

The

# Chronicle

of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues



Manuscript cancels on 1847 stamps come in many forms, some of them highly artistic, others simply whimsical. Only a few manuscript cancels followed the rules. In our 1847 section, Wade Saadi illustrates many varieties and explains the rules.

# Seeking that rarely encountered piece of American postal history?



Our public auctions regularly feature important 19th and early 20th century United States and Possessions postal history.

Always America's key source for outstanding specialist material.



**H.R. HARMER**  
Since 1940, philately's house  
of major name auctions.

For more information regarding our upcoming auctions, to view prices realized, or request a catalog, email us, visit our website or call us.

5 Francis J. Clarke Drive • Bethel, CT 06801 USA  
Phone: 1.800.782.6771 | Fax: 203.702.8491  
E-Mail: hrharmer@hrharmer.com

[www.hrharmer.com](http://www.hrharmer.com)

THE CHRONICLE of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues is published quarterly in February, May, August and November by the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc. at P.O. Box 750368, New Orleans, LA 70175. Periodicals-class postage paid at Madrid, IA 50156 and additional mailing office. Subscription price \$24. Printed in the U.S.A. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 102 Old Pawling Road, Pawling, NY 12564.



# HERITAGE

## RARE STAMP SIGNATURE® AUCTIONS

### HERITAGE/BENNETT DECEMBER SIGNATURE® AUCTION SHOWS STAMP MARKET LOOKING STRONG

- 1 1917 1c Green,  
Perf.10 at Top (498g)  
Scott \$15,000  
Price Realized: \$21,850 December 2009  
HA.com/1111-37044
- 2 Liverpool Prices Current carried on  
the first transatlantic voyage of H.M.S.  
Unicorn,  
May 16, 1840.  
Price Realized: \$10,925 December 2009  
HA.com/1111-32046
- 3 1c Panama-Pacific (397)  
PSA Gem 100, NH  
Price Realized: \$4,312 December 2009  
HA.com/1111-40003
- 4 1c 1851 "Big Crack" on cover to England  
Price Realized: \$10,925 December 2009  
HA.com/1111-32004
- 5 Pair of 2c 1869 Pictorials on cover to St.  
Lucia, B.W.I.  
Priced Realized: \$11,500 December 2009  
HA.com/1111-32231
- 6 Two Boston newspapers, January 2nd &  
9th, 1783, sent by post and containing  
the first published record, serialized in  
two parts, of the "Ordinance passed  
by the United States of America, in  
Congress assembled, October 18, 1782  
entitled An ORDINANCE for regulating  
the Post Office of the United States of  
America."  
Price Realized: \$10,925 December 2009  
HA.com/1111-32002
- 7 Newspaper wrapper from Hawaii to New  
York postmarked red oval "U.S./ Postage  
Paid", one of only five recorded usages  
of the this marking  
Price Realized: \$18,400 December 2009  
HA.com/1111-32006
- 8 \$2 on \$1 Shanghai  
Double Overprint (K16a)  
Used Pair. Scott \$16,000  
Price Realized: \$27,600 December 2009  
HA.com/1111-37033



The stamp market has indeed staged a dynamic comeback. Consequently, with such a vibrant stamp market, Spring 2010 will be an excellent time to consign your stamps and covers to our March Signature® Auction. If you are considering dispersing all, or a portion, of your collection, we would be happy to schedule a visit to discuss the substantial benefits we offer our Heritage consignors. Please contact Harvey Bennett, at 214-409-1156, HarveyB@HA.com, or Steve Crippe at 214-409-1777, StevenC@HA.com.



Steven Crippe  
Managing Director  
214-409-1777  
or StevenC@HA.com



Harvey Bennett  
Director of Philately  
214-409-1156  
HarveyB@HA.com

Receive a free copy of the next Stamp catalog, or one from another Heritage category. Register online at HA.com/USPC18591 or call 866-835-3243 and mention reference #USPC18591.

Annual Sales Exceed \$600 Million • 475,000+ Registered Online Bidder-Members  
3500 Maple Ave, 17th Floor • Dallas, Texas 75219 • 800-872-6467 ext. 1777 • HA.com

**HERITAGE**  
Auction Galleries HA.com  
**BENNETT**  
The World's Largest Collectibles Auctioneer

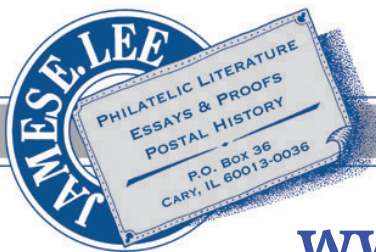
NYCAuctioneer licenses: Samuel Foose 0952360; Robert Korver 1096338; Leo Frese 1094963; Michael J. Sadler 1304630; Scott Peterson 1306933; Harvey Bennett 0924050; Andrea Voss 1320558; Nicholas Dawes 1304724. This auction is subject to a 15% buyer's premium.

Unsurpassed Quality.  
Let us build your great collection.



**47P3 - Plate Block**

90c Deep Blue india paper plate proof imprint plate number block  
of 12. A great rarity as only a couple exist. Ex-Finkelburg  
**\$3,250.00**



Phone: (847) 462-9130 • Email: jim@jameslee.com

[www.JamesLee.com](http://www.JamesLee.com)



# The Chronicle

## of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues

February 2010

Published Quarterly in  
February, May, August and November

Vol. 62, No. 1  
Whole No. 225

\$4.50 Members  
\$6.00 Non-Members

Official publication of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc.  
(Unit 11, A.P.S.) www.uspcs.org

Annual Dues  
\$27.50

### EDITORIAL BOARD

MICHAEL LAURENCE (plaurance@nyc.rr.com).....	<i>Editor-in-Chief</i>
324 East 41st Street, Apartment 1001-C, New York, NY 10017	
JAMES W. MILGRAM, M.D. (j-milgram@northwestern.edu).....	<i>Prestamp &amp; Stampless Period</i>
1352 Estate Lane, Lake Forest, IL 60045	
GORDON STIMMELL (stimmell@sympatico.ca).....	<i>U.S. Carriers &amp; Independent Mails</i>
203 Willow Avenue, Toronto, ONT M4E 3K4, Canada	
WADE E. SAADI (wade@pencom.com).....	<i>1847 Period</i>
93 80th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11209	
MICHAEL C. McCLUNG (mmcc767166@aol.com).....	<i>1861-69 Period</i>
4809-D Kingshill Drive, Columbus, OH 43229	
SCOTT R. TREPTEL (strepel@siegelauctions.com).....	<i>1869 Period</i>
Robert A. Siegel Auctions, 60 East 56th Street, New York, NY 10022	
JEFFREY FORSTER, Assistant (jforstr@pacbell.net)	
MATTHEW KEWRIGA (matt@kewriga.com).....	<i>Bank Note Period</i>
7 Tracy Lyn Road, Holliston, MA 01746	
ALAN CAMPBELL (alanccamp@aol.com).....	<i>Officials</i>
2746 29th Street, San Diego, CA 92105	
LESTER C. LANPHEAR III, Assistant (llanphear@earthlink.net)	
JAMES E. LEE (jim@jameslee.com).....	<i>Essays &amp; Proofs</i>
P.O. Box 36, Cary, IL 60013	
STEVEN WALSKÉ (swalske@myriadllc.com).....	<i>The Western Mails</i>
2118 Vallejo Street, San Francisco, CA 94123	
RICHARD F. WINTER (rfwinter@bellsouth.net).....	<i>The Foreign Mails</i>
31 Flagship Cove, Greensboro, NC 27455	
DWAYNE O. LITTAUER, Assistant (dl@kullmanlaw.com)	
GREG SUTHERLAND (gregfree@coax.net).....	<i>The Cover Corner</i>
P.O. Box 24231, Dayton, OH 45425	
JOHN W. WRIGHT, Assistant (vwr6712105@aol.com)	

### SOCIETY OFFICERS

WADE E. SAADI (wade@pencom.com).....	<i>President</i>
93 80th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11209	
JOHN BARWIS (jbarwis@charter.net).....	<i>Vice President</i>
P.O. Box 8035, Holland, MI 49422	
CHARLES J. DICOMO (charles.dicomo@uspcs.org).....	<i>Secretary</i>
102 Old Pawling Road, Pawling, NY 12564	
ROB LUND (robinlund@comcast.net).....	<i>Assistant Secretary/Membership Chairman</i>
2913 Fulton, Everett, WA 98201	
DWAYNE O. LITTAUER (dl@kullmanlaw.com).....	<i>Treasurer</i>
P.O. Box 750368, New Orleans, LA 70175	
DIRECTORS: JAMES ALLEN '12; JOHN BARWIS '12; DAVID D'ALESSANDRIS '12; CHARLES J. DICOMO '12; JOHN FLANNERY '10; MICHAEL HELLER '11; JAMES E. LEE '11; DWAYNE O. LITTAUER '10; ROB LUND '11; STEPHEN B. PACETTI '11; NORVAL RASMUSSEN '10; WADE E. SAADI '10; <i>EX OFFICIO</i> : THOMAS J. ALEXANDER, VAN KOPPERSMITH, PATRICIA STILWELL WALKER, RICHARD F. WINTER	
ALEXANDER T. HAIMANN (bretalex1@aol.com).....	<i>Publicist</i>
3965 Kirkland Court, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302	
DAVID D'ALESSANDRIS (dalessandris@comcast.net).....	<i>Advertising Manager</i>
2900 N. Rochester Street, Arlington, VA 22213	
WALTER DEMMERLE (demmerle@cox.net).....	<i>Publication Sales Chairman</i>
821 Winthorpe Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23452	

Address changes should be sent to Secretary, back issue requests to Publication Sales Chairman, other correspondence to the Editor-in-Chief. Reports of new items or articles should be submitted to appropriate Section Editor or to the Editor-in-Chief. Do not send stamps or covers unless requested. Any items sent will be carefully guarded but no liability attaches to the Society or to any editor. ISSN 0009-6008.

# STAMPLESS COVERS



## “FREDRI'K TOWN” straight-line

Fredericktown, Maryland – circa 1787, straight-line postmark and manuscript “Free/Thomas Jones” postmaster’s free frank on exceptionally fresh folded address sheet, with 2008 PF certificate, *ex Pennsylvania Historical Society*



# RUPP BROTHERS

Post Office Box 487 • Locust Valley, New York 11560 • 516-364-3701

E-mail: [ruppbrothers@mindspring.com](mailto:ruppbrothers@mindspring.com)



## CONTENTS

THE EDITOR'S PAGE	
In This Issue	
<i>by Michael Laurence</i> .....	7
PRESTAMP AND STAMPLESS PERIOD	
"Forwarded" and "Missent" Postal Markings on U.S. Stampless Covers	
<i>by James W. Milgram</i> .....	9
CARRIERS AND INDEPENDENT MAILS	
The Descent into Darkness of Lewis the Light	
<i>by Gordon Stimmell and John Bowman</i> .....	21
THE 1847 PERIOD	
Collector Finds 1847 Cover from his Great-Great Grandfather	
<i>by Irvin L. Heimbürger</i> .....	28
Manuscript Pen Cancels on 1847 Stamps	
<i>by Wade E. Saadi</i> .....	29
THE 1851 PERIOD	
Four Carrier Covers with the 1¢ Stamp of 1857-1861	
<i>by Jay Kunstreich</i> .....	35
THE 1861-69 PERIOD	
Strip of Ten 3¢ 1861 Stamps on Cover	
<i>by Michael C. McClung</i> .....	38
THE 1869 PERIOD	
The 1869 Pictorial Issue at Bellefonte	
<i>by Scott R. Trepel</i> .....	40
OFFICIALS	
Constant Plate Varieties on the 1873 Official Stamps: Post Office Department	
<i>by George G. Sayers</i> .....	51
THE WESTERN MAILS	
Kearney's California Mail Route	
<i>by Richard Frajola and Floyd Risvold</i> .....	61
THE FOREIGN MAILS	
Philadelphia's Transatlantic Mail Delay During the Winter of 1834-1835	
<i>by John Barwis</i> .....	63
SPECIAL FEATURE	
The Postal History of U.S. Stamp Collecting, 1862-1899, Part 2	
<i>by Steven R. Belasco</i> .....	67
THE COVER CORNER .....	86
ADVERTISER INDEX .....	88

# Looking for a professional who shares your passion for collecting?

Our clients sometimes wonder why we get so excited about a superb stamp, a rare cancel, or an unusual cover.

The answer?

We love stamps.

In fact, if we weren't America's premier stamp auctioneers, we would probably be America's premier stamp *collectors*.

Each Siegel auction is like our own collection. We hunt for the best material. We carefully present it in one of our award-winning catalogues. And when it's done, we get to start again!

So, how can our passion benefit you?

Think about it. In any field, the best professionals have it in their blood.

Sports, music, medicine...stamps.

When you want the best, you want someone who loves what they do, because their enthusiasm and

experience will work for you.

Other stamp firms can do the job by the book. But the philatelists at Siegel have more of what it takes to do the best job.

Passion.



*Robert A. Siegel*

AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.

Scott R. Trepel, President

For information about our auctions or to request a copy of the next sale catalogue and newsletter, please write to:

Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.  
60 East 56th Street, 4th Floor  
New York, New York 10022

Phone (212) 753-6421 Fax (212) 753-6429

E-mail: [stamps@siegelauctions.com](mailto:stamps@siegelauctions.com)

For on-line catalogues, prices realized and the Siegel Encyclopedia

[www.siegelauctions.com](http://www.siegelauctions.com)



## IN THIS ISSUE

In our 1869 section, starting on page 40, Scott Trepel provides a personal appreciation of the 1869 exhibits at the Classics 2009 event, held in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, over Halloween weekend. I was a participant and I concur in Trepel's conclusions: Competitive exhibiting is fine, but there's an educational role to be played by non-competitive exhibiting, as the Bellefonte show proved. This was the finest presentation of 1869 material ever assembled. Congratulations to all who were involved in staging this memorable event.

Two articles in our 1847 section approach the same subject from different perspectives. On page 28, Irvin Heimburger tells how he bid on an 1847 cover because its franking filled a need in his collection. Only after acquiring the item did he discover that it bore the signature of his great-great grandfather—the man after whom he is named. On page 29, Wade Saadi looks at manuscript cancels on the 1847 stamps. Saadi explains the origins of collector prejudice against such cancels, cites the regulations that specified how they were to be applied, and shows some examples of how postmasters skirted the rules.

This issue also includes the second installment of Steven Belasco's ongoing exploration of covers involving 19th century U.S. stamp dealers and stamp collectors. The current chapter, starting on page 67, deals with the decade of the 1870s, when the reach of the stamp hobby spread across the United States (as evidenced by some very colorful covers).

Our Carriers and Independent Mails section (page 21) presents the results of an investigation, conducted by Gordon Stimmell and John Bowman, into the life and works of Lewis Burgess Greenslade. Greenslade was an early stamp dealer and certifiably insane. While no covers have been found, some of the Greenslade's local stamps survive with postal cancellations; it's likely the Greenslade labels were used as carrier stamps in Los Angeles in the summer of 1883. The research in the Stimmel-Bowman piece, remarkable in its detail, is eloquent testimony to the investigatory power of Google and the Internet.

Missent and forwarded markings are James Milgram's subject in the Prestamp and Stampless section this issue. Starting on page 9, Milgram presents a well-illustrated article that includes the beginnings of a catalog listing of these markings, which will be included as a separate grouping in the next edition of the U.S. stampless cover catalog.

By the time this *Chronicle* appears, the Floyd Risvold collections will have been sold. I've just received the catalogs for the Spink-Shreve sales; both the collections and the catalogs are staggering. Before he died, Mr. Risvold had been collaborating with postal historian Richard Frajola on a series of articles based on notable western covers in the Risvold collection. One of the results of this collaboration fills our Western Mails section this issue (page 61). The article illustrates and describes a cover, the only example known, carried on the U.S. government mail route that operated in Mexican California.

And there's more. In our 1851 section on page 35, Jay Kunstreich examines four carrier covers, all bearing perforated 1¢ Franklin stamps but representing different combinations or uses. George Sayers continues his elucidation of the plate varieties on the 1873 Official stamps, this time (page 51) exploring the challenging Post Office departmentals. On page 38, Michael McClung presents a cover with a strip of 10 3¢ 1861 stamps. There can be no longer strip. And John Barwis, in our Foreign Mails section (page 63), examines two covers, from Liverpool to Philadelphia, that used different routes to cope with weather-related travel delays in the severe winter of 1834-35. *Plus ça change.* ■



## **Treat Your Ponies Right!** **Pony Express Covers Benefit from** **Philatelic Foundation Certificates** *Your Stamps and Covers Will, Too*

**P**ony Express covers are among the most popular and valuable U.S. postal history items. Herds of them have been examined by the experts at The Philatelic Foundation. After careful study, this lovely cover with a \$1 Pony Express stamp on a 10¢ green entire and a blue oval Running Pony cancellation was determined to be genuine in all respects by our experts.

Why do savvy collectors and knowledgeable dealers turn to The Philatelic Foundation for their opinions? Because PF opinions are respected and add additional value to genuine stamps and covers. Simply put, many stamps and covers are worth more with a PF Certificate than without one.

### **Submit Your Stamps and Covers Today for a PF Certificate**

The same experts who worked on this Pony Express cover will examine your stamps and covers. These experts will access the same multimillion-dollar reference collection, apply decades of scholarship and issue an opinion you can trust.

Call 1-212-221-6555 or visit [www.PhilatelicFoundation.org](http://www.PhilatelicFoundation.org) today to download a submission form. Fill out the one-page form and send it to us with your stamp or cover.

**Reward yourself with the security of a Philatelic Foundation Certificate – the gold standard of philatelic certificates for over 60 years.**



### **The Philatelic Foundation**

70 West 40th Street, 15th Floor  
New York, NY 10018  
(212) 221-6555  
[www.PhilatelicFoundation.org](http://www.PhilatelicFoundation.org)



## PRESTAMP & STAMPLESS PERIOD

JAMES W. MILGRAM, EDITOR

### “FORWARDED” AND “MISSENT” POSTAL MARKINGS ON UNITED STATES STAMPLESS COVERS

JAMES W. MILGRAM, M. D.

Forwarding of mail was a common occurrence on domestic stampless covers.<sup>1</sup> While most towns just handstamped a new town marking where forwarding took place, sometimes adding “Forwarded” or “Fwd” in manuscript, some post offices employed handstamps mostly reading “FORWARDED.” These postal markings are largely unlisted in the present catalogs.

In addition, there is a second related usage. Letters were often missent to the wrong town and had to be forwarded from there to the intended location. While additional postage was collected for forwarded letters, missent letters were not charged additional postage. Some of these covers bear manuscript or handstamped postal markings to explain this. The most common handstamped marking is “MISSENT”, but some towns combined the two markings so we find “MISSENT AND FORWARDED” handstamps too.

These three categories of handstamped post office markings—FORWARDED, MISSENT and MISSENT AND FORWARDED—are the subject of this article. Copies of covers bearing such markings are sought so the markings can be listed in the new edition of the stampless cover catalog, currently being prepared by the United States Philatelic Classics Society. Photocopies or scans should be sent to the author at the address shown in the masthead. Please indicate the year date if known and provide measurements of the handstamps in millimeters.

#### Forwarded Handstamps

The use of forwarding to allow mail to reach the addressee goes back to Colonial days in the United States. The mails were slow and often a person who was traveling had moved on to another town while his letter was in transit. Handstamps to indicate forwarding appear to date from the 1820s, but the majority are from the 1840s and thereafter.

Figure 1 shows a ship letter from Cuba addressed to the head of a large Cuban commission-merchant firm who was visiting the United States in 1836. The cover was addressed to New York and therefore was rated due “6,” the port-of-entry rate for a ship letter. When received at New York such letters usually bear only the rate, with no town postmark. However, this letter was “FORWARDED” so it shows a town postmark (“NEW –YORK SEP 9”) and a new address at Boston. The receiving firm of Howland & Aspinwall knew the addressee was headed to Boston and caused the New York post office to reroute the letter. The boxed “FORWARDED” marking was applied at New York. Postage from New York to Boston, 18¾ cents, was added to the original 6¢ to total 24¾¢ collect postage.

<sup>1</sup> Milgram, James W., “Forwarded Covers in the Stampless Era,” *Chronicle* 212, pp. 248-251 (November, 2006).



Figure 1. Ship letter from Cuba with 6¢ cents due at New York in 1836. Forwarded to Boston with New York handstamped “FORWARDED” in rectangle and a total of 24¾¢ postage due.



Figure 2. 1842 cover from Philadelphia to Kingston, Rhode Island, forwarded to Wickford, R.I. Kingston applied its “FORWARDED” marking in green ink matching its circular datestamp.

Figure 2 shows a very unusual “FORWARDED” marking in green ink, matching the green “KINGSTON R.I. AUG 5” [1842] circular datestamp. Note the contrasting blue postmark, dated AUG 1 and applied at the office of origin, Philadelphia. To the original





Figure 3. 1849 letter from Maine to a hotel in New York. The hotel forwarded the letter to another hotel in Washington, D.C., and the letter was charged additional postage for forwarding. The straightline “FORWARDED” is a postal marking applied at the New York post office.



Figure 4. This cover from the late 1840s was forwarded twice with an original postage of 5¢ and two 5¢ additions. The last postmaster summed up with red handstamps the 15¢ due and struck these over the original green “5”. The “FORWARDED” handstamp was likely applied at Stockbridge.

18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ postage, Kingston added 10¢ for forwarding the letter to Wickford, Rhode Island.

A similar handstamp is shown on the cover in Figure 3. Originating at “BANGOR Me. OCT 3” [1849] and rated 10¢ due in a matching faint red handstamp, this cover was sent to a guest at Rathbun’s Hotel in New York City. The hotel applied its ornamental handstamp and transported the letter back to the post office, whence it was sent to Coleman’s Hotel in Washington, D.C. The red “FORWARDED” marking and the “NEW-YORK OCT 11” circular datestamp seem to have been applied in the same ink. Note that the hotel





Figure 5. An unusual red “FORWD” marking was applied at Milledgeville, Georgia, to forward this letter on to Savannah.

handstamp is actually carmine while the New York markings are orange. This cover was charged 5¢ for forwarding over a distance of less than 300 miles; 15¢ was collected from the recipient when the cover reached him in Washington.

The cover in Figure 4 was posted sometime during the 1845-1851 rate period. It began at “CAMBRIDGE, Ms. SEP 16” with a matching blue-green “5” handstamped rate marking. From Albany, New York, the original destination, it was forwarded to Stockbridge, Mass., and charged another 5¢. The red “STOCKBRIDGE Ms. SEP 20” goes with a second forwarding, to West Stockbridge, Mass. I don’t know if the “FORWARDED” handstamp was applied at Albany or at Stockbridge, but since it seems to show the same red ink, I will go with Stockbridge. An interesting feature of this twice-forwarded cover is that the Stockbridge postmaster added a red “15” (probably a separate “1” and a “5”) right over the original green “5”.

Two markings have been seen with the word “forwarded” abbreviated to “FORWD” with the “D” high and smaller than the other letters. Figure 5 shows one of these, from “COLUMBIA Pa, DEC 3” addressed to Georgia and originally rated 25¢ due. At “MILLEDGEVILLE Ga. DEC 14” the cover was forwarded with a red pen “18¾” rating expressing the additional postage; the red-straight line “FORWD.” was added too. A total of 43¾¢ postage was due at Savannah, Georgia.

A cover dating about ten years later, during the period of the 1851 stamps, is shown in Figure 6. This bears an imperforate 3¢ stamp tied by a “ST. LOUIS JUN 1 3” postmark. This is the only integral-rate postmark of this nature. The cover was forwarded with matching “WHEELING Va. JUN 7”, “FORWARDED” and a “PAID 3” in fancy frame. This latter is a stampless marking. The cover also shows a manuscript “charge to box” notation. Since the notation is in the upper right and the stamp is in the upper left, I surmise that the notation refers to the original 3¢ postage, paid by the stamp. The initials of the sender are also different from those of the addressee. That leaves the question of who paid the 3¢ forwarding postage at Wheeling. Travellers often arranged for postage to be left with the postmaster, so forwarded letters from the 1850s and 1860s often show a second stamp for forwarding.

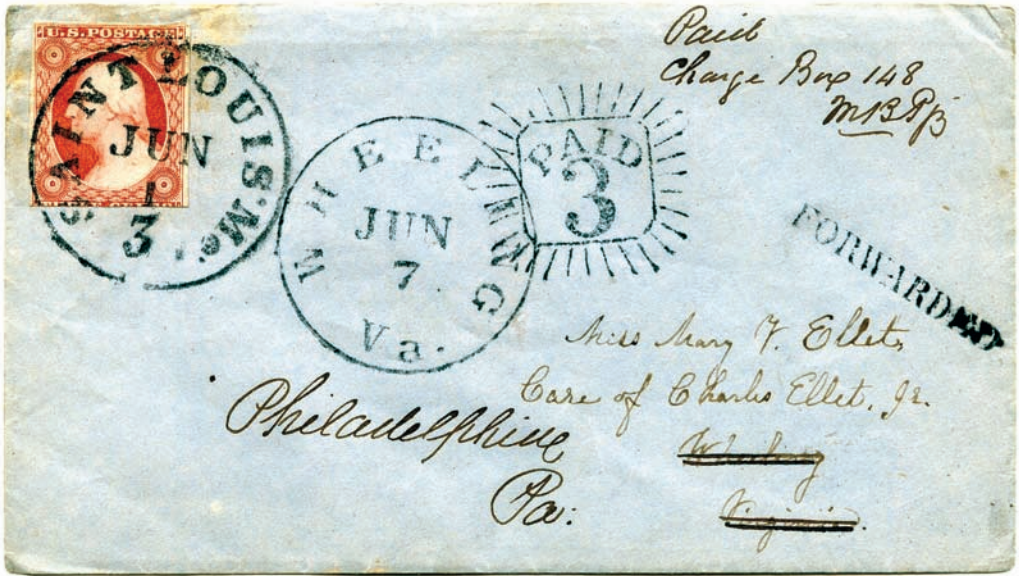


Figure 6. Addressed to Wheeling, Virginia and posted at St. Louis with a 3¢ 1851 stamp, this cover was forwarded at Wheeling with the black straight-line FORWARDED marking and fancy “PAID 3”. The “charge to box” notation probably pertains to the originating post office at St. Louis.



Figure 7. Express Mail cover sent from Savannah, Georgia, at the 75¢ triple rate. The cover is addressed to Washington, D.C. but was mistakenly sent to New York. New York applied the “MISSENT” marking and forwarded it to Washington.

### Missent Handstamps

“Missent” handstamps were applied to letters that were misdirected by postal employees. Postal patrons were not to be charged additional postage for such mistakes. Figure 7 shows a cover from the first Express Mail of 1836-1839 which originated at Fort Heileman, East Florida, a fort in Florida Territory. It was mailed at “SAVANNAH GEO JUL





Figure 8. 1844 letter from Falls Village, Connecticut, to the U.S. arsenal at West Troy, New York. Sent by mistake to Troy (instead of West Troy), it bears a “MISSENT” marking and so was not charged additional postage.



Figure 9. 1845 letter from Falls Village, Connecticut, same correspondence as the Figure 8 cover but with “West” was omitted from address. Properly sent to Troy, New York, and “FORWARDED” with an additional 6¢ forwarding charge, the minimum rate.

14”. Savannah marked the letter “PAID” and applied the manuscript “75” indicating triple rate by express. Note this was an official dispatch, addressed to the Assistant Quartermaster General of the United States in Washington, D.C. But the letter was missent to New York City, where it received a July 20 postmark and the boxed “MISSENT” straightline marking. This letter traveled very fast to reach New York in just six days. There is no indication whether it traveled by express mail back to Washington, the intended destination. Since New York was a station on the express routes, it seems likely that it was sent by express to



RETURN REGISTERED LETTER BILL.

Upon the receipt of this bill, at the office of its destination, the Postmaster will at once ascertain whether a corresponding package of registered letters has been received at his office. If it has, he will endorse this bill correct, if it is found so, or note any error or difference which may be found in it; and will then inclose and return it, by the first mail, to the office from which it was received. If it be found that the corresponding package has not been received, he will endorse the bill not received, and will return it in the same manner.

POST OFFICE, \_\_\_\_\_ 185

REGISTERED LETTERS Received from Chas. Warren Bennett

*Feb 8<sup>th</sup>*

No.	To whom addressed.	Regis-try Fees. Cents.	Originally paid at this office.				Free. No.
			By Stamps.		In Money.		
			Dolls.	Cents.	Dolls.	Cents.	
4	Johnson, J. & Co	5	3				



Figure 10. Post office form with red “NEW-YORK FEB 10, 1859” black circular datestamp. The same marking is struck on the cover, along with “POST OFFICE BUSINESS FREE” with “NEW-HAVEN MISSENT CT.” The cover is addressed to New Haven, Vermont.

Washington, another town on the express routes. Had this been an ordinary letter forwarded by express, the additional postage of 56¾¢ had to be paid in advance. But on a missent letter, forwarding was free. The letter is marked “Recd. July 23d, 1838.”

The next two covers make an interesting pair. They are two covers from Falls Village, Connecticut, to the same addressee at the U.S. arsenal in West Troy, New York. The earlier cover, shown in Figure 8, was sent in 1844 with manuscript town marking and 10¢ due rating. Although it was addressed to West Troy, where the arsenal is located, it went to Troy, and was thus considered “MISSENT.” The matching cover, shown in Figure 9, was mailed one year later. But it was addressed to Troy, not West Troy. Therefore, it was “FORWARDED” and 6¢ additional postage was charged.

In addition to the handstamps that mutely read “missent,” there are a few that contain a town name. The earliest of these appears to be a “NEW-HAVEN Ct./ MIS/ SENT” marking from the 1850s. The example shown in Figure 10 carried a returned registered letter bill (partly shown) from New York City in 1859. The cover also bears a boxed marking indicat-

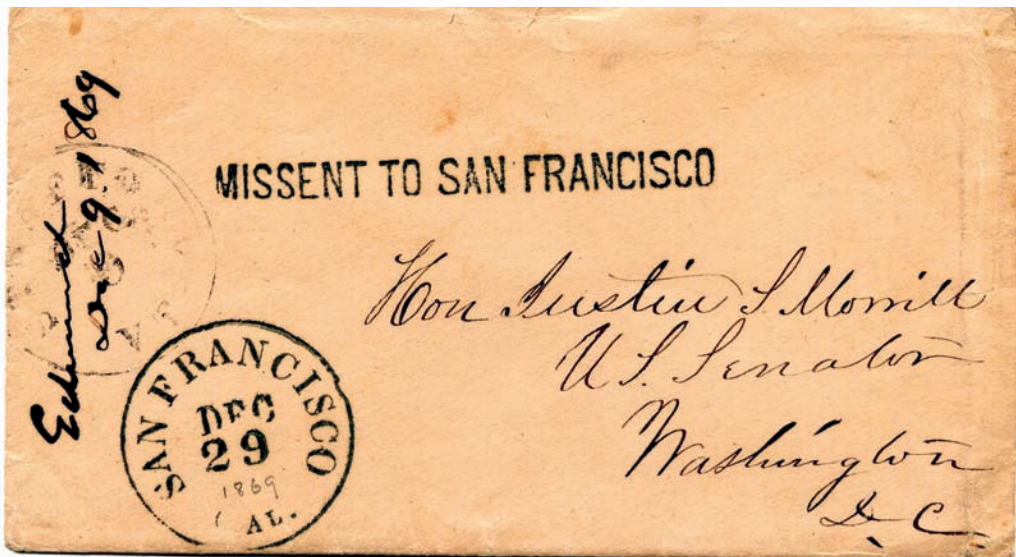


Figure 11. “MISSSENT TO SAN FRANCISCO” on free-frank cover sent by a constituent to Senator Morrill of Vermont. The San Francisco postmark is dated DEC 29 [1869].



Figure 12. “LEWISTON, Me. AUG 20” and “FREE” in black with a Congressman’s franking signature. The cover is addressed to Chelsea, Vermont, but was mistakenly sent to Chelsea, Massachusetts, where it received the August 31 circular datestamp and two additional markings: “MISSSENT” and “Forwarded” between pointing hands.

ing “POST OFFICE BUSINESS FREE.” The correct address was New Haven, Vermont, so it’s easy to see how this mistake occurred.

There is a similar marking indicating “Missent to Brooklyn, N.Y.” but I have not seen it on a stampless cover.

A very late use is the 1869 “MISSSENT TO SAN FRANCISCO” straightline marking shown on the cover in Figure 11. This cover is stampless because it was sent free to Justin Morrill, the famous Vermont senator. Morrill was author of the 1862 land-grant college act that made higher education available to millions of Americans.



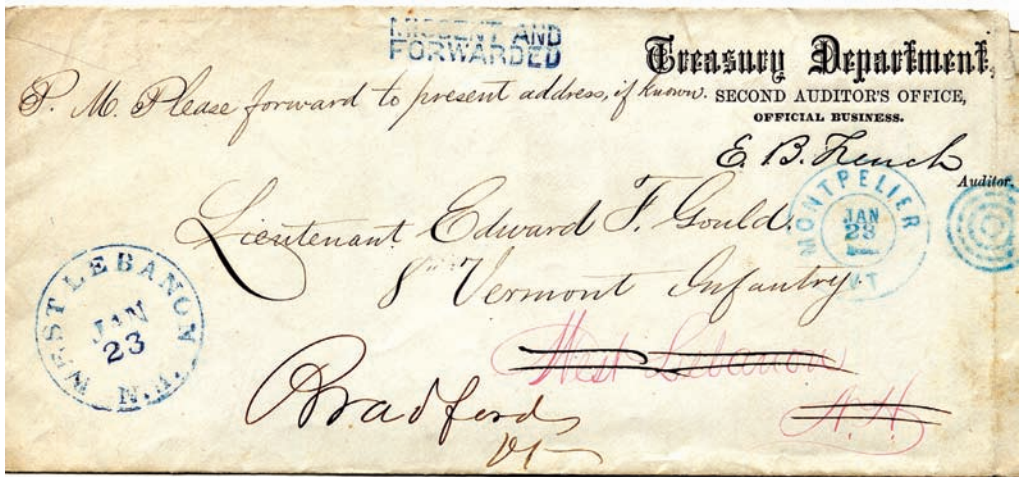


Figure 13. Undated Treasury Department penalty envelope to a Civil War soldier with blue “MISSENT AND FORWARDED” applied at West Lebanon, New Hampshire.



Figure 14. A town-specific marking: Red rectangular “MISSENT TO WOODSTOCK CT. FORWD.” with oval town postmark. This 1837 cover originated at Worcester, Massachusetts, and was addressed to Woodstock, Vermont.

### Missent and Forwarded Handstamps

The cover in Figure 12 is very unusual because it combines missent and forwarded handstamps. The cover originated in Lewiston, Maine on August 20, 1860, as a Congressional free frank with “FREE” postmark. It was addressed to Chelsea, Vermont, but was sent mistakenly to Chelsea, Massachusetts. There it was struck with a red “CHELSEA Mass. AUG 31” circular datestamp and with two additional auxiliary markings, “MISSENT” and “Forwarded” between two pointing hands. They appear to be two separate markings.

The combination of Missent and Forwarded as a single marking exists from the 1830s into the late stampless period of the 1860s. Figure 13 shows a penalty envelope from the



Second Auditor's office of the Treasury Department, sent from Montpelier, Vermont, to West Lebanon, New Hampshire, with the manuscript request that the postmaster forward the letter to a better address, if known. The blue two-line handstamped "MISSENT AND FORWARDED" marking was applied at West Lebanon when the letter was forwarded to Bradford, Vermont.

At least one "missent and forwarded" marking is town specific. The cover in Figure 14, which originated Nov. 7, 1837 at Worcester, Mass., is addressed to Woodstock, Vermont, and was rated for 6¢ collect postage. But it was missent to Woodstock, Connecticut, and was there struck with a rectangular marking that reads "MISSENT TO WOODSTOCK CT. FORWD" with a blank for the date, here filled in as "Nov. 8." The cover also shows an oval postmark from Woodstock, Connecticut.

Here follows a preliminary listing of FORWARDED and MISSENT handstamps on U.S. stampless covers. Additional listings are solicited. Please include items from 1851-55; these could exist as stampless markings even if the recording example shows a stamp.

### Forwarded

- (Milledgeville, Ga.) FORW.D [D over period] , red, S.L. 22x3.5 mm, early 1840s
- (Chelsea, Ms.) FORWARDED, red, S.L. 37x3.5, 1850
- (Salem, Mass.) Forwarded , red, S.L. 28x3.5, 1848
- (Stockbridge, Mass.) FORWARDED, red, S.L., late 1840s
- (Princeton, N.J.) FORW.D [D over period], red, S.L. 26x3, 1843
- (Buffalo, N.Y.) FORWARDED, blue, rectangle 40x6, 1835
- (New York, N.Y.) FORWARDED, red, S.L. in rectangle, 36x6, 1836
- (New York, N.Y.) FORWARDED, red, S.L. 42x7, 1849
- (Troy, N.Y.) FORWARDED., red, S.L. 32x4.5, 1842
- (Troy, N.Y.) FORWARDED., blue, S.L. 31x4, 1845
- (?) FORD.3. black, S.L. 35x7.5, late 1850s
- (Gambier, Oh) FORWARDED and 6, red, S.L.35x3, 1842
- (Philadelphia, Pa.) FORWARDED., blue, S.L. 41x4, 1845
- (Philadelphia, Pa.) FORWARDED, blue, S.L. in octagon 54x5, 1848
- (Kingston, R.I.) FORWARDED, green, S.L. 24x2, 1842

### Missent

- (San Francisco, CA) MISSENT TO SAN FRANCISCO, black, S.L.69x6, 1869
- (Bridgeport, Conn.) MISSENT, red, S.L. 22x3.5,1845
- (New Haven, Conn.) NEW-HAVEN Ct./ MISSENT, black, circle 29, 1859
- (New York, N.Y.) MISSENT, red, rectangle, 26x7,1838
- (Troy, N.Y.) MISSENT., blue, S.L. 22x4, 1845
- (Richmond, Va.) MIS SENT, red, S.L. 37x4, 1850

### Combined Uses

- (Woodstock, Conn.) MISSENT TO/WOODSTOCK CT./ FORWD. date, red, rectangle 30x15, 1837
- (Lodi, Ind.) MISS & FORD., black, S.L. 51X6.5 ,early 1850s
- (Chelsea, Mass.) MISSENT , red, S.L.35x6 and Forwarded, red, S.L. 50x4, 1860
- (Taunton, Mass.) MISSENT & FORWARDED., green, S.L. 35x2, 1847
- (New York, N.Y.) MISDIRECTED, black, S.L. 39x4, 1858
- (Troy, N.Y.) MISSENT/ FORWARDED, red, 2 S.L. 31x9, 1825
- (Aberdeen, Oh.) MISSENT FORWARDED, black, S.L. 41x2, 1850
- (Montpelier, Vt.) MISSENT AND/ FORWARDED, red, 2 S.L. 37x9, 1860s ■

# COLUMBIAN

## STAMP COMPANY INC.



BUILDING AND BUYING GREAT STAMP COLLECTIONS



HARRY HAGENDORF  
DEALER IN RARE STAMPS



700 WHITE PLAINS ROAD SCARSDALE NY 10583 TELEPHONE 914 725 2290 FAX 914 725 2576  
E-MAIL: [harryhagendorf@aol.com](mailto:harryhagendorf@aol.com)

STANLEY M. PILLER & ASSOCIATES

Quality Classic U.S. Stamps  
and Postal History



*Simply Stated*

*We Build...*

*We Buy...*

*We Sell...*

*Great Collections*

Established 1968

Stanley M. Piller & Associates

Office: 800 S. Broadway, Suite 201 • Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 559 • Alamo, CA 94507

Phone: 925-938-8290 • Fax: 925-938-8812

Email: [stmpdlr@aol.com](mailto:stmpdlr@aol.com) • Web: [www.smpiller.com](http://www.smpiller.com)



CSA



CLASSICS SOCIETY  
CCNY



**THE DESCENT INTO DARKNESS OF LEWIS THE LIGHT**

**GORDON STIMMELL AND JOHN BOWMAN**

Among the more fascinating and enigmatic stamp issues of the 1880s are the Greenslade’s stamps of Los Angeles. The status and purpose of these stamps remain mired in mystery after the passage of 125 years. Larry Lyons in his *Identifier* (page 529) avers “This was a real post.” The late Sherwood Springer, in private correspondence, classified these stamps as “legitimate classics of a genuine carrier in L.A.” Bruce Mosher in his *Catalog of Private Express Labels and Stamps*, posits the Greenslade’s post was a “Local parcel delivery company that operated in the Los Angeles area.” Yet so far no covers have surfaced proving the stamps’ use, or why they were actually issued.

Full sheets survive, consisting of ten small and two large stamps with the top and bottom rows printed *tete-beche*. Figure 1 is an example. The stamps have several different values and each has a different function inscribed. The small stamps include a Half Cent Special Circular, 1¢ Newspaper, 1¢ Extra Post Due, 2¢ Too-Late, 3¢ Extra 2nd Limit, 5¢ Extra Post Haste, 5¢ Extra Suburban, 5¢ Parcel, 10¢ Parcel and a \$1 5 Hour Messenger stamp.



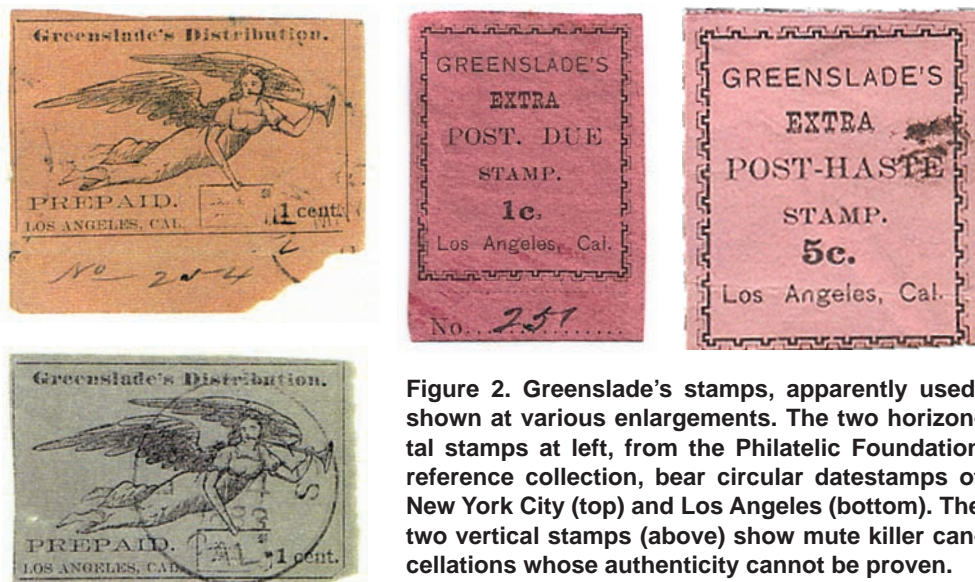
**Figure 1. Full sheet of 12 of the mysterious Greenslade’s local stamps, which may have been used briefly in Los Angeles as private carrier delivery stamps in the summer of 1883. Very few used copies are known and no confirming covers have been reported.**

The two large stamps on the sheet depict variants of a winged flying angel with trumpet (could this be Gabriel?), inscribed “Greenslade’s Distribution Prepaid 1 cent” or “Greenslade’s 2 cent Registration”. The sheets were printed on very thin, porous paper, colored through, in at least ten different shades, including yellow, pale yellow, pink, pale pink, green, pale green, drab olive green, purple, pale lilac and buff. The pink shades are found on vertically laid paper that is thicker and less porous. So there were at least two printing runs, on thicker laid and thinner porous papers. Single stamps occur gummed.

Single stamps bear hand-penned control numbers that may have been sequential from sheet to sheet. By collating the 24 surviving numbers on single stamps, and presuming that missing numbers in each of several sequences once existed, it appears that a maximum

total of approximately 40 sheets were issued and numbered. In addition, we know of four full mint sheets lacking control numbers. An informal poll of top collectors of such material in North America reveals these stamps are missing from almost all the largest local and forgery collections.

Two of the single stamps are known with what appear to be primitive smudgy handstamps. One is a barred magenta cancellation. The other is a partial black handstamp. Both appear to have thin parallel lines in the handstamp, but it is difficult to discern, as the markings are far from being clear strikes. More intriguing is the discovery in the Philatelic Foundation reference collection of a drab green large Greenslade with a Los Angeles 1888 circular datestamp that appears genuine and a partial New York City circular datestamp on a salmon hued large Greenslade stamp. All four of these apparently used Greenslade stamps, in various enlargements, are shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 2. Greenslade's stamps, apparently used, shown at various enlargements. The two horizontal stamps at left, from the Philatelic Foundation reference collection, bear circular datestamps of New York City (top) and Los Angeles (bottom). The two vertical stamps (above) show mute killer cancellations whose authenticity cannot be proven.**

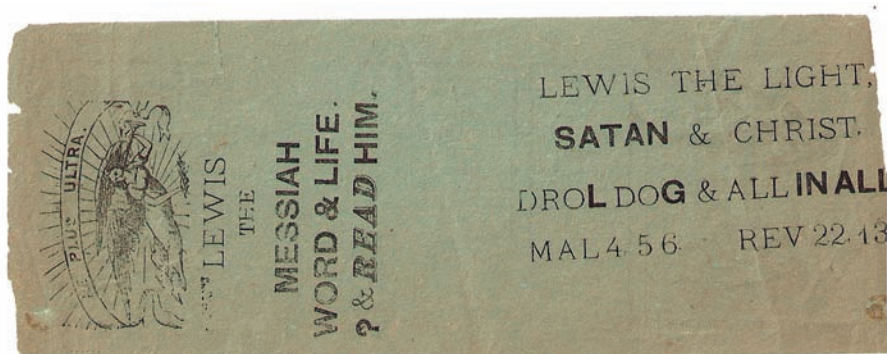
In 1888 Greenslade moved back and forth between Los Angeles and New York. With an 1888 date, it seemed initially possible the stamps were in use from 1883 (when a patent for the stamps was thought to have been granted), for at least the next five years.

However, fresh information has come to light from Australia. A letter dated Jan. 18, 1962, from noted U.S. collector William Steele to C.W. Barnes of New South Wales, fills in more background on these mysterious stamps:

“I contacted Elliott Perry, the foremost authority on the local stamps of the U.S., and he tells me that his small group of Greenslade stamps came to him back around the turn of the century along with other miscellaneous material. They were contained in a small book which also contained a small four page paper called ‘LIGHT’ (Vol. 1 No. 1), published by L.B. Greenslade, 104 O’Farrell St., San Francisco, November 1885. It is strongly flavored with religious fanaticism.”

The letter continues: “A four-inch column on the first page refers to the Los Angeles Locals, and indicates they were in use about two months in the summer of 1883, because the P.O. Dept. refused carrier delivery in Los Angeles. The masthead (of LIGHT) at the top of the first page imitates the design of the Mulready envelope of 1840.”

George Sloane, who owned one of the sheets, wrote about the Greenslade’s stamps in his *Stamps* column (Dec. 23, 1950) under the heading “Eccentric Carrier,” asking readers if



**Figure 3. Reverse of the stamp sheet shown in Figure 1. The religious references suggest the zealotry (or fanaticism) of the stamps' creator, Lewis Burgess Greenslade.**

anyone knew anything about Greenslade. Sloane had no first name for Greenslade.

Sloane speculated he may have been a “religious zealot,” alluding to the printed notations on the reverse of the sheets cryptically trumpeting “Lewis the Light,” “Lewis the Messiah” and “Droldog” (godlord spelled backwards), along with Biblical allusions to New Testament texts.

Figure 3 shows the printed notations that appear on the reverse of the stamp sheet illustrated in Figure 1. The Biblical references suggest a prophetic vision. *Malachi* 4, verses 5 and 6 reads: “Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD; And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.” *Revelations* 22:13 is: “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.”

Now, thanks to the marvel of the Internet with its millions of archived state documents, newspaper articles and city directories, we are able to unravel who Greenslade was, who he thought he was, and the widespread impact he had across North America as a religious fanatic and serially-certified lunatic.

Born in Witheridge, North Devon, England on Feb. 11, 1853, his full name was Lewis Burgess Greenslade. We checked passenger ship and immigration records for his, or his family's, arrival in North America, to no avail. We first pick up his trail in Toronto, Canada, as a young man in the early 1870s where he made a profoundly negative impression on local stamp collectors.

In a pioneer stamp article in *The Philatelic Beacon* (Vol. 1, No. 5), published in Newton, Massachusetts and dated Feb. 1, 1889, John R. Hooper describes selling his first stamp collection to “Mr. Greenslade, who wound up taking the collection and never paying for it. This Greenslade roped in two or three others including a widow woman and skipped to the States. I tried to arrest him but too late. After five years he came back and I believe now he is a semi-lunatic wandering the streets of Toronto, believing himself a prophet and considered a harmless lunatic.”

An adjacent article in the *Beacon*, written by “Canadensis” and entitled “A Veritable Stamp Fiend,” cites Greenslade's prominence in stamp dealing circles from 1870 to 1882 in the U.S. and Canada, and mentions an egregious appearance by him in New York City. Quoting the Dec. 25, 1888 *N.Y. Sunday Herald*, Greenslade disrupted services in Trinity Church, announcing himself to be Lewis the Light, clad “in a tennis blazer and knee breeches. He is the husband of the only female barber in Brooklyn.”

The article flashes back to the 1870s: “Greenslade carried on business in a large residence on the corner of Baldwin and Henry Streets, Toronto. It is stated he employed seven clerks (girls and young men) for making up packets, sheets, etc. From this place he took



an office in the Mail Building...and did a heavy business. He engaged Alexander Clare & Cable, engravers in the same building, to execute an engraving of the Connell stamp (a rare five cent New Brunswick stamp, immediately ordered withdrawn by Canadian authorities, egocentrically bearing the portrait of the then Postmaster General), the impression of which could not be told by experts from the original. Alexander & Co, when the die was finished, grew suspicious and communicated with the postal authorities, the outcome of which forced Greenslade to skip to the U.S., leaving not a few mourning creditors....For some years Greenslade was publishing an infidel and philatelic paper combined in California, and now turns up in New York. Greenslade is a great friend of (forger) S. Allan Taylor....Now, let our New York and Brooklyn 'phils' hunt up that 'only female barber' and get an interview with Lewis the Light."

A search of the Toronto city directories reveals this sequence of professions: 1875 and 1876—"Greenslade, Louis B., publisher, 151 Bay." 1877—"Greenslade, L.B., stationer, 454 Yonge St." 1879—Greenslade, L.B., foreign stamp dealer." 1880—Greenslade, Lewis, clerk." The Canadian Census of 1881 lists him at age 28, religion as the Church of England, and "Publisher."

What was he publishing in Toronto? The main stamp magazine was *Dominion Bazaar*, published by "L.B. Greenslade" in Yorkville and Toronto for five years. Volume 1, number 1 was dated May, 1877. In "Some Notes on B.N.A. Philatelic Literature" (*BNA Topics*, pg. 126, Vol. 6 No. 6, June 1949) R.J. Duncan says of this publication: "The early numbers were mostly philatelic, but Vol. V No. 1 (May 1882) is headed 'Dominion Bazaar, Amateurs and Fanciers Guide' and its contents mostly confined to poultry and pet stock." Obviously, Greenslade had sold out that month, because *Coin and Stamp* was launched in May, 1882 by "the Greenslade Brothers" in Toronto. The first issue of this publication stated it was "A Journal of Information for bankers, merchants, P.M.'s and the general public." We can only find a record of numbers 1 to 2 of this collector publication. Apparently by June, 1882, Greenslade was forced to vacate Canada when the postal authorities began to darken his door.

The Public Archives of Canada preserves a number of letters from Lewis the Light. On March 29, 1880 he wrote to Prime Minister of Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald, concerning a bill for a railway to the coal fields of the Northwest Territory. He signed it "Lewis B. Greenslade, Manager, North West Pioneer Co." Other archived letters show an interest in Western migration to the Prairie provinces of Canada and various crazy schemes. But after fleeing postal authorities on the warpath in Toronto, Greenslade wound up in California, a far more hospitable environment.

On Sept. 18, 1883, in the *San Francisco Bulletin*, under a heading of "New Patents" an item is listed as "L.B. Greenslade, Los Angeles, Cal., Label." For a while this was thought to be a patent for the Greenslade stamps, but this proved to be a false lead. Classics Society member Cliff Alexander visited the archives of the Patent Office and reports: "It appears that the label registered with the Patent Office was for a medicine package or bottle label. It was described as 'The American Wonder - America's Tree of Life and Knowledge (for a medicine).' The label registration number was 3,506. The application was filed Aug. 3, 1883 and became effective on Sept. 11, 1883. It is referenced in the *Annual Report of the Commissioner of the Patent Office for 1883*, U.S. Gov't Printing Office (1884). It is also listed in the Patent Office's *Official Gazette* in Vol. 24, page 998." This date does nevertheless coincide with the approximate months of issuance of Greenslade's enigmatic philatelic labels/stamps. Perhaps we should add "Medicine Man" to his list of professions.

Two years later, the *San Francisco Bulletin* of Oct. 6, 1885, reveals things were not going smoothly for our hero. "L.B. Greenslead (sic), known to himself as 'the Messiah' and by others as 'Lewis the Light' was examined by the Insanity Commission yesterday

and discharged. Greenslead (sic) recently paraded the streets in fantastic garb and caused disturbance." A month later, he published his stamp journal, *LIGHT*, detailing the history of his strange stamps and their usage two years before.

The late 1880s marked the continuance of a long slide into insanity. The *Grand Forks Herald* in Oct. 2, 1888, reports him in New York City as a crank who "made himself obnoxious to the Salvation Army, and capped the climax by visiting the Brooklyn Tabernacle". He took "off an overcoat, showing on his breast a huge red flannel heart.... It took a special policeman to persuade him to depart."

Greenslade actually landed a real job in late 1888 in Philadelphia. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported on Dec. 31, 1889, that "Lewis came to this city from New York early last fall. He secured work as a canvasser for the City Directory, which position he held until his religious vagaries became known to his employers, when he was discharged. He rented a room at No. 400 Spruce Street, where he lived with his three children. His wife, who had gone to Chicago, returned to this city soon afterwards to care for the children." A reporter who visited them described the family as living in destitution.

An interview with his wife appeared in the *Brooklyn Eagle* (quoted in the *Kansas City Times*) on Sept. 3, 1888. Mrs. Sarah Jane Greenslade, the only female barber in Brooklyn, complains she is constantly confronted by the wives of her few male clients, who do not appreciate their menfolk being touched and shaved by a woman. Mrs. Greenslade says "the women all hate me and the men boycott me. I can't pay for three meals a day and feed and clothe my children. I am starving by inches....I have tried to support my husband but I must cast him off. I will go to the Charities Commissions." She adds: "My husband Lewis the Light brings in no money at all." Shortly after, she rounded up the children and moved back to California.

A report in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* of Nov. 3, 1888, datelined Brooklyn, citing a lawsuit brought by Greenslade for damages against church trustees after he was forcibly



**Figure 4. Rough pencil sketch of Lewis Greenslade, in his familiar costume, with a large red heart covering his chest.**

ejected, gives us a physical glimpse of the man under the heading "Believes He Can Live Forever." "He is about five feet tall, wears a full, brown beard and has restless gray eyes. In the lower portion of Brooklyn he is a familiar figure. He wears a costume composed of a white flannel shirt and knickerbockers, brown stockings and baseball shoes. He head is covered with a sailor cap on which are the words in gold: "Lewis the Light." The shirt is made more conspicuous by a large red heart, which completely covers his chest."

On Jan. 12, 1889, a rough pencil sketch of Lewis with his emblazoned heart appeared in *The Haverhill Bulletin*. This is shown in Figure 4. Six days later, on Jan. 18, 1889, *The New York Times* reported: "Lewis the Light Insane. Lewis Greenslade, better known as Lewis the Light, who was a few days ago committed for examination as to his sanity, was yesterday declared to be insane by Drs. Field and Fitch at Bellevue Hospital. He will be

sent to the asylum at Hart's Island today.”

Greenslade must have been sprung quickly. A growing obsession with natural disaster prompted him to show up in the wake of the May 31, 1889, Johnstown, Pennsylvania dam disaster, which killed 2,200 people. In the book by Richard O'Conner, *The Day the Dam Broke* (Lippincott Co., 1957) Greenslade was named among the curiosity seekers (page 196): “The weirdest of the lot was a scraggly old goat who styles himself as ‘Lewis the Dominator’ and ‘Lewis the Light’ and proclaimed the Johnstown flood had been decreed by him as a sign to humanity of his unearthly powers. Clad only in long red underwear, he invaded a Pittsburgh church on June 10, jumped into the pulpit and began his harangue. A flying wedge of deacons and ushers deposited him in the street.”

Greenslade journeyed often to Philadelphia. In the *Philadelphia Inquirer* of Jan. 4, 1890, he is described as being in Moyamensing Prison and dubbed “Lewis the Light, the man with a mission, the hero of half a hundred arrests.” But he maintained his West Coast connections via letters to editors. In the *San Francisco Bulletin* of Feb. 11, 1890, in an article discussing the need to bring water from the Blue Lakes to the city, Lewis again made headlines: “Lewis the Light, who proposed not long ago, with the expenditure of a small sum of money, to manufacture rain clouds in the Sierras and move them to the city with balloons.”

By 1891, Greenslade was in Chicago, from which he sent a postcard to a man found murdered in a burned-out house in Franklin, Pennsylvania, which baffled investigators. *The Inter Ocean* did an extensive interview with Greenslade on Mar. 4, 1890 under an ironic headline that said: “He Came in March ... One of the Most Mysterious and Wonderful Mortals that Ever Escaped.” In the article, he admits his wife is still living in California and that he has been confined in seven different asylums in the past few years.

Then suddenly, on May 5, 1891, the *San Francisco Bulletin* cryptically notes: “Lewis the Light has returned to Los Angeles.”

What ensued in subsequent years is captured in fine detail in *On Bunker Hill*, a self-described “serious” website created by librarians and social historians. After Greenslade left the asylum to rejoin his family in California, “he found his wife had died after telling neighbors she was a widow, and that his children had been put into public care.” After again taking to the streets “in fantastic garb” he was judged unfit to rear his 14-year-old daughter Calla Lily, and days later, tried to kidnap her from “Mrs. Watson’s Home.” He was judged in court to be dangerous, and in January 1892 was committed to the State Insane Asylum at Agnews.

By June he was again handing out his peculiar circulars on the streets of San Francisco. Did he paste his stamps on these? We suspect he may have used them not only on the tracts he handed out on the streets of New York and Los Angeles, but perhaps he mailed a few such pamphlets or letters between the two cities during his trips back and forth. The circular date stamps on two Greenslades stamps in the Philatelic Foundation reference collection (Figures 2 and 3) indicate he possibly passed remainders of his stamps through the mails some years after the summer of 1883, when (according to the *LIGHT* article unearthed by Perry) they were briefly used. As a former stamp dealer, Greenslade knew genuine post office handstamps would enhance value and legitimacy.

Did he continue to be involved in the stamp game? One snippet has emerged confirming that he did. An advertisement placed under the heading “Exchange Announcements” in the April, 1893, issue of *Filatelic Facts and Fantasies* states: “L. M. Greenslade will exchange self-inking press, type, California and Oriental curios, minerals, pictorial albums or books for assorted stamps or collections, 410 Minna Street, San Francisco, Cal.” One wonders if this self-inking press was the one used a decade earlier to print his strange sheets of stamps. Greenslade paid 27¢ to run his ad in the journal.



Sadly, in April 1894 he was sent back to the asylum, “a place he claimed was ideal for ‘resting and fattening up’.” He continued to write letters to editors across the United States and to victims of disasters.

In May 1899, his 22-year-old son Louis, apparently fancying himself an inventor, went berserk in the basement offices of his employers, the California District messenger service, beneath the Los Angeles National Bank. After foaming from the mouth in court, and having to be restrained, the son was committed to Highland Asylum.

In 1901, the assassination of President William McKinley prompted Greenslade to send missives to the east coast, which convinced authorities he was a dangerous anarchist. So he was arrested at his Olive Street abode and again proclaimed insane by a judge.

In 1907, Lewis the Light crossed swords with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle by sending letters to a man Doyle had helped escape charges of animal cruelty in England. One offshoot of this was that Doyle revealed Greenslade had decades earlier departed from England after annoying a Sir Henry Knight with weird letters.

*On Bunker Hill* describes the last we hear of Greenslade: “In 1908, Lewis the Light was charged with vagrancy and sentenced to 30 days after annoying citizens who he threatened should they refuse to pay a tithe. This would be the last appearance of this colorful character in the pages of the *Los Angeles Times*, and before long, his name, once an object of glee and fascination, sank into obscurity.” ■

## Nothing's Better than the Classics

If you have a stamp collection to sell, let us create a classic showing of your material. We mail thousands of catalogs to our proven customers every auction, and our website is one of the most user-friendly sites in the auction world.

As the official auctioneer of four major national stamp shows, we are known across the country and around the world for providing

**SUPERIOR SERVICE & SUPERIOR RESULTS!**

For information on how to consign, call us toll free, visit our website, or stop by one of our two galleries:

9478 W. Olympic Blvd., Ste 200  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

229 N. Euclid Avenue  
Saint Louis, MO 63108

✦ STAMPS • COINS • SPACE • SPORTS • HOLLYWOOD ✦  
**REGENCY SUPERIOR** EXPERIENCED AUCTIONEERS  
*Saint Louis, Missouri* *Beverly Hills, California* **SINCE 1929**

**800.782.0066 • [www.RegencySuperior.com](http://www.RegencySuperior.com)**



COLLECTOR FINDS 1847 COVER FROM HIS  
GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER

IRVIN L. HEIMBURGER

Figure 1 shows a cover-sheet franked with a horizontal pair of 5¢ 1847 stamps, posted in New York City on September 26, 1850. The accompanying letter has been torn away. The cover is addressed to Thomas Merritt in St. Catherine's, Upper Canada. This was before the U.S. and Canada had a postal agreement that established a through rate of postage. The cover bears a manuscript "Paid to the lines" and a hand-stamped "Queenston, U.C., Sep 28, 1850" transit marking. The pair of 5¢ stamps paid the U.S. postage to the Canadian border and the manuscript "4 1/2" indicates the Canadian postage due from the recipient (in Canadian pence). This cover was lot 560 in Kukstis Sale #31 on May 1, 1998. It represented what I was

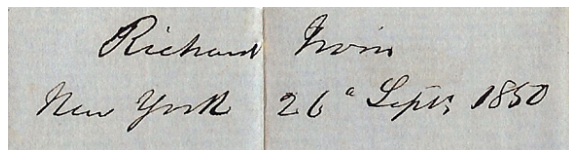


Figure 1. Pre-treaty cover from the U.S. to Canada, posted 26 September 1850 and franked with a horizontal pair of 5¢ U.S. 1847 stamps, which paid postage to the Canadian border. The cover is opened up to show the signature and dateline at lower right.

looking for, the use of two 5¢ 1847 stamps to a foreign country. The illustration in the sale catalog showed only the address portion of the cover-sheet, which is shown opened out in Figure 1.

It wasn't until I received the lot and unfolded the cover that I saw that the manuscript name of the sender and date were penned on an inside flap at the bottom right of the letter sheet. The name was "Richard Irvin, 26 Sept., 1850."

Figure 2 shows the signature and date portion of the cover, electronically cropped from the outer letter sheet in Figure 1.



**Figure 2. Enlargement of the signature and the dateline from Figure 1 cover. Richard Irvin is the author's great-great-grandfather and namesake.**

Richard Irvin was my great-great-grandfather and namesake. Comparison of the signature with an 1857 letter in my possession, and with photocopies of Irvin's signature in the New York Historical Society, showed this was his signature. Richard Irvin emigrated from Glasgow, Scotland, in 1824, to join an uncle in the commission merchant business at 98 Front Street in New York City. He soon established Richard Irvin & Company at this address. New York newspapers of the 1830s and 1840s indicate that Irvin was the U.S. agent for the British Steam Packet Ship *Great Western* and subsequently for other mail-carrying vessels of the Cunard line. The firm continued in business for four generations, until the death of Richard Irvin's great-grandson in 1938.

I suspect other covers exist sent by Richard Irvin or to him. If they exist, I would like to learn about them. ■

## MANUSCRIPT PEN CANCELS ON THE 1847 ISSUE

WADE E. SAADI

When the United States Post Office issued its first stamps in 1847, they were accompanied by very specific instructions on when and how they were to be cancelled to prevent reuse. A scan of the relevant paragraph, from the Wierenga reprint of the 1847 *Postal Laws and Regulations*, is shown in Figure 1.

501. Stamps so affixed are to be immediately cancelled in the office in which the letter or packet may be deposited, with an instrument to be furnished to certain of the post offices for that purpose. In post offices not so furnished, the stamps must be cancelled by making a cross X on each with a pen. If the cancelling has been omitted on the mailing of the letter, the Postmaster delivering it will cancel the stamp in the manner directed, and immediately report the postmaster who may have been delinquent to the Department.

**Figure 1. Paragraph from the 1847 postal regulations giving specific instructions for the cancellation of the first United States postage stamps.**



The instrument "...to be furnished to certain post offices..." was a standard seven-bar circular grid. A strike of such a grid, on a 5¢ 1847 stamp, is shown in Figure 2. These grids were usually struck in red ink as in Figure 2, but they are also known in black, blue, green and other colors.

The rules required the postmaster to cancel the stamp with the supplied grid or with a manuscript "X" ("...must be cancelled by making a cross 'X'..."). Only the largest post offices received the grid canceller. This left many postmasters to their own devices when deciding how to cancel stamps. We know from extant examples of cancelled stamps that all sorts of postal markings were used as cancelling devices: circular date stamps, rating numerals, "PAID" markings and railroad and ship markings, to name just a few. As it turns out, manuscript cancels were rarely the "X" prescribed by the regulations.

Based on the manuscript cancels that have survived (or pen cancels as they are often called), it appears the "X" rule was largely ignored by postmasters, an oversight that was apparently tolerated by postal officials. I consider this overlooked instruction to be a benefit to collectors, since many of the non-complying cancels show the postmasters' flair for scribbling or in some cases the mood of an individual postmaster at the time he cancelled the stamp.

One thing has always been an enigma to me. The Scott catalog and other stamp price-lists consider a stamp with a manuscript cancel to be of less value than the same stamp with a handstamped cancel. In some cases the difference is substantial. The current (2010) Scott specialized catalog lists the 5¢ 1847 stamp with a red handstamp at \$550, while the pen-cancelled 5¢ stamp is valued at \$275, a 50 percent reduction. The 10¢ 1847 stamp commands \$1,250 with a red grid cancel, but only \$700 for the stamp with a manuscript cancel. All the early classic U.S. stamps bear this same burden: a haircut of about 50 percent for manuscript cancellation. Even a stamp with a nice grid cancel and part of a pen cancel gets this treatment. It's as if the pen cancel is lethal: should it touch a stamp, the value will plummet. The post office authorized the use of pen cancelling, as seen in the 1847 regulation shown in Figure 1, so why is there a penalty on the value of a pen-cancelled stamp?

In reviewing a few well-known sales with a concentration of used 1847 stamps (Saul Newbury<sup>1</sup>, Katherine Matthies<sup>2</sup> and Louis Grunin<sup>3</sup>), the absence of pen-cancelled copies is very noticeable. Newbury had 59 off-cover 1847s, Matthies nearly 100 and Grunin more than 80. The only reference to pen cancels are "almost invisible manuscript cancel" or "lightened manuscript cancel." None of these collections showed an example of a stamp with a nice manuscript cancel. However, in the 1847 on-cover sections of these catalogs, there are pen cancels here and there, but clearly selected not to show the cancel, but rather the rate, route or use. So it seems the disdain for the pen cancel is not a new craze, but a well-entrenched tradition, unlike the "never hinged" obsession or the "graded stamps" fascination, which are both more contemporary in nature.



**Figure 2. Seven-bar circular grid cancel on a brown orange 5¢ 1847 stamp.**

<sup>1</sup> Robert Siegel Auction Galleries, May 17, 1961

<sup>2</sup> Robert Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale #353, May 21, 1969

<sup>3</sup> Harmers Auction Galleries, Sale # 2370, December 14, 1976

In fact, disdain for pen-cancelled stamps is a prejudice that comes down to us from the beginnings of stamp collecting in 19th century England. For many decades, British stamps could serve either for postage or revenue use. (Many British stamps even bore the legend “postage and revenue.”) Postal uses were easily recognized because they were always struck with a handstamped postmark. Revenue uses were invariably pen cancelled. Collectors avoided revenue uses, creating a stigma that crossed the Atlantic and has endured, even though U.S. postage stamps were never authorized for revenue use and pen cancels as we have seen were required by regulation.

This prejudice affords a great opportunity to find some really nice stamps for less than regular catalog prices. In some cases, pen-cancelled stamps offer a less obstructed view of the engraved stamp than regular cancels would allow.



**Figure 3. Stamps cancelled with the “X” as indicated in the regulations. From left to right, the shades of the 5¢ stamps are deep red brown, orange brown and light orange brown.**

Figure 3 shows four stamps cancelled by pen following the rules set out in 1847. In those reasoning tests we took as children, the teacher would show four images and ask, “Which one does not belong”? In looking at Figure 1, it is evident that three stamps are cancelled corner to corner and one is not, being cancelled instead with a plus sign or Christian cross. In my opinion, the authors of the cancel edict wanted a corner-to-corner cancel. This would obliterate more of the stamp than a vertical plus sign could accomplish.



**Figure 4. Left stamp cancelled with an “X” in a circle and right stamp cancelled with two “X”s forming an asterisk.**

Figure 4 shows two 10¢ 1847 stamps whose cancels comply, with embellishment: a circle around the “X” on the left stamp, and two “X”s on the right, forming an asterisk.

In Figure 5, we see examples of straight line cancels, certainly cancelling the stamp, but not as prescribed: diagonal straight lines on the stamp at left, three straight horizontal lines on the strip in the center, and a horizontal brush mark on the 10¢ stamp at right.



**Figure 5. Straight line cancels. The left stamp is bright red brown shade and the strip of three is deep brown.**



**Figure 6. Crosshatched cancels.** The 5¢ stamp at left stamp is the brown shade. The 5¢ stamp at right is dark brown.



**Figure 7. The squiggles on this 10¢ pair may represent a postmaster's initials.**

Crosshatched cancels are often found. Some examples are shown in Figure 6. The 5¢ stamp on the right has a cancel made up of 31 straight lines.

Figure 7 shows a horizontal pair of 10¢ 1847 stamps cancelled with squiggly lines that could represent a postmaster's initials.



**Figure 8. Two horizontal pairs of orange-brown 5¢ 1847 stamps, from the same correspondence. Manuscript docketing dates penned on the stamps ("Rec. Jan 5/50 Sat. noon" on the top pair and "Rec. Jan 14/50 Monday noon" on the bottom pair) helped in reconstructing this block of four.**

Figure 8 illustrates a reconstructed block of four made from two horizontal pairs. While technically the pairs were cancelled with red grids, the docketing notations applied upon receipt are in pen and quite interesting, proving the horizontal pairs are from the same correspondence. Reuniting them was a philatelic pleasure. The docketing on the top pair reads "Rec. Jan 5/50 Sat. noon." The notation on the bottom pair reads "Rec. Jan 14/50 Monday noon."



**Figure 9. The left stamp shows an elaborate geometric cancel and the right stamp is the pièce de résistance—a top hat and spectacles on Benjamin Franklin. Both stamps are the red brown shade.**

The stamps in Figure 9 demonstrate how pen cancels can be little works of art. The elaborate geometric cancel on the 5¢ stamp at left is made of more than 30 pen strokes. The postmaster who applied it devoted a considerable amount of time to this effort. And the top hat and eyeglasses cancel on the 5¢ stamp at right wins the prize for creative design. Franklin shunned top hats in favor of a beaver cap, but he is credited with inventing bifocal spectacles. ■





PHILATELIC STAMP AUTHENTICATION AND GRADING

## Certification and Grading Excellence Since 1987



Founded by noted U.S. Classics Expert, J. Randall Shoemaker, PSAG commits to providing unparalleled certification and grading of all United States, Canada, and Canadian Province stamps. Our board of experts with over 500 years of cumulative experience, will give accurate, third-party independent evaluation of your submissions. If you want the best in consistent expertising and grading, do not settle for less.

Go to: [www.psaginc.com](http://www.psaginc.com)

- Competitively Priced
- Best Turnaround Time in the Trade
- Comprehensive Reference Collection
- State-of-the-Art Forensic Equipment: VSC4 Plus  
Consistent Standardized Third Party Grading
- Exceptional Customer Service
- Special Volume Discounts
- Informative and Interactive Website
- Finest in Specialized Experts



Philatelic Stamp Authentication and Grading  
PO Box 56-2111 Miami, FL 33256 | Phone: 305.345.9864  
E-Mail: [info@psaginc.com](mailto:info@psaginc.com)  
[www.psaginc.com](http://www.psaginc.com)



# HERITAGE RARE STAMP AUCTIONS

## *Our Values* at Heritage/Bennett Auctions Mean **More Value** For You

For 33 years here at Heritage Auctions we've been known for our integrity, transparency and financial stability — throughout our 26 collectibles divisions.

Now, after partnering with Harvey Bennett of Matthew Bennett International, we've combined to create a firm of broad scope and deep financial strength to bring you the best of all philatelic worlds.

As a consignor, the value of your stamps and covers will be seen and appreciated by more than 475,000 registered bidders in our database.

As a collector you will benefit from our values, as well as our integrity and transparency. We are an auction house that honors your bid. You will never have to use a penny more than necessary to win your lots.

As a collector who values knowledge, you can rely on the expertise of Harvey Bennett; his experience ranges from his work on the Faimann St. Louis Bears Collection, Craveri 1847s and Smithsonian National Postal Museum, to the broad-ranging catalogues he produced for his European and Asian auction houses. He brings additional skills and proficiency to the distinguished line of Heritage experts that have often appeared on *Antiques Roadshow* and the *Today Show*.

As a collector or consignor who seeks assurance in these uncertain financial times, Heritage offers you stalwart financial dependability with more than \$600 million dollars in sales, \$50 million in equity and capital, and a record of paying every consignor on time for 33 years.

We are now taking consignments for our 2010 Signature® Public Auctions. If you would like to consign your collection, contact Harvey Bennett, at 214-409-1156 or Steve Crippe, at 214-409-1777.

Let Heritage/Bennett put our values and strength to work for you.



Steven Crippe  
Managing Director  
214-409-1777  
or StevenC@HA.com



Harvey Bennett  
Director of Philately  
214-409-1156  
HarveyB@HA.com

---

Receive a free copy of the next Stamp catalog, or one from another Heritage category. Register online at [HA.com/USPC18590](http://HA.com/USPC18590) or call 866-835-3243 and mention reference #USPC18590.

---

Annual Sales Exceed \$600 Million • 475,000+ Registered Online Bidder-Members

3500 Maple Ave, 17th Floor • Dallas, Texas 75219 • 800-872-6467 ext. 1777 • [HA.com](http://HA.com)

NYC Auctioneer licenses: Samuel Foose 0952360; Robert Korver 1096338; Leo Frese 1094963; Michael J. Sadler 1304630; Scott Peterson 1306933; Harvey Bennett 0924050; Andrea Voss 1320558. Nicholas Dawes 1304724. This auction is subject to a 15% buyer's premium.

**HERITAGE**  
*Auction Galleries* HA.COM  
**BENNETT**  
The World's Largest Collectibles Auctioneer

## THE 1851-61 PERIOD

### FOUR CARRIER COVERS WITH THE 1¢ STAMP OF 1857-1861

JAY KUNSTREICH

Carrier service involved the collection of mail by letter carriers under bond for (1) delivery to the post office, (2) delivery of mail to addresses outside the post office, or (3) both collection and delivery of local letters that were handled only by the carrier department. Carrier service had its origins in America as early as 1689, when the Boston postmaster under British rule was instructed “to receive all letters and deliver them at 1d.”

Under the Act of 1836, the United States Postmaster General was given the power to establish a system of letter carriers to receive letters taken by them to the post office and to deliver mail from the post office to the addressee for a fee. Since stamps were not in use at this point, the carrier fee was paid to the carrier in cash as compensation for the service. This fee was thus a voluntary assessment made by citizens or others who desired to have this special “carrier” service.

Other acts followed, including the Act of 1851, which gave the Postmaster General authority to make carrier fees no more than 1¢ (for larger cities) or 2¢ (for smaller cities). Then, with the Act of 1860, carrier fees for all letters were set at 1¢ until July 1, 1863, when the carrier fee was abolished and all postal employees including carriers were paid salaries fixed by the Postmaster General.

Although carrier service was conducted largely by U.S. government postal carriers, unofficial private local posts also existed. These were run by entrepreneurs who acted in direct competition with the government post office and who felt they could provide better or more convenient carrier services. Covers from many private local posts are scarce. Government regulations ultimately drove these firms out of business.

This article does not intend to address carrier service in full. Instead, I have selected four covers from a brief window in 1860-61, when carrier service was at or near its height. Each of the four covers shows a different way the carrier fee could be paid using U.S. 1¢ postage stamps of 1857-1861. During this period the carrier fee was for conveyance to the post office from collection boxes. There was no provision for prepaying delivery carrier fees on intercity mail.

Figure 1 shows a cover from New York to Boston posted August 9, 1861 and franked with 3¢ and 1¢ 1857 stamps. The 3¢ 1857 stamp pays the inter-city postage and the 1¢ stamp pays the carrier fee to take the cover to the New York post office. The 1¢ stamp is from the scarce Plate 11 and is Scott #22. A more typical use at this time would show a Type V 1¢ stamp from Plate 7 or 8. Plate 11 stamps were issued in January 1861 and were available for only seven months before becoming demonetized. The Figure 1 cover shows the clearly embossed corner cachet of New York’s Fifth Avenue Hotel. Carrier services were often provided as an amenity for hotel guests. The sender clearly anticipated using carrier service to take this letter to the New York post office, as the 1¢ stamp paying the carrier fee lies beneath the 3¢ stamp

Figure 2 shows an unusual combination using four 1¢ Type V stamps from Boston to pay the carrier fee and inter-city postage. Each stamp is cancelled with a black framed PAID and the cover shows a red July 12 Boston double-circle circular datestamp. The year is 1860 or 1861, soon after the 1 July 1860 act which established the 1¢ collection fee for all letters taken by carriers to the post office.





Figure 1. New York to Boston, August 9, 1861 and franked with 3¢ and 1¢ 1857 stamps. The 3¢ 1857 stamp pays the inter-city postage and the 1¢ stamp pays the carrier fee to take the cover to the New York post office.



Figure 2. Four 1¢ Type V stamps used at Boston to pay the carrier fee and inter-city postage. The cover shows a red July 12 Boston double circle circular datestamp. The year is either 1860 or 1861.

Figure 3 shows a seldom-seen carrier combination using a strip of three Type V 1¢ stamps on a 1¢ 1860 Star Die envelope (Scott U19). This was issued in the last quarter of 1860. The August postmark indicates this cover was posted in 1861. The stamps are grid cancelled in ultramarine with matching Winchendon, Mass., circular datestamp. Carrier uses from small towns are quite uncommon. This is an interesting use of the 1¢ Star Die envelope for the carrier fee during the transition from the 1857 to the 1861 stamp issues.

Figure 4 shows a local New York carrier cover, posted in either July 1860 or July



**Figure 3. A seldom-seen carrier combination: a strip of three Type V 1¢ stamps on a 1¢ 1860 Star Die envelope. The August postmark indicates this cover dates from 1861.**



**Figure 4. A local New York carrier cover, posted in either July 1860 or July 1861, franked with a 1¢ Type V stamp which prepays the carrier fee. Starting July 1860, no postage was charged on drop letters delivered by carriers within city limits.**

1861, franked with a 1¢ Type V stamp which prepays the carrier fee with the drop fee waived. Starting July 1860 with the approval of the Act of 1860 on April 3, no postage was charged on drop letters delivered by carriers within city limits. The stamp is postmarked with a rare carrier “Paid” New York P.O. Numeral 1 Station “F” marking in black. The cover also shows an adjacent Station F 4 p.m. delivery hand stamp. Station “F” was located at 368 Eighth Avenue. Only a few examples of these Station carrier handstamps with the “PAID” outside the circular datestamp at the top are known. ■



## STRIP OF TEN 3¢ 1861 STAMPS ON COVER

MICHAEL C. McCLUNG

In *Chronicle* 220 (November 2008), Edwin J. Andrews displayed a cover with a previously unrecorded strip of nine 3¢ 1861 (Scott 65) postage stamps affixed. As often happens, when a largest or earliest recorded philatelic item is reported, a larger or earlier example soon crawls out of the woodwork. Figure 1 shows a cover with a strip of ten of the same stamp.



Figure 1. An intact horizontal strip of ten of the 3¢ 1861 stamp, used on an 1867 cover paying the domestic rate of 3¢ per half ounce or 30¢ for 4½-5 ounces.

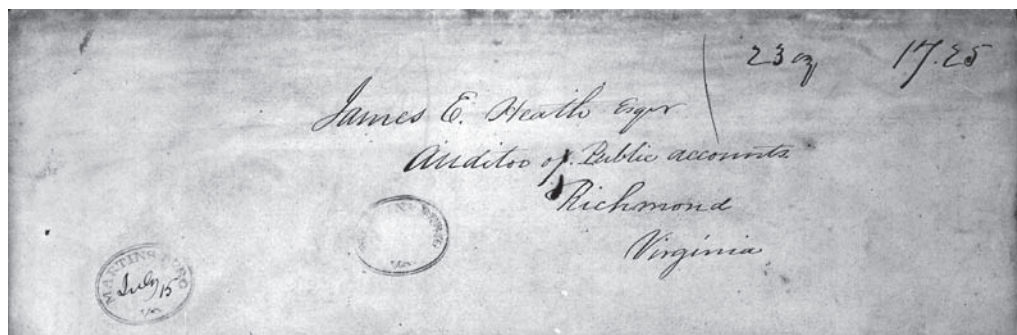
This is a domestic use, a deposition cover that must have weighed between 4½ and 5 ounces. The U.S. domestic postage rate was 3¢ per half ounce anywhere in the country at this time. The cover originated in Leesburgh, Virginia, on 18 February 1867. It was sent to the Clerk of Court in Plymouth, Indiana. The large blue handstamp shows that the contents were filed in open court on 21 February 1867. The handstamp also contains the signature of the clerk. Since these stamps were issued in panes of 100 (10x10), there is no possibility of finding a longer strip, on or off cover. I have also seen a horizontal strip of ten 3¢ F grills (Scott 94) on a similar deposition cover.

Although 30¢ might seem like a lot of postage for a domestic letter in the 1860s, the regulations allowed for first-class mail to weigh as much as four pounds (as specified in the Act of Congress of 3 March 1863, effective 1 July 1863). This meant that a domestic letter could be franked with postage up to \$3.84 (4 lb. x 16 oz./lb x 2 rates/oz. = 128 rates x 3¢/rate = \$3.84).

Prior to 1 July 1863, the limit was three pounds, going back to the Act of Congress of 3 March 1855, effective 1 April 1855, before which there was no weight limit. Because there were 10¢ domestic rates in the U.S. between 1855 and 1863, it would have been pos-



sible to frank a domestic letter with as much as \$9.60 postage (3 lb. x 16 oz./lb. x 2 rates/oz. = 96 rates x 10¢/rate = \$9.60). These 10¢ rates were for domestic mail that traveled over 3,000 miles from 1 April 1855 until 30 April 1861 and for domestic mail that was carried across the Rockies from 1 May 1861 until 30 June 1863.



**Figure 2. A very expensive franking: \$17.25 postage due on an 1844 cover weighing 23 ounces.**

The most expensive classic U.S. domestic franking I am aware of was noted by Stanley Ashbrook, who recorded a cover that was mailed from Morgantown, Virginia (now West Virginia), on 24 August 1841 to the Auditor of Public Accounts in Richmond, Virginia, and charged with \$22.50 postage due. Ashbrook also recorded another cover from the same correspondence which was mailed from Martinsburg, Virginia (now West Virginia) on 15 July 1844 and charged \$17.25 postage due. Figure 2 is Ashbrook's photo of the latter cover; it is rated up at "23 oz 17.25."

At that time, most letters were rated according to distance and to the number of sheets of paper they contained, but a letter that weighed an ounce or more was charged a quadruple rate, and each additional ounce was charged an additional quadruple rate. This provision went all the way back to the postal rates of 1792. In the case of the cover in Figure 2, the distance was over 150 miles and less than 400 miles. A single rate would have been 18¾¢, making the quadruple rate 75¢. So, the calculation is 75¢/oz. x 23 oz. = \$17.25. Quite a sum of money in those days! ■

**FREEMAN's**  
**Established 1974**

**BUYING & SELLING**  
**WORLDWIDE POSTAL HISTORY**

**Bourse Table at Many Shows as Global Philatelic Associates – Schedule on web site**

**WWW.GREGFREE.COM**

**Greg Sutherland**  
**POB 24231**  
**Dayton, OH 45424-0231**

## **THE 1869 PICTORIAL ISSUE AT BELLEFONTE**

**SCOTT R. TREPTEL**

The competitive element of philatelic exhibiting certainly gets the juices flowing and induces some people to show their collections. However, what happens when the ribbons and medals are stripped away, when the point system is turned off, when judges are silenced, and when the purpose of the exhibition is purely educational? The answer is great things happen, as they did at the Classics 2009 event, held October 30 to November 1, 2009, at the headquarters of the American Philatelic Society in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

This was actually two events: Classics 2009, a show co-sponsored by the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society and the A.P.S.—and the 4th annual Postal History Symposium, a scholarly program co-sponsored by the A.P.S. and Smithsonian National Postal Museum. The exhibition was non-competitive and brought out some stellar collections. The meetings, seminars and 16-dealer bourse kept everyone busy.

The symposium theme was postal reform and the 1869 pictorial stamps featured prominently, because an informal collector group, formerly called the 1869 Pictorial Research Associates (P.R.A.) and now part of the Classics Society, met to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the first bi-colored United States postage issue. More than 40 frames of 1869 material were assembled in Bellefonte from nine collections. Named among this group were Gordon Eubanks, Edward C. Field, Jeffrey M. Forster, Irvin Heimbürger, Michael Laurence, Don David Price and Stephen Rose. There were two anonymous exhibitors: six frames belonged to a gentleman who honored the late Andrew Levitt with his entry under the title “In Memoriam: Andrew Levitt P.C.”; and a collector of Far East postal history showed two remarkable frames of 1869 covers to, from and within the Far East.

It has been many years since an 1869 showing of this magnitude was possible. During the heyday of the 1869 P.R.A. in the 1970s and 1980s, a collector group led by Elliott Coulter collaborated to show 1869s every five or ten years at major national exhibitions. After Coulter’s passing in 1987, his collection was held in privacy by his widow, Judith Coulter, which handicapped any attempt to show a full range of important 1869 covers.

The dispersal of the Coulter collection in 2006, combined with other major 1869 sales (Ishikawa, Mack, “Lafayette,” LeBow, Rose and Kuphal), has enabled others to augment their collections with significant material. The exhibition in Bellefonte dramatically documented the new order of 1869 collecting. Among known major holdings of 1869 stamps and covers, only Dr. Arthur K. M. Woo’s exhibit and Bill Gross’s 1869s were missing.

To maintain the continuity of the 1869 theme, the nine exhibits were shown together in the Lunch Room of the A.P.S. building. The only glitch was that two frames of the Levitt memorial exhibit were shown in the back of another room, and unless one knew to look there, they could be missed. The effect of concentrating all of this great 1869 material in one well-lighted room was dazzling. What follows is a brief review and my picks for memorable items. This is a highly subjective selection, arranged alphabetically by exhibitors’ names.

**Gordon Eubanks**, a pioneering computer software developer and former president and CEO of Symantec, is a major collector whose presence was first felt in the market about 20 years ago, when he bought the Paul C. Rohloff Waterbury collection in a private transaction involving Robert A. Siegel and Allan Katz. He later traded the Rohloff collection to John R. Boker Jr. through Katz and Andrew Levitt. The exchange involved hundreds of items, including the 1¢ 1851 Type I 7R1E and 1¢ 1851 Type III 99R2 covers that Boker had acquired in the Ishikawa sale. I recall visiting Boker at his home when he still owned these two great 1851-issue covers. He said they did not fit with anything he collected, but he wanted to own them anyway because he always felt they were “important.” That was truly in character with Boker’s collecting style.

Only in recent years has Eubanks emerged to assume a more public stance by exhibiting his collections and authoring philatelic articles. The 1869 pictorial issue is one of his specialty collections, and he showed some major pieces in his four-frame display at Bellefonte. Among the numerous fancy cancellations he showed was a 1¢ 1869 stamp with a clear strike of the Waterbury “Running Chicken” (Figure 1). Eubanks also showed a 3¢ bisect on Luray tax notice, which remarkably was one of three Luray notices on display in the same room (another 3¢ was in the Levitt memorial exhibit, and Stephen Rose showed his 2¢ notice from the Coulter collection). Eubanks displayed a complete set of the 1869 inverts, including the superb 15¢ with a New York large star cancel and the finest used 24¢ invert (ex Moody).

Eubanks’s exhibit entry in the show catalogue included a disclaimer: “These pages are picked to show interesting items and do not tell a complete story of the issue or its postal history.” This remark was a deferential tip of the hat to the rules of competitive exhibiting, but this exhibit required no apology.

One of the most colorful and novel exhibits in the 1869 section was shown in six frames by **Edward C. Field**. His collection, “Colored Cancels on the U.S. Stamps of 1869,” contains hundreds of examples of non-black cancellations on all values of the 1869 stamps and the 1875 re-issues. Field has picked up where Jon Rose and the late Clyde Jennings left off years ago.

One of the author’s favorite covers was part of Field’s exhibit: the 3¢ 1869 with the Ashland, Ohio, “Top Hat” fancy cancel in brilliant red. Shown in Figure 2, this cover bears the corner card of the Ashland Country Probate Court and is addressed to Nathaniel C. Meeker, who was a prominent newspaper journalist with the *New York Tribune*. After the transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869, Meeker traveled to Colorado and founded the Union Colony Church, a utopian cooperative agricultural colony in what is today Greeley, Colorado. Meeker worked for the U.S. government as an agent for the White River Indian Agency on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains. However, escalating friction between Meeker and the Ute Indians eventually led to violent conflict. Meeker was the most famous casualty of the 1879 White River Massacre (also known as the Meeker Massacre), which led to the removal of the Ute Indian tribe from Colorado.

The spirit of Elliott Coulter lives on in the exhibit shown by San Jose attorney, **Jeffrey**



**Figure 1. 1¢ 1869 stamp with a clear full strike of the legendary Waterbury “Running Chicken” cancellation.**





Figure 2. 3¢ 1869 cover with the Ashland (Ohio) “Top Hat” fancy cancel in brilliant red. The cover is addressed to Nathaniel C. Meeker, a newspaper journalist who went west after the transcontinental railroad was completed and died in an Indian raid.



Figure 3. 10¢ 1869 stamp and first-issue Danish West Indies stamp, an elegant mixed franking cover, originating in La Guayra, Venezuela, and privately carried to St. Thomas, where it entered the D.W.I. mails for carriage via Brazil-line steamer to New York .

**M. Forster.** Coulter called his exhibit and slideshow “1869 Usages Around the World,” including the word “usage” in a manner that *Chronicle* editor-in-chief and grammar guru Michael Laurence finds unacceptable; see his fulmination at *Chronicle* 211, page 175. Use of “usage” as a term for “use” was once again condemned by Laurence in the question period after his lecture at Bellefonte.

Forster's exhibit, which he shows competitively, carries the title, "The 1869 Pictorial issue Used to Foreign Destinations and from Abroad 1869-1872," a semantic bow to the philatelic judging community, which can turn hostile if the title does not explicitly define the subject. The description in the Bellefonte program states, "This exhibit focuses on usages of the 1869 pictorial issue used both to foreign destinations and used from abroad to the United States from U.S. consulates, ships, and other points of origin." Our editor-in-chief must be gnashing his teeth over the use of "usage" and "use" in the same sentence.

Semantics aside, Forster's six-frame exhibit has achieved a degree of depth and power that surpasses what Coulter or anyone else has ever shown in 1869 pictorial issue postal history. His mixed-franking covers are astounding, including the rainbow-colored combination of the 10¢ 1869 and Wurttemberg stamps, which Coulter owned but sold to Ishikawa around 1986 (through Harvey Warm) for a price he considered too good to refuse. Figure 3 shows another ex-Coulter cover in the Forster exhibit, the elegant two-country "true" mixed-franking cover with the 10¢ 1869 and Danish West Indies stamps. This magnificent cover was the crowning piece when the Coulter collection sold in 2006. I call it a "true" mixed franking, because the stamps pay components of the total postage required to get the cover to its destination (as opposed to additional postage for forwarding).

Another exhibitor showing 1869s was **Irvin Heimburger**, whose 1869s captured the A.P.S. Champion of Champions award in August 2008 (which means the exhibit can no longer not be shown competitively in the U.S.) Unlike the specialized exhibits of foreign-destination covers, cancellations or specific 1869 denominations, Heimburger's ex-



**Figure 4. 24¢ 1869 stamp with a pair of 2¢ National Bank Note stamps, paying the 28¢ rate to Spain via the British mail system.**

hibit tackles the whole story, from pre-press production (essays and proofs) to off-cover multiples and varieties and representative covers for each denomination. For this reason, Heimburger's ten-frame exhibit was probably the best starting point to learn about the 1869 pictorial issue. With so much material displayed, it is difficult to choose one highlight, but I will go with Figure 4, a cover from New Orleans to Barcelona, with a 24¢ 1869 and a pair 2¢ National Bank Note stamps paying the 28¢ rate to Spain via the British mails.

**Michael Laurence**, editor-in-chief of this *Chronicle* and an 1869 collector/exhibitor for as long as I can remember, showed eight frames of his 10¢ 1869 specialized study

# OUR CLIENTS...

---

*The*

- Unlimited global reach
- Worldwide marketing efforts
- Live internet bidding
- Strategic corporate locations
- Vast philatelic knowledge
- Award-winning catalogs
- Signature "First Class" service



**SPI**  
— FOUNDED 1858  
SHREVES

At Spink Shreves, our clients have always been our top priority. By earning the trust of collectors around the world, we have grown to be the only philatelic auction firm with the unlimited global reach and resources to consistently achieve "record-breaking" prices. We proudly offer unsurpassed attention to detail and vast philatelic knowledge.

STAMPS BANKNOTES M

800 556 STAMP 800.556.78



*They Mean the  
World.*



**SPINK  
&  
SHREVES**  
ESTD 1666 —  
GALLERIES

Award-winning color catalogs and strategic worldwide marketing efforts. Numerous domestic and international locations. And most importantly, our signature "First Class" service for every client. In this ever-changing world, you can be confident Spink Shreves will continue to go to the ends of the earth to set the standard for excellence.

**MEDALS COINS BOOKS**

**212 262-8400 [www.spinkshreves.com](http://www.spinkshreves.com)**

**45 West 57th St., 18th Floor New York, N.Y. 10019 212/262-8400 FAX 212/262-8484**



**Figure 5.** 10¢ 1869 stamp with double-oval cachet of “U.S.S. Alaska,” posted March 23, 1871 on board the U.S. Naval steamer *Alaska*, which in June led a failed attempt to open up Korea, following Perry’s success in Japan. Sent to the U.S. via Yokohama and San Francisco, this cover is thought to be the only philatelic artifact known to have survived from the first Korean War.

collection. Laurence comes from the “Chicago School” of collecting, known for specialization in single stamps. The legends of the Chicago School are Paul Rohloff (5¢ Brown 1856-68), Robert Paliafito (30¢ 1861-68), Leon Hyzen (24¢ 1861-68), Sheldon Friedman and Anthony Russo (both specialists in the 2¢ Black Jack) and Raymond Vogel (12¢ and 15¢ 1861-68). Laurence lived in Chicago for many years and developed his collection in the old style. In recent years he has modified his mounting and write-up to follow some of the revised standards for competitive exhibiting, but at heart his 10¢ 1869 exhibit is a true collector’s collection, not a display crafted to please judges and win medals. For that reason, it was one of my favorites at Bellefonte.

The vivid yellow color of the 10¢ 1869 provides an ideal background for cancellations. As one passed by the frames of Laurence’s exhibit, the cancellations jumped off the pages. Without question, this is the finest assemblage of unusual cancellations on the 10¢ 1869 ever put together by one collector. In the pantheon of classic U.S. cancellation studies, it certainly ranks among the very best.

Laurence’s 10¢ 1869 covers are also outstanding, but here is where the collection is characterized not by unlimited budget and blockbuster pieces, but by the success of time, perseverance and knowledge. For example, Laurence shows a wonderful U.S./Hawaii mixed-franking cover, a juicy plum he picked from the Hall family’s collection when it was dispersed in 2000 (this cover was in the Siegel 2000 Rarities of the World sale). One of my favorites in Laurence’s exhibit is a cover he found on eBay. Shown in Figure 5, this cover was posted by a member of the U.S. naval squadron that invaded Korea in 1871—our first Korean War. Laurence wrote up this cover in the *Military Postal History Society Bulletin* (Fall 2005). According to his album-page description, it is the only recorded postal history artifact from this little-known war, the first U.S. amphibious landing in Asia.

**Don David Price** showed two frames from a larger collection of bi-colored U.S. stamps. Concentrating on the four bi-colored 1869s, Price’s exhibit includes rare or unique essay/proof items, off-cover stamps (including a set of inverts) and some unusual covers.

In the wake of the 90¢ “Ice House” cover sale, Price showed the next best thing to a cover, a piece with the 90¢ 1869 stamp tied by a full, clear strike of the “N. YORK STEAMSHIP APR. 11” circular datestamp. This piece, shown in Figure 6, was cut from a package wrapper or envelope that must have originated in South America or the Caribbean. The 90¢ stamp probably paid a multiple of the 10¢ “blanket” rate.



Figure 6. 90¢ 1869 on piece, “N. YORK STEAMSHIP APR. 11” datestamp.

I first encountered this piece in the 1978 Siegel sale of the Wunsch collection. At that time there was controversy over its genuineness, because some claimed that the 90¢ 1869 was never sent to postal agencies outside the U.S. That assertion has no factual basis. In 1986 the Philatelic Foundation issued a “genuine” opinion, with which I concur. The piece was acquired by Jeffrey Forster, who sold it with other off-cover material when he decided to focus exclusively on 1869 covers. The Wunsch piece was acquired by William Ainsworth, who exhibited it as part of his Lincoln thematic collection. When the Ainsworth collection was sold by Spink-Shreves in April 2009, Price was the winning bidder.

The last exhibitor to show his 1869s by name was **Stephen Rose**, who has diligently put together a significant single-stamp study of the 2¢ 1869 stamp. Coincidentally, this 1869 value was the favorite of another collector named Rose (Jonathan). Stephen showed about 65 covers, including the 2¢ bisect on a Luray, Virginia, tax notice from the 2006 Coulter sale. This notice has a twin, with the other half of the same stamp, which is part of the Miller collection at The New York Public Library. Rose also showed an important 1869



Figure 7. Four times the 10¢ transpacific rate, from Shanghai to New York City, paid by a 24¢ 1861 stamp and eight 2¢ 1869 stamps. This is one of very few covers from the Shanghai consular post office showing the 2¢ 1869 stamp.



cover from the U.S. Postal Agency in Shanghai (Figure 7), which he was able to acquire in the Siegel 2003 Rarities of the World sale, apparently because the collector who showed Far East 1869 covers at Bellefonte missed it or let it pass by in that sale. Shown in Figure 7, this is one of very few covers from the Shanghai consular post office showing the 2¢ 1869 stamp, and one of only two Shanghai covers with a 24¢ 1861 stamp.

**Anonymous exhibitors:** The “Use of the 1869 Pictorial Issue to, from and within the Far East” exhibit, shown anonymously, represents the largest and most valuable holding of this area since Ishikawa’s U.S. Post Offices in China and Japan collection was dispersed by Sotheby’s 30 years ago. In fact, two of Ishikawa’s best covers have been reunited in this exhibit: the 10¢ and 30¢ “Bradford” cover acquired in the 2004 Siegel sale of the LeBow collection (Figure 8) and the 3¢ cover from Japan with French stamps applied at the French consular post office in Japan. The only cover that could top these two is Steven Walske’s “Miro” cover with the 10¢ and 30¢ 1869 used from the Far East. During the time Ishikawa was collecting, the “Miro” cover was still suffering under the cloud cast over it by Stanley B. Ashbrook. Fortunately, any lingering doubts have been erased by a fresh round of expertizing, which has vindicated the cover.



**Figure 8. The famous “Bradford” cover, ex Shierson, Riddell, Ishikawa and LeBow: 10¢ 1869 and pair of 30¢ 1869s paying seven times the 10¢ transpacific from Shanghai to Pennsylvania.**

The other anonymous exhibit (and the last reviewed here) was shown in memory of Andrew Levitt, the dealer who worked closely with the anonymous collector. This collection had been shown only once before, at the 1996 Anphilex exhibition in New York City. It includes some spectacular essay and proof material, including the hand-drawn Horse-and-Rider essay used for the 2¢ value and the 15¢ Type III 1869 die essay shown here as Figure 9. This essay is similar to the Scott-listed essay (129-E1), but it lacks the large “15” overprint. This particular color, in a darker blue shade, is unlisted as the regular essay.

The exhibitor, who attended the Bellefonte show, told me he believed his collection of 1869 safety-paper essays is the most complete extant. All 25 Brazer-listed back-

ground designs, plus two additional varieties, were shown in the exhibit. Also shown in this exhibit was one of my favorite 1869 fancy cancellation items: the Waterbury "Woman in Snood" on the 1¢ 1869. This intricately-carved cancellation is not known on cover. Only two pieces are recorded: one on a 1¢ grilled stamp, and the piece shown in Bellefonte, ex Emerson and Eno. Both items are pictured in the Rohloff book, page 73.

Other 1869 items were scattered elsewhere among the exhibits, and the slide lecture by Michael Laurence in the scholarly presentations, "Icons of Postal Reform," focused on the 1869 designs and Laurence's theory that images from the American postal reform movement of the 1850s were the basis of the designs used for the many of the 1869 stamps.



**Figure 9. Very scarce 15¢ Type III 1869 die essay. This essay is similar to the Scott-listed essay (129-E1), but lacks the large "15" overprint.**

### Lessons from Bellefonte

Through fate and design, the little town of Bellefonte, with its Victorian architecture and odd anachronistic ambiance, has become home to the nation's largest stamp-collecting society. For one weekend, the A.P.S. Match Factory was also the location of a brilliantly-inspired and well-executed event, which brought collectors together for the sake of sharing and learning, rather than competing for medals. Naturally, there was some ego involved; collectors take pride in displaying their accomplishments. However, it was a joy to be freed from judges' critiques and exhibitors' complaints. As a result, those who attended were given the opportunity to see collections that are rarely or never shown in the competitive arena. In this environment, everyone could be declared the winner.

I hope that shows such as Amphilex and Bellefonte will be staged more frequently, perhaps as part of a fresh approach that emphasizes the teaching aspects of exhibits. We go to art museums for the sake of art, not to see whose collection won or lost. Competitive exhibiting has its place, but I believe the time has come to develop more non-competitive exhibitions. ■

**KRISTAL  
KARE, INC.**

Protective Pouches

For Philatelists, Numismatists, Ephemerists,  
Archivists, Collectors and Savers.

**The clear, strong, inert, dimensionally stable  
film we use is DuPont's "Mylar" Type D or  
equivalent**

**FREE  
SAMPLES**

**KRISTAL KARE, INC.**  
P.O. Box 396  
Hicksville, NY 11802

- Pouches for philatelic covers.
- Pouches for page & document protection.
- Pouches for exhibit pages.
- Folders & Pouches for document preservation.

kristalkar@aol.com  
**☎ 516-822-2562**





# David Feldman

PHILATELISTS | AUCTIONEERS **USA**

## We've got you covered.

Whether stamps or covers, collections or rarities, general or specialized, David Feldman has got you covered.

When buying or selling, we are now  
"your reliable **WORLDWIDE** partner for over 40 years"  
to secure the best results.

David Feldman USA  
108 West 39th Street, 8th Floor  
New York, NY 10018  
USA

Phone 212-997-9200  
Email [info@davidfeldmanusa.com](mailto:info@davidfeldmanusa.com)  
Web [www.davidfeldmanusa.com](http://www.davidfeldmanusa.com)

David Feldman SA  
175 route de Chancy, P.O. Box 81  
1213 Onex, Geneva  
Switzerland

Phone +41 22 727 07 77  
Email [admin@davidfeldman.com](mailto:admin@davidfeldman.com)  
Web [www.davidfeldman.com](http://www.davidfeldman.com)



## OFFICIALS

ALAN C. CAMPBELL, EDITOR

### CONSTANT PLATE VARIETIES OF THE 1873 OFFICIAL STAMPS: THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

GEORGE G. SAYERS

#### Introduction

This is the sixth of nine studies documenting the constant plate varieties currently reported and verified in the philatelic literature, both public and privately distributed, for the 1873 Official stamps. Definitions and historical references are found in the introduction to the series at the start of the first article.<sup>1</sup> Some plate varieties not illustrated but described in these studies can be found as enlarged, printed scans in the author's book, *Departmentals Plate Varieties* at the American Philatelic Research Library.<sup>2</sup> These studies are intended to be informative and useful to the interested non-specialist collector. Suggestions to further this goal will be welcomed.

Most plate varieties described in this study of the Post Office Department stamps are not catalog listed. The four low values were printed from multiple plates. The 1¢ stamp is well defined, with full left and right panes of Plate 43 available for study. The 2¢ and 6¢ first plates made in 1873 were replaced a few years later. Not much is known about those early plates; only a few large blocks and no proof multiples have been recorded. The 3¢ first Plates 36 and 40 each with 100 impressions have not been characterized. Some full panes of the first two plates with 200 impressions, Plates 30 and 41, and the later Plates 140 and 141, are being studied. Only the two catalog-listed double transfers for the 6¢ are adequately described by plate and position. A later study will present a detailed analysis of the information available on identifying the plate of origin of individual stamps and multiples for these four stamps and the only other Officials multiple-plate stamp, the 3¢ Treasury. The Post Office 10¢ and higher values were printed from single plates of 100 impressions used for all printings. Since large proof multiples and the Perry negatives are available for these six plates, positions for most plate varieties on these plates can be identified.

As demonstrated in the author's preceding article on inks,<sup>3</sup> most Post Office plates show some small double transfers of the top or bottom frame lines and some vertical scratches in several different positions which may or may not be identifiable on a stamp from that position in all printings. Only the most significant plate varieties known to exist in several formats with proven positions have been illustrated here. The author's review of relevant literature citations does not include the extreme detail of some late 1920s and early 1930s articles.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> George G. Sayers, "Constant Plate Varieties of the 1873 Official Stamps: The Department of Agriculture, Introduction and Definitions," *Chronicle* 219, pp. 218-220. Part 2, dealing with the Executive stamps, appears at *Chronicle* 220, pp. 323-327. Part 3, dealing with the Department of the Interior, appears at *Chronicle* 221, pp. 63-71. Part 4, dealing with the Department of Justice, appears at *Chronicle* 222, pp. 155-162. Part 5 (co-author Dr. Alfred E. Staubus) dealing with the Navy Department appears at *Chronicle* 223, pp. 229-239.

<sup>2</sup> George G. Sayers, *Departmentals Plate Varieties*, privately published, 2nd Edition, two volumes, 2005.

<sup>3</sup> *Chronicle* 224, pp. 310-325.

<sup>4</sup> Robert H. Davis' articles in *Ward's Philatelic News* in the 1930s contain much unverified information. In particular, his "The 3¢ Post Office Its Types and Varieties," November 1932 and April 1933 may be of interest to students, as may be Charles J. Phillips' article, "U.S. Department Stamps, 1873-1879 Unrecorded Varieties," in the April, 1929, *Collector's Club Philatelist*. Both articles contain many dubious and simply incorrect observations.

For the first time in these studies, some plates are plates of 200 impressions, divided into two panes of 100 before perforating, with or without top and bottom guide arrows to mark the interpane cut. These are identified as left and right panes by convention. No plate layout markings have been identified inside the individual panes. As with previously described plates of 100 impressions, some plates show partial vertical lines and one or more dots in the margin between columns five and six, partial horizontal lines in the margin between rows five and six, and a dot or dots in the geometric center of the plate at the intersection of these two lines. It is beyond the scope of these studies to identify these markings by position, although the author may comment on them. Quantities sold of the 1875 Special Printings of the 3¢ and higher values were so small that it is unlikely that copies of all of the plate varieties were sold, and even less likely that they have survived. However, the Special Printing stamps are generally clean and sharp so the plate varieties stand out. All of the illustrations accompanying this article have been slightly contrast enhanced to better show detail.

### Post Office Department: 1¢ (Scott O47)

The 1¢ stamps were printed from Plate 43, a plate of 200 impressions with engraved guide arrows targeting the margin between the tenth and eleventh columns. Beginning with the 1882 proof printing, the 1¢ card-stock proofs and the 1894 India-paper proofs were printed from Plate 428, a plate of 100 impressions made by the American Bank Note Company.

Some stamps from Position 1 of the right pane of Plate 43 show a progressive plate damage in and to the right of the “O” of “OFFICIAL”. This damage is shown in Figure 1. The red arrow indicates the damage, the blue arrow points to the engraved interpane arrow. The author believes this damage is a rust pit, possibly repaired with a lead plug for the 1875 Special Printing. This position can be recognized by the part arrow in the upper left corner



Figure 1. 1¢ Post Office stamp (O47) from Plate 43, Position 1, right pane. The red arrow indicates a possible rust pit. The blue arrow points to the very distinctive interpane arrow. This stamp is shown through the courtesy of Dr. Alfred E. Staubus.

margin. Copies showing the part arrow but with no plate damage are from the earliest 1873 printing and distribution. The damage is present in the 1875 Special Printing, and the author believes the approximately 30 copies of 1R43 sold from this printing all show this variety, although probably fewer than 10 have survived. The author has examined a reconstructed vertical pair of the inverted “SPECIMEN” overprint (Scott O47Sb) plated as Positions 10R and 20R43 using multiple markers compared to a top right corner margin block from that pane, thereby confirming the invert pane is the right pane. Therefore, the inverted overprint stamp from Position 1R43 showing the plate damage and part arrow might exist, but has not yet been recorded.

John Donnes, R.A. 1483, has studied the right pane of Plate 43 and reports a double transfer of the bottom third of Position 39R and multiple small vertical scratches in the “PO” of “POST” along with a small double transfer of the top of the oval frame at Position 94R. The left pane is currently being studied.

Plate 428 shows one minor tool “chattermark” above the small numeral “1” at Position 35. No double transfers or notable plate scratches were found in the 56 positions examined.

### **Post Office Department: 2¢ (Scott O48)**

The 2¢ stamps were printed from three plates of 100. According to Luff,<sup>5</sup> plates 37 and 38 were made early in 1873 for simultaneous use on the “experimental steam press.” About 1878,<sup>6</sup> plate 285 replaced these probably obsolete plates. Most stamps from Plate 285 can be identified by the right position dot. While most stamps from Plates 37 or 38 can be identified by their left position dots, little is known about these plates. Only a few plate number multiples from Plate 37 have been recorded,<sup>7</sup> and there is an unconfirmed report of a plate number piece from Plate 38. Except for the initial 1873 India-paper proof publicity distribution no proofs are recorded from these two plates. The plate used for this first proof printing is not known. No proof multiples from 1873 have been identified and there are very few identifiable stamp multiples to examine. The 1875 Special Printing was printed from Plate 37 and a few multiples have survived from the 590 stamps sold, including a top plate and imprint block of 30 (10x3), now separated. The relatively low resolution illustration of this block examined by the author shows no varieties.

Plate 285 shows many plate scratches. The 1894 card stock and India-paper proof blocks from this plate show notable scratches in 13 of 36 positions examined, and small double transfers of the top frame line at Positions 3 and 11.

Harry M. Konwiser reported a “cracked plate” from an unidentified plate and location in his article, “U. S. Department Stamps, 1873-79,” in the March, 1925, *American Philatelist*. As previously noted, Konwiser’s reports are from contemporary sources, not personal observation, and are unconfirmed. The author has not confirmed this report.

### **Post Office Department: 3¢ (Scott O49)**

According to Luff,<sup>8</sup> the 3¢ stamp was printed from six plates. Plates 36 and 40 had 100 impressions. Plates 30, 41, 140 and 141 had 200 impressions. Plate 141 was retained after the plate destruction ordered in 1884, to print the later proofs. Luff also states the 1875

<sup>5</sup> John N. Luff, *The Postage Stamps of the United States* (New York: Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd. 1902), pg. 103.

<sup>6</sup> The final Continental Bank Note Co. plate, probably from early 1879, was numbered 310 according to Luff, pg. 103. Given typical plate production of about 30 per year, Plate 285 was likely made in 1878. Peripherally, most stamps from this plate appear to be on the intermediate paper.

<sup>7</sup> The most remarkable piece being a bottom plate and imprint strip of six described as the catalog-listed double impression at Position 91, with a 1984 Philatelic Foundation certificate, from the Robert L. Markovits Exhibit Collection.

<sup>8</sup> Luff, *op. cit.*, pg. 211.



Special Printing was made from Plate 36,<sup>9</sup> which the author has not been able to confirm.

The author has examined a right pane from Plate 30 early. Positions 14, 22, 84, 87, 94 and 96 show minor double transfers of the top frame lines and the horizontal lines in the top buttons. No double transfers of the bottom frame lines, short transfers or scratches were observed. Additional plate varieties may be observed on a more sharply printed sheet.

The catalog-listed cracked-plate variety is believed by students of the issue to be from Position 91 of the right pane of Plate 30. This is shown as Figure 2. The crack, marked by the red arrows, originates from the top of the engraved interpane arrow found below the lower left corner of the position, and extends into the design. The waviness of the line is not usual for cracks, scratches or the shape expected if the engraver making the arrow had let his tool slip.

The author has examined the left pane of Plate 41 late. The double transfer of the bottom frame at Position 4 was illustrated in the author's article on this stamp co-authored with Dr. Alfred E. Staubus.<sup>10</sup> A few smaller double transfers of the bottom frame line were noted. No plate damages were found.

The author has examined a right pane from Plate 141 for plate varieties other than small double transfers. There is a short transfer/erasure of the mid-left side of Position 61. A reduced size Xerox copy of another example of Plate 141 right additionally shows three plate scratches at Positions 9, 37 and 79-80 not noted on the full pane. The first two are not present on the late India-paper proof block. There are some very narrowly spaced double transfers of the top and/or bottom frame lines apparent on the late proofs, but unlikely to be found on most production stamps.

### Post Office Department: 6¢ (Scott O50)

The 6¢ stamp was printed from Plates 39, 47 and 249, all plates of 200 impressions. The author has not found any stamps identifiable as having been printed from the initial Plate 39. A few multiples from Plate 47 have been reported. Plate 249 was used to print the 1894 proofs. The known surviving large multiples are from the right pane. The 1875 Special Printing was printed from Plate 47.

The catalog-listed double transfers at Positions 96 and 99 of the left pane of Plate 47 were identified from a bottom strip of nine stamps illustrated in Alan C. Campbell's privately published book, *United States Official Stamps 1873-1884* (San Diego, California, 2005, pg. 17). The 1875 Special Printing was printed from this plate, so these double transfers may exist on the "SPECIMEN" stamps.

A long, fine diagonal scratch is found in the late proof multiples at Position 20 of the right pane of Plate 249. The scratch begins at the edge of the central oval running through



**Figure 2. 3¢ Post Office (O49) Plate 30 Position 91 right pane. The red arrows mark the possible crack beginning at the tip of the bottom interpane arrow.**

<sup>9</sup> Luff, *op. cit.*, pg. 261.

<sup>10</sup> *Chronicle* 209, pp. 57-61.

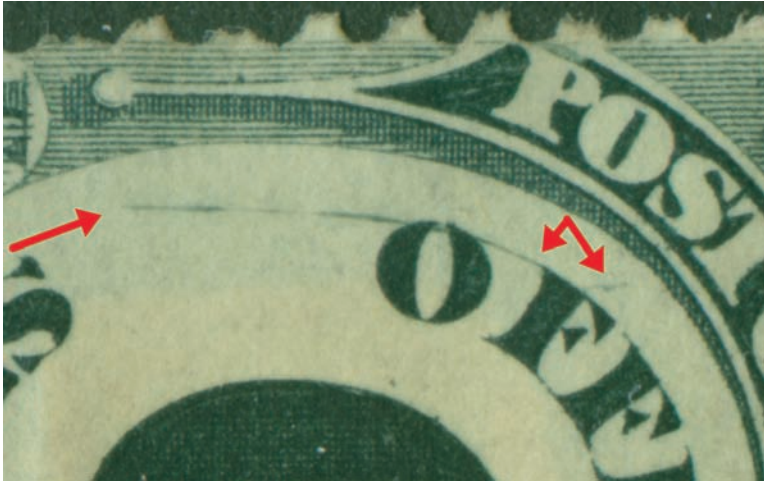


Figure 3. 6¢ Post Office (O50) Plate 249 Position 74 right pane (rotated 90 degrees clockwise). The red arrows indicate the possible plate crack. This damage appears to begin from the small vertical damage above the “F” marked by the arrow at right.

the “T” of “STAMP”, continuing through the “T” of “DEPT.” into the right margin. This has not been reported on a stamp.

Position 74 of the right pane of Plate 249 shows a curved, uneven scratch-like mark which the author believes may be a plate crack. This is shown in Figure 3, indicated by the red arrows. The mark begins at the top of the first “F” of “OFFICIAL” and curves downward through the “O”. Above the “F” is a small vertical mark indicated by the red arrow which probably is the beginning of the damage. This variety was first illustrated and misreported as a double transfer by George Sloane in his “Sloane’s Column” in *Stamps Magazine*, December 29, 1934.

#### Post Office Department: 10¢ (Scott O51)

Late proof multiples of the 10¢ stamp show a small double transfer at the top of Position 17, a vertical scratch in Position 18 from above the “L” of “OFFICIAL” through the period after “STAMP”, and some questionable damages in the central “10” of Position 12. These plate varieties have not been confirmed on a stamp.

A damage which may be a rust spot and repair can be seen at Position 2 in the right margin below the “T” of “DEPT.” This variety, shown as Figure 4 (from a proof on card stock) has been recorded on the 1875 Special Printing and on the proof multiples, but not

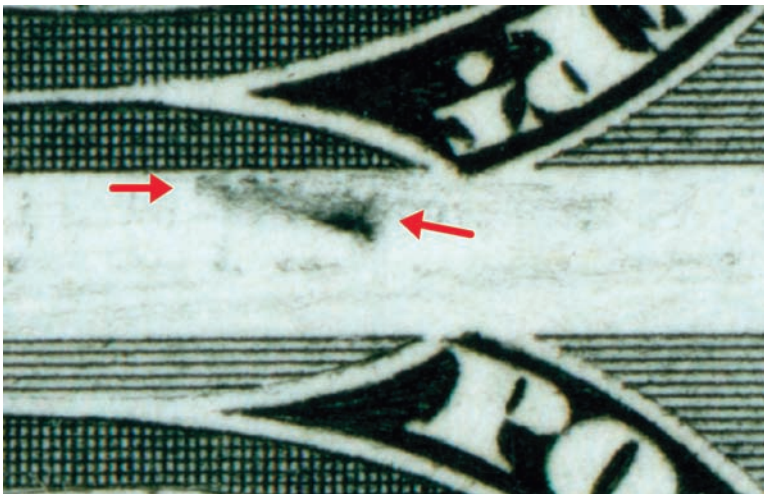


Figure 4. 10¢ Post Office proof on card stock (O51P4) Position 2 (rotated 90 degrees clockwise). The red arrows indicate a repaired rust spot. The other marks in the margin are probably evidence of another attempted repair.

yet on a production stamp. The red arrows mark the rust spot. The other marks in the margin are probably from an attempted repair.

**Post Office Department: 12¢  
(Scott O52)**

Careful examination of the 36 positions of the 12¢ stamp proof multiples showed no double transfers, probably because the design has no top or bottom frame lines. No short transfers were observed. Some positions with possible rust pit damages are being examined.

Two card proofs show both doubling of the bottoms of the “TA” in “STAMP” and a diagonal scratch through the top of the “2” in the small “12” at bottom, confirming this constant variety from an unknown position which has not been reported on a stamp.

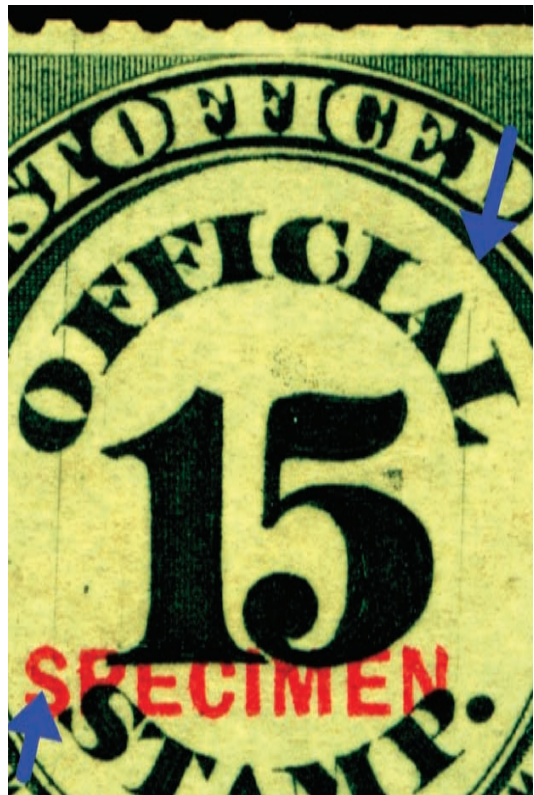
Most positions show some vertical scratches. The catalog-listed horizontal scratch beginning above the small “12” at bottom is found at Position 100 and extends through the shaded “S” at lower right into the right margin.

Combs reported,<sup>11</sup> “A cardboard proof exists with a very fine line from the ‘O’ of ‘OFFICIAL’ to the bottom serif of the numeral ‘1.’” In the author’s article on inks in *Chronicle 224*, Figure 11 shows such a proof with a scratch similar to Combs’ description, and several other scratches. Other positions may also show similar scratches.

**Post Office Department: 15¢ (Scott O53)**

Lot 776 of the Christie’s December 15, 1989 auction of the Weill Brothers’ stamps was a bottom half-sheet of the 15¢ Post Office stamp. The catalog illustration of this piece shows notable scratches at Positions 71 and 77. The horizontal scratch at Position 77 runs from the left margin through the central “15” through the right margin. A confirming copy has not been reported. Position 71 shows two vertical scratches, the left running from the top margin through the “O” of “OFFICIAL” to the bottom of the central oval. The right scratch runs in the central oval through the “L” of “OFFICIAL.” This variety was reported by Combs<sup>12</sup> and has been recorded on the 1875 Special Printing, shown as Figure 5. The blue arrows indicate the scratches. Combs also reports a line through the numeral “1” variety which has not been identified.

The 15¢ proof multiples show a clear double transfer of the bottom frame at Position 9. Several positions show doubling of the horizontal lines in the top buttons and rarely the top frame.



**Figure 5. 15¢ Post Office 1875 Special Printing (O51S) Position 71. The blue arrows mark the vertical scratches unique to this position.**

<sup>11</sup> W. V. Combs, *U. S. Departmental Specimen Stamps* (State College, Pennsylvania: The American Philatelic Society, 1965), pg. 27.

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





**Figure 6. 15¢ Post Office Position 24. The red arrows indicate scratch under the central “5”.**

more than a few minimal double transfers in any of the 34 proof positions examined. None has been recorded on stamps. Small, fine vertical scratches up to a few millimeters in length can be found on many stamps and proofs and in the margins. The diagonal scratch in the left of the oval of Position 86 was illustrated as Figures 5 and 9 in the article on ink in *Chronicle 224*. This is likely the scratch reported by Konwiser in his *Mekeel's* column for August 9, 1937.

Position 24 shows a complex plate damage in the “AM” of “STAMP”, found on the 1881 Atlanta and later proofs, but not yet reported on a production stamp. This variety was first reported by Rollin C. Huggins in his *Official Chatter*, February 1990.

The 1894 proof multiples show a deep horizontal scratch through Positions 25 and 26, curving upward into Position 17, which would normally be considered by proximity probably related to the damage at Position 24. However, this remarkable scratch has not been reported on stamps or other proofs, so its origin should be considered more likely related to the last proof printings.

No literature reference has been found for the double transfer that has been catalog-listed since 1928.

There is a scratch under the central “5” of Position 24, shown as Figure 6. The red arrows indicate the scratch.

There is a notable horizontal scratch at Position 30 running from the left margin below the “O” of “OFFICIAL” to the right margin above the “S” of “CENTS” which has been recorded on a stamp. This is shown in Figure 7, illustrated from a proof block on India paper. The red arrows indicate the scratch.

**Post Office Department: 24¢  
(Scott O54)**

The 24¢ design top and bottom frame lines are extremely fine. However, neither these frame lines nor the horizontal lines in the top corner buttons show



**Figure 7. 15¢ Post Office Position 30. The red double arrows indicate the diagonal scratch.**

### Post Office Department: 30¢ (Scott O55)

The 30¢ stamp bottom frame design is similar to the Navy 30¢, and the double transfers are quite similar, showing doubling at the top of the small “30” and the horizontal shading lines in the shield-shaped value tablet. Additionally, the left ribbon top frame above the “RTY” of “THIRTY” is doubled in some positions. The fine top frame line and the top of the oval frame show doubling in some positions. In one unidentified position the bottom doubling extends upward to the bottoms of the “AM” of “STAMP”. On the proof multiples, doubling of top and/or bottom design elements occurs on about 30 percent of the positions. On the small sample of production stamps examined, and on the card-stock proof sets examined, doubling is apparent on perhaps five percent of the copies.

In Position 29 of the proof multiples, an unusual smear of small dots traverses from the upper left margin diagonally to the lower right. This variety has not been reported on a stamp.

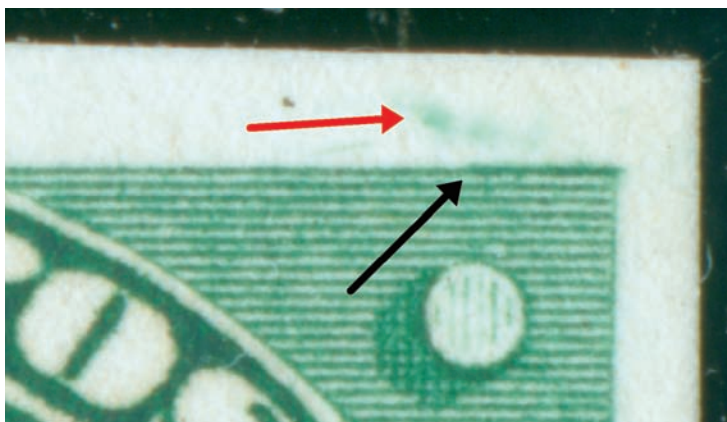
Above the top left and top right corners of the sheet impression area, oval spiral scratches are found in the margins and should show nicely in the top corner margin blocks.

### Post Office Department: 90¢ (Scott O56)

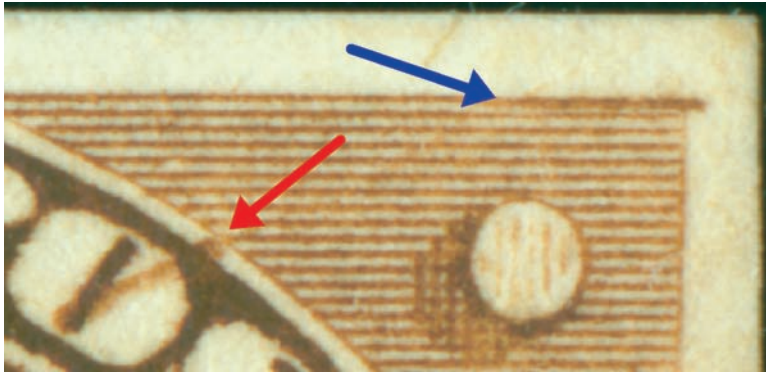
The fiber image transfer in the ninth column, best seen in Position 9, was previously reported and illustrated in the author’s article on roll-to-plate transfer defects, *Chronicle* 212, pp. 278-287.

There are many unusual small marks in the upper left corner of the 90¢ stamps. The 90¢ Plate 88 shows a right midline position dot in columns one to nine, demonstrating the plate was, from the stamp sheet perspective, rolled in right to left. Column 10 was rolled in first. High magnification examination of the upper left corners of the individual impressions in the proof multiples leads to the conclusion that the transfer roll was damaged at this location at the beginning of the roll-in sequence. Almost every position was then recut in this area, some so expertly as to be undetectable, many with just a hint of repair, but some obvious recuts are scattered across the plate.

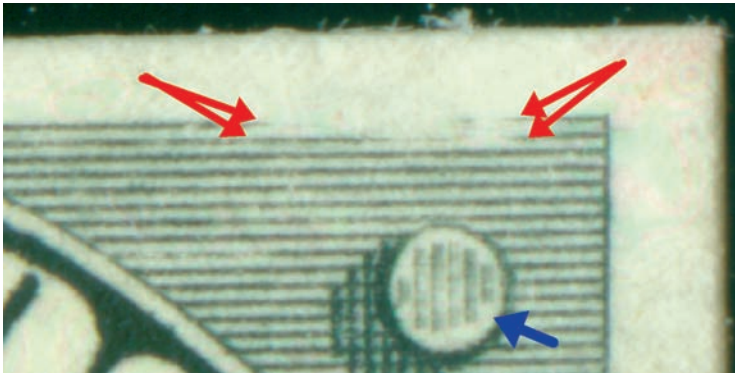
Figure 8 shows the recut of Position 10 indicated by a black arrow. The position was identified by three secondary plating marks (not included in the illustration) from a green



**Figure 8. 90¢ Post Office “Atlanta” green trial color proof on card stock (O56P4TC), Position 10, rotated 90 degrees clockwise. The black arrow indicates the start of the recut of the outer left vertical frame line. The red arrow marks the smear in the margin similar to those found adjacent to many of the recuts.**



**Figure 9. 90¢ Post Office Atlanta brown trial color proof on card stock (O51P4TC) Position 11 (rotated 90 degrees clockwise). The blue arrow indicates the start of the recut. The red arrow indicates the damage through the “O” of “POST” found only at Position 11.**



**Figure 10. 90¢ Post Office proof on card stock (O90P4) from an unknown position (rotated 90 degrees clockwise). The red arrows indicate the defective transfer of the two frame lines. The blue arrow points to the double transfers of the horizontal lines in the top button.**

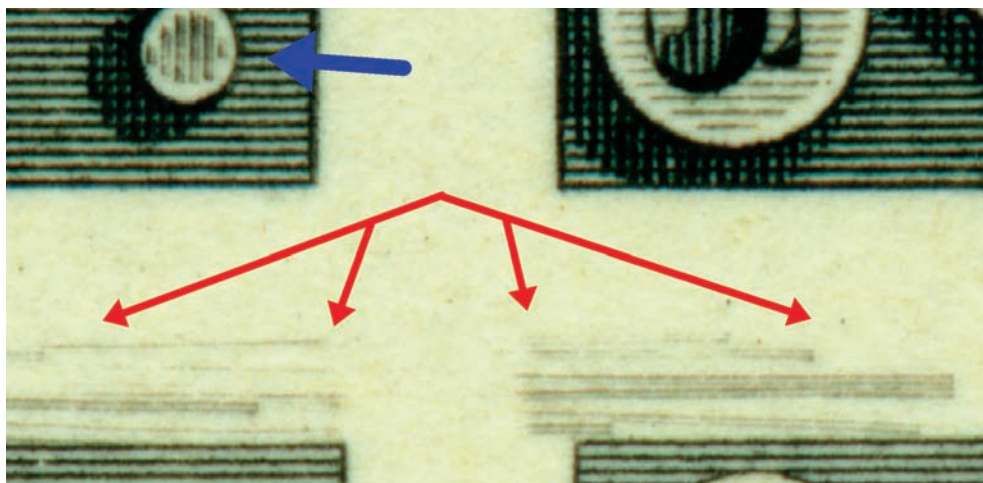
Atlanta proof (O56P4TC). A red arrow points to the smear similar to those found next to many of the recuts.

Figure 9 shows the nearly identical recut of Position 11, indicated by a blue arrow. This position was identified by the unique damage in the “O” of “POST” indicated by the red arrow, from a brown Atlanta proof (O56P4TC). Positions 10 and 11 are on opposite sides of the plate and would have been rolled in more than 80 transfers apart, demonstrating this variety is likely not due to a progressive damage to the transfer roll.

Figure 10 shows an unrepaired defective transfer from an unknown position, indicated by the red arrows. Many positions show a smudge-like damage in the margins to the left of the recut which may be related to the damaged transfer roll or the repair. Most unusual are the marks found just outside the left margins of several positions.

Figure 11 shows part of the marks in the upper left margin of Position 37 and the lower left margin of Position 27 indicated by the red arrows, but erased in the horizontal margin. Similar marks can be found in the left margin of Position 14, and at least one unidentified





**Figure 11. 90¢ Post Office India-paper proof (O90P3) of Positions 26, 27, 36 and 37 (rotated 90 degrees clockwise). The compound red arrows indicate the unexplained vertical marks found next to several positions and the erasure of these marks in the horizontal margin. The blue arrow points to the double transfer of the horizontal lines in the top button of Position 36.**

position. With the recut/repairs, the smudges, the multiple transfers and the position dots, probably every position of the 90¢ plate is uniquely identifiable.

The 90¢ stamp proofs show double or triple transfers of some of the top design elements on more than one third of the positions. Double transfers of the horizontal lines in the top buttons (incidental to the purpose of the figures) can be seen marked by the blue arrows in Figures 10 and 11. Double transfers in the tops of the small “90” at bottom and the adjacent oval frame line occur in a few positions. ■

**Bibliopole**  
Since 1965

**PHILATELIC BIBLIOPOLE**

<http://pbbooks.com>

Authoritative Philatelic Literature

**US, CSA, Maritime, Forgery, GB and the Empire, etc.**

Purchaser of major and minor philatelic libraries, stocking new titles from over 100 publishers. 144 page Stock Catalog: \$3 to a US address, Foreign by air \$5.

**PB Blank Pages, Mylar and Page Boxes**

The state of the art for both archival preservation and appearance, our pages are 100% cotton rag, neutral pH and buffered; blank and quadrille. Custom steel engraved page heads and paneling available. Will run on most Laser Jet Printers. All made exclusively for us in the US. Page Sampler: \$3 to a US address. Foreign by air \$7.

**Leonard H. Hartmann**

**P.O. Box 36006, Louisville, KY 40233**  
**Phone (502) 451-0317, Fax (502) 459-8538**



**KEARNY'S CALIFORNIA MAIL ROUTE**  
**RICHARD FRAJOLA AND FLOYD RISVOLD**

The earliest United States regular mail route to be established within California pre-dates the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo which formally ceded Alta California to the United States in 1848 after the Mexican-American War. This “regular mail” route was actually a military express mail service inaugurated by military governor Stephen W. Kearny in April 1847. While the service was operated by the military, letters from civilians were authorized to be carried and all mail was carried free of charge. This mail service is properly categorized as an American mail route operating in Mexican California.

It was announced in the *California Star* (later the *Daily Alta Californian*) edition of Saturday, April 17, 1847, as follows:

**REGULAR MAIL.** Our readers will be pleased to learn that Gov. Kearny has established a semi-monthly mail, to run regularly between San Francisco and San Diego. This mail is to be carried on horseback, by a party consisting of two soldiers; and is to commence on the 19th inst. Starting every other Monday from San Diego, and San Francisco, the parties to meet at Captain Dana's Ranch, the next Saturday to exchange Mails; and start back on their respective routes the next morning, and arrive at San Diego and San Francisco, on the Sunday following, and so continuing.

**The 1847 Mail Route Between San Francisco and San Diego**

The actual route, shown in Figure 1, followed closely the Spanish Royal Road (“Camino Real”) which connected the California missions with Mexico City. Parts of the trail had been used to carry mail since at least 1776, when Father Junipero Serra suggested a monthly mail be established to connect the Presidio of San Diego and Monterey, near San Francisco.<sup>1</sup>

A letter carried over this route is shown in Figure 2. It is a folded letter from Henry Mellus, dated at San Francisco, addressed to his partner William D.M. Howard at Los Angeles. It is endorsed “San Francisco Dec 27” at top in red ink, typical of military endorsements of the time. This endorsement was possibly written



**Figure 1. Mail route of 1847 connecting San Francisco and San Diego, California.**

<sup>1</sup> Letter of Father Junipero Serra dated July 27, 1776, in the Risvold collection.



Figure 2. An 1847 letter from San Francisco to (Los) Angeles, California.

by Captain Joseph L. Folsom, who was acting military postmaster. December 27 was a Monday in 1847, which corresponds to the scheduled departures.

The writer of this letter, Henry Mellus, came to California in 1835 as a sailor before the mast in the ship *Pilgrim*. A shipmate on this voyage was Richard Henry Dana, whose diary of the trip, *Two Years Before the Mast*, established his fame. Mellus served as agent for Appleton & Co. in the hide and tallow trade before partnering with William D.M. Howard in purchasing the Hudson Bay Company property in San Francisco in 1846. Mellus died in 1860.

Additional information about this short-lived mail route is revealed in two letters found in government papers.<sup>2</sup>

In a letter headed Monterey, California, June 3, 1847 and addressed to L.W. Boggs, *alcalde* at Sonoma, the Governor of California, Col. R.B. Mason, writes:

**I regret that it is not in my power to afford the people in California any greater mail facilities at this time than the military express that has been established, once in two weeks, between San Francisco and San Diego, which carries letters and papers for all persons free of charge.... This is a military government, and the supreme power is vested in the senior military officer of the Territory.**

A letter from Monterey, California, dated 9 January 1849, addressed to “Col. J.L. Folsom, Assistant Quartermaster Genl.” and written by Lt. W. T. Sherman (who was destined for greater things), mentions the California service as follows:

**The military express mail to and from San Francisco and Monterey is under your control; that from Monterey to Dana’s is under the control of the quartermaster at Los Angeles.**

It is not known how long the route remained in operation beyond the January 9, 1849 date in the Sherman letter just quoted. So far, the Figure 1 cover is the only example known to the authors of a letter endorsed for carriage on Kearny’s California mail route. ■

<sup>2</sup> 31st Congress, House of Representatives., Executive Document No. 17, Feb 6, 1850.



**PHILADELPHIA'S TRANSATLANTIC MAIL DELAY  
DURING THE WINTER OF 1834-35**

**JOHN BARWIS**

In the mid-18th Century, the population of Philadelphia was the second largest in the Americas, behind only Mexico City. Largely as a result of its inconvenient geographic location, by 1850 Philadelphia's population would fall to fourth among United States cities, behind Baltimore, Boston and New York, according to the U.S. Census.

Developments in transportation further diminished Philadelphia's earlier pre-eminence. Growth of trade with the western frontier was spurred by completion of the Erie Canal in 1825. The canal allowed large payloads of goods and building supplies to be conveyed from the East Coast to the Great Lakes faster and at far lower costs than by horse-drawn wagons across the Appalachians. Although the canal's eastern terminus was at Albany, the eastern terminus of the canal-related commercial stream was effectively at New York City.

International trade also saw Philadelphia disadvantaged relative to New York. The trip from British ports to Philadelphia was 200 miles longer, requiring a long sail up the Delaware estuary. Depending on winds, that could require intermittent anchoring through several tidal cycles, and ended in a shoal-water harbor with limited onward connections. The upshot was that before the advent of transatlantic steamships, the trip from Great Britain to Philadelphia, even in clement weather, could consume an extra one to two weeks compared to New York.<sup>1</sup> Though cabin passage to Philadelphia was £5 cheaper, New York took most of the transatlantic trade, with three packet sailings per week by 1845.<sup>2</sup>

An additional impediment to Philadelphia's maritime commerce was that during severe winters, ice could shut down all traffic on the Delaware River. The city would thus become temporarily land-locked, and would experience arrival delays of international mails sent direct, rather than via one of the many shipping companies servicing New York.

The pair of covers illustrated here depicts two different treatments of incoming letters during the particularly severe winter of 1834-35.

Most of December 1834 was relatively cold, with an average daily temperature of 29° F. A major storm on December 29 brought four inches of snow and severe cold, which continued for much of January; daybreak temperatures hovered around 2° to 4° below zero. This cold wave, combined with a second storm on January 9, closed the Delaware River to all maritime traffic.<sup>3</sup> By January 17 a thaw allowed the ferry operated by the Camden &

<sup>1</sup> R.F. Weigley, ed., *Philadelphia, a 300 Year History* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1982), pg. 323.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pg. 324.

<sup>3</sup> C. Pierce, C., *A Meteorological Account of the Weather in Philadelphia from January 1, 1790 to January 1, 1847* (Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1847), pg. 25.



**Figure 1. Liverpool December 8, 1834, to Germantown, Pennsylvania, by Cope Line *Algonquin*, which sailed from Liverpool December 11, 1834, and arrived at the Lazaretto (Philadelphia's quarantine station) January 27, 1835, after lengthy weather delays. Letter reached Philadelphia February 28, 1835.**

Amboy Rail Road to carry New York passengers to Browning's Wharf in Kensington.<sup>4</sup> Despite a brief opening caused by rain on January 20, the river froze over again and remained closed until well into February.

Figure 1 is the address portion of a single sheet of what was originally a two-sheet letter from Sarah Campbell in England to her friend Anne Morris in Germantown, Pennsylvania. The dateline is unfortunately on the missing sheet, so the city and date of origin are uncertain. However, the sender endorsed the letter for a ship scheduled to sail on December 8, 1834. This was the scheduled departure of the monthly Cope Line sailing from Liverpool. In this case, the *Algonquin* actually left three days later, on December 11.<sup>5</sup> *Algonquin* arrived at Cape Island, New Jersey (renamed Cape May in January 1869), on January 6, 1835, where she was driven off by a gale and was unable to return until January 15. By then ice on the Delaware prevented her from entering the estuary. Cope Line records show that on January 23, the Copes sent a steamboat south for passengers and mail, but this intended relief was evidently unsuccessful since the mail from this voyage was not postmarked until late February.

On January 27, 1835, *Algonquin* finally arrived at the Lazaretto, 10 miles south of the Philadelphia harbor, in Tincum Township, Delaware County, where all incoming ships were required to register and be subject to quarantine.<sup>6</sup> Figure 2 shows a late 19th Century engraving by an unknown artist of the Lazaretto, which was America's first quarantine hospital. All Philadelphia-bound ships were required to report here and be inspected. Records of the City Health Officer of the Lazaretto indicate the *Algonquin* carried a crew of 27 along with seven passengers (see Table 1). After health-tax payments were made by Captain Cheyney, the ship was cleared for the city docks, from which the letter in Figure 1 was

<sup>4</sup> Charleston, *Southern Patriot*, January 17, 1835, newspaper accounts of shipping at Philadelphia.

<sup>5</sup> Personal communications with J. Killick, 2009.

<sup>6</sup> The Lazaretto sits on the site of the oldest permanent settlement in Pennsylvania, which was occupied by Swedish immigrant farmer/fishermen in 1643. Before that it was a Lenni Lenape Indian settlement.



**Figure 2. Late 19th Century engraving of the Lazaretto in Tinicum Township, 10 miles south of Philadelphia. Built in 1799, the Lazaretto was America's first quarantine station. All Philadelphia-bound ships were required to report here and be inspected. Artist unknown.**

taken to the Philadelphia post office where it was postmarked on February 28 and struck with the full-rigged ship marking, indicating a ship letter. I cannot explain the one-month delay between arrival at the Lazaretto and the letter's arrival at the post office.

The post office clerk incorrectly marked the double-rate letter at 20¢ due for 30-80 miles. This was crossed out and the letter re-rated to 14 cents: double the six cents rate for less than 30 miles plus 2¢ ship fee. Although Germantown was less than ten miles from the docks, it was not yet part of Philadelphia, so the ship-letter rate for delivery to the port did not apply.

Cope Line correspondence shows that the *Algonquin* was planned for quick turnaround on the return to Liverpool, since it was scheduled to depart before the end of February.<sup>7</sup> However, river ice delayed the departure until March 8, 1835. Incoming ships continued to be delayed well into March.

Instead of waiting for ice to clear on the Delaware River, at least one ship captain decided to send his mails overland from the mouth of the estuary. Figure 3 is a letter from Rathbone Brothers in Liverpool to Philadelphia merchant Nathan Trotter, dated December 12, 1834, the day after *Algonquin* had sailed. The sender endorsed the letter per *Aid de Camp*, another sailing vessel, which departed Liverpool on December 17, 1834.<sup>8</sup> At Cape Island, New Jersey, Captain McGill of the *Aid de Camp* put his mail ashore on January 15, 1835. This was the same day the *Algonquin* managed to return after the week-long gale of early January. At the Cape Island post office, the letter was postmarked in manuscript and rated 14½ cents due: two cents ship fee plus 12½ cents inland postage to Philadelphia (80-150 miles). The letter was docketed as received in Philadelphia on January 17, 1835,

<sup>7</sup> Personal communications with J. Killick, 2009.

<sup>8</sup> Philadelphia, *Pennsylvania Inquirer*, January 17, 1835, newspaper accounts of shipping at Philadelphia.





Figure 3. Liverpool December 12, 1834, to Philadelphia by private ship *Aid de Camp*, which sailed from Liverpool December 17, 1834. Mail put ashore at Cape Island, New Jersey, January 15, 1835, from which letter was carried overland and arrived in Philadelphia January 17, 1835.

more than a month before *Algonquin's* mails arrived there. *Aid de Camp* continued on to Philadelphia, arriving at the Lazaretto on January 27, the same day as the *Algonquin*, as shown in Table 1.

Arrival Date	Vessel Name	Commanders	Where From	Where Belonging	Number Of Crew
Jan 27	Ship <i>Algonquin</i>	J.H. Cheyney	Liverpool	Philadelphia	27
Jan 27	Ship <i>Augusta</i>	C.P. Marsham	St. Thomas	New York	5
Jan 27	Ship <i>Aid de Camp</i>	Alex McGill	Liverpool	Liverpool	21

Table 1. Extract of ship arrivals during January 1835 at the Lazaretto, Philadelphia's quarantine hospital, transcribed from a photograph of the Health Officer's logbook, courtesy John Killick, Leeds University.

The *Algonquin*, 479 tons, was built in Philadelphia for the Cope Line in 1824. She carried mail on many transatlantic voyages before being wrecked in 1843 on an uninsured voyage to New Orleans.<sup>9</sup> This was one of several ship losses incurred by the Copes, including the *Thomas P. Cope* and the *Tuscarora*.<sup>10</sup> I have been unable to determine the origin or ultimate fate of the *Aid de Camp*. ■

<sup>9</sup> J. Killick, "An early nineteenth-century shipping line: The Cope Line of Philadelphia and Liverpool packets, 1822-1872," *International Journal of Maritime History*, 2000, Vol. 12, No. 1, pg. 82.

<sup>10</sup> E.C. Harrison, *Philadelphia Merchant, the Diary of Thomas P. Cope, 1800-1851* (South Bend, Indiana: Gateway Editions, 1978), pg. 585.

## POSTAL HISTORY OF U.S. STAMP COLLECTING: 1862-1899 (2)

STEVEN R. BELASCO

### Introduction

This continues an exploration of the 19th century postal history of stamp collecting in the United States, based on covers and postal cards used by or to stamp collectors, stamp dealers, stamp clubs and societies. Parts 1 and 2 of this series, published in *Chronicle* 224, discussed the postal history of U.S. stamp collecting from 1862 to 1870. During these first years almost all philatelic postal history activity involved the Northeast. During the 1870s, the decade considered here, the reach of the stamp hobby spread across the United States. Part 3 discusses activity in the Northeast and Part 4 discusses the South, the Midwest and the West.

### Part 3 – The 1870s in the Northeast

From its beginnings in the 1860s, stamp collecting continued its growth in the 1870s. New collectors, dealers, publications and collector groups all came onto the scene. During this decade, New York City established its preeminence over two former rivals, Boston and Philadelphia. This was due in no small part to the activities of J. Walter Scott, the “Father of American Philately.”

State	Sender	City	Date	Reference
New Hampshire	C. M. Gale & Co.	Concord	11/26/1875	Figure 3-4
Vermont	Northern Stamp Co.	St. Albans	1874	

**Table 2. Earliest uses in New Hampshire and Vermont, 1870s**

The main focus of Part 3 is to examine the first postal history items from Vermont and New Hampshire (Table 2), as well as some interesting postal history items from the other Northeastern states. We begin with a look all the New England states with postal history items relating to stamp collecting in the 1870s. This will be done alphabetically, beginning with Massachusetts.

### Massachusetts

Among the postal history items known are covers from most of the members of the notorious “Boston Gang,” whose members produced and sold counterfeits, reprints and bogus stamps. The gang consisted of the Boston stamp dealers S. Allan Taylor, Charles A. Lyford, James M. Chute, Charles M. Seltz, William Skinner and, for a short time, Ferdinand Trifet.

The cover shown in Figure 3-1 is from S. Allan Taylor, the leader of the gang. During 1869-1873, Taylor’s office was at 81 Washington Street, Room 28, Boston.<sup>1</sup> The Figure 3-1 cover, addressed to Philadelphia and franked with a 3¢ Bank Note stamp, dates from this era. In addition to his philatelic fame as a forger and reprint merchant, Taylor made a much more positive contribution by publishing the first U.S. stamp periodical, *Stamp Collectors Record*, in Albany in 1864.

<sup>1</sup>Taylor’s unsavory activities are discussed in Tyler’s *Philatelic Forgers*, pp. 131-133.

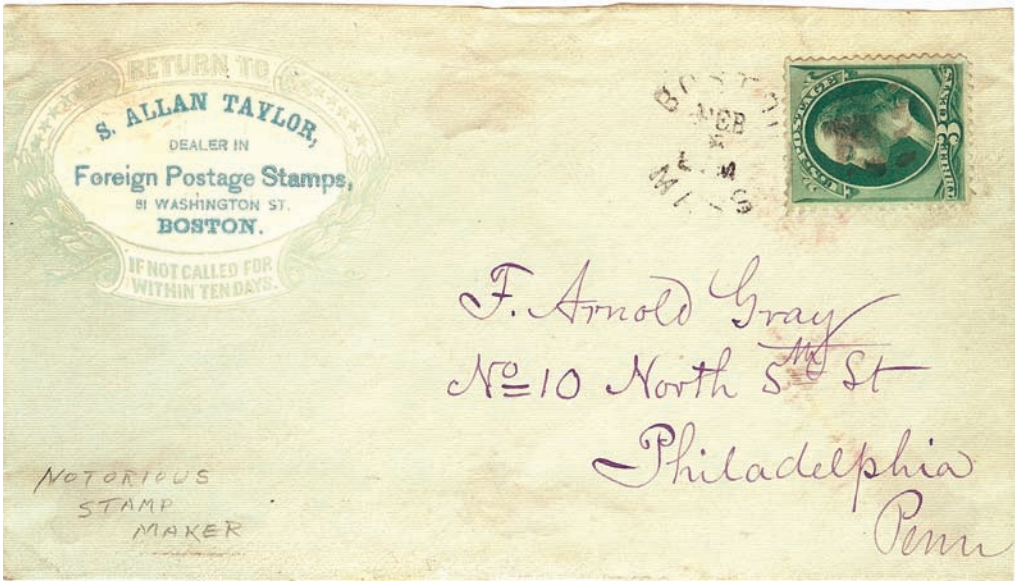


Figure 3-1. 3¢ Bank Note cover from the early 1870s, sent by S. Allan Taylor, the leader of the Boston gang, which made many counterfeit and fake stamps.



Figure 3-2. Cover from Charles A. Lyford, another member of the Boston gang.

The second “gang” cover, shown in Figure 3-2, is from Charles A. Lyford at Box 2719 in Boston. Lyford was the editor of the *New England Journal of Philately* in 1869.<sup>2</sup> The Boston circular datestamp reads “MAR 2” and the cover probably dates from the early 1870s.

The third “gang” cover, shown in Figure 3-3, is from Ferdinand Trifet. Trifet was much more than a Boston gang member. His achievements as an author, dealer (1866-1895) and publisher overshadow that brief phase of his career. The Figure 3-3 cover, postmarked

<sup>2</sup> Lyford’s activities with the “gang” are discussed in Tyler’s *Philatelic Forgers*, pp. 73-74.



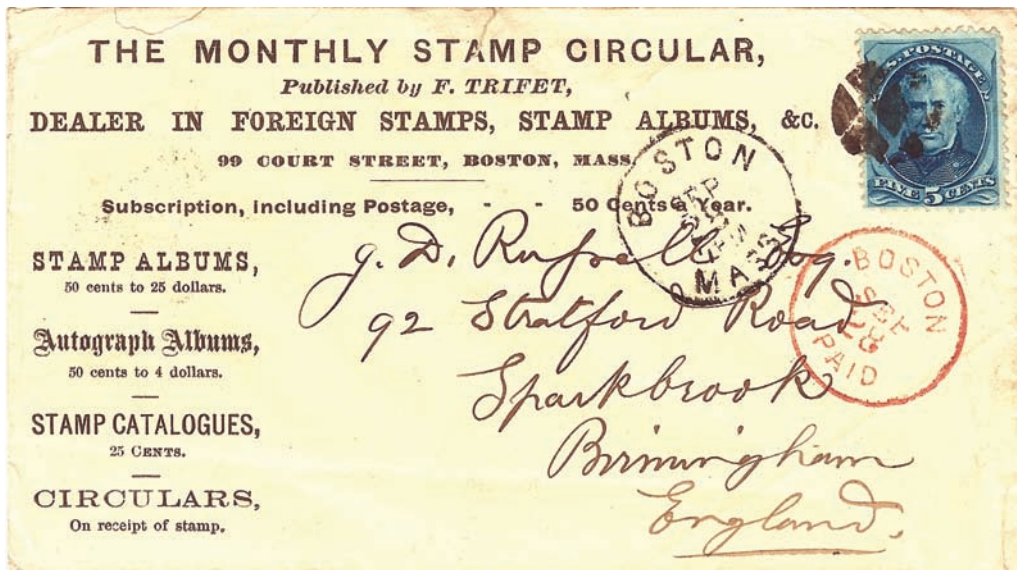


Figure 3-3. 5¢ Taylor cover from Ferdinand Trifet, postmarked at Boston, Massachusetts, on September 28, 1875, and sent to stamp dealer J. D. Russell in Birmingham, England.

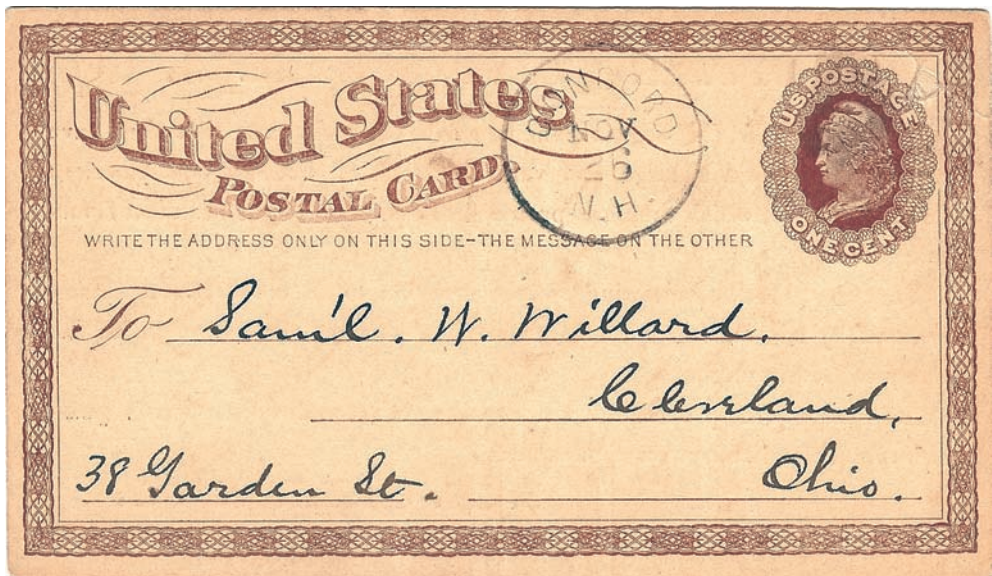


Figure 3-4. The earliest reported philatelic postal history item from New Hampshire is this 1¢ postal card (Scott UX3), postmarked “CONCORD, N.H. NOV 26,” probably 1875.

at Boston on September 28, 1875, was sent to the stamp dealer J. D. Russell in Birmingham, England, using a 5¢ blue Taylor stamp (Scott 179) to pay the 5¢ UPU rate.

### New Hampshire

The earliest postal history of stamp collecting item I know of from New Hampshire is shown in Figure 3-4. It was mailed by C. M. Gale & Co. of Concord on November 26, circa 1875, using a 1¢ brown postal card (Scott UX3). The ad on the reverse, announcing

## Foreign Postage Stamps.

C. M. GALE & Co. beg to announce to stamp collectors that they have recently purchased a large and valuable stock of Foreign and American Postage Stamps, which they are prepared to dispose of upon the most favorable terms.

They trust that by bestowing prompt attention to all orders from customers, and by fair dealing with all, to merit a share of the patronage of the stamp-collecting public.

All stamps sold by them are warranted genuine, and satisfaction is guaranteed. Price-list sent on application.

**C. M. GALE & CO.**

Concord, N. H.

Figure 3-4A. Advertising Message on the back of the postal card shown in Figure 3-4.



Figure 3-5. Cover from stamp dealer F. H. Pinkham with 2¢ vermilion and 3¢ green Bank Note stamps (Scott 178 and 158, respectively) paying the 5¢ UPU rate to J. D. Russell in Birmingham, England. The cover is postmarked Newmarket, N.H., March 20, [1877].

the purchase of a “large and valuable stock of Foreign and American postage stamps” is shown in Figure 3-4A.

The second New Hampshire postal history item is from a better-known stamp dealer, F. H. Pinkham of Newmarket, N.H. This is a cover sent to J. D. Russell, Birmingham, England on March 20, 1877, shown in Figure 3-5. (A faint receiving Birmingham receiving stamp on the reverse shows “AP 2, 77”.) The 5¢ UPU rate was paid by a 2¢ vermilion and a 3¢ green stamp (Scott 178 and 158, respectively). Pinkham started in the stamp business around 1870 and in 1872 he began publishing the *Stamp Collector's Monthly*. Over



the next decade he was in and out of the stamp business when he was not concentrating on his printing business.<sup>3</sup>

### New Jersey

New Jersey is represented in this era by the stamp firm of Tredwell, Rogers & Co., "Importers of Foreign Stamps, Elizabeth, N.J." Figure 3-6 shows the reverse of a 1¢ brown postal card (Scott UX3), dated "Aug. 9, 1873" and postmarked August 11, with their name and a picture of a 1¢ Prince Edward Island stamp. Note the message: "We shall try to do our best." Tredwell, Rogers published one issue of a periodical called *The American Philatelist* in July, 1871 and was in the stamp import business at least though 1873.<sup>4</sup>

### New York

As befits the center of American philately in the 1870s, New York City produced a good range of philatelic postal history. Several important new dealers made their appearance in the 1870s, including C. H. Bechtel, G. B. Calman, William W. Phair of Brooklyn, and Nicholas Seebeck.

Figure 3-7 shows a cover mailed by C. H. Bechtel on Apr 12, 1876 to J. D. Russell, Birmingham, England. The 5¢ UPU rate was paid by a 5¢ blue Taylor stamp (Scott 179). The corner card is very attractive, showing a running chicken design that was quite popular in this era. The text under the running chicken reads "If you don't catch it in 10 days return to C. H. Bechtel, Dealer in Foreign and Domestic Postage & Revenue Stamps, Confederate Notes and Bonds, A Specialty, P.O. Box 77, New York."

A William W. Phair cover is shown in Figure 3-8. This was sent to Holland from Brooklyn on Feb. 9, 1876. The 5¢ UPU rate was paid by two 1¢ ultramarine stamps flanking a 3¢ green stamp (Scott 156 and 158), tied by what appears to be a New York foreign mail geometric killer. Insofar as I can tell, Phair operated this business for a few years in the mid to late 1870s.

<sup>3</sup> In 1884 he started printing several stamp papers. In 1886 he began conducting his stamp business under the name Granite State Stamp Company, with a concentration on Central American stamps. Mekeel, Charles H. "A Review of the American Stamp Trade," *Philatelic Journal of America*, January, 1889, pg. 10.

<sup>4</sup> Their periodical is unrelated to *The American Philatelist* that was first published in January, 1887, by the American Philatelic Association, later the American Philatelic Society, and continues to be published today.

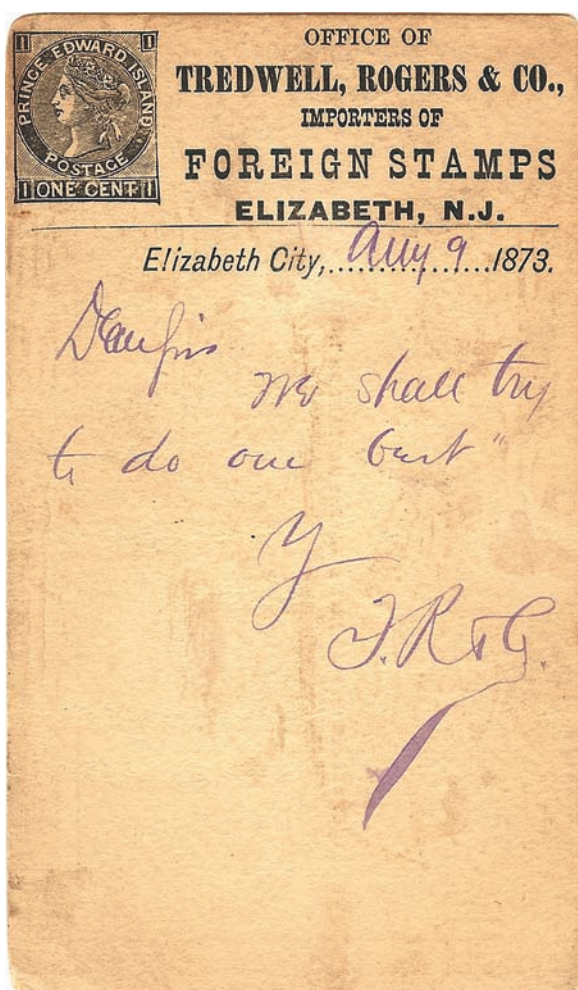


Figure 3-6. Reverse of a postal card showing advertising and message from by Tredwell, Rogers & Co., "importers of foreign stamps." The card was postmarked at Elizabeth, N.J., on August 11, 1873.



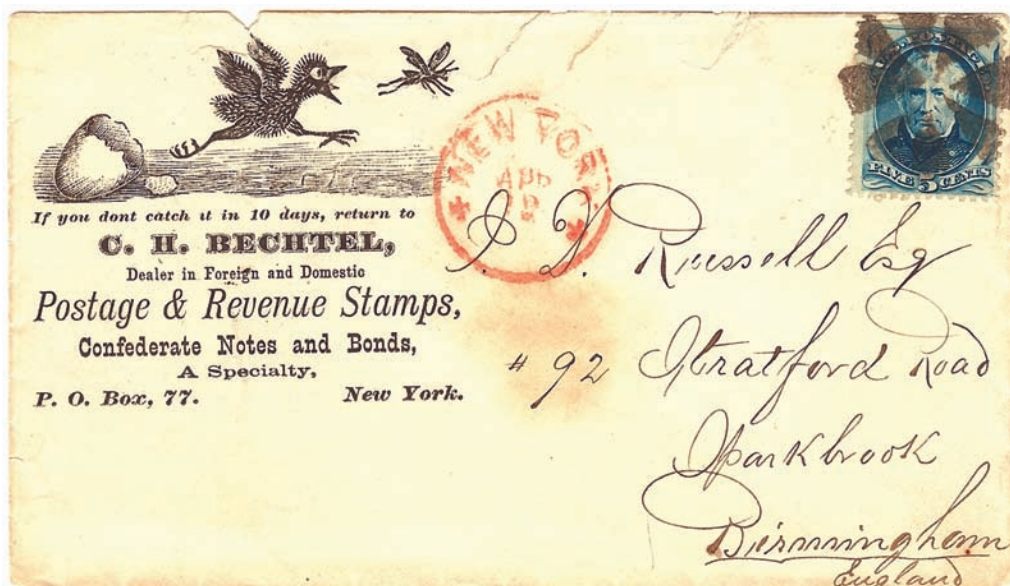


Figure 3-7. 5¢ Taylor cover mailed on April 12, 1876 by New York City dealer C. H. Bechtel to J. D. Russell in Birmingham, England.



Figure 3-8. Cover to Holland from a Brooklyn, New York, stamp dealer, William W. Phair, posted on February 9, 1876. The 5¢ UPU rate was paid by two 1¢ ultramarine Bank Note stamps and a 3¢ green stamp (Scott 156 and 158, respectively), tied by multiple strikes of a fancy New York foreign mail killer.

Nicholas F. Seebeck began dealing in foreign stamps in the mid 1870s using P.O. Box 1698, New York City, as his business address. Figure 3-9 shows Seebeck's corner handstamp ("importer of Foreign Postage Stamps") on a registered letter to Germany dated Jan. 16, 1877. The 5¢ UPU postage and 8¢ registry fee were paid by a 1¢ and 3¢ Bank Note stamps on a 10¢ stamped envelope (Scott 156, 158 and U91). The cover has a brown New York Registered Jan 16 postmark and an unusual brown "Direct Serv. Paid All" marking. Seebeck became notorious in the 1890s when, in conjunction with Hamilton Bank



Figure 3-9. Cover from Nicholas F. Seebeck, postmarked Jan 16, 1877 and sent to Germany. Postage and registry fees were paid by 1¢ and 3¢ Bank Note stamps on 10¢ stamped envelope (Scott 156, 158 and U91, respectively).

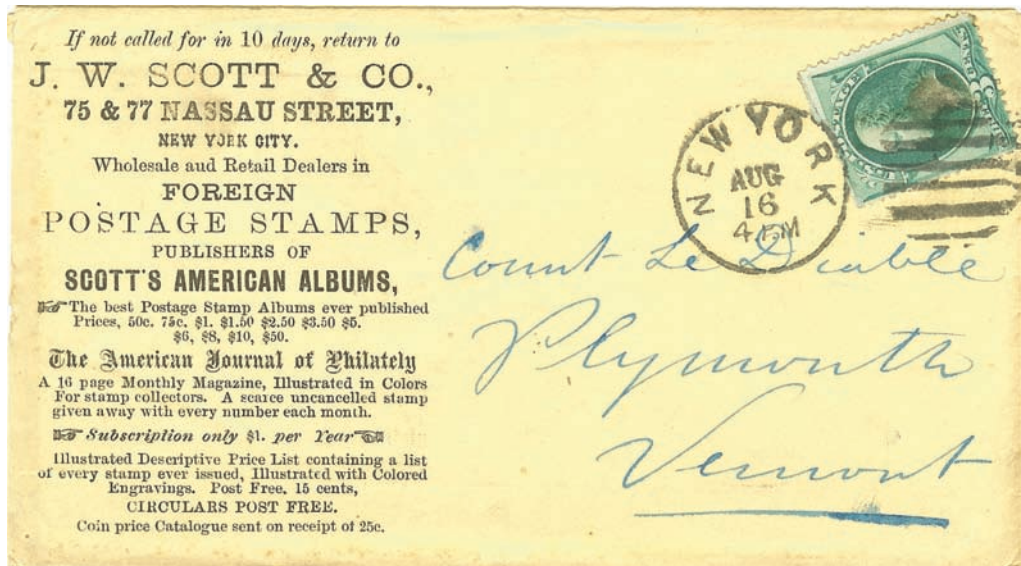
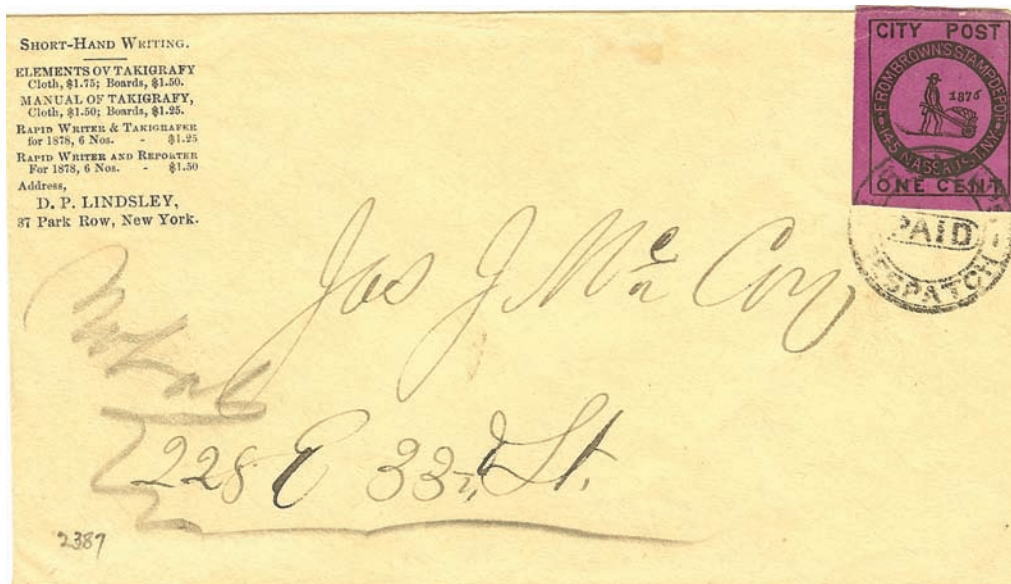


Figure 3-10. Advertising cover from J. W. Scott & Co., postmarked "NEW YORK AUG 16" (circa 1874) listing many of Scott's stamp-related activities.

Note Co., he produced stamps for several Latin American countries under an arrangement whereby Seebeck and Hamilton kept the remainders and the plates.

The prolific philatelic activities of John Walter Scott are well represented by the cover in Figure 3-10, dated Aug 16, circa 1874. Franked with a 3¢ Bank Note stamp (Scott 158), this advertising cover describes many of Scott's activities in this period, including wholesale and retail sales of foreign stamps, publishing albums including Scott's American Stamp Album, publishing *The American Journal of Philately* and selling his illustrated price lists.





**Figure 3-11. Commercial cover bearing a 1¢ black-on-violet Brown’s City Post local stamp (Scott 31L4 ) with an advertisement for “Short-Hand Writing” books. Stamp dealer William P. Brown operated this local post in New York City in 1877-1879.**

The addressee on this cover, “Count Le Diable, Plymouth, Vermont,” is certainly provocative, but at least one other cover (not from Scott) exists to the same name and address.

In this era, another stamp dealer, William P. Brown, established his own city post and produced local stamps for it.<sup>5</sup> Many of the surviving covers from this post were sent to stamp collecting friends of Brown, but a number of covers appear to be commercial uses. Figure 3-11 shows a commercial cover with a 1¢ black-on-violet Brown’s City Post local (Scott 31L4) with the corner advertisement of D.P. Lindsley, inventor of a form of short-hand writing who wrote and published books on this subject. Brown’s City Post operated in 1877-1879 and this cover surely dates from that period.<sup>6</sup> During the 1870s, Brown first operated out of 37 Park Row, Room 24 until he departed for Japan in April, 1873. He operated from 145 Nassau Street after returning from Japan in 1876.

Another interesting Brown cover is shown in Figure 3-12. This is a registered cover sent February 18, 1878, to the early Italian stamp dealer, Carlo Diena, in Modena, Italy.<sup>7</sup> Obviously for the enjoyment of Diena, the 15¢ postage and fees were paid with stamps from three different U.S. issues: a 3¢ rose (Scott 88), 1¢ and 3¢ 1869s (112 and 114) and a 7¢ vermilion Bank Note stamp (149) on a 1¢ blue stamped envelope (U116). At upper left the cover also bears Brown’s stamp-like return label.

### Pennsylvania

The 1870s saw the rise of an important new dealer in Philadelphia, Leonidas W. Durbin. Beginning in 1870, Durbin began publishing price lists and then catalogs. He launched an important periodical, *The Philatelic Monthly*, in February 1875. A postal his-

<sup>5</sup> William P. Brown was elected to the American Philatelic Society Hall of Fame in 2008. A short biography can be found on the APS website by clicking Almanac, then Awards and then Hall of Fame. It includes a most unflattering picture of him.

<sup>6</sup> Belasco, Steven R., “Postal Uses of Brown’s City Post Locals,” *The Penny Post*, July 2006, pp. 39-48.

<sup>7</sup> This is presumably Emilio Diena, who founded the Italian dealer dynasty (or his brother Charles, who was also a dealer). Emilio Diena was elected to the American Philatelic Society Hall of Fame in 2008 and a brief biography can be found on the APS website by clicking Almanac, then Awards and then Hall of Fame.





Figure 3-12. Registered cover posted at New York on February 18, 1878, sent by William P. Brown to early Italian stamp dealer Carlo Diena in Modena, Italy. For Diena's enjoyment, Brown used stamps from three different U.S. issues, a 3¢ rose stamp of 1861 (Scott 88), 1¢ and 3¢ 1869 stamps (112 and 114) and a 7¢ vermilion Bank Note stamp (148), all on a 1¢ entire envelope, to pay postage and registration fees to Italy.

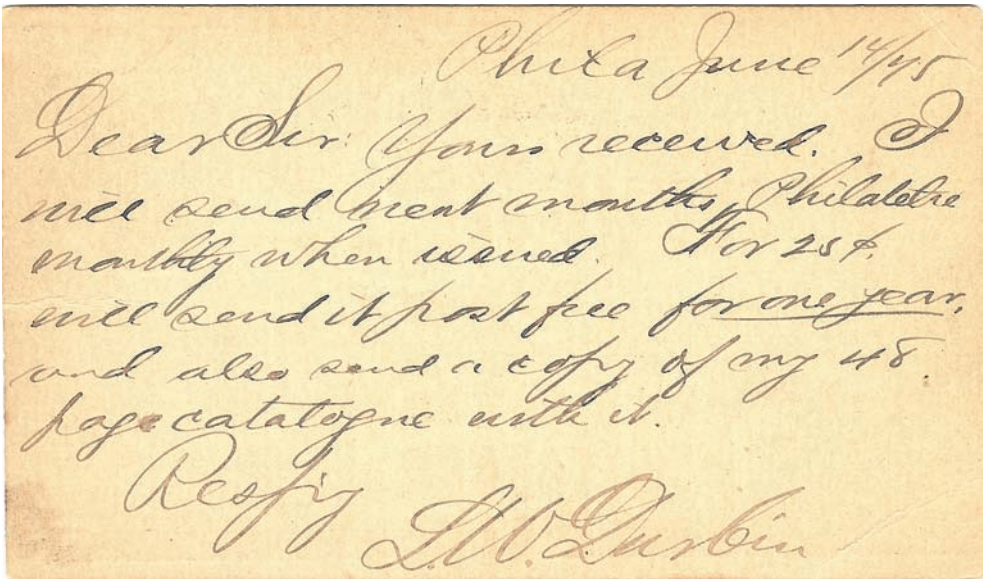


Figure 3-13. Reverse of a 1¢ brown postal card (Scott UX3) showing a handwritten message from Philadelphia stamp dealer and publisher Leonidas W. Durbin, writing on June 14, 1875 about his *Philatelic Monthly* and stamp catalog.

tory item dating from the very beginning of this publication is shown in Figure 3-13, which shows the reverse of a 1¢ brown postal card (UX3) bearing Durbin's hand-written note, dated June 14, 1875, which reads as follows: "Dear Sir: Yours received. I will send next month's *Philatelic Monthly* when issued. For 25¢ will send it post free for one year, and also send a copy of my 48 page catalogue with it. Resp'y, L.W. Durbin."

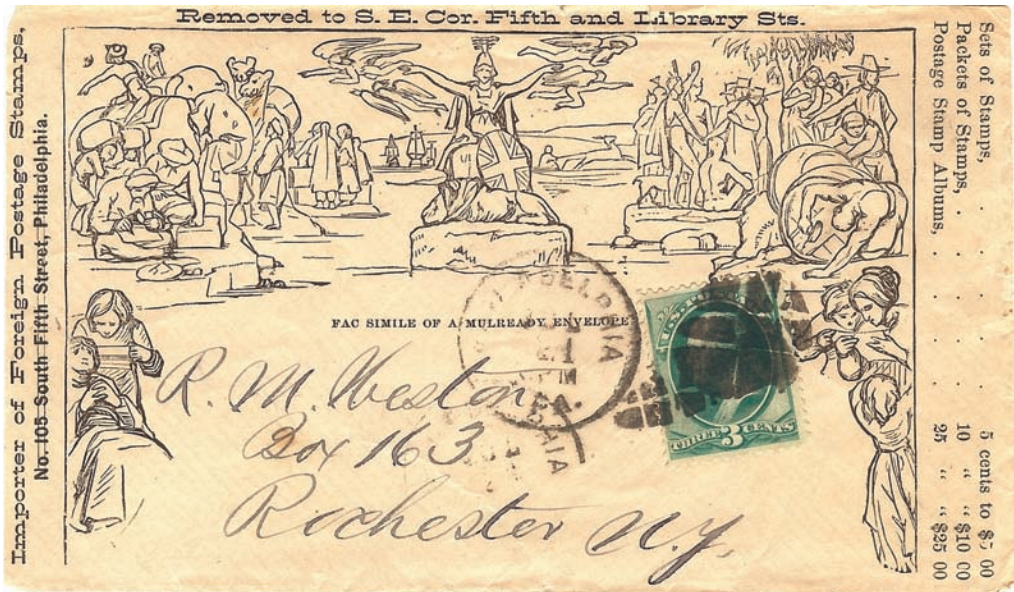


Figure 3-14. Mulready facsimile advertising cover franked with 3¢ Bank Note stamp, sent by L. W. Durbin to Rochester, New York, postmarked “PHILADELPHIA, PA. JUL 21” [1876].

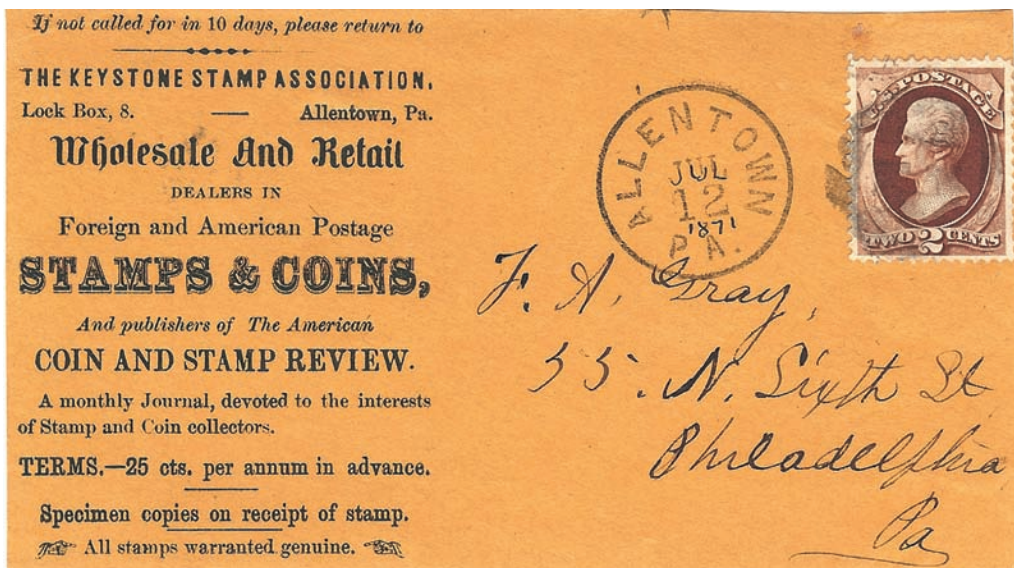
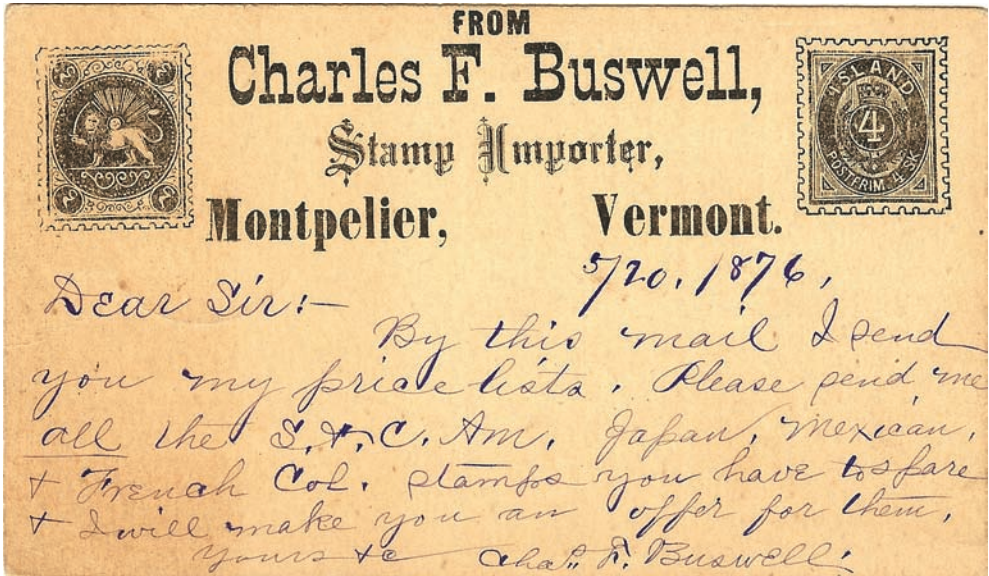


Figure 3-15. Advertising cover from The Keystone Stamp Association, postmarked “ALLEN-TOWN, PA, JUL 12” [1871], describing the firm’s stamp activities as well as their short-lived publication *The American Coin and Stamp Review*.

I wonder if the recipient of the postcard, Frank Sherman of Peekskill, New York, paid his quarter for a subscription.

Another Durbin item from the 1870s, shown in Figure 3-14, is a very early use (in the U.S.) of a facsimile of a Mulready envelope used for advertising. Franked with a 3¢ Bank Note stamp, the cover was sent to Rochester, New York. While Durbin’s name was trimmed off the left side when the envelope was opened, the postmark is from Philadelphia (“JUL





**Figure 3-16.** Reverse of a 1¢ brown postal card (Scott UX3) showing stamp-illustrated advertising and a handwritten note, dated May 20, 1876, sent to San Francisco by Vermont stamp dealer Charles F. Buswell.

21”) and the address shows that he had recently changed locations, from 105 South Fifth Street to new premises at the southeast corner of Fifth and Library Streets, Philadelphia. This dates this cover to 1876. The facsimile Mulready motif has been used by numerous stamp dealers ever since.

Some early Pennsylvania stamp periodicals have left postal history artifacts. The third earliest Pennsylvania stamp periodical, *The American Coin and Stamp Review*, which only lasted from May through August, 1871, is advertised on the cover to Philadelphia shown in Figure 3-15. Franked with a 2¢ Bank Note stamp, the cover probably contained printed matter, perhaps a copy of the publication itself. The sender was The Keystone Stamp Association, Allentown, Pa.

### Vermont

The earliest cover I’ve seen for Vermont is from the Northern Stamp Co., Importers of Foreign Stamps, Box 188, St. Albans, Vermont. The cover was postmarked in 1874 and sent to Birmingham, England.

Vermont in the 1870s is represented here by a very attractive 1¢ brown postal card (UX3). Figure 3-16 shows the reverse of this card, with the ornamental imprint of Charles F. Buswell, Stamp Importer, Montpelier, Vermont, and pictures of Iranian and Icelandic stamps. The card is dated May 20, 1876, and the message on it offers to purchase stamps from the addressee, Albert Perrin, of San Francisco, California.

### Part 4 – The 1870s in the South, Midwest and West

I will now look at postal history artifacts of 1870s stamp collecting from the rest of the country. It is fair to say that during the 1870s, stamp collecting spread across the United States. In this period stamp collectors and dealers appeared on the west coast in California, and even further west in the Hawaiian Islands. Many new dealers established businesses in the midwest, the south and the west, often in relatively small towns, though we also see activity in the larger cities of St. Louis (4th largest U.S. city in 1870), Chicago (5th largest),

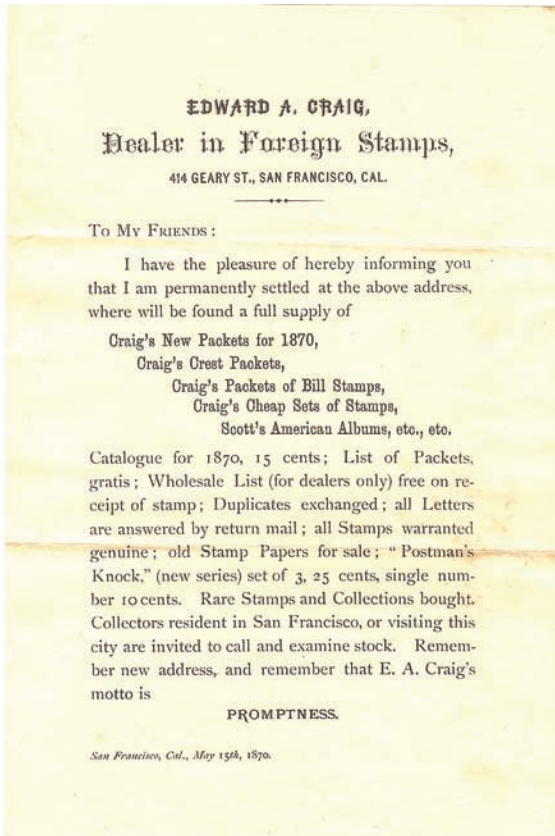


State	Sender	City	Date	Reference
California	Edward A. Craig	San Francisco	1870	Figures 1-3, 4-1
Hawaiian Islands	(to) C. F. Adams	(to) Cincinnati	02/09/1878	Figure 4-2
Illinois	Alfred Edwards & Co.	Chicago	1871	Figure 4-3
Iowa	J.C. Rasmussen	Davenport	10/14/1878	Figure 4-4
Kentucky	C.F. Adams	Louisville	11/02/1874	Figure 4-6
Louisiana	John Drozdowski	New Orleans	11/??/1876	Figure 4-7
Michigan	E.A. Duvernois	Detroit	11/13/1878	Figure 4-8
Missouri	E.F. Gambs	St. Louis	1877	Figure 4-10
Ohio	C.F. Adams	Cincinnati	10/29/1878	Figure 4-11
Tennessee	George S. Blackie	Nashville	6/18/1877	Figure 4-12

**Table 3. Earliest uses in the South, Midwest and West, 1870s**

Cincinnati (8th), New Orleans (9th) and San Francisco (10th).

The first postal history items relating to stamp collecting in the 1870s for the ten states now under discussion are shown in Table 3. The table presents the covers alphabetically by state and that's how I will discuss them, beginning with California.



**Figure 4-1. Advertising circular dated “San Francisco, Cal., May 15th, 1870” and sent by pioneer California stamp dealer Edward A. Craig. The envelope that carried this insert, franked with a 2¢ 1869 stamp, was shown as Figure 1-3 in the first installment of this article (*Chronicle* 224).**

### California

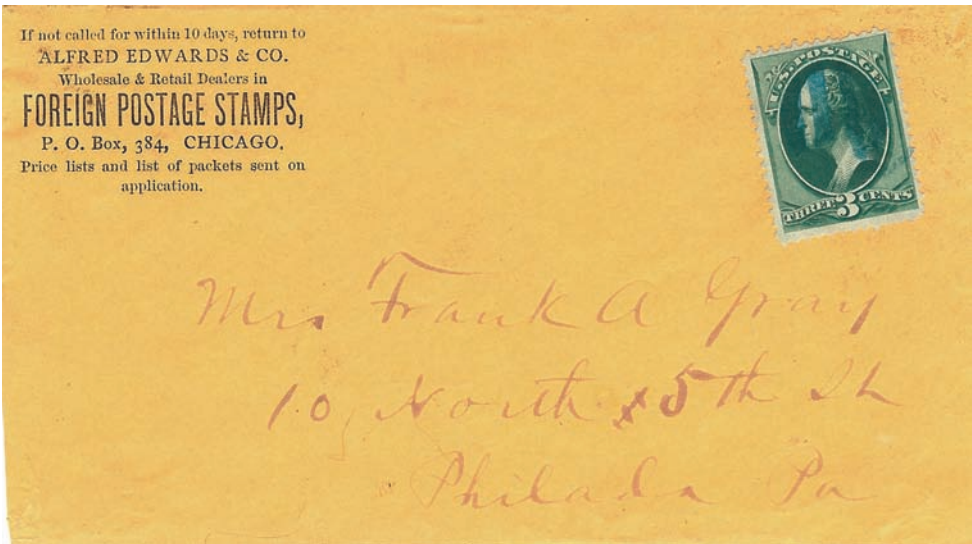
Edward A. Craig was certainly one of the earliest stamp dealers on the West Coast. Figure 1-3 in the previous installment showed a cover mailed by Craig in mid-1870 using a 2¢ brown 1869 stamp (Scott 113) to pay the 2¢ circular rate. The enclosed circular (shown here as Figure 4-1) is dated May 15, 1870 and states that Craig has now permanently settled at 414 Geary Street in San Francisco. Craig relocated from New Brunswick, Canada, where he first entered the stamp business in 1866. Craig died about a year after moving to San Francisco, and his business and publications were continued in San Francisco for a few years under the name A. G. Craig.

### Hawaiian Islands

Although Hawaii did not become a U.S. territory until 1898 and a state until 1959, it issued stamps that were popular with collectors starting in the early 1850s. The earliest stamp dealer postal history item I have seen, relating to the Hawaiian Islands, is the cover shown in Figure 4-2. This is franked with a 6¢ bluish green Hawaiian stamp (Scott 33), postmarked



**Figure 4-2.** Cover from Hawaii, franked with a 6¢ Kamehameha stamp, postmarked Feb. 9, 1878, and sent to stamp dealer C. F. Adams in Cincinnati, Ohio.



**Figure 4-3.** 3¢ Bank Note stamp on cover front from Chicago stamp dealer Alfred Edwards, circa 1872.

at Honolulu on Feb 9, 1878 and sent to C. F. Adams in Cincinnati, Ohio. Adams was a stamp dealer in Cincinnati in 1878, as will be seen from the covers in Figures 4-6 and 4-11 presented below in the Kentucky and Ohio sections of this article. Adams was obviously in contact with someone in Honolulu about obtaining Hawaiian postage and revenue stamps, post cards, etc., which his envelopes showed he imported and sold. There is no return address on the cover so the name of Adams' Hawaiian stamp dealer contact is unknown.

### Illinois

Chicago grew explosively in the 1870s and was the second largest city in the U.S. by 1890. Figure 4-3 shows the front of a cover from Alfred Edwards & Co., circa 1872.



**Figure 4-4. 3¢ cover postmarked “DAVENPORT, IOWA, OCT 14, 1878.” The faded label reads “J. C. Rasmussen, Foreign Postage Stamps, Davenport, Iowa” and shows pictures of a U. S. 10¢ 1847 stamp and what appears to be a Bolivia 5 centavos revenue stamp.**

The printed corner advertisement describes the firm as “Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Foreign Postage Stamps, P. O. Box 384, Chicago, price list and list of packets sent on application.” The cover is addressed to Frank A. Gray in Philadelphia and can be dated 1871 or 1872 based on several other covers also sent to Gray at this address. Surprisingly, I am not aware of any other philatelic postal history from Illinois from the 1870s.

### **Iowa**

Stamp dealers operated in Iowa’s smaller cities and towns in the 1870s. Figure 4-4 shows the earliest Iowa philatelic postal history item I am aware of, a 3¢ Bank Note cover clearly postmarked at Davenport on Oct 14, 1878. The faded label in the upper left corner reads, “J. C. Rasmussen, Foreign Postage Stamps, Davenport, Iowa” and shows pictures of a U. S. 10¢ 1847 stamp and what appears to be a 5 centavo Bolivian revenue stamp.

From the same era in Iowa, Figure 4-5 shows a cover from “W. E. Davidson, Importing Dealer in Foreign Postage Stamps, 20 N. 3rd St., Keokuk, Iowa” addressed to stamp dealer Ernst Petritz in Germany. It is postmarked at Keokuk November 1, probably 1878. The 5¢ UPU rate is paid by a 5¢ blue Taylor stamp (Scott 179).

### **Kentucky**

The only postal history item I have seen from Kentucky from this decade is the cover shown in Figure 4-6. The corner advertisement indicates the cover was sent by “C. F. Adams, Importer and Dealer in Postage and Revenue Stamps, Post cards, &c.” at 89-18th Street, Louisville. The previous Cincinnati return address had been crossed off and replaced with the new Louisville address. The cover is postmarked at Louisville, Kentucky, November 2, (1878), a few days after Adams mailed the letter discussed below as Figure 4-11, when he was still using the Cincinnati address.

### **Louisiana**

Not surprisingly, the earliest Louisiana philatelic postal history material comes from





Figure 4-5. 5¢ Taylor cover from “W. E. Davidson, Importing Dealer in Foreign Stamps, 20 N. 3rd St., Keokuk, Iowa” sent to stamp dealer Ernst Petritz in Chemnitz, Germany and dated Nov 1, circa 1878.

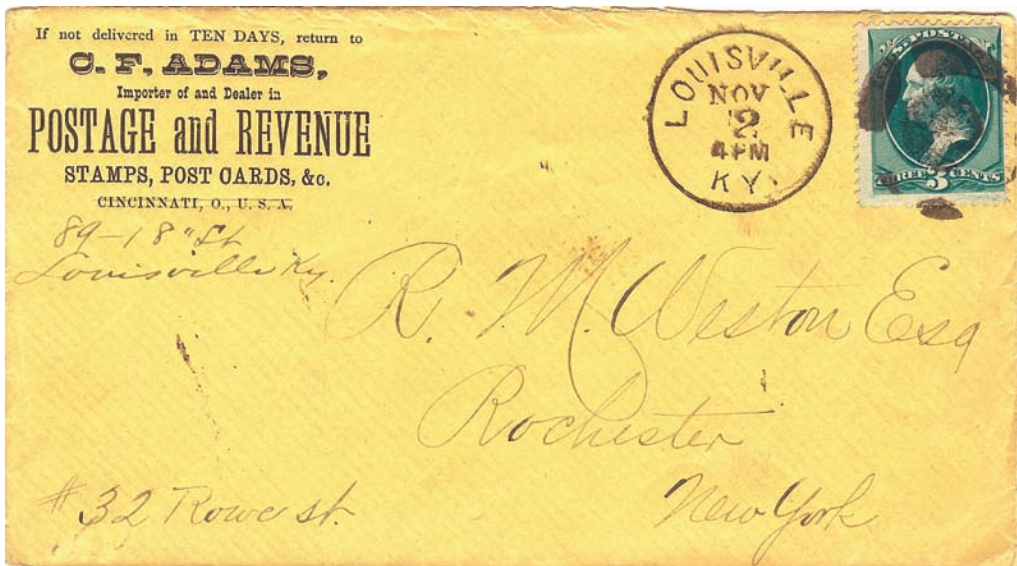


Figure 4-6. 3¢ Bank Note cover from stamp dealer C. F. Adams, postmarked “LOUISVILLE KY. NOV 2 (circa 1878) showing his new Louisville address. A similar cover, with his Cincinnati address, is shown in Figure 4-12.

New Orleans. The ornate advertising cover shown in Figure 4-7 was sent by John V. Drozdowski, 4 Columbia Street, New Orleans, in late November, 1876, to an English stamp dealer, J. D. Russell. Franked with a 5¢ Taylor stamp to pay the UPU rate, the cover lacks a New Orleans postal marking but presumably was mailed there. The New York exchange office marking reads “DEC 2.” The cover was incorrectly sent to Russell in Hamilton, Scotland. There the error was realized (“Not Hamilton, Scotland” at lower left) and the cover was forwarded to Russell at Sparkbrook in Birmingham, England.



Figure 4-7. 5¢ Taylor cover sent by New Orleans stamp dealer John V. Drozdowski to British dealer J. D. Russell in December, 1876. The cover was mis-addressed to Russell in Hamilton, England and forwarded to him in Birmingham.

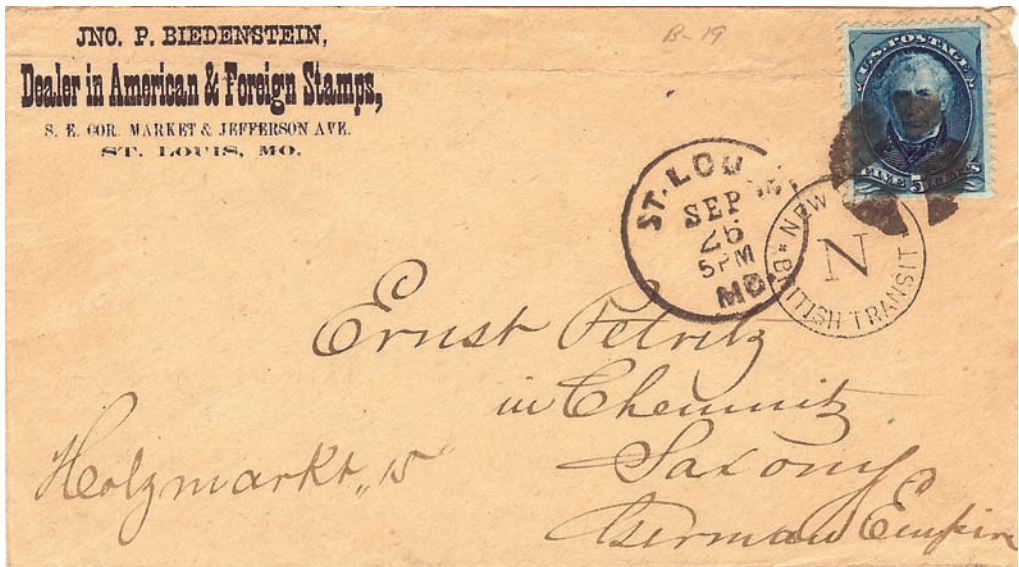


Figure 4-8. Registered letter sent by "E. A. Duvernois, Foreign Stamp Importer, 77 Macomb St., Detroit, Mich." on November 13, 1878. The 13¢ postage, paid by 2¢, 3¢ and 6¢ Bank Note stamps, represents the 3¢ letter rate plus a 10¢ registration fee.

### Michigan

The first postal history item from Michigan, shown in Figure 4-8, comes from its largest city, Detroit. A foreign stamp importer, E. A. Duvernois, 77 Macomb St., used a striking engraved advertising imprint on his envelopes. The Figure 4-8 cover is addressed to Rochester, New York and struck with a three-line Detroit registry marking dated November 13, 1878. The 10¢ registry fee and 3¢ first-class postage are paid by a pleasant array of Bank





**Figure 4-9. Cover from St. Louis stamp dealer Jonathan P. Biedenstien, postmarked ST. LOUIS, MO., SEP 26” [1878], with a “New York N British Transit” handstamp, sent to German dealer Ernst Petritz.**

Note stamps: a 3¢ green, a 6¢ dull pink, and two 2¢ vermilion stamps (Scott 158, 159 and 178 respectively). Additional strikes of the Detroit registry marking tie the stamps.

### Missouri

In the early 1870s St. Louis was the largest city in the midwest and rapidly became a major center for stamp collectors, dealers and publishers. An early dealer was Jonathan P. Biedenstien. A cover postmarked September 26, 1878, from Biedenstien to the German dealer Ernst Petritz in Saxony is shown in Figure 4-9. On this cover the 5¢ Taylor stamp (Scott 179) paid the UPU rate to Germany and is tied by a nice strike of an intriguing “New York N British Transit” postmark. [*Editor’s note: see Cover Corner, pages 86-87.*]

Another well-known early St. Louis dealer was E. F. Gambs, who entered the stamp business in St. Louis in 1872. A Gambs cover from 1877 with extensive advertising on the reverse is shown in Figures 4-10 (front) and 4-10A (back). This cover is franked with a 1¢ Bank Note stamp (Scott 156) paying the circular rate. It bears no evidence of a date, but since the advertising on the cover says it was prepared five years after Gambs started in business in 1872, it must date from 1877, making it the earliest Missouri cover I’ve seen.

### Ohio

The ubiquitous C. F. Adams makes another appearance in Cincinnati, Ohio. The cover shown in Figure 4-11 was sent by Adams to the German stamp dealer Ernst Petritz in Saxony on October 29, 1878. Petritz was also the recipient of the cover shown in Figure 4-9. The 5¢ UPU rate was paid by a 5¢ blue Zachary Taylor stamp (Scott 179).

### Tennessee

The earliest Tennessee cover I am aware of is spectacular: one of three known covers with a Buffalo Balloon semi-official stamp (Scott CL-1) and two U.S. postage stamps, a 1¢ Bank Note (156) and a 2¢ Bank Note (178). The cover shown in Figure 4-12 was sent by Dr. George Blackie of Nashville to E. F. Gambs, the St. Louis stamp dealer we just met.



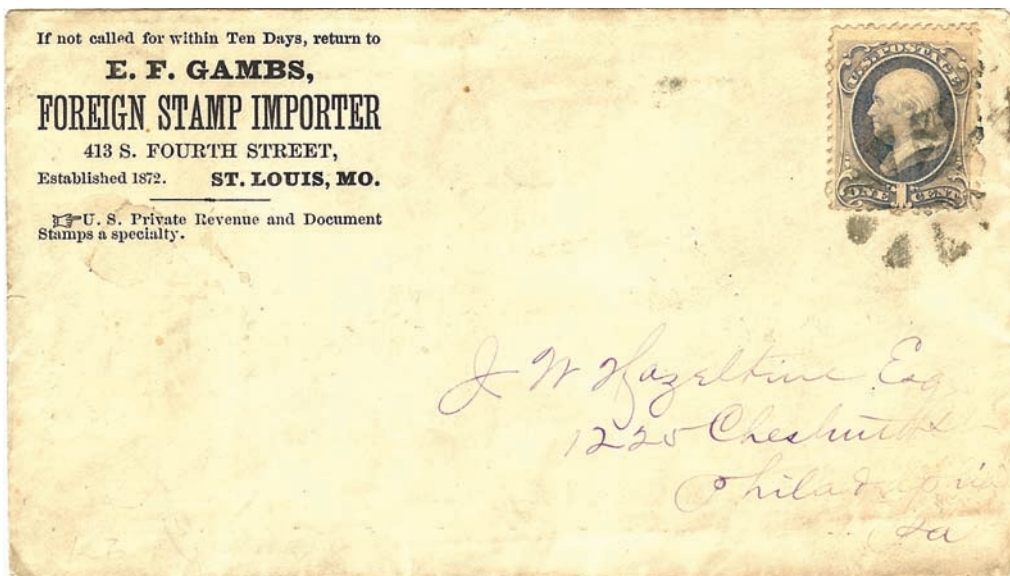


Figure 4-10. Cover from St. Louis dealer E. F. Gambs with a 1¢ gray blue Bank Note stamp (Scott 156) paying the circular rate in 1877.

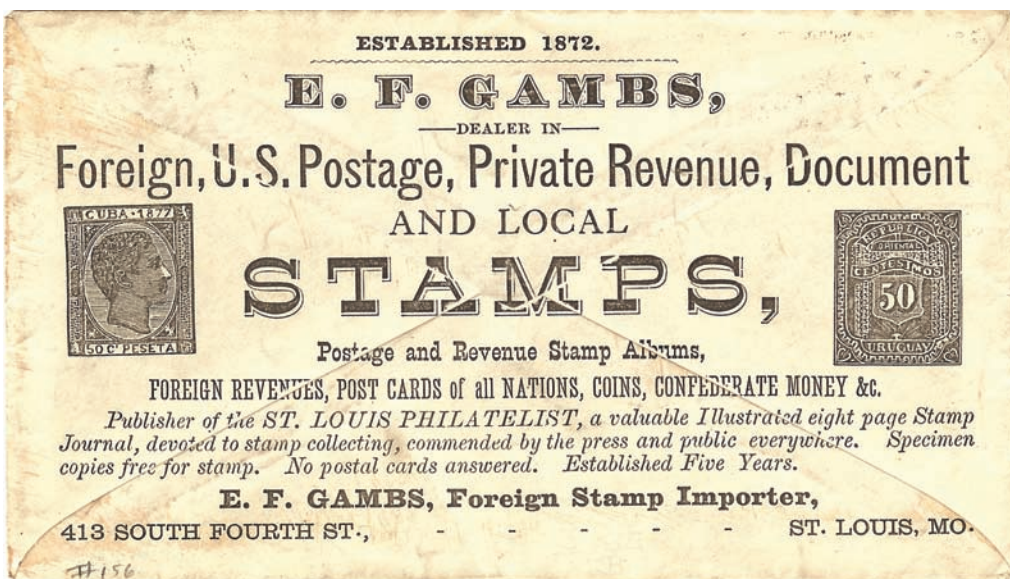


Figure 4-10A. Reverse of the Figure 4-10 cover showing Gambs' extensive advertising.

The cover is postmarked Gallatin, Tenn, June 18, 1877. The original letter mailed in this cover said "My dear Gambs: I send you this letter by Balloon Postage and my greetings from the clouds. The stamp will be a label of great value in a few years. Very truly, your friend, George S. Blackie."<sup>8</sup> Mr. Blackie's prophesy certainly came true; this cover sold for six figures in 2004.

<sup>8</sup> Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc., *The Jeanette C. Rudy Collection of Tennessee Postal History*, 2004, lot 58, quoting from the *St. Louis Philatelist*, June-July, 1877. Gambs was the publisher of the *St. Louis Philatelist* at the time.

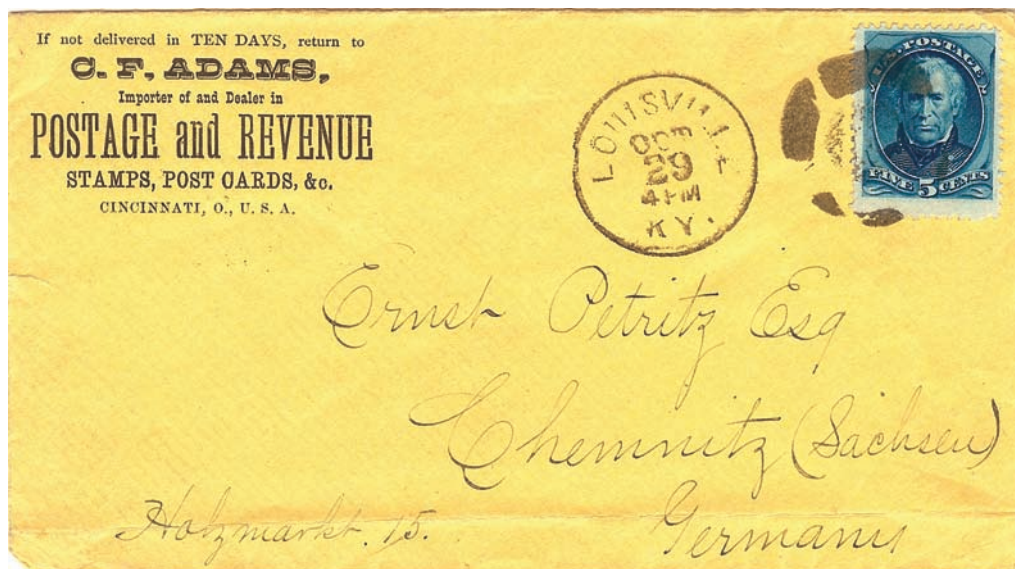


Figure 4-11. 5¢ Taylor cover to Ernst Petritz in Germany, postmarked at Louisville on Oct 29, 1878 and mailed by stamp dealer C. F. Adams showing his return address as Cincinnati.



Figure 4-12. One of three known covers bearing a Buffalo Balloon semi-official stamp (Scott CL-1) and 1¢ and 3¢ Bank Note stamps. Postmarked GALLATIN, TENN, JUN 18 [1877], this was sent by Dr. George Blackie of Nashville to stamp dealer E. F. Gambs in St. Louis, whose advertising cover is shown in Figure 4-10.

### Conclusion

As the 1870s drew to a close, the spread of philately across the country could be well documented (through covers) in almost one third the country. The next installment in this series will show how this growth accelerated in the 1880s. ■

## NO RESPONSE TO PROBLEM COVER IN CHRONICLE 224

No answers were received for the problem cover in our last issue, illustrated here as Figure 1. This cover was posted at Portsmouth, New Hampshire on June 29 [1885], franked with a brown 2¢ American Bank Note stamp (Scott 210). At its destination in Washington, D.C., it was found to be overweight. A 2¢ Postage Due stamp (J16) was added, which was then tied by a magenta oval Washington “T” due hand-stamp. A well-struck receiving hand-stamp on reverse (shown inset) is clearly dated June 30, 1885. The questions posed were: what was the basis for the due postage, and was there anything special about the magenta oval “WASHINGTON D.C. T DUE” hand-stamp?



**Figure 1. Problem cover from *Chronicle* 224, posted at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on June 29 [1885], franked with a brown 2¢ American Bank Note stamp (Scott 210). Questions posed were: what was the basis for the due postage, and what is special about the magenta oval “WASHINGTON D.C. T DUE” marking on the postage due stamp?**

From October 1, 1883 until June 30, 1885, the first-class postage rate was 2¢ per half ounce. This cover was received at Washington, D.C. on the last day of the half-ounce rate. Had this cover been posted two days later, it would not have been assessed postage due.

About the magenta oval handstamp: According to Edward W. Leahy’s *The Book of T*, the Washington D.C. “T” cancel, used here to tie the due stamp, is the only known example (other than in Egypt) of this marking used as a cancelling device in domestic mail. The cancel itself is illustrated in Leahy’s book on page 7-25, although this is slightly different because of the word “DUE” on the bottom. A strike on cover is shown on page 11-72.

## PROBLEM COVERS FOR THIS ISSUE

The two postal cards to Germany in Figures 2 and 3 show 24-millimeter “\* NEW YORK \* BRITISH TRANSIT” markings with “D” and “N” at center. The card with the “D” marking was posted at St. Louis, with an unclear date. The card with the “N” marking was posted at New Orleans in 1879. Examples of these two markings were illustrated in *Chronicle* 170 (May, 1996) as markings 124 and 124a in an updated listing of New York exchange office markings created by Richard F. Winter. In *Chronicle* 171, a postal card and a 5¢ Taylor cover (both posted to Germany circa 1879) with the two markings were featured as problem covers. [*Editor’s note*: see Figure 4-9 on page 83.]





Figure 2. Postal card (Scott UX5) to Germany, circa 1879, with 24-millimeter “\* NEW YORK \* BRITISH TRANSIT” marking with “D” at center. What does the “D” signify?

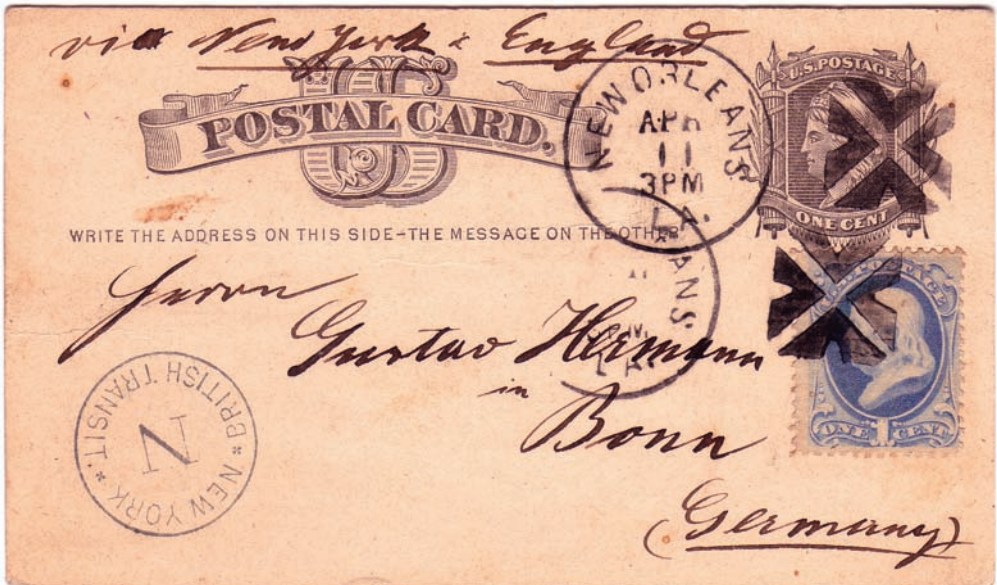


Figure 3. 1879 postal card from New Orleans to Germany (UX5), with the same New York marking as in Figure 2, but with an “N” at center. What does the “N” signify?

In *Chronicle* 172 the response was summarized as follows: “This problem has not been solved; no Route Agents have responded with even a hint. Telephone discussions with Dick Winter and Greg Sutherland have only come up with the suggestion that the letters might stand for Day and Night. But this does not seem probable since no date is included in the markings.”

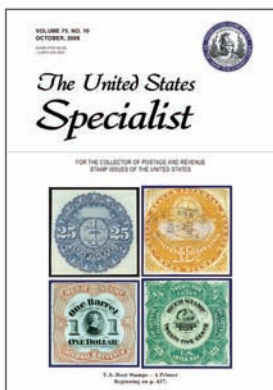
Now, almost 15 years later, we have pulled these covers out of the mystery file to pose the question again: does anyone have additional information about these two markings? ■

## ADVERTISER INDEX

Columbian Stamp Company Inc. . . . .	19
David Feldman USA. . . . .	50
Freeman's (Global Philatelic Associates). . . . .	39
H. R. Harmer, Inc. . . . .	Inside Front Cover
Leonard H. Hartmann . . . . .	60
Heritage Auction Galleries.. . . .	1, 34
Kristal Kare, Inc.. . . . .	49
James E. Lee . . . . .	2
The Philatelic Foundation. . . . .	8
Philatelic Stamp Authentication and Grading (PSAG). . . . .	33
Stanley M. Piller & Associates . . . . .	20
Regency-Superior . . . . .	27
Rupp Brothers . . . . .	4
Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions. . . . .	Inside Back Cover
Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.. . . . .	.6, Back Cover
Spink Shreves Galleries . . . . .	44-45
United States Stamp Society. . . . .	88

## United States Stamp Society

**The premier society specializing in the  
postage and revenue issues  
of the United States and U.S. administered areas.**



*The United States Specialist*

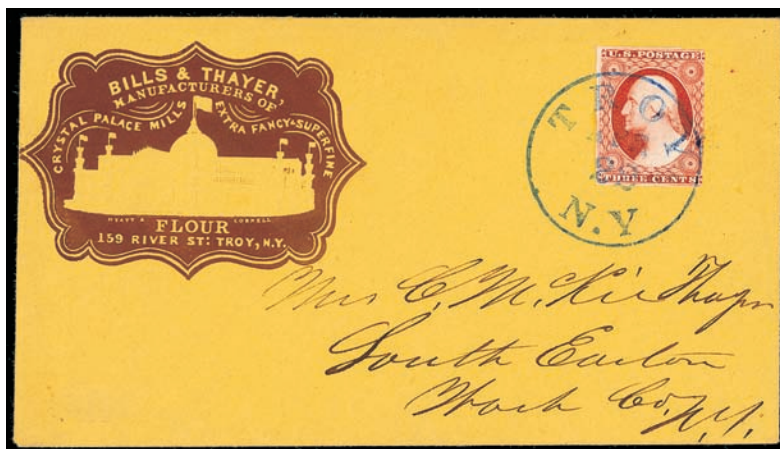
**USSS Executive Secretary  
P.O. Box 6634  
Katy, TX 77491-6634**

**[www.usstamps.org](http://www.usstamps.org)**



*Durland Standard  
Plate Number Catalog*

*The finest collections are built with passion and precision.*



Sold \$4,750



Sold \$52,500

Sold in our April 2009 Sale. Prices realized do not include the 15% buyer's premium.

Please visit our website at:  
[www.rumseyauctions.com](http://www.rumseyauctions.com)  
email: [srumsey@rumseyauctions.com](mailto:srumsey@rumseyauctions.com)

Schuyler  
Rumsey  
Philatelic  
Auctions

47 Kearny Street  
San Francisco  
California 94108  
t: 415-781-5127  
f: 415-781-5128





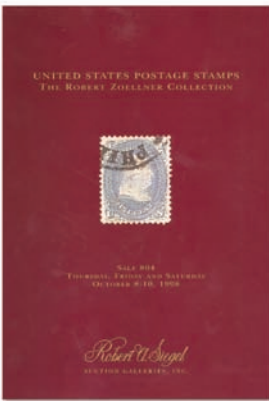
Lilly 1967



Kapiloff 1992



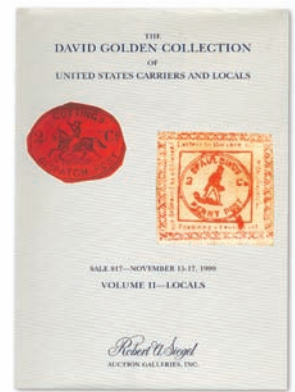
Honolulu Advertiser 1995



Zoellner 1998



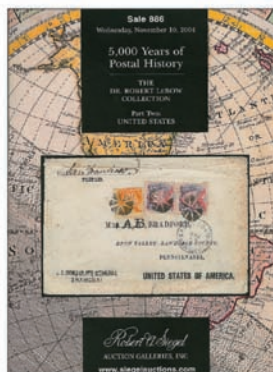
Kilbourne 1999



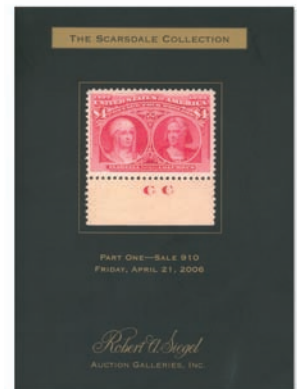
Golden 1999



Hall 2001



LeBow 2004



Scarsdale 2006

*Great collections have one name in common.*