

THE CHRONICLE August 1992 (No. 155)

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of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues

August 1992

Volume 44, No. 3

Whole No. 155

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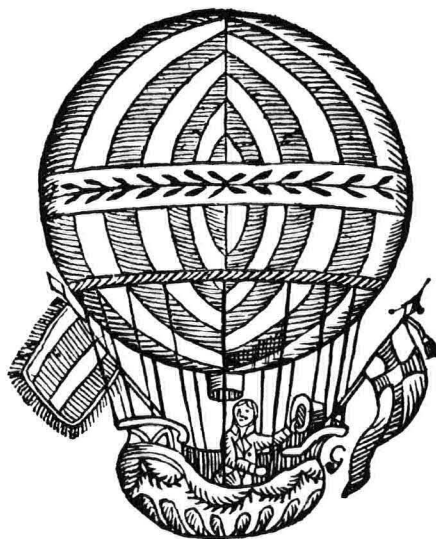
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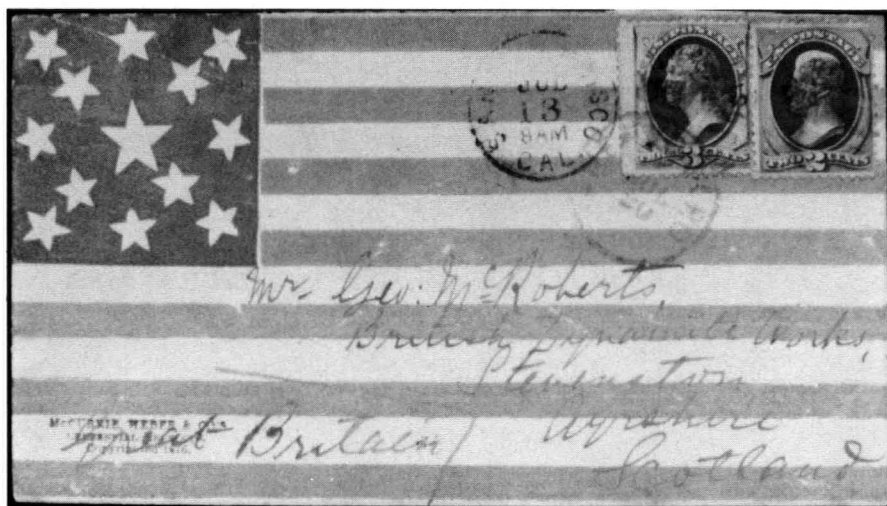
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# The Chronicle

## of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues

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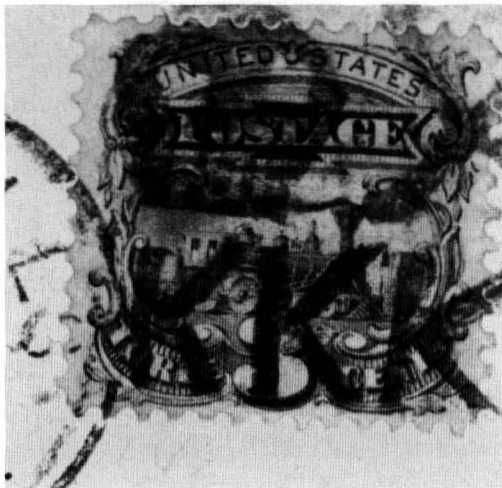
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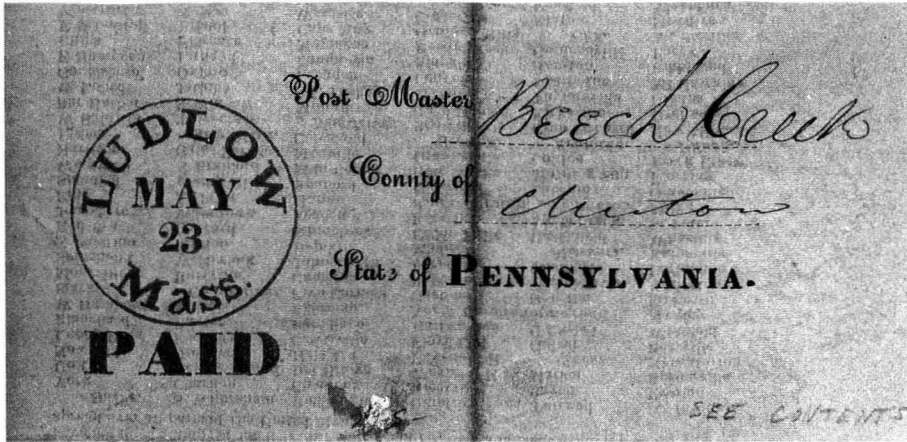


Figure 1. Address leaf of circular with printed May 23 postmark to Pennsylvania.

### THE CHARLES M. WILLARD CIRCULARS OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

JAMES W. MILGRAM, M.D.

Frank Mandel, the Section Editor, described several printed postmarks in past issues of this journal. Probably one of the most well-known examples of this type of postmark is the circular of Charles M. Willard of Ludlow, Massachusetts, who at first operated as an agent for E.S. Zevely of Pleasant Grove, Maryland, but who later distributed and sold devices produced either for or by himself. A full example of this famous circular is shown on pages 10 and 11 of *Simpson's U.S. Postal Markings 1851-61* edited by Thomas J. Alexander. This identical circular is also described in *Chronicle* No. 99, August, 1978. The address leaf is reproduced in Figure 1. That article pointed out that Willard became unhappy with Zevely because the latter did not ship merchandise as advertised. The text of the circular stated, in part:

Thus far all the orders coming to me have been executed by Mr. Zevely, of Maryland. — When we commenced our arrangement I supposed from the samples received that the Stamps were to be engraved on *Box wood*, that the changes of month and day were to be of *Box wood*, and that a box of red ink would be sent with each set, and I stated it thus in my Circular; but after the Circular was sent out he informed me that he could not afford to send *red ink*, (because it costs more than black ink,) and that his common stamps were not of “*Box wood*,” and I found he was sending... These variations I have considered so important that I have been obliged to commence the manufacture on my own account to supply the discrepancy between what I have promised and what has been furnished to my patrons, and in so doing this I am happy to find that I can now furnish complete sets of stamps at *one half of the former price*. As to ink a small box cannot last long in a P.O. at best, and instead of it I send directions for procuring and making it *gratis*.

The address leaf of the May 23 circular is quite spectacular. The Ludlow, Massachusetts postmark and the “PAID” below it are printed and in red, not black ink as is the text of the address and the bulk of the circular. On the first page of the circular the marking devices are also printed in red.

I would like to point out two other features of this circular which I have never seen mentioned in other descriptions of it. The townmark is specifically dated “LUDLOW Mass. MAY 23” and the state in the address as printed is “PENNSYLVANIA”.

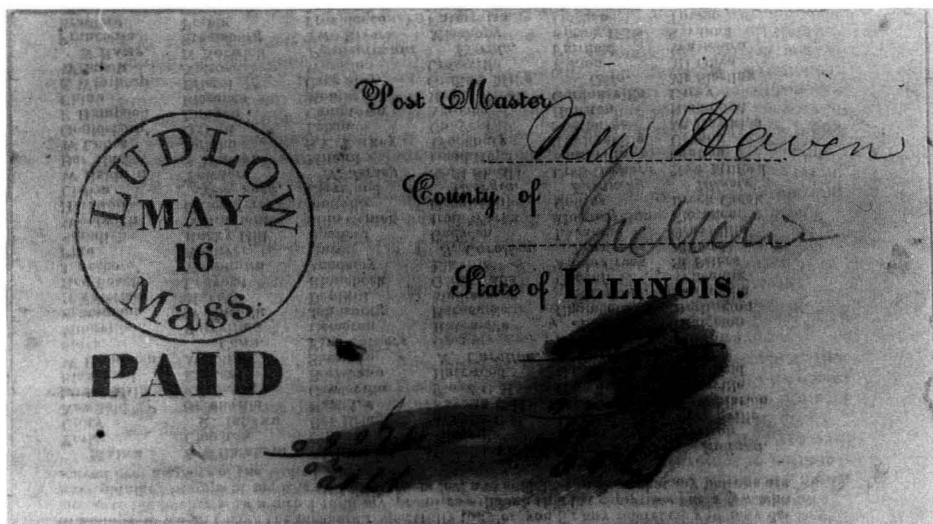


Figure 2. Address leaf of circular with printed May 16 postmark to Illinois.

I purchased a similar circular at AMERIPEX. Figure 2 reproduces the address portion of the sheet. If readers compare Figure 2 to the May 23 circular shown in the Simpson-Alexander book or *Chronicle* No. 99, they should note at least three different features: the address contains a printed "ILLINOIS", the date is May 16, not May 23, and the word "PAID" does not match the placement of this word on the May 23 example.

Moreover, when the first page of the May 16 example (shown in Figure 3) is compared to the May 23 example, it becomes apparent that this is an entirely different circular. Most obvious, I think, are the differences in the markings "PAID" and "FREE". Those markings in Figure 3 are considerably larger and less bold than in the May 23 example. Also in Figure 3 the slugs for the 12 months are not aligned. The text on the inside two pages of the two examples is similar, but there are many differences in the typesetting. In the Simpson-Alexander book's May 23 example, page three of the circular shows the different state names in italics; my May 16 circular shows many of the states in ordinary type. The May 23 circular seems more handsome and professional in appearance, and I would guess that between May 16 and May 23 Willard corrected the May 16 version.

The story does not end here.

A third type of the circular is shown in Figure 123 of *The 3c Stamp of the United States 1851-1857 Issue, Revised* by Dr. Carroll Chase. The state address is Indiana. This is not the same May 16 circular shown in Figure 2. The word "PAID" is shifted to the right in the Chase example. The "M" in "Mass" is different. The circular in Figure 4 was used June 1 to Maine and is similar to Dr. Chase's example. The full circular, part of which is shown in Figure 4, was sold at a Paige auction December 6, 1952. Another example of the June 1 circular to Maine was reprinted by Herman Herst, Jr. in 1977.

Figure 5 is a reproduction of another example and is from Part 1 of the E.S. Knapp auction (Philatelic Research Laboratories, Inc., May 5-10, 1941, Lot 557, page 51). In Figure 5 the date is June 1, and the state in the address is New York. The text of the circular itself is much like the example shown in *Simpson's U.S. Postal Markings 1851-61* and Figure 1. Thus we have examples with printed postmarks to Indiana, Illinois, Maine, New York and Pennsylvania.

While these circulars with the printed red postmark are interesting items of much value in understanding the postmarking devices of the 1850s, they are not the earliest Willard circulars. It can be seen in Figure 3 that the post office stamps are "improved" and there has been a "great reduction in price." The earliest known Willard circular is the

**IMPROVED  
POST OFFICE STAMPS,  
WITH THE NAME OF THE POSTMASTER  
ENGRAVED ON BOX WOOD.  
GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICE.**

**Testimonials of their Use, Durability, &c.**

In the year 1847 Hon. Seth B. Hobbie, (the 1st Asst. P. M. Gen) called Europe on business of the Post Office Department, and on his return, in his report to Congress, he made the following

**STATEMENT.**

"I found when in England in 1847, that the stamps in use in the English post-offices were universally made of wood, and was informed that they had superseded the metallic stamps entirely. They were preferred not alone on account of their cheapness, but because they were more durable, and of such a nature, in consequence of which, time is saved in the process of stamping, by not being obliged so frequently to ink the stamps. Besides this impression, I was told, was not so liable to blur. (Signed) S. B. HOBBS."

These stamps, as represented above, are every way superior to metal ones in beauty of impression, when properly engraved; besides a set of metal stamps furnished by the Department costs more than ten times the price of a complete set on wood. The sample impressions here shown constitute a complete set of Box wood.

**POST OFFICE STAMPS FOR ONE DOLLAR.**

5	V	X	JAN.	JUL.
PAID	PAID	PAID	FEB.	AUG.
3	3	3	MAR.	SEP.
LUDLOW	LUDLOW	LUDLOW	APR.	OCT.
Mass	Mass	Mass	MAY	NOV.
			JUN.	DEC.

1	5	9	13	17	21	25	29
2	6	10	14	18	22	26	30
3	7	11	15	19	23	27	31
4	8	12	16	20	24	28	

**SENT FREE OF POSTAGE.**

**To the Post Master—**  
 Dear Sir — During the year last past I have furnished a large number of Stamps to Post Masters, for which I have received two dollars per set. Thus far all the orders coming to me have been executed by Mr. Zevely, of Maryland. When we commenced our arrangement I supposed from the samples received that the Stamps were to be engraved on Box wood, that the changes of month and date were to be of Box wood, and that a box of red ink would be sent with each set, and I stated it thus in my Circular; but after the Circular was sent out he informed me that he could not afford to send red ink, (because it cost more than black ink,) and that his common stamps were not of "Box wood," and I found he was sending changes of month and date made of common type metal, which

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LUDLOW	LUDLOW	LUDLOW	APR.	OCT.
Mass	Mass	Mass	MAY	NOV.
			JUN.	DEC.

1	5	9	13	17	21	25	29
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Figure 3. Face sheet of the circular post-marked May 16. The devices are printed in red ink.

Figure 4. Face sheet of circular with printed June 1 postmark addressed to Maine. The face sheet of the May 23 circular is similar to that of the June 1 circular.

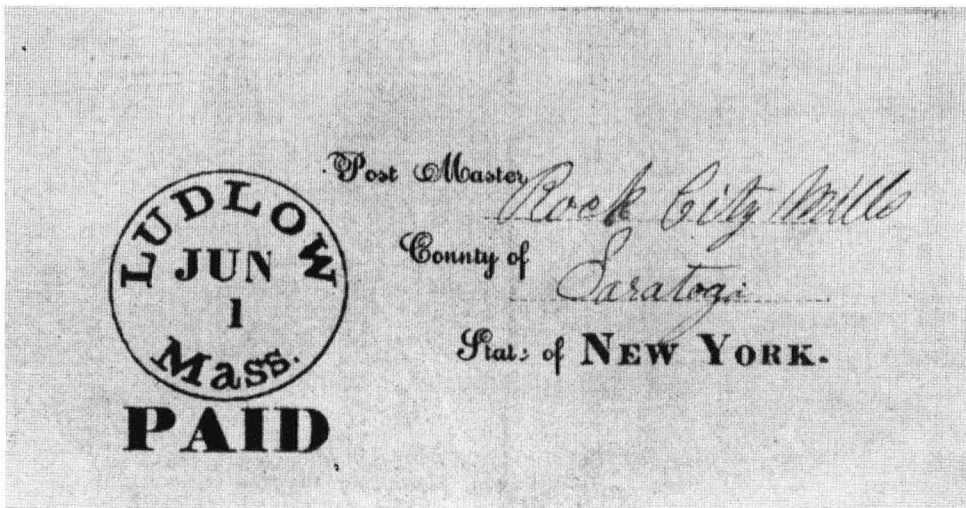


Figure 5. Circular with printed June 1 postmark addressed to New York.

# POST OFFICE STAMPS,

ENGRAVED ON WOOD

BY E. S. ZEVEPLY, P. M.

AT PLEASANT GROVE, ALLEGHANY CO., MARYLAND.

## Testimonials of their Use, Durability, &c.

1st.—Statement of Hon. S. R. HOBBIE, 1st Asst. P. M. Gen.

"I found when in England in 1847 that the stamps in use in the English Post Offices were universally made of wood, and was informed that they had superseded the metallic stamps entirely. They were preferred, not alone on account of their cheapness, but because they were more tenacious of the ink, in consequence of which time is saved in the process of stamping, by not being obliged so frequently to ink the stamp. Besides the impression, I was told, was not so liable to blur. (Signed) S. R. HOBBIE."

2d.—Statement of JOHN MARRON, Esq., 3d Asst. P. M. Gen.

"Since wooden stamps for post-offices are in some sort new in this country, it may be well enough to mention that (as reported by Major Hobbie, late of the P. O. Dept.) metallic stamps are thrown aside for wooden ones throughout England—wooden stamps being *SUPERIOR* in many respects, such as retaining the ink better, not apt to better, less liable to blur, and making better impressions, &c., and without costing half as much; so that even allowing that a metal stamp may last longer than a wooden one (which is doubtful, since one of them will do good service, perhaps twenty years), yet taking the price in view, they are certainly much cheaper in point of *durability*; also, because two or three sets of wooden stamps can be had for the price of one set of metal ones.

"The stamps made at Pleasant Grove, are the only wooden stamps approved and ordered by the Post Office Department, and the manufacturer pledges himself to furnish more and better for less money than can be had elsewhere; and is also prepared to forward stamps promptly and to any extent."

3d.—Extract from a Letter of FITZ HENRY WARREN, Esq., 2d Asst. P. M. Gen.

"Sir—I have seen a specimen of the post-office stamps manufactured by you, and am pleased to say that the character of the impression and the cheapness of the price make them a very desirable acquisition to all Postmasters who are not entitled to be furnished from the Department. Almost every Postmaster will find it for his convenience to provide himself with one, and thus avoid the labor of constantly rewriting the name of his office, and dates of transmission. Very respectfully your obliged serv't,  
FITZ HENRY WARREN."

The impressions below show what constitutes a "set of Stamps," (for prices, separate or combined, see inside.)

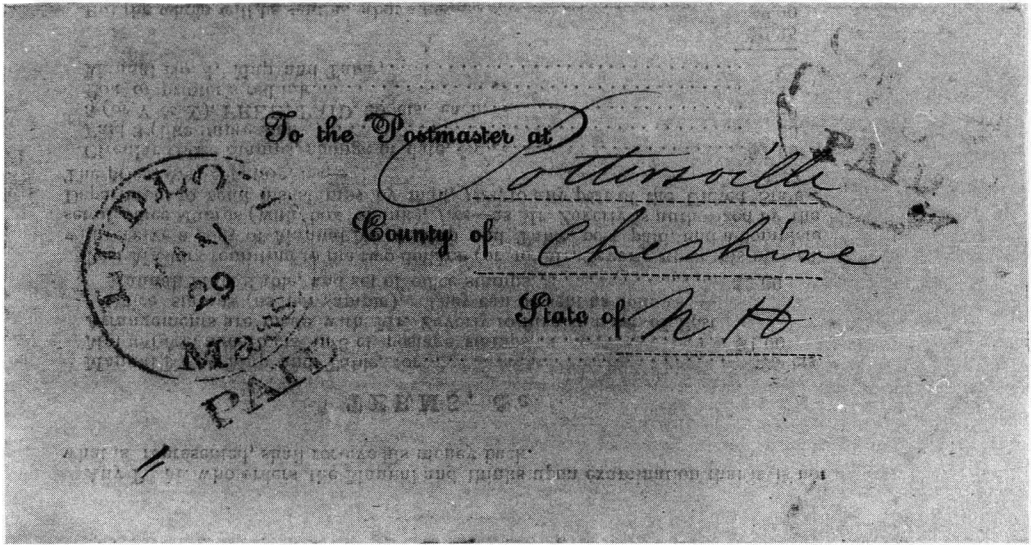


Pleasant Grove, Md., Dec. 31, 1851.

Mr. CHAS. M. WILLARD, Ludlow, Hampden Co., Mass., is authorized to receive orders and money for Stamps made by me, E. S. ZEVEPLY.

\* It may be well to add, by way of explanation, that these stamps are engraved on box wood (the hardest and finest kind), and in point of beauty exceed the metal ones, and while the cost is only \$2, the cost of metal ones furnished by the Dept. is from \$10 to \$12. The best instrument to deface postage stamps is a common cork (3/4 of an inch in diameter), with the end to be used cut into little squares.

Figure 6. Face sheet of the earliest known Willard circular.



**Figure 7. Address leaf of the Figure 6 circular with red handstamp postmark “LUDLOW Mass. JAN 29” with attached “PAID” and with partially printed address.**

circular the face sheet of which is reproduced in Figure 6 showing a January 9 townmark and the address portion of which is shown in Example 7. The face sheet of the circular is printed entirely in black ink. The Figure 6 circular states that Willard was as of December 31, 1851 “authorized to receive orders and money for Stamps made by me, E.S. ZEVELY.” Zevely’s name is misspelled. The sample printed townmark date in this circular’s facesheet is January 9. It seems to be reasonable to date this circular as 1852. This is confirmed by the address portion of the first circular, Figure 7, which bears a regular handstamp, rather than printed, red postmark “LUDLOW Mass. JAN 29” with an attached “PAID”. There is a second unclear PAID marking at the upper right. No printed state names were used in this earliest known circular. Other known copies of this circular are a circular postmarked March 3 shown by Edwin Mayer (*Postal History Journal* 4:48-52, 1960) and a circular postmarked March 1 and addressed to Warrensville, Illinois.

The text of this early circular is different. Page two is a description of “The Complete Post Office Manual, No. 4” published by Charles M. Willard. There follow 11 testimonials for the manual. A manual was offered for 25 cents, or a “Manual &c and 75 cts. in 3 ct. postage stamps” for \$1.00. The circular office stamps with date and month slugs were \$1.00. The “PAID 3” in circle was 25 cents. Numerals “5”, “V” or “X” were 20 cents each. The “FREE” and “PAID” markings were also 20 cents. A box of red printer’s ink was 25 cents too. The package price for the stamps, manual, and red ink was \$2.00.

If one now refers to the text of the later circulars with printed townmarks, the comments about dissatisfaction with Zevely now make sense. Willard had agreed with Zevely to handle items of certain quality and production. Zevely evidently did not maintain this quality. He also did not send the red ink. So Willard distributed his own line of handstamps and reduced the price to \$1.00, but exclusive of the manual. I think all of the second circulars were made in 1852.

I would very much like to see photocopies of any different examples of Willard’s circulars.

(Editor’s Note: I own a copy of Manual No. 4 with the *handstamped* postmark with attached “PAID” on the address leaf as in Figure 7, but dated March 3 [1852]. From the foregoing article it would appear that the rupture between Willard and Zevely occurred at some time between March 3 and May 16, 1852. Perhaps some reader can narrow the gap further.)

## REPORT OF A NEW BOSTON HANDSTAMP DR. TIMOTHY O'CONNOR

(Editor's Note: The following report provides some information on an important discovery of a handstamp marking used in Boston during the Revolutionary War. The operations of the various posts, Royal, Provisional and Patriot (Congressional) during this period are very conjectural and have been the subject of speculation and analysis in the *Chronicle* before, notably the research by Dr. Thomas Kingsley. It is nice to see that the delving is continuing and productive.)

Maurice Blake and Wilbur Davis, in their reference text on Boston Postmarks, noted that "no Boston postal markings used in the years 1776-1782, inclusive, have been reported". The last reported markings of the British Colonial postal system were applied in June of 1775, with the city under occupation by British troops. Recorded postal markings seem to have ceased with the evacuation of the British army. The earliest reported Confederation marking in our hands dated from November 28, 1782 and thus a chasm existed for those years of the Revolutionary War. Such was the level of our understanding until recently.

In 1988 information began to surface that John Olenkiewicz, a well known student of Revolutionary War period postal history, had unearthed handstamped Boston markings from the period in question. Recently, a similar cover was sold through David G. Phillips sale and it is with pleasure that this new marking can be reported. To date, 10 covers bearing the handstamp have been documented, nine from archives in Connecticut.

Color	Date	To	From	Rate (Specie)
Yellow	05/20/76	Jabez Huntington Norwich, CT	Thomas Cushing	2.16
Orange	06/20/76	Jonathan Trumbull Lebanon, CT	Bradford, Navy Agent	2.16
Red Orange	06/22/76	Jos. Trumbull, NY	Nath. Ruggles	3.8
Red Orange	07/01/76	Jon. Trumbull Lebanon, CT	Seth Harding	5.8
Red Orange	06/20/76	Jon. Trumbull	???	2.16
Orange	07/22/76	Jos. Trumbull, NY	Chas. Miller	3.8
Magenta	09/26/76	Jos. Trumbull, NY	Chas. Miller	3.8
Magenta	09/17/76	Will. Bradford, RI	Jer. Powell	2
Magenta	08/21/77	Jos. Trumbull, Commissary General Gen. Washingtons HQTRS	???	8.16
Magenta	08/26/77	Jon. Trumbull	James Bodwin	2.16

All of the handstamps are the same size, 27.5mm x 4.5mm and the color varies between vivid yellow, orange, red orange and the pre-revolutionary magenta. In fact, the marking is similar to BPM 77, the last colonial mark which was used during the occupation of Boston. Perhaps the last colonial device survived in the hands of the rebels. The mark is also similar to BPM 82, the connection between BPM 77 and 82 already being made by Blake and Davis.

A striking characteristic of the new marking is its use by colonists who were intimately involved with the revolution and the sustenance of the Army. While this could be an artifact of survivorship (i.e., only letters from an important family were saved), I suspect that this represents an attempt at an official post or, at least, use by a privileged group in whose hands the British device survived.

Thus, the rich tradition of Boston postal history has become more intriguing. Clearly, the existence of these covers hints at an interesting story of the earliest days of the new nation's post.

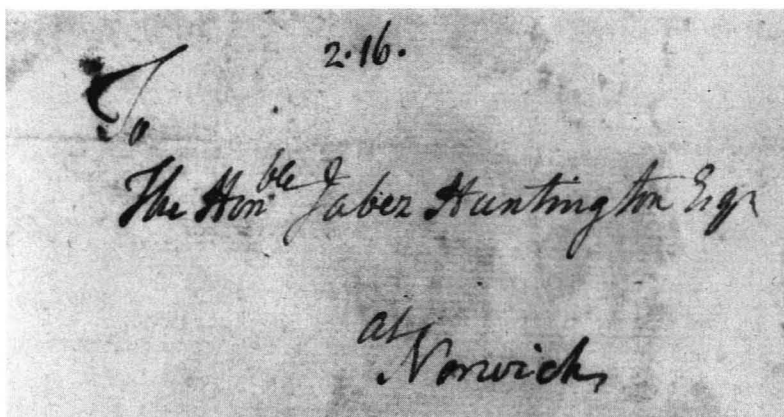


Figure 1. Address sheet of letter sent May 20, 1776 to Jabez Huntington at Norwich, CT from Thomas Cushing at Boston. Huntington (1719-1786) was on the committee of safety and a major general of militia. Cushing (1725-1788) was a member of the first Continental Congress, whose persistent opposition to a declaration of independence got him replaced by the horrid little Elbridge Gerry. Ms. 2.16 indicates rate in specie.

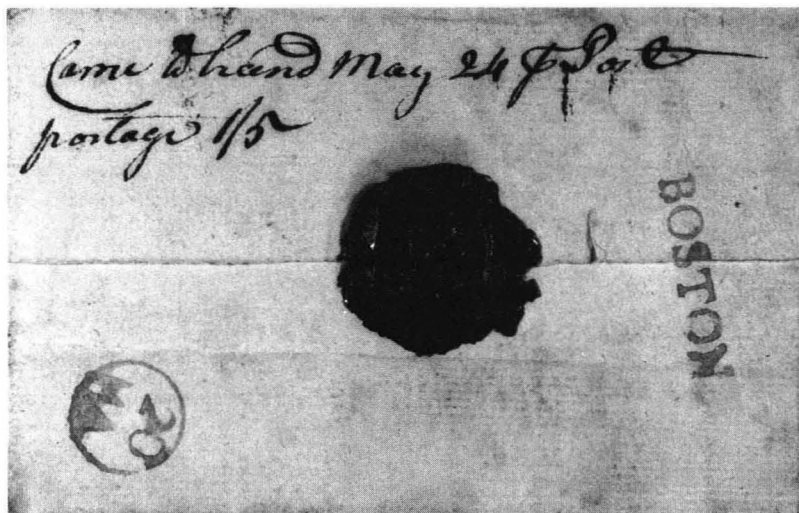


Figure 2. Flap side Figure 1. Yellow 'BOSTON' and '20/MA' Franklin mark. Ms. 'Came to hand May 24 pr. Post postage 1.5' restates rate in local currency. Handstamps are originating marks.



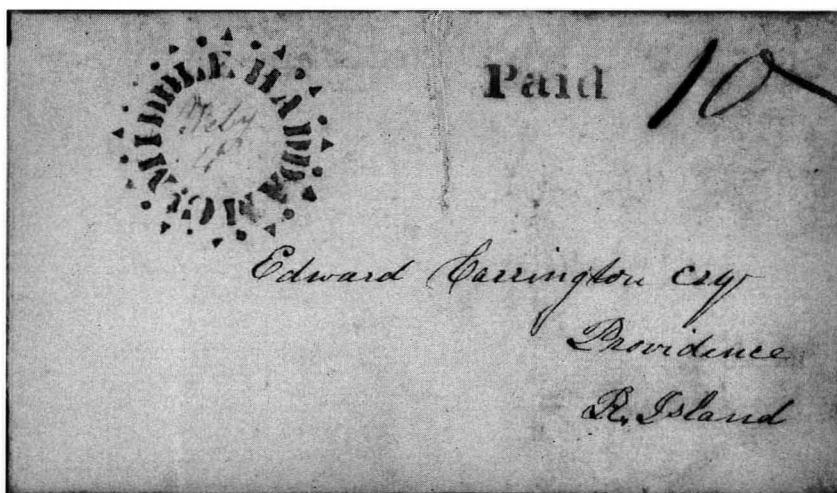
Figure 3. Comparison of the new Revolutionary War straight line with the previously known pre-War marking, Blake-Davis BPM 77.

## PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED CONNECTICUT STENCIL MARKING FRANK MANDEL

The few dozen towns that used this tedious method of applying markings did not include many from Connecticut. In fact, the only stencil townmark I recall as having been previously recorded is a peculiar arc of Collinsville, Connecticut used in the 1850s with an 1851 issue 3¢.

I had noted a stencil "Paid" in dark blue, with a matching manuscript townmark "Middle Haddam Ct." and ms "12 1/2" on a letter dated May 2 and addressed to Miss Lucinda M. Price in Wallingford, Vermont, no year date, but obviously before July 1, 1845.

Recently, a new cover, Figure 1, came to hand that amplified my list. It has the same stencil "PAID" I had seen on the cover with manuscript townmark, all in violet brown, with ms. rate "10" and date "Feby. 4" (1842). It has an outer circle of 24 alternating triangular and circular ornaments. It is somewhat similar to the better known stencil of Sherwoods Corners, New York that was used during the same period.



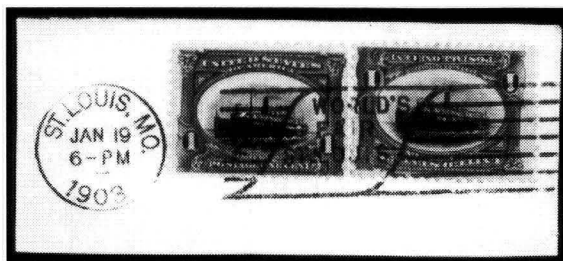
**Figure 1. Stencil markings "MIDDLE HADDAM CT" (34mm) and "PAID" (19x5mm) in violet brown, with matching ms. "10" rate and "Feby. 4", on 1842 folded letter to Providence, Rhode Island. Stencil markings show the typical "broken letter" style and manuscript date. This is a previously unreported stencil use, and the only one from the pre-adhesive period reported from Connecticut. (Photo courtesy of David L. Jarrett)**

Middle Haddam was a post-village in Middlesex County on the east side of the Connecticut River, about 20 miles southeast of Hartford. Its postmaster in 1843 was Huntington Selden. It was a fairly active office. Selden's compensation that year was \$214.40 and the net proceeds reported to Washington was \$388.00, so his total annual receipts in postage (gross) should have been around \$600. He may have been entitled to handstamp devices at government expense under the P.O. regulations (the 1843 minimum requirement was \$100 per quarter). Why he chose to use as cumbersome and messy a method to apply postmarks is a bit mysterious. Perhaps he thought the result was pretty. I do.

Also, while it is not clear that the manuscript town plus stencil "PAID" noted previously came after the use of the stencil townmark, that sequence would be the logical order. It is possible that the use of the stencil townmark was abandoned and replaced by use of manuscript townmarks. The stencil markings are scarce and we may never be sure of the sequence of townmarks. If examples with readable dates are known, I would be pleased to learn of them.



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### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

With this issue of the *Chronicle*, I undertake the formidable task of editing the 1851-61 Period section. This section which is fundamental to the history of the Classics Society has been very capably edited by Thomas J. Alexander for many years. It is with some hesitation that I dare to pretend to succeed Tom Alexander whose expertise and knowledge of this period is without parallel.

As an introduction to those who do not know me, I have been collecting United States classic stamps and postal history for more than thirty years. Further, as most of my recent research efforts have been directed toward various areas of postal history, even some of my friends may be unaware that I have an intense interest in the imperforate classic stamps and their varieties as well as being deeply involved in the history of their usage. Among the 1851-61 issues, I have built specialized studies of the one cent and three cent imperforate stamps. In addition, I collect the other classic issues with only slightly less enthusiasm.

My interests in postal history include both prestamp covers (stampless covers) and those with adhesives. The postal history of New Orleans from the Spanish Colonial period to the early 1880s and the postal markings of New York City from Colonial times to the mid-1870s are primary research interests with numerous other areas of secondary or lesser interest to me. Transatlantic, Cross-border and other foreign mail subjects and usages are included.

It is my hope and expectation that this 1851-61 section of the *Chronicle* will represent a satisfying blend of studies and articles on both the basic stamps themselves and the history of their usage. I appeal to all Society members to assist me in this endeavor by freely submitting notes or articles on these subjects. I invite correspondence from those who have studies or information suitable for an article. Assistance in putting your notes or data into a publishable format can be provided if needed.

In this issue, we include the first portion of William K. McDaniel's updated version of his plating studies of the three cent imperforate stamps. His condensed listing of the plate varieties presents a simpler approach to plating the three cent stamps. An earlier version of his plating charts was published in the *Chronicle* and also in the American Philatelic Congress 1979 *Congress Book*. The present version incorporates many new notes and corrections and includes updated information on the plating of these ever-popular stamps. The second part will appear in the November issue.

**Hubert C. Skinner**

### **THE U.S. THREE CENT POSTAGE STAMPS OF 1851-57 A COMPILATION OF RECUT AND PLATE VARIETIES (Revised Edition)**

**WILLIAM K. McDANIEL**

It has been almost twenty years since publication of the 3 cent plate information guide which appeared in *Chronicle* 77:13, later supplemented by short articles in *Chronicles* 80 and 95. This revised edition is being published for the benefit of students who may not have access to previous articles. During the intervening years, a rather considerable amount of new information has been added, and such errors as may have inadvertently appeared in the original publications have, hopefully, been identified and corrected. In 1979, a supplement, which estimated the relative rarity of the 38 recut varieties and combinations thereof, was published in the American Philatelic Congress Book for that year. The 1979 supplement has been expanded to include combinations not recorded at that time.

With this new revision, another section has been added, which estimates the relative scarcity of the major multiple transfers, plate cracks, and other listed plate varieties which are found on the Type I stamps. Unfortunately, production figures for the Type II and IIa stamps are unavailable, thus no estimate can be made as to the relative scarcity of the known recuts and plate varieties which appear on those issues. Most of them, however, are considered to be quite scarce.

The intention in publishing this revised edition and the earlier versions is to supplement the definitive work by Dr. Carroll Chase, *The Three Cent Stamp of the United States 1851-1857 Issue*.

The numbers used to classify each individual recut variety are those assigned by Dr. Chase, with the exception of the last four, #35-38. Dr. Chase made mention of varieties 35, 37, and 38, but did not identify the plate positions where they occurred. Variety 36 was identified and plate positions listed, by this author, as a result of original research.

Many positions have no distinguishing recuts, other than the normal recutting of the frame lines, inner lines, top label and, on some plates, the upper right diamond block. These positions can often be plated by the location of the position dot(s), where present, or the absence thereof.

Other features include multiple transfers, plate cracks, misplaced reliefs, or other flaws on the plate. For this reason, positions having one or more of these characteristics are also included.

### INCONSISTENT VARIETIES

Four inconsistent varieties should also be mentioned at this time.

The first item, Position 94R1, Late is listed under two headings, #11 and #23. Some printings from this plate show a break in the upward extension of the left inner line, thus changing a variety #23 position to a combination of varieties #11 and #23.

The second variety comes from Position 68L1, Late. Examples show the upper extension of the left inner line to be weak near the bottom of the triangle. It is very possible that a late printing could produce a break just below the upper left triangle, creating an example similar to that described above.

Position 38L0 shows an inconsistency similar to the two previously described. Here, the break, when it is present, is at the upper end of the right inner line, just below the bottom of the upper right triangle. The result is a good example of variety #15, under which it is therefore listed. It should be noted here that on the majority of Type I stamps, the right inner line extends up to, or in many cases, well past a point even with the center of the upper right rosette. For this reason, it is not considered to be a separate recut variety.

The most confusing variety is found on Position 66R2, Late, known as the "GENTS" variety. This position will always show three lines recut in the upper left triangle. The problem involves the upper label and the upper right diamond block. On some printings, they are connected at the top by a horizontal line. However, copies have been seen on which this connecting line extends from the diamond block only part way into the white area between, and, in at least one instance, is missing altogether. The point to remember, with regard to this position, is that there will always be three vertical lines recut in the upper left triangle, and the position dot which is characteristic of the majority of "B" relief positions will be present.

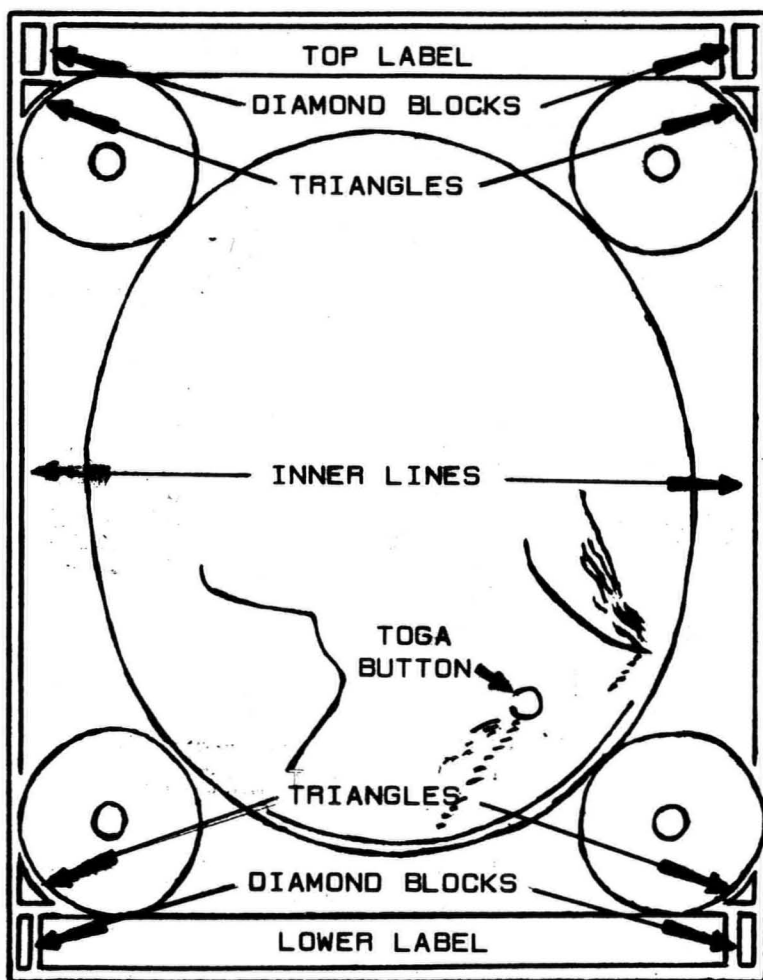


Figure 1. Illustration of the 3 cent stamp design used to point out the location of the various parts of the stamp design referred to in the text.

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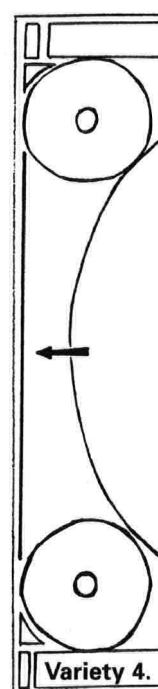
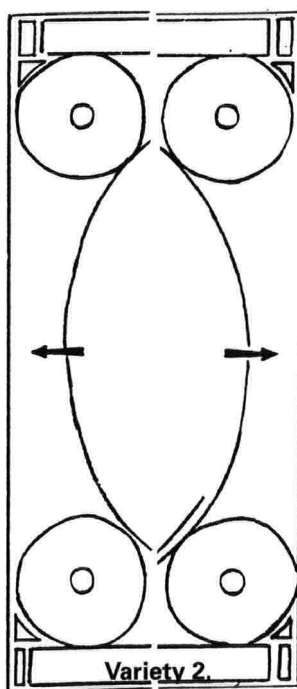
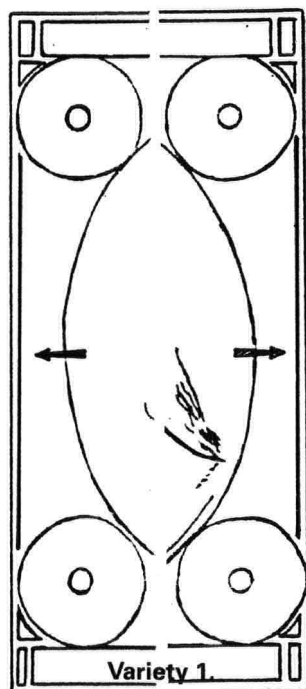
## THE THIRTY-EIGHT MAJOR RECUT VARIETIES

1. Two inner lines.
2. No inner lines.
3. Inner line at right side only.
4. Inner line at left side only.
5. Right frame line takes place of the right inner line.
6. Two extra lines at left; Right frame line takes place of inner line.
7. Frame line takes place of left inner line.
8. One extra line at right (two inner lines).
9. One extra line at left. Right frame line takes place of inner line.
10. One extra line at right (no inner lines).
11. One vertical line recut in the upper left triangle.
12. Two vertical lines recut in the upper left triangle.
13. Three vertical lines recut in the upper left triangle.
14. Five vertical lines recut in the upper left triangle.
15. One vertical line recut in the upper right triangle.
16. One vertical line recut in the lower left triangle.
17. One vertical line recut in the lower right triangle.
18. Two vertical lines recut in the lower right triangle.
19. Recut bust and medallion circle.
20. Recut toga button.
21. Two horizontal lines recut at top of upper right diamond block.
22. One horizontal line recut at bottom of lower left diamond block.
23. Left inner line runs up too far.
24. Left inner line runs down too far.
25. Right inner line runs down too far.
26. Vertical line ties upper left corner of upper left diamond block to top frame line.
27. Top label and upper right diamond block joined at top.
28. Top label and upper left diamond block joined at top.
29. Bottom label and lower right diamond block joined at bottom.
30. Horizontal line ties top of upper label to upper right diamond block, and extends out to right frame line.
31. Top label and upper right diamond block joined at top and bottom.
32. Horizontal line joins upper right diamond block to right frame line.
33. Horizontal line ties top of upper right diamond block top of upper left diamond block of adjacent stamp at right.
34. Diagonal line runs from upper right corner of top label across diamond block, extending nearly to right frame line.
35. Lower label and lower right diamond block joined at top.
36. Lower label and lower right diamond block joined at top and bottom.
37. One horizontal line recut at top of upper left diamond block.
38. Vertical line recut along upper left side of upper left diamond block.

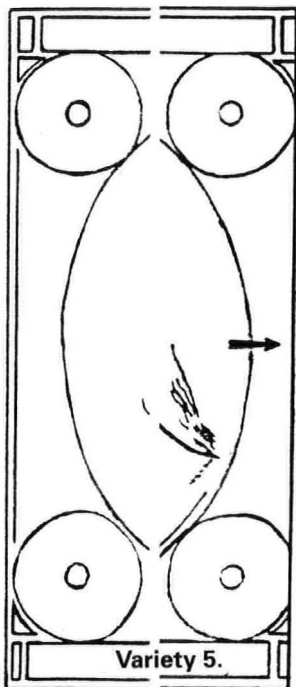
**Note:** Varieties #35, 37 and 38 were mentioned in the Chase book, but they, and variety #36, were not included in his compilation of varieties and plate assignments.

## RECUT VARIETY POSITIONS

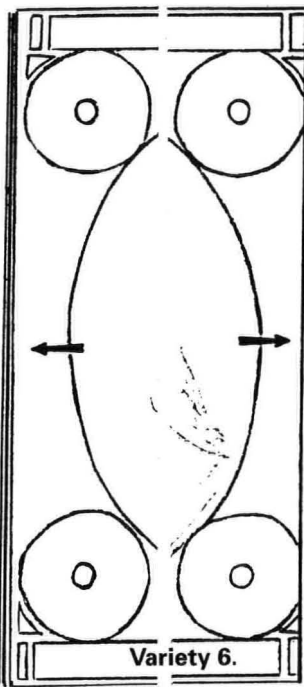
Plate	Left Pane	Right Pane	Total
<b>Variety # 1</b>	<b>STAMPS WITH TWO INNER LINES</b>		<b>Total: 1556</b>
1, Early	7,8,10,11,13,18,20-34,36-99	50,56,66,67,91,99	91
1, Int.	Same as Plate 1, Early	Same as Plate 1, Early	91
1, Late	All Positions	All Positions	200
2, Early	All Positions	All Positions	200
2, Late	All Positions	All Positions	200
3	All except 9th vertical row and Positions 70,80,90,100	All Positions	186
5, Early	All except 3,4,12	All Positions	197
5, Late	All except 3,4,12,13,22,32	All except 77,86,87	191
0	All Positions	All Positions	200
<b>Variety #2</b>	<b>STAMPS WITH NO INNER LINES</b>		<b>Total: 929</b>
1, Early	2-4,14-16	2-13,15-35,38-45,51-55,62, 64,72-74,77-80,82,83,90	64
1, Int.	Same as Plate 1, Early	Same as Plate 1, Early, + 98	65
4, 6, 7, 8	All Positions	All Positions	800
<b>Variety #3</b>	<b>INNER LINE AT RIGHT ONLY</b>		<b>Total: 77</b>
1, Early	1,17,19,35,100	1,46-49,58,59,65,68-71,75, 76,84-89,92-98,100	33
1, Int.	Same as Plate 1, Early	Same as Plate 1, Early, -98	32
5, Early	3,4,12	None	3
5, Late	3,4,12,13,22,32	77,86,87	9
<b>Variety #4</b>	<b>INNER LINE AT LEFT ONLY</b>		<b>Total: 24</b>
1, Early	5,6,9,12	14,36,37,57,60,61,63,81	12
1, Int.	Same as Plate 1, Early	Same as Plate 1, Early	12



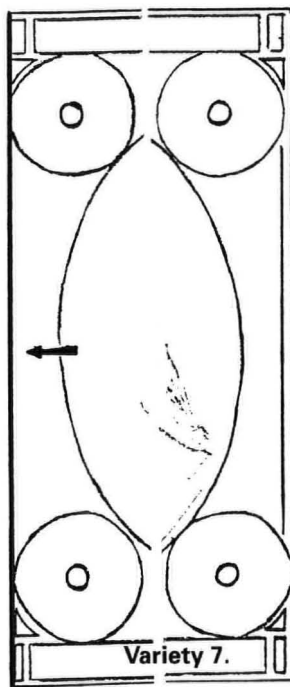
<b>Variety #5</b>	<b>FRAME LINE TAKES PLACE OF RIGHT INNER LINE</b>		<b>Total: 2</b>
3	9,19	None	2
<b>Variety #6</b>	<b>TWO EXTRA LINES AT LEFT; FRAME LINE TAKES PLACE OF RIGHT INNER LINE</b>		<b>Total: 2</b>
3	89,99	None	2



Variety 5.

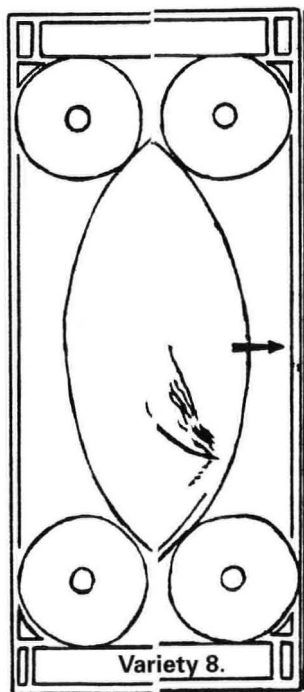


Variety 6.

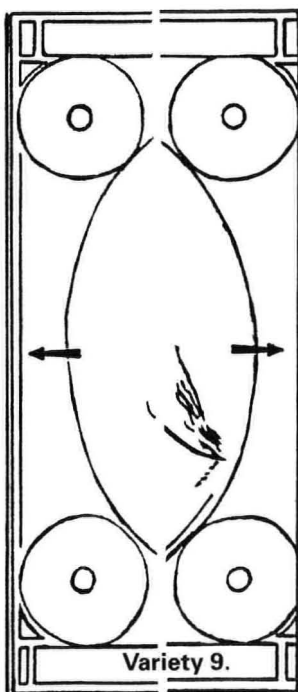


Variety 7.

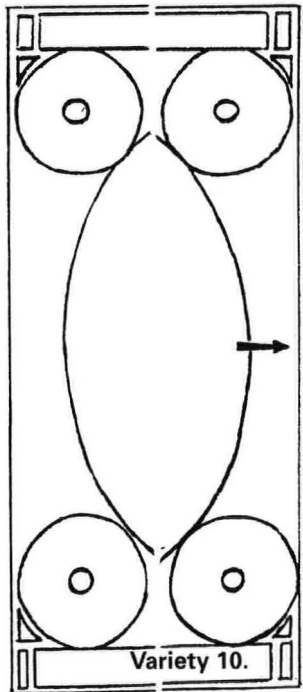
<b>Variety #7</b>	<b>FRAME LINE TAKES PLACE OF LEFT INNER LINE</b>	<b>Total: 4</b>
3	70,80,90,100      None	4
<b>Variety #8</b>	<b>ONE EXTRA LINE AT RIGHT (TWO INNER LINES)</b>	<b>Total: 5</b>
3	58,68,78,88,98      None	5
<b>Variety #9</b>	<b>ONE EXTRA LINE AT LEFT; FRAME LINE TAKES PLACE OF RIGHT INNER LINE</b>	<b>Total: 6</b>
3	29,39,49,59,69,79      None	6
<b>Variety #10</b>	<b>ONE EXTRA LINE AT RIGHT (NO INNER LINES)</b>	<b>Total: 11</b>
4	None      99	1
6	None      9,19,29,39,49,59,69,79,89,99	10



Variety 8.



Variety 9.



Variety 10.



Variety 11.



Variety 12.



Variety 13.



Variety 14.

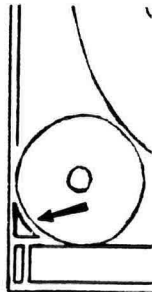
Variety #11	ONE VERTICAL LINE RECUT IN UPPER LEFT TRIANGLE	Total: 374	
1, Early	22,23,29,30,43,44,50,61,64, 66,67,69-71,74,81,84,87,92, 94	21,27,42,46,47,56,61,63, 65-67,69,81,91	34
1, Int.	27,43,44,61,64,66,67,71,81, 87,94	21,46,47,61,63,65-67,69,81, 91;(46,47,65 & 69 very faint)	23
1, Late	8,10,14,29,30,42,46,49,55, 62,64,66,67,69,76,78,83,85, 86,94,96,98	4-6,15,24,28,30,35,40,42-46, 50,53,56,66,67,73,82,83,85, 87,93-98	53
(Very early printings may show a trace remaining on Positions 61 & 68L and 21,61,81 & 91R. They are not included in total.)			
2, Early	12,13,15,19,23,25,34,37,43, 46,48,52,59,63,65,69,74,80, 81-83,87,91,95,96,99	24,26-30,39,41,45,47,50, 58-60,62,64,65,69,83-85,87,94, 95,97,98	52
2, Late	12,13,15,19,23,25,34,37,43, 46,48,52,59,63,65,69,80,81, 83,87,91,95,96,99	Same as Plate 2, Early	50
3	22-24,27,30,42,46,48,65,74, 83-85,87,88,95	7,9,10,13,20-24,26,27,29,37, 41-49,52,61-64,66-68,71,75,76 81-84,87,89-96,98	63
5, Early	21-23,27,29,36,38,39,43, 46-48,60,61,64,68,69,82,83, 92,98	20,46,48,50,61,67	27
5, Late	21,23,39,43,47,60,64	46,67	9
0	14,18,22-26,28,30,33,36,41, 46,48,50,52,58,64,68,70,73, 74,78,80,82,85,86,89-91,94, 96,98-100	12,15,21,23,27,28,34,35,41, 45-47,49,51,55,61,63,64,66,70, 72,74,76,81,82,95,98,99	63
Variety #12	TWO VERTICAL LINES RECUT IN UPPER LEFT TRIANGLE	Total: 80	
1, Early	25-28,42,86	49,87	8
1, Int.	25,28,86	49,87	5
1, Late	7,9	65,75	4
2, Early	29,38,44,47,50,61,68,72,82, 84,88-90,94,97	20,25,67,82,88,90,100	22
2, Late	38,44,47,50,61,68,84,90,94, 97	7,20,90,100	14
3	28,50,62,81	25,65,99	7
5, Early	63	86	2
5, Late	63	None	1
0	43,45,62,63,67,69,87,88, 92,93	24,29,30,43,48,69,86	17



<b>Variety #13</b>	<b>THREE VERTICAL LINES RECUT IN UPPER LEFT TRIANGLE</b>	<b>Total: 25</b>	
1, Early	None	50R	1
1, Int.	None	50R	1
1, Late	None	27,49,86	3
2, Early	21,24,27,28,41,64,85,98	66	9
2, Late	21,27,28,41,98	66	6
3	82	30	2
0	29,49	50	3
<b>Variety #14</b>	<b>FIVE VERTICAL LINES RECUT IN UPPER LEFT TRIANGLE</b>	<b>Total: 2</b>	
1, Late	95	None	1
0	47	None	1



Variety 15.



Variety 16.



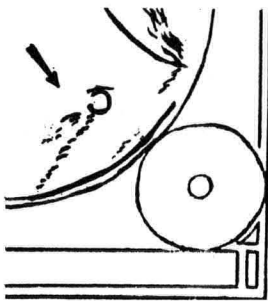
Variety 17.



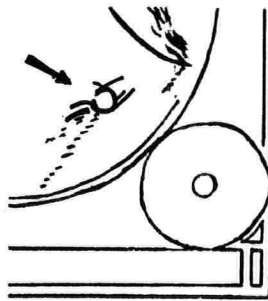
Variety 18.

<b>Variety #15</b>	<b>ONE VERTICAL LINE RECUT IN UPPER RIGHT TRIANGLE</b>	<b>Total: 15</b>	
1, Early	None	42,82,99	3
2, Early	82	None	1
2, Late	82	None	1
3	45	86	2
0	21,*38,47,68,70	8,100	7
	* Note: See "Inconsistent Varieties".		
5, Late	98	None	1
<b>Variety #16</b>	<b>ONE VERTICAL LINE RECUT IN LOWER LEFT TRIANGLE</b>	<b>Total: 41</b>	
1, Early	None	53	1
1, Late	9,33,47,49,52,66,85	5,33,76	10
2, Early	18,94	None	2
2, Late	18	None	1
3	82	6,13,14,26,32,41-43,51,84,95	12
5, Early	24	None	1
0	37,52,58,59,82,90,91,92,98	1,28,53,96,98	14
<b>Variety #17</b>	<b>ONE VERTICAL LINE RECUT IN LOWER RIGHT TRIANGLE</b>	<b>Total: 62</b>	
1, Late	6,39,49,65,88,97	94	7
2, Early	None	5,15,20,50,63,70,86,87	8
2, Late	None	Same as Plate 2, Early	8
3	56	17,32,36,38,61,62,65,82,91,95	11
5, Early	47,48,50,68,70,87,96,100	47,81	10
5, Late	48,80	None	2
0	20,29,30,35,37,45,47,55,62,67,72,89	19,29,41,81	16
<b>Variety #18</b>	<b>TWO VERTICAL LINES RECUT IN LOWER RIGHT TRIANGLE</b>	<b>Total: 1</b>	
0	57	None	1

<b>Variety #19</b>		<b>RECUT BUST AND MEDALLION CIRCLE</b>	<b>Total: 1</b>
6	None	47	1
<b>Variety #20</b>		<b>RECUT BUTTON</b>	<b>Total: 1</b>
2, Late	None	10	1
<b>Variety #21</b>		<b>TWO HORIZONTAL LINES RECUT AT TOP OF UPPER RIGHT DIAMOND BLOCK</b>	<b>Total: 9</b>
1, Early	None	21,23,25-27,29,30,66	8
1, Int.	None	30	1
<b>Variety #22</b>		<b>ONE HORIZONTAL LINE RECUT AT BOTTOM OF LOWER LEFT DIAMOND BLOCK</b>	<b>Total: 1</b>
2, Early	None	34	1



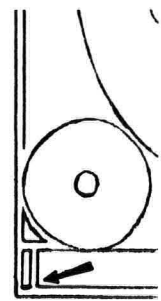
Variety 19.



Variety 20.



Variety 21.



Variety 22.

<b>Variety #23</b>		<b>LEFT INNER LINE RUNS UP TOO FAR</b>	<b>Total: 111</b>
1, Early	52,71,72,79,93,95	None	6
1, Int.	Same as Plate 1, Early	None	6
1, Late	5,11,17,18,28,41,48,51,52,54, 57,59,66-68,71,78,92,98	2-5,9,14,16,18,25,29,31,32, 39,50,52,53,55,56,75-78,81, 94,95	44
2, Early	35,51,58,59,73,80,92,98	9	9
2, Late	51,58,73,80,92,98	9,37,79	9
3	6,12,33,38,52,64,71,77,97	3,4,22,24,28,37,50,52,56,68, 70,72,73,83,85,89	25
0	7,21,24,35,42,47,75,79,93	33,93,97	12
<b>Variety #24</b>		<b>LEFT INNER LINE RUNS DOWN TOO FAR</b>	<b>Total: 21</b>
1, Early	28,84	None	2
1, Int.	28,84	None	2
1, Late	85	22	2
2, Early	58,98,100	None	3
2, Late	58,92,98,100	None	4
3	10,32,40,77	None	4
0	5,45,87,93	None	4
<b>Variety #25</b>		<b>RIGHT INNER LINE RUNS DOWN TOO FAR</b>	<b>Total: 26</b>
1, Late	18,24,47,50,67,68,79,90,94, 100	22,27,69	13
2, Early	84,87	25,62,65,100	6
2, Late	None	62,65	2
0	45,65,71,87,98	None	5



Variety 23.

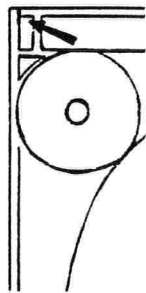


Variety 24.



Variety 25.

<b>Variety #26</b>	<b>VERTICAL LINE TIES UPPER LEFT CORNER OF UPPER LEFT DIAMOND BLOCK TO TOP FRAME LINE</b>	<b>Total: 2</b>
2, Early	None	45
2, Late	None	45
<b>Variety #27</b>	<b>TOP LABEL AND UPPER RIGHT DIAMOND BLOCK JOINED AT TOP</b>	<b>Total: 23</b>
1, Late	31,32,96	60
2, Early	26,44,48,52,84	66
2, Late	3,26,48,52,71,84	* 66 * Note: See "Inconsistent Varieties".
4	76	87
5, Late	31	None
0	7,15,37	None
<b>Variety #28</b>	<b>TOP LABEL AND UPPER LEFT DIAMOND BLOCK JOINED AT TOP</b>	<b>Total: 10</b>
1, Late	79	14
2, Early	None	6,100
2, Late	None	6,100
4	None	1,10
8	None	77,78



Variety 26.



Variety 27.



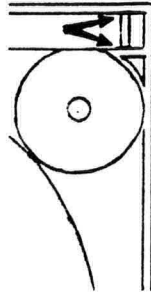
Variety 28.



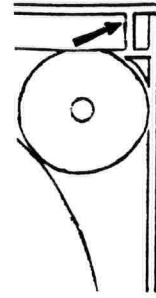
Variety 29.



Variety 30.



Variety 31.



Variety 32.

**Variety #29**                      **BOTTOM LABEL AND LOWER RIGHT DIAMOND BLOCK JOINED AT BOTTOM**                      **Total: 14**

1, Early	None	84	1
1, Int.	None	84	1
1, Late	None	14	1
2, Early	17	None	1
2, Late	17	None	1
3	52	None	1
4	24,52,65,78	53,71,77	7
0	62	None	1

**Variety #30**                      **LINE TIES UPPER LABEL TO UPPER RIGHT DIAMOND BLOCK AND EXTENDS OUT TO RIGHT FRAME LINE**                      **Total: 10**

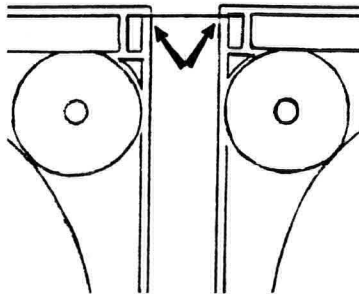
2, Early	19	6,99	3
2, Late	19	6,7,99	4
4	None	28,68	2
0	None	68	1

**Variety #31**                      **TOP LABEL AND UPPER RIGHT DIAMOND BLOCK JOINED AT TOP AND BOTTOM**                      **Total: 1**

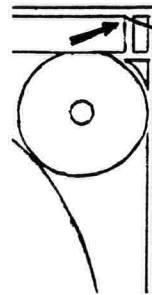
4	None	68	1
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**Variety #32**                      **HORIZONTAL LINE JOINS TOP OF UPPER RIGHT DIAMOND TO RIGHT FRAME LINE**                      **Total: 5**

3	83	None	1
4	31	None	1
0	14,97	62	3



Variety 33.



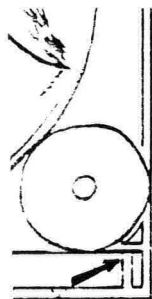
Variety 34.

**Variety #33**                      **HORIZONTAL LINE TIES UPPER RIGHT DIAMOND BLOCK TO UPPER LEFT DIAMOND BLOCK OF NEXT STAMP**                      **4**

2, Early	None	99 & 100	1 pair
0	None	95 & 96	1 pair

**Variety #34**                      **DIAGONAL LINE RUNS FROM UPPER RIGHT CORNER OF TOP LABEL ACROSS DIAMOND BLOCK NEARLY TO FRAME LINE**                      **Total: 1**

5, Late	96	None	1
---------	----	------	---



Variety 35.



Variety 36.



Variety 37.



Variety 38.

<b>Variety #35</b>		<b>LOWER LABEL AND LOWER RIGHT DIAMOND BLOCK JOINED AT TOP</b>	<b>Total: 1</b>
5, Late	26	None	1
<b>Variety #36</b>		<b>LOWER LABEL AND LOWER RIGHT DIAMOND BLOCK JOINED AT TOP AND BOTTOM</b>	<b>Total: 1</b>
6	13	None	1
<b>Variety #37</b>		<b>ONE HORIZONTAL LINE RECUT AT TOP OF UPPER LEFT DIAMOND BLOCK</b>	<b>Total: 8</b>
1, Late	2,3,14,38	None	4
2, Early	None	58,60	2
0	47	16	2
<b>Variety #38</b>		<b>VERTICAL LINE RECUT ALONG LEFT SIDE OF UPPER LEFT DIAMOND BLOCK</b>	<b>Total: 2</b>
1, Early	None	69	1
2, Early	24	None	1

### RARITY FACTOR CRITERIA

In determining the relative scarcity of the various varieties, a scale of 1 to 10 will be used, with 1 representing the most common varieties, and 10 the scarcest. To try and compensate for the disparity in the number of impressions produced from the various plates, scarcity will be based on the estimated total number of stamps produced which show each variety, or combination thereof. This will also allow for the fact that while a certain variety may occur on only one position in a particular plate, the same variety may be found on several positions in one or more other plates.

The listings are divided into three sections. The first will list the thirty-eight major recut varieties individually. The second section will include all recorded combinations of two or more varieties on any one position. The last section will deal with the relative scarcity of varieties involving reliefs, position dots, plate flaws, etc.

A dash in the column listing the perforated Type I stamp varieties indicates that no position having that particular recut is known on any of the plates used to produce the perforated stamps.

Determination of scarcity is based on the following tables:

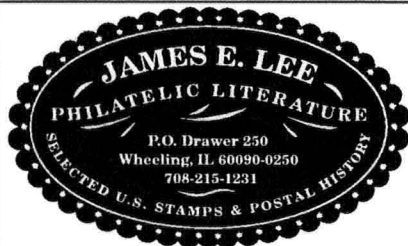
<b>Rarity Factor</b>	<b>Number Of Stamps Showing Variety</b>	<b>Rarity Factor</b>	<b>Number Of Stamps Showing Variety</b>
1 .....	Over 10 million	6 .....	100,000 to 250,000
2 .....	5 to 10 million	7 .....	50,000 to 100,000
3 .....	1 to 5 million	8 .....	25,000 to 50,000
4 .....	500,000 to 1 million	9 .....	5,000 to 25,000
5 .....	250,000 to 500,000	10 .....	Under 5,000

### COMPARATIVE RARITY OF RECUT VARIETIES

(Factors are rated from 1 to 10, in ascending order of rarity)

RECUT VARIETY	RARITY IMPERF.	RARITY PERF.	RECUT VARIETY	RARITY IMPERF.	RARITY PERF.	RECUT VARIETY	RARITY IMPERF.	RARITY PERF.
1	1	3	14	5	-	26	5	10
2	1	1	15	3	9	27	2	7
3	3	9	16	2	8	28	3	6
4	5	-	17	1	7	29	3	5
5	4	10	18	9	-	30	3	7
6	4	10	19	6	8	31	6	8
7	3	9	20	5	10	32	4	8
8	3	9	21	6	-	33	7	-
9	3	9	22	9	-	34	6	10
10	3	5	23	1	8	35	6	10
11	1	5	24	3	9	36	6	8
12	1	8	25	3	10	37	3	-
13	3	9				38	8	-

(To be continued in Issue 156)



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**THE MISSING ONE-CENT 1861 PLATES**  
**DON L. EVANS**

For many years, respected philatelic authorities have listed the plates used to print the 1861 one-cent Franklin (Scott 63) to be Plate No. 9, 10, 22, 25 and 27. The earliest mention of these numbers that I have seen is in Luff's 1902 work on the U.S. stamps<sup>1</sup> and these numbers are repeated in Brookman<sup>2</sup>, and by numerous other authors. If there is documentary evidence regarding the actual use of all of these plates, it has not been referenced.

Recently, while reviewing the dates of probable use of the early plates, it struck me that I had never seen a single or multiple of the one-cent showing Plate No. 22 or 25. After fifteen years of specializing in this stamp, and having reviewed most of the relevant literature and auction catalogs, it seems somewhere that these elusive plate numbers should have surfaced. I have been wanting to add them to my own collection, so it is not an item that would have been easily overlooked.

There is a distinct possibility that these plates were never prepared, or possibly that they had major defects and were never finished. In any case, it is very likely that they have never been used. Contact with C.W. "Bert" Christian, who presently has one of the most comprehensive collections of the one-cent 1861, elicited the information that he has no examples, or recollection of ever having seen these two plate numbers on either stamps or proofs.

John C. Chapin's definitive listing of the plate blocks<sup>3</sup> shows no listing for the numbers 22 and 25, but does underscore the scarcity of plate number multiples of the 1861 one-cent (Scott 63) and 1867 grilled issues (Scott 86 and 92). After an extensive survey of the literature and queries of the philatelic public, he was able to locate a total of eight plate multiples of Scott 63: two from Plate 9, two from Plate 10 and four from Plate 27. Scott 86 was represented by one Plate 10, and Scott 92 by a single Plate 27. The relative scarcity of these plate number examples means that it is entirely possible that the printings from Plate 22 and Plate 25 were made, and that the passing of time, the elements and trash containers may have claimed all of the surviving examples.

The Chapin book does not list single stamps with attached plate numbers. Considering the wide use of the one-cent and the large amount printed, maybe the elusive numbers will show up on someone's single copy.

The printing history of the one-cent blue is both interesting and controversial. The battle over dates and uses of the Premieres Gravures and the regularly issued designs has provided sparks and interest in philatelic publications for more than 75 years. Those two preeminent philatelic Titans, Ashbrook and Perry, had divergent views as to the actual nature of the Premieres, but they always agreed they were not issued postage stamps. Ashbrook called them "samples" stemming from a requirement in the Post Office Department specifications that samples be submitted by the successful bidder for approval before the contract was signed. Perry felt they were simply essays.

---

1. John N. Luff, *The Postage Stamps of the United States* (Quarterman Reprint), 1981, p. 73.

2. Lester G. Brookman, *The United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century* (H.L. Lindquist, 1966), Vol. II, p. 7.

3. John C. Chapin, *A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882* (New York Collectors Club, 1982).

Recent action by Scott Publishing Co. has classified the Premiere Gravure as an essay and renumbered it from Scott 55 to Scott 63-E11e in their 1992 edition of the *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps*. Somewhat of a comedown for such a rare and sought-after specimen, but certainly appropriate in the light of the facts which surround its printing.

There is no doubt that Plate No. 1 was used to print the Premieres Gravures. Figure 1 shows an imprint strip from a plate proof in ultramarine. The design clearly shows the distinctive lack of vertical lines in the corner elements and the absence of the famous "dash of color" in the upper frame. Plate No. 9 was the first plate used to print the regularly issued design and is characterized by a small dot in the "U" in the lower left corner. Figure 2 shows a imprint block of twelve with Plate No. 9.

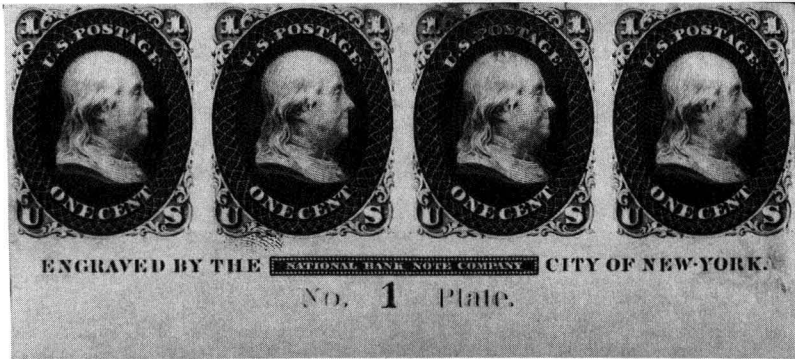


Figure 1. Premiere Gravure Plate No. 1 on an ultramarine plate proof.



Figure 2. Plate No. 9 block of 12. (Courtesy of C.W. "Bert" Christian)

Perry<sup>4</sup> states that the first group of plates were made and numbered in the order that they were needed. Six plates were made for the one and three-cent values: 9 and 10 for the one cent, and 11, 12, 13, and 14 for the three cent (numbers 1 through 8 had previously been used for the eight denominations of the Premieres Gravures). The one and three-cent values took precedence over the other denominations since it was felt that they would be most in demand.

4. Elliott Perry, *Pat Paragraphs* (Bureau Issues Association, Inc., 1981) p. 161.

Plate No. 10 is represented by the used imprint strip of three on cover shown in Figure 3. Although it would seem likely that used plate strips of three would be reasonably common since the first class rate could be made up by using three of the one-cent blues, in fact, they are exceedingly rare, and the illustrated example is the only one that I have ever seen. Of course, there is little doubt that in those days most people tore off the selvage before use, as they still do now.

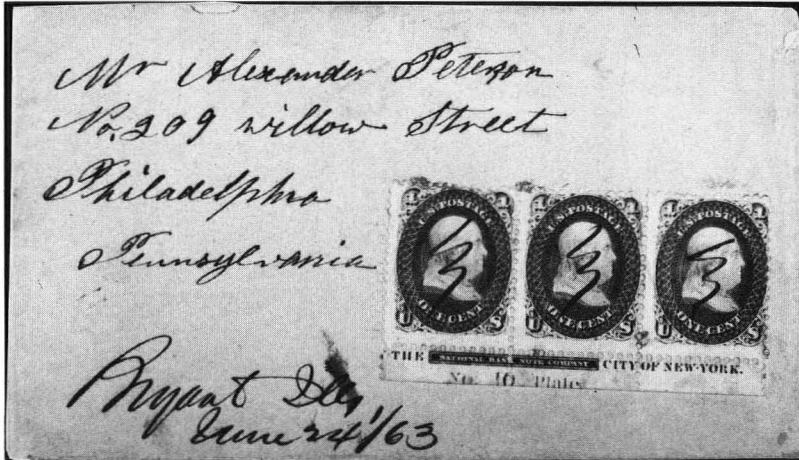


Figure 3. Plate No. 10 used strip of three on cover.

Used and unused plate singles do show up from time to time. Two examples are shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4. Plate singles showing Plate Nos. 10 and 27.

Examples from Plate No. 27 are the most common. Not only was it used to print the issued stamp, but it was also used in the production of the many colored patent and experi-

mental trial printings of the 1867 time period. Figure 5 illustrates a plate block of twenty with Plate No. 27.



**Figure 5. Plate No. 27 block of 20, lower left pane.**

An illustration of the rare E-grill plate block is not available, but it is curious that this block was printed with Plate No. 10. Plate No. 27 may have been busy with the concurrent experimentals as mentioned above, but if Plate No. 22 or No. 25 had been available, it would seem reasonable to assume that they would have been used rather than an older and more worn plate.

No picture of the F-grill plate is shown. It was illustrated in the April 5, 1980 auction catalog of Robert A. Siegel as Lot 120. For this block Plate No. 27 was used again.

The last plate for the 1861 Franklin design was Plate No. 56. It was ordered by the Post Office Department in 1875 to be used to print examples of the one-cent 1861 stamp for the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. The original transfer roller was used to lay down a plate of 100 impressions, as contrasted to the previous plates which contained 200 impressions. This allowed the gutter spacing to be increased substantially and resulted in the beautiful margins that are so frequently seen on this stamp. Reissues of all United States stamps issued up to that date were made, and many of the printings required new plates. Although the re-issue one-cent stamp is not readily distinguishable from the regular issue, the shade of blue and the paper are somewhat distinctive, and if it can be found as a multiple, the approximate 25% increase in the size of the gutters makes identification absolute. However, it is rare in multiples since less than 4,000 copies of the stamp were sold. A reproduction of a half-tone illustration of a Plate No. 56 block of eight from a



**Figure 6. Re-issue of 1875 showing Plate No. 56.**

November, 1967 Vahan Mosian auction catalog is shown in Figure 6. The present whereabouts of this scarce plate proof item is unknown. It may be unique.

In summary, it can be said that examples of use for all of the plates can be furnished, with the exception of Plate No. 22 and Plate No. 25. Even the scarce Premiere Gravure and the 1875 Re-issue exist with plate numbers, so why are Plates No. 22 and No. 25 not to be found? The answer may well be that they do not exist. The writer welcomes any comments regarding this dilemma, and a photocopy of one or both of the missing plate numbers would make his day.

## THE PREMIERES GRAVURES CONTROVERSY OF PAST DECADES

RICHARD B. GRAHAM

Col. Don L. Evans' comment regarding the controversy of many years ago, really not entirely put to rest as yet, regarding the exact status of the 1861 Premieres Gravures brings to mind a few loose ends that should be documented.

As with all controversies, it all started with a few stamp gurus of the 1940s daring to bring out in the open what had been suspected for years — that John N. Luff's listing of the Premieres Gravures as actual postage stamps issued in August 1861 before the more mundane regular issues appeared was all wet.

Without going into detail, the opposing sides, as summarized in an article in the *Es-say Proof Journal* for April 1944 by Cyril dos Passos, were Luff himself and Philip H. Ward, Jr. on one side and Stanley B. Ashbrook, Elliott Perry, Clarence Blazer, dos Passos himself and less familiar names on the other. Ward, who at one time or another owned or sold many of the important pieces of Premieres, and Luff simply stuck with the idea they were issued stamps. The others disagreed on that point, but each had a different idea of what they really were. Long articles appeared in various publications about them, until most of the proponents had passed from the scene. By the early 1970s, only dos Passos and Perry survived of the original group, but the old controversy was to a degree revived, insofar as the *Chronicle* was concerned, by an article by Norton D. York that appeared in the *American Philatelist* for July, 1961, plus Jerome S. Wagshal's extended article on the 3¢ scarlet stamp of the 1861 issue that ran in the *Chronicle* in the late 1960s.<sup>1</sup>

With the appearance of the Norton York article in 1961, Perry had recognized that the facts offered in the article to a degree settled the question of the status of the Premieres Gravures insofar as it could ever be settled.

The key fact was a letter or statement (York did not say what form this was in) by Postmaster General Montgomery Blair, dated May 10, 1861, which reads:

Accepts proposal of the National Banknote Co. for Postage Stamps at twelve cents (12¢) per thousand stamps, separated in such quantities as may be daily ordered for the use of the Post Offices and securely packed, agreeably to clause four of the advertisement of the Department dated 27 March 1861 (a copy of which is hereto annexed) including the direction of packages and preparing blank receipts, as described in clause five of the advertisement, and delivering the same into the Post Office at New York...

It is further provided, agreeably to the terms of the advertisement (above referred to) that before closing a contract the National Banknote Co. shall prepare designs and furnish impressions of the several denominations of stamps **in sheets, perfectly gummed and perforated** with samples of envelopes and boxes for packing, in every way satisfactory to the Department.

M. Blair  
P.M. General

---

1. "The Three Cent Scarlet, Scott's No. 74," *Chronicle* Nos. 56:104 (Nov. 1967), 60:132 (Nov. 1968), 61:19 (Feb. 1969) and 62:60 (May 1969).

The bold face is this author's. York pointed out, in quoting the document, that the original advertisement had required that the bidders "furnish proof impressions of the several denominations of the stamps," but apparently it said nothing about the requirement that the stamps had to be in sheets as finished for distribution. Blair made clear that this was a requirement.

York calls the document a "memorandum of understanding" and I presume York worked from the PMG letter book copy.

Ashbrook, in an article in the *Stamp Specialist Yellow Book* (Lindquist Publications, N.Y. 1942), called the Premieres Gravures "Sample Labels", evidently following the terms of the advertisement but unaware of the memorandum of understanding signed by Blair. At the time, Perry in his house organ, *Pat Paragraphs*, and Perry and dos Passos in articles in the *Essay Proof Journal* and elsewhere, pooh-poohed Ashbrook's term, saying the Premieres were simply essays, even though gummed and perforated. However, even in the 1940s, when this controversy was at its hottest, never did Ashbrook and Perry, or for that matter, Clarence Blazer, disagree as to whether the Premieres were issued stamps. They agreed they were not.

When York's article appeared, it included a good many other items of great interest to collectors, not only directly concerning the Premieres Gravures but the designs, colors, printing and issuance of the 1861 stamps. Thus, the impact of the Blair memorandum of agreement with the National Banknote Co. received little attention at the time. Also, reading through York's article, entitled "The Initial U.S. 1861 Issue", in the *American Philatelist* for July, 1961, York criticizes Ashbrook for assuming too early a date for his "sample labels," but doesn't bluntly point out that the finished specimen sheets of all the values required by Blair were undoubtedly the source of the Premieres Gravures. He does assume the reader recognizes this as obvious. On a later page of the article, York states that samples from the sheets were sent to various foreign countries to acquaint them with the new stamp designs, but doesn't give any source for the statement.

In York's article, Elliott Perry is mentioned several times, and was, in fact, quoted in an editor's note at the end of the article as remarking, "Earlier accounts have all been guesses, flavored with assumptions, which includes my own attempts to solve the riddle of the 1861s."

Perry was well up in years at that time, but evidently made up his mind to author a summary article which, however, didn't get published until 1970. This was "The Whole Truth About the So-Called First Designs or Premiere Gravures or August Issue of the United States, 1861". This title, calculated to leave no doubt of Perry's subject, was published as a series in the *Essay Proof Journal*, beginning Fall 1970 (Whole No. 108, Vol. 27, No. 4) and continued for the next three issues. This was Perry's swan song before his death, but at his request, Cyril dos Passos published a summary article on Perry's series, in the Winter 1972, No. 113 *Essay Proof Journal*.

Dos Passos, undoubtedly following Perry's wishes (except, where in a few cases, he expressed a difference of opinion, as stated) made recommendations as to how the entire 1861 issue, including both the Premieres Gravures and the grills of 1867-78 should be catalogued. I suspect readers might enjoy comparing those recommendations with today's *Scott Specialized Catalog of United States Stamps*, but that will have to wait another time and, another writer.

In the 1960s Perry often sent postal cards, and at times, letters commenting on what appeared in the 1861 section. I suppose that he frequently wrote the other Section Editors, also. In any case, he sent an article that was designed to be run in the *Chronicle* entitled "The 10¢ 'August' and the 1861 'First Designs'", which appeared in *Chronicle* No. 62 (November, 1969). However, his name is not on the article because of his request that it be run under my name. I compromised by running it anonymously, but with an editorial comment that I would donate a pair of editorial shears to the first reader who correctly

identified the author. Perry promptly wrote to say that he had been working on a long article on the subject for some time and certain people knew it, so they should be disqualified as candidates to be awarded the “editorial snippets.” I still have them.

The most interesting part of Perry’s *Chronicle* article was a comment that the article (which he had castigated strongly many years before) by Stanley B. Ashbrook in the *Stamp Specialist Yellow Book* of 1942 “contained incorrect premises (but) it deserves very careful study. It came very near to the real reason for altering the 10¢ and several other of the first issue designs.”

The articles by York and Perry of the 1960s and 1970s in essence superseded the earlier articles, in many cases, by the same authors. It is unfortunate that the earlier articles have been more widely quoted than the later efforts.

In the earlier articles, an occasional reference was made to used examples of some of the Premieres. The normal premise is that these are fake, or perhaps philatelists’ late usages. One other idea needs to be considered. This is that, perhaps, more than one sheet of some of the Premieres Gravures were in some (or all) cases printed and had remained in storage until the replacement by the 1869 issue. I consider it quite possible that when the National Banknote Company was told to deliver to the resident Stamp Agent at the National Banknote Company, all the old designs of 1861 type before any new 1869 stamps, some of the Premieres Gravures could have been mixed into the pile. Neither do I have any doubts that if a sheet or partial sheet of Premieres, of a design of nearly identical appearance to the later issues, had been sent to a post office, they would have been sold, used and passed through the mails without any problem at all. But, this would have happened in late 1868 or early 1869 or even later, not in 1861.

The problem in cataloguing the Premieres Gravures has always been because their exact nature does not fit any standardized philatelic term. We can call them either essays or proofs with some justification, and they only differ from the finished regularly issued stamps for many of the values in ways not detectable by casual inspection by other than a philatelist. Probably the current listing as a “special printing” is by far the most reasonable approach.

## **CHATTANOOGA STRAIGHT LINE OCCUPATION MARKINGS**

Chattanooga, Tennessee was occupied by Union forces after the Confederates evacuated the town in September, 1863. The battles of Chickamauga in September and Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge soon ensued, the latter three battles at the end of November, 1863 breaking a Confederate siege of Chattanooga.

Federal mail service for the troops occupying the town apparently did not commence until the second week in December, as the earliest postmark date I have recorded is December 11, 1863 for an occupation cover.

Chattanooga markings from December 1863 and until the second week in January 1864 occur with three or more types of straight line markings, as were illustrated in *Chronicle* 57:19 (February 1968) and discussed again in *Chronicle* 72:203 (December 1971). The first two of these markings vary by the style of type used for the date logo; the third type is a box style.

The purpose of these comments is to learn whether any examples have been seen in black. While all the examples I have seen or recorded are in blue, a black example, dated December 25, 1863, has recently been reported and we are looking for confirming copies. Photocopies would be appreciated.

**Richard B. Graham**

# *The Columbian and Trans-Mississippi Collections!*

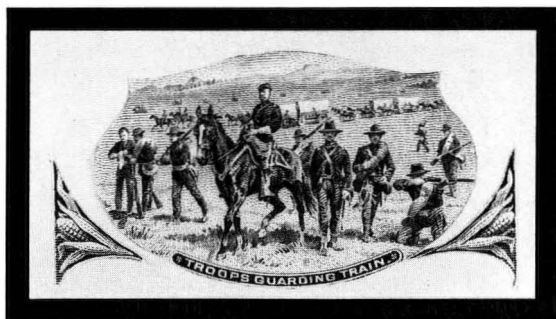
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**GOODBYE COLUMBUS**  
**RICHARD M. SEARING**

When George B. Arfken first suggested five years ago that he write a series of articles on the Columbian stamps, he set in motion a series that I had been contemplating for some time. I was pleased that he offered to write the 1¢ to 50¢ articles with only minimal assistance with essays and proofs and that he possessed most of the material which I lacked. Susan M. McDonald gave the go ahead and we were off. However, I was most pleased about the series because it forced me to pursue and to organize my census, which had long been in the making, of the dollar value of Columbian stamps used on the original covers. We are now in the summation phase of that census.

To date, I have recorded 240 covers bearing one or more Columbian dollar values. My best guess is that 50-60 more covers are hidden in old collections or in Europe. Thanks to the computer's ability to sort and to search efficiently the database, I have compiled some interesting breakdowns of this data which are presented below.

Table I, using Scott Catalogue numbers, lists covers ranked by the highest value present. The "+" after the number shows the additional covers bearing that value in conjunction with higher denominations. Table II lists covers by the combination of dollar value stamps used. I recorded only three wrappers that show the entire series of 16 values: the C. Witt wrapper from New York City, the Crow Wing, Minn. wrapper, and one discussed later.

Table III shows the breakdown by year of usage.

Table IV shows the breakdown by domestic origin and destination. In Table IV I have only listed domestic locations with five or more recorded covers either to or from that city.

<b>Table I</b>				<b>Table II</b>	
<b>Cat.</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Dupl.</b>	<b>Combination</b>	<b>No.</b>
241	1.00	77	+20	\$ 1 - 5	5
242	2.00	49	+17	\$ 1 - 4	4
243	3.00	32	+11	\$ 1 - 3	1
244	4.00	38	+ 6	\$ 1 - 2	7
245	5.00	<u>44</u>	<u>0</u>	\$ 1, 2, 5	1
		240	54	\$ 1, 2, 3, 5	1
				\$ 2 - 5	1
				\$ 2, 5	1
				\$ 2, 4	2
				\$ 2, 3	1
				\$ 3, 4	<u>1</u>
					25

<b>Table III</b>		<b>Table IV</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Or.</b>	<b>Dest.</b>
1893	136	NYC	94	57
1894	75	Chicago, IL	35	10
1895	6	Lyman, MD	16	0
1896	2	N. Oxford, PA	9	0
1897	3	Washington, DC	8	27
1898	6	Boston, MA	0	7
1899	2	Brooklyn, NY	5	4
1900	1	Cato, PA	5	5
>1900	7	Dover, NH	6	0
Unknown	<u>2</u>	San Francisco, CA	5	6
	240	US German SP	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
			188	116



**Figure 1. 1897 registered mail wrapper using all issues of the Columbian stamps to pay \$49.34 postage.**

As we might suspect, a total of 97 covers show the \$1 value as contrasted with 44 covers bearing the \$5 value. The least used value, however, is the \$3 stamp with only 43 covers shown. The year of the exposition shows the most usage with 136 covers mailed, and the following year shows 75 for a total of 211. Thus, only 27 covers are used later than 1894, with two unknowns.

One would think that the demand for used Columbian covers in the decade after the World's Fair would have produced more than this number of surviving covers. However, as discussed in the \$1 article of this series, collector demand in that era for off cover copies was the reason that so few dollar value Columbians on covers survive today.

Unexpectedly to me, when I began the census, New York City is the origin of most covers, with Chicago coming in second. As was discussed in past *Chronicles*, many of these New York City covers originated from a Mr. C. Witt to himself or many friends and relatives, at home and abroad. Apparently, more people who had missed being at the Fair were determined to send the stamps to friends and relatives than those who attended in person; the ratio is almost 3:1.

The stamp dealer C.F. Rothfuchs did not send his first cover until December 5, 1893, after the Fair was history. He sent covers to his Washington, D.C. office all during 1894, with a total of nine covers mailed from N. Oxford, Pennsylvania. In the same way, the covers to Mrs. Storrow in Washington, D.C. from Lyman, Maryland did not begin until March 7, 1894, but ended on April 10, 1894; a total of 16 covers have survived intact. How many more did not survive or are still unrecorded? The covers from Cato, Pennsylvania are clearly philatelic souvenirs and may be "favor cancels" which did not pass through the mail; the two Las Vegas covers that I discussed in the last *Chronicle* were of this type.

A full set of dollar values were mailed from the National Exchange Bank in Dover, New Hampshire to Boston, on five separate envelopes and within five days in February, 1894. The envelopes are probably philatelic in origin. The covers posted from the German warship are clearly souvenirs. Two were sent to Bremerhaven only four days after the stamps were issued; a third followed one month later. The ship must have returned in October, 1894 where the last two covers were sent. Strangely, the covers do not show a full set of the dollar values. I have not been able to locate the \$5 value in this series mailings on cover.

In the destination derby, 85 covers to foreign destinations are recorded with 58 sent to Germany, nine to France, eight to Austria, three each to Switzerland and Great Britain.

Of the 58 covers sent to Germany, 20 were the \$1 value, 14 bore the \$2 value, seven had \$3 stamps, 12 bore the \$4 stamp, and five included the \$5 as the highest value stamp used. A total of 165 covers showed only a single stamp used. All of this data is contained in the following listing of all dollar value usages by date.

However, before I print this final list, let me show that the Columbian Age of great discoveries is not over. Early this year, I received a phone call from Harry Hagendorf of the Columbian Stamp Company. He had heard of the census and wished to report a new find. What an understatement! What he described to me is shown in Figure 1. This same illustration appeared a recent issue of the *American Philatelist* in full color and in *Linn's* for the week of the recent Chicago show. It was also on display in Chicago.

This magnificent discovery is part of an 1897 wrapper to England showing payment of \$49.34 by Columbian stamps on a 30 lb. 8/9 oz. package. The payment shows the full set to the \$1 together with one \$1 stamp, three single \$2 stamps, a pair and single of the \$3, a strip of three of the \$4, and a single plus strip of three of the \$5 stamps, all neatly canceled and in remarkable condition for such an item!

The package originated as a legitimate commercial usage from Bangor, Maine on February 19, 1897. It was sent to New York to catch the mail steamer *S.S. St. Paul* of the American Steamship Line on February 24 which left for Southampton, England on the same day. What were the contents? I don't know, but books or heavy documents are good guesses.

What a magnificent end to our Columbian article series – the discovery of the only commercial use of the \$2 - \$5 values after 95 years!

The final census of covers by date through March 1894 follows. The balance of the census will appear in the November issue. My sincere thanks to all who contributed to this compilation. So, we bid a fond farewell to Columbus.

# LETTERS OF GOLD

by Jesse L. Coburn

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## CENSUS: COLUMBIAN \$ STAMPS USED ON COVER

Date	Origin	Destination	Stamps	Remarks	Source
01/06/93	NYC	Bremerhaven, Germany	242	Corner card N. German Lloyd Steamship Co.; small "8"	Wunsch collection
01/06/93	US German SeaPost	Bremerhaven, Germany	242	Tied oval "8"; N. German Lloyd cc	Siegel 452/748
01/06/93	US German SeaPost	Bremerhaven, Germany	245	Tied duplex "8"; Pabst Beer cc; red & black Trd mk	Siegel 448/132
01/07/93	NYC	NYC-Germany	242	Tied NY duplex; Ms #30481; magenta boxed REG; fwd to Germany	Siegel 511/1272
01/21/93	San Francisco, CA	Port Said, Egypt	241, 237, 231	Tied to Russian Cons cc; st line REG; MS #1737; label #46083	Harmers 6/81-510
01/22/93	Detroit, MI	Sandwich, Canada	245	Tied SON black town, transit marks	Siegel 307/621
01/??/93	NYC	??, Germany	244, 236, 238, U351	Tied NYC REG ovals, Station 0	Siegel 329/1143
02/15/93	US German SeaPost	Bremerhaven, Germany	241	Oval "8" canc; Hoboken, NJ passage agency; ship cachet cc	Siegel 660/165
02/28/93	NYC	Luzern, Switzerland	241	Tied black REG oval; NYC REG label #8521	Wolffers 103/2417
03/01/93	Washington, DC	Washington, DC	241, 239, 240	Tied machine canc "2"; small square env	JKaufmann 74/219
03/25/93	Yonkers, NY	??, Germany	242	Tied REG oval; purple black REG; C. Witt cc; large front	JKaufmann 136/533
04/04/93	NYC	Zwickau, Germany	241, 242, 243, 230-240	Large env; tied NYC oval; purple NYC Station K, REG label #18506; C. Witt cc	Collector
04/05/93	NYC	Paris, France	243, 232, 235, 237	Tied oval Reg duplex; cc return address	Sol 555/775
04/06/93	NYC	Wien, Austria	241	Tied REG duplex oval	Harmers 4/65-386
04/06/93	NYC	Wien, Austria	242	Tied REG duplex oval; Seligman & Co. cc	Harmers 4/65-398
04/06/93	NYC	Wien, Austria	243	NY REG label; Seligman & Co. cc	Herst 139/3549
04/06/93	NYC	Wien, Austria	244	NY REG label; Seligman & Co. cc	Herst 139/3550
04/06/93	NYC	Wien, Austria	245	NY REG label; Seligman & Co. cc	Siegel 271/550
04/07/93	NYC	Wien, Austria	245	Reg corner card Seligman & Co.; International reg label	Wunsch collection
04/08/93	Greene, NY	Paris, France	241, 234(2), U223	Tied black cork town; REG label #30195; pen docket #20/20	Collector
04/08/93	Greene, NY	Paris, France	241, 234(2), U222	Tied black town with 5c vt pr on 5c Reg entire; REG label #30195	Siegel 679/269

05/20/93	Chicago, IL	NYC	241, U351	Tied CWFS canc on REG env; st line REG at LL	W.Fox 4/91-287
05/21/93	Crow Wing, MN	Pittsburgh, PA	Complete 230-245	Tied Chicago P.O. 3-ring targets; \$5 st. edge top	Siegel 544/133
05/29/93	Rosebank, NY	Solingen, Germany	243	Tied on U249; NY REG label; Ms 128/110 at UL	Harmers 1/76-254
06/03/93	NYC ?	Minneapolis, MN	244	Tied black targets; Loeb Co. cc; REG#12017; Ms #	A.Bartlett 16/857
06/10/93	Boston, MA	Meiningen, Germany	241	Tied oval "1"; magenta A.R., boxed REG, date at left; red eagle cc	Ivy 12/88-872
06/14/93	NYC	Hamburg, Germany	241	Tied oval "C"; magenta REG label #44038 on U348 entire; backstamps	JKaufmann 12/83-226
06/14/93	NYC	Hamburg, Germany	241	Tied NYC duplex oval =C=; NYC reg label #94038; magenta REG "G"	Siegel 555/758
06/14/93	NYC	Hamburg, Germany	242, U351	Tied NYC REG oval; purple boxed REG; Int'l REG label #94037	Phillips 11/83-1392
06/14/93	NYC	Hamburg, Germany	244, U351	Tied NYC "C" cancel on 10c entire; NYC REG label #94041; "G"	Ivy 7/82-1220
06/15/93	NYC	??, Germany	241, 230-240	Tied NYC =/K/= duplex; magenta boxed REG, P.O. Branch K	Koerber 125/127
06/25/93	Portland, OR	??, ??	241, 242, 230-240, E2, E3	Tied circle town canc on U349 entire; no visible addr; CTO?	Dealer
06/26/93	NYC	Leipzig, Germany	241	Tied duplex "30" on hotel cc; Belvedere House	Collector
07/10/93	NYC	Mannheim, Germany	241	Tied NYC REG oval; NYC REG label #72227	Dealer
07/17/93	Chicago, IL	N. Ulm, Germany	241	Tied town machine canc; mourning cover; addr Major Miller	Kelleher 563/980
07/17/93	Chicago, IL	N. Ulm, Germany	242	Tied town duplex st line; mourning cover; addr Major Miller	Collector
07/17/93	Chicago, IL	N. Ulm, Germany	243	Tied town dated machine canc; mourning cover	Kelleher 563/984
07/17/93	Chicago, IL	N. Ulm, Germany	244	Tied town dated machine canc; mourning cover	Kelleher 563/985

## CENSUS: COLUMBIAN \$ STAMPS USED ON COVER

Date	Origin	Destination	Stamps	Remarks	Source
07/17/93	Chicago, IL	N. Ulm, Germany	245	Tied town dated machine canc; mourning cover	Kelleher 563/987
08/01/93	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD	245	Tied town duplex =2= canc	Siegel 266/271
08/10/93	NYC	??, Germany	241	Tied "G" oval; NY REG oval dated; return addr R. Peugnet	Apfelbaum 295/306
08/18/93	NYC	Dresden, Germany	241, U350	Tied NYC REG oval on 5c entire; NYC label #79072; forwarded	Siegel 692/299
08/19/93	Boston, MA	NYC	241, U351	Tied double oval; purple boxed REG, date; Ms #22003	Ivy 8/92-1208
08/20/93	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	241	CWFS canc duplex =1=; full framed Columbus portrait cc	McCoy-95
08/20/93	NYC	Dresden, Germany-Fwd	241, U348	NYC REG oval; st line MS REG, UL; NYC REG label #79071; Fwd	Collector
08/21/93	Chicago, IL	NYC	241	CWFC; red St line Reg WFS #46564	Wunsch collection
08/22/93	Chicago, IL	NYC	243	Tied WFS duplex canc; st line REGISTER- ED and numbered	Siegel 679/270
08/22/93	Chicago, IL	NYC	243	CWFST canc; Reg #72750 & 40311 (C. Trantrelter)	Wunsch collection
08/22/93	Chicago, IL	NYC	244	Tied WFS duplex canc; st line REGISTERED #72751 & #40310	Siegel 679/270
08/22/93	Chicago, IL	NYC	244	CWF canc; red st line Reg #72751 & 40310	Wunsch collection
08/23/93	Chicago, IL	NYC	241	Tied WFS duplex; st line REGISTERED and numbered	Siegel 679/270
08/23/93	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	242	Tied WFS duplex =1= on Morro portrait cc (R. Lorke)	Siegel 692/503
08/23/93	Chicago, IL	NYC	242	Tied WFS duplex canc; st line REGISTERED and numbered	Siegel 679/270
08/23/93	Chicago, IL	NYC	242	CWF canc; red st line CWF Reg #40566	Wunsch collection
08/23/93	Chicago, IL	NYC	245	Tied WFS duplex canc; st line REG #34059, 40565 & 74327	Siegel 679/270
08/??/93	Chicago, IL	NYC	245	CWFST canc; reg # 40465 & 34059 (C. Trantrelter)	Wunsch collection

09/08/93	NYC	NYC	241	Tied black duplex; C. Witt cover; purple boxed YTD REG	Siegel 735/355
09/15/93	Brooklyn, NY	Brooklyn, NY	241	Tied black oval	Dealer
09/15/93	Cato, PA	Cato, PA	242, 243	Tied YTD cir; \$3 rt mgn imprt sql; loc souv handbook canc	W. Fox 9/88-573
09/15/93	Cato, PA	Cato, PA	241, 244	Tied YTD to loc handbook favor env; \$4 rt margin single	W.Fox 9/88-572
09/15/93	Cato, PA	Cato, PA	242, 244	Tied YTD cir on loc handbook favor env; not mailed	W.Fox 9/88-574
09/15/93	Cato, PA	Cato, PA	245	Tied local cir favor canc; 2nd of two identical	Collector
09/15/93	Cato, PA	Cato, PA	245	Tied YTD cir on loc handbook favor env; not mailed; 1 of 2	W. Fox 9/88-575
09/22/93	Chicago, IL	NYC	241, 236, 237, 239	Tied CWFS circle; REG# Chi:16495 NY:52638;pen docket #1588	Collector
09/22/93	NYC	NYC	241	Tied NYC duplex Station P; O.G. Meyer & Co cc	Siegel 511/1262
09/22/93	NYC	NYC	242	Tied NYC duplex Station P; O.G. Meyer & Co cc	Siegel 511/1271
09/22/93	NYC	NYC	243	Tied NYC duplex Station P; O.G. Meyer & Co cc	Siegel 511/1289
09/22/93	NYC	NYC	244	Tied NYC duplex Station P; O.G. Meyer & Co cc	Siegel 511/1289
09/22/93	Chicago, IL	NYC	245, 230-231	Tied CWF Reg to legal env; st line REG, Date; #46495; MS REG	Collector
09/22/93	NYC	NYC	245	Tied NYC duplex Station P; O.G. Meyer & Co cc	Siegel 511/1296
09/25/93	Brooklyn, NY	NYC	241, 240, E3	Tied YTD oval; purple boxed REG; Ms #28840; Reg #17274; loc use	Robson Lowe 9/91-149
09/28/93	Chicago, IL	NYC	242, 244	Tied CWF duplex; st line REG, WF sta dated; Reg #52359	Collector
10/04/93	NYC	NYC	242, 236, U350	Registered with 8c on 5c entire (J. Trischka)	Wunsch collection
10/04/93	NYC	Werbzburgh, Germany	241-245, U349	Tied NYC REG oval; Int'l label #89031; legal env; backstamp	Phillips 20/598
10/05/93	NYC	Crefeld, Germany	241	Tied circle NYC "A" duplex	Wolffers 73/30

## CENSUS: COLUMBIAN \$ STAMPS USED ON COVER

Date	Origin	Destination	Stamps	Remarks	Source
10/05/93	NYC	Crefeld, Germany	241	Tied NYC duplex Sta-A, two strikes	Dealer
10/06/93	NYC	NYC	243, 220, 236, U34	Tied on 2c entire; local philatelic usage	Wunsch collection
10/11/93	Greenwich, CT	NYC	241, 230-240, U351, E3	Tied on 10c Columbian entire	Harmers 4/65-346
10/11/93	US German SeaPost	Bremerhaven, Germany	244	Tied oval "8"; N. German Lloyd cc	Siegel 452/749
10/11/93	US German SeaPost	Bremerhaven, Germany	244	Tied on env by killer "8"	Wunsch collection
10/13/93	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	243, U218	Tied WFS canc on 10/09/93 Chicago Day cover; Col-\$1/2 imprt cc	McCoy-100
10/13/93	NYC	Paris, France	244, 223	Tied black town; NYC reg label #74362; E. Boris return; per Gascoyne	Siegel 307/619
10/13/93	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	245, U218	Tied WFS machine PM on Chicago Day cc; \$1/2 imprt UL	McCoy-105
10/20/93	NYC	NYC	245, 235, 239, U35	Reg #3275 in pencil; tied with 6c and 30c on 10c entire; "G"	Wunsch collection
10/30/93	Chicago, IL	??, ??	241, U349	Tied on registered 2c entire; Col exposition station canc	Siegel 307/603
10/30/93	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	241	Tied CWFC canc; oval "2"; stp st edge top	Kelleher 566/766
10/30/93	Chicago, IL	NYC	241, U349	Chicago W.F. Sta; red Reg W.F.Canc; #31023 on 2c entire	Wunsch collection
10/30/93	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	244	Tied SON WFS machine canc; framed Morro Columbus portrait cc	McCoy-102
10/30/93	Chicago, IL	??, ??	241-243, 245, 230-240, E3	Tied CWFS canc on large piece of U351 entire	Siegel 391/81
11/01/93	Philadelphia, PA	??, France	241, 237	Tied REG ovals; red & blue adv expos cc; NYC REG label, red French transit	Siegel 326/1622
11/10/93	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	241, 219, 232, 233, 237, 239-240	Tied CWFS duplex cancels to 1c entire (U348); 3, 30c nat se	McCoy-96
11/10/93	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	242-245, U350	Tied WFS machine duplex lines; mostly SON canc	McCoy-106
11/13/93	NYC	Hamburg, Germany	241, U348	Tied on 1c Columbian env; per SS Lahn	Wunsch collection
11/13/93	NYC	Hamburg, Germany	242, U248	Tied to 1c entire; per SS Lahn	Wunsch collection
11/13/93	NYC	Hamburg, Germany	245	Tied black town machine canc; per SS Lahn	JKaufmann 74/220
11/15/93	NYC	Swansea, Great Britain	242, 245	Tied REG oval, Int'l REG #96073; UL docket, Cashier NYPO	Harmer Rooke 10/73-243



11/18/93	E. Boothbay, ME	Boston, MA	242, U350	Tied black YTD duplex; double octagon REG YTD at UL; legal env; backstamp	Zimmerman 12/91-172
11/20/93	Chicago, IL	Chrltsbrg, Germany	241	Purple star canc; REG black, #39687; REG label #47753	Siegel 629/866
11/23/93	Philadelphia, PA	Ardiche, France	241, U351	Registered corner card for paper co. on 10c Columbian entire	Wunsch collection
11/27/93	Milwaukee, WI	Colburg, Germany	241, U348	Tied black town; circle Reg: NYC REG #64110; pen docket UR	Collector
11/28/93	Rosebank, NY	Solingen, Germany	243	Tied black cork on U349 entire; REG label #8592	Siegel 660/165
12/04/93	NYC	NYC	241, 242	Tied YTD cir duplex; loc env to C. Witt; Ms REG crossed out	Robson Lowe 9/91-150
12/04/93	NYC	NYC	243, 244	Tied by black town duplex; C. Witt addr	Siegel 271/549
12/04/93	NYC	NYC	245	Tied NYC duplex "8"; addr to C. Witt	Siegel 507/483
12/05/93	N. Oxford, PA	Washington, DC	242	Tied town, seg cork; prtd addr C.F. Rothfuchs	Zimmerman 39/481
12/05/93	N. Oxford, PA	Washington, DC	243	Tied black cork, town; prtd addr C.F. Rothfuchs	Koerber 9/74-439
12/06/93	NYC	NYC	Complete 230-245	Tied town MDY cancels on large cover (Mrs. M. Witt); REG NYC Station "K"	Siegel 679/265
12/08/93	NYC	Hamburg, Germany	243, U348	Tied black mdy "30" oval	Apfelbaum 295/325
12/08/93	NYC	Hamburg, Germany	244, U348	Tied NYC duplex =/30/= oval; perv SS Trave MS	McCoy-103
12/12/93	Chicago, IL	Oak Park, IL	242	Tied duplex canc on Charles Scribner cc	Kelleher 587/860
12/13/93	Hoboken, NJ	Stettin, Germany	243	Tied black town, magenta boxed REG; NY REG label #24819; J. Pabst cc	Siegel 410/968
12/13/93	NYC	NYC	243	Tied town, P.O. duplex oval	Siegel 611/553
12/13/93	Hoboken, NJ	Stettin, Germany	244	Tied YTD cir; prtd addr, rtn addr; boxed REG date; Mrs. Lissel	Collector
12/13/93	Hoboken, NJ	Stettin, Germany	245	Purple REG; st line prtd reg, reg label #24821; Ivy rtn add cc	Ivy 12/88-928
12/13/93	NYC	NYC	245	Tied NYC duplex oval "60"; small loc env; addr S.W. Coats	Phillips 11/83-1393
12/13/93	NYC	NYC	245	Tied NYC duplex oval "60"; oversized env or wrapper	Collector

## CENSUS: COLUMBIAN \$ STAMPS USED ON COVER

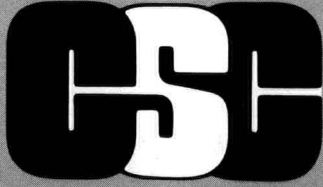
Date	Origin	Destination	Stamps	Remarks	Source
12/18/93	NYC	NYC	241	Tied black town, duplex; Thien Co. cc	Simmy 5/84-35
12/18/93	Hoboken, NJ	Stettin, Germany	244	Tied YTD; st. line REG; J.Pabst CC; purple boxed REG, TD; prtd env	Ivy 5/92-1211
12/20/93	Washington, DC	Washington, DC	241	Canc st line duplex; addr H.C. Quinby care of US Army Genl	Hyers 29/151
12/20/93	Washington, DC	Washington, DC	242	Tied duplex == on small cover; care of US Army Genl	Wolffers 58/60
12/20/93	Washington, DC	Washington, DC	243	Tied duplex == canc on small env; care of General in US Army	Wolffers 58/61
12/20/93	Washington, DC	Washington, DC	244	Tied machine canc; small env; addr H.C. Quimley, Esq.	Harmers 4/23-680
12/20/93	Washington, DC	Washington, DC	245	Tied st line duplex; addressed to H.C. Quinby, Esq.	Dealer
12/23/93	Brooklyn, NY	NYC	241	Tied black oval, YTD; prtd rtn addr; legal env	Phillips 11/83-1390
12/26/93	Washington, DC	Gloucester, NJ	241	Tied duplex oval "4" on large legal env with Dept. Justice seal cc	W. Fox 11/91-?
12/28/93	NYC	Luzern, Switzerland	241	Tied NYC REG oval; NYC REG label #8521	Dealer
12/29/93	Boston, MA	Lynn, MA	243, U351	Tied oval canc on 10c env; magenta boxed REG, date at left	Siegel 372/587
12/30/93	N. Oxford, PA	Washington, DC	241	Tied seg cork; prtd addr. C.F. Rothfuchs	Koerber 9/74-436
12/30/93	N. Oxford, PA	Washington, DC	241	Tied black target on prtd addr env; C. Rothfuchs stp dlr	RKaufmann 5/174
12/30/93	N. Oxford, PA	Washington, DC	241	Tied black town, seg cork; addr. C.F.Rothfuchs	Zimmerman 39/480
??/??/93	NYC	Brooklyn, NY	241, U348, E3	Tied to REG spec delivery letter, REG #83306; backstamps	Kelleher 587/859
??/??/93	NYC	NYC	241	Tied NYC duplex; purple boxed REG; C. Witt cover?	Siegel 266/270
??/??/93	Chicago, IL	??, Germany	241	Magenta st line REG; Ms #15867; NY REG label #69168	Siegel 271/547
??/??/93	NYC	??, Germany	242	Tied NYC duplex "A"; NYC reg label #14900; backstamp rec ??/??/93	Ivy 7/82-1218

??/??/93	NYC	NYC	243	Barely tied, black oval	Apfelbaum 295/326
??/??/93	NYC	??, NH	243	Tied NYC REG canc; MS registered	Siegel 421/396
01/02/94	Brooklyn, NY	Brooklyn, NY	242	Tied st lines	S. Stryker 3/83-933
01/03/94	NYC	NYC	241	Tied Station K duplex oval left side, town on right	Siegel 645/200
01/04/94	Andover, MA	Cambridge, MA	244	Tied REG duplex oval; backstamp on small env	Koerber 6/71-258
01/06/94	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	245	Tied circle REG, dated town; prtd stamp dlr cc	Wolffers 73/32
01/08/94	NYC	NYC	241	Tied NYC duplex on C. Witt cc	Siegel 646/653
01/10/94	Brooklyn, NY	Brooklyn, NY	241	Tied st lines on piece	Siegel 555/756
01/12/94	Centralia, KA	Centralia, KA	241	Tied black dated town, cork; addr local bank	Collector
01/13/94	NYC	NYC	241	Tied oval Station K postmark; C. Witt	Fox 1/67-216
01/14/94	Casco, ME	Portland, ME	241, U350	Tied YTD duplex	Zimmerman 12/91-171
01/17/94	NYC	Swansea, Great Britain	241, 236	NYPO Off Bus CC; tied REG oval; penalty clause UR; REG #11484	Harmer Rooke 10/73-241
01/22/94	Detroit, MI	Windsor, Canada	241	Tied SON town cancel	Siegel 618/156
01/27/94	Las Vegas, NV	Westfalen, Germany	241-244	Tied YTD; 244 st edge top; loc souv handbook env; sent in separate env	Collector
01/27/94	Las Vegas, NV	Westfalen, Germany	241-244	Tied YTD; \$1 st edge; addr to Sam Stein; mailed in separate env to Germany	Herst 4/69-626
01/28/94	San Francisco, CA	San Francisco, CA	242	Tied town duplex; prtd addr; B. Natorp	Wolffers 73/31
01/29/94	San Francisco, CA	San Francisco, CA	244	Tied duplex oval "16"; prtd addr B. Natorp	Siegel 611/563
01/29/94	San Francisco, CA	San Francisco, CA	245	Tied duplex oval "16"; prtd addr B. Natorp	Siegel 611/570
01/31/94	NYC	NYC	241	Tied NYC duplex; cover cleaned	Siegel 307/604
02/02/94	Los Angeles, CA	Anacortes, WA	242	Tied LA duplex; st line REGISTERED, date; MS return addr	Herst 139/3548
02/03/94	Los Angeles, CA	Anacortes, WA	243	Tied black canc; reg cover with MS 1638/1613	Southby Parke Bernet S-56/661
02/05/94	Dover, NH	Boston, MA	241	Tied on lgl N. Exchange Bank env; violet st line REG; bank cc	JKaufmann 12/83-227
02/06/94	Dover, NH	Boston, MA	242	Tied on lgl N. Exchange Bank env; violet st line REG; bank cc	JKaufmann 12/83-227

## CENSUS: COLUMBIAN \$ STAMPS USED ON COVER

Date	Origin	Destination	Stamps	Remarks	Source
02/07/94	Dover, NH	Boston, MA	243	Tied on lgl N. Exchange Bank env; violet st line REG; bank cc	JKaufmann 12/83-227
02/08/94	Dover, NH	Boston, MA	244	Tied on lgl N. Exchange Bank env; violet st line REG; bank cc	JKaufmann 12/83-227
02/09/94	Dover, NH	Boston, MA	245	Tied on lgl N. Exchange Bank env; violet st line REG; bank cc	JKaufmann 12/83-227
02/12/94	San Jose, CA	??, Germany	241	Tied S.J. oval; Ms REG #864; NY REG label #77260	Siegel 632/363
02/13/94	Boston, MA	Milwaukee, WI	244	Tied on 5"x7" book wrapper; red boxed REG, date; addr book pub	Kelleher 569/437
03/01/94	NYC	Paris, France	245	Tied NYC REG ovals in magenta; Fr rec 3/28; NY REG label #45345	Apfelbaum 8/81-?
03/05/94	Los Angeles, CA	Anacortes, WA	244	Tied LA duplex; st line REGISTERED, date; MS return addr	Siegel 421/407
03/07/94	Lyman, MD	Washington, DC	241	Tied black target; st line magenta REG, date at left	Siegel 342/1445A
03/07/94	Lyman, MD	St. Helena, CA	242	Tied black target canc on registered env	Siegel 421/386
03/07/94	Lyman, MD	St. Helena, CA	243	Tied upside down, black target; st line REG #19; 1547; Storrow	Zimmerman 62/173
03/07/94	Lyman, MD	St. Helena, CA	244	Tied upside down, black target; st line REG #147	Zimmerman 62/173
03/07/94	Lyman, MD	St. Helena, CA	245	Tied black target, REGISTERED #139 st line UL	Siegel 421/417
03/12/94	Berrydale, FL	Wilton, FL	245	L. sheet margin single tied; st line REG #2 & 3; small env	I. Heiman 10/56-157
03/13/94	NYC	Halle, Germany	241	Tied NYC REG oval; stp left imprt margin; NYC reg label #25368; MS UL	Frajola 8/87-655
03/13/94	NYC	Halle, Germany	242	Tied REG oval; Ms registered	Siegel 494/429
04/02/94	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	242	Tied black town on World's Col Exp. War Dept. Ex. cc; small cover	McCoy-98
04/07/94	Pittsburgh, PA	Mittleheim, Germany	241, 242, 245, 232, 237-240	Tied with black cancels on 2c entire	Siegel 555/674

(To be continued in Issue 156)



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**THAT ELUSIVE "CRACK"**  
ROLLIN C. HUGGINS, JR.

For many years the Scott Specialized Catalogue has listed a cracked plate variety under the listing for the 10¢ Navy Department stamp (Scott O40). The 1991 catalog lists a price of \$125 in italics, meaning an item that is difficult to value accurately. Amen! In over ten years of searching I have yet to see the item offered for sale at any price.

And yet, every now and then you get lucky. In looking through a collection remainder of U.S. officials, I discovered a block of eight of the 10¢ Navy Department with the Continental Bank Note Company inscription at the top as illustrated in Figure 1. There it was! The third stamp in the first row has a "crack" extending from the top of Jefferson's head to his neck. The "crack" is about 1 mm to the left of Jefferson's ear and has a somewhat curving shape. See Figure 2. However, to my untrained eyes the "crack" appears to look more like a scratch than a crack; other specialists with whom I have talked generally agree that the imperfection is really a scratch.



**Figure 1. Top imprint block of 8 of the 10¢ Navy Department stamp, Positions 1-4 and 11-14. The "cracked" plate variety is in Position 3.**

Lightly penciled on the back of the block, I noticed "Laurence & Stryker 2/1/44". My interest quickening, I asked Al Staubus if by any chance he had the catalog for that sale. Sure enough, Al did have the catalog and it turns out that inscription block of eight had been a part of Colonel Green's collection that was auctioned by Laurence & Stryker on February 1-3, 1944. The item in question was Lot 957 described as "O40 10¢. Top Continental imprint block of 8. Perforations mostly close or touch at left. O.G. Fine." Apparently neither Colonel Green nor Laurence & Stryker were aware of the presence of the "cracked" plate variety.

Excited by my discovery, I did some research and found the experts have been aware of this stamp for some time. As early as 1931, Charles Phillips knew of the item and



**Figure 2. Photographic enlargement of Position 3 showing the plate “crack” (scratch).**

described the plate flaw as a strong vertical line<sup>1</sup>. He had it in a block of six plate proofs and in an inscription and Plate No. 101 strip of six of the issued stamps. From the latter, he was able to ascertain the stamp is located at Position 3 on the sheet.

George Sloane also knew of the 10¢ Navy Department variety. He described the plate error as “a severe scratch, more in the nature of a slash, extending almost vertically through the portrait of Jefferson”.<sup>2</sup>

Regardless of whether the variety is a cracked plate as described in the Scott catalog or a plate scratch as described by Sloane and others, it certainly is an elusive item. Occasionally, 10¢ Navy top imprint and plate number strips of six have been offered for sale in auction catalogs, but the describers have failed to mention the existence of the “cracked” plate variety at Position 3.<sup>3</sup>

Why is the 10¢ Navy Department “cracked” plate variety so difficult to find? A partial answer may be that it just passes unnoticed since the philatelic community does not know what to look for. Also, there just are not too many of them out there. According to the Post Office Department Stamp Bill Books, 55,210 copies of the 10¢ Navy Department

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1. Charles J. Phillips, “U.S. Department Stamps — Plate Varieties”, *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 10, p. 244 (1931).

2. George B. Sloane, “Sloane’s Column”, *Stamps*, Oct. 28, 1939, reprinted by the Bureau Issues Association (1961).

3. Nassau Stamp Company, Oct. 18, 1932, Lot 268 (curiously the preceding lot, Lot 267, was listed as a 10¢ Navy block of 4 with one stamp having the plate crack and perfs touching bottom); Harmer, Rooke & Co., March 7, 1963, Lot 235; Robert A. Siegel, April 10, 1981, Lot 306.

stamp were issued to the Navy Department.<sup>4</sup> Because Plate No. 101 with one hundred subjects was the only plate used for the printing of the 10¢ Navy Department stamp and because the “cracked” plate variety only appears at one position, the maximum number of stamps with “cracked” plate variety that can exist is only 552. And there is a possibility that the maximum number is far fewer.

Figure 3 is a photograph of plate proofs printed on India paper of the top imprint and plate number block of twelve of the 10¢ Navy Department (Plate No. 101) from the Dennis W. Schmidt collection. A close examination discloses that there is no imperfection whatsoever at Position 3. Obviously, the damage to the plate occurred sometime after these plate proofs were made. Phillips said that he had a block of six plate proofs which did have the imperfection.<sup>5</sup> However, Phillips did not tell us whether his proofs were printed on India or card, and it is well known that many of the plate proofs on card were printed after the Departmental stamps had been issued.<sup>6</sup> In any event, it is clear that the India paper proofs which were prepared before the 10¢ Navy Department stamps were printed do not show the “crack” at Position 3, and all card proofs printed afterwards should show the imperfection at Position 3.



**Figure 3. Top imprint and plate number block of twelve of the 10¢ Navy Department proof on India paper, Positions 1-6 and 11-16 from the Dennis W. Schmidt collection. Position 3 lacks the plate “crack” (scratch).**

According to John Luff,<sup>7</sup> the statistics of manufacture of the 10¢ Navy Department stamps are as follows:

Printed in 1873	38,000
Printed in 1874	95,000
Printed in 1875	<u>190,000</u>
Total Printed	323,000
Destroyed in 1885	<u>(267,290)</u>
Total Number Issued	55,710

4. Post Office Department Stamp Bill Book No. 1 (billing periods ending September 30, 1870 through December 31, 1875) and No. 2 (billing periods ending January 31, 1876 through December 31, 1879); National Archives, RG No. 28, Bill Books E-179, Stack Area 14E3, Row 6, Compartment 4, Shelf 3.

5. See Phillips, *supra*.

6. Scott 1991 *Specialized Catalogue*, pp. 383-84. In the introduction to the section on proofs, Scott tells us that plate proofs on card were made in five printings in 1879-93. Curiously, the proof listing for the 10¢ Navy (Scott O40P) shows a dash for the plate number block of twelve on card (meaning the item exists but information is lacking for purposes of establishing a catalog value), but there is not even a dash for the plate number block on India. Figure 3 is proof that the item does exist.

7. John N. Luff, *Postage Stamps of the United States* (1902), pp. 212-222.



The “top of the pile” theory is that as each printing is completed, the newly-printed sheets are placed on top of the pile of sheets that had been previously printed and thereafter the stamps issued to the Department are taken from the most recent printing located on the top of the pile. If this was the procedure that was followed, all stamps issued to the Navy Department after December 1875 would have come from the 1875 printing(s) of the 10¢ Navy Department stamp. If we make the further conjecture that the “crack” (scratch) in the plate occurred between the 1874 and 1875 printings, the maximum number of “cracked” stamps is greatly reduced.

The Post Office Department Stamp Bill Books<sup>8</sup> report the number of stamps issued to the Navy Department during each billing period:

<b>Billing Period Ending</b>	<b>10¢ Navy Dept. Stamps Issued</b>	<b>Cumulative Number Issued</b>
June 30, 1874	13,210	13,210
Sep. 30, 1874	5,000	18,210
Mar. 31, 1875	5,000	23,210
June 30, 1875	10,000	33,210
Sep. 30, 1875	5,000	38,210
Apr. 30, 1876	5,000	43,210
Oct. 31, 1876	5,000	48,210
Jan. 31, 1877	3,000	51,210
Oct. 31, 1878	2,000	53,210
Jan. 31, 1879	1,000	54,210
May 31, 1879	1,000	55,210

An additional 500 stamps were purchased during the billing period ending September 30, 1875 as “specimens for distribution among foreign governments” and were retained in the personal custody of the Third Assistant Postmaster General. The extra 500 stamps for distribution among foreign governments brings the total number issued to Luff’s figure of 55,710.

Examination of Stamp Bill Book records reveals that after December 1875 only 17,000 10¢ Navy Department stamps were issued to the Department. Only one in a hundred of the stamps issued after 1875 could have had the “cracked” plate, reducing the maximum number of “cracked” plate stamps to 170 if one accepts the conjecture that the plate “crack” (scratch) occurred between the 1874 and 1875 printings. However, some of the stamps issued during 1875 also could have been from sheets printed earlier in 1875, thereby increasing the potential maximum number of stamps having the plate “crack”.

In addition, there are no reports, as yet, of the “cracked” plate variety being found on any of the 112 issued 10¢ Navy Department special printings (Scott O40 SD). Since the special printings were printed during the first half of 1875, the reporting of this variety (if it does exist) on the 10¢ Navy Department special printings would help to estimate the time that the imperfection occurred.

Regardless of how one manipulates the figures, it is apparent that the 10¢ Navy Department “cracked” plate variety is a scarce stamp, especially when one considers the low percentage of Bank Note era stamps which normally survive usage and the passage of time.

The author would appreciate receiving reports from owners of 10¢ Navy Department imprint strips or blocks as to whether the “cracked” plate variety is present.

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8. See footnote 4.

**A "GOODIE"**  
**CLYDE JENNINGS**

That's apparently what I have here, as shown in Figure 1. This is Scott O103, the soft paper version of the 24¢ Interior Department stamp from the Officials section of the catalog. The 1991 catalog (latest I have) lists the stamp at \$1,200 unused, but shows *no* listing for it used — nor even the customary dash used to indicate it is known used, but so seldom sold at auction that a price cannot be established or estimated. The only other catalog I have at hand (I pass 'em along!) is the 1987 version and the listing is the same except the unused price is \$1,100.

Now have a look at Figure 2, please. Would seem that Mr. Scott is somewhere out in left field, wouldn't you say? Actually, it's a fairly nice looking stamp, good color, not nearly as raunchy as the certificate's description would indicate. Yep, the corner creasing is still there (though very slight), but I'm still looking for the "few minute margin tears" some sharp New York eyes thought they detected back in 1975! The cancel is blue as described, though in reality a very light blue, and is mainly visible under ole Winfield's chin. It is in a grid format, fine parallel lines running from the upper left to the lower right.

I bought this stamp years ago for my color cancellations collection — but I don't remember exactly when, though obviously post 1975, or from whom, but my usually more copious notes do show I paid \$120 for it at the time.



Figure 1. The thus-far unique used copy of the 24¢ Interior Department stamp on soft paper (Scott O103). The cancel is a light blue grid and is mainly visible immediately in front of General Scott's lower face.

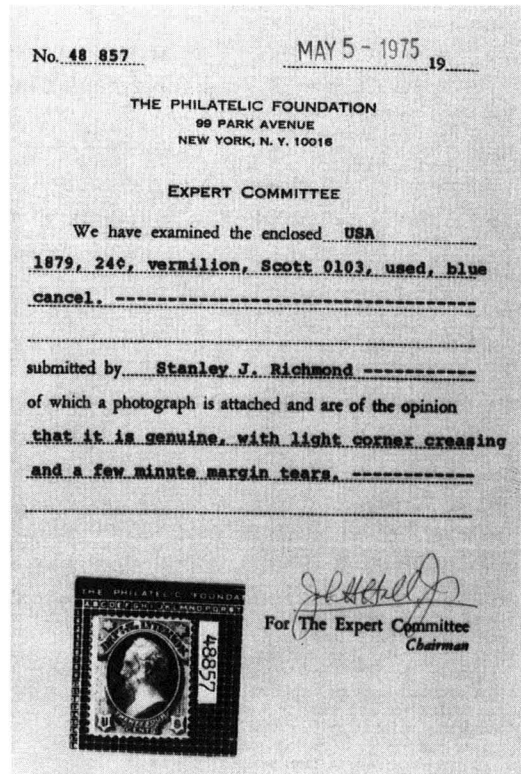


Figure 2. The May 5, 1975 Philatelic Foundation certificate for the stamp illustrated in Figure 1. The certificate indicates that the used stamp "is genuine, with light corner creasing and a few minute margin tears."

Once, I mentioned to Rollin Huggins I had it. Rollin, who is pretty deeply into Officials, said he was not aware of any used copies, so would I please send him a photocopy of the Philatelic Foundation certificate, which I did, of course. Rollin now owns the stamp.

I had heard of another copy of this stamp used with a color cancellation. I contacted the reported owner, but he has not yet gotten a good certificate of authenticity for his copy. His stamp is currently undergoing further consideration. Therefore, as far as I know at this time, the stamp illustrated in Figure 1 is unique.

With the above as background, let's see if we can come up with additional information to substantiate the existence of this used soft paper copy. First step was a search of the archival and philatelic literature available. Unfortunately, Luff's 1902 book, *The Postage Stamps of the United States*, provides a summary listing of official stamps delivered to the Departments by fiscal year, ending June 30th. The delivery of 10,500 24¢ Interior Department stamps during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1884, is most likely the only delivery of this stamp which could have included some of the American Bank Note Company's soft paper printings. Prior deliveries of the 24¢ Interior Department stamp were from the remainders of the Continental Bank Note Company's hard paper printings. Consequently, in view of the fact that the 24¢ soft paper Interior Department stamps were not previously known (or even listed in Scott's catalogs) in the used condition, most departmental collectors have, in error, assumed that this final delivery must have occurred near the end of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1884, just prior to the end of use of official stamps (July 1884). By making this false assumption, one can rationalize that the final delivery arrived just when the stamps were being replaced by the use of the penalty envelopes and, therefore, used examples would not be expected to exist.

This used example is the basis to question the validity of the late delivery assumption. Tables I and II are summaries compiled from the records of the Post Office Department Stamp Bill Books. From Table I you can see that the final delivery of the

**TABLE I**  
**QUANTITIES ISSUED OF THE**  
**24¢ INTERIOR DEPARTMENT STAMP**

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Quantities</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
<b>Ending</b>	<b>Delivered</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
		<b>Delivered</b>
year - 6/30/1874	49,275	49,275
quarter - 12/31/1874	5,000	54,275
quarter - 3/31/1875	5,000	59,275
quarter - 6/30/1875	24,000	83,275
quarter - 9/30/1875	5,000	88,275
[quarter - 9/31/1875	500(a)	88,775]
month - 6/30/1876	13,250	102,025
month - 6/30/1877	5,500	107,525
month - 1/31/1878	1,000	108,525
month - 3/31/1878	2,000	110,525
month - 6/30/1878	1,200	111,725
month - 7/31/1878	800	112,525
month - 9/30/1878	5,000	117,525
month - 2/28/1879	3,000	120,525
month - 3/31/1882	3,000	123,525
month - 4/30/1882	600	124,125
month - 7/31/1883	10,500	134,625

(a) Delivered to the Third Assistant Postmaster General as "specimens" for distribution to foreign governments.

The above information was obtained from the Stamp Bill Books #1, #2, #3 and #4 located in the Record Group 28 of the National Archives, Washington, D.C.

10,500 24¢ Interior Department stamps occurred during the month of July 1883 — the first month of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1884! This is confirmed by Figure 3, a copy of the Bill Book entry showing delivery of the final 10,500 stamps. This information directly demonstrates that 24¢ Interior Department stamps on soft paper were potentially in use for nearly a full year! Therefore, used examples of the soft paper 24¢ Interior Department stamps would be expected to exist.

31<sup>st</sup> July 1883.

Official postage stamps furnished Treasury, Interior, War & State Depts. for month ending as above. The American Bank Note Co. of New York, Contractors.

Treasury	Interior	War	State	Denominations
	10 000	32 000	2 000	1. Cent
	20,000	43 000	2 000	2. "
	250 000	153 000		3. "
	120 000	87 000		6. "
		1 000		7. "
200 000		10 000	4 000	10. "
	10,500	17 000	2 000	12. "
	10 500	5 000	4 000	15. "
	10 500	4 000	1 000	24. "
	1250	6 050	1 500	30. "
	250	2 350	500	90. "
200 000	432 000	360 400	17 000	
1.009.400. Stamps, in all amounting @ 9¢ per 100, to \$92.76				

**Figure 3. Table from Post Office Department Stamp Bill Book No. 3 (National Archives, Washington, D.C.) confirming that the last delivery of 24¢ Interior Department stamps occurred during the month ending July 31, 1883.**

The only question remaining is how many of the 10,500 24¢ Interior Department stamps in that July, 1883 delivery were on hard paper (Continental Bank Note Company printings). Table II shows the number of 24¢ Interior Department stamps held in reserve by the Post Office Department Stamp Agent in the bank note company vaults. The 135,400 24¢ Interior Department stamps which were printed on hard paper by the Continental Bank Note Company prior to December 31, 1875, were large enough to maintain an adequate reserve balance of undelivered stamps for the next eight years. Maintaining a large reserve balance avoided the need for additional printings of 24¢ Interior Department stamps until July, 1883 when the final order for 10,500 stamps had to

be filled with the remaining 11,275 hard paper stamps. However, contract obligations required the bank note company to maintain up to a three month's supply of stamps to be held in reserve for rapid delivery if needed.

Therefore, the American Bank Note Company printed 9,400 additional stamps (on soft paper) both to fill the order for 10,500 stamps and to meet contract obligations regarding reserves. Apparently, the shipment of 10,500 24¢ Interior Department stamps included a mixture of both hard and soft paper stamps. If the shipment included all of the 9,400 soft paper stamps printed in July 1883, then this stamp should be much more common than is generally recognized. If 9,400 soft paper stamps were delivered and most ended up in philatelic hands as did the rest of the soft paper Interior Department stamps, then the 24¢ Interior Department stamp should have the scarcity of between that of the 30¢ Justice Department stamp (8,600 issued) and that of the 90¢ Navy Department stamp (11,270 issued). Since the 24¢ soft paper Interior Department stamp is much rarer than either of these two stamps, it is reasonable to assume that only a small portion of the 9,400 24¢ soft paper Interior Department stamps were included in the preparation of the July, 1883 delivery.

Rollin Huggins, in his letter to me of March 17, 1992, proposes that it is likely an order of 100 sheets (10,000 stamps) of the 24¢ Interior Department stamp was printed having six sheets which were poorly prepared and, subsequently, destroyed.

**TABLE II**  
**COMPARISON OF QUANTITIES**  
**MANUFACTURED VS. ISSUED OF THE**  
**24¢ INTERIOR DEPARTMENT STAMP**

<b>Time Period</b> <b>Ending</b>	<b>Cumulative</b> <b>Quantity</b> <b>Manufactured</b>	<b>Cumulative</b> <b>Quantity</b> <b>Delivered</b>	<b>Balance</b> <b>in</b> <b>Reserve</b>
12/31/1874	88,900	54,275	34,625
12/31/1875	135,400	88,775	46,625
12/30/1876	135,400	102,025	33,375
6/30/1877	135,400	107,525	27,875
1/31/1878	135,400	108,525	26,875
3/31/1878	135,400	110,525	24,875
6/30/1878	135,400	111,725	23,675
7/31/1878	135,400	112,525	22,875
9/30/1878	135,400	117,525	17,875
2/28/1879	135,400	120,525	14,875
3/31/1882	135,400	123,525	11,875
4/30/1882	135,400	124,125	11,275
7/31/1883	144,800(a)	134,625(b)	10,175(c)

(a) The final cumulative quantity manufactured (144,800) of the 24¢ Interior Department stamp included 135,400 Continental Bank Note Company stamps (hard paper) and 9,400 American Bank Note Company stamps (soft paper). Reference: W.V. Combs, "United States Departmentals — Quantities Issued," *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 43, No. 6 (Nov. 1964), pp. 344-360.

(b) The last delivery of 10,500 issued 24¢ Interior Department stamps occurred in July, 1883 and was an unknown mixture of both hard and soft paper stamps.

(c) This number corresponds to the unissued quantity of the 24¢ Interior Department stamp which was counted and burned with the rest of the unissued official postage stamps by order of the Post Office Department on February 9-11, 1885.

Consequently, only 94 sheets (9,400 stamps) were provided to the Post Office Department Stamp Agent. Rollin Huggins speculates that the Stamp Agent took 100 sheets (hard paper) from the reserve stock and 5 sheets (500 stamps on soft paper) from the newly printed supply in order to fill the order for 105 sheets (10,500 stamps). Rollin Huggins' conjecture on the number of soft paper 24¢ Interior Department stamps issued (500 stamps) is based upon his perception of their relative scarcity among other official stamps as a long-time collector/dealer specialist.

Despite the lack of listing in the Scott catalog, it would appear prudent for collectors to be on the lookout for used copies of the 24¢ Interior Department stamp on soft paper. Good hunting!

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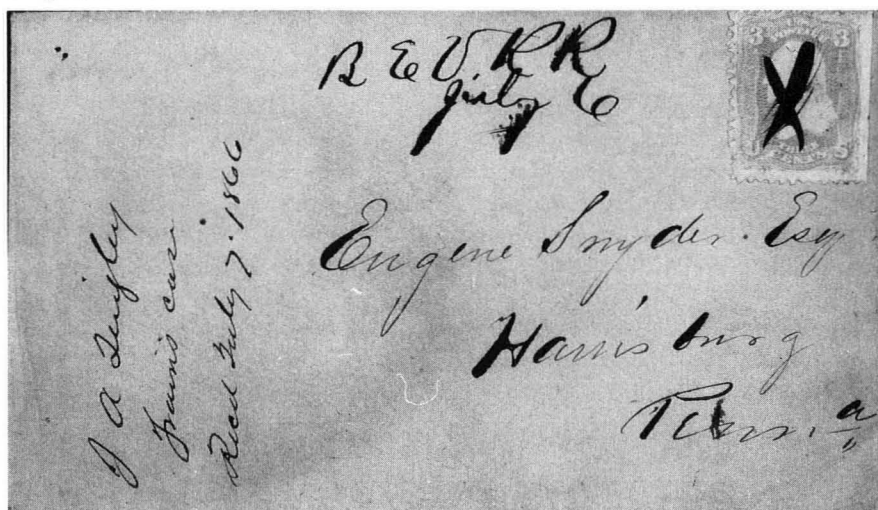
## RAILROAD POSTMARKS

### RAILROAD ROUTE AGENT MARKINGS OF THE 1860s — BALD EAGLE VALLEY R.R. RICHARD B. GRAHAM

It has been a few years since a section on the markings of railroad or steamboat route agents has appeared in the *Chronicle*. The section was edited by the late Charles L. Towle, who was the leading long-time specialist on the subject. He had not only made railroad mail markings and railroad history a life-long avocation, but his profession was railroading. He ended his professional career as a railroad president.

The appearance of a cover with a manuscript marking of a route that gave Charley Towle problems in finding the data to catalog it properly offers an opportunity to review the references available on the subject as well as demonstrate the fascination of working out route agent markings. The cover is shown in Figure 1. It bears a black manuscript postmark "B.E.V./R.R./July 6" with a matching pen cross cancel on a 3¢ stamp of the post-Civil War period, as marked by its pale shade that nearly matches the buff on the cover upon which it rests.

Addressed to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the cover is docketed as having been received July 7, 1866.



**Figure 1.** A manuscript marking of the route agent on the Bald Eagle Valley R.R. in Pennsylvania, July 6, 1866. The 3¢ 1861 stamp on the cover is in a pale brownish rose shade that nearly matches the buff paper of the envelope.

The marking "B.E.V./R.R." is not listed in the first compilation of railway markings compiled by Charley Towle, the Towle-Meyer *Railroad Postmarks of the United States, 1861 to 1886*, published by this Society in 1968. It first appeared in one of the supplements to that work in *Chronicle* No. 66 (May, 1970), when the listing, which included the tracing shown in Figure 2 as Cat. No. 201-B-1, read as follows (p. 86):

201-B-1 25½ black, 1874. 10 (Bald Eagle Valley R.R.)



**Figure 2.** Tracing of a handstamp of a route agent on the Bald Eagle Valley R.R. in 1874, from *Chronicle* No. 66, page 85.

For markings with the designation "R.R." which mostly stemmed from the 1850s, being superseded by the "Agt." designation for route agents in later decades, the markings usually did not include names of the route terminal towns. Thus, the exact meaning of the letters "B.E.V." as the evident name of a railroad was not readily apparent, as Charley Towle explained to me some years later. The Banknote era cover on which the marking existed had no clues as to where it originated so Charley turned to his references on railroad history for an answer, but had found none. At this time, John Kay had not as yet produced the archival data about the route agents, the routes and terminals that was published in his *Directory of Route Agent Routes, 1837-1882* (Mobile Post Office Society, 1990).

In any case, by 1970, Charley Towle had learned that the letters "B.E.V." stood for "Bald Eagle Valley" R.R. and not much more. As he kept upgrading and adding to his information, he found more data about the railroad. In Vol. I of his *United States Transit Markings Catalog, 1837 to 1974* (Mobile Post Office Society, pub. serially, late 1970s), the listing included the terminals of the route as follows:

Bald Eagle Valley R.R., Lock Haven-Tyrone, Pa., 55 miles, Pennsylvania R.R.  
201-B-1; 25½ (mm), black, 1874, V.

The next listing was in his final effort on the route agent markings, *U.S. Route and Station Agent Markings*, published in 1986 and still available. The listing was again changed to reflect new data, this time regarding the identity of the operator of the line, as follows:

Pennsylvania, Bald Eagle Valley Br., R53, RRA, Lock Haven-Tyrone, PA, 55  
201-B-1; B.E.V. R.R., 25.5, black, 1874, V.

In the listing, the data reflects the fact that Charley had verified that the line had been operated as a branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad for some years, although as we shall see, the identity of the original operators and the exact date of takeover of the line by the Pennsylvania were still somewhat uncertain as it existed in the 1860s and 1870s.

As an adjunct to the very large size of Towle's *U.S. Route and Station Agent Postmarks*, Towle also provided a separate *Historical Supplement, Railway Historical Notes With Maps*. The entry in the listing in the markings catalog includes an entry, "R53," which refers to a capsule history of the Bald Eagle Valley R.R. in the supplement. This reads as follows:

Bald Eagle Valley R.R. Incorporated in Pennsylvania March 25, 1861. It was opened from Vail (4 miles east of Tyrone), to Lock Haven, Pa. 51 miles, May 1, 1865. Leased by Pennsylvania R.R. Aug. 1, 1889 and acquired by the company Mar. 31, 1908.

Thus, the entry still doesn't say who owned the Bald Eagle Valley R.R. prior to 1908 nor who operated it between 1865 and 1889. However, Towle's listing for the marking dated 1874 indicates that he considered it a branch of the Pennsylvania R.R. 15 years prior to 1889.

The latest mention of the railroad in references on railroad postal history is in John Kay's *Directory of Route Agent Routes*, published in 1990, which informs us that the route from Lock Haven to Tyrone, Pennsylvania, was established on August 18, 1865 and existed until August 1, 1882, when it became a Railway Post Office route between the same terminals. The interesting part is that the Post Office Department records evidently show the route was operated from the beginning by the Pennsylvania Railroad!

This makes me suspect that Charley Towle's problem in identifying the operators of the Bald Eagle Valley Railroad stemmed from the railroad being taken over by the Pennsylvania R.R. from the beginning with a dummy corporation as a front for political reasons. The railroad history of the 19th century has other such situations that are well documented, the reason being that politics played an important part in obtaining charters to acquire right-of-ways and build railroads in the mid-19th century.



The acquisition of the cover shown in Figure 1 also has some interesting aspects relative to the location of the line. Dealer Stan Bednarczck acquired the cover recently at a stamp show. He remarked when he displayed the cover that he had been told the name of the railroad and had wondered why some Pennsylvania collector wasn't interested. In reply, he was informed that the Bald Eagle Valley R.R. ran through an area of Pennsylvania in which postal history collectors had shown very little interest, which led me to explore the route of the railroad and the geography of the area.

Figure 3 shows a map enlarged from a *Poor's Manual of Railroads for 1883*, as reproduced in Towle's *Historical Supplement* to his *U.S. Route and Station Agent Postmarks* book of 1986. Arrows have been provided pointing at the termini of the route at Tyrone, in Blair County (lower left) and Lock Haven in Clinton County (upper right). To aid readers in orienting the location of this small area of Pennsylvania, a pointer (lower left) points at an unnamed town (on the map) then called Agricultural College, established in 1862, but with its name changed to State College in 1874. This was established as the home of what is now Penn State University and is also the site of the central office of the American Philatelic Society. A previous name of the village and post office, from 1858-1862, was Farm School.



Figure 3. Map excerpted from Poor's railroad map of Pennsylvania for 1883.

In attempting to obtain information about the area, I asked Bill Welch and Keith Wagner of the APS about the area over the ridge to the north of APS headquarters. Not only did they provide information needed, but I also learned that there are collectors who collect the counties of Pennsylvania around State College.

State College is located in Nittany Valley, with the ridge to the north, running north-east to southwest, known as Bald Eagle Mountain. The valley to the north of that is Bald Eagle Valley, with a stream of the same name, designated on some maps as a river but on most, if shown at all, as a creek. The railroad line runs through the valley and hence the name.

Poor's railroad map of 1883 denotes the line as the "Penn. R.R.," but Appleton's railroad map of 1869 simply calls it the "Tyrone & Lock H." R.R. Going from map to map, the names of the intermediate stations on the railroad are given differently, nor do they seem to correlate with the post office names as given in official sources.

For example, from Lock Haven, the first stop on the railroad is, on Poor's map, Mill Hill; all other maps call this Mill Hall which is today's name. Mill Hall and Beech Creek are in Clinton County. Howard, next and just over the county line in Centre County, is still an active post office, as was Curtin until 1935. Milesburg(h) is still active and so is nearby Bellefonte and Snow Shoe, as of 1976. However, Snow Shoe is shown as on a branch away from the railroad on some maps. Julian and Martha are usually shown as Julian Furnace and Martha Furnace. Port Matilda still exists but the only explanation of the name is that it is on Bald Eagle River — or is it a creek?

Fowler, shown on our map in Centre County, is one of two villages with that name in that county, circa 1869-1883. One of them had a post office, 1878-1886, but I do not know which. Entering Blair County, the only two stops shown on the map of 1883 are Vail and Tyrone and the latter is still an active post office. Vail had an active post office, 1889-1910, but a map of 1869 shows the location as being called Bald Eagle Junction. There are also several other villages of different names at these or nearby locations shown on earlier and later maps.

The point of all this is that there were three major elements who provided names for locations, and sometimes what on the map seems the same location may have been two nearby localities with distinct names, insofar as the Post Office Department and the railroads were concerned. In some cases, the local population preferred a name different from either.

Trying to resolve such tangles into facts is one of the charms of postal history collecting, whether it pertains to counties, railroads or local history when larger towns swallowed smaller.

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## A MAIL STEAMSHIP MAKES AN UNSCHEDULED STOP DOUGLAS N. CLARK

The marking STEAMSHIP is well known to apply to letters brought to this country by U.S. contract mail steamers, travelling over ocean routes that had been designated post roads.<sup>1</sup> The *Postal Laws and Regulations* of 1859 indicate that the “offices of dispatch and receipt ... for the mails to and from the West Indies ... are ... New York, Charleston, Savannah, New Orleans, San Francisco, Monterrey and San Diego.” So if a contract steamer made a stop at a port not on this list, it would have left the “post road.” How would the mail it was carrying be handled in this case? The cover illustrated in Figure 1 appears to show that, at least in some cases, such letters were rated as noncontract ship letters and then put back on the steamships to be rerated at the designated receipt offices!



**Figure 1. Folded letter datelined Matanzas, a contract steamer, with Norfolk, Virginia postmark and Norfolk 5 and SHIP markings and with New York circular Steamship\10. Docketed as received in New York City.**

The subject cover bears a blue NORFOLK, VA CDS of December 29, 1860 with matching SHIP and 5 handstamps overstruck with the familiar black STEAMSHIP/10 of New York. Inside, the letter is headed Matanzas, December 22, 1860, and it is docketed as received in New York City, December 31, 1860.

The special circumstances that led to these markings are explained in the *New York Times* of January 1, 1861, where, under “Arrivals December 31,” one finds the listing  
Steamship Matanzas (Leisgang), Matanzas 22 inst. and Norfolk 25 hours with mdse and passengers to Mora Bros. Navarro & Co. Experienced heavy northerly gales, put into Norfolk for coal.

The *Matanzas* was a contract steamer,<sup>2</sup> but the Postmaster at Norfolk evidently took literally Section 167 of the *P.L. & R.* to the effect that “Every master of a vessel from a foreign port is bound, immediately on his arrival at a port ... to deliver into the post office all letters brought in his vessel ...” and Section 168, “All ship letters and packets are to be charged with a postage of ... two cents in addition to the ordinary rates of postage” (in this case the 3¢ single rate of 1855, under 3,000 miles).

1. Theron Wierenga, *United States Incoming Steamship Mail 1847-1875* (Muskegon, Michigan: Theron Wierenga, 1983), p. 17.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 63.

Two facts support the conclusion that the letter was put back aboard the *Matanzas*: the docketing, which agrees with the arrival date of the *Matanzas* in New York, and the STEAMSHIP/10 handstamp (if not brought to the New York Postmaster by the *Matanzas*, how was he to know this was a steamship letter?).

This is certainly a clumsy way to handle mail from a contract mail steamship making an unscheduled stop. A more sensible approach would be to leave the mail on board to be unloaded and rated at the final destination (the mail road terminus). Mail treated that way would, of course, bear no evidence of the unscheduled stop, so it would be difficult to determine whether the present method of misrating and rerating is an isolated postmaster error or the normal method of mail handling.

### PRIVATE SHIP RATE TO AUSTRALIA RICHARD F. WINTER

An unusual and seldom seen ship letter rate to Australia is illustrated in Figure 1. This envelope was posted on 21 October 1862 in Rushville, Indiana, the capital of Rush County, 40 miles E.S.E. of Indianapolis, at the terminus of the small Shelbyville and Rushville railroad. It was addressed to Kangaroo Flat, Bendigo, Victoria, Australia. The letter was franked with a 5¢ 1861 issue adhesive. An endorsement alongside the left edge reads "Via Detroit, Mich.," not untypical of routing instructions for foreign mails from Indiana intended to go by Canadian Allan Line steamship from Quebec to the United Kingdom. There is no evidence, however, that the letter was sent to Detroit. Nor would the Detroit exchange office have been authorized to send a letter, prepaid only 5¢, to the U.K. for transmission to Australia. This exchange office made up mails to be carried by American contract packets, the Canadian Allan Line steamers from Quebec and Portland, Maine. The smallest prepayment acceptable for an American contract vessel would have been 21¢, the British Open Mail rate by American packet.



Figure 1. Rushville, Ind., 21 Oct 1862 to Kangaroo Flat, Bendigo, Victoria, Australia, prepaid 5¢ private ship rate. Arrival in Kangaroo Flat on 14 Mar 1863 shown in rimless cds, upper right. Five cent 1861 adhesive in upper left not tied. (Courtesy of Keith A. Harmer)

The following rates were effective in October 1862:<sup>1</sup>

British Mail via Southampton	33¢ per ½ oz.
British Mail via Marseilles	39¢ per ¼ oz.
	45¢ per ½ oz.
Private ship from New York or Boston	5¢ per ½ oz.
French Mail	30¢ per ¼ oz.
	60¢ per ½ oz.
Bremen or Hamburg Mail via Marseilles	50¢ per ¼ oz.
	102¢ per ½ oz.
Bremen and Hamburg Mail via Trieste	55¢ per ½ oz.

(All rates had to be fully prepaid except the French Mail rates to South Australia.)



**Figure 2. Black 30 mm SHIP-LETTER SYDNEY cds of 10 Mar 1863 on envelope reverse.**

Apparently, the choice was to send the letter at the least expensive rate, the 5¢ private ship rate from the East Coast. This is a surprising choice as other letters from this same correspondence all have the higher franking of the British mail rates. Whatever the reason, the letter was probably sent to New York to await the New York postmaster's pleasure of securing transport on a sailing vessel to Australia. There is no indication of a marking showing arrival at New York on the front or the reverse of the envelope. A portion of the back flap is missing and may have contained such a marking. Or, there may have been no marking at all. The letter reached Sydney, New South Wales on 10 March 1863. Figure 2 shows the 30 mm SHIP-LETTER/A/MR10/1863/SYDNEY backstamp<sup>2</sup> in black struck on arrival in Sydney. A 19 mm circular datestamp in red, also on the reverse, shows arrival at Melbourne on 13 March 1863. The black 21 mm rimless circular datestamp in the upper right of the letter front was struck on 14 March 1863 in Kangaroo Flat, Victoria. For only 5¢, then, this letter was carried all the way to Victoria, Australia by sailing ship, arriving at destination in an elapsed time of 144 days from original posting. Neither this cover, nor another private ship letter rate cover to Australia, sold in the David Feldman auction of 19-23 November 1985<sup>3</sup>, shows any sign of postage due at destination.

1. Charles J. Starnes, *United States Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations 1847 to GPU-UPU*, Revised Edition (Louisville, Kentucky: Leonard H. Hartmann, 1989), p. 5.

2. This is marking no. SL-9, p. 257, *The Postal History of New South Wales 1788-1901*, John S. White, general editor (Darlinghurst, NSW, Australia: Philatelic Association of New South Wales, 1988).

3. Lot No. 34866, described in the auction catalog "10c green, type V, v.fine single tied by Kalamazoo, Mich. cds on 1861 cover to AUSTRALIA, ms 'By Private Ship from NY or Boston', 3 diff. bs arrival cds's, forwarded from Melbourne to Beechworth, small cover tear, rare example of double 5c rate by Private Ship".

This was a mystery to me until I found the following abstract from an 11 March 1857, 20 VIC - No. XXVI, Postal Act amendment which stated:

SECTION 1 - SHIP LETTERS TO BE SIXPENCE

One uniform rate of sixpence for every half ounce or fraction thereof was to be chargeable on all letters and packets (not being within any of the exceptions created by law), for transmission to ports beyond the Colony to be prepaid by stamps in every case.

No charge was made for delivery or for inland carriage of letters received from beyond the Colony, except letters and packets from abroad not prepaid, on which the uniform rate of sixpence for each half ounce or fraction was to be charged.<sup>4</sup>

It would appear that these letters were considered to have been received prepaid.

The origin of this strange U.S. overseas rate can be found in the orders of the Postmaster General.<sup>5</sup>

Post Office Department

March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1854

Pursuant to authority vested in the Postmaster General, and by and with the advice and consent of the President of the United States, (which advice and consent more fully appear by our instrument in writing this day filed in the Department) and with a view to improved postal arrangements with foreign Governments, particularly with Australia; - It is hereby

That hereafter the single rate of postage on all letters for Australia, or other foreign Country, to which the Ocean transportation thereof may be obtained at not exceeding two cents a letter be, and the same is hereby fixed at the uniform rate of five cents, except where, over 3000 miles, the lowest United States inland rate is six cents, when the whole rate, inland and sea, shall be eight cents, in both cases to be prepaid.

Instruct the Postmaster of New York to send mails to Australia by the 'Australia Pioneer Line of Monthly Packets', R.W. Cameron, Agent, and to pay therefor to the proprietors of said line two cents the single rate for letters, one half cent each for newspapers, and one quarter cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce for pamphlets and magazines.

The *National Intelligencer*<sup>6</sup> of Washington, D.C. lauded this new order as "the first fruit of a general authority wisely given by the President to the Postmaster General to enter into such arrangements for cheap ocean postage." In his annual report for 1854,<sup>7</sup> Postmaster General James Campbell acknowledged these arrangements were made for monthly packets regularly conveying mails between New York and Port Arthur, Australia. However, neither in his annual report nor in the public announcement is there mention of the 8¢ rate from origins more than 3,000 miles from New York. Any letter found with this rate would be an extraordinary rarity in my view.

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4. White, *op. cit.*, p. 423.

5. *Order Books of the Postmaster General of the United States*, Record Group 28, Post Office Department, The National Archives, Washington, D.C.

6. *National Intelligencer*, 28 March 1854 clipping reproduced in the back of the Wierenga reprint of the 1852 *Postal Laws and Regulations of the United States of America* from Horatio King's copy of the *PL&R* used to make the reprint.

7. *Report of the Postmaster General 1854*, Wierenga Reprint, 633-634.

The last *Chronicle* was written after the death of Susan M. McDonald, and this issue after her burial 26 July in Tobermory, at the northern tip of the Bruce Peninsula, Ontario, Canada. My wife, Shirley and I were there; and we learned from family members a little-known facet of Susan's philatelic life. She was the great granddaughter of John Leonard Riddell, the postmaster at New Orleans who issued the provisionals in June 1861. Susan and her son Thomas shared an interest in these Civil War provisionals, and now we know why.

In the last *Chronicle*, Figure 4 showed a letter from Trieste to the U.S. in 1861. The analysis by Dick Winter had a minor error, pointed out by Allan Radin. The two silber-groschen did not go to Prussia, because the German Austrian Postal Union convention agreed that the GAPU share of the postage went to the country of origin.

**ANSWERS TO PROBLEM COVER IN ISSUE 154**

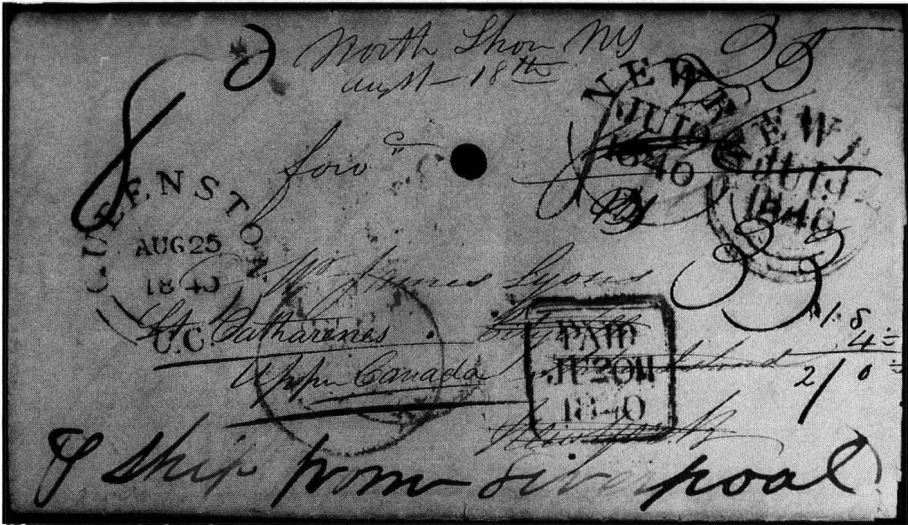


Figure 1. 1840 letter from Newry, Ireland.



Figure 1a. Backstamp on Figure 1 cover.

Figures 1 and 1a show an interesting folded letter which has elicited considerable response from these knowledgeable members: Jack Arnell, Ray Carlin, Mike McClung, Greg Sutherland, and Dick Winter. They point out first that Newry was in Northern Ireland, not England. Here is a composite of their explanations, which largely agreed with each other:

- A. The letter was put in the mails at Newry 19 June 1840 with eight pence paid by the sender, marked at upper left.
- B. Eight pence paid the outgoing ship letter rate with weight not over 1/2 oz.
- C. The letter went through Dublin where it received the boxed "PAID" marking on 20 June.
- D. Arrived in Liverpool 21 June (date slugs reversed) and received "Ship Letter" marking on back.
- E. Put on a private American vessel, headed for New York City, where rated 2 cents for a ship letter plus 6 cents for the short trip (under 30 miles) to Staten Island, for a total of 8 cents, as marked.
- F. Forwarded 18 Aug. from Cityville, Staten Island to St. Catharines, Canada with 25 cents charged for over 400 miles to the U.S. exchange office at Lewiston, N.Y. Total now due U.S. was 33 cents, as marked.
- G. Transferred to Canadian exchange office at Queenston and rated 4 1/2 pence more due for distance under 60 miles to St. Catharines. To this was added 1 shilling 8 pence for the 33 cents at conversion rate of 20 cents U.S. equal to 1 shilling Canadian.
- H. Total collected from recipient was 2 shillings and 1/2 pence as shown at lower right.

Jack Arnell alone suggested that the letter was carried by either the Blue Swallowtail Line or the Keewit Line, as both had ships leaving Liverpool on 24 June.

### PROBLEM COVERS FOR THIS ISSUE

At GRANADA '92 there were several splendid exhibits of Italian postal history, including those of member H. L. (Butch) Arnould and new member Dr. Saverio Imperato. They may submit problem items of early mails to the U.S., and it is hoped they can explain the one shown in Figure 2. The cover bears three stamps of the Papal States, a 50 baj. and two 7 baj. It was sent in 1861 to the U.S., arriving at Portland, Maine 7 Dec. It bears a boxed red "PP", ms. "2" and ms. "6". How much were 50 baj. worth and how was this shared by countries involved?



Figure 2. 1861 cover to Maine from Papal States.

Figure 3 shows a Civil War patriotic cover just submitted by Dr. James Milgram. The question concerns the rate of "4 cts due" when the circular marking "U.S. SHIP 3



cts." is a penny less. There is a manuscript "Box" which seems to preclude an advertising charge.

Will readers please send explanations soon to the P.O. Box, or FAX to 513-563-6287.

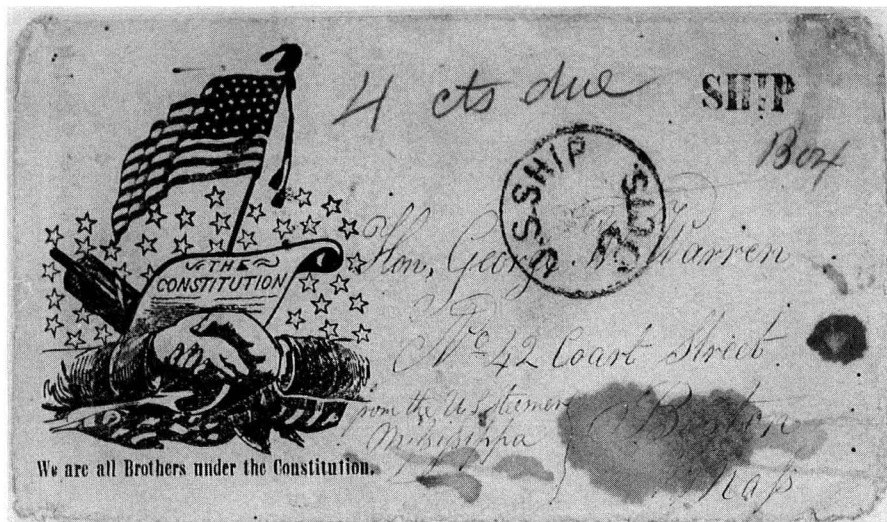


Figure 3. Civil War patriotic.

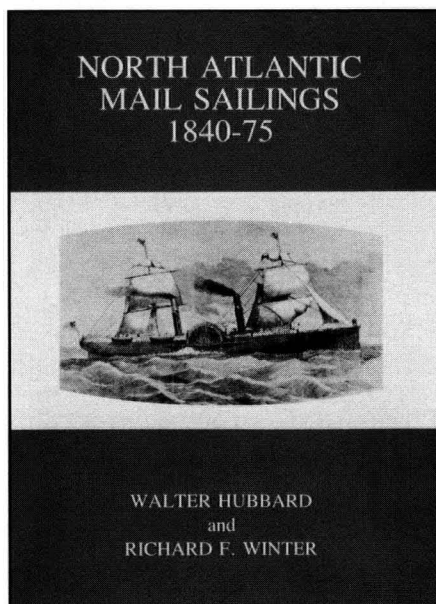
New problem items are welcome, and instead of sending the cover, please send a black and white glossy photograph with good contrast. Our photographer, John Payne, is moving; we thank him for the good work at low pay in the last five years.

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