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The
Chronicle
of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues

August, 1968

Volume 20, No. 3

Whole No. 59

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The *Chronicle* is prepared to accept classified advertising from the membership on a basis of 50¢ per half column line. Using 8 pt. type, this will run about 40 letters or spaces per line, give or take a few. The major purpose of the classified ads is to permit members to locate, buy or sell specialized material, rather than a purely commercial intent.

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THE 1847-'51 PERIOD

CREIGHTON C. HART, *Editor*

1847 Covers from Chicago*

HARVEY M. KARLEN

Dr. Harvey M. Karlen is professor of political science in the Chicago City College; author of *"The Governments of Chicago," "The Pattern of American Government"* and other publications. This is the first article on '47 covers from a single city and is written by a specialist in Chicago postal history. *The editor.*

When Chicago first established a post office in 1832 it was a hamlet of but 150 souls; by the time it was incorporated as a city in 1837, there were 4,170 residents. The continued influx of newcomers resulted in a population of 16,859 by 1847. Thus, by the time of issue of the 1847 postage stamps, Chicago had grown to a population of some 17,000 persons, and its gross area had expanded from one square mile to nearly 10 square miles. During the lifetime of this 1847 issue, 1847-1851, Chicago's population doubled. Chicago was a city of young people for of the estimated 34,000 persons residing in the area, half were children.

Although nearly all of Chicago's residents came from some other place, letter writing apparently was not as common as might be expected. One indication of this, we shall see, is in the number of stamps sent to the Chicago post office. Another indication is the limited availability of stampless covers from Chicago during this period. Since the sender had the choice of both prepaid postage stamps, or prepaid or unpaid stampless use, the need for using stamps was not important. Nevertheless, the issues of the *Illinois Postal History Society Bulletin*, 1955-1962, reported only some 30 stampless covers from Chicago during 1847-1851, one-third of which were 10¢ markings.

On December 1, 1847 John Marron, third assistant Postmaster General, reported that "stamps . . . have been issued to 95 postmasters for distribution. Notwithstanding they have been found very convenient in many localities, and under various circumstances, there has not been that great demand for them that was anticipated. Many important commercial towns have not applied for them, and in others they are only used in trifling amounts." Mr. Marron's remarks are tailor made for Chicago. Chicago was one of the 95 post offices to receive an early supply of this first issue of stamps. The first shipment was sent on July 30 arriving on August 5, and consisted of 1,200 fives and 400 tens. Chicago was also one of the "important commercial" towns that used the stamps in "trifling amounts." The second supply of stamps was not requisitioned until nearly two years later when 1,000 fives and 500 tens were sent on June 8, 1849 arriving there on June 16. Commercial towns on the Great Lakes such as Detroit, Cleveland and Chicago were just beginning their phenomenal growth during this period. Up until then seaports and river towns had been our large commercial centers.

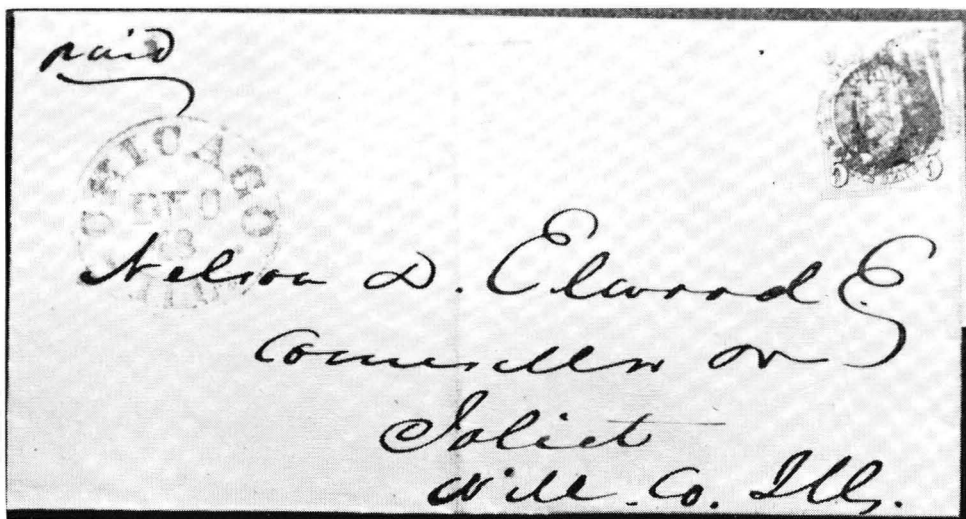
Chicago, and the other 18 Illinois post offices that ultimately received shipments of the 1847 stamps, recorded a total of 28,300 of the 5¢ and 11,000 of the 10¢ issue. The Chicago post office received almost half of the 1847 stamps.

There are thirty-one covers listed bearing the 5¢ stamp, and half of these are addressed to members of the law firm of Parks and Elwood of Joliet, Illinois, county seat of neighboring Will county. There are seven 10¢ covers reported from Chicago, and three of these are addressed to an officer of the United States Bank in Philadelphia.

Conspicuous by their absence are covers from the correspondence of the

lawyer and speculator Dean Richmond of Batavia and Buffalo, New York. Ezra Cole, in a letter to the author, relates that Richmond supplied stamps of the 1847 series to his emissaries investigating commercial possibilities in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois—including Chicago—and they reported their findings to him. Mr. Cole reports that two friends went through the old law office and discovered between 50 and 100 1847 covers, including ten or fewer Chicago covers. Of this number, he recalls handling a few pairs of the 5¢ and a single 10¢ on cover from Chicago. The accompanying lists of known covers do not include any examples from the Dean Richmond correspondence. The author would appreciate knowing the whereabouts of these or others from Chicago.

Sometimes rate marks are on the covers prepaid by stamps, just as if they were stampless covers of this period. The "5" or "10" Chicago rate mark is enclosed in a saw-toothed or cogged oval which usually did not hit the stamp. Covers with the rate mark within the saw-toothed cog are popular and sell well especially if the cog is clearly struck. On covers where the seven-bar enclosed circular grid is used as a canceller, the cog may also be struck well clear of the stamp. The cog is known on those covers indicated in the following table and may be on others. Covers numbered 1 to 11 have the townmark found on the illustrated 10¢ cover, a townmark used from 1844 to December 1852, although no use has been seen on 1847 covers after December 1849. The circle is 29 mm. wide and the state is indicated "Ill." Those covers numbered 12 to 28 have a later type of circular townmark 30 mm. wide with a dash (—) before the state which is in capital letters "ILL." This is found on the illustrated 5¢ cover.



AUTHOR'S COLLECTION

Cover from the Elwood correspondence, from Chicago to Joliet, Ill., with enclosed letter showing 1850 use. 5¢ stamp struck twice with the 7 bar enclosed circular grid in red. This red townmark with large letters used from December 1849 to May 1852.

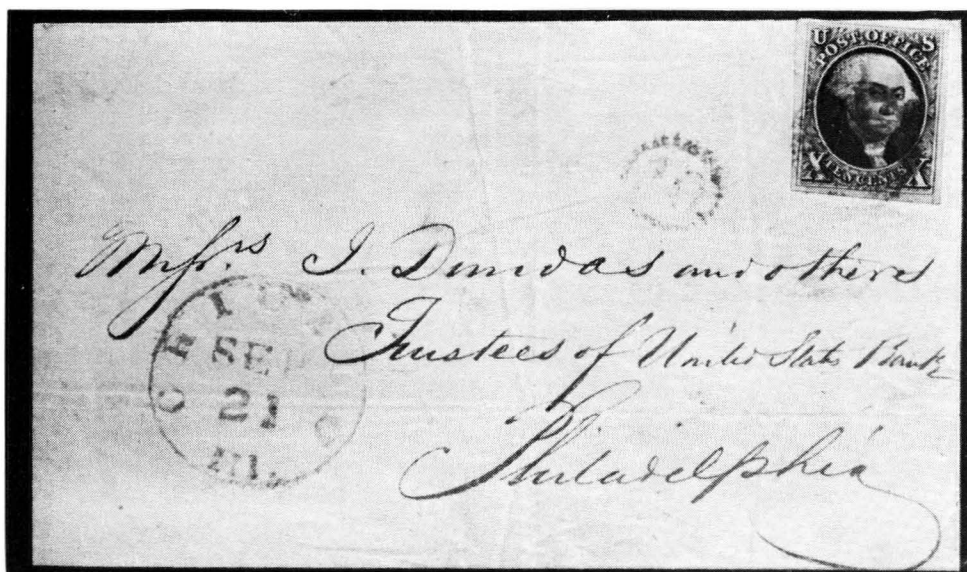
Similar markings are found on the 10¢ covers. Those numbered 1 to 4 on the following list have the 29 mm. circular townmark; those numbered 5 through 8 have the 30 mm. townmark, each of course with appropriate type for the state designation.

Noteworthy among the 5¢ covers is cover #28 which bears a copy of the extremely rare double transfer type "D." This cover was sold in a Newbury sale (1961) where it realized \$625 despite a "faint surface rub."

The shades of ink varied considerably until the middle of 1850. Those shades have been described as "pink," which is pale, to a very dark shade called "maroon." "Chicago pink" is popular among collectors and the extremely fine 10¢

cover, #4 on the 10¢ list, sold for \$1,300 in a Robert A. Siegel auction (1961), the highest realization for any Chicago '47 cover.

There are other known Chicago covers for which date of usage or other



AUTHOR'S COLLECTION

Envelope from Chicago to Philadelphia believed used in 1849. No use of this townmark has been seen in 1850-1851, although it was reported used from 1844 to December 1852. 10¢ stamp tied by faint red 7 bar enclosed circular grid. The 10 in "Chicago Cog" was used to indicate rate.

5¢ COVERS ORIGINATING FROM CHICAGO

Date	Year	Cancel Color	Obliterator	Destination
1. Sept. 3	1847	magenta	?	New York, N.Y.
2. Sept. 3	1847	red	cog	Joliet, Ill.
3. Sept. 8	1847	red	grid	Joliet, Ill.
4. Sept. 12	1847	red	cog	Joliet, Ill.
5. May 17	1849	pink	townmark	Rockford, Ill.
6. Sept. 28	1849	rust red	grid	Marengo, Ill.
7. Nov. 20	1849	violet	grid	Monroe, Wis.
8. Jan. 15	?	red	grid	?
9. June 30	?	red	grid	Joliet, Ill.
10. Oct. 14	?	red	cog	Joliet, Ill.
11. Oct. 23	?	red	cog	?
12. Dec. 19	1849	dark red	grid	Springfield, Ill.
13. June 10	1850	dark red	grid	Kenosha, Wis.
14. June 18	1850	red	cog	Joliet, Ill.
15. Aug. 1	1850	red	cog	Oregon, Ill.
16. Aug. 14	1850	red	grid	Oregon, Ill.
17. Sept. 14	1850	red	grid	Oregon, Ill.
18. Oct. 1	1850	red orange	grid	Joliet, Ill.
19. Dec. 18	1850	red orange	grid	Joliet, Ill.
20. Dec. 31	1850	red	grid	Joliet, Ill.
21. Jan. 7	1851	red	grid	?
22. Jan. 10	1851	red	grid	?
23. Mar. 6	1851	red	grid	Joliet, Ill.
24. Apr. 12	1851	red	grid	?
25. May 9	1851	red	grid	?
26. May 22	1851	red	cog	Joliet, Ill.
27. Mar. 20	?	red	grid	Joliet, Ill.
28. Mar. 23	?	red	cog	Joliet, Ill.
29. Apr. 7	?	?	?	?
30. May 2	?	red	cog	Joliet, Ill.
31. Dec. 11	?	magenta	grid	Joliet, Ill.

10¢ COVERS ORIGINATING FROM CHICAGO

<i>Date</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Cancel Color</i>	<i>Obliterator</i>	<i>Destination</i>
1. Sept. 21	1849	red	cog	Philadelphia, Pa.
2. Nov. 5	1849	pink	cog	?
3. Nov. 21	1849	pink	cog	Philadelphia, Pa.
4. Oct. 1	?	pink	cog	Danielsonville, Ct.
5. Dec. 28	1849	red	grid	Philadelphia, Pa.
6. Dec. 2	?	red	cog	?
7. ?	?	red	grid	New York, N.Y.
8. ?	?	magenta	cog	Philadelphia, Pa.

descriptive information is lacking. The author and your editor will appreciate being advised of any Chicago '47 covers not listed in this article. If anyone can supply missing information, indicated by an "?" on the tables, this will also be appreciated.—Dr. Harvey M. Karlen, 315 N. Maple Ave., Oak Park, Ill. 60302

Next issue "1847 Covers From Mississippi."

* The author acknowledges his debt to the article by Richard Russell and George Wolters, "The 1847-1851 Postage Stamps in Illinois," *Illinois Postal History Society Bulletin* (March-April, 1962), pp. 1-8.

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THE 1851-'60 PERIOD

TRACY W. SIMPSON, *Editor*

SYMBOLS USED IN THIS SECTION

To conserve space, the following symbols for the 3¢ stamp of the 1851-'60 issue are used according to the practice of specialists in this stamp for many years. The symbol is at left of hyphen, and its Scott's U.S. Specialized number or other designation is at right of hyphen. Postal markings are in black unless otherwise specified.
Three cents: S1-10; S2-11 (incl. plate I [late]) in orange brown; S3-25; S4-26A; S5-26.

Members' Exhibits of the 1851-'60 Issue at WESTPEX

As expected the WESTPEX exhibit at San Francisco late in April had a distinctly Western flavor because it included prize showings of members of the Western Cover Society, many of whom also are "Classics" members. But the strictly stampic issues were not missing. *Mr. R. C. Mitchell* won a gold for a beautiful showing of all classics issues, 1847 thru 1869, mostly for stampic quality rather than for postal uses. Noted particularly was a block of nine 3ct S5 with plate No. 24P on piece. *Ye Period Editor* showed non-competitively the 2600 positions of S1 and S2 reconstructions, plus imperf specialties that included all plate numbers and proof that plate "O" had no number, also the largest reported block of S2 on cover, etc.

The top prize winner of the Western group was *Mr. M. C. Nathan* with a 12-frame exhibit of transatlantic mails to and from California and western states, an extraordinarily rare group when it is considered that most California mail was either to local points or to eastern U.S. Noted particularly were the following:

Santa Fe, N.M., to France via Br. Pkt; three 10ct perf(strip) with N.Y. Paid 24. Downieville, Cal., to France via Havre; Pair 10ct and 3ct Nesbitt, pre-treaty overpaying the 20ct rate.

San Francisco to France thru England via Am Pkt; two 10ct TyV and 3ct, underpaying the 30ct double rate, hence bearing black New York debit "6."

San Francisco to England via Am Pkt; three 10 ct TyV overpaying the 29ct rate.

Georgetown, Cal., to Denmark; with 24ct, 10 ct, and 1ct for the 35 ct rate via Prussian Closed Mail.

San Francisco to Switzerland; three 10ct TyV and 5ct Ty II, via Prussian Closed Mail with red "12" credit to Prussia.

Jamestown, Cal., to Italy, with 10ct Nesbitt, brought to New York via Wells Fargo, thence sent collect via Prussian Closed Mail bearing black New York "23" Br. Pkt.

The collection also included a profusion of treaty-mail covers to England and France, many of which exemplify the scarce San Francisco 26, 29, and 30 PAID markings.

Mr. B. C. Pearce showed non-competitively what is undoubtedly the most complete group of Via Nicaragua covers. Though exhibited for depicting the various kinds of Via Nic markings, thirty-three covers bore 1851-'60 stamps, among them three 12ct bi-sects, one 3ct bisect, a pair 12ct plus 3ct to England, and numerous 6ct and 10ct Nesbitts, many with N.Y. SHIP.

Mr. W. H. Semsrott won a gold with a five-frame showing of covers related to postal history of St. Louis and the West. In addition to a splendid showing of California markings among which were a strip of six 1ct No. 7 from Marysville, a 12ct bi-sect S.F.-to-N.Y. via Accessory Transit, and Independent Line, Uncle Sam and North Star. Two covers from Honolulu with U.S. stamps and Hawaiian Nos. 6 and 8 also were included. Principal among the others were western territorials including Portland O.T., Vancouver W.T., Camp Floyd (both types) U.T. and others, notably from New Mexico; Fernando de Taos, Santa Fe, Ft. Union,

and Ft. Fillmore; from Kansas Territory; Ft. Leavenworth (Mo.), Sumner, Mountain City (later C.T.), and from Nebraska Territory; Florence, Nebraska City, Ft. Kearney, and Ft. Laramie (both as N.T. and OR (Oregon)). Many covers with a distinctly St. Louis flavor were included, among which were two that bore the Pacific Railroad route-agent marking.

Mr. W. C. Aichele exhibited not for competition a striking showing of 19th century covers from Colorado towns. The few that bore stamps of the 1851-'60 period included a Golden Gate K.T. (mss) on 3ct Nesbitt (heretofore unlisted before 1862), a Denver City C.T., and a Central Overland originating in C.T. but postmarked at St. Joseph, Mo.

Mr. R. A. Hanson won a silver for his Nevada town covers. Not many stamps of our period could be included because N.T. was not formed until March, 1861. However, a Carson Valley U.T. with 10ct Nesbitt was noted as well as a Silver City U.T. Wells Fargo on star die envelope.

Outstanding was *Mr. H. H. Clifford's* 12-frame exhibit of California express covers, awarded a silver because barely nosed out by a non-member's showing in the same category. In addition to a profusion of Wells Fargo's of all types were examples of most of the known express carriers of the period. Noted among them were Alta Express, J. Bambrugger & Co., Beekman's, F. W. Blake, Everts (Wilson, Davis, and Snell variations), Freeman, W. T. Gibbs, Greathouse & Slicer, Greenhood & Newbauer, Hall & Allen, J. W. Hoag, Langton, Pacific, Rhodes & Whitney, F. Rumrill, Swift & Co., Singers, and Singer & Morrow—all as handstamps. Printed franks and corner cards greatly increased the variety shown.

Several Central Overland covers were shown with Pony Express ovals of San Francisco, and one originating at New York bearing the California Pony Express-New York oval. The California Penny Post adhesives and overprints were liberally shown, including the Paid 5 and Paid 7; also the oval Penny Post Co.-Stockton. Noisy Carrier markings were represented in all known types, and similarly most of the Via Nicaraguas, including those with SULLIVAN and LELAND.

The stamps associated with these covers mostly were Nesbitts as legally required, but a sprinkling of S2's and 10ct adhesives were noted, some in multiples. One cover also bore a 30ct adhesive.

Dr. W. S. Pollard won a silver by showing a specialized study of postal history of Marysville, Calif. Among the stamped and Nesbitt covers of our period were circular townmarks containing 10, PAID 3, and the classic PAID BY STAMPS. Among the obliterations were the double-sized grid for cancelling two stamps, the blue-blocks, the diamond-heart "poker" hand, the cross-roads, and the fancy star. Also among the rating marks was the oval PAID/6. The earliest PAID BY STAMPS marking exhibited was of Oct. 31, 1854, long before the elimination of the collect-stampless rate (contrary to the belief of early students). Almost all markings are in blue, as was characteristic of Marysville at that time.

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San Francisco DUE 4 on Local Letter

The cover, Fig. 1, reported by Mr. M. L. Neinken bears a pair of 1ct imperf Type IV's, 44-45R1(L), tied by the San Francisco 27mm townmark and grid with DUE 4; the cover is addressed to San Francisco.



Figure 1

If this cover were taken by its sender to the postoffice and deposited as a drop letter the postage would have been 1ct, regardless of weight, and the extra 1ct would also pay a carrier-delivery fee. Hence, why the DUE 4? The most probable explanation is that this cover was brought to the San Francisco postoffice by one of the small river steamboats which picked up the letter at some distant point on San Francisco Bay or tributaries. The addressor perhaps thought the only postage required was what was on the letter. However, the PL&R states that covers at that time if unpaid and *brought by a steamboat* had to be treated as an unpaid ship letter and charged 6cts if addressed to the postoffice of arrival, an arrangement that continued until Feb. 27, 1861, which was after the mailing date of this cover. The DUE 4, therefore, was added to correspond with the 6cts required postage.

Cunard Mail from Boston to Nova Scotia

U.S.-to-Halifax letters via Cunard British packet were prepaid 5cts for the U.S. inland postage plus shore-to-ship. When addressed to Halifax and perhaps to other inland points the letters also carried a large "5" (5d) and later "10" (10cts), presumably to indicate collect Nova Scotia inland and British packet postage. Mr. G. J. Bernadt now reports a cover bearing S2 and two 1ct Ty V's on letter from Boston, June 16, 1858, to Cornwallis, N.S., bearing a large "8d" (illus. E) on face of cover. The increase from the usual "5" to "8" may have been caused by weight of letter or by distance from Halifax to Cornwallis. The letter is backstamped with the usual Boston Br. Pkt. and also a Kentville N.S. Information is requested as to Nova Scotia inland rates on such letters or with a further explanation of this 8d rating.

Largest Circular Townmark

What may well be the largest circular U.S. postal townmark of the "classics" period, and perhaps without such limitation, is depicted in Fig. 2 on 3ct U.S.

envelope. The inner portion contains WAYNMANVILLE/ mssD/ UPSON CO. GEO., and between the concentric circles is FRANKLIN & WAYNMAN COTTON — AND OSNABURG FACTORIES. The outside diameter is 53mm.

No certain identification of the letters that follow COTTON has been reported so far as known to Ye Editor. The Carroll Chase book shows it as



Figure 2

YARN; the H. K. Thompson list shows it as DALE; some also show it as YARN. A close examination of the cover from which the photo is taken shows what appears to be four faint letters with a hyphen following the N of COTTON. That the word FACTORIES is used suggests that the firm had more than one factory. There is only one *Osnaburg* in the postal lists and gazetteers of the period, and it is in Stark County, Ohio. Possibly, then, the preceding word that begins with COTTON may be the name of another town in which a mill was located. The only Georgia town that seems to fit is COTTON-HILL in Randolph County not far from Upson Co.

Only a few of these markings have been reported. Further information is requested. Archivists of the Old South, please give us the benefit of your findings!

Revision of the Ashbrook 1ct Books

Specialists will be pleased to learn that Mr. M. L. Neinken is now at work up-dating the Ashbrook books on the 1ct 1851-'60 stamp. He asks that members notify him of any large or unusual pieces of the 1ct perf or imperf (except imperf Type IV) and particularly of any used or unused blocks from Plate 1 (early). Anything unusual as to postal uses will also be appreciated. Do not send items to him until he requests them, but let him know what you have.

Perforated Stamps with Plate Number

Referring to Mr. L. J. Mason's report in Issue 58 of the 2P plate number on 10ct Ty V, Mr. E. Oakley reports another used example, also 51L2, that shows a recognizable upper part of "2P" between the perforations and the stamp design. This is not caused by off-center of the stamp, but by an extra-wide distance between the design and the perforations. Commenting on this, Mr. Oakley mentions that such extra-wide distance between perfs and design on margin stamps is sometimes found; also that there is considerable variation of width of selvage edge

of the sheets, the narrower ones of which perhaps may have been caused by trimming of the sheets after printing.

Mr. Oakley also reports additional *used* perforated stamps showing all or part of plate number designation: 1ct-41L7 with "No."; 1ct-51L7 with "7"; 1ct-41L8 with "No."; 1ct-41-51L8 with "8"; 1ct-51L9 with "9"; 3ct-40-50-60-70R4 with complete imprint and "4"; 5ct-50R2 with "2"; 10ct-51-52L1 with "1"; 12ct-51-52L3 with trace of "3". Mr. Oakley also has a 12ct-51L showing part of imprint and enough selvage to prove that plate 1 had no plate number, at least in its early use, hence it is designated as plate "1" by supposition (see Mr. M. L. Neinken's *Collectors Club Handbook No. 17*). In the Oakley collection are also complete right and left panes *unused* of 1ct plate 10 with full imprints and plate numbers.

Early First-Week Combination

Mr. H. S. Nowak reports a folded letter dated Baltimore July 5, 1851, addressed to Providence, R.I. bearing Sl tied by *black* New York 13-bar square grid, also bearing New York red townmark of July 7 as well as red BALTIMORE R.R. This cover apparently was given to the conductor (or route agent) at Baltimore and transferred to the Philadelphia Rail Road at Philadelphia, then post-marked and the stamp cancelled at the New York distributing office (see *Chronicle* Issue 46, page 13 et seq). The cover is unusual in two respects: (1) it is apparently the earliest reported stamped cover bearing Sl that also carries a recognized railroad route marking; (2) it is also believed to be the earliest reported use of the 13-bar New York square grid in *black* with Sl.

Unofficial Perforations on 1851 Issue

Recent issues have had much to say about the 12½-gauge unofficial perforation used on stamps postmarked at Chicago in 1856-7. That this Chicago perf is on stamps from several plates suggests that it was applied at Chicago instead of by the stamp printer. Several other "unofficials" are described in the Carroll Chase book, either as perforations or roulettes. Among these is the Bergen, N.Y. saw-tooth perforation gauging 9 to 9½, several copies of which were reported by Dr. Chase as used in March (probably 1856).



Figure 3

Ye Period Editor, and perhaps others have never seen this Bergen example, hence the copy submitted by Mr. Wm. Wyer, Fig. 3, may interest many. The stamp is 45L6 and it is postmarked in December. The postmark is far from clear but it undoubtedly is Bergen, N.Y., and the date of December indicates a considerable period in which this was used, probably by a private party. According to the Chase book it appears that the edges were made by tearing the sheet against a fine-toothed saw.

1851-'60 Blocks in the Lilly Sale

Part VII of the Lilly Sale, by Robert A. Siegel, contained many blocks of historical interest, not previously reported. Of the block of nine unused 12ct imperf, Mr. E. D. Cole reported that this was a part of a block of 30 (3 x 10) that

extended across the top of the sheet. It was later cut into blocks of 6, 9, and 15, the latter presently being the largest known unused block of the 12ct imperf.

As to the 1ct blocks,* Mr. M. L. Neinken reports that the block of four unused of the 1ct from plate 1(e) is most unusual, and that only four or five are known, and used blocks are even scarcer. The block of eight from plate 3, also unused and the largest known, was also in the sale. Another outstanding item was a block of nine perf, full OG with bottom sheet margin, containing 99R2, the finest Type III known. Another 1ct rarity was a block of four from plate 4 with full bottom sheet margin, unused, full OG, containing Types III, IIA, and two 1A. The bottom perfs cut through the plumes and scrolls, but they can be seen below the perf holes.

Numerous perf blocks of four and larger of the other values of the issue were included, notably a block of nine 10ct Types II and III perf with stitch watermark, also a block of four of 10ct perf that contained two of the recuts (Type IV). Outstanding also was a block of twenty-one, 30ct OG, the largest known. The block of four of the 90ct OG also was notably well centered and of fresh color.

It is not our policy to quote auction realizations, but in this sale they were sensational.

New York City 1853 Year Dated Postmark

The PL&R's specified that letters were to be postmarked with name of the office, the abbreviated name of State or Territory, and the day of the month. Apparently, however, in June 1855 a year date was permitted, but not mandatory. Before that date a few offices used a year date but only for a short time, perhaps abandoning it when noting that such use did not conform to PL&R.

Among these early uses the one at New York containing 1853 is prominent, because it was used only in one or a very few of the handstamps concurrently used, and then only for dates July 11 to July 26, inclusive; and the Carroll Chase book states that all dates have been seen. Mr. H. M. Thomas, Jr. writes that some have speculated that this 1853 postmark was used in connection with the Crystal Palace exposition. This rumor and others are discussed in a forthcoming report that he is compiling. Mr. Thomas has in his collection all dates except July 12, 20, and 26 which he is most anxious to inspect or know about. If any member has any of these missing dates, or knows where one can be seen, please notify H. M. Thomas, Jr., 2723 So. Veitch St., Arlington, Va. 22206.

* See Mr. Neinken's report in Issue 58, page 53, regarding other blocks and panes of the 1ct.

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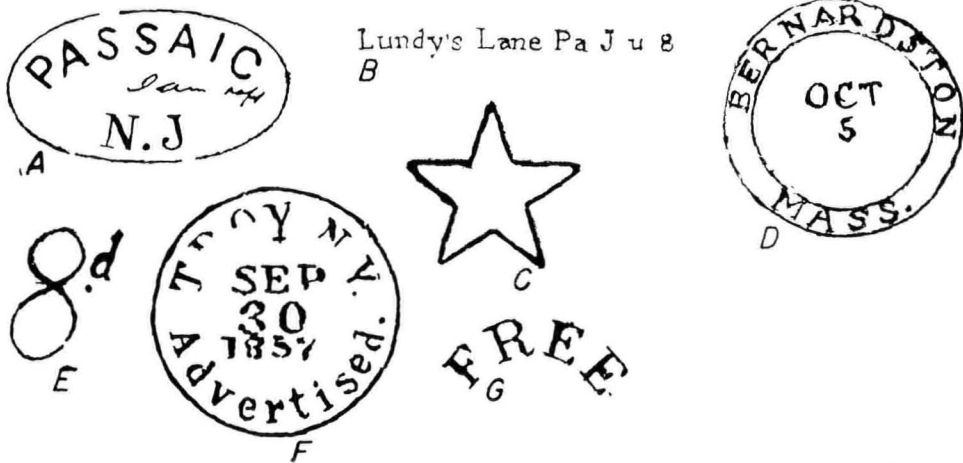
Boston, Mass. 02108

Newly Reported Markings Associated with U.S. Mails

References to USPM in *Chronicle* refer to the Society-sponsored book, *U.S. Postal Markings and Related Mail Services* by Tracy W. Simpson.

Addendum Issue 58. The PASSUMPSIC marking "E" is not full size; it is 30mm in diameter.

Illustration No.	USPM Schedule	Description (dimension in mm)	Used with	Reported by
Not illustrated	A-8a	CLEVELAND O./D/PAID C-30 Stock style with curved PAID ties stamps on letter to England	S5 etc.	H. R. Harmer, Inc. June 10 Sale
A	A-1	PASSAIC/msD/N.J. o-37½ x 20½ in blue	S5	H. M. Thomas Jr.
B	A-1	Lundy's Lane Pa (date) s1-41 x 3 Compare similar one in all capital letters, Issue 34	S5	D. L. Jarrett
C	A-13	Star L-11-23, McKinney, Tex.	U27	G. G. Bleuler
D	A-2	BERNARDSTON/D/MASS C-32 K14-dc in blue	S2	L. R. Campbell
E	A-24	"8d" 18mm Nova Scotia inland plus Br. Pkt (see text)	S5 etc.	G. J. Bernadt
F	A-27a	TROY N.Y./D/Advertised C-32	S5	G. J. Bernadt
G	A-21	FREE (curved) 25mm on circular addressed to Postmaster, Fair Haven, Ct. from Saratoga Springs, N.Y.	1ct TyV	G. J. Bernadt



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Wanted to purchase, private perfs tied on cover such as Farwells, Schermacks, etc. Please send priced or will make offer. Sol Salkind, 3306 Rochambeau Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10467.

Wanted U.S. # 65 with month and date cancellation. Write giving date and price to John S. Hopkins, 2916 W. 20, Topeka, Kansas 66604.

U.S. # 10 first day covers, also earliest uses of any pre 1900 stamp or first days of various postal rates. Send prices. R. L. Markovits, P.O. Box 744, N.Y., N.Y. 10005.

U.S. # 10 plate number pieces on cover, off cover, including some imprints needed. I bought the Hicks plate numbers, so wants are few. Please advise what you have. I may be able to trade, although I would prefer to buy. R. L. Markovits, Box 744, N.Y., N.Y. 10005.

Los Angeles covers and/or letters before 1860 avidly sought by collector willing to pay bonus prices or trade. If not available for purchase, may I obtain a photo? Also interested in later Southern California material. Correspondence invited. Jerome Schwimmer, 629 South Hill, Suite 1103, Los Angeles, Calif. 90014.

THE 1861-'69 PERIOD

RICHARD B. GRAHAM, *Editor*

Editorial

The Period Editor owes a great many contributors to his section an apology of sorts, for not acknowledging letters, or being slow in replying to queries that deserved a prompt answer. In addition, this section will, this one time, have little if anything contributed by readers of the *Chronicle*. The reason for all this, it is hoped, will be in your hands about the same time that you receive this *Chronicle*, assuming no more problems develop. Which is to say, that the book of railroad markings by Charles L. Towle and Henry A. Meyer is in the hands of the printer, except for the finishing touches on the index. These will be completed shortly. In this issue of the *Chronicle*, as has been the case the last few issues, is an Addenda and accompanying plate. It is our suggestion that, if you don't wish to damage your *Chronicles* that you have these Addenda pages Xeroxed or otherwise reproduced (remember, the plates in the book as well as in the Addenda show all markings exact sizes) and simply insert into the book. The writer plans to acquire two copies and use one as a working copy, tipping in the necessary markings and clippings. However, each to his own taste.

As soon as the Towle book appears, it is agreeable that reports of railroad markings for the pertinent period be again resumed. It had been suggested some time ago that these be held up until the book appeared. Judging from the number of markings which will be covered in the Addendas, there are many more yet to report.

The Period Editor is in need of short articles covering the stamps of the 1861 period. While the period is, no doubt, somewhat stronger in the area of postal history than of raw material for the great plating studies that the previous periods have produced, much could probably be written about the stamps of the 1861-69 period.

The main feature for this section in this *Chronicle* is pure postal history, and covers a series of markings which, in the Editor's opinion, are still not covered as well nor is as much known about as desired. We hopefully anticipate being challenged regarding some of the ideas presented.

In *Chronicle* No. 58 on page 70, we ran an article regarding the listings of additional items in the Scott Specialized U.S. Catalog. Several people apparently got the idea from the article that we feel that getting a new listing in the Catalog is simple. This was not our idea, and we have no intention of expressing any opinion whether successfully promoting a new listing in the catalog is easy or not. What we did wish to point out is that many items exist that informed collectors *know* exist; they know this without even seeing the items and yet these items are not listed. Mr. Nowak's 1861 3¢ pink with a year dated cancellation is one of these. The same item is listed on the 3¢ rose, so it seems very logical that it would appear on the pink—particularly since the listing indicates only a very small premium for stamps with such year dates. Mr. Nowak took the trouble to secure a Foundation Certificate that his pink was a pink—and this was very satisfactory evidence upon which to base the listing, apparently. We doubt exceedingly that this same method would be effective for attempting securing a listing on anything other than a very "obvious" item.

**OUR ADVERTISERS
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G.B.D. and Banks' Division Markings

RICHARD B. GRAHAM

On May 16, 1861, Mr. Nathaniel Printice Banks, the "Bobbin Boy" of Massachusetts, ertswile Member of Congress and Speaker of the House, no less, was appointed to be a Major General of Volunteers of the Union Army. This appointment of a prominent "rags to riches" politician led to a great many events of note, most of which were not beneficial to the Federal cause. To the collector of Civil War postal history, though, the appointment of Banks is most gratifying, for it led to what is probably the only completely, obviously bona-fide group of Army Field Post markings of the Union armies. While many other markings probably could be called Field Post, with varying degrees of accuracy, such are not obvious as none are worded so that they can be called nothing else.

The first of these markings appeared in Sept. 1861, and the last in late 1862. The group consists, as recorded by the Period Editor, of a manuscript and five handstamps, one of which was used in two different colors and in two periods separated by three months.

TABLE 1

Marking Type	Description	Color	Early Date	Latest Date
M/S	M/S "GBD"		Sept. 12 (1861)	Sept. 16 (1861)
I	S.L. (2 lines)	Black	Sept. 20 (1861)	Oct. 18 (1861)
II	Double Arc (Oval)	Black	Oct. 20 (1861)	Oct. 31 (1861)
III	Large Arc/ w. S.L. date	Black	Nov. 2(?) (1861)	Dec. 2 (1861)
III	Same as above	Blue	Mar. 4 (1862)	Mar. 14 (1862)
IV	Circle, 32½ mm 4½ mm letters	Blue	Mar. 20 (1862)	Aug. 17 (1862)
V	Circle, 33½ mm thin, 5 mm letters	Blue	Sept. 9 (1862)	Nov. 26 (1862)

All of these markings are shown on Plate I. The letters "G.B.D." stand for General Banks' Division, and the last two examples of these markings used openly announce their meaning. Fig. 1 shows a cover bearing the first type of these markings.

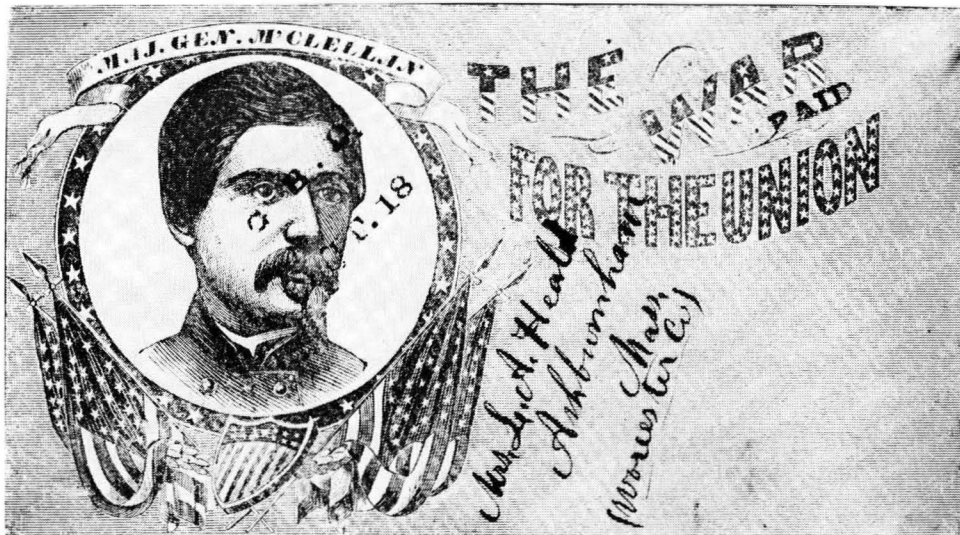


Figure 1

Type I on a McClellan overall patriotic in blue. The marking is struck diagonally across McClellan's face and the black PAID in the upper right corner (Paid 3¢ ?) are the only markings on the cover and are not easy to see on the original. Used Oct. 18, 1861, when Banks' Headquarters were located in Maryland, across the Potomac from Harpers Ferry.

G B D. PAID

OCT. 18

1

2

G. B. D.

OCT. 31

3

G B D

NOV 18

4



5

DUE

3

6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



14



15



16



17

PLATE I

Some historical background is required to understand the Banks markings. The Army of the Potomac, the most famous or at least the most written about Northern army, had not yet been formed when Banks was appointed to field command. In fact, major command elements were called "Departments" and this designation will be found in corner cards of covers dating throughout the War.

Domestic Postal Markings

PLATE I

<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Used With Scott No.</i>	<i>Colors</i>
1.	Type I G.B.D. (Gen Banks' Division) marking. See accompanying article.	Various	Black
2.	PAID marking used with first three types of G.B.D. markings.	None	Black
3.	Type II G.B.D. marking.	Various	Black
4.	Type III G.B.D. marking.	Various	Black or blue
5.	Type IV Banks' Division marking, early state.	61	Blue
6.	Due marking used with Type IV Banks' Division marking.	None	Blue
7.	Type IV Banks' Division marking, late state.	61	Blue
8.	Due marking used with Type V Banks' Division marking.	61	Blue
9.	Type V Banks' Division marking, early.	61	Blue
10.	Type V Banks' Division marking, late.	61	Blue
11.	New Creek Station, Va. marking used on Soldiers' letters, 1861 and 1862. New Creek Station is now Keyser, W.Va.	—	Black
12.	New Creek Station, 1862-3	61	Black, blue
13.	Due marking used with item 12.	—	Blue
14.	New Creek Station, W.Va. marking used in 1863-5. West Virginia became a state in 1863.	61	Blue, black
15.	Huttonsville, Va. marking used on soldier's letter in 1861. Huttonsville is now in W.Va.	—	Black
16.	Manassas, Va. marking used in 1862. This post office, formerly Tudor Hall, Va., was only open during the summer of 1862 in the years 1861-5.		
17.	Harpers Ferry, Va. (now W.Va.) marking used in 1862.	61	Black

Banks had been appointed to command the Department of the Shenandoah just two days before the first Battle of Bull Run or Manassas. The defeat of the Northern army caused much stir, including the organization of the Army of the Potomac under General McClellan, which was ordered on August 17. As part of this order, Banks' Department of the Shenandoah was transformed into a *Grand Division* of the Army of the Potomac. (Corps organization, which is also designated on many corner cards and patriotics, did not take place until the following March.) At this time, Banks' headquarters were at Harpers Ferry, and his troops were known as Banks' Division, in the usual style of such designations, until long after the official designation as a division had been abolished.

Col. Harvey E. Sheppard, who is an authority on Virginia and Confederate postal history, once told the writer a story as to how the Banks Division post office came into being. Banks, fresh and enthusiastic as a military commander, naturally expected to move from his position at the head of the Shenandoah Valley to capture Richmond by a flanking approach from the west. Being a natural politician, he sought popularity with his troops, or perhaps he was genuinely interested in their welfare—in any case, he desired that his command would have as good mail service as possible during its drive on Richmond. So, through his political connections—both Banks and Montgomery Blair, the Postmaster General had been Democrats at one time or another—Banks had a postmaster appointed for this purpose.

Whether the story is based upon fact or where it came from, originally, is not known to the Period Editor. However, the story fits known and recorded facts rather well.

According to the Appointment Books of the Post Office Department in the National Archives, one Roscoe E. Houghton was appointed on Oct. 10, 1861 to be a Special Agent of the POD at the Headquarters of General Banks' Division

of the U.S. Army. He was authorized to sell postage stamps and stamped envelopes but was to receive no pay as an agent.

As may be noted in the small section of P.L. & R. revisions which appeared in the 1862 *List of Post Offices in United States* (See *Chronicle* No. 58, page 67, item Chapter III), Route Agents did not have the authority to either sell stamps or receive prepayment in money, at least. While every regiment in Federal service had its military postmaster, whose duty was to collect and distribute mails and transmit and receive these from higher authority, actually the only representatives of the Post Office Department were a few special agents who made arrangements regarding the army mails, and were authorized to reestablish certain important post offices in captured southern towns as required and reopen the few mail routes needed to service these. During the war, the Federal armies carried all their own mail to Post Office Department receiving points such as Cairo and Washington, and all this was done without expense to the Post Office Department. So, Houghton was probably an aide or similar member of Bank's Headquarters staff and his being given authority to sell stamps and to use a unique origin marking device was unusual.

Actually, Houghton was probably operating as a postmaster before his appointment, for covers with manuscript and the first type of handstamped "G.B.D." markings with September dates exist. An example of the manuscript marking was shown as Figure 4 on page 21 of *Chronicle* No. 47. Figure 1 of this article shows an Oct. 18 (1861) date, which is the latest usage of this particular marking recorded by the writer, and was used just about a month after the earliest usage.

Why did these markings read "G.B.D.," rather than the more obvious "Banks' Division," as the later markings read? In Elliott Perry's *Pat Paragraphs*, No. 34, on page 995, Mr. Perry commented as follows:

"It is understood that the soldiers of Banks' Division were not permitted to mention a town or other address in their letters and the postmarks do not indicate where they were used. The supposed reason was to prevent the Confederates from learning the whereabouts of an important division of the Union army which shuffled around in Maryland and kept an eye on Harper's Ferry and another on other crossings of the Potomac River. As an example of Yankee ingenuity this must have given the southern boys a great laugh. Other sources of information kept the Confederates so well informed that they undoubtedly knew as much about the location and movements of Nathaniel P's men as he did. To put the matter conservatively, the 'concealment' practiced by the soldier's mail organization of Banks' Division seems to have reached the absolute pinnacle of futility."

Again, while Mr. Perry's comments are based upon an authority unknown to the writer, it is worth noting that most—nearly all, in fact—of the covers of 1861 date which have enclosures are datelined in such a way as to make their geographic origin somewhat obscure, and many do not indicate that writer's military unit. Also, noting Mr. Perry's story, it would seem that this is a very early reflection of the same basic idea that has led to the usage of military A.P.O. markings which also show only a post office designation and no location.

Plate I and Table I show all the Banks' Division markings recorded by the writer and the earliest and latest dates he has noted. Reports of any new examples of these markings or extensions of dates would be much appreciated. At one time, the writer wondered if the reason for the frequent changes of types wasn't because of equally frequent captures of Banks' mail wagon. After all, Banks' command wasn't often called "Stonewall Jackson's supply depot" or some such phrase, for nothing. However, there is no record of Banks' headquarters ever being taken, so probably the post office wagon, which was with the headquarters, was never taken.

The first two types of markings, shown in Figs. 1 and 2, possibly were set from newspaper type or other loose type in some sort of holder. It is possible that the type fell out of the first instrument or it got broken, and the same type was used in a different form for the second form, Type II, which is on the cover of Fig. 2. The Type I markings are a simple straight line G.B.D.; in the Type II markings, these same letters or letters very similar are set in an arc with the date similarly

arranged below forming an oval. Additionally, the "B" in the oval marking is apparently inverted. The oval marking was only in use about ten or eleven days, according to our records, although this could be extended to two weeks without overlappage.



Figure 2

Type II used with a PAID marking. The PAID was marked out because the cover is addressed to (really the wife of) a postmaster who was permitted to send or receive mail free at this time. Banks' Headquarters were then near Darnestown, Maryland, between Harpers Ferry and Washington.

Neither of these two markings are usually struck well so that all letters show clearly, which is a further indication that the handstamper was a home made affair. Fig. 3 shows the third type of "G.B.D.," and this marking was actually used for two separate although rather short periods. It was used in November, 1861 with a few early December usages known. Then, Banks' Division markings disappeared from the scene entirely until the following spring, and it is assumed the troops were more or less in winter quarters and more prosaic Maryland town markings appeared upon their mail. In March, 1862, the Type III marking again appeared, this time in a rather pretty blue ink. Interestingly enough, the Banks' Division markings may be dated by color—all 1861 usages are in black and the 1862 in blue and we know of no exceptions. The 1862 tenure of the Type III marking was very brief, the earliest recorded being March 4, and the latest March 14, with March 10 also recorded. The marking could have been used over a more extensive period, as the earliest date we have recorded for its successor, Type IV, the first of the round Banks' Division markings, is a possible March 20 (or Mar. 26?).

Before leaving the 1861 markings, a few words should be said regarding the methods of indicating prepayment that were used with these covers. Both Figs. 1 and 2 are stampless covers and we can speculate as to whether Postmaster Houghton had as yet received any of the supply of stamps he was authorized to sell on Oct. 10, 1861. In each case, the cover was simply hand-stamped with a small S.L. "PAID" with no indication of the amount paid or any other comment. In the case of the cover of Fig. 2, the "PAID" was marked out as it was addressed to a postmaster's wife, and, no doubt, the writer indicated the letter would go free by writing "Post Master" in the U.R. corner of the cover. As a matter of interest, Mr. Enoch Knapp (the addressee) was appointed to be postmaster of New Fairfield, Fairfield County, Conn. on April 21, 1861 and served in that capacity until July 8, 1870, according to records in the National Archives.

Most of the Type I and many of the Type II markings are on covers without

stamps but having only the neat, small black PAID as may be seen on the covers of Figs. 1 and 2. All of the first three types are known with 3¢ 1857 stamps and also with 3¢ 1861's, including the pink and allied shades. Covers with various

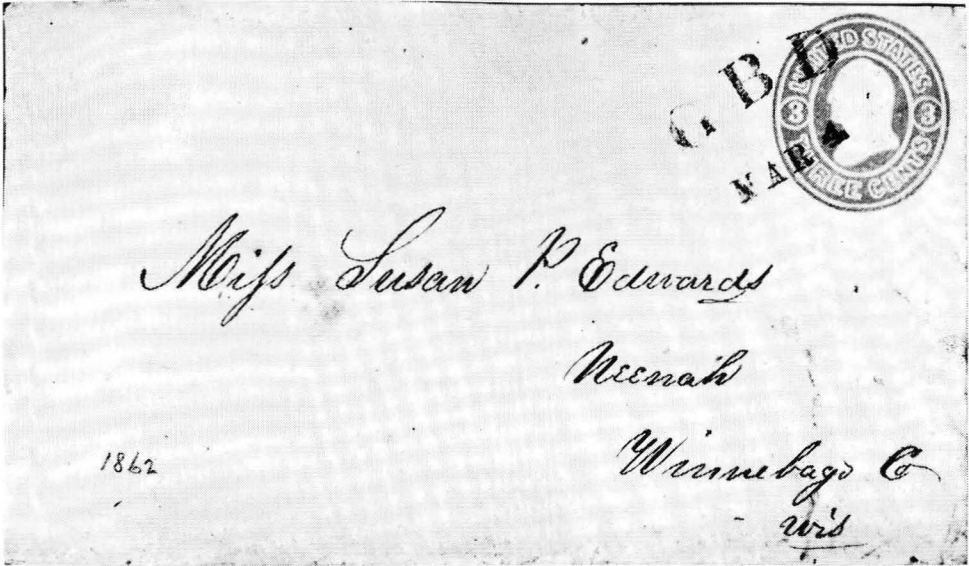


Figure 3

Type III used on a 3¢ pink stamped envelope, March 4, 1862. Banks' Headquarters were at Charlottesville, Va. (now West Virginia) on this date.

types of free franks are far more frequent than would normally be expected and soldier's letters possibly less common.

Figs. 4 and 5 show the last two types of Banks' Division markings of which we are aware. They are very similar, although the second of the two, Type V will average slightly larger, running from 32 to 33 mm (both are very slightly out-of-

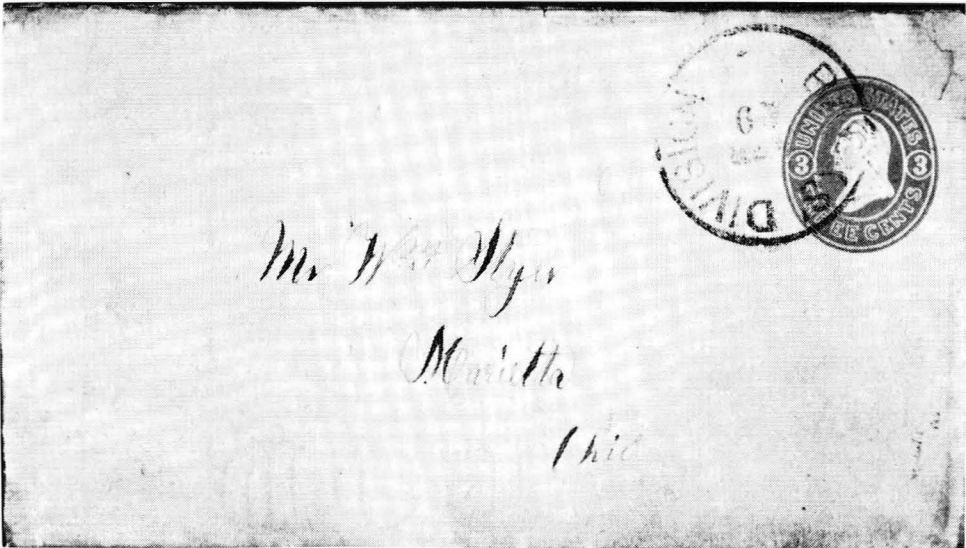


Figure 4

Type IV on the first lettersheet, Scott's U36. Used April 29, 1862 when Banks' Headquarters were then at Harrisonburg, Va., which was as far south as the marking was probably ever used in the Valley. There is no letter on this lettersheet, it having evidently been used as an envelope. This fact has probably disappointed more than one owner.

round), while Type IV runs 31½ to 32 mm, approximately. The letters of Type V are also larger, running 5 mm against 4½ mm for Type IV. The easiest way to tell the two apart is that most Type IV are worn and have rather heavy circles, while Type V only began to show wear when it disappeared and the letters are

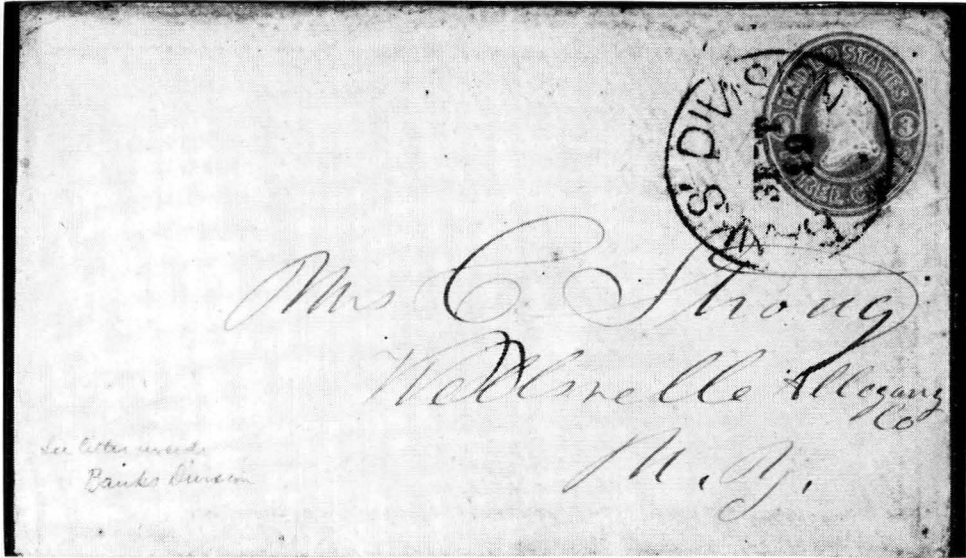


Figure 5

Type V used on a cover with contents, showing the 12th Corps Headquarters (where this post office was assigned) were then near Harpers Ferry. A very sharp and clear example of the strike. Collection of the late Mr. Henry A. Meyer.

thin and “spidery” in appearance. The “D” of “DIVISION” is also a sure indication of which marking one is examining, the Type V “D” having a curved front bar and rounded corners which give it a rather unusual appearance.

Type V appeared in early Sept., 1862 and disappeared in either late November or early December, of 1862. Banks disappeared from the area of usage somewhat before this, having been assigned elsewhere Sept. 12, 1862.

All the G.B.D. and Banks’ Division markings were used at various Federal army headquarters in the field in Maryland and at the head of the Shenandoah Valley. The reason for the discontinuance of the markings is probably explained by the following letters:

Post Office
Head Qrs 12th Army Corps
near Sandy Hook, Md.
Oct. 22d 1862

Maj. Gen N. P. Banks,
Comd’g forces, etc—

Sir:

I have the honor to request that you will forward me by mail, the commission I received last November from the P.O. Dept. as agen’t for selling Stamps to “Banks Division (sic) and which I gave you at the time I received it; hoping you will see fit to comply with my request I remain

Your Obedient Servant
Roscoe E. Houghton
P.M. “Banks Division”

and some eight days later:

Post Office
Hd. Qrs. 12th Army Corps.
near Sandy Hook, Md.
Oct. 30th/62

Appointment Office
P.O. Dept.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

On the 10th of last October a commission was sent Special Agent to sell stamps to "Gen. Banks Division." On the late retreat it was destroyed with property belonging to these Head Qrs. Therefore I would request you to forward me a copy or "artificial copy" of the same, by doing so you will greatly oblige.

Your Obedt. Servt.
Robert E. Houghton
P. M. "Banks Division"

The first of the two letters came from the Banks papers which are in possession of the Library of Congress, and are through the courtesy of that institution. The second letter, which obviously contains misprints and errors, is taken from a clipping given us some years ago and the source was not revealed, although we suspect Phil Ward's column in Mekeel's. In any case, we also suspect these two letters are an example of Postmaster Houghton's "digging up a dead cat" which cost him his job. Banks who had made the original request, had left the scene and probably wasn't too keen having his name coupled too closely with the major defeat of Second Manassas (this is the "late retreat" to which Houghton refers in the second letter). "Banks' Division," which had gone through many phases since it could have been properly called by that title, was now the 12th Army Corps and was a part of the Army of the Potomac. No doubt the Post Office Department saw no reason why the 12th Corps should have any different postal setup than the rest of the Corps of the Army of the Potomac, which was provided with a wholly military—and effective—mail system. So, we doubt the commission was renewed.

Most of the markings of Banks' Division have been dated from enclosed letters, and the information given here extracted from the Official Records and many other sources, which are rather far afield from philately. The writer has compiled a fairly complete record of all the units which could have used the Banks' Division post office—and also has been recording such units when determinable from their enclosed letters or soldier's letter endorsements who actually used the post office with the Banks' Division markings. Interestingly enough, the longer the office existed, the more it was used by units having no relation to Banks' troops or those of the 12th Army Corps. Although we once intended to publish the compilation, too complete a military history is required to use it properly. However, for those interested, the Period Editor will answer inquiries regarding covers with unit designations—where the units were located at the time the cover was sent, and any other data obtainable, provided a photo of the cover or at least a good Xerox of cover and contents are sent with the request.

We would also appreciate information extending the record of markings and the dates they were used. Most of the material and data used in this article came from the late Mr. Henry A. Meyer, George N. Malpass, Carl Albrecht, Len Persson, Scott Gallagher and Arthur H. Bond. Mr. Meyer took many photographs, including all used with this article, and Mr. Bond dug out some rather vital data from the National Archives. In addition, Colonel Harvey Sheppard gave us the story already quoted and submitted covers.

Ship Rates and the New Orleans Post Office in 1862

Mr. Harold R. McMahon reports, as requested in the article on the Civil War Ship 3 Rate in *Chronicle* No. 58, a lovely cover somewhat similar to the cover of Fig. 1 in that article. This shows a partial strike of the "boxed" SHIP (item 6 shown on page 59 of *Chronicle* No. 58) with a large "5" in a circle and also a manuscript "5." The cover, which entered the mails at New Orleans on Oct. 13, 1862, has all markings struck in the characteristic blue used by the New Orleans post office at that time, and is a patriotic (Walcott type 953) showing an owl labelled to be "Ben Butler/The Northern Owl. He is after Secession mice." The cover is addressed to New Hampshire and bears the m/s legend "From U.S. Gunboat Kittatinny/Gulf Squadron."

Our interpretation of this cover is that it was brought into New Orleans by government vessel, but not being properly certified as a "letter of a sailor in the service of the United States" it was rated as a normal ship letter by John Parker, then acting postmaster of New Orleans. As was explained in *Chronicle* No. 47 (page 19), the privilege of sending mail collect when properly certified was not extended to naval personnel until Jan. 21, 1862, although the similar enactment for soldier's letters was effective the previous July. Mail from New Orleans during this period usually was handled with considerable attention to the regulations. There was probably a political reason for this. The person in charge of the New Orleans post office was then one John M. G. Parker. Parker, who was General Ben Butler's brother-in-law, had come to the New Orleans area bearing an appointment as postmaster of Ship Island, Mississippi, when that office was established for the use of the troops with which Butler expected to capture New Orleans. When Butler moved his troops to New Orleans, abandoning, for practical purposes by mid-summer, Ship Island, Parker was taken along to operate the New Orleans post office. Note that this was Butler's idea, not an appointment of the U.S. Post Office Dept. This occurred in early May, and, although the Ship Island office remained in nominal operation for some time, Parker apparently never returned there. In late May, probably, a Special Agent of the Post Office Dept. arrived in New Orleans. Finding Parker in charge of the New Orleans post office, and understanding Parker's connection with Butler, who was considered a political if not a military paragon, the agent appointed Parker to be Chief Clerk of the New Orleans office, stating that since the latter had been appointed Ship Island postmaster, he was undoubtedly known to the Dept. to be honest, etc. Parker did not receive the appointment to be postmaster for some time, and on October 13, 1862, his mentor and brother-in-law, General Ben Butler was in considerable trouble, which, in fact, soon led to his being transferred elsewhere. Inasmuch as Parker did not have a permanent appointment at that time, it is understandable that he would stick closely to the letter of the law and the regulations so as to not be subject to censure, should the Post Office Department be so inclined.

In *Chronicle* No. 58 we stated a belief that the Ship 3 rate was authorized so that those in the Federal service would have a way to send mails collect without penalty. It is quite possible that Mr. Parker did not have a copy of any such directive, as circulation of it may have been limited to East Coast postoffices. Also, of course, it is possible that the cover reported by Mr. McMahon was brought into the New Orleans postoffice by private ship, although casual private ships were not frequent visitors at New Orleans at that time.

**Tell Our Advertisers
You Saw It In
The Chronicle**

ADDENDA

Maine

11-S-2, 28½ blue, WYD 1883. 8

New Hampshire

26-G-1, 26½ blue, Banknote. 6 (Hillsborough Bridge & Contoocook)

Connecticut

87-S-1, 27 black, WYD 1866. 12 (Naugatuck R.R.)

Pennsylvania

188-B-1, 27 black, WYD 1884. 4

Maryland

274-S-9a, D. Oval 31½-22½ x 23-14 blue, WYD 1890. 8

West Virginia

Catalog Route 282: Morgantown to Fairmont, W.Va. via BALTIMORE & OHIO R.R. (Fairmont, Morgantown and Pittsburgh Railroad.)

Route Agents: Morgantown-Fairmont, W.Va. 1886—1 Agent (26 miles.)

Markings: 282-A-1, 26½ black, WYD 1886. 2

South Carolina

336-F-2, 25½ black, 1870. 4

340-G-1, 26½ black, Eighties. 2 (Wilmington & Jacksonville). See Also Catalog Route 350.

Michigan

Catalog Route 621: Fort Wayne, Ind. to Jackson, Mich. via FORT WAYNE & JACKSON R.R. (Fort Wayne, Jackson & Saginaw R.R.)

Route Agents: Jackson, Mich. & Ft. Wayne, Ind. 1871, 1873, 1875, 1877—2 Agents, 1879, 1881—1 Agent, 1882, 1883—2 Agents (97 miles)

Markings: 621-A-1, 25½ black, Banknote. 10

Indiana

667-E-1, 25½ black, 1876. 4

Wisconsin

842-B-2, 27½ black, 1880. 3

843-F-1, 26½ black, WYD 1887. 2

843-F-2, 27 black, WYD 1886. 2

Minnesota

866-B-2, 25½ blue, 1876. NDL. 4

867-B-2, 26 black, 1886. 3

874-M-1, 27 black, WYD 1884, "E" killer. 5 Bismarck & Glendive)

Montana

890-A-1, 27 black, WYD 1882. Possible partial. 12 (Terminus & Ogden)

Kansas

909-S-1, D. Circle 28-19½ blue, WYD 1872. 15

911-S-1, D. Circle 31½-20 blue, WYD 1886, 10 (Saffordville)

913-D-1, 25 black, Banknote. 14 (St. Joseph & Denver City R.R.)

Nebraska

932-G-2, 25½ black, Banknote. 4

932-N-1, 25½ black, Banknote. 6 (Sidney & Laramie)

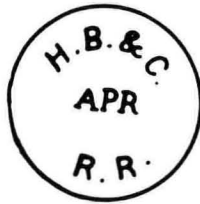
California and Nevada

978-C-1, 27 black, WYD 1886. 5

980-C-1, 25½ black, 1877. 8



11-S-2



26-G-1



87-S-1



188-B-1



274-S-9a



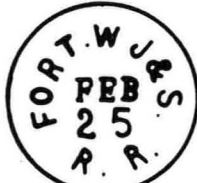
282-A-1



336-F-2



340-G-1



621-A-1



667-E-1



842-B-2



843-F-1



843-F-2



866-B-2



867-B-2



874-M-1

E



890-A-1



909-S-1



911-S-1



913-D-1



932-G-2



932-N-1



978-C-1



980-C-1

THE TRANSATLANTIC MAILS

GEORGE E. HARGEST, *Editor*

Depreciated Currency Covers

PART I

GEORGE E. HARGEST

Brief Survey of U.S. Monetary History—1792-1862¹

On April 2, 1792, Congress enacted a Mint Act which adopted a decimal system of coinage, a bimetallic standard with silver and gold granted full legal tender at a ratio of 15 to 1, and established a United States mint. Some time after this Act became effective, the market ratio between silver and gold became about 15½ to 1. On the market 15½ ounces of silver could be purchased for 1 ounce of gold, but at the mint only 15 ounces of silver were required to buy 1 ounce of gold. Such a transaction would yield a profit of about ½ ounce of silver. Under those conditions silver was brought to the mint for coinage, and gold was converted into bullion for the market. Silver overvalued at the mint was driving undervalued gold out of circulation.

In order to remedy this situation, laws were enacted in 1834 and in 1837 which established a new mint ratio of 15.988 to 1, usually expressed as 16 to 1. According to this new mint ratio, the standard silver dollar was to contain 371.25 grains of pure silver, or 412.5 grains of coin silver .9 fine, while the standard gold dollar was to contain 23.22 grains of pure gold, or 25.8 grains .9 fine.

This new coinage ratio undervalued silver at the mint, for the market ratio remained about 15½ to 1. At the mint, about 16 ounces of silver exchanged for 1 ounce of gold, but in the market only 15½ ounces of silver would buy 1 ounce of gold. Thus, overvalued gold was taken to the mint to exchange for undervalued silver, and silver, in consequence, gradually disappeared from circulation. This was the situation at the beginning of the Civil War.

The "Greenbacks" and Fractional Paper Currency²

On December 30, 1861, the banks in New York City suspended specie payments, and on January 1, 1862, the Federal government also suspended payments in specie. On February 25, 1862, a Legal Tender Act was passed by Congress which, among other things, authorized the issuance of \$150,000,000 in non-interest bearing United States notes which were made legal tender for all debts public and private, except customs duties and interest on public debt. The United States, therefore, adopted a *de facto* inconvertible paper standard, for these notes, through the operation of Gresham's law,³ forced the gold coin out of circulation. During the first quarter of 1862 the average price of United States notes (greenbacks) in gold declined to 97.5.⁴

Until 1853 the silver content of a dollar's worth of subsidiary coins⁵ of the United States was the same as that of a silver dollar-piece. Because of the discrepancy between the market and mint ratios of silver, these coins were disappearing from circulation. On February 21, 1853, a new Coinage Act was passed which reduced the silver content of a dollar's worth of subsidiary coins to 345.6 grains of pure silver, as compared with 371.25 grains in the silver dollar-piece. This represented a reduction of 6.91 per cent, and made the silver content of a dollar's worth of subsidiary coins 93.09 per cent of the silver dollar-piece.

While this reduction was barely sufficient to keep the subsidiary silver coins in circulation at that time, the suspension of specie payments and the introduction of United States notes, whose gold value soon fell below the gold value of the silver subsidiary coins, forced the latter out of circulation. By June 1862 a crisis

developed because there was no small change available. There immediately appeared a welter of fractional paper currency issued by private individuals and business firms which, perforce, temporarily served as money.⁶ The Currency Act of July 17, 1862, sought to alleviate the stringency in small change by authorizing the use of postage stamps as currency. Stamps prepared for postage uses, however, were not adapted to the purposes of currency, and on August 21⁷ the Treasury began the distribution of fractional postage currency notes which replaced the use of postage stamps as money. On March 3, 1863, Congress further acted by authorizing the issuance of fractional United States notes of different design⁸ to replace the postage currency then in circulation.

By the Acts of July 11, 1862 and January 17, 1863, Congress authorized the further issuance of \$300,000,000 in United States notes. Thus, by the end of the first quarter of 1863 there had been authorized the issuance of a total of \$450,000,000 in greenbacks, and their average price in gold for that quarter had fallen to 65.2.⁹

Depreciated Currency and the Post Office Department

As the inflation progressed, the Post Office Department realized that it was suffering a severe loss in revenue through the collection of postage on unpaid letters from foreign countries in depreciated paper, while international settlements with these same countries had to be made in specie. It also noted that foreign correspondents were taking advantage of the situation by sending more of their letters to the United States unpaid. Postmaster General Blair called the matter to the attention of Congress and asked that measures be taken to alleviate it.

On February 17, 1863, Mr. Collamer of the Senate Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads reported to Congress a joint resolution which authorized the Post Office Department to collect the postages due on unpaid mail matter from foreign countries in coin. In presenting the measure he pointed to the great loss suffered in settling balances with foreign governments on unpaid mail matter. He states: "It gets to be a pretty severe operation when it (the Post Office Department) has to pay forty or fifty thousand dollars a year discount on the paper it receives, with which to get gold to pay back the balance of postage."¹⁰ Mr. Trumbull recognized the gravity of the loss, but objected to the measure on the ground of the great inconvenience it would cause the public. He felt it would be most onerous on the poor, for example, servants who were corresponding with relatives in Europe. "Where would they secure the coin," he asked, "when there was none in circulation?" Mr. Wilson moved that it lay on the table for the present. To this, Congress agreed.¹¹

On March 3, 1863, a similar measure which granted the Postmaster General discretionary power in making collections on such mail matter was introduced and approved:¹²

"No. 35 A Resolution Authorizing the Collection in Coin of Postages Due on Unpaid Mail Matter from Foreign Countries;

Whereas, the failure to prepay foreign correspondence throws upon the Post Office Department of the United States large balances, which have to be paid in coin: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, That the Postmaster General be and is hereby authorized to take such measures as may seem advisable to him to collect postages on letters from abroad not prepaid, in order to avoid loss in payment of such balances."

On April 1, 1863, Postmaster General Blair issued an official circular which was distributed to all postmasters throughout the Loyal States. After some explanatory remarks he quoted the above joint resolution and issued the following order:¹³

"In pursuance of the provisions of this resolution, you are hereby directed, *from and after the first day of May next*, to collect in *gold or silver coin* all postages due on unpaid letters received from foreign countries in mails despatched to this country from Great Britain and Ireland, France, Prussia, Hamburg, Bremen

or Belgium and to hold the coin so collected subject to the special drafts or orders of this Department. Should however payment of such postage and of the premium on a corresponding amount of coin be tendered you in United States notes, you are authorized to accept the same in lieu of coin. . . .

For the present this order will apply exclusively to the mails received from the countries above mentioned. On outgoing letters the existing regulations remain unchanged.”

The public was thus relieved of the absolute necessity of paying the postage due on unpaid letters from foreign countries in coin, if they paid the equivalent (which included the premium on coin) in United States notes.

The method to be used by the post offices in collecting the coin equivalent in the United States notes must have caused some confusion, for editor Holbrook found it necessary to explain the procedure in the June issue of the *U.S. Mail and Post Office Assistant*:¹⁴

“Collection in coin—It may be of service to some postmasters to explain the plan adopted in the New York Office in carrying out the recent ORDER to collect postage on unpaid foreign letters, in *coin or its equivalent*.

Letter stamps are prepared with changeable figures, with which all such letters for this delivery are rated, *as soon as they arrive by steamer*; the premium on *silver* at that time being adopted as a basis. Thus on a letter from Great Britain 32 cts. would be stamped, if the *coin* then ruled at 33 per cent. No matter when the letter is called for, the rate stamped on the letter must be paid, unless the *gold or silver* is offered, when, of course, only 24 cts. can be demanded if the letter weighs a single rate only. This has been the practice up to the 1st inst., in the New York office respecting letters for delivery here, as before stated; but by order of the Department it was on the 1st inst., extended to all such foreign letters passing in transit through the other offices.

We mention this in order that distant postmasters may understand the new ruling, and collect accordingly. The arrangement will no doubt relieve them of some trouble. Similar instructions have been given to the postmasters of Philadelphia, Boston, Portland, Detroit, Chicago, and San Francisco, there being the regular United States Exchange offices for foreign mails.”*

If any coin were offered to pay the postage due on unpaid letters from foreign countries, it would undoubtedly have been in the form of silver subsidiary coins. As has been previously pointed out, the silver content of these coins was 93.1 per cent of that of the silver dollar-piece. On the other hand, in 1863, the market price of silver was higher than the mint price. This is reflected in Columns 1 and 2 of Table I. On the average during that year, only 15.37 ounces of silver would have bought one ounce of gold on the market, but 15.988 ounces were required to exchange for an ounce of gold at the mint. To state it another way, \$1.039 in silver was required to buy \$1.00 in gold (Column 2). The price of silver in greenbacks (Column 3) was, therefore, higher than the price of gold in greenbacks (Column 4) in 1863. Column 5 of Table I presents the gold value of a dollar's worth of subsidiary silver coins. If, in 1863, the market and mint ratios between silver and gold had been the same, the figure in Column 5 for that year would have been .931, reflecting the lesser amount of silver in the subsidiary coins. The increase from .931 to .967 represents the higher market price of silver. This is clearly observed in the figures for 1873 when, in Column 1, the market ratio approached the mint ratio of 15.988, the market value of silver in gold, in Column 2, approached 100, and the gold value of silver subsidiary coins, in Column 5, approached .931.

Procedure Followed in Rating Letters

Although the above description of the procedure to be followed in rating these unpaid letters from abroad states that the *premium on silver at the time of the steamer's arrival* was to be used as the basis for rating, tests made on numerous covers indicate that this could not have been so. One is led to the

* Italics added for emphasis.

conclusion that editor Holbrook did not fully explain what was meant by *premium* on silver. More explicitly, he should have stated it as *premium on silver subsidiary coins*. This is implied in his next sentence when he speaks of the *coin* (not the silver) *ruling at 33 per cent*. While many examples can be cited, several will

TABLE 1

Column 1 Market Ratio of Silver to Gold
 Column 2 Market Value of Silver in Gold
 Column 3 Price of Silver in Greenbacks
 Column 4 Price of Gold in Greenbacks
 Column 5 Gold Value of a Dollar's Worth of Silver Subsidiary Coins
 Column 6 Price of Silver Subsidiary Coins in Greenbacks

Year	Annual Averages					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1863	15.37	103.9	150.9	145.2	0.967	140.2
1864	15.37	103.9	211.2	203.3	0.967	196.6
1865	15.44	103.5	162.8	157.3	0.963	151.5
1866	15.43	103.6	146.4	140.9	0.964	133.8
1867	15.57	102.7	141.9	138.2	0.956	132.1
1868	15.59	102.6	143.3	139.7	0.955	133.4
1869	15.60	102.5	136.3	133.0	0.954	126.9
1870	15.57	102.7	117.3	114.9	0.956	108.8
1871	15.57	102.7	114.7	111.7	0.955	106.6
1872	15.63	102.3	114.9	112.4	0.952	107.0
1873	15.92	100.4	114.3	113.8	0.938	106.7
1874	16.17	98.9	109.9	111.2	0.925	102.9
1875	16.59	96.4	110.8	114.9	0.888	103.5
1876	17.88	89.4	99.3	111.5	0.842	93.9
1877	17.22	92.8	97.3	104.8	0.869	91.1
1878	17.94	89.1	89.8	100.8	0.834	84.1

Source: Columns 1 and 5: Carothers, Neil, *op. cit.*, appendix F, p. 323; Column 4: Mitchell, Wesley C., *op. cit.*, p. 4; Column 2: 15.988 divided by the figures in Column 1; Column 3: figures in Column 4 multiplied by figures in Column 2; Column 6: figures in Column 4 multiplied by figures in Column 5.

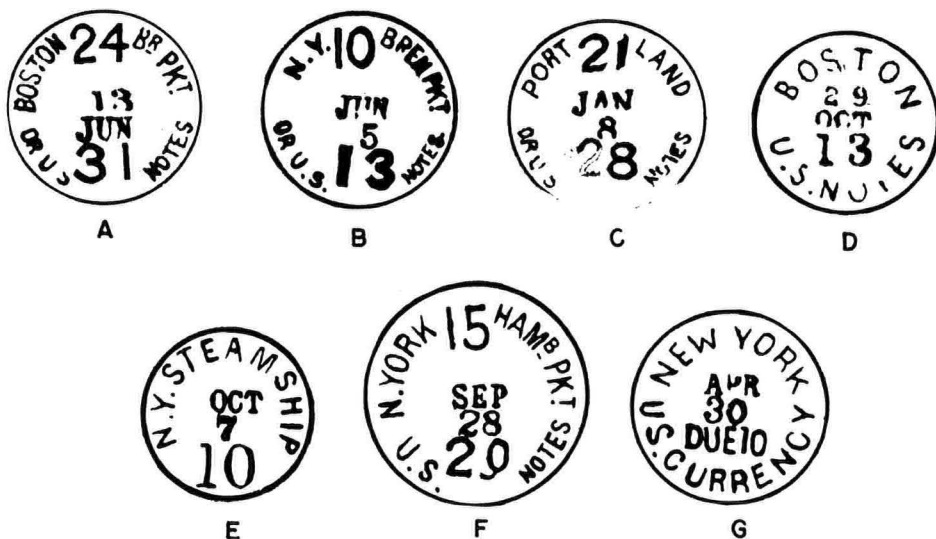


PLATE I

suffice to illustrate how these covers were rated.

Marking A of Plate I appears on a cover posted in London on June 10, 1867, addressed to Boston.¹⁵ This marking indicates that 24 cents were to be collected

in coin, or 31 cents in United States notes (greenbacks). On June 13 (the date of the steamer's arrival as indicated in the postmark) the lowest and highest prices of gold in greenbacks were, respectively, 137 and $137\frac{1}{4}$.¹⁶ If the premium on gold had been used as the basis for calculation, the lowest possible amount to be collected would have been 33 cents (24×137 equals 32.88), two cents higher than the amount shown in the postmark. Since the price of silver in greenbacks (Column 3) was higher than the price of gold (Column 4), if the premium on silver had been used as the basis for calculation, the amount to be collected would have been higher than 32.88. It is evident that neither the premium on gold nor silver was used as the basis for calculating the amount due in United States notes on these covers. The price of silver subsidiary coins in greenbacks, however, not only reflects the lesser amount of silver they contain, but also the higher market price of silver (Column 6). It appears that the premium on gold was reduced by applying the percentages shown in Column 5 in order to secure the premium on silver subsidiary coins. Thus, 137 (premium 37) was multiplied by 24 and the product multiplied by .956 (Column 5 figure for 1867), the final product of which is 31.43, or 31 cents, which agrees with the amount shown in the postmark. It must be borne in mind that the figures in Column 5 are annual averages and at any particular point of time could be more or less than the amount shown. Although declining gradually, until 1873 this series shows great stability, and its application to daily figures appears justified. Undoubtedly, the exchange offices were furnished these figures daily, but such a daily series has not been found in government records.

Applying the same procedure to Marking B of Plate I, a similar situation arises. This letter was posted in Bremen on May 20, 1865, addressed to Philadelphia. The postmark indicates that 10 cents were to be collected in coin, or 13 cents in United States notes. On June 5, 1865 (the date in the postmark), the lowest and highest prices of gold in greenbacks were $135\frac{7}{8}$ and $136\frac{1}{2}$. The product of $10 \times 135\frac{7}{8}$ is 13.59, or 14 cents, which is one cent higher than the 13 in the postmark. When, however, 13.59 is multiplied by .963 the product is 13.08, or 13 cents, which agrees with the amount shown in the postmark.

Marking C of Plate I appears on a cover posted in Minorca, Spain, on December 21, 1867, addressed to Pottsville, Pa.¹⁷ The postmark indicates that the British open mail rate of 21 cents by American packet service was to be collected in coin, or 28 cents in United States notes. On January 8, 1868 (the date in the postmark), the lowest and highest prices of gold in greenbacks were $136\frac{1}{8}$ and $137\frac{3}{4}$, respectively. The product of $136\frac{1}{8} \times 21$ is 28.58, or 29 cents, which is one cent higher than the amount in the postmark. When, however, 28.58 is multiplied by .955 (the 1868 figure in Column 5) the product is 27.39, less than the indicated collection. In this case, however, the highest (or higher) price for that day was used. The product of $21 \times 137\frac{3}{4} \times .955$ is 27.69, or 28 cents, which agrees with the amount in the postmark.

Marking F of Plate I appears on a cover posted in Germany on September 5, 1867, addressed to Alabama. On September 28, 1867, the lowest and highest prices of gold in greenbacks were 143 and $143\frac{5}{8}$, respectively. The product of 15×143 is 21.45, or 21 cents, which is one cent more than the 20 cents shown in the postmark. The product of $21.45 \times .956$ is 20.51, which would also round to 21 cents. Since .956 is an annual average, at any particular point of time this figure could be more or less than .956. It appears that at the time this computation was made it was less. If it had been reduced to .955, the 20 cents indicated for collection would have been validated.

A number of new conventions between the United States and European countries became effective during 1868. Each of these conventions prescribed a fine on unpaid letters which was to be assessed and retained by the country collecting the postage. In the United States this fine was always payable in United States notes, i.e., it was not assessable in coin. As a result, some time after these conventions became effective, postmarks which showed only the amount to be collected in United States notes appeared.

Marking D of Plate I appears on a cover posted in Liverpool on October

15, 1870, addressed to Boston.¹⁸ On October 29, 1870 (the date in this postmark), the lowest and highest prices of gold in greenbacks were, respectively, 111¼ and 111⅝. The collection on this cover was evidently computed at the highest amount for that day. The rate after January 1, 1870, was 6 cents per half ounce and, hence, 6 x 111⅝ is 6.7, or 7 cents. To this 7 cents was added the unpaid letter fine of 6 cents (which was always payable in notes) to produce a rate of 13 cents, which is the amount to be collected as is indicated in the postmark.

Section 8 of the Act of July 1, 1864, provided a 10 cent per half ounce rate on letters addressed to or received from foreign countries when conveyed in vessels regularly employed in transportation of the mails. This act particularly applied to those countries with whom the United States had no postal convention.¹⁹ When the U.S.-French convention expired on December 31, 1869, this act immediately applied to mail between the United States and that country. The 10 cent rate under this act was always collectible in United States notes. Marking E of Plate I shows one of several "N. Y. Steamship" markings that appear on these covers. Evidently, there was some confusion about collection in coin, and marking G of Plate I appears, indicating the amount collectible in currency.

Change in Basis of Rating

The Coinage Act of February 21, 1873, removed from the list of legal coins the silver dollar-piece, which had not been in circulation since long before 1853. This was, in fact, the demonetization of silver. About the same time this act was passed, several European countries also demonetized silver, and large deposits were discovered in the United States. This increased production of silver coupled with its loss of utility as money, forced the price to decline rapidly. This sharp decline in the price of silver after 1873 is noted in columns 2 and 3 of Table I. It appears that about this time the exchange offices began to use the premium on gold instead of the premium on subsidiary silver coin as the basis for determining the amounts due in United States notes on these unpaid letters. A glance at the figures in Columns 4, 5 and 6 of Table I after 1873 discloses that the continued application of the figures in Column 5 to those in Column 4 would have resulted in charging little or no premium, and finally, in ratings below those charged for collection in coin. This, obviously, did not happen.

Bibliography

¹ See Laughlin, J. Laurence, *Principles of Political Economy by John Stuart Mill*, as abridged and annotated in 1887, pp. 312-324.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 344-364.

³ As stated by Sir Thomas Gresham (a merchant at the time of Elizabeth I), "Money of less value drives out money of more value." *Ibid.*, p. 313. As usually stated, "Bad money drives good money out of circulation."

⁴ Mitchell, Wesley C., *Gold, Prices, and Wages under the Greenback Standard*, p. 5.

⁵ The silver subsidiary coins were, at this time, the half-dollar, the quarter-dollar, the dime, the half-dime, and the silver three cent piece.

⁶ These private fractional notes were popularly called "shinplasters."

⁷ Carothers, Neil, *Fractional Money*, p. 177.

⁸ "A Treasury official named Clark had his portrait engraved on one of the new fractional notes. This so incensed Congress that by a law of April 7, 1866, it was provided that portraits of living persons should not appear on any securities or currency of the United States." *Ibid.*, p. 180-note.

⁹ Mitchell, Wesley C., *op. cit.*, p. 5.

¹⁰ *Congressional Globe*, 37th Congress, 3rd session, p. 1017.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 1018.

¹² *Ibid.*, *Appendix*, p. 240.

¹³ *U.S. Mail and Post Office Assistant*, vol. 3, No. 8, May 1863, p. 2.

¹⁴ Vol. 3, No. 9, p. 2.

¹⁵ Courtesy of Lester L. Downing.

¹⁶ Mitchell, Wesley C., *op. cit.*, pp. 291-338 presents the *daily* lowest and highest prices of gold in greenbacks for the years 1862 through 1878. These occupy 48 pages and are too voluminous to be reproduced here. Any collector who desires this information and does not have access to Professor Mitchell's book may write this editor.

¹⁷ Courtesy of Melvin W. Schuh.

¹⁸ Courtesy of Lester L. Downing.

¹⁹ Luff, John N., *Postage Stamps of the United States*—appendix p. 395.

The Cover Corner

J. DAVID BAKER, *Editor*

Answer to the Problem Cover in February 1968 Issue

The Cover Corner did not appear in the May 1968 issue. You will have to refer to your copy of the February 1968 *Chronicle* to see a photograph of the cover requested, just inside the back cover.

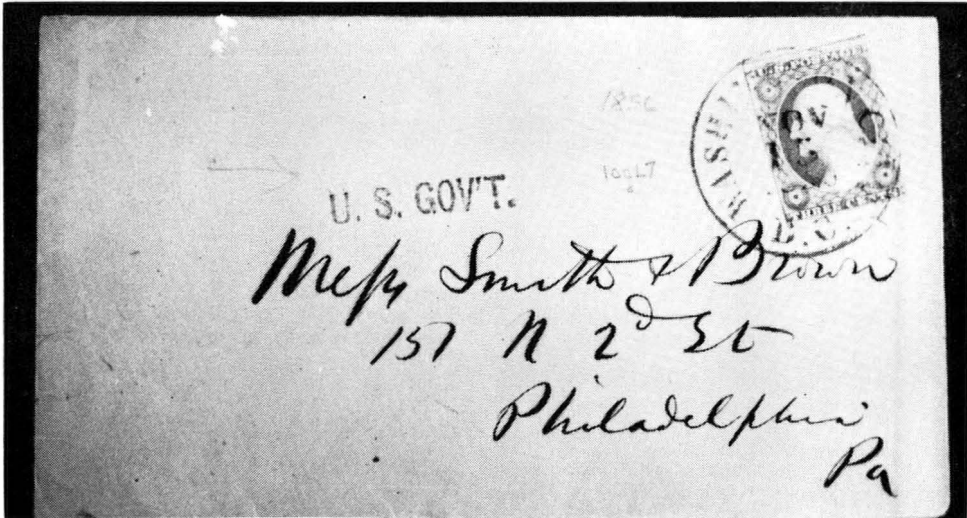
Maurice Blake offers this answer to this cover which he characterizes as "tentative and somewhat hypothetical."

"The 10¢ paid a double rate to get the letter aboard a Cunarder at Halifax August 4, 1864, and an additional amount of Canadian currency, the equivalent of two shillings sterling must have been paid to convey the letter by Cunard steamer to Boston, where it was duly stamped 48 PAID, the double rate over ½ oz., and less than one ounce.

"The S.S. *Africa* reached Halifax on August 4, and Boston August 6, 1864. By the U.S.-British Treaty 48¢ paid the postage to any place in the U.S., in this case from Boston to Portland, Maine. Presumably, Mr. Belcher was out of town so someone forwarded this item to 80 State Street, Boston.

"The pair of 2¢ '63 suggests that the item was a printed circular, originally sent by 'S. Fleming' of Nova Scotia Railway, Commissioner's Office, Halifax, N.S. The forwarder may have assumed that the double circular rate was consistent with the 10¢ and 48¢ paid."

The Problem Cover for this Issue



The problem cover for this issue is pictured above, a 3¢ 1851 cover from Washington, D.C., to Philadelphia on which is imprinted the handstamp "U.S. Gov't." The question is what is the significance of the handstamped marking "U.S. Gov't."?

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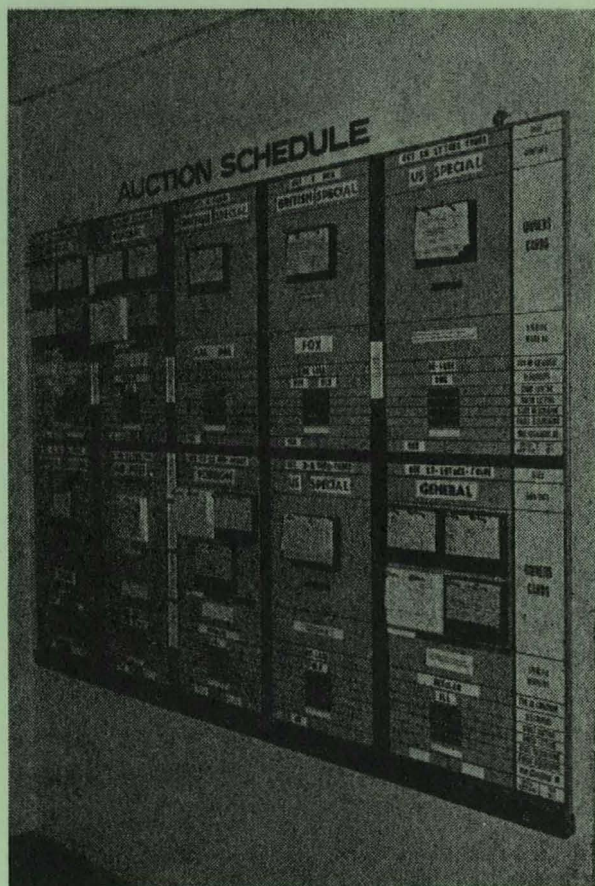
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