

## LINCOLN DEFINITIVE 4¢ & 5¢ ISSUES OF 1890-1908

The four cent Abraham Lincoln stamps were first issued in 1890. Originally printed under contract with the American Bank Note Company, the new stamps were of a smaller size that corresponded to other values of the regular issue as well as the typical British stamps in circulation.

In September 1894, the Bureau of Printing and Engraving (BEP) was awarded the printing contract. The master die was altered with the addition of triangles in the upper corners and other minor changes before new plates were prepared. The stamps were printed on paper without a watermark.

On June 5, 1895, the BEP switched the stamp paper and began using paper bearing a double-line "USPS" watermark in each stamp position.

On October 7, 1898, the stamp color was altered to alleviate the plate wear problem. The new stamps were printed in shades of rose-brown, lilac-brown, and orange-brown. The colors used for the other denominations were altered at the same time to conform with the new provisions of the Universal Postal Union.

On January 20, 1903, the BEP issued the new five cents Lincoln design in blue as part of the definitive issue begun in 1902. The stamps bear the double lined "USPS" watermark.

On February 24, 1908, the stamp was issued as an endwise coil, perforated horizontally. The 1908 coils were the first issued by the government.

On May 30, 1908, the stamp was issued imperforate. Only 13,200 were issued imperforate and most of these went to manufacturers of private vending machine coils.

1890 Issue



1894 Issue



1895 Issue



1898 Issue



1903-08 Issues



### Exhibit Outline

- 1890 Issue
  - Essays
  - Proofs
  - Trial Colors
  - Issued Stamps and Specimens
  - Stamps on Cover
- 1894 Issue (Design Change)
  - Proofs
  - Issued Stamps
  - Stamps on Cover
- 1895 Issue (Watermarked Paper)
  - Issued Stamps and Specimens
  - Stamps on Cover
- 1898 Issue (New Colors)
  - Issued Stamps
  - Stamps on Cover
  - 1899 Guam Overprints
  - 1901 Philippines Overprints
- 1903 Issue (Value & Design Change)
  - Essays
  - Proofs
  - Issued Stamps
  - Stamps on Cover
  - 1904 Canal Zone Overprints
  - 1904 Philippines Overprints
- 1908 Issue (Imperforate)
  - Issued Stamps
  - Private Vending Coils
  - Stamps on Cover
- 1908 Issue (Horizontal Coil)
  - Issued Stamp

## 1890 Issue - Four Cents

## Section Outline

The four cent Abraham Lincoln stamps were first issued in 1890. Originally printed under contract with the American Bank Note Company, the new stamps were of a smaller size that corresponded to other values of the regular issue as well as the typical British stamps in circulation.

Essays  
Proofs  
Trial Colors  
Issued Stamps and Specimens  
Stamps on Cover

### Large Die Essay

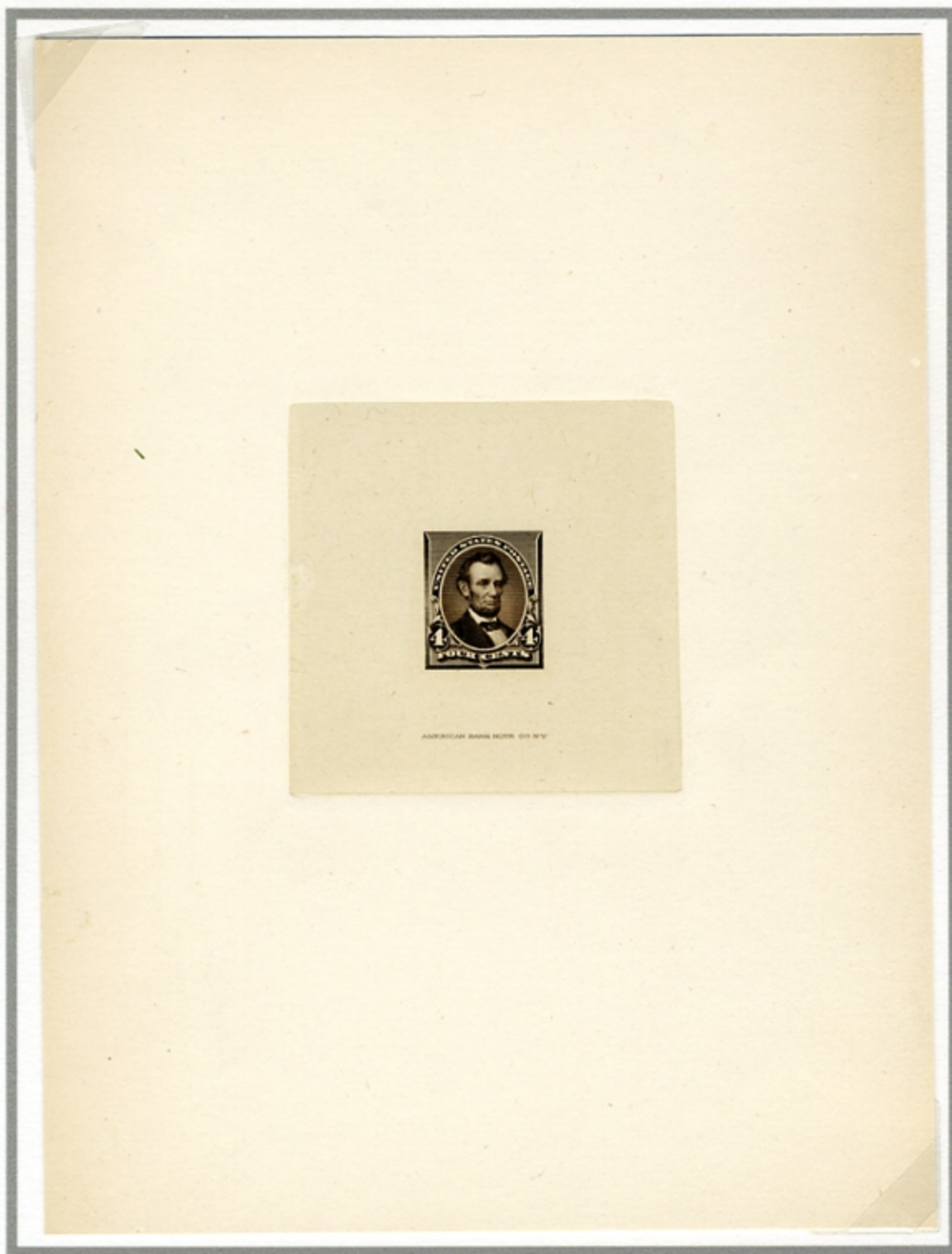


Lincoln facing left, American Bank Note Company imprint and die number. Dark brown on india paper, die sunk on card.

**One of only two recorded examples.**

**1890 Issue - Four Cents**

**Large Die Essay**



Lincoln facing right, no lines on shirt, American Bank Note Company imprint and die number  
dark brown on india paper, sunk on card

**Two Reported Examples**

**1890 Issue - Four Cents  
Die Proofs**



Large Die Proof



Small Die Proof

**Trial Color Proofs**

Imperforate plate proofs on gummed stamp paper, colors similar to later Bureau issues.



Brown



Brownish Claret



Yellowish Brown

1890 Issue - Four Cents  
Plate Proofs



American Bank Note Company imprint and plate number 53 block of twelve  
Blackish Brown plate proof on India paper mounted on card



Brown plate proof on card, block of twenty

**1890 Issue - Four Cents  
Issued Stamps**



Dark Brown



Black Brown



Plate No. 202



American Bank Note Company imprint block of ten  
"MM" and plate number 200

**Imperforate**



American B.N. Co. imprint and plate number 55 strip of five.



block of four

## 1890 Issue - Four Cents Issued Stamps

### Varieties - Double Transfers



"United States  
Postage"



Left "4"

### Specimen



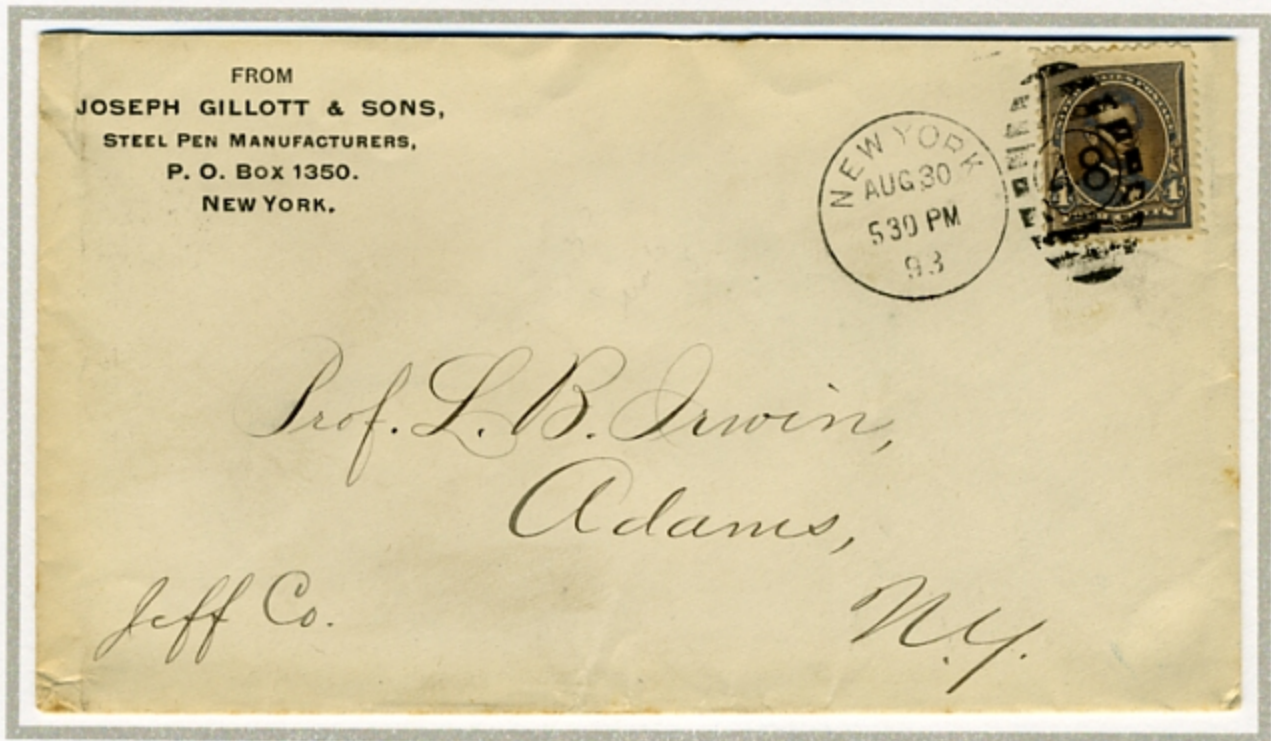
1890 issued stamps with "SPECIMEN." overprint applied at Natal after receipt from the U.P.U. office in Bern, Switzerland.

**The only recorded examples.**

**1890 Issue - Four Cents  
Domestic Usages**



25 October 1893 Brooklyn, N.Y. to New York City, franked by 5¢ with vignette cutout and replaced by that of the 4¢ Lincoln, overpaid 2¢ domestic rate.



30 August 1893 New York, N.Y. to Adams, N.Y. at double the 2¢ domestic rate.

**1890 Issue - Four Cents**  
**Domestic Usages - Registered**



5 March 1894 Orphans Home, Tex. registered to Floral Park, N.Y. prepaid by pair on 2¢ Columbian entire for the 8¢ registry fee plus single 2¢ domestic rate.



10 April 1893 New York, N.Y. registered to Quincy, Mass. prepaid by strip of three for the 8¢ registry fee plus double the 2¢ domestic rate.

1890 Issue - Four Cents  
Domestic Usages - Special Delivery



Paul H. Gray Printers,  
No. 1100 1/2 Ave. C,  
ALTOONA, PA.

Mr. Rudolph Schenck,  
Engineer & Contractor,

Chicago Ill.

Room 8, 26 W. Lake Str.  
10348

ALTOONA  
AUG 20  
5 30 P.M.  
1894  
PA.

20 August 1894 Altoona, Pa. to Quincy, Mass. prepaid in combination with 15¢ 1890 issue, 8¢ & 10¢ Columbian, and 10¢ 1893 Special Delivery issue.

1890 Issue - Four Cents

Usage on Cover



29 November 1893 New York registered to Antonshof, Germany  
prepaid in combination with 15c Columbian issue and 15c 1890 issue



18 February (ca. 1892) Sierra Madre, California to Manila, Philippines and forwarded  
used in combination with 1c 1890 issue to prepay U.P.U. rate

1890 Issue - Four Cents

Usage on Cover



17 October 1891 New York registered to Buenos Aires, Argentina  
prepaid with pair in combination with 3c 1890 issue stamp and 4c postal stationery



14 December 1891 Markesan, Wisconsin to Johannesburg, Transvaal, triple U.P.U. rate  
prepaid with two copies used in combination with three 1c and single 2c 1890 issues on 2c entire

1890 Issue - Four Cents

Foreign Usages: To Italy / To Switzerland



2 July 1895 Alexandria, Va. registered to Napoli, Italy  
prepaid in combination with 1¢ and two 2¢ 1894 issues on 2¢ entire



14 January 1901 Slayton, Minn. registered to Gossau, Switzerland  
prepaid by pair in combination with 1¢ and 2¢ 1898 issues on 2¢ entire

## 1894 Issue - Four Cents

In September 1894, the Bureau of Printing and Engraving (BEP) was awarded the printing contract. The master die was altered with the addition of triangles in the upper corners and other minor changes before new plates were prepared. The stamps were printed on paper without a watermark.

### Section Outline

Proofs  
Issued Stamps  
Stamps on Cover

### Proofs



Small Die Proof

### Plate Proofs on Stamp Paper

A single imperforate sheet in the issued color was prepared for Gilbert Jones as payment for technical services.



*First style of imprint used by the BEP  
without ornaments at sides*

"Bureau, Engraving & Printing" imprint  
and plate number "50" block of six

**One of only two possible top margin imprint and plate number blocks**

**1894 Issue - Four Cents  
Issued Stamps**



Plate No. 51



Imprint and plate number 92 block of six  
*Second style of imprint used by the BEP  
with ornaments at sides.*

**Varieties**

**Double Transfers**



Pre-Printing  
Paper Fold



"United States  
Postage"



Right part of  
design

**1894 Issue - Four Cents**

**Large Die Proof**



Large die proof of completed design with triangles added at top, sunk on card  
Printed by Bureau of Engraving and Printing but without imprint

**1894 Issue - Four Cents  
Earliest Documented Usage**



18 November 1894 New York, N.Y. to Frankfurt, Germany  
Prepaid double the 5¢ UPU rate in combination with 5¢ 1894 issue on 2¢ Columbian entire

**Domestic Usage**



25 February 1896 Morton, Ohio registered to New York City prepaid by pair on 2¢ entire

1894 Issue - Four Cents

Foreign Usages: To Germany / To Sweden



28 December 1894 New York, N.Y. to Hungen, Germany  
prepaid 5¢ UPU rate on 1¢ Columbian entire



9 December 1895 Baltimore, Md. to Stockholm, Sweden  
overpaid 5¢ UPU rate by 1¢ on 2¢ entire

# 1895 Issue - Four Cents

## Section Outline

On June 5, 1895, the BEP switched the stamp paper and began using paper bearing a double-line "USPS" watermark in each stamp position.

Issued Stamps and Specimens  
Stamps on Cover

### Issued Stamps

#### Mint



Plate No. 104



Plate No. 106

#### Used



Circled "7"



block of four

### Overprints - Specimen /Universal Postal Congress



Specimen



Universal  
Postal Congress

### Imperforate



Pair

**1895 Issue - Four Cents**  
**Issued Stamps: Plate Multiples**



Imprint and plate number 94



Imprint and plate number 104

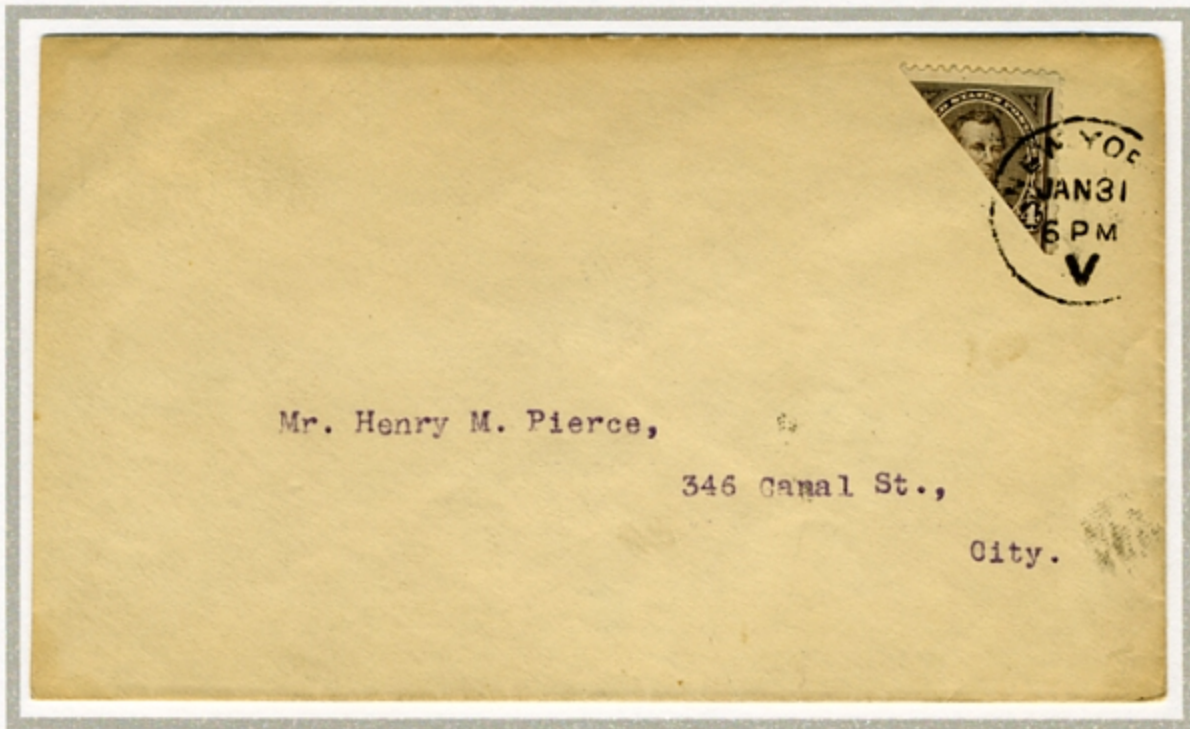


Imprint and small plate number 458



Top and Bottom  
Imprint and plate number 194

1895 Issue - Four Cents  
Domestic Usages



31 January 1897 New York City local usage prepaid by bisect of 4¢



2 July 1898 Philadelphia Pa. to New York City, Spanish American war patriotic envelope short paid triple the 2¢ domestic rate, with 2¢ postage due applied at destination.

**1895 Issue - Four Cents**  
**Domestic Usages - Registered**



4 December 1897 New Brunswick, N.J. registered to Augusta, Me., prepaid in combination with 8¢ 1895 issue for double the 2¢ domestic rate plus 8¢ registry fee.



31 May 1898 Chicago Ill. registered to Oneonta N.Y., prepaid by bottom imprint and plate number 459 strip of three for double the 2¢ domestic rate plus 8¢ registry fee.

1895 Issue - Four Cents  
Domestic Usages - Registered



26 July 1901 Philadelphia Pa. registered to Birdsboro Pa. prepaid in combination with 3¢ 1879 issue and 3¢ 1895 issue for 1¢ overpayment of the 2¢ domestic rate plus 8¢ registry fee.



8 February 1896 Muscatine Ia. registered to Elmira N.Y., prepaid in combination with 8¢ Columbian issue for double the 2¢ domestic rate plus 8¢ registry fee.

1895 Issue - Four Cents  
Revenue Usage



13 July 1898 diagonal bisect cancelled by manuscript on Frontier National Bank check prepaying 2¢ internal revenue tax. Although illegal to use postage stamps, this practice was tolerated. (e)

**1895 Issue - Four Cents**  
**Foreign Usages - To England**



1 September 1909 St. Louis Mo. late use to London, England prepaid 5¢ UPU rate in combination with 1¢ 1908 issue. Letter returned to sender via the Dead Letter Office.



18 February 1898 Lowell, Mass. registered to London, England, prepaid in combination with 1¢, 5¢ and 8¢ 1895 issue on 5¢ entire for triple the 5¢ UPU rate plus 8¢ registry fee.

**1895 Issue - Four Cents**  
**Foreign Usages - To Hungary / To Italy**



2 February 1897 Oakland Cal. to Budapest, Hungary prepaid 5¢ UPU rate in combination with 1¢ 1895 issue. Letter forwarded to England.



9 January 1896 Boston Mass. registered advertising cover to Naples, Italy, prepaid with pair in combination with 5¢ UPU rate plus 8¢ registry fee.

**1895 Issue - Four Cents**  
**Foreign Usages - To Switzerland / To Germany**



12 March 1898  
 Philadelphia Pa.  
 street car R.P.O.  
 to Switzerland  
 prepaid 5¢ UPU  
 rate in  
 combination with  
 1¢ 1895 issue.



27 October 1898 Kenosha Wis. registered to Trier, Germany, prepaid with strip of three in combination with two 1¢ and single 2¢ 1898 issues on 2¢ entire for the 5¢ UPU rate plus registry fee.

**1895 Issue - Four Cents**  
**Foreign Usages - To Mexico / To Honduras**



21 February 1898 Binghamton N.Y. to Mexico City, Mexico prepaid 5¢ UPU rate in combination with 1¢ 1895 issue. Letter forwarded to Cuba and then returned to sender.



31 December 1896 New Orleans La. to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, prepaid with pair in combination with 2¢ 1895 issue for double the 5¢ UPU rate.

## 1898 Issue - Four Cents

### Section Outline

On October 7, 1898, the stamp color was altered to alleviate the plate wear problem. The new stamps were printed in shades of rose-brown, lilac-brown, and orange-brown. The colors used for the other denominations were altered at the same time to conform with the new provisions of the UPU.

Issued Stamps  
 Stamps on Cover  
 1899 Guam Overprints  
 1901 Philippines Overprints

In 1899, the P.O.D. overprinted stamps "Guam" for use while the post office there was under jurisdiction of the Navy Department from July 7, 1899 until March 29, 1901, when the P.O.D. took control. On August 30, 1901, the P.O.D. overprinted the 4¢ values "Philippines" for use under American Administration of the islands.

### Issued Stamps



Plate 791  
Rose Brown



Plate 462  
Lilac Brown



Plate 1103  
Orange Brown



Plate 1100  
Deep Orange  
Brown

### Multiples



block of four  
Rose Brown

### Varieties

#### Double Transfers



Extra Line at  
Foot (Plate 1103)



"United" and  
"Postage"

**1898 Issue - Four Cents**  
**Issued Stamps - Plate Multiples (All Major Shades)**



Imprint and Plate number "463"  
 Lilac Brown



Imprint and Plate number "793"  
 Rose Brown



Imprint and Plate number "1334"  
 Orange Brown



Imprint and Plate number "1333"  
 Blue Control "99" Handstamp  
 Deep Orange Brown

**1898 Issue - Four Cents**  
**Domestic Usages - Registered**

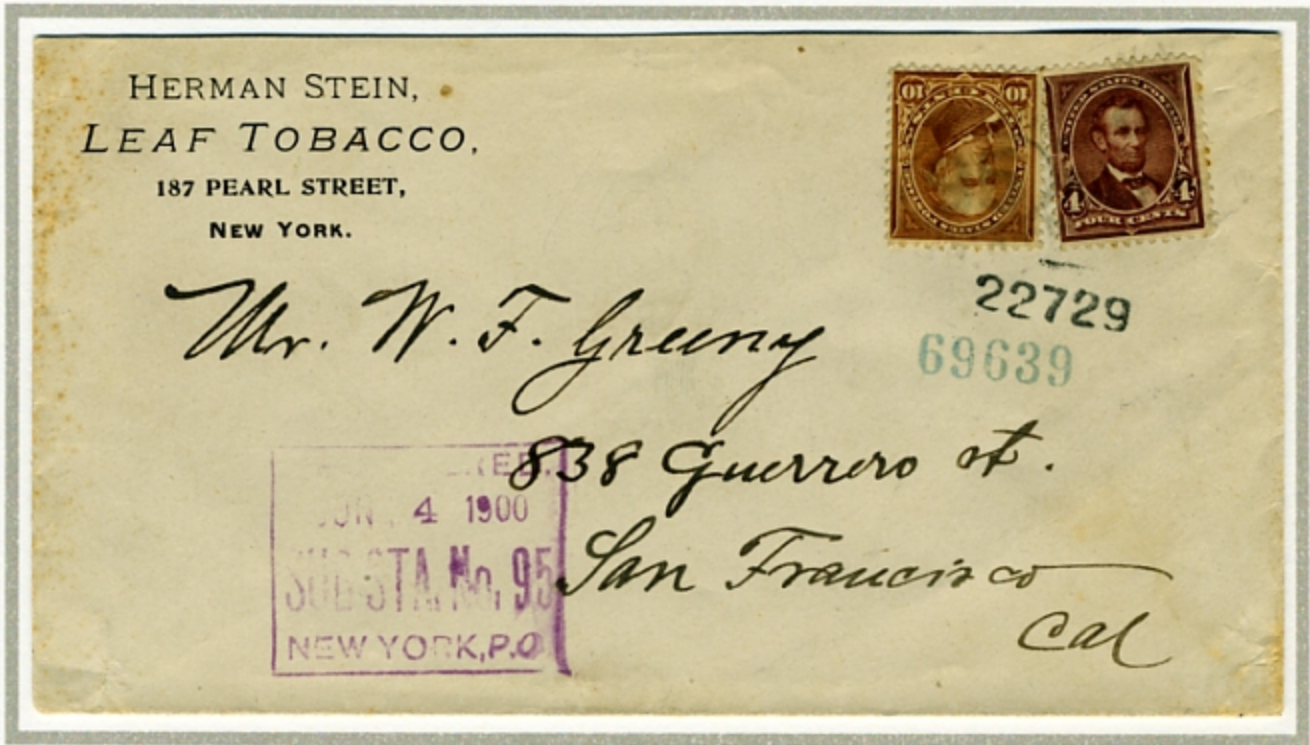


13 October 1899 Rabbit, Ga. registered to Providence R.I., prepaid by pair on 2¢ entire for the 2¢ domestic rate plus 8¢ registry fee.



10 April 1899 Birmingham Ala. registered to Gallion, Ala., prepaid by imprint and plate "531" strip of three on 2¢ entire for triple the 2¢ domestic rate plus 8¢ registry fee.

**1898 Issue - Four Cents**  
**Domestic Usages - Registered**



4 June 1900 New York City registered to San Francisco Cal., prepaid in combination with 10¢ 1898 issue for the 2¢ domestic rate plus 8¢ registry fee.



9 November 1899 Washington D.C. registered to New York City, prepaid in combination with two 1¢ 1898 issue and 4¢ Trans-Miss. Issue for 2¢ domestic rate plus 8¢ registry fee.

1898 Issue - Four Cents

Foreign Usages - To Nova Scotia / To Uruguay



9 July 1900 Grand Rapids Mich. to Halifax N.S. typewriter advertising envelope, prepaid in combination with 1¢ 1898 issue for the 5¢ UPU rate.



16 June 1902 Northampton Mass. to Montevideo, Uruguay, prepaid in combination with 1¢ 1898 issue for the 5¢ UPU rate.

1898 Issue - Four Cents  
Foreign Usages - To Paraguay



19 February 1901 St. Louis Mo. registered to Asuncion, Paraguay, prepaid by pair on 2¢ Columbian entire for the 5¢ UPU rate plus 8¢ registry fee. Forwarded to Argentina and eventually returned to the Dead Letter Office.

**1898 Issue - Four Cents  
Foreign Usages - To France**



18 February 1901 Philadelphia Pa. To Menton, France, prepaid with two singles in combination with two 1¢ 1898 issue for double the 5¢ UPU rate.



15 September 1904 Philadelphia Pa. Registered to Paris, France, prepaid in combination with 2¢ & 6¢ 1898 issue on 1¢ entire for the 5¢ UPU rate plus 8¢ registry fee.

**1898 Issue - Four Cents**  
**Foreign Usages - To England / To Germany**



20 September 1900 Detroit Mich. to London, England, prepaid by pair on 2¢ entire for double the 5¢ UPU rate.



10 December 1903 Passaic N.J. registered to Germany, prepaid in combination with 5¢ Lincoln 1903 issue on 5¢ entire for 1¢ overpayment of the 5¢ UPU rate plus 8¢ registry fee.

**1898 Issue - Four Cents**  
**Foreign Territorial Usages - To France / To Italy**



12 February 1902 **Ponce, Porto Rico Territory** registered to Chateaux, France, prepaid by pair in combination with 5¢ 1898 issue for the 5¢ UPU rate plus 8¢ registry fee.



7 February 1905 **Honolulu, Hawaii Territory** to Stresa, Italy, prepaid on 2¢ entire for the 5¢ UPU rate.

**1898 Issue - Four Cents**  
**Foreign Usages - To Switzerland**



14 December 1904 St. Louis World's Fair exposition cover to Switzerland, prepaid in combination with 1¢ 1903 issue for the 5¢ UPU rate.



13 June 1900 Sharon Pa. registered to Möhlm, Switzerland, prepaid by pair in combination with 1¢ & 4¢ Columbian issue for the 5¢ UPU rate plus 8¢ registry fee.

**1898 Issue - Four Cents**  
**Foreign Usages - To Holland / To Lebanon**



24 January 1901 Richmond, Va. To Rotterdam, Holland and forwarded to Hamburg with Netherlands 12½c. & 25c., prepaid by pair on 2¢ entire for double the 5¢ UPU rate.



18 January 1900 New York, Kings Bridge Station to Beirut, Lebanon, prepaid on 1¢ Columbian entire for the 5¢ UPU rate.

1898 Issue - Four Cents  
Foreign Usages - To Italy / To Sweden



2 June 1902 New York N.Y. registered to Pellice, Italy, prepaid in combination with 6¢ 1898 issue on 3¢ entire for 2¢ overpayment of the 5¢ UPU rate plus 8¢ registry fee.



16 February 1900 Golden Col. To Charlottenberg, Sweden, prepaid in combination with 1¢ 1898 issue for the 5¢ UPU rate.

# 1899 Guam Overprints - Four Cents Issued Stamps

## Specimen Overprints



Imprint and plate number 792



Diagonal



Vertical



Horizontal

## "Ultramar" Overprints



# 1899 Guam Overprints - Four Cents

## Usage on Cover



6 February 1901 Agana, Guam souvenir usage to Oldenburg, Germany



4 January 1901 Beverly, Massachusetts souvenir usage in combination with unoverprinted stamps



## 1899 Philippines Overprints - Four Cents



block of six

## "O.B." Official Business Handstamped Overprints



fragment with combination of denominations

**1899 Philippines Overprints  
Four Cents  
Usage On Cover**

27 October 1909 San Isidro, P.I.  
to Manila

O.B. manuscript stamp on short paid  
penalty envelope with 2c P.I. used as  
due



**1899 Philippines Overprints  
Four Cents  
Usage On Cover**

12 August 1906 San Isidro, P.I.  
to Manila

O.B. overprint on short paid penalty  
envelope with 2c used as due



# 1899 Philippines Overprints - Four Cents

## Usages On Cover



30 October 1902 Jolo, Philippines registered to Buchholtz, Germany



25 November 1901 Manila, Philippines to Lyon, France

**1901 Philippines Overprints  
Four Cents  
Foreign Usage - To Germany**



29 January 1906 Manila, Philippines registered to Harburg, Germany, prepaid in combination with 1¢, 2¢, 3¢ and 13¢ 1901 overprint issues for triple the 5¢ UPU rate plus 8¢ registry fee.