged and partially inverted, of Nov. 18, 1862, applied. "FREE" and fancy "Forwarded" handstamps were also applied at this time, and the letter sent on to Camp Drum.

Camp Drum was an army post serving the Los Angeles area near Wilmington, which, with San Pedro, may be found in today's maps just west of Long Beach. Camp Drum, known as Drum Barracks after December 1863, was used as a supply post and mustering camp during the Civil War, troops being organized there and, together with supplies, sent on to other posts for service in the field. (See the map in Figure 2, upper left arrow.) According to some references, this post was established in 1860, probably as a state militia post. Prucha's *Military Posts of the United States* lists it, but states it was established Jan. 1, 1862 — probably the date it was taken over by the War Department.

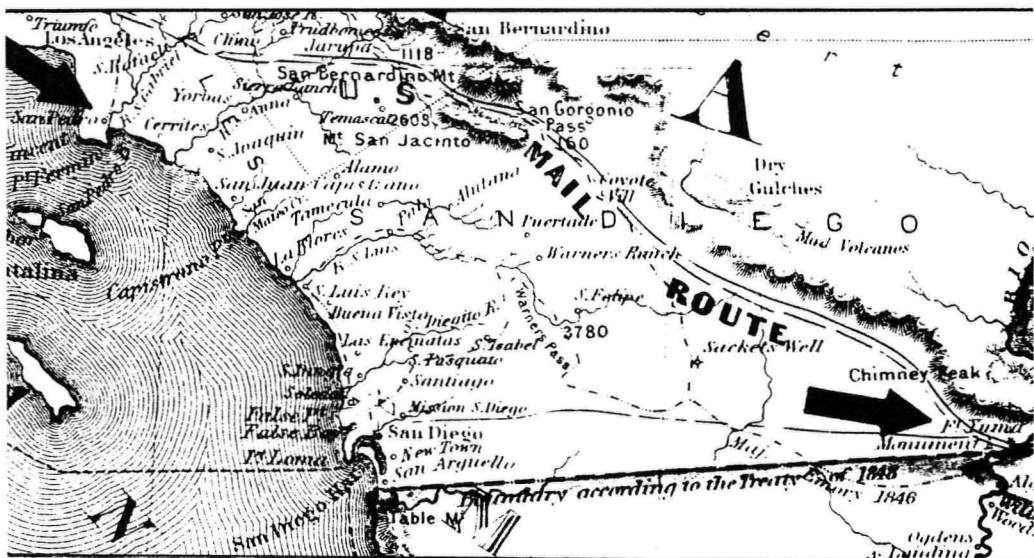


Figure 2. Map, taken from *Johnson's Family Atlas of 1863*, showing locations of San Pedro and Fort Yuma.

The cover received one more endorsement at Camp Drum to arrive at its final state, the "Camp Drum" being marked out and "Fort Yuma" written as a new forwarding destination for soldier Hull. The cover was then sent on, probably by military courier in the absence of mail service at that time, to Fort Yuma, Cal.

Fort Yuma, as may be seen by the map of Figure 2, was located in the very southeast corner of California on the Colorado River, roughly across from where Yuma, Ariz., now stands. This was about 600 miles from San Francisco as a crow flies, but the letter traveled a far more circuitous and longer, harsher route.

Fort Yuma had been originally established in 1850 to protect the southern emigrant route to California, and the later Butterfield Overland Route came that way as may be seen by the notation on the map in Figure 2, taken from a *Johnson Atlas* of 1863.

There is no indication as to when or where addressee Hull received the letter, but that he did is shown by his having turned the cover over and addressed it back to Con-

necticut. The new address is to "Mrs. Julia A. Holcombe/Tariffville/Hartford County/Conn." and a 10¢ 1861 stamp was used to prepay the postage. The cover is postmarked with a Los Angeles cds dated April 10, obviously 1863.

In the same handwriting as the address is written up the left hand edge of the cover, "Volunteers Epistle to the Tariff-Villians." The actual origin of the cover for its return trip probably was well east of Fort Yuma, which will be discussed later, but it was sent back to Los Angeles by military pouch. Presumably, the 10¢ stamp was either placed on the letter by Pvt. Hull, the sender, or was bought after carriage to Los Angeles (with Hull's money?) by the military and placed on the cover there. Mint postage stamps were usually hard to come by and harder to preserve in the field in the Civil War, and most of the covers from the "California Column" to which the 5th California and Hull were assigned sent their mail collect with soldier's letter endorsements. (See *Chronicle* 63:112-13, August 1969, for another such cover.)

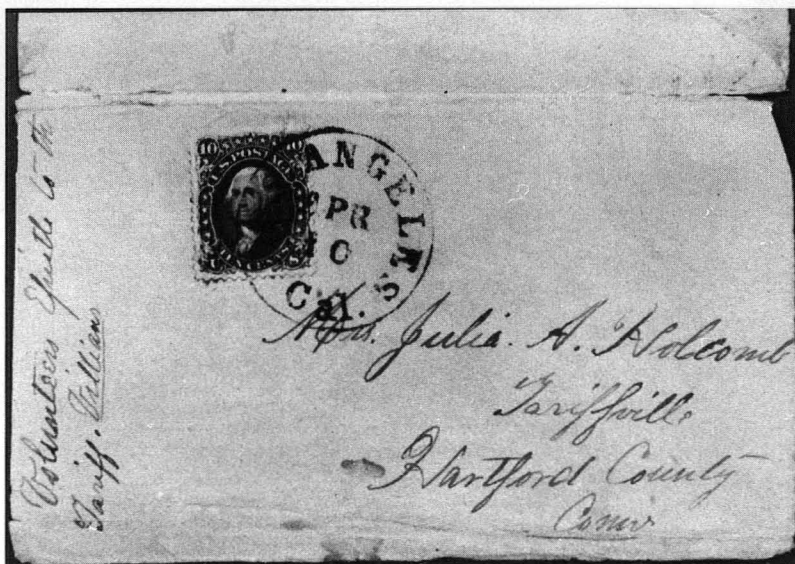


Figure 3. The return side of the cover, with a 10¢ stamp postmarked at Los Angeles on April 10 (1863). The cover, addressed to Connecticut, probably to the soldier's mother, was sent from the Tucson area (where the 5th CVI was stationed) by military courier to Los Angeles where it was placed in the U.S. mail.

The possibility also remains that the stamp used to mail the cover back east had been enclosed in the letter when Hull received it.

The location where Hull received his letter and addressed it back to Connecticut can be said to have probably been Tucson, Arizona Territory, from a combination of Hull's military and pension records and the history of the 1st and 5th California Volunteer Infantry Regiments, to which he belonged.

Veterans Administration Regional Office records in San Diego, under file XC-02-666-824, include data on both Hull and his widow. He was the son of Ledgard (or Ledyard?) J. Hull and Julia Andrews. It seems possible that the address back to Connecticut is under a name after she had remarried, Julia A. Holcomb. Hull enlisted as a private on November 25, 1861, in Company E, 1st Regiment, California Volunteers, but later transferred to Company H of the 5th California Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

Five regiments of volunteer infantry were organized in California in late 1861, but only the 1st and 5th Infantry Regiments and the 1st California Cavalry composed Col. James H. Carleton's "California Column" that marched through the southern desert back over the Overland mail route, capturing posts as it went, and eventually reached the Rio Grande at Mesilla, Texas.

Hull was mustered out at Fort Selden, New Mexico, on Sept. 15, 1866, but apparently stayed on there as a civilian clerk in the commissary. He married Carlota Sosallo in 1868 at Las Cruces, N.M., and they had at least three children. Hull died at Silver City, N.M.; his wife lived to be over 90 and died in 1948 in New York City.

The actual date of Hull's transfer from the 1st California Vol. Inf. to Company "H" of the 5th isn't certain, although from the original address of the cover, it had to have been before the fall of 1862. In *Dyer's Compendium*, which provides capsule histories of every Federal regiment in the Civil war, the 1st California was occupying Forts Bliss and Quitman in Texas and Messilla, Ariz., in late 1862. The 5th California was split up among several posts along the old overland mail route, but in December 1862, Companies C and H were at Fort Yuma (confirming the address provided by the San Francisco post office on the cover) and other companies were stationed as far east as Tucson and Fort Bowie, Arizona, at Apache Pass in the Chiricahua Mountains. But none were there long.

In May 1863, which was some weeks after the cover had been returned, Co. H of the 5th California was at Tucson, where they had been sent with Co. C in February. So, it seems probable that, to have been postmarked at Los Angeles on April 10, 1863, the cover was sent back from Tucson shortly after Hull's company arrived there. Whether he had received the cover while still at Fort Yuma and carried it with him or whether it didn't catch up with him until he arrived at Tucson isn't known, but the former seems slightly more likely.

Several people have been of help in figuring out the travels of this most interesting cover. Jerry Schwimmer permitted us to photograph and examine it; Frank Q. Newton provided the photographs and Basil Pearce, Richard Graham and others dug up data to help explain it.

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SHADES OF THE THREE CENT GRILLS, 1867-69

MICHAEL C. McCLUNG

The first grilled three cent Washingtons were issued in August 1867, and their distribution to post offices continued until March 20, 1869, when the pictorial designs were released. The grills on the three cent fall into seven categories which are listed below:

- A grill** - all over, points up
- B grill** - 22 x 18 rows, points up
- C grill** - 16 to 17 x 18 to 21 rows, points up
- Z grill** - 13 to 14 x 17 to 18 rows, points down
- D grill** - 15 x 17 to 18 rows, points down
- E grill** - 14 x 15 to 17 rows, points down
- F grill** - 11 to 12 x 15 to 17 rows, points down

The feature that distinguishes the Z grill from all the other "points down" grills is that the tips of the pyramids are horizontal ridges. With the D, E and F grills, the tips are vertical ridges.

Much of the information in this article was derived from a color study of the entire issue of the three cent 1861 recently completed by this writer. For years I had tried to put together a color chart by arranging stamps into groups of similar shades, but I found myself with over 100 shades that could not be organized in a way that made any sense. So I started over with a completely different approach which turned out to be quite satisfactory and very satisfying. The procedure went as follows:

- 1) I gathered all the year-dated three cent 1861 covers I could find (several thousand).

- 2) I arranged them in chronological order.

- 3) I found that each shade fell into a particular time period with the exception of a few strays, and I grouped the covers into these "time period shades."

- 4) I arranged the groups into chronological order by earliest use.

- 5) I found loose stamps that were good examples of each "time period shade" and constructed a chronological color chart.

In going through this exercise, I found that the shades had broader ranges (from pale to deep) than I had previously thought, so what I had considered to be separate shades were actually from different ends of the same shade range. This allowed me to consolidate my color chart to about 50 shades, including seven grilled shades.

From August 1867 through March 1868, the three cent stamps were produced in a dull rose shade which is somewhat blurry, as if printed on dry paper. The dull rose shade is the same as Scott's "rose" under all the listings of grilled three cent stamps. This shade comes from a large printing and varies a good bit in both brightness and depth. All of the A, B, C, Z and D grilled three cent stamps were printed in this shade only, as were the early printings of the E and F grills. It is good to bear this in mind when identifying one of the early grills or an early usage of an E or F grill. Ungrilled stamps were issued in this shade during the same period.

In early April 1868, a pale rose shade (listed by Scott under #88) appeared; it is not a faded state of the dull rose, but a distinct shade. It is more of a true rose, and it can be fairly intense. This was a small printing, with most dated copies being from April, May and early June. The pale rose shade is found only with the E grill and on ungrilled stamps issued at the same time. We have seen one stamp (grilled) in this shade printed on a thick, soft blotter paper; the only other grilled stamp we have seen on this paper is a one cent dull blue E grill.

Also, in early April 1868, a small quantity of the E grills was produced on a brown red shade (not listed by Scott). Most of these stamps seem to have been used up by the end of the month.

The next shade for the E grill was lake red (Scott #88a), a distinctive dark color, similar to the carmine rose of early 1862. This shade was in use primarily in May 1868 and is found only with the E grill; it was followed in June and July by a return to the earlier dull rose shade.

Starting in July 1868, we also see the E grill on the common rose red shade (listed by Scott under #88 and #94) which was in use for well over a year. The only other shade for the three cent E grill is a small quantity of dull red (not listed by Scott) stamps which appeared in mid to late July 1868.

In late March to early to mid April 1868, it is probable that a second grilling machine was put into concurrent service, and it produced F grills. The first three cent stamps run through this machine were printed in the early dull rose shade. An F grill in the dull rose shade is somewhat scarce, and most dated copies are from April or May 1868.

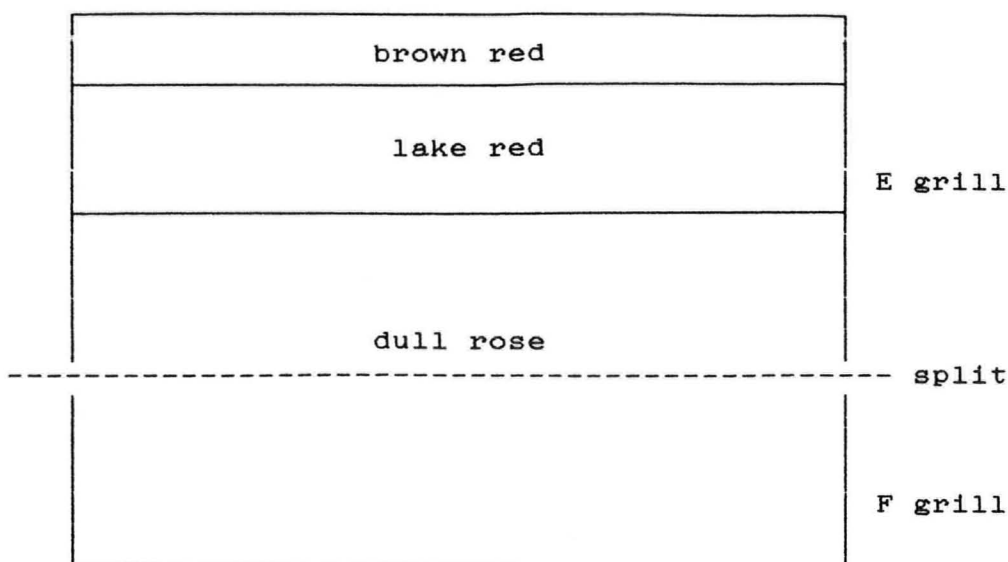


Figure 1. Suggested split of the stack of three cent stamps between the two grilling machines showing how different shades were being grilled and issued at the same time.

The next shade for the F grills was the common rose red which was used for well over a year starting in May 1868. There was a brief appearance by the brown red shade in July 1868; this is the same shade that was associated with the E grills in April 1868.

In August 1868, the other common F grill shade, orange red (Scott's "red" under #94), was issued, and its use continued into 1870. As with the E grill we find a small quantity of F grills in the dull red shade, but the dull red F grills were used in early 1869, not in July 1868 as were the E grills.

Both E and F grills were being produced simultaneously for about four months, starting in mid April 1868, but they were being distributed in differing shades. This means that the grilling machine operators were working from separate stacks of sheets. Probably, a single stack of sheets was taken to be grilled; it was then split between the two machines. The diagram in Figure 1 represents the first stack of sheets to be split and a possible explanation for the sequence of appearance of the E and F grill shades.

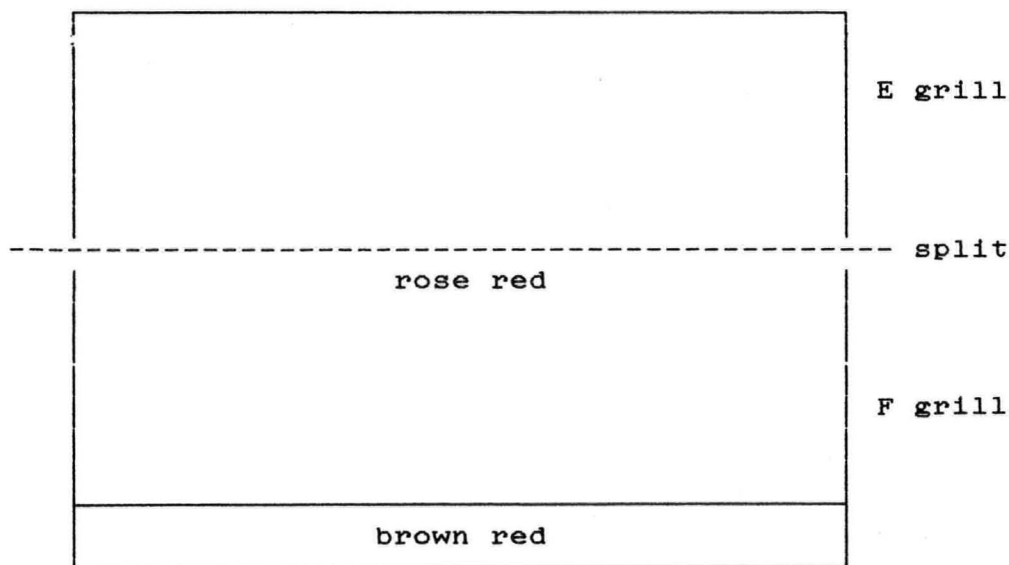


Figure 2. The second batch of three cent stamps split between the two grilling machines.

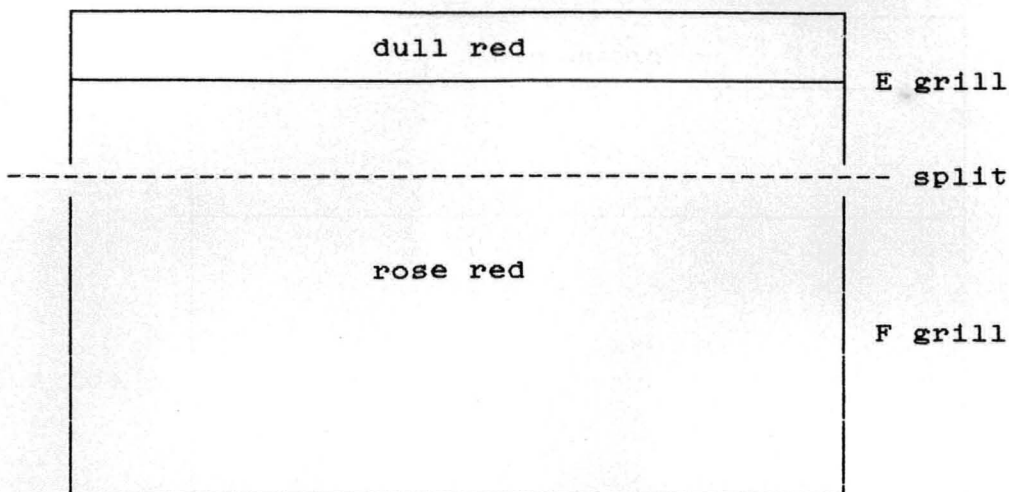


Figure 3. The third batch of three cent stamps split between the two grilling machines.

As would be expected, the most recently printed sheets are on top of the stack, with earlier printings below, and the remainder of the dull rose stamps are at the bottom of the three cent layers. When the split was made, the stamps on top of the F grill stack were dull rose, and those at the top of the E grill stack were brown red. This is why the two grilling machines were simultaneously producing three cent stamps of different shades. The diagram in Figure 2 represents the second batch of stamps taken to be grilled, about May 1 1868.

Brown red is the shade on the bottom of this stack, because it is the earliest shade in this batch. In the first diagram, brown red is on top, because it was the latest shade of that batch. The batch in the first diagram was taken to be grilled while the brown red stamps were being printed. The third batch to be split probably was delivered to the grilling machines about July 1, 1868; it is represented by the diagram in Figure 3.

This diagram follows the "first in, last out" pattern established in the first two diagrams. This pattern should continue with each subsequent batch. Sometime in late July or early August 1868, the E grill roller was filed down to produce F grills, and the next batch of stamps (Figure 4) to be grilled was split between two F grill machines. There seem to be some subtle differences between F grills produced by the two rollers, but further study is required to clearly define the variations.

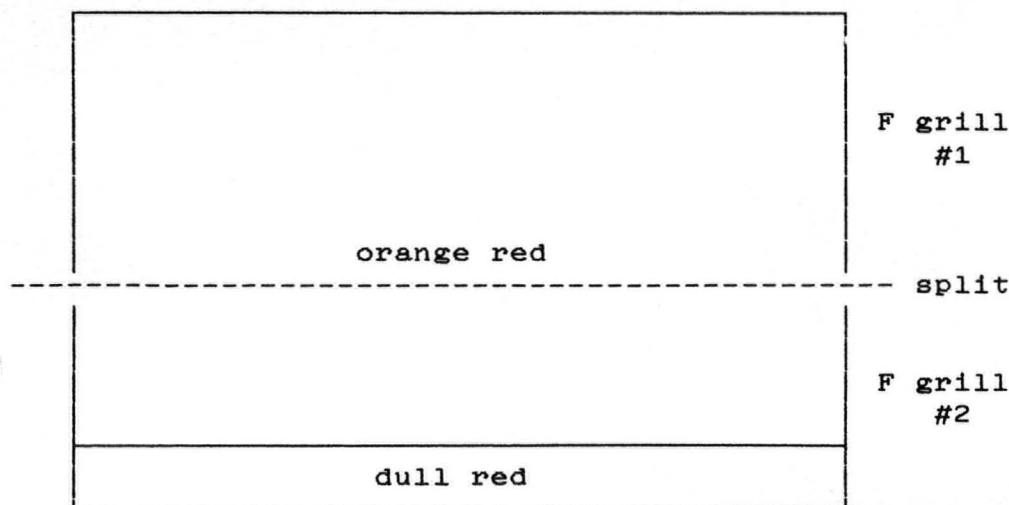
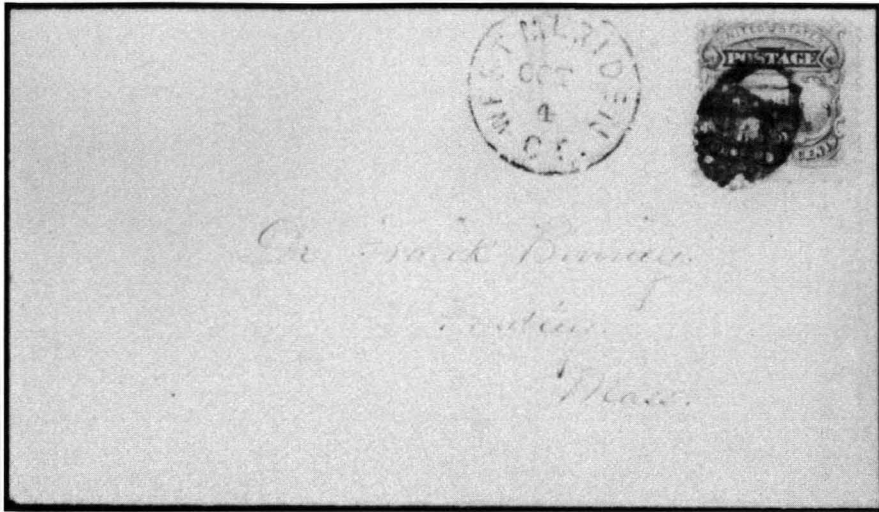


Figure 4. The fourth batch of three cent stamps split between the two grilling machines.



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POSTAL HISTORY • RARE WORLDWIDE

THE TWO DOLLAR COLUMBIAN STAMP
RICHARD M. SEARING

The design for the Columbian \$2 stamp was based on an 1841 painting by Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze. The stamp is entitled "Columbus in Chains," but the painting is more appropriately titled "The Third Return of Columbus." Leutze was born in Württemberg, Germany, in 1816, came to Philadelphia as a child, and died in Washington, D.C., in 1868. For many years, the location and ownership of the painting were in doubt, but the true owner was revealed as Albert Talbot of Providence, R.I.² The painting does not show the figures at either end of the issued stamp design. The painting may have been cropped, or the stamp designer Charles Skinner may have added the extra figures for unknown reasons.

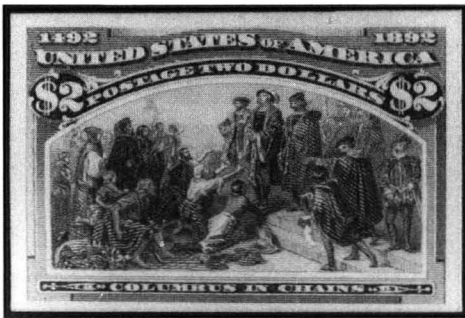


Figure 1. Plate Proof of \$2 Columbian stamp.

Columbus had many enemies envious of his authority in the New Spain and of the fact that he was not Spanish. In 1500, he was arrested by the Admiral Don Francisco de Bobadilla for allegedly defrauding the crown and committing administrative improprieties. The painting depicts Columbus at San Domingo in 1500 under arrest and in chains before embarking for Cadiz; thus the origin of the stamp caption. In 1502 he was cleared of all charges at Madrid and set sail for the fourth time to find a passage to the East Indies, returning to Spain in 1504.³



Figure 2. Plate number imprint block of six of the \$2 stamp.

1. "Masterwork Checklist of U.S. Stamps," *Fine Artist Philatelist*, Vol. 11, No. 3, 1965, p. 68.
2. *Postage Stamps of the U.S.*, Washington, D.C., 1957, and L. G. Brookman, *The United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century*, H. L. Lindquist, 1966, Vol. III, p. 82.
3. P. Hamilton, "U.S. Columbian Stamps of Seventy Years Ago," *Philatelic Magazine*, Vol. 71, Jan. 25, 1963, p. 50.

The U.S. Post Office circular of the period officially described the color of the \$2 stamp, but it is more like a reddish brown or brown red shade. No design essays for the \$2 stamp are listed in Clarence Brazer's study, *Essays for U.S. Adhesive Postage Stamps*.⁴ It is the only denomination of the series where this is true. The stamp was designed by Alfred S. Major, the vignette was engraved by Charles Skinner, and the frame and lettering were done by Douglas S. Ronaldson.⁵

About 45,000 of the \$2 denomination were originally printed, but an unknown number were destroyed by the Post Office Department in 1898. The stamp was printed from a single plate: AA105, and Figure 2 shows a plate number imprint block of six.



Figure 3. Largest known block of the \$2 Columbian stamp.

Apparently the largest surviving block is the one shown in Figure 3. I believe that this block is the same one shown in Brookman, vol 3, p. 81, but for some reason, a piece of the selvage has been removed at the left. To my knowledge, a full pane has not survived.



Figure 4. Full series used on local NYC package front on Dec. 6, 1893.

4. C. Brazer, *Essays for U.S. Adhesive Postage Stamps*, Quarterman reprint, 1977, p. 151.

5. L. Schriber, *Designs, Designers, Engravers, Artists of U.S. Postage Stamps*, A.P.S. reprint, 1963, p. 16.

No blocks of four or pairs of the \$2 stamp are known to me as used on cover or piece. Figure 4 shows the \$2 value used on a portion of a registered package wrapper, together with the full Columbian set from N.Y.C. and addressed to Mr. C. Witt, 303 E. 86th St., N.Y.C. on Dec. 6, 1893.

This is one of the many sets of Columbian stamps purchased by Mr. Witt and used on mail, collectively and as singles or combinations up to the turn of the century.

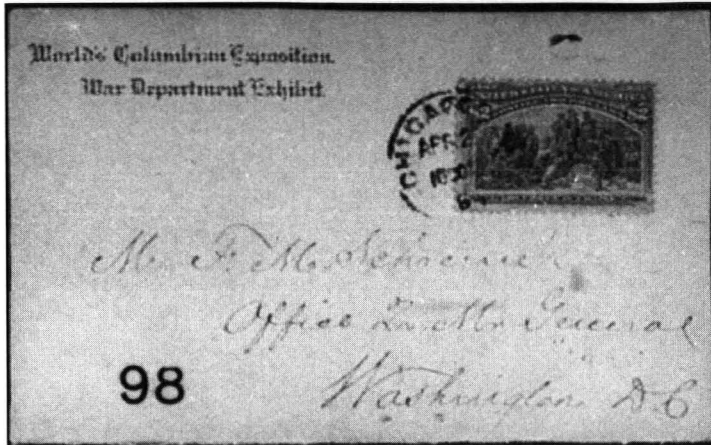


Figure 5. Late usage from Chicago on official Fair stationery.

The most sought-after souvenirs were those mailed directly from the fairgrounds. I have not found a presentable photo of one of these \$2 covers. However, the next best thing was usage on official stationery, regardless of date. Figure 5 illustrates a \$2 usage on the corner card of the World's Columbian Exhibition War Department Exhibit mailed to Washington, D.C., on April 2, 1894, after the World's Fair had closed.

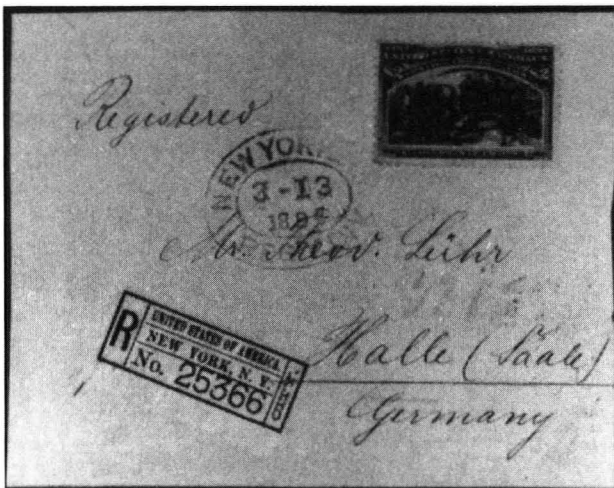


Figure 6. Souvenir cover from New York City to Germany.

Many of the foreign visitors to the Fair bought the stamps and mailed them as souvenirs to their homes or to relatives and friends. Figures 6 and 7 show registered mail to Germany. The first letter was mailed from N.Y.C. to Halle, Germany, on March 13, 1894, while the second was mailed nearly one year later from Washington, D.C., to Ulm, Germany, on January 7, 1895. Most of this type of mail appears to have been sent to Germany in contrast with other foreign destinations.

Referring to the earlier stamp fraud scheme in my \$1 article (*Chronicle* 146:127), the example in Figure 8 shows a philatelic cover mailed to stamp dealers from small towns. C. F. Rochfuchs was a well-known Washington, D.C., stamp dealer of the era, and he used all



Figure 7. Washington, D.C., to Ulm, Germany, in 1895.

of the Columbian stamps at various times on mail from Oxford, Pa., in the 1893-96 period.

New York City was not the only city where Columbian high values were used on local mailings. Figures 9 and 10 show local mail usages in San Francisco. The first is dated January 29, 1894, and the second was mailed on August 6, 1894.

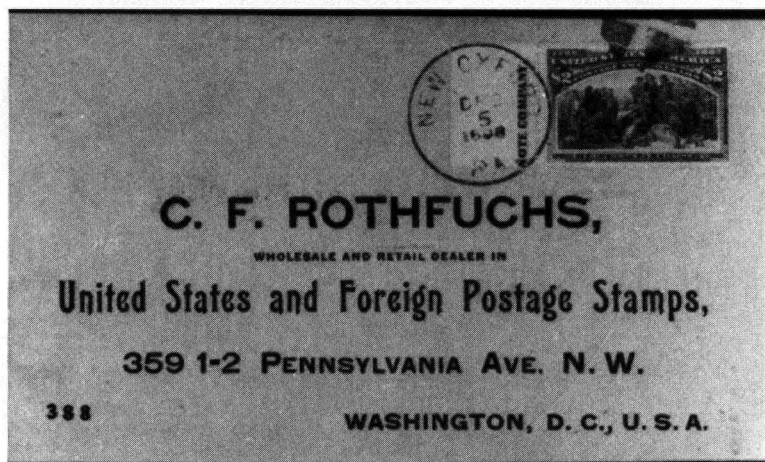


Figure 8. Overpaid usage to Washington, D.C., stamp dealer.

The last portion of this article continues the results of my cover census to record the surviving covers/fronts/wrappers bearing at least one copy of a dollar value Columbian stamp. The census is by no means complete and I welcome input data on covers not listed herein. The data shown record the date, origin, destination, other stamps, descriptive remarks, and the source of the listing. Most covers have a photo, but some of those early auctions have little or no data available. Owners, please fill this in.

Abbreviations have been liberally used to allow the data to print on a single line per listing. The covers are filed by date with the year, month, and day. Dates shown as less than 93 are late uses and are 1900s. They appear last in the listing. At present, I have recorded 48 \$2 stamp usages on cover, but I feel that at least another dozen covers are unrecorded. At the end of this series of studies, I will summarize the cover data for all the dollar values that are recorded, so please contribute if you have dollar value Columbian covers.

COLUMBIAN \$2 STAMPS USED ON COVER

Date	Origin	Destination	Stamps	Remarks	Source
93/01/06	USGmn SeaPst	Brmrhvn,Gmy	none	T oval "8"; NGL cc.	Sgl 452/748
93/01/06	NYC	Brmrhvn,Gmy	none	C. c. NGL SS Co; "8"	Wunsch coll
93/01/07	NYC	NYC-Gmy	none	T NY duplex;Ms 30481; mag bxd REG;fwd	Sgl 511/1272
93/03/25	Yonkers,NY	?, Gmy	none	T REG oval; prpl blk REG; C.Witt cc front	JKfmn 136/533
93/04/06	NYC	Wien,Aus	none	T REG duplex oval	Hrmr 4/65-398
93/05/21	Crow Wing,Mn	Pittsbgh,Pa	230-41,43-45	T Chicago P.O., 3-ring tgts; \$5 st edg top	Sgl 544/133
93/06/25	Prtlnd,Ore	??	230-41,E2,3	T circ twn canc. on U349 ent; no visible addr.;CTO?	dealer
93/07/17	Chicago	N.Ulm,Gmy	none	T twn duplex SL; mourning cvr addr Mjr. Miller	collector
93/08/23	Chicago	NYC	none	T WFS duplex canc; SL REGISTERED; numbered.	Sgl 679/270
93/08/23	Chicago	Chicago	none	T WFS duplex=1=, Morro portrait cc; (R.Lorke)	Sgl 692/503
93/08/23	Chicago	NYC	none	CWFcanc;red SL CWF Reg 40566	Wunsch coll
93/09/22	NYC	NYC	none	T NYC duplex Sta.P; O.G.Meyer & Co.	Sgl 511/1271
93/10/04	NYC	NYC	236,U350	Reg. with 8c on 5c ent. (J. Trischka)	Wunsch coll
93/10/30	Chicago	??	230-41,43-45	T CWFS canc lge piece U351 ent.	Sgl 391/81
93/11/10	Chicago	Chicago	243-5,U350	T WFS mach. duplex lines;mostly SON	McCoy-106
93/11/13	NYC	Hmbrg,Gmy	U248	T to 1c ent.; per SS Lahn	Wunsch coll
93/12/05	N.Oxfrd,Pa	Wash,DC	none	T twn, seg cork; prt addr C.F. Rochfuchs	Zmrnm 39/481
93/12/06	NYC	NYC	230-41,43-4	T twnMDY cancels on lge cvr (Mrs.M.Witt);REG NYC sta"K"	Sgl 679/265
93/12/20	Wash,DC	Wash,DC	none	T duplex == on small cvr;care General US Army	Wlfrs 58/60
93/??/??	NYC	?, Gmy	none	T NYC duplex "A";NYC Reg label 14900	lvy 7/82-1218
94/01/02	Brklyn, NY	Brklyn, NY	none	T st lines	\$-Str 3/83-933
94/01/28	S. Fran	S. Fran	none	T twn duplex;prtd addr: B.Natorp	Wlfrs 73/31
94/02/02	L.Angeles	Anacortes,Wa.	none	T LA duplex;SL REGISTERED, date;MS rtn addr.	Hrst 139/3548
94/02/06	Dover,NH	Boston	none	T lgl N.Excng Bank env;vio SL REG	J.Kfmn12/83-227
94/03/07	Lyman,Md	St.Helena,Ca	none	T blk tgt canc on reg. env.	Sgl 421/386
94/03/13	NYC	Halle,Gmy	none	T REG oval;Ms registered	Sgl 494/429

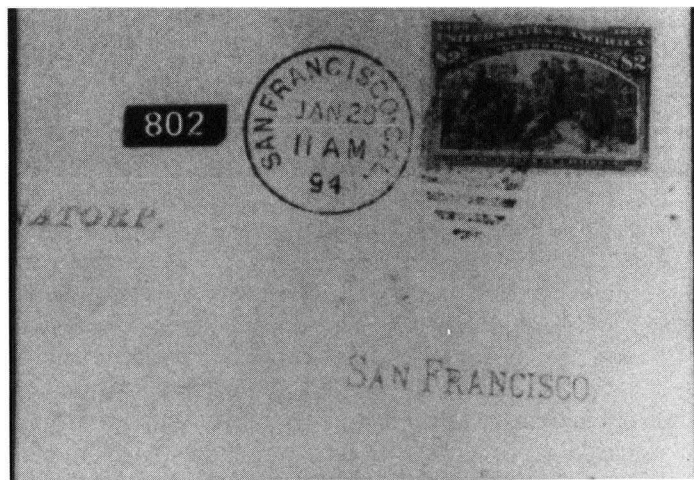
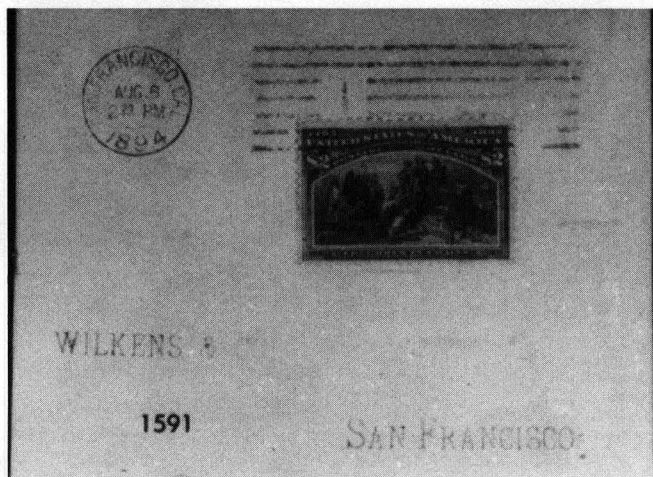


Figure 9. Local San Francisco mail on January 29, 1894.

Date	Origin	Destination	Stamps	Remarks	Source
94/04/02	Chicago	Chicago	none	T blk tw n on World's Col Exp. War Dept. Ex. cc;sm cvr	McCoy-98
94/04/07	Pittsbrgh	Mitlheim,Gmy	232,37-40,45	T blk cancels on 2¢ ent.	Sgl 555/674
94/04/10	Lyman, Md	Wash,DC	none	T blk tgt; SL REG, date at left.	Sgl 342/1448A
94/04/10	Lyman,Md	Wash,DC	none	T blk tgt;Ms REG	Sgl 660/165
94/04/13	NYC	NYC	241,43-45	T =2= cancels (J Wagner Esq) full set 230-245 known	Kenedi 70-221
94/05/03	Lyman,Md	Wash,DC	none	T blk tgt inverted; Nowland Corr	Koebr 9/74-437
94/05/03	Wakefld,NJ	?,Me	241-2	T blk tgts;hor. pair	Sgl 642/967
94/06/03	NYC	NYC	241	T NYSTA"K", mag bxd REG, date; MS reg; rtn addr C.Witt	Sgl 307/605
94/07/01	Bltimre	?,Gmy	none	T tw n; N.Am.Lloyd cc; creased, nick	Sgl 695/1571
94/07/04	NYC	NYC	none	T blk=/K/=oval;mS left (C.Witt);mag Reg bs	
94/08/06	S.Fran	S.Fran	none	T =1= canc; Wilkens & Co., prtd addr.	SPB S41/1591
94/12/04	NYC	NYC	241	T sta.K grid duplex;addr. C.Witt	Sgl 596/292
94/12/08	NYC	Bltimre	238,240	reg. mail on US Navy env.	Wunsch coll
94/??/??	NYC	Milwaukee	none	T 5"x7" wrapper Houghton, Mifflin Co; bxd REG	Klher 569/421
94/??/??	?,?	?,?	241-2	T blk tgt, tw n;hor pr	Sgl 560/192
95/01/07	Wash,DC	N.Ulm,Gmy	U348	T on 1¢ Col ent.;Reg 67029; Wash Reg oval,1/9/95,#2	RK fmn/PPHS
98/12/05	N.Oxfrd,Pa	Wash,DC	none	T blk tgt prtd addr env. C.Rothfuchs;cnr mgn stamp	R.Kfmn 5/175
98/12/05	N.Oxfrd,Pa	Wash,DC	none	T blk tgt prtd addr env C.Rothfuchs;another \$2 cvr	R.Kfmn 9/388
98/12/05	N.Oxfrd,Pa	Wash,DC	none	T LR of env;prtd addr C.F.Rochfuchs	Sgl 611/545
01/??/??	Rchmnd,Va	?	U350	Tied to 5¢ entire	Sgl 307/610
27/??/??	NYC	Wein,Aus	none	SON canc;MS reg. mkg UL;6985; late use 1927	Frjla 8/87-656
??/??/??	?,?	?,?	239	T to cover front	HmrRk 5/63-470

Figure 10. Local San Francisco mail on August 6, 1894.



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FROM THE EDITOR

The following article represents the integration of both philatelic and primary reference sources in an attempt to explain the use of ordinary postage stamps on official correspondence to UPU member countries during the time period that official stamps were still available. An unexpected bonus of this research effort was the discovery of the possible use of the 5¢ Taylor special printings on Post Office Department covers.

This editor greatly acknowledges the cooperation and assistance he received from Aloha P. South, Civil Reference Branch, National Archives, Washington, D.C. 20408. I also would like to acknowledge Rollin C. Huggins, Jr., for his cooperation, discussions, and loan of the covers from his collection.

The National Archives, the Postal Service Library and the Smithsonian are literal storehouses of knowledge and information just waiting to be used by the inquisitive collector interested in postal history. This is particularly true when searching for primary reference sources pertaining to the postal history of "back-of-the-book" material. I urge all interested collectors to take advantage of these valued resources whenever they visit Washington, D.C.

STAMPS FOR USE ON OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO FOREIGN DESTINATIONS UNDER GPU AND UPU TREATIES

ALFRED E. STAUBUS

The Treaty of Berne (Oct. 9, 1874) concerned the formation of the General Postal Union (GPU) and indirectly addressed the use of official stamps on official correspondence to member countries under Article VI:

Prepayment of postage on every description of article can be effected only by means of postage-stamps or stamped envelopes valid in the country of origin.

Newspapers and other printed papers unpaid or insufficiently paid shall not be forwarded. Other articles when unpaid or insufficiently paid shall be charged as unpaid letters, after deducting the value of the stamped envelopes or postage stamps (if any) employed.

and under Article VIII:

Official correspondence relative to the postal service is exempt from postage. With this exception, no franking or reduction of postage is allowed.

Consequently, under the GPU treaty, U.S. official stamps (valid in this country) could be used on official letters and packages to GPU member nations from the various government departments. Only the Post Office Department, when sending correspondence relative to the postal service, was exempt from having to pay foreign postage.

Based upon archival records¹ it would appear that the New York City postmaster had an irregular practice of prepaying and forwarding the occasional unpaid official letter or package from other U.S. government departments. However, when a considerable amount of unpaid official correspondence did occur, the unpaid items were returned to the responsible department with clarification that the GPU treaty limited franking to official correspondence relative to the postal service.

1. David M. Key, Postmaster General, to John Sherman, Secretary of the Treasury, Washington D.C., May 3, 1878; Entry 150; Letters Received from the Post Office Department, 1820-1901; Records of the Department of Treasury, Record Group 56; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

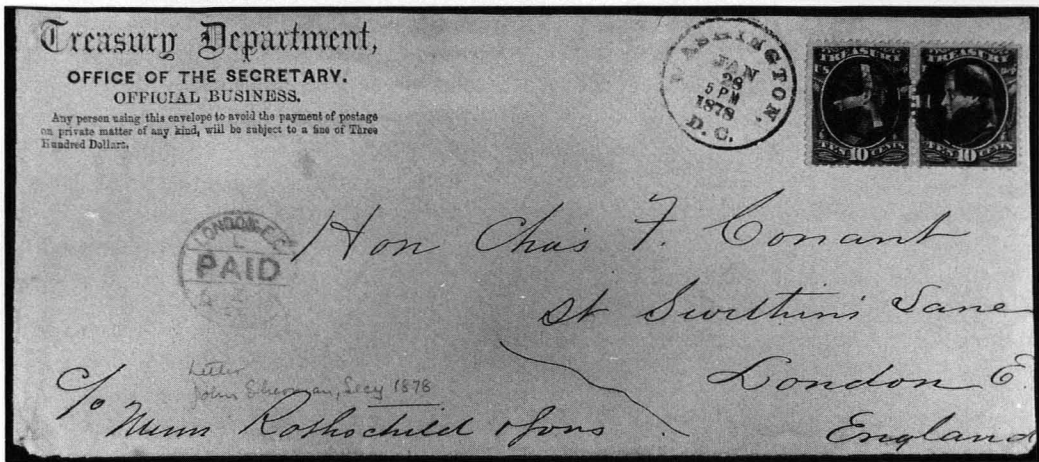


Figure 1. Two 10¢ Treasury Department stamps paying postage on a quadruple weight correspondence from Treasury Department Secretary John Sherman to Charles F. Conant in London, England. From the Rollin C. Huggins, Jr., collection.

Covers which did use U.S. official stamps for postage to foreign destinations are highly desirable items (Figures 1 and 2). The violet circular datestamp and killer on the cover shown in Figure 2 appear to correspond to the Cooper patent cancellation (H-4) described by Fred R. Schmalzriedt.² The outer circle of the killer cuts and scrapes off portions of each stamp. Schmalzriedt reported three known examples on the 2¢ 1879 regular issued stamp. This author is aware of two examples of official covers within the time period of January 30 to February 28, 1879, and would greatly appreciate receiving reports of other examples of this patent cancellation on either regular or official covers.

The GPU treaty was superseded by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) treaty on April 1, 1879. The prepayment of postage on official correspondence was addressed under Article 8 of this treaty:

Prepayment of postage on every description of article can be effected only by means of postage-stamps valid in the country of origin for the correspondence of private individuals.

Official correspondence relative to the postal service, and exchanged between the Postal Administrations, is alone exempt from this obligation and admitted free.

Thus, UPU requirements relative to official correspondence to member countries significantly differed with regard to at least two aspects from the previous GPU requirements:

1) Official correspondence required prepayment of postage using ordinary postage stamps (valid for "the correspondence of private individuals"). The use of official stamps on and after April 1, 1879, on correspondence to UPU countries represented a violation of the UPU treaty under Article 8.

2) Official correspondence of the Post Office Department to other UPU postal administrations relative to postal service was the only exception to prepayment of postage. Therefore, Post Office Department correspondence to private individuals in UPU countries also required ordinary postage stamps because Post Office Department official stamps were no longer valid for this particular use.

On November 16, 1878, Postmaster General David M. Key wrote to each of the other departmental heads informing them that it would be necessary for them to make provisions for supplying their respective departments with ordinary postage stamps "for use in

2. Fred R. Schmalzriedt, "Patent Cancellations (1847 to 1887)," pp. 142-169, in *Cyclopedia of United States Postmarks and Postal History*, edited by Delf Norona, Quarterman Publications, Inc., Lawrence, Mass. (1975).

prepaying postage on the correspondence which it may address to Postal Union countries on and after April 1, 1879.”³ It is of some interest to note that Secretary of State William M. Evarts’s reply of December 6, 1878, stated that his department’s needs for ordinary postage stamps would be presumably very small because “the bulk of the official correspondence of this Department is transmitted in dispatch bags outside of the mails...”⁴

Following an inquiry by Third Assistant Postmaster General A. D. Hazen, Assistant Attorney General for the Post Office Department Alfred A. Freeman wrote an opinion on December 3, 1878, concluding: “Thus it occurs that no provision has been made by Congress for supplying the Departments with ordinary postage-stamps.”⁵ Presented with this opinion, Postmaster General David M. Key was forced to write to each of the department heads the following letter:⁶

Post Office Department
Washington, D.C.
December 6th, 1878

Sir:

Referring to my letter of the 16th Ult. calling your attention to the 8th section of the recent postal convention of Paris, requiring postage on a certain class of official mail matter to be prepaid with ordinary postage stamps, I have now the honor to enclose copy of an opinion by the Assistant Attorney General for this Department, from which it would seem that there is no existing provision of law under which such stamps can be furnished, to any of the Executive Departments.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully, &c.,
D. M. Key
Postmaster General.

In order to provide the departments with ordinary postage stamps for correspondence to UPU countries, the Congressional Act approved March 3, 1879 — Chapter 182, “An act making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the government for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1880, and for other purposes” — including the following provision:⁷

For official postage stamps for the executive departments, as required under Postal Union, to prepay postage on matter addressed to Postal Union countries, ten thousand dollars; to be available immediately.

3. David M. Key, Postmaster General, to Charles Devens, Attorney General, Washington, D.C., Nov. 16, 1878; Entry 56; Letters Received from the Post Office Department, July 1877-March 1879; General Records of the Department of Justice, Record Group 60; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

4. William M. Evarts, Secretary of State, to David M. Key, Postmaster General, Washington, D.C., December 6, 1878; Entry 99; Domestic Letters of the Department of State, Oct. 22, 1878-December 31, 1878, Volume 125, pages 481-482 (National Archives Microfilm Publication M40, roll 87); Domestic Letters (letters sent), 1784-1906; Records of the Department of State, Record Group 59; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

5. Opinion, Alfred A. Freeman, Assistant Attorney General for the Post Office Department, Washington, D.C., December 3, 1878, enclosed in letter from David M. Key, Postmaster General, to Charles Devens, Attorney General, Washington D.C., December 6, 1878; Entry 56; Letters received from the Post Office Department, July 1877-March 1879; General Records of the Department of Justice, Record Group 60; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

6. David M. Key, Postmaster General, to Charles Devens, Attorney General, Washington, D.C., December 6, 1878; Entry 56; Letters Received from the Post Office Department, July 1877-March 1879; General Records of the Department of Justice, Record Group 60; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

7. Statutes at Large, Volume 20 (October 1877 to March 1879), page 389 (Forty-fifth Congress, Sess. III, Ch. 182, 1879).

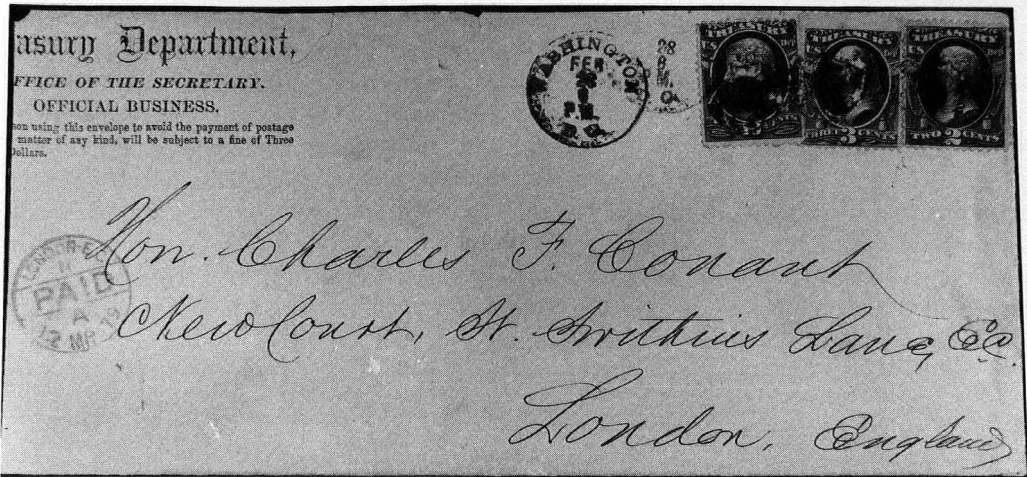


Figure 2. Combination of 2¢, 3¢ and 10¢ Treasury Department stamps paying postage on a triple weight letter to England. Note this cover was sent on February 28, 1879, during the last quarter of the approved use of official stamps on mail to UPU member countries. The violet color and circular scraping pattern on each of the three stamps appear to correspond to the Cooper patent cancellation. From the author's collection.

The above sum of \$10,000 was apportioned to the different executive departments, except the Post Office Department.⁸ For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1879, Congress provided the Post Office Department with only that fiscal year's fourth quarter funding:⁹

For ordinary postage-stamps, under article eight of the Universal Postal Convention, for 1879, two hundred and fifty dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary.

Thus, by April 1, 1879, all nine departments had provisions to purchase ordinary postage stamps to meet their departmental needs under the UPU requirements. Can anyone report examples of official covers using ordinary postage stamps for payment of postage to UPU countries during the first quarter of use (April 1 to June 30, 1879)?

Figure 3 illustrates use of ordinary postage stamps by the Treasury Department near the end of the second quarter of use.

The question of the use of official stamps on correspondence to UPU countries after April 1, 1879, must be raised because such covers do exist. In fact one of the premier official pieces is an October 25, 1882, wrapper with a \$2, a 10¢ and seventeen 30¢ State Department stamps used on a shipment of books from New York to the American Public Library in Stuttgart, Germany.¹⁰ Such use would appear contrary to the UPU requirements. It was. Why do they exist? The answer can be found in the records of the National Archives. A number of microfilm records of Post Office Department letters to the State Department would indicate that at least the State Department attempted to use official stamps on UPU

8. Abraham D. Hazen, Third Assistant Postmaster General, to John Sherman, Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D.C., November 28, 1879; Entry 150; Letters Received from the Post Office Department, May 1878-January 1884; Records of the Department of Treasury, Record Group 56; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

9. Statutes at Large, Volume 20 (October 1877 to March 1879), page 420 (Forty-fifth Congress, Sess. III, Ch. 183, 1879).

10. The Edward S. Knapp Collection, Philatelic Americana, Part 2, November 3-8, 1941, lot 2731, page 203, illustrated on page 204; Parke-Bernet Galleries, Inc., New York, N.Y. (this same wrapper/cover front was illustrated on page 188 of the Philatelic Iconography, a separate volume of illustrations from the Edward S. Knapp Collections produced by Y. Souren, Philatelic Research Laboratories, New York, N.Y. in 1941; also described and illustrated as lot 264, pages 34 and 35, in the Bruce G. Daniels auction sale #5 of November 5-6, 1953, Boston, Mass.)

correspondence as late as August 1883.¹¹ It would appear that some, perhaps most, of the State Department's UPU mail with official stamps "got through the system" undetected as a violation of UPU requirements. However on occasion some of their UPU mail with official stamps was detected by postal officials and was returned to the State Department with a letter explaining the UPU requirements. With the reduced domestic use of official stamps during the 1879 to 1884 penalty cover period, it may have been difficult for some department officials to accept the logic of purchasing ordinary stamps from limited departmental funds while having stocks of already purchased official stamps with no apparent use. An occasional returned package or letter may have been well worth the monetary benefits gained by some departments in knowingly using official stamps in direct violation of UPU requirements.

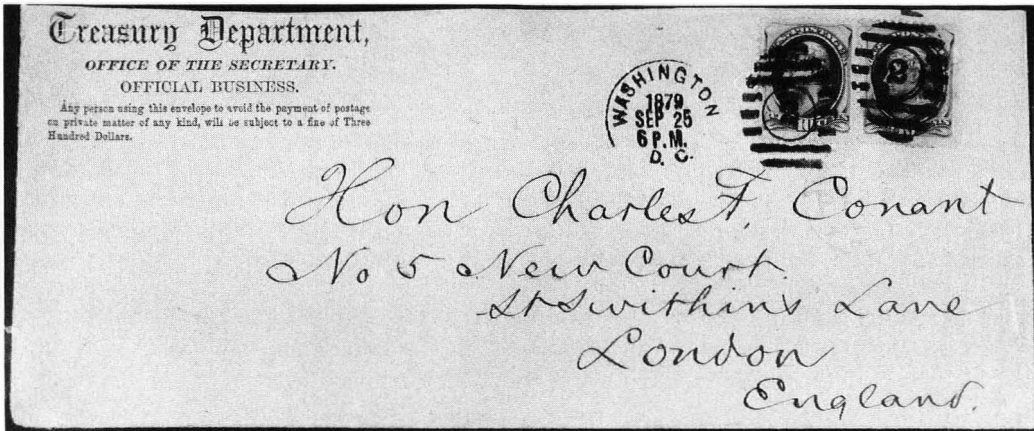


Figure 3. Two 10¢ ordinary postage stamps paying postage on a quadruple weight Treasury Department letter to England during the second quarter of use under the UPU treaty requirements requiring ordinary, rather than official, postage stamps. From the Rollin C. Huggins, Jr., collection.

A separate \$1,000 provision for ordinary postage stamps for use by the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880, was requested but not funded when the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Bill failed to become a law. The Post Office Department was left without an appropriation for ordinary postage stamps until an Act of Congress was approved on June 16, 1880:¹²

For ordinary postage-stamps to prepay postage on matter addressed to Postal Union countries, under article eight of the Universal Postal Union Convention, concluded at Paris, France, June 1st, 1878, being a deficiency for the fiscal years 1879 and 1880, one thousand dollars.

Archival records for the Treasury Department include a letter dated November 28, 1879, from Third Assistant Postmaster General Abraham D. Hazen to Secretary of the Treasury John Sherman noting the lack of an appropriation for ordinary postage stamps for correspondence to UPU countries. Enclosed with Hazen's letter is a form titled: "ESTIMATE BLANK, No. 2. — DEFICIENCIES — ESTIMATES OF APPROPRIATIONS required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880, by the Post Office Department." This form notes an estimated amount of \$1,000.00 and refers to the Act approved

11. Walter Q. Gresham, Postmaster General, to Frederick T. Frelinghuysen, Secretary of State, Washington, D.C., August 31, 1883; Entry 102; Miscellaneous Letters of the Department of State, 1789-1906 (National Archives Microfilm Publication M179, roll 637, August 15-31, 1883); Miscellaneous Letters (letters received) 1879-1906; Records of the Department of State, Record Group 59; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

12. Statutes at Large, Volume 21 (April 1879 to March 1881), page 249 (Forty-sixth Congress, Sess. II, Ch. 234, 1880).

March 3, 1879, Statutes at Large, Volume 20, page 420, which appropriated only \$250.00 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1879. It is unclear to this writer whether this form merely provided the Treasury Department with an estimate to be used in preparing the deficiency bill which was approved June 16, 1880, or if the form permitted the Treasury Department to advance funds prior to receiving congressional approval. It would appear that \$250.00 per quarter was a valid estimate for the Post Office Department's use of ordinary postage stamps under the UPU requirements because another \$1,000 was requested and approved for such use for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1881.¹³

The question can be raised as to how the Post Office Department was able to meet the UPU requirements with only a single quarter's funding (\$250) to cover at least an almost three quarter period (April 1-November 28, 1879+) or possibly a five quarter period (April 1, 1879 to June 16, 1880+). On the surface, it might appear that the Post Office Department could simply have used whatever ordinary postage stamps were on hand. However, it was the Post Office Department's own assistant attorney general who issued the December 3, 1878, opinion that without congressional approval, departments could not be provided with ordinary postage stamps for UPU correspondence. The Post Office Department could not "borrow" postage stamps from, for example, the Washington, D.C., postmaster for more than short periods of time (if even that) because postmasters had to file quarterly reports of sales and stocks on hand and those reports were closely audited by the Treasury Department.

The answer to the above question maybe possibly be found in an archival record dated July 26, 1884, which is a listing of the counting and burning of the remainders of the Special Printings following the "discontinuance of the sale of Specimen Postage Stamps to collectors by the Post Office Department."¹⁴ Luff reports a total of 10,500 5¢ Taylor stamps received by the Post Office Department and a total sale of only 317.¹⁵ The difference results in 10,183 unsold 5¢ Taylors on hand for burning in July 1884. This number is correct because when combined with the remainders for the rest of the "1870" special printings, the sum corresponds to the total reported for that issue in the archival record (Issue of 1870 — 143,727 postage stamps, representing a value of \$21,778.57). In addition to the 5¢ Taylor stamps corresponding to those reported by Luff, there is a second group of 5¢ stamps (presumably 5¢ Taylor stamps as noted by the time period) which are listed last in the archival record:

Ordinary

Six thousand, eight hundred and sixty-four (6,864) five cent ordinary postage stamps for the use of the Post Office Department under article 8 of the Universal Postal Union Convention of Paris of 1878. Representing a value of three hundred and forty-three and 20/100 dolls.

\$343.20

If one assumes that \$250.00 per quarter was a correct estimate of the Post Office Department's use of 5¢ Taylor stamps for correspondence to UPU countries, this amount would represent 5,000 stamps per quarter. The most common printing order for the special printings was for 10,000 stamps of a given issue. If 10,000 5¢ Taylor stamps were ordered under the cover of "specimen postage stamps for sale to collectors" and 6,864 were un-

13. Statutes at Large, Volume 21 (April 1879 to March 1881), page 179 (Forty-sixth Congress, Sess. II, Ch. 206, 1880).

14. Committee report, Washington, D.C., July 26, 1884; File folder "1884"; Third Assistant Postmaster General, Division of Stamps & Philately, Historical Information About Stamp Issues, 1845-1948; Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

15. John N. Luff, *The Postage Stamps of the United States*, The Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., New York, 1902 (page 259 of the Postilion Publications reprint).

used by the Post Office Department, then 3,136 stamps could have been used for correspondence to UPU countries. At a rate of use of 5,000 stamps per quarter, 3,136 stamps would represent approximately two months of use. If 20,000 5¢ Taylor stamps were ordered, then the number used would correspond to 13,136 stamps or all but about one month short of three quarters use of these stamps — a time period fitting very nicely into the period between April 1, 1879, and November 28, 1879, when Hazen sent his letter to the Treasury Department. Did the Post Office Department use some of their single quarter appropriation to pay for the order of a “special” 20,000 special printing? Perhaps they ordered as many as 30,000 of these “special” special printings in order to carry the department through the entire fiscal year ending June 30, 1880.

The Stamp Bill Books located in the National Archives would normally have recorded payment to the bank note companies for work performed. Multiple searches of the appropriate Stamp Bill Books did not reveal any written confirmation of the above speculation. However, it is logical to assume that in order to avoid detection by Treasury Department auditors, the Post Office Department probably did not record these transactions in the normal fashion. One must remember that 6,864 “extra” special printings did in fact exist in July 1884 as unused remainders yet no written record exists for either their production or payment for their production.

Evidence for the existence of a separate set of records is provided in a November 30, 1881, letter¹⁶ from J. Macdonough, Vice President of the American Bank Note Company, to Third Assistant Postmaster General Abraham D. Hazen in regard to the stamps manufactured but not forming part of the American Bank Note Company’s general stock (*i.e.*, 1,000 one cent-issue of 1869, 4,900 postage due and 20,000 two cent-current ordinary):

We beg to say that records of these stamps were kept in separate books and not in our general books for the reason that four (4) years ago we were verbally directed by the special agent to keep our records of all specimen and special orders separate from our records of regular (or ordinary) stamps.

Therefore, there is at least the possibility that Post Office Department covers used during the period of April 1879 and June 1880 to UPU countries *may* have 5¢ Taylor special printing stamps! Both the hard paper (Scott 181) and soft paper (Scott 204) special printings have 1990 catalog values of \$32,500 unused and are not (at least at this time) known to exist used.

Who will be the first to find such covers and can they be authenticated as special printings?

The Post Office Department initially may have purchased hard paper 5¢ Taylor regular issue from Post Office stocks until the realization that their appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880, was in serious doubt or totally lost in the legislative process. At such time, the Post Office Department may have started to “dip” into the unsold reserves of the 5¢ Taylor special printing (hard paper). If so, covers with the hard paper 5¢ Taylor special printing stamps would be expected to be used most likely during the first and/or second quarters of the UPU requirements (April 1 to September 30, 1879). Because the hard paper special printings were issued without gum, it would have been necessary for postal employees to hand gum the stamps and, as such, one may be able to detect uneven gumming or traces of gum on perforation edges which would not be expected on the regularly issued stamps. In addition, the characteristic deeper and richer shades for the special printings should help distinguish the hard paper special printings if they exist on Post Office Department covers.

16. J. Macdonough, Vice President, American Bank Note Company, to Abraham D. Hazen, Third Assistant Postmaster General, New York, N.Y., November 30, 1881; File folder “1881”, Box 6; Correspondence, Stamps and Stamp Envelopes, 1879-1884; Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

However, at the estimated rate of use of 5,000 5¢ stamps per quarter, the unsold reserves of the special printings would not be expected to last much more than two quarters. Consequently, at some point, the Post Office Department had to obtain a new batch of 5¢ Taylor stamps, partly to replace those “borrowed” from the unsold hard paper special printing stocks and partly to sustain normal UPU correspondence. By this time, the American Bank Note Company most likely would have used soft paper for the printing of any additional special printing orders. Considering the intent of this “special” special printing for UPU use, the American Bank Note Company probably applied normal procedures for the gumming of these stamps. Consequently, gum factors may not be helpful in distinguishing between the regular soft paper 5¢ Taylor stamps and a potential “special” special printing.

Since the “normal” soft paper 5¢ Taylor special printings were not received by the Post Office Department until July 16, 1880, any soft paper 5¢ Taylor on Post Office Department covers during the time in question (April 1879 to June 1880) would have to have come from the regular stock of soft paper 5¢ Taylor stamps or from a “special” special printing order. Since soft paper used for a “special” special printing order most likely would have been from the same paper stock used for the regular stamps, the only likely way to distinguish the two possibilities would be by shades, with, it’s hoped, the “special” special printing being a distinctive shade perhaps more like the “normal” special printing, slightly deeper and richer than the regular issue. On the other hand, the printers may have used identical ink mixtures for these “special” special printings as they did for the regular 5¢ Taylor issue.

In order to distinguish the “special” 5¢ Taylor special printings from the regular issue, it may be necessary to accumulate a number of Post Office Department Taylor covers and compare dates of their use with non-Post Office Department Taylor covers for the same time period. If a time pattern of shades exists for the 5¢ Taylor stamps on the Post Office Departments that is different from that seen on the non-Post Office Department Taylor covers, an expert committee studying the covers should be able to identify the characteristic shade(s) and provide a more precise time period of use of these “special” special printings. If readers do have any Taylor covers from the time period of April 1879 to June 1880, please send photocopies (not the covers) to me for my records. If enough covers can be located, an appropriate expert committee can be selected to view and compare the covers *en masse*. Good hunting!

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UNPAID LETTERS TO GREAT BRITAIN, 1868-1870 CONVENTIONS

RICHARD F. WINTER

Stampless covers to Great Britain after 1 January 1868 are not common because the cost of mailing letters unpaid was penalized by substantial fines. Charles J. Starnes first summarized the unpaid and part-paid penalties in 1979.¹ He presented a table showing 19 different postal conventions, which became effective in January 1868 and later, each of which had a fine for unpaid or partially paid letters. He noted that from 1848 to 1868, none of the U.S. conventions recognized part payment and treated all such letters as unpaid. From 1868 it was possible to send unpaid or partially paid letters, but there was a penalty to be assessed on each letter at the receiving destination. The public was quick to realize the effect of these penalties and accede to the efficiency of prepayment. Starnes's Charge Table can also be found in Appendix I of his acclaimed foreign rates book.² This article will examine the unpaid letter fines on letters to Great Britain. These fines were revised three times between 1868 and 1870.

On 18 June 1867, the United States and Great Britain signed a Postal Convention in London to become effective on 1 January 1868. This was the first new Convention with Great Britain in twenty years and lowered the basic international postal rate from 24 cents to 12 cents per half ounce. Article IV of this Convention addressed insufficiently paid let-

Fines on Unpaid Foreign Letters, &c.

We judge, from the number of letters we receive on the subject, that there is a general misunderstanding in regard to the fines imposed on unpaid and insufficiently paid letters and other postal packets sent between this and certain foreign countries. By the postal conventions between the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the North German Union, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy and Switzerland, each country collects for itself the amount of fine imposed on unpaid and insufficiently paid matter arriving in that country. The United States has fixed the fine on such matter arriving here at five cents for each letter or other postal packet. The fines chargeable on such matter arriving in the foreign countries named above are fixed at the following rates:

Great Britain.....	6d. sterling.
North German Union . not exceeding 2 silbergroschen.	
Belgium.....	30 centimes.
The Netherlands.....not exceeding 15 cents (Dutch).	
Italy.....	not exceeding 30 centesimi.
Switzerland.....	not exceeding 25 centimes.

These fines are for each unpaid or insufficiently paid letter or other postal packet, and not on each rate.

Figure 1. United States Mail & Post Office Assistant, April 1868 article, "Fines on Unpaid Foreign Letters, &c."

1. *Chronicle* 102:140-145.

2. Charles J. Starnes, *United States Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations 1847 to GPU-UPU*, (Revised Edition, Louisville, Ky.: Leonard H. Hartmann, 1989).

ters as follows:

Every international letter insufficiently paid, or wholly unpaid, received in the United States from the United Kingdom shall, in addition to the deficient postage, be subject to a fine of five cents, such fine to be retained by the United States Post-Office; and every international letter insufficiently paid, or wholly unpaid, received in the United Kingdom from the United States shall, in addition to the deficient postage, be subject to a fine, the amount of which shall be fixed and retained by the British Post-Office.

While the British fine was not specified in the Convention, the matter was soon to be determined in England. Appearing in *The London Gazette* of 17 September 1867, a Treasury Warrant was issued on 12 September to legalize the new postal rates. Article 7 of this Warrant specifically addressed insufficiently paid or unpaid letters from the United States stating "... every such letter shall be charged with the deficient postage, together with a further and additional rate of postage of sixpence." In the United States, the public was alerted to this fine through the *United States Mail and Post Office Assistant* subscribed to by many postmasters. The April 1868 issue had the small article on page 2 shown in Figure 1. The fine chargeable in Great Britain was shown to be 6d sterling.

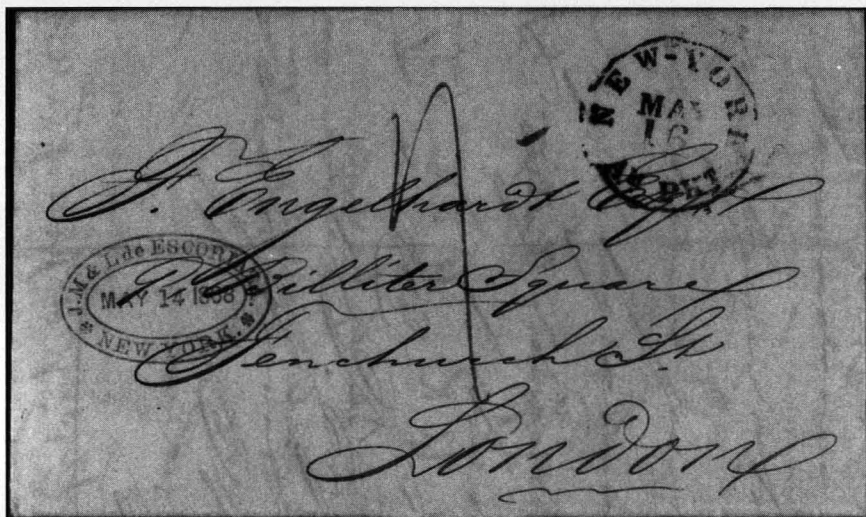


Figure 2. Santiago, Cuba, 28 April 1868 to London, carried privately to New York and posted unpaid. One shilling postage due in London for 6d international rate and 6d unpaid letter fine.

Figure 2 illustrates a letter subject to the 6d fine. This folded letter was written in Santiago, Cuba, on 28 April 1868 addressed to London. It was carried privately to New York where agents J.M. & L de Escoriaza of New York placed the letter into the U.S. mails avoiding the steamship fees from Cuba. A double oval handstamp in blue of this company appears to the left center of the cover. The letter was sent unpaid to England in the mails carried from New York on 16 May 1868 by the Inman Line steamer *City of Antwerp* and arrived at Queenstown on 25 May 1868. A red backstamp of 27 May shows arrival in London where the letter was marked for a postage due of one shilling. This constituted the six pence international rate under the new Convention plus a six pence unpaid letter fine. The *NEW-YORK Am.Pkt.* circular datestamp shows a very late use of that marking.

On 13 December 1867, before the 18 June 1867 Convention with the United Kingdom went into operation, the British post office gave notice that they would terminate the same on 31 December 1868 in accordance with the provisions of Article XXI.³ The British

3. *Report of the Postmaster General, 1868*, Wierenga Reprint, p. 16.

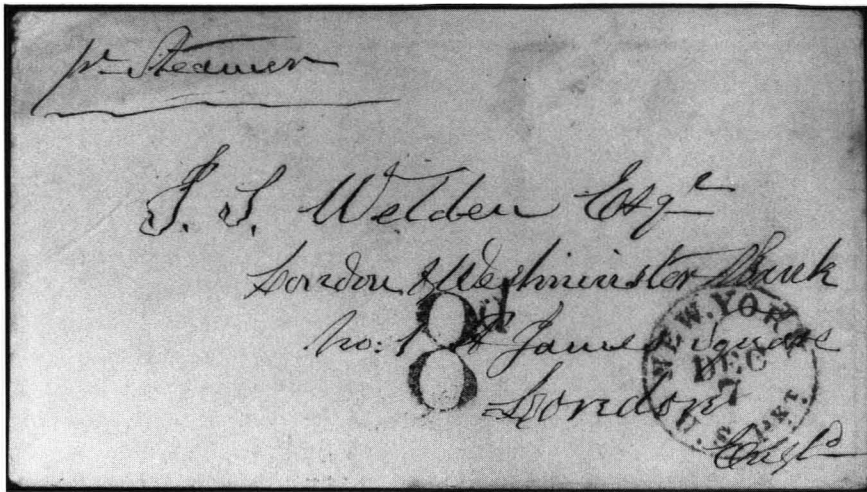


Figure 3. Envelope from New York 7 December 1869 to London sent unpaid. Six pence deficient postage and 2d unpaid letter fine make up 8d postage due charge.

despatched an emissary to Washington in the spring of 1868 to negotiate a new Convention. A Postal Convention was signed in London on 7 November and in Washington on 24 November 1868. While the international rate remained the same in the new Convention, to become effective on 1 January 1869, the fine to be collected in the United Kingdom on unpaid or insufficiently paid letters was reduced to two pence. The fine in the United States for unpaid or insufficiently paid letters arriving from Great Britain remained at five cents. Figure 3 shows the reduced unpaid letter fine in Great Britain. This envelope was posted in New York in time for the 7 December 1869 sailing of the Hamburg American Line steamer *Holsatia* bound for Plymouth and Hamburg. A black *NEW-YORK U.S.Pkt.* circular datestamp of the New York Exchange Office shows the departure date. *Holsatia* arrived at Plymouth on 16 December. Backstamps show London handling on 18 and 20 December 1869, the reason for two different datestamps being used is not known to the author. London marked the letter for a postage due of 8d, 6d for the deficient postage and 2d for the unpaid letter fine.



Figure 4. Santiago, Cuba, 24 March 1870 to London, carried privately to New York. Posted unpaid, the folded letter was charged six pence postage due in London (3d international rate and 3d unpaid letter fine).

A further reduction of the international rate was negotiated between the United

States and the British post offices during 1869. An Additional Convention to the Convention of 7-24 November 1868 was signed at Washington on 3 December and in London on 14 December 1869.⁴ These articles became effective on 1 January 1870 and reduced the international rate from 12 cents to 6 cents per half ounce. With this new Convention, the unpaid letter fine was changed in the United States to six cents and in the United Kingdom to three pence. Figure 4 illustrates a second cover from the same correspondence as Figure 2, written two years later. This folded letter originated in Santiago, Cuba, on 24 March 1870 and was addressed to London. It too was carried privately to New York where it was posted unpaid in time for the 9 April 1870 sailing of the North German Lloyd steamer *Donau*, which arrived in the Solent off Southampton on 19 April 1870. The letter reached London later the same day and was marked in manuscript for a postage due of six pence. This fee included the 3d international rate and a 3d unpaid letter fine.

4. 13 *Statutes at Large* 869.

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LOUISIANA wanted: postal history material (1790-1917). Ron Trosclair, 1713 Live Oak St., Metairie, LA 70005.

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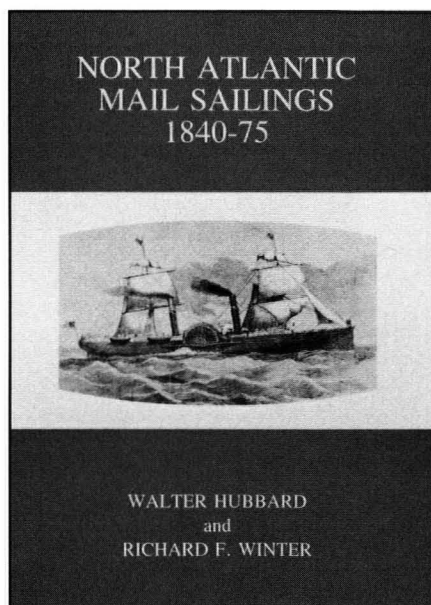


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ANSWER TO PROBLEM COVERS IN ISSUE NO. 146

Figure 1 shows a cover from Navassa Island, a U.S. possession in the Caribbean, claimed in 1857 under the Guano Act. An article by me regarding mail from Navassa Island appeared in *OPINIONS V* published by the Philatelic Foundation; and another article is partially prepared for another journal. Publicity has unearthed other covers, and the one shown here came from Stanley Piller recently. It is being used as a problem cover because of the rate, not the interesting origin. Although it bears "Due 3¢" in blue crayon, there is only a 2¢ postage due stamp, J16, tied, and no evidence of another stamp.



Figure 1. SHIP LETTER/NAVASSA ISLAND, W.I., 1884.

A number of comments were received, and a few requests for covers (unlike Mona Island, there are no new covers, yet); and two detailed written responses were sent. The first, from Warren R. Bower, states:

This is most unusual cover. I've about 1000 of these 1879-94 Am BN due covers, and photo-copies of about 500-600 more, but have never seen one similar to this one. My comments are more tentative than positive for several reasons noted.

It is believed it is a "Ship Letter" rated at twice the domestic US postal rates for a letter. The postal rate then in 1884 & early 1885 was 2¢ per 1/2 oz., so it would be *due* at 4¢ per 1/2 oz. Any valid US postage stamps uncanceled would be deducted from that double due charge, and cancelled by the receiving US post office for foreign mail, which in this case was Baltimore apparently. So the Baltimore cancel in effect is an Incoming Foreign Mail Cancel, tho' the handstamp may be one for domestic mail.

The ms "Due 3¢" in blue crayon tho' is not especially typical of Baltimore in 1885. They normally wrote in black ink or pencil, and had no special "Due" handstamp. This is not important really, but we can not confirm who applied the "Ship" and "Due 3¢" markings.

We have two possible reasons for the Due 3¢ rate. The most probable is that of a 2 rate letter, double due (per ship letter practice) with a resulting due rate of 2 x 4¢ = 8¢ less credit of 5¢ for the stamped envelope, for a total *net due* of 3¢.

A less probable reason is that the 5¢ U22 brown Garfield envelope could have been mistaken to be a 1¢ U277 brown Washington envelope. We have seen a few similar mistakes made a few years later between the 1¢ and 5¢ blue envelopes by the NYC

and the Phila post offices. If that mistake had been made then the letter would have been a single rate letter due 4¢ less a credit of 1¢ for a 3¢ due net charge also. The lack of any notation as to the number of rates involved prevents a firm choice of either possibility.

One wonders where or why only a 2¢ due stamp was affixed to a letter marked 3¢ due. Possibly the Mt Sterling post office applied a 2¢ due stamp in error for a 3¢ due?

There was not always a charge of 1¢ for "Advertising" at some of the small town post offices, as some advertising was carried free in the local newspapers, or was merely a list of letters on the post office wall. Mt Sterling, Ky., was not a letter-carrier post office in 1884. It is doubtful if there was a 1¢ charge for Advertising, and in fact the handstamp could have been used in error. It tends to confirm things when it is used *with* a single 1¢ due stamp, or a total charge in due stamps that would include a 1¢ fee.

There seems to be no doubt it was delivered as there is no return address on the envelope, nor any indication that it had been returned to the Dead Letter Office. There are no "Unclaimed" or equivalent markings to indicate any non-delivery or forwarding. It had to be delivered.

Another cogent answer came from George Arfken, who writes:

Most of the questions about the Navassa Island postage due cover are covered by two sections in the 1884 and 1885 postal guides.

From the 1884 *Official Postal Guide*, p. 535,

875. At the post office where letters brought by vessels or steamboats not employed in carrying the mail from any domestic or foreign port are deposited, they will be charged with double rates of postage, to be collected at the office of delivery —...

This paragraph was repeated in the 1885 *Official Postal Guide*, p. 702. Neither guide had yet been corrected for the rate reduction to 2¢ per 1/2 oz., October 1, 1883 but the principle of doubling is clear.

Yes, the cover was treated as a ship letter. The Baltimore post office found the cover over the 1/2 oz. limit and doubled the 4¢ (domestic charge) to 8¢. Prepaid 5¢, the cover was 3¢ short and, accordingly, was rated Due 3¢ cts.

Incidentally, while the Navassa Island origin of the ship letter is interesting to us, it was irrelevant to the U.S. Post Office. The only consideration was the value of the U.S. stamps on the cover.

There was no charge for advertising the cover by the Mt. Sterling post office. From the 1884 *Official Postal Guide*, p. 524,

750. ...No charge for advertising is allowed to be made upon delivery of advertised letters, except at those six offices which have been expressly authorized by the Department to pay newspapers for publishing the list of undelivered letters, viz.; Baltimore, Md., Boston, Mass., Chicago, Ill., New Orleans, La., New York, N.Y., and Washington, D.C.

This paragraph was repeated on p. 693 of the 1885 *Official Postal Guide*.

The letter was probably delivered. The Mt. Sterling postmaster should not have put the 2¢ postage due stamp on until delivery but there's no guarantee that he followed this procedure.

Finally, an unasked question. Why was the 3¢ due receipted with a 2¢ postage due stamp? Here we can only speculate. Possibly the Mt. Sterling postmaster had only 2¢ postage due stamps and was not clever enough to bisect one of them.

The premise is that this was a double weight ship letter, rated at 8¢, and that the payment of just 2¢ is strange. Mt. Sterling, Ky., was a small town, and Tipton's family lived there. He was Asst. Supt. of Mining at Navassa Island.

The winner of the contest to explain the source of the word "Navassa" is R. B. (Buck) Jordan of Fresno, Calif. His answer, and others, will be in the next Chatter.

Figure 2 shows a 5¢ stationery envelope from New York to Curaçao in 1885, with a seldom-seen oval marking "RED D LINE OF S.S." in blue. The "D" apparently is for one of the owners, Dalett; and the "S.S." for steam ships. Comments were received from several responders including one from Holland. Calvet Hahn looked up ship departures in New York newspapers, and determined that the firm started in 1879, based on ads.

Robert G. Stone wrote with these comments:

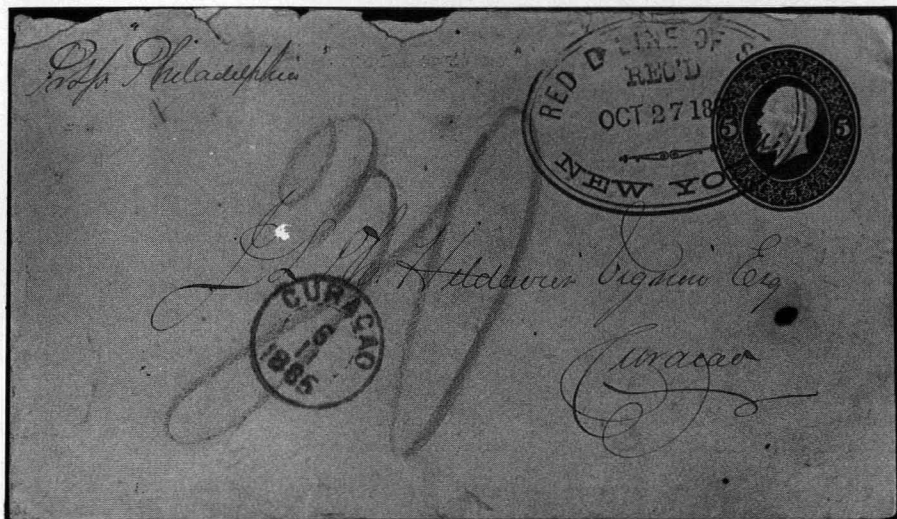


Figure 2. RED D LINE to Curaçao, 1885.

The RED D LINE was an American company called The American and Caribbean S.S. Co., which ran ships, some of which it owned, from 1880 to 1930 to St. Thomas, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Curaçao and possibly other ports. Covers are scarce. The oval marking on the problem cover was a receiving mark at the New York office of the company, and the cover did not go through the post office there. The Curaçao receiving mark is dated 6 Nov. 85. The 30 (cents, Dutch) was collected from the recipient, and ship mail of this period is difficult to analyze, as each country (sending and receiving) could treat a letter differently.

Calvet Hahn noted the first sailing of the RED D LINE owned *Philadelphia* from N.Y. on 28 March 1885, from Pier 36. The ad stated "Letters relating to cargo will be received at our office and carried to destination free of charge. All letters that may be sent up to noon on days the steamers sail will be delivered free provided they are enclosed in U.S. stamped envelopes of denomination sufficient to cover U.S. rate of 5¢ per 1/2 oz." Apparently such letters were delivered to the Netherland Antilles P.O. at Curaçao, not to the addressee.

This cover has on the back "Foulke & Co. - New York" and some research indicates this was an insurance broker. Other covers are known with this marking on the back "A.G. Dickinson, Agent General, Department of South and Central America and West Indies, 346 Broadway, New York."

No covers are as yet known from other cities in the U.S. showing the RED D LINE marking. Apparently mail had to be taken to their office at 135 Pearl St., NYC.

Curaçao was in the GPU in 1877, so this double charging is interesting.

The RED D LINE has no known relationship with the RED STAR LINE, which ran between New York and Antwerp in the same period.

PROBLEM COVERS FOR THIS ISSUE



Figure 3a. Cover to Rio Janeiro, Brazil, in 1859.

Figures 3a and 3b show the front and back of a recently discovered cover with an unusual oval marking “U.S. NAVY AGENTS OFFICE RIO DE JANEIRO.” in green. On the front, in red, are “40” and “LONDON PAID NO 14, 59.” The docketing reads “Rec’d Jan. 13, 1860 at Montevideo” and in the address is U.S. Frigate “Congress.” On this small cover there were six, or more, stamps of the 1857 issue. A strip of three of the 10¢ starts on the front. The strip of three of the 5¢ is scissors-cut, which gives a clue as to the originating P.O. What was it, and how many stamps totalling what were on the cover? Who has seen the oval marking, and are years of usage known? There is part of a New York packet marking in red on the back, and the two strikes of the cds are in black.

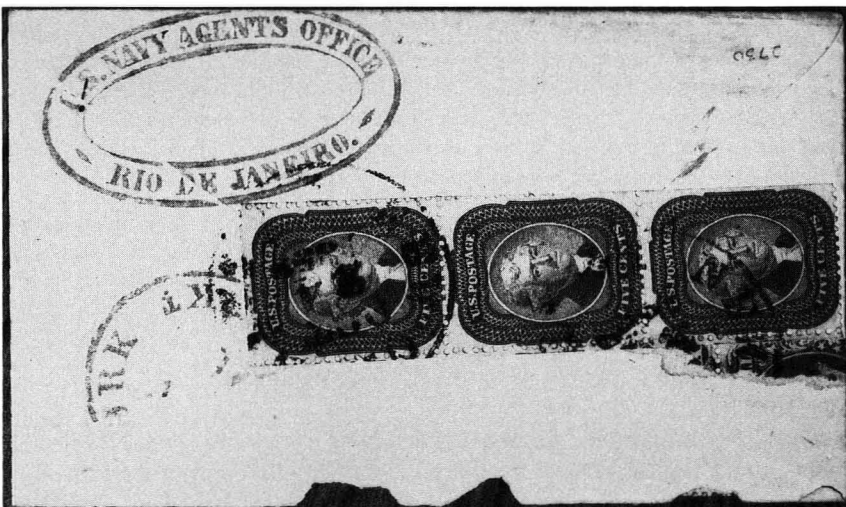


Figure 3b. Reverse of cover of Figure 3a.

Figures 4a and 4b show a 2¢ stationery envelope from the U.S. to Cuba in 1891. At the top of the front are these ms. markings: “CA” in blue crayon, “20¢ due U.S. Consul for short postage” in red ink, and “16” in black. The Dead Letter Office marking at the lower left is in purple. The markings on the back are in black. This cover had been submitted by

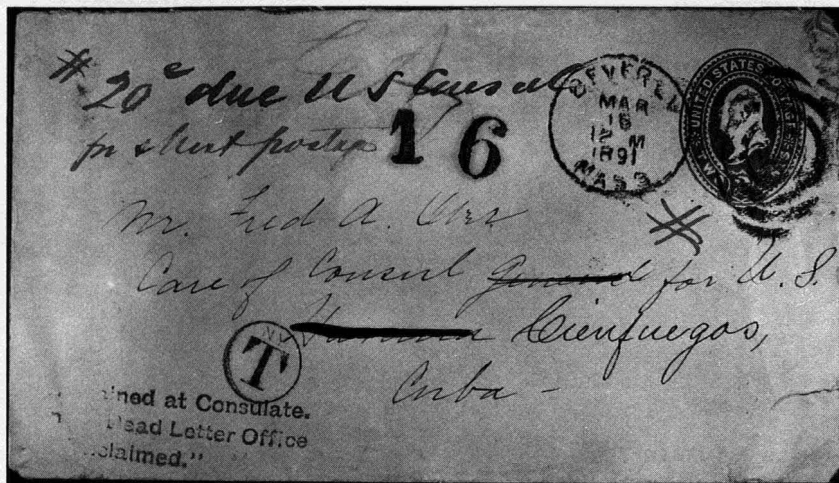


Figure 4a. Cover sent to Cuba in 1891.

the late Alan T. Atkins, who said he had not previously seen the DLO marking. Does a reader have knowledge of it and can someone comment on the rate?

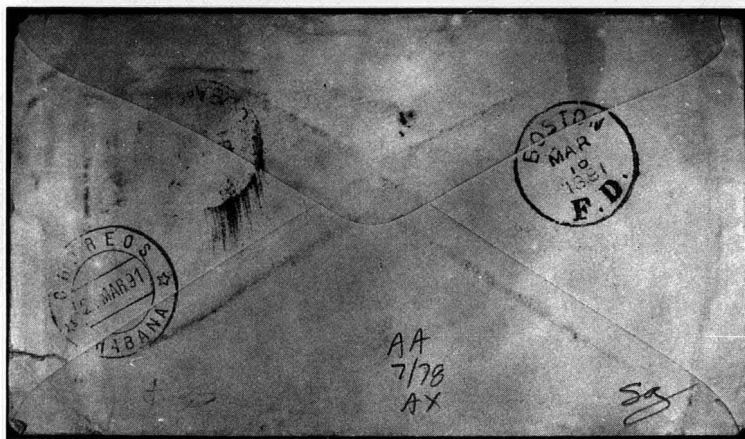


Figure 4b. Reverse of Figure 4a cover.

Send your answers and comments to the Cincinnati P.O. Box within two weeks of reading this issue. Need a few new problem covers especially some with internal U.S. usage. Will consider Confederate items from Civil War.

Hope to see some of you at the A.P.S. Show in Cincinnati during August.

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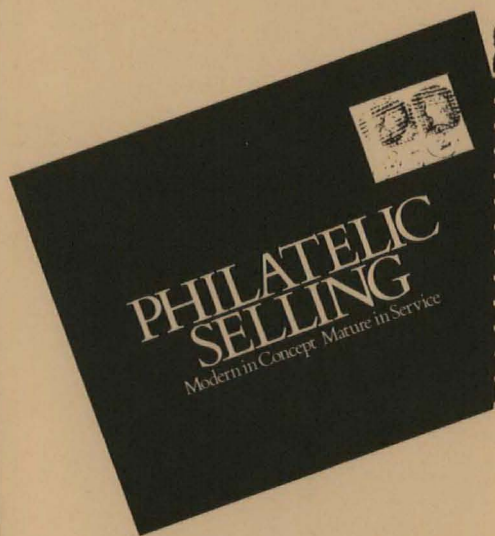
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