

1869 Issue - Ninety Cents Lincoln Design

The ninety cent stamps of the 1869 issue, picturing a portrait of Abraham Lincoln, were first issued on March 19, 1869. This denomination was originally planned to feature a portrait of Washington with Lincoln appearing on the ten cent denomination but this was changed prior to issuance.

The stamps were produced by the National Bank Note Company of New York who held the contract for postage stamp production at the time. Approximately 55,500 were issued to the stamp agent but many may have been returned when the issue was recalled. The stamps were produced in sheets of one hundred subjects using two plates. Both plates bore the number 22 but one was of the vignette only, printed in black, and the other for the frame only that was printed in carmine. The issued stamps were embossed with a "G" grill that covers an area of 9.5 by 9mm on each stamp. The unique stolen example on cover has recently been recovered.

The no grill varieties most likely all come from a single sheet and bear a gum that differs from that of the regularly issued stamp. A special reprint was produced by the National Bank Note Company in 1875 on hard white paper without grill. Of the 1,356 stamps issued, a very few were used. Examples of both mint and used are shown.

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

- Essays
 - Unadopted Washington design
 - Unadopted frame with small numerals
 - Vignette only
 - Composite essays
- Proofs
 - Large die proofs
 - Small die proofs
 - Plate proofs
 - Atlanta trial colors
- The Issued Stamp
 - Unused
 - Used
- The Unadopted Ten Cents
 - Essays
 - Proofs
 - Stationery essays

1875 Re-Issue



(1356 issued)

1869 Issue - Ninety Cents

Essays



unadopted 90c Washington design



small numeral design of frame only on proof paper, in red brown, navy blue and dark blue green



Lincoln vignette only on proof paper and pair on pitted gray paper, vignette as used on 1866 issue 15c



Lincoln vignette cut out and mounted onto small numeral frame on proof paper
on yellow, on deep blue green, and on dark navy blue

The National Banknote Company prepared dies and plates for the 1869 issue of postage stamps late in 1868. Included in the set as originally planned was a ten cent denomination with a portrait of Lincoln and a ninety cent denomination with a portrait of Washington. This was later changed with Lincoln's portrait appearing on the ninety cent value. In the process the frame design was also altered with the original small numeral design being replaced with a design featuring larger numerals.

1869 Issue - Ninety Cents

Large Die Proof



National Bank Note Company imprint
hybrid large die proof sunk on card (the only way it exists)

The National Bank Note Company prepared dies and plates for the ninety cents Lincoln stamp late in 1868.

1869 Issue - Ninety Cents

Small Die Proofs



small die proof sunk on card

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.

1869 Issue - Ninety Cents

Plate Proofs



center inverted

National Bank Note Company imprint and plate number 22 block of eight
plate proof on cardboard paper

Two Reported Plate Blocks

Although all of the other bi-color stamps of the 1869 issue have been found used with centers inverted, none of the ninety cents are known. Only one proof sheet of one hundred was printed of the ninety cents with inverted center. The issued stamp bore marginal markings in carmine in two positions at the top of the sheet and in black in two positions at the foot. Inverted sheets had the black imprint appearing at top over the carmine imprints in two positions. As a result, only two marginal imprint pieces appeared on this sheet.



plate proof block on india paper with black plate number and part imprint

1869 Issue - Ninety Cents

"Atlanta" Trial Color Plate Proofs



plate proofs on thin cardboard paper

The American Banknote Company reprinted plate proofs in ten different color combinations in 1881 at the request of the Post Office Department. For the ninety cents Lincoln design the National Bank Note Company die was used. 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 colors.

1869 Issue - Ninety Cents

Unused Stamps



as issued with grill



no grill variety



block of six with grill

Largest Reported Unused Multiple Two Reported Examples

The stamp as issued had an embossed "G" grill. The no grill varieties most likely come from a single sheet and bear a gum that differs from the gum found on the issued stamps.

1869 Issue - Ninety Cents

Used Stamps



“X” cancel of
Yokohama, Japan



New York Steamship cancel
**Only Reported Example of
Ninety Cent on Piece**



red cork cancel



block of four

Six Reported Used Blocks

Of the six reported used blocks, two are located in the Swiss Postal Museum and are unavailable to collectors.

The ninety cents denomination was not distributed to all offices. An individual postmaster had to specifically request this denomination and few offices had enough call for such a high value stamp to require stocking. Most used copies originated on foreign mail sent from New York City.

Used Re-Issue



magenta cancel

**Fewer Than Five Reported
Examples With Colored
Cancels**

1869 Issue - Unadopted Ten Cents Lincoln Design

The National Bank Note Company prepared dies and plates for the 1869 issue of postage stamps commencing late in 1868. Included in the set, as originally planned, was a ten cent denomination bearing a portrait of Abraham Lincoln. This was later changed and the ten cent stamp was issued with an eagle and shield design instead.

In addition to the usual die proofs and trial color proofs that were produced of the ten cents Lincoln design there was a group of experimental printings on paper with underprinting in fugitive inks.

A companion issue of postal stationery was evidently contemplated as well. Essays for a ten cents envelope were printed by National Bank Note Company although they did not have the contract.

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

- 1869 Issue Unadopted 10c Lincoln Design
 - Die Proofs
 - Die Proofs On Safety paper
 - Plate Proofs On Stamp Paper
- 1869 Issue Unadopted 10c Lincoln Design Stationery



unadopted 10c Lincoln design essay imprinted on 1870 issue 6c postal entire

The Only Reported Example

1869 Issue - Unadopted Ten Cents

Large Die Proof



National Bank Note Company imprint
black brown on india paper, sunk on card

Three Reported Examples

**1869 Issue - Unadopted Ten Cents
Die Proofs**



National Bank Note Company imprint
black on ivory paper



National Bank Note Company imprint
black brown on ivory paper



National Bank Note Company imprint
scarlet on ivory paper



National Bank Note Company imprint
blue on ivory paper

1869 Issue - Unadopted Ten Cents

Die Proofs



deep blue on white bond



blue on gray bond



orange on cream bond



red brown
on pink bond



red brown
on cream bond



red brown
on cream wove



yellow
on pink bond



brown on ivory card
Only Reported Example



orange on ivory card
Two Reported Examples

1869 Issue - Unadopted Ten Cents

Die Proofs On Safety Papers



wavy line underprint
carmine on scarlet



wavy line underprint
carmine on scarlet



wavy line underprint
carmine on scarlet



wavy line underprint
blue on black



numeral "10" underprint
blue on scarlet



wavy line underprint
blue on carmine



banknote style underprint
carmine on orange and red



stars underprint
green on blue



rosettes underprint
brown on scarlet

Each Of The Above Is An Only Reported Example

Die essays were prepared on thin white paper that had been underprinted with various types of security designs. A total of twenty five different lathe turned security underprint types are recorded on various essays for the 1869 issue with seventeen recorded on the Lincoln essay. Each is believed to be unique.

1869 Issue - Unadopted Ten Cents Plate Proofs On Stamp Paper

Imperforate



deep green with imprint



ultramarine with imprint



dark ultramarine



blue

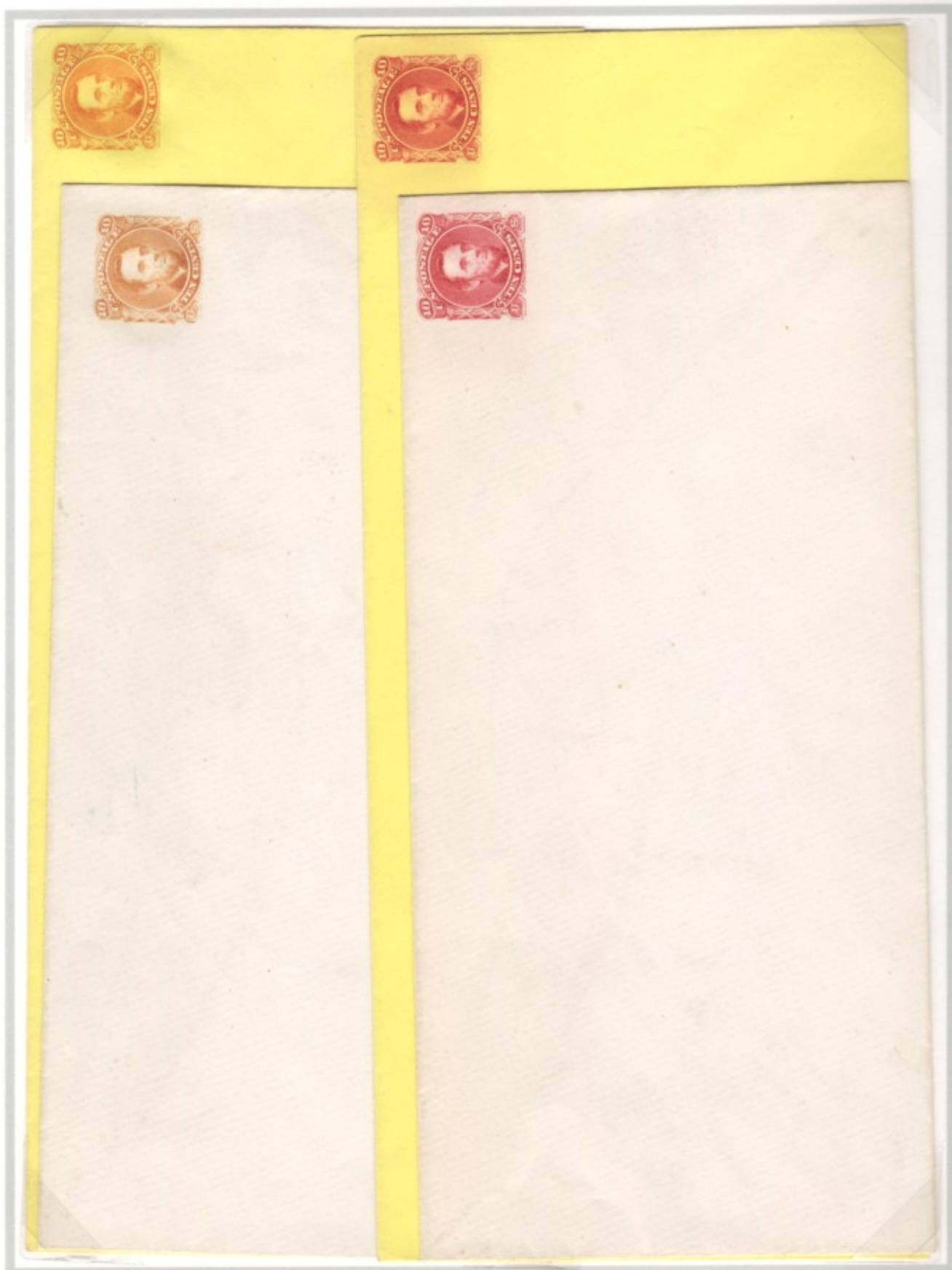
Perforated



orange block

1869 Issue - Unadopted Ten Cents

Postal Stationery Essays



orange on canary and on white laid, carmine on canary and on white laid

1869 Issue - Unadopted Ten Cents
Postal Stationery Essays



black, blue, purple, scarlet and brown - all on canary