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of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues

February 1999

Volume 51, No. 1

Whole No. 181

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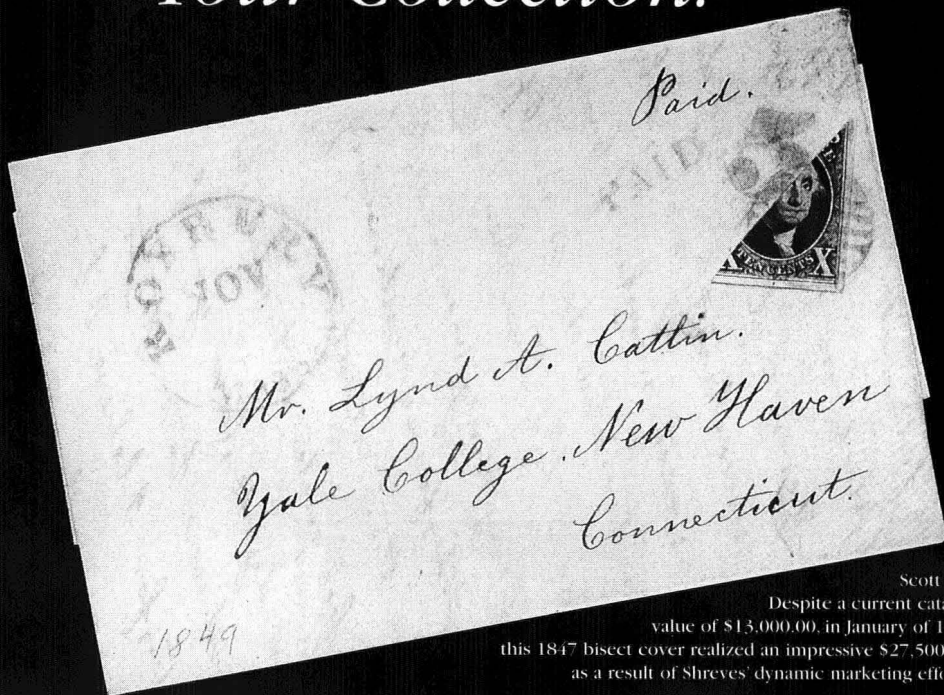
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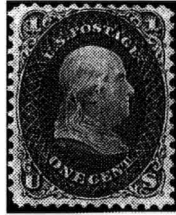
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THE 1861 SPECIAL PRINTINGS: A PHILATELIC KEY

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According to John Luff in his 1902 *Postage Stamps of the United States*, the reissues of 1875 were: a) not part of the regular issues, b) manufactured to special order, and c) recorded in special accounts of the Third Assistant Postmaster General.¹ Although not a stamp collector until the 1890s, Luff did have excellent contacts with the American Bank Note Company. He reported that the Post Office ordered 10,000 stamps of each value of the 1861 and 1869 issue on August 26, 1874 and that the 1851 issue reprints were probably ordered about the same time.

The official Bill Book #1, found in the National Archives, covers the period in question and records the special orders for the reissues. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing printed the 1847s and the National Bank Note Company reprinted the 1861 and 1869 issues as well as the 1865 newspaper stamps; all the rest were reissued by the Continental Bank Note Company.

Page 237 contained the orders for the National reprintings of the newspaper, 1861 and 1869 issues. They were invoiced June 30, 1875 and payment authorized August 6th. Original plates #38, 39, and 40 were used for the newspaper stamps while new plates of 100 subjects each were ordered for the 1861 1¢, 2¢, 5¢, 10¢ and 12¢ values, numbered respectively plates #56, 57, 58, 59, and 60. Plate #55 was used for the 3¢, #41 for the 15¢, #46 for the 24¢, #47 for the 30¢ and #18 for the 90¢. These would have been 200 subject plates. None of the other 1861 plates were still available for use; this tells us that they had been destroyed some time prior. This is the first key given us by the special printings. We have an end date for certain plate destructions.

Ten thousand stamps of each value were reprinted on a very white hard paper and all were perforated 12 as were the originals of the 1861 issue. They were very carefully printed with a highly finished appearance and were not grilled, although John Tiffany reported in his 1886 *History of the Postage Stamps of the United States* that

A few reprints with a forged grille have come under the observation of the writer, but as the grille was the small grille imitated from that on the 1869 issue it was easily detected.²

Unlike John Luff, Tiffany was a stamp collector at the time the 1875 reprinting was done and he gives contemporaneous observations. He noted the reprints were without grill, but that the colors were close to the 1857 grilled issue rather than the earlier 1861 printings. He advised that the special printings were on whiter paper, upon which the values were carefully printed. He also reported that the new 1861 issue special printing plates had the imprints along the side (as in the 1869 issue) rather than at top and bottom.

In regard to the color of the special printings, he noted that

. . . there is a *bloom* about it that there is not about the originals. When the two are placed side by side the homely expression that the "new is worn off" of the originals will serve to express the difference, though in point of fact they never had the brightness of the reprints.³

¹John N. Luft, *The Postage Stamps of the United States* (New York: Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., 1902, pp. 254-55.

²John K. Tiffany, *History of the Postage Stamps of the United States* (St. Louis: C.H. Mekeel, 1887), pp. 243-64.

³*Ibid.*, p. 259.

The color differential and the very white paper are the two characteristics picked up by Eustace B. Power in his classic *Philatelic Horse Sense*, one of the better guides to 19th century classic U.S. stamps.⁴

In the June 1997 *Scott Stamp Monthly*, Stanley M. Piller, a specialist in the reissues, commented regarding the new plates that "The two-, five- and 10-cent values are easily identified by secret marks."⁵ He found none on the other three new plates.

It is incorrect to say there are secret markings on the 1861 special printings, although there are markings that help identify the special printings from the original 1861-69 issues. These markings are not found on the original dies, which still survive today in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing archives. These dies were part of the dies, plates and rolls inventoried under Order #75, issued by Postmaster General Frank Hatton on January 10, 1885. The dies, one working plate, and the transfer rolls from which the plate was made were "waxed and carefully boxed and sealed and placed in the vault of the stamp manufactory, in the custody and under the control of the agent."

A report dated May 4, 1899 from the Stamp Agency at Washington, D.C. (B.S. #90 316 Vol. 54, 54) in the Post Office archives discusses the "checking and verifying all un-serviceable postage stamp rolls and plates . . . and for the destruction of the same." It has subsidiary parts regarding preservation and destruction. Stamped envelope dies and postage-stamp transfer rolls were ordered destroyed June 24, 1897 by then Postmaster General James A. Gary. No postage stamp dies were destroyed under these orders.

On July 27, 1897, the Bureau of Engraving acknowledged receipt of ten 1861 issue dies and five shells. The shells were lathe work. A note regarding all the dies of various issues turned over at this time (162 dies) reflected that there were "dies badly rusted and two damaged." One of the two damaged was the Eagle carrier die, which was cracked.

The original 1861-69 dies were subsequently used to create the 1903 Roosevelt die proofs in January and February 1903, and were again sent to press in November 1914 and January 1915 to generate the Panama-Pacific proofs, as reported in the August 1994 B.I.A. *Research Paper #7*.⁶ New die numbers had been assigned all of the original bank note company dies around 1897. For example, dies 1-25 were designated for the 1875 newspaper stamps, 26-32 were assigned the postage dues of 1879, 33 was the 1894 10¢, 34-42 were assigned to the 1894 issue, 43 and 44 were assigned the 30¢ and 90¢ 1890 issue stamps, 45 was the 1890 1¢ die and 46 was the 1¢ 1894 die. The 1875 reprint 1847 5¢ and 10¢ dies were numbered 88 and 89, with dies 90-97 being the 1851 issue dies. Number 98 was the cracked Eagle carrier die, 104-108 were the 1861 dies and 114 through 126 were the 1869 issue dies, 127-129 were the 1865 newspaper dies, and 130-148 were the 1870 issue bank note dies. Dies 149-238 were the official dies, with 239-254 being the Columbian dies. These new designations are the ones used today for the old bank note dies.

Modified dies 327, 329 and 329 were created from the 1861 dies 107-09 to represent the premiere gravure or August issue dies in the 1903 Roosevelt proofs.

A second philatelic key revealed by the 1875 special printings is that *they were not made from the original dies*, but from transfer rolls. The clue to this is the 5¢ Jefferson 1861 special printing. The special printing has a notch in the design lathework at the bottom, beneath the "U" of "U.S." This notch is *not found* on the 1903 and 1914 proofs made

⁴Eustace B. Power, *Philatelic Horse Sense*, Vol. 3 ["(Third Outburst)"] (Chappaqua, N.Y.: the author, n.d. [193?]), p. 8.

⁵Stanley M. Piller, "The National Bank Note Co. Reissues," *Scott Stamp Monthly*, June 1997, p. 38.

⁶Ronald A. Burns, *Research Paper No. 7: Study of the Production Records for the 1903 and 1914-15 Printings of the "Roosevelt" and "Panama-Pacific" Small Die Proofs* (Madison, Wisc.: Bureau Issues Association, 1994). 72 pp.

from the original dies. Consequently, the source had to be a transfer roll that existed in 1875 but which was not preserved in 1903 and 1914 for use in creating those die proofs.

Under Order #391, dated June 25, 1897, the no longer needed plates and transfer rolls of early U.S. issues were sent to the smelter. The smelting took place between July 30 and August 5, 1897 at the U.S. Navy Yard. Box 10 contained the ten plates used to make up the 1861 postage issue special printings and the three 1865 newspaper special printing plates. The plate numbers involved were plates #6, 7, 8, 38, 39, 40, 41, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 and 60.

These plates were part of the working plates of each denomination, "inventoried, waxed and carefully boxed and sealed" under Order #75 of January 14, 1885.

The remaining 1861 issue plates were largely rusted or damaged, having been judged either unserviceable or worn out and canceled in 1885. A number of these were in box number 4 (four 1¢ plates, seven Black Jack plates, and nine 3¢ plates) and in box 5 (19 plates of the 1¢, 3¢, 5¢, 10¢, 12¢ and 90¢ values). Box 6 seems to have contained 11 1861 plates of the 1¢ and 3¢ values. Box 7, which had 18 plates of the 1¢, 2¢, 3¢ and 10¢ values, may have contained either 1861 or 1869 plates. I have not been able to assign the remaining obsolete 1861 plates to their respective boxes prior to their 1897 smelting.

A third philatelic key found in the 1861 reissues is the fate of early transfer rolls. It is known that the transfer roll used to make the 1¢ 1861 plate #9 had a small flaw known as the dot in "U." This dot is not found in the contemporaneous plate #10, so that the 1¢ transfer roll was either corrected or abandoned in 1861 at the time plate #10 was laid down.

The 2¢ Black Jack die is known to have begun rusting fairly early. The rust created the "two or three dot in scroll" variety designated as Die II by Dr. Joseph Rorke which is found on stamps printed from plate #53. That plate also had a lesser version of the "star on cheek" rust spot known on plate #57 used for the reissue. As stamps with both the E and F grills are known with this "star," we can date use of the damaged transfer roll to the early months of 1868. The existence of these stamps confirms that Mr. Piller's "secret mark" came from the latest of several transfer rolls created after the original 2¢ die began to rust.

Mr. Piller also drew attention to a 10¢ 1861 special printing "secret mark" consisting of a line to the left of the upper right numeral 10. It is correct that this line is found on the 10¢ special printing, but it is also found on the transfer roll used to create plate #26, known prior to March 1863, at which time the TAG damage is known. It was a damaged transfer roll in 1863.

What this third philatelic key means is that the new 1875 reissue plates were made up from the latest transfer rolls for each value (usually the transfer to make new plates for the grilled 1867-69 plates of the 1861 issue.) It suggests there was a series of replacement transfer rolls throughout the life of the 1861 issue, with obsolete or worn rolls being destroyed at the time rather than being saved for the later official destructions such as the 1897 smelting.

Reprint Gums

A series of official circulars is known regarding the special printings. The earliest seems to be the one issued by E. W. Barber, the then Third Assistant Postmaster General, on March 27, 1875. It stated the special printings would only be sold by sets and that "all the specimens furnished will be un gummed . . . It will be useless to apply for gummed stamps."

The set requirement was modified by another notice sent out July 1, 1877 by A.D. Hazen, the new Third Assistant Postmaster General. It, and all subsequent notices, continued the statement that the special printings would only be available un gummed. However, the set requirement was changed. Now, "Stamps of any one denomination of any issue will be sold in quantities of 2 dollars' worth and upward."

A later circular was sent out by Hazen dated October 16, 1882. This circular was identical save for the addition of the special printings of the 5¢ Taylor and 5¢ Garfield along with the set of the 1879 postage due stamps. A subsequent circular dealing with the addition of the special printings of the 1883 values probably also exists.

These circulars create a problem with their statements that special printings would only be available un gummed, and that "It will be useless to apply for *gummed* stamps." Contemporary 1875 sources note that both the 1861 and 1869 issues and apparently the Eagle carrier stamp as well were all available gummed in May 1875. The first two were printed by the National Bank Note Company, but the last was done by Continental. It is also known that some of the 1¢ 1869 soft paper reissues made by American in 1880-1882 after the consolidation of National and Continental into American were gummed.

A key reference is cited by Tiffany in his aforementioned book. This is an article written by Charles H. Coster, the future financial genius behind the house of Morgan, that Tiffany cites as being found on page 6 [*sic*] of the 1875 *American Journal of Philately*. [That page number is in fact a typographic error; Stanley Piller in his article correctly cites Coster's remarks as coming from pages 75-76 of the May 1875 issue.]

Coster is best known as a collector and researcher of locals and carriers; he was just 23 in 1875. Originally mentored by William P. Brown, one of America's pioneer dealers, Coster had shifted to J. Walter Scott in the early 1870s when Brown left the U.S. for Japan; he later returned.

Tiffany quoted Coster regarding the 1869 issue as stating the gum of the originals . . . varied from decidedly brownish to almost white . . . on the 1861-69 issues of the reprints (as also on the eagles) simple gum arabic seems to have been used, the color being perfectly white. Furthermore, if the stamps are bent at all, the gum cracks, which is in no case true of the originals. . . . The originals all had the grille and the reprints have not.⁷

Tiffany added, in regard to the 1861 issue, his own observations that

The originals were issued first without the grille and afterwards with it, both had the brownish gum. The reprints have the same perforation and, notwithstanding the circular, were issued both without the gum and with the white stiff gum [the 1869 gum] noticed above.⁸

Coster's reference to the "eagles" is to the Eagle carrier reprint (LO5 and LO6), and seems to give contemporary documentation that the perforated examples (LO6), the only ones available when he wrote in May 1875, were sent out gummed. They would be from the 10,000 printing that the *Scott Specialized* reports were reprinted May 19, 1875, somewhat late to have appeared in Coster's May 1875 article. Along with the 10,000 Franklin carrier reissues, these Eagles were invoiced June 30, 1875 on page 235 of Bill Book #1, with the invoice paid July 6, 1875 to Continental. A second 10,000 imperforate Eagle printing was invoiced on page 271, dated December 31, 1875, for a bill received January 6 and approved January 10, 1876. The *Scott Specialized* states this reprinting occurred December 22, 1875. Two later reprintings occurred after the consolidation of the three bank note companies. A 10,000 stamp printing was invoiced February 28, 1881 and a further 10,000 printing was invoiced August 31, 1881; both were un gummed.

The best of what little serious study has been devoted to the Eagle reprints is found in articles by Don Johnstone, in *Chronicle* 125,⁹ and William Mooz, in *Chronicle* 169.¹⁰

⁷"C.H.C." [Charles H. Coster], "A Caution to Collectors," *American Journal of Philately*, Vol. 9, No. 5 (May 20, 1875), p. 75, as cited in Tiffany, *op. cit.*, p. 261.

⁸Tiffany, p. 262.

⁹Donald B. Johnstone, "Franklin and Eagle Carrier Stamps," *Chronicle*, Vol. 37, No. 1 (Whole No. 125)(February 1985), pp. 22-27.

¹⁰William E. Mooz, "The Special Printings of the 1851 Franklin and Eagle Carrier Stamps," *Chronicle*, Vol. 48, No. 1 (Whole No. 169)(February 1996), pp. 30-44.

Neither comments upon Coster's reference to gum. Mooz suggests the last reprint never reached the public, ignoring the normal shipment off the top of the stock (last in, first out) found in shipping stamps.¹¹ Thus he only tries to discuss three printings. Both assume the first 10,000 printing was split between perforated and imperforate sheets, although the quantity printed would only require one day to perforate so that 100% perforation was likely.

The gummed Eagle carriers Coster saw would have needed to be gummed prior to perforation. However, no other report of gummed examples is noted in philatelic literature and Johnstone does not indicate that the perforated block of 18 he illustrated had gum or traces of gum. Nevertheless, given Coster's interest in carrier stamps, it is unlikely he was mistaken in his observation.

There is no dispute that gum was applied in 1875 to the reprints printed by the National Bank Note Company. The problem is, how did it occur in light of the specific statements in the circulars that gummed stamps would not be available? Further, although Coster indicated the gum on the two issues was identical, modern studies conducted by Roy White through the Philatelic Foundation suggest the gums were different on the two issues.

Several theories have been put forth to explain the known facts. 1) National may have misinterpreted the instructions and gummed the special printings it was asked to produce, whereas the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and Continental correctly interpreted their instructions. 2) Private parties, such as the dealers who bought over 90% of all the reissues, persuaded friends in the National Bank Note Company to gum the special printings despite government instructions to the contrary. 3) Some gumming may have been done by the dealers after they purchased the stamps. In effect this would be private gumming or regumming.

The third theory seems the least likely, although some such gumming may have occurred. Supporting it is the non-standard nature of the 1861 and 1869 special printing gums, which flake in a peculiar manner. Opposing it is the problem of keeping gum out of the perforation holes on already perforated stamps. Such gum in the perforation holes might have escaped recognition in 1875 as indication of private "regumming," but it would be obvious to the more modern students and would be a give-away as to what happened. No published comment on this point has been seen in philatelic literature.

The first theory is supported by the fact that the later American Bank Note soft paper reprints of the 1¢ 1869 issue were gummed on one or more of the three printings (Scott #133 and 133a). On March 31, 1880, 5,000 1¢ 1869 stamps were invoiced as a special printing with another 10,000 invoiced August 31, 1881 and a final 10,000 on August 31, 1882. The major study on these stamps in the literature is that done by William Mooz in *Chronicle* 161.¹² Brookman also commented on these soft paper reprints, albeit parenthetically,¹³ while Robert Markovits studied the 1869 reprints in the *1978 Register* of the 1869 society.¹⁴

There is general agreement, as recorded in the *Scott Specialized*, that the brown orange 1¢ American printing (Scott 133a) is not known gummed, while one buff printing, or

¹¹But for a different perspective on the stamp shipment procedures, see Mooz, "The Special Printings of the 1873 and 1879 Issues," later in this February 1999 issue of the *Chronicle*.

¹²Mooz, "The Reissue of the One Cent 1869 Stamp," *Chronicle*, Vol. 46, No. 1 (Whole No. 161)(February 1994), pp. 48-58.

¹³Lester G. Brookman, *The United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century*, Vol. III (New York: H.L. Lindquist Publications, Inc., 1967), pp. 210-11.

¹⁴Robert L. Markovits, "The One Cent Re-Issue of 1875 and 1880, Of the One Cent 1869 Pictorial," *The 1978 Register* (n.p.: The United States 1869 Pictorial Research Associates, Inc., 1979), pp. 97-104.

part thereof, was gummed. Mr. Mooz attempted to assign colors to the three printings. The key evidence is a 1¢ reissue used on an October 1880 postcard addressed to Uruguay, as recorded in a West Coast auction. The 1982 auction description called the stamp a 133 brown orange, a contradictory designation. The stamp, if correctly identified as a soft paper, rather than a late use of Scott #123 which is known used about this date, would be from the 5,000 March 1880 printing. As Mr. Mooz did not physically examine the item, and, as there is a question of auction description accuracy, it seems a weak reed upon which to assign the printings. Challengeable assumptions and the potential unreliability of the catalog descriptions also means his mathematical demonstration may not be a reliable substitute.

The color sequencing is significant in analyzing the gumming of the reissues. If it is the August 1880 printing that was gummed, it would be a logical follow-up to the idea that National misread its instructions in 1875 and the same people in 1880 proceeded to copy the 1875 precedent now that they were part of American. If it is not the August 1880 issue but the 1881 issue, then we have a peculiarity of gummed, ungummed, gummed sequencing that suggests private parties got to the bank note officials involved, *i.e.*, the second theory. It would be supported by Coster's observation regarding the gummed Eagle carriers of 1875. □

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THE ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS, BLUEBIRD JAMES W. MILGRAM, M.D.

One of the fancy cancellations found on stamps of the 1861 series is a blue bird cancellation that was applied at Rockford, Illinois. Perry Arnquist, a native of Rockford, was very interested in these cancellations and accumulated a number of examples. Through a chance purchase, I have been able to trace a number of key examples and can demonstrate the nature of the cancellation at different dates.

The earliest date found appears to be November 4, 1867. The color is a rich true blue which is very attractive on the rose colored 3¢ stamp. All cancellations seen are single circles with thin lettering of both the letters and numbers. As seen in Figures 1A and 1B, the bird flies to the left. There are wide spaces within each wing and the body, and an eye can be discerned. The tail is forked.



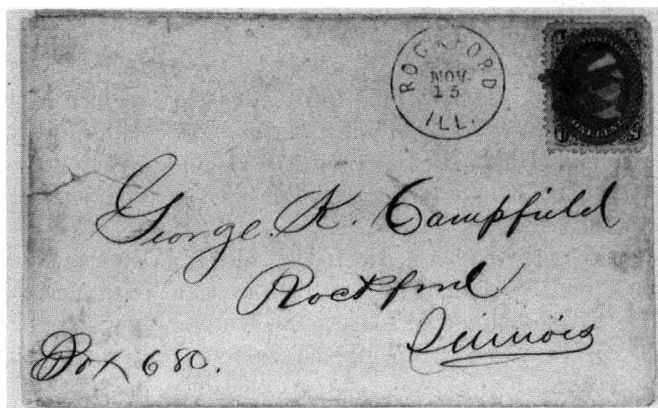
Figures 1A and 1B. Rockford, Illinois, bluebird cancellation with November 4 [1867] dating

The next example, from November 15 (Figures 2A and 2B), is a rare usage on a 1¢ stamp paying the drop letter rate. Now the eye is not apparent, and the spaces within the wings are considerably smaller. The tail is clear in this strike.

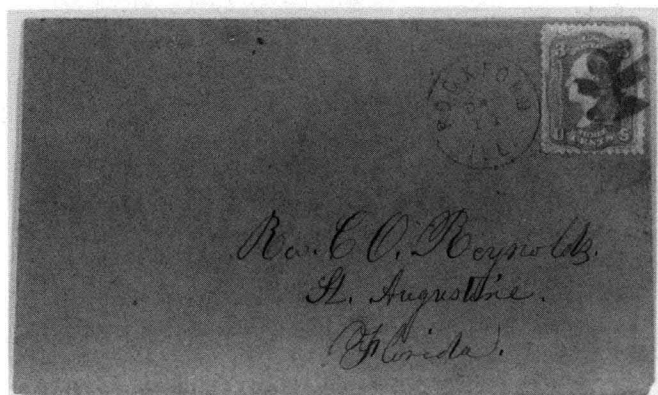
Finally, an example on cover postmarked December 11 (Figures 3A and 3B) shows deterioration of the head of the bird, no spaces within the bird, and perhaps the partial loss of the lower feathers of the tail. This cover has a Philatelic Foundation certificate.

Perry Arnquist thought the marking was in existence for less than a month, but these covers demonstrate usage for at least 39 days. There were a number of blue bird cancellations in the E.S. Knapp Sale (November 3-8, 1941), Part 2. Lot 261 seems to be an intermediate to late impression of the Rockford bluebird, although it was attributed to possibly Rock Island, Illinois. A different type blue bird flying to the right is shown as Lot 507 on cover. I think some doubt has to exist about this cancel unless more than one cover exists; the April dated double circle cancellation is earlier than the marking used on the examples I have just shown.

Finally, three other blue bird cancellations were shown in the Knapp Sale catalog, as Lots 259, 262, and 263. Two of these were from unknown towns, but Figure 4 shows a cover with two overlapping strikes of the Belvidere, Illinois, bluebird. The letter is enclosed and dates the cover as January 1, 1868, later than the Rockford bluebird. This bird is wider than that in the marking from Rockford, shows the tail feathers better, but the head is not well defined. The color of the ink is similar in the two markings. □



Figures 2A and 2B. Rockford, Illinois, bluebird cancellation in intermediate stage, tying 1¢ 1861 on drop letter November 15 [1867]

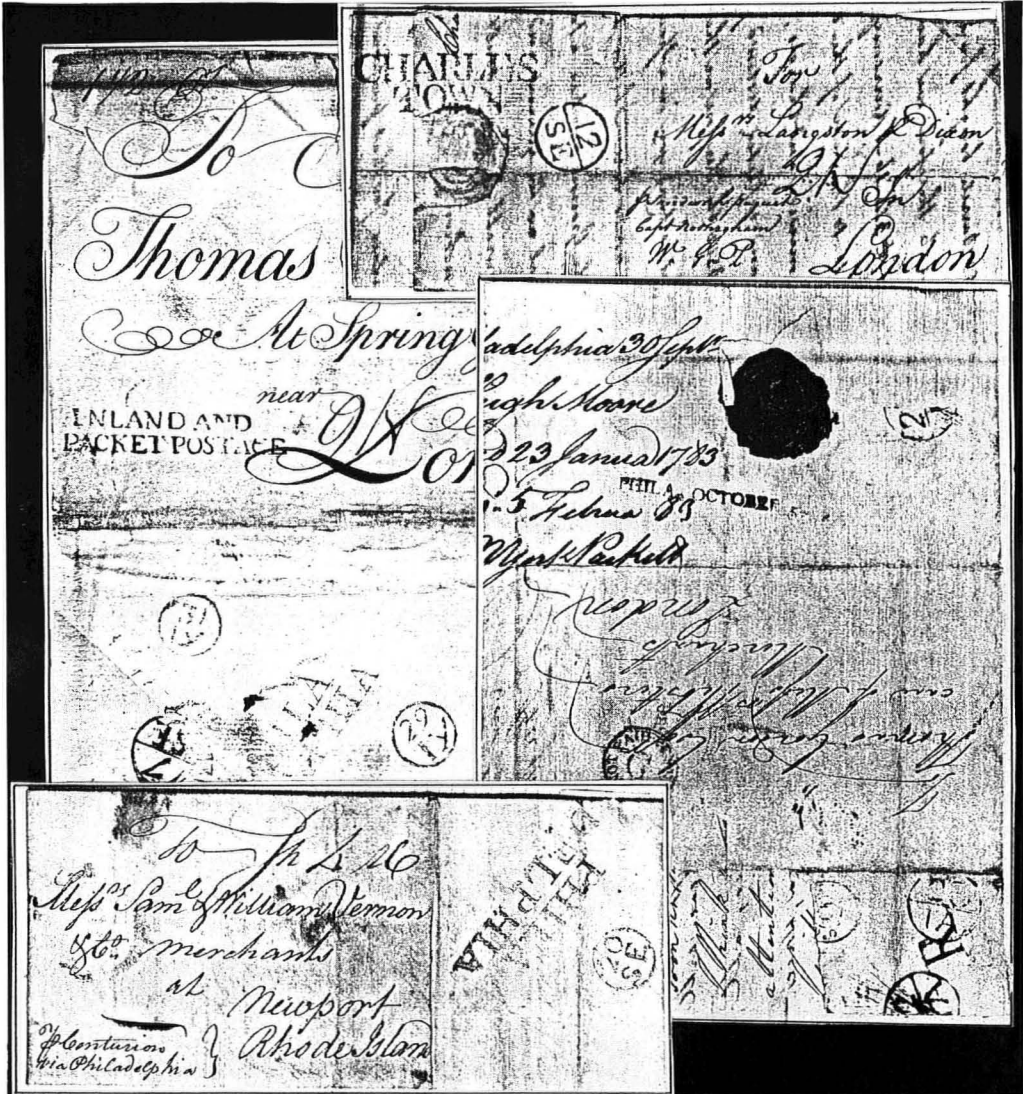


Figures 3A and 3B. Late usage of the bluebird cancellation on December 11 [1867], showing considerable deterioration of the killer



Figure 4. Belvidere, Illinois, bluebird cancellation, two strikes, on cover dated January 1 [1868]

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USED 15-CENT 1869 INVERTS
SCOTT R. TREPEL

One of the author's New Year's resolutions was to finish the 1869 Invert census that began in the August 1987 *Chronicle* (Whole No. 135) with unused examples of the 15¢, 24¢ and 30¢, and left off in August 1993 (Whole No. 159) with the conclusion of the used 24¢ Inverts. A follow-up article on the 24¢ Invert block appeared in May 1994 (Whole No. 162), but five years has passed with only a few used 15¢ Inverts entering the census record. My daughter was born five years ago, and she has made significantly more progress than this census, so it seems that the time has come to publish the record of 86 used 15¢ Invert stamps. New copies and information will surface, but the author is confident that the tally will not reach 100, unless a significant new find of the 15¢ Invert is made.



Figure 1. C01



Figure 2. C02

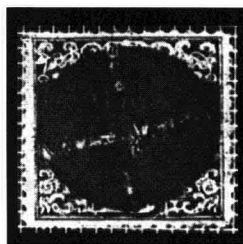


Figure 3. C03



Figure 4. C04



Figure 5. C05



Figure 6. C06

The Centered Inverts

Only six 15¢ Inverts have relatively even margins on all sides, qualifying them for the "Centered" category. Of these, only one is sound, C01 (Figure 1). The others have faults. In common with the 24¢ Invert, the 15¢ is extremely rare in centered condition.

The six used 15¢ Inverts from the "Centered" category are listed in Table Q.

TABLE Q — CENTERED

Figure 1. 119b-CAN-C01. Cork cancel. PFC 2035 "Genuine." Sound.

Figure 2. 119b-CAN-C02. Small Star cancel. Ex Green (Heiman 1/46). Faults.

Figure 3. 119b-CAN-C03. Quartered cork cancel. PFC 46103 "2 grills, one faked, improved defects."

Figure 4. 119b-CAN-C04. Cork cancel. PFC 34413 "Genuine with small tear and thin spot."

Figure 5. 119b-CAN-C05. Segmented cork cancel. Koerber 2/24/75 "short perf, small tear at L., normal crack in grill."

Figure 6. 119b-CAN-C06. Cork cancel. HRH 6/10/76 "extensively repaired."

The Center-West Inverts

To qualify for this category, the frame must be centered between the top and bottom perforation rows and shifted to the left, with the outer frameline either close to or touching the perforation holes. There are fifteen 15¢ Inverts from the “Center-West” category, the largest group among the nine different centering categories used in this census.

The fifteen used 15¢ Inverts from the “Center-West” category are listed in Table R.



Figure 7. CW01



Figure 8. CW02



Figure 9. CW03



Figure 10. CW04



Figure 11. CW05



Figure 12. CW06



Figure 13. CW07



Figure 14. CW08



Figure 15. CW09



Figure 16. CW10



Figure 17. CW11



Figure 18. CW12



Figure 19. CW13



Figure 20. CW14



Figure 21. CW15

TABLE R — CENTER-WEST

Figure 7. 119b-CAN-CW01. Lightly canceled. RAS 1967 Rarities “small filled thin.”

Figure 8. 119b-CAN-CW02. Circle of V’s cancel.

Figure 9. 119b-CAN-CW03. Quartered cork cancel. PFC 76213 “crease and stain at L.”

Figure 10. 119b-CAN-CW04. Circle of wedges cancel. PFC 15850 “Genuine.”

Figure 11. 119b-CAN-CW05. Cork cancel. PFC 13837 “Genuine, faults.”

Figure 12. 119b-CAN-CW06. Lightly canceled. PFC 125146 “small horiz. crease T.L. and thin B.R.”

- Figure 13. 119b-CAN-CW07. Cork cancel. PFC 49219 “defective spot in grill.”
 Figure 14. 119b-CAN-CW08. Circle of wedges cancel. PFC 20625 “defective.”
 Figure 15. 119b-CAN-CW09. Circle of wedges cancel. PFC 74195 “repaired.”
 Figure 16. 119b-CAN-CW10. Segmented cork cancel. PFC 18779 “minute defect at T.”
 Figure 17. 119b-CAN-CW11. Circle of wedges cancel. Ex Green (Heiman 1/46). RAS 9/21/86 “small corner perf thin.”
 Figure 18. 119b-CAN-CW12. Cork cancel. H. Rooke 5/23/50 Allen Coll. RAS 3/20/73 “small closed tear.”
 Figure 19. 119b-CAN-CW13. Segmented cork (or grid) cancel. PFC 9931 “Genuine.” Sound. Ex Burrus.
 Figure 20. 119b-CAN-CW14. Cork cancel. RAS 1968 Rarities sale “small faults.”
 Figure 21. 119b-CAN-CW15. Quartered cork and red N.Y. credit cds. RPS 1948 “Genuine with crease.” RAS 9/12/79 “partly reperfed, light crease, short perf UL.”

The Center-East Inverts

To qualify for this category, the frame must be centered between the top and bottom perforation rows and shifted to the right, with the outer frameline either close to or touching the perforation holes. There are only five 15¢ Inverts from the “Center-East” category. One has a town cds canceling the stamp, reported to be Cincinnati (unconfirmed).

The five used 15¢ Inverts from the “Center-East” category are listed in Table S.



Figure 22. CE01



Figure 23. CE02



Figure 24. CE03



Figure 25. CE04

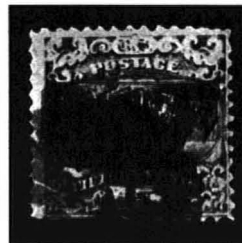


Figure 26. CE05

TABLE S — CENTER-EAST

- Figure 22. 119b-CAN-CE01. Small Star cancel. PFC 24841 “reperfed at R. and small defects” (probably not reperfed - SRT).
 Figure 23. 119b-CAN-CE02. Town cds. PFC 6560 “repaired.”
 Figure 24. 119b-CAN-CE03. Circle of wedges cancel. PFC 29684 “thinned in grill.”
 Figure 25. 119b-CAN-CE04. Target cancel. PFC 17841. Herst 7/28/61 “thinning in grill.”
 Figure 26. 119b-CAN-CE05. Cork cancel. Ex Waterhouse (HRH 6/29/55) “two faint traces of creases not visible on surface, possibly reperfed and some blunted perfs.”

The North-Center Inverts

To qualify for this category, the frame must be centered toward the top and equidistant (or nearly so) to the right and left perforations. This category furnishes several interesting stamps, including two of the Double Vignette, One Inverted (Scott 119c) variety and three stamps with Star fancy cancels (two small, one large). The Large Star cancel is known used on covers from New York City in April-May 1870, which provides a good basis for dating the use of the 15¢ Inverts in Figures 29 and 38. The Small Star has not been attributed to a post office or time period. The Double Vignette, One Inverted variety is listed with the “normal” errors. Enlarged photos showing details of the second impression follow the census.

The nine used 15¢ Inverts from the “North-Center” category are listed in Table T.



Figure 27. NC01



Figure 28. NC02



Figure 29. NC03



Figure 30. NC04



Figure 31. NC05



Figure 32. NC06



Figure 33. NC07



Figure 34. NC08



Figure 35. NC09

TABLE T — NORTH-CENTER

Figure 27. 119b-CAN-NC01. Target cancel. PFC 27458 “Genuine.” Ex DeVerymont, Seymour.

Figure 28. 119b-CAN-NC02. Small Star cancel. PFC 17101 “perfs trimmed off sides, clipped T., reperfed B. and L.”

Figure 29. 119b-CAN-NC03. Large Star cancel. PFC 35888. Sound. Ex Moody, Ambassador and Wunderlich.

Figure 30. 119b-CAN-NC04. Lightly canceled. PFC 43380 “defective, reperfed at R.”

Figure 31. 119b-CAN-NC05. Lightly canceled. PFC 59055 “light thinning, small repair.”

Figure 32. 119c-CAN-NC06. **Double vignette, one inverted.** Small circular cork cancel. Ex Newbury as normal 119b (RAS 10/17/66 “stitch watermark”); RAS 1983 Rarities as 119c. See NW09, Figure 43.

Figure 33. 119b-CAN-NC07. Small Star cancel. HRH 4/19/67 “faults around the edges, tiny indentations and clipped perfs.”

Figure 34. 119b-CAN-NC08. Target cancel. Tapling Coll. (British Library).

Figure 35. 119c-CAN-NC09. **Double vignette, one inverted.** Cork cancel. PFC 36031 “additional partial offset and repaired.” RAS 1971 Rarities sale.

The North-West Inverts

To qualify for this category, the frame must be centered toward the top left. There are nine 15¢ Inverts from the “North-West” category, including one described as the Double Vignette, One Inverted (Scott 119c). Another stamp in this category, NW09 (Figure 44), has a cancel that is identical to the cancel on a Double Vignette, One Inverted stamp (NC06, Figure 32). Assuming the two might have originated from the same sheet and were used at the same time, NW09 should be examined carefully for traces of a second upright vignette impression.

The nine 15¢ Inverts from the “North-West” category are listed in Table U.



Figure 36. NW01



Figure 37. NW02



Figure 38. NW03



Figure 39. NW04



Figure 40. NW05



Figure 41. NW06



Figure 42. NW07



Figure 43. NW08



Figure 44. NW09

TABLE U — NORTH-WEST

Figure 36. 119b-CAN-NW01. Circle of wedges cancel. Ex Caspary “wrinkle in grill, B.R. corner rounded.” PFC “small tear at R.”

Figure 37. 119b-CAN-NW02. Cork cancel. Perf added and B.R. corner repaired.

Figure 38. 119b-CAN-NW03. Large Star cancel. PFC “corner perf crease”. Ex Zoellner.

Figure 39. 119b-CAN-NW04. Cork cancel. PFC 35159 “Genuine.”

Figure 40. 119b-CAN-NW05. Small Star cancel. PFC 40533 “light creasing.”

Figure 41. 119b-CAN-NW06. (Poor clipped photo). Circle of wedges. Fox 6/6/56.

Figure 42. 119b-CAN-NW07. Cork cancel. HRH 2/18/70.

Figure 43. 119b-CAN-NW08. Segmented cork cancel. Laurence & Stryker 3/22/55
“slightly defective.”

Figure 44. 119b-CAN-NW09. Small circle of wedges cancel (identical to NC06,
Figure 33, the Double Vignette, One Inverted variety). Fox 7/13/61 “repaired tear.”

The North-East Inverts

To qualify for this category, the frame must be centered toward the top right. There are thirteen 15¢ Inverts from the “North-East” category—one of the larger groups—including three Small Star cancels and one possible Large Star (NE02, Figure 46).

The thirteen 15¢ Inverts from the “North-East” category are listed in Table V.

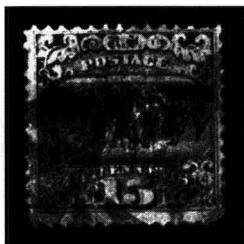


Figure 45. NE01



Figure 46. NE02



Figure 47. NE03



Figure 48. NE04



Figure 49. NE05



Figure 50. NE06



Figure 51. NE07



Figure 52. NE08



Figure 53. NE09



Figure 54. NE10



Figure 55. NE11



Figure 56. NE12



Figure 57. NE13

TABLE V — NORTH-EAST

- Figure 45. 119b-CAN-NE01. Circle of wedges cancel. PFC 14751 “defects.”
 Figure 46. 119b-CAN-NE02. Possible Large Star cancel. PFC 391 “no opinion, too poor.”
 Figure 47. 119b-CAN-NE03. Target cancel. PFC 14863 “repaired.”
 Figure 48. 119b-CAN-NE04. Small Star cancel (smudged). PFC 106318 “crease T.L.”
 Figure 49. 119b-CAN-NE05. Circle of wedges cancel. PFC 2951 “tear.” RAS 2/24/65.
 Figure 50. 119b-CAN-NE06. Cork cancel. PFC 29683. Faults.
 Figure 51. 119b-CAN-NE07. Circle of V’s cancel. PFC 2085.
 Figure 52. 119b-CAN-NE08. Small Star cancel. PFC 111990 “reperfed at L.” (possibly not - SRT)
 Figure 53. 119b-CAN-NE09. Small Star cancel. No further details.
 Figure 54. 119b-CAN-NE10. Lightly canceled. BPA 1971 “creased.” S. Gibbons 4/27/71 “internal tear at B.L., some ironed out creasing and other faults.”
 Figure 55. 119b-CAN-NE11. Target cancel. Ex Curie (H. Rooke 5/3/39) “tiny break near value.”
 Figure 56. 119b-CAN-NE12. Lightly canceled (target?). HRH 11/26/56.
 Figure 57. 119b-CAN-NE13. Lightly canceled. Kelleher 2/26/71 “lower right corner repaired.”

The South-Center Inverts

To qualify for this category, the frame must be centered toward the bottom and equidistant (or nearly so) to the right and left perforations. Only four used 15¢ Inverts from the “South-Center” category are known—they are listed in Table W.



Figure 58. SC01



Figure 59. SC02



Figure 60. SC03

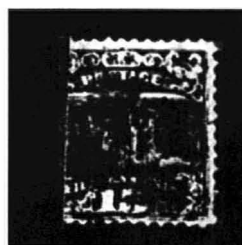


Figure 61. SC04

TABLE W — SOUTH-CENTER

- Figure 58. 119b-CAN-SC01. Quartered cork cancel. PFC 46000 “tiny margin defect at L.”
 Figure 59. 119b-CAN-SC02. Segmented cork cancel. PFC 20401 “two tears at R.”
 Figure 60. 119b-CAN-SC03. Lightly cancelled. RAS 11/14/73 “trivial crease.” Ex Picher.
 Figure 61. 119b-CAN-SC04. (Poor clipped photo). Quartered cork cancel. Sanabria 5/8/39 Hale Coll. “bottom left corner repaired.”

The South-West Inverts

The stamps in this category are centered to bottom left. This is a large group, comprising eleven stamps. Among them is a sound example of the Double Vignette, One Inverted variety (Scott 119c), listed as SW02 (Figure 63).

Among the “South-West” group is a stamp—SW08, Figure 69—that was previously associated with an April 1870 cover to Sweden. The discovery of the 15¢ Invert cover, shown in Figure 69A, was reported in an article by its owner, Eric Kling, in *The American Philatelist*, November 1924 (p. 106). Kling stated that the cover was found by him in a

PHOTOS OF SOUTH-WEST INVERTS—SEE TABLE X



Figure 62. SW01



Figure 63. SW02



Figure 64. SW03



Figure 65. SW04



Figure 66. SW05

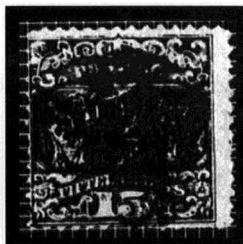


Figure 67. SW06



Figure 68. SW07



Figure 69. SW08



Figure 69A. The 15c Invert SW08 affixed to a cover to Sweden (shown off cover in Figure 69). The stamp was removed and sold separately—it may never have been used on this cover.



Figure 70. SW09



Figure 71. SW10

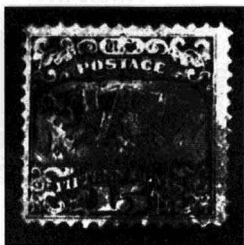


Figure 72. SW11

correspondence located in Sweden, and that he was the first collector to acquire it. Although no photograph was shown in the article, Kling's detailed description confirms that the stamp and cover are the same as shown in Figures 69 and 69A. He stated, "Knowing the history and source of the cover, as I do, there can be no doubt in my mind of its genuineness."

According to the author's records, the 15¢ Invert cover next appeared in the Laurence & Stryker December 14-17, 1959, auction as lot 491A, followed by the 24¢ Invert cover. The description for the lot states, "This stamp has been removed from the cover by the owner to place in his stamp album." The author has no further record of public sales of the 15¢ Invert cover, but the off-cover stamp was certified by The Philatelic Foundation and sold at auction in 1987. The author was the auctioneer and describer for the 1987 sale, but did not make the connection between this stamp and the cover to Sweden.

It is impossible to say whether or not the 15¢ Invert, SW08, originated on the cover to Sweden. If the two could be reunited and examined together, perhaps a definite conclusion would be reached. The 28¢ franking and "8" credit correspond to the double 14¢ NGU Direct rate to Sweden. However, a 15¢ Invert could have been substituted for a normal stamp. For now, the cover seems to be lost to philately—perhaps for a good reason.

The eleven 15¢ Inverts from the "South-West" category are listed in Table X.

TABLE X — SOUTH-WEST

Figure 62. 119b-CAN-SW01. Lightly canceled. RAS 1969 Rarities sale.

Figure 63. 119c-CAN-SW02. **Double vignette, one inverted.** Lightly canceled. PFC 3503 "Genuine" and PFC 134935 "Genuine" (Scott 119c). RAS 1984 Rarities.

Figure 64. 119b-CAN-SW03. Light cork cancel. PFC 104800 "Genuine." Ex Klep.

Figure 65. 119b-CAN-SW04. Circle of wedges cancel. PFC 55696 "Genuine."

Figure 66. 119b-CAN-SW05. Cork cancel. PFC 101799 "small crease."

Figure 67. 119b-CAN-SW06. Cork cancel. PFC 46535 "tiny thin spot." RAS 1/9/75.

Figure 68. 119b-CAN-SW07. Cork cancel. RAS 6/12/80 "minor filled thin in grill, tiny crease and short perf."

Figure 69. 119b-CAN-SW08. Once affixed to a cover to Sweden (see Figure 69A). Segmented cork cancel. PFC 39854 "crease in grill, tiny tear in R. margin."

Figure 70. 119b-CAN-SW09. Cork cancel. PFC 12168 "repaired L.L. corner."

Figure 71. 119b-CAN-SW10. Light segmented cork cancel. Ex Isleham.

Figure 72. 119b-CAN-SW11. Cork cancel. Fox 6/30/64 "tiny thin in grill."

The South-East Inverts

The stamps in this category are centered to bottom right. It is also a large group, comprising fourteen stamps. There are no reported Double Vignette, One Inverted (Scott 119c) stamps in this centering category. One stamp, SE03 (Figure 75), has a cancel identical to one found on a 30¢ Invert, which places the two in the same time period of use (see *Chronicle*, August 1989, Whole No. 143, p. 191). Another stamp, SE10 (Figure 82), has a blue French foreign-mail receiving cds.

The fourteen 15¢ Inverts from the "South-East" category are listed in Table Y.

TABLE Y — SOUTH-EAST

Figure 73. 119b-CAN-SE01. Segmented cork cancel. PFC 7696 "thin and repaired."

Figure 74. 119b-CAN-SE02. Cork cancel. Ex West. RAS 2/14/66 "sealed minute margin break."

Figure 75. 119b-CAN-SE03. Circle of V's cancel. PFC 32548 "Genuine." Sound.

Figure 76. 119b-CAN-SE04. Cork cancel. PFC 35357 "Genuine."

Figure 77. 119b-CAN-SE05. Lightly canceled. PFC 45216 "slight creasing, small tear at T."



Figure 73. SE01



Figure 74. SE02

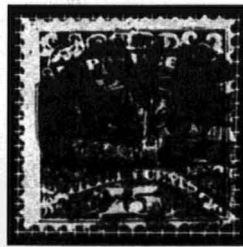


Figure 75. SE03



Figure 76. SE04



Figure 77. SE05



Figure 78. SE06



Figure 79. SE07



Figure 80. SE08



Figure 81. SE09



Figure 82. SE10



Figure 83. SE11



Figure 84. SE12



Figure 85. SE13

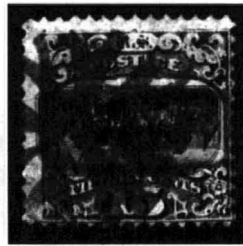


Figure 86. SE14

Figure 78. 119b-CAN-SE06. Circle of V's cancel. PFC 115789 "tiny perf crease B.R."

Figure 79. 119b-CAN-SE07. Cork cancel. PFC 16188 "closed tear." RAS 10/8/74 "couple filled thins and tiny tear in top margin."

Figure 80. 119b-CAN-SE08. Lightly canceled. PFC 13101.

Figure 81. 119b-CAN-SE09. Cork cancel. PFC 15397 "upper right corner repaired." RAS 2/24/65 "repaired tear at U.R."

Figure 82. 119b-CAN-SE10. Circle of wedges and blue French transit cds. PFC 38213. Ex Green (Costales 10/46).

Figure 83. 119b-CAN-SE11. Circle of wedges cancel. PFC 49397 "Genuine."

Figure 84. 119b-CAN-SE12. Cork cancel. Ex Green (Heiman 1/46).

Figure 85. 119b-CAN-SE13. Cork cancel. Christie's 10/3/84 "few faint creases, couple minute perf tears, small thin."

Figure 86. 119b-CAN-SE14. Circle of V's cancel. RAS 1/30-31/92 "small repair at L., some tiny thinning."

Summary of 15¢ Inverts

In conclusion, there are 89 15¢ Inverts recorded, including one with original gum, two unused without gum, and 86 used. Of the 86 used stamps, three are Double Vignette, One Inverted (Scott 119c) varieties—NC06 (Fig. 32), NC09 (Fig. 35) and SW02 (Fig. 63)—leaving 83 used examples of Scott 119b. In the catalogue for the Robert Zoellner sale (Siegel Auction Galleries), 84 used Scott 119b stamps were reported, but one of these has been certified as a fake by The Philatelic Foundation. Of the surviving 15¢ Inverts, perhaps fifteen exist in sound condition, including those with a minor corner crease. A large number—more than half—have serious faults or repairs.

15¢ Double Vignette, One Inverted

Over the years the 15¢ Double Vignette, One Inverted has become a recognized variety of the invert error. It was first listed in the Scott Catalogue in 1973, replacing the Double Grill variety as Scott 119c. The concept of this error is so extraordinary, the three recorded examples should be examined in detail. A brief review of their discovery follows.

In the Siegel 1971 Rarities of the World sale, the first example ever described as a Double Vignette, One Inverted variety was offered—this is NC09 (Figure 35 in the census photos; shown in detail in Figure 87). It was described as follows:

The newly discovered error, hitherto unknown and unsuspected. So far, the only one on record. Expertly repaired and of Fine appearance, with P.F. Certificate (issued before discovery of the Double Center).

After the sale the stamp was submitted for a new certificate and was deemed by the P.F. to have only a “slight offset” of the vignette. The Siegel firm reoffered the stamp in its April 7, 1972, sale, and took issue with the P.F. opinion, stating:

we do not agree for a true offset occurs on the back not the face of a stamp. This error has been verified by a second example, which has a much clearer second impression, in which a portion of the design can be seen.

The second reported example was SW02 (Census Figure 63; shown in detail in Figure 88). This stamp was also considered by the P.F. to have an offset impression, not a second regular impression. However, the P.F. later reexamined the stamp and declared it to be a genuine double impression of the vignette, with the stronger impression inverted.

The third reported Double Vignette, One Inverted was a stamp sold in the Newbury sale (RAS 10/17/61) as a “normal” error. It reappeared in the Siegel 1983 Rarities of the World sale as the Double Vignette, One Inverted (Scott 119c) variety. It is NC06 (Census Figure 32; shown in detail in Figure 89).

To date, only these three stamps have been accepted as Scott 119c. A possible fourth example may be found as NW09, Figure 44.



Figure 87. NC09, the discovery copy of Scott 119c



Figure 88. SW02, first stamp certified by P.F. as Scott 119c



Figure 89. NC06, the ex-Newbury copy of Scott 119c

The Faint Vignette Impression — Offset or Printed?

When the early discoveries of Scott 119c were made, the P.F. and a number of specialists felt that the faint blue vignette impression was the result of ink offset between sheets, not a true double printing. To support the contention that the faint vignette was actually printed on the face of the stamp, it was argued that offset only occurs between the back of the overlaying sheet and the face of the underlying sheet. If this were always the case, then the faint impression quite visible on the face of the 15¢ Invert stamps could not be offset. The supporting argument continued that the vignette impression was upright and in proper orientation. If it were offset, then the vignette would be a mirror image of the actual design.

The photo files of Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries contain slides of the three Scott 119c stamps. The best image is of SW02, Figure 88, which is clear enough to allow careful examination of the entire impression. An enlarged photo is shown in Figure 90.



Figure 90.

Digitally strengthened image of faint vignette impression

Using Adobe Photoshop imaging software and high-resolution scans, the author set out to locate the precise area of the vignette that appears in the margin of the SW02 stamp shown in Figure 90. The author's method involved creating layers of the basic stamp and the faint vignette impression, then manipulating the vignette layer to locate its position on the fully printed vignette. These images in grayscale are shown in Figure 91 (the same images were made in full color).

The results of this imaging process are fairly conclusive for SW02. The faint vignette is a mirrored impression caused by offset, not printed from the plate. As rare and striking as this variety of the 15¢ Invert error is, it should not be considered a double impression in the true philatelic sense.

Figure 91.

OFFSET OR PRINTED?



The faint vignette is upright on the stamp (detail shown below)

The photos shown here provide strong evidence that the faint upright vignette on Scott 119c is actually a mirrored image, offset from another printed impression. There are two scenarios in which this might occur. Both are based on the two-step printing process, in which the blue vignette is printed on sheets of paper, which are stacked, dried and then printed with the red-brown frame.

Scenario One: Two sheets are printed with vignettes and stacked with one facing the other, causing mirrored offset on the face of the sheets. The face-down sheet is taken from the stack, turned over (and in the wrong direction), then printed with the frame.

Scenario Two: The sheet printed with the blue vignettes is folded over on itself and stacked. The sheet is unfolded and pressed out, then printed with the frame upside down during the second pass. The author favors this as the likely scenario.



The arc of the frame-line is from the upper left or right of the vignette.

The sharply angled corner frameline is from the lower left or right of the vignette.

MIRROR IMAGE



When the mirror image of the faint vignette impression is positioned at the right side, the dark shadow of the flag aligns perfectly with the arc and angled corner of the frameline.

This indicates that the impression resulted from offset.

As explained in the captions to Figure 91, the isolated vignette that is faintly impressed in the margin shows the distinct outer frameline features: a gentle arc along the top corner and a sharp angled corner at bottom. Looking at the complete vignette, it is obvious that the faint impression could only come from the right or left sides, not the middle.

When the faint image is compared with the full vignette, it can be seen that the left side of the vignette has a light background of sky and a horizon created by horizontal engraved lines. The most deeply engraved part of the vignette at left is a triangular-shaped flag. None of these features shows in the faint impression.

However, when the faint vignette is flipped into a mirror image of itself—something quite easy to do in Photoshop—and then positioned at the right side of the full vignette, corresponding to the frameline, there are very clear identical features. The design feature that stands out is the shadow of the flag in front of Columbus, which appears as a dark curved line in the vignette and in the faint impression. Nowhere on the left side do we find such a detail. The lower right groundwork also matches between the full vignette and the faint impression.

Therefore, if it is a mirror impression, it must be offset.

How could such a peculiar printing variety occur? Of the two possible scenarios explained in Figure 91, the author strongly favors the fold-over, Scenario Two. First, imagine a sheet freshly printed with blue vignettes. As it is placed on the stack, a few inches of the top or bottom of the sheet is folded over on itself. Judging from the angle of the offset on SW02, which is about -4° , the fold was probably across two or three rows at the top or bottom. Figure 92 shows how this might have appeared on the sheet.

The fold-over sheet would later be sent to the press for a second printing of the frame in red-brown. At that time, the assistant preparing sheets for the pressman would unfold the sheet and moisten it for the second print. Between this point and the actual printing, the sheet was turned 180° , resulting in the frame impression being inverted. Gumming, grilling and perforating all followed printing, so this particular Invert sheet—there were surely others—escaped notice throughout the rest of the process.

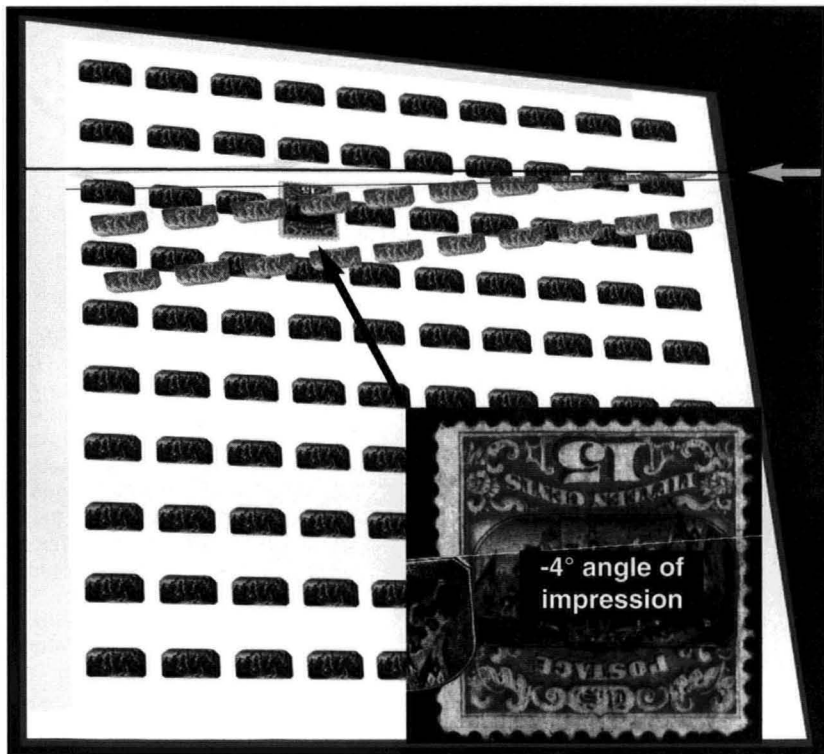


Figure 92.
Fold-over
at -4° causes
offset on SW02
stamp.

For the purpose
of demonstra-
tion, the stamp
is shown in po-
sition 24.

The Fate of Scott 119c

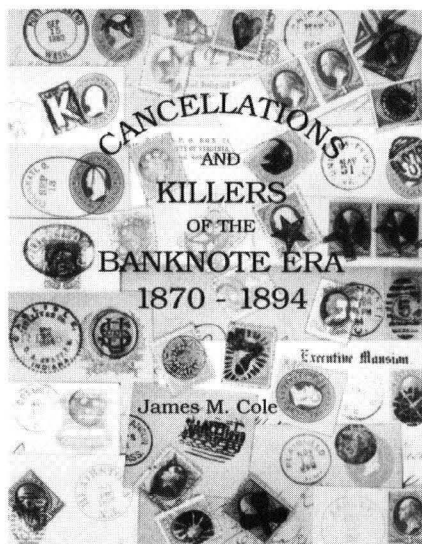
The author has presented evidence to support his theory that the three or four Double Vignette, One Inverted (Scott 119c) stamps were the result of an offset impression, probably due to a fold-over. That does not diminish their distinctiveness in relation to the other 15¢ Inverts, nor does the author feel that the Scott Catalogue listing should be changed. A footnote to the effect that the second faint impression resulted from offset might be in order. □

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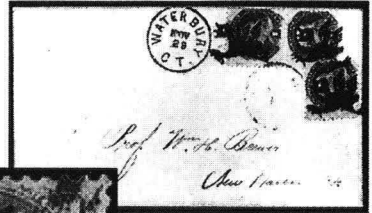
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THE SPECIAL PRINTINGS OF THE 1873 AND 1879 ISSUES

BY WILLIAM E. MOOZ

A special printing of the 1873 issue was ordered by the office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General and paid for during June 1875 and December 1875, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. (Note that the issue was referred to in the Post Office records as the 1870 issue, and this article will continue that identification from this point) This special printing was part of the program to make available to "stamp gatherers" examples of every stamp that had been issued for use in the U.S. since 1847. The program was begun in 1875, and was apparently designed to include all stamps which had been issued by the Post Office Department. As a result of this, all stamps from the 1847 issue through the then current issue (the 1870 issue) were included in the program.

This made sense for the issues from 1847 through 1869, which were no longer available, but for later issues, one must wonder what the purpose could have been. For example, one might be able to justify the special printings of the then current Departmental stamps, which could not be legally used for postage by the general public, and consequently were not generally available to the public in unused condition. These special printings were overprinted "SPECIMEN," which effectively barred their use for postage. One can also make a case for the special printing of the 1874 Newspaper and Periodical stamps, since the regular issues of these were, at the time, very difficult for the public to obtain as a result of the way in which they were used. But one must search for logic to explain why there was a special printing of the 1870 issue, which anyone could simply purchase by walking into any post office. Luff put it very well by saying,

It is not easy to understand why a special printing should be made of stamps which were in use at that time. As it was announced that the stamps would be without gum - and, therefore, unfinished - collectors could scarcely be expected to be eager purchasers, when perfect specimens might be obtained at post offices. Perhaps they were designed to meet orders from abroad. But, in all probability, the intention was to make complete the series of postal issues placed on sale. As has been said in an earlier paragraph, the transactions in these stamps were kept entirely apart from the regular business of the Department and this may account for this series being printed upon a special order instead of being taken from regular stock.¹

This resulted in the stamps which appear in the Scott catalog as #167 through #177, 180 and 181. One might expect that there were only a few of these stamps sold, not only since the regular issue could be obtained in any post office, but also for two other reasons. The first is that they were only available from the office of the 3rd Assistant Postmaster General in Washington, which meant that one had to request them either by mail or by applying in person. The second is that the stamps were presumably ungummed, and therefore probably not as appealing as the regular issue. Whether for one, two or all three of these reasons, it makes no difference, because there were very few of the stamps sold, and they are extremely rare. The 1999 Scott catalog shows values between \$2,250 and \$42,500.² We do not know how many of these stamps were sold, for reasons which will be explained later.

The results of the apparent direction for the special printing program to include all issues sold to the public did not end with the unnecessary special printing of the 1870 is-

¹John Luff, *The Postage Stamps of The United States* (New York: Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., 1902), page 352.

²Scott 1999 *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps* (Sidney, Ohio: Scott Publishing Company, 1998), page 31.

Including Specimens

June 30, 1875.

Ordinary Postage Stamps furnished for sale to the public during the quarter ending as above. The Continental Bank Note Co. of N.Y. contractors. - Bill approved July 6, 1875.

29,931,100	One-cent.
21,992,800	Two-cent
107,942,500	Three-cent.
, 363,180	Five-cent.
2,902,450	Six-cent.
, 391,400	Seven-cent.
1,445,690	Ten-cent.
428,175	Twelve-cent.
209,260	Fifteen-cent.
115,550	Twenty-four-cent.
112,890	Thirty-cent.
17,650	Thirty-cent.
<u>165,852,645</u>	Stamps in all, at 14.99 cents per thousand . . . <u>\$24,861.31</u>

(The above bill is inclusive of 10,000 stamps of each denomination (except the 5c) ordered as specimens and delivered to the Department for sale to Stamp gatherers)

Figure 1. Bill Book entry, special printing of 1873 issue, June 30, 1875

sue. For reasons which are presently unknown, but apparently are not uncommon in our government, this program, which might have been intended to be a simple "one shot" action, did not die, but assumed a life of its own. It is a reasonable supposition that the office of the 3rd Assistant Postmaster General had been given instructions to have available through that office copies of all stamps which had been issued by the P.O. Department. When these instructions were given, whoever issued them possibly meant for these stamps to be limited to the date of the directive. There is ample evidence that the impetus for the program was due, in part, to inquiries from "stamp gatherers" (see the text in Fig. 1) who could not obtain copies of stamps which were no longer in use, and that the government saw no harm in just printing more of these and selling them—especially since some of them were no longer good for postage, and the sales price would be face value. The stamps were ungummed, which may have emphasized the desire of the government to sell stamps at face value and then have them disappear into albums where they would require no postal service.

But if the intent of the original directive was to place a time limit on the special printing of stamps, it appears to have been forgotten. From what one can see in the records, it could be implied that the directive was interpreted something like this:

December 31, 1875.

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

Issue of 1850 (Current)	10,000	Two-cent (vermillion)	
	10,000	Five-cent	
	<u>20,000</u>	Stamps, at 14.99 each per thousand	\$ 3.00
Issue of 1850 (Historical)	10,000		
	10,000		
	<u>20,000</u>	Stamps, at \$1 per thousand	\$ 20.00
Issue of 1851:	10,000		
	10,000		
	<u>20,000</u>	Stamps, at 80 cents per thousand	\$ 16.00
Issue of 1873 (Official)	10,000		
	10,000		
	10,000		
	<u>10,000</u>	Stamps, at 80 cents per thousand	\$ 8.00
			<u>\$ 57.00</u>

Figure 2. Bill Book entry, special printing of 1873 issue, December 31, 1875

July 31, 1880.

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

500	1 cent		
1000	2 "	1870	
500	3 "		
500	5 "		
500	6 "		
500	10 "		
500	12 "		
500	15 "		
500	25 "		
500	30 "		
500	90 "		
6000			\$ 110.00

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

Figure 3. Payment record for special printing of 1879 issue, July 3, 1880

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Compiled by C.J. Peterson

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“The Post Office Department should have copies of all U.S. stamps available to the stamp collecting public, who will buy these at face value, but then put them into albums. The stamps need not be gummed for this reason. Stocks of all previously issued stamps must be kept on hand, and each time that a new stamp appears, a sufficient quantity of these shall be ordered without gum, so that collectors may obtain whatever they want from one place at one time.”

This interpretation would explain what we now see as history, and what was perhaps the first excursion of the Post Office Department into the retail stamp trade.

By 1879, the Continental Bank Note Company had been superseded by the American Bank Note Company as the contractor for supplying stamps to the Post Office Department, and in 1879 the then regular issue was ordered from them. Since the American Bank Note Company used soft porous paper, the regular issue stamps produced by them formed a “new” issue for collectors, which was designated the 1879 issue. But then a peculiar, though perhaps predictable, thing happened. Someone in the office of the 3rd Assistant Postmaster General must have dutifully placed an order for “specimens” of this printing. The person placing the order must have realized that the stamps had the identical appearance of the 1870 issue, and so only ordered 500 of each denomination, since there were plenty of unsold specimens of the 1870 issue on hand. This second set of stamps is cataloged as Scott #192-204, and the payment record for these is shown in Fig. 3.

In addition, whoever wrote the order did not differentiate in their description of these stamps in any way. The stamps were delivered on July 16, 1880, and it is almost certain that they were added to the stock of the 1870 stamps, since they looked the same, and since they were considered to be the same. Evidence that they were considered to be no different is easily seen in the Official circular, which was issued on March 27, 1875, and then updated and reissued on October 16, 1882, and on the press copies of the invoices of the sales of these stamps.³ In every case, they are described simply as “Issue of 1870, (current series),” without any discrimination. And, as a final bit of evidence, when the program ended, and the remainder stamps were counted on July 16, 1884, the remainders of the two sets of specimens were counted as one group. This could further confirm the idea that they were all combined after the receipt of the soft paper variety.

Of course, the fact that the remainders were counted together ruins any possibility of making an accounting of how many of each type was sold, and only allows an accounting of the sum of the two issues, as presented by Luff and in the Scott catalog. It would be possible to make an estimate of the sales of each issue if we had a complete set of the press copies of the invoices, but we unfortunately only have a truncated set, beginning on May 7, 1879 and ending on July 26, 1882. But using this limited resource we can possibly make some inferences.

Before doing that, it is instructive to think about how the later printing by the American Bank Note Company might have been handled, since this might give some clue as to the relative quantities of the two issues which were sold. We do have some information in this regard from some of the other stamps in this special printing series. As the supplies of some of the initially printed stamps began to run low, replacements for them were ordered by the Office of the 3rd Assistant Postmaster General. The timing of some of these reorders was such that replacements for the stamps which had been printed by either the Continental Bank Note Company or the National Bank Note Company were supplied by the American Bank Note Company. Examples of these include the two reprintings of the 1¢ 1869 issue, with bills paid on 8/3/81 and 3/31/82, the reprinting of the 5¢ 1865 Newspaper and Periodical stamp, with the bills paid on 2/28/81 and 2/29/84, the several

³*Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28, Press copies of Invoices, 1879, GSA, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.*

reprintings of both Carrier stamps, three of the 1874 Newspaper and Periodical stamps, and the reprinting of several of the Departmental stamps.

Two of these stamps are the best indicator of how the "new stock" might have been handled. These are the 1¢ War Department, paid for on 2/28/81, and the 4¢ 1874 Newspaper and Periodical stamp, paid for on 5/21/84. When the replacement stock of these stamps arrived, there was still some stock of the first printing by the Continental Bank Note Company on hand. The receiving clerk at the 3rd Assistant Postmaster General's office could have placed the new stock on top of the old stock and then new orders for these particular stamps would have been filled with stamps on the soft paper of the American Bank Note Company. However, no example of the soft paper 1¢ War Department stamp or the 4¢ N&P stamp has ever been found. Because of this, it has been a natural assumption that the new stock was placed under the existing, and older, stock.

This same thing could not have been the case with the 1870 issue delivered in 1879, simply because if they had been placed beneath the existing stock, none of them would have ever been sold, and they would be unknown to collectors today. Therefore, this new stock must have been combined with the remaining Continental stock in a way which resulted in the sale of stamps printed by American. It is tempting to suggest that the American stock was placed on top of the Continental stock, simply because that would be a natural thing to do, but it is more likely that the scrap from the Continental printing was first picked up, then the American sheets were laid on top of the full sheets of the Continental printing, and finally, the Continental scrap was put on top of the pile. If we assume that this is the case, we can estimate what the results would have been.

We are fortunate to have some records of the sales of these stamps, in the form of the Press Copies of the invoices. We have these records for the period from May 1879 to July 1882. Lacking, for these Continental and American printings, are records for the initial period of 1875 to May 1879, and the period from July 1882 until the program ended in July 1884.

The records show that the American Bank Note printing of 500 stamps of each denomination was delivered to the 3rd Assistant Postmaster General on July 16, 1880.⁴ This delivery date was 61 months after the June 1875 beginning of the program, and there were still 48 months till July 1884, when the program ended. If one simply apportions the sale of the Continental and American stamps according to the number of months that they were for sale, approximately 56% of the stamps sold should be Continental in origin, and 44% American. (This omits any effect of the sale of Continental scrap subsequent to the receipt of the American printing.) It is possible to look into this in a bit more detail. If the invoice records for the sale of the 1870 issue are examined for the period from May 1879 to July 16, 1880, we are sure that all sales were of the 1875 hard paper Continental printing. We find that during this period, there were sales of nine complete sets plus one stamp each of the 1¢, 5¢, 6¢, two stamps each of the 24¢, three of the 12¢, four of the 2¢, five each of the 7¢ and 10¢, 36 of the 3¢, and none of the 15¢, 30¢ or 90¢. It is clear that, in general, most of these stamps were sold in complete sets.

This same trend can be seen if the complete invoice records for the period from May 1879 to December 1882 are reviewed. The sales during this complete period included both the Continental and the American printings, and included the sale of 36 complete sets. Of the single stamps sold, there were only five each of the 15¢ and the 90¢, eight of the 6¢, nine of the 5¢, ten of the 10¢. Sales of the other denominations were higher, mostly because of large single purchases. For example, in October 1880, a single sale was made of 100 copies of the 1¢ stamp. Similarly, there was a sale of 50 copies of the 3¢ stamp in November 1881, and sales of 20, 23, and 28 of the 7¢ stamp.

⁴*Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28, Bill Book No. 3, Stamp Division, P.O.D., entry for July 31, 1880.*

If the sales of the 36 complete sets are graphed as a function of the date, the results appear in Figure 4. These data can now be used to estimate the number of sets which were sold during the complete period between June 1875 and the end of the program in July 1884. To do this, we construct the abscissa so that it ranges from June 1875 to July 1884.

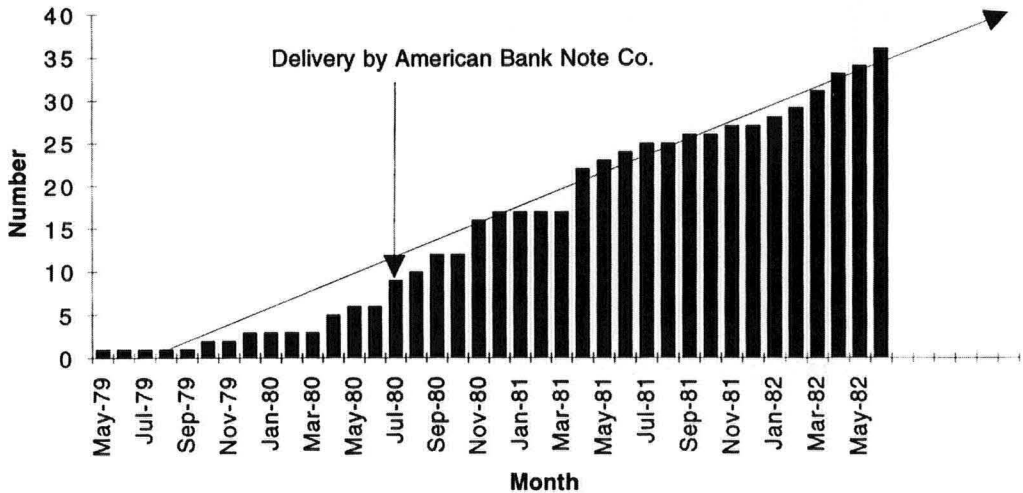


Figure 4. Cumulative Sale of Sets of 1870 Special Printing

Then we place the data from Figure 4 in the appropriate position on the abscissa and elevate it uniformly until a straight line from the origin of the graph conforms roughly to the slope of the cumulative sales. This is shown in Figure 5. Implicit in this operation is the assumption that the sales proceeded at a relatively uniform rate throughout the program, and that the resulting straight line on Figure 4 is a reasonable representation of the pattern of sales of complete sets. If we accept this, it implies that there was a total of approximately 100 sets sold, of which approximately 56 were sold prior to the delivery of the stamps from American, and 44 were sold thereafter. It would be reasonable to say that an almost equal number of sets of the Continental and American stamps were sold.

These data can be further used in combination with the Invoice data to estimate how many single stamps of each denomination printed by the two companies were sold. The process is illustrated in Table 1. It involves starting with the total number of stamps of each denomination which were sold, as listed in Luff. These numbers include both the Continental and American printings, and include stamps sold as part of complete sets and stamps sold singly. From this total, we subtract the 100 estimated sales as sets. Then we subtract the number of known individual denomination Continental stamps which were sold as singles for the period from May 1879 until the delivery of the American printing on July 16, 1880, and the assumed sales of the American stamps sold as singles from the date of their delivery until July 1882, the ending date for which we have invoice copies. The balance, after these subtractions, equals the number of Continental stamps which were sold from June 1875 till May 1879, and the number of American stamps which were sold from July 1882 until July 1884, the end of the program. Simply apportioning the total numbers of stamps to the relative time periods results in $\frac{2}{3}$ of the sales being Continental and $\frac{1}{3}$ being American. When everything is added, the results appear in the last column of Table 1. Of the total of 4,229 stamps sold from both printers, approximately 2,505 (or 59%) were Continentals and 1,724 (or 41%) were Americans. Once again, this does not

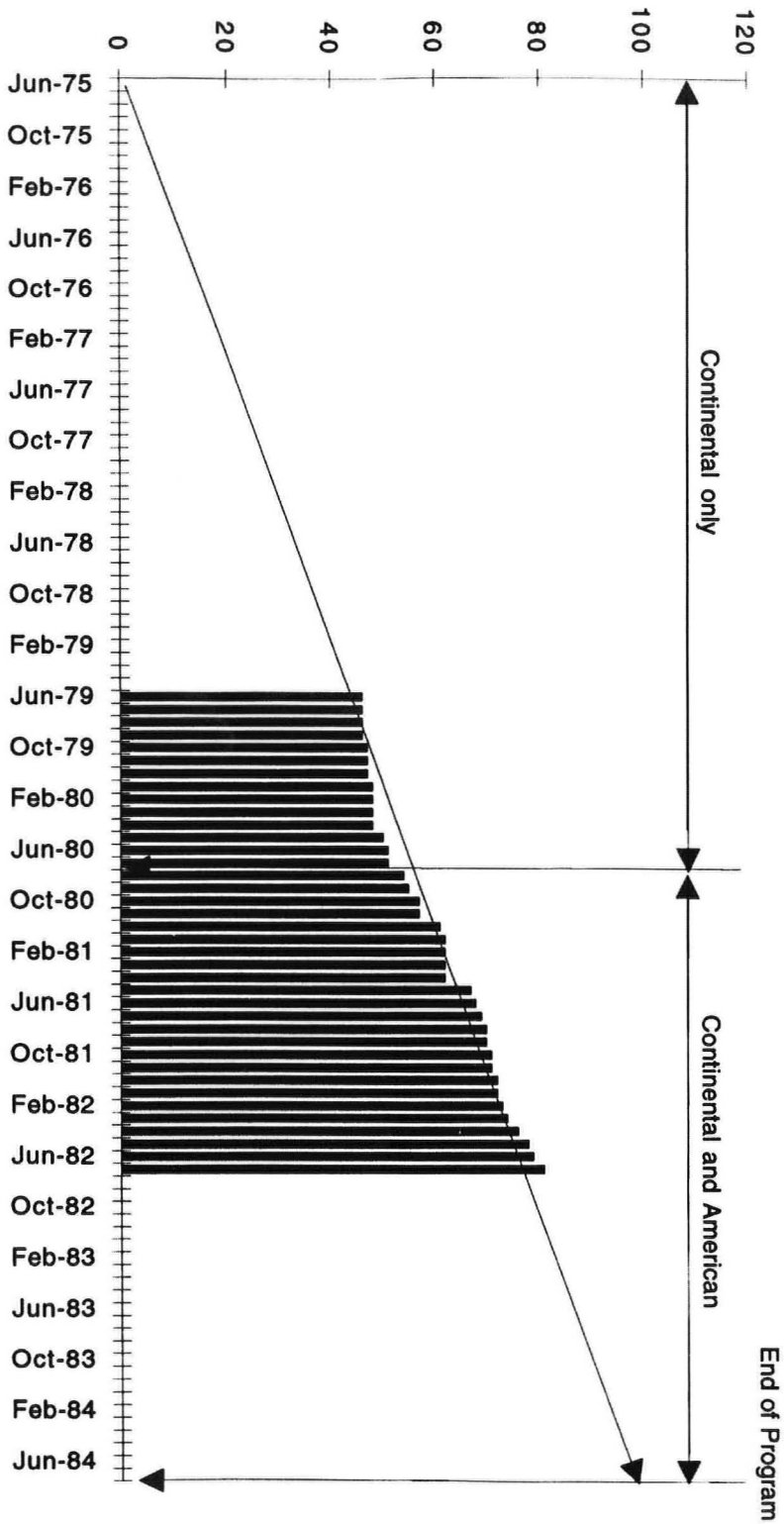


Figure 5. Estimated Total Sales of Sets of 1870 Special Printing

Table 1 - Sales of Continental and American Bank Note Co. issues							
			Number of	Subtract	Sales of singl	Subtract	Allocate
Denomination	Total Continen & American	Subtract 100 sets	Continental Sales of single	known Continental	from 7/16/80 to 7/30/82	Sales of singl from 7/16/80 to 7/30/82	two thirds Continental
	Sales (From Luff)	to get numb of single stamps sold	recorded in Press Copies May 79-July 82	single sales (C-D)	(Assumed to American)	(Assumed to be American)	
1¢	388	288	104	184	103	81	54
2¢ Brown	416	316	19	297	15	282	188
2¢ Vermillion	917	817	3	814	0	814	543
3¢	267	167	88	79	52	27	18
5¢	317	217	9	208	8	200	133
6¢	185	85	8	77	7	70	47
7¢	473	373	95	278	90	188	125
10¢	180	80	10	70	8	62	41
12¢	282	182	14	168	10	158	105
15¢	169	69	5	64	5	59	39
24¢	286	186	34	152	32	120	80
30¢	179	79	17	62	17	45	30
90¢	170	70	5	65	5	60	40
TOTAL	4229						

Table 1 - Estimate Chart

take into account any sales of Continental scrap subsequent to July 16, 1880, which would skew the results in favor of the Continental printing.

How do these estimates compare with other estimates made? In the Siegel auction catalog of the Zoellner sale, Scott Trepel included a census of these stamps on page 211, which is duplicated in Fig. 6. In this census, he records 583 copies of the Continental printing and 563 copies of the American printing, for a total of 1,146 copies extant. This amounts to 51% Continental and 49% American for the total of all denominations, which is not extremely different from the estimates derived above. The percentages for the various denominations do not closely reflect this distribution, and this may possibly be due to the above mentioned sale of Continental scrap.

Both the estimates above and the Trepel census data tend to indicate that the numbers of the Continental and American printings are very close to the same, in contrast to the notation in the Scott catalog that the American printing is scarcer.

Remember that the above analysis relied in part upon the assumption that the sheets of the American printing had been laid on top of the full sheets of the Continental printing when they were received on July 16, 1880. Suppose that instead, they had not. As mentioned, if they had been put on the bottom of the stacks of sheets, this article would not be written, since none of them would have been sold. But they might have been put in adjacent stacks, or, as suggested, they might have been put on top of the Continental stacks, and then broken sheets of the Continental stamps could have been laid on top of the piles, as previously described. In either of these cases, the results would have likely not been very dissimilar. These situations would have resulted in an increased number of the Continental stamps being sold over the numbers estimated above. Given the number of assumptions made in the above analysis, this is perfectly possible. However, the Trepel census would tend to confirm the derived numbers, and to reject the possibility of adjacent stacks of these stamps.

Allocate	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	%	%
one third America	Continental Singles	Continental Sets	Continental Sales	American Singles	American Sets	American Sales	Stamps Sold	Continental	American
27	158	50	208	130	50	180	388	54	46
94	207	50	257	109	50	159	416	62	38
271	546	50	596	271	50	321	917	65	35
9	106	50	156	61	50	111	267	58	42
67	142	50	192	75	50	125	317	61	39
23	55	50	105	30	50	80	185	57	43
63	220	50	270	153	50	203	473	57	43
21	51	50	101	29	50	79	180	56	44
53	119	50	169	63	50	113	282	60	40
20	44	50	94	25	50	75	169	56	44
40	114	50	164	72	50	122	286	57	43
15	47	50	97	32	50	82	179	54	46
20	45	50	95	25	50	75	170	56	44
		TOTAL	2505			1724	4229		

Left for philatelists to ponder is the tantalizing question posed by the Trepel census. With only between 4.69% and 57.69% of the stamps which were sold showing up in the census, one must wonder where the remainder of these rare and expensive stamps might be. As Trepel says, "Further research . . . is warranted." □

SPECIAL PRINTING <i>Denomination & Color (Scott No. for 1875 and 1880 Printings)</i>	NUMBER SOLD		1875 CONTINENTAL S.P.			1880 AMERICAN S.P.			BOTH <i>Survival Rate of # Sold</i>
	<i># Sold 1875/80 Printings</i>	<i>% of Total # (4229)</i>	<i># of Stamps Extant</i>	<i>As % of Continental Extant</i>	<i>As % of # Sold (Column 1)</i>	<i># of Stamps Extant</i>	<i>As % of American Extant</i>	<i>As % of # Sold (Column 1)</i>	
1c Ultramarine (167/192)	388	9.17	40	6.86	10.31	30	5.33	7.73	18.04
2c Dark Brown (168/193)	416	9.83	75	12.86	18.03	55	9.77	13.22	31.25
3c Blue Green (169/194)	267	6.31	40	6.86	14.98	20	3.55	7.50	22.48
6c Dull Rose (170/195)	185	4.37	35	6.00	18.92	30	5.33	16.22	35.14
7c Reddish Vermilion (171/196)	473	11.18	50	8.58	10.57	100	17.76	21.14	31.71
10c Pale Brown (172/197)	180	4.25	40	6.86	22.22	30	5.33	16.67	38.89
12c Dark Violet (173/198)	282	6.66	60	10.29	21.28	75	13.32	26.60	47.88
15c Bright Orange (174/199)	169	3.99	40	6.86	23.67	30	5.33	17.75	41.42
24c Dull Purple (175/200)	286	6.76	90	15.44	31.47	75	13.32	26.22	57.69
30c Greenish Black (176/201)	179	4.23	40	6.86	22.35	40	7.10	22.35	44.70
90c Violet Carmine (177/202)	170	4.01	40	6.86	23.53	40	7.10	23.53	47.06
2c Carmine Vermilion (180/203)	917	21.68	23*	3.94	2.51	20*	3.55	2.18	4.69
5c Bright Blue (181/204)	317	7.49	10*	1.71	3.15	18*	3.20	5.68	8.83
Totals	4229		583		13.78	563		13.31	

Figure 6. Census of Extant Copies of 1873 and 1875 Special Printings (from the Robert A. Siegel sale of the Robert Zoellner Collection, 8-10 October 1998, courtesy of Scott R. Trepel)

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COLOR CANCELLATION ON U. S. OFFICIAL STAMPS, 1873-1874

ALAN C. CAMPBELL

(continued from *Chronicle* 180:306)

Purple

Purple is an important color of canceling ink for official stamps because it was used throughout 1878 in Washington, D.C. With this notable exception, it was never used in any large cities. In theory, it should be possible to find the telltale quartered circle of 1878 D.C. on all values of the Continental printing except for the \$10 and \$20 State (not postally used after 1874)²² and the 15¢, 24¢, and 30¢ Agriculture (rendered obsolete in 1875 by a change in postal regulations, making it possible for the Commission to send seedlings through the mail free). And indeed, the only values not recorded so far with a purple cancellation is the \$5 State, which may no longer have been in use by that date. After 1877, purple canceling ink was also extensively used with the molded vulcanized rubber handstamps purchased by small town postmasters. In Figure 4 we illustrate an early example postmarked Canton, Ohio July 11, 1877, with multiple strikes of an outlined negative star in circle on a reconstructed block of eight of the 3¢ Post Office. This design, which would prove to be one of the most popular commercially produced, is struck in a shade identical to that used through most of 1878 in Washington, D.C. In Figure 5, courtesy of Rollin C. Huggins, Jr., we show the same device crisply struck in the same purple ink on a Bureau of Education reply envelope, postmarked Northampton, Mass., Oct. 13, 1877. According to Bond, Northampton, Mass. had been chosen along with Washington, D.C. for government-sponsored trials of purple canceling ink in 1878, but this cover confirms that purple ink was already being utilized there.²³ It is a great frustration not to be able to do this beau-

²²According to the original announcement for the official stamps, the four State dollar values were intended for use on dispatch bags. Luff cited an 1875 letter stating that the \$10 and \$20 State values were no longer used on packages, but were used as vouchers (and subsequently destroyed) to settle the departments account at the main post office, where the "heavy mails" were sent directly. Such a use parallels that of the later high value newspaper stamps. The \$10 State postally used is an extremely rare stamp, and I have never seen a postally used copy of the \$20. More of the \$5 stamps were used than the higher values—surviving copies usually have heavy blob cancels—which explains the higher catalogue value for this stamp unused. The \$2 State continued to be used into the 1880s, and can be found with the undated double oval Washington, D.C. third class cancel as well as the double oval "New York, U. S. A." third class foreign mail postmark. How these four impressive stamps were actually used remains a great mystery, since only a single package front to Stuttgart, Germany (franked with a \$2 and many other State official stamps, postmarked New York, 1882) has survived. Even this piece is enigmatic. Bearing a purple penalty handstamp, it probably originated in Washington, D. C. but bears no postmark from there. The stamps were presumably applied by the dispatch agent in New York, who was aware that penalty franks were not accepted in lieu of overseas postage, although technically after April 1, 1879 official stamps were no longer valid by UPU regulations. Judging from surviving off-cover official stamps with postmarks and obliterations known to have been used by the NYPO on foreign mail, only the Department of State seems to have stubbornly refused to cease using its official stamps on overseas mail. But the question remains, did the dispatch bags originating in Washington, D. C. have mailing tags, and could some of the surviving State dollar values with blue double oval or red diamond receiving handstamps have originated on these tags, or from the voucher books? The State dollar values with receiving handstamps seem to survive in quantities disproportionate to the lower values, but this may be a misperception, since favor sets were probably assembled complete and later broken up, with most of the dollar values certainly being saved.

²³Bond, *op. cit.*, p. 376.



Figure 4. Canton, Ohio 1877 rubber duplex canceler struck in purple.

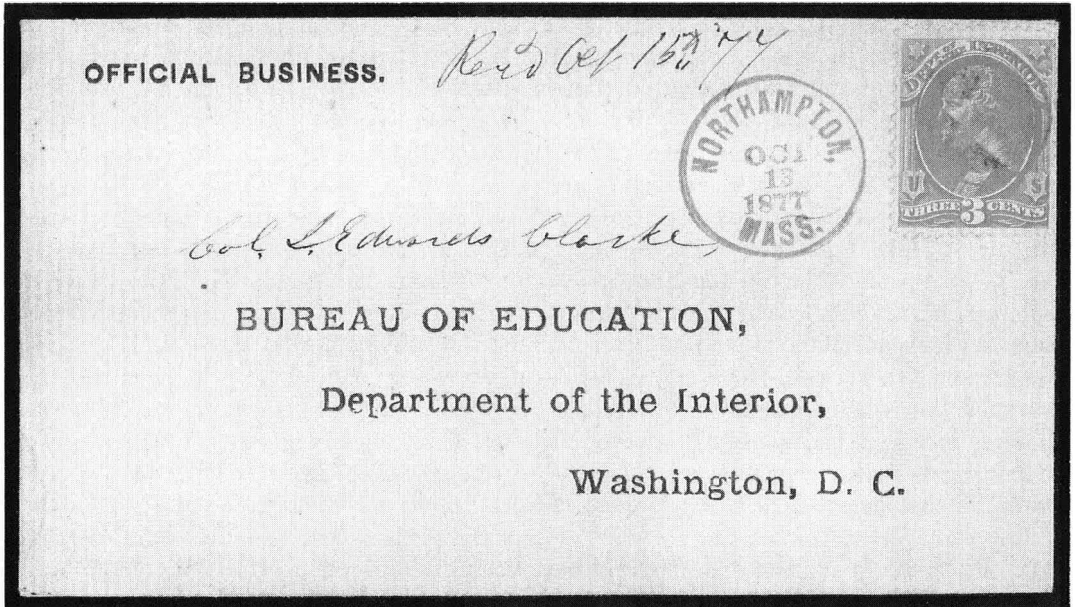


Figure 5. Northampton, Mass. 1877 rubber duplex canceler struck in purple.

tiful cover justice by illustrating it in color, especially considering how rare it is to find an official stamp on cover with a fancy cancellation struck in any color other than black. Purple strikes of similar rubber handstamps account for the catalogue listing for purple cancellations on most values of the soft paper American printings. Prior to 1877, purple canceling was seldom used anywhere, but to the good fortune of official collectors, it was employed in Long Branch, New Jersey in 1876, where the mail from President Grant's "Summer White House" was posted. All Executive values but the 2¢ have been found with the Long Branch purple star.

Violet and Magenta

To discuss these problematic shades, we must open with a preamble on the nomenclature of colors. The catalogue has long given separate listings for purple, violet, magenta cancellations, but it is difficult to pin down exactly what these designations refer to. The dictionaries I consulted were in general agreement, and I cite from the *Oxford Unabridged Dictionary*: purple - "the name of a color now applied to a mixture of red and blue in various proportions...approaching on the one side to crimson and on the other to violet"; violet - "a purplish blue color resembling that of the violet"; magenta - "a brilliant crimson aniline dye" (crimson being a "deep red, somewhat inclining towards purple"). R.H. White, in a brave attempt to standardize the naming of stamp colors, adapted the Munsell system for his color charts and placed violet on the blue side of purple. However, he did not use the word "magenta" to describe the reddish purples, and his use of the term "purplish blue" instead of "violet blue" or "blue violet" is infuriatingly inconsistent. Stamp collectors in this country, though, tend to understand color names based on the Scott catalogue descriptions, with the stamps themselves serving as color chips, e.g., "purple" is the color of the 6¢ Columbian, whereas "magenta" is the color of the 8¢ Columbian. "Purple" described the color of the 24¢ Bank Note regular issue, the Justice official stamps, and the 3¢ value of the first Bureau issue. Starting with the second Bureau issue, "violet" became the new designation for this color. "Violet," with various modifiers, was extensively used to describe the color of the 3¢ commemoratives of the 1930s and 1940s, with those few stamps designated "purple" having a more reddish tinge.

When it comes to canceling inks, though, we run into trouble. In the specialized catalogue, "purple" must refer to the Washington, D.C. 1878 color, since purple cancellations are listed for all values of the Executive stamps except the 2¢, and all values of State through the \$2. "Violet" has always been on the blue side of "purple", yet on departmentals, the few cancellations we find bluer than the D.C. 1878 "purples" are usually on Post Office and War stamps. There are twenty listings for violet cancellations in the catalogue, seventeen of which appeared in 1924, the other three having been added before 1931. The listings for violet cancellations on seven values of Navy and seven values of Justice, two departments whose stamps were narrowly distributed, must have been based on copies with the characteristic 1878 Washington D.C. canceling ink. Eugene Costales was editor of the Scott Specialized Catalogue when these listings first appeared, and given his reputation, I hesitate to suggest that he could have been misled by the color of the underlying stamp reading through the transparent canceling ink, and therefore designated some strikes of the D.C. 1878 color as "purple" and others as "violet," or that he could have called stronger, fresher strikes "violet" and weaker, faded strikes "purple." Perhaps he never examined the listing copies himself, but relied on outside sources who had not "synchronized" their understanding of these shades. A clue that there was some confusion is that the original 1924 listing for the 12¢ Navy with a "violet" cancellation was changed to "purple" in 1927, in this field the only example of a delisting to be encountered.

My first instinct was to reclassify the D.C. 1878 cancellations as "violet," which would be more in keeping with how the Scott nomenclature of this color has evolved, and

would have left us the useful term “purple” to describe the slightly more reddish cancellations we do find, which are often mistakenly identified as magenta. But the dean of scholars on official stamps, Rollin C. Huggins, Jr., cautioned me against this, arguing that the existing nomenclature was too well-entrenched. I have heeded his advice, and lumped the results of my survey under the single designation “purple.” There was no consensus of opinion among the collectors and dealers I talked to, and the distinction between “violet” and “purple” cancellations has become so hopelessly muddled over the years, I believe that these terms can never be straightened out.

We do find on Justice stamps a very distinctive type of canceling ink of unknown origin, a pastel purplish pink in color, often watery in consistency, with some strikes resembling a formless stain or a brushed smear. This same color of ink was also used with a three ring target at Plattsburgh and West Point, New York. This vivid hue, which may derive from the aniline dye fuchsin, is sometimes described as “red” by dealers, but it is quite different from the orange-reds of Washington, D.C. and New York, N. Y. It is also found on Treasury, Post Office, and War official stamps, but rarely on Navy. From the limited pack of terms the catalog allows us, “magenta” will have to do, although “pink” would be more descriptive, since we also occasionally see deeper, more saturated shades of reddish purple or crimson which must also be designated “magenta.”²⁴

Green

The most prestigious of all color cancellations on official stamps, and the one commanding the highest catalogue premium, is of course green. Blue-green cancellations on Post Office and Navy official stamps are sometimes offered by optimistic dealers at greatly inflated prices. Sadly, true green cancellations are so seldom encountered that some specialists who have not yet obtained a reference copy or do not fully trust their perception of color are prone to treat them with great skepticism. Green cancellations are occasionally found on various values of the Treasury Department. Years ago, a dealer claimed to have seen an official cover from Owensborough, Kentucky with a green cancellation, but I have never been able to substantiate this claim. It could be true, for there was an Assessor’s Office in Owensborough. Most of the green cancellations I have seen are partial, indistinct strikes, the design of the device (assuming there was one) not being legible. The catalogue does list a green cancellation on the 3¢ Agriculture stamp, and I firmly believe that I own a copy, yet the last time I exhibited this stamp it was specifically challenged by a well-known international judge, on the basis that the underlying golden yellow color of the stamp was so rich that it was impossible to tell whether the canceling ink in and of itself had the proper equal admixture of blue and yellow pigments to qualify as a true green!

Yellow

Yellow, the most ineffectual and rarest of all canceling inks, is not listed for any of the large Bank Note regular issues, and nobody in their right mind would hold out hope of finding a yellow cancellation on an official stamp. If a contrarian postmaster out in the middle of nowhere were still using such an ink in the 1870s, even he might have second thoughts about using it to cancel a Post Office Department stamp going out on official business. Incredibly enough, though, Clyde Jennings, owner of the world’s supply of yellow cancellations on U. S. stamps (eight, as of 1984, including four on Bank Note regular issues) reported finding one on a 15¢ Navy stamp: a socked-on-the-nose open six bar grid, bright yellow, 13mm. in diameter, source unknown.²⁵ Now, Navy Department covers are

²⁴The specialized catalogue at one time did have listings for “pink” cancellations on the 1847s, but these were eliminated after it was concluded that they were actually weaker strikes of a distinctive magenta ink used in Chicago.

²⁵Clyde Jennings, “Just Allowin’ as How, Maybe . . .,” *The American Philatelist*, May 1984, p. 497.

known from a few relatively obscure places, including Warrington, Florida and Mare Island, California, but most of their official stamps were applied at naval bases along the Eastern seaboard, with the letters posted at large cities whose postmarking practices during this era have been well-studied. Rare cancellations from tiny towns are almost never found on these stamps. Mr. Jennings' stamp, which by all rights should not exist, must have been the basis for the new catalogue listing in 1995. As the original owner of the 24¢ Interior soft with a blue cancellation, Mr. Jennings was the first to assemble a complete set of the official stamps with color cancellations. Fittingly, this collection was sold intact to Rollin C. Huggins, who had supplied him the last stamp he needed, a 10¢ War soft.

Brown

Brown cancellations are listed in the specialized catalogue for a few random official stamps. Over the years, I have come across the occasional cancellation which appeared to be a washed out or oxidized changeling from red, but I am not certain that I know what a genuine brown cancellation should look like. Would it be a deep sepia ink derived from squids? Willard, in his magisterial work on the 2¢ red brown of 1883-1887, wrote about canceling inks: "In order of frequency of use from our experience we list: 1. Black, 2. Magenta, 3. Brown, 4. Purple, 5. Violet, 6. Red, 7. Green, 8. Orange."²⁶ Accordingly, the catalogue premium in 1998 for a brown cancellation on #210 is a princely 30¢! As printed, Willard's list is incomprehensible to me, both the commonness attributed to brown, and the complete absence of a listing for blue. It makes a lot more sense if we assume a typographical error was made, and substitute blue for brown in the color ranking. Joe H. Crosby agrees with this revised ranking, and proved that the commonness ascribed to brown was a mistake with a citation from an earlier article by Willard stating that brown cancellations on No. 210 are not known.²⁷

Fraudulent Color Cancellations

Except for red and green, the premiums assigned to color cancellations on official stamps in the specialized catalogue are too negligible to have provided much incentive to the fakers. Several years back, I predicted that given the high demand for used official stamps and their relative scarcity, combined with the glut of unsalable unused copies without gum or off-center, we would soon start to see fake cancellations on official stamps.²⁸ This has already come to pass, and the forgers have decided that while they were at it, they might as well try to fob off on us some pretty color cancels. The ones I have seen, mostly red, are technically quite good, in that a variety of not-too-fancy designs were used, weakly struck off-center, in a shade that was not too brilliant—in short, they were not so impressive as to immediately arouse suspicion. But anytime we encounter red cancellations on high value Agriculture stamps, or on soft paper American stamps printed long after red ink ceased being used on Washington, D.C. local mail, a closer look is warranted. Most of those I have seen had an uncharacteristically uneven distribution of ink, stronger towards the perimeter of the strike and very faint in the interior. I have also seen blue cut corks on the 6¢ Executive and the 15¢ State, both of which of course cannot be legitimate, as well as unnaturally vivid greens and magentas on various other low value official stamps, especially on the remaindered soft paper stamps which are so cheap unused there is no risk financially to the faker. Insufficient philatelic research rather than technical limitations has foiled the fakers so far. In Europe, hundred-year-old ink pots have been revitalized to create fraudulent postal markings, and the renaissance of calligraphy has made inks formulat-

²⁶Edward L. Willard, *The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887* (New York: H.L. Lindquist, Inc., 1970), Vol. II, p. 2.

²⁷Edward L. Willard, "Notes on U. S. No. 210," *The American Philatelist*, Vol. 59, No. 7 (April 1946), p. 592.

²⁸Alan C. Campbell, "The Scarcity of Used United States Official Stamps", *Chronicle*, Vol. 47, No. 1 (Whole No. 165)(February 1995), p.47.

ed with authentic iron oxide pigments widely available. Overall, though, fraudulent color cancellations on official stamps are not yet a significant problem. The greater risk is in buying blue-green cancellations misrepresented as green, or magenta/crimson cancellations misrepresented as red.

Color Cancellation Census

To begin with a common frame of reference, I sent to all the participants a color photocopy of selected stamps from my own collection, with each color of canceling ink shown on the stamps of as many different departments as possible.²⁹ I identified the Washington, D.C. 1878 cancels as "violet," and the 1879-80 cancels as "indigo," and the Plattsburgh, N.Y. 1879 cancels as "magenta". I have since concluded that the distinction between purple and violet is no longer viable. In the following table, for each of the current catalogue listings, I have entered the year date when the listing first appeared, while new discoveries are listed as "NEW." Those preexisting entries that were not found in this survey are shown shaded. I have lumped all reports of violet and purple cancellations under the single designation "purple," and in totaling the original listings not found in this survey, I did not include those for "violet." The reports of indigo cancellations have all been confirmed as being from the devices typically used in Washington, D.C. in 1879-1880.

I did not tabulate the number of copies found of each color cancellation, since I did not intend for the results of this survey to influence the premiums assigned by the catalogue, which for the most part seem to be fair and reasonable. The philatelic writer still actively collecting does not want to write too enthusiastically about his neglected field and then find prices rising overnight. If this article generates new catalogue listings, that will at least curb the prices some dealers can ask for unlisted varieties represented as "discovery copies." Except for the new indigo category, most of the new listings are based either on a single discovery copy, or a second confirming one. In addition to the basic colors of canceling ink recognized by the catalogue, many intermediate shades such as orange-red and blue-green can also be found, especially on the widely distributed Post Office official stamps, whose neutral background makes even subtle differences easy to see. These shades will become of increasing interest to specialists once their towns of origin are identified.

The 1998 edition of the specialized catalogue has 338 entries for color cancellations on O1-O120, but 47 listings were not found in this census (aside from the 20 obsolete listings for "violet"). But 21 of the listings not found are "magenta" cancellations, and I suspect that the original understanding of this color was much broader, whereas I chose to define it narrowly as a specific intense crimson shade. Another 17 listings not found are for various color cancellations on soft paper printings, and I would attribute this partly to a shift over the years in the classification of the problematic Continental intermediate papers. I am also extremely skeptical of three of the original listings, based on our new understanding of how the official stamps were distributed. Magenta and green canceling inks were never used in this period in Washington, D.C. or New York, so the listings for green on O58 and magenta on O57 and O60 are highly dubious and must have derived from misperceptions, changelings or fakes. In fact, Rollin C. Huggins Jr. reports that what was probably the listing copy for the magenta cancel on O57 is a fake, the "cancellation" having been applied to obscure a "SPECIMEN" overprint. So all considered, the results of this census are relatively accurate and complete, and they conversely confirm the validity of the current catalogue listings. For the official stamps printed by Continental in the basic

²⁹I am indebted to Ralph Ebner, Rollin C. Huggins Jr., Lester Lanphear III, Robert L. Markovits, Dr. David Lobdell, Theodore Lockyear, Dr. Dennis Schmidt, and Steven Sims for participating in this census. In addition to the stamps in my own collection, I have also included a few items which I vividly recall having seen in dealer's stocks over the years, but regretfully neglected to purchase.

cancellation shades of blue, purple, and red, only three listed items were not found in this census: O12 blue favor cancel, O22 red cancel, O67 blue favor cancel.

The 119 discovery copies which came to light in the census break down as follows: 5 new listings in blue, 19 in purple (although 9 of these reclassify the obsolete "violet" listings), 19 in red, 22 in magenta, 25 in the new "indigo" category, 6 in green, 14 in ultramarine, and 7 in brown. If we set aside the obsolete "violet" listings and the three suspicious items that deserve to be delisted, this represents a 38% increase in the total number of catalogue entries, from 315 to 434, clearly confirming that an exercise such as this was long overdue. Naturally, I would welcome hearing from other collectors who believe they own the discovery copies of other color cancellations on official stamps not reported in this census. Good color photocopies would be useful, so that I can confirm the shade designations before reporting to the catalogue editor.

Conclusions

1. A note should be placed in the catalogue, explaining that the listings for blue cancellation on Executive and State official stamps are for the double oval receiving hand-stamps used on favor presentation sets. The listings for blue town postmarks on some of these stamps are redundant and should be eliminated. A similar proviso should be included to explain the new listings for red cancellations on the \$5 and \$20 State.

2. A new term, "indigo," should be introduced to describe the distinctive canceling ink used in Washington, D.C. in 1879-1880. In this census, 25 different official stamps were reported canceled with this ink: O12, O25, O27, O31, O35, O37, O48, O49, O50, O51, O52, O58, O59, O60, O61, O62, O66, O73, O74, O75, O76, O77, O86, O107, O109. Certainly this number will grow in the coming years.

3. All listings for "violet" cancellations on official stamps should be eliminated, as the difference between "violet" and "purple" has been so muddled over the years that there is no longer a meaningful distinction. Wherever for a particular stamp a "violet" cancellation was previously listed but not a purple one, the "violet" listing should be converted to purple: O4, O25, O26, O29, O31, O34, O35, O37, O39.

4. For the original range of color cancellations listed in the catalogue (blue, purple, red, magenta, green, ultramarine, brown and yellow), new entries should be made for the following stamps:

Blue: O7, O9, O13, O60, O102.

Purple: O2, O11, O42, O43, O80, O96, O101, O106, O118, O120.

Red: O4, O5, O6, O12, O19, O24, O30, O31, O34, O43, O45, O69 (diamond received), O71 (diamond received), O76, O80, O82, O85, O87, O92, O93, O108.

Magenta: O17, O24, O25, O26, O28, O29, O30, O31, O32, O33, O34, O37, O38, O81, O83, O86, O87, O90, O91, O111, O116, O117.

Green: O72, O74, O77, O79, O81, O82.

Ultramarine: O17, O18, O26, O27, O37, O38, O40, O75, O80, O85, O89, O90, O92, O116.

Brown: O24, O49, O50, O72, O77, O97, O117.

5. Delist the following impossible color cancellations: green on O58, magenta on O57 and O60.

Acknowledgments

Roger D. Curran, the editor of *U. S. Cancellation Club News*, Rollin C. Huggins Jr. and Lester C. Lanphear III were kind enough to review an earlier draft of this article, and I am grateful for their suggestions and comments. Joe H. Crosby, John Donnes, Lester C. Lanphear III and Dr. Dennis Schmidt provided important leads in my research. Mr. Lanphear constructed the table showing the census results. Finally, I am deeply indebted to the fellow collectors who participated in the census: Ralph Ebner, Rollin C. Huggins Jr., Lester C. Lanphear III, Dr. David Lobdell, Theodore Lockyear, Robert L. Markovits, Dr. Dennis Schmidt and Steve Sims. □

Table 1 - Research Results

Item			Year each color established									
Scott Cat. No.	Value	Dept.	Blue	Purple	Red	Magenta	Indigo	Violet	Green	Ultra marine	Brown	Yellow
Continental Bank Note Company 1873 thin hard paper												
O1	1¢	Agr.	1924	1926	1995	1926						
O2	2¢	Agr.	1924	NEW	1924	1928						
O3	3¢	Agr.	1924	1924	1924	1924		1924	1924			
O4	6¢	Agr.	1924	NEW	NEW	1924		1924				
O5	10¢	Agr.	1926	1926	NEW							
O6	12¢	Agr.	1926	1924	NEW							
O7	15¢	Agr.	NEW	1927								
O8	24¢	Agr.		1924								
O9	30¢	Agr.	NEW		1924							
O10	1¢	Exec.	1930	1926	1924							
O11	2¢	Exec.	1924	NEW	1924							
O12	3¢	Exec.	1936	1924	NEW		NEW					
O13	6¢	Exec.	NEW	1924								
O14	10¢	Exec.	1927	1924								
O15	1¢	Inter.	1926	1924	1931					1929		
O16	2¢	Inter.	1933	1924	1924							
O17	3¢	Inter.	1924	1924	1929	NEW			1924	NEW		
O18	6¢	Inter.	1924	1924	1931					NEW		
O19	10¢	Inter.	1932	1924	NEW							
O20	12¢	Inter.	1924	1924	1924	1930						
O21	15¢	Inter.	1929	1924								
O22	24¢	Inter.	1926	1924	1930							
O23	30¢	Inter.	1924	1924	1924							
O24	90¢	Inter.	1926	1924	NEW	NEW					NEW	
O25	1¢	Justice	1924	NEW	1924	NEW	NEW	1924				
O26	2¢	Justice	1924	NEW	1924	NEW		1924		NEW		
O27	3¢	Justice	1924	1924	1930	1926	NEW		1924	NEW		
O28	6¢	Justice	1924	1924	1930	NEW		1924				
O29	10¢	Justice	1924	NEW		NEW		1924				
O30	12¢	Justice	1924	1924	NEW	NEW						
O31	15¢	Justice	1924	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	1930				
O32	24¢	Justice	1924	1963	1924	NEW		1926				
O33	30¢	Justice	1926	1924	1926	NEW						
O34	90¢	Justice	1927	NEW	NEW	NEW		1924				

(continued)

Table 1 - Research Results

Item			Year each color established									
Scott Cat. No.	Value	Dept.	Blue	Purple	Red	Magenta	Indigo	Violet	Green	Ultra marine	Brown	Yellow
O35	1¢	Navy	1927	NEW	1924		NEW	1924				
O36	2¢	Navy	1927	1926	1924			1924	1935			
O37	3¢	Navy	1924	NEW	1924	NEW	NEW	1924		NEW		
O38	6¢	Navy	1924	1926	1929	NEW		1924	1935	NEW		
O39	7¢	Navy	1935	NEW	1924	1924		1924				
O40	10¢	Navy	1927	1930	1930			1924		NEW	1933	
O41	12¢	Navy	1926	1927	1924	1924						
O42	15¢	Navy	1924	NEW	1930							1995
O43	24¢	Navy	1924	NEW	NEW	1926			1930			
O44	30¢	Navy	1924	1930	1926			1930				
O45	90¢	Navy		1930	NEW							
O47	1¢	P.O.	1924	1924	1924	1924						
O48	2¢	P.O.	1924	1924	1924	1930	NEW					
O49	3¢	P.O.	1924	1924	1924	1924	NEW	1924	1924	1927	NEW	
O50	6¢	P.O.	1924	1924	1924	1924	NEW				NEW	
O51	10¢	P.O.	1924	1924	1924	1926	NEW					
O52	12¢	P.O.	1924	1924	1924	1926	NEW					
O53	15¢	P.O.	1924	1924		1924						
O54	24¢	P.O.	1924	1924	1928							
O55	30¢	P.O.	1924	1924	1926	1933						
O56	90¢	P.O.	1924	1924		1924						
O57	1¢	State	1930	1924	1924							
O58	2¢	State	1924	1924	1924		NEW		1930			
O59	3¢	State	1926	1924	1924	1924	NEW					
O60	6¢	State	NEW	1924	1924		NEW					
O61	7¢	State	1930	1924	1924		NEW					
O62	10¢	State	1930	1924	1924	1931	NEW					
O63	12¢	State	1924	1924	1926							
O64	15¢	State	1927	1924	1924							
O65	24¢	State	1924	1924	1926							
O66	30¢	State	1930	1924	1924		NEW					
O67	90¢	State	1929	1924	1924							
O68	2\$	State	1924	1934	1924							
O69	5\$	State	1929		NEW							
O70	10\$	State	1929									
O71	20\$	State	1929		NEW							

(continued)

Table 1 - Research Results

Item			Year each color established									
Scott Cat. No.	Value	Dept.	Blue	Purple	Red	Magenta	Indigo	Violet	Green	Ultra marine	Brown	Yellow
O72	1¢	Trea.	1924	1924	1924	1924			NEW		NEW	
O73	2¢	Trea.	1924	1924	1924	1924	NEW					
O74	3¢	Trea.	1924	1924	1924	1924	NEW		NEW	1928		
O75	6¢	Trea.	1924	1924	1924	1924	NEW		1929	1928		
O76	7¢	Trea.	1924	1924	NEW		NEW		1924	NEW		
O77	10¢	Trea.	1926	1924	1933	1924	NEW		NEW	1930	NEW	
O78	12¢	Trea.	1924	1924	1928				1933			
O79	15¢	Trea.	1924	1926	1924				NEW			
O80	24¢	Trea.	1924	NEW	NEW	1926				NEW		
O81	30¢	Trea.	1924	1930	1924	NEW			NEW			
O82	90¢	Trea.	1926	1924	NEW	1924			NEW		1934	
O83	1¢	War	1924	1924	1927	NEW						
O84	2¢	War	1924	1924	1924	1926						
O85	3¢	War	1924	1924	NEW	1924			1937	NEW		
O86	6¢	War	1924	1924	1926	NEW	NEW					
O87	7¢	War	1924	1924	NEW	NEW						
O88	10¢	War	1924	1924								
O89	12¢	War	1924	1924	1924	1926				NEW		
O90	15¢	War	1924	1924	1924	NEW				NEW		
O91	24¢	War	1924	1924		NEW						
O92	30¢	War	1924	1924	NEW	1926				NEW		
O93	90¢	War	1924	1924	NEW	1924						
American Bank Note Company 1879 soft porous paper												
O94	1¢	Agr.										
O95	3¢	Agr.	1924	1924								
O96	1¢	Inter.	1928	NEW								
O97	2¢	Inter.	1924	1924	1924						NEW	
O98	3¢	Inter.	1924	1924	1924							
O99	6¢	Inter.	1929	1924	1925							
O100	10¢	Inter.	1926	1924								
O101	12¢	Inter.		NEW								
O102	15¢	Inter.	NEW	1929								
O103	24¢	Inter.	1998									

(continued)

Table 1 - Research Results

Item			Year each color established									
Scott Cat. No.	Value	Dept.	Blue	Purple	Red	Magenta	Indigo	Violet	Green	Ultra marine	Brown	Yellow
O106	3¢	Justice	1926	NEW			NEW					
O107	6¢	Justice	1928				NEW					
O108	3¢	P.O.	1924	1924	NEW	1927		1924	1937			
O109	3¢	Trea.	1924	1924			NEW					
O110	6¢	Trea.	1926	1924		1924						
O111	10¢	Trea.	1926	1926		NEW						
O112	30¢	Trea.	1927									
O113	90¢	Trea.	1924	1924								
O114	1¢	War	1924	1924								
O115	2¢	War	1924	1924		1926			1937			
O116	3¢	War	1924	1924	1924	NEW		1924		NEW		
O117	6¢	War	1924	1924		NEW					NEW	
O118	10¢	War		NEW								
O119	12¢	War		1924	1926			1924				
O120	30¢	War		NEW								
Total Listed in Scott			105	90	66	35	0	(20)	14	5	2	1
Total Listed Not Found			9	1	6	21			6	1	2	
Total New Discoveries			5	19	21	22	26		6	14	7	
Scott Cat. No.	Value	Dept.	Blue	Purple	Red	Magenta	Indigo	Violet	Green	Ultra marine	Brown	Yellow

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Index to <i>1869 Times</i> , Issues #1 through #53	\$5.00	\$5.00
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Section Editor's Note: In March 1989, Alan Radin, now deceased but known throughout the philatelic community for his studies of the Prussian Closed Mails, submitted an article to be published in the Foreign Mails section titled "Paid or Unpaid? A PCM Letter Had It Both Ways." At the time I was Associate Editor of the section under Charles J. Starnes. Alan's article was interesting because it described a Prussian Closed Mail cover that seemed to show both credit and debit markings. Alan and Susan McDonald had seen the cover in a dealer's stock at a large stamp show and were intrigued with the item, but could not figure out why it was rated the way it was. In his article Alan offered no explanation for the rate markings except to conclude that the letter had not been handled at the exchange office in accordance with the postal convention. Since the article did not offer any solutions but merely described an unusual cover, the section editor declined to accept the article. From that time on, however, I was determined to find a similar cover and the justification for the markings. Little did I know that the answer was already at hand, but wasn't recognized by the foreign mail students.

Now, nine years later, we have the answer that Alan Radin sought. It came in a peculiar manner, about the same time on two different continents through the independent work of two postal historians, one German and the other American. Late in 1997 I purchased a cover which I was convinced had been handled in the same manner as the one originally seen by Alan Radin. While searching for an adequate explanation of the debit and credit markings on this new cover I found a small newspaper clipping in the back of Theron Wierenga's reprint of *Postal Laws and Regulations of the United States of America 1852* which provided the long sought explanation. Since this reprint had been published in 1980, this data had been available at the time Alan Radin was puzzled by a similar cover, but had gone unnoticed. Convinced that I had the answer to the mystery, I sought a second cover example to strengthen my conclusions and to provide more substance for a future *Chronicle* article. A few months later I acquired a second cover and began to prepare to publish the information.

While attending Juvalux '98 (Luxembourg) and participating in an international postal history seminar in June 1998, I met Heinrich Conzelmann, a long time friend and outstanding student of German postal history. We had not seen each other in five years but had kept in letter communication. I had helped him with a *Chronicle* article in February 1995 and he had shared information with me on early German mails from California. He showed me a new article that he had just written on the subject of partially prepaid Prussian Closed Mail covers, the same subject as my newly discovered information! He had found a pair of covers himself that illustrated this unusual handling and had correctly concluded the reasons, but had not found any documentation to support his theory. We agreed to share our information. At my request he has prepared and I have edited the following article. This new information is the first on the Prussian Closed Mail to come along in many years. It is an important contribution to the body of knowledge of the Prussian Closed Mail.

- Richard F. Winter

PART PAID COVERS IN THE PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL

HEINRICH CONZELMANN

Collectors who are familiar with the Prussian Closed Mail Convention may wonder about the title of this article, since it is well known that the Prussian Closed Mail rate was an "all or none" rate. The postage had to be fully prepaid or the letter sent fully unpaid with no allowance for partial payment. The only exceptions were those covers addressed



Figure 1. Columbia, Pa. (11 April 1853) via Prussian Closed Mail to Zizishausen, Württemberg, short paid 6¢. Prepayment of 24¢ ignored by the New York exchange office and letter sent totally unpaid. Aachen marked postage due of 45 kreuzer.

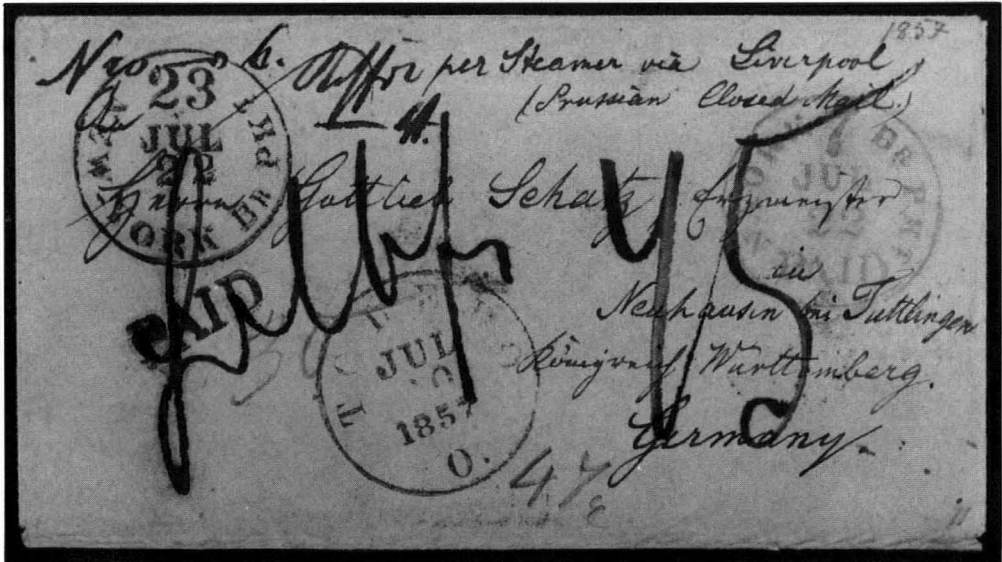


Figure 2. Double rate letter from Toledo, Ohio (10 July 1857) to Neuhausen, Württemberg with single Prussian Closed Mail rate of 30¢ prepaid. New York accepted partial payment, credited Aachen 7¢ for first rate, and then debited Aachen 23¢ for the second rate. Two strikes of different New York exchange markings used for accounting. Aachen marked 45 kreuzer postage due and manuscript note "halbfr" (halbfranco, or only half paid).

to countries beyond and prepaid to the border of the German Austrian Postal Union. If we rely on the original text of the convention, partially paid covers exchanged between the United States and Germany in the Prussian Closed Mail would not exist. According to Article II of the Convention¹ a rate of 30¢ was set for the first one-half ounce and prepayment was made optional, but:

It shall not however be permitted to pay less than the whole combined rate. If the letter is of the weight of half an ounce or under, the combined rate will be 30 cents.

Above half an ounce and not over an ounce, 60 cents.

Above one ounce, but not exceeding two ounces, \$1.20.

And the postage will increase in this scale of progression, to wit: An additional 60 cents for each additional ounce or fraction of an ounce.

The “whole combined rate” stated in the convention consisted of three parts: 5¢ United States postage; 5¢ Prussian postage; and 20¢ sea, British, and Belgian transit postage. It was clear that the total combined rate had to be prepaid in full—or nothing. Any partial payment was not allowed and was lost to the sender. Notwithstanding this wording, however, a few covers have turned up which show acceptance of a fractional prepayment under certain circumstances. In this article I will show that these partial payments were not errors but were allowed because of new instructions to postmasters.

An example of a typical short paid Prussian Closed Mail cover is depicted in Figure 1. In agreement with Article II of the convention, this cover shows that the short payment was not accepted even when a major portion of the 30¢ rate was prepaid. The Figure 1 cover was posted at the Columbia, Pa. post office on 11 April 1853 addressed to Zizishausen, Württemberg. The sender had prepaid the letter with 24¢ shown by the manuscript marking “24 Paid” in the upper right and the black PAID handstamp under the New York datestamp. There was no 24¢ rate from Columbia, Pa. to Württemberg at the time by any convention. Perhaps the intention was to pay the 21¢ rate via British Open Mail per American contract steamer with 3¢ cents United States inland postage added. Since there were no routing instructions on the letter, the New York exchange office sent it by the fastest means which was in the Prussian Closed Mail by the next available steamer. On 16 April 1853 the letter left New York on the Collins line steamer *Atlantic* for Liverpool.² The letter was insufficiently prepaid for this route and was treated as a wholly unpaid letter. The New York exchange office struck the marking for unpaid letters with the debit of 23¢ to Prussia.³ The Prussian exchange office of Aachen⁴ marked a postage due of 45 kreuzer in blue pen (equivalent to 30¢). The recipient in Zizishausen had to pay 46

¹Postal Convention between the United States and Prussia of 1852, U.S. 16 *Statutes at Large* 963-967. An extract of this convention can be found in George E. Hargest, *History of Letter Post Communication Between the United States and Europe 1845 - 1875* (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1971), pp. 85-87. The Prussian regulations are found in *Amtsblatt des Königlichen Post-Departments* No. 48, 22 September 1852, reprinted in James Van der Linden, “Transatlantische Postverbindungen USA - Europa,” *Postgeschichte und Altbriefkunde*, Heft 91, 1988, published by Deutscher Altbriefsammler Verein, Germany.

²All transatlantic sailing dates in this article are from Walter Hubbard and Richard F. Winter, *North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840 -75* (Canton, Ohio: U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, 1988).

³Article VI of the convention required Prussia to account to the United States as follows: “On mails sent from the United States, for each unpaid letter weighing half an ounce or less, twenty-three cents.”

⁴The United States-Prussian Postal Convention of 1852 designated Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle) as the Prussian exchange office; however, the Prussian implementing notice indicated that the Prussian exchange office was the traveling post office No. 10 on the Verviers-Cologne railroad. Mails were processed on this train between Belgium and Prussia. The datestamps used by this office have the name “Aachen.” Throughout this article the Prussian exchange office will be referred to as Aachen.

kreuzer since one kreuzer was added for local delivery (red manuscript lower left). Although more than the whole US debit of 23¢ had been prepaid on this cover, it was all for nothing.

Figure 2 illustrates the first of some unusual covers which show acceptance of a partial payment. This cover was sent from Toledo, Ohio (10 July 1857), addressed also to Württemberg. The sender wrote “per Steamer via Liverpool/(Prussian Closed Mail),” so there was no doubt how the exchange office was instructed to send the cover. The letter was prepaid 30¢ in cash for a single letter (blue PAID marking with red manuscript “30” in lower left corner). On this cover—and this is most unusual—are two strikes of different New York exchange markings that are normally found separately on prepaid or unpaid single letters sent in the Prussian Closed Mail. A red circular datestamp was struck in the upper right with a 7¢ credit to Prussia, a marking typical of prepaid letters. In the upper left we find the black circular datestamp used for unpaid letters with a debit of 23¢. Both strikes show the same date (22 July) and indicate British service.⁵ On this date the Cunard steamer *Arabia* departed New York and carried a Prussian Closed Mail to Liverpool.

How can we explain the simultaneous use of the two rate markings? New York weighed the cover and recognized that the weight was more than one-half ounce, making it a double letter. The combined rate for a double letter was 60¢, but only 30¢ had been paid on this cover. In contrast to Article II of the convention, the part payment had been accepted. New York credited Prussia 7¢ for the first rate that had been paid, but debited Prussia 23¢ for the unpaid second rate. Aachen marked the letter for a postage due of 45 kreuzer in blue ink for the single unpaid rate based on the accounting of New York. To indicate that this was only a partially paid cover Aachen wrote the manuscript marking in blue ink “halbfr” (meaning “halbfranco” or only half postage paid). The addressee had to pay 47 kreuzer, which included two kreuzer for local delivery to the addressee in a small village that had no post office.

A very similar cover is shown in Figure 3. It was sent six weeks later than the Figure 2 cover from Cedar Rapids, Iowa (28 August 1857) to Steinheim am Aalbuch, Württemberg. This letter was prepaid by a strip of three 10¢ Type II bluish green 1857 adhesives (Scott No. 32). Again the two exchange markings for paid and unpaid Prussian Closed Mail covers were struck on the cover and the same manuscript marking of Aachen, “halbfr,” in addition to the postage due of 45 Kreuzer. The cover left New York on 2 September 1857 on the *Arabia* (Cunard Line) for Liverpool.

There is no recorded modification to the postal convention that addressed the rating used on these two covers, however, one must conclude that some agreement must have been reached between the two parties of the convention. Indeed, on 31 August 1853 the United States Postmaster General issued new instructions to postmasters as follows:⁶

Important to Postmasters and Others.

... *In the Prussian Closed Mail to Germany* 30 cents is the single rate, prepayment optional. This pays from any part of the United States to any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union. A prepayment of any sum less than the regular rate of 30 cents is not recognized, and is of course lost to the sender. A note of fractions of the rate could not be taken without seriously complicating the accounts, besides causing much additional labor and trouble at the exchange offices. But, **contrary to the practice under the United States and British Postal Convention, in the Prussian mail every full rate of 30 cents is credited, whether the whole postage on a letter or packet is**

⁵Hubbard and Winter, *op. cit.*, pp. 357, 359, markings No. 79 and 104.

⁶The Postmaster General published this notice in the *National Intelligencer*, a prominent Washington, D.C. newspaper, on 31 August 1853. It later appeared in newspapers of a number of other cities. A reprint of the *National Intelligencer* notice may be found in the newspaper clipping section in the back of *Postal Laws and Regulations of the United States of America, 1852*, reprint ed. (Holland, Michigan: Theron Wierenga, 1980), but without a reference to the source.



Figure 3. Cedar Rapids, Iowa (28 August 1857) to Steinheim am Aalbuch, Württemberg. Prepayment by strip of three 10¢ Type II bluish green 1857 adhesives (Scott No. 32). New York credited 7¢ and debited 23¢ to Aachen. "Halbfr" notation of Aachen and 45 kreuzer postage due in blue ink. (Winter collection)

prepaid or not, leaving any balance due to be collected at the office of delivery.
 [Emphasis added by the author]

Since 31 August 1853, then, partial payment of full 30¢ rates was accepted. The reason for this change in interpretation of the original postal convention was explained by Karl Christian Sautter in 1920.⁷ Using original Prussian sources to discuss in detail all aspects of the Prussian Closed Mail, he wrote the following concerning the insufficiently paid covers, which I have loosely translated:

There was a dispute between Prussia and the United States concerning insufficiently prepaid letters. In the United States it was customary to charge such letters with the full fee regardless of the partial prepayment, resulting in frequent complaints of the German correspondents. The number of such letters was rather high; e.g., according to the United States Postmaster on the sailing of the steamer *Humboldt* to Europe on 27 August 1853 there were only 332 correctly franked covers in a set of 400 letters. Every sixth letter was short paid [for an example see Figure1].

Therefore, the Prussian attaché in Washington was ordered to propose to the Postmaster General that, on the same basis as was done for mails between Prussia and England, Sweden, and other States, the deficient postage be collected from the recipient when the sender was responsible for the short payment. In those cases where a postal employee was at fault the letter be treated as fully prepaid. Postmaster General Campbell did not accept this proposal and only promised to give instructions to postmasters and letter senders to prepay the letters correctly. The attaché informed the Prussian Minister of Foreign Affairs that in his opinion the United States would rather

⁷Karl Christian Sautter, "Der preußisch-amerikanische Postvertrag von 1852," *Archiv für Post und Telegraphie*, Nr. 9, Berlin, September 1920, pp. 287, 288. Sautter was an employee of the German postal organization since 1888 and held several important positions within the postal administration. In 1933 he retired with the position of Staatssekretär in the Reichspostministerium (Assistant Postmaster General). He was very interested in postal history and used the opportunities of his postal positions for intensive research. He wrote numerous publications on various postal history subjects.

cancel the convention than accept the Prussian proposal. In view of the intransigent stance the problem of insufficient franking on letters from America had to be accepted even though it caused much complaining of German recipients and great difficulty for the Aachen office. But in one point the United States Postmaster General made a concession. On letters of higher weights the short prepayments would be accepted if they were single complete rates. Thus, for example, if a letter requiring the fourfold rate was prepaid 80¢ instead of $4 \times 30¢ = \$1.20$, then they would accept the double fee of $2 \times 30¢ = 60¢$ as paid and would leave it to the Prussian office to collect the missing double fee with $2 \times 13 = 26$ silbergroschen. This was a softening of the initial position. There were also complaints among the American recipients where, in many cases, letters from Germany were correctly franked there but charged full postage at destination. This was caused by the difference between the American ounce and the Prussian loth. The German Zoll-loth [16.6 grams] was slightly more than the half-ounce [14.2 grams]. The United States exchange offices checked the weight of incoming letters very carefully and applied to short paid letters, according to the weight in ounces, the full postage even when they were prepaid correctly in Germany on the basis of the Zoll-loth and had been marked with "Paid." Prussia took the opposite approach in that the American weight determination was accepted and that letters marked as paid in full were treated as such; *i.e.*, not weighed again. Corrections were made only when obvious errors occurred. The Prussian method was gradually accepted in the United States. By the end of 1853 the Postmaster General made the proposal to accept the Prussian accounting [weighing] in the United States and vice versa, corrections only applied in the cases of manifest errors. This ended the controversy about insufficiently paid covers in the Prussian Closed Mail.

As indicated by Sautter, many letters were short paid in the early period of the Prussian Closed Mail. Postmasters and senders were not familiar with the new rates and the weighing of letters was not done with the necessary accuracy. The postmasters of the sending office were probably responsible for the underpayments in some cases by advising the letter senders of an incorrect prepayment. This seems to have been true for the cover



Figure 4. New York (11 December 1860) to Schweidnitz, Prussian Silesia prepaid 30¢ by three 10¢ Type V green 1859 adhesives (Scott No. 35) paying single rate for letter over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz, but partial payment accepted. New York marked 7¢ credit with red circular date-stamp then added 23¢ debit in black ink above that marking. Aachen wrote 13 silbergroschen postage due and "Sonst frei" (otherwise free) in blue ink. (Winter collection)

examples shown in this article, except for the last one which shows a rate correction by the sending office. Perhaps this fact caused the Postmaster General to make the concession to accept partial payments in multiples of the full 30¢ rate.

Another partially paid cover from New York (11 December 1860) to Schweidnitz in Prussian Silesia is shown in Figure 4. This cover was franked with three 10¢ Type V green 1859 adhesives (Scott No. 35) for the single Prussian Closed Mail rate. New York weighed the letter and determined that two rates were required. A credit of 7¢ to Prussia was shown in the marking of the New York exchange office. In contrast to the two covers of Figures 2 and 3 a handstamp was not used for the debit of 23¢, but it was written in black ink immediately above the red credit marking. Aachen noted in blue ink "2f" in the upper left corner for "2-fach" (double rate) and 13 silbergroschen postage due. To show that this was a partially paid cover, Aachen marked the cover again in a special way just under the right-hand adhesive. The words "Sonst frei" meaning usually (or otherwise) free was placed in front of the 13 silbergroschen due marking. The cover left Boston on the Cunard steamer *Arabia* on 12 December 1860, arriving in Queenstown on 22 December.

Figures 5a and 5b illustrate the front and back of a most unusual cover that precisely illustrates the example cited by Sautter above. This letter originated in Newton, Texas (8 June 1858) and was addressed to Gotheborg, Sweden, an uncommon destination. This is the only example of a Prussian Closed Mail cover going beyond the border of the German Austrian Postal Union showing acceptance of a partial prepayment of the full international rate. The sender prepaid $3 \times 21\text{¢} = 63\text{¢}$ for a triple British Open Mail rate "Per United States Packet" (manuscript notation lower left). A triple rate, however, did not fit the British convention weight progression, which had no triple rate, causing the letter to be short paid. The correct quadruple rate by the open mail would have been $4 \times 21\text{¢} = 84\text{¢}$. The New York exchange office struck the boxed "SHORT PAID" marking in red below the manuscript "Paid 63" in the upper right corner. Since the same weight progression applied to the Prussian Closed Mail, the full prepayment of the rate to Sweden would have been $4 \times 42\text{¢} = \$1.68$.⁸ New York sent the letter in the Prussian Closed Mail with two rates prepaid to the border of the German Austrian Postal Union and two rates unpaid. Thus, of the 63¢ prepaid, $2 \times 30\text{¢} = 60\text{¢}$ was used to pay two rates and only 3¢ was lost to the sender. New York used its exchange office marking for a paid double rate letter with a credit of $2 \times 7\text{¢} = 14\text{¢}$ to Prussia and wrote the $2 \times 23\text{¢} = 46\text{¢}$ debit for the two unpaid rates above that marking in black ink. The cover was put on Cunard steamer *Asia* which departed New York on 23 June 1858.

In Germany the abbreviated manuscript "Ung Pto" (equivalent to "Ungenügend Porto" or insufficient postage) was marked in blue ink. This was done either by the Aachen exchange office postal clerk or at the Stadtpostamt Hamburg office, which was the border of the German Austrian Postal Union for mails to Sweden. Aachen indicated that $2 \times 13 = 26$ silbergroschen was due to Prussia on this letter reflecting the two rates unpaid. Hamburg repeated the 26 silbergroschen debit marking, the smaller "26" marked in blue ink at the upper left. This was a debit to the Danish post office in Hamburg to which the letter was transferred. This debit was converted to 234 öre in Swedish currency. In addition to the Hamburg debit of 234 öre, transit fees to Sweden of $3 \times 45 = 135$ öre were added for a total postage due of 369 öre or 3 rigsdaler 69 öre, marked in red crayon in the lower left above the sender's transit endorsement. Only three rates for Danish transit and Swedish inland postage were necessary since the weight progression allowed for triple rates between Prussia and Sweden. The transit markings of the different post offices that handled this letter as well as the mathematics of the accounting were shown on the reverse of the cover. Another very interesting detail of this cover is the fact that a major change in

⁸Charles J. Starnes, *United States Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations 1847 to GPU-UPU* (Louisville, Kentucky: Leonard H. Hartmann, 1989), p. 40.



Figure 5a. Front of very unusual quadruple rate Prussian Closed Mail letter from Newton, Texas (8 June 1858) to Göteborg, Sweden with two 30¢ rates accepted as paid and two rates unpaid. The sender paid 63¢ for a triple British Open Mail rate by American Packet, an unallowed rate. Further details are explained in the text. (Van der Linden collection)

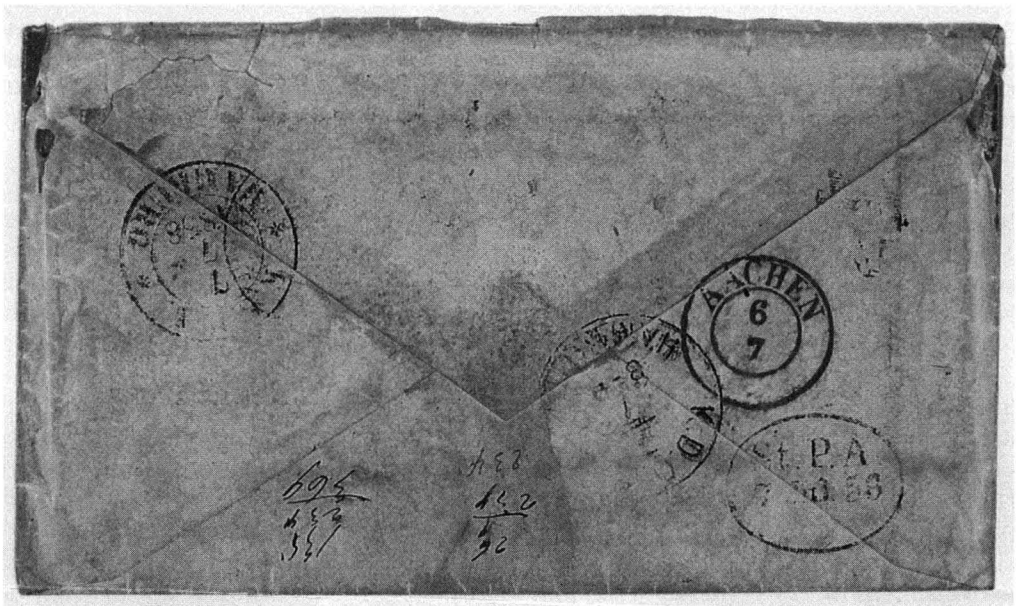


Figure 5b. Reverse of Figure 5a cover showing transit markings of Aachen, Stadtpostamt Hamburg, and Royal Danish Post Office in Hamburg. Note manuscript accounting in Swedish öre currency.

the value of the Swedish currency from one riksdaler = 48 skillingar banco to one new riksdaler = 100 öre went into effect on 1 July 1858. This cover showed the first possible Swedish accounting in their new currency on a Prussian Closed Mail cover.

The final illustration, Figure 6, shows a very late Prussian Closed Mail, double rate



Figure 6. Late partially paid Prussian Closed Mail cover from San Francisco (October 1867) to Wien, Austria franked with 30¢ orange 1861 adhesive (Scott No. 71). San Francisco did not accept partial payment and struck black “60” handstamp to indicate unpaid double rate letter. New York corrected the error. Prussian exchange office applied the blue “ungenügend/frankirt” (insufficiently paid) handstamp and marked 65 neukreuzer postage due (equivalent to 30¢).

letter with only one rate prepaid. This letter was sent from San Francisco on 10 October 1867 to Vienna, Austria (wrong German spelling on the preprinted envelope, “Wein” instead of “Wien”). Although the cover shows no year date, it was most probably sent from New York on 31 October 1867 with the mails carried to Southampton, England by the North German Lloyd steamer *Union*. One important difference of this cover from the other covers previously described is that the sending post office in San Francisco recognized the underpayment and marked the letter for two rates unpaid. The letter had been prepaid with a 30¢ 1861 orange adhesive (Scott No. 71) and must have been thrown into a letter box or dropped at the post office. Later, after weighing the letter the postal clerk recognized that it required two rates; however, he did not know of the special instructions concerning part payment of full rates in the Prussian Closed Mail. He marked the letter with a black handstamp “60” as a totally unpaid double letter and did not obliterate the adhesive. New York corrected the error by obliterating the adhesive with the credit marking of the exchange office with a second strike alongside. The debit of 23¢ (for the one rate unpaid) as well as the credit of 7¢ (for the one rate paid) was displayed just to the right of the handstamp “60” in a fractional notation, “23/7,” the “23” in blue and the “7” in red crayon. This may be difficult to see in Figure 6. The traveling post office Verviers-Coeln (blue datestamp on reverse) marked the letter in blue crayon for a postage due of 65 neukreuzer (equivalent to

30¢),⁹ the currency used in Austria. To indicate partial payment on this cover the Prussian exchange office struck the blue, script style handstamp “ungenügend/frankirt” meaning the letter was insufficiently paid. This handstamp replaced the manuscript markings and was probably introduced earlier in 1867.

The markings used at the exchange offices to indicate partial payment changed over the years. No special handstamps were used for partially paid letters sent by the United States exchange offices. In both the United States and in Prussia the markings on letters seem to reflect the personal style of the different postmasters. Various methods of rate notations were used in the United States. In 1857 there were two exchange office circular datestamps marked on letters at the same time (one for prepaid portion of the rate and one for the unpaid portion). Later, the credit marking was struck and the debit written above that marking. On the latest observed cover, the debit and credit were written fractionally in blue and red crayon. Just as New York used these styles of markings to distinguish between partially paid letters from those properly paid, Aachen also marked these letters in a special way. On the early covers manuscript markings were used with wording which indicated partial payment like “halbfr” (halbfranco or half paid), “sonstfrei” (otherwise free) or “Ung Pto” (Ungenügend Porto or insufficient postage). The spelling and style seemed to depend on the postal clerk. Later, probably in 1867, the handstamp “ungenügend/frankirt” was introduced.

If we take into account the rather long period of time from 31 August 1853 to the end of the Prussian Closed Mail convention on 31 December 1867, the number of partially paid covers which have turned up is astonishingly small (less than ten covers recorded). The rather high number of short paid covers at the beginning of the Prussian Closed Mails, mentioned in the Sautter article, was undoubtedly reduced by better instructions to postmasters. This, combined with the wide acceptance of the Prussian Closed Mails in later years, so that the rates were well known even in small post offices, may also explain the shortage of short paid covers. Partially paid covers (those with at least one rate prepaid) are decidedly uncommon. These partial payments were unintentional and resulted from an incorrect assessment of the weight, and therefore, the number of rates required of a letter. Letter writers, as well as local postmasters, made these errors. The exchange offices usually made the correct assessments and applied the rating rules properly. Partial payment was not possible for the common single rate letter but was limited to letters weighing more than one-half ounce and prepaid at least one 30¢ rate. The last cover example (Figure 6) shows that the published instructions of the Postmaster General were not known or used by all postmasters. Based on the instructions to postmasters of 31 August 1853 and on the writing of Sautter, which discussed problems with the rating of letters early in the Prussian Closed Mail period, it is recommended that readers carefully examine any Prussian Closed Mail covers (either to or from Germany) during the first year of operation of the convention. Covers to Germany before 31 August 1853 may exist where a partial payment involving full 30¢ rates was ignored. On prepaid covers from Germany one would expect to find examples which were treated as fully paid in Germany and totally unpaid in the United States because of the different weight systems in use. Finally, to date, no partially paid covers from Germany to the United States have been found, nor any documentation to explain how the Germans treated outgoing partially paid Prussian Closed Mail covers. Any of these discoveries would be important.

I want to thank Richard F. Winter for inviting me to write this article for the *Chronicle* and for allowing the use of his covers and original source material. His editing assistance to overcome all my difficulties to write in a “foreign” language was very helpful. I also want to thank James Van der Linden for providing me the pictures of his very interesting cover to Sweden. □

⁹According to the revised treaty of the German Austrian Postal Union of 5 December 1851, Article 9, the exchange office had to mark the postage due in the currency of that country of the Union which collected the postage due.

ADDITIONAL ANSWERS TO PROBLEM COVERS IN ISSUES 177 & 178

Additional, and very welcome, information continues to trickle in regarding our problem covers. Your editor is of the opinion that multiple responses to problem covers are quite healthy, since each response brings out some new information and makes for more interest.



Figure 1. Cover to San Francisco endorsed "Via Chagres & Panama"

First, George Kramer sends further comments about Figure 1, a cover to California, which appeared in *Chronicle* 177. He enclosed a copy of another cover from the same correspondence (unfortunately too dark to copy). It is endorsed from "W.I. Dunham Agent New York / Member of the New England Trading & Mining Co of New York," a stock company which financed the prospecting activities of certain members. It is addressed to "Mr. A.W. Hale / San Francisco / California," with a "40" manuscript rate, and docketed "Answ Sept 1st." He writes:

The docketing appears to be in the same hand as the August 20th date on the problem cover. Sr Bullof was probably the sender and a member of the company.

The "80" (cents) marking was double rate to California, 1847-1851. I do not believe the "50¢" is a U.S. postal marking as the U.S. double rate over 400 miles (25¢ x 2) ended 3 years earlier than the probable date of this cover. Rather, it is a delivery charge by a private express company, or, alternately, the cover could have been the first to Mr. Hale whose whereabouts was not yet known and represents an advertising charge.

Next, Michael Ercolini provides more about Figures 2 and 3, an 1873 cover to St. Petersburg, which appeared in *Chronicle* 178 and was repeated in *Chronicle* 179. He sends the following to supplement the information provided by Charlie Peterson in *Chronicle* 180:

The blue crayon in Russia is sometimes used to indicate a missing stamp in conjunction with a "postage due" or "paid" marking. Since this cover originated in the US with no evidence of postage due, the Russian clerk probably used the blue crayon, the canceler and the oval marking to indicate "postage paid." The blue oval marking resembles a well known handstamp reading "FRANKIROVANO" (FRANKED, in Cyrillic) . . . which is known used on incoming mail from a foreign point of origin in the 70s. That's probably what happened here. In 1873, prepayment of postage was not optional,



Figure 2. Obverse of 1873 cover to St. Petersburg, Russia, with stamp missing



Figure 3. Reverse of St. Petersburg cover showing forwarding



Figure 4. February 1868 cover to Panama paid 10¢

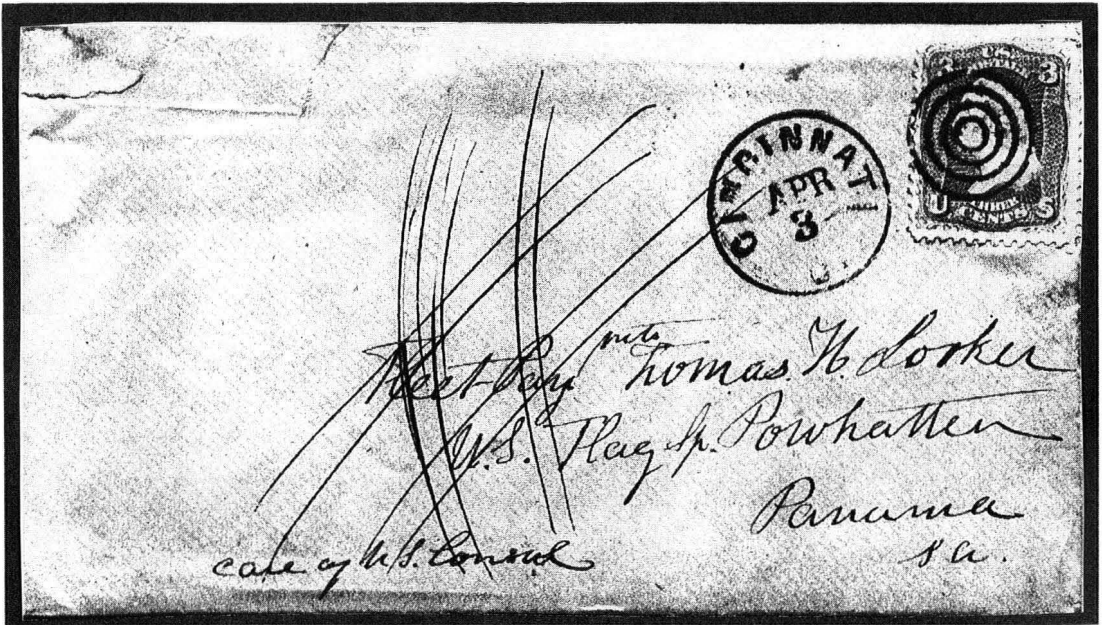


Figure 5. April 1868 cover to Panama paid 3¢

as it would become from October 1874 until the 5-cent UPU rate was introduced in July 1875.

A translation of the Russian manuscript on the top of the back of the cover is: "Unknown at the exchange office / at the Cooksin Building in September / Mgr. _____."

It still remains for someone to identify the value of the missing stamp.

ANSWERS TO PROBLEM COVERS IN ISSUE 180

The following two covers: Figures 4 and 5, and Figure 6, received no responses from our Route Agents by the time this issue went to press. We will carry them over to the next issue and publish information received in *Chronicle* 182.

The pair of covers in Figures 4 and 5 were both from Cincinnati to the same addressee on a U.S. ship in Panama. Why was the February cover paid 10¢, and the April cover paid 3¢?

The Figure 6 cover from Vancouver, W.T., to Sacramento, Cal. was paid by "Chg box 61 / W.W.K." But why was no amount of postage marked and where was the "Chg box 61" applied – at Vancouver or at Sacramento?

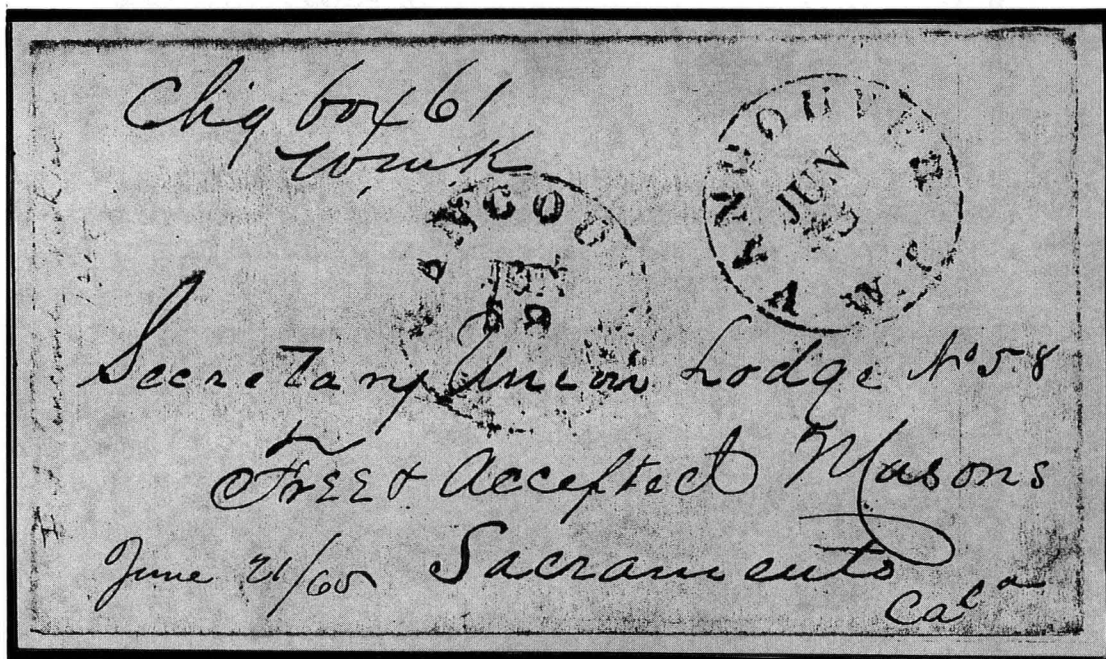


Figure 6. Vancouver, W.T. cover to Sacramento in 1865

Figures 7 and 8 show both sides of a 1874 cover from Poughkeepsie, N.Y., to Paris via New York and London. 10¢ postage paid by stamps was sufficient for the cover to receive a "PAID TO ENGLAND" CDS. The "15" (over struck on a weak "GB //40C" accountancy marking) indicates 15 decimes due in France. In addition to transit CDS's, there are two "SHORT PAID" handstamps on the back, and a red crayon "2" crossed out by a blue crayon plus a blue crayon "3" on the front.

Explain:

- Why the 10¢ prepaid postage was not sufficient to deliver the cover to France.
- The significance of the blue and red crayon markings.
- The meaning of the "SHORT PAID" handstamps.

Route Agent Millard Mack sent as a reference his monograph "United States 4¢ Part Payment Rates to France 1970-74" that was published in *The Collectors Club Philatelist*,

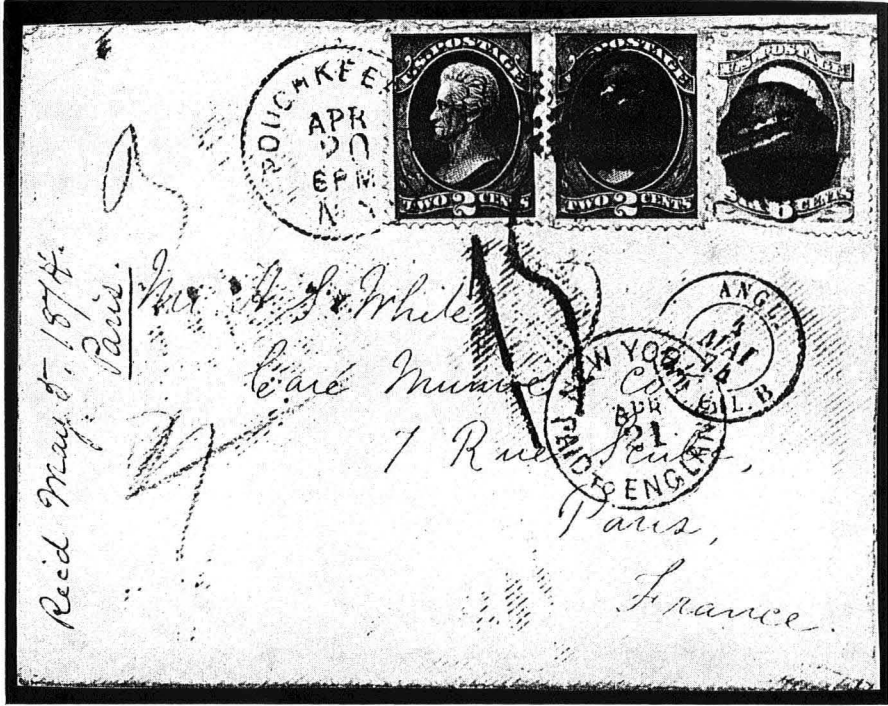


Figure 7. Face of 1874 cover to France with "PAID TO ENGLAND" CDS



Figure 8. Back of cover to France showing "SHORT PAID" handstamp

July 1959. Between January 1, 1870 and August 1, 1874 there was no extant postal treaty between France and the U.S. The problem cover falls into the late end of this period, at which time there were three different methods to send mail to France:

1) Direct mail via American Packet at the prepaid rate of 10¢ per half ounce paid to the French frontier, plus internal French postage.

2) Open mail via England at the prepaid rate of 4¢ per half-ounce to the British frontier - the new treaty rate to England (effective January 1, 1870). It was then treated as unpaid mail originating in England under the Anglo-French postal convention of 1856 and France collected British transit and internal French postage.

3) Fully prepaid mail via England at the rate of 10¢ per third-ounce.

The 10¢ U.S. postage affixed would allow the problem cover to have been sent by any of the three methods above, except that it weighs over one half-ounce. This is shown by the red crayon "2" indicating a double rate letter. Therefore, the cover could only be sent at the open mail rate via England which required 8¢ (leaving 2¢ overpaid), and the New York Post Office applied its CDS with "PAID TO ENGLAND."

England applied the "GB // 40¢" accountancy marking indicating a debit to France of 40 centimes per ounce for British transit. Upon arrival in France it was found to be a triple weight cover (between one-half and three-quarters ounce) since France was on a quarter-ounce rate progression, and the cover was marked in blue crayon with a "3" at upper left while crossing out the "2" with the same blue crayon. The postage due in France, at 5 decimes per quarter-ounce, caused the black "15" (decimes) to be applied.

It is necessary to look at the addressee—"Care Munroe & Co."—to determine the meaning of the black "SHORT PAID" handstamp. This company acted as a forwarding agent or a repository for mail for travelers in Europe. When postage was due on letters received, it was paid by Munroe & Co., and the letter marked "SHORT PAID" to indicate that the addressee owed postage to Munroe & Co. Therefore, the "SHORT PAID" handstamp was a private, not a postal, marking. Similar "SHORT PAID" covers to France in an earlier period when the U.S. and France had a postal convention, 1857 to 1869, appear in *Chronicle* 119, August 1983.

PROBLEM COVERS FOR ISSUE 181

Thanks to Route Agent R.R.Vori for the Figure 9 cover from Spain to the U.S. in 1867. He writes:

This cover bears a pair of Sc#93 (20¢ lilac) tied by a "6" in bar cancel.

Handstamps on the front are:

"MALAGA. / 28 / OCT / 67 / (6)" CDS in black

"LONDON / N / PAID / C / ? NO 67" CDS in red

"P. O. PHILA / NOV / 17" CDS in black

"P. D." in oval and "21," both in black

A black "MADRID. / 30 / OCT / 67 / (1)" CDS is on the back (not shown), together with manuscript docketing of the sender "1867 / Malaga Oct 28. / John Clemens & Son" and notation of arrival on Nov 18 and answer on Nov 22.

Mr. Lori's questions are:

1) What was the total rate and how was it shared between Spain, England and the U.S.?

2) What transatlantic ship carried the cover? And to what U.S. port?

3) Explain the meaning of the "21" marking.

4) The "P. O. PHILA" arrival CDS does not appear to be typical for packet mail. Is this an unusual use?

(Hint: See Richard F. Winter's monograph *U.S.—Spain Mails via British Convention, 1849 – 1876*, published as a Supplement to *Chronicle* 147, August 1990.)



Figure 9. 1867 cover from Malaga, Spain to Philadelphia

The cover in Figure 10 was sent in by Route Agent Tracy Thurber. It is franked by three copies of the 1¢ 1861 stamp well tied by “BALTIMORE / APR / 6 / Md.” CDS, and addressed to Baltimore. Additionally, it has received two handstamps, viz., “STEAM-BOAT” and “DUE 2 cts.” All markings are in black. On the back is a pencil mark of the year, 1863. Inside is a slip of paper datelined Bolingly(?) with a note that a power of attorney was originally enclosed. Please explain the rating on this cover.

Please send your answers to the problem covers for this issue, and any further discussion of previous answers to other problem covers, within two weeks of receiving your *Chronicle*. The “go to press” deadline for the May Cover Corner is April 10, 1999. I can receive mail at 9068 Fontainebleau Terrace, Cincinnati, Ohio 45231-4808, and now have an E-Mail address: RWCARLIN@aol.com.

New examples of problem covers are needed for The Cover Corner. We have successfully experimented with using copies of covers produced by high resolution copiers, either in black and white or in color, instead of requiring black and white photographs. This should make it easier to submit covers. Please send two copies of each cover, including the reverse if it has significant markings. It is also important to identify the color of markings on covers submitted in black and white. Thanks. □



Figure 10. “STEAMBOAT” cover to Baltimore with “DUE 2 cts.”

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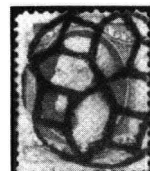
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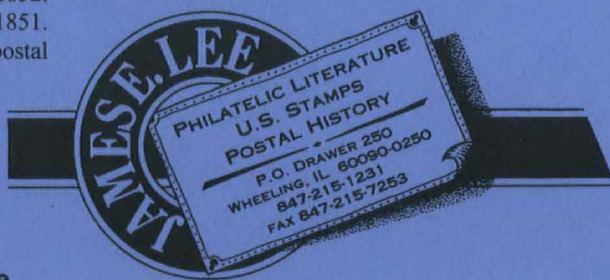
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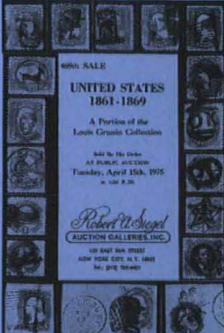
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