

UNITED STATES POSTAL CARD MULTIPLE IMPRESSIONS 1881-1987

INTRODUCTION

Over 600 different postal cards have been issued by the United States between 1873 and 2010, yet less than 15% are known with major errors of any type. Of these, only 30 different cards exist with multiple impressions. They are arguably the most exciting, important and visually-striking of all errors.

This exhibit includes a comprehensive display of the available material as well as historical and technical information which will demonstrate the changes resulting from the evolution from the early flat-bed printing presses through the multicolor offset presses in use today.

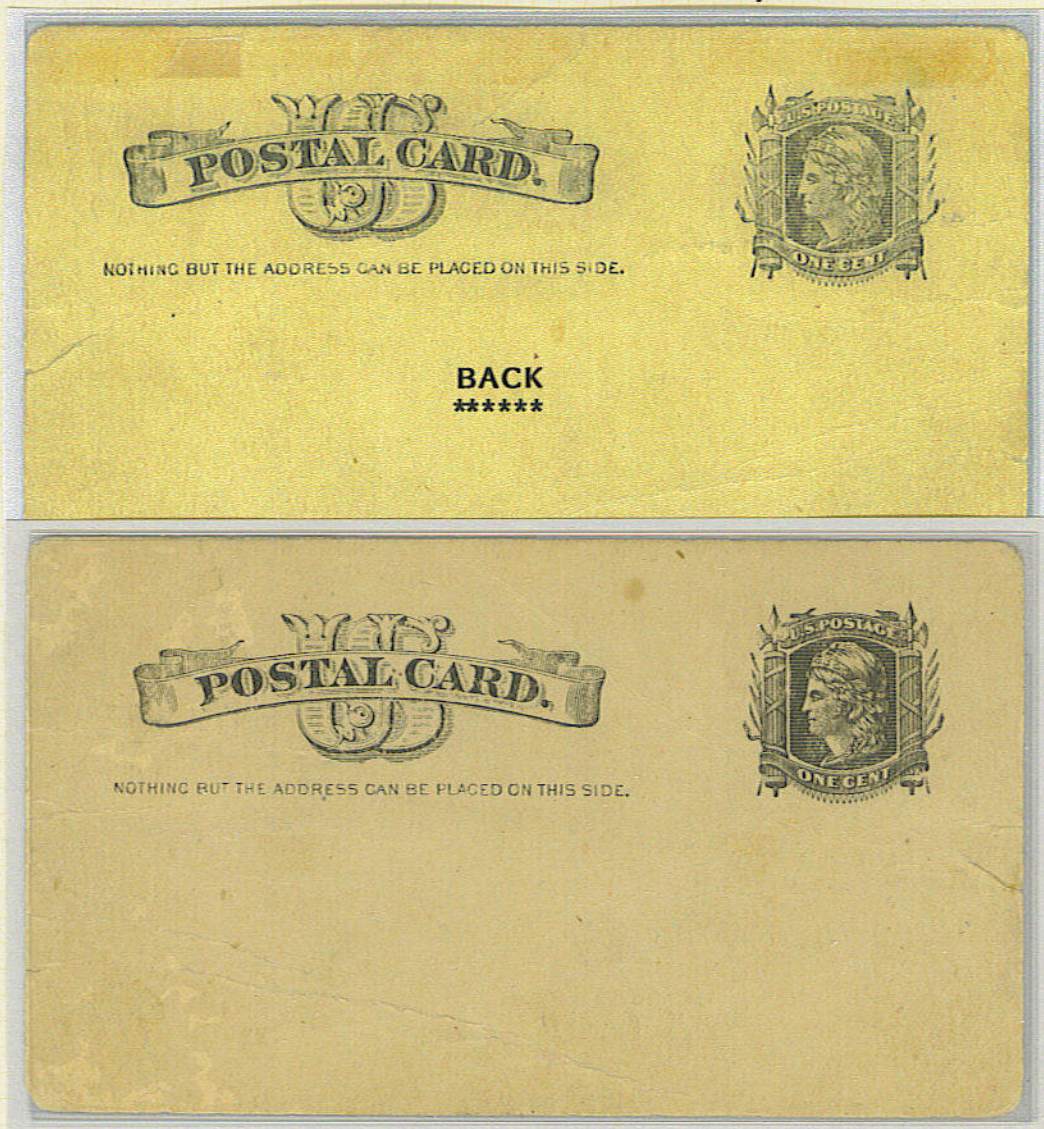
EXPERTIZATION - Nearly all cards are accompanied by expert certificates and this is noted by an (*) in front of the description.

ISSUE OF 1891 - Printed on flat-bed presses by Albert Daggett Company of Birmingham, CT.



* QUINTUPLE IMPRESSION, TWO NORMAL, THREE INVERTED; only two U.S. postal cards have been reported bearing five impressions and both are unique. The other is found on the 1910 issue card.

**ISSUE OF 1881 - Printed on flat-bed presses by Woolworth & Graham
of New York City.**

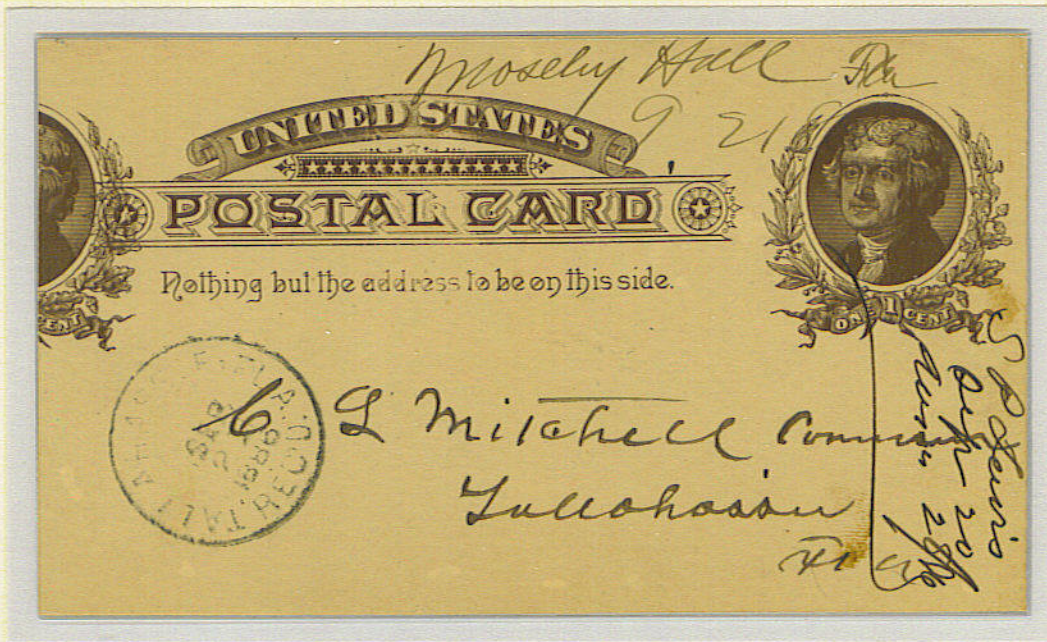


PRINTED ON BOTH SIDES; this is the first major error on a United States postal card. One of the ways that a multiple impression can occur on cards printed on flat-bed presses (versus a rotary press (curved plates)) is if a printed sheet is inadvertently put through a second time. If the sheet is turned over, as here, it will have an impression on both sides. It is believed that 2 sheets of forty were double printed, but the existing quantity is likely less than ten.

ISSUE OF 1885 - Printed on flat-bed presses by Calvin C. Woolworth Company of New York City.

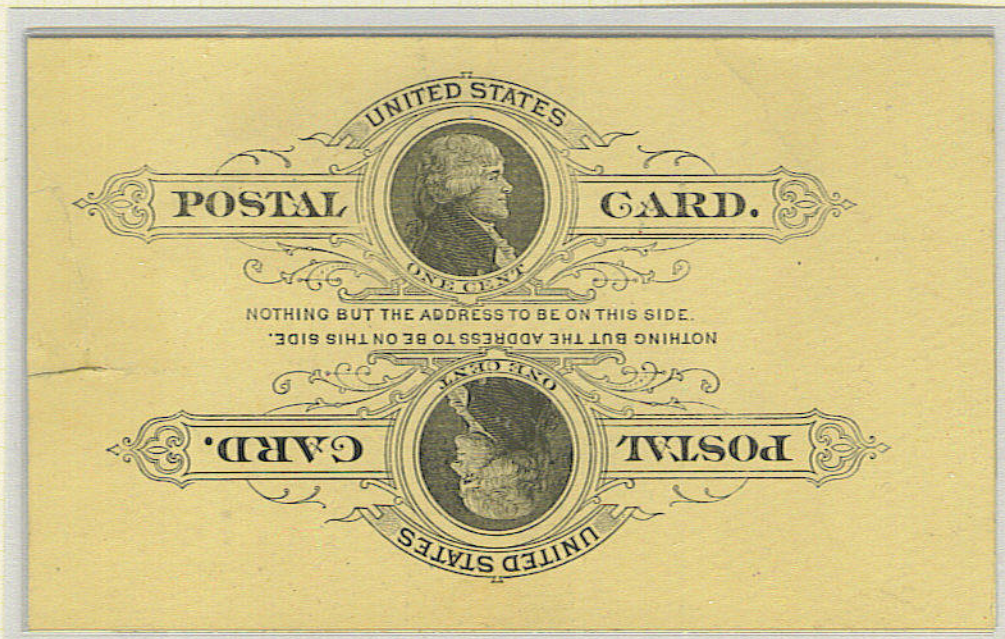


* DOUBLE IMPRESSION - HORIZONTALLY; Only known used copy. If the printed card sheet is not removed from the press, or is run through a second time, two or more impressions are made on each card, and the impressions will be close or overlap, as this example.

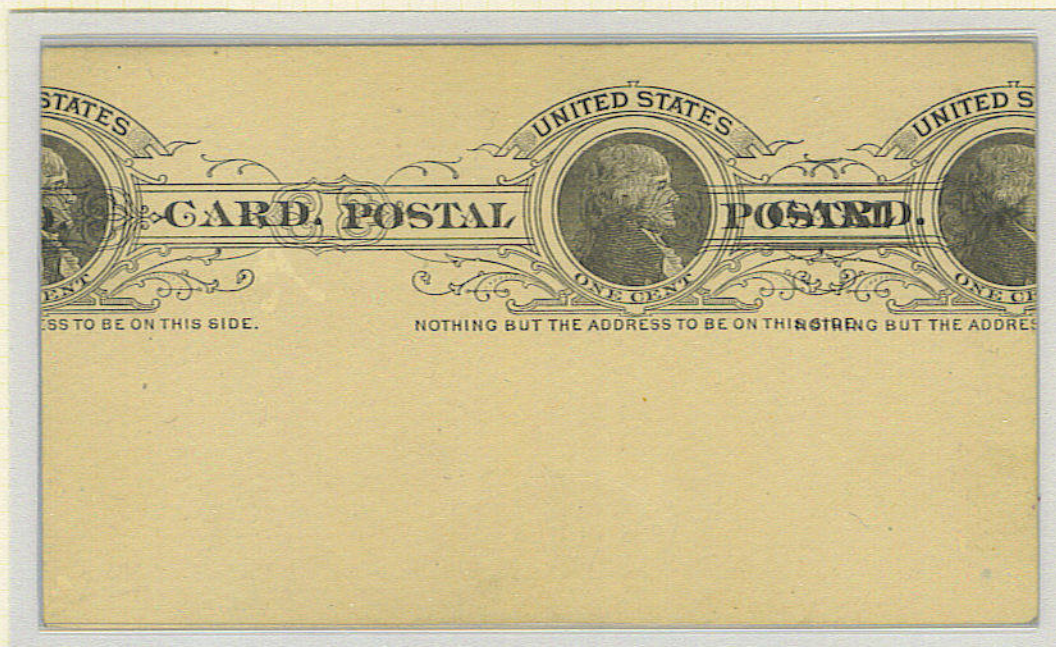


* DOUBLE IMPRESSION VERTICALLY - Only known used example.

ISSUE OF 1886 - Printed on flat-bed presses by C. Woolworth Co. (sheets of 80) and by A. Daggett Co. (sheets of 100).

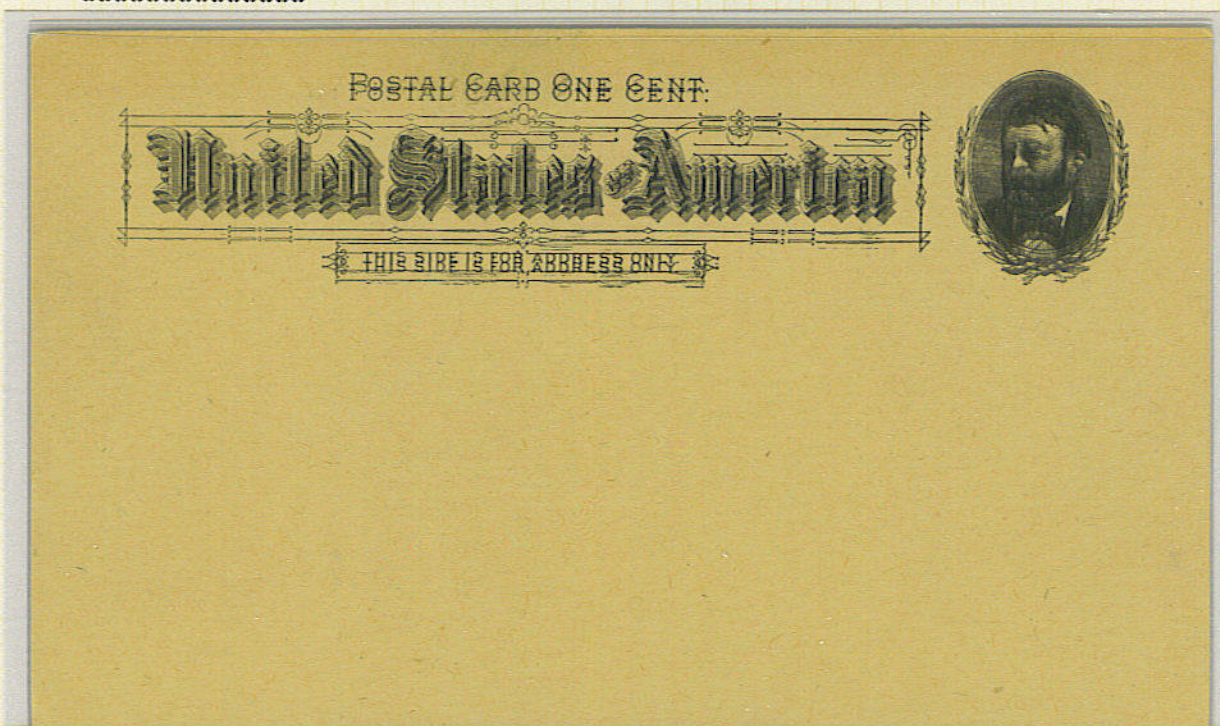


* DOUBLE IMPRESSION, ONE INVERTED; 3 reported (two mint, one used). This variety occurs when the printed sheet is put through the press a second time after being rotated 180 degrees.



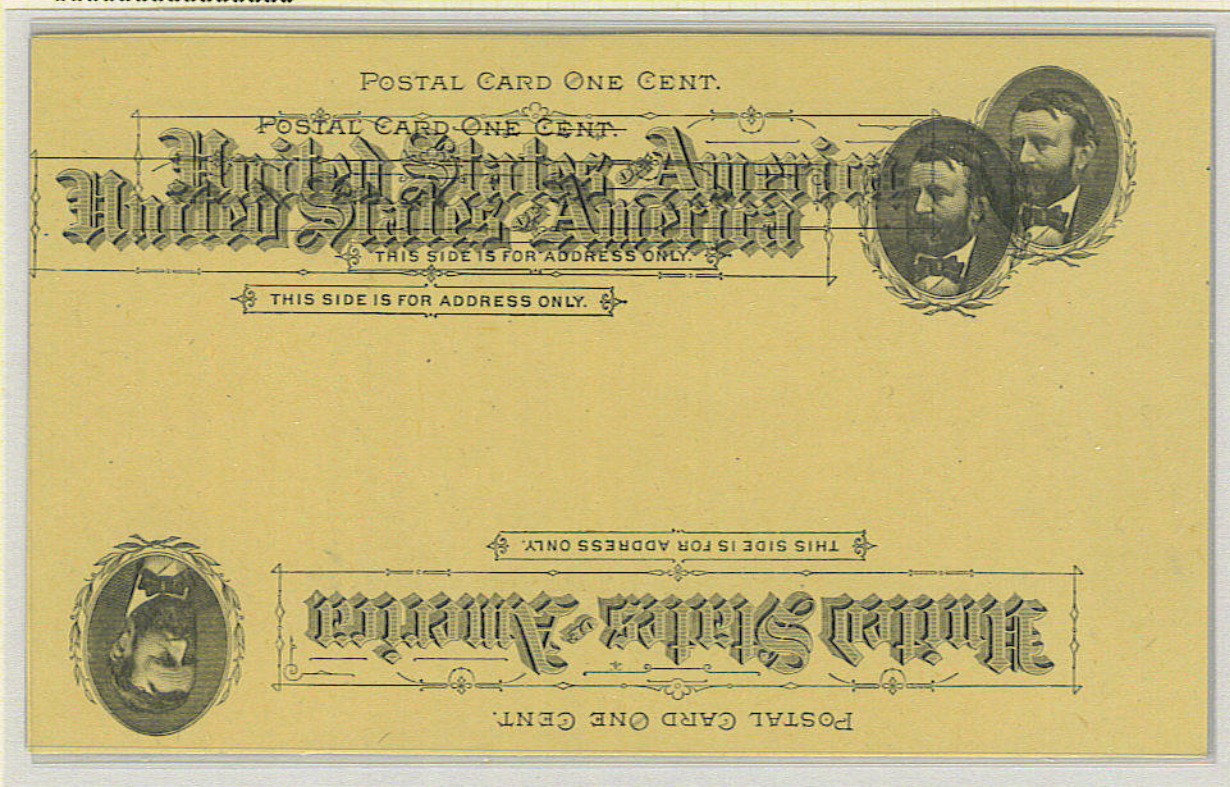
* TRIPLE IMPRESSION - ALL NORMAL POSITION; Only reported mint copy.

ISSUE OF 1891 - Printed by A. Daggett Co. on flat-bed presses.

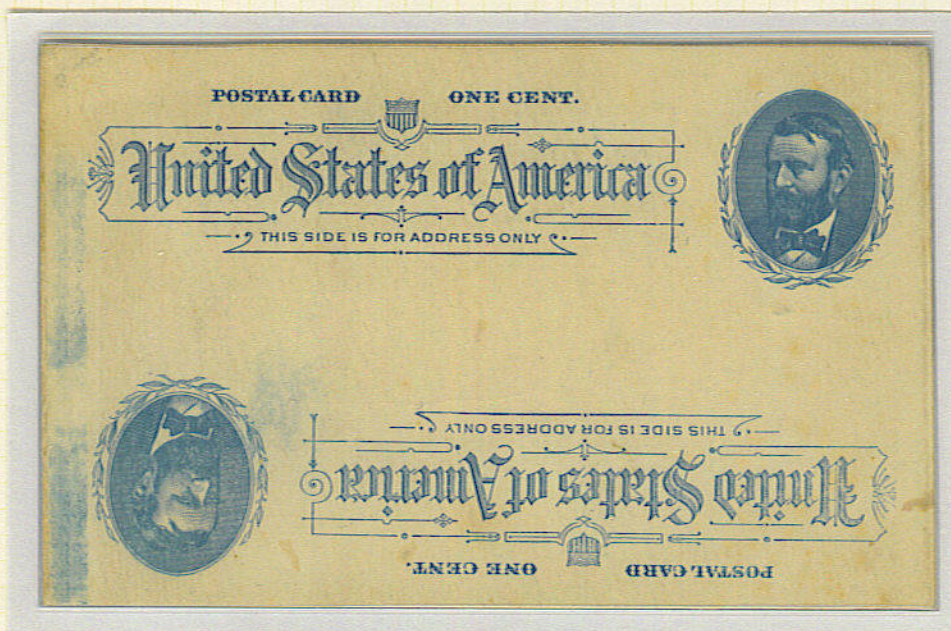


* DOUBLE IMPRESSIONS in normal positions (top) and with one inverted (bottom).

ISSUES OF 1891 - Both printed by A. Daggett Co. on flat-bed presses.



*** TRIPLE IMPRESSION; two normal, one inverted, four reported examples.**



*** DOUBLE IMPRESSION, ONE INVERTED; Two reported.**

ISSUES OF 1898 - Both printed by A. Daggett Co. on flat-bed presses.

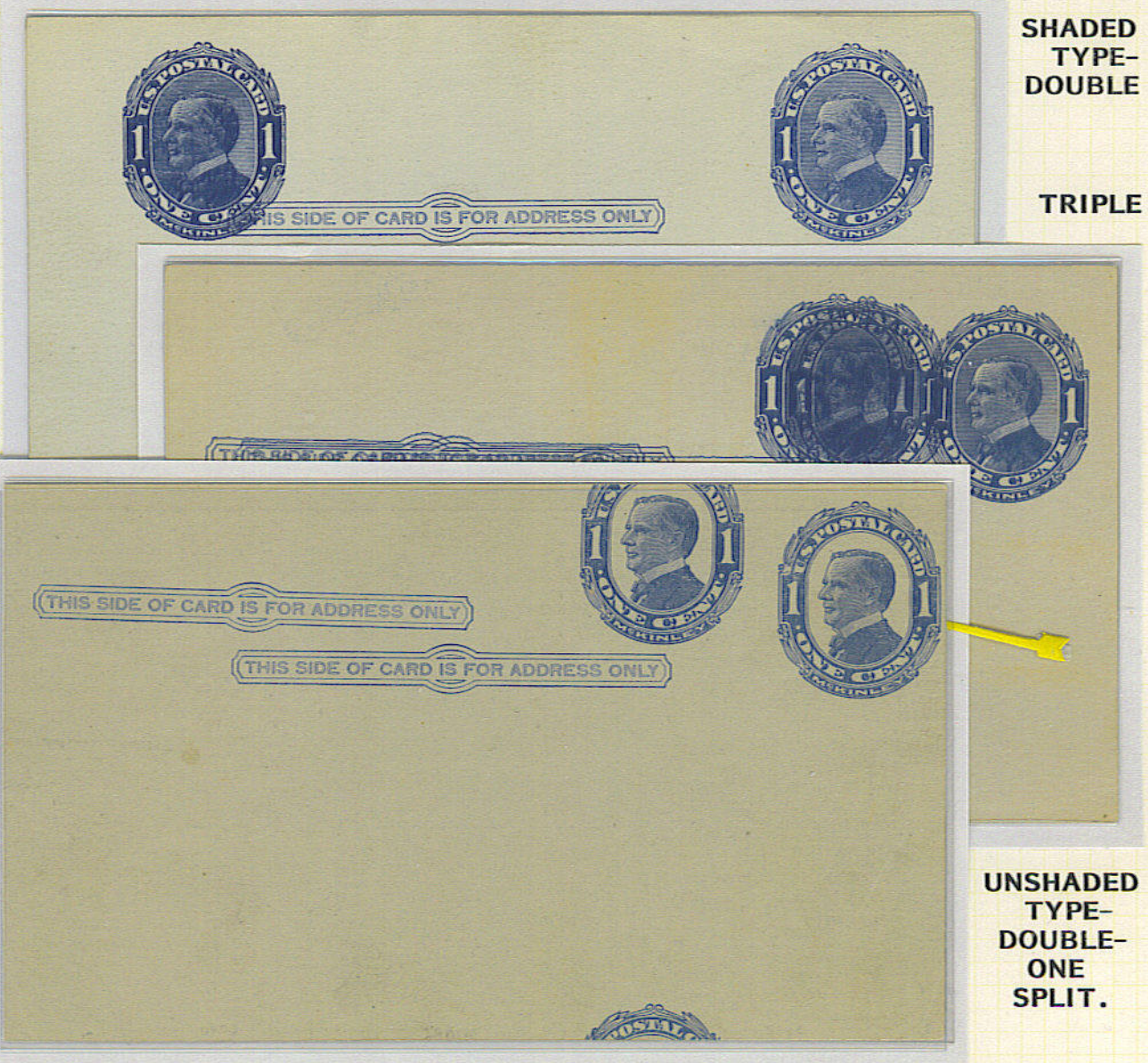


* DOUBLE IMPRESSION, ONE INVERTED; Four mint examples known.



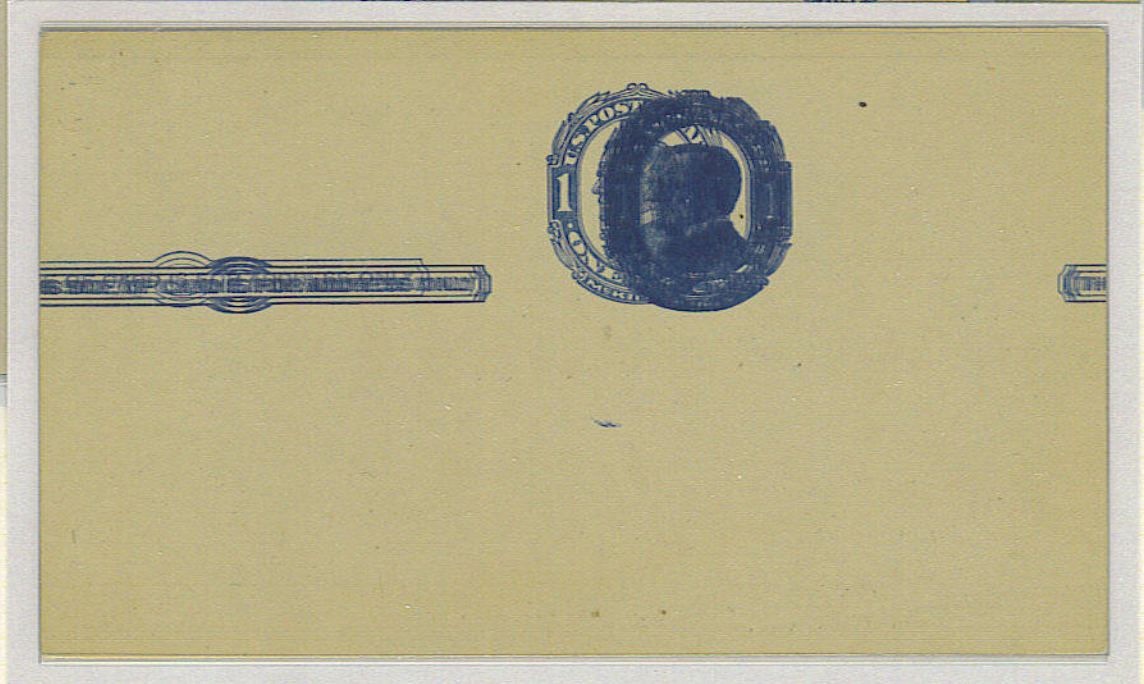
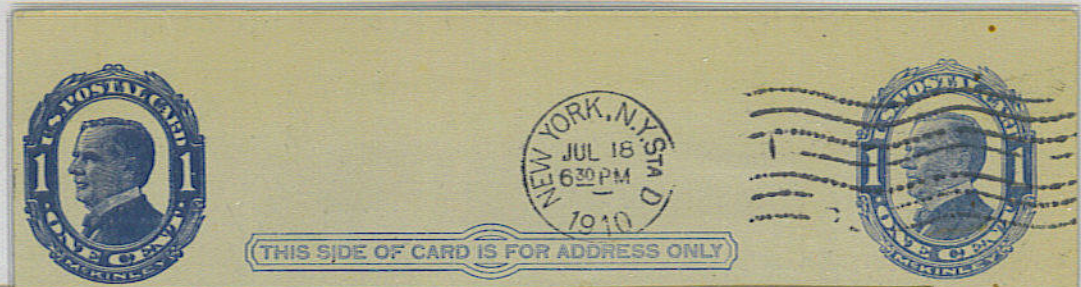
* MESSAGE CARD NORMAL, REPLY CARD DOUBLE IMPRESSION. This paid-reply card was also printed with electrotype plates made by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in 1902-03 and can be distinguished from those printed by flat plates, but no multiple impressions are known.

*** ISSUES OF 1910** – Printed on web-fed Potter rotary presses (both the shaded and unshaded types) by the Government Printing Office and on a web-fed Meisel flat-bed press (unshaded type). No known reason for the design change.



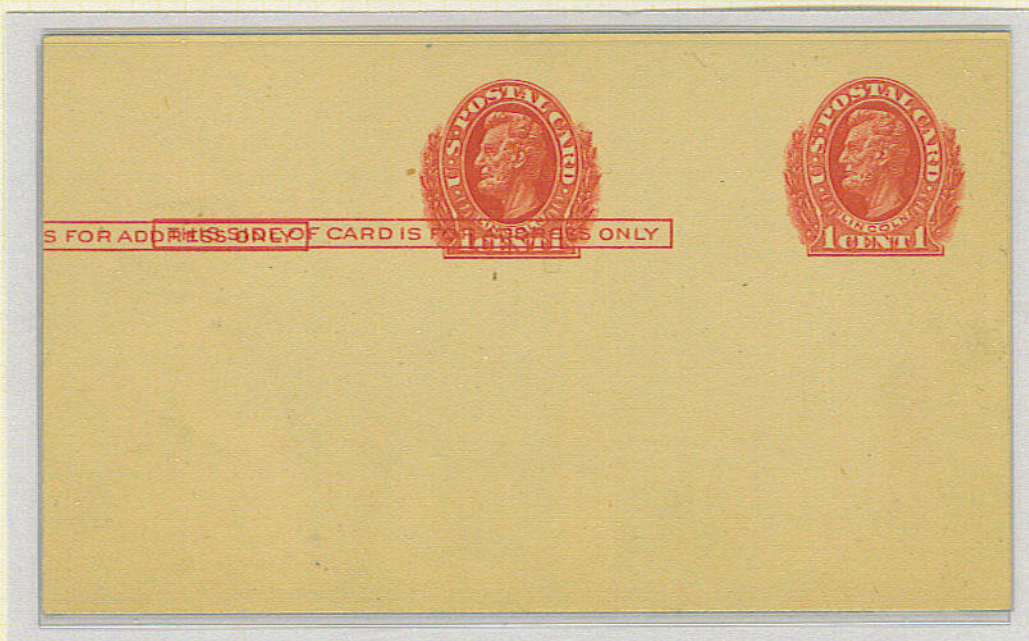
Multiple impressions on cards printed on web-fed rotary presses generally occur after a press stop and restart, when the synchronization between the card stock and the plate is lost due to a slacking of the web, which lessens the distance between the last printed card and the following one. Second/multiple impressions will occur until the flow and printing are re-synchronized. Only cards showing one design in normal position plus added impression(s) measuring 50% or more of normal size are considered true multiple impressions.

**ISSUE OF 1910 - Printed by the Government Printing Office on both
flat and rotary web-fed presses.**

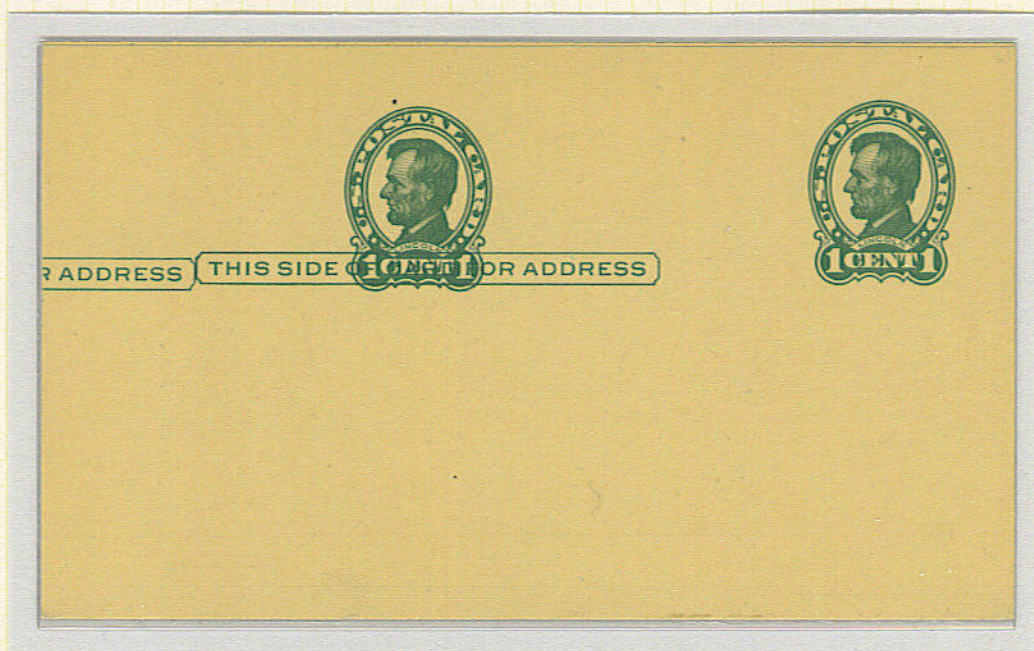


- * **TOP - DOUBLE IMPRESSION** - It is believed that most multiple impressions
**** were printer's waste which was inadvertently sold to the public.
- * **MIDDLE - TRIPLE IMPRESSION** - The two right-side impressions are nearly
***** atop one another and are split.
- * **BOTTOM - QUINTUPLE IMPRESSION** - four of the five impressions are
***** nearly atop one another. Only one other U.S. postal card has
been reported with five impressions. This is the only mint copy.

ISSUE OF 1911 - Printed on a web-fed Meisel flat-bed press by the GPO.



*** DOUBLE IMPRESSION - Three mint known plus one cut piece.**



ISSUE OF 1917 - Printed on a web-fed Meisel flat-bed press using steel plates until 1936, when new presses were installed and two different chrome-face electrotype plates were used, resulting in four different constant die types.

*** DOUBLE IMPRESSION - Only one mint, one unused and one used known.**

All are from the type I die.

**ISSUE OF 1914-1951 - Printed on various flat-bed and rotary presses by
 ***** the GPO (as were all cards issued between Jan. 1,
 1910 and 1994) making this the longest-lived of any U.S. postal card.**

*** DOUBLE IMPRESSION;

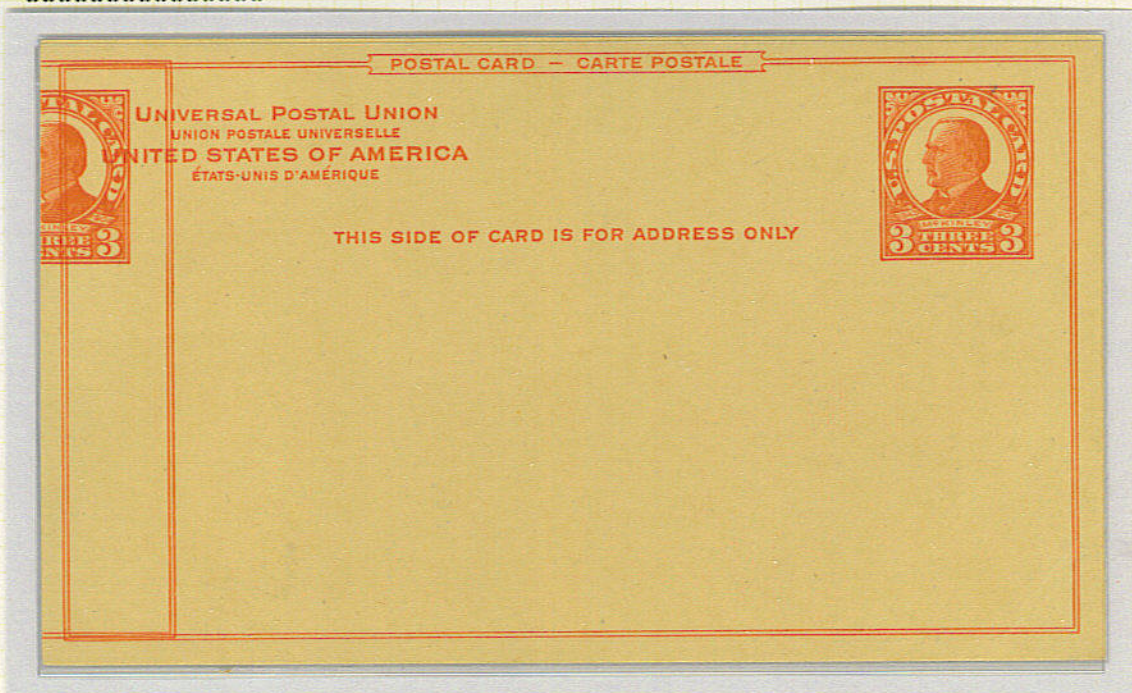
This reduced copy is the only one known from a flat-bed plate and is the copy from which the catalog listing is made.



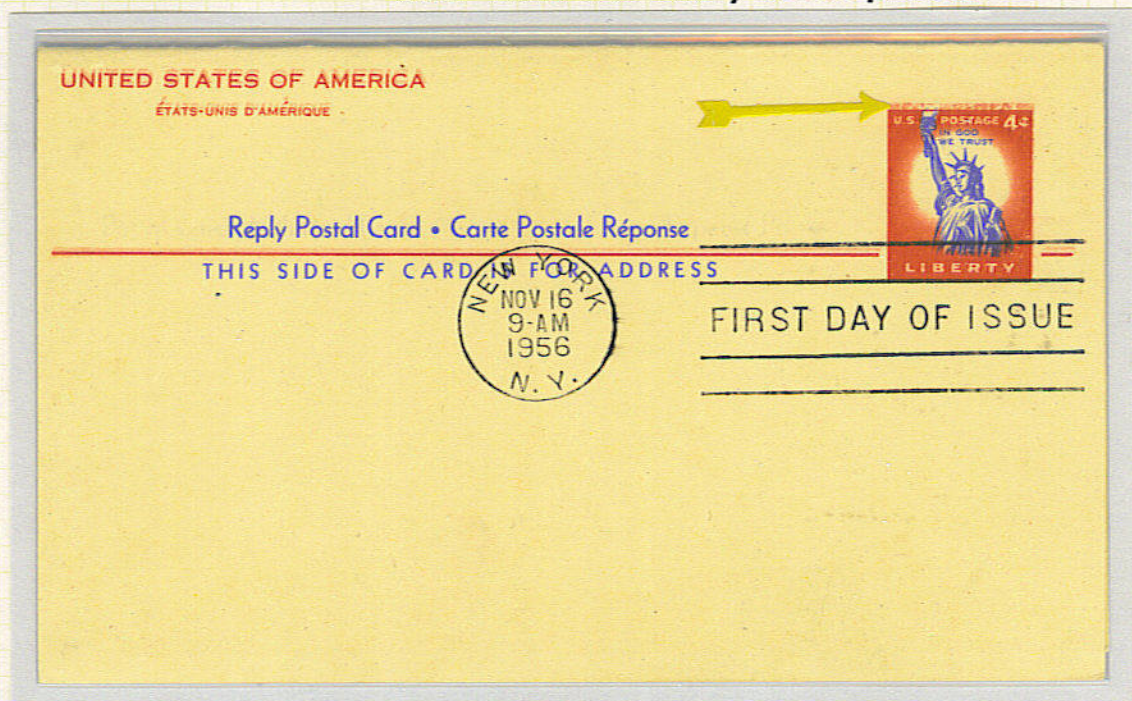
*** TOP - TRIPLE IMPRESSION; two reported. The lighter impressions indicate
 *** that they were caused by the rollers rocking backwards after a press
 stoppage, and as the machine can not reverse the feed of the cards, it can
 cause multiple impressions, which are always lighter than the first since the
 plate has not been re-inked.**

*** BOTTOM - QUADRUPLE IMPRESSION - Three mint copies reported.

ISSUE OF 1926 - Printed on web-fed Meisel flat-bed presses by GPO.



ISSUE OF 1956 (International Paid-Reply Card); printed on Miehle 2-color sheet-fed rotary offset presses.



* DOUBLE IMPRESSION OF SCARLET ON REPLY SIDE; this is the listing copy and only FDI copy.

ISSUE OF 1956 - Printed on Miehle two-color sheet-fed offset presses.

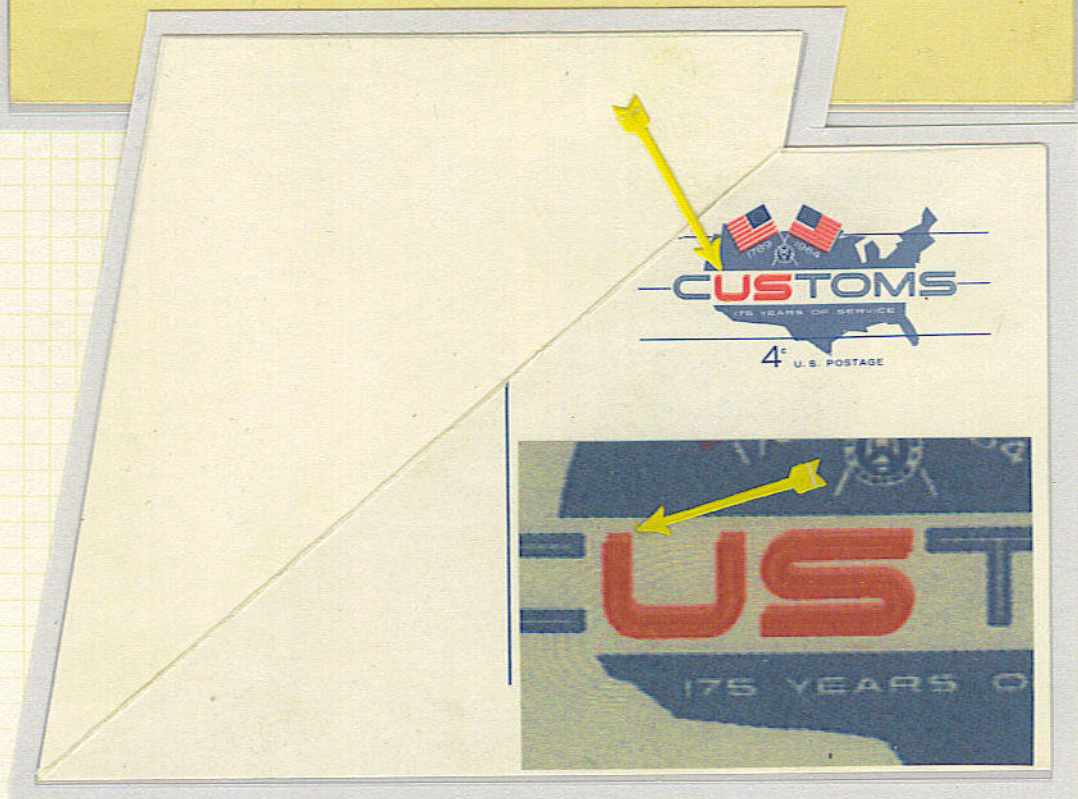
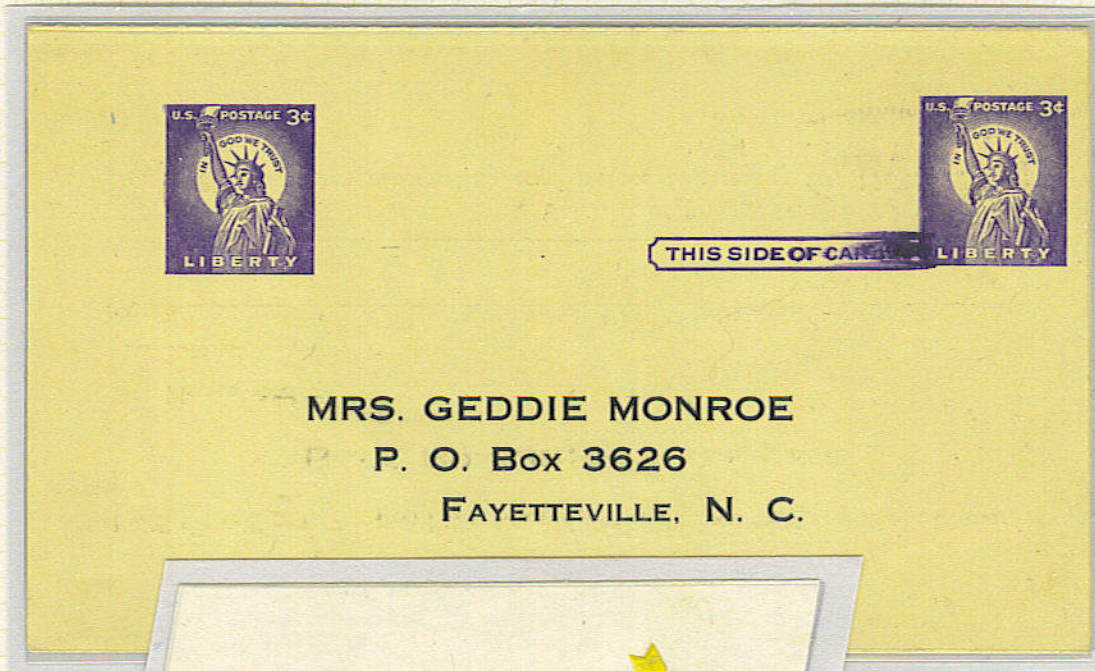


* DOUBLE IMPRESSION OF ROSE CARMINE & VIOLET BLUE (OFFSET);
five reported.

OFFSET DOUBLE IMPRESSIONS - This card was the first U.S. postal card to be printed on a multiple-color offset rotary press with photographically-produced plates. Multiple impressions on photo-offset presses differ from those occurring on flat or rotary presses, in that they occur when the printing cylinder and the blanket become slightly out of register, causing a second impression, which is usually faint and is only slightly separated from the normal impression. When two or more colors are used, one or more colors may be doubled.

ISSUE OF 1958 - Printed on both flat-bed and rotary presses.

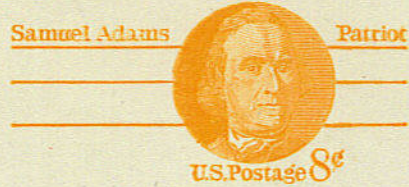
*** DOUBLE IMPRESSION - Only reported unposted example.**



ISSUE OF 1964 - Printed on a sheet-fed Miller two-color offset press.

*** DOUBLE IMPRESSION OF RED - caused by a foldover. A rarely-seen type of double impression and the only reported example.**

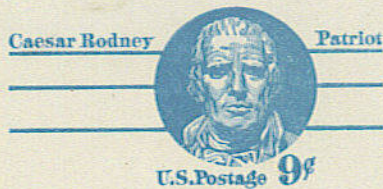
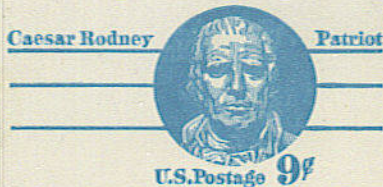
**ISSUE OF 1973 - Printed on a web-fed Potter-Hoe rotary press.



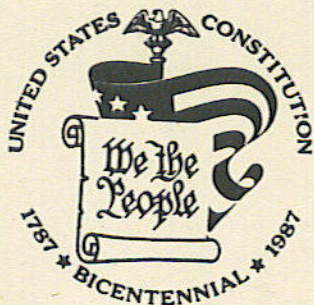
**INTERNATIONAL AIRPOST ISSUE OF 1972 - Printed on sheet-fed Miehle two-color offset presses, requiring three press runs, two for the front and one for the back.

*** BLUE BORDER LOZENGES DOUBLE and lozenges shifted; this is the only reported example and is one of two double impressions known on airpost cards.**

ISSUE OF 1976 - Printed on a web-fed Potter-Hoe rotary press.
***** * DOUBLE IMPRESSION - Two reported.



YOUR VALUABLE SOUVENIR



1987

Philadelphia, PA

DURING THIS NOTEWORTHY CELEBRATION

I thank you for touring our country's most historic area in one of my deluxe horse drawn carriages.

CARL LENZ, *Former Drayman*
(Now an Active Historical Interpreter)

George Washington
James Madison
Alexander Hamilton
Charles C. Pinckney

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* **DOUBLE IMPRESSION OF CYAN AND BLACK;** Five reported, all are first day usages. In 1987 this card was the second printed on the MAN Roland 800 five-color sheet-fed press, which prints in black, magenta, yellow and cyan and applies the phosphor tagging as part of the press run. Since it automatically inspects for misregistrations and smeared or missing inks, and has been used since 1987 to print most GPO cards, only a few have ever been found with multiple impressions, thus a logical conclusion to our study.