

The United States Five Cent 1856 Stamp and Its Uses

One of the most elusive of early United States stamps is the imperforate five cent issued in 1856. Produced from a single plate, it is estimated that only about 150,000 were sold before being replaced by the perforated version, using the same plate, in 1857. The five cent value was created to serve the need for the five cent open mail rate. Under the United States-British Postal Treaty, a letter could be sent to France, or beyond, bearing only five cents postage. This amount paid the rate to Great Britain. Since the only low value stamps available from 1851 to 1856 were in denominations of one and three cents, this open mail rate required at least three stamps.

The five cent imperforate saw very little usage in the domestic mails. It was used infrequently to pay three cent multiple rates, or the ten cent rate over 3,000 miles. Only two examples are recorded of its use to pay the five cent registry fee.

The largest number of known usages of the five cent imperforate are to France. It is estimated that more than two thirds of the existing covers fall into this category. Usage of the stamp to overseas destinations, other than France, was only moderate. This exhibit includes examples to various German States, Great Britain, Bermuda, Cape Verde, China, Denmark, India, Sardinia, Java, Mexico, Switzerland and Belgium.

The covers to France present a very interesting group. When the five cent stamps were issued in 1856, two postal rates were in use for mail to France: a five cent open mail rate, as well as the seldom used twenty cent rate for mail carried by the Havre Line of steamers. These rates continued through the first three months of 1857 and, as a result of an Anglo-French treaty existing at that time, this "Three Month Period" saw distinctive debit markings applied to mail that transited Great Britain. On April 1, 1857, the effective date of a new treaty between the United States and France, a convention rate of fifteen cents was established. However, it was shortly thereafter, in August of 1857, that the imperforate issue was supplanted by the perforated five cents.

Numbers recorded used to various destinations are based on the exhibitor's extensive records derived from auction data and private correspondence.

This exhibit will show the proofs, stamps and usages of the five cent 1856 issue developed on the following outline:

1. The Proofs
2. The Issued Stamps
3. Domestic Usages
4. Usages To British North America
5. Overseas Usages
6. Usages To German States
7. Usages To France



rejoined block of nine with center line at left
20 July 1857 New Orleans postmarks
(positions 51-73R)

Large Die Proofs



black



orange brown

The Only Reported Examples Outside Of Archives

The dies for the five cent denomination of 1856 were produced by Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co.

Small Die Proofs



Pan-Pacific Small Die Proof



Fewer Than Five 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.

Trial Color Plate Proofs

pen cancelled



The Two Reported Examples In Black



pale brown

rose brown



deep red brown
(close to issued color)

deep orange



olive green

olive bistre



Unused Examples



The Largest Reported Unused Multiple



Used Blocks



from block of eleven that had
been the largest multiple

Three Of The Four Reported Off Cover Blocks Are Shown Above



irregular block of five (stamp removed at bottom right) on cover to Prussia

Used Strips



Used Pairs



bottom sheet margin pair on cover to France

Printing Varieties



pre-printing paper fold



double transfer (position 40R1, part imprint)
the right stamp in strip of four



defective transfer (position 23R1) early and late states



defective transfer the bottom stamp in strip (positions 3-23R1) on cover to France

The Only Reported Example In Strip

Reliefs And Imprints



Relief A

“bulge” relief, top row only, pair with guide dots



Relief B

“check mark” relief, rows 2, 5 and 8



Relief C

“arch” relief, rows 3, 6 and 9



Relief D

“broken line” relief, rows 4, 7 and 10



part imprint
(31L1)



part imprint
(40R1, double transfer)



part imprint
(51L1)



part imprint
(60R1)

Benjamin Franklin Trust/US BANK NOTE ENGRAVING, Philadelphia, New York, London, Frankfurt, NY 1

Benjamin Franklin Trust/US BANK NOTE ENGRAVING, Philadelphia, New York, London, Frankfurt, NY 1

The printing plate was prepared using four different reliefs as illustrated above. Imprints occur at the sides of the sheet. It is assumed, only from known perforated examples, that the imprint also included the plate number. Plating has not been possible, even using the perforated multiples, due to the few distinctive plating marks.

Sheet Centerline Copies

top margin
centerline copy
from left pane
(position 10L)



top margin
centerline copy
from right pane
(position 1R)



bottom margin
centerline copy
from left pane
(position 100L)

The five cent 1856 issue was printed in sheets of 200, two panes of 100 with a centerline between. This line shows to the right on stamps from the left pane and to the left on stamps from the right pane.

Sheet Margin Examples



position 91L



bottom margin copy used on front to France

Selected Cancellations



Steam Ship (New York)



New York ocean mail



Paid (Boston and unknown)



foreign transits



Swanton, Vermont syncopated grid cancel on cover to France



target



grill



pinwheel



grid



manuscript

Selected Postmarks



New York, New York



Yankee Jim's, California



Kingston, New Hampshire



St. Martinsville, Louisiana



Charleston, South Carolina



Cape Vincent, New York



Freeport, Illinois

Selected Postmarks



Wilmington, Delaware



Holidaysburgh, Pennsylvania



Buffalo, New York



Hartford, Connecticut



Fort Leavenworth, Kansas Territory



New Orleans, Louisiana



Columbia, Texas, one of only three reported usages from Texas

Colored Cancellations And Postmarks



waffle grid



grid



grill



grill



Trenton, New Jersey



numeral "6"

6



target



Mobile, Alabama magenta postmark on cover to France



grill



waffle grid



Youngstown,
Ohio



Bethlehem,
Pennsylvania



Colima, California

Domestic Usages

5c Registry Fee

3c Rate To 3,000 Miles



7 November 1856 Albany, New York **registered mail** to Worcester, Massachusetts
registry number at top, 5c registry fee paid by stamp plus 3c domestic rate paid by 3c 1851 issue

Two Reported Examples Of Registry Fee Paid By Stamp

Starting July 1, 1855, the fee for domestic registry was five cents. This fee was intended to be collected in cash. The two examples known that are paid by stamp are both done so in error from Albany, New York. The postmaster apparently did not understand the somewhat vague language of the regulation.

Domestic Usages

3c Rate To 3,000 Miles

Single Rate / Double Rate



7 January 1857 Vicksburgh, Mississippi to Gourdin's Depot on North Eastern R.R.
overpaid 3c single rate

Fewer Than 5 Reported Examples Of Overpaid 3c Rate



29 April 1856 Mayville, New York to Oakland, New York
double rate paid in combination with 1c 1851 issue, type II

Earliest Reported Domestic Usage

Domestic Usages

3c Rate To 3,000 Miles

Double Rate / Triple Rate



12 March 1858 New York, New York to Baltimore, Maryland
double rate paid with additional 1c 1857 issue, type V



4 August 1856 Potsdam, New York to Bangor, Maine
triple rate paid with additional 3c 1851 issue and 1c 1851 issue, type IV

Domestic Usages

3c Rate To 3,000 Miles

Quintuple Rates



22 August 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana to Catahoula Parish, Louisiana
quintuple rate paid with additional 10c 1855 issue, type II




10 November 1858 Aurora, Illinois to Lewistown, Illinois
quintuple rate paid with additional 10c 1857 issue, type II

Domestic Usages

3c Rate To 3,000 Miles

Sextuple Rates

Blank Election Returns, 1859.

Election Returns 
~~*Hartford*~~ **Town Clerk of** *Branford*
Conn.

2 March 1859 Hartford, Connecticut to Branford, Connecticut
sextuple rate paid with additional 1c 1857 issue, type V, and 12c 1857 issue


John Rumsey Esq?
N^o 308 Walnut Street
Philadelphia
Penn^a
3 Buds 

4 September Mineral Point, Wisconsin to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
sextuple rate paid with additional 10c 1855 issue, type II and 3c 1857 issue

Domestic Usages

3c Rate To 3,000 Miles

Octuple Rate



25 March 1858 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to New York, New York
octuple rate paid with four copies of 5c plus additional 1c 1857 issue, type II, and 3c 1857 issue

This cover possibly carried Daguerreotypes, which were photographs on copper plates. Section 88 of the "Regulations" stated "*Daguerreotypes when sent in the mail should be rated and charged with letter postage by weight.*"

Domestic Usages

10c Rate Over 3,000 Miles

Single Rate / Double Rate



16 April 1857 Auburn, New York to San Francisco, California
vertical pair 5c paying **single rate**



18 March 1857 Buffalo, New York to San Francisco, California
double rate paid with single 5c and five copies 3c 1851 issue

Domestic Usages
Printed Matter Rate



12 November 1858 Bellefonte, Pennsylvania to Easton, Pennsylvania
28c rate usage with additional pair 10c 1857 issue, type II, and single 3c 1857 issue

The Only Reported Usage On A Printed Matter Rate Cover

*This rate is correct for either a bundle of printed matter weighing between 31 and 32 ounces
or a book weighing between 27 and 28 ounces.*

Usages To British North America

10c Rate To 3,000 Miles

Prepaid / Partially Prepaid



29 August 1857 Bethlehem, Pennsylvania to Fredericton, New Brunswick
exchanged at Houlton, Maine with "U. States" handstamp
3 September 1857 Woodstock N.B. transit and 5 September 1857 arrival backstamps



5 May 1856 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Halifax, Nova Scotia
partially prepaid with adhesive, manuscript "10" and "Paid"
St. Andrews transit backstamp, 6d cy. due, 13 May 1856 arrival backstamp

Usages To British North America

10c Rate To 3,000 Miles



13 August 1858 Palatine, Illinois to Forestville, Canada
additional franking of 3c 1851 issue and pair 1c 1857 issue, type IIIa
exchanged at Detroit, Michigan with "U. States" and "Paid 10" handstamps
26 August 1858 arrival backstamp



10 September 1858 Palatine, Illinois to Forestville, Canada
prepaid with 5c pair, exchanged at Detroit, Michigan with "U. States" and "Paid 10" handstamps
16 September 1858 arrival backstamp

Usages To British North America

10c Rate To 3,000 Miles



23 June 1856 Columbus, Ohio to Toronto, Canada
exchanged at Buffalo, New York with "U^d. States, Paid 6^d." handstamp
25 June 1856 Kingston arrival backstamp



13 November 1856 Boston, Massachusetts to Kingston, Canada
exchanged at Boston, Massachusetts with "United States" handstamp
18 November 1856 arrival backstamp

Usages To British North America

5c Open Mail Rate To Nova Scotia



7 April 1856 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Halifax, Nova Scotia
by Cunard steamer from Boston, 5d cy. due, 11 April 1856 arrival backstamp



22 September 1856 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Halifax, Nova Scotia
24 September Boston Packet backstamp and thence by Cunard steamer
5d cy. due, 26 September 1856 arrival backstamp

Usages To British North America

5c Open Mail Rate To Nova Scotia



3 April 1858 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Halifax, Nova Scotia

7 April Boston Packet backstamp and thence by Cunard steamer

5d cy. due, 9 April 1858 arrival backstamp



22 February 1859 Boston, Massachusetts to Halifax, Nova Scotia

23 February Boston Packet backstamp and thence by Cunard steamer

5d cy. due, 25 February 1859 arrival backstamp

Overseas Usages

5c Open Mail Rate To Tuscany



11 June 1857 Norfolk, Virginia to Florence, Tuscany

20 June New York transit, per Collins Line *Atlantic*

2 July 1857 French transit, arrival backstamp and manuscript due

Two Reported Usages To Tuscany

5c Open Mail Rate To Sardinia

U.S. POSTAGE
FIVE CENTS

INDIANAPOLIS
SEPT 3
1860

No-10
dated Sept.
1st

Mr. Wm. W. Phelps, Jr.,
100 N. 1st St.,
Indianapolis, Ind.

margin stamp shows the interpane center line



1 November 1856 arrival backstamp

Overseas Usages

5c Open Mail Rate To Sardinia



9 December 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana, to Intra, Piedmont (Sardinia)

24 December New York transit, per *Africa* to Liverpool, 6 January Calais transit
first mail to arrive in England after start of **three month period** with "GB 1^F60^c" debit



25 February 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana, to Intra, Piedmont (Sardinia)

10 March New York transit, per *Niagara* to Liverpool, 24 March Calais transit
three month period usage with "GB 1^F60^c" debit, 28 March 1857 arrival backstamp

The so-called three month period began when the Anglo-French convention became effective on January 1, 1857 and ended on March 31, 1857. Under this convention mails that passed through Great Britain bound for France, or points beyond, received a British debit to France.

Overseas Usages

24c Rate To Great Britain



9 April 1857 Albany, New York to Aberdeen, Scotland

two pairs of 5c and singles of 1c 1851 Issue, type IV, and 3c 1851 Issue

24 April 1857 Liverpool transit, "3" credit handstamp, 25 April 1857 arrival backstamp

The First Of Two Reported Usages To Great Britain

The 24c rate from the United States to Great Britain had been established by the the Treaty of 1848.

The 5c open mail rate was not available for mail destined for Great Britain.

Overseas Usages

24c Rate To Great Britain



6 July 1856 front from **Saint John, New Brunswick** to Aberdeen, Scotland
by **Colonial Express Mail** privately to Boston and thence to New York and Scotland
two pairs of 5c and singles of 1c 1851 Issue, type IV, and 3c 1851 Issue

The Only Reported Usage From British North America

The Second Of Two Reported Usages To Great Britain

Overseas Usages

45c Rate To India



1 December 1857 Troy, New York to Sangor, Hindustan

franked with additional strip of four 10c 1857 issue, types II

17 May 1858 London transit and "40" credit handstamp, Bombay transit backstamp



2 February 1858 Troy, New York to Sangor, Hindustan

franked with additional two additional pairs 10c 1857 issue, left pair type II, right pair types IV and III

6 February 1858 London transit and manuscript "40" credit handstamp, arrival backstamp

Two Of The Three Reported Usages To India

Overseas Usages

45c Rate To India



4 May 1858 Troy, New York to Sangor, Hindustan

franked with additional combination block of 10c 1857 issue, types II and III

17 May 1858 London transit and "40" credit handstamp, 29 June 1858 arrival backstamp

Third Of The Three Reported Usages To India

Overseas Usages

21c Rate To Hong Kong, China via British Mails

Single Rate / Double Rate



19 August 1856 Trenton, New Jersey to a U.S. sailor in Hong Kong, China
prepaid with 5c strip of four and 1c 1851 Issue, type IV
22 August New York American Packet handstamp



5 September 1856 Trenton, New Jersey to a U.S. sailor in Hong Kong, China
short paid double rate, franked by 5c strip of four and 1c 1851 Issue, type IV
9 September New York British Packet handstamp
1 December 1856 arrival backstamp, 2 sh. due

Two Of The Three Reported Usages To Hong Kong

Overseas Usages

38c Rate To Hong Kong, China via Prussian Closed Mails



2 February 1858 Boston, Massachusetts to Hong Kong, China
franked with additional 10c 1857 Issue strip of three, types III,II,III and single 3c 1857 Issue
16 February 1858 London transit and manuscript "28" credit
24 April 1858 arrival backstamp

The Only Reported Usage To Hong Kong By Prussian Closed Mails

The 5c stamp shows the interpane center line.

Overseas Usages

45c Rate To Java



29 March 1858 Edgartown, Massachusetts to Batavia, Java (Dutch East Indies)
additional franking of severed pair 10c 1855 Issue, type I, and pair 10c 1857 Issue, type III
12 April 1858 London transit, 40 credit handstamp

The Only Reported Usage To Java

Overseas Usages

10c Rate To Bermuda



19 December 1856 Georgetown, South Carolina to St. Georges, Bermuda

3c 1851 entire franked with additional two copies 1c 1851 Issue, type IV

Not Paid handstamp applied in error, 4 (d) due

The Only Reported Example Used To Bermuda

The 10c direct rate by British Packet from New York to Bermuda had been eliminated in May, 1854.

However, the same rate by American Packet was still in effect and this may have caused the confusion with the Not Paid handstamp being applied in error.

Overseas Usages
10c Rate To Mexico



1 November 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana to Vera Cruz, Mexico



7 February 185 New Orleans, Louisiana to Vera Cruz, Mexico

The Two Reported Usages To Mexico

Overseas Usages

10c Rate To Cuba



15 January 1858 New York, New York **double rate** to Havana, Cuba
imperforate pair in combination with **perforated pair 5c**
blue NA and 3 due handstamp

The Only Reported Combination With Five Cent Perforated

The Only Reported Usage To Cuba

Direct service by American Packet

Overseas Usages

35c Rate To Denmark via Prussian Closed Mail



20 April 1858 Orient, New York to Copenhagen, Denmark
additional franking of 10c 1855 Issue strip of three, type II
via **Prussian Closed Mail**, "12" credit handstamp
9 May 1858 Hamburg transit and arrival backstamps

The Only Reported Example Used To Denmark

Overseas Usages

30c Rate To Hungary via Prussian Closed Mail



31 October 1856 Peoria, Illinois to Caschau, Hungary
8 November New York transit, franked for open mail rate
carried by Collins Line packet *Atlantic*, **via Prussian Closed Mail**
22 November red Aachen transit backstamp
26 November arrival backstamp

The Only Reported Example To Hungary

Overseas Usages

38c Rate To Sardinia via Prussian Closed Mail



8 August 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to St. Julien, Sardinia
additional franking of strip of three 10c 1855 Issue, types II,III,I on 3c entire
15 August New York transit, **via Prussian Closed Mail**, manuscript "15" credit
Via Di Svizzera handstamp, Torino and Annecy transit backstamps
4 September 1857 arrival backstamp

The Only Reported Example To Sardinia By Prussian Closed Mail

St. Julien was located south of Geneva, Switzerland in the area of Sardinia that is now part of France.

Overseas Usages

65c Rate To Cape Verde Islands



23 July 1857 Washington, D.C. to a U.S. sailor at Porto Grande, Isla St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands
additional franking of two pairs and a single 12c 1851 Issue
6 August 1857 London transit, manuscript "44" credit

Two Reported Examples Used To Cape Verde Islands

Overseas Usages

35c Rate To Switzerland via Prussian Closed Mail



15 July 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Geneva, Switzerland
 additional franking of strip of three 10c 1855 Issue, types III,II,III
 via **Prussian Closed Mail**, "12" credit handstamp
 6 August 1857 arrival backstamp



19 December 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Geneva, Switzerland
 additional franking of strip of three 10c 1855 Issue, types II,II,IV (pos. 74L, recut at top)
 via **Prussian Closed Mail**, "12" credit handstamp
 9 January 1858 arrival backstamp

Overseas Usages

35c Rate To Switzerland via Prussian Closed Mail



19 August 1857 Hartford, Connecticut to Vevey, Switzerland

additional franking of strip of three 10c 1855 Issue, types III,III,IV (pos. 64L, recut at top and foot)

via **Prussian Closed Mail**, "12" credit handstamp

6 September 1857 arrival backstamp

Overseas Usages

5c Open Mail Rate To Belgium



7 October 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana to Antwerp, Belgium
15 October New York transit, per Cunard Line *Africa*
29 October arrival backstamp

The Only Reported Example To Belgium

DEBOURS ÉTRANGERS	_____
TAXE RÉDUITE	_____
PORT BELGE	_____

Overseas Usages

5c Open Mail Rate To China



2 February 1858 Boston, Massachusetts to Shanghai, China

Returned For Postage handstamp applied at New York

9 March New York backstamp, carried on Cunard Line *America* after postage supplied

28 March 1858 London transit and manuscript "28" debit

22 May 1858 Hong Kong backstamp

The Only Reported Example Used To Shanghai

Overseas Usages

5c Open Mail Rate To Switzerland



1 July 1856 Baresville, Ohio to Kiesen, Switzerland

22 July 1856 Calais transit

24 July 1856 Bern backstamp



11 June 1857 Baresville, Ohio to Schwyz, Switzerland

16 June New York transit, 29 June 1856 Calais transit

3 July 1857 Bern backstamp

Usages To German States

30c Rate To Bremen via Prussian Closed Mail



23 July 1857 Richmond, Virginia to Munder, Bremen

franked by 5c **block of six**, originally folded over back of cover which has been opened out and repaired

25 July New York 7 Paid transit with credit

9 August 1857 arrival backstamp

The Largest Surviving Multiple In Any Form

Usages To German States

30c Rate To Wurtemberg via Prussian Closed Mail

Block / Three Color Franking



27 September 1856 Wilmington, Delaware to Sisorndorf, Wurtemberg
original block of six reduced to a **block of four** and replaced on original cover
1 October New York Paid 7 transit with credit, 18 October 1856 arrival backstamp



20 February 1857 Wilmington, Delaware to Sisorndorf, Wurtemberg
additional franking of pair 12c 1851 Issue and single 1c 1851 Issue, type IV
21 February New York Paid 7 transit with credit, 11 March 1857 arrival backstamp

Usages To German States

30c Rate To Saxony via Prussian Closed Mail



29 January 1858 Erie, Pennsylvania to Hildburghausen, Saxony

3 February New York 23 transit with debit for short paid

17 February 1858 arrival backstamp, manuscript 45 (k) due

The Only Reported Example Used On Illustrated Cover

The cover bears an illustration of Sauk Indian Chieftain Keokuk.

Usages To German States

30c Rate To Prussia via Prussian Closed Mail



20 October 1856 Flushing, New York to Adthaldensleben, Prussia

20 October New York 23 transit with debit for short paid

4 November 1856 arrival backstamp, manuscript due

Usages To German States

30c Rate To Thurn and Taxis via Prussian Closed Mail



12 June 1856 Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Marburg, Hessen (Thurn and Taxis)
overpaid 30c rate with additional franking strip of three 10c 1855 Issue, type II

16 June New York 7 transit with credit

1 July 1856 arrival backstamp

This cover was prepaid at the 35c Prussian Closed Mail rate to Switzerland in error.

Usages To German States

30c Rate To Bavaria via Prussian Closed Mail



14 May 1857 Washington, Iowa to Bayreuth, Bavaria

19 May New York 23 transit with debit for short paid

4 June 1857 arrival backstamp, manuscript 45 (k) due

Usages To German States

15c Rate To Hamburg via Bremen Mails



23 March 1858 Freeport, Illinois to Hamburg

additional franking of 10c 1855 Issue, type II

15 April New York Bremen Packet Paid 5 transit with credit

Usages To German States

15c Rate To Prussia via Bremen Mails



6 April 1858 Pekin, Illinois to Berlin, Prussia
additional franking of 10c 1857 issue, type III
11 April New York U.S. Packet Paid 6 transit
5 May arrival backstamp

Usages To German States

15c Rate To Hanover via Bremen Mails



2 September 1857 Milwaukie, Wisconsin to Gronau, Hanover

additional franking of 10c 1857 Issue, type III

5 September U.S. Packet Paid 6 transit with credit

20 September 1857 arrival backstamp

Usages To France

5c Open Mail Rate



31 March 1856 New Bedford, Massachusetts to Paris, France

2 April New York transit, per British packet *Persia*

14 April 1856 Calais entry, arrival backstamp and 13 (d) due



3 December 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana to Cognac, France

10 December New York transit, per British packet *Persia*

21 December 1856 Calais entry, arrival backstamp and 13 (d) due

5c Open Mail Rate



23 September New York transit, per British packet *Arabia*

6 October 1856 Calais entry, arrival backstamp and 26 (d) double due



15 October New York transit, per British packet *Africa*

28 October 1856 Calais entry, 30 October arrival backstamp and 13 (d) due

Usages To France

5c Open Mail Rate



25 August 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana to Paris, France

3 September New York transit, per British packet *Africa*

15 September 1856 Calais entry, arrival backstamp and 26 (d) due



7 September 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana to Paris, France

17 September New York transit, per British packet *Persia*

30 September 1856 Calais entry, arrival backstamp and 26 (d) due

Usages To France

5c Open Mail Rate



10 July 1856 New York, New York to Rouen, France
per British packet *Baltic*

31 July 1856 Calais entry, arrival backstamp and 13 (d) due



17 November 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana to Pontay, France

26 November New York transit, per British packet *Europa*

8 December 1856 Calais entry, arrival backstamp and 13 (d) due

Usages To France
21c Collins Line Rate



27 March 1856 New Bedford, Massachusetts to Paris, France
prepaid 21c rate in combination with two copies 3c and single 10c 1851 issue, type II
carried per Collins Line packet *Ericsson*
14 April 1856 Calais entry
15 April 1856 arrival backstamp and 8 (d) due

The Earliest Reported Trans-Atlantic Usage Of 5c 1856 Issue

Usages To France

20c Havre Line Direct Rate



5 April 1856 New York, New York to Limoges, France
although short paid it was handled as fully prepaid, per Havre Line packet *Fulton*
19 April 1856 Havre entry
24 April 1856 arrival backstamp and 6 (d) due

Prepaid covers from the United States to France that were carried by the New York- Havre Line (Havre Line) direct from New York City to Havre, France were charged 20 cents per half ounce. This rate was prepaid to Havre, if addressed beyond the port, an additional 6 decimes was due. This rate was in effect until April 1, 1857 although seldom used. During the period of use of the 5c 1856 issue there were only two ships in service on the line that made a total of ten trips.

Usages To France

20c Havre Line Direct Rate



8 September Donaldsonville, Louisiana to Marbourquet, France
franked with 5c **block of four** and single 1c 1851 Issue, type IV
overpaid by 1c so that it could go by either American or British packet
20 September New York American Packet transit, per *Arago* to Havre

The Only Reported Usage To France With A Block Of Four

Prepaid covers from the United States to France that were carried by the New York- Havre Line (Havre Line) direct from New York City to Havre, France were charged 20 cents per half ounce. This rate was prepaid to Havre, if addressed beyond the port, an additional 6 decimes was due. This rate was in effect until April 1, 1857 although seldom used. During the period of use of the 5c 1856 issue there were only two ships in service on the line that made a total of ten trips.

Usages To France

20c Havre Line Direct Rate



8 November 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana to Pontay, France
15 November New York transit, per Havre Line packet *Fulton*
1 December 1856 Havre entry
3 December 1856 arrival backstamp and 6 (d) due

Only Reported Example Of Correctly Paid Rate With 5c

Prepaid covers from the United States to France that were carried by the New York- Havre Line (Havre Line) direct from New York City to Havre, France were charged 20 cents per half ounce. This rate was prepaid to Havre, if addressed beyond the port, an additional 6 decimes was due. This rate was in effect until April 1, 1857 although seldom used. During the period of use of the 5c 1856 issue there were only two ships in service on the line that made a total of ten trips.

Usages To France

20c Havre Line Direct Rate



30 November 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana to Paris, France
overpaid rate with 1c 1851 Issue

13 December New York transit, per Havre Line packet *Arago*

27 December 1856 Havre entry and arrival backstamp

12 (d) double due for over 7.5 grams

Although the rate was 20 cents for carriage by the Havre line, the usual prepayment was 21 cents. By paying that amount, the letter could be sent by the next Collins line steamer if the Havre Line ship failed to sail.

Usages To France

5c Open Mail Rate

Variant New Orleans Postmarks



20 July 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana to Paris, France

29 July New York transit, per British packet *Niagara*

12 August 1856 Calais entry, arrival backstamp and 26 (d) **double due** for over 7.5 grams

Larger New Orleans postmarks with double dots under abbreviation. In use very briefly.



3 August 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana to Paris, France

12 August New York transit, per British packet *Arabia*

26 August 1856 Calais entry, arrival backstamp and 13 (d) **due**

Usages To France

5c Open Mail Rate

Unusual Postmarks



7 July 1856 Sainte Marie, Illinois to Meurthe, France
9 July New York transit, per British packet *Asia*
22 July 1856 Calais entry, arrival backstamp and 13 (d) due



11 September 1856 Galveston, Texas to Nantes, France
7 October 1856 Calais entry, arrival backstamp and 13 (d) due

Three Reported Examples Used From Texas

Usages From Mexico

Usages To France



9 November 1856 **Vera Cruz, Mexico**, "via U.S." to Bordeaux, France

16 November 1856 entered the mails at New Orleans, Louisiana

26 November New York transit, per British packet *Europa*

9 December 1856 Calais entry, arrival backstamp and 13 (d) due

Three Reported Usages Originating Outside the United States

Usages To France

5c Open Mail Rate

Forwarding Cachet



16 August 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana out of the mails to New York, New York

Forwarded By John Durand & Co. New York handstamp

26 August entered the mails at New York to Bordeaux, France

per British packet *Canada*

8 September 1856 Calais entry

10 September 1856 arrival backstamp and 13 (d) due

Only Reported Usage With United States Forwarder Cachet

Usages To France

5c Open Mail Rate



8 September 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana to Nantes, France

17 September New York transit, per British packet *Persia*

30 September 1856 Calais entry, arrival backstamp and 13 (d) due



14 September 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana to Buzet, France

23 September New York transit, per British packet *Arabia*

8 October 1856 Calais entry, arrival backstamp and 13 (d) due

Usages To France

5c Open Mail Rate

Double Rates



15 July 1856 New York, New York to Trie, France

5c bottom right **sheet margin copy**, per British packet *Canada*

28 July 1856 Calais entry, arrival backstamp and 26 (d) double due for over 7.5 grams



21 July 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana **double rate** to Chalons, France

29 July New York transit, per British packet *Niagara*

12 August 1856 Calais entry, arrival backstamp and 26 (d) double rate due

Usages To France

5c Open Mail Rate



7 December 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana to Paris, France

16 December New York transit, per British Packet *Arabia*

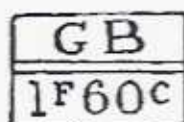
30 December 1856 Calais entry

arrival backstamp, 13 (d) due

The Last Sailing Prior To Three Month Period

Usages To France The Three Month Period

First Sailing



8 December 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana to Mulhouse, France

24 December New York transit, per British Packet *Africa*, "GB 1^F60^c" debit

6 January 1857 Calais entry

8 January 1857 arrival backstamp, 8 (d) due

First Mail To Arrive In England After Start Of Three Month Period

The so-called three month period began when the Anglo-French convention became effective on January 1, 1857 and ended on March 31, 1857 with the United States-French Treaty. Mails to France that passed through Great Britain received the distinctive British debit to France marking shown above. There were only fourteen sailing by Cunard steamers that arrived in Liverpool during this three month period. However, the distinctive markings are known used on two additional late sailings.

The "Three Month" Cunard Line Sailings:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. per <i>Africa</i> December 24, 1856 from New York | 9. per <i>Africa</i> February 18, 1857 from New York |
| 2. per <i>Canada</i> December 31, 1856 from Boston | 10. per <i>Europa</i> February 25, 1857 from Boston |
| 3. per <i>Europa</i> January 7, 1857 from New York | 11. per <i>Asia</i> March 4, 1857 from New York |
| 4. per <i>Niagara</i> January 14, 1857 from Boston | 12. per <i>Niagara</i> March 1, 1857 from Boston |
| 5. per <i>Asia</i> January 21, 1857 from New York | 13. per <i>Persia</i> March 18, 1857 from New York |
| 6. per <i>America</i> January 29, 1857 from Boston | 14. per <i>America</i> March 25, 1857 from Boston |
| 7. per <i>Persia</i> February 4, 1857 from New York | 15. per <i>Africa</i> April 1, 1857 from New York |
| 8. per <i>Arabia</i> February 11, 1857 from Boston | 16. per <i>Europa</i> April 8, 1857 from Boston |

Usages To France

The Three Month Period

Second Sailing / Third Sailing



22 December 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana to Paris, France

30 December New York transit, **first three month period trip** of British Packet *Canada*, "GB 1^F60^c" debit

14 January 1857 Calais entry, 16 (d) due



29 December 1856 New Orleans, Louisiana to Paris, France

7 January New York transit, **first three month period trip** of British Packet *Europa*, "GB 1^F60^c" debit

19 January 1857 Calais entry, 20 January arrival backstamp, 16 (d) due

Usages To France
The Three Month Period

Fourth Sailing



4 January 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Massevaux, France

13 January New York transit, **first three month period trip** of British Packet *Niagara*, "GB 1^F60^c" debit

27 January 1857 Calais entry

28 January arrival backstamp, 8 (d) due

Usages To France

The Three Month Period

Seventh Sailing / Eighth Sailing



13 January 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Havre, France

4 February New York transit and their **TOO LATE** handstamp

per British Packet *Persia*, "GB 1^F60" debit, 15 February 1857 Calais entry, 8 (d) due

The "Too Late" handstamp was applied because of a postal delay, cover missed the Asia as endorsed.



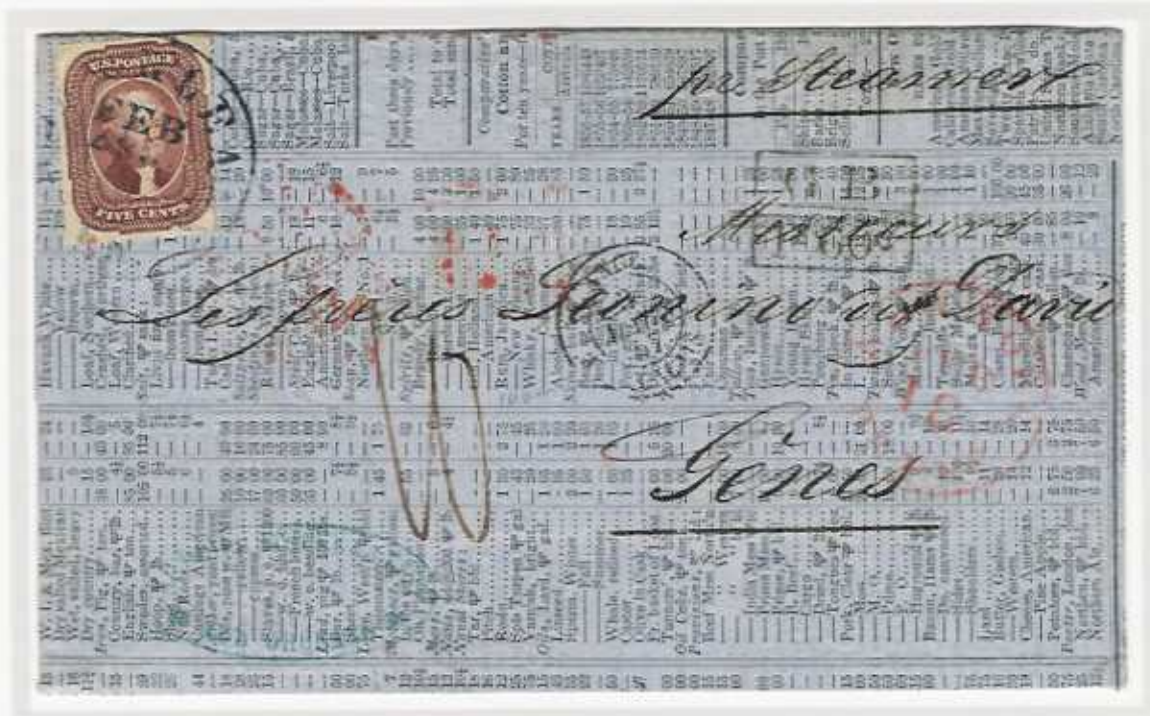
31 January 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Chalon s Saone, France

10 February New York transit, per British Packet *Africa*, "GB 1^F60" debit

23 February 1857 Calais entry, 8 (d) due

Usages To France
The Three Month Period

Ninth Sailing



7 February 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Genes, France
18 February New York transit, per British Packet *Africa*, "GB 1^F60^c" debit
3 March 1857 Calais entry, 4 March arrival backstamp, 16 (d) due



10 February 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Nantes, France
the only reported **double rate** with pair 1c 1851 Issue, type II, and single 3c 1851 Issue
18 February New York transit, per British Packet *Africa*, "GB 1^F60^c" debit
3 March 1857 Calais entry, 4 March arrival backstamp, 16 (d) due

The Three Month Period

Tenth Sailing / Eleventh sailing



17 February 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Paris, France
25 February Boston transit, per British Packet *Europa*, "GB 1^F60^{CS}" debit
10 March 1857 Calais entry and arrival backstamp, 8 (d) due



23 February 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Bordeaux, France
4 March New York transit, per British Packet *Asia*, "GB 1^F60" debit
19 March 1857 Calais entry and arrival backstamp, 8 (d) due

Usages To France
The Three Month Period

Eleventh Sailing - From Mexico



17 February 1857 **Tabasco, Mexico** to Bordeaux, France
21 February 1857 entered the mails at New Orleans, Louisiana
4 March New York transit, per British Packet *Asia*, "GB 1^F60^c" debit
17 March 1857 Calais entry, 19 March arrival backstamp, 8 (d) due

One Of Three Reported Usages Originating Outside The United States

Usages To France

The Three Month Period

Twelfth Sailing



2 March 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana **double rate** to Nantes, France
10 March New York transit, per British Packet *Niagara*, "GB 1^F60^{cm}" debit
24 March 1857 Calais entry, 26 March arrival backstamp
24 (d) due for over 15 grams

The Only Reported Pair Used During Three Month Period

The French Rate Progression Was:
under 7.5 grams.....8 decimes due
7.5 to 15 grams16 decimes due
15 to 22.5 grams24 decimes due

Usages To France
The Three Month Period

Thirteenth Sailing



1 March 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Marseilles, France
 18 March New York transit, per British Packet *Persia*, "GB 1^F60^c" debit
 30 March 1857 Calais entry, 2 April arrival backstamp, 8 (d) due



9 March 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana double to Paris, France
 18 March New York transit, per British Packet *Persia*, "GB 1^F60^c" debit
 30 March 1857 Calais entry, 31 March arrival backstamp, 16 (d) due for over 7.5 grams

Usages To France
The Three Month Period

Fourteenth Sailing



15 March 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Bordeaux, France
 25 March Boston transit, per British Packet *America*, "GB 1^F60^c" debit
 7 April 1857 Calais entry, 9 April arrival backstamp, 8 (d) due



15 March 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Bordeaux, France
 25 March Boston transit, per British Packet *America*, "GB 1^F60^c" debit
 7 April 1857 Calais entry, 9 April arrival backstamp, 16 (d) due for over 7.5 grams

Usages To France
Three Month Period

Fifteenth Sailing



21 March 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Paris, France

1 April New York transit, per British Packet *Africa*, "GB 1^F60^c" debit

13 April 1857 Calais entry, arrival backstamp, 16 (d) due for over 7.5 grams

Second To Last Sailing During Three Month Period

Usages To France

The Three Month Period - The Last Sailing

Sixteenth Sailing



29 March 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Paris, France

8 April Boston transit, per British Packet *Europa*, "GB 1^f60^c" debit

21 April 1857 Calais entry, 22 April arrival backstamp, 8 (d) due



28 March 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Paris, France

8 April Boston transit, per British Packet *Europa*, "GB 1^f60^c" debit

21 April 1857 Calais entry, 22 April arrival backstamp, 16 (d) due for over 7.5 grams

Usages To France

15c Convention Rate

First Week 1857 Convention



6 April 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Bordeaux, France
additional franking of 10c 1855 Issue, type II

15 April New York Paid 12 transit with credit, per British packet *Asia*
28 April 1857 Calais entry, 30 April arrival backstamp

First Week Usage Under New Postal Convention

The United States - French Postal Convention of March 2, 1857 became effective on April 1, 1857. Under this convention, for a single rate prepaid letter posted in the United States, via Great Britain, France was credited with 12 cents if carried by British Packet. If carried by American Packet, the credit to France was 6 cents. For direct service to Havre by American packet the credit to France was 3 cents.

Usages To France
15c Convention Rate

By American Packet / By British Packet



14 May 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Paris, France
 additional franking of 10c 1855 Issue, type II
 24 May New York transit, per **American Packet**
 8 June 1857 Calais entry and arrival backstamp



18 May 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Paris, France
 27 May New York Paid 12 transit with credit, per **British Packet Asia**
 9 June 1857 Calais entry and arrival backstamp

Usages To France
15c Convention Rate



30 May 1857 New York, New York to Nantes, France
5c with **center guide line** at right, additional franking of 10c 1855 issue, type II
New York Paid 3 transit with credit, per **American Packet Arago**
14 June 1857 Havre entry, arrival backstamp

Usages To France

15c Convention Rate

Single Rate / Double Rate



10 May 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Paris, France

19 May New York **Paid 12** transit with credit, per British packet *Europa*

1 June 1857 Calais entry, 2 June arrival backstamp



12 August 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Port Vendres, France, **double rate** paid with two strips of three

19 August New York **Paid 24** transit with credit, per British packet *Persia*

31 August 1857 Calais entry, 3 September arrival backstamp

One Of Three Reported Covers Bearing Six Copies Of 5c

Usages To France
15c Convention Rate

Consecutive Sailings, Via Boston / Via New York



23 June 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Brest, France
 1 July **Boston** Paid 12 transit with credit, per British packet *Europa*
 13 July 1857 Calais entry, 16 July arrival backstamp



28 June 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Brest, France
 8 July **New York** Paid 12 transit with credit, per British packet *Persia*
 18 July 1857 Calais entry, 21 July arrival backstamp

Usages To France
15c Convention Rate

SHORT PAID



20 August 1857 Nauvoo, Illinois to France
additional franking of 10c 1855 Issue, type II, double rate partially prepaid
Short Paid handstamp applied at New York
2 September New York 6 transit with debit, per British packet *Arabia*
13 September 1857 Calais entry
17 September arrival backstamp, 16 (d) due

Only Reported Example Of Short Paid Handstamp On A 5c 1856 Issue Cover

Usages To France
15c Convention Rate

By Havre Line Packet



3 October 1857 New Orleans, Louisiana to Port Vendres, France

10 October New York Paid 6 transit with credit, per **American Packet** *Fulton* of the Havre Line

27 October arrival backstamp

Usages To France
15c Convention Rate

Latest Reported



12 October 1858 Boston, Massachusetts to Lyons, France
additional franking of 10c 1857 Issue, type II
Boston Paid 12 transit with credit, per British packet *Arabia*
25 October 1858 Calais entry and arrival backstamp



12 October 1858 Providence, Rhode Island to Paris, France
additional franking of 10c 1857 Issue, type IV, recut at top
13 October New York Paid 12 transit with credit
25 October 1858 Calais entry and arrival backstamp

Covers Are Tied For Latest Recorded Usage On Trans-Atlantic Mail