

The United States Imperforate Issues of 1851 - 1856 & Their Importance in an Expanding Postal System

Purpose: This exhibit is a comprehensive study of the five imperforate stamps issued between 1851 and 1856. It also shows a diverse range of uses including how the stamps were treated by the post office, the innovative uses patrons found for the mails and how the post office addressed their needs in a period of profound change in the country.

History

The demand for lower postal rates continued after the first major reduction in 1845. After only six years, the act of March 1851 again reduced rates, effective 1 July 1851, to 3 cents a half ounce for up to 3,000 miles and 6 cents for distances greater than 3,000 miles. There were corresponding reductions in drop and circular rates. Initially three stamps were issued: 1, 3, and 12 cent values. Later 5 and 10 cent stamps were added. As an incentive to prepay postage and continue to move the public toward the convenience of stamps, unpaid letters were charged 5 cents and 10 cents for respective distance/weight, a 67% penalty. In April 1855 the over 3,000 mile rate was increased to 10 cents and prepayment was compulsory on domestic mail. This was the dawn of the postal age. This period was also marked by the most extensive westward migration the country had known, with many families becoming separated by long distances for the first time in their lives. Commerce was also growing and importance of reliable and fast mail service became an essential requirement of business. This was the beginning of the age of long distance communications and the country becoming a postal society. For individuals, receiving mail became common place and not an 'event'. Therefore, moving mail efficiently and reliably was critical. Between 1851 and 1857 using stamps on mail became the norm, increasing by a factor of over 50. By 1857 stamps were mandatory and with the great westward migration, the number of post offices almost doubled.

Exhibit Organization

Section One shows each of the stamps in the order they were issued. This includes types, major varieties, color variations and postal uses. Section Two shows rates and markings.

Sections Three, Four, and Five are arranged by trends that were forcing change within the post office. Section Three addresses the need to augment the practice of picking up and sending mail from the post office. As towns grew in size carrier services both a part of the post office and private businesses sprung up. In the west private expresses connected mining communities to large cities a service the post office could not provide. Section Four shows the growing dependence on faster transportation by ships and by trains. Route agents were deployed to help speed the mail and captains of ships accepted mail for delivery to the post office. Section Five shows how organizations were leveraging the growth in mail to communicate political, social or business messages. This trend continued for many decades.

Section Six shows the growing complexity of, and need for international mail to meet business and personal needs.

Section Seven presents examples of government official perforations from plates used to print imperforate stamps and ends with demonetized uses.

Sections and Frames



The icon on the left marks the beginning of each section.



Headers on each page guide the viewer through the exhibit.

Section 1. Archival & Production

Section 2. Domestic Rates & Markings

Section 3. Carriers, Locals & Expresses

Section 4. Waterways & Railroads

Section 5. Illustrated Envelopes

Section 6. International Mail

Section 7. Introduction of Perforations and Demonetization

Production

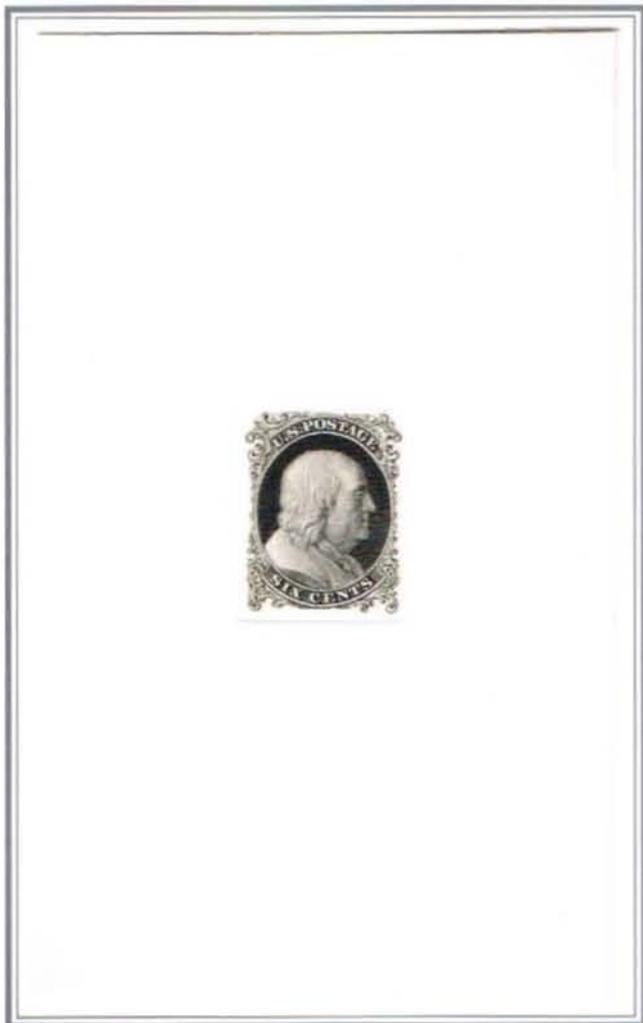
The stamps were engraved and produced by the firm of Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. Sheets were printed from steel plates of 200 stamps consisting of two side-by-side panes of 100. The stamps were valid for postage from 1 July 1851 until the outbreak of the Civil War. By mid 1857 new perforated stamps began to replace imperforate stamps. Spacing on the plates used for imperforate stamps was very tight and made perforations difficult to apply. The 3 cent and 1 cent stamps were the work horses of the issue while the 12 cent stamp was less frequently used, mostly on foreign mail and for multiple rate domestic mail. Since the 10 cent stamp and 5 cent stamp were issued in 1855 and 1856 their lifespan was much shorter than the other stamps and thus fewer examples exist. During this period stamp production increased from a few million to over one hundred million a year.

Items accompanied by certificates from expert committees are indicated with a lower case 'e'.
Items of exceptional importance are framed in red. Blue text is used for population data.



Archival Material

To allow prepayment as provided by the Act of March 3, 1851, Postmaster General Hall authorized the issuance of three stamps: 1, 3 and 12 cent values. Later a 5 cent and 10 cent stamp were added. This section shows essays, proofs and major types and varieties of production stamps. These stamps were produced by Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co.



The Franklin design was originally considered for a 6 cent stamp. This value was considered and then changed to the 1 cent value. This shows the complete design

A number of companies submitted designs for the 3 cent stamp. The designs below are examples of submissions that were not accepted.



Submitted by Bald, Cousland & Co.



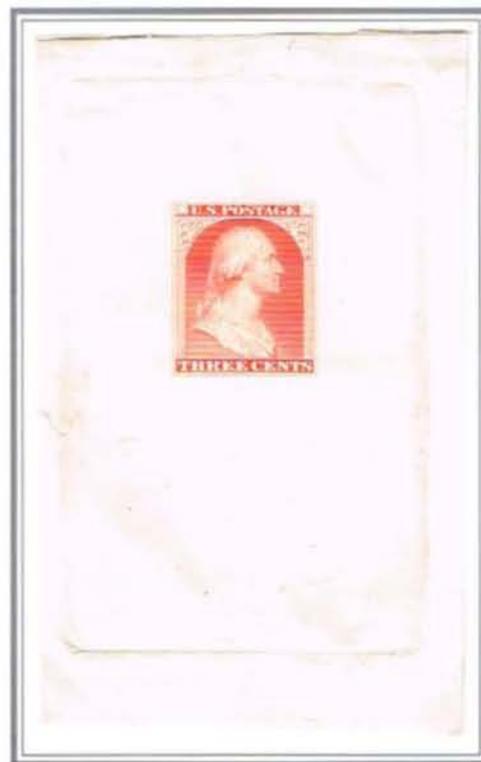
Produced by Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edison. In black, die on India paper mounted on card cut to stamp size. One of two recorded.



Adopted design without small vertical equilateral crosses in center rows of diamond networks, top, sides and bottom.



Die essay on India paper showing adopted except lathe work impinges on colorless oval. Shows layout lines.



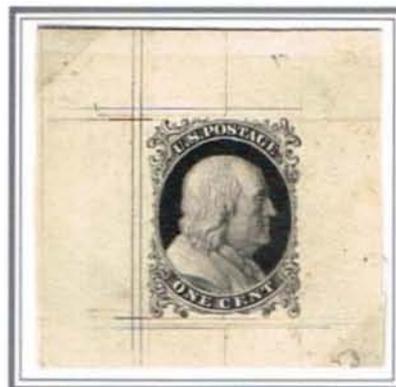
Submitted by Gavit & Co.



Die proof. Complete design and showing two dots below the 'C' of 'CENT'.
One of five recorded.



Blue die proof on card.
Only recorded in blue.



Black die trial color proof on card.
Acid wash over engraving.
One of three recorded.



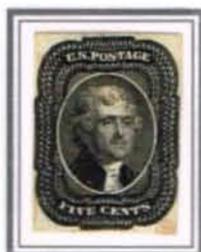
Black trial color plate proof on stamp paper.
Position 87L1^E
Only recorded plate proof from plate 1^E.



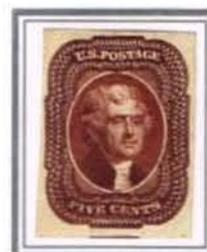
Plate proof on India.
Position 97R4.
From a sheet prepared to use as a guide for the perforating machine purchased in 1857.



Black trial color plate proof on wove paper.
Position 17R4
One of three recorded with lines.



Black trial color plate proof on wove paper.
One of three recorded.



Deep red brown trial color plate proof on wove paper.



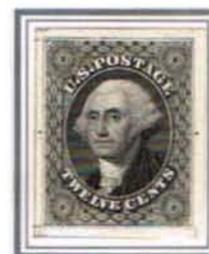
Deep orange trial color plate proof on wove paper.



Black plate proof on wove paper with black ruled lines on card.



Black die trial color proof on India paper.



Black die proof with ruled lines on card.

The 1 cent stamp was issued to satisfy the drop and printed matter rates and, secondary, the under 3,000 mile letter rates. It was also required to make up some international rates and it was used for carrier delivery and WAY rates. Plate one in the early state was used from 1 July 1851 until the middle of 1852.

The imperforate 1 cent stamp was printed from four different plates. Plate one had two states, early and late. Of the 1,000 positions, only one position, 7R1^E, from the top row of the early state of plate one shows the most complete intended design and is identified as a type I stamp. All the other positions have part of the design missing.

The stamp shows a double transfer.



5 July 1851 letter from Richmond VA to New York four days after issue of the 1 cent stamp.

The stamps are positions 7-9R1^E. The left stamp is type I and the right two stamps are type Ib.

All three of these stamps show a double transfer.



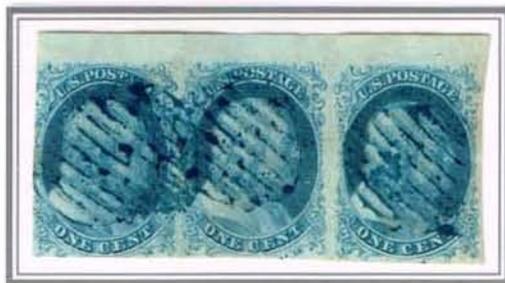
12 July 1851 unsealed circular from Great Falls to Portsmouth NH mailed the second week of use of the 1 cent stamp.

Paying the circular rate on an announcement of the annual meeting of the stockholders of Great Falls Manufacturing Company.



Type Ib is only found in six positions in the top row of the early state of right plate one. This type is not as complete on the bottom as a type I, in particular the plumb at the lower right is not complete. All type Ib stamps show a double transfer.

Upper left corner margin strip of three, positions 1-3 R1^e. Right stamp is type Ib, the left two are type II. Cover from Newburgh NY to Detroit MI.



4R1^e

5R1^e

6R1^e



6R1^e



8R1^e

Positions 6 and 8 are the best examples of type Ib.

To Switzerland via British Open Mail



1 cent stamps positions 9-10R1^e, are types Ib and II. Dull red 3 cent stamp is type II.

February 1852 folded letter from New York City to Basel Switzerland. Stamps pay the British Open Mail rate.



Most stamps on plate one early are type II. The design is complete at the top, incomplete scrolls at the bottom.



Double transfer in middle stamp.
Positions 26-28Lr^e



Position 50Lr^e



Most pronounced double transfer on plate 1.
Position 65Rr^e



Position 100Lr^e



Unsealed circular mailed in New York City to a New York City address. Six bar segmented grid in town postmark. Only recorded example of this postmark on cover.



Positions 41-43R1^e



Positions 46-48R1^e

Second day of issue - 2 July 1851



July 1851 folded address sheet from New York City to Walpole NH.

Positions 98-100L1^e.

Two recorded 1 July and two recorded 2 July covers.

Earliest recorded use of the dark blue shade

October 1851 folded address sheet containing a circular from Lawrence MA to West Concord NH.
Position 17L1^e





Either, **but not both**, top or bottom outer lines broken. Top and bottom ornaments incomplete. Thirty-two positions of plate one early are type IIIa.

Example with top line broken
bottom line not broken

II	IIIa
----	------



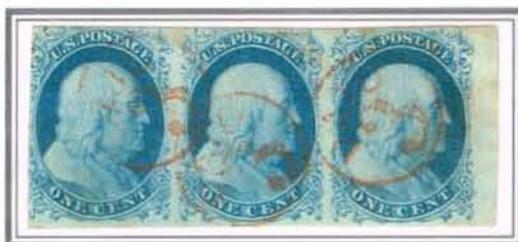
Right stamp 'misplaced' relief 'A'.
Position 95-96R1^E

IIIa
II



Positions 32, 42R1^E

II	II	IIIa
----	----	------



Trace of right inter-pane line. Three strikes of red
'PAID/3' in circle. Right stamp shows break in
outer line at top. This is a very late printing; in most
printings this is a type II with complete outer line.
Positions 98-100L1^E



11 July 1851 folded address sheet, second week of use, from Richmond VA to Baltimore MD.
Positions 51-53R1^E

IIIa	II	II
------	----	----



November 1851 unsealed circular from Troy to Cooperstown NY. Double inverted transfer with break in bottom line. Pre-printing paper fold. Stamp is dark blue. Position 81L1^e



Red grid and Prussian closed mail marking. Position 11L1^e



Small Boston red 'PAID'. Position 99R1^e



Inter-pane line. Position 51R1^e



One of two positions of type IIIa's from this plate with break on bottom. Position 100R1^e

October 1851 drop rate folded address sheet bearing Boston town postmark with 1 cent integral rate marking and small 'PAID' in grid. This integral rate postmark was used briefly at end of 1851. Position 51L1^e



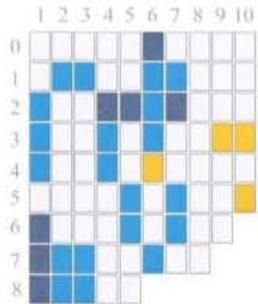
Partial unused block of 82 without gum from left pane of plate one after reworking, plate one late. The rework resulted in type IV stamps.

In an effort to improve the condition of plate 1 the plate was extensively cleaned and reworked in early 1852 including recutting all but one position on the plate and re-entering many positions. This resulted in seven different recut varieties, all shown here, as well as a number of double transfers.

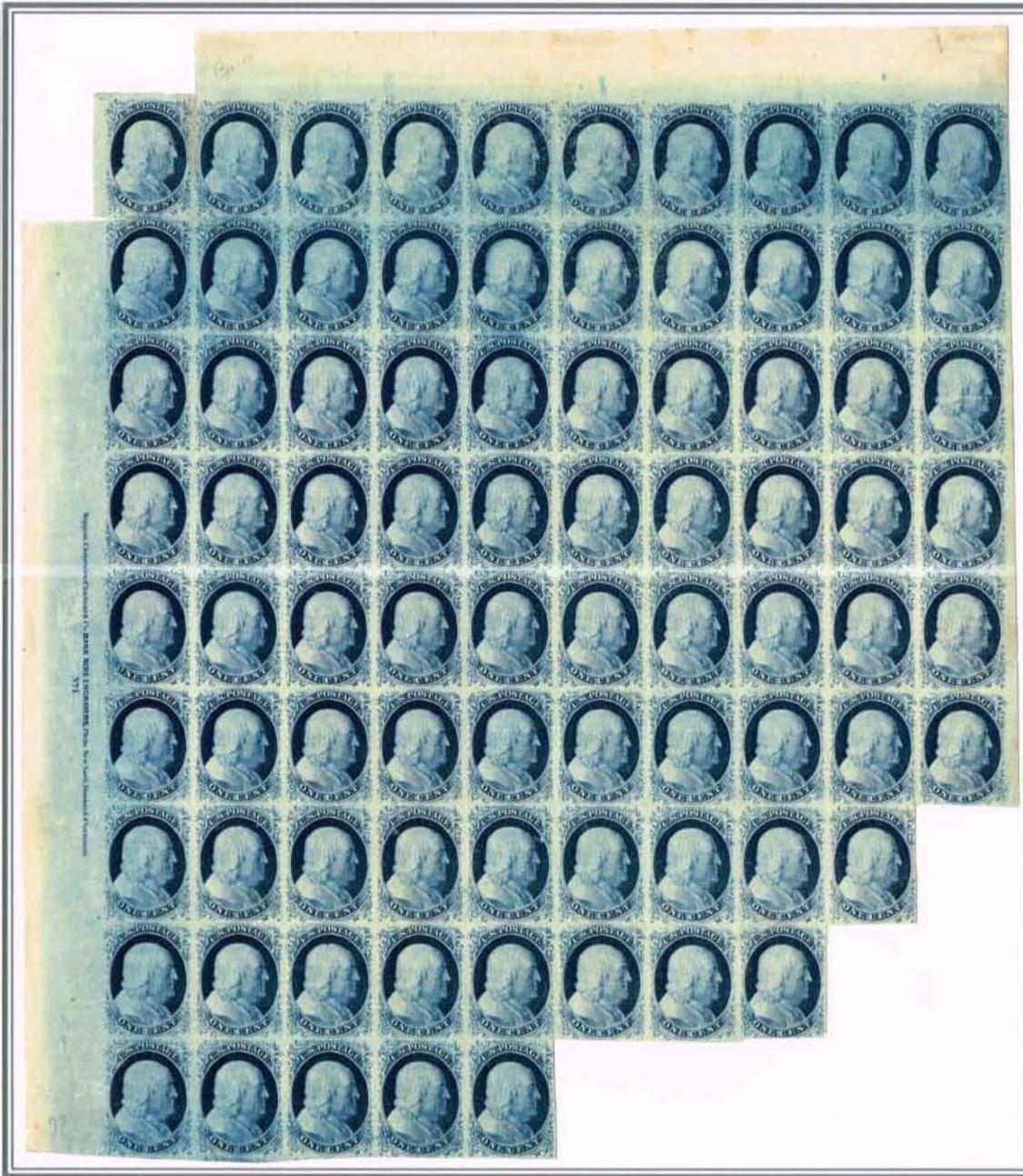
Some double transfers existed on the original plate and others resulted from the rework.

In addition, the imprint and plate number were added. This block contains a full plate block.

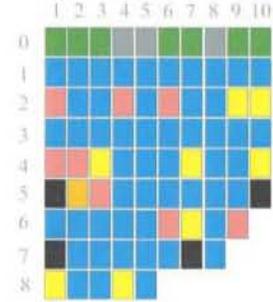
Pronounced double transfers and surface cracks.



- Double transfers new to plate one late
- Double transfers existing on plate one early
- Plate cracks



Recut positions that are represented in the block.



-  Single top
-  Single bottom
-  Single top & bottom
-  Double top, single bottom
-  Double bottom
-  Double bottom, single top
-  Double top & bottom

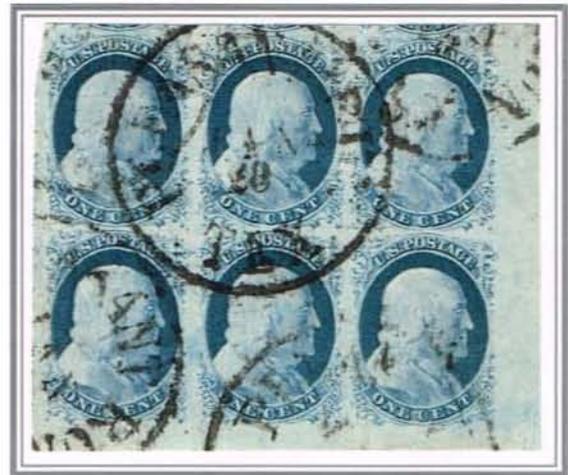
With line engraved stamps it was common to go back and re-enforce or recut lines that appeared weak on the plate.



Unused, positions 29-30, 39-40R1^l



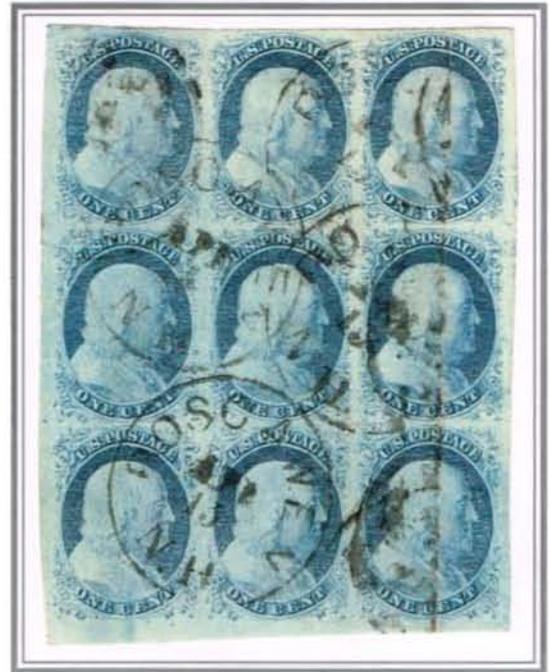
Unused OG
Triple transfer,
one inverted.
Position 71L1^l



Pleasant Run TX town postmark.
Bottom right corner, positions 88-90, 98-100R1^l.



Straddle show stamps from left pane and partial stamp
from right pane.
Positions 88-90L1^l and 81R1^l



Boscawen NH town postmark.
Bottom left corner, positions 71-73, 81-83, 91-93R1^l.
71, 81, 91 triple transfer. One inverted



Cracked plate on collar.
Position 41R1^l



Partial imprint and plate
number '1'.
Position 50R1^l



Red grid.
Position 96R1^l



Early printing on left. Late printing on right shows
break in bottom line. Both position 89R1^l



Position 88R1^l



Philadelphia 't' in octagon.
Position 92L1^l



Pre-printing paper fold.
Double transfer.
Position 7R1^l

Only one position of plate one late, 4R1, was not recut and remains a type II.



Positions 4 and 14R1^e.

II	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV
----	----	----	----	----	----



San Francisco CA town postmark cancels stamps.

Positions 4-9R1^L. Positions 5, 6, 7 and 9 have single recut at bottom. Only eight positions on the plate have a single recut at bottom. Early printing where plate bruising not as prominent.

IV	II	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Late printing showing plate bruising positions 4, 6 and 7. Position 7 shows 'horns'.



Printed matter wrapper from unknown town to Enfield CT. This wrapper, which is refolded, contained either eight newspapers or a periodical or book weighing between nine and ten ounces. Stamps positions 3-10R1^L

By early 1855 the 1 cent stamp plate was showing significant wear creating a need for a second production plate. This plate bore a large, disfiguring flaw at the upper left yet it still went into production. All stamps on this plate are type II except for position 99R, a type III, and 100R which evolved into a type IIIA. Plate two was used less than two years before perforations were adopted.

Left and right plate numbers and imprints



Positions 40, 50, 60R2



Shows rounded corner of plate.
Unused OG. Positions 81, 91L2



Unused OG.
Position 97R2



Reconstructed
Positions 31, 41, 51, 61L2



Red paint from Mobile.
Double transfer.
Position 41R2



Milan receiving mark.
Position 92L2



Unused OG
Top row show double transfers.
Positions 61-62, 71-72R2



December 1856 folded address sheet from New York City to Philadelphia PA. Position 89R2 'the big shift'



Unused OG left corner margin block of 12 with a late example of the flaw. The flaw opened wider with use which led to the plate being retired a little after a year of service. This block shows surface cracks in the sheet margin above the left side and to the left of position 1L2 and the partial misplaced transfer above 1L2. Positions 1-4, 11-14, 21-24L2

Earlier printings showing the sections of the flaw before it reached the state shown above



Cover from Nantucket to Boston MA. Three individual stamps. Positions 23-25L2

Types III and IIIa



Type III stamps are open at the top and the bottom; type IIIa are open at only the top or bottom. Plate two has one type III, position 99R2, and one type IIIa position 100R2. Position 99R2 was originally entered too low relative to the bottom row and it was erased and reentered causing the double transfer. The new entry was short transferred at both the top and bottom resulting in the wide break characteristic of type III. Position 99R2 shows double transfer. Position 100R2 is only a type IIIa in later printings; in early printings position 100R2 is a type II.



New York City drop letter. 'Paid/U.S. Mail/City Delivery' carrier postmark canceling stamp. Position 99R2 type III

II	II
II	II
III	II



Unused original gum. Early impression, position 100R2 type II showing a very faint bottom line. Position 99R2 type III. Position 89R2 type II with pronounced double transfer.



Positions 97-99R2

II	II	III
----	----	-----



100R2 type II

Most likely 1855 based on impression. This would be the earliest known use of a plate 2 stamp.



100R2 type IIIa

With the increased demand for stamps and the badly flawed plate 2, plate 3 was produced in early 1856 and plate 4 in early 1857. Imperforate stamps from plates 3 and 4 were printed for a short time before being replaced with perforated stamps. All plate 3 stamps are type II.

Earliest known use of a plate three stamp



6 May 1856 unsealed folded address sheet from Savannah GA to Providence RI.
Type II stamp shows mottling.



'Big' crack.
Position 8R3



Light surface cracks. 'The Warner Strip'.
Positions 97-99L3



Forked lightning crack.
Significant mottling.
Position 33L3



Right plate, column 8
rows 3-8.
Largest recorded
plate 3 vertical strip



Curl over 'C' of cents'.
Position 23R3



Right stamp shows double transfer.
Position 89-90R3



Unused. Double transfer.
Position 30R3



Unused OG.
Position 3L3



Position 61R3



Position 90L3

Folded address sheet boot-legged from Cuba entering the mail in New York City as a drop letter.
 One of two recorded examples used on cover from plate 3 showing center line.
 Position 21R3

Prussian blue stamp



October 1856 unsealed folded circular from New York City to Richmond VA.
 One of two recorded stamps on cover showing part of the imprint from plate 3.
 Position 41L3

Top Row of the Plate

Plate four had wider spacing between the stamps in anticipation of perforating the sheets. This required burnishing the plate between the impressions, leading to new types 1a and 1c as well as existing types II, III and IIIa.

On plate four, Type II stamps are only found in the top row of the plate.



Positions 2-4L4



Position 5R4



Unused. Position 10L4



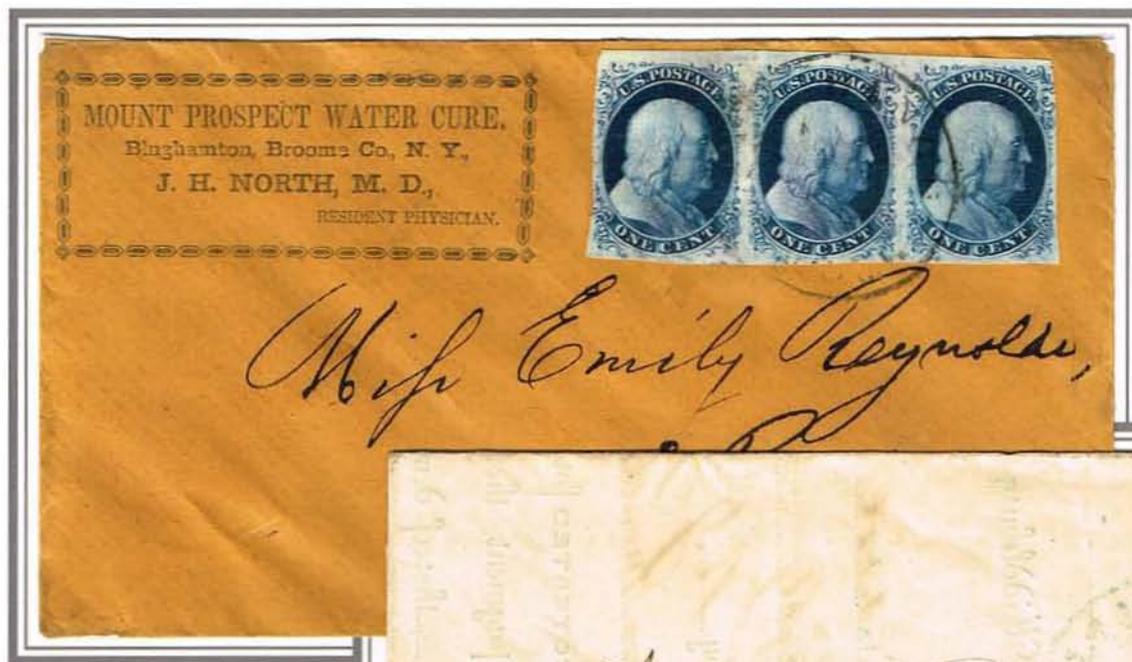
Position 8L4



Position 2R4

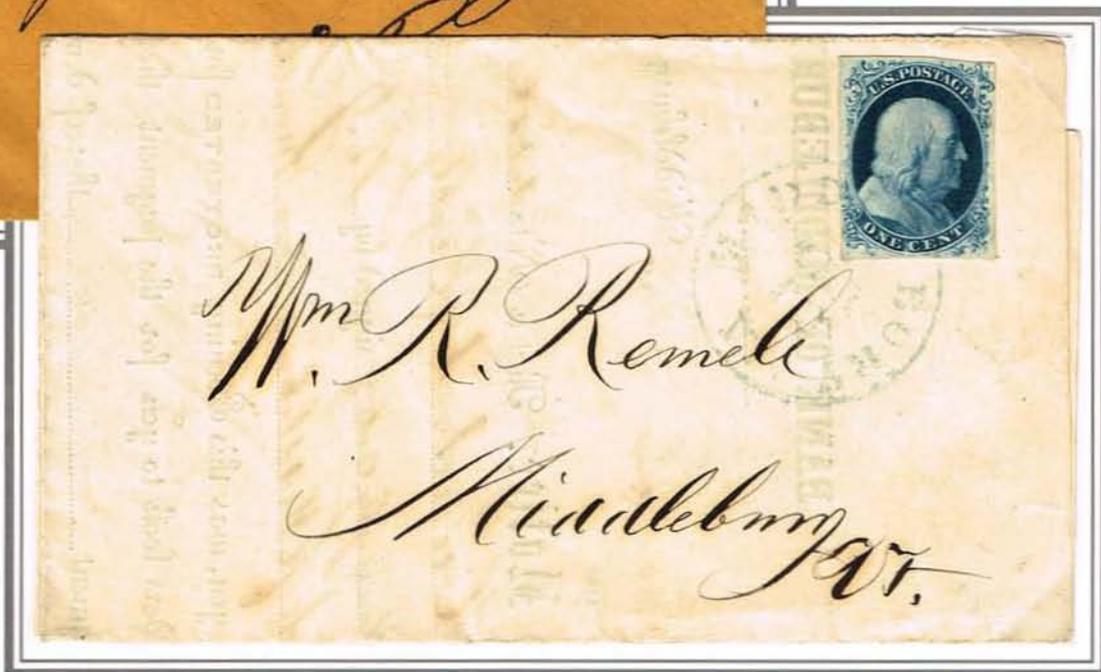


Unused. Position 1-2R4



Cover from Binghamton NY to New York City. Positions 7-9R4

April 1859 drop letter from Middlebury VT. Position 1R4



Types Ia and Ic



Type Ia



Type Ic

Types Ia and Ic are found only on plate 4. Type Ia has a complete bottom with the top ornaments and outer lines cut away. It also has a small plate flaw just outside and below the 'U.' Type Ic is the same as Ia at top but with some re-erasure of the right plume at bottom.



Curl in 'C' of 'CENT'.
Positions 96-97R4



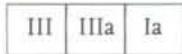
Type Ia.
Position 100 R4



Type Ia.
Curl on shoulder
Position 97L4



Rock Island IL year date town postmarks.
Positions 81-83L4



Type Ic.
Position 91R4



Type Ic,
Red carrier postmark.
Position 82L4



Positions 80, 90, 100L4



Greenville SC drop letter, embossed ladies envelope. Stamp with curl on shoulder. Type Ic.
Position 81R4



Unused OG
Type III position 68R4



Type IIIa position 18R4



Types III, IIIa positions 45-46R4



Reconstructed strip
types IIIa, IIIa, III
Positions 50, 60, 70R4

'Waving Flag On Pole' Fancy Cancel



Stamps types IIIa, II, III
positions 77L, 2L, 61L4.
Cover from Newark Valley to
Waverly NY.
Position 2L is a type II
position but this stamp has a
clear break in the bottom line.

July 1857 unsealed
circular from Albany
NY to Boston MA.
Stamp type III position
90L4 with inter-pane
guide line.
The circular announces
the discovery of a
minor "planet".



The three cent stamp was issued for the 3 cent under 3,000 mile and 6 cent over 3,000 mile rates. It was also used, often in conjunction with others stamps, to make up international rates.

The orange brown ink was used to print the 3 cent stamps during the last six months of 1851. Plates one in all states, and both plates two, five in the early state and plate o were printed with orange brown ink. An orange brown shade of ink was also used briefly 1856.

There are two major types of the three cent stamp, types I and II. The type II stamp has the inner vertical frame line recut.



Type I Type II
Lines above enhanced to show location of outer and inner vertical frame lines.



Unused OG bottom right corner block.
Type II Positions 77-80, 87-90, 97-100R5^e



Type I Positions 51-53, 61-63L1^d

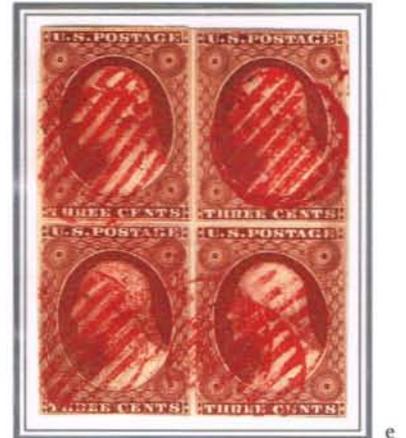
Very thin paper



Part India paper.
Position 56L1^e



Not part India
but thin paper.



Deep orange brown type II.



Type II Position 10Lo



Type II Position 6Ro



Type I Position 31R1^d



Type II Position 88L3



Type II Position 91R2^e

Plate 1 early state had no imprint or plate number. Top cover from Wrightsville PA to Baltimore MD. Stamp position 60R1^E. Second cover from Boston to Mansfield OH. Small Boston red 'PAID' in grid used for only 18 days. Stamp position 41L1^E. Single stamp to right of second cover position 41L1^E. Sheet margins on all three stamps show there was no imprints or plate numbers.



Two recorded covers for the right and one for the left sheet showing the imprint and plate number missing.

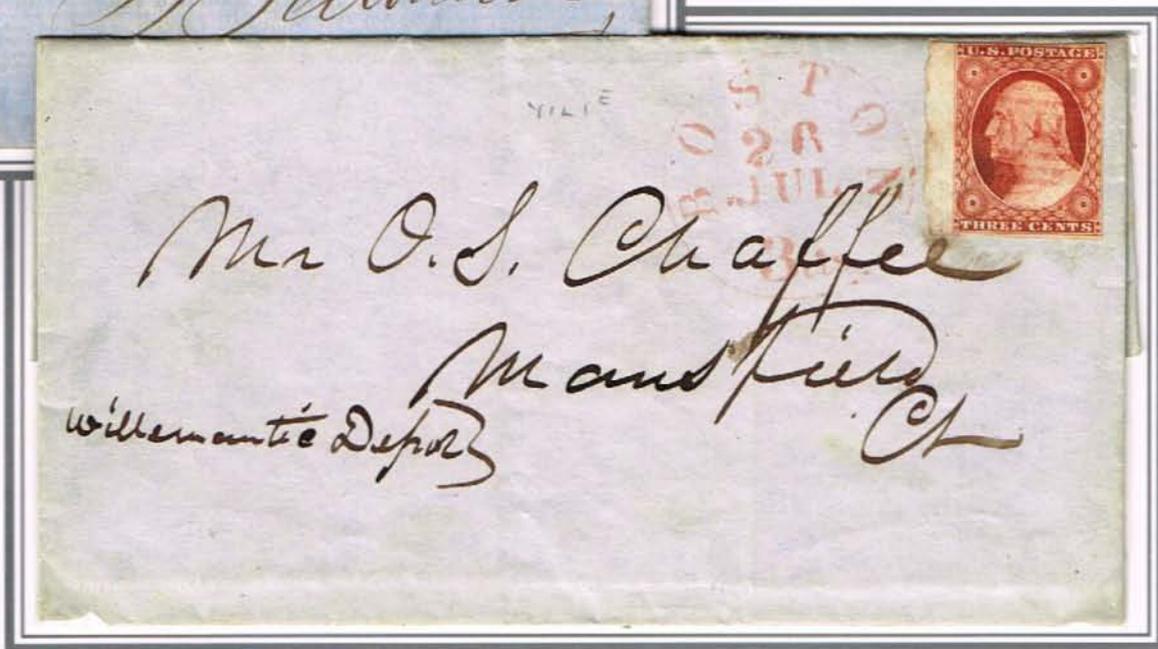


Plate 2 early state had an imprint but did not have a plate number. The single stamp below position 50R2^E shows the imprint but no plate number for the right sheet.



Brown town postmark.
Cover from Hampton Falls to Portsmouth NH.



Charlottesville VA.



Copper brown type II.



New York Ship Cancel



Inter-pane line, large Boston 'PAID'. Type II position 4015^e

1856 Orange Brown Shade

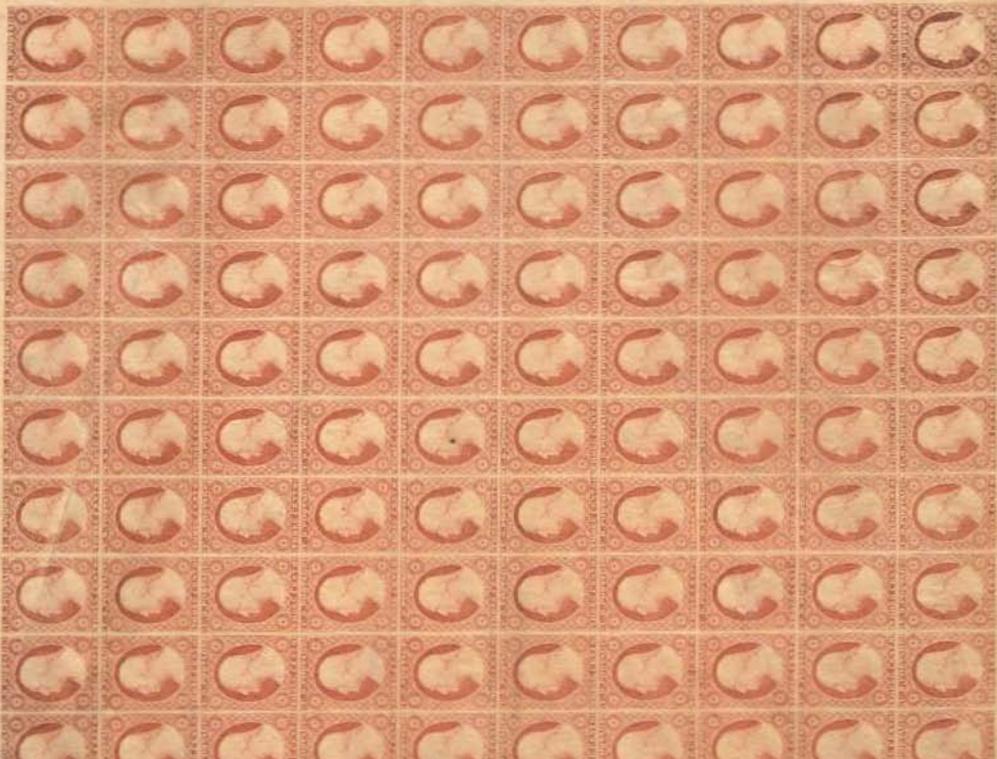


Stamp position 7R4, gash on shoulder variety.
May 1859 double rate cover carried privately by Wells Fargo and Co. from San Francisco to Roseburg OR.

Three Cent Stamp

Dull Red

Full sheet plate 3
right pane.
Original gum.



Buffalo & Erie Railroad route
agent handstamp.

Type II. Positions 12A3, 41-43B2



Straddle - shows stamps
from both panes of a plate.
Right stamp position 12A.

Margin copies from plate 4 showing different "states" of the
plate, with and without plate numbers



Early printing showing imprint
without plate number.
Position 31-4



Later printing with plate
number added but reversed.
Position 31-4



Later printing with plate
number correctly placed.
Position 30B4

Corner Margin Copies



Type II. Position 10A2



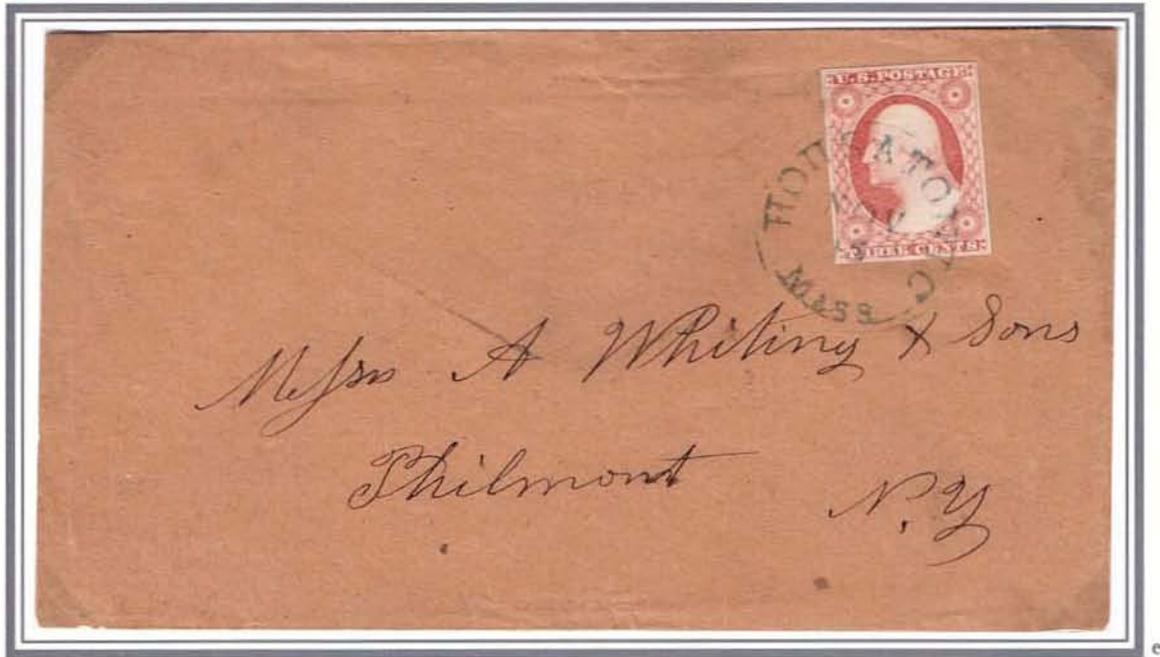
Type I. Position 10B



Type I. Position 10B3



Type I. Position 10B4



Cover from Housatonic MA to Philmont NY. Blue town postmark.
Five lines recut in the top left triangle. Position 95L1^t



Plate crack positions 74, 84, 94L5^t type II.
Blue grid cancel.



Worn plate.
Type II Position 2R1^t



Slip or kiss printing
showing doubling at top.
Type II



Red New York City
Supplementary Mail
type A cancel. Type I



New York Year Date 1857.
Type I Positions 46-49L4



Right margin imprint.
Type II Position 50R2^t



Type I Position 57R8



Steam Ship.
Type II Positions 31-32L2^t



Red star.
Type II



Type II Position 57L3

Brownish Carmine



Unused OG brownish carmine part imprint type II



Unused OG brownish carmine. Type I



Brownish carmine reconstructed block of eight from two blocks of four with blue Oberlin OH town postmarks. Type I Positions 31-34, 41-44R7

Claret

Yellowish Rose Red



Blue and red silk threads. Plate 7 left pane.



Claret plate crack. Partial imprint. Type II Position 31L5



Unused Claret. Type I Position 10R6



Claret major plate crack. Claret, straddle pane. Type II Position 94L5



Claret, straddle pane. Type I Positions 100L6 and 91R6



Unused OG reconstructed block of six. Claret. Type I Positions 65-67, 75-77R4



Embossed cover from Orrville to Salem OH. Stamp color is deep purplish claret. Type I

Experimental Orange Brown

The experimental orange brown shade usually comes from plate 1L and contains more brown than the original orange brown. It was delivered October - December 1851.



New Years Day January 1852 folded letter from Boston MA to Claremont NH.
Double transfer, line through 'THREE-CENTS' and rosettes doubled. Type II Position 92R1¹

Largest Recorded Multiple of the Plum Shade

The plum shade was delivered in 1857 with plates 2L, 3 and 4.



February 1857 folded address sheet from New Orleans LA to New York City. Stamps pay quadruple under 3,000 mile rate.
Type II Positions 42-45R2¹

Twelve Cent Stamp



The imperforate 12 cent stamp, issued to provide domestic multiple rates and help make up foreign rates. The stamp was printed from one plate that had two states. About 2.5 million stamps were printed. There were approximately one hundred times more three cent stamps than twelve cent stamps printed and thus far fewer available today.

One relief was used for the entire plate. Most positions on the plate had the frame lines recut. There was also recutting in the lower right and left corner. About 12% of the positions show a double transfer.

Two states of plate one



Initial state of plate with no imprint.
Unused OG. Positions 61-62, 71-72L1



Position 51L1 showing imprint.
Later state of the plate..



Eleven bar circular grid.
Positions 7-10, 17-20, 27-30, 37-40L1



Philadelphia PA town postmarks. Positions 81-84, 91-94R1



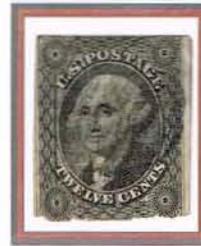
Left block positions 87-88, 97-98L1. Right block positions 85-86, 95-96L1. These two blocks were cut from a single block.



Positions 10R and 20R



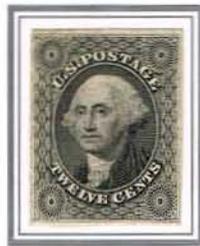
Straddle shows stamp from left pane and partial stamp from right pane. Positions 60L and 51R



Printed on both sides. Original side shown. Position 7R



Reverse 1.2X



Unused OG. Position 69L



Very thin paper. Blue cancel.



Pre-printing paper fold. Position 96L

Margin Copies



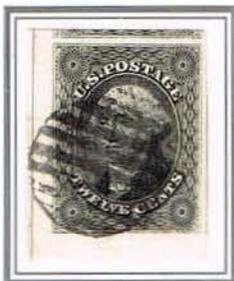
Late state showing imprint. Positions 70, 80R



Position 6L



Positions 97-99R



Position 91R



Position 1L



Positions 37-40L



Double transfer.
Position 3R



Red grid. Double transfer.
Position 4R



Triple transfer.
Position 5R



Double transfer.
Position 9L



Blue and red Cincinnati
town postmarks.
Position 9R



Right stamp shows scratch on head
variety. Positions 43-44R



Red 'PAID/24'. Right stamp double
transfer. Positions 66-67R



Red '19'. Positions 93-94R



Red 'PAID'.
Position 68L



Red '10' in circle.
Position 71R



Black Star.



Chicopee star.
Position 68L



Blue Cincinnati OH
town postmark.
Position 19L

May 1857 cover from St. Joseph
MO to Leeds England. The two
right margin left frame stamps,
showing guide lines, pay the 24
cent rate to England.

Traveled on American packet
Columbia from New York 6 June
arriving in Liverpool 17 June.



The imperforate 10 cent stamp was issued in the spring of 1855 to pay the new over 3,000 mile rate as well as international rates. One plate, plate 1, produced all the imperforate stamps. There was only one state of plate 1. Three reliefs were used, responsible for type I, type II, and type III stamps. Type IV stamps are recut positions. The ten cent stamp was only available for 24 months before perforations were applied, one-third of the time for the first three values.



Type I stamps have the bottom complete. But the outer line above the top label as well as the outer lines above the 'X' in ovals are missing. All type I stamps are produced from relief 'C' and are only from the bottom row of both panes. Twenty out of two hundred positions (10%) produced type I stamps.



Unused OG.



Position 100L



Position 91R



Position 92L



Dark green.
Position 98L

Cover from Lowell MA
to Columbia CA.
Stamp paying the over
3,000 mile rate to
California via Panama.



*Mr. E. Otis Blake
Columbia
California*



*Charge box 113 -
Jayette Hewitt Esq
Elizabeth Town
Kentucky*

Cover from Yreka CA to
Elizabeth Town KY.
Stamp paying the over
3,000 mile rate from
California via Panama.
Charged to box 113;
stamp most likely
applied by postmaster.



Type II stamps show the full design at top, have the outer line at bottom broken in the middle and the shells partly cut away. Type II stamps were produced from relief 'A' and come from rows 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 of both the left and right pane. Ninety-three positions (46%) are type II.



Left margin imprint.
Double transfer.
Position 51L



Right margin imprint.
Position 60R



Unused OG.



Straddle pair. Positions 20L and 11-12R



'Red Aachen Franco'
boxed transit and black
town postmark.



January 1857 New Orleans town postmark. Left stamp shows
strongest double transfer on plate. Positions 31-34L



Position 10R



Red cancel.



New York Ocean Mail type III cancel. Right stamp double transfer.
Positions 17-20R



Position 1R



Black dots cancel.



Positions 19-20L



Decorative lady's cover from Stockton CA to Indian Orchard MA.
Stamp pays greater than 3,000 mile rate.



Type III stamps have the tops cut away as in type I and the bottom cut away as in type II. Type III stamps come from rows 3, 5, 7 and 9 of the left and right panes as well as three positions in row 1. The row 1 positions are misplaced reliefs. Seventy-nine positions (40%) are type III.



Largest recorded strip of type III stamps.
Positions 83-90R



Left margin imprint.
Position 41L



Unused. Misplaced Relief. Position 2L



New Orleans black town postmark.



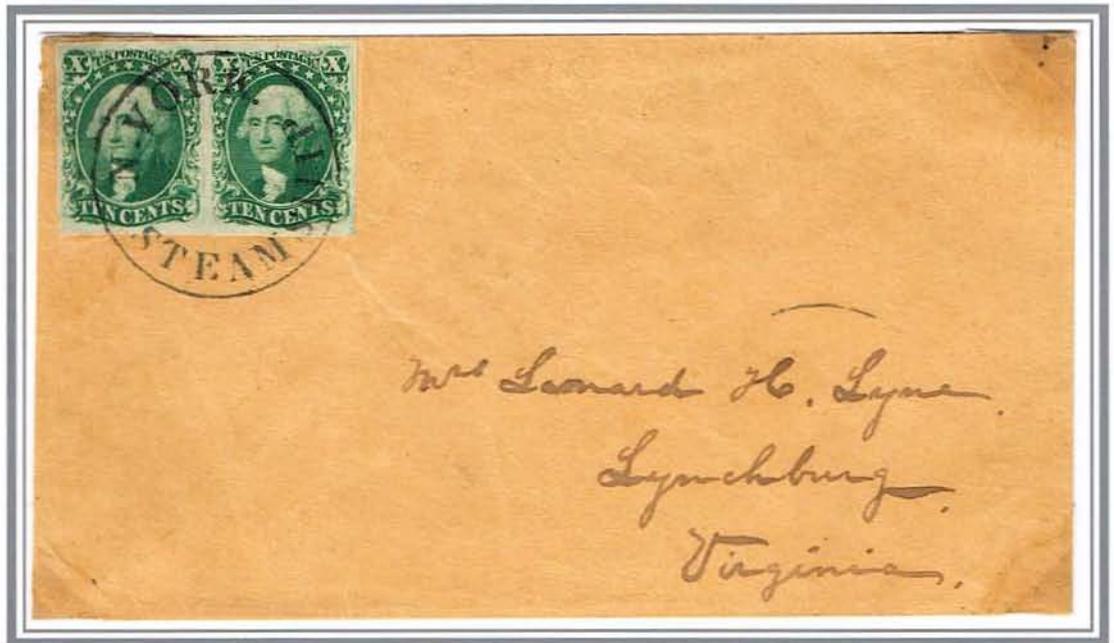
Guide line.



Red paint Mobile AL town postmark.
Tiny tear at bottom.



Red grid cancel.



Incoming steamship letter that entered the mail in New York City on route to Lynchburg VA. The origin is not known. The pair of stamps pays either double the 10 cent under 2,500 mile rate or the 20 cent over 2,500 mile rate. Positions 86-87R



Positions 16-17, 26-27L



Blocks with type II top and type III bottom



Positions 19-20, 19-30R
Top right double transfer.



Positions 79, 89, 99L



August 1856 cover from Narrowsbough NY to Vienna Austria. The letter left New York on American packet Washington 9 August arriving in Southampton 23 August. Stamps paying the 30 cent rate to Austria.



Type IV stamps are type II or III stamps that have their outer lines at the top or bottom or both recut. Eight positions are recut: three at the top only, three at the bottom only, and one both top and bottom. Two positions recut at top are also recut over the 'X's'. All eight type IV positions are present in this exhibit.



Red grid. Position 3R1
Only recut position from the right pane.
The misplaced relief.



Position 63-64L. 64L
Only position recut top and bottom.



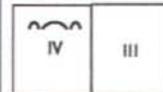
Red paint.
Position 76L



Position 74L



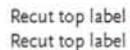
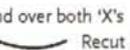
Double rate embossed lady's cover from San Francisco CA to Walden NY. Positions 86-87L. Recut top including over each 'X'.



e



Position 65L. Recut top including over each 'X'. Letter from Cleveland OH to San Francisco CA.

 Recut top label and over both 'X's'
 Recut top label  Recut bottom label

With type IV Recut Positions



IV ⌒	IV ⌒	II
IV ⌒	IV ⌒	III

Left block type IV, right vertical pair type II and III. Positions 54-56, 64-66L.



III	III	IV
-----	-----	----

October 1856 folded letter from New York to Glogau Prussia. Left New York on October 11 on the Collins Line steamer Baltic arriving in Liverpool 22 October. Middle stamp 'curl in head' variety. Positions 84-86L.

II	IV ⌒	II	IV ⌒
----	---------	----	---------

1st thru 4th stamps
(right two stamps type II)



Strip of six positions 73-78L.

⌒ Recut top label and over both 'X's
⌒ Recut top label ⌒ Recut bottom label

Five Cent Stamp



Unused OG.

The imperforate 5 cent stamp was issued in early 1856. There was no compelling reason to issue the 5 cent stamp but it was applied to foreign rates such as British Open Mail or the 1857 French treaty rate. The stamps were issued perforated during 1857 leaving the imperforate stamps an active lifespan of fewer than eighteen months. There is only one type. There are two plate varieties, a double transfer and a defective transfer. There are far fewer 5 cent stamps than other values.



Wilmington DE town postmark.
Small tear lower left stamp.



Inner-pane line.
New Orleans town postmark.
Positions I, II, 21R



New Orleans town postmark.



Wilmington DE town postmark.



Partial imprint. Philadelphia town postmark.
Double transfer on far right stamp. Positions 37-40R



Partial imprint.
Position 51L



Partial imprint.
Position 50R



Pre-printing
paper fold.



Defective or damaged
transfer.
Position 23R

Five Cent Stamp



Black town postmark
from Yankee Jim's CA.



Blue town postmark
from Colima CA.

Two pairs used from California mining towns.



Brown town cancel.



Blue town cancel.



Belgian accountancy.
Inter-pane line.



Steamship cancel.



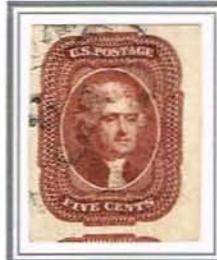
NY Ocean mail.



Red and black cancels.



Red Trenton NJ
town postmark



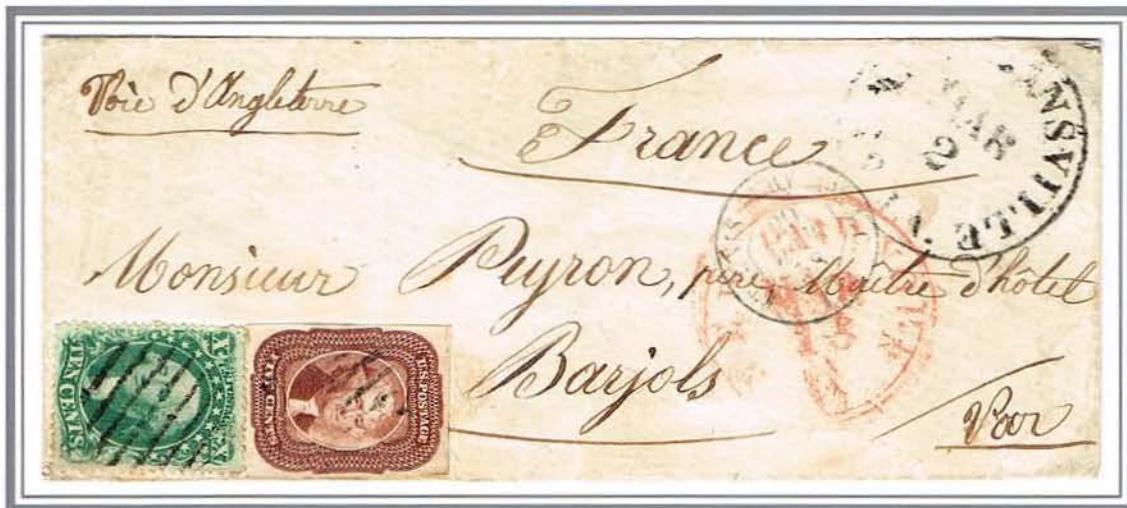
Black town postmark.



Black grid.



Red waffle.



March 1858 cover from Donaldsonville LA to Barjols France. Mixed franking, 10 cent stamp perforated type II stamp from plate 1. The five cent stamp shows a defective transfer position 23R.

The letter left New York City on 13 March aboard Glasgow & NY Steamship Company packet New York. This ship was substituted for the Collins Line that could not provide service.

Precancels

Stamps that are canceled or killed **prior to being applied** to a letter or circular and usually prior to being taken to the post office are known as precanceled stamps. This practice was first used in volume with the issue of 1851, most often on circulars and newspapers.

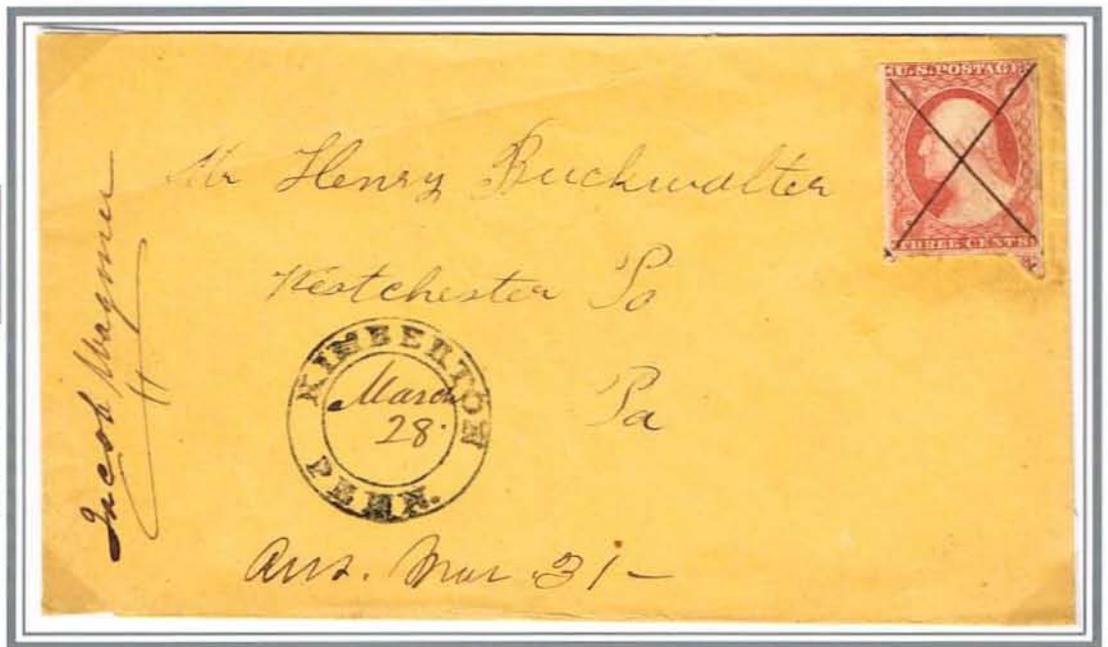


Pair of 1 cent type IV stamps on wrapper with 'PAID' and 'paid' precancels used to mail a newspaper, the February 2, 1857 American Eagle, to a subscriber. This piece is the discovery copy that proved the source of these precancels is Cleveland OH. The font used matches that used to print the newspaper. They probably printed a sheet at a time on their press.



2X

Cover from Kimberton PA to West Chester PA. Stamp precanceled with pen. The stamp contains part of the stamp below it which shows the precancel lines extending to the additional stamps. Stamp is yellow rose red.



As more and more stamps were being used the inconvenience of cutting them out individually sent many searching for better approaches. Soon the Post Office Department would move to perforated stamps as they had in England.

New York City



'Sewing Machine' roulette perforations. Stamp type II. Position 47L2



'Rouletted' perforations. Stamp unused type IV.

November 1855 folded unsealed circular from New York City to Bamansville Canada West. The 1 cent stamp paid postage to the boarder. 1d due in Canada.

Bergen NY



Cancel removed and image enhanced to show perforations. 1.3x



Sawtooth roulettes gage 9 to 10. Produced by the postmaster. April 1857 cover from Bergen NY to Andover CT. Claret position 91L7



One of five recorded covers with 1 cent Chicago perforations. Earliest documented use.

29 May 1856 unsealed circular from Chicago Il to Exeter MA.

Two of four recorded covers with Chicago perforations used outside of Chicago

Cover from Fort Des Moines IA to New York City.



21 July 1856 folded letter from Boston MA to Fisherville TN.

Section Two: Domestic Rates and Markings

Under 3,000 Miles
Single 3 Cent Rate

Domestic Letter Rates

The basic rates introduced in July 1851 were 3 cents under 3,000 miles and 6 cents over 3,000 miles. The 6 cent rate was later increased to 10 cents. The drop rate was 1 cent and circular rates were 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 cents depending on distance, later reduced to 1 cent for all distances. This section shows the stamps used for the different rates and a variety of auxiliary markings and fancy cancels.

1 July - First day of issue

1 July 1851 folded letter from
Lowell MA to Chillicothe OH.
Orange brown stamp with
recut inner lines, type II.
Position 77L1^F
Blue town postmark.



Cover from Urbana OH to Peoria IL.
Position 10R2 dull red type II stamp.
Largest recorded margins on a 3 cent stamp:
17 1/2 mm top and 16 mm right.

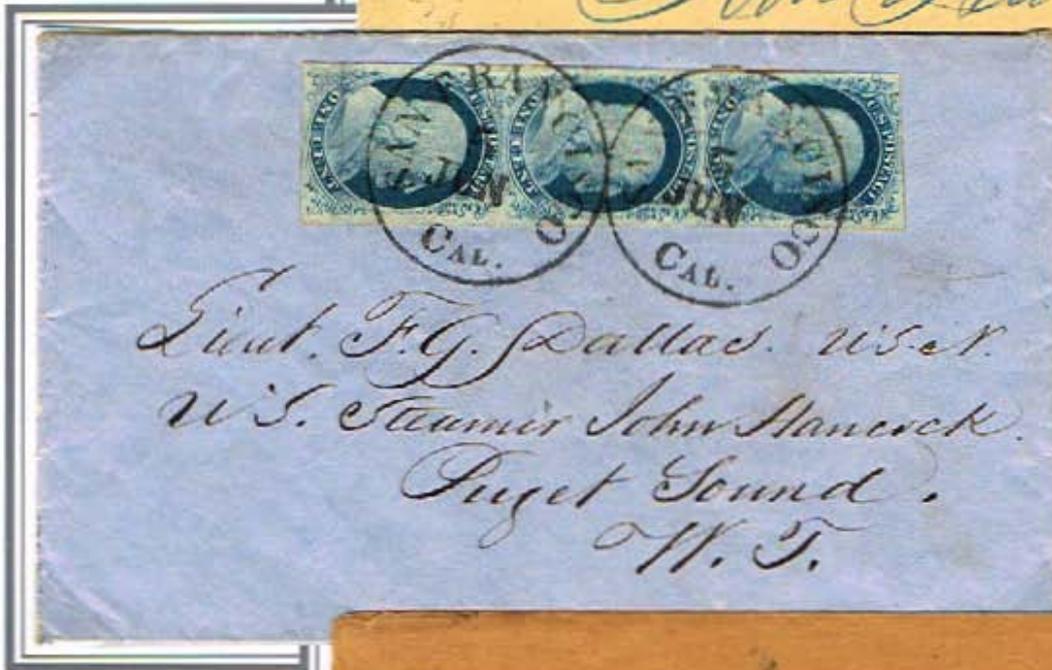
Green town postmark

Folded address sheet with part of
letter from Randolph Macon College
VA to Dials Creek NC.
In 1830 Randolph Macon College
was founded in Boydton VA by the
Methodist Church and moved to
Ashland VA in 1868.
Stamp is type II.



Cover from Shasta
to San Francisco CA.
Addressed to the Noisy
Carrier office.

Type I stamp is yellowish
rose red. The yellowish
rose red was used from
November 1855 till
January 1856.



Cover from San Francisco to
US Navy ship John Hancock
deployed to Puget Sound
Washington Territory to help
suppress an Indian uprising.

Type IV all single recut top and
bottom positions 28, 38, 48L1.

January 1857 cover from San
Francisco to Sacramento
CA. Marking 'NC\RR POST'
refers to the Noisy Carrier
River Route between San
Francisco and Sacramento.

Stamp type I.



December 1855 cover from Washington City DC to Goshen CT. Double the under 3,000 mile rate.

Type II stamps from the left pane, show the center line. For both positions left frame line takes place of inner frame line. Positions 90 and 100L3



March 1853 folded letter from New York City to Philadelphia PA.

Double rate paid with diagonal bisect of 12 cent stamp. Bisect accepted by both the New York and Philadelphia post offices.

Cover from Columbia TX to Washington DC. Transfer of 5 cent stamp image to envelope due to fold. 1 cent stamp type IV. 5 cent stamp right margin showing the center line.



Before 1 January 1856 unpaid rates charged at 5 cents per half ounce. After 1 January 1856 there was no longer an unpaid rate. 3 cents per half ounce charged for overweight as well as forwarding.

Before 1 January 1856



June 1852 folded address sheet from Boston MA to New York City. The letter was between 1/2 and 1 oz. 3 cent stamp underpaid the double rate. Due 5 cents. 'Due/5 cts' making in circle used in Boston between March 1853 until July 1854. Double transfer 'GENTS' shift, with three lines recut in upper left triangle. Position 66R2¹

After 1 January 1856
Used on West Coast



August 1856 folded letter from Stockton CA to Sacramento CA. Letter references enclosed contracts. 'DUE' and '3' markings most likely applied in Sacramento.

Cover from
Potsdam NY to
Bangor ME.

1 cent type IV, 3
cent type II.



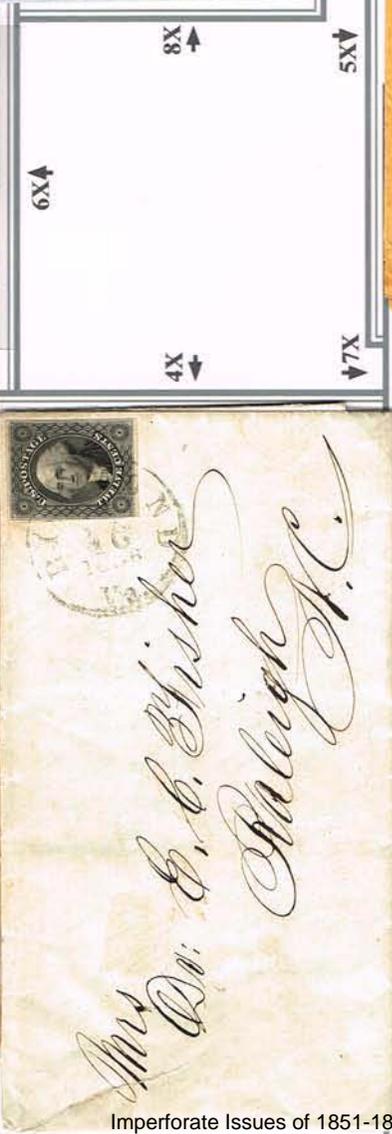
One cent overpayment



January 1857 letter from
Chicago IL to Fort Brown,
Brownville TX.

Chicago 1857 postmark
with year date.

Stamp type IV position
54L1 recut at bottom.



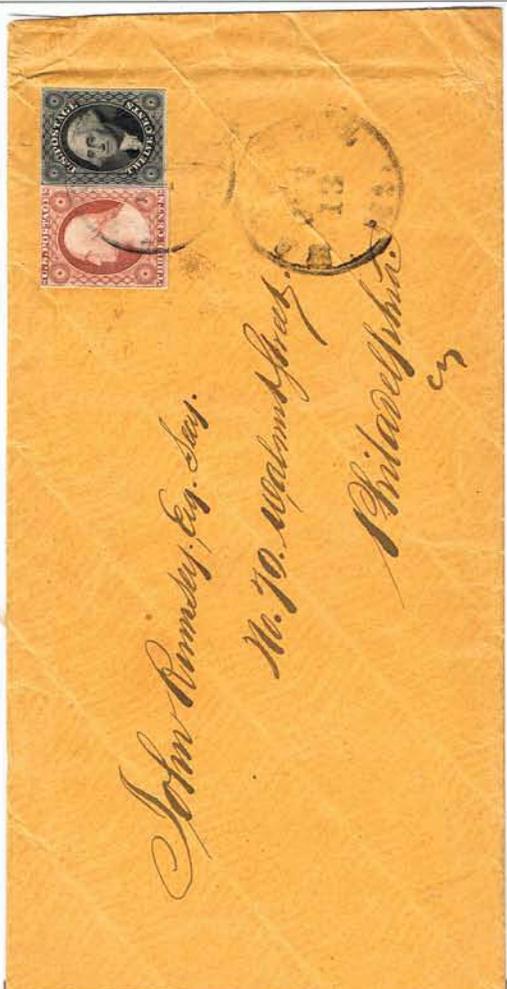
4X

6X4

8X

7X

5X4



March 1852 cover
from Marysville CA to
Painesville OH.
Stamps type II positions
75-80L1⁶. Second and
sixth stamps double
transfer.



July 1853 folded address sheet to
Boston MA entered the mail in
San Francisco. The bisect accepted
in San Francisco, New York and
Boston.

The letter left San Francisco 16 July
on the John L. Stephens arriving in
Panama 29 July. From Aspinwall to
New York on the Georgia arriving
29 August.

Integral rate 'PAID/6' postmark.

e

Wreck Mail

November 1853 cover from
Sonora CA to Balamazoo MI.
Carried on Star Route 5062
to San Francisco. Put on the
Steamer Winfield Scott to
Panama but was wrecked
on the Anacapa Islands on
2 December 1853. Mail was
recovered and eventually
sent on via Panama.
Five examples recorded with
this Name-of-Boat cachet.





Cover to Westfield MA entered the mail in San Francisco.
Block of four pays the double rate.
Stamps positions 36,37,46,47R1⁺.

Underpaid

August 1853 cover from Boston to San Francisco CA.
Letter endorsed to go via Nicaragua on Vanderbilt's Independent Line ship Star of the West. However the letter entered the mail in Boston and was sent via Panama.
Double rate letter underpaid.
Manuscript 'Due 10' for unpaid postage applied in Boston. Box number '+485' applied in San Francisco.



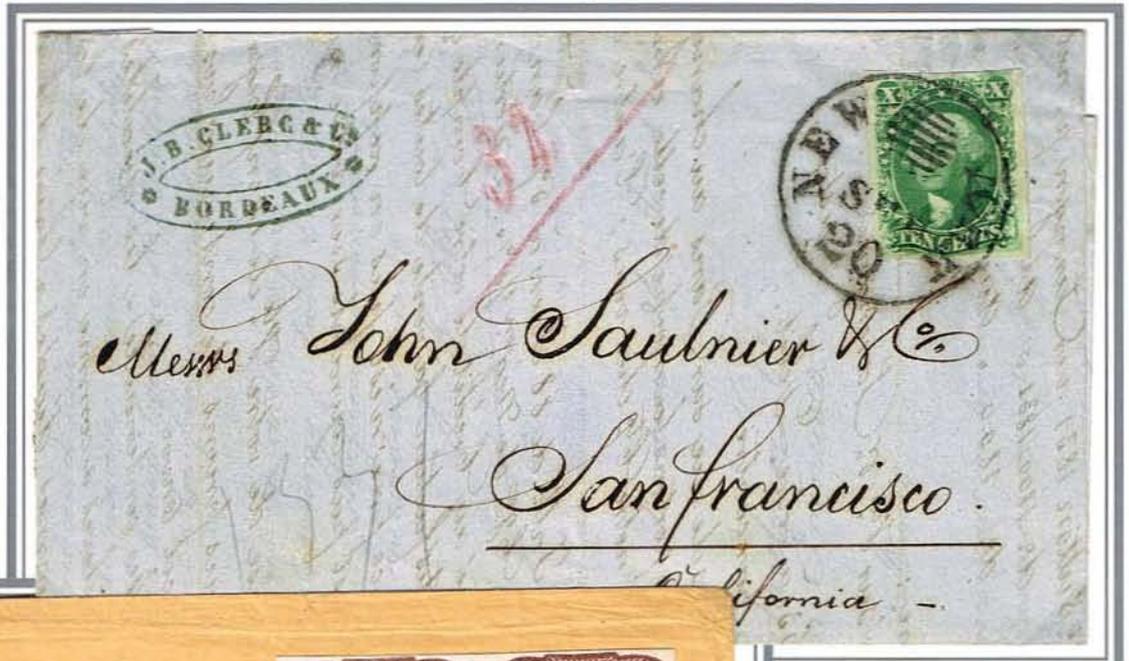
April 1853 folded letter from San Francisco to Boston MA.
The letter left San Francisco 17 April on the Northerner arriving in Panama 3 May. The mail was carried across the isthmus to Aspinwall and to New York on the Crescent City arriving 24 May.



Privately carried to New York from Bordeaux France

September 1856 folded letter
from Bordeaux France to San
Francisco CA.

New York Ocean Mail type III
cancellation. Stamp is type II.



Cover from Auburn NY
to San Francisco CA.

March 1857 folded address
sheet from New York City to
San Francisco CA.

Type III Ocean Mail
postmark. Block of 3 stamps
are brownish carmine. 1 cent
stamp type IV.



Bisect



Cover from Wrentham MA to San Francisco CA. Bisect accepted to pay one cent of the 10 cent over 3,000 mile rate.

Partial payment in cash

Cover from Fiddletown CA to Scio NY. Stamps brownish carmine positions 1-3L8, gash on shoulder. Center stamp with pre-printing paper fold. The postmaster ran out of 1 cent stamps and used the manuscript 'Paid 1' as a provisional measure since prepayment with stamps was mandatory. Plate 8 was not used until after January 1856.



July 1857 cover from New York to San Francisco CA. 'Due 4' handstamp applied in San Francisco for payment due. Partial payment was accepted. Type III Ocean Mail postmark.

The Dawson Cover

Lahaina - Honolulu - San Francisco - Panama - New York

Only recorded use of the 2 cent Hawaiian stamp on cover and the only recorded cover with two different denominations of Hawaiian Missionary stamps.



October 1852 cover from Lahaina, Maui, Sandwich Islands to New York City.

Sent by William Dawson who most likely applied the 3 cent stamps and paid the Lahaina postmaster seven cents in cash. The Lahaina postmaster applied the Hawaiian stamps to indicate prepayment of both the five cent Hawaiian internal rate and the two cent stamp ship fee.

Lahaina to Honolulu arriving 4 October. 5 October, placed on sailing ship Mary A. Jones for San Francisco. Arriving San Francisco 26 October. Believed by Pacific Mail Steamship Company Northerner departing 30 October to Panama where carried across isthmus of Panama to Aspinwall and placed on the Georgia.

2 cent and 5 cent blue Hawaiian stamps both type II, right hand positions.

3 cent 1851 brownish carmine pair type II, positions 41-42L2⁴.

History of the Dawson Cover

The letter shown above is from a correspondence between William Dawson and his sister, Eliza. William was living on the Sandwich Islands (now call the Hawaiian Islands) between 1851 and 1853 where he wrote a number of letters to Eliza. The Dawson family had business interests including a lumber yard and leather tanning factory. The letter is addressed via William's father Jacob at the lumber yard. Over the next fifty years the tannery business declined and the factory was likely abandoned by 1900. The family remained in Newark during this period.

It is logical that the letters to Eliza and other family papers were retained by their mother and upon the mother's death discarded. Most likely the family used the old factory to dispose of family papers by burning them in the furnace. Miraculously over-stuffing of the furnace snuffed out the fire. Years later, while renovating the building for reuse, a workman, cleaning out the furnace, and with some knowledge of stamps, saved a number of letters including the one shown above. This amazing sequence of events preserved a group of historic letters from the Sandwich Islands. Only a very small burn mark on the left side of the envelope above shows its near miss from the fire.

Inbound to Hawaiian Islands

One of two recorded covers inbound to the Hawaiian Islands with a Missionary stamp



Cover from Auburn MA to Lahainaluna Maui, Hawaiian Islands. December 21 Auburn manuscript postmark. The letter traveled from Auburn to New York City and to Panama, San Francisco and then to Honolulu. The letter is addressed to the sister of Hawaii's first postmaster.

It is likely that the letter left Massachusetts in December 1852, departing New York City on the *Georgia* 5 January 1853, and arriving in Panama 14 January. The letter would then arrive in San Francisco on the *Oregon* 5 February. The American bark *Pathfinder* carried the mail to Honolulu arriving 27 February.

5 cent blue Hawaiian stamp type I, left hand position. 3 cent 1851 brownish carmine pair, positions 73-74L3. Plate wear indicates that this was a later printing.

During the third treaty period (16 May 1855 to 30 August 1863) the total postage required was 17 cents. Five cents for Hawaiian postage, United States postage, 10 cents for over 3,000 miles, and a 2 cent ship fee. The 13 cent stamp required a 4 cent payment in cash or if used with a 5 cent stamp resulted in an overpayment.



December 1855 letter from Hilo to Sag Harbor NY. At Sag Harbor the letter was forwarded to Southampton New York. Manuscript 'Forwarded 3' for 3 cents due for forwarding. 4 cents was paid in cash in Hilo to pay Hawaiian postage. The 13 cent Hawaiian stamp was cancelled and the 12 cent US stamp applied in Honolulu. The letter departed Honolulu 3 January 1856 arriving in San Francisco 17 January. The letter was carried to Panama on the John L. Stephens departing San Francisco on 21 January arriving 5 February. From Panama to New York by steamer.
One of four recorded covers with this combination of stamps.



April 1857 cover from Lahaina Maui to Brooklyn NY. Departed Honolulu on the Fanny Major arriving in San Francisco 28 April. Left San Francisco that day on the Golden Gate arriving in Panama 18 May.
One cent stamps pay the ship fee and the ten cent type I pair pay the double rate cross country.
Hawaiian postage paid in cash.

Only recorded use of the 10 cent type 1 stamps from Hawaii.



December 1856 cover from Honolulu to New Haven CT. The 5 cent Hawaiian stamp is a first printing, and paid the Hawaiian postage. The 12 cent stamp paid the over 3,000 mile rate plus the 2 cent ships fee. The letter left Honolulu on the Bark Frances Palmer on 8 December and arrived in San Francisco 5 January. From San Francisco to Panama leaving 5 January on the John L. Stephens.

The 5 cent provisional was necessary due to a shortage of 5 cent stamps at the beginning of 1857. New stamps arrived by June 1857.



March 1857 cover from Honolulu to New York City. The surcharged stamp is Clark type I with long flag. The 12 cent stamp was applied in Honolulu and paid the over 3,000 mile rate plus the 2 cent captain's fee. The letter was carried on the bark Yankee departing Honolulu 11 March and arriving in San Francisco 3 April. From San Francisco it was sent to Panama on the Golden Gate 5 May arriving 18 May, the letter arrived in New York 28 May on the Illinois.


Tracing of Gilman
handstamp.
Two recorded
examples.



December 1859 cover from Honolulu to New Bedford MA. The five cent stamp on thin white paper from the second printing pays the Hawaiian postage. The 12 cent stamp pays the over 3,000 mile rate the 2 cent ship fee. The captain of the New Bedford whaler Oliver, writing to his wife, gave the letter to Gilman & Co. to deliver to the post office in Honolulu. Faint Gilman oval handstamp on front of cover. The letter left Honolulu December 6 on the bark Yankee arriving in San Francisco 24 December. The letter missed the sailing to Panama and was marked with the 'OVERLAND' handstamp and routed on the 26 December Butterfield stagecoach heading East. Six recorded covers with mixed franking and 'OVERLAND' handstamp.



1860 cover from Honolulu HI to Brooklyn NY. The five cent stamp on thin white paper from the second printing pays the Hawaiian postage. The 12 cent stamp pays the 10 cent cross country rate plus 2 cent ship fee. Late use of the imperforate 12 cent stamp. The letter left Honolulu 1 May on the American Bark Frances Palmer arriving in San Francisco 15 May where it entered US mail. From San Francisco by the Butterfield Stage Route to New York. No routing instructions were required since this was the default routing at this time.

Stamps were required by law even when mail was carried privately. These letters had the postage properly paid with stamps but were never handled by the post office.



September 1854 folded letter from San Francisco to Scotland. The letter left San Francisco 1 September on the Uncle Sam to Panama City arriving 15 September. Crossed the Isthmus to Aspinwall where it was turned over to the British post office. The letter did not enter the mail in the US.

One shilling due on delivery in Scotland.

In September 1854 Vanderbilt has sold the North Star and mail destined for New York was taken to San Juan del Norte, Nicaragua for passage to New York.

On the East coast, almost all mail was taken to the post office and sent via Panama from New York. The letters below were privately carried East to West, via the Nicaragua route, to San Francisco and delivered privately.

May 1854 folded address sheet to San Francisco CA.

The letter departed New York on 5 May on the Northern Light and arrived in San Francisco 3 June on the Cortes.



March 1854 cover to San Francisco CA delivered by Adams Express.

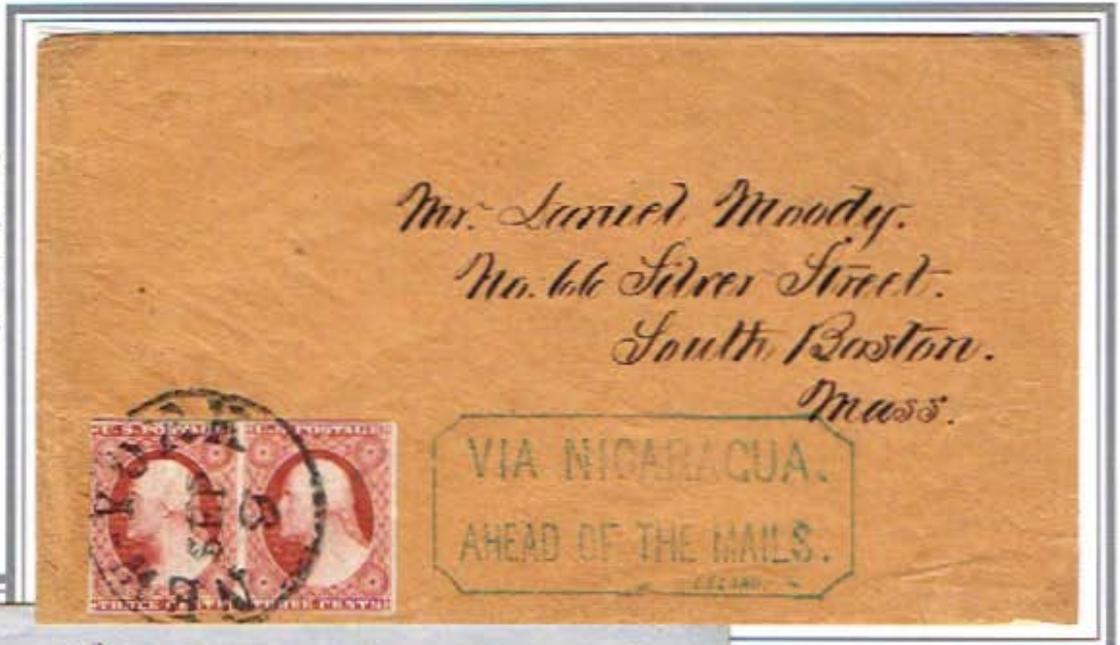
The letter departed New York on 5 March on the Star of the West to San Juan Norte and arrived in San Francisco 16 April on the Cortes.

Nicaragua Line handstamp applied in New York most likely by the Nicaragua Steamship Company.

Cover from San Francisco to South Boston MA.

This letter was delivered to the ship by letter bag operator G. L. Leland, Still and Company.

Positions 73-74L3



Cover from San Francisco CA to Baltimore MD.

Delivered to the boat by letter bag operator 'The Noisy Carrier'.

Bisect accepted in San Francisco, New York and Baltimore.

January 1856 cover from Auburn CA to Barnard VT. Carried out of the mail from Auburn to Sacramento and then to San Francisco. Carried on the Nicaragua Route to New York City where it entered the mail. Two cent overpayment.

The letter carried completely outside the mail by an express company until it entered the mail in New York.



While bisecting stamps was never approved by the Post Office Department they were often but not always accepted. In late 1853 the department clearly stated that bisects were not permitted.

via Nicaragua privately carried to New York



September 1853 folded letter from San Francisco CA to Boston MA via Nicaragua. The postmaster in New York City refused to recognize the bisect and rated the letter as a ship letter with 7 cents due, 5 cents for postage beyond New York and 2 cents captain's fee. The letter left San Francisco on the Cortes 16 September and arrived in New York City 9 October on the Star of the West.

via Panama



July 1854 cover front from Honolulu to Albany NY. Earliest recorded use of the first printing of the 5 cent Hawaiian stamp paid internal Hawaiian postage. 12 cent bisect was not accepted by the San Francisco postmaster and 12 cents due. 2 cents ships fee and 10 cents over 3,000 mile rate for a letter not pre-paid. Left Honolulu on the Boston 4 July to San Francisco and then to Panama on the Winfield Scott and into New York 10 September on the Illinois.

During this period, postage paid for delivery from one post office to another. When sending a letter addressed to the same post office as it was deposited at, the rate was 1 cent. This is known as the drop rate.



DROP

Red 'DROP' applied by postmaster.
Drop letter from Indianapolis IN.
Stamp type II position 100Li⁶.



Charleston SC drop letter. Lady's embossed envelope.
Large '1' rate marking in center of town cancel.



Bucksport ME drop letter.
Stamp type IV position 31R1⁴. Plate scratch upper left.
'PAID' integrated into bars cancel stamp.



Unsealed circular from Auburn to Rock City Mills NY. 1 cent rate for distances not exceeding 500 miles.

Stamp is type 1b position 3R1^e.

December 1851 circular from Cleveland OH to Waterford NY. Stamps pay the 501 to 1,500 mile circular rate.

Stamps type II and IIIa.



December 1851 circular from San Francisco CA to Providence RI via Panama. Over 3,500 mile rate.

Only recorded example of this rate paid with stamps.

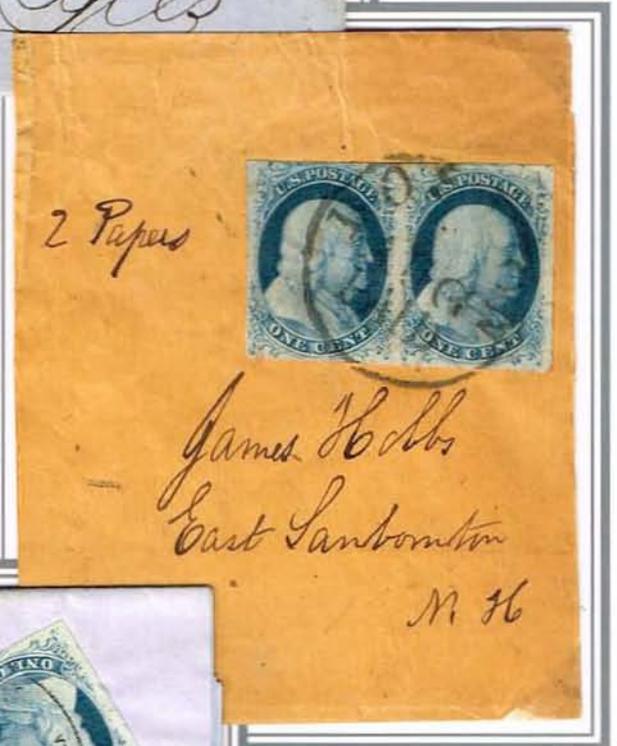


Unsealed circular
from Saint Louis MO
to Virsailles IL.

Stamp type IV
position 6R1⁴.

Newspaper wrapper from Boston MA to East Sanbornton NH. Stamps pay twice the transient newspaper rate of one cent for a paper under 3 oz. This wrapper held two papers requiring the two cents charge.

Transient newspapers were required to be in wrappers "with the ends being open 'for inspection' to confirm that a note or writing was not enclosed". Bundles of papers directly from the publisher were not required to be in wrappers.



September 1857 unsealed
circular from Woodbury NJ
to Philadelphia PA.

Position 22L1⁴.

via Panama



September 1857 San Francisco News Letter to New Orleans. Via Panama.
1 cent rate not exceeding 3 oz. for any distance.
One of three recorded San Francisco News Letters paying this rate.

via Nicaragua



Unsealed circular from San Francisco to Boston MA. Left San Francisco on 1 June 1853 for Nicaragua on the Sierra Nevada. Vanderbilt Independent Line 'VIA NICARAGUA/AHEAD OF THE MAILS' without box.

There are 8 recorded bisects paying the 1 cent circular rate



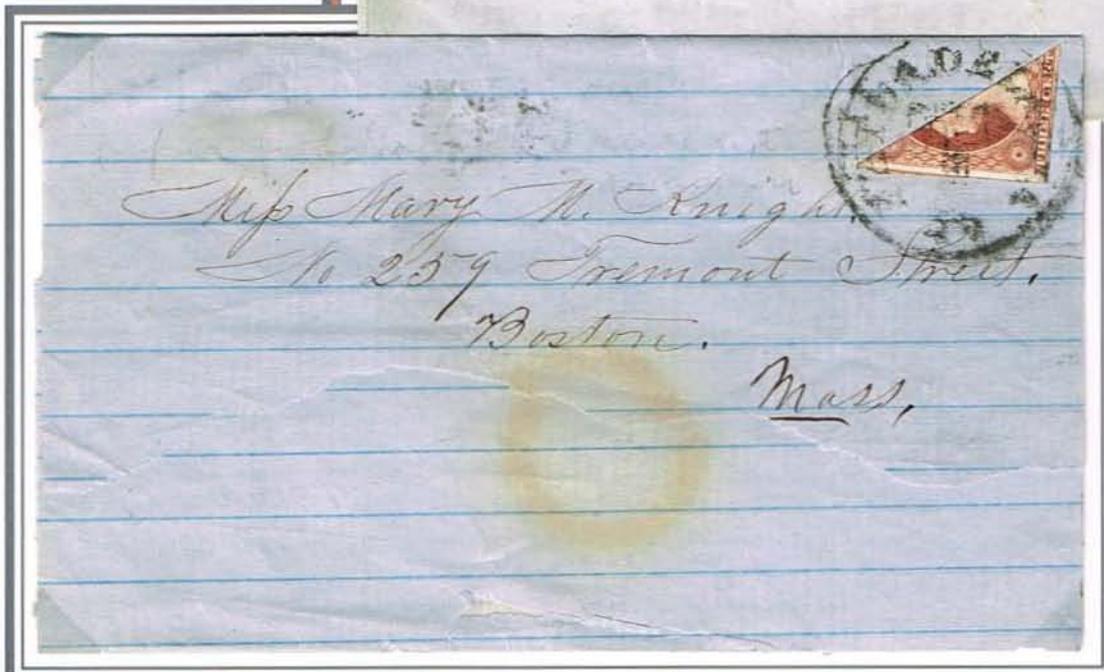
Wrapper front from Jackson MS to New Orleans LA paying the 1 cent circular rate. Stamp is type II rose red. Green town postmark.

via Nicaragua



Unsealed circular from San Francisco to Boston MA. Left San Francisco on 1 June 1853 for Nicaragua on the Sierra Nevada. Vanderbilt Independent Line 'VIA NICARAGUA/AHEAD OF THE MAILS' without box.

One of two recorded via Nicaragua.



Wrapper from Philadelphia PA to Boston MA paying the 1 cent newspaper or periodical rate. Wrapper is made from writing paper.

Postage rates from United States Territories were the same as the prevailing domestic rates. During this period there were 7 territories plus Indian Territory, which was not an official territory, and some unorganized territories.

Minnesota Territory



Unsealed circular from St. Anthony's Falls Minnesota Territory to Granby CT.



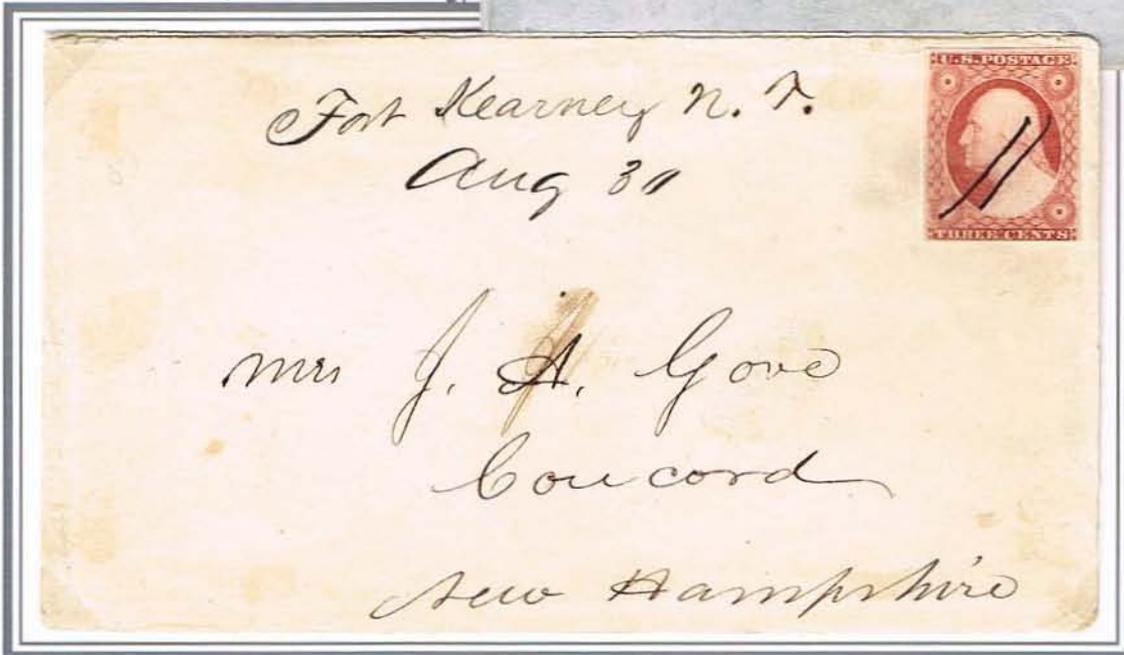
Reverse of cover reduced 70%

Oregon Territory to Washington Territory

June 1855 folded letter from Eugene City OT to Steilacoom WT. Top two stamps type 1b positions 3,4R1^E. Bottom stamp type IIIA position 13R1^E.



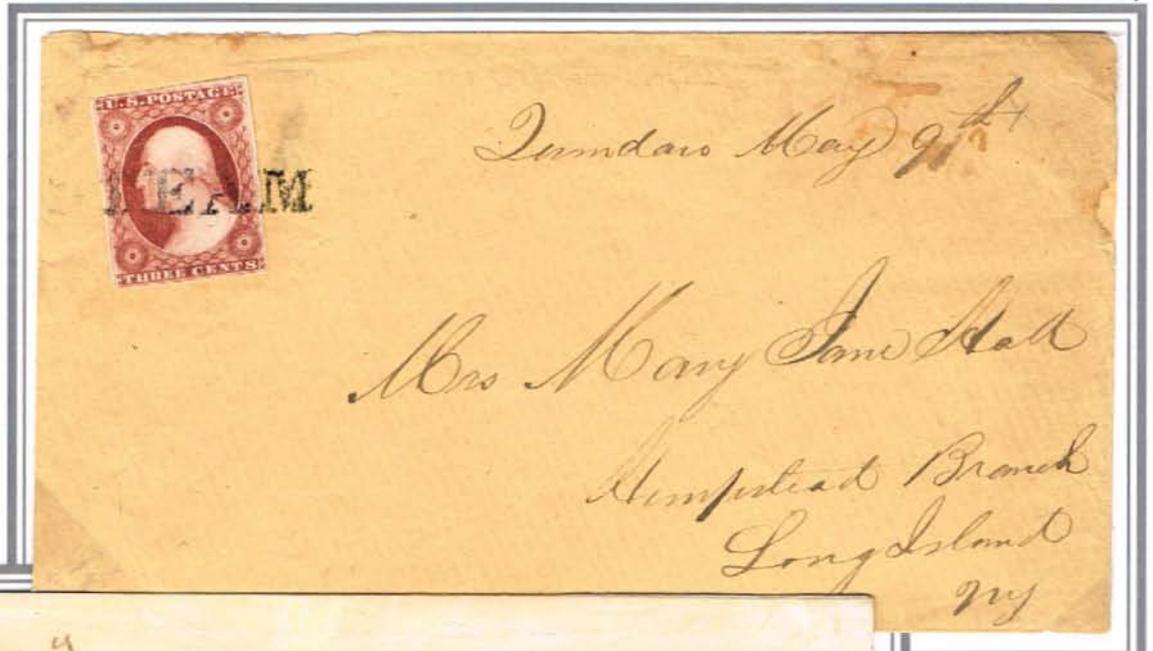
Fort Kearney Nebraska Territory



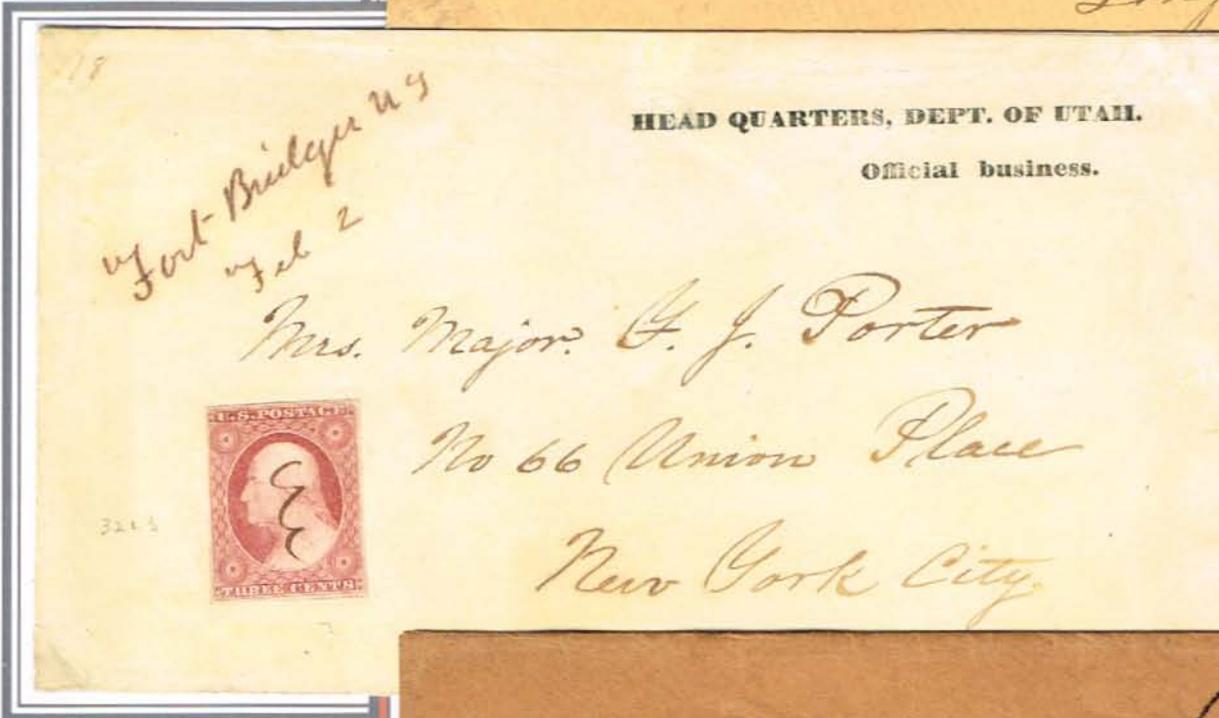
August 1857 cover front from Fort Kearney NT to Concord NH. 2,500 soldiers were sent to Salt Lake City to put down a rumored Mormon insurrection. This letter was sent from a member of the party to his wife. The troops sent the winter of 1857 in the area of Fort Kearney which had been destroyed by the Mormons.

Cover from Quindaro KT to Long Island NY.

The letter entered the mail in Quindaro, then left the mail and was carried to Saint Louis on a non-contract steamboat. It then reentered the mail in Saint Louis.



Fort Bridger
Utah Territory



Feb 1858 cover from Fort Bridger UT to New York City. Number 18 in a series of letter from Major Porter to his wife.

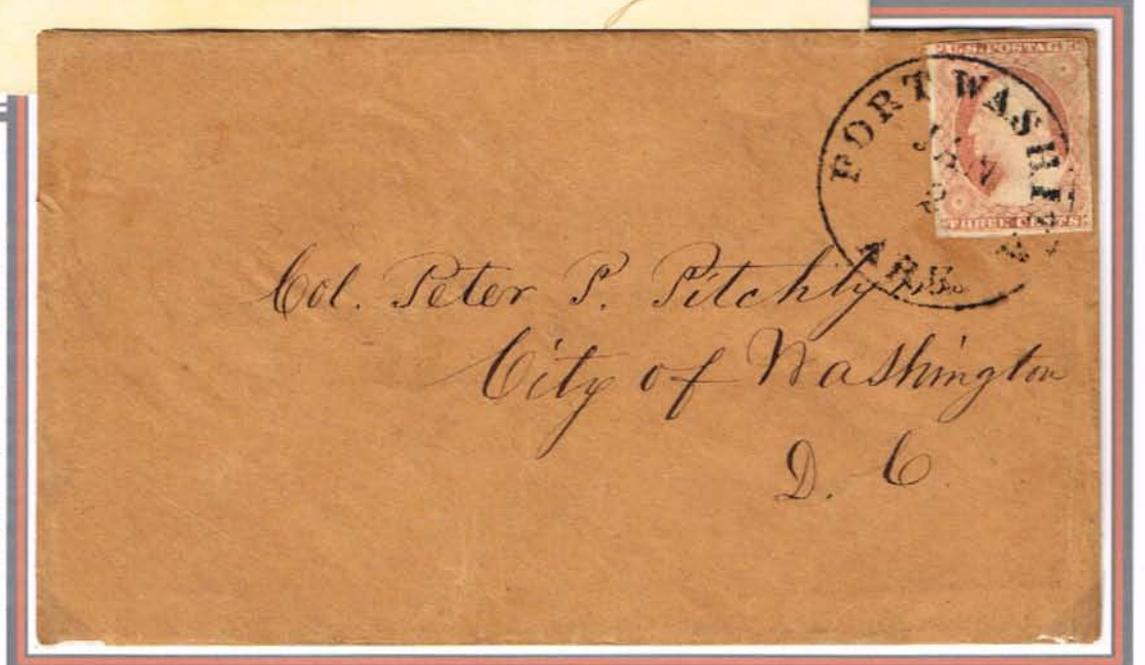
e

Indian Territory

Cover from Fort Washita Arkansas Territory, in the Chickasaw Nation, to Washington City.

This cover is the only recorded stamped cover with this postmark.

The addressee, Peter Picklynn, was half Choctaw and spent many years in Washington City. He served as Principal Chief of the Choctaw from 1864 - 1866. After the Civil War he returned to Washington City and was very active in pressing Choctaw land claims against the US.



e

During this period postmasters occasionally fashioned their own devices to cancel stamps or indicate prepayment. This practice was in its infancy during the first half of the 1850's and would reach a peak in the following decades. Excluding manuscript cancels, about two-thirds of stamps were canceled by town postmarks. Considering this, the fact that many post offices were provided with cancelling devices, and that a lot of mail was still sent stampless, fancy cancels are not common on the issue of 1851-1856.

Ribbon and Shield



April 1852 cover from Easton AL. to Princeton NJ.

'J. Chiles' the postmaster's name in ribbon entwined around a patriotic shield.

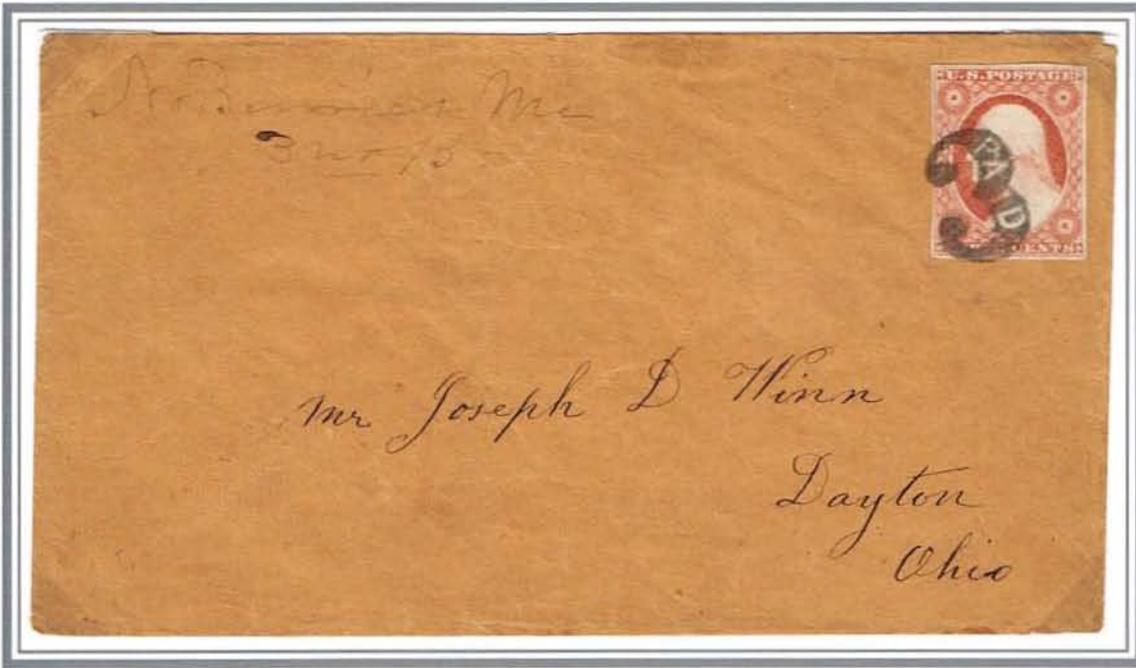
Orange brown stamp.

Running Stag



Cover from Shelburne Falls to Haydenville MA. Stamp is dull red type I.





Mar 1853 cover from North Berwick ME to Dayton OH. Faint manuscript postmark. Stamp is dull red and has double frame line at left position 59L3.

e



Embossed lady's cover from North Easton to Mechanicsville NY. Fancy negative 'PAID 3cts' in box. Stamp is orange brown type II.



e



Cover from Clappville MA to Foxcroft ME.

Stamp is dull red type II.

e

Odd Fellows Links



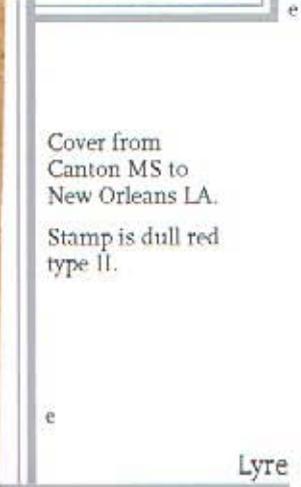
Cover from Canton MS to New Orleans LA.
Stamp is type II.



Negative 'Paid/3'



Cover from Canton MS to New Orleans LA.
Stamp is dull red type II.



Lyre

Cover from Canton MS to New Orleans LA.
Dull red stamp position 15R4.



Forwarded by the Post Office

Letters that were forwarded to a different post office, due to the recipient's needs, were charged the same rate as if the mail originated at the forwarding post office. If it was a post office error no additional fee was charge. During part of the period forwarding with a stamp saved 2 cents.

Prepaid in cash, forwarded with a stamp saving 2 cents



August 1855 folded letter from Ogdensburg NY to Chicopee MA. Magenta Ogdensburg town postmark. The postage was prepaid in cash. At Chicopee a stamp was applied to the letter paying the forwarding fee and the letter was forwarded to Holyoke MA. Two strikes of the Chicopee six point star. Manuscript 'Forwarded By Lucrin' on back.

Forwarded Free

December 1856 drop letter to sitting congressman, forwarded free to Washington DC. 'Circular' in upper left corner but envelope sealed; addressed to town of origin thus a drop letter.



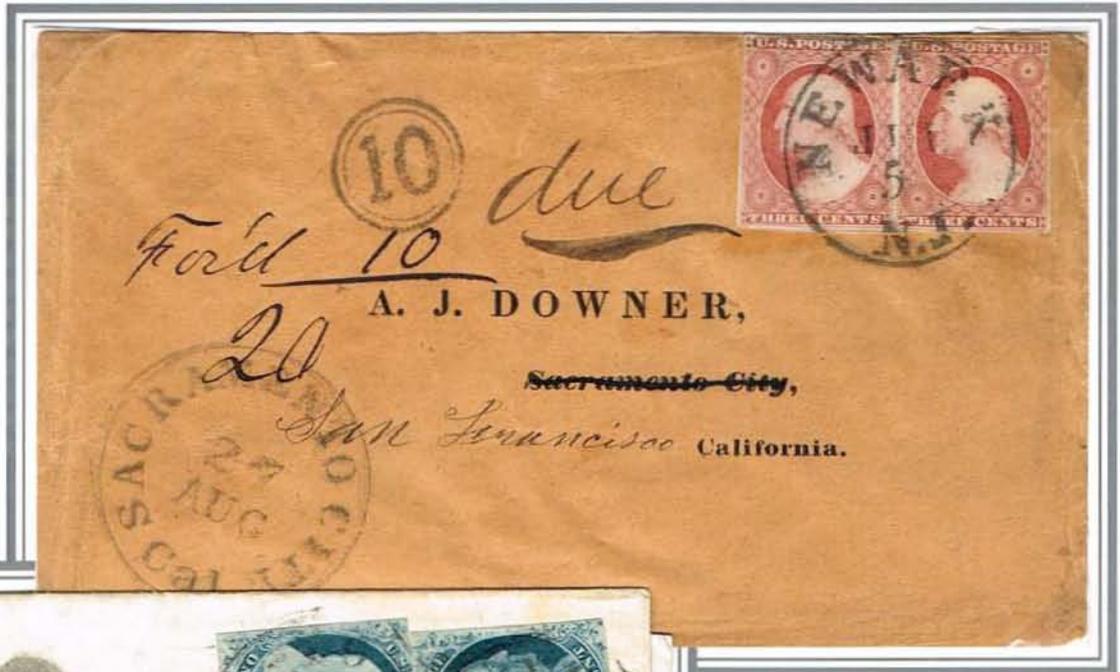
Twice Forwarded



Twice forwarded paid with stamps. Three orange brown stamps from three different plates. Folded address sheet from Halifax NC to Baltimore MD. It was forwarded to Norfolk VA and then to Edemton NC. Positions 61R1^E, 72R1^E and 27L2^E

Underpaid letter over 3,000 miles and double unpaid forwarding

Cover from Newark NJ to Sacramento CA. Double weight letter underpaid. '10' in double circle indicating 10 cents due. The letter was then forwarded to San Francisco with '10' in manuscript for unpaid forwarding, '20' in manuscript indicating a total of 20 cents due in San Francisco.



Unpaid forwarding reduced to 3 cents after 1 Jan 1856

May 1856 folded address sheet from New York City to Chicopee MA. Forwarded to Chicopee Falls. Stamps all plate one late canceled with two strikes of the New York City 3 by 11 mm bar town postmark, used in 1856. Large Chicopee '3' rate marking indicates 3 cents due for forwarding.



Missent by the post office and forwarded free.

Cover from Newburgh NY to Lancaster MA but missent to Leominster MA. Leominster postmaster applied label and send to Lancaster without charging a forwarding fee. The postmaster of Leominster used his own labels in place of handstamps or manuscript markings.



Mixed Franking from a Foreign Country

British Open Mail via British Packet from Sardinia



May 1857 cover from Spezia, Sardinia to Newark NJ. Forwarded to Chester PA. The letter was posted in Spezia where the letter was rated a single rate of up to 7 1/2 grams. The 'PD' handstamp was applied to indicate that the letter was fully paid to the US. This rate was effective 1 May 1857 the date of this letter. Three cent claret stamp applied with sealing wax and prepays the forwarding to Chester PA. The US rate of 3 cents applied since, while over 7 1/2 grams and thus double rate in France, it was under 1/2 ounce and single rate in the United States.

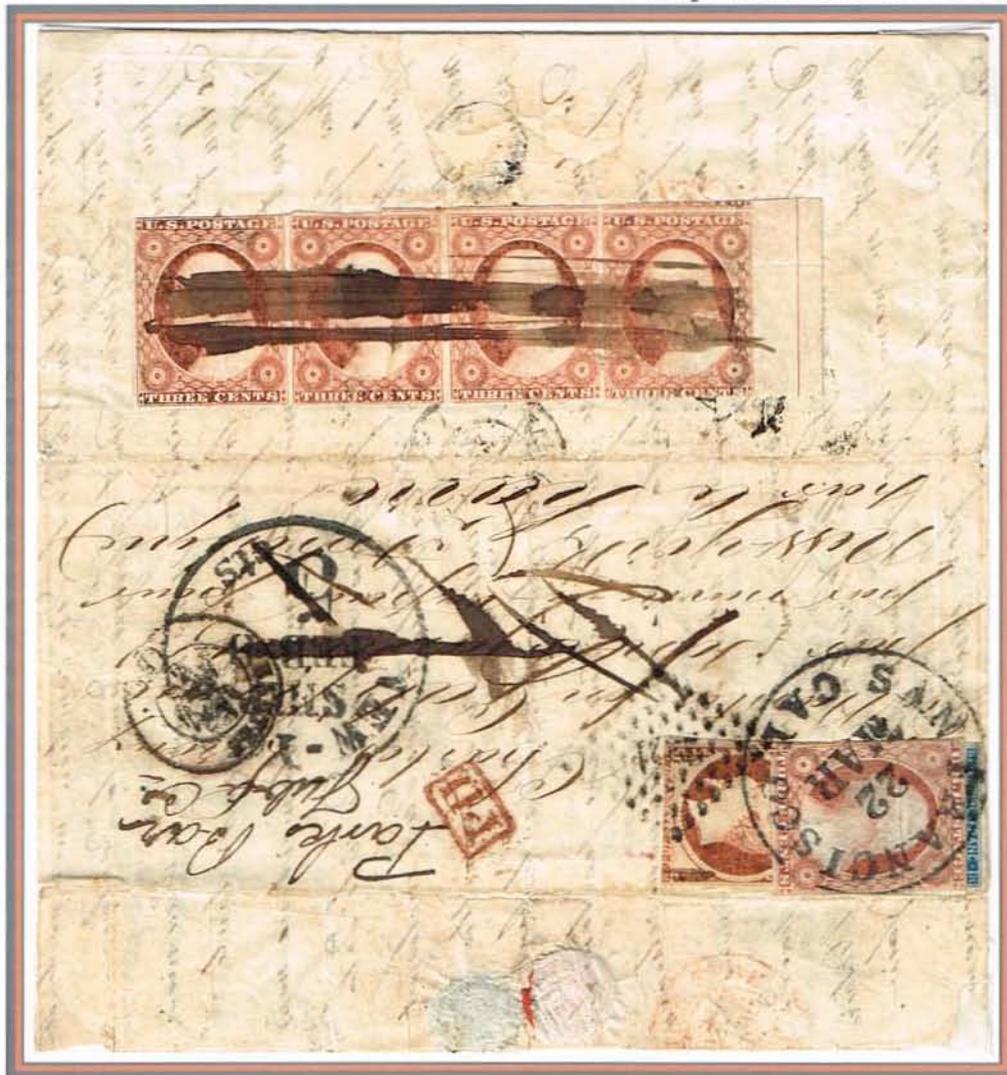
Ship letter from Havre France

US stamps pay captain's fee, over 3,000 mile rate and under 300 mile forwarding.

January 1856 folded letter to San Francisco CA. Sixty centimes in French postage paid the rate to the port of departure. From Havre the letter went to New York on New York & Havre Line steamer Union where it was charged 12 cents, 10 cents over 3,000 miles to California and 2 cents captain's fee.

In San Francisco 12 cents in stamps were applied to pay the 12 cents due. A fifth stamp was applied to forward the letter to Park Bar in Yuba County.

All stamps from the same strip
Stamps positions 67-70L3 for the strip and 66L3 for the single stamp.

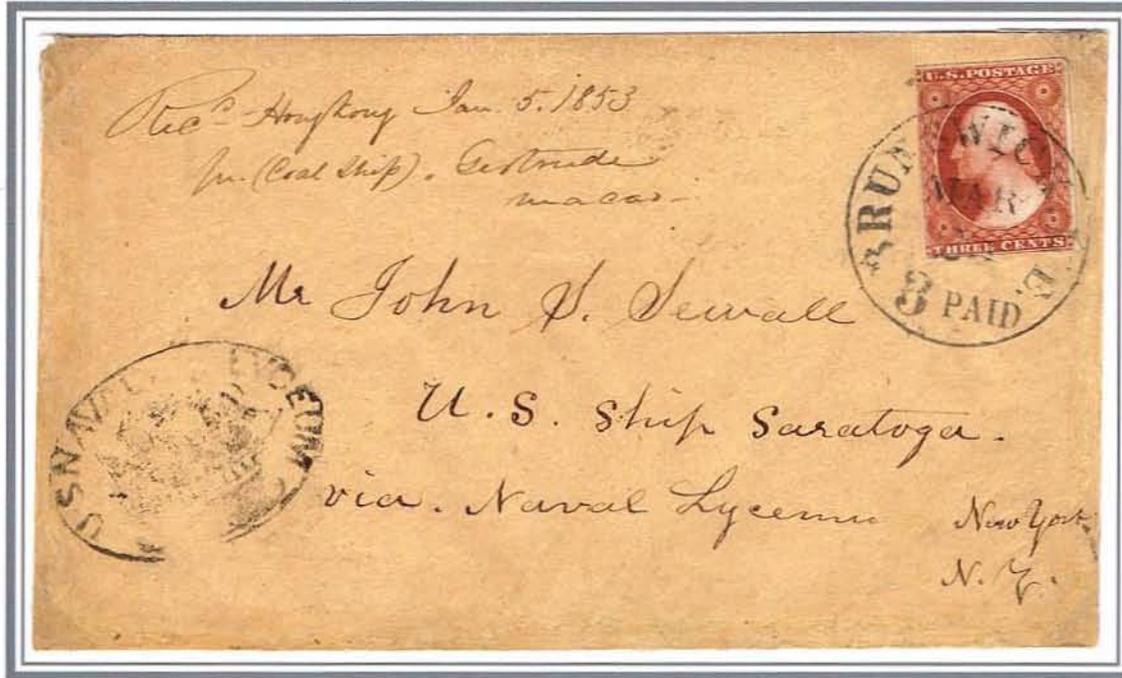


Forwarded to Destination by the Military

Forwarding to Deployed Ship

The Naval Lyceum served as a forwarding point for mail sent to deployed ships. Mail was sent to the Lyceum via the post office. The lyceum applied the oval handstamp depicting a full-rigged ship. This service was provided free to the sailors. Since ships were often underway moving from place to place this enabled mail to be addressed to an individual without knowing where the ship was or was going to be.

Delivered to a ship in Hong Kong



March 1852 cover from Brunswick DE to the US Ship Saratoga via the Naval Lyceum in Brooklyn NY. This letter was forwarded to the Saratoga in Hong Kong where it was received 5 January 1853. The ship was part of the East India Squadron. Stamp is deep brownish carmine position 72L2^E.

To Fort Yuma CA by the Colorado Steam Navigation Company

Letters were sent to San Francisco and then carried on a military supply route by the Colorado Steam Navigation Company from San Francisco south around Baja California and up the Gulf of California to Port Isabel near the mouth of the Colorado River. There, cargo and mail were transferred to river steamers and brought upstream to Yuma.

Cover from Philadelphia PA to San Francisco CA via New York and the Isthmus of Panama. The letter was placed in post office box 771 for the Army Quartermaster Major Cross in San Francisco. Manuscript notation on the envelope '771' for the post office box has been partially erased.

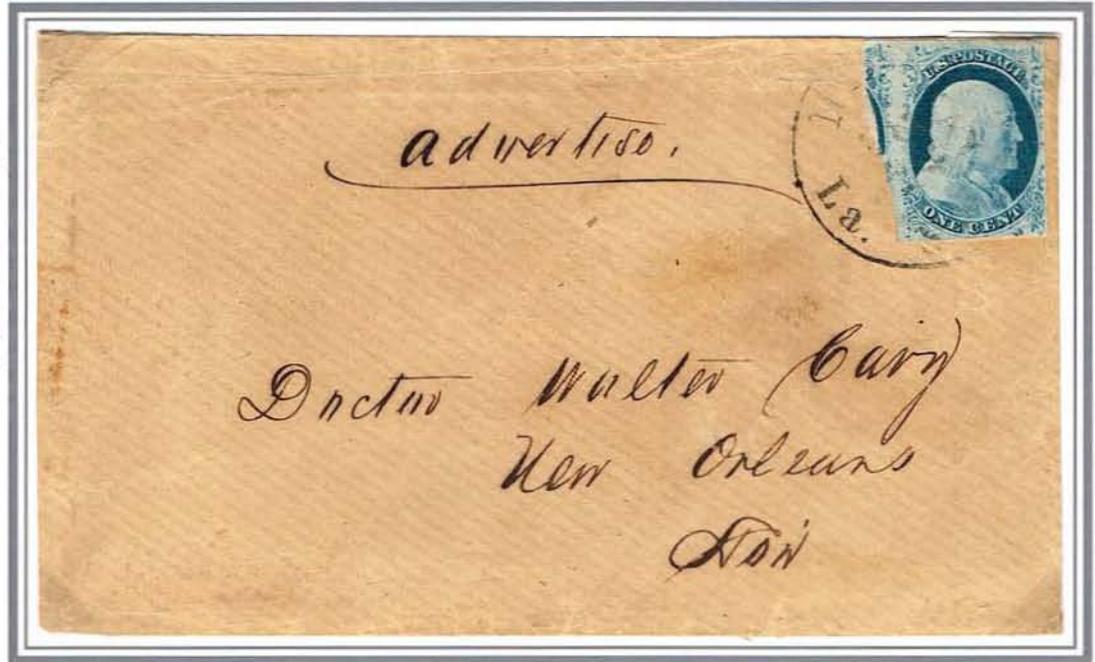
One of two covers recorded carried by the military to Fort Yuma.



Advertised Letters

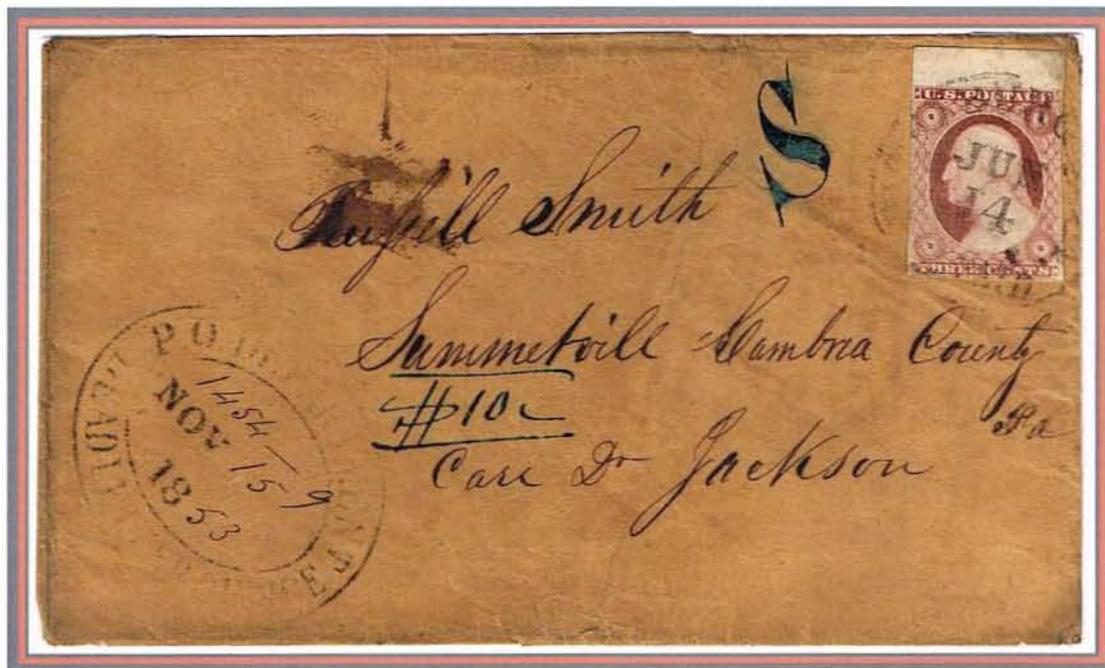
Local postmasters were required to publish in a newspaper the name of recipients of letters not claimed. These letters are 'Advertised' letters and would appear in the newspaper up to three times. A charge of 2 cents was paid by the person picking up the letter to offset the cost of advertising the letter.

May 1857 New Orleans drop letter which was not collected and thus advertised by the postmaster. Since it was not sent to the Dead Letter Office it was collected by the addressee. Stamp position 4R1 the only position on plate 1 late that was not recut. It also has a double transfer.



Dead Letter Office

Letters not claimed after following appropriate procedures were sent to the Dead Letter Office in Washington DC. There the letters were inspected for valuables. If none were found the letter was destroyed otherwise the letter was returned to the Postmaster for further efforts to find either the recipient or the sender and to return the valuables.



June 1853 cover to Summerhill PA. This cover was sent to the Dead Letter Office by the postmaster where it was opened. Valuables were found and the letter was logged, the dead letter office hand stamp applied and then the letter was returned to the postmaster to locate the recipient or sender. The manuscript 'S10' indicates \$10 was found in the envelope. The blue 'S' was applied by the Dead Letter Office for filing purposes.

Some hotels delivered to and picked up mail from the post office. In some cases the hotel would mark the letters with a handstamp identifying the hotel.

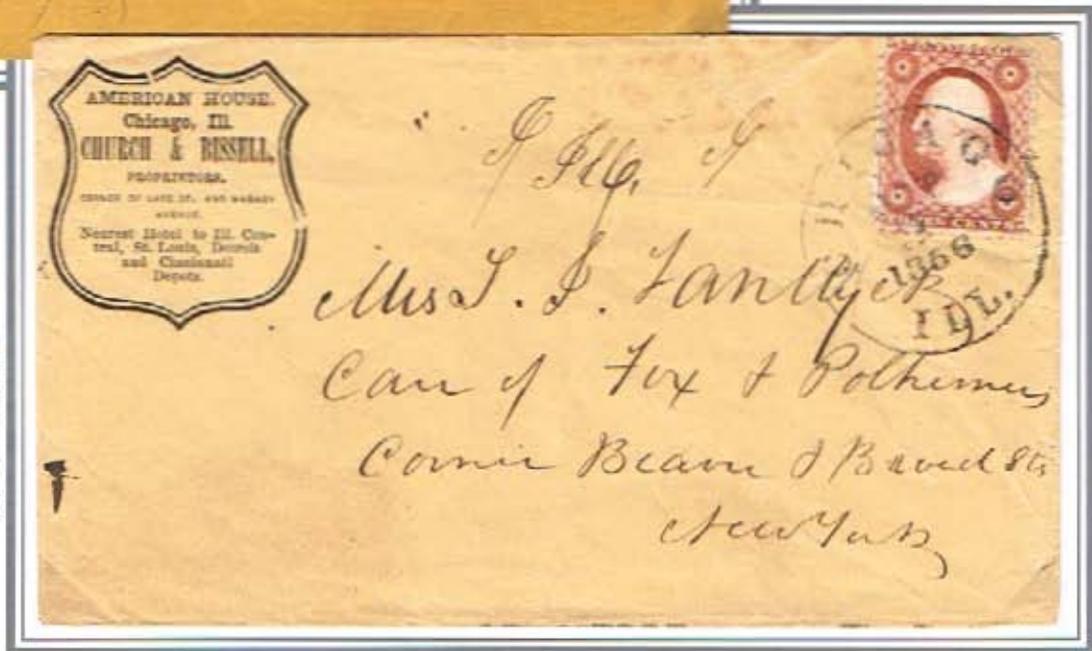
November 1853 cover from Charleston SC to New York City. Charleston Hotel marking. Stamp dull red type II.



July 1857 cover from Avon NY to Toronto Canada West. Stamp type II.

October 1856 cover from Chicago IL to New York City. American House corner card.

Stamp was privately perforated in Chicago. Position 61L24



Registered mail provided extra tracking and protection of letters. Before 1 July 1855 there was not a post office department registered mail system but there were a number of postmasters that implemented local systems.



December 1851 folded letter from Williamsport to Philadelphia PA. Manuscript '18' and the red 'R' were applied in Philadelphia. Stamp is orange brown.



Cover from Augusta GA to Anderson SC.
The 'REGISTERED' marking was used in Augusta before 1 July 1855.

To save paper, responses were sometimes written on a letter and refolded, addressed and mailed.



September 1857 circular dropped at the Boston post office. The recipient responded by writing a note at the bottom of the circular and refolding and sending the response back to the original sender. The circular is folded to show both postmarks.

Letters containing death announcements were edged in black and commonly called mourning covers.



December 1853 cover from San Francisco to Peoria IL. The letter left San Francisco 1 December on the Sierra Nevada, crossed Nicaragua and arrived in New York City on Christmas Eve on the Northern Light. Red 'VIA NICARAGUA/AHEAD OF THE MAIL'

Official Carrier Departments

Mail was traditionally taken to the post office and picked up from the post office. During the late 1840's and into the 1850's major cities were growing rapidly. Private posts and official carrier departments began providing delivery services as the distance to the post office increased and customers wanted more convenient service. Private companies primarily focused on delivery to the post office while the post office provided both delivery to and from the post office. Especially in the West, express companies delivered mail between cities and mining camps. The post office often benefited from these private companies because it did not have the resources to deliver all the services desired.

The U.S.P.O. Despatch stamp, better known as the Eagle Carrier, issued in November 1851 was used principally in Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Washington DC and Kensington PA. These were officially issued by the United States Post Office to pay carrier fees.



Embossed lady's cover from Kensington to West Chester PA.



October 1853 cover from Philadelphia PA to Thoroughfare VA.



December 1852 folded letter from Baltimore MD to New York City. 1 cent green Baltimore Post Office Despatch stamp paying carrier fee to the post office with 3 cent brownish carmine and pays the intercity rate.



August 1852 folded letter from Baltimore MD to New York City. 1 cent stamp type II position 82L1⁶ pays the carrier fee to the post office. 3 cent stamp pays intercity rate.

Charleston

November 1855 folded
letter from Charleston to
Sumterville SC.
Black on bluish Honour's
carrier paying carrier fee to
the post office.



Cleveland



Cover from Cleveland
OH to New Haven CT.
Blue Bishop's 1 cent
carrier stamp paying
carrier fee to the post
office.

New Orleans

May 1853 folded letter from
Shelbyville KY to New
Orleans LA.
One of two New Orleans City
Post 'snow shovel' markings
with 3 P.M. time.



Cover delivered by the New York Carrier Department from a collection box directly to the addressee. This is not a drop letter. G. Vom Baur & Company handstamp. Hour of Delivery Panel applied by Carrier Department. Stamp is type IIIa.



Cover mailed in New York City. Three cent stamp overpays the combination of the 1 cent drop and 1 cent carrier fee. Paid 2 cent City Delivery postmark cancels stamp. Stamp position 28L3.

November 1853 folded letter mailed in New York City. Carrier delivery to a street address. The red New York postmark was used by the Carrier department.



Official Carrier Departments

In late 1855 or early 1856, the Philadelphia Post Office ran out of the Eagle Carrier stamp. The postmaster created a 'provisional stamp' by hand stamping 'U.S.P.O./PRE-PAID/ONE CENT/DESPATCH' on selvedge from 1 cent stamps.



'Caspary Copy'

The selvedge used for the copy on the left and image on the right show both the Toppan Carpenter imprint and the plate number 1. This copy is struck on selvedge between positions 50Rr¹ and 60Rr¹ showing a small portion of the 1 cent design at top.



1.5X

Aug 1856 folded letter from Philadelphia PA to New York City.



'Sausage' Carrier



Cover from Philadelphia to Waterford NY.

Griffin's Baltimore Despatch



Cover from Baltimore to New Albany IN on Star Route 5032 to Cincinnati. Albino embossed chemist's corner card.

One Cent Despatch

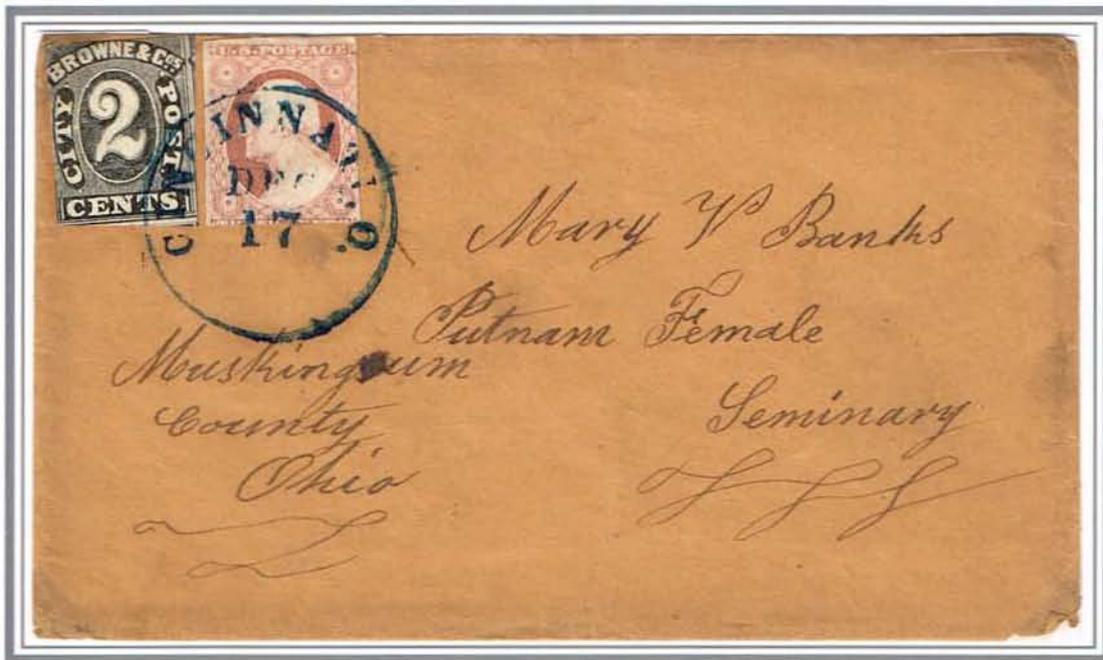


Cover from Baltimore MD to Woodstown NJ. Paid for deliver the letter to the post office.

Browne & Co.

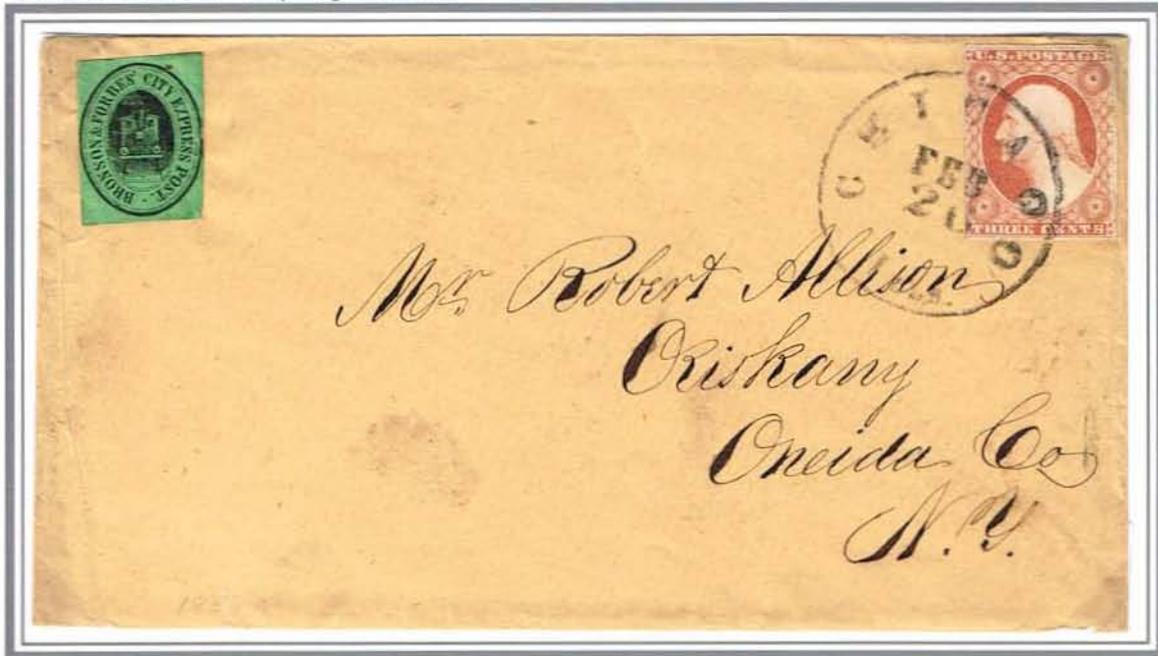


Cover from Cincinnati OH to Pittsburgh PA. 1 cent Brown & Co. local paying the fee to the post office. This design had the 'e' left off 'Browne' and was corrected on the 2 cent stamp.



Cover from Cincinnati OH to Zanesville OH. 2 cent Brown & Co. local paying the fee to the post office.

Bronson & Forbes' City Express Post



February 1856 cover from Chicago IL to Oriskany NY. Local paid delivery fee to the post office.
Bronson handstamp was only used on locally delivered mail.

Moody's Penny Dispatch



September 1858 cover from Chicago to Dover NH.

Boyd's City Express

Cover from New York City to East Hartford CT. Boyd's City Express gold on white paper pays carrier fee to the post office.



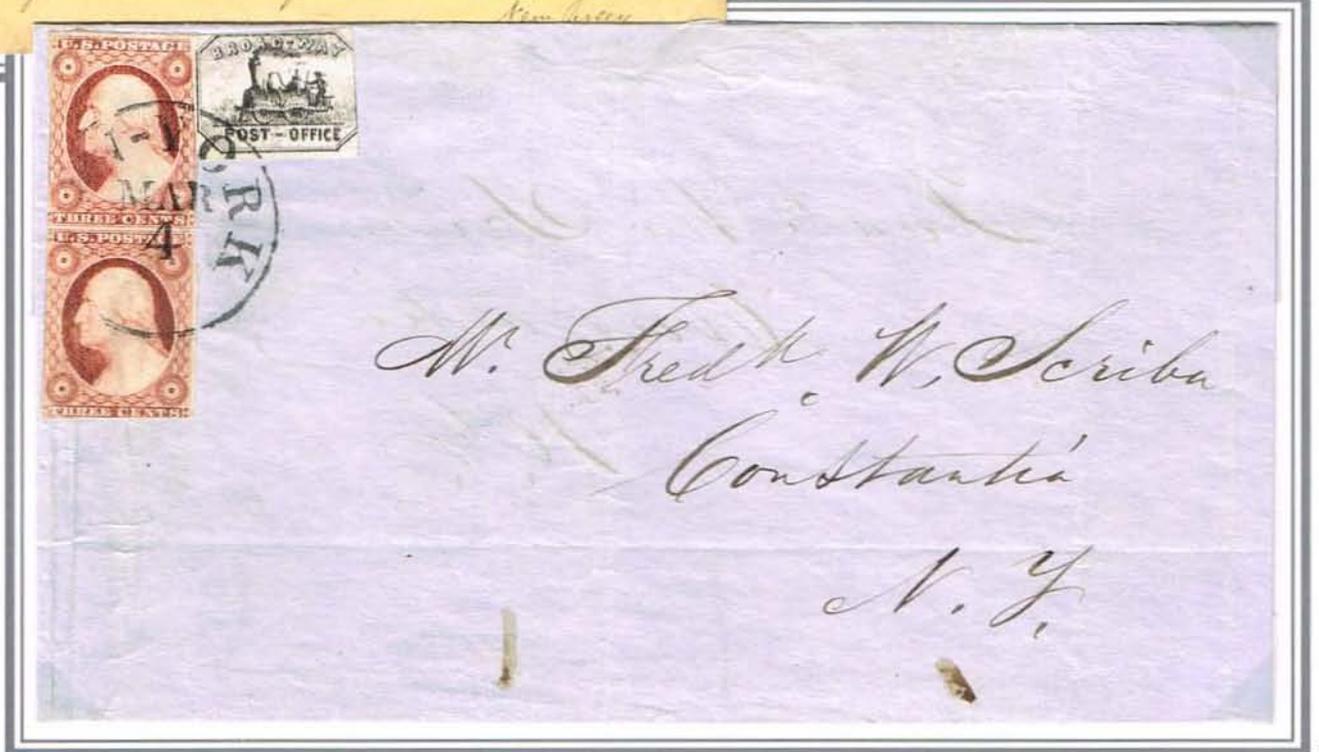
Russell



Cover from New York City to Bloomfield Nj. Russell 8th Avenue local pays carrier fee to the post office.

e

Broadway



March 1854 folded address sheet from New York City to Constantia NY. Broadway local pays carrier fee to the post office. Stamps pay double rate under 3,000 miles.

Private Posts to the Mails

Swarts' City Dispatch Post



Cover from New York City to Ludlowville NY.
Red Swarts' City Dispatch Post local paying delivery fee to the post office.

Swarts' City Dispatch Post

Cover from Catskill NY to New York City paid with 3 cent type I stamp.

A Swarts' City Dispatch Post local and a second 3 cent type II stamp were applied, to pay for delivery to the mail in New York City and the forwarding to Rahway NJ.



Union Square



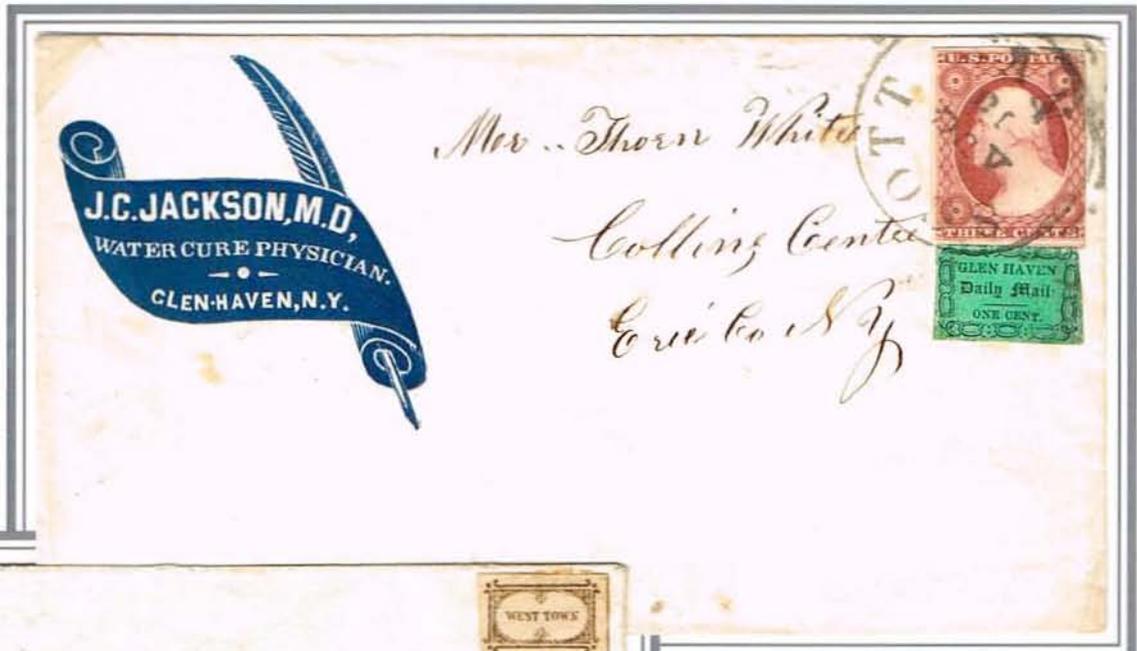
Cover from New York City to Charleston SC.
Union Square Post Office apple green adhesive.

Remotely located communities, such as resorts, schools or villages without postoffices occasionally provided mail delivery service to the closest available post office. In some cases they sold their own stamps.

Glen Haven Resort

Glen Haven (a 'water cure' resort) Daily Mail local paid to carry the letter to the town of Scott NY where it entered the mails.

Cover from Glen Haven to Collins Center NY.



Two Covers Using Westtown Local
The Westtown School, established in 1799 by the Society of Friends, is the oldest secondary school in the United States and is still in operation. The Westtown local provided delivery from the Westtown School to the town of Westchester PA.

Drop letter from Westtown to Westchester PA.

June 1854 folded address sheet from Westtown PA to Philadelphia.



The Hopedale Community, founded in 1842, was organized as a utopian socialist commune. In 1849 residents established regular transportation of the mail to the closest town with a postoffice - Milford MA. This service continued until Hopedale had their own postoffice.



Cover from Milford to Westminster MA. Local paid delivery fee to the Milford post office.

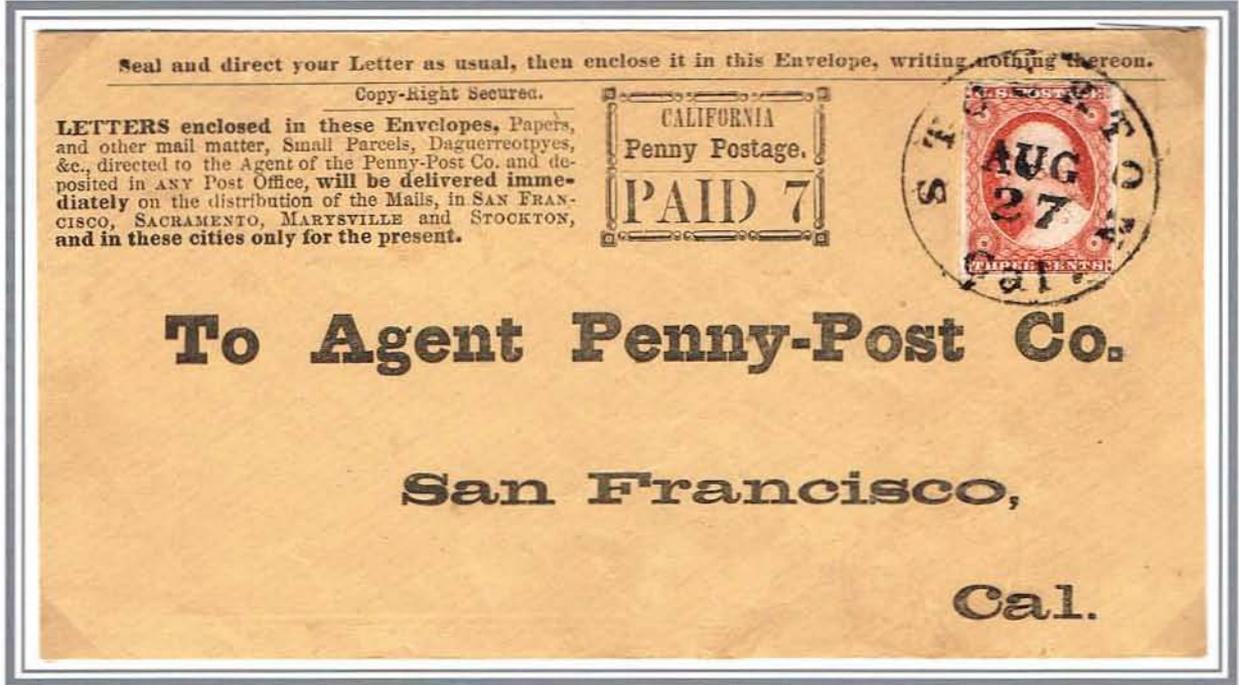


Cover from Milford to Upton MA. Local paid delivery fee to the Milford post office.

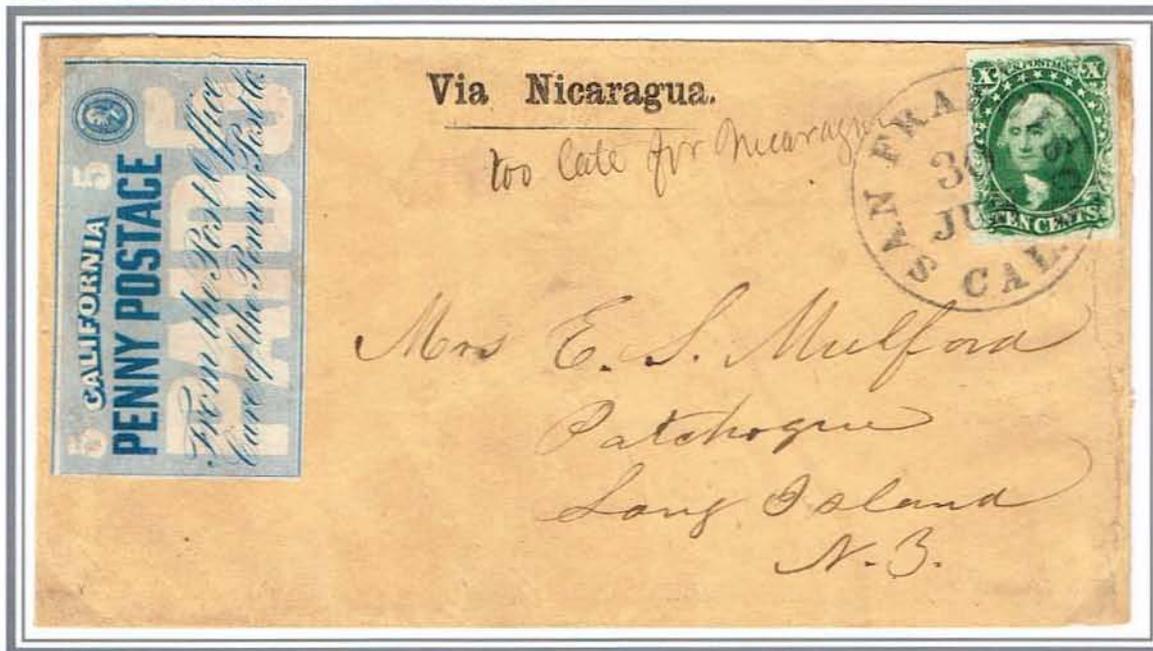
The California Penny Post operated for almost a year from mid 1855 providing city delivery services. Customers placed their addressed letters inside the Penny Post envelopes. The post office delivered the letters between post offices. The Penny Post delivered from and/or to the post office. It also delivered an Ocean service carrying the mail to New York.

To the post office in one city and delivery in another.

August 1855 cover from Stockton to San Francisco CA. The letter was picked up by the Penny Post in Stockton and delivered to the post office. When it arrived in San Francisco the Penny Post picked up and delivered the letter to the recipient.



Earliest use of 10 Issue from the West Coast



Ocean Penny Postage

A service to carry letters on Nicaragua bound ships departing for New York.

June 1855 cover from San Francisco to Patchogue Long Island NY. The letter was intended to go via Nicaragua but was too late for the boat and taken to the post office and sent via Panama.

One of four Ocean Penny Postage stamps used with the 10 cent issue.

Private express companies delivered mails between Western mining towns and the US Post Office in larger cities such as San Francisco. A synergistic relationship developed between the Post Office and the private expresses that lasted until the post office had infrastructure to support the many small towns. Law required postage regardless of whether or not the letter entered the mails.

Adams & Co. Express

January 1855 cover to Union Town AL. Adams & Co. carried the letter to San Francisco. The letter entered the mail in San Francisco and traveled to Panama on the Golden Gate and then from Aspinwall to NYC on the Illinois.

One two recorded examples of the Adams & Co. printed frank with postage stamps.

This is the earliest use of a frank printed on envelopes to allow using these envelopes for pre-payment and deposited in collection boxes outside of normal business hours.



Wells Fargo
Rumrill Express



Conjunctive Express Use

Cover from Columbia ME to Marysville CA. The letter was picked up in San Francisco and delivered to Marysville by Wells Fargo where it was turned over to Rumrill for delivery.

This Rumrill marking is only known used from July to November 1854.

Adams & Co. Express
Cram, Rogers & Co. Express

Conjunctive Express Use

January 1855 cover from Petaluma to Weaverville CA.

Adams & Co. picked up the letter in Petaluma, applied the handstamp in upper right and 'PAID' marking.

Adams carried it to Shasta and passed to Cram, Rogers.

Cram, Rogers applied the handstamp cancelling the stamps and carried to Weaverville.

This letter was not handled by the US Post Office.



Lane's Pioneer Express



Cover delivered to the mail in Downieville, the post office delivered to Sandy Spring MD.



Carried by Wells Fargo from Iowa City to Sacramento, Wells Fargo did not charge a fee; Plus, 'FREE'.



Delivered to the mail in Sacramento, the post office delivered to Delavan WI.

Wells Fargo Colomo and San Francisco



Carried by Wells Fargo Express from Colomo to San Francisco where the stamps were applied over the blue Colomo handstamp and then handstamped with the blue Wells Fargo San Francisco handstamp. Privately carried to New York where it entered the mail for North Island MA.



Wells Fargo Sacramento



Wells Fargo Express letter from Sacramento to Marysville CA. The express fee was paid when the envelope was purchased. Usually the Wells Fargo frank appeared on government issued 3 cent or 10 cent envelopes. For large envelopes such as this, the government stationery was not available and stamps were used. The example above is a 'paste up' which adhered to another envelope on which additional postage was most likely applied.

The light manuscript top center says 'this too heavy, DeKey collect on this, F. A. H.'

During this period the Post Office Department, motivated by the need to move mail faster and more reliably, increased the use of ships and railroads. This was particularly important as the country continued to expand Westward. To speed delivery, letters were often given directly to ship's captains or with route agents on trains.

Ship Letters were individual letters given to the captain of a ship without a contract to carry bagged mail. If the ship was United States owned the captain was given 2 cents per letter delivered to the post office. The 2 cent fee could be prepaid with stamps or collected from the recipient.



The letter was delivered to the captain of a ship headed to Baltimore. In Baltimore the letter entered the mail and was delivered to West Gouldsborough ME. The 5 cent stamp paid the ship fee of 2 cents and the 3 cents for a letter under 3,000 miles.



November 1855 letter most likely originating in Savannah GA to New Bedford MA carried on the non-contract ship Knoxville to New York City where it entered the mail. Two cents ship fee prepaid by stamps. The Knoxville was part of the Savannah Line traveling between New York City and Savannah. The ship was destroyed by fire in December 1856.

Ship fee paid by recipient

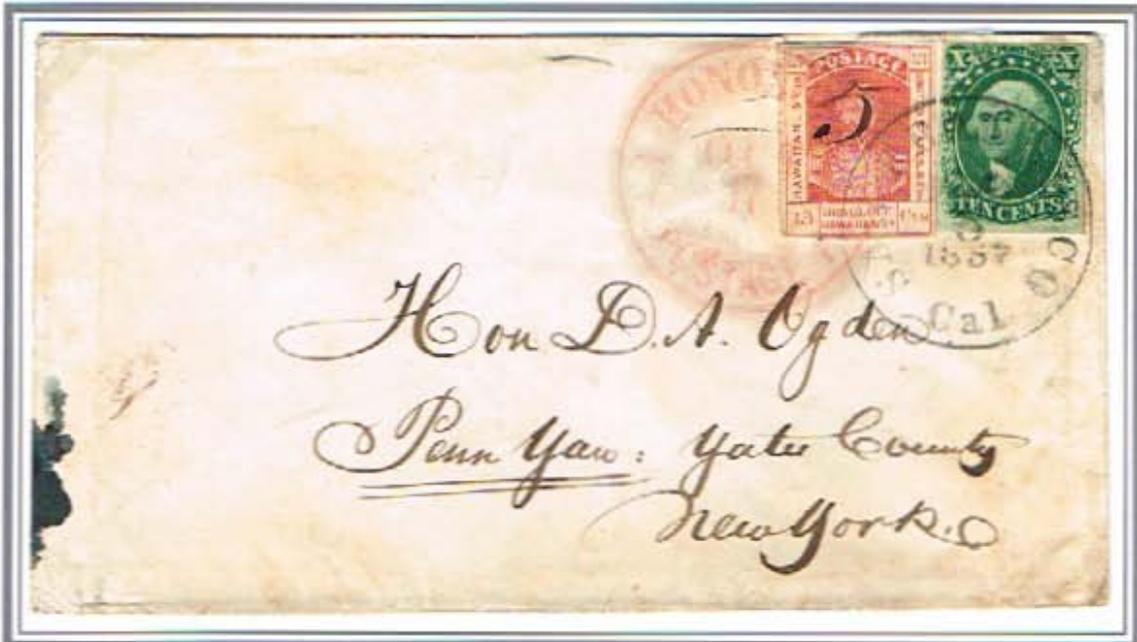


Double weight cover to Jacksonville FL. The letter was delivered to the captain of the Chesapeake Steamer Hugh Jenkins as a loose letter. At Baltimore the ship's captain delivered it to the post office and received 2 cents ships fee and the letter was marked 'Due 2' in manuscript.

All stamps are type IV. Under the left strip manuscript 'per Steamer Hugh Jenkins'.

Positions 73-75 and 48-50R1²

Ship fee prepaid in Hawaii



October 1857 cover from Honolulu to Penn Yaw NY. The letter was carried on the French man-of-war Pourseverante departing Honolulu on 18 October and arriving in San Francisco 4 November. From San Francisco the letter traveled on the Golden Gate departing 5 November and arriving 19 November. It arrived in New York on the Northern Light 29 November.

The 5 cent surcharged stamp is Clark type I with long flag. 10 cent type II stamp.

Steamship rates were charged on loose letters picked up on the route of contract steamers traveling on ocean routes considered **post roads** by the Post Office Department. The rates were 10 cents under 2,500 miles and 20 cents over 2,500 miles. No fee was paid to the captain of the ship.



Cover to Philadelphia PA. The letter entered the mail in New York City and the origin is unknown. Stamps pre-pay the 10 cent steamship rate.



July 1855 cover to Bolton MA. The letter entered the mail in New York where the 'STEAM/SHIP' markings were applied to cancel the stamps. Stamps overpay by 1 cent either double the 10 cent or the 20 cent steamship rate.

Originated in Nicaragua During William Walker War Period

Wines & Co. Express operated in California, Oregon and also Nicaragua during the time that William Walker, the American Freebooter, had seized control of the country by overthrowing the government with a few dozen men and making himself president.



Cover to New York originating in either Nicaragua or the west coast of the US. Large double oval Nicaragua postmark applied by Wines and then forward by an American Steamship to New Orleans. Entered mail in New Orleans as a Steamship letter. 10 cent rate for under 2,500 miles. 'due 7' applied in pencil in New Orleans.

The 'STEAM' or 'STEAMBOAT' marking indicates that they were delivered to the post office by a non-contract boat that was plying inland or coastal waters. In some cases non-postal, name of boat, markings were applied by the steamboat as an advertisement.

Southern Belle



May 1852 double weight folded address sheet to Pittsburgh PA.

The underpaid letter entered the mail in Louisville. 'Due 5' to be collected on delivery.

Stamp type II, position 27R3

James Robb



May 1853 folded letter from New Orleans LA to Saint Louis MO.

Geo. Collier



November 1852 folded letter from New Orleans LA to Bolivar TN.

Ophelia



Cover to New Orleans LA. 'DROP 1' applied in New Orleans.

Nebraska



September 1857 folded address sheet from Memphis TN to New Orleans LA. 'Monday Packet'.

CADDO No. 2

Red River

Folded address sheet from
Evergreen to New Orleans LA.
Picked up on the riverboat CADDO
No 2 on the way to New Orleans.
The letter entered the mail in New
Orleans and the 'WAY 1' applied.



Robert J. Ward

Ohio River

March 1854 folded letter
from New Orleans LA to
Cincinnati OH.



Morning Star

Missouri River

May 1856 letter written
onboard the Morning
Star on the northbound
trip and taken back on
the southbound trip
to Saint Louis where it
entered the mails.

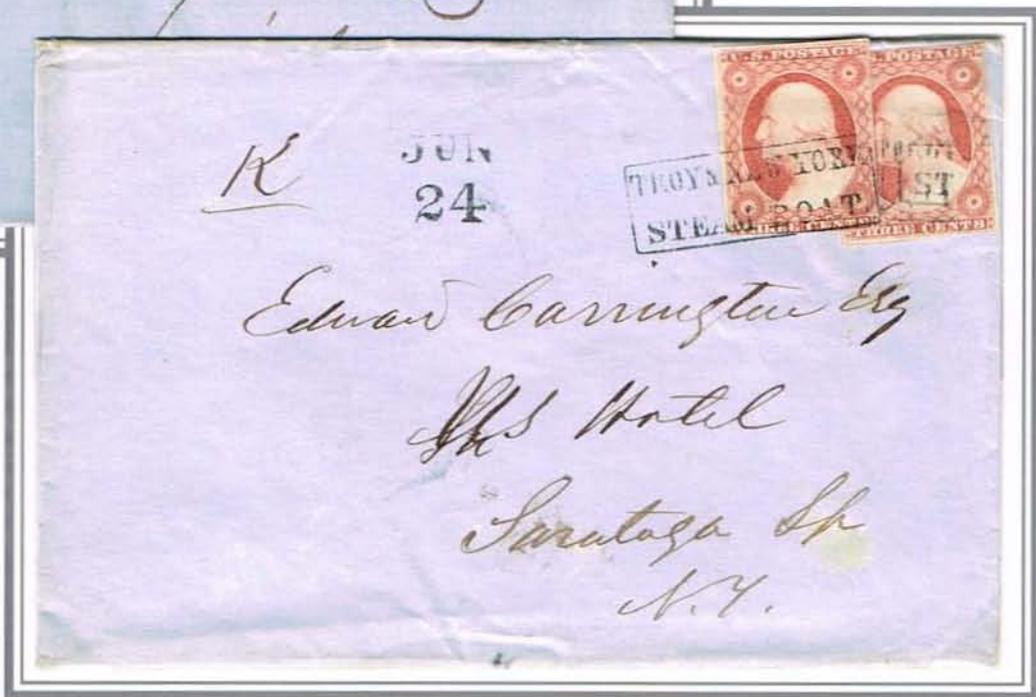


Hudson River



September 1851 folded letter from New York City to Lansingburgh NY. 2 cents due the captain of the ship. Stamp is orange brown.

e



Folded address sheet to Saratoga Springs NY. Stamps pay double rate. 'JUN/24 indicates that the letter was not picked up and advertised in a local newspaper.'

e

Narragansett Bay



September 1853 folded letter from Providence to Newport RI. 2 cents due the captain of the ship. Non-contract Steamer Perry operating on the Narragansett Bay between Newport and Providence RI.

Way letters were loose letters picked up along post roads and delivered to the post office. 1 cent was charged for delivery of each letter and either prepaid with stamps or paid by recipient.



June 1854 cover entered the mail at Stapleton where the 'Way-Letter - 1 cent' marking was applied. The letter was then delivered to Troy NY.

April 1852 folded letter from New Orleans to Boston. Entered the mail in Montgomery AL. 1 cent stamp prepay 'way' fee.



Jan 1852 folded address sheet from New Orleans to Providence RI. Entered the mail in Mobile AL. 1 cent stamp prepay the 'way' fee. 3 cent orange brown stamp pays the under 3,000 mile letter rate. Orange brown stamp and type II. 1 cent from plate 1E.

December 1856 folded address sheet from New York to Baltimore MD. The '5' in the 'WAY/5' has no postal significance. Stamps, all type II. Positions 5,9,15Lr



Canal Boat



October 1851 folded bill of lading from the canal boat Eagle on the James River Canal between Lynchburg and Richmond VA. The 'Way 6' marking applied in Lynchburg VA.. Orange brown stamp.

January 1852 folded address sheet entered the mail at Mobile AL and was delivered to Baltimore.



Route agents were postal employees that traveled on ships and railroads with contracts to carry mail. These agents could accept loose letters and enter them into the mails. Often they had special postmarks to indicate where the letter entered the mail.

September 1851 folded letter from Cincinnati OH to Nashville TN on Star Routes 5032 and 5001. Bill of lading for 300 pounds of candles.



Star route 5032 between Cincinnati and Louisville. Folded address sheet to Pittsburgh PA. Stamp type II position 93R3

Cincinnati & Louisville Mail Line



Star route 5032. Cincinnati & Louisville U. S. Mail Line route agent on the Ohio River. Cover to East Orrington ME.

Saint Louis & Keokub Steam



Star route 4814 and 8812. Saint Louis & Keokub route agent on the Mississippi River. Unsealed circular market report to Macomb IL. This circular dropped at Warsaw IL for overland route to Macomb.



Cover to Danville KY.
Advertisement cameo
on back flap.



April 1853 unsealed circular
to Indianapolis IN.
Stamp type IV position
50R1^L recut top and
bottom.

December 1851 folded address sheet to New York City.
Position 99L1



Chicago & Miss



Cover to Saint Louis MO.

Michigan Central

March 1853 folded address sheet to Detroit MI.
Position 49R2



Folded address sheet with letter from
Ogdensburg NY to Concord NH.

Two strikes of 'PAID' in lozenge
cancel the stamp.



Providence & Stonington



July 1853 folded letter.
Stamps type II, IIIa, II.

Cleveland & Pittsburgh

Position 61L1¹.

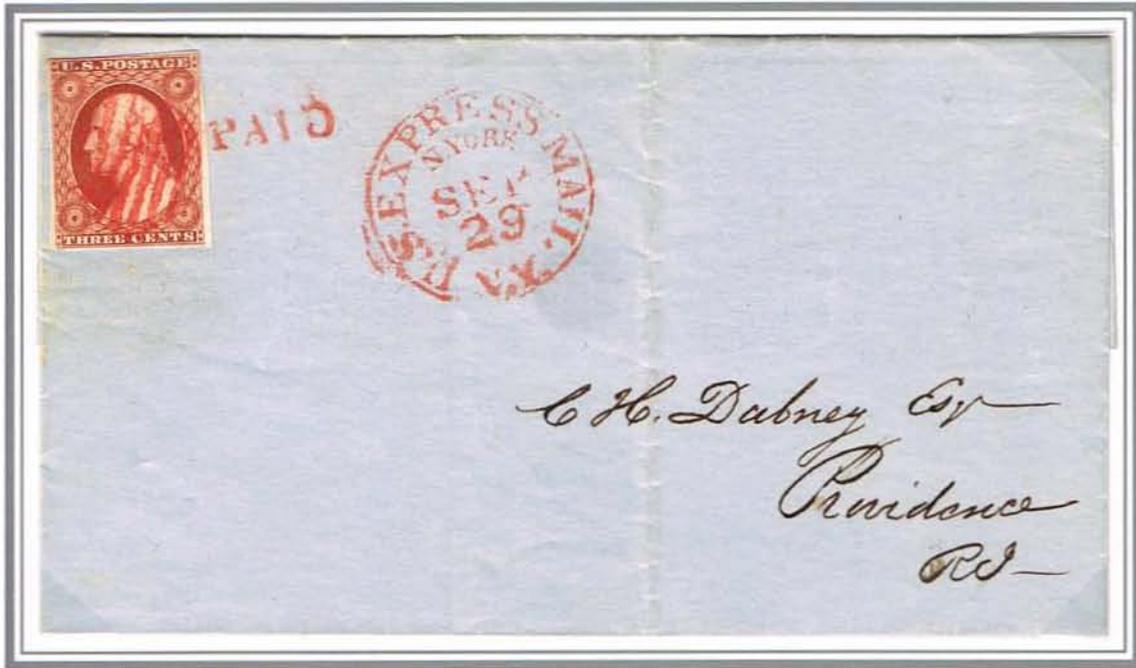
Mad River & Lake Erie



July 1856 folded letter from
Urbana to Sandusky City OH.



Express Mail trains were an attempt to improve the time delivering mail between key cities especially Boston and New York. The idea originated in competition with express companies.



September 1851 folded address sheet from New York City to Providence RI. Deep orange brown stamp. Double transfer in top label and recut lower right triangle. Position 19Ro



NY Express Mail cancel. Positions 77, 87, 97Rr¹



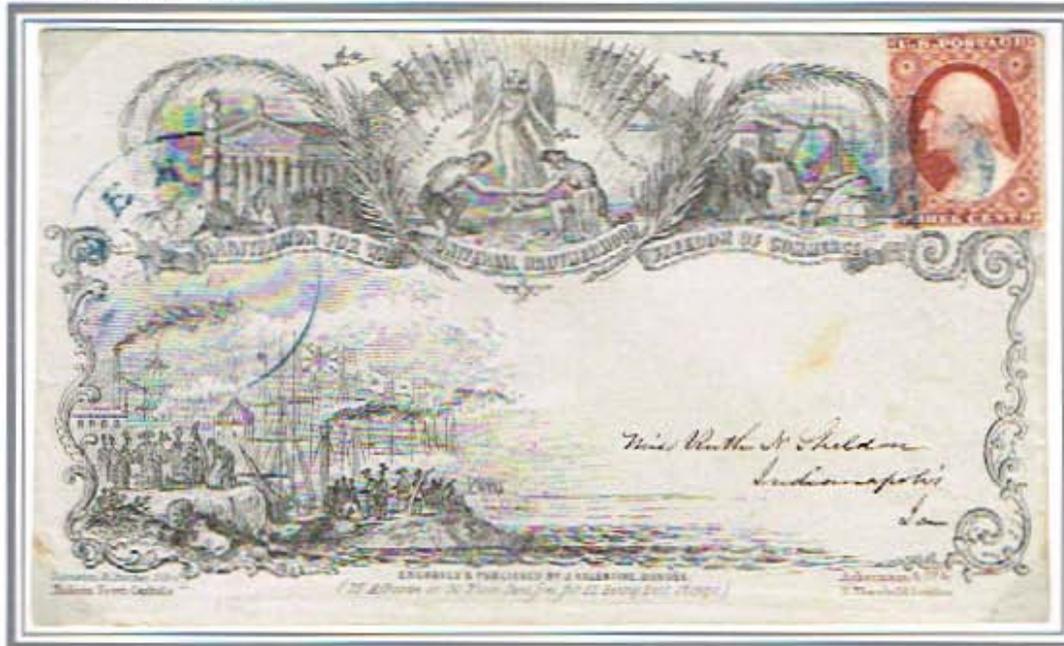
Jun 1854 folded letter to Providence RI by Express Mail from New York City. Rose red stamp. Position 17Li¹

Envelopes Create A Canvas for Visual Communications

As envelopes became more popular, and more letters were sent pre-paid, the large unused area on the envelope became a canvas for messages of all sorts from political expression to artistic whimsey and commercial advertising.

High quality engraved envelopes were produced in England and in some cases used in the United States. The British designs generally were aimed at influencing the attitude of a group around a social or political issue.

Peace and Free Trade



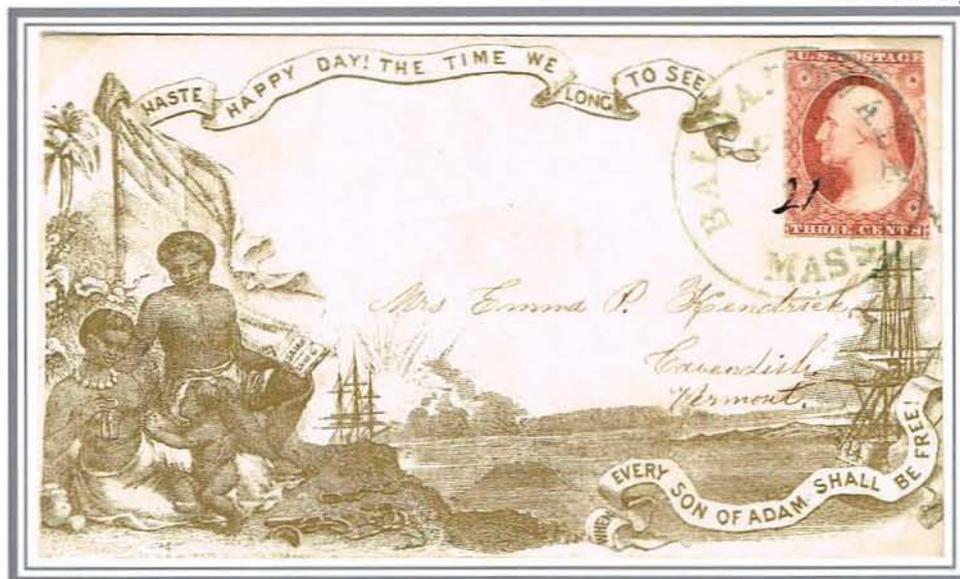
Cover from Oberlin OH to Indianapolis IN. Blue town postmark. The envelope was created by J. Valentine of Dundee.

Antiwar



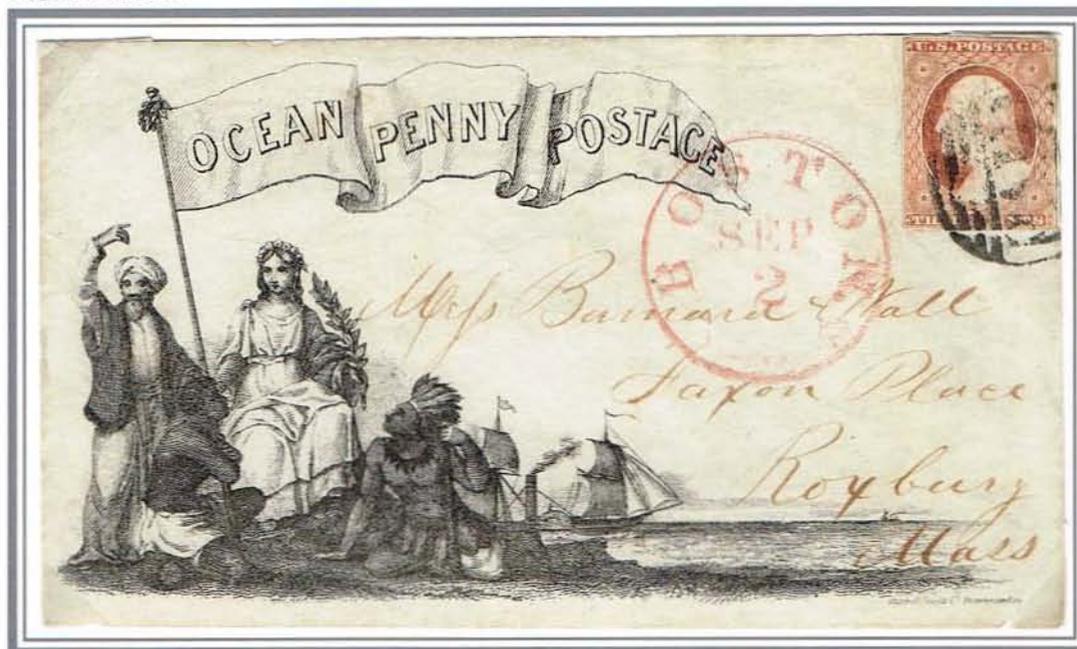
Cover from Philadelphia PA to Magnolia MD. Blood's local paying the fee to the mails. The envelope was created by J. Valentine of Dundee.

Anti-Slavery



Cover from Ballardvale MA to Cavendish VT.
 The envelope printed in gold ink. The town postmark is olive green.
 The message is a strong plea for the end of slavery when "every son of Adam shall be free."

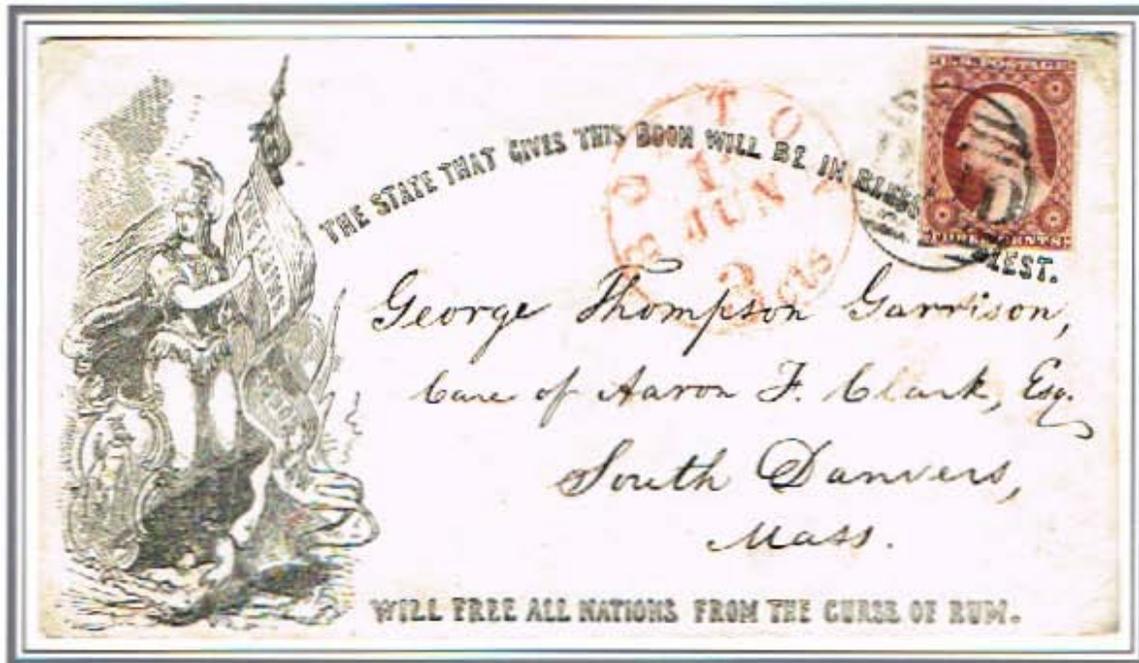
Postal Reform



Cover from Boston to Roxbury MA. Printed by the League of Brotherhood in London, the theme supports ocean penny postage and universal brotherhood.

The hope was that low cost postage would lead to world-wide peace and brotherhood.

The temperance movement gained momentum in the middle of the 19th century using the mails to promote their cause. The movement was very strong in New England and a number of states passed temperance laws forbidding drinking.



June 1852 cover from Boston to South Danvers MA. Maine liquor law temperance design. Maine passed a law in 1851 banning alcohol consumption.

Western Temperance



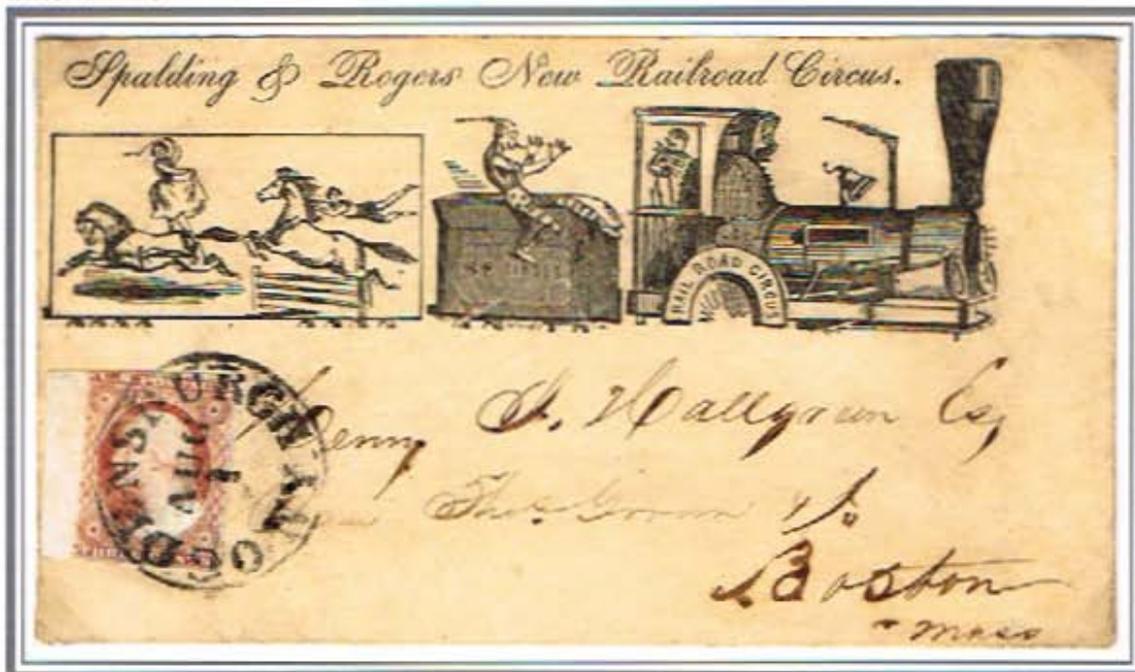
Cover from San Francisco to Sacramento CA. Published by Barbara & Baker.

Postal Reform



Unsealed cover from New York City to Medina Ohio. Stamp, position 801.1, pays the circular rate. Barnabas Bates illustrated propaganda cover for cheap inland and ocean postage. He formed the New York Cheap Postage Association which published this envelope.

Entertainment



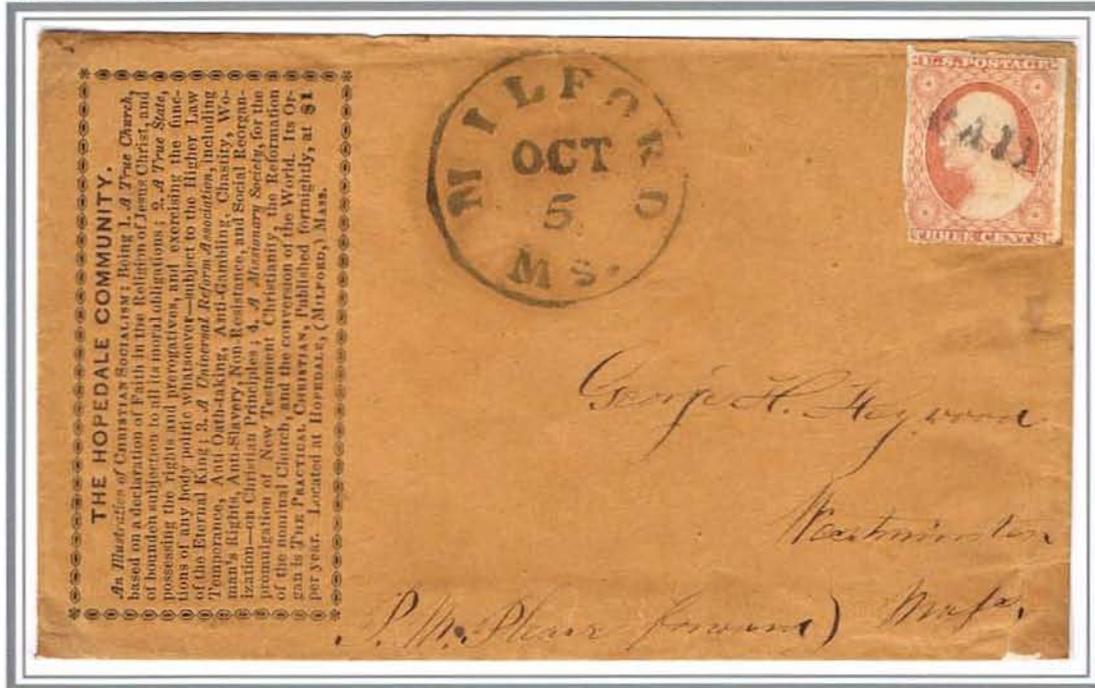
Cover from Ogdensburgh NY to Boston MA. Stamp type I. Spalding & Rogers were early adaptors of using railroads to move their show from town to town. They employed adjustable axles on their railroad cars to deal with the lack of standards.

Mysticism



August 1852 cover from Boston to Thompson Station NY. The spiritual world with Masonic triangle imprint.

Christian Socialism



Cover from Milford MA to Westminster MA. The Hopedale Community in Milford had Christian and Socialist ideologies.

Valentine cover from Macon to Milledgeville GA. Envelope printed in gold ink. Green postmark.



e



Cover from Mast Yard NH to Newburyport MA. Manuscript Mast Yard postmark. Stamps type IV.

Democrats Franklin Pierce and William King, with 86% of the electoral vote, defeated Whigs Winfield Scott and William Graham and Free Soil candidates John Hale and George Washington Julian. The Union, Native American and Southern Rights parties also had candidates. In this election slavery played a back seat to the vicious personal attacks on the candidates.



September 1852 cover from Olivet MI to Charlotte SC. Printed illustrations, including three on the back, attached as a collage. Handwritten anti-Pierce comments.



Reverse 75% actual size

Democrat's Buchanan and Breckinridge, with 60% of the electoral vote, defeated Republican's Fremont and Dayton and American Party's (Know Nothing) Fillmore and Donelson. This election, in the midst of the Kansas violence and great divisions over slavery, was won by Buchanan without carrying the popular vote and featured the emergence of the Republican party.

Democrat
Cover from Fall River MA to Providence RI. "The Union It Must Be Preserved" design.



Republican
September 1856 cover with enclosed letter from Boston MA to North Conway NH. Portrait of Fillmore.

American or Know Nothing
Cover from Hartford to Norwalk CT. Stamp type IV paying circular rate.



'Freedom conquers'



October 1856 cover from Amherst MA to New Haven CT. Latin under portrait translates as 'freedom conquers'.

Hand illustrated cover from West Stockbridge to Bridgewater MA. The illustration tells the highlights of John Fremont's life. The address is worked into the graphics on the left side of the envelope.



Fremont's head 'eliminated'

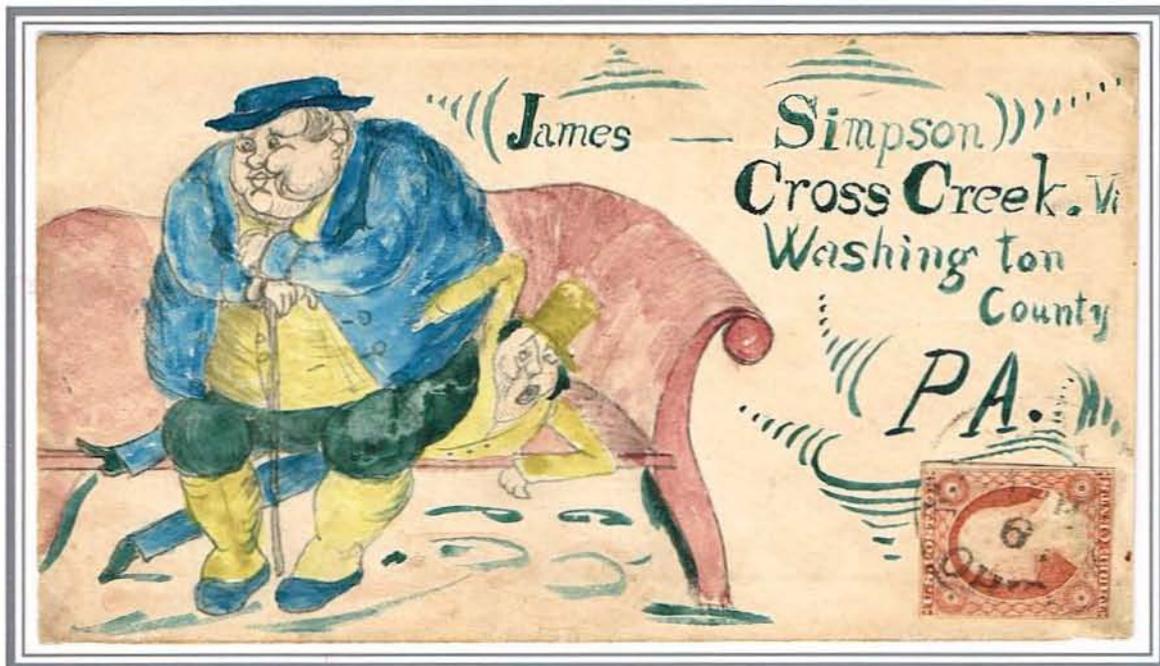


Cover from Exeter NH to Middleborough MA. Fremont fighting Indians depicting Fremont's western exploits. Franklin Pierce democrats in New Hampshire had antipathy for Fremont.

Occasionally individuals would use envelopes to create unique folk art.



Cover from West Cambridge MA to New York City. Hand-drawn illustration of Washington driving a horse and wagon with Franklin in the back thumbing his nose at a dog.



Hand painted cover to Cross Creek PA.

Spencerian Script and Hand Drawn Illustration

This script style was used in the United States from the 1850's. It was developed by Platt Rogers Spencer to be written both quickly and legibly for business correspondence and personal writing. It was in use until the typewriter eliminated the need in business communications.

Both of these letters were addressed and illustrated by Spencer.



September 1853 cover from Buffalo NY to Hiram OH.
Hand drawn swan and scroll illustrated address panel.



September 1854 cover from Geneva OH to Buffalo NY.
Hand drawn dove and scroll illustrated address panel.

To those who traveled to California in search of gold, mail was extremely important. Entrepreneurs supplied illustrated mining envelopes showing scenes from daily life.

Population numbers are for envelopes bearing stamps.

Cover from San Francisco CA to North Scituate RI.

Double weight letter underpaid. 'DUE 10' applied in San Francisco.

Illustration on reverse shown below. The manufacturer, F. C. M. Fenn was the only producer using illustrations on the back.

One of two recorded.



40% actual size



Cover hand carried by "Politeness of I. G. French" to New York where the letter entered the mail and was delivered to Providence RI.

The California Eureka Escutcheon design.

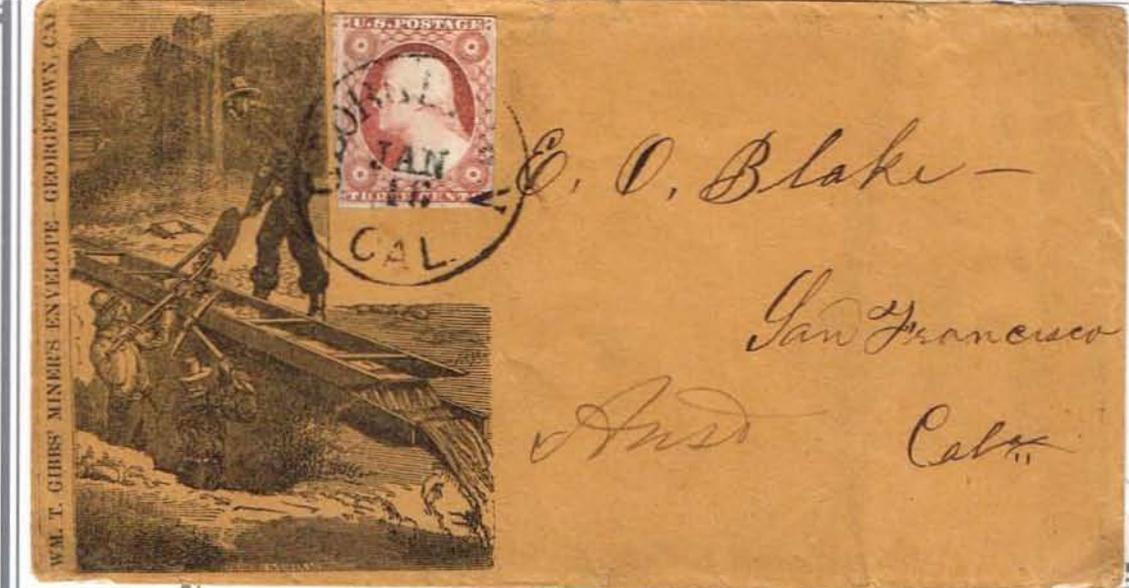
One of three recorded.



Cover from San Francisco to Hartland VT.

From an Anthony and Baker drawing.

One of three recorded.



Cover from Georgetown to San Francisco CA.

Georgetown was an important mining center in 1850 sometimes called Growlersburg.

Design of Wm. T. Gibbs.

Only recorded example.



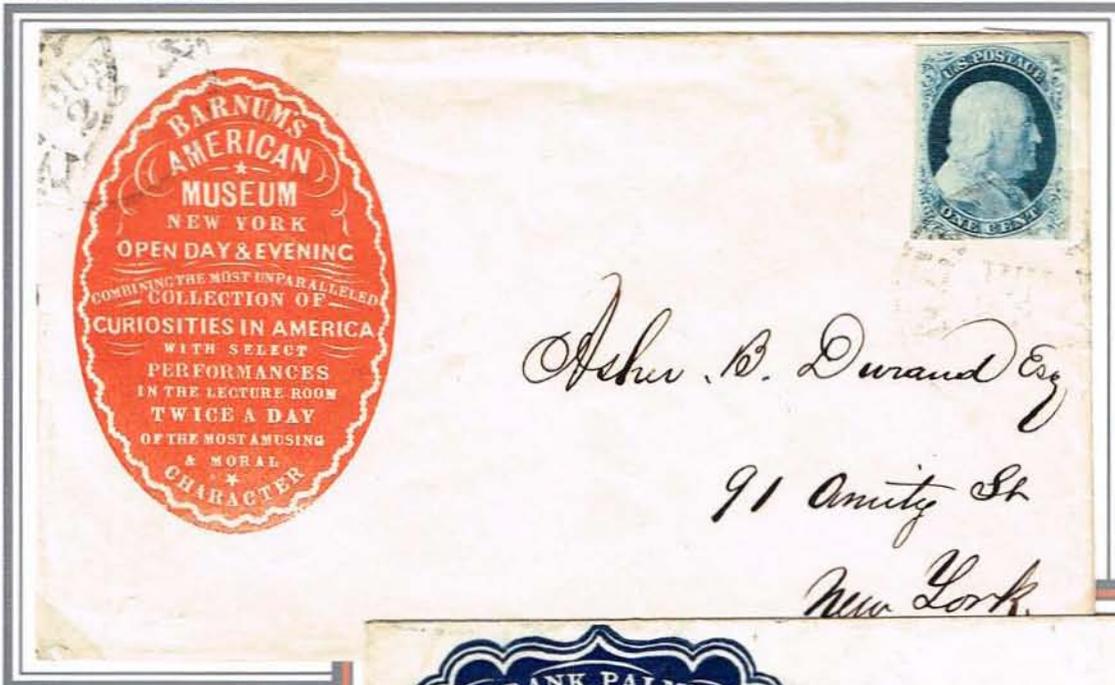
Cover from Weaverville CA to Boston MA.

Design of J. M. Hutchings.

One of four recorded.

As businesses moved to envelopes and to paying the postage themselves, they found putting their own marketing material on the envelopes was an effective way to advertise.

Barnum's Museum



New York City drop letter. Type IV stamp. Addressed to Asher Durand, engraver of the first United States stamp and member of the Hudson River School of painting.

Prosthetics

Cover from Philadelphia PA to London England.

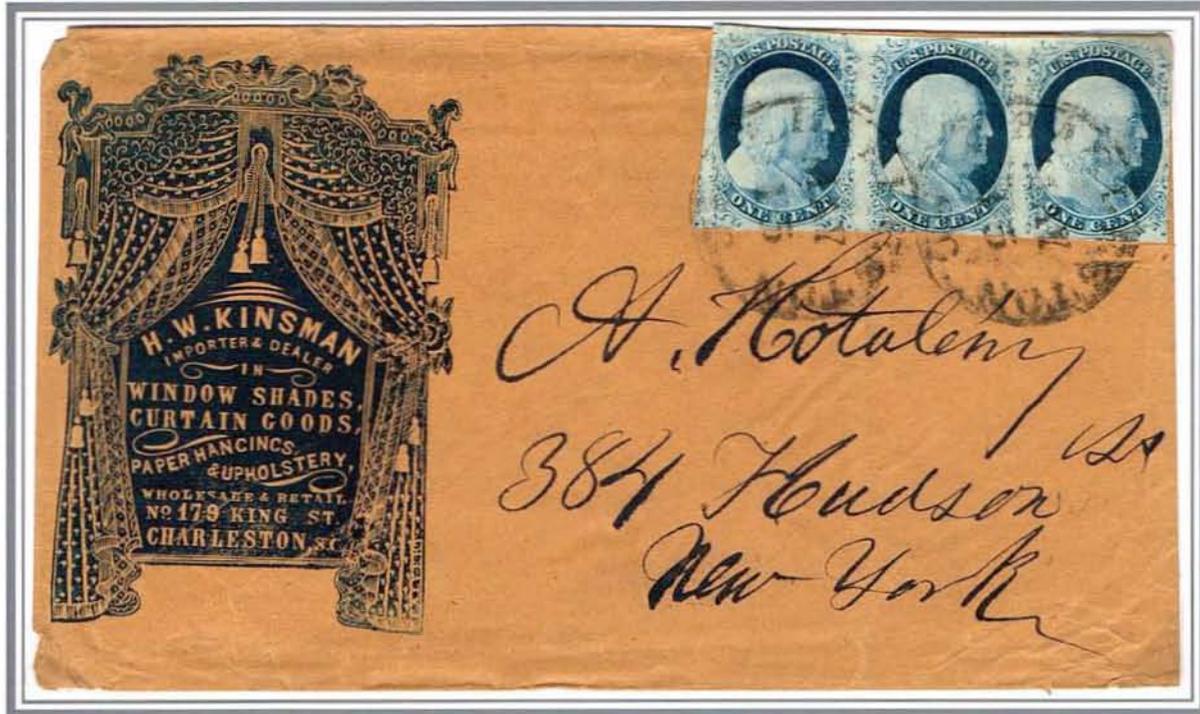


Grocer



Stamp privately rouletted. Only recorded roulette from Petersburg. Cover from Petersburg VA to Henderson NC.

Window coverings



Cover from Charleston SC to New York City.

Hotel



March 1854 cover from Clarksville TN to Hopkinsville KY. Washington Hotel cameo corner card.

Left stamp is triple transfer, one inverted.

Positions 91-93L¹.

Railroad route

Chicago IL to Buffalo NY.
Southern Michigan
and Northern Indiana
Railroad design.



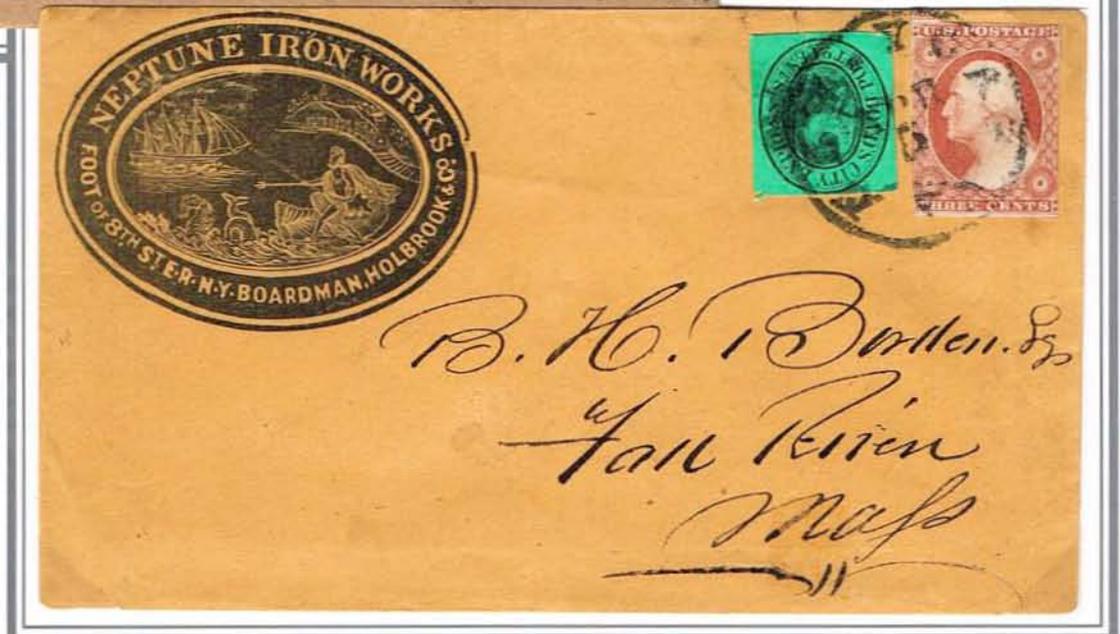
Steamboat office



Cover from Detroit to
Hudson MI.

Iron works

Iron works
Cover from New
York City to Fall
River MA.
Boyd's City Express
carried the letter to
the mails.



During this period international commerce continue to grow, and mail volume and routes increased.

Effective 6 April 1851 letters could be sent to or from Canada either paid through or unpaid. Partial payment was not permitted. During this period circulars were still paid 'to the lines'.



December 1851 cover from Rochester NY to Quebec Canada. Strip of five and a pair of 1 cent stamps and a 3 cent stamp orange brown type II pay the 10 cent rate Blue ribbon style 'U States' cross-border marking and red Montreal circular datestamp. One cent stamps positions 43-47R1^E and positions 41-42R1^E.

February 1857 cover from Fishersville NH to Port Hope Canada. Ogdensburg transit marking and Port Hope receiving mark on back.



June 1856 cover from Columbus OH to Toronto Canada. Faint red 'U STATES / PAID / 6d' exchange marking. Toronto receiving mark on back.

Matching Bisects

Cuba - New York - Quebec

The 12 cent diagonal bisects are both from the same stamp and the two strips of four of the 1 cent stamp originally from a block of eight. Both folded address sheets dated August 1851 from New York to Quebec Canada. These letters originated in Cuba and were privately carried to New York where the stamps were applied. One cent stamps positions 43-46 and 53-56R1^E

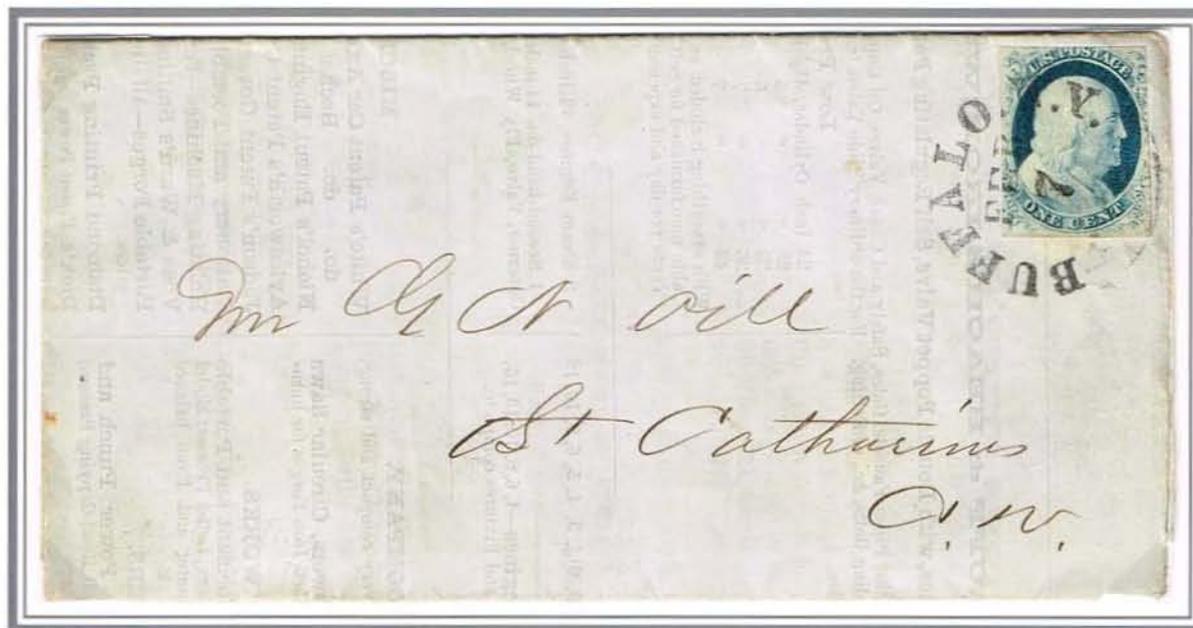
Earliest recorded use of a 12 cent bisect and very early use of 12 cent stamp.



The April 1851 Postal treaty with Canada specified that printed matter could only be paid to the lines. The recipient was required to pay postage due for delivery in Canada, 1 d.



September 1854 folded unsealed circular from New York City to Brantford, Canada West. Type IV stamp pays the postage to the boarder. '1D' marking applied in Canada represents the postage due on receipt.



February 1856 folded unsealed circular from Buffalo NY to St. Catharine Canada West. The 1 cent stamp paid postage to the boarder. While there is no indication of postage due, 1 d. was most likely collected.

The through rate from the United States to Canada was extended to include the Maritime Provinces in July 1851. This provided the same 10 cent rate from the United States and 15 cents from the West Coast.



November 1852 folded address sheet from New York City to St. John New Brunswick.
One cent stamp position 16R1E. Bisect accepted to make up the 10 cent rate.

15 Cent West Coast Rate



Cover from San Francisco CA to Fredericton New Brunswick by the land route. Stamps paying the 15 cent rate from the West Coast. Red 'UNITED STATES' in oval exchange office marking applied in Boston.



September 1857 cover from West Cambridge MA to Prince Edward Island. Carried by the land route via St. John New Brunswick. Faint red 'U STATES' marking. On back Calis ME exchange marking, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick transit markings.



February 1859 folded address sheet from Boston MA to Halifax Nova Scotia. The letter traveled by the sea route on the Cunard packet America. The stamp paid the 5 cents for the sea route. 5 pence packet postage due at Halifax.



November 1855 cover from Pittsburgh PA to Shelbourne Nova Scotia. The letter most likely traveled by land from Boston to Robbinston where it was exchanged at St. Andrews and then overland to St. John and on to Yarmouth and Shelbourne.

Improperly Paid Using United States Stamps

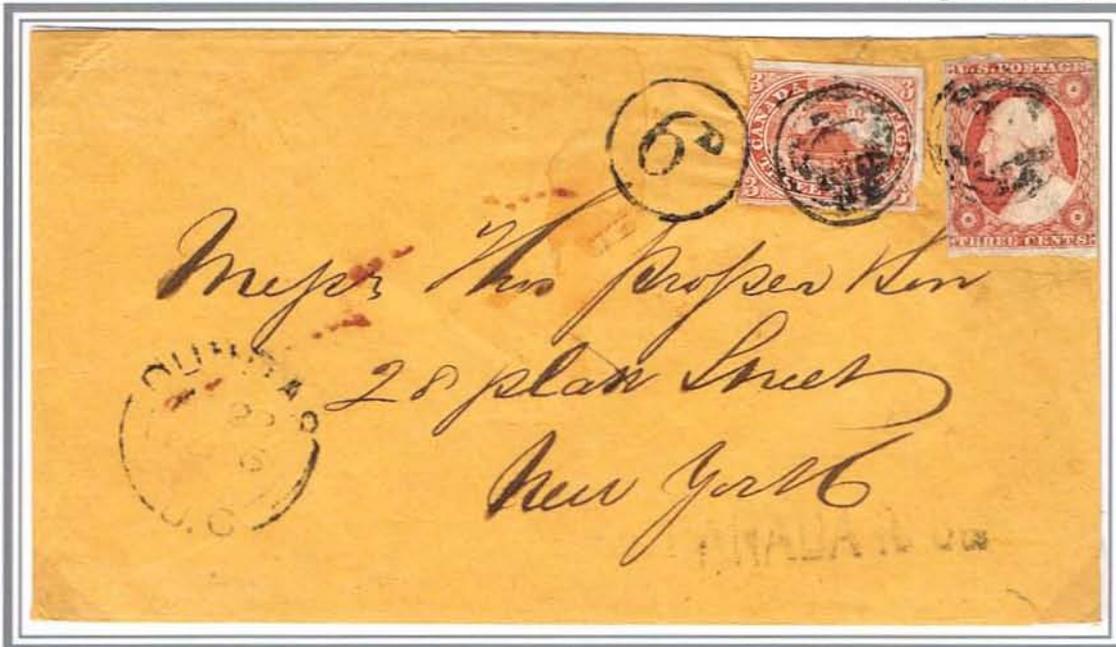
During this period letters could be sent fully prepaid from Canada or unpaid. United States stamps were not permitted on letters originating in Canada. Sometimes they were accepted however.

Stamps accepted



January 1857 cover from London Ontario Canada to Buffalo NY. Block of four 3 cent stamps overpaying the 10 cent rate. In violation of regulations the stamps on this letter were accepted by both the Canadian and United States post offices.

Stamps not accepted



1856 cover from Dundas Canada to New York City. Canada did not recognize the United States stamp and did not accept the Canadian stamp for partial payment. '60' in circle applied in Dundas. The Canadian exchange office applied the 'CANADA 10 Cts' handstamp in black indicating 10 cents due. Position 92R3.



November 1856 folded address sheet to Vera Cruz. The letter was carried on the Calbourn leaving New Orleans on 1 November.



May 1853 cover front from Charleston SC to Vera Cruz Mexico. Arrived Vera Cruz 4 June on packet Texas. 'VERA CRUZ/JUNIO 4' handstamp. 6 reales due on delivery. The stamps pay the 2x packet rate.

6x American Packet Rate to Mexico



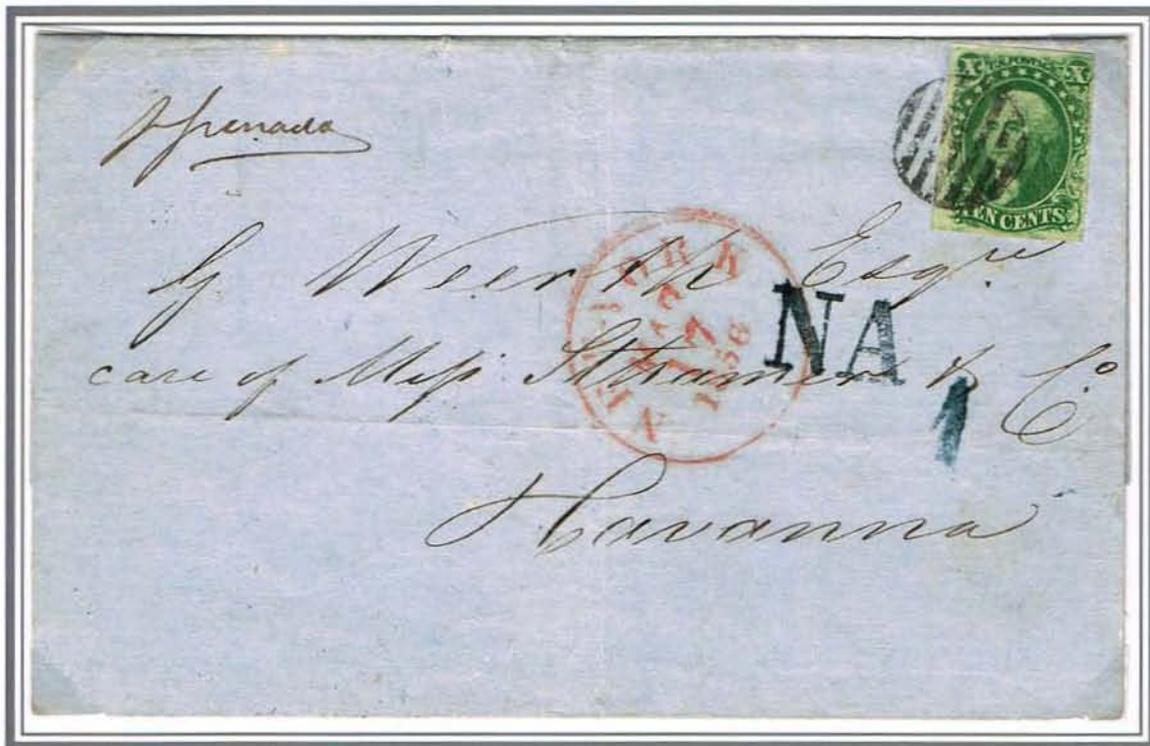
May 1856 folded address sheet from New Orleans LA to Vera Cruz Mexico. Stamps all type III. 9 reales due on delivery. Positions 65-70R.



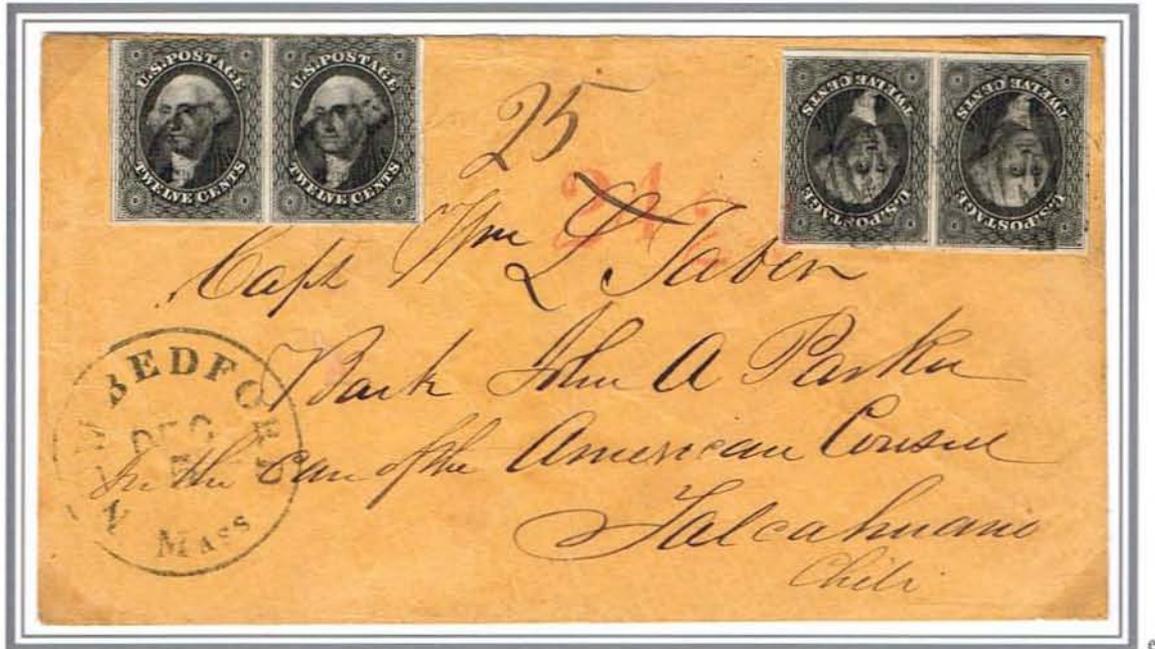
June 1856 folded letter from New Orleans to Vera Cruz Mexico. Left margin strip with interpane line. 12 reales collected on delivery. Positions 71-75R



Mar 1852 folded address sheet to Havana Cuba and then forwarded to Matanzas. The letter traveled to Havana on the American Packet Empire City. 'NA' applied in Havana indicating incoming mail from North America. Blue '2' applied on arrival and then, when forwarded, a blue 'F' was applied and a '1' on top of the '2'.



March 1856 folded address sheet. Letter carried privately from Liverpool England to New York. In New York the letter entered the mail and was sent to Havana. 'NA' applied in Havana indicating incoming mail from North America. '1' real due on delivery.



Cover from New Bedford MA to Talcahuano Chile. Stamps pay the 48 cent rate. The letter traveled on an American packet from New York to Chagres Panama and then crossed the Isthmus to Panama City, where it was placed on a British packet to Talcahuano. Two strikes of red '24' credit to England, crossed out and re-rated 25. The letter is addressed to the captain of the sailing ship Bark John A. Parker that left New Bedford in Oct 1852.

British Packet Single Rate

December 1856 cover from Richmond VA to London England. Pair of stamps pay the 24 cent rate to England on British packet Niagara leaving Boston 3 Dec and arriving in Liverpool 15 December. Red 19 credit to Britain. Red London 'PAID' receiving mark showing arrival 15 December.



American Packet Single Rate



August 1857 cover from Brooklyn NY to London England addressed to a forwarding agent. Carried on American Collins Line packet Atlantic leaving New York 1 August arriving in Liverpool 12 August. Red '3' credit to England.

1p British stamp was applied and the letter sent to Mattock by the forwarding agent.

British Packet Double Rate

August 1856 double rate letter from Skaneateles NY to Manchester England. Red 38 credit to Britain. The packet Canada left Boston 27 August arriving in Liverpool on 7 September. Liverpool transit mark. Arrived in Manchester 7 September. Manchester receiving and Boston exchange markings on back.



5 cent West Coast surcharge

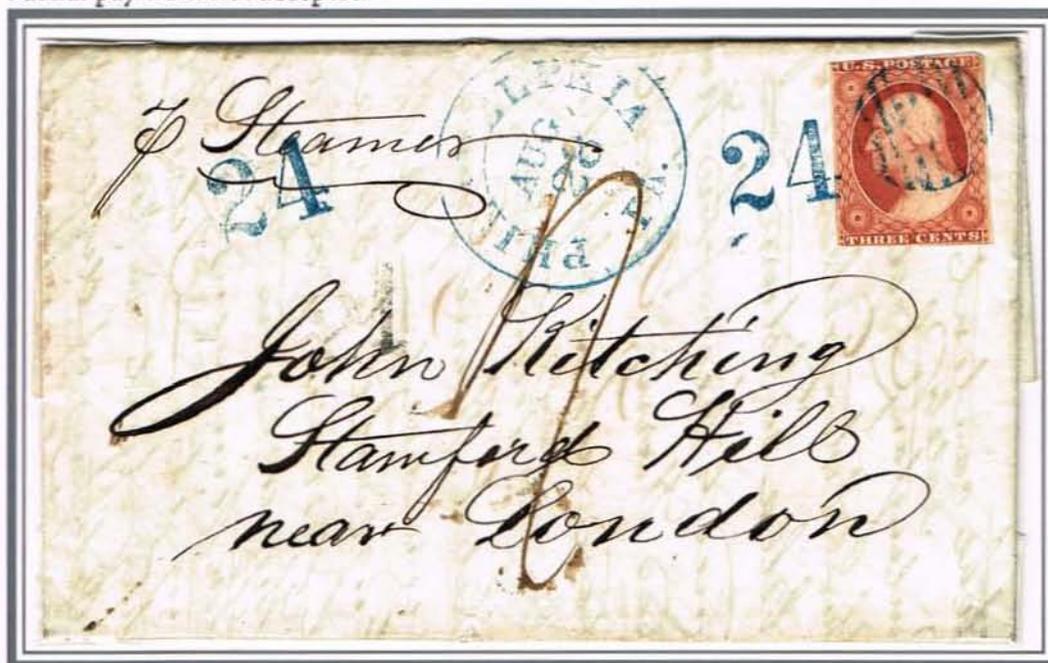


January 1853 folded address sheet from San Francisco CA to Chipping Norton England. The stamps pay the 29 cent rate from the Pacific Coast to England (24 cent rate plus 5 cent West Coast surcharge). 3 cents credit to England for transit by an American packet.

Left San Francisco 15 January 1853 on the Golden Gate arriving Panama City 28 January. Crossed the Isthmus of Panama and departed Chagres 3 February on the Uncle Sam to New York. Departed New York City 19 February on Collins Line ship Atlantic, arriving in Liverpool 2 Mar and in Chipping Norton on 3 March.

The San Francisco 'PAID 6' town cancel was used from 1 December 1852 until 1 December 1854. Birmingham transit and Chipping Norton receiving marks on reverse.

Partial payment not accepted



August 1851 folded letter from Philadelphia PA to Stanford Hill England. The letter traveled on the American packet Baltic leaving New York 30 August and arriving in Liverpool on 10 September, and in London 11 September.

Partial payment was not permitted and the letter was marked in Philadelphia with a blue '24' indicating 24 cents due. New York applied a faint black '21' on a slant indicating 21 cent credit due the United States. In England a manuscript 1 shilling marking was added showing the amount due from recipient. Stamp is orange brown.

21



July 1856 folded address sheet from Newport RI to Paris France, paying the 5 cent open mail rate. The letter left New York City on British Packet Africa arriving in Liverpool 3 August. 'PAID 3' crossed out in town postmark and 'PAID/5' in circle was applied. French treated as double weight 26 decimes due.

Vertical pair positions 83 and 93Lr^l. Vertical strip of three positions 71, 81, 91Lr^l all with inverted transfers and position 91Lr^l with a third transfer.

From Mexico via New Orleans



Reverse, 1/3 original and rotated 90°.

November 1856 folded address sheet originating in Vera Cruz Mexico to Bordeaux France through the United States. From Vera Cruz via packet to New Orleans and New York.

The letter left New York 26 November on Cunard packet Europa arriving in Liverpool 8 December. 12 cent credit to France. The letter was received in Bordeaux 11 December. 13 decimes due.

On back E. J. Forstal New Orleans forwarder handstamp, Vera Cruz handstamp, London, Paris - Bordeaux transit markings and Bordeaux arrival marking.

Rated 21 cents so it could make the next boat either American Packet: 21 cent British Open Mail by Collins Line or the 20 cent Direct Line to Harve. In this case the next ship was the Harve Line.

November 1855 folded address sheet from New Orleans LA to Bordeaux France. Departed New York 17 November on Havre Line packet Arago arriving Harve 1 December and Bordeaux 2 December. Once cent over payment.



Rated for 20 cent direct mail to Havre but too late for the monthly boat and was upgraded to 21 cent British Open Mail on the Collins Line.. The post office could have held the letter almost a month for the next Havre line boat on 17 November.



October 1855 folded address sheet from New Orleans LA to Bordeaux France. Intended for 29 October Havre Line ship Saint Louis but arrived in New York too late. New York applied the 'TOO LATE' handstamp and sent by Open Mail on the Collins Line ship Atlantic. Liverpool 12 November and Bordeaux on 13 November.

British Open Mail via American Packet

This letter entered the mail in Vera Cruz Mexico and paid US postage from New Orleans to Paris. The letter was then redirected back to the UK.



July 1856 folded address sheet from Vera Cruz Mexico to Paris France. This letter traveled from Vera Cruz to New Orleans where it entered the US mail, then to New York City.

The letter was handled by forwarder Uslar, Heymel & Co. in Vera Cruz and E. J. Forstall in New Orleans. In the upper left a manuscript in French 'by way of the United States' partially covered by the 1 cent stamp.

On 2 August it left New York on the American packet Ericsson to Liverpool arriving 18 August. From Liverpool to London and then to Paris via Calais. Stamps pay the 21 cent rate to France.

Arriving in Paris 21 August the letter was then returned to London arriving on 22 August 1856.

The 'BRITISH/FOREIGN' marking applied in London when redirected back indicates postage due from recipient. 4d for British postage from France and 1s/4d due for Foreign postage. This is 1s/8d total due as marked in black ink on back-flap.

May 1853 folded letter from Philadelphia PA to Paris France. Carried from New York on Collin's ship Baltic to Liverpool and then to Paris. Stamps pay the 21 cent American packet rate to France.



Between 1 January and 31 March 1857 the new French and British postal convention was in effect but the first postal convention between France and the United States was not in effect. During this period the British used a new accountancy hand stamp that reflected the bulk letter rate.



March 1857 folded address sheet from New Orleans LA to Bordeaux France. The letter left Boston on the Cunard ship Europa on 8 April arriving in Liverpool on 20 April. From Liverpool to London by rail and then to Paris via Calais. The letter arrived in Bordeaux 23 April. 8 decimes due for under 7.5 grams.

This letter is the latest recorded use of the 'GB//1F60C' marking during the three month period.

March 1857 folded address sheet from New Orleans LA to Paris France. The letter left Boston on the ship America on 25 March arriving in Liverpool on 6 April. From Liverpool to London by rail and then to Paris via Calais.

In France rated over 7.5 grams and marked for 16 decimes due.



The 1857 US-French Treaty, effective 1 April 1857, provided for a 15 cent single rate.

Double Rate via American Packet



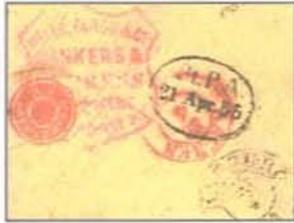
May 1857 cover from Rochester NY to Paris France. Endorsed at upper right by Congressman Steven Andrews. The letter left New York City 9 May arriving in Liverpool 22 May on American packet Ericsson of the Collins Line. The letter arrived in Paris 21 May.

Single Rate via British Packet



June 1857 folded letter from New Orleans LA to Brest France. Left New York 8 July on Cunard packet Persia to Liverpool 17 July and Brest 21 July. 12 cent credit to France.

via Prussian Closed Mail



Portion of reverse 50% reduced
April 1855 cover to Hamburg.
Privately carried from San
Francisco on the Sierra Nevada to
Panama and the Star of the West to
New York.

Wells Fargo delivered the cover
unpaid to the New York post office
where it left on 4 April on Collins
Line ship Atlantic. The letter arrived
18 April in Liverpool, 20 April
in Aachen and Hamburg on 21
April. Oval ST.P.A. is the city post
datestamp of Hamburg.

13 silbergroschen is Prussian debt
to Hamburg. 18 schillinge due. 23
cents credit to the US.



Double rate via British Open Mail



June 1856 cover from Knoxville
TN to Berlin Prussia. The letter
left New York 28 June on Harve
Line ship Argo arriving in
Southampton 10 July.

Stamps paid the 2x 21 cent
British Open Mail rate to
London. Other charges on
receipt.

London applied the 'U.S.PKT'
and on back Aachen applied
'SEEBRIEF PER ENGLAND
UND AACHEN' double circle
handstamp.

From New Mexico Territory

June 1852 folded address sheet from Santa Fe New Mexico Territory to Munich Bavaria. Santa Fe balloon town postmark. Stamps pay double the 30 cent Prussian Closed Mail rate. The letter left New York 30 June on Cunard packet Europa. New York transit mark showing 14 cent credit to Prussia. 'AACHEN (date)/FRANCO' mark indicating the closed mail bag was opened on the train from Belgium (AACHEN exchange office) and accepted as fully paid.

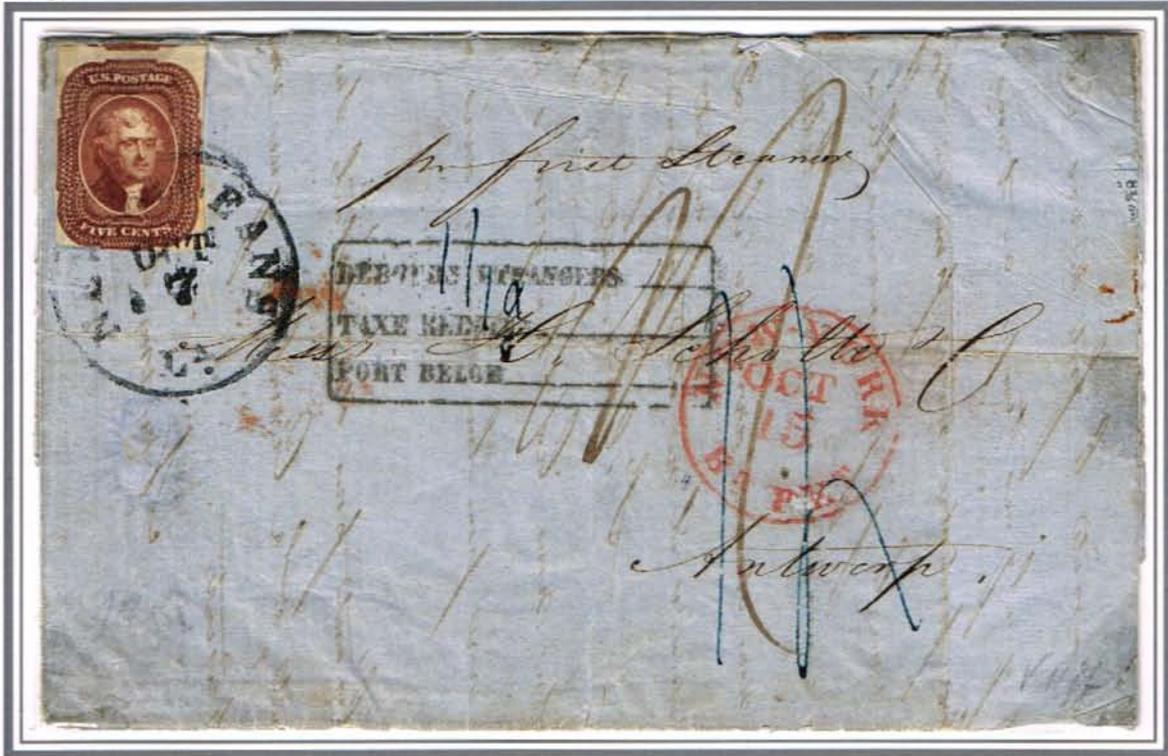


June 1856 letter from New Haven CT to Munich Germany paying double the 30 cent Prussian closed mail rate. Departed New York 11 June on Cunard packet Africa to Liverpool 13 June. 14 cent credit to Prussia. Strip of three and single stamp are type III. Pair combination type III and IV.

March 1855 letter from Cincinnati OH to Frankfurt Germany paying the 30 cent Prussian Closed mail rate. On British Packet Africa from Boston to Liverpool arriving 7 April. Red '7' credit to Prussia. Closed Mail bag exchanged at Ostende Belgium arriving in Aachen on 10 April. 'FRANCO' marking applied in Aachen indicating fully paid. Boston British Packet marking, AACHEN transit and Frankfurt arrival markings on the back.



Belgium



October 1856 folded letter under one-quarter ounce from New Orleans LA to Antwerp Belgium. From New York traveled on Cunard steamer Africa leaving 15 October and arriving in Liverpool 27 October.

Manuscript 1 shilling mark for amount due to UK from Belgium. Boxed accounting handstamp of Ostend shows British debt, conversion of British debt to decimes and internal postage. The second two lines is the postage due rewritten as '14' decimes.

Holland



February 1857 folded address sheet from New Orleans LA to Amsterdam Holland. Sailed on Cunard Asia leaving New York on 4 March arriving in Liverpool March 16. Sender had directed the letter sail from Boston on the Europa. 1 shilling due Britian. 80 cents due on delivery. Amsterdam receiving backstamp. Only recorded cover to Holland with 5 cent stamp.



July 1856 cover from Baresville OH to Kisen Switzerland. Left New York City 9 July on the Cunard packet Asia to Liverpool 22 July. The letter was exchanged at Calais on 23 July and sent to Switzerland.

January 1858 folded letter from New Orleans LA to Rapperswil Switzerland. Left Boston on Cunard 27 January to Liverpool 9 February. In London the 'GB/1F60c' accountancy handstamp applied representing an unpaid letter. 95 rappen due from the recipient. British Open Mail used by the post office creating 7 cents overpayment.



March 1856 cover from New Haven CT to Schaffhausen Switzerland. Left New York on Cunard packet Asia 5 March to Liverpool on 18 March. Large '12' credit to Prussia. The mail bag went through Belgium arriving 19 March in Aachen Prussia where it was opened and the letter was marked with the 'Aachen d m/Franco' boxed datestamp.



Cover from New Orleans to Bodenbach Austria by Prussian Closed Mail. Faint New York Exchange Office marking.

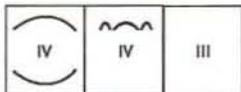
Stamps pay the 30 cent rate which prepaid postage to Bodenbach. 'FRANCO' marking indicating fully paid.

Bodenbach receiving marking tying stamps.

December 1856 cover from Albany NY to Gratz Austria via Prussian Closed Mail.

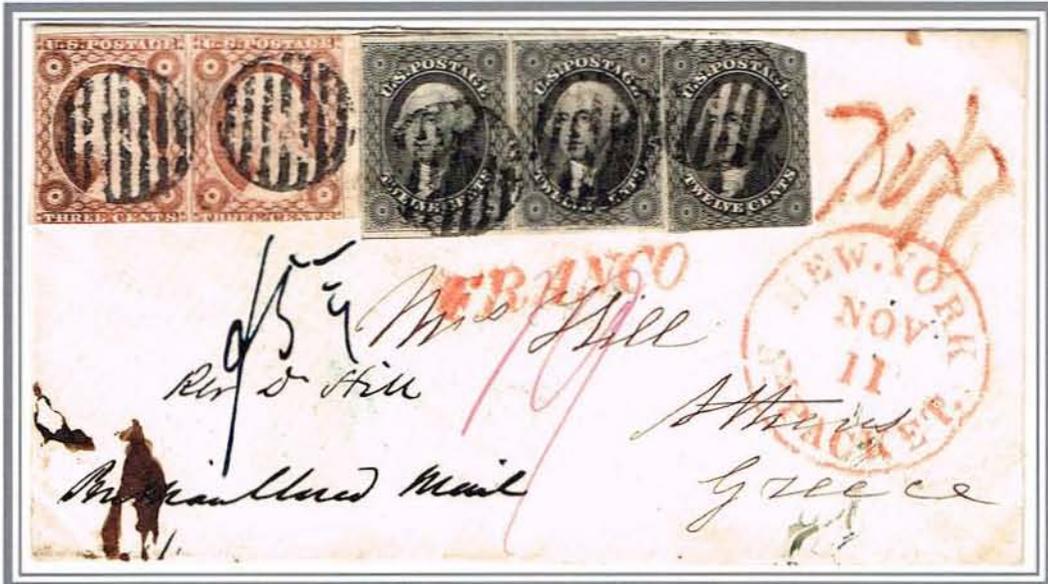
The letter was sent from New York to Boston and then to Liverpool via Cunard steamer Canada arriving 13 January.

Stamps positions 64-66L.



Recut top label and over both 'X's
Recut top label
Recut bottom label

Greece

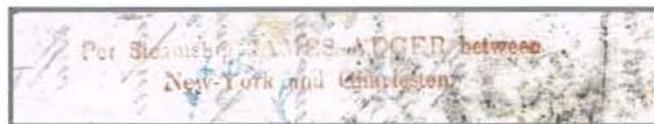


November 1854 letter to Athens Greece. Manuscript 'Prussian Closed Mail'. The stamps paid the 42 cent rate to Athens via Prussian Closed Mail. From New York 11 November on American packet Pacific Liverpool 22 November. The closed mail bag was opened on the train from Belgium on 23 November. 'FRANCO' marking indicates postage was fully paid. Trieste transit and 31 November Athens arrival mark on back.

Sweden



November 1853 folded letter from Charleston SC to Stockholm Sweden. From New York on Cunard steamer Asia 2 November to Liverpool 13 November. Aachen marked in blue ink 13 3/4 sgr. Prussian debit to Hamburg. The letter was exchanged in Hamburg on 16 November. Black manuscript 1 riksdaler 8 skilling banco due on delivery. The blue manuscript in the lower center is 18 3/4 sgr. debit to Sweden. 1 cent pair type IV positions 95, 96Lr¹ and three cent dull red type II.



On reverse 'Per Steamship James Badger between New York and Charleston'



April 1855 folded letter from New Orleans LA to Turin Sardinia. Cunard Africa From Boston on Cunard Africa 9 May to Liverpool 20 May. Strip of five stamps pays the 5 cent British open mail rate by British packet. Positions from column 5, rows 1-5 R1¹.

November 1856 cover from New Orleans LA to Intra. From New York City 17 November on Baltic to Liverpool arriving 30 July. From London exchanged at Calais and traveled to Paris, through Switzerland to Intra arriving 6 Dec. 17 decimes due. Stamp pays the 5 cent rate via British Open Mail by British Packet.



Papal States

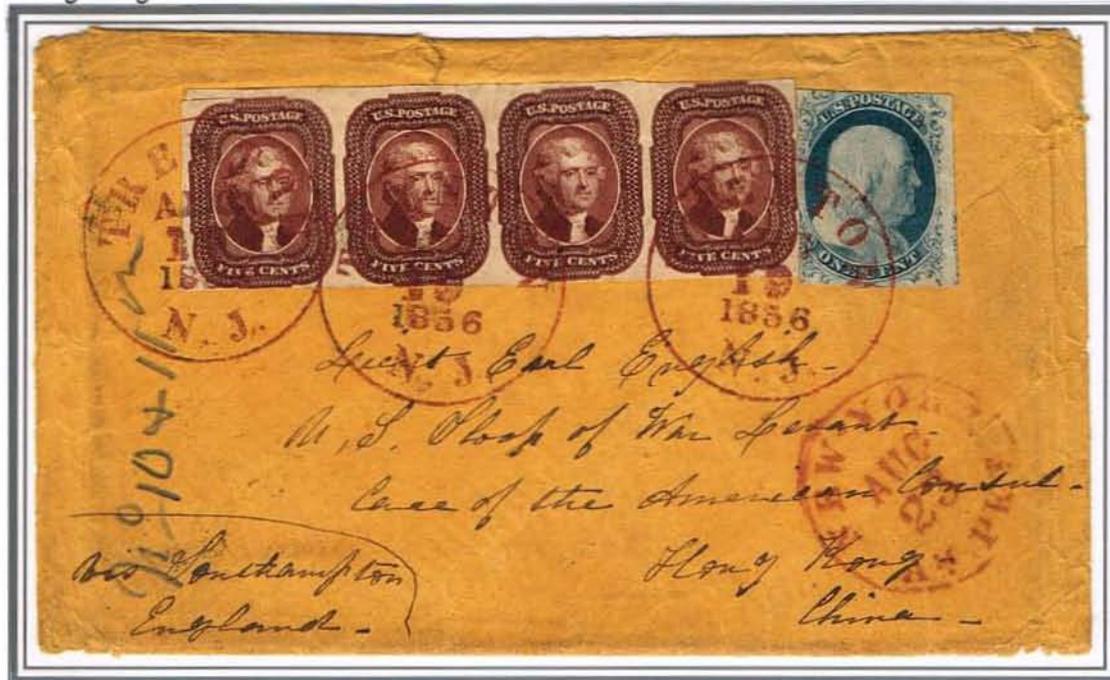
February 1856 folded letter from New York to Rome Italy. 24 cent postage overpaid the 21 cent rate. From New York 20 February on American packet Washington to Southampton 10 Mar. The letter was exchanged at Calais and went by train to Paris. From Paris the letter traveled overland and by boat to Rome.

'VIA DI MARE' marking signifies routing by sea to the harbor of Civitaecchia. From the harbor the letter traveled by train to Rome. Calais and Paris transit marks and Rome receiving mark. Manuscript '38' bajocchi due.



September 1855 cover from Chicago to Sardinia Departed New York 19 September on American Packet Atlantic, arriving in Liverpool 30 September. Strip of seven stamps pays the 21 cent British Open Mail rate by American packet. French entry marking in black reflecting letter from the United States by American packet. Italian transit and receiving markings on back.

Hong Kong via American Packet



August 1856 cover from Trenton NJ to Hong Kong China. From Trenton the letter went to New York City 23 August on American packet Argo to Southampton 4 September. 21 cent Open Mail rate by American packet to Great Britain. Remaining postage of 6 pence was to be collected from the recipient.

From Great Britain the letter traveled on a series of Peninsular and Oriental Line steamers. First on the Indus to Alexandria Egypt arriving September 19. Overland to Suez and then on steamer Oriental arriving 13 October at Galle Ceylon. The letter arrived in Hong Kong on 1 December on steamer Norna. Very faint red British transit and black Hong Kong receiving backstamps on reverse.

Shanghai via British Packet



December 1858 cover from Greenfield MS to Shanghai China by British Mail via Southampton. Sailed from New York 23 December on Cunard steamer Europa to Liverpool 4 January. Southampton to Alexandria, then overland to Suez and by ship to Ceylon and Hong Kong. Stamps pay the 33 cent prepaid British mail rate to China other than Hong Kong. 28 cent credit to the UK.

3 cent stamp perforated, 10 cent pair positions 21-21L, type III, and the single 65L, type IV.

Belgium



October 1852 circular from Charleston SC to Ghent Belgium. From New York steamer Africa to England and then to Ostende via Open Mail.

The 4 cent newspaper rate applied until April 1853. '1' applied in England for 1 pence or 2 cents due England. 15 decimes due from recipient. The postal accounting rectangular box applied in Ostend was not used.

There are fewer than five recorded examples of this rate to Belgium.

Bavaria

January 1857 circular from Mobile AL to Augsburg Bavaria. Franked to go by the 6 cent Prussian Closed Mail rate, it was sent via England and France.

English accountancy mark 'GB 2 PK' indicating 2 francs per kilo due England. This marking was used for three months in 1857.



From Beirut

May 1857 letter from Beirut Lebanon carried privately to Boston MA where it entered the mail and was sent to Tolland CT.

Boston forwarder oval handstamp on back 'Forwarded by J. M. Gordon/Treasurer/A.B.C.L.M./Boston'.

'BEIRUT/May 25 1857' handstamp possibly from the consulate.



From Malta



November 1852 letter from Malta to Norfolk VA. Sent by private carrier to New York City where it entered the mail and was sent to Norfolk.

Malta forwarder handstamp on the front and the New York forwarder Lillie & Rasines oval handstamp on the back.

The stamp was applied in New York City.

To Constantinople Turkey

February 1852 letter from Nashua NH to Constantinople Turkey. Sent to Boston by USPS. From Boston carried privately to Turkey.

Stamp is plate one late experimental orange brown.





The first release of officially perforated stamps occurred 27 February 1857. Only the three cent stamp was released at this point until early June 1857. The one cent stamp was introduced in the summer of 1857. Following 10 June all stamps were perforated.

Government experimental perforations



Positions 86, 96L2¹ rouletted 7 1/2 horizontally and perforated 15-16 vertically and horizontally. Manuscript cross hatching. Original gum.

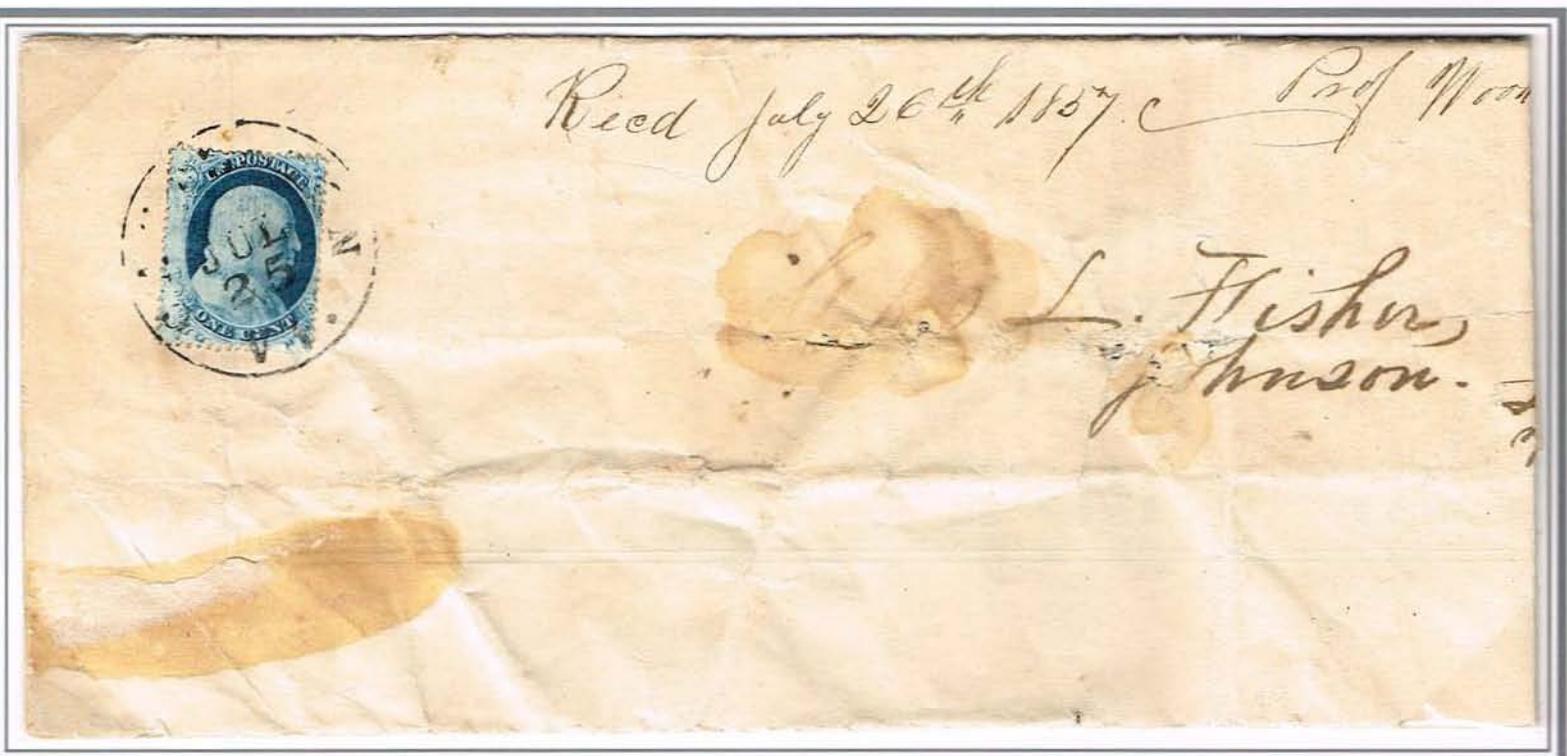
Earliest recorded use of a government perforated United States Stamp

One of three recorded covers used on 28 February 1857.



28 February 1857 cover from Philadelphia to Pughtown PA. Stamp pale claret type I position 35R7.

Earliest recorded use of any 1 cent government perforated stamp



July 1857 catalog from Castleton to Johnson VT. Catalogue of the Faculty and Students of Castleton Medical College. Stamp type II from plate 2. Castleton postmark 'JUL 25'.

With the outbreak of the Civil War there were supplies of United States stamps in the Confederate States. To prevent these stamps from being used or sold they were demonetized by the Postmaster General in August 1861. Each postmaster implemented the demonetization as the new stamps were available.

Only recorded cover bearing an 1851-1856 issue stamp and 'OLD STAMPS/NOT RECOGNIZED' marking.



November 1863 cover from Philadelphia PA to Phipsburg ME. Stamp position 27L1⁴.

The stamp is tied with a Philadelphia duplex postmark with ten blade grid. The 'OLD STAMPS/NOT RECOGNIZED' and 'DUE/6' were applied in Philadelphia. Philadelphia received the newly designed stamps 19 August 1861 and a few days later would no longer accept the issues of 1851 and 1857.

Six cents was due because as of 1 July 1863 a penalty of double the required postage went into effect for letters not properly paid: three cent for postage and three cents for penalty. The penalty lasted until 1 May 1865.



Cover from Cambridge to Lowell MA. Three cent stamp not accepted, two cent stamp added and 'due 1' indicating one cent due from recipient. Mailed after the penalty period ended.