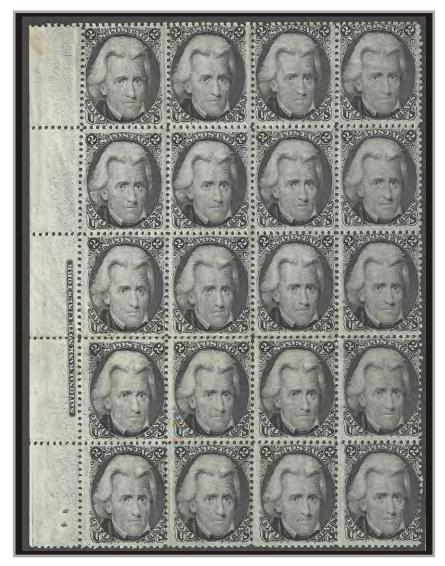


original gum marginal block



original gum block with complete "NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK" imprint

Drop Rate Uses

The two cents stamp was issued on 1 July 1863 primarily to be used to prepay the new two cent postal rate for a letter to one-half ounce mailed within a city. The rate includes carrier delivery service. The rate was in effect from July 1, 1863 until 1883 but was modified in 1865 to allow a lower one cent rate at cities without carrier delivery.

Offices Without Carrier Service





Woodbridge, NJ local drop rate, patriotic shield and stars cancel this post office did not have carrier service and the rate was reduced to 1¢ in 1866

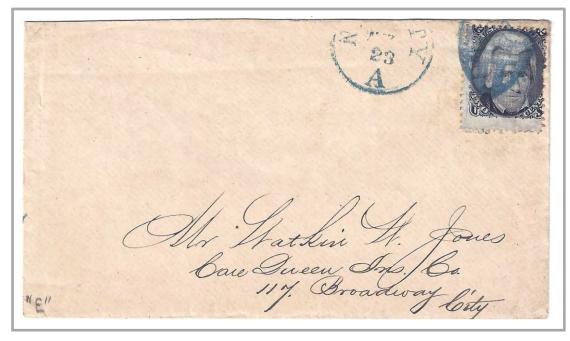


6 September 1864 San Francisco drop rate use, carrier service was not begun until 1868 many larger post office did not have carrier service in 1863

1863-1867 ISSUES

New York City Stations

Some of the several post office stations that operated in New York City struck their markings in red or blue ink during the period between 1866 and 1869. Some datestamps included the station letter within the postmark.





23 November 1868 New York City Station "A" postmark, shield cancel, 2¢ "E" Grill



top cover Station "D" New York City postmark with internal initial, lower cover mute

1863 ISSUE

New York City Stations



1 and 5 March 1867 New York City local uses with matching negative star cancels





26 December 1867, New York City local use, "PO" in circle cancel, Returned To Writer handstamp 23 January 1868 returned to a New Hampshire address without additional charge two examples known, sender exploited a loophole 1866 Act that allowed free forwarding

New York City Stations



Station "D" New York City postmarks with internal initial, different cancels



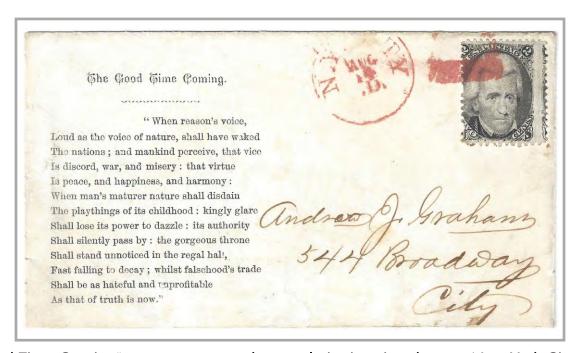
9 September 1868, New York City geometric cancel, 2¢ "F" Grill

Propaganda Designs

War & Peace



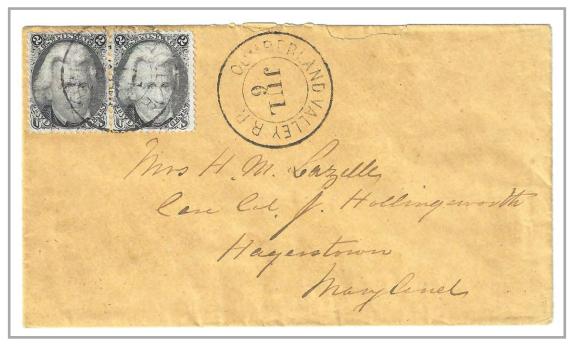
"Union & Constitution" patriotic cover, 9 August 1864 Middletown, CT local use



"The Good Time Coming" peace propaganda song lyrics imprinted cover, New York City local use 14 August (1867) "N. Y. City D" duplex postmark of Station D and "D" cancel cover addressed to Andrew J. Graham, noted phonography teacher and author

Rail Road Uses

Route Agent / Station Agent



6 July Cumberland Valley R.R. railway route agent postmark, overpaid 3¢ rate marking applied by the agent onboard the train enroute from Harrisburg to Chambersburg, PA





10 March Marseilles, C. & R.I. R.R. station agent postmark, overpaid 3¢ rate ticket-dater station agent marking used by postmaster Butterfield who also served as RR agent Marseilles, IL was a station and post office on the Chicago & Rock Island R.R. route

1863 ISSUE

Advertising Designs

Tea Importers



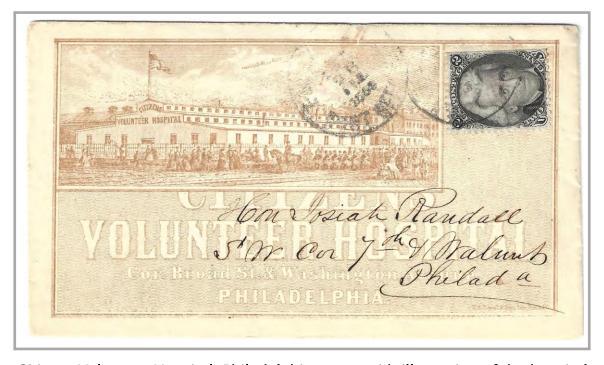
The Great American & China Tea Company design includes China related illustrations this envelope encloses the return address envelope (reduced image overlaid at right)



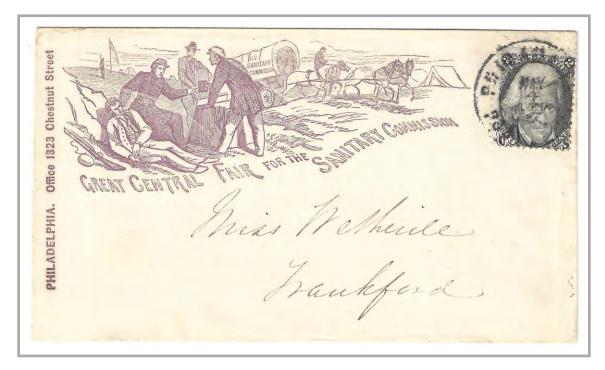
The Great American Tea Company design includes a calendar for the year 1865 at left

Soldier Aide Designs

Volunteer Hospital / Sanitary Fair



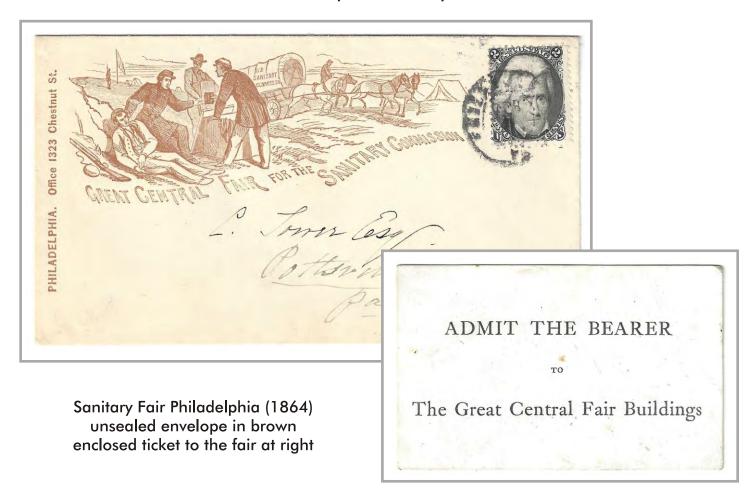
Citizens Volunteer Hospital, Philadelphia, cover with illustration of the hospital 1863 Philadelphia postmark, used locally



The Great Central Fair For The Sanitary Commission, Philadelphia (1864), unsealed envelope illustrated design in purple showing the Sanitary Commission's field ambulance

Sanitary Fair

Philadelphia Sanitary Fair





Sanitary Fair Philadelphia (1864), unsealed envelope in red

Used From Abroad

Used from Victoria, Vancouver Island to England by Wells, Fargo & Co. from Victoria to San Francisco





Paid frank indicating $2\frac{1}{2}$ pence postage paid. Colonial postage was required on all mail, even if carried outside the post office mails.



Wells, Fargo & Co. Victoria datestamp.



8 February 1869 Victoria, V.I. by Wells, Fargo & Co. to San Francisco, prepaid fees in Victoria from San Francisco, via Panama, to New York where it entered mails to England prepaid 12¢ US postage in Victoria, postage canceled with NYFM cancels in New York

27 March 1869 London arrival

Used To China

via Atlantic Ocean / via Pacific Ocean



15 December 1863 Norwalk, CT, via New York to London, prepaid 45¢ rate via Southampton London Paid credit reflects Marseille route but carried via Southampton on 4 January 1864 by P&O steamer <u>Pera</u>, via Gibraltar and Malta to Alexandria, then overland to Suez by P&O steamers <u>Mooltan</u> and <u>Orissa</u> to Hong Kong, then <u>Ganges</u> to Shanghai (arrival 3 March)



10 March 1869 Bristol, NH, via New York and Panama, to San Francisco, 10¢ paid with "F" grills 5 April 1869 San Francisco by PMSS steamer <u>Great Republic</u>, via Yokohama, to Hong Kong 15 May 1860 Hong Kong by P&O steamer <u>Azof</u> to Swatow, China (arrival backstamp 16 May)

to Mexico / to Italy



14 June 1865 New York printed circular to Puebla, Mexico, $\frac{1}{2}$ real postage due



15 September 1866 New York printed circular to Naples, Italy 17 centesimi postage due

to Hawaii / to Canada



14 June 1864 San Francisco, CA circular rate use to Honolulu, Hawaii prepaid 4¢ rate (2c drop rate plus Hawaii 2¢ ship fee)



28 August 1863 Chicago, IL mourning cover to Ingersoll, Canada Chicago "U. STATES 10 PAID" exchange office handstamp, transit and arrival backstamps 1¢ overpayment of the 10¢ rate

to Russia / to Switzerland



8 September 1866 Portland, ME to St. Petersburg, Russia, prepaid 45¢ rate carried under Prussian Closed Mail Treaty, carried via New York, London, Aachen, and Berlin



10 July 1867 San Francisco, CA to Langanau, Switzerland, prepaid 22¢ rate French Mail Treaty Mail use, carried via Panama, New York, Havre and Berne

to France / to Germany



24 April 1866 Chicago, IL to Paris, France, prepaid 15¢ rate, Chicago exchange office credit French Treaty use, carried via Portland, ME, and Liverpool to Calais in closed mail bag carried by Allan Line steamer <u>St. David</u> that departed Portland on 28 April 1866



23 June 1866 New York to Darmstadt, Germany, short paid 15¢ rate and treated as due Bremen Mail Treaty Mail use, carried direct to Bremen by North German Line steamer <u>Hansa</u> red pinwheel fancy cancel applied at a New York station office is duplexed with a datestamp