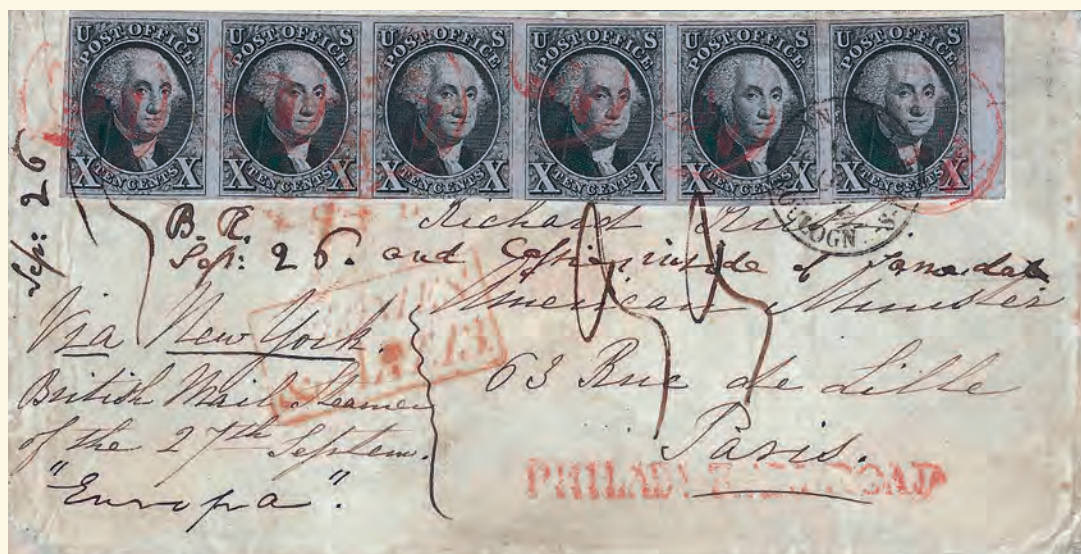


The Chronicle

of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues



The celebrated Rush cover, posted at Philadelphia on September 26, 1848, one of two recorded retaliatory-rate covers to France franked with 1847 stamps. The strip of six 10¢ 1847s overpays double the 29¢ retaliatory rate. Routing, markings and background are all explored in our 1847 section, in an article by Steven Walske on U.S. 1847 covers to France.

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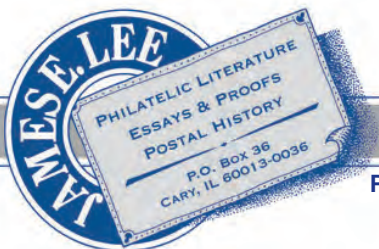
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3c Rose
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Scott 65e



2c Black
Printed Both Sides
Scott 73f



24c Gray Violet
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IN THIS ISSUE

There are many types of plate varieties. Scarcest and most interesting is the variety that specialists refer to as a “foreign entry.” This occurs when the wrong stamp design is mistakenly entered into the printing plate. The most familiar U.S. foreign entries are the 5¢ red error Washington-head stamps of 1917. These are well known because they were printed and distributed. More typically, such errors were detected and corrected before their plates went to press. But sometimes remnants of the wrong stamp were not fully obliterated in the correction process. In this case, traces of the inappropriate design remain, as on a palimpsest manuscript, beneath the image of the proper stamp. These traces of another stamp constitute the “foreign entry.” In all U.S. philately, only a handful of foreign entries are known, and most of them are found on the Official stamps of 1873. In a brief but highly persuasive article starting on page 168, George G. Sayers describes the discovery of another example of a foreign entry on a U.S. Official stamp—in this case, a portion of the 15¢ Post Office stamp, found hidden within the design of a 12¢ Agriculture stamp. Sayers made his discovery working with photographic negatives and Atlanta trial color proofs, because the issued Agriculture stamps were printed in yellow. Your editor can testify first-hand how difficult it is to find plate varieties on a yellow stamp. But now that Sayers has shown the way, we should all start examining our 12¢ Agriculture stamps.

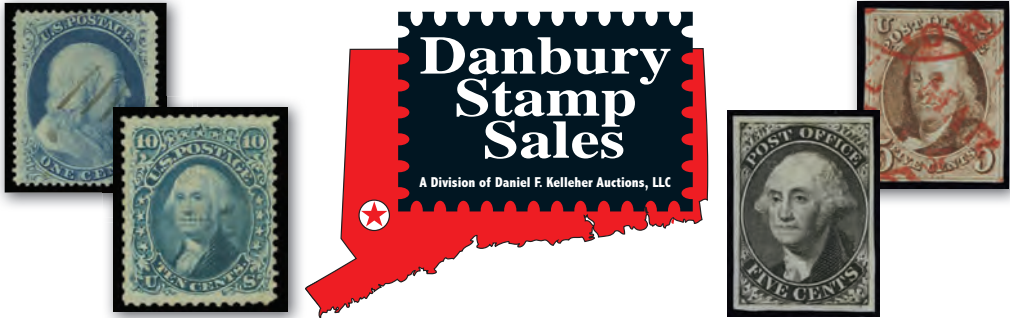
From the pre-UPU era, every stamp-bearing cover from the United States to Zanzibar comes down to us from just one correspondence—envelopes franked with 1861 stamps and addressed to Albert P. Goodhue. On page 126, authors Richard Frajola, Gary Du Bro and Armando Grassi join forces to examine the Goodhue covers and the curious routes they travelled. The article includes a map and census data describing the 41 Goodhue covers so far recorded. One of the authors, Gary Du Bro, has collected Zanzibar all his life. His book, *Zanzibar's Postal History Legacy*, will soon be published by The BPA Expertising Educational Charity, 65 Manor Park, Redland, Bristol BS6 7HW, England.

Our cover girl this issue is the famous Rush cover, six 10¢ 1847s on a retaliatory-rate cover from Philadelphia to France. This sold for \$1.4 million in a Siegel auction in 2006 and is now in the collection of bond-market billionaire William H. Gross. When this cover was sold in the Gibson collection in 1944, Philip Ward described it as “the most important cover known to American philately.” No question, it’s a very special item, but it’s just one of many unusual covers illustrated by Steven Walske in a broad survey article (in our 1847 section, starting on page 107) on 1847 covers to France. Walske defines ten rate and route periods for 1847 covers to France, shows examples for every period for which covers are known, and provides census data for the 66 genuine covers so far recorded.

With this issue, Dwayne Littauer takes over as editor of our Foreign Mails section. An active collector, exhibitor and APS judge, Littauer has served our Society for many years as treasurer and as a director. His inaugural section (page 183) features an article by our German colleague Georg Mehrtens, presenting archival discoveries about the handling of money letters during the early years of the U.S.-Bremen treaty.

And there’s more: Irvin Heimbürger’s thorough and thoughtful assessment of 1869 covers bearing “Good Samaritan” labels (page 136); the fourth installment in James Milgram’s ongoing exploration of 19th century advertised markings (page 146); Michael Plett’s update (page 171) on “Specimen” overprints on card proofs, which includes a major discovery; Gordon Stimmell’s interesting exploration of a short-lived Chicago local post (page 123); and Stanley Piller’s presentation of an amazing 3¢ 1851 cover (page 120). Enjoy! ■

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**U.S. 1847 STAMPS ON COVERS TO FRANCE:
 RATE/ROUTE PERIODS, JULY 1847—JULY 1851**
STEVEN WALSKE

This article analyzes a comprehensive census of covers to France franked with United States 1847 stamps, and explains all of the possible routings and rates for such covers.

Creighton Hart published the first census of 1847 covers to Europe in *Chronicle* 76 in November 1972.¹ In that article, he identified 43 covers to France, of which 35 were genuine. Ten years later, he published an expanded census of 53 covers to France, of which 45 were genuine.² Then, in 2001, Tom Alexander published his extensive update of Hart’s work. The Alexander survey of 1847 covers, after excluding duplicates and partial covers, included 72 letters to France, of which 56 were genuine.³

For over 30 years the author has maintained a detailed census of 1847 covers to France. Data from this census is presented in tabular form at the end of this article. The census identifies 66 genuine covers to France, although several should be examined closely.

The United States issued its first postage stamps in 5¢ and 10¢ denominations (Scott numbers 1 and 2) on July 1, 1847. These stamps continued in use until they were replaced by a new issue of stamps on July 1, 1851.

During the four-year period of use of the 1847 stamps, the English stranglehold on transatlantic mail carriage was challenged by new American and French steamship lines. The result was that the first United States postage stamps were available for use on several different routes to France. With different nationality steamships and frequent changes in the rate structure between and within the United States, England and France, the result was 10 different rate/route periods that could employ 1847 stamps on letters to France. As this article will show, covers survive from seven of the 10 categories.

Figure 1 depicts the ten categories chronologically. For carriage via British packet via England there were five separate rate periods; these are shown in blue. There were two rate

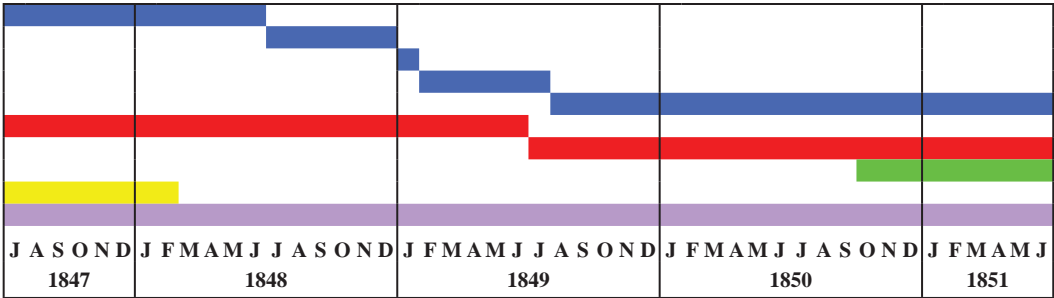


Figure 1. Chronological depiction of the ten rate and route periods discussed in this article. During the lifetime of the U.S. 1847 stamps (mid-1847 to mid-1851), covers to France via British packet via England fall into five categories (shown in blue). Covers via American packet via England form two categories (shown in red). Covers via American packet direct (green), via French packet direct (yellow), and via private ship (violet) each comprise a separate category. For some categories, no 1847 covers are known (see Table 3).

periods for covers sent via American packet via England, shown in red. Early in the lifetime of the 1847 stamps carriage was possible by direct French packet (yellow) and at the close of the 1847 era carriage was possible via direct American packet direct (green). Transit via private ship was also available throughout 1847 era (violet) and beyond, though as will be seen, very few covers are known. The discussion that follows is more or less chronological, though some deviation is necessary to facilitate narrative flow. For convenience in description, the categories have been numbered from 1 to 10. The “Cat #” column in the cover census data (pages 118-119) indicates the category for each cover.

1. English packet via England, July 1, 1847–July 4, 1848 (14 1847 covers)

When the U.S. 1847 stamps first came into use, the principal route between the United States and France was by the British-operated Cunard line to England and then by Dover packet and railroads within England and France. The United States had no postal treaties with either England or France, so letters could not be fully prepaid to their destination.

Within the United States, inland postage to the departure port was required to be prepaid. Rates on the entire route were governed by the U.S. postal act of 1 July 1845 (5¢ per half ounce for less than 300 miles, 10¢ for over 300 miles) and by the France-England postal treaty of 1 June 1843. This treaty set English transit and sea postage of 10 decimes (equivalent to 20¢ U.S.) per 7.5 grams (0.2646 ounces) to be debited from England to France and indicated by a “Colonies &c. Art. 13” marking applied in London.⁴ French inland rates, also set out in the 1843 treaty, varied according to distance. Thus, a recipient in France would be charged the French inland postage from the Channel port of entry (typically Boulogne during this period) plus the English transit and sea charges.

Weight (grams)	0-7.5	7.5-10	10-15	15-20
English sea/transit	10	10	20	20
French sea postage	10	15	20	25
To entry port	2	3	4	5
Boulogne-Bordeaux	10	15	20	25
Boulogne-Cognac	9	14	18	23
Boulogne-Lyon	10	15	20	25
Boulogne-Nantes	8	12	16	20
Boulogne-Paris	5	8	10	13

Table 1. Various British-French rate components (in decimes) from the 1843 France-England Treaty.

The variable French inland rates make it hard to interpret French collect markings on covers from this era. Table 1 shows selected French rates from the 1843 treaty for most destinations seen on 1847 covers. Richard Winter determined the progression of rates for English sea and transit postage, also included in Table 1.⁵ For covers via direct French packet the French rate structure was modestly different; this too is shown in Table 1.

Figure 2 shows a representative cover from this rate period. Addressed to Paris, this cover was posted at Philadelphia on December 14, 1847. It was franked with a pair of 5¢ 1847 stamps prepaying 10¢ for the over-300-mile rate to Boston. It was carried across the Atlantic by the Cunard steamer *Britannia*, which left Boston on December 16 and arrived in Liverpool on December 30. London marked it with the red boxed “Colonies &c. Art. 13” marking (on the stamps), indicating a debit category to France of 3 shillings 4 pence per ounce under the 1843 France-England treaty, which resulted in 10 decimes per 7.5 grams for individual letter accounting.



Figure 2. December 14, 1847 cover from Philadelphia to Paris, franked by a pair of 5¢ 1847 stamps paying the over-300-miles rate to Boston. The cover was carried to England on the Cunard steamer *Britannia*. British transit and French internal postage totalling 15 decimes (=30¢ U.S.) was collected from the recipient in Paris.

The cover entered France on January 1 per the black “Angl. Boulogne-s-Mer” postmark, and was rated for 15 decimes due. Reference to Table 1 will indicate that the inland rate from the Channel port of Boulogne to Paris was 5 decimes in the under-7.5 gram weight category. The 10 decimes due to England was added to this, for a total postage due of 15 decimes. This is one of only six covers to France bearing multiple 5¢ 1847 stamps.

2. American packet via England, July 1, 1847–June 30, 1849 (no 1847 covers)

To challenge the English dominance of the transatlantic steamship service, the United States inaugurated its first steam packet service on June 1, 1847. The Ocean line operated between New York and Southampton, England, with continuation to Bremen, in north Germany. Mail to France was off-loaded at Southampton and either routed via London and the Channel ports, or by auxiliary steamer between Southampton and Le Havre. U.S. rates on this route were set by the July 1, 1845 U.S. postal act, which stipulated sea postage of 24¢ per half ounce along with the inland rates of 5¢ or 10¢. The French and English applied the terms of the 1843 France-England treaty to mail arriving by the Ocean line, which meant that English sea postage was assessed, even though English packets did not carry this mail. This discriminatory double sea charge would give rise to a retaliatory response by the United States, discussed below. The Ocean line operated only 17 sailings during this two-year period. So far, no covers bearing 1847 stamps have been recorded from this line.

3. English packet via England, July 5, 1848–Jan 3, 1849 (two 1847 covers)

The United States protested the English practice of charging English sea postage on American packet letters, but to no avail. In response, the United States began assessing retaliatory U.S. sea postage on letters carried by English packets. Per the U.S. postal act of 27 June 1848, prepayment on all mail to France was charged the 24¢ per half ounce American sea postage plus inland postage of 5¢ or 10¢ per half ounce. This period began with the first eastbound trip under this act, which left New York on 5 July 1848. The English and French continued to assess postage based on their 1843 treaty.



Figure 3. July 14, 1848 cover from Augusta, Georgia, prepaid the 34¢ retaliatory rate to France. The sender prepaid 10¢ with the 1847 stamp and an additional 24¢ was charged to his post office account. Due postage of 21 decimes was collected from the recipient.

Figure 3 shows a rare example from this retaliatory period. This cover was posted in Augusta, Georgia, on 14 July 1848 and initially prepaid 10¢ for the over-300-mile distance to New York. Since the retaliatory rate to France had been announced 17 days earlier, 24¢ additional retaliatory sea postage was charged to the sender's charge box, represented by the magenta "298" adjacent to the stamp. The Augusta post office then added the accounting at right, in the same magenta ink, indicating 24¢ paid in cash plus the 10¢ 1847 stamp making the required 34¢ retaliatory rate.

The letter crossed the Atlantic on the Cunard steamer *Caledonia*, which left New York on July 19 and arrived in Liverpool on August 2. London marked it with the red "Colonies &c. Art. 13" debit marking and it entered France via Boulogne on August 4. The 10 decimes due to England were added to the 11 decimes French inland (7.5 gram weight class) for the 350 kilometers from Boulogne to Bagnères-de-Bigorre, for a total of 21 decimes postage due in France. This is one of only six covers in the census bearing 10¢ 1847 stamps, and one of only two retaliatory-rate covers to France bearing 1847 stamps.

The other cover is shown in Figure 4. This is the celebrated Rush cover, the quintessential 1847 cover to France and certainly the most famous retaliatory-rate cover known. This cover originated in Philadelphia on 26 September 1848, franked with 60¢ postage overpaying double the 29¢ retaliatory rate to France. The horizontal strip of six 10¢ 1847 stamps was cancelled by five strikes of New York's red circled 5 marking, and the cover was also postmarked by the red "PHILADA. RAILROAD" marking. It was carried by the Cunard steamer *Europa*, which left New York on September 27 and arrived in Liverpool on October 9. It entered France via Boulogne on October 11, where it was rated for 33 decimes due.

The double-weight franking in the U.S. indicates that the cover weighed between ½ and one ounce, while the penned manuscript "15" at the upper left indicates that it fell into



Figure 4. The famous “Rush” cover, September 26, 1848 letter franked by a strip of six 10¢ 1847 stamps overpaying twice the 29¢ retaliatory rate from the U.S. to France. Due postage of 33 decimes was collected from the recipient. Image courtesy Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries.

the French 15-20 gram (.52 to .71 ounces) weight class. As the data in Table 1 confirms, the postage due in France was 13 decimes for the distance from Boulogne to Paris plus 20 decimes for English transit and sea postage, for a total of 33 decimes due. This was boldly marked in manuscript over the address.

This magnificent cover was sold by the Siegel auction house for \$1.38 million in 2006. It has subsequently been exhibited as part of the collection of William H. Gross.

4. French direct packet, June 22, 1847–Feb 6, 1848 (one 1847 cover)

In 1847-48 the French operated a short-lived direct packet service between New York and Le Havre/Cherbourg. The Hérout & de Handel line made only nine trips before ceasing operation. Since France and the United States had no postal treaty, each country had to collect its share of the postage. In the United States, inland postage had to be prepaid to the New York departure port, as established by the 1845 postal act. French recipients had to pay the French sea postage of 10 decimes per 7.5 grams plus inland postage as set out in Table 1. Not much mail was carried by this service, and only one cover is recorded bearing an 1847 stamp. This is shown in Figure 5.

This cover was mailed in Philadelphia on 28 August 1847 and prepaid 5¢ for the under-300-mile distance to New York. It was carried, as endorsed, by the *Missouri* of the Hérout & de Handel line, which left New York on August 31 and arrived in Cherbourg on September 15. It received the “Le Havre 2 Paq. Reg.” postmark at Paris on September 17, where it was rated in the 10-15 gram (0.35-0.53 ounces) class, indicated by the small check mark at the upper left. The postage due should have been 36 decimes, consisting of 20 decimes French sea postage plus 16 decimes for the 425 kilometers from Le Havre to Cognac. Instead, Paris rated this letter for a collection of 38 decimes, perhaps using the greater distance from Boulogne, as per Table 1. In addition to being the only cover recorded showing the direct French packet service, Figure 5 is the earliest known 1847 cover sent to France. The addressee is the Hennessy firm, famous to this day for its cognac and now part of a French luxury-goods conglomerate.



Figure 5. August 28, 1847 letter from Philadelphia to Cognac, franked by a 5¢ 1847 stamp paying the under-300-mile rate to New York. This is the only recorded 1847 cover carried to France via direct French packet; 38 decimes was collected from the recipient.

5. English packet via England, Jan 4, 1849–Feb 14, 1849 (no 1847 covers)

The U.S. retaliatory postal act had the desired effect of causing the English to reconsider their discriminatory policies, and the United States and England signed their first postal treaty on December 15, 1848, to take effect on February 15, 1849. In response, the United States lifted its retaliatory postage order on 4 January 1849 and this inaugurated a short “restored rate” period. During this period, the old rates from July 1847 were once again used on mail to France. Ironically, since the English and French continued to employ the rates contained in their 1843 treaty, English sea postage continued to be charged on all mail to France via England. No 1847 covers to France are known from this brief period, and only a handful of stampless covers are recorded.

6. English packet via England, Feb 15, 1849–July 31, 1849 (one 1847 cover)

The December 1848 U.S.-England postal treaty became effective on 15 February 1849 and established a uniform (excluding the West Coast) U.S. inland rate of 5¢ per half ounce, known as the British Open Mail (“BOM”) rate and 16¢ per half ounce sea postage to be retained by the country that provided the packet service. English transit fees on mail to France were 3¢ per half ounce. French recipients continued to pay postage according to the 1843 France-England postal treaty, with its implicit double sea postage on letters carried by American packets.

Figure 6 shows a letter sent to France in this period. From the same correspondence as Figure 4, this letter was written on 16 June 1849 and given to the route agent on the Long Island Railroad, who applied at upper left his dateless “L.I. Rail Road N.Y. 5” postmark. The 5¢ franking paid the treaty rate to an English steamship at Boston. The letter was carried by the Cunard steamer *Europa*, which left Boston on June 20 and arrived in Liverpool on



Figure 6. June 16, 1849 letter to Paris, posted on the Long Island Railroad and franked by a 5¢ 1847 stamp paying the new uniform British Open Mail rate; 15 decimes collected from the recipient. Image courtesy Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries.

July 1. London marked it with the red “Colonies &c. Art. 13” marking, indicating a debit of 10 decimes per 7.5 grams to France per the 1843 treaty. It entered France via Boulogne on September 3 and was rated for 15 decimes due, reflecting the 10 decimes due to England plus 5 decimes French inland to Paris, as shown in Table 1. This is the only recorded 1847 cover to France from this brief period.

7. English packet via England, Aug 1, 1849—June 30, 1851 (44 1847 covers)

Effective August 1, 1849, French Postal Circular #14 simplified the French rates. It continued the 10 decimes transit and sea charge on all mail via England, but introduced a new uniform 5 decimes French inland rate, no matter what the internal distance, resulting in total collections of 15 decimes per 7.5 grams. U.S. rates continued as before, with the uniform 5¢ per half ounce BOM treaty rate. The different weight progressions in the United States and France created some unusual rate combinations in this period. Table 2 shows the composite weight progression in ounces. This table should be helpful in authenticating 1847 covers from this period. As an example, a triple-rate cover in the United States (pre-

Weight Range (oz.)	# of U.S. Rates	# of French Rates	Total Postage
0 to 0.26 (7.5 grams)	one/5¢	one/15 decimes	35¢
0.26 to 0.5	one/5¢	two/30 decimes	65¢
0.5 to 0.53 (15 grams)	two/10¢	two/30 decimes	70¢
0.53 to 0.79 (22.5 grams)	two/10¢	three/45 decimes	\$1.00
0.79 to 1.0	two/10¢	four/60 decimes	\$1.30
1.0 to 1.06 (30 grams)	three/15¢	four/60 decimes	\$1.35
1.06 to 1.32 (37.5 grams)	three/15¢	five/75 decimes	\$1.65
1.32 to 1.5	three/15¢	six/90 decimes	\$2

Table 2. Rate progression on mail to France: August 1849 to June 1851.



Figure 7. March 6, 1850 letter from Boston to Paris. The 1¢ Boston Penny Post carrier stamp (Scott 3LB1) paid postage to the Boston post office and the 5¢ 1847 stamp paid the new uniform BOM rate across the Atlantic via the Cunard steamer *America*. The recipient in Paris paid 30 decimes postage due.

paid 15¢) should show French collections between 60 and 90 decimes. A cover showing a significantly different due amount in France should be examined closely.

The majority of covers to France bearing 1847 stamps fall into Category 7. Figure 7 illustrates an interesting cover from this period. This letter is franked with a 1¢ Boston Penny Post stamp (Scott 3LB1) and a 5¢ 1847 stamp. The Boston stamp prepaid 1¢ for local carriage to the post office in March 1850 and the 5¢ 1847 stamp paid the British Open Mail rate across the Atlantic. The cover was carried by the Cunard steamer *America*, which left Boston on March 6 and arrived in Liverpool on March 19. London debited France 10 decimes per the red “Colonies &c. Art. 13” marking, and forwarded the letter to Paris via Calais on March 20. Paris added a check mark to indicate double weight, and assessed 30 decimes postage due for a letter weighing between 0.26 and 0.5 ounces.

8. American packet via England, July 1, 1849–June 30, 1851 (one 1847 cover)

Detailed articles appended to the 1848 U.S.-England treaty set the rates on American packet mail to France at 16¢ sea postage and 5¢ uniform U.S. inland per half ounce, effective July 1, 1849. However, no modification to the provisions of the 1843 France-England treaty was made, meaning that American packet mail to France was still assessed double sea postage—once in the U.S. and a second time in France. For the month of July 1849, variable French inland rates applied, and then the uniform 5 decimes inland rate was applied, starting on August 1, 1849.

The American-operated Collins line began a monthly transatlantic service on 27 April 1850, running from New York to Liverpool. Its mail shows the 21¢ per half ounce prepayments in the United States and postage due in France of 15 decimes per 7.5 grams. Letters are invariably marked with the “Colonies &c. Art. 13” debit marking from England to France for sea and transit postage. It was this debit that gave rise to the continuing discriminatory double sea postage on mail in this period.



Figure 8. February 3, 1851 letter from Boston to La Rochelle, France, franked by a 5¢ 1847 stamp and 16¢ in cash prepaying the 21¢ American packet rate. Boston first marked the total prepayment as 20¢ and then corrected this with a black handstamped “21”. This is the only recorded 1847 cover to France carried by American packet via England. Postage due of 15 decimes was collected from the recipient in La Rochelle.

The New York and Havre Steam Navigation Company (Havre line) also began operations in October 1850, running monthly steamers from New York to Southampton, England, with an extension to Le Havre. Most of the mail carried by this line was treated as direct packet mail between the United States and France, as explained below, but some mail for France was off-loaded at Southampton and routed via London and Calais.

Figure 8 shows the only known 1847-issue cover carried by American packet via England. Addressed to La Rochelle, France, this letter was posted in Boston on February 3, 1851, and prepaid 21¢ for carriage by American packet via England. A 5¢ 1847 stamp paid part of the rate, and the balance was paid in cash—indicated by the “16” and “PAID” markings adjacent to the stamp. Boston initially marked the total postage paid as 20¢ (in red), but corrected that with a black handstamped “21.” The letter was carried by the Collins line steamer *Arctic*, which left New York on February 5 and arrived in Liverpool on February 16. London marked it with the “Colonies &c. Art. 13” debit marking and forwarded it via Calais on February 18. In France, it was assessed 15 decimes postage due for the 10 decimes due to England plus 5 decimes French inland postage.

9. American packet direct, Oct 5, 1850–June 30, 1851 (no 1847 covers)

As mentioned above, the American-operated Havre line maintained a steamship service between New York and Le Havre, with an intermediate stop at Southampton. The U.S. 1845 postal act set postage for this service at 24¢ sea postage plus 5¢ or 10¢ inland postage per half ounce. French collections were private ship rates set by the August 1, 1849 French Postal Circular #14, and consisted of 3 decimes per 7.5 grams to the port of arrival (Le Havre, in this case) or 6 decimes to other parts of France. The Havre line made only seven trips during this period and carried very little mail to France. No covers bearing 1847 stamps are known from this period, but it is tantalizing to imagine a combination of 5¢ and 10¢ stamps making up the 24¢, 29¢ or 34¢ rates.



Figure 9. April 25, 1848 letter from Owego, New York to France, franked by a 5¢ 1847 stamp paying the under-300-mile rate to New York City and carried across the Atlantic on a sailing ship, with 6 decimes collected from the recipient in Paris. This is one of two recorded covers franked with 1847 stamps and carried via private ship to France.

10. Private ship, July 1, 1847–June 30, 1851 (two covers recorded)

Non-contract ships also carried small amounts of mail to France, and private ship rates applied to this type of mail in both the United States and France. In the United States, the 1845 inland rates applied: 5¢ per half ounce if sent less than 300 miles, and 10¢ if sent over 300 miles. France assessed a one decime (2¢) ship fee plus variable inland rates, as shown in Table 1, until July 31, 1849. After that, collections in France were 3 decimes per 7.5 grams to the port of arrival or 6 decimes to other parts of France, as explained above.

An 1847 cover carried by private ship is illustrated in Figure 9. This letter was posted at Owego, New York on 25 April 1848, with a 5¢ 1847 stamp prepaying the less-than-300 mile rate to New York City. From there it was carried by an unknown sailing ship to Le

Category number	Description	Date range	Known covers	Photo
1	English packet via England	July 1, 1847–July 4, 1848	14	Figure 2
2	American packet via England	July 1, 1847–June 30, 1849	0	
3	English packet via England	July 5, 1848–January 3, 1849	2	Figs. 3, 4
4	French packet direct	June 22, 1847–February 6, 1848	1	Figure 5
5	English packet via England	January 4, 1849–February 14, 1849	0	
6	English packet via England	February 15, 1849–July 31, 1849	1	Figure 6
7	English packet via England	August 1, 1849–June 30, 1851	45	Figs. 7, 10
8	American packet via England	July 1, 1849–June 30, 1851	1	Figure 8
9	American packet direct	October 5, 1850–June 30, 1851	0	
10	Private ship	July 1, 1847–June 30, 1851	2	Figure 9

Table 3. Summary data for the 10 categories of 1847 covers to France.

Havre, where it arrived on June 3, per the red “Outre-Mer Le Havre” entry marking. Le Havre rated it for 6 decimes due, consisting of a 1 decime ship fee plus 5 decimes inland postage to Paris, as indicated in Table 1. Only two covers are recorded franked with 1847 stamps and carried by private ship to France.

Observations on the census

Table 3 shows the distribution of the covers among the 10 categories, which are numbered according to this analysis. The table gives a brief description of each category, its date range, the number of 1847 covers recorded for that category, and a photo reference to the cover examples illustrated in this article.

The majority (68 percent) of the 66 covers in the census were carried by English packet in the August 1849 to June 1851 period, most with 5¢ stamps paying the single British Open Mail rate. Another 21 percent were carried by English packet from July 1847 to June 1848, with the stamps paying the 1845 U.S. inland rates. Covers from any other period are rare. As noted, no covers are recorded for three of the 10 categories. In five of the 10 categories, just one or two covers are known.

A single 5¢ stamp appears on 82 percent of the covers in the census. The 10¢ stamp only appears on 9 percent of the known covers to France, and multiples of the 5¢ stamp on another 9 percent.

The preponderance of the recorded covers, 94 percent, weighed less than a half ounce (14.17 grams). Accordingly, French due marks above the weight progression limit of 15 grams (0.53 ounces) are rare. Figure 10 shows a July 1850 cover (category 7) that was rated at less than a half ounce in the United States, but which was weighed at 16 grams (0.56 ounces) in France. This letter was posted at Baltimore on 29 July 1850 with a 5¢ 1847 stamp prepaying the half-ounce British Open Mail rate. The cover was carried by the Cunard steamer *America*, which left New York on July 31 and arrived in Liverpool on August 13. London added the red “Colonies &c. Art. 13” debit marking, and forwarded the letter to Paris via Calais on August 14. Paris added a manuscript “16” to indicate the third weight



Figure 10. July 29, 1850 letter from Baltimore to Paris, franked by a 5¢ 1847 stamp paying the half-ounce British Open Mail rate and illustrating some of the oddities of the French weight progression. The “16” was applied in Paris, part of the calculation that led to the assessment of 45 decimes postage due.

class (15 to 22.5 grams, or 0.53 to 0.79 ounces), and assessed 45 decimes postage due.

The census includes at least one cover from virtually every month between August 1847 and June 1851—except for a large gap from October 1848 through September 1849. During that period, only one cover (from June 1849, illustrated in Figure 6) is known. This year-long void in the census reflects the economic depression and political chaos that beset France in 1848-49. The revolution of February 1848, which overthrew the Orleans monarchy and ushered in the Second Republic, was accompanied by a serious credit crisis that caused a number of bank failures. The disappearance of bank credit greatly restricted commerce, and most certainly contributed to a decline in business correspondence. The recovery of 1850 brought affairs back to normal. Thus the surviving postal history artifacts reflect the larger historical background.

In the data presentation that follows, the covers are listed chronologically, showing origin and destination, franking, notes where relevant, and a source reference leading to an image. The last column (“Cat #”) places each cover in its category per the text.

Posted	From/To	Franking	Notes	Source	Cat #
Aug 28, 1847	Philadelphia/Cognac	5¢	French packet	Figure 5	4
Sep 29, 1847	Philadelphia/Paris	5¢ pair	Over 300 miles	Bennett 3/02 (Como) #25	1
Oct 30, 1847	Boston/Lyon	5¢		PF 149808/ex-Boker	1
Nov 6, 1847	Mobile/Lyon	10¢	Over 300 miles	RAS 4/91 (Rarities) #242	1
Nov 14, 1847	Wiscasset, ME/Le Havre	5¢		Alexander page 921, Chron. 114	1
Nov 22, 1847	Mobile/Bordeaux	5¢ pair	Over 300 miles	RAS 5/58 (Krug) #91, ex-Boker	1
Dec 1, 1847	New York/Bordeaux	5¢	No entry mark	Kaufmann 4/90 (Hart) #265	1
Dec 14, 1847	Philadelphia/Paris	5¢ pair	Over 300 miles	Figure 2	1
Dec 15, 1847	New York/Cognac	5¢	Stamp not tied	Russel 3/11 #172	1
Dec 22, 1847	Mobile/Lyon	5¢ x 2	Over 300 miles	Frajola 11/88 #423	1
Jan 15, 1848	New York/Paris	5¢ pair	28 grams/.99 oz.	RAS 6/92 (Kapiloff) #132	1
Mar ?, 1848	New York/Bordeaux	5¢		Feldman 4/07 #41587	1
Mar 3, 1848	Owego, NY/Paris	5¢	Private ship	RAS 5/69 # 185, ex-Boker	10
Apr 25, 1848	Owego, NY/Paris	5¢	Private ship	Figure 9	10
May 2, 1848	New York/Bordeaux	5¢		Bennett 6/03 #426/PhilaM#2074	1
May 30, 1848	New York/Cognac	5¢	Stamp not tied	Russel 3/11 #299	1
Jul 1, 1848	Corning, NY/Nantes	10¢	Over 300 miles	RAS 9/99 #2076	1
Jul 14, 1848	Augusta, GA/B-Bigorre	10¢, ms 24	Over 300 miles	Figure 3	2
Sep 26, 1848	Phila RR/Paris	10¢ strip 6	0.52-0.71 oz.	Figure 4	2
Jun 16, 1849	LIRR/Paris	5¢		Figure 6	6
Oct 9, 1849	New York/Cognac	5¢	0.26-0.5 oz.	Behr 1/05 #6051	7
Oct 21, 1849	New Orleans/Bordeaux	5¢		Bennett 5/02 #3106	7
Dec 2, 1849	Mobile/Paris	5¢	0.26-0.5 oz.	RAS 11/81 #17	7
Dec 9, 1849	Mobile/Paris	10¢	0.5-0.53 oz.	RAS 6/92 (Kapiloff) #134	7
Dec 14, 1849	Savannah GA/Nantes	5¢		Bennett 9/03 (Craveri) #1158	7
Dec 15, 1849	Mobile/Paris	10¢	0.5-0.53 oz.	RAS 5/87 #65	7
Jan 22, 1850	Philadelphia/Paris	5¢	0.26-0.5 oz.	RAS 2/93 #1202	7
Feb 15, 1850	Savannah GA/Nantes	5¢		Kelleher 6/90 #491	7
Mar 6, 1850	Boston/Paris	5¢ + local	Boston #3LB1	Figure 7	7
Mar 25, 1850	Mobile/Paris	5¢		RAS 6/92 (Kapiloff) #133	7
Apr 1, 1850	New York/Paris	5¢		Rumsey 12/03 #1147	7
Apr 20, 1850	New Orleans/Bordeaux	5¢		Bennett 3/02 (Como) #26	7
Apr 20, 1850	New Orleans/Marseille	5¢		Boker collection	7
Apr 30, 1850	NY&NHRR/St. Malo	5¢		RAS 5/98 (Sevenoaks) #58	7
Apr 30, 1850	New York/Bordeaux	5¢		Bennett 11/02 (Como) #147	7
May 11, 1850	New Orleans/Paris	5¢		Bennett 6/03 (Craveri) #427	7
May 14, 1850	New York/Bordeaux	5¢		Kauf. 3/91 (Sierra Madre) #3475	7
Jun 9, 1850	Mobile/Bordeaux	5¢		Kauf. 3/91 (Sierra Madre) #3471	7
Jun 18, 1850	Philadelphia/Montauban	5¢ + local	Blood's local	RAS 4/78 #51	7
Jul 1, 1850	Philadelphia/Paris	5¢		Bennett 3/02 (Como) #25	7
Jul 29, 1850	Baltimore/Paris	5¢	US underpay	Figure 10	7

Posted	From/To	Franking	Notes	Source	Cat #
Aug ??, 1850	Boston/Paris	5¢		Bennett 11/03 #1679	7
Aug 27, 1850	Philadelphia/Marseille	5¢		PhilaMercury #2075	7
Sep 30, 1850	New Orleans/Donzy	5¢		Alexander page 921, Chron. 114	7
Oct 12, 1850	New York/Nantes	5¢	Should be Nov.	Bennett 9/03 (Craveri) #1157	7
Nov 6, 1850	New York/Paris	5¢		Bennett 11/02 (Como) #146	7
Nov 19, 1850	Cleveland OH/Paris	5¢		Kauf. 3/91 (Sierra Madre) #3472	7
Dec 8, 1850	New Orleans/Mulhouse	5¢		RAS 6/07 (Rarities) #34	7
Dec 14, 1850	Boston/Paris	5¢		PhilaMercury #11930	7
Jan 27, 1851	Baltimore/Caen	5¢		Bennett 11/02 (Como) #148	7
Jan 28, 1851	Savannah GA/Avize	5¢		RAS 5/58 #85/PhilaM#2102	7
Jan 30, 1851	Cleveland OH/Paris	5¢	0.26-0.5 oz.	Christies 3/90 #1707	7
Feb ??, 1851	Boston/Avize	5¢		Christies 9/93 (Ishikawa) #48	7
Feb 3, 1851	Boston/La Rochelle	5¢, ms 16	American packet	Figure 8	8
Mar 1, 1851	New Orleans/Nantes	5¢		RAS 5/58 (Krug) #81	7
Mar 29, 1851	New Orleans/Lyon	5¢		Bennett 6/04 #345	7
Apr 8, 1851	New York/Redon	5¢		Frajola 5/92 #423	7
Apr 20, 1851	New Orleans/Bordeaux	5¢		RAS 12/95 #550	7
Apr 20, 1851	New Orleans/Cognac	5¢		RAS 3/94 #108	7
Apr 24, 1851	Cleveland OH/Paris	5¢	0.26-0.5 oz.	Bennett 11/06 #333/PF 211569	7
May 6, 1851	Philadelphia/Jarnac	5¢		Rumsey 11/97 #191	7
May 29, 1851	Franklin LA/Bordeaux	5¢ pair	US overpay	RAS 6/87 #246	7
May 31, 1851	Cleveland OH/Paris	5¢	0.26-0.5 oz.	Bennett 3/02 (Como) #27	7
Jun 5, 1851	Philadelphia/Cognac	5¢		RAS 12/01 #1261	7
Jun 15, 1851	New Orleans/Bordeaux	5¢		RAS 5/06 (Rarities) #522	7
Jun 18, 1851	Cleveland OH/Paris	5c	0.26-0.5 oz.	RAS 4/07 #225	7

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Endnotes

1. Creighton C. Hart, "172 1847 Covers to Europe," *Chronicle* 76, November 1972, pp. 184-188.

2. Creighton C. Hart, "1847 Covers to France," *Chronicle* 114, May 1982, pp. 110-113.

3. Thomas J. Alexander, *The United States 1847 Issue: A Cover Census*, pp. 921-929.

4. The literal meaning of the "Colonies &c. Art. 13" marking was that the letter was being exchanged between England and France under the terms of Article 13 of the 1843 France-England Treaty, as amended in 1845. The marking indicated that England's bulk debit to France was 3 shillings 4d (or 40 décimes) per 30 grams for unpaid letters from the U.S. via England. Since the single letter rate was 7.5 grams, the presumed debit per letter was 10 decimes, one quarter of the bulk rate.

5. Richard Winter, *Understanding Transatlantic Mail, Volume 1*, pg. 216. ■

AN AMAZING 3¢ 1851 COVER

STANLEY M. PILLER

The 3¢ 1851-56 imperforate stamps have some truly amazing covers. The time period the stamps were used, from 1 July 1851 into 1857 (and later) was a turbulent and in some ways ominous era. Politically things were changing dramatically. Slavery was being questioned and patriotism was on the rise. The west was opening up. Postage was getting cheaper and mail treaties between nations were being negotiated.

At the start of 1851, most international mail sent from the United States could be prepaid only to the foreign border. The remainder had to be collected from the recipient. The exception was Great Britain, to which mail could be sent pre-paid (for 24¢) for delivery within Great Britain.

Among the most amazing 3¢ 1851 covers are the mixed-franking covers, bearing both U.S. and foreign stamps. There are two ways these can occur. The first is when a letter was prepaid to a country and then forwarded internally with the addition of that country's stamp(s). The other was when postage was independently paid by the stamps of two different countries.

The most famous mixed-franking cover involving the 3¢ 1851 stamp is the Hawaiian cover with a pair of 3¢ 1851 stamps (Scott 11A) along with 2¢ and 5¢ Hawaii Missionary stamps (Scott 1 and 2). This is the famous Caspary cover, addressed to Miss Eliza Dawson in New York City, most recently sold in the Honolulu Advertiser auction. On this cover, which was illustrated on the cover of *Chronicle* 217 and written up extensively in that issue, the 5¢ Hawaii stamp paid the Hawaiian postage, the 2¢ Hawaii stamp paid the ship captain fee to carry the cover to San Francisco, and the pair of United States 3¢ stamps paid the domestic postage from San Francisco to New York.

Two covers are known sent from Canada to New York City, each with a 3 pence Canadian Beaver stamp (Scott 1) and a 3¢ 1851 stamp. One was in the Caspary collection and the other in the Kapiloff collection. Both represent attempts at mixed franking and each stamp pays the appropriate domestic postage for its country. But Canada disallowed such uses and marked both covers for postage due.

There is another country for which a true mixed-franking 3¢ 1851 cover is known. That country is France and the cover is shown here as Figure 1. This cover started life in Nantes, France, on 7 January 1856, where it was addressed to someone in San Francisco. The two French stamps—a 40 centime orange vermillion Napoleon (Scott 18a) and a 20c blue (15) paid the French internal postage from Nantes to Havre. According to Richard Winter, this was the proper French ship-letter rate for a letter originating beyond the departure point in France. The letter was marked PD in a box at Havre since it was paid as far as it could be paid, the departure port in France. At Havre the cover was placed aboard the New York & Havre Line steamer *Union*, departing 16 January 1856. According to Winter, this was *Union's* last voyage from France, and it did not carry contract mail, only ship letters.

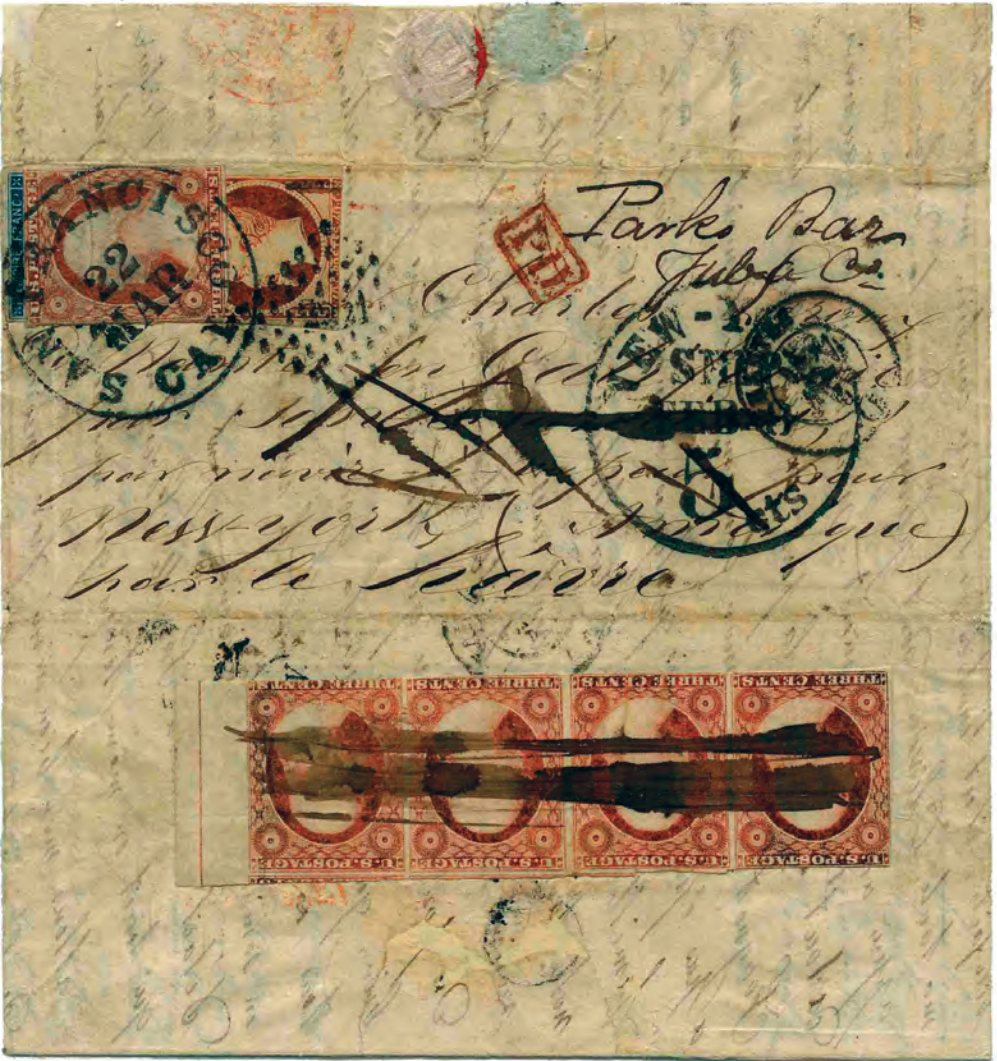


Figure 1. From Nantes, France, to Parks Bar, California, via Havre, New York, Panama and San Francisco. This cover was originally franked with two French stamps (now mostly obscured by the single 3¢ 1851) and crossed the Atlantic as a ship letter. All the 1851 stamps were apparently applied by a post office clerk at San Francisco.

After a long wintery voyage, with unplanned coaling stops at Halifax and Newport, the ship arrived at New York on the evening of 7 February 1856.

The cover was initially struck with the black circular “NEW-YORK SHIP 5cts” due marking. When it was observed that the cover was addressed to California (“Californie” in French) that word was underscored and in the same ink the “5” was crossed out and the cover was rerated at 12¢ due (manuscript “12” written over the address). This represented the 10¢ domestic postage rate from New York to San Francisco plus the 2¢ incoming ship fee for the captain of the *Union*. The cover was then placed on a mail steamer to Panama. After overland transit at Panama, it was carried by another mail steamer to San Francisco.

After the cover reached San Francisco on March 22, a postal clerk applied stamps, most likely left by the recipient, to the envelope. On the back he applied a strip of four, from Positions 67-70L3 (with centerline right) which paid the postage due of 12¢. These stamps

he cancelled with a pen. On the front of the cover, he crossed out the “12” due marking in the same bold strokes. Then over the French stamps he placed another 3¢ stamp (Position 66L3) which he cut from the original strip. In addition to the plating match-up, all five stamps show a pre-use file fold that also matches. The upper right corner of the single stamp also fits the upper left corner of the strip. In the same pen, in the upper right of the cover (in the only the blank space on the front of the cover) the clerk marked “Parks Bar, Yuba Co.”, the location of the recipient.

Thus on this cover the French stamps paid the postage in France. The U.S. stamps paid the ship fee as well as the 10¢ rate to California (10¢ + 2¢ = 12¢) and the 3¢ forwarding postage to Parks Bar. Prepayment of domestic postage was compulsory by this time and there is no indication that the letter was held for postage. The recipient must have left stamps with the post office, perhaps folded in an envelope, as suggested by the crease through all five stamps.

So in addition to the mixed-franking aspect, there is forwarding postage and the payment by stamps of the postage due. This is a remarkable use: stamps of two countries, four different rates and possibly the only 12¢ ship-letter rate sent from the east coast to the west. This might also represent the only postage due use of the 3¢ 1851 stamp. While the stamps are all relatively common, the use may well be unique. Certainly this can be called an amazing 3¢ 1851 cover. ■

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CARRIERS & INDEPENDENT MAILES

GORDON STIMMELL, EDITOR

NEW NOTES ON THE CHICAGO MOODY BLUES

GORDON STIMMELL

When Robert J. Moody opened the doors of his Chicago local post in 1856, he faced stiff competition from at least one existing private letter-delivery company. The 1856 John Gager & Co. *City Directory of Chicago* contains our only surviving reference to Moody's entering the fray. This is shown in Figure 1. By the next edition of this publication, in 1857, Moody was gone. The remaining companies, listed under expresses, do not show his post. See Figure 2.

The major competitor of the day was Bronson & Forbes (noted in Figure 2 as "City Express Post"), who were charging 2¢ for delivery of letters. The firm's advertising card is shown in Figure 3; note that "Forbes" is misspelled "Fobes." In 1855 Bronson & Forbes issued a stamp featuring the front of a locomotive engine (Scott 27L1). The stamps are scarce but the firm did a decent business at the time. Both posts were located on Dearborn Street.

Students of the Chicago local posts have always assumed that Moody intended to undercut his opposition by charging a 1¢ delivery rate. This, so the explanation goes, is why his stamps designated his post as a "Penny Dispatch". A vertical strip of three of the Moody's stamp (Scott 110L1) is shown in Figure 4.

MOODY'S DISPATCH, city mail, 30 Dearborn st.
Moody R. J., proprietor.

Figure 1. Excerpt from an 1856 Chicago city directory listing Moody's Dispatch as a handler of city mail.

EXPRESS COMPANIES—
AMERICAN EXPRESS Co., 20 Dearborn. (See cover.)
CITY EXPRESS POST, Masonic Temple. (See card, page 45.)
ILLINOIS AND WISCONSIN EXPRESS, 18 Dearborn.
MERCHANTS' DISPATCH, Hall & Co., Agents, 96 and 98 s. Water.
UNION EXPRESS COMPANY, 14 s. Water.
UNITED STATES EXPRESS COMPANY, 14 Dearborn. (See cover.)

Figure 2. In the 1857 edition, the Moody firm is no longer listed.

BRONSON & FOBES,
CITY EXPRESS POST,
OFFICE, MASONIC TEMPLE,
DEARBORN STREET, OPPOSITE POST OFFICE, CHICAGO, ILL.
Letters deposited before 9 A. M. - - Will be sent out for delivery at 12 M.
Letters deposited before 2 P. M. - - Will be sent out for delivery at 4 P. M.
POSTAGE, TWO CENTS.

Figure 3. Advertisement for Bronson & Forbes, with "Forbes" misspelled.

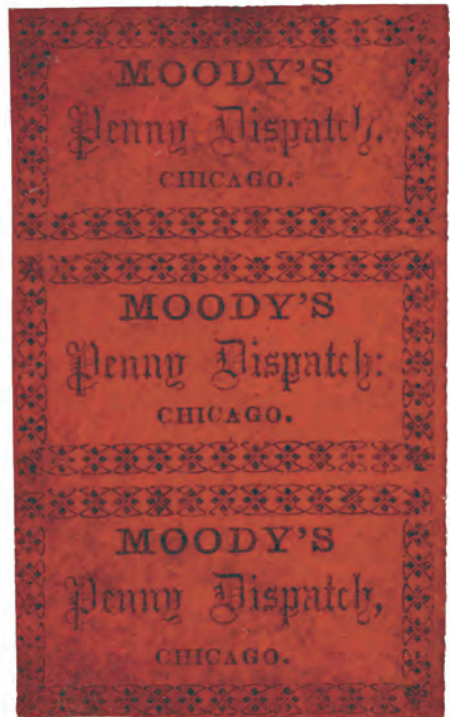


Figure 4. This strip of three of Moody's Penny Dispatch Chicago stamp is the only known multiple.



Figure 5. Typical use of a Moody's local stamp, franked with a 3¢ 1851 and taken to the post office by Moody's. The stamp says "Henny Dispatch" rather than "Penny Dispatch," which makes it a unique variety.

The Moody's stamp is scarce. Scott Trepel has recorded only 19 examples. Most are singles, on or off cover. The strip in Figure 4, ex Caspary, Lilly, Boker and Golden, is the only recorded multiple. The stamp is printed in black ink on glazed vermillion paper, which makes it difficult to reproduce clearly.

The Moody's stamp shows numerous variants of spelling and punctuation, which have been broken down by scholars, most extensively by Trepel. Note, for example, that the stamps in the Figure 4 strip show three punctuation varieties. The upper stamp has a period after "DISPATCH", the middle stamp has a colon and the bottom stamp has a comma.

Figure 5 shows the typical use of a Moody's stamp, along with a 3¢ 1851 stamp, here on a cover sent to Voluntown, Connecticut. The local stamp, which carried the cover to the post office, is well tied by a blue "MOODY'S DESPATCH" circular postmark dated September, 1856. The Chicago circular datestamp, which ties the 3¢ 1851 stamp, confirms the September 1856 use.

The cover in Figure 5 is noteworthy because the stamp it bears says "Henny" instead of "Penny." This is an error worthy of catalog listing, and Scott's specialized catalog does not let us down. The Figure 5 cover is in fact listed as Scott 110L1b: "'Henny' instead of 'Penny,' on cover, tied by handstamp, with 3¢ #11." Scott's italicized value for this item is \$45,000. It's easy to see how a type compositor could have made this error. The old English "P" and "H" are very similar, especially when viewed in reverse on the stone.

The Moody's stamp on cover has also been well chronicled by Trepel. His census can be found on the Siegel Auction Galleries website, using the site's powerful and user-friendly search engine. In all, seven examples of the stamp on cover survive, all with a blue or black Moody's circular datestamp like the one on the cover in Figure 5. Interestingly, the Moody's stamps say "Dispatch" but the handstamp spells it "Despatch."

Trepel's cover record indicates a narrow range of dates spanning a mere five months from late 1856: Sept. 18, Sept. 29, Oct. 9, Nov. 4, Nov. 14, Nov. 15, and Jan. 5 (1857). The "1856" docketing on the last cover is in error.

The major postal historians of Chicago, including Dr. Clarence Hennan and Henry E. Abt, make much of the great Chicago fire of 1871 (which was not, it turns out, started by Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicking over a lantern) that ravaged much of the downtown city and incinerated treasured postal history items. Fortunately, many letters handled by the local



Figure 6. Discovery cover with Moody's datestamp but no Moody's adhesive. The manuscript "Paid 5" suggests the firm charged 2¢ for its local service.

Chicago posts pre-date the fire and had been sent outside the Chicago area.

Thus, the Moody's "Dispatch" stamp accompanied by the round "Dispatch" handstamp is well known and chronicled. All surviving covers so far recorded were carried to the post office and mailed to destinations outside of Chicago.

Now, 156 years later, a cover showing Moody's round blue handstamp *without* the local adhesive has surfaced. This is the item shown in Figure 6. The blue "Moody's Dispatch" handstamp is dated Oct. 27, 1856, confirmed by a Chicago circular datestamp of the same date, tying the imperforate 3¢ 1851 stamp. This date places the cover in the middle of the known stamped uses. Why a local stamp was not affixed to this cover remains an enigma. Perhaps the user or the local Moody's office had simply run out of stamps that day.

Note that the Figure 6 cover, which was sent to Hamburg, Connecticut, shows a manuscript inked "Paid 5" notation. This challenges the long-held assumption that Moody was charging a market-disrupting 1¢ carrier fee.

None of the seven other covers (all of which bear a Moody's stamp plus the Moody handstamp plus a U.S. 3¢ 1851 stamp) show any indication of the actual charge assessed by the local post. This, plus the "penny dispatch" designation in the stamp, is what led previous scholars to conclude that Moody charged a 1¢ fee. But the "Paid 5" notation on the discovery cover in Figure 6 indicates the firm charged 2¢ for carrying the letter to the post office (plus 3¢ for posting it into the government mails).

Most U.S. "Penny Posts," beginning in the 18th century, charged 2¢ for their local delivery services. The 1¢ charge is rarer in general and usually applied only briefly, often in instances sparked by competition from other carriers.

To my knowledge, the only other recorded handstamped Moody's cover without a local adhesive is a Valentine embossed cover, presumably Feb 14, 1856, with a red oval MOODY'S/PAID/DESPATCH red handstamp. This item last surfaced in the Christies sale of Hennan material in 1988 and immediately bounced at the Philatelic Foundation. It is regarded as a fake by both Trepel and Larry Lyons, and now resides in the latter's extensive collection of bogus local post material.

If anyone out there can show another round Moody's handstamp, in blue or in black, on a cover without the local adhesive, the author would appreciate learning about it. For the moment, this newly discovered Moody blue can be described as unique, a status that is always precarious. ■

**THE GOODHUE CORRESPONDENCE:
MAIL TO THE PORT OF ZANZIBAR, 1866-1868**

RICHARD FRAJOLA, GARY DU BRO AND ARMANDO GRASSI

Background

Zanzibar, a small island off the east coast of Africa that is now a semi-autonomous part of Tanzania, was extremely important to American traders in the 19th century. This was particularly true for traders from Salem, Massachusetts. One scholar observed that “Of the seventy-five ships to visit the western Indian Ocean between 1824 and 1837, sixty-three were from Salem.”¹

A mutual accord between the United States and the Sultan Seyyid Said of Muscat was signed in 1835. The Treaty of Amity and Commerce afforded the United States a most-favored-nation status whereby Americans were granted authority to travel and trade without hindrance at Zanzibar and on the East African littoral which was then under Zanzibar sovereignty.

The United States established the first foreign consulate at Zanzibar in 1837, to be followed by England in 1841 and France in 1844. During the 1830s and 1840s, Salem traders established a near-monopoly on trade with Zanzibar, bringing Zanzibari products of copal gum, ivory, hides, tortoise shells, cloves and other spices to the United States in exchange for cotton cloth, tobacco, rum, kerosene, muskets, gun powder and a variety of other manufactured goods. The U.S. trade dominance at Zanzibar was maintained until the American Civil War.

The Salem traders maintained their near-monopoly over trade with Zanzibar by successfully lobbying for the lead consular officers. From 1837 through 1875, nine of the 12 U.S. consuls were from Massachusetts.

The Goodhue correspondence

The Goodhue correspondence consists of a series of covers, dated between January 1866 and August 1868, addressed to Albert P. Goodhue at the port of Zanzibar or for ultimate delivery at Zanzibar. Albert Goodhue (1838-1915) was the son of William P. Goodhue (1806-1894), a noted Salem ship chandler and merchant who was active in the Zanzibar trade. Among the goods imported by the Goodhue firm was copal, one of the three primary ingredients used to make varnish, highly important during this era for finishing ships and railroad coaches. It was believed that the best copal came from Zanzibar.

Albert’s brother, William W. Goodhue, served as United States Vice Consul to Zanzibar between 1862 and 1864 and was instrumental in establishing trade partners in the area that benefited both his family business and his country.

During the two-plus years represented by the Goodhue correspondence, the United States Vice Consul at Zanzibar was Edward Ropes of Massachusetts. After Ropes’ resignation in 1868, he was replaced by Francis Webb. It seems likely that Albert Goodhue was sent to Zanzibar in 1866 to replace his brother and to supervise family business operations. After his return to Salem in 1872, Albert wrote a letter of recommendation for a candidate for the position of Consul at Zanzibar. This letter was published in the *Salem Register* of June 4, 1874. In this letter Albert says that his recommended candidate for the Zanzibar consulate “was clerk for me at that Port for three years.” The letter also describes a trading trip to Bombay that the nominee had made for “the House for which I was Agent.”

#	Posted	Postal Destination	Rate	Cr to GB	Colonial Credit	Stamps
1	Jan 30 1866	Seychelles	45¢	40¢	4½d	30¢ + 10¢ + 5¢
2	Mar 13 1866	Seychelles	45¢	40¢	4½d	30¢ + 10¢ + 3¢ + 2¢
3	Mar 25 1866	Seychelles	45¢	40¢	4½d	30¢ + 3¢ (x5)
4	Jun 26 1866	Aden	45¢	40¢	1d	30¢ + 15¢
5	Jul 10 1866	Aden	45¢	24¢	1d	30¢ + 15¢
6	Jul 12 1866	Seychelles	45¢	24¢	4½d	30¢ + 15¢
7	Jul 19 1866	Aden	45¢	24¢	1d	30¢ + 15¢
8	Jul 26 1866	Aden	45¢	40¢	1d	30¢ + 15¢
9	Aug 21 1866	Seychelles	45¢	24¢	4½d	30¢ + 10¢ + 5¢
10	Sep 6 1866	Seychelles	45¢	24¢	4½d	30¢ + 10¢ + 5¢
11	Oct 5 1866	Seychelles	45¢	24¢	4½d	30¢ + 15¢
12	Nov 6 1866	Bombay	45¢	40¢	1d	30¢ + 15¢
13	Nov 10 1866	Aden	45¢	40¢	1d	30¢ + 12¢ + 3¢
14	Jan 2 1867	Seychelles	45¢	40¢	4½d	30¢ + 12¢ + 3¢
15	Jan 16 1867	Seychelles	45¢	40¢	4½d	30¢ + 15¢
16	Jan 25 1867	Seychelles	2x 45¢	48¢	4½d / 2	30¢ + 30¢ + 30¢
17	Jan 25 1867	Seychelles	45¢	24¢	4½d	30¢ + 15¢
18	Feb 8 1867	Seychelles	45¢	24¢	4½d	30¢ + 15¢
19	Feb 19 1867	Aden	45¢	24¢	1d	30¢ + 15¢
20	Feb 26 1867	Seychelles	45¢	40¢	4½d	30¢ + 15¢
21	Apr 9 1867	Seychelles	45¢	40¢	4½d	15¢ + 15¢ + 15¢
22	Apr 15 1867	Seychelles	45¢	24¢	4½d	30¢ + 15¢
23	May 14 1867	Aden	45¢	40¢	1d	30¢ + 15¢
24	May 15 1867	Seychelles	45¢	24¢	4½d	30¢ + 15¢
25	May 21 1867	Seychelles	45¢	40¢	4½d	30¢ + 15¢
26	Jul 22 1867	Aden	45¢	40¢	1d, "10"	30¢ + 15¢ + 8as India
27	Aug 9 1867	Aden	45¢	24¢	1d, "10"	30¢ + 15¢ + 8as India
28	Aug ? 1867	Aden	2x 45¢	80¢	2d	90¢
29	Aug 24 1867	Seychelles	2x 45¢	80¢	2d	90¢
30	Oct 1 1867	Aden	45¢	40¢	1d	30¢ + 15¢
31	Oct 18 1867	Aden	45¢	24¢	1d	30¢ + 15¢
32	Nov 8 1867	Seychelles	53¢	32¢	4½d	24¢ + 24¢ + 5¢
33	Nov 19 1867	Aden	45¢	40¢	1d	30¢ + 15¢
34	Nov 20 1867	Bombay	2x 45¢	80¢	2d	30¢ + 30¢ + 30¢
35	Nov 26 1867	Aden	45¢	40¢	1d	30¢ + 15¢
36	Apr 3 1868	Aden	36¢	26¢	1d	30¢ + 3¢ + 3¢
37	Jun 19 1868	Aden	36¢	24¢	1d	30¢ + 3¢ + 3¢
38	Jul 14 1868	Aden	36¢	26¢	1d	30¢ + 3¢ + 3¢
39	Jul 24 1868	Aden	2x 36¢	48¢	2d	24¢ + 24¢ + 24¢
40	Aug 6 1868	Aden	2x 36¢	48¢	2d	90¢ + 3¢ + 3¢
41	Aug 7 1868	Aden	36¢	26¢	1d	30¢ + 3¢ + 3¢

Table 1. Chronological listing of covers addressed to Albert P. Goodhue in Zanzibar. All are franked with stamps of the U.S. 1861-1866 issue; there are no grills. Two of the covers (#16 and #38) were sent from San Francisco; all the others originated in Salem or Boston. The "Postal Destination" column shows the destination from which the covers were forwarded privately to their addressee in Zanzibar.

The authors have recorded 41 covers addressed to Albert P. Goodhue in Zanzibar. Data about the covers is presented in Table 1. The covers, which are arranged chronologically in Table 1, date from 30 January 1866 to 7 August 1868. All are franked with stamps of the U.S. 1861-1866 issue; there are no grills. All but two of the covers originated in Salem or Boston, Massachusetts. None of the contents survive, but docketing notations on the reverse of the covers suggest this was a personal rather than business correspondence. The letters from Salem were sent by Albert's sister or his mother while at least one of the



Figure 1. Locations discussed in this article overlaid on a map showing current country boundaries.

covers sent from Boston (#31) included a letter from Albert’s father. Two of the covers (#16 and #38) were sent from San Francisco by Luis Emilio, who was born in Salem and moved west after the Civil War. Table 1 includes information about the covers’ dates, routing, rates, markings and franking.

Postal rates on Goodhue covers

During the 1866-1868 period, Zanzibar was an independent Sultanate. Prior to December 6, 1872, there was no direct government mail service. No postal rates to Zanzibar appeared in the official rate charts of any country.² All inbound mail was transmitted privately. Mail sent from the United States via Great Britain had to be sent to Aden, to the Seychelles Islands or to Bombay for indirect private carriage onward to Zanzibar.

All three of these intermediate forwarding points are represented in the Goodhue correspondence. The majority of the recorded covers are imprinted at lower left “Care of Adumally Sultanally, Merchant in Aden, Arabia” indicating the preferred route at the time the envelopes were printed. The envelopes are also imprinted with the addressee name (“Mr. Albert P. Goodhue”) and “Via Marseilles” at top left. When the sender chose an alternate route, the Aden directive was crossed out and modified, sometimes being covered with a preprinted label.

Figure 1 is a map of the region under discussion, showing current country boundaries, overlaid with the place names of locations mentioned in this article.

During this period there were three government mail routes between the United States and the intermediate destinations of Aden, Seychelles and Bombay. The three routes were British mail via Southampton, British mail via Marseilles, and French mail. The rates via Southampton were in half-ounce increments. The rates via Marseilles, involving overland transit across France, were quoted in quarter-ounce units. But the Goodhue correspondents used only the half-ounce increments of the British mail rate via Marseilles (and multiples of this rate), which at this time was the fastest means to reach the near east.

The British mail rate via Marseilles was identical for all three intermediate destinations to which the Goodhue covers travelled. In 1866 the rate per half ounce via British mail via Marseilles was 45¢. On 1 January 1868, this rate was briefly reduced to 30¢, before being raised to 36¢ from 1 March 1868. The record presented in Table 1 shows 34 covers sent at the 45¢ rate and six sent at the 36¢ rate (some are multiples of the base rate). No covers have been recorded from the two-month period of the 30¢ rate. One cover (#31) was prepaid 53¢. This is discussed as Figure 6 below; it appears to have been franked in error by the sender.

For a single 45¢-rate cover the United States credit to Great Britain was 40¢ if the cover was carried across the Atlantic by a British steamer and 24¢ if carried by an American steamer. Most of the Goodhue correspondence bears Boston exchange office markings. After the transatlantic rate reductions effective 1 January 1868, accounting for the nationality of the transatlantic steamship no longer applied. The correct credit on 36¢-rate covers was in all cases 26¢, although three covers show 24¢ credits (or multiples of 24).

All the Goodhue covers show “colonial credit” markings. These are accounting markings, applied in London, part of the calculation of compensation due to the receiving colonial post office to help defray its expense in carrying such mail. On the Goodhue covers, the colonial credit markings differ according to the intermediate destination. Covers sent to Aden or to Bombay received the typical 1 pence credit (per half ounce). Covers sent to the Seychelles were credited 4½d. According to the Moubrays, the 4½d was actually a credit to Mauritius. The Seychelles were then a dependency of Mauritius, and Mauritius paid 90 percent of the sea postage for steam service between Suez and Port Louis (the capitol), with an intermediate stop at the Seychelles.³

The “Via Aden” mail routes to Zanzibar

Twenty of the Goodhue covers were carried to Aden, which at the time was administered as part of British India. The unlabeled imprinted covers were sent to the care of Adumally Sultanally, Merchant, Aden. Although the authors have not been able to find information on Adumally Sultanally, the fact that he is named as a merchant on the imprint, coupled with newspaper notices such as found in the [Salem] *Commercial Advertiser* of 22 September 1866 that mentions, “arrived at Zanzibar July 14, bark Hazard, Karstens [captain, from] Aden, sailed 23rd for Salem (a three month return trip)” indicate the probability that Adumally Sultanally was a Goodhue trading partner. If Salem-based American merchant ships were active on the route between Aden and Zanzibar, it is reasonable to assume they were available for mail transport.

After covers were transported to London by steamers departing New York or Boston, the “Via Marseilles” route to Aden entailed carriage in closed bags across the Channel to Calais and by rail across France to Marseilles. At Marseilles the mail bags were placed aboard ships of the Peninsular and Orient (P&O) Line steamers bound for Alexandria. Mails were then carried overland from Alexandria to Suez and down the Gulf of Suez to Aden by a second P&O steamer.



Figure 2. Cover posted at Boston, Massachusetts on June 26, 1866, addressed to Aden and privately forwarded from there to Zanzibar.

A typical cover carried on this route is shown in Figure 2. Franked with 45¢ postage paid by a 15¢ Lincoln and a 30¢ Franklin stamp, this cover was posted at Boston and caught the 27 June 1866 New York departure of the Cunard steamer *Scotia* that arrived in Queens-town on July 5. After transit through London on July 7, the cover arrived in Marseilles in time to catch the P&O steamer *Massilia* that departed Marseilles July 12 and arrived, after a stop in Malta, at Alexandria on July 18, 1866. After overland carriage to Suez the cover was carried by the P&O steamer *Golconda* that departed July 19 and arrived in Aden on July 25, 1866. Allowing for a good connection by merchant ship for the approximately one-month sailing trip from Aden to Zanzibar, the cover was probably received there in September 1866.

The postal markings on this cover include a red “Boston Br. Pkt” exchange-office datestamp with “40” at foot representing 40¢ credit from the United States to Great Britain. It also bears a London transit postmark and a red crayon “1” (pence) colonial credit marking. A 1d colonial credit appears on all single-rate Goodhue covers directed to Aden.

Two atypical covers (numbers 26 and 27) were sent to Aden in the summer of 1867. These two covers bear India adhesives applied in Aden. Like Figure 2, the cover in Figure 3 is addressed to Aden and was franked for the usual 45¢ “via Marseilles” British mail rate. The cover was posted at Salem on August 9, 1867 and bears a Boston exchange office circular datestamp. It was carried from New York the following day on the HAPAG steamer *Cimbria*, arriving at Liverpool on August 20, 1867. After transit through London and France it departed Marseilles August 28 on the P&O steamer *Tanjore*, arriving at Alexandria, after a stop at Malta, on September 3, 1867. After carriage overland to Suez, it was put on board the P&O steamer *Nubia* that departed on September 11 and arrived at Aden on September 16, 1867.

The Figure 3 cover must have been re-mailed by Adumally Sutanally. The Indian 8 anna rose stamp of 1865 (Scott 25) was canceled with Aden’s barred numeral “124” cancel and the cover was additionally backstamped with Aden’s “Steamer Point” datestamp of September 22, 1867. The two covers with Indian stamps are the only Goodhue covers that

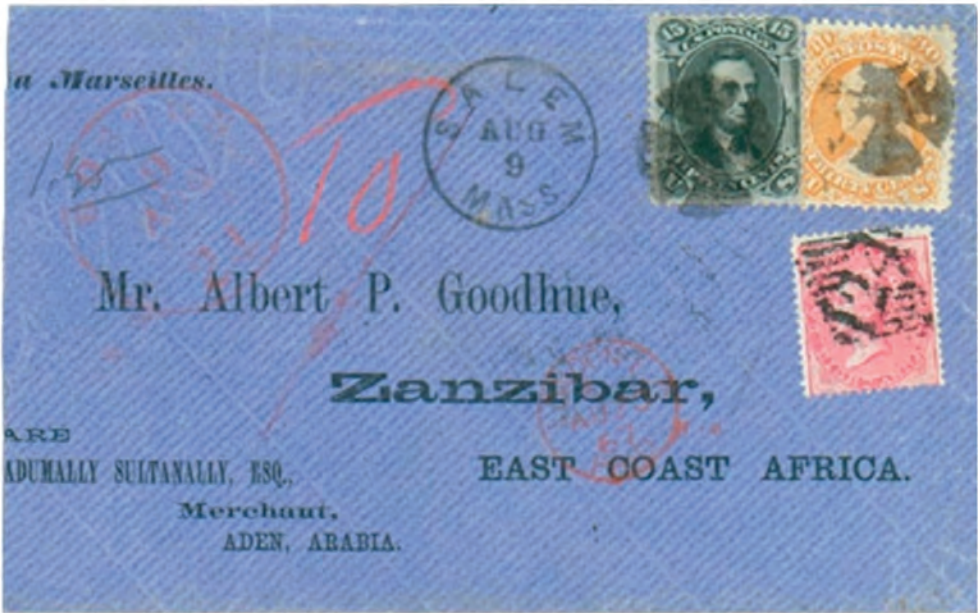


Figure 3. Cover mailed at Salem, Massachusetts on August 9, 1867 and sent to Aden where an India 8 anna adhesive was applied for additional service to the Seychelles Islands. From there the cover was privately carried to Zanzibar.

bear this backstamp. Eight annas was equal to one British shilling—24¢ U.S.

The Figure 3 cover was likely carried by the French Ligne T steamer *Mozambique*, scheduled to depart from Aden on September 23, on its voyage from Suez to Reunion with an intermediate stop at the Mahé (Seychelles) scheduled for September 30, 1867. The method of conveyance from the Seychelles to the final destination of Zanzibar is unknown. The red crayon “10” (pence) on the cover, which is also found on the second cover with this franking, is the credit to France for its share of the 8as double rate (per quarter ounce) postage from India to Mauritius. As noted, Aden was administered as part of British India.

The “Via Seychelles” mail routes to Zanzibar

Nineteen of the Goodhue covers were directed to the “care [of] Dr. Brooks” at Mahe in the Seychelles Islands. During this period the Seychelles group of 92 islands was incorporated as a dependency of the British colony of Mauritius. Dr. James Henry Brooks, an Englishman, was the chief medical surgeon there as well as German consul for the Seychelles. His home, Kenwyn House, still stands. It has been restored and now serves as a museum for precious gems.

In this era mail could travel from London to the Seychelles over two different routes. One route was identical to the route to Aden described above, but from Aden, the mail was carried by a P&O branch-line steamer to the Seychelles. The P&O discontinued this service at the beginning of a terrible malaria outbreak in June 1866. As a result, only the first three covers in Table 1 were carried over this route. An example of such carriage is represented by the cover in Figure 4.

On this cover the 45¢ rate is colorfully paid by four different stamps. This cover was posted at Salem in time to catch the Cunard steamer *Asia* that departed Boston on March 14, 1866. After arrival at Queenstown on March 26 the cover transited London on March 28 where it received a postmark and the distinctive 4½d colonial credit handstamp. The cover probably missed the March 28 P&O departure from Marseilles and was held for the April



Figure 4. Cover posted at Salem in March 1866, endorsed “care Dr. Brooks, Seychelles Isles.” The bold “4½d” marking was applied at London and represents a credit to Mauritius for steam service between Suez and the Seychelles. From the Seychelles the cover was privately forwarded to Zanzibar.

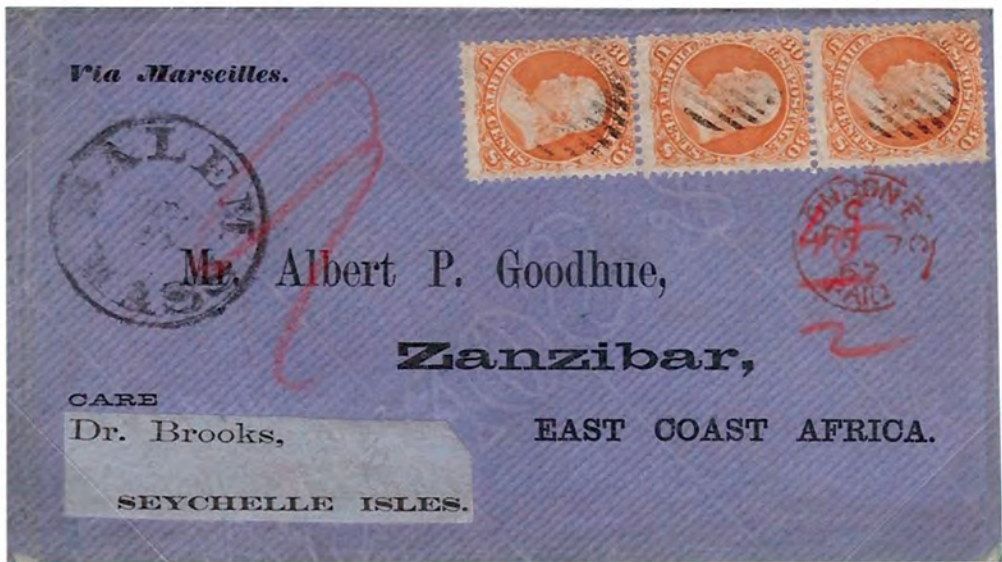


Figure 5. Double-rate cover from Salem, January 25, 1867, sent via Cape Town and Mauritius to the Seychelles and then privately carried to Zanzibar.

12 departure of the *China*, arriving at Alexandria on 18 April 1866 after a stop in Malta. Following overland carriage to Suez the cover was carried by the P&O Line steamer *Golconda* that departed April 20 and arrived in Aden on April 26. The name of the branch line steamer that carried the cover from Aden to the Seychelles is not known. Also unknown is the name of the private vessel that carried the cover from the Seychelles to Zanzibar.

After June 1866, when the P&O branch steamers stopped serving the Seychelles from Aden, alternate routes via Mauritius were used. An atypical cover, carried on the slower



Figure 6. Cover posted at Boston on November 8, 1867 cover, inappropriately franked and handled at the 53¢ rate (45¢ was the proper rate), sent via Mauritius to the Seychelles and then privately forwarded to Zanzibar.

route down the west coast of Africa via Cape Town to Mauritius, is shown in Figure 5. After reaching London, such mails were sent by Union Steam Ship Co. Cape Line steamers that operated from Plymouth, via Cape Town and Natal, to Mauritius.

Figure 5 is a double-rate cover, posted at Salem and franked with a vertical strip of three 30¢ Franklin stamps. The preprinted inscription routing the cover via “Adumally Sultanally, Merchant in Aden” was carefully covered by the blue-gray printed pasteover directing the cover to “Dr. Brooks, Seychelle Isles.”

This cover was carried by the (American-contract) Inman Line steamer *City of New York II*, which departed New York on January 26 and arrived at Liverpool on February 5, 1867. After transiting London, where it received the double-rate “9” colonial credit in red crayon (the calculation “4½/2” is intertwined with the London “PAID” marking), it was carried by the Union Cape Line steamer *Celt* that departed Plymouth on February 10 and arrived at Cape Town on March 16, 1867. It was then carried by the Union Line steamer *Saxon* that departed Cape Town March 20 and arrived at Mauritius on April 1, 1867 after stops at Algoa Bay (Port Elizabeth) and Natal. After the cover was delivered to Dr. Brooks at Mahe in the Seychelles, he arranged for it to be carried to Zanzibar by private ship.

A cover posted in November 1867 and carried via Mauritius on the faster route via Aden is shown in Figure 6. This cover is docketed as having contained letters from Albert’s father in Boston, which may explain why an imprinted cover was not used. It bears an atypical endorsement, “via Aden & Seychelles Islands,” that does not include an “in care of” person, and it bears a 53¢ franking not seen on any other Goodhue covers.

It is easy to understand why a postal clerk in Boston might have been confused about the proper postal rate. Zanzibar was not a listed destination in the *U.S. Mail* or the *Postal Guide* and the cover is not addressed to either Aden or the Seychelles. Apparently the clerk guessed that the 53¢ rate (the maximum British mail rate to the remotest parts of the empire) was appropriate, and the cover was franked to that amount, with a pair of 24¢ Washington stamps and a 5¢ Jefferson. The Boston exchange office credited Britain with 32¢ for the 53¢ rate as designated by the red crayon notation.



Figure 7. Cover posted at Salem on November 20, 1867, sent to Bombay for forwarding to Zanzibar. Docketing on reverse (inset at lower right) indicates the Bombay recipient sent the cover to Zanzibar by placing it on the *Nadir Shah*, a vessel of war owned by the Sultan of Zanzibar that was at the time was being used as a trading ship.

The cover was carried by the Inman steamer *City of Antwerp* that departed New York on November 9 and arrived in Liverpool on November 20, 1867. It transited London the same day. Heeding the routing “via Aden and Seychelle Islands” London determined that it was best sent to the Seychelles and indicated the colonial credit of 4½ pence in red crayon. The cover was then carried by the P&O steamer *Pera* that departed Southampton on November 20 and arrived at Alexandria on December 3, 1867. After overland carriage to Suez it was placed on the P&O steamer *Simla* that departed December 6 and arrived at Aden on December 12 before continuing on to Galle (Ceylon) where it arrived on December 21, 1867. It was finally placed on the Union Line steamer *Dane II* from Galle the same day and arrived at Mauritius on December 30, 1867. It is probable that the cover was sent onward to the Seychelles and then privately to Zanzibar but the exact mode of conveyance cannot be determined.

The “Via Bombay” mail route to Zanzibar

Two covers in Table 1 (#12 and #34) were sent to Bombay before being carried to Zanzibar. The route was the same as previously described to Aden but instead of being left there to the care of a merchant, these were directed to a forwarder in Bombay for onward delivery back to Zanzibar.

One of the covers directed to Bombay is shown in Figure 7. The “Adumally Sutanally” imprint at lower left of cover has been covered with a carefully hand-printed paste-over note reading “care Jayram Sewjee, Bombay.” The cover is correctly franked with three 30¢ Franklin stamps to pay the double 45¢ rate to India. (The other cover is endorsed in manuscript to the care of Sultanally, but in Bombay rather than in Aden.)

The Figure 7 cover was postmarked at Salem on 20 November 1867 and bears a Boston exchange office circular datestamp of that same day. It was carried by the Cunard steamer *Java*, departing Boston that day and arriving at Liverpool on 3 December 1867. In transit through London the cover was marked for the double-rate colonial credit of “2”

pence in red crayon. After transit across the Channel and France it was carried by the P&O steamer *Poonah* from Marseilles, departing December 12 and arriving Alexandria, after a stop in Malta, on December 17, 1867. After overland transit to Suez, the cover was placed on the P&O India Line steamer *Carnatic* that departed December 28 for Aden. The steamer departed Aden on January 2 and arrived at Bombay on January 10, 1868 where the cover was postmarked with a Bombay arrival backstamp. The Bombay forwarder placed the cover on the *Nadir Shah*, a vessel of war owned by the Sultan of Zanzibar that was at the time being used as a trading ship. Albert Goodhue docketed the cover on the reverse as having been received “per Nadir Shah” on February 28, 1868. Goodhue’s notation is shown inset at bottom right in Figure 7.

Conclusion

Philately is fortunate that the Goodhue covers have survived. They represent the sole source of adhesive-franked covers from the U.S. to Zanzibar during the entire pre-UPU era. While the 41 recorded Goodhue covers embrace a time-frame of just 32 months, they show a colorful variety of frankings (representing all values of the 1861 series except the 1¢ stamp), and very well depict the diverse mail routes made necessary by their remote and exotic destination.

Endnotes

1. Norman Bennett, *Americans in Zanzibar, 1825-1845*, Essex Institute Historical Collections, Vol XCV, pp. 260-262.
2. In his book *The United States Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations, 1847 to GPU-UPU*, Charles Starnes included some destinations, such as Zanzibar, for which rates were extrapolated from surviving covers when published rates were not to be found. Since such listings are not so designated, caution should be exercised by users of Starnes’ rate data.
3. Jane and Michael Moubray, *British Letter Mail to Overseas Destinations: 1840-1875*, Royal Philatelic Society, London, 1992, pp. 221, 225. ■

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1869 COVERS WITH GOOD SAMARITAN LABELS

IRVIN L. HEIMBURGER

The postal act of 3 March 1855 made prepayment of postage mandatory on letter mail. In the absence of prepayment, letters would be sent directly to the Dead Letter Office. After 1 January 1856, prepayment on domestic letters had to be made with postage stamps. Prior to this, unstamped letters were delivered to the addressee, who was expected to pay the due postage. All too often this payment did not occur, creating a major loss of revenue for the Post Office Department and a big backlog at the Dead Letter Office.

After the 1855 act took effect, a novel concept developed: A third party, often a charity, would voluntarily add the required stamps to assure that such letters were sent on to their addressees. The expectation was that the recipient would be grateful enough to send a contribution in acknowledgement of the favor provided. To encourage such contributions, the charity attached a label to the cover describing its activities. These are fittingly known as “Good Samaritan labels.” The practice was condoned and even encouraged by the Post Office Department, which allowed certain interested parties access to unpaid mail.

This proved to be an especially useful service during the Civil War, when unpaid

#	POST OFFICE OF ORIGIN	ORIGINAL FRANKING	STAMP(S) ADDED	LABEL SOURCE	REFERENCE
1	Baltimore, Md.	3¢ rate unfranked	114	CHARITY	Figure 6
2	Boston, Mass.	2¢ 1869 underfranked	112	Asst. PM note	Figure 1
3	Detroit, Mich.	3¢ rate unfranked	114	YMCA	261MB1132
4	Dubuque, Iowa	3¢ rate unfranked	114	YMCA	Figure 3
5	New Orleans, La.	2¢ rate with revenue stamp	113	THOUGHTFUL	Figure 7
6	Newark, N.J.	2¢ rate, 3¢ stamp on reverse	113	Box 582	261MB1110
7	Newark, N.J.	2¢ rate unfranked	113	Box 582	825RAS1362
8	Newark (to Lima)	20¢ franking for 34¢ rate	68+2x113	Box 582	Figure 5
9	Newark (to H.K.)	10¢ rate unfranked	116	Box 582	Figure 4
10	San Francisco, Cal.	3¢ rate unfranked	112, 113	YMCA	876RAS11
11	San Francisco, Cal.	3¢ rate unfranked	112, 113	YMCA	911RAS87
12	San Francisco, Cal.	3¢ rate, demonetized stamp	114	YMCA	Figure 3
13	St. Louis, Mo.	2¢ 1869 underfranked	112	GOOD WILL	Figure 8
14	Washington, D.C.	3¢ rate unfranked	114	YMCA	Figure 3
15	Williamsburgh, N.Y.	2¢ 1869 underfranked	112	YMCA	Figure 2

Table 1. Census of 1869 covers forwarded with Good Samaritan labels. Auction citations in the “Reference” column are abbreviations. “261MB1132” refers to lot 1132 in Matthew Bennett’s 261st sale. “RAS” refers to Robert A. Siegel auctions.



Figure 1. Boston to Grantville, Massachusetts, January 11, [1870]. This cover was originally left at the post office franked only with the 2¢ 1869 stamp. An assistant postmaster added the 1¢ 1869 stamp “with compliments” in order to pay the required 3¢ rate.

soldier’s mail proliferated. The practice continued up until 1882, when complaints about abuses finally forced the Post Office Department to deny third-party access to underfranked mail.¹ The Postage Due stamps, first issued in 1879, played a major role in displacing the Good Samaritan function.

This article examines Good Samaritan labels on covers bearing the 1869 stamps. This is a time-limited but representative cross-section. An auction catalog review yielded 15 such covers. These are listed, alphabetically by the post office of origin, in Table 1. The tabular data describes the cover as originally franked, lists the Scott numbers of the stamps added by the Good Samaritan, names the source of the attached label, and includes a reference note leading to an image of the cover. For convenience in discussion, the covers have been given a census number, 1 through 15. Three of the 15 covers, illustrated and discussed below, are in my exhibition collection. The remaining 12 covers, some of which are also illustrated and discussed herewith, have been gathered from other collectors and from the auction presentations of specialized 1869 collections that have come to market over the last decade or so.

Reference to Table 1 will reveal that ten different post offices are represented, suggesting that Good Samaritan activity was widespread among the larger cities in the United States. The data also suggests that, at least during the 1869 era, the most prolific provider of Good Samaritan labels was the Young Men’s Christian Association. Local YMCA offices from five different cities account for seven of the 15 covers in the listing.

The cover in Figure 1, #2 in the census, was posted at Boston, Massachusetts, on January 11, most likely 1870. At a time when 3¢ first-class domestic postage was required, it was originally franked with just a 2¢ stamp. This cover is an outlier in some respects, because it does not bear a label. Instead, the assistant postmaster, William P. King, attached a 1¢ 1869 stamp and sent the letter on to its addressee. He noted this with a bold, clear manuscript inscription, serving the purpose of the usual label, but implying that this service was complimentary: “Held for postage. Forwarded with complts. Of Gen’ Wm. King Ass’ PM.” This note does not directly request repayment, which makes this item unique among the covers recorded in this census.

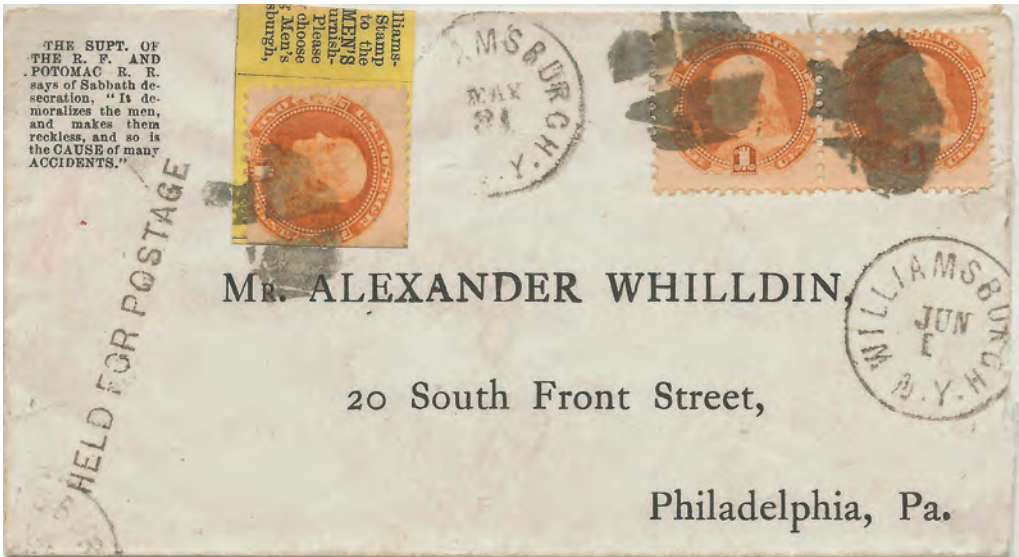


Figure 2. This 1869 cover from Williamsburgh, New York, was originally franked with two 1¢ 1869 stamps. The Williamsburgh post office turned this cover over to the local office of the YMCA, who added the third 1¢ stamp along with a label seeking a contribution.

Figure 2 (census #15) is a similarly-franked letter (with two 1¢ 1869s instead of one 2¢) from Williamsburgh, New York (now part of Brooklyn), posted May 31 (probably 1869). Addressed to Philadelphia, this cover was originally mailed with 2¢ in postage when the 3¢ first-class rate was required. The label, with an additional 1¢ stamp affixed to it, is folded over the top of the letter and only partially visible in the Figure 2 photo. The full text of the label reads as follows:

This letter was dropped in the Williamsburgh, N.Y. Post Office without a Stamp affixed. To prevent its being sent to the Dead Letter Office, 'THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION' have furnished a Stamp and forwarded the letter. Please return a Stamp, or any sum you may choose to contribute. Address Young Men's Christian Association, Box 8, Williamsburgh, N.Y.

It seems likely that the Williamsburgh YMCA employed just this one label type, because the phraseology was not correct in this case. The cover did have a stamp affixed originally, two stamps actually, but they didn't make the 3¢ rate. The YMCA added another 1¢ stamp with the label, and the cover was reposted the next day, June 1.

The corner imprint on the cover is not related to the label, but is interesting nonetheless as an artifact of the Sabbatarian movement, then an important force in America, seeking to curtail all manner of Sunday post office, business and other activities. The imprint reads: "THE SUPT. OF THE R. F. AND POTOMAC R.R. says of Sabbath desecration, 'It demoralizes the men and makes them reckless, and so is the CAUSE of many ACCIDENTS.'" Academic postal historian Richard R. John has published a monograph on the subject of Sabbatarianism and its relationship to the Post Office.²

Figure 3 presents a montage of YMCA labels from three other cities, clipped electronically from various 1869 covers. The Washington label (top) and the Dubuque label (middle) are both from covers that were in the Gordon Eubanks 1869 collection (Siegel sale 1004, lots 73 and 74). The San Francisco label at bottom was in the Jeffrey Forster collection of domestic 1869 covers (Siegel sale 927, lot 1018). There seems no stylistic similarity among these labels, but they make clear that YMCAs across the nation were engaged in Good Samaritan postal activity.

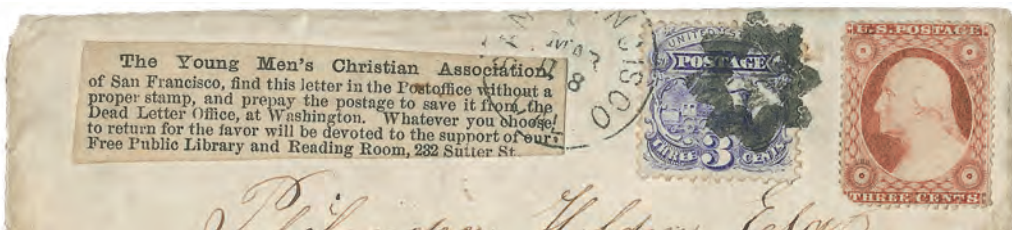
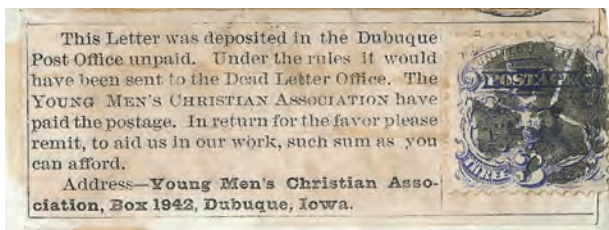
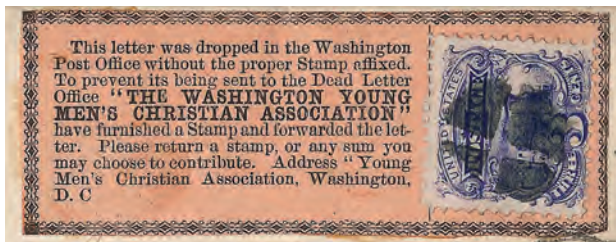


Figure 3. Montage of YMCA labels from three cities, clipped electronically from various 1869 covers. The Washington label (top) and the Dubuque label (middle) are both from covers that were in the Eubanks collection (Siegel sale 1004, lots 73 and 74). The San Francisco label at bottom was in the Jeffrey Forster collection of domestic 1869 covers (Siegel sale 927, lot 1018). There seems no stylistic similarity among these labels, but they make clear that YMCAs across the nation were engaged in Good Samaritan postal activity.

The cover in Figure 4 (census #9) is shown opened up so both the front and back of the envelope can be viewed simultaneously. This item is of special interest because it required a fairly substantial amount of postage. Addressed to the French Consulate in Hong Kong, this letter was posted at Newark, New Jersey, sometime in November, 1869, with no postage affixed. The transpacific treaty rate between the U.S. and Hong Kong was 10¢, and per the terms of the treaty, prepayment was compulsory.³ Newark marked the cover “HELD FOR POSTAGE” and then handed it over to a private party, apparently not a charity, who added a 10¢ 1869 stamp and affixed a large Good Samaritan label on the reverse. The label reads as follows:

THIS LETTER was detained in the Post Office at Newark, N.J. on account of the non-payment of postage. One who realizes how important it may be to have letters forwarded immediately, has placed the necessary stamps upon this letter. To repay him, please send postage stamps of equal value, addressed to BOX 582, NEWARK, N.J.

The cover was then reposted at Newark, where the stamp was cancelled with a distinctive circular killer and postmarked “NOV 2?”. The cover crossed the country on the newly-completed transcontinental railroad and reached San Francisco in time for the December 1 sailing of the Pacific Mail steamer *Japan*, bound for Yokohama and on to Hong Kong.⁴ It arrived in Hong Kong on Jan. 7, 1870, shown by the black British Hong Kong receiving postmarks struck on the back.

Also from Newark and equally interesting is the cover in Figure 5 (census #8). This was in the LeBow collection (Siegel sale 886, 10 November 2004). Addressed to Peru, this cover was posted in late May of 1869, franked with two 10¢ green “F” grill stamps (Scott 96). The correct rate to Peru at this time was 34¢. Newark noted the deficiency in blue crayon (“Due 14¢”) and handed it over to the Good Samaritan at Box 582, who applied the



Figure 4. Cover mailed at Newark, New Jersey, sometime in November, 1869, with no postage affixed. Newark marked the cover “HELD FOR POSTAGE” and then handed it over to a private party who added a 10¢ 1869 stamp and affixed a large Good Samaritan label on the reverse.

missing 14¢ (two 2¢ 1869s and another 10¢ “F” grill) and (on reverse) the same type of label as in Figure 4. The Good Samaritan reposted the letter, which was then datestamped at Newark on May 28, 1869. The cover then travelled from New York to Panama via the Aspinwall steamer *Henry Chauncey* and then down the west coast of South America via a steamer of the (British) Pacific Steam Navigation Company. New York’s red 24 handstamp, crediting the British for this service, can be seen (partially) below “Peru” in the address.

Newark appears to have been the first city to use Good Samaritan labels, and four of the 14 covers in Table 1 originated there. The earliest Good Samaritan label known to the author is affixed to an 1859 cover sent from Newark to Havana. This also requested that



Figure 5. This cover from Newark to Lima, Peru, was original posted with just the two 10¢ green Washington stamps at upper right. The required rate was 34¢. Newark noted the deficiency (“Due 14¢”) and turned the cover over to Newark’s Good Samaritan, who added the necessary postage and affixed (on reverse, not shown) a label similar to the one on the cover in Figure 4. The 14¢ that the Newark Samaritan added to this cover was a substantial sum in 1869, equivalent to several dollars in today’s money.

repayment be sent to Box 582. The Samaritan in this instance paid the 10¢ steamship-rate postage that was due on an underfranked double-rate cover. This cover was in the Jamie Gough postage due collection, auctioned by the Bennett firm on 5 February 2003.

It’s interesting to observe that the surviving envelopes with Newark labels include the earliest use, and also all the uses to overseas destinations. This suggests that Newark might have been a test location used by the post office to see if this service was viable.

Some of the donor organizations represented in this census used charitable-sounding pseudonyms that (a cynic might say) concealed the fact that the donors were probably profit-seeking entrepreneurs. In Baltimore, the activity was run by “CHARITY,” whose label promised that “any return will be devoted to charity.” See the cover in Figure 6 (census #1), which was apparently received at the Baltimore post office without a stamp. The “CHARITY” label, with a 3¢ 1869 stamp pre-affixed, was placed in the stamp position and duly cancelled by the Baltimore post office.

Samaritan activity in New Orleans was run by “THOUGHTFUL” at box 999. The cover in Figure 7 (census #5) was originally franked with a 2¢ orange Internal Revenue stamp (Scott R15) apparently intended to pay the 2¢ drop rate. New Orleans struck the cover with two strikes of an “ILLEGAL STAMP” straightline and one strike of “NOT PREPAID” in a lozenge. The letter was then handed over to “THOUGHTFUL” who added a well-contrived label along with a 2¢ 1869 stamp to pay the proper local postage. The full text of the “THOUGHTFUL” label reads:

THIS LETTER was dropped in the Office without a stamp, and consequently would have been forwarded to the Dead Letter Office, did I not realize the sometimes great importance of a letter reaching its address, and pay the necessary postage. For this favor you will please return what may seem to you an equivalent for its value and importance, to be used in like good work, to

“THOUGHTFUL” N.O.P.O. Box 999.

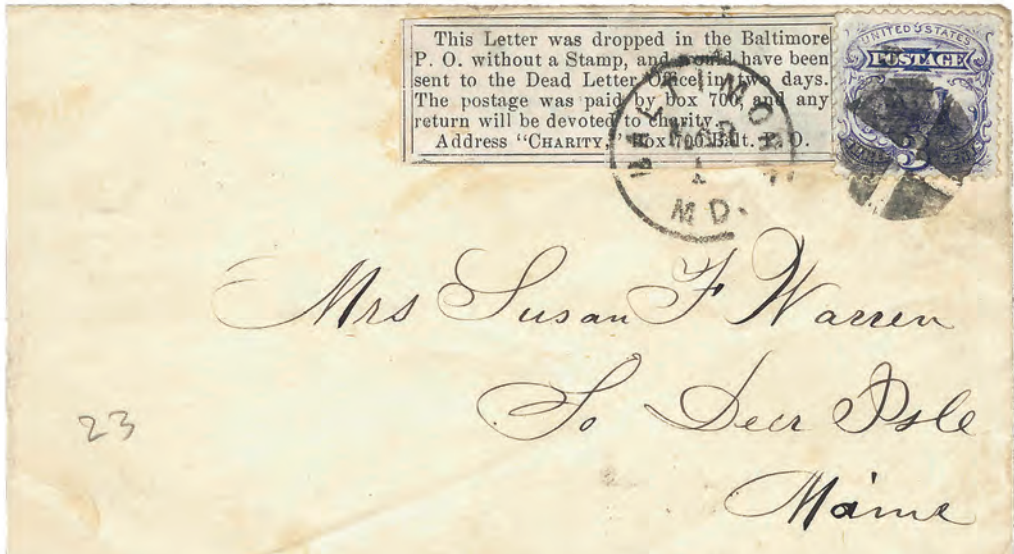


Figure 6. "CHARITY" label from Baltimore, affixed with a 3¢ 1869 stamp to a cover to Maine that had been posted without a stamp and otherwise would have been sent to the Dead Letter Office. According to the label, "any return will be devoted to charity."

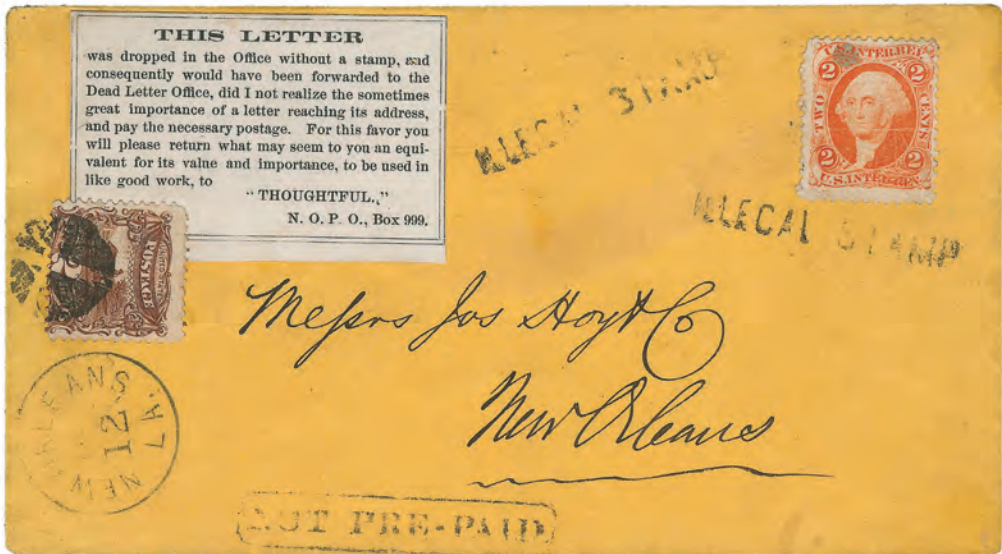


Figure 7. This cover was originally franked with a 2¢ orange Internal Revenue stamp apparently intended to pay the 2¢ drop rate. New Orleans noted "ILLEGAL STAMP" and "NOT PREPAID." The letter was turned over to "THOUGHTFUL" at Box 999, who added a well-contrived label along with a 2¢ 1869 stamp to pay the proper local postage.

In St. Louis, the Samaritan was "GOOD WILL." Figure 8 (census #13) shows a red "GOOD WILL" label, from a cover that was last seen in the "Lafayette" collection (Bennett sale 261, 2 May 2003). The "GOOD WILL" label reads:

THIS LETTER Was detained at the Post Office at St. Louis, Mo., on account of non-payment of Postage. One who realizes how important it may be to have letters forwarded immediately, has placed the necessary stramps upon this letter. To repay him, please send stamps of equal value to "GOOD WILL", St. Louis, Mo.

While I prefer to call them Good Samaritan labels, these printed notices have sometimes been referred to by their individual names – for instance, as Goodwill, Thoughtful or Charity labels. And they have sometimes collectively been called etiquette labels. The diversity of the cities represented—covers from 10 different cities are listed in Table 1, from coast to coast with the midwest well represented in addition—suggests that the special service the Good Samaritans provided was an important component of mid-century postal service and must have seen wide-spread use across the country, even though only a relatively small number of covers has survived. Whatever name these labels go by, I think we can agree that they are a most interesting aspect of United States postal history.

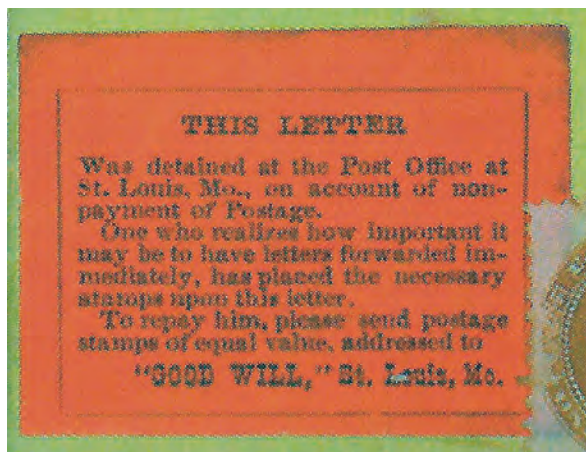


Figure 8. “Good Will” label from St. Louis, cropped electronically from cover #13 in Table 1.

Endnotes

1. *U. S. Official Postal Guide*, May 1882, ruling No. 827, pg. 26.
2. John, Richard R.: “Taking Sabbatarianism Seriously: The Postal System, the Sabbath and the Transformation of American Political Culture,” *Journal of the Early Republic*, Volume 10, Number 4, Winter 1990.
3. *16 U.S. Statutes at Large*, pp. 1107-08.
4. Frajola, Perlman and Scamp, *The United States Post Offices in China and Japan*, pg. 210. ■

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integrity

1. Steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code.
2. The state of being unimpaired; soundness.
3. The quality or condition of being whole or undivided; completeness.



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**UNDELIVERABLE MAIL:
“ADVERTISED” MARKINGS FROM THE 1870s AND 1880s**

JAMES W. MILGRAM, M.D.

This is the fourth in a series of *Chronicle* articles discussing the advertising of undeliverable mail, a service performed by the U.S. Post Office Department, through its many paid postmasters, throughout the 19th century and well into the 20th. This article discusses advertised covers and the handling of undeliverable mail during the Bank Note era, which for these purposes is defined as the two decades following the 1869 stamps.

The initial article, on handstamped advertised postmarks on stampless covers, was published in *Chronicle* 228; a second article, dealing with advertised markings on covers from the era of the 1851-57 stamps, appeared in *Chronicle* 231; a third article, in *Chronicle* 233, discussed the advertised markings found on covers from the decade of the 1860s. This article follows the *Chronicle's* stamp-related categorization by discussing advertised markings that were used during the era of the Bank Note stamps.

The format of this article follows that of the previous articles. In the six data pages that accompany this article (pages 148-153), information about the markings is presented in tabular form on a left-hand page, with scanned images of many of the listed markings presented in a photo plate on the opposite page. In the tabular presentation, the markings are arranged alphabetically by town name. The reader is reminded that advertised postmarks were applied by receiving post offices to incoming letters that were unclaimed or undeliverable. Thus the name of the post office applying the advertised marking must be deduced from the address on the cover.

After the town name, the data tables provide information about the specific text of each marking, its color, shape and dimensions (in millimeters) and reference information leading in many instances to an image of the marking. Sometimes the “advertised” marking was used along with separate date stamps. But these uses were not necessarily consistent, and have not been noted in the tables. Of course, if the date or rating is an integral part of the advertising marking, the information is included in the tabular data.

The images in Plates 1-3 were cropped electronically from the covers on which they appear. They are shown lifesize in their original colors. The author believes this is the most accurate possible depiction of individual markings. A disadvantage is that extraneous markings or stamp portions from the cover are sometimes captured intertwined with the marking in the photographic illustration.

Like the previous listings, the tabular data accompanying this article make no pretense at comprehensiveness. Information has been taken mostly from the author's collection (which has been accumulating for 50 years) and is intended to show representative uses only. Advertising markings during the Bank Note era were applied by many post offices, perhaps by most of them, so there are theoretically thousands of possible marking types. But the most typical advertised markings found on covers from the Bank Note era—straight lines, ovals and various circular datestamp types—are well represented in this study.

A few post offices included the town name in the “advertised” postmark. These city-named advertised postmarks will be discussed as a group in a future *Chronicle* article. Such markings were used sparingly in the 1850s and are most frequently found on covers from

the 1880s, 1890s and thereafter. Although post-1890 markings are not discussed in this series, advertised postmarks can be found on covers until the third decade of the 20th century. An article on these later markings and their uses is planned for the *Postal History Journal*.

The fee question

During the entire period under discussion the fee for advertising was 1¢, if there was a fee. As explored below, the fee was frequently not charged and the markings often reflect this. Even in the late 1860s postmasters were questioning the circumstances in which the advertising fee was to be charged. The official response was to make reference to the Regulations of 1866 (from the Act of June 12, 1866):¹

Sec. 281. When any person shall indorse on any letter his or her name and place of residence, as writer thereof, the same, after remaining uncalled for at the office to which it is directed thirty days, or the time the writer may direct, shall be returned by mail to said writer; and no such letters shall be advertised, nor shall the same be treated as dead letters until so returned to the post office of the writer, and there remaining uncalled for one quarter.

Sec. 282. Letters which have been advertised under existing laws [1825, 1851] shall be returned to the Post Office Department as dead letters if unclaimed two months after the date of the advertisement...

Sec. 284. The Postmaster General is authorized to return all dead letters, except those containing circulars and other worthless matter, to their writers whenever their names can be ascertained.

Sec. 285. The Postmaster General is hereby authorized to regulate the periods during which undelivered letters shall remain in any post office, and the times such letters shall be returned to the Dead Letter Office....He is authorized also to order the publication of the list of non-delivered letters at any post office, in his discretion, by writing, posted in a public place or places, or in any daily or weekly newspaper....but in no case shall compensation for such publication be allowed at a rate exceeding one cent for each letter so advertised....

Sec. 289. The postage on returned dead letters, not registered as valuable, shall be three cents for the single rate; on returned dead letters registered as valuable, double rates shall be charged.

The 1¢ fee was intended to reimburse postmasters for the out-of-pocket expense of advertising unclaimed letters in the local newspaper. But on the question of whether a postmaster could advertise unclaimed letters through a handwritten list posted at his office and then assess the 1¢ fee, the regulations were ambiguous.

This question was answered definitively in the November 1866 issue of *The United States Mail and Post Office Assistant*, a semi-official monthly newspaper for postmasters. There the editor states: "No allowance was ever made for advertising letters by a written list, nor is any made now; consequently, letters so advertised should not be charged with one cent."

In the May 1867 issue of the same publication the editor declared: "Unclaimed letters dropped into your office by other parties should not be advertised. Since Oct. 1, 1866 advertising in newspapers has been restricted to first-class offices; all others must advertise by putting up manuscript lists."

This same information is again discussed in the June 1867 and December 1867 issues. In addition, the January 1868 issue states that "By order of the Postmaster General published in the present issue of *The Mail*, no office will be allowed to pay for advertising letters when a publisher can be found who is willing to print the same gratuitously." The full order was dated December 5, 1867 and took effect January 1, 1868.

What seems quite clear is that a letter was not to be charged for advertising unless an actual out-of-pocket advertising cost had been incurred and paid to a third party by the local postmaster.

CITY, STATE	TEXT OF MARKING	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
Akron, Ohio	ADVERTISED	black, cds-24 mm	
Albany, N.Y.	ADVERTISED	black, cds-27	Plate 1
Amherst, Mass.	ADVERTISED [date]	black, oval-27x6	Plate 1
Augusta, Ga.	ADVERTISED [date]	black, cds-27	Plate 1
Baltimore, Md.	ADVERTISED/DUE/1 CT	black, circle-18	Plate 1
Baton Rouge, La	ADVERTISED	purple, sl-36x4.5	
Bedford, Iowa	ADVERTISED	black, circle-21½	Figure 11
Birmingham, Conn.	ADVERTISED.	black, oval-25x8.5	Plate 1
Bismarck, Dak. Terr.	Advertised.	purple, sl-42x6	Figure 13
Bloomfield, N.J.	ADVERTISED	black, circle-21	Plate 1
Bloomington, Ill.	Advertised.	brown, sl-10x28	Plate 1
Brockton, Mass.	ADVERTISED [date]	blue, fancy sl-25x4	Plate 1
Brooklyn, N.Y.	ADVERTISED	black, cds-25	
Buffalo, N.Y.	ADVERTISED [date]	black, cds-24	
Calais, Maine	ADVERTISED	black, oval-28x6	
Capapolis, Mich.	ADVERTISED	black, cds-24	
Carrollton, Ky.	ADVERTISED	purple, sl-30x4.5	Plate 1
Cassopolis, Mich.	ADVERTISED [date]	black, circle-25	Figure 10
Chambersburg, Penn.	ADVERTISED	black, oval-27x5.5	
Chicago, Ill.	ADVERTISED	black, cds-24	
Cincinnati, Ohio	ADVERTISED cds	blue, cds-22	Plate 1
Cincinnati, Ohio	ADV /NOT CALLED FOR	3sl wi arch-33x24	Plate 1
Cleveland, Ohio	ADVERTISED	blue, cds-23	Plate 1
Clinton, Wisc.	ADVERTISED	blue, oval-32.5x9	Plate 1
Concord, N.H.	ADVERTISED	black, cds-25	
Connersville, Ind.	ADVERTISED/ NOT CALLED FOR/[date]	black, cds-25	Figure 16
Coudersport, Penn.	ADVERTISED	purple, sl-39x6	Plate 1
Covington, Ky.	ADVERTISED	black, cds-26	
Crawfordsville, Ill.	ADVERTISED	black, oval-24x6	
Dayton, Ohio	ADVERTISED	black, circle-21½	Plate 1
Detroit, Mich	ADVERTISED	black, cds-25	
Dexter Maine	ADVERTISED	purple, sl-38x5	Plate 1
East Aurora, N.Y.	ADVERTISED.	black, sl-68x6	Plate 1
Elmira, N.Y.	ADVERTISED.	purple, sl-38x8.5	Plate 1
Erie, Penn.	ADVERTISED	blue, cds-25	
Evansville, Ind.	ADVERTISED	black, cds-24	
Fitchburg, Mass.	ADVERTISED [date]	black, circle-25	
Fond du Lac, Wisc.	ADVERTISED [date]	black, cds-25	Figure 13
Forest City, Dak. Terr.	Advertised	black, sl-29x5	Plate 1

PLATE 1



Albany, N.Y.



Amherst, Mass.



Augusta, Ga.



Baltimore, Md.



Bedford, Iowa



Birmingham, Conn.



Bloomfield, N.J.



Bismarck, Dakota Territory



Carrolton, Ky.



Bloomington, Ill.



Brockton, Mass.



Cassopolis, Mich.



Cincinnati, Ohio



Cincinnati, Ohio



Cleveland, Ohio



Connorsville, Ind.



Clinton, Wisc.



Dayton, Ohio



Fond du Lac, Wisc.



Coudersport, Penn.



East Aurora, N.Y.



Dexter, Maine



Elmira, N.Y.



Forest City, Dakota Territory

CITY, STATE	TEXT OF MARKING	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
Frederick, Md.	ADVERTISED	purple, sl-54x5	Plate 2
Galesburg, Ill.	ADVERTISED	black, sl-40x3	Plate 2
Globe City, Ariz. Terr.	ADVERTISED	purple, rectangle-38x8½	Plate 2
Greenwich, N.Y.	.ADVERTISED.	black, oval-24x9	
Guthrie Center, Iowa	ADVERTISED.	purple, sl-29x4	
Hanover, N.H.	ADVERTISED	black, cds-24	
Hartford, Conn.	ADVERTISED	black, cds-26	
Haverhill, Mass.	ADVERTISED	black, cds-26	
Hawley, Penn.	ADVERTISED.	black, cds-46x6	Figure 18
Hot Springs, Ariz.	ADVERTISED	black, sl-40x5	
Ilion, N.Y.	.ADVERTISED.	blue, sl-25x9	Plate 2
Iowa City, Iowa	ADVERTISED	black, circle-24	
Jacksonville, Fla.	ADVERTISED	black, sl-40x5	
Kansas City, Mo.	ADVERTISED	black, cds-28	
Kearney, Neb.	ADVERTISED	black, sl-41x5.5	Plate 2
Keene, N.Y.	ADVERTISED	black, sl-43x5	Figure 4
Lansing, Mich.	ADVERTISED	black, circle-22	
Leominster, Mass.	label: ADV. FEB 7 1874	black on blue, sl	Figure 17
Lexington, Ky.	ADVERTISED	blue, circle-21	Plate 2
Louisa C.H., Va.	ADVERTISED	purple, oval-30x10	
Lowell, Mass.	2 diff cds ADVERTISED	black, cds-24	Plate 2
Lynchburg, Va.	ADVERTISED	black, cds-26	Plate 2
Lynn, Mass.	ADVERTISED	black, cds-25	
Macedonia, Iowa	ADVERTISED	blue, sl-40x3.5	
Mapleton, Dak. Terr.	ADVERTISED.	black, sl-37x4½	Plate 2
Martinsburg, W. Va.	ADVERTISED	black, oval-43x9	Plate 2
McGregor Landing, Ia.	ADVERTISED	black, oval-32x8	
Merced, Cal.	ad	ms	
Middletown, Conn.	ADVERTIZED	black, sl-37x5	Plate 2
Middletown, N.Y.	ADVERTISED	black, rimless cds-24	Plate 2
Middletown, N.Y.	ADVERTISED DATE	black, arch-21x16	Plate 2
Milford, Del.	ADVERTISED	purple, sl-45x4.5	
Minneapolis, Minn.	ADVERTISED	blue, cds-25	
Nashville, Mich.	ADVERTISED	purple, sl	
New Albany, Ind.	ADVERTISED cds fancy mark	magenta, cds-32	Plate 2
New Albany, Ind.	ADVERTISED	blue, cds-26	
New Orleans, La.	ADVERTISED	purple, cds-26	Plate 2
Northborough, Mass.	ADVERTISED	black, sl-41x4½	-
Oakland, Cal.	ADVERTISED/[date]	purple, 2 sl-30x12	Plate 2
Pawtucket, R.I.	ADVERTISED [date]	black, sl-58x5	
Perryville, N.Y.	ADVERTISED.	black, fancy rect-38x8.5	Plate 2

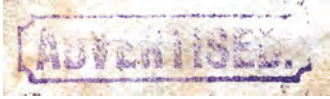
PLATE 2



Frederick, Md.



Galesburg, Ill.



Globe City,
Arizona Territory



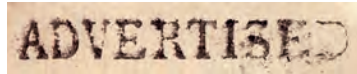
Hawley, Penn.



Illion, N.Y.



Kearney, Neb.



Keene, N.H.



Lowell, Mass.



Lexington, Ky.



Leominster, Mass.



Mapleton, Dakota Territory



Martinsburg, W. Va.



Lynchburg, Va.



Middletown, Ct.



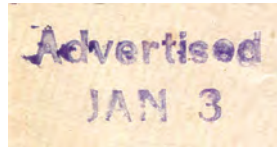
Middletown, N.Y.



New Albany, Ind.



New Orleans, La.



Oakland, Cal.



Piqua, Ohio



Perryville, N.Y.



Portland, Maine

CITY, STATE	TEXT OF MARKING	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
Piqua, Ohio	ADVERTISED	black, oval-28x6	Plate 2
Portland, Maine	ADVERTISED	black, cds-28	Plate 2
Providence, R.I.	ADVERTISED [DATE]	purple, sl-40x3.5	Plate 3
Putnam, Conn.	ADVERTISED	purple, circle-26	Plate 3
Reading, Penn.	ADVERTISED	black, oval-26x6	
Reno, Nev.	ADVERTISED	black, circle-21	Plate 3
Richfield, Mn.	ADVERTISED	black, sl-35x5	Plate 3
Rochester, N.Y.	ADVERTISED	black, sl-38x5.5	Figure 7
Rockland, Maine	ADVERTISED [ms date]	black, circle-21	
Rockport, Mass.	Advertised	ms	
Sacramento, Cal.	ADVERTISED	magenta, cds-28	Figure 14
San Antonio, Texas	ADVERTISED	black, cds-26	-
San Bernardino, Cal.	ADVERTISED.	magenta, sl-57x8	Plate 3
San Francisco, Cal.	ADVERTISED	black, sl-54x7	Figure 8
Santaroza, Cal.	ADVERTISED	black, circle-22	
Saratoga Springs, N.Y.	ADVERTISED	black, cds-24	Plate 3
Schroon Lake, N.Y.	ADVERTIS'D	black, sl-22x8	Plate 3
Springfield, Mass.	ADVERTISED, [DATE]	purple, sl-65x3½	Plate 3
Springfield, Ohio	ADVERTISED	black, cds-26.5	
St. Johns, Mich.	ADVERTISED [“V” inverted]	black, sl-50x9	Plate 3
St. Louis, Mo.	ADVERTISED/ NOT CALLED FOR/ CANNOT BE FOUND	black, rectangle-31x15	
St. Louis, Mo.	ADVERTISED /NOT CALLED FOR/ Cannot Be Found	purple, 3sl-45x18	Figure 6
Stephensville, Texas	ADVERTISED	black, circle-22	Figure 12
Steubenville, Ohio	ADVERTISED	black, oval-42x8	Plate 3
Superior, Wisc.	ADVERTISED	purple, sl-28x4	Plate 3
Syracuse, N.Y.	ADVERTISED [date]	black, cds-30	Plate 3
Trinidad, Col. Ter.	ADVERTISED	blue, cds-25	
Troy, Penn.	ADVERTISED	black, sl-40x3	
Tulare, Cal.	Advertised	ms	
Van Wert, Ohio	ADVERTISED	black, sl-35x3.5	
Watertown, N.Y.	ADVERTISED/[date]	blue, arch-30	Plate 3
Waterville, Minn.	ADVERTISED date	purple, sl-60x5	Figure 9
Waterville, Minn.	Advertised	purple, sl-41x8	
Westfield, N.Y.	ADVERTISED	black, sl-35x4	Plate 3
Williamsport, Penn.	ADVERTISED	purple, sl-54x5	Plate 3
Woodstock, Vt.	ADVERTISED	black, oval-27x6	
Xenia, Ohio	ADVERTISED	black, circle-27	

PLATE 3



Rochester, N.Y.



Schroon Lake, N.Y.



Watertown, N.Y.



Superior, Wisc.



Providence, R.I.



Reno, Nev.



Sacramento, Cal.



Putnam, Ct.



Richfield, Minn.



Saratoga Springs,
New York



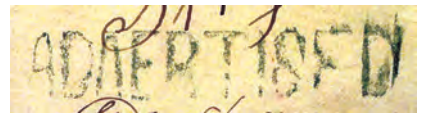
San Bernardino, Cal.



San Francisco, Cal.



Springfield, Mass.



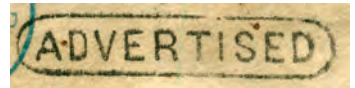
St. Johns, Michigan



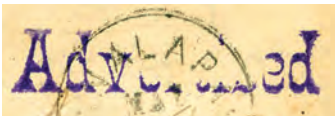
St. Louis, Mo.



Stephensville,
Texas



Steubenville, Ohio



Waterville, Minn.



Syracuse, N.Y.



Waterville, Minn.



Westfield, N.Y.



Williamsport, Penn.

Quantity of undeliverable mail

As was observed in the previous articles, the Post Office during this era was very concerned about the growing quantity of unclaimed letters and the cost of handling them. The Department went to great lengths to capture data depicting the magnitude of the problem. The reports of the Postmaster General annually describe dead letters and their disposition quite thoroughly.

The 1871 report, dated November 18, 1871,² revealed that the whole number of dead letters for that fiscal year exceeded 4,000,000. The specifics are presented in Table 1. Similar data appears in every PMG report from this era. The 1871 report discusses the high cost of handling undeliverable mail, as well as packages and other types of letters. Unfortunately, the cost of advertising letters is combined with other Post Office advertising expenses (for contracts and proposals for supplies of all kinds), so it is not possible from the reported data to assess costs or revenue involving advertised letters as a separate category.

Waste paper, jewelry and other objects whose owners the Dead Letter Office (DLO) could not locate, were sold and combined with unclaimed cash for a total of \$13,574.71. This sum was credited to the department in 1871.

Clearly, the problem of letters not reaching their correct destinations was of great importance to the Post Office during the entire Bank Note era. A circular in the author's collection, meant to be displayed in post offices, reads as follows:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT NOTICE.

Owing to the rapid increase in the mails and the establishment of many new Post Offices throughout the country, this Department finds it necessary, in order to facilitate the distribution and the secure a speedy transmission of the heavy mails now passing, particularly over the trunk lines of railroads, to request of the public, that in all cases the name of the COUNTY, as well as the POST OFFICE and STATE, be superscribed upon letters, circulars, newspapers, and other matter to be forwarded by mail.

Postmasters will place this circular in a conspicuous place in their offices and use every endeavor to urge upon the public the importance of this matter.

J.A.J.CRESWELL.
Postmaster General.
Washington, D.C.
February 1, 1872

The regulations pertaining to the advertising of undelivered letters stayed fairly static during this period. Here are some relevant sections from the 1873 Postal Laws and Regulations:³

Section 188: The Postmaster-General may direct the publication of the list of non-delivered letters at any post-office by a written list posted in some public place, or, when he shall deem it for the public interest, he may direct the publication of such a list in the daily or weekly newspaper regularly published within the post-office delivery, which has the largest circulation within the delivery....

Section 189: The list of non-delivered letters addressed to persons foreign born may be published in a newspaper printed in the language most used by them....

Section 191: Every postmaster shall post, in a conspicuous place in his office, a copy of each list of non-delivered letters immediately after its publication.

Ordinary	2,931,244
Drop	492,300
Unmailable	373,363
Hotel	26,732
Fictitious	66,264
Registered	6,162
Returned from foreign countries	<u>77,010</u>
Total domestic letters	3,973,675
Foreign letters	<u>221,673</u>
Whole number	4,194,748

Table 1. Breakdown of unclaimed letters handled at the Dead Letter Office in fiscal 1870. Similar data was presented in PMG reports for every year during this era.

Section 192: The compensation for publishing the list of non-delivered letters shall in no case exceed one cent for each letter so published.

The Postmaster General's report for 1873 contains an interesting commentary on the first decade of free carrier-delivery service. "This system, with its letter-boxes located at convenient points throughout the large postal centers, and its frequent deliveries and collections of mail-matter by carriers, has proved to be a virtual extension of the post-office to every house...."⁴ The report goes on to say that carrier delivery has facilitated "the reduction of the number of advertised and dead letters." Partly for this reason, an expansion of the carrier system to "all cities where the population, business, extent of territory, and frequency of the mails may authorize the requisite [work]force and outlay" was recommended.

Robert Stendel has pointed out that in 1879-1881 there may have been a specific order disallowing the 1¢ advertising charge at the vast majority of post offices. "It should be borne in mind, however, that no charge is allowed to be made upon the delivery of advertised letters, except at six offices which have been expressly authorized by the Department to pay newspapers for publishing the list of undelivered letters, viz.: Baltimore, Md.; Boston, Mass.; Chicago, Ill.; New Orleans, La.; New York, N.Y.; and Washington, D.C."⁵ However, by 1884 postage due stamps can be found on advertised covers from cities not on this list. Usage of postage due stamps is common during the 1890s, but the stamps appear only on some of the many advertised covers that survive. I hope to discuss this more thoroughly in a future article.

In one of his articles on advertised auxiliary markings, Tom Clarke cites a Postmaster General Order 82 (from *Postal Bulletin* 611, March 8, 1882) "stating that postmasters must not incur any charge for advertising letters without advance authorization from the P.O.D."⁶

The 1887 issue of the P.L. & R.⁷ repeats the basic regulation found in Section 188 and quoted above, but expands on certain sections, making it clear that the 1¢ charge was still available to those few offices that were authorized to publish newspaper listings of unclaimed mail.

Sec. 584. [Postmasters may] pay not over 1¢ per letter advertised; no expense to be incurred unless first specially authorized....

Sec. 587. Manner of Posting Lists. The posting of the advertisement must be by placing one or more printed or manuscript lists of the names of the persons to whom such matter is addressed, the names to be arranged alphabetically, and when in considerable number, the names of ladies and gentlemen to be in separate lists. Third and fourth class matter should be in a separate list for the letters, with appropriate headings....

Sec. 588. When to Advertise. At post-offices of the fourth class matter should be advertised monthly and as near the first day of the month as practicable; at all other post-offices, weekly, and when practicable on the first day of the week.

Sec. 589. What to be Advertised. All unclaimed matter of the first class, including letters and other matter returned from the Dead Letter Office direct to the sender, and valuable matter of the third and fourth class, in hand at the time of advertising, should be included in the advertisement, except registered matter, refused matter, fictitious matter....

Sec. 590. Charge on Advertised Letters. All letters published as non-delivered must have plainly written or stamped upon the address side the word "ADVERTISED", together with the date of advertising....all letters published as non-delivered to be charged 1¢...."

Capturing dead-letter data

The detailed attention paid by the Department to capturing dead-letter data is well represented by the items shown in Figures 1-3. In a letter dated Feb. 15, 1879, the Division of Dead Letters in Washington, D.C. advised the postmaster at Middletown, New Jersey,

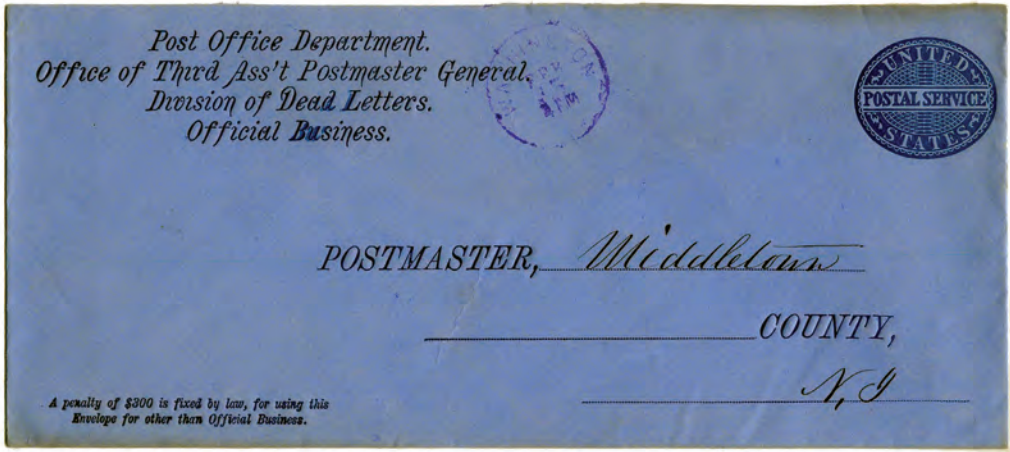


Figure 1. Non-denominated “Postal Service” official envelope addressed to the postmaster at Middletown, New York, and postmarked “WASHINGTON FEB 15 1 PM” (1879) in purple. This envelope carried instructions about handling unclaimed mail.

(1878.)

Bill of Dead Mail Matter sent to the DEAD-LETTER OFFICE by the

Postmaster at _____ County of _____
 State of _____ for the month ended _____, 18__

DESCRIPTION OF MATTER.	NUMBER.
Domestic letters, including “drops”	
Foreign letters	
Third-class mail matter of value, such as books, pamphlets, &c.	
Fourth-class matter	
Foreign printed matter	
Foreign postal cards	
Domestic postal cards wholly written	
Refused matter	
Miscellaneous, including letters sent to writers from Dead-Letter Office	
TOTAL	

Postmaster.

Figure 2. Front of dead-letter way bill, to be used by postmasters when sending unclaimed and undeliverable mail to the Dead Letter Office. Dead letters were to be grouped into nine separate categories.

(1878.)

DEAD LETTERS

Post Office _____
 County _____
 State _____

Date sent in to P. O. _____, 18__

For use of Post Offices of the fourth class only

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING RETURNS OF DEAD MATTER.

- 1.—Undelivered matter will be sent to the Dead-Letter Office once a month from post offices of the fourth class. (See Sec. 469, Regulations of 1879.)
- 2.—Whenever it happens that there is no matter to send at the end of the month, a dead-letter bill, properly indorsed, must be forwarded to the Dead-Letter Office. (See Sec. 473, Regulations.)
- 3.—A copy of the advertised list and this bill must be inclosed in the same package with the unclaimed matter. (See Sec. 474.)

NOTE.—The advertised list should give the name of the Office, State, and Postmaster, and the date of advertisement.

- 4.—The word “advertised” and the appropriate date must be written or stamped upon the face of every article of mail matter which is advertised. (See Sec. 453.)
- 5.—The reason for non-delivery must appear upon every undelivered article of mail matter. (See Sec. 470.)
- 6.—Every article of mail matter sent to the Dead-Letter Office must have plainly stamped or written, on the inside side, the name of the post office and date of sending. (See Sec. 442.)
- 7.—When refused matter is included with the Returns it must be accompanied by a manuscript list showing the full address of each article. (See Sec. 472.)
- 8.—To secure proper and uniform treatment of all kinds of unclaimable and dead mail matter, postmasters are expected to carefully read Chapter 12, beginning at page 110, of the Postal Laws and Regulations, Edition of 1879, and strictly comply with its provisions.

Figure 3. Reverse of the Figure 2 way bill, providing highly detailed instructions to postmasters. Remarkably, this form was required to be submitted monthly even when there were no dead letters to report.

about the proper recording of dead letters: “Each return of dead letters must be accompanied by a bill specially provided for the purpose and a separate printed or written advertised list. If you have no blanks for dead letter bills, send your order to the blank div. P.O. Department for a supply.”

This letter was mailed in the large blue official envelope shown in Figure 1. This is the blue-on-blue non-denominated “Postal Service” entire envelope of 1877 that Scott lists as



Figure 4. Straightline type of “ADVERTISED” marking with separate date stamp, here applied at Keene, New Hampshire, to an undeliverable 3¢ Bank Note cover originating in Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire. The “UNCLAIMED” marking was added (with Keene postmark on reverse) when the cover was sent to the Dead Letter Office. This cover was subsequently returned to its sender by the DLO, enclosed in the official “FREE” envelope shown in Figure 5.

UO17. This cover is postmarked “WASHINGTON FEB 15 1 PM” (1879) in purple.

A copy of a blank “Bill of Dead Mail Matter” is shown in Figure 2. Note that it classifies dead letters into nine different categories. The reverse side of the bill, shown in Figure 3, gives very specific instructions for returning advertised letters as well as instructions for handling other returned mail. Instruction #2 provides a good insight into the Department’s obsession with dead-letter reporting: The form is to be filled out and returned to Washington monthly, even when there is nothing to report. “Whenever it happens that there is no matter to send at the end of the month, a dead-letter bill, properly endorsed, must be forwarded to the Dead-Letter Office.”

An earlier version of this form, from 1874, contains a stern admonition (in capital letters) as its first line: “ON THE BACK OF EVERY LETTER SENT TO THE DEAD-LETTER OFFICE THERE MUST BE STAMPED OR WRITTEN THE NAME OF THE POST OFFICE AND STATE, AND DATE OF SENDING.”

Straightline markings

Straightlines appear to be the dominant style of advertised postmark used during the Bank Note period. There were some ovals, and many more circles with dates, but the straightlines predominate. Manuscript markings are quite scarce.

The cover in Figure 4, franked with a 3¢ Bank Note stamp and addressed to Keene, N.H., was posted at Fitzwilliam, N.H. on “DEC 2”. The original letter, headed December 2, 1871, is still within the envelope. It is signed A. J. Blake. The addressee, “Henry S. Wheelock, Esq., formerly of Grafton, Vermont” did not call for the letter at Keene. It was advertised at Keene with a straightline “ADVERTISED” and a separate date stamp. In due course the cover was also postmarked “UNCLAIMED” by the small circular marking at lower left. A postmark “KEENE N.H. DEC 30” is stamped on the reverse of the envelope, showing the day the cover was sent to the Dead Letter Office.

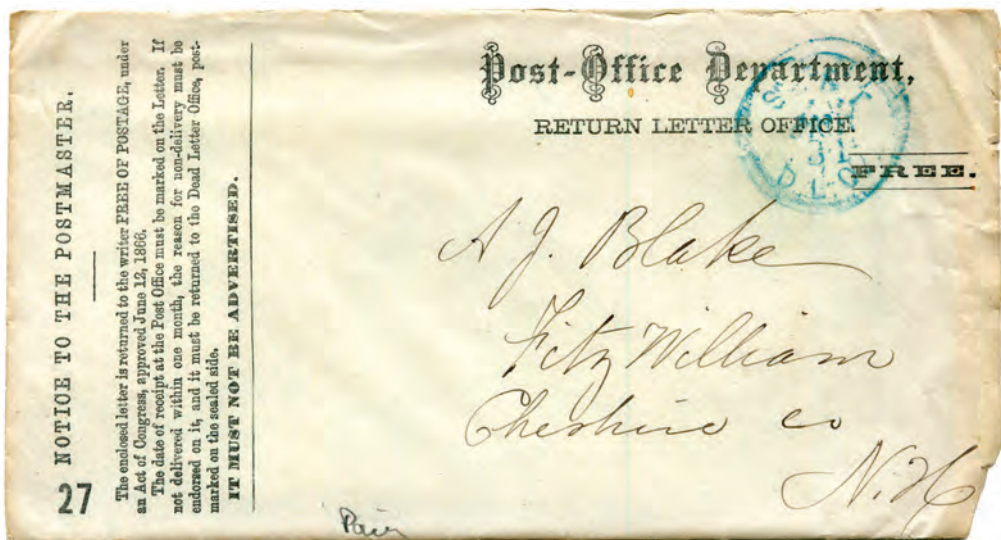


Figure 5. Official envelope of the Return Letter Office of the DLO, used to return the undeliverable Figure 4 cover to its sender. The legend at left notes that the cover is being returned to its writer "FREE OF POSTAGE" per an act of Congress approved June 12, 1866. The blue postmark reads "SENT D.L.O. JAN 31."



Figure 6. Two 10 pfennig German stamps on a cover from Baden, originally addressed to Chicago, posted in 1884. The purple three-line handstamp ("ADVERTISED/NOT CALLED FOR/Cannot be Found") was applied at St. Louis after the cover was forwarded there from Chicago. The precanceled 1¢ Postage Due stamp was affixed at St. Louis to depict the advertising fee. But the cover was returned to Germany so the fee was never collected.



Figure 7. Straightline “ADVERTISED” applied at Rochester, Pennsylvania, to which this 1883 entire envelope had been addressed by mistake. It was subsequently “FORWARDED” to the addressee at Rochester, New York.

The Figure 4 cover was ultimately returned to its writer in the official Post Office “FREE” envelope shown in Figure 5. This envelope is postmarked “SENT D.L.O. JAN 31” [presumably 1872] in blue. Figures 4 and 5 together illustrate the complete transit of an undeliverable letter that was ultimately returned to its sender.

A later straightline type appears on the cover in Figure 6. Franked with two 10 pfennig German stamps (Scott 39), this cover originated in Karlsruhe, Baden, in February, 1884. It was addressed to Chicago and from there was forwarded to St. Louis. Unclaimed at St. Louis, it received a purple three-line “ADVERTISED/NOT CALLED FOR/Cannot be Found” handstamp and was sent back to its sender. A large black “Retour” (“returned”) was applied to the cover somewhere in Europe. A first-issue Postage Due stamp (Scott J1), precancelled at St. Louis, indicates the 1¢ advertising fee—which of course was never collected. A different cover, not illustrated, bears the same three-line purple advertised postmark applied at St. Louis about a month later (April 8, 1884). This envelope is an official penalty cover from the Dead Letter Office. The cover within was intended to be returned to its sender, but the sender could not be found so the return envelope itself was advertised.

The 2¢ red entire envelope in Figure 7 originated in Cleveland and was addressed to a rabbi in Rochester, Pennsylvania, then a very small town in Beaver County. There it was advertised with a typical 38-millimeter straightline marking, with the date of advertising added in manuscript beneath the marking. When the letter was unclaimed after advertising, the Pennsylvania postmaster apparently took the initiative (on November 28, 1883, per the double circle datestamp at upper left) to forward the cover to Rochester, New York, a much likelier location for a rabbi, where the letter appears to have successfully reached its recipient.

Franked with a 3¢ Bank Note stamp, the cover in Figure 8 was posted at Atalissa, Iowa, sometime in the late 1870s, addressed to San Francisco. There it was struck with the bold straightline “ADVERTISED.” Advertising was in this case successful, since it elicited the information that the addressee had moved on to Napa City. The letter was “FORWARDED” and reached its recipient there. The addressee, Oliver H. Buckman, was a civil



Figure 8. 3¢ Bank Note cover posted at Atalissa, Iowa, in the late 1870s. Advertised at San Francisco with bold straightline “ADVERTISED” marking and subsequently “FORWARDED” successfully to the addressee at Napa.

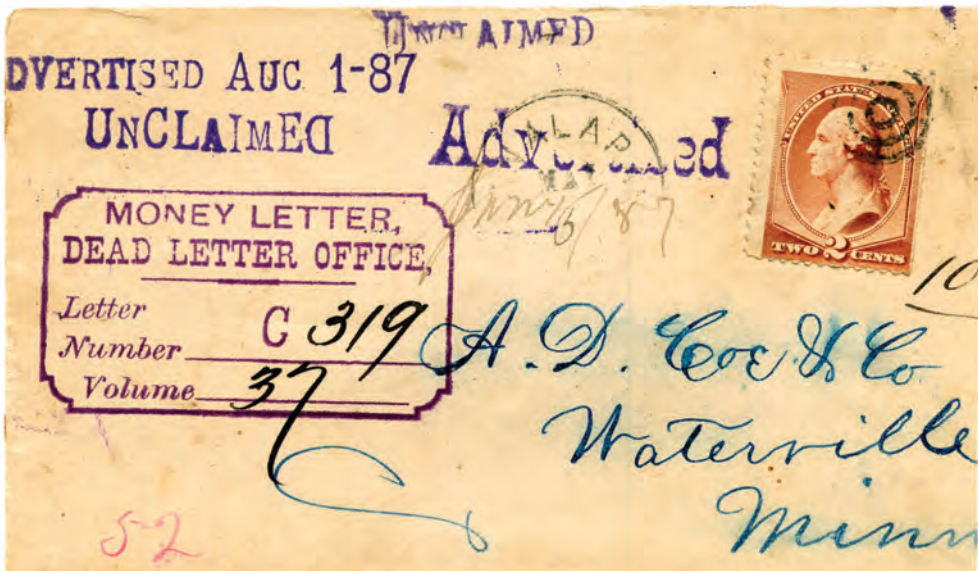


Figure 9. “Advertised” and “ADVERTISED AUG 1-87” handstamps in purple, applied to this 2¢ Bank Note cover in 1887 at Waterville, Minnesota. Two different strikes of unusual “UNCLAIMED” markings appear in the same purple ink. This letter was sent to the DLO, where its cash contents were removed and (presumably) returned to the sender.

engineer who supervised the construction of Napa’s first water and sewer systems.

The dramatic cover in Figure 9, franked with a 2¢ red-brown Washington stamp of 1883, shows two different purple straightline markings both applied at Waterville, Minnesota: “Advertised” in capital and lower-case letters and also “ADVERTISED AUG 1-87” in capital letters. At Waterville the cover was unclaimed and ultimately sent to the Dead Letter Office. Note the strikes of two different “UNCLAIMED” straightlines, one of them (with

“D” inverted) very crudely assembled from loose type. The DLO marking on the front and a dated triangle marking on the reverse suggest the cover originally contained \$10—which would have been returned to the sender.

Circular markings

Circular markings were of two types: with date or without. The more common is a dated circle. Figure 10 illustrates an example, applied by the receiving post office in Cassopolis, Michigan. This 3¢ Bank Note cover originated in Waynesville, Ohio (per the blue double circle marking dated October 21, 1873), where the stamp received a blue strike of a very attractive Man in a Top Hat cancellation.

The cover in Figure 11 shows two examples of an undated circular advertised marking. The cover bears the corner imprint of the Second Auditor’s Office of the Treasury Department and is franked with a 3¢ Treasury stamp. After it was not picked up at Bedford, Iowa, the cover was advertised, with the date (“4/26/[75]”) added in pencil. Advertising was



Figure 10. A dated circular “ADVERTISED” marking, applied at Cassopolis, Michigan, to 3¢ Bank Note cover that originated in 1873 at Waynesville, Ohio. The 3¢ stamp is cancelled by a nice blue strike of a fancy “Man in a Top Hat” cancellation.



Figure 11. Undated circular advertised marking (with date added in pencil “4/26”), applied at Bedford, Iowa, in 1875 to an undeliverable Official cover franked with a 3¢ Treasury stamp. The cover was sent from Bedford to the DLO, which immediately returned it to the sender at the Treasury Department.



Figure 12. Unusual type of “ADVERTISED” in circle with manuscript dating, applied in 1877 at Stephenville, Texas, to an undeliverable 3¢ Bank Note cover from Dicksons Crossroads, Louisiana. The cover was sent to the DLO, which applied the “M”—representing the addressee’s last name—and the manuscript notations that are presumed to be a filing code number.

unsuccessful, so the matching circular “UNCLAIMED” marking was added and the cover was sent to the DLO. The reverse of the cover shows a duplex target and “BEDFORD IOA MAY 24”. Also on reverse is a blue circular “DEAD LETTER OFFICE U.S. JUN 7 1875” marking. From the DLO the cover was immediately returned to the sender at the Treasury. The large blue oval on the front, dated June 8, 1875, is a receiving marking of the Second Auditor’s Office. The green and orange crayons are probably internal filing notations.

A very different type of encircled “ADVERTISED” marking with manuscript dating is shown in Figure 12. Here the marking is a straightline surrounded by a circle. This cover traveled between two small southern towns: from Dicksons Crossroads, Louisiana to Stephenville, Texas. The reverse shows a black “STEPHENVILLE TEX MAR 1” and a blue triangular “DEAD LETTER OFFICE, U.S.A. MAR 17 1877.” Clearly this cover was unclaimed at Stephenville, advertised there unsuccessfully, and sent on to the DLO for disposition. The matching encircled “UNCLAIMED” was applied when Stephenville sent the cover to the DLO. The large “M” (representing the addressee’s last name—“Milling”) with filing code number was added by the DLO.

Figure 13 is a very unusual cover from Bismarck, Dakota Territory, with straightline and circular advertising markings applied at two different locations. The year date is uncertain. The 1¢ entire envelope and the local address both suggest a drop letter, though drop letters were not supposed to be advertised. But after being unclaimed at Bismarck, this cover received the purple straightline “Advertised” marking with the manuscript date below (“2-13”) indicating it was advertised on February 13. Following this it was forwarded to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. The reverse shows two postmarks of this town, dated February 28 and May 1. The circular “ADVERTISED” postmark dated April 3 was applied at Fond du Lac. The pencil “Due 5¢” presumably represents unpaid postage to forward the cover to Fond du Lac plus two 1¢ advertising fees. If so, this is a very rare combination. It’s not clear that this cover ever reached its recipient.



Figure 13. A very unusual cover from Bismarck, Dakota Territory, showing straight-line and circular advertising markings applied at two different locations. This 1¢ entire envelope originated as a drop letter and should not have been advertised. But it was advertised, forwarded, advertised again and finally rated for 5¢ postage due. It's not certain this cover ever reached its recipient.



Figure 14. 3¢ Bank Note cover sent in 1883 from Le Roy, New York to Sacramento, California. The bright magenta markings “ADVERTISED” and “HAVE YOUR LETTERS ADDRESSED TO STREET AND NUMBER” were both applied at Sacramento.

Colored markings

Beginning in the 1880s and for the next 35 years, many advertised handstamps were applied in colored ink, most frequently red, purple or magenta. Figure 14 shows a 3¢ Bank Note cover from Le Roy, New York to Sacramento, California. At Sacramento the cover was struck with two very bright magenta markings: the fancy circular “ADVERTISED MAY 15 1883” and the three-line “HAVE YOUR LETTERS/ADDRESSED TO/STREET AND NUMBER” in red. There’s a black Sacramento circular datestamp on reverse. Advertising was presumably successful because the cover survives.



Figure 15. 2¢ entire envelope posted at New Orleans in 1887 and showing a fancy magenta circular “ADVERTISED” marking applied at New Albany, Indiana. The cover was ultimately “UNCLAIMED” and sent to the DLO in Washington, where the manuscript filing notations along the top were applied.

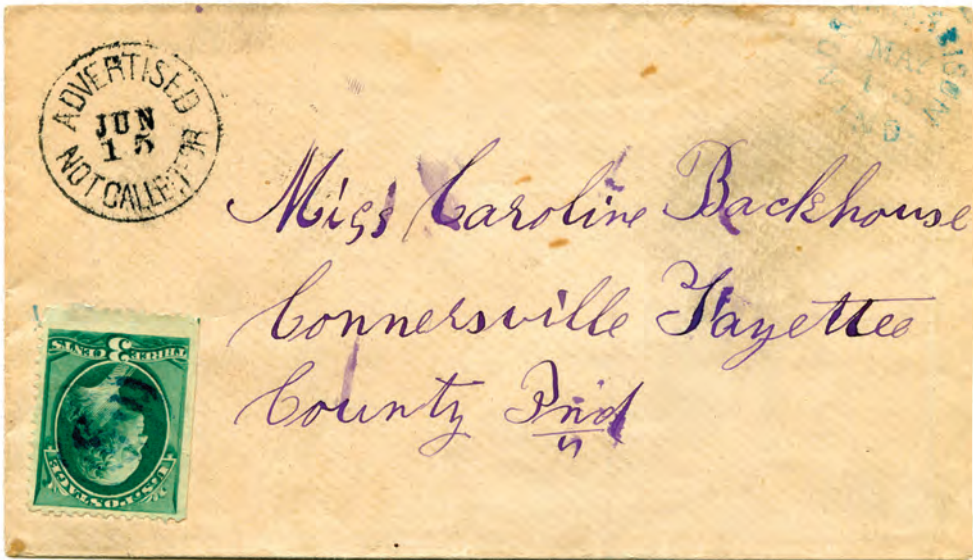


Figure 16. 3¢ Bank Note cover showing a very unusual “ADVERTISED/ NOT CALLED FOR” marking with date, applied at Connersville, Indiana.

Another magenta advertised marking from the 1880s appears on the cover in Figure 15. This is a 2¢ entire envelope posted at New Orleans in 1887 and addressed to New Albany, Indiana. It was advertised at New Albany and struck with the large magenta double circular datestamp with a fancy swirl at the bottom. Before the cover was sent to the DLO, New Albany marked it (in the same magenta ink) with the large “UNCLAIMED”. The manuscript “B 2067/12” at top represents the first initial of the addressee’s last name (“But-



Figure 17. Blue label with “ADV. FEB 7 1874.” used instead of a handstamp at Leominster, Massachusetts, a post office which is well known during this era for using various colored labels to indicate auxiliary services. Note the striking manuscript notation at left: “Not called for. A stranger to P.M.”

ler”) and the DLO file location information. This is similar to the notations on the cover in Figure 12. On the reverse are a New Albany postmark dated March 5, 1887 and a small black triangle applied by the DLO.

Other marking types

Arcs, arches, straight lines in fancy boxes, and unusual type fonts are seen in other advertised markings. The Indiana town of origin on the cover in Figure 16 cannot be deciphered, but the unusual circular ADVERTISED/NOT CALLED FOR marking, applied at Connersville, Indiana, is very clear. Many markings express these two phrases separately, but it is unusual to find them combined into one postmark.

Figure 17 shows a label used instead of a handstamp to indicate the advertising of a letter at Leominster, Massachusetts. This post office is well known during these years for its practice of using labels to indicate various post office services. This is the only Leominster label relating to advertising that I have seen. This 3¢ Bank Note cover originated at Harvard, Massachusetts, in 1874. The Leominster postmaster’s manuscript notation at left speaks eloquently to the role of the postmaster in 19th century villages. “Not called for—a Stranger to P.M.” It was the postmaster’s job to know everyone in town.

The advertisement of postal cards was permitted under the law for advertising mail, but examples are quite uncommon. The card in Figure 18, shown here through the courtesy of Robert Stendel, originated at Princeton, New Jersey on 16 June 1884 and was originally sent to Hawley, Pennsylvania. There it was not called for, advertised (on June 16, per the octagonal Hawley townmark) and struck with the black straightline “ADVERTISED” marking. Advertising produced a better address, and the card was then forwarded (with no additional charge) to Niantic, Connecticut, where it was struck with a receiving postmark dated July 2. In addition to the example shown in Figure 18, I have seen two other postal cards with black “advertised” circular datestamps.

Our final illustration, Figure 19, shows a cover that was not advertised at all. This is



Figure 18. U.S. government postal card from Princeton, New Jersey, sent to Hawley, Pennsylvania and there “ADVERTISED” and forwarded to Niantic, Connecticut. Postal cards showing advertised markings are most unusual. Illustration courtesy Robert Stendel.

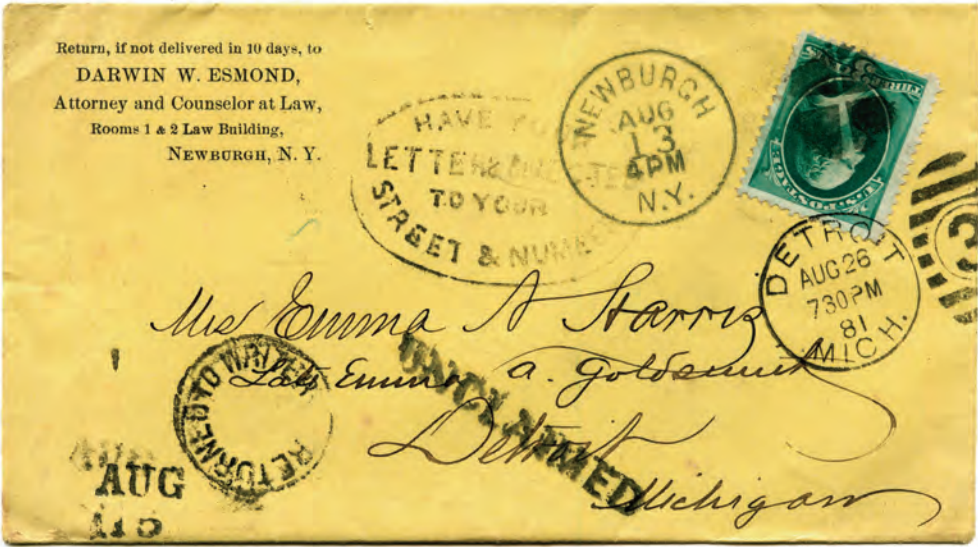


Figure 19. The dead-letter dilemma, finally resolved. This undeliverable 3¢ Bank Note cover from 1881 bore a return address and clear instructions respecting non-delivery. Thus it avoided the DLO apparatus and was returned immediately to its sender (at no additional charge) after being unclaimed in Detroit.

because it bore the printed return address of the Newburgh, New York, lawyer who sent it. After years of false starts and misdirection, the Post Office had finally come up with effective procedures to deal with undeliverable mail. The growing practice of return addressing, spurred by the Post Office policy of returning undeliverable mail to the sender without further charge, began to reduce the inflow of letters to the DLO.

Note that the date of mailing of the Figure 19 cover was August 13 and the date of return was August 26, Between those dates it was held unclaimed and undeliverable at the Detroit post office, where it was marked (at lower left) "AUG 15" using the same type of dater that was previously employed on advertised covers. A Detroit receiving postmark on reverse is dated August 14.

Before sending it back, the Detroit office marked the cover "UNCLAIMED" and "RETURNED TO WRITER" with the addition of the large oval "HAVE YOUR LETTER DIRECTED TO YOUR STREET & NUMBER". The latest postmark (on the reverse) is "NEWBURGH N.Y. AUG 29".

The postal practices represented by this cover were proudly discussed by the Postmaster General in his 1880 Report: "One of the chief reasons why so small a percentage of letters reaches the Dead Letter Office is that the return request system immediately restores them to the writer when unpaid or misdirected or ultimately does so when unclaimed at the office of destination. The total number of letters mailed in fifty of the principal cities last year was 385,878,948 and of these 226,369,000 or 59 per cent, were enclosed in envelopes bearing the address of the writer."⁸

Endnotes

1. *The Postal Laws and Regulations*, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1866.
2. *Annual Report of the Postmaster General*, 1871, pp. 24-25.
3. *The Postal Laws and Regulations*, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1873, pg. 88.
4. *Annual Report of the Postmaster-General of the United States*, June 30, 1874, pg. xxi.
5. Stendel, Robert, *U.S. Domestic Postal Card Regulations: 1874-1885*, U.S. Postal Stationery Society, 2010, pg. 28.
6. Clarke, Tom, "Advertised Auxiliary Markings Update," *LaPosta*, January, 1992, pp. 49-52.
7. *The Postal Laws and Regulations*, Washington, Govt. Printing Office, 1887, pg. 88.
8. *Annual Report of the Postmaster General*, 1880, pg. 12. ■

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ALAN C. CAMPBELL, EDITOR

1873 OFFICIAL STAMPS: FOREIGN ENTRY OF THE 15¢ POST OFFICE DESIGN AT POSITION 8 OF THE 12¢ AGRICULTURE PLATE

GEORGE G. SAYERS

The initial printing plates for the 1873 Official stamps were manufactured with great haste in less than three months. As a consequence, these plates show many interesting and complex plate varieties. The author's article on the foreign entries of the 1¢ and 6¢ Executive images on the 6¢ Department of State plate explained the technical details of the process that results in a foreign-entry plate variety and demonstrated the identification of the foreign-entry image.¹ That article noted: "... only the parts of the image that are the deepest, darkest lines of the engraving will survive the hammering-out and erasing, and these are not the edges of the lines, but the bottoms."²

This article identifies the foreign entry at Position 8 of the 12¢ Agriculture (Scott O6) plate. Three areas of Position 8 are important in the identification of the foreign entry: the top left, the top right and the bottom center numeral.

The two images in Figure 1, both taken from a brown Atlanta trial color proof from Position 8 of the 12¢ Agriculture stamp (Scott O6TC), show the top left and top right quadrants of the subject stamp. Arrows mark the most significant foreign-entry remnants. In the left image in Figure 1, frame line remnants are visible at A and vertical shading lines can be seen at B. In the right image in Figure 1, remnant frame lines are marked as C, vertical shading lines show at D and the circular "button" shading (discussed below) can be seen at E.

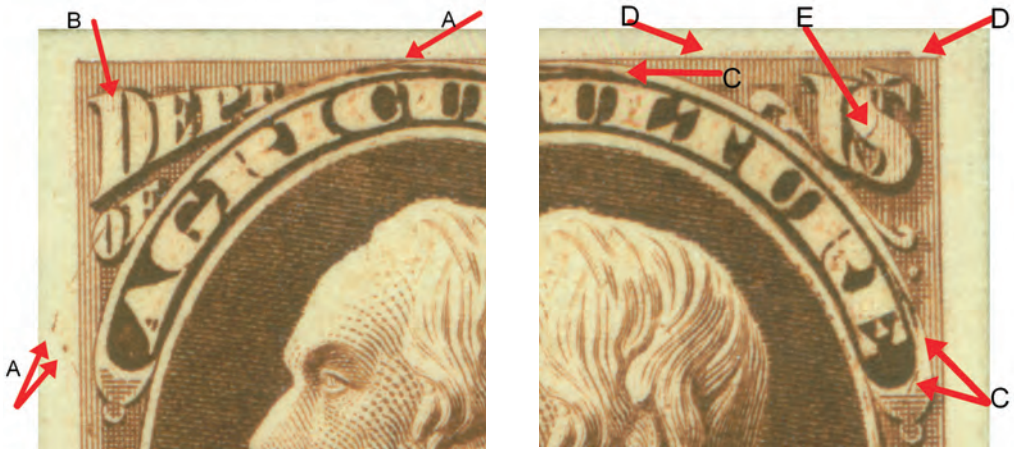


Figure 1. Portions of a brown Atlanta 12¢ Agriculture proof from Position 8 in the 100-subject plate. In the left image, the red arrows at A indicate remnant frame lines from the previous entry of another stamp design. Remnant vertical shading lines are marked by the red arrow at B. In the image at right, foreign-entry frame lines are marked by the red arrows at C. Remnant vertical shading lines are indicated by the arrows at D. Remnant circular "button" shading is marked by the red arrow at E.

Figure 2 shows the bottom center numeral 2 from the same proof. The arrows marked F indicate the remnant lines of another numeral, clearly not a 2.

Shown at left in Figure 3 is the confirming green Atlanta proof of the 12¢ Agriculture stamp from the same location in the plate, Position 8. On this image the remnant lines indicated in Figures 1 and 2 have been manually enhanced. There are many other remnants of the foreign entry in Position 8 not significant to the identification of the original entry.

Shown at right in Figure 3 is an India-paper proof of the 15¢ Post Office stamp (Scott O53P3) with the source lines of the foreign entry isolated by erasing the adjacent design elements. From the marked remnant frame lines at A and C in the top of the position, the remnant vertical shading lines at B and D, and the remnant of the circular outline of the button at E, the author concludes the foreign entry must be one of the Post Office Department designs. From the remnants of the 5 seen at F in the bottom 2 (see Figure 2), the source must be the 15¢ value.

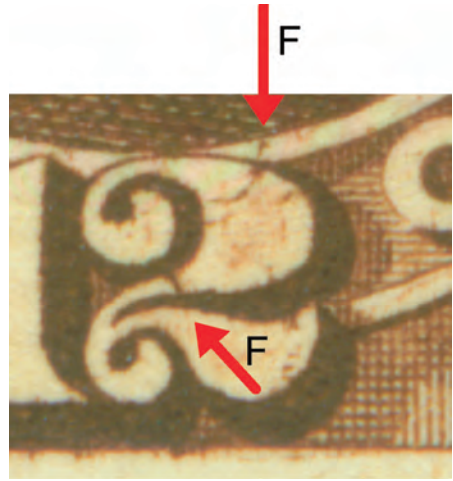


Figure 2. Bottom center numeral 2 from the same Atlanta proof. The arrows marked F indicate the remnant lines of another numeral, not a 2.



Figure 3. At left, the confirming green Atlanta proof of the 12¢ Agriculture stamp from the same plate position. On this image the remnant lines indicated in Figures 1 and 2 have been manually enhanced. Foreign entry frame lines are indicated by A and C. Remnant button shading is indicated by E. Remnant numeral shading is indicated by F. The image at right shows a 15¢ Post Office India-paper proof. The source of the remnant lines has been accentuated by erasing the adjacent design elements and marking with arrows and letters corresponding to the remnant lines on the 12¢ image at left.

The author has looked at hundreds of auction catalog and on-line illustrations over the past five years without identifying a 12¢ Agriculture stamp that shows this plate variety. Because the Agriculture stamps were printed in yellow, all plate varieties are hard to discern. Extraneous yellow lines are especially difficult to recognize. Fortunately, we have Elliott Perry's photographs to aid in this task.

The history of the 200-plus American Bank Note Co. plate proofs on card stock, salvaged from the company archives by Henry G. Mandel, a vice president of the firm, and subsequently owned by the Earl of Crawford, Senator Ackerman, Josiah Lilly, etc., is well documented elsewhere. About 1960 Elliott Perry, well-known professional philatelist of that era, had access to these sheets and caused them to be photographed, including proof sheets of 87 of the 1873 Official stamp plates. These high-resolution negatives, and the "copy-white" prints made from them, have been invaluable in identifying plate variety positions of the Official stamps. The author thanks Dr. Alfred E. Staubus for allowing examination of his Perry negatives. Examining on a light table the Perry negative of the Crawford card proof sheet, the backlit remnant lines illustrated in this article are obvious at Position 8. ■

Endnotes

1. Sayers, George G., "Foreign Entry and Erasure of the 1¢ Executive in the 6¢ State Position 11," *Chronicle* 208, pp. 307-15.

2. *Ibid.*, pg. 308.



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AND NOW THERE ARE FIVE: UPDATE TO
 “U.S. CARD PROOFS WITH HANDSTAMPED ‘SPECIMEN’ OVERPRINTS”

MICHAEL PLETT

Introduction

In August 2010, the *Chronicle* published my article describing rare examples of U.S. card proofs showing “Specimen” handstamps applied by foreign post office departments.¹ The article made the case that there were only four handstamp types and that each type appeared on only one set of the 1879 or 1882 emissions of card proofs. The four types were fully illustrated and described.

Card proofs of the 2¢ 1873 Jackson Bank Note stamp showing all four overprint types are illustrated in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Four types of handstamped “specimen” markings, applied by foreign post offices to U.S. card proofs, shown here on card proofs of the 2¢ Jackson Bank Note stamp.

The 1879 emission consisted of 171 card proofs. Of the 171 possible proofs with Type 1 handstamps, 160 were recorded in my article. Of the possible Type 2 proofs, 124 were recorded. Of the possible Type 3 proofs, 119 were recorded. The 1882 emission consisted of 172 proofs. Of the 172 possible Type 4 proofs, 167 were recorded.

Recent developments

Since then, the field has been active. Some of the highlights to be covered in this update include the Spink Shreves sale July 2010,² the Bennett sale of September 2010,^{3,4} the Siegel sale of December 2010,⁵ and important findings at the British Library and the British Postal Museum and Archive. Items to be discussed in this article include a few new discoveries that were not recorded in the original census, a completely unexpected find of Postage Due specimen card proofs—and an entirely new overprint type, which I have called Type 5.



Figure 2. Representative examples of Newspaper and Periodical card proofs showing the Type 1 handstamp. On the Type 1 Newspaper and Periodical set, red overprints were generally used on darker colored proofs, with black used on lighter colors.

On July 21, 2010, Spink Shreves auctioned the Type 1 Newspaper proofs. They were still on the same album page as when Siegel sold them in 1998.⁶ Figure 2 shows representative examples. The black 8¢ and \$24 stamps are handstamped in red; the rose 12¢ and the vermilion \$3 value are handstamped in black.

Type 4 proofs from Bennett September 2010 sale

Bennett's September 2010 sale was quite a revelation. In 14 lots it included 64 card proofs with specimen handstamps. The information derived from the lots will require the revision of three data tables in the original article. But the highlights of the sale were sets of 1851, 1861, 1875-1882 stamps and 1879 Postage Dues, all with Type 4 handstamp. This enables a discussion of the Type 4 handstamped proofs that was not possible before.

The specimen overprint card proofs in the Bennett sale can be summarized as follows: Type 1 overprints: 3¢ 1851, 15¢ 1861, 12¢ 1873; Type 2 overprints: 5¢ and 10¢ 1847, 3¢ 1851; Type 3 overprints: 3¢ 1861, 15¢ 1869, plus Agriculture, Interior and Justice Departments complete except for 24¢ Agriculture; Type 4 overprints: 1851s and 1861s complete, 2¢ 1875, 5¢ Taylor, 5¢ Garfield, and 1-50¢ Postage Dues.

The 1851 Type 4 set (lot 168) was complete with all values. Based on the catalog description from the previous auction sale of these items in 1976,⁷ one item in the set had been thought missing. In my original article (page 234), I narrowed down the missing proof to one of three suspects: the 10¢, the 24¢ or the 30¢ value. But as Figure 3 shows very clearly, all three of these exist.



Figure 3. The catalog write-up for the 1976 auction sale of the Type 4 handstamps implied that one of these three card proofs was missing. Clearly all three exist. The 10¢ image is shown here through the courtesy of Michael Perlman.

The 1861 Type 4 set (lot 176) was also complete. Two examples from this set are shown in Figure 4. As should be evident from the illustration, the 24¢ 1861 proof is the striking and vivid red-violet color. The 1851 and the 1861 sets have now been dispersed among at least three collectors.

The 1873 Bank Note stamps with the Type 4 overprint were not included in the Bennett sale. However, the 1875-82 set was sold as lot 222. As noted, the underlying card proofs for the Type 4 overprints are the 1882 emission; this includes the 5¢ Garfield stamp, not present in the earlier proof emissions, which were created before the Garfield stamp existed. Overprint Types 1-3 appear on the 1879 emission of card proofs. Figure 5 shows the 5¢ Garfield proof, with its Type 4 overprint, from the Bennett lot.

Also, it is now possible to show a set of all four types of specimen handstamp on card proofs of regular-issue postage stamps. The 2¢ 1875 set is shown in Figure 1 and



Figure 4. Type 4 handstamps on card proofs of the 3¢ and 24¢ 1861 stamps. The 24¢ value is a vivid red-violet shade.



Figure 5. The Type 4 handstamp on the brown 1882 Garfield design indicates that Type 4 was applied to the second (1882) emission of card proofs.



Figure 6. The 5¢ Zachary Taylor showing all four handstamp types. Card proofs with all four “Specimen” handstamps are known for only four regular-issue postage stamps.



Figure 7. The 1c 1851 showing all four types of handstamp. Third of only four sets of complete handstamps known on card proofs of regular-issue postage stamps.



Figure 8. Card proofs of the 90¢ 1861 stamp showing all four types of handstamp. Note that the Type 3 “Specimen” handstamp is inverted.

the 5¢ Taylor 1875 set is shown in Figure 6. At this time, there can only be four sets of proofs of regular-issue postage stamps showing all four handstamp types. This statement is based on the newly-recorded material from the Bennett sale, the census in my original article (which includes my collection) and the fact that the 1869 15¢ Type 1 proofs have not been seen since the Brazer sale in 1990. The other two sets are the 1¢ 1851 set shown in Figure 7 and the 90¢ 1861 set shown in Figure 8.

Bennett’s sale of Type 4 proofs presents an opportunity to provide more information about these varieties. The vast majority of Type 4 proofs were dispersed by Robson Lowe in 1976. As detailed in my article in *Chronicle* 227, these originally came from the postal archive of Bechuanaland, which was where the Type 4 handstamps were applied. At which foreign post offices the other three types were applied is not known.

Examples for the 5¢ and 10¢ 1847 proofs were not present in the 1976 Robson Lowe sale and were not included in my census. These proofs have now been found in the collection of the British Postal Museum and Archive (more on this source below) and are shown in Figure 9. The 1869 set of card proofs with Type 4 handstamps was broken up at the American Philatelic Society show in August 2010, dispersed among four collectors. The 3¢ value was missing from that set, confirming Robson Lowe’s 1976 catalog description, which states that the 3¢ 1869 value was not handstamped.⁸

Among the proofs in the Bennett sale was the previously unrecorded 3¢ 1861 with Type 3 overprint. This was in lot 181 and is shown in Figure 10. Note that the handstamp is inverted. In the American Philatelic Society reference collection Richard Drews located the previously unrecorded 5¢ and 15¢ 1861 card proofs with Type 2 handstamps. Both are shown in Figure 11, with thanks to Mercer Bristow and the APS.



Figure 9 (left): The two 1847 stamps with Type 4 handstamp; images courtesy of the British Postal Museum and Archive. Figure 10 (center): Previously unrecorded 3¢ 1861 card proof with Type 3 handstamp inverted. Figure 11 (right): Previously unrecorded 1861 proofs with Type 2 handstamps. Courtesy Mercer Bristow, American Philatelic Society.

The Bennett sale also included sets of the Agriculture, Interior and Justice Department proofs with the Type 3 handstamp, items that were formerly in the Markovits collection. The 24¢ Agriculture was not present in this lot. As it turns out, the 24¢ Agriculture proof was also missing from the Markovits sale and from his exhibit.⁹ Thus Figure 21 in the original article was in error by recording it.¹⁰

Specimen handstamps on Postage Due card proofs

Siegel sale 1003 included (as lot 5450) the Type 2 War Department set that was part of David Lobdell’s specialized collection of that department. But from the perspective of my research, the highlights of the sale were the lots of Postage Due card proofs (J1P4-J7P4) with Type 2 and Type 3 handstamps in blue. These were not listed in Paul Kohl’s 1911 inventory. Brazer had concluded they did not exist and they were not listed in my census.¹¹ But there they were.

The Type 2 set (missing the 10¢ value) was lot 5258; examples from this lot are shown in Figure 12. The complete Type 3 set was lot 5257. Examples are shown in Figure 13. The images in both figures are shown here through the courtesy of Harry Charles, who also directed me to Siegel sale 857, in which lot 1128 contained a complete set of Postage Dues with Type 1 handstamps in red.¹²

The 1879 Postage Due Type 4 set was in the Bennett sale (sale 331, lot 256) and was complete. As shown in Figure 14, the 50¢ Postage Due shows a doubled handstamp. So now, the Postage Dues are known with all four handstamp types. Following the format established in the original article in *Chronicle* 227, census data for Postage Due card proofs with specimen handstamps is presented in Figure 15. The color dots indicate the handstamp color. Absence of a dot indicates an item is not recorded.



Figure 12. Previously unrecorded Postage Due proofs with Type 2 handstamp. Images courtesy of Harry Charles.



Figure 13. Previously unreported Postage Due card proofs with Type 3 handstamp. Images courtesy of Harry Charles.



Figure 14. Postage Due card proofs with Type 4 handstamp. Note that the 50¢ value shows a double impression.

Scott	Value	T1	T2	T3	T4
J1P4	1¢	●	●	●	●
J2P4	2¢	●	●	●	●
J3P4	3¢	●	●	●	●
J4P4	5¢	●	●	●	●
J5P4	10¢	●		●	●
J6P4	30¢	●	●	●	●
J7P4	50¢	●	●	●	●

Figure 15. The four “SPECIMEN” types and colors, as now recorded on card proofs of first-issue Postage Dues.

It is very surprising that these Postage Due proofs could go undetected for 100 years. This certainly shows that there are still major finds out there waiting for us. Maybe someone will locate the three large (1865) Newspaper and Periodical proofs, which are the only series of card proofs not yet seen with Type 1, 2 or 3 handstamps.

Type 5 Specimen handstamps in British Museums

Even after articles are published, research continues and new discoveries sometimes follow. One loose end in the original article has now been traced to a conclusion.

In discussing odds and ends, the original article mentioned a sans-serif "SPECIMEN" overprint, 15 millimeters long and all capital letters, that appears on a 6¢ Bank Note card proof



Figure 16. Card proofs showing the newly-identified Type 5 handstamp. While many examples have been located in British archives, these are the only two currently known in private hands.



Figure 17. Magnified views of the newly-discovered Type 5 "SPECIMEN" overprint. The left image shows the 15-millimeter handstamp under the gridlines of a millimeter gauge. The right image shows an image of the handstamp itself, greatly enlarged.



Figure 18. Examples of the Type 5 handstamps on card proofs in the British Library. This and other British Library images in this article are copyrighted (1979) by the British Library Board, Philatelic UPU Collection (USA).



Figure 19. Examples of the Type 5 “SPECIMEN” overprints handstamped on card proofs found in the British Postal Museum and Archive. Comparison of the Type 5 handstamps on the card proofs in two British archives (see also Figure 18) indicates they were all applied by the same hand-stamping device, probably by a clerk in the British Post Office in London.



that was in the 1990 Brazer Sale (lot 1576).¹³ That proof was sold again in the Eliot Landau sale in the spring of 2011.¹⁴ A card proof of the 2¢ 1887 Bank Note stamp, with this same black sans-serif 15 x 2.5 mm overprint, came to light through Bill Crowe at the APS show in 2010. Both proofs are shown in Figure 16. By themselves, these two items suggest there might be a fifth handstamp type. Figure 17 shows magnified views of this handstamp.

Writing about U.S. proofs in his book *UPU Specimen Stamps*, James Bendon says: “[Card proofs] at the National Postal Museum and at the British Library include the 1890-93 issue except for the 8¢ and correspond to the 1890 emission. Each proof in both of these collections has been handstamped ‘SPECIMEN’ 15 x 2.5 mm, certainly in London.”¹⁵

A correspondence with David Beech of the British Library resulted in scans from their UPU collection of U.S. stamps and proofs with specimen overprints. The scans show

114 card proofs with a sans-serif 15 x 2.5 mm “SPECIMEN” handstamp, definitively confirming the existence of the Type 5 handstamp. The earliest postage stamps represented are the 1873 Bank Note series. The Officials are nearly complete, and one Newspaper proof is present. The holding also includes a set of red-brown Postage Due proofs and a proof of the first Special Delivery stamp. Examples are shown in Figure 18.

A similar correspondence with Douglas Muir of the British Postal Museum and Archive resulted in scans from their collection of U.S. stamps and proofs with specimen overprints. These scans show 173 card proofs with a sans-serif 15 x 2.5 mm “SPECIMEN” Type 5 handstamp, obviously from the same handstamp that appears on the card proofs in the British Library. The collection in the British Postal Museum and Archive includes complete sets of the 1851 to 1875 issues, the Newspapers, the first and second Special Delivery stamps, and the Officials. Their holdings are partially complete through the 1890 series. Examples are shown in Figure 19. The proofs are all in their album SW516. Neither British archive contains the 1847 set with a Type 5 handstamp.

Specifics of the two archival holdings are shown in tabular form in Figure 20. The data shows that many of the Type 5 proofs exist in two copies. This is not surprising since in 1885 the UPU began requesting three sets for distribution to post offices.¹⁶ This raises the possibility of a third set of card proofs with Type 5 overprints (though there is currently no evidence of one). Assuming the British archival holdings began as two complete sets, Fig-

Issue	British Postal Museum	British Library	To Be Found?
1847			5¢, 10¢
1851	1¢-90¢		1¢-90¢
1851 Carriers	Franklin, Eagle		Franklin, Eagle
1861	1¢-90¢		1¢-90¢
1869	1¢-90¢		1¢-90¢
1873	2¢, 3¢, 7¢, 12¢, 24¢-90¢	2¢, 3¢, 7¢, 12¢, 24¢-90¢	1¢, 6¢, 10¢, 15¢
1879-1882	2¢, 5¢ Taylor	2¢, 5¢ Taylor, 5¢ Garfield	5¢ Garfield
1883		2¢	2¢, 4¢
1887	2¢, 3¢		3¢
1888	5¢, 30¢, 90¢		5¢, 30¢, 90¢
1890	1¢-15¢	1¢-15¢	
Agric. Dept.	1¢-30¢	1¢-30¢	
Executive	1¢-10¢	1¢-10¢	
Interior Dept.	1¢-90¢	1¢-15¢	24¢-90¢
Justice Dept.	1¢-90¢	1¢-90¢	
Navy Dept.	1¢-90¢	1¢-90¢	
Post Office Dept.	1¢-90¢	6¢-90¢	1¢-3¢
State Dept.	1¢-\$20	1¢-\$20	
Treasury Dept.	1¢-90¢	1¢-90¢	
War Dept.	1¢-90¢	1¢-90¢	
1865 Newspaper	5¢-25¢		5¢-25¢
1875 Newspaper	2¢-\$60	9¢	2¢-8¢, 10¢-\$60
Postage Due		1¢-50¢	1¢-50¢
Spl. Del. 1885	10¢		10¢
Spl. Del. 1888	10¢	10¢	

Figure 20. Card proofs with Type 5 “SPECIMEN” handstamp in the collections of the British Postal Museum and Archive and the British Library. The “To Be Found?” column indicates items that likely existed at one time and may still be discoverable today.



Figure 21. Based on archival invoices, the the 24¢ Treasury and War Department card proofs were presumed to be absent from the 1890 emission of card proofs. Their existence with the Type 5 handstamp suggests otherwise. Images from the British Postal Museum and Archive.



Figure 22. Type 5 “SPECIMEN” handstamp stretched vertically, likely due to too much pressure on the handstamp. Image from the British Library.



Figure 23. This 6¢ Post Office card proof shows the only known Inverted Type 5 handstamp. Scan courtesy of the British Postal Museum and Archive.

ure 20 also shows, in the column headed “To Be Found?” those Type 5 proofs that presumably started out in the UPU sets but are no longer in the British museums. While they have not yet been located, these items might at least theoretically be available for collectors.

Note that the two Type 5 proofs currently in private hands fit gaps in both holdings without exceeding the two-set threshold. The 6¢ Bank Note shown in Figure 16 is missing from both holdings. The 2¢ Bank Note shown in Figure 16 is present only in the British Postal Museum and Archive.

Neither organization had an explanation for the origins of the Type 5 handstamp, but Bendon asserts that the Type 5 handstamps were “certainly” applied in London, presumably by British postal officials. The Type 5 handstamps are almost certainly struck on the 1890 emission of card proofs, since the 1890 Bank Notes are included without the 8¢ value, and the Columbian Exposition stamps are not included. Based on billing documents in archival records, George Brett concluded that there were 191 proofs in the 1890 emission.¹⁷ The bill book Brett cited does not list 24¢ Treasury and War proofs so Brett did not count them. However, both proofs are present in both British archives. These two items, from the British Postal Museum and Archive, are shown in Figure 21. Thus the total number of different possible Type 5 proofs is 193.

There are few anomalies among the Type 5 handstamps in the British holdings. The handstamp shown on the 12¢ Agriculture proof in Figure 22, from the British Library, is stretched vertically at right, perhaps showing the effect of too much pressure on a rubber handstamp. Most of the impressions of the Type 5 handstamp are horizontal or nearly so. But the handstamp is inverted on the 6¢ Post Office from the British Postal Museum and Archive. This is shown in Figure 23. In a few cases, shown in Figure 24, the handstamp is doubled. These three are also from the British Postal Museum and Archive.

The important characteristics of each handstamp type are shown in tabular form in Figure 25. The handstamps shown are not precisely to scale, but close enough to depict the relative size and characteristics of the five different types. As noted in the table, overprint Types 1-3 appear on the 1879 emission of card proofs; Type 4 handstamps appear on card proofs from the 1882 emission; and the Type 5 handstamps appear on card proofs from the 1890 emission.



Figure 24. Three examples of doubling of the Type 5 handstamp. Scans courtesy of the British Postal Museum and Archive.

Type	Appearance	Font	Length	Height	Color	Proof
1		Sans serif, all caps	11.5 mm	1.75 mm	Red/Black	1879
2		Serif, caps & lc	13.0 mm	3-4.75 mm	Blue	1879
3		Serif, caps & lc	10.5 mm	2-3.5 mm	Blue	1879
4		Serif, all caps	22.0 mm	3-4 mm	Black	1882
5		Sans serif, all caps	15.0 mm	2.5 mm	Black	1890

Figure 25. Summary of salient features of the five types of specimen overprints found on card proofs of classic United States stamps. Images in the “Appearance” column are not precisely to scale, but close enough to depict the relative sizes and characteristics of the five handstamp types. The “Proof” column designates the emission year of the card proofs on which the overprints are struck. The Type 5 overprint, the discovery of which is announced in this article, exists almost exclusively in two British museum archives. Only two examples (shown in Figure 16) are currently recorded in private hands.

Summary

The new information presented here shows that Figures 14, 15, 17 and 21 of the original article should be revised as follows: In Figure 14, add 5¢ and 10¢ 1847 card proofs with Type 4 handstamps. For Figure 15, remove the question marks. For Figure 17, add the existence of a 3¢ 1861 card proof with Type 3 handstamp, and add Type 2 handstamps for the 5¢ and 15¢ items. And for Figure 21, delete the 24¢ Agriculture proof with Type 3 handstamp.

The first of two major additions is the discovery of Type 1, 2, and 3 handstamps on card proofs of the first Postage Due stamps. Previously these had been thought not to exist. So the count of possible Type 1, 2, and 3 handstamped proofs is now revised to 168 from 161. Not all of these have been reported. The number of possible Type 4 handstamped proofs is now revised to 170 from 167.¹⁸ Two of these are in a museum. The second is a new Type 5 handstamp that was discovered on 182 proofs (out of a possible 193). Unlike the Types 1-4, the Type 5 proofs are not unique; they may exist in two or even three copies for each item. All but two known copies of the Type 5 items are in museums.

This shows that the research is never done and our knowledge is never complete.

Acknowledgements

This work would not have been possible without the support of a number of individuals and organizations. They include David R. Beech (British Library), Mercer Bristow (American Philatelic Society), Harry K. Charles, William Crowe, Richard Drews, Douglas N. Muir (British Postal Museum and Archive), and Michael Perlman.

Endnotes

1. Michael Plett, "U.S. Card Proofs with Handstamped 'Specimen' Overprints," *Chronicle* 227, pp. 227-249.
2. Spink Shreves Galleries, July 21-23, 2010 sale, lot 573.
3. Matthew Bennett International, sale 331, September 21-22, 2010, lots 166, 168, 171, 172, 176, 181, 213, 222, 256, 262, 263 and 264.
4. Matthew Bennett International, sale 333, September 23-24, 2010, lots 3182 and 3190.
5. Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, sale 1003, December 15-17, 2010, lots 5257, 5258 and 5450.
6. Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, sale 802, July 15, 1998, lot 553.
7. Robson Lowe International Ltd., sale 4107, Basel, Switzerland, October 29, 1976, lot 2979.
8. *Ibid.*, lot 2980.
9. Matthew Bennett, Inc., sale 273, February 7, 2004, lot 3436.
10. Plett, *op. cit.*, pg. 238.
11. Plett, *op. cit.*, pg. 232.
12. Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, sale 857, February 27, 2003, lot 1128.
13. Plett, *op. cit.*, pg. 243.
14. Matthew Bennett International, sale 335, March 4, 2011, lot 52.
15. James Bendon, *UPU Specimen Stamps* (Nicosia, Cyprus: Zavallis Litho Ltd., 1988), pg. 212.
16. Bendon, *op. cit.*, pg. 223.
17. George W. Brett, *The Essay-Proof Journal*, Vol. 49, No. 1, First Quarter 1992, pg. 25.
18. Plett, *op. cit.*, pg. 248. ■

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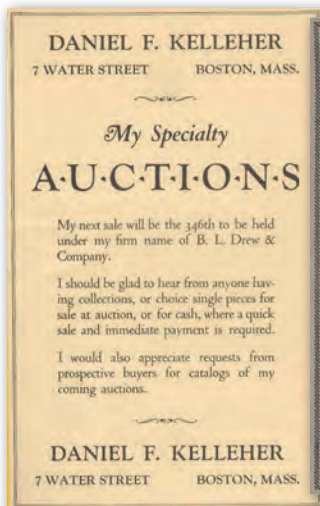
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NOTE FROM THE SECTION EDITOR

I am honored to assume the duties of editor of the Foreign Mails section. Like many other collectors, I am deeply indebted to our retiring section editor, Richard Winter. His invaluable two-volume book, Understanding Transatlantic Mail, his North Atlantic Mail Sailings (with Walter Hubbard), his many articles in The Chronicle and in other publications, his exhibits and his lectures, all these have greatly expanded the U.S.-foreign mail information available to collectors. Winter's work has substantially increased collector interest in foreign-mail covers.

Beyond his outstanding and prolific writing, Winter takes time from a busy schedule to patiently and promptly provide thorough and helpful answers to each of my (and other collectors') questions and to provide assistance with articles and other foreign-mail projects. I could not imagine a better mentor and role model. I look forward to presenting future contributions to this section from Winter as well as from other authors.

The Foreign Mails section this issue presents an article by U.S.-Bremen mail expert Georg Mehrtens, who has spent a great deal of time researching records in the Bremen State Archives concerning postal relations between the United States and Bremen in the mid-19th Century. In the article below, Mehrtens explains records he uncovered that shed light on the early treatment of valuable or registered letters.—D.O.L

TREATMENT OF LETTERS CONTAINING MONEY OR OTHER VALUABLES UNDER THE U.S.-BREMEN CONVENTION

GEORG D. MEHRTENS

Since the early years of the U.S.-Bremen mail service, so called “money letters” (“Geldbriefe” in German) were occasionally handled. The mail steamers did not carry such letters on every trip and the number of these “money letters” was very few. This information is based on the reports of the Bremen “Stadtpostamt” (state post office) on mails received and sent on each sailing of the mail steamers. As an example, Figure 1 shows an excerpt from the 20 March 1849 report from the Bremen state archives of the call of the *Hermann* (Ocean Steam Navigation Co.), which arrived at Bremerhaven on 13 March and departed on 20 March 1849. The listing shows that six “money letters” were carried for which postage of 3 thaler, 3 grote had been paid.

During the early part of the Convention, the U.S. postal administration was not willing to accommodate registration on the international routes. One main reason for not allowing registration of mail was that such letters would be earmarked as containing valuables and would more likely be objects of pilferage.

As of 1 August 1855, registration was finally allowed on mail under the U.S.-Bremen Convention.¹ Still, in the vast territory of the United States, the opinion remained that valuable letters would be a target of theft as they would easily be identified by being sent under registry. This might have been a reason why even after 1 August 1855, money and valuables were sent in letters that were not marked registered.

Since ordinary letters were never opened at the Bremen Stadtpostamt (other than returned letters if the original sender had to be identified), it can be assumed that the New York exchange office separately packed letters it knew contained money or valuables. This enabled Bremen to handle such mail specially.

Das Dampfschiff *Hermann* ist auf der fünf-
 ten Reise von Newyork nach Bremen am 13. März d.,
 Abgangzeit: 2 Ufr., auf der Reise von Bremerhaven
 eingetroffen, und hat die nachfolgenden großen Posten von
 Briefen überbracht:

für Bremen	571 Th.	194 Pf 42 gr.
• Hannover		
(weitergeleitet) 4748		224 Pf 4
• Spandau	681	216 19
• die Postämter		
Briefe	235	61 14
Geldbriefe	6	3 3
<hr/>		
	9241 Th.	2722 Pf 10 gr.
zusamt	2	58
besonders abgeleitet	31	11 —
<hr/>		
	9274 Th.	2733 Pf 6 gr.

Die Briefe durch uns Newyork am 20 Februar 1849
 9868 Th. zu 1979 \$ 22 = also 2748 Pf 66 gr.

Figure 1. Excerpt from 20 March 1849 report of the call of the *Hermann* (Ocean Steam Navigation Co.). The listing (underlined in red) shows six “Geldbriefe” (money letters) were carried, for which 3 thaler, 3 grothe was paid.

In the mails for the return trip to New York, the Bremen Stadtpostamt also separately listed registered letters. Figure 2 is an excerpt from the same report as Figure 1. It shows the *Hermann* carried four registered letters on her westbound trip, two unpaid and two paid letters. In this regard, in Germany before 1855, it was possible to send a letter from the inland under recommendation (registration) to Bremen for further transportation to the United States. Bremen had informed those German states that were members of the German Austrian Postal Union (GAPU) that mail could be sent under recommendation only to Bremen but not further on the transatlantic leg to the United States. Such service was also available for mails arriving from the United States for distribution in Bremen or for further forwarding to inland destinations.²

Letter bills and Acknowledgement of Receipt forms

In this connection, it is interesting that the U.S. postal administration issued a printed “Letter Bill” and a related “Acknowledgement of Receipt.” Both forms have sections with headings concerning the particulars of the registered letters mentioned in the letter bills.

I.	
a, Unpaid letters for the U. S.	3749.
<u>registered lett.</u>	<u>2.</u>
b, Missent, redirected and returned letters, received from the U. S.	93.
c, Letters, upon which the European postage is unpaid	4909.
II.	
Paid letters for the U. S.	
a, paid to Newyork	489.
b, paid to destination	318.
<u>registered lett.</u>	<u>2.</u>
	<u>9469.</u>

Figure 2. Excerpt from the 20 March 1849 report showing the *Hermann* carried four registered letters on her westbound trip, two unpaid and two paid (underlined in red).

Particulars of the Registered Letters affixed to the present Bill and included in the foregoing Articles.

Number.	Whence sent.	To whom addressed.	Place of Destination.

Figure 3. Section of Letter Bill and Acknowledgement of Receipt forms sent by the United States post office to the Bremen state post office, probably in autumn 1848. The form has sections for describing registered letters enumerated on the letter bill.

Figure 3 shows an example of one of these sections. Details of registered letters could be described in these sections. Most likely these forms were received at Bremen in autumn 1848. In the Bremen archives, the blank forms are filed between records dated August 1848 and October 1848. From the early times of the U.S. contract service rendered by the Ocean Line (Ocean Steam Navigation Co.), accounting was done on these forms. Such records are available only in the various files of the Bremen state archives. It is possible that these printed forms, supplied by the U.S. postal administration, were used to accompany shipments of mail. Unfortunately, only blank forms can be found in the Bremen state archives.³

Since no forms have been found filled in, it can only be guessed until proof is found that money letters handled and sent under registry between the U.S. and Bremen postal administrations were recorded in the “Registered Letters” section on each form.

Pre-1855 letter endorsed “Recomandirt”

The reports and letter bills in the Bremen archives referred to registered letters even though registration was not officially available in the United States until 1 July 1855.⁴ However, informal registration existed in some U.S. cities before that date.⁵ The informally registered cover shown in Figure 4 may be an example of the type of letter referred to in the Figure 1 report.

The letter is from St. Louis on 22 August 1852 to Backnang, Württemberg. This was before domestic registration was available in the United States (1 July 1855) and before registration was added under the Convention (1 August 1855). The sender paid 20¢ which was sufficient for the rate to (but not beyond) Bremen under the 1851 rates of the Bremen Convention. The St. Louis post office handstamped a red 20 at upper right to indicate the prepayment and struck the two-line PAID/PART in black to indicate the letter was paid only to Bremen.

The word “Recomandirt” (registered) is written diagonally in the lower left corner. It was probably written by the sender in St. Louis since the style of the handwriting is similar to that of both the endorsement “pr New York” and “Württemberg” in the address. The ink colors are also similar. The fact the St. Louis postmark is over the word “Recomandirt” also tends to support the idea it was written in St. Louis. Someone writing “Recomandirt” after the letter left St. Louis likely would have chosen a blank space elsewhere on the front of the folded letter.

A New York exchange-office clerk struck the straight line PAID PART marking, also indicating the letter was paid only to Bremen. Since there was no scheduled Ocean Line sailing, the letter was put on the New York & Havre Line *Franklin*, which departed from New York on 28 August 1852, and arrived at Southampton on 9 September 1852.⁶ The *Franklin* carried Bremen mail in closed mail bags through England.⁷ The backstamps show



Figure 4. 22 August 1852 folded letter from St. Louis to Backnang, Württemberg. The 20¢ prepayment paid postage only to Bremen, where 9 kreuzer was due. Although “Recomandirt” (registered) is written at lower left by sender in St. Louis, no other markings indicate letter was handled as registered.



Figure 5. 5 December 1859 envelope from Mineral (probably Ohio) to Weinsberg, Württemberg. The cash 24¢ prepayment overpaid the 15¢ convention rate. Not marked as registered in the United States, but marked and handled as registered in Germany.

the letter was carried on the railroad from Minden to Deutz on 15 September 1852 and that the letter reached Backnang on 18 September 1852. The manuscript 9 is the amount in kreuzer currency that was due in Württemberg.

Other than the endorsement “Recomandirt,” this letter has no other markings (e.g., registered, recommandirt, or chargé) applied either in the United States or in Germany indicating it was to be handled specially. Thus, there is no proof it was handled as a registered letter on its transit through New York to Bremen, or on its way to Württemberg. At least three covers similar to the Figure 4 cover also exist, including one addressed to Baden and another to Württemberg. Like the Figure 4 cover, these covers bear no indication they were specially handled in Germany. To date, there are no covers reported from the pre-1855 period that can be confirmed to have been specially handled as registered letters sent under the U.S.-Bremen Convention. This paucity of reported covers is quite understandable as very few registered letters were shown in the records as having been carried.

Nevertheless, the fact that the Bremen Stadtpostamt was reporting the number of registered letters received and sent between the United States and Bremen indicates such letters likely were separated from ordinary mail and may have been treated specially. Recently, a cover has come to light that might indicate how such letters were handled.

Not marked registered in the U.S. but marked and so handled in Germany.

The Figure 5 cover, despite having been misused as a coaster, is the only example reported to date of a letter that was not marked as registered mail in the United States but marked and handled as registered mail in Germany. The letter is from “Mineral” (probably Ohio), sent on 5 December 1859 to Weinsberg, Württemberg. Thus, it was sent after registration became effective under the Convention. The sender paid 24¢ (15¢ would have been correct) confirmed by the manuscript Paid 24 cts. in the upper right corner. The New York exchange office clerk struck the datestamp, N.YORK 12 BREM PK./DEC/31/PAID, thereby crediting Bremen 6¢ sea, 5¢ German inland postage, plus 1¢ for Bremen and sent

the letter by the 31 December 1859 departure of the steamship *Bremen* of the North German Lloyd line to Bremen. Because of a broken crankshaft, the vessel stayed in Southampton for repairs after arriving there on 14 January 1860. The mails were sent on to Bremen separately.

The Bremen Stadtpostamt opened the mail bags arriving from the United States. That office identified and handled these letters in a protective way (in line with the interest of the sender and the dispatching U.S. post office).⁸ The letter has no U.S. markings that would have revealed it contained money or valuables. Nevertheless, either the New York post office separately sorted it as a letter containing valuables or a Bremen Stadtpostamt clerk somehow recognized it as containing valuables.

As required by the prevailing German-Austrian Postal Union rules for registered letters, the Bremen Stadtpostamt clerk noted the weight of “9/10 L excl.” (manuscript in blue ink, upper left corner stating a weight under 9/10 loth or approximately ½ ounce).⁹ He also wrote the sentence in blue at the top of the cover: “wegen Geldeinlage – recommandirt” which says freely translated “because of money contents – registered.” Without striking its usual “Recommandirt” marking, the Stadtpostamt passed the letter to the Hannover post office in Bremen where AMERICA/ÜBER BREMEN/Franco was applied. From Hannover, the letter was sent to Thurn and Taxis. A Frankfurt Thurn and Taxis clerk struck FRANKFURT/21/JAN/1860/9½-10 (reverse) and CHARGÉ (front). The letter then was sent via HEILBRONN/22/JAN/1860 to WEINSBERG/22/1/60, as indicated by the back-stamps.

The handling of the Figure 5 cover, the fact that registered letters were separately reported between the United States and Bremen, and the availability of registration within Germany before 1855, all raise the question of whether these pre-1855 informally registered letters were handled specially within Germany even though they were not so marked. The author would appreciate reports of other such covers.

Endnotes

1. 16 U.S. Statutes at Large, pp. 955-56.
2. Rules for registration within the GAPU are in Article XXII of the Treaty between Austria and Prussia for the Establishment of the German Austrian Postal Union, signed at Berlin, 6 April 1850, reprinted in Clive Parry, LL.D., ed., *The Consolidated Treaty Series*, 231 vols. (Dobbs Ferry, New York: Oceana Publications, 1969), Vol. 104, pp. 1, 7.
3. Bremen State Archives – Section 2-R, File 7g 14, Volumes 1 and 2.
4. 10 May 1855 Instructions to Postmasters and Notice to Public, reprinted in James W. Milgram, *United States Registered Mail 1845-1879* (North Miami, Florida: David G. Phillips Publishing Co., 1998), pp. 29-30.
5. Richard F. Winter, *Understanding Transatlantic Mail*, Volume 1 (Bellefonte, Penn.: American Philatelic Society, 2006), pp. 308-09.
6. All North Atlantic sailing dates are from Walter Hubbard and Richard F. Winter, *North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75* (Canton, Ohio: The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc., 1988).
7. Bremen closed mails are explained in *North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75*, *ibid.*, pp. 409-14.
8. Bremen certainly had reasons to expect the New York exchange office to handle the arriving registered letters from Bremen in the same way. So far, no correspondence between the U.S. and the Bremen postal administrations relating to the handling of such mail has been found in the Bremen state archives or elsewhere.
9. One loth equaled 16.667 grams (or .5833 ounces). ■

ANSWER TO PROBLEM COVER IN CHRONICLE 233

The problem cover from *Chronicle* 233 is shown in Figures 1 and 2. This cover originated in Madeira in 1856, and is addressed to Washington, D.C. It was part of a family correspondence recently auctioned by the H.R. Harmer firm (their sale 3000). The backstamps,

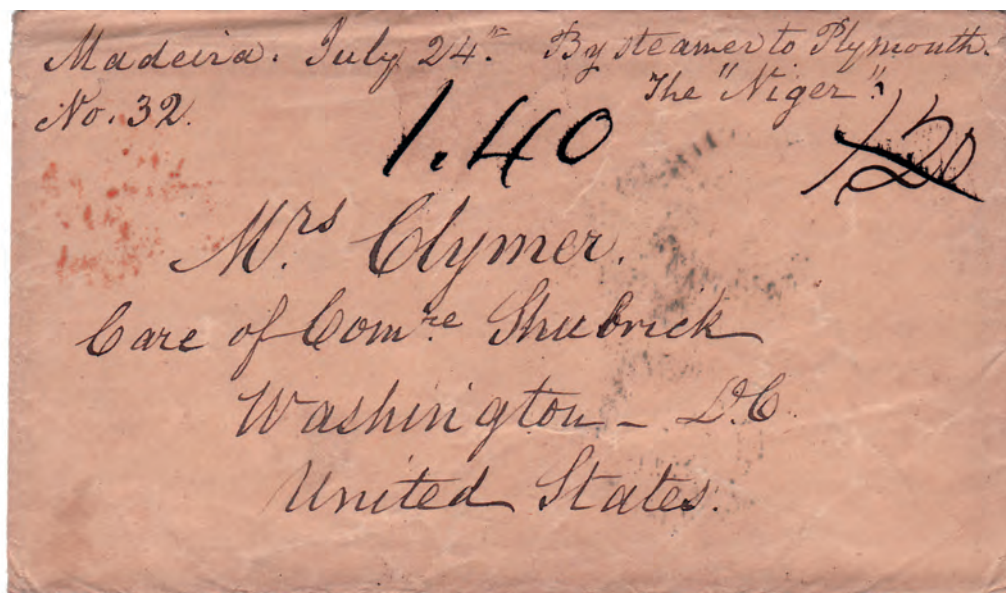


Figure 1. Problem cover from *Chronicle* 233, from Madeira to Washington, D.C. in 1856. The question was: Why \$1.40 due?

shown (reduced) in Figure 2, are a black “MADEIRA JY23 1856” circular datestamp struck by the British post office at Madeira, intertwined with a red “BA 31 JY 31 1856” London transit circular datestamp; also a “PLYMOUTH PACKET LETTER JY30 1856 8” British arrival/transit cds and “BOSTON Br. PKt. 13 AUG” exchange-office marking.

The front of the cover (Figure 1) shows a black manuscript endorsement “Madeira July 24th. By Steamer to Plymouth. The Niger,” across the top, and black manuscript “1.20” debit to the United States in the upper right corner. In a different ink than the debit, this has been rerated to indicate a total of “1.40” to be collected from the addressee.



Figure 2. Backstamps from the Figure 1 cover (reduced).

During this era (1849–1859) the correct rate for a half-ounce letter from Madeira on this route was 65¢, of which 60¢ belonged to England and 5¢ represented the U.S. inland postage.

The question was: Since this was a double-rated cover, correctly assessed as such by the English debit, why was it rated \$1.40 due instead of the expected \$1.30?

Unusually, we received no response to this question. The following explanation is provided by the section editor. Several other lots in the same auction were covers from this same find, correctly rated 65¢ due as single-rate covers or \$1.30 as double rates. I believe that in spite of the Boston British Packet exchange-office marking on reverse, indicating this cover entered via a British packet, the Boston rating clerk mistakenly assessed this as an incoming steamship cover, requiring steamship postage of 10¢ per half ounce (for under 2500 miles). Since this was a double-rate cover, he added 20¢ steamship postage to the \$1.20 English debit, resulting in the \$1.40 due rating.

This may have been the result of confusion resulting from the very visible manuscript routing at upper right “By steamship Plymouth, the ‘Niger.’” The steamer *Niger* belonged to the Elder Dempster Company, which was formed in 1852 as the African Steam Ship Company, with a contract to carry mails from London via Plymouth to Madeira, Tenerife and the west coast of Africa. After travelling to England on the *Niger*, this cover crossed the Atlantic on the Cunard steamer *Canada*, departing Liverpool 2 August 1856 and arriving Boston on August 13.

PROBLEM COVER FOR THIS ISSUE

Our problem cover for this issue, shown (with backflap opened out) in Figure 3, is a stampless cover that originated in Tampico, Mexico in 1848. At upper right on the cover front is a red crowned circle “PAID AT TAMPICO” intertwined with a black “FRANCO



Figure 3. Problem cover for this issue: From Tampico to San Antonio in 1848. The questions are, what do the rate markings represent and how was this cover routed?

SANTA ANNA DE TAMAULUS SETre 15” circular datestamp. In the upper left corner is a black “PORT LAVACA Tex. 1848 Oct 19” cds. The cover is addressed to “care of R.D. Blossman Esq.” in New Orleans, with the “New Orleans” subsequently stricken out. At top center is a black manuscript “Steam 2” over a “24” which is summed to 26¢ cents due from addressee. The same summing is repeated at lower right. On reverse is a red “TAMPICO SP 15 1848” cds with a black hand-stamped “1” adjacent and a black manuscript notation “forwarded by yo s R.D. Blossman.”

Questions: What do the rate markings represent and how was this cover routed? ■

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Lilly 1967



Kapiloff 1992



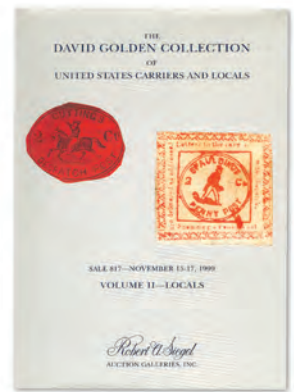
Honolulu Advertiser 1995



Zoellner 1998



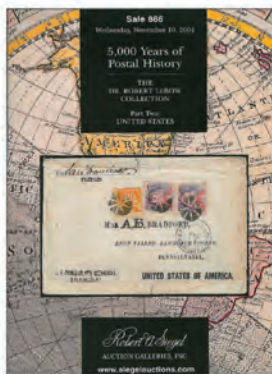
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