

Bold & Fancy

Georgia Stampless Rate Markings

This exhibit illustrates many of the bold and fancy rate markings used in Georgia between 1 July 1845 and 1856.

The postage rate change of 1845 replaced a five-tier rate system with two rates: five cents for distances under 300 miles and ten cents for distances over 300 miles. The rates were the same whether a letter was prepaid, or sent due with the recipient paying the postage. Shortly after the new rates were effective many postmasters began to use handstamped rate markings. The first markings were for the five and ten cent rates. Some larger towns also used one, two and three cent rate markings for drop letters and circulars.

In 1851 the letter rate was standardized at three cents. However, the three-cent rate only applied to prepaid letters. If a letter was not prepaid it was rated "5" with the postage due from the recipient. The new rate saw the use of three cent rate markings for a short period because three-cent stamps were introduced at the same time and their use made mandatory effective 1 January 1856.

The rate markings used in Georgia from 1845 and to 1856 were of all descriptions from small to large and plain to fancy. This exhibit focuses on the bold and fancy markings.

Bold markings are those that are larger in width than the normal type font. Fancy markings are that that have some special feature such as a fancy numeral, a dotted circle, unusual shape, or a negative (colorless) rate. The determination of what constitutes a bold or fancy rate marking was determined by comparing all recorded Georgia rate markings.

Most of the Georgia bold and fancy markings are from the smaller towns. For example, there are three different types from Lumpkin and Oxford; and two different types from Columbus, Madison, Monroe, Rome, and West Point.

There are about three times as many fancy markings as there are bold markings. There are very few 3-cent rate markings because of the advent of postage stamps.

The exhibit is arranged by the value of the marking. Roman numeral rates are at the end.

Reference: Francis J. Crown, Jr., *Georgia Stampless Cover Catalog and Handbook* (Madison, AL: Self-published, 1997).

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3¢ Rate Markings



LUMPKIN / Ga. 27 Jan 1855 ~ **Fancy “PAID / 3”** rate marking on prepaid letter to Philadelphia (uniform 3¢ rate prepaid – note charge box marking to right of postmark). All recorded examples are red from 1855.



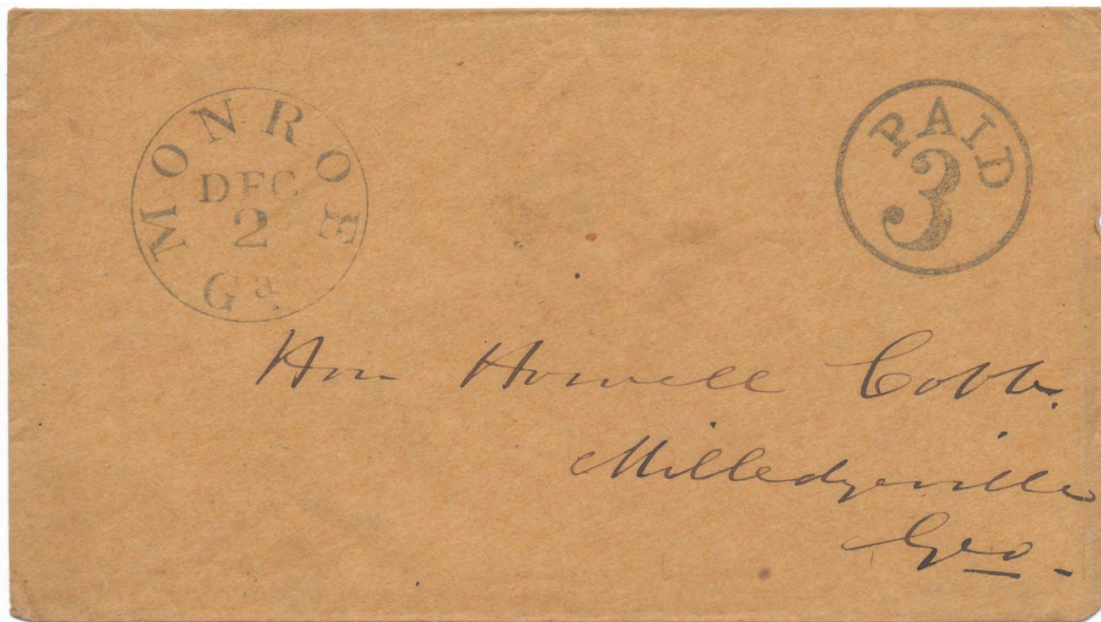
OXFORD / Ga. 4 Jun 185- ~ **Bold “3” in octagon** and “PAID” on prepaid letter to New Orleans (uniform 3¢ rate prepaid – note charge box marking above postmark). All recorded examples are blue.

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3¢ Rate Markings



Madison, Ga. 11 May 1853 ~ **Large bold "3" in circle** and "PAID" on prepaid letter to Charleston, S.C. (uniform rate – 3¢ rate paid). All recorded examples of this marking are in red or orange from the period 1853-1854.



Monroe, Ga. 2 Dec 185- ~ **Large bold "PAID / 3" in circle** on prepaid letter to Milledgeville, Ga. (uniform rate – 3¢ rate paid). All recorded examples are in blue and black.

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5¢ Rate Markings



MADISON / Ga. 9 Dec 18-- ~ **Large bold “5” in circle** on unpaid letter to Milledgeville, Georgia (cannot determine rate period, but 5¢ due). All recorded examples are red or orange.



LAWRENCEVILLE / Ga. 28 Nov 18-- ~ **Large bold “5”** marking on unpaid letter to Griffin, Georgia (cannot determine rate period, but 5¢ due). All recorded examples are black.

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5¢ Rate Markings



WEST POINT / Ga. 31 Jul 1850 ~ **Large bold “5” in circle** on unpaid letter to Montgomery, Alabama (less than 300 miles – 5¢ due). All recorded examples are blue or black from the period 1848-1851.



Washington / Ga. 23 Jul 1845 ~ **Large bold “5”** on unpaid letter to Massachusetts (more than 300 miles – 10¢ rate). Letter was first underrated (“5” crossed out and “10” added) and then determined to be double weight (second “10” added) for a total of 20¢ postage due.

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5¢ Rate Markings



COLUMBUS / Ga. 30 May 1849 ~ **Small bold “5” in fancy double circle** on letter to Milledgeville, Georgia (less than 300 miles – 5¢ due). All recorded examples are red or blue from the period 1846-1852.



JACKSON / : GA 21 May 1847 ~ **Fancy “5” in circle with saw teeth** and “PAID” on prepaid letter to Dahlonega, Georgia (less than 300 miles – 5¢ prepaid). The “Paid” marking at upper left is clerks notation. All recorded examples are red from 1847.

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5¢ Rate Markings



LAFAYETTE / Ga. 29 Nov 1848 ~ **Negative "5"** in irregular rectangle on unpaid letter to Dahlonaga, Georgia (less than 300 miles – 5¢ due). All recorded examples are black or red-brown from the period 1846-1848.



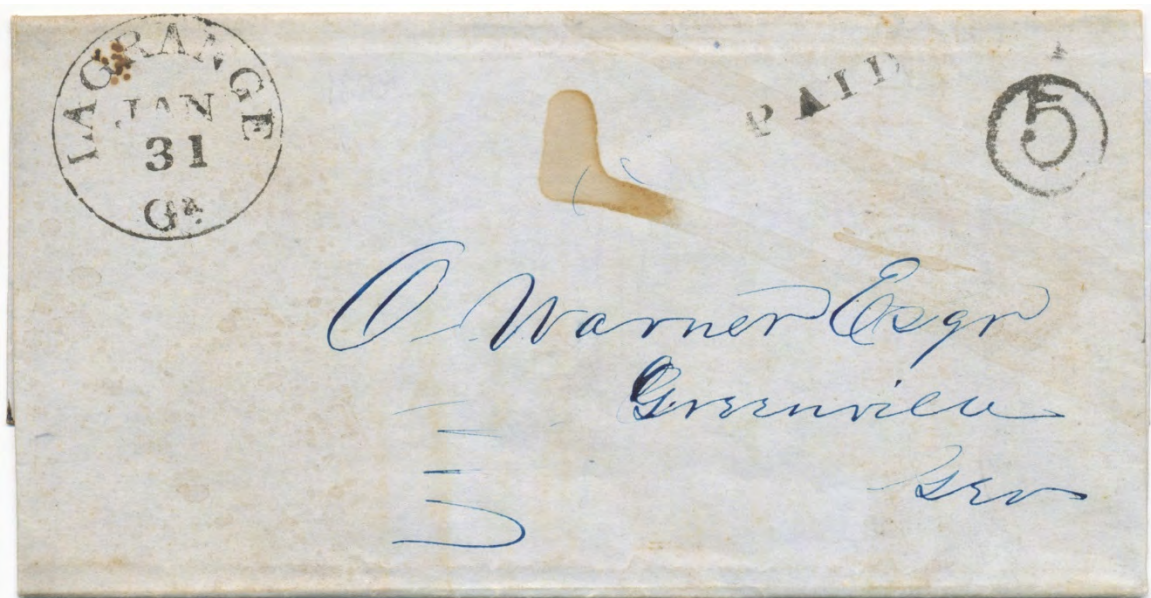
LEXINGTON / GA. 23 Nov 1847 ~ **Boxed "5"** with "PAID" on prepaid letter to Lincolnton, Georgia (less than 300 miles – 5¢ paid – note charge box marking at upper right). All recorded examples are red.

Bold & Fancy

5¢ Rate Markings



OXFORD / Ga. 30 May 18-- ~ **Small "5" in six-pointed star** on unpaid letter to Montgomery, Alabama (cannot determine rate period, but 5¢ due). All recorded examples are red. Enlargement enhanced.



LAGRANGE / GA. 21 Jan 1850 ~ **Fancy "5" in circle** with "PAID" on prepaid letter to Greenville, Georgia (less than 300 miles – 5¢ paid). All recorded examples are black.

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5¢ Rate Markings



ROME / Ga. 27 Aug 1846 ~ Negative “5” in solid star on unpaid letter to Augusta, Georgia (less than 300 miles – 5¢ due). All recorded examples are black from the period 1846-1848.



ROME / Ga. 6 Nov 1848 ~ Negative “5” in star with small negative stars in the rays of the large star. Unpaid letter to Cedar Bluff, Alabama (less than 300 miles – 5¢ due). All recorded examples are black from the period 1848-1849.

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5¢ Rate Markings



ROSWELL / Ga. 2 Oct 18-- ~ **Fancy "5" in small circle** with "PAID" on prepaid letter to Athens, Georgia (less than 300 miles – 5¢ paid). All recorded examples are black. Enlargement enhanced.



WAYNESBORO / Ga. 28 Oct 1846 ~ **Negative "5" in box** on unpaid letter to Hamburg, South Carolina (less than 300 miles – 5¢ due). All recorded examples are red.

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10¢ Rate Markings



COVINGTON / Ga. 17 Jan 18-- ~ **Small bold "10"** on unpaid letter to Nicholasville, Kentucky (more than 300 miles – 10¢ due). All recorded examples are red.



WEST POINT / Ga. 31 Mar 1848 ~ **Large bold "10"** on unpaid letter cover to Centerville, Virginia (more than 300 miles – 10¢ due). Postal clerk originally rated the cover "5" and then corrected his error by lining out the "5" and adding the "10" marking. All recorded examples are in black from the period 1848-1850.

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10¢ Rate Markings



WARRENTON / Ga. 23 Mar 1847 ~ Large bold “10” in circle and “PAID” on prepaid letter to Philadelphia (more than 300 miles – 10¢ paid). All recorded examples are black.



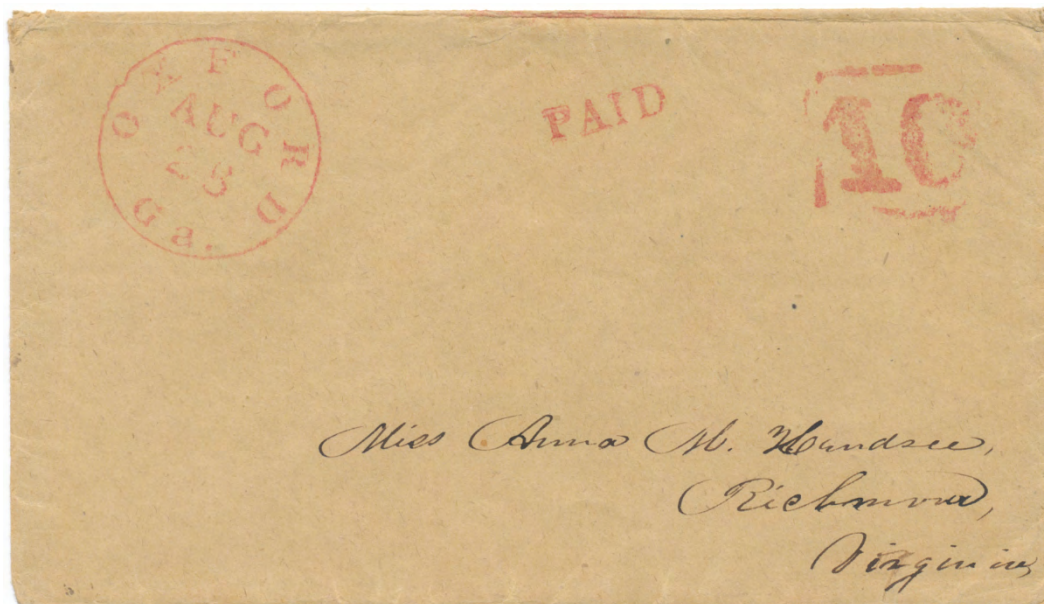
THOMASTON / Ga. 8 May 1850 ~ Large bold “10” on unpaid letter to Murphree C H, North Carolina. The letter was charged at the over 300 miles rate when the distance was less. The manuscript “Overcharge 5” indicates the correction. All recorded examples are red from 1850.

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10¢ Rate Markings



COLUMBUS / Ga. 30 Mar 1848 ~ **Fancy “10” in fancy double circle** and “PAID” on prepaid letter to Clinton, New York (more than 300 miles – 10¢ due). Negative “CENTS” in the right side of the “0” of “10” (see enlargement at right).



OXFORD / Ga. 26 Aug 18-- ~ **Large bold fancy “10” in reverse italics inside partial box** and “PAID” on prepaid letter to Richmond, Virginia (more than 300 miles – 10¢ paid). All recorded examples are red from the period 1851-1855.

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3¢ Fancy Rate Markings



BARNESVILLE / Ga. 20 Jan 185- ~ **Fancy “PAID / C III”** rate marking on prepaid letter to Macon, Georgia (uniform rate – 3¢ paid). The “C III” Indicated “3 cents.” The design was taken from the 1851 three-cent piece known as a trime. Cover originally rated “5” but this was lined out when the mailer prepaid the postage. All recorded uses are black.



LUMPKIN / Ga. 14 May 1848 ~ **Small “V” in circle** on unpaid letter to Milledgeville, Georgia (less than 300 miles – 5¢ due). All recorded uses are red from 1848.

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Roman Rate Markings



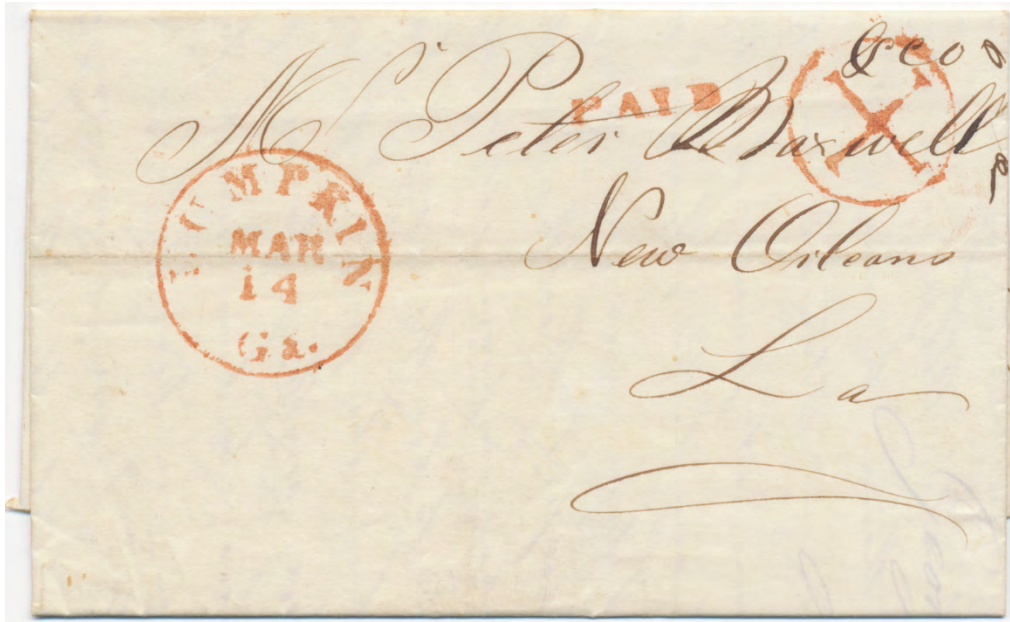
CARTERSVILLE / Ga. 19 Dec 1854 ~ **Bold “V”** used as forwarding rate marking on cover forwarded twice. Cover was prepaid 3c from Greensborough – note charge box marking at upper center. Forwarded rate was 5¢ from each location because they were not prepaid. All recorded uses are red from the period 1849-54.



ALBANY / Ga. 19 Feb 1848 ~ **Bold “X”** rate marking on prepaid letter to New York (more than 300 miles – 10¢ paid – note charge box notation at upper center). All recorded uses are red and blue.

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Roman Rate Markings



LUMPKIN / Ga. 14 Mar 1850 ~ **Fancy “X” in circle** on a prepaid letter to New Orleans (more than 300 miles – 10¢ paid). The “X” is unusual because it is the form of a pinwheel.



ATLANTA / Ga. 25 Nov 1848 ~ **Small bold “X”** rate marking on unpaid letter to Philadelphia (more than 300 miles – 10¢ due). All recorded examples are red or blue.