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February 1992

Volume 44, No. 1

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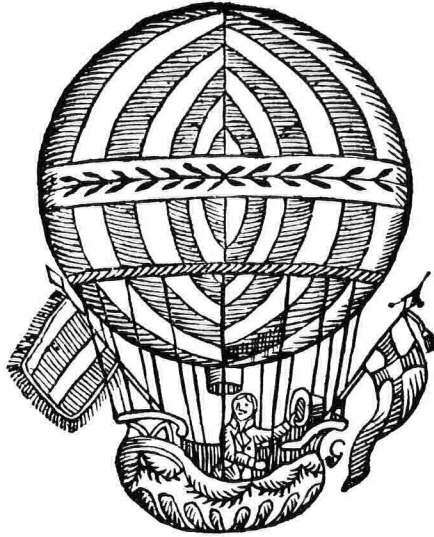
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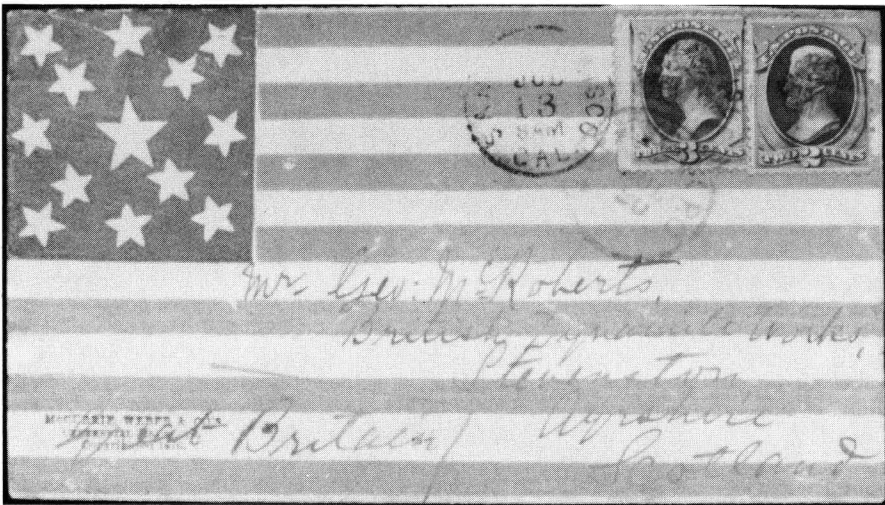
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IN THIS ISSUE

THE EDITOR'S PAGE

- Review: The World's Greatest Stamp Collectors;
More of the World's Greatest Stamp Collectors7
Review: The Foreign Mail Cancellations of New York City
1870-18788

U.S. CARRIERS

- 1847 Postage Stamps used in Combination with Carrier and Local Adhesives,
by Robert B. Meyersburg (Continued from *Chronicle* 152:23410

THE 1847-51 PERIOD

- 10¢ 1847 Cover from Minnesta Territory Discovered,
by Susan M. McDonald16

THE 1851-61 PERIOD

- The Savannah, Georgia, Duplex Handstamp of 1860-61
by Richard B. Graham20
County and Postmaster Named Postal Devices 1792-1869,
by James W. Milgram, M.D. (Continued from *Chronicle* 152:248)22
Review: 19th Century Cleveland, Ohio Postal Markings28

THE 1861-69 PERIOD

- Requiem for a Classic Cover: 24¢ Blackish Violet June 21, 1866,
by Richard A. Thalheim, Jr.30
Editorial Comment33
Troy, N.Y. Skull & ? of 1863 — Gravestone Carvings35
The Civil War "Soldier's Letter" Marking — More Yet36
Review: The Black Jack in Vermont37

THE 1869 PERIOD

- Used 24 Cent 1869 Inverts, by Scott R. Trepel38

OFFICIALS ET AL.

- Why is This Stamp Rare?, by William E. Mooz40
From the Editor52

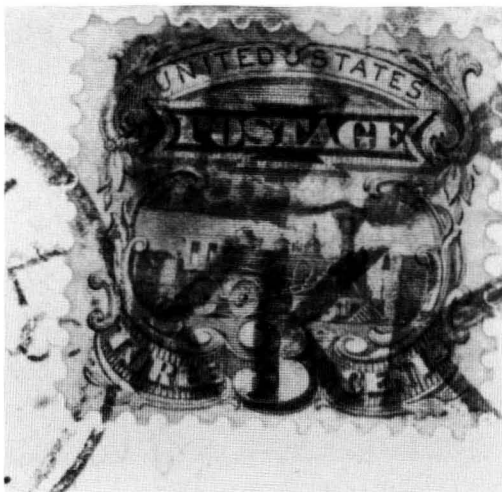
THE FOREIGN MAILS

- Changes for U.S. Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations,
by Charles J. Starnes54
The Belgium Convention Rate to Spain — Addendum,
by Richard F. Winter57

THE COVER CORNER

- Answer to Problem Covers in Issue No. 15264
Problem Covers for this Issue67
Some Puerto Rican Puzzlers60

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THE EDITOR'S PAGE

Review: The World's Greatest Stamp Collectors; More of the World's Greatest Stamp Collectors. By Stanley M. Bierman, M.D. Softbound, XV + 267 pp. & XV + 215 pp. respectively. Two volumes slipcased available at \$29.95 postpaid from *Linn's Stamp News*, Box 29, Sidney, Ohio 45365. Hardbound edition, slipcased, \$60.00.

The World's Greatest Stamp Collectors is a revised and updated version of a book first published in 1981. It describes the personalities, eccentricities and collecting activities of some legendary philatelists of the past, such as Philippe von Ferrary, Thomas K. Tapling, George H. Worthington, Colonel Edward H.R. Green, Alfred H. Caspary and Alfred F. Lichtenstein. The acquisition and dispersal of many important philatelic items are recounted in detail, as well as the rise and fall of the fortunes of individual collectors. The book provides a colorful picture of collecting prior to the adoption of the federal income tax.



John F. Seybold in his stamp room.

The second volume — *More of the World's Greatest Stamp Collectors* — gathers some sixteen articles that were published in the *Chronicle* from 1983 to 1988. Inexplicably, there is no proper acknowledgement of this debt to the *Chronicle*. Collectors covered in this volume include John F. Seybold, Dr. Carroll Chase, Henry C. Gibson, Sr., Sir Nicholas E. Waterhouse and such prominent dealers as Philip H. Ward, Jr. Joseph Steinmetz's involvement in the blue paper scandal, and the Ludlow-Beebe and Augustine Heard finds are well presented. The chapters appear little altered from their *Chronicle* form — the most obvious difference being that the footnotes, at the bottom of the page in the *Chronicle*, have now migrated to the end of each chapter. This trendy method has been encouraged, I think, by the laziness of editors and layout people. Such publishing giants as Yale University Press in *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin* (now 28 volumes) still print

footnotes at the bottom of the page to which they refer. Robert Frost once compared blank verse to playing tennis without a net — I consider footnotes at the chapter end to be in the same category.

These two volumes may put a little too much emphasis on monetary factors and awards, but they offer welcome insights into the personalities and motivations of famous past collectors. They make entertaining and instructive reading for the voyeur in each of us.

Susan M. McDonald

Review: The Foreign Mail Cancellation of New York City 1870-1878. By William R. Weiss, Jr. Hardbound; iv + 504 8½ x 11 pp. Available from W.R. Weiss Jr., P.O. Box 5358, Bethlehem, Pa. 18015 at \$75.00 postpaid in U.S. First class \$5.00 additional; foreign orders add \$25.00.

This is a good news, bad news review. First the good news. This book, based on Weiss's prize-winning NYFM collection, represents a massive effort to assemble all possible information on NYFMs and incorporate reports from collectors, dealers and other sources. The markings are divided by types and arranged progressively in catalogue form. Many previously unrecognized NYFMs have been added and new information about them has been uncovered. Each cancel is individually treated, and known covers listed. Many outstanding covers and off-cover stamps are illustrated.

Now the bad news — which may outweigh the good. "Outweigh — the word is like a bell..." The book weighs well over four pounds — to hold it at a proper reading angle for more than a few minutes strains the arms and back. There is no index, so that many topics, not presented in logical sequence, are not readily accessible. This is the first book I've ever seen with odd numbers on the left hand pages and even on the right. I hope this is an innovation that doesn't catch on. It seems to stem from an obsession against blank space — every page is filled completely, and unrelated pages titled "Unusual NYFMs" are inserted at irregular intervals where there seems to have been a danger of blank space. The net result is an irritating characteristic of run-on chapters and sections. Moreover, the type face is strident and tiring to the eye. And the horizontal lines of type are too long to follow readily; two columns would have been better.

Certainly anyone seriously interested in the NYFMs needs to have this book, but it is a great shame that the presentation is so unworthy of the information contained therein.

Susan M. McDonald

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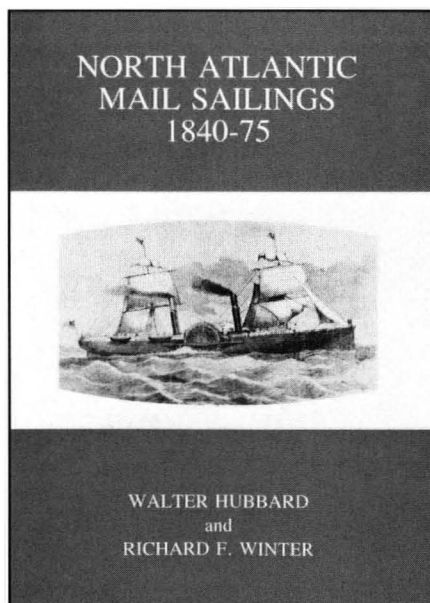
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**1847 POSTAGE STAMPS USED IN COMBINATION
WITH CARRIER AND LOCAL ADHESIVES**

ROBERT B. MEYERSBURG
(Continued from *Chronicle* 152:234)

1847s COMBINED WITH LOCALS

JOHNSON'S BOX (unlisted) +5¢ 1847: one cover, Dec. 18, 1848, to New York. (Figure 18).

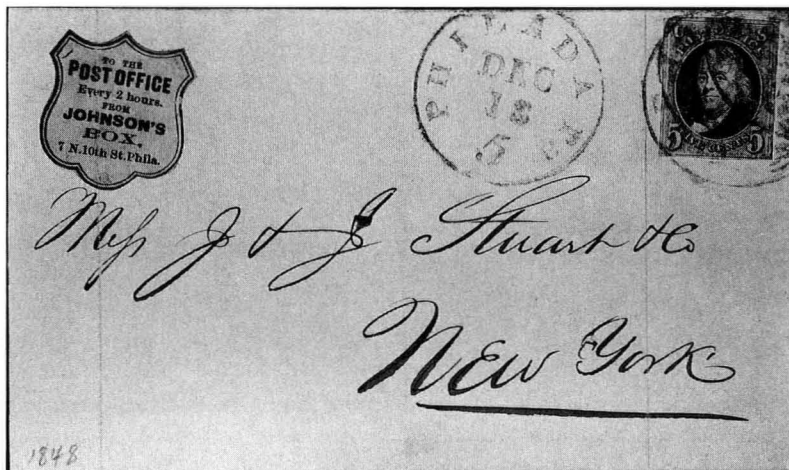


Figure 18. JOHNSON'S Box on cover to New York.

**Adams' City Express Post
New York, N.Y.**

2L2 + 5¢ 1847: four covers, used in 1850 and 1851.

**D. O. Blood & Co.
Philadelphia, Pa.**

15L5 + 5¢ 1847: one cover, used to Pikesville, Md.

15L6 + 5¢ 1847: one cover, used Aug. 6, 1847, to New Haven, Conn. (Figure 19).

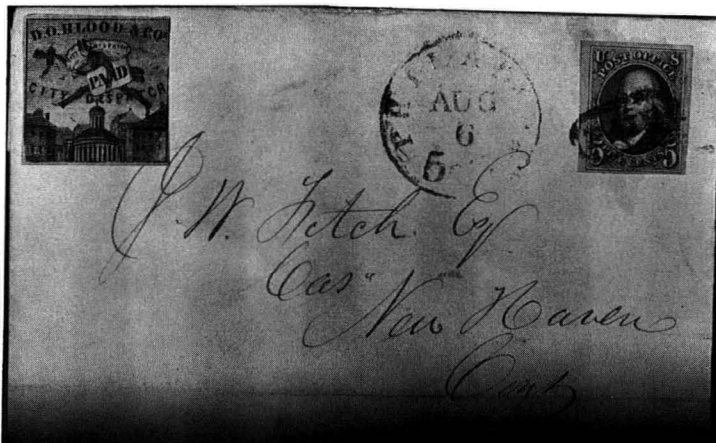


Figure 19. Blood 2¢ black used to New Haven.

15L7 + 5¢ 1847: two covers.

15L7 + 10¢ 1847: one cover.

15L8 + 5¢ 1847: two covers.

15L8 + 2X5¢ 1847: two covers, Oct. 15, 1847, with two 5¢ singles, to Boston; Dec. 1, 1847, with pair of 5¢ to Peoria, Ill.



Figure 20. Blood 1¢ black on cover to New York.

15L9 + 5¢ 1847: seven covers. (Figure 20).

15L9 + 2X5¢ 1847: five covers, of which one has a pair of 5¢.

15L9 + 10¢ 1847: two covers, one dated March 13, 1848, to Montreal, one dated June 17, no year date, to Toronto.

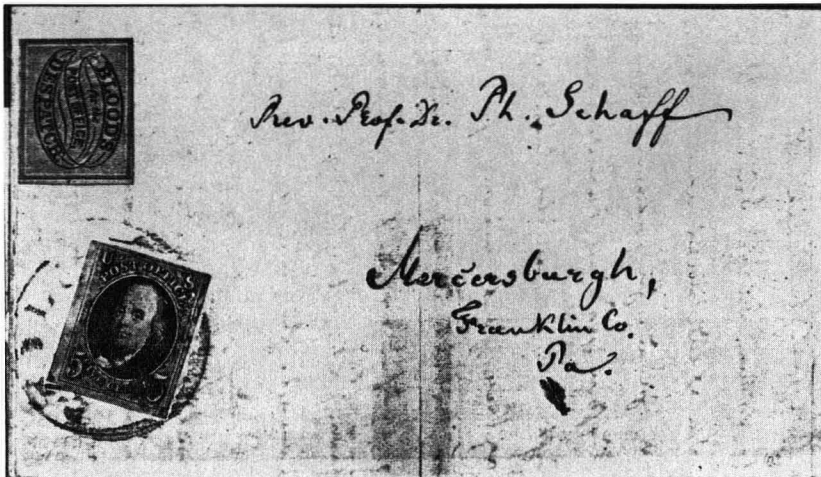


Figure 21. Blood black and blue used to Mercersburg, Pa.

15L10 + 5¢ 1847: five covers. (Figure 21).

15L10 + 10¢ 1847: one cover.

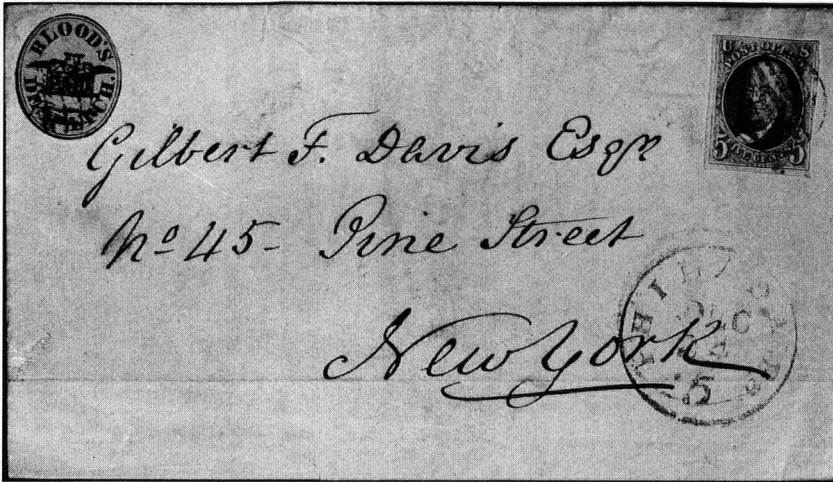


Figure 22. Blood black on pale green used to New York.

15L11 + 5¢ 1847: one cover, dated Dec. 24, no year date, to New York, cut to shape (Figure 22).

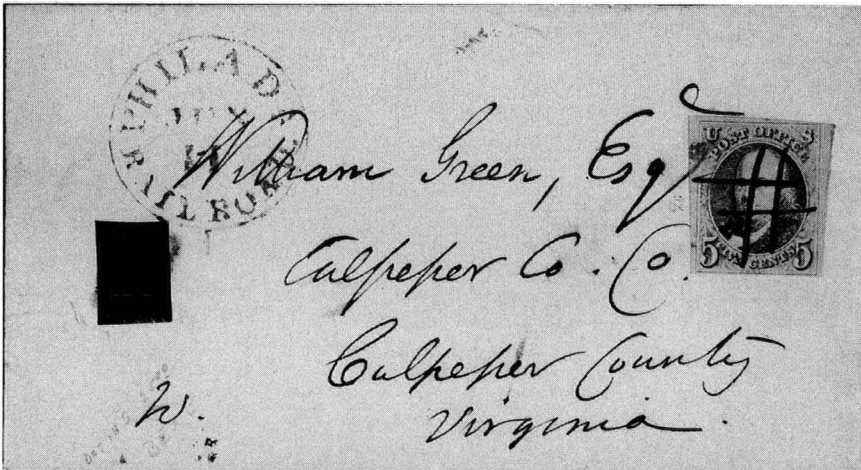


Figure 23. Blood 1¢ gold on black, glazed, on cover to Virginia.

15L12 + 5¢ 1847: four covers. (Figure 23).

15L12 + 2X5¢ 1847: one cover, vertical pair 5¢, dated Feb. 10, 1849, to Boston.

15L12 + 10¢ 1847: one cover to Richmond, Va.

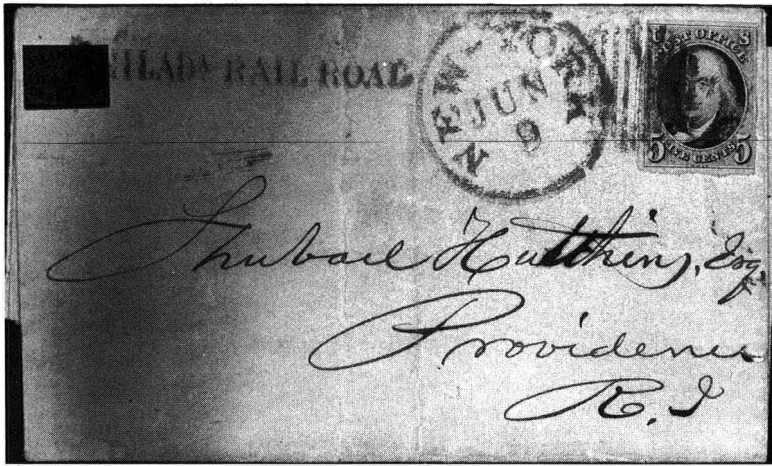


Figure 24. Blood 1¢ bronze on black, glazed, used to Rhode Island.

15L13 + 5¢ 1847: forty-three covers. (Figure 24).

15L13 + 2X5¢ 1847: seven covers, including three pairs of 5¢, one of which is vertical.

15L13 + 10¢ 1847: six covers.

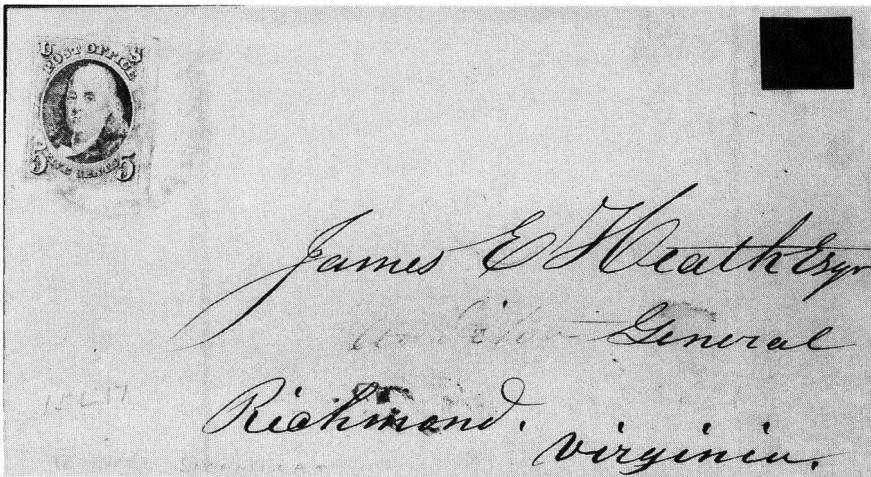


Figure 25. Blood 1¢ bronze on black, glazed, on cover to Virginia.

15L17 + 5¢ 1847: twenty-four covers. (Figure 25).

15L17 + 2X5¢ 1847: three covers.

15L17 + 10¢ 1847: seven covers.

15LU1 + 2X5¢ 1847: one cover to Marietta, Oh.



Figure 26. Blood red on buff envelope to New York.

15LU6A + 10¢ 1847: two covers, to New York (Figure 26); to Shelbyville, Tenn.



Figure 27. Blood handstamp on cover to Virginia.

Various Blood handstamps + 5¢ 1847: five covers. (Figure 27).


Blood handstamp + 10¢ 1847: one cover, dated Sept. 7, 1849, to Boston.

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THE 1847-51 PERIOD

10¢ 1847 COVER FROM MINNESOTA TERRITORY DISCOVERED SUSAN M. McDONALD

The authentication of an 1847 cover used in the Minnesota Territory will not be news to those who have followed the weekly philatelic press, but it is of great interest to students of the 1847 issue. Minnesota was the only postal entity to which stamps were officially sent from which a verified use on cover was not previously reported.

The 1847 issue was distributed to 31 states and territories then extant, plus the District of Columbia, Panama, and various route agents. The Official Record Book kept by John Marron, Third Assistant Post Master General, and his clerks, recorded the date stamps were sent from Washington, the date they were received (by letter of acknowledgment), the Post Master's name and the number of 5s and 10s.

From the transcription of the Official Record Book by Henry L.C. Wenk III the distribution to St. Paul, Minnesota was recorded as follows:

Sent	Received	Post Master	Tens	Fives
Oct. 4 1850	Oct. 17	J.W. Bass	300	---
Jan. 8 1851	Feb. 4	J.W. Bass	900	200

St. Paul was the only Minnesota Territory post office to receive stamps, and the total of 1400 was the smallest for any state or other recipient except for some individual route agents.

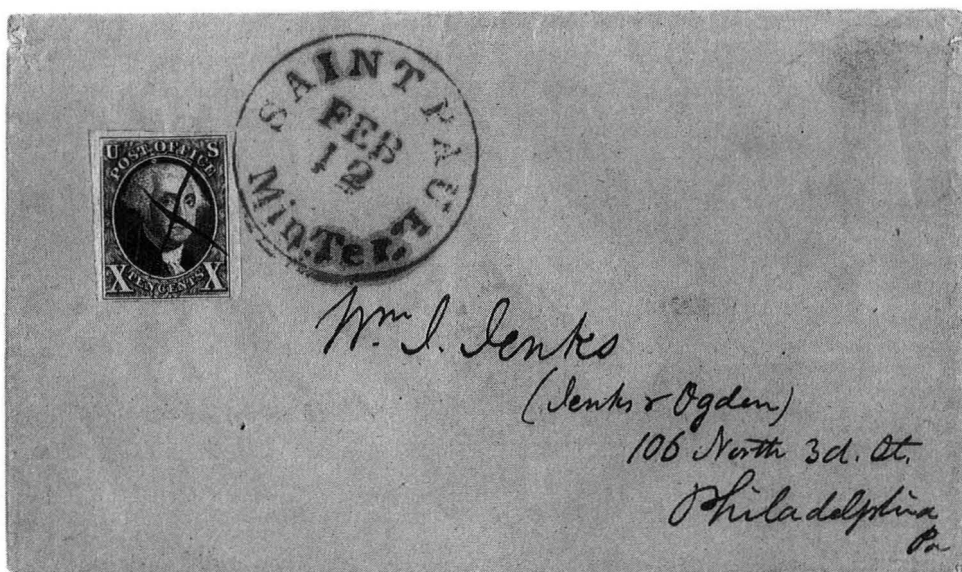


Figure 1. 10¢ 1847 cover mailed at St. Paul, Minn. Ter., Feb. 12, 1851. This is the first authenticated use of the 1847 issue from Minnesota Territory. It is part of a correspondence from J. Ridgway Jenks, a druggist, to a relative at a similar firm in Philadelphia.

St. Paul was a small town at this period, with a population under 1200. According to the U.S. Official Register for 1851 (Sept. 30), the net proceeds of the St. Paul office for the period July 1, 1850, to June 30, 1851, were \$830.77. The distance to major cities probably accounts for the large supply of 10¢ stamps.

The newly discovered cover (Figure 1) is postmarked FEB 12 and mailed to Philadelphia. It is not year-dated, but the distribution table above shows the year had to be 1851. The 10¢ stamp is pen cancelled and just tied by the St. Paul postmark to a buff envelope. According to an account in *Linn's* the cover was found in the estate of a Pennsylvania collector. Through one or more dealers it made its way into the collection of Floyd E. Risvold, an ardent collector of Minnesota material and author of the acclaimed *The Minnesota Territory in Postmarks, Letters and History*, 1985. The Philatelic Foundation issued a certificate to Richard Frajola, dated November 21, 1991, stating "it is genuinely used on cover with a dark blue postmark."



Figure 2. Later cover from the Jenks correspondence, postmarked March 26, 1857. The corner card shows the Day & Jenks drug and medicine business in St. Paul.

Risvold states the cover was mailed by J. Ridgway Jenks, a druggist in partnership with Dr. David Day. Jenks was the brother-in-law of Governor Ramsey, later senator from Minnesota state. The addressee is another Jenks, apparently in the same business. Another cover in the Risvold collection from the same correspondence is shown in Figure 2. Mailed March 26, 1857, with a 3¢ 51, it bears a corner card illustrating the Day & Jenks drug establishment and lends validity to the 1847 cover. Two other covers from this correspondence — one with a 3¢ orange brown, probably 1851, and another with a 3¢ 51 — are also included in the Risvold collection.

A 5¢ cover from St. Paul to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, has been rumored to exist for many years. It was described at some length by Creighton C. Hart in *Chronicle* 61 for February 1969. The cover had been seen in 1928 by a prominent Minnesota collector, Jefferson Jones, who was able to recount complete details of its appearance. It had been mailed in 1850, so the 5¢ stamp was a "transient" and could not have come from the supply sent to St. Paul in 1851. After the owner's death Jones lost track of the cover and never succeeded in relocating it. Considering all the dire things that may have befallen it in sixty-four years, the cover must now be classified as a phantom. It must be strongly empha-

sized that the picture of this cover appearing in *Chronicle* 61 and again in *Chronicle* 122 is *not* an actual photograph of the cover, but a simulation, or re-creation, based on the description furnished by Jones.

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THE SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, DUPLEX HANDSTAMP OF 1860-61
RICHARD B. GRAHAM

The last *Chronicle* included a continuation of an article discussing the development and first uses of duplexed style handstamps in 1860-61 after Postmaster General Joseph Holt's edict of July 1860 that required separate handstamps be used to apply the dated townmark on covers and to cancel the stamps. Barring the experimental tests of the Norton duplex adjustable date handstamp at Troy, N.Y., in 1859, the earliest use of a duplex on a continuous basis was at New York. The late Arthur H. Bond recorded a use from August 8, 1860, in the *Post History Journal* for June 1963. As far as I know, Mr. Bond never had an earlier example reported nor have I seen or heard of such. In fact, my own earliest example is dated September 10, 1860, with an exceedingly sharp and clear strike. For some years I have been trying to assemble early strikes of the New York duplexes that are sharp and clear, not only to learn how early they were used but how many different instruments were actually placed in service.

The last illustration in the article in *Chronicle* 151, the first part of the article on the use of the duplexes in 1860-61, showed a cover from Savannah, Georgia, with a possible duplex marking that was postmarked on October 23, 1860. If this were a duplex, it would identify Savannah as one of the early users of such markings, after New York and Cleveland which were using the duplexes in August 1860. I asked for photocopies of covers with confirming examples or that, alternatively, would prove the relationship of postmark and killer on the October 1860 cover was simply an accident and that two handstamps were used.

To date, I have had reports of eleven different covers from four different readers. These were Ervin E. Underwood, Frank Crown, Roy E. De Lafosse, and Joseph T. Holleman. The earliest use of the duplex at Savannah still remains with the cover shown as Figure 12 in the last *Chronicle*, postmarked Oct. 23, 1860. This marking is traced as "A" in Figure 1. Five of the covers reported were with 1860 dates and the remainder from 1861, with April 26, 1861, the latest date.

Since Georgia seceded from the Union on January 18, 1861, and officially became a Confederate state on February 4, 1861, six of the twelve covers recorded are Confederate States usage of U.S. stamps in the period before the Confederacy took over its own postal system on June 1, 1861. Oddly, none of the covers bears a postmark date between secession and joining the Confederacy, known as Independent State usage to collectors of Confederates.

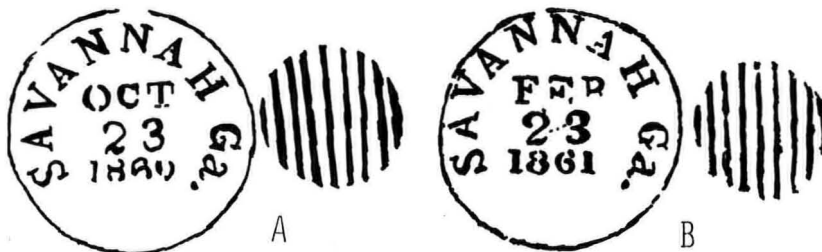


Figure 1. The two types of Savannah, Ga., duplex markings. Note the spacing between the outer circle and the letters of "Savannah."

The number of covers available made possible another bit of research to learn whether Savannah had more than one duplex marking. As may be noted from the tracings in Figure 1, the covers bear two slightly differing constant types of markings. One, designated as "A," shows a constant wider space between the outer rim and the last six letters of "Savannah." Also, the distance between the bottom of the "S" of "Savannah" and the period after "Ga." is 17 mm on the type "A" and 18mm on the type "B."

The dates, towns to which addressed and the way postage was paid are shown in table A. The table allows us to draw the conclusion that the differences between the two types of markings stem from there being two different duplex handstamps. When, in making the tracings, the difference in spacing between the outer circles and "Savannah" became apparent, I wondered at first if the difference were the result of damage to a single instrument. However, the table, recording four type "A" and eight type "B" markings shows both were in use at the same time and that examples of the "A" marking, with no apparent damage were still appearing after the "B" style was also in use.

It has long been my opinion that nearly all the government issue style handstamps were issued in duplicate if not in greater numbers. The recent monograph on Cleveland postal markings compiled for the Garfield Perry Stamp Club's 100th anniversary by Thomas F. Allen and his committee shows four very similar town datestamps in use during this period, two duplexed with a killer and two not. The towns large enough to be eligible to receive the government issue steel townmarking devices, which required \$1000 gross receipts per annum (per Section 352 of the 1857 *P. L. & R.*), did a sufficient volume of business to need two or more clerks receiving and handstamping mail at the same time. Actually, while we really don't know just what internal arrangements the 19th century post offices used, when we go to a post office counter today to mail a registered letter, it seems that each counter position has its own set of handstamps.

In any case, the covers reported make clear that Savannah had two government issue duplexed handstamps supplied in October 1860. While I have no record of use after U.S. stamps were no longer valid in the Confederacy, perhaps Savannah was the only post office in the CSA to have used duplexes under any conditions. While the Confederate post office officially adopted the U.S. *P. L. & R.*, with certain exceptions such as rate structures, that didn't necessarily apply to the edicts of the U.S. Postmaster General that were not part of the laws enacted by Congress. Most Confederate general issue stamps bear town postmarks.

Responding to the articles on the duplexes in the *Chronicle*, Mr. Edward T. Harvey suggests that Chicago also was using duplex markings while the 1857 stamps were current. Recourse to the standard reference *Chicago Postal History*, edited by Dr. Harvey M. Karlen (Collectors Club of Chicago, 1971) shows uses on covers sent as early as October 1860 (page 55) of a style of double circle handstamp with serifed letters that later was normally furnished to other towns duplexed. Illustrations on page 66 show use of this style marking, duplexed on mails suspended covers sent in 1862 and later. Other illustrations show that the duplex types were in use there by September 1861 if not sooner. Reports of Chicago duplex uses on the stamps or postal stationery of 1857, particularly from 1860, would be appreciated. And, for that matter, reports of similar uses from any other cities will also be a useful contribution to the saga of the development of the duplex type handstamps.

TABLE A
SAVANNAH, Ga. DUPLEXED MARKINGS ON COVERS OF 1860-61

Type Mkg	Date	Postage Paid By	Addressed To
A	Oct. 23, 1860	3¢ 1857 stamp	Washington, D.C.
B	Nov. 21, 1860	3¢ 1857 stamp	Charleston, S.C.
B	Dec. 7, 1860	3¢ 1857 stamp	Marion, S.C. *
B	Dec. 20, 1860	3¢ Nesbitt	Montgomery, Ala.
B	Dec. 21(?), 1860	3¢ Nesbitt	Milledgeville, Ga.
A	Jan. 3(?), 1861	3¢ 1857 stamp	Sparta, Ga.
A	Feb. 5, 1861	3¢ 1857 stamp	Charleston, S.C.
B	Feb. 23, 1861	3¢ Star die	Macon, Ga.
B	Mar. 21, 1861	3¢ 1857 stamp	Charleston, S.C.
A	Apr. 11, 1861	3¢ Star die	Milledgeville, Ga.
B	Apr. 20, 1861	3¢ Star die	New York
B	Apr. 26, 1861	3¢ 1857 stamp	Montgomery, Ala.

* On turned cover; second use is as wrapper for newspaper.

COUNTY AND POSTMASTER NAMED POSTAL DEVICES 1792-1869
JAMES W. MILGRAM, M.D.

(Continued from *Chronicle* 152:248)

PENNSYLVANIA

ANDORA-PHILA. CO./PA., C-30, 1850, black (Plate 9-drawings, A.)
BRADFORD/McKEAN CO. PA., C-22, 1864, black (Plate 9-drawings, B).
COOLSPRING JEFF. Co. Pa., S.L., 1847, black.

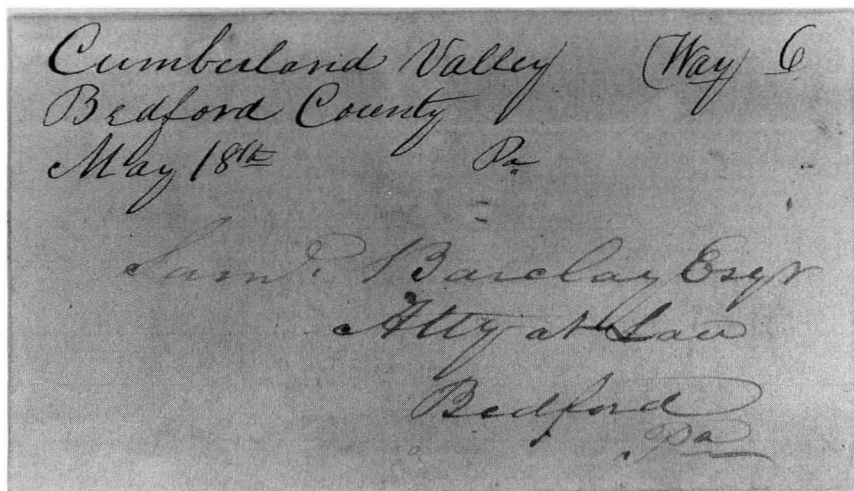


Figure 55. "Cumberland Valley Bedford County May 18th Pa." and "Way 6" all in manuscript, a stage way usage.

Cumberland Valley Bedford County Pa., ms., 1847, black.

Manuscript postmarked covers can occasionally contain a county name. The cover in Figure 55 was selected to show such an example. The cover also demonstrates the inland way fee of one cent added to the five cents postage; this was paid to the mail carrier. The actual origin was in the rural region outside of the town of Cumberland Valley, May 17, 1847.

ELIZABETHTOWN/Lanc. Co./Pa., C-27^{1/2}, 1833, black (Plate 10-photographs, A).
ENON VALLEY BEAVER CO. PA., C-29, 1838, black (Plate 10- photographs, B).

ETNA ALLEGHENY CO. PA., C-30, 1853, black (Plate 9-drawings,C).

JAS. BELL, Jr., P.M. EXPERIMENT MILLS P.O. MONROE Co. Pa., printed three S.L. 42 x 18, 1862, black.

This rare printed cornercard postmark, shown in Plate 10-photographs, C, was dated in manuscript below the cornercard, 8/25/62, and was legally franked by the postmaster, using his personal cornercard as a postmark, similar to the Zevely cornercards from Pleasant Grove, Maryland.

FAIRVIEW MILLS./SHIREMANSTOWN P.O./CUMBERLAND CO., P.A./J.H. MILLER, printed corner card in fancy rectangular frame, 1850s, black.

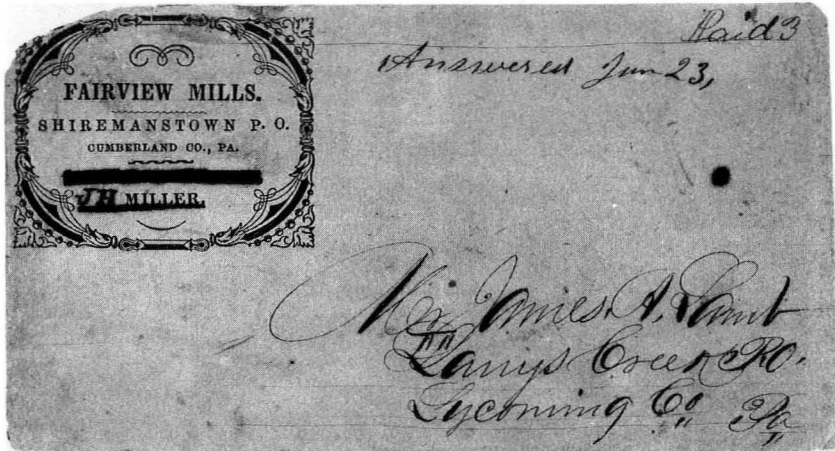


Figure 56. "FAIRVIEW MILLS SHIREMANSTOWN P.O. CUMBERLAND CO., PA." printed corner card instead of postmark. There is a ms. "Paid 3."

This cover (Figure 56) has an elaborate printed cornercard from Fairview Mills. It appears that the postmaster of Shiremanstown had connections to this factory and used the cornercard as a postmark. The postage was paid in cash, and the cover was sent stampless. Another very similar cover has been seen so it appears to be a regular usage from this town.

GAP LAN. CO./PA. C-29½, 1846, black (Plate 10-photographs, D).

HIGHSPIRE. PA./ (DAUPHIN CO.) two S.L. 42½ X 10, 1855, black.

The marking from this town (Figure 57) is one of the straight line type county postmarks. The parentheses around the county name are unusual, and the date is rather late for a straight line postmark. Note the manuscript date which means there was no opening for moveable type in the handstamp. The circular "PAID 3" is a very common marking of this period.

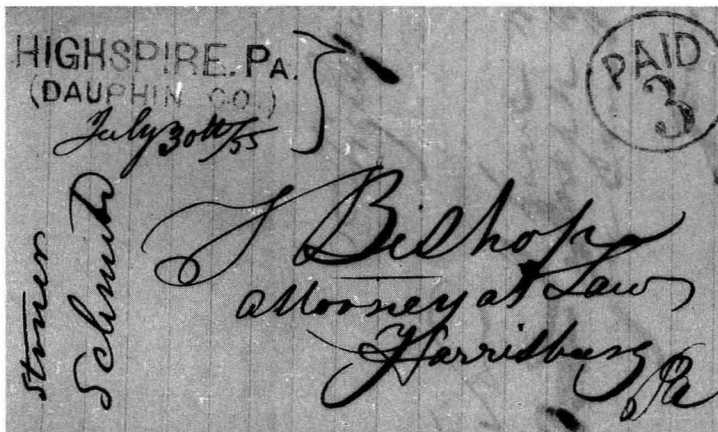


Figure 57. "HIGHSPIRE, PA. (DAUPHIN CO)" with ms "July 30th/55" dating, also "PAID 3" in circle.

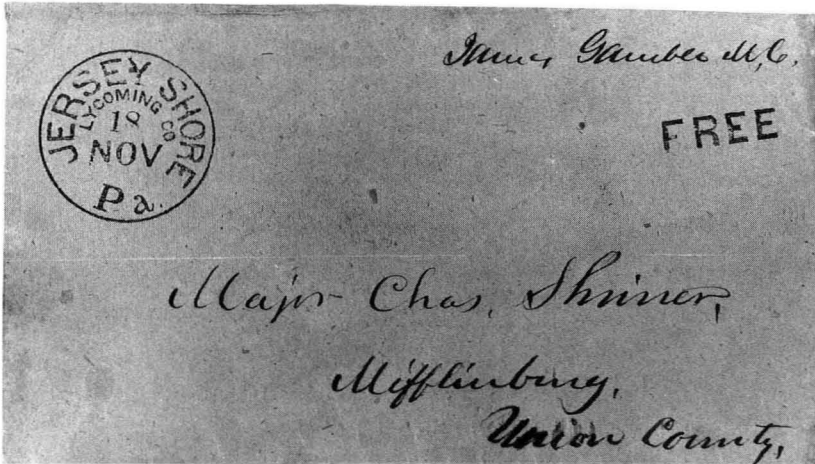


Figure 58. "JERSEY SHORE LYCOMING CO Pa. 18 NOV" and "FREE" with congressional free frank.

JERSEY SHORE/LYCOMING CO./PA., C-30, 1851, black.

This marking is one of the more common county postmarks, but it is often well struck, so it is also one of the more handsome examples of this usage. The cover in Figure 58 shows a rare usage with a Congressman's free frank. The marking was used on stamps of the 1851 series. A striking seven bar grid killer is also seen on such covers (Figure 59).

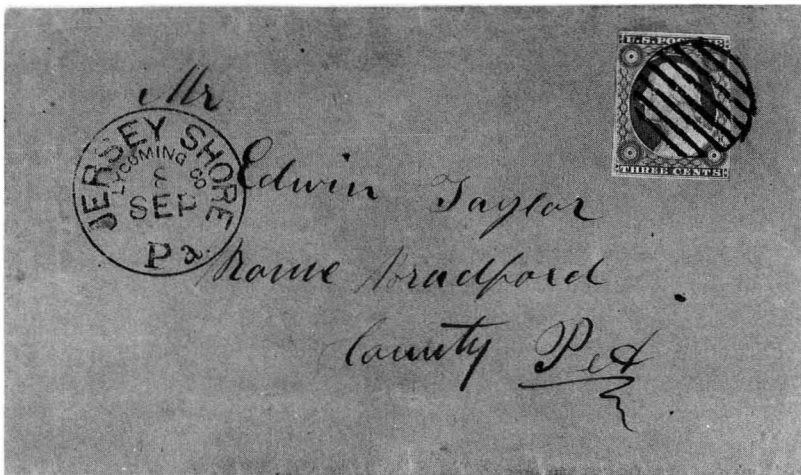


Figure 59. "JERSEY SHORE LYCOMING CO Pa. 8 SEP" and 3¢ 1851 tied by striking 7-bar grid. This marking is probably not of Zevely manufacture.

KNOXVILLE Pa., C- , 1850s, black. FREE in black. Printed label Hiram Freeborn P.M.

NATRONA/ALLEGHENY CO. PA., oval, 1868, black (Plate 9-drawings, D).

+MAUCHCHUNK/NORTHHAMPTON CO. P., two S.L. 42 X 20, bracket at right, 1824, black.

STEAMBURGH Pa., C-33, 1859, black. A.S. POTTER/FREE/POSTMASTER, DC-40, black (Plate 9-drawings, E).

WATERLOO, JUNIATA Co. Pa., DC-23, 1863, black (Plate 9-drawings, F).

WAYNESBURG GREEN CO PA O, rimless C-30, 1840s, black (Plate 10-photographs, E).

WEST MANCHESTER/ALLEGHENY/PA., C-31, 1852, black, red.

WEST MANCHESTER/ALLEGHENY CO/PA, C-36, 1851, blue, black.

While this postmark resembles a Zevely ballon circle, it contains a different type



Figure 60. "WEST MANCHESTER ALLEGHENY CO PA 18 NOV" in balloon type circle, matching "PAID 3" in circle.

style and thus is probably a copy instead (Figure 60). Together with the bold "PAID 3" in a circle, it is a rather striking example of a stampless county postmark.

WILCOX/ELK CO. PA., C-33, 1857, black (Plate 9-drawings, G).

WILLAMSBURG/date/NORTHAMPTON CO Pa., three S.L., 1825, red (Plate 9-drawings, H).

J.W. SNOK/WOODWARD, PA., double oval, 1868, black.

ZOLLARVILLE/WASHINGTON/Pa., C-36½, 1855, black.

The original usage on the cover shown in Figure 61 is from Oberlin, Ohio. The Zollarsville county postmark was added when the cover was forwarded to Waynesburg. A new stamp was cancelled in manuscript. This is one of a number of markings where the county's name was used alone without the abbreviation "Co."



Figure 61. "ZOLLARVILLE WASHINGTON Pa. 17 MAY" used with pen cancelled 1851 stamp to forward cover originating at Oberlin, Oh.

SOUTH CAROLINA

AIKEN, S.C. C-31, 1846, red. F.W., negative initials in fancy oval 17 x 20 red. Frederick Wesner was the postmaster.

This cover from Aiken, South Carolina (Figure 62), bears a handstamped monogram in exactly the same ink as the postmark. This monogram reads "F.W.", and since Frederick Wesner was the postmaster in 1846, one has to assume he composed the marking. There is a manuscript "10" for the unpaid postage rate, so the marking does not signify a free frank

PLATE IX



A



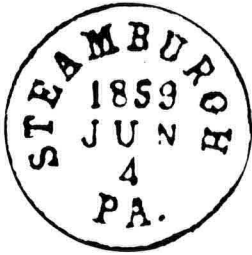
B



C



D



E



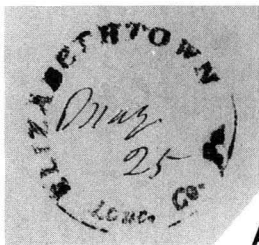
F



G

WILLIAMSBURG
March 20 1826
NORTHAMPTON CO Pa. H

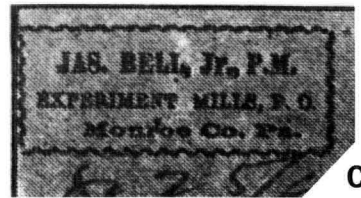
PLATE X



A



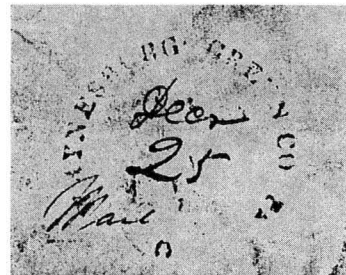
B



C



D



E



Figure 62. Monogram red oval with negative initials "F.W.," matching color town postmark "AIKEN S.C. AUG 10" (1846). There is a manuscript "10" rating mark over the monogram.

usage (the letter was not from him personally). No doubt the marking was mainly a vanity handstamp although one could call it a control marking I suppose. It does appear to be genuine however.

COLUMBIA, S.C., C-32, 1853, blue. P.O.B./J.B. Glass, P.M., printed in black, two S.L., 45 x 12, blue FREE.

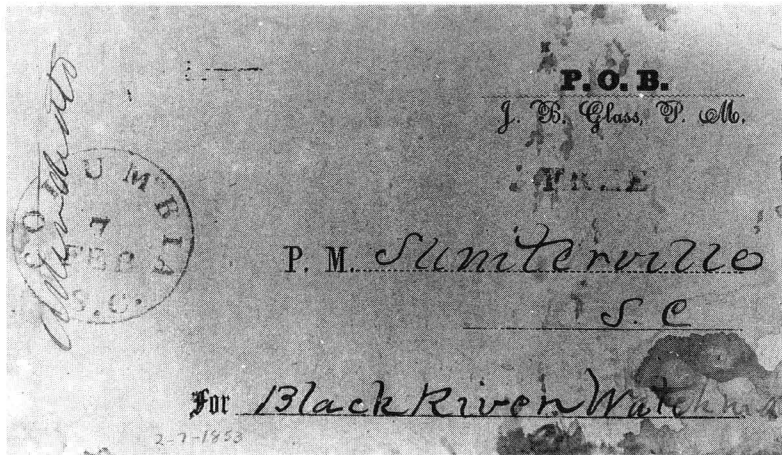


Figure 63. "COLUMBIA S.C. 7 FEB." (1853) in blue, printed circular from postmaster, "P.O.B. J.B. Glass, P.M." printed free frank, also blue "FREE."

This cover from Columbia in Figure 63 has a printed frank and a partially printed address to postmasters at different towns to be indicated in manuscript. The contents of this folded letter were also printed, and it is a post office circular regarding newspapers which were not being collected at the Columbia, S.C., post office. The letter was signed in type identical to that in the free frank on the cover. It is an illegal usage as a free frank, but at around this time P.O.B. free markings began to be used in lieu of free franks. The year 1853 is an early date for such a usage.

To be continued

Review: 19th Century Cleveland, Ohio Postal Markings. Edited and compiled by Thomas F. Allen. Softbound. 122 pages. Published by the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, 730 Ohio Savings Plaza, 1801 East Ninth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44114, at \$20 postpaid.

In his introduction, the editor states his purpose "is to reassemble the postal history of the 19th century, depicting all reported postal markings of Cleveland since establishment of a Cleveland post office..." This is a noble example of the breadth of data that can be presented through the concerted efforts of many specialists in the field.

The first chapter discusses the origins of the town that later became a great metropolis and the early postal routes to and from the area. It lists all of the 19th century Cleveland postmasters and the dates of their appointment, the locations of the post offices from 1804 to 1858, and selected post office revenue and staff data through 1879.

While one would expect tracings of all of the townmarks used in the city through 1900, the compiler here gives us an extra bonus in the listings of the early, scarce markings. Each of the 204 known manuscript markings is listed by date, rate and (usually) by addressee and destination. A similar list contains the 19 known straight line townmarked covers, sorted according to the four types. Each of the 450 known box townmarks is recorded by type (there are five types), date and rate; the quantity of these precluded inclusion of addressee and destination data.

Each list also indicates whether the cover is in private hands or is in some public archive. Widespread dissemination of this information should materially discourage thefts from archives, which has at times become epidemic.

By the time of the first appearance of a circular townmark (1834), mail from Cleveland had become so common that detailed listings of individual covers is impractical. These and later townmarks are listed by type, dates of use and quantities known to the compiler.

Rate marks struck separately from the townmarks, grids and fancy cancels, as well as a full range of auxiliary markings, are similarly listed by color, type, dates of use and number seen. Of particular interest is a complete listing of the nine known Money Letter covers (1851-1853).

Steamboat, Railroad, Transit and Train Late markings complete the markings lists. The compiler does not specifically state that the railroad route agent markings were not necessarily struck at Cleveland even though that city's name appears in the mark; it is probable that he assumes his readers will already know that these marks could have been struck at either terminal of the route or at intermediate stations.

A separate chapter covers private, semi-private and U.S.P.O.D. carrier stamps used in Cleveland, including inter-city transport of mails by Eastern private expresses. Illustrated here is the only recorded example of a U.S.P.O.D. eagle carrier stamp used in Cleveland, as well as two examples of carrier fees "to the mails" prepaid with a 1¢ 1861 regular postage stamp.

The final chapter lists all known markings from Ohio City in the same format as the Cleveland markings. Ohio City was a separate town on the west bank of the Cuyahoga River from 1818 to 1854, when it was absorbed by Cleveland.

This slender volume contains a vast amount of data. In addition to the extensive tables, there are some 305 full size tracings of postal markings and 113 cover illustrations. It is recommended not only to those interested in Cleveland's postal history and markings, but also to anyone interested in 19th century postal history in general.

Thomas J. Alexander

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REQUIEM FOR A CLASSIC COVER
24¢ BLACKISH VIOLET JUNE 21, 1866
RICHARD A. THALHEIM, JR.

The relatively scarce, or even rare by some accounts, shade of the 1863 24¢ stamp (Scott #78c) was documented on only 17 covers extant in November 1982 as listed in *Chronicle* 116:263. Included in the tabulation in the *Chronicle* article was an item identified as originating in Cincinnati, Ohio, on June 21, 1866, bearing P F. Cert. 24476 and owned by E. Lawrence. This particular cover was not pictured in the *Chronicle* article but was photographically depicted in a sale which appears to have disposed of the E. C. Lawrence collection on March 12, 1986. Robert A. Siegel 658th sale lot 545, pictured in the catalogue (Figure 1) was described at page 70 of the catalogue as follows: identifying the stamp as the 24¢ Blackish violet (78c):

Natural s.e. at L., short perf., Fine; Tied by Blue grid on 1866 cover from Cincinnati,

O. to London, England, faint Red transit mark on front, edge wear, o/w Fine.

No mention was made of the P. F. Certificate described in the *Chronicle* article of November 1982. That certificate had indicated "genuine 78c blackish violet with crease across bottom left and used on cover." Lot 545 reportedly sold for \$67.50 according to the Prices Realized.

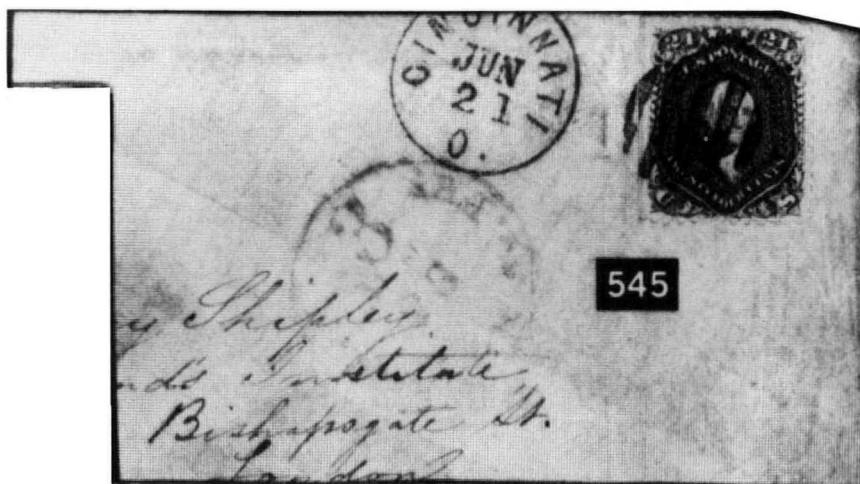


Figure 1. June 21, 1866, cover is illustrated with straight edge in March 12, 1986, auction catalogue; price realized at auction \$67.50.

The selfsame item was sold by the same auction firm in its "John C. Winslow, II" sale of December 15-17, 1988 (Robert A. Siegel 704th Sale) where it appeared as lot 1082, photographed (Figure 2) and described at page 130 of the catalogue as follows, again identifying the stamp as the 24¢ Blackish Violet (78c):

VF, Rich True Shade, Tied by Bold Blue Grid cancel on 1866 cover from Cincinnati,
O. to London, Light Red N.Y. exchange mark, VF, Extremely Rare Shade on or off cover.

Still no mention of a certificate. No more straight edge or short perf, no crease, no edge wear, and now graded as an unqualified Very Fine rather than the previous somewhat qualified Fine. What a remarkable change — this item lost its flaw by aging for an additional 2½ years!

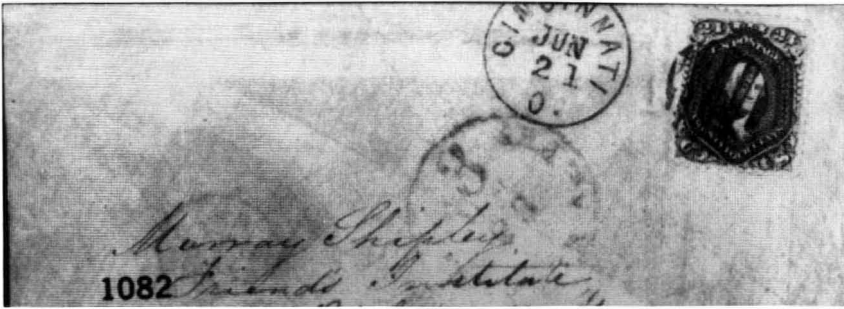


Figure 2. The same cover as illustrated with prior straight edge now perforated in December 15-17, 1988, auction catalogue.

Figure 3 shows enlargements of the stamp portions of the cover in the two sale illustrations, with the earlier cut at the left.

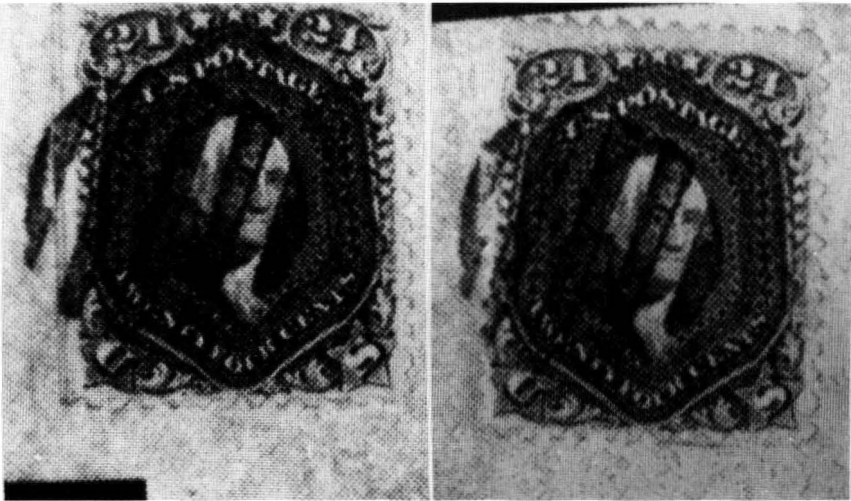


Figure 3. Enlargements of the stamp areas of the auction house illustrations shown in Figures 1 and 2.

But bad news accompanied the incredible improvements. Someone decided to resubmit the item to the Philatelic Foundation — perhaps unaware of a prior certificate, since it had not been mentioned at the 1986 or 1988 sales. Amazingly, the Philatelic Foundation issued certificate no. 204062 stating that the item is a genuine usage on cover! The expertizing body missed the artificial perforations on the former straight edge. The bad news, however, was that while the item was submitted to the Foundation as 78c black violet, the Foundation now said that the item was not the scarce or rare 78c but was merely the common 78 dark lilac.

The new certificate was apparently misplaced, or perhaps someone hoped forgotten, by April 6, 1991. On that date the selfsame cover was scheduled to appear for sale in the auction of W.R. Weiss as lot 2737, where it was pictured (Figure 4) at page 211 and described at page 210 of the catalogue as:

24¢ Blackish-violet to England; #78c tied blue grid of Cincinnati to near VF (reverse flts & sm. piece out at rt) 1866 cvr., the 78c CV \$600. off-cvr. and normal #78 CV 2½ X value on cvr., thus 78c at least \$1500+ if listed

No hint of the recent certificate saying that this is not 78c, nor hint of other modifications of the cover. As noted, above, at the 1986 sale, the item supposedly sold for \$67.50; the 1991 start bid was \$375. Did perforating a straight edge and getting a bad certificate really improve the value of this cover?

However, the cover was not sold in the Weiss sale of April 6, 1991. When the Weiss

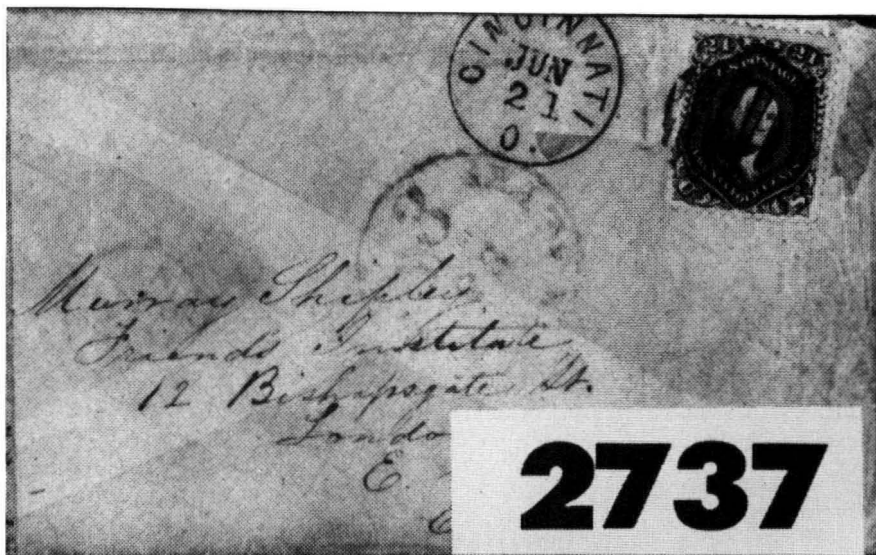


Figure 4. The same cover as illustrated in April 1991 auction catalogue; no mention of a recent Philatelic Foundation certificate declaring the item was not the rare blackish violet shade.

firm was notified of the cover's various certificates and modifications, the auctioneer advised that he had no desire to sell misdescribed items and wished that he had a legal right to tear up items which had "been around" for a while, but that since he did not have that right, he was simply returning the item "to the owner who, if he happens to be dishonest, can just send it on the next unsuspecting auction house to offer as a 'good' item!"



Figure 5. Late 1991 net price sale picture of cover remnant, cover having been destroyed some time in 1991, accompanied with new PSE certificate not mentioning the reperforation of the straight edge, declaring the item genuine blackish violet; asking price \$2000.

At this point, the cover was mortally wounded. Not entirely without regret, we announce its demise. But just as the proverbial bad penny continues to return and the phoenix rises from the ashes, it has again returned to the marketplace in a new version. In the 1991/92 Winter Net Price Sale No. 110 of Ventura Stamp Co. Affiliate University Stamp Co., Inc. the photograph of lot 104 pictures (Figure 5) the upper right corner of the cover with the stamp and Cincinnati c.d.s. and blue 5 bar cancel. This lot is described as follows at page 9 of this net price list:

78c XF, 24-cent blackish violet, tied on small piece by Cincinnati, OH blue grid. Brill-

liant color, and a stunning example of this rare shade. PSE Cert. (Color Plate 2).....Price \$2000.

An item which sold in 1986 for \$67.50 now has an asking price of \$2000. It now has an apparently clean PSE certificate which calls it 78c blackish violet, whereas the Philatelic Foundation in its most recent certificate said the item is not 78c but rather the common dark lilac. The stamp is demonstrably reperfected, but both PFC and PSE fail to detect the alteration. Who can we rely on?

It is only fortunate that the item still remains on piece at present because that permits us to identify it for what it is and where it came from. Will some unsuspecting person buy it, relying on apparently valid recent expertization? Will it disappear from the market, only to reappear as a single stamp, off piece, at some future time when memories may have faded? Who knows?

How many other pricey items are floating around out there with apparently good, current expert certificates singing the siren song to the unwary? Even more disturbing, how many of these wolves in sheep's clothings may have already preyed on your collecting dollar and left you fleeced? A sad state of affairs.

What can you do about it? On purchases you have not yet made, caveat emptor. A current expert certificate is not alone sufficient to assure that the item is not tampered with or ungentine in some respect. Ask for more of a pedigree. From whom did your vendor procure the item and when? If bought at auction, find out from the auction house the identity of the consignor, if you can. If the item is worthy of being photographed and lotted individually today, there is a good chance that it was of sufficient value to have been similarly so documented in the past. Ask the Philatelic Foundation whether their records reflect any prior submissions or certificates on the item, and if so, try to order a copy. At least find out who submitted the item previously. If prior history shows handling by characters of dubious reputation or competence, be even more vigilant. If possible, examine prior published articles dealing with subjects which may have been likely to picture the item or discuss it. Checking auction house catalogue runs of those houses likely to have previously dealt with the item may be eye-opening.

On items which may already have been purchased, similar steps can be taken. Ask the source from whom you have purchased for as much of a record of prior ownership as exists. Many reputable dealers give lifetime warranties of genuineness. There may also be legal recourse against auction houses for a much longer period of time than their self-stated terms of sale would attempt to suggest.

The lamentable tale of the ultimate mutilation and demise of a cover which apparently survived intact from 1866 through 1986 but shortly thereafter was significantly altered and ultimately destroyed documents a reduction in the already scarce population of blackish violet covers (assuming the item is indeed the rare shade). The pecuniary motivations which must have underlain the course of its decline are not difficult in surmise. Since we can expect cupidity to always be present, we can at least derive from the knowledge of what happened here the lesson that prudence requires continued vigor and vigilance. Too bad this lesson comes through the destruction of a philatelic classic.

EDITORIAL COMMENT:

The feature article in this section of the February *Chronicle* is Richard A. Thalheim, Jr.'s tracing of 24¢ blackish violet stamp originally on a full cover sent from Cincinnati to London in 1866 from the time it was first recorded in the *Chronicle* ten years ago until the present. From the original listing by William K. Herzog as one of three covers sent from Cincinnati in the summer of 1866 with the blackish violet stamp, the cover is now a stamp on a piece of cover. The steps along the way as it went through various auctions and expert committee considerations provide us with insight into what is happening to many of our

rare covers that existed in less than perfect condition originally. This cover has been sacrificed to the two-faced god of the desire for perfect stamps and exhibition show competition.

While I have never had any problem understanding the desire of collectors for perfection in the unused and off-cover stamps they collect, it doesn't seem logical to demand similar perfection for a full cover that went through the mails and across the seas and still was in reasonable condition after 120 years. It is unfortunate that after surviving the natural travails of passage through the mails and the years since that a cover should have been subjected to the kind of abuse that this cover has undergone.

The problem, I suspect, lies with us all as collectors rather than with the dealers who sell and resell the covers or the expert committees who are asked to pass judgement on the covers. While I invite comment as to how experts, either as describers or considering for opinions, could have missed the re-perforating, etc., I suspect that the real culprits are owners who purchase clever "restorations." What is needed, of course, are censuses, together with good illustrations of each item, that are available to not only expert committees but all who are interested. I have always suspected that when covers are being written up for auction that describers use the write-ups on the exhibit pages upon which the covers are usually mounted. The only research done, other than verify stamp identifications is when the eye of the describer detects something doubtful that needs to be checked. In describing for auction, time is cost not easily recovered.

In the same vein, I feel the professionals who restore covers usually follow the owners' instructions in restoring covers. I doubt that they do extra work to make a cover look better unless the owner will pay for the added time required.

As postal history, the subject cover considered here is a routine 24¢ usage to England. The main interest as an auction lot was not because of unusual usage but because of the rare shade of the 24¢ stamp on the cover. As a rare shade on cover, the original straight edged stamp would seem to have been acceptable, even though straight edges are seldom seen in exhibits of stamps off cover.

While, as Mr. Thalheim points out, we can question if the stamp was ever the rare shade in the first place, we can also speculate whether the cover, in being restored, wasn't subjected to chemical cleaning that affected the shade of the stamp. We can also speculate as to whether the expert committee reference collection samples to which (we hope!) it was compared are truly representative of the full range of the blackish violet shades.

In this writer's opinion, it is time that standards were set by the stamp world authorities as to what is permissible and what is not in restoration. The process certainly can include cleaning the grime of the ages and processing to not only eliminate foxing but also preventing further such deterioration. Probably small tears and creases can be mended and smoothed out. Certainly, a deacidification process, if not causing further damage, would be useful. Which is to say the restoration process should be along the same lines as is done with old master paintings — to bring back, as nearly as possible, the original appearance and to prevent further deterioration.

Obviously, re-perforation of stamps on the cover, heavy reinforcement of rare markings and such should be taboo. Just how far restorers should go in replacing pieces of cover, mending large tears, adding missing perforations to stamps, is a question that needs to be resolved — and controlled. I would be surprised if any readers of these words who take the time to look at the exhibits in the shows they attend are not aware of the restoration process. But, I wonder if they are aware of the extent of the practice, either in the number of high ticket items involved or the depth of the work performed on some of them. It's time to bring the problem out of the closet and attempt to resolve it.

Richard B. Graham

TROY, N.Y. SKULL & ? OF 1863 — GRAVESTONE CARVINGS

In *Chronicle* 152, there was shown a photo of a cover sent from Troy, N.Y., in 1863 with a previously unrecorded fancy cancel on a 3¢ pink and buff envelope (Scott's U35). Part of the cancel was recognized as being a tiny skull, but in spite of a dealer description of it being a "skull and crossbones," neither the owner, Clyde Jennings, nor myself could see any resemblance to the rest of the well-known pirate emblem.

One of the problems in attempting to identify what a 19th century postmaster or clerk had in mind when they carved their fancy corks, is for us to fully visualize the intended image. Carvings when often crude and also were often poorly or incompletely struck. In addition, when on a dark stamp or a stamp that photographs as dark, it is difficult to either see to trace or photograph the image in enough contrast that it may be fully depicted. In this case, through the use of photo filters, the image of the pink indicia on the envelope was photographically faded out, so the cancel could be illustrated exactly as it appeared on the cover. A tracing of approximately the same size and an enlarged photo were shown in Figure 2 on page 261 of *Chronicle* 152. The photograph is reproduced here as the central image in Figure A with these notes.

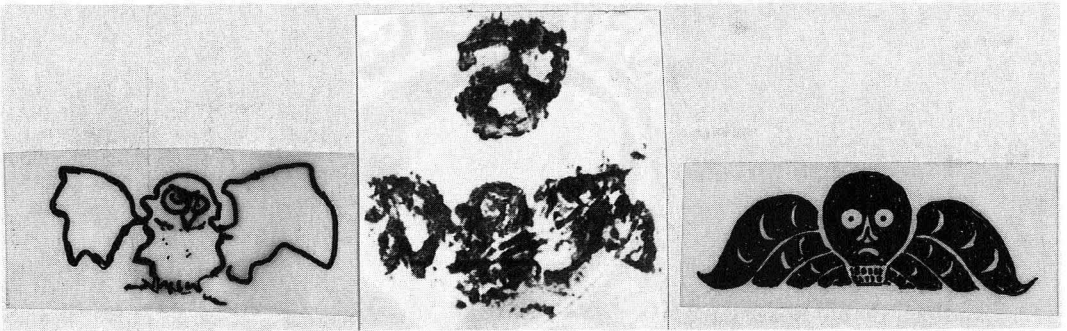


Figure A. At center, an enlarged photo of the fancy cancel on the Troy, N.Y., cover of 1863, with filters used to fade the indicia of the envelope. Drawings at right and left represent reader suggestions of what the lower part of the fancy cancel was intended to represent. At left, the "Spirit Owl," as suggested by Cary E. Johnson. At right, Winged Death's Head, as suggested by Clifford W. Woodward. Both ideas stem from early American tombstone carvings.

Two excellent responses, both stemming from the same concept — that the grave-stone carvings — have been received. Mr Cary Johnson remarked that he was able to see the design immediately, probably because he had recently spent some time in New England seeing similar carvings on tombstones. He called the cancel a "Spirit Owl," and accompanied it with a rough sketch similar to the sketch as the left in Figure A. After looking at Mr. Johnson's sketch, I, too, could see an owl in the lower part of the cancel. Mr. Johnson went on to say that the Spirit Owl carving was often accompanied by a small skull or cherub above it on the colonial and early federal area tombstones.

Mr. Clifford H. Woodward's solution also came from tombstones carvings. He sent a photocopy of a page from a work about such carvings with a drawing roughly traced at the right in Figure A. The design came from *Underfoot: An Everyday Guide to Exploring the American Past*, by David Weitzman (Scribners, 1976) and was on a page titled "Cemetery Symbolology." The image suggested was labeled a "winged death's head." Mr. Woodward remarked that it was the wings on the fancy cancel that caught his eye in this respect and he suggested the fancy cancel was a stylized version. Thus, Messrs Johnson and Woodward both saw the cancel as being connected with the early tombstone imagery that depicts the flight of the soul after death in the symbolic carvings of early America.

While I think the ideas submitted (although we shall never really know what the unknown carver at Troy had in mind) provide a plausible solution to the question, further

THE CIVIL WAR "SOLDIER'S LETTER" MARKING — MORE YET

In the last issue of the *Chronicle*, there was reported an example of a cover with an enclosed letter that originated with a cavalry trooper hospitalized at Tullahoma, Tennessee, in August 1862. The cover had neither a stamp nor a certifying soldier's letter endorsement or officer's signature hence it was sent to the Dead Letter Office. There, in accordance with a practice comenced just about that time, it was handstamped with the large oval "Soldier's Letter" marking and remailed with domestic postage collect to the original addressee.

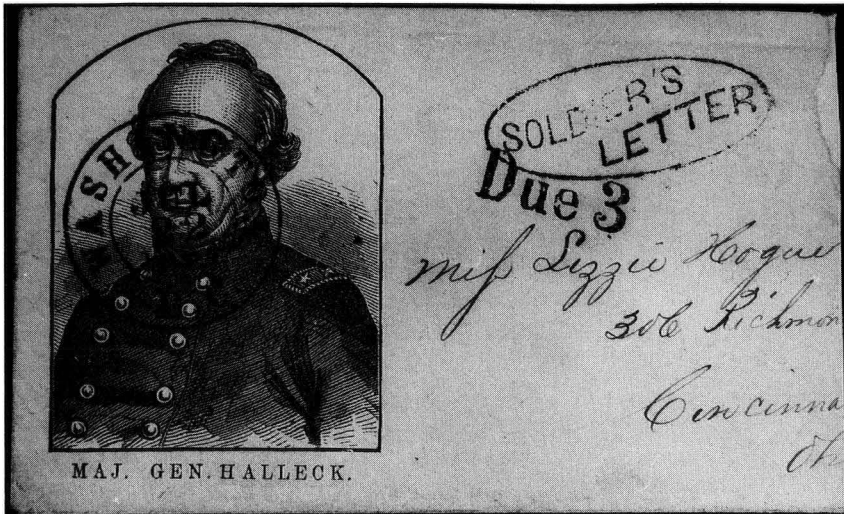


Figure 1. Maj. Gen. Halleck patriotic, printed in blue-grey, sent from Nashville, Tennessee, on July 16, 1862, to the Dead letter Office as unpaid. This cover was remailed there with a Washington, D.C., postmark of July 22, 1862 and the large oval "SOLDIER'S LETTER" with a "Due 3."

The cover was the first I had seen with the large oval marking that had evidence it had been mailed in the west and yet was remailed with a Washington, D.C., post office townmark. This fact was proven by poth the content of the letter and also another first — a Nashville backstamp with a Washington, D.C., postmark on the front. Most of the covers with the large oval soldier's letter marking have backstamps but have no townmark on their faces. Oddly, of the three such covers with Washington markings I'd seen before the cover reported, none had backstamps.

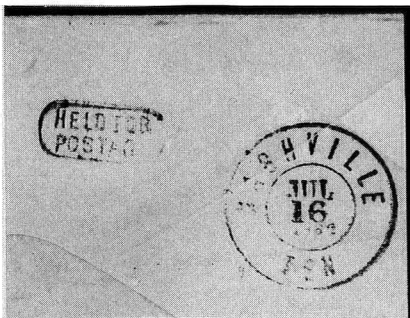


Figure 2. Backstamps on the cover shown in Figure 1.

I sometimes wonder if anyone reads this section but the cover shown in Figure 1, with backstamps as Figure 2, prove they are sometimes read but no reports are made. This

cover was recently offered at a dealer's table at a stamp show, and a copy of the article showing the cover illustrated in the previous *Chronicle* was with it to explain both its rarity and the price.

One can't help thinking of expressions like "hoisted on one's own petard."

Richard B. Graham

Review: *The Black Jack in Vermont.* By Durward Mommsen. Card covers, 76 8½ x 11 pages with 39 covers illustrated including content of several. LaPosta Monograph Series No. 7, available from LaPosta Publications, P.O. Box 135, Lake Oswego, OR 97034 at \$16.00, postpaid.

This fine monograph is based upon a census of Black Jack covers from Vermont made by the author over the last several years. The statistical listings are presented as appendices, but the most important aspect of the book are the preceding 19 chapters that describe the covers in terms of their usage.

The chapters break down the listings of the 163 covers recorded in the census in about every way imaginable. Some of the chapter titles are, with chapter numbers: (4) Second and Third Class Mail; (6) Cross Border uses; (9) The Grilled Black Jack; (10) Postmarks and Cancellations and (15) Railroad Covers. In addition, Appendix C presents in brief, "The Pertinent Postal Laws & Regulations." These itemize out the *P. L. & R.* of the times in terms of whatever pertained in any way to the subject of the monograph.

The author notes in his preface that he hoped the monograph would serve as a guide for others attempting similar compilations. In my opinion, Mommsen has produced an excellent model but it goes beyond that. Since the monograph presents the detail of all the primary uses of the stamp plus a few probably peculiar to use in Vermont, it can serve as a handbook on collecting Black Jack and other covers in general, regardless of what area from which they were used.

Richard B. Graham

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USED 24-CENT 1869 INVERTS
SCOTT R. TREPEL

The survey of used 24¢ Inverts continues from *Chronicle* 151:188. The five “Centered” Inverts were illustrated in the last installment. Only one of them was an authentic well-centered stamp; the others were products of reperforation or repairing. In this article, the Center-West and Center-East categories are shown, comprising ten stamps illustrated in Figures 1 to 10 and listed in Tables I and J.

The Center-West Inverts

To qualify for this category, the frame in green must be centered between the top and bottom perforation rows and shifted to the left, either close to or touching the perforation holes. The seven recorded Inverts in this category are cancelled by very similar circle of wedges cancels, generally made up of eight pie-slice parts. One has a part of the red “PD” in oval, a marking applied at the London exchange office to indicate “Paid to Destination” on fully prepaid letters to destinations in continental Europe. As nearly always the case, the majority of Inverts in this category have a fault (thin, crease, tear, etc.). Only two of the “Center-West” Inverts have been offered as sound (Figures 2 and 3.) Table I provides details for each stamp.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.



Figure 3.



Figure 4.



Figure 5.



Figure 6.



Figure 7.

TABLE I

Figure 1. Circle of 8 wedges cancel. PFC 31050. Faint crease, two small margin tears, and nibbed perf. Ex HRH sale, May 28, 1964, Siegel Rarities 1976 and 1979.

Figure 2. Circle of 8 wedges cancel. PFC 29686. Sound.

Figure 3. Circle of 8 wedges cancel and part of red "PD" in oval. PFC 33104. Tiny inkspot on back. Offered in Andrew Levitt ad (*Stamps*, Jan. 1972), Siegel Rarities 1970, and Kelleher sale, Jan. 30, 1976.

Figure 4. Circle of 8 wedges cancel. PFC 448, 38542, 61384. Faint internal crease and tiny tear at top. Ex Green (Harmer, Rooke, Nov. 13, 1944), Siegel Mar. 25, 1969 sale (Subsequent Jun. 4, 1970 and Apr. 6-7, 1972) and A. Richard Engel (*Corinphila* May 30, 1975).

Figure 5. Circle of 8 wedges cancel. No PFC. Corner creases (Fox sale, Jun. 26, 1958).

Figure 6. Circle of wedges cancel. No PFC. Short perfs at right, perfs touch frame at left. Ex Duckworth (Harmer, Rooke Dec. 11, 1962), Siegel sale Oct. 7, 1964 and Apr. 6-7, 1972.

Figure 7. Circle of wedges cancel. No PFC. Corner crease, small tear. Ex Matthies (Siegel Nov. 14, 1973).

The Center-East Inverts

Only three of the approximately 82 used 24¢ Inverts are centered to the right midway between the top and bottom margins. These are shown in Figures 8 to 10. The first of these "Centered-East" Inverts is sound. The third, shown in Figure 10, was described in the Siegel August 14, 1968, auction catalog as "reperfed at top." The author has not personally examined this stamp and cannot verify the accuracy of the Siegel description. However, it is quite possible that this stamp was originally centered to lower right and was subsequently reperfected to eliminate short perfs or a fault, thus throwing it from the South-East to Center-East category. It should be noted that the "South-East" Inverts, the group to which this stamp would have originally belonged, now constitute a large portion — 16 in all — of the recorded examples. Table J provides details for each "Center-East" Invert.



Figure 8.



Figure 9.



Figure 10.

TABLE J

Figure 8. Segmented cork cancel. Sound. PFC 35158, 169765. Ex Wilshire Stamp Co. sale, Apr. 1, 1981.

Figure 9. Cork cancel. Horizontal crease, short perfs at left. No PFC. Ex Kelleher sale, Feb. 28, 1971.

Figure 10. Cork cancel. No PFC. Reperfed at top, thin spot in grill (Siegel sale, Aug. 14, 1968).

WHY IS THIS STAMP RARE? WILLIAM E. MOOZ

The 1882 issue of the 5 cent Garfield regular postage stamp, Scott number 205, and the 1882 special printing of the same stamp, Scott number 205C, are surrounded by a certain air of mystery and provide for some interesting speculation. This article will attempt to address some of the issues bearing on why all of the evidence surrounding this stamp suggests that it ought to be fairly common, while in reality it seems to be extraordinarily rare.

Does the evidence suggest that Scott number 205C ought to be a relatively common stamp? Let us examine it. Bill Book #3¹ lists the expenditures for the special printings of stamps that were supplied to the Office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General for sale to the public. Figure 1 illustrates two relevant entries indicating that payment for 5,000 of the Garfield special printing was made in February 1882, and a second payment for 5,000 of the stamps was made in March 1882.² These total 10,000 stamps. When the program of selling the special printings to the public was discontinued in 1884, the remaining stamps were carefully counted and destroyed. Although we no longer have copies of the destruction records, Luff did have access to them, and they are recorded in the 1902 issue of his book.³ Luff says, "From the records we learn that there were on hand, at the time of the final counting of the stock before its destruction, 7,537 copies of the 5 cent stamp with the portrait of James A. Garfield, but we do not find any memorandum of the quantity originally received. We are probably correct in placing the number at the customary 10,000. This would give a total of 2,463 sold to the public."⁴

The proof of Luff's assumption that there had been 10,000 of the stamps originally received was shown in Figure 1, and so we can safely assume that there was a total of 2,463 sold to the public. This compares favorably with the sale of the reissue of the 6 cent 1869, Scott number 126, which is listed in Scott as having sold 2,226⁵ copies, and which, while not exactly commonplace, is fairly easily obtainable and which is hardly a rare stamp.

But now look at the relative catalog values. The 1991 Scott catalog lists a value of \$20,000⁶ for the Garfield stamp. In comparison, the same catalog lists a value of \$850⁷ for the reissue of the 6 cent stamp, Scott number 126. These catalog values reflect the true rarity of these two stamps, and the Garfield is certainly far the rarer.

The tantalizing question is why the Garfield should be so rare in comparison to the 6 cent 1869, when approximately the same number of each was sold. To try to shed some light on this, we must delve into the records, and based on what is there, some assumptions can be made.

But before this examination, it is helpful to look at the contextual situation regarding

1. Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28. Bill Book No. 3, Stamp Division, P. O. D., '81-'84.

2. *Ibid.*, entry on February and March, 1882.

3. John N. Luff, *The Postage Stamps of the United States*, New York, The Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., 1902.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 354.

5. *Scott 1991 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps*, sixty-ninth edition, Scott Publishing Co., Sidney, Ohio, p. 381.

6. *Ibid.*

7. *Ibid.*

February 28, 1882.

Specimen postage stamps furnished during the month ending as above - The American Bank Note Company of New York City, Contractors.

Number	Denominations and Issue.
5000	5 cents (Garfield) Issue of 1879.
5000	\$10.00

The above articles not provided for by contract, were purchased in open market, the exigencies of the service requiring their immediate delivery.

March 31, 1882.

Specimen postage stamps furnished during the month ending as above - The American Bank Note Co. of New York, Contractors.

Number	Denominations and Issue.
5000	5 cents (Garfield) Issue of 1879.
5000	\$10.00

The above articles not provided for by contract, were purchased in open market, the exigencies of the service requiring their immediate delivery.

Figure 1. Bill Book #3 entries for February and March 1882.

the printing and supply of postage stamps at the time that the Garfield was issued. In 1879, the American Bank Note Company became the successor organization to the Continental Bank Note Company, and began printing the stamps for the Post Office Department. The first issues that they printed used many of the plates of the Continental Bank Note Company, and some of the plates of the National Bank Note Company. Prior to issuing the 5 cent Garfield stamp, the American Bank Note Company had apparently made only a couple of plates for the 1879 issue, and these used the transfer roll made by the National Bank Note

Company. Thus the Garfield stamp was the first stamp that the American Bank Note Company produced from the original engraving through the production of the stamp itself. I believe that this is a relevant factor in the events which then occurred.

What did occur? We really don't know, but we might imagine that there was some anxiety about this first pure product of the company, and perhaps just a bit of confusion as well. We can presume that the A. B. N. Co. received two orders for the Garfield stamp. The first was to provide stamps for use as regular postage stamps that would be sold at Post Offices, and which would be supplied in such quantities each month as were demanded. The second was an order to supply the Office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General with specimens (as they were called) for sale to the public through that office. It is likely that they received both of these orders at approximately the same time, or if not, at least they were both probably received before any stamps had actually been printed. We do not know whether they received any special instructions with the orders, such as whether to print the special printings in any special way. American had already made the special printing of the 1879 issue, and it was distinguished from the regular stamps by the fact that it was without gum, the colors were somewhat different (whether by design or simply because the stamps were printed at a different time, we do not know), and that it appeared to have been printed with more care, so as to give sharper impressions. Because all of the special printings which were made after the A. B. N. Co. took over the government contracts are much more difficult to identify than those which were made at a prior time, it may be that no special instructions were given to them regarding the Garfield special printing. We simply do not have any records that would tell us.

Luff felt that the regular stamp was probably printed first, followed by the special printing, most likely because this had been the traditional way of doing it. But it was traditional only because in virtually every instance prior to the 1882 Garfield, the regular stamps had already been issued, and the special printings were made long after the issue. True, this was not the case for the 1879 issue, but its special printing also followed the regular issue. About the regular Garfield stamp Luff says, "It was intended to issue this stamp to the public on March 1st, 1882. The first delivery to the Post Office Department was made on February 7th, 1882. A few of the stamps were obtained by favor and used on the 14th of that month. They were also reported in the European philatelic journals in March of that year but, according to the report of the Postmaster General and the daily newspapers, they were not put on sale until April 10, 1882."⁸ Later, under the subject of the Garfield special printing Luff says, "The stamp was issued on April 10th, 1882, *and the special printing was doubtless made soon after that date.*"⁹ (Emphasis added.)

We know that Luff was not entirely correct in these assumptions, probably because he did not locate the entry in Bill Book #3, which rather conclusively shows that the special printing was paid for, and presumably received in February and March 1882. We have no specific record of when the regular printing of the stamp was delivered to the Post Office Department, because the Bill Books designate the regularly issued stamps only by their denomination, and not also by their design. The records in the Bill Books show that there were 5 cent stamps delivered in every month of 1882, but we cannot tell what designs they were.

What we do know, from the above, is that the regular stamp was not available at Post Offices until April 10, 1882, and that 5,000 copies of the special printing were paid for, and presumably delivered sometime in February 1882, with at least some of them being delivered on February 7, according to Luff.

Now think of it for a moment. Here is an entirely new stamp, the Garfield, which has been announced in the press both in the U.S. and abroad. Certainly stamp collectors will

8. Luff, *op. cit.*, p. 150.

9. *Ibid.*, p. 354.

want copies of it as soon as they can get them. They find that they will not be able to get them from their local Post Offices until April 10, but at least some of them quickly learn that the stamps are available from the Third Assistant Postmaster General's office. In particular, this fact is known to stamp dealers, who are anxious to serve their customers, and perhaps to even announce that they have "scooped" the post offices, because they have stamps in their stock that the post offices do not. It made no difference whether these were regular stamps or special printings; they were the new Garfields, and that is what was craved.

To verify what actually happened, we can refer to the Press copies of the invoices¹⁰ kept by the Office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General, which recorded the sales of the various special printings. The set of press copies is incomplete, but it does cover the period from the beginning of 1882 through July 1882, and thus is a dynamic record of the early days of sale of the Garfield special printing. Extracts from these records covering every mention of the Garfield appear in Tables 1 and 2, which are appended. Table 1 has been arranged in order of the date that the Office of the 3rd Ass't PM General received the order which is listed in the table, and Table 2 contains the identical information arranged in order of the date on which the order was filled, or when an excuse or denial was returned to the person placing the order. Where the excuses or denials were used, the exact text has been reproduced in the tables.

What we find is revealing. The first order for the 5 cent Garfield was received by the Office of the 3rd Ass't PM General on January 23, 1882, from R.R. Bogert, of New York City, apparently a stamp dealer.¹¹ Mr. Bogert ordered 40 copies of the Garfield along with an order for 15 copies of the 1869 24¢, 20 copies of the 1869 15¢, and 8 copies of the 1869 30¢. His order was filled and sent on February 6, 1882, without the Garfield, and his receipt was noted, "Garfield not received. Delay in preparing plate at factory." Mr. Bogert's order was followed by a virtual flood of orders (in comparison to the rather lackluster ordering of other of the stamps available from this office). By the end of January, orders for 180 stamps had been received. Then in February there were orders for 760 more stamps, and in March another 55 were ordered, and in April 1,297 were ordered. The kind of order was also telling. For example, Messers. Scott and Co., of New York, placed orders for 100 and 200 stamps.¹² Messers. Taussig, Hagemyer & Co. placed orders for 40 and 100.¹³ L.W. Durbin, a Philadelphia stamp dealer, ordered 40 stamps on Feb. 9, and the order was filled on Feb 13th.¹⁴ And Mr. Boger got his 40 stamps,¹⁵ as might have other dealers who are not readily identifiable as dealers from the receipts. The impression is that their customers were snapping them up, perhaps because the regular issue did not become available until April 10, and the stamp collecting public could get a "new" issue from their stamp dealer that they could not get at the Post Office. Some verification of this appears in the March 1882 issue of the *Philatelic Monthly*, which was published by L.W. Durbin.¹⁶ In this issue, under the heading of "Gossip", Durbin says "We present an illustration of the new 5 cent stamp. The engraving is exquisite and the color rich brown, selected, it is said, by Mrs. Garfield herself. The stamps were not issued until the first of this month, but we were able to secure a number of them some time since, and, we have reason, to believe, posted the first one which passed through the mails, on Valentine's day." Foreign dealers

10. Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28, Press copies of Invoices, 1879, General Services Administration, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

11. *Ibid.*, p. 403.

12. *Ibid.*, pp. 412 & 452.

13. *Ibid.*, pp. 413 & 449.

14. *Ibid.*, p. 414.

15. *Ibid.*, p. 412.

16. *The Philatelic Monthly*, Vol. 8, No. 8, Philadelphia, March, 1882, p. 1.

also seemed eager to order. E.F. Reid, of Saint Catherine, Ontario, purchased 102 stamps.¹⁷ E. Petritz, Esq., of Dresden, Germany, bought 20,¹⁸ and W. Lincoln, Esq., of London bought 61.¹⁹ But in addition to these sales to dealers, there were some peculiar sales. Astonishingly, these sales included a single sale of 1,000 stamps to B. Hall Colegate, who appeared in person to make the purchase, and whose address is recorded as Washington, D.C.²⁰ Prof. Widdows of Washington, D.C., bought 25,²¹ and Pastor Hennecke of Milwaukee bought 19.²² A Mr. Hodge of Washington bought 10,²³ followed by another 10 a few days later.²⁴ A Dr. Dempster bought 12,²⁵ and a Captain Dutton bought 18.²⁶ These people do not seem to be dealers, and we can only speculate that they wanted to use these new stamps on personal or business correspondence. And finally, we note that the now famous E.R. Ackerman, Esq., of Plainfield, N.J., who was also a stamp dealer at the time, bought ten of these special printings.²⁷

After April, orders fell sharply, probably because the stamps were then available at post offices, stamp collectors could get them easily, and dealers could not sell them at a premium. In May only three orders for 11 stamps were received, in June this fell to a single order for 8 stamps, and in July only one order for one stamp is recorded. The records stop at this point, but total sales of 2,312 stamps occurred during the brief period from February to July, compared to the recorded total of 2,463 stamps sold during the entire period that the special printing program was in force. It seems irrefutable that large numbers of these stamps were sold simply because they were not available at the Post Office, and that when they finally did appear there, that is where people bought them. This being the case, it is easy to assume that it made little difference to the buyers of these stamps whether they were the regular issue or the special printing, even if the public understood that there actually was a difference.

If it is reasonable that the number of these stamps that were sold was due partially to the fact that the regular issue was unavailable for about two months after the special printing was available, then it seems that the stamps had not necessarily been bought because they were different from the regular issues, but rather just because they were available. It was an easy way to add a “new” stamp to an album, or to frank your mail with a new and different stamp, as L.W. Durbin did on Valentine’s day. But if this is true, where did all of these stamps go? Did they somehow disappear into a void, or are large numbers of them still waiting to be found — some on cover, and perhaps some in large multiples, or even full sheets. And since all of these stamps were presumably the special printing, once again we are faced with the mystery of why there seem to be so few of them today.

When Luff wrote about the regular issue and described the first delivery as having been made on February 7, he continued:²⁸

The stamps which were distributed in advance of their being placed on sale at the post offices were very probably from the first sheet printed. This sheet appears to have been sent to the Post Office Department at Washington and treated somewhat as a curiosity. I am led to this conclusion by a copy of the stamp which has been shown me by Mr. C.F. Rothfuchs. This copy is attached to a printed form which was used by the de-

17. Press copies of invoices, *op. cit.*, p. 447.

18. *Ibid.*, p. 450.

19. *Ibid.*, p. 448.

20. *Ibid.*, p. 457.

21. *Ibid.*, p. 456.

22. *Ibid.*, p. 458.

23. *Ibid.*, p. 462.

24. *Ibid.*, p. 467.

25. *Ibid.*, p. 468.

26. *Ibid.*, p. 460.

27. *Ibid.*, p. 466.

28. Luff, *op. cit.*, p. 150.

partment when filling orders from private individuals for stamps. This form was in use during the time the reprints and reissues were on sale, from 1875 to 1884, and possibly for even a longer period. It is addressed to a gentleman in the Post Office Department and reads as follows:

Washington, D.C.
Feb. 10th, 1882,

Sir:—

In response to your personal application of this day you will find herewith inclosed the following specimens of postage stamps, viz:

Issue of 1882, 1—5c Garfield \$0.05.

This stamp is from the first sheet printed and one of the first sold by the Department.

The stamp which is attached to this document is printed in a very dark brown having a tinge of red, instead of the grayish tone of the later printings.

It would seem from this information that once again Luff was misled because he did not know about the payment for, and presumed delivery of the first 5,000 special printing stamps to the Office of the 3rd Ass't PM General in February. He also appears to have been unaware that the first stamps were actually sold on February 4, and because of this, they must have been delivered earlier than the date of February 7, which he lists. What apparently had happened was that the first sheet (or sheets, as we will see) was sent to the Office of the 3rd Ass't PM General, and that it was not the regular printing, but rather the special printing, if only for the reason that it was sent there instead of through the Stamp Agent to regular post offices. In other words, the special printing was defined by what was sent to the 3rd Ass't PM General, since that is what they handled. At the time that these stamps were received, it would have been impossible to make a comparison between the special printing and the regular issue because apparently no regular issue stamps had yet been printed.

There is no doubt that it was the Office of the 3rd Ass't PM General which received some of the Garfield stamps, because Luff recorded the form letter to Mr. Rothfuchs, which was dated February 10, 1882, and which had a stamp attached to it, and we can also easily see from the press copies of the invoices that the Garfield stamp was sold by this office as early as February 4, 1882. But the 3rd Ass't PM General did not appear to have received very many stamps, and certainly not the full 5,000 which he paid for in February. We can deduce this from the very interesting pattern of sales, interlaced with excuses and the denial of orders, that is recorded on the press copies of the invoices.

For example, two recorded sales were made on February 4, 1882. The first of these was to a Mr. T. P. Graham,²⁹ who appeared in person, and who bought five stamps. The second sale was recorded to "Wells, P. O. D.", who also appeared in person and bought nine stamps.³⁰ But then there was the order from Mr. Bogert for 40 stamps, which had been received on January 23. This order was filled on February 6, two days after Graham and Wells had bought their stamps, but no Garfield stamps were included, and the receipt alleged that there were no Garfields available at that time. (I believe that sending Mr. Bogert this message was due to the fact that his order had arrived prior to the delivery of the stamps, and that the receipt had also been made out before they arrived, even though it was sent two days after the stamps had been received. The first stamps were sold on Feb. 4, which was a Saturday, and Mr. Bogert's order was sent to him on the 6th, or the following Monday, which was the next working day.)

Between February 10, and February 13, 1882, 302 stamps were sold, including 40 to Mr. Bogert, filling his earlier order. At this point, sales almost ceased, as can be seen from Table 2. This might imply that the Office of the 3rd Ass't PM General had received just four sheets, but no more, because on February 21, Mr. F. C. Denison, Esq., of Pittsfield, Vermont, was denied two Garfield stamps on his order, with the following notation: "De-

29. Press copies of invoices, *op. cit.*, p. 405.

30. *Ibid.*, p. 406.

Table 1 - Orders arranged by date of receipt

Page	Order rec'd	Order filled	Quantity supplied, or comment	Name	City & State
403	1/23/82	2/06/82	(Requested 40) "5¢ Garfield not received. Delay in preparing plate at factory."	R. R. Bogert, Esq.	New York City NY
412	1/23/82	2/13/82	40	R. R. Bogert, Esq.	New York NY
413	1/25/82	2/13/82	40	Messrs. Taussig, Hagemeyer & Co.	Jersey City NJ
412	1/27/82	2/13/82	100	Messr. Scott and Co.	New York NY
417	2/02/82	2/21/82	(Requested 2) "Delay in issuing 5¢ Garfield stamp. They will not be ready until about March 10, 1882."	F. C. Denison, Esq.	Pittsfield VT
405	2/04/82	2/04/82	5	T. P. Graham (P)	Washington DC
406	2/04/82	2/04/82	9	Wells P.O.D. (P)	
420	2/04/82	2/24/82	(Requested 61) "Just a few 5¢ Garfield stamps were received and they were sold before your order arrived. In about 10 days an additional supply will be received and mailed you."	W. Lincoln, Esq.	London England
448	2/04/82	4/10/82	61	W. Lincoln, Esq.	London England
410	2/06/82	2/13/82	40	E. A. Holton, Esq.	Boston MA
450	2/06/82	4/10/82	20	E. Petritz, Esq.	Dresden Germany
410	2/07/82	2/13/82	1	Mrs. R. H. Richardson	Portland ME
449	2/07/82	4/10/82	100	Messrs. Taussig, Hagemeyer & Co.	Jersey City NJ
407	2/08/82	2/10/82	20	J. F. Myers, Esq.	New York NY
414	2/09/82	2/13/82	40	L. W. Durbin, Esq.	Philadelphia PA
409	2/10/82	2/11/82	2	J. Gaylir, Esq.	New York NY
411	2/13/82	2/13/82	5	F. C. Bourne, Esq. (P)	Washington DC
447	2/17/82	4/10/82	102	E. F. Reid, Esq.	Saint Catharines Ontario
419	2/20/82	2/23/82	(Requested 1) "The 5¢ Garfield stamp not quite ready for issue. Will forward the same in about 10 days."	G. N. Ferris, Esq.	Flatbush NY
449	2/20/82	4/10/82	1	G. N. Ferris, Esq.	Flatbush NY
421	2/23/82	2/27/82	(Requested 15) "5¢ Garfield will be sent about March 1, 1882."	F. Trifet, Esq.	Boston MA
453	2/23/82	4/10/82	19	F. Trifet, Esq.	Boston MA
422	2/24/82	2/25/82	14	G. W. Wells	
423	2/24/82	3/01/82	(Requested 40) "5¢ Garfield will be mailed in a few days."	Messrs Collins and Co.	New York NY
454	2/24/82	4/10/82	40	Messrs. Collin and Co.	New York NY

425	2/25/82	3/01/82	(Requested 40) "5¢ Garfield will be mailed about the 1st inst."	E. Holton, Esq.	Boston	MA
448	2/25/82	4/10/82	1	T. Blisard, Esq.	Montreal	Canada
450	2/25/82	4/10/82	40	E. A. Holton, Esq.	Boston	MA
452	2/25/82	4/10/82	200	Messrs. Scott & Co.	New York	NY
451	2/28/82	4/10/82	40	C. Hinsberg, Esq.	San Francisco	CA
426	3/10/82	3/10/82	6	General Elmer (P)		
453	3/15/82	4/10/82	5	W. H. Frathingham, Esq.	New York	NY
437	3/22/82	3/29/82	(Requested 4) "Expect to receive the Garfield stamps next week."	F. Trifet, Esq.	Boston	MA
451	3/22/82	4/10/82	4	L. H. Cox, Esq.	New York	NY
447	3/23/82	4/10/82	40	L. W. Durbin, Esq.	Philadelphia	PA
458	4/04/82	4/12/82	19	A. Hennecke, Pastor	Milwaukee	WI
463	4/05/82	4/19/82	20	Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co.	Ipswich	England
446	4/10/82	4/10/82	25	J. F. Myers, Esq.	New York	NY
452	4/10/82	4/10/82	1	Thos. P. Graham (P)	Washington	DC
456	4/10/82	4/10/82	10	Mr. Ganann, Esq. (P)	Washington	DC
456	4/10/82	4/10/82	25	Prof. Widdows (P)	Washington	DC
457	4/10/82	4/10/82	1000	B. Hall Colegate (P)	Washington	DC
459	4/10/82	4/10/82	5	W. K. Hooper, Esq. (P)	Washington	DC
460	4/11/82	4/11/82	13	Captain Dutton (P)		
460	4/11/82	4/11/82	5	Captain Dutton (P)		
460	4/11/82	4/14/82	10	F. C. Denison, Esq.	Pittsfield	VT
466	4/13/82	4/19/82	3	C. Herbst, Esq.	Macon	GA
461	4/14/82	4/14/82	6	Wells P.O.D.		
462	4/14/82	4/14/82	10	Mr. Hodge (P)	Washington	DC
468	4/14/82	4/19/82	1	J. D. Kelley, Esq.	Concord	NH
462	4/15/82	4/15/82	3	Mr. Pratt (P)	Washington	DC
467	4/17/82	4/17/82	17	Mr. Hodge (P)	Washington	DC
466	4/17/82	4/19/82	10	E. R. Ackerman, Esq.	Plainfield	NJ
468	4/19/82	4/19/82	12	Dr. Dempster (P)	Washington	DC
469	4/22/82	4/22/82	2	H. Shriner, Esq.	Baltimore	MD
475	4/27/82	5/08/82	100	C. Hinsberg, Esq.	San Francisco	CA
491	5/05/82	5/20/82	8	Fisher & Brunt	San Francisco	CA
479	5/09/82	5/09/82	1	Mrs. Kimball (P)	Washington	DC
493	5/26/82	5/26/82	2	Mrs. French (P)	Cleveland	OH
510	6/20/82	6/20/82	8	Mrs. Messenger D. L. O. (P)		
520	7/15/82	7/15/82	1	Mrs. Smith (P)	Washington	DC
Total = 2312				(P) indicates that the person was present		

lay in issuing 5¢ Garfield stamp. They will not be ready until about March 10, 1882.³¹ Apparently most of the stamps then on hand were gone, because additional denial letters were sent on February 23, 24, 27, and March 1, 1882, with the notations shown in Tables 1 and 2. This was an unbroken string of denials except for one possible instance when a Mr. G. W. Wells bought 14 of the stamps.³² The press copy of this particular invoice is undated, but it appears on the same page as an invoice dated Feb. 25. Also unstated on the invoice is whether this Mr. Wells is the same one who was from the P. O. D., and the second recorded purchaser of the stamps, and also whether or not he appeared in person. It may be that there were actually some of the stamps left which the clerk(s) in the Office of the 3rd Ass't PM General wished to reserve for those who arrived in person, and that it was simple to make a notation to those who wrote for their stamps to the effect that they were unavailable, but would be on hand shortly. This theory may be partially validated by the fact that a General Elmer personally appeared and bought six stamps on March 10,³³ and that the next order that was filled was on March 29, and bore the notation "Expect to receive the Garfield stamps next week."³⁴ By the end of March, 322 stamps had been sold, and orders for 163 were pending and unfulfilled. If it is true that four sheets had been all that had been received, the balance of 78 stamps was insufficient to fill the orders for 163, and it is easy to see that the clerks might have been trying to preserve the few remaining stamps for "walk in" customers, rather than to sell them by mail to dealers. The entire months of February and March have all of the signs of being a hand to mouth existence, trying to fill the various requests for these stamps, and succeeding only for those who appeared in person, apparently at the expense of filling mail orders.

The log jam was broken, and no further denials appeared in April or thereafter, and I believe that it was no coincidence that the exact date on which problems ceased was April 10 (see Table 2). On this date, the Office of the 3rd Ass't PM General filled 20 orders for 1,739 stamps, which had been received by them between Feb. 4 and April 10, 1882. The orders seemed to be a combination of back orders and also orders from people who had heard that the stamp was finally available, and who perhaps did not realize that it was also available on the same day at the regular Post Office.

From the first sale on February 4, until the log jam broke on April 10, there were a total of 322 stamps for which receipts appear in the press copies. Interestingly enough, there appears to be no receipt for the stamp that Luff mentioned as accompanying the form letter shown to him by Mr. Rothfuchs "to a gentleman in the Post Office Department." True enough, the second recorded sale was to "Wells, P. O. D.," but it was for nine stamps, and not one stamp. It may be an heroic assumption, but perhaps only four sheets of stamps were delivered to the Office of the 3rd Ass't PM General during the period prior to April 10, despite the fact that the Bill Book shows that the full 10,000 were paid for. It also could be that the balance of 78 stamps (four sheets of 100 stamps less the 322 for which there were receipts in the press copies) was actually still on hand when the "big" delivery of April 10 was made.

What does all of this have to do with the rarity of the special printing? Once again, we must rely upon inferences, but they are so compelling that they are almost undeniable.

The first inference is that A. B. N. Co. clearly had problems with the timely delivery of the stamp, either in the form of the regular stamp, or the form of the special printing. The regular stamp did not go on sale in March when it was supposed to, and the denial and excuse notes from the 3rd Ass't PM General also indicate that there were production and delivery problems even when there were some of the stamps on hand. The second infer-

31. *Ibid.*, p. 417.

32. *Ibid.*, p. 422.

33. *Ibid.*, p. 426.

34. *Ibid.*, p. 437.

ence is that the A. B. N. Co. purposely elected to supply the special printings before the regular stamps. They might have done this because they knew that the demand was lower at that office, and also that the stamps did not have to be gummed, if indeed they supplied these in ungummed form. This made their production process a bit quicker, and they had a client who was more easily satisfied with small numbers of stamps. It also could have been the A. B. N. Co. was able to arrange for advance payment for the 10,000 stamps that were purchased by the 3rd Ass't PM General, because there were not purchased on a contract, but rather on the open market. Bill Book #3 indicates that they certainly seemed to have received payment before the stamps were delivered.

The third inference is that when the A. B. N. Co. finally got into gear and had stamps to deliver on April 10, they probably delivered the same stamps to both the regular Post Offices and the Office of the 3rd Ass't PM General, perhaps even in gummed form.

If these inferences are correct, it would imply that there were 400 or fewer stamps which might be truly distinguishable from the regular stamps that were sent to the Post Offices, and these stamps are those which are identified as the special printings. I say 400 or fewer because if there were four sheets, each could have been printed several days apart from the other, and because the printer might have been working with the ink and the press to get things just as he wanted them the sheets could easily be somewhat different from each other. Some support for this might be found in Luff's description of the stamps shown him by Mr. Rothfuchs, which was supposed to be from the first sheet. Luff says, "The stamp which is attached to this document is printed in a very dark brown having a tinge of red, instead of the grayish tone of the later printings."³⁵ Since this stamp was identified on the form as being from the first sheet printed, and one of the first sold, and the form is dated February 10th, it certainly had its origin at the Office of the 3rd Ass't PM General, and was one of the special printings. Similarly, L. W. Durbin described the stamp as a "rich brown".³⁶ Also since the Scott catalog now states that the special printing is gray brown,³⁷ it would indeed imply that there were some real differences among these first sheets. It could easily be that the stamps from the very first sheet are perhaps not now recognized by experts as being true special printings, and that only the stamps from one of the other four sheets are so recognized. I believe that this is why the special printing of the Garfield appears to be so rare.

If one accepts this hypothesized series of events, it raises some interesting and imponderable questions. The primary question is whether all 2,463 of the Garfield stamps sold by the Office of the 3rd Ass't PM General should be classified as special printings, since they were sold by the proper authority, and as "specimen" postage stamps, notwithstanding the fact that some of them might be indistinguishable from the regular issue stamp. And if the answer to this question is "yes," then how would anyone be able to determine whether his or her stamp came from the proper place to win the coveted \$20,000 catalog value. Suppose, for example, that someone showed up with an original, unopened envelope from the Office of the 3rd Ass't PM General, and in it was found one or more of the Garfield stamps, fully gummed, and identical to the regular issue, together with the proper receipt which matches the corresponding copy in the press copies of the invoices. What then? Or, suppose that the original note that Mr. Rothfuchs showed Luff was found, with its very dark, reddish brown stamp, and the clear statement as to its date of origin. Or what if a Valentine cover, dated February 14, 1882, was found with Durbin's return address and a "rich brown" Garfield on it? Would each of these be denied a certificate because of color, or would they not only reap the catalog value, but also an additional premium because they were from the first sheet?

35. Luff, *op. cit.*, p. 150.

36. The Philatelic Monthly, *loc. cit.*, p. 1.

37. Scott, *op. cit.*, p. 381.

Table 2 - Orders arranged by date of filling or reply

Page	Order rec'd	Order filled	Quantity supplied, or comment	Name	City & State
405	2/04/82	2/04/82	5	T. P. Graham (P)	Washington DC
406	2/04/82	2/04/82	9	Wells P.O.D. (P)	
403	1/23/82	2/06/82	(Requested 40) "5¢ Garfield not received. Delay in preparing plate at factory."	R. R. Bogert, Esq.	New York City NY
407	2/08/82	2/10/82	20	J. F. Myers, Esq.	New York NY
409	2/10/82	2/11/82	2	J. Gaylir, Esq.	New York NY
412	1/23/82	2/13/82	40	R. R. Bogert, Esq.	New York NY
413	1/25/82	2/13/82	40	Messrs. Taussig, Hagemeyer & Co.	Jersey City NJ
412	1/27/82	2/13/82	100	Messr. Scott and Co.	New York NY
410	2/06/82	2/13/82	40	E. A. Holton, Esq.	Boston MA
410	2/07/82	2/13/82	1	Mrs. R. H. Richardson	Portland ME
414	2/09/82	2/13/82	40	L. W. Durbin, Esq.	Philadelphia PA
411	2/13/82	2/13/82	5	F. C. Bourne, Esq. (P)	Washington DC
417	2/02/82	2/21/82	(Requested 2) "Delay in issuing 5¢ Garfield stamp. They will not be ready until about March 10, 1882."	F. C. Denison, Esq.	Pittsfield VT
419	2/20/82	2/23/82	(Requested 1) "The 5¢ Garfield stamp not quite ready for issue. Will forward the same in about 10 days."	G. N. Ferris, Esq.	Flatbush NY
420	2/04/82	2/24/82	(Requested 61) "Just a few 5¢ Garfield stamps were received and they were sold before your order arrived. In about 10 days an additional supply will be received and mailed you."	W. Lincoln, Esq.	London England
422	2/24/82	2/25/82	14	G. W. Wells	
421	2/23/82	2/27/82	(Requested 15) "5¢ Garfield will be sent about March 1, 1882."	F. Trifet, Esq.	Boston MA
423	2/24/82	3/01/82	(Requested 40) "5¢ Garfield will be mailed in a few days."	Messrs Collins and Co.	New York NY
425	2/25/82	3/01/82	(Requested 40) "5¢ Garfield will be mailed about the 1st inst."	E. Holton, Esq.	Boston MA
426	3/10/82	3/10/82	6	General Elmer (P)	
437	3/22/82	3/29/82	(Requested 4) "Expect to receive the Garfield stamps next week."	F. Trifet, Esq.	Boston MA
448	2/04/82	4/10/82	61	W. Lincoln, Esq.	London England
450	2/06/82	4/10/82	20	E. Petritz, Esq.	Dresden Germany

449	2/07/82	4/10/82	100	Messrs. Taussig, Hagemeyer & Co.	Jersey City	NJ
447	2/17/82	4/10/82	102	E. F. Reid, Esq.	Saint Catharines	Ontario
449	2/20/82	4/10/82	1	G. N. Ferris, Esq.	Flatbush	NY
453	2/23/82	4/10/82	19	F. Trifet, Esq.	Boston	MA
454	2/24/82	4/10/82	40	Messrs. Collin and Co.	New York	NY
448	2/25/82	4/10/82	1	T. Blisard, Esq.	Montreal	Canada
450	2/25/82	4/10/82	40	E. A. Holton, Esq.	Boston	MA
452	2/25/82	4/10/82	200	Messrs. Scott & Co.	New York	NY
451	2/28/82	4/10/82	40	C. Hinsberg, Esq.	San Francisco	CA
453	3/15/82	4/10/82	5	W. H. Frathingham, Esq.	New York	NY
451	3/22/82	4/10/82	4	L. H. Cox, Esq.	New York	NY
447	3/23/82	4/10/82	40	L. W. Durbin, Esq.	Philadelphia	PA
446	4/10/82	4/10/82	25	J. F. Myers, Esq.	New York	NY
452	4/10/82	4/10/82	1	Thos. P. Graham (P)	Washington	DC
456	4/10/82	4/10/82	10	Mr. Ganann, Esq. (P)	Washington	DC
456	4/10/82	4/10/82	25	Prof. Widdows (P)	Washington	DC
457	4/10/82	4/10/82	1000	B. Hall Colegate (P)	Washington	DC
459	4/10/82	4/10/82	5	W. K. Hooper, Esq. (P)	Washington	DC
460	4/11/82	4/11/82	13	Captain Dutton (P)		
460	4/11/82	4/11/82	5	Captain Dutton (P)		
458	4/04/82	4/12/82	19	A. Hennecke, Pastor	Milwaukee	WI
460	4/11/82	4/14/82	10	F. C. Denison, Esq.	Pittsfield	VT
461	4/14/82	4/14/82	6	Wells P.O.D.		
462	4/14/82	4/14/82	10	Mr. Hodge (P)	Washington	DC
462	4/15/82	4/15/82	3	Mr. Pratt (P)	Washington	DC
467	4/17/82	4/17/82	17	Mr. Hodge (P)	Washington	DC
463	4/05/82	4/19/82	20	Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co.	Ipswich	England
466	4/13/82	4/19/82	3	C. Herbst, Esq.	Macon	GA
468	4/14/82	4/19/82	1	J. D. Kelley, Esq.	Concord	NH
466	4/17/82	4/19/82	10	E. R. Ackerman, Esq.	Plainfield	NJ
468	4/19/82	4/19/82	12	Dr. Dempster (P)	Washington	DC
469	4/22/82	4/22/82	2	H. Shriner, Esq.	Baltimore	MD
475	4/27/82	5/08/82	100	C. Hinsberg, Esq.	San Francisco	CA
479	5/09/82	5/09/82	1	Mrs. Kimball (P)	Washington	DC
491	5/05/82	5/20/82	8	Fisher & Brunt	San Francisco	CA
493	5/26/82	5/26/82	2	Mrs. French (P)	Cleveland	OH
510	6/20/82	6/20/82	8	Mrs. Messenger D. L. O. (P)		
520	7/15/82	7/15/82	1	Mrs. Smith (P)	Washington	DC
Total = 2312				(P) indicates that the person was present		

Are there "different" Garfield special printings? By this I mean ones with different colors, as discussed above, with or without gum, but distinguishable from the regular issue, and also ones which are indistinguishable from the regular issue? In a sense, these questions are all academic, in that decisions were made some time ago about which stamp was indeed the special printing, and how it could be identified. Whether these decisions were or were not properly informed ones, we will never know. It is simply too late to try to redo things. However, it doesn't stop some of us from dreaming a bit. I have a lovely 5 cent Garfield in my collection which just might be one of those which originated at the Office of the 3rd Ass't PM General on or after April 10, 1882. I can just feel it in my bones, and the best part of this is that I bought it for a song!

FROM THE EDITOR

There is one update and one correction in the *Officials et Al.* section of the *Chronicle* Volume 43, No. 2 (May 1991).

The correction involves a typographical error located in the article "Foreign and Domestic Use of Ordinary Stamps for Official Correspondence by the Treasury Department" by Alan Campbell. The first sentence of the middle paragraph on page 124 should be corrected to read: "I much prefer the interpretation that the presence of an ordinary stamp on this cover is an *official* (remove 'un' from 'unofficial') use of adhering to the new UPU regulation, since unofficial uses of official envelopes and penalty franks are only of marginal interest to the true student of official mail." This typographical error, while minor, greatly alters the intent of the entire article.

The update involves the cover shown in Figure 1 on page 128 of the article "Third Potential UPU Special Printing Cover Reported" by Alfred E. Staubus. Howard L. Rosenberg, the owner of the illustrated 5 cent Taylor cover to Bucharest, Roumania, reports having submitted the cover to the Philatelic Foundation and having received a certificate stating that the 5 cent Taylor stamp was the regular soft paper variety (Scott 185) and not the special printing soft paper variety (Scott 204). At least one 5 cent Taylor specialist who has personally inspected the cover disagrees with the Philatelic Foundation's opinion and has recommended resubmission of the cover. In order to help resolve the issue of possible usage of 5 cent Taylor special printing stamps on Post Office Department mail, additional examples are still needed of 5 cent Taylor stamps on Post Office Department covers during the time period of April 1879 to June 1880. Readers are encouraged to report all such covers to this editor.



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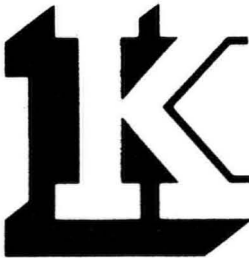
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One of the most interesting areas of United States Postal History is the collecting of rates to foreign destinations. Just by sheer experience, the postal history dealer or auctioneer acquires a knowledge of what is truly rare. For many years I had 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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CHANGES FOR U.S. LETTER RATES TO FOREIGN DESTINATIONS
CHARLES J. STARNES

Less than three years ago a revised edition of the author's rate handbook was published.¹ In order to record properly the continuing progress in U.S.-foreign mails data, it has been the intention of the author and publisher Leonard Hartmann to issue periodic corrections and additions as justified by more reliable information.

Richard F. Winter and Wolfgang Diesner co-authored an excellent study² of quite considerable value to all those who wend their way through the maze of U.S.-German mails. The work proved operations under terms of the U.S.-Bremen arrangement. Were effective 1 Jun. 1847 with the New York sailing of the *Washington*. This date is some nine months earlier than that stated in 1971 by George Hargest,³ Mar. 1848, which had been assumed correct till now. Winter-Diesner finding is felt to justify by itself an up-date of the handbook; one correction and several additions to the bibliography are also listed.

Change Appendix J to:

J. U.S. Official Notices on Transit Charges Under the U.S. - Bremen arrangement; 1 Jun. 1847 - 15 Aug. 1853

Change Appendix K to:

K. Credits or Debits on U.S. - Bremen Convention International Mail, 15 Aug. 1853 - 1 Jan. 1868

p. 6 under AUSTRIA table, change 3/48 to 6/47

p. 13 under DENMARK table, change 3/48 to 6/47

p. 15 under ALEXANDRIA table, change 3/48 to 6/47

Also, in footnote (a), change 3/48 to 6/47

p. 17 under ALTONA, BADEN, BAVARIA, BREMEN, CASSEL tables, change 3/48 to 6/47

p. 18 under HAMBURG table, change 3/48 to 6/47

p. 19 under OLDENBURG table, change 3/48 to 6/47

under WÜRTTEMBERG table, change 3/48 to 6/47

under WÜRTTEMBERG table, change €10/59 to 3/59

p. 20 under GREECE table, change 3/48 to 6/47

p. 24 under LOMBARDY table, change 3/48 to 6/47

p. 26 under VENETIAN STATES table, change 3/48 to 6/47

p. 33 under NORWAY table, change 3/48 to 6/47

p. 37 under RUSSIA table, change 3/48 to 6/47

p. 40 under SWEDEN table, change 3/48 to 6/47

p. 40 under SWITZERLAND table, change 3/48 to 6/47

p. 43 under CONSTANTINOPLE table, change 3/48 to 6/47

p. 47 VENEZUELA change 7/80 to 1/80

1. C.J. Starnes, *U.S. Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations, 1847 to GPU-UPU*, Revised Edition, 1989.

2. R.F. Winter and W. Diesner, "The Beginning Period of Bremen Line Service: New Insights into the Bremen Postal Arrangement - 1847," *Chronicle* 149, 52-63.

3. G.E. Hargest, *History of Letter Post Communications Between the U.S. and Europe, 1845-1875*, 1971. pp. 15, 17.

p. 67 Replace present APPENDIX J with following revision:

APPENDIX J

U.S. OFFICIAL NOTICES OF TRANSIT CHARGES UNDER THE U.S. - BREMEN ARRANGEMENT, 1 JUN. 1847 - 15 AUG. 1853

The "foreign postage" (optional, for carriage beyond Bremen) is listed below as ¢/oz. under the publication date, which was not always change-effective in Germany.

Destination	Sept. 47	Jan. 48	Mar. 48	Sep. 50	Jul. 51	Apr. 52
Austria	18 ¹ / ₄	-	-	-		7 ¹ / ₄
Baden						
Altona	6 ¹ / ₂	-	-	-	-	-
Hannover						
Bavaria	22 ¹ / ₄	-	-	-	-	7 ¹ / ₄
Brunswick	6 ¹ / ₂	-	-	-	-	7 ¹ / ₂
Cassel	12 ¹ / ₂	10 ¹ / ₄	-	12 ¹ / ₂	-	7 ¹ / ₄
Coburg	12 ¹ / ₂	15 ¹ / ₄	-	12 ¹ / ₂	-	7 ¹ / ₄
Darmstadt						
Frankfurt am Main	12 ¹ / ₂	13 ¹ / ₄	-	12 ¹ / ₂	-	7 ¹ / ₄
Gotha						
Hamburg	6 ¹ / ₂	-	-	-	-	5 ¹ / ₂
Hesse-Homburg Lippe-Detmond,- Schaumburg Nassau Reuss Saxe- Altenburg,-Weimar Saxe-Meiningen Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt Schwarzburg-Sonderhausen	12 ¹ / ₂			-	-	-
Kiel	11 ¹ / ₂	-	-	-	-	8 ¹ / ₄
Lubeck	9 ¹ / ₂	-	-	-	-	8 ¹ / ₂
Mecklenburg-Schwerin.-Strelitz Saxony	12 ¹ / ₂	-	-	-	-	-
Oldenburg	5 ¹ / ₂	-	-	2 ¹ / ₂	-	-
Prussia	12 ¹ / ₂	-	-	-	-	7 ¹ / ₂
Württemberg	12 ¹ / ₂	21 ¹ / ₄	-	12 ¹ / ₂	-	7 ¹ / ₂
Constantinople	37 ¹ / ₄	-	-	-		-
Egypt (Alexandria, Cairo)						
Greece						
Denmark	22 ¹ / ₄	-	-	-		-
Italy (Eastern towns)	18 ¹ / ₄	-	-			-
Norway (Bergen, Christiana)	30 ¹ / ₂	26 ¹ / ₂	28 ¹ / ₄	30 ¹ / ₂	-	28 ¹ / ₄
Russia (Cronstadt, St. Petersburg)	29 ¹ / ₄	-	-	-		-
Sweden	39 ¹ / ₄	-	-	-		-
Switzerland	21 ¹ / ₄	-	-	-		-

- p. 64 APPENDIX I At intersection of "United Kingdom" and "Collect on Delivery" delete "un-specified" and replace with "+6d."
- p. 68 APPENDIX K Change title to:
CREDITS OR DEBITS ON U.S.-BREMEN CONVENTION INTERNATIONAL MAIL, 15
AUG. 1853 - 1 JAN. 1868.
- P. 78 GENERAL REFERENCES Add:
United Kingdom Letter Rates, 1657-1900, Inland and Overseas, C. Tabcart: Hants,
England, 1989
The Times Concise Atlas of World History, ed. G. Barraclough: Hammond, N.J., 1982.
The Robert A. Palfi Collection of 1861-68 Thirty-Cents Issues on Cover; auction
catalog; Christie's of New York, 12 Jun. 1990.
- p. 77 Add after *The Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps:.....Vol. 5,
The Empire in North America*; the following: Vol. 6 *The Leeward Islands*: London,
Robson Lowe, 1952-90.
- SPECIFIC COUNTRY REFERENCES
- p. 80 GERMANY Add:
*Handbuch der auslandstaxen der suddeutschen Postgebiete - Gulden Wahrung - 1850-
1875*, Karl Zangerle: Firma H. Kohler, Wiesbaden, 1990.
- p. 81 Insert below NEW BRUNSWICK & NOVA SCOTIA a new country entry:
NEW SOUTH WALES
The Postal History of New South Wales 1788-1901, ed. John S. White: Philatelic Asso-
ciation of New South Wales, 1988.
- p. 82 VANCOUVER ISLAND & BRITISH COLUMBIA Add:
*The Gerald S. Wellburn Collection of the Stamps and Postal History of Vancouver Is-
land and British Columbia*; auction catalog, Eaton & Sons, Toronto, Oct. 1988.

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THE BELGIUM CONVENTION RATE TO SPAIN — ADDENDUM

RICHARD F. WINTER

Ten years ago, Charles Starnes introduced foreign mail students to an unusual route for mails from the United States to Spain by way of Belgium.¹ He cited a Post Office Department notice of 20 September 1870, printed in the October 1870 *United States Mail and Post-Office Assistant*, which notified postmasters of a 16¢ per 1/3 oz. rate for mails to Spain, the Canaries and Balearic Islands, and also for Spanish possessions on the Northern Coast of Africa. Additionally, Starnes provided the basic progression of rates for both British and Belgian mail rates to Spain. These rates are difficult to deduce, because for each 15 grams of letter weight, the U.S.-Belgium portion increased one rate. At the same time, for each 10 grams, the Belgium-Spain portion increased one rate.

This article will examine two covers from Spain to the U.S., each carried under the combined postal arrangements between Spain and Belgium and between Belgium and the U.S. The covers are from the same correspondence and appear to be duplicates. However, upon closer examination, the routing of each is quite different. I will highlight the features of each cover's routing and the distinctive markings which may be associated with each route. Both covers are uncommon and one is quite rare.

Under the Postal Convention between the U.S. and Belgium of 21 August 1867 (effective 1 January 1868), an international rate between the U.S. and Belgium was established at 15¢ per 15 grams (80 centimes in Belgium currency).² Offices permitted to exchange mails were established at New York and Boston in the U.S. and at Antwerp, Ostend, and the Ostend Travelling Office (railroad post office) in Belgium. Each office was required to make its own arrangements to transmit mails to the other office using the regular steamship lines. Since there were no direct steamship lines operating between the two countries at the time, the mails had to be carried in closed mails by way of England. In fact, Table A of the Detailed Regulations for the execution of this Convention designated the steamship services by which the mails were to be sent. Each service identified was one that went to or touched at Great Britain. Article VI of the Convention set a reduced international rate of 10¢ to be used upon the establishment of a direct line of steamships between the U.S. and Belgium. Article XIII provided, as Starnes mentioned,³ for the exchange of correspondence in open mails though either the U.S. or Belgium to other countries.

On 1 March 1870, a change to this Convention was signed in Washington, D.C., and reduced the international rate to 10¢ per 15 grams or 50 centimes.⁴ No mention was made of a reduced rate by direct steamer between the U.S. and Belgium. The 10¢ 1867 Convention rate for this service was still effective, but since there was no direct service, this omission did not matter. The new international rates became effective on 15 March 1870. All other features of the 21 August 1867 Convention remained in effect.

A further reduction in the postage rates between the two countries went into effect on 1 July 1873. The new Convention was signed in Washington, D.C., on 9 May 1873⁵ and was reported in the July 1873 *United States Mail and Post-Office Assistant*⁶ as follows:

1. Charles J. Starnes, "The Belgium Convention Rate to Spain," *Chronicle* 111: 206-208.

2. U.S. 16 *Statutes at Large* 923.

3. Starnes, *op. cit.*, p.206.

4. U.S. 16 *Statutes at Large* 951.

5. Clive Parry, LL.D., ed., *The Consolidated Treaty Series*, 231 vols. (Dobbs Ferry, New York: Oceana Publications, 1969), vol. 145, pp. 285, 286.

6. Since the reprint of *United States Mail and Post-Office Assistant*, (Chicago, Illinois: Collectors Club of Chicago, 1975) covers only the period October 1860 to September 1872, the full notice will be repeated here.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF FOREIGN MAILS
Washington, D.C., June 15, 1873

A second additional postage convention has been concluded between the United States and Belgium which will go into effect on the 1st of July, 1873. The international rates of postage on letters from the United States for Belgium, under this additional convention, are fixed as follows:

If sent in direct mails via Great Britain, 8 cents per half oz. or fraction thereof.

If sent by direct steamers between the two countries, 6 cents per ½ oz. or fraction thereof.

No change has been made in the rates of postage on printed matter, samples and patterns sent in closed mail via England. But reduced rates of postage on this class of correspondence sent by direct steamers have been established as follows:

Newspapers, 3 cents each, if not over 4 ozs. in weight.

Other printed matter, patterns or samples, 2 cents if not over 1 oz. in weight, 4 cents if over 1 oz. but not over 2 ozs., 6 cents if over 2 ozs. but not over 4 ozs., and so on, adding 6 cents for every additional 4 ozs. or fraction thereof.

The payment of postage on ordinary letters is optional; but, on registered letters, newspapers, prints, patterns and samples prepayment is obligatory.

Registered correspondence is subject, in addition to the postage chargeable thereon, to a registration fee of 8 cents, which amount, together with the postage, is in all cases required to be prepaid.

If, however, the postage on any correspondence, other than registered, should be insufficiently prepaid, it will nevertheless be forwarded to its destination charged with the deficient postage and a fine 5 cents in the United States, or 30 centimes in Belgium, on delivery.

A line of direct steamers having been established between Philadelphia and Antwerp, the office of Philadelphia has been constituted an office for the exchange of mails between the two countries.

Postmasters will levy and collect postage accordingly on and after the 1st of July 1873.

By order of the Postmaster General.

Joseph H. Blackfan
Superintendent of Foreign Mails

The new line of direct steamers referred to in the notice was the International Navigation Company (of Philadelphia), or Red Star Line, which had begun operations between Antwerp and Philadelphia in January 1873.⁷

As Starnes pointed out, the 1867 U.S.-Belgian Postal Convention did not list Spain as one of the countries with which the U.S. could exchange open mails through Belgium.⁸ Mail to Spain by this route was subsequently announced in the 20 September 1870 Post Office notice previously mentioned. This notice referred to "a Postal Convention recently concluded between Belgium and Spain"⁹ which was the Convention signed in Madrid on 9 April 1870. This Convention established a basic rate for prepaid letters between Belgium and Spain via France of 40 centimos de Peseta (8¢ equivalent).

Article XXIII of the Convention also allowed 50 centimos de Peseta to Spain per 30 grams of letter weight for letters passing through Belgium to foreign destinations. Thus, on all prepaid letters to the U.S. from Spain via Belgium, a red crayon manuscript "50" appears representing a credit to Spain. Starnes thought that this marking was a statement of the international rate in Belgian currency.¹⁰ The one example that he illustrated was a

7. Walter Hubbard and Richard F. Winter, *North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75* (Canton, Ohio: U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, 1988), p. 339.

8. Starnes, *op. cit.*, p. 206.

9. *Ibid.*, p. 207.

10. *Ibid.* p. 208.

March 1873 cover when the international rate between the U.S. and Belgium was 10¢ or 50 centimes. I have seen nine other covers now, all but one sent after the July 1873 date when the international rate was reduced to 8¢ or 40 centimes. Since each of these covers shows the red crayon “50” also, I have reached the conclusion that this marking was placed on the letters to show that Spain was to receive a transit credit of 50 centimos de Peseta for each 30 grams of bulk letter weight instead of a statement of the international rate. The markings were probably placed on the letters in Belgium.

The Detailed Regulations to the 1867 U.S.-Belgian Postal Convention specified that the exchange offices mark in red ink, in the upper right corner of the address, the amount of prepaid postage due to the office of foreign destination.¹¹ In a similar manner, the amount of postage due the originating office was to be marked in black ink for unpaid letters. These debit or credit markings will be seen on letters from the U.S. to Belgium for transit to Spain. For ready reference, Table 1 provides the rate progression and credit to Belgium for prepaid letters up to 1½ oz. or 45 grams that were sent from the U.S. to Spain via Belgium and Great Britain.

TABLE 1

Weight ounces (grams)	Rate 15 Mar 70	Rate 1 Jul 73	Credit to Belgium
to 1/3 (0-10)	16¢	14¢	6¢
1/3 to 1/2 (10-15)	22¢	20¢	12¢
1/2 to 2/3 (15-20)	32¢	28¢	12¢
2/3 to 1 (20-30)	38¢	34¢	18¢
1 to 1 1/3 (30-40)	54¢	42¢	24¢
1 1/3 to 1 1/2 (40-45)	60¢	48¢	30¢



Figure 1. Malaga, Spain, 6 Oct 1874, to New York prepaid 80 centimos de Peseta. ETATS-UNIS PAR OSTENDE cds marked in Belgium for transit to U.S. via Ostend which exchanged mails with England. Red crayon 50 centimos de Peseta allowed to Spain per 30 grams of letter weight.

Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the front and reverse of the first of two folded letters from the firm of Adolfo Pries and Co. of Malaga, Spain to W.H. Westervelt & Co. of New York. The letter was endorsed “via/England” in the upper left and posted in Malaga on 6 October 1874, shown by a 20 mm double circle datestamp struck on the postage stamps in the upper right. The letter was prepaid 80 centimos de Peseta with a pair of 1874 40c violet adhesives — the fully paid rate to the U.S. via Belgium (16¢ equivalent). The exchange

11. U.S. 16 *Statutes at Large* 928.

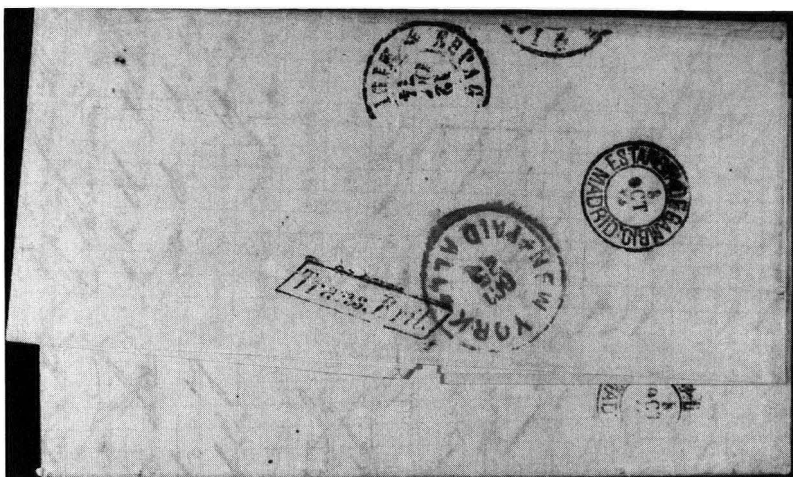


Figure 2. Reverse of Figure 1 cover showing the characteristic *Trans.Brit* marking for transit via England.

office at Madrid, which handled mails under the Belgian-Spanish Convention, struck a 19 mm double circle backstamp in black, ESTAFETA DE CAMBIO MADRID, on 8 October, the date the mails were made up for Belgium. The mails passed through France in the closed bags and were processed next in Ostend.

Trans. Brit.



Figure 3a & b. Belgium markings in black which identify covers routed through England.

Entry from Spain by the southern mails was marked by a 22 mm double circle backstamp in black, *ESPANGNE*MIDI I /12/OCT/74. A 20 mm circular datestamp on the front in black, ETATS-UNIS PAR OSTENDE/12/OCT/4-5S shows the letter was destined for the U.S. via Ostende. This marking is illustrated in Figure 3b. It appears on letters sent from Belgium to the U.S. in closed bags through England. Although Antwerp was permitted to exchange mails with the U.S., all letters that I have seen, which were sent via England, show the ETATS-UNIS PAR OSTENDE marking and no Antwerp datestamp. The other indication of routing through England is a 27 x 6 mm parallelogram marking inscribed "*Trans. Brit.*" shown in Figure 3a., struck on the reverse in black. The Detailed Regulations to the 1867 Convention required that mails dispatched via England were to be stamped to indicate British transit.¹² The letter was sent across the Channel to England, then to Queenstown, Ireland, to catch the Cunard steamer *Calabria* which called there on 14 October for the U.S. mails.¹³ *Calabria* arrived in New York on 25 October where the mail bags were opened and a 25 mm red-orange backstamp *NEW YORK*PAID ALL/OCT/25 was struck on the reverse of the letter.¹⁴ Since all postage had been prepaid, no postage was due when the letter was received on 26 October 1874. The U.S. was not entitled to any fees for the transit of this letter from Spain. The distinguishing features of

12. U.S. 16 *Statutes at Large* 928.

13. Hubbard and Winter, *op. cit.*, p. 77.

14. Article VIII of the Detailed Regulations to the 1867 Convention required "Correspondence fully paid to destination shall be stamped in the United States *Paid All*, and in Belgium, *P.D.*"

mails from Spain to the U.S. via Belgium and England are the markings shown in Figures 3a and 3b.

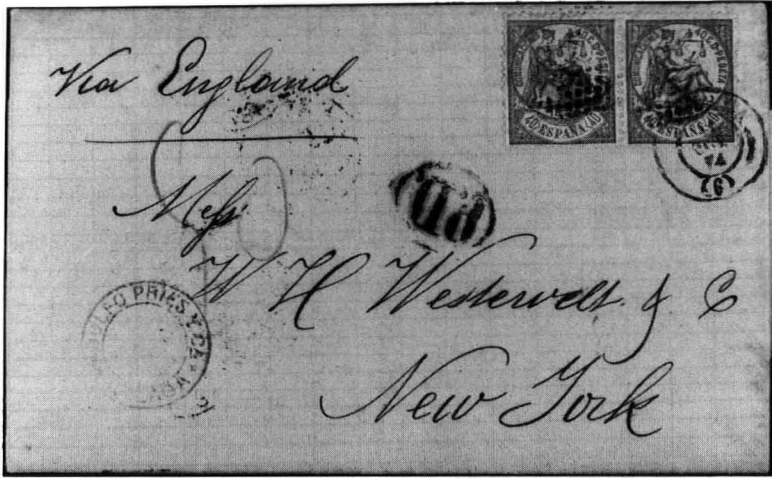


Figure 4. Second cover from same correspondence, Malaga 21 Oct 74 to New York without ETATS-UNIS PAR OSTENDE marking. Letter carried in direct service to U.S. from Antwerp on Red Star Switzerland.

Figures 4 and 5 illustrate the front and reverse of the second cover. This folded letter was written on 21 October 1874, 21 days after the letter shown previously, and prepaid in exactly the same manner with 80 centimos de Peseta in adhesives. It, too, was endorsed "Via England", but as we shall see, this wasn't binding on the Belgians. The pair of 1874 violet adhesives is tied with the same type of Malaga circular datestamp in black, MALAGA (6) /21/OCT/74. This letter shows a black oval P.D. marking of Madrid. Backstamps, identical to those on the first cover, show that Madrid handled the letter on 23 October and that the letter entered Belgium on 27 October 1874. Here the similarity to the earlier cover ends. Instead of an indication that the letter went through Ostend (Figure 3b marking), there is a 21 mm black circular backstamp which reads ANVERS/27/OCT/4-5S/1874, shown in Figure 6. This letter was sent to Antwerp, where it was placed in the mails sent on the Red Star Line steamer *Switzerland* which sailed on 29 October 1874 directly to New York.¹⁵ *Switzerland* arrived in New York on 13 November 1874, the same day that

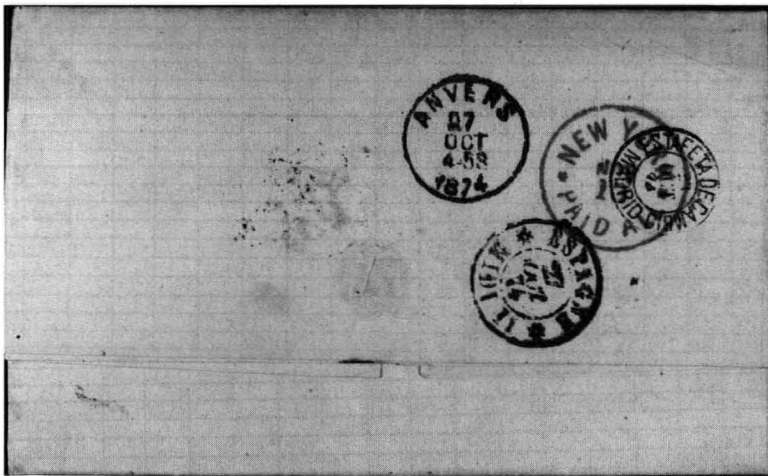


Figure 5. Reverse of Figure 4 cover showing characteristic marking for direct service to the U.S. from Belgium.

15. Hubbard and Winter, *op. cit.*, p. 342.

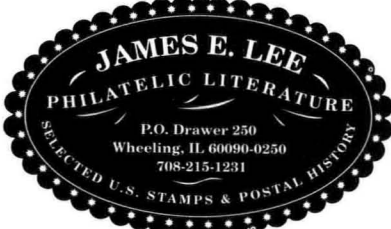
docketing shows the letter reached the addressee. Again, the New York exchange office struck the required arrival datestamp on the reverse, a 25 mm red-orange, *NEW YORK*PAID ALL/NOV/13.



Figure 6. Antwerp cds on reverse of Figure 3 cover. This marking and absence of boxed *Trans.Brit.* marking are characteristic of direct service covers from Belgium.

The distinguishing features of covers sent from Spain to the U.S. **via Belgium by the direct steamer** route from Belgium are the absence of the “*Trans.Brit.*” and ETATS-UNIS PAR OSTENDE markings and a circular datestamp showing processing at Antwerp. It is not known if the Belgians had a marking to show “*Direct Service*” as required by the Detailed Regulations of the 1867 Convention.¹⁶ This is the only cover that I have seen used on this route and it does not show such a marking. Covers by direct steamer service to or from Belgium are quite scarce.

16. U.S. Statutes, *op. cit.*, p. 928.



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ANSWER TO PROBLEM COVERS IN ISSUE NO. 152

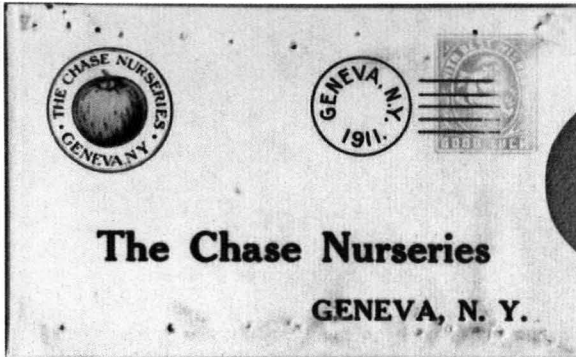


Figure 1a. Celluloid object.

Figure 1b. Metal objects.

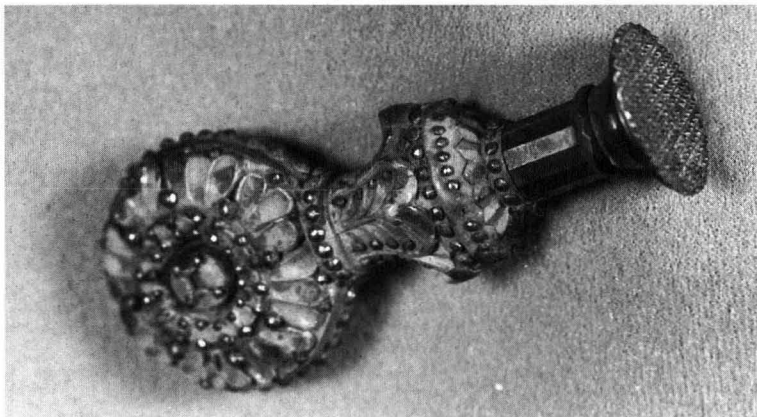
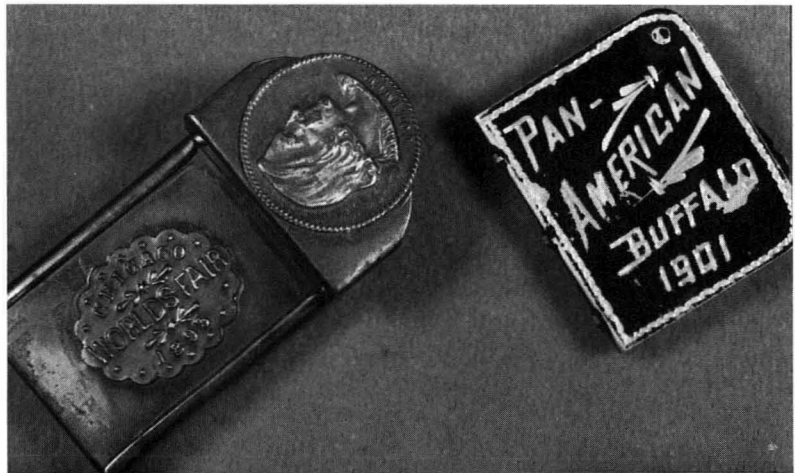


Figure 1c. Wood and metal object.

Figures 1a, 1b, and 1c show items related to the sending of letters. They are part of a group of about 400 formed over 30 years of prowling flea markets and antique shops; plus acquisition of Pat Herst's collection. Some of these gadgets sell for big prices nowadays. In a Christie's NY auction this month a Tiffany desk set dated 1886 was estimated at \$7500. Items from the Zodiac series by Tiffany can be found at reasonable prices, and have both pleasing form and useful function. A recent article stated that persons tired of ballpoints are again using pens and ink; so some of these hundred year old artifacts can be

again utilitarian. Good answers were given by Kenneth Pitt, Joanne Haag and others; and here are the comments of Dr. Frank R. Scheer, curator of the Railway Mail Service Library:

I noted the artifacts discussed in "The Cover Corner", Issue 152 of *Chronicle*, Figures 4a, 4b, and 4c. Depending on its size, the 4a item may have been a business card holder, or could have contained miniature photographs of the Chase Nursery. Figure 4b depicts what appears to be money clips or stamp boxes. The submitter would need to provide side views or a cross-section drawing to be sure. Figure 4c is a wax sealer for letters. Since it is ornate, it is likely that a woman used it.

Dr. Scheer may be correct; but the others believe items 1a and 1b are all stamp holders. At the turn of the century objects of celluloid and aluminum (the Pan-American stamp box) were valued as highly as ones of silver. Dr. Scheer offers to answer questions about postal artifacts and to purchase books and objects related to the Railway Mail Service. Those interested can write him at 12 East Rosemont Ave., Alexandria, Va. 22301, enclosing a large envelope with double weight postage.

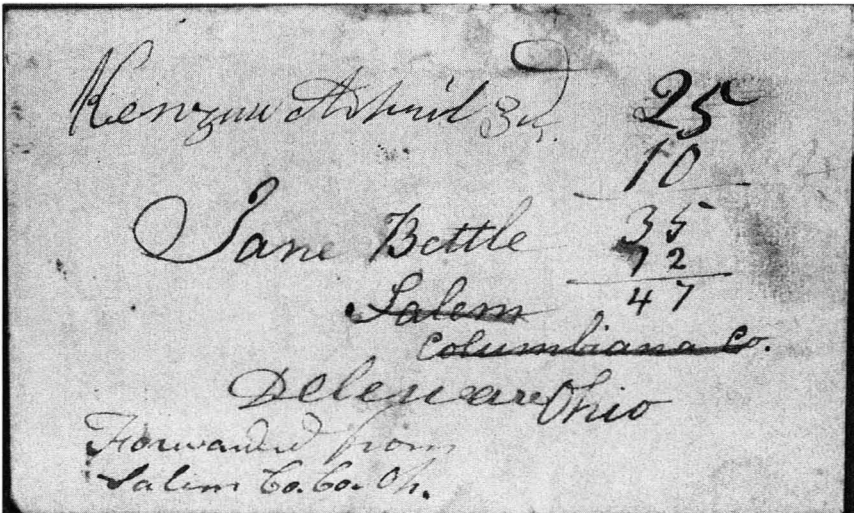


Figure 2. Stampless forwarded cover.

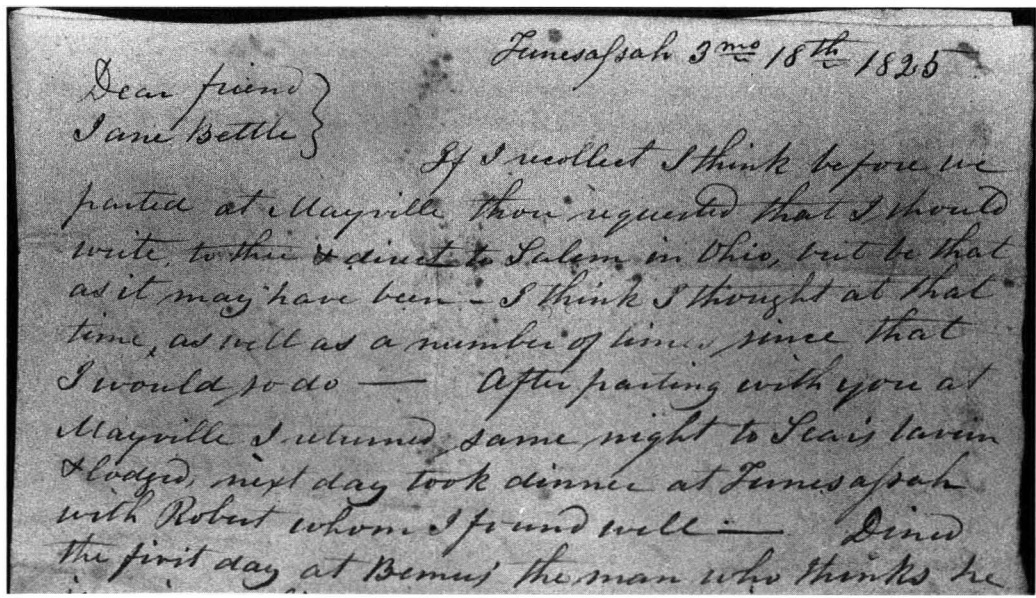


Figure 2a. Beginning of letter in Figure 2 cover.

Figure 2 shows a stampless cover sent and forwarded in 1825. It is a real problem, and other answers may be given in the next issue. Mentioned are these places: Tunesassah, Mayville, Sear's Tavern and again Tunesassah, where the letter was written. The only place easily identifiable is Mayville, which was in Dodge County, Wisconsin. Presumably, the quaker gentleman who wrote this long letter, Joseph Elkinton, was in Indian territory, possibly doing missionary work. Here is the best analysis received so far, by Carey E. Johnson of Ann Arbor, who writes:

Hand carried by favor from Tunesassah (probably by steamboat passenger to Erie, Pa.) to enter mails inland at Kinzuc and rated 25 cents for greater than 400 miles to Salem, Ohio.

Individual not at Salem and letter, forwarded to Mt. Pleasant, Ohio and rated additional 10 cents for 30 to 80 miles. Absence of Mt. Pleasant address is confusing unless it was erased and replaced by Delaware address or if forwarded to Delaware via Mt. Pleasant due to a specific mail route. In either case I would think Mt. Pleasant address should appear. Partial cds mentioned may be Mt. Pleasant. Rate for cds forwarding from Mt. Pleasant to Delaware was 12 cents (12½) for 80-150 miles for a total of 47 cents due on delivery.

Another responder wrote:

I think this FL originated at "Tunesapah" or "Tunesassah", Wisconsin Territory (with post office of origin having been omitted on front of FL) on 18 March 1825 being addressed to Salem, Ohio, 25¢. It was then forwarded to Kenzua, Pa., April 3, 10¢ due. It was then carried out of the mails to Mt. Pleasant, Pa., and forwarded from there to Delaware, Ohio, 12¢ charged, but should have been 12½¢.

If any readers have other ideas, will be glad to publish their answers.

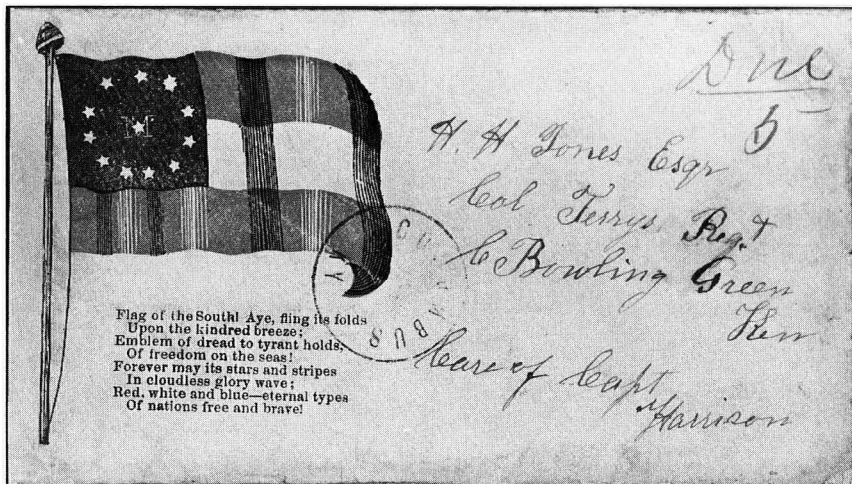


Figure 3. Patriotic flag cover postmarked Columbus, Ky.

Figure 3 shows a Confederate patriotic cover with twelve stars in the flag. It bears a black cds of Columbus, Ky. and a "Due 5" ms. rate marking. Had wonderful responses to this cover from Dick Graham, Maria and Brian Green, Mick McClung, Kenneth Pitt, and Robert Stone. Here is a composite of their answers:

A. The "M" on star in middle stands for Missouri, admitted to the CSA 28 Nov. 1861.

B. Date of usage, based on barely visible "N", was Jan. 1862, because Columbus was abandoned the following month.

C. The rate was 5 cents for a letter not over ½ oz. travelling not over 500 miles.

D. The letter was not rated at Memphis, Tenn., because it does not bear the well-known handstamped rating mark used there.

E. This is a genuine Confederate patriotic, F12-5 in the new Dietz catalog; and judged rare with 7 recorded.

F. The cover travelled by rail from Columbus, Ky., to Bowling Green, Ky., with this probable routing: south into Tenn. on the Mobile and Ohio RR to Union City; and then southeast on the Nashville and NW RR to Johnsonville, Tenn; and finally northeast on the Memphis, Clarksville and Louisville RR to Bowling Green, Ky., crossing the state line at Junction. The total distance by rail was about 140 miles, so the 5 cent rate was correct.

G. Col. Terrys Regiment was made up of Texan cavalrymen.

H. There is a possibility that this cover originated in Missouri, crossing the Miss. River at New Madrid, but without an enclosure or docketing this is not provable.

I. It is OK to call this cover "unique" at this time, because it is the only one known so far from one CSA Kentucky post office to another in Kentucky.

These responses are appreciated, and all seem correct. Perhaps someone else will be lucky in finding a Confederate Ky.-to-Ky. cover. If you have one, let us know, and we'll include it in the next issue.

PROBLEM COVERS FOR THIS ISSUE

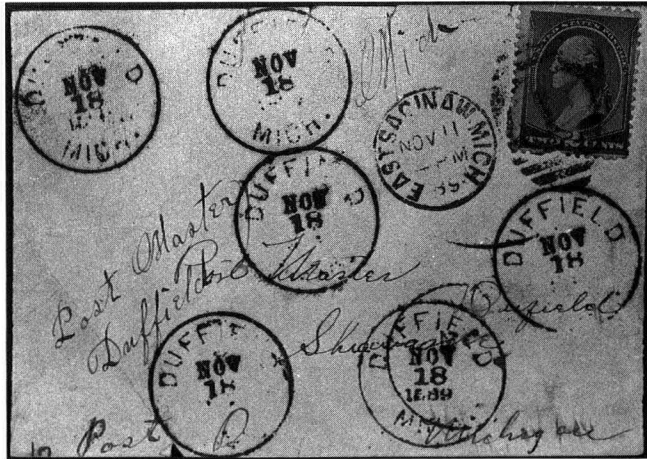


Figure 4. Much postmarked cover.

Figure 4 show a fun cover with eight cds markings on the front. Not a tough problem, but there is one subtle feature on one of the cds markings. What is it? A similar multi-markings cover was in the January 1992 issue of *La Posta*, but probable reason not the same.

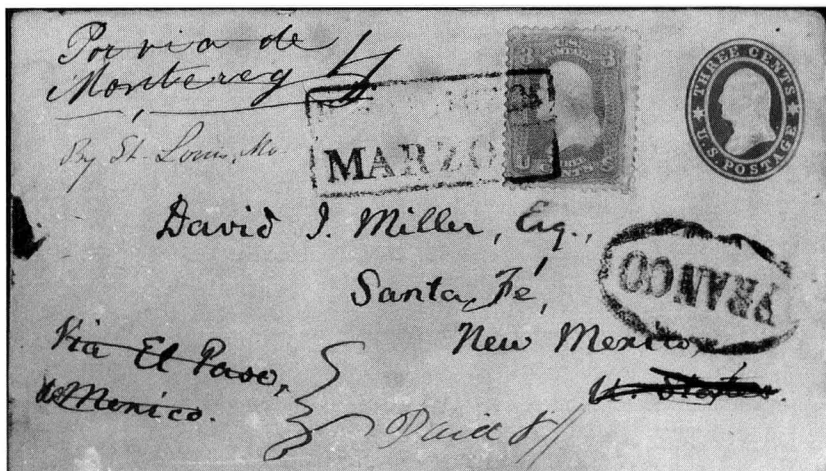


Figure 5. Cover from Mexico to New Mexico.

Figure 5 shows a new submittal by a member who arranged for a good photo and this description:

The envelope is a 3 cent star die, uncancelled. The stamp is a 3 cent 1861 of the very pale shade that appeared circa 1865 or later. The postmark is a rectangular black box "H. MATAMOROS/MARZO", with matching "FRANCO" in a wreath. The cover is addressed to David J. Miller, Esq., Santa Fe, New Mexico, U. States, with the U. States later crossed out, probably in the same ink that was also used to cross out the "via El Paso de Mexico" and write the "Por via de Morterey at the top. The writing to the right of the latter is apparently a "4" (?) but it was also crossed out with a loop of the same ink that crossed out the "Por via de Monterey." Still a third hand, in a brownish magenta ink, wrote "By St. Louis, Mo." at the upper left and also wrote the "Paid 8/1 (?)" at the bottom center.

It is reported further that there are no markings on the back. The submitter asks why the U.S. stamp was cancelled with a Mexican marking (accidental?), where it originated, what the rate markings are, the routing, and probable year of usage. This is an interesting item, and we hope there are readers with some of the answers.



Figure 6. Cover from Trieste to Mobile.

Figure 6 shows the front of half of a folded letter. The other half is gone, so the only helpful markings are what the photo shows. The marking in the upper middle is that of Trieste (e) with "13/8", and to the right is "Aachen, 16/8 5 cents." (note break in outer rim), and finally there is an "N. YORK BR. PKT." dated Aug. 29 and with a rate that looks like "30" at the bottom. All of these markings are in black. The submitter wonders, and hopes, that this is an 1861 usage. If so, it would be a rarity, because the regular mails could not handle a letter to the Confederate State of Alabama then. The "via Pr---" at the bottom has been eaten by corrosive ink. If you can determine the year of usage, and explain the rate, our submitter will be grateful.

Send your answers and comments to the P.O. Box, within two weeks of receiving your *Chronicle*, or FAX to 513-563-6287. New submittals are welcome.

SOME PUERTO RICAN PUZZLERS

An international philatelic exposition will be held in Spain this spring and several members of our society will be attending. The F.I.P. show is GRANADA '92, to be held 17 to 26 April in Granada, Andalusia, Spain. This area is near the Costa del Sol, on the northern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Near Granada is the Moorish city of Alhambra. Thus this happening will be culturally and philatelically rewarding. Your editor will be there to show an exhibit of Puerto Rican postal history in the Court of Honor. Most of the rarities in this collection are from groups of British Offices in Puerto Rico and Spanish American War covers. A few are to or from the U.S. during the period covered in the *Chronicle*. They are not real "problems," but some are interesting and the explanations good lessons in postal history. Here are six for our readers, and responses and explanation will be in the next *Chronicle*.

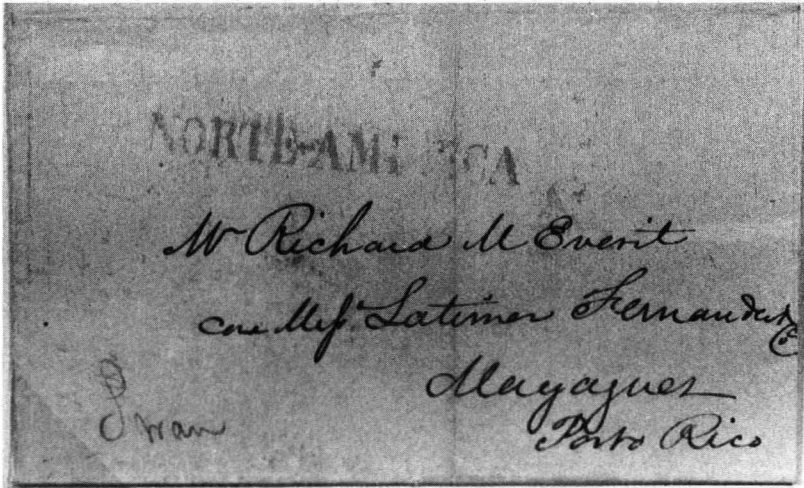


Figure 1. New Haven to Mayaguez, 1848.

Figure 1 shows a folded letter sent in March 1848 from New Haven, Conn., to Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. The front bears "NORTEAMERICA" in red and the word "Swan" in pencil. On the back is "2 1/2" and an "ISLA DE PORTO RICO" cds, both in red. What is the rate, and explanation of the markings?

Figure 2 shows another folded letter, from Guayama, Puerto Rico, in February 1848

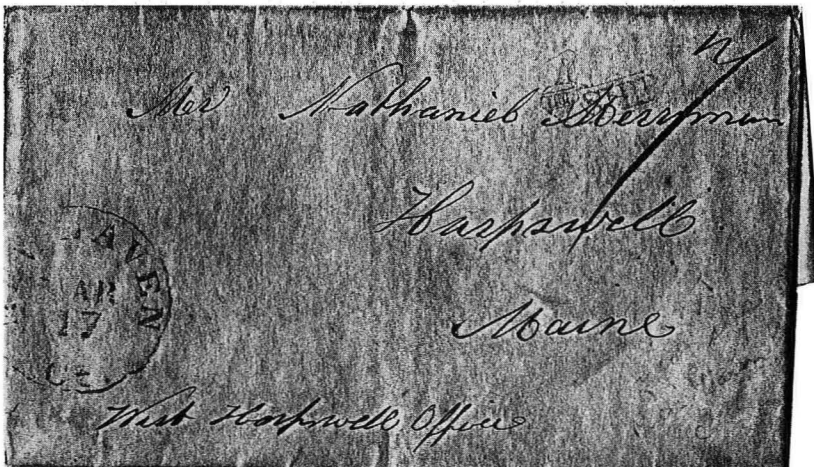


Figure 2. Guayama to Maine, 1848.

to Maine. It shows a New Haven, Ct., cds and “7” on the front, and no markings on the back. This one is not too complicated. Will someone explain it?

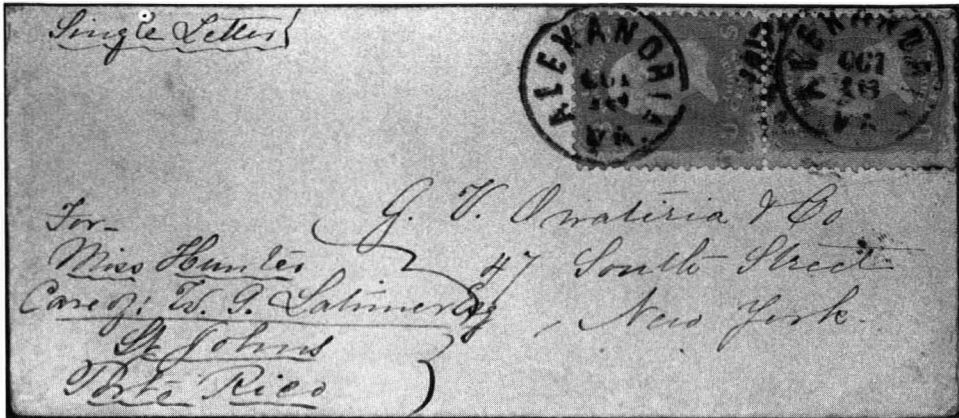


Figure 3. Alexandria, Va., to Puerto Rico via New York.

Figure 3 shows a small cover with Alexandria, Va., cds killing a pair of 3 cent 1861 U.S. stamps. Although the first address is New York, the address at left is to St. Johns, Puerto Rico. No postal markings on back, but it is docketed “October 17, ’66 - ans. November 18.” The cover is marked “Single Letter”, so why 6 cents in postage? How did it get to Puerto Rico and evade postal charges there?



Figure 4. Arecibo to New York, 1868, with British stamp.

Figure 4 shows a cover from Puerto Rico in “Ju 68” per cds in red. The sender was in Arecibo, and the British one shilling stamp was canceled “C61”, and also is touched by a black “Steamship 10” of New York. What was the routing of this unusual item, and why no Puerto Rican stamp, or charge shown?

Figure 5 shows the front of a folded letter with many markings. It originated at Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, on 2 September, 1871. It was received in Boston 26 September 1871 by Alfred Winsor & Son and mailed to Nova Scotia 27 September with 6 cent Banknote stamp tied by Boston marking and killer. Per oval backstamp, it was received in Nova Scotia 28 September. At lower left is “Per Steamer via St. John” in same ink as address. This letter is typical of how much mail from Puerto Rico was handled during this period. Will a reader please explain the rate and handling?



Figure 5. Mayaguez to Nova Scotia via Boston in 1871.

Figure 6 shows a cover mailed at Haverhill, Mass., March 22 (1873) with three and ten cent Banknote stamps. The New York marking in red dated April 1 shows an “8”, and there is a black “2” at the lower center. On the back is only a smudgy San Juan receiving marking in black with 11 April barely readable. Why was this rated at 13 cents and what was the routing?

Please send answers within two weeks of receiving your *Chronicle*.



Figure 6. Haverhill, Mass., to San Juan at 13¢ rate in 1873.

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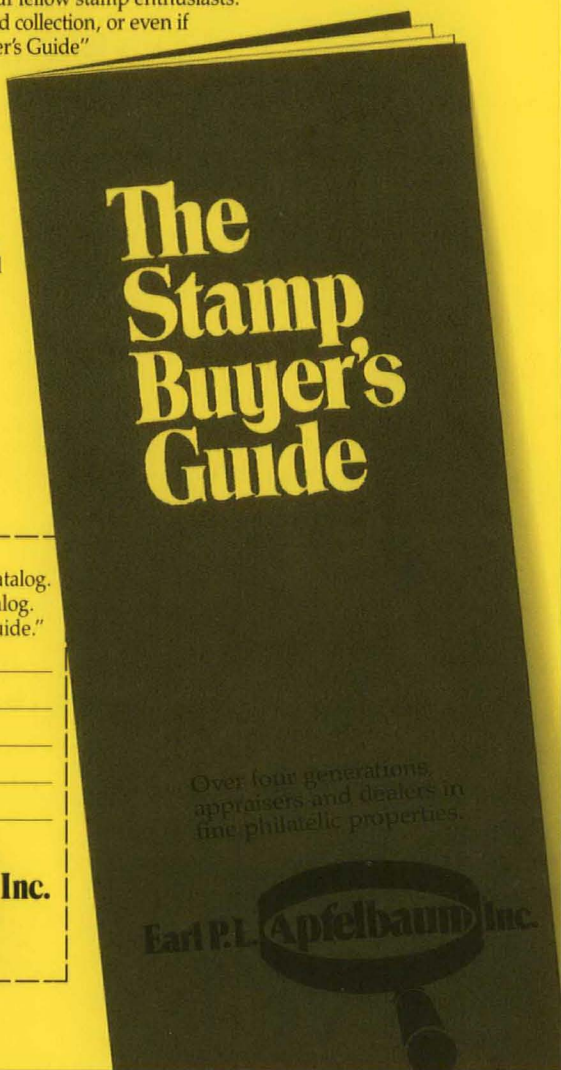
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