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August 2005

Volume 57, No. 3

Whole No. 207

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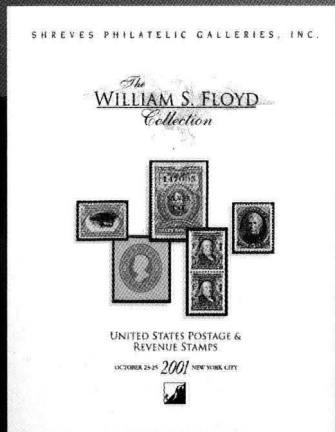
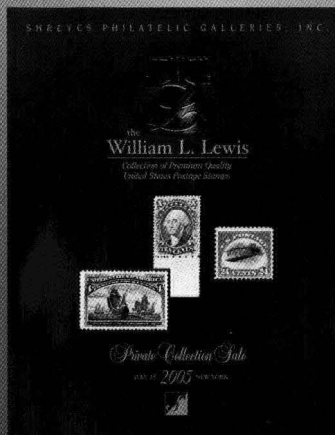
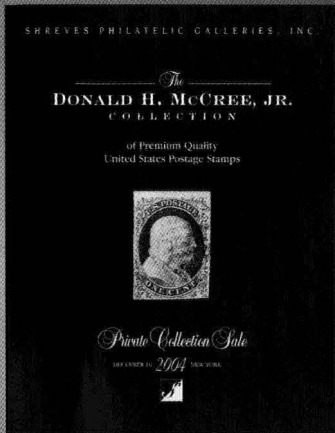
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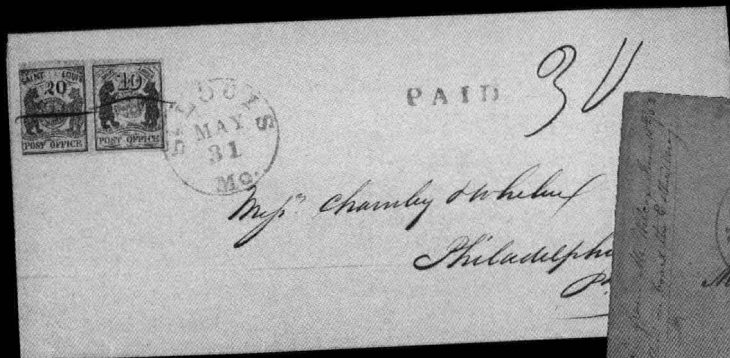
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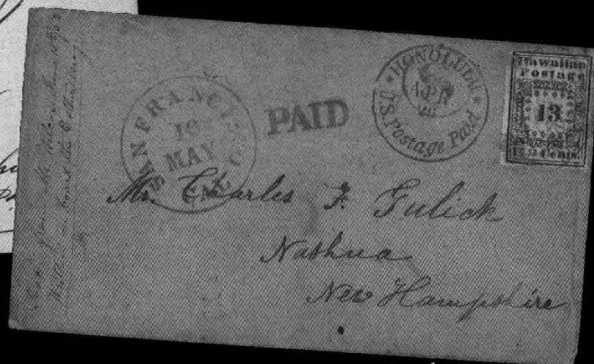
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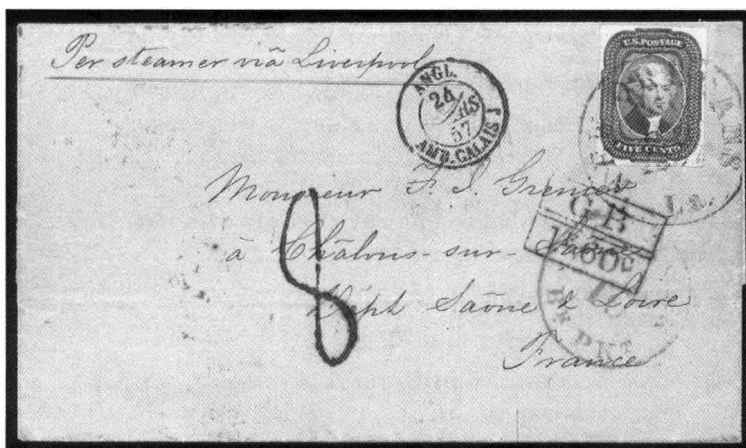
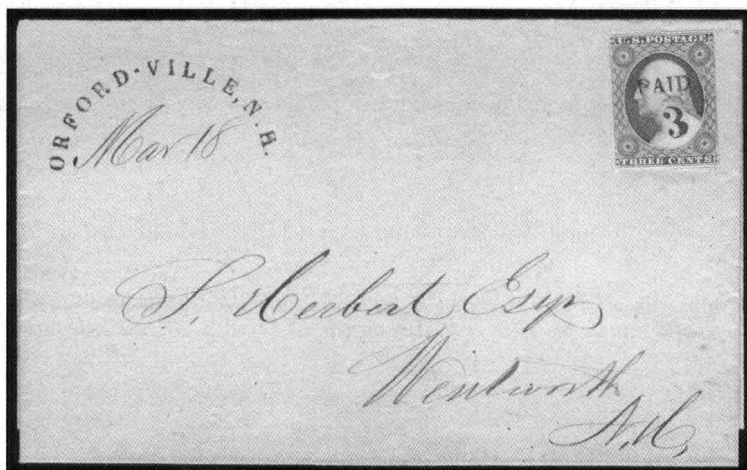
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**MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION STAMPS**  
**JOHN D. BOWMAN, LARRY NIX AND GORDON STIMMELL**

The stamps of the Mercantile Library Association of New York (hereafter, MLNY) were issued to prepay local delivery of library books ordered by patrons. *The Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue* states:

Stamps paid for special delivery service of books ordered from the library, and of forms especially provided to subscribers. The forms bore a government stamp on the outside, a library stamp inside. . . . The stamps "on cover" are affixed to cutouts from order blanks showing order number, title of book desired, and subscriber's name and address. When canceled, the stamps and order blanks show a dull blue double-lined oval inscribed "MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION" and date in center. The stamps are really more a form of receipt for a prepaid parcel delivery service than postage stamps.

As noted later in this article, the use of the U.S. mail system became an integral part of the home delivery service of the MLNY for which these stamps served as proof of payment.



**Figure 1. MLNY 6¢ on maroon stamp (Scott 105L5)**

The first membership library, as opposed to previous private libraries, was the library company of Philadelphia founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1731. However, mercantile libraries were one of several types of membership libraries which preceded and then competed with America's free public libraries. Mercantile libraries were started by young merchants' clerks embarking on their business careers. The Boston Mercantile Library, founded on March 11, 1820, was the first of the mercantile libraries. It was quickly followed by the MLNY on November 9, 1820, and the Mercantile Library Company of Philadelphia on December 1, 1821. Other mercantile libraries sprang up in most of America's major cities including Cincinnati, St.

Louis, Brooklyn and San Francisco. But only the NYML is attributed with officially issuing stamps, and in fact all of the catalogued items are difficult to find today because of their scarcity.

Two of the MLNY stamps are true first-class rarities among U.S. local posts: these are the 6¢ on maroon (105L5)(Figure 1) and the postal card (105LU1)(Figure 2). Of each, only a few are known today. The rest of the stamps are scarce.

The purpose of this article is to review the known historical data about these stamps, to describe a chronology of issuance and to list examples known to the authors.

**Philatelic Records**

Although the stamps were issued in the 1866-1877 period, the earliest philatelic record of their existence was noted in 1890 by Dr. William H. Mitchell, a dentist from Bayonne, NJ. Dr. Mitchell edited two philatelic journals, the *Bayonne Philatelist* in 1883 followed by the *Independent Philatelist*.<sup>1</sup> In Vol. III, No. 1 of the *Independent Philatelist*,

<sup>1</sup>Calvet M. Hahn, "Dr. Mitchell and His Stamp Journals," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 6, No. 2 (April 1996), pp. 12-25.

**Rules to be Observed in Using Stamped Orders.**

1. Write your name and address distinctly in ink.
2. Give the names of the Authors of all books applied for.
3. Put the names of several books on every order. One of the books named will then be sent.
4. Have the Return Book ready for the carrier when he calls for it.

{ FOLIO. } Returns, .....

*Wants one of the following:*

.....

.....

.....


.....

Name, ..... Address, .....

Figure 2A. MLNY, 10¢ black on yellow printed on U.S. postal card (Scott 105LU1)

**United States**  
**POSTAL CARD.**

WRITE THE ADDRESS ONLY ON THIS SIDE - THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER



To \_\_\_\_\_ **Mercantile Library,** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Astor Place,** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **City.**

Figure 2B. Address side of MLNY 105LU1

Nov. 1890, Dr. Mitchell wrote about the history of the Mercantile Library of New York City from its 1870 library report, and also reported a listing of the stamps and stationary known to him. Because Hahn reproduced almost Mitchell's entire article, the reader is referred to this citation.

Charles Coster wrote a monumental work summing up existing knowledge of U.S. local posts in 1877 but did not mention the Mercantile Library Association.<sup>2</sup> If Coster knew of these stamps, it is not surprising that he did not write about them, because of his disregard for any labels not used for what he believed to be truly postal delivery purposes, such as the many express labels that he implored collectors to discard. The next major philatelic historian of U.S. local posts after Coster was Henry C. Needham, a controversial figure in philately whose observations have been much maligned, at times for good reason as his research was plagued with unresearched suppositions. Yet for MLNY, he was accurate in his "Concise History and Memoranda of United States Local Post Stamps," published serially in *The Philatelic Gazette* and *The American Philatelist* from 1915-27.

Needham wrote:<sup>3</sup>

The Mercantile Library, Astor Place, New York, used stamps from 1869 to about 1875 to pre-pay the charges for delivering books by special messengers. The stamps used were not only adhesives but were also impressed on the reverse centre of U.S. postal cards. The system was instituted in 1869 and largely discontinued October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1873, although used as late as December, 1875. The following memoranda is taken from the books of the Association:

"In September last (1869) your Board resolved to try the system of delivering books at residences of members. Charge to any part of the City below 60<sup>th</sup> Street, ten cents. Messengers are employed in addition to horses and wagons. The delivery of books has steadily increased and the Department is now nearly self-supporting. Boxes were attached to lamp posts within the City limits, thus being easy of access to every member. The orders deposited therein were collected with Postal precision, and are delivered to the Library several times each day. The delivery of books thus called for follows promptly as a matter of course. Book deliveries in 1870, 11,880; in 1871, 12,869; in 1872, 12,306."

The Rules, as established by the Association and impressed on U.S. postal cards and letter sheets whereon is impressed the two cent black Jackson of 1863-4 and on blank orders, follow:

- "1. Write your name and address very distinctly in ink.
2. Never apply for a book the title of which you do not find in the Library Catalogue, or in one of its Supplements.
3. Be careful to give the names of the Authors of all books applied for except Novels.
4. Put the names of several books on every order. One of the books named will then be promptly sent. If your order bears the name of one book only, it may remain in the Library for weeks before the book can be procured.
5. Have the Return Book ready for the Carrier when he calls for it.
6. Address complaints or suggestions to the Librarian. They will, in all cases, receive immediate attention."

Evidently the ten cent rate noted above was later reduced to five cents.

---

<sup>2</sup> Charles H. Coster, *The United States Locals and Their History* (New York: Scott & Co., 1877). This book was reprinted in J. Walter Scott's 1879 revised catalog, and again by the United Stamp Company Herald in 1912. Coster later updated his 1877 book, writing serially in the Belgian journal *Le Timbre-Poste* between 1878 and 1884.

<sup>3</sup> Henry C. Needham, "U.S. Local Posts – A Concise History and Memoranda," *The American Philatelist*, Vol. 33, No. 4 (January 1920), pp. 117-18.



Needham listed the following items:

- 5¢ Black on maroon red
- 5¢ Black on yellow
- 5¢ Blue on pinkish white
- 10¢ Black on yellow
- 10¢ Yellow impressed on U.S. postal card

Because the Mercantile stamps were thought to serve a type of private local delivery service, Donald Patton wrote about them in his 1967 book.<sup>4</sup> Patton identified the five types in the Scott catalog as Types A through E, and points out for the first time that there are design differences among all these stamps.

In 1945 Harry Konwiser published a brief article in the *SPA Journal* about the Mercantile adhesive stamps.<sup>5</sup> He referred to Mitchell's article in regard to Mitchell's attempt to get information from the Philadelphia library personnel about a possible adhesive stamp used by their home delivery service. Konwiser goes on to state:

At any rate there apparently is no written word (in philatelic circles) about any Philadelphia Library adhesive, and it is hoped that someone in Philadelphia, or nearby, will make a proper effort, by studying the record, approaching the Public Library files and by doing this philatelic job produce another entrant to the United States Stamp Catalog.

The U.S. Stamp Catalog groups four stamps (design as illustrated) as existing in the 1869-1875 period. The factual story of these stamps giving the correct dates of issues for the two values were contained in a Manuscript (compiled by your correspondent) but this data Manuscript went astray some years ago.

Your writer recalls he "searched" the library records, as made available, talked with library officials who had definite recollections about "stamps" and there were at least two library officials who had used the stamps to procure delivery service for books. The notes, hereafter made, are from notes in the writer's file and one such note reports a Library Report for 1870, from which is quoted:

"The Cause for the Mercantile Library Stamps are as follows: \*\*\* the managers of the library \*\*\* to accommodate the persons who for any reason have found it inconvenient to make personal application for books."

Notes at hand indicate the adhesives were sold at five cents each, that boxes throughout the city were cleared out daily. There were quite a number of boxes to hold books to be returned, throughout the city streets. But (according to filed note) in connection with these boxes the 1870 report indicates that while the box plan was commendable it was not entirely satisfactory, as it failed to reach many library members.

In 1870 (per notes) "blank orders in the form of a square envelope imprinted with a two-cent U.S. Envelope, with a five-cent library stamp on the inside were sold at seven cents each or fifteen for a dollar."

The order blanks, when properly filled out were deposited in the U.S. mail boxes, widening the service, aiding in prompt delivery of books wanted, these then being delivered by horse and wagon.

During the 1869 period prior to the adoption of delivery stamps the members borrowed 8,428 books. The total, for an equal period with stamps used, was 11,184.

My notes as gleaned for the "complete story that got itself lost" indicates that the Library delivered 11,880 books in the 1870 year seemingly a large increase over other years. The 1873 note, that is the reference to the 1871 year, indicates the total number of stamp deliveries to have been 12,869, and the year 1873 report of the Library says the operation is paying its way.

---

<sup>4</sup> Donald S. Patton, *The Private Local Posts of the United States*, Volume I (London: Robson Lowe Ltd., 1967).

<sup>5</sup> Harry M. Konwiser, "Mercantile Adhesives," *SPA Journal*, Vol. 8, No. 3 (November 1945), pp. 151-52..

In 1874 and later, books were delivered to their subscribers at their residences, at which time the rate was made ten cents for certain districts, thus bringing forth the 10-cent value in yellow. (The 5-cent values are in maroon or in yellow on white, also blue on pink paper).

The ten-cent fee, the special messenger service, seems to have been maintained for a number of years.

A writer listed as "Ixtlan" wrote in 1956 that the issues from MLNY likely never were used on packages of books being delivered, and were simply a convenient form of record-keeping.<sup>6</sup> Thus, he places them at most in the category of parcel and express labels rather than catalog-listed local stamps.

Charles Fricke illustrated the 10¢ imprinted library stamp (105LU1) on the first issue U.S. postal card in *Postal Stationery* in 1973.<sup>7</sup> Fricke states:

The illustration in Figure 4 is of an unused copy of the rare Mercantile Library Association local stamp (Scott 105LU1) printed on the back of a first issue postal card (UPSS S2 – small watermark). This is the only local stamp that is listed in the catalog as being imprinted on and used in conjunction with a government issued postal card. The illustration in Figure 5 shows the address side of this card and indicates its intended use as a paid-reply postal card. Message and Reply cards were not officially issued by the United States until 1892 (UPSS MR1). It has been reported that only two copies of 105LU1 are known, and both are unused. It is presumed that these two were purchased by members of the Library Association, but never used. It is also quite probable that used copies do not exist in that they may have been destroyed by the association after fulfilling the order for books as requested by the member on the postal card.

This item has been listed for some time in the *U.S. Postal Stationery Catalog*, and the 1995 edition states the date of issue as unknown, but suggests 1874. It is described as yellow on buff.

Calvet Hahn<sup>8</sup> presented a detailed history of Mercantile, largely based on Dr. Mitchell's article in the *Independent Philatelist*. Hahn attempted to associate Mitchell's series with that listed in the *Scott Catalogue*. Hahn's analysis suggests that the 5¢ blue (105L3) was the first item issued in April 1867. Hahn suggests that the postal cards (105LU1) were probably Mitchell's ochre of 1875. He further suggests that the 10¢ black on yellow (105L6) is the issue of 1874. He says there is a fair probability that 105L2 (5¢ black on yellow) is either the 1869 black on white reported by Dr. Mitchell or else the 1871 5¢ item found inside government 2¢ envelopes. Hahn notes that Mitchell does not record either maroon stamp, the 5¢ (105L1) nor the 6¢ (105L5), and wonders if the 6¢ stamp might have been issued by the Philadelphia Mercantile Library, not the MLNY. In the same issue, Gordon Stimmell illustrates two examples of used 6¢ stamps, each with a double circle handstamp with "M L A" in its outer ring in the 9-12-3 o'clock positions with an asterisk in the 6 o'clock position. In the center on one example is a date of ??? 30, 1867.<sup>9</sup> This handstamp is very different from the oval stamp often seen on THE NEW YORK CITY issues.

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<sup>6</sup>Ixtlan, "Stamps of the Mercantile Library Association, New York City," *Weekly Philatelic Gossip*, May 26, 1956, p. 414.

Charles A. Fricke, "Centennial of the First Issue Postal Card – 1873-1973," *Postal Stationery*, Vol. 15 (March-April 1973), pp. 49-50.

<sup>8</sup>Gordon Stimmell, "Marooned in Philly," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 6, No. 2 (April 1996), p. 30.

<sup>9</sup>The Philadelphia Mercantile Library initiated a home delivery service in 1867 and continued at least through 1878. However, the fee charged for home delivery was 5¢ from the beginning, and there is no evidence that adhesive stamps were ever employed as a component of its service.

## Historical Notes

Home delivery service was first reported by the MLNY in its 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Report, covering the May 1865 to April 1866 fiscal year. This report states “The new delivery system, adopted last year [1865-1866], although yet in its infancy, fully demonstrates its practicability and usefulness. There are at present fourteen order boxes arranged in convenient localities, and it is estimated that about 3,000 books have already been delivered by this system.” The report notes receipts of \$437 from delivery stamps, and that it had expenses of \$60 for these stamps. The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of 1869-1870 is heavily reported in the Mitchell and Hahn articles, and describes their new system of using USPO collection boxes. (Home delivery continued into the 1920s, using a variety of methods including horse and wagon, messenger, mail and express.)

In an effort to streamline the method of circulating books at the library, the entire circulation system was overhauled during the library’s 1865-1866 fiscal year. In place of a ledger system in which a permanent page or “folio” was maintained for each member, a temporary slip system was implemented. The temporary slip contained information about the member, the item checked out, and a unique folio number assigned to the member. The slip was stamped with a handstamp indicating the date a book was checked out and the slip was filed by folio number. When the book was returned, the temporary slip was destroyed.

In 1866, the library initiated a home delivery option for its members. To facilitate this option, the library established boxes at convenient locations in the city to collect the forms on which requests for books were made by members. When the book order was filled, the book was delivered by horse and wagon to the member’s home. Members were required to pay a fee for home delivery, and this is where the delivery stamps come in. Delivery stamps were purchased by the member at the main library, and then affixed to the order form which was deposited in the library’s collection boxes.

There is no indication in the MLNY reports of the fee for home delivery services. We speculate that the 6¢ black on maroon stamp was issued first, followed by the 5¢ black on maroon. Only one year-dated 6¢ stamp is known to the authors, with the 1867 double circle cancel mentioned previously. Although this adhesive could have been issued by another library, the similarity to the 5¢ black on maroon stamp suggests a connection. Because the temporary slips used in the new circulation system were routinely destroyed after the return of the book, we may never resolve the mysteries surrounding these stamps.

Not satisfied with a home delivery system in which the library maintained its own collection boxes, the library implemented a new system for handling delivery requests in 1870 using U.S. Post Office boxes. In an extensive article on the Mercantile Library of New York in February 1871, *Scribner’s Monthly* describes the new system.

Of late years a postal order scheme has been perfected and for convenience and simplicity it could hardly be improved. Its design is to enable members to draw books without visiting the library. Blank forms are obtained from the Post-office Department, about the size and shape of a newspaper wrapper, bearing on one side a two-cent postage stamp, and the printed address, “Mercantile Library, Astor Place, City,” and on the other a blank application with a five-cent “Mercantile Library, delivery stamp,” and some printed directions. You fill up the application in the usual way, fold the wrapper like a note (it is already gummed), and drop it in the nearest Post-office box. In a few hours at furthest a messenger brings to your house the book you have asked for, and takes away the volume you want to return. The system is fast increasing in popularity. A horse and wagon are constantly employed in the collection and delivery, and the number of volumes sent out in this way is about 12,000 annually. The delivery blanks are sold at the rate of seven cents each – two cents representing the postage and five the cost of the delivery.



The MLNY also utilized a 10¢ black on yellow stamp, which Scott lists as 105L6, to pay the new 10¢ fee. There is at least one known example of this stamp on cover. It was illustrated in Donald Patton's *The Private Local Posts of the United States*, p. 226. That example shows several strikes of the MLNY handstamp dated from February 22, 1877 to April 16, 1877.

At least one other method was used to pay the 10¢ fee. That method involved the use of the first issue U.S. postal card addressed to the Mercantile Library with a preprinted order form on the reverse and an imprinted 10¢ black on yellow delivery stamp. Scott lists this card as 105LU1. Our records include only two known examples of this postal card, both unused.

### Observations for Each Issue

The 5¢ black on maroon stamp (105L1) (Figure 3) is not known used on folio. The authors believe that this is the second stamp issued by MLNY, after the 6¢ black on maroon (105L5). We have seen one stamp apparently used with the blue double oval handstamp that is seen on 105L3. No multiples are known. There is no frame line around the stamp design.



**Figure 3A. MLNY 5¢ black on yellow stamp (Scott 105L1), used**



**Figure 3B. MLNY 5¢ black on yellow stamp (Scott 105L1), unused**

The 5¢ black on yellow stamp (105L2) may have been the third adhesive employed. All known examples are uncanceled and usually affixed to the inside of a preprinted and unused 2¢ Black Jack wrapper. No multiples are known.

The 2 ¢ Black Jack wrapper with MLNY form and 105L2 affixed inside was reportedly purchased by library patrons from the U.S. Post Office, according to the *Scribner's Monthly* article. This marked an innovation for the library, which previously had placed their own collection boxes around the city for patron book requests. Auction reports list the wrapper as Scott W55, W57 and even W51. These have not been verified by the authors, and the paper types for W55 and W57 are buff and light manila respectively, which could be confused.

The printing format for 105L2 may have been as illustrated from this photocopy in the authors' records (Figure 4). It is a "Mercantile Library Delivery Check" which contains a single example of 105L2 with control or folio number printed below the stamp. A number which is a duplicate of the number below the stamp is printed along with the message, "Detach the annexed Stamp and affix it to the Order Blank. Retain this Check to be given to the Carrier, upon filling the order." This delivery check has a thick black border around the outside of the check. An example of the Scott 105L2 with a number below (Figure 5) is also illustrated. All other examples we have seen are cut to stamp shape and have the heavy outer border at top and left. Stamps seen used on folios are cut



Figure 4. Apparent printing form for Scott 105L2



Figure 5. Scott 105L2 with number at bottom

to shape, and one includes a portion of the top of the “N” in “No” in the margin at bottom left. Thus we conclude that the stamp printed on Mercantile Library Delivery Check may have been used initially, but later the stamp was cut out and placed on the Black Jack wrappers printed with the same rules as on the smaller slips used with the blue 105L3. The front of the wrappers are preprinted with the instruction “Drop this in any P.O. Box” and the address “Mercantile Library, Astor Place, City.” (Figures 6A, 6B)

The 5¢ blue stamp (105L3) (Figures 7, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B) was handstamped with a dated blue company double oval. The dated examples known to the authors were used

from Nov. 15, 1875 until Dec. 18, 1875. The stamp is framed by lines that extend in each direction suggesting they are plate layout lines for a multi-subject printing. Pairs are known.

We believe that the use of this stamp began before the termination of the service in 1873 and was also used after the service resumed in 1874. Our belief is based on the fact that there are examples of a single Scott 105L3 on preprinted unused forms and examples of pairs (or two single stamps) on used forms. The single unused form examples may have been remainders after the service terminated, while the use of two stamps for 10¢ might have coincided with resuming delivery service in 1874. There is one item on part notice with a single uncanceled stamp on handwritten folio with two handstamps dated Dec. 15 and Dec. 17, 1875. It is possible that a second stamp was attached to the part of this notice which was cut out.

The format of the forms varies. In one interesting example an advertisement promoting membership in the library is on the reverse of the request form. It notes, among

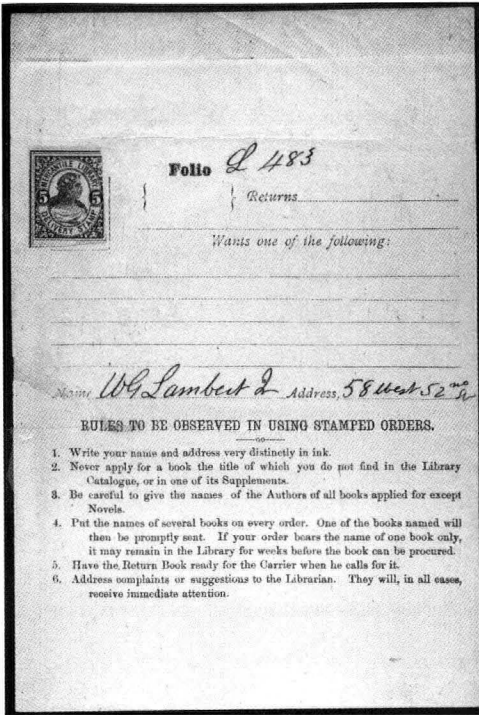


Figure 6A. 5¢ blue stamp (Scott 105L3) on wrapper

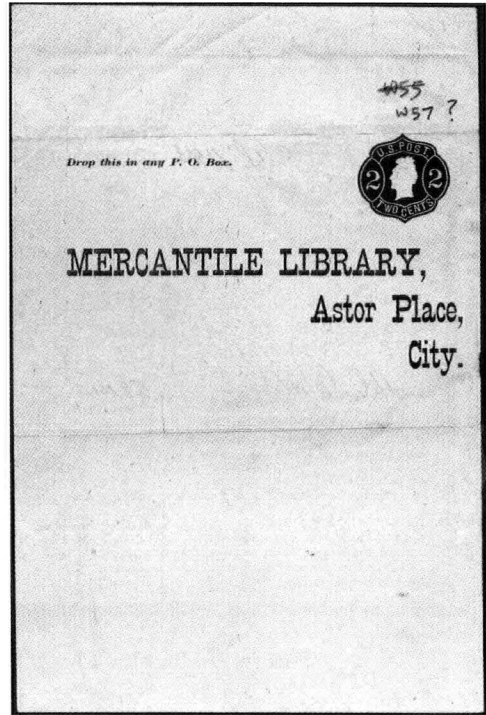


Figure 6B. Address side of wrapper shown in Figure 6A



Figure 7. 5¢ blue MLNY stamp (Scott 105L3)

other things, that the fee for membership for clerks is \$1.00 for initiation and \$4 annually and for others \$5 a year. It also indicates that “Books are delivered at Residences for 10 cents each.” In another example, the book request information is in free form on the back of a Scott UX6 postal card.

The 1870-71 Reay-printed U79 envelope is known preprinted with the library instruction and address, except “Clinton Hall” added before “Astor Place.” It is possible these were used in conjunction with the 105L3 forms, which are on regular weight paper and not card stock.

There is a single example known of a pair used on an unidentified 1¢ U.S. postal card. The reverse includes the pair pasted over a handwritten message returning a book and requesting another. Apparently the library patron purchased the two 5¢ stamps and attached them to a postal card, which was then handstamped on receipt.

The 6¢ black on maroon (105L5) (Figure 1) is known only off-folio, and two items are handstamped with a double circle, one with a date of 1867 or perhaps 1869.

The 10¢ black on yellow (105L6) (Figures 10A, 10B) is known on a folio handstamped Feb. 22, 1877 with five additional strikes dated to Apr. 16, 1877. It was illustrated in Donald Patton’s *The Private Local Posts of the United States*, p. 226. An off-folio example is struck twice with the blue oval dated 187?. This stamp has an outer frame line.

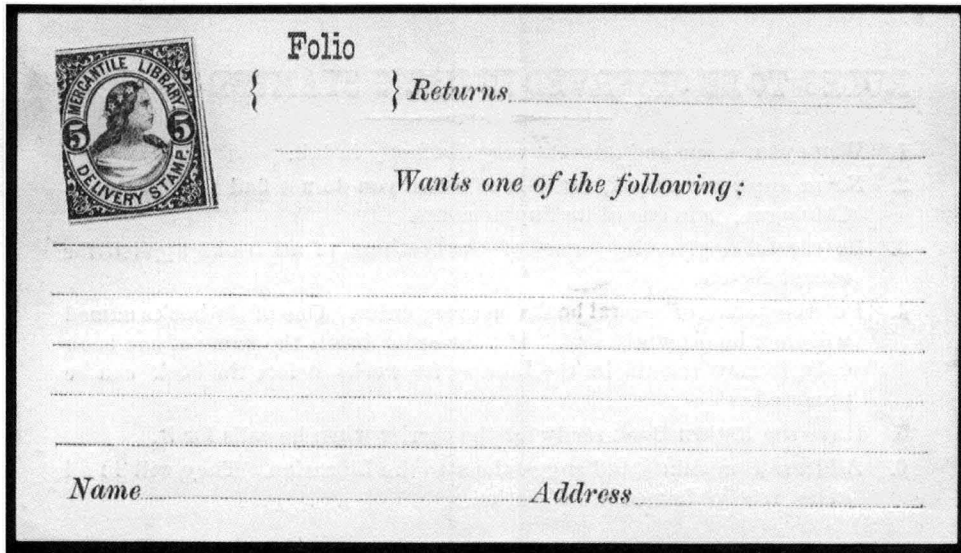


Figure 8A. 5¢ blue (Scott 105L3) on unused form envelope

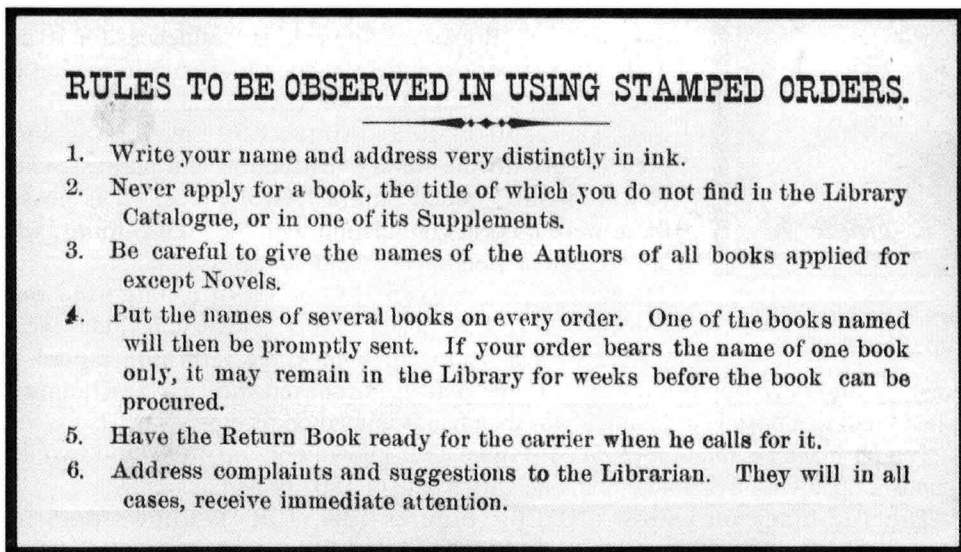


Figure 8B. Reverse of form envelope shown in Figure 8A above



Figure 9A. Pair of 5¢ blue (Scott 195L3) on preprinted unused form envelope

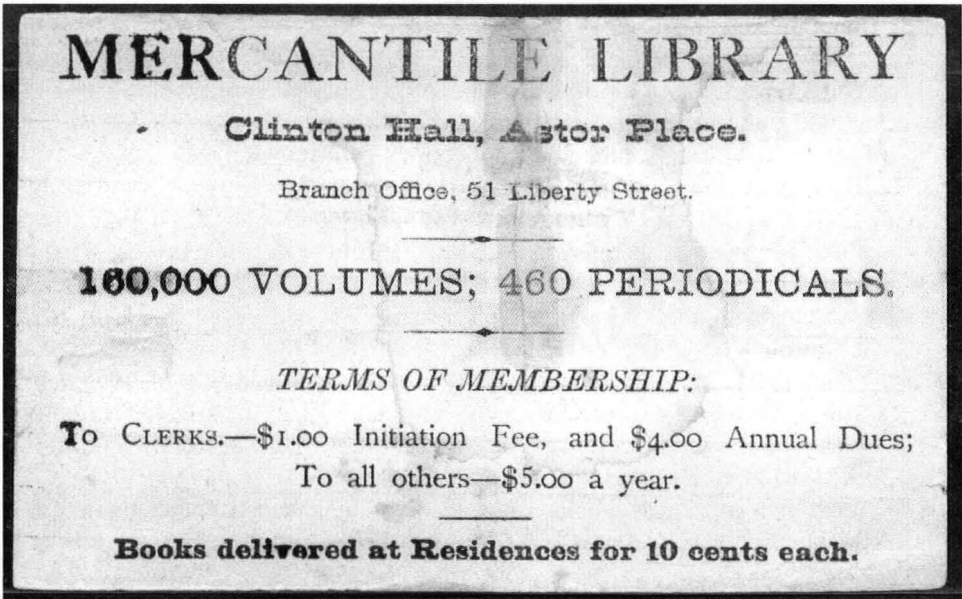


Figure 9B. Reverse of form envelope shown in Figure 9A above





Figure 10A. 10¢ Scott 105L6, unused



Figure 10B. 10¢ Scott 105L6, used

An example with very large margins on three sides is known which is perforated  $12\frac{1}{2}$ . It is not canceled.

The 10¢ black on yellow imprinted on U.S. postal card UX1 (105LU1) (Figure 2) is only known unused. The MLNY printed an order form on the reverse of the postal card along with their 10¢ stamp, much like revenue stamped paper.

#### Census of Stamps and Stamped Folios

The authors have compiled a listing of MLNY stamps and stamped folios from auction catalogs, published literature, records and private collections. It is far from complete, and readers are urged to submit new information to the authors. It is entirely possible that some items are listed more than once, if auction descriptions did not adequately describe or illustrate the item.<sup>10</sup>

#### 105L1 5¢ Black on maroon

- a. Unused example (Paige sale March 1952, lot 549)
- b. 105L1 (and 105L2-L3 - these are under their own categories below), three unused stamps (Frajola Net Price Sale of Middendorf collection, \$250)
- c. Five unused examples (personal collections known to authors)

#### 105L2 5¢ Black on yellow

- a. Affixed on inside of 2¢ Black U.S. wrapper (Paige sale March 1952, lot 549). Probably same one as referred to in Sloane Reference Collection on same page with 105L3(a) and noted sold to FAH (Frank A. Hollowbush). Cut into B, unused on inside of 2¢ Black wrapper W57, addressed to Merc. Lib. but uncanceled, ex-Green (Fox sale Jan. 5, 1966, lot 1385, Hollowbush collection)
- b. Tied to library slip with company handstamp (Heiman sale Feb. 24, 1965, lot 172)
- c. Affixed to unused folio form which shows a 2¢ Black Jack wrapper impression (Richard Schwartz Records, ex-DeWindt) described as "on yellow." Form is not filled out at all but otherwise like 105L2(a).
- d. Single stamp with panel below showing "No." and handstamped number "19371" (Richard Schwartz Records)

<sup>10</sup> Auction descriptions are provided verbatim, with abbreviations.

- e. Affixed to printed form on inside of Black Jack wrapper W57, unused with preprinted address (Green Collection, Levi Auction Records, Lawrence Stryker Oct. 5, 1942; Siegel sale Nov. 13, 2003, lot 1118 and Siegel sale June 27-29, 2000, lot 1840 \$700). Identical to 105L2(a) but stamp is placed upside down.
- f. Unused affixed inside W55 Black Jack wrapper (Siegel sale 791, lot 382)
- g. Unused affixed inside W55 Black Jack wrapper (Siegel sale 791, lot 383)
- h. Single stamp with panel below showing "No." and handstamped number 2828 (George Sloane Records)
- i. Single stamp affixed to back of Black Jack wrapper (W57?) with printed form and instructions (personal collections known to authors)

### **105L3 5¢ Blue**

- a. Pair on back of U.S. postal card (Paige sale March 1952, lot 549). Horiz. pair used on 1¢ postal card with Dec. 3, 1875 company handstamp (Siegel sale Nov. 15-17, 1999, Golden collection)
- b. Sheet margin pair on card, two strikes of company oval (Fox sale March 30-31, 1961, lot 657)
- c. Horiz. pair, R stamp cut into, diag. crease, blue co. cancel, not on piece or folio (Fox sale Jan. 5, 1966, lot 1386, Hollowbush collection)
- d. B. R. corner copy, just cut into at L, uncanceled on Library printed form, also unused 2¢ brown entire with printed address of Mercantile Library (Fox sale Jan. 5, 1966, lot 1387, Hollowbush collection)
- e. Two copies (1 vert. tear) on printed library form with 2 strikes blue co. oval dated Dec. 18, 1875 (Fox sale Jan. 5, 1966, lot 1388, Hollowbush collection; Levi Auction Records Siegel Oct. 27, 1968)
- f. Top sheet margin pair, cut in at right, used on library delivery slip, reverse mentions "Books delivered at Residences for 10 cents," blue Nov. 26, 1875 oval, 2 strikes (Frajola Net Price Sale of Middendorf collection, \$275)
- g. Stamp on large piece, not canceled, with two strikes of company oval dated Dec. 17, 1875 (Park Cities Stamps, Net Price Sale, 1992 (?) \$150)
- h. Extremely fine pair tied blue... signed Geo. B. Sloane, the pair has a sheet margin at left and is tied by two company ovals dated Nov. 18, 1875 and Dec. 13, 1875, in addition there is a third oval on the folio form dated Nov. 15, 1875. (Levi Auction Records, was sold in Fox July 10, 1967 and again in Siegel Oct. 27, 1968.)
- i. Top sheet margin pair used on postal card (UX5) hand-addressed to Mercantile Library, with company oval dated Nov. 16, 1875. Stamps applied over writer's message to library (Richard Schwartz Records) [same as (b)?]
- j. Two examples each of two single stamps unused but applied to unused preprinted forms (Richard Schwartz Records)
- k. Two singles used on form from Wm. Bucher (?) with two ovals, one clearly dated Dec. 18, 1875 (Richard Schwartz Records)
- l. Single on unused form (Siegel sale June 27-29, 2000, lot 1841)
- m. Same as above (Siegel sale June 27-29, 2000, lot 1842)
- n. Two singles, moved from original position to disguise tear completely thru on one stamp, used on form with Dec. 18, 1875 oval (Siegel sale June 27-29, 2000, lot 1843)
- o. Top sheet margin pair used on library form, two strikes company oval Nov. 26, 1875. The sender was G. P. Hall at 57 West 52nd. A handwritten number "197098" is noted on the form, as well as the note "Xtra" and initial "P". (Donald Patton's *The Private Local Posts of the United States*, p. 226)
- p. Six singles, used and unused (personal collections known to authors)

### **105L5 6¢ Black on maroon**

- a. Unused with thin (Park Cities Stamps, Net Price Sale, 1992(?) \$475)
- b. Unused, tear across upper right (Elliott Perry Collection, Sloane Reference Collection)
- c. Used with 1867 or 1869 handstamp<sup>11</sup>
- d. Used, pieces missing at upper left, handstamp as in (c)<sup>12</sup>

### **105L6 10¢ Black on yellow**

- a. Cut close on library form, tied by company oval and five additional strikes dated from February 22, 1877 to April 16, 1877, and each with a handwritten check mark by the date. The Feb. 22 date also on strike tying stamp. From Spalding, 120C 10 St. Handwritten number "196815" (Donald Patton's *The Private Local Posts of the United States*, p. 226)
- b. Unused single, cut close (Elliott Perry Collection)
- c. Unused single, very large margins on three sides (personal collections known to authors)
- d. One unused and one used single with blue handstamp (personal collections known to authors)

### **105LUX1 10¢ Yellow imprinted on UX3, only known unused**

- a. Uncanceled, printed on reverse of 1c Brown Postal Card (UX1), Very Fine, Stated to be unique (Levi Auction Records, Lilly Collection, Siegel, Sept. 14, 1967, Zimmerman June 20, 1972 "The finest of 2 known copies recorded")
- b. Imprinted on UX1, unused, ex-Boker and Richardson (Siegel sale Nov. 15-17, 1999, Golden collection) (same as (a) above?)<sup>13</sup>

#### **Discussion**

The authors have compiled a comprehensive review of philatelic records, historical notes and known stamps of the MLNY. All issues are scarce to rare. No forgeries are known to the authors. Although these are not local stamps in the true sense, they are attractive and collectors have included them in their locals collections for many years.

The authors would appreciate receiving any information that would add to our history and chronology of the stamps. In addition, we request that readers send us images or descriptions of items not reported in our census.

#### **Conclusions**

The authors believe that the 6¢ black on maroon (105L5) was issued first, followed by the 5¢ black on maroon (105L1), the 5¢ black on yellow (105L2), the 5¢ blue (105L3), the 10¢ black on yellow (105L6) and the imprinted postal card (105LU1). The postal card catalog listing should be changed to 105LUX1.

We suspect that the 5¢ black on yellow was printed on a delivery receipt, and was later cut out and used on Black Jack wrappers. More information is needed to clarify which Black Jack wrapper was used or if more than one was used.

All the MLNY stamps are scarce, and some are very rare. They are not offered often enough to keep catalog values up to date.

#### **Acknowledgments**

Thanks to Larry Lyons for providing photocopies from the Sloane Reference Collection, and to Robert Stendel for submitting an image of 105LU1. □

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<sup>11</sup>Gordon Stimmell, "Marooned in Philly," p. 30.

<sup>12</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup>The Sloane Reference Collection contained a note written by Sloane stating that John Boker told him in March of 1954 that "he has the 10¢ imprinted on postal card, Scott 105LU1. He got it from the Needham collection and Gene [Costales] told him it was unique."

## REVIEW: HALE & CO. INDEPENDENT MAIL COMPANY

A watershed book of postal history, *Hale & Co. Independent Mail Company 1843-1845*, has just been published by Michael S. Gutman. The author, 68, a retired electrical engineer, is the leading authority and collector of Hale & Co. stamps and covers and he has used his considerable holding to illuminate hitherto dark areas of that inter-city post's history. As well, a number of important collectors opened their collections to Gutman so he could incorporate new data in his book.

The Independent Mail Companies, riding on public fury over excessive U.S. postal rates, launched their competing mail carrying services between cities and for 18 months ran the gauntlet of government opposition to their operations until Congress outlawed them on July 1, 1845. It was a colorful period of fierce free enterprise. While some companies only lasted a few months, others cooperated with each other to form a massive web of cheap postage from Maine to Illinois to Maryland.

James W. Hale began with package and parcel delivery and he was a forwarder of letters to foreign ports before he became the earliest to jump into the intercity letter delivery game in early December 1843. By January 1844, the American Letter Mail Company was in the fray. By summer 1844 several other outfits sprang to life carrying letters between cities and their stamps pioneered designs that were firsts in philately.

Gutman charts both stampless and adhesive covers. In raw numbers, his census indicate Hale surviving covers dwarf the competitors. My own census of Wyman covers bearing stamps stands at 36; Pomeroy may number about 120; Hartford Mail Company is said to stand at 60 covers. American Letter Mail is the only other Independent Mail Company with big numbers but I know of no census. A guess would be 160 or so with adhesives. Gutman's compilation of data reveals a staggering 1,377 total for Hale covers, 507 of which carry adhesives.

What makes Hale such fertile ground for research is the staggering number of cities his operation spanned. One of Gutman's tables, based on advertisements of the day, show Hale had saturated the northeast U.S., with service in 139 cities during the span of the post and with major offices in eight states. Gutman illustrates the 47 different city handstamps this spawned, plus dozens of rate, paid and collect handstamps. Another area he analyzes and illustrates is the manuscript markings used on the stamps themselves, which include initials of cities of origin and local agents or their agencies.

Gutman was originally attracted to Hale stamps because they provide the first precancels in philately. These are often crude straight lines inked across the stamps before sale, likely meant to prevent soaking and reuse of adhesives. More sophisticated were the precancels of Portsmouth, New Hampshire which included "P/ N.H." in manuscript, harbingers by five decades of later U.S. precancels showing names of cities. Hartford Mail Company also used precancels in the summer of 1844, showing "Hartford" or "S" (South) and other letters for directions to destination.

Unlike most of the other Independent Mails, actual correspondence survives of James Hale's comments regarding his post. These are incorporated in Gutman's book. Included also is a fascinating recitation of the two major mystery overprints of the post, listed in Scott as 75L3 and 75L4, which surfaced in a portable writing desk after the death of a pastor in 1893. Mystery still shrouds these overprints, once listed as a surcharge, then as overprints, and now as a handstamp. So few examples survive that even Gutman doubts the mystery will ever be dispelled.

The bulk of Gutman's book is a breakdown of surviving covers by state, and specific towns, concluding with international usages (pp. 63-335). This is the first time I have seen a comprehensive overview of usages in the small towns, plus wrap-ups of postal

history from the major cities of usage. Each state chapter is well illustrated by existing covers, and at the end of each state is a tabulation of earliest (EKU) and latest (LKU) known usages in each town of that state.

One of my own favorite areas is conjunctive usage, or cooperative covers between two or more Independent Mail Companies. These are not broken out in Gutman's book, so one is forced to wade through each city or state to ferret out multiple company usages. A table would have helped tabulating these, at a minimum, or a separate chapter at best. (I find a parallel problem in the masterful and monumental census of US #1 and #2 covers in Thomas J. Alexander's *The United States 1847 Issues: A Cover Census*. There, one is forced to wade through hundreds of pages to ferret out conjunctive usages by local and carrier posts used on covers with U.S. #1s and #2s.)

Despite this observation, Gutman's book is a goldmine of never before published information on Hale stamps and their sometimes complex uses in the web of northeast cities. Included are overall discussions, maps, observations on competing operators and a rundown of the more egregious covers, with 325 illustrations including a color central section showing some of the rarer and more fascinating usages.

Of the three major stamps, 102 covers survive of 75L1, 67 covers of the red 75L2 and 338 covers bearing 75L5s. Certainly one of the most useful tables is Appendix 2, a census of 75L2, including a breakout of cut-to-shape-octagonally and cut square stamps on cover, origin and destination and, where possible, dates of usage. I wish Gutman had created a similar table for the two blue stamps on cover, 75L1 with address and 75L5 without address.

Other highlights include a plating study on the stamps and printings, carrying forward Elliott Perry's pioneer research; a chronology of Hale advertisements as the post mushroomed into a major concern carrying up to 60,000 letters a day at its height; a brief excursus into the common counterfeits; and the intriguing possibility that a recently discovered overprint may some day be classified as a sixth Hale stamp.

The feistiness of James Hale is evident in Appendix 1, which replicates a letter of 1887 from Hale to the editor of the *Ledger* recounting his brief but valiant struggle with postal authorities in 1843-45 and one plea in one case brought by federal authorities against him:

"You will find that the (postal) law of 1795 reads that 'no person shall establish a horse or foot post'; and when Mr. Hale brought his mails to Boston by steamboat and railroad, he certainly did not come on horseback or foot."

The judge in 1844 dismissed the case against Hale. But it would not be long before the US changed outdated postal laws and brought the Independent Mails to their knees.

Now, I am holding my breath for a Pomeroy book, and an American Letter Mail book, and a Wyman book, and all the others which would be distant legacies of the original Arthur Hall-Elliott Perry manuscript from the 1950s that was the jumping off point for this tome. So much remains to be done. All these other chapters await someone with a great deal of knowledge and passion to be forged into reality. Someone willing, as Gutman has done, to turn their lives upside down for six years.

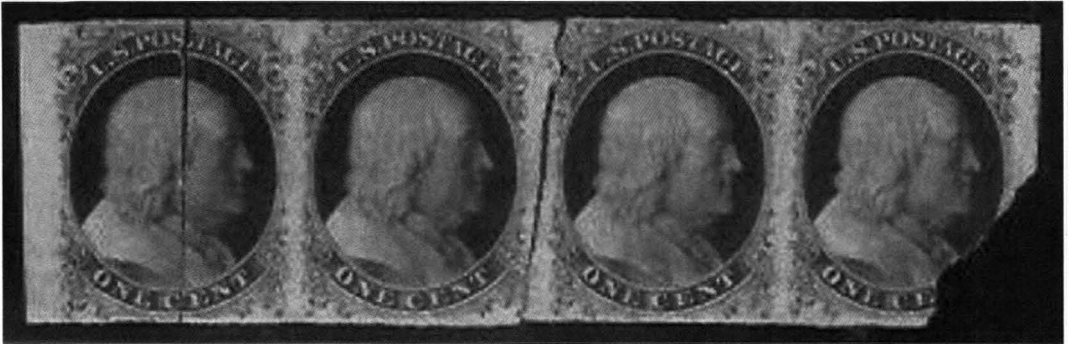
The book is offered by the author for \$75 postpaid via media mail in the U.S. For international rates inquire. Payment with order to: Michael S. Gutman PO Box 1108, Mashpee MA 02649 Phone: 508-477-6206; fax: 253-484-1709. Payment may be made using PayPal via email to [mikeg94@comcast.net](mailto:mikeg94@comcast.net).

- Reviewed by Gordon Stimmell



**NEWLY REPORTED DOUBLE TRANSFER ON THE 1851 1¢ BLUE, TYPE II  
DON TOCHER**

About eight years ago, our fellow member Gerald Moss was at my booth at the show in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, examining a strip of Scott #7, the 1851 1¢ blue, Type II (Figure 1). We agreed that the plating was obvious: 91-94R2, as there is clear evidence of the diagonal lines/cracks at the bottom of the second stamp (92R) as suggested by the photo on page 186 of Neinken<sup>1</sup>, and the dot under the “E” of “CENT” on 91R1 (page 183). These lines are evident in the photo at page 190 of Neinken. Gerald then discovered a significant doubling of the design on the shoulder in 93R (Figure 2). This characteristic was clearly unreported as of the publication of Neinken’s work.



**Figure 1. Strip of four, Scott #7, positions 91-94R2**



**Figure 2. Detail, Scott #7, position 93R, showing double transfer**

<sup>1</sup>All page number references are to Mortimer L. Neinken, *The United States One Cent Stamp of 1851 to 1861* (n.p., U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc., 1972), p. 186.



**Figure 3. Detail, Scott #7, position 92R, showing cracks at bottom**

In addition, the lines at the bottom are quite strong and extend into the design on 92R (Figure 3), which although apparent in the p. 190 photo are not shown in the drawings of the position at pp. 183 and 216. This suggests that the cracks were not evident to this extent on examples seen by Neinken or Ashbrook.

My thanks to Gerald and my apologies to him for this incredible delay in documenting his discovery.

**COLOR STUDY OF THE 3¢ STAMP OF THE  
UNITED STATES 1851- 57 ISSUE: CORRIGENDA  
WILBUR F. AMONETTE, M.D. and WILSON HULME**

**Editor's Note:** This definitive study color study by authors Amonette and Hulme appeared in the previous issue of the *Chronicle*, pp. 103-09.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, the rarity factors in Table 3 (pp. 108-09) became misaligned in the publishing process. The correct version is printed on the facing page, with apologies.

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<sup>1</sup>Wilbur F. Amonette, M.D. and Wilson Hulme, "Color Study of the 3¢ Stamp of the United States 1851-57 Issue," *Chronicle* No. 206 (May 2005), pp. 103-09.



**PRECANCELS ON THE 1869 PICTORIAL ISSUE**  
**JEFFREY M. FORSTER**

Recently I had the pleasure of viewing an exhibit of precancels featuring stamps and covers from the stampless era to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The exhibitor is Arnold Selengut, a stamp dealer and the President of the Precancels Society. In viewing the exhibit, I found that there are basically two major categories of precancels: Bureaus, which were essentially manufactured by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, as part of stamp production, and supplied to the post offices already precanceled; and Locals, which were prepared under the supervision of postmasters using stamps and equipment on hand at the post offices. Bureaus did not come into use until 1916, but Locals have been used since the 1840s.

Locals are further subdivided into four groups:

1. Pioneer
2. Classic
3. Contract
4. Non-contract

Obviously, usages of precancels on 1869 stamps would fall into the locals category.

Pioneer precancels consist of three basic sub-types:

1. cancellations on adhesives using lines and bars
2. cancellations on adhesives using geometrics
3. cancellations on postal stationery

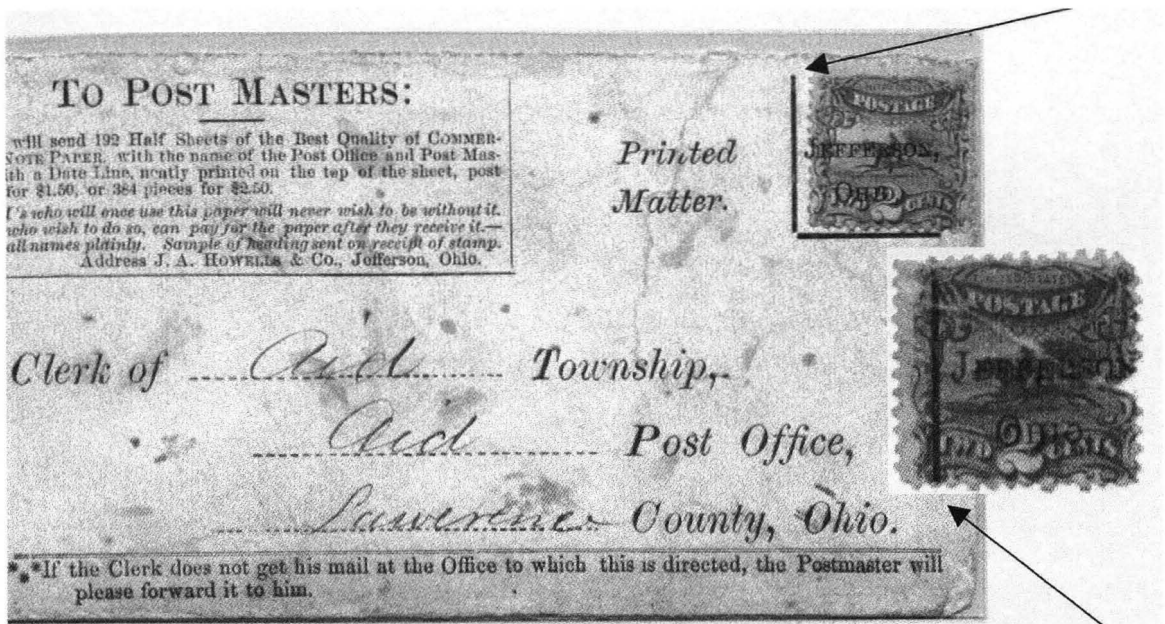
Pioneer precancels were made to save time; there was no other benefit or rate reduction incentive. They also were made for the convenience of the user, the postmaster at the local post office. No special devices were used—just standard office supplies, including pen, ink, ruler, stencil, brush and, if the user was a printer, general moveable type.

There are precious few precancels reported on the 1869 issue. David W. Smith, in his book, *Silent Precancels, A Catalog of Lines, Bars and Designs on 19th and 20th Century Stamps Used Postally in the United States* (1995),<sup>1</sup> lists only five items. Two of these, the Glastonbury "G" 3¢ 1869 (Scott 114) and the Chicago brown ruled line on a 2¢ 1869 (Scott 113), are listed based on reports, the sources of which are unknown to Selengut, and have been seen neither by Smith nor Selengut. One of them, the Waterbury, Kansas "X" on a 3¢ 1869 (114) is listed without a disclaimer or questioned by Smith, so apparently he must have seen it. Selengut indicated to me that he had not seen it so he would not comment on it. The fourth item listed by Smith is the Philadelphia "Square" on a 2¢ 1869 (113). Selengut presently owns the cover on which this listing is based, but believes, however, that it is not a precancel, but simply a duplex with a square killer which, due to the thickness of the stamp, does not tie the adhesive. Although it was previously in his exhibit, he told me that he has removed it because of its doubtful status as a precancel. Smith has told Selengut that he will probably delete that item from the next edition of his book.

The fifth and final item is the Jefferson, Ohio precancel, printed on a 2¢ 1869 (113) after affixing and used by the J.A. Howells & Company. The cancellation consists of the two-lined town name, JEFFERSON, / OHIO. There is an L-shaped border at left and bottom. Presumably the border was intended to simulate a frame or box for the stamp.

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<sup>1</sup>David W. Smith, *Silent Precancels : A Catalog of Lines, Bars, and Designs on 19th and 20th Century Stamps Used Postally in the United States* (Rochester? IN: Precancel Stamp Society, 1995).



**Figure 1. Jefferson, Ohio precancel on 2¢ 1869 stamp, copy on cover and single stamp (courtesy of Arnold Selengut)**

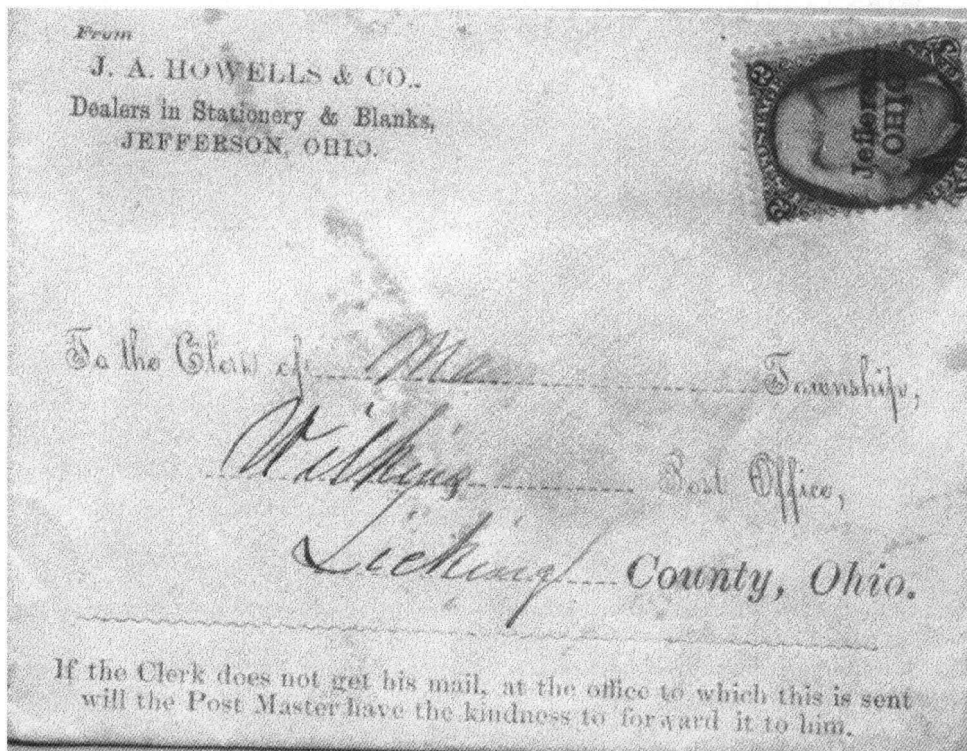
Selengut owns two of the three reported copies (see Figure 1). He does not know the whereabouts of the third copy but has a photocopy of it. The cover in Figure 1 is the only known cover and is shown in his exhibit. He purchased it from John Boker. Selengut also has an off-cover single 2¢ 1869 (113) (see Figure 1). In looking at Figure 1, showing the 2¢ 1869 cover and stamp from Jefferson, Ohio, one can see the significance of the vertical frame line of the cancellation falling on the stamp. This proves that the stamp was placed on the cover before the cover was printed. The other off-cover copy has a line on the left perforation tips. A close examination of the stamp on the cover shows that it is tied to the cover only by the hook of the "J" and perhaps by two or three perforation tips at the bottom where the stamp is tangent to the horizontal line.

The apparent sequence of operations for the mailing of this envelope was: (1) affix the stamp to the blank envelope; (2) print the entire face, including the cancel; (3) complete the address.

The inset scan of the 2¢ in Figure 1 shows the other copy with the left vertical tine printed on the stamp, which must have been pre-applied, but not quite in the intended place.

According to Selengut, J.A. Howells was a printer, and thus had ready access to moveable type to create the partially pre-addressed circular envelopes he used for advertisements to town officials and postmasters. He was selling printing services, stationery and pre-printed forms. He had a history of using the "printed after affixing" technique of precanceling stamps. A 2¢ Black Jack cover in Selengut's exhibit is an earlier example of this same technique. Figure 2 shows the 2¢ Black Jack cover where the town name is not parallel to the edges of the stamp, which is cocked with respect to the envelope, but is parallel to the edge of the envelope. Note that in this example, the name is





**Figure 2. Jefferson, Ohio precancel on cover, only known printed precancel on the 2¢ Black Jack (Scott No. 73)(courtesy of Arnold Selengut)**

printed "Jefferson / OHIO" (town in capital and lowercase letters, state in small capitals) whereas the examples in Figure 1 show both town and state in small capitals.

Both Selengut and myself find it somewhat odd that there are no precancels reported on the 1¢ (Scott 112) 1869 stamp. The majority of documented precancel usages, both before and after the 1869s, were on unsealed circulars, which since 1852 were sent at the 1¢ rate, independent of distance. It was natural that this type of "bulk" mailing would have been franked with precancel stamps, as this would save the most time for the mailer and the postmaster. What conditions may have precluded this type of mailing during the period when the 1869s were in use, no one can say.

Finally, in *Chronicle* No. 204 (November 2004),<sup>2</sup> at page 269, I reported on the auction results of the Miller H. Mack collection of 1869 Pictorial Issue covers.<sup>2</sup> One item in that holding was lot 24, described as a 3¢ (114) with a "3-line manuscript precancel" affixed to a Cobb White & Case, Rockland, Maine, illustrated corner card cover to Deer Island, Maine

<sup>2</sup>Jeffrey Forster, "Dale-Lichtenstein Auctions of British Columbia and Vancouver Island and Western Expresses and the Millard H. Mack Collection of 1869 Pictorial Issue Covers," *Chronicle*, Whole No. 204 (November 2004), p. 269.

(see Figure 3). When I first began to research the known precancels on 1869 stamps, I made a note of this lot and would have included it as another precancel usage. However, the purchaser (telephone bidder 16 at the Mack sale), who paid \$575 (plus 10% auctioneer's commission) submitted it to the Philatelic Foundation. Earlier this year, I visited the Foundation and was told that it was not a precancel, and in fact, it was determined that the stamp had been added to the cover, and thus was not a genuine precancel.



**Figure 3. 3¢ 1869 on Cobb White & Case illustrated corner card cover addressed to Deer Island, Maine, from Miller H. Mack collection, unfavorable determination by Philatelic Foundation (not a precancel, and stamp added to cover)**

If any readers have any precancels, or what they believe to be precancels, in their 1869 collections, I would be most appreciative of hearing from them and will include them in a follow-up article in the *Chronicle* updating the listing of 1869 precancel usages. □

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## CENSUS OF CSA STONE 2 MISPLACED TRANSFERS, AND A TOUCH ON STONE A-B

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When I first started to write on the CSA Misplaced Transfers in the *Chronicle* (Whole No. 182, May 1999, p. 110), I was hoping for material to do another article. At that time only a few examples were known, then came the May 2001 and February 2004 issues. As we learn more, the subject becomes more complex and thus more interesting. The point has now come that a concise listing is needed so we can try to understand what is known and to go forward. Toward the end of this article there is a bit of an introduction to the first CSA lithographed stamp, the 5¢ Green from Stone A-B. It may relate or it may not relate to our Stone 2 Misplaced Transfers but there are overlapping peculiarities.

For the CSA lithographs a misplaced transfer is defined as a stamp on the printing stone that is not in its normal position with respect to the transfer stone. As far as we now know, all of the CSA lithographs were generated from the same transfer stone configuration, a unit of 50 being five rows of 10 subjects each. Starting with the upper left stamps we have position 1, 2, etc., going to 10 at the far right, then back to 11 at the left under the 1. All printing stones consist of 4 impressions from the transfer stone, a left pane having two units of 50 placed together so they appear to be a unit of 100, a vertical gutter and then a right pane constructed the same as the left pane.

For clarity I am regressing to my first article and am mostly repeating this paragraph. The earliest reference known to the author of the phrase "Misplaced Transfer" with respect to the Confederate lithographs is from an article by Gerald S. Curtis, Edward S. Knapp and Thomas H. Pratt titled "Lithographs of the Confederate States of America," which appeared in *Scott's Monthly Journal*, November, 1929.

. . . To show the real rarity of these, we would say, that during our studies covering the last ten years, we have found less than a score of these from Stone 2 (both colors).

A short description of what a misplaced transfer is and how it may occur, is as follows: Some position or group of positions show up badly when a printing has been taken--they have become damaged for some reason and do not print properly. The careful pressman notices this, and he erases that part of the stone, cleans off the space and makes a new transfer there (taking this new transfer either from the smaller Transfer Stone or from a perfect part of the big stone). Then the stone is ready to print from once more. But if he has taken his transfer from a different set of positions from the original ones, he has changed the arrangement of the varieties, and they do not run in the proper order, they are Misplaced Transfers.

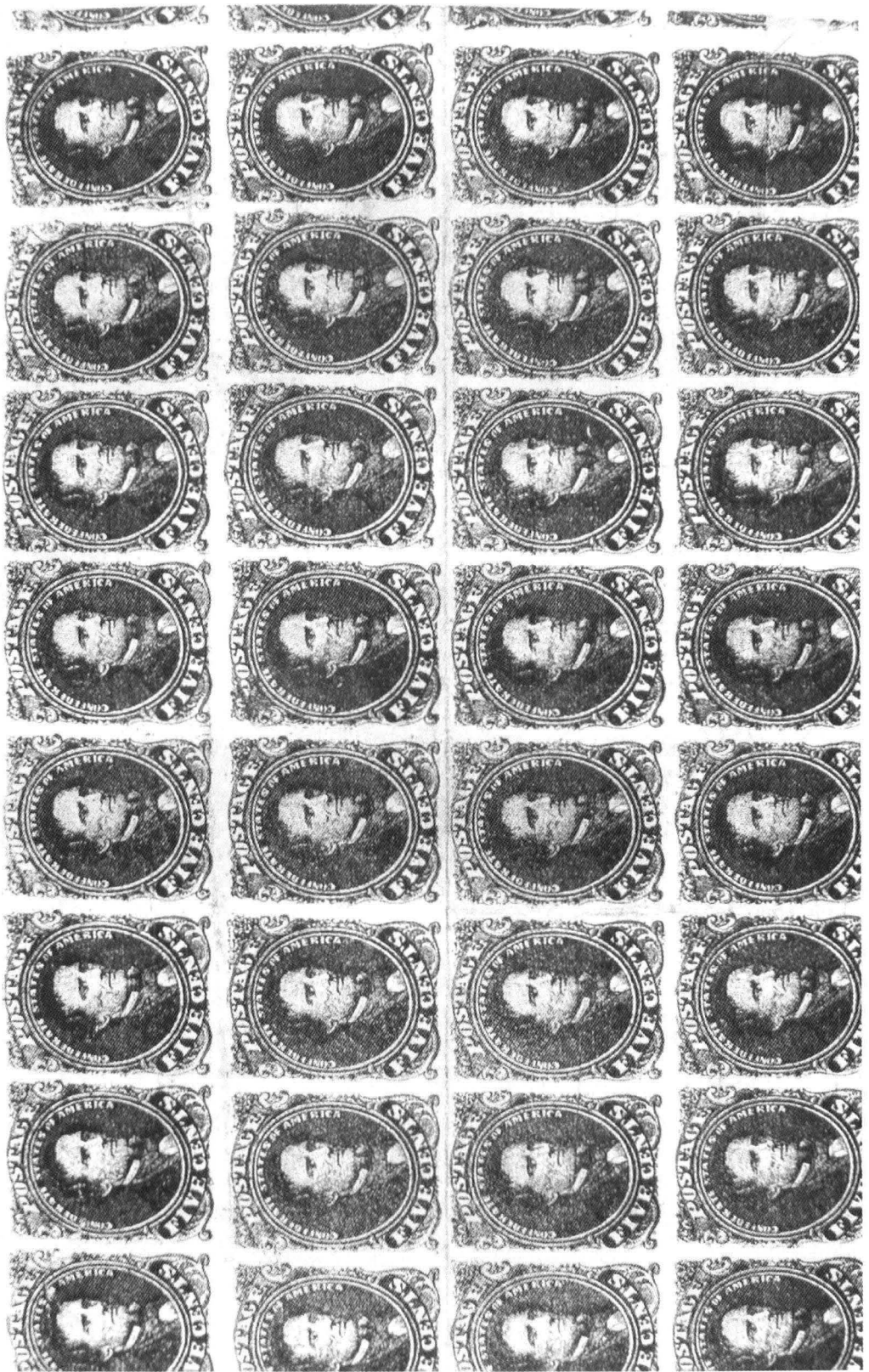
The sale of the John H. Hall collection by R.A. Siegel Auction Galleries, December 17, 2001, was a major revelation. This material had not been on the market since the late 1920s and even then it was privately sold. Before this sale only four items were known to the author that are Misplaced Transfers. The Hall sale had 13 lots so described with a note that a large lot also had some. As soon as this sale appeared I wanted to do another Misplaced Transfer article to clear the air but it was delayed as there seemed to be more new questions than answers.

The "score" of Misplaced Transfers mentioned in the 1929 article is in excellent agreement with the Hall material and what we know today. The total number of Misplaced Transfers ranges from 34 to 37 which are contained in multiples having a total of 84 stamps. I define this as 23 collectable units based on undivided items. As an example, in a pair in which each is plate position 3: one position 3 could be the normal position, with the other 3 entered into position 2 or 4; or the pair of position 3s could be entered in any positions. Thus the pair could be described as one or two Misplaced Transfers, but it is still

Census ID	Color G or B	Name	Transfer Stone Positions	Printing Stone Positions	Hall Catalog No.	Number of MT Positions	Stone 2 Number of Stamps	Used/Unused
1	G	Twin Scrolls	1	10	pre Hall	1	1	used, single, cds
2	G	Twin Scrolls	1	10	222	1	1	unused, single
3	G	With TS	1/11	10/20	223	2	2	Fredericksburg, Va, Mar 27
4	G	With TS	1/11	10/20	pre Hall	2	32	unused, block 32
5	G	Twins	3-3	?	224		2	Richmond, Va Feb 25, 1862
6	G		5	left pane	Hall	1	1	Wilmington, NC, Jan 26, 1862
7	G		7-2/17-12	?	225	4	4	Warrington, Fl, Feb 4th
8	G		9-35	9-10	226	2	2	Norfolk, Va, Jan 7, 1862
9	G		20	20	226	1	1	used, grid cancel
10	G		35	10	227	1	1	Montgomery, May 14, 1862
11	G	Shadow Line	50	?	228	1	1	unused, single
12	G	Shadow Line	50	?	229	1	1	Fayetteville, NY Apr 1862
13	G		19-41	?	230	1 or 2	2	Petersburg, Va
14	G		13/30	?	230	1 or 2	2	unused, vertical pair
15	G		9-25	?	230	1 or 2	2	Monticello, Ga Dec 31, year ?
16	G		49-50/9-3		pre Hall	1	4	unused, block
17	B	Plate X	3-9,40/46-50	3-10/45-50	231	5	13	unused, block of 13
18	B	Plate X	2-5/42-45	census 17	232	4	8	unused, block of 8
19	B	Plate X	2/42	census 17	post Hall	1	2	used, pen cancel
20	B	Plate X	40	10	231	1	1	Georgetown, Jun 18, 1862
21	B	Plate X	37	right sheet	233	1	1	New Orleans, La Apr 26, 1862
22	B	Plate X	9-2	?	234	2	2	Richmond, Va, Jun 6, 1862
23	B	Plate X	9-2	?	pre Hall	2	2	Montgomery, Tx Aug, 1862
16 Green 7 Blue						34 to 37	86	7 unused / 16 used

- 4 Block showing all or portions of printing plate positions 3-10, 13-20, 23-30, 33-40; however of these only 10/20 are replaced, by 1/11, the rest are normal for Stone 2.  
Enough of the left edge of the stamps from the right pane are showing to prove this is the left pane, and the gutter spacing does not agree with the known Stone 2 green or blue stamps.  
This illustration is taken from an old photograph, the item may be or have been larger than 32 subjects.
- 9 Position 20, showing a portion of the stamp above which is a misplaced transfer, i.e., position 35 in 10.
- 10 Same misplaced transfer as in census item 8, i.e., Transfer Stone position 35 in place of position 10.





**Figure 1. 5¢ Green, Block of 32 having Positions 1 & 11 in place of 10 and 20, also Vertical Gutter**

a single collectable item. A few of the items, such as the block of 8 (Census ID 18), could be cut into four vertical pairs each proving they are not normal stamps. In any case, to cut a Misplaced Transfer multiple would be a travesty to philately. A census of all known Misplaced Transfers to date is given in Table 1.

The 23 discrete collectable Misplaced Transfer items are a most diverse group and suggest a random distribution as to printing and distribution by the post office:

- 16 are in the Green printing and seven in the Blue
- Seven are unused and 16 used
- They are used from diverse areas: Louisiana, Texas, Florida, Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina
- The Green usages date from Jan 7<sup>th</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1862; the Dec 31<sup>st</sup> date could be 1861
- The Blue usages date from June 6<sup>th</sup> through August 1862
- The non-Hall items total 4 and the Hall 19 (although census item 19 could be from Hall lot)
- No known Green printing Misplaced Transfer matches a Blue printing
- The small number of known examples is in marked contrast to the normal stamps which must certainly total over 10,000 surviving

As accurate plating is required to determine most Misplaced Transfers, it can be assumed there still remain more examples than this census represents. Only one of the Misplaced Transfers is truly evident and has been illustrated in the literature since 1929, in Dietz' *Postal Service of the Confederate States of America* through the last Dietz catalog in 1986, and is listed in the current Scott *U.S. Specialized Catalog*, as the Twin Scroll, position 1 entered over position 10. This variety represents census numbers 1-4 and is the most common item. Still, of the 4 examples known, 2 being ex-Hall (50%), the overall rarity will probably remain for the known examples; the most common in reality being quite rare.

Census item 4, the block of 32 having transfer positions 1/11 in place of 10/20 (Figure 1) is of special importance. The block contains printing stone positions 3-10, 13-20 and 33-40 plus fractions of positions 1,11, 21 and 31 from the right pane. Only the printing stone positions 10/20 are replaced, with the rest being normal as to position and orientation of the transfer stone. This block, and in fact all multiples in the census, strongly indicates that the Misplaced Transfers originated when a printing stone was laid down and is not due to the common misconception of repairs after a stone was placed in use. All Misplaced Transfers show quite sharp margins with distinct adjoining stamps. This is not what one would expect from an area that was ground down, re-entered and re-etched on the printing stone. Unlike metal printing plates, lithographic stones can not be hammered up or filled in. Entire lithographic stones, printing and transfer, were routinely ground down to receive new images for the next printing job, thus stones in use would shrink from circa 4 inches in thickness to about 2 inches before they cracked or were deemed too weak to be used again. Such a change in the printing surface over a small areas could not lead to a decent printed impression.

For the Blue Stone 2, normal stamp printing, we have two well established vertical gutter orientations and thus two printing stones used for normal stamp production. For the Green stamps we have few vertical gutter units but that from Census 4, a Misplaced Transfer, does not match a known one in either Green or Blue. Figure 2 shows a vertical gutter piece from the Green printing for reference, position 11 and a fraction of position 20, used from Eutaw, Alabama, February 12, 1862. On this stamp the left pane is shifted up from the right which may or may not have a special meaning.

We cannot relate the Blue Misplaced Transfers to the established printing stones, as we have no vertical gutters relating to a printing stone. My assumption is that the Blue Misplaced Transfers are from a third Stone 2 printing stone, for now called plate X. In our census of the Blue items, numbers 17, 18 and 19 tie together perfectly. These were evidently the top two rows from the right pane or a plate having a single pane. Census



**Figure 2. 5¢ Green, Stone 2, Vertical Gutter, Positions 20-11, Eutaw, Alabama, Feb 12, 1862**



**Figure 3. 5¢ Green, probably Stone A-B, strange alignment, Lynchburg, Va. canceled Nov 8, 1861 usage**

items 20-23 do not tie with the previous but they do not conflict. For the Blues we have only two additional ones: transfer stone position 37 with a right sheet margin, census numbers 21; and two identical Misplaced Transfers having transfer stone positions 9-2, census numbers 22 and 23, for which we have no idea of the location on a printing stone.

A wrap up of what we know on the Stone 2 Misplaced Transfers:

1. The Misplaced Transfers in Green and Blue are probably printed from at least two new stones made up from Transfer Stone 2, not the normal printing stones.
2. The wide variation in the unused stamps and the used examples coming from five states, combined with the scarcity, suggests the stamps were not part of the normal production or distribution.
3. The Blue and Green Misplaced Transfers represent a variety in printing quality and ink, with one printing of each.
4. The Misplaced Transfers are distinct from the normal stamps.
5. We don't know why they were produced or distributed.
  - a. Produced: perhaps an experiment, botched or practice printing stone, perhaps to test ink, etc.
  - b. Distributed: paper was scarce and had to be accounted for, thus if a sheet of stamps was usable it probably was sent to the post office for distribution.
  - c. Distribution: perhaps they were used to make up for shortages as needed.

**Other Items For Study, Perhaps Stone A-B**

We do have other examples that may or may not be Misplaced Transfers but they are certainly related to the various mysteries of the CSA lithographs. Figure 3 shows a single 5¢ Green used from Lynchburg, Va. on November 8, 1861. From the date and dull olive green color it is probably from the unplated Stone A or B, however Stone 1 is a possibility. This stamp shows a portion of the stamp to the right that is almost touching, which is not normal.



**Figure 4. 5¢ Green, perhaps Stone A-B, strange alignment, Charlottesville, Va., March 3, 1862**

We also have another stamp, Figure 4, that is in a quite similar shade of Green to that in Figure 4 and is probably Stone A or B. It was used on a folded letter canceled March 3, 1862 at Charlottesville, Va. It shows a portion of the stamp to the left being extremely close and the right stamp shows either a vertical gutter or a left sheet margin. Considerable effort has been made to plate these two stamps as Stone 1 but with no success. They are definitely not Stone 2. Stone 1 can be quite difficult to plate, especially from a single as the characteristics are often minute. Some Stone 2 examples in a near olive green can be much more difficult to plate than expected.

Stone A-B is a philatelic enigma as we know much less of it than we think we know of it! From the previously mentioned November 1929 article in *Scott's Monthly Journal* we know that Curtis worked on the plating during the 1910s and published some plating material in *The Philatelic Gazette*, and Knapp worked on the plating in the mid 1920s; Curtis disposed of his collection and turned over his notes to Knapp. To quote from this article:

Mr. Knapp believed that there was only one stone of the Five Cents Green that had an imprint and they did not attempt to plate it. Mr. Pratt has established that there are two imprints and probably two stones, and he is working at present on reconstructing them.

The 5¢ Green stamps with the imprint are what we now call Stone A-B. This study by Curtis and subsequently by Knapp and Pratt--either the manuscript notes, photographs or the actual stamps--is not known to students today. Hopefully this Stone A-B study will miraculously appear, just as the Hall collection of Misplaced Transfers remained intact for 70 years.

For Stone A-B today we know only of a strip of four showing portions of two other stamps with a partial imprint and a few imprint singles, early usages, etc. The 1929 article states that a used block of eight and also an unused block of eight exist, neither of which are known by the author. The imprint items indicate either two stones or a stone with a left and right pane. We do not know enough about this stone or stones to even make a guess as to the possible Misplaced Transfer status of the stamps illustrated in Figure 2 and 3. The Stone A-B attribution is normally made based on an early usage and also the peculiar olive

green shade, but neither characteristics are definitive. We have this Stone A-B shade of olive green from both Stone 1 and Stone 2, quite similar if not identical. We know the first CSA 5¢ general issue was first sold on October 16, 1861 based on a newspaper article and supported by such early usages. Stone 1 is reported used as early as October 18<sup>th</sup>; even if we question this usage based on a questionable plating, there are other usages only a little later.

As a guess I would think the original Stone A-B is actually only one printing stone with the A and B originally unknowingly referring to the Left and Right panes. The two imprints appear identical with the same transfer stone positions above. This suggests these printing and transfer stones were done in a manner similar to the others. Again, for Stone A-B much more study is required.

When examining any CSA lithograph one should look for notations by Knapp. During the 1920s he evidently examined several thousand stamps and often made plating notations, and referred to Misplaced Transfers, etc. To date I do not know that he made an error, however some caution must be made in interpreting his notations. Many years ago I purchased a nice block of the 5¢ blue lithograph with Knapp's plating on the back, the notation "2<sup>nd</sup> stone"; he was referring to Stone 3, the second blue Transfer Stone, and not Stone 2. A nice purchase.

Any help that anyone can offer on the Misplaced Transfers or Stone A-B will be most appreciated. For this article I give special thanks to two deceased friends: Charley Kilbourne and Fred Grant. For the living, my thanks to Bruce Engsler and Michael C. O'Reilly. □

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## SPECIAL PRINTINGS

### PREPARATION OF SETS OF THE 1875 SPECIAL PRINTINGS

WILLIAM E. MOOZ

A previous article<sup>1</sup> discussed the scissor cutting of the 1875 special printings, with emphasis on the way that the clerks in the office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General prepared these stamps for sale. Two of the conclusions that were reached in that study are as follows:

1. Many sets were prepared by stacking the individual panes of the various denominations so that a full set of stamps could be cut from the stack by using scissors.
2. Sets were also prepared by separating the stamps on the perforations, and each denomination in these sets was frequently from the same plate position, since the clerks systematically removed the stamps from the panes in an orderly manner.

Some convincing evidence was presented in the previous study to support each of these conclusions. This article presents more evidence which has recently come to light as the result of examining an old-time collection. This collection apparently had some full and partial sets of the departmental special printings which were intact as sold by the Third Assistant Postmaster General.

Figure 1 is from this recent examination, and shows a set of the War Department stamps, each of which was taken from the right column of the pane. Every stamp except for the 2¢ and 3¢ denominations shows a distinct straight edge on the right side. For these straight edge stamps, the possibility exists that they all came from the rightmost position of the same row of each pane, or that they came from different rows on each pane. This set supports the theory that when the clerks were preparing the sets for sale, they systematically removed each denomination from the same position on each pane. One could suppose that the straight edge copies found their way randomly into the set, but statistically this seems unlikely. The odds of this happening are one in one billion if one assumes that each denomination came from a different row, and one in one quintillion if they all came from similar rows.

What about the 2¢ and 3¢ denominations? There are two possibilities. The first was advanced in the previous study. It is that each stamp in this set originally was from an identical plate position, and that the set was placed in the little envelope ready for sale. But these sets sold very slowly, and people began to order individual denominations. An easy way to get a stamp or two was for the clerk to reach into an envelope and take the stamp out. Later, if the set was sold, these missing stamps would be replaced. But a more probable answer is that during the assembly of these sets, the two denominations were sold as individual stamps. Then as the clerk assembled this set, the 2¢ and 3¢ denominations were “out of sync” with the rest of the set, as the clerk methodically took stamps from the next position on the pane.

Figure 2 shows a set of State Department stamps from the same collection. This set appears to have been assembled by the “stack and scissor cut” method. The bottom perforations on all denominations except for the 7¢ denomination show similar scissor cuts, as do the left sides of the 1¢, 10¢, 12¢ and 24¢ denominations.

Figure 3 shows a partial set of the Post Office Department. The right sides of the 2¢, 12¢, 15¢, 24¢ and 90¢ denominations show evidence of stacking and scissor cutting.

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<sup>1</sup>William E. Mooz, “Scissor Cutting of the 1875 Special Printing Issues,” *Chronicle*, Vol. 51, No. 3 (August 1999)(Whole No. 183), pp. 169-206.



Figure 1. Set of 1875 War Department Special Printing stamps, from oldtime collection



Figure 2. Set of 1875 State Department Special Printing stamps, from same collection



Figure 3. Partial set of 1875 Post Office Department Special Printing stamps, from same collection



Figure 4. Set of 1875 Navy Department Special Printing stamps, from same collection



**Figure 5. Partial set of 1875 Justice Department Special Printing stamps, from same collection**

The Navy Department set shown in Figure 4 shows evidence of stacking and cutting on the bottoms of the 3¢, 6¢, 10¢, 12¢, 15¢ and 24¢ stamps.

Figure 5 illustrates a partial set of the Justice Department. The bottom edges of the 1¢, 6¢, 24¢, 30¢ and 90¢ denominations show stacking and scissor cutting evidence, as do the right sides of all denominations except the 6¢. One can also see this evidence on the left sides of all denominations except the 24¢, and on the tops of all denominations except the 1¢.

There are some unanswered questions about these sets. All are in the same collection, and it is probably not unreasonable to assume that they were purchased at the same time either from the Office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General or from a stamp dealer who had them in stock. If we assume that this is the case, why are not all of the sets complete with all denominations? The reason for this might be that the collector already had in his collection copies of the regularly issued stamps in certain denominations. To complete the sets, he may have ordered copies of those denominations which he needed from the Post Office Department. When the order was received, the clerk who filled it could have taken one of the already prepared envelopes containing a full set of the stamps and removed those denominations which had been ordered. These then would have been sent to the person originating the order, leaving behind the various denominations not on the order. This same thing could have happened if the stamps were bought from a dealer. These sets, as shown in the illustrations, were in the hands of an auction house when viewed, and if there originally had been regular issue denominations mixed with the special printings, they were probably separated when the lots were prepared for auction.

To attempt to determine if the stamps were bought from the Post Office Department, a search was made of the press copies of the invoices, looking for a single invoice which showed the denominations comprising this small collection. No such invoice was found, but the invoices available do not span the entire period in which these stamps were sold. □

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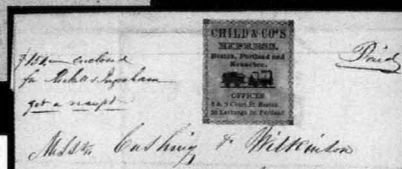
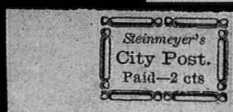
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**THE OFFICIALS TRIAL COLOR DIE PROOFS OF APRIL 1873:  
ARE THEY ESSAYS? WAR DEPARTMENT 2¢ JACKSON,  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 3¢ WASHINGTON  
GEORGE G. SAYERS**

**War Department 2¢ Jackson**

Figure 1 shows what appears to be a cut down normal trial color die proof in black of the War Department 2¢ Jackson of 1873, printed on India paper on blotter,<sup>1</sup> generally incorrectly referred to as “card.”<sup>2</sup> Figure 2 shows the magnified “2” from the bottom value tablet, which reveals the engraver’s reference field of vertical lines which he used to measure and guide his engraving strokes. Figure 3 is the magnified view of “DEP” from the upper right corner, which shows, in addition to the vertical lines, the curved lines which guide the engraving of the tops and bottoms of the letters.

This intermediate proof yields detailed information on the engraving of the dies for the official stamps in April 1873. As Alan C. Campbell demonstrated in his article, “The Design Evolution of the United States Official Stamps,”<sup>3</sup> the dies were produced with great haste. One of the compromises made was to transfer the vignette and value ribbon from the master die of the same Bank Note value to a new die blank and engrave the frame of the stamp around it. Figure 4 is a scan of part of a “regressive” die proof of a generic 2¢ Jackson die.<sup>4</sup> This die was produced by removing the unwanted portions of the 2¢ Bank Note design from a transfer roll produced from the master die, then hardening and rolling the remaining vignette and value ribbon into a new die blank. Figure 5 shows that the engraver’s vertical reference lines, and therefore the final engraved vertical lines at the top and bottom of the design, correspond 1:1 with, and probably are derived from the vertical lines in the bottom of the value ribbon. The frame engraver for this stamp, D.S.

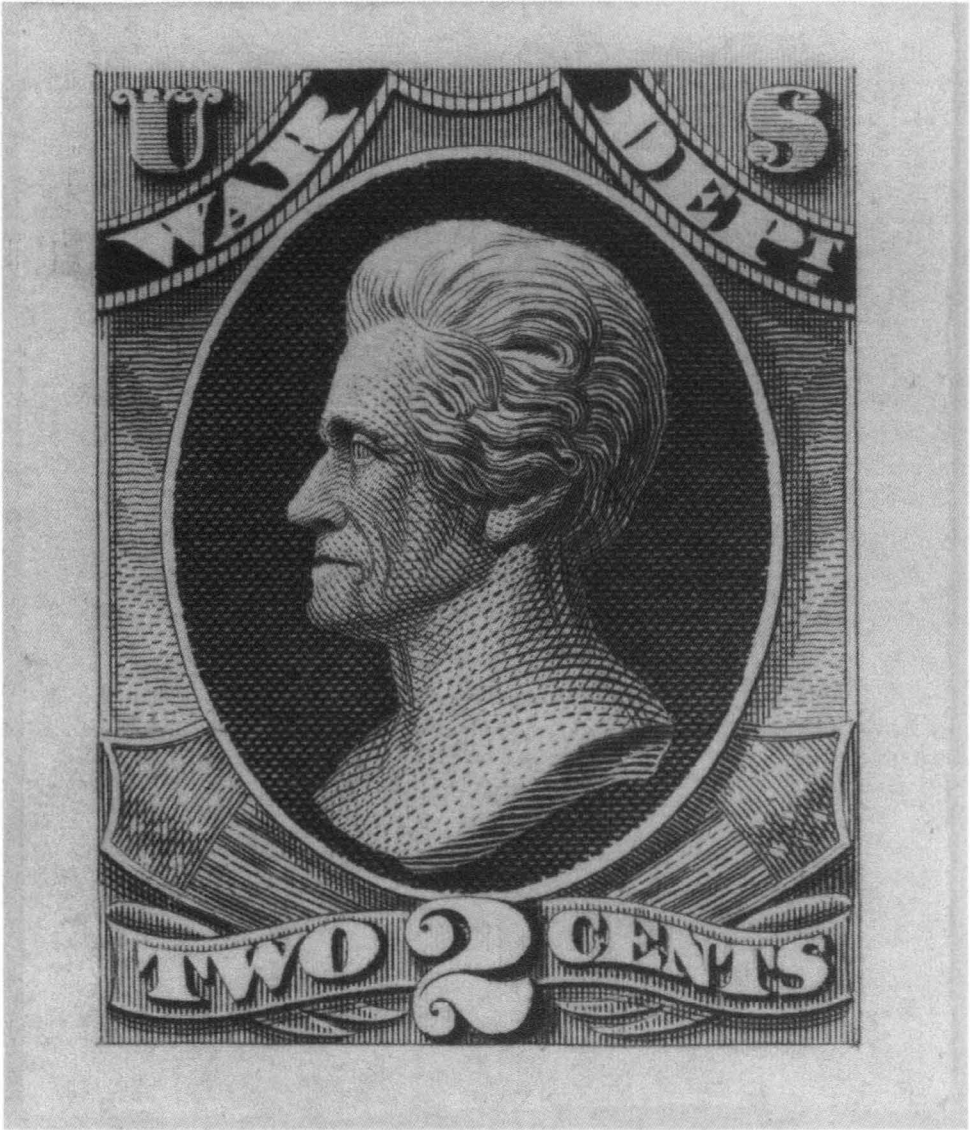
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<sup>1</sup>All India proofs are printed with a backing of what printers call blotter paper, a porous compressible paper which forces the wet India paper into the finest lines, as this proof shows. Anyone who learned to write with a fountain pen is familiar with this paper. Rarely, some India proof full sheets or large multiples have been trimmed while on the original blotter paper backing, then separated from the blotter paper backing and mounted on sheets of card stock in a similar fashion to the “hybrid die proofs.” Proofs of this kind are legitimately named “India on Card.” This may have been done because blotter paper is prone to something akin to foxing and discoloring with age. For more information see, Clarence W. Brazer, D. Sc., “Our Definitions,” *The Essay-Proof Journal*, Volume 2 (1945), pp. 31-33 and “Varieties of U. S. Essays and Proofs,” *The Essay-Proof Journal*, Volume 4 (1947), pp. 149-54.

<sup>2</sup>In the paper and printing industry, the term “card” generally refers to card stock, the somewhat flexible heavy paper used to print business cards, which is available in a wide range of weights, thicknesses and finishes. Before desktop publishing, almost every printing house, particularly in the late 1800s, printed their own fancy business cards to demonstrate technical ability and serve as cheap advertising. Cardboard refers to a dense, thick and rigid paper which is not normally used for printing. The author recognizes the term “proof on cardboard” goes back to the first Post Office order for these items in 1879.

<sup>3</sup>Alan C. Campbell, “The Design Evolution of the United States Official Stamps,” *The Chronicle*, Volume 47, No. 4(Whole No. 168) (November 1995) and Vol. 48, No. 1 (Whole No. 169)(February 1996), p. 51.

<sup>4</sup>Lot 1658 of Matthew Bennett, Inc. Sale #280 (the Ted Lockyear Collection), October 2, 2004.

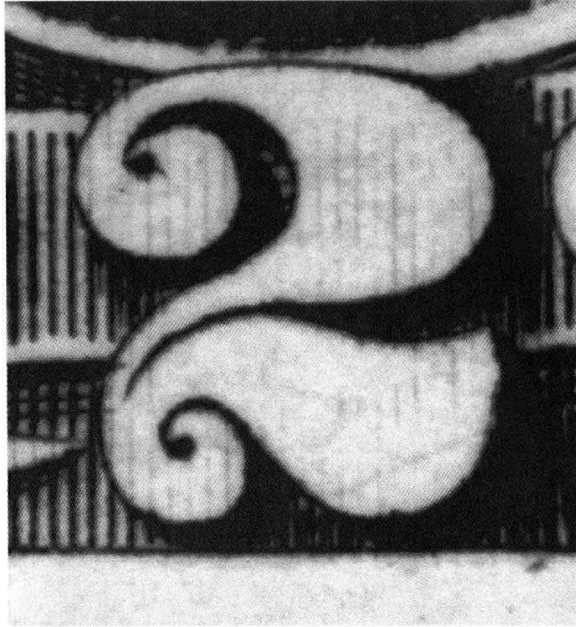


**Figure 1. War Department 2¢ Jackson trial color die proof in black cut down to stamp size**

Ronaldson,<sup>5</sup> whose signature appears on the Figure 4 regressive die proof, apparently was able to draw in his vertical field of lines with a straight edge and hardened steel needle using the spacing and orientation of the lines in the bottom of the value ribbon, saving a substantial amount of layout time. This proof then demonstrates that the vignette-value ribbon also carried much of the essential basic layout format for the final stamp, quite an efficient design execution. The 2¢ War Department trial color die proof in brown shows the identical array of guide lines, indicating as demonstrated below that the brown and black proofs were probably made at the same time.

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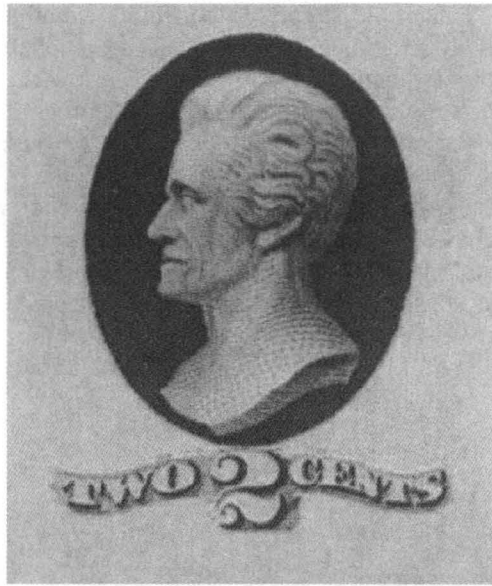
<sup>5</sup> Alan C. Campbell, "Postscript to 'The Design Evolution of United States Official Stamps'," *The Chronicle*, Vol. 48, No. 2 (Whole No. 170)(May 1996), p. 116.



**Figure 2. Magnified and contrast enhanced scan of the large "2" showing the engraver's vertical guide lines**



**Figure 3. Magnified and contrast enhanced scan of "DEP" at upper right showing the vertical guide lines and the guide lines for the tops of the letters**



**Figure 4. Magnified proof of a "regressive" die made by modifying a transfer roll from the die of the regular issue 2¢ Jackson**



**Figure 5. Magnified and contrast enhanced scan of the "CENT" at lower right showing the engraver's vertical guide lines extending into the bottom margin and corresponding to the vertical lines of the value ribbon transferred with the vignette**



### Department of Agriculture 3¢ Washington

An early draft of this article suggested collectors examine similar trial color die proofs for similar design layout and guide lines. Alan C. Campbell confirmed similar lines in seven trial color die proofs, including a spectacular black trial color die proof of the 3¢ Department of Agriculture. Figure 6 shows the upper left corner of this die proof including "DEPT." Note that the interior of the capital "D" shows the outlines of three alternative designs for the center of the "D" in addition to the completely engraved final design, giving an insight into the engraver's thoughts. Many other engraver's reference lines are apparent including the extension of the frame line through the top of the "D." The (unillustrated) side panels also show an extensive grid of horizontal and vertical reference lines used for the layout and engraving of the side ornaments. With the original guide lines, it is almost possible to follow the engraver's work sequence line by line. The 3¢ Agriculture trial color die proof in green shows the identical array of guide lines.



**Figure 6. Agriculture Department 3¢ Washington trial color die proof in black, a magnified and contrast enhanced scan of the top left corner showing the details of "DEPT." Note the outlines of three alternative shapes for the center of the "D," in addition to horizontal and vertical engraver's guide lines**

### April 1873

Trial color die proofs of the following additional stamps show some of the engraver's reference lines: 2¢ Executive Department in black and 3¢ Executive Department in green, 3¢ Interior Department in black, 3¢ Justice in black and 1¢ Treasury Department in black. D.S. Ronaldson is believed to be the engraver of all of these except the 10¢ Treasury.<sup>6</sup> Similar proofs almost certainly exist for several other values.

Under normal production methods, these reference lines would be removed by polishing before the dies are hardened, and careful high magnification examination of die proofs of these stamps in the issued colors reveals no trace of these lines. Cutting lines in steel leaves sharp raised edges on the sides and end of the cut which must be removed before hardening makes them a permanent feature of the die because they will transfer to the plate and cause cuts in the paper. For modern artistic engraving in steel and non-ferrous metals, the sharp edges are generally removed using a polishing compound similar to a jeweler's rouge (for instance, beeswax and ocher—a hydrated iron oxide) on a soft leather wheel. These stamp dies were polished more carefully. The die proofs examined show different states. The 2¢ War and 3¢ Agriculture appear unpolished, with all the reference lines intact. The other five proofs show most of the reference lines having been polished out in the open areas of the designs, with remnants of the lines generally adjacent to the deepest engraved lines where the edges are raised the most. These proofs would be made from the dies at the final stage of polishing before hardening. Trial color die proofs of several other designs showed no trace of reference lines, indicating they had completed the polishing process and probably had been hardened when the proofs were made.

Alan C. Campbell<sup>7</sup> established that in early April 1873 the intent of the Post Office was to issue the official stamps in the color/denomination standard of the regular issue—1¢ blue, 2¢ brown and 3¢ green—and in fact these trial color die proofs match this color standard. We can speculate that one day in April the Post Office decided to re-evaluate that decision, and requested immediate multiple proofs of all completed engravings in the proposed colors and in black, whether the die was finished and approved or not. Based on examination of these trial color proofs, they changed their decision to individual colors for each Department, and fortunately these proofs have survived to document the process. As indicated in the title of this article, the author is uncertain about whether to describe these gems of philatelic history as proofs or essays. The current standard is that the presence of one line not present on the production stamp renders the subject item an essay, and these items have many extra lines. However the lines are so fine they apparently have not been described even by students of the subject in over 130 years. Based on their probable history, they fit exactly the definition of trial color die proofs—much more so than many of the items currently considered part of that category—and the author suggests this remains the appropriate classification. □

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<sup>6</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 115.

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**REGISTRATION OF OFFICIAL MAIL TO 1900**  
**JAMES W. MILGRAM, M.D. AND LESTER C. LANPHEAR III**

The sale of the Robert L. Markovits collection of official stamps (Matthew Bennett February 7, 2004) brought a number of registered covers bearing official stamps into the market. This raised the fact that registration of official mail has never been discussed. This article will look at the three periods of official mail, consisting of the free frank period, official stamp period and the penalty clause period up to 1900. Each of these will be discussed separately except where official stamps were applied to early penalty clause envelopes.

**Free Frank Period, 1855 to 1873**

The registration of mail was intended to provide safeguards for valuable letters sent in the mails. As discussed in co-author James Milgram's book, *United States Registered Mail 1845-1870*, the Post Office Department in 1845 offered to investigate lost letters if the sender could prove that a valuable letter which was not delivered was placed into the mail. Thus documentation was necessary at the post office of mailing.

A system of unofficial registration can be documented to have existed in most of the United States between 1845 and 1855. The post office at the place of mailing apparently marked its receipt book with notations of valuable letters, and comments were placed on the letter bills which were sent with the mail between post offices. There is no evidence of a charge for such a service, and there is no evidence of receipts being signed by the addressees. But increasingly during this period the letters themselves show handwritten or handstamped notations such as "R," "Reg" or "REGISTERED," as well as "money letter" at a few offices, this latter term being taken from the Canadian system of handling valuable letters. Most of the markings were applied when mailing, but some, such as the Philadelphia "R," were applied on receipt, and still others were applied in transit.

During this same ten year period official letters of both the federal legislative and executive branches were sent free of postage in both directions, to or from an individual with the franking privilege. This even extended to postmasters for the first 1/2 oz. of a letter's weight. No official letters with a free frank have been seen with unofficial registration. However, there is no reason why they should not exist.

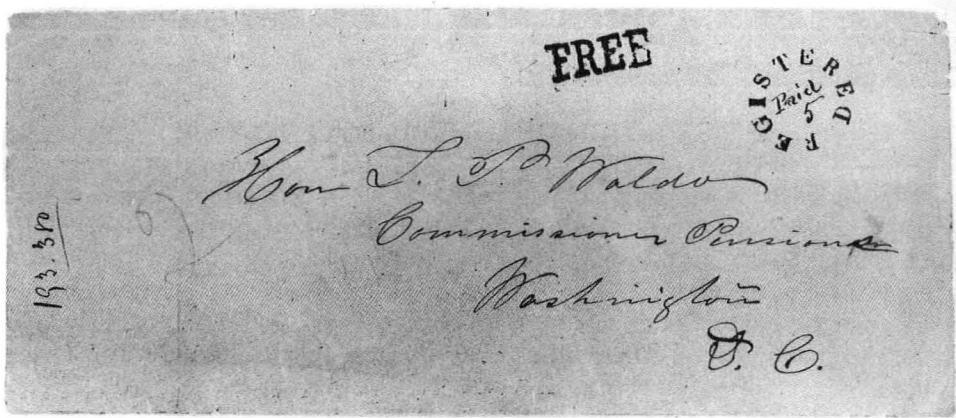
On July 1, 1855 registering letters for a 5¢ fee was instituted at all post offices.<sup>1</sup> The service initially provided only for domestic registration. Reciprocal treaties for international registration were signed later with Germany, Great Britain and Canada.

No letters from the 1850s have been seen free franked at the time of mailing with registration postmarks. However, a cover sent "FREE" to the Commissioner of Pensions, probably in 1855, from an unknown town is known with a rimless circular "REGISTERED" ms. "Paid 5" (Figure 1). This cover is the first to demonstrate that registration fees could not be paid by the franking privilege.

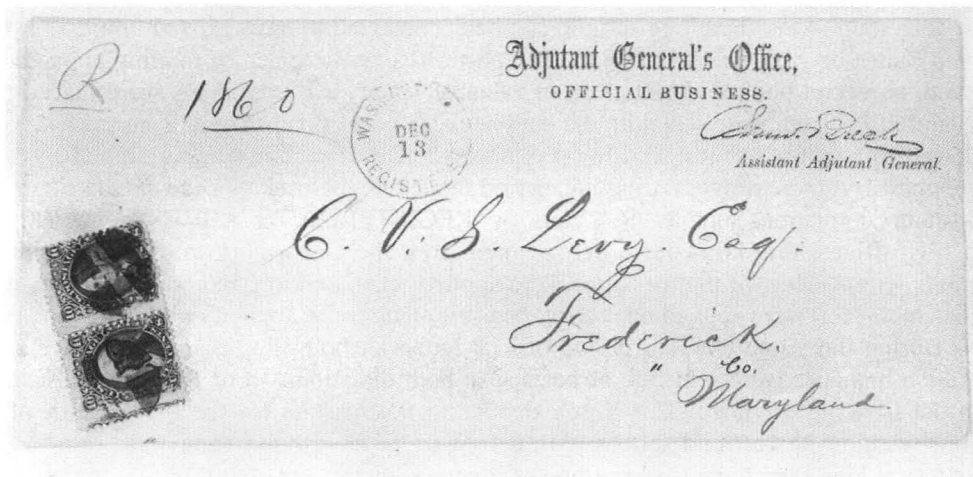
Registration fees were increased to 20¢ on July 1, 1863. The amount of the fee was paid in cash and was not indicated on the covers. Figure 129 in Milgram's book<sup>2</sup> is another letter to the Commissioner of Pensions, but the sender paid the postage with two 3¢ 1861

<sup>1</sup> Act of March 3, 1855, 10 Stat. 641 (*in Postage Rates 1789-1930*, United States Post Office Department, 1930, p. 7).

<sup>2</sup> James W. Milgram, M.D., *United States Registered Mail 1845-1870* (North Miami, FL.; David G. Phillips, 1998), p. 95.



**Figure 1. Very early registered letter sent "FREE", showing a special "REGISTERED" with ms. "Paid 5" in circular format, a very rare usage of the 5¢ registration fee being shown on a cover. The town of origin is unknown.**



**Figure 2. Adjutant General's Office handstamped free franked envelope with registration fee of 20¢ paid by stamps.**

stamps. The cover bears Baltimore registered postmarks, but the registration fee was paid in cash. The actual postage on this letter was 26¢.

On June 1, 1867 the registration fee was payable in stamps. So the following illustration in the book, Figure 130,<sup>3</sup> demonstrates two 10¢ 1861 stamps and a 3¢ stamp paying 23¢ postage and registration. Figure 2 shows a franked envelope from the Adjutant General's Office which bears two 10¢ stamps paying the registration fee. There is a special postmark "WASHINGTON D.C. REGISTERED DEC 13." We have not seen a free franked cover that was also registered during the earlier 1863-1867 period when no stamps were required for registration fees. Again there is no reason why such a cover should not exist. These early covers showing payment with stamps in the late 1860s and later are quite rare.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*



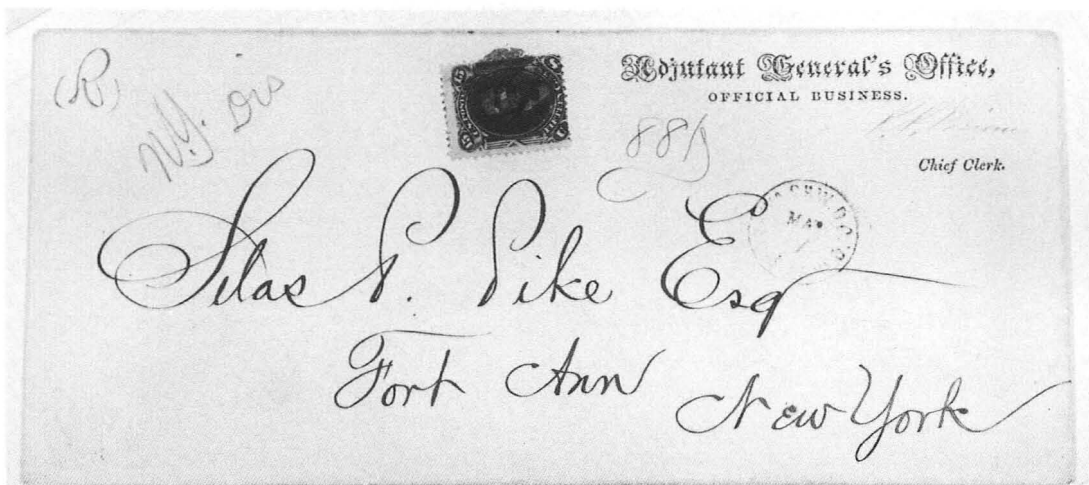


Figure 3. Adjutant General's Office free franked envelope with registration fee of 15¢ paid by stamp.



Figure 4. Cover addressed to "Hon Wm H. Seward Sec of State Washington" to whom it was sent free under the franking privilege. However, the registration had to be paid with a 15¢ stamp, postmarked black "NEW-YORK. REGISTERED".

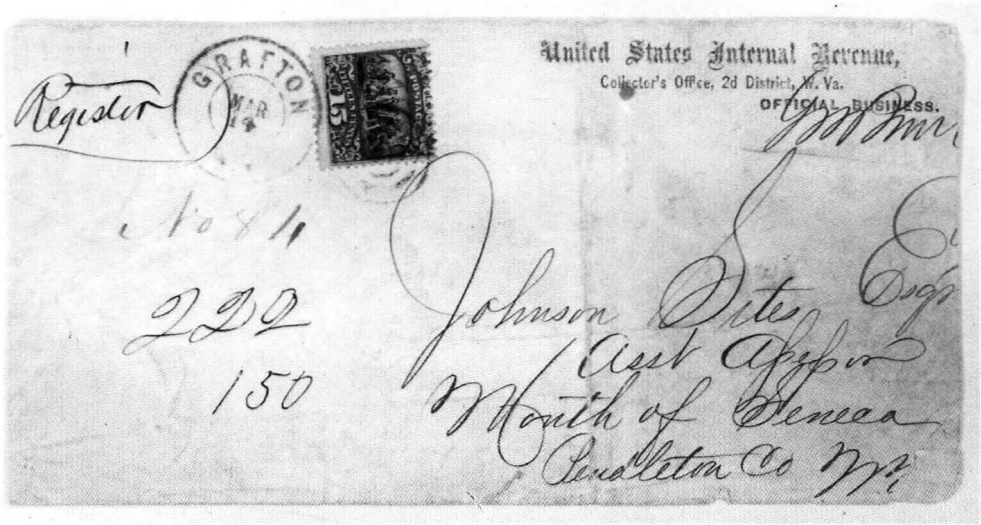


Figure 5. Internal Revenue Department free franked envelope bearing 15¢ 1869 stamp paying the registration fee, "GRAFTON W. VA. MAR 14" postmark.

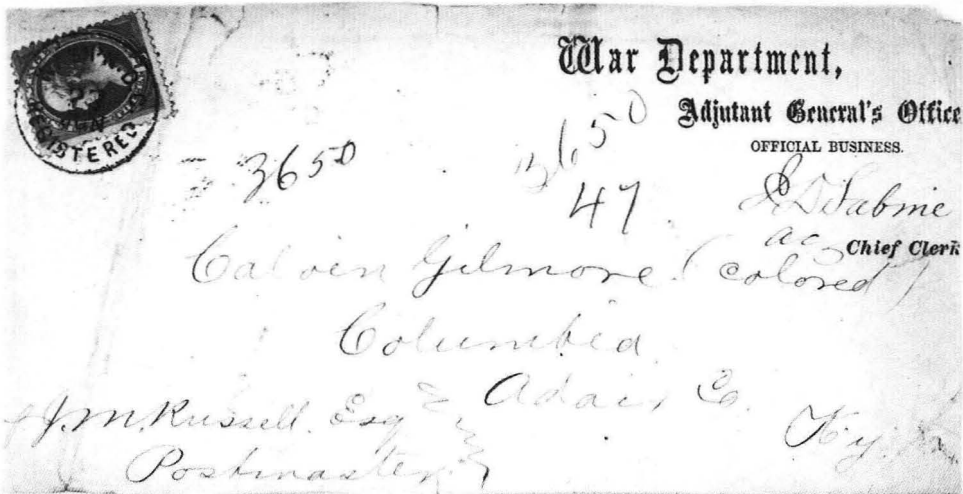


Figure 6. War Department free franked envelope with 15¢ orange tied "WASH'N D.C. REGISTERED 27 JUN" to pay the registration fee in the early 1870s.

Effective January 1, 1869 the registration fee was reduced to 15¢. Figure 3 shows a franked cover from the Adjutant General's Office with a 15¢ stamp postmarked "WASH "N D.C. REGISTERED MAY 1". Figure 4 illustrates a cover sent free to the Secretary of State, but the registration fee was paid with a 15¢ stamp postmarked "NEW-YORK REGISTERED FEB 26" with manuscript numbering for New York "7665" and Washington "1326." The only example known to the writers of the 1869 series of stamps on a free franked cover is a United States Internal Revenue imprinted cornercard envelope with the 15¢ stamp tied "GRAFTON W.VA. MAR 14" with the manuscript free frank of a tax collector, sent to Mouth of Seneca, W.Va. (Figure 5).

The 15¢ fee continued into the Bank Note period, and Figure 6 shows a franked cover from the War Department bearing the 15¢ orange no grill tied “WASH ‘N D.C. REGISTERED 27 JUN.”

Registration has been free on official Post Office Department mail since 1872.<sup>4</sup> In the Milgram collection is a registered package front (patent applied for) with cornercard “STAMP & ENVELOPE AGENCY. OFFICE SUPPLIES By order of the Postmaster General E.W. BARBER Third Ass’t P.M. General.” This cover bears a small rimless “NEW YORK REGISTERED OCT 11” with ms. number. An additional large cornercard cautions that “Postmasters and Route Agents HANDLING THIS Package, ARE REQUIRED TO KEEP A COMPLETE RECORD OF THE NUMBER, ADDRESS, DATE OF ITS RECEIPT, TO WHOM DELIVERED, DATE OF SUCH DELIVERY, &c. RECEIPTS FOR THE SAME MUST BE TAKEN WHEN PRACTICABLE. THIS WILL PROVIDE A BOOK SPECIALLY FOR THIS PURPOSE. RESPECTFULLY *E.W.Barber* THIRD ASSISTANT P.M. GENERAL.” This very interesting item can be dated by the style of its New York postmark as 1871-1872. This item is a *registered package envelope* which is a special envelope used to transport registered letters between post offices. The regular registered package envelopes are all printed in orange with different variations and printings and were in continuous use from 1867 until after the turn of the century and much later. However, this very early Post Office Department franked package envelope is in manila.

#### Official Stamp Period, 1873 to 1884

On July 1, 1873 the free franking privilege was abolished.<sup>5</sup> The Postmaster General was directed<sup>6</sup> to prepare a special series of postage stamps for the executive branch of government. Each of the executive departments and the Presidential office were issued a separate set of stamps in a different color. Immediately Congress proceeded to chip away at the 1873 law. The first change came in 1875 when Congress voted limited franking to itself for sending portions of the *Congressional Record* (speeches by the congressmen).<sup>7</sup> This law also allowed for the free transmission of seeds from the Commissioner of Agriculture. A huge portion of the Agriculture budget was for postage and especially for seeds provided free to the public. In 1877 the provision of penalty clause mail from Washington, D.C. was established<sup>8</sup> and in 1879 the penalty clause provision was extended to the entire country,<sup>9</sup> resulting in decreasing use of official stamps.

For four of the nine sets of official stamps, no registry covers have been recorded. These are the Executive Office, Department of State, Department of Justice and the Department of Agriculture. There is one partial cover from the Department of the Interior with Justice stamps that was in the Markovits collection. The use of Justice stamps on this part cover cannot be explained without the rest of the cover.

The earliest official stamp registry cover, an ex-Knapp Treasury Department cover, is shown in Figure 7. This small envelope shows the only recorded example of the 8¢ registry fee being paid with a 10¢ and a 1¢ Treasury Department stamps. The cover was mailed by an Assistant Assessor from Tennessee on June 1874 to Jamestown, Tennessee.

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<sup>4</sup>Act of June 8, 1872, 17 Stat. 307 (*Postage Rates 1789-1930*, p. 43).

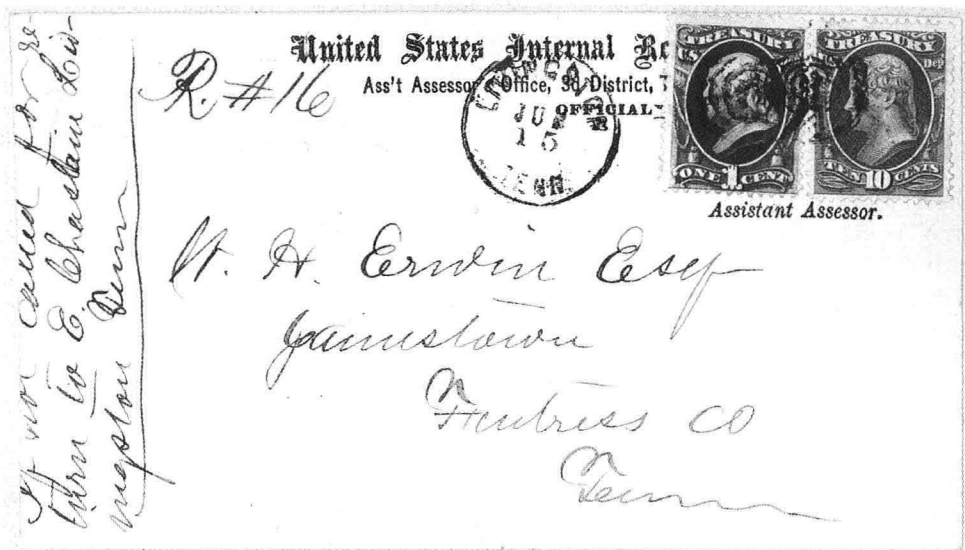
<sup>5</sup>Act of January 31, 1873, 17 Stat. 421 and Act of March 3, 1873, 17 Stat. 559 (*Postage Rates 1789-1930*, p. 43).

<sup>6</sup>Act of March 3, 1873, 17 Stat. 542 (*Postage Rates 1789-1930*, p. 44).

<sup>7</sup>Act of March 3, 1875, 18 Stat. 343 (*Postage Rates 1789-1930*, p. 44).

<sup>8</sup>Act of March 3, 1877, 19 Stat. 335 and 336 (*Postage Rates 1789-1930*, p. 44).

<sup>9</sup>Act of March 3, 1879, 20 Stat. 356, 361, and 362 (*Postage Rates 1789-1930*, p. 45).



**Figure 7. United States Internal Revenue cornercard with Treasury Department official stamps, 10¢ and 1¢, paying domestic postage of 3¢ plus 8¢ registration, courtesy of Lester C. Lanphear III.**

The Treasury Department was a big user of the registry mail system during the official stamp period. From the Robert L. Markovits collection we illustrate Figure 8, a Treasury Department envelope from a tax collector who would not have been authorized the franking privilege even if franking had not been eliminated. Mr. Sedgwick applied a 12¢ and a 1¢ Treasury Department stamp to pay the postage, 3¢, and registration fee, 10¢. There is a “SAN FRANCISCO CAL. REGISTERED DEC 2” postmark, which indicates an early 1875 or 1876 usage from other known dates of the postmark (there was a return receipt glued to the back of the envelope too). Another cover in the sale bore a 6¢ and a 10¢ Treasury stamp for double postage and registration with “WASH “N D.C. REGISTERED MAY 23.”

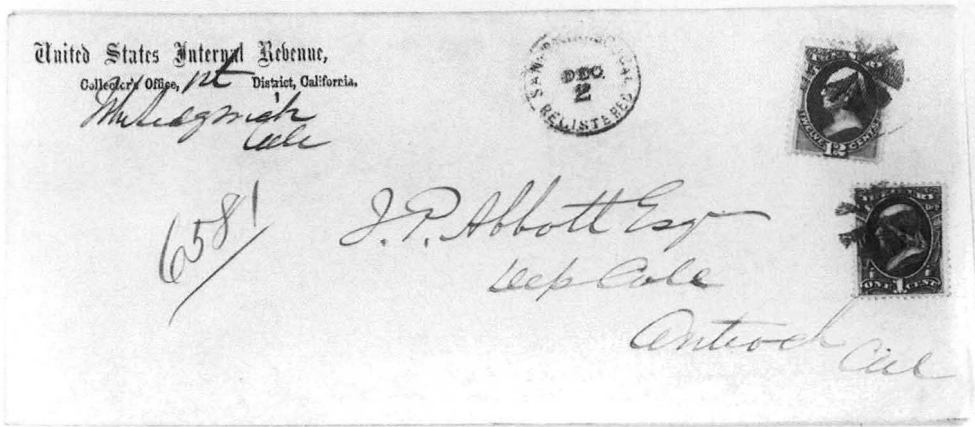
Another cover showing official stamps is a Treasury Department envelope that was sent registered to Berlin, Prussia.<sup>10</sup> The registration fee was overpaid by a 12¢ Treasury stamp. As of April 1, 1879, official stamps were not valid for international postage for countries within the UPU. Although many departments and the U.S. Government Despatch Agency at New York ignored this change in regulations with impunity, the Treasury Department immediately began stocking regular issue stamps for its foreign mailings.<sup>11</sup> Thus the postage on this cover is paid by a regular postage stamp, a 15¢ orange. There is also a Bremen registered label in red and black to the left of the address. Both stamps are tied by the same oval registered postmark from Washington, D.C. Registration to most countries was part of the UPU agreement. The U.S. rate was 10¢.

By special regulation,<sup>12</sup> the Redemption Division of the U.S. Treasury was entitled to free registry when sending new currency bills in exchange for mutilated currency. Several examples survive from the correspondence of Warren R. Taylor, a money-changer. (This

<sup>10</sup>Alan C. Campbell, “Usages of Official Stamps in Washington, D.C., 1877-1884,” *Chronicle*, Vol 51, No. 4 (Whole No. 184)(November 1999), pp. 281.

<sup>11</sup>Alfred E. Staubus, “Stamps for Use on Official Correspondence to Foreign Destination Under GPU and UPU Treaties,” *Chronicle*, Vol 42, No. 3 (Whole No. 147)(August 1990), pp. 188.

<sup>12</sup> Act of June 8, 1872, 17 Stat. 306 and 307 (*Postage Rates 1789-1930*), p. 42.



**Figure 8. United States Internal Revenue cornercard with Treasury Department official stamps, 12¢ and 1¢, paying domestic postage of 3¢ plus 10¢ registration.**

exception is similar to that of the Post Office Stamp Agency in New York which will be discussed subsequently.) Among the covers used to return currency is a specially printed envelope in red and black. This cover is the only known bi-colored envelope printed for official use.

The War Department saw little use of the registry mail system during the official stamp period. Figure 9 shows a small envelope from "FORT SILL IND. TERR. MAR 11 1881" tying 3¢ and 10¢ War Department stamps. The double number indicates the number of the registered letter and the other number is the registered package number, the orange envelope in which the registered letters were placed for transmittal between post offices. A very similar usage is a 3¢ War Department entire with a 10¢ stamp tied together by an oval registration postmark from Washington, D.C. The cover has a cornercard "Headquarters Army of the United States Official Business." There is also a three line magenta postmark "REGISTERED/SEP 14 1881/ WASHINGTON, D.C." Another War Department cover from the Adjutant General's Office has 6¢ and 10¢ stamps canceled with killers and a large oval "WASHINGTON, D.C. REGISTERED AUG 11 1876."

There is one recorded registered Navy Department cover during the official stamp period, a 6¢ Navy stamp and a 10¢ Bank Note stamp paying the double rate and the registry fee, respectively. This legal size cover is from Port Royal, South Carolina and has a manuscript "Official Business" instead of a printed cornercard.

The Department of the Interior had more registry mail during the official stamp period than any other department. Several of these are penalty envelopes showing registration usages. Another Markovits sale cover<sup>13</sup> bore a 12¢ and a 24¢ Interior stamp tied by a "LARNED KAN MAY 20" postmark and magenta straight line "REGISTERED NO. ..." The stamps paid the postage of 24¢ and registration 10¢, 2¢ overpayment. The sender may not have had a 10¢ stamp available. In this example the penalty clause did not pay postage, since by a ruling of the Attorney General in 1882, field officers of the Government were not entitled to use penalty franks for transmitting mail to private citizens.<sup>14</sup> But the cover in Figure 10 shows only a 10¢ Interior stamp with various Washington, D.C. registered postmarks and a handstamped blue number. The penalty

<sup>13</sup>Campbell, "Usages of Official Stamps in Washington, D.C., 1877-1884," Figure 3, pp. 281.

<sup>14</sup>Warren S. Howard, "A Land Office Story," *Chronicle*, Vol. 48, No. 4 (Whole No 172) (November 1996), p. 249.



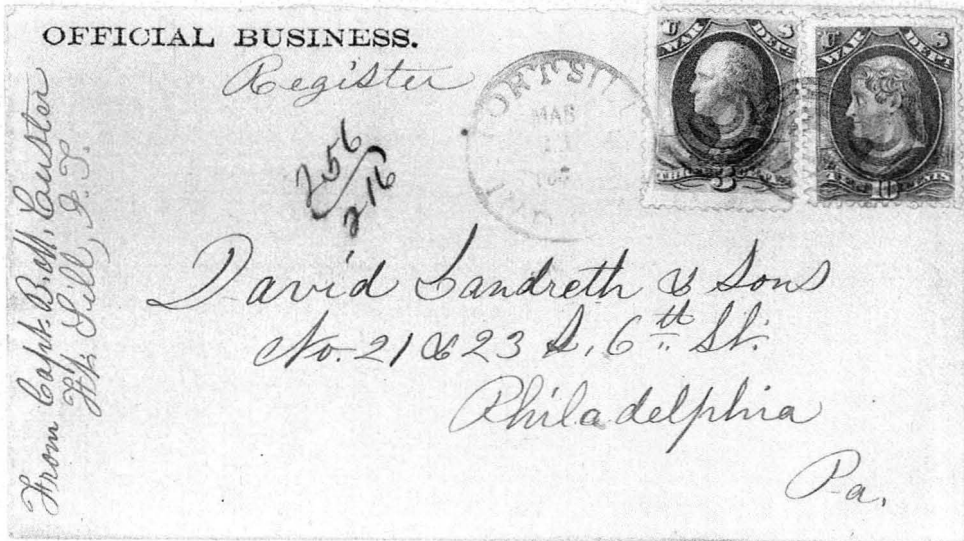


Figure 9. War Department 3¢ and 10¢ stamps paying domestic postage plus registration, from Fort Sill, Indian Territory in 1881, courtesy of Lester C. Lanphear III.

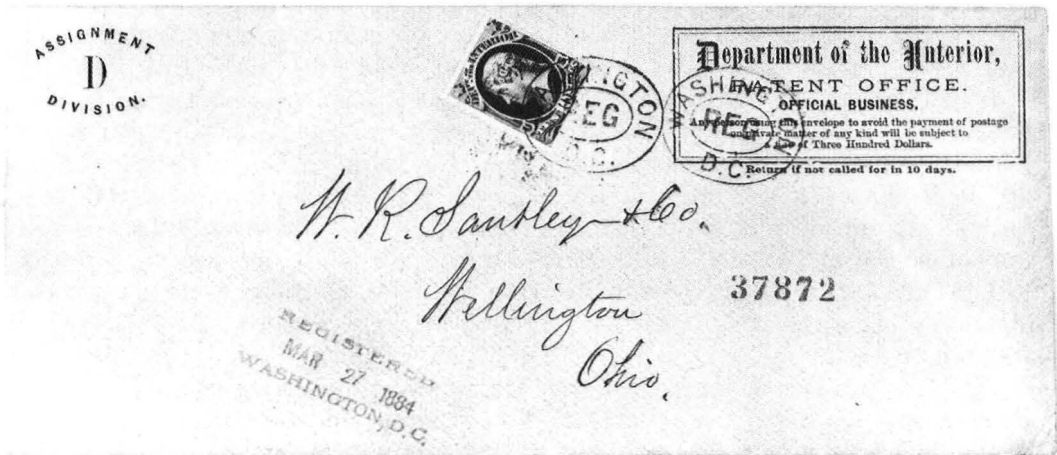


Figure 10. Department of the Interior penalty envelope paying postage and 10¢ Dept. of Interior stamp paying registration, two different types of registration postmarks.

envelope paid the postage and the registration fee was paid separately by the stamp because the letter was mailed in Washington, D.C.

Covers with the Post Office Department official stamps showing registration are quite rare. Registered penalty envelopes are not as rare as covers with official stamps. The registry fee was waived for Post Office official business. Figure 11 shows an example with two 2¢ stamps on a local delivery letter (double rate) that also bears a boxed "REGISTERED SEP 18 1877 BRANCH C NEW YORK" postmark and a manuscript number; the registry fee was waived. Figure 12 shows a penalty envelope returning a dead letter which bears a magenta "REGISTERED MAY 6 1881 WASHINGTON, D.C." marking and a blue handstamped number. It also bears an "UNCLAIMED" from Eureka,



Figure 11. Post Office Department envelope paying double drop rate with two 2¢ stamps but the registry was free.

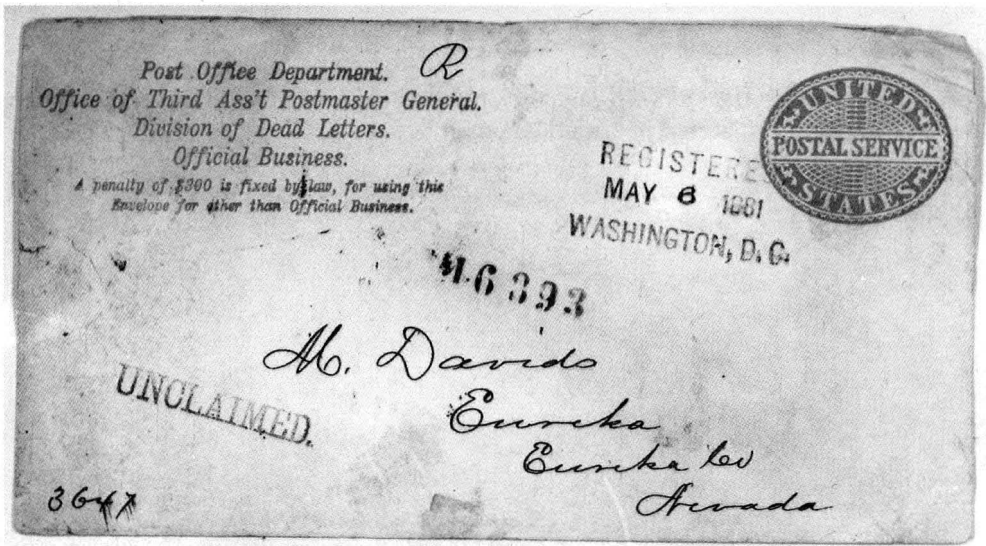


Figure 12. Dead Letter Office return envelope showing free registry fee, also unclaimed and returned.

Nevada and was returned to the Dead Letter Office with their "JUN 28-81" dated triangular backstamp. So it was unclaimed by the addressee and later unclaimed by the sender, a very interesting combination. From the markings it appears to have been registered on all trips.

Soon after the official stamps were placed in use it was discovered that the Post Office Department was required to pay postage to ship supplies to its post offices. A provision was quickly established that enabled shipment of postal supplies without postage. Figure 13 shows one of these envelopes which was sent through the registry system. This bears slightly different text and a blue oval "NEW YORK, N.Y. REGISTERED APR 10 1876" postmark with ms. number. The string that was tied around this cover is still intact and can be seen in the first illustration. Figure 14 shows a detail of the special Post Office Department seal that has to be torn in order to open the back of the

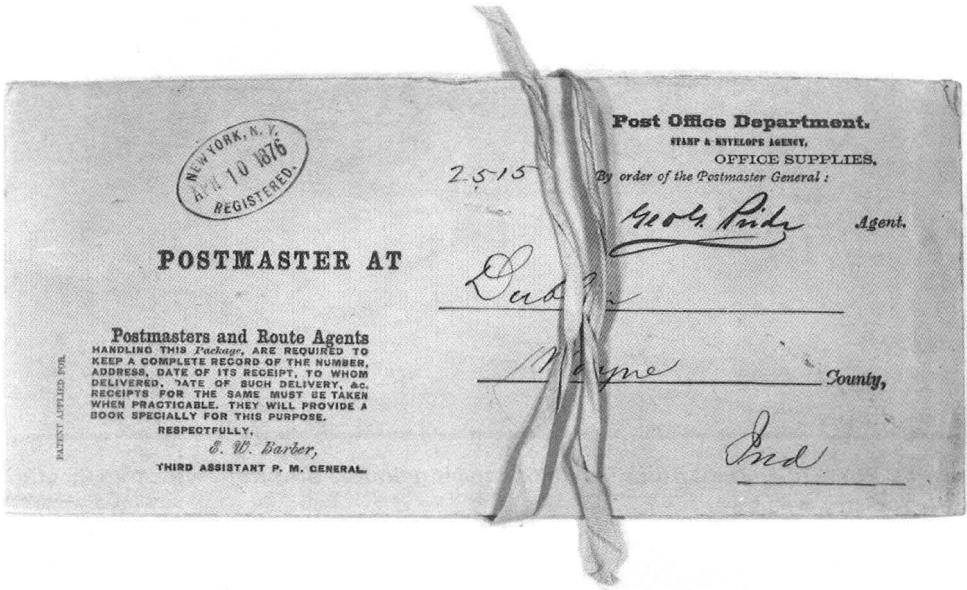


Figure 13. Face of P.O.D. Stamp and Envelope Agency registered package envelope showing New York registered postmark and number.

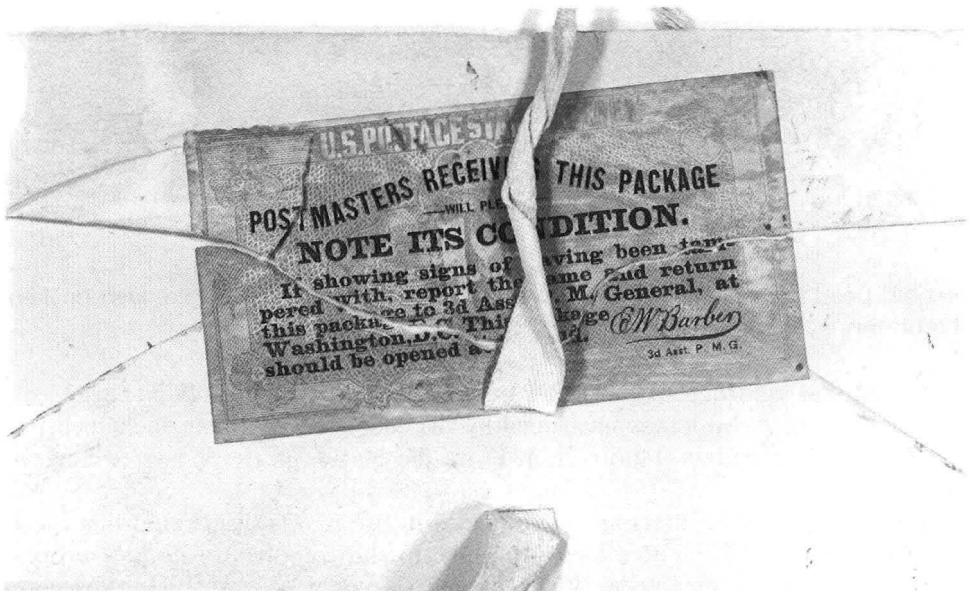
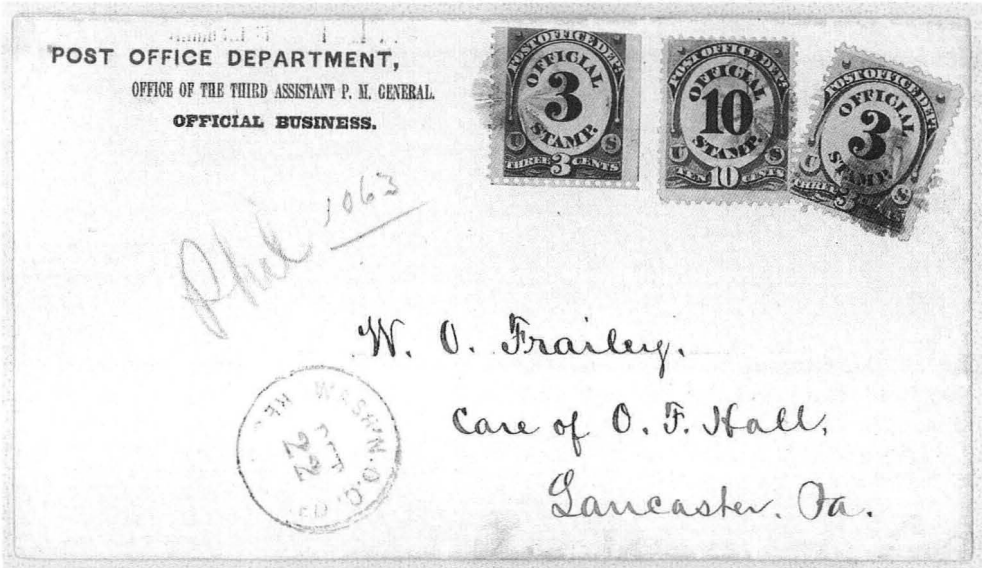


Figure 14. Reverse of the Figure 13 envelope showing cloth ties and official seal used at New York.

envelope.

There is one example, Figure 15, where the Post Office Department paid the registry fee with official stamps. This envelope is from the Third Assistant Postmaster General and contained special printing stamps for a collector. These mailings were sent registered free if the collector did not include payment for the registry fee. This cover shows the collector had included payment for both the registry fee and postage. The 10¢ Post Office stamp paid the registry fee and the two 3¢ stamps paid the postage. It should be noted that multiple value Post Office covers are rare.



**Figure 15. Post Office Department, two 3¢ and 10¢ stamps paying the double rate postage of 6¢ plus the 10¢ registry fee, courtesy of Lester C. Lanphear III.**

### **Penalty Clause Only Period, 1884 to 1900**

Official stamps were discontinued on July 5, 1884.<sup>15</sup> But the use of penalty clause envelopes, first initiated in 1877, has continued to the present day. As during the official stamp period, not all the Departments used the registry service between 1884 and 1900. The Executive Office, Department of State and the Department of Agriculture have no recorded registered penalty clause envelopes. The registration postage was paid in stamps for penalty clause envelopes. In 1891 the franking for any letter from a member of Congress was restored;<sup>16</sup> today, most franks are printed. But the penalty envelope system continued up to present times for use by members of the federal government on official business mail.

When the penalty privilege was expanded in 1884 the shipment of registered mail by the Executive Office, Executive Departments or Public Printer was established without the payment of any registry fee.<sup>17</sup> This provision was clarified in 1887 to apply only to officers at the seat of Government in Washington, D.C., except for the Post Office Department, whose officers outside of Washington, D.C. did not have to pay the fee when official mail was registered. The earliest example of this provision is a Navy Department cover in

<sup>15</sup>Act of July 5, 1884, 23 Stat. 158 (*Postage Rates 1789-1930*), p. 46.

<sup>16</sup>Act of March 3, 1891, 26 Stat. 1081 (*Postage Rates 1789-1930*), p. 46.

<sup>17</sup>Act of July 5, 1884, 23 Stat. 158 (*Postage Rates 1789-1930*), p. 46.

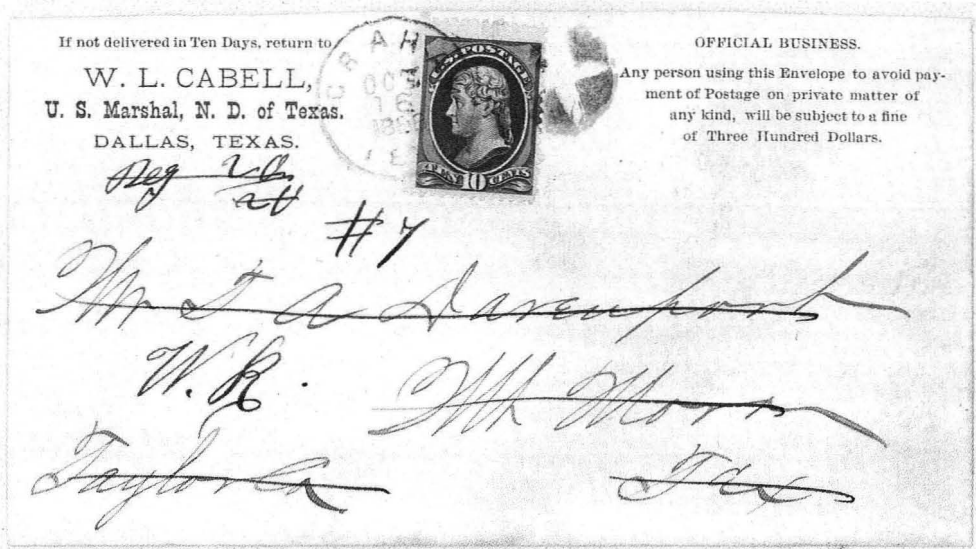
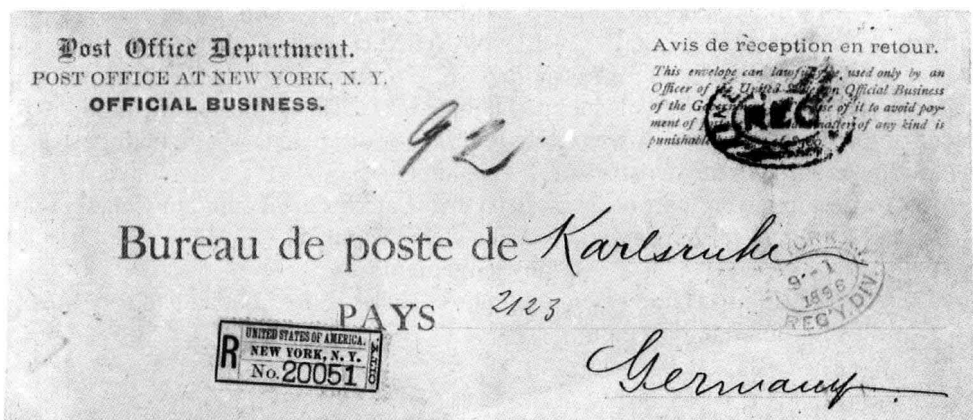


Figure 16. Department of Justice cover from the U.S. Marshal's office, registry fee paid by 10¢ Bank Note and the postage paid by the penalty clause, courtesy of Lester C. Lanphear III.



Figure 17. Department of the Interior penalty envelope from Watertown, Dakota Territory used with 10¢ Bank Note for registration fee. The cover was returned to writer when it was unclaimed.





**Figure 18. International Registration of Post Office Department penalty envelope (note "Avis de réception en retour" [return receipt requested]) with two different New York 1896 registration postmarks and a New York CITY red label, without supplemental charges, because Post Office Department mail had free registration.**

February 1886,<sup>18</sup> from the collection of Lester C. Lanphear III.

There is one recorded Department of Justice registered penalty clause cover, Figure 16. It was mailed in 1888 by the U.S. Marshal in Graham, Texas. The registry fee is paid with a 10¢ Bank Note stamp and the postage was paid by the penalty clause.

As in the official stamp period, the Department of the Interior was the biggest user of the registered mail service during the penalty clause period. The cover in Figure 17 was postmarked "WATERTOWN DAK. REGISTERED SEP 28 1887" in purple with a 10¢ brown stamp, a usage from the U.S. Land Office in Dakota Territory. It was sent to an addressee in another Dakota Territory town, Langford, but was "UNCLAIMED" (in black), so was returned with two purple pointing hands "RETURNED TO WRITER" to the Watertown U.S. Land Office.

Thus, it remained the postal law that registration was to be paid in stamps in addition to the postage on most official mail. Another usage is exemplified by a Treasury Department/ MINT OF THE U.S. AT PHILA. PA. penalty imprint with four 2¢ stamps postmarked "PHILADELPHIA/ R D/ PA" and "PHILADELPHIA, PA. /REGISTERED" in 1901. Between January 1, 1893 and October 31, 1909 the registration rate dropped to 8¢, and there was a minimal indemnity for lost letters starting in 1898.

Post Office registered penalty envelopes are not as rare as covers with official stamps. The registry fee was waived for official Post Office business. For overseas mail the registry fee was waived if the cover was addressed to Post Official officials. An international usage (Figure 18) is shown by a penalty envelope from the Post Office Department at New York. The penalty inscription is actually canceled with a double oval "REG" of New York, and a separate "NEW YORK N.Y. REG'Y DIV 9 – 1 1896" cancel shows registration. There is a red New York City registration label with destination at the post office in Karlsruhe, Germany.

<sup>18</sup>Warren S. Howard, "The Classic Penalty Franks," *Chronicle*, Vol. 50 , No. 3 (Whole No 179)(August 1998), Figure 10c, p. 217.

Another cover from the Dead Letter Office at Washington is a large legal envelope with penalty imprint to the postmaster at Madison, Iowa. This cover bears a purple postmark, a double circle "REGISTERED WASHINGTON D.C. MAY 14 1892". Also, there is a printed two line "Letter [Y] (in ms.) No. [76] (in ms) Vol. [46] (this handstamped in purple), Reg. No. [12868] (handstamped in blue ink)". This printed cornercard gives the number of the dead letter which was being returned or discussed. Again, both postage and registration were free to the department.

Return receipts were part of the registry fee. Later in the Twentieth Century special fees for different types of delivery and receipts were instituted.

#### Acknowledgements

Thanks are given to Harvey Bennett, Labron Harris, Eliot Landau and Ray Vogel for the use of illustrations and their input. □

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## THE STEAMER *SIR JOHN HARVEY*

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The steamer *Sir John Harvey* operated as a packet between Boston, Massachusetts and Halifax, Nova Scotia, from July 1852 through February 1853. The United States and Nova Scotia negotiated a postal agreement that was scheduled to take effect December 1, 1852, by which mail was to be exchanged by the *Sir John Harvey*. Although Nova Scotia delivered mail to the United States pursuant to the proposed postal agreement, the United States did not send any mail to Nova Scotia pursuant to that agreement. Additionally, the United States does not appear to have recognized the agreement. Only three sailings occurred pursuant to the proposed agreement, which was the only mail service at the treaty rate between the United States and the Province of Nova Scotia prior to the Canadian Confederation in 1867. The letters carried from Nova Scotia to the United States by the *Sir John Harvey* during this period were marked with the Nova Scotia scroll marking, the only Nova Scotia exchange office marking used for cross border mail. Only four covers with this marking are reported.


### The *Sir John Harvey*

The steamer *Sir John Harvey* was most likely launched in early July 1852. The July 10, 1852 issue of the *Boston Daily Atlas* contained a news item headlined "The New Steamer Sir John Harvey, of Boston." According to the article:

This vessel is designed to run as a regular packet between this port and Halifax, N.S. and has good accommodations for 200 passengers, and stowage capacity for 1700 barrels.

As already stated, she is intended to run as a packet between this port and Halifax, and is owned by Messrs. Clark, Jones & Co., of this city, gentlemen who have been long engaged in the trade, and who have made this bold movement to meet its increase. We wish them and their beautiful packet all the success they wish themselves.

---

**FOR HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA,**  
The new and splendid steamship **SIR JOHN HARVEY**, built expressly for this Line, and furnished in elegant style for the accommodation of passengers, will leave the end of Long wharf, Boston, for Halifax, every **SATURDAY** at 3 P.M., and leave Halifax every **TUESDAY** at 3 P.M. for Boston.  
Shippers are particularly requested to send Bills of Lading with their goods in all cases, and no freight taken after 3 o'clock on the day of leaving. For further information, apply to **CLARK, JONES & CO.** Fort Hill wharf, Boston; and **B. WIER & CO.** Halifax; or to the Captain on board  
jy30 Cabin passage, \$10; Second Cabin do, \$5.

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Figure 1. Clark Jones & Co. ad for service to Halifax, *Boston Daily Atlas*, December 11, 1852

The *Sir John Harvey* first departed Boston for Halifax on Saturday, July 17, 1852.<sup>1</sup> Beginning at the end of July 1852, Clark, Jones & Co. placed ads stating that the *Sir John Harvey* would leave the end of Long Wharf, Boston for Halifax every Saturday at 5:00 p.m., and would depart Halifax on Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.<sup>2</sup> These ads continued into December 1852, although the departure times for Boston and Halifax were changed to 3:00 p.m.<sup>3</sup> (Figure 1) Table 1 contains the complete sailing information for the *Sir John Harvey* operating between Boston and Halifax.

<sup>1</sup>*Boston Daily Atlas*, July 10, 1852, p. 2.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*, July 19, 1852, p. 2 ("Sir John Harvey (new, of Boston, 620 tons)").

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*, July 30, 1852, p. 3.

<sup>4</sup>*Ibid.*, December 11, 1852, p. 3.

**TABLE 1 - *Sir John Harvey Sailing Dates***

Depart Boston	Arrive Halifax	Depart Halifax	Arrive Boston
---------------	----------------	----------------	---------------

**Non-Contract Sailings**

July 17, 1852	July 20, 1852	July 20, 1852	July 22, 1852
July 24, 1852	July 26, 1852	July 27, 1852	July 29, 1852
July 31, 1852	August 2, 1852	August 3, 1852	August 5, 1852
August 7, 1852	August 9, 1852	August 10, 1852	August 12, 1852
August 14, 1852	August 16, 1852	August 18, 1852	August 19, 1852
August 21, 1852	August 23, 1852	August 24, 1852	August 26, 1852
August 28, 1852	August 31, 1852	September 1, 1852	September 3, 1852
September 11, 1852	September 13, 1852	September 14, 1852	September 16, 1852
September 18, 1852	September 20, 1852	September 21, 1852	September 24, 1852
September 25, 1852	September 27, 1852	September 28, 1852	September 30, 1852
October 2, 1852	October 4, 1852	October 6, 1852	October 8, 1852
October 9, 1852	developed a leak and returned to Boston on October 10, 1852		
October 16, 1852	October 18, 1852	October 19, 1852	October 21, 1852
October 23, 1852	October 26, 1852	October 26, 1852	October 27, 1852
October 30, 1852	November 3, 1852	November 4, 1852	November 6, 1852
November 8, 1852	November 10, 1852	November 11, 1852	November 14, 1852
November 18, 1852	November 21, 1852	November 22, 1852	November 26, 1852

**Contract Sailings**

January 22, 1853	January 26, 1853	January 29, 1853	February 1, 1853
February 5, 1853	February 9, 1853	February 9, 1853	February 11, 1853
February 12, 1853	February 15, 1853	February 15, 1853	February 18, 1853

Source: Various issues of the *Boston Daily Atlas* and the *Halifax Novascotian*.

The *Sir John Harvey* maintained its schedule of Saturday departures from Boston, with return departures usually occurring on Tuesdays, until mid-November 1852. On Sunday, November 14, 1852, “[t]he *Sir John Harvey* went ashore . . . at 2 o’clock about 1 mile North of the Highland Light, Cape Cod, and remained until 11? am. when she got off without damage.”<sup>5</sup> Despite the fact that the *Sir John Harvey* continued to advertise Saturday departures until December 11, 1852, a review of the *Marine Journal* for the *Boston Daily Atlas*, the *Boston Post* and the *Halifax Novascotian* did not reveal any departures for the remainder of 1852 after arriving in Boston on November 26, 1852.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, November 15, 1852, p. 2.

Although the papers reported that the *Sir John Harvey* was not damaged when it went aground on November 14, 1852, it appears that she may have been damaged. A January 22, 1853 advertisement stated that, “[t]he steamship SIR JOHN HARVEY has had a large propeller put on, and will resume her weekly trips between Boston and Halifax, leaving the end Long wharf, on SATURDAY, 22d inst, at 3 o’clock, P.M.”<sup>6</sup>

Although Clark, Jones & Co. advertised that the *Sir John Harvey* would depart for Halifax on Saturday, February 19, 1853, this sailing did not take place.<sup>7</sup> Instead, on Monday, February 21, 1853, Clark, Jones & Co. announced that the *Sir John Harvey* was taking freight for an immediate departure for Sidney, Australia.<sup>8</sup> (Figure 2)



Figure 2. Clark Jones & Co. ad for service to Australia, *Boston Daily Atlas*, February 21, 1853

Despite the promise of “immediate despatch” the *Sir John Harvey* did not clear Boston for Sidney until Thursday, March 17, 1853.<sup>9</sup> As was the case when the *Sir John Harvey* stopped operating at the end of the previous November, Clark, Jones & Co. continued to advertise for sailings that would not occur. In fact, the last ad for the *Sir John Harvey* promising passage to Sidney ran on March 24, 1853—one week after the steamer departed.<sup>10</sup> After traveling to Sidney, the *Sir John Harvey* was sold to British owners in 1854, and was used to transport troops during the Crimean War. After the war, she operated between Melbourne and Sidney.<sup>11</sup>

#### The Proposed Postal Arrangement Between the United States and Nova Scotia

Pursuant to the postal arrangement between the United States and Nova Scotia, effective July 6, 1851, mail was exchanged at 6d or 10¢, paid or unpaid, with partial payment not recognized.<sup>12</sup> Most of the mails were sent overland and were exchanged between Robbinston, Maine and St. Andrews, New Brunswick. There were additional exchange offices at Houlton, Maine which exchanged with Woodstock, New Brunswick; and at Calais, Maine which exchanged with St. Stephen, New Brunswick.<sup>13</sup> Although United States Post Office Department Route Agents, also known as Steamboat Letter Carriers, carried mail on steamboats regularly operating between Boston and St. John, New Brunswick, the route agents were only authorized as far as Eastport, Maine until spring 1853.<sup>14</sup> Mail could also be sent from Boston to Halifax via the Cunard Line;

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, January 22, 1853, p. 3.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, February 19, 1853, p. 3.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, February 21, 1853, p. 3.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, March 18, 1853, p. 3.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, March 24, 1853, p. 3.

<sup>11</sup> “New South Wales Shipwrecks,” viewed at <<http://oceans1.customer.netspace.net.au/nsw-wrecks.html>>.

<sup>12</sup> *Report of the Postmaster General*, 1851, Wierenga reprint (Holland, Michigan: Theron Wierenga, 1976), p. 437.

<sup>13</sup> *Postal Laws and Regulations of the United States of America*, 1852, Wierenga reprint (Holland, Michigan: Theron Wierenga, 1980), p. 80.

<sup>14</sup> For a detailed description of this mail service, see David D’Alessandris, “Boston to St. John Steamboat Mail,” *Chronicle* No. 201 (February 2004), pp. 8-20; No. 202 (May 2004), pp. 109-116; and No. 203 (August 2004), pp. 167-186.



however, such mail was not covered by postal treaty and was subject to higher rates. Moreover, only Cunard sailings from Boston stopped at Halifax. As a result, the service was only available on a bi-weekly basis.<sup>15</sup> In an effort to provide better mail service between Halifax and the United States, the United States Post Office proposed to the Nova Scotia Post Office that the countries contract with owners of the *Sir John Harvey* to provide mail service.

The United States Congress granted authority to establish a mail route between Boston and Halifax in the Post Office Act of August 31, 1852, which provided that: the Postmaster-General be and he is hereby authorized to enter into a contract for the transportation of the United States mail on board of the steam-vessels which at present ply regularly between Boston, in the State of Massachusetts, and Halifax, in Nova Scotia, upon such terms as may appear to him reasonable . . . .<sup>16</sup>

By letter dated October 9, 1852, Samuel Dickinson Hubbard, Postmaster General (PMG) of the United States, proposed to Arthur Woodgate, Postmaster General of Nova Scotia, that the postal arrangement between the countries be modified to provide service between Boston and Halifax by the *Sir John Harvey*.<sup>17</sup> By letter dated October 26, 1852, PMG Woodgate wrote to the Provincial Secretary and Clerk of Council, Joseph Howe, to inform him of the proposed mail service, and to recommend adoption of the proposal.<sup>18</sup> On October 30, 1852, PMG Woodgate wrote PMG Hubbard to inform him that the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia had approved of the modification and to set forth proposed terms for the agreement.<sup>19</sup>

Nova Scotia formally adopted the agreement which was to take effect on December 1, 1852; however, it appears that the United States never adopted the agreement. The complete text of the proposed agreement, as reported in Nova Scotia, is reprinted at Appendix A. The key terms were that mail carried by the *Sir John Harvey* would be carried at the existing treaty rate, paid or unpaid with partial payment not recognized. Mail from the United States would be stamped "U. States" and mails from Nova Scotia would be marked "Nova Scotia." The expense of transporting the mails would be paid by the United States pursuant to the Act of August 31, 1852, and by Nova Scotia by such contract as its Post Office would enter into with the owners of the steamboat line. Additionally, the agreement provided for transmission of mails from Nova Scotia via the United States to Havana, Chagres and Panama.<sup>20</sup>

On December 3, 1852, the Nova Scotia Post Office issued Circular No 15, which notified the public of the new service and stated that letters to be carried by the steam packet should be endorsed "*Sir John Harvey*." The notice also provided that the rate to the United States was 6d per half-ounce, and listed a 9d rate to Havana, and a 1/3d rate to Chagres and Panama.<sup>21</sup>

By letter dated February 8, 1853, PMG Woodgate wrote to PMG Hubbard to complain about the United States' failure to comply with the postal agreement. PMG Woodgate wrote that:

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<sup>15</sup>Susan M. McDonald, "Cunard Packet Mail Between Nova Scotia and the United States," *Postal History Journal* No. 29 (September 1971), p. 2.

<sup>16</sup>An Act to establish certain post-roads, and for other Purposes, Aug. 31, 1852, *Statutes At Large*, Vol. X, p.189.

<sup>17</sup>Post Office Letters January 1850 - November 1853, Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management, RG24 Vol. 76, letter inserted between pages 348 and 349.

<sup>18</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 346-47.

<sup>19</sup>*Ibid.*, letter inserted between pages 348 and 349.

<sup>20</sup>Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management, RG24 Vol. 16 Document 1643.

<sup>21</sup>Nicholas Argenti, *The Postage Stamps of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia*, (Lawrence, Mass: Quarterman, 1976) p. 87.

the steam packet Sir John Harvey has twice arrived at this Port from Boston bringing a bag of loose letters but by neither trip has a mail been made up at that office in accordance with the terms of the agreement no Post Bills has accompanied the mail the letters have not been taxed nor stamped United States as determined upon.

I may add that by the last trip of this steamer from Halifax a mail was made up and forwarded in accordance with the above articles of agreement.

I lose no time in calling your attention to this matter in the hope that the necessary directions may be issued to the Post Master of Boston as early as convenient .<sup>22</sup>

The February 8, 1853, date on this letter is curious, as the second trip of the *Sir John Harvey* pursuant to the proposed contract did not arrive in Halifax until February 9. Presumably, the letter was incorrectly dated and was actually sent on February 9, or the *Sir John Harvey* arrived in Halifax on February 8, and the arrival date published in the Halifax *Novascotian*, and reproduced in Table 1, is incorrect.

PMG Woodgate again wrote to PMG Hubbard regarding the United States' failure to comply with the terms of the postal arrangement on February 14, 1853. This letter may have been carried to the United States by the last sailing of the *Sir John Harvey* which departed Halifax the following day. In the letter, PMG Woodgate wrote that:

Mr. Wier one of the Proprietors of the Steam Packet *Sir John Harvey* - has placed into my hands Copy of a letter which you had addressed to Messrs Clark & Jones of Boston relative to the arrangement not having been carried out as expressed in the articles of agreement dated 12<sup>th</sup> of November 1852 -- by which I regret to learn that it is owing to Newfound Land, and Prince Edward Island having been struck out by me before signing the agreement. My Letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> of Dec. last, yours of 6<sup>th</sup> of that month crossed on the way and I concluded after you had received my Letter in which I particularly specified that I had no jurisdiction over those Provinces that so far as the United States and Nova Scotia were concerned the agreement would have remained as altered by me.

It is true that the Post Office Department in Newfound Land and Prince Edward Island have been transferred from Imperial to Colonial Control but still I have no more jurisdiction over the Posts of these Provinces than I have over those of England or the United States.

Permit me here to explain that there is a Packet Postage between Halifax and Newfound Land which Postage must be secured to Great Britain the mails being carried to and from that Island by British Contract Packets, and over which this Province can exercise no control whatever – To carry out the proposed arrangement it will therefore be necessary for you to enter into a correspondence with the Postmasters General of Newfound Land and Prince Edward Island as I repeat I have no Control over the Postal arrangements of these Colonies.

Until I hear from you again I shall continue to despatch a mail to Boston by each trip of the “*Sir John Harvey*” and I trust that you will under the forgoing explanation - instruct the Postmaster of Boston to make up mails for Nova Scotia as originally intended for despatch by the conveyance.<sup>23</sup>

Based upon PMG Woodgate's February 14<sup>th</sup> letter, it appears that the United States never contracted with the owners of the *Sir John Harvey*, and never recognized the proposed postal arrangement. Pursuant to the common law “mirror image rule” PMG Woodgate's deletion of mail service to Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island from the proposed agreement would constitute a counter-offer which PMG Hubbard could either accept or reject. Unfortunately, none of the correspondence from PMG Hubbard to PMG Woodgate is contained in PMG Hubbard's letter book in the United States National

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<sup>22</sup>Post Office Letters January 1850 - November 1853, Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management, RG24 Vol. 76, p. 405.

<sup>23</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 407-08.

Circular No. 3.



**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC,**  
AND  
**Instructions to Postmasters and  
Way Office Keepers.**

**THE STEAMSHIP**  
**'SIR JOHN HARVEY,'**

Having been taken off the Line between this Port and Boston, and as the late Proprietors do not contemplate putting on another Steamer, the arrangement entered into with the Postmaster General of the United States and referred to in my Circular No. 15, dated 3rd December, 1852, is for the present suspended.

LETTERS, &c. will therefore be forwarded (as formerly) by the *Land Mail*, unless specially addressed *per Royal Mail Steamer*, in which case they must be prepaid.

A. WOODGATE,  
*P. M. Genl.*

*General Post Office,  
Halifax, 1st March, 1853.*

Figure 3. Nova Scotia Post Office Circular No. 3, March 1, 1853 (courtesy of Nova Scotia Archives and Record Management)

Archives.<sup>24</sup> Additionally PMG Hubbard does not appear to have issued an order establishing a postal route between Boston and Halifax.<sup>25</sup> In fact, all of the available evidence indicates that the agreement was never adopted by the United States. Moreover, in February 1853, PMG Hubbard was a lame duck following the election of President Franklin Pierce in November 1852. PMG Hubbard's last day as Postmaster General was March 7, 1853 – about two weeks after PMG Woodgate's letter would have arrived in Washington. Thus, the "contract sailings" were only contract sailings from the perspective of Nova Scotia and not from the perspective of the United States.

On February 26, 1853, PMG Woodgate wrote to Mr. Wier of Halifax, one of the proprietors of the *Sir John Harvey*, to inquire "whether it is contemplated to place another Boat on the line between Halifax & Boston."<sup>26</sup> The PMG apparently received a negative response, as on March 1, 1853, he issued Circular No. 3, which notified the public that the *Sir John Harvey* "Having been taken off the Line between this Port and Boston, and as the late Proprietors do not contemplate putting on another steamer, the arrangement entered into with the Postmaster General of the United States and referred to in my Circular No. 15, dated 3rd December, 1852, is for the present suspended."<sup>27</sup> (Figure 3) PMG Woodgate notified Provincial Secretary Howe of the suspension of the postal arrangement with the United States in a letter dated March 14, 1853.<sup>28</sup> Significantly, PMG Woodgate did not mention PMG Hubbard's apparent belief that there was no agreement; however, PMG Woodgate may have simply chosen to ignore the issue and let a sleeping dog lie.

#### Postal History of the *Sir John Harvey*

The postal history of the *Sir John Harvey* predates the proposed postal arrangement between the United States and Nova Scotia. The *Sir John Harvey* carried occasional ship letters prior to the contract period. At least two ship letters are reported, and both are addressed to D.S. Kennedy of New York City. The covers are both datelined Halifax. The first cover is datelined August 10, 1852, and entered the mails in Boston on August 12, 1852 as indicated by the Boston circular date stamp. (Figure 4) The second cover is datelined September 14, 1852, and entered the mails in Boston on September 16, 1852, again with a Boston circular date stamp. (Figure 5) As the letters were carried by a non-contract vessel, they were rated 7¢ due, comprised of the 5¢ rate for an unpaid letter traveling less than 3,000 miles plus a 2¢ ship letter fee paid to the captain of the *Sir John Harvey*.<sup>29</sup> These covers were identified based upon endorsements for carriage by the *Sir John Harvey*. Presumably, other covers exist, and it is hoped that the sailing data contained in this article will lead to the identification of other covers carried by the *Sir John Harvey*.

The sailing information and correspondence referenced above calls into question the information previously published regarding the *Sir John Harvey*.<sup>30</sup> Jephcott, Greene and

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<sup>24</sup>Records of the Immediate Office of the Postmaster General, National Archives and Records Administration, RG 28, Entry 2, Letters Sent, Vol. 72.

<sup>25</sup>Records of the Immediate Office of the Postmaster General, National Archives and Records Administration, RG 28, Entry 1, Orders, Vol. 29.

<sup>26</sup>Post Office Letters January 1850 - November 1853, Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management, RG24 Vol. 76, p. 410.

<sup>27</sup>Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management, RG24 Vol. 13.

<sup>28</sup>Post Office Letters January 1850 - November 1853, Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management, RG24 Vol. 76, p. 412.

<sup>29</sup>First cover, dated August 10, 1852, in Susan McDonbald's "Cross Border Mails United States and British North America to 1875," U.S. Philatelic Classics Society exhibit photocopy, p. 84. Second cover, dated September 14, 1852, ex Frederick Mayer, now in author's collection.

<sup>30</sup>C.M. Jephcott, V.G. Greene and John H.M. Young, *The Postal History of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, 1754-1867* (Toronto: Sissons Publications Ltd., 1964), p. 254; J.J. MacDonald, *The Nova Scotia Post, Its Offices, Masters and Marks 1700-1867* (Toronto: The Unitrade Press, 1985), pp. 183-84; "S.S. *Sir John Harvey*," *BNA Topics* No. 359 (May-June 1977), pp. 11-12.

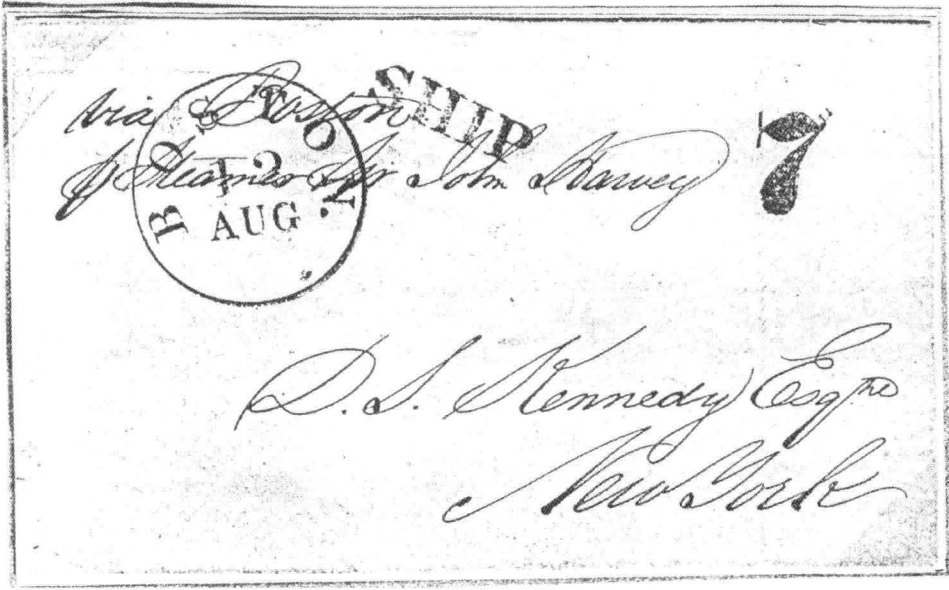


Figure 4. August 10, 1852 letter from Halifax to New York, carried by the *Sir John Harvey* (from Susan McDonald "Cross-Border Mails: United States and British North America to 1875" exhibit photocopy)

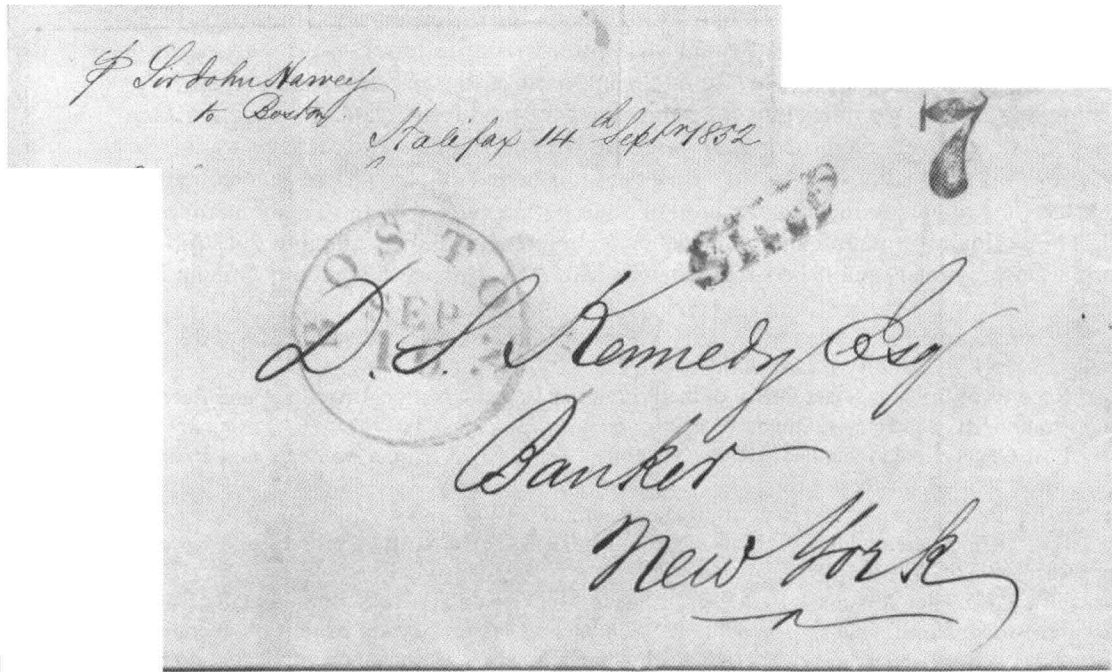


Figure 5. Letter datelined Halifax September 14, 1852, per Sir John Harvey to Boston.



Young reported that the service was started on December 3, 1852, but due to the small amount of revenue received by the service, it was discontinued on March 14, 1853.<sup>31</sup> Total revenues on the route were stated to be £5/4/9, which would equal approximately 200 letters at 6d per letter.<sup>32</sup>

Based upon the sailing information above, and PMG Woodgate's correspondence, it appears that there were only three round-trips between Boston and Halifax during the contract period. Moreover, the correspondence from PMG Woodgate indicates that only loose letters were carried from the United States on the first two contract sailings, departing Boston on January 22, 1853, and February 5, 1853.<sup>33</sup> Additionally, PMG Woodgate indicated that Nova Scotia did not send any mail by closed bag to the United States on the first contract sailing which departed Halifax on January 29, 1853.<sup>34</sup> Although it is conceivable that the United States might have sent a mail bag via the *Sir John Harvey* on the final contract sailing which departed Boston on February 12, 1853, this would be highly unlikely. PMG Woodgate's February 8, 1853 letter was likely carried on the *Sir John Harvey* arriving in Boston on February 11, 1853. The final contract sailing departed Boston for Halifax on February 12, 1853, leaving no time for the letter to reach Washington and for PMG Hubbard to instruct the Postmaster of Boston. Thus, unless the Postmaster of Boston *sua sponte* decided to comply with the proposed postal arrangement, despite the fact that the United States had not contracted with the owners of the *Sir John Harvey*, no mail was sent from the United States to Nova Scotia pursuant to the proposed agreement.

The correspondence from PMG Woodgate to PMG Hubbard makes clear that Nova Scotia sent mail at the treaty rate on the February 9, 1853, and February 15, 1853, sailings from Halifax. There are only four covers reported that were carried by the *Sir John Harvey* during the contract period. Each of these covers bears the NOVA SCOTIA "scroll" exchange office marking required by the proposed postal agreement. As the *Sir John Harvey* was the only treaty mail route between the United States and Nova Scotia prior to Confederation, these are the only covers to receive the rare "scroll" marking.

There is one cover reported from the trip arriving in Boston on February 11.<sup>35</sup> In fact, the cover bears a Boston, February 11 circular date stamp. (Figure 6) Two covers were carried from Halifax on the trip arriving in Boston on February 18, 1853. (Figures 7 & 8)<sup>36</sup> A fourth cover exists with the scroll marking; however, the date of the cover is unknown. (Figure 9)<sup>37</sup>

The Halifax exchange office would have rated each of the known covers due 10¢, pursuant to the proposed postal arrangement. The cover arriving in Boston on February 11, 1853 has a Boston SHIP marking, similar to the non-contract covers; however, the cover was not re-rated in Boston as a ship letter (due 7 rather than due 10). The other treaty covers have a STEAM marking, and do not have a Boston circular date stamp. Jephcott

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<sup>31</sup> Jephcott, p. 254.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>33</sup> Post Office Letters January 1850 - November 1853, Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management, RG24 Vol. 76, p. 405.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>35</sup> Jephcott, p. 256.

<sup>36</sup> Cover addressed to Beaver St., New York City, H.A. Harmers Sale 6, lot 1357 (Steinhart), previously sold Christies sale Oct. 4, 1984, lot 1043 (Halifax); cover addressed to Wall Street, New York City, H.R. Harmer Sale 2944, lot 611 (Mayer); *BNA Topics*, Vol. 34, No. 3 (May-June 1977)(Whole No. 359), p. 11.

<sup>37</sup> R. Maresch & Son Auction 141, lot 265, May 27, 1982.

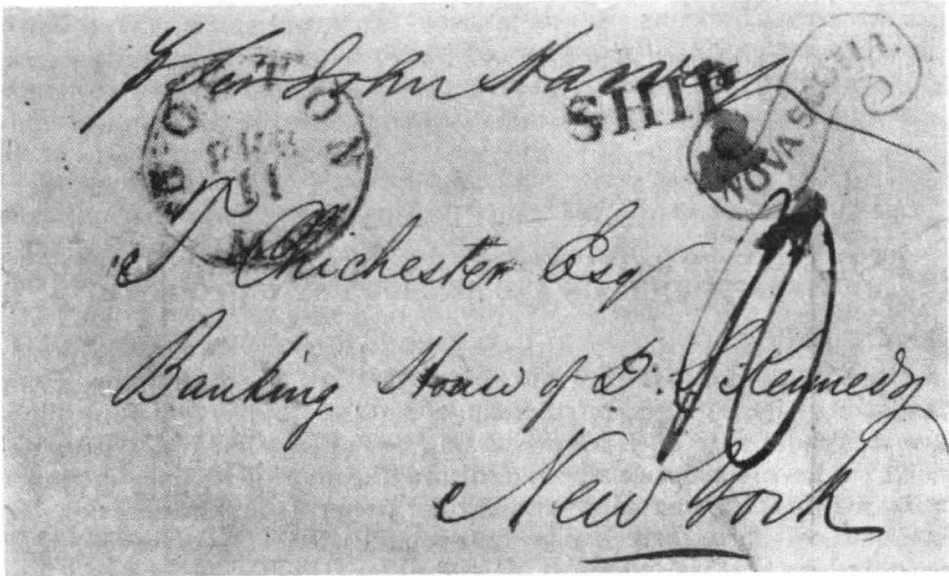


Figure 6. Cover carried on the second contract sailing of the *Sir John Harvey* (from Jephcott, p. 256)

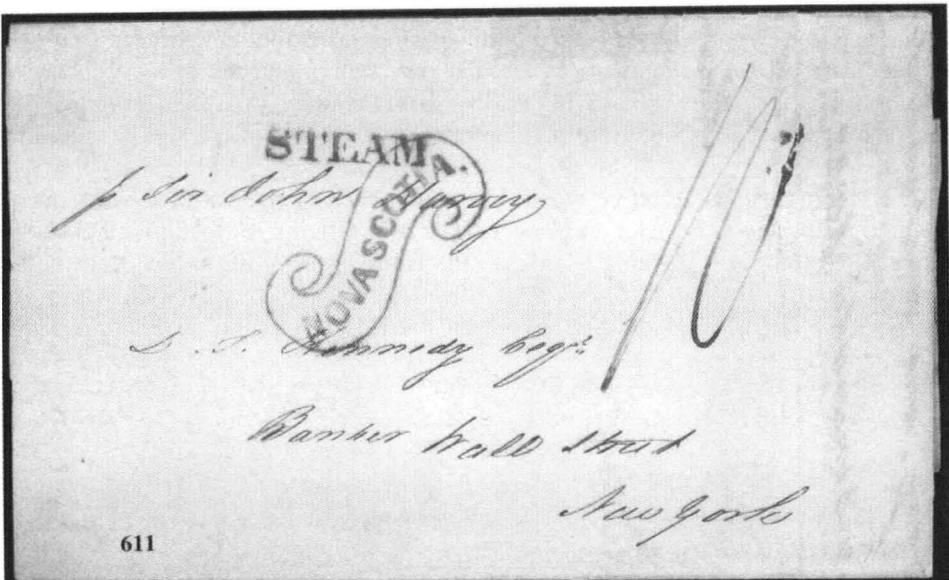


Figure 7. Cover carried on the third contract sailing of the *Sir John Harvey*

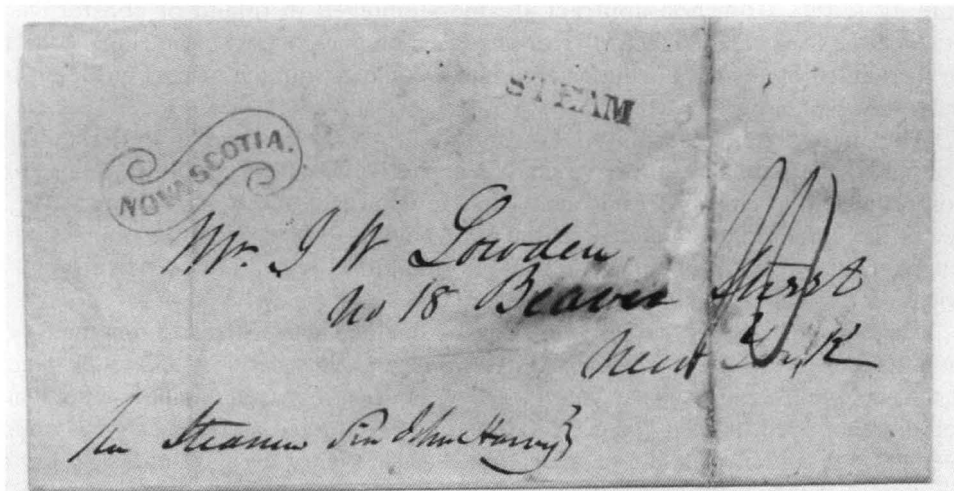


Figure 8. Cover carried on the third contract sailing of the *Sir John Harvey*



Figure 9. Cover, date unknown, carried on a contract sailing of the *Sir John Harvey* (courtesy of R. Maresch and Son Auctions Ltd.)

indicates that the STEAM marking was a Halifax marking; however, it is clearly a Boston marking.<sup>38</sup> In the United States, STEAM, short for Steamboat, markings were applied to incoming letters from non-contract steamers engaged in inland or coastal trade.<sup>39</sup> Moreover, the use of the “STEAM” marking, used on non-contract steamers, is consistent with the United States not having entered into a contract with the owners of the *Sir John Harvey*.

The inconsistent use of “SHIP” and “STEAM” markings is understandable. Presumably, the letters would have arrived at the Boston Post Office in a closed-bag, accompanied by a letter-bill, and rated 10¢ due. However, the Boston Post Office, if it knew of the proposed postal agreement at all, would have been under the impression that the agreement had not been enacted. Thus, Boston probably had no idea how to properly account for the letters arriving from Halifax.

No covers carried by the *Sir John Harvey* from the United States, during the contract period, have been reported. However, PMG Woodgate’s February 8, 1853 letter indicates that the *Sir John Harvey* was carrying loose letters when it arrived in Halifax, but that the letters had not been marked “U. STATES, and were not rated according to the proposed agreement. Presumably, these letters were rated as ship letters by the Halifax Post Office. Such covers, if they exist today, would not have any United States postal markings. The author would be interested in any reports of covers carried by the *Sir John Harvey* not included in this article. □

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<sup>38</sup>Jephcott, p. 255; compare Maurice C. Blake and Wilbur W. Davis, *Boston Postmarks to 1890* (Lawrence, MA: Quarterman Publications Inc., 1974), pp. 56-57.

<sup>39</sup>Theron Wierenga, *United States Incoming Steamship Mail, 1847-1875*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Austin, TX: U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc.: 2000), p 1.

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## APPENDIX A

### Text of Proposed Nova Scotia - U.S. Postal Agreement

At a Council held at Government House on the 1st day of December, 1852.

#### PRESENT :

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor,  
&c. &c. &c.

Whereas a certain agreement has been duly authorized and entered into by and between the Postmaster General of the United States and the Postmaster General of this Province, for establishing and regulating the interchange of Mails between the United States and Nova-Scotia, in terms or to the effect following:

1. That there shall be an exchange of Mails between the United States and Nova-Scotia at the following points, viz :

On the side of the United States, at Boston, Mass.

On the side of Nova-Scotia, at Halifax, N. S.

2. The postage to be charged in the United States on a letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, to or from Nova-Scotia and Cape Breton, shall be five cents (three pence) for any distance within the United States, not exceeding 3000 miles, and exceeding 3000 miles within the United States, ten cents (six pence) the single letter. Every additional weight of half an ounce, or additional weight of less than half an ounce, to be charged as one additional rate; the rates in this section mentioned having been adopted and agreed upon by the Postmaster General of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the President.

3. The aggregate postage to be charged in Nova-Scotia and Cape Breton, or any one or more of them, on a letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, to or from the United States, shall be five cents (three pence) for any distance in either of the said Provinces; and every additional weight of half an ounce, or additional weight of less than half an ounce to be charged as an additional rate.

4. Upon all letters posted in the United States, to be delivered in Nova-Scotia and Cape Breton, or posted in Nova-Scotia and Cape Breton, to be delivered in the United States, these rates shall be combined into one rate, of which, payment in advance, shall be optional in either country; less than the whole combined rate cannot be pre-paid.

5. The Post Office Department of the United States will collect and keep all the postages on the unpaid letters from Nova-Scotia above named, as well as the postages on letters to Nova-Scotia aforesaid, pre-paid in the United States; and the Post Office Department of Nova-Scotia will collect and keep all the postages on the unpaid letters from the United States, as well as the postages on letters pre-paid in Nova-Scotia aforesaid to the United States.

6. Each Mail dispatched from one country to the other shall be accompanied by a letter or post bill, shewing the number of letters so posted, and distinguishing the paid from the unpaid, and their postage in separate columns.

7. The postage on Newspapers, Pamphlets, Magazines, unsealed Circulars, and all other printed matter, must be pre-paid, or sent free to the line in the country where posted, and any postage afterwards accruing thereon, beyond the line, is to be collected and retained by the Post Office Department of the country in which it accrues. Newspapers, Pamphlets, &c., if not forwarded in covers open at the end or sides, will be subject to letter postage.

8. The postage stamps of either country shall be taken as evidence of the pre-payment of postage.

9. The Post Office designated for the dispatch and receipt of the Provincial Mails, on the side of the United States, will stamp "U. States" upon all letters sent into Nova-Scotia, &c. for delivery; and the office designated for the dispatch and receipt of United States Mails on the side of Nova-Scotia, will stamp "Nova-Scotia" upon all letters sent into the United States for delivery.

10. The Post Office Departments of the United States and Nova-Scotia shall each return to the other all dead letters, unopened, and without charge, every three months, or oftener, as may best suit the general regulations of each department.

11. The expense of transporting the Mails, by Steamboat, between the respective Exchange Offices, weekly, or oftener, as the case may be, shall, on the part of the United States, be borne, subject to the provisions of the Second Section of an Act of Congress, entitled, "An Act to establish certain Post Roads, and for other purposes," approved August 31, 1852, authorizing, on certain conditions, a Contract for the transportation of the United States Mail on board the Steam Vessels at present plying regularly between Boston and Halifax; and, on the part of Nova-Scotia, by such Contract as its Post Office Department may hereafter make for the purpose, with the proprietors of said Steamboat line.

12. This Agreement shall go into operation on the First of December, 1852; and it may be modified from time to time as may be agreed upon by the parties thereto, and it may be annulled by the desire of either party upon three months notice.

13. Should it be found desirable, Letters and Newspapers may be sent in transit thro' the United States to and from Havana, (Cuba,) and Chagres and Panama, (New Granada,) the Post Office Department of Nova-Scotia to account to the United States Post Office Department for the transit and sea postage at ten cents the single rate on letters to and from Havana, and twenty cents the single rate to and from Chagres and Panama, and two cents per Newspaper in either case, or "closed Mails" may be sent between Nova-Scotia and Havana, via the United States, at twenty-five cents per ounce for letters, and two cents per Newspaper, and between Nova-Scotia and Chagres or Panama, via the U. States, at fifty cents per ounce for letters, and two cents per Newspaper, the postage on such closed Mails to be accounted for quarterly to the Post Office Department of the United States.

Now therefore, in pursuance and exercise of the authority vested in this Board by the Revised Statutes—Title Fourth, Chap. Number Twenty-three ("Of the Post Office,") Sec. Number Four—His Excellency, by and with the advice of the Council, doth order, and it is hereby ordered, that in conformity with such agreement, which is hereby approved and confirmed, the Rates of Postage in the said Agreement specified, shall be charged and payable according to the force and effect of the said Agreement, from and after this date.

And the Postmaster General of Nova-Scotia, on the part of the Province, is to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

W. M. H. KEATING, D. C. C.

Courtesy of Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management



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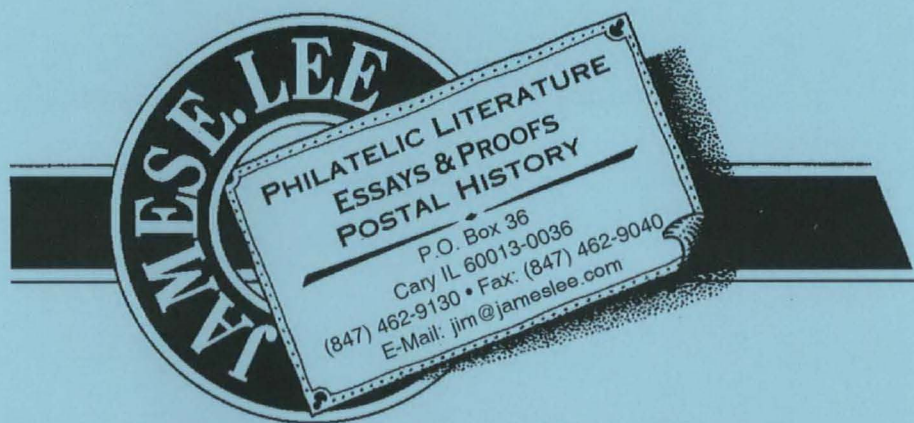


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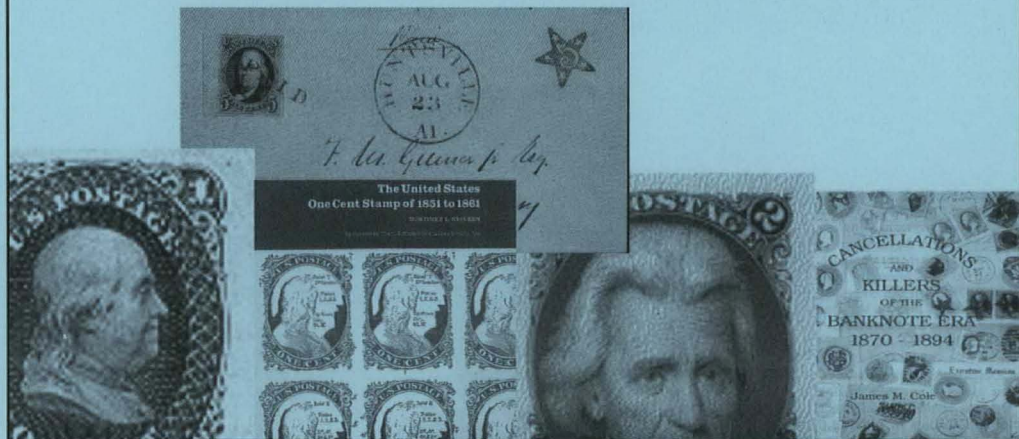
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