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August 1991

Volume 43, No. 3

Whole No. 151

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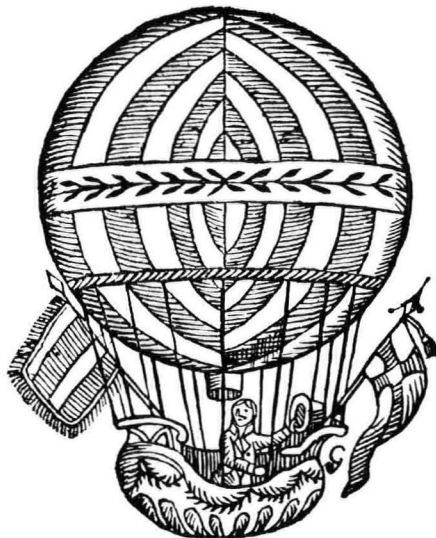
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## THE EDITOR'S PAGE

**Review: Postal Operations in the United States 1794.** Compiled and published by Robert J. Stets. Soft cover, plastic ring binding, 43 8½" by 11" pages. Available from Robert J. Stets, P.O. Box 142, Walterboro, S.C. 29488 @ \$7.90 postpaid.

In his retirement Bob Stets has been profitably engaged in researching little known or inaccessible information about the early postal service. The material has been derived from official records in the National Archives and Library of Congress. The present volume, dealing with postal operations in 1794, begins with explanatory comments on the various sections.

An alphabetical listing of all 1794 U.S. post offices (identified by state) follows. A more detailed listing by state includes postmaster names and the amount of postage collected for the last quarter of 1794.

An intriguing chapter outlines the three major *private* post roads operating in 1794. The balance of the book consists of an exact, enlarged copy of the 1794 Post Office Law with post roads in detail, and many subjects of interest, such as postage rates, way letters, advertising, and carriers.

Collectors of state postal history will find this book of great value, as will any interested in the early postal history of the U.S. Recommended.

Susan M. McDonald

**Review: Classic United States Imperforate Stamps.** By Jon Rose. Softbound, 102 8½" x 11" pages. Published by *Linn's Stamp News*, Box 29, Sidney, Ohio 45365. Available from the publishers and various dealers @ \$9.95 postpaid.

This book covers the first seven U.S. issues. It is intended to provide information not readily accessible, and "to give the casually interested collector a better understanding of these fascinating early stamps."

The chapters on the 1847 issue generally offer a balanced presentation of the various facets of collecting, touching on plate varieties, colors, cancels, bisects, and usage. Some confusion occurs in the explanation on p. 25 of the 1848 cover to Nova Scotia — there is no such animal as "double ocean postage (two times 12¢)". The 35¢ in 1847 stamps overpay by 1¢ the 10¢ domestic postage plus 24¢ U.S. retaliatory rate.

The discussion of the 1¢ 1851 is concerned mainly with differentiating the various types, especially Type I (7R1E). The lack of clarity and sharpness in the photographic reproductions hampers understanding of the text. This flaw applies to the whole book, but is most detrimental here. In spite of the author's enthusiasm, the emphasis on rarity, big name collectors, and high prices will not encourage the casually interested collector to take up this stamp. More on use would help. The comparatively short chapter on the 3¢ 1851 deals clearly with the plates, type characteristics, colors and shades. It summarizes the rates and uses of this popular stamp, as well as the many interesting associated markings.

The next three chapters cover the 5¢, 10¢, and 12¢. Chronological rather than numerical order — putting these stamps in perspective of their date of issuance and period of use: 12¢ 1851, 10¢ 1855, 5¢ 1856 — might promote better understanding. The possible reasons for issuance of the 5¢ are rehashed at length. The scarcity and short life span of this elegant stamp are reflected in the auction prices quoted. Some interesting uses are described. Comment on the 10¢ focuses on the four types and on-cover use, particularly in

(Continued on p. 190)

# Important Auctions in September–October

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Pony Express cover addressed to Abraham Lincoln at Springfield Ill. with a notation in his hand "needs no answer." Blue and carmine (on back) Pony Express handstamps. Ex. Knapp. From The Edwards Collection of Western Express Covers. Estimate: \$150,000–200,000



Cover with 1851 12-cent in strip of three and 3-cent in pair making up the 42-cent rate to Sweden. To be offered on September 25. Estimate: \$12,000–15,000



\$5.00 Columbian in bottom plate no. block of six. From The Arthur J. Kobacker Collection. Estimate: \$100,000–150,000

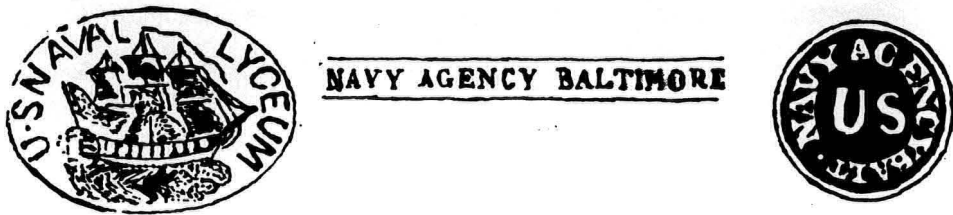


**BALTIMORE NAVY AGENCY MARKINGS**

**RICHARD B. GRAHAM**

*The American Stampless Cover Catalog*, Vol. II, contains a section under "Maritime Mail Markings" listing "Private U.S. Forwarders' Markings on Incoming and Outgoing Ocean Mail." On pages 120-21 of this section are three sets of tracings showing handstamps applied on covers by various organizations connected with the United States Navy.

By far the best known of these markings is the full-rigged ship handstamp of the New York Naval Lyceum, shown as a tracing in Figure 1. Although a great many covers with examples of this handstamp exist, it is a very popular item because of its attractiveness and covers with fine strikes (particularly on cover faces) are avidly sought. Some of the strikes are on cover backs, often across the flaps of folded letters.



**Figure 1. New York Naval Lyceum full rigged ship marking, the classic example of a Naval forwarder, and the two types of Baltimore Navy Agency markings.**

These markings are found, with but few exceptions, on personal mail addressed to officers of the U.S. Navy on foreign stations. The letters were mailed postpaid to the U.S. Naval Lyceum, an officer's club in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, to be forwarded to the addressees by sending the letters aboard Navy ships leaving for the appropriate foreign stations. The earliest examples are known from 1835 (and a large oval type of forwarding marking also exists from that period) but most examples date from the 1840s and 1850s.

I have kept no records, but I don't recollect seeing any covers with the New York Naval Lyceum handstamps addressed to any person not a U.S. Naval officer or of some position making him eligible for membership in the Lyceum. If there were any charges for forwarding mail, they were probably made against accounts of members, as the covers bear no evidence of such. When the practice was started in the 1830s, it probably was a far more reliable and less costly method for a U.S. Navy officer to receive mail from home than any other.

The other two listings of Navy forwarders in Vol. II of the *American Stampless Cover Catalog* are the markings of the U.S. Naval Library & Institute at the Boston Navy Yard, and of the U.S. Navy Agency at Baltimore. The Boston Naval Library & Institute was a private club, similar to the Lyceum at New York, but the Baltimore Navy Agency was an entirely different sort of thing. All the markings listed in the *ASCC* are quite rare except for the New York full-rigged ship. Over the years, I have noted only five or six covers with the Baltimore Navy Agency marking, and probably no more than that exist bearing the Boston markings.

Thus, when I recently had an opportunity to lay four of the Baltimore Navy Agency covers side by side and photograph and compare them, it seemed of sufficient interest to relay the data developed to readers of the *Chronicle*.

Figure 1 includes tracings of the two styles of Baltimore Navy Agency markings. Only one cover is known to me that bears the round marking, and it is shown in Figure 2,

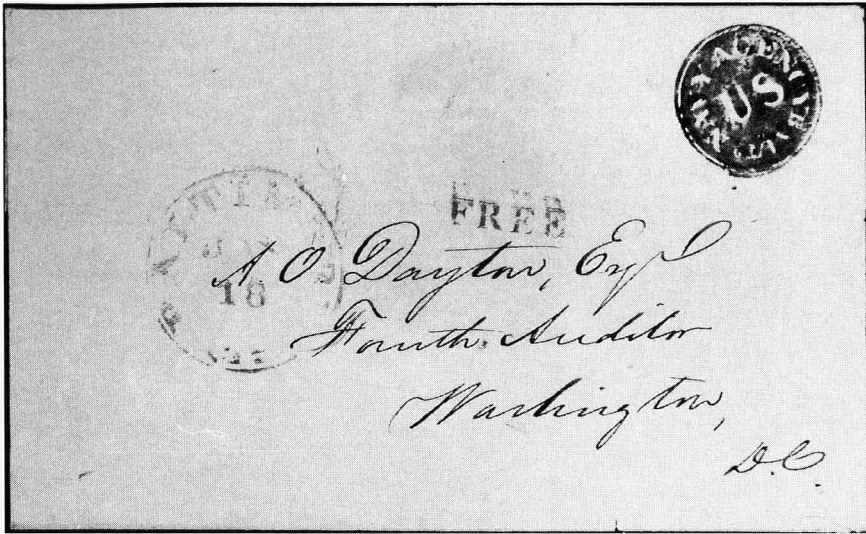


Figure 2. The blue “U.S./NAVY AGENCY BALT” in relief on an official cover sent free to the 4th Auditor’s Office in Washington.

being one of the four covers examined. All the other covers have a straight line “NAVY AGENCY — BALTIMORE” between rules, and all but one with the markings are addressed to the 4th Auditor of the Treasury, Aaron O. Dayton, at Washington.

All of the Baltimore Navy Agency markings are in blue. The blue is a good match for the characteristic blue used by the Baltimore post office at the time, as well as at other Maryland and Virginia towns. None of the four covers examined have year dates. The three covers addressed to Aaron O. Dayton have no contents, although two of them bear manuscript numbers, probably a docketing, meaning unknown but possibly file numbers or references applied in the 4th Auditor’s office. The remaining cover is a personal letter sent to the Navy Agent at Baltimore to be forwarded. It has partial content but no year date.

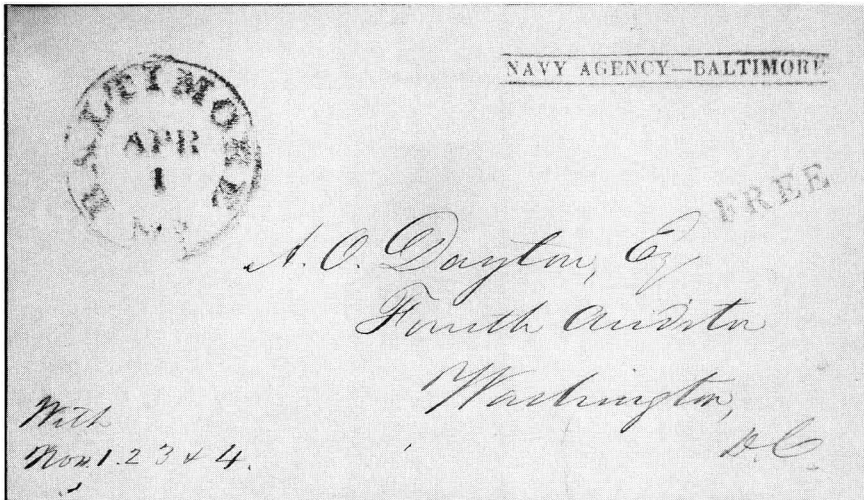
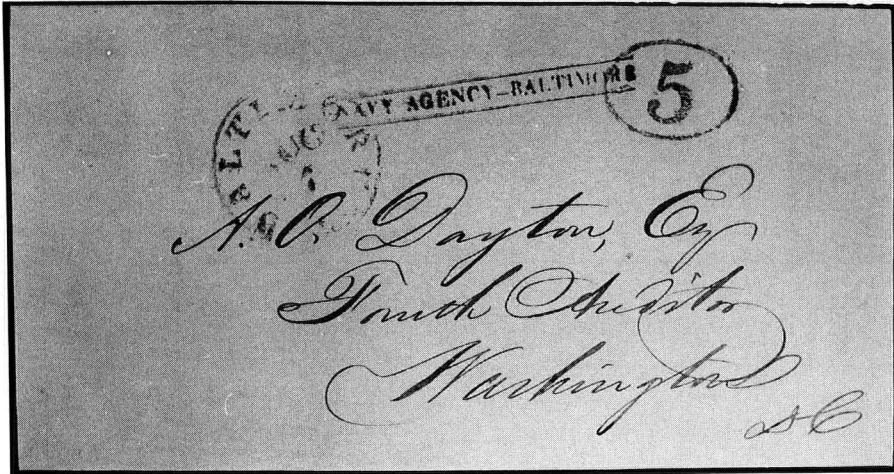


Figure 3. The straight line “Navy Agency — Baltimore” between rules, on a cover from the Navy Agency to the 4th Auditor, sent free under the franking privilege of the addressee.

Figures 3 and 4 show the two covers with NAVY AGENCY — BALTIMORE straight line markings addressed to the 4th Auditor. An approximate dating of the use of

the markings can be obtained by analysis. Aaron O. Dayton was 4th Auditor of the Treasury from 1838 to 1858 and, except for the two year period, April (circa) 1845-March 1847, had the free franking privilege continuously during his tenure. The franking privilege of those years included the right to receive mail free as well as to send it under a franking signature. In the case of Departmental mail, the privilege was limited to mail sent on official business. When such mail was sent to those with the franking privilege, the address including the official title served the same purpose as the franking signature on mail sent out by the official, to identify his having the franking privilege.



**Figure 4. Another cover from the Navy Agency at Baltimore to the 4th Auditor, with the straight line marking in blue, but sent in August of either 1845 or 1846 when the franking privilege of the 4th Auditor's office was not in effect.**

An Act of Congress effective in April 1845 abolished the franking privilege in all of the Departments except for a few postal officials and postmasters. Thus, of the covers shown in Figures 2, 3 and 4, all addressed to 4th Auditor Dayton, those marked "FREE" at Baltimore were not sent when the privilege was not in effect, but the cover shown in Figure 4, with a "5" in an oval due marking has to have dated from either 1845 or 1846 as its Baltimore postmark is dated August 7.

The Figure 2 cover, postmarked at Baltimore on Jan. 16, can't have been sent in 1846 or 1847, but the April 1 date on the Figure 3 cover means it could have been sent in 1845 but not in 1846 or 1847, as well as in years before or after that period.

The position of Navy Agent was an important post in 19th century U.S. Naval operations. Navy Agents were appointed at most important ports with Navy yards or other important naval facilities. Their duties were to handle all business connected with the Navy's supply and financial sides. They had a great deal of correspondence with not only the Navy Department but with the 4th Auditor's Office, handling the pay allotments of naval personnel abroad, purchases of supplies, and other similar matters. Navy Agents would have had frequent contact with those supplying ships about to leave for a foreign station and they received reports from ships arriving from abroad which were to be forwarded on to the Navy Department or the 4th Auditor's Office. Thus, the use of their handstamps on mail of all kinds isn't surprising.

The Navy Agents at Baltimore during the 1840s, as listed in *A General Register of Navy and Marine Corps of the United States*, published by C. Alexander of Washington in 1848 were as follows:

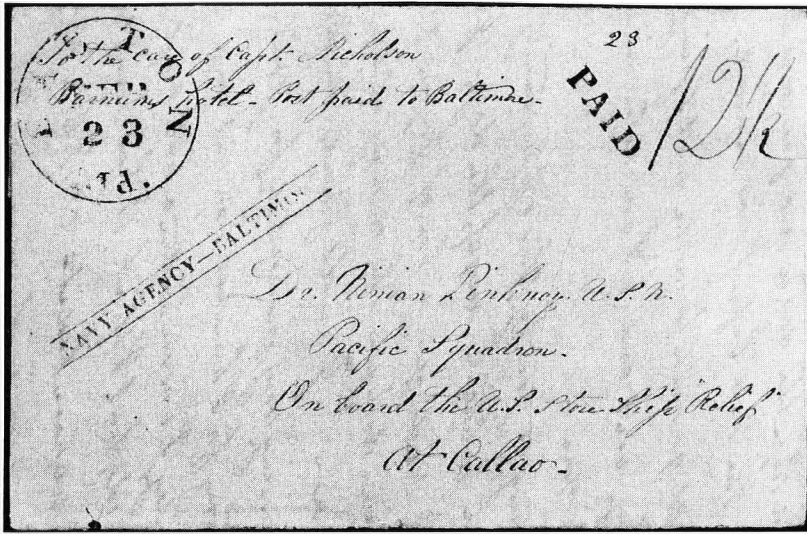
John Thomas: 11 Oct. 1833-31, August 1841.

Samuel McClelland: 31 August 1841-8 April 1845.

Joseph White: 8 April, 1845 — still incumbent in 1848.



This suggests that McClelland was responsible for the straight line handstamp at least, and probably for both.



**Figure 5.** A cover addressed to a Navy Surgeon aboard the U.S.S. Storeship *Relief* at Callao, Peru, in either 1842 or 1843. The cover was sent prepaid from the surgeon’s family at Easton, Md., care of Capt. Nicholson at Barnum’s Hotel to be sent out by a ship leaving Baltimore for the South Pacific. The blue straight line “NAVY AGENT — BALTIMORE” was thus used as a forwarding marking.

The cover shown in Figure 5 demonstrates that the Baltimore Navy Agent handled other than official mails. It is addressed to Dr. Ninian Pinkney, U.S.N./Pacific Squadron./On board the U.S. Store Ship “Relief”/At Callao, and bears at upper left an additional endorsement in the same hand, “To the care of Capt. Nicholson/Barnum’s Hotel - Post paid to Baltimore.”

Navy Surgeon Ninian Pinkney is shown in Figure 6 as he appeared while Fleet Surgeon of the Mississippi Squadron in the Civil War. His brief biography, given in Lewis R. Hamersly’s *The Records of Living Officers of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps*, 3rd Edition (J.B. Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1878) notes that Pinkney was born in Maryland and entered the Navy as an Assistant Surgeon in 1834. He was assigned to the U.S. Storeship *Relief*, 1842-3, after being promoted to Surgeon on Oct. 27, 1841.



**Figure 6.** Dr. Ninian Pinkney, U.S. Navy Surgeon, the addressee of the covers shown in Figures 5 and 7.

Identifying the Captain Nicholson in whose care at Barnum's Hotel, Baltimore, the letter is addressed hasn't been as satisfactory. While I assumed originally that Nicholson was the Navy Agent or some other local U.S. Navy official at Baltimore, obviously such wasn't the case. The only reference I could find in the early Navy records, such as that in which the Navy Agents were listed, and the *U.S. Registers* was a Capt. Nicolson (no "h" in his name) who was Commandant of the Boston Navy Yard at the time. The name could have been a confusion for the commanding officer of the *Relief* in 1842, one Commander Nicholas.

The *Relief* was a storeship, a type of vessel that served as a quartermaster type floating warehouse for remote areas where the U.S. Navy maintained squadrons of ships for long periods. As described in Volume VI of the *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*, the *Relief* was a small sailing ship armed with 6 guns, whose main distinction was being an extremely slow sailer. She served two long stints as storeship in the South Pacific, on the west coast of South America, 1838-40 and 1840-46, mostly at anchor at Callao, Peru. About all the compiler could find about her of interest was that when she was unloaded and "smoked" (fumigated) at Callao in 1839, "her dead rats filled three barrels."

It doesn't appear that Pinkney's service aboard the *Relief*, aside from when he was able to live ashore, was a life he recalled with much pleasure. Certainly, mail from home would have been gratefully received and worth a lot of trouble. As the covers in Figures 5 and 7 reveal, Pinkney did have his family instructed how to get his mail aboard Navy ships or with official mails directed to U.S. Navy ships in the south Pacific.



**Figure 7. Sent to Dr. Pinkney aboard the U.S.S. *Relief* at Callao, Peru, in care of the New York Naval Lyceum in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The Lyceum forwarded many covers addressed to member U.S. Navy personnel on foreign station by sending them with official mails by U.S. Navy ships leaving for those stations abroad.**

Both the covers to Pinkney were sent from Easton, Md., year unknown, with domestic postage paid to the Naval facility expected to forward them. Possibly they would have been refused if postage had been collect. A good deal of official mail must have been sent to the south Pacific. While the *Relief* had originally been sent out, 1839-40, as part of the Wilkes Expedition to explore the south seas and Antarctica, the Navy had established a Pacific Station as early as 1818. By the 1840s, there were from five to eight U.S. Navy ships on station, many of them at ports along the west coast of South America. The Pacific Station was commanded by a senior captain aboard a flagship such as *U.S.S. Constitution* ("Old Ironsides"), a heavy frigate.

Bags of official and personal mail were sent out at every reliable opportunity, but the best opportunity was when a Navy ship went out to replace another ship. Such sailings were not only announced at the ports from where the ships sailed but in other papers throughout the country.

Thus, the cover shown in Figure 7, numbered "21" by the sender, was sent to the New York Naval Lyceum to catch a sailing from the Brooklyn Navy Yard and the cover in Figure 5, numbered "23," was sent in care of the Navy Agent at Baltimore to be sent aboard a ship sailing from Baltimore for the south Pacific. The numbers represent another practice of naval personnel on foreign station in the 19th century — to number their letters both ways in consecutive order. By use of these numbers, each correspondent would always know if an intervening letter, not yet received, had been sent.

The cover sent via the Naval Lyceum at New York, numbered "21," shown in Figure 7, is dated at Easton on Jan. 24, and the cover via Baltimore, No. 23, has an Easton postmark date of Feb. 23. Since Pinkney was aboard the *Relief* in 1842-43, dates unknown, the two covers could have been sent in either of those years. Pinkney didn't come back to the United States aboard the *Relief*, as that ship didn't return until in 1846, after five years on the station.

Summing up, the Baltimore Navy Agency markings probably date from the tenure of Samuel McClelland as Navy Agent at Baltimore, 1841-1845, give or take a year or so either way. Who can show us other examples of the Baltimore Navy Agent markings?

## CLASSIFIED

**FOR SALE:** "Postal Operations in the United States, 1794" 43 pp, 8½ x 11, soft cover. Includes 1794 "Post Office Law", lists almost 450 post offices (alphabetically and by state) with postmaster names, volume of business transacted, and a list of private post offices in Pa. & N.Y. A valuable reference work at an affordable price- \$7.90 postpaid from Robert J. Stets P.O. Box 142, Walterboro, SC 29488.

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**WANTED:** Letters to or from Philadelphia carried by Adams & Co., Harnden's, Wm. Livingston & Co., American Mail Co. or Hale prior to July 1, 1845. S. Roth, Suite 800, 1233 20th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20076.

**WANTED:** Centennial albums and pages, new or used. Page size 9½ wide, not including hinged portion, by 11<sup>5</sup>/<sub>16</sub> high. John A. Lange, Jr., 373 Root Rd., Ballston Spa, N.Y. 12020 (518-882-6373).

**WANTED FOR RESEARCH:** Photocopies of U.S. Possessions (Canal Zone, Philippines, Ryukyu) Official Seals on cover. Photocopies of any U.S. Official Seal covers where the seal appears to have been affixed in a US Possession or territory before statehood. Photocopies with print and paper color description of any U.S. Typeset (Scott OX 25-49 or unlisted) Official Seal, on or off cover. Any other unusual or unlisted US Official Seal item. If you wish to sell item, price photocopy. Enclose SSAE for Ryukyu Official List with photos. Bill Gerlach, 177 Fairdale, Westerville, Ohio 43081.

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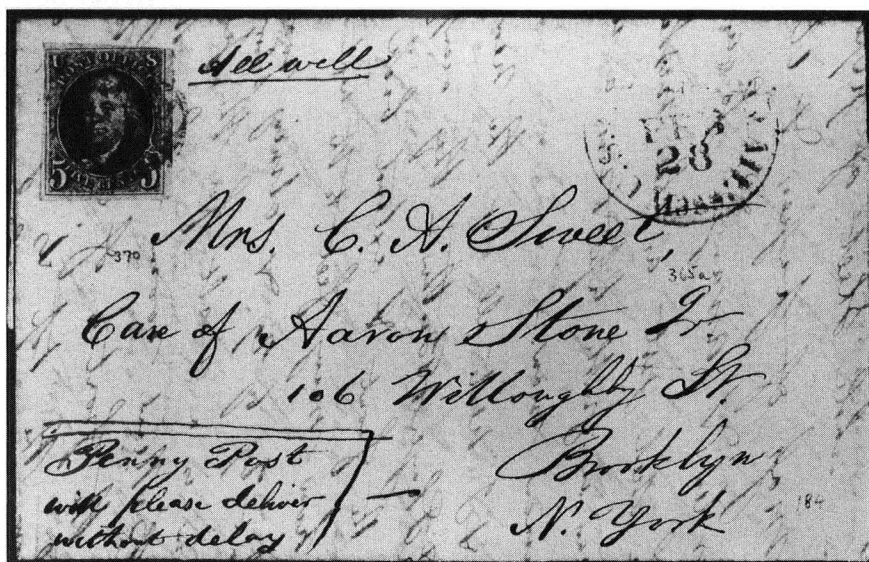
Send payment to: Robert L. Toth, 10015 Vista Dr., North Royalton, OH 44133. Next Deadline Sep. 15.

**1847 POSTAGE STAMPS USED IN COMBINATION  
WITH CARRIER AND LOCAL ADHESIVES**

**ROBERT B. MEYERSBURG**

For years, covers franked with both 1847 series postage stamps and private dispatch company or "semi-official" carrier stamps resided in the more sophisticated classic cover collections, where they provided cosmetic relief to 1847 presentations by virtue of their added color and interest. They were not widely collected because a general feeling existed that many of these non-postage emissions were not genuine, and represented a risky investment. This feeling was supported by the expert committees, who usually refused to offer opinions unless the carrier or local stamps were clearly tied with the same strike that canceled the postage stamps, even though in many cases, the stamps received no cancellation.

Now that there is a broader understanding of the supplementary services provided by local dispatch posts and the Post Office's carrier system, it is possible to provide a much better evaluation of their adhesive emissions and the covers on which they are used. Consequently these covers project a much wider collecting interest per se than they did as decorative additions to a good 1847 postal exhibit.



**Figure 1. Folded letter postmarked U.S. Express Mail, Boston, Mass., Feb. 28, 1848, to Brooklyn with instruction "Penny Post will please deliver without delay."**

Figure 1 is a reminder that carrier service was active during the 1847-1851 period even in cities that did not issue their own adhesives.

Many of the covers illustrated in this article have changed hands since the photographs were taken, so if you happen to be one of the lucky owners, thank you for your after-the-fact permission to include them. Special thanks are due to Henry Wenk, who graciously made available photographs of his remarkable collection of 1847 combination covers, certainly the best ever assembled; to Robson Lowe, who combed through his vast file of photographs to extract and forward all those of combination covers; and to Don Johnstone, who found for me pertinent photos from Elliot Perry's manuscript that were missing from my copy.

Carrier and local stamps discussed herein will be identified by their *Scott Specialized Catalogue* numbers.

### 1847s COMBINED WITH CARRIERS

Since the 1847 postal series was declared invalid on July 1, 1851, and since the official carrier stamps LO1 and LO2 were not issued until the fall of 1851, there can be no legitimate combinations of these stamps on cover.

#### Baltimore, MD.

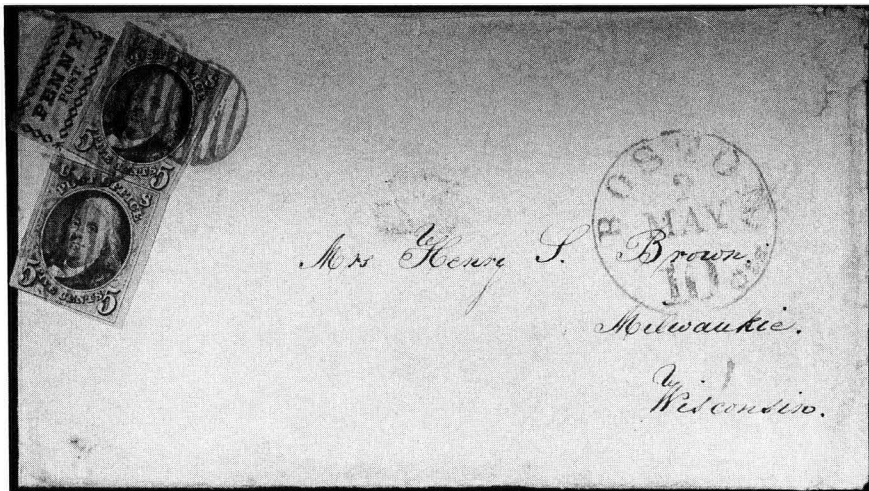
1LB1 + 5¢ 1847: two covers, both addressed to Philadelphia in 1850 (May 27 and Nov. 11).

No examples of 1LB2, 3 or 4 have surfaced.

1LB5 + 5¢ 1847: a single example on a double letter (due 5) to Philadelphia (Nov. 11, no year date).

#### Boston, Mass.

3LB1 + 5¢ 1847: twenty two covers and two pieces of cover, used between May 1849 and April 1851.



**Figure 2.** Two copies of 5¢ paying rate from Boston, May 2, 1849, to Milwaukee with Penny Post 1¢ blue.

3LB1 + 2X5¢ 1847: one cover, dated May 2, 1849, to Milwaukee. (Figure 2).

3LB2 + 5¢ 1847: two covers, with the carrier stamps the gray paper variety, used Oct. 3, 1850, and April 30, 1851 (Figure 3). A third cover, with the carrier stamp on bluish paper, is mentioned in some old correspondence, but has never been seen. Unless confirmation of its existence follows the publication of this listing, it should be stricken from these records.

#### Charleston, S.C.

4LB1 + 10¢ 1847: a single cover, July 14 (year of use unknown), addressed to New York, with the carrier stamp cut to shape. (Figure 4).

4LB2 + 10¢ 1847: one cover, dated July 18, 1849, used to Montgomery, Alabama.

4LB5 + 2X5¢ 1847: two covers, both used in 1850, one with two separate copies of the 5¢, the other with a pair of the 5¢.



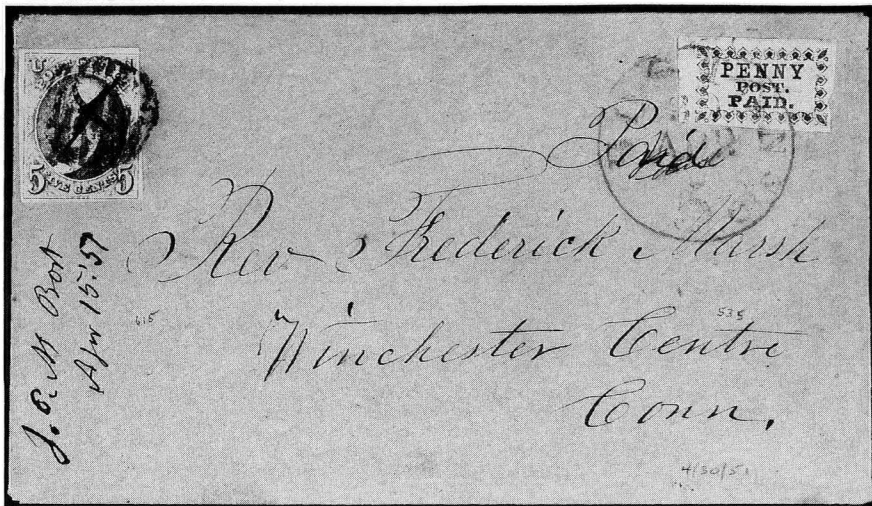


Figure 3. Boston, April 30, 1851, to Winchester Centre, Conn., with Penny Post Paid on gray paper.

4LB8 + 5¢ 1847: two covers used in 1851, one with 4LB8b (CENS error).

4LB8 + 10¢ 1847: a single June 7, 1851, example used to Philadelphia.

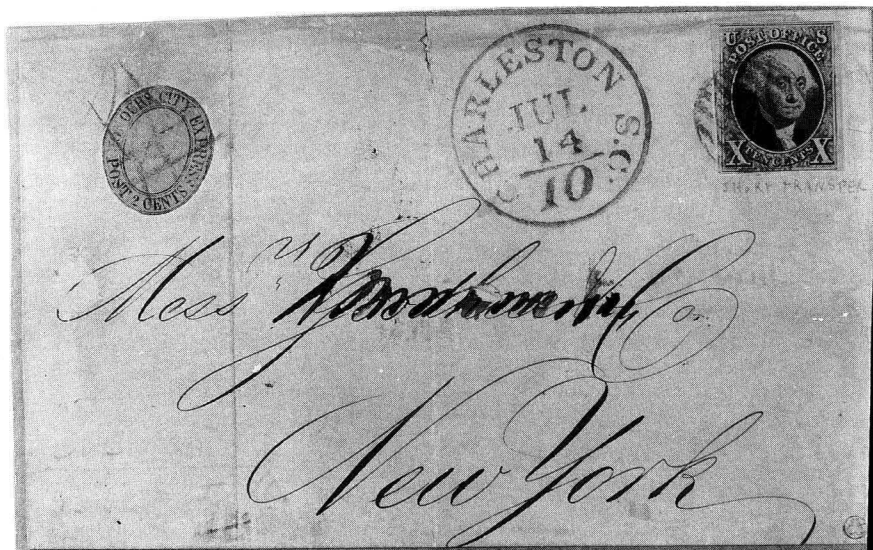


Figure 4. Charleston, S.C., to New York, July 14 (nyd), 10¢ 1847 with Honour's 2¢ black on brown rose.

#### New York, N.Y.

6LB9 + 5¢ 1847: eight covers used between 1849 and 1851. (Figure 5).

6LB10 + 5¢ 1847: nine covers used between 1849 and 1851. (Figure 6).

6LB11 + 5¢ 1847: thirteen covers used between 1849 and 1851. (Figure 7).

6LB11 + 2X5¢ 1847: one used May 17, 1850; the other, year of use unknown.



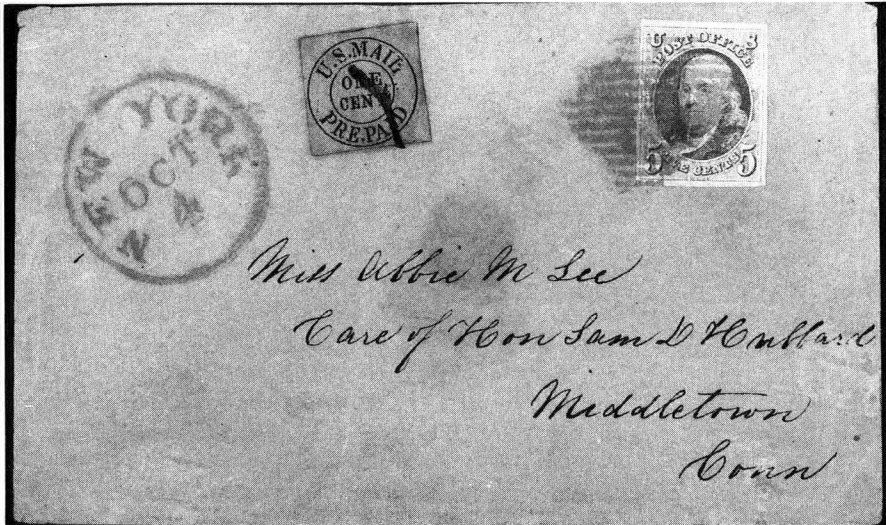


Figure 5. New York to Middletown, Conn., Oct. 4 (nyd), with 1¢ U.S. Mail black on rose.

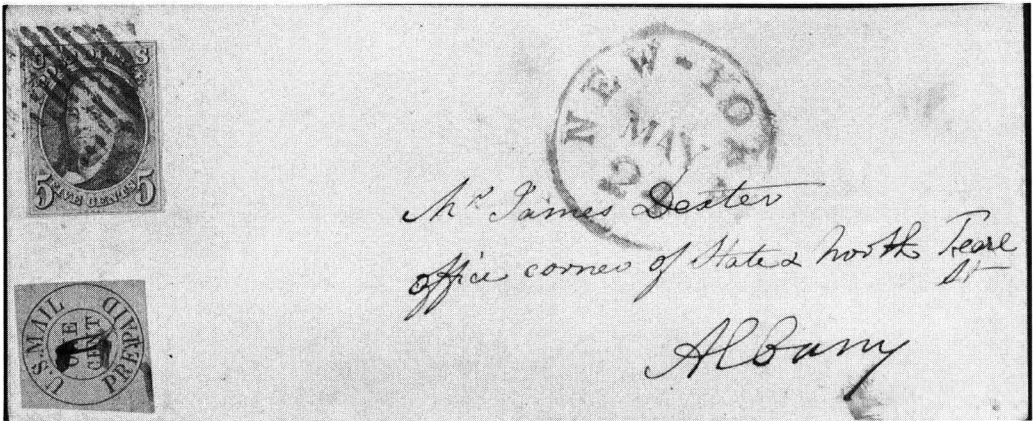


Figure 6. New York to Albany, May 24 (nyd), with U.S. Mail 1¢ black on yellow.

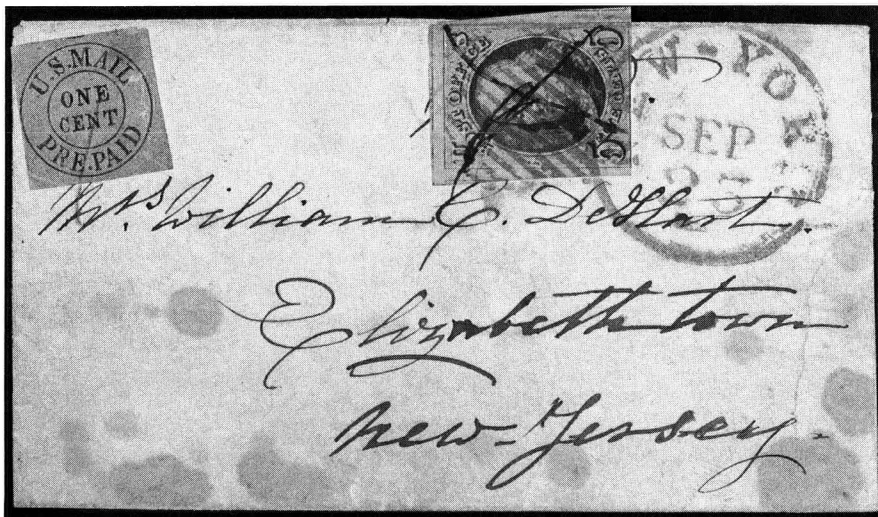


Figure 7. New York to Elizabethtown, N.J., Sept. 23 (nyd), with U.S. Mail 1¢ black on buff.

(To be continued)

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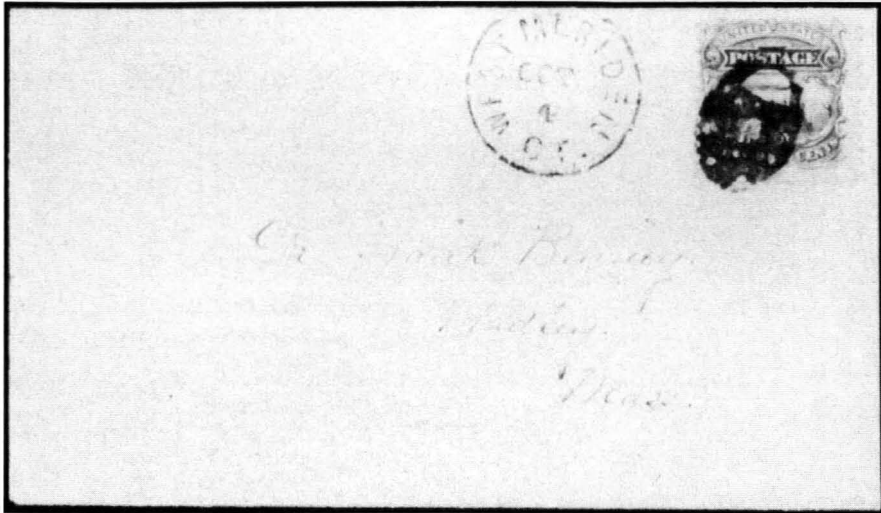
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**COUNTY AND POSTMASTER NAMED POSTAL DEVICES 1792-1869**

**JAMES W. MILGRAM, M.D.**

(Continued from *Chronicle* 150:99)

**MISSOURI**

CANTON/LEWIS CO. MO., DC-25, 1869, black (Plate 6 - photographs, A).

STEPHEN'S STORE/CALLOWAY CO./MO., C-37, 1867, black.

WARRENTON, MO./G.F. BOSWELL, P.M., C-34, 1861, black.

This is one of the few town postmarks during the classic period that contains the postmaster's name. The depicted example was used on a patriotic cover (Figure 31).



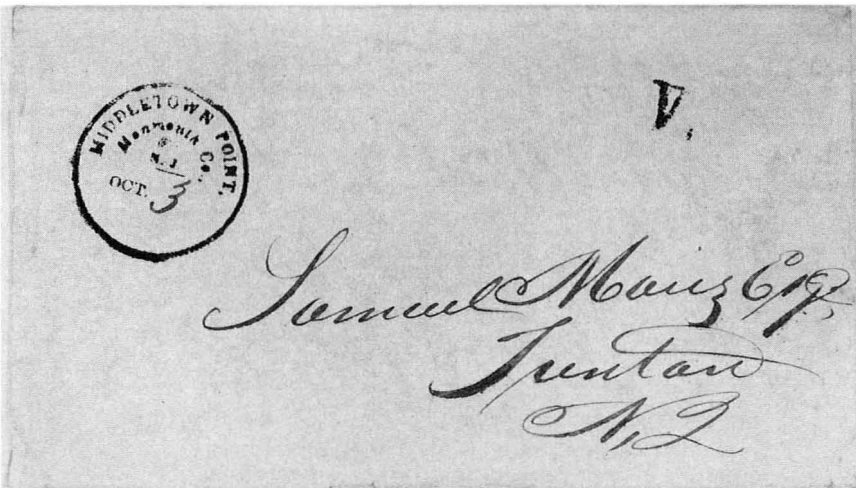
**Figure 31. "WARRENTON, MO. G.F. BOSWELL, P.M. JUL 26 1861" ties 3¢ 1857 to patriotic cover.**

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

LYMAN N. H., C-30, 1850, red. Free., FREEMAN HINMAN P.M. in red straight lines.

**NEW JERSEY**

GREENSBURG/MERCER CO./N.J., C-37, 1857, black (Plate 5 - drawings, A).



**Figure 32. "MIDDLETOWN POINT. Monmouth Co. N.J. OCT. 3" (1847) and "V" Roman numeral five rating marking. This is the second style of this postmark which is really an arc format in an enclosed circle.**

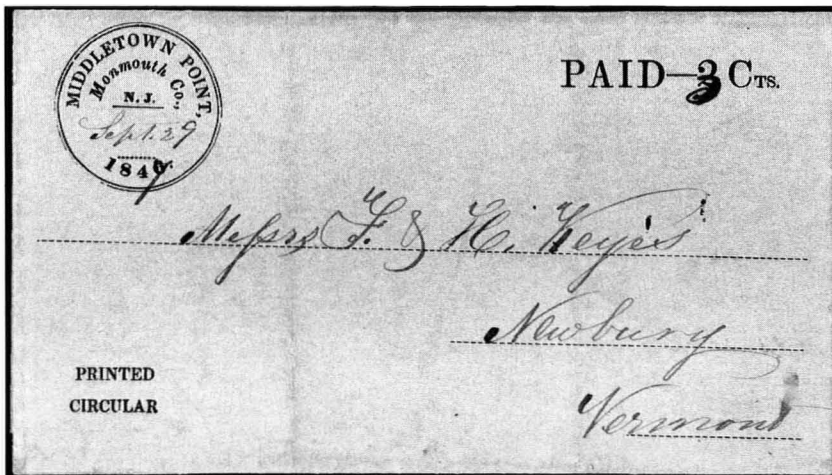
LEONIA/BERGEN CO. N.J., double oval, 1868, black (Plate 5 - drawings, B).  
MANCHESTER, N.J., C-22, 1869, blue. C. C. BRISTOL/POST MASTER/Manchester,  
Ocean Co./NEW JERSEY in oval, 37 x 21, black.

The very unusual circular killer on the cover shown in Plate 6, B bears both the postmaster's name and the name of the county. There is a second dated town postmark. The oval marking may have been prepared as a free franking mark, but the only examples seen have been on stamps.

MATAWAN,/MONMOUTH CO. N.J., DC, 1867, black (Plate 5 - drawings, C).  
MIDDLETOWN POINT/Monmouth Co./N.J./1846, C-32, 1846, red.  
MIDDLETOWN POINT/Monmouth Co./N.J., C-32, 1847, black.

The circular county marking from this town was first year-dated. Then later examples are undated (Figure 32). It should be observed that the upper half of this postmark is really an arc format even though it is enclosed within a circle.

MIDDLETOWN POINT/Monmouth Co./N.J., C-32 printed, 1846, black.



**Figure 33. "MIDDLETOWN POINT Monmouth Co. N.J. Sept 9 1847" black printed postmark with date altered in ms. Also printed "PAID - 2 CTS." and "PRINTED CIRCULAR" with printed lines for address. The postal rate was altered from two to three cents in ms. because of a change of circular postal rates in 1847. One of the few printed county postmarks.**

Also printed PAID-2 CTS. and PRINTED CIRCULAR.

The depicted example (Figure 33) was used in 1847 and revalued in manuscript to 3 cts (the then current circular rate). The printed version of this postmark was obviously copied for a circular from the handstamped postmark.

NEWTON,/SUSSEX CO. N.J., three S.L. 24 X 14, 1825, red.

The straight line type postmark from this town is one of the most unusual New Jersey stampless postmarks (Plate 6, C). It is also unusual in that the date was placed between the other two lines of the postmark.

## NEW YORK

ALBION ORLEANS CO. (N.Y.), C-29, 1826, red, black (Plate 5 - drawings, D).  
AMENIA UNION SOCIETY C. N.Y., two S.L. 36 X 6, 1832, black.  
CHANNINGVILLE/N.Y. D./Cy., C-34, 1847, red, black.

This postmark (Figure 34) is quite primitive in style, and it would appear that it was locally made together with the scroll "PAID" and "5." The placement of the county abbreviation within the center of the circle is most unusual. The marking was probably wooden and did not allow for moveable type insertion for the month and date; thus these are handwritten.



PLATE V



A



B



C



D



E



F

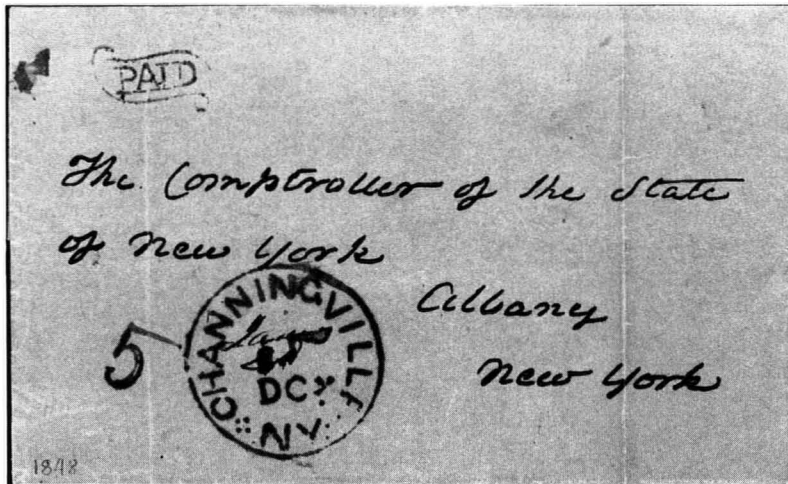


Figure 34. "CHANNINGVILLE N.Y. D Cy." with ms. date, "5" and "PAID" in scroll, all in red.

CLINTON POINT/DUTCHESS CO./N.Y., C-37, 1857, black (Plate 5 - drawings, E).

COOPERSTOWN, OTSEGO CO. N.Y., C-32 NOR, 1816, black (Plate 6 - photographs, D).

This postmark is the second earliest recorded type of county postmark, known according to Hahn with usages February 1, 1816, to January 11, 1817.

COOPERSTOWN, OTSEGO. N.Y., C-33 NOR, 1817, black, red (Plate 6 - photographs, E).

The example shown is from early 1817. Fortunately for collectors it is not particularly rare.

FARNHAM/ERIE CO. N.Y., oval 35 x 25, 1850s, black.

The town postmark from this town (Figure 35) is an unusual oval type county postmark.





Figure 35. "FARNHAM ERIE CO. N.Y. DEC 2" in oval ties 3¢ 1857.

FLORIDA, /Montgomery Co., oval 33 x 25, 1814, black.

Florida, New York, according to Calvet Hahn, has the distinction of having the earliest county postmark within the United States. Shown in Figure 36 is the earliest dated cover, March 3, 1814.

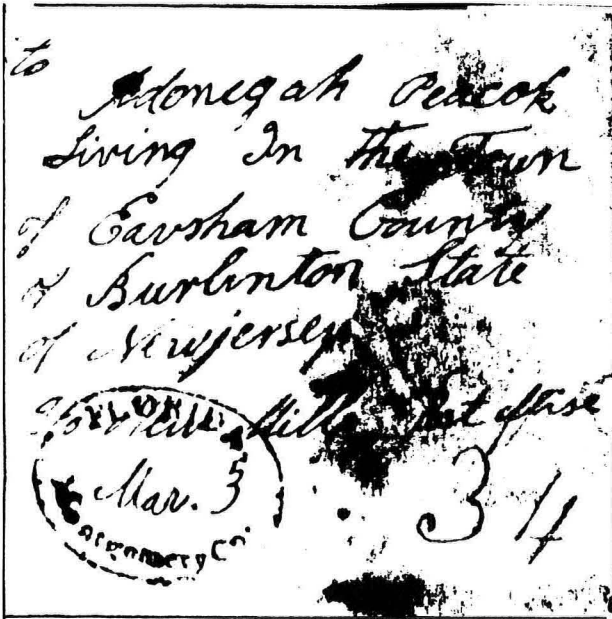


Figure 36. "FLORIDA Montgomery Co." in oval with manuscript date and rating, the earliest known type of county postmark.

FLOYD, ONEIDA CO. N.Y., DC, 1869, black.

FORT ANN N.Y./WASH. CO., oval 52 X 28, 1832, black (Plate 6 - photographs, F).

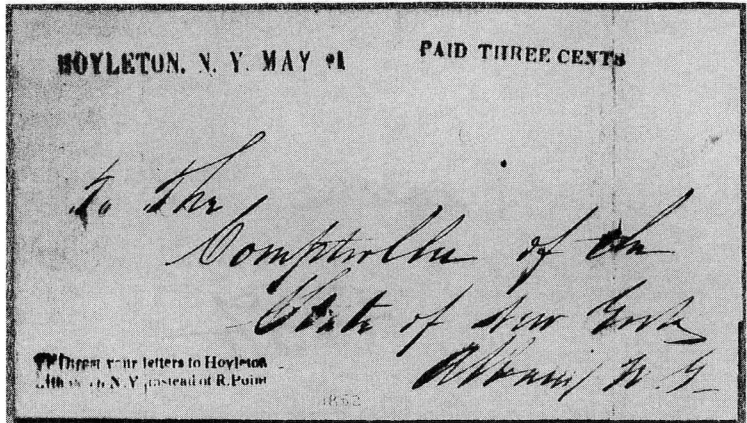
FORT ANN/WA CO NY, oval 33 x 22, 1834, black (Plate 6 - photographs, G).

HIGHLAND NURSERIES, /SCHUYLER CO./NEW YORK, oval, 1864, black (Plate 5 - drawings, F).

HOYLETON, N.Y., S.L. 33 X 3, 1852, black. "PAID THREE CENTS" in S.L., black. "Direct your letters to Hoyleston Clinton Co. N.Y. instead of R. Point." in black frame.

This marking (Figure 37) was described in some detail in the H.R. Harmer, Inc., auction sale of the Edwin Mayer Collection (February 17, 1967). The post office of Rouses

Figure 37. "HOYLETON N.Y. MAY 21" and "PAID THREE CENTS" in two straight lines. Addition directive about where to send letters.



Point was moved to a different location near to a railroad connection, but the inhabitants of the original location petitioned for its return in 1851. The post office of Hoyleton was created for the newer location, and this is the reason for this very unusual handstamped directive.

JORDANVILLE, N.Y., C-31, 1850s, black. FREE A MILLER, P M in straight line, black.

This is another handstamped postmaster's free frank (Plate 6, H). It has not been listed in any of the catalogs.

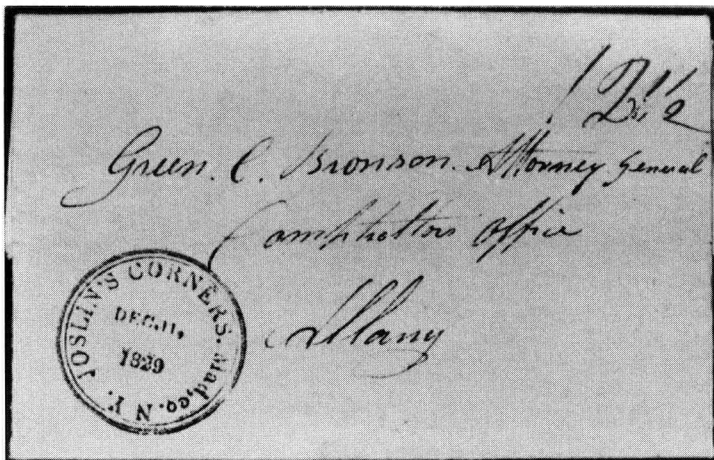


Figure 38. "JOSLIN'S CORNERS. Mad. co., N.Y. DEC. 11, 1829" and "12 1/2" ms. rating. Also an example of an early year dated postmark.

JOSLIN'S CORNERS Mad. co. N.Y., DC-33, 1829, red, black.

JOSLIN'S CORNERS Mad. co./N.Y., DC-33, 1837, black.

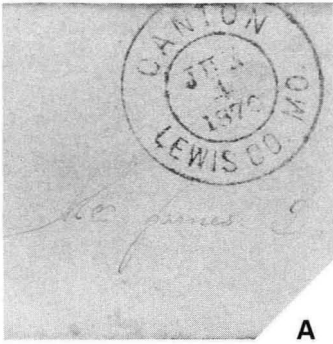
There are actually two types of town style county postmarks from this town. The earlier (Figure 38) shows the N.Y. state initials following the county's abbreviation.

The second type, shown in Figure 39 as an example from 1837, shows the N.Y. reversed. This cover also shows the fancy "PAID" used at this town.

Little Falls/Herk. Co. N.Y., two S.L. 36 x 11, 1825, red, black.

The straight line form of this town's county postmark is one of the two most common county postmarks in this format (the straight line). It is also the second earliest straight line type of county postmark. The example in Plate 6, I is in black, but it has been seen in red too. Hahn suggests that perhaps Cooperstown and Little Falls produced county postmarks because their postmasters saw the Florida marking; the towns are all located within a 30 mile radius.

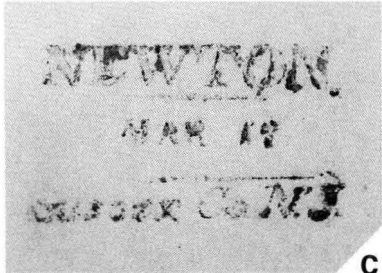
PLATE VI



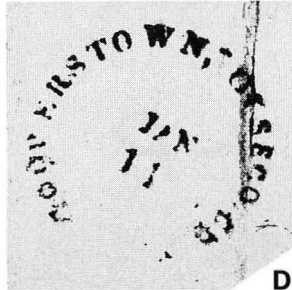
A



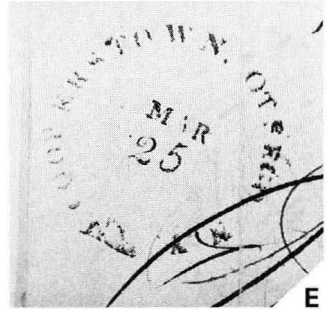
B



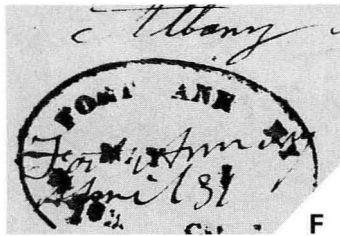
C



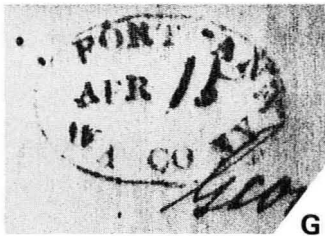
D



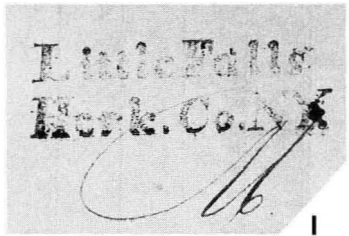
E



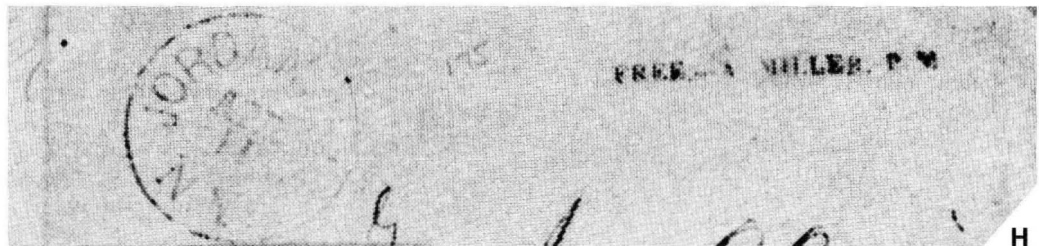
F



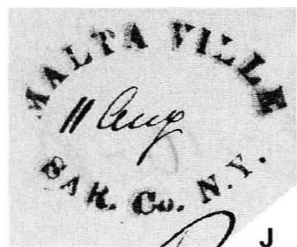
G



I



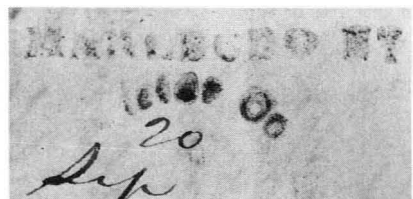
H



J



K



L

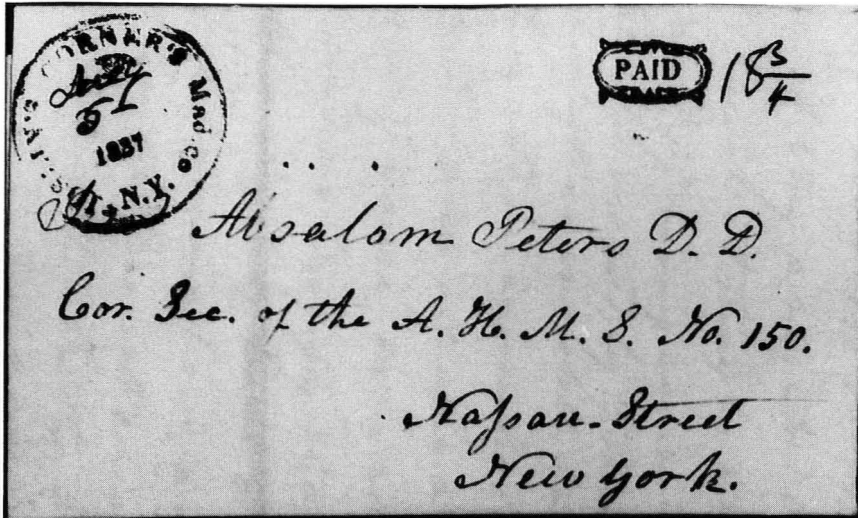


Figure 39. "JOSLIN'S CORNER'S Mad. co N.Y. Aug 5 1837" with date partly in ms. The spacing of the lettering is different from the earlier strike. The cover also bears a fancy "PAID" and ms. 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> rate marking.

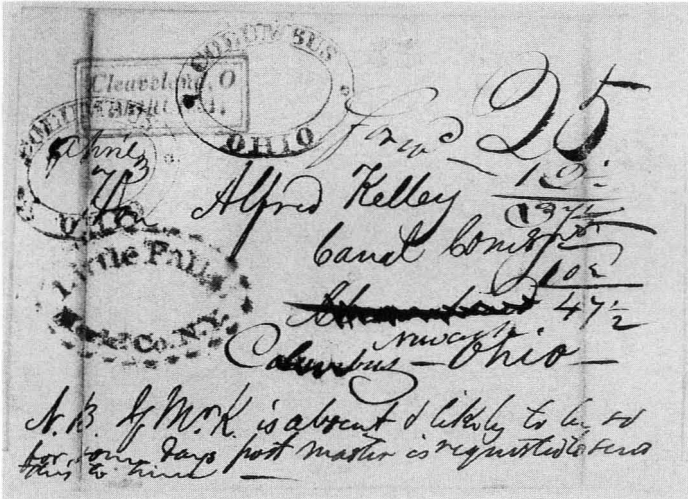


Figure 40. Much travelled cover with three fancy postmarks including red Cleveland rectangle, two black Columbus ovals, and "Little Falls Herkr. Co. N.Y." red stencil.

Little Falls/Herkr. Co., N.Y., segmented oval 38 x 24, 1829, red, black.

The oval type has been said to be a stencil postmark (Figure 40). It has also been observed in red and black, with the former more common.

MALTA-VILLE/SAR. Co. N.Y., oval NOR, 35 x 25, 1828, red (Plate 6 - photographs, J).

MARILLA P.O./ERIE CO. N.Y., DC-22, 1865, black (Plate 6 - photographs, K).

MARLBOROUGH, Ulster Co. N.Y., C-30 NOR, 1829, black.

MARLBORO N.Y., S.L. 36 X 3, 1832, red. Ulster Co., arc 20 x 6, red.

The 1829 Marlboro postmark spells the town's name as "MARLBOROUGH" (Figure 41). However, the 1832 example (Plate 6, L) shows the name as "MARLBORO," its present spelling.

MORNINGVILLE P.O./WESTCHESTER CO. N.Y., two S.L. in rectangle 55 x 20, 1850, red, black.

This postmark was used for a fairly long period of time during the period of transition from stampless covers to stamps for the prepayment of postage. Therefore, examples exist both as stampless or stamped covers (Figure 42). The date was typically written as shown in the figure between the two lines of the postmark.



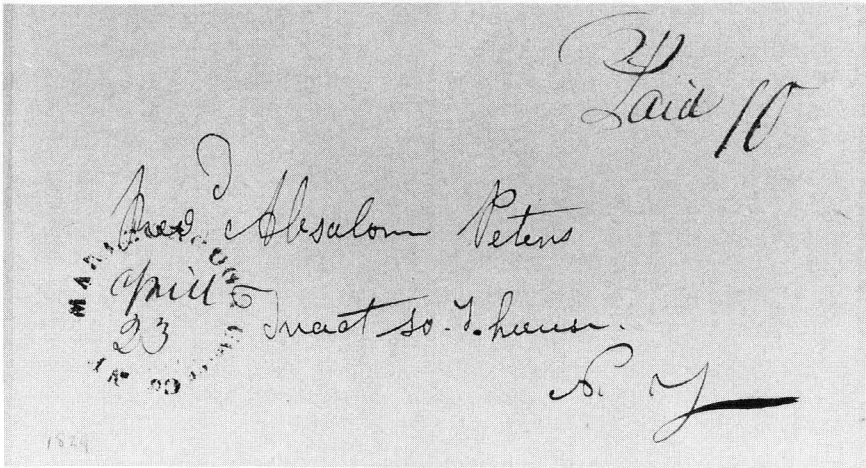


Figure 41. "MARLBOROUGH Ulster Co. N.Y." with ms. "Paid 10," 1829 cover before town's change in name to Marlboro.

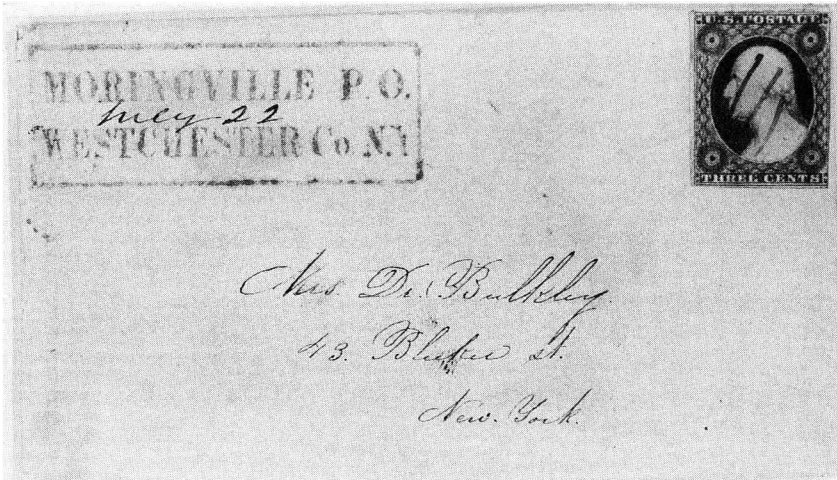


Figure 42. "MORNINGVILLE P.O. WESTCHESTER Co. N.Y." in red frame, ms. dating, 3¢ 1851 ms. cancel.

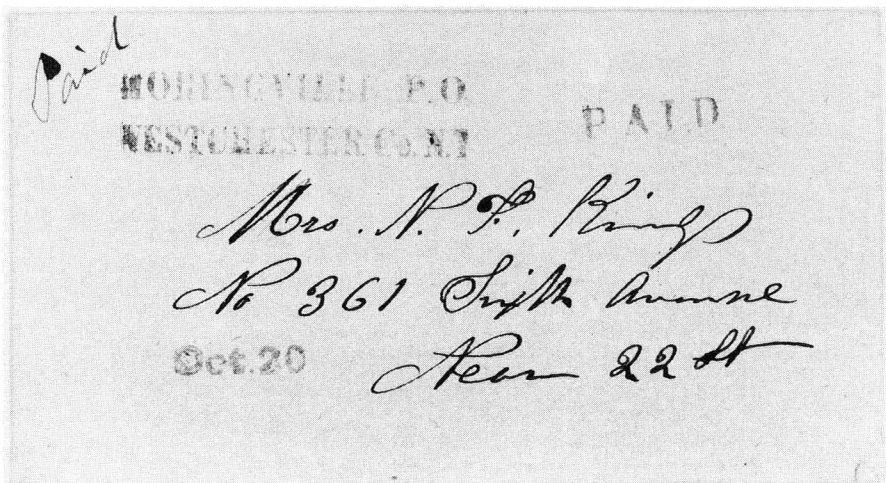


Figure 43. "MORNINGVILLE P.O. WESTCHESTER Co. N.Y." in two red straight lines, no frame, separate date "Oct. 20" and "PAID."

MORNINGVILLE P.O./WESTCHESTER Co. N.Y., two S.L. 52½ x 13, 1859, red, separate month and date in straight line.

The rimless type of this marking was used with a separate datestamp as shown in Figure 43. The "PAID" does not signify the postal rate, which was three cents in the depicted example.

(To be continued)

## THE BEGINNINGS OF THE DUPLEX STYLE HANDSTAMPS, 1859-62

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The *Chronicle* for May 1985 (No. 126) included articles by Thomas J. Alexander in the 1851-61 section and by myself in the 1861 section about the handstamps patented by Marcus P. Norton of Troy, N. Y., on Aug. 9, 1859 (U.S. Patent no. 25036). Alexander wrote about the devices' having been tested in the spring of 1859 at Troy, N.Y. A tracing adapted from the patent drawing of the handstamping device is shown in Figure 1. By "adapted" is meant that the tracing, while taken from the main patent drawing, has a few of its parts and features redrawn, arranged, explained and identified in accordance with the references in the text of the patent. The terms by which the parts are identified in the tracing are those by which they are referred to in the patent, even though we might use different terms today.

When Marcus P. Norton applied for his patent in 1859, the key feature of the patent was the quick setting date aspect, provided by what Norton termed "type cylinders" arranged much as mileage readings of traditional mechanical automobile odometers. The use of the wheels eliminated the need for a separate font of letters and numbers designed to specifically fit the handstamp. To change the date, it was only necessary to loosen the nut on the shaft of the handstamp and rotate and realign the type cylinders to the required date.

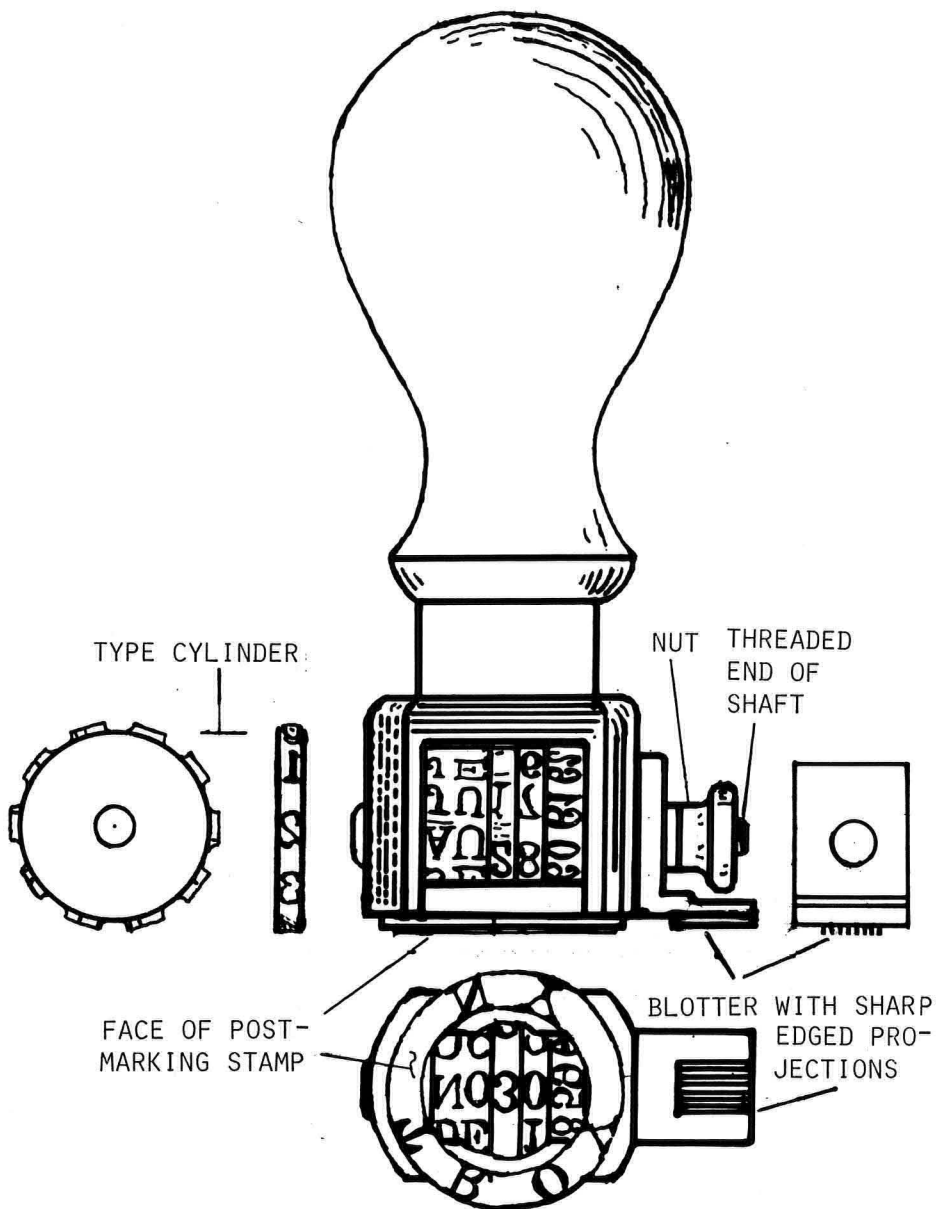
The markings provided by the handstamps of Norton's patent of 1859 are very distinctive, as may be seen by the tracings shown in Figure 2, which display Troy markings from a three months test conducted there in 1859 and New York markings applied from a group of this style of handstamps in 1861-62.

The town name is in large style letters between two circles. If the instruments were made as outlined in the patent, the letters of the town name were loose special type clamped between rings. The type on the month type cylinder had two-letter abbreviations of the month, such as "MA" for "May" and "JE" for "June." The patent shows "JU" and "AU" for July and August, of the twelve month settings. The two cylinders for dates would have been made identical today, but in Norton's patent, he indicated the first digit type cylinder had but the required "1, 2 and 3" for the first digit of the day of month date and the second day of month type cylinder had the full ten numbers. The year date cylinder, so Norton stated, also had ten digits to cover ten years of use, and it is the year date of the markings produced by this instrument that really makes it distinctive. Evidently to save space, Norton had these made with the year date on its side, in a single row, rather than the double digit wheel one would expect.

Specialists call the markings with such year dates "lazy" year dates because the date lies on its side relative to the rest of the date.

Although this was evidently the main feature of Norton's original claims, the type cylinders feature of Norton's claims for this patent were denied by the U.S. Patent Office because of prior art in the form of a patent granted to one T.J.W. Robertson on September 27, 1857, presumably for a similar device. I have not tried to obtain a copy of that patent as the revolving date feature, as devised by Norton, was not involved in the subsequent history (after 1862) of the other features of the Norton handstamps as used by the U.S. Post Office Department.

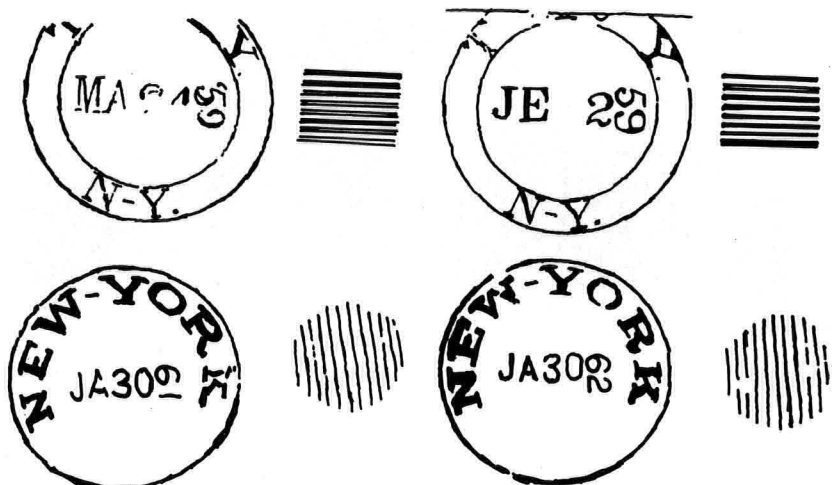




DRAWING ADAPTED FROM DRAWINGS OF PATENT No. 25036,  
 GRANTED TO MARCUS P. NORTON ON AUGUST 9, 1859.

**Figure 1. The Norton patented handstamper used at Troy, New York, in 1859. This drawing is adapted from the main patent drawings correlated with part identifications from the text of the patent.**

Much of the data about the subsequent history is included in a set of documents submitted by the Postmaster General in 1865 and published by order of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads of the House of Representatives during the second session of the 38th Congress. Titled "Ex Document 27," the first part was submitted by Postmaster General Dennison Jan. 19, and Part 2 on Jan. 27 by the same official. The documents pertain to claims submitted by Shavor and Corse of Troy, N.Y., re the cancelling and marking



**Figure 2. Markings produced by the Norton style handstamp with adjustable rate cylinders and attached "blotters."**

stamp invented by Norton.

While there was apparently no action as a result of the claims made at that time, the whole situation culminated in a case before the U.S. Supreme Court on which a decision was rendered in October 1881 denying the claims. The records of *James vs. Campbell* also provide us with a good deal of data regarding the early uses of the Norton handstampers at Troy and New York, but for further information on *James vs. Campbell* the reader is referred to Alexander's article in *Chronicle* 126.

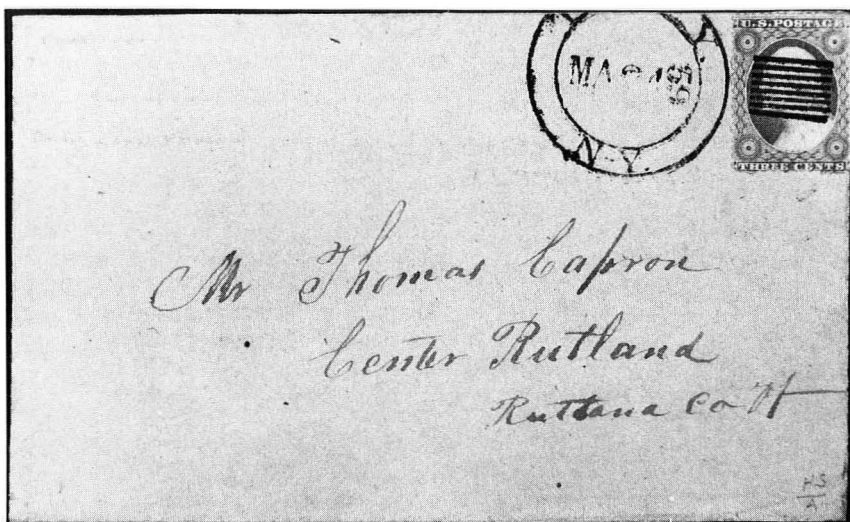
The purpose of this article is to trace the place of the early Norton markings in the development of the duplex style handstamps used in the United States. Duplex handstamps are those made so that both the town datestamp and a killer to cancel a stamp may be applied with one blow of the handstamp. Such handstamps have a dual function provided, as Norton did, by attaching the killer to the town datestamp or, as was done later, attaching both town datestamp and killer solidly to one handle.

Norton's original purpose of attaching the killer portion or, as he called it, the "blotter," was that "sharp projections" or blades on the blotter would not only apply ink to cancel the stamp but would permit penetration of the ink so that even if an attempt was made to wash it off, some of the ink and the cuts in the surface of the stamp would remain as evidence the stamp had been previously used. Norton's original patent of 1859 emphasized the flexible and transitory nature of his "blotter." It was attached or held in place only by a thumbnut on the threaded portion of the shaft through the handstamp on which the type cylinders revolved.

At that time, the idea of the attached killer wasn't very important since most post offices in the United States simply used their town datestamps to cancel the stamps, or used separate killer handstamps when the occasion demanded. The regulations of 1857 and 1859, as Alexander pointed out in his article in *Chronicle* 126, discouraged the use of the townmark to cancel stamps unless black printers' ink was used, but did not positively prohibit the practice. The reason the practice was discouraged was really twofold. First, the townmark didn't always produce a clear strike with a readable date when used to cancel the stamps. Secondly, and this evidently became of increasing importance to the Post Office Department as time passed, the use of the town datestamps often didn't provide a satisfactory cancelling job on the stamps so that washing off a bit of ink and reusing them was considered a distinct possibility by the Department.

Joseph Holt of Kentucky took over as Postmaster General on March 14, 1859, moving to that post from being Commissioner of the U.S. Patent Office. A fair index of Holt's approach and personality is, perhaps, revealed by the fact that in later years he was Judge Advocate General of the United States Army. In any event, both with the matter of carrier rates and on postmarking mail his ideas were far more arbitrary than those of his predecessors or, from what we can learn, than preferred by other Post Office Department officials.

On July 23, 1860, Holt issued an order positively prohibiting the use of the town datestamps to cancel stamps. The order required that "a distinct canceller must be used." This order caused more time and/or manpower to be used in handstamping mail collected or brought in by carrier in the larger cities, as two impressions rather than one, and those with separate instruments, had to be made upon each letter. The problem brought to mind of some postmasters either devices in use in England for some years previously or, perhaps, remembrance of Norton's Troy postmarks in use three months in 1859 on an experimental basis.



**Figure 3. Cover with 3¢ 1857 stamp postmarked with the experimental Norton handstamp at Troy, N.Y. in May 1859. Note the "lazy" or sideways year date.**

Actually, there were apparently two different test periods of Norton's devices at Troy. The first involved but 3000 letters, apparently not long prior to April 1859, as noted in a letter from Norton to the Post Office Department in that month. This letter, cited by the late Arthur H. Bond in an article in *Postal History Journal* of June 1963, requested that the handstamp, improved over the first trial, again be tested at Troy. Troy was Norton's home town. The test was authorized by First Ass't Postmaster General Horatio King for a period of three months from May 4, 1859. Three covers from that test are now recorded. One, dated June 2, 1859, was illustrated in Alexander's article in *Chronicle* 126. Two more examples have since been reported, one by Wilson Hulme and the other by Frank Mandel. The example reported by Hulme is shown in Figure 3. This marking, dated "MA" (May) 24, 1859, is shown as a tracing in Figure 2, and was used to cancel the 3¢ 1857 stamp on the cover. Notes on the back of the cover indicate it once belonged to Dr. Carroll Chase, but I have found no reference to it in his epic work on the 3¢ stamps of 1851-57. Both Chase and Stanley B. Ashbrook mention the New York version of the Norton patent markings in their works on the 3¢ and 1¢ 1851-57 stamps. Both also recognized that the New York "town and killer" were on the same handstamp, as Chase phrased it, but neither, apparently, had seen an example of the Troy version at the time their books were published.

Tracy W. Simpson was the first to list the Troy marking, showing it in his schedule

A-4 of Year Dated Townmarks in his pioneering *United States Postal Markings, 1851 to 1861*, published by himself in 1959. Simpson's tracing of the marking came from the cover shown in Figure 3, but he made no mention of the attached killer. Simpson also listed the New York version in the same schedule.

These listings carried over into the more recent *Simpson's U.S. Postal Markings, 1851-61*, compiled by Alexander and published by this society in 1979. In his article in *Chronicle* 126, Alexander revised the Troy listing to show the duplexed "patent" killer's impression.

Chase, Ashbrook and Simpson listed only killers they considered unusual in their records, and if they noticed the Troy eight-bar killer, it apparently was not deemed unusual

POST OFFICE, *New York, August 8, 1860.*

SIR: The order of the Postmaster General of the 23d ultimo, prohibiting the cancelling of postage stamps by the dotting or post-marking stamps, and requiring the work to be done by a separate instrument, could not be executed in this office without an increase of our clerical force. We were compelled, a few days ago, to keep back a mail nearly half an hour in order that the postage stamps on the letters to be transmitted by it might be properly cancelled.

When the letters amount to tens of thousands, the duplication of the work of cancelling and post-marking is a very serious matter. On Monday our carriers and messengers brought to this office 11,985 letters for the mails. In this extremity, and with an extreme reluctance to augment the clerical force of the office for the purpose of doing the work, I have hit upon an expedient which answers the purpose perfectly. It occurred to me that the "separate instrument" required by the department might be attached to the post-marking stamp, and I sent for the stamp-maker and gave him my idea, which he has carried out very well. The cancelling stamp is soldered on to the other, so that one handle answers for both, and the double operation is performed with one blow. There is, therefore, no increase of work.

I send you a specimen of the work on the enclosed envelope.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN A. DIX, P. M.

Hon. HORATIO KING,  
*First Assistant P. M. General.*

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
*Appointment Office, Washington, August 10, 1860.*

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, in relation to cancelling stamps. The arrangement is an excellent one, and will save much labor in making up the mails, but I fear the attachment you have affixed to your marking stamps has not only been thought of before, but has actually been patented; if so, it may at some future time subject your office to a heavy charge to the patentee for its use, or perhaps to a lawsuit. The Postmaster General therefore desires that you will give the subject such timely attention as will be calculated to avoid such consequences.

He also desires me to call your attention to the imperfect impressions made by the marking stamps in your office, and to ask if a remedy cannot be found for the defect. Complaints are received at the department almost daily, from all parts of the Union, on this subject, and the Postmaster General would be much gratified if some plan could be devised to make them less frequent.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

ST. JOHN B. L. SKINNER,  
*Acting First Assistant P. M. General.*

Hon. JOHN A. DIX, *Postmaster, New York, N. Y.*

Figure 4. Letter of John A. Dix of August 8, 1860, advising the Post Office Department of his invention of the duplex style used at New York and the reply of acting First Assistant Postmaster General St. John B.L. Skinner. From U.S. House of Representatives Executive Document of the second session of the 38th Congress in 1865.

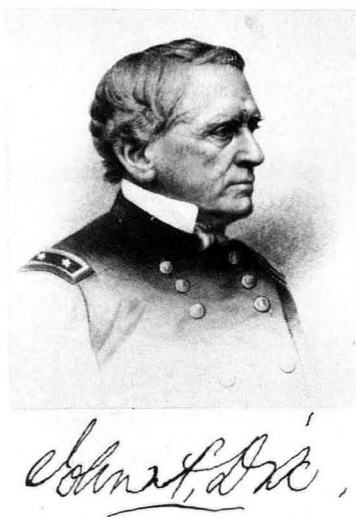
enough to show. It is also obvious they didn't realize it was a "patent" (philatelic definition, meaning intended to cut the surface of the stamp) type killer. This is easily understood, since I have not seen the slightest indication of the surface of the paper's being cut with either of the two examples of the covers with Troy markings I've been given the opportunity to examine. The "sharp projections," described by Norton in his patent of 1859 were either not made so in the first place or dulled very rapidly. If, as Norton suggested in his patent text of 1859, the "blotter" was manufactured from malleable or cast iron or even mild steel, they would have dulled rapidly, and referring to the detail of the patent, his "projections" would have been difficult to have manufactured and even more difficult to have sharpened from a practical standpoint.

Thus, the Troy patent handstamp, used for three months as authorized by the First Assistant Postmaster General on May 4, 1859, evidently disappeared for good after the test, judging by the dates seen and reported of its use. I have been attempting to assemble covers with Troy, N.Y., markings of the 1853-65 span of years and while positive evidence has yet to be seen, other markings were apparently in use not only after the test period but while it was in progress. While the Troy post office would obviously have had several postmarking devices, the presumption is that the Norton instrument was given back to Norton or to Shavor and Corse, to whom he had assigned his patent rights, after the test.

Postmaster General Joseph Holt's order of July 1860 actually ignored the economic factors of the situation, when it required that a distinct or separate canceller had to be used to cancel the stamps. Not only was more labor involved to apply two strikes rather than one to every cover, but there were other factors relative to the efficiency of the postal operations involved.

At that time, John A. Dix was postmaster at New York City, and in early August of 1860, he realized that duplex style markings would solve the problems created by Holt's order. On August 8, 1860, he wrote First Assistant Postmaster General Horatio King outlining the problems caused by the order of July 23 and his solution to it. Both his letter and the reply, signed by St. John B.L. Skinner, as acting 1st Ass't PMG, were eventually printed in Executive document 27 of the 2nd session of the 38th Congress. These printed copies are shown as Figure 4.

It is probable the word given as "dotting" in the Executive document transcription should have been "dating." Anyone who has ever tried to read anything written by John A. Dix will concede his prominence among the champion scribblers of all time, so misreadings of words in his letter by the printer to whom it was given are not surprising.



**Figure 5. Major General John A. Dix.**

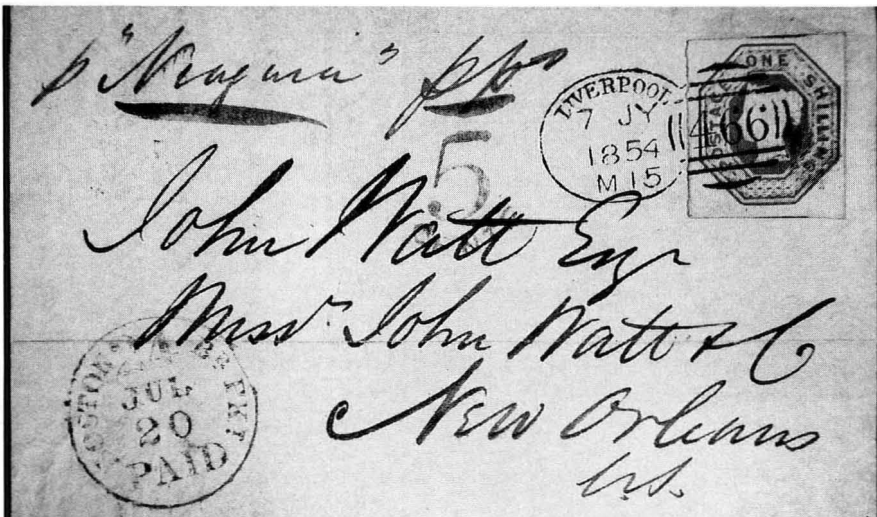


Dix resigned as New York Postmaster to become Secretary of the Treasury in January 1861, where he served for two months until the Lincoln administration took over. He was appointed a major general of volunteers (note Figure 5) by Lincoln on May 16, 1861, and spent most of the war in administrative posts. Although a political appointee, Dix had more military experience than many such officers as he had fought at Lundy's Lane in the War of 1812 at the age of 14 and continued in the regular army until 1828. It was as Secretary of the Treasury he issued the order for which he became famous, when southerners attempted to take over Treasury Dept. revenue cutters, "If anyone attempts to haul down the American flag, shoot him on the spot." Although Dix was a prominent Democrat, he was highly respected by men of both parties, and his participation in the early use of the duplexes and his subsequent testimony, although unclear about just who was responsible for which device, carried a great deal of impact.



**Figure 6. British duplex handstamps of patterns in use as early as 1853.**

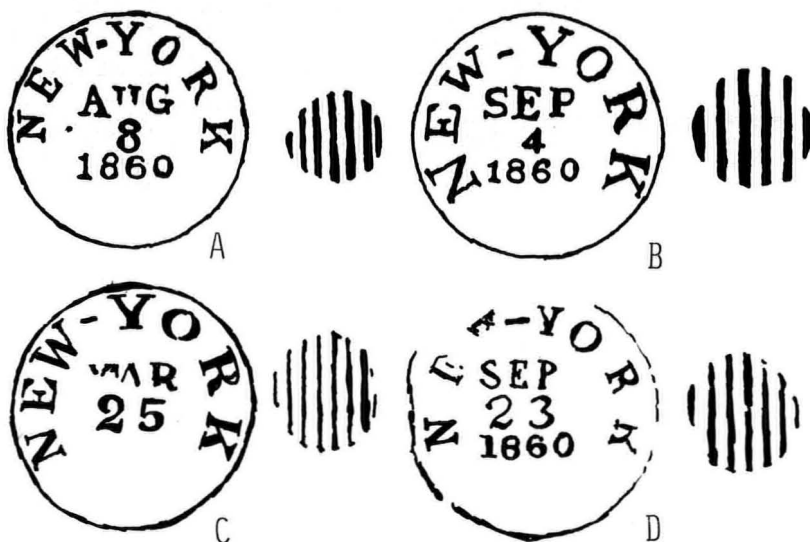
Just where Dix got his idea for the duplex handstamps he had made is not certain. Perhaps it was what the patent field today calls "obvious" but it also could have been from frequently seeing letters from England bearing duplex markings. The British were using duplex markings as early as 1853, according to Robson Lowe's *Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Vol. I, Great Britain and The Empire in Europe*, pp. 266-7. Figure 6 shows tracings of two such markings, that at left (from Lowe) having been used in the London Inland office in 1853, and the Liverpool "spoon" duplex design being traced from the cover shown in Figure 7. As New York Postmaster, Dix would surely have seen many such letters passing through his foreign exchange branch of the New York post office. By 1859, the use of duplex markings, such as the Hull and Liverpool "spoons," had become routine and probably not only John A. Dix (and, probably, Marcus P. Norton) but also



**Figure 7. Cover from Liverpool to New Orleans sent in 1854 with 1 shilling stamp canceled by a Liverpool "spoon" duplex handstamp. U.S. postmasters would have seen many similar uses of British duplex handstamps by 1860.**

most large city postmasters in the United States had seen many such markings, obviously with killer and town datestamp applied with one strike.

Referring to the letters shown in Figure 4 as printed in Executive document 27 of the 2nd session of the 38th Congress, Postmaster Dix on August 8, 1860, stated that he had the required "separate instruments" for cancelling the stamp soldered to the sides of the postmarking stamps. He had called in the "stamp-maker," probably Edmund Hoole who lived in the area and had manufactured most of the metal postmarking devices furnished under contract to the Post Office Department for larger post offices throughout the country since the early 1840s. Hoole had been, as he stated in one of the affidavits of Executive document 27; the sub-contractor who made the products for Wheelen & Co., in the Fillmore administration, and for Cornwell in the Pierce administration. He obtained the contract for himself for the Buchanan administration (actually, 1859-63) and was again sub-contractor for Fairbanks & Co. who obtained the contract in 1863.



**Figure 8. The markings made by the duplex handstamps made for Postmaster John A. Dix of New York City in 1860.**

Figure 8 shows four examples of the New-York duplex type used in 1860-1861. There may have been as many as eight different instruments of this style used, 1860-61, according to an affidavit of Charles Smith in Executive document 27. Smith was as he noted, foreman or "Head Stamper" in 1860 when Dix had his idea, and he stated that each of the seven men under him who stamped mail and also he, himself, used the duplex devices in 1860.

(To be continued)

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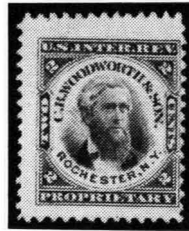
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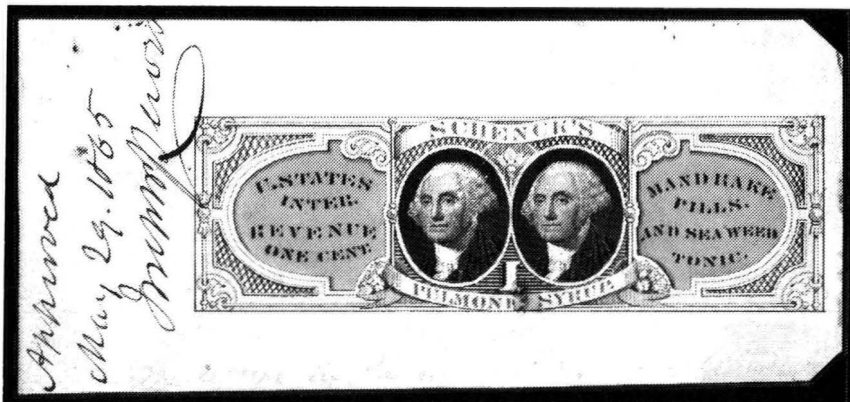
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**DISCOVERY OF A NEW PLATE VARIETY ON THE 1867 GRILLED ISSUE:  
"SCRATCH UNDER 'A' OF 'POSTAGE'" ON THE 24¢ "F" GRILL, SCOTT NO. 99**

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The purpose of this article is to announce a most unusual discovery, a new plate variety on the 1867 grilled issue. The 1861-1867 issue, produced by the National Bank Note Company, showed far greater manufacturing skills than the preceding issue produced by the Toppan Carpenter firm. Consequently, the philatelic community has discovered far fewer plate varieties on the later issue, and discovery of a new one at this late date is most unusual.



**Figure 1. Scott No. 99, 24¢ "F" grill with "scratch under 'A' of 'POSTAGE'."**

The newly discovered variety is Scott No. 99, the 24¢ "F" grill with "scratch under 'A' of 'POSTAGE'." The stamp, which is unused, is pictured in Figure 1. This stamp is the basis for the new listing of the "Scratch under 'A' of 'POSTAGE'" variety which appeared for the first time in the 1991 Scott *U.S. Specialized*. It is the only known copy, and was not marketed as being this variety; accordingly, there is of course a dash in the pricing column.

As can be seen, it is a left margin copy. Using the language now in vogue in auction descriptions,

It is fresh, with strikingly vibrant color, lovely margins top and bottom, jumbo margin at left, and slightly impinging at right (mentioned only for accuracy and of no consequence considering the unique character of this item), and altogether a riveting gem which is extremely fine to superb including generous sheet margin at left.



The translation for the uninitiated: It is an unused, no gum copy with sheet margin at left, off-center to the right, but without defects. Color is typical of the issue.

Although it is of interest in and of itself, this discovery raises some philatelic questions which make the subject of the "Scratch under 'A' of 'POSTAGE'" variety worth some further consideration. A number of these questions center on the listing of the "Scratch under 'A'" variety in the Scott *U.S. Specialized Catalogue*.

The "Scratch under 'A'" variety has been listed in the Scott *U.S. Specialized Catalogue* since 1936<sup>1</sup> under No. 78; this catalogue number covers a range of colors which for the most part were used in the later years of the period of use of the 24¢ stamp. In 1936 it was listed only in used condition. It was listed under No. 70, which generally covers the earlier 24¢ colors, beginning in 1938. Beginning in 1969, it has also been listed unused under No. 78. These listings have continued in the same form since then. The current, 1991 catalogue prices for this variety and the normal stamp are as follows:

	<i>Basic Stamp</i>	<i>Scratch under "A"</i>
No. 70 used:	80.00	95.00
No. 78 unused:	300.00	500.00
used:	50.00	100.00

How these prices for the "Scratch under 'A'" variety have been arrived at is something I cannot explain. (And this inability to explain the prices includes the inexplicable difference between the much lower premium accorded the variety on No. 70 — just under 20 percent of the basic price — as against No. 78 — 67 percent of the basic unused price and 100 percent of the used price.)

In over forty years of having searched for this variety on Nos. 70 and 78, and having examined some thousands of copies of the 24¢ 1861 stamp at bourses, dealers' shops, and auction inspections, I have never seen one. In looking over many hundreds of auction catalogs, I have never seen one described as an auction lot. In questioning many knowledgeable philatelists, men and women whose expert status is indisputable, I have never found anyone who has claimed to have seen, much less own, the "Scratch under 'A'" variety. In short, I have never been able to verify the existence of the "Scratch under 'A'" variety as listed in Scott's *U.S. Specialized*.

Accordingly, a principal purpose of this article is to request information about the existence of any copies of this variety. Response may prove embarrassing, in that many copies may be brought to my attention from readily verifiable sources which I have overlooked. If that be the case, I will accept the information gladly and endure any chagrin I may feel for having overlooked some obvious information. As of now, I feel I have looked long enough and in enough places to say publicly that, after a good faith effort, I have not been able to find one, and I will welcome any assistance in locating a copy, either No. 70 or 78, and either used or unused.

The discovery of a "Scratch under 'A'" on a grilled 24¢ stamp serves to deepen the mystery of the apparent rarity of this plate variety, because it would appear that this scratch may have existed on the plate for the full period of the production of the 24¢ stamp from 1861 through 1868. Only one plate, Plate No. 6, produced all of the 24¢ stamps of the 1861 issue, ungrilled and grilled.<sup>2</sup> According to Brookman,<sup>3</sup> the "Scratch under 'A'" has been seen on the Steel Blue, one of the 1861 colors of the 24¢ stamp, which would establish that it was on the plate early in its period of use. Now it has apparently been found

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1. The 1936 listing was not in the first edition of the *Specialized*. It was first contained in the "Exhibition Edition," (2nd ed., issued May 9, 1936).

2. Luff, *The Postage Stamps of the United States*, (1902), pp. 92-93 and 105.

3. Brookman, *The United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century*, (1966 Rev. ed.), Vol. II, p. 56.

on the grilled variety, which could not have been issued earlier than 1868 though the stamp stock may have been produced a little earlier. Accordingly, as a plate variety, this scratch was apparently on the plate all or most of its period of use.

Scratches and cracks can of course occur at any time in the life of a plate. (Other types of plate varieties are more directly related to the time of plate manufacture, such as, *e.g.*, double transfers.) Therefore it would have been clearly possible for a scratch to have occurred early in the life of the plate, and have been erased shortly after it occurred by a burnishing out or removal of the impression of the affected position followed by a reentry. At the other end of the time continuum, the scratch might have occurred late in the life of the plate. In the first case, the scratch would only have been known on the early colors of a stamp whose production is characterized by a change of colors over the years of production. In the latter case the scratch would not be found on the early colors, but only on the later colors or production varieties — in this case only on the grilled variety and, possibly the ungrilled later colors of the stamp. However, here it appears that the “Scratch under ‘A’” variety was continuously on the plate for about seven or more years of production, from about mid-1861 to about mid-1868, that is, *if* Brookman is correct that the “Scratch under ‘A’” is known on the Steel Blue, and *if* the Figure 1 stamp is indeed the catalogued “Scratch under ‘A’” variety.

Although the “Scratch under ‘A’” variety occurs on only one position out of 200,<sup>4</sup> the lack of presently known examples of this plate variety is of course greater than this one-to-two hundred ratio. This, in short, is the reason that the grilled “Scratch under ‘A’” variety creates such a puzzling philatelic issue. A second copy of this variety would of course resolve any lingering question about whether it is a plate variety, and might also provide a clue as to when the scratch occurred.

It is my guess, and no more than that, that the “Scratch under ‘A’” occurred late in the life of Plate 6, and that the report of its existence on an early color of the stamp, the Steel Blue, is in error. I believe the line shown on the stamp in Figure 1 is indeed the catalogue variety, since (i) it has the appearance of a plate variety and not a printing artifact; and (ii) it is highly unlikely that there could have been *two* scratches on Plate 6 which would both qualify for the description of being under the “A” of “POSTAGE.” However, an opportunity to view a second copy would be most welcome, not merely to confirm the line as a plate variety, but also to identify the color. Nevertheless it is unfortunately true that, whereas discovery of the “Scratch” variety on an early color of the 24¢ stamp would be probative of its existence early in the life of the plate, it is not equally easy to prove a negative. Accordingly, the absence of any discovery of the “Scratch” variety on an early color of the 24¢ stamp will not be absolutely dispositive of its non-existence, and may only indicate its rarity.

The mysterious rarity of the “Scratch” variety was highlighted by the treatment by the Philatelic Foundation of the stamp illustrated in Figure 1. It was submitted with the request for an opinion as to whether it was *the* “Scratch under ‘A’” variety. The PF certificate No. 211513 dated August 16, 1989, stated that, “IT IS GENUINE [Cat. No. 99 1867 24¢ gray lilac unused, no gum, left margin single with grill showing on selvage] WITH A SMALL PLATE SCRATCH ON FOREHEAD UNDER ‘A’ OF POSTAGE.”

Because of this somewhat ambiguous phraseology, I wrote back asking again whether the stamp was in fact *the* “Scratch under ‘A’” variety as listed for Nos. 70 and 78, since the opinion did not specifically so state.

In January 1991, Dr. Rosende, Chairman of the Foundation, acknowledged that the PF had not intended to confirm this stamp as the catalog-listed “Scratch under ‘A’” variety. He stated that:

This variety in #99 is worthy of further study with comparison with the known

varieties in numbers 70 and 78. Perhaps blowups of the same area in the three stamps could prove it is absolutely the same...

Dr. Rosende's response is significant in several respects:

— It indicates by inference that the PF lacks any examples of the "Scratch under 'A'" variety on Nos. 70 or 78 with which to make the necessary comparison. Once again, this points up the curious unavailability of this variety in known philatelic sources.

— It also points up the importance of the request made by the publication of this article for anyone knowing of the "Scratch under 'A'" variety on No. 70 or 78 to come forward with information. Although I think that the PF is being extremely conservative in its position, and I have no doubt the stamp pictured in Figure 1 is indeed *the* "Scratch" variety in question, it would be gratifying to put the issue fully and finally to rest for all concerned.

\* \* \*

In summary, although the stamp illustrated in Figure 1 is the listing copy of the Scott *U.S. Specialized Catalogue* variety of No. 99 with "Scratch under 'A'" of postage, and I believe correctly so listed, there are nevertheless substantial questions still to be answered about this variety. I hope there are others among the readers of the *Chronicle* who, like me, have an itch to find the answers to the questions surrounding the "Scratch under 'A'," and to all those, I note the words of the poet, I believe Ogden Nash, who wrote:

My hat's off to Barbara Frietchie.

I bet she scratched when she was itchy.

---

4. The 24¢ Plate 6 was arranged in a sheet of 200, divided into two panes of 10 by 10, which were side by side. This was the format of all the plates of the 1861 issue. Luff, *supra*, note 2, p. 92.

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Checks or money orders should be sent to the Collectors Club of Chicago, Dept. CH, 1029 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610.

## **USED 24-CENT 1869 INVERTS**

**SCOTT R. TREPEL**

A considerable amount of time has passed since the last installment of this series on the 1869 Inverts was published (*Chronicle* 144:271). The time needed to survey auction records has been found, and the series should proceed with renewed momentum.

The survey left off with 36 used and six unused 30¢ Inverts recorded. Since then, another unused 30¢ Invert (ex Worthington) has surfaced. Details on this re-discovered unused copy with part original gum appear at the end of this article.

The author's approach to identifying the currently recorded 82 used 24¢ Inverts will follow the pattern used for the 30¢ Invert. Centering is the best of the criteria available to categorize the different examples. In *Chronicle* 138 the author illustrated nine categories of centering: North-West, North-Center, North-East, Center-West, Center, Center-East, South-West, South-Center and South-East. For the 30¢ value, the centering was based on the positions of the flagpole points, stars at bottom, and outstretched eagle wings at top, relative to the perforations.

The configuration of the 24¢ frame is nearly a perfect square and, therefore, easily facilitates the process of determining the centering category to which an example belongs. If the frame is centered to lower left, then the stamp is a "South-West" copy. If it is centered between the left and right perforations, but close at bottom, it is a "South-Center" copy, and so on.

### **The Centered Inverts**



**Figure 1.**



**Figure 2.**

As the examples in this category will demonstrate, the 24¢ Invert is extremely rare in centered condition. Of the five "Centered" copies with even margins all around, four have been re-perforated or fabricated by adding margins. Only one stamp - the sound and su-



**Figure 3.**



**Figure 4.**



**Figure 5.**

## TABLE H

Figure 1. Segmented cork cancel. No PFC. Described as sound. Ex Moody (HRH Nov. 6, 1950), "Ambassador" (Siegel Apr. 27, 1966), Siegel Rarities 1971, and Grunin (Siegel Apr. 15, 1975).

Figure 2. Circle of 8 wedges. Short perfs, nick, described as having margins added all around. PFC 46536. Ex Siegel Jan. 6, 1975 sale.

Figure 3. Segmented cork cancel. Reperfed all sides. RPS certificate. Ex Harmer, Rooke, Nov 9, 1954 sale, HRH Feb. 4, 1975 sale.

Figure 4. Circle of wedges cancel. Reperfed on 3 sides. No PFC. Ex HRH Jan. 19, 1971 sale.

Figure 5. Cork cancel. Reperfed on at least one side. No PFC. Ex. Siegel Mar. 24, 1970 sale.

perbly centered copy from the Moody, "Ambassador" and Grunin collections - has a legitimate place in the "Centered" category. However, because the categories are based on appearance alone, and not on the genuineness of such, the best must be considered along with the worst.

The five 24¢ Inverts from the "Centered" category are listed in Table H.

### WORTHINGTON'S UNUSED 30-CENT 1869 INVERT RESURFACES

The author concluded the survey of 30¢ Inverts with 36 used copies and six unused copies recorded. Then, in a memorable moment, my colleague and fellow Classics Society member, Tor Bjork, walked excitedly into my office to show me a stamp which had just been consigned by the relatives of a deceased philatelist. Upon seeing this perfectly centered, unused 30¢ Invert and comparing it with the six recorded unused copies, its significance as an unrecorded seventh copy was realized. Turning the stamp over and seeing part of the original gum made the discovery even more remarkable.

The unused 30¢ Invert shown in Figure 6 is well-centered with very fresh colors. It has a strong grill impression and retains part of its original gum. Stamped in light blue ink on the back are the small sans-serif initials "W.H.C.," indicating that the late Warren H. Colson handled the stamp and endorsed its authenticity. Colson has been described by John R. Boker, Jr. as "the most important dealer in classics stamps in the United States," an opinion shared by many others who knew Colson and the collections he bought and sold.



Figure 6. Unused 30¢ invert.

The stamp received certificate 232679 from The Philatelic Foundation and was auctioned by Christie's New York for \$170,500, a record price for the 30¢ Invert. The record for any 1869 Invert is still the \$198,000 paid for the 15¢ with original gum at the Siegel 1982 Rarities sale (this stamp was subsequently sold privately for a higher price to Ryohei Ishikawa).

The author catalogued this stamp for the auction, but at the time was unaware of its history. Only later, after casually reading a copy of the 1913 New York International



Philatelic Exhibition catalogue, was it realized that this stamp — the only 30¢ Invert with part original gum — was owned by George H. Worthington and shown along with the 15¢ with original gum and one of the four recorded unused 24¢ Inverts. Worthington's U.S. was sold by J.C. Morgenthau at auction on August 21-23, 1917, a liquidation made necessary by Worthington's financial setbacks. In the auction, the 30¢ Invert in Figure 6 was offered "with part o.g." as lot 480 and sold for \$3,550 to John Klemann, a New York City stamp dealer.

Therefore, the count is now seven unused, 36 used. Newcomers will be welcome.

(Continued from p. 151)

West Coast mail. On the subject of the puzzling and somewhat neglected 12¢ stamp Rose points out plate varieties and characteristics, and the many anomalies associated with this stamp.

This book is a satisfactory introduction to the early U.S. imperforates. It would better serve its putative audience if less emphasis were placed on rarity and price, and more on collecting possibilities for the average collector — certainly feasible for the 5¢ 1847, 1¢ 1851, 3¢ 1851, and 10¢ 1855.

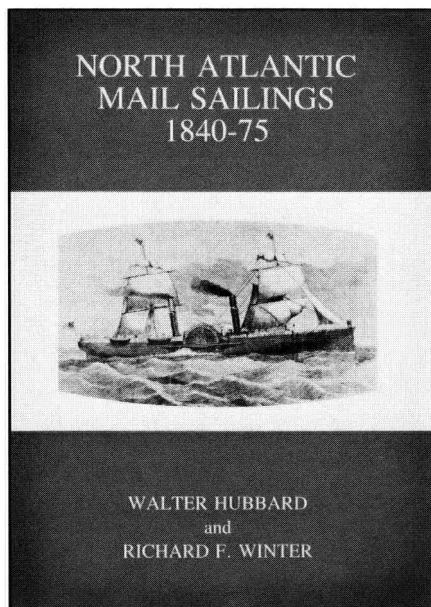
Susan M. McDonald

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## THE FIVE DOLLAR COLUMBIAN STAMP

RICHARD M. SEARING

The \$5 value of the Columbian series was the highest value U.S. stamp issued up to that period except for revenues and State Dept. officials. The design for the Columbian \$5 shows a medallion portrait of Columbus which was taken from the die cut for the commemorative half-dollar issued to celebrate the World's Fair. This was the first commemorative coin issued by the U.S. Government, just as the Columbian stamps were the first officially sanctioned commemorative stamps issued in the world.

As stated in the \$4 article, there is no proven surviving life portrait of Columbus. The original design for the \$5 stamp was taken from a medal struck in Madrid, but the final die was made from a cast prepared by the U.S. Treasury Department. The sculptor that made the cast from the medal was Olin L. Warner of New York, but Charles Barber, the designer of the famous Barber coins, was the engraver of the final model.<sup>1</sup>

The U.S. Post Office circular of the period officially described the color of the \$5 stamps as black, but they range from grayish black to deep shades. The stamp was designed by Alfred S. Major, the portrait was engraved by Alfred Jones, side figures by Charles Skinner, and the frame, lettering, and numerals were done by Douglas Ronaldson.<sup>2</sup>



**Figure 1. Plate proof of \$5 Columbian stamp.**

In Clarence Brazer's study, *Essays for U.S. Adhesive Postage Stamps*, several essays are listed. These include a unique incomplete engraving of the vignette, as adopted for the 1¢, with pencil outlines of the frame on cardboard; incomplete engravings of portrait and frame, with side figures missing, on india sunk on card; "approved and signed A.D.H." on model of vignette with photos of side figures (unique); and nearly complete engravings of the entire design on india.<sup>3</sup> Figure 1 shows the plate proof on card of the \$5 design.

According to official records, 27,350 of the \$5 denomination stamps were printed and delivered to postmasters. L.G. Brookman quotes John Luff that in June 1899, 5,506 copies of the \$5 stamps were destroyed by official government order. Assuming that no more were destroyed, that left 21,844 stamps sold to the public.<sup>4</sup>

1. J.F. O'Brien, "Basis of the Design of the U.S. Columbian Exposition Issue of 1893," *The American Philatelist*, September 1984, p. 899.

2. L. Schriber, *Designs, Designers, Engravers, Artists of U.S. Postage Stamps*, APS reprint, 1963, p. 70.

3. C. Brazer, *Essays for U.S. Adhesive Postage Stamps*, Quarterman reprint, 1977, p. 153.

4. L.G. Brookman, *19th Century Postage Stamps of the U.S.*, H.L. Lindquist, 1966, Vol. III, p. 89.

**Figure 2. Plate number imprint block of eight of the \$5 stamp.**



The \$5 stamp was printed from a single plate, #DD108. An upper plate imprint block of ten was in the Crocker collection, at least two plate blocks of six are known, one from the Lilly collection, and Figure 2 shows a bottom imprint plate number block of eight from the Green collection. This last item has recently been offered for sale with traces of original gum.

The largest piece of the \$5 known to me is a block of 14 which was discovered in a large find made in England about 25 years ago and is illustrated in Brookman.<sup>5</sup> No blocks of four or pairs of the \$5 stamp are known to me as used on cover or piece.

**Figure 3. Used block of four.**



I have record of one, possibly two, used blocks off cover; one is cancelled by a bull's eye target in the middle of the block and is pictured in Figure 3. With regard to the high value used blocks with this cancel, Pat Herst informs me that in 1945 he cancelled unused blocks of the \$3, \$4, and \$5 Columbian stamps without gum with a circular bullseye cancel that he found in the Scrub Oak, N.Y., post office. He still has the cancel device and provided examples with his letter. Thus, the origin of at least one set of the used high value blocks is confirmed.

The most sought-after souvenirs were those mailed directly from the fairgrounds. Figure 4 shows an unaddressed \$5 cover that was cancelled as a fair souvenir, but was never sent through the mail. The corner card shows the only authentic portrait of Columbus, painted by Antonio Moro, and was privately prepared for sale at the fair by Chas. F. Gunther. There was a similar cover in the Virgil brand find, but it was addressed to Dr. Robert Lorke and was canceled on October 30 which was the official closing day of the Chicago World's Fair.

Figures 5 and 6 show two other souvenir covers mailed from the World's Fair station. The first is dated on Sept. 15, 1893, on the Hotel Bismark stationery and addressed to the World's Fair Post office, while the second was mailed January 6, 1894, on stamp dealers corner card to apparently one of the same dealers at his home address.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 88.

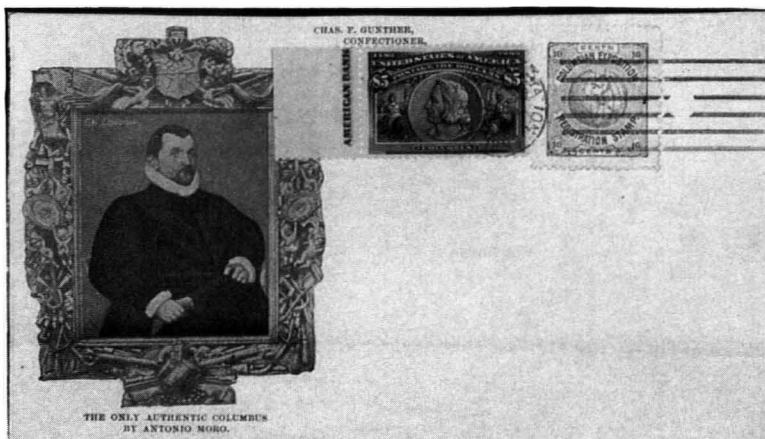


Figure 4. Canceled \$5 stamp used on unaddressed cacheted cover.

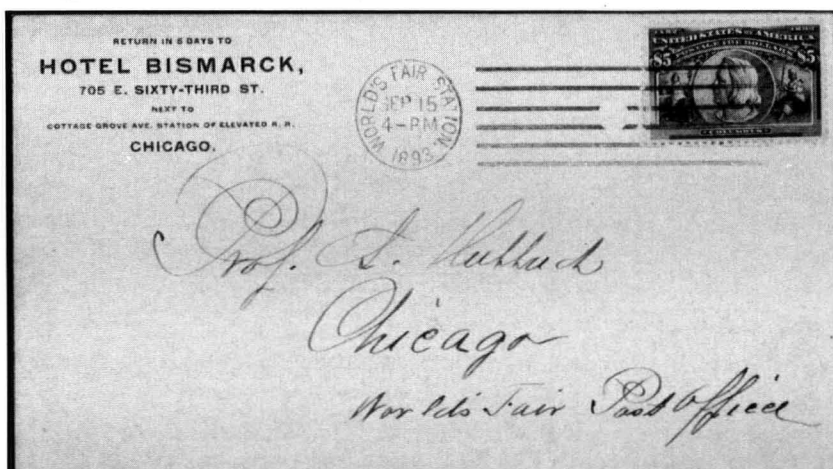


Figure 5. Hotel corner card mailed on Sept. 15, 1893, from the Fair.

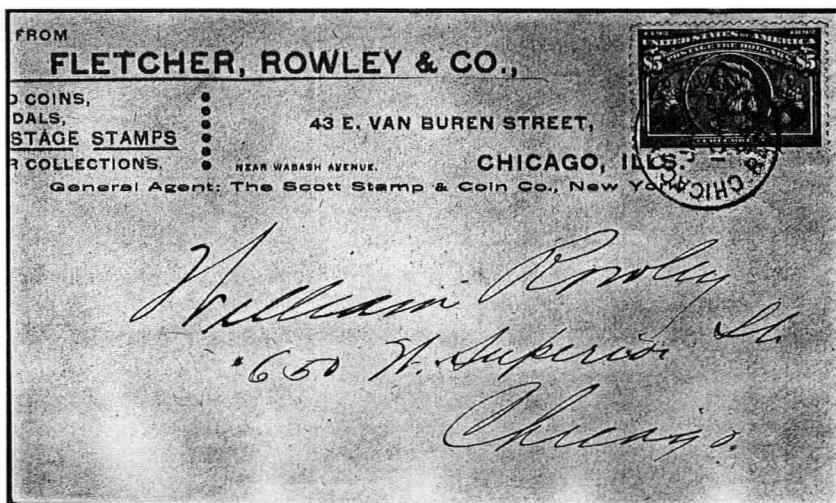
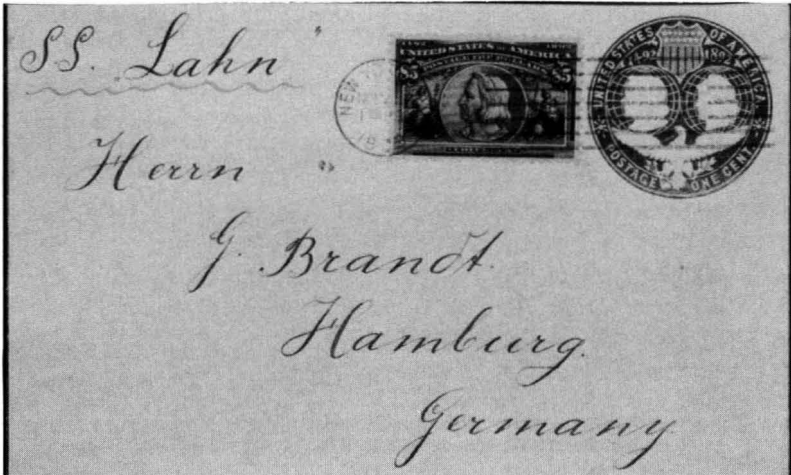


Figure 6. Stamp dealer souvenir usage mailed on January 6, 1894.

The most spectacular usage of the \$5 stamp at the World's Fair was illustrated earlier in the \$3 article of this series. I showed the small cover that came from the Ethel McCoy collection where the \$2 through \$5 value Columbians are used on a 5¢ Columbian em-

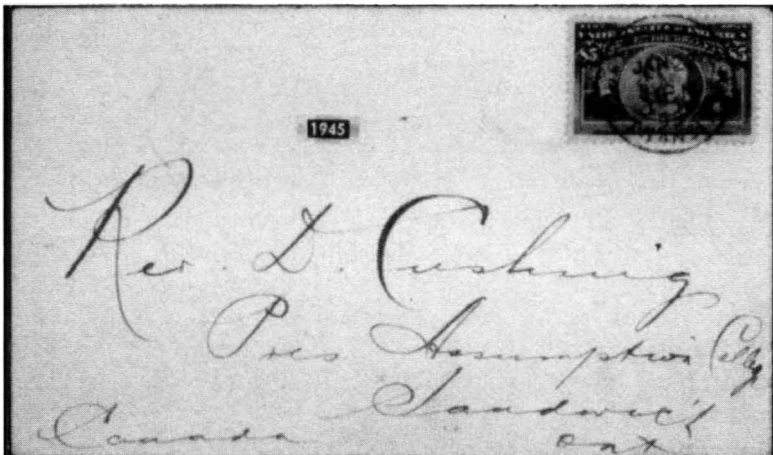


bossed envelope and canceled on November 10, 1893, at the World's Fair Station.

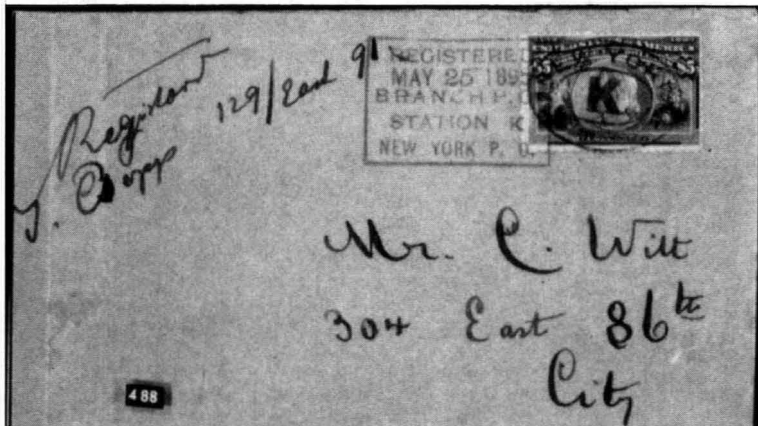


**Figure 7. NYC to Hamburg, Germany, on November 13, 1893.**

Figures 7 and 8 also clearly represent philatelically inspired covers that were mailed to foreign destinations. The first is dated in November 1893 and mailed via the *S.S. Lahn* to Hamburg, Germany, while the second cover was mailed to Ontario, Canada, on January 22, 1893, from Detroit, Michigan.



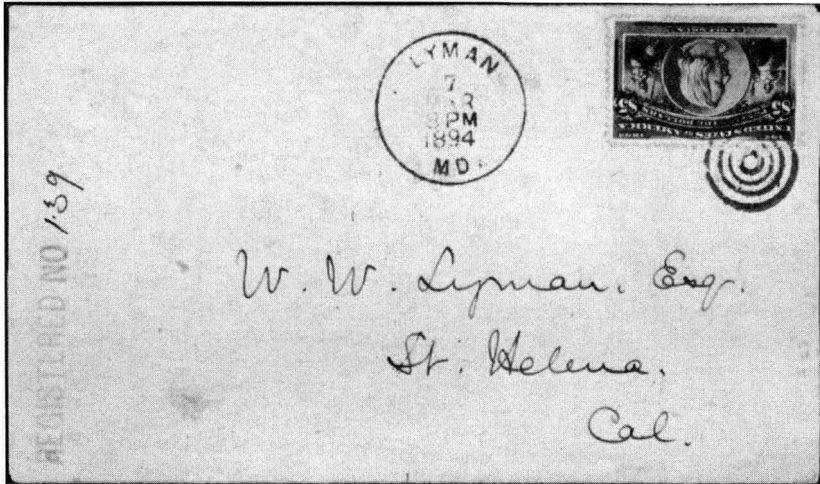
**Figure 8. Detroit to Ontario, Canada, on January 22, 1893.**



**Figure 9. To C. Witt. Registered at Station K, NYC, May 25, 1895.**

Figure 9 shows one of the \$5 covers mailed to the often noted C. Witt in NYC. It was mailed from the familiar station K on a registered package front and addressed in a familiar hand as found on many of these letters.

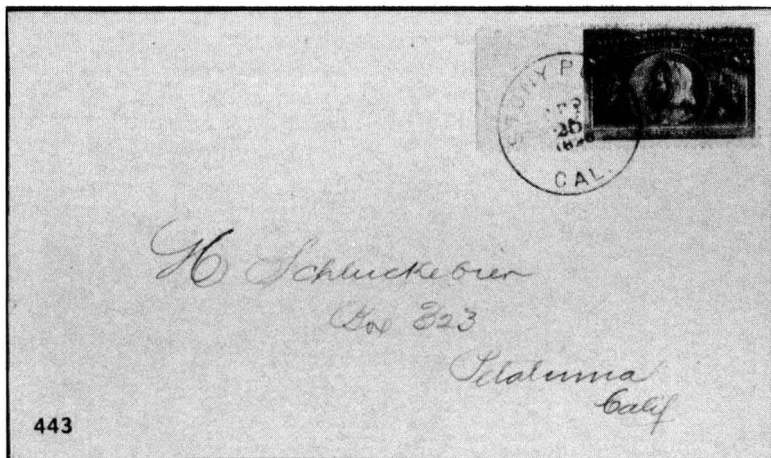
Due to the postal rates for the period, it is very unlikely that a legitimate commercial usage of the \$5 stamp would occur. However, in my \$1 cover list, I record a letter to John Ruther, Jr., in Swansea, England, on official U.S. post office envelope. A 10" x 8½" wrapper addressed to the same person and destination bearing copies of the \$2 and \$5 stamps was mailed January 17, 1894. The wrapper also bears a registration label and oval marking. In manuscript at the upper left is the notation "Cashier, N.Y.P.O." If this package was a shipment of pamphlets or books, the usage could be commercial and not an overpay. Unfortunately the illustration of this wrapper is too faint for reproduction.



**Figure 10. Lyman, Md., to St. Helena, Cal., mailed March 7, 1894.**

Finally, in Figures 10 and 11 I show two \$5 covers mailed to California. The first cover was mailed to St. Helena from Lyman, Md., on March 7, 1894, to W.W. Lyman, Esq., one of three such recorded. This name also appears frequently in these articles. The second cover was mailed on Sept. 25, 1896, from Stoney Point, Cal., to Petaluma, Cal. Apparently at this late date, the westerners had money to burn for these souvenirs. I am sure the post office dept. was delighted to deliver mail at these rates, not even approached in our own inflated times.

The last part of this article continues the results of my initial cover census on the sur-



**Figure 11. Stoney Point, Cal., to Petaluma, Cal., on Sept. 25, 1896.**

**COLUMBIAN \$5 STAMPS USED ON COVER**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Origin</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Stamps</b>	<b>Remarks</b>	<b>Source</b>
93/01/06	USGmn Sea Pst	Brmrhvn, Gmy	none	T duplex "8"; Pabst Beer cc:red & black Trd mk	Sgl 448/132
93/01/22	Detroit	Sndwch, Can	none	T SON blk tw, transit marks	Sgl 307/621
93/04/06	NYC	Wien, Aus	none	NYREG 1bl; Siegelman Co. cc	Sgl 271/550
93/04/07	NYC	Wien, Aus	none	Reg corner card, Siegelman & Co.; Intern'l reg label	Wunsch coll
93/05/21	Crow Wing, Mn	Pittsbgh	230-44	T Chicago P.O., 3-ring tgts:\$5 SE top	Sgl 544/133
93/07/17	Chicago	N. Ulm, Gmy	none	T tw, dated mach canc: mourning cvr.	Klher 563/987
93/08/01	Blitire	Blitire	none	T tw duplex =2= canc.	Sgl 266/271
93/08/23	Chicago	NYC	none	T WFS duplex canc; SL REG #34059, 40565, & 74327	Sgl 679/270
93/09/22	NYC	NYC	none	T NYC sta. P duplex: O.G. Meyer & Co.	Sgl 511/1296
93/09/22	Chicago	NYC	230-1	T CWF Reg lgl env; SL REG, Date; #46495;ms REG	collector
93/10/13	Chicago	Chicago	U218	T WFS machine PM on Chicago Day cc; \$1/2 imprt UL.	McCoy-105
93/10/20	NYC	NYC	235, 239, U351	Reg #3275 in pencil; T with 6¢ and 30¢ on 10¢ entire; "G"	Wunsch coll
93/10/30	Chicago	??/??	230-44, E3	T CWFS canc lge piece of U351	Sgl 391/81
93/11/10	Chicago	Chicago	242-44, U350	T WFS machine duplex lines; mostly SON	McCoy-106
93/11/13	NYC	Hmbg, Gmy	none	T blk tw, mach canc; per S.S. Lahn	JKfmm 74/220
93/11/15	NYC	Swansea, GB	242	T REG oval, Int REG #96073; UL dkt, Cashier NYPO;	HmrRk 10/73-243
93/12/04	NYC	NYC	none	T NYC duplex "8"; addr C. Witt	Sgl 507/483
93/12/06	NYC	NYC	230-244	T tw,MDY canc on lge cvr (Mrs. M. Witt); REG NYC sta"K"	Sgl 679/265
93/12/13	Hobokn, NJ	Slettin, Gmy	none	purple REG; SL prt reg, reg label #24821; rtn add cc	lvy 12/88-928
93/12/13	NYC	NYC	none	T NYC duplex oval "60"; oversize env/wrapper	collector
93/12/20	Wash. DC	Wash. DC	none	T SL duplex; add H.C.Quinby, Esq	dealer
94/01/06	Chicago	Chicago	none	T circ REG, dated tw:prtd stmp dlr cc	Wfirs 73/32
94/01/29	S.Fran	S.Fran	none	T duplex oval "16";prtd addr, B. Natorp	Sgl 611/570
94/02/09	Dover, NH	Boston	none	T Lgl N.Exchng bank env;vio SL REG	JKfmm 12/83-227
94/03/01	NYC	Paris, Fra	none	T NYC REG mag. ovals; Fr rec 3/28; NYREG lbl#45345	Apflbm 8/81-?
94/03/07	Lyman, Md	S. Helena, Cal	none	T blk tgt, REGISTERED #139 SL UL	Sgl 421/417
94/04/10	Lyman, Md.	Wash. DC	none	T blk target; mag. REG to left	lvy 7/82-1221
94/04/10	Lyman, Md.	Wash. DC	none	T blk tgt:SL mag. REG, date at left	Sgl 342/1457A
94/04/13	NYC	NYC	241-44	T=2= cancels (J Wagner Esq) full set 230-245 known	Kenedi 70-221
94/05/03	Lyman, Md.	S. Fran.	none	T blk 3-ring tgt; prtd mag. REG at UL	Sgl 410/659
94/05/11	NYC	NYC	none	T tw, blk duplex "20"	JKfmm 12/83-239
94/09/18	Marion, Ma	Wash. DC	none	T tgt to wrapper addr Controller of Treas.	collector
94/??/??	NYC	N.Market, NH	none	T blk oval "J"; ms REG at UL "Florist" at LL; rec bs	Wfirs 103/2429
95/05/25	NYC	NYC	none	T dbl oval, prpl REG bx; ms reg, C.Witt; stain	JKfmm GOP/161
96/09/25	Stony Pt,Cal	Petaluma,Cal	none	T tw, dated canc; addr H. Schluckenbeir	Wfirs 100/773
97/01/12	NYC	??, Swz	none	T tw, blk duplex "50"; NY REG lbl; may be faked.	Sgl 660/165

iving covers/fronts/wrappers bearing at least one copy of a dollar value Columbian stamp. The census is by no means complete and I request that readers supply data on covers not listed herein. The data 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. Present owners, please supply the missing information.

Abbreviations have been liberally used throughout. 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 36 \$5 stamp usages on cover, but I feel that at least another dozen covers are still 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 are fortunate to possess dollar value Columbian stamps used on cover.

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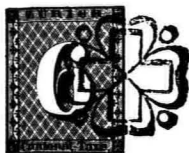
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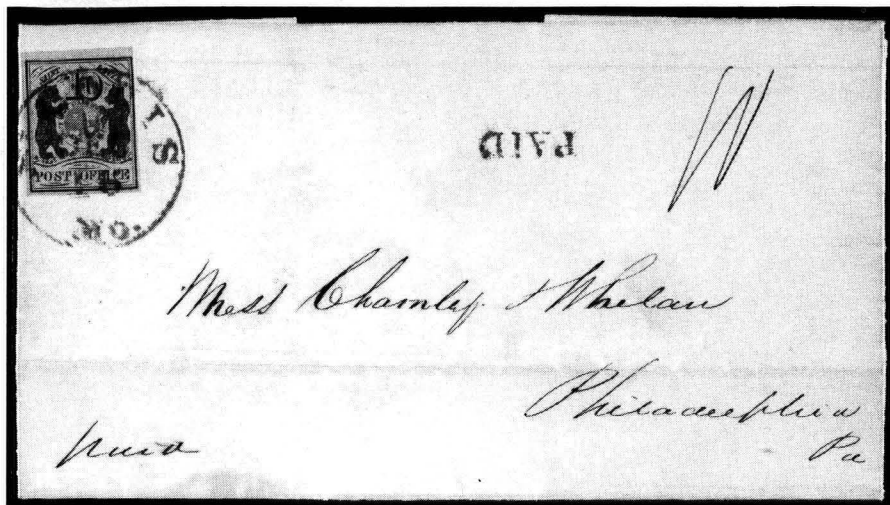
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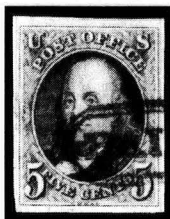


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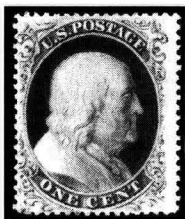
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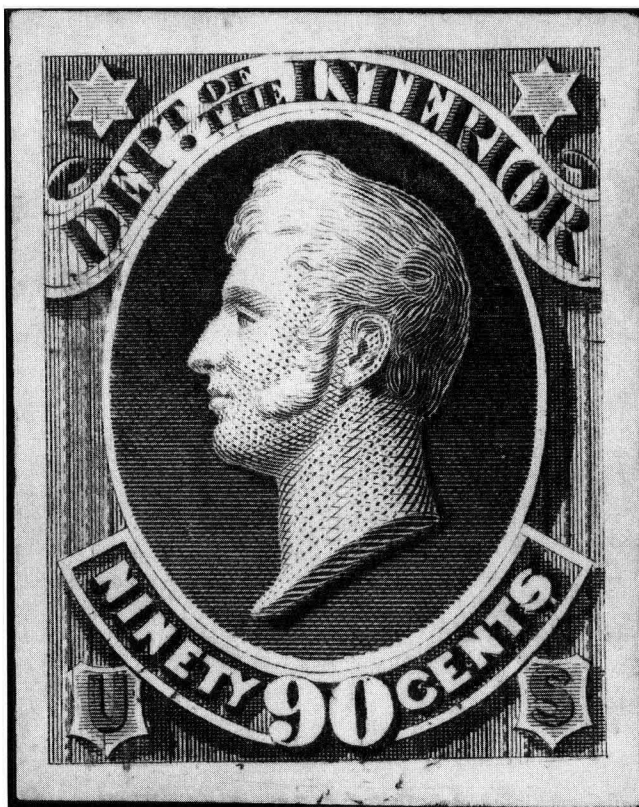
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**DOUBLE TRANSFER VARIETY ON THE  
90 CENT INTERIOR DEPARTMENT STAMP**

ALFRED E. STAUBUS

Some of the most dramatic double transfers on any of the bank note company stamps are on U.S. Official stamps. A moderately prominent double transfer can be found on the 90 cent Interior Department stamp (Scott O24). An example of this double transfer is shown as a plate proof on India paper (Scott O24P3) in Figure 1. The most outstanding characteristic of this particular double transfer is the unerased portions of the numeral "90" from the original transfer as seen in the bottom margin of the stamp.



**Figure 1. Plate proof on India paper of the double transfer variety (plate position #17) of the 90 cent Interior Department stamp. Note the unerased portions of the numeral "90" from the original (misplaced) entry in the bottom margin.**

Working with photographs of the Ernest R. Ackerman proof sheets (Lot #1528 of the May 1-2, 1981, Roger Koerber public auction of the George T. Turner Philatelic Library), Dr. Joseph Novosel, a student of plate varieties on U.S. Official stamps, reports that this particular double transfer is located on plate position #17. Information regarding the Ackerman proof sheets can be found in Stanley M. Bierman's book, *The World's Greatest Stamp Collectors*. Roger Koerber sold a second set of the Turner photographs (Lot #1853) at the March 29-30, 1985, public auction of the Herbert J. Bloch Philatelic Reference Library. The Koerber auction description of lot #1853 indicated that the photographs of the proof sheets were originally taken for stamp dealer and philatelic student Elliott Perry

(1884-1972). The actual proof sheets had been broken down in 1972 for sale as sets of singles and blocks (see pages 232-233 in the 1990 edition of the Bierman book). Consequently, students of plate varieties of U.S. Official stamps are currently dependent, to a large degree, upon the use of the Turner photographs for determination of plate positions. The quality of the photographs is very good but fine plating differences are difficult or impossible to accurately identify. Therefore, collectors and dealers having multiples from the actual proof sheets of the U.S. Official stamps are urged to report their holdings so that more definitive plate position determinations and characterizations can be made for a number of plate varieties of the U.S. Official stamps.

The *Scott 1991 Specialized Catalogue* contains the following definition:

Double Transfer — The condition of a transfer on a plate that shows evidences of a duplication of all or a portion of the design. A double transfer usually is the result of the changing of the registration between the relief and plate during the rolling of the original entry. Occasionally it is necessary to remove the original entry. Occasionally it is necessary to remove the original transfer from a plate and enter the relief a second time. When the finished re-transfer shows indications of the original transfer, because of incomplete erasure, the result also is known as a double transfer.

Thus, according to the Scott catalog, a double transfer listing could reflect either the more common shifted transfer variety or the less common variety with final transfer on top of the partially removed original entry.

The term “double transfer” does not appear to be a uniformly defined entity within the philatelic literature. For example, Winthrop S. Boggs’s book, *The Foundations of Philately*, on page 134 defines the term “double transfer” solely as a shifted transfer and defines “fresh entry” as the variety with the final transfer on top of the partially removed original entry.

In contrast to Boggs’s definition, on page 58 of the *Opinions V, Philatelic Expertizing — An Inside View*, Jerome S. Wagshal states:

...a double transfer results when an original entry on a specific position is misaligned when initially impressed on the plate and partially erased (by having the surface of the metal plate pounded flat by blows on the back of the plate and/or use of a burnishing tool on the front of the plate), and some vestiges of the design remain after this erasing process so that when the new transfer is entered by a second application of the transfer roll, some lines of the original entry remain and can be detected as a doubling of the line of the basic design.

Mr. Wagshal concludes, that:

In other words, a double transfer is the product of two separate and successive errors occurring on the same plate position:

— First, an initial entry considered unsatisfactory, generally because it is somewhat misplaced from where it was intended to be, and

— Second, an inadequate and incomplete erasure of that misplaced initial entry before the second, correctly-placed entry is transferred onto the plate.

Because of the ambiguous and conflicting philatelic definitions for the term “double transfer” and other plate varieties, there is a need for an interested individual with engraving expertise (including specific knowledge of engraving techniques which were in use during the 1870s) to write a definitive series of articles on plate varieties found on bank note company stamps. Until such a definitive series is published and receives wide acceptance, each philatelic author will have to clearly redefine the plate variety terms used within his or her article.

The double transfer variety illustrated in Figure 1 appears to conform to the definition used by Mr. Wagshal. As such, Dr. Novosel prefers to describe plate position #17 as a “misplaced entry.” Unerased portions of the original (misplaced) entry can be found a full 2 mm below the corresponding portions of the final impression. Figure 2 provides compar-



Figure 2. Photographic enlargements of the 90 cent Interior Department stamp — bottom third portions of a normal unused example (top), an India plate proof with the double transfer (middle), and a used example with the double transfer (bottom).



**Figure 3. Photographic enlargements of the 90 cent Interior Department stamp — top third portions of a normal unused example (top), an India plate proof with the double transfer (middle), and an unused example with the double transfer (bottom).**



ative photographic enlargements of the bottom one-third portions of a) a normal 90 cent Interior Department stamp, b) the India plate proof shown in Figure 1, and c) a confirmatory used copy of plate position #17. Note that the stamp's perforations and centering can obstruct visualization of parts of the unerased original numeral "90" entry. The intensity of the misplaced numeral "90" entry appears to vary somewhat from example to example. Also visible within the bottom margin of the stamp are unerased traces of the shaded lines of the "U" from the left hand lower corner, the "Y" of NINETY, and the "C" of CENTS. Even if the double transfer variety has no bottom margin due to poor centering, characteristic traces of other shaded lines can be found in the white areas under the second "N" of NINETY, under the "E" of NINETY, and under both the "C" and "E" of CENTS. Additional, but less prominent, traces can be located elsewhere in the lower third of the double transfer variety.

Characteristic traces of the original entry also can be found in the upper third of the double transfer variety. Examination of the comparative photographic enlargements shown in Figure 3 reveals groups of vertical lines above the "P" and "T" of DEPT. and between the "T" of DEPT. and the first letters of OF and THE. Additional characteristic traces of the original entry can be found to the lower left of the "D" of DEPT., under both the "E" and "P" of DEPT., under both the "T" and "H" of THE, and under the "N" of INTERIOR.

In summary, the double transfer variety (plate position #17) of the 90 cent Interior Department stamp can be characterized as having traces of the unerased original entry located a full 2 mm below the corresponding portions of the final impression. Since 64,377 of the 90 cent Interior Department stamps were issued, some 640+ stamps with the double transfer from plate position #17 also would have been issued. Collectors searching for this variety should examine closely both the entire impression and the stamp's bottom margin. Premium copies exhibit large, clear bottom margins, displaying as much as possible of the original numeral "90."

As a plate variety, the 90 cent Interior Department double transfer would have been part of the 1875 special printings. However, because only 77 special printing stamps (fewer than one sheet) were sold of the 90 cent denomination (Scott O24SD), the special printing double transfer variety from plate position #17 may or may not have been issued. If it does exist, the double transfer on the 90 cent Interior Department special printing stamp probably will be unique and will represent a prized find for the lucky collector who is able to locate and recognize it. Good hunting!

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**THE 1863 FRENCH TRANSIT REDUCTION — MALTA NOT INCLUDED**

**CHARLES J. STARNES**

An article<sup>1</sup> in August 1987 explained how the Jun. 1863 Anglo-French transit rate reduction on certain British destinations routed through France to “east of Suez” should have resulted in a similar U.S. postage correction. This change was made at Washington on only one of two categories; the other remained at 39/45 Br. v. M, but was effective at 41¢/½ oz. total rate in London, Jun. 1863-68. References were cited in the original copy, but no suitable illustrations were available. Before publication, a cover from Malta was “edited in,”\* a plausible example for rate (1/6 + 5¢), but Malta was not on the reduction list of the London G.P.O. Nudged by query from Charless Hahn, it became necessary to find the correct rate(s) from Malta spanning a possible 1863 change.

We are indebted to Colin Tabcart’s most valuable compilation<sup>2</sup> and to the generous aid from J. H. Birkett-Allan of the Malta Study Circle, who furnished information from *Postal Guides*, cover copies, and other records. The data showed that Malta official postage to U.K. or U.S. remained unchanged, 1860-68; the 1866 cover previously illustrated<sup>1</sup> was overpaid 4d. on the 1/2 Br. v M, ¼ oz. to U.S. port. The lower rates from Malta were:

	¼ oz.	½	¾	1
Br. v M:				
to U.K.	6d	1/0	1/6	2/0
to U.S.	1/2	1/8	2/10	3/4
all chg.	33¢	45¢	78¢	90¢
Br. v S:				
to U.K.	6d	6d	1/0	1/0
to U.S.	1/2	1/2	2/4	2/4
all chg.	33¢	33¢	66¢	66¢

(Elapsed time v Marseilles-London, 5 days; schedule v Gibraltar-Southampton, 11 days<sup>3</sup>)

A copy of a rather complete rate table from the 1867 Malta *Postal Guide* is shown as Figure 1 — a testimony to the British postal system and the value of Malta as a central exchange point. Although this bit of writing was merely to correct a minor mishap about a cover, it has proved, once again, that foreign mail study often demands a wide approach.

1. C.J. Starnes, “Postal Peculiarities III — Overpayment via Marseilles,” *Chronicle* 135:215.

\* *Mea culpa* — S. McD.

2. Colin Tabcart, *United Kingdom Letter Rates, 1657-1900*, 61-67.

3. R. Kirk, *The P. & O. Lines to the Far East*, Vol. 2, 36-68.

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4A	4d	4d	8d	8d	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	8d
4B	4d	8d	1/-	1/4	1/8	2/-	2/4	2/8	1/4
5	5d	5d	10d	10d	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/8	10d
6A	6d	6d	1/-	1/-	2/-	2/-	2/-	2/-	1/-
6B	6d	1/-	1/6	2/-	2/6	3/-	3/6	4/-	2/-
7	7d	1/2	1/9	2/4	2/11	3/6	4/1	4/8	2/4
8	8d	1/4	2/-	2/8	3/4	4/-	4/8	5/4	2/8
10	10d	1/8	2/6	3/4	4/2	5/-	5/10	6/8	3/4
11A	11d	11d	1/10	1/10	3/8	3/8	3/8	3/8	1/10
11B	11d	1/5	2/4	2/10	4/2	4/8	5/4	6/-	2/10
14A	1/2	1/2	2/4	2/4	4/8	4/8	4/8	4/8	2/4
14B	1/2	1/8	2/10	3/4	5/2	5/8	6/2	6/8	3/4
15	1/3	2/6	3/9	5/-	6/3	7/6	8/9	10/-	5/-
17	1/5	1/5	2/10	2/10	5/8	5/8	5/8	5/8	2/10
23	1/11	1/11	3/10	3/10	7/8	7/8	7/8	7/8	3/10

+1=each additional ounce

Country	Pkt	Rate	Country	Pkt	Rate	Country	Pkt	Rate
Alexandria v	Br	5	Algeria v	Fr	4B	Australia		4A
Alexandria v	Fr	4B	Austria via France v		8	Bavaria v *		6B
Baden v *	Fr	6B	Austria via Leghorn		6B	Belgium v		6B
Beyrout v		4B	China		17	Constantinople v		4B
Dardanelles v		4B	Denmark v		10	Egypt	Br	5
France v		4B	German States v *		6B	Egypt	Fr	4B
Gibraltar v		4A	Greece		3	Hanover v *		8
Havanah		23	Holland v *		6B	Hong Kong v		4A
India		4A	Ionian Islands v		4A	Italy v		4B
Luxemburg v *		6B	Moldavia		4B	Italy via France		10
Norway v *		15	Papal States*		3	Poland v *		15
Portugal		5	Prussia v		8	Russia v		15
Salonica		4B	Rhenish v *		6B	Sardinia via France		6B
Saxony v *		8	Servia v *		8	Sardinia via Messina v		4B
Sicily v		4B	Smyrna v *		4B	Spain *		5
Sweden v *		15	Switzerland v *		6B	Syria		4B
Turkey		4B	U.K. via So'ton		6A	USA via So'ton		14A
Wallachia		4B	U.K. via Marseilles		6B	USA via Marseilles		14B
West Indies v So'ton		11A	Wurtemberg v *		6B	Countries beyond		
via Marseilles		11B				Sea via Marseilles		7

Br = by British Packet,

Fr = by French Packet

\* via France;

v = prepayment is voluntary, in all other cases prepayment to destination or as far as England is compulsory.

Figure 1. Excerpt from 1867 Malta *Postal Guide*.

## NEW YORK FOREIGN MAIL POSTMARK ON SHIP LETTER?

RICHARD F. WINTER

Figure 1 illustrates a very distinctive postal marking used in the New York post office on foreign mails sent overseas by steamship. This marking is a 35 mm circular datestamp, always struck in red, with the numeral "5" at the bottom and the word "PAID" alongside in an oblique form. The marking has been recorded in use from 31 July 1845 to 30 December 1846, a period of just 17 months.<sup>1</sup> Philip T. Wall has written that Postmaster Robert H. Morris of New York placed this marking into use with the mails carried by the Cunard steamer *Britannia* from Boston on 1 August 1845.<sup>2</sup> These mails bore the New York date of 31 July. Wall concluded that Morris wanted a distinctive marking for mails bound for Europe. Just two weeks earlier, Postmaster Morris's new provisional adhesive was first used to pay the U.S internal postage to Boston on letters addressed to foreign destinations.<sup>3</sup>



Figure 1. New York Foreign Mail postmark, 35 mm circular datestamp in red, with numeral "5" at bottom and "PAID" alongside obliquely.

While covers to Great Britain and Europe with the New York Postmaster Provisional are not common, there are about 100 covers recorded, of which approximately half show the Figure 1 circular datestamp.<sup>4</sup> The author's own records of stampless covers to Europe show fewer than a dozen examples with this marking, indicating a cover struck with this marking without an adhesive may be even harder to find than one with the Provisional adhesive. Each of the covers with this marking, recorded by the author and Farrington, was sent by British mail steamship, indicating that Postmaster Morris intended this marking for the U.S mails sent overseas on the Cunard steamers, operating at this time only from the port of Boston.

Figure 2 is a cover recently discovered that shows an unexpected use of this marking on a ship letter, not a steamship letter. Despite the endorsement in the lower left "p Steamer/via Boston," we know that this cover did not go to England by a mail steamship because of the 8 pence postage due, the incoming ship letter rate in England, and the LIVERPOOL SHIP marking on the reverse shown in Figure 3. As the author had never seen the New York Foreign Mail postmark on a ship letter before, and there was an obvious inconsistency between the cover endorsement and markings, it was concluded that there must have been some unusual circumstance which altered the expected routing of this cover.

The cover is a folded letter datelined 28 February 1846 from the New York firm of Grinnell, Minturn & Co. to the London firm of Frederick Huth & Co. It was posted that

1. Walter Hubbard and Richard F. Winter, *North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75* (Canton, Ohio: U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, 1988), p. 365, marking no. 218.

2. Philip T. Wall, "Earliest Known New York Postmaster's Provisional Covers: July 15, 1845," *Chronicle* 113:8-13.

3. *Ibid.*

4. Correspondence between the author and Jeremiah A. Farrington who has combined the former records of Philip T. Wall with his own.



**Figure 2. New York to London, 28 Feb 46, intended for Cunard steamer *Cambria*, but carried by sailing ship from Boston to Liverpool. U.S. inland rate to Boston of 5¢ paid. Postage due 8 pence.**

same day for the advertise next day sailing from Boston of the Cunard steamship *Cambria*. Five cents was paid in cash and the letter received the Figure 1 circular datestamp showing the proper prepayment of the U.S. inland rate to Boston. It is clear that the letter did not arrive at Liverpool with the mails of *Cambria* for that vessel reached Liverpool on 14 March 1846. This cover has a 41 x 20mm black octagonal datestamp on the reverse, inscribed 28 MR 1846/LIVERPOOL/SHIP, and a 23 mm red circular datestamp of London with the date 29 MR 29/1846 shown in Figure 3. These dates are two weeks later than the steamship arrival.

The answer to the mystery of this cover's handling was found in New York newspaper *Commercial Advertiser* of 3 March 1846 and is quoted as follows:



**Figure 3. Reverse of cover showing black LIVERPOOL SHIP marking of 28 Mar 26 and red London arrival datestamp of 29 Mar 46.**



The Boston Steamer. - The steamship Cambria, Capt Judkins, departed from Boston on Sunday afternoon at fifteen minutes after 2 o'clock, leaving five passengers and some eight thousand letters, which were taken from this city on Saturday evening at 5 o'clock in the steamer Mohegan. The Mohegan was detained one hour beyond her usual time of departure, to enable the post master of this city to send off the mail from the South, and to allow time for our merchants to write to their correspondents, after they had received their Southern letters.

This arrangement was made in the entire belief that the mail would reach Boston in season for the steamer; and it was also understood that in the event of the New York mail being kept back by severe storms, the steamer would be detained a reasonable time. In this, however, the New York merchants and those at the South have been disappointed. We know not where the authority is vested to detain a boat, but certainly, in a country like ours, at this season, when severe storms may be expected and the navigation be thereby impeded, some little consideration should be shown by a company which derives almost its entire support from the merchants. We hope that the time is not far distant when we shall have an American line of boats, by which a little more courtesy will be observed. The following is from the Boston Transcript of last evening: -

The Cambria royal mail steamship, Captain Judkins, left at  $\frac{1}{4}$  past 2 yesterday for Halifax and Liverpool, with 40 passengers for the latter place, and five for the former. N.C. Poor, Esq. of this city, was bearer of despatches. The Southern steamboat mail due here yesterday morning did not arrive until 7 P.M. The steamer Mohegan left New York on Saturday afternoon at 5 o'clock, in the midst of a N.E. snow storm which commenced there about 10 A.M. and was compelled to anchor near Hart's Island, where she remained until 4 o'clock Sunday morning.<sup>5</sup>

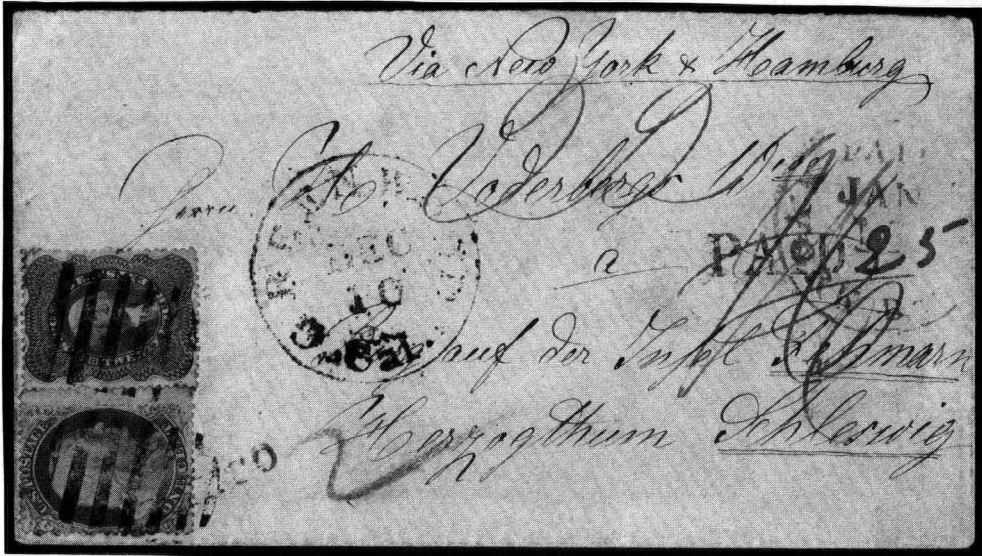
In consequence of this detention, says the Post, 8000 letters from the city of New York, designed to be sent by the Cambria, remain in our post office. All the letters south of New York, and the despatches, arrived here by the Long Island train on Saturday night, and of course were forwarded. It is said that five gentlemen, who intended to take passage in the Cambria, came by the train last evening. The weather was so rough at New York that the Norwich boat did not leave there til Sunday morning at 9 o'clock, and arrived here at 2 o'clock this morning. All letters, says the Courier, intended for the steamer, and which missed her through the detention of the mails, will be placed on board the Joshua Bates, which ship sails for Liverpool on the 5th inst.

*Joshua Bates* of Enoch Train's Line of sailing packets between Boston and Liverpool departed on 5 March and arrived at Liverpool on 28 March 1846 with the detained mails. The letter arrived at London on the next day and is docketed inside arriving at destination on 30 March 1846.

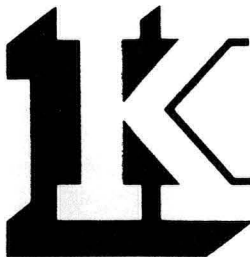
The New York Foreign Mail postmark was used to show a prepayment of 5¢ on mails sent overseas on the Cunard steamships from Boston. During the period of its use, a British steamer departed Boston twice a month except in the winter months of January, February, March and April. Postmaster Morris usually held the foreign mails for the next steamer and did not despatch the U.S. mails on the sailing packets. Finding a ship letter with this marking is most unusual and, as described above, the result of unexpected and unplanned mail handling. It is quite possible that this example may show the only use of this marking on a ship letter.

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5. Author's note: Hart Island is located in Long Island Sound, about 16 miles from the battery of New York City, opposite Great Neck, Long Island, just two and one half miles N.E. of today's Throggs Neck bridge.



One of the most interesting areas of United States Postal History is the collecting of rates to foreign destinations. Just by sheer experience, the postal history dealer or auctioneer acquires a knowledge of what is truly rare. For many years I had known of the existence of the 25c rate by Bremen Hamburg mail to the tiny German principality of Schleswig-Holstein. I recall seeing one a dozen or so years ago in a well known collection of foreign destination covers but I never "found" one or saw one come up for sale. Now, the rate was in existence from July of 1857 until February of 1867. You would think there would be a lot more than a couple of these rates known when it was in effect for almost 10 years. Last year our auction firm had the opportunity of selling the "Patrick Henry" collection of foreign destination covers. There were over 1650 lots and over 3500 foreign rate covers in the collection but only one 25c rate to Schleswig-Holstein and not in the finest of condition. The owner told me he had searched for this rate for almost 35 years and finally had succeeded in acquiring one about five years prior to the sale of his collection. You can imagine my surprise when earlier this year the above cover came up for auction with the simple description of a #37 and #24 tied on cover with no relevance to the rate. I considered myself very fortunate to have acquired the cover so that it could be placed in a collection where it will be appreciated.



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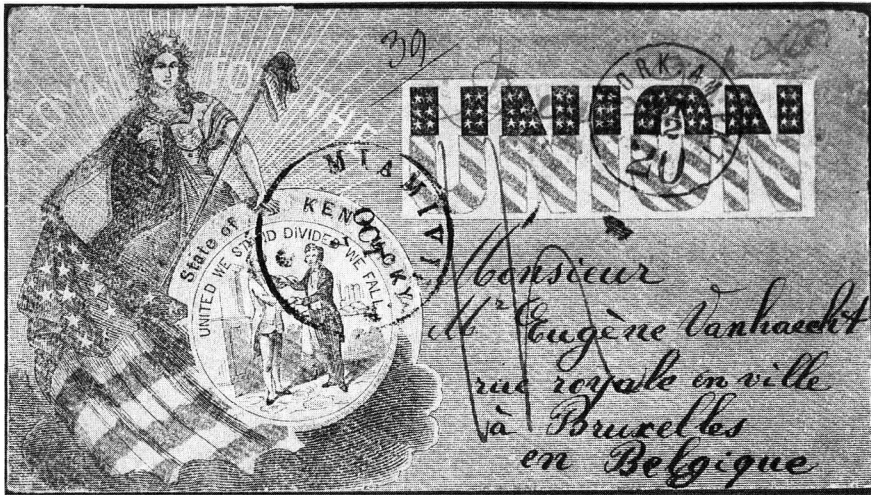
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**ANSWER TO PROBLEM COVERS IN ISSUE NO. 150**



**Figure 1. Patriotic cover to Belgium.**

Figure 1 shows a Union patriotic to Belgium with a cds of Miami, Ohio, dated Oct. 7, but no year. This marking was used at this small town on the Little Miami River in Hamilton County from Oct. 1861 to Jan. 1862 for mail from thousands of soldier recruits at nearby Camp Dennison. The sender hopefully wrote “Due 21¢” which was the open mail rate from 1849 to 1868 via Great Britain. Instead the letter went by closed mail under Belgian treaty (eff. Jan. 1860) at a rate of 27¢, via England. The U.S. debited 20¢ in the N.Y. postmark, and this letter was carried by an American packet to England. The marking “1n” in ink is “14” for 14 decimes due. A decime was about 2¢. The “39” is probably the thirty-ninth letter sent to Eugene Vanhaecht, as there are a number of other covers known for this correspondence. The well-known and avidly collected Camp Dennison cds was not used until Feb. 1863.

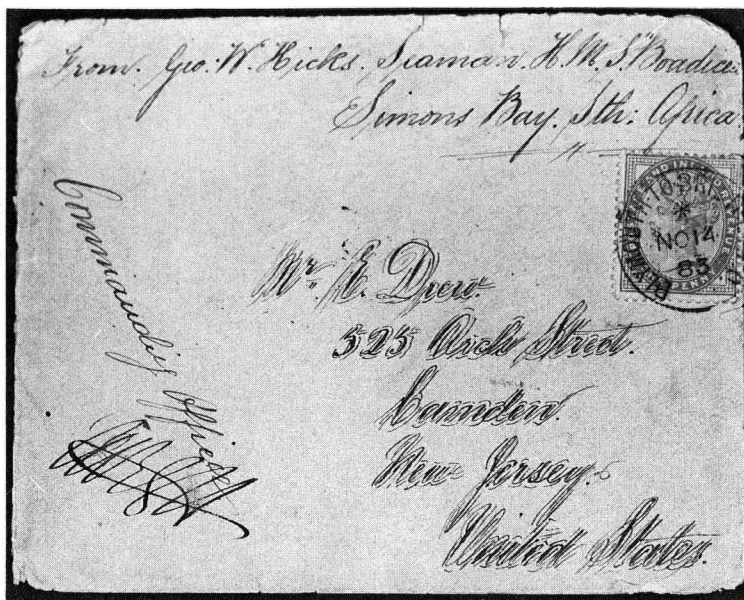
Figures 2a and 2b show the front and portion of the back of a cover from South Africa to the U.S. in 1883. This item has elicited many cogent responses, which are all appreciated. It is warming to hear from so many philatelic friends. In addition to a half dozen verbal answers, written analyses were received from George Arfken, Dr. Jack Arnell, Jeremiah Farrington, Charles Hahn, Robson Lowe, Walter J. Mader and Patricia Stilwell Walker. The cover had been found in a collection by Bud Elvgren, who recognized it as an unusual usage with a one penny stamp accepted as paying the postage to the U.S., when the U.P.U. rate would have been 2½d. This special rate is called several names: “Privilege Rate,” “Concession or Concessionary Rate,” “Armed Forces or Soldiers and Sailor’s Rate.”

Pat Walker quotes from Colin Tabart’s *U.K. Letter Rates* this statement from a GPO circular of 1859:

Letters sent by soldiers and seamen may be forwarded on payment of a British rate of 1d, to any part beyond sea with which there is direct communication by means of British packets.

Jack Arnell cited the original Act of 1795 and added:

This rate was intended to apply within the British Empire; but this letter went from Liverpool to New York without additional charge, possibly because it did not go through the London office. By the 1880s the onus was on a forwarding office to note postage due charges, and as Liverpool did not, New York backstamped it “PAID ALL.”



**Figure 2a. Letter from South Africa to the U.S.**

Robbie Lowe wrote as soon as he received his *Chronicle* at Bournemouth:

This is a seaman's privilege rate letter, 1d. He was serving on H.M.S. Boadicea and his commanding officer signed the letter in the lower left corner. On arrival in Plymouth it was put on the train and cancelled thereon as the datestamp 14 November is Plymouth to Bristol TPO. The letter was forwarded to Liverpool on the same day and arrived in New York on 25 November. The British Navy would have been at Cape Town for two reasons: 1883 was the year of the Zulu civil war, and 1884 saw the establishment of the German colony of South West Africa.

Charles Hahn also noted that the 1d adhesive was not cancelled until the letter reached Plymouth and that it may have been carried from South Africa to England aboard a British naval vessel. Charles Hahn has a number of concessionary rate letters in his collection, but this is the first he's seen to the U.S.



**Figure 2b. Reverse of Figure 2a cover.**



Pat Walker has privilege rate covers to and from Ireland in her collection, and adds that this 1883 usage to the U.S. is an unusual and late example.

### PROBLEM COVERS FOR THIS ISSUE



Figure 3a. Cover to Moghegno in 1878.

Figures 3a and 3b show the front and back of a cover sent in 1879 from Watsonville, Cal., to the oddly-named destination of Moghegno. On the back is a “5” in red crayon, as well as various transit and receiving markings. A single 3¢ and a pair of 6¢ Banknote stamps are killed with a bullseye in smudgy black similar to the cds, to pay postage and registration. This item has been donated recently to the Stamp and Cover Repository and Analysis Program of our Society. Why did the owner not wish to exhibit or keep it?

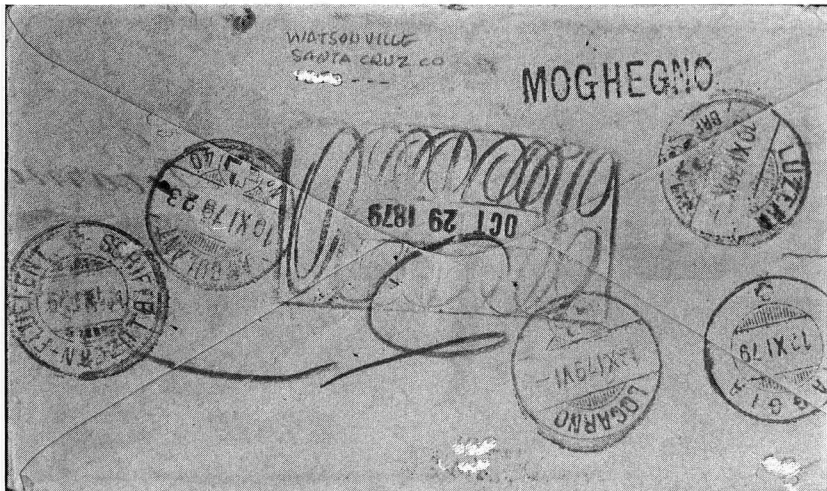
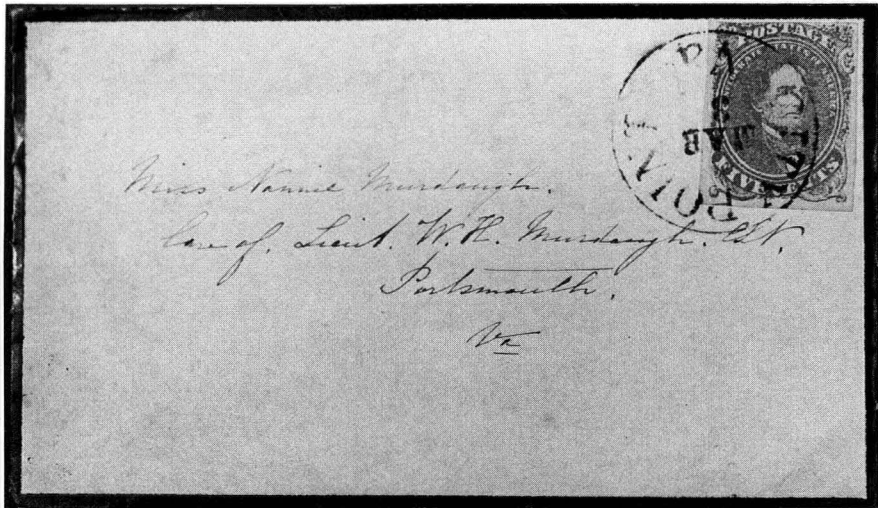


Figure 3b. Reverse of cover in Figure 3a.

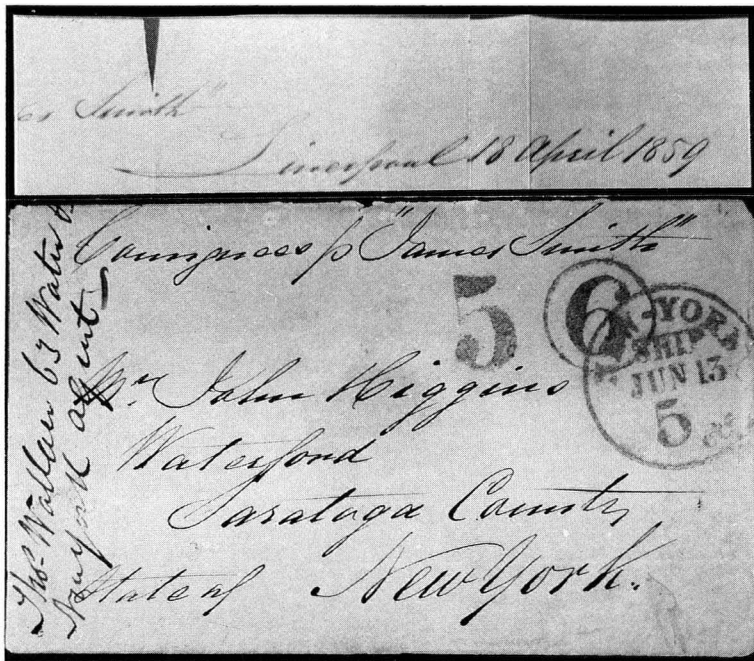
Figure 4 shows a Confederate mourning cover with C.S.A. #1, 5¢ green used from City Point, Va., to Portsmouth, Va. The cds in black is dated “Mar 3”. There are no markings on the back of the envelope. What is unusual about it, and what is the year of usage?





**Figure 4. Confederate mourning cover.**

Figure 5 shows the letter byline and a cover sent from Liverpool to Waterford, New York, in 1859. All of the markings are in black and there are no markings on the back. At the left end is written "Thos. Wallace, New York Agent" and a ship name "James Smith" is at the top. The question asked by the submitter is the rate. Was it 5¢ or 6¢, and why? Why wasn't the letter sent by contract mail packet?



**Figure 5. Cover from Liverpool in 1859.**

Please send your answers by mail soon after receiving your *Chronicle*, or FAX a little later to 513-563-6287. Suggestions for new "problems" are appreciated, especially if a black and white photo (with good contrast) is sent.

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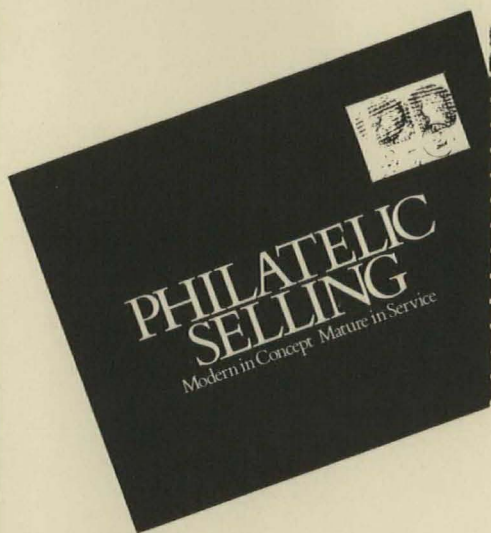
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