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of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues

May 2002

Volume 54, No. 2

Whole No. 194

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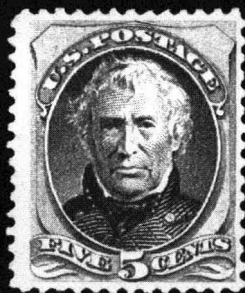
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*An Exhibition Collection Sale*

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**A REFERENCE LIST OF POSTAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS  
AND POST OFFICE LISTS AND DIRECTORIES**  
THERON WIERENGA

During the Bicentennial of 1976, the author and Donald van Reken, a philatelic friend, published two very different works as our attempt to add to the Bicentennial celebration. The first was a booklet of early photographs of Holland, Michigan, my hometown, and the second was a reprint of the 1847, 1848 and 1849 *Report of the Postmaster General*. Don went on to publish many more very scholarly works on the early history of Holland, Michigan, while the author continued to reprint the various *Reports of the Postmaster General* in loose leaf format.

As time went on more collectors became interested in the reprints of the *Reports of the Postmaster General* and after a few years there were about 75 subscribers who automatically received a copy with invoice as they were produced.

While the *Reports of the Postmaster General* include a great deal of information useful to the postal historian and cover collector, there were other obvious postal related handbooks worth reprinting. Beginning in 1979 the author began reprinting, in hardcover, a selected group of Postal Laws and Regulations handbooks as well as a few Post Office Lists and Directories. In some cases a single handbook contains both Postal Laws and/or Regulations and a Post Office List.

As this project began, a review of the author's library revealed a number of possible handbooks for reprinting. While copies of some of the Postal Laws and Regulations handbooks are fairly easy to find, others are decidedly rare. About this time the work of Arthur Hecht was found. Mr. Hecht had authored an article in the October 1958 *American Philatelist* entitled "Postal History Sources, Registers Lists, Tables Guides-Directories of the United States Post Offices 1789-to Date." There was also a follow-up article in the October 1959 *American Philatelist*. Because of the large number of works referred to in these articles the author determined to begin his own list of Postal Laws and Regulations handbooks.

Beginning in 1979, the author made a number of trips to Washington, D.C., and searched the Library of Congress and the Post Office Department Library for copies of the various Postal Laws and Regulations handbooks as well as Post Office Lists and any other works of philatelic interest. It was during one of those trips that the *United States Mail and Post Office Assistant* was discovered. The complete run of two years of this post office periodical was later reprinted by the author.

During work in the Library of Congress it became apparent that the exact wording of the entire title page was needed to accurately reference a given work. A large number of works new to the author were found. In some instances, the federal government published a list of post offices and in addition one or more private individuals published a nearly identical work. At times the title was identical, as were the number of pages, however the private publishers add their name to the title page. Because of this I have strictly used the complete wording of the title pages for this reference.

One can never be too exacting in documenting these post office handbooks. It's easy to miss something significant. In 1980, when I reprinted the *Postal Laws and Regulations, 1852*, my library contained two copies of the original work. Both were leather bound, one with the spine replaced and the covers in fairly good condition, and the other in the original leather, but dried out and somewhat scuffed. I chose the latter to unbind for duplication as I felt the binding was in poorer condition. Many years later I was examining the copy I had left intact and discovered the following inscription on the flyleaf: "M.P. Fillmore Esquire With the best respects of The Postmaster General Washgn July 20/52." I had purchased this copy in the late 1960s and had never noticed it was President Fillmore's copy.

The following list contains the titles and preface dates of the various post office documents the author subsequently reprinted for collectors.

- Report of the Postmaster General, 1847, 1848, 1849* (July 4, 1976)
- Report of the Postmaster General, 1850, 1851, 1852* (September 10, 1976)
- Report of the Postmaster General, 1853, 1854* (October 28, 1976)
- Report of the Postmaster General, 1855, 1856* (January 10, 1977)
- Report of the Postmaster General, 1857, 1858* (February 22, 1977)
- Report of the Postmaster General, 1859, 1860* (April 12, 1977)
- Report of the Postmaster General, 1861, 1862* (June 6, 1977)
- Report of the Postmaster General, 1841-1846* (July 26, 1977)
- Report of the Postmaster General, 1863, 1864* (September 12, 1977)
- Report of the Postmaster General, 1865, 1866* (October 20, 1977)
- Report of the Postmaster General, 1867* (October 26, 1977)
- Report of the Postmaster General, 1868* (January 31, 1978)
- Report of the Postmaster General, 1869, 1870* (May 8, 1978)
- Report of the Postmaster General, 1871* (July 20, 1978)
- Report of the Postmaster General, 1872* (November 15, 1978)
- Report of the Postmaster General, 1873* (April 10, 1979)
- Official Documents of the Post Office Department of the Confederate States of America*, two volumes (July 4, 1979)
- Postal Laws and Regulations of the United States of America, 1847* (November 27, 1979)
- Postal Laws and Regulations of the United States of America, 1832 & 1843* (April 12, 1980)
- List of Post Offices and Postal Laws and regulations of the United States of America* (June 24, 1980)
- Postal Laws and Regulations of the United States of America, 1852* (October 14, 1980)
- List of Post Offices in the United States 1862 Including Various Postal Laws and Instructions of 1861, 1863, 1864 and 1865* (January 28, 1981)
- American State Papers Post Office Department, 1789-1833* (February 4, 1981)
- Postal Laws and Regulations of the United States of America, 1866* (April 14, 1981)
- Pratt's United States Post Office Directory, 1850* (July 24, 1981)
- The United States Postal Guide and Official Advertiser, 1850-1952*, two volumes (April 24, 1982)
- Colton's United States Post Office Directory, 1856* (March 14, 1985)

The two lists that follow are each broken into two parts. The first part lists handbooks or pamphlets I have seen and have verified the wording of the entire title page. Following this, the second part lists items I have documented from secondary sources without verifying the entire title. I would appreciate receiving photocopies of title pages of items in unverified lists as well as any relevant items not listed here; mail should be sent to P.O. Box 595, Muskegon, MI 49443-0595, or e-mail to [twiereng@muskegon.k12.mi](mailto:twiereng@muskegon.k12.mi).

The Postal Laws and Regulations handbooks were, in most cases, published by the Post Office Department. Until the Government Printing Office was established in the early 1860s, these handbooks were printed by various private companies. Beginning in the 1850s a number of private companies began printing Post Office Directories and often included Post Office Laws and/or Regulations.

In the case of the Post Office Lists or Directories, private copies began to appear in the early 1800s and outnumber the official copies. What constitutes a Post Office Directory can be difficult to define. The *American States Papers* volume contains several lists of post offices. I have tried to focus on handbooks whose primary purpose was to document the post offices. Ironically the first such item is Morse's *Gazetteer*, the first gazetteer published in the United States. Many gazetteers and other publications throughout the 1800s contain lists of post offices.

## Postal Laws and Regulations

*A Collection of the Statutes Now in Force, Relating to the Post-Office.* [Royal Insignia] New-York: Printed by Hugh Gainé, at the Sign of the Bible and Crown in Hanover-Square, M,DCC,LXXIV. 174 pp. (In the Rare Book Room of the Library of Congress)

*An Ordinance for Regulating the Post-Office of the United States of America, Passed the 18th of October, 1782. Published by order of the Postmaster-General.* New-York: Printed by Childs and Swaine, October, 1789. (Copy in the National Philatelic Collection Library)

*Third Congress 1st Session Mon. Dec. 2, 1793, An Act to Establish the Post-Office and Post-Roads within the United States. Approved May the eighth 1794,* 41, 8, 20 pp. (Note: This is a fragmentary copy of the first published edition of the PL&R. Items dated during 1795 and 1797 are included in the last section. In Rare Book Room of the Library of Congress.)

*Act of May 8, 1794...Regulations to be observed by the Deputy Postmasters in the United States...Post-Roads in the United States,* 32, 14 pp. (Note: This is a fragmentary copy of Postal Laws and Regulations, edition of 1794, located in the Post Office Department Library. A specimen statement in it is dated January 2, 1794. Pages 1, 2, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29 and 30 are missing from the first section. It does appear that this is not the same document as above.)

*The Post-Office Law with Instructions, Forms and Tables of Distances, Published for the Regulation of the Post-Offices.* 1798. Philadelphia Printed by Charles Cist, No. 104. North Second Street, 99 pp., 8 pp. index unnumbered.

*The Post-Office Law, with Instructions, Forms and Tables of Distances, Published for the Regulation of the Post-Offices.* 1800. Washington City. Printed by Charles Cist, North E Street near the General Post Office. 2 pp. title, 64 pp.

*The Post-Office Law, with Instructions and Forms, Published for the Regulation of the Post-Offices.* 1804. City of Washington: Printed for the General Post-Office. 1804. 70 pp., 20.5 cm.

*The Post-Office Law, with Instructions and Forms, Published for the Regulation of the Post-Offices.* 1808. City of Washington: Printed for the General Post-Office 1808. 74 pp., 20.5 cm.

*The Post-Office Law, with Instructions and Forms, Published for the Regulation of the Post-Office.* 1810. City of Washington: Printed for the General Post-Office. 1810, 111 pp.

*The Post-Office Law, with Instructions and Forms, published for the Regulation of the Post-Office.* 1812. City of Washington: Printed for the General Post-Office 1812, 142 pp.

*The Post-Office Law, with Instructions and Forms, Published for the Regulation of the Post-Office.* 1817. City of Washington: Printed for the General Post-Office. 1817, 106 pp.

*The Post-Office Law, with Instructions and Forms Published for the Regulation of the Post-Office. Printed for the General Post Office, City of Washington: Lawrence & Wilson, Printers 1818,* 90 pp.

*Post-Office Laws, Instructions and Forms, Published for the Regulation of the Post-Office. Printed for the General Post-Office. City of Washington 1820.* 122 pp.

*Post-Office Law, Instructions and Forms, Published for the Regulation of the Post-Office. Printed for the General Post-Office. City of Washington: Printed by Way & Gideon, 1825.* 148 pp.

*Post-Office Department, 24 March 1827. Sir, I communicate to you "An Act amendatory of the act regulating the Post Office Department," passed at the late session of Congress, accompanied with the necessary instructions. Respectfully, I am your Obedient Servant, John McLean. Post Master, 7 pp.*

*Post-Office Laws, Instructions and Forms, Published for the Regulation of the Post-Office. Printed for the Post-Office Department. Washington: Printed by Way & Gideon. 1828.* 63 pp. 21 cm.

*Organization of the Post Office Department, and Assignment of Duties to the Offices(?) and Clerks, in service, January, 1830.* by the Postmaster General, 8 pp.

*Laws Instructions and Forms, for the Regulation of the Post-Office Department. Printed by Order of the Postmaster General.* City of Washington: Printed at the Globe Office, by F.P. Blair. 1832. 79 pp.

*Post Office Laws.* 1808-1839, 48 pp. (Note: This volume in the POD Library contains the acts from this period, which appear to have been published together.)

*Laws and Regulations for the Government of the Post Office Department. Printed by Order of the Postmaster General.* Washington, D.C. Alexander and Barnard, Printers. 1843. 61, 59, 30 pp. 21 cm.

*Regulations Prescribed by the Postmaster General to Exhibit and Enforce the Provisions of the Act of Congress of March 3, 1845, Entitled, "An act to reduce the rates of postage, to limit the use and correct the abuse of the franking privilege, and for the prevention of frauds on the revenues of the Post Office Department," hereto annexed, and which (by joint resolution, also of March 3) goes into full effect and operation on the 1st July, 1845.* 16 pp. (Note: No real title page, probably a pamphlet.)

*Laws and Regulations for the Government of the Post Office Department, with an Appendix Printed by Order of the Postmaster General.* Washington: Prinfed [sic] by John T. Towers. 1847. XII, 99, 70, 24, 36 pp. 20 cm.

*Laws and Regulations for the Government of the Post Office Department. Printed by Order of the Postmaster General.* Washington: C. Alexander, Printer, F, Near Seventeenth Street. 1852. VIII, 114, 93, 28 pp. 20.5 cm.

*Laws Relating to the Service of the Post Office Department, Passed by the 32d Congress at its First Session: With Instructions to Postmasters for Carrying them into Effect.* Washington: C. Alexander, Printer, F, Near Seventeenth Street. 1852. 16 pp. 19 cm.

*List of Post Offices in the United States with the Names of the Postmasters on the 1st of July, 1855. Also, the Principal Regulations of the Post Office Department. Compiled by D.D.T. Leech...* Washington: Printed by George S. Gideon, 1855. 145, 48, 4 pp.

*List of Post Office in the United States, with the Names of Postmasters, on the 13th of July, 1857. Also, the Regulations and Laws of the Post Office Department. Compiled from the Records of the Post Office Department. By D.D.T. Leech.* Washington: Published by John C. Rives. 1857. 159, 93, 10 pp. 20.5 cm. (Note: The PL&R section of this also appears bound separately upon occasion.)

*List of Post Offices in the United States, with the Names of Postmasters, on the 1st of April, 1859; Also, the Laws and Regulations of the Post Office Department, with an Appendix Containing the Names of the Post Offices Arranged by States and Counties.* Washington: Published by John C. Rives, For the Compiler - D.D.T. Leech. 1859, Index to Chapters of the Laws, 59, 131, 6, 12 pp.? (Note: The PL&R section of this also appears bound separately upon occasion.)

*Extracts from Postal Laws of the Session of 1860-'61, with Instructions to Postmasters. New Rates of Postage under an Act Establishing Certain Post Routes, Approved February 27, 1861.* M. Blair, Postmaster General. Post Office Department, May 1, 1861. 15 pp. 20 cm.

*List of Post Offices in the United States, with the Names of Postmasters Annexed, [Except at Suspended Offices.] with an Appendix Containing the Names of Post Offices, Arranged by States and Counties. Embracing also Certain Important Regulations, and other Postal Information. Revised and Corrected by the Post Office Department up to July 1, 1862.* Washington: Government Printing Office. 1862. XIII, 2, 293 pp. 26.5 cm.

*Revision of the Laws Relating to the Post Office Department. The numerals in brackets signify the sections of the present laws on the same subjects as found in the compilation of the laws issued by the department in 1859. Prepared by the Post Office Department for the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads. Explanatory notes are appended to the bill.* Washington: Government Printing Office. 1863. 93 pp. (Note:

This version of the postal laws was not accepted by Congress and not distributed to postmasters.)

*An Act to Amend the Laws Relating to the Post Office Department, Approved March 3, 1863: Together with Instructions Predicated Thereon by the Postmaster General, for the Government of Postmasters.* Washington: Government Printing Office. 1863. 16 pp.

*An Act to Establish Salaries for Postmasters, and for Other Purposes, Approved July 1, 1864.* M. Blair, Postmaster General. 3 pp.

*An Act Relating to the Postal Laws.* William Dennison, Postmaster General. Post Office Department, May 1, 1865, 3 pp.

*Post Office Department The Postal Laws and Regulations Published by Authority of the Postmaster General, Compiled by Joseph A. Ware.* Washington: Government Printing Office 1866, 114, 89 pp.

*New Regulations Respecting the Registration of Letters, and an Act to Amend the Laws Relating to the Post Office Department, Together with Instructions Predicated Thereon by the Postmaster General for the Government of Postmasters.* Washington: Government Printing Office 1868, 16 pp.?

*Post Office Department, the Postal Laws and Regulations Governing the Free Delivery of Letters, &c., by Letter Carriers, published by Authority of the Postmaster General 1869.* Washington: Government Printing Office, 1869. 23 pp.?

*Report of the Committee Appointed by the Postmaster General to Examine and Revise the Postal Code; Prepared by the Congressional Commission.* Washington: Government Printing Office. 1870. 32 pp.

*United States Postal Code Approved June 8, 1872. Depredation Office.* 50, 9 pp. (Note: No real title page, this copy is in the POD Library.)

*Post Office Department, the Postal Laws and Regulations. Issued by Authority of the Postmaster-General. Compiled and Prepared by William M. Ireland, Chief Clerk, Office of the Third Assistant Postmaster-General and J.M. McGrew, Chief Clerk, Office of the Auditor of Treasury for Post-Office Department,* Washington: Government Printing Office. 1873. 434 pp. [343 pp.?)

*The Postal Laws and Regulations of the United States of America, Published in Accordance with the Act of Congress Approved March 3, 1879. Compiled and Edited by Arthur H. Bissell, Law Clerk of the Post-Office Department, and Thomas B. Kirby, Private Secretary to the Postmaster-General.* Washington: Government Printing Office. 1879. 434 pp. 22.5 cm. Also a corrected edition, interleaved, without appendix.

*The Postal Laws and Regulations of the United States of America, Compiled and Revised and Published in Accordance with the Act of Congress Approved March 3, 1886.* Washington: Government Printing Office. 1887. 597 pp. 22.5 cm.

*House of Representatives. 52D Congress, 2d Session. Mis. Doc. No. 90. The Postal Laws and Regulations of the United States of America. Compiled, Revised, and Published in Accordance with the Act of Congress Approved March 3, 1891.* Washington: Government Printing Office. 1893.? pp.

*Amended Postal Laws and Regulations in Relation to Free Delivery Service.* Washington: Hartman & Cadick, Printers 1897. 32 pp.

*The Postal Laws and Regulations of the United States of America. Edition of 1902. In Effect April 1, 1902. Revised and Edited in Accordance with Acts of Congress Approved June 2, 1900, and March 3, 1901, Under the Direction of Charles Emory Smith, Postmaster-General.* Washington: Government Printing Office. 1902. 772 pp. 23 cm. Also with Appendix 1, Universal Postal Convention of Washington, and Postal Conventions, Including Parcels-Post Conventions Concluded Between United States and Foreign Countries. 1902. Also with Appendix 2, Digest of Decisions of United States and Other Courts Affecting Post-Office Department and Postal Service. (Edited by Joseph Stewart) 1905. 3pp. of addenda are tipped in at end.

*Supplement to the Postal Laws and Regulations of the United States of America. Edition of 1902. In Effect March 4, 1907. Compiled and Edited Under the Direction of the Postmaster-General.* Washington: Government Printing Office. 1907. ? pp.

### Items not personally seen:

[A List of the Post-Offices in the United States; their Names, Counties and States; their Distance from Washington City; Rates of Postage and Distance from New-York City; with the Laws and Regulations of the Establishment. By Calvin F. Stevens, clerk in the Post Office, New-York City. New York: Printed for the Author by I. Riley. 1808.] 92 pp.

[1856 List by D.D.T. Leech]

[Pamphlet of July 23, 1860, referred to in the 1862 List of P.O.]

[Statutes Relating to Postal Service, as Revised, Simplified, Arranged, and Consolidated by Commission Appointed for that Purpose, from Various Acts and Resolutions in force, in whole or in part. 1869.]

[PL&R 1893, in two editions, second with Appendix A, Postal and Money Order Conventions Concluded Between United States and Foreign Countries.] 526, 259 pp.

[Revision and Codification of Laws Relating to Civil Administration of Post-Office Department and Postal Service 1899]

### Lists of Post Offices, Post Office Directories

*An Abridgment of the American Gazetteer. Exhibiting, in Alphabetical Order, A Compendious Account of the States, Provinces, Counties, Cities, Towns, Villages, Rivers, Bays, Harbours, Gulfs, Sounds, Capes, Mountains, Forts, Indian Tribes, & New Discoveries, on the American Continent, and its Appendant Islands; Particularly the West-Indies. Defcribing The Exant, Boundaries, Population, Government, Productions, Commerce, Manufactures, Curiosities, &c. of the several Countries, and of their important Civil Divisions- and the Longitude and Latitude, the Bearings and Distances, from noted Places, of the Cities, Towns, and Villages. To Which is Annexed An Accurate Table of all the Post-Offices in the United States. By Jedidiah Morse, D.D. Author of the American Universal Geography - Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences - and Member of the Maffachufetts Hiftorical Society. Illustrated with a Map of North American. Abridged By The Author. Publifhed according to Act of Congress. Printed at Boston, By Thomas and Andrews.*

*Sold by them, by E. Larkin, and other Bookfellers, in Bofton; by I. Thomas, Worcefter; by Thomas, Andrew & Penniman, Albany; and by Thomas, Andrews & Rutles, Baltimore. - June, 1798. Not paginated.*

*List of the Post-Offices in the United States; with the Counties in which they are Situated, and their Distances from Washington City. Washington City: Printed by Order of the Post-Master-General 1803, 40 pp.*

*The American Gazetteer, Exhibiting a Full Account of the Civil Divisions, Rivers, Harbours, Indian Tribes &c. of the American Continent, also of the West India and other Appendent Islands; with a Particular Description of Louisiana. Compiled from the Best Authorities, By Jedidiah Morse, D.D. A.A.S. S.H.S. Author of the American Univerfal Geography. Illustrated with Maps. Second Edition, Revised, Corrected, and Enlarged. Published According to Act of Congress. Charlefton: Printed By and For Samual Etheridge, and for Thomas and Andrews, Boston.-1804. vi, Body not paginated.*

*List of Post Offices in the United States, with the Counties in which they are Situated, and Their Distances from Washington City. Washington City: Printed by Order of the Post-Master General. 1805. 48 pp.*

*Additional List of Post Offices in the United States, Established Since the Publication of the List in 1805, with the Counties in which they are Situated, and Their Distances from Washington City. Washington City: Printed by Wascott & Co. Printers to the General Post-Office. 1807. 10 pp.*

*A List of Post-Offices in the United States, Their Names, Counties and States; Their Distance from Washington City; Rates of Postage and Distance from New-York City; with the Laws and Regulations of the Establishment. By Calvin F. Stevens, Clerk in the Post-Office, New-York City. New-York: Printed for the Author, by I. Riley. 1808. 60 pp. (Some bibliographies show this as 92 pages.)*

The American Gazetteer, Exhibiting a Full Account of the Civil Divisions, Rivers, Harbors, Indian Tribes, &c. of the American Continent: Also of the West-India and Other Appendant Islands: with a Particular Description of Louisiana. Compiled from the best Authorities, By Jedidiah Morse, D.D. A.A.S. S.H.S. Author of the American Universal Geography. Illustrated with Maps, and Accompanied by a New and Elegant General Atlas of the World, Containing in a separate Volume, Sixty-Three Maps, and comprising all the New Discoveries to the present Time. Third Edition, Revised and Corrected. Boston: Published by Thomas & Andrews, No. 45, Newbury-Street...July, 1810. F.T. Buckingham, Printer.

*Table of Post Offices in the United States, with Their Distances from Washington City, and the Names of the Post-Masters. Washington City: Printed for the Post-Master General. 1811. 76 pp.*

*Table of Post Offices in the United States, with the Names of the Post-Masters, the Counties and States in which they are Situated, and the Distances from Washington City. By a Clerk in the General Post-Office. Washington City: 1811. 76 pp. (This appears to have been a separate edition published by a PO clerk.)*

*Table of Post Offices in the United States; with the Names of the Post-Masters, the Counties and States in which they are Situated, and the Distances from Washington City. Washington City: By Direction of the Post-Master General. 1813. 84 pp.*

*Table of Post-Offices in The United States, With the Names of the Post-Masters, the Counties and States in Which they are Situated, and the Distances from the City of Washington. By Direction of the Post-Master General. 1817. Printed in the City of Washington, by Jonathan Elliot. 88 pp.*

*Table of Post-Offices in the United States, with the Names of Post-Masters, the Counties and States in which they are Situated; and the Distances from the City of Washington, and the Capitals of the Respective States. By Direction of the Post-Master General. Washington City. 1819. 86 pp.*

*Table of Post Offices in the United States, with the Names of the Post-Masters, the Counties and States in which they are Situated; and the Distances from the City of Washington, and the Capitals of the Respective States. By Direction of the Post-Master General. Washington City. 1822. 114 pp.*

*Table of Post-Offices in the United States, with the Names of the Post-Masters, the Counties and States in which they are Situated; and the Distances from the City of Washington, and the Capitals of the Respective States. By Direction of the Post-Master General. Washington City: Way & Gideon, Printers. 1825. 131 pp.*

*List of Post-Offices in the United States, with the Names of the Post-Masters, of the Counties and States, to Which they belong; the Distances from the City of Washington, and the Seats of State Governments, Respectively; Exhibiting the State of Post-Offices, on the 1st of June, 1828. By Direction of the Post-Master General. Washington: Way & Gideon, Printers. 1828. 151 pp.*

*Table of Post Offices in the United States, arranged by States and Counties; as they were October 1, 1830; with a Supplement, Stating the Offices Established between the 1st October, 1830, and The First of April, 1831. Also, an Index to the Whole. By Direction of the Postmaster General. Washington: Printed by Duff Green. 1831. 359 pp.*

*Table of the Post Offices in the United States, on the First July, 1836, Arranged in Alphabetical Order, Exhibiting the States and Counties in Which they are Situated - The Names of the Postmasters - and the Distance of each Office, as far as Satisfactorily Ascertained, from the Capital of the United States, and the State Capitals, Respectively. Washington: Printed by Blair and Rives. 1836. 183 pp.*

*Table of the Post Offices in the United States, on the Fifteenth July, 1837, Arranged in Alphabetical Order, Exhibiting the States and Counties in Which they are Situated - The Names of the Postmasters - and the Distance of each Office, as far as Satisfactorily Ascertained, from the Capital of the United States, and the State Capitals, Respectively. Washington: Langtree and O'Sullivan. 1837. 191 pp.*

*Table of the Post Offices in the United States on the Thirty-First of January,*

1842, Arranged in Alphabetical Order, Exhibiting the States and Counties in Which they are Situated - The Names of the Postmasters - and the Distance of each Office , as far as Satisfactorily Ascertained, from the Capitol of the United States, and the State Capitals, Respectively. Washington: J. & G.S. Gideon, Printers. 1842. 240 pp.

*Table of Post Offices in the United States on the First Day of October, 1846, Arranged in Alphabetical Order. Exhibiting the States, Territories, and Counties in Which they are Situated, and the Names of the Postmasters; with Tables Exhibiting the Distances from the Capital of the United States to the Capital of the Several States and Territories. Also An Appendix; Containing a List of the Post Offices, Arranged by States and Counties.* Washington: John T. Towers, Printer. 1846. 358 pp.

*Tremayne's Table of Post Offices: Containing an Alphabetical List of Post-Offices throughout the United States; Distances from Washington, D.C., State and Territorial Capitals Respectively, also Exhibiting the Post-Offices in each State, as well as County. With an Appendix, of the United States and British Tariffs.* Philadelphia: Thomas, Cowperthwait & Co. 1846. 321, 37, 17, 4, 2 pp. (17 pp. ads not numbered, 4 pp. of publisher's book ads, 2 pp. of ads)

*Volume III. January, 1850. Number I. Pratt's National Business Directory: Showing the Name and Location of all the Post Towns, Post Offices, and Post Masters, in the United States. Carefully Revised and Corrected from Authentic Government Records.* New York: Principal Office, No. 85 Liberty-Street. Also, For Sale by Stringer and Townsend, H. Long & Brother, Dewitt & Davenport, W.F. Burgess, and Booksellers Generally. 109 pp.

*The United States Post-Office Guide; by Eli Bowen, Late of the Contract-Office. Containing, I. ... II. ... IX. ... X. ...* New-York: D. Appleton and Company, 200 Broadway. MDCCCLI. 352, 2 pp. (A reprint by Arno Press was done in 1976.)

*Table of Post Offices in the United States on the First Day of January, 1851, Arranged in Alphabetical Order, and Exhibiting the States, Territories, and Counties in Which they are Situated, with the Names of the Post Masters; Also An Appendix, Containing a List of the Post Offices, Arranged by States and Counties, to which is added a List of the Offices Established, Changed, or Discontinued to May 31.* Washington: W. & J.C. Greer, Printers. 1851. 5, 311, 151 pp.

*Rode's United States Post Office Directory and Postal Guide. Compiled from the Records of the Post-Office Department. Published at the Office of the New-York City Directory, 161 Broadway, by Charles R. Rode.* 1853. 146, 8 pp. (8 pages of ads unnumbered, front cover of paper covered boards; also reads "Vol.1] January, 1853 [No. 1." at top and "...aws & Russell, Steam Printers, 13 Spruce-St..." at bottom.)

*The United States Post Office Directory and Postal Guide. Compiled from the Records of the Post-Office Department, by Charles R. Rode. Corrected up to April 1st, 1854. Published at the Office of the New-York City Directory, No. 161 Broadway, by Charles R. Rode.* 147 pp.

*List of Post Offices in the United States with the Names of Postmasters, on the 1st of July, 1855. Also, the Principal Regulations of the Post Office Department. Compiled by D.D.T. Leech, of the Post Office Department.* Washington: Printed by George S. Gideon. 1855. 145, 48, 4 pp.

*List of Post Offices in the United States with the Names of Postmasters, on the 1st of July, 1855. Also, the Principal Regulations of the Post Office Department. Compiled from the Records of the Post Office Department.* Washington: Published by J. Shillington. 1855. 145, 48, 4 pp.

*Post Office Directory; or, Business Man's Guide to the Post Offices in the United States, Containing the Names of the Post Offices and Post Masters in the United States on the 1st of July, 1856, Arranged by States and Counties; Exhibiting the Revenue of Each Office for the Year ending June 30, 1855, and thus, at a glance, Showing the Business Importance of Every Town; with Information in Regard to the Rates of Postage to Inland and Foreign Places, the Franking Privilege, and other Matters of Interest to Citizens Generally. Containing also a Comprehensive Codification of the Existing Postal Laws. Compiled from Official Sources, By D.D.T.*



Leech. *New York: J.H. Colton and Company, No. 172 William Street. 1856. 202, 36 pp., 1 ad page.*

*List of Post Offices in the United States, with the Names of Postmasters, on the 13th of July, 1857. Also, the Regulations and Laws of the Post Office Department. Compiled from the Records of the Post Office Department. By D.D.T. Leech. Washington: Published by John C. Rives. 1857. 159, 93, 10 pp. (A reprint by Theron Wierenga was done in 1980.)*

*List of Post Offices in the United States, with the Names of Postmasters, on the 1st of April, 1859; also, the Laws and Regulations of the Post Office Department, with an Appendix Containing the Names of the Post Offices arranged by States and Counties. Washington: Published by John C. Rives, For the Compiler-D.D.T. Leech. 1859. 315 pp.*

*Complete Cheap Edition. The Post Office Guide: For Postmasters and Business Men: Containing a Complete List of Post Offices in the United States and Territories, Arranged by States and Counties, also a List of Distributing Post Offices, Rates of Foreign and Domestic Letter Postage, Rates of Printed Postage, Rates of Printed Matter, Transient and Regular, Carefully Arranged in Tabular Form. An Abstract of the Laws and Regulations of the Post Office Department, etc. Compiled by E. Penrose Jones, Late Assistant Postmaster at Cincinnati. Published by C.S. Williams, Cincinnati, Ohio. 1859. Sold by all Booksellers. Price, Twenty-Five Cents. 2, 5, xi, 72, 6 pp. (5 pp. ads after title, 6 pages of ads at end including back cover.)*

*List of Post Offices in the United States, with the Names of Postmasters Annexed, (Except at Suspended Offices.) With an Appendix Containing the Names of Post Offices, arranged by States and Counties. Embracing also certain Important Regulations, and other Postal Information. Revised and Corrected by the Post Office Department up to July 1, 1862. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1862. 374 pp. (A reprint by Theron Wierenga was done in 1981.)*

*Post-Office Directory for 1863. Alphabetical List of Post-Offices in the United States, with the Names of Post-Masters, (Except at Suspended Offices), Also, Names of Post-Offices, Arranged by States and Counties, as Published by the Post-Office Department; With an Appendix, Containing the Rates of Domestic and Foreign Postage, the New Post-Office Bill, and other Important Postal Information. Revised and Corrected by J. Disturnell, To April 1, 1863. New York: Published by J.H. Colton, No. 172 William Street. 1863. xxii, 296 pp.*

*Post-Office Directory for 1866. Alphabetical List of Post-Offices in the United States, with the Names of Post-Masters, (Except at Suspended Offices,) as Published by the Post-Office Department; also Names of New Post-Offices, Etc., Arranged Alphabetically; With an Appendix, Containing the Rates of Domestic and Foreign Postage List of Money Order Post-Offices, and Latest Post-Office Laws; together with the Post-Offices in Canada. Revised and Corrected by J. Disturnell, to October 1st, 1865. New York: Published by the American News Company, No. 121 Nassau Street. W.B. Zieber, Philadelphia; Henry Taylor, Baltimore; and W.H. & O.H. Morrison, Washington, D.C. xxiv, 238 pp.*

*Post-Office Directory for 1866. Alphabetical List of Post-Offices in the United States, with the Names of Post-Masters, (Except at Suspended Offices.) as Published by the Post-Office Department; also Names of New Post-Offices, Etc., Arranged Alphabetically; With an Appendix, Containing the Rates of Domestic and Foreign Postage List of Money Order Post-Offices, and Latest Post-Office Laws; together with the Post-Offices in Canada. Revised and Corrected by J. Disturnell, New York: Published by the American News Company, No. 121 Nassau Street. W.B. Zieber, Philadelphia; Henry Taylor, Baltimore; and W.H. & O.H. Morrison, Washington, D.C. xxiv, 238 pp. (this is a new edition, lacks the "to October 1st, 1865.")*

*Post-Office Directory for 1867. Alphabetical List of Post-Offices in the United States, with the Names of Post-Masters, (Except at Suspended Offices,) as Published by the Post-Office Department; also Names of New Post-Offices, Etc., Arranged Alphabetically, and by States and Counties; With an Appendix, Containing the Rates of*

*Domestic and Foreign Postage List of Money Order Post-Offices, and Latest Post-Office Laws; together with the Post-Offices in Canada. Revised and Corrected by J. Disturnell, to January, 1867. New York: Published by the American News Company, No. 121 Nassau Street. W.B. Zieber, Philadelphia; Henry Taylor, Baltimore; and W.H. & O.H. Morrison, Washington, D.C. xxiv, 320 pp.*

*List of Post Offices and Postmasters in the United States, with An Appendix Containing the Names of Post Offices Arranged by States and Counties, and Table of Distances from Washington, D.C., to the County-Seats of the Several States and Territories, Etc. Also, Money-Order Offices, Rates of Postage, and other Postal Information. Revised and Corrected by the Post Office Department to October 20, 1867. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1868. xxi, 2, 293 pp.*

*List of Post Offices and Postmasters in the United States, with An Appendix Containing the Names of Post Offices Arranged by States and Counties, and Table of Distances from Washington, D.C., to the County-Seats of the Several States and Territories, Etc. Also, Money-Order Offices, Rates of Postage, and other Postal Information. Revised and Corrected by the Post Office Department to October 20, 1867. With Additions and Corrections to April 20, 1868. New York: Published by the American News Company, No. 119 Nassau Street, The Western News Company, Chicago, Ill. ? pp.*

*List of Post Offices and Postmasters in the United States, with An Appendix Containing the Names of Post Offices Arranged by States and Counties, and Table of Distances from Washington, D.C., to the County-Seats of the Several States and Territories, Etc., Also, Money-Order Offices, Rates of Postage, and other Postal Information. Revised and Corrected by the Post Office Department to October 20, 1867. With Additions and Corrections to September, 1868. New York: Published by the American News Company, No. 119 Nassau Street. The Western News Company, Chicago, Ill. xxii, 2, 305, 3 pp. (last 3 pp. are ads, new edition of above.)*

*List of Post Offices and Postmasters in the United States, with an Appendix Containing the Names of Post Offices Arranged by States and Counties, and Table of Distances from Washington, D.C., to the County-Seats of the Several States and Territories, Etc. Also, Money-Order Offices, Rates of Postage, and Other Postal Information. Revised and Corrected, with Additions to November, 1869. New York: Published by Disturnell & Statia, Third Avenue, Corner 7th Street, (Opposite Cooper Institute), and For Sale by The American News Company, and Booksellers Generally. 1870. xxii, 2, 321, 1 pp. ad, 4 pp. Insurance & Trust Co.*

*Post Office Directory. List Of Post Offices in the United States Arranged Alphabetically and Giving the Salaries of the Postmasters. Also an Appendix Containing the Names of Post Offices Arranged by States and Counties, with Money-Order Offices, and Other Postal Information Revised and Corrected by the Post Office Department, to September 1, 1870. Washington. Government Printing Office. 1870.393 pp.*

*List of Post Offices in the United States, arranged Alphabetically by States. Designed Particularly for Postmasters, Postal Clerks, and Route Agents, and all Persons Connected with the Postal Service. Especially Useful to Banks, Insurance, Expresses, Telegraphs, and other Corporations. Compiled by Wm. Van Vleck. From the Official Records of the Post Office Department to August 1, 1870. For corrections up to October 15, 1870, see Page 965. Washington, D.C., Wm. H. Boyd, Directory Publisher. Price, Five Dollars. Entered According to act of Congress in the year 1870 by William H. Boyd in the office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington. 964, vi pp.*

*Alphabetical List of Post Offices and Postmasters in the United States, with a Supplement Containing the Names of New Post Offices, Counties and County Seats and Tables of Distances from Washington, D.C., together with Rates of Postage, Money-Order Offices, Etc. Also a List of Post Offices in the Dominion of Canada. Revised and Corrected by J. Disturnell. Philadelphia: Published by W.B. Zieber, 106 South Third*

Street, and For Sale by the American News Company, New York, and Booksellers Generally. 1872. xxii, 2, 259, 2 pp.

*Post Office Directory. List of Post Offices in the United States and Canada, Arranged Alphabetically and Giving the Salaries of the Postmasters. Also arranged by States and Counties, Giving the Names of Postmasters. Compiled by Wm. Van Vleck of the Post Office Department to April 1st, 1873. Also giving the Population of all Post Offices of 1000 and Over, and of the United States from 1790 to 1870. Price, \$2.50 in Cloth, \$2.00 in Paper. Washington, D.C. William H. Boyd, Directory Publisher, 1873. Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1873, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington, D.C. 9, 156, 11, 3 pp. (9 pp. ads in front, 3 pp. at end, others list this as 373 pp?)*

*List of Post Offices in the United States. Arranged Alphabetically. Corrected to February 1, 1881. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1881. 420 pp.*

### Items not personally seen:

[List of Post Offices in the United States] 1797

[List of Post Offices in the United States] 1800

[List of Post Offices in the United States with the Counties in Which They are Situated, and Their Distances from Washington City] In *A Compendious Dictionary of the English Language*, by Noah Webster, 1806, pp. 371-382.

[List of Post Offices in the United States with Their Post-Masters. Washington, D.C., 1808] 60 pp.

[List of Post Offices in the United States, December 31, 1808. Washington: Wescott and Co., Printers, 1808] 60 pp.

[Table of Post Offices in the United States, Washington, Lawrence and Wilson 1818]

[List of Post Offices in the United States Washington: Way and Gideon 1822 (two editions)]

[Table of Post Offices in the United States Washington: Way and Gideon 1823]

[Table of Post Offices in the United States 1830]

[The United States Post Office Directory and Postal Guide, New York: Davies and Roberts, stereotypers, and J.H. Colton and Co., publishers. 1856]

[List of Post Offices in the United States, A.O.P. Nicholson and John C. Rives, 1857]

[Post-Office Directory for 1863 ... by J. Disturnell] Editions of 1864, 1867, 1868 and 1870.

[Appleton's U.S. Postal Guide. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1863?] Supposedly, Appleton published a quarterly postal guide beginning with Eli Bowen's in 1851 and continuing until 1863.

[List of Post Offices in the United States, Washington: William H. Boyd, 1871]

[List of Post Offices in the United States, Washington: William H. Boyd, 1872]

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## The Postal History of the State of Franklin

On 2 June 1784, the State of North Carolina offered portions of its Western regions to the Federal Government because it was unable to administer or protect the territories. Although North Carolina withdrew the offer on 20 November, the counties of Washington, Sullivan and Green independently organized the unofficial State of Franklin, which included the cities of Greenville (the appointed capital) and Jonesboro, and numerous smaller towns, in what now the northeastern corner of Tennessee.

The State of Franklin was created in August 1784, and ceased to exist on the last day of February 1788. The counties became part of Tennessee, when the former Governor of Franklin, John Sevier, became the first Governor of Tennessee. Postal history from the State of Franklin is documented.

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We are seeking postal history from or to the State of Franklin docketed or otherwise documented as being posted during the recorded existence of the State, approximately between the periods of August 1784 and February 1788.

Please provide photocopies of available items, detailing specifics and the price for the material being offered.

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THE 1866-68 15¢ BLACK: HISTORY, FIRST DAY,  
PRODUCTION, VARIETIES AND USES OF  
THE FIRST U.S. COMMEMORATIVE

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(continued from Chronicle 193:31)

E. Postal History and Cancellations

While a wide variety of color cancellations is known on the stamp, green is extremely rare with only four off cover examples confirmed and one more claimed. Only one on-cover example is recorded, an "E" grill, used from Owego, New York, January 3, 1870 via New York City by Bremen packet via Basel to Lausanne, Switzerland, arriving January 19, 1870 (Figure No. 12). Many shades of blue and red are not too difficult to find, while purple, magenta, ultramarine, indigo and violet are scarce to very scarce in the order named. Philadelphia used various shades of purple, violet and a definite lilac color which can be found on 15¢ covers, especially routine uses to France and the German states.

The listing in *Scott's U.S. Specialized Catalogue* of an orange cancel appears to be incorrect. The only known example is from a French transit marking and not an originating cancellation. Printed or illustrated covers (Figure 13) are quite scarce and there are only two recorded uses as a revenue stamp (see Figure 14 for one).

The most exotic domestic use is probably the cover shown in Figure 15, where the 15¢ was coupled with a 5¢ 1861 to pay the 20¢ registry rate on a 3¢ 1884 postal stationery envelope which paid the domestic postage from Beaver, Utah Territory, May 28, 1888. It is



Figure 12. Only known green cancel on 15¢ stamp on cover

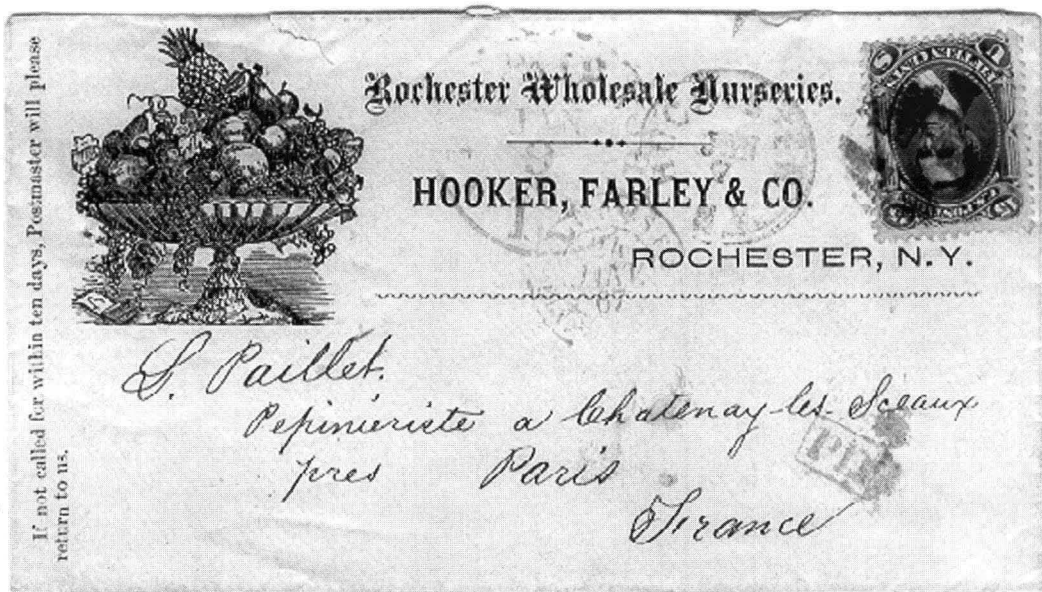


Figure 13. Fruit bowl advertisement for nursery used January 7, 1867 to France

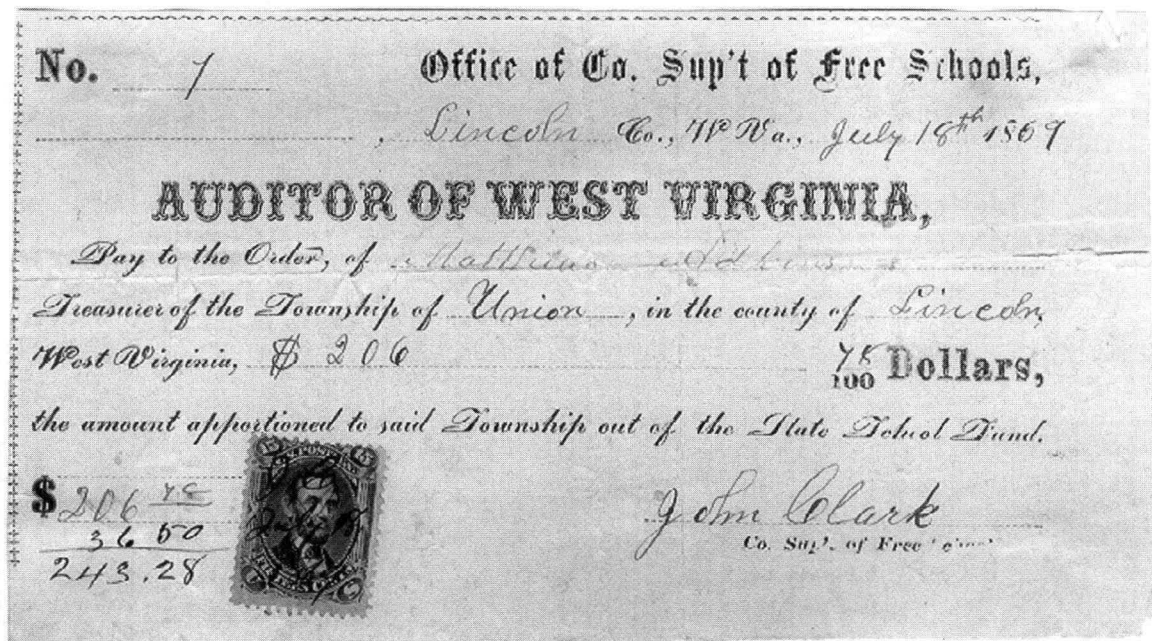


Figure 14. Revenue use on West Virginia draft, July 18, 1869

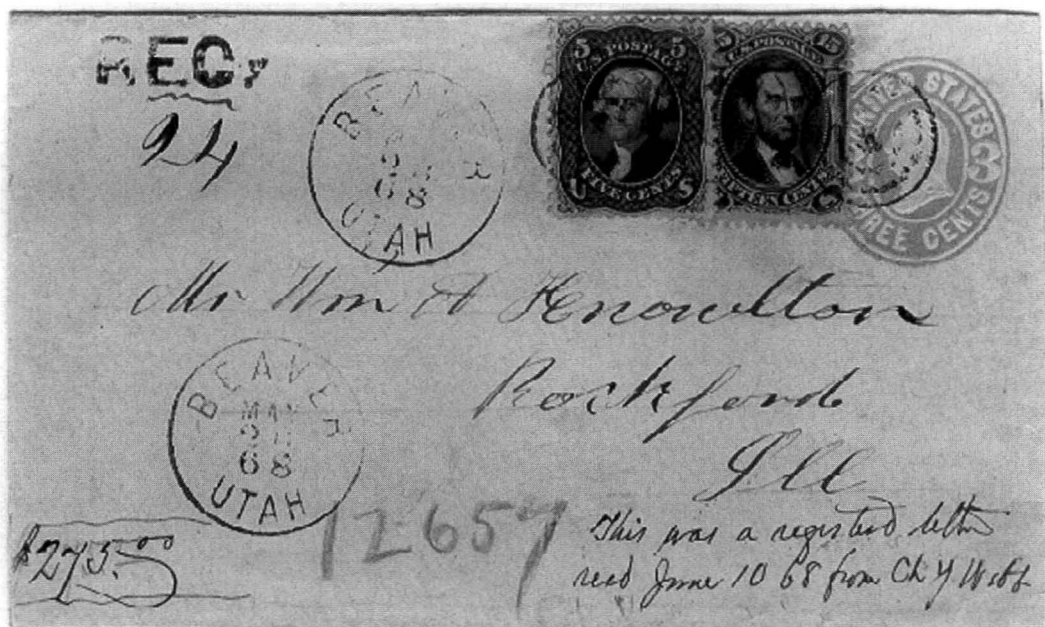


Figure 15. 5¢ and 15¢ paid 20¢ registry fee from Beaver, Utah Territory, May 28, 1868



Figure 16. 2¢, 3¢ and 15¢ "F" grills on 3¢ entire paid 20¢ registry and 3¢ postage, December 17, 1868



one of only two covers known with the 15¢ paying part of the 20¢ registry rate. Another scarce usage paying the 20¢ rate is 2¢, 3¢ and 15¢ “F” grills (the 3¢ with a quadruple split grill) on an 1864 3¢ postal stationery envelope used from Montgomery, Ala., December 17, 1868 to Camden, Va., just before the 15¢ registry rate went into effect on January 1, 1869 (Figure 16). While there are many covers with the 15¢ paying registry rate and 3¢ or 6¢ paying domestic postage, there is only one recorded example of the 15¢ F grill used with a 12¢ 1869 to pay registry and quadruple weight rate; this was the May 1870 cover to Roseburg, Ore. shown in Figure 17. There are early uses on heavy multiple weight domestic covers. Most of these are so-called “courthouse covers” carrying pleadings or depositions to or from courthouses throughout the country.



**Figure 17. 15¢ “F” grill and 12¢ 1869 paid registry and quadruple rate, May 1870**

Among some of the better-known fancy cancellations found on the 15¢ are the Heart-In-Heart from Love, Ky.; the Masonic Compass and Square of Waterbury, Conn.; the Hingham, Mass. bat; the New York City shield and the clamshell; the Brooklyn, N.Y. herringbone; the eight diamonds killer of Bridgeport, Conn.; the San Francisco cogwheels; the four-pointed star-in-a-rope of Newburgh, N.Y.; and the Cambridge, Mass. shield. The rose-carmine “Gothic S” of Syracuse, N.Y. also exists on the 15¢ Lincoln.

Foreign cancellations are often found, especially the French packet marking of an anchor in a diamond or lozenge of dots. Frequently, this is the only killer which will be found on covers that were turned over to French packets in the port of New York. It is also not hard to find portions of red or red orange London transit markings and parts of the Spanish and Portuguese “FRANCA.” The German “FRANCO” and Bremen transit markings are slightly scarce.

Usages in the foreign mail also often reflected high multiple rates or very expensive rates. The largest recorded multiple on cover is a strip of three, which is recorded on six different covers. One is shown here together with an additional single, paying four times treaty rate for British direct mail from New York, January 14, 1867 to Paris (Figure 18). The heaviest weight in foreign mail with a 15¢ stamp is probably the nine times 15¢ treaty



**Figure 18. Strip of three and single paid four times treaty rate to Paris**

rate, with a strip of four of the 30¢ 1861 used with a 15¢ 1866 from Columbus, Ohio, November 30, 1866 to Vienna, Austria, backstamped December 23, 1866, formerly in the Paliapito collection (Figure 19). Another type of multiple usage is the very scarce franking with two copies of the 15¢ paying Supplementary Mail rate. Figure 20 shows such a use with two "E" grills from New York, June 24, 1868 to Paris. It is one of four known for this issue.

Scarce to rare uses often paid high multiple foreign rates to such difficult destinations as the interior of China; via Hong Kong to Kanagawa, Japan; to Jaffa, Syria (now Israel) via Alexandria, Egypt by French packet (Figure 21); and to Norway; Portugal (Figure 22); Turkey (Figure 23); and Peru (Figure 24). In the Goodhue correspondence the stamp paid rates to Zanzibar, Aden and the Seychelle Islands (Figure 25). Figure 26 shows a very attractive cover from New Haven, Conn. with a negative Star of David cancelling 15¢ and 30¢ stamps on April 12 (1867), via Southhampton to Bangkok, Siam. The same franking paid another 45¢ rate from Easton, Pa., January 2, 1868 to Singapore (Figure 27).

The 15¢ is also known in mixed franking combinations such as usages to France internally forwarded with a 20 centime stamp. These are quite scarce. Scarcer still are those usages to France forwarded to Germany or Switzerland, with a 30 centime stamp. The author's favorite is a 15¢ black sent from New York, January 13, 1869 to Paris, France, with U.S. packet and Paris arrival markings January 25, 1869 (Figure 28). It was forwarded by Hottingure & Cie. the same day with a 40 centime Napoleon Lauré stamp to Cairo, Egypt, arriving February 4, 1869.

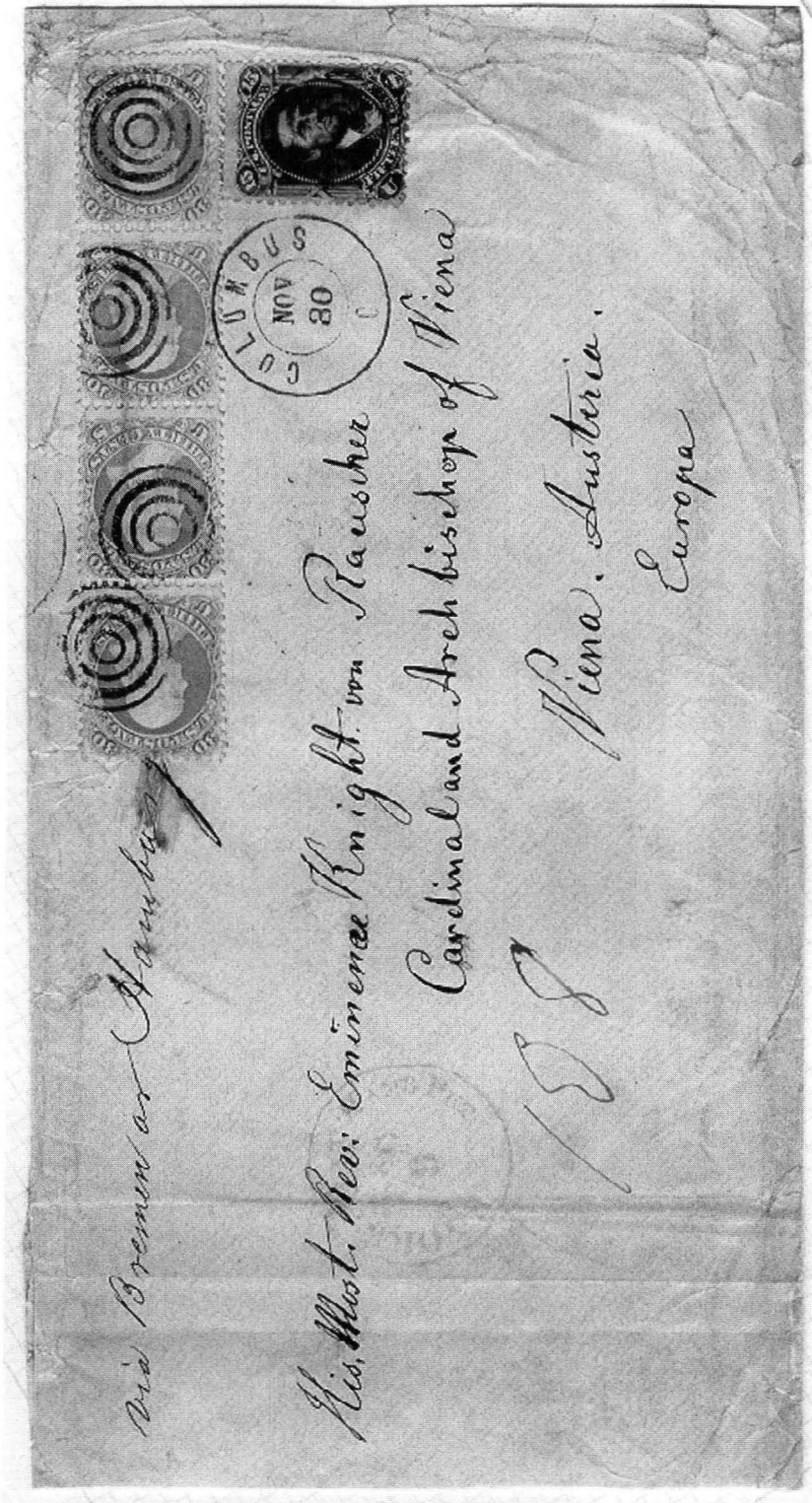


Figure 19. Strip of four 1861 30¢ and 15¢ paid nine times treaty rate to Vienna

All in all, the short-lived career of this stamp, from 1866 through 1870, offers a wealth of historical and collecting interest, which is only fitting for our nation's first commemorative issue.



Figure 20. Two "E" grills paid Supplementary Mail rate, June 24, 1868

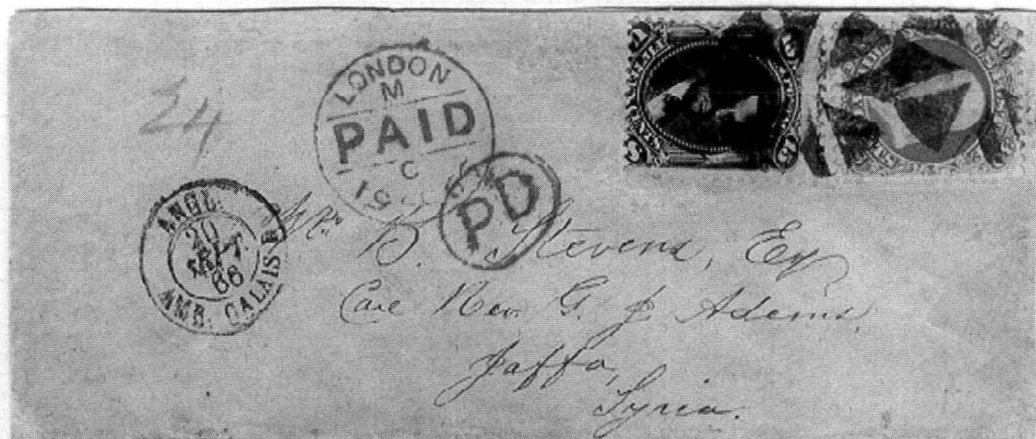


Figure 21. 15¢ and 30¢ 1861 in partial payment of treaty rates to Jaffa, Syria



Figure 22. 1c, 3c and 15c "F" grills on 1864 entire paid 21c treaty rate from Ripley, Ohio, March 1, 1869, by British transit to Lisbon, Portugal



Figure 23. 5c 1863 and 15c paid E.K.U. of 20 cent rate to Turkey by NGU closed mail



Figure 24. Pair of 15¢ “F” grills and two 2¢ “F” grills paid 34¢ rate to Lima, Peru, March 9, 1869

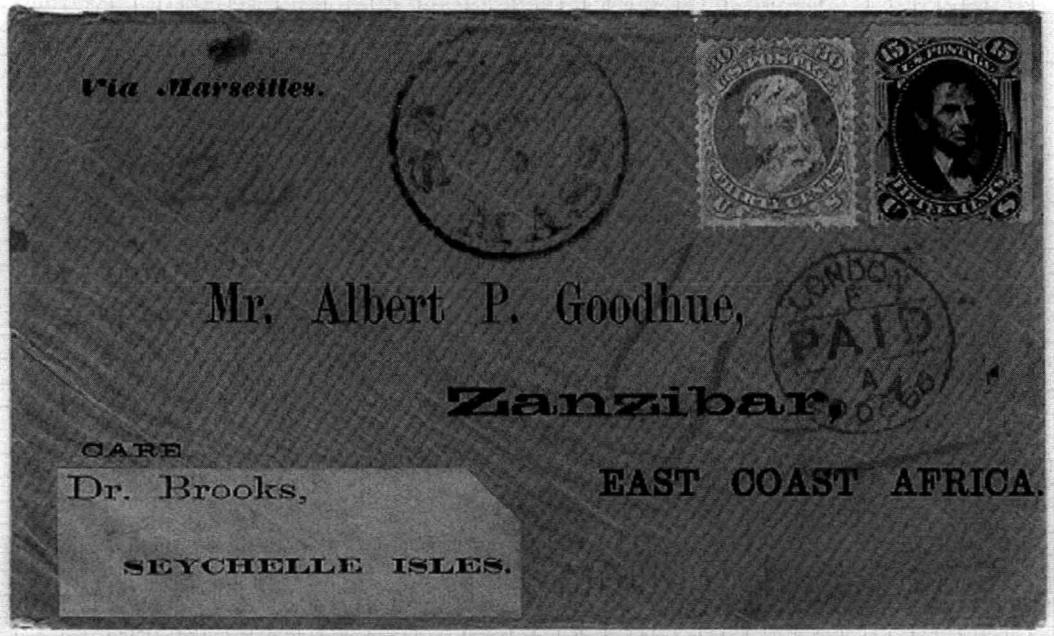


Figure 25. 30¢ 1861 and 15¢ paid 45¢ rate from Salem, Mass., October 5, 1866, via New York, London, Seychelles and Mauritius to Zanzibar

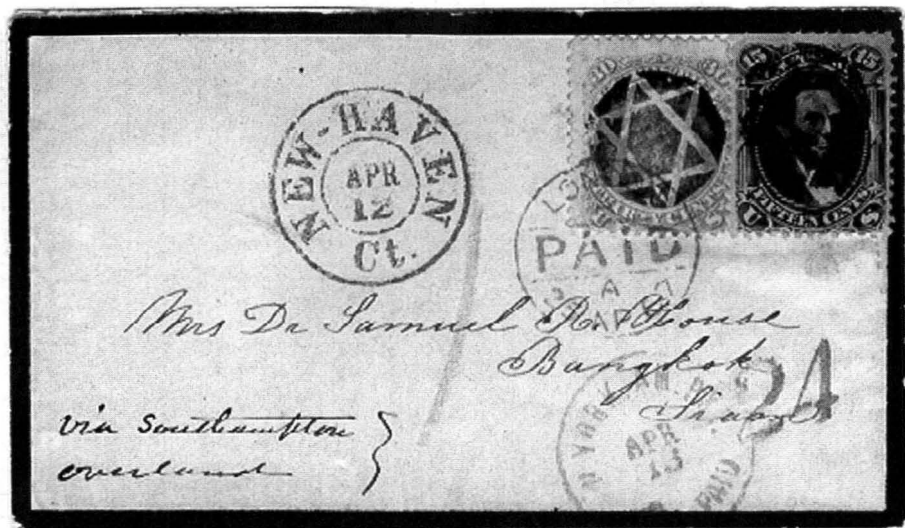


Figure 26. 15¢ and 30¢ 1861 with fancy negative Star of David killers paid 45¢ rate from New Haven, Conn., April 12, 1867, to Bangkok, Siam



Figure 27. 15¢ and 30¢ 1861 paying 45¢ rate from Easton, Pa., January 2, 1868, to Singapore.



**Figure 28. 15¢ “F” grill to Paris forwarded with 40 centimes Napoleon Lauré to Cairo, Egypt**

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### Corrections

Please note the following corrections for the first half of this article which appeared in *Chronicle* No. 193:

1. On page 19, in the quotation from the April 9, 1866 *Boston Post*, the portion in brackets after the 1/4 ounce should be deleted.

2. On page 29, second paragraph, in discussing the multiples of the F grills, the largest multiple of the unused is correctly stated as a block of 20. However, the next entry should have read "used," not "unused," and that multiple is a block of four.

NOTE: At the bottom of page 18, the periodical stamp (Scott No. PR3) is referred to as the "first U.S. stamp to feature Abraham Lincoln." That statement is true as to stamps paying postage.

However, Bill Ainsworth correctly reminds us that the American Phototype Company prepared and had already approved Lincoln designs for 5¢ and 50¢ revenue stamped paper in May and June of 1865. The present earliest recorded use of Scott No. RN-P6 is on script certificates of the Panama Railroad Company issued in New York October 5, 1865. Because of the large time gap between May 31, 1865 when the 5¢ was approved and its use on October 5, 1865, it is possible that earlier uses on this or the other values may yet be found. □

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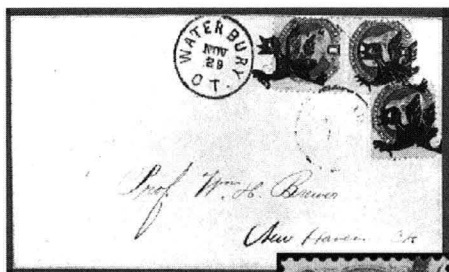
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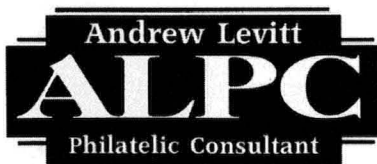
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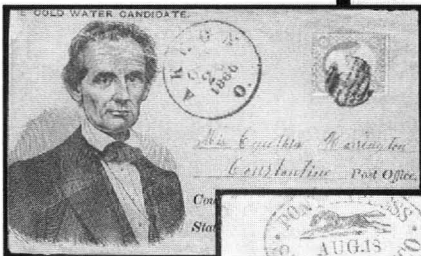
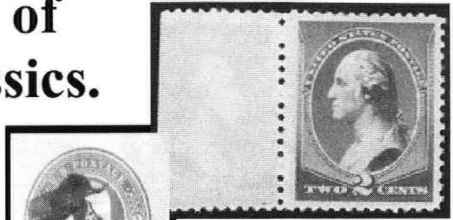
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THE DE LA RUE 5¢ TYPOGRAPHED PLATE  
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The previous article on the CSA 10¢ Altered Plate in *Chronicle* No. 192 led to this study of the 5¢ typographed stamps, and to fond memories of discussions many years ago with my old friend Henry M. Spelman III. The Lithographs were always my main interest but Henry had a special fascination with the Typographs. We would discuss and argue; is it a London or is it a Richmond printing? In Drinkwater's 1931 monograph, page 7, he states: "It is impossible always to distinguish between stamps printed in London and stamps printed in Richmond . . ." In the intervening 71 years I think this distinction has become even more clouded. This article is a plea for others to take up this most fascinating study.

It is hoped that the examination of the 5¢ Lost Plate, the 2¢ Altered Plate, the fragments of the 10¢ Altered Plate, De La Rue records, and the *Bermuda Prize Court* records, along with the surviving stamps and covers, will clarify the situation. Major questions could still be answered by a detailed study of panes and large multiples of the London and Richmond printings:

1. Did London print from one or two plates?
2. Can we confirm that the plate or plates used in London were not used in Richmond?
3. Did Richmond print from one or two plates?
4. Are stamps from the Lost Shipment, excluding the record copy, now in philatelic hands?

A detailed study of the stamps, shade, paper, plate wear and cleaning will most certainly add much knowledge to the classification of the London and Richmond stamps!

In comparing the De La Rue records and the Easton and Drinkwater books, there is no disagreement on facts. However, Drinkwater is more detailed. He had personal access to the original records before they were scattered and or destroyed during the Blitz in 1940. The remaining De La Rue records now reside at Consignia, Heritage Services in London and should certainly be re-examined. The two published sources are John Easton's *The De La Rue History of British & Foreign Postage Stamps 1855 to 1901* and John Drinkwater's June 25, 1931 talk at the Eighteenth Philatelic Congress of Great Britain on "The Stamps of the Confederate States of America, 1861-1865," which appeared in their Congress Book of that year and was privately printed for the author. For the Prize Court I have used both Drinkwater and Dietz. Except in quotations, the plate shipped on the Bermuda will be referred to as the Lost Plate though it is no longer lost. August Dietz's masterwork, *The Postal Service of The Confederate States of America*, is referred to as 1929 Dietz followed by the page number.

#### The Records

It is unfortunate that we have no records on the original De La Rue contract with the CSA as it may have led to a better understanding of the plates. This void extends to the engraved master dies by J.F. Joubert de la Ferté, the transfer matrixes of 400 subjects and the first billed plate for the 1¢ and 5¢ stamps. We also lack the same information for the 2¢ and 10¢ Altered Plates. The original engraved 1¢ and 5¢ dies were transferred to other dies, the value blocks changed from 1¢ to 2¢ and 5¢ to 10¢, and the lead matrix of 100 subjects and the original printing plates had to be made. The initial order is no doubt the one responsible for the January 30, 1862 shipment of the 5¢ stamps. The engraved die by

Joubert may well have been paid for separately; engraving was not a De La Rue specialty and Joubert contracted with various firms. The value change in the die and the matrix were a De La Rue specialty and a major cost factor. Dietz states that Major Ficklin left Richmond on October 1, 1861 and arrived in England toward the end of the month. This is quite realistic based on normal transit time and also the early De La Rue activity.

Our first record on the De La Rue contract is the January 30th, 1862 Day Book entry (folio 108). This entry is evidently an accounting record, something like an order entry, and not an actual shipping record though the first known shipment was made on that day:

Confederate States of America pr. Major B. F. Ficklin:	
5 million 5c stamps Postage Stamps	
10d [ <i>i.e.</i> , 10d/1000]	£208 6s, 8d
24 reams paper [22 x 18.5 inches per Easton]	£26 8s
18 lbs blue fugitive ink at 15/	£13 10p
1 printing plate for C.S. Postage Stamps	
duty 5 cents containing 400 multiples	
mounted on Cast Iron plate truly planed	£100
Total £350 6s 8d plus £22 2s 6d for a perforation machine	

From the Drinkwater monograph, the March 1862 [day is not given] Day Book entries (folio 112) give some shipping records for the January 30th entry:

Jan 30th, A, 4 Trunks containing, Labels 2,150,000 [5,375 sheets]	
sent pp Nashville from Southn	
Feb 11th, B, 27 Cases containing, Labels 5,400,000 [13,500 sheets]	
sent pp Fraser Trenholm and Co.	
8 reams paper, 4,000 sheets paper	
6 lbs ink	
Feb 20th, C, 24 Cases containing, Labels 4,855,000 [12,137.5 sheets]	
sent pp Fraser Trenholm and Co. shipped on the "Bermuda"	
[Fraser Trenholm and Co. were the owners of the <i>Bermuda</i> ]	
38 reams paper, 19,000 sheets paper	
30 lbs ink	
Total Stamps Produced 12,405,000 [31,012.5 sheets]	
Jan 30th, credit 5,000,000	
March Invoice for Stamps Shipped 7,405,000	
charge at 10d/1000 £308 10s 10p	

The January 30th, 1862 entry is clarified by the March 1862 Day Book entry which refers to the actual shipping records. The January 30th De La Rue shipment of stamps and the arrival in Richmond is confirmed by John H. Reagan's *Report of the Postmaster General to the President, February 28th, 1862*, page 10, which states "2,150,000 5c stamps have just been received from Europe." We assume the February 11th, 1862 shipment arrived in good order but we have no additional information.

The Feb 20th, 1862 shipment, "C," is the one shipped on the *Bermuda* which never arrived in the CSA, and is so noted in the De La Rue records, our famous Lost Shipment. It agrees in the number of cases and in the "POD 32/55" notation which was in the De La Rue records and also the Prize Court records. The *Bermuda* left London on March 1st, arrived in Bermuda March 19th or 20th and sailed from St. George on April 23rd to be captured on April 27th (1929 Dietz, page 165). This March 1st sailing date from Liverpool confirms the February 20th entry. The blank paper on the Bermuda shipment was bank note paper per the De La Rue records, the Eastern Pennsylvania *Bermuda* Prize Court records, as well as the surviving samples.

The manifest of the blockade runner *Bermuda* covering the landing and clearing of the Island of Bermuda survives (M.H. Ludington's 1996 monograph, *Postal History of Blockade Running Through Bermuda 1861-1865*, pages 6-8). The manifest gives the basic data, a rough inventory on three pages, dated March 22, 1862, thus an arrival on the 20th is not out of order. Some additional cargo was added and the document states the ship sailed

on April 22, 1862 for Nassau. Only three lines of the inventory relate to the De La Rue shipment and unfortunately are not definitive. The heading is POD for Post Office Department and the lines read: 26 (cases) Paper, 1 (case) Ink and 1 (case) Machinery. The Ludington booklet (page 7) states "At the top of the center column on the second page of the manifest are listed the printing equipment and plates and stock of stamps of the Confederate 1 cent and 5 cents Plate 2, which were never issued." I can not find words in the manifest that give such details on the plates or stamps and assume Ludington just filled in the conventional story of this shipment. Such manifests were for the port of entry customs and done by the captain with little knowledge or interest in such minor details of the cargo.

The records relating to the capture of the *Bermuda* are of historic and legal significance but not of sufficient detail for philatelic study. Dietz gives a recount of the initial Prize Court trial in Philadelphia as transcribed in the 1920s by Horace W. Davis (1929 Dietz, pp. 162-69). This is assumed correct, though to our knowledge it is not otherwise published or confirmed. One could try to check out these records in Philadelphia; anyone interested in the job? The subsequent action of the Supreme Court of the United States was published; see Wallace's *Reports of Cases Argued and Adjudged in the Supreme Court of the United States, December Term, 1865*, Vol III, 514-559, pp. 200-207. Unfortunately the Supreme Court action mostly related to the ownership of the *Bermuda*, the legality of the capture and the disposal of the ship and cargo. The published transcriptions do not have any details on the cargo or the CSA P.O. involvement.

I suspect that De La Rue printed stamps from only one printing plate, however two are possible and would not change the basic story. The January 30th and the February 11th shipments of stamps would be the first and better impressions as plate wear is real. For the February 20th shipment, the Lost Shipment, we have two things to consider: an actual 5¢ printing plate shipped to the CSA and one copy of the stamp from this shipment on a document. This document is written on the CSA watermarked bank note paper from the shipment. The printing plate is in excellent condition today and probably did not see any use in London. The single stamp is a quite good impression on London paper but not an impression of exceptional quality. To make such a subtle judgment on a single stamp is speculative but in my opinion it does show some plate wear which would be expected. We do not know when this stamp was printed; it could have been the first or the last from the shipment, or even from somewhere in between.

We now have a minimum of three 5¢ printing plates: one used in London and now lost (it was De La Rue's custom to melt down plates that were no longer needed); second, the Lost Plate captured on the *Bermuda* by the Union and now residing in the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, which was not used to print stamps for the CSA; the third plate, which reached the CSA and was used to print stamps in Richmond and which is now also lost. The Day Book entry of a 5¢ plate shipped on March 24th is proof that an additional 5¢ plate or plates were planned before the previous plate shipped to the CSA was captured on April 27th, 1862.

Though the 5¢ plate shipped on the *Bermuda* was with the last shipment of 5¢ stamps I do not think it was the same plate that was used in England to print the stamps for this shipment. The Lost Plate today shows virtually no plate wear, and in addition the De La Rue invoice is only £100. The charges for the original plates and dies do not appear in any records known to the author. We do have a most interesting quotation by Dietz, a February 20, 1863 date which is given as the renewal of a contract originated on June 30, 1862; as to the plates being in the CSA and the printing of stamps, note 1929 Dietz page 179:

Articles of Agreement, made and entered into between the Confederate States of America (acting in their behalf by the Postmaster-General) of the first part, and John

Archer and Joseph D. Daly, known as and constituting the firm of Archer & Daly, Engravers and Printers, of the City of Richmond, Virginia, of the second part, witnesseth:

. . . until the full sum of Two hundred and one pounds, ten shillings (£201.10s) be paid to the said party of the first part, that being the amount of invoiced cost of said plates sent to the Department by Thos. De La Rue & Company of 100 Bunhill Row, London, The parties of the second part agreeing to pay the entire sum of difference in the rate of Exchange necessary in making full payment . . . said Electrotype plates shall be delivered to the order of the Postmaster-General and be the property of the party of the first part.

This £201.10s charge is the De La Rue charge for two duplicate plates at £100 each plus 15s each for packing and not what would be charged for original work. Dietz does not give the source for this quotation. I have checked Dietz's *New Southern Philatelist* for this passage and it is the same. The two plates could be the 1¢ and 5¢ or two 5¢. It does confirm that for the plates sent to the CSA the charge is per the De La Rue records. The June 30, 1862 original contract date also gives the earliest possible date for a Richmond printing.

All 5¢ plates would be made from the same matrix, *i.e.*, the 400 impressions in lead. The 5¢ plate shipped on the *Bermuda* consist of one single printing plate of 400 images and we can assume that the original plate for the London prints and the third and only plate that actually arrived in the CSA were all made in the same manner.

There is no record of any printing in England or otherwise for the two Altered Plates, the 2¢ and 10¢. They differ from the 5¢ plate in that they both were made by reproducing from a matrix of 100 impressions. Each Altered Plate consist of four units of 100 subjects that were then individually screwed onto the cast iron backing. It would be easier and less costly to make four electrotype reproductions of the smaller master unit of 100 than to make the 400 unit master if only one printing plate were anticipated. If a number of plates were anticipated the single master of 400 would be preferable. In many ventures initially there is much optimism and expectations of big business.

John Easton's De La Rue book has several interesting transcriptions on costs from the 1862 files. Their charge for the same basic work for different orders is the same. To take an existing engraved die, transfer, change the value and then make a matrix having 240 subjects, an electro cast and mounting on a new cast iron plate was £175. To use an existing matrix and to make the electro cast and to mount on a cast iron plate that was previously paid for was £80.10 sh; a new cast iron base was an additional £4.10sh for a total of £85. The work and thus the resulting cost would be more for a plate of 400 than for one of 240. This is in agreement with each of the four CSA plates being duplicate plates, each charged at £100. There is the indication of the cost of the master engraved die or the original plates, but I have found no record of such a charge.

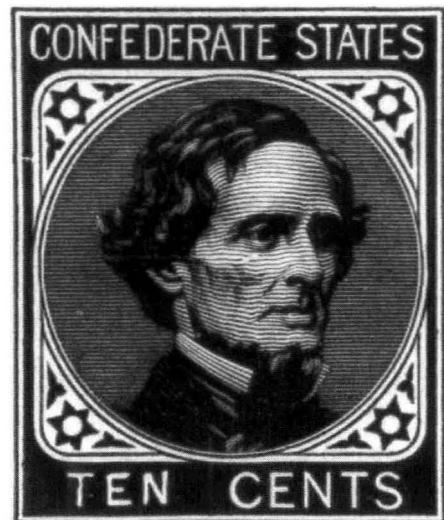


Figure 1. 10¢ Altered Plate, 1980s Sitter printing in black, plate proof quality

The De La Rue charges establish that the plates sent to the CSA were copies (*i.e.*, different plates) and thus were not the plate or plates used in London to print stamps. By “copies” I am not suggesting anything inferior, as they were all made from the same matrix, but to establish they were different and that the CSA received new plates and not the 5¢ used for considerable printing in London. The first Richmond printings on De La Rue paper and with De La Rue ink could be nearly identical to the London printings. As noted earlier, the 5¢ stamps shipped on the Bermuda from the one surviving identifiable example shows some minor plate wear.

### **The Stamps, London Printings**

For the arrival of the 5¢ London printings in Richmond the earliest possible use is March 1st, 1862, the earliest recorded usage being April 16, 1862. The earliest possible arrival in Richmond of a London plate would be early May 1862, with the earliest presently known usage of a Richmond printing being August 15, 1862. These dates have stood for over 50 years since Stanley B. Ashbrook reported them [1946, *Stamp Specialist Green Book* and also the monograph, *Some Notes on the . . . Postal Legislation of the Confederate States of America 1862-1865 Postal Rates, Earliest Known Dates of Use of The Stamps of the General Issues*].

Scott No. 6, the first stamps printed in London by De La Rue, are quite distinct; their identity is based on used copies with proven early dates. There are also unused and mint stamps of identical appearance and thus assumed to also be London stamps. These examples have exceptional clarity of print and a distinct color. These stamps must have been printed for the Jan. 30th and perhaps also the Feb. 11th, 1862 shipments. The ink is a uniform light gray blue with much white showing between the printed lines, the solid area and fine lines are quite uniform, white spots and misplaced ink are unusual but when present they are extremely small, in essence an excellent print job. The portrait on the London printings seems to stand out from the background reminding one of a cameo. In typographic printing the top surface of the printing plate holds the ink and the recessed area does not print. As the plate wears the raised lines show uneven printing, small white or light spots and darker spots. The recessed area which should not print slowly becomes filled and overall gives a darker appearance. Plate cleaning is done routinely and will improve the impression, but as wear continues the number of impressions between cleaning decreases, and the original quality can not be obtained. A typical London printed stamp, used on June 3, 1862, is shown at Figure 3. We have mint stamps ranging from singles to full panes having this print quality.

During the 19th century unused London stamps seemed to be quite scarce per C.B. Corwin’s presentation before the Brooklyn Philatelic Club, January 16, 1889 [*The American Philatelist*, February 11, 1889, vol. III, No. 5, pages 122-132]. Corwin apparently confused the London and Richmond printings. More specifically, to Corwin a well-printed 5¢ stamp had to be a London printing. Thus, when he refers to what we know as the famous White Necktie variety from position 30, lower left pane (which appears to be solely a local printing variety), he ascribes it to London as well as Richmond printings, in his failure to recognize that Richmond succeeded in printing some relatively fine stamps. From the 1920s the London stamps appear to become much more common. There are stories of finds made of the London print circa 1960 but there is no detailed information; this 1960s find was supposedly in London and contained circa 30+ sheets. Sheets kept together would tend to age more favorably than single sheets placed in a scrap book or the like with respect to paper and gum color. It is unfortunate that we do not have details on the several finds of panes. It is often to the finder’s benefit to keep such knowledge to himself.

We have later De La Rue stamps, used definitely during the London stamp period and of the London color but not quite the quality of the first stamps. They more resemble



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**Compiled by C.J. Peterson**

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The second edition of Wierenga's major work  
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# United States Incoming Steamship Mail, 1847-1875 Second Edition

(In A Limited Edition)

By Theron Wierenga

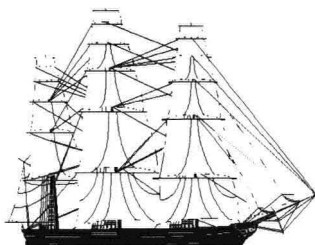
This book is a significantly expanded version of the first edition, which was published in 1983 by the author. In this second edition he has expanded the contents of the chapters of the original edition and added a number of new chapters dealing with aspects of steamship mails not discussed previously.

The most important additions appearing in this second edition, however, are appendices that provide sailing data for over 120 different steamships operating independently and for numerous steamship lines, most with mail contracts. Since the names of these steamships often were written on the face of letters, his documenting the voyages of these vessels helps today's students determine the transit route and duration of transit for letters from origin to destination. The author has organized over 200 pages of sailing tables by the principal steamship routes in the Atlantic as well as the Pacific Ocean areas. Atlantic sailing data is available for over 50 different steamship lines or independent steamships operating between New York, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, New Orleans, Havana, Bermuda, Chagres/Aspinwall, Nicaragua, Mexico, St. Thomas, and Rio de Janeiro. In the Pacific, the author provides sailing data for ten different steamship lines and independent steamships operating between San Francisco, Panama, Nicaragua, and the West Coast of South America. The majority of the dates covered by these tables are from the late 1840s to the mid-1850s, with some steamship voyages documented to 1861 or later.

The book gives both the postal history student and collector extremely important sailing information. The data is essential to the evaluation of covers carried by sea between the east and west coasts of the United States, the principal route for all mails before 1869. The author brings a good amount of this data to the reader's bookshelf for immediate and convenient use.

The author has updated an important appendix that provides information on the steamship markings. He has added many new steamship markings and made numerous changes to the known dates of use of the previously published markings. He provides carefully selected scanned images of all the markings. In addition, he includes the latest available information on the markings of the California route agents and the Panama despatch agents. This is an important supplement to his second book, *The Gold Rush Mail Agents to California and their Postal Markings, 1849-1852*, published in 1987.

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## U.S. Incoming Steamship Mail By Theron Wierenga

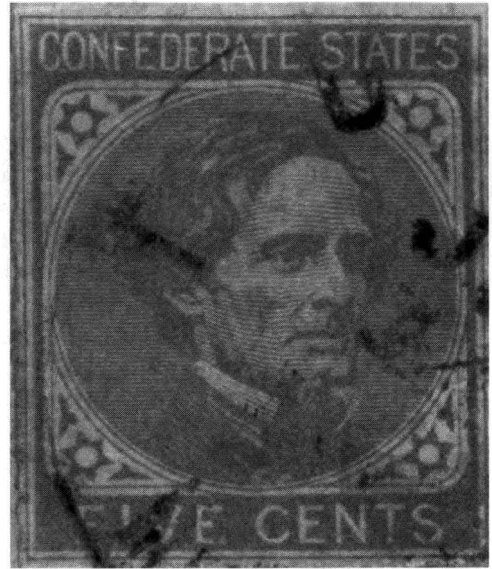
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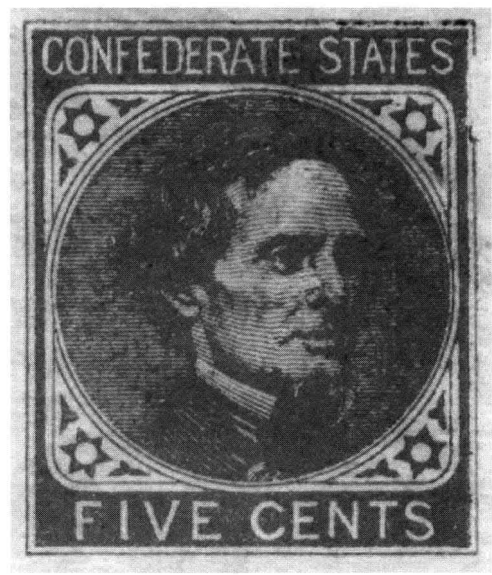
**Figure 2. London printing, typical early use, Charleston, S.C., June 3, 1862**



**Figure 3. London printing, early use, poor print, Tupelo, Miss., June 14, 1862**



**Figure 4. London printing, upper right pane, position No. 10, State B**



**Figure 5. London printing, upper right pane, position No. 10, State C**

the Lost Shipment copies. An example showing either some plate wear or a plate in need of cleaning is shown at Figure 3; it was used June 14, 1862, two months before the earliest known usage of a Richmond print. I would not normally take this stamp as a London printing, however historical research seems to definitely establish the date of use. Note the filling or mottled appearance of the horizontal lines around the portrait.

In the 1920s the London stamps became more available—no doubt a large find, but we have no details. C.J. Phillips' notes from the 1920s on the characteristics of different panes and their state with respect to the progression of plate defects are most useful but incomplete; details of this study are provided later in this article. For the London printing, Phillips identified eight panes with up to five states described for some. The states are in order of plate wear; thus State A is before State B as A does not show some plate defects that plate B shows, etc. A major distinction must be made between plate wear and dirty plates in need of cleaning. Figures 4 and 5 are both taken from full panes of London stamps, Phillips pane 2, the upper left pane. Based on the entire pane, Figure 4 is from State B and Figure 5 is from State C; both stamps are from the same position, No. 10. Though State B shows less plate defects than State C, these specific stamps show the opposite as to the quality of printing. If only the single from Figure 4 were available I would have no reservations in saying it was a Richmond Print on London Paper; however, considering the entire sheet this is not the case.

We now have the Lost Plate shipment, Scott No. 6, definitely a London printed stamp and a plate. Both left De La Rue on the Feb 20th, 1862 shipment along with the last 39% of the London printed 5¢ stamps. The actual 5¢ printing plate is now in Philadelphia at the Franklin Institute. It shows no wear and thus was a new plate when shipped. We have one proven example of the stamp from this captured shipment, Figures 5 and 6. This stamp is identical in shade and paper to the established De La Rue prints, as would be expected. Perhaps a slight amount of plate wear is apparent; such a description from only one stamp is highly subjective and prone to error. In essence the *Bermuda* shipment consisted of typical late London printings.

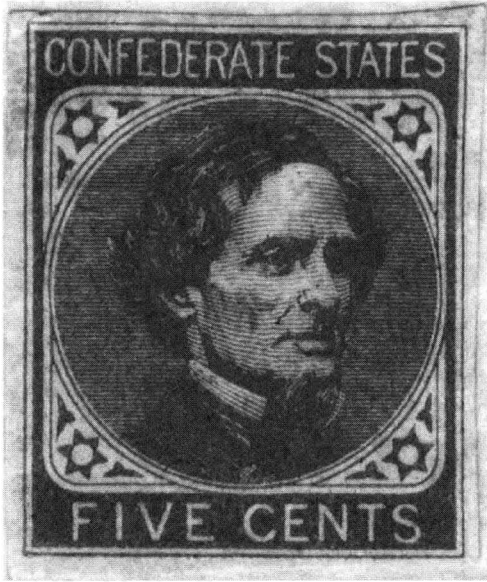
Compare Figure 2, a typical London stamp, and Figure 5, the Lost Plate record copy; the Lost Shipment shows minimal and only slightly more unevenness in the horizontal lines surrounding the portrait, Jefferson Davis' coat is more solid, the colored lines of the face are less distinct. Again I must emphasize these differences are slight, quite subjective and based on only one documented stamp. There are other imperfectly printed stamps used during the De La Rue period.

### **Unused and Gum**

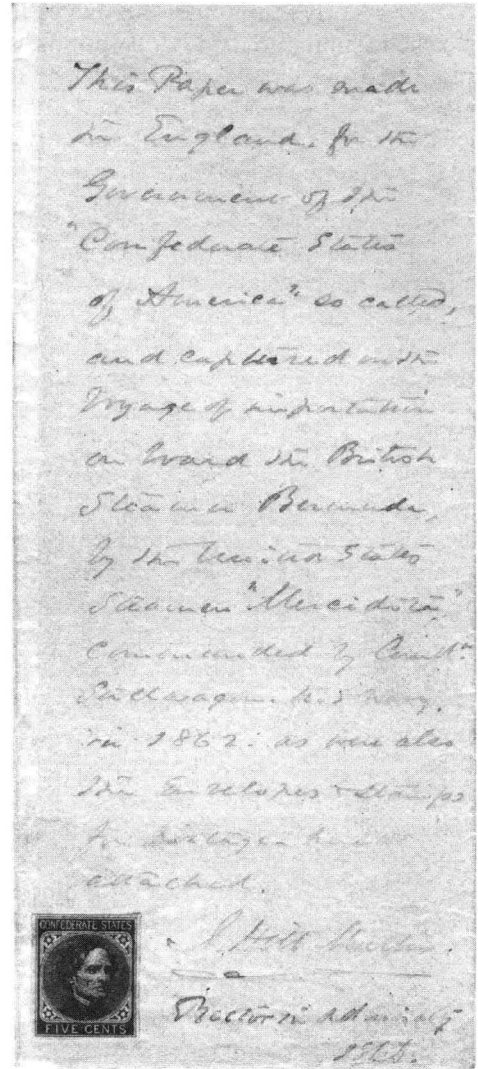
The traditional belief with respect to gum is that stamps of the London printings have white gum and those of the Richmond printing have a yellow or brownish gum. I disagree on this as being a major characteristic. First, if we consider the CSA lithographs, they often have a white or light yellow gum. Second, some definite Richmond printings have a white or light yellow gum, though I am not in a position to offer the percentages. As these stamps have been around since 1862 and were probably often in contact with acid paper, etc., the exact shade of gum should no longer be a major consideration. I would not exclude a stamp having a light yellowish gum or no gum from being a London print.

### **Richmond Printings**

The earliest known usage (EKU) of Scott No. 7, the Richmond printing, is given as August 15, 1862, which agrees with the contract date for Archer and Daly to print from the London plates of June 30, 1862. At least two covers are known from that date. The Ashbrook listing cover is not at hand for examination, but the stamps appear quite similar to those of another Richmond cover with the same date, Figure 8. Both covers have a Richmond, Virginia postmark, type 3f per Peter W.W. Powell's book, *Confederate States of America Markings and Postal History of Richmond, Virginia*. This postal marking is



**Figure 6. London printing, the Lost Plate, only documented copy**



**Figure 7. Lost Plate document with stamp**

**This Paper was made in England for the Government of the "Confederate States of America" so-called, and captured on the voyage of importation on board the British Steamer Bermuda, by the United States Steamer "Mercedita": commanded by Comdr. Stellwager, U.S. Navy, in 1862: as were also the Envelopes & Stamps for postage hereto attached.**

**J. Hill Martin  
Proctor in Admiralty  
1866**

only known used from August through December 1862, thus there is no question as to the year date.

The De La Rue Day Book entry for the plate that actually arrived in the CSA is March 24th, thus the earliest possible arrival in the CSA would be early May 1862. The Archer and Daly initial contract to print from De La rue plates is June 30, 1862. There would most certainly be a delay in the printing. Dietz has noted the verbal recollections by Frank Baptist that they had difficulty in printing from the plate and credits himself for the knowledge of how to print from it. The period was given as the summer of 1863, evidently an error for 1862 as used stamps from the summer of 1862 are common.

Our April 15th usages are interesting to examine in detail, Figure 8. The stamps are of a shade similar to the London printings but slightly though distinctively darker; the lines are all fine and show no wear. They are on De La Rue paper; the print quality is markedly inferior, but it is evident there is no plate wear or filling between the lines. The printed lines are thin but they are quite spotty, mottled, etc., showing poor press work and they do not show the fine cameo appearance of the London prints.

### **Ink and Color**

The Richmond printings on heavy paper do not show the peculiar light blue with a light gray tinge which I consider to be a major indication of London printing. Perhaps the Richmond mixing of the ink was not exactly the same as the London procedure or additives were not the same. The De La Rue ink used for the London printing and supplied to Richmond was always described as fugitive. The fear of the re-use of stamps was of much importance to the British. Starting in 1840 they did many experiments with respect to stamp design and ink to make the re-use of stamps quite difficult. The examples of the London and Richmond printings today do not show the expected vulnerability, however they are now 160 years old. I have soaked a few of these stamp in cold demineralized water and have not noticed any apparent difference. A friend has stated that if you wash a London or Richmond stamp with soap some of the ink will wash off, but I have no details; there are numerous formulations of soap and detergents, some quite harsh. Perhaps originally in 1862 the ink might show a special affinity to water or the canceling ink, but if so this property is not as pronounced today as one would expect. Ink does change with time, especially the first few years which would be the requirement for postage stamps. The poor image quality of these early usages confirms that the Confederates had printing problems.

For potential plate quality see Fig 1, a 10¢ print from the Sitter plate, the Altered Plate, which would have been identical to the 5¢ issued stamp as to plate manufacture and condition. However, it must be remembered that the Sitter printing is a proof impression; it was carefully printed in black on an enameled paper. The Sitter impressions show the maximum quality that could have been obtained from the printing plate and is in essence a plate proof. Typical 5¢ De La Rue printed stamps are shown by Figures 2 and 3.

Showing the earliest known usage seems to mandate showing a “normal” usage, which is complex as so many variations exist. The Figure 9 example is definitely a Richmond print, of unknown period; however, it is decidedly better printed than the example in Figure 8, the earliest known usage, note the uniformity of the inking on the fine horizontal lines.

Later Richmond printings of Scott No. 7 on local paper are no problem to distinguish. The ink is often darker, or in some cases lighter; however, in all cases the paper is quite inferior, thicker and more porous, and the print quality markedly inferior. Unused multiples are a bit scarce.

Two proven constant varieties for the Richmond printings are illustrated. Figure 10 shows position No. 10 from the upper left pane; note the extension of the upper right corner into the margin. Figure 11 shows the colored dash over the I of FIVE, upper right pane, position No. 81. There most certainly are other constant varieties for the Richmond printings, but all such must be confirmed by identical examples, preferably in a different shade to prove they are constant and not just transit ink spots or voids. There are numerous transit ink spots on the Richmond printings.

The brass rule and outer margin wear provides another clue as to who printed what. A flat strip of metal was added to the top of a plate to minimize the outer wear and shows on some stamps as two faint horizontal lines in the margin, *i.e.*, the brass rule. I have only seen this on the top of the plate but it could easily have been done for any margin and even





Figure 8. Richmond printing, August 15, 1862, earliest known usage



Figure 9. Richmond printing, typical used stamp

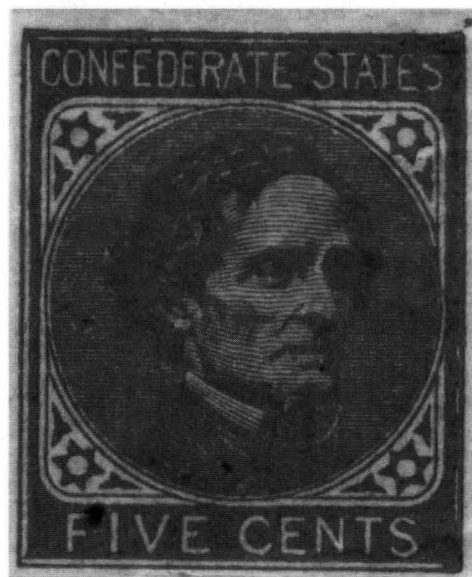


Figure 10. Richmond printing, upper left pane, position No. 10

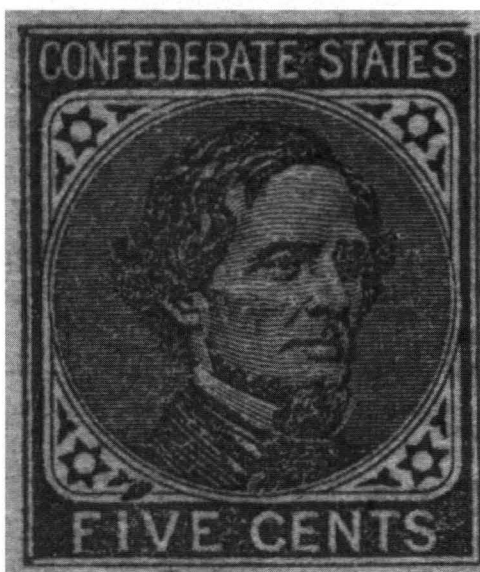


Figure 11. Richmond printing, upper right pane, position No. 81, colored dash over "I" of "FIVE"

between the panes. Such strips of soft metal are common in printing, often used to space type apart. August Dietz advised it was done in Richmond, which is quite likely as the plate shipped on the *Bermuda* does not have them; see 1929 Dietz, page 180, for an excellent illustration of the brass rule. A Richmond on London paper block from the upper left pane, positions 6-10, 16-20, shows the brass rule; the outer frame line for the top of the plate and that between the upper left and right pane show outer plate wear (see position 10, Figure 10). Another gutter block from the lower two panes also shows real plate wear on the outer lines. These two gutter blocks could have been cut from the same sheet. A study of the stamps showing the brass rules with respect to paper, printing and shade would certainly be of value.



**Figure 12. Lost Plate, private 1954 Philip Ward printing, black**



**Figure 13. Lost Plate, private 1954 Philip Ward printing, blue**

We also have the 5¢ stamps printed in 1954 for Philip Ward from the Lost Plate in blue, similar to but not exactly identical with the issued stamp, and also in black. The paper is thin like that of De La Rue, however it does not have the same hard surface. They are well done, but quality of the ink, paper and printing is by no means that of proof quality impressions (Figures 12 and 13). A casual collector could easily confuse the Ward printings in blue with stamps printed in Confederate Richmond, especially as the paper ages a bit and perhaps with some gum added to the back. Yes, the shade and paper are distinct enough to permit indisputable differentiation by a serious student having reference stamps to compare with from the Confederate Period, but not by the average collector with only an example or two for comparison. This is a special problem as the unused authentic stamps are not of sufficient value to routinely warrant authentication.

**Time Line of the important dates relating to the De La Rue stamps**

- Oct 1, 1861 Major Ficklin left Richmond for England to obtain stamps
- Jan 30, 1862 Earliest De La Rue entry relating to the CSA
- Jan 30, 1862 First De La Rue shipment of 5¢ stamps to the CSA
- Feb 11, 1862 Second De La Rue shipment of 5¢ stamps to the CSA
- Feb 20, 1862 Third De La Rue shipment, Lost Shipment, 5¢ stamps and a 5¢ plate

Feb 28, 1862	Arrival of first De La Rue London stamps in CSA
Mar 15, 1862	De La Rue entry, manufacture of another 5¢ plate
Mar 24, 1862	De La Rue entry, 5¢ plate shipped to CSA
Apr 16, 1862	Earliest known usage of London Printing
Apr 27, 1862	Lost Shipment captured by the US Warship <i>Mercidita</i>
Jun 30, 1862	Archer & Daly contract to print stamps from De La Rue plates
July 14, 1862	Usage of poorly printed London printing
Aug 15, 1862	Earliest presently known usage of Richmond printing
Feb 20, 1863	Renewal of Archer & Daly contract to print from De La Rue plates

My personal feeling is that all relatively well printed stamps on London paper in the light shade of blue-gray with a bit of yellow in the gum are London prints and not Richmond prints as they are often currently assumed to be because of the gum shade. As an example of the current inconsistencies, Scott's gives a higher price to the unused 5¢ printed in Richmond on De La Rue paper than for either the 5¢ printed in London or those printed in Richmond on local paper. An exceptionally printed unused pane of the London is scarce and a Richmond on local paper is rare. In both cases this seems to be the reverse of the scarcity today.

### **The Phillips Study**

This material, modified and expanded, is presented as an annex to this article so it can be kept intact, as it refers to all parts of this article from the De La Rue through the Richmond printings.

A special warning and thanks. I am finding the reproduction of the CSA Typographed stamps to be much more complex than the Lithographs as the ink spread from printed to non-printed area seems greater. Thus I fear the fine details on ink tone may give a distorted image when reproduced in this article. A special thanks for help with this article goes to: Jack E. Molesworth, Jerry S. Palazolo, Carl Hedin and William S. Parks. I would also like to mention Calvet M. Hahn's article in the March 1978 issue of the *S.P.A. Journal*. Over the years many things have been discovered, but the article still provides excellent insight into the complex problems that we still do not fully understand.

#### **Annex: The Phillips Study, with Additions to Plates and Positions**

The possible use of two printing plates for the 5¢ London printings has some philatelic record. A study of the De La Rue printed stamps by Charles J. Phillips identifies eight panes being two printing plates [1929 Dietz page 161-162]. I have tried to verify the Phillips listings. To date I have not disproven any; the few panes at hand do not disagree with his descriptions. This study is difficult without having a large number of sheets to examine at one time. The stamps were extremely well printed and the Phillips characteristics are given as only a few words for a few positions and thus are not definitive unless one has multiple sheets. I suspect some of the Lost Shipment stamps have come on the philatelic market but have no proof of this. It is also possible that Phillips confused the De La Rue printings and the Richmond on De La Rue paper, but this seems unlikely as the plate position characteristics on the De La Rue printings are extremely minute. Phillips numbered panes based on the printed stamps, No. 1 being the upper left, No. 2 being the upper right, No. 3 being the lower left and No. 4 being the lower right. Hopefully some one will take up this study. The following Phillips study has his characteristics and my additions when possible.

#### **De La Rue Printings**

Pane 1

No special flaws.

Pane 2

State A: Damaged upper portions of right-hand frame line on No. 10 (see Figure 4

for State B and Figure 5 for State C). No. 96 shows a distinct break in the right frame line about 1 mm from base.

State B: Characteristics and pane position confirmed by LHH. Same flaws as in State A. Lower frame line on No. 50 is broken for a space of 1 mm at its right end.

State C: Characteristics and pane position confirmed by LHH. Same flaws as in State A & B. Bottom frame line on No. 5 is broken in several places. In both No. 21 and 41 the right-hand lower corner is broken where the frame lines meet; note these are confirmed but extremely small breaks and do not show in State B.

State D: Same flaws as in State A, B & C. The left frame on No. 3 is broken at the top and the lower frame on No. 30 is broken at its right end.

Pane 3

State A: No. 9 has an uncolored flaw on the thick color line at left 4 mm from the top. No. 1 and 21 show breaks in the lower frame line. No. 87, 99 and 100 have prominent breaks in various parts of the upper frame lines.

State B: There is a slight later State than A, the various breaks in the frame lines being more pronounced.

Pane 4

State A: No. 40 has an uncolored flaw with dot in its center on the coat above and to the left of the "C" of "CENTS," and a similar flaw on No. 44 on the circular background above the "N" of "CENTS." In No. 30, the bottom frame line is broken at its right end. No. 77 has a minute colored dot on the center of the last stroke of the "V" in "FIVE." No. 97 shows a tiny break in the upper frame line at its left-hand extremity.

State B: Same flaws as State A. No. 2 has the right frame line with a tiny break at the top. In No. 50 the bottom frame line is missing for a space of about 1 mm at its right-hand end.

State C: Same flaws as A & B. No. 10 has the lower frame line broken at its right end. In No. 28, the right lower corner is broken where the line should meet.

State D: Similar to State C except the defect on No. 28 is not shown. No. 19 has a break at its right lower corner and in No. 95 the right frame is broken at its base.

Pane 5

I have no pane that will fit into this position.

Pane 6

No. 88 has a colored dot on the circular line below the center of the star in the upper left spandrel. Broken frame lines are found on No. 9, 67, 69, 95 and 99.

Pane 7

No. 9 and 82 have flaws on the hair at the back of the head. No. 97 shows a break in the top frame line.

Pane 8

State A: No. 88 has a colored dot attached to the small trefoil ornament under the "FE." Another dot is shown on No. 81 between the upper ornament in the lower left spandrel and the inner frame line. The top frame line on No. 97 is broken twice at left.

State B: The breaks in the upper frame on No. 97 are now joined into one big break. Broken frame lines are also found on No. 2, 19, 30 and 50.

State C: This state, while showing none of the frame breaks as State B, shows the colored dots on No. 7, 81 and 88. A new flaw on No. 50 is an uncolored dot on the center of the coat in a straight line with the "E" of "FIVE."

State D: Similar to State C but a new colored flaw has developed on the left-hand frame line of No. 93 about 4 mm from the bottom.

State E: No. 30 shows a break in center of the thick frame at right. No. 1 has a flaw before the "F" of "FIVE." No. 80 shows a break in the trefoil ornament below "FED" and No. 97 has two tiny breaks in upper frame at left.

Phillips' study of the Richmond printings is also most interesting [1929 Dietz page 181]. He gives characteristics for Panes 2 and 4 on London paper and Panes 1 and 3 for local paper. Pane 3 has the famous White Necktie variety in Position No. 30. For local paper he also described another pane that he couldn't place but with a noticeable characteristic, Position No. 81, a dash above the "I" of "FIVE" (Figure 11). I have seen this characteristic on two panes of quite different color, one with no margins but the other appears to be Pane 4. One is a deep blue and definitely on local paper, the other is on a paper quite close to London paper and could be so, perhaps it is London paper. A detailed study of panes and large multiples of the Richmond printings would definitely establish the number of plates. The suggestion is there were two 5¢ plates in Richmond that were used to produce stamps. Phillips' remark of "many flaws" and a list of positions is too subjective to be of much help.

### **Richmond, Archer & Daly Printing on Thin Paper Supplied by De La Rue & Co.**

#### Pane 1

Not noted by Phillips. No State is given as both examples are similar. See Figure 10, Position 10, note the dot on the extension on the upper right corner. Another block from this position shows the brass rules and this characteristic.

#### Pane 2

State A: No 20, right frame is damaged opposite "ATES" and under "STATES"

State B: In No. 71 there is a colored dot below the star in the left lower spandrel.

Many flaws on No. 2, 4, 6, 7, 17, 27, 39 and 43.

#### Pane 4

State A: Characteristic and pane position confirmed by LHH. Characterized by a large uncolored flaw on No. 30 through the "EN" of "CENTS" and extending to the collar (White Necktie). The State B variety on No. 70 is not seen.

State B: The above White Necktie variety is more pronounced and slightly larger. There is a large spot of color over the forehead on No. 70.

### **Richmond, Archer and Daly Printing on Thick Paper, Local Supply**

#### Pane 1

State A: The top line is entirely missing on No. 8 and 9.

State B: The top line is complete above No. 8 and 9 but the bottom line is entirely missing in No. 8 and 10.

#### Pane 2

Described but not plated by Phillips. One copy in a deep blue with margins may be the example he described. A second in a lighter blue has margins. The top and right margin wear establish the pane position.

Per Phillips, a pronounced colored dot above the "I" of "FIVE" on No. 81 (see Figure 11), numerous flaws on No. 24, 26, 41, 53, 64 and 97.

LHH confirms characteristics on both panes. In addition to No. 81, in No. 97 the lower outer frame line has both left and right corners filled in, similar to No. 94. No. 42 has a small white dot between "E" and "C" of "FIVE CENTS."

State A: Poorly printed, above characteristics at No. 42, 81, 94 and 97.

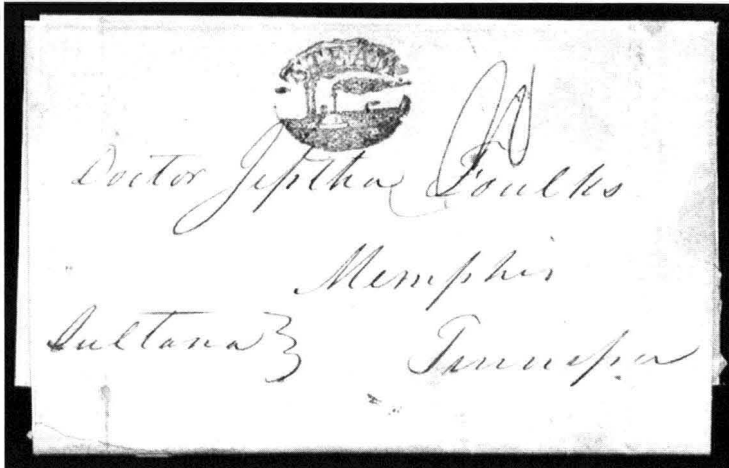
State B: Much better printed than State A. All State A characteristics present. No. 96 has gash in upper right frame line in line with star.

#### Pane 3

Bottom line missing in No. 8 and 10.

It is a bit strange that Phillips gives so much data on the De La Rue stamps whose plating characteristics are quite minute and so little on the Richmond printings which have many more and more noticeable varieties. One could assume that he had access to a large find of London stamps but to relatively few of the Richmond printings. □

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**USAGES OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIAL STAMPS**  
ALAN C. CAMPBELL

**Introduction**

In the early 1990s, when two great collections of United States official stamps began to be shown in competitive exhibitions, the organization of the departments did not follow the simple alphabetical sequence of traditional catalogue listings. Instead, the Executive Office was placed first, with the subordinate departments following in order of their importance. Robert L. Markovits began his exhibit with a letter sheet signed by President Grant's cabinet. Since the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture was not a Secretary of cabinet rank, he was not asked to sign this document, and Mr. Markovits therefore placed the Department of Agriculture at the end of his exhibit. Lester C. Lanphear III arranged his departments in accordance with the original May 15, 1873 announcement for the official stamps, in which the Post Office Department had modestly placed itself last, just after the Department of Agriculture. The truth is, in 1873 the Department of Agriculture *was* a poor stepsister to all seven other departments, even though it had been established in 1862, eight years before the Department of Justice. In the fiscal year 1878, Congress appropriated a miserly \$188,640 for its use, less than 14% of the Department of State's budget and less than .12% of the Treasury Department's budget.<sup>1</sup>

Yet in the early years of official stamp usage, the postage costs of the Department of Agriculture were a far higher percentage of the overall budget than for any other department. Used copies, especially of the 3¢ value, are fairly common, and the golden yellow color of the stamps (described as "straw" in the original announcement) shows off cancellations beautifully. While some have been drawn to form specialized cancellation studies of this issue, no one has ever attempted a comprehensive exhibit of this issue, simply because the covers are far too rare. The typical collector of United States official stamps will hope to have one representative Agriculture cover, but it may take him ten years or more to find one. A veteran postal history dealer from Minnesota, Bud Elvgren, once told me that he had been shown in Phoenix an amazing holding of Agriculture covers, including many high values, but I have never been able to corroborate this report. There had been rumors and reported sightings of the great Goff correspondence Justice covers that finally came to the market in 1998, so perhaps what Elvgren saw was an original intact find from a barn's hay loft. The avid collector may start drooling at this prospect while cooler minds remain skeptical, especially after reviewing the cover census which concludes this article, in which all the reported Agriculture covers total only forty.

**Historical Background<sup>2</sup>**

Although some of the new country's founders were gentleman farmers interested in progressive agriculture (most notably George Washington and Thomas Jefferson), there was strong political resistance to establishing a federal agency. So for many years, farmers had to rely on almanacs, cattle fairs and local agricultural societies for new information.

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<sup>1</sup>Commissioner Le Duc complained bitterly about this disparity in the *Report of the Secretary of Agriculture, 1878*, p. 23.

<sup>2</sup>This summary of the department's early history derives from *Century of Service: the first 100 years of the United States Department of Agriculture*, by Gladys L. Baker, Wayne D. Rasmussen, Vivian Wiser, and Jane M. Porter, published by the Centennial Committee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1963.

<sup>3</sup>See Rae D. Ehrenberg, "Authorized use of the U. S. Official Stamps by the Various



The first sustained federal program on behalf of agriculture began improbably under Henry Leavitt Ellsworth, who became the first Commissioner of Patents in 1836. In his prior travels as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Ellsworth had foreseen the agriculture possibilities of prairie lands and had bought large tracts in the mid-West. Now stimulated by the many new farm implements being patented and by enlightened self-interest, he began collecting valuable seeds and plants from many sources, including consuls and naval officers. On his recommendation, Congress established a public depository for collecting and distributing seeds and plants, and appropriated money to collect and publish agricultural statistics. Congressmen, thrilled at the popularity of the complimentary seed distribution with their constituents, jealously guarded the program, mailing out seeds and plants under their free franks. But efforts to establish a formal Bureau of Agriculture within the Department of the Interior, or a separate Department of Agriculture headed by a Cabinet officer, met with considerable political opposition. The traditional fears of centralized control, exacerbated by regional conflict, were ultimately resolved by the Southern states' secession. Could a government agency help find substitutes for Southern products—hemp or flax in place of cotton, sugar beets or sorghum in lieu of sugar cane? The Republican Party was then able to carry out its pledge of agrarian reform, by passing the Morrill Land Grant College Act, the Homestead Act, and establishing the Department of Agriculture in 1862. The latter was a compromise bill, with the new department being headed by a Commissioner, not a Secretary of Cabinet rank.

The first commissioner, Isaac Newton, a progressive dairy farmer and a close friend of the Lincolns, sent butter each week to the White House. Outlined in the department's first annual report, his objectives were to: collect and publish useful agricultural statistics; introduce valuable plants and animals; answer farmers' questions; test farm implements; chemically analyze soils, grains, fruits, plants, vegetables, and manures; establish a professorship of botany and entomology; and found an agricultural library and museum. Within a few years, he had taken steps towards realizing most of these goals and had brought a team of able and scholarly men into the department. Although vigorously opposed as unfair competition by the privately printed farm journals, the department's monthly and annual reports—distributed in large quantities by Congress—met the need for systematic statistical work. Jacob Richards Dodge, who had come to work as a clerk in 1862, served as statistician from 1865 to 1893. The first offices of the department were in the basement of the Patent Office building, but Congress appropriated money in 1867 for a new headquarters. Newton didn't live to see it to completion. On a hot July day in 1867, rushing to make sure that a crop of wheat at the experimental farm wasn't ruined by an approaching thunderstorm, he suffered a heatstroke that ultimately proved fatal.

Horace Capron, a noted stock breeder in Illinois, was appointed by President Johnson to succeed Newton. Capron abolished the experimental farm—too small to be effective—and had it converted to an arboretum. A Division of Botany was established in 1868. Capron started to develop a formal exchange of seeds and plants with foreign countries, instead of relying on the time-honored policy of enlisting consuls abroad in this work. (Thomas Jefferson had brought back the seeds of upland rice in 1787, in violation of Italian law.) Cuttings from a Brazilian seedless orange tree were imported in 1871, and two trees were sent to Riverside in 1873, the basis for the California navel orange industry. Capron resigned from the department in mid-1871 to head an agricultural mission to Hokkaido, Japan.

His successor, Frederick Watts, was appointed by President Grant. Watts, a prominent lawyer and railroad director from Pennsylvania, had introduced Mediterranean wheat to the state, and the first trial of the McCormick reaper there took place on his farm. He was called "the father" of the farmers' high school that later became Pennsylvania State University. In his six year tenure as commissioner, Watts emphasized the practical applica-

tion of science to agriculture. A new Division of Microscopy was established in 1871 for the formal study of plant diseases. In 1872, the department stopped publishing weather reports and on Watts' suggestion, that work was turned over to the Signal Service Bureau of the War Department. An 1872 conference of representatives from the state agricultural colleges helped to promote the movement to establish state experiment stations and the passage of the Hatch Experiment Station Act in 1887. Watts encouraged the Department's botanist to begin a collection of botanical specimens of forest trees, and material from the collection was exhibited at the Centennial Exposition of 1876. Along with reports submitted to Congress urging the need to cultivate timber and preserve forests, this work contributed to the eventual formation of the Forest Service.

William Gates Le Duc was appointed Commissioner by President Hayes on July 1, 1877. A Civil War veteran with the brevet rank of brigadier general, Le Duc was a farmer from Ohio. Like his predecessor, Le Duc tried to limit the seed distribution program to new and valuable seeds (the specific mandate of the Department), but failed. Much progress on insect pests was made under the leadership of entomologist Charles V. Riley. Riley also served as the first head of the United States Entomological Commission, established in 1877 to study the grasshoppers that had been ravaging wide areas in the West. As England first and then Europe began quarantining live animals and fresh meat from the United States due to hoof-and-mouth disease, Le Duc pushed for the creation of a Division of Veterinary Science. He also believed strongly that the country should be self-sufficient agriculturally, and tackled two imported products, sugar and tea. His chief chemist worked on getting improved yields from sugar cane and sugar beets, but efforts to establish a sorghum sugar industry failed miserably. An experimental tea farm was set up in Summerville, South Carolina. It was originally argued that such a crop would ease the unemployment problem in the South, but ironically picking the tea leaves proved *too* labor-intensive. Although the experimental farm held on until World War I, the net result of the program was that a few families were induced to grow their own tea.

George Bailey Loring, a Congressman from Massachusetts, was appointed Commissioner by President Garfield on July 1, 1881. Loring had a medical degree from Harvard, ran his own experimental farm, and had helped establish the Massachusetts Agriculture College. Loring continued Le Duc's work on sorghum, beet sugar, and tea. The Division of Forestry was established in 1881, and the Veterinary Division in 1883. The same year saw the first pure research when the Chemistry Division started examining butter. In 1884, the first bureau within the department—the Bureau of Animal Husbandry—was set up to limit the spread of animal diseases.

In 1889, Congressman W. H. Match of Missouri was finally able to get a bill through Congress which gave the Department Cabinet rank and which transferred the Weather Service of the United States Signal Service Bureau back to the Department. During the period of postal validity of the official stamps, 1873-1884, census data indicates that approximately half the adult male population of the country was employed in agriculture. The income of farmers and agricultural laborers averaged \$413 annually. The important crops, ranked according to value, were Indian corn, hay, wheat, oats, potatoes, tobacco, rye and buckwheat. The principal livestock herds, again ranked according to value, were horses, "milch-cows," "beeves," mules, hogs and sheep. These inventories remind us that despite the development of new equipment, farming then was still heavily dependent on beasts of burden.

### **Distribution of Official Stamps**

To understand the distribution of the controlled official stamps, the starting point has always been the responses sent by the departmental secretaries in early 1874 to a Congressional resolution asking for a listing of their employees authorized to use the new

stamps.<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately, since the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture was not a cabinet secretary, the resolution neglected to mention this department at all. No response was solicited, and none was received. This is especially unfortunate, since so few covers have survived for us to analyze. The attrition rates for official covers from any department are woefully high, but nowhere worse than for Agriculture. The bulk of this department's postage went for third class mailings from Washington, D.C. of forms, reports, seeds, and seedlings, typically applied on wrapper or package labels. This sort of mail—as opposed to first class envelopes containing letters worth saving—typically has not survived. A very high proportion of Agriculture stamps—probably higher than for any other department—was used on prestamped reply envelopes, sent back from all over the country to the department in Washington, D.C., containing livestock and crop reports and seed orders. Not a single one of these reply envelopes properly used has ever been reported. Several of these prestamped reply envelopes were never mailed and have survived, but most of them have had fraudulent cancellations added and were marketed as legitimate usages. These are easily detectable for want of a proper postmark. The postage on these legal size reply envelopes was typically a 3¢ or 6¢ Agriculture stamp, the required first class postage to mail back filled-out reports or orders that did not qualify for circular rates, and first class mail always required a dated postmark. But what happened to all the prestamped reply envelopes that were mailed back to Washington, D.C.? We have this report from Rhesa D. Dubois, fifteen years old in 1874, who had heard from his schoolboy friends of the profits to be made in trading departmental stamps.

When Saturday came around I borrowed a dollar from my sister, and started in to startle the market. The colored messengers who sit in the halls of nearly all the great offices of the government departments at Washington soon learned that the canceled official stamps on the envelopes found in the waste baskets of the room they “tended” had a money value, and that the school boy was ever in evidence with his pennies to capture them. In going from messenger to messenger I learned that a lady clerk in the Department of Agriculture had lots of the canceled yellow stamps of that department to sell, and being a capitalist with a capital of one dollar, I sought the stamp lady.

Entering one of the rooms of the Agriculture Department, I found her sitting at a desk entertaining a beau - a little home-like way they used to have in those days. She took little notice of me when I inquired: “Have you any stamps?” “Yes, but I don't give them away,” she replied. “I am willing to pay for them,” I said. Then she opened a drawer at her side and revealed a veritable Klondike of wealth; two or three dozen little packages of yellow three-cent Agriculture canceled stamps.

These she had evidently skinned off envelopes after office hours. They looked like nuggets of gold to my eager eyes. Without waiting to ask the price, I indiscreetly offered forty cents a hundred. But, thanks to her indifference and contempt for my youth and pocketbook, she didn't hear me, and interrupted me by politely saying: “I will have to charge you twenty cents a hundred for these.” I hesitated lest something might be wrong, then timidly replied. “I will take five hundred.” This plunge in which my entire fortune was boldly staked fairly took my breath away. After that evidence of wealth, whenever I called she held her stamps up every time.

Young master Dubois promptly sold his Agriculture stamps to a Boston dealer for \$3.60, a handsome profit.<sup>4</sup> The loss of the covers in this way seems tragic, but looking on the bright side, we owe this young lady a debt of gratitude, for at least the stamps themselves—with a great variety of cancellations from all over the country—were saved instead

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Departments,” *33rd American Philatelic Congress Book*, 1967, pp. 35-49 for a summary of the responses.

<sup>4</sup>From a letter published in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* for March 23, 1899, reprinted in the *S.P.A. Journal*, Vol. 45, No. 4, p. 231-233.

<sup>5</sup>U.S. Post Office Department, *Postage Rates 1789-1930: Abstract of Laws Passed Between*

of being thrown out in the trash. As is so often the case in the study of official stamp usage, we must utilize off-cover examples to tell the full story, since all of the surviving Agriculture covers were posted in Washington, D.C. with nondescript killers. In Figure 1, we illustrate a selection of fancy geometric cut cork killers used at the main post office there in the 1873-1877 period. Attributable cancellations from other major cities are scarce on Agriculture stamps, as there were no field offices outside the capital. In Figure 2, we illustrate cancellations respectively from New York, Chicago, Boston, Cincinnati, and two geometrics from New Orleans. In Figure 3, a variety of legible socked-on-the-nose postmarks are shown, which give a suggestion of the true range of usage for the prestamped reply envelopes. In the first row, we have Carrollton, Mississippi; Georgetown, South Carolina; Fort Grant, Arizona Territory; and Laredo, Texas. In the second row, we have Camden and Burlington Railroad; Apple Creek, Wayne County, Ohio; a deformed fourth class ellipse from Uniopolis, Ohio; and a straight line postmark from Venango County, Pennsylvania. A spectacular strip of three of the 1¢ Agriculture (ex-Emerson, now in the collection of Rollin C. Huggins, Jr.) is also known from Fort Grant, this being the only Fort postmark recorded on Agriculture stamps. In Figure 4, we illustrate a selection of carved killers used across the country—the same types as might have been purchased by young Master Dubois in 1874, including a circle of V's, a negative "P," a reversed entwined "U.S.," a negative "5," a sunrise over the ocean and a blue Masonic trowel. In Figure 5, we depict some of the more unusual forms of crosses and crossroads cancellations.

Commissioner Watts was a great believer in gathering statistics and disseminating information. Monthly reports were submitted by four correspondents in each county of every state and territory in the country. Monthly and annual reports, circulars and bulletins were constantly being sent out to all interested parties. The cost of collecting, printing and mailing out all this information was substantial, and Congress cast a jaundiced eye on its usefulness. In his annual report for the fiscal year 1874, Watts complained that money had not been appropriated in a timely fashion to publish the annual reports for 1872 and 1873. When Watts was succeeded by William Gates Le Duc, the department's monthly reports were discontinued.

Of the department's \$277,000 budget for the fiscal year 1874, 28% went for salaries, 24% for the purchase and packaging of seeds, and an astonishing 19% for postage. The scientific premise for the free distribution of seeds was that farmers could be enlisted in experimental trials of new hybrid strains and report on the crop's outcome. In the beginning, the department's mandate had been to distribute only rare and valuable seeds, and successive commissioners tried unsuccessfully to reign in this popular but expensive program. Congressmen were not about to deny their grateful constituents. The Department of Agriculture was engaged in buying vast quantities of seeds from seed farms, packaging the vegetable seeds in paper packets and the grain seed in cotton sacks. In order to save money, the department took competitive bids to buy the cotton and had the sacks sewn by their employees. In 1874, 450 packets of opium-poppy seeds were sent out by the department!

On January 1, 1875, a new postal rate applicable only to government publications went into effect, allowing books to be sent at the rate of 10¢ per volume, regardless of weight.<sup>5</sup> Then on March 1, 1875, a new regulation permitted seeds and agricultural reports to be henceforth sent through the mails free of postage.<sup>6</sup> Together, these had a dramatic

---

*1789 and 1930 Fixing Rates of Postage and According Free Mail Privileges* (Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1930), page 44. (Act of June 23, 1874)

*Ibid.* (Act of March 3, 1875)



Figure 1. Geometric carved cork killers from the main Washington, D.C. post office, 1873-1877



Figure 2. Cancellations from major cities outside the nation's capital



Figure 3. Socked-on-the-nose postmarks



Figure 4. A variety of carved killers from around the country

effect on the department's postage costs, and after the fiscal year 1875, there were no further requisitions for values higher than the 6¢ (disregarding a few tiny late orders for stamps to flesh out presentation sets). In fact, the quantities of Agriculture stamps printed by the Continental Bank Note Company in 1873 and 1874 and delivered to the Stamp Agent were more than adequate to meet the department's cumulative needs from 1873-1884 for all values except the 3¢. The specialized catalogue has long listed three distinctive shades for each of the Agriculture stamps—yellow, golden yellow, and olive yellow—but I am skeptical that these actually represent separate distinguishable printings. According to Ralph Ebner, the only specialist actively working on the shades of the official stamps, the pigment utilized was a dilute yellow mixed with a more viscous orange. The golden yellow shade simply represents a heavier inking of the plate, while the olive yellow shade is probably caused by a chemical reaction similar to oxidation.

In the fiscal year 1878, the cost of purchasing and packaging seeds had increased to almost 40% of the department's overall budget, but the cost of postage had dropped to 2%. In the "annual" report for 1881-1882, Commissioner Loring complained at length about the dubious scientific utility of the free seed program, now that the packets and sacks of seed were being delivered by the department to the *residences* of Congressmen (from where they were presumably being mail out under Congressional free franks), because the department was not getting back accurate reports on the effective increased yields.

In 1873, when the official stamps were introduced, the Department of Agriculture had a Botanical Division, a Chemical Division, an Entomological Division, a Microscopical Division and a Statistical Division. By the end of their postal validity in 1884, a Division of Gardens and Grounds, a Veterinary Division and the Bureau of Animal Husbandry had all been established. Presumably, official business envelopes with imprinted corner cards must have been prepared for some or all of these divisions, but apparently none franked with official stamps have survived. The closest we have come are the two prestamped reply envelopes to Commissioner Le Duc from the Hagen collection (dispersed in the 1980s)—one from the Veterinary Division and one from the Statistical Division—both with the stamps fraudulently "canceled," along with two unused reply envelopes belonging to Lester C. Lanphear III, one from the Seed Division and one from the Statistical Division.

The Department of Agriculture's activities were all centered in the nation's capital, and it did not have branch or field offices *per se* like many other departments. So if all the incoming prestamped reply envelopes were mutilated by the aforementioned mailroom clerk, it is not surprising that the only surviving covers were outgoing from Washington, D.C. Yet evidence exists that some Agriculture official business mail was posted elsewhere. One of the surviving 3¢ Agriculture covers contains an 1875 transmittal form from Commissioner Watts that states:

Enclosed herein please find twenty 3¢ postage stamps to be used in the necessary communication between yourself and assistant correspondents in the collection of statistical information for the Department; and also for the re-mailing to correspondents living in remote localities of the county, of a portion of such seeds, reports, etc., as may be forwarded to you from time to time, as principal reporter. A further supply will be furnished when needed.

Regrettably, the unused stamps are no longer present, but my assumption is that these were 3¢ Agriculture stamps, not 3¢ large Bank Note regular issues. At this time, Congress appropriated money to the departments specifically for the purchase of official stamps, and only official stamps—the UPU regulation requiring the use of regular postage stamps on overseas official business mail came later, in 1879. The transmittal letter does not mention imprinted official business envelopes, so perhaps these Agriculture stamps were used on blank envelopes, perhaps with a handwritten "O.B." endorsement, and posted in the reporter's hometown. I have seen one cover that might qualify as this type of



**Figure 5. Cross and crossroads killers**

usage, a small envelope posted in Sandy Hook, Connecticut and franked with a 3¢ Agriculture stamp, but since it lacks the required “O.B.” clause, I have always dismissed it as either an illegitimate private usage or an outright fake. Perhaps it deserves reconsideration.

This secondary distribution of Agriculture stamps required more than just the 3¢ value for mailing on statistical forms. If as indicated the reporter was expected to mail out reports and seeds, higher values would have been necessary. Off-cover values above the 6¢ with fancy cancellations not attributable to Washington, D.C. are scarce, but they do exist. In Figure 6, we illustrate five copies of the 12¢ Agriculture stamp with cancellations used outside the nation’s capital, and an extraordinary straightline postmark on a 30¢ stamp from Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin.



**Figure 6. High-value Agriculture stamps used outside of Washington, D.C.**

### Census of Covers

All of the surviving covers franked with Agriculture stamps were posted in Washington, D.C. Of the 40 recorded, 23 are intact covers and the remaining 17 are wrapper or parcel labels. These totals include the covers of Charles J. Starnes stolen in 1983 and still missing. If the Starnes material (two labels and four covers) is excluded, the total drops to 34 (19 intact covers, 15 parcel labels). Most of the 1¢ usages and some of the 2¢ usages are wrapper labels that probably carried bulletins or forms for crop and livestock reports. In Figure 7, courtesy of Lester C. Lanphear III, we illustrate a 1¢ pair, paying double circular rate on a wrapper label to Merom, Indiana. The intact 2¢ covers are local rate usages, addressed to members of Congress, presumably pertaining to seed requests. In Figure 8, we illustrate such a cover addressed to the Honorable B.F. Eames, postmarked May 9 [1874], the earliest known on-cover usage of this value. Most of the 3¢ usages, all the 6¢ usages and the one intact 12¢ cover are straightforward domestic rate usages that contained actual correspondence. In Figure 9, we show a 3¢ domestic rate cover from February, 1876, addressed to Laredo, Texas. In Figure 10, courtesy of Robert L. Markovits, we show a 12¢ quadruple domestic rate cover to Hamilton, Georgia, believed to be the only intact 12¢ Agriculture cover. The 10¢ usages are all package labels that must have carried a printed book, such as the department’s annual report. Courtesy of an anonymous collector, we show in Figure 11 a Public Document label franked by

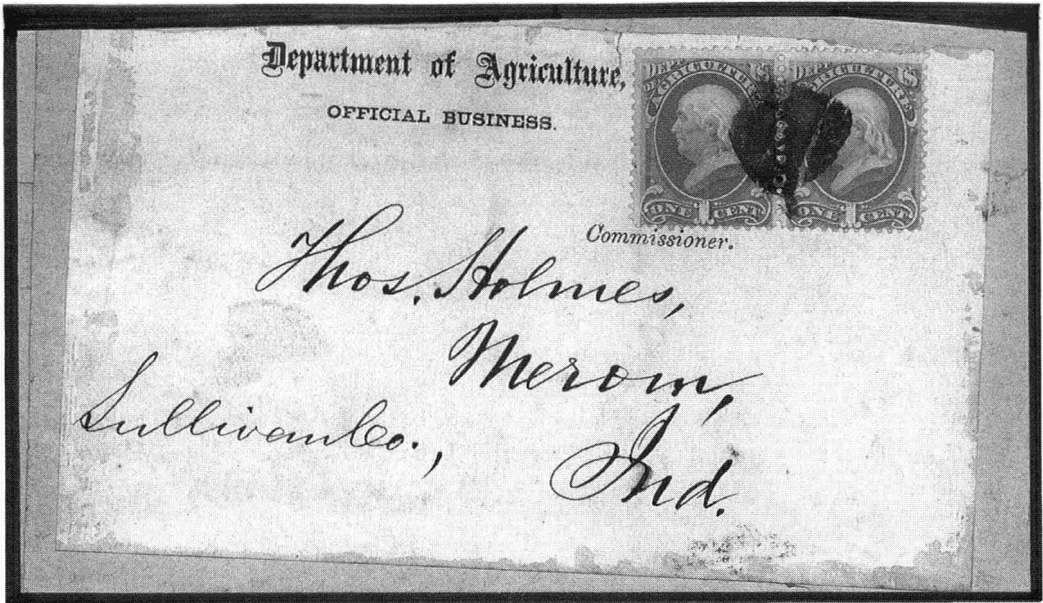


Figure 7. 2¢ double circular rate, Washington, D.C. to Merom, Indiana, courtesy of Lester C. Lanphear, III.

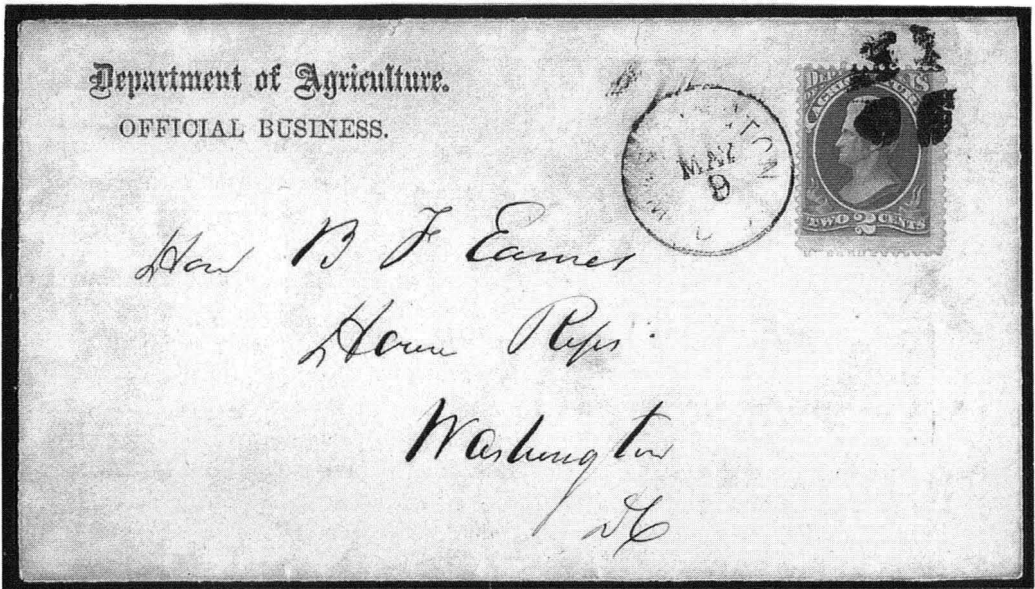


Figure 8. 2¢ local rate cover within Washington, D.C., 1874





Figure 9. 3¢ domestic rate cover from Washington, D.C. to Laredo, Texas, 1876

Commissioner Watts bearing a very well-centered 10¢ stamp, on a parcel front docketed January 1, 1875. This represents a slightly premature example of the 10¢ rate per bound volume of public documents, since the parcel must have been mailed just before the rate went into effect. Although the stamp is not tied, the authenticity of this piece is unquestionable, since it derives from a correspondence of similar labels sent to Webster, Maine, and the postage does pay a known (albeit obscure) rate. The unique 24¢ on a package label might have carried seeds.

There are no recorded registered Agriculture covers, and I have never seen a registry cancellation on an off-cover stamp. There is only one recorded cover going outside the country (#29). At this time, international cooperation on farming matters was in its infancy, although presumably the aforementioned European quarantine on American cattle due to hoof-and-mouth disease must have generated some frantic official correspondence. No off-cover Agriculture stamps have been reported with foreign mail cancellations, but I have found one 10¢ value with a black cork killer and the rim of red New York transit marking that probably originated on a cover posted in Washington, D.C. going overseas. In the census of covers, there is only one usage (#40) posted in Washington, D.C. after 1878. Any of the indigo or numeral killers used at the main post office there from 1879 on are exceptionally hard to find on off-cover Agriculture stamps. Although early Agriculture penalty envelopes from the transitional period are not common, they do exist, and the evidence suggests that the department converted over to using them almost exclusively. After 1877, there were requisitions of 1¢ and 10¢-30¢ values, but in such tiny quantities (50-200) per annum as to suggest that these might have been needed to fill out presentation sets. From the fiscal year 1878 on, most of the requisitions were for 3¢ values, along with some 2¢ and 6¢ values, and most of these would have been used on prestamped reply envelopes. Stamps skinned off reply envelopes during the transitional period would have borne strikes of the commercial vulcanized rubber killers sold to postmasters at fourth class post offices across the country. In Figure 12, we illustrate examples of six different star killers. As identical devices were sold to multiple postmasters, the town of origin for

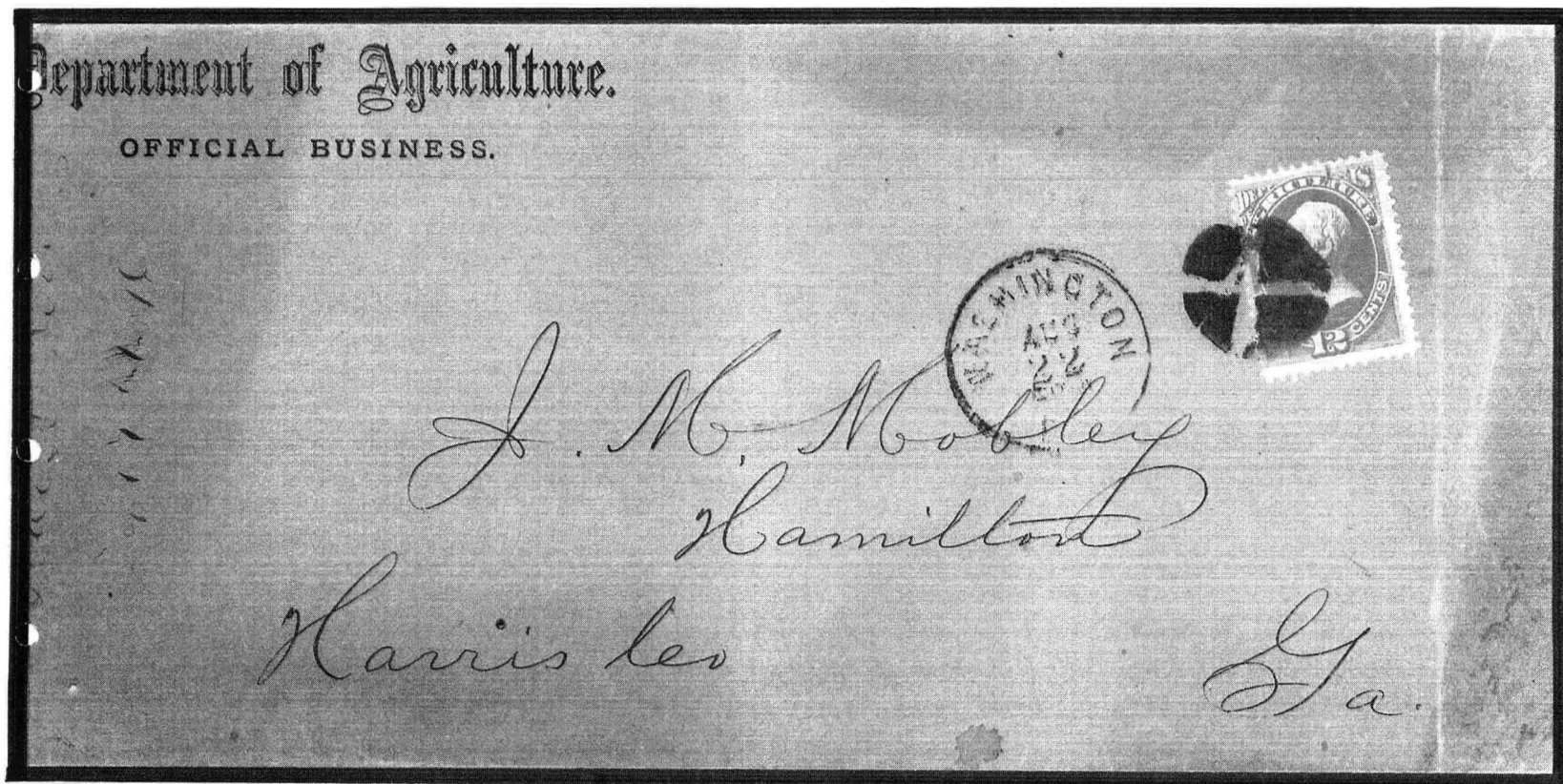


Figure 10. 12¢ quadruple domestic rate cover, Washington, D.C. to Hamilton, Georgia, 1876, courtesy of Robert L. Markovits

Received by mail January 1, 1875.)



Figure 11. 10¢ bound document rate, Washington, D.C. to Webster, Maine, 1875, courtesy of Mr. "X"



Figure 12. Commercial rubber star killers



Figure 13. Commercial rubber pinwheel and Maltese cross killers



Figure 14. Fancy commercial rubber killers



Figure 15. Miscellaneous commercial rubber killers

off-cover strikes can rarely be determined. In Figure 13, we show a selection of pinwheel and Maltese cross killers. In Figure 14, we show some of the fancier rubber killers, including a skull-and-crossbones, a wheel of fortune, a kicking mule, a honeycomb, a fossilized ammonite in the center of a compass rose, and a very graceful and intricate design sometimes called "compass points." In Figure 15, we picture a "FORWARDED" handstamp and an obsolete "10" rate marker pressed into service as cancelers, the entwined initials "POD" and "US," and a "PAID" killer. To the best of my knowledge, there was no provision during the transitional period for printing reply penalty envelopes.

This census was compiled from auction catalogues, a poor photocopy of the long-missing Starnes collection, and information from active specialist collectors. I am indebted to my assistant section editor, Lester C. Lanphear III, for confirming the final tabulation. There are presently twelve Agriculture covers in the collection of Robert L. Markovits, six in the collection of Lester C. Lanphear III, six in the missing Starnes collection, five in my own, and one each in six other collections. The whereabouts of five covers are unaccounted for. At this time, as often in the past, I do not know of a single Agriculture cover or label available in the marketplace. I would welcome reports from any route agents who can add to this survey.

**1¢ Agriculture Covers - 8 total recorded: 1 cover (#1) and 7 labels (#2-8)}<sup>7</sup>**

- |    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | 1¢ circular rate on a foxed manila legal-size obsolete free frank envelope to Westover, Maryland., containing a crop report form, docketed "1873" in pencil under stamp            | RLM (Fox, 3/11/64)   |
| 2. | 1¢ circular rate, an obsolete free frank wrapper label on an unopened folded report dated October 15, 1873, to Westover, Maryland  | JWM  |
| 3. | 1¢ circular rate on a "Public Document" wrapper label to Charlotte, Tennessee  | ACC (ex-RLM)   |
| 4. | 1¢ circular rate on a wrapper label to Charlotte, Tennessee, "no written matter" clause uncertified  | RLM  |
| 5. | 1¢ circular rate on an obsolete free frank wrapper label on a trimmed wrapper to Westover, Maryland, very heavy cancellation   | RE   |
| 6. | 1¢ circular rate, obsolete free frank label on a folded live-stock survey dated November 15, 1873, to Westover, Md.  | CJS (ex-JWD)   |
| 7. | 1¢ pair, double circular rate, label on wrapper front to Laconia, Indiana (described in Hughes as the only 1¢ Agriculture of record, illustrated in the Swinehart reprint of Luff) | RLM (ex-Waud ex-Hughes #203, ex-Knapp #2695, ex-Ackerman #1) |
| 8. | 1¢ pair, double circular rate, label on wrapper to Merom, Indiana  | LCL  |

**2¢ Agriculture Covers - 10 total recorded: 6 Covers (#13-18) and 4 Labels (#9-12)**

- |     |   |                       |
|-----|---|-----------------------|
| 9.  | 2¢ double circular rate on an obsolete free frank wrapper label to Charlotte, Tennessee, not tied   | ACC (ex-RLM)          |
| 10. | 2¢ double circular rate on an obsolete free frank wrapper label on trimmed wrapper front to Forestville, Maryland, with frank of Commissioner Watts | RLM (Siegel, 6/15/83) |

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<sup>7</sup>Not included is a 1¢ Agriculture with short perforation tied to front of small cover (John Fox, 4/30/64, #505, realized \$60.00). This cover, included in the Starnes survey maintained by Lester C. Lanphear III, was not illustrated in the catalogue and could well be one of the others listed (#3-6).

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 11.  | 2¢ double circular rate on “Public Document” wrapper label to Charlotte, Tennessee, docketed July 1, 1875, wicker crease, portion of stamp missing  | ? (ex-RLM, Christie’s 12/14/89, #650)         |
| 12.  | 2¢ pair, quadruple circular rate, on “Public Document” wrapper label to Charlotte, Tennessee  | RLM   |
| 13.  | 2¢ local rate, to Hon. Daniel Pratt, U. S. Senate, postmarked February [1875] in red  | CJS (ex-Hughes #204)                          |
| 14.  | 2¢ local rate to House of Representatives, May [1874]   | ACC (ex-TOL, ex-Albert Chang, ex-Stone #17)   |
| 15.  | 2¢ local rate to Department of State, May [1874], not tied  | LCL   |
| 16.  | 2¢ local rate to U. S. Senate, March [1875]   | RLM (ex-Waud ex-Ackerman #2)                  |
| 17.  | 2¢ local rate to Congressman J. S. Morrill, March [1875]  | ? (ex-Ehrenberg #218)                         |
| 18.  | 2¢ local rate to House of Representatives, pencil docketing [18]76, not tied, tears at top  | RLM (Bennett Sale #239, lot #2282)            |
| <b>3¢ Agriculture Covers - 11 total recorded: 1 wrapper (#19) and 10 covers (#20-29)</b> |   |   |
| 19.  | 3¢ triple circular rate on a manila wrapper to Hamilton, Georgia, docketed August, 1875, “no written matter” clause uncertified   | RLM   |
| 20.  | 3¢ domestic rate to Laredo, Texas, docketed February 16, 1876, barely tied  | ACC (ex-Stone #20)                            |
| 21.  | 3¢ domestic rate to Stetlers Store, Pa., not tied   | RCH (Siegel 616, #801)                        |
| 22.  | 3¢ domestic rate to Brookville, Maryland, February [1874], calculations on front  | TOL (ex-pen Booher)                           |
| 23.  | 3¢ domestic rate to Laconia, Indiana, curving imprint at upper right  | CJS   |
| 24.  | 3¢ domestic rate to Morrisania Station, N. Y., no corner card, violet Nov. 5, 1878 postmark   | CJS   |
| 25.  | 3¢ domestic rate to Brookville, Maryland  | LCL (ex-Hughes #205)                          |
| 26.  | 3¢ domestic rate on penalty envelope to St. Paul, Minn., violet August, 1878 postmark, valid PFC but dubious (no reason for stamp, killer atypical)   | ?   |
| 27.  | 3¢ domestic rate on legal-sized obsolete free frank envelope to San Diego, California, heavy killer   | ? (ex-Hughes #206, ex-Ehrenberg #220, ex-RLM) |
| 28.  | 3¢ domestic rate on manila legal-sized obsolete free frank envelope to Wyoming, Pa., encloses transmittal letter for stamps dated April, 1875, not tied (illustrated in <i>Chronicle</i> 183, p. 212) | ACC (Siegel, late 1987, #365)                 |
| 29.  | 3¢ treaty rate on penalty envelope to Toronto, Canada, violet June, 1878 postmark, blue “FOR MAILING” hand-stamp  | CJS   |

**6¢ Agriculture Covers - 4 total recorded: 4 covers (#30-33)<sup>8</sup>**

30. 6¢ double domestic rate on legal-sized cover to Loami, Illinois, not tied LCL (ex-Waud, ex-Hughes #207)
31. 6¢ double domestic rate on an obsolete free frank envelope to Tuskegee, Alabama, described as "believed unique" in Ackerman RLM (ex-Waud, ex-Knapp #2696, ex-Ackerman #4)
32. 6¢ double domestic rate on legal-sized cover EAL
33. 6¢ pair, quadruple domestic rate on legal-size cover, described as "probably unique" in Ackerman ? (ex-Ehrenberg #222, ex-Ackerman #5)

**10¢ Agriculture Covers - 3 total recorded: 3 labels (#34-36)**

34. 10¢ book rate on "Public Document" parcel label on parcel front to Webster, Maine, docketed as received January 1, 1875, not tied, with frank of Commissioner Watts Mr. X (Weiss #109, lot #3309)
35. 10¢ book rate on "Public Document" parcel label to Rutledge, Virginia, with frank of Commissioner Watts CJS
36. 10¢ book rate on piece of "Public Document" parcel label, frank of Commissioner Watts, not tied RLM (ex-with Waud, ex-Hughes #208, ex-Ackerman #6)

**12¢ Agriculture Covers - 2 total recorded: 1 label (#38) and 1 cover (#39)**

37. 12¢ printed matter rate on reduced parcel label to Falcon, Arkansas, with clerk's certification LCL (ex-Ehrenberg, #225)
38. 12¢ quadruple domestic rate on legal-sized cover to Hamilton, Georgia docketed 1876 RLM (ex-Waud, ex-Hughes #208)

**15¢ Agriculture Covers - none recorded**

**24¢ Agriculture Covers - 1 label recorded (#39)**

39. 24¢ printed matter rate on parcel label to Wyoming, Pa., (illustrated in *Chronicle* 188, p. 291, PFC #0189853) LCL (Siegel, late 1987, #366)

**30¢ Agriculture Covers - none recorded**

**3¢ Agriculture on soft paper Covers - 1 cover recorded (#40)**

40. 3¢ domestic rate to New Haven, Connecticut, December, 1882, with blue Commissioner's Office corner card and fishtail numeral "1" killer, noted on reverse as only copy known on cover, E. S. Knapp, 1925, illustrated in *Chronicle* 184, p. 287) RLM (ex-Waud, ex-Ackerman #3)

**Collectors' Initials:** ACC (Alan C. Campbell), RE (Ralph Ebner), RCH (Rollin C. Huggins, Jr.), EAL (Eliot A. Landau), LCL (Lester C. Lanphear), TOL (Theodore O. Lockyear), RLM (Robert L. Markovits), JWM (Dr. James W. Milgram), CJS (Charles J. Starnes, deceased).

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<sup>8</sup>Not included is a 6¢ Agriculture with tear on part wrapper (John Fox, 4/30/64, #506, realized \$21.00). This lot, not illustrated in the catalogue, included two unused 3¢ Agriculture prestamped reply envelopes with their original circular enclosures. It is not clear from the catalogue description whether the 6¢ Agriculture part wrapper was postally used.

**Major Sales:** Congressman Ernest R. Ackerman, J. C. Morgenthau & Co., Inc. 1933 (lots #1-6); Edward S. Knapp, Parke-Bernet Galleries, Inc., 1941 (lots #2695-2696); James E. Hughes, Bruce G. Daniels, 1953 (lots #203-209); Rae Ehrenberg ("The Crystal Collection"), Robert A. Siegel, 1981 (lots #218, 220, and 225); Morrison Waud, private treaty, 1982; Charles J. Starnes, stolen, 1983; Marshall Stone, Robert A. Siegel, 1990, (lots #17, 20).

### **Conclusion**

Over the years, the scarcity of official covers has deterred many collectors from entering this specialized field. For those who do undertake it, patience is the watchword, but there is one compensation—the chance to own truly rare material at an affordable price. The 2002 edition of the Scott specialized catalogue prices the 2¢ Agriculture on cover at \$1750 (6 intact covers reported) and the 3¢ Agriculture on cover at \$800 (10 intact covers reported). Listings for other values on cover are unpriced. Anyone who owns even a single Agriculture cover should treasure it. After all, based on the results of this census, there are fewer Agriculture covers—40 for all values combined—than there are 30¢ 1869 covers (58 recorded), yet a 30¢ 1869 cover presently catalogues a staggering \$22,500! □

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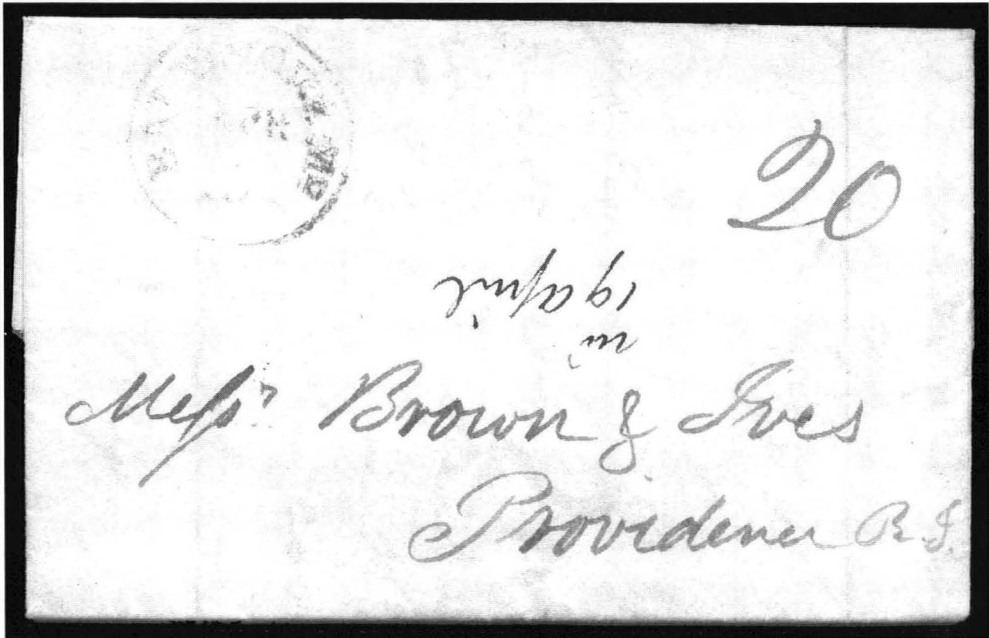
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**ADDITIONAL DATA ABOUT COVERS IN ISSUE 192**

Figure 1 and Figure 2 supplement two problem covers in issue 192. Route Agent Jim Cate submits Figure 1, an 1865 letter with the cachet in oval "HAVE YOUR / LETTERS



**Figure 1. Nashville, Tenn. cover (1865) to Detroit, Mich.**



**Figure 2. 1816 ship letter to Providence via Baltimore**

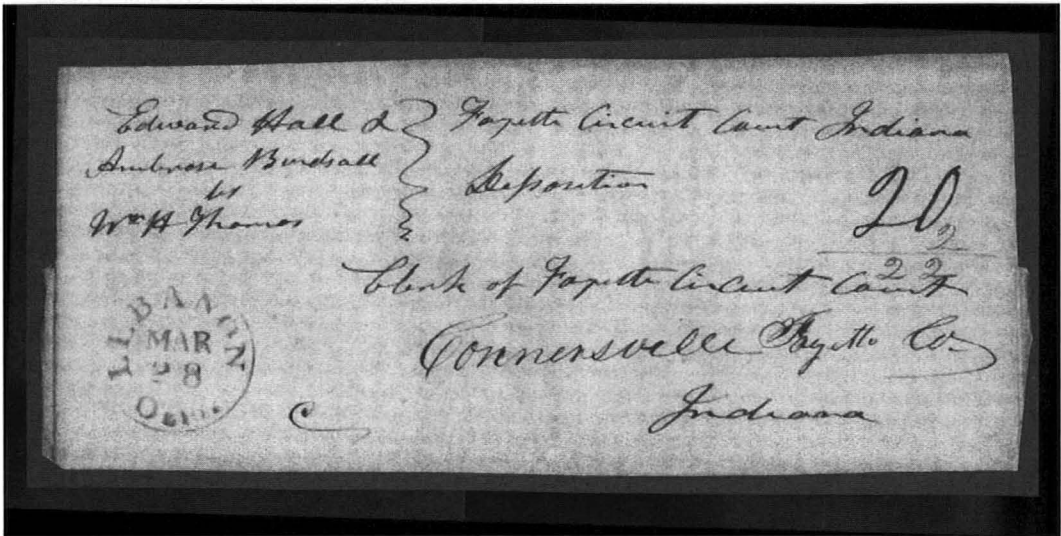
DIRECTED / TO YOUR / STREET & NUMBER” — a somewhat darker marking than applied to the issue 192 cover. It was posted “In Haste” from “NASHVILLE on JULY 23” to Detroit, Michigan.

Jim writes: “You will note the cover was addressed merely “Detroit, Michigan” without further specifics. Thus, the recipient was being reminded by the post office to have future letters specifically addressed to “STREET & NUMBER.”

Route Agent Pat Walker discovered Figure 2, a companion “SHIP” letter to Providence posted at Baltimore on April 15, 1816. It was rated quite differently than the cover in issue 192 which was posted on NOV 10, 1815. Please describe how it was rated and why.

**ANSWERS TO PROBLEM COVERS IN ISSUE 193**

Problem covers in Figures 3A and B and in Figure 4 enclosed legal depositions sent from Lebanon, OH to Connersville, IN, and from Baltimore, MD to New Lisbon, OH. A common marking on both of these covers is the manuscript “A” found either on front or on back. Both covers also have a “2” added to the postage to be collected, and the cover from Lebanon has a small “c” (or is it an “a”)? at lower left.



**Figure 3A. 1848 legal deposition to Connersville, IN**



**Figure 3B. Reverse of Connersville cover showing fancy “A”**

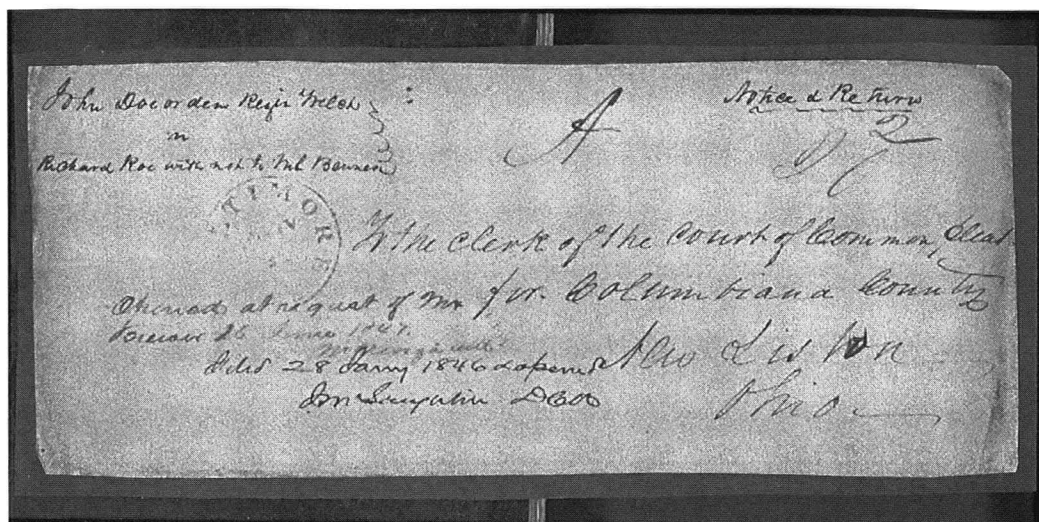


Figure 4. Face of legal cover to New Lisbon, OH with large "A"

We had expected some response from our agents, but to no avail, so our assistant editor Greg Sutherland put together the following:

The MAR 28 Lebanon cover has an originating CDS in the lower left corner. A black manuscript "20" cents due is in the upper right hand corner, to which a brownish black "2" has been added and summed to "22" cents due. A black manuscript figure resembling a "C", but more likely an "a" used to indicate advertising in the local newspaper, is located adjacent to the town mark. An additional large black manuscript "A" is on the reverse. The 20¢ represents the 5¢ per 1/2 ounce rate for up to 1 ounce plus the 2¢ fee for advertising in the local newspaper—resulting in a quadruple rate advertised cover. A black manuscript "File on Motion 11/4/48" docketing adjoins the large "A" on the reverse of the Connersville cover.

I believe the covers were delivered initially to the Clerk of Courts. The 2¢ advertising fee was added to the total due from whomever was the object of the legal proceedings. The name of the individual or his representative may or may not have been used in the paper. I have additional copies of similar covers used to Baltimore in this time period using the same method which would suggest some system existed between the post office and Clerk of Courts.

### PROBLEM COVERS FOR THIS ISSUE

The cover in figures 5A and B was submitted to provide a basis for understanding with regard to the 35 centimes UPU rate from France to the United States. When France became a member of the General Postal Union on 1 Jan. 1876 and later the Universal Postal Union on 1 Apr. 1879, the rate from France to the U.S. was 40 centimes from 1 Jan. 1876 until 10 May 1878, when it was changed to 35 centimes. This remained in effect until 1 Oct. 1918 when the rate was changed to 25 centimes, the standard base UPU universal postage rate. The Universal Postal Union allowed France to charge additional transit rates on the basis of actual distance the mail was carried during the above periods. This is a remarkable first instance of an entry appearing in the Cover Corner for the information of our Route Agents without one or more questions.

James Larsen submitted a cover in figure 6. It has a faint "LYNN MASS AUG 13" CDS in the upper right corner, Scott #65 with a black target cancel in the upper left corner and a black manuscript "New Ironsides" in the lower left corner. An embossed eagle on the top black flap is edged in red, with blue on the bottom. The cover is addressed to Mr.

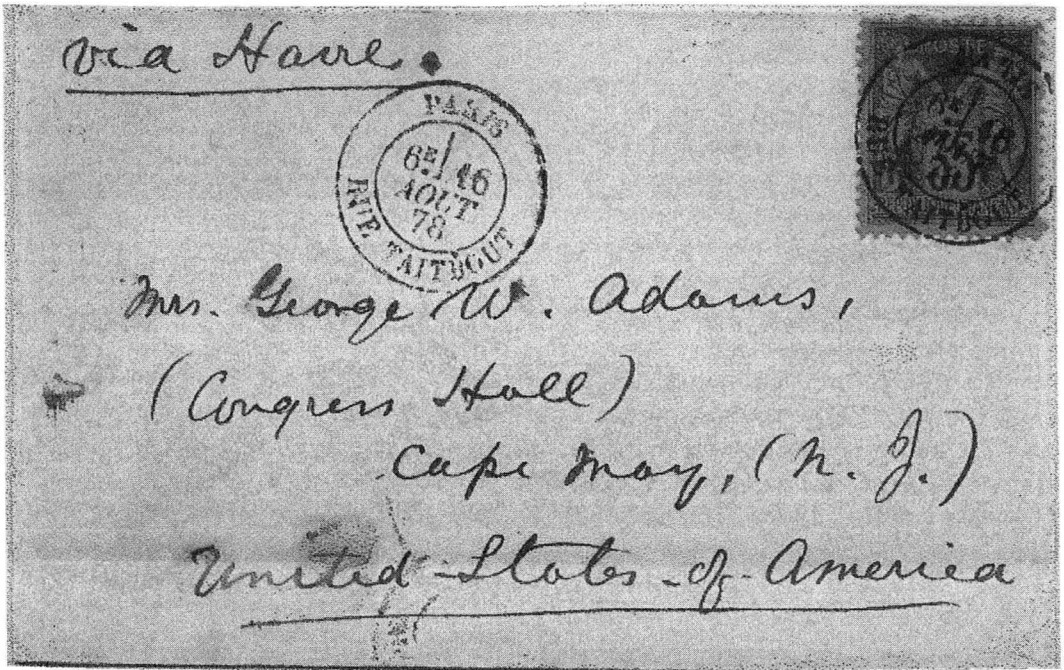


Figure 5A. Cover illustrating 35 centimes UPU rate, France to U.S.

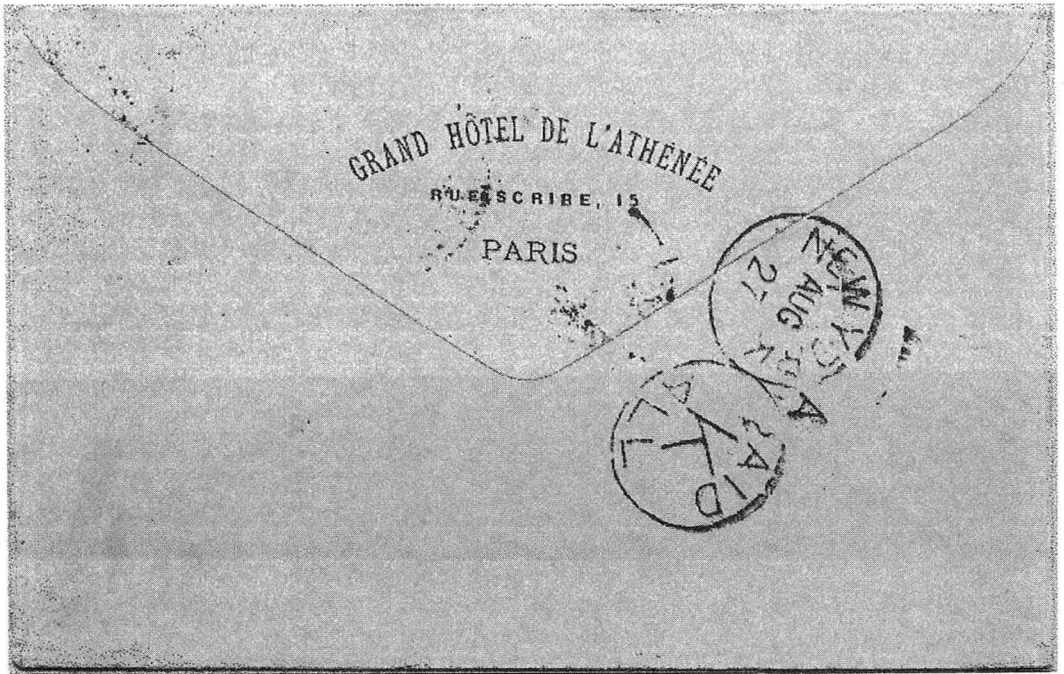


Figure 5B. Reverse of Figure 5A UPU rate cover

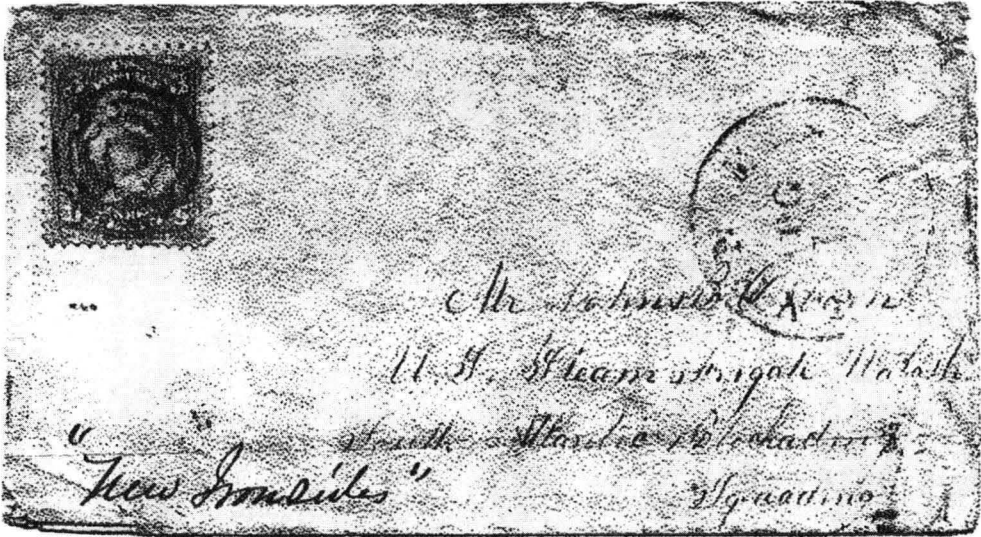


Figure 6A. Cover endorsed "Old Ironsides" to U.S. Steam Frigate *Wabash*

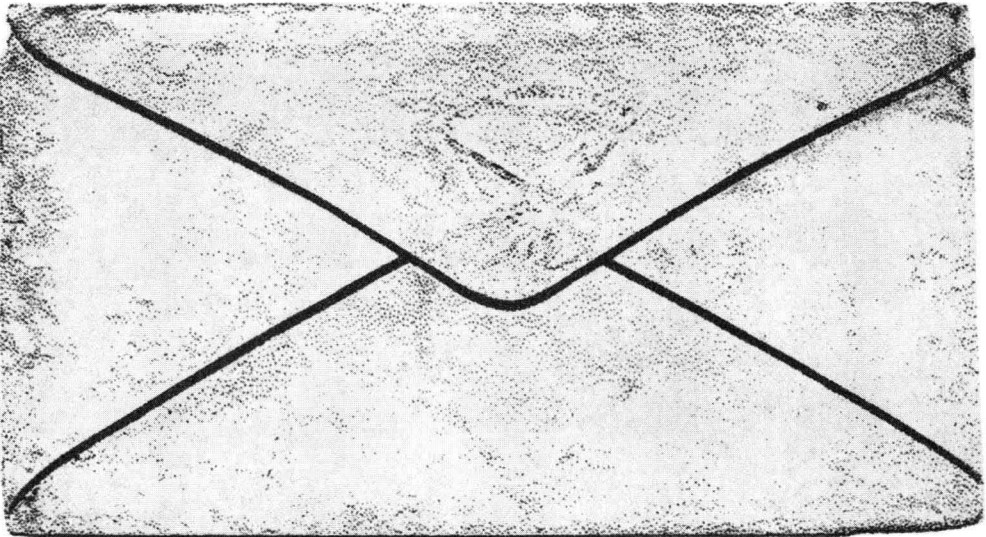


Figure 6B. Reverse of "Old Ironsides" cover

John B. Osborn, U.S. Steam Frigate Wabash, South Atlantic Blockading Squading [sic]. Does this provide enough information for Agent Larsen to properly year-date the cover?

The cover in figure 7 was submitted by Route Agent Dennis Schmidt, who would like to know more about its usage. The cover originated in San Francisco, CA on 3¢ Post Office Dept. stationery, Scott #UO2. It is not year-dated on either side. The face is printed in order on the left: and on the right:

Registered Business.

Postmaster,.....

Official.

County,

This Envelope is to be used only for  
Post Office Business.

Agent Schmidt thought the red hand-stamped "2" represented 2 reales due in Guatemala, but was unsure. He estimated the date to be approximately 1877. This is pre-UPU for Guatemala which entered the UPU on 1 Aug. 1881. How was this cover treated regarding the letter and registration rates? Is it possible to narrow the year of use?

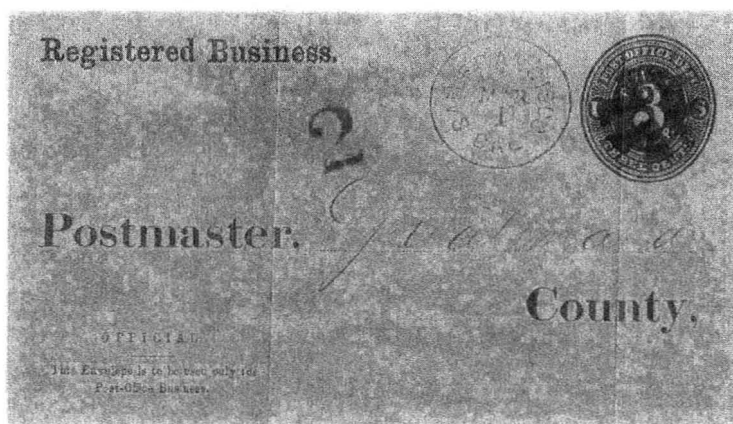


Figure 7. Official P.O. Dept. stationery registered to Guatemala

\*\*\*\*\*

Please send to The Cover Corner Editor your answers to the problem covers for this issue, and any further discussion of previous answers to other problem covers, as soon as possible, preferably within two weeks of receiving your *Chronicle*. The "go to press" deadline for the August 2002 Cover Corner is July 10, 2002. I can receive mail at 9068 Fontainebleau Terrace, Cincinnati, OH 45231-4808 and via an e-mail address: RWCarin@aol.com.

New examples of problem covers are always needed for The Cover Corner. High resolution copiers, either black and white or colored images, have proven to be quite successful in reproducing. 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.

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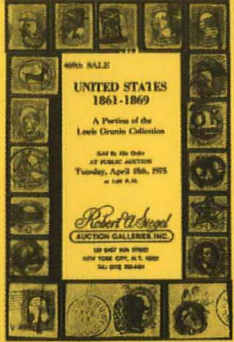
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