

THE CHRONICLE August 1997 (No. 175)

The

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of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues

August 1997

Volume 49, No. 3

Whole No. 175

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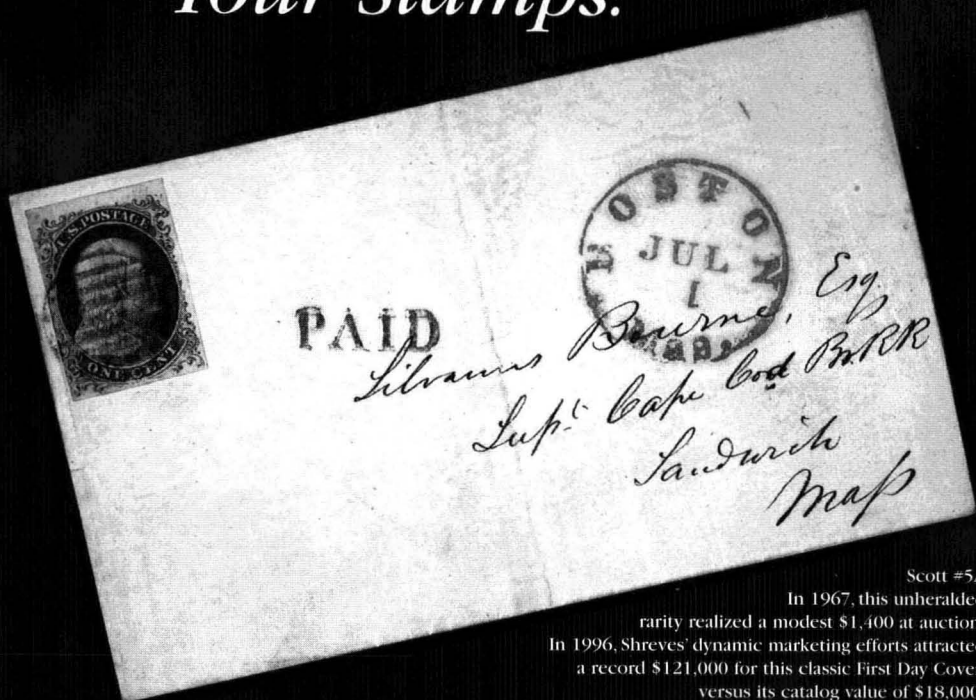
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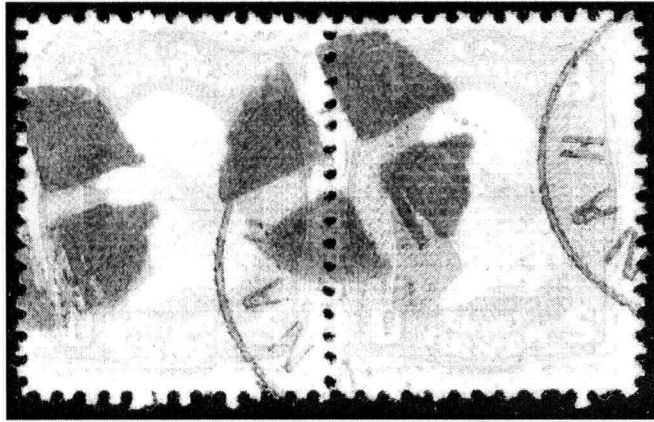
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# The Chronicle

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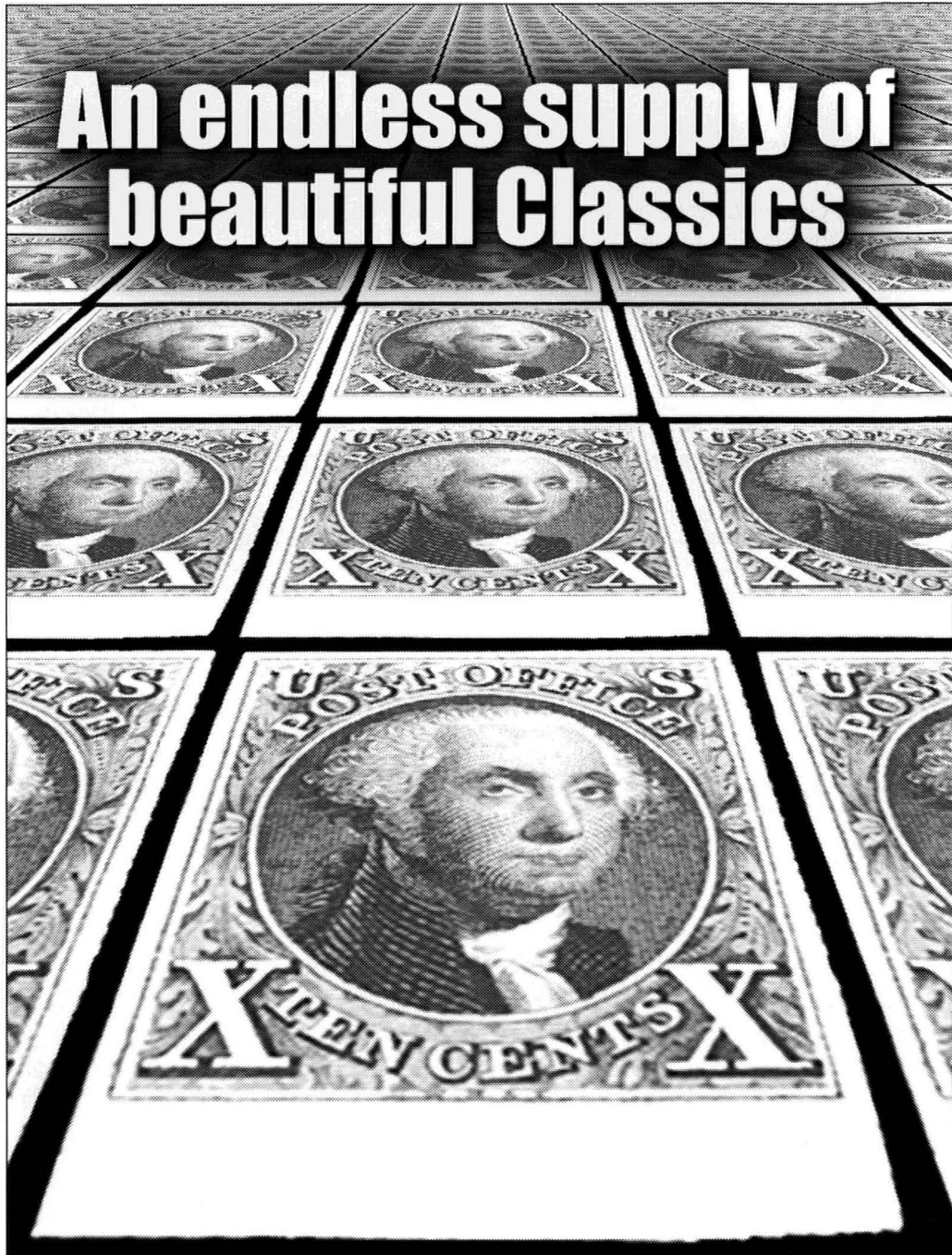
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**SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPORTANCE—OR LACK THEREOF—  
OF PLATING THE FIVE CENT STAMP OF 1847\***

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A banner headline on the first page of the June 2, 1997, *Linn's* announced the possible discovery of a full proof pane of 100 of the Five Cent 1847. The story explained that the possible pane was overpasted by die proofs of the same stamp, and the existence *vel non* of the pane was uncertain because the underlying base was covered over. This item was recently sold at auction together with a similarly overpasted Ten Cent 1847 item, and interested collectors now await further disclosure by the purchaser.

The *Linn's* article extolled the extraordinary importance of this possible discovery. One well-known collector was quoted as saying that, "It's the most amazing news of the century for that issue." Another accomplished student of the stamp was even more effusive, stating that, "This is potentially the greatest discovery in the 1847 area since these stamps were first collected," thereby exceeding the first commentator's time frame by more than a half century. Not to be outdone, the reporter stated that these panes, "may provide a vital record of how the stamps [*sic*, for impressions] were entered on the printing plates from the transfer rolls used to rock the impression of each stamp into the steel plates." Do these statements represent a philatelic version of checkout counter journalism, or are they correct?

Complete 1847 proof panes would of course qualify as major philatelic treasures. Each would be the largest known multiple of that denomination. However, the comments in *Linn's* focused on the Five Cent pane since it may permit the plating of that pane. Therefore careful analysis requires that we consider that proof pane as it relates to the plating of the Five Cent 1847 stamp.

**I.**

First, let's briefly clarify some terminology, because the word "plating" is ambiguous. The highest order of plating is of course *original* plating. The subsequent application of original plating information to unplated examples of the stamp can be called "replicative plating" or "replating" for short.

**II.**

What are the purposes of plating? One is that it can be an end in itself, a fascinating philatelic puzzle for those who undertake it, either as an original plating or replating. Let us call this the "puzzle purpose." I do it myself. It can be great fun.

A second, related purpose is to reconstruct sheets of philatelic incunabula, so as to show what they originally looked like. This is of particular interest when sheets themselves no longer exist. For example, within the last decade a dealer cut up what I consider to have been a national treasure, the only surviving pane of Plate 2 of the 1851 One Cent stamp. A reconstructed plating of that sheet thus becomes the only surviving representation of that desecrated artifact. (As far as I am aware, I have the only such Plate 2 reconstruction; can any reader tell me of another?) This may be called "the reconstruction purpose."

---

\*This article is in response to a note from editor Peterson suggesting that I comment on "the 1847 proof sheets that just went at auction." I not only accepted that suggestion but broadened it to the general subject of classic plating, which is raised by these proofs. The views stated here are strictly my own, but I thank Mal Brown, Jim Kloetzel, Wade E. Saadi and Scott Trepel for their pre-publication reviews.

A third purpose of plating is to help identify major plate varieties or explain how or when they occurred. A simple example: plating can determine whether a Three Cent 1851 stamp with indeterminate color is a true orange brown. This may be called “the identification purpose.”

Now, to consider the plating the Five Cent 1847 stamp, within the context of these purposes:

A full proof pane will serve the puzzle purpose, but it will do so too well. Plating from a complete pane cannot be compared to the challenge of reconstructing a pane from smaller overlapping multiples as Dr. Chase did with the 1851 Three Cent stamp. Dr. Chase himself wrote that he disdained reconstructing a plate of the G.B. “penny reds” by using the 240 combinations of corner letters, characterizing such an undertaking as, “of course, not plating, but mere child’s play.”<sup>1</sup> Would he have considered “plating” an existing pane as much different?

A full proof pane would serve the reconstruction purpose. It would show that pane as it existed when the proof was pulled, albeit as a proof and not actual stamps. Does that justify *Linn’s* hyperbole?<sup>2</sup>

As for the “identification” purpose, I think the proof pane is unlikely to unlock any great Five Cent 1847 mysteries. It probably was pulled when the plate was new and this, regrettably, diminishes its “identification” value in three respects. First, the Five Cent plate wore severely between mid-1847, when it was first put in use, and 1850, and this plate wear caused many of the shallow plate marks to disappear in the course of stamp production. As a result, the proof pane would not be very helpful in identifying stamps printed in 1848 and later. Second, the positions of most of the important plate varieties of the first state of the Five Cent plate are already known. Possibly the “T” crack might show on the proof pane. We know this variety came from the plate in its first state (hopefully more on this in a future issue), and Wade Saadi has partially identified its location. Pinpointing its precise location would be interesting to specialists, but hardly the Five-Cent-1847-discovery-of-the-century. The “T” crack is important as a confirmed plate variety, but its plate position is a footnote.

Third, and most important, a first state proof will not show second state varieties. It is now accepted that the Five Cent 1847 plate was reworked at some point in 1850, and this reworking produced that stamp’s rarest plate varieties. The very rare Five Cent 1847 double transfers—“C,” “D” and “F” (“Wagshal shift”)—are believed to come from the reworked plate. Thus their plate positions could not be determined from a first state proof pane, even if that information was deemed to be philatelically important.

### III.

The history of classic U.S. philately does not warrant assigning transcendent importance to plating the Five Cent 1847, that is, going beyond the major plate varieties to identify the positions which exhibit no distinctive plate markings.

This conclusion can be drawn from the disregard which has marked Perry’s 1924 plating of the Ten Cent 1847 stamp. Perry’s accomplishment has not worked any sea change in the patterns of collecting that stamp. Who, other than antiquarians such as my-

---

<sup>1</sup>Carroll Chase, *The 3¢ Stamp of the United States 1852-1857 Issue*, 2nd ed. (Springfield, Mass.: Tatham Stamp & Coin Co., 1942), p. 79.

<sup>2</sup>The two covered proof sheets were contained in an American Bank Note Company proof book consisting of over 50 double-sided pages of U.S. and foreign proof sheets. The entire 50-plus page book sold for \$280,000 hammer at PACIFIC 97. In contrast, in 1993 the two largest publicly known unused multiples of the 1847 issue were sold in the Ishikawa sale, the Five Cent 1847 block of sixteen bringing \$230,000 hammer and the Ten Cent 1847 block of six bringing \$420,000 hammer. The market’s valuation of proofs versus stamps is obvious.

self, remembers Frank R. Sweet? At one time the mayor of Attleboro, Massachusetts, Sweet was the collector who in 1928 replicated Perry's plating of all 200 positions of the Ten Cent 1847 with many overlapping multiples. Sweet died in 1937 and his holding was sold privately, and subsequently, in 1960, it was offered at auction in New York. By that time, reconstruction of the Ten Cent 1847 had become so little regarded that the auction house saw no added value in keeping it together and stated in the preamble of the catalogue that, "By reason of the considerable variance of quality in the items making up this sheet [*sic*], the reconstruction has been broken down and is offered on an item by item basis." There followed the assurance that, "IT WILL NOT BE OFFERED AS A UNIT." (Emphasis in original.)

What has changed since then? Today, only a tiny percentage of collectors is even passingly interested in replating the Ten Cent stamp. As a rough "guesstimate," there are perhaps 5,000 collectors who have at least one 1847 Ten Cent stamp, and I doubt that there are more than ten, of which group I count myself as one, who are interested in plating this stamp. I do so primarily to look for minor plate varieties such as the unlisted double transfers. (How many readers know there are several unlisted, minor double transfers on the Ten Cent stamp?)

Auction catalogues that contain Ten Cent 1847 items rarely describe them by plate position. When auction describers occasionally list a position, invariably they have accepted without question a notation written long ago on the back of a cover or a stamp.

The Scott *U.S. Specialized*, which reflects the philatelic market, does not assign any added value to an accurately plated Ten Cent 1847 stamp. Major plate varieties are given significant premiums—and so is gum. For example, the current edition values an unused Ten Cent 1847 at \$15,000, and adds \$9,000 if the stamp has original stickum on the back. That glue, worth possibly 2 mils, is valued enough in philately to buy a modest automobile. But nothing extra for plating.

This is not a criticism of the catalogue; the catalogue reflects the philatelic market.

The philatelic disinterest in plating the Ten Cent 1847 is not peculiar to that stamp. In the auction market, reconstructions frequently do not achieve prices which reflect the value of the component stamps, much less a premium for the accomplishment of the plating. For example, a reconstruction of both panes of the One Cent 1851 Plate 1 late, one of the few existing, with the stamps described as, "most with ample to large margins and cds," was recently sold by a West Coast house for \$5,000 hammer although the individual stamps catalogued over \$25,000.

The most convincing evidence of the lack of significance that the collecting community assigns to classic U.S. platings which do not involve major plate varieties is provided by the philatelic community's treatment of three works published by Stanley Ashbrook, and the three revisions to those works by Mortimer L. Neinken. Between 1926 and 1938, Ashbrook published works on the One Cent 1851-1857, the Ten Cent 1855-1857, and the Twelve Cent 1851-1857, illustrating most major varieties of each. Later, between 1960 and 1972, Neinken published revisions of each of these three, and in each case, Neinken's revisions supplemented Ashbrook's work by extensive plating diagrams of the more common positions. How many classic U.S. collectors today actively plate ordinary copies of Scott Nos. 24, 35 or 36b? I do not disparage the momentous accomplishments of my departed friend and mentor, Mortimer L. Neinken. It is the philatelic community as a whole, not I, that exhibits disinterest in plating common positions.

Would the plating of the Five Cent 1847 be treated with any greater interest by the philatelic community? Not by recent evidence. In the November 1994 issue of this journal I published plating diagrams of the eight corner positions of the Five Cent 1847. This was important because it enabled collectors to plate corner copies and possibly discover a ninth corner position which would be evidence of the mysterious 1850 reworked Five Cent plate. In the two and a half years since that information was published, I have seen a

number of Five Cent corner copies offered at public auction, but not one was identified by plate position.

\* \* \* \* \*

The *Linn's* reporter's statement that these panes, "may provide a vital record of how the stamps [*sic*] were entered on the plates" is open to even more challenge. There is no mystery about how the standard siderographic process, from die to transfer roll to plate, was performed in the manufacture of the 1847 plates. It is generally accepted that there was only one impression of each die on the transfer roll for each denomination. The location of guide dots outside the rightmost vertical columns of the printed stamps of each value indicate that the rocking in of transfer roll impressions began on the left hand column of each pane of the metal plate. (Keep in mind that everything was reversed on the metal plate.) It may be that the pane will contain evidence of the order in which the impressions were entered, whether starting at the top or the bottom, but this is an arcane question at best. It seems unlikely that a proof pane will yield any significant new information about the basic siderographic process used to manufacture the 1847 plates.

### Conclusion

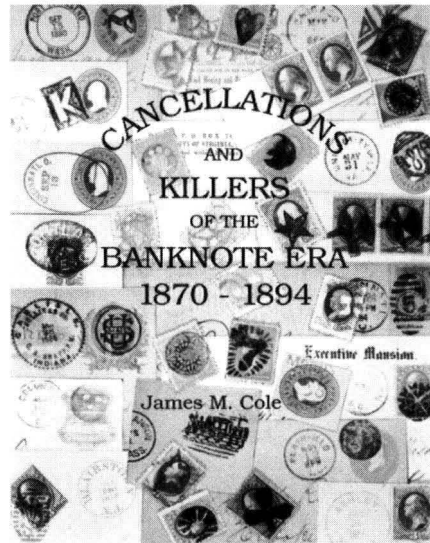
A proof pane of the Five Cent 1847 would be a major philatelic piece. Finding it hidden under other philatelic material makes for an even more interesting story. However, I think the hyperbolic panegyrics published in *Linn's* about its transcendent significance to the study of the 1847 issue somewhat overstate the case. Historically, the philatelic community has shown far more interest in major plate varieties than in the minutiae of plating ordinary positions. The plating of the Ten Cent 1847 did not alter that, and neither would a comparable plating of the Five Cent 1847. □

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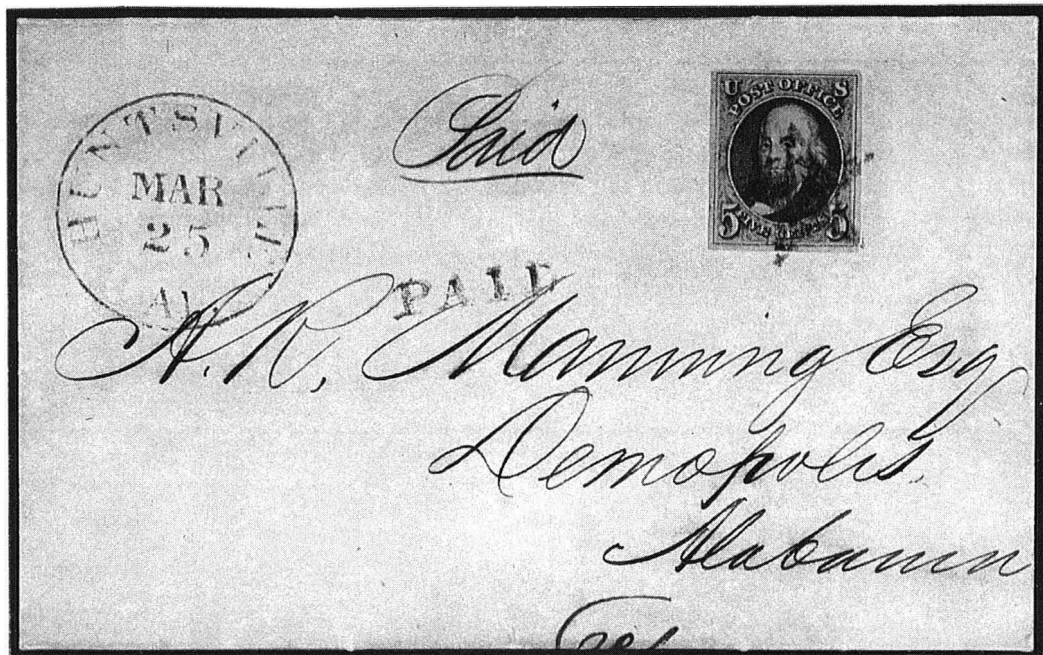


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**THE CHICAGO PERFORATIONS**

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(continued from *Chronicle* 174, p. 120)

**Census of Known Items (12½ Gauge)**

I have compiled a census of all 12½ gauge Chicago Perfs that I could identify (Appendix B) and welcome additions and comments to make this census more accurate and complete. In total there are approximately 80 items on and off cover, including about 65 3¢ and 15 1¢ (Table II).<sup>31</sup> These items are currently listed in Scott's *Specialized Catalogue* under Scott #7 (1¢), #9 (1¢) and #11 (3¢) as "Perf. 12½, unofficial."

Of these items, about 75% have been expertized by noted authorities including Chase, Ashbrook, The Philatelic Foundation, and The American Philatelic Society. In a few cases where I believe that an item in the census needs to be examined or reexamined by an expert committee, I have so indicated by marking the item with a "■".

**Table II**

<b>Number of Chicago Perfs Known (12½ Gauge) and Percent Authenticated*</b>				
<b>Denom.</b>	<b>Unused</b>	<b>Used: On Cover</b>	<b>Used: Off Cover</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>One Cent</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12**</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>% Authenticated</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>88%</b>
<b>Three Cent</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40***</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>% Authenticated</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>% Authenticated</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>75%</b>

- \* Authenticated by Ashbrook, Chase, Philatelic Foundation and/or American Philatelic Society
- \*\* Includes used strip of 3 of One Cent (Type IV), off cover
- \*\*\* Includes pair of Three Cent, on cover

About 25% of these copies are scissor or mechanically separated on at least one side, probably indicating that the users didn't fully understand the purpose of this new invention. Even though collectors do not normally like straight-edged stamps, I found this quite fortunate as it makes the perforations easier to analyze when a row of perfs is fully intact.

I have seen several covers with 1¢ stamps roughly separated on all *four* sides, but showing remnants of what may be perforations. The separation appears to have been done with a knife, cutting through several sheets of stamps simultaneously. It is possible these

<sup>31</sup>Not included in these totals are items certified by others as not genuine, or several items with which I had concerns.

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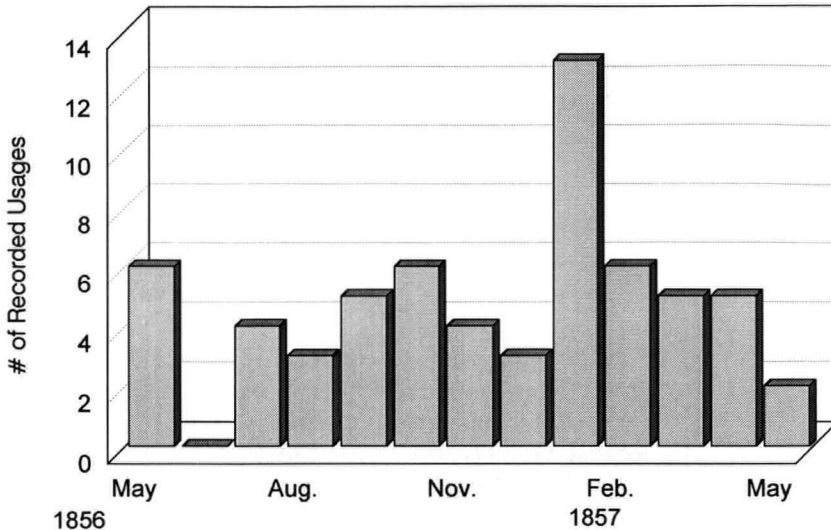
**Figure 17. The largest known multiples of the 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> gauge Chicago Perforations. The strip of three of the 1¢ is positions 91-93 L 1L (position 91 is the triple transfer). The pair of the 3¢ Chicago Perf is positions 86-87 L 3. Items are now in the Jerome S. Wagshal collection.**

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Figure 18. The only two known unused 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> gauge Chicago Perforations are both 1¢ stamps. The item at top is position 19 L 2, while the other item has not yet been plated. The top stamp is now in the Jerome S. Wagshal Collection.



### Usages by Month (12½ Gauge Chicago Perfs)



**Figure 19. Recorded usages of Chicago Perfs by month.**

stamps had 12½ gauge perfs at one time, but the edges of the stamps are so mutilated as to be no longer recognizable. Factors such as time and location of the business are consistent with these being Chicago Perfs;<sup>32</sup> however, other explanations are possible and investigation is continuing.

The only known multiple of the 1¢ Chicago Perf is a used strip of three, off cover. The only known multiple of the 3¢ Chicago Perf is a pair, on cover (Figure 17). There are two unused 1¢ Chicago Perfs known (Figure 18), but no unused 3¢ items.

A histogram of recorded usages by month shows Chicago Perfs were used for approximately a one year period from May 1856 to May 1857 (Figure 19). Most plates in use by Toppan, Carpenter during this time frame have been seen with Chicago Perfs, making it likely that Hadley purchased his stock of imperforate stamps at the Post Office (Table III).

There is risk of error in drawing conclusions from limited data. However, the histogram of recorded usages indicates the stamps may have been perforated and distributed in batches, each of which was used before the next batch was distributed. The lack of recorded usages in June of 1856 may indicate the supply ran out.<sup>33</sup> Apparently batches were issued in May, July, September and October of 1856 plus January 1857, based on the diagram (Figure 19).

The earliest recorded usage of a Chicago Perf is May 3, 1856. This is consistent with Hadley's comments indicating the machine was operational in April or May 1856. Additional comments on this cover are provided under the section on Hadley/Swift covers.

Apparently no new batches were perforated after January 1857, as it became clear shortly thereafter that the U.S. Post Office had obtained another machine. Toppan, Carpenter conducted a test of officially perforated stamps beginning in late February 1857.

<sup>32</sup>The earliest example so separated on four sides is a 1¢ stamp on a circular dated May 7, 1856. The cancel is a Norona Type A-6 device, but without a month and day. This circular is a weekly market review newspaper published by a company known to use Chicago Perfs.

<sup>33</sup>Of course, this could also just be due to lack of data, given the scarcity of these items.

**Table III**

<b>Plates Used on Three Cent 12½ Gauge Chicago Perfs (Under Development)</b>	
<b>Plate</b>	<b>No. of Plated Copies</b>
<b>2L</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>5L4</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Plated</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Total Unplated</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Total Known</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>% Plated</b>	<b>71%</b>

Chicago was one of the test cities, with the earliest Chicago usage of an officially perforated stamp being March 18, 1857.<sup>34</sup> Use of the Chicago Perfs ceased not long after this test began. The latest recorded usage of a Chicago Perf is May 6, 1857.

#### **Cities of Known Usage**

Needless to say, most Chicago Perfs are postmarked from Chicago. However, there are at least two exceptions (Figure 20).

The first is from **New York City**. It was described originally in an article written in 1940.<sup>35</sup> The stamp is faintly canceled with "May 23," and the envelope docketed "May 22 /56." The item has an enclosure dated May 22, 1856. The cover was part of the family correspondence of the author of that article. The original letter was written by Mr. C.C. Langdell of the firm of Pierrepont, Stanley & Langdell, 16 Wall St., New York. The cover

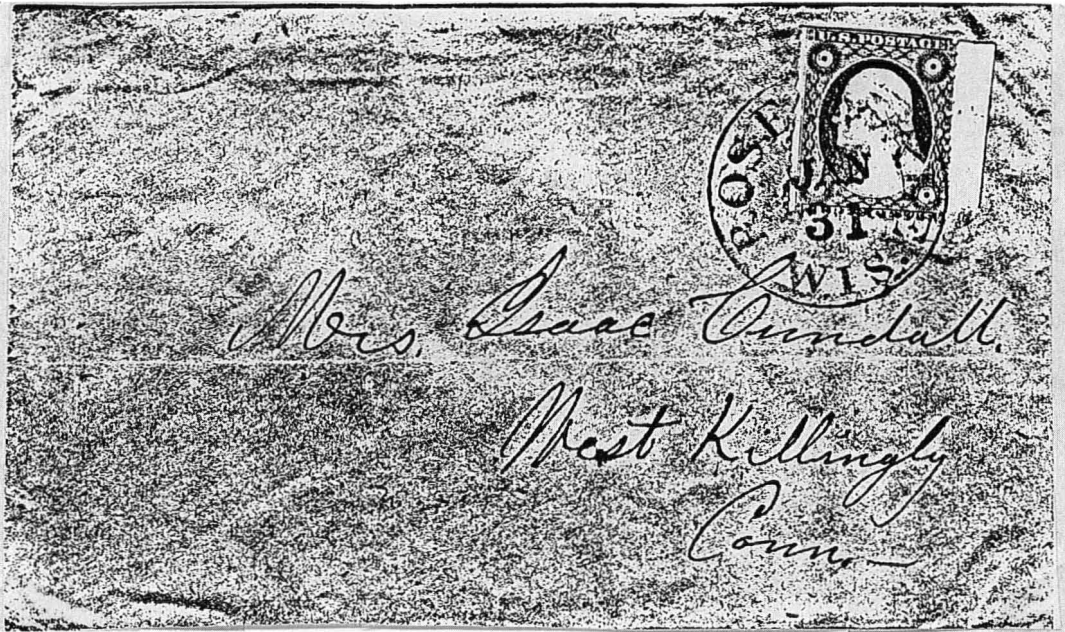
<sup>34</sup>Over the years, I have developed an extensive database of on and off cover usages from cities involved in this test. I ask that any collector having perforated stamps used from any city between February and late June 1857 please provide me a photocopy. This will be the subject of a separate article.

<sup>35</sup>H. Webster, "U.S. 1856 Trial Perforation," *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, May 20, 1940, page 400.



The photograph scheduled for this space was withdrawn just as the *Chronicle* was going to press. On August 11, 1997, the owner indefinitely suspended the previous-granted permission for use of this and related photos. we regret the resulting discourtesy to our readers.

Figure 20 . The only two covers known with Chicago Perfs used from cities other than Chicago. The top cover is from New York, dated May 23, (1856). The bottom cover is from Rosedale, Wisconsin, and dated Jan 31. The top cover is now in the Jerome S. Wagshal collection.



is addressed to Joseph Rowe Webster, Milton, Norfolk County, Mass. The cover is pictured in Brookman,<sup>36</sup> and was sold in the 1989 Siegel Rarities sale (lot 74) with a description saying "last offered 1946." Swift apparently sent samples of Hadley's perforated stamps to New York when they were first introduced. Swift had a New York City office: Swift, Ransom & Co. at 31 Pine Street, located just one street away from Langdell's office. This could explain how the Chicago Perf came to be used in New York City.

The second is from **Rosedale, Wisconsin**, about 175 miles from Chicago. It is discussed on page 175 of Dr. Chase's book, where he hypothesizes that a traveler brought it back from Chicago. The cover is addressed to Mrs. Isaac Cundall, West Killingly, Conn. The last recorded sale I have of this item was from the David T. Beals collection, lot 338.<sup>37</sup>

### Hadley/Swift Covers

There are no covers with Chicago Perfs that I can trace to Elijah Hadley.

However, there are four items with Chicago Perfs that conclusively tie to R.K. Swift. These items are of the highest degree of desirability.

The first is a cover with printed corner card inscribed **R.K. Swift, Brother & Johnston, Bankers, Chicago, Ill.** It is dated May 3 and canceled with a Norona Type A-6 device.<sup>39</sup> The year is assumed to be 1856, based on the usage of this A-6 device and the range of items in the census. This item is the previously mentioned **earliest recorded usage of a Chicago Perf.** The item (Figure 21, top cover) is addressed "To Cashier Otsego Co. Bank, Cooperstown, NY."

The second cover is year-dated August 4, 1856, addressed to "Mr. Joab L. Cliff, Skaneateles, Onondaga Co., N.Y." This item (Figure 22) has the same addressee as another Swift item listed below. In the upper left corner of the envelope is a return address: "**R.K. Swift, Bro. & Johnston,**" in a handwriting different from that used for the addressee. This letter contains an enclosure acknowledging a transaction from one of the bank's clients, and signed "Milsne," a clerk working in Swift's bank. The letterhead on the enclosure reads "R.K. Swift, Brother & Johnston."

The third (Figure 21, bottom cover) is an identical printed corner card to the May 3rd cover previously described. It is inscribed **R.K. Swift, Brother & Johnston, Bankers, Chicago, Ill.** This cover is dated Dec. 16, 1856. The month is not very legible and may not be December. It is addressed to "Edward White, Washington, Dutchess Co., N.Y." The item was last sold in the Grunin sale, March 1987.<sup>39</sup>

Fourth is a cover dated February 4, 1857 (Figure 23). It is addressed to Mr. Joab L. Cliff, Skaneateles, Onondaga Co. New York, the same addressee as the August 4th cover above. On its outside is a pencil notation "**R.K. Swift,**" followed by what appears to be "Feb. 10th 1857." This cover was sold as part of the Thomas J. Alexander collection.<sup>40</sup>

Hadley stated in the letter dated October 20, 1856 that Swift insisted on using his perforated stamps on all his correspondence. Unfortunately, with the absence of return addressees or enclosures these items cannot be easily identified except by handwriting. I don't profess to be a handwriting expert, but I believe there are five additional covers that tie to Swift.

---

<sup>36</sup>L.G. Brookman, *The United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century* (New York, New York: H.L. Lindquist Publications, Inc., 1966), Vol. I, page 147.

<sup>37</sup>Daniel F. Kelleher 577th Sale, January 20-22, 1988.

<sup>38</sup>D. Norona, *Cyclopedia of United States Postmarks and Postal History*, rev. ed. (Lawrence, Massachusetts: Quarterman Publications, Inc., 1975), page 324. The latest date recorded by Norona was March 1856, but this was subsequently advanced by students into May.

<sup>39</sup>Christie's sale, *The Louis Grunin Collection of United States 1851-57 Stamps on Cover*, Part I, March 25, 1987, lot #25.

<sup>40</sup>Richard C. Frajola sale, *Thomas J. Alexander Collection*, March 8-9, 1990, lot #840.

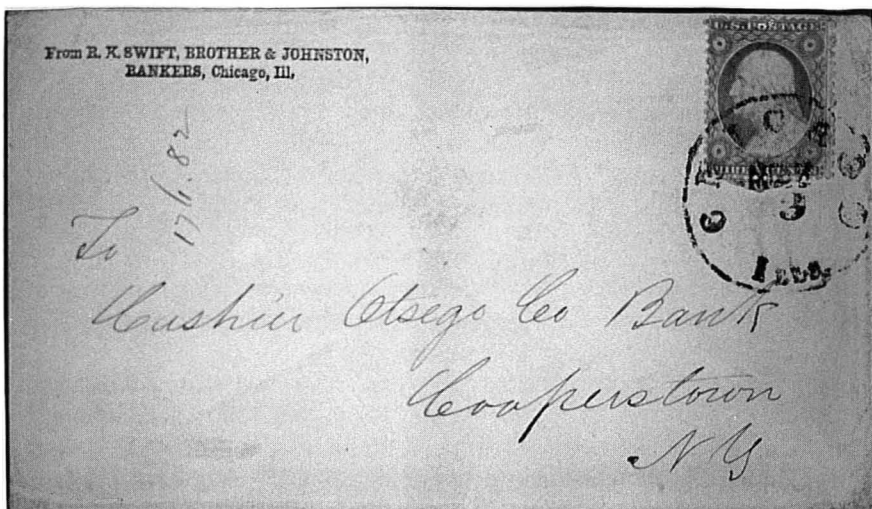
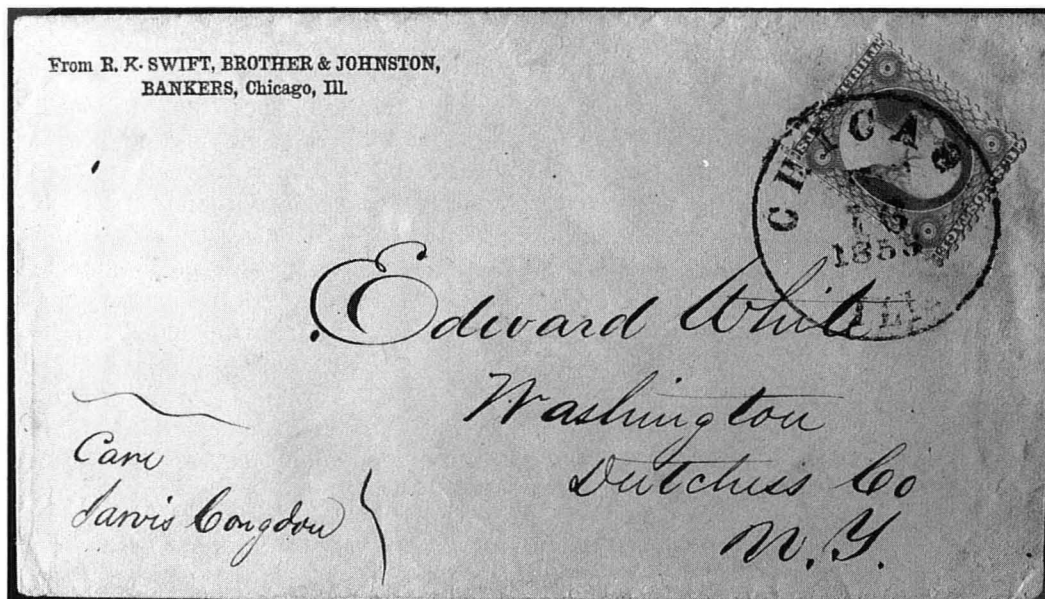


Figure 21. The only two known printed corner cards from R.K. Swift, Brother & Johnston, Bankers, Chicago, Ill. Each cover was mailed with a 3¢ Chicago Perf. The top cover is May 3, (1856), and is the earliest recorded usage of a Chicago Perf. The year is based on the period of usage of the Norona Type A-6 canceling device. The bottom cover is apparently dated December 16, 1856, although the month is not very legible.



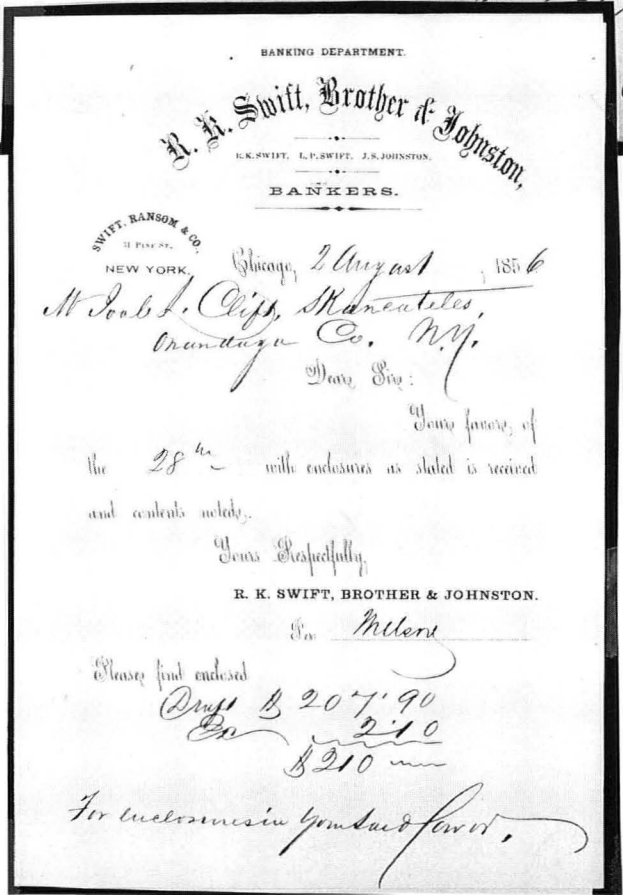
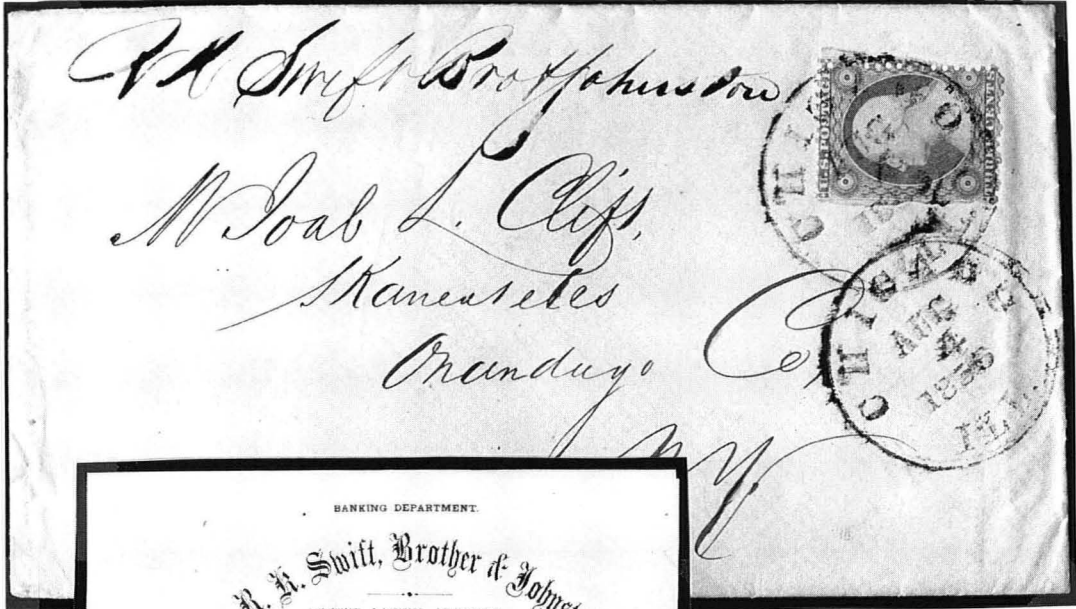


Figure 22. Cover with manuscript "R.K. Swift, Bro & Johnston" at upper left. Contains a letterhead enclosure from Swift's bank, signed by a clerk in bank. This cover is addressed to the same person as the cover shown in Figure 23.

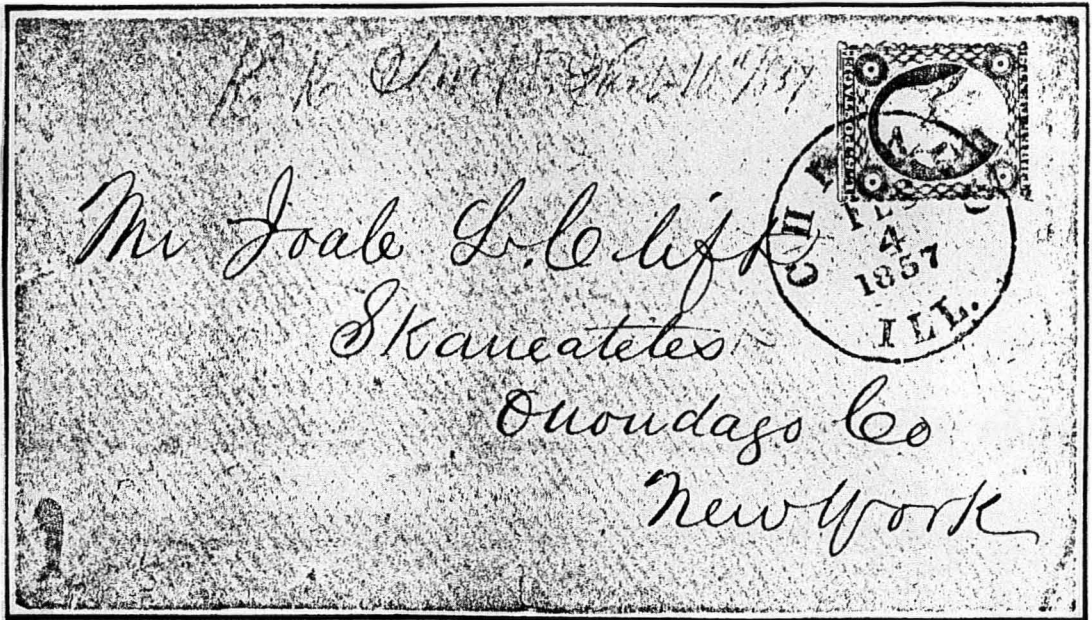


Figure 23. Cover addressed to Joak L. Clift, Skaneateles, Onondago Co., New York. At the top center of the envelope is a faint pencil inscription "R.K. Swift & Co., Feb. 10th[?], 1857." This is the same addressee as the cover in Figure 22.

**Tremont House.**  
 GAGE, BROTHER & DRAKE,  
 PROPRIETORS.  
 COR. LAKE & DEARBORN STS.



Figure 24. Cover with embossed back flap from Tremont House hotel, pictured adjacent to advertisement from 1856 city directory. This cover is apparently addressed by R.K. Swift, based on comparison of the handwriting with Swift's letters. The date is May 22, although not very legible. The year is 1856, based on the canceling device which was not used in 1857.



One of these is a cover apparently addressed by Swift himself (Figure 24). The cover has "Tremont House, Gage Bro. & Drake, Chicago, Ill." embossed on the backflap. It is addressed to Richard Burgess, Esq., Washington City, D.C. When this item was sold in the Piller Sale,<sup>41</sup> it was described as "**addressed in the hand of R.K. Swift.**" This probably is Swift's handwriting which is distinctive, or perhaps more appropriately described as sloppy. The date was described in the Piller catalog as "possible Sep. 22," as the month is not legible. I believe that the date is *May 22* [1856]. The stamp is canceled with a Norona Type A-6 canceling device which was not regularly used after May 1856. All May (1856) usages of Chicago Perfs thus far recorded show A-6 devices, but no subsequent month shows this device. When compared with transparencies made from other A-6 cancellations, this cover is a reasonably good fit with May, but it does not fit with April or September. However, because of the poor legibility, there is the possibility of error.

The following four covers (Figure 25) have handwritten addressees that match the handwriting found on the previously discussed December 16, 1856, corner card from Swift's bank, addressed to Edward White, Washington, Dutches Co., N.Y. (Figure 21). Additional confirmation that these four items came from Swift's bank comes from two covers with the same handwriting in my collection that were mailed after the introduction of government perforated stamps. One of these two has a manuscript notation at the upper left of the envelope "R.K. Swift."

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Addressee:</b>
July 16, 1856	Isaac W. White Esq., Pokeepsie, Dutches Co., N.Y.
August 29, 1856	Isaac W. White Esq., Pokeepsie, Dutches Co., N.Y.
December 2, 1856	Isaac W. White Esq., Pokeepsie, Dutches Co., N.Y.
January 12, 1857	Hiram Reed Esq., Marcellus, NYork

All but one of these last nine covers from Swift or his bank are addressed to New York. Swift's hometown of Auburn, New York is less than ten miles from Skaneateles (two covers) or from Marcellus, NY (one cover). It is likely that some or all of these New York banking customers did business with Swift based on prior relationships. Other items in the census likely originated from Swift's bank, but are thus far unidentified.

Swift apparently had a good deal of international correspondence, yet no transatlantic covers showing Chicago Perfs have yet been recorded.

### **Advertising Covers Bearing Chicago Perfs**

I have analyzed the businesses known to use Chicago Perfs. These items are listed in Appendix B, and shown in Figures 26-29. Previous writers have speculated that Swift had a business interest in these companies, but I know of no evidence that supports that claim.

I believe it likely these businesses used the stamps because Swift actively distributed them. He may have done this as a trial to strengthen the prospect of selling the machine to the Post Office. Perhaps it was done as a courtesy for his banking customers or as a form of advertising. When the businesses are plotted on a 1856-era map, a pattern emerges (Figure 30). Most of these businesses were in a straight path between Swift's bank and Hadley's office. One business, E.S. Wells, shoe manufacturing and sales (Figure 26), was downstairs in the same building as Swift (Figure 3). Others were less than two blocks from Swift or Hadley. Four of the companies using corner cards are located just beyond the limits of the map. They were likely Swift's banking customers.

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<sup>41</sup>R.A. Siegel Sale #748, *The Stanley M. Piller Collection of United States 1851-57 Three Cent Issues*, March 25, 1993, lot 136,.

The photograph scheduled for this space was withdrawn just as the *Chronicle* was going to press. On August 11, 1997, the owner indefinitely suspended the previously-granted permission for use of this and related photos. we regret the resulting discourtesy to our readers.

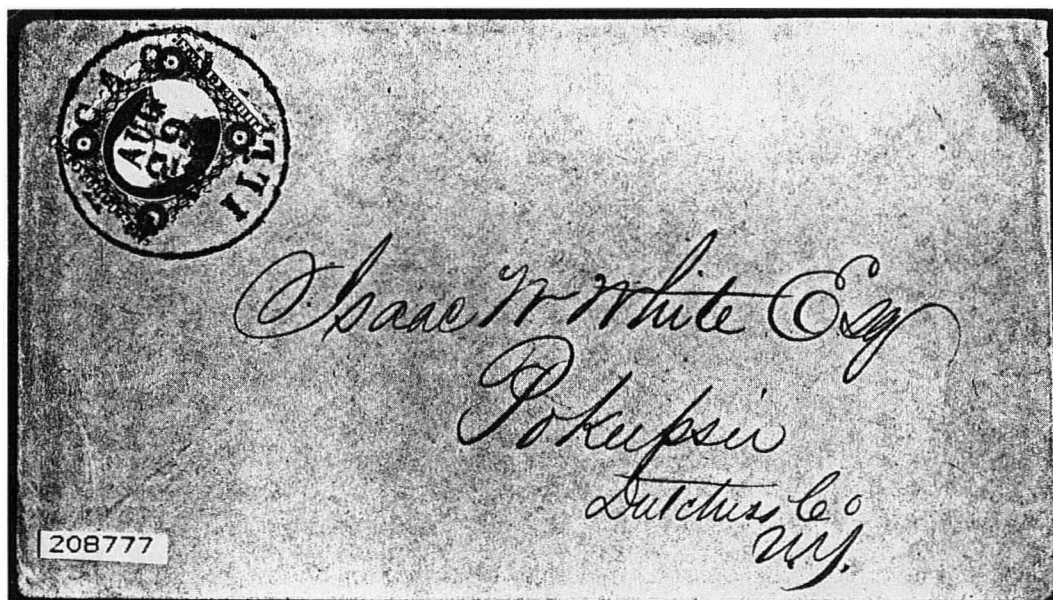
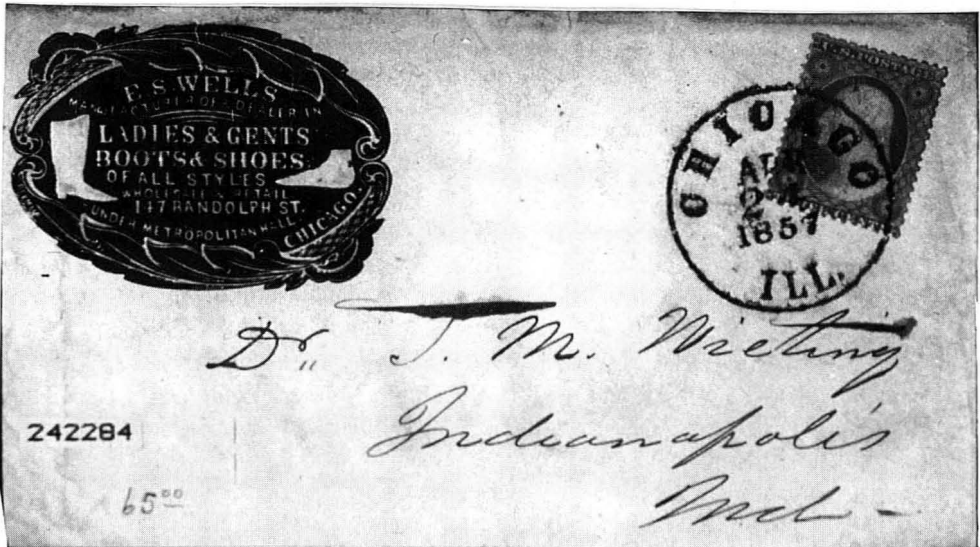


Figure 25. Three of four other covers believed to have originated from Swift's bank, mailed with Chicago perforated stamps. These items can only be identified by the handwriting, which matches the bottom cover shown in Figure 21. Further confirmation that these items came from Swift's bank comes from two items (not pictured) mailed after the introduction of government perforated stamps, but in this same handwriting. One of these two covers is from Swift's bank, based on a manuscript notation on the outside of the envelope. Top and center covers are now in the Jerome S. Wagshal Collection.



**E. S. WELLS,**  
 MANUFACTURER OF AND DEALER IN  
 Ladies' & Gents' Boots & Shoes, of all styles  
 WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.  
 117 RANDOLPH STREET,  
 UNDER METROPOLITAN HALL.

Figure 26. Advertising corner card from E.S. Wells, mailed with a Chicago Perf. Adjacent to the cover is an advertisement for Wells from the city directory. Wells was located in the same building (Metropolitan Hall) as Swift's bank.



Figure 27. Advertising corner cards from Sherman House hotel, mailed with Chicago Perfs. The two corner cards indicate a change in ownership occurred between July 25, 1856 (upper left cover) and March 10, 1857 (lower right cover).

### Miscellaneous Notes on the Remaining Covers

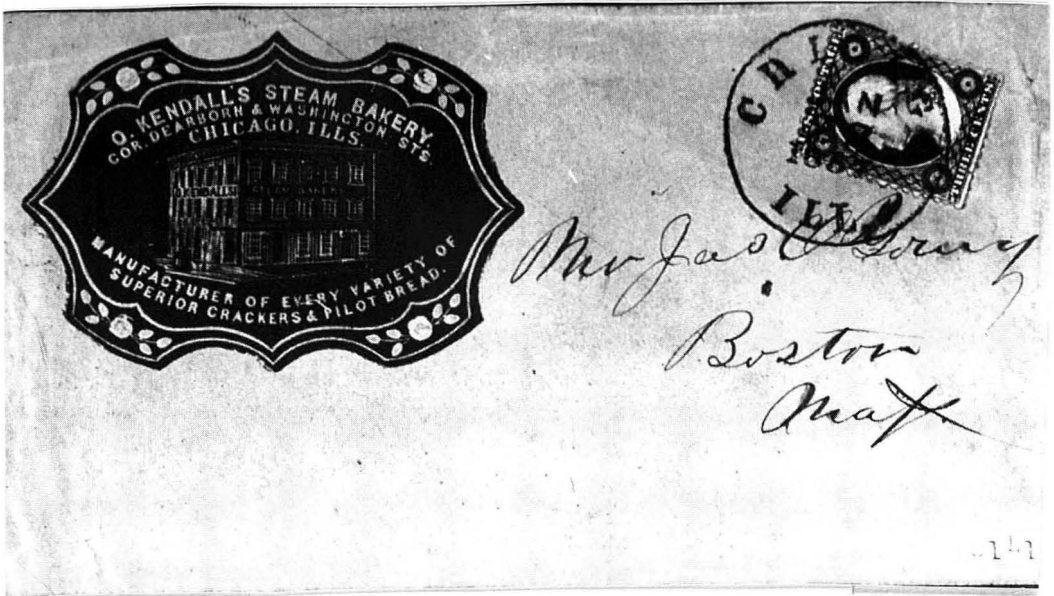
The origin of about 60% of Chicago Perf covers is known to some degree (Table IV). More than 20% can be tied to Swift, and 40% to local businesses through corner cards and enclosures. The balance is unknown, due in part to the lack of photographs showing the full covers clearly .

Two covers with Chicago Perfs are addressed to J.B. Knight and one to Gray & Knight, a law firm in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. The two addressed to J.B. Knight are in the same handwriting, and one of these two contains a letter dealing with land futures in Chicago. The handwriting on this letter is terrible, and I have struggled to match the name with a person in the city directory. The writer may be James Larmon, but this is not certain. Larmon was a real estate agent, who according to the city directory came to Chicago from Kentucky about 1855. Larmon's office was located in the same building (Metropolitan Hall) where Swift had his office, which helps explain the use of the Chicago Perfs. This Knight correspondence continued for a number of years, and is represented in several prominent Chicago postal history collections. I am hoping other letters may surface to confirm or establish the identity of the writer.

Two covers are addressed to Miss Sallie A. Jones in Evansville, Illinois. Two covers are also addressed to Mr. A.C. Squier, Columbia, South Carolina. The writers are unknown.

Table IV

Summary of Users - Chicago Perf Covers		
Covers from Swift or His Bank	# of Known Covers	Comments
Direct	4	Includes corner cards, docketing and enclosures
Indirect	5	Based on handwriting similarities
<b>Total Swift</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>Other Business Correspondence</b>		
Identified Chicago-Area Businesses	7	Corner cards
Travelers	6	Includes hotel correspondence
Other	4	Based on contents
<b>Total Business</b>	<b>17</b>	
<b>Unknown Writers</b>		
Known Addressee	11	
Unknown Addressee	5	Illegible items and poor photos
<b>Total Unknown</b>	<b>16</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	



CHICAGO CRACKER MANUFACTORY  
 O. KENDALL,  
 Manufacturer of a Superior kind of  
 BUTTER, BOSTON, SODA, WATER, SUGAR, WINE, GINGER, AND LEMON  
**CRACKERS AND PILOT BREAD,**  
 Cor. Dearborn and Washington Streets.

**Figure 28. Advertising corner card from Kendall Bakecover is an advertisement for Kendall from the city directory.**

One circular is known addressed to Canada (Figure 31), and another cover addressed to Nebraska Territory. The Canada circular is a weekly market review of Chicago markets, published by P.L. Wells on Clark Street. It contains a brief financial article by R.K. Swift. The writer of the Nebraska letter is unknown. No other destination outside the United States is yet known.

I would very much like to examine any enclosures that readers can provide from these letters.

In closing I ask any collector having additional information, documents, examples or pertinent items relating to early perforation of U.S. stamps (both Chicago Perfs and other cities) please to contact me, as the work continues with full vigor. I very much need your help.



The photograph scheduled for this space was withdrawn just as the *Chronicle* was going to press. On August 11, 1997, the owner indefinitely suspended the previous-granted permission for use of this and related photos. we regret the resulting discourtesy to our readers.

Figure 29. Two additional advertising covers, using Chicago Perfs. The top cover does not show clearly, but is embossed from F.B. Gardner & Co., Lumber Dealers. The bottom cover is from Ellithorpe, Kline, & Bradley, Carriage Manufacturers. The bottom cover is now in the Jerome S. Wagshal collection.



## Location of Selected Businesses in Chicago Circa 1856

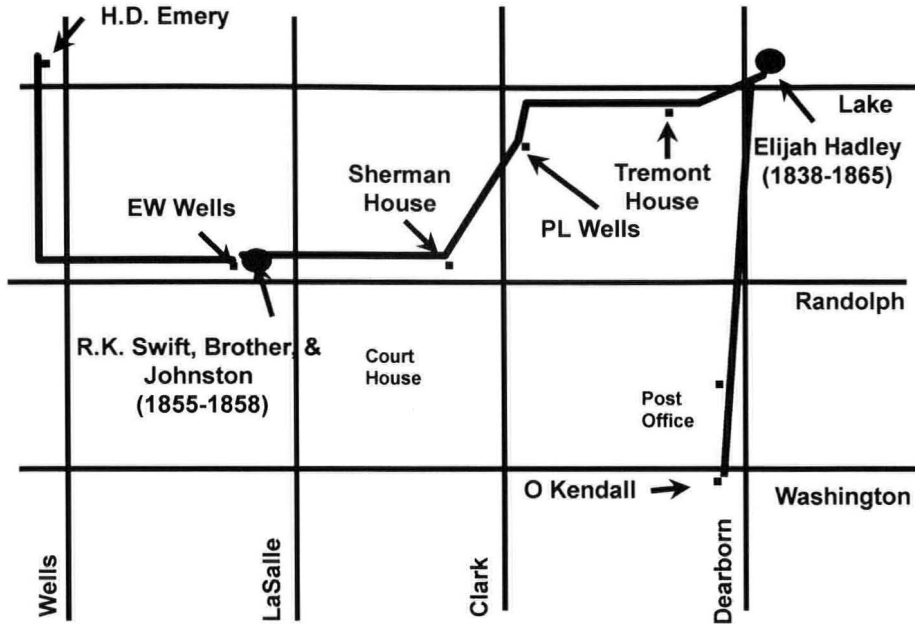


Figure 30. Map showing businesses known to have used Chicago Perfs, in relationship to locations of Hadley and Swift, with a line connecting the locations. All but four known corner cards are from businesses within this small area. A number are in a direct path from Swift's to Hadley's office.

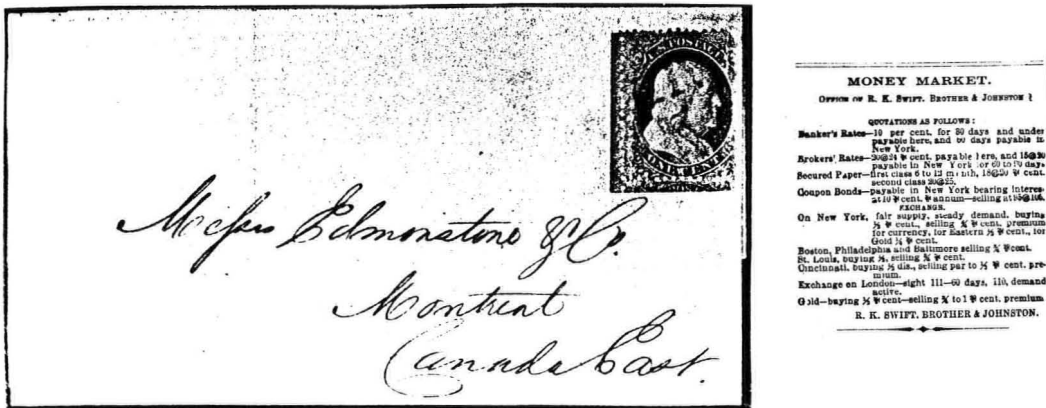


Figure 31. Cover addressed to Canada, with a 1¢ Chicago Perf. This circular is the *Chicago Market Review and Weekly Price Current*, published by P.L. Wells. This market review contains a financial commentary written by R.K. Swift, an excerpt of which is shown adjacent to the cover. The perforations on this stamp show clearly on the left and bottom due to scissor separation, which is common on this stamp.

## Appendix A

### Acknowledgments

There are a lot of people who have contributed to this research, and because their help has been so extensive I fear I cannot do them justice.

I first became interested in perforation of U.S. stamps because of Tom Alexander's article in issue number 69 of *The Chronicle*. I didn't know Tom then, so I studied the subject as a solitary activity. I have since become good friends with Tom and he has helped and encouraged me immeasurably.

It was KG Taira and Bob Hegland who orchestrated making this a group effort. KG called me out of the blue in 1992. He invited me to join a 3¢ study group focusing on the first U.S. perforated issues. KG and Bob were the chief architects of this effort, composed primarily of members from The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society. The intent was to share information that might not be ready to publish in *The Chronicle*. Bob superbly edited and published the group's newsletter. Through this effort our progress was more rapid on all fronts. This reflected not only the sharing of knowledge, but because we pushed each other to get things done.

I credit KG as the major catalyst of my efforts. He is also a brilliant problem solver, and we have spent many hours via long distance working on Chicago Perfs and other perforation puzzles. KG gets his hands into a lot of areas of this study—from analysis, to plating, to photographing the items with E.L. Fritz in his lab.

I have been very fortunate in locating unpublished related source documents. Two individuals, David Beech and Geoffrey Wood, were key in my accessing the Bemrose correspondence, only a portion of which is included in this article. David is the head of philatelic collections for the British Library, and on the governing council for the Royal Philatelic Society, London. He obtained access to the Perkins, Bacon archives for me. Geoffrey Wood in turn spent hours with me during my trips to London to examine documents and track down every conceivable lead. rey, who unfortunately died before this article could be published.

Special thanks to William Alan Bemrose, great-grandson of the inventor of the first perforation machine used by the U.S. Alan made available family files and his personal time, and provided information that would not have been available elsewhere.

There have been several collectors involved in plating these stamps, which I must admit is quite a task even under optimum conditions. In many cases we have worked from photostats, sometimes second or third generation. Dick Celler is a plater extraordinaire, and to him I owe much gratitude. He has spent hours poring through the photos, as has Mark Rogers with the 1¢ stamp. As a result about 70% of the Chicago Perfs have been plated.

The census would not have been possible without The Philatelic Foundation and The American Philatelic Society, both of which shared access to all items in their reference files. Most of the photos analyzed for this study were from The Philatelic Foundation, which generously gave permission to share them. Wade Saadi tirelessly helped to reproduce them all.

Finally, the list is long of collectors and organizations who shared access to items in their collections and their knowledge for this article and for other phases of the perforation study. Many of these collectors have become good friends, as we enjoyed a common interest. Some I have never met, yet they freely shared material to advance this work. Because their contributions are so numerous, I cannot detail them all. So instead I thank each of you from my heart:

Bill Amonette  
Meg Ausman  
(U.S. Postal Service)  
Bill Barrel  
Michael Bean  
(Bureau of Engraving & Printing)  
Steven Bean  
(American Dental Association)  
Bernard Biales  
Wheeler Bowen  
Barry Boggio  
Mercer Bristow  
(American Philatelic Society)  
British Museum and Library  
British Postal Archives  
Jean Buck  
(Newbern Historical Society)  
Richard Champagne  
Maxwell Craven  
(Derby Historical Society)  
Bill Crowe  
(Philatelic Foundation)  
Tony Crumbley  
Richard Debney  
(Philatelic Foundation)  
Michael Dixon  
Susan Dixon  
(American Philatelic Society)  
Gene Fricks  
Joe Geraci  
(U.S. National Postal Museum)  
Ken Gilbert  
Julian Goldberg  
Richard Graham  
Gary Granzow  
Larry Graves  
(Bureau of Engraving & Printing)  
John Griffiths  
Perry Hansen  
Leonard Hartmann

Bill Hatton  
Bruce Hazelton  
Gene Hessler  
John Haydon  
Gini Horn  
(American Philatelic Society)  
John Hotchner  
Eric Jackson  
Richard Johnson  
Steve Knapp  
Van Koppersmith  
John Lange  
Ken Lawrence  
Jim Lee  
James Leonardo  
Dwayne Littauer  
Robson Lowe  
Angus MacInnes  
(U.S. Postal Service)  
Wanda MacVean  
(Historian-Bergen, NY)  
Frank Mandel  
Tom Mazza  
(Collectors Club of New York)  
Mark Messer  
(Elliott Lindsay Auctions)  
Bill McDaniel  
Larry Milanka  
(Bureau of Engraving & Printing)  
Austin Miller  
Jack Molesworth  
David Muir  
(British National Postal Museum)  
Lowell Newman  
Elliot Omiya  
Mike O'Reilly  
Ward Parker  
Richard Payne

Bob Perkins  
(Canadian Bank Note Company)  
Charles J. Peterson  
Philadelphia Historical Society  
David G. Phillips  
Stanley Piller  
Leonard Piskiewicz  
Gene Reed  
Don Richardson  
Stanley Richmond  
Royal Philatelic Society, London  
Charles Rudd  
Warren Sanders  
Ken Schoolmeester  
Randy Schwartz  
Don Shearer  
Hubert Skinner  
Charles Souder  
Al Staubus  
Vernon Stroupe  
Aloha South  
(U.S. National Archives)  
Ben Swanson  
(National Museum of Dentistry)  
Herb Trenchard  
Scott Trepel  
Rick Veras  
Dan Walker  
Pat Walker  
Barbara Wallace  
David Watt  
Bill Welch  
(American Philatelic Society)  
Raymond Weill  
Cecilia Wertheimer  
(Bureau of Engraving & Printing)  
Les Winick  
(Collectors Club of Chicago)  
Dick Winter  
Benjamin Wishnietsky

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From the USPCS, % Publication Sales Chairman Walter Demmerle,  
821 Winthrope Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23452

## Appendix B Census of Chicago Perforations (12½ Gauge)

### One Cent Chicago Perfs *On Cover*

Date, Cancel	Description, Plate Position, Comments	Addressee	Reference Number
			----- Expertization (if known)
"Paid" cancel, applied vertically.  No townmark.	Used, On Cover, Type II. Well centered. Perfs intact due to scissor separated at top. Straight edge at bottom. Position 48 R 2. See Ashbrook, Volume II, page 26. Folded advertising circular.  <div style="text-align: center;">             Lake View Water Cure              Near Chicago, Ills.           </div>	Not known	C-01-501 ----- Ashbrook
Not known.	Used, On Cover, Type II, with 3 Three Cent stamps (Scott #11's).  This item is listed in Scott Specialized Catalog, but no photo has yet been seen.	Not Known	C-01-502
(May 28 1856) Based on contents.  "Paid" cancel on stamp.  No townmark.	Used, On Cover, Type IV. Centered to lower right. Scissor cut leaving left and bottom perf holes intact. Folded circular.  <div style="text-align: center;">             Chicago Market Review and Weekly Price Current              No. 58              Published by P.L. Wells Commercial Editor of the Democratic Press              45 Clark St.           </div> <b>Contains financial commentary written by R.K. Swift.</b>	Messrs. Edmonstone & Co. Montreal Canada East.	C-01-503 ----- PFC#110589 "Genuine."

**One Cent Chicago Perfs**  
*Unused*

Date, Cancel	Description, Plate Position, Comments	Addressee	Reference Number
			----- Expertization (if known)
NA	<b>Unused</b> , Type II. Centered to top and left. Shows adjacent stamp at bottom and trace of stamp at right. Position 19 L 2.	NA	C-01-001 ----- PFC#028207 "Decline Opinion." PFC#042881 "Genuine, with slight soiling."
NA	<b>Unused</b> , Type II. Centered to left. Shows perfs on all four sides, but probably scissor separated at bottom and top. Not plated, but apparently Plate 2.	NA	C-01-002

**One Cent Chicago Perfs**  
*Off Cover, Used*

Date, Cancel	Description, Plate Position, Comments	Addressee	Reference Number
			----- Expertization (if known)
Date not legible.	Used, Off Cover, Type II. Centered to right and upward. Shows adjacent stamp at bottom. Position 41 L 2.	NA	C-01-101 ----- PFC#014688 "Decline Opinion." PFC#199264 "Genuine, with small corner crease at top right, <b>reperfed at left.</b> "

Date not visible. (Trace of "2" & month)	Used, Off Cover, Type II. Centered upward and slightly to right. Perf holes fully intact at top due to scissor separation.	NA	C-01-102 ----- PFC#028200 "Genuine perforations on three sides with <b>fraudulent perfs at right</b> ; crease across bottom right corner margin; tiny tear and one bottom perforation defective."
Date not visible.	Used, Off Cover, Type II. Centered to right, showing adjacent stamp at left. Upper right corner torn or clipped off.	NA	C-01-103 ----- PFC#263919 "Genuine, with defects."
Date not legible.	Used, Off Cover, Type IV. Centered significantly to upper left. Shows adjacent stamps at right and bottom. Probably position 9 R 1L.	NA	C-01-201 ----- PFC#024188 "Genuine."
Date not legible.	Used, Off Cover, Type IV. Centered upward and to left. Shows adjacent stamp at bottom. Stamp has preprinting paper fold.	NA	C-01-202 ----- PFC#030835 "Genuine."
Date not legible.	Used, Off Cover, Type IV. Centered to left and slightly upward, showing adjacent stamp at right. Position 49 L 1L.	NA	C-01-203 ----- PFC#042037 "Genuine, with a crease in top right corner margin."
Date not visible.	Used, Off Cover, Type II. Shifted to lower left. Probably position 98 R 2.	NA	C-01-204 ----- PFC#003160 "Genuine."
Townmark not visible. (Perhaps large "1" at upper right of stamp.)	Used, Off Cover, Type II. Centered slightly left and downward.	NA	C-01-205 ----- PFC#027212 "Genuine perforations, decline opinion on identity of cancellation."
Nov 30?	Used, Off Cover, Type II. Centered slightly downward.	NA	C-01-301 ----- Ashbrook PFC#033890 "Genuine."



Mar 11?	Used, Off Cover, Type IV. <b>Strip of three. This is the only known multiple of One Cent Chicago Perf.</b> Centered downward, showing adjacent stamps at top. Position 91-93 L 1L. [ 91 L 1L is triple transfer.]	NA	C-01-302 ----- Chase PFC#024644 "Genuine."
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**One Cent Chicago Perfs**

*Items previously expertized as "Not genuine" or items which warrant careful reconsideration*

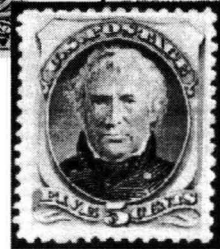
Date, Cancel	Description, Plate Position, Comments	Addressee	Reference Number
			Expertization (if known)
Date not visible.	Used, Off Cover, Type IV. Centered slightly downward. Position 97 L 1L	NA	C-01-900 ----- PFC#034243 "Perforations are counterfeit."
Sep 9	Used, Off Cover, Type II. Centered slightly upward Position 48 R 2.	NA	C-01-901 ■ ----- PFC#115087 "Genuine." PFC#242070 "Perforations are counterfeit."

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### Three Cent Chicago Perfs *On Cover, Used*

Date, Cancel	Description, Plate Position, Comments	Addressee	Reference Number ----- <b>Expertization</b> (if known)
May 3  [Norona A-6]	Used, On Cover. Centered to left, showing portion of stamp at right. Bottom perfs mostly intact, with portions of adjacent stamp still attached. Corner card. Not plated, but apparently Plate 6, 7, or 8, A relief.  <p style="text-align: center;">From R.K. SWIFT, BROTHER &amp; JOHNSTON BANKERS, Chicago, Ill.</p>	To Cashier, Otsego Co. Bank, Cooperstown NY	C-03-501
May 17  [Norona A-6]	Used, On Cover. Stamp centered slightly to right. Upper right corner torn or clipped off. Possibly position 98 R 7. Envelope has been roughly opened at left, affecting corner card.  <p style="text-align: center;">H.D. EMERY &amp; CO. Dealers in Garden &amp; Field Seeds Farm Implements AND MACHINERY 204 LAKE STREET Chicago, ILL.</p> [Same correspondence, one week earlier, does not have a Chicago Perf. on it]	Jno. S. Martin, Esq. Geneseo, Ill.	C-03-502
May? 22 [Previously reported as "Sep 22"]  [Norona A-6]	Used, On Cover. Centered to right, showing adjacent stamp at left. Mostly intact perfs at left due to scissor separation. Position 19 L 7. Embossed on back flap.  <p style="text-align: center;">Tremont House Gage, Bro &amp; Drake Chicago, ILL.</p>	Richard Burgess, Esq., Washington City D.C.  [Probably addressed by Swift, based on handwriting.]	C-03-503 ----- PFC#047551 "Genuine."

Date, Cancel	Description, Plate Position, Comments	Addressee	Reference Number ----- Expertization (if known)
New York May 23 (1856)  Docketing, enclosure.	Used, On Cover. Centered to left and slightly upward. Shows adjacent stamp at right. <b>One of two items postmarked from other than Chicago.</b> Contains letter from C.C. Langdell of Pierrepont, Stanley & Langdell, 16 Wall Street, New York. Probably position 3 L 7.	Mr. Joseph Rowe Webster Milton Norfolk County Mass.	C-03-504 ----- PFC#209483 "Genuine usage, stamp with unofficial perforations matching those sold at Chicago, Illinois."
May  [Norona A-6]	Used, On Cover. Centered to left, showing adjacent stamp at right. Cover has faults at top middle and at right. Position 76 R 7.  [ Based on subsequent correspondence, the writer of this letter is someone named "Will". Last name is unknown, but apparently Will was affiliated with Fay & Co. on River Street in Chicago.]	Miss Fannie M. Witten Albany NY	C-03-505 ■ ----- PFC#174423 "Genuine usage, but it is <b>not the genuine unofficial Chicago perfs.</b> "
Jul 14 1856	Used. Uncertain if this item in off cover on or cover. Described in Chase and Brookman. Centering not known.	Not known	C-03-506 ----- Chase
Jul 15 1856  [Norona A-8]	Used, On Cover. Centered slightly upward. Shows part of stamp at bottom. Scissor cut at top and left. Cover has closed tear at top middle. Position 29 L 7.  [C-03-507 and C-03-539 have same addressee and same handwriting.]	Mr. A.C. Squier Columbia South Carolina	C-03-507
Jul 16 1856  [Norona A-9]	Used, On Cover. Well centered. Stamp at upper left corner of envelope. Tear at upper right of cover. Not plated, but probably Plate 2L or 3, with 1 or 2 lines recut in UL triangle.  [C-03-508, C-03-511, C-03-519, C-03-520, and C-03-523 were apparently written by the same <b>clerk from Swift's bank</b> , based on handwriting comparison with C-03-520. C-03-508, C-03-511, C-03-519 have same addressee.]	Isaac W. White, Esq. Pokeepsie Dutches Co. N.Y.	C-03-508 ----- Ashbrook PFC#089758 "Genuine."

Date, Cancel	Description, Plate Position, Comments	Addressee	Reference Number ----- <b>Expertization</b> (if known)
Jul 25 1856  Docketing.   [Norona A-9]	Used, On Cover. Centered downward. Stamp is scissor separated showing intact perfs at top and bottom. Position 64 L 7. Hotel corner card.  Sherman House J.A. Patmor & Co. Proprietors Cor. Clark & Randolph Sts. Chicago  [C-03-509 and C-03-536 are both from Sherman House, but showing different proprietors.]	C.B. Brown, Esq. Norwich Chenango Co. NY	C-03-509 ----- Chase PFC#126490 "Genuine."
Aug 4 1856  Two strikes of townmark, plus dated enclosure.  [Norona A-8]	Used, On Cover. Centered to right. Some intact perfs at right. Roughly separated at left. Position 78 R 6. Manuscript return address at upper left.  R.K. Swift, Bro, & Johnston.  R.K. Swift letterhead enclosure dated Aug 2 1856, including bank clerk's signature. [C-03-510 and C-03-530 have same addressee.]	Mr. Joab L. Cliff, Skaneateles Onondaga Co. N.Y.	C-03-510 -----
Aug 29 1856  Bold S.O.N. townmark  [Norona A-8]	Used, On Cover. Centered upward and to left. Shows stamp at bottom, and trace at right. Stamp at upper left corner of envelope. Not plated, but possibly plate 2L.  [C-03-508, C-03-511, C-03-519, C-03-520, and C-03-523 were apparently written by the same clerk from Swift's bank, based on handwriting comparison with C-03-520. C-03-508, C-03-511, C-03-519 have same addressee.]	Isaac W. White Esq. Pokeepsie Dutches Co. N.Y.	C-03-511 ----- PFC#208777 "Genuine."



Date, Cancel	Description, Plate Position, Comments	Addressee	Reference Number ----- Expertization (if known)
<p>Sep 4 1856</p> <p>[Norona A-8]</p>	<p>Used, On Cover. Centered upward, with trace of adjacent stamp at bottom. Stamp is centered in middle of envelope. Intact perfs at top, and mostly at bottom, apparently due to scissor separation. Not plated, but possibly plate 2L, A relief.</p> <p>[C-03-512, C-03-515, and C-03-517 are apparently to same addressee. C-03-512 and C-03-517 are in same handwriting.]</p>	<p>J.B. Knight, Esqr. Hopkinsville Kentucky</p>	<p>C-03-512 ----- PFC#034810 "Genuine."</p>
<p>Sep xx 1856</p> <p>Two overlapping strikes of townmark.</p> <p>[Norona A-8]</p>	<p>Used, On Cover. Centered significantly to right, showing adjacent stamp at left. Portion of adjacent stamp at top attached to perforation tip. Not plated, but possibly Plate 6 or 7, A relief.</p> <p>[C-03-513 and C-03-514 are same addressee and handwriting.]</p>	<p>Miss Sall. A. Jones Evansville Ill.,</p> <p>[At lower left corner:] Care Mr. Furguson.</p>	<p>C-03-513 ----- PFC#032545 "Genuine."</p>
<p>Sep 12 1856</p> <p>[Norona A-9]</p>	<p>Used, On Cover. Centered to upper right. Shows adjacent stamps at left and bottom. Not plated, but probably Plate 7 (possibly Plate 6), A relief.</p> <p>[C-03-513 and C-03-514 are same addressee and handwriting.]</p>	<p>Miss S.A. Jones Care E.E. Furguson Evansville, Ill.</p>	<p>C-03-514 ----- PFC#155988 "Genuine."</p>
<p>Sep 19 1856</p> <p>[Norona A-9]</p>	<p>Used, On Cover. Centered downward and very slightly to left. Apparently scissor separated on all sides. Perfs intact at bottom and mostly on left. Position 67 L 2L.</p> <p>[C-03-512, C-03-515, and C-03-517 are apparently to same addressee.]</p>	<p>Messrs. Gray &amp; Knight Attor. At Law Hopkinsville Kentucky</p>	<p>C-03-515 ■ ----- PFC#093897 "Genuine perforation variety on this cover with Chicago postmark, but is not listed Chicago perforation variety."</p>

Date, Cancel	Description, Plate Position, Comments	Addressee	Reference Number ----- <b>Expertization</b> (if known)
Oct 2 1856  Docketing: "Sept 30 1856"  [Norona A-8]	Used, On Cover. Centered to left, showing trace of stamp at right. Corner card. Not plated, but apparently Plate 2L or 3.  Ellithorpe, Kline & Bradley Carriage Manufacturers Corner of Randolph & Morgan Sts, West Chicago  Hacks, Coaches, Phaetons, Barouches, Omnibuses, Family Carriages, Top and open Buggies, all made of the best New England timber. <i>ALL WORK WARRANTED.</i>	Mr. Cyrus D. Avery Iowa City Iowa	C-03-516 ----- Chase PFC#086532 "Genuine."
Oct 9 1856  [Norona A-8]	Used, On cover. Well centered. Contains letter dealing with land futures. Writer's signature almost illegible, but possibly James Larmon, a real estate agent located in same building as Swift.  [C-03-512, C-03-515, and C-03-517 are apparently to same addressee. C-03-512 and C-03-517 are in same handwriting.]	J. B. Knight, Esqr. Hopkinsville Kentucky	C-03-517
Oct 9 1856  [Norona A-8]	Used, On cover. Centered slightly upward and very slightly to left, showing adjacent stamps at bottom and right. Several "blind" perfs at right and left. Corner card, with shield. Position 61 R 2L.  American House, Chicago, Ill. CHURCH & BISSELL, Proprietors. Corner of Lake St. and Wabash Avenue. Nearest Hotel to Ill. Central, St. Louis, Detroit and Cincinnati Depots.	Mrs. T.S. Lanwyek[?] Care of Fox & Polhemus Corner Beaver & Broad Sts. New York	C-03-541
Oct 27 1856  [Norona A-9]	Used, On cover. Centered upward.	... Esq... Bridge... Hampshire  [Addressee only partially visible on photostat]	C-03-518

Date, Cancel	Description, Plate Position, Comments	Addressee	Reference Number ----- Expertization (if known)
Dec 2 1856  [Norona A-8]	Used, On Cover. Centered to lower left, showing adjacent stamp at right and top. Shows a number of "blind" perfs. Stamp at upper left corner of envelope. Not plated, but possibly Plate 5L.  [C-03-508, C-03-511, C-03-519, C-03-520, and C-03-523 were apparently written by the same clerk from Swift's bank, based on handwriting comparison with C-03-520. C-03-508, C-03-511, C-03-519 have same addressee.]	Isaac W. White, Esq. Pokeepsie Dutches Co. N.Y.	C-03-519
Dec 16 1856  [Norona A-9]	Used, On Cover. Well centered. Position 24 L 6. Corner card.  From R.K. SWIFT, BROTHER & JOHNSTON BANKERS, Chicago, Ill.  [C-03-508, C-03-511, C-03-519, C-03-520, and C-03-523 were apparently written by the same clerk from Swift's bank, based on handwriting comparison with C-03-520.]	Edward White Washington Dutches Co. N.Y.  [At lower left:] Care Jarvis Congdon	C-03-520 ----- PFC#043793 "Genuine, canceled Dec. 16, 1856."
Dec 17 1856  [Norona A-8]	Used, On Cover. Centered to left. Stamp at upper left of cover. Small tear, added corner perf. Not plated, but possibly Plate 5L, B relief.	Miss Mary Rogers Care of Octavias T. Rogers Esq. Milton Railway Mass.	C-03-521
Jan 8 1857  [Norona A-9]	Used, On Cover. Well centered. Scissor cut on four sides, shows full perfs at left and bottom. Perfs are cut off at top and right. Position 83 L 3.	Mr. Martin J. Gleason Brimfield, Hampden Co. Massachusetts	C-03-522 ----- Chase Ashbrook Philatelic Research Laboratories, Inc.

Date, Cancel	Description, Plate Position, Comments	Addressee	Reference Number ----- Expertization (if known)
Jan 12 1857  [Norona A-9]	Used, On Cover. Well centered. Apparently scissor cut at left and right. Not plated, but possibly Plate 7 (or Plate 6), A relief. [C-03-508, C-03-511, C-03-519, C-03-520, and C-03-523 were apparently written by the same clerk from Swift's bank, based on handwriting comparison with C-03-520.]	Hiram Reed Esq. Marcellus NYork	C-03-523 ----- PFC#039918 "Genuine."
Jan 21 1857  [Norona A-8]	Used, On Cover. Centered to right slightly. Torn or roughly separated at upper and bottom left. Not plated, but possibly Plate 2L or 3.	D.C. Smith, Esq. Shelbyville Shelby Co. Ill.	C-03-524 ----- PFC#125871 "Genuine usage with defects in the stamp."
Jan 22 1857  [Norona A-8]	Used, On Cover. Well centered. <b>Pair. This is the only known multiple of Three Cent Chicago Perf.</b> Closed tear and inked figures drawn on face of cover. Position 86-87 L 3.	James M. Bates Esq. Broker &c. No. 60 Wall St., New York	C-03-525 ----- PFC#024137 "Decline Opinion." PFC#035335 "Genuine."
Jan 23 1857  [Norona A-8]	Used, On Cover. Centered slightly up and very slightly to right. Upper right corner torn or clipped off, but expertly repaired and not mentioned in certificate. Position 67 L 3. Blue embossed corner card.  O. Kendall's Steam Bakery Cor. Dearborn & Washington Sts. Chicago, ILLS.  Manufacturer of Every Variety of Superior Crackers & Pilot Bread.	Mr. Jas O'Gray? Boston Mass.	C-03-526 ----- Chase PFC#061414 "Genuine"
Jan 29 1857  [Norona A-9]	Used, On Cover. Centered downward and to left, showing adjacent stamp at top and right. Not plated but apparently Plate 2L, 3, or 5L.	Walter G. Warren Esq. Whitehall New York	C-03-527 ----- PFC #Unknown
Rosedale, Wis.  Jan 31	Used, On Cover. Centered to right and downward. Stamp has sheet margin on right. Right perforations are intact, apparently due to scissor separation. <b>One of two items postmarked from other than Chicago.</b> Not plated but apparently Plate 2L, 3, or 5L.	Mrs. Isaac Cundall West Killingly Conn.	C-03-528 ----- Chase

Date, Cancel	Description, Plate Position, Comments	Addressee	Reference Number ----- Expertization (if known)
Feb 4 1857 [Norona A-8]	Used, On Cover. Centered to right. Corner Card not visible in photostat. Cover described as "repaired."	...Hartann? Co.... [Not fully visible in photostat]	C-03-529
Feb 4 1857  [Norona A-8]	Used, On Cover. Centered slightly downward. Straight edge or scissor cut at bottom. Pencil docketing on front at top middle of cover.  R.K. Swift & Co., Feb. 10th?, 1857  [C-03-510 and C-03-530 have same addressee.]	Mr. Joab L. Cliff Skaneateles Onondago Co. New York	C-03-530
Feb 5 1857  [Norona A-9]	Used, On Cover. Centered to left. Position 21L3. Embossed Corner Card.  F.B. Gardner & Co. Lumber Dealers South Wells St. Chicago Ill.	Hon. David Wells, Jr. M.C. Washington D.C.	C-03-531 ----- PFC#111854 "Genuine."
Feb 11 1857  [Norona A-8]	Used, On Cover. Centered to left. Scissor cut at right. Position 82 L 3.	Mr. A.O. Shur Chesterville Morrow Co. Ohio	C-03-532 ----- Chase Ashbrook
Feb 27 1857  [Norona A-9]	Used, On Cover. Centered slightly to lower right. Chicago Perf. on an embossed 3 cent stamped envelope, U10. Not plated, but possibly Plate 6 or 7.	Asa Bacon, Esq. New Haven, Conn.  [In pencil at upper left of cover:] F.D.	C-03-533 ----- PFC#121255 "Genuine usage of the Scott #11 with unofficial Chicago perforations."

Date, Cancel	Description, Plate Position, Comments	Addressee	Reference Number ----- Expertization (if known)
Mar 3 1857  Townmark not legible.	Used, On Cover. Centered very slightly downward.	Messrs. Albert? & Bickford, Esq. Pecham? Vermont [Faint and not fully legible]	C-03-534
Mar 9 1857  [Norona A-8]	Used, On Cover. Centered to left, showing adjacent stamp at right. Position 49 R 3. Corner card, with Imprint. W. Eaves.  American Hotel A.F. Pearson Toronto, C.W.	Miss Grace Doolittle Care Mr. Wm. Doolittle Utica N York	C-03-535 ----- PFC#183189 "Genuine"
Mar 10 1857  [Norona A-9]	Used, On Cover. Centered very slightly to left. Not plated, but apparently Plate 2L, 3 or 5L, B relief. Hotel corner Card.  Sherman House Dodge & Longley Proprietors Cor. Clark & Randolph Sts. Opp. The Court House Chicago, ILL.  [C-03-509 and C-03-536 are both from Sherman House, but showing different proprietors.]	Mr. Theo Borden Care of Philada, Insurance Co. No. 44 Walnut St. Pa.	C-03-536 ----- PFC#099324 "Genuine."
Mar 17 1857  [Norona A-8]	Used, On Cover. Centered to right. Intact perfs at right due to scissor separation. Tear at right of cover.	... L. Sheldon ...Otoe City  [Nebraska Territory addressee, not fully visible in photostat]	C-03-537



Date, Cancel	Description, Plate Position, Comments	Addressee	Reference Number ----- <b>Expertization (if known)</b>
Apr 2 1857  Chase notation says "Letter headed Apr 1, 1857"  [Norona A-8]	Used, On Cover. Well centered. Scissor cut at right and bottom right, so perfs largely intact. Position 24 R 3. A portion of a letter remains, signed:  <p style="text-align: center;">"Your aff' cus J.H. Dwight."</p> [I do not know if this partial letter belongs in this envelope]	Miss Mary E. Read Marshall Mich	C-03-538 ----- Chase PFC#174734 "Genuine."
Apr 11 1857  [Norona A-8]	Used, On Cover. Centered to lower right, with adjacent stamp showing at top. Tiny piece of stamp missing at right side.  [C-03-507 and C-03-539 have same addressee and same handwriting.]	Mr. A.C. Squier Columbia South Carolina	C-03-539 ----- Sloane
Apr 24 1857  [Norona A-9]	Used, On Cover. Centered very slightly downward. Not plated, but possibly Plate 2L or 3. Corner card.  <p style="text-align: center;">E.S. Wells                      Manufacturer of &amp; Dealer in Ladies &amp; Gents' Boots &amp; Shoes of All Styles Wholesale &amp; Retail                      147 Randolph St.                      Under Metropolitan Hall Chicago.</p>	Dr. J.M. Wieting Indianapolis Ind.	C-03-540 ----- PFC#242284 "Genuine."

**Three Cent Chicago Perfs**  
*Off Cover, Used*

Date, Cancel	Description, Plate Position, Comments	Addressee	Reference Number
			----- Expertization (if known)
Date not visible.	Used, Off Cover. Centered to lower right, showing part of stamps at top, left, and bottom. Scissor separation at top and at bottom. Perfs at bottom are intact. Position 69 L 3.	NA	C-03-101 ----- Philatelic Research Laboratories, Inc.
Date not visible.	Used, Off Cover. Centered to upper right, showing adjacent stamps at left and bottom. Intact perfs at right, from separation of left and right panes along centerline. Position 40 L 7.	NA	C-03-102 ----- PFC#071222 "The stamp, with creasing and a natural paper fold, has genuine Chicago Unofficial perforations."
Date not visible.	Used, Off Cover. Centered to left and down. Shows adjacent stamp at top, and trace of stamp at right. Position 53 L 3.	NA	C-03-201 ----- PFC#107667 "Genuine, with closed tear in center."
Date not visible. Pen cancel.	Used, Off Cover. Centered to left. Shows adjacent stamp at right, and trace of stamp at top. Probably position 46 L 3.	NA	C-03-202 ----- PFC#063468 "Genuine, tiny defect at top."
Date not legible.	Used, Off Cover. Centered slightly to left, slightly downward. Shows adjacent stamp at top and trace at right. Position 66 R 4.	NA	C-03-204 ----- PFC#027629 "Perforations genuine, but decline opinion as to month and year date."
Date not visible.	Used, Off Cover. Well centered, but upper right corner torn off. Position 77 L 7.	NA	C-03-301 ----- PFC#080913 "Genuine with a defective top right corner."
Date not legible.	Used, Off Cover. Centered very slightly downward. Not plated, but apparently Plate 2L, 3, or 5L, A relief.	NA	C-03-302

Date, Cancel	Description, Plate Position, Comments	Addressee	Reference Number
			Expertization (if known)
Date not visible.	Used, Off Cover. Centered upward. Shows adjacent stamp at bottom. Position 45 L 3.	NA	C-03-303 ----- Ashbrook
Aug	Used, Off Cover. Centered downward. Scissor cuts into design at upper right corner and right side, as well as at top. Not plated, but appears to be Plate 6 or 7, A relief.	NA	C-03-304 ----- PFC#162340 "Genuine with unofficial Chicago perforations, stamp trimmed at top and right."
Sep 20	Used, Off Cover. Centered downward, showing adjacent stamp at top. Position 87 L 2L.	NA	C-03-305 ----- PFC#310620 "Genuine, ...with a pulled perforation at bottom center."
Oct 9 1856	Used, Off Cover. On piece. Well centered. Shows adjacent stamp at bottom. Scissor cut on bottom and top. Intact perfs at bottom. Position 87 L 2L.	NA	C-03-306 ----- PFC#037718 "Genuine."
Oct 15	Used, Off Cover. Centered upward, showing trace stamp at bottom. Position 27 L 5L.	NA	C-03-307 ----- PFC#040145 "Genuine, slightly defective." PFC#099060 "Genuine, with small thin spot."
Nov?	Used, Off Cover. Centered to right and slightly downward. Shows adjacent stamp at top. Position 67 R 7.	NA	C-03-104 ----- PFC#114282 "Genuine."
Nov	Used, Off Cover. Centered to upper right, showing part of adjacent stamps at left and bottom. Not plated, but probably Plate 5L, B relief.	NA	C-03-105 ----- PFC#068680 "Genuine."
Nov 9? 1856	Used, Off Cover. Centered to right. Bottom perfs intact, due to scissor separation. Not plated, but probably Plate 6 or 7, B relief.	NA	C-03-106 ----- Philatelic Research Laboratories, Inc.

Date, Cancel	Description, Plate Position, Comments	Addressee	Reference Number
			----- Expertization (if known)
1857 "7" just visible.	Used, Off Cover. Centered lower right. Shows adjacent stamp at top and left. Not plated, but apparently Plate 6 or 7, B relief.	NA	C-03-107
1857 "57" just visible.	Used, Off Cover. Centered to left. Apparently scissor cut at top and bottom. Three or four perfs at lower right torn off. Not plated but apparently Plate 2L, 3 or 5L.	NA	C-03-205 ----- PSE#022869 "Genuine."
Jan 5 1857	Used, Off Cover. Centered downward, showing stamp at top. Upper right corner torn or clipped off. Position 85 L 3.  [Subsequent to PFC, this stamp has been removed and apparently treated with peroxide to remove oxidation]	NA	C-03-308 ----- PFC#241494 "Genuine with partial strike of Chicago Jan. 5, 1857, Ill. Postmark; stamp heavily oxidized, small tears."
Jan 7 1857	Used, Off Cover. Centered to right. Position 15 R 7.	NA	C-03-108
Jan xx 1857	Used, Off Cover. On piece. Well centered, showing substantial portion of stamp at right and some at left and above. Scissor cut showing intact perfs on three sides. Position 35 L 3.	NA	C-03-309 ----- PFC#070111 "Genuine."
Jan 1x 1857	Used, Off Cover. Centered slightly downward. Scissor separated at bottom, showing intact perfs and adjacent stamp. Position 58 L 3.	NA	C-03-310 ----- PFC#215585 "Genuine."
Jan 21, 1857 [Norona Type A-8]	Used, Off cover. On piece. Centered slightly to right, showing trace of adjacent stamp at bottom. Straight edge at left due to scissor separation. Most perfs at top are missing.	NA	C-03-109

Date, Cancel	Description, Plate Position, Comments	Addressee	Reference Number ----- Expertization (if known)
Jan 23 1857 [Norona Type A-8]	Used, Off Cover. On piece. Centered to left, and upward. Probably position 74 L 3.	NA	C-03-206 ----- PFC#027213 "Genuine with unofficial Chicago perforations tied by Chicago perforations tied by Chicago, Ill. cancellation on piece."
Feb 2, 1857 [Norona Type A-8]	Used, Off Cover. Centered to right. Most perfs at top have been scissor separated. Position 40 L 3.	NA	C-03-110 ----- APES#098191 "Genuine, trimmed at top, corner perf crease."
Apr xx 1857	Used, Off Cover. Centered upward and to right. Trace of adjacent stamp at bottom. Position 48 L 7.	NA	C-03-111 ----- PFC#189049 "Genuine with corner creases at top."
Apr 15 1857	Used, Off Cover. Well centered, with left sheet margin. Intact perfs at left, as left selvage not removed. Position 21 R 7.	NA	C-03-311 ----- PFC#086489 "Genuine." APES#031873 "Genuine."
May ?4	Used, Off Cover. Centered to upper left. Top perf holes intact, due to scissor separation. Position 20 R 2L	NA	C-03-203 ----- Chase
May 6 1857 "7" just visible.	Used, Off Cover. Well centered. Not plated, but probably Plate 2L or 3, B relief.	NA	C-03-312 ----- Philatelic Research Laboratories, Inc.

### Three Cent Chicago Perfs

*Items previously expertized as "Not genuine" or items which warrant careful reconsideration*

Date, Cancel	Description, Comments	Addressee	Reference Number
			Expertization (if known)
Date not visible.	Used, Off Cover. Centered to right, and downward, showing adjacent stamp at top. Position 98 L 7.	NA	C-03-901 ----- PFC#015294 "Decline Opinion." APES#076731 "Altered, used, ...with fake perfs added to resemble private perfs. These are not the unofficial Chicago Perfs."
Jun 5	Used, Off Cover. Centered slightly to top and to left. Trace of stamp at right.	NA	C-03-902 ----- PFC#090563 "Not genuine"

**Reference numbering system: Each stamp is assigned a reference number in the format: C-aa-xxx where:**

**C=Chicago Perforation**

**aa=denomination of stamp (for example: 03=3 cent stamp)**

**xxx=sequential reference number**

-0xx is used for unused stamps

-1xx is used for off cover stamps, centered to right

-2xx is used for off cover stamps, centered to left

-3xx is used for off cover stamps well centered horizontally

-5xx is for on cover stamps

-9xx is used for stamps which have been declared "not genuine."

(Should these 9xx opinions later be changed, the reference number will be reassigned.)

■ = Recommend examination or reexamination by an expert committee



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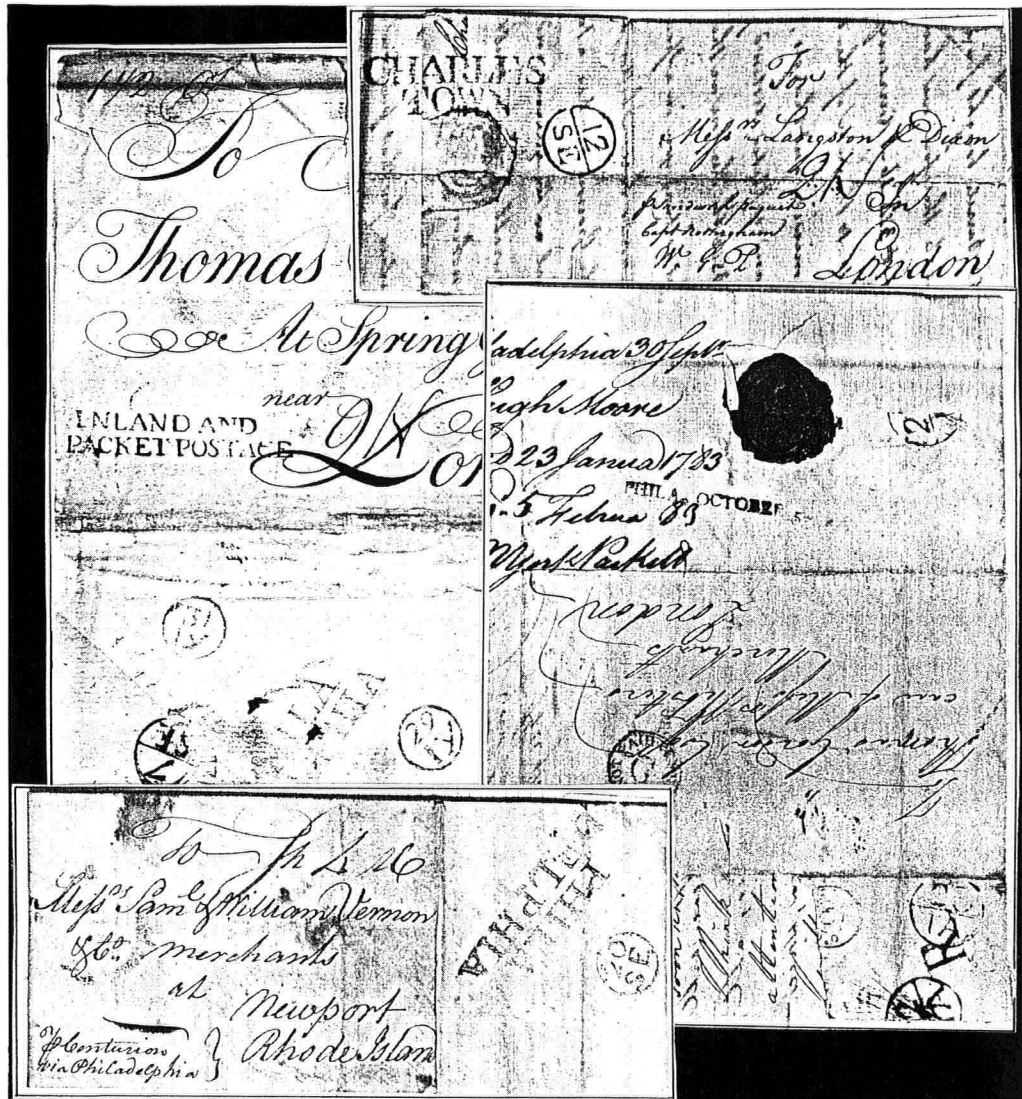
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## **PLATING THE OFFICIAL STAMPS** **ALAN C. CAMPBELL**

In previous articles on Departmental plate varieties, our assistant section editor, Lester C. Lanphear III, has been able to assign specific positions by referring to a set of photographs of plate proof sheets. These photographs, contact prints prepared for Elliot Perry in 1967, are full size, so it requires two prints to show the entire plate, with each print showing the top or bottom imprint and 6 1/3 rows of stamps. The 8" x 10" negatives are currently in the possession of our previous section editor, Alfred E. Staubus. The singular and frustrating absence of the 15¢ Interior plate (O21) has been taken as a good clue that these were photographs of the Earl of Crawford proof sheets on card, which for some reason lacked this plate, as opposed to the Mandel proof sheets on India paper, which did not.

Dr. Stanley Bierman did a thorough job of tracking the provenance of these two famous sets of sheets, of which the official stamps comprise only a portion.<sup>1</sup> Both sets were owned by Senator Ernest R. Ackerman, Josiah K. Lilly Jr., and the Raymond H. Weill Company. In 1972, half sheets from both sets were sold to the proof dealer Richard Taylor and subsequently broken, while the other halves of the sheets were kept intact in the collection of Stephen Bechtel, Sr. This holding was sold prior to 1990, and its whereabouts have remained a mystery.

To our collective amazement and delight, the Bechtel half sheets resurfaced intact at PACIFIC 97 in San Francisco, sumptuously bound in six morocco folios, at the booth of Columbian Stamp Company. As word of this discovery spread across the floor, every official specialist in attendance scurried over to take advantage of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to personally examine them. To his credit, Harry Hagendorf, the president of the firm, was magnanimous and endlessly patient in allowing us to peruse this priceless reference material, even though none of us were likely buyers as the collection was being sold intact. He even went so far as to provide us with an itemized breakdown of which official plates the collection contained.

With respect to plate proofs on card, this holding consisted of top half sheets of 50 of O1-O45 (less O21), bottom half sheets of O47-O67 and O72-O93, and full sheets of the State dollar values (O68-O71). As the marginal inscriptions were intact, here at last was to be seen the elusive imprint of the American Bank Note Company on plate #428, the 1¢ Post Office plate recreated by American to continue printing proof sheets on card after the original Continental plate #43 was damaged and could not be included in the 1881 Atlanta trial color proofs.<sup>2</sup> This was the only plate of U.S. official stamps prepared by the American Bank Note Company. These proof sheets were at one time thought to have come from the fifth printing of May, 1893,<sup>3</sup> but the most recent scholarship attributes them to a little known sixth printing for the Atlanta Exposition of 1895.<sup>4</sup> The colorful "Dr." James A.

<sup>1</sup>Stanley M. Bierman, M. D., *The World's Great Stamp Collectors* (Sidney, Ohio: Linn's Stamp News, 1990), p. 231-32.

<sup>2</sup>For stamps with multiple plates, this holding included 2¢ Post Office #285, 3¢ Post Office #141, 6¢ Post Office #249, and 3¢ Treasury #74 (in all cases the final plate). For stamps with 200-subject plates, the 3¢ and 6¢ Post Offices were right panes, the 1¢ Treasury left, the 2¢ and 3¢ Treasury right, the 2¢ War left (plate # trimmed off), and the 3¢ War right (plate # trimmed off).

<sup>3</sup>Dr. Howard S. Friedman, "United States Plate Proofs on Cardboard," *The Essay-Proof Journal*, No. 120 (Fall 1973), p. 161.

<sup>4</sup>Don L. Evans, *The United States 1¢ Franklin 1861-67* (Sidney, Ohio: Linn's Stamp News, 1997), p. 79.

Petrie, who had earlier been able to acquire full proof sheets of the 1869 inverts, the State dollar value inverts, and the 1881 Atlanta trial colors, somehow obtained them at the close of the exposition. Petrie's circular of 1903 offering 208 proof sheets boasted that the collection was complete for all U. S. stamps from 1847 to 1893, except for the 1¢ 1890 and the 15¢ Department of the Interior.<sup>5</sup> This proof sheet, however, must have been in the original display, because when the plates were destroyed in 1897 by order of the Postmaster General, the plate for this value was still intact.<sup>6</sup> In 1905, Petrie traveled to England and sold his proof sheets to James Ludovic Lindsay, the 26th Earl of Crawford, along with sheets of the 1869 and State dollar value inverts.

As for the plate proofs on India paper, this holding consisted of top half sheets of O1-O13, bottom half sheets of O14-O67 and O72-O93, full sheets of the State dollar values O68-O71, full sheets of O68-O71 mounted on card, an extra sheet of O71, as well as half sheets and imprint blocks of O68 and O71. Although the imprints had been trimmed off all but the State dollar values, it was possible to determine the top or bottom of the plate based on the wider selvage. Ralph Ebner from Germany, with the eagle eyes of youth, quickly noted that in this run, the 1¢ Post Office plate lacked everywhere the position dot in the blank oval (to the left of the numeral, close to the frame) typical of every 1¢ Post Office stamp printed by Continental. This half sheet, therefore, must also have come from American Bank Note Company plate #428, which along with the deep plum shade on the War Department (so typical of the later plate proofs on cards) convinced us that these proof sheets on India paper could not have been printed as a quality control measure by Continental in 1873, but must have been prepared as a presentation set at American.<sup>7</sup> This is not surprising, since the original owner of these sheets was Henry G. Mandel, a seminal essay and proof collector, who in his position as the official counterfeit and color expert for the American Bank Note Company enjoyed a unique advantage.

It has been claimed that Mandel had his own private printing equipment assembled in his office. When in need of material for his own collection, he would instruct one of his associates to bring up a particular plate from the vaults of the American Bank Note Company to reprint a special essay or proof.<sup>8</sup>

These very sheets are believed to be the ones loaned to John Luff while he was preparing his magnum opus. Possibly the selvages were intact at that time, allowing Luff to compile his listing of official plate numbers, and were later trimmed off.<sup>9</sup>

While not wanting to look a proverbial gift horse in the mouth, it is regrettable that when the two sets of sheets were split, it was not deemed important to do so in a systematic way, in order to preserve for posterity a reference collection documenting every position of every value. As it now stands, this holding contains duplication on most values, and completeness only for the Interior (excepting the 15¢), Justice and Navy Departments, and the Department of State dollar values. Perhaps it was hoped that for plating purposes, the aforementioned photographs of the intact sheets would be adequate. Nevertheless, I feel

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<sup>5</sup>Bierman, *op. cit.*, p. 191.

<sup>6</sup>National Archives, Report of the Committee to Oversee Destruction of the Plates and Transfer Rolls, August 7, 1897, courtesy Lester C. Lanphear III.

<sup>7</sup>In fact, most of the plate proofs on India paper in collector hands may come from later American printings. But at least some of the original 1873 Continental proof sheets got out, as exemplified by the imprint block of the 10¢ Navy without plate scratch at position 3 previously illustrated here (Rollin C. Huggins, "That Elusive Crack," *Chronicle*, Vol. 43, No. 3 (Whole No. 155) (August 1992), p. 206.)

<sup>8</sup>Bierman, *op. cit.*, p. 175.

<sup>9</sup>The fourteen faulty imprint and plate number blocks of twelve sold at auction in 1982 (Quality Auctions, Ltd., May 24-25, 1982, lots 698-712) must not have derived from Richard Taylor's portion of the sheets, since the five Agriculture values offered (2¢, 12¢-24¢) were all from the top of the sheet.

confident that in future articles in this section, students will share the discoveries they were able to make in their fleeting opportunity to examine the actual proofs. I also pray that the collection remains intact and will become available for more thorough study in the future.

Returning to the photographs, while these are generally of excellent quality, the shallow faint lines in certain well-known double transfers and plate scratches simply cannot be discerned, even under magnification. This limits their usefulness, so that the photographs have been utilized mainly to verify the position of previously discovered plate varieties, rather than as a mother source from which a theoretical master list of possible double transfers, short transfers, foreign entries, plate scratches and layout lines could be generated. Such a listing, if it were prepared through close examination of the actual proof sheets, could provide us all an ideal starting point in knowing what to look out for on the actual stamps.

An example of the limitation of the photographs is the 2¢ Executive foreign entry of the 6¢ Agriculture. Charles J. Phillips, studying a top half proof sheet of this value, noted this variety at position 40, and described it as “a major re-entry.”<sup>10</sup> Soon after, in the tenth edition of the specialized catalog (1933), a double transfer variety was listed but unpriced for the regularly issued stamp (O11), either by a leap of editorial logic (a plate flaw of this type would have to occur on the issued stamps) or because someone following Phillips’ lead had reported finding a copy. Thirty years later, Admiral Combs, studying a plate proof of this position, was able to identify the surplus lines for what they truly were, an insufficiently burnished out entry from the 6¢ Agriculture transfer roll.<sup>11</sup> In writing up this discovery, he described this variety as a “double entry” and was able to identify it as position 40, either by following Phillips’ description or by examining the actual proof sheets then in the possession of Josiah K. Lilly, Jr. He later postulated that this variety must exist on the special printings, but apparently had not yet found a copy.<sup>12</sup> However, by the time his collection was sold in 1981, he had acquired one.<sup>13</sup> In the meantime, there was no change in the catalog listings.

Plate varieties have never been listed for proofs of the official stamps, and for the special printings, from 1956 on the only one included was the 30¢ Treasury (O81S var.) short transfer at top right, until 1992, when the 30¢ Navy (O44S var.) double transfer appeared, to be followed in 1995 by the 12¢ Navy (O41S var.) and 1¢ Treasury (O72 var.) double transfers and the 10¢ State (O61 var.) short transfer. Consultants to the Scott’s catalog for some time have been urging that the 2¢ Executive foreign entry be properly listed, but the delay cannot be attributed to a generalized apathy towards back-of-the-book stamps. It came as a shock to discover that for the only two other recorded foreign entries on U. S. postage stamps, 62B var. was not described as a foreign entry until 1995, and 332 var. not until 1997! Previously, they had been inadequately listed as “double transfers” (although the underlying 1¢ value was mentioned on 332 var.). Incidentally, according to the definition of “foreign entry” which first appeared in 1996—“When original transfers are erased incompletely from a plate, they can appear with new transfers of a different design which are entered subsequently on the plate.”—the famous 5¢ carmine error-of-color (467, 485, 505) is not technically a foreign entry.

A mint copy of this variety on the issued stamp was displayed at PACIFIC 97 in the exhibit collection of Lester C. Lanphear III, and is illustrated in Figure 1. An example of

<sup>10</sup>Charles J. Phillips, “U. S. Department Stamps—Plate Varieties,” *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 10, No. 3 (July 1931), p. 243.

<sup>11</sup>W.V. Combs, “2¢ Executive Official: A New Double Entry,” *The American Philatelist*, Vol. 75, No. 12 (September 1962), pp. 900-01.

<sup>12</sup>W. V. Combs, “U. S. Departmental Specimen Stamps,” *The American Philatelist*, Vol. 78, No. 3 (December 1964), p. 196.

<sup>13</sup>Robert A. Siegel, Sale #574, January 14, 1981, Lot #1656.



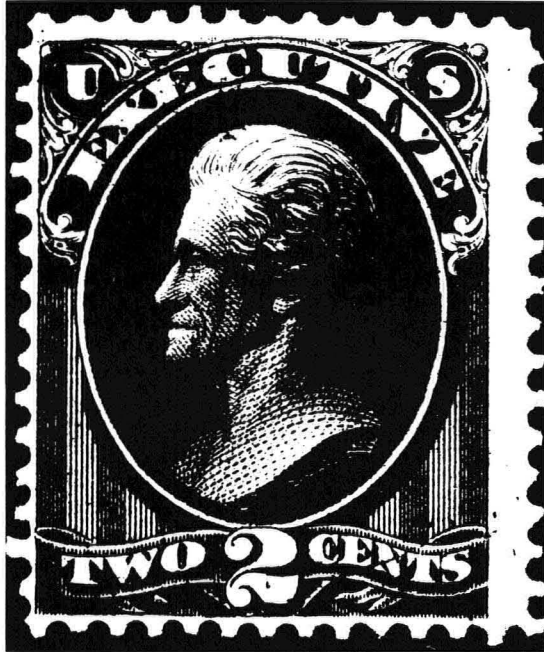


Figure 1. 2¢ Executive foreign entry, Position 40, courtesy of Lester C. Lanphear III.



Figure 2. 2¢ Executive with preprinting paper crease.



this variety on the special printing was also shown by Robert L. Markovits. An additional mint copy of the issued variety and one of the special printing were offered for sale at a dealer's booth. Since only 1% of the issued stamps (9,100) and special printings (7,430) will be this variety, in both cases it is a very rare stamp. Now on the photographs taken of the Earl of Crawford proof sheet, the only portion of the foreign entry legible is the diagonal line through the "N" of "CENTS"; the fine vertical lines at the top center from the original 6¢ Agriculture entry (1 mm. above and 2 mm. to the right of the final 2¢ Executive entry) simply do not show. But in examining the actual proof sheets on card and India paper, the position of this foreign entry could be readily confirmed. This variety has now been reported in all its possible manifestations, except for the unique Atlanta trial color proofs which may still languish unrecognized in someone's collection.

No other conventional double transfers have been reported on the 2¢ Executive stamp. In Figure 2, we illustrate an unused 2¢ Executive with a horizontal preprinting paper crease. Several vertical lines extend through the value lettering and continue on the other side of the crease well down into the bottom margin, giving the appearance of a double transfer. But a confirmation copy has not been found, nor do the proof photographs show anything similar, so we must assume that when the stamp paper buckled and creased under the impression cylinder, this movement caused the surface ink to smear—indeed, under high magnification, these surplus lines do appear slightly fuzzy. So all along, the 2¢ Executive "double transfer" catalog listing has in fact been describing the position 40 foreign entry. As one of only three reported foreign entries on U. S. postage stamps, it is high time for this important variety to be properly described in the catalog.<sup>14</sup> □

<sup>14</sup>At least three revenue stamps are now also listed with foreign entry varieties.

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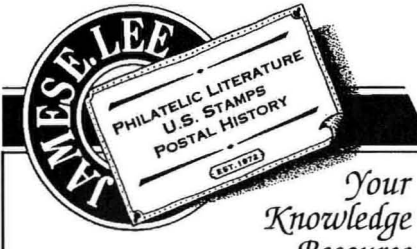
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**EARLY TRANSATLANTIC IRISH WRAPPER**  
RICHARD F. WINTER

Route Agent Edward Bedell of Shrewsbury, England has submitted a most interesting item that has been a puzzle for many years. The cover is pictured in Figure 1. It was posted in Dublin, Ireland on 29 March 1839 and was addressed to a student at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine. The postal rates on this cover made no sense to me. I had to respond to Mr. Bedell's inquiry that I did not understand the item.

Later, Mr. Bedell wrote again and said that he feared he hadn't told me everything. He sent along a hand drawn picture of the reverse of the cover with the notation that the sides were open and the straight backflap had been sealed by two wax seals (see Figure 2). I immediately recognized the features of a handmade newspaper or journal wrapper and began to look for rate explanations of a printed matter piece. Some intriguing bits of information developed.

The cover was addressed to "Mr. Charles Herbert, Student, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, State of Maine, United States."<sup>1</sup> A red boxed PAID datestamp in the upper right corner of the cover was characteristic of the markings used in Dublin in 1839 on paid mails. The word "PAID" in this marking appeared to be crossed through, but this was not done in Dublin. Across the center of the cover was another red boxed marking lightly struck. This marking, also applied at Dublin, has been reproduced in Figure 3. It was used by Dublin to show that the mailed item was posted without an extra late fee being paid and that it was too late for the same day despatch of the mails. The marking was intended to show that the post office was not responsible for any resulting delays in delivery for late posted letters. The only rate marking put on the wrapper in Dublin was the "2" in red pen at the lower left for the payment of two pence. This was the proper rate to be paid for newspapers to and from foreign ports by private ships or by the Government packet vessels.<sup>2</sup>

It will be noted that the cover does not show a United States arrival port datestamp nor the "Ship" marking characteristic of incoming mails by ship. At first this was puzzling, but reference to the postal regulations<sup>3</sup> provided some explanations. Newspapers and pamphlets from abroad, as distinct from letters and packets, were not mentioned in the laws from the Act of 1825 which governed incoming ship mails. These laws were still in effect in 1839. Masters of incoming vessels were not bound to deliver newspapers and pamphlets to the port post office as they were for letters and packets. Therefore, newspapers and pamphlets did not receive the "Ship" marking applied to letters and packets at the time of delivery to the post office. Likewise, the circular datestamps, used on letters in the United States to indicate the place and the date when they were forwarded in the mail, were not required to be used on newspapers or pamphlets brought in by ship.

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<sup>1</sup>According to *The New England Gazetteer*, published in 1841 by John Hayward of Boston, Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine was incorporated by the Massachusetts legislature in 1794. The school was named in honor of one of the earliest and most distinguished governors of Massachusetts, James Bowdoin of Boston. The all-male school with 165 pupils and six professors also had a flourishing medical school attached with four professors and 70 students.

<sup>2</sup>Michel M. Raguin, *British Post Office Notices 1666-1899*, Volume 3, 1830-1839 (Medford, Massachusetts: M.M. Raguin, 1990), p. 154.

<sup>3</sup>*Postal Laws and Regulations of the United States of America 1832 & 1843*, Wierenga Reprint, p. 48 (1832 PL&R) and p. 34 (1843 PL&R).

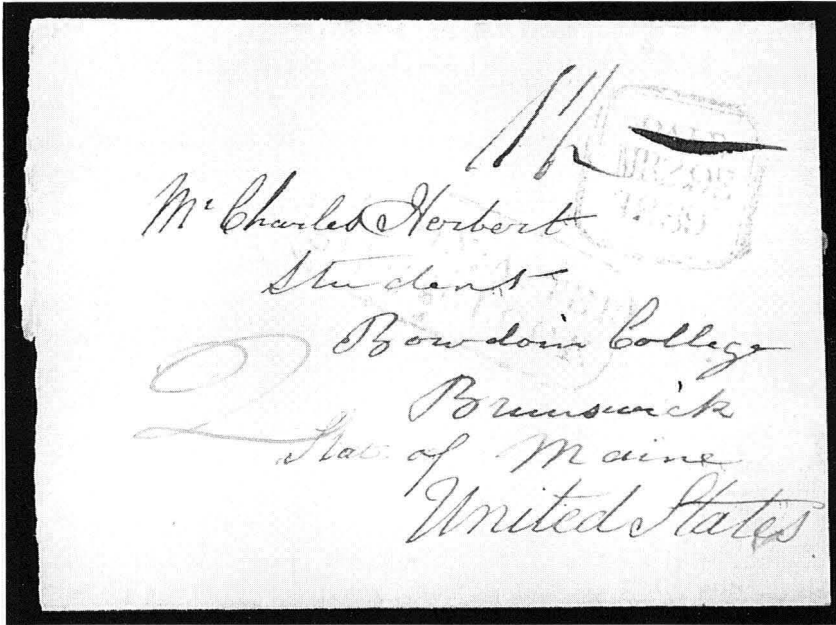


Figure 1. Dublin, Ireland wrapper, 29 March 1839, to Brunswick, Maine, with Dublin PAID datestamp, manuscript "2" and PUT IN AFTER / SIX O'CLOCK handstamp; "PAID" lined through and "1 1/2" manuscript due marking added on arrival.

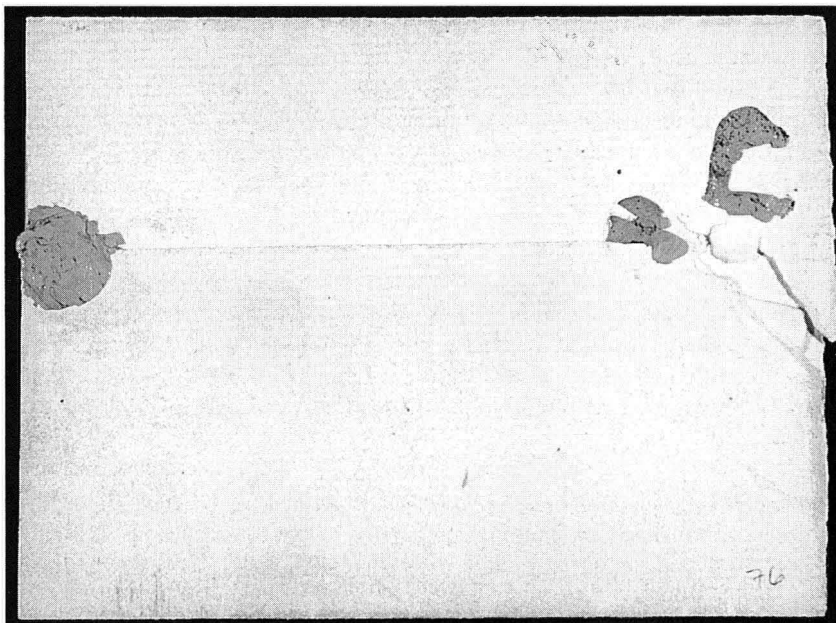


Figure 2. Reverse of Dublin 29 March 1839 wrapper.



**Figure 3. Dublin PUT IN AFTER / SIX O'CLOCK handstamp.**

The remaining question about this cover was the rate marking in the upper right corner in black ink. As noted earlier, the "PAID" portion of the Dublin datestamp was crossed through. The color of the ink was the same as the rate marking alongside to the left. Although this hastily written postage due marking is not easily recognizable, I believe it indicated that 1½¢ was the postage due on this wrapper. When accepted at the arrival post office, the wrapper would have been marked for 1½¢ if it contained a newspaper to be carried over 100 miles and out of the state in which it was mailed.<sup>4</sup> Since the wrapper was not prepaid at the arrival port, it was not marked "PAID" and the "PAID" in the Dublin datestamp was crossed through. While the arrival port is not shown, it would not be a poor assumption to believe that it might have been Boston, a port which had regular communications by ship with the British Isles.

This extraordinary cover, submitted by one of our active overseas members who specializes in mails of Ireland, illustrates a very early transatlantic wrapper. □

<sup>4</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 36 (1832 PL&R) and p. 18 (1843 PL&R).

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**Leonard H. Hartmann**

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## **ANSWERS TO PROBLEM COVERS IN ISSUE 173**

Figures 1 and 2 show an 1876 unclaimed cover from Mexico via Tucson to Los Angeles franked with Mexican and U.S. stamps. Greg Sutherland advised that Mexico had not joined the U.P.U. until 1879. Prior to that there was a U.S./Mexico postal convention signed in 1862 for mail carried between these two countries by sea at a single sea rate (1/2 oz.) of 7¢ plus the Mexican and U.S. inland rates. But our problem cover did not travel by sea; rather it went by land.

Dale Pulver deciphered the difficult-to-read markings to tell us that it originated in the Mexican state of Sonora. The oval marking canceling the 25 centavos Mexican stamp is "FRANCO EN SAHUARIPA" (undated as usual) and the stamp is overprinted "49", "74", and "URES". He explains that these markings were applied at Mexico City and designated the consignment lot sent in 1874 to the major post office in Sonora, *i.e.*, Ures. From there the stamps were distributed to smaller Mexican post offices in Sonora, such as Sahuaripa, an area of mining activity.

Since the letter did not travel by sea, only Mexican and U.S. inland rates applied as noted in the 1862 U.S./Mexico postal convention. Dale believes the two 3¢ U.S. stamps were applied by the sender. The letter was also franked with a 25 centavo Mexican stamp, the rate for a 1/2 oz. letter going over 16 leagues (about 48 miles), and sent north to the border town of Nogales, a much shorter route than going to a Pacific port. Next, it went 60 miles north to Tucson, where the U.S. stamps were canceled June 16, 1876. Then over the mountains to Los Angeles, arriving July 10. It was advertised, and being unclaimed, was sent to the Dead Letter Office on Aug 7, arriving Aug 22, and received the identifying number "321" on the front.

The only remaining question is—why was 6¢ U.S. postage paid (indicating a double rate) on a letter with only a single rate paid in Mexico? Or was this an error on the part of the sender?

A 5¢ U.S. stamp and a 5¢ Clipperton Island local stamp are canceled at San Francisco on the Figure 3 cover to Berlin. The local also has a "W. FRESE & CO." marking.

Clipperton Island is in the Pacific Ocean, off the coast of Mexico. Guano was mined there and shipped to major markets on the east coast of the U.S. It is not finally settled, but most responders believe that this cover was never on Clipperton Island. The shared opinion is that these covers were prepared at the office of W. Frese & Co. and mailed from the nearby San Francisco Post Office.

However, a cover does exist that was not thusly prepared. Figure 4 shows an envelope bearing two 5¢ and one 10¢ Clipperton Island locals, none having the "W. FRESE & CO." marking. It is the shared opinion of Kenneth Kutz, Jon Krupnik and Scott Gallagher that this is a commercial letter from Clipperton Island put on board a vessel laden with guano and headed for Panama City. There the letter was taken to the post office, a 20 centavos stamp of Columbia purchased and affixed, and canceled 3 March 1903. A contract mail steamer took the letter north to San Francisco, arriving March 18 (per backstamp). Although the Clipperton Island locals paid no postal charge, they were affixed there.

## **ANSWERS TO PROBLEM COVERS IN ISSUE 174**

Figure 5 is an 1859 registered cover from Chatham, England, to Belleville, New Jersey, via British packet to Boston, franked with a one shilling and a six pence stamp.





Figure 1. Obverse of 1876 Cover from Mexico to Los Angeles via Tucson.

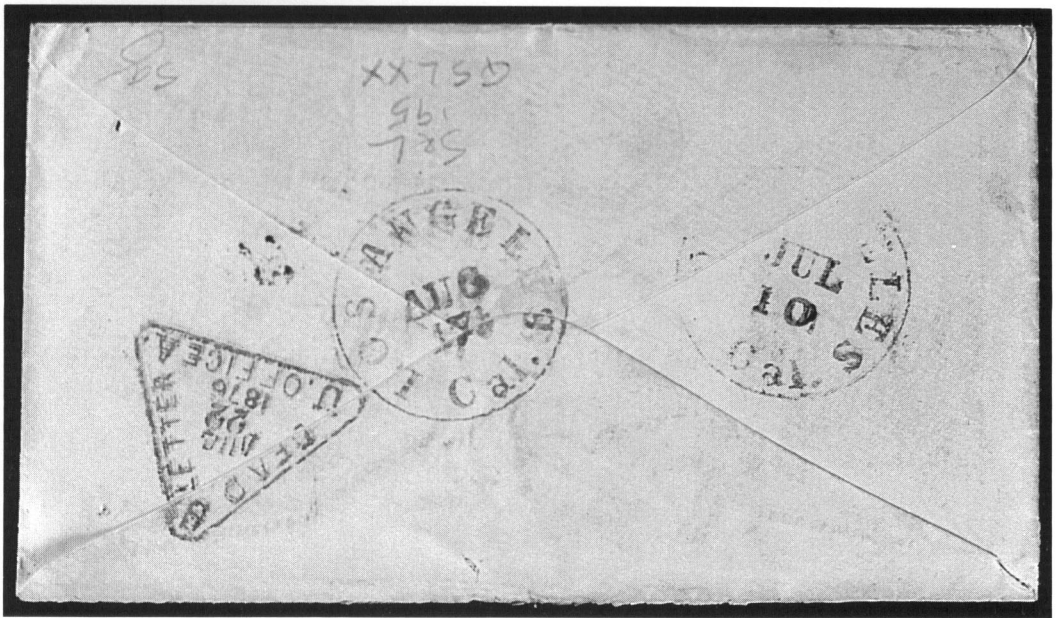


Figure 2. Reverse of 1876 Cover from Mexico to Los Angeles.



Figure 3. 1895 Clipperton Island cover to Berlin.

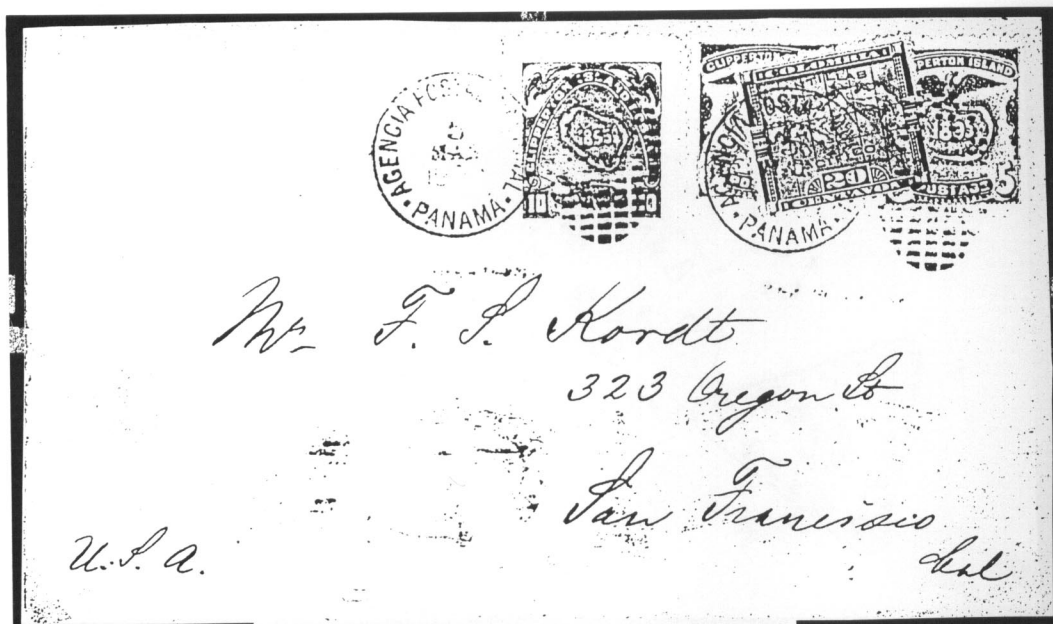


Figure 4. 1903 Clipperton Island cover via Panama to San Francisco.

Both Jim Milgram and Greg Sutherland provided essentially the same answer to explain the one shilling six pence franking and the amount credited to the U.S. Jim writes:

This is a registered cover British-U.S. during the registration treaty period begun in 1856. British registration was paid by the six pence stamp; the one shilling paid the postage. The manuscript (underlined) Registered marking was the origin mark applied at Chatham. The "29" is probably the number. Both Registered handstamps are British markings seen on covers in transit. The black manuscript "1126" is a registration number, probably London. There are no American registration markings on the cover.

The 1856 reciprocal treaty on registration was for each country to fix its own registration fee, one half being credited to the country to which the letter was sent. Thus the registry fee was six pence British, three pence (six cents) credit to the U.S. For a letter carried by British packet, the postage credit to the U.S. was five cents. This adds up to 11 cents, which is the red credit marking that was applied in manuscript, apparently at Liverpool (? or Boston). Because the British registration fee was higher than the American fee (5 cents), we would only credit them with 2½ cents, but we were credited with six cents by them.



Figure 5. Registered cover from Chatham, England to Belleville, New Jersey in 1859.

Greg adds:

- The cover was carried by Cunard steamer *Canada*, departing Liverpool 2 July, arriving Boston 13 July.
- The pencil "29" may be "25", which would be an accountancy marking for the total retained by the British (3 cents British inland, 16 cents sea, 6 cents registration).
- Letter postage and the registration fee must be paid in full at the office of origin. Unpaid letters could not be registered.
- The articles for registration of British and U.S. mails came into operation on May 1, 1856.

The cover in Figure 6 to "Pomona, Los Angeles / California" via New York originated in Guayaquil, as shown by the handstamp across the flap in Figure 7. How and why did this cover go to New York, and what postage, if any, was paid?

Ross Towle reads the country abbreviation as EE. UU. de N. A. in Spanish to be Estados Unidos de Norte America, which is the USA.

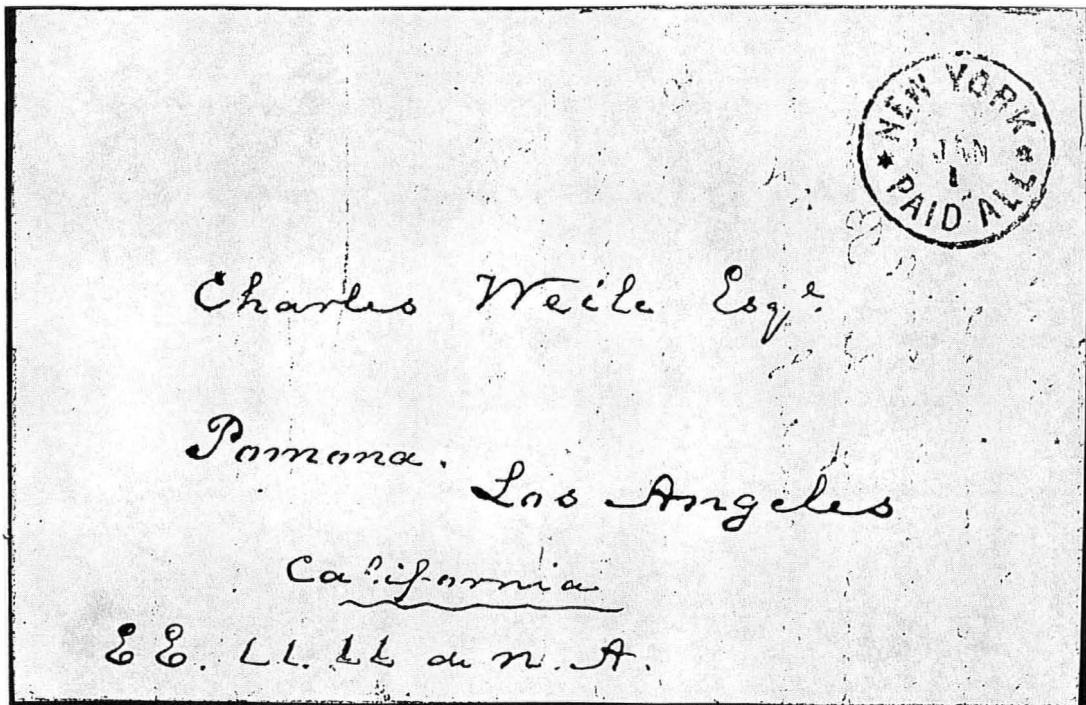


Figure 6. Cover from Guayaquil, Ecuador to Pomona, California via New York.



Figure 7. Backstamp of "CONSULATE DE FRANCE." on cover from Guayaquil.

Greg Sutherland provided the only response, and that with tongue in cheek, to explain how this cover reached its destination. He suggests that it was carried free as diplomatic mail by a French courier to New York City. There it was delivered by the French Consulate to the post office which sent it on to California, also as diplomatic mail exempt from postage. The “\*NEW YORK\* / PAID ALL” cds was used as a convenience to indicate no postage due. Any other ideas?

### PROBLEM COVERS FOR THIS ISSUE

Figures 8 and 9 show the front and back of an “ADVERTISED / JAN 28” cover to Philadelphia from “NORTH HAVEN / JAN / 15 / ME” and with numbers “\$7<sup>75</sup>”, “3”, and “1692-15” all in black on the front. Additional markings in blue are a double oval “DEAD LETTER OFFICE / MAR / 1? / P.O. DPT”, a large “S”, and “No 2092”. A 3¢ 1861 stamp is canceled by a black target. The back has two bold handstamps in black “Not called for / No such person can be found” and a “PHILADELPHIA” cds “FEB / 27 / DEAD”.

Please provide explanations for the four manuscript numbers on this cover and also the meaning of the large letter “S”.



Figure 8. Obverse of “ADVERTISED” and “DEAD LETTER” to Philadelphia.

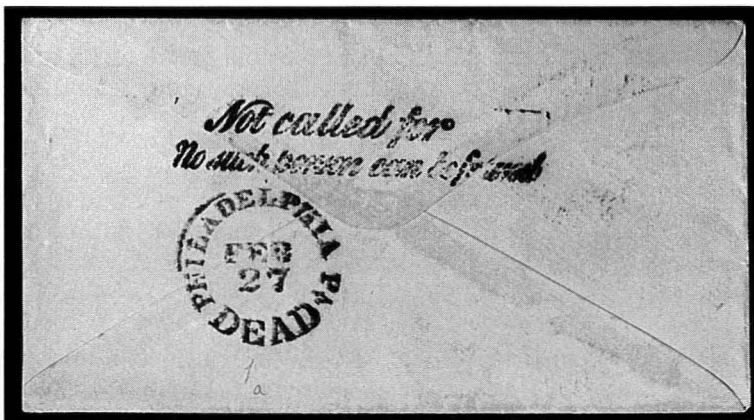


Figure 9. Reverse of letter to Philadelphia showing “Not called for” and “DEAD”.



The "THREE CENTS" stamped envelope in Figure 10 is a real puzzle submitted by Walter Mader. It has an altered return address in Galveston, Texas and is addressed to Mobile, Ala. But the cds on the front is "MORGAN CITY / 19 / MAR / LA.," and it has received two marks associated with international postage due, viz., "A percevoir" and a large double stroke "X". The reverse has only a dateless "MOBILE / ALA." backstamp. Where and why did this cover receive the postage due markings, or are these bogus?

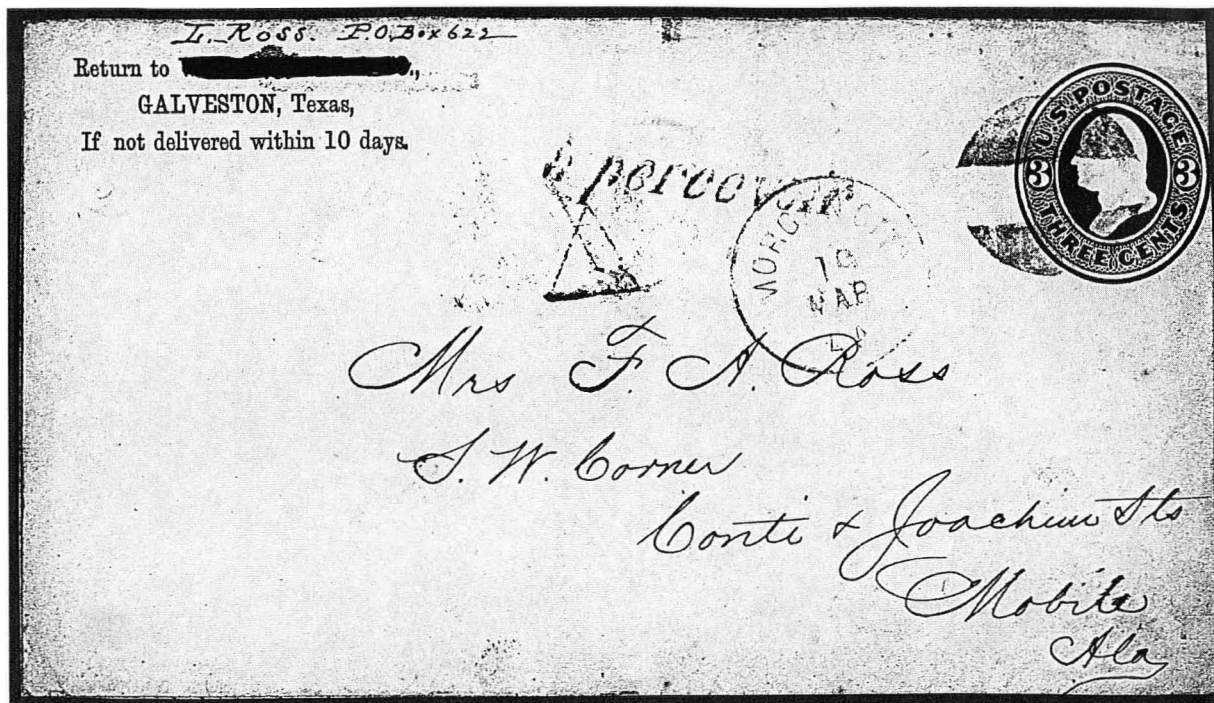


Figure 10. Cover to Mobile, Ala. with strange "A percevoir" and large "X" markings.

Figure 11 shows the front of a 1¢ U.S. Postal Card to which a handsome lion has been glued to the back, Figure 12. The card was sent from Stamford, Conn. to New York City in 1905. It received a black "Due 4" and two 2¢ postage due stamps. Please explain why the amount of 4¢ due was collected.

\*\*\*\*\*

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*. We can receive mail at P.O. Box 42253, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242, as well as by fax at (513) 563-6287.

We need some new examples of problem covers for The Cover Corner. Please submit a glossy black and white photograph of each cover, including the reverse if it has significant markings. It is also important to identify the color of markings on covers submitted. Thanks. □

– Ray Carlin  
– Scott Gallagher

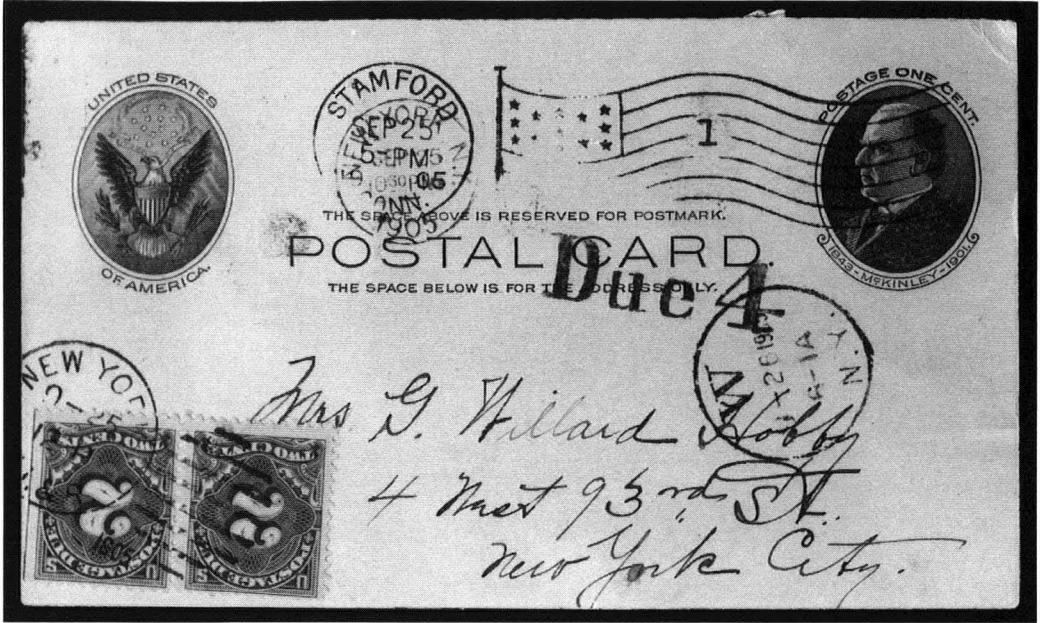


Figure 11. U.S. Postal Card to New York with "Due 4".



Figure 12. Lion glued to back of Postal Card (Figure 11).



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