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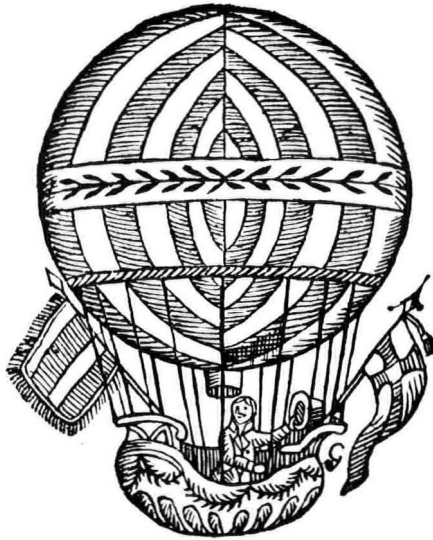
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REVIEWS

The Catalog of Union Civil War Patriotic Covers, by William R. Weiss, Jr. Published 1995 by the author, list price \$110 plus \$5 shipping/handling.

By any standard this is the culmination of a very ambitious publishing project. To begin with, the number of different patriotic designs created for use on envelopes during the Civil War is simply daunting. Including color and paper varieties, my own guess is that the total might exceed 20,000. This is a jelly bean counting contest that anyone can enter. Mr. Weiss cites estimates of between 5,000 and 15,000; mine is somewhat higher but I am influenced by having encountered one remarkable group that exceeded 10,000 used designs. Nevertheless, this is an important subject, and I am pleased that Mr. Weiss has risen to the challenge.

William R. Weiss, Jr. is a well-known auctioneer and philatelic professional who regularly publishes books while others only talk about it. Previous publications have included such topics as collecting U. S. covers and postal history, New York Foreign Mail cancels and, more recently, the 15¢ stamp of 1870-79. In all of his writings he brings a directness and a lack of subtlety that are refreshing, and tends to charge ahead, leaving others (the ones who usually only talk about publishing something) to carry on about the endless details that have blocked their failed endeavors. He reminds me of that Civil War hero (to Yankees, of course), Admiral David Farragut, who, during the battle of Mobile Bay, Aug. 5, 1864, uttered the deathless line usually paraphrased as "Damn the torpedoes! ... Full speed ahead!" as he directed the naval engagement while lashed to the port main rigging of his sloop-of-war *Hartford*.

It is completely fitting that an auctioneer produce a book on patriotics. The best known large scale publication on this subject was auctioneer Robert Laurence's 1934 catalog of the George Walcott collection, which had 3,253 entries, with some amount of combination and duplication. A reprint of this classic was released in a limited edition in 1975. This is the work that, despite many glaring inadequacies, generally is cited in philatelic publications, especially auction catalogs, using the entry numbers or "Walcott numbers." The inadequacies include: murky photography, with stamps often covered up in accordance with the interpretation of laws seemingly prohibiting the reproduction of postage stamps; occasional arbitrary placement of items within the various categories Laurence created for designs, making it difficult to locate them; cursory descriptions that sometimes make it hard to tell exactly what is being represented; and duplicate entries or lots containing more than one cover, with some covers not photographed. Limited as it is, however, the Walcott catalog has served as the foundation for all subsequent efforts, including that of Mr. Weiss.

Of importance to readers of this journal is a fundamental difference between the Walcott reference and Mr. Weiss' new book. Laurence's catalog listed only *used* designs, while the book under review, in addition to used covers, reproduces and lists designs on unused examples, or envelopes that are used out of period. A considerable number of the illustrations come from a hoard of several thousand patriotic covers which were vandalized by a harmless maniac, one Dr. W.D. Peer of Canal Winchester, Ohio, who applied 1960s commemorative stamps to them and had them canceled during the Civil War centennial period. Since the essence of postal history is usage, the presence of so much unused and non-contemporary material may be a problem. Mr. Weiss' book lists over 6,400 different designs, considerably more than Walcott, and has cross-references to the Walcott numbers in the main entries, so it can be assumed that any item so cross-referenced is known properly used. Also, there is a number of listings by Mr. Weiss that are not catalogued by Walcott, and in their annexed pho-

tographs they appear to be contemporary uses. Still, on balance, there is a considerable number of covers for which it is unclear whether they are known used or not. Apparently this is just a “torpedo” to be ignored, for Mr. Weiss discounts, or at least minimizes, the frequently heard assertion that some unused patriotic designs are really post-war souvenirs, created to fill the scrapbooks of early collectors of the paper ephemera depicting aspects of the Great Rebellion. Nevertheless, the philatelic value of this new catalog would, in my view, have been enhanced by the presence of a simple key to indicate that a contemporary use actually had been recorded.

The research value to philatelists and postal historians is also diminished by the inclusion of so many unused and out-of-period illustrations. Admittedly, this is a side benefit, but it is still useful to thumb through the Walcott catalog if one is interested in the markings or usages of the Civil War period, for even with its gross limitations many things can be learned. If that is your pleasure, then Mr. Weiss’ book may leave you a bit cold.

In common with the Walcott catalog, Mr. Weiss’ book does not have much of an expository text. In Walcott’s case it is pretty extreme: the introductory material is almost entirely about George Walcott and his collection. Mr. Weiss is more informative. He has provided some insights into his cataloguing system, his philosophies of arrangement, inclusion and exclusion, which design elements are to be tracked and how they are to be described and cross-referenced. Most of his decisions appear to be well thought out, logical and straightforward. He provides just a little historical background, and some comments on the work of Charles Magnus, but in all he has no pretenses about scholarship and explanation, nicely avoiding those huge “torpedoes” by blandly referring the reader to a 1977 work by Robert W. Grant, *The Handbook of Civil War Patriotic Envelopes and Postal History*.

Robert Grant’s looseleaf book was another exercise in ambition, as the “Volume 1” on the title page shows. It is well illustrated, with much interesting information about the designs, and especially about the publishers of patriotic covers. There was one supplement issued in December 1977, but unfortunately something intervened and there never was any “Volume 2.” Of this foundering Mr. Weiss characteristically comments: “The author feels that Grant attempted to cover too many aspects of the subject in one all-encompassing work and in so doing, completely lost the focus on the goal of compiling a useful catalog numbering and identifying system.” Perhaps this is so. Perhaps ironclad Grant struck a “torpedo,” but it was a gallant effort, worthy of the topic, and its suspension is to be regretted.

While Mr. Weiss has augmented his listings by including unused patriotics and out-of-period usages, he has eliminated several categories found in the Walcott catalog.

I regret that he decided to eliminate the patriotic designs of the Confederacy altogether, and stuck to the Union designs. Patriotic covers were really part of a huge propaganda effort associated with the Civil War, and it would have been appropriate to see how such activities in the North were responded to by counterpart publishers in the South. In fact, there are far fewer different designs in the service of the Confederacy, probably in the low to mid-hundreds, so this would not seem to have posed too much of a “space” problem. Perhaps there is another “torpedo” here? I am guessing, but I do not recall having seen quantities of different unused Confederate patriotic envelopes, nor does there appear to have been a fiendish Dr. Peer of the South with his obliging little devalued modern desecrations. Used Confederate patriotics are rarer than most Union designs, and much more expensive, so perhaps getting hold of them in order to illustrate them would have been quite cumbersome and inconvenient? “Damn the torpedoes!!!...” (For those who do have an interest in the Southern counterparts, Benjamin Wishnietsky’s 1991 volume on *Confederate Patriotic Covers and their*

Usages provides a very good guide and reference, with a commendable focus on usages.)

His reasons for excluding sanitary fair covers, hand drawn patriotic and non-illustrated regimental corner cards are more plausible in my view, though of course collectors of these categories, all firmly rooted in the Civil War, will miss them.

On the other hand, Mr. Weiss includes at least one category that George Walcott did not collect: "Howell" (named for their publisher) verse "patriotics" (listed under "Poem Covers"). These sentimental confections often do not reflect patriotic sentiments at all, and are non-illustrated, which were among the reasons that regimental corner cards were excluded. I am pleased that the Howell covers are represented "for the record," even if they are a bit boring and maudlin, and visually repetitious. I also suspect that their inclusion may have as much to do with Mr. Weiss' access to a good collection of them, as his exclusion of the equally tedious non-illustrated regimental designs might have to do with his denial of access to the largest known collection of them. He states in his foreword: "We discovered, to our dismay, that several collectors with substantial holdings refused to aid the project..." I believe this is so, and alas! it was another "torpedo."

Surely the biggest single obstacle to completing a definitive catalog of patriotic designs is the opus of publisher Charles Magnus, which alone may comprise several thousand different varieties. Since they are often quite pretty, they are also among the most sought after designs. Magnus had a wicked practice of combining and re-combining his images in myriad configurations and colors; that alone might cause the heart of the most stalwart cataloguer to sink like the *Tecumseh* (the monitor that sank, drowning 113 men, when it hit one of the "torpedoes" Admiral Farragut was cussing). But remember, Mr. Weiss is no ordinary stalwart cataloguer; there he stands, lashed to a large pile of discarded Walcott catalogs... Actually, he pulls it off quite well, and one can find in his book many Magnus designs, neatly arranged in various logical categories, including attractive displays of the more complicated "overlapping" designs which required several envelopes to depict a complete illustration. I only regret, once again, that one cannot always be sure which of these beautiful things are known properly used, since some of these, especially, are good candidates for being post-war creations.

One of the useful elements that Mr. Weiss included in his main listings is "Imprint," and he also provides an alphabetical listing of "Publishers, Printers & Vendors" in the foreword. The listing might have been made somewhat more useful to postal historians if the town locations of the publishers *et al.* had also been included. Many of these parties operated on a very local and limited basis, and usages could sometimes be partially substantiated. Also, for the smaller operators, it would have been user friendly to cross-reference the alphabetical listings to the main catalog entries.

Quite a few pages in the back of the book are taken up by an index of "Verses," names, phrases and slogans that appear with many of the designs. I have found that this section is quite useful in locating primary listings in the catalog, and will be especially helpful if you are unfamiliar with the general organization of the Walcott catalog (which Mr. Weiss followed, with sensible refinements, to a large extent), or if you are just too lazy to look in the subject index in the front of the book. It is a nice shortcut, but I do wish that just a little of the space allotted to this huge section had been used to include sanitary fair covers ("not intended to inspire patriotic sentiments") or hand-drawn designs (banned because they are "unique," and probably are hard to get for illustrations).

It seems clear to me that Mr. Weiss' catalog was not especially designed to suit philatelists, or more particularly postal history collectors, but rather to appeal to the wider range of collectors of paper rarities of the Civil War. The collecting of such ephemera has grown enormously in the last few years, spurred on in part by a very popular television series. These non-philatelic collectors do not really care about usage, and Dr. Peer's destructive dementia would probably not offend them at all, or at least not as much as it bothers me. As this is the case, I wonder that Mr. Weiss did not strive harder to make his catalog more useful to this broader class of collectors by including a simple key to indicate the existence of closely associated collectibles with identical designs, especially letter sheets. But then, I suppose these would be just so many more "torpedoes." (Admiral Farragut's torpedoes really were more like contact mines than the things submarines fire, and he himself was not a Yankee born, but a native of Tennessee in Northern service.)

Mr. Weiss' book is attractively and well bound in hard-bound casing, has over 800 pages making it large and heavy, is printed on glossy stock which shows off its illustrations to good effect. The illustrations are a vast improvement over the dark, crowded pages of Walcott. However, don't be too quick to throw your Walcott away, because the new catalog does not entirely replace everything in it. Also, I am not too sure whether philatelic publishers will abandon the Walcott listing system, since they have not been uniformly receptive to other new and improved systems such as "Towle" (over "Remele") or "Milgram" (for "Klein").

If you are primarily interested in the designs of Civil War patriotic rather than their use, this new catalog is a "must." You will find it informative and easy to use. If otherwise, you will have to weigh its substantial cost against its utility for you. Still, I am glad that William R. Weiss, Jr. had the fortitude to undertake and complete this work and hope that his new catalog will encourage the development of new listings, and with some reasonable amplification suit the needs of philatelists. It is worth keeping this project alive. — Frank Mandel □

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**THE A - B - C's OF THE
DOUBLE TRANSFERS OF THE FIVE CENT 1847:
WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON
THE UNDERAPPRECIATED "C" DOUBLE TRANSFER**
JEROME S. WAGSHAL

Say what some poets will, Nature is not so much her own ever-sweet interpreter, as the mere supplier of that cunning alphabet, whereby selecting and combining as he pleases, each man reads his own peculiar lesson according to his own peculiar mind and mood.

Herman Melville, *Pierre*, bk. XXV

It is a serendipitous historical coincidence that Herman Melville's words were published in 1852 because Melville may have written them in 1851, just as the 1847 issue was at the end of its period of postal validity, and at a time when the events which are now the subject of so much cogitation and analysis may have occurred. For that reason, although Melville's observation can have many applications, it fits none better than the study of the double transfers of the 5¢ 1847. The "cunning alphabet" of this esoteric study has grown and become transformed over the decades, so that today it reflects a "peculiar mind and mood" far different from when it was started some eighty years ago.

As with almost all scholarship relating to the classic U.S. philatelic issues, the alphabet of the 5¢ 1847 double transfers was initiated by Dr. Carroll Chase. Writing in the *Philatelic Gazette* in 1916, Dr. Chase introduced the system of letter designations by assigning the identifying letters "A" and "B" to the two double transfers which still bear these designations.¹

The Discovery of the "C" Double Transfer

"C" was added to the double transfer alphabet a few years after Dr. Chase published his 1916 study. Ashbrook described this event in these words:

As near as I can recall, and my memory may be at fault, it was Dan Hammatt who first discovered the "C". This must have been along about 1920. Hammatt sent me his copy, a single off cover, and I made an enlarged photograph of it.²

Ashbrook went on to state that despite efforts to locate a duplicate copy, Hammatt never succeeded in doing so.

¹Carroll Chase, "The United States 1847 Issue," *Philatelic Gazette*, Vol. VI, No. 7 (July 1916), pp. 197-98. At least one of these doubles was previously known. Earlier this year I had an opportunity to review the Tapling Collection in the British Library, a collection which has been kept in the original format in which it was mounted before the turn of this century. Among the 5¢ 1847s was a copy noted as having a double top line, this being the variety which Dr. Chase later named the "A" double transfer.

Luff, whose treatise on *The Postage Stamps of the United States* was published shortly after the Tapling collection was mounted, that is, about the turn of the century, made a passing mention of "double transfers or shifts" in his discussion of the 1847 issue, but did not identify any on the 5¢ stamp.

²Stanley B. Ashbrook, "The Five Cent of 1847 Double Transfers," *Stamp Specialist*, Yellow Book (New York: H.L. Lindquist, 1942), p. 3. Ashbrook restated this point in almost identical words some 13 years later in the October 1, 1955 issue of his *Special Service*, Issue No. 55, Fifth Series (1955-1956), p. 434.

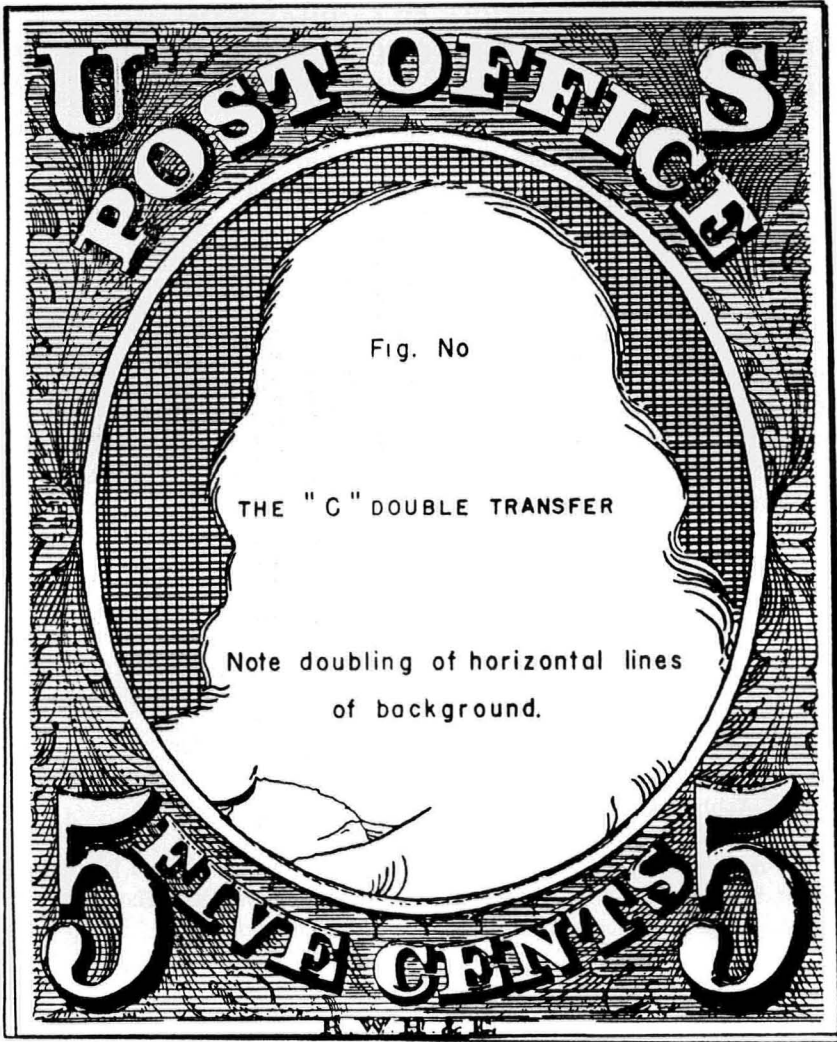


Figure 1. Ashbrook's drawing of the 5¢ 1847 "C" double transfer.

At some point after photographing the Hammatt copy, Ashbrook made what is generally regarded as the definitive drawing of the "C" double transfer. It is shown in *Figure I*.³

The Relation of the "C" Double Transfer To Ashbrook's Reworked Plate Theory

In October 1955, some 35 years after discovery of the "C" double transfer, and after the "D" also had been discovered, Ashbrook advanced the proposition that has since been accepted by most students of the 1847 issue, that the relative scarcity of the "C" and "D" double transfers as compared to the far more frequently found "A" and "B" double transfers indicated that there were two states of the 5¢ plate. Ashbrook opined that the "C" and "D" doubles were created in late 1850, when the 5¢ 1847 plate was cleaned and some re-entries made, this occurring just prior to the fifth delivery of the 1847 stamps in December 1850. An extended quotation of Ashbrook's statement⁴ will be helpful in clarifying what follows:

...Up to this time [Ashbrook was writing in October 1955] I have a record of six and a half copies of the "C" and four copies of the "D."

TWO STATES OF THE 5c PLATE?

Covers are known showing uses of the "A" and "B" double transfers prior to 1850, hence I attribute these two varieties to the "Early State" of the 5c plate. Two covers with the "C" are known with uses in 1851, and the stamps in the Chase "Brown Orange" color. These indicate the cleaned or "Late State" of the plate. In the Newbury collection is a H.S. [horizontal strip] of three of the 5c with half a stamp to right. This "half" is a "C" double transfer. Among the four known "D" double transfers there is a cover showing a use in March 1851 but unfortunately I do not have a record of the color of the stamp. The other three examples are all off cover.

CLEANED AND A FEW RE-ENTRIES

It is my theory that the 5c plate was thoroughly cleaned at some period in 1850, and that at that time some of the 200 positions were re-entered, resulting in two new double transfers we call "C" & "D." Deliveries of the 5c value in 1850 were as follows: 1,000,000 in February [fourth delivery] and 1,000,000 in December [fifth delivery]. The scarcity of examples of the "C" and "D" double transfers as compared to the more common "A" & "B" seems to indicate that sheets containing these two varieties were in the last shipment made by the Rawdon firm in December 1850.

Thus, it is central to Ashbrook's thesis that both the "C" and "D" double transfers are far scarcer than the "A" and "B." Most experienced 1847 collectors readily accept this conclusion on an *a priori* basis. Leaving the "D" double transfer for consideration at another time, the changed status of the "C" double transfer over the years since its discovery raises a question about the validity of Ashbrook's theory.

Three points frame this issue: first, the changing status of the "C" double transfer in the Scott catalogues over the past 40 years; second, the number of known "C" double transfers; and, third, a careful look at the known covers, including what I believe to be an incorrectly identified "C" double transfer on cover, which, if it were a "C" double transfer, as was claimed at one time to be the case, would undercut Ashbrook's thesis.

³All illustrations other than those of actual "C" double transfer stamps will have Roman numeral designations. Designations of illustrations of the copies of the "C" double transfer presented later in this article will use Arabic numbers to correspond to the number assigned to each individual copy of the "C" double transfer in the census of this variety. (All photos by Dattilo.)

⁴Ashbrook's *Special Service* article, *supra*, n. 2, p. 435.

I. The Erosion in Value of the "C" Double Transfer in the *Scott U.S. Specialized*

Over the years the prices assigned by the *Scott U.S. Specialized* to the "C" double transfer have eroded to a point where they must be read as implicitly rejecting Ashbrook's proposition that the "C" is far more rare than the "A" or "B" double transfers. In a little over a half century, the "C" double transfer has depreciated in the *Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue* from a plate variety priced at 25 times the price of an ordinary copy when Ashbrook wrote about it in 1942,⁵ to one priced at less than 1¼ times that of an ordinary copy, and merely the equal of an "A" or "B" double transfer, today.

The following table shows comparative data starting in 1953, when Ashbrook wrote his *Special Service* article on the 5¢ 1847 stamps, then for 1962, which is 20 years after the Yellow Book article, and for representative years thereafter, up to the present.

Year	1953	1962	1972	1977	1982	1987	1995
Regular Copy	\$27.50	\$37.50	\$67.50	\$185.00	\$900	\$650	\$425
"A"- <i>"B"</i> d.t.	\$75.00	\$100.00	\$142.50*	\$287.50**	\$1,100	\$800	\$525
<i>"C"</i> d.t.	\$300.00+	\$300.00+	\$300.00	\$400.00	\$1,100	\$800	\$525
<i>"C"</i> /Regular	1091%	800%	444%	216%	122%	123%	124%
<i>"C"</i> / <i>"A"</i> - <i>"B"</i>	400%	300%	211%	139%	100%	100%	100%

* Average of 135 ("A") and 150 ("B")

** Average of 275 ("A") and 300 ("B")

+ Italicized in the catalogue

The fall in absolute value of the "C" double transfer since the early 1980s of course reflects the burst bubble of speculation which occurred a little over a decade ago. However, identifying the cause of the "C" double transfer's steady decline in *relative* value compared to the ordinary copy, and compared to the "A" and "B," is not so easy. There seems to be no readily identifiable reason for this, considering the relatively few known examples of the "C" double transfer.

II. Is the "C" Double Transfer as Common As the *Scott U.S. Specialized* Indicates?

Logically, there would seem to be two approaches by which to test the validity of the *Scott U.S. Specialized*'s implicit assumption that the "C" double transfer is as common as the "A" and "B" and worth no more than these latter two varieties: One approach is by a census, establishing the number of known "C"'s. The second approach is by considering the market recognition given to examples of the "C" double transfer.

A. A Census of Known Copies of the "C" Double Transfer

The first eight items in the census were compiled from a combination of two groups of Ashbrook's records, one being Ashbrook's actual photographic records which I was fortunate enough to obtain in the recent past and to which I referred in an earlier article,⁶ and the second, an Ashbrook 3x5 card list of "C" double transfers which I found some years ago in the archives of the Philatelic Foundation.⁷

⁵In his 1942 Yellow Book article, Ashbrook stated that the 5¢ 1847 was listed at \$10 used, and the "A" and "B" were each listed at \$35, whereas the "C" was listed at \$250, a multiple of 25 times an ordinary used copy, and more than seven times greater than an "A" or "B" double transfer. At that time Ashbrook stated that, "The 'A' and 'B' are not extremely rare [but as] for the 'C,' only five copies are known . . ." [italics in the original].

⁶Jerome S. Wagshal, "The Plating of the Eight Corner Positions Of the Five Cent 1847 Stamp," *Chronicle*, Vol. 46, No. 3 (Whole No. 164)(November 1994), pp. 233-34.

⁷As noted in the quotation presented earlier from Ashbrook's *Special Service*, as of 1955 Ashbrook had recorded "six and a half copies of the 'C.'" However, his 3x5 card list, which apparently was written a few years later (Ashbrook died in 1958), added one, thus listing 7½ by his half count of the Newbury strip.

The examples of the “C” double transfer identified by these records consist of the following eight items:

1. **The discovery copy** is illustrated here as *Figure 1*. It is the example which was referred to by Ashbrook, and illustrated in *The Stamp Specialist*, Yellow Book, p. 10, Fig. 6, as “The Ex Hammatt Copy.”

Although the fact cannot be established from public records, this stamp was part of the so-called “deluxe collection” of the fabled Judge Robert S. Emerson. In Ashbrook’s photographic records, the illustration of this copy lists the owner as “R.S. Emerson.” The designation of ownership in the Ashbrook photo records is important because this stamp was not pictured in the Emerson sale catalogue. In the Kelleher November 16, 1946, sale of the 1847 section of the Emerson collection, Lot 265 is described as follows: “5c brown orange, double transfer of bottom frame line and lower part of left frame line (Plate 2), lightly canceled in red, extremely fine and rare.”⁸ Inexplicably, this “extremely fine and rare” stamp is not illustrated in the Kelleher catalogue although many lesser stamps were pictured, and the discovery copy therefore cannot be identified from the catalogue description alone. Ashbrook’s note in his photographic record provides the connection.

It most recently sold as Lot 11 in the RAS 3/22/95 sale.

2. *Figure 2* illustrates the **Doane sale copy**.⁹ The Ashbrook records state that it “was sold . Doane Sale June 26-27 1939 Lot 33 - Two Singles On Cover.” This stamp is pictured in the Brookman second edition, Vol. I, p. 41, Fig. 47. I have not been able to locate an illustration of the complete cover. However, Ashbrook’s notes state that the stamps are in the lower left corner, and the cover has a red “Boston 24 May 10 cts” cds at upper right and a red “Paid,” and is addressed to T.W. House Esq., Houston, Texas. Ashbrook wrote:

The stamps are distinctly *Plate 2* both as to shade and impression. While the latter is not definitely sharp it shows no plate wear. The shade is *brown*.¹⁰

3. *Figure 3* illustrates the copy which was originally owned by a collector named W. E. Hibbard of “Weaver Block, Utica, N.Y.” This copy may be referred to as **the Hibbard copy**. Ashbrook’s notes state that as of May 1936 it was owned by J. Waldo Sampson, a major collector of that era whose distinctive triangular marking can still be found on the back of many fine covers. The stamp on this cover is tied by a blue grid, and also has a bold “J”-shape pen marking at upper right; the cover has a blue FAYETTEVILLE N.C. MAY 2[6] [1851?] cds, and is addressed to Lumberton, N.C. The cover is shown in *Figure II*. It is ex-Rust, and sold as Lot 517 in the Kelleher 10/20/92 sale. The illustration is taken from the Kelleher catalogue.

4. *Figure 4* is **the Sampson copy**. This off-cover copy was a second example owned by Sampson during Ashbrook’s time. More recently, it was owned by Mal Brown, and was sold as Lot 566 in the Kelleher 11/8/94 sale, where it was described as having “black & red cancels, P.F. Cert. stating hinge reinforcement of a heavy vert. crease.”

5. *Figure 5* is **the Silsby Copy**, an off-cover pen-canceled copy. In Ashbrook’s card file there are notes stating that it was offered in the Fifield 1/14-15/44 sale as Lot 25, and

⁸It appears that when the Kelleher description was written, about 50 years ago, the general belief, as reflected in this description, was that the “C” double transfer came from a second plate, rather than a reworked version of the original plate. The absence of an identifiable ninth corner copy has led to the generally accepted present belief that there was only one plate which was reworked.

⁹Note that the illustrations for Nos. 2, 3 and 4 do not accurately represent the margins of these stamps because Nos. 2 and 3 are on cover, and No. 4 was photographed against a white background.

¹⁰From Ashbrook’s notes held by the PF. All underscoring is Ashbrook’s. The reference to “Plate 2” was either Ashbrook’s shorthand for the late state of the original plate, or else serves to date this card as having been written before Ashbrook accepted the idea of the original plate having been reworked.

again in Fifield's 5/15-16/44 sale, where it was purchased by Dr. Don H. Silsby of Springfield, Mo. More recently, this stamp was Lot 13 in Ivy's 5/26/86 Ameripex auction.

6. **The Madison copy** is a used copy for which I have no illustration. Thus *Figure 6* is reserved in this census. Ashbrook's notes state that this copy was owned by H.J. Madison of Schenectady, N.Y. and sent to Ashbrook for examination in May 1936. Ashbrook describes it as having a tear in its lower left corner, and elsewhere he states that it is "damaged and had lower left corner missing."

7. Ashbrook's "**half**" **copy in the Newbury Strip** was Lot 173 in Kelleher's November 16, 1946, sale of the Emerson collection, and it thereafter found its way into the Newbury collection. It was Lot 56 in the RAS 5/17/61 sale of the Newbury collection, Part I. It is illustrated here as *Figure 7*. PF certificate 71,556 states that this strip has faint horizontal creases. Though the "C" double transfer is not a full stamp, this piece is valuable in narrowing down the possible plate positions from which the "C" double transfer comes.

8. **The Caspary pair**, pictured here as *Figure 8*, was Lot 78 in Harmer's 1/16/56 Sale Two of the Caspary collection, the left hand stamp being the "C." Its last appearance in my records was as Lot 102 in the RAS 6/25/87 auction of "A Portion of the Philip G. Rust Collection." The right-hand stamp of the pair was described as having a faint crease.

I have identified six copies of the "C" double transfer, in addition to those listed in the Ashbrook records.¹¹ They are:

9. *Figure 9* is the **Pope copy**. It was Lot 76 in the 5/4/85 John Fox sale of Part II of the John D. Pope III collection. It was described as a "C" double transfer with a blue grid cancel. It was similarly described in the RAS 12/9/92 sale, Lot 44. Although I attended both sales, I do not recall examining this stamp. However, both catalogue illustrations raise a serious question in my mind as to whether it really is a "C" double transfer. On the strength of Mr. Pope's expertise, I reluctantly list it here as potentially a "C," but note a strong caveat.

10. *Figure 10* is the **Sheriff copy**, another off-cover used single. This stamp was sold as Lot 18 in the RAS 12/11/85 sale of the Sheriff collection. It was later sold as Lot 96 in Robert G. Kaufmann's 10/11/89 "Elite" collection sale, where it was described as having "Large Even Margins, Philatelic Foundation Certificate mentions faint horizontal crease which is barely perceptible, still very fine."

11. *Figure 11* is the **Hart copy**, another off-cover used single which was sold as Lot 114 in Robert G. Kaufmann's 4/30/90 sale of the collection of my editorial predecessor, Creighton C. Hart. It was described as having "three margins, barely in at right, red square grid, light horizontal crease . . ." It is covered by PF certificate 14,887.

12. *Figure 12* is the **Saadi pair**. The "C" double transfer is the right hand stamp of this horizontal pair, which now rests in the important Wade Saadi 1847 collection, and is covered by PF certificate 241,409. An interesting aspect of this example is that it shows the full triangular blur at lower left of the double transfer stamp, a marking not unlike the taller characteristic blur in the same general location on the "B" double transfer. This blurry mark, a bit of which also shows on several other single stamp examples, may be a low spot on the plate caused by some aspect of plate entry, possibly particularly heavy pressure of the transfer roll used by the siderographer as he reentered this position.

13. *Figure 13* is the **Brown copy**. It is ex-Mal Brown, and was sold in Kelleher's 11/8/94 sale as Lot 576, where it was described as having 3½ margins and a "small wrinkle at top." It is covered by PF certificate 286,865.

14. *Figure 14* is the **unused copy**. This is the only unused copy of which I have found any record. It is certified unused by PF certificate 30,648. I have not found any record of its public sale.

¹¹Mal Brown and Wade Saadi, past contributors to this section, each materially assisted in this part of the census. My added thanks to each of them for reviewing parts of this manuscript.

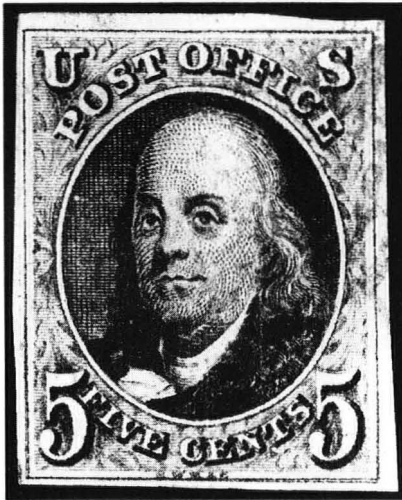


Figure 1. 5¢ 1847 "C" double transfer ("Discovery copy").

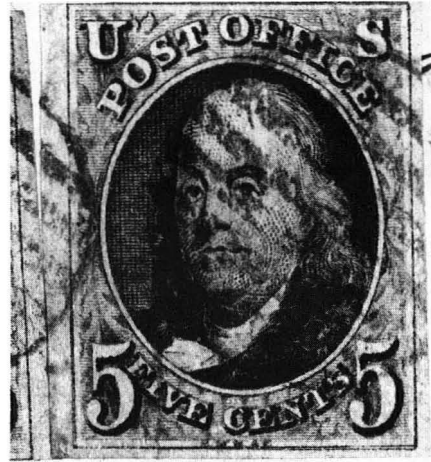


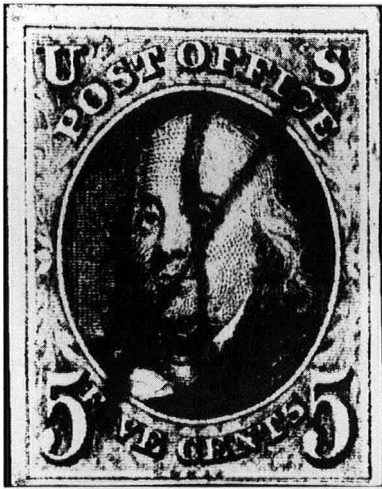
Figure 2. 5¢ 1847 "C" double transfer ("Doane sale copy").



Figure 3. 5¢ 1847 "C" double transfer ("Hibbard copy").



Figure 4. 5¢ 1847 "C" double transfer ("Sampson copy").



*no illustration
available for
Madison copy
(#6)*

Figure 5. 5¢ 1847 "C" double transfer ("Silsby copy").



Figure 7. 5¢ 1847 "C" double transfer ("Newbury Strip half copy").

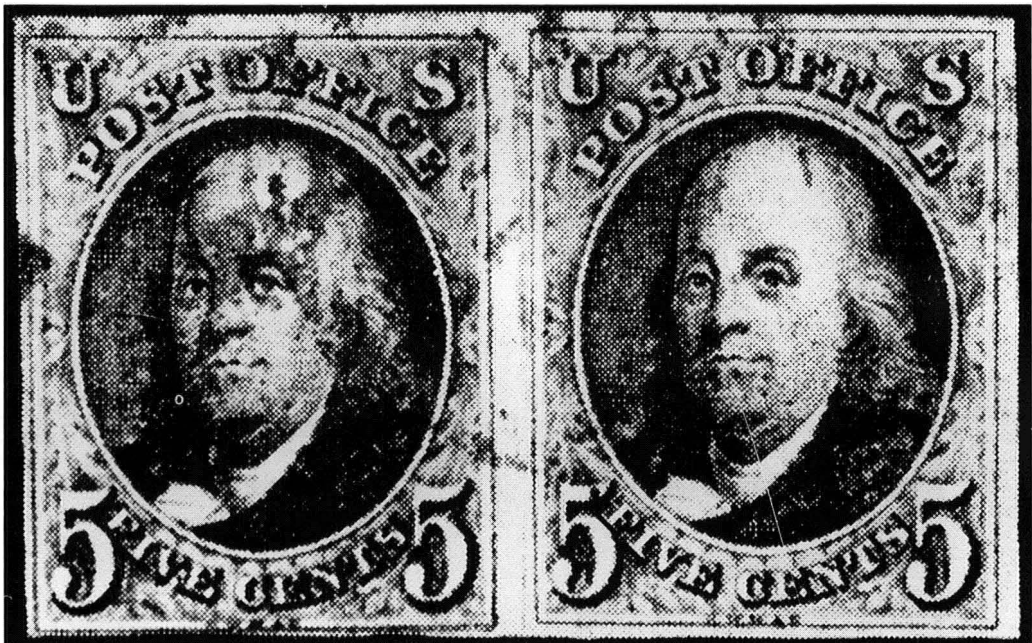


Figure 8. 5¢ 1847 "C" double transfer ("Caspary pair").



Figure 9. 5¢ 1847 "C" double transfer ("Pope copy").



Figure 10. 5¢ 1847 "C" double transfer ("Sheriff copy").



Figure 11. 5¢ 1847 "C" double transfer ("Hart copy").



Figure 12. 5¢ 1847 "C" double transfer ("Saadi pair").



Figure 13. 5¢ 1847 "C" double transfer ("Brown copy").



Figure 14. 5¢ 1847 "C" double transfer ("the unused copy").
(Photocopy courtesy of Philatelic Foundation)

This census of 13½ copies lists substantially more examples of the “C” double transfer than have previously been publicly recorded.¹² A full three-quarters of a century having passed since the original discovery of the “C” double transfer, it would appear unlikely that many more exist. Thus I estimate that no more than 15 examples of the “C” double transfer have survived to the present time.¹³

If one works from the hypothesis that the “C” double transfer was created on the plate just prior to the last delivery in December 1850, while the “A” and “B” double transfers were on the plate from the beginning through the end of the period of 1847 issue usage, this would yield an approximate production relationship of one “C” to 4.4 “A”’s and “B”’s each.¹⁴ Assuming survival of examples in the same general proportion as those production numbers, this would suggest about 65 surviving “A”’s and the same number of “B”’s. On an *a priori* basis, that seems about right.¹⁵

B. Prices Realized By the “C” Double Transfer

The scarcity of the “C” double transfer is reflected in the erratic prices it has commanded in public sales, prices which seem to have been driven more by the level of demand at a particular time than the supply of available examples.

In recent years, the highest price realized at public auction appears to have been the hammer of \$4,000 paid for **the Sheriff copy** in the 1989 Elite sale, as against a \$2,000-2,500 estimate. In fact, this realization appears to be a bit off the curve. If extraordinary circumstances prevailed in the sale of this creased copy I cannot say.

Another high price, but within a more historically reasonable range, was the \$1,500 realized by **the Hart copy** in 1990, another creased copy, this one having only three margins.

Going back a few years to 1987, **the Caspary pair** realized \$2,400 hammer in the RAS sale, a realization due in part at least to the description of its brown orange color.

By the standard of those realizations, the \$1,100 hammer paid in 1995 for **the Discovery Copy**, which is also in a brown orange color and has four margins and no flaws, seems reasonable.

There have been lower prices in the recent past for copies in lesser condition. The **Brown copy**, with 3½ margins and a “wrinkle” at top, realized \$180 hammer in the Kelleher 11/8/94 sale, while the heavily creased **Sampson Copy** realized only \$145 hammer in that same sale. Both these stamps were bought by a knowledgeable dealer who has

¹²In addition to the previously mentioned Ashbrook census, see, *e.g.*, Calvet Hahn, “Reexamining the 1847 Colors,” Part III, *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 65, No. 5 (Sept.-Oct. 1986), p. 386, in which the author states that he “record[s] at least six examples, one of which is on a cover from New York to Canada postmarked November 1847 so we know it came from the first printing.” The five examples other than the aforementioned cover are among the 13½ examples in this census. The purported “C” double transfer cover is discussed, *infra*, where the evidence against its authenticity as a “C” double transfer is presented.

¹³I would appreciate reports of any additional copies of the “C,” with illustrations of the stamp if possible, even if only a photocopy sufficient to distinguish the stamp from other 5¢ 1847 stamps, so that a supplement to this census may be published in the future.

¹⁴The five deliveries of the 5¢ stamp from the Rawdon firm to the Post Office totaled 4,400,000, of which 1,000,000 were in the fifth delivery. [John N. Luff, *The Postage Stamps Of The United States* (New York: Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., 1902), p. 63.] Though it is possible to refine these numbers slightly, no useful purpose would be served by doing so to arrive at a general estimate of this kind.

¹⁵An imprecise search of the Philatelic Foundation records, which are not kept so as to permit ready identification of double transfer examples, and in which missed examples may be more likely to occur in the “A” and “B” varieties, yielded a count of 13 “A”’s, 14 “B”’s, and 4.5 “C”’s. Although the ratio of “C”’s is somewhat higher than when computed by alternative methods, this count confirms the essential equality of the “A”’s and “B”’s, and the far fewer number of “C”’s.

been offering them at \$1,250 each. I have not been informed whether either copy has been sold.

Overall, I read these realizations as indicating that the *Scott U.S. Specialized* is substantially undervaluing the “C” double transfer when it pegs it at the same level as the “A” and “B” doubles.¹⁶

III. The “C” Double Transfer Covers And Their Relation to the Reworked Plate Theory

There is important evidence to be gleaned from the “C” double transfers on cover. First half 1851 usages of the “C” would be consistent with Ashbrook’s thesis. Although this evidence would not be conclusive because a “C” double transfer on a first half 1851 cover could conceivably be a late usage from a fourth delivery or earlier, the more 1851 usages of the “C” double transfer there are, the greater the likelihood that the “C” first appeared in the fifth delivery. Conversely, a cover showing a pre-1850 usage would, in and of itself, undercut Ashbrook’s theory that the “C” double transfer came about as a result of a plate reworking late in 1850.

As I review the relatively sparse cover evidence, it is consistent with Ashbrook’s thesis.

A. The Two Covers Known To Ashbrook

There are only two covers listed among the “C” double transfers in the preceding census, these being No. 2, **the Doane sale** copy, and No. 3, **the Hibbard copy**. The illustration of the latter is the only one of the two located (see *Fig. II*), and it does not indicate the year of use. However, it will be recalled that in his *Special Service* article quoted earlier Ashbrook stated: “Two covers with the ‘C’ are known with uses in 1851, and the stamps in the Chase ‘Brown Orange’ color. These indicate the cleaned or ‘Late State’ of the plate.” The two covers to which Ashbrook referred must have been the two listed in the census in this article, these being the only two covers mentioned by Ashbrook in his list.

B. The Cover in the RAS 1973 Sale—Not A “C” Double Transfer

There is one other putative copy on cover which is not included in my census because the stamp in question is not a “C” double transfer, although it once was described as such. Lot 868 in the RAS 2/15/73 Sale No. 426 was described as being a horizontal pair on folded letter to Canada: “Three large margins, barely clear at right. Major Double Transfer, Type ‘C’ on the right stamp.” See *Figure III* for a blow-up of the catalogue illustration. The cover has a faint year-dated Canadian receiving cds on its face which establishes that it was a November 1847 usage.

It is remarkable how much rests on the question of the accuracy of the description of just one lot in an old auction catalogue. As explained above, if one of the stamps on this 1847-use cover were indeed a “C” double transfer, it would *per se* disprove Ashbrook’s thesis about the “C” double transfer being the product of a late change in the 5¢ 1847 plate. For that reason, I have made a careful investigation which has adduced what I regard as more than ample evidence to establish that the sale catalogue’s description was incorrect when it identified the right stamp of the pair as a “C” double transfer. This evidence includes the following:

- The prices realized list for this RAS sale omits any mention of Lot 868, thus indicating that it was withdrawn because the pair was misdescribed.
- It has been suggested by a believer in the accuracy of the description of Lot 868 that the Siegel descriptions of that period, that is, during 1973, merit particular credence

¹⁶Although no price data for the “A” and “B” doubles is included here, my impression is that the catalogue is reasonably accurate in the premium it assigns to those varieties. Early impressions of these double transfers, which tend to show the doubling in greater detail, have sometimes realized higher prices.

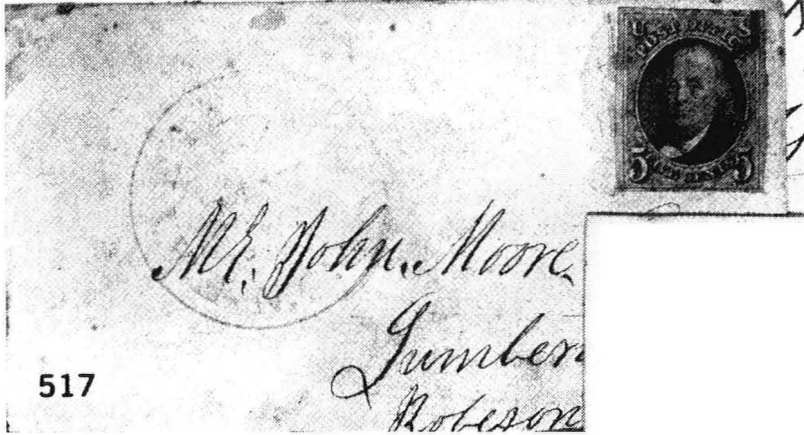


Figure II. 5¢ 1847 "C" double transfer on cover ("Hibbard copy").

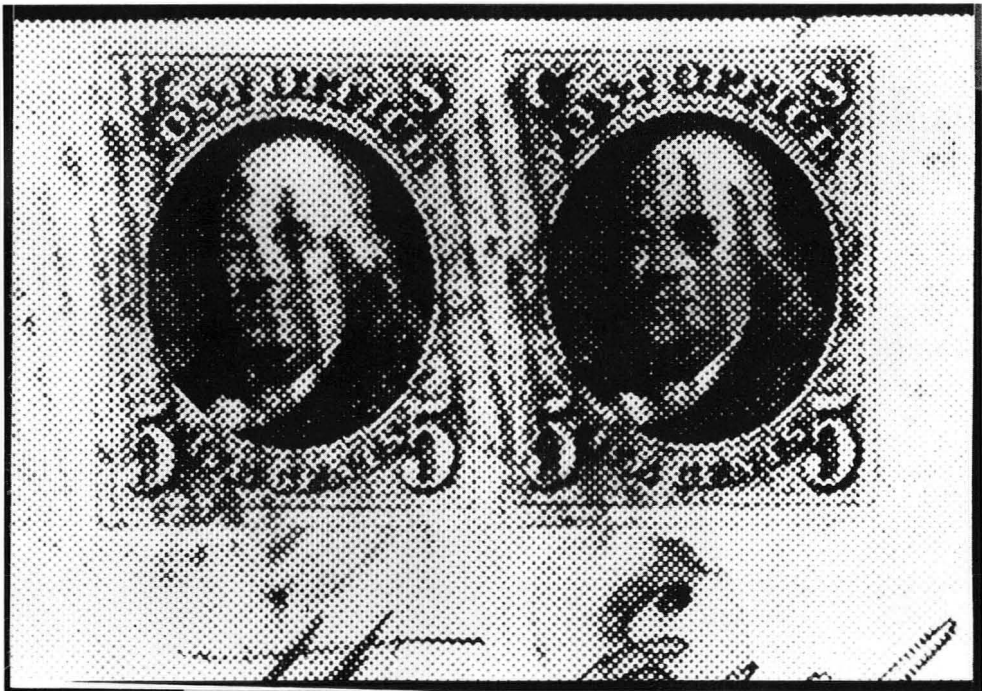


Figure III. 5¢ 1847 "B" double transfer on Nov. 1847 cover (PF 71 477).

because they were done by a respected philatelist, Mr. Roy L. Spiller. However, in a May 17, 1995, letter Mr. Spiller states that although he was a describer for Siegel in 1973, "I very definitely did NOT describe the lot in question, not my style of description at all."¹⁷ He further states:

The fact that the lot is unpriced in the prices-realized would indicate that it had been withdrawn and not unsold because Bob had no reserves in his sales. I would bet that somebody realized the description was incorrect and called Bob's attention to it so he withdrew it, rather than selling it as a floor sale item only, which he would have deemed unfair to the consignor.

- Even though the half-tone sale catalogue illustration is relatively small and lacks detail, careful examination shows the top frame line of the left-hand stamp of this pair to be slightly *lower* than that of the right. Again, see *Figure III*. The opposite is true of the two verified "C" double transfers in multiples which show the stamp to the left of the double transfer, the **"half" copy** and the **Saadi pair**, Nos. 7 and 12, above. On both of these, the top frame line of the stamp to the left of the "C" double transfer is markedly *higher* than that of the "C" double transfer stamp. The lower top frame line on the left stamp in the pair in Lot 868 is characteristic of the stamp to the left of the "B" double transfer. To me, this is the single most convincing point on this issue. If one knows what to look for, this difference can readily be seen even by cursory examination, despite the lack of detail in the catalogue photograph of the Lot 868 cover.

- It has also been suggested that the Siegel description merits acceptance because it was part of a sale of items owned by Tracy Simpson, a philatelist of such eminent status that he needs no introduction to readers of this journal. However, although Simpson's identification of a plate variety might be given credence, even although his interest was not primarily in the 1847 issue, there is no evidence known to me that Simpson owned or consigned the Lot 868 cover. The Siegel catalogue of Sale 426 notes that Simpson was among a number of consignors for that sale, and there is no evidence as to who consigned lot 868.¹⁸ Thus Tracy Simpson cannot serve *ad hominem* to validate Lot 868.

To all of the above, it must be added that on November 27, 1978, the PF issued its certificate No. 71,477 on this cover, which identified the right-hand stamp as a **"B"** double transfer.¹⁹

Those who would dispute this 1978 PF certificate must also deal with the trove of evidence detailed above which confirms the correctness of that certificate. Moreover, it should be kept in mind that no other pre-1851 usage of the "C" double transfer has been publicly recorded in the more than 20 years which have passed since Siegel's 426th sale. Further, there is the fact that there are two other "C" double transfer cover usages in 1851 (as noted above) which would badly distort the statistical array of dates of on-cover representation if the "C" double transfer were on the 5¢ plate from the beginning of production in 1847.

¹⁷Mr. Spiller goes on to suggest that the description was written by another Siegel describer, whom "no one could accuse ... of being a student."

¹⁸There are many 3¢ 1851 lots in that sale which were far more characteristic of Mr. Simpson's known interest and more reasonably attributable to him.

In response to my inquiry, Scott Trepel, president of the Siegel firm, has written that, "I regret to inform you that the records for Sale 426 were discarded years ago. Accordingly it is not possible to identify the consignor or the purchaser of [Lot 868]."

¹⁹The certificate was issued when Mortimer L. Neinken was the Chairman of the PF Expert Committee. Although Mr. Neinken was fallible, as all experts are, he was no rote signer, which those of us who knew him in those years can confirm. He was a hands-on Expert Committee chairman who personally and knowledgeably reviewed the "patients," particularly the classic U.S. items. If any *ad hominem* argument is made on the issue of the double transfer identification on the Lot 868 cover, it should be that the PF is correct.

It would be optimal if the cover itself were found and available for examination. However, even without it, putting all the elements of the picture together, there is in my judgment overwhelming evidence that the right stamp of the pair on the Lot 686 cover was *not* a “C” double transfer. Therefore, I believe the record of known copies of the “C” double transfer, including known verified covers, remains consistent with Ashbrook’s hypothesis that the “C” double transfer was not created until the last use of the plate in the latter part of 1850.

A Final Note: the Plate Position of the “C” Double Transfer

Unlike the more common “A” and “B” double transfers, the plate position of the “C” double transfer has never been established, another point suggesting that the “C” is a far scarcer and more elusive item. However, the examples of the “C” double transfer in multiples narrow the possibilities.

- The left margin of the **“half” copy in the Newbury Strip** appears to be a sheet margin. On his photograph of this strip, Ashbrook drew an arrow pointing to the left-hand stamp and wrote, “1st vertical?” Ashbrook’s question mark indicates a lack of absolute assurance on this point, so I cannot presume to express any greater certainty. However, the margin appears to be sufficient to warrant the conclusion. In any event, **the Newbury Strip** establishes that the position of the “C” double transfer is no closer to the left side than the fourth column of the pane.

- **The Caspary pair**, which has the “C” double transfer position as the left-hand stamp, establishes that the “C” double transfer does not come from the tenth column of the pane.

- **The Saadi pair**, which shows a generous portion of a stamp above the position to the left of the “C” double transfer position as well as the top frame line of the stamp below, eliminates both the top and bottom rows of the pane as possible locations of the “C” double transfer.

Thus we can conclude that the “C” double transfer probably is to be found on one of the following 8 positions: 14, 24, 34, 44, 54, 64, 74 or 84 of the pane; and almost certainly within one of the following 48 positions: 14-19, 24-29, 34-39, 44-49, 54-59, 64-69, 74-79 or 84-89.

Conclusion

The “C” double transfer of the 5¢ 1847 is highly appreciated by knowledgeable collectors of, and dealers in, the 1847 issue. However, it appears to be significantly under-appreciated in the *Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue*.

In the hope that I might persuade the catalogue editors to reread the “peculiar lesson” to be learned from the “C” double transfers (referring again to Melville’s quote at the beginning of this essay), I have heretofore communicated the principal facts stated in this article to them. Whatever the outcome of that effort, I hereby express my opinion that the 5¢ 1847 “C” double transfer is a far scarcer, more desirable and more important plate variety than its predecessors in the “cunning” double transfer alphabet. □

IMPORTANT STAMPS AND
COVERS OF THE UNITED STATES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1995



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EARLY CANCELLATIONS OF NEW YORK CITY: PART I
1842-1852
HUBERT C. SKINNER

The postal markings applied to mail in New York City from the introduction of the first adhesive postage stamps until the United States became a part of the Universal Postal Union provide the basis for a fascinating study of the handling of mail at the New York Post Office. The early part of this time span is examined here. During the pre-adhesive period, there was no need for cancellations or other obliterating devices except for a few rare instances when it was necessary for some reason to obliterate or “cancel” a handstamped postmark.

Local Posts and Carrier Services

The first adhesives issued in the United States were the local stamps prepared for the City Despatch Post, established by Alexander M. Greig in early 1842, at 46 William Street, New York City. Earlier, in 1840-1841, the “NEW-YORK/PENNY POST” was operating in the city. This predecessor private post used only handstamped markings on the letters it delivered (see Figure 1a). In late 1841, a London merchant visiting in the United States, Henry Thomas Windsor, decided to introduce Sir Rowland Hill’s postal reforms [reduced postage, adhesive stamps, etc.] to America. He secured the rights to the existing New-York Penny Post and, believing that a locally known American would be more likely to be successful than a stranger, asked his friend Alexander M. Greig, a New York City stockbroker, to become his agent [or “front man”] for the enterprise. They hurried to begin their service in anticipation of the St. Valentine’s Day rush and re-opened as the City Despatch Post on 1 February 1842. This service was a private local post which delivered letters within the city of New York for a fee of 3¢. Letter boxes were provided throughout the city and deliveries were made three times each day [at 9, 1, and 4 o’clock]. Letters could be sent unpaid with the fee collected from the recipient or prepaid by affixing the innovative City Despatch three cent adhesive [Scott 40L1 — a “local” stamp engraved and printed by Rawdon, Wright & Hatch] — termed a “free stamp” by the City Despatch Post (see below) — to the letter before dropping it in a letter box. Inter-city letters, if prepaid with the private post adhesive, were delivered to the United States Post Office where they were placed into the regular inland mails. During the several months this private post was in operation, the stamps were canceled with an elongate octagonal “FREE” in frame or box (see Figure 2a, Skinner-Eno PM-FR 1) or one of two types of circular dated handstamps reading “CITY DESPATCH POST” (see Figure 1b). The second type of cds differs from the first only in the “N.Y.” which is upright rather than inverted as illustrated here. All handstruck cancels are in red; the stamps on a few early covers are pen canceled.

Later in 1842, the United States Post Office [ever mindful of the specter of competition and lost business] purchased the highly successful Greig’s City Despatch Post and it re-opened under federal control as the United States City Despatch Post on 16 August 1842. It continued to use the same adhesive stamps [now “carrier” stamps, Scott 6LB1 and, reprinted from the original plate on five shades of tinted paper, 6LB2, 3, 4, 5, and 6]. The City Despatch Post continued to operate under government control for more than four years; it was discontinued on 28 November 1846. The United States local delivery service was succeeded on 30 November 1846 by the Post Office City Despatch, located at Liberty and Nassau streets across from the New York City post office, and managed by Abraham B. Mead, a former United States letter carrier. The fee had been reduced to 2¢ in 1846 and



Figure 1. The various postmarks applied to letters delivered within the city between 1840 and 1846 [each with month, day, and time-of-delivery indicated]: (a) The double-circle handstamp [36 mm] used on stampless covers delivered by the NEW-YORK PENNY POST; (b) The double-circle handstamp [36 mm; similar to 1a] used as a postmark and in a few cases as an obliterator by Grieg's CITY DESPATCH POST; (c) The circular postmark [32 mm] used by the United States Post Office after taking over Grieg's Despatch in late 1842 and re-opening as the UNITED STATES CITY DESPATCH POST; (d) The circular postmark [32 mm] used by Mead's POST OFFICE CITY DESPATCH after the delivery service reverted to private hands in November 1846. [Drawings modified from Patton (1967), with additions; scale slightly reduced]

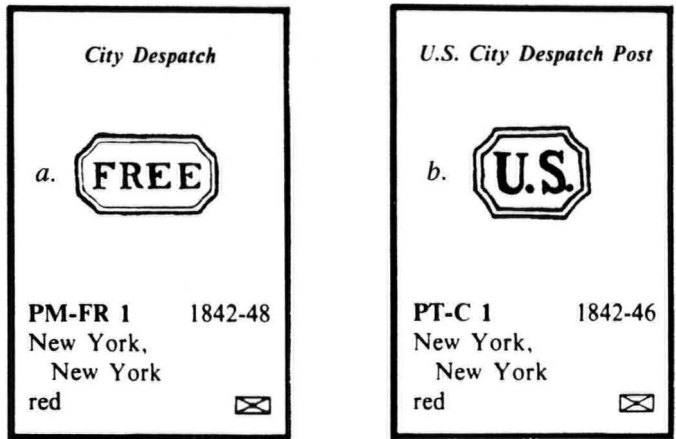


Figure 2. The first two postal markings designed and intended for the purpose of obliterating adhesive postage stamps [in the United States]: (a) The octagonal boxed "FREE" [19x11 mm] used as an obliterator by Grieg's City Despatch Post in early 1842; (b) The octagonal boxed "U.S." [15x12 mm] used to cancel and "overprint" the adhesive stamps on letters delivered by the United States City Despatch Post during the four years it was owned and operated by the United States Post Office. [Reproduced from Skinner-Eno, 1980; full scale]

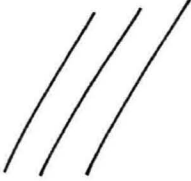














 <p>NYPM 1845a blue, magenta</p>	<p>PAID</p> <p>NYPM 1845b red</p>	 <p>NYPM 1845c red</p>	 <p>NYPM 1845d red</p>
 <p>NYPM 1845e red, black</p>	 <p>NYPM 46-1 red</p>	 <p>NYPM 49-1 red, black</p>	 <p>NYDM 51-1 red, black</p>
 <p>NYDM 51-2 black</p>	 <p>NYDM 51-3 black</p>	 <p>NYDM 51-4 black</p>	 <p>NYDM 51-5 black</p>
 <p>NYDM 52-1 black</p>	 <p>NYDM 52-2 black</p>	 <p>NYDM 52-3 black</p>	 <p>NYDM 52-4 black</p>

Figure 3. The postmark devices used to obliterate adhesive stamps on letters directed to cities throughout the United States and Canada between 1845 and 1852: NYPM (New York Postal Marking), used on various classes of mail, 1845-1851; NYDM (New York Domestic Marking), used on domestic inter-city letters or circulars dispatched by over-land routes, 1851-1852. [Reproduced from Skinner, 1992, but modified and re-numbered; reduced 12%]

the previous adhesives had been surcharged with a large red "2" [Scott 6LB7] to accommodate the reduced rate. Under a special arrangement with the New York postmaster, these stamps remained valid for private carrier use or could be redeemed at the United States post office. In 1847, new adhesives were printed first on green and, later, on pink glazed paper from the original "Greig" plate but with the value altered from "THREE" to "TWO" cents [Scott 40L2 and 40L3]. In late 1847 or early 1848, the private post was sold once again to Charles Coles at 492 Broadway, who operated it until 1850 or 1851. The original plate was altered a second time by the addition of the hand-punched initials "C C" with one "C" positioned on each side of the central portrait of Washington. New adhesives were printed on five different shades of tinted paper from the newly altered plate [Scott 40L4, 5, 6, 7 and 8]. Examples of these altered stamps are quite scarce, especially on dated covers. The foregoing account of these early local and carrier stamps and their history is compiled from Scott's 1995 *Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps* and Patton's *The Private Local Posts of The United States*, Volume I: New York State. The reader is referred to these sources for a more complete description of the adhesive stamps and the carrier services.

The oblong "FREE" in a double octagonal frame introduced as a "killer" by the original Greig's City Despatch Post in early 1842 is the earliest marking [from the United States] known to this writer which was designed as an obliterator for adhesive stamps. The stamps on only a very few covers, most from early 1842, are canceled by a circular date stamp or otherwise defaced; obviously, the boxed "FREE" was the intended obliterator. It is quite clear that the significance of the "FREE" handstamped on these letters denotes prepayment and is on these stamps synonymous with "PAID" as used elsewhere. The meaning of "FREE" is "free from further charges" — that is, delivery to the addressee "free from cost." The company advertised:

*** Post-Paid Letters. — Letters which the writers desire to send free, must have a free stamp affixed to them. An ornamental stamp has been prepared for this purpose
*** 36 cents per dozen or 2 dolls. 50c per hundred. *** [reprinted from Scott's 1995 *Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps*, p. 282, quoting the company advertisement from 1842]

In mid-August 1842, when the United States Post Office assumed control of this post, the circular date stamp was changed and the boxed "FREE" was replaced by a boxed "U.S." (see Figure 2b, Skinner-Eno PT-C 1). The "U.S." handstamp served both as an obliterator and a sort of "overprint" identifying the adhesive as a government "issue." (Thus, this stamp [Scott 6LB1] becomes the first United States government "issue" adhesive postage stamp.) A new cds reading "U.S." in place of "N.Y." at the bottom was prepared. It has a single circle about four millimeters smaller than the private post marking (see Figure 1c). In 1846, when Mead took over the carrier service and it once again became a private post, the postmark was changed again. The abbreviation "P.O." was substituted for "U.S." at the bottom; otherwise it was similar in size, wording, and style of type (see Figure 1d).

At least 16 other local posts with private adhesive stamp issues are recorded as established by 1845 in New York and other major cities and are Scott-listed. Each of these private ventures represents an attempt to compete with the United States Post Office. Almost all of the adhesives prepared for these other private posts [when obliterated] were canceled with penstrokes, straightline "PAID" or "FREE" markings, or the private company handstamps.

New York Postmaster's Provisionals

Before 1 July 1845, the rates of postage in the United States were high and represented a considerable inconvenience to many of our less affluent citizens. By the Postal Act of 3 March 1845 [effective 1 July], the single letter rate (up to 1/2 ounce) was reduced to 5¢ for a distance of 300 miles and 10¢ for greater distances. Further, it had long been

customary for the fees to be collected from the recipient rather than prepaid by the sender. Thus, a simplified rate structure in addition to the reduced charges became a sort of subtle inducement to encourage prepayment of letter fees. Though the new Postal Act did not provide for the preparation and issue of adhesive stamps, it did permit individual postmasters to issue stamps that were valid as prepayment at the issuing post office.

Robert H. Morris, Postmaster at New York City, had been appointed to his position on 21 May 1845 only a few weeks before the rate change became effective. Without doubt, he was aware that adhesive stamps had been used for prepayment of the fees for local delivery and carrier services in New York City for several years, that this innovation had hastened and improved the delivery of the local mails, and that these stamps had been well received and were a successful factor in encouraging the prepayment of postage. Thus, shortly after his appointment, Postmaster Morris contracted with the well known New York engraving firm Rawdon, Wright & Hatch to prepare and print engraved adhesive stamps denominated 5¢ and bearing the likeness of George Washington adapted from a stock die previously used by the engravers to print private bank currency. These are the first adhesives in the United States issued to provide for prepayment of the inter-city mails.

The first shipment of the new stamps, termed New York Postmaster's Provisionals [Scott 9X1], was delivered to Morris on Saturday, 12 July 1845. They were placed on sale on Monday, 14 July, and the earliest known covers bearing the new adhesive issue are dated 15 July 1845. Stanley M. Piller records ten extant "first day" covers, eight of which are trans-Atlantic letters addressed to England, France and Germany (see Piller, 1991, pp. 55-60). The stamps on these early covers lack the characteristic manuscript initials which were added to the New York Provisionals to serve as a "validation" or control marking. From the 17th of July, the dated usages recorded bear these control marks.

When the new stamps were placed in use, quite naturally there were no devices available designed as obliterators for these stamps as there had been no previous need for them.¹ Initially, some stamps were left uncanceled, but others were "killed" by makeshift methods, using penstrokes or existing postmarks as killers (see Figure 3: NYPM 1845a, 1845b, 1845c and 1845d). Further, at this time, all letters were treated and canceled alike, regardless of their destination.

A distinctive square grid of 13 diagonal lines (see Figure 3: NYPM 46-1) was the first obliterator designed to cancel adhesive postage stamps on inter-city mail. It measures about 18 to 19 millimeters on each side and consists of 13 fine lines each less than one millimeter in thickness. According to Piller (1991, p. 47), it is known used on the 5¢ New York provisional stamp as early as 11 November 1846. It is fairly scarce on the provisional issue but is relatively common on the United States 1847 issue. No similar design has been recorded used from any office other than New York City [except in Detroit, much later (1858)].

The 1847 Stamps

After two years, on 1 July 1847, the New York Postmaster's Provisionals were superseded by the first United States general issue. These stamps, in the denominations of 5¢ [Scott 1] and 10¢ [Scott 2], were authorized by the Postal Act of 3 March 1847 which provided for the production and use of adhesive stamps on the inter-city and foreign mails and added new and extended rates of postage. The same New York engraving company, now

¹Actually, the "U.S." in octagonal frame (see Figure 2b) was intended to serve a dual purpose as both an obliterator and a sort of "overprint" identifying the Greig adhesive as a government "issue" when used [after mid-August 1842] by the United States City Despatch Post. Three New York Postmaster's Provisionals are recorded with the boxed "U.S." marking, one off cover and two on cover. In each case, the letter was picked up or delivered by the United States City Despatch Post and this marking cannot be considered an obliterator for the New York inter-city mails or the foreign mails.

known as Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson, produced the new stamps, but this time for the federal government. Again, all letters were treated and canceled alike at New York City, regardless of their destination.

The second obliterator designed to cancel adhesive postage stamps on inter-city mail at New York City is the ubiquitous seven-bar encircled grid used far and wide in the early adhesive period at many post offices (see Figure 3: NYPM 49-1). It is circular, slightly more than 18 millimeters in diameter, the outer frame $\frac{1}{2}$ millimeter in thickness, the seven inner bars one millimeter thick, and in New York City it was first struck in red ink; much later [1851], it was struck in black.

Philip T. Wall recently reviewed the usage of this round red grid at New York City on the 1847 issue (*Chronicle* 161, February 1994, pp. 23-28). Wall reviewed the auction record for thirty years or more, including the important "name" sales through this period, to compile his listing of covers bearing 1847 stamps canceled by the round red grid. His exhaustive search confirms that 1847 covers from New York City showing use of the round grid as a killer are quite scarce. Of the 26 covers listed, 14 are domestic usages from New York to other cities (including five New York Express Mail letters), eight are directed to Canada, and four are from Montreal to New York City. Curiously, none were sent to overseas destinations. Wall estimates that eight to ten additional New York City 1847 covers with the round red grid probably exist; this writer can add one more cover to the list, dated "NOV 6" [1849] and addressed to Chicago. The earliest cover known to Wall with the round red grid killer is dated 19 October 1849;² thus, this canceling device was introduced at New York City about October 1849. It is recorded as late as 12 December 1851 on the 3¢ stamp of 1851 [Scott 10, used to prepay a letter to Providence, R. I.; this cover was carried by the "U.S. Express Mail"]. After the rates were reduced once again and the new stamps of the 1851 issue were put in use on 1 July 1851, the round red grid remained in use as a killer device at New York City but is not common. However, of the 1851 covers recorded with this grid, nearly all are "U.S. Express Mail" letters (see Figure 3: NYPM 1845e).

Philip T. Wall suggests that the round red grid was intended for use on the mails to Canada. Apparently, his suggestion is based largely on speculative comments made by Stanley B. Ashbrook in 1955 and 1956 referring to the scarcity of the round red grid used at New York City to cancel 1847 stamps and the relatively large number of the few such covers recorded that were carried to or from Canada [about 35%]. Earlier, Ashbrook (1938, vol. 2, p. 114) had speculated that the round red grid was "reserved especially" for *foreign* mail. At this time, based on the usages recorded, this writer cannot agree with either authority. For the moment, we should exclude from consideration the recorded letters *from* Canada; these are a special case. Wall records eight covers from New York City to Canada West [Ontario], Bas Canada [Quebec] or Nova Scotia dated between 19 October 1849 and 28 September 1850 [we have corrected Wall's typographical error for the 24 January cover; it is early 1850]. There are 15 recorded covers to various domestic destinations dated between 20 [or 30] October 1849 and 22 December 1850 [one of these has a partial date which appears to be in May 1851]. Of these, five were carried by the "U.S. Express Mail" from New York City to Boston, Providence, or other points in New England; one is addressed to Lockport, New York; two to Michigan; two to Connecticut; one each to Boston, Charleston, Chicago, New Orleans, Philadelphia and even one to Stockton, California. These domestic points are widely distributed through the United States and represent a variety of domestic routings. Further, even though each of the two groups consists of only a small number of covers, in both groups the dated usages are fairly evenly distributed from late 1849 to late 1850. Thus, it appears to this observer that the

²Discounting an unconfirmed auction description citing 1848 as the year of use only [no month or day (see Wall, p. 25)].

round red grid was in ordinary use as an obliterator for both the domestic inter-city mails and the Canada mails during its early "lifetime." Most of the trans-Atlantic covers franked with 1847 stamps and originating in New York City which have been recorded or seen by this writer are early enough to have been canceled by the 13-bar square grid; Wall lists no 1847 issue trans-Atlantic covers with the round red grid.

On 19 November 1847, the Postmaster of Montreal, Quebec, wrote a letter to Robert H. Morris, Postmaster of New York City, with an unusual inquiry:

I have been requested by a number of merchants in the City to address you with a view to ascertain, whether or not you will consider **as paid** all letters from Canada which reach your office with the **postage stamps** of your Government whether they are for your own delivery or for transmission to Europe. If there is no objection to the adoption of this plan, much of the inconvenience anticipated to result from the change which has just taken place in our intercourse will be obviated. I shall be glad to receive an early reply to this letter and at the same time will be glad to know to whom I shall have to apply for the purchase of a supply of your postage stamps. [quoted verbatim from the original letter as described and offered for sale as Lot 161 in Robert A. Siegel's 743rd Sale, the Award-Winning Kapiloff Collection, 9 June 1992]

This clever maneuver by the Montreal Postmaster, written three days after the "Paid to the Lines" period of the U.S.-Canada cross-border mails began, was designed to "obviate" the inability of the Canadian sender to pay the United States portion of the through postage between Montreal and New York City during this interval, thereby speeding the delivery of these mails. It is obvious that Postmaster Morris was receptive to his Canadian counterpart's proposal. The four covers with U.S. stamps of the 1847 issue used from Montreal, Quebec, Canada, to New York City, as listed by Wall, are evidence of this agreement and, on arrival, they were canceled at New York with the round red grid. One of these four is a fabulous U.S./Canadian combination cover (see the Ishikawa Sale, Lot 84) with a strip of five 5¢ 1847 stamps overpaying the 24¢ rate from New York to London, dated at Montreal 19 May 1851 and canceled at New York City by the round red grid struck nine times. Also, the cover bears a just-issued 5c Canadian "Beaver" stamp which is canceled by the Canadian seven-ring target killer [Skinner-Eno SD-T 10]. Further, another Montreal-New York cover is recorded with a 3d 1851 Canadian "Beaver" stamp used in combination with a single 5¢ 1847 U.S. stamp (see Kapiloff Sale, Lot 121). On this cover, both the Canadian "Beaver" and the U.S. stamp are canceled with the Canadian seven-ring target obliterator.³ The cover is dated "JU 8 1851" at Montreal in a characteristic double-arc circle.

A third cover from Montreal to New York is known bearing a magnificent pair of 5¢ 1847 stamps canceled with the Canadian seven-ring target (see Caspary Sale II, Lot 119). Thus, a total of six covers sent fully prepaid "through the lines" are known to exist (which attest to the agreement between the Montreal and New York postmasters), but only the four listed by Wall have the 1847 stamps canceled by the New York round red grid.

The 1851 Issue

As authorized by the Postal Act of 3 March 1851 [effective 1 July 1851], the inter-city domestic single rate for letters was reduced to 3¢ for a distance "not exceeding" three thousand miles if prepaid or 5¢ if not prepaid. Greater distances were to be charged at double the above rates [6¢ and 10¢]. The new reduced rates required new denominations of postage stamps which were designed and issued in the values of 1¢ [Scott 5, 5A, 7 and

³The possible time span for combined use of the 3d Canadian "Beaver" stamp [issued on 23 April 1851] and the 5¢ U.S. first issue [demonetized 1 July 1851] was only 38 days. Only the two covers described above are known to exist franked with a combination of first issue Canadian and first issue United States stamps.

8A], 3¢ [Scott 10] and 12¢ [Scott 17]. These stamps were printed at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by "Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS, Phila., New York, Boston & Cincinnati" [quoted from the marginal imprint engraved on Plate No.2]. The 1847 stamps were demonetized effective 1 July 1851.

The third obliterator designed to cancel adhesive postage stamps on inter-city mail at New York City is an 11-bar square grid (see Figure 3: NYDM 51-1) which resembles the earlier 13-bar square grid in size and conceptual design. It is about 19 millimeters on each side but differs in having heavier bars, each at least one millimeter thick. It is rather remarkable that both Ashbrook (1938, vol. 2, p. 112) and Chase (1929, p. 327; 1942, p. 334) confused the 11-bar grid with the earlier 13-bar grid; apparently neither one ever counted the bars on a square grid from a usage earlier than mid-1851! Chase, however, did notice that the 1851 obliterator had heavier bars, as he stated "Incidentally the bars gradually became wider as the handstamp became worn." [Also, two of the bars "disappeared."]

The new 11-bar grid was available for use on 1 July 1851 and at least one cover is recorded with this cancel struck in red on that date. Evidently, red ink was used at first, at least during the early part of July, but black soon became the characteristic color [before the end of July]. Numerous examples of the 11-bar square grid in black have been recorded from July, August, September, October and November, 1851. However, by early August 1851, the current circular dated handstamp (see Figure 3: NYDM 51-2) was in frequent use as an obliterator on the inter-city mails. This permitted the letter to be both postmarked and canceled with a single hammer stroke, thus saving half the labor of using two devices. At New York City, many ordinary letters were processed in this manner using one of several circular dated handstamps [with no year date (see Figure 3: NYDM 51-2, NYDM 52-2 and NYDM 52-3)] from late 1851 until the late 1850s. It seems obvious that the enormous volume of domestic letters handled by the New York Post Office was the inspiration behind the introduction of labor-saving methods in processing the ordinary mails.

(to be continued)

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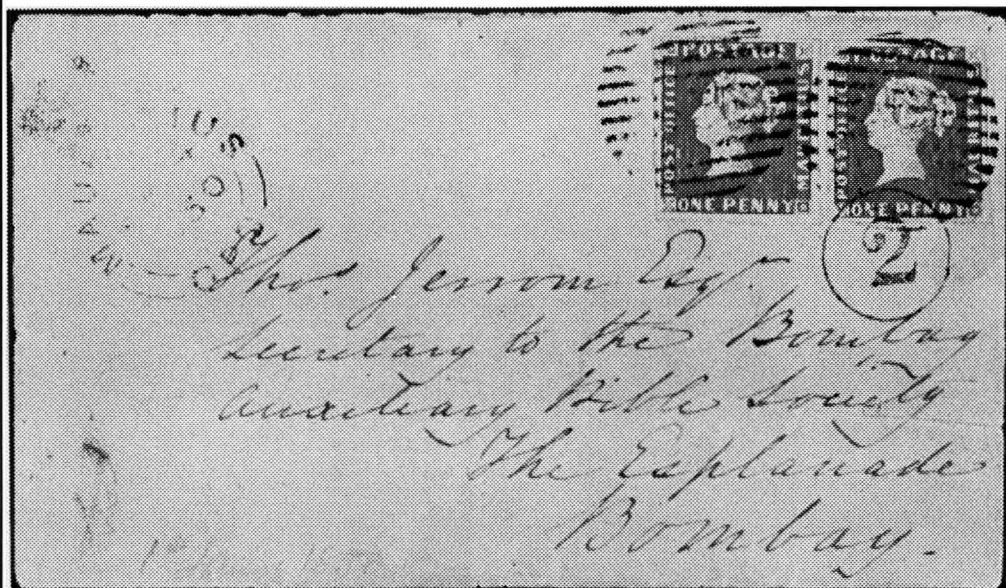
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THE STAMPS AND
POSTAL HISTORY OF
HAWAII

THE POGUE-FISKE CORRESPONDENCE FROM HAWAII TO PERSIA

The forthcoming sale of *The Honolulu Advertiser* collection of Hawaiian stamps and postal history, to be held by Siegel Auction Galleries on November 7-11, 1995, provides collectors of classic United States covers with the rare opportunity to study and acquire examples of nineteenth-century mail carried between the Hawaiian Islands and the conti-

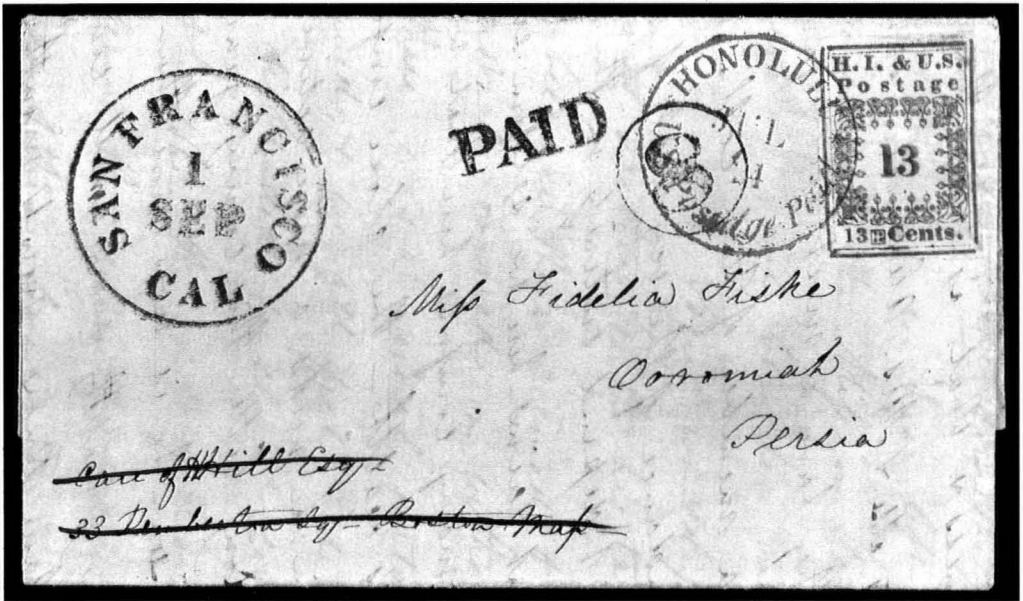


Figure 1. July 1852 letter from Maria Whitney Pogue to Fidelia Fiske in Oroomiah, Persia, franked with the 1852 13¢ "H.I. & U.S. Postage" Missionary (Scott 4), which paid the 5c Hawaiian postage, 2c ship captain's fee, and 6c U.S. rate from California to Boston. The letter was carried outside of the mails to the seminary at Oroomiah, in the northwestern region of modern-day Iran.

mental United States. The Pogue-Fiske correspondence in the *Advertiser* collection demonstrates, perhaps better than any other, the complexities of U.S.-Hawaiian postal arrangements during the 1850s. In this special advertising supplement to the *Chronicle*, three of the Pogue-Fiske covers are presented in color with a full description of the historical background and postal rates involved in this remarkable correspondence. Its purpose is to give Classics Society members a better understanding of the close relationship between Hawaii's early postal history and that of the United States.

The Hawaiian postal system prior to 1850 was informally arranged around maritime activity throughout the islands and between Hawaii and the principal U.S. ports. By Royal

decree—the “organic acts” of 1845-46—inter-island mail was carried free of any postal charge, with the ship captains receiving 2¢ per letter and 1¢ per newspaper for their service. Postmasters on the islands would make up bags of mail and arrange for their safe transmission. Mail bound for the United States prior to 1849 was entrusted to the captains of vessels embarking on the six-month voyage around Cape Horn to the Eastern Seaboard of the United States (or, by way of Mexico). Letters were sent without any prepayment, and, upon arrival at the port of entry, they received markings to indicate postage due, including the 2¢ fee paid to the ship’s captain.

In 1850 the United States and the Kingdom of Hawaii effected a treaty that provided for the regular exchange of mails on ships flying the flags of each nation. In the two years



Figure 2. Henry M. Whitney, Hawaii’s first postmaster-general.

before the friendship treaty, the expanded settlement of California also created another major port for the transmission of Hawaiian mails—San Francisco—and letters could now travel via San Francisco and Panama, in addition to the longer routes around Cape Horn or via Mexico. Beginning in November 1850, mail to and from Hawaii was carried under the new arrangements. In December 1850 the administrative functions in Hawaii were transferred from the Collector of Customs to the newly-appointed postmaster-general, Henry M. Whitney (see Figure 2). Six months later, the U.S. Post Office effected new rates, reducing from 40¢ to 6¢ the over-3,000 mile rate between California and the East Coast. Thus, by mid-1851 we have a uniform letter rate from Hawaii to the East Coast of 13c (5c Hawaiian postage, 2c ship captain’s fee, and 6c U.S. postage). Several months later in 1851, Postmaster Whitney’s post office issued Hawaii’s first stamps—the Missionaries—in denominations

of 2¢, 5¢ and 13¢, printed by Whitney on a small hand-operated press. The first three Missionaries (Scott 1, 2 and 3) were issued in November 1851, followed in April 1852 by the second version of 13¢, which reads “H.I. & U.S. Postage” to clarify the rates for which it was intended.

The first of the Pogue-Fiske letters carries a sound and very fine example of the 13¢ “H.I. & U.S. Postage” Missionary stamp (see Figure 1). The letter is written by Maria Whitney Pogue, the first Missionary child born in the islands (b. October 18, 1820, see Figure 3) and the sister of Postmaster Whitney. Her letter is datelined “*Lahainaluna, Maui, July 1852*” and addressed to Fidelia Fiske in Orooomiah, Persia, care of the missionary rooms at 33 Pemberton Square in Boston. The 13¢ stamp prepaid all of the postage from Hawaii to Boston, including the 5¢ for Hawaii, the 2¢ ship captain’s fee, and the 6¢ U.S. letter rate. In Honolulu the Missionary stamp was tied by the red “Honolulu/U.S. Postage Paid/Jul. 24” circular datestamp, and in San Francisco the post office applied its “San Francisco Cal. 1 Sep” datestamp along with “Paid” and “8” handstamps. The letter was



Figure 3. Maria Whitney Pogue, first missionary child born in Hawaii.

transported from Hawaii to San Francisco on board the *Mary A. Jones*, which departed on July 26, 1852, and arrived on August 15, evidently too late for the mid-month eastbound sailing via Panama. As was customary, the letter was held and processed for the first-of-the-month sailing on September 1. After arriving in Boston, the letter was given to the next group of missionaries bound for the Middle East and was carried outside the mails to the seminary at Oroomiah, which lies on the plain east of Kurdistan in northwestern Persia (Iran).

Fidelia Fiske and Maria Whitney Pogue were roommates at Mount Holyoke, graduating with the classes of 1839 and 1840. Maria returned to Hawaii to commence her missionary work, while Fidelia secured a teaching position at Mount Holyoke. In 1843 she resigned to join the missionaries working among the Nestorians in Persia. She established herself as the first principal of the seminary at Oroomiah. Maria's letter to Fidelia, written from Hawaii in 1852, describes missionary life and compares the Nestorian people to the indigenous Hawaiians in a less-than-favorable light: "*The Nestorians, I think, cannot be so degraded, heathenish in all their mental, moral & physical natures [as] are the natives of these Is.*"



Figure 4. July 1854 folded letter to Persia with 1853 13¢ Kamehameha III (Scott 6) prepaying postage to Boston and pair of 3¢ 1851 Issue, originally affixed over Hawaiian stamp to indicate prepayment of U.S. postage between San Francisco and Boston.

The second letter in the sequence of Pogue-Fiske correspondence (see Figure 4) was prepaid in Hawaii at the 13¢ rate, this time by the 1853 Kamehameha III issue. The letter left Honolulu on the brig *Restless* on July 13, 1854, arriving in San Francisco on August 9. One week later the letter was prepared for the mid-month Panama sailing, and the pair of 3¢ 1851 stamps was canceled by the "San Francisco Cal. 16 Aug" circular datestamp. The rate structure on this letter is essentially the same as that of the previous Missionary cover—in this case, however, U.S. stamps are affixed, having become a more regular practice by 1854. The transit note at top reads "*Overland Contple 12.Octr 54*", which indicates that the letter was carried via Constantinople—presumably from there by water to Trebizond in northern Turkey, then by land to Oroomiah, a distance of approximately 400 miles. Fidelia Fiske's docketing indicates that she answered the letter on April 29, 1855.

In April 1855, the month in which Fidelia answered the July 1854 letter from Maria, the United States revised its rates and raised the trans-continental rate from 6¢ to 10¢. This change had a significant effect on Hawaiian mail. The 13¢ rate (5¢ plus 2¢ plus 6¢) became obsolete, and the new rate from Hawaii to the U.S. East Coast increased to 17¢ (5¢ plus 2¢ plus 10¢). The 13¢ Kamehameha stamp was no longer useful for the composite rate, and various means of franking letters took its place. In this period, dating from April 1855, we find a remarkable pattern of usage of the Kamehameha III issue, including the introduction of one of the world's earliest provisional surcharges—the “5” cents on 13¢ Kamehameha III (Scott 7), issued in January 1857 to compensate for a shortage of 5¢ stamps in Hawaii.



Figure 5. March 1857 folded letter to Persia with “5” cents on 13¢ Kamehameha III provisional (Scott 7) and U.S. 10¢ 1855 Issue. 2¢ ship captain’s fee paid in cash.

The final letter in this trio of Pogue-Fiske correspondence is franked with an unusual combination of the surcharged stamp and the U.S. 10¢ 1855 Issue, Type II. The post office in Honolulu applied its “U.S. Postage Paid” circular datestamp (March 11, 1857), indicating that the government postage was paid in full. The 2¢ ship captain’s fee was paid in cash. We presume that the small red pencil “2” was applied in Lahaina, and that the larger magenta pen “2” and red “Paid” handstamp were applied in Honolulu. The stamps were left uncanceled while the letter made its way to Boston for eventual hand-carriage to Persia. The docketing by Fidelia indicates her reply was made in April 1858. Soon after in that year, she returned to her home in Massachusetts in poor health. Fidelia died in 1864.

The three covers described in this special advertising supplement will be included in the November 7-11, 1995, auction of *The Honolulu Advertiser* collection by Siegel Auction Galleries.

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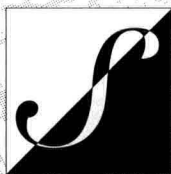
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THE "CHITTENDEN EAGLE"
ROGER D. CURRAN

What a remarkable cancellation is the "Chittenden Eagle," celebrated through the years as it has been for its beautiful and distinctive design. When the sale of the Edward S. Knapp collection was held in 1941, Lot 264 was the discovery copy described thus:

#65, 3c rose, Eagle holding Shield in its Talons, with 13 stars in curve above. The celebrated "**Chittenden Eagle**," discovered by the late J.B. Chittenden and acquired by Mr. Knapp at the sale of the Chittenden collection in 1923. **The only example of this striking postmark which has ever turned up.** It is a perfect strike, tying the stamps [sic] to a large piece and the shield is inscribed "May 8, New York." **This ranks as the "Piece de resistance" of all cancellations.**



Figure 1. Discovery copy of the "Chittenden Eagle" postmark (PF 158845).

An enlarged illustration of the item is shown as Figure 1. This cancellation is also very puzzling since it is so unlike any other cancellation reported to have been used by New York during the 1860s and, as far as I know, during any other period. Beginning in 1860 and continuing through the handstamp cancellation era which extended far beyond the currency of the 1861 issue adhesives, New York City employed duplexed cds and killer handstamps on first class mail. (From what I can deduce from the Figure 1 piece, it appears to come from a first class cover but who can really say?) Duplexes were introduced, of course, as a result of the 1860 postal regulations precluding the use of the cds as a canceler, and such handstamps permitted the clerk to apply the cds and a separate canceler in one strike. The "Chittenden Eagle" is no duplex but I suppose may be considered to produce an effect similar to duplexes as an adhesive could be canceled by the eagle with

"The Chittenden Eagle"



This most unusual and spectacular cancellation was the property of Dr. J. Brace Chittenden, that much beloved collector, who possibly did more personal work to make the Collectors Club of New York City asuccess than any one man.

When he sold his United States collection at auction in 1923, I bought the item, which was described in Percy Doane's catalogue as follows: "3¢ 1861 - on part of cover, canc. with a large eagle in black surrounded with thirteen stars; the eagle holding in his claws a shield on which is "May 8 - New-York" in three lines; the whole an item of the greatest interest and rarity; a striking and effective piece, probably unique"

No other example of this type cancel has ever shown up and Dr. Chittenden had shown it about for years, which is how it came to be known as "the Chittenden Eagle" and the Doc used to laughingly say when he showed it, "Thats the Eagle that made Chittenden famous."

He told the story of how he got it in his early collecting days, when he was a law student. His room-mate owed him some money and had found the item (just as it is today, cut out of a cover) in an old cigar-box-full of loose stamps and young Chittenden took it for the debt. He tried to find out where it was used (what station), never could do so, but was inclined to think that it had something to do with the Navy Department.

It was reproduced years ago, by J.Arthur Ritchie, in a series of articles on cancellations.

Can any one give me any further information on the item, or has any one a duplicate?

Edward S. Knapp.

Figure 2. Knapp commentary on the "Chittenden Eagle," from July/August 1932 *Postal Markings*.



Figure 3. Purported "Chittenden Eagle" cancellation on small piece; "genuine" PF certificate with subsequent PF "decline to give opinion." Lot 306 in Siegel sale of March 23-24, 1994.

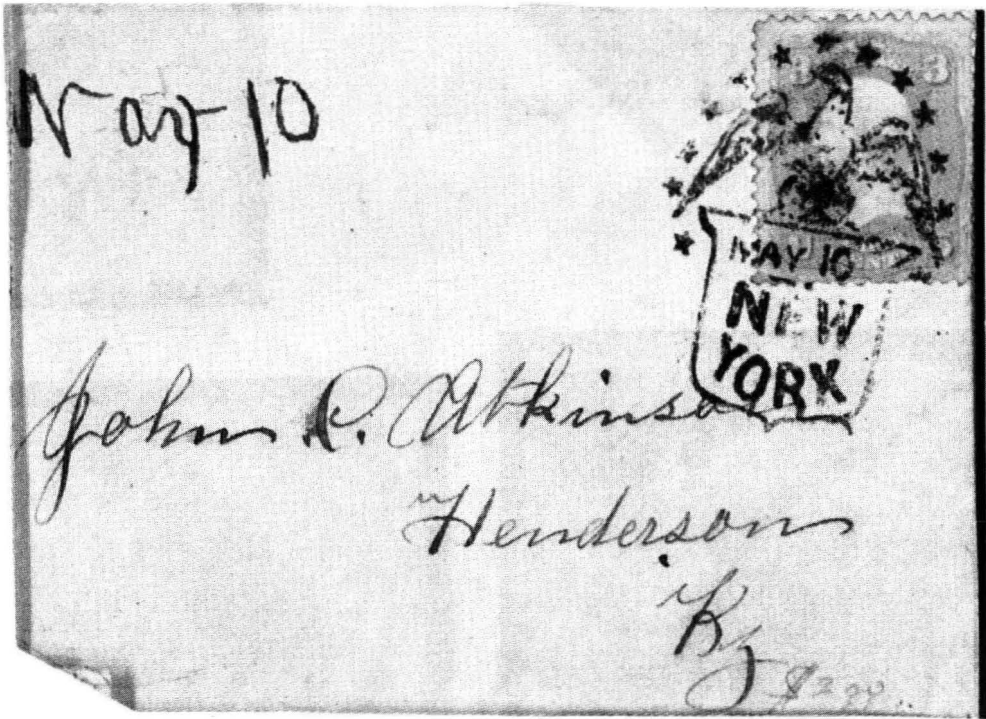


Figure 4. Purported "Chittenden Eagle" cancellation on cover to Henderson, Ky., with "Way 10" manuscript marking.

the cds below as largely occurred in Figure 1. But placing the cds to the left of the killer is much more appropriate as there would be less likelihood of striking over the address and it would be difficult indeed to find a duplexed cds and canceler not designed that way.

In the July/August 1932 *Postal Markings*, Edward Knapp wrote a brief article about the cancellation which is reproduced as Figure 2. Since the sale of the Knapp collection, at least eight additional examples have appeared, most of which have been examined by the Philatelic Foundation (PF), but not all were considered genuine. Though the courtesy of the PF and illustrations from two additional sources, the following information is presented. Please note that my observations are based solely on reviewing photocopies of PF photos and on auction lot and book photo illustrations.

Examples Recorded

1. **on small piece.** The discovery copy. PF opinion of "genuine" (158845). The strike is very clear with the detail in the eagle being especially noteworthy. All other examples recorded appear decidedly less clear. The date is "MAY 8." This example was Lot 85 in the Frajola sale of January 25, 1986 of the Amos Eno collection.
2. **on small piece.** Subsequent to declining an opinion (11987), the PF rendered an opinion of "genuine" (49911). The date is "MAY 6." This example was Lot #306 in the Siegel Sale of March 23-4, 1994. (Please see Figure 3.)
3. **on cover.** The stamp is centered to the left and to the bottom. Subsequent to an opinion that the cancellation was not genuine, the PF rendered an opinion of "genuine" (48717) and concluded that some portions of the cancellation were restored. The date is "MAY 10." This example is illustrated as Figure 77 on page 130 of the Philatelic Foundation Seminar Series, Textbook No. 3, *U.S. Postmarks and Cancellations*, 1992.
4. **on cover.** The stamp is centered to the left and to the bottom. The date is "MAY 6." This example is illustrated as Fig. 76 on page 130 of the above-mentioned Textbook.
5. **on cover.** The cover was described (see reference below) as having "Way 10" in manuscript at top left. From my review of the lot's color illustration, there appears to be at least one and very possibly two alterations to the "Way" marking. The line forming the bottom stroke of the "y" and extending into the upper portion of the letter appears to be darker and less brown than the rest of the "Way." Also, the "1" in "10" generally appears to be in the same darker and less brown ink. The date in the cancellation is "MAY 10." Figure 4 shows the item, taken from the illustration of Lot 112 in the 1990 Siegel rarities sale.
6. **on small piece.** The photocopy is unclear. The PF issued an opinion that the item is counterfeit (41920). The date appears to be "MAY 8."
7. **on small piece.** The PF issued an opinion that the item is counterfeit (55827). The date is "MAY 8."
8. **off cover.** The PF issued an opinion that the item is counterfeit (75175). From an unclear photocopy, the date could not be determined.
9. **on cover.** The PF declined to offer an opinion on this item (21988). It appears that "MAY" is discernible but the day indicator was not struck or only partially so. The right side of the shield outline was not struck.

So what should one make of this situation? Nothing conclusively. But there are some matters to consider.

- The discovery copy appears much clearer than those which appeared later and raises the question of whether the later examples are imitations. However, the clarity of strikes depends on so many factors that we should not attempt to deduce too much from this point.

- Items [3] and [4] appear to have stamps with very similar centering. Readers are invited, if they have access to the PF Textbook, to view the two illustrations which are both on page 130. Could they come from a multiple that supplied a faker with unused stamps upon which to apply his art? If the illustrations had been in color, perhaps we could make some judgment as to whether the stamps were in the same shade. If a reader currently owns or has access to both covers, possibly that person would be willing to comment.

- Item [3] is an overpaid cover if it entered the mails in New York, given the New York City addressee. Since senders do occasionally overpay letters, this is not an anomaly of crucial importance.

- The matter of “Way 10” on item [5] is of interest. What would be a “Way 10” rate in the 1860s? Also, the writer is unfamiliar with any “Way” markings into New York City, either manuscript or handstamp during this era. I wonder if the “Way” on the cover was originally “Nov” and a faker tried to change it to “Way 10” or perhaps even to “May 10” so that it would correspond to the date in the cancellation.

- Items [5] and [9] involve covers to the same addressee: John C. Atkinson, Henderson, KY. Perhaps a faker used two covers from one source to apply his markings.

Tom Stanton reviewed this article in draft and noted the fact that the item [3] cover was to a local addressee. He then considered possible explanations for the 3¢ rate. It occurred to him that conceivably the marking was not a New York City marking but that of another New York post office. And he found that there was an Eagle, New York post office in operation from 1846 through April 1867. Does any reader know of a 19th Century postmark where the town name was conveyed by a symbolic representation? Mr. Stanton underscored that this “explanation” is speculative in the extreme. I acknowledge with appreciation his very helpful assistance throughout the article but wish to make it clear that any interpretive mistakes or errors in fact are strictly my own.

I have undertaken a comparison of the later examples to the discovery copy using the illustrations and photocopies mentioned. I prefer to hold back any comments on those comparisons with the hope of viewing clearer illustrations in the future. However, I’ll offer one observation about item [2], since the auction catalog provides a very clear illustration. The “A” in “MAY” of the discovery copy has a flat top while the “A” in item [2] has a decidedly pointed top. Also, the “Y” in the discovery copy is shaped clearly as a “Y” but the item [2] “Y” is generally shaped as a “V.” I do not believe that the strikes were produced by the same handstamp.

Setting aside the matter of whether later noted examples are or are not imitations, what about the discovery copy? It seems to me that another highly speculative possibility, beyond Eagle, New York, is that it is not a post office cancel at all but rather a whimsical application of a handstamp, designed for other purposes, to a cover that did not go through the mail. But if so, what was the handstamp’s purpose? I have no answer. Notwithstanding the singularity of the design, I like to think, and will until there is solid evidence to the contrary, that the discovery copy is a genuine New York Post Office cancellation. Comments and information are eagerly sought. □

MOUNT VERNON, OHIO SQUARE GRID RICHARD B. GRAHAM

Figure 1 shows a cover with a 3¢ 1861 stamp, garden variety rose shade, sent from Mt. Vernon, Ohio on July 14, 1863. The stamp is canceled by a large square grid, measuring 1 1/4" x 1 1/4" (we often forget that the metric system wasn't in use yet in 1863, and people worked in foot and inch dimensions in the United States). The grid has seven squares across and five vertically, and is in black.

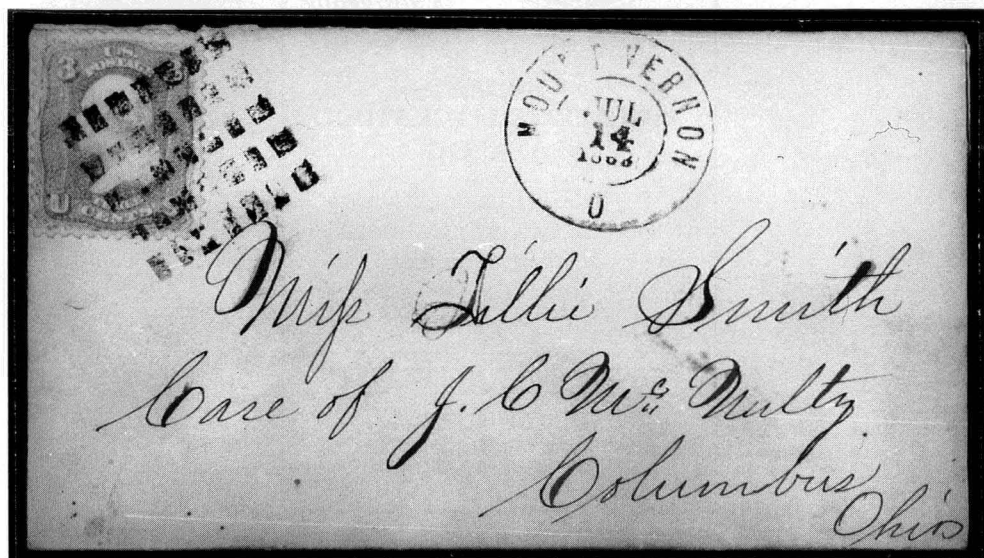
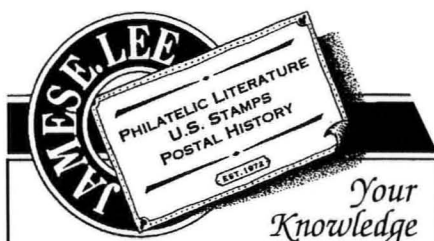


Figure 1. Mount Vernon, Ohio square grid cancel, on July 14, 1863 cover to Columbus.

Since this marking isn't listed in the bible of such cancels for the 1845-1869 period, Skinner-Eno's book of 1980, it seems worth reporting. Skinner-Eno has only two listings for Mt. Vernon, Ohio, neither with any resemblance to this cancel. Under the section on "Simple Designs—Grids," there are three grids listed, Sd-G95-97, but none much like this grid.

Listing of such cancels is an unending task. After late 1860, when the Postmaster General banned the use of town datestamps to cancel stamps, a separate killer was required for that purpose. So a multitude of different canceling devices came into use. Listings therefore have to be more representative than complete. Just the same, since many collectors like to know at what town such cancels on their off-cover stamps were struck, perhaps this short report on the Mount Vernon square grid will answer that question for a few readers. □



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UNITED STATES OFFICIAL STAMPED ENVELOPES
DENNIS W. SCHMIDT, M.D.

Introduction

For a short period of time in the 1870s and 1880s, two departments of the United States Government were issued and used special stamped envelopes. These official issues were the result of the Congressional Act of January 1873, which abolished the franking privilege as of July 1, 1873.¹ This privilege had allowed government officials to send their mail free by simply writing their names on the envelopes in lieu of postage, but it was much abused. The Postmaster General finally convinced Congress to legislatively correct this situation by ordering the government officials to use special stamps and stamped envelopes. The intent was to force them to account for their use of the mails and to thereby curb costs.

An Act of Congress, approved March 3, 1873, provided that the Postmaster General should have special stamps or stamped envelopes prepared for official matter for each department.² While official adhesive stamps were prepared for all departments, stamped envelopes were only prepared for and issued to the Post Office and War Departments. It is known that essays were made for the Department of Interior for a 2¢ stamped envelope, but it was never issued.³ Presumably the other departments felt that their needs could be well handled by stamps alone.

These official stamps and stamped envelopes were to be used only for official mail, beginning on July 1, 1873.⁴

Reay Issues

The official stamped envelopes were made by the same contractor currently producing stamped envelopes for use by the general public, since time constraints did not allow for competitive bids or the negotiation of a special contract. They were initially produced

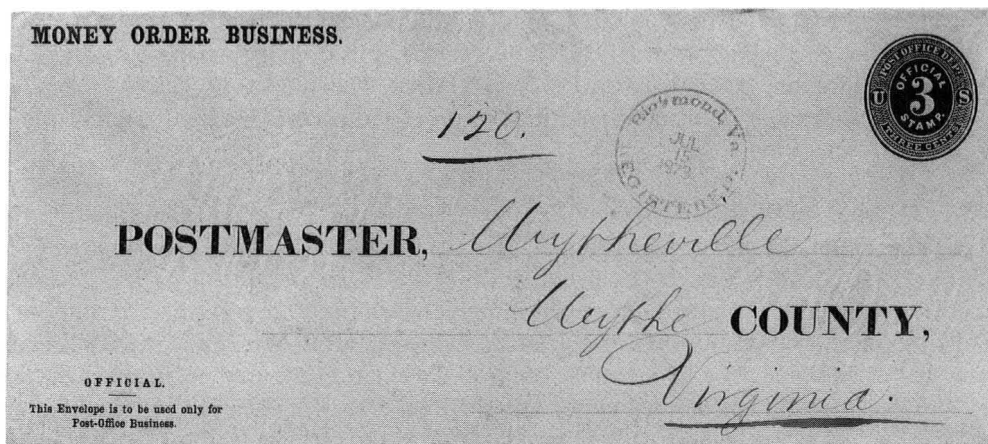


Figure 1. Earliest reported use of a Post Office stamped envelope: July 15, 1873.

¹John N. Luff, *The Postage Stamps of the United States* (New York: Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., 1902), p. 201.

²John K. Tiffany, *et al.*, *The Stamped Envelopes, Wrappers and Sheets of the United States* (New York: The Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Ltd, 1892), p. 53.

³Prescott H. Thorp, *Thorp-Bartels Catalogue of the Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers of the United States 6th (Century) ed.* (Netcong, New Jersey: the author, 1954), p. 365.

⁴Luff, *op. cit.*, p. 201.

by George H. Reay in Brooklyn, N.Y., with the same characteristics of knife, gum and watermark as the ordinary stamped envelopes of the time.⁵ Three denominations were issued for the Post Office Department: 2¢, 3¢ and 6¢. Nine denominations were issued for the War Department: 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 6¢, 10¢, 12¢, 15¢, 24¢ and 30¢. The stamped envelopes for the Post Office Department were printed on canary (yellow) paper as a means of distinguishing Post Office business from ordinary mail. The 3¢ is also found on white paper (only one or possibly two entires are known) and although it was not regularly issued, it is listed in current catalogues of U.S. stamped envelopes (Scott UO3). Standard paper and paper colors were used for the War Department envelopes.

Approximately 500,000 2¢, 10,000,000 3¢ and 250,000 6¢ Post Office stamped envelopes were issued by Reay.⁶ The number of Reay-issue War Department stamped envelopes issued is given as: 2,000 1¢; 2,100 2¢; 314,500 3¢; 18,000 6¢; 500 10¢; 5,800 12¢; 1,500 15¢; 1,000 24¢; and 600 30¢.⁷ Additionally, approximately 2,000,000 1¢ and 300 2¢ wrappers were issued by Reay for the War Department.⁸

These official stamped envelopes were embossed printed from special dies. The stamp for the Post Office Department was black and had large numerals in center ovals. It was patterned after the official adhesive stamp. The stamp for the War Department had the same center bust as regular envelope dies, but with newly designed ovals and the words "WAR DEPT." on top. The color of the embossed stamp on the Reay-issue War Department envelope was listed in Horner's 1879 catalogue as "always red, varying from brilliant scarlet to dull brick."⁹ Current catalogues list two separate colors for the embossed stamp: "dark red" and "vermilion."

The earliest reported use of a Reay Post Office Department stamped envelope is July 15, 1873. It is a 3¢ on yellow paper envelope (Scott UO2/UPSS PD10), sent registered from Richmond, Va., to Wytheville, Va. (Figure 1). No supplemental postage was necessary for the registry fee, since by statute of 1870 the Post Office Department was entitled to free registration of its own "official business" mail. It probably contained money order business receipts.

The earliest reported use of a Reay War Department stamped envelope is July 18, 1873. There are only two known used entires of this issue, both dated "Jul 18"; both are 6¢ on cream paper envelopes (Scott UO24/UPSS WD15), sent from the paymaster of the U.S. Army in Washington, D.C., to Santa Fe, New Mexico. The 1873 year date is established by the 24 mm. circular date stamp and the design of the cancel. Figure 2 depicts one of those two covers.

Plimpton Issues

In October 1874, the envelope contract was awarded to Plimpton Manufacturing Co. of Hartford, Conn. As part of that contract, official stamped envelopes were prepared in all denominations issued under the previous contract with exception of the 24¢ War Department envelope. The Post Office Department envelopes were produced on additional papers: the 2¢ and 6¢ stamps appear on canary and white, while the 3¢ is found on canary, white, amber and blue. The white paper stamped envelopes were used exclusively for registry business, while the amber paper stamped envelopes were used exclusively for Canadian money order business. The blue Post Office Department stamped envelopes are known only with New York (City) Post Office imprinted corner cards.¹⁰ Since research of

⁵Tiffany, *op. cit.*, p. 53.

⁶*Ibid.*, p. 54.

⁷*Ibid.*, p. 57.

⁸*Ibid.*, p. 60.

⁹W.E.V. Horner, *The Stamped Envelopes of the United States* (Philadelphia: L. W. Durbin, 1879), p. 24.

¹⁰Prescott H. Thorp, "Among Rarest United States Philatelic Pieces Are Blue Paper Official Envelopes," *Linn's Stamp News*, October 1, 1956, p. 12.

auction catalogues suggests that each of the blue envelopes is unique, these envelopes were probably not regularly issued.¹¹ Also, no cut squares or used blue paper entires are known. The War Department envelopes were again printed on standard paper and standard paper colors were used.

The total number of Plimpton-issue Post Office Department stamped envelopes is unknown, but combining the records of purchase in Bill Books No.1 and No.2 for quarters ending December 31, 1874 through June 30, 1879, and assuming a proportion of stamped envelope denominations similar to the Reay-issue, the estimated quantities are: 3,000,000 2¢, 59,000,000 3¢, and 1,500,000 6¢.¹² The total number of Plimpton-issue War Department stamped envelopes is given as: 725 1¢; 10,150 2¢; 2,382,000 3¢; 20,575 6¢; 345 10¢; 5,825 12¢; 420 15¢; and 535 30¢.¹³ Of the Plimpton-issue War Department wrappers, slightly more than 17,500,000 of the 1¢ and almost 2,000 of the 2¢ were issued.¹⁴

The Plimpton indicia are very similar to those of the Reay stamped envelopes. On the Post Office stamped envelopes, the Plimpton numerals are taller than the corresponding Reay numerals: 9.25 mm. versus 9.0 mm. (2¢ and 3¢), 10.5 mm. vs. 9.5 mm. (6¢). On the War Department stamped envelopes, the Plimpton dies show minor differences in the center busts.

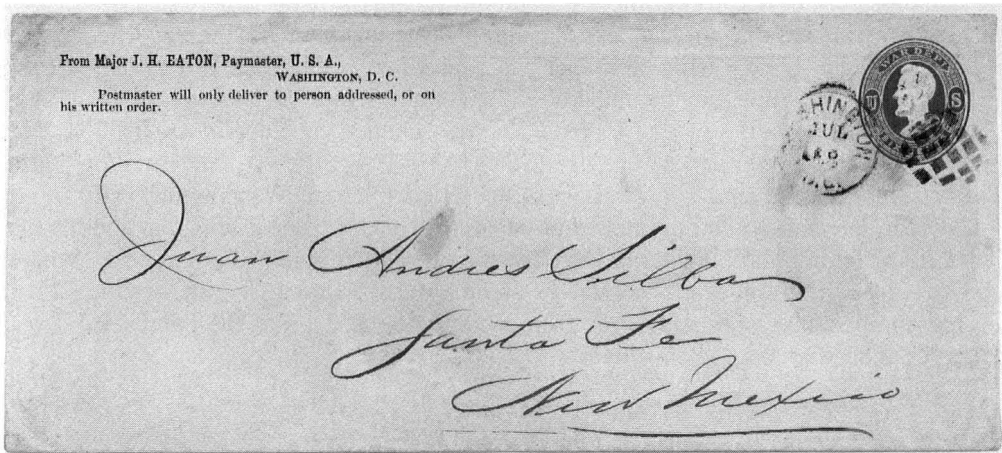


Figure 2. Earliest reported use of a War Department stamped envelope: July 18, 1873.

Specimen Envelopes

Schedules of the different stamped envelopes available to the War Department and Post Office Department were not normally distributed by the manufacturers, but from time to time boxes of sample envelopes were sent out to various offices across the country. These boxes contained examples of the official stamped envelopes in different sizes, overprinted with the word "SPECIMEN." Additionally, in the case of the Post Office Department, special sets of envelopes with preprinted addresses or address lines were included. Thus, the individual in charge of requisitioning postal stationery at any given office could customize his order by selecting from the sample or specimen envelopes provided.¹⁵

Specimen envelopes were also furnished by the manufacturers to the Post Office Department in order to demonstrate the quality of their printing work for contract purposes.

¹¹Personal communication with Robert L. Markovits.

¹²Records of the Post Office Department, National Archives, Record Group 28, Bill Books Nos. 1 & 2.

¹³Tiffany, *op. cit.*, p. 57.

¹⁴*Ibid.*, p. 60.

¹⁵*Ibid.*, p. 53.

es. These, called “bidders samples,” were also overprinted “SPECIMEN” like the boxed envelopes described above.

Non-Denominated Postal Service Stamped Envelopes

In 1877, a special die was prepared by the Morgan Envelope Co. of Springfield, Mass., for printing non-denominational official envelopes for the Post Office Department.¹⁶ The design is oval in shape, with “UNITED” on top and “STATES” below. “POSTAL SERVICE” appears on a horizontal band across the center. There is no stated value. These envelopes were prepared because the Congressional Act of March 3, 1877, provided that any letters or other mail matter relating exclusively to the business of the Government of the United States could be sent without postage provided the envelope bore the words “Official business,” the name of the department and a clause stating that a penalty of \$300 would be charged for using the envelope for other than official matters.¹⁷ These embossed stamped envelopes were first printed on amber and blue paper with the indicia in blue, and later on white and amber paper with the indicia in black. The amber paper envelopes were used exclusively for the Dead Letter Office. These Postal Service envelopes, which are really “penalty” envelopes, probably were first used in early August of 1877.

The total number of Postal Service official stamped envelopes issued is unknown, but utilizing Post Office Department accounting records (Stamp Bill Book No. 2, 1876-1879), it is estimated that slightly less than 3,000,000 each of the blue indicia (Scott U016) and black indicia (Scott U015) on amber paper envelopes were issued.¹⁸ Probably more of the blue paper and white paper stamped envelopes were issued.

The earliest reported use of a Postal Service stamped envelope is August 7, 1877. It is a blue indicia on blue paper envelope (Scott U017/PSS PS13-4), sent from the “Office of Ass’t Attorney General” of the Post Office Department at Washington, D.C. (Figure 3). The year date can be determined from the style of the circular date stamp and the New York City receiving mark. Postal Service Dead Letter Office stamped envelopes are known used from Washington, D.C., between September 1877 and July 1882.¹⁹ Other Postal Service stamped envelopes were used from Washington, D.C., into 1884 and several years thereafter as regular penalty envelopes.



Figure 3. Earliest reported use of a Postal Service stamped envelope: August 7, 1877.

¹⁶Alfred E. Staibus, “History of the Postal Service Dead Letter Office Envelopes,” *Postal Stationery*, Vol. 36, No. 3 (July - September 1994), pp. 67-85.

¹⁷*United States Official Postal Guide*, No. 13, October, 1877 (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Co.), p. 27.

¹⁸Unpublished research of Alfred E. Staibus.

¹⁹Staibus, *op. cit.*

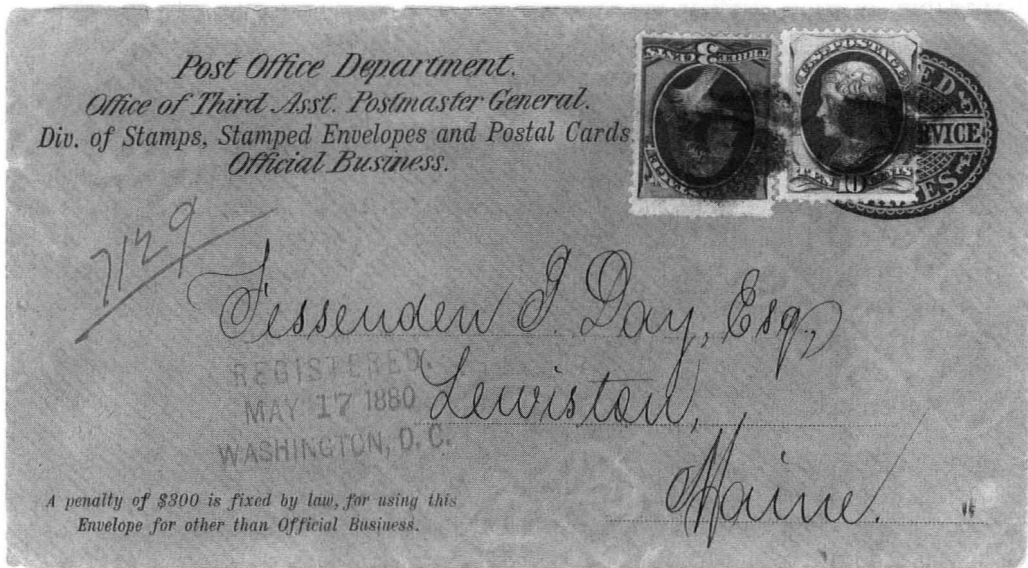


Figure 4. Postal Service stamped envelope used to mail special printings of early U.S. stamps.

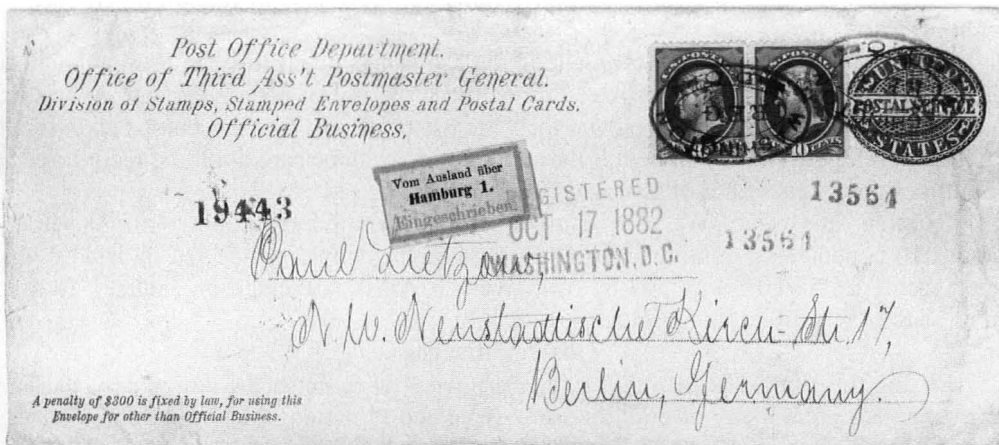


Figure 5. Registered foreign use of Postal Service stamped envelope to mail special printings of early U.S. stamps.

Postal Service stamped envelopes from the Office of Third Assistant Postmaster General, Division of Stamps, Stamped Envelopes and Postal Cards were used to mail shipments of the special printings of United States stamps to stamp collectors and dealers from 1877 to 1884.²⁰ The example depicted by Figure 4 is a blue indicia on blue paper (Scott UO17/UPSS PS10) registered envelope sent to a collector in Maine on May 17, 1880. From Post Office records the contents can be determined to have been special printings of the issues of 1847, 1865 and 1869, plus special printings of the Executive and Agriculture Department stamps. The 10¢ registry fee and 3¢ postage were prepaid by the collector. Domestic Post Office Department mail was only entitled to free registration if the contents were official business, and philatelic sales did not qualify for this exemption. Another example is the black indicia on white paper (Scott UO14/UPSS PS3) registered cover used on October 17, 1882, which contained one of several orders of the special printings sent to the Berlin, Germany, stamp dealer, Paul Lietzow (Figure 5). Two regular issue 10¢ bank-note stamps paid the double UPU letter rate and registry fee, since by UPU regulations of official stamps were no longer acceptable for payment of international mail.

Late Usages

The use of Post Office Department stamped envelopes and postal service envelopes continued concurrently until the end of April 1879. At that time, the issuing of Post Office Department stamped envelopes was discontinued, but it was directed that the use of official stamped envelopes be continued until the supply was exhausted before any of the new stampless penalty envelopes were ordered. A circular, dated April 22, 1879, was issued to postmasters from the Third Assistant Postmaster General which directed that effective May 1, 1879, and thereafter, all new requisitions were to be filled with envelopes printed with the simple penalty clause without any indicia.²¹

The regular use of the War Department stamped envelopes continued longer than the Post Office Department stamped envelopes, even though the various Congressional enactments regarding stamped paper supposedly applied to both departments alike. War Department stamped envelopes were printed and issued as late as 1882, as evidenced by watermark 6 ("82" and USPOD), which originated in 1882 and is found on some of the envelopes.

An order from the Postmaster General to postmasters dated July 18, 1884 announced that by an Act of Congress, approved July 5, 1884, the use of penalty envelopes was extended to all United States officers, and that "the use of official postage stamps and official stamped envelopes is discontinued. Such stamps and envelopes are not to be recognized in the future in payment either of postage or registry fee."²²

Routine late use of War Department official stamped envelopes without penalty clause did, nonetheless, continue into 1885. One such example is a 3¢ red indicia on blue paper (Scott UO54/UPSS WD93-5) from Weston, Mass., canceled on January 1, 1885 with a fancy "W" obliterator (Figure 6).

Obsolete Usages

During this time official weather forecasts were made under the direction of the War Department. A great many of both the Reay-issue and Plimpton-issue War Department 3¢ stamped envelopes were used by postmasters to report receiving and posting of weather forecasts. Usages can be found from towns in almost every state and territory of the Union, showing a great variety of cancellations. These envelopes bore the preprinted address of the Chief Signal Officer, U. S. Army at Washington, D.C.

²⁰Alfred E. Staubus, "Covers Used to Mail Shipments of the Special Printings," *Chronicle* No. 148 (Vol. 42, No. 4)(November 1990), pp. 254-264.

²¹Tiffany, *op. cit.*, p. 56.

²²*United States Official Postal Guide*, 2nd Series, Vol. VI, No. 8, August 1884 (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Co.), p. 8.

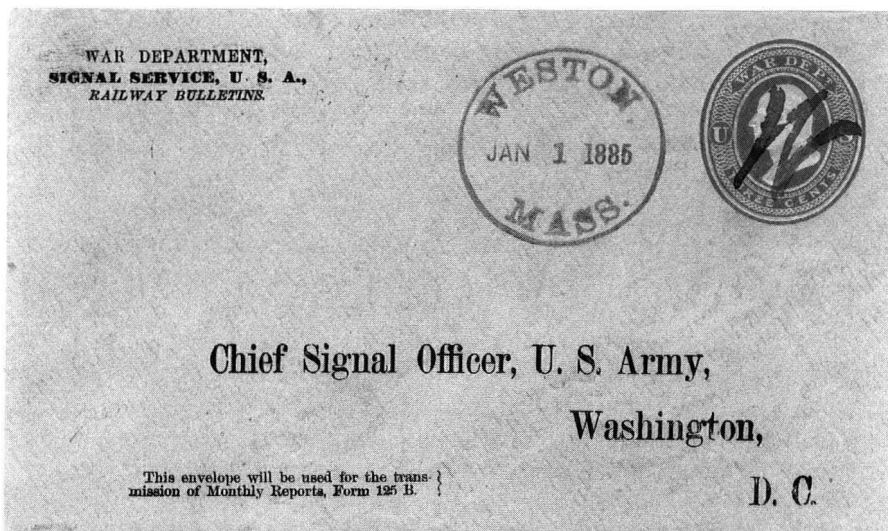


Figure 6. Late use of a War Department stamped envelope: January 1, 1885.

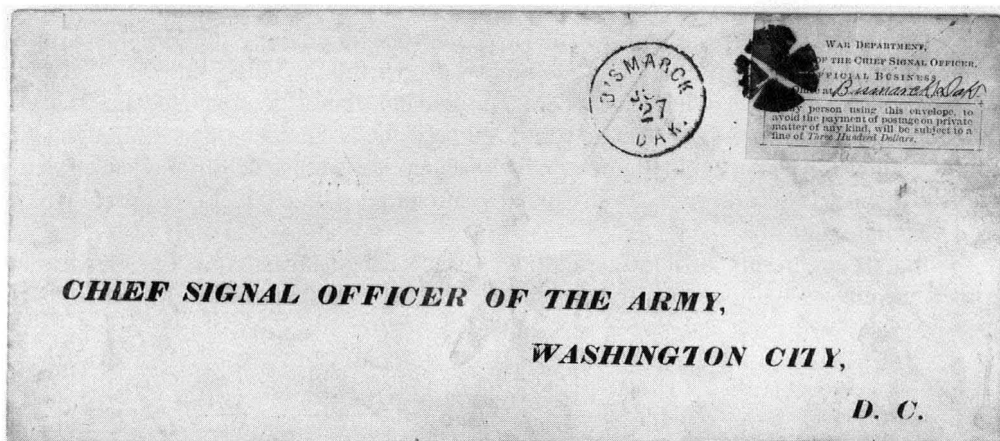


Figure 7. Penalty label applied over indicia of War Department stamped envelope, used July 27, 1884.

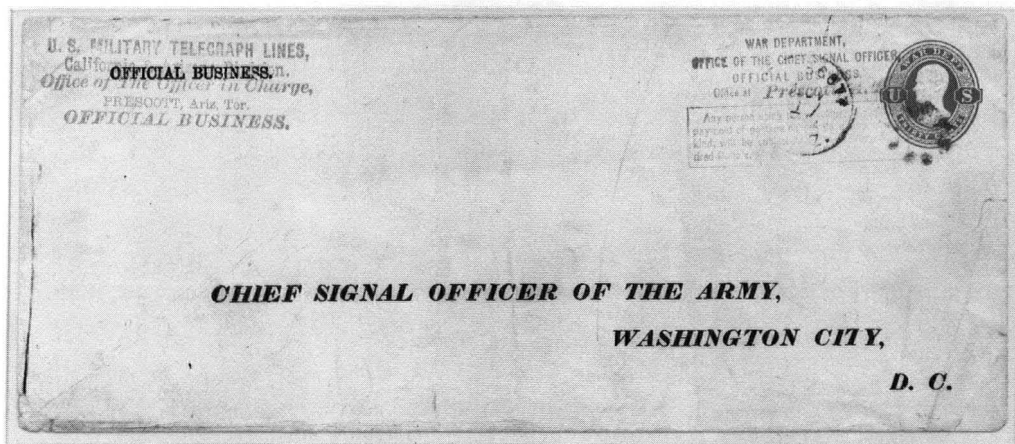


Figure 8. Penalty handstamp applied over indicia of War Department stamped envelope, used November 17, 1884.

The Signal Service Office of the War Department in Washington, D.C., had a large stock of 3¢ blue stamped envelopes (Scott UO54) and 1¢ wrappers (Scott UO46) on hand in July 1884. Rather than turning these over to the Post Office Department for destruction, the Signal Service Office converted them to penalty use in compliance with the law by temporarily applying a rubber handstamped penalty clause over the embossed stamp until the stock could be overprinted with the penalty clause.²³ The 3¢ stamped envelope with rubber handstamped penalty clause over the embossed stamp is known used from Washington, D.C., in September 1884. The 1¢ wrapper with a similar handstamped penalty clause is known used from New York City during September through November 1884, and is known used from July through October 1884 dated with a receiving cancel of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Some high value War Department official stamped envelopes of both the Reay and Plimpton-issue types which remained on hand after July 1884 were also overstamped with a penalty clause or had a printed penalty label pasted over the face of the stamp;²⁴ they were used from the latter half of 1884 up through at least the first part of 1886. Figure 7 depicts a Reay-issue 15¢ dark red on white paper (Scott UO27/UPSS WD19) with a penalty label pasted over the indicia, mailed from Bismarck, Dakota Territory, on July 27, 1884; Figure 8 shows a Reay-issue 30¢ dark red indicia on white paper (Scott UO29/UPSS WD22) with handstamped penalty imprint, sent from Prescott, Arizona Territory, to Washington, D.C., on November 17 (1884). High value Plimpton-issue War Department stamped envelopes with penalty handstamped overprints are also known used from Prescott, Arizona Territory, into late 1885. The penalty clause demonetized the stamped envelope, making it impossible to verify the weight of the original contents, although similar high value War Department stamped envelopes are known used from the same territories prior to July 1884 and without any penalty surcharge. These envelopes probably contained weather data.

Isolated, apparently officially-condoned, uses of Post Office and War Department stamped envelopes without penalty overprints or labels are known into the 1890s. One

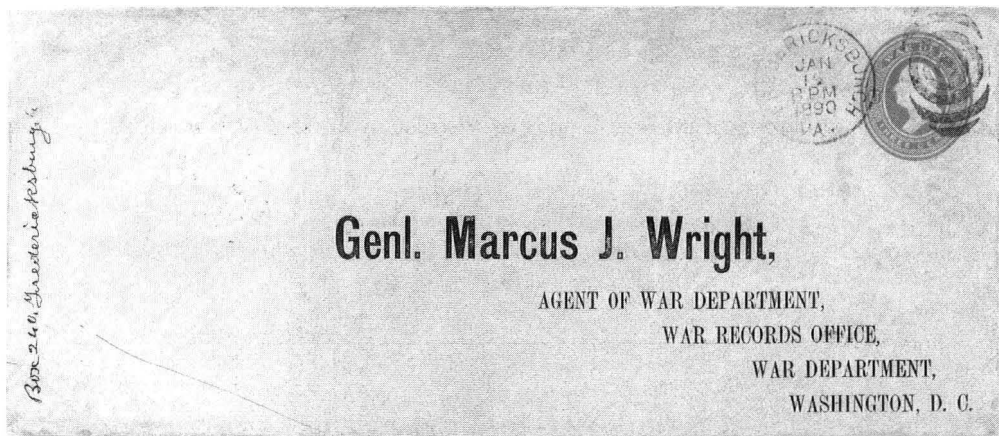


Figure 9. Very late use of a War Department stamped envelope: January 15, 1890.

²³Leroy L. Ross, "Postal History Notebook: War Department Envelopes and Wrappers Converted to Penalty Use," *La Posta*, Vol. 14, No. 3 (June 1983), pp. 13-15.

²⁴"Surcharged War Department Envelopes," Correspondence Section in *The American Philatelist*, Vol. II, No. 5 (February 10, 1888), p. 97.

such example is a 3¢ Plimpton-issue War Department official envelope (Scott UO55/UPSS WD98) which was probably used to mail old official Confederate papers to the War Records Office in Washington, D.C., from Fredericksburgh, Virginia, in January 1890 (Figure 9).²⁵ This used entire is the only recorded example of a large size 3¢ Plimpton-issue War Department stamped envelope on fawn paper.

The stock remaining in the hands of the envelope contractors was destroyed in February 1885, under the supervision of a committee appointed by the Postmaster General. However, the wide distribution of the Post Office Department stamped envelopes among the small post offices, and of War Department stamped envelopes among postmasters for reporting their official postings of weather forecasts supplied by the Department, resulted in many obsolete envelopes surviving as remainders, and eventually coming into the hands of collectors. Even today, an unused official stamped envelope is generally more common than a corresponding used entire.

Readers who have additional information on official stamped envelopes and wrappers, particularly regarding usage, are encouraged to contact the author. Such information will be appreciated and properly acknowledged. □

²⁵"The Two Rarest U. S. War Envelopes," *Philatelic Gazette*, Vol. I, No. 4 (December 15, 1910), p. 76.

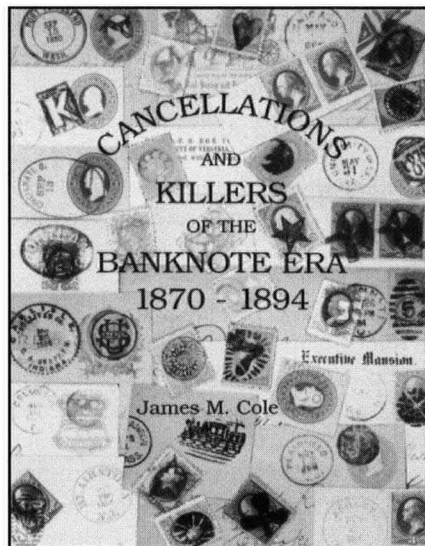
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(Continued from *Chronicle* 166:136)

Several other early letters from Liberia appear to have been prepaid at the 33¢ (1/4¹/₂d) per 1/2 ounce rate,⁴ yet were apparently mishandled by the Liverpool exchange office, resulting in the application of postage due charges on arrival in the United States on all items carried by U.S. packet up to at least the middle of 1863 (Figures 6 and 7) and on some letters carried by British packets (Figure 8). The letter in Figure 7 was mailed from Harper, Liberia in February 1861, and although the total prepayment is not indicated, it does show the 1/3¹/₂d credit to Great Britain. This cover was carried aboard the African Steamship Company packet *Cleopatra* to Liverpool, where the "PAID LIVERPOOL" arrival datestamp was applied. For some reason, the Liverpool exchange office credited the United States with only 16¢ for the transatlantic service provided by the Inman Line steamship *City of Baltimore*. As a result, the New York exchange office was forced to mark this letter for 5¢ postage due on delivery.

A possible explanation for the mishandling of the Liberian mails to the United States could be the fact that the British packets arriving at Liverpool with the West African mails brought prepaid letters addressed to the U.S. from various British colonies and possessions (e.g., Sierra Leone, Gambia, and Lagos) on the same route, in addition to letters from Liberia. The prepayment on the non-Liberian letters, however, covered postage only to the port of arrival in the United States, and did not include a portion for United States internal postage. Perhaps because of this the Liverpool exchange office gave no credit to the United States on those letters for which the transatlantic service was provided by British packet, and only a 16¢ per 1/2 ounce credit on those letters carried by American packets. It is not inconceivable, therefore, that Liberian letters addressed to the United States were occasionally handled and rated in a similar fashion, even though they were actually paid to destination. Available postal history material indicates that the inconsistent rating practices attributed to the Liverpool exchange office continued until the mid 1860s, after which all prepaid letters from Liberia showing the 1/3¹/₂d credit to Great Britain were correctly marked with the total credit to the United States, and were treated as fully paid to destination.

When a new United States-British Postal Convention came into effect on 1 January 1868, the prepaid letter rate between the United States and Great Britain was reduced to 6 pence (12¢) per 1/2 ounce, and the rate from the United States to Liberia was similarly reduced to 22¢ per 1/2 ounce. As a consequence, the prepaid letter rate from Liberia to the United States was established at 22¢ per 1/2 ounce (with a 10 pence credit to Great Britain). Later modifications to the United States-British Postal Convention (effective 1 January 1870) further reduced the letter rate between the United States and Great Britain to 3 pence (6¢) per 1/2 ounce, so that the prepaid rate to Liberia was established at 16¢ per 1/2 ounce. Similarly, the prepaid letter rate from Liberia to the United States was altered to 16¢ per 1/2 ounce (with a 7 pence credit to Britain). To date, no examples of letters showing either the 22¢ or 16¢ per 1/2 ounce prepaid rate to/from Liberia have been reported.

⁴One double weight letter from Liberia is known with a 2/7¹/₂d credit to the UK rather than the expected 2/7d amount. At present, this inconsistency can only be explained as an error in accounting. See Figure 5.



Figure 5. Harper, February 1861, to Boston prepaid double rate of 66¢ in cash. Steamer *Cleopatra* to Liverpool and *City of Baltimore* to New York. Liberia credited 2/7¹/₂d to G.B. Liverpool credited only 2x16¢ = 32¢ to U.S. Boston forced to mark letter for 2x5¢ = 10¢ postage due. Note manuscript "Paid" in Harper Liberia circular marking.



Figure 6. Harper, January 1860, to New York paid at 33¢ rate with 30¢ in adhesives. British steamer to Liverpool and Cunard steamer *Europa* to U.S. Since Liverpool marked no credit to U.S., New York marked letter for 5¢ postage due.

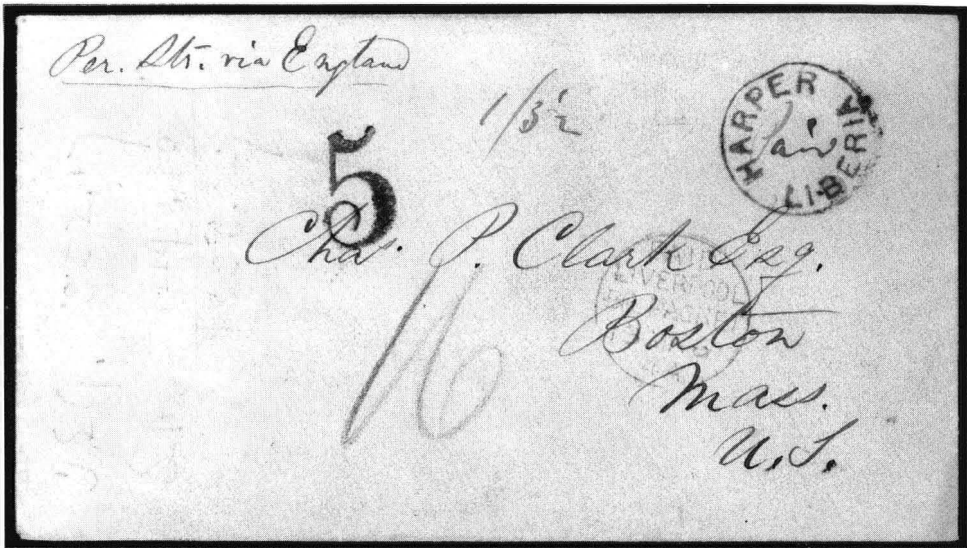


Figure 7. Harper, February 1861, to Boston prepaid single rate of 33¢ in cash. British steamer *Cleopatra* to Liverpool and *Inman City of Baltimore* to New York. Liberia credited G.B. 1/3 1/2d. Since Liverpool credited U.S. only 16¢, Boston had to mark letter for 5¢ postage due. Letter a companion to Figure 5.



Figure 8. Harper, September 1861, to Bristol, Maine, prepaid 30¢ in adhesives for 33¢ rate. British steamer *Athenian* to Liverpool and *Cunard Africa* to U.S. Crude Harper "PAID" handstamp in black. Since Liverpool did not credit U.S. with inland postage, New York marked letter for 5¢ postage due.

On 1 July 1875, both the United States and Great Britain joined the General Postal Union (GPU), later renamed the Universal Postal Union (UPU), and the letter rate between these two member countries was established at 2½ pence (5¢) per ½ ounce. The postal fees on transit mail from the United Kingdom to Liberia (a non-member country) remained as before (4d sea transit plus 1d Liberian internal), so that the letter rate from the United States to Liberia decreased to 15¢ per ½ ounce. It would seem appropriate that the prepaid letter rate from Liberia to the United States should also have been reduced 1¢ from that established in 1870, in line with the rate from British West Africa Colonies, but postal history evidence suggests that the Liberian rate was set at only 14 ¢ per ½ ounce, with a 6½ pence credit to Great Britain (see Figure 9). During this period, unpaid letters sent from Liberia to the United States, via the United Kingdom, were also subjected to established GPU regulations. On arrival in Britain where such letters entered the GPU, they were struck with a “T” handstamp, plus the appropriate rate indicative of the transit fees associated with bringing each letter into the Union. Such fees were always expressed in French centimes, and were the only debits allowed between member countries. As shown in Figure 10, unpaid letters from Liberia were marked for a debit of “50” centimes (5d = 4d sea transit plus 1d Liberian internal postage) per ½ ounce, then forwarded to destination. In the United States, incoming unpaid letters were rated at double the current GPU



Figure 9. Monrovia, February 1876, to Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, prepaid 7d in cash. Liberia credited 6½d to G.B. (indistinct red crayon in photo). Both London and New York marked letter "PAID" and "PAID ALL" in their red circular datestamps.

prepaid letter rate, plus any debit passed on from the previous GPU member country. As a result, this letter was marked for a collection of 20¢, 2 x 5¢ GPU rate, plus 10¢ (50 centimes) credit to the UK.

Liberia joined the Universal Postal Union on 1 April 1879, three months later than the British Colonies, and the prepaid letter rate to all member countries was established at 8¢ per ½ ounce.⁵ Under UPU regulations, each member country retained all prepaid postage, so that no additional accounting was required.

⁵The British West Coast Colonies joined the UPU on 1 January 1879, but Liberia was not a member until 1 April 1879. There was an interim rate from these Colonies to the U.S. of 6d per ½ oz, which was reduced to 4d on 1 April 1879, but Liberia missed the interim rate.

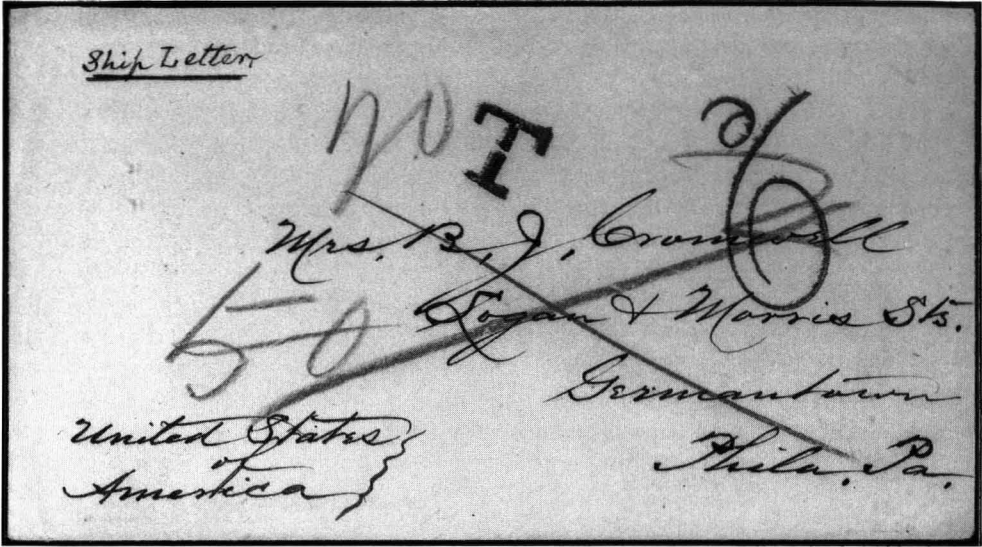


Figure 10. Cape Palmas, March 1879, to Philadelphia, by British steamship to England and transatlantic steamer to U.S. Letter sent unpaid. Six pence postage due marked in England for incoming packet rate from Liberia, then corrected to 50 centime debit to U.S. under UPU convention after marking "T" for postage due. Letter correctly marked for 20¢ postage due in U.S., 10¢ to G.B. and 2x5¢, the unpaid GPU rate from G.B. to U.S.

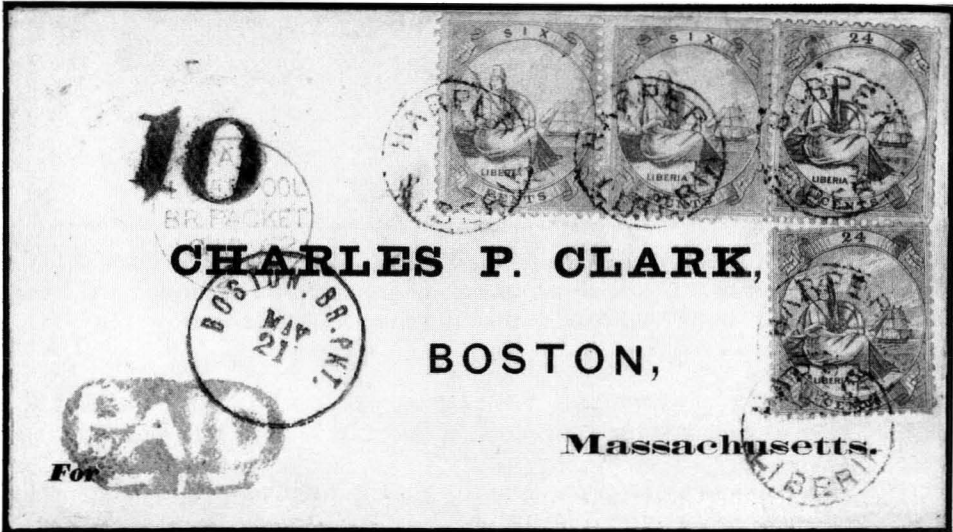


Figure 11. Harper, April 1862, to Boston, prepaid 2x33¢ rate with 60¢ in adhesives. British steamer *Ethiophe* to Liverpool and Cunard *Scotia* to U.S. Not marked in Liverpool for 2x5¢ credit to U.S., so Boston marked 10¢ postage due for U.S. postage.



Figure 12. Buchanan, September 1867, to Baltimore, Maryland c/o address in New York, prepaid 60¢ in adhesives for 66¢ double rate. British steamer *Calabar* to Liverpool and Inman steamer *City of Baltimore* to New York. Liverpool correctly credited U.S. 21¢ (obscured by New York cds). New York marked letter "PAID."

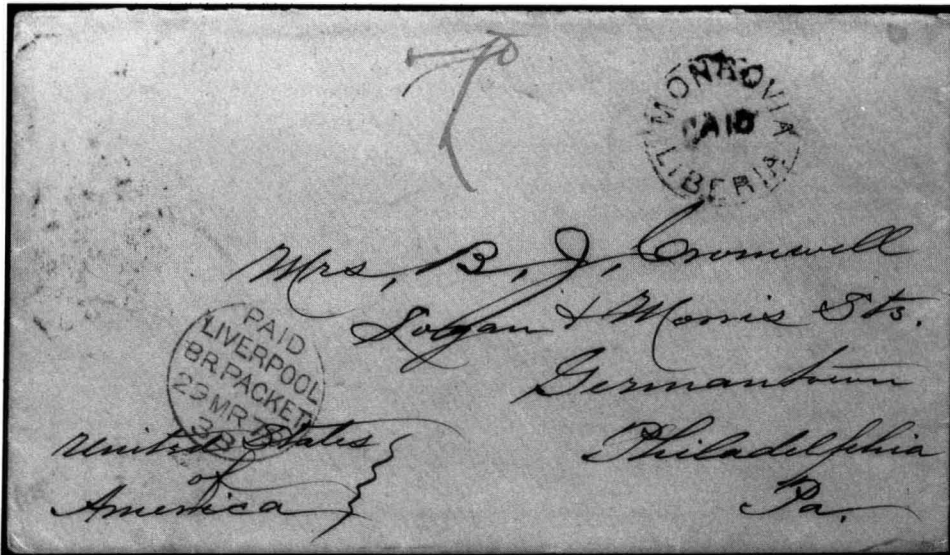


Figure 13. Monrovia, March 1879, to Philadelphia prepaid 7d. "PAID" handstamp in "MONROVIA LIBERIA" circular marking. Backstamp shows arrival at Philadelphia on 9 April 1879.



Figure 14. Harper, March 1879, to Philadelphia prepaid 7d rate to U.S. "PAID" handstamp in "HARPER LIBERIA" circular stamp. Liberia credited G.B. 6'/:d. Backstamp shows arrival at Philadelphia on 14 April 1879.



Figure 15. New York (?), 24 Nov 1866, to Monrovia, prepaid 33¢ (Scott No. 71 and 65) for all fees to destination. New York exchange office credited G.B. 12¢, retaining 21¢ since American contract steamer carried letter to G.B. London credited 1d colonial postage to Liberia.

Table 1 gives a summary of the prepaid letter rates by British Mail between Liberia and the United States:

TABLE 1

	Liberia to United States		United States to Liberia	
	Rate per 1/2 oz	Credit to UK	Rate per 1/2 oz	Credit to UK
Pre Treaty (Aug 1857)	-	-	45¢	24¢/Am Pkt 40¢/Br Pkt
As ratified on 20 Jan 1858	28¢	1/1d	33¢	12¢/Am Pkt 28¢/Br Pkt
1 Apr 1858	33¢	1/3 1/2d	33¢	12¢/Am Pkt 28¢/Br Pkt
1 Jan 1868	22¢	10d	22¢	12¢ ⁶
1 Jan 1870	16¢	7d	16¢	12¢
1 Jul 1875	14¢	6 1/2d	15¢	50 centimes
1 Apr 1879	8¢	None	5¢	None

Tables 2, 3, and 4 provide summaries of the recorded covers between the United States and Liberia up to the time of Liberia joining the UPU and immediately thereafter.

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⁶As of 1 January 1868, in accordance with the new postal convention between Great Britain and the United States, each country was responsible for the transit fees to send letters to the other country. Great Britain treated all incoming letters from the United States as if they were carried by American packets, regardless of the steamship line's national charter.

TABLE 2
RECORDED COVERS—LIBERIA TO UNITED STATES

DATE	ORIGIN	DESTINATION	U.S. PORT OF ENTRY	OTHER TRANSIT MARKS	VESSELS	RATES AND ACCOUNTANCY MARKS
Jan 1860 (Fig. 6)	HARPER LIBERIA in blue	New York	N.YORK BR.PKT. 5 24 FEB in black	PAID LIVERPOOL BR. PACKET 1.2.1860	Possibly <i>Athenian</i> due at Liverpool on 10.1.1860, <i>Europa</i>	33¢ rate. 30¢ prepaid in stamps 5¢ inland due
Jan 1861	HARPER LIBERIA in black	South Haven Van Buren County (Michigan)	N.YORK AM.PKT. 5 MAR 2	PAID LIVERPOOL BR.PACKET 12.2.1861	<i>Ethiope</i> , <i>Edinburgh</i>	33¢ rate. "Paid" & "1/3 1/2" in manuscript; "16"¢ credit to U.S.; 5¢ inland due
Feb 1861 (Fig. 7)	HARPER LIBERIA in black	Boston	BOSTON AM PACKET APR 1	PAID LIVERPOOL BR. PACKET 13.3.1861	<i>Cleopatra</i> , <i>City of Baltimore</i>	33¢ rate. "Paid" & "1/3 1/2" in manuscript; "16"¢ credit to U.S.; "5"¢ inland due
Feb 1861 (Fig. 5)	HARPER LIBERIA in black	Boston	BOSTON AM PACKET APR 1	PAID LIVERPOOL BR. PACKET 13.3.1861	<i>Cleopatra</i> , <i>City of Baltimore</i>	66¢ rate. "Paid" & "2/7 1/2" in manuscript; "32"¢ credit to U.S.; "10"¢ inland due
Apr 1861 (Fig. 4)	MONROVIA LIBERIA in blue	Washington, D.C.	N.YORK BR.PKT. MAY 22 PAID 24	PAID LIVERPOOL BR.PACKET 11.5.1861	<i>Armenian</i> , <i>Persia</i>	33¢ rate. 30¢ prepaid in stamps; "1/3 1/2" in manuscript; "5 CENTS" (Liverpool) credit to U.S.
Sep 1861 (Fig. 8)	HARPER LIBERIA in black	Bristol, Maine	N.YORK BR.PKT. 5 OCT 26 in black	PAID LIVERPOOL BR.PACKET 11.10.1861	<i>Athenian</i> , <i>Africa</i>	33¢ rate. 30¢ prepaid in stamps 5¢ inland due

(Table 2 cont.)

Sep 1861	HARPER LIBERIA	Boston	BOSTON BR.PKT. OCT 26	PAID LIVERPOOL BR.PACKET 11.10.1861	<i>Athenian, Africa</i>	66¢ rate. 60¢ prepaid in stamps; “1/3½” in manuscript; “10”¢ inland due
Apr 1862 (Fig. 11)	HARPER LIBERIA & itaglio PAID in blue	Boston	BOSTON BR.PKT. MAY 21 in black 10.5.1862	PAID LIVERPOOL BR.PACKET	<i>Ethiophe, Scotia</i>	66¢ rate. 60¢ prepaid in stamps; “10”¢ inland due
May 1863	MONROVIA LIBERIA	Philadelphia	PHILADELPHIA AM.PKT. JUN 22	PAID LIVERPOOL BR.PACKET 9.6.1863	<i>Armenian, City of New York</i>	33¢ rate. 30¢ prepaid in stamps; “16”¢ credit to U.S.; “5”¢ inland due
Jul 1865	MONROVIA LIBERIA & PAID in blue	Raleigh, N.C. AUG 23	N.YORK BR.PKT. PAID BR.PACKET 11.8.1865	PAID LIVERPOOL	<i>MacGregor Laird</i>	33¢ rate. 30¢ prepaid in stamps; “5 CENTS” (Liverpool) credit to U.S.
Mar 1866	HARPER LIBERIA; PAID	Philadelphia	PHILADELPHIA	PAID LIVERPOOL BR.PACKET 9.4.1866	<i>Mandingo, America</i>	33¢ rate. 30¢ prepaid in stamps; “1/3½” in manuscript; “21 CENTS” (Liverpool) credit to U.S.
Sep 1867 (Fig. 12)	BUCHANAN LIBERIA & PAID in blue	Baltimore c/o address in New York	N.YORK AM.PKT. PAID OCT 14 in red	PAID LIVERPOOL BR.PACKET 2.10.1867	<i>Calabar, City of Baltimore</i>	66¢ rate. 60¢ prepaid in stamps;
Feb 1876 (Fig. 9)	MONROVIA LIBERIA in black	Harpers Ferry Virginia	NEW YORK PAID ALL MAR 21 in red	London PAID and PAID LIVERPOOL BR. PACKET 6.3.1876		“7d Paid” in manuscript; “6½”d in crayon credit to UK
207 Oct 1876	MONROVIA LIBERIA	Cincinnati, Ohio	NEW YORK	LIVERPOOL BR.PACKET 15.11.1876		“7d paid” in manuscript

(Table 2 cont.)

Feb 1879	MONROVIA LIBERIA PAID	Philadelphia 9.4.1879		PAID LIVERPOOL BR.PACKET 29.3.1879	“7d” in manuscript
Mar 1879 (Fig. 13)	MONROVIA LIBERIA PAID in black	Philadelphia 9.4.1879		PAID LIVERPOOL BR.PACKET 29.3.1879	“7d” in purple manuscript
Mar 1879 (Fig. 14)	HARPER LIBERIA	Philadelphia 14.4.1879 PAID		PAID LIVERPOOL BR.PACKET 2.4.1879	7d rate. “6½”d credit to UK
Mar 1879 (Fig. 10)	Cape Palmas	Philadelphia		LIVERPOOL BR.PACKET 10.4.1879	Unpaid “T” & “20”¢; also “6d” & “50” deleted
Mar 1879 (Fig. 3)	Cape Mount	Philadelphia	NEW YORK MAY 7 79 DUE 10 CENTS	LIVERPOOL BR.PACKET 25.4.1879	Unpaid “T” & “50”

TABLE 3
REPORTED COVERS—UNITED STATES TO LIBERIA

DATE	ORIGIN	DESTINATION	U.S. PORT OF ENTRY	OTHER TRANSIT MARKS	VESSELS	RATES AND ACCOUNTANCY MARKS
30.11.1863	Round Point, N.Y. in manuscript	Cape Palmas, Liberia		None	Apparently per Barque <i>Greyhound</i>	Prepaid 33¢ in stamps as if via UK “28” credit to UK
	Downington, Pa.	Monrovia, Liberia	N.YORK BR.PKT. MAY 9	None		Prepaid 3x10¢ (Scott #68) + 3¢ (Scott #65); “28” credit to UK and 1d credit to Liberia

(Table 3 cont.)

Jan 1866	Johns..., United States	Monrovia, Liberia	NEW YORK AM.PKT. PAID	London 9.2.1866	Inman Line <i>City of New York II</i> and possibly <i>Calabar</i> - depart 24.2.1866	Prepaid 33¢ in stamps. “12”¢ credit to UK and “1”d to Liberia
24.11.1866 (Fig. 15)		Monrovia, Liberia	NEW YORK AM.PKT. PAID NOV 24	London 16.12.1866 & Liverpool 22/23.12.1866	<i>Calabar</i>	33¢ prepaid in stamps (Scott #71 & #65); “12”¢ credit to UK & “1d” to Liberia

TABLE 4
PACKET LETTERS AFTER 1.4.1879 WHEN LIBERIA JOINED THE UPU

DATE	ORIGIN	DESTINATION	U.S. PORT OF ENTRY	OTHER TRANSIT MARKS	VESSELS	RATES AND ACCOUNTANCY MARKS
Apr 1879 (26th)	MONROVIA LIBERIA PAID	Philadelphia		PAID LIVERPOOL BR.PACKET 29.5.1879		Still prepaid at previous rate of 7d
5.2.1880	MONROVIA LIBERIA FEB 5 1880 & PAID in black	Philadelphia 9.3.1880		PAID LIVERPOOL BR.PACKET 26.2.1880		“1/4” in crayon - 2 oz rate
26.3.1881	MONROVIA LIBERIA MAR 26 1881	Philadelphia		PAID LIVERPOOL BR.PACKET 13.4.1881		Prepaid 8¢ in stamps

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ANSWERS TO PROBLEM COVERS IN ISSUE 166

Figure 1 shows a cover from Shreveport, La., via New Orleans to Boston, with two markings: "SHIP / 6" and "PAID / 3." What do these markings represent and where were they applied?

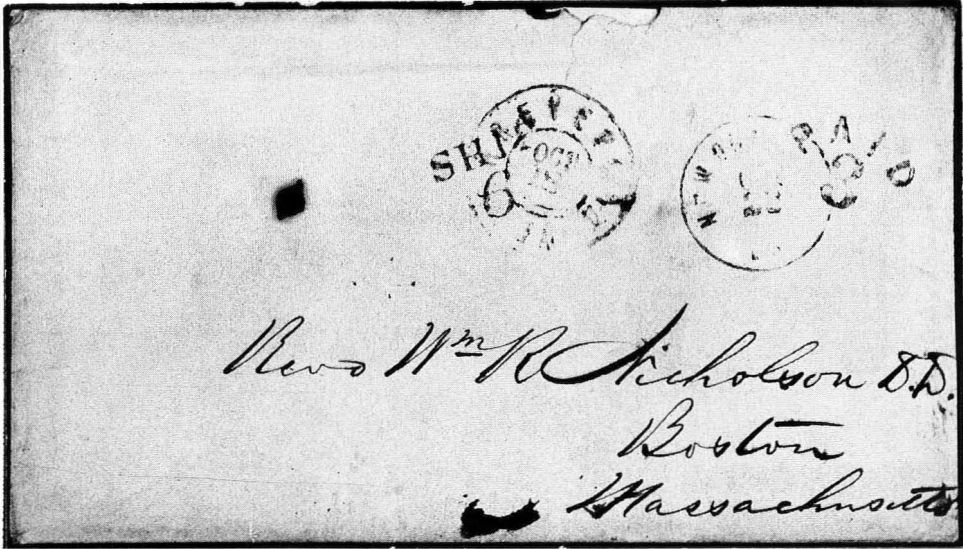


Figure 1. Shreveport, La. cover to Boston via New Orleans.

Responses were received from Robert Murch, Dick Graham and Austin Miller. They concur that the "PAID / 3" was applied at Shreveport, and the cover then was carried to New Orleans by a non-contract steamboat, where the "SHIP / 6" was applied. The year is 1865. But there is a lot more to be learned from this cover. Austin Miller writes in detail:

The Shreveport cds is that used during the Confederacy and shows considerable wear. The "PAID / 3" in arc was used at Shreveport until 1856, when prepayment by stamps became mandatory. The New Orleans cds is 1862 or later, and the "SHIP / 6" is actually two separate handstamps.

The cover was mailed October 18, 1865, before Shreveport received a new post marking device (thus used an obsolete paid handstamp), and had no U.S. postage stamps on hand. It was carried to New Orleans which refused to accept the cash payment at Shreveport — probably because of the absence of the mandatory postage stamp. The New Orleans Post Office treated this as an unpaid loose ship letter addressed beyond the port of arrival, postmarked the cover a second time, and applied the "SHIP / 6" handstamp. The letter then went via regular postal service to Boston, where the addressee paid the six cents.

Dick Graham recognized the problem cover as his own, which he located complete with original enclosed letter dated Oct. 12, 1865. The writer regrets his "inability to write to his brother at an earlier date." Dick adds the following pertinent information:

A notice in the *U.S. Mail and Post Office Assistant* of October, 1865, included Shreveport, La. as one of the offices just reopened as a federal post office. However, the "PAID / 3" Shreveport marking was not accepted by the New Orleans Post Office because the letter was not prepaid by stamps.

The Act effective July 31, 1863, provided that all letters brought into a port by either a ship or steamboat not under contract for carrying the mail were to be rated with double rates of postage, which would cover a payment of 2 cents per letter to the ships' masters. Therefore, New Orleans charged the letter with double postage, $2 \times 3\text{¢} = 6$ cents, and applied the "SHIP / 6" marking.

Thus, it appears that the Shreveport Postmaster sent what may have been the first postwar federal mail out of Shreveport to New Orleans by steam boat, but apparently no contract had yet been placed for transporting the mails.

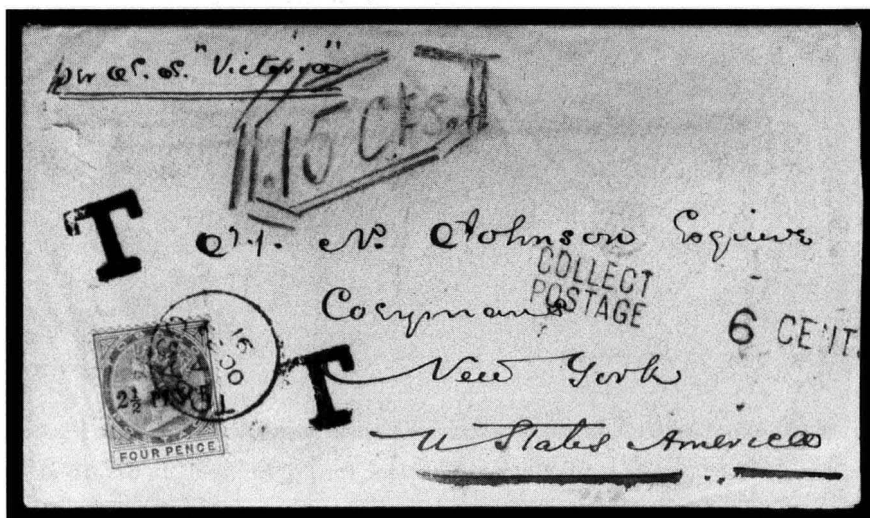


Figure 2. 1891 Tobago cover to New York, "COLLECT / POSTAGE 6 CENTS."

Figure 2 is a 1891 cover from Tobago to Coeymans, New York, paid with a "2½ PENNY" surcharged stamp for the standard UPU rate. Why was this cover charged "COLLECT / POSTAGE 6 CENTS" in the U.S.?

Both Austin Miller and Tony Wawrukiewicz offered the same response. Although the standard UPU rate was 25 centimes ($= 2\frac{1}{2}\text{d} = 5\text{¢}$), it was not the universal rate. The Paris UPU Convention of 1878 provided for additional charges between countries according to sea and other transit costs. These surtaxes were added to the standard rate and published in the *U.S. Postal Guide* beginning in January 1881.

In 1891, the surtax from Tobago to the U.S. was $1\frac{1}{2}\text{d}$, which made the total rate 4d. Therefore the Tobago Post Office correctly rated the letter deficient 15 centimes ($= 1\frac{1}{2}\text{d} = 3\text{¢}$). New York then charged the addressee 6¢, which is double the deficiency as required by the Paris UPU Convention of 1878.

PROBLEM COVERS FOR THIS ISSUE

Figure 3 shows the front and part of the reverse of a 1857 stampless cover to Edinburgh, Scotland which originated in Havana. There is an oval "STEAMSHIP" marking on the front and three cds's on the reverse — a "NEW YORK PACKET," a "LONDON" transit and an "EDINBURGH" receiving. The rates on the front are a stamped "26,"

and manuscript "29" and "1/2 1/2"; colors of these markings were not submitted. Please explain the postage rates, how the cover got to New York, and whether it traveled via British or American Packet to England.

Figure 4 is a U.S. envelope to New York City paid by a 3¢ adhesive. It has a "Letter returned by Carrier" label because the addressee could not be found (as noted in manuscript by the carrier). This resulted in the oval "NEW YORK POST OFFICE / JUL 31 / ADV. / Due 1 Cent" in the upper left corner, plus the application of a 1¢ Postage Due stamp. The envelope also has two handstamped markings: "UNCLAIMED / I. D. / N. Y." in a circle, and a bold "C.L." also in a circle. What are the meanings of the "I. D." and the "C.L." in these markings?

Apologies for the typographical error in the previous issue; the introduction to the Figure 1 cover, at the top of page 139, should have reflected a debit of "38 CENTS" (not "8 CENTS").

Please send your answers to these problem covers, and any further discussion of previous answers to other problem covers, within two weeks of receiving your *Chronicle*. Mail can be received at P.O. Box 42253, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242, or at 9068 Fontainebleau Terrace, Cincinnati, Ohio 45231-4808, as well as by Fax at (513) 563-6287.

— Scott Gallagher and Ray Carlin □

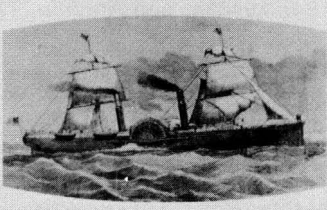
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