

THE CHRONICLE May 1995 (No. 166)

The

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of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues

May 1995

Volume 47, No. 2

Whole No. 166

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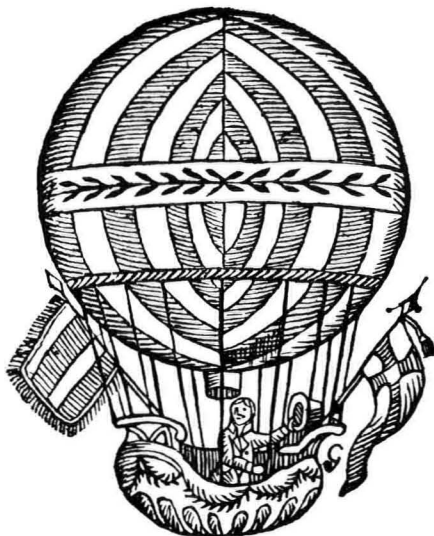
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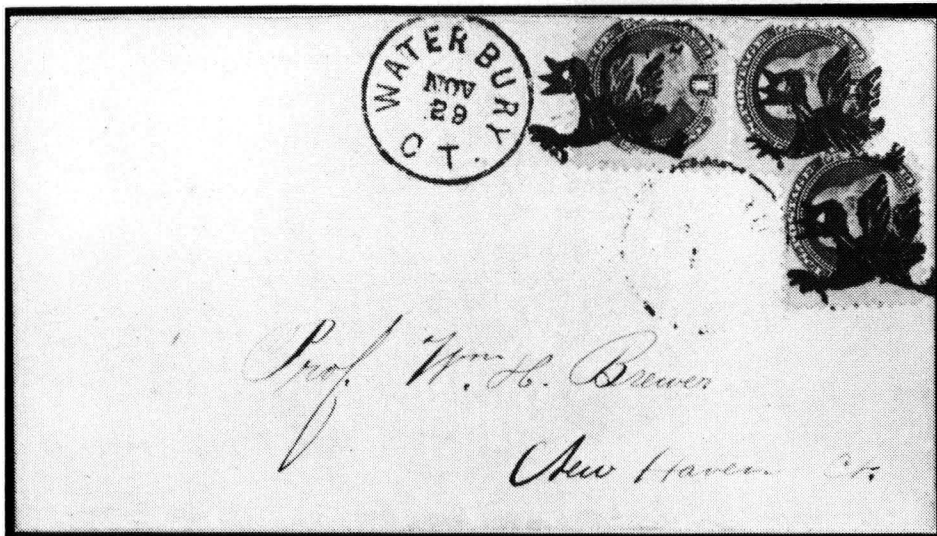
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# The Chronicle

## of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues

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### It's All Been Written . . . (Not!)

Two years ago, when I was given the honor and responsibility of serving as *Chronicle* Editor-in-Chief, I tried to fashion a vision of where we should (could?) be going. As part of that process, I posed a number of questions and challenges for the Section Editors and their Assistants, which included the following:

- What subjects do you plan to cover in the next four issues?
- What kind of research **needs** to be done in your area? What important questions haven't been (fully) answered? Who's working on those problems?
- What topics have been overlooked or inadequately covered over the past 5 years of *Chronicles*?

As might be expected, the initial responses were mixed. There's a natural tendency to look at the great body of literature that our hobby enjoys and to assume that everything that needs documenting has already been done. In my humble opinion, that's as fallacious as the belief that there's no need to check the literature on a given subject or to submit something for peer review because "it speaks for itself."

Jack Reinhard's working bibliography on the Bank Note issues, on pp. 97-103, not only gives a good checklist of the pertinent literature, it also has a thoughtful highlighting of those Bank Note stamps for which **no** specific studies presently exist. Similar lists undoubtedly could be made for the entire subject matter of classic U.S. philately.

From time to time we note—sometimes with considerable amazement—the appearance of a new and major philatelic study. *Sanitary Fairs*, by Bob and Marge Kantor, comes to mind as one such seminal work. In a different vein, there's the new USPS publication of James Cole's *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1870-1894*, which has just come off the presses. (See the ad on page 96—and be sure to take advantage of the one-time introductory price for this powerful reference.)

But even these one-person or one-house works rest heavily on numerous smaller pieces of philatelic writing produced by others, and by the exchange of information with myriad fellow enthusiasts. That's why I'm now extending to you a somewhat revised version of the challenge I gave the Section Editors: What kind of research do **you** feel needs to be done? What unresolved philatelic questions do **you** have? What topics do **you** think have been overlooked or inadequately covered? And what philatelic writing or sharing of information do **you** plan to do in the course of the next 12 months? I'm interested in your answers; send them to me and/or the relevant Section Editor(s).

As starters, go to Jack Reinhard's bibliography. Or if your interests and collecting areas lie in a different direction, there's a plentitude of other opportunities.

For example, Jerry Wagshal notes that

A project has been started, and is well underway, to identify distinctive killers used on stamps of the 1847 issue. There are not as many of these as on the 1851-1857 and later issues, and better-known 1847 types are already on the list such as, for example, the Trenton, N.J. star, the Binghamton, N.Y. herringbone, and the St. Johnsbury, Vt. scarab. However, some smaller towns and route agents used distinctive killers which merit listing. If you have or know of one of these, and particularly if you can provide a photocopy of a cover showing the marking with the town of origin, please send it and, if possible, a tracing to Roger D. Curran, 8803 Mead Street, Bethesda, MD 20817. Roger, for five years the editor of the *U.S. Cancellation Club News*, is heading this project. Credit will be given for all published contributions unless anonymity is specifically requested.

Dr. James W. Milgram is attempting to record all United States REGISTERED mail postmarks used during the 1845-1870 period. He's looking for photocopies of covers with markings showing registration. Particular interest is in the 1861-70 period, for which there are few records of the special REGISTERED postmarks for many U.S. cities. He hopes to produce a serialized, illustrated listing similar to that on county and postmaster name markings which appeared in the *Chronicle* in 1991-93. His address: James W. Milgram, M.D., Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, 303 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60611. (Readers should note the imminent release of Jim's new book, *Presidential Campaign Illustrated Envelopes and Letter Paper 1840-1872*, available at the special pre-publication price of \$34 plus \$3 postage from the publishers, David G. Phillips Co. Inc., P.O. Box 611388, North Miami, FL 33261. After July 1, the regular price of \$42.50 applies. Those looking for a real short-term bargain can get the new Milgram book, his 1984 coverage of Abraham Lincoln illustrated envelopes and letter paper, and Benjamin Wisnietsky's *Confederate Patriotic Covers and Their Usages* at a package price of \$64.50 postpaid.)



So it's not all been written, and whether it does get into print and how thorough it is depend to an appreciable degree upon you. I welcome your response.

\*\*\*\*\*

For those with a postal history bent who wish a more tangible incentive to write, there's the Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund. Commencing this year, the Trust annually invites applications "from anyone, whether professional or amateur, with an interest in conducting original research into the history of written communications with a view to publishing their findings."

The Trust, created through the generosity of the late Stuart Rossiter, past editor of the *London Philatelist*, makes grants to assist in the costs of research (e.g., subsistence, photocopying, travel) and in the costs of printing and publication. It also intends to commission works on important, but neglected, aspects of postal history.

Formal applications must be submitted by July 1 each year, with awards made in September. They should consist of no more than two sheets of paper, broadly stating the theme, the objective and the size of the grant required. Applications and further inquiries should be sent to: The Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund, c/o Osborne Clarke, 30 Queen Charlotte Street, Bristol BS99 7QQ, United Kingdom.

— Charles J. Peterson □

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## REVIEWS

*Postmasters & Postoffices of the United States, 1782-1811*. Prepared by Robert J. Stets, primarily from the *Letter Books of the [U.S.] Postmaster General* in the National Archives, Washington, D.C. Published 1994 by La Posta Publications, P.O. Box 135, Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034. In hardbound and softbound versions, 8½ x 11 inches, 294 pages, 14 plates of maps. With supportive tables, list of references, bibliography by state (east of the Mississippi River) and discussion of sources and methodology. Available from the publisher, \$32.50 postpaid (softbound edition).

The softbound version used for this review was sharply printed with black ink on sturdy white paper, providing very good contrast for reading. Also, the book is bound into sewn signatures and lies flat when open. The attractive, laminated soft cover should protect the volume from the marks of handling for a long time.

As the title suggests, this book has to do with postmasters in the early United States, and the post offices in which they worked. In preparing this publication, the author abstracted "all references to new post offices and new postmasters" of the period from the *Letter Books*. Also, he added information from several other primary sources that are in the National Archives. Then he compared the resulting data with previously published material, and resolved discrepancies.

Stets divided the main body of his book into three sections. First, he listed postmasters alphabetically with the names of their post offices. Then, he listed post offices alphabetically with their respective state names. Finally, he arranged post offices within states, with names of postmasters, dates and counties, and with notations about the types of information sources. Stets preceded each state listing with a selection of quotations from the *Letter Books*, thereby providing some tantalizing hints about other information that is tucked away within those letters.

The author included a short history of the "Development of the U.S. Post Office [from] 1782-1811," which, notes the publisher in a promotional piece, reports "details of several activities that have hitherto received little or no philatelic publicity." These details include express mail routes that linked Washington with Detroit and New Orleans during the first decade of the 19th century.

Stets found his source material in Record Group 28 ("Records of the Post Office Department") of the National Archives. For students of early postal history, this Record Group contains some very important sources of information. The size of this collection ("2,893 cubic feet of records" from 1773 until circa 1971), however, and its availability only in Washington, make it difficult for many postal historians to access. Therefore, it has been of great help to have microfilm available for at least some of the records, including *Record of Appointments of Postmasters, Oct. 1789 [to] Sept. 30, 1971*, and the *Letter Books of the Postmasters General, 1789-1836*.

The *Record of Appointment of Postmasters* has been an important source of information for those who have wanted to determine when the Post Office Department established certain post offices and who their postmasters were. For records before 1815, however, there has been a significant problem, and therein lies the reason for Stets' work.

The first volume of the *Record of Appointments of Postmasters* was destroyed, presumably during the War of 1812. Later, apparently, clerks in Washington reconstructed this volume from other records as best they could. This replacement volume is subtitled *Record of First Returns Received from Postmasters, Oct. 1789-July 1818*, since these are the records that it contains. Lacking the first volume of the *Record of Appointment*, postal historians have tried to use the *Record of First Returns* volume in determining the establishment dates of early post offices, and the appointments of their postmasters. This has

been difficult since the dates of first returns typically differ from the original dates of establishment and/or appointment. To make matters even worse, there are pieces of repair tape covering some dates in the original volume.

The *Letter Books*, however, provide a more accurate record of dates since they contain copies of letters that were written at the time of the actual establishments and appointments. This makes them contemporary rather than after-the-fact records. On the other hand, their chronological arrangement makes it difficult to find a specific name of a postmaster or post office. And since the letters are in 200-year-old handwriting, and occupy more than 15 rolls of microfilm, reading through all of them is a daunting task. Mr. Stets undertook this task; the volume being reviewed here is the result.

In this reference work, Robert J. Stets has given us a new tool for getting at the information that is found in these letters, the first time that such a work has been published. In addition to being useful in its own right, this volume should encourage postal historians to examine and use these *Letter Books* themselves.

Unfortunately, there are some inconsistencies within Stets' volume. For example, on page 208 he quotes from a letter of "[Aug] 5 [1802]" to the postmaster in Marietta, Northwest Territory, in which the Postmaster General says that "New Postoffices have been established . . . in the North Western Territory" at six places, including "Dayton & Staunton." That date was prior to the creation of Ohio as a state, so they would have been territorial post offices. Dayton and Staunton, however, do not appear in the list of post offices for the Northwest Territory. But they do appear in the Ohio list at later dates, after the beginning of Ohio's statehood. If this is an example of what Stets called "a difference in . . . records" that he found during the project, which he was unable to resolve through rechecking the records, he does not say. Furthermore, limited scanning of the book found additional problems in entries for Tennessee and Indiana.

Problems with this book should not prevent its being used. Considering the immense amount of data in the book, it would be surprising to this reviewer if the volume were entirely free from error. More importantly, however, this difficulty illustrates the danger inherent in relying upon a single source or reference when conducting research. Rather than expecting to find the "perfect" reference work, the postal historian should compare, confirm and contrast information from several sources. This process would include, of course, the original letter(s) that probably was (were) the reason for examining postal records in the first place.

Using a Northwest Territory (NWT) letter in the archives of the Ohio Historical Society (OHS), Columbus, Ohio as an example, along with two of the volumes mentioned above, one can construct a chronological table of information. This helps to place that letter (identified by an asterisk in the following table) in the context of time:

- 1 Mar 1799 - Post office established at "Chillicothe," Edward TIFFIN PM (Stets, p. 206)
- 1 Jul 1799 - 1st return from Edward TIFFIN, PM, Chillicothe, NWT (First Returns, p. 130)
- 26 Sep 1801 - Post office established at Youngstown, NWT, Calvin PEASE PM (Stets, p. 206)
- 1 Jan 1802 - 1st return from Calvin PEASE, PM, Youngstown, NWT (First Returns, p. 67)
- \*28 Dec 1802 - Free letter from Calvin PEASE, PM, Chillicothe, NWT to Youngs Town, NWT (OHS)
- 8 Feb 1803 - Joseph TIFFIN appointed PM at Chillicothe (Stets, p. 206)
- 31 Mar 1803 - 1st return from Joseph TIFFIN, PM, Chillicothe, NWT (First Returns, p. 131)

Finally, Stets' book gives us an unanticipated benefit. As noted above, students of U.S. postal history often have turned to the *Record of First Returns Received from Postmasters, Oct. 1789-July 1818* for dates of post office establishment, even though the dates in those records generally are inaccurate for that purpose. The result, as Richard B. Graham has pointed out in his review of this book (*Linn's Stamp News*, February 6, 1995), is that many subsequent publications include "dates of establishment [that] usually have been found to be no better than approximate for those post offices established before the War of 1812." This has tended to give the *Record of First Returns* a bad reputation as a source of postal historical information. Now that Stets has called attention to the *Letter Books*, the *Record of First Returns* can be freed from its unfair stigma of "error," and it can be used for what it is—a record of "first returns with names of postmasters." As such, it has a lot of useful information for postal historians.

In *Postmasters & Postoffices of the United States, 1782-1811*, Robert J. Stets has prepared a worthwhile and useful volume. It is both a compilation of data derived from a significant group of postal records, and a guide and research aid for using those records. Providing they keep in mind the caveat mentioned above, I think that postal historians will find Stets' book to be an important tool for their study of early U.S. postal history. And some collectors may wish to see to it that microfilm rolls of the *Letter Books* are available in major institutional libraries as well as in private libraries, so that more philatelists can use them. There should be little excuse to ignore these important primary sources.

— Carl W. Albrecht □

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HUBERT C. SKINNER

This is part five in the series "Quintessential Covers" (see *Chronicle* No. 162, p. 103; No. 163, p. 169; No. 164, p. 245; No. 165, p. 25). A quintessential cover is highly desirable and collectible for a number of compelling reasons—not merely another attractive and presentable example of a certain stamp used on cover. As defined, a quintessential cover commonly is unique in several of its aspects, and in its combination of stamp varieties and usages is "matchless" and clearly "one of a kind." Readers are invited to submit their own candidates for inclusion in this series to this section editor.

The present cover (see Figure 1) is one that was handled and carried entirely within the private or independent mail service "system." It is a folded letter which was carried in January 1845 by Hale & Company from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to Boston, Massachusetts, where it was delivered to the addressee at his street address (prepaid inter-city postage + carrier delivery). The adhesive stamps prepared for and issued by the private posts are generally referred to as "Locals" and are listed as such in the *Scott*

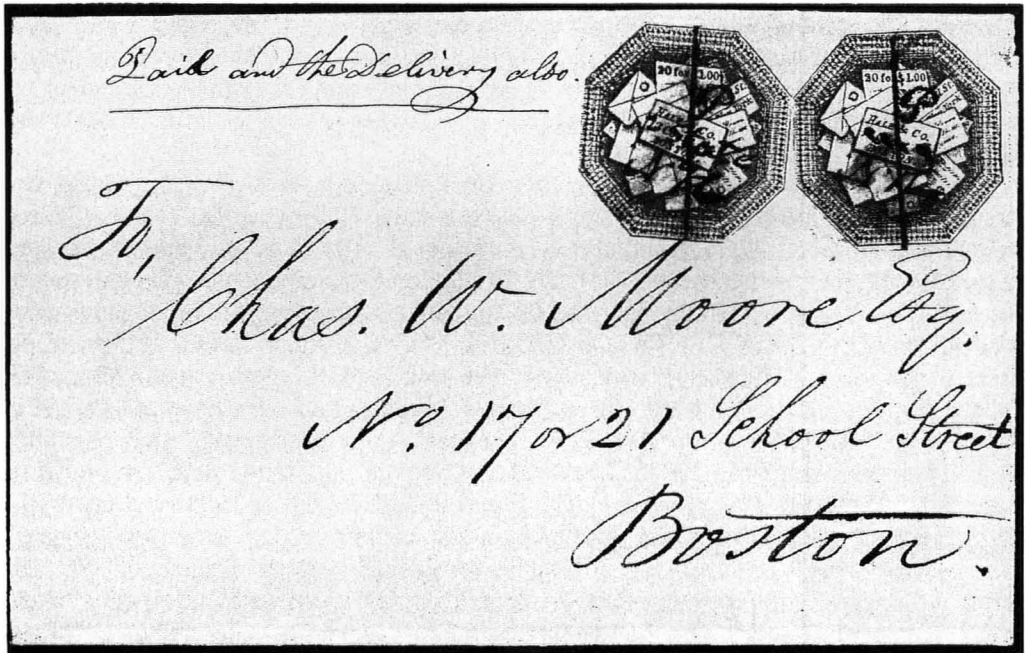


Figure 1. A folded letter from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to Boston, Massachusetts, dated "16th Jan. 1845" and franked by two octagonal Hale & Co. adhesive stamps, Type I, printed in red on bluish paper (Scott No. 75L2 var.). The two stamps prepay Hale's inter-city rate and delivery to addressee by this private post. Each of the stamps is precanceled by a single pen stroke and the company address is altered in manuscript. In addition, the initials "P/ N H" are added in manuscript to each adhesive to validate them for usage at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, a newly established company office. [The blurs or smudges on the two stamps are gum stains showing through the thin paper of these adhesives.]

*Specialized Catalogue.* This cover bears two copies of the octagonal Hale & Company local post adhesive, first design, printed in red on bluish paper (1844, Scott No. 75L2, value 6¢ [or “20 for \$1.00”]), representing prepayment for the inter-city rate plus home delivery as indicated by the manuscript endorsement “Paid and the Delivery also.”

Hale and Company, a private letter mail and express service, was founded in 1842 at New York City by James W. Hale, who had operated a forwarding office for foreign letters at New York as early as 1839. The new company prospered and rapidly expanded, soon serving most of New England. By 1844, the routes extended southward to Philadelphia and Baltimore and northward to St. Andrews and St. John’s, New Brunswick. By 1 July 1845, when James W. Hale was forced to retire from business by the Postal Act of 3 March 1845 (Bulkley, 1978, p. 481), his firm had become one of the largest independent mail carriers in the United States.\*

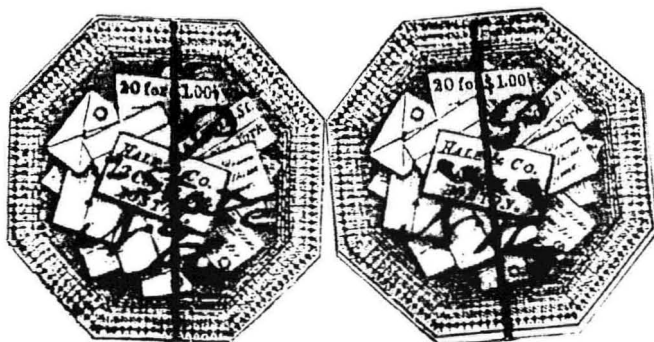
The two octagonal Hale & Company adhesive stamps on our quintessential cover are the Type I design printed in the elusive red color on bluish paper. Each of the stamps is precanceled with a vertical pen stroke and, in addition, is altered by an “overprint” in manuscript. On one (the right stamp), the printed Hale and Company street address has been obliterated. On the other (the left stamp), the original address of “13 Court St.” has been changed by a numeral “2” written over the “1” in “13,” and by “State” in manuscript obliterating “Court St.,” thus altering the address to “23 State [St.]” (see Figures 2 and 3). Furthermore, the stamps can be considered to be manuscript provisionals for use at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, as a manuscript “P” was added to each example above the centrally positioned simulated envelope bearing the “Hale & Co.” designation and street address, and a manuscript “N H” was inscribed below this rectangular label. These initials are the abbreviation of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and quite apparently were intended to indicate that the stamps were valid for prepayment of Hale’s charges from a newly established office.

Only two other examples of stamps with the Portsmouth “P/N H” manuscript provisional “overprint” are known to this writer. One is a single Hale octagonal Type I adhesive printed in blue (Scott No. 75L1) and used on a folded letter in 1845. This letter (noted twice from the auction record in 1974) bears, in addition to the single blue adhesive stamp, the oval Hale Company marking from the Boston office handstamped in red together with a boxed “COLLECT/SIX CENTS/FOR/HALE & CO.” also struck in red. The street address on the stamp is “lined-out” with a short pen stroke and it is precanceled with a vertical pen stroke, both similar to the other examples. In the auction description, this cover is stated to be “[from] Boston to New York” but most surely it originated in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, receiving the handstamped markings at the Boston office in transit to New York. The other example is a single Type I adhesive used in 1844 on a cover addressed to Saco, Maine. Sadly, the color of the stamp is not recorded, but it is precanceled and again the address is “lined-out.” To date, no handstruck markings from the Portsmouth office have come to the attention of this writer. Thus, the manuscript provisional “overprint” initials, supplemented by the written heading on at least one letter and the 1844 advertisement, remain at this time the only evidence of the existence of this office.

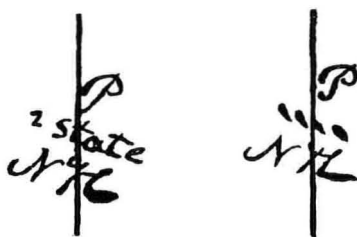
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\*When this writer compiled and listed handstamped “Independent Mail Service Markings” for Volume II of the *American Stampless Cover Catalog* in the mid-1980s, he identified handstruck markings from twenty-six Hale & Company offices in New England, New York, Maryland and Pennsylvania. In addition to New York City, Boston, Baltimore, and Philadelphia, there were 22 smaller towns; Portsmouth, New Hampshire, was not among those recorded. Bulkley (1978, p. 477) reported that in 1844 Hale listed, in the *Boston Advertiser*, offices or agents in Portsmouth and twenty other small towns which are not in my list; as yet, neither Bulkley nor this writer can report any handstruck markings from these additional towns.





**Figure 2.** The images from the two adhesive stamps on the folded letter shown in Figure 1 are enlarged here fifty percent so that the manuscript markings can be perceived more clearly [x1.5].



**Figure 3.** The manuscript markings from the two adhesive stamps with the stamp design removed for better legibility of the inscriptions [natural size].

No previous published notice of the use of manuscript initials to identify Hale and Company offices has been seen by this writer. However, examples from at least two other offices are known to me. One cover, addressed to Richard Henry Dana, the famed author of *Two Years Before the Mast* (see Figure 4), was mailed from New Bedford, Massachusetts, to Boston in December 1844. The letter was prepaid with an octagonal Type II adhesive printed in blue (Scott No. 75L5) which bears a provisional “control mark” reading “N B” in magenta manuscript, the initials of the New Bedford office. This stamp is canceled with a handstruck red “PAID” and a second strike of this marking is present next to the stamp. The folded letter also bears a handstamped oval marking from the New Bedford office, thus differing from the covers described above. Another folded letter, originating in Richmond, Virginia, in 1844, and franked with a vertical strip of four of the Hale Type I octagonal adhesive printed in blue (Scott No. 75L1) was canceled with a large script “P” on each stamp, representing “Philadelphia,” and postmarked at that office with the typical oval handstamp “FORWARDED/BY/HALE AND CO./FROM/PHILADELPHIA.” struck in red. This cover with the strip of four stamps has appeared in the auction record four times between 1957 and 1980. It is the largest used multiple of the Hale adhesives recorded and probably is unique.

Ordinarily, the various octagonal Hale and Company adhesive stamps were canceled with company handstamps, manuscript “X” markings or, in several cases, manuscript

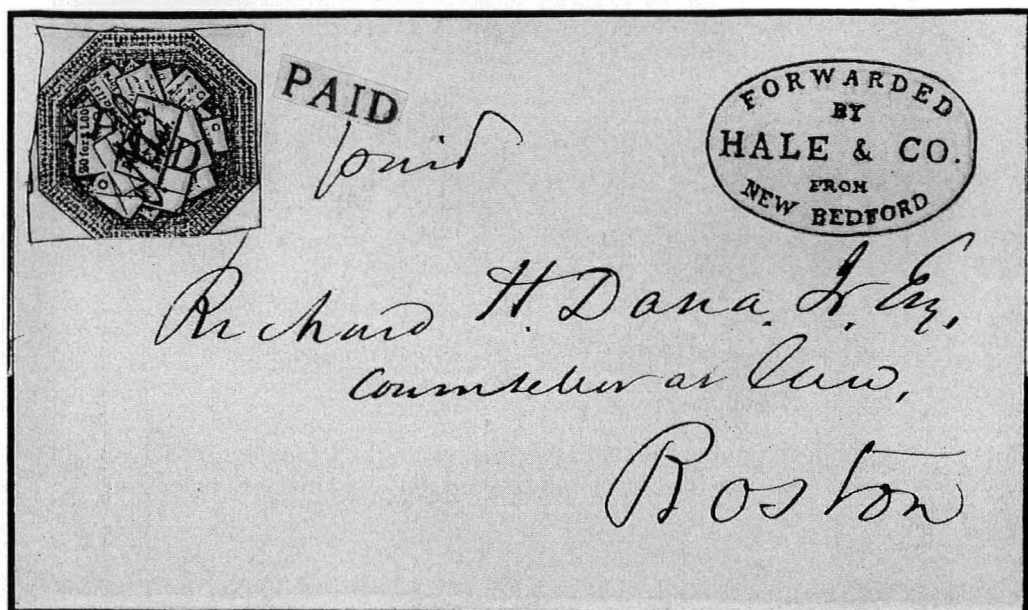


Figure 4. A folded letter from New Bedford, Massachusetts, to Boston, Massachusetts, dated December 3, 1844, and franked by a single octagonal Hale & Co. adhesive, Type II, printed in blue (Scott No 75L5 var.). The stamp bears a provisional "control mark" in magenta manuscript reading "N B" and is canceled by a straight-line "PAID" handstruck in red with a second strike to the right of the stamp. It also bears a handstamped oval company marking "FORWARDED/BY/HALE & CO./FROM/NEW BEDFORD." struck in red. The Hale adhesive was separated by "tearing" from the imperforate sheet as shown by its irregular margins.

clerk's initials. Handstamped cancellations include "PAID" (see Figure 4 above), straight-line "COLLECT" or boxed "COLLECT/SIX CENTS/FOR/HALE & CO.," or oval postmarks from various Hale and Company offices. Other than the several covers illustrated and/or described above, no manuscript abbreviations indicating towns of origin or transit are recorded. Thus, provisional initials added as control marks or validation marks to Hale adhesives are very scarce. This writer would be most interested to learn of any additional examples known to our readers.

#### Acknowledgments

Robert B. Meyersburg generously offered his advice and consultation on this article; his assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

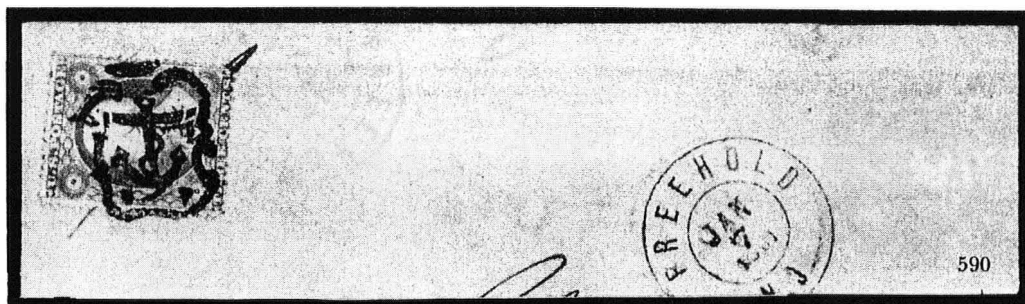
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- Bulkley, Grant. "Hale & Company: The Independent Mail Post, 1844-1845." *The American Philatelist*, Vol. 92, No.5 (Whole No. 928)(May 1978), pp. 477-481, 9 figs.
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- Skinner, Hubert C. "Quintessential Covers: Part[s] I, II, III, IV." *Chronicle*, Vol. 46, Nos. 2-4 (Whole Nos. 162-164)(May-November 1994), pp. 103-07, 5 figs.; pp. 169-73, 4 figs.; pp. 245-50, 5 figs.; Vol. 47, No. 1 (Whole No. 165) (February 1995), pp. 25-31, 4 figs.

## ADDENDA and CORRIGENDA HUBERT C. SKINNER

From time to time, new or better examples of postal markings or usages are encountered which make it desirable to call these to the attention of collectors and to add such to the published "Record of Philately." Jerome S. Wagshal has called one of these usages to the attention of this writer.

Pictorial designs were carved in wood or cork and used as canceling devices by many 19th Century postmasters. The uncounted numbers and wide variety of these intriguing designs provide an exciting special area of interest for many collectors. Today, pictorial cancels are vigorously sought after and collectors are highly competitive in acquiring them. One interesting design type is the "fouled anchor"; numerous versions of this motif are known from maritime cities and states. A partial strike of an irregularly framed fouled anchor was listed and illustrated by Skinner-Eno (1980) as pictorial type "SE PO-An 37" but the town of use was not given as it was not known to this writer at that time (the listing came from an off-cover stamp with a partial strike of the cancellation). This cancellation design was not listed in Tracy Simpson's original work on 1851-61 postal markings (1959) nor in the Alexander revision (1979). In September 1994, a full cover with this design canceling a 3¢ 1857 stamp appeared in a Siegel auction, revealing not only the complete design but also the originating town of Freehold, New Jersey. This remarkable cover was "knocked down" at the hammer price of \$3,750 (plus 10%). A portion of the full cover is illustrated here in Figure 1 and a new line drawing of the cancel design is presented in Figure 2. Appreciation is expressed to Mr. Wagshal for bringing this item to our attention. □



**Figure 1. "Fouled anchor" cancellation on 3¢ 1857, on cover with Jan. 7, 1860 Freehold, N.J. cds. Lot 590 in September 1994 Siegel auction. [Only top portion of the full cover shown here.]**



**Figure 2. Line drawing of "fouled anchor" pictorial cancellation, Skinner-Eno type SE PO-An 37.**

**A RARITY SCALE FOR THE SHADES OF THE 3¢ 1861**  
MICHAEL C. McCLUNG

In a previous article,<sup>1</sup> I wrote about the shades of the 3¢ 1861 and listed, in chronological order of dates of issuance, all the shades I had found. I ended the article with a statement that the next step would be the first attempt at a rarity scale. The tables at the end of this article represent that first attempt.

In the two years since submitting that earlier article in *Chronicle* 159, I have continued to study the shades and am relieved to report that I have discovered no new ones. However, I have had to make some slight adjustments in the chronological order of issuance, and I believe that this will be an ongoing process for some time. These adjustments can be seen in the tables which follow.

I feel it's appropriate to express certain caveats about the findings which I have arrived at in the form of the rarity tables:

- Although I have examined tens of thousands of copies of the 3¢ 1861, I have probably seen less than 5% of the copies that exist.
- Nearly all my bulk purchases have been from dealers in the Midwest.
- I may have a propensity (conscious or subconscious) to buy more stamps of a particular appearance or shade than others.

I have tried to take these factors into consideration, but it is possible that my scale is slightly skewed. Further study may allow for fine-tuning the rarity factors.

The scale is divided into three tables because of the grills. In this format, the rarity (or commonness) of a stamp can be expressed for each combination of grill (or non-grill) and shade. One example of the need for this differentiation is the fact that the dull rose of 1866-68 is the most common shade of all, but the 3¢ Z grill, which is always found in the dull rose shade, is far from common. Also, the 3¢ dull rose F grill is far scarcer than the 3¢ E grill in any shade, even though the F grills are generally much more plentiful than the E grills.

A few comments should be made about the results (so far) of this study:

1. Some shades of rose and red are decidedly scarcer than the pinks. Should they have a higher catalog value? My answer is . . . only if someone is willing to pay a higher price.

2. Some of these shades have broad ranges, the deepest of which are spectacular and very rare. One such example was named "raspberry" by the late David Beals; this stamp belongs at the deepest end of the brownish carmine rose shade which first appeared in December 1861. The tables which follow do not deal with Beals' remarkable "raspberry" or similar sub-shades; they express the relative rarity of each shade range as a whole.

3. Table C lists the grill shades on ungrilled stamps; these are all very scarce except for the common dull rose of 1866-68. The best way to positively identify these stamps is to find them with year dates of the grill period (after August 1867).

The rarity factors translate into the following descriptive terms: 1-3 = common; 4-5 = scarce; 6-7 = very scarce; 8 = rare; 9 = very rare; 10 = extremely rare. □

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<sup>1</sup>Michael C. McClung, "Shades of the 3¢ 1861," *Chronicle* No. 159 (Vol. 45, No. 3)(August 1993), pp. 185-87.

**TABLE A**  
**3¢ 1861—THE UNGRILLED STAMPS**

Table No.	Shade	Approximate delivery date	Rarity factor
1.	Pink	August 1861	7
2.	Lavender pink	“ “	7
3.	Carmine pink	“ “	7
4.	Rose pink	“ “	4
5.	Deep rose pink	“ “	4
6.	Salmon rose pink	“ “	4
7.	Brilliant rose	“ “	5
8.	Bright rose	“ “	3
9.	Salmon rose	“ “	2
10.	Pale carmine rose	late 1861	3
11.	Carmine rose	“ “	3
12.	Brownish carmine rose	“ “	3
13.	Brownish red rose	early 1862	1
14.	Bright brown red	“ “	7
15.	Red rose	“ “	1
16.	Standard rose	mid 1862	1
17.	Intense rose	“ “	6
18.	Claret	early 1863	8
19.	Lake rose	“ “	1
20.	Coral rose	“ “	2
21.	Pale red rose	“ “	3
22.	Pinkish rose	“ “	3
23.	Deep pinkish rose	“ “	4
24.	Dull lake rose	“ “	3
25.	Lilac rose	“ “	4
26.	Pale lilac rose	“ “	3
27.	Pastel rose	mid 1863	3
28.	Deep red rose	“ “	2
29.	Deep rose	“ “	2
30.	Dull red rose	“ “	1
31.	Crimson rose	“ “	7
32.	Pale yellow brown	“ “	6
33.	Reddish claret rose	late 1863	5
34.	Claret rose	early 1864	5
35.	Carmine lake	“ “	8
36.	Deep lilac rose	“ “	3
37.	Lake brown	mid 1864	5
38.	Brick red	“ “	8
39.	Bright rose red	early 1865	3
40.	Pale rose red	“ “	2
41.	Dull red	“ “	1
42.	Rose brown	“ “	4
43.	Pale rose brown	mid 1865	3
44.	Brown red	“ “	3
45.	Pale brown red	late 1865	4
46.	Light brown	early 1866	3
47.	Brown	“ “	7

**TABLE B**  
**3¢ 1861—THE GRILLED STAMPS**

<b>Table No.</b>	<b>Shade &amp; grill</b>	<b>Approximate delivery date</b>	<b>Rarity factor</b>
48.	Dull rose A	August 1867	7
48.	“ “ B	January 1868?	10
48	“ “ C	November 1867	7
48.	“ “ Z	January 1868	8
48.	“ “ D	February 1868	7
48.	“ “ E	“ “	5
48.	“ “ F	April 1868	7
49.	Pale rose E	“ “	6
50.	Brownish red rose E	“ “	6
50.	“ “ F	July 1868	6
51.	Lake red E	May 1868	6
52.	Rose red E	July 1868	4
52.	“ “ F	May 1868	3
53.	Dull rose red E	July 1868	6
53.	“ “ F	January 1869	4
54.	Orange red F	August 1868	3

**TABLE C**  
**3¢ 1861—GRILL SHADES ON UNGRILLED STAMPS**

<b>Table No.</b>	<b>Shade</b>	<b>Approximate delivery date</b>	<b>Rarity factor</b>
48.	Dull rose	mid 1866	1
49.	Pale rose	April 1868	6
50.	Brownish rose red	“ “	7
51.	Lake red	May 1868	7
52.	Rose red	“ “	6
53.	Dull rose red	July 1868	7
54.	Orange red	August 1868	6

**THE RARE CRACKED PLATE VARIETY**  
**ON THE 3¢ STAMP OF 1861**  
**JEROME S. WAGSHAL**

[**Editor's Note:** The following article features a previously unreported plate variety on the 3¢ 1861. As Jerome Wagshal points out, plate varieties on stamps of this issue are very scarce, especially when compared with the multitude of flaws found on the previous issues. We presume this is why most 1861 students tend to focus on shades, cancels and postal history rather than suffer the eyestrain that results from seeking out the elusive shifts and cracks that so stubbornly resist discovery. This lack of widespread enthusiasm for flyspecking the 1861 issue is the reason for the small number of plate variety listings and the relatively low catalog values for those which are listed (with the exception of a couple of notable Black Jacks). Hopefully this article will encourage some of our readers to dig out those stock pages or envelopes full of 3¢ 1861s in search of a confirming copy of this newly reported variety, or maybe they will find something even more interesting in the attempt.

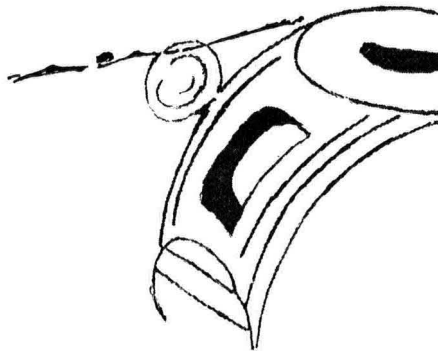
Wagshal's article also refers to the sale of the Perry Sapperstein collection (Robert A. Siegel, September 28, 1994). In the introduction to the auction catalog, it was pointed out that "Perry has always had an eye for the unusual." A perusal of the auction lots certainly bore this out; there were many outstanding items that had not seen the philatelic marketplace in many years and that had never been reported in the literature. We hope that those of our readership who were lucky enough to acquire some of the gems of the Sapperstein collection will share their good fortune by submitting articles about their purchases. — *Michael C. McClung*

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When one considers the many noteworthy plate varieties on the 3¢ stamp of 1851 and 1857 created by the fumbling siderographers of the Toppan Carpenter company, the relative dearth of such varieties on the 3¢ stamp of 1861 stands out in dramatic contrast. The greater skill demonstrated by the National Bank Note Company artisans over those of the Toppan Carpenter firm, and the resulting improvement in the product, is remarkable. This is probably one of the few cases in history where, in retrospect, one appreciates incompetence as a virtue. How arid classic U.S. philately would be if we lacked the many plate varieties produced by Toppan Carpenter.

A case in point is the cracked plate variety. On the 1851-1857 3¢ stamp there are numerous important cracks, including those on the late state of Plate Five and, on the perforated variety, the massively disfiguring flaw on the left pane of Plate 18. Nothing comparable has ever been identified on the 3¢ 1861.

And yet, the *Scott U.S. Specialized* lists the cracked plate variety for the 3¢ 1861 in both unused and used condition. This listing goes back more than a half century to the days when the U.S. Specialized was vest-pocket size.<sup>1</sup> At that time it was unpriced, being listed only by dashes in both unused and used form. It has been listed this way ever since. In contrast, the numerous cracks on the 3¢ 1851 have been subdivided into major, intermediate and minor varieties, and each is priced both unused and used. In other words, the philatelic market is intimately acquainted with plate cracks on the 1851 stamp, and appears to know little or nothing about plate cracks on the 1861 stamp.



**Figure 1. 3¢ 1861 plate variety at upper left corner of stamp, line through top of ball, possibly due to cracked plate. (Taken from original sketch by C.E. Taft, in *Chronicle* 49, p. 63)**

There is not much help to be found in the literature on the 3¢ 1861 cracked plate variety, at least as far as I am aware. This is reflected in Lester Brookman's *The United States Postage Stamps of the Nineteenth Century*. Leafing through Brookman's treatment

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<sup>1</sup>In my library I have traced these listings back to the 11th edition, issued in 1934.

of the 3¢ 1861, one is struck by the fact that there are illustrations of printing and perforation varieties, attractive cancellations and important covers, but no plate varieties whatsoever—not even a double transfer. Again in contrast, Brookman’s coverage of the 3¢ stamp of the preceding issue presents numerous plate varieties, including cracked plates.

Several early editions of the *Chronicle* in its present magazine format broached the subject of 3¢ 1861 plate varieties, but again, there is little to be found about any significant cracked plates on this stamp. In *Chronicle* No. 49, four drawings of putative 3¢ 1861 plate varieties were illustrated, one of which might be a cracked plate.<sup>2</sup> This was variety “D,” which was a drawing of a nearly horizontal line, very slightly lower at its left end than at its right end, and somewhat uneven in strength, extending barely into the top of the UL ball of the design. For ease of reference, it is illustrated here as Figure 1. Other examples of this variety were subsequently reported, confirming that it is a plate variety.<sup>3</sup> All published references to this line merely call it a “variety,” and whether it is a true crack has not been established. In any event, the drawing indicates it is a relatively small marking which barely touches the design of the stamp itself.

In *Chronicle* 53, additional putative plate varieties were illustrated, including several with lines in the margins which did not touch the design and which were called cracks, but I find no report of their confirmation as cracks.<sup>4</sup> One of these, illustration “P,” is a possibility. It is a generally vertical line at lower right extending from below the lower right (LR) corner of the stamp up past the right side of the LR ball, and barely into the design. The accompanying article calls it a “scratch.” I have seen a confirming copy of this variety, and I agree that, although it is definitely a plate variety, its appearance is more characteristic of a scratch than a crack.

My conclusion from this review of the literature is that the cracked plate variety on the 3¢ 1861 stamp is a truly rare variety about which little if anything is known.

It is in this setting that I report what appears to be a crack on the 3¢ 1861. Figure 2 is a copy of the stamp showing the crack extending from the margin beneath the stamp up into the design, through the lathe work of the outside of the design and into the “N” of “CENTS.” As can be seen from the illustration, the stamp is position 91R, but of course no plate number can be assigned to it. Figure 3 is an enlargement, which shows the crack and the fuzzy character of the impression, indicating that the printing was not from a fresh plate.

The jagged configuration of this line is more characteristic of a crack than any previously reported variety. The way it extends into the stamp and then fades out within the “N” is also characteristic of a crack rather than a scratch. Such a fading out can be found in a number of cracks from the Toppan Carpenter production, including the 1¢ Plate 2 flaw which fades out in position 33L2, the 3¢ Plate 5 crack which fades out in position 74L5, and the major 3¢ flaw on Plate 18, which fades out in position 62L18. Moreover, the location of the marking in the margin of this 3¢ 1861 stamp and extending into a stamp on an

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<sup>2</sup>One of the illustrated varieties is a dramatic doubling on the upper left (UL) corner of the design. It is almost certainly a partial double print, and, as such, a very important item. It was sold in the 1994 Siegel sale of the Sapperstein collection.

<sup>3</sup>Initially reported and illustrated in Richard B. Graham, “Varieties of the 3¢ 1861,” *Chronicle* 49 (Vol. 17, No. 2)(February 1965), pp. 63-64. Confirmation was reported in *Chronicle* 51, p. 24, and repeated in *Chronicle* 53, p. 131.

<sup>4</sup>If a crack exists solely in the margin of a plate and does not touch any stamp position, can that issue be said to have a cracked plate variety? There is such a crack, a very dramatic one, in the margin on the 6¢ Columbian, but the *Scott U.S. Specialized* does not list a cracked plate variety on that stamp. I agree. It seems to me a crack must extend into at least one stamp position for the issue to be said to have a cracked plate variety.



outside row of the plate is also indicative of a crack, as exemplified by the three cracks referred to in the preceding sentence.

At this time, however, no confirming copy of this variety is known. The stamp was part of the Sapperstein collection sold in 1994. In a call to Perry Sapperstein,<sup>5</sup> he confirmed that he remembered the stamp well and had held it for many years, but had never run across another copy. His holding of No. 65's was a huge one, surely one of the largest ever assembled, and for Perry Sapperstein not to have found a confirming copy indicates that this is either a plate variety of the highest order of rarity or a printing artifact. For the reasons stated above, I believe it to be the former.



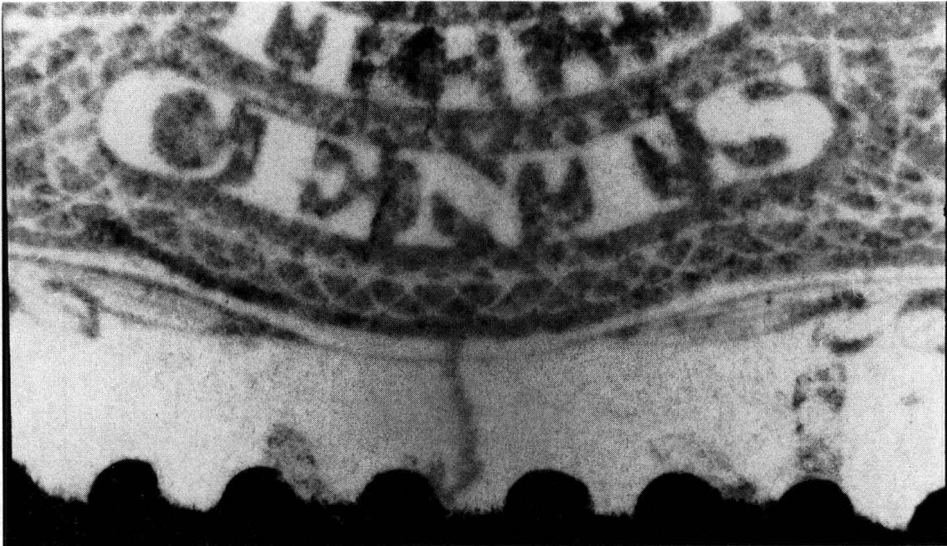
**Figure 2. 3¢ 1861 with vertical crack extending from bottom center of margin into the "N" of "CENTS." (Photo by Dattilo)**

But why has no confirming copy turned up? The obviously higher standards maintained by the National Bank Note Company suggests that when a clearly visible crack, such as this one, was spotted, the plate would have been promptly withdrawn from production, and the crack possibly repaired. The National Bank Note Company would, in all likelihood, not have continued to use a plate with a visible crack, unlike the less meticulous

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<sup>5</sup>The call was made on January 8, 1995, in the course of preparation of this article.

Toppan Carpenter firm. It might be worthwhile to examine available examples of No. 65 which show that they are from position 91R for signs of recutting at the bottom center, as this would tend to confirm the crack, almost as well as another example of the crack itself.



**Figure 3. Enlargement of area of crack shown in Figure 2. (Photo by Dattilo)**

A report of any kind of confirming copy would be most welcome in putting this issue to rest. It would establish the existence of a very rare plate variety on what is otherwise a very common stamp. □

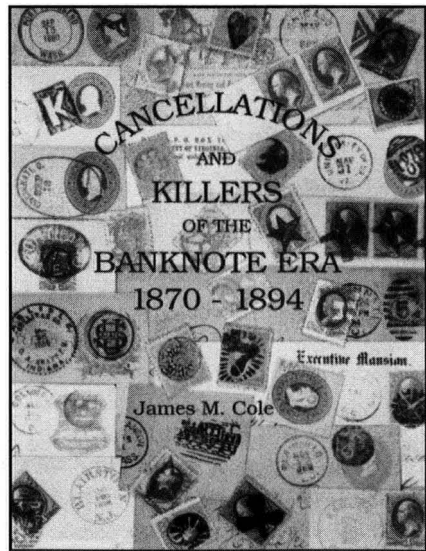
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**A BANK NOTE COLLECTOR'S BOOKSHELF**

**M. JACK REINHARD**

Readers of this column will repeatedly be referred to a nucleus of books, monographs and articles which embrace the majority of the written documentation of our specialty. Whether you are a Bank Note specialist or collect any one of a number of allied subjects that touch the Bank Note Issues, you need to be familiar with the titles on our bookshelf.

For our bookshelf, I have tried to include the obvious, the obtainable and the landmark works, in an effort to inform the newcomers to our field and perhaps reacquaint the old timers. This is not, nor is it by any means meant to be, a complete bibliography of the Bank Note Issues (BNI). To my knowledge a comprehensive BNI bibliography does not exist. I have been recording every article, book or whatever regarding the BNI for over twenty years in an attempt to build such a bibliography, and now through this column and members' help it may be that we can approach a totally comprehensive one. But more on that later.

Many of the bookshelf references encompass much more than just the Bank Note Issues, but because the BNI are included they serve as major references to those issues.

The annotations noted below the entries are solely the Section Editor's, and generally lean towards the positive side.

**General Bank Note References**

Brazer, Clarence W. *Essays for U.S. Adhesive Postage Stamps*. State College, Pa.: The American Philatelic Society, 1941.

Reprinted in 1977 by Quarterman Publications, with Addenda. This reference is, of course, the primer on U.S. postage stamp essays.

Brookman, Lester G. *The Bank Note Issues of United States Stamps, 1879-1893*. State College, Pa.: The American Philatelic Society, 1941.

Reprinted in 1981 by Triad Publications, this little book treats the BNI by denomination and ends the era with chapters regarding the 1890 "small" Bank Notes and the Columbians. It forms the base on which Brookman builds the Bank Note section in his next two works.

Brookman, Lester G. *The Nineteenth Century Postage Stamps of the United States*. New York: H.L. Lindquist Publications, Inc., 1947.

This is the two volume set; the BNI are presented in Scott numerical order and are found in Volume 2. These abbreviated discussions are expanded in the next reference.

Brookman, Lester G. *The United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century*. In three volumes. New York: H.L. Lindquist Publications, Inc., 1966.

This stalwart classic, in which the BNI are found in Volumes 2 and 3, has to be the bible for all BNI collectors. Although some of the individual treatments may seem a bit brief, others are quite thorough. This reference has to be on every BNI collector's bookshelf. A reprint edition of this three-volume work was released by David Phillips in 1989.

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

This work has been reprinted a couple of times, the latest of which was by Quarterman Publications in 1981. This is another classic, often referred to

because of its tabulated data regarding production statistics. Brookman relied heavily on this work.

Schriber, Les. *Encyclopedia of Designs, Designers, Engravers, Artists of United States Postage Stamps 1847-1900*. State College, Pa.: The American Philatelic Society. A great little pamphlet, reprinted from articles which ran in the *American Philatelist* in the early 1960's. It describes the source of the design of each issue and its artist, names the engraver, and cross-references information with biographical sketches of each person named. Although later research has shown a few errors, this work is still packed with much good information.

Tiffany, John K. *History of the Postage Stamps of the United States of America*. St. Louis: C.H. Mekeel, 1887.

This title has been included because it is an interesting contemporary account of the BNI. It predates the discovery of the secret marks and its account of the re-engraved issues is notable.

### **Columns Devoted Specifically to Bank Note Subjects**

"The Bank Note Period," in *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues*.

Initiated in February 1973 under the editorship of Morrison Waud and continued to 1994 under Richard Searing (and now the responsibility of the author of this article), the section has seen a gamut of articles regarding the BNI. An index to these articles would be appropriate.

"The Bank Notes," by M. Jack Reinhard, in *Strictly US*, edited by Donna von Stein, Dunedin, Florida.

A series of columns regarding the BNI which appeared between April 1975 and February 1979. The thrust of these columns was the stamps and their production.

### **Auction/Sale Catalogues—Bank Note Issues**

Christie's, New York. The Walter C. Klein Collection of United States Stamps and Covers.

Part 3: 1870-1888 Bank Note Issues. Nov. 3, 1988. 384 lots. 100 pages.

Richard C. Frajola, Danbury, Ct. The Stephen Albert Collection of Bank Note Issue Postal History. Net Sale 1. 1989. 652 lots.

H.R. Harmer, New York. The Alfred H. Caspary Collection. Sale 6: United States General Issues, Part Two—1861 to 1888. Auction Sale No. 1044. Nov. 20, 1956. 120 pages. Lots 456-764 are the Bank Note Issues.

Robert G. Kaufman, Wayne Township, N.J. United States Bank Note Issues 1870-1888. Public Auction No. 65. March 31, 1990. 888 lots.

Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, New York. United States Bank Note Issues 1870-1888. The Award Winning Collection of Mr. Jay R. Braus. 449th Sale. April 16, 1974. 541 lots. 60 pages.

Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, New York. United States Bank Note Issues 1870-1888. 612th Sale. Jan. 25-26, 1983. 1,057 lots. 132 pages.

Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, New York. The Alan J. Hirshfield Collection of United States Bank Note Issues. 631st Sale. March 28, 1984. 588 lots. 66 pages.

William R. Weiss, Jr., New York. United States 1870-1888 Bank Note Issues, Essays, Proofs, Stamps, Covers, Fancy Cancellations and New York Foreign Mail Cancellations. Public Auction Sale No. 91. March 4, 1989. 2,042 lots.

Each of these sale catalogues exhibits elite material from our field of interest and provides important provenance information.

## Articles, Monographs—Specific Stamp Studies

Detailed articles regarding Bank Note Issue stamps generally focus on similar image and/or denomination groups. For example, a 3¢ Washington green article can be expected to discuss all of the issues of that denomination. Table 1 lists the image/denomination, identifies the stamps by Scott number within the group and then indicates whether a nationally published article or monograph for the group is known. Those known are then listed in denomination/Scott number order as shown in the table.

Denomination	Image	Scott Number	Reference?
1¢	Franklin	134; 145; 156; 182 206	No Yes
	Redesigned	212	Yes
	2¢	Jackson	135; 146; 157; 178; 183
Washington		210	Yes
		213	No
3¢	Washington	136; 147; 158; 184; 207 214	Yes No
4¢	Jackson	211; 215	No
5¢	Taylor	179; 185	Yes
	Garfield	205; 216	No
6¢	Lincoln	137; 148; 159; 186; 208	Yes
7¢	Stanton	138; 149; 160	Yes
10¢	Jefferson	139; 150; 161; 187; 188; 209	Yes
12¢	Clay	140; 151; 162	No
15¢	Webster	141; 152; 163; 189	Yes
24¢	Scott	142; 153	No
		164	Yes
30¢	Hamilton	143; 154; 165; 190; 217	No
90¢	Perry	144; 155; 166; 191; 218	No

### 1¢:

Ernst, Clement S. "U.S. No. 206 Varieties." *Weekly Philatelic Gossip*, Jan. 23, 1960, pp. 522-523.

A very verbose, folksy article, but the comparisons are good.

Brown, Charles G. "Notes on the United States One Cent Stamp of 1887." *Stamps*, July 16, 1955, pp. 87-88 and 93-97.

An excellent article regarding the "new design" 1¢ Franklin, very in-depth and complete for an article appearing in a weekly publication.

### 2¢:

Willard, Edward L. *The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887*. In two volumes. New York: H.L. Lindquist Publications, Inc., 1970.

This colossal presentation, discussing the stamp in Volume 1, and its cancellation in Volume 2, reflects a lifelong study of this one stamp and did much to aid the study of the Bank Note Issues of the later years.

### 3¢:

Wiley, H.L. *The U.S. 3¢ Green, 1870-1887*. Boston: Mekeel-Severn-Wylie Co., 1915.

A look at details of the 3¢ issue, but the BNI basics presented apply to all denominations. The production statistics are graphically presented and the paper details are extraordinary. This monograph, coupled with the next reference regarding the 3¢ Vermilion, was reprinted in 1979 by Triad Publications.

This publisher retained the integrity and even the pagination of these two fine booklets of yesteryear.

Davis, Dr. H.A. *U.S. 1887 3 Cent Vermilion*. Federalsburg, Md.: J.W. Stowell Printing Company, 1922.

A nice story of collecting times in the 1920's and a one-stamp focus described in detail. A delight to read.

#### **5¢:**

Wilson, Jeremy. "The 5¢ Taylor." *Chronicle*, No. 86 (Vol. 27, No. 2)(May 1975), pp.108-18.

A fine article from within our own pages, well researched and well presented.

Markovits, Robert L. "The Five Cent Taylor — A UPU Tribute." *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 68, No. 5 (Sept.-Oct. 1989), pp. 334-41; Vol. 68, No. 6 (Nov.-Dec. 1989), pp. 403-18; Vol. 69, No. 4 (July-Aug. 1990), pp. 289-302.

Another well researched article presenting even more details than the former article by Wilson. After covering similar ground they then complement each other.

#### **6¢:**

Hahn, George C. "The 6-Cents Lincoln Bank Note Issues." *The Stamp Specialist*, Gray Book, H.L. Lindquist, New York, 1993, pp. 3-26.

An excellent study of this stamp.

#### **7¢:**

Sampson, J.W. *The Seven Cent Vermilion U.S. 1871-1873 Issue*. Portland, Maine: Severn-Wylie-Jewett Co., n.d. [1922?].

A sixteen-page monograph loaded with information regarding this, one of my favorite Bank Note issues. Little more can be added to the story.

#### **10¢:**

dos Passos, Cyril F. "Notes on the 10 Cents Jefferson 1870-1879." *The [22nd American Philatelic] Congress Book*. N.p.: American Philatelic Congress, Inc., 1956, pp. 47-55.

An interesting article describing the differences in the dies and plates of the three bank note companies with respect to the 10¢ Jefferson, including some basic information about plate shifts.

Wilson, Jeremy and John Kohlhepp. "The 10¢ Re-engraved Stamp of 1882." *Chronicle*, No. 100 (Vol. 30, No. 4)(November 1978), pp. 274-77.

A well-researched article, touching most of the bases regarding this issue.

#### **15¢:**

dos Passos, Cyril F. "The Secret Mark on the 15 Cent Webster." *Essay-Proof Journal*, No. 55, pp. 131-37.

Rich, Stephen G. "Untangling the U.S. 15¢ Banknote [sic] Issues." *Stamps*, August 9, 1952.

Rich, Stephen G. "Postal History of the 15 Cent U.S. Stamp of 1870-1889." *Postal History Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Whole No. 2)(April 1958), pp. 32-36.

These two authors published a number of articles, in various philatelic outlets, discussing the ways of identifying the different 15¢ Websters. One needs to assemble all the articles and read them in one sitting to get the full impact and to understand all that they were trying to do.

## 24¢:

Barr, Jere. Hess. "The U.S. 1873-75 Twenty-Four Cent Continental Bank Note Stamp." *Twentieth American Philatelic Congress* [Book]. N.p.: American Philatelic Congress, Inc., 1954, pp. 108-18.

One of the early articles in defense of the existence of a 24¢ Continental. The article contains a newspaper report describing the stamp manufacturing process in 1873. The fine details that we would like to know are not described, but it is an interesting article.

As mentioned above, these are the most useful and accessible articles regarding specific Bank Note Issues. The local and regional philatelic media are also replete with articles, and many of them directly concern our collective area of interest. These need to be flushed out so that we may have the opportunity to see the Bank Note Issue research that has already been done. If you have published a Bank Note related article, or are aware of such publication by your organization or someone else, please let your Section Editor know so that it may be included in the comprehensive bibliography which we are building.

[**Note by the Editor-in-Chief:** Even more appropriate—There are lots of gaps in our knowledge of the Bank Notes, as the above table and discussion make clear. If you have any information to contribute which would help fill those gaps, whether it's a small piece or a large chunk, please consider submitting it to Section Editor Jack Reinhard for publication.]

### Articles, Monographs—Other Bank Note Subjects

Hahn, Calvet M. "The National Bank Note Issues." *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 68, No. 5 (Sept.-Oct. 1989), pp. 297-333.

A critical look at the inaugural issues of our specialty. The discussion of the grills as they specifically apply to the BNI is commendable. I do wish that instead of enumerating the large multiples within the text he had used a table; it would have been much easier to see and to follow.

Keally, James M. "Double Transfers of the Bank Note Period 1870-1890." *The* [35th American Philatelic] *Congress Book*. N.p.: The American Philatelic Congress, Inc., 1969, pp. 67-72.

A good article, which should be expanded to show as many examples as possible. A lot of good fundamental explanations are given.

Knapp, Stephen. "Color Sampling the Contract of 1890: Preparations for a New Series of U.S. Definitives." *The* [56th American Philatelic] *Congress Book*. N.p.: The American Philatelic Congress, 1990, pp. 55-78.

The title of this article is a bit cumbersome, and, although accurate, it does not identify the subject of the article. A well-researched paper regarding the Sample-Sample A overprints on the late Bank Note Issues, a final chapter to the BNI.

Reinhard, M. Jack. "Basic Plate Positioning the Bank Note Issues." *The* [39th American Philatelic] *Congress Book*. N.p.: The American Philatelic Congress, Inc., 1973, p. 127-49.

The description of how to identify a stamp's basic plate position by its paper area and orientation of the printed image on this paper area.

### Related Subjects, of Significance to Bank Note Issue Study

Arfken, George B. *Postage Due: The United States Large Numeral Postage Due Stamps 1879-1894*. Chicago: The Collectors Club of Chicago, 1991. 229 pages.

An excellent, well-documented and illustrated work detailing the stamps and their auxiliary role during the Bank Note era.

Baxter, James H. *Printing Postage Stamps By Line Engraving*. State College, Pa.: American Philatelic Society, 1939. Reprinted 1981 by Quarterman Publications, Inc. A great book which should be read by every student of line engraved stamps, which of course includes the BNI.

Brookman, Lester G. *Notes on the Grilled Issues of the United States*. State College, Pa.: American Philatelic Society, 1940.

Stevenson, Wm. L. *United States Grills*. Portland, Maine: Severn-Wylie-Jewett Co., n.d. [192?].

These two pamphlets were reprinted by Triad Publications in 1980. Brookman's work is based on a series of articles in the *American Philatelist*, and it is repeated in his three-volume *United States Postage Stamps of the Nineteenth Century*. An excellent treatise with excellent illustrations.

Chapin, John C. *A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882*. New York: The Collectors Club, 1982. [Revisions and updates have appeared in the *Collectors Club Philatelist*.]

With respect to BNI issues, this survey is limited to Scott Nos. 134-205. The method is good but the parameters are a little confining. Maybe an expansion can be done through this column.

Combs, W.V. *U.S. Departmental Specimen Stamps*. State College, Pa: The American Philatelic Society, 1965. 48 pages.

A reprint/compilation of a series of articles that ran in the *American Philatelist* regarding these issues. The book gives much detailed information on these stamps, even though they are a little removed from the Bank Note Issue mainstream. William Mooz has been continuing and extending Combs' work on these issues in the "Special Printings" section of the *Chronicle*.

Gobie, Henry. *The Speedy: A History of U.S. Special Delivery Service*. N.p.: Wilhelmina N. Gobie, 1976, 296 pp.

Another interesting story regarding an auxiliary service contemporaneous with the Bank Note Issue era.

Herzog, William K. "The Story of the United States Grilled Postage Stamps." *The* [44th American Philatelic] *Congress Book*. N.p.: The American Philatelic Congress, 1978, pp. 67-103.

An article that updates and brings together all "grill" information.

Perry, Elliott. *Pat Paragraphs*. Compiled and edited by George T. Turner and Thomas E. Stanton. Takoma Park, Md.: Bureau Issues Association, Inc., 1981. 648 pages.

The house organ of Elliott Perry has been assembled and organized into one volume by George Turner and Thomas Stanton, and reprinted by the BIA. Many BNI topics are covered, occurring throughout the volume. Some of the small advertisements are very interesting to us today.

Sloane, George B. *Sloane's Column*. Compiled and edited by George T. Turner. West Somerville, Mass.: Bureau Issues Association, Inc., 1961. 467 pages.

A compilation of columns written by George Sloane, originally appearing in *Stamps* between 1932 and 1958. Many BNI items are discussed throughout this volume, with subjects arranged alphabetically. It provides a quick look at many BNI questions.

### **Books on Cancellations Occurring on Stamps of the Bank Note Era**

Blake, Maurice C. and Wilbur W. Davis. *Postal Markings of Boston Massachusetts to 1890*. Portland, Maine: Severn-Wylie-Jewett Co., 1949. Reprinted as *Boston Postmarks to 1890*. Lawrence, Mass.: Quarterman Publications, Inc., 1974. 267 pages.



It seems as though more than half of this book pictures, dates and defines the cancellations of this fine city replete on the stamps of our specialty. An excellent study.

Cornell, Lee H. *The Tale of the Kicking Mule*. Wichita, Kansas: The Printcraft Shop, 1949. 60 pages.

An interesting story regarding the origin and use of this famous cancel.

Herst, Herman. *Fancy Cancellations on Nineteenth Century United States Postage Stamps*. 4th revised edition. Published as Vol. 33 of the Billig's Philatelic Handbook series. North Miami, Florida: HJMR Co., 1972. 288 pages.

This book was originally authored by M. Zareski, and published in France in 1947. It contains a lot of BNI material and is a good overview of the cancellations of the era. A few mistakes have been documented. All in all, it is a must.

Rohloff, Paul C. *The Waterbury Cancellations 1865-1890*. Chicago: Collectors Club of Chicago, 1979. 264 pages.

The story, the drawings, the covers, the documentation are all here in one volume.

Van Vlissingen, Arthur and Morrison Waud. *New York Foreign Mail Cancellations 1870-1876*. Chicago: The Collectors Club of Chicago, 1968. 105 pages.

A classic revision of the information into usable form that is still used, as well as the related postal history information. Another must for the shelf. The only shortcoming is the presumption that the fancy cancels were limited only to the Bank Note period, even though BNI enthusiasts would like to claim this fact.

Weiss, William R. *The Foreign Mail Cancellations of New York City 1870-1878*. Bethlehem, Pa.: the author, 1990. 504 pages.

An attempt to revise and update the Van Vlissingen-Waud work.

Although our bookshelf may be linearly small by some standards, it embodies the soul and essence of our specialty. Postal history overviews exist throughout this listing, even though specific topics and places have not been cited. Two important postal history works which should be considered are the recently published domestic rate book by Beecher [Henry W. Beecher and Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz, *U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-1993* (Shawnee-Mission, Ks.: The Traditions Press, 1994)] and Charles J. Starnes' book on foreign letter rates [*United States Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations 1847 to GPU-UPU*, revised edition (Louisville, Ky.: Leonard H. Hartmann, 1989)]. Special mention should also be made of the book edited by Thomas Allen and published in 1991 by the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club — *19th Century Cleveland, Ohio Postal Markings* — which should be the model by which other clubs could document their cities' postal history and markings.

Finally, our society has announce publication of Jim Cole's book on bank note cancellations. Since it was not off the press at the time this article was submitted, it was not listed above, but it definitely will join our basic BNI bookshelf.

As I stated in the beginning, this was not meant to be a comprehensive bibliography, but rather a list of those works important to our specialty. I hope you agree with my selection. □

**THE SPECIAL PRINTINGS OF THE 1¢ STATE  
AND WAR DEPARTMENT STAMPS  
WILLIAM E. MOOZ**

This continues the series of articles which deal with the special printing program begun in 1875 and terminated in 1884. The purpose of these articles is to bring together data from several sources in a way that builds a story about these elusive stamps, and which determines how many of the stamps there were, who printed them, when the printings were made and how the printings differ from each other.

This article focuses on the special printings of the 1¢ State and War Department stamps. Both of the stamps described in this article had an initial printing of 10,000, consistent with other stamps in this series, and they were overprinted with the word SPECIMEN.

**The 1¢ State**

The records of the Post Office Department indicate the following purchases of the 1¢ Department of State stamp:

Purchased from Continental Bank Note Company, 7/21/75	10,000
Purchased from Continental Bank Note Company, 12/31/75	10,000
Purchased from the American Bank Note Company, 8/31/81	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,000</b>

Copies of the payment records for these purchases appear in Figs. 1, 2 and 3.<sup>1</sup>

25,000 stamps were delivered, and 3,328 copies were destroyed at the end of the program.<sup>2</sup> The number sold was 25,000 less 3,328, or 21,672 copies.

Sales during the period from May 1879 and July 1882 are recorded in the "Press Copies of the Invoices,"<sup>3</sup> and are tabulated in Table 1. During this period, there was a total of 4,567 individual 1¢ stamps sold, and there were an additional 58 stamps sold as part of complete sets. The total number of the 1¢ stamp sold during this period was thus 4,625 stamps. A chart showing the pace of the sales appears in Figure 4.

As in previous articles in this series, these data from the invoices may be combined with data about the receipt of the stamps and the known total quantity sold, to produce a simulation of the sales over the entire program. This chart is shown in Figure 5, and demonstrates reasonably brisk sales at the beginning of the program, followed by a relatively moderate pace, and then show a modest upward trend to the sale of the stamps towards the end of the program. Probably most of these were made to dealers. The records show the following sales to dealers during the period covered by the invoices:

Whitfield, King, & Co.	1,210
Stanley Gibbons	600
C. N. Butler	400
Edward Peck & Co.	400

<sup>1</sup>Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28, Bill Book #3, entries for June 30, 1875, December 31, 1875 and August 31, 1881.

<sup>2</sup>John Luff, *The Postage Stamps of The United States* (New York: Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., 1902), p. 358.

<sup>3</sup>Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28, Press Copies of Invoices, 1879, GSA, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D. C.

*Specimens*

June 30, 1875.

Official Stamps. (with word "specimen" imprinted on face) furnished for sale as specimens by the Department to Stamp-gatherers. - Continental Bank Note Co., contractors. - Bill approved July 6, 75.

Denominations	Post. Office	Treasury	Interior	War	Navy	Agriculture	Justice	State	Education	Total
1. cent	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	90,000
2. "	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	90,000
3. "	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	90,000
6. "	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	90,000
7. "	-	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	10,000	-	40,000
10. "	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	90,000
12. "	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	80,000
15. "	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	80,000
24. "	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	80,000
30. "	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	80,000
90. "	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-	70,000
2. dollar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
5. "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
10. "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
20. "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
Total	100,000	110,000	100,000	110,000	110,000	90,000	100,000	114,000	50,000	884,000

884,000 stamps in all, at 80 cents per thousands. . . . . \$ 707. 20

No Extra charge made for printing the word "specimens" on above stamps.

Figure 1. Bill Book record of June 30, 1875, for initial purchase of 1¢ Departmental specimens from Continental Bank Note Company.

December 31, 1875.

Specimen Postage Stamps of various issues furnished for sale as specimens to Stamp Gatherers during the quarter ending as above - Continental Bank Note Co. Contractors - Bills rendered separately - Rec'd Jan. 6, 1876 Jan. 10, 76

Issue of 1850 (Current)	10,000	Five-cent (vermillion)	
	10,000	Five-cent	
	20,000	Stamps, at 14.00 each per thousand	\$ 3.00
Issue of 74-cent. Abolished	10,000		
	10,000		
	20,000	Stamps, at \$1 per thousand	\$ 20.00
Issue of 1851:	10,000		
	10,000		
	20,000	Stamps, at 80 cents per thousand	\$ 16.00
Issue of 1873 (Official)	10,000		
	10,000		
	10,000		
	10,000	Stamps, at 80 cents per thousand	\$ 32.00

Figure 2. Bill Book record of December 31, 1875, for purchase of 1¢ Departmental specimens from Continental Bank Note Company.

August 31, 1881

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

Amount			
10,000	1 cent	Issue of 1851	Eagle Carrier
10,000	1 "	" 1859	
5,000	1 "	State Depts	
25,000			\$ 35.00

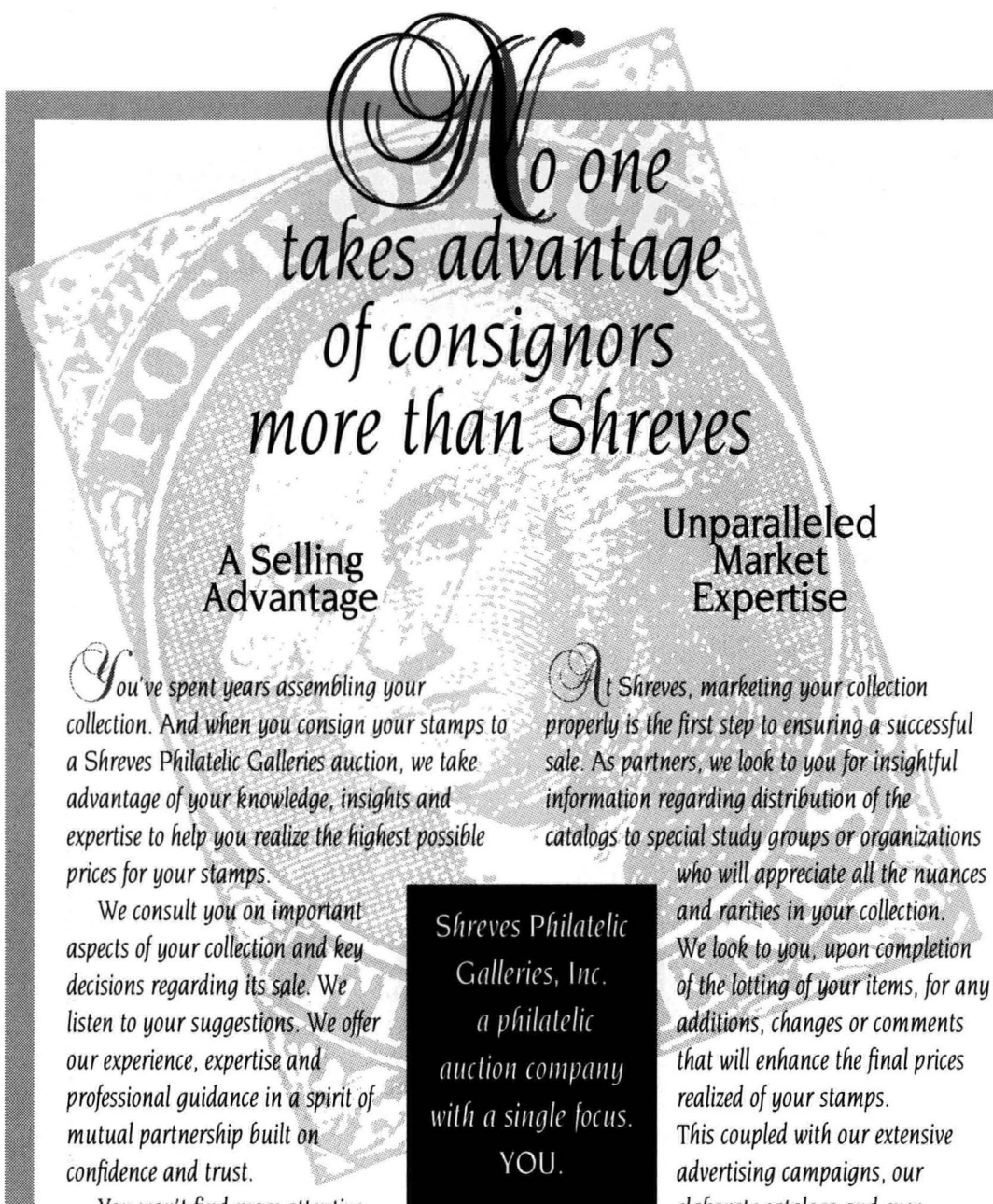
The above articles not provided for by contract were purchased in open markets - the exigencies of the service requiring their immediate delivery.

Figure 3. Bill Book record of August 31, 1881, for purchase of 1¢ State specimens from American Bank Note Company.

Month	Singles	Sets	Total
Jun-79	3	0	3
Jul-79	3	0	3
Aug-79	19	1	20
Sep-79	69	2	71
Oct-79	100	3	103
Nov-79	150	3	153
Dec-79	360	3	363
Jan-80	360	4	364
Feb-80	360	4	364
Mar-80	573	4	577
Apr-80	624	4	628
May-80	825	5	830
Jun-80	876	5	881
Jul-80	1277	6	1283
Aug-80	1281	7	1288
Sep-80	1281	7	1288
Oct-80	1281	7	1288
Nov-80	1297	9	1306
Dec-80	1683	9	1692
Jan-81	1784	12	1796
Feb-81	2485	17	2502
Mar-81	2519	17	2536
Apr-81	3019	23	3042
May-81	3254	25	3279
Jun-81	3479	26	3505
Jul-81	3480	26	3506
Aug-81	3481	26	3507
Sep-81	3887	32	3919
Oct-81	3939	32	3971
Nov-81	4239	32	4271
Dec-81	4254	34	4288
Jan-82	4276	34	4310
Feb-82	4277	35	4312
Mar-82	4278	38	4316
Apr-82	4281	45	4326
May-82	4281	45	4326
Jun-82	4567	58	4625
Jul-82	4567	60	4627

Month	Singles	Sets	Total
Jul-79	100	0	100
Aug-79	115	0	115
Sep-79	165	1	166
Oct-79	166	1	167
Nov-79	166	1	167
Dec-79	166	3	169
Jan-80	166	4	170
Feb-80	166	4	170
Mar-80	166	4	170
Apr-80	166	4	170
May-80	316	5	321
Jun-80	316	5	321
Jul-80	616	5	621
Aug-80	616	6	622
Sep-80	616	6	622
Oct-80	616	6	622
Nov-80	617	9	626
Dec-80	717	9	726
Jan-81	717	9	726
Feb-81	917	11	928
Mar-81	1017	11	1028
Apr-81	1017	16	1033
May-81	1057	16	1073
Jun-81	1057	17	1074
Jul-81	1057	17	1074
Aug-81	1058	17	1075
Sep-81	1158	18	1176
Oct-81	1159	18	1177
Nov-81	1159	18	1177
Dec-81	1159	18	1177
Jan-82	1160	18	1178
Feb-82	1160	18	1178
Mar-82	1160	19	1179
Apr-82	1160	20	1180
May-82	1160	20	1180
Jun-82	1161	20	1181

Tables 1 and 2. Tabulations of monthly sales, 1¢ State and War special printings.



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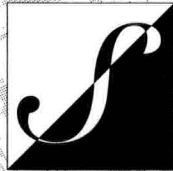
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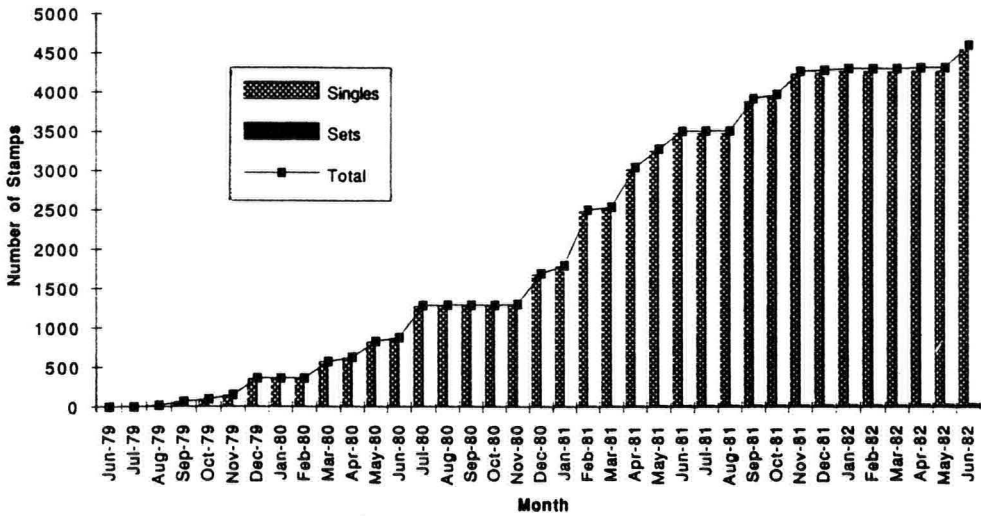


Figure 4. Sales of State special printing sets and 1¢ singles.

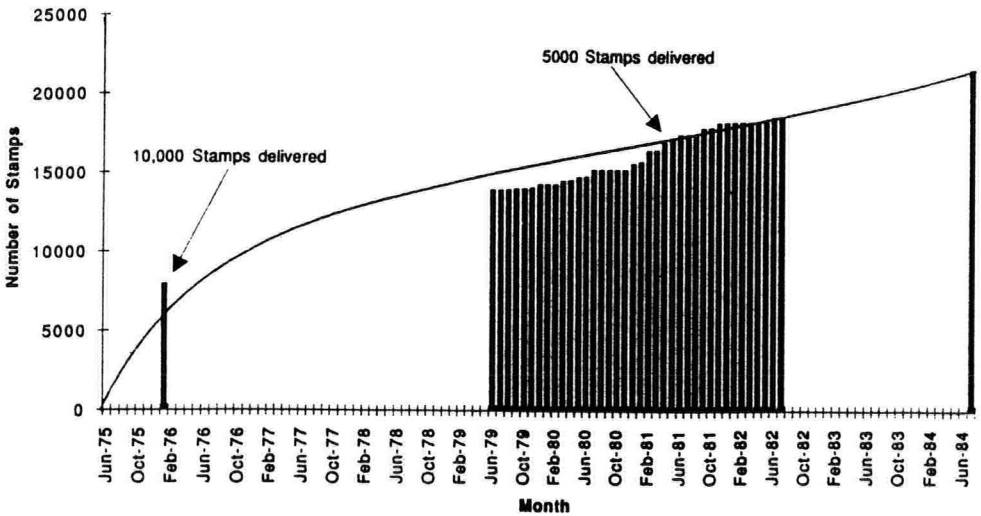


Figure 5. Total 1¢ State special printing stamps sold.



Julius Goldner	300
Paul Lietzow	280
E. A. Holton	200
Nichols, Butler	200
R. R. Bogert	150
J. T. Handford	100
L. W. Durbin	100
W. A. Trider	100
National Stamp Co.	100
William W. Phair	100
G. B. Calman	50
Collins and Mills	48
C. H. Mekeel	45
F. T. Icebarger	40
W. Leckie	30
Ernst Petritz	30
J. H. Isaacs	15
J. R. Hurlburt	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,510</b>

This is almost 99% of the total single stamps sold during this period. If the sale of sets to dealers and the sale of smaller quantities of the single stamps is added, almost all of the sales were to dealers. This is consistent with what has been found for the other 1875 special printings examined in earlier articles. Various multiples of each printing of the 1¢ Department of State stamp exist, including a full sheet of the fourth printing and a number of blocks of four and larger of each printing. The single sheet represents almost 6% of the total number sold of the fourth printing, and it is possible that the number of other multiples in existence make up a total of more than 10% of the number of fourth printing stamps.

The identification of the three printings was established by Admiral Combs.<sup>4</sup> The first printing is on hard white paper, and the second printing is on horizontally ribbed paper. These are illustrated in Figures 6 and 7, and to emphasize that the identification is correct, the SEPCIMEN error is shown for the first printing, and the lower case "I" SPECiMEN error is shown for the second printing, as in previous articles. The first printing is identified as O57SD, and the second printing is referred to as O57SDc. This is a rather peculiar designation, since it follows O57SDb, which is the small dotted "I" error which only appears on O57SDc. The fourth printing\* is on the soft paper of the American Bank Note Company, and is identified in the Scott catalog as O57XSD. It is illustrated in Fig. 8; besides being on soft paper, it has a distinctive yellow-green shade and a different type font than the other printings.

Scott does not mention the quantity sold of each printing.

A more correct catalog listing for this stamp would be as follows:

---

<sup>4</sup>W.V. Combs, *U. S. Departmental Specimen Stamps* (State College, Pa.: American Philatelic Society, 1965).

\*The convention established by Admiral Combs is used here. There was a total of five printings of the 1¢ official stamps. The first printing included all stamps in the series. The second printing consisted of the 1¢ stamps of the Agriculture, Executive, Justice and State Departments. The third printing included the 1¢ Executive, Navy and War stamps. The fourth printing consisted of the 1¢ State Department stamp. The fifth printing consisted of the 1¢ Agriculture, 1¢ Executive and 1¢ War Department stamps.



Figure 6. 1¢ State special printing, first printing (with "SEPCIMEN" error).

Figure 7. 1¢ State special printing, second printing (with "SPECiMEN" error).

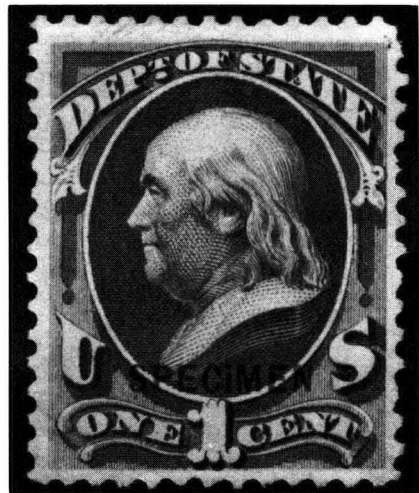


Figure 8. 1¢ State special printing, fourth printing (soft paper).

1875 (July)

SPECIAL PRINTING  
Overprinted in Block Letters **SPECIMEN**  
Produced by the Continental Bank Note Company  
Perf. 12  
Hard white paper, issued without gum  
Type D  
Carmine Overprint

O57S D 1¢ bluish green (10,000)

Block of four

a. "SEPCIMEN" error

1875 (December)

Horizontally ribbed paper

O57S D c. 1¢ bluish green (10,000)

Block of four

b. Small dotted "T" in "SPECiMEN"

Block of four with error

1881

Produced by the American Bank Note Company

Soft porous paper

O57XS D 1¢ yellow green (1,672)

Block of four

As has been the past practice in the Scott catalog, the listing for this 1881 printing should be consolidated with the listings for the other third and fourth printings in a separate section after the listing for the first and second printings. This custom derives from the catalog listings for the regularly issued official stamps, where the later soft paper printings by the American Bank Note Company follow the original hard paper printings by the Continental Bank Note Company as a chronological group. To be rigorous about this convention, one would also relegate the second printing of December, 1875 to a separate section, but convention and past practice dictate that it remain in its present position with the first printing.

#### The 1¢ War

The records of the Post Office Department indicate the following purchases of the 1¢ War stamp:

Purchased from Continental Bank Note Company, 7/21/75	10,000
Purchased from the American Bank Note Company, 2/28/81	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,000</b>

A copy of the payment record for the first purchase was shown in Fig.1, and the record of the second purchase is shown in Fig. 9.<sup>5</sup>

We know that 5,390 copies were destroyed at the end of the program, and thus the number sold was 15,000 less 5,390, or 9,610 copies.<sup>6</sup> Because the number of copies destroyed exceeds the number of stamps received from the 1881 printing, it is generally assumed that none of the 1881 printing survived.

---

<sup>5</sup>Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28, Bill Book #3, entry for February 28, 1881.

<sup>6</sup>Luff, *loc. cit.*

February 28th 1881

Specimens postage stamps furnished during the month  
 ending as about The American Bank Note Company of New  
 York, Contractors.

Number				
10000	10000	1 Cents	-	June 1861. Engle.
5000	5000	1 "	-	" 1861. Franklin.
5000	5000	5 "	-	" 1865. M & O.
5000	5000	1 "	-	Navy Departments
5000	5000	1 "	-	Mar "
5000	5000	1 "	-	Executive "
35000				\$50.00

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

Figure 9. Bill Book record of February 28, 1881, for purchase of 1¢ War specimens from American Bank Note Company.

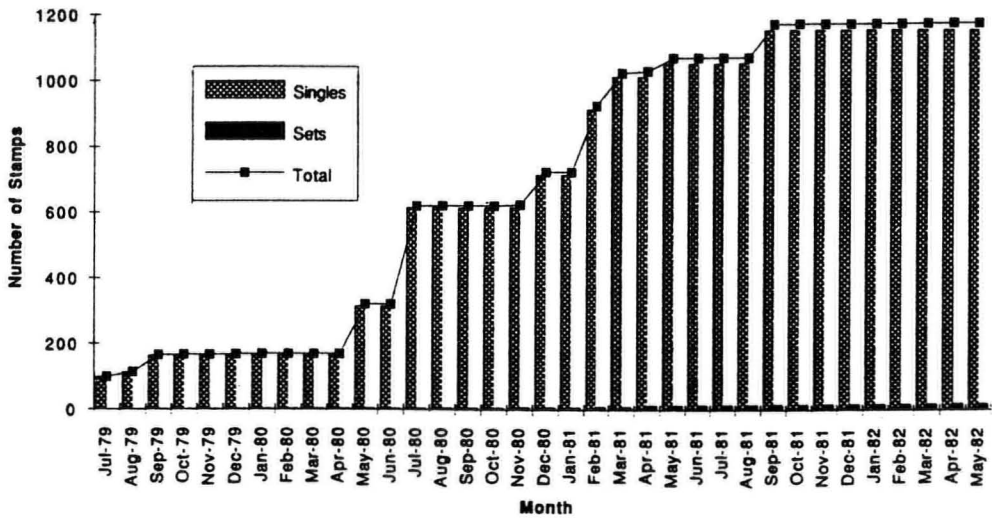


Figure 10. Sales of War special printing sets and 1¢ singles.

The sales during the period from May 1879 and July 1882, as recorded in the "Press Copies of the Invoices," are tabulated in Table 2.<sup>7</sup> During this period, there was a total of 1,161 individual 1¢ stamps sold, and there were an additional 20 stamps sold as part of complete sets. The total number of the 1¢ stamp sold during this period was thus 1,181 stamps. Figure 10 shows the pace of the sales.

As shown above, these data from the invoices may be combined with data about the receipt of the stamps and the known total quantity sold, to produce a simulation of the sales over the entire program. This chart is shown in Figure 11. The records show the following sales to dealers during the period covered by the invoices:

Whitfield, King, & Co.	600
Stanley Gibbons	300
L. W. Durbin	100
W. A. Trider	100
Paul Lietzow	40
J. H. Isaacs	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,155</b>

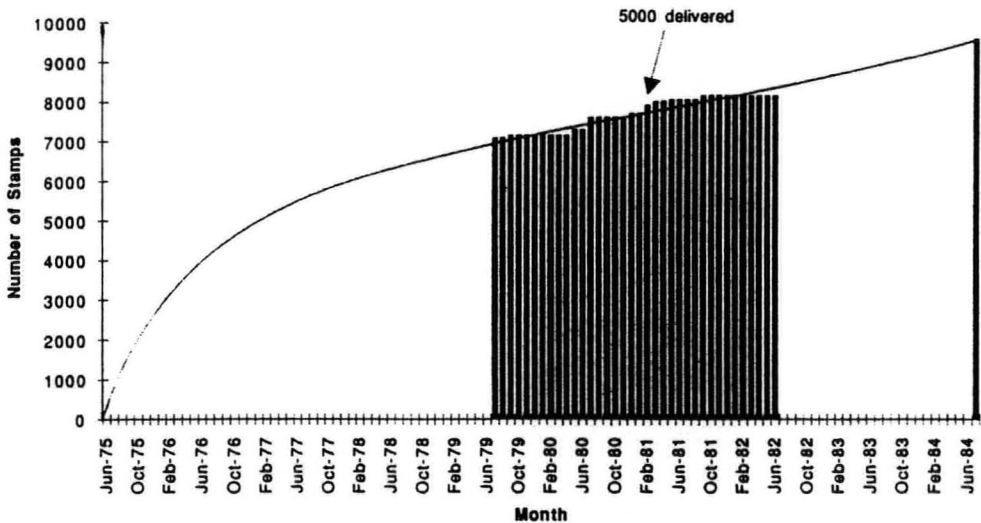


Figure 11. Total 1¢ War special printing stamps sold.

Dealer sales represent over 97% of the total sales of individual 1¢ stamps, and it is easily seen that this stamp was less popular than the Agriculture, Executive, Justice, Navy and State 1¢ stamps. In spite of the fact that there were apparently sales from only the first printing, and only a total of 9,610 stamps sold, many multiples of various sizes exist.

Like previous 1¢ stamps, the first printing of the War 1¢ stamp is on hard white paper. The third printing was probably on the soft paper used by the American Bank Note Company, but it presumably was destroyed in its entirety and does not exist. An illustration of the first printing appears in Figure 12. A suggestion of a more logical listing in the Scott catalog is as follows:

<sup>7</sup>Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28, Press Copies of Invoices, *loc. cit.*

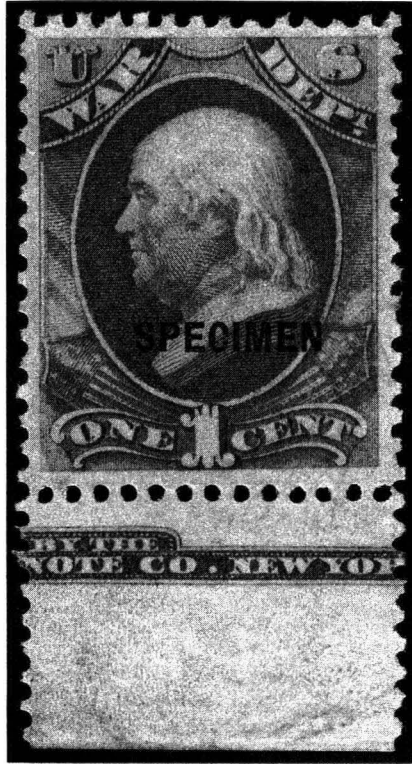


Figure 12. 1¢ War special printing, first printing (hard paper).

1875 (July)

SPECIAL PRINTING

Overprinted in Block Letters **SPECIMEN**

Produced by the Continental Bank Note Company

Perf. 12

Hard white paper, issued without gum

Type D

Blue Overprint

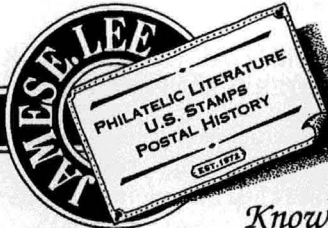
O83S D 1¢ deep rose (9,610)

Block of four

a. "SEPCIMEN" error

Block of four with error





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**DEPARTMENTAL USED BLOCKS**  
**LESTER C. LANPHEAR III**

I would like to dedicate this article to Charles J. Starnes. I first met Charles in 1977 at the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society annual meeting in San Francisco. We both had an interest in the Departmentals and over the years Charles became a good friend and mentor. For years he tried to convince me to write on the Departmentals. Now that I have finally started to write it is unfortunate that Charles is not here to see my first article.

Collecting used blocks is one of the most neglected aspects of United States philately. This article concentrates on the used blocks of the U.S. Departmentals. These stamps were used on correspondence from Government officials between 1873 and 1884.

In reviewing the used Departmental blocks, the question arises as to why there are so few available today. The most likely form of mail requiring large amounts of postage paid by blocks of stamps would be packages, and of course their wrappings were rarely saved. When you examine the covers that have survived, there are few multiples. The known used blocks on cover will be discussed later in this article.

**Laws and Regulations**

During the eleven years that the Departmental stamps were in use, various treaties, rate changes and Postmaster regulations diminished their usage in the following ways:

- The Post Office could send registered mail without paying the registry fee.
- The Treasury Department could send currency replacements via registered mail without paying the registry fee.
- Very little official mail was sent overseas and the preponderance of the covers was mailed after implementation of the General Postal Union Treaty in 1875. Thus most overseas covers did not require the complex high rates existing before the treaty.
- After the law abolishing the franking privilege and before the introduction of the Departmental stamps, the Postmaster General, on June 11, 1873, issued a regulation allowing supplies, forms, dead letters sent to the department, and other items necessary to conduct Post Office Department business to be sent through the mails without payment of postage.<sup>1</sup>
- On the same notice of June 11, 1873, the Postmaster General made the following provision:<sup>2</sup>

To afford the several Executive Departments of the Government every facility consistent with the law abolishing the franking privilege, packages of blanks, charts, or other printed matter (except books), emanating from said Departments, will be allowed to pass through the mails at a prepaid postage (by postage stamps), of one cent for each two ounces or fraction thereof, being the minimum rate for such matter.

The packages had to be certified by an officer with the written statement, "I certify that this package contains no written matter." The rate for books was double this rate.

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<sup>1</sup>Notice from the Postmaster General dated June 11, 1873.

<sup>2</sup>*ibid.*



- Starting on January 1, 1875, a special rate of 10¢ for each bound volume of public documents was instituted.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, all unbound volumes could be mailed at the same rate as newspapers mailed from a known office of publication to regular subscribers. This act reduced the volume of mail requiring high postage.

- Starting on March 3, 1875, the Agriculture Department was able to send seeds and agriculture reports from the department through the mails free of postage.<sup>4</sup> This act eliminated the need for most Agriculture Department high postage.

- Starting March 3, 1877, Congress passed a law instituting penalty mail.<sup>5</sup> This allowed for the transportation of mail without stamps from the offices in Washington, D.C., by endorsing the letter or package with the department's name, the words "Official Business," and a statement about the penalty for unlawful use.

- On March 3, 1879, the penalty mail provision of the law was extended to all offices of the departments.<sup>6</sup> This law slowly eliminated the use of Departmental stamps.

- Starting April 1, 1879, the use of Departmental stamps for payment of postage to Universal Postal Union (UPU) countries was no longer valid per Article 8 of the UPU Treaty.

### Special Situations Affecting Departmental Usage

The following are special situations that affected the usage of multiple Departmental stamps in general or for the specific department indicated:

- In looking at hundreds of Departmental covers over the years, it is clear that in certain departments (Executive, Justice, and State) most correspondence was from Washington, D.C. For these, the required values would have been readily available in the main mail room of each department. The other departments had 50% or more of their correspondence originating outside of Washington, D.C., where the high value stamps were generally not available, occasioning the need for makeshift frankings using multiples of lower values.

- The Executive anticipated little need for high denomination stamps, as indicated by the 10¢ value being the highest value printed. Very few covers have survived with more than 6¢ postage, supporting the original anticipation of usage.

- The Department of State sent mail in diplomatic mail pouches, without stamps, to the consulates and legations located in foreign countries. Mail from these consulates to the United States traveled via diplomatic pouches and then entered into the United States mail stream in Washington, D.C., at the domestic rate.

- According to the philatelic press of the day, after 1875 the Department of State did not affix stamps to large packages, but kept an account at the Post Office.<sup>7</sup> The account was settled monthly by means of high-value stamps, which ultimately were forwarded to Post Office headquarters and there destroyed.

- It has been stated over the years that the Department of State mail clerk normally separated the stamps before usage.<sup>8</sup> Thus few blocks (mint or used) have survived.

- For many items, the War Department used their own internal courier system.

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<sup>3</sup>U.S. Post Office Department, *Postage Rates 1789-1930: Abstracts of Laws Passed Between 1789 and 1930 Fixing Rates of Postage and According Free Mail Privileges* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1930, page 44. [Act of June 23, 1874]

<sup>4</sup>*Ibid.* [Act of March 3, 1875]

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.* [Act of March 3, 1877]

<sup>6</sup>*Ibid.*, page 45. [Act of March 3, 1879 (20 Stat. 356, 361, 362)]

<sup>7</sup>*Philatelic Journal*, February 20, 1875, p. 25.

<sup>8</sup>Rollin Huggins, *Official Chatter*, September 1983. [*Official Chatter* is a small-circulation newsletter published and distributed by Huggins which is devoted exclusively to the study of U.S. departmental stamps and postal stationery. It first appeared in September 1982, and continues on an irregular basis.]

- It has been observed by the author that there are many more used strips available than blocks, with few of these being vertical strips. This indicates that most mail room clerks tore the stamps into horizontal strips first and rarely into blocks.

Taken together, these factors begin to explain why Departmental stamps were used less frequently in block form than their regular issue counterparts.

### Historical Review

Used Departmental multiples have been collected over the years by many renowned official collectors including Ackerman, Ward, Hughes, Evans, Emerson, Ehrenberg, Stone and Starnes. Of these, the largest recorded holding of used blocks was that of Phillip J. Ward. This collection resided for many years in the Weill Brothers stock. Even though the Ackerman sale was held in 1933, most of the used multiples in this sale have failed to reappear on the philatelic market.

Many used blocks have changed hands privately or in large auction lots with minimal descriptions. We must look to other locations for records of these used blocks.

First, a review of Scott Stamp Catalogues was conducted. Mint or used blocks were not listed until the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps* was produced in 1923. In looking over the specialized catalogues, the following is noted:

- In the 1923 edition, all Departmental stamps had a listing for used blocks with a dash indicating not seen often and not able to price. In 1937, the catalogue was changed and only selected used blocks were listed. This list has remained virtually unchanged since.

- The following hard paper used blocks were added in the years indicated:

7¢ War (1983), 12¢ War (1991), 30¢ Navy (1993), and 7¢ Treasury (1994)

Next, the philatelic literature was examined and little record of used multiples was located. The following references were noted:

- The first reference to used blocks is in a comprehensive work by Hubert L. Clark, in 1922, on the subject of 19th century used blocks.<sup>9</sup> Only one paragraph in this serialized article is devoted to Departmental stamps. Of interest is the following:

Excepting the Treasury and War sets, Department Stamps are very rare in used blocks and are easily worth double catalogue and more . . . I have never seen or heard of a postally used block of the Agriculture, Executive, Justice or State issues; of the Interior, I know of the 90¢ only; of the Navy, the 30¢ only, and of the Post-office the 3¢ and 90¢ only.

It should be noted that the 30¢ Navy block was not listed by Scott until 1993.

In 1930, Theodore Siddall described a large group of Treasury Department stamps which he had purchased.<sup>10</sup> Although he mentions buying over 4,000 stamps, only two blocks are described in the article.

There was an old fellow who was employed in the office of the collector of internal revenue in Philadelphia, and he had been for a long time saving the Treasury Department stamps that came on the packages of internal revenue stamps from Washington. There were blocks galore, big blocks, too . . . The old man had at least a thousand nineties, in big blocks, some entire sheets, but all utterly ruined. They were glued on the tops of packing cases, then a scraper was run over the sheet and did not miss one stamp.

---

<sup>9</sup>Hubert Lyman Clark, "Relative Mekeel Scarcity of Used Blocks of 19th Century U.S. Stamps," *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, March 4, 1922, pp. 113-14; March 11, 1922, pp. 126-27; March 18, 1922, pp. 140-41.

<sup>10</sup>Theodore Siddall, "Treasury Department Find," *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, August 11, 1930, p. 506.

• The next reference to used blocks is a quotation: “Mr. Konweiser [*sic*]states that used blocks are, of course, much rarer than those in mint condition . . . He guesses at the relative ratio as about one to ten.”<sup>11</sup>

• The only reference to auctions containing used blocks mentions an Elliott-Grant auction of the time, as well as a cover discussed later in this article.<sup>12</sup>

• For two months in late 1984, Rollin Huggins requested subscribers to participate in a Biggest Block Contest.<sup>13</sup> All blocks listed at the end of the contest were originally in the Ackerman sale with their present whereabouts unknown.

• More recently Rollin Huggins speculated about the possibility of Agriculture or Justice used blocks but offered no indication of their existence.<sup>14</sup> Additionally, for the Interior Department he said, “As is true for all of the official stamps, used blocks are extremely difficult to find and are missing from most collections.”<sup>15</sup>

Finally, auction catalogues were analyzed. The following list of auctions contained five or more used block lots.<sup>16</sup> Additional auctions with fewer lots were included in the survey but are not listed here. The auction analysis identified 97 used blocks, with many reappearing in several auctions.

Sale Name	Auction House	Date
Ackerman	Morgenthau	5 December 1933
----	Elliott & Grant	7, 8 June 1934
Hughes	Bruce G. Daniels	5 November 1953
Hollowbush	John A. Fox	14 October 1965
----	Vahan Mozian	29, 30 June 1971
----	William A. Fox	12 April 1977
Ehrenberg	Siegel	1981
Stone	Siegel	September 1990

### Used Multiple Survey

Using this research as a starting point, a survey was conducted of current official collections with used multiples.<sup>17</sup> Robert L. Markovits assisted in this effort by locating some small holdings of interesting items. In the overall survey, blocks with pen cancellations are included. It should be noted that the 10¢ and 15¢ Post Office blocks are only known with what appear to be favor cancels and the 6¢ Navy block is two pairs rejoined. After eliminating those blocks identifiable as duplicates from the auction information, there remains a total of 229 different used blocks. This represents a total of 55 different Departmental stamps identified as existing in used blocks. No used blocks are recorded for the Executive or Department of Justice. The Departmental Used Block Survey Summary is detailed in Table A. Blocks followed by an (\*) have not been seen by the author; blocks followed by an (\*\*\*) are only recorded with a pen cancel. Included are blocks identified only from auction sales and items reported with no accompanying photocopy.

<sup>11</sup>Beverly S. King, “Notes on General Issues,” *Scott’s Monthly Journal*, June 1932, p. 110.

<sup>12</sup>Harry M. Konwiser, “U.S. Department Stamps,” *Mekeel’s Weekly Stamp News*, April 26, 1937, page 262.

<sup>13</sup>Rollin C. Huggins Jr., *Official Chatter*, November 1984 and January 1985.

<sup>14</sup>*Ibid.*, July 1987, July 1988.

<sup>15</sup>*Ibid.*, February 1988.

<sup>16</sup>Thanks to the Bierman Philatelic Library for helping locate auctions with Departmental used blocks.

<sup>17</sup>Among the collectors participating in the survey were: Alan Campbell, David Lobdell, Robert L. Markovits, Alfred Staubus, and several anonymous collectors.



Figure 1. Department of the Interior, 90¢ hard paper block of 4.

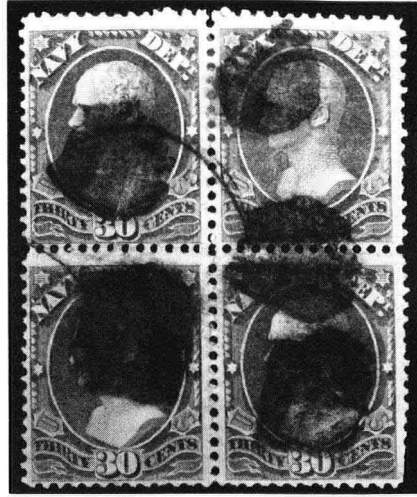


Figure 2. Navy Department, 30¢ block of 4.



Figure 3. Treasury Department, 7¢ hard paper block of 10 (largest known block).

**Table A. Departmental Used Block Survey Summary**

<b>Agriculture</b>	
Hard paper	3¢**
<b>Interior</b>	
Hard paper	1¢, 2¢*, 3¢, 12¢, 15¢, 24¢, 30¢*, 90¢
Soft paper	2¢, 3¢, 6¢
<b>Navy</b>	1¢*, 3¢, 6¢, 30¢
<b>Post Office</b>	
Hard paper	1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 6¢, 10¢, 12¢, 15¢, 30¢, 90¢
Soft paper	3¢
<b>State</b>	
Hard paper	\$20**
<b>Treasury</b>	
Hard paper	all values recorded (24¢*)
Soft paper	3¢, 6¢*
<b>War</b>	
Hard paper	1¢*, 2¢, 3¢, 6¢, 10¢, 12¢, 15¢, 24¢, 30¢, 90¢
Soft paper	1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 6¢, 12¢

**Catalogue Comparison**

This information was compared with the Departmental listing in the 1995 *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps*. The following 15 used blocks are listed in the catalogue but were not identified during the survey:

<b>Agriculture</b>	15¢	<b>State</b>	3¢, 24¢, 30¢
<b>Interior</b>		<b>Treasury</b>	
Hard paper	6¢, 10¢	Soft paper	10¢
Soft paper	1¢	<b>War</b>	
<b>Justice</b>	1¢, 3¢, 6¢	Hard paper	7¢
<b>Navy</b>	2¢	Soft paper	30¢
<b>Post Office</b>	24¢		

When comparing the survey list to the used blocks listed in the catalogue, two hard paper blocks were identified as not being listed at this time. They are the 24¢ Treasury Department and the 1¢ War Department. The current editor for Scott's was contacted to determine if there was any information on used blocks in their files. Written and verbal communications have determined that Scott's has no further information which could help in this effort.

The number of blocks known is small and most values have less than four examples recorded. There are five hard paper issues with more than ten examples recorded. They are the 6¢, 10¢, 15¢ and 90¢ Treasury Department and the 12¢ War Department. In view of the scarcity of used Departmental blocks, the policy of pricing them in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps* with a dash should be retained and any current listings with prices should become dashes. The exception to this approach would be items sold at open auction, thus establishing a price (in italics).

Figures 1-4 show selected used blocks in the author's collection.

**Obliterators Used on Departmental Blocks**

A limited variety of obliterators are known used on Departmental blocks, as most Departmentals were canceled with nondescript corks or rollers. The next most common obliterators to be found are the target cancels in black, blue or purple. These are followed by nine-bar ellipses, oval registry obliterators, and town postmarks from New York or Boston. Additionally, the following distinctive obliterators have been identified on Departmental blocks:



**Figure 4. Treasury Department, 90¢ hard paper irregular block of 13.**

- 1¢ Interior block of six with negative “11” in circle
- 90¢ Interior block of four with smiling skull
- 1¢ War block of four with kicking mule
- 3¢ War block of four with Fort Benton, Montana Territory circular date stamp
- 15¢ War block of four with red shaded stars

### Largest Recorded Used Blocks

The following table identifies the largest known block of each Departmental value exceeding four stamps that has been recorded to date. Some of these were in the census of current collections, while others are known only from the auction records.

**Table B. Largest Recorded Departmental Used Blocks**

Interior			Treasury		
Hard paper	1¢	block of 15 (5x3)	Hard paper	2¢	block of 18 (9x2)
	24¢	block of 8		3¢	block of 20 (5x4)
	30¢	block of 6		6¢	block of 12
	90¢	block of 6		7¢	block of 10 (5x2)
Soft paper	2¢	block of 12		10¢	block of 16
	3¢	block of 15		15¢	block of 28
	6¢	block of 12		24¢	block of 14 (7x2)
				30¢	block of 30
				90¢	block of 14 (7x2)
			Soft paper	6¢	block of 8
Post Office			War		
Hard paper	1¢	block of 30	Hard paper	1¢	block of 10
	2¢	block of 7		12¢	block of 17
	3¢	block of 14		30¢	block of 7
	6¢	block of 9 (3x3)	Soft paper	1¢	block of 6 (3x2)
	30¢	block of 6 (3x2)		2¢	block of 6 (2x3)
	90¢	block of 18 (6x3)		6¢	block of 10 (5x2)
Soft paper	3¢	block of 13		12¢	block of 15

Additionally, three hard paper blocks are noted with either pen or favor cancels. They are a 2¢ Treasury Department block of 21 (7x3), a 6¢ Treasury Department block of 24 (8x3) and a 2¢ Post Office Department block of ten (5x2).

### Used Blocks with Horizontal Line

Illustrated in Figure 5 is an example of a class of “used” blocks that was not included in this survey. This group consists of multiples that have been “canceled” with a ruled horizontal line. Most of the known examples are either Post Office Department or Department

of State. The exact reason these exist is unknown, but it is the belief of the author that they are probably favor cancels on leftover sheets (remainders) which were canceled so that no one could use them.



**Figure 5. Post Office Department, 3¢ block of 4 with horizontal line.**

#### **Used Blocks on Cover**

Over the last 14 years, I have been maintaining a U.S. Departmental Cover Survey based on original work done by Charles Starnes. In this survey, there are only three recorded covers bearing Departmental blocks and several cover fronts or pieces bearing blocks. The three covers are as follows:

- Interior Department block of four of the 2¢ hard (Continental printing) along with a single 1¢ stamp. This cover first appeared in the Ackerman sale in 1933.
- Treasury Department block of four of the 3¢ hard (Continental printing). This cover is illustrated in Figures 6 and 7.
- War Department block of six (printing unknown). Cover sent from Jamestown, R.I., to a Colonel in the 5th Artillery located in Charleston, South Carolina. The upper left stamp of the block is damaged and the cover has no corner card.

Konwiser discussed a reported 3¢ Agriculture Department block of four on cover.<sup>18</sup> From the initial report in 1927 until his note in 1937, he was unable to verify the cover and no further information is available.

#### **Summary**

- 55 different used blocks verified out of a possible 114 stamps.
- Five blocks identified with ten or more examples recorded.
- Two blocks identified but not yet listed in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps*.
- Fifteen blocks listed in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps* that the survey was unable to verify.

<sup>18</sup>Konwiser, *loc. cit.*

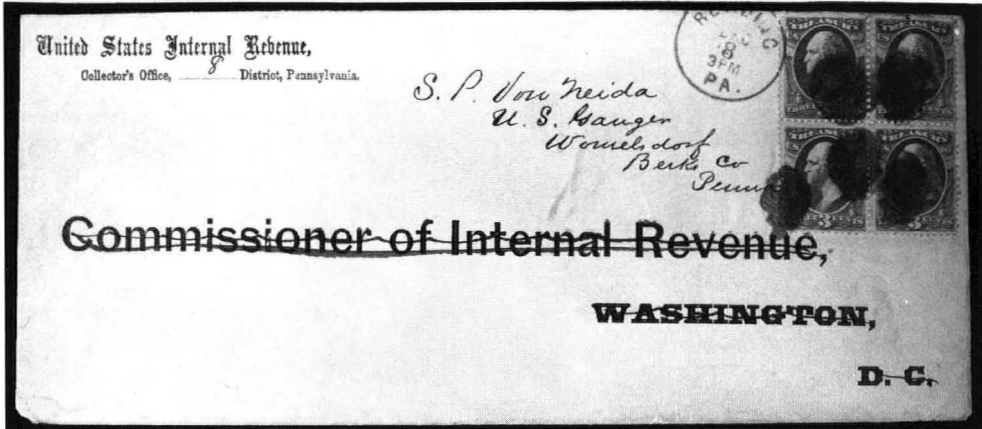


Figure 6. Treasury Department cover, 3¢ block of 4.



Figure 7. Treasury Department cover, closeup of 3¢ block of 4 corner.



There are many inexpensive mint remainders of the Department of Interior and the War Department soft paper printing available. When used blocks of these stamps are offered, the cancellations should be carefully examined to verify authenticity.

### Conclusion

The area of used Departmental blocks presents a challenge to the collector no matter what his or her means. Many items were once listed in the catalogue but their current location is unknown. Unlike mint blocks, which are regularly being broken up to furnish single copies for collectors, it is doubtful that many of these used blocks have been separated over time since the value of the individual used stamps is negligible. Many values are only available in the form of used strips. These were not included in this initial article. A follow-up article will be produced on used strips if enough information is received. Used strips are scattered to wider locations than the blocks and few are identified in the auction catalogues, so the assistance of more collectors will be required to produce an article on them.

Thanks to those collectors who responded to the notice about this effort. An update to this census will be produced if further information is received or surfaces in the philatelic market. Individuals with used Departmental multiples are encouraged to contact me so that their items may be included in this update.

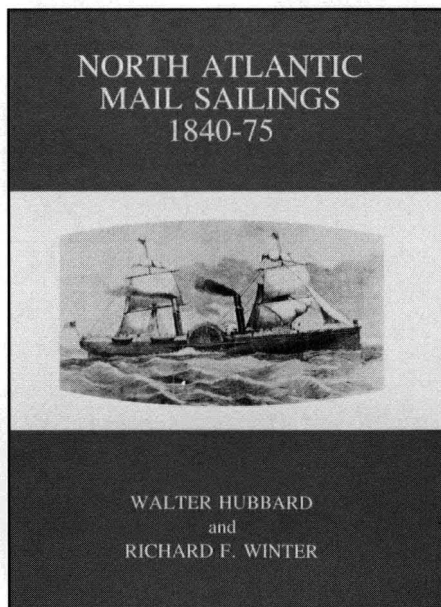
[**Editor's Note:** The survey Mr. Lanphear is conducting of plate number and imprint strips and blocks of the Official stamps is progressing and currently stands at over 750 individual items. Participants should contact Lester C. Lanphear, P.O. Box 80843, San Diego, California, 92138 for information on how to assist in this effort. All information will be kept strictly confidential. Your cooperation is sincerely appreciated.]

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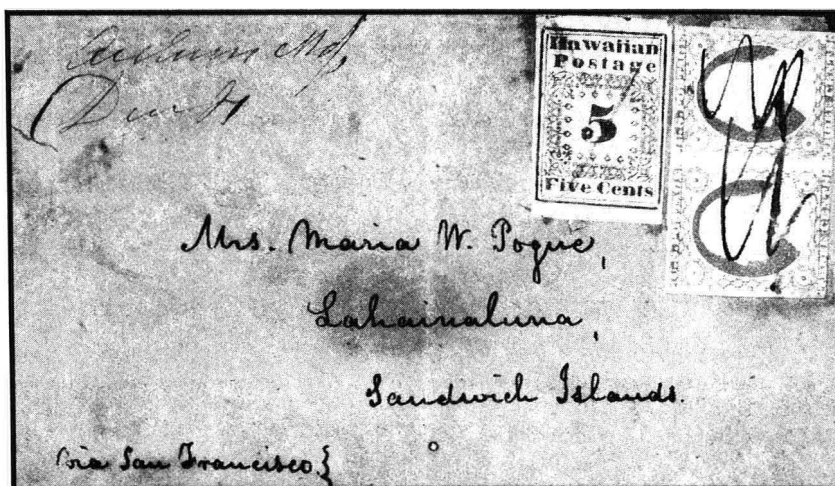


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**LIBERIAN MAIL TO THE UNITED STATES**  
JOHN SACHER

**Background**

Trading Company posts and forts predated by many decades, even centuries, formation of permanent colonial settlements on the West Coast of Africa. The French attempted colonization around St. Louis and Gorée<sup>1</sup> during the 17th and 18th centuries, losing control of St. Louis to the British twice and of Gorée six times before their eventual return under the Treaty of Paris of 1816. By Act of Parliament, the British established a Crown Colony of Senegambia from 1765-83, headquartered most of the time at St. Louis.

Prior to this, the earliest British settlements were made by companies under Royal Charter. Those on the River Gambia suffered from attack and capture by the French, that at Bathurst eventually being returned under the Treaty of Versailles in 1783. Albreda, however, was held by the French until 1857.

The British and French Governments in due course established more directly controlled colonies, although these were at first very insubstantial. The former took control of Sierra Leone, established for freed slaves who had served with the British in the American War of Independence and subsequently had been stranded in Nova Scotia. The Gambia and Gold Coast followed in 1821. The separate settlements of St. Louis and Gorée were taken over by the French as the Colony of Sénégal in 1854.

**The Origin of Liberia**

During this time the American Colonization Society had been formed to resettle freed slaves in what was to become Liberia (Figure 1). Monrovia was settled in 1824 and Cape Mount (later Robertsport) was purchased in 1826. Edina and Cape Palmas (later Harper) were settled in 1833 by the Maryland Colonization Society. Lower Buchanan was founded in 1835 by the Young Men's Colonization Society of Pennsylvania. None of these places was more than an isolated settlement. Indeed, some soon disappeared again. Edina was given up after a few years as Buchanan, with its better harbor, expanded.

The founding of Sinoe (later Greenville) in 1838 by the Mississippi Colonization Society, and the declaration of a Commonwealth in that year, brought a new stage, followed in August 1847 by the establishment of an independent Republic. Nonetheless, Maryland County remained outside both the Commonwealth and the Republic until annexed in 1857.

**Early Mail and Postal Developments**

Most early Liberia-area mail originated from missionaries, although generally on the West Coast slave traders predated them with letters known from at least the 1770s. The new State signed its first postal convention with the United Kingdom on 20 January 1858. The earliest packet service from England to the West Coast of Africa was established to Sierra Leone near the end of 1847 (P.O. Instruction No. 37 of October 1847). The intended monthly schedule was to be provided by naval vessels and was in the event probably irregular. No mails to Liberia have been seen from this service. In December 1850, announcement of a new contract mail service was made for a monthly service to Sierra Leone and the Cape of Good Hope (P.O. Instruction No. 42). This contract, with the General Screw Steam Shipping Company, proved unsatisfactory. By September 1852 the service was replaced by a new contract with the African Steamship Company (P.O. Instruction No. 40). Initially, voyages terminated at Sierra Leone, but were extended in October to include

<sup>1</sup>St. Louis is now the capital of Senegal. Gorée is an island previously fortified and lying off the more recent major port of Dakar.

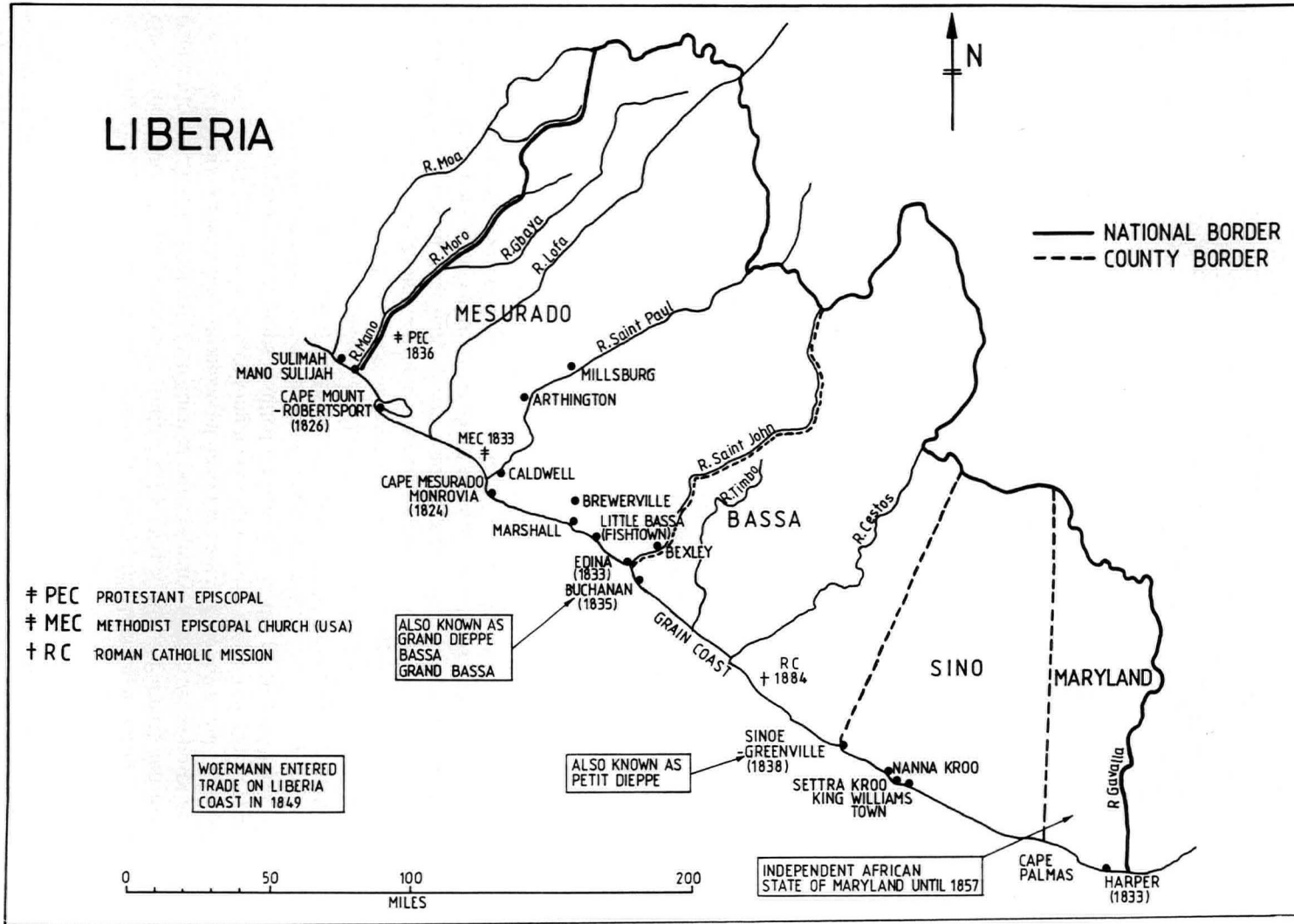


Figure 1. Map of Liberia showing locations of early settlements and regions colonized by resettled freed slaves from America.

many more places on the West Coast of Africa, including Liberia (P.O. Instruction No. 47). At first, mails were made up in London and despatched from Plymouth, but from the sailing of 24 October 1858, Liverpool replaced Plymouth as the port of departure for mails.

### **The First Post Offices**

The first post offices were opened at Monrovia, Buchanan (Grand Bassa) and Greenville (Sinoe County) in 1854, followed by Harper (Cape Palmas) and Robertsport (Cape Mount). The Collectors of Customs at ports of entry were to act as postmasters.

As the first Liberia handstamps contained the name of the town and "LIBERIA" but were undated, only covers with receiving marks show when usage took place. The later introduction of separate datestamps resulted on occasion in the placing of these within the town/village marks, but they can occur anywhere on covers.

Prepayment was indicated by the handstamp "PAID" or manuscript endorsements, distinctive to the individual places, as often as by use of the stamps issued in 1860. At least, the evidence of the few covers indicates this.

The only known example of a handstamp predating the issue of stamps is a "HARPER LIBERIA" circular handstamp, with a manuscript "Paid" enclosed, on a cover which arrived at Liverpool on 8 February 1859 en route to Paris. It is one of only two prepaid covers without adhesives which do not show the amount due to the GPO in the UK. All others show the transfer in sterling. Sixteen such examples have been seen.

### **The First Adhesive Stamps**

The first stamps were lithographed in 1860 by Dando, Todhunter and Smith in London on unwatermarked, thickish paper, initially close together (2 mm.) and line perforated 12. Later, the distance between stamps was increased to 4-6 mm., and the paper changed to a thinner type. For details of printings, perforation and frame lines sometimes found between stamps, readers are referred to *Liberia—Plating of the First Issue 1860-69*, by Philip Cockrill (Series Booklets Nos. 3 and 6). The exact date of issue of the first stamps remains unknown. The life of these stamps in the original colors of 6 cents, 12 cents and 24 cents was until 1880, when new values and colors were issued. The first stamps used on cover are quite rare. Excluding very late use, the number may be as few as fifteen, almost certainly not more than twenty covers in all. Furthermore, the supplies of the stamps appear to have been exhausted rather frequently, resulting in the use of "PAID" markings.

### **Transatlantic Ship Letters**

Most of the various series of correspondence dating from the period of the establishment of the settlements are relatively well known. Letters written by Governor Buchanan to Benjamin Coates in Philadelphia date from 1840, as do others to his daughter up to his death in 1841. The same recipient, Benjamin Coates, received letters from Governor Roberts between 1841 and 1847. Missionary letters exist in some quantity from Liberia, as all missionaries were required to make regular reports to the New York office of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions (PBFM), the coordinating body governing the efforts of the different denominational missions working in Liberia. Generally, such letters were addressed to Walter Lowrie, Corresponding Secretary of the PBFM. Occasionally they were sent to the PBFM Treasurer, the Rev. Daniel Wells, DD.

Many of these letters were carried by the ship's master of one of the two or three vessels always owned by the Board. He would have handed them directly to the addressee. Consequently these, which probably account for up to 80% of the correspondence still in existence, bear no postal markings or charges. The balance to the United States was handed in as ship letters on arrival and charged accordingly. There is also a limited number of letters to Liberia and a very few internal ones.



Figure 2. Letter from Bassa Cove (11 Jul 1851) and Cape Palmas (18 Jul 1851) to Philadelphia by ship letter to Bristol, via London (22 Sep 1851) to New York. Postage due of 37¢ included 8d (16¢) ship postage to G.B., 8d (16¢) transatlantic transit, and 5¢ U.S. inland fees.

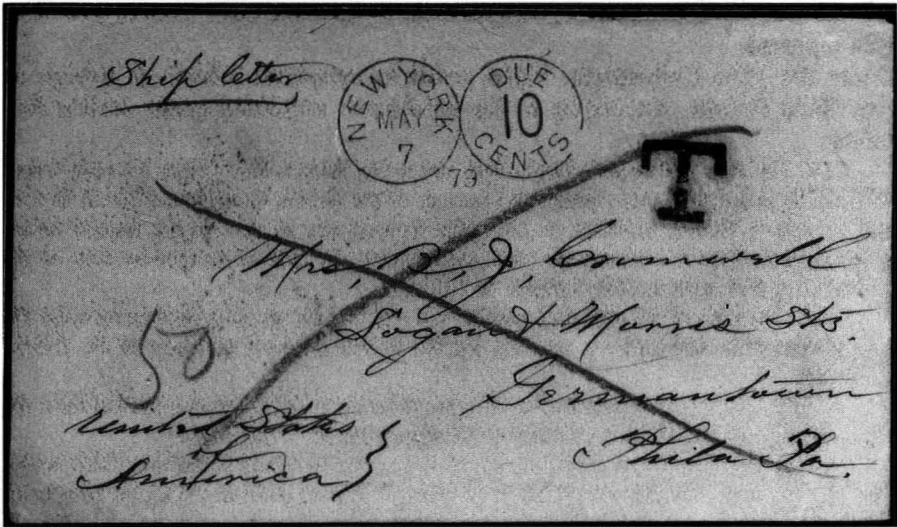


Figure 3. Cape Mount, 29 Mar 1879, to Philadelphia marked "Ship letter," but carried by normal British packet service to England. "T" struck in England to show postage was due and "50" centimes debit to U.S. for unpaid transit service from Liberia. New York erred in marking 10¢ postage due instead of 20¢, neglecting British debit.

The addresses of the writers show settlement at other places than those mentioned above: by 1841 at Timbo and Fair Hope, Cape Palmas; by 1842 at Colwell, Edina Bassa, and Settra Kroo; by 1843 at Alue Station; by 1844 at King Wills Town; by 1847 at Nanna Kroo; by 1850 at Kentucky and Hy Sett; and by 1855 at Bexley.

Ship letters are known up to the introduction of the packet service to the UK, and a few after. One from Bassa Cove and Cape Palmas (Figure 2), dated 11 and 18 July 1851 to Philadelphia, was sent to the UK in this way, being stamped on arrival "BRISTOL SHIP LETTER" (20 September 1851). It then travelled via London (22 September 1851) to Liverpool and was charged in New York 37¢, the rate being made up of 8 pence (16¢) unpaid UK ship letter, 8 pence (16¢) for sea transit from the UK to the U. S., and 5¢ U.S. inland.

Another cover, of 1850, is endorsed "pr Liberia packet" but travelled as an ordinary ship letter.

The Cromwell correspondence of 1879 contains several letters endorsed "ship letter," but they were carried to Liverpool on the normal packet service and thence to the United States (see Tables appended to this article). One letter (Figure 3), dated Cape Mount - 29 March 1879, was marked on arrival "NEW YORK MAY 7 79 SHIP LETTER DUE 10 CENTS." This letter was marked in error at New York for 10¢ postage due instead of 20¢. Since the letter went first to England, where the "T" was struck and the United States debited 50 centimes (10¢), the postage due should have been 10¢ to England plus 2x5¢ UPU postage or 20¢.

#### Overseas Postal Rate

As stated above, the first Postal Convention between Great Britain and Liberia was ratified on 20 January 1858 and came into effect on 1 April.<sup>2</sup> Prior to this date, no means were available for the prepayment of letters from Liberia to the United States. As early as August 1857, however, the United States public was informed that letters could be sent to Monrovia by British Mail for 45¢ per 1/2 ounce, prepayment required.<sup>3</sup> This amount covered all United States and British charges to the port of destination, but did not include any Liberian internal postage. To date, no examples of this 45¢ per 1/2 ounce rate to Liberia have been reported.

Under the 1858 Convention, letters could be sent from Liberia to foreign destinations, via Great Britain. According to the regulations stipulated under Article IV of the Convention:

IV. The Post Office of Liberia shall pay to the British Post Office for paid letters originating in Liberia, and transmitted by way of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland to British colonies or countries beyond sea, as well as for unpaid letters originating in British colonies or countries beyond sea, and forwarded by way of the United Kingdom addressed to Liberia, as follows:

1st. The sum of 5*d.* per single letter, viz., 4*d.* for the sea conveyance between the United Kingdom and Liberia, and 1*d.* for the transit over the territory of the United Kingdom.

2ndly. The sea rate paid by the British public upon letters exchanged between the United Kingdom and British colonies or foreign countries beyond sea.

3rdly. The foreign or colonial rate or rates paid by the British Post Office to the Post Offices of the foreign countries or British colonies to or from which the letters are forwarded.

A table was annexed to this Convention showing the total amounts in British currency to be credited by the Post Office of Liberia to the United Kingdom for prepaid letters addressed to, or unpaid letters received from, such countries.

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<sup>2</sup>Clive Parry, LL.D, ed., *The Consolidated Treaty Series*, 231 vols. (Dobbs Ferry, New York: Oceana Publications, 1969), vol. 118, pp. 262-269.

<sup>3</sup>*National Intelligencer*, Washington, D.C., 6 August 1857.



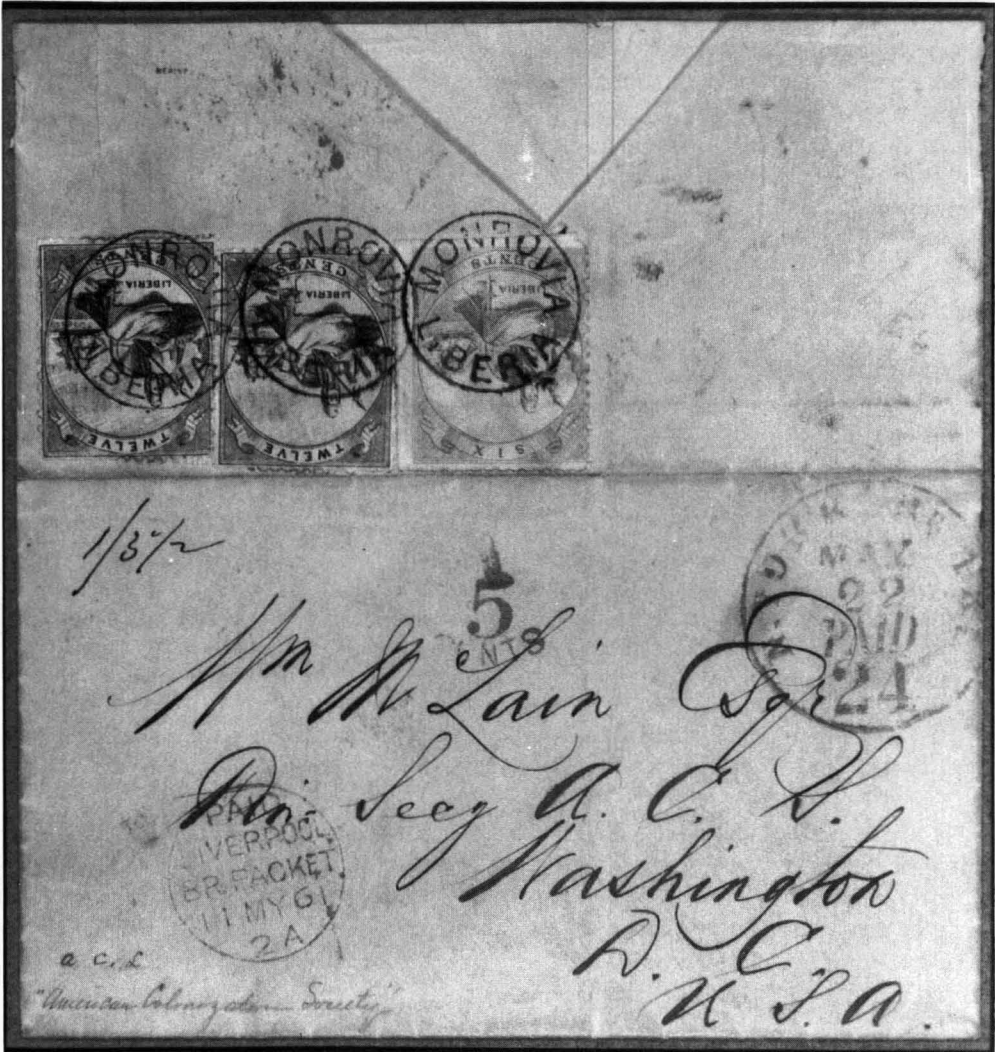


Figure 4. Monrovia, April 1861, to Washington, D.C., prepaid 30¢ in adhesives for 33¢ fully paid rate to U.S. (presumably extra 3¢ paid in cash as no lower value adhesives existed). Liberia credited 1/3 1/2 to G.B. Carried to Liverpool by African Steamship Co. steamer Armenian. Liverpool credited U.S. with only 5¢ as British packet Persia carried letter to U.S.

The rate table associated with this initial document indicated that the Liberian credit to the United Kingdom on prepaid letters addressed to the United States should be 1 shilling 1 pence per 1/2 ounce. This credit represented a combination of the 5 pence rate to Great Britain, plus the 8 pence (16¢) transatlantic fee to the United States established under the current United States-British Postal Convention. Note that this amount only paid the postage to the port of arrival in the United States, and that United States internal postage was still required on delivery. Note also that the total fee to be paid included another 1 penny (2¢) for the Liberian postage.

A separate Article in the Convention expressly addressed the desire of both countries to secure prepayment to destination on letters to and from the United States:

XIV. The British Post Office promises to use its good offices with the Post Office of The United States, in order to procure for the correspondence originating in the United States and addressed to Liberia, and vice versa, when forwarded through the United Kingdom, the advantage of prepayment to destination on either side.

While facilities for prepaying the letter postage between Liberia and the United States were not in place when the initial Convention documents were ratified on 20 January 1858, such provisions were apparently available by the time the Treaty went into effect on 1 April 1858. This is evidenced from the following 9 March 1858 entry in the Washington *National Intelligencer*:

#### POSTAGE TO LIBERIA, VIA ENGLAND

We are requested to state that notice has been given by the British Post Office of the conclusion of a Postal Convention between Great Britain and the Republic of Liberia, which establishes a combined British and Liberian rate of sixpence the half-ounce letter as the charge for conveyance of letters posted in one country and delivered in the other after the 1st of April next, *prepayment of which is made compulsory*.

The Government of Liberia having expressed a desire that letters originating in the United States addressed to Liberia, as well as letters originating in Liberia addressed to the United States and forwarded through Great Britain, may be fully prepaid in either country to their destinations, a regulation to that effect has been adopted by the United States and British Post Office Departments.

The postage, therefore, to be levied in the United States upon letters addressed to Liberia, via England, after the 1st of April next, will be 33 cents the single rate of half an ounce or under, *prepayment required*.

The 33¢ per 1/2 ounce rate specified above was a combination of the 5¢ United States internal postage, the 16¢ transatlantic fee, the 5 pence (10¢) British transit and packet fee to Liberia, plus the 1 penny (2¢) Liberian internal postage. Letters prepaid at this rate usually show a United States credit to Britain (12¢ per 1/2 ounce for American packet service, or 28¢ per 1/2 ounce if conveyed by British packet), which included a “1d” per 1/2 ounce credit to Liberia, applied by the British Post Office.

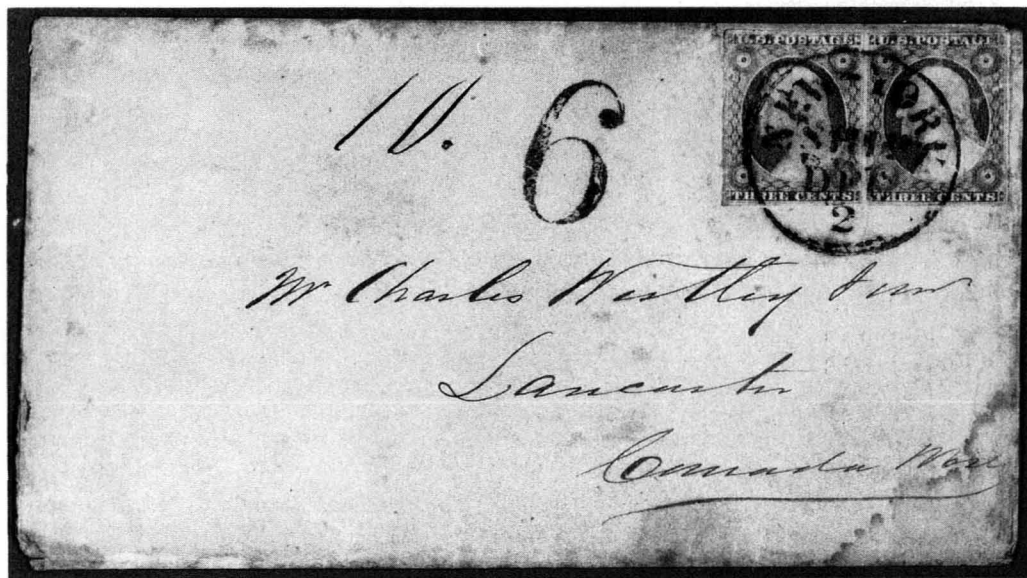
Letters from Liberia could also be paid to destination in the United States at the equivalent 33¢ (1/4 1/2d) rate. Such letters show a 1/3 1/2d credit to Great Britain, rather than the 1/1d credit specified in the original rate table; the additional 2 1/2d credit to the United Kingdom represents the 5¢ United States internal postage. An example of this paid-to-destination rate is shown in Figure 4. This letter originated from Monrovia in April 1861, and was prepaid 30¢ in stamps, no lower denomination stamps being available to make up the exact 33¢ rate. Presumably the extra 3¢ was paid in cash, but no covers show clear evidence of this. The front shows a 1/3 1/2d credit to the United Kingdom, plus the “PAID LIVERPOOL” datestamp associated with the arrival of the African packet *Armenian*. The Liverpool exchange office applied a 5¢ credit to the United States before placing the letter aboard the Cunard steamship *Persia*. On arrival in New York, the letter was treated as fully paid to destination, and no additional charges were raised.

(to be continued)

## SHIP FEE + TREATY RATE COVERS TO CANADA DOUGLAS N. CLARK

The simple formula  $2\text{¢ ship fee} + \text{domestic rate}$ , applicable for so long to letters brought to the U.S. by private ship, had many subtleties.

The 1854 cover in Figure 1 appeared as Lot 173 in the Robert A. Siegel auction of January 30-31, 1992. The lot was accompanied by a September 3, 1965, letter from Tracy Simpson, stating that “the pen marked ‘10’ is difficult to explain . . .,” and speculating that it was applied “with the expectation that the letter was to go by U.S. mail at the 10¢ collect rate from California to New York, but that it then was noted that it was better to go by via Nicaragua steamboat [*sic.*] . . . [and] the stamps were applied.” The Siegel auction describer echoed Simpson’s indecision about the manuscript “10.”



**Figure 1.** 1854 private ship letter to Canada via New York, 6¢ franking, 10¢ (6 Canadian pence) due at destination.

Very likely Simpson is correct that the cover was carried on the Nicaragua route (he cites a *New York Herald* article reporting the December 2, 1854, arrival of the *S.S. Star of the West* from Nicaragua). A *via Nicaragua* cover to Canada is uncommon. While it cannot be proved from the cover that it originated in California, confirmation of the origin is not necessary to explain the markings.

Most *via Nicaragua* letters are franked with 6¢ in stamps. As these letters were privately carried between U.S. cities, franking with the appropriate 1851 rate (6¢ for over 3,000 miles, prepaid, in this case) was mandatory. This automatically served to pay the 5¢ under-3,000 miles private ship letter rate from New York to destination. However, for the letter in Figure 1, the private ship letter rate assessed in New York was 12¢ (2¢ ship fee + 10¢ U.S.-Canada treaty rate of 1851), not 5¢ (2¢ ship fee + 3¢ under 3,000 miles). Therefore, the 6¢ prepayment did not cover the full amount due.

Unfortunately, that 6¢ prepayment could not be fully credited against the total 12¢ (ship + treaty) charge, because part payments of the treaty portion of the rate could not be



**Figure 2. 1855 private ship letter to Canada via New York, no prepayment, 12¢ (7½ Canadian pence) due at destination.**

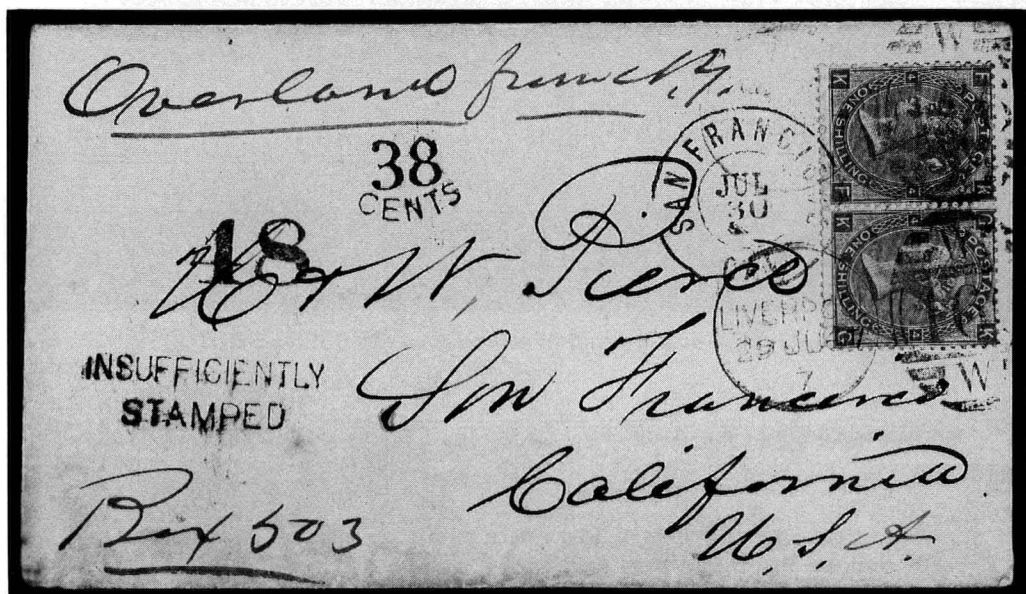
accepted. Hence, with prepayment of the 2¢ ship fee accepted, 10¢ was due and was so marked at the U.S. exchange office. The Canadian equivalent, 6 (pence), was handstamped to the right at the Canadian exchange office.

Figure 2 shows a second private ship letter addressed to Canada, this one originating in Guayama and entering New York in 1855. There was no prepayment. The rate is the same as that for the first cover: 2¢ ship fee + 10¢ treaty rate. This amount (due) appears as a manuscript 12 to the left of the NEW YORK/SHIP cds, with a manuscript 7½ (Canadian pence) added to the left of that at the Canadian exchange office.

It should be clear that the 12¢ ship fee + treaty rate is different from the 12¢ rate of 1851 for ship letters addressed 3,000 or more miles beyond the port (within the U.S.). Indeed, the ship fee + treaty rate applies only to letters entering at a port *closer* than 3,000 miles from the exchange office. There was an 1851 ship fee + treaty rate of 17¢ for letters entering *more* than 3,000 miles from the exchange office. □

**ANSWERS TO PROBLEM COVERS IN ISSUE 165**

Figure 1 shows the front of an 1867 cover from Liverpool to San Francisco apparently paid by stamps for a double rate, but marked "INSUFFICIENTLY / STAMPED." It was then rated as an unpaid double rate by British Packet with "8 CENTS" debit to the U.S. and "48" (cents) collected on delivery. What happened?



**Figure 1. 1867 cover, Liverpool to San Francisco, "INSUFFICIENTLY STAMPED."**

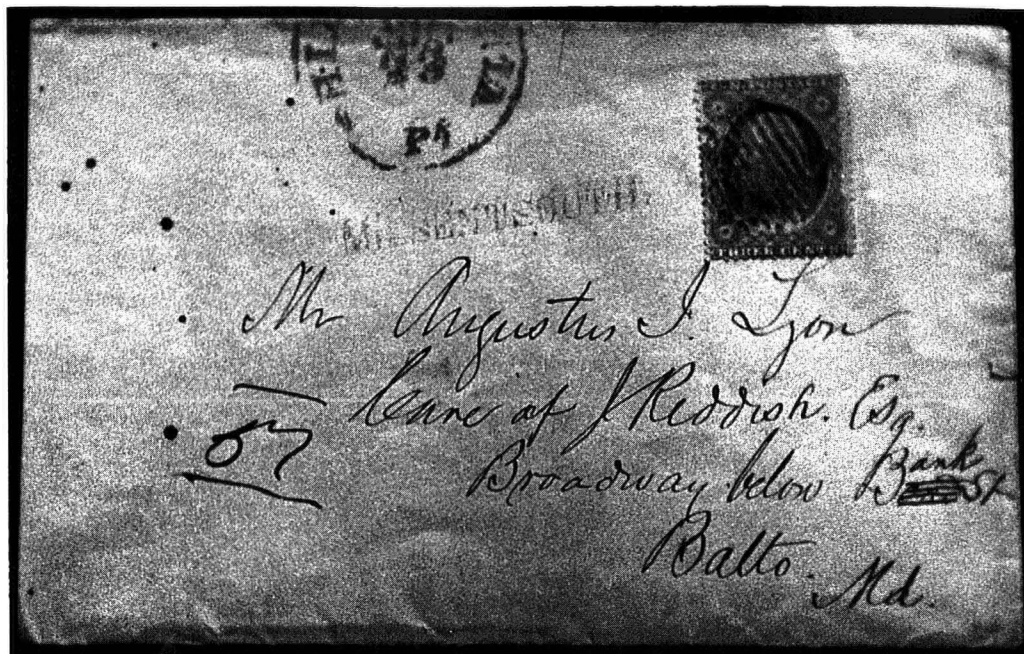
There is always the possibility of a rating error, and some discussion considered that the cover was really a quadruple rate on which the two paid rates were allowed. But such answers rarely, if ever, are valid. The best response came from Alan Radin, who writes:

The Liverpool clerk weighed the letter and found it to be double rate, but he also found the stamps to be invalid (probably previously used). Therefore, the letter was forwarded as wholly unpaid and the San Francisco exchange office marked it "48" cents postage due.

No depreciated currency markings (U.S. Notes) are known for San Francisco. Greenbacks were not circulated on the West Coast where they always used specie, either gold or silver.

Figure 2 shows a cover from Philadelphia to Baltimore with a curious "MISSENTSOUTH." handstamp in blue. What does this marking mean and where was it applied?

This marking must be very rare—very few examples have been recorded. If it is a railroad marking, it does not appear in any of the standard references, *viz.*, *Railroad Postmarks of the United States 1861 to 1886*, by Charles L. Towle and Henry A. Meyer, *United States Railroad Postmarks 1837 to 1861*, by C. W. Remele, *B. & O. Railroad Mail and Cancellations*, by Michael Miller, and the 1977 auction of The William Wyer Collection of Railroad Covers.



**Figure 2. Philadelphia to Baltimore cover, "MISSENT SOUTH."**

We are indebted to Pat Walker for submitting a comprehensive review of the "MISSENTSOUTH." marking. She writes:

As a collector of Baltimore, I have been shown one or two of these covers; I currently own one that is also from Philadelphia, with 3¢ 1851 and Bloods local stamps tied with a Philadelphia CDS. The "MISSENTSOUTH." ink does not seem to be a darker blue than that typically seen for Baltimore cds and 5 or 10 charge marks.

I do not have an answer to where/why the "MISSENTSOUTH." was applied. Following is my reasoning to date; there are enough unknowns that I do not chose to exhibit my item, at this time, as a Baltimore handstamp.

The literature describes the "MISSENTSOUTH." as "of unknown origin," but mentions that covers are addressed to Baltimore. The ones I have seen are so addressed. I am not aware of any evidence that would definitely put the use of this marking in the Baltimore post office. I am aware of Post Office regulations that describe the making up of mail "parcels" for Eastern, Western, Southern, and Northern letters leaving a post office. In 1837, the regulations (Section 77) read as follows:

"You will carefully assort the letters to be mailed, and if yours be not a Distributing Office, you will put those for each Post Office in your State in a separate parcel, and those addressed to places out of your State, in four parcels, if there be occasion; that is, all that are to pass from your Office to the States Northward of you in one parcel; and in like manner such as are to pass from your Office to States Southward, Eastward, or Westward."

Section 83 of the regulations stated that the Post Bill include the words "Northern," "Southern," etc. to describe these parcels, if the mail was for distribution. As both Philadelphia and Baltimore were undoubtedly distribution offices, were the regulations different?

I would assume, in absence of other (better) theories, that the terminology "MISSENTSOUTH." implies that the letter was incorrectly sorted into a Southern designated mail parcel (bag). Baltimore, as a distribution office, most likely opened parcels marked "Southern" coming from other states, e.g., Pennsylvania, to resort the mails.



Figure 3. Washington City to Baltimore cover, "MISSENT EAST."

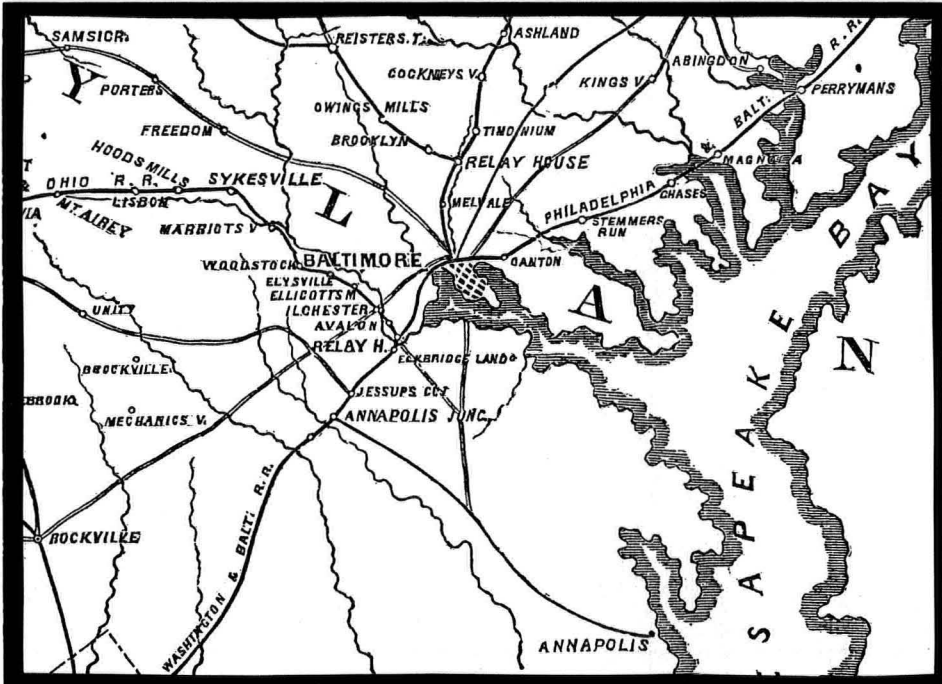


Figure 4. Map showing railroads in the Baltimore area

However, since Baltimore is south of Philadelphia, having a letter put in the "Southern" designated mail bag is hardly a misdirection.

Was there some city south of Baltimore where the mistake was discovered and the marking applied? If the marking was applied in Baltimore, what error in direction occurred that called for this handstamp?—Perhaps returned covers from a southern city?

After reading Pat Walker's review of the "MISSENTSOUTH." marking, Scott Gallagher rummaged through a large box of Baltimore area covers and came up with Figure 3, a cover from Washington City to Baltimore with the marking "MISSENT EAST." Additionally, he found the typical Baltimore blue color used as the ink for many other towns, *e.g.*, Saint Dennis, Point of Rocks, Frederick, Camp Parole, Hancock.

Since the blue ink was not used exclusively in Baltimore, Scott suggests that the "MISSENTSOUTH." and "MISSENT EAST." markings were applied at railway junctions outside of Baltimore, the purpose being to identify letters misdirected and being returned from offices where the mail bags were opened for resorting and distribution. Figure 4 shows the location of two of these junctions, named "Relay House"—one north of Baltimore on the Northern Central R. R., the other southwest of Baltimore on the Washington & Baltimore R. R. This supports Pat's suggestion of the "MISSENTSOUTH." marking being used on returned covers from a Southern city.

The "MISSENT EAST." cover left Washington City on Dec. 5, and, according to docketing on the reverse, was not received in Baltimore until Dec. 11. This prompts a combination of Scott's and Pat's information to be that the "MISSENT" markings were actually applied in Baltimore to misdirected letters to explain the delay in delivery. Now, does anyone have a cover with a "MISSENTNORTH." or a "MISSENT WEST." marking to complete the set?

### PROBLEM COVERS FOR THIS ISSUE

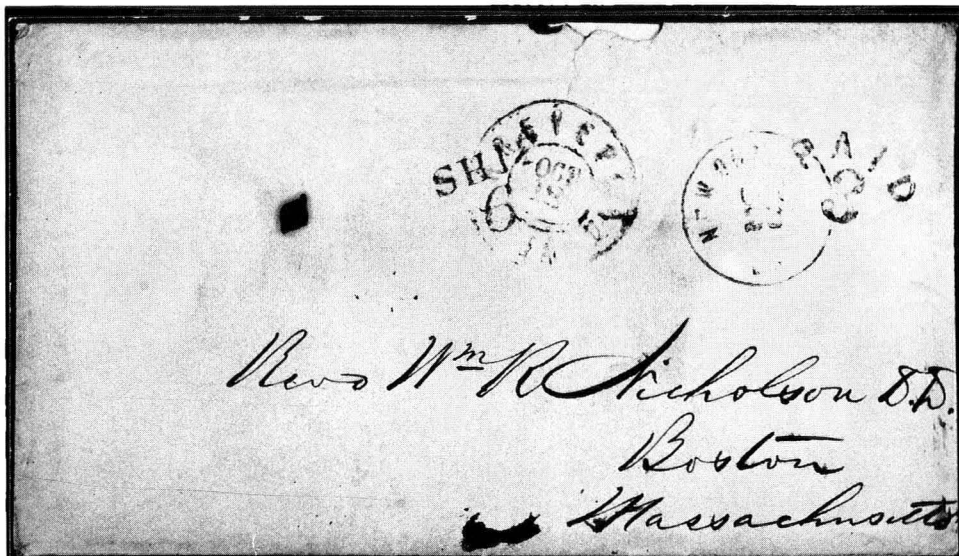


Figure 5. Shreveport, La. cover to Boston via New Orleans

Figure 5 shows a cover from Shreveport, La., via New Orleans to Boston, c.1867, with two markings: "SHIP / 6" and "PAID / 3." What do these markings represent and where were they applied?





**Figure 6. 1891 Tobago cover to New York, "COLLECT / POSTAGE 6 CENTS"**

Figure 6 is a 1891 cover from Tobago to Coeymans, New York. It bears a "2-1/2 PENNY" surcharged four pence stamp for the standard UPU rate (Tobago entered the UPU on 1 Feb. 1881). The cover has two large "T" handstamps in black, and a "15 Cts." manuscript blue crayon marking in an octagon, plus "COLLECT / POSTAGE 6 CENTS" in black. There are no markings on the reverse. Why was this cover charged postage due on delivery?

\*\*\*\*\*

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