

## 1866 To 1868 Issues - Fifteen Cents Lincoln

The fifteen cent "memorial" issue, featuring a portrait of Abraham Lincoln, were first issued in 1866 upon the anniversary of Lincoln's death. The stamps were printed by National Bank Note Company. In 1868 fifteen cent stamps with impressed grills were introduced.

**This portion of the exhibit is organized on the following outline:**

- 1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents, No Grill
  - Proofs (die proofs and plate proofs)
  - Specimens
  - Issued Stamps
  - Stamps On Cover
- 1868 Issue - Fifteen Cents, "E" Grill
  - Issued Stamps
  - Stamps On Cover
- 1868 Issue - Fifteen Cents, "F" Grill
  - Issued Stamps
  - Stamps On Cover

### 1875 Re-Issue

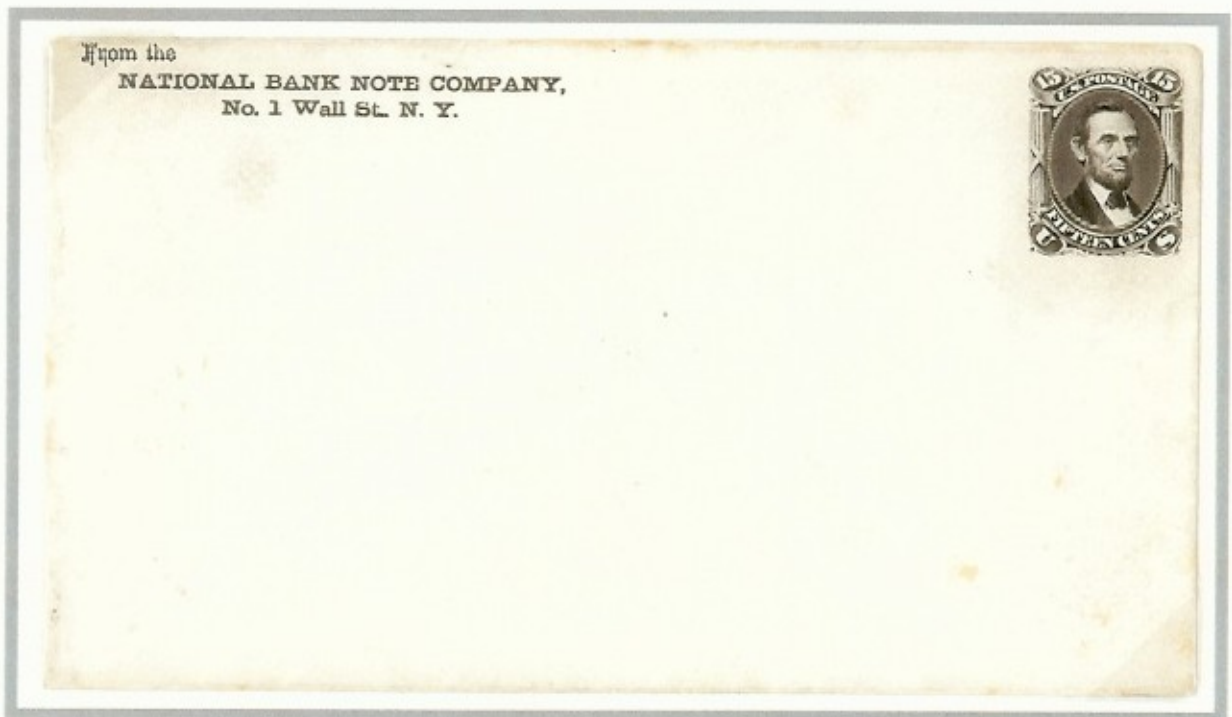
National Bank Note Company dies



### 15c Re-Issue

(397 issued)

## Unadopted Postal Stationery Essay



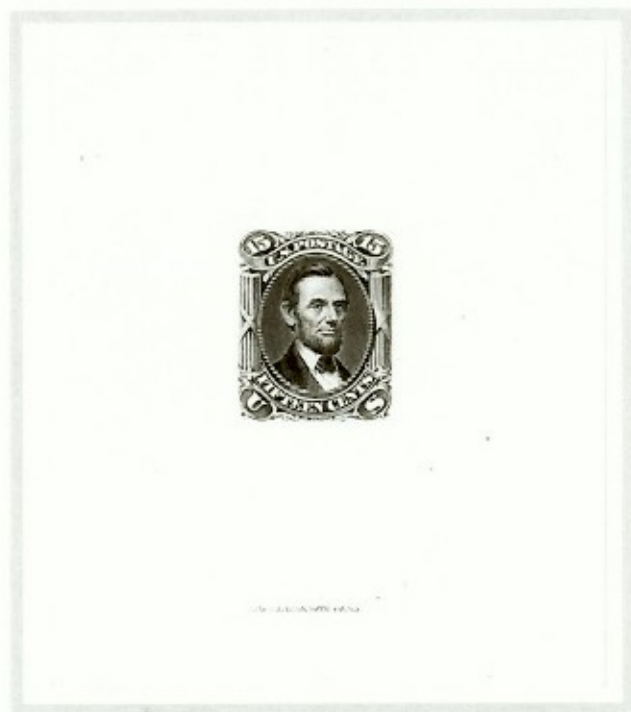
engraved postal stationery essay, purpose unknown, using 15c Lincoln die as used for adhesives

"From the National Bank Note Company, No. 1 Wall St. N.Y." imprint

**The Only Reported Example**

**1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents**

**Large Die Proof**

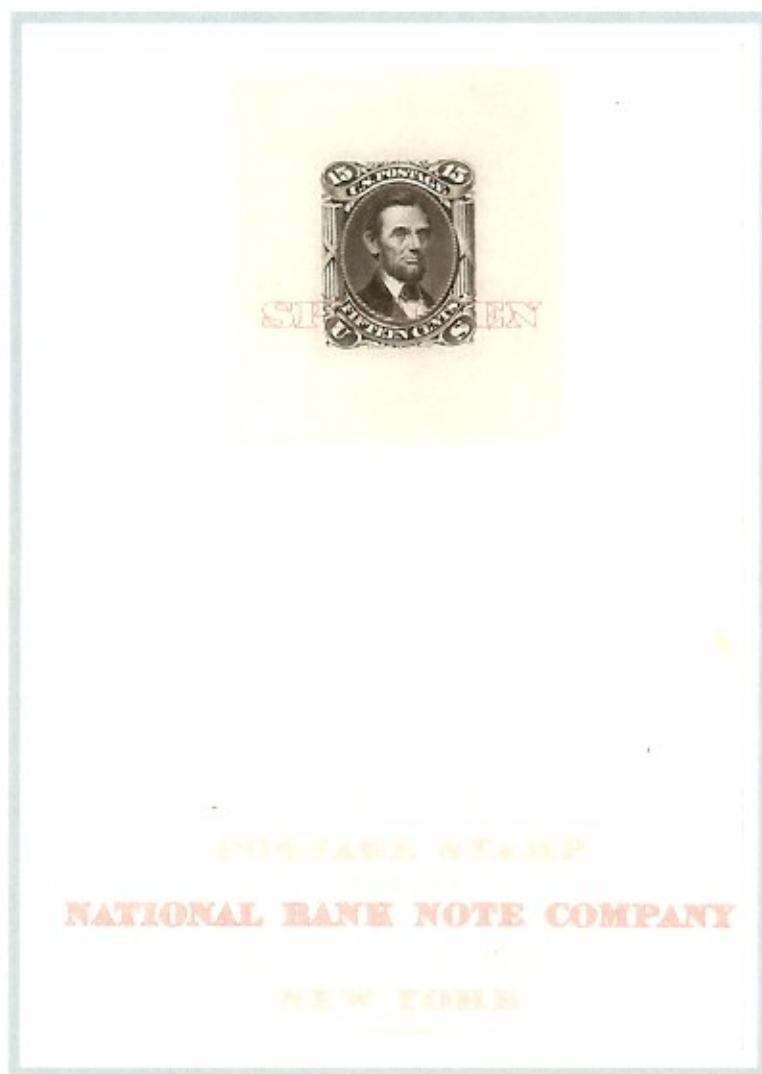


National Bank Note Company imprint

*The National Bank Note Company prepared dies and plates  
for the fifteen cents Lincoln stamp in the Spring of 1866.*

**1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents**

**Large Die Proof With Specimen Overprint**



large die proof with SPECIMEN overprint mounted on card  
card with large National Bank Note Company imprint

*Die proofs overprinted "SPECIMEN" in red block letters are from  
National Bank Note Company sample books used by their salesmen.*

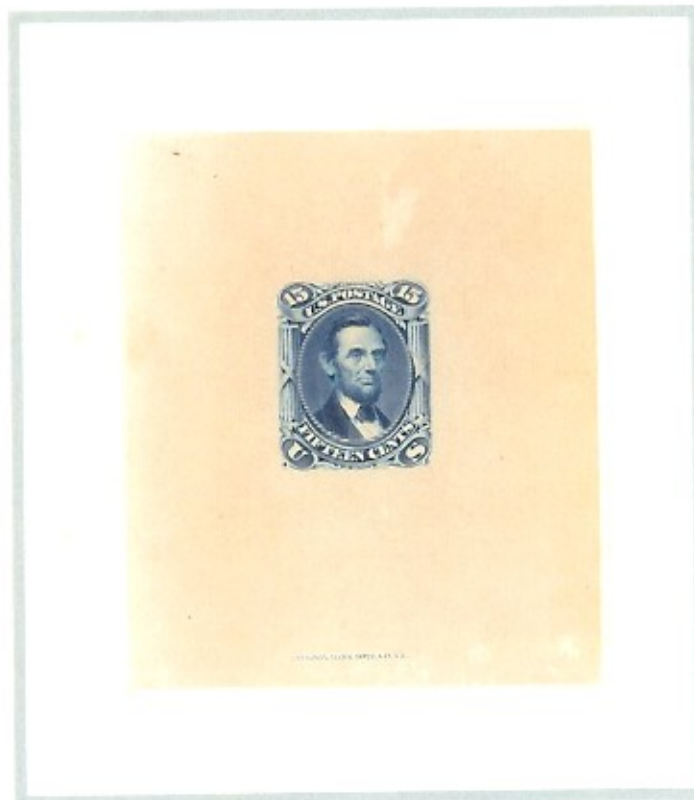
1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents  
Large Die Trial Color Proofs



dark green without imprint



red brown without imprint



deep blue **with imprint** "National Bank Note Company"

## 1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents

### Trial Color Plate Proofs



deep blue



dusky blue

trial color plate proofs on india paper, shades of blue  
produced by National Bank Note Company in 1866

### “Atlanta” Trial Color Plate Proofs



plate proofs on thin cardboard paper

*The American Banknote Company reprinted plate proofs in five different colors in 1881 at the request of the Post Office Department. For the fifteen cents Lincoln design they used the original National Bank Note Company die. These proofs were displayed at the International Cotton Exposition held in Atlanta, Georgia in 1881. Only one sheet of one hundred was printed in each of the five different colors.*

# 1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents

## “Atlanta” Trial Color Plate Proofs

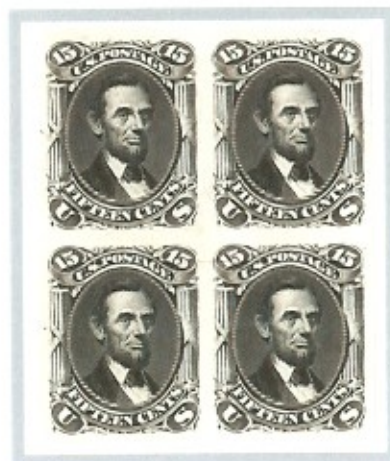


plate proofs on thin cardboard paper

*The American Banknote Company reprinted plate proofs in five different colors in 1881 at the request of the Post Office Department. These proofs were displayed at the International Cotton Exposition held in Atlanta, Georgia in 1881. These were printed using National Bank Note Company dies. Only one sheet of one hundred was printed in each of the colors.*

**1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents  
Roosevelt Small Die Proof**



*A special printing of small die proofs was produced in 1904 by the Roosevelt Administration. Eighty five presentation albums were created using these proofs.*

**Pan-Pacific Small Die Proof**



**Fewer Than Six Reported Examples**

*A special printing of small die proofs was produced in 1915 for the Panama-Pacific Exposition. These proofs are on yellowish wove paper that differs from the wove paper of the earlier small die proofs.*

# 1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents

## Plate Proofs



plate proof **on stamp paper**, presentation copy with manuscript cancel  
**Fewer Than Four Reported Examples**



National Bank Note Company imprint and plate number 41 block of eight  
plate proof **on india paper**



1879 printing



1885 printing



1890 printing



1893 printing



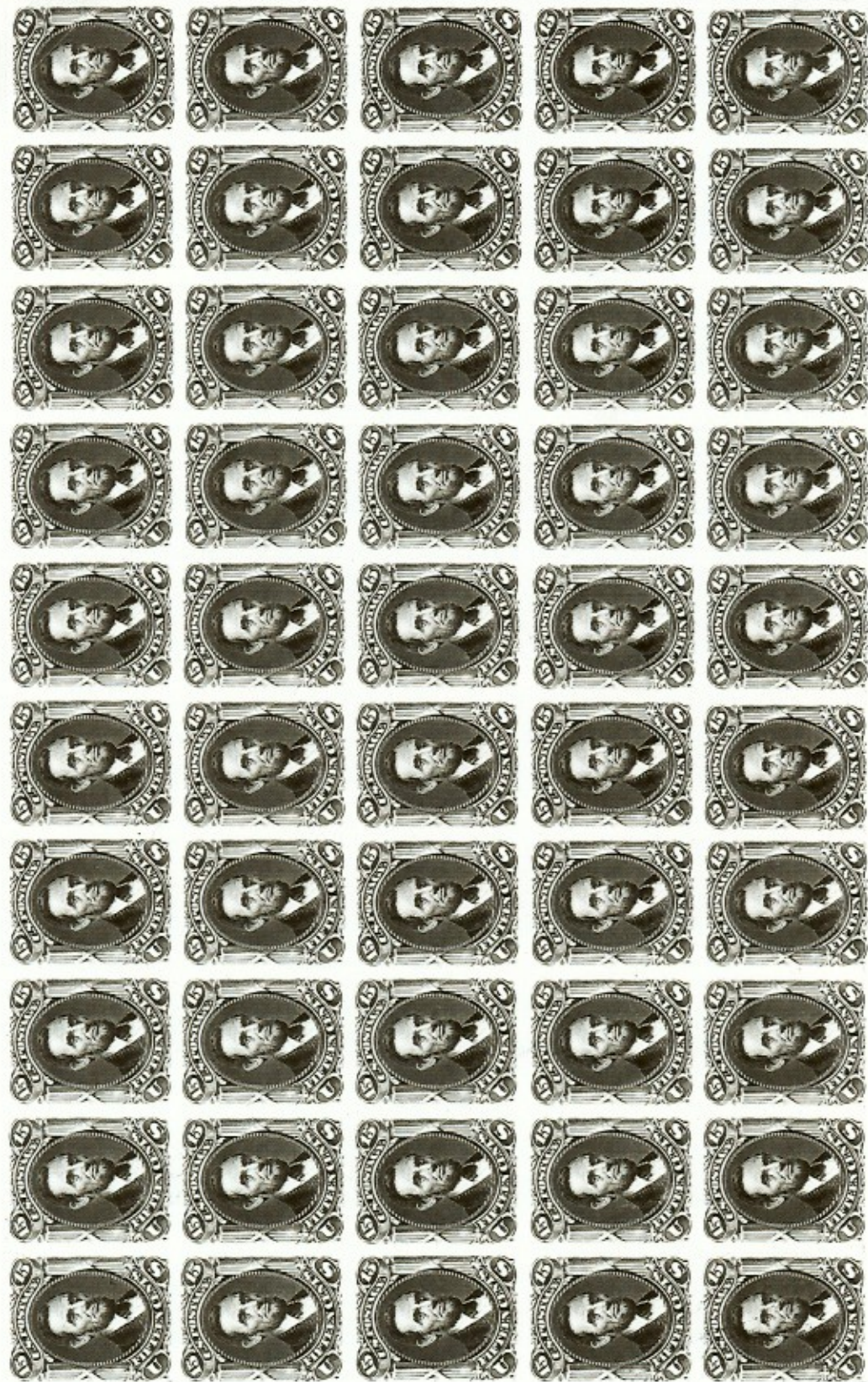
1894 printing

plate proofs **on cardboard paper**  
*The different printings vary in paper thickness.*



1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents

Plate Proof On Card



W. H. WOODS

ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY, CITY OF NEW-YORK.  
No. 41 Plate.

National Bank Note Company imprint and plate number 41 block of fifty, lower half of left pane

## 1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents Speciman Overprints



*Specimen.*

type "B" Specimen overprint, 15mm long, in vermilion

*Overprinted for non-postal use as specimens of the design and color of the issued stamp. Distribution was limited to 1208 examples.*

## Control Number Overprints



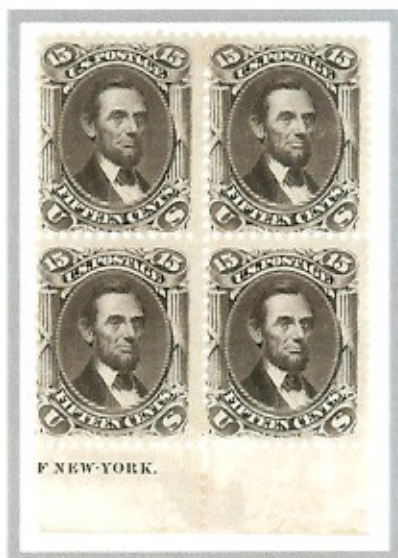
**235**

overprinted with control number 235 in carmine

*Overprinted for unknown purposes. Distribution was limited to one sheet.*

# 1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents

## Unused Stamps



unused block with part imprint

## Used Stamps



red "Paid All"



Waterbury "W"



blue fancy star



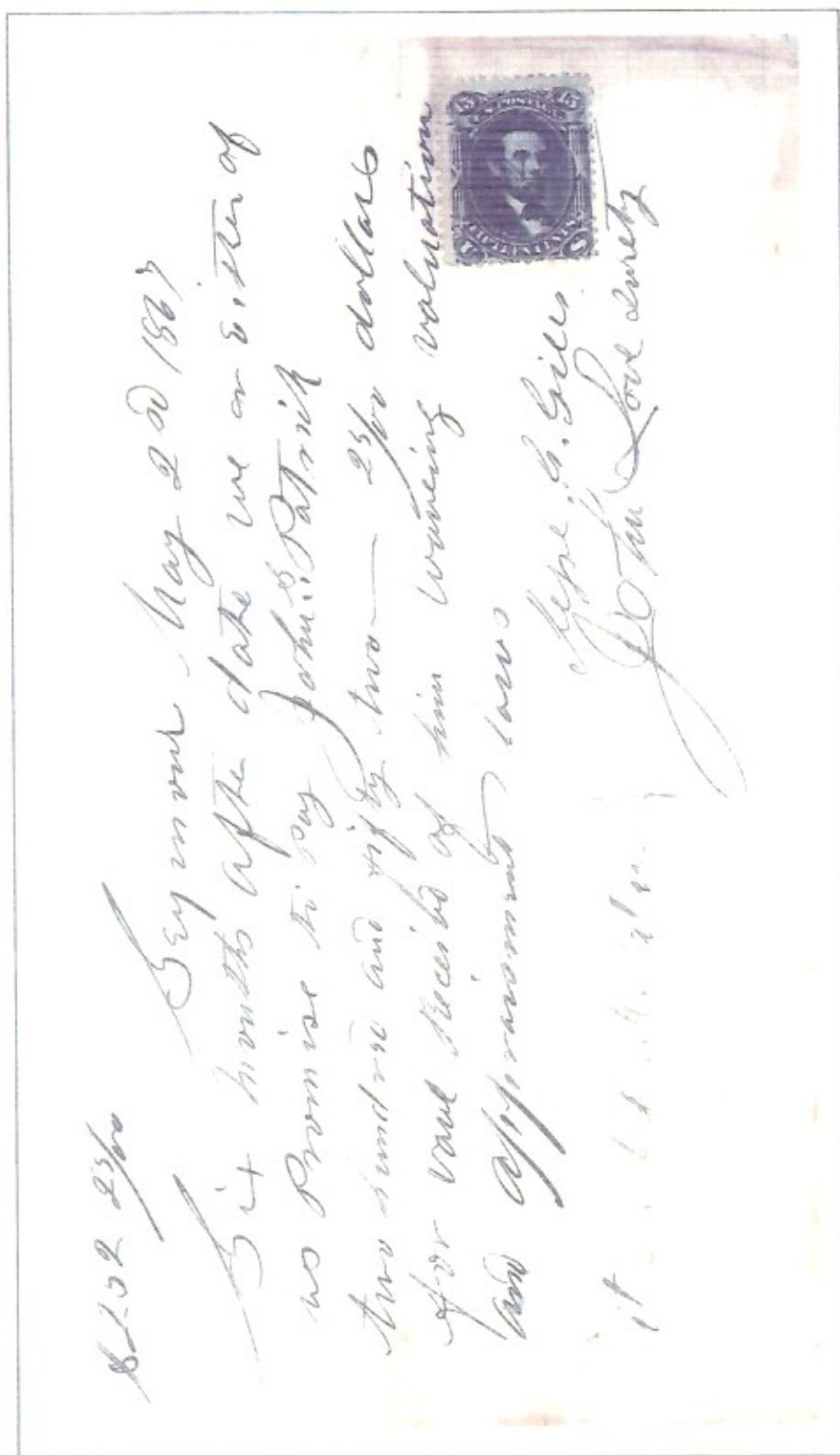
blue cork cancel



variety cracked plate at left



pair with NYFM shield cancels



2 May 1867 usage on promissory note from Seymour, New York  
 triple 5c inland exchange revenue rate for a note between \$200 and \$300

## 1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents

Foreign Usages: To Switzerland



1 April 1867 Highland, Illinois to Zurich, Switzerland  
19c Bremen Mail rate prepaid in combination with pair 2c 1863 issue



4 February 1868 Highland, Illinois to Zurich, Switzerland  
15c North German Union rate prepaid in combination with 5c 1861 issue

*The 19c rate shown on top cover became obsolete on January 1, 1868 and was replaced with the North German Union 15c rate as shown on lower cover. Both from same correspondence.*

## 1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents

Foreign Usages: To France



10 August 1867 New York City **quadruple rate** to Paris, France  
prepaid with two copies 15c and single 30c 1861 issue, NYFM cancels



12 October 1867 New Orleans, Louisiana **quintuple rate** to Paris, France  
prepaid with pair and single 15c and single 30c 1861 issue

1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents

Foreign Usages: To Lombardy / To Sicily



23 July 1867 Louisville, Kentucky to Milano, Lombardy, **blue star cancels**  
21c French mail rate paid with 15c plus pair 3c 1861 issue



25 August 1867 New York City to Palermo, Sicily with **strip of four 15c** and single 3c 1861 issue  
NYFM cancels, sent as overpaid 42c rate via England, **Paid Only To England** handstamp  
accountancy handstamp and 20 decimes due handstamp

1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents

Foreign Usages: To Gibraltar



22 August 1867 Cincinnati, Ohio to Gibraltar

21c rate via French Mails, 4 reales due

9 September Gibraltar arrival datestamp

**Fewer Than Five Reported Examples**



## 1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents

Foreign Usages: To France And Forwarded



12 February 1867 New York to Paris, France, 15c rate prepaid

18 February 1867 forwarded to Rome with France 10c and 40c 1862 issue by **John Munroe & Co**



1 May 1868 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Paris, France, 15c rate prepaid

13 May 1868 forwarded to different Paris street address with France 10c 1867 issue

**Hettinguer & Cie** forwarding cachet on reverse

*One of the primary intended usages of the fifteen cents stamps was to prepay the single letter rate to France for a letter not exceeding one quarter of an ounce. This rate was in effect until January 1, 1870.*

# 1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents

Foreign Usages: To Germany



29 August 1867 Buffalo, New York to Frankfurt, Prussia, 15c rate  
14 September 1867 forwarded within Frankfurt with Prussia 1 kr. 1867 issue



29 June 1866 New York City double rate to Magdeburg, Germany  
double 15c Bremen Mail rate prepaid with top margin **imprint pair**, NYFM cancels

1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents

Foreign Usages: To Aden / To Seychelles Islands



26 July 1866 Boston, Massachusetts to Aden, for Zanzibar  
45c rate prepaid with 15c in combination with 30c 1861 issue  
25 July 1866 Aden arrival backstamp, 1d Colonial credit



12 July 1866 Centre Harbor, New Hampshire to Seychelles Islands, for Zanzibar  
45c rate paid with 15c, right margin example, plus 30c 1861 issue  
2 October 1866 Mauritius transit backstamp, 4 1/2d Colonial credit

# 1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents

Foreign Usages: To French Martinique



6 October 1868 New Orleans to French Martinique

18c rate via British Mails to St. Thomas and thence by French mail

30 October 1868 St. Thomas backstamp and St. Pierre Martinique arrival backstamp

**Fewer Than Five Reported Examples**

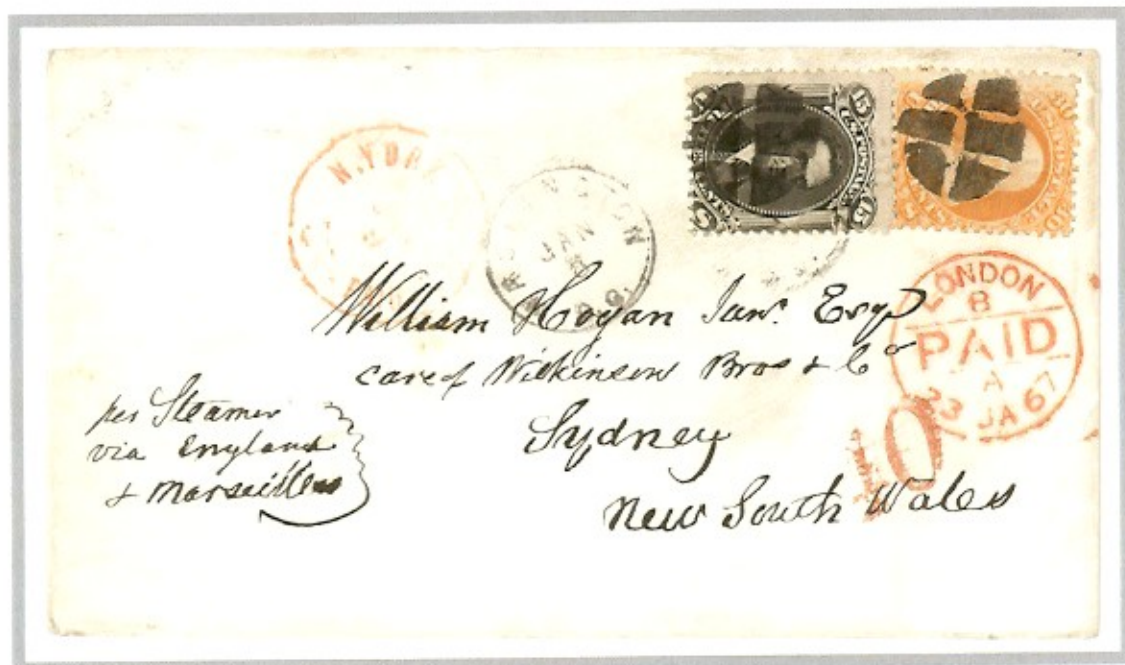
# 1866 Issue - Fifteen Cents

Foreign Usages: To China / To New South Wales



17 January 1868 Winchester, Massachusetts to Shanghai, China

45c British mail rate paid with 15c plus 30c 1861 issue

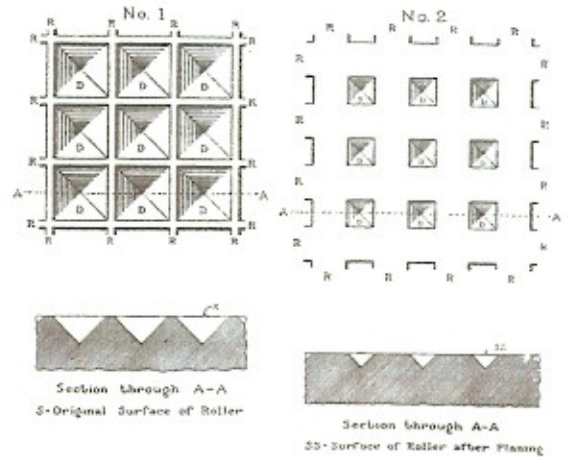


5 January 1867 Washington, D.C to Sydney, New South Wales

45c British mail rate paid with 15c plus 30c 1861 issue

# 1868 Issue - Fifteen Cents E Grill

- The fifteen cents Lincoln stamp was issued at some unknown date in early 1868 bearing a “grill” of embossed pyramids. The so-called “E” grill has a grill with points down that covers a 11 by 13mm area of each stamp. The exact quantity issued is unknown but it is estimated that fewer than 500,000 were issued. The same plate, plate number 41, that was used to produce the 1866 issue was used and the other printing and production characteristics are identical.



top and sectional view of grilling device  
 impressed from front leaves points down  
 impressed from back leaves points up

## Unused



unused block

**Fewer Than Five Reported**



part imprint example

## Used Stamps



wedges cancel



target cancel



red cancel



geometric cancel

## 1868 Issue - Fifteen Cents E Grill

Foreign Usages: From Mexico To Germany



backstamp



24 May 1869 San Louis Potosi, Mexico, double 10c rate to Altona, Germany  
forwarded by J.H. Bahnsen & Co., Matamoras, Mexico with backstamp

6 June 1869 entered the mails at Brownsville, Texas, prepaid in combination with 5c brown 1863 issue

**The Only Reported Example**

1868 Issue - Fifteen Cents E Grill

Foreign Usages: To France



1 October 1868 New York City to Bordeaux, France  
prepaid 15c rate, NYFM cancels



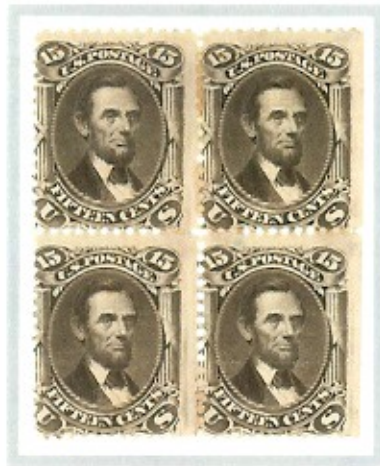
16 September 1868 New York City to Paris, France  
prepaid 15c rate



## 1868 Issue - Fifteen Cents F Grill

- The fifteen cents Lincoln stamp was issued at some unknown time in late 1867 or early 1868 bearing a “grill” of embossed pyramids. The so-called “F” grill is similar to the “E” grill with points down but is somewhat more narrow, covering a 9 by 13mm area of each stamp. The exact quantity issued is unknown but it is estimated that 2,000,000 were issued. The same plate, plate number 41, that was used to produce the 1866 issue was used and the other printing and production characteristics are identical.

### Unused



unused block

### Used Stamps



margin copy



Hawaiian  
"HI" cancel



French Anchor  
cancel



"PAID 3"  
cancel



red cancel



blue cancel



green cancel

# 1868 Issue - Fifteen Cents F Grill

Foreign Usages: To Peru



September 1869 Port Chester, New York to Lima, Peru  
34c rate prepaid with pair 15c in combination with pair 2c 1869 issue



15 October 1869 Port Chester, New York to Lima, Peru  
double 34c rate prepaid with strip and single 15c in combination with 2c and 6c 1869 issue

# 1868 Issue - Fifteen Cents F Grill

Foreign Usages: To China



28 June 1869 Jersey City, New Jersey to Hong Kong, China  
42c rate prepaid with pair 15c in combination with 10c 1861 issue and 2c 1869 issue  
London Paid transit, Hong-Kong Marine Sorter arrival backstamp

The British Mail postal rate to China, via Marseilles, was reduced to 42c on January 1, 1868.



27 July 1869 Batavia, New York to Hong Kong, China  
overpaid British Mail rate with 15c plus 30c 1861 issue as well as 6c and 2c 1869 issue  
actually carried via San Francisco by American packet with "Paid All" handstamp

**1868 Issue - Fifteen Cents F Grill**  
**Foreign Usages: From Hawaii To France**



8 February 1870 Honolulu to France  
15c strip in combination with Hawaii 5c pair

**The Only Reported Example Used From Hawaii**

1868 Issue - Fifteen Cents F Grill

Foreign Usages: To Switzerland



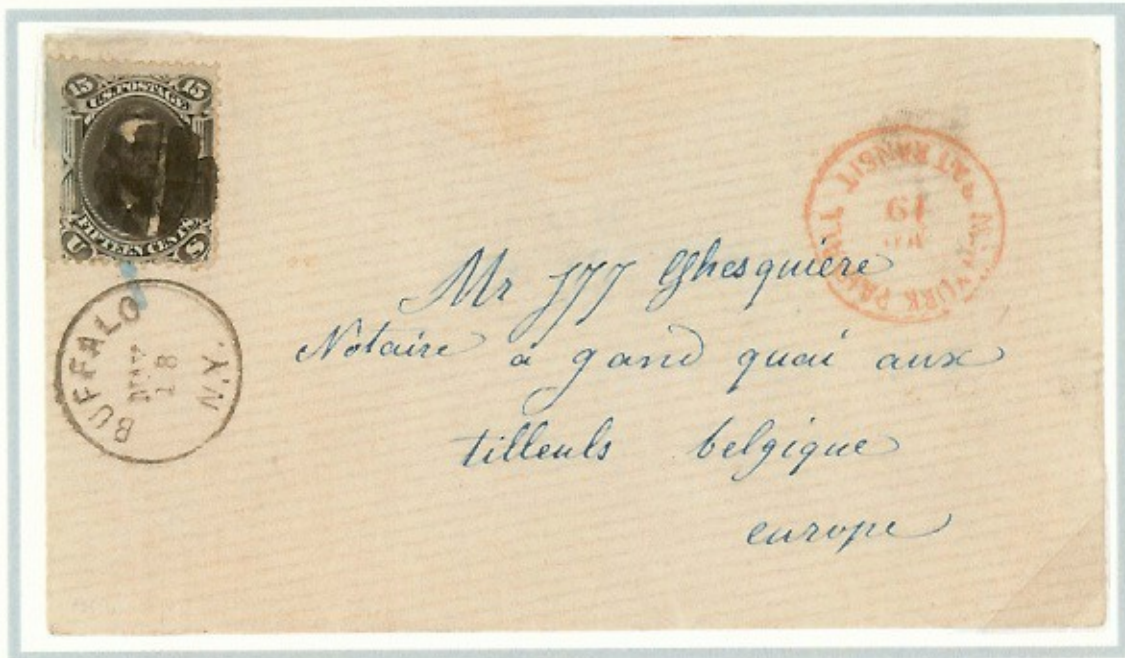
12 October 1869 New York City to Zurich, Switzerland, prepaid 15c Swiss closed mail rate  
guide line margin copy, NYFM cancel, 24 October 1869 re-directed to Bolley



9 September 1868 New York City to Herzogenluchsee, Switzerland  
prepaid double Swiss closed mail rate with pair, NYFM cancels  
Basel transit and arrival backstamps

1868 Issue - Fifteen Cents F Grill

Foreign Usages: To Belgium / To Holland



18 May 1869 Buffalo, New York to Tilleuls, Belgium  
prepaid 15c Belgian closed mail rate



6 March 1869 New York City to Amsterdam, Holland, prepaid 15c Dutch closed mail rate  
NYFM cancel

*The 15c Belgian and Dutch closed mail rates both became effective on April 1, 1868.*

1868 Issue - Fifteen Cents F Grill

Foreign Usages: To Italy



15 February 1869 Washington, D.C. to Turin, Italy, prepaid 15c Italian closed mail rate  
2 March 1869 **forwarded** to Florence with Italy 20c 1867 issue



16 July 1868 New York City to Palermo, Italy  
prepaid 15c Italian closed mail rate, NYFM cancel

*The 15c Italian closed mail rate was in effective from April, 1868 to March, 1870.*

1868 Issue - Fifteen Cents F Grill

Foreign Usages: To France



13 April 1869 Baltimore, Maryland double rate to Paris, France, red cancels prepaid in combination with 10c stationery, 3c 1868 issue F grill and 2c 1867 issue E grill



8 October 1869 Boston triple rate to Paris, France triple 15c rate prepaid with 15c and 30c 1867 issue F grills