OPINIONS II

Philatelic Expertizing — An Inside View

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Edited by Elizabeth C. Pope

Published by The Philatelic Foundation
New York, N.Y.

ISSN 8755-3562 (Previous work, "OPINIONS: Philatelic Expertizing — An Inside View", carries Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 83-060036)
ISBN 0-911989-16-1
Printed and bound in the United States of America

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Preface

On behalf of The Philatelic Foundation and its Board of Trustees, we take great pleasure in presenting to the philatelic community OPINIONS II, a continuation of and expansion upon the first OPINIONS book.

Continuation of the considerable effort that resulted in last year's successful launching of this OPINIONS project will be evident in the pages that follow. Special thanks is due the Editor, Elizabeth C. Pope, and the members of the Publication Committee who steered OPINIONS II through to its successful and timely completion.

Appreciation is also owed to the reviewers of the first OPINIONS volume and to those other readers who took the time to provide us with comments and suggestions that were useful in the planning and production of this second volume. The increased use of graphics and the wider diversity of topics offered the reader are but two of the many recommendations that have been incorporated into OPINIONS II.

It is our hope that collectors at all levels will find this volume to be both useful and enjoyable. The specialist should find something of particular interest in the articles that follow, while the general collector will come away from the book with a deeper understanding of the expertizing process, the techniques that are applied to the examination of valuable stamps and covers, and the importance of being aware that "things philatelic" are not always what they seem to be.

Elliott H. Coulter
Chairman, the Board of Trustees

Introduction

The eager reception and the enthusiastic response accorded by the philatelic community to the first edition of OPINIONS gave us a mandate to continue as an annual publication.

OPINIONS II provides a deeper look into the expertizing of stamps and covers at the Philatelic Foundation. From suggestions by the Curators, subject selections were made by the Publications Committee. Invitations were extended to philatelists who know their respective subjects intimately. The case histories presented here deal with the multiplicity of factors involved in the expertizing process. There are examples based on scientific skills, on technical expertise, on historical aspects, and on the convictions of experience.

The contributors to this work are names recognized throughout philately, and all segments were written expressly for this publication. The extent of research and the depth of knowledge represented are beyond measure.

To those who contributed to this volume of OPINIONS we owe applause and appreciation. To those who read this book we offer it as a feast to be enjoyed on first perusal and as a tool to be used forever after.

ELIZABETH C. POPE
Editor

Chapter 1

United States of America

Gum: Original or Not?

By Peter A. Robertson

Without question, the most valuable commodity in our hobby today is gum. If you do not believe this, just compare auction realizations where similar copies of a stamp may vary in price as much as five or six times depending on the state of the gum on each. Centering and freshness also play a part in determining value, but gum condition seems to be the most important factor in actual pricing. Gum is also the most misunderstood aspect of our hobby.

The term "original gum" is used universally by dealers and collectors alike. It refers to the adhesive on the back of a postage stamp, intended to attach the stamp to a letter or parcel when moistened. On an unused stamp, when this gum remains the stamp is described as having original gum. The optimum condition for this gum is to be in exactly the same state as it was in when it left the post office. This is referred to as "mint, never hinged". The small, gummed paper hinges that were popular in the earlier days of our hobby — before protective mounts — were clean, usually easily removed, and left only a light outline on the gum where they had been attached. Today people are quite willing to pay a premium for "never hinged", although few know why.

Actually, paying extra for never hinged stamps was a practice started by individuals who did not know very much about stamps. They were trying to protect themselves from buying damaged or repaired stamps so they insisted upon "never hinged". The fact that most early issues no longer exist in this condition has never impeded these individuals in their search. And, of course, where someone is willing to pay extra for something, that something is always made available by some of the shadier characters in our hobby.

Now, it is true that it is difficult to sell stamps where remnants of previous hinges are present. Because of this, removal of old hinge traces has become an art rivaling gem-cutting. Surgical and dental tools are used by highly skilled artists to remove old hinge remnants. The logic of this is that nothing should be hidden by hinges still attached to the stamp.

To make the removal job easier, the stamp is put into a very damp environment where the gum on the stamp is actually liquefied, that is, made completely liquid or melted, just as it was when first applied. Hinge remnants can then be lifted right off the stamp without damaging it. By taking a fine brush and redistributing the remaining gum, the traces of previous hinging can be hidden from all but the most expert eye. The gum here is most certainly original — nothing has been added — but the state of the gum is most definitely changed from its original condition.

This change occurred as the gum re-dried. While what remains is original, the gum is thinner due to some having been removed during the brushing process. Also, the environment where it dried after hinge removal is entirely different from that following its original application. Certain changes in the appearance of the gum also result.

Before we examine these changes, it is important that the reader understand what original gum looks like. The application of gum to a sheet of stamps was done rapidly and in a single motion. On the earlier issues of United States stamps, this gum tended to be rather thick, and the gum was intended to be applied entirely across the sheet. As is the case when one applies paint with a brush in a long stroke, areas develop where there is no paint. Usually elongated thin lines called "skips" result, elongated in the direction of application. Gum skips are quite natural and exist on most of the older U.S. stamps. These stamps are often filled in or erased when original gum is redistributed. It becomes important to know typical gum for any particular issue of stamps.

Figure 1.

Figure 1 illustrates the typical gum on the 1893 Columbian issue. Note the long streaky gum skips running horizontally. The upper portion of the picture shows the outline where a hinge was removed. A close examination shows that all traces of gum skips have been erased where the hinge was, while the normal skips show everywhere else.

Figure 2.

Figure 2 shows the typical gum found on the Trans-Mississippi or early Twentieth Century issues. While the gum here is thinner and smoother, a very close examination shows fine streaks in the gum elongated vertically. The reader can easily see where a hinge was removed. The original gum has been seriously affected, and it no longer resembles the gum around it.

Additionally, one often finds the light outline of perforations impressed in the gum on these later issues, probably as a result of sheets being placed one upon another when they were perforated and while the original gum was still damp. These faint perforation traces are very helpful in determinig if the gum is original. The process of gum redistribution will either erase these perf traces or make them far less visible to the naked eye. The fine row of horizontal perforation traces in this example has been completely eliminated where the hinge was removed.

These two examples should help the reader to understand better original gum and its characteristics. We can now discuss those changes resulting from the melting of gum to remove hinge remnants.

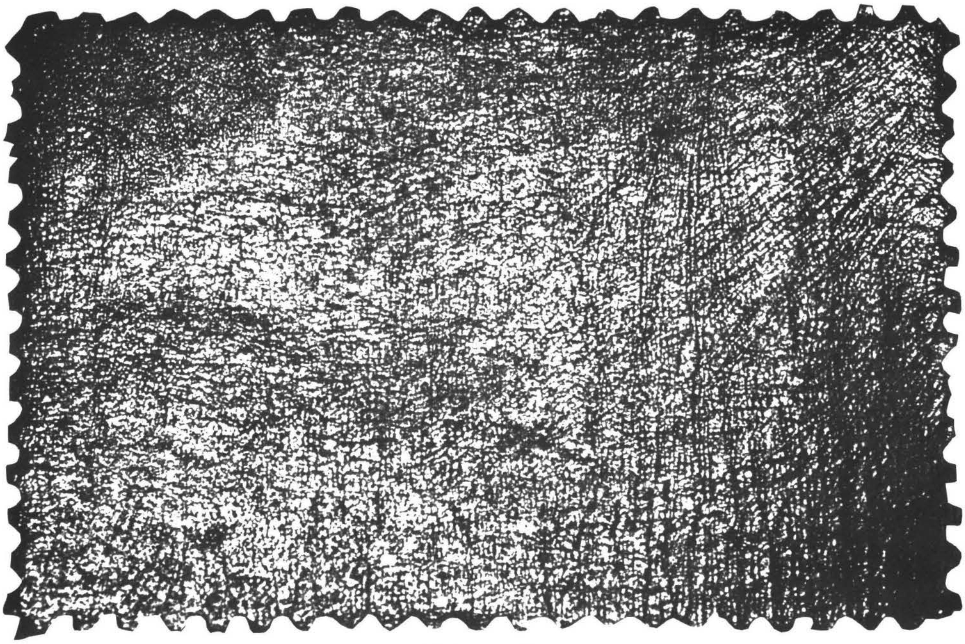


Figure 3.

Figure 4.

When gum is dried too quickly after the redistribution of the original gum, it will crackle all over (see Figure 3). If dried too slowly, the moist gum will run into the broken paper fibers around the perforations and their teeth as shown in Figure 4. The stained areas around most of the perforations on this stamp were caused by dampened original gum running into the body of the paper through these broken fibers.

Reproducing the same conditions under which original gum was applied and dried onto stamps is virtually impossible. *Therefore, almost all stamps with redistributed original gum have gum which does not match the normal gum for that issue.*

A simple comparison copy is all that is needed to detect gum alteration. It seems obvious that a stamp with good original gum can be used as a control copy against which all possible acquisitions can be compared. This writer would recommend the purchase of a fresh copy of a low value of a set having both a straight edge and a hinge remnant attached. This type of stamp has little value as a collectible, but will serve as a very valuable comparison tool so long as the original gum is fresh. The important thing to remember is that the same gum was applied to the 1c Columbian as to the $4 or $5 of that issue. The inexpensive stamp, therefore, can prove to be very valuable in the long run.

Up to now we have avoided the word "regummed". Most of the stamps that the collector will encounter will not be regummed. But some will be, and the collector should know enough to protect himself.

There is often little difference between a stamp with redistributed original gum and one that has been regummed. This is not unusual as the basic processes differ very little. A stamp having hinge remnnants removed may have additional gum added to the liquefied original gum. If the job is done well, it may be extremely difficult to tell, even for an expert. Fortunately, most are not so difficult.

Stamps almost always are regummed to hide defects. A tear in the paper can be closed and the repair substantially hidden under a good coat of gum. There may be evidence showing faintly on the face of the stamp, but it will be almost impossible to see this type of repair through the gum. Another repair that is often hidden under regumming is the addition of a new margin.

Probably the most commonly hidden fault is a thin spot. Thin spots are shallow depressions in the paper caused by the improper removal of something attached to the gum. This might be a hinge, an album page, or anything else to which the stamp got stuck. Some thins are tiny and are easily covered over with new gum. This type of repair may be very difficult to find, even in watermark fluid. Other thin spots could be large or deep. This type cannot be covered with new gum as it will still appear when the stamp is immersed in fluid. The repairer will often try to fill in this type of thin spot with a foreign substance, usually in a paste form. New gum is then applied over the repair.

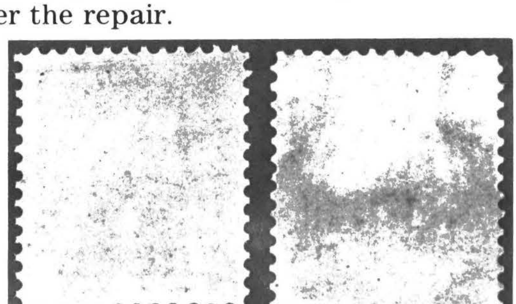


Figure 5.

The stamp on the right in Figure 5 has been repaired extensively. Large thinning from the center of the stamp to the top has been filled in and covered over with new gum. The stamp on the left shows the normal gum for that issue. A close examination shows how very different the two stamps appear.

Regumming is nothing new. It has been with the hobby since the 1860's or early 1870's. The only change has been in the methods used. Each method leaves its own evidence, almost a signature. So let's examine a few.

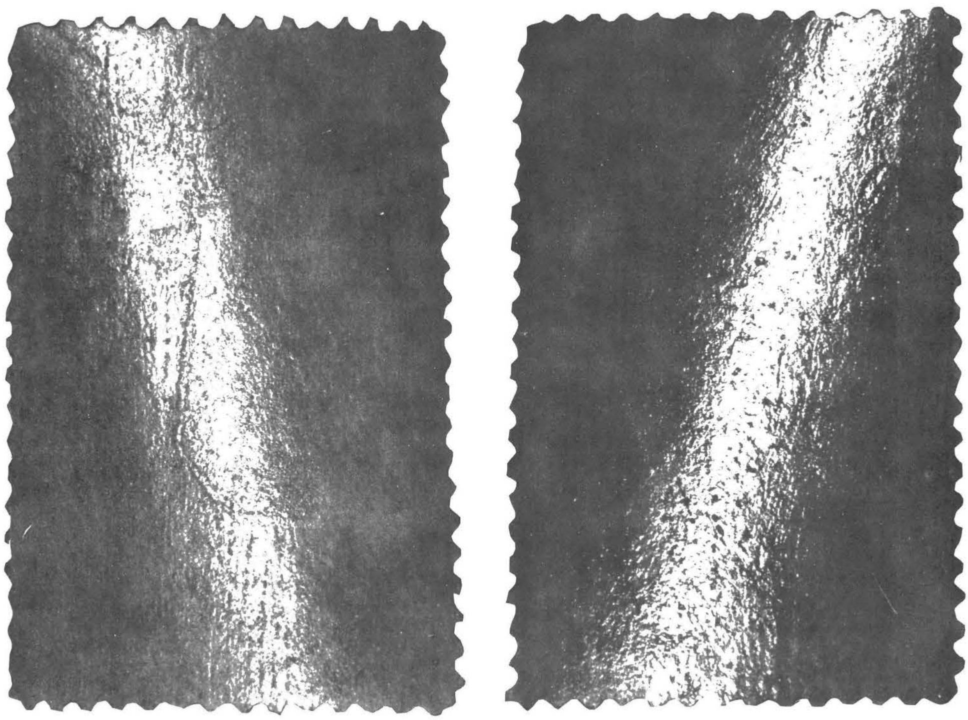


Figure 6.

The latest development in painting has been applied to regumming: the spray gun. Spraying requires air, and air dries, leaving bubbles as shown on the right stamp in Figure 6. Sprayed gum also appears much more shiny than the normal gum of the issue, compared at left. These bubbles can be brushed away, however, so be careful. A close examination should reveal enough differences to make the examiner suspicious.

The Graf Zeppelin issue of the United States is an odd-sized stamp and is very prone to gum wrinkles, gum bends, or gum creases. Gum creases can lead to actual creases in the paper if mishandled. Figure 7 shows two stamps from this issue. The stamp at right shows traces of a diagonal crease at the left. Only traces show, though, as the stamp has been

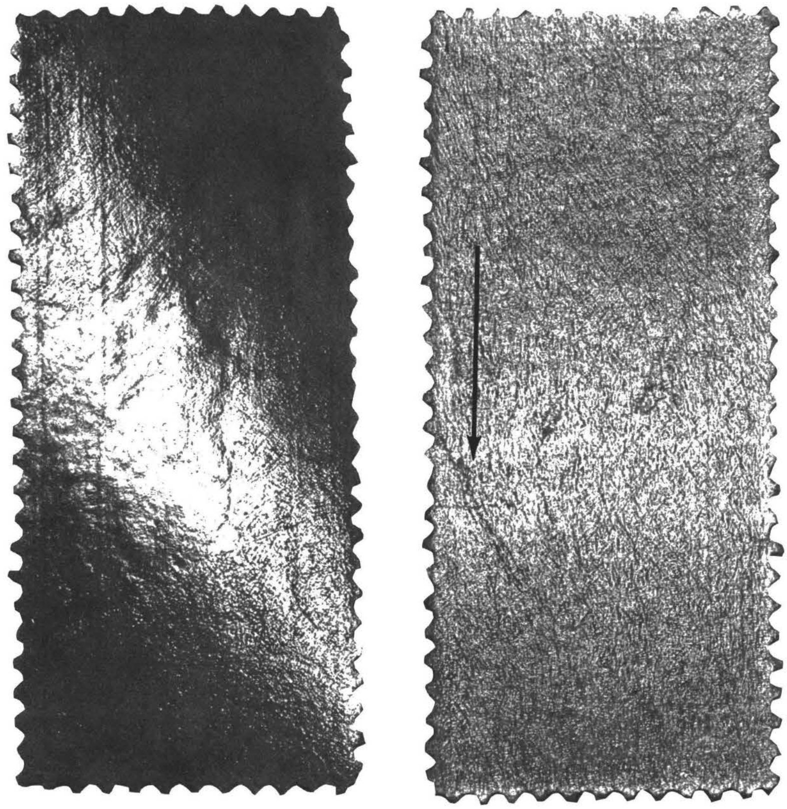


Figure 7. Note diagonal crease in right stamp (arrow).

regummed to remove the crease. Normal gum for this issue is on the stamp at left. While this stamp has been "de-hinged", the regummed stamp has an entirely different gum. This stamp was regummed by melting the gum and adding additional gum over the original gum already on the stamp. While this was done as well as could be, the new gum was dried too quickly and has the wrong appearance for this issue.

Certain characteristics of gum, both original and new, are very helpful to know when examining gum. Original gum will often have color offset ink traces showing on the gum. This is due to the newly printed sheets being stacked on top of one another while the ink was still wet. If there are offset ink spots on the stamp and they are under the gum, one can be pretty sure that the gum is not original or has been tampered with. Offset on top of the gum would indicate that the gum is original.

Another thing to look for when examining gum is foreign matter embedded within the gum itself. Most of the regum jobs are done by brushing new gum onto the stamp. Brushes lose hairs, so look for them! Multi-colored gum is another indication of gum manipulation. If the gum has more than one color in it, the gum cannot be original unless it has been redistributed.

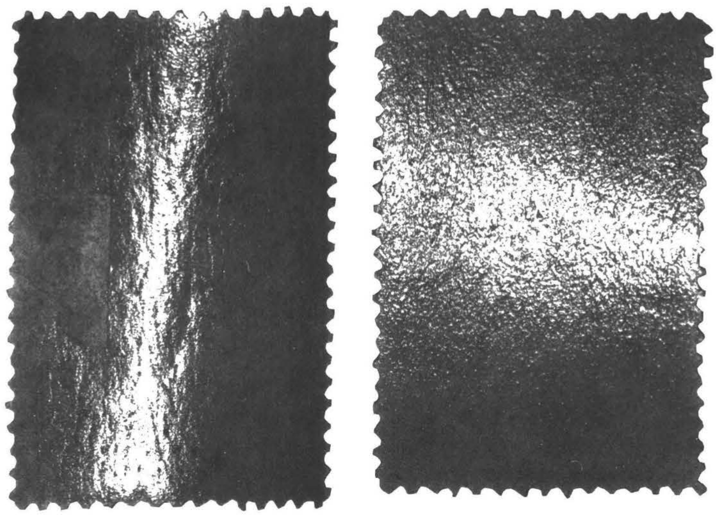


Figure 8.

Regummed stamps often have a "layered" appearance to the gum. Figure 8 illustrates this type of regumming at right, with the normal shown at left. There is no pattern to the gum on the right, and the very faint brush strokes show when examined closely. This type of gum does not even faintly resemble the properly applied original gum on the stamp at left. (This illustration also shows the importance of having a reference or comparison copy.)

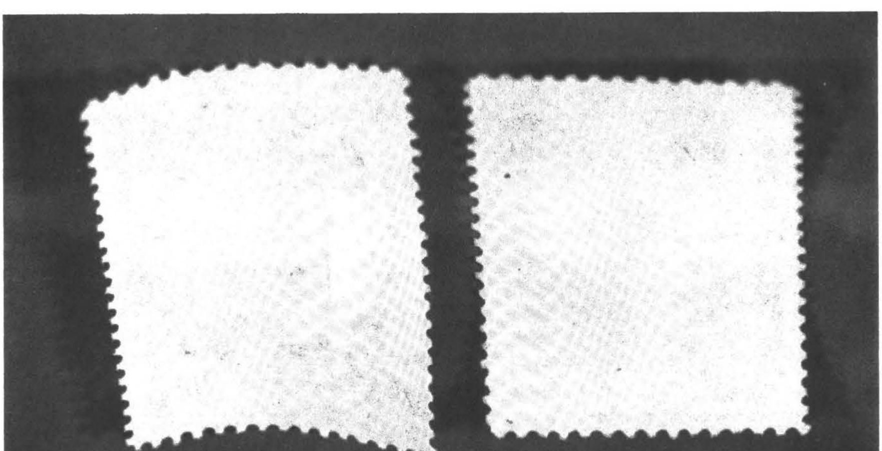


Figure 9.

One additional factor in detecting gum alteration is the "curl" of a stamp. This curl can be caused by the weave of the paper fibers, created during the manufacture of the paper, or it can be caused by the contracting of the gum applied to the stamp. All stamps have a curl natural to the issue. Figure 9 shows a hinged o.g. stamp at left with the proper curl for the issue, while the stamp at right curls in the opposite direction. This stamp must be regummed as all original gum was applied in a similar manner, making different curls impossible. The hinged stamp was gummed from side to side, while the regummed stamp was gummed top to bottom.

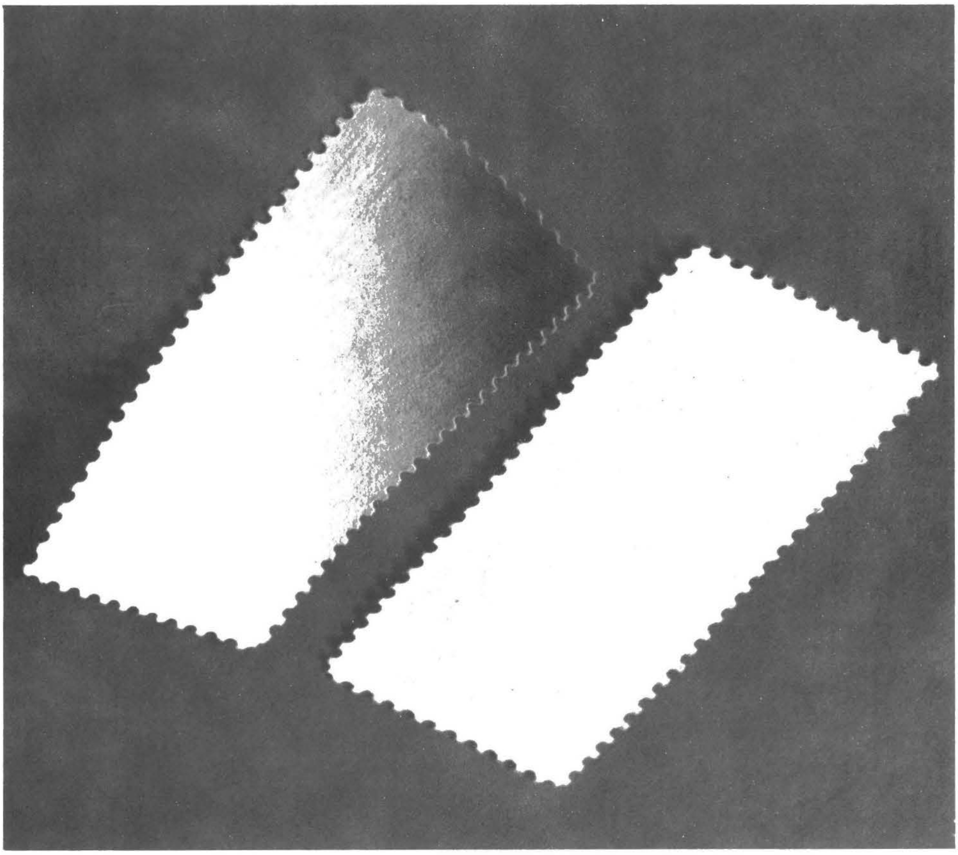


Figure 10.

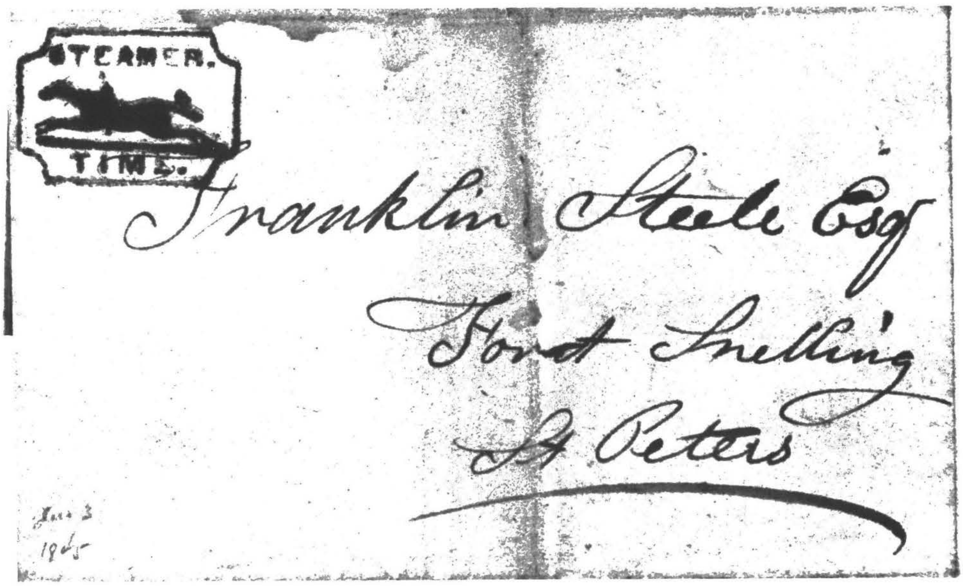
In Figure 10, the Zeppelin stamp shown at right has the wrong curl for the issue. The normal curl here is easily seen on the left stamp. At best, the right stamp has redistributed gum brushed out side to side which causes the stamp to lie absolutely flat. (The stamp is the same regummed stamp we examined earlier in Figure 7.)

The collector can use these points to protect himself from the more obviously regummed stamps. When in doubt, a certificate from a recognized Expert Committee should be obtained. Regumming is something to be aware of, but certainly not to fear. As in all aspects of our hobby, knowledge is the best protection.

How Do We Expertize a Possibly Unique Cover?

A "STEAMER TIME" Cover

By William T. Crowe



Certificate 126 954

From time to time The Philatelic Foundation is asked to expertize an item which is either unique or probably unique. This presents a difficult problem as the reference material is extremely limited. Such an item was recently submitted to the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation.

The item in question was a folded cover, without contents, docketed "Burrows & Co./Davenport/June 3 45", and addressed to "Franklin Steele, Esq./Fort Snelling/St. Peters" bearing red handstamped purser's steamboat marking "STEAMER TIME" and no other postal markings. It is the listing example in the definitive book on waterway packet marks, *United States Waterway Packet Marks, 1832-99*[1], by Eugene Klein.

The difficulty with this cover is that it is unique and as such there are no other examples of this marking for comparison. In addition, the handstamp itself bleeds unusually through the folded cover to the exterior. This is suggestive of a handstamp applied more recently after the contents were removed from the folded letter. This does not make the marking fake but does give cause for a more in-depth study of the cover.

To expertize this cover we need to take an historical approach and research the background of the Steamer "Time". What we do know is that there was such a boat as the Steamer "Time". It is noted in the *Merchant Steam Vessels of The United States, 1790 - 1868* (The Lytle-Holdcamper List)[2] as having been built at Louisville, Kentucky, in 1845 and as having sunk on October 27, 1847. The book *Steamboating on the Upper Mississippi* by William J. Petersen[3] notes that the Steamer "Time" was in service on the upper Mississippi and that it stopped in Fort Snelling on June 13, 1845.

Fort Snelling is located at the junction of the Mississippi and Minnesota (formerly the St. Peter) rivers. In 1845 this area was part of Iowa Territory, as was Davenport. *The United States Post Office Guide* by Eli Bowen, 1851[4] does not list a post office for St. Peters, but does list one for Fort Snelling with Franklin Steele as postmaster. According to the book *The First Hundred Years of U.S. Territorial Postmarks* by Chase-Cabeen[5] the St. Peters post office was not opened until 1852. A check of the 1845 U.S. Register[6] shows that Mr. Franklin Steele was indeed listed as postmaster of Fort Snelling as of September 30, 1845. Since he is also listed in the 1841 U.S. Register[7] as postmaster, it is logical to assume he was postmaster in June, 1845.

It can therefore be concluded that this cover was probably carried aboard the steamer "Time" on her 1845 trip on the Mississippi to Fort Snelling, arriving in June 1845, with the cover having been handed aboard at Davenport, Iowa Territory. Someone gave the letter to the boat's clerk rather than miss the boat by mailing the letter at the post office.

Since the "Time" was certainly a non-contract boat, this letter should have been marked "STEAM", but it could have been free under Mr. Steele's franking privilege, as he was postmaster in 1845. This letter could also have been free if it were a bootlegged letter (carried outside the mails) or if it dealt with the cargo and as such was not subject to postal charges. In either case there would have been no additional markings.

At the beginning of the article the ink of the handstamp was noted as bleeding through. The ink not only bled on the front but shows a faint but positive transfer on the flap, which should have been prevented by the letter sheet or enclosure in the cover. After much discussion it was decided that the bleeding was due more to the soft, porous quality of the paper than it was to the ink. Additionally, the cover could have been re-folded, after it was opened, in such a way that the flap came in contact with the back of the cover front and a transference of ink took place.

Taking all of the historical data into account, it was then decided by the Expert Committee that this marking was indeed genuine and that the cover was also genuine. In making this decision the committee called upon one of its outside experts, Richard B. Graham, who supplied most of the research that was used to authenticate this cover. This article is extensively based upon the research report which he submitted to the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation. The expertizing of this cover, therefore, is an example of the independent, in-depth research that is sometimes called upon to enable the Foundation to issue a definitive opinion.

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[1] *United States Waterway Packetmarks, 1832-99* by Eugene Klein, 1940, 208 pages plus 2 supplements. Published by J.W. Stowell, Federalsburg, Maryland.

[2] *Merchant Steam Vessels of the United States, 1790 - 1868* (The Lytle List) compiled by William M. Lytle and edited by Forrest R. Holdcamper, 1975, 322 pages plus supplement. Published by The Steamship Historical Society of America, Inc. Staten Island, New York.

[3] *Steamboating on the Upper Mississippi by William H. Petersen, 1968, 575 pages. Published by the State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.*

[4] *The United States Post Office Guide* by Eli Bowen, 1851 edition (reprinted in 1976 by Arno Press of New York).

[5] *The First Hundred Years of U.S. Territorial Postmarks* by Carroll Chase and Richard McP. Cabeen, 1950, 341 pages. Published by the American Philatelic Society, State College, Pennsylvania.

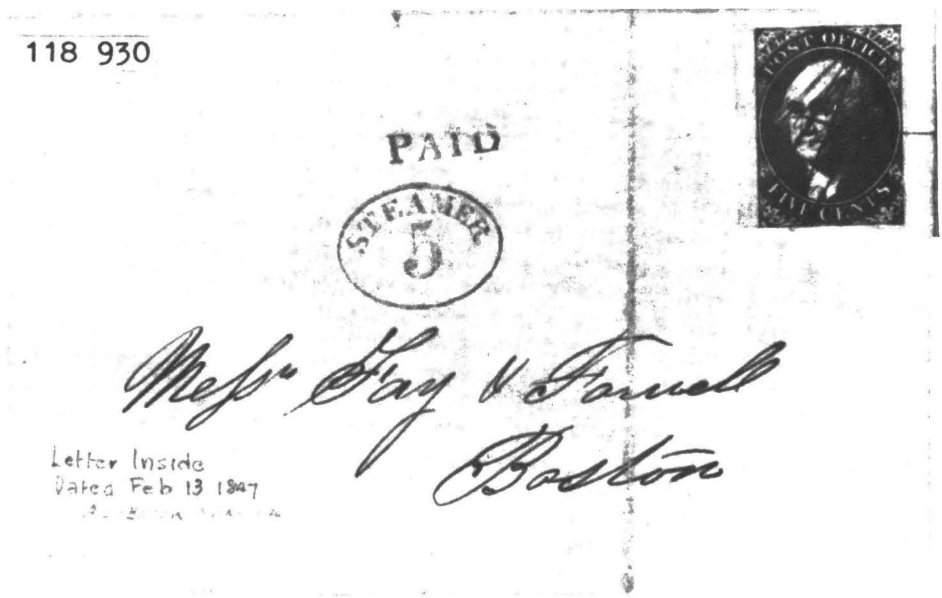
[6] *Register of All Officers and Agents in the Service of the United States on the Thirtieth September, 1845...*, by J. & G.S. Gideon, Washington, D.C.

[7] *U.S. Register* - 1841

A Suspect Cover

The New York Postmaster's Provisional

By Philip T. Wall



Certificate 118 930

The New York Postmaster's Provisional Cover shown above is suspect for several reason:

1) It does not bear a New York City postmark.
2) The PAID marking is straight rather than the New York City curved PAID.
3) The "Steamer 5" marking has been extensively faked on covers bearing 1847 stamps.
4) Whereas the early vertical upright pen-marks used to cancel the stamp do not "tie" it to the folded letter, there is a convenient horizontal pen stroke that does tie the stamp to the cover.
5) The ink used to cancel the stamp is brownish and not the dark blue ink commonly used at the two New York City post offices in February of 1847.

In analyzing this cover we must first determine if the stamp (Scott #9X1) on the folded letter is genuine. The sheet margin at the left tells us the stamp is not a Sperati. All of his fakes were of plate position 29 which is an inside position and not a sheet margin position on the plate of 40. A more careful inspection shows that the stamp is genuine and comes from plate position 16.

Next we must determine if the stamp was used on this folded letter. Examination under ultraviolet light discloses that the ink used in the horizontal pen stroke that ties the stamp to the cover is of the exact texture and make-up as the ink used in the vertical or upright pen strokes. We now know that the stamp was canceled and tied to the cover at the same time.

How about the brownish color of the ink used to cancel the stamp and tie it to the folded letter? As this ink is not the normal dark blue ink usually used by the New York City post offices in the 1845-47 period, does the absence of the dark blue ink in the pen cancel make the cover fraudulent? Not necessarily. In addition to using dark blue ink to cancel stamps, the New York City post offices occasionally used both black and magenta inks. The stamps on the most famous of all 9X1 covers — the large cover addressed to Ogdensburg, New York, bearing a block of nine and a strip of three paying the six times rate for over 300 miles — have been canceled by black ink. In addition the magenta ink used to initial or validate most of the stamps sold was also occasionally used to cancel the stamps.

Actually, in analyzing the subject cover the color of the ink used to cancel the stamp and the absence of a New York City postmark are not relevant as this letter never passed through either of the New York City post offices. A few 9X1's were used by Route Agents working steamboats and railroads, and the subject cover is an example of a letter that traveled by boat. This mail could be sent either prepaid or collect upon arrival during the 1845-47 period. Most of the steamboat mail was sent collect but some covers, including the subject cover were sent prepaid.

There is a notation on the face of the cover that the letter inside is dated February 13, 1847. This date fell on a Saturday of that year. The steamer Oregon sailed north from New York City to Providence, Rhode Island, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in February 1847 (and southbound on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays). The ship's Route Agent used a routing device that read either "Steamer 5" or "10" on northbound mail. In a few instances where the mail was sent prepaid, he also applied the straight PAID marking to the letter. The letter does not bear a red New York City circular date stamp because it was either handed in at the dock just before sailing or was given to the Route Agent on board during the trip north. Subsequently he defaced the stamp with his pen and applied the PAID and Steamer 5 markings.

Covers bearing 5c and 10c 1847 stamps and having "Steamer 5" and "Steamer 10" markings have been extensively faked and possibly all such covers are fraudulent. While these covers bear adhesive stamps, none of them have a PAID marking. By contrast there are numerous stampless covers bearing either a "Steamer 5" or "Steamer 10" marking, and some of these covers also have a straight line PAID denoting prepayment of the postage by the sender.

In summary:

1) The cover does not have a New York City postmark because it did not pass through that city's post office.
2) For the same reason it does not have the red curved PAID customarily applied to 9X1's at the city's two post offices.
3) Although the "Steamer 5" and "Steamer 10" markings have been extensively faked on covers bearing 5c and 10c 1847 stamps, these same markings have been documented on numerous stampless covers of the period, and on at least one other genuine cover having a pair of New York Postmaster's Provisionals.
4) The stamp is genuinely tied to the folded letter by a single horizontal pen stroke that is in the same ink as are the numerous vertical pen marks that more extensively cancel the stamp.
5) The fact that the canceling ink is not of the dark blue color commonly used at the two New York City post offices is not relevant since the letter never passed through one of those offices.

Having passed each test to which it was submitted, the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation was of the opinion that this cover is "A GENUINE USAGE".

For a more detailed analysis of steamboat mail between New York City and New England in the 1840's, readers are referred to the article entitled "A New Route Agent Marking for the N(ew) Y(ork) 'Provisional'" by Calvet M. Hahn in the October 1982 issue of the S.P.A. Journal.

Treasure or An Ancient Fraud?

The Germantown "Postmaster's Provisional"

By Frank Mandel

Certificate 115 145

The Postmasters' Provisionals of the United States have been referred to as the "primitives" of U.S. philately. Between the passage of the Act of March 3, 1845, which established uniform rates of five and ten cents (effective July 1, 1845) and the Act of March 3, 1847, which authorized the Postmaster General to issue postage stamps (effective July 1, 1847), the postmasters in several cities prepared and sold their own versions of postage stamps, devised and created according to their individual whims. With few exceptions they were used in very small quantities, and for several of these cities very few examples survived to find their way into collectors' hands. Some of them are so rare that a large majority of collectors have never actually seen them. Mention of these stamps evokes the names of the princely collectors — Ferrari, Hind, Caspary and Lilly.[1]

This has all the right ingredients for mystery and philatelic romance — and large sums of money. A unique Postmaster's Provisional from Germantown, Pennsylvania on a cover would capture the attention of most serious students and collectors of classic U.S. issues, and such an item should be subjected to considerable scrutiny, for the historical and monetary stakes are significant.

The historical background of the purported provisional discussed in this article is described in the Luff-Clark book of 1937,[2] so this particular cover has been known for quite a while, probably since the early part of this century.

A physical description of the cover will provide a starting place for this inquiry. Two small adhesives have been affixed to a folded letter sheet, the front of which is approximately 111 × 73mm. The adhesives are affixed over some writing that cannot be deciphered, except that it appears to be docketing in the same handwriting as the address. The two adhesives are each noticeably different in size from the other. Both have printed background blocks comprised of tiny grayish brown horizontal lines on thick white paper. The left example measures 15 × 13mm; the right is 13 × 13mm. Each has a manuscript "pd/5" inked on it. These adhesives are not tied by the circular town marking to the left. This black GERMANTOWN Pa. marking measures 32mm and appears to have no date, but the letters "PM" are discernible below "GERMANTOWN" and a manuscript "Paid 10" has been inked in the area where one would expect to see the date. The addressee appears to be one "William Hines Esq./Waterloo/Fauquier Co./Va.".

Philatelic research is just an extension of natural curiosity. Let's ponder some of the basic questions as they apply to this intriguing item, to demonstrate how an opinion can unfold.

1. What kind of profile can be drawn for the point of origin of this cover, here assumed to be Germantown, Pennsylvania? Germantown was located approximately six miles northwest of the old State House in Philadelphia, and consisted principally of one broad street, extending about four miles in a north-northwest and south-southeast direction. Descriptions of the town in the gazettes of the period mention that many merchants and persons retired from business had their residences there, and that it abounded in gracious homes enclosed in spacious grounds adorned with fountains, statuary and greenhouses. There were numerous churches, a bank, a newspaper office, an insurance company, and an academy for the children of the affluent. The population in 1850 was 6,209. The town was rich in historical associations, including the famous Revolutionary War battle fought there October 4, 1777.

2. The Germantown post office was established in April of 1805 and officially discontinued August 28, 1863, when it became a station (Station G) of the Philadelphia post office.[3] Its activity may be gauged by referring to the postmaster compensation and net receipts figures to be

found in the U.S. Official Registers of the period.

U.S. Official Register - Year	Postmaster Compensation (total)	Net Receipts (total)
1845	$305.13	$763.18
1847	$338.30	$701.17
1849	$523.45	$858.07
1851	$623.31	$1,050.45
1853	$510.49	$836.80

3. How does Germantown compare to the other cities that issued Postmasters' Provisional stamps? Of the eleven cities listed in Scott's catalogue as having issued provisional stamps in the 1845-47 period, Germantown and its purported provisional compares as follows:

> Ten had compensation/receipt figures that were higher than Germantown's, eight of which were appreciably higher. Germantown's figures exceeded only those of Boscawen, New Hampshire, which produced a unique provisional.
>
> Ten had provisional stamps in which the rates were either engraved, typeset, woodcut, or handstamped. Only the stamp from Lockport, New York shares with the Germantown adhesive the peculiarity of having a manuscript rate, and the Lockport stamp has the town name and "PAID" handstamped. Nine of the towns produced stamps which are reasonably attractive and well-designed, and some of them are strikingly beautiful.

The question inevitably arises whether it is really likely that the wealthy and genteel clientele of the Germantown post office was offered these relatively crude and unsophisticated adhesives in exchange for their hard-earned money at a time when better-looking products were being made elsewhere. There was no shortage of engravers, woodcutters, typesetters or handstamp-manufacturers in the Germantown-Philadelphia area.

4. What can be learned by researching the destination point of this cover? Waterloo, Fauquier County, Virginia, is certainly not a place which is familiar to most people. It was located on the Rappahannock River, about sixty-three miles west-southwest of Washington, D.C. It was a small village, containing a couple of stores and a mill. Fauquier County was a fertile region, rich in deposits of magnesia and soapstone, bounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains, watered by the Rappahannock and North Rivers, and drained by Goose Creek. The county was formed in 1759 and named for its then-governor, Francis Fauquier. The county seat was Warrenton. The total population of the county in 1850 was 21,706, of which 10,455 were slaves.

5. The post office at Waterloo was established on January 27, 1851. This singular fact[4] at once changes the whole complexion of this inquiry. For the record, the postmaster compensation/net receipts for this post office were as follows:

U.S. Official Register - Year	Postmaster Compensation (total)	Net Receipts (total)
1851 (from Feb. 8, 1851)	$11.48	$15.95
1853	$44.74	$36.61

As previously indicated, the provisional period lasted until July 1, 1847, when the regular five and ten cent U.S. government issues finally arrived upon the scene. These uniform rates remained in effect until July 1, 1851, when the rate for pre-paid single letters was reduced to three cents for any distance within the U.S. not exceeding 3,000 miles (by the act of March 3, 1851). We must conclude at this point that we are not dealing here with a Postmaster's Provisional in any strict sense — those adhesives made available by certain postmasters in anticipation of the first government issue of 1847 — but with something else, either something quite unusual, or something quite suspect.

Let's now focus on the fact that there was still a period of several months, from January 27, 1851 to July 1, 1851, during which the five and ten cent rates were effective.

6. Is the rate correct? The basic rates during the period in question were five cents for single letters carried for any distance under three hundred miles, ten cents for letters carried over that distance. The value of the two adhesives on the Germantown cover totals ten cents. This represents another problem, since the distance from Germantown, Pennsylvania to Waterloo, Virginia by any of the likely postal routes of the period is much closer to two hundred than to three hundred miles. This can be determined by referring to maps and postal distance charts of the period.

Since letters exceeding half an ounce in weight were assessed at higher multiple rates, we have to consider the possibility that this was a double letter, and was rated at ten cents. The relatively small size of the folded letter would not, however, seem to support this hypothesis very well. It is also possible that the letter was overpaid, or that an error was made in calculating the distance. Such an error was exceptional, then as now.

At that time letters could be sent pre-paid or collect, using the 1847 general issue in pre-payment, or sent stampless with the proper indications of the rate paid or to be collected. It might be claimed that the adhesives on the Germantown cover were affixed under adverse circumstances, such as would occur if there was a shortage of the proper government issue. Under this adversity hypothesis, the Germantown post office would make these adhesives available to a client unwilling to settle for the perfectly normal and unexceptional stampless markings.

7. Why were two adhesives used? The rate was written in ink on these adhesives, and not applied by a more inflexible method such as engraving or woodcutting. It seems logical that if the postmaster had the option of writing out the rate, and needed to indicate a ten cent rate paid, it would have been a simple matter to create a single ten cents adhesive.

8. Does the Germantown town marking on the cover offer any clues? Reference was made to the American Stampless Cover Catalog. It lists only a 30mm circular town marking in use between 1838 and 1853. It had a characteristic raised "a" of "Pa."; was used in conjunction with handstamped "PAID 3", "PAID 5" and "FREE"; and is known in red, brown, and black.

This information was amplified by an article by a student of Philadelphia-related material[5] in which he reproduced, among other things, tracings of no fewer than four postmarks used in Germantown. This included a 30mm version of a town marking with the "a" of "Pa." not raised, and "PM." below "GERMANTOWN". The article did not include the known dates of use.

The question of the dates was then referred to specialists in Pennsylvania postal history. One of these, Robert J. Stets, Sr., reported[6] that the postmark of interest, which he measures at 31mm, is known used between 1850 and 1855. One of the 30mm Germantown postmarks with the raised "a" is also reported used in black between 1845 and 1854. Another specialist, Edward T. Harvey, reported[7] that the postmark in use during the period 1845 - 1847 was the variety with the raised "a".

The one other example seen of the postmark with "PM." was provided by an anonymous Germantown specialist and ties a three cent stamp of the 1851 general issue, which is also pen canceled with three short pen strokes. It is similar in every way to the postmark on the provisional cover, except that it measures 31mm and has a handstamped date OCT/1 below "PM.". It was probably used in 1853, according to the owner.

This information tended to confirm that this cover originated at a date later than 1847, and so was past the true provisional period.

9. Are there any contemporary references to these adhesives being made available? Mention of the availability of such stamps appeared in the newspapers in several cities where Postmasters' Provisionals were used. Also, if a shortage of the 1847 general issue prompted the creation of these crude Germantown adhesives in 1851, one might reasonably expect to see some mention of it in the newspapers of the time.

The author undertook a microfilm search of the major newspaper published in Germantown, the "Germantown Telegraph", as well as several Philadelphia papers, including "The Pennsylvania Inquirer and National Gazette", the "Evening Bulletin", the "Dollar Newspaper", the "North American and United States Gazette", the "Morning Pennsylvanian", and the "Public Ledger", for the whole of the period 1845 - 1851. Also perused were copies of two German language newspapers published during this period, the "Philadelphia Demokrat" and the "Philadelphia Freie Presse". There was not even a vague reference to these adhesives, or to a shortage of the 1847 general issue stamps in 1851.

10. What was the availability of the 1847 general issue stamps in the Germantown area? The first general issue was not distributed directly to the Germantown post office. Nevertheless, its proximity to the Philadelphia post office meant that those stamps were probably easily available to its clients if they cared to use them. In fact, at least one example of a five-cent 1847 cover used from Germantown has been reported.[8]

Philadelphia ranked second only to New York City in the number of 1847 general issues supplied to any city during the period of their use: a total of 462,000 of the five cent stamps, and 77,000 of the ten cent stamps.[9] It should be mentioned, however, that not long before July 1, 1851, on which date these 1847 stamps were demonetized, it appears that the five cent value was unavailable at some post offices. This may in fact have happened at Philadelphia, for at least three covers have been reported from there using bisected ten cent stamps, one of these being used as late as June 30, 1851.[10] It is also possible that such bisected uses may have been prompted by a desire to exhaust supplies of the soon-to-be-demonetized ten cent stamps.

In any event, these possible shortages would seem to have little bearing on the Germantown cover. The rate reflected on it is ten cents, and there seems to have been no shortage of ten cent stamps in 1851. And, again, I return to this question: if there was a shortage of the general issue stamps, why were the Germantown postmaster and his clients not content to use stampless markings to indicate payment of postage? The use of stamps through 1851, and for several years thereafter, was the exception, and not the rule. One of our leading students, Dr. Carroll Chase, once estimated that during this time only about one letter in fifty bore a stamp.[11]

To summarize:

1. This purported provisional use falls outside the 1845-47 provisional period, as indicated by the opening date of the post office to which it is addressed and the known dates of use of the Germantown postmark used on the cover.
2. The ten cent rate at which it was supposedly sent is questionable.

3. It is exceedingly crude for a product devised for use by an affluent community which had access to the beautifully engraved 1847 general issue stamps.
4. The fact that two of these adhesives were used when it would have been quite simple to make up one seems a bit odd.
5. No reference to the existence of such an item could be located in the contemporary press of the period.
6. There seems to have been no compelling reason why such stamps would have been created in the first place, since stampless use would have been completely appropriate and unexceptional.

This analysis is not exhaustive. There are other lines of inquiry which might be pursued, including a comparison of the handwriting, the identity of the addressee, and the pen inks used on the cover and on the adhesives. There is still one mystery which would be very interesting to solve — it would be nice to know exactly what the elusive writing is beneath the adhesives. I have attempted to focus on the factors which I believed would occur to most avid students of U.S. postal history and demonstrate how their factors might be parlayed into an opinion.

It was the opinion of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation that this cover "is a fraudulent provisional usage". (Perhaps it would have been preferable to state "doubtful or bogus adhesives have been added to a stampless cover with a genuine postmark of Germantown, Pennsylvania".) It must be emphasized that this is only an opinion. This item was purportedly unique. The events surrounding its creation transpired so long ago that one must always have a certain amount of caution in making such pronouncements and be willing to receive all new evidence with an open mind. Readers should appreciate that quite a number of items are resubmitted for re-evaluation by the Committee and that from time to time opinions are revised.

I wish to thank the following for their assistance in providing material or information used in this article: Richard C. Frajola, Edward T. Harvey, David L. Jarrett, Robert Lisbeth, and Robert J. Stets, Sr. Of course, their assistance does not imply their assent in any of the conclusions reached in this opinion.

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1 George B. Sloane, "Foreword" to the Alfred H. Caspary Collection, Sale 1, Nov. 15, 1955.

2 John N. Luff (ed. Hugh Clark), *Postmasters' Provisional Stamps*, 1937. A modern description may also be found in John N. Luff, *The Postage Stamps of the United States*, reprinted by Quarterman Publications, Inc., 1981.

3 Wylie H. Flack, "The Philadelphia Post Office to 1900 — A Philatelic Review — Part II: Philadelphia County

Postal Markings", in *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues*, Vol. 29, No. 1 (No. 92), Feb., 1977, p. 2.

[4] Reported by Mr. Robert Lisbeth.

[5] Flack, op. cit., pg. 8.

[6] In a letter, dated March 7, 1984.

[7] In a letter, dated March 3, 1984.

[8] Creighton C. Hart, "1847 Covers From Pennsylvania", in *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues*, Vol. 35, No. 2 (No. 118), Table II, May 1983, pg. 102.

[9] Hart, op. cit., Table I, pg. 101; for more detailed information on deliveries of the 1847 stamps to Philadelphia and other cities, also see: Mannel Hahn, *Postal Markings of the United States, 1847 - 1851*, 1938.

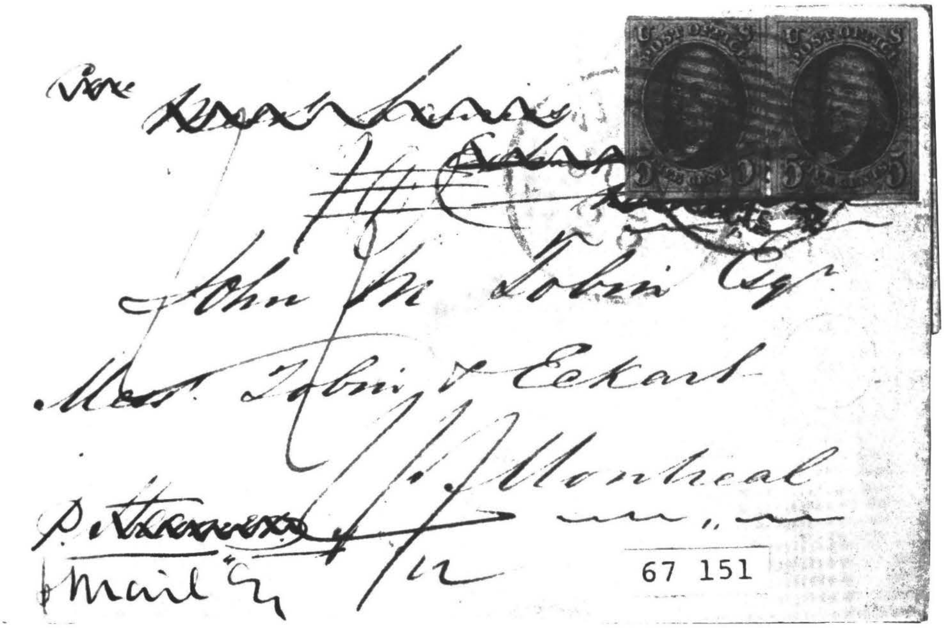
[10] Creighton C. Hart, "1847 Covers From Philadelphia", in *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues*, Volume 28, No. 2 (No. 90), May 1976, pg. 113-114. The June 30, 1851 cover is illustrated on pg. 114.

[11] Dr. Carroll Chase, *Classic United States Stamps*, published by Herman Herst, Jr., 1962, pg. 1.

A Remarkable Route

A 5¢ 1847 Cover

By Susan M. McDonald



Certificate 67 151

The cover discussed here represents a very interesting use of the 1847 issue. It has been in several noteworthy collections in the past, including those of Senator Ackerman, Charles P. de Volpi, and Katherine Matthies to my knowledge. It was lot 23 in the J.N. Sissons sale of portions of the de Volpi collection June 15, 1966, and lot 182 in the Robert A. Siegel sale of the Matthies collection May 20-21, 1969. So the provenance is good, as the cover can be traced back at least 60 or 70 years. Provenance, though, is only a guide, and any cover must meet other tests of genuineness.

A casual inspection of this cover might elicit a hasty comment that it has been crudely tampered with, since the stamps are placed over a postmark. However, once the sequence of events is understood, the authenticity of the cover is readily apparent.

This folded letter originated in England, but only the outer address leaf remains, so the date and city of origin cannot be known. The letter was given into the care of a passenger or perhaps a crewman to carry by favor on a vessel departing for the United States. The Cunarder *Cambria*, which left Liverpool June 8, arrived at New York June 23 and almost certainly was the steamer on which the letter was conveyed. On arrival the person carrying the letter deposited it unpaid in the New York post office, where it was postmarked in black "NEW YORK 5 cts", the date being obscured by the stamps. (The use of a 5c postmark instead of a 2c drop letter postmark seems to indicate that the New York post office was aware that this was not a local letter.) The letter, endorsed "p. Steamer" and "Care Messrs. Laurie", was picked up by the Lauries or their representative who paid the 5c due. The Laurie firm then crossed out their own name and "p. Steamer", substituting "p. mail". They applied on the reverse their oval red handstamp "FORWARDED BY/GEORGE & JOHN LAURIE & Co./NEW YORK". According to Kenneth Rowe's *The Postal History of the Forwarding Agents* (Hartmann, 1984), the Laurie firm operated as forwarding agents in New York between 1841 and 1850, using the handstamp described.

The agents applied two 5c stamps to pay postage for over 300 miles to the Canadian lines and remailed the letter which was postmarked in red "NEW YORK JUN 25", the stamps being canceled with the characteristic New York square grid. (The interval between arrival of the *Cambria* and the postmark date is just right for the events described.) The letter went into the New York-Montreal through bag and was not handled again until it reached Montreal where it was backstamped "JU 27" and rated 4½(d) due Canadian postage for under 60 miles from the border.

Several other examples of similar practices with 1847 stamps are recorded, although in most cases the letters were addressed to U.S. destinations, not to Canada. Three covers of British origin are known in June 1851, each with a single 5c, a Boston postmark, and the forwarding cachet of Wm. Bailey Lang, Boston, all to U.S. addresses. Two covers from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to St. Catherines, Canada, in October 1850, came by Cunard packet into Boston, where an agent supplied two 5c stamps for the U.S. rate to the Niagara frontier. A letter addressed to Nova Scotia arrived at New York in February 1848 by private ship, in care of the well known firm of Bache McEver, who forwarded it on to Halifax with two 10c stamps. Among the most attractive examples are two peace propaganda envelopes printed by J. Valentine, Dundee, and addressed to Concord, N.H., each with a 5c stamp. These are presumed to have originated abroad and to have been mailed in the United States by favor of a traveler on arrival, as their writer is known to have been at various locations in the British Isles. I have not made an exhaustive search, so there are probably several more such uses I have overlooked. Of course, the practice can easily be illustrated by stampless covers, as the agents normally used cash, not stamps.

It is easy to understand why correspondents chose this system for letters with U.S. destinations. Prior to the U.S.-Great Britain Convention of 1848, effective February 15, 1849, the single British packet rate to the

United States was 1/-, prepayment required, and U.S. postage was extra, 7c or 12c by distance from July 1, 1845. After the treaty took effect the whole transatlantic rate was 1/- or 24c, but prepayment was optional. The examples described to U.S. addresses each saved 19c, a respectable amount. This method was available mainly to correspondents in or near the departure port or who happened to know an individual traveler; otherwise, the volume might have been much greater.

The value of the practice in the case of this letter to Montreal is not nearly so clear. The forwarding agents paid 5c for the letter at the New York post office and added 10c in stamps, so their outlay was 15c. The recipient was charged 4½d, about 7c, making a total of 22c (plus any possible charge made by the agents). At this period service between Britain and Canada by the same Cunard steamer in closed bags via the United States was available at a single rate of ½ sterling (¼ Canadian currency), or 28c U.S., so the saving was a modest 6c. An extra day or two probably was added to the delivery time.

Still we can be thankful that the writer chose this complex route for his letter to Montreal, since it has provided us a charming, unusual and entirely legitimate use of the 1847 issue.

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

The 1847 10¢ Issue On Cover

By Jon W. Rose

This is a tale of three 10c 1847 covers, which I choose to call "the good, the bad, and the ugly". These are by no means ordinary covers, as if any cover with the 10c black can be called ordinary. (It is believed that only 2,250 or so genuine covers survive.)

First, the good, or as Peter Robertson, Curator at the Philatelic Foundation calls it, "the too good to be true cover". In the illustration we see a horizontal strip of six 10c blacks on cover.

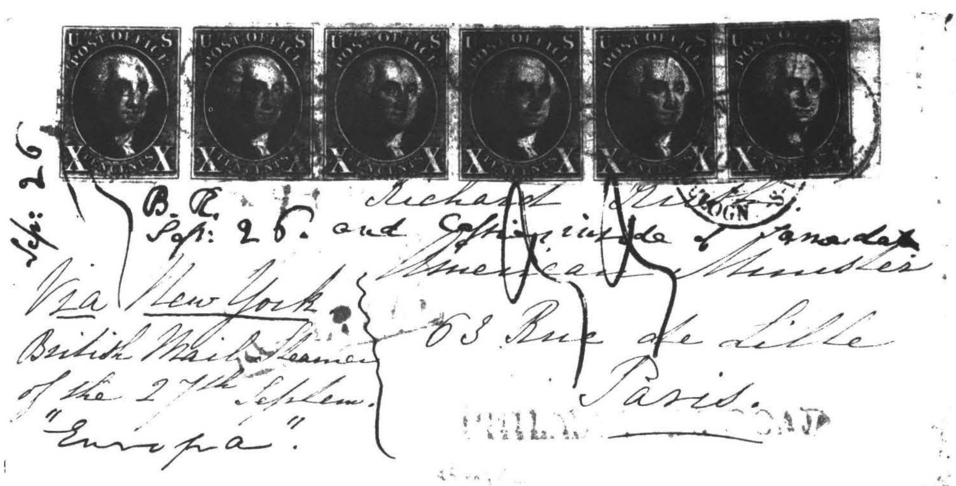


Figure 1.

Looking more closely we find that it went via Philadelphia Railroad (what pick-up point?) to New York City and Liverpool to Paris, France — all in 1848. So far so good. All it takes is a good pair of eyes and a rudimentary knowledge of geography.

All experts who examined this cover apparently agreed it was "genuine use, strip tied, transatlantic route via England to Paris". Only one authority, so far as I can tell, bothered to explain the weird markings — weird, that is, to the uninformed.

This authority, who shall here remain nameless, is, in the writer's opinion, one of the foremost experts in the United States on 18th and 19th century postal history, especially stampless. To paraphrase his somewhat awkward explanation of this cover (with gratuitous comments by the writer):

This beautiful and valuable cover (ex-Seybold, Gibson, Garrett) represents a double application of the U.S. Reprisal Act of June 27, 1848. The United States assessed English mail an additional 24c per half ounce in retaliation for the British practice of charging eight pence on all mail arriving in the United Kingdom and carried by any ship other than British packet. (Thus the colloquial "Retaliatory Rate".)

The cover bears 60c U.S. postage, divided as follows: double U.S. 5c per half ounce internal rate from Philadelphia Railroad point to New York City (10 cents), double U.S. reprisal rate of two times 24c per half ounce (48 cents), and overpay of this reprisal rate (2 cents), as no stamps other than 5c and 10c 1847 were available in September 1848, date of mailing of the cover.

The markings are as follows: 10c 1847's tied with six numeral "5"s in circle (double weight times the single 5c rate for under 300 miles, Philadelphia R.R. point to New York City); black French transit postmark, tying stamps five and six in the strip (internal French routing, French port of entry to Paris); straight red line "PHILADELPHIA RAILROAD" marking (lower right); British rectangle ("COLONIES/&C. ART. 13" — handstamp showing revision of accounting articles U.S. — British Postal Treaty).

Other markings are two squiggly French "3"s for 33 decimes due (French due markings, 66 cents U.S. equivalent, of which 10 decimes, or about 17c, is for double French inland rate, the remainder based on gram weight, etc.); manuscript docketing 26 (upper left) for the date the cover was put on the train; and (lower left) "Via New York/British Mail Steamer/of the 27th September/'Europa' ".

This folded cover did indeed travel on the "Europa", according to sailing dates table, leaving September 27, arriving in Liverpool October 10, Havre about October 12 or 13; and Paris on October 14, 1848.

The expert also notes: "the right two stamps are creased, the third from the left cut into; others with all four margins ..." The Certificate doesn't mention condition but should, in this writer's opinion.

It may be noted here that when Morgenthau sold the Seybold Collection, the stamps on this cover were described as follows: "the stamps ... are in the finest possible condition".

Philip H. Ward, Jr., who sold this cover on June 14, 1944 (Gibson Collection), said of it: "We consider this the most important cover known to American philately — gorgeous." Amen. Note, if you haven't, that this cover was mailed to Richard Rush, the American minister to France at that time.

The owner of this cover is known to the cognoscenti and to the general public who read the philatelic press.

Next, the bad!

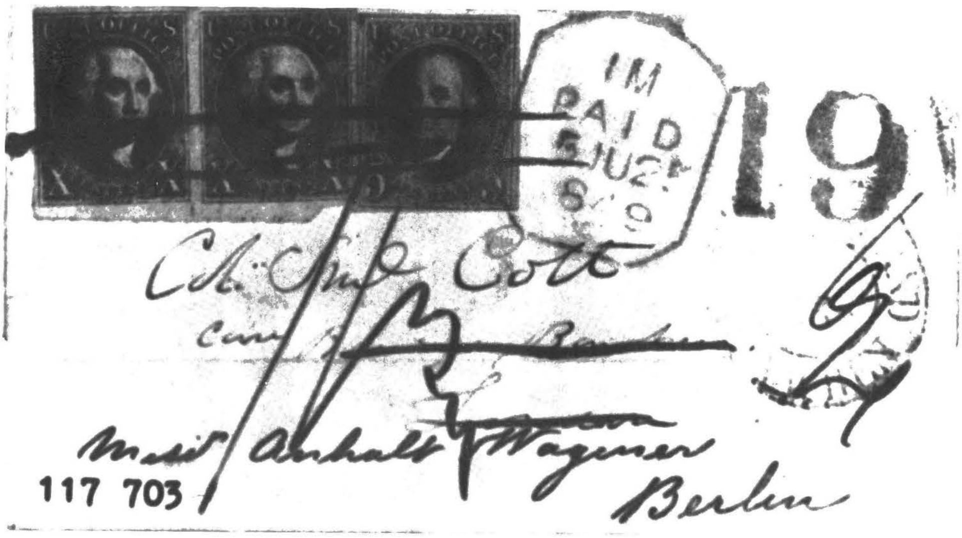


Figure 2.

This cover received one of those dreaded "WARNING" Certificates indicating that something is wrong with the item. (Certificate issued May 5, 1983.)

Conclusions first: this is a "semi-genuine" transatlantic usage of 1847's to Germany, one of a handful known. The cover went from the United States to Germany via England.

Now for the bad news. Someone with patience and skill, but otherwise lacking in virtue, added the 5c Franklin making a 25c part-paid rate to Germany via England. This was an impossibility, so we get a bastard cover.

I do not know what the experts said who examined this cover, but I do know that more work has to be done on it. This cover has been altered and needs fixing. The 5c stamp was added and a 10c 1847 needed to be added to replace it. This much the Certificate shows, at least the part about the 5c Franklin having been added.

The origin of this cover is unknown to the present writer. It is probably known to those who saw the reverse and the contents. However, it did go from the United States to Berlin, Prussia, via Liverpool (?) at the 30c rate.

The 10c 1847's are proper and pay 20c of the 29c required rate. During the retaliatory rate period (June - December 15, 1848), the rate on all mail, whether carried by British ship or American, was 29c: 24c double postage from the U.S. to England and 5c for the U.S. internal rate under 300 miles. This rating is prescribed in the U.S. Reprisal Act.

The cover was held ("Anhalt") within Prussia (manuscript indicia) for one Waginer. The internal German markings (ratings) are beyond the pale of this discussion.

Now, the ugly.

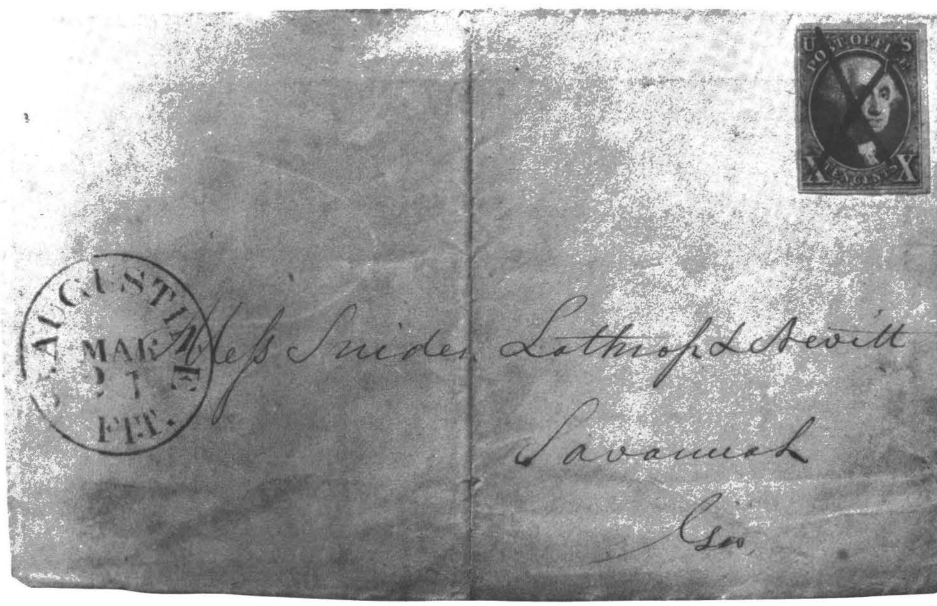


Figure 3.

In February 1976, the Foundation issued a Certificate for this rather unassuming cover (Figure 3). It is noteworthy, perhaps, for its bad points rather than its good: the 10c stamp with a manuscript cancellation not tying it; a folded, somewhat tatty, ratty cover; a postmark in black which reads, and not so clearly, "ST. AUGUSTINE Fl. T. MAR. 21". The year date, 1848; the destination, Savannah, Georgia.

Questions facing the experts of the P.F. included the following:

Does the stamp belong on the cover? What does the postmark mean? Is the rate correct?

The Hart-McDonald book (*Directory of 10c 1847 Covers*, Creighton C. Hart/Susan M. McDonald, Reserve Plan, Inc., Kansas City, Mo., 1970 — to be revised) lists 30 Florida usages of the 10c 1847. One should remember that St. Augustine, a former Spanish possession, was founded in 1565 and is the oldest city in the United States. It thus is by rights important historically and, thereby, philatelically.

Does the stamp belong? Were 10c 1847 stamps sent to St. Augustine? Creighton Hart in Chronicle 53 (October 1966, *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues*, p.115) notes: "St. Augustine is the oldest town in the United States but no '47 stamps were sent there. The Spanish originally settled here and there were many Spanish residents there while our first issue (Scott #s 1, 2) were valid.

"It would be of major postal history importance if a '47 cover turns up sent to Spain from St. Augustine ..." Amen. But here is a start.

Does this stamp pay the rate to Savannah? St. Augustine lies between Jacksonville and Daytona Beach on Florida's east coast. It is less than 300 miles from Savannah, Georgia, thus within the 5c rate distance.

Why the manuscript cancellation ? Did St. Augustine have a handstamp? Remember that regulations dictated canceling with a grid killer or similar device, or with pen if such device were not issued or available.

Was the handstamp to the left, dated Mar. 27, proper?. Here we have an interesting puzzle. Florida was admitted to the Union on March 3, 1845, after being a territory for 23 years. Therefore this may have been struck prior to the sending of the cover. One authority stated that the handstamp of Florida Territory is a precancel marking. Thus the sender used an old envelope lying around with this handstamp marking.

Docketing inside the folded letter, however, belies this conclusion, as it is Mar. 18, 1848 (St. Augustine).

The Foundation Certificate #52 833 concluded: "That it is a genuine statehood usage." What? Experts who supported this conclusion noted: "I believe stamp originated. Shows 5c rate. (Only 10c stamp available for postage at St. Augustine — Florida received more 10c 1847's than 5c 1847's.) Stamp is pen cancelled", and this authority gave four reasons for thinking the cover genuine:

1. Stamp tied by trace of stains at bottom;
2. Stamp has been on this cover a long time;
3. There is no indication on the cover or in the contents of a stampless rate; and
4. This cancellation occurs in black as per Sampson's *American Stampless Cover Catalog* (1965), p.20.

The owner of the cover is the writer.

* * * * *

There we have them — one cover too good to be true, but good nevertheless; one partly bad, but still redeemable; and the third, ugly but genuine. All three are rarities.

Is This A Fake Overprint?

The 1851 Specimen Overprint

By Stanley Piller

Certificate 115 000

Specimen overprinted stamps of the 1851-1857 issue are among the rarest of all U.S. stamps. Very few examples are known to exist. Very few collectors and dealers have seen, let alone owned, any of these. The quantities known range from one to five of each value. So how does one expertize such a rarely seen overprint when it comes into the Foundation?

Through my collecting interest in the 3c 1851-1857 and my friendship with the late Robert Lewenthal it has been my good fortune to obtain five 3c 1851-1857 specimens for my collection. As a dealer I have also handled most of the known examples.

The stamps in my collection are as follows:

1. Scott #11S A pos. 38R8, described by Chase in his book, *The 3c Stamp of the United States 1851-57 Issue*, ex-Crawford collection, purchased in Robert A. Siegel sale #546.
2. #26S A without period, purchased directly from Robert Lewenthal.
3. #26S A with period, ex-Lewenthal (Simmy's Stamp Company sale)
4. #26S F, ex-Lewenthal (Simmy sale)
5. #26S F, ex-Lewenthal (Simmy sale)

The stamps I have seen in addition are as follows:

1. #7S A, Siegel sale #546, ex-Cipolla (Barry J. Rieger sale and Daniel F. Kelleher sale #566)
2. #24S A, ex-Lewenthal (Simmy sale)
3. #30S A, Siegel sale #546 (per Andrew Levitt)
4. #35S A double overprint, ex-Lewenthal (Simmy sale)
5. #35S A single overprint, ex-Lewenthal (Simmy sale)
6. #36S A perfs touch at top, ex-Lewenthal (Simmy Sale)
7. #36S A pulled perf at left, Siegel sale #546 (per Andrew Levitt)
8. #37S A, Siegel sale #546 (per Andrew Levitt)
9. #38S A, Siegel sale #546 (per Andrew Levitt)

This makes a total of fourteen examples which I have either seen, photographed, or own; so one can imagine my excitement when a dealer friend told me he had a Scott #11S A for sale and asked if I would be interested. Upon receipt of the stamp the first thing I did was to plate it as position 31L8. My first impression was that it possibly could be good. Why did I think it might be good?

1. It was from plate 8, the same plate as my example.
2. It had an overprint that "looked good", like the one in the Scott catalogue (p. 594, 1984 Specialized).

I next compared the stamp to the three examples of the A overprint that I own. A quick comparison brought doubts to my mind. What were the doubts?

1. There had been an attempt to remove a large "X" manuscript cancellation from the stamp. (The A specimens are known with

small "X" manuscript.)

2. The color of the overprint was a lighter shade than the ones I had. (Could this be a result of the cleaning attempt?)
3. The Specimen overprint did not measure the same as the known-genuine examples I had.

A closer examination of the overprints was made. While similar to mine, the submitted stamp was different. The difference stood out. The "i" of the copy sent to me had a round period for a dot. All of my copies showed a diamond-shaped dot. I then compared the overprint to photocopies of the other examples I had seen. All of the others had diamond-shaped dots. I was now convinced that this example was a counterfeit overprint.

Earlier I mentioned that it looked like the overprint in the Scott catalogue. So I compared it to that overprint, and it matched exactly. All the details that were different from the overprints on the genuine examples matched the overprint in Scott. Someone had taken a pen cancelled #11, cleaned the cancellation, and applied a handstamp copied from the example shown in the Scott catalogue.

Most collectors and dealers would probably have been fooled by the stamp. Fortunately I had the reference material to check it out.

The stamp was submitted to the Foundation with the evidence I had acquired. The Foundation Expert Committee confirmed that the stamp indeed had a counterfeit specimen overprint and Certificate #115 000 was issued so stating.

Limited Varieties, Limitless Alterations

The Five-Cent Stamp of 1856-1857

By Earl Oakley

Figure 1.
A genuine imperforate.

The subtitle of this article indicates the short life of the imperforate five-cent stamp of this issue which is commonly known to collectors as Scott #12, and limits somewhat the information and varieties available for this stamp. These stamps were all produced from Plate One of the five-cent stamp and are red brown in color. Printings from this plate in the red brown color originally used for the imperforate stamps were later perforated and issued in 1857, although the imperforate stamps can be found used after the perforated stamps had been issued.

Plate One of the five-cent stamp is a very interesting plate and deserves more attention and respect from collectors than it has received. It is the first four-relief plate used in the making of the 1851-1860 United States stamps and all stamps printed from this plate are Type I (assuming that the commonly accepted belief of experts is correct that Plate One for the one-cent stamp was not entered by four reliefs). The four reliefs used in entering this plate were identified and described by the author, and the entire lay-out of the plate was determined by him. The thirty-cent and ninety-cent 1857 United States perforated stamps also came from plates entered from four reliefs, but no other 1851-1860 United States stamps that were issued were printed from four relief plates.

Brookman estimates that 150,000 of the imperforate five-cent stamp were issued. This indicates the scarcity of the stamp, and justifies its Scott 1985 Volume I catalogue value of $9,000.00 unused, and $1,300.00 used. The red brown Type I perforated five-cent stamp is catalogued by Scott at $1,350.00 unused and $275.00 used. Brookman estimated the number issued to be 270,000. The five-cent Type I perforated, in brown color and later issued in 1857, is catalogued by Scott at $675.00 unused and $200.00 used. Brookman estimates that 510,000 were issued.

About 1875 a new plate was made to produce stamps similar to the Type I five-cent stamps of 1856. These were to be sold at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia. That plate was made from a new die differing slightly from the original, but having its general appearance. Such stamps are orange brown in color and are Type II, catalogued by Scott at $900.00. Proofs of the five-cent Type I stamp in brown exist, and are catalogued by Scott at $500.00 in the 1984 Specialized Catalogue.

Plate Two of the five-cent stamp was made from six reliefs, each differing from the other and each differing from every one of the four reliefs used to enter Plate I. Stamps from this plate were issued from March 1860 until they were demonetized. All stamps from this Plate Two are designated as Type II. The common brown colored stamps from this plate are catalogued by Scott at $425.00 unused, and $170.00 used. The projections at the top and bottom of the design on all of these stamps were incomplete, and so differed from all of the Plate One stamps (Type I). The estimated printing and issuance of the brown Type II stamps was 825,000.

These statistics were necessary to show the need for the Foundation's services to identify these stamps properly. The wide difference in catalogue prices invites the alteration of the cheaper varieties to simulate the rarer and to pass them for the more expensive varieties. The differences and great variances in catalogue value of similarly appearing stamps is caused, at least partially, by the discrepancy in the numbers issued of these several stamps. The proper identification requires the knowledge of experts who can identify and distinguish the reliefs used in entering all five-cent plates.

In acquiring the five-cent stamps of this period, one of the dangers is from skillfully "cleaned" stamps. The difference in catalogue value between the unused imperforate stamp ($9,000.00) and a canceled one ($1,300.00) clearly shows the incentive for cleaning, particularly one that is pen-canceled (catalogue $600.00). Another pitfall is the trimming-off of perforations from a used perforated red brown stamp (catalogue $275.00) or a perforated brown one (catalogue $170.00) to simulate an imperforate one (catalogue $1,300.00). The differences in catalogue values of unused stamps are even more dramatic.

Other alterations, such as adding margins to imperforate stamps, to increase their desirability and the price which an unsuspecting buyer would pay for the altered stamp, also could be detected and protected against by Foundation examination. The Foundation has the means to detect this type of alteration, as well as covered thinnings, additions of pieces from other stamps to replace lost portions of stamps, the painting-in of ornaments on five-cent Type II stamps to simulate Plate One (Type I) stamps and other alterations to a stamp or its design.

Figure 2. Note the light area to the right of the head in the Medalion.

Returning to the five-cent stamps themselves, there is but one major variety, which I call the "Plate Flaw". It comes from plate position 23R1. This is a true plate flaw as distinguished from a plate crack and no other plate flaw so extensive has been reported on the 1851-1860 stamps. There has been submitted to the Foundation an example of the five-cent imperforate stamp with this "Plate Flaw" as the middle stamp in a vertical strip of three from the brown-colored perforated stamps (Figure 2). These examples are from the first and last printings issued from Plate One, showing the consistency of the flaw from the early imperforate to the last perforated use. Based on Brookman's estimate of imperforate issuance, only 750 imperforate "Plate Flaw" stamps were issued. This "Plate Flaw" variety is constant and a major one that is worthy of catalogue recognition. I am aware that there is at least one plate position with a double transfer, but I believe that any double transfers that might exist are minor.

Of the five-cent imperforate stamps I have observed that single copies off cover are most common, but are rare on cover without additional stamps. Pairs are found more often off cover than are strips of three, but pairs without other stamps on cover are much rarer than strips of three on cover, and even rarer than singles without other stamps on cover. These observations have been applied to all of the five-cent stamps of the 1856 to 1861 issues; however, I think they should apply only to the imperforate stamps. My experience is that vertical strips of three are commoner than horizontal strips of three, while horizontal pairs are commoner than vertical pairs. Blocks of four or multiples of four or more are rare.

The commonest usages of single imperforate copies without other stamps on cover are to France and the Maritime Provinces of Canada. The commonest usage of imperforate strips of three on cover is to France; I believe that any usage of pairs alone on cover is rare.

Bibliography

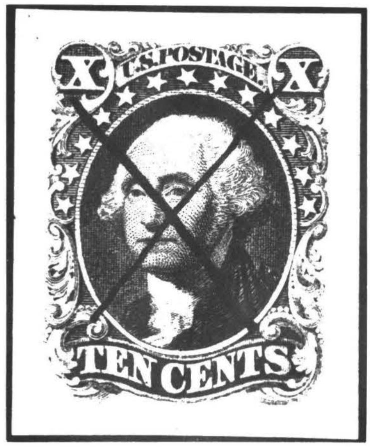
The United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century, Brookman — Vol. 1, pp. 219-222; and

"The Five Cent 1851-60 Plate One Stamps", *The Chronicle of the United States Postal Issues*, Issue No. 45 of July 1963.

A Reconsidered Opinion

The 1851 10c Proof

By Falk Finkelberg



Certificate 114 173

The proof illustrated here from the ten cent 1851 issue was submitted to the Foundation for a Certificate in 1983. As originally submitted, the proof was mounted on a card with a one inch border from the edge of the proof. The card was not part of the original proof. As you can see, it also had a pen cancel.

Upon examination by various members of the Expert Committee, two conflicting Opinions were given consideration. Some experts thought that the item might be Scott #13P2 or 43P2, the small die proof from the "Roosevelt" presentation book. The majority felt that it was a large die proof, Scott #13P1, with considerably reduced margins.

When I had originally seen the item at the Foundation, I disagreed with both of these theories. The color was different from that of the 43P2, and the 13P2 is of a different character from the other 10 cent proofs, including this one.

I also disagreed with the large die proof contention. I felt that this opinion would be incorrect because, to begin with, the large die 13P1 has a sharp, brilliant impression and its color is deep bright green. The submitted item did not have these characteristics. In addition, it invariably comes on India paper from which it is very difficult to remove. If an attempt is made to remove such a proof using moisture and then to remount it on another piece of card, the effort can easily be detected by the expert eye. Furthermore, it loses its smooth, silky surface.

My own opinion was that the item was a 43P2a, the 1915 Pan-Pacific printing, but I could not express a definite opinion as long as the proof was mounted on the card. My recommendation, therefore, was that a "Decline Opinion" would have to be issued. Ultimately, the opinions of other experts prevailed and the item was originally described in Certificate 114 173 as a "Scott 13P1 die proof which has been cut down".

The story, however, does not end here, for this item soon became an example of the Reconsideration process that is available to submitters of material for Foundation expertizing.

Upon receiving the Foundation Certificate, the owner sent this proof to me for an independent examination. At that point I could only advise him to soak the proof off the card, as that was the only way I would venture to examine it.

A few days later, back came the proof removed from the card. Proceeding with my examination, I immediately eliminated the large die proof (13P1), the small die (13P2), and the small "Roosevelt" die (43P2).

I now concentrated on the 1915 Pan-Pacific printing (43P2a). Placing it side by side with a Pan-Pacific proof from my own collection, I determined that both stamps floresced the same color under ultraviolet light. The proofs also matched in size.

Based on this examination, I was able to confirm my original opinion that the proof was Scott #43P2a. As for the matter of the pen cancellation, it most likely indicates this was a presentation copy, since there appears to be no other explanation, but when, by whom, and to whom it was presented are questions that remain unanswered.

To put the finishing touches on this study, I returned the proof to its owner with the results of my findings. He, in turn, sent the proof to the Foundation with my findings and requested a Reconsideration. The experts, using my findings and with the proof now soaked off the card, re-examined the item and issued the opinion, which stands today, that it is a genuine Scott 43P2a.

A Bisect that Crossed the Border

The 12¢ 1851 Bisect

By Susan M. McDonald

The cover shown is datelined Brooklyn, N.Y., May 28, 1852. At that date the postage on a single letter to Canada was 10c U.S. or 6d Canadian currency. Prepayment was optional but part payment was not recognized. Here the rate is made up by 1851 issue stamps: 1c, 3c, and lower left diagonal bisect of the 12c. The main question about this cover is whether the bisect genuinely originated on it; but, before addressing that problem, some other aspects of the cover which aid in reaching an opinion should be considered.

The letter, since it bears no Brooklyn or New York City postal markings, must have been handed in at dockside for carriage by a vessel going north on the Hudson River. Such a practice was common at that period, and letters were rated from their actual origin although not postmarked until reaching their destination or transfer post office. Letters addressed to or beyond Albany were marked STEAM/BOAT on receipt at the Albany post office; this handstamp was used there from 1829 until well into the 1950's, according to Kenneth R. deLisle in *The Hudson River Mail 1804-1858* (Albany, 1969, p. 37). Ordinarily the marking STEAMBOAT or STEAM was applied to loose letters handed in from non-contract steamboats, but on the Hudson River this marking may have been used on loose letters from contract steamboats as well. For further discussion of this point, see the deLisle monograph already cited and John A. Eggen's chapter on "Steamboat and Steam Markings" in *Simpson's U.S. Postal Markings 1851-61* by Thomas J. Alexander.

The STEAM/BOAT markings canceling, and in some cases tying, the stamps on this cover match the characteristics of the Albany marking, which is known both in red and black and measures 25 to 26 by 10 millimeters. Since most mail of this type was unpaid and stampless, it was natural and convenient for the Albany postal clerk to cancel the stamps with the instrument at hand for use on this class of mail. Typically the Albany post office did not use its circular dated postmark on such letters.

The U.S. exchange office marking shows faintly at the upper left and appears to be the rather scarce type U. STATES in arc over a shield slanting right. I believe this marking was used at Cape Vincent, N.Y., one of the U.S. offices exchanging with Kingston, Canada, and therefore is quite proper for the routing involved. One additional detail: in the 1857 Canada Directory Mrs. James Sinclair is listed as residing at the "corner Ordnance and Sydenham sts.".

So the cover itself is certainly genuine and the only remaining question concerns the bisect. A listing of covers bearing bisects of the 1851 12c was compiled by Thomas J. Alexander and published in *Chronicle 75* (August 1972). The list contained 102 covers, a few of which are doubtful or may involve duplication. By far the greatest number — 77 — originated on the west coast where a shortage of 3c stamps about August 1853 necessitated use of bisected 12c stamps to make the 6c rate to the east. Three covers to Canada, including this one, and two to New Brunswick are on the list. The other two covers to Canada are remarkable since they bear matching halves of the same 12c stamp. They were discussed in detail by Mortimer L. Neinken in *Chronicle 66.*

Following the flurry of bisect covers from the west coast the Post Office Department issued a directive in November 1853 forbidding use of bisected stamps. Attempts to use bisects thereafter usually resulted in due postage, although a few bisects slipped through and were accepted. Even before the P.O.D. directive, bisects had been rejected by individual post offices, often quite inconsistently.

A determination whether the bisect was accepted for postage was made in the case of 68 covers on the list, 48 being recognized and 20 rejected. Of the former, 30 were dated before the November 1853 directive and one after, the date of use not being known for the balance. Somewhat unexpectedly, seven of the unrecognized bisects were mailed before November 1853 and just one after, the remainder (12) not being dated. It must be emphasized that failure of post offices contemporaneously to recognize bisects for postage does not reflect on their authenticity.

On the early uses in 1851 and 1852, including the covers to Canada and New Brunswick, the bisected stamps seem usually to have been recognized. There was considerable precedent for the practice, which had been used extensively in the last months that the 1847 issue was current, when 10c stamps were bisected to provide 5c postage. In some cases the cause was a shortage of 5c stamps at certain post offices; in others it was Yankee frugality.

Of course, it was possible to make up the 10c rate to Canada without use of a bisect by combining the 1c and three 3c. But for a correspondent who may not have had three 3c stamps and who planned to take his letter to dockside, not to the post office, the use of whatever was available — in this case a 12c stamp bisected (he was probably reluctant to overpay by using the whole stamp) — was a very reasonable and likely procedure.

It may be that the Albany post office did not recognize the bisect and struck the "10" (as mentioned before, either the whole rate or none had to be prepaid), but there is no evidence this view was shared by the Kingston post office, which would have marked the cover for 6d collection had it not accepted the cover as paid. Finally, any faker capable of reproducing the STEAM/BOAT marking would surely have struck it across the cut edge.

Thus, there is an abundance of evidence on several levels that this cover is genuine in all respects.

The Chicago Perforation
The 1851 3¢ Issue
By Victor B. Krievins

Certificate 121 255.
With blow-up of top row of perforations.

The three-cent stamp of 1851 was issued to cover the new domestic postage rate effective July 1, 1851. The rate was three cents for any single-weight prepaid letter traveling a distance not exceeding three thousand miles and six cents for any domestic letter traveling a distance greater than three thousand miles. As a result of the Act of March 3, 1855, the rate for a domestic letter traveling a distance greater than three thousand miles was increased to ten cents.

Effective January 1, 1856, prepayment of domestic postage by postage stamps became compulsory. Prior to this, prepayment of postage and use of stamps for prepayment was optional.

Our 1851 issue (as well as our five-cent and ten-cent 1847's) were issued without perforations. There was no method of separating these imperforate stamps other than tearing or cutting. As early as 1847 an Irishman by the name of Henry Archer began experimenting with machines in an attempt to separate imperforate stamps in a satisfactory manner.

Between July 1856 and April 1857 perforated examples of the imperforate 1851 issue began to appear. Virtually all known examples of these unofficial perforations (of which the perforation gauges approximately 12½ to almost 13) are postmarked Chicago, Ill. Thus they are commonly known as the Chicago perforations. There is at least one example used from Rosendale, Wisconsin, which definitely shows the Chicago perforation.

The Chicago perforation occurs on the one-cent and three-cent values of the 1851 issue. This experimental perforation occurs on the one-cent Type II and Type IV, and on the three-cent Type I. Since identification of the three-cent Type I versus the Type II is a rather simple matter (the Type I shows outer frame lines on all four sides; the Type II shows frame lines only on the sides), potential "Chicago perforations" can easily be eliminated if they are not Type I's!

The second major difference between the unofficial Chicago perforation and the officially perforated three-cent Type I and II is the size of the perforations. When placed on a perforation gauge, the unofficial perforation measures approximately 12½ while both types of the three-cent stamp officially perforated measure 15. The earliest known usage of an officially perforated postage stamp is recorded as March 2, 1857.

Once a candidate for being an unofficial Chicago perforated postage stamp has met the above criteria, closer examination of the stamp is required. Close and careful examination of the perforations will reveal fairly large perforation holes which are also fairly clean cut.

Manufacturing perforations on a three-cent 1851 imperforate could produce a Chicago perforation look-alike, provided that the perforation size could be properly matched. One must remember that when an imperforate postage stamp is perforated, it is not done on a per-stamp basis. The entire imperforate sheet is run through the perforating machine. When separating a stamp or stamps from a perforated sheet, the perforations of each stamp are torn apart from the adjacent stamps. The tearing action results in small paper fibers becoming visible on each perforation tip, giving the effect of a fringe.

This trait is virtually never to be found upon a postage stamp which has had the perforations manufactured. A postage stamp having manufactured perforations would virtually never show the visible paper fibers on the separated perforation tips. Instead they would appear straight and sharp. This is due to the fact that stamps with manufactured perforations are done on a per-stamp basis. A fringe can be created on perforation tips. Close examination and comparison with other examples of the "Chicago" perforation which are in the Foundation reference collection and are known to be genuine or manufactured is also made.

Once the patient has progressed to this point and positive responses have been obtained for the previously mentioned criteria, the stamp may then be considered "a genuine Scott #11 variety showing unofficial Chicago perforations".

Patient number 121 255 requires additional verification as to its authenticity as this particular patient is on cover. Now that it has been determined that this particular stamp does have the unofficial Chicago perforation, we must further examine the cover to determine if the stamp did originate on the cover, which was posted on February 27, 1857.

The six-cent rate shown on this cover is correct for a double weight cover traveling a distance of less than three thousand miles. The three cents paid by the three-cent postal stationery cover required an additional three cents to comply with the proper rate for a double weight cover. This particular postal stationery item was available during the time of known use of the Chicago perforation. This would provide an additional positive reaction to the authenticity of this cover.

It is possible that an imperforate three-cent 1851 was originally used on this cover. After careful examination of the stamp and the postmark strike on the cover and on the stamp, we find that they both match perfectly. Examination of the stamp and cover under ultraviolet light confirms the perfect match.

Now that this patient has progressed to this point and all of the steps associated with expertizing have proven positive, we are ready to issue a Certificate stating the opinion of the Expert Committee that this Scott #11 with unofficial Chicago perforations is genuine in all respects.

This particular patient received a Certificate stating the item to be the Chicago perforation, although the submitter of the item had called it a Scott #25, which is the official perforated stamp and far more common than the Chicago perforation.

A Little Digging Often is Necessary

The 1857 Issue on Cover

By Gene Reed

Certificate 128 357

When the subject of this analysis first appeared before the Expert Committee, an early impression was that perhaps the pair of U.S. 10c stamps (Types II and III) of 1857 had been added sometime after the posting date of February 14, 1859. We could not remember a cover passing through the New Orleans Post Office with pen-canceled stamps in addition to the normal handstamp. Furthermore, the pen cancellation did not tie the 10c stamps to the cover.

The Foundation is frequently asked to certify genuine usage of stamps on covers on which the postmark or canceling device does not tie. In such cases one of the many tests is to verify the rate.

By applying 38c in stamps, what rate could the sender be prepaying? The only other clue provided was his request "via London". What were his options? He could use one of the following:

1) A prepayment of the Inland portion of the routing provided by U.S.-British Treaty; i.e. 5c, with a fairly substantial sum due on arrival. This is illustrated by a cover to the same destination in 1853 with approximately 33c due (Figure 2).
2) Same as (1) by American packet, prepaying 21c with a somewhat lesser charge due on arrival.

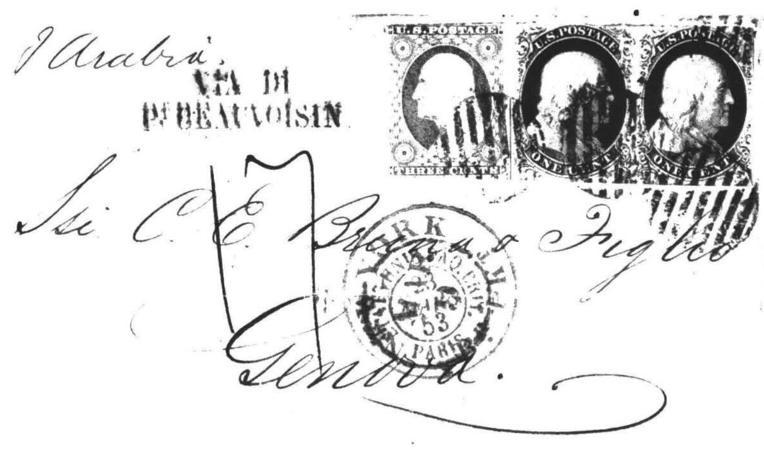


Figure 2.
Illustrating prepayment of Inland portion of routing.

3) Via French mail at 21c per quarter-ounce (7½ grams) or 42c (the cover probably weighed over a quarter-ounce).
4) Per United States-Prussia closed mail convention, at a rate of 38c paid to destination for the first half-ounce.

The answer to the routing was (4) as the use of the Cunarders on the first leg of the Prussian Closed Mail Route had been well established since the 1852 inception of the convention. Moreover, via Prussian Mail was the most efficient route to Northern Italy in 1859. Apparently the addressees were either heirs to an estate or had acquired the business. Wishing to avoid irritation at the point of delivery, the writer decided to fully prepay the postage to destination.

A glance at Charles J. Starnes' *U.S. Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations* *to GPU-UPU* not only verified that the rate was proper, but illustrated a companion cover from the same correspondence.

This cover and the cover in Starnes' book were carried privately from the State of TABASCO, MEXICO to New Orleans. It proceeded from that city on February 14, 1859, prepaid to destination by a vertical pair of 10c 1857's, a single 12c 1857, and a pair of 3c 1857's making up the 38c rate.

Boston credit to Prussia was 15c. The cover was routed via Liverpool and London through Belgium, Aachen and Genoa, Kingdom of Sardinia, where the cover arrived March 18, 1859. It was concluded that the 10c stamps, physically set apart from the 12c and 3c stamps but an integral part of the 38c rate, merely were overlooked by the canceling clerk at New Orleans. They were later pen-canceled, perhaps even at Boston.

In addition to the reference study performed on this piece, the Expert Committee's conclusions were confirmed by careful examination of the cover through which the Committee determined that the stamps did originate on this cover at the time of mailing.

At Times the Rules are Reversed

The Ninety-Cent 1860 Issue

By Thomas J. Alexander

Certificate 117 504

The 90c U.S. stamp of 1860 is particularly frustrating for an expertizing committee because of the circumstances of its issue and use. Here, the normal rules respecting values are reversed. A genuinely used stamp off cover is valued in *Scott's Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps* (1985 edition) at about twice the value of an unused example ($2,750 vs. $1,450). The catalogue value of a 90c cover is an astronomical $70,000 (1984 Scott Specialized).

The contractor was instructed to prepare a design for a 90c stamp on June 12, 1860. It is not known exactly when the first stamps were distributed to post offices though this probably occurred in late August of 1860. Total deliveries to post offices were:

Quarter ending	Number of stamps
September 30, 1860	11,960
December 31, 1860	6,200
March 31, 1861	4,110
June 30, 1861	2,010
July & August, 1861	5,130
Total Issued	29,410

In his letter to the contractor ordering stamps of the new denomination, Third Assistant Postmaster General A.N. Zevely mentioned their intended purpose:

> "It is also considered necessary to have a stamp of Ninety Cents — not only to make that particular rate of postage, but to prepay packages, to the amount, sometimes, of several dollars."

In his annual report of 1860 the Postmaster General was more specific:

> "Larger denominations of postage stamps have been adopted and introduced, expressly for the purpose of affording requisite facilities to prepay the postage on letters to foreign countries, and of removing all excuses heretofore existing for paying such postage in money."

In view of these primary uses, the reason for the rarity of used 90c stamps becomes clear. On the one hand, wrappers enclosing heavy packages were far more likely to be discarded than envelopes bearing letters. On the other hand there was in fact very little call for a 90c stamp on foreign mail except for multiple weight letters. The 1858 Postal Laws and Regulations contains more than seven closely written pages of foreign rates. Only one, the rate to Australia by Bremen or Hamburg mail via Marseilles and Suez, calls for more than 90c postage for a letter weighing up to one-half ounce. All genuinely used examples on cover, except one, are multiple weight letters to foreign destinations.

Also, the time period during which these stamps could have been used was less than a year. Their distribution by the Post Office Department was stopped at the end of that time because the entire issue of which they were a part was demonetized beginning in August of 1861 at the start of the Civil War. Existing stocks in the hands of Northern postmasters were recalled and, according to the *Postmaster General's Report of 1861*, many of these were destroyed:

> "The old stamps on hand, and such as were received by exchange, at the larger offices, have been to a great extent counted and destroyed, and those at smaller offices returned to the department. It is proper to state that, in anticipation of the substitution of the new stamps and envelopes for the old issue, but limited supplies of the latter were sent to postmasters during June and July, so that the amount thereof remaining in their hands was comparatively small."

Unfortunately, we know of no record which specifies how many stamps on hand were returned by Northern postmasters or how many were destroyed in that process. Nor do we know how many were returned to the Post Office Department from Southern post offices after the war, or their fate. The only hint is a note in the *1866 Postmaster General's Report* that $29,092.18 in face value of all denominations of stamps had been returned from the "rebel states".

Whether they came from Northern states as a result of the 1861 demonetization or from Southern states after the war, a relatively substantial number of 90c stamps came into the hands of collectors from a source in the Post Office Department in the 1870's. The primary (and perhaps the only) conduit was a Boston dealer named Ferdinand M. Trifet. In the October 28, 1933 issue of *Stamps* Charles J. Phillips recounted the transaction:

> "At an early period Trifet established friendly relations with the Post Office Department at Washington.
>
> "The Chief clerk for many years was Wm. M. Ireland. It was through his interest that, in 1876, Trifet was entrusted with the entire Government collection of stamps. These he rearranged in two of the best editions of Stanley Gibbons Imperial Albums. Trifet said that from his own stock he added stamps valued at that time at fully three thousand dollars. He took this to Washington and presented it to Mr. Barber, the third Assistant Postmaster General. The P.O. Department could not pay him any money for his work but gave him in settlement a quantity of unused old U.S. stamps that had been demonetized on the outbreak of the Civil War, also a large quantity of Official stamps, envelopes, proofs, and essays.
>
> "Trifet told me he had a large trunk full including the following: 1857-60. The first perforated issue, 1c, 3c, 5c, 10c, 12c, 24c, 30c, and 90c. Eighteen sheets of every value, that is 1,800 stamps."

Since unused stamps from these Post Office Department remainders are much more plentiful than used stamps, the difficult problem of an expertizing committee is to determine whether a partially struck postmark on an off-cover stamp is genuine. The extensive records built up over the years of postal markings used during the classic period and their points of origin are of great assistance in this task. If a clearly-struck partial townmark is present, determination of its genuineness is greatly simplified by reference to these records.

However, just as the 90c stamp made its appearance, the Post Office Department issued a regulation prohibiting the use of a townmark to cancel stamps. Thereafter, stamps were to be canceled with a separate obliterator handstamp or with pen and ink.

Anyone can apply a carbon base ink cancel to an unused stamp with little risk of detection, but there is no present incentive to do so since such pen-canceled "used" copies bring no premium over unused examples.

Stamps with a handstamped obliterator are another matter. Color and the chemical composition of the ink give important clues as to whether the item is genuine or faked, while the design of the obliterator itself is sometimes the most important factor. While the record of postal markings will often fail to enlighten us as to the origin of a common obliterator of a stock style, an unusual design can frequently be assigned to a specific post office, permitting a "Genuine" Certificate to be issued where a "Decline Opinion" Certificate might otherwise have been given.

A 1983 patient submitted to the Foundation illustrates this. Here, there are two stamps on piece (90c plus 3c), each canceled with a distinctive red obliterator consisting of a group of diamond shaped dots. This appears to have been struck twice to cover both stamps, the strikes overlapping each other. At least one of the strikes is bound by a solid line which appears to be a border around the marking.

At that late date in the life of the 1851-61 issue, red was a somewhat unusual color to be used with an obliterator. The most common denomination of the issue (the 3c) was basically reddish brown, so red was consequently a poor color choice to cancel the stamps. Despite this, red seems to have been the favorite color of fakers in creating "used" 90c stamps. See "The United States Ninety Cent Stamp of 1860 On and Off Cover" by Stanley B. Ashbrook at page 100 of the *Seventeenth American Philatelic Congress* book. Because red obliterators used during this period are relatively scarce, the number of possible towns from which this marking could have been used is greatly reduced.

One of the towns is New Haven, Connecticut. The record of New Haven postal markings used during the 1860's includes a "waffle" style obliterator used in late 1860, which was always struck in red. A tracing of the waffle genuinely used on cover matches the obliterator on the patient. In consequence the Foundation issued its Certificate giving its opinion that this used 90c on piece is genuine.

Visual Comparison

The "Lady in Bonnet" Cancel

By Scott R. Trepel

Figure 1.
Certificate 62 674, the test item.

Introduction

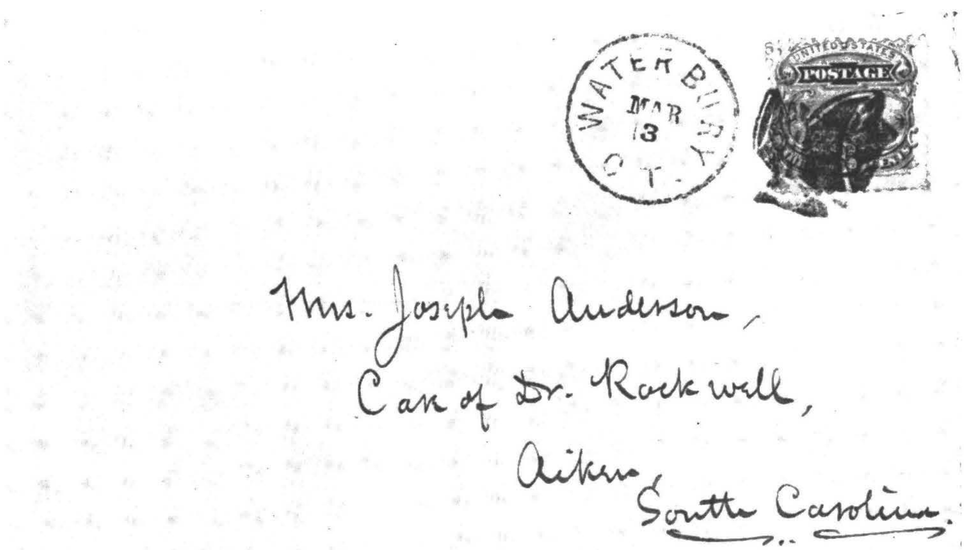
Visual comparison of a cancellation is based upon the principle that a printed image is the mechanical reproduction of a single original. An expert can establish criteria for comparison testing of an item submitted for expertizing by examining the original's appearance and minute details, together with the variables associated with reproducing genuine "prints". The reproduction technique will permit certain types of variations and not others.

Assuming the original canceller is no longer available, the best way to determine the correctness of a cancellation submitted for expertizing is to use one or more genuine "prints" or strikes made from that device. A series of dated strikes is the ideal reference group because it shows the progressive characteristics in chronological order. The characteristics we need to use are both the configuration of the strike and the fine details or marks which come from the cancelling device itself. A hairline break or crack that appears on all genuine strikes subsequent to the date the device was damaged represents such a detail. We must set aside those characteristics which are created by variables in making the impression. Over-inking, under-inking, heavy strikes, and angled strikes are such variables.

The distinction between these two types of characteristics is critical in visual analysis. The objective is always to compare the submitted item with the characteristics of the genuine original.

In this article the author intends to demonstrate the visual comparison method of expertizing as applied to one United States fancy cancellation, the "Lady in Bonnet" (facing right), of Waterbury, Connecticut. The item illustrated in Figure 1 will be used as the example submitted for expertizing. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate genuine examples, that will be used for comparison testing. Related tracings and one other Waterbury item are illustrated in Figures 4 through 10.

The example to be tested is on a piece of cover to which a 3c Rose stamp of 1861 is affixed. The stamp is tied by one strike of the "Lady in Bonnet" cancel in black. There are no other markings on the front or back of this piece to the author's knowledge. The Waterbury "Lady in Bonnet" is one of Waterbury postmaster John W. Hill's most desirable pictorial designs. As a genuine item, the value of this example would be between five hundred and one thousand dollars in the author's opinion. Therefore, it represents a significant purchase even for the advanced collector.



Figures 2 *(above)* and **3** *(right)* illustrate genuine examples of the Waterbury "Lady in Bonnet".

"Lady in Bonnet" - Date of Use

The author records seven covers and recollects seeing approximately eight to ten single off-cover stamps genuinely cancelled with the "Lady in Bonnet". The first cover of record is postmarked March 3, and the last is March 7. All are 1870 dates, as determined by the circular datestamp, which shows a distinct break in the circle at the five o'clock position between the "T" and the period of "CT.". This break occurred between December 30, 1869 and January 3, 1870.

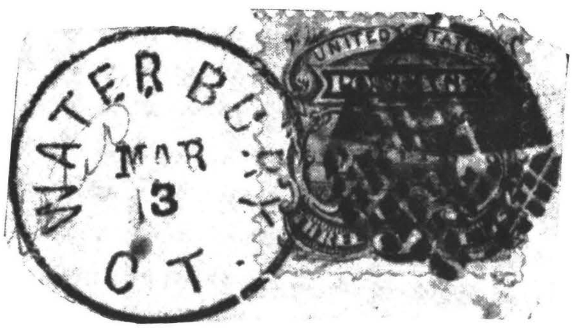


Figure 4. March 3 "Acorn" cancellation.

March 3, 1870 was a Thursday. It is probable that the "Lady in Bonnet" replaced the "Acorn" cancellation on this day, as the "Acorn" is also recorded in use on March 3. A March 3 "Acorn" cover was in the Edward S. Knapp collection, sold by Parke-Bernet in 1941; and a piece of cover with the March 3 datestamp and the "Acorn" cancellation was in the R.J. Mechin collection sold by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries in 1979. This piece with the "Acorn" cancellation is illustrated in Figure 4.

The consistent side-by-side position of the Waterbury datestamp and cancellations indicates that Waterbury used a duplex postmarking device (meaning both elements are joined together and struck with one motion). Since only one cancellation could be connected to the datestamp at a time, the "Acorn" had to be removed when the March 3 "Lady in Bonnet" cover was postmarked.

Three "Lady in Bonnet" covers are datestamped March 4 (Friday) and three others are datestamped March 7 (Monday). No Waterbury covers are yet recorded for Saturday or Sunday, March 5 and 6. Beginning on March 8, the "Small Bee" cancellation was brought into use again. It is first recorded on covers dated from February 1 through 7, 1870, and then again on covers dated March 8 through 15, 1870.

Therefore, based on recorded covers, the "Lady in Bonnet" cancellation was used on Thursday, Friday and Monday, March 3, 4, and 7, 1870. The reason for carving this fancy cancellation is not known. In February of 1870 a similar design, the "Lady in Snood" was used as a cancellation, and in April of 1866 another "Lady in Bonnet" (facing left) cancellation was used. We can only speculate as to what these designs represent.

Characteristics of Genuine "Lady in Bonnet" Examples

All of the accepted genuine examples seen by this author have four distinct, consistent characteristics. As they are not always immediately obvious the enlarged tracing in Figure 5 is marked with arrows pointing to the details:

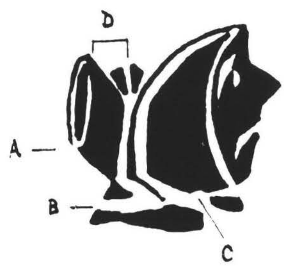


Figure 5. Enlarged tracing showing characteristics of a genuine "Lady in Bonnet".

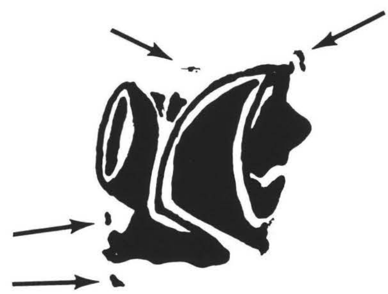


Figure 6. Enlarged tracing of the test example, showing extraneous marks. Notice the differences in comparison with Figure 5.

A. Break in the thin outer line in back of bonnet. This break is visible in all examples but has lengthened by March 7.
B. Break across the base of neck.
C. Notch in bottom of bonnet.
D. Width of inner section of back of bonnet measures 3 millimeters.

Comparison of the Submitted Item with Accepted Genuine Strikes

The item submitted for expertizing is unlike the genuine examples in its general appearance. There are extraneous marks around the design, especially at the base of the neck and chin. The tracing in Figure 6 shows arrows pointing to these spots. These extraneous marks seem to indicate that the device was heavily impressed and/or that the recessed portions of the canceller were not cleanly cut away. None of the strikes accepted as genuine has these marks.

A second important difference is that the submitted item has none of the flaws (A,B,C) found in the accepted genuine examples. Further, the size of the inside portion of the back of the bonnet (D) measures 2 millimeters rather than the 3 millimeters of the accepted examples.

A third point is more subtle. It is that the item under review does not appear to have been struck with a duplex. The genuine examples have the circular datestamp approximately 3-4 millimeters from the bonnet. This piece shows far too much space without a trace of the datestamp to have been struck with a duplex canceller.

Significance of Comparison

What conclusions can be drawn from the visual comparison?

Characteristics A, B and C are what might be called progressive characteristics. That is, over the course of use of the canceller breaks occur, parts of the design deform, and dried ink or dirt fills in spaces. Therefore, although the item to be expertized is abnormal in that it lacks certain progressive characteristics, this absence alone does not condemn it. The record of dated examples seems to establish a definite period of use, but it does not prove that the cancel was never used earlier. Only if we could establish that no earlier use was possible, or if we could demonstrate that the cancelling device had the flaws from the start, could we conclude that an impression lacking them had to be fake.

If Mr. Hill made up proof impressions, the way we find proof books of the Canadian and British handstamps, and if those proof impressions showed the flaws, we could say that an item lacking them was forged. If we could account for the cancellations used each day back to the time the circular datestamp was first used and thus show that no use of the "Lady in Bonnet" could be fitted in, we could also conclude that no earlier version of the cancellation was possible. However, what is currently known only leads us to conclude that an earlier version is unlikely but not impossible.

The situation is reversed in regard to Characteristic D, the measurement of a specific part of the design. Such a measurement is subject to progressive reduction but not to progressive expansion. In other words, the cancelling device can deteriorate, causing a decrease in specific measurement; however, as a rule the reverse does not occur. [The exception to this rule may occur when a later version is struck in such a way that causes soft parts of the cancelling surface to expand or that brings recessed portions to the surface. In both cases parts of the design may measure greater than the same parts in earlier strikes, creating the illusion of expansion.]

Conclusion

The test item creates an impossible situation. The absence of certain characteristics indicates an early state of the cancellation device, while the decreased size of a clearly defined part of the design indicates a late state. Faced with these incongruities, it is only possible to conclude that the item submitted for expertizing is an impression of the "Lady in

Bonnet" made from an entirely different device.

Figure 7.
Tracing from Mannel Hahn pamphlet.

Figure 8.
Tracing from Herst-Zareski book.

Origin of the Fake

The next question to be asked is, what source was used to create the fake "Lady in Bonnet" impression? Perhaps the answer can be found in illustration Figures 7 and 8. These are tracings from the Mannel Hahn pamphlet *Cancellations of Waterbury, Connecticut* and the Herst-Zareski book *United States 19th Century Fancy Cancellations*, respectively.

It is likely that the device used to create the fake was modeled upon the Herst-Zareski tracing. Both sources illustrate impressions that lack characteristics A, B and C. Mannel Hahn's tracing is true to characteristic D, the measurement of the inside part of the bonnet at 3 millimeters. However, the Herst-Zareski tracing in the same area measures 2 millimeters.

It is interesting also to compare the two most recently published tracings, Figures 9 and 10, with the genuine cancel. Figure 9 comes from *The Waterbury Cancellations* by Paul C. Rohloff and Figure 10 is from *U.S. Cancellations 1845-1869* by Hubert C. Skinner and Amos Eno. The obvious conclusion is that the Waterbury "Lady in Bonnet" is not accurately pictured in any reference work, and, in turn, any fake based upon reference work illustrations will reflect similar inaccuracies.

Figure 9.
Tracing from Rohloff book.

Figure 10.
Tracing from Skinner-Eno book.

Implications

The visual comparison method is an excellent means of expertizing, if enough genuine reference material is used. However, there is always danger in expertizing solely by comparison. The skilled forger knows how to exploit information by giving experts what they expect. Sperati was masterly in his methods of misleading experts and his *Philatelie sans Experts?* boasts of his deception.

The pitfall of the comparison method is deepened by the approach of most experts which is that, when all other things are equal, minute differences are not enough to justify a negative conclusion. When small differences are encountered they should not be hastily dismissed. Nor should they be accepted as conclusive evidence that an item is not genuine, for it is not only the "what" that matters, but also the "why".

By illustrating the comparison test method and discussing how its results can be interpreted, the author hopes this article has helped to develop the reader's analytic abilities.

Research as an Expertizing Tool

The China and Japan Steam Service Ovals

By Richard B. Graham

The oval marking, "China and Japan Steam Service" with an ornament in the center and at the ends, was used on mail brought into San Francisco in the late 1860's from the Orient by the contract steamers of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. For convenience in this article, we will call the marking the "C.&J.S.S." marking and the contractor the "P.M.S.S.Co."

The marking is always in shades of red to dull red-violet, and its first use was on mail brought to San Francisco by the S.S. Great Republic, arriving November 19, 1867.

The P.M.S.S.Co. contract sailing had commenced with the January sailing of the sidewheeler *Colorado* from San Francisco, to which she returned on March 20, 1867. Mail carried eastward on this and two subsequent trips of the *Colorado* bear large black markings reading either "CHINA STEAM" or vice versa.

There has been much speculation in print as to whether both the "CHINA STEAM" etc. and the C.&J.S.S. markings were applied aboard ship, in the Orient, or at San Francisco upon arrival at that post office.

Both styles of markings were undoubtedly "origin" markings, applied to explain the 10c charge on letters with San Francisco postmarks. In many cases there was no other indication that they didn't originate at San Francisco so that the rate should have been 3c rather than the 10c trans-Pacific rate. In this respect, these letters are akin to covers bearing the marking "Steamship" with a due rate.

Although the Pacific contract steamers had mail agents aboard at first, their appointments "were revoked in the month of April last ...", per the Postmaster General's report of November, 1869. This is good evidence that the oval markings were not applied aboard the steamships after that time and, since their use continued unabated and unchanged, it seems most unlikely they were ever applied anywhere but in the San Francisco post office's foreign mail room.

It was never a practice of the U.S. Post Office Department to assign use of handstamps having postal meanings to non-departmental personnel. It is true that ship pursers or railway baggage masters were often assigned care of closed and locked bags aboard ships, boats, and trains. However, that is a different matter.

No evidence has been found or presented to substantiate claims of the oval markings being applied either aboard the steamers or in the Orient.

Figures 1 and 2 show covers with the C.&J.S.S. markings on which the Philatelic Foundation rendered favorable opinions in 1981. Both are unusual in that they were sent from the Orient via the United States to other countries.

Figure 1. Certificate 101 563.

The cover shown in Figure 1 bears two 10c stamps, one the ungrilled regular issue of 1861 and the other the "F" grill of 1867. They paid an assumed 20c rate from the Orient to Canada, consisting of 10c trans-Pacific postage and 10c U.S. Canadian cross-border postage, which had been reduced to 6c prepaid almost a year previously. It isn't unusual to find covers via the U.S. from the Orient where rates of postage were used that had been superseded for some time.

The cover was postmarked at the U.S. Consular Post Office at Shanghai on March 20, 1869, at which time the stamps were canceled by a cork killer with a reversed negative "20". Sent via the S.S. *America* to the U.S., the cover has a "plum" San Francisco paid all backstamp dated Oct. 21 (1869) and the oval C.&J.S.S. marking on the face in an approximately matching color.

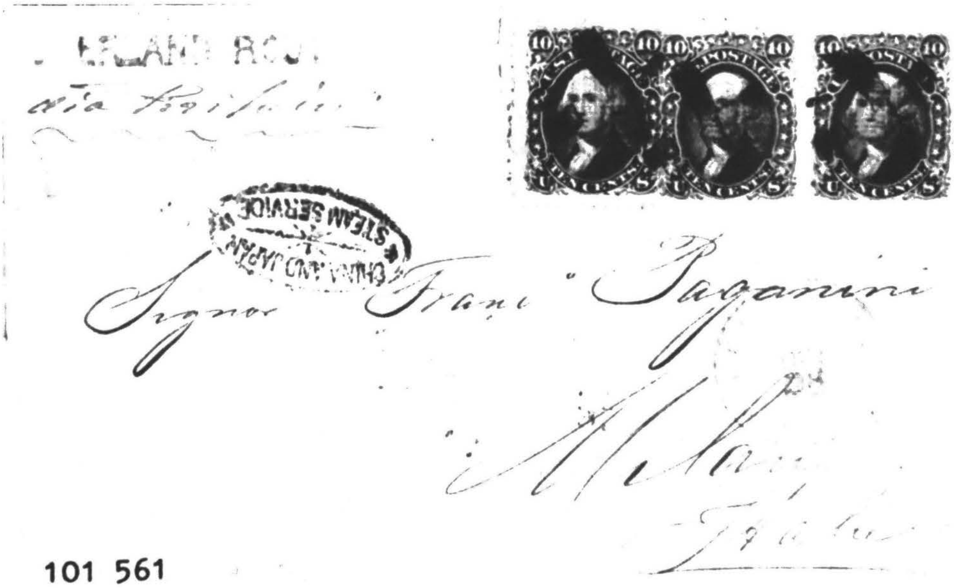


Figure 2. Certificate 101 561.

Figure 2 shows a cover sent from Yokohama to Milan, Italy in the fall of 1869. This cover bears a pair and single of the U.S. 10c "F" grill of 1867, for a total of 30c postage. This was probably an overpayment of 5c postage to carry the cover from Yokohama, Japan to Milan, Italy, as the rate was 10c for trans-Pacific mails plus 15c via closed mail from the U.S. to Italy under the treaty between those countries which became effective in April 1868.

The cover bears a red handstamp "OVERLAND ROUTE" which reflects the desire that the cover be sent over the new U.S. transcontinental railroad rather than via Panama. The cover is backstamped with a "plum" San Francisco paid all on Oct. 21, 1869, having arrived on the return maiden voyage of the P.M.S.S.Co. steamer *America* on the 20th.

The cover has a red New York "PAID ALL/BRITISH TRANSIT" and no British markings, indicating closed bag transmission to Italy. It may have gone via the Cunarder *Java*, which was scheduled to sail from New York on October 27, 1869, but considering the New York Oct. 28th postmark, the *Java* would thus have been held over for a day. A better possibility, perhaps, is that the closed bag was sent to Quebec, Canada to catch the Allan Lines steamer *North American*, sailing from there for Liverpool on Oct. 30, 1869. In any case, the cover made excellent time as it is backstamped as having arrived at Milan, Italy on November 11, 1869, 44 days in transit.

This writer has had a continuing series of articles in the *Chronicle* of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, to which reference should be made for more detailed data on these covers. The articles appeared in the issues for February through November 1972 (whole Nos. 73 - 76) and a summary to date was in the "Philatokio '81" issue of August 1981 (No. 111).

During this period nearly 100 covers were reported as pertinent to the project, although not all had sufficient date given to permit compilation.

Table I is an update (through 1983) of a similar table in the Philatokio '81 issue of the *Chronicle*. The table shows the P.M.S.S.Co. steamers and their arrival dates at San Francisco, together with the postmark dates found on the covers carried by the steamers. Also given, and most pertinent to evaluation, are the numbers of covers known and the colors of the oval markings as reported.

The latter factor, that of color, is as always a problem when the covers reported haven't been seen by the compiler. Not everyone uses the terms denoting color the same and there has been a tendency to assume all markings are "magenta" by auction describers. Enough of the covers or slides have been seen that a reasonable record exists of the colors of the markings for most of the incoming voyages. As may be seen from the notes in the table, the colors can range from a near vermilion to a dull, flat violet with a minimum of red which I have at times called a "plum".

The table includes records of covers brought into San Francisco by the P.M.S.S.Co. steamers from November 1867 through November 1869, after which the C.&J.S.S. oval was seldom used. A few covers do exist after November 1869 bearing the marking. Others, because of the table compiled, have believed the use of the marking ceased entirely after 1869 and that later covers bearing the markings are faked.

Such isn't necessarily true, although there is no doubt that covers with faked C.&J.S.S. markings exist and most have either U.S. 1869 or Banknote stamps.

Some used in the early 1870's, however, are probably perfectly genuine, although I am still compiling covers and data on that score. I suspect the general use of the oval marking ceased about the time that the U.S. consular post offices in Japan started to use their own postmarking devices. The consular post office in Shanghai had started a year or two before and many covers are known having this marking on which the oval C.&J.S.S. marking was also applied. There are, however, many covers with the Shanghai postmark and no C.&J.S.S. strike during the time when the latter still was in general use.

The reason for the change probably lies in the concept of origin markings. When a cover already had the origin marking of a U.S. consular post office — part of the U.S. postal system — there was no earthly reason to apply additional markings at San Francisco other than perhaps a transit postmark.

The same idea holds true for the covers exchanged with Hong Kong under the treaty signed in November 1867 and which became effective apparently in February 1868, although the earliest recorded eastbound cover under it was sent in July. The covers sent eastward with Hong Kong stamps and markings were at first marked with the oval marking, even after the treaty was in effect. However, long before the marking was taken out of general use most of the covers with Hong Kong stamps were not marked with the C.&J.S.S. marking, although most of them have a San Francisco paid all backstamp. Because of the popularity of the marking on Hong Kong covers and its evident rareness, it is this writer's opinion that a very careful examination should be made of any cover sent from Hong Kong or Shanghai after 1868 which bears the C.&J.S.S. oval.

Further work on these covers is needed in order that conclusions can be based upon more authoritative data. Color slides, photos, or other records of such usages are, therefore, solicited.

Figure 3.

Figure 3 shows a U.S. 30c stamp of 1860 with a nice socked-on-the-nose strike of the C.&J.S.S. marking — in BLUE! This item was offered in a reputable British auction some years ago, but was quickly withdrawn when it was pointed out that the stamp was demonetized in 1861. The marking is known only in red-violet shades, and this was the first off-cover stamp seen bearing the marking, which was invariably struck upon the covers away from the stamps, as recorded by the writer.

This does give us an example of a faked oval marking. It is a very good job, and considering the various stages of the genuine marking, this could easily be taken for a genuine strike.

In his Special Service for November 1953, the late Stanley B. Ashbrook described and illustrated a cover and added to his data and comment in the following issue. The cover had a pair of 30c and a pair of 10c 1869 stamps on a 10c U.S. stamped envelope to France. The cover bears a C.&J.S.S. marking, a San Francisco postmark of July 20 and a New York credit to France of 18c. The cover bears a French transit marking indicating U.S. service via England and Calais. Ashbrook condemned the cover because the credit and markings indicated the postage should have been 45c rather than the 90c on the cover. He also assumed the C.&J.S.S. marking was faked and that the cover originated in San Francisco rather than the Orient.

In the December 1953 issue of his Service, Ashbrook discussed the C.&J.S.S. marking and included blown-up photos of the C.&J.S.S. ovals from the subject cover and two covers believed to be genuine. Ashbrook did not have available the data we now have, and some of his data concerning the trans-Pacific service is incorrect. As an example, he stated that the steamers stopped at Honolulu; they didn't, as a separate service for Hawaii was established at that time.

The problem is the date in the San Francisco postmark, which is July 20. In 1869, this date coincides nicely with the arrival of the P.M.S.S.Co. steamer *Japan* at San Francisco, bearing contract mail from the Orient. Some years ago I was asked if this meant the fakery on the cover was only confined to substitution of stamps and if the C.&J.S.S. marking was genuine. At the time, I couldn't say; now, I believe the marking to be faked because it has characteristics different from all the markings I believe to be genuine, such as the slant and shapes of the letters "AM" in "STEAMSHIP", and also because if the cover was sent in 1869 I believe the C.&J.S.S. marking should show more wear.

It may be noted that if the cover had originated in the Orient, the rate would have been 55c, adding the 10c trans-Pacific rate to the presumed 45c for a triple-rate letter from the U.S. to France. This would have required, as a minimum, two additional stamps to the value of the 10c embossed envelope — a 30c and a 15c. If the cover originated in San Francisco, two stamps would also have been required — a 30c and a 5c. In either case, it seems a safe assumption that the original stamps were missing from the cover or, if removed, were the stamps of the 1861 issue.

I might add that the cancellations on the stamps were not typical of those appearing on other covers brought into San Francisco by the P.M.S.S.Co. steamers. And this is a key point: genuine covers between 1867 and 1869 with the marking C.&J.S.S. should have San Francisco postmark dates agreeing with those in Table I. Covers not so agreeing have to be suspect.

The genuine "CHINA STEAM", etc. markings match other types of markings, with the same large letters of similar shapes used by the San Francisco post office at that time. The shades of the "magenta" C.&J.S.S. markings are similar to those of the San Francisco paid all backstamps applied to foreign treaty mails, mostly from Hong Kong, during this period.

Table I

Arrival Date	P.M.S.S.Co. Ship	S.F. Postmark Date	# of Covers Recorded	C.&J.S.S. Colors as Seen or Recorded
Tue., 19 Nov. '67	Great Republic	19 & 20 Nov.	5	bright red
Tue., 31 Dec. '67	China	1 Jan. ('68)	1	?
Sun., 16 Feb. '68	Great Republic	17 Feb.	1	red (on blue cover)
Tue., 31 Mar. '68	China	1 Apr.	3	red
Mon., 18 May '68	New York	19 May	2	red
Fri., 26 Jun. '68	China	26 Jun.	4	red, dark red backstamp matches
Sun., 16 Aug. '68	Colorado	17 Aug.	2	red
Sat., 19 Sep. '68	Great Republic	20 Sep.	1 (piece)	unknown
Tue., 20 Oct. '68	Japan	21 Oct.	1	red; purplish red (two reports)
Sun., 22 Nov. '68	China	23 Nov.	3	red
Tue., 22 Dec. '68	Great Republic	23 Dec.	6	red
Wed., 20 Jan. '69	Japan	21 Jan. ('69)	3	deep red
Tue., 23 Feb. '69	China	24 Feb.	7	carmine; red
Sat., 27 Mar. '69	Great Republic	29 Mar.	6	magenta; carmine; dark red
Sat., 24 Apr. '69	Japan	24 & 26 Apr.	6	red; carmine
Thurs., 20 May '69	China	20 & 21 May	3	red
Sat., 19 Jun. '69	Great Republic	21 Jun.	6	pinkish carmine
Tue., 20 Jul. '69	Japan	20 Jul.	4	pinkish
Thurs., 19 Aug. '69	China	19 Aug.	(2)	no C.&J.S.S. markings
Sat., 18 Sep. '69	Great Republic	20 Sep.	2	carmine; magenta
Wed., 20 Oct. '69	America	21 Oct.	2	plum or dull violet
Mon., 22 Nov. '69	Japan	23 Nov.	2	plum or dull violet

Table includes 69 full covers and one piece with C.&J.S.S. ovals and two without the oval; all have dateable postmarks. Eight more covers or references are not dateable; several covers with Shanghai Consular P.O. Handstamps not included, as they do not have C.&J.S.S. markings.

A Madeira Mistake
1869 Stamps On Cover
By Elliott H. Coulter

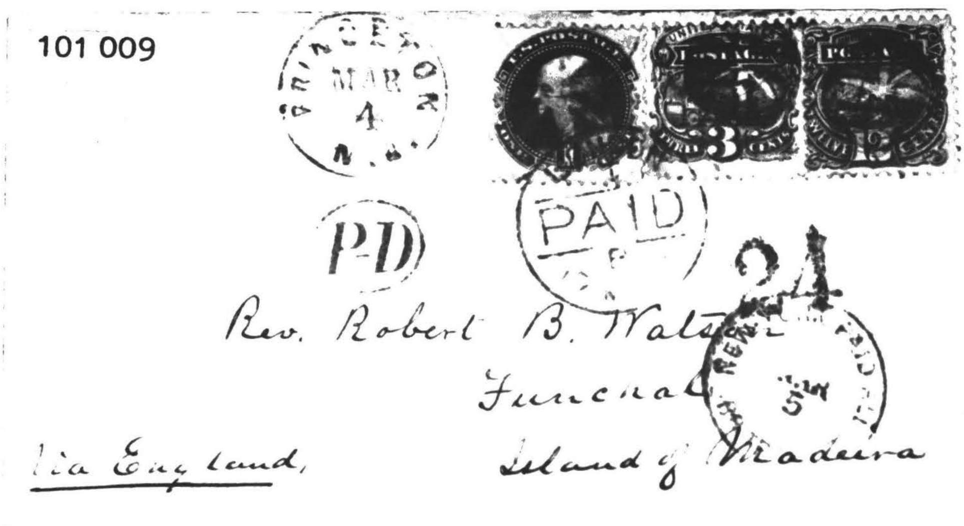


Figure 1. Certificate 101 009.

Collectors all develop a special feeling when they come across a cover that fits into their immediate collecting specialty.

For this collector, seeing a cover at auction addressed to Funchal on the island of Madeira caused just that excited reaction, particularly since it carried three stamps of the U.S. 1869 issue as postage.

Madeira is the largest of four tiny Portuguese islands about 360 miles west of Morocco and about 535 miles southwest of Lisbon, Portugal. How and why did this letter get to Funchal, the capital and the largest city of Madeira? A good guess as to why the letter was sent to Madeira probably had to do with its most famous product, Madeira wine, made of a blend of black and white grapes and grown under almost perfect climactic conditions.

The original circular date stamp indicates that the envelope was from Princeton, New Jersey on March 4th, carrying the correct postage of 16c for delivery to Funchal.[1] The 16c postage is made up of three 1869 stamps, a 1c, 3c, and a 12c. An oval marking acknowledges the payment with a "PD", meaning paid to destination, plus a circular New York "PAID ALL" British transit marking dated March 5 (probably 1870). To this point the cover looks marvelous. In addition to the markings mentioned, the cover also shows a credit marking of "24" in red, and a circular London Paid marking, plus three killers, one on each stamp. The reverse side of the envelope annoyingly does not have any backstamps.

A more serious question becomes apparent. How can a cover with 16c in postage possibly show a credit to the British carrier of 24c? Naturally, this must be in error. Realistically, errors in stampings were occasionally made, and so our study must continue.

Of the three stamps making up the postage, the 3c and 12c stamps have negative palm leaf killers that are the same. The killer on the 1c, however, is made up of triangular wedges forming a circle, like a pie cut into slices. The once marvelous cover suddenly has too many question marks to allow credibility to continue.

A fourth factor to review is the question of the red London Paid marking, since this ties the 1c and 3c stamps to the cover. Close examination under ultraviolet light indicates that this marking probably was applied in a later time period. Magnification of the marking indicates that a portion of the cancel (the line above PAID) is incomplete. Whoever applied this counterfeit cancel neglected to continue the line onto the 3c stamp.

What was once an exciting cover has lost its charm. On July 4, 1981, the Foundation issued Certificate 101 009 stating that the stamps did not originate on this cover and that the tying postmarks are counterfeit.

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[1] Rate confirmed from *U.S. Mail and Postoffice Assistant and U.S. Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations* by Charles Starnes.

Identifying Ungrilled 1869 Stamps

By Henry S. Stollnitz

Certificates 128 398, 128 399

Among the more frequent subjects submitted to The Philatelic Foundation for expertizing are the United States stamps of the 1869 issue. The question usually is, "Are these the 1875 Re-Issue?"

The Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps makes it clear that the original issue is grilled and the Re-Issue has no grills. However, there is a slight catch which is one cause of the problem. The catalogue lists minor varieties of several denominations of the original issue: "without grill, original gum". These are valued at several times the price of the unused ordinary grilled stamps and even more than the price of the unused 1875 Re-Issue. The catalogue does not say flatly that these rare ungrilled varieties do not exist used. There is just a "Note. Stamps of the 1869 issue wihout grill cannot be guaranteed except when unused and with original gum."

How is a collector who has an ungrilled copy of an 1869 design to know whether his stamp is an 1875 Re-Issue or one of the mysterious rare ungrilled varieties listed by Scott? It can be determined first by elimination. The 6c, 10c, 12c and Type II 15c do not exist in the rare variety. And if the stamp is canceled it cannot be identified as the variety, for the chief distinguishing difference from the Re-Issues is the gum. A heavy brown gum is the earmark of the scarce ungrilled stamps in contrast to the white crackly gum of the 1875 Re-Issue and the smooth yellowish gum of the regular 1869 stamps.

Now we get to a trickier aspect of the problem. Suppose the subject stamp is used and therefore has no gum, but also has no grill. Is it *necessarily* a Re-Issue? Not so. First, it has been proved that some sheets of stamps were inserted crookedly between the grilling rollers so that some margin copies escaped the grill.

Inspection of a used ungrilled stamp might begin with the cancellation. It should be recalled that not only were few Re-Issue stamps sold, but most of those few were purchased by stamp dealers. When the dealers found it almost impossible to sell these stamps to collectors they used them for postage, mostly on registered mail. Hence the majority of used copies of the Re-Issue bear registry cancels. Since some of the regular 1869s were also used on registered mail this is not a conclusive test.

More indicative is the paper, and here Scott can be misleading. "Hard wove paper" is the catalogue description of the 1869 issue and "hard white paper" of the Re-Issue. That would hardly be enlightening to an amateur collector trying to tell which stamp he has.

Keep in mind that some of the 1869 stamps have grills so lightly impressed that they almost invite a faker to press them out. Fortunately there are still other tests.

The colors of the Re-Issue are definitely brighter and clearer than those of the original issue. The printing quality is crisp and almost proof-like. And finally, there is a minute difference of size — so minute, in fact, that the differences are barely noticeable unless you hold the two printings side by side. The Re-Issue stamps have an image a hair's-breadth wider than the original, due to the grain of the paper.

One further possibility remains to be considered. India proofs exist of all denominations of 1869 designs. When skillfully gummed and perforated these proofs closely resemble the ungrilled stamps. In this case, as in others described above, the chief clue to identification is the paper.

But all of the criteria mentioned can be nearly meaningless except when applied by a thoroughly experienced philatelist. Handling and comparison of numerous examples provide the necessary expertise.

After awhile one can almost "smell" the mis-identified Re-Issues. In this instance, I had seen enough of the 1869 and 1875 issues myself to have some doubts as to the identification as Re-Issues of the two pieces that are the subject of this article.

The two stamps, therefore, were submitted to the Foundation's experts and both the 3c and 10c, as expected, were identified as 1869 issues, Scott #114 and #116 respectively. The identifying techniques discussed in this article were applied by the Expert Committee to reach its opinion.

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Analyzing Caribbean Area Covers From the U.S., with Adhesives

By Scott Gallagher

A number of important auction sales in the past two decades have contained letters emanating from, sent to, or traversing the Caribbean. Some fascinating covers came on the market in these sales and the new owners wanted explanations of the markings and rates involved. Some of these covers were submitted to the Philatelic Foundation.

The British dominated the mails in the Caribbean for about 300 years, starting in the late 1600's and ending with the General Postal Union (GPU) and subsequently the Universal Postal Union (UPU). Robson Lowe estimated that the British carried over half of all the mails in the Caribbean during this period. One reason for this was the concession, forced from Denmark after wars in Europe, that gave the British agency in St. Thomas freedom from any local postal charges. Because of its location and fine sheltered harbor, St. Thomas was the major port for mail boats.

Expert Committee members and consultants see many stamps and covers, but few to the Caribbean. This is because of the destructiveness of hurricanes, fires, and most often, the tropical climate, which not only damages ("foxes") paper, but also causes it to deteriorate and even disintegrate.

Insects can be voracious paper eaters and have also taken their toll. In some auction catalogs covers are described with "filing holes". These neat round holes are not made by a punch, but by insect larvae.

The switch from rag content to wood pulp paper in the 1870's was another factor contributing to the scarcity of Caribbean-area covers. Although the volume of mail may have been increasing, less of it survived.

In expertizing Caribbean area covers, the following sources of information are used:

Officially-issued *Postal Laws and Regulations* should contain information on (at least) outbound rates, but because the PL&Rs can be difficult to use, the quasi-official *U.S. Mail & P.O. Assistant* was used by postal clerks to figure out the correct rate and is, therefore, assuredly the most useful source of rate information for the expert or collector who wants to comprehend the meaning of rate markings on an outbound cover.

The Collectors Club of Chicago has done a real service in reprinting the USM&POA for the years 1860-72, with comment by Michael Laurence. It is wonderfully easy to use if the cover's mailing date can be determined and if this date falls within the 1860-72 period.

A forerunner in analyzing rates from the U.S. to the West Indies was Delf Norona, who tackled this in an article that originally appeared in The American Philatelist in 1934 and was later included in his *Cyclopedia of United States Postmarks and Postal History.*

Other sources of information are the thorough and usable book on outbound rates, *United States Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations, 1847 to GPU-UPU* by Charles Starnes, published in 1982, and an earlier work, *History of Letter Post Communication Between the United States and Europe 1845-75* by George Hargest, published in 1971 and containing a table of rates that includes Central and South America and the West Indies.

Robson Lowe's *Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Volume V (North America)* has rates to Central and South America via British packets. Proposed Volume VI was to have included the Caribbean, but was not published. A booklet written by L.E. Britnor and published in 1977 by the B.W.I. Study Circle gives information on rates in the West Indies, but only for items carried by British packets.

Danish West Indies Mails, written by Robert Stone, edited by Victor Engstrom and Reider Norby, and published in 1979, offers a readable and fascinating account of the mails in the Caribbean. Volume I, postal history, contains some information on rates.

The most recent publication pertinent to the subject is Theron Wierenga's *United States Incoming Steamship Mail, 1847-1875.* Published in 1983, it is one of the few sources of rates to the United States. We also understand that Charles Starnes is planning a book on inbound rates, an area in which information is much needed.

The Lanman and Kemp cover find was a major source of information as well as covers for collectors. This druggist supply firm in New York City received mail from Central and South America and the islands of the Caribbean. The discovered correspondence had not been tampered with and showed a number of markings that had not been seen in quantity before.

Some of the collections sold at auctions over the past two decades, most notably those of Glassco, Shenfield, Juhring, Stone, Engstrom "Windsor" and Bollen, have resulted in auction catalogues that include useful information for students of this area.

All of this source material, supplemented by material available in public libraries, the Collectors Club library in New York, and information that can be obtained from philatelic students and private collectors, is used at various times by the Foundation's experts.

With this understanding that serious studies are used as tools to corroborate the expert's subjective view, let's take a look at some covers.

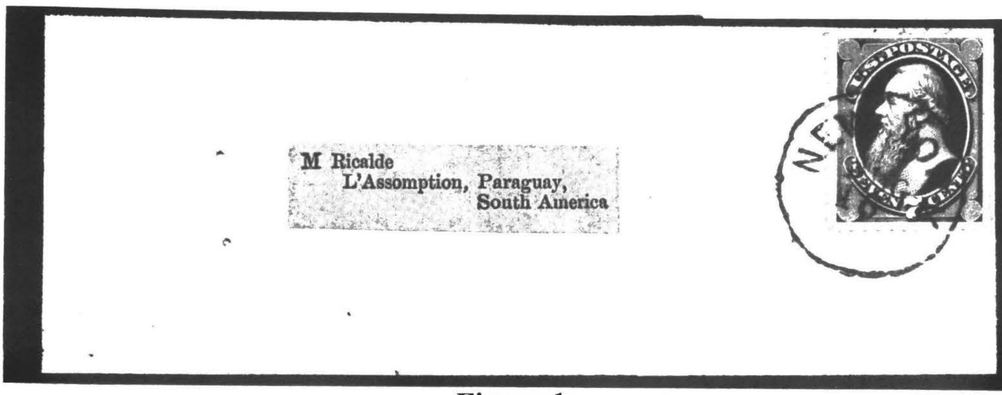


Figure 1.

The front shown in Figure 1 is not that of a cover, but a wrapper with a black border denoting "mourning" for person or persons deceased. It was issued Certificate 112 905, stating that it is a genuine usage, and bears a copy of Scott #149, the 7c vermilion Banknote issued 6 Mar. 1871. The Brazil Line ceased service in 1875, so this wrapper was used in that four-year period, sent from New York to Paraguay. This is one of the two countries in South America (Bolivia being the other) that is not on an ocean, and, although "landlocked" by definition, does have egress by river.

The Brazil Line terminated at Rio de Janeiro. As Michael Laurence has written, the charge from New York to St. Thomas was 10c and for just 5c more (all prepaid in the U.S. from any city) a letter could go the much greater distance to Rio, a total of 15c blanket rate. Circulars and newspapers also were carried at bargain rates. Mail from Rio was carried by French packets (see Salles, Tome III) and one destination was Montevideo, Uruguay.

British packets also went from Rio to Buenos Aires, Argentina. From there the mail could go up the Parana River to Paraguay on an Argentinian boat. Norman Hubbard feels that this piece went via that route. Another collector suggests that mail was taken westward from Rio by land and river to Paraguay as some mail was carried by this route during the war period which ended around 1870. However, such mail showed Brazilian military post markings, and this wrapper has no marking other than the New York cds. Circulars, wrappers, newspapers, etc. generally do not receive credit, debit, or transit markings in any post office.

The 7c Bank Note is very unusual on such mail, and the Foundation's reference collection showed nothing similar. The New York cds in red was judged to be correct for the period. Finally, the USM&POA showed that such a rate could be possible, made up of 4c plus 3c more. If the wrapper contained circulars or printed notices, the 3c would have been for a total weight between 2 and 3 ounces, since the charge was 1c per ounce. If the wrapper contained newspapers there would have been four of them since the basic rate was 4c for the first, plus 1c for each additional newspaper.

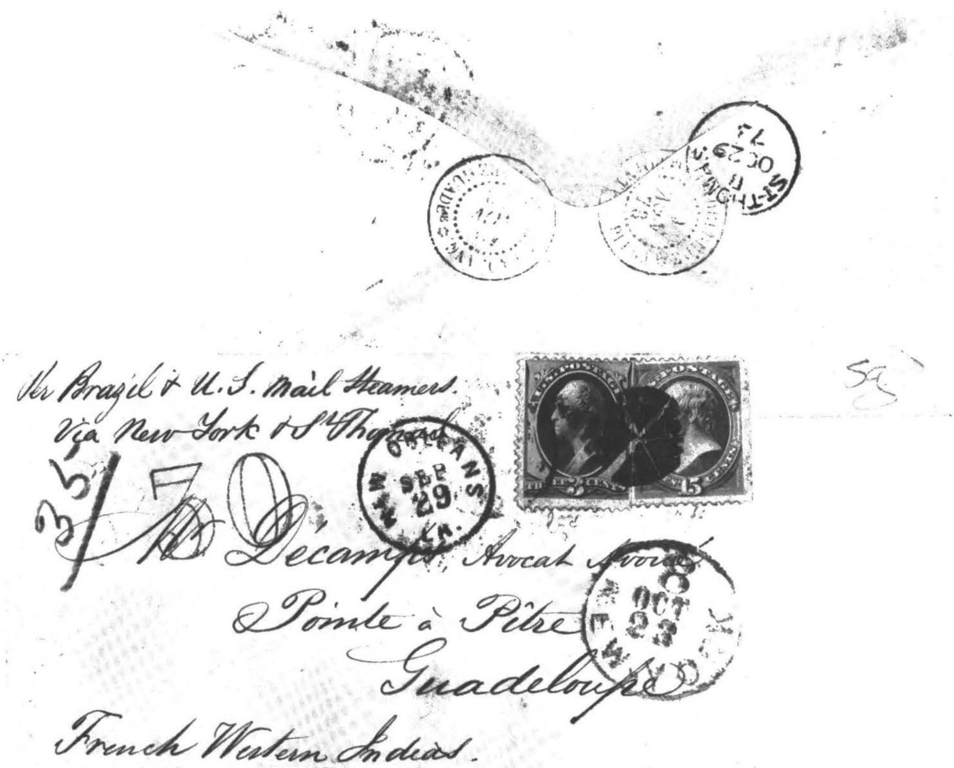


Figure 2. Certificate 128 441.

Figure 2 shows the front and back of a cover from the U.S. to Guadeloupe. This cover was submitted to the Foundation for a Certificate with the biggest problem being that the two stamps are not tied. The Expert Committee was asked specifically to certify that the stamps did belong.

As a starting point, the black light examination room was used for evidence of tampering and for comparisons of the various inks on the cover. The black killer was judged compatible with the black New Orleans cds. Attention was then given to the other markings. As noted by the sender, the letter was to go on the Brazil Line. This left New York City on the 23rd of each month from 1865 to 1875, and ran close to schedule. Mail was usually postmarked on the day of sailing, so the red New York cds is correct. The "8" in this marking is a credit to England per the 1848 Treaty. So the letter left New York City on an American packet on the 23rd of October 1873, and arrived in St. Thomas on the 29th, per backstamp of the British agency there.

Of the 18c prepaid, 10c was to the U.S. for the blanket rate. A British packet took it to Guadeloupe, and the Danish West Indies post office got nothing, per the agreement between Great Britain and Denmark.

The "8" is U.S. cents, equivalent to 4 British pence. Although this was the period of depreciated currency, the corrections applied only to unpaid (collect) letters. So Great Britain got 4d for carrying it from the port in St. Thomas to the port in Guadeloupe. It is interesting that this 4d port-to-port rate applied even if the ports were not in British colonies, or if the two ports were on the same island. Before the Brazil Line gave the British competition, it would have cost 33c to mail a single weight letter such as this one.

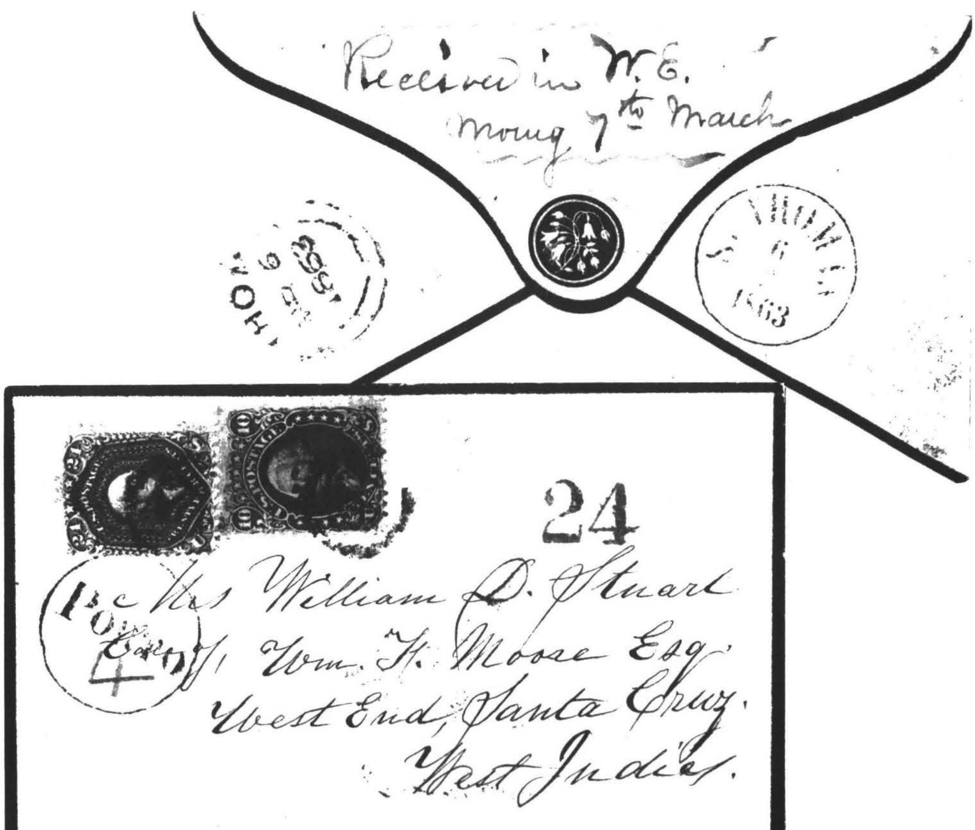


Figure 3.

The French receiving mark at Guadeloupe struck twice on the back shows that the British packet delivered the letter. The recipient paid the French post office 30 or 35 centimes to get the letter. The cover was given Certificate 128 441, stating that it is a "a genuine usage" with the 15c stamp having defects.

When a Foundation Certificate is issued it does not shown an analysis, and the notebook worksheet used by the experts may show only terse comments. If experts are contacted by mail, their comments in letters are made part of the record. If a collector nowadays wants a detailed analysis such as August Dietz, Stanley Ashbrook, or Eliott Perry used to write, he must locate an expert. Some will write brief comments at no charge, but if much time must be spent, charges ranging from $20 to $100 should be expected.

Figure 3 shows the front and back of a mourning cover sent from the U.S. to the Danish island of St. Croix in 1863. This was before the Brazil Line started operation, so the sender had to choose how it was to go. Unfortunately we do not have the enclosure so the city of origin is not known, and since this was sent during the Civil War, southern ports were closed.

To give you an example of the expertizing process that can be applied and only briefly summarized on a Foundation worksheet, some of the Foundation's expert consultants were contacted privately regarding this cover. What follows is their combined analysis.

Analysis of 1863 U.S. Rated 34c Cover To Santa Cruz, Danish West Indies

Description of Cover:

Mourning envelope bearing U.S. 24c red lilac (Scott #70) and 10c dark yellow green (Scott #68) addressed to:

"Mrs. William D. Stuart/Care of Wm. F. Moore, Esq./West End, Santa Cruz,/West Indies".

Cover is endorsed on back flap, in red ink, "Received in W.E./Moing (?) 7th March". No U.S. cds or indication of origin, other than killers tying stamps and a red "24" credit marking on the front. Has British St. Thomas and Danish St. Thomas backstamps; also "PORTO" in circle with red M/S "4" on front. Envelope mourning pattern extends to black edging on back flaps and black floral design on flap.

Postmarks:

United States:
(1) Black circle pattern, possibly indistinct target killers tying both stamps to cover and to one another.

(2) Red approx. 15×10mm "24" credit handstamp on cover front, of a type often seen on covers passing through New York.

British
(3) (Backstamp) Approximately 25mm (partial strike) of a black "ST. THOMAS/MR 6/1863" c.d.s., of the Robson Lowe Encyclopedia "Empire" type PL.

Danish West Indies
(4) Black 25½mm "ST. THOMAS/6/3/1863" backstamp.

(5) Black "PORTO" in a 25½mm circle, with a manuscript red crayon or pencil "4" written within the circle.

Questions Posed By Submitter:

1. How was the cover used, relative to rate division and authority for such, etc.

2. Is the cover genuine?

Pertinent Data:

(1) By an addition made in 1853 to the U.S. British postal convention of 1848, an exchange of mails between New York and other U.S. ports and Kingston, Jamaica and St. Thomas, D.W.I. British consular post offices was initiated. Excerpts, as published in the U.S. Postmaster General's Report for 1853, were included with this report. They are not reproduced here, but can be summarized as follows relative to the subject cover:

(A) Communication was authorized between New York and St. Thomas by British mail packet.

(B) In the event a then-existing U.S. service between the U.S. and Kingston, Jamaica, was terminated, such mails were to go by way of Havana, being by British mails to and from other West Indies ports (including St. Thomas) and including Kingston.

(C) The mails sent from New York, etc. were to include mails for all British and foreign ports at which the British mail packets in the West Indies touched.

(D) The U.S. post office was to account to the British post office in the amount of one shilling (24c) for each letter not exceeding ½ ounce and sent from New York, Charleston, Savannah, New Orleans or San Francisco, to St. Thomas or Kingston, and addressed to one of the foreign ports in the West Indies at which the British mail packets touched.

(E) 15 January, 1853 was established as the effective date.

(2) From the *U.S. Mail and Post Office Assistant* as of January through April, 1863:

(A) From the Table of Postages to Foreign Countries for the period:

"To West Indies, not British (except Cuba)," postage by British mails per single letter (½ ounce limit) was 34c.

(B) From the tables of steamer departures from New York, etc. from January through April, 1863:

Name of Line	Nationality of Line	Destination	Sailing dates in months of: Jan.	Feb.	March	April
Havana	U.S.	Havana & N. Orleans	*3rd	4th		
Havana	U.S.	Havana				*4th
Havana	Gt. Brit.	Havana		*2nd	*7th	
Nassau	Gt. Brit.	Nassau & Havana	6th			25th
Nassau	U.S.	Nassau	2nd			

*(Note in U.S.M.&P.O.A.) "Mail for the West Indies sent by this steamer."

Each month's listings saw substantial changes, not only in dates of departure but in destinations and nationality of the steamers with the West Indies' mails.

(3) From *Danish West Indies Mails*, 1754-1917, by Robert G. Stone.

(A) St. Croix was designated in a Spanish fashion as Santa Crux at times, as per page 2-2, and on page 3-10 in the wording of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. contract going into effect on 1 January, 1842.

The town name "West End" was an early name for Fredericksted, St. Croix (p. 1-5).

(B) "PORTO" is the term normally used in Danish postal history to indicate due postage. See pages 2-18 & 19, Table V, pp. 2-22. Also note the "PORTO" inscription on Danish postage due stamps as per various Scott catalogs, etc.

(C) Postage on outgoing foreign destination letters from Danish West Indies was 4c per lod when prepaid in cash, and 3c when prepaid by stamps, pp. 2-13 & 14.

(D) The British handed over to the Danish to deliver incoming mails to St. Thomas addressed to the other islands, St. Croix and St. Jan (St. John), but such mails addressed to these islands were usually picked up without being passed through the Danish West Indies postal system.

(E) The British (Cunard) direct steamer line between New York and St. Thomas, in service only from 1850-54, was still in operation when the additions to the mail convention were made in 1853. From 1854 to 1863, the route was by British or U.S. packet between New York and Havana with British packet service between Havana and other points in the West Indies, including St. Thomas (pp. 3-8/3-12, et. seq.).

Analysis:

The cover was handled as follows:

1. The cover, with its stamps affixed, was handed in to a U.S. post office, almost certainly New York City, in February 1863 for transmission to St. Croix by British mails from Havana. The possibilities other than New York City — Charleston, Savannah, New Orleans, San Francisco, or some inland town, can probably be eliminated for one reason or another: the first two were Confederate towns at the time; covers from New Orleans or San Francisco would almost certainly have borne postmarks of those offices; covers from an inland office usually bore the c.d.s. of the office, New York, or both. In any case, the lack of an origin marking does not affect this analysis.

At New York, the stamps were canceled with a circular killer and the red "24" credit to the British struck in accordance with Article V of the additional articles of 1853.

It may be observed that the total postage of 34c, a sum equal to the 24c for British handling beyond Havana, etc., plus the 10c U.S. rate for the Caribbean, as published in U.S.M.&P.O.A., was known to the sender of the letter, or, quite possibly, the stamps were purchased and the correct amount applied at the New York post office. The rate was not common.

2. Per the sailings in U.S.M.&P.O.A., the cover apparently was transmitted to Havana by one of the February, 1863 steamers to that port, since the only March steamer sailed on the 7th, and the cover was backstamped at St. Thomas on March 6th.

While the departure dates, routes and nationalities of the steamers between New York and Havana at that time were constantly changing (per the tables of sailing), the important point is that the cover had to have been in Havana in time to catch the British steamer for St. Thomas and arrive there by March 6th. The 24c credit to the British was really for that part of the service, regardless of how the cover got to Havana.

Since the New York foreign mail sailing dates of covers of this period were usually either the sailing date or the day before, the absence of such a postmark may be tied in with the uncertainties at the time as to which line was to carry the cover and when.

3. At Havana, the cover was transmitted in a closed bag to the British line — which is to say that the Spanish postal authorities at Havana did not handle the cover.

4. When the cover arrived in St. Thomas, it was backstamped there on March 6th by the British post office and turned over to the Danish West Indies post office.

5. The Danish West Indies post office at St. Thomas also backstamped the cover on March 6, 1863 and applied a "PORTO" in a circle handstamp and a red "4" within the circle for 4c postage due at "West End", or Frederiksted, St. Croix, to which the letter was then sent.

6. The letter apparently was immediately sent the 40 miles at sea to St. Croix as it was endorsed on the back flap as having been received on March 7th at "W.E."

Conclusions:

1. Use of the cover, with handling, etc. is as explained above with no important loose ends or discrepancies.

2. No reason is seen to consider the cover other than genuine in all respects. All the postmarks are explained and are in a satisfactory sequence. The absence of an origin postmark is not unusual, and the fact that fake covers usually do have nicely struck origin postmarks also is in favor of the cover. While the cover is a most unusual usage in more ways than one, everything about it is completely reasonable in view of the postal laws, announcements, tables of sailings, etc., considered with the analysis.

The author expresses appreciation to Richard B. Graham, who compiled much of the information related to this cover.

References

1. *U.S. Postmaster General's Report*, 1853.

2. *U.S. Mail & Post Office Assistant, Jan. - April 1863*, Vol. I, Collectors Club of Chicago reprint.

3. Stone, Robert G., *Danish West Indies Mails, 1754-1917*, Vol. I, Postal History, Scandinavian Printing and Publishing Co., Washington D.C. 20044, 1979.

4. Lowe, Robson, *The Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps*, 5 Vols., Robson Lowe, London, 1952-1973.

5. *Scott's U.S. Specialized* and *Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogues*, 1981, various.

Off the Beaten Path

An 1879 2¢ "Scratched Plated"

By Clyde Jennings
Certificate 63 936.

The collecting of "off-beat" philatelic material has come a long way. Today there are dealers who specialize in, and even feature entire auctions of, that type of material. There is also a well-organized society devoted to the study of EFO's (Errors, Freaks and Oddities). However, way back in 1944 when I first became entranced with this facet of collecting I very quickly became known in the hobby, among dealers and collectors alike, as "that freaks nut"! As a matter of fact, since I was also a serious buyer of very fine to superb for my regular collection, many dealers would set aside and save to give me with their compliments (since no "normal" collectors would pay good money for them!) this kind of unusual material — many examples of which today are bringing well up into three figures.

For the International Exhibition in Washington in 1966 I was urged by the General Chairman to form an exhibit of this material since there was nothing else akin to it around. I agreed, and the Jury gave it a zilch — judging lingo for "no award". When the General Chairman was given the Jury's report he noted what he felt was an oversight, and asked the Chief Judge why. The reply? "There was not one undamaged stamp in the entire showing"! The General Chairman (since he, too, was interested in that type of material) explained to the Jury what they were looking at. Result? A re-consideration, and an International Silver!

In my collection I did include one category in addition to the EFO designation, and that was varieties. These involved the study of printing variations which deviated from the norm, the results (usually) of damage to, or re-working of, the printing plate. In addition to multiple transfers, recutting, re-engraving, re-entries, and erroneous entries, there were also examples known as cracked plates and damaged plates. Granted that a cracked plate is a damaged plate, the terms usually delineate the difference between a plate with an actual crack in it and, say, one which has been inadvertently marked by an engraving tool, or banged against a printing press, or had some heavy object dropped on it.

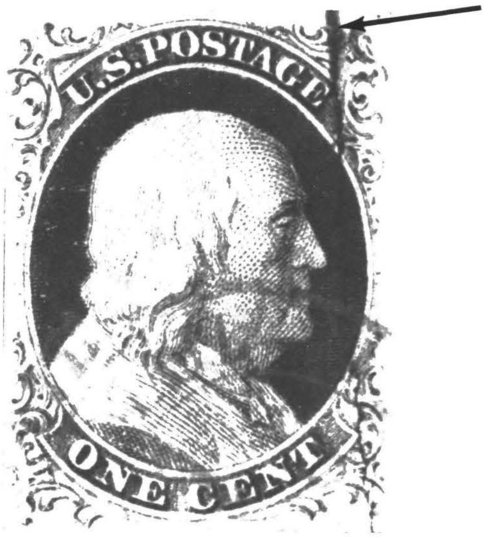


Figure 1. A cracked plate.

Figure 2. A damaged plate.

The difference between a cracked plate and a damaged plate is obvious to one who has studied production methods. Take a look at Figure 1: this is a cracked plate; now see Figure 2 for a damaged plate. Note that the foreign mark (one not indigenous to the stamp design) in Figure 1 is quite irregular in form, tends to waver or meander across the design with small rivulets going off to the sides, much like the tributaries into a river. When a plate breaks (cracks) it invariably does so in some version of this irregular format. Conversely, the alien mark in Figure 2 is very precise, as if made with a stylus using a metal straightedge for guidance. Consequently the designations are (or should be) as different as watermarked and unwatermarked paper, or as flat plate versus rotary press printing. These latter two are easily identifiable to the knowledgeable philatelist — and so should be the cracked vs. damaged plate differentiation with just a little bit of study.

In August of 1983 I bought at auction the item in Figure 2, described as having a cracked plate, and accompanied by a Foundation Certificate so certifying, 63 936, dated September 19, 1977. As soon as I saw the stamp I realized that it was not a cracked plate, but a damaged plate, most likely the result of an engraver's tool which slipped while working, or re-working, the plate. And I had a corroborating copy, Figure 3, to prove it was a constantly recurring variety. Not only that, but at a later time when the plate was definitely re-worked, another slip occurred, ironically almost paralleling the first damage — and Figure 4 shows an example, plus a corroborating copy.

Figure 3.
A copy corroborating
that in Figure 2.

Figure 4.
Two examples of the
second plate damage.

Immediately, I sent the stamp, its accompanying Certificate, and my three other copies to the Foundation along with a letter explaining my contention that it was a damaged plate, not a cracked plate. The Foundation's current Expert Committee agreed with me, disagreeing with the 1977 group, and issued a new and corrected Certificate.

The Foundation can, does, and will listen — but, you'd better have your facts straight!

First Day Covers That Aren't

By Pat and Ed Siskin

Few areas have created more controversy in expertizing committees than First Day Covers. For many years FDCs were not held in high esteem by many philatelists. Key covers and even catalogue listings received little scrutiny. Unfortunately, this resulted in many questionable items attaining respectability with time. Only within the last decade, largely as a result of the efforts of the Philatelic Foundation and the American First Day Cover Society, has progress been made in exposing these covers as questionable.

There are three basic categories of rejectable covers:

1. Genuine cover, wrong date
2. Altered cover
3. Complete fabrication

We will treat each category separately since the methods of analysis vary in each area.

Genuine Cover, Wrong Date

To understand pre-1922 United States First Day Covers, readers must realize that much of the terminology and practices we know today were created following the founding of the U.S. Post Office Department Philatelic Agency in 1921. Prior to that time, Post Office practices were very different. Thus, for an intelligent discussion of pre-1922 FDCs, some new definitions are required.

Designated First Day (DFD) — The date specifically established and announced by the Post Office on which a new Postal Issue first was authorized for sale to the public. This is as close as we can come to our modern First Day of Issue. The Post Office or Congress designated the day, although not the city, on which a stamp could first be sold and used. Table I lists all those pre-1922 postal issues for which there were Designated First Days. Note that only about 10% of U.S. postal issues before 1922 had Designated First Days!

In some cases the stamps clearly were available on the DFD, yet no First Day Cover is known. A good example of this is the 12-cent Washington (Scott #17), with a DFD of July 1, 1851. There is solid evidence that this stamp was sold on or before the DFD. Yet no First Day Cover has been found. In fact, the earliest documented cover franked with Scott #17 is dated August 4, 1851, more than one month later. This brings us to the second definition.

Earliest Documented Cover (EDC) — The earliest known postmark on a particular postal issue. This is applicable *only* when no First Day Covers are known.

Two problems are obvious here. Despite the catalogue listing of August 4, 1851 as a "First Day" for Scott #17, the cover so dated is *not* a First Day Cover but merely an EDC. The second problem is that an earlier dated cover could surface, and often does.

There are some instances where a stamp might not have been available on the DFD. For example, the DFD of the two-cent Panama-Pacific stamp (Scott #398) was January 1, 1913, yet the Bureau of Engraving and Printing did not even ship this stamp to the Post Office until January 15, 1913! In this and other such cases, the EDC becomes the important consideration.

Earliest Documented Covers have unfortunately been called Earliest Known Use in the past. The problem with this term is its ambiguity. Authors and cataloguers historically used this term to describe many situations other than EDC. The most common meaning of the term is that of the earliest contemporary reference to the use of a specific issue.

When the Post Office did not designate a first day for a particular issue, the pertinent date becomes the **First Day Of Sale (FDS)** — the earliest date on which a postal issue was sold to the public. This term applies *only* to issues for which there was no Designated First Day or when an issue was not sold on the DFD.

With this qualification, it follows that a stamp canceled on the First Day of Sale would then be a First Day Cover. However, at this point the problems begin. The First Day of Sale for nearly every issue prior to 1922 cannot be determined with any degree of certainty. Of course most catalogues do list dates for each stamp, but these dates usually require considerable study, before they can be used to ascertain the First Day of a Stamp. Remember that if there is no Designated First Day for an issue and the First Day of Sale is not definitely known, then only this Earliest Documented Cover is significant, always keeping in mind that an earlier dated cover could turn up at any time.

At this point an additional definition is appropriate, **Pre-Date** — a postal issue postmarked earlier than its Designated First Day. Note that there can be a pre-date *only* for an issue with a DFD. It obviously would be absurd to refer to a pre-date for an issue without a DFD. Such a cover would prove only that the currently accepted FDS is erroneous and that a new EDC has been discovered.

With all of the above in mind, let's consider a few covers which have been submitted to the Philatelic Foundation.

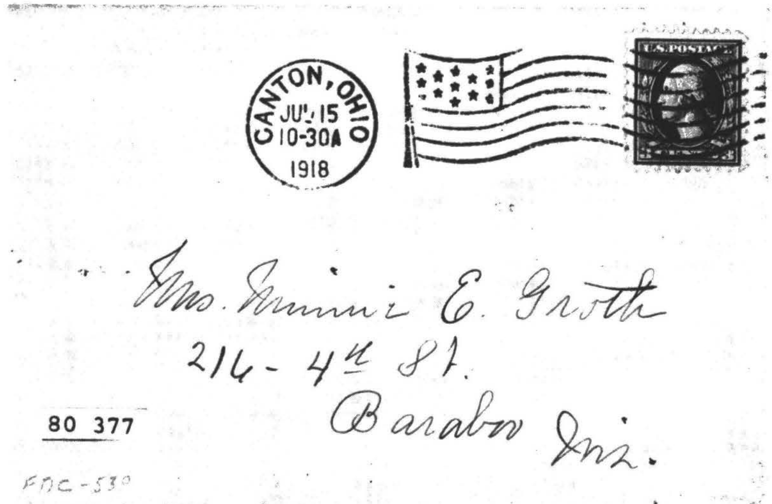


Figure 1.

Figure 1 shows a genuine cover franked with Scott #530, the 3-cent offset issue, Type IV, postmarked July 15, 1918. At the time this cover was submitted, the Scott catalogue listed the date, without explanation, of July 15, 1918, for this issue. Research yielded the following information:

1. There was no Designated First Day for this issue, nor could the First Day of Sale be determined with any certainty. Thus only an Earliest Documented Cover would have any meaning.
2. Within the previous few years, the same auction house had sold #530 covers dated July 13, 1918, and July 11, 1918, and described each as a pre-date.
3. A genuine cover of #530 exists dated June 30, 1918.
4. Highly credible contemporary reports indicated that Scott #530 had been placed on sale to the public on or before June 27, 1918.

Therefore, the June 30, 1918 cover becomes the Earliest Documented Cover. The cover in Figure 1, while genuine, is neither a First Day Cover nor an Earliest Documented Cover. It is merely an interesting, reasonably early usage of Scott #530.

Figure 2 pictures a genuine cover of Scott #398 postmarked January 17, 1913. Research produced this information:

1. The Post Office Department had designated January 1, 1913 as the First Day for this issue. However, because of the need to redesign and reprint this issue, it was not available for sale on the Designated First Day.
2. Although the Scott catalogue has listed January 18, 1913 as the

date for #398, no basis for this date could be found.

3. The Post Office Department has no record of when these stamps were first placed on sale. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing records indicate that these stamps were *shipped* on January 15, 1913, but it is possible that earlier shipments had been made.

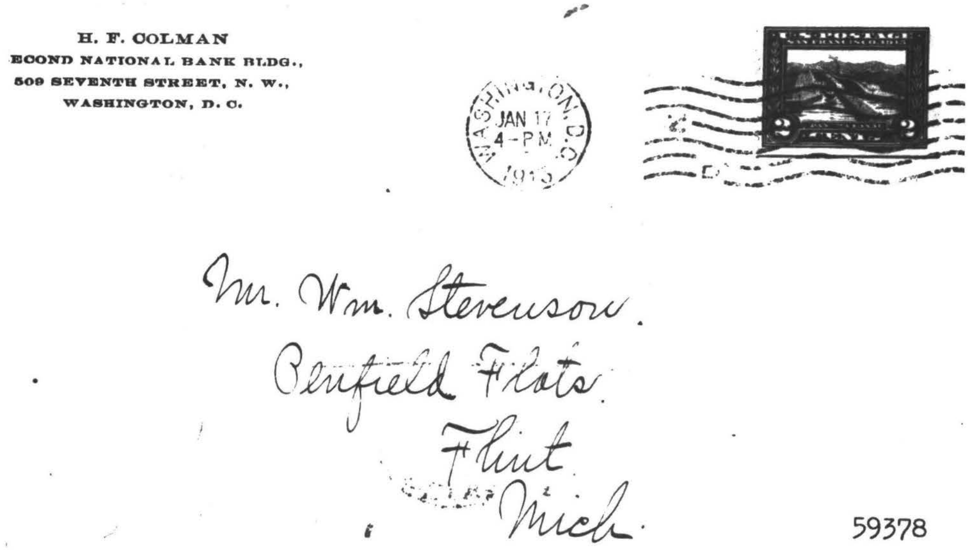


Figure 2.

Where does this leave us? The cover in Figure 2 represents the *current* Earliest Documented Cover of Scott #398. Always keep in mind that in cases such as this an earlier cover might surface at any time.

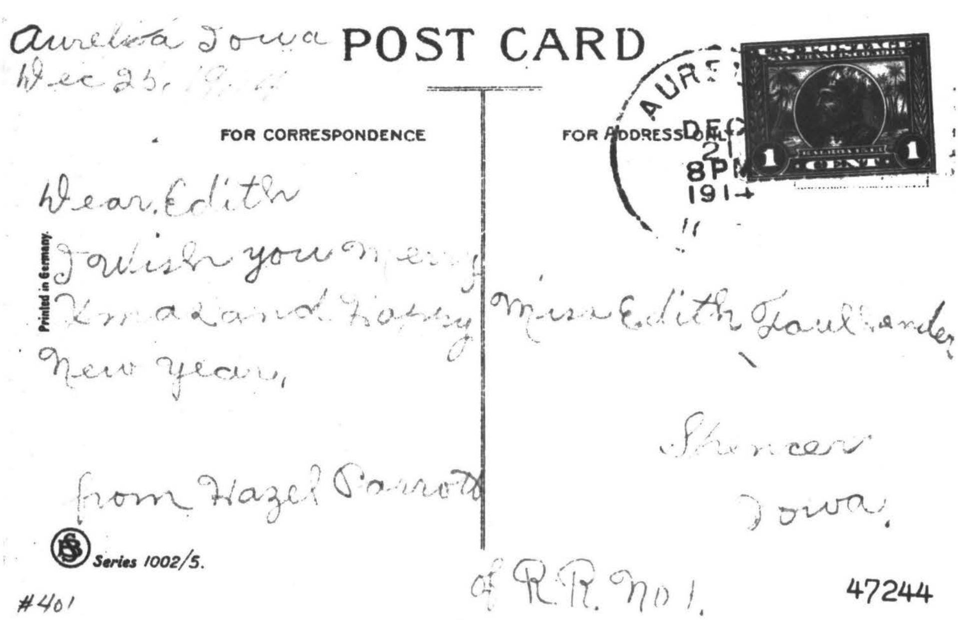


Figure 3.

Figure 3 pictures a genuine cover of Scott #401, the 1-cent Panama-Pacific perf. 10, postmarked December 21, 1914. This variety had no Designated First Day and, again, the Post Office Department has no record of when it was first sold. This cover, currently the Earliest Documented Cover of Scott #401, received a Philatelic Foundation Certificate of genuineness in 1977. Its existence was reported to cataloguing authorities at that time and several times since, yet the catalogue continues to list December 23, 1914 as the date without clarification or explanation.

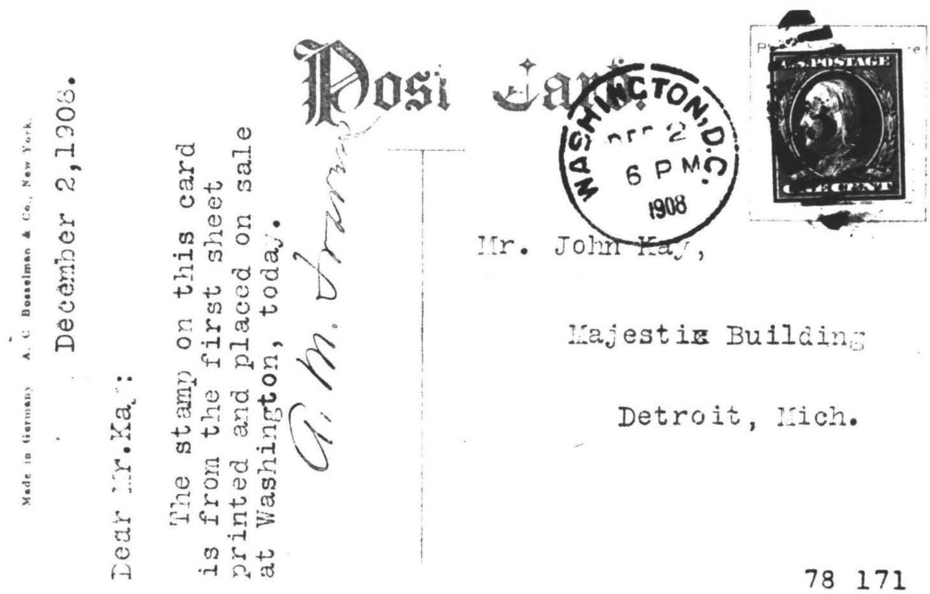


Figure 4.

Figure 4 shows a genuine cover franked with a single from the 1-cent 1909 Booklet Pane, Scott #331a and postmarked December 2, 1908. Note the comment, "The stamp on this card is from the first sheet printed and placed on sale at Washington, today", and the signature of A.M. Travers, Chief Clerk to the Third Assistant Postmaster General. This issue had no Designated First Day. The date of November 23, 1908 listed in the catalogue is the date the first shipment of these booklets was made by the Bureau to the Washington, D.C. Post Office warehouse. All that can be definitely said about this cover is that it represents the current Earliest Documented Cover of Scott #331a. Is this really a First Day Cover as Travers indicated? We may never know for sure.

Another example relates to the 1-cent sheet issue of 1903, Scott #300. The catalogues have listed the issue date of this stamp as February 3, 1903. On three occasions picture postcards were submitted franked with Scott #300 and allegedly dated February 3, 1903. In two of these cases, the cards and stamps were entirely genuine. Yet these cards could not possibly be FDCs or EDCs. Both were on "divided back" postcards, which were not even authorized until 1907. They obviously were over-inked 1908 usages. The First Day of Scott #300 is uncertain, but the Earliest Documented Cover is currently February 11, 1903.

Altered Covers

The faked "First Day Cover" most frequently encountered is an alteration of a genuine but inexpensive cover so that it appears to be a genuine FDC or EDC. Techniques include the following:

A. Partial Date Erasures — This is probably the most common method of faking FDCs. Figure 5 pictures a cover franked with a 2-cent Columbian, Scott #231, which was originally postmarked January 22, 1893. One "2" in "22" has been erased so that the cover appears to be dated January 2, 1893, which would make it a First Day Cover.

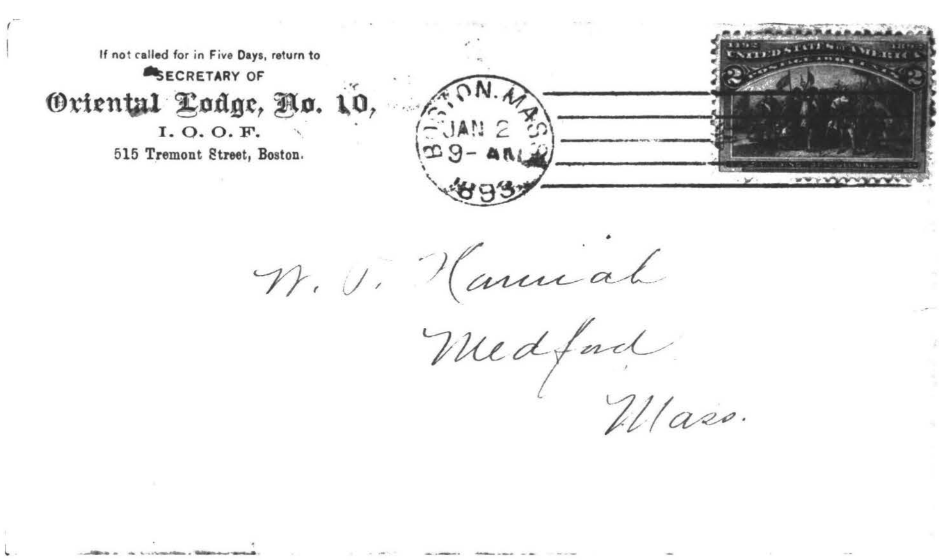
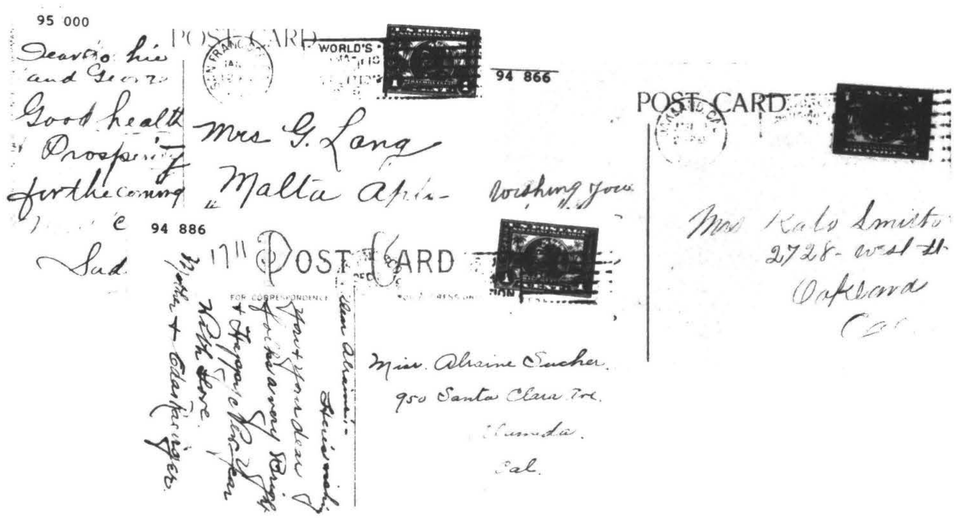


Figure 5.

There are a number of ways of detecting such a fake. The most common technique is to examine the area under high magnification. It is very difficult to remove canceling ink without leaving a detectable disturbance in the surface oxidation or paper fibers of the envelope. Additional information comes from a detailed knowledge of the characteristics of the actual canceling device used. In many cases, the location of a single digit will be different from that of either of the digits in a double digit number. Sometimes it is also useful to know the distribution history of the stamps involved. For example, a Columbian issue postmarked January 2, 1893 at Chicago, the actual site of the World's Fair being honored by the stamps, would be highly suspect, since these stamps did not reach Chicago until January 3, 1893. Post Offices west of Chicago did not receive these stamps until even later.

B. Date Enhancement — In many cases a postmark will be incomplete because of poor inking, an inadequately installed dater, location of the postmark on the cover, or by design (e.g. 3rd Class Mail). The faker has only to add an appropriate number or two to create an apparent gem. Here again, knowledge of the characteristics of the canceling device is often crucial. Also important is a careful examination of the ink, particularly its color, under ultraviolet light when viewed through filters, and its interaction with the paper. Other characteristics can also come into play. For example, when the year date has been tampered with it is sometimes possible to identify a counterfeit because of the known period of use of the canceling device itself, the presence of other stamps issued at a later date, or because of a change in the location of the addressee.



Figures 6, 7, 8

C. Stamp Replacement — Figures 6, 7, and 8 picture apparent First Days Covers or pre-dates of the 1-cent Panama-Pacific Issue of 1913, Scott #397, with a Designated First Day of January 1, 1913. In each case, the "common" stamp on a genuine postcard with the correct date was removed and replaced with Scott #397. It was not too difficult to come up with appropriate postcards. Remember that in 1913 the sending of New Year's Day cards was quite common, and many have survived. Further, the Panama-Pacific slogan was used so extensively that in only one case was it necessary for the faker to add significantly to the markings on the stamp to make it match with the envelope. Using the same techniques discussed above it was possible to see through the deception.

D. Adding Supplemental Information — In some cases, particularly on 19th Century material, a genuine cover might be postmarked with the correct month and day for a particular stamp but have no year date. In such cases the faker will add something to the cover to try to establish that it is the correct year. For example, one cover of Scott #10, the 3-cent 1851 issue, was examined. The cover had a genuine July 1 postmark. Since no United States postmarks had year dates in July 1851, other evidence is always needed to establish the year of use. In the case described, the letter appeared to be dated 1851. However, it was possible, using light and magnification, to establish that the year date in the letter had been added. It was also possible to plate the stamp, using plating photographs in the Philatelic Foundation's reference library. The stamp in this case had come from a plate which had not even been used until well after the first day. Thus the date of the cover must have been on July 1, 1852 or later, and the cover could not be a First Day Cover.

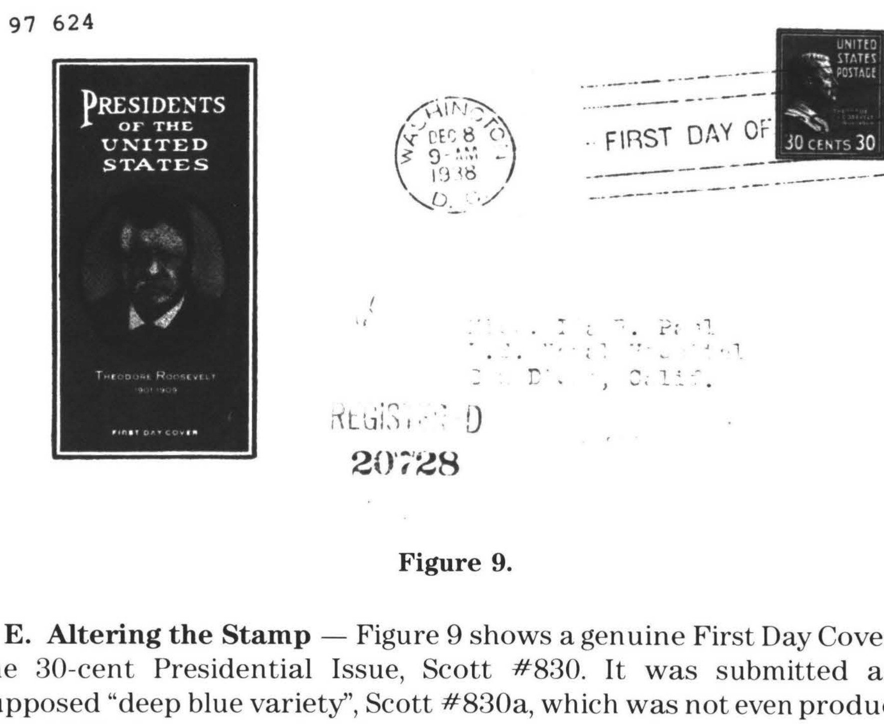


Figure 9.

E. Altering the Stamp — Figure 9 shows a genuine First Day Cover of the 30-cent Presidential Issue, Scott #830. It was submitted as a supposed "deep blue variety", Scott #830a, which was not even produced until 1941, three years after the First Day of the basic stamp. Apparently this was a special printing as a favor to President Roosevelt. Therefore this cover could not be a genuine FDC of Scott #830a. However when the stamp on the submitted cover was compared with the Philatelic Foundation's reference copy of Scott #830a, which came directly from the Roosevelt collection, under normal light the colors were remarkably similar. This was *not* true under ultraviolet light, where there were definite though subtle differences, including noticeable streaklike mottling on the copy submitted for authentication, though not on the reference copy. Based on this evidence, and minute stains on the cover adjacent to the stamp, it was determined that the stamp had been chemically treated so that it appeared to be the much more expensive variety.

A similar instance occurred in which a May 1890 usage of Scott #219D, the 2-cent lake, was treated to make it appear to be the Earliest Documented Cover of the 2-cent carmine, Scott #220.

F. Complete Fabrications — As one might imagine, the widest range of forgeries are the complete fabrications. These range from the amateurish to the insidious.

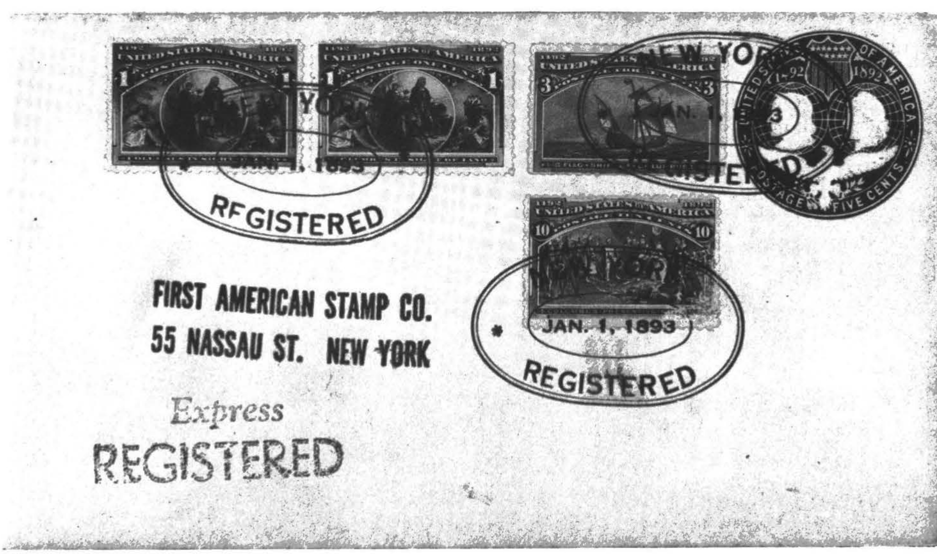


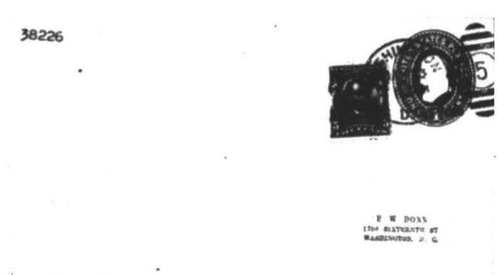
Figure 10.

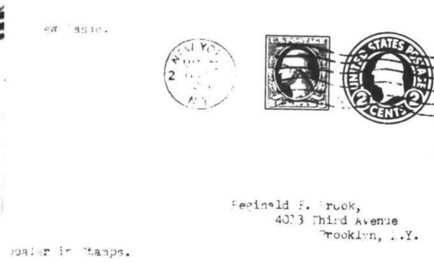
Figure 10 shows a famous fake. Created during the 1930's, this cover has appeared in a number of auctions over the years, yet it is an obvious forgery. The postmark is unlike anything that has ever existed. Further, it is on a Columbian stamped envelope, none of which were sold until March of 1893. Yet, bad as it is, this and other equally outrageous fakes continue to mislead the inexperienced collector and dealer alike.

Probably the most significant group of manufactured fakes first came on the philatelic market in the mid-1950's. Until that time, there had been no known First Day Covers for the regular issues that were issued between 1903 and 1918. Based on current research, this is not surprising, since essentially all of the dates then listed in the catalogue were erroneous. The majority of the dates listed came from Max Johl's *Twentieth Century United States Postage Stamps.* Johl had obtained most of his dates from Post Office records, which generally indicated the dates stamps were first shipped from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The actual First Days of Sale were almost always days or even weeks later.

From 1955 to 1957, one auction house sold a "collection" of early 20th Century First Day Covers. They were masterfully manufactured fakes. Nearly all were on stamped envelopes which predated the stamps, neatly guaranteeing that the age of the envelope would not be a factor in detecting the fakes. Nearly all were neatly addressed to a known dealer or collector of the era. All had postmarks which were photo-lithographed from reinforced genuine postmarks of the correct era. Because of the general lack of interest in First Day Covers at that time and because of their moderate value, none were submitted at that time for expertization. Unfortunately, these fakes were used as the basis for catalogue listings. When some of the covers were finally submitted, it was possible to prove they were bogus in some or all of the following ways:

a. Wrong dates.
b. Addressee did not live at the address on the envelope at the time of the postmark.
c. Lithographed postmark.
d. Stamp printed from a plate too worn to have been used on the First Day of Sale.





Figures 11 *(left)*, **12** *(top right)*, **13** *(bottom right).*

Figure 11 is typical of the bogus covers for the regular issue of 1903, Scott #300-309. Figure 12 is typical of the bogus FDCs of the first Washington-Franklin Issue, Scott #331-340. Figure 13 is typical of the bogus FDCs of the 1917-18 issues.

Unfortunately, early classics have not been the only target for the counterfeiter. For example, one small California dealer made machine cancels or hand cancels for FDCs of the 1960's and 1970's.

You might ask, "Why would anyone bother with these inexpensive covers readily available from any dealer?" Think about this. He used stamps obtained at their 4-cent to 8-cent face value, or less. He was printing his own cacheted envelopes at a few cents each. He then sold his handiwork in lots of tens of thousands for about 35 cents to 50 cents each. Until the Postal Service caught up with him, he was one of the more financially successful philatelic forgers! He was sentenced to two years in jail for his efforts. Figure 14 is an example of his work. Counterfeits of other modern FDCs exist as well.

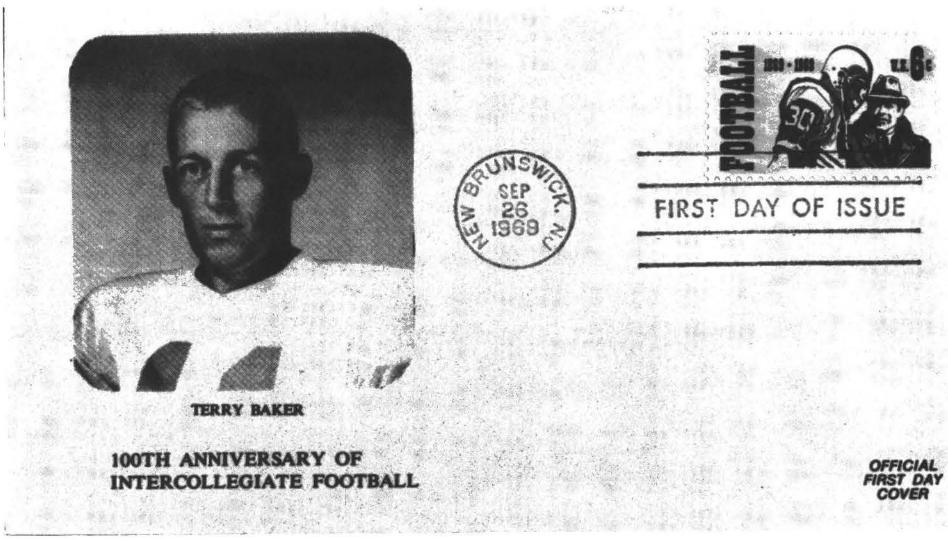


Figure 14.

The biggest problem in the field of expertizing First Day Covers and Earliest Documented Covers is the notion among philatelists that this material is for the unsophisticated collector. It has been this idea which has made it relatively easy for the forgers to get away with their attempts to create "rare gems". Now many of these fakes have gained a certain legitimacy, which only the study of early usages can correct.

The Philatelic Foundation and the American First Day Cover Foundation are attempting to set the philatelic records straight, but they need the help of all students of United States philately in establishing the Earliest Documented Covers of every United States stamp which does not have a Designated First Day.

Table I

DESIGNATED FIRST DAYS 1847 - 1921©

Scott No.	Description	Designated First Day
1, 2	First General Issue 5c and 10c	July 1, 1847
5, 5b, 7, 10, 17	Issue of 1851 1c, 3c, 12c	July 1, 1851
205	5c brown Garfield	April 10, 1882
210	2c Washington (red brown)	October 1, 1883
219, 219D, 221-4, 226-9	Regular Issue of 1890	February 22, 1890
230-5, 237-45	Columbians (except 8c)	January 1, 1893
294-9	1c-10c Pan American Exposition Series	May 1, 1901
323-7	1c-10c Louisiana Purchase Exposition Series	April 30, 1904
328-30	1c-5c Jamestown Exposition Series	April 26, 1907
367-9	Lincoln Memorial Issue	February 12, 1909
370, 371	Alaska Yukon Exposition Series	June 1, 1909
372-373	Hudson-Fulton Exposition Issue	September 25, 1909
397-400	Pan Pacific Exposition Issue	January 1, 1913
E1	First Special Delivery	October 1, 1885
F1	10c Registration Stamp	December 1, 1911
Q1-12	1c-$1.00 Parcel Post	January 1, 1913 (4th class) July 1, 1913 (1st class)
U227-30	2c red Stamped Envelope	October 1, 1883
J1-4	1c-5c Postage Dues	July 1, 1879
O1-93	Official Stamps	July 1, 1873

Note: First Day Covers do not exist for many of these issues. In fact, some of these issues (Nos. 222, 223, 230, 371, 373, 398, Q3, Q10, Q12, U228-30) probably were not even available on the Designated First Day.

Determining the Genuineness of United States "A.E.F." Booklet Panes

By Richard F. Larkin

In September 1917, the Post Office shipped to Europe special booklet panes for use by personnel of the American Expeditionary Force and other Americans involved in the war (Red Cross, YMCA, etc.). The initial shipment consisted of 3,000 each of one-cent and two-cent booklets, containing ten panes of 30 stamps.

In October, Congress voted to allow active members of the armed forces to send first class mail from Europe without payment of regular postage. Thus the need for U.S. postage stamps by the A.E.F was nearly eliminated. After that time, stamps were needed only to pay for special services such as registration, and by non-service personnel such as the Red Cross. Accordingly, no more of the special booklets were prepared, and the few panes of the original shipment which survived are now quite rare, especially the two-cent panes. A.E.F. stamps used on cover are even rarer, as most such covers were likely to have been discarded by the recipients.

Additional details of the history of these panes are in the article by W.L. Babcock, Appendix II to this article.

Description of the stamps

Determining the genuineness of an A.E.F. pane or piece thereof (such as is likely to appear on a cover) requires a thorough understanding of how these and related stamps were manufactured. By "related stamps" we mean those other one-cent and two-cent stamps which might be honestly confused with A.E.F stamps, particularly on cover, or which might have been used as raw material by a faker attempting to create an A.E.F. pane from less expensive stamps.

Relevant stamps (all unwatermarked and flat press) are:

Denomination	Scott Number	Perforation	Size of unit as Printed	Size of unit as Issued
1c, 2c sheet	481, 482	Imperf.	400	100/400
1c, 2c sheet	498, 499	11 × 11	400	100
1c, 2c booklet	498e, 499e	11 × 11	360	6
1c, 2c, A.E.F. booklet	498f, 499f	11 × 11	360	30

(Since 481/2 and 498/9 are identical except for the absence of perforations in the first case, I shall discuss the imperforate and the perforated sheet stamps together.)

The above sheet stamps were printed in sheets of 400 subjects with plate numbers, arrows, and selvage on all four sides; horizontal and vertical guide lines through the center; and siderographer's and plate finisher's initials at lower left and right, respectively. (See Figure 1.) The horizontal guideline is roughly equidistant from the rows of stamps above and below (approximately 1mm from each). For sale to the public, most of these sheets were cut along the two guidelines into panes of 100 stamps. Thus, all perforated sheet stamps with one or two straight edges have a guideline on the straight edge(s) if the cut margin is wide enough to show the line.

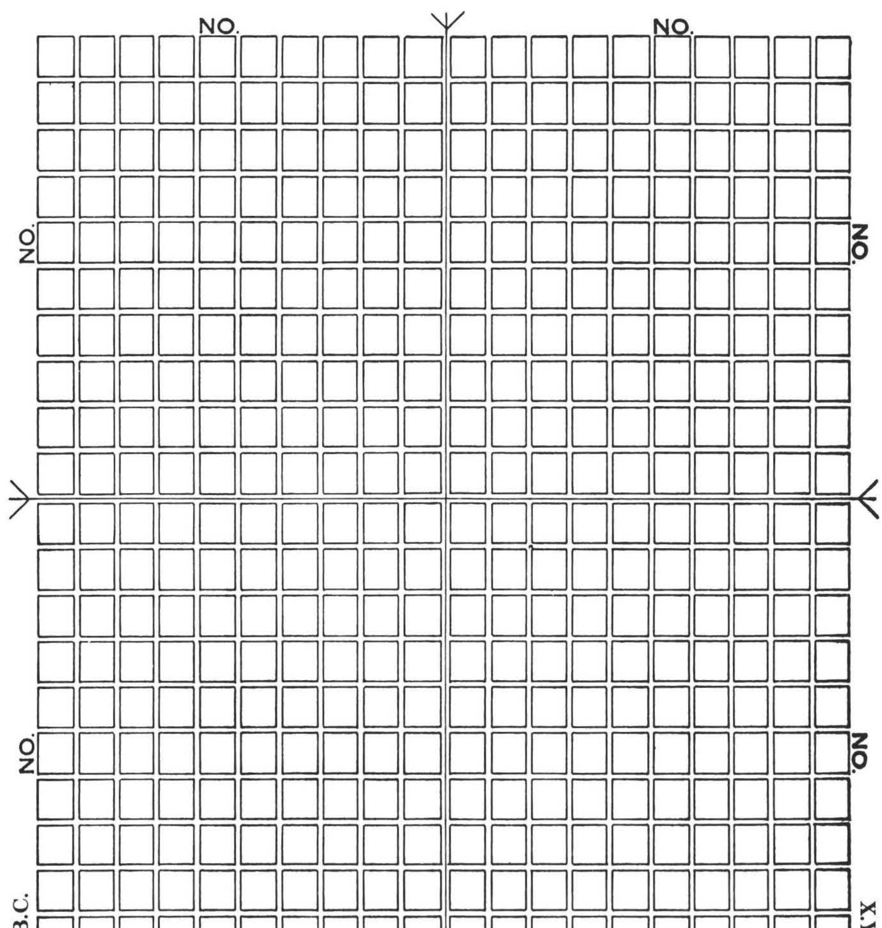


Figure 1. A typical 400-subject plate.

Plates used to print each kind of stamp (sheet or booklet) were used only for that purpose. Thus an attached plate number immediately identifies a stamp as either sheet or booklet; Durland and other catalogs list which plate numbers are which.

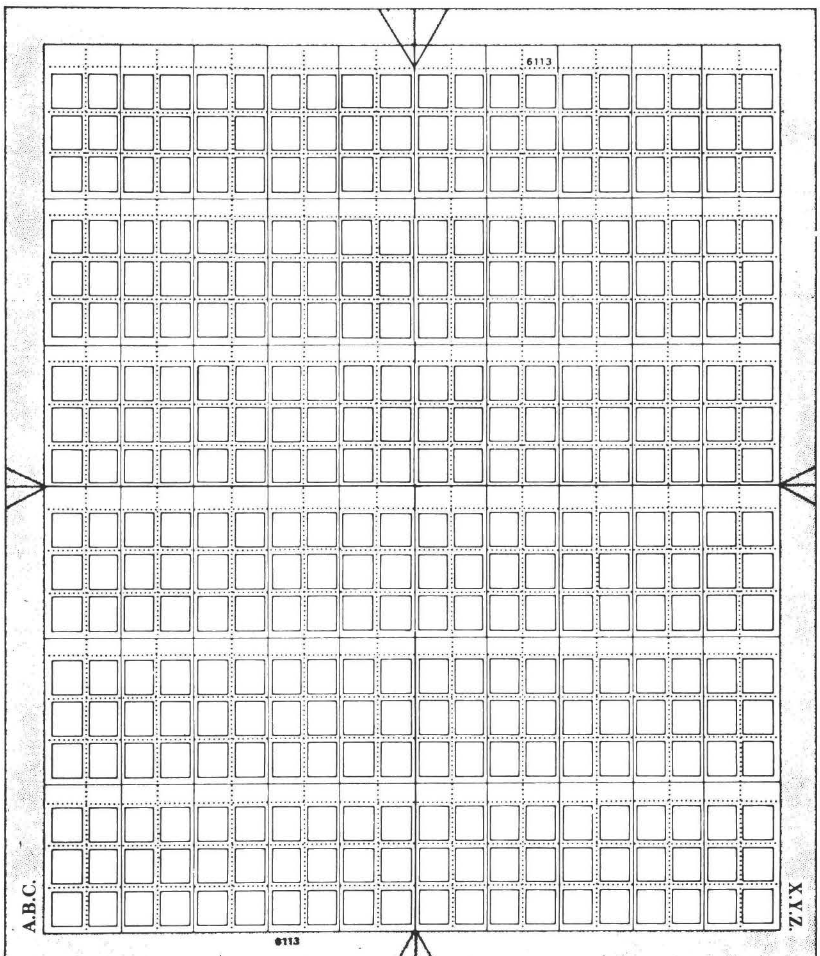


Figure 2. The 360-Subject Plate.

The A.E.F. booklets were printed from the same plates used for the ordinary booklets (498e, 499e). These plates contain 360 subjects arranged as shown in Figure 2. There are plate numbers at top and bottom only, arrows on all four sides, guidelines through the center, and siderographer's and plate finisher's initials at lower left and right, respectively. The horizontal guideline is very close (about ½mm) to the stamps above and quite far (about 8mm) from the stamps below.

The only differences between the preparation of A.E.F. and ordinary booklet panes were in the perforating and the cutting of the sheet into panes. To make ordinary panes, the sheet received 18 horizontal and 10 vertical rows of perforations, while A.E.F. sheets received fewer horizontal but more vertical rows: 12 and 20, respectively. For ordinary panes the sheet was cut in 18 places (7 horizontally and 11 vertically, including trimming excess margins). A.E.F. panes were made with the same number of horizontal cuts, but only three vertical cuts: far left, along the center guideline, and far right. The left and right cuts were farther "out" than on the ordinary booklet sheets, to leave the left and right selvage needed for stapling the A.E.F. panes into booklets (Figure 3).

There is one other important difference between the process of printing booklet panes (both ordinary and A.E.F.) and printing sheet stamps: the way the paper was fed into the press. Think of a pile of blank

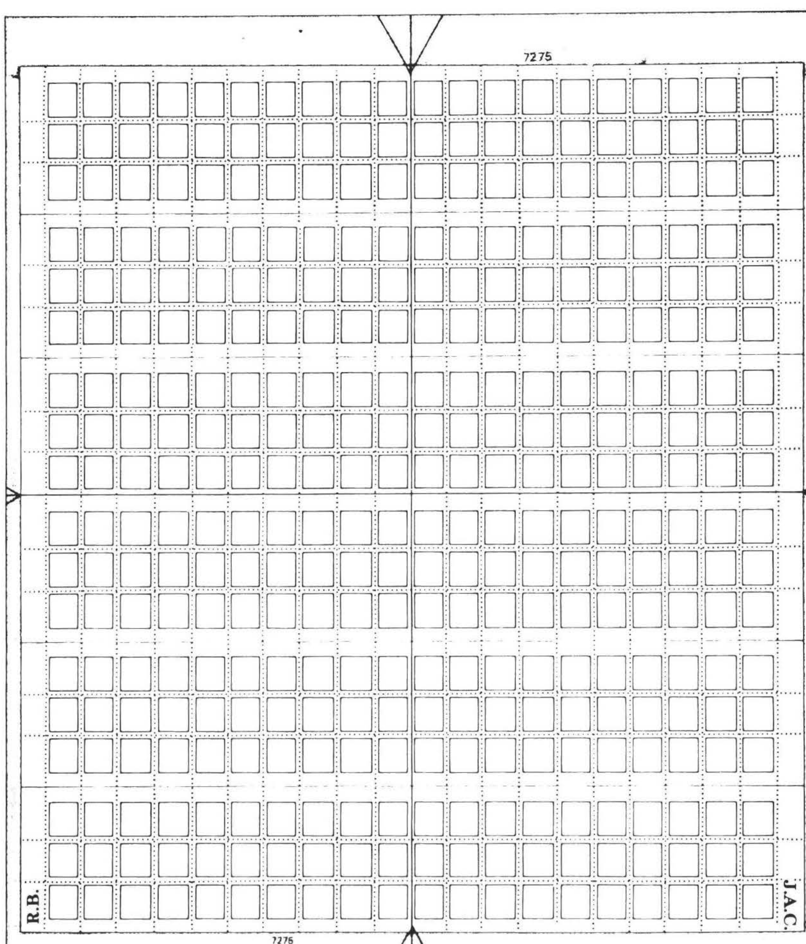


Figure 3. The 360-Subject A.E.F. Plate.

paper waiting to be printed. If for sheet stamps a piece of paper was picked up off the pile and fed straight into the press, for booklet stamps that piece would be turned 90 degrees (in the horizontal plane) before it was fed into the press. This was required by the relative sizes of the two different kinds of plates.

The result of this difference is that sheet stamps were printed with the grain of the paper running vertically through the finished stamps while booklet stamps have the grain running horizontally. When wet paper shrinks (as printed sheets of stamps do) it shrinks more in the direction perpendicular to the grain than it does in the direction parallel to the grain. Thus a newly printed sheet stamp shrinks slightly more in the horizontal dimension while a booklet stamp shrinks slightly more in the vertical dimension (Figure 4). This means that although booklet and sheet stamps were made from the same master dies, the finished products vary in size due to different shrinkage. Booklet stamps are very slightly shorter and wider than sheet stamps. The difference is less than half a millimeter, but it can be discerned through careful measurement. See Appendix I for instruction on how to discern this difference.

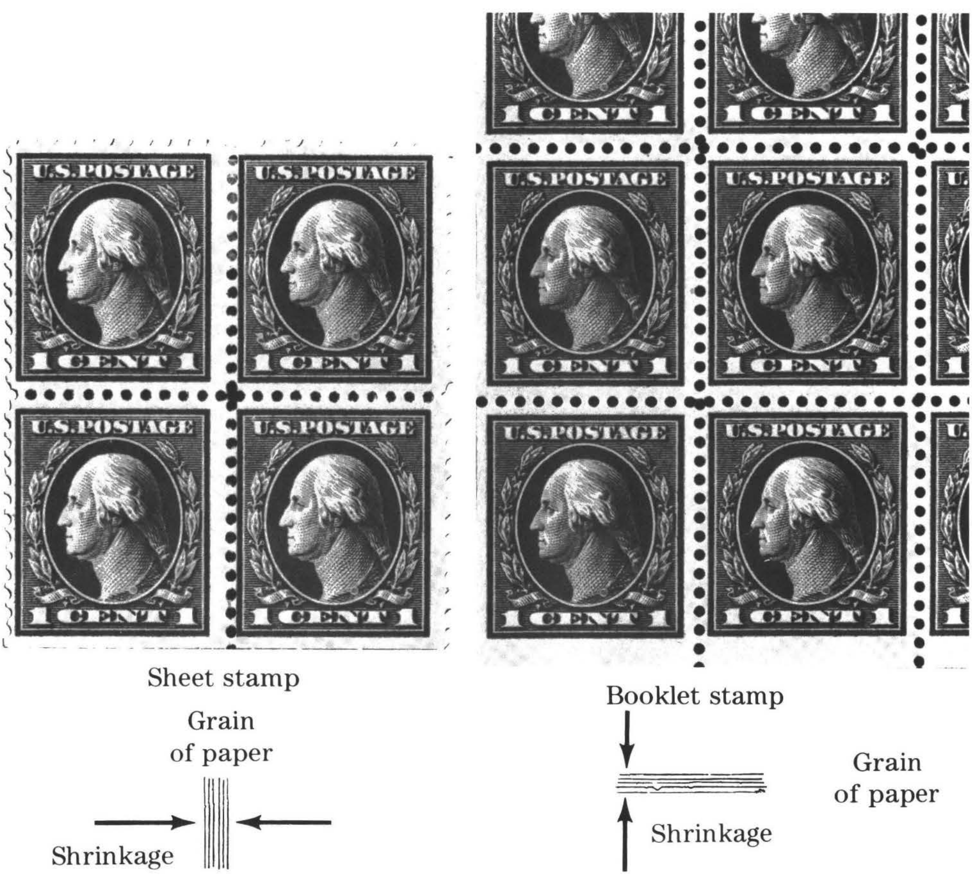


Figure 4. Different shrinkage of sheet and booklet stamps.

Distinguishing the A.E.F. Panes

Positive identification of A.E.F. panes or parts thereof requires distinguishing the item in question from both sheet stamps and ordinary panes. With full panes or large pieces, confusion with ordinary panes of course will not arise, but single stamps and pairs might be from either size pane as well as from a sheet, and what appear to be full A.E.F. panes or large pieces might have been manufactured from sheet stamps.

Full panes (Figures 5, 6, 7): A genuine A.E.F. booklet pane will contain 30 stamps (10 × 3) with selvage at left or right and straight edges on the other three sides. The selvage will contain two or three pairs of staple holes (not always noticeable, however, if one or more holes overlap each other or a perforation hole). At the side of the pane opposite the selvage there may be a vertical guide line, if the margin is cut wide enough to show it.

The top and bottom margins will be straight and reasonably parallel to each other. One of these margins may be cut very close and the other very wide (5-7mm), or both may be only moderately wide (2-4mm). There may be a guideline in the top or bottom margin (never both). If there is a guideline in the bottom margin, it will be very close to the bottom of the stamp designs above it: around half a millimeter distant. If there is a guideline in the top margin, it will be very far from the tops of the stamp designs below it: 8-9mm.

There may be a half arrow in the selvage. Part or all of a plate number may show, either above the fourth stamp from the left (in a pane with selvage at the right) or below the fourth stamp from the right (in a pane with selvage at the left — this pane will also show siderographer's initials in the selvage — see below).

The following checklist may be useful.

	1c stamp	**2c stamp**
Plate number	7275	7968
	7981	7969
	7990	7970
	7991	7971
Lower left selvage	R.B.	F.W.McN.
(siderographer's init.)	W.McA.	R.B.
Right selvage	J.H.K.	C.M.H.
(plate finisher's init.)	R.D.	J.W.G.
	J.A.C.	R.D.
	J.M.B.	W.E.S.

Figure 5.

Figure 6.

Figure 7.

Figures 5, 6, 7 *(top to bottom)*: One cent panes with selvage at left and at right, two-cent pane used.

A pane with initials in the selvage cannot have a horizontal guideline. The ratio of stamp height to width will be as discussed in Appendix I.

Characteristics which, if present, should raise serious question as to genuineness are:

1. Top or bottom edge not cut straight.
2. Perforations ragged, out of line, or uneven.
3. Both top and bottom margins cut very close to stamps.
4. Guideline in top margin closer than 7mm to stamps.
5. Guideline in bottom margin 1mm or more away from stamps.
6. Ratio of stamp height to width appears to be that of sheet stamps.

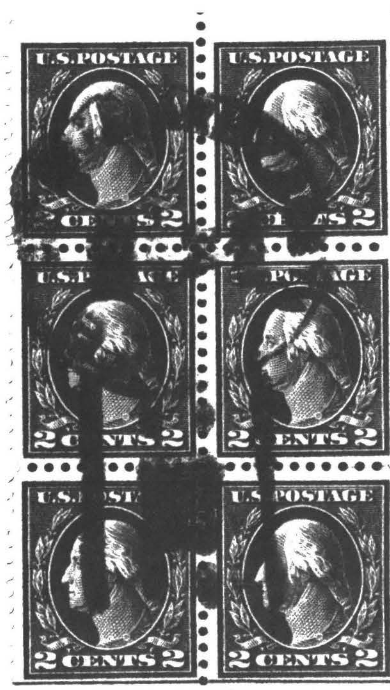


Figure 8. Note the proximity of the bottom guideline to the stamp design.

Pieces of panes (assumed to be on cover): One type of piece can be immediately identified as from an A.E.F. pane: a vertical strip of 3 (or larger piece which includes such a strip) with straight edges at the top and bottom. It is likely that one of the straight edges will have a very wide margin or that both straight edge margins will be moderately wide. If both are very narrow the piece should be scrutinized very carefully, as one of the straight edges may have been created after issuance. Also check the height-to-width ratio and, if applicable, check the rules listed above about horizontal guidelines.

Assuming the piece does not contain a vertical strip of three, all is not necessarily lost. Certain combinations can be identified.

Any single stamp (or larger piece) with a wide (2mm or more) straight edge at the top, or any stamp perforated on both sides and with a wide straight edge at the bottom, and no guideline on the straight top or bottom edge is likely to be from an A.E.F. pane if other tests (height-to-width ratio and cover characteristics) are met. If there is a horizontal guideline on the wide straight edge, then also see the rules listed above.

Note that, unlike stamps from ordinary booklet panes which always have at least one straight edge, most stamps from the middle row of A.E.F. panes have no straight edges.

Certain stamps can be quickly identified as not from an A.E.F. pane, as follows:

1. Horizontal pairs with straight edges on both outer sides (these are from the ordinary booklet panes)
2. Any stamp with a wide straight edge (2mm) at left or right and no guideline on the straight edge (ordinary booklet panes)
3. Stamps with a horizontal guideline closer than 7mm at the top or farther than 1mm at the bottom (sheet stamps)

Certain stamps which can be identified as booklet stamps by the height-to-width ratio and/or by having a bottom horizontal guideline very close to the design (see Figure 8) cannot be identified as A.E.F. booklet stamps as opposed to ordinary booklet stamps. These include stamps with a straight edge at left and bottom, right and bottom, left, or right, and where the left or right margin either shows a guideline or is cut too close to tell whether a guideline was present.

Any other single stamp or larger piece not eliminated by the criteria in the two preceding paragraphs, whose height-to-width ratio falls well within the normal booklet range, and which is on a cover that appears reasonable is likely to be from an A.E.F. pane. Stamps which have a borderline ratio should not be accepted as genuine based on that characteristic alone, because the height and width differences are so small.

Figure 9. A cover that passes the tests.

Cover characteristics: Although it would have been possible for someone to have acquired A.E.F. stamps in Europe, and to have taken them elsewhere to be used, this seems most unlikely. For practical purposes, proper usage of these stamps should be considered to include the following elements: use from or within the area of Europe in which the A.E.F. operated (northern France and nearby areas) by a person whose return address indicates some reasonable connection with the A.E.F. (member of the armed forces, medical personnel, press, service related function such as Red Cross, YMCA, etc.); postmark between mid-September 1917 and January 10, 1923 (date the last A.E.F. troops left Europe); cancellations and other postal markings appropriate to the time and place; amount of postage consistent with franking rules in effect.

By the last element, it is meant that use for ordinary postage alone by a member of the armed forces is likely only through October 1917 when they were granted free ordinary postage. After that, only registered and other special service covers from servicemen would normally contain the A.E.F. stamps, and then only to pay the cost of the extra service. Civilian use for all purposes, however, occurred through the entire period. It is of course possible that a soldier could have used one of the stamps for ordinary postage alone after October 1917 even though not required to, but such a cover should be scrutinized very carefully.

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"The Use of Postage Stamps by the A.E.F. in Europe, 1917 - 1922", R.B. Preston; *Scott's Monthly Journal*, June, 1935. (Appendix III)

"War Pane Booklets, Nos. 498-9", W.L. Babcock, M.D.; *Mekeel's Weekly*, date unknown, around 1936. (Appendix II)

Postal History of the A.E.F. 1917-1923, War Cover Club, Theo Van Dam, editor.

Appendix I

Identification of booklet stamps by measurement of the ratio of height to width.

Although, as discussed above, there are absolute differences of about one-half millimeter in height and width between sheet and booklet stamps, "standard" values for these dimensions will not be given. This is because the differences are so small that they exceed the variation among different measuring devices likely to be used by collectors. Further, these dimensions vary among stamps of a given type.

Collectors desiring to use this technique to identify booklet stamps should obtain a number of known sheet and booklet stamps. Measure them carefully several times using a measuring device with the finest possible divisions. (Look through a large magnifying glass to obtain more precise readings, and measure at several places on each stamp.) After a number of measurements, a pattern will be evident in terms of the scale of the particular measuring device the collector happens to own. Then, to reduce further the effect of measuring errors, rather than relying on the absolute height or width, compute the ratio of the two dimensions. (This also has the effect of magnifying the differences since they go in opposite directions). Note that this technique will not distinguish A.E.F. from ordinary booklet stamps, but it will eliminate sheet stamps from further consideration.

A less precise method is to cut some known sheet and booklet stamps in half vertically and horizontally (be careful to make the cuts straight and exactly perpendicular to the edges of the stamp design), and overlay the cut pieces on the stamp to be identified.

Ranges of ratios of height to width likely to be encountered are:

	Booklet	Sheet
498 (1c)	1.130 - 1.155	1.165 - 1.185
499 (2c)	1.140 - 1.155	1.160 - 1.180

Appendix II

War Pane Booklets, Nos. 498-9
1917, 1c Green, 2c Carmine

By W.L. Babcock, M.D.

The first heavy artillery to reach France was the First Separate Brigade of Coast Artillery (R.R. guns). This brigade was made up of the 6th, 7th and 8th C.A.C. Regiments. (6,000 men.) They sailed from New York Aug. 11, 1917, rendezvoused in Halifax Harbor and left Halifax as soon as the full convoy of 8 vessels and a British cruiser for protection was assembled. From New York they were 21 days reaching Liverpool; thence to the British Artillery Camp at Aldershot, and finally, crossing the English Channel, from Southampton to LeHavre. Thence by troop trains to the Camp de Mailly, which was the large French Artillery Training Camp, located approximately 20 miles behind the German lines near Fort Malmaison.

While the troops were in England, the ship bringing this brigade across the Atlantic, proceeded on to LeHavre and shipped the Brigade freight to Camp de Mailly. Therefore, on the arrival of the troops at the camp, a part of the regimental and brigade supplies were on hand, with thousands of additional tons en route. Included in the freight were 12 Ford automobile ambulances, which it was the duty of the Medical Regimental sections to assemble.

The writer was Major Surgeon of the 6th Regiment, C.A.C., and with the medical corps immediately began the assemblage of knock-down ambulances on the French R.R. station platforms. While this assemblage was under way he noticed two very large packing cases labeled "From the Post Office Dept. U.S.A." He followed these packing cases to the Quartermaster's Department and saw them opened. They were filled with booklets of war pane stamps, Nos. 498-499. One or two booklets were purchased and forwarded to friends in Detroit, notably: Fred Heyerman, later President of the A.P.S., and T.P. LaDue. It was at once observed that they differed in size from the booklets of stamps sold in the U.S.A., having imperforate margins running across the bottom and top of the 10 upper and lower stamps of the panes of 30.

Through Mr. Heyerman the first notice of this issue was published in the *American Philatelist*, Dec. 15, 1917, and a subsequent notice appeared on March 1, 1918. Philip H. Ward of Philadelphia, immediately forwarded $100 and Geo. H. Beans of Glenside, Pa., $70, for the 1c and 2c booklets, and Beans possibly made a subsequent request for a few books. The soldiers of the brigade in crossing the Atlantic spent a part of their time in writing letters, but had no opportunity of mailing until reaching the French Artillery Camp. Most of the stamps received were immediately sold the soldiers for stamping a ton of accumulated mail which had to be censored. This Military outfit never received any additional stamps. Note that the month was September, 1917. The ship carrying these stamps in their freight with the 5th Regiment C.A.C. was the Cunarder "Andania", which was sunk by submarines on the return trip. The writer used these stamps in forwarding mail until January 18, 1918, when he attempted to secure more in Paris at the A.P.O. No. 2. He was told that the supply had been exhausted but more were expected. The expected never came and the first shipment was the last.

It is known that a few 1c booklets were returned to New York, exact quantity unknown, and that Stanley Gibbons & Co. obtained most of these, which they retailed over a period of several years. The interest in them in the beginning seemed to be limited. It was early discovered, however, that the 2c booklet was not obtainable. It is further known that Gen. H.H. Bandholtz of the Regular Army, U.S.A., now deceased, sent or brought over several booklets of the 2c. Aside from the booklets of 2c sent to Philip Ward, Geo. Beans, and to Detroit, the Bandholtz supply would appear to cover practically all sent to this country. Hence the scarcity of the 2c pane, which catalogs $225. Many of the panes sent over were broken up as several vertical blocks of six have turned up at auction or in collections. Probably less than 20 booklets of the 2c, representing 200 panes, have been preserved. Of these 200 panes a part have been broken up into blocks of 6.

It is of more than passing interest to note that very few used entires carrying these stamps are found in specialists' collections or have been preserved. The stamps of the upper and bottom rows are readily identified on covers by means of the bottom or top imperforate margin, which is of varying widths. The middle row, of course, did not differ from the stamps printed in sheets of 400, used in this country, which were perforated around the other rows and had no top and bottom straight edges. Collectors, in looking over the common 1c and 2c Nos. 498-499, ignore these straight edges believing them to be a product of the regular printing.

The earliest known dates of the entires are Sept. 10, 1917, on a postcard, postmarked at the A.P.O. #2, Paris, where a part of the shipment had been sent from LeHavre, and Sept. 21, 1917, first day of use, on a letter postmarked at A.P.O. #7 at Camp de Mailly. The latest date recorded is March 1, 1918. These were in the collection of the writer. The use of these stamps was superfluous after Oct., 1917, during which month the Adjutant General's Office in Washington notified the A.E.F. that soldiers first class mail could be forwarded, after censoring, post free to America.

Months later, the writer obtained from the U.S. Army Post Office in Paris, about 40 empty 1c and 2c booklets, stampless, and a grim reminder of the packing case and lost opportunities. But alas! If the packing cases had been opened and distributed on this side of the pond, this would not have been written. Better as it were.

Appendix III
From *Scott's Monthly Journal*

The Use of Postage Stamps by the A.E.F. in Europe, 1917-1922

By R.B. Preston

As far as the writer is aware the use of postage stamps by our army in Europe during the World War is a subject that has never before been discussed in the Philatelic press, at least not to any length. In fact it seems to have been the consensus of opinion, among the majority of collectors, that stamps were never used on mail originating in the areas occupied by the American Army in Europe, during the World War.

Most of us recall that soldiers with the A.E.F. were allowed to frank their letters with the notation "Soldiers Mail", and all seem to have assumed that therefore stamps were never required, in spite of booklet panes No. 498 and No. 499 having been listed for some time under the notation "for use of the American Expeditionary Force in France".

For a number of years I have had a few covers in my collection bearing stamps, and used from France and Germany during the war. When the "UNITED STATES STAMP CATALOGUE" was released, the request for suggestions caused me to write Mr. Clark and to suggest that it might be desirable to include listings of certain stamps bearing military cancellations from Europe, in the same way that "army field post" cancellations are now listed for the Civil War issues. From this developed an investigation as to how these stamps happened to be used in an attempt to determine if they were actually worthy of mention in the catalogue.

In running down the actual regulations covering the franking privilege extended to the A.E.F. during the World War it developed that postage stamps were required in certain cases, as the frank applied only to *letters* posted by soldiers, sailors, or marines assigned to duty with the army in Europe.

The Act of Congress, approved October 3, 1917, granted to soldiers, sailors and marines assigned to the A.E.F. the franking privilege on first-class mail. General Order No. 48, dated October 20, 1917, made this act effective throughout the A.E.F. Prior to that time all mail from members of the A.E.F. was subject to the United States domestic classification, conditions and rates of postage, and no other than U.S. postage stamps were valid for the prepayment of postage.

Our first troops landed in France on June 26, 1917, therefore from that date until October 20, 1917 all mail matter was prepaid with stamps. Incidently (sic) the use of the French postal service, by members of the A.E.F., was contrary to regulations.

There must have been thousands of letters sent back during that four month period, all bearing US stamps with military cancellations. The surprising thing is that more of them have not created interest among collectors.

General Order No. 48 only granted the franking privilege to members of the military forces. After it became effective all civilians attached to the army, such as YMCA, YWCA, Red Cross, press representatives, and even members of the postal service, were required to use stamps on their mail. On November 6, 1917, the privilege of the frank was extended, in cases of urgent necessity only, to civilians with the army. That extension, however, was revoked by the War Department on December 3, 1917. As long as our forces remained in Europe civilian mail was required to bear stamps, therefore, stamps were used to a limited degree throughout the war except for twenty-seven days.

The franking privilege was never extended to cover postal money orders, registered mail, printed matter, or parcel post; as it was only granted by the act of October 3, 1917 to apply to first-class or letter mail. For this reason it is possible that a large number of different stamps may be found, current during the war, bearing military cancellations in use throughout the A.E.F.

Although the final treaty of peace with Germany was passed by the Senate on July 1, 1921, passed by the House on June 30th, and formally ratified by the Senate on October 18, 1921 the franking privilege extended to members of the A.E.F. remained in force until October 20, 1922. From this fact it may be presumed that some form of military postage service was maintained until that date at least. Probably US stamps can thus be located, used from Europe on civilians letters, and on printed matter, parcel post, and registered mail as late as October 1922.

The facts given in this article may be taken as official as they were obtained from the Adjutant General's Office of the War Department after a review of the regulations applying to the postal service as extended to the A.E.F.

The postmarks found on covers bearing stamps are those used for the usual "Soldiers Mail" letters. In one case I have a letter, franked with a single of No. 501, showing a return address of 12 Rue d'Agresseau, Paris (YMCA HDQ) which is cancelled with the usual six wavy lines ordinarily found with a machine cancellation, however, the circular postmark has been removed, probably for military reasons.

The only other machine cancellation of which I have record appearing on a cover bearing stamps is that used by our Headquarters at Coblenz (APO-927) which has been used on a cover bearing a copy of No. 499.

As it seems definite that the use of postage stamps in Europe was required by the postal regulations, it is my suggestion that these be listed as sub-varieties in the next edition of the "UNITED STATES STAMP CATALOGUE".

At present the following are known:

#498, used in Germany — Type C
#499, used in Germany — Type C & D
#501, used in France — Type A & B
#501, used in Germany — Type C
#504, used in France
#529, used in France

U.S. Scott #539
2c Type II Coil Waste, Perf. 11×10

By George W. Brett

Our subject variety is one of the more valuable of the "coil waste" issued and, as such, could be grist for the mills of those who would try to manufacture more of them. The stamp has been variously listed in the Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogues: first, as an unlettered subvariety under #539, a number assigned at the time to the Type III version; then in 1931 it became #539c. This continued through 1956 and in the 1957 edition it became #539 and the Type III variety became #540. No date of issuance is noted, only the year 1919.

This stamp prsents the following factors for consideration:

1. The making of Type II.
2. Matters of coil waste production.
3. The perforation.
4. Problems of identification.
5. The Philatelic Foundation record.
6. Other findings and conclusions.

The making of Type II.

The beginning of our story goes back to the early 1900's when demand developed for postage stamps in a form that would be suitable for use in vending and affixing machines. This story is told in Howard's book, *The Stamp Machines and Coiled Stamps* (Lindquist Publ., 1943) and it need not concern us here. What is important is the recognition at that time that a change in postage stamp manufacture was desirable. A change from sheetfed press production to webfed (rollfed) press production was needed so that stamps could be printed literally "by the mile".

This concept was fine, but there was no suitable press in existence that could handle the line-engraved intaglio method by which our postage stamps had been traditionally produced. Nothing daunted, Benjamin R. Stickney, Mechanical Expert at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, undertook to build one with the help of $5,600 supplied by the Post Office Department (Johl, 1937, p. 113).

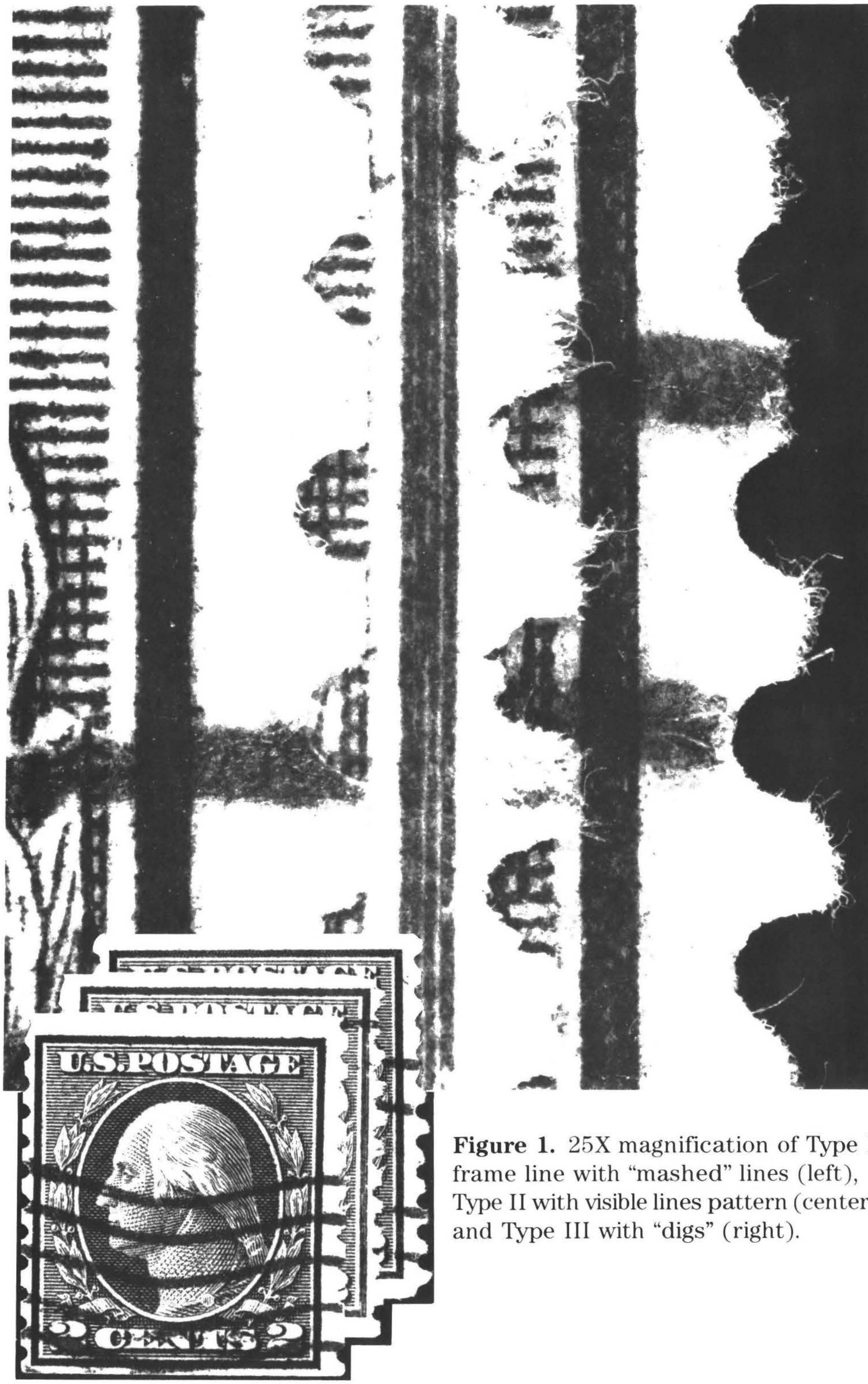

Figure 1. 25X magnification of Type I frame line with "mashed" lines (left), Type II with visible lines pattern (center) and Type III with "digs" (right).

The development of the press was to take some years but finally after many trials the first production was released June 30, 1914. This was the 2c imperforate horizontal coil, Scott #459 (Johl, 1937, p. 201). The plates utilized for this stamp were made from the series of 1911 2c die designated as Type I. Because of "smudging" problems to be seen in prints from this die, experimentation was undertaken to correct this. A second die was made and used and then eventually a third die. Whether this is all of the story is a question that we still have, but in any event plates were made from both the second and third dies strictly for rotary press production and so printed.

Remember that the problem was the matter of obtaining a consistently satisfactory print, manifest in what we see today as a mashing of the frame lines (Figure 1, left). This results from the particular combination of the amount of pressure applied in taking the prints along with the detailed configuration of the engraving involved. There are other subsidiary factors but these are the major ones.

Consequently, as mentioned in Johl (1937, p. 202), the new dies involved two things: a difference in the depth of the frame-line engraving (Type II), and a difference in both frame-line depth and in the style of the engraving of the frame lines (Type III). The depth factor was indicated by marks in the plate margins, comprising "S-20" (Type II), "S-30" (Type III), and "S-40". According to Johl the S-20 frame lines were cut down the least, S-30 intermediate, and S-40 the deepest. The latter however is an enigma because the resulting stamps also seem to be Type II's; however this does not concern us directly for this article.

Johl indicates that the S-20's still gave a problem on mashing; that the S-40's were cut too much, and that the S-30's were the best. Here one has to understand intaglio production. What was actually done? Well, the easiest and simplest way to control depth of the frame lines is to alter their height when they are reliefs on the transfer rolls, and before hardening of same. Thus the S-20 relief frame lines would have received a very shallow reduction cut, the S-30's a bit more, and the S-40's the most. What the numbers actually stand for we've not been able to determine for certain, but as a guess they could mean cuts of 0.00020″, 0.00030″, and 0.00040″. That is pretty precise work if correct. To put the results and usage more specifically, both S-20 and S-40 plates were used to print Scott #454, but only S-20 plates were used for Scott #491 and #539.

So our concern is the Type II S-20 plates because this is what we know exists today as Scott #539. Sixteen of these plates were made in 170-subject form for horizontal coils, numbered between 7425 and 7463, inclusive, and all went to press in 1915 and 1916. They were all canceled in 1915 and 1916 except the last two, numbered 7462 and 7463. Why these two plates were held "alive" we may never know, but the fact that they were accounts for the somewhat strange existence of Scott #539 as well as Scott #491. However, plates 7445 and 7446 also helped out on Scott #491 so this variety is not as unusual as #539. It should be understood of course that the Stickney rotary presses could only operate with two plates on — never more or less — and that is why two plates are always involved for any one printing in Stickney press production. This was true from the beginning to the end of the usage of these presses.

Plates 7462 and 7463 went to press twice according to the records of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the basic record as we have it being:

	Certified	To Press	From Press	Canceled
7462	3-31-16	5-12-16	7- 3-16	
		8-16-18	8-26-18	12-30-18
7463	(same certification and press dates)			12-31-18

We have no data on the number of impressions.

Matters of coil waste production.

We still have to get from 1918 to the recorded issue date for Scott #539 of June 14, 1919 per Johl (1937, p. 227). While we don't know the basis of that date we have no real reason to question it and feel that it is at least approximately right. But what we have to consider now is the business of the coil waste of which Scott #539 is an example.

In the official records are the following letters from the BEP to the POD, and vice versa:

"March 25, 1919

"The Third Assistant
Postmaster General.

"Sir:

"This Bureau has on hand approximately 85,000 sheets of 170 subjects each, of 1, 2, and 3c stamps. These sheets result from the manufacturing of coiled stamps, and are laid aside as mutilated because they cannot be made into coils on account of some defect, but are otherwise commercially perfect.

"We propose to perforate these sheets and to put them in packages of 100 sheets each, of 170 stamps to the sheet, making 17,000 stamps in each package, these small packages of 100 sheets to be put in larger packages of three packages each, or 51,000 stamps, and four of these packages to be put into one large bundle of 204,000 stamps each. These packages will be packed exactly as the packages of stamps which are now put up in sheets of 100, or 10,000 stamps, and made up into five packages of 100 each, or 50,000 stamps, and then into bundles of twenty packages, or 200,000 stamps, and the notice to postmasters on the upper right hand corner will be the same with the exception that it will state in each small package of 100 sheets that the sheets contain 170 stamps each, and on the face of the same package will be a notice to the effect that the package contains 100 sheets of 1, 2, or 3c stamps, as the case may be, each sheet containing 170 stamps, this being an additional precautionary measure.

"I have had a dummy package made to show how these packages of 51,000 stamps will pack, and will submit the same for your inspection and approval.

"It is requested that the Post Office Department approve of the putting up and shipment of these stamps, as above, to postmasters upon your orders, and while it is not possible just now to advise you approximately of the number of stamps of this character which will result from defective coil work in the future, it is not expected that it will be very great, and when accumulations of these stamps, say once a month, are made, notice will be given to the Post Office Department that we have so many of these stamps on hand, when the necessary order can be made for shipment.

"I shall be glad to have your early decision in this matter.

Respectully,

JLW
Director."

* * * * * * * *

"POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Purchasing Agent
Washington

"April 11, 1919.

"Hon. James L. Wilmeth, Director
Bureau of Engraving and Printing
Washington, D.C.

"Sir:

"In reply to yours of March 25th to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, which has been referred to me, you are informed that the Post Office Department has no objection to the issuance of the sheets of 170, in accordance with your proposal. Your plan of packing is also approved.

Yours truly,

(signed) J.A. Edgerton
Purchasing Agent."

Following this, in the annual report of the Director, BEP, for 1919, p. 20, we find the following:

> "In coil making, sheets have to be discarded as unfit for coils on account of narrow margins, too-close perforations, and for other reasons. Until this year such sheets were canceled and destroyed. Sheet stamps under contract with the Post Office Department are delivered 100 to the sheet and the coil stamps printed on roll paper 17 stamps wide (*) contain 170 subjects. Special arrangements were made with the Post Office Department to accept these sheets, 170 stamps to the sheet, and accordingly 56,109 (**) sheets have been delivered to date, with a large consequent saving."

(*) — The roll was not 17 stamps wide but 10; the plates, however, were 17 stamps wide and these sheets likewise.

(**) — We suspect that the "9" may be a typographical error but this is the way it is printed.

Now to put things together as well as we can. The BEP in their letter of March 25, 1919, said that they had on hand approximately 85,000 sheets of 170 subjects in the 1c, 2c, and 3c denominations. Then in their annual report for Fiscal Year 1919, dated Oct. 11, 1919, they reported having delivered 56,109 sheets "... to date." It is a question of whether the quantity delivered "to date" was meant as being to June 30 or perhaps to around Oct. 1. Doing some calculating with the BEP's delivery figures on the basis of 170-subject sheets we get the following coil waste deliveries for Fiscal Year 1919:

1c	7,200 sheets
2c	14,400 sheets
3c	12,000 sheets
	33,600 sheets

On the same basis for Fiscal Year 1920 we get a total of 98,100 such 170 subject sheets delivered so we feel we can properly equate the 56,109 sheets in the Director's report as being deliveries to about October 1, 1919, on a proportionate basis. It raises the question of what happened to the on-hand batch of 85,000 170-subject sheets mentioned in the March 25, 1919 letter and also the question of over how long a period had these accumulated. At the rate of delivery indicated by the data we have, the original 85,000 would probably have been delivered by the end of the calendar year 1919, allowing a certain amount for spoilage. It is only a guess from this, but it would seem reasonable to figure that accordingly the 85,000 may have built up at the BEP at least from the beginning of the fiscal year July 1, 1918. This agrees with the statement in the Director's 1919 annual report that "Until this year such sheets were canceled and destroyed". You really can't go by the calculated coil waste deliveries for this quantity exercise, but still our prognostications seem reasonable and it clearly encompasses the last 2c Type II printing of August 16 to 26, 1918, as it must have because the stamps exist.

Figure 2. *Left:* the only canceled block of four handled by the Foundation and the only used piece with a readable cancel. The cancel is a double circle reading around the top "Brooklyn (Sta. B No. 1) N.Y.", and at the bottom "Registered". The date appears to be July 19, 1919 (possibly July 1, 1919). Centered a bit to the left, it shows a joint line at the right. *Right:* the only used single on piece handled by the Foundation. No 539 cover is known for certain but one has been rumored to exist. Photos courtesy of the owner.

Now all this figuring doesn't help us much as to the quantity of Scott #539. It does tend to confirm that Scott #538, #539, #540, and #541 (the coil waste 1c, 2c, and 3c perf 11×10 issues) were first delivered in Fiscal Year 1919 and that all could have been issued in that period. In other words, delivery did occur sometime after the Post Office Department letter of approval of April 11, 1919, and before June 30 of that year. The probem that we have for Scott #539 is that the BEP could have included both Scott #539 and #540 in the 14,400 sheets of the 2c delivered in Fiscal Year 1919, and we have no way of knowing if they actually did. We can only assume that they did. Here the records of The Philatelic Foundation help a bit. They have expertized a block of four of this stamp as genuine, to which they assigned Certificate number 6 591, and which is canceled July 19, 1919, with a registered double circle of Brooklyn, N.Y. (Figure 2). This is a most remarkable piece and definitive evidence relating to the date of issuance of Scott #539.

The perforation.

As the Bureau of Engraving and Printing explained in the letter of March 24, 1919, they proposed to perforate the sheets on hand but they didn't say how. Actually from what was issued we know that the sheets of 170 subjects that they had were already perforated with the 10 gauge in the vertical direction on an appropriate webfed perforator. The "rejected" coil segments on hand had then been broken down into plate-size impressions and therefore could only be finished by running them sideways through one of the regular flatbed perforators using 11 gauge wheels. And this is what was done, resulting in stamps perforated 11×10. This was a straightforward operation but it resulted in new varieties for collectors.

Problems of identification.

Assuming the consideration of genuine stamps in all respects there is primarily only one real problem in identification. Of course there are some difficulties with watermark detection in order to be certain one does not have a Scott #454. There are also checks to be made to ascertain that one has a rotary-press product and not a flatbed press-printed one, but the different perforation takes care of both of these factors *if genuine*. And for that we assume of course that a sufficiently accurate gauge has been used so that the perforation can be correctly measured. Still the major problem is beyond that. That problem is the correct identification of the type. Too many people are not aware of the fact that the differences presented in the standard catalogues and lists are not *all* of the differences between types. Here is where both the fakers and many others go astray as they play with or check for just the lines in the ribbons and don't follow through otherwise.

Earlier in this article we noted that Johl had indicated a frame-line engraving difference between Type II and Type III. Johl doesn't tell you what it is but we shall. It is quite useful and not as easily "played with" as those lines in the ribbons.

In Figure 1 center we illustrate the internal character of the engraving for Type II frame lines, which are simply lines. Figure 1 right illustrates the internal makeup of the Type III frame lines which comprise "zig-zags", something frequently to be seen on one stamp side or another, though admittedly not always. Still a big help and an easy one. This frame-line difference is an even bigger help in the case of worn plate examples where the ribbon lines on some specimens of Type III have simply disappeared. But the frame-line characteristics don't disappear and the stamps are still Type III even if they've lost their ribbon lines.

Now the obvious question may be, how about the Type I frame lines? Well, sorry, but they are composed of lines similar to those of Type II and so, differentiating between those two types can be more of a problem. We should also warn that there are some exceptions for Type II where, in a few examples, the frame lines were shored up by recutting. So the word is that you've got to play it smart and be alert to these possibilities.

The Philatelic Foundation record.

From what we have before us as we write (Philatelic Foundation, 1983), the Foundation has passed on items submitted as Scott #539 (or the earlier catalog number, #539c) with the following results:

Genuine	
Singles — unused	137
Singles — used	8
Blocks of four — unused	22
Blocks of four — used	1
Odd pieces — all unused	
— horiz. pair	1
— plate blocks of 4 with 7462 or 7463 and S-20	2
— plate block of 8, 7462 with S-20	1
— block of four with S-20	1
Bogus and fakes	
Singles — unused	2
Singles — used	7
Misidentified, all Scott #540	
Singles — unused	30*
Singles — used	9
Blocks of four — unused	3
Total submittals	224**

* one regummed.

** There are probably a few duplicating submittals but we've not cut them out. The total does include one block of four that was broken up at the time and this is counted only as four singles. Also one submittal has been eliminated as the item was submitted twice with different decisions each time and it has been counted only once, using the last decision.

Recapitulation of pieces:

Genuine	173	77%
"Fakes"	9	4%
Misidentified	42	19%

The total number of Scott #539 stamps passed as genuine is 259.

From this summary we can see a number of interesting points. First, fakery (alteration) at 4% hasn't been a strong problem but incorrectly identifying Scott #540's at 19% of the total has been. Second, the very few genuine used specimens is also notable, a relationship which is reversed for the "fakes" with 7 out of the 9 being used. There have only been a few plate number pieces which may in part be owing to the fact that the existence of either plate number is prima facie evidence of genuineness, thus making an expertization certificate unnecessary unless desired for other reasons.

The Scott #540 misidentification quantity is a bit puzzling as Type III is generally easy to determine. However, the illustrations that we have of the specimens are not good enough to try to determine the major difficulty. We've already mentioned the problem of worn plates earlier as one factor but we can only surmise haste, inexperience, carelessness, etc., particularly in the case of blocks.

The "fakes" are a real mish-mash. While there are only nine examples they comprise several variations. Of those that we consider bogus (that is, the final result is something that doesn't exist in the genuine), one is a perf 12×10, an altered #491 — there is no genuine 12×10 rotary coil waste. Another is a Type I, Scott #453, with counterfeit perforations top and bottom, making an 11×10 which doesn't exist genuine. There are two counts against this one: the type and the watermark. There were two examples of Type III, Scott #540, with scraped-off ribbon lines. This is a common alteration for other issues also. It is not a very smart one if attention is paid to the frame-line characteristics that we've mentioned earlier in this article. These were the only two unused fakes, by the way.

Another fake variation was the alteration of two Scott #491's by adding counterfeit perforations at top and bottom. By the current catalog (1985 Scott) this was trying to change a $185 item to a $675 one. Two other fakes started out as Scott #454 and then were altered likewise by adding counterfeit perforations at top and bottom. On one of these a third side was reperfed, so evidently there had been a straightedge to boot. This is only a guess as the record we have is inadequate on that point, but because of the presence of the single-line watermark these two are also bogus items.

The last fake item was a Scott #492 (Type III) with counterfeit perforations at top and bottom, so this actually was a fake #540 and a misidentification by being submitted as a #539.

Four bogus items and five fakes, and nothing particularly striking about any of them except to point out the several variations in these few examples. It may be the ones that are not being picked up — if there are any such — that are a problem. Here the difficulty in expertizing may be the correct determination of the genuineness of the top and bottom perforations more than anything else. For that there is no easy method. Consideration of overall stamp size, as used by some, is only suggestive and not certain. One simply has to know their perforations, and unfortunately there are some poor genuine perforations on some of the coil waste issues.

Finally, in determining the genuiness of Scott #539, these points should be considered:

1. Is the stamp flatbed press or rotary press printed?
2. Is the stamp Type II?
3. Are the perforations genuine?
4. Is the stamp unwatermarked?

Take care of these factors and there should be no question.

Other findings and conclusions.

Further analysis of the items passed upon by the Foundation develops a number of interesting points with regard to what seems to exist. The expertizing records accordingly serve a valuable purpose not only in assisting in future expertizing but also increasing our understanding of the issue.

We should like to develop some of the aspects as shown by the Foundation Scott #539 records. First, the small number of genuine used copies. Outside of the dated block, illustrated as Figure 2, the cancels on the genuine singles seem to consist only of wavy-line machine cancels and these are not significant of any area of usage. So we only have the one item to back up any statement of usage being in the New York City area. While this area usage is a common understanding for the coil waste issues, the proof for that could be stronger for #539 and it is notable that no covers and only one "on piece" item has been handled (Figure 2).

Another point is the lack of straight edges — there just wasn't a one on any side. What's so startling about that? Well, one can find them on other coil waste issues, that's what.

There were a few top and bottom narrow margin pieces, typical of coil waste, and we recorded 16 top margin items but only 5 bottom margin ones. Even subtracting the four top pieces with marginal markings there is still a two to one ratio of tops to bottoms. We have no idea why.

There were 12 examples of "joint lines" showing on the left side (1 horizontal pair, 1 block of four and 10 singles) — but only 1 definite on the right side (a block of four). Now that is really strange. At first we thought the answer was that 100-subject sheets instead of 170-subject sheets of #539 had been supplied to post offices, but the evidence was against that, with all the authorities stating 170-subject sheets. Also the few plate number pieces expertized show staple holes. The holes are to be found normally in the approximate center of the top binding margin and, as the plate number was placed over stamp number 9 and the S-20 over stamp number 10, this would be the approximate center of a 170-subject sheet (17×10). But it is certainly peculiar that only one definite example was handled with a "joint line" on the right side.

Another interesting thing about the "line" copies is that they all show torn edges for the perforation tips, thus indicating that the sheets were separated by hand, tearing along the perforations. Later coil waste issues were frequently divided by scissors so this is another point to be kept in mind for #539. Here we mention also that the top and bottom margins all show complete perforations horizontally between stamps and margins, and vertically through the margins. Other margin perforation variations are to be found on later coil waste issues.

Returning to the showing of the "joint lines" being primarily on the left side, could it be reasonable to argue that most of these stamps must therefore be centered so that the margins on the left sides of the stamps are consistently wider than those on the right? This sounds like a ridiculous position to take, but the funny part is that this happens to be the situation. Here's the analysis by number of genuine #539 pieces:

Wider margin at left	Wider margin at right	Approximately centered
135	15	23

Thus out of a usable population of 173 we find that those evenly perforated or with wider margin on the right side, totaling 38, constitute only 22%, while 78% are off-centered the other way. Certainly an unexpected and surprising finding. Using other knowledge, we can determine for the perforation involved, the rotary 10, that the web was going through right side first. So the operator in adjusting for centering was consistently off a bit to the left. In other words, they were just a bit behind most of the time in their synchronizing. Oddly, checking the misidentified #540's, in the group we find the opposite situation:

Wider margin at left	Wider margin at right	Approximately centered
14	21	7

What does this suggest? Only that we might have had different operators or different perforating machines.

We've rambled long enough but we've shown some of the things that can be done with a carefully kept record on a single stamp. We've also shown that Scott #539 happens to exist only because of several fortuitous actions. Truth is still stranger than fiction.

Finally we should like to acknowledge the assistance of The Philatelic Foundation, Barbara Mueller, and David Hanschen, the owner of the pieces illustrated in Figure 2, who also graciously supplied the photos. One does not put together an article like this in a few weeks, and we are indebted to many others who have helped in our lifetime.

Figures 3, 4. Single and block of misidentified 540's.

Figure 5. Altered 491 with counterfeit top and bottom (perf 12) perforations.

Figure 6. Scott 453 with counterfeit horizontal perforations.

Figure 7. Scott 540 with lines in ribbons partially scraped away.

Figure 8. Scott 491 with counterfeit horizontal perforations

Figure 9. Scott 454 with fraudulent perforations on all but left side.

Figure 10. 492 (Type III) with counterfeit horizontal perforations. A fake 540 submitted as a 539.

Figure 11. Genuine block of four with joint line pair at left.

Figure 12. Genuine plate block of eight.

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Rare or Common?

The Harding Memorial Issue

By Brian LaVane

Certificate 124 691

President Warren Gamaliel Harding died after a short illness on August 2, 1923. Thirty days later a black "Memorial" stamp was issued in a flat plate press, perf 11 variety. The Harding Memorial frame was designed by C.A. Huston of the Bureau, similar to the design of the Scott #553, except that Harding's birth and death dates were added to the upper corners.

A total of 300,000 copies was issued, with 200,000 copies sent to the President's home town of Marion, Ohio, and the balance of 100,000 to the Philatelic Agency in Washington, D.C. Due to the heavy amount of publicity and the overwhelming demand, the initial order was inadequate. (On the first day of issue alone, 180,000 copies were sold in Marion, Ohio.) The Bureau of Engraving and Printing, therefore, decided to print another 600,000 copies to create an adequate supply.

Public demand was impossible to meet by flat press printing methods, so the Post Office Department authorized the Bureau to supplement flat press printing with the rotary press. This order was quickly implemented, and on September 12, 1923, the rotary press perf 10 stamps went on sale through the Philatelic Agency. The Harding Memorial thus became the first commemorative stamp issued by the Government simultaneously utilizing the two printing methods. In addition, on November 15, 1923, flat plate imperforate sheets were issued to satisfy collectors and others who wanted to have them framed as a memorial to the late President.

While all this was going on, the Bureau also was experimenting with different perforation gauges to find the ideal gauge that would enable the sheets to lay flat and yet break easily. Our subject here, the Scott #613, was printed by rotary press and perforated 11, rather than the usual perf 10.

No Bureau records are known as to this experimental quantity. Philatelic Foundation records indicate that only thirty-three copies are known to exist, thirty-one singles and one pair, all used. Not only are there no mint copies, but none of the used copies are found on cover.

Centering runs very poor on this issue, with most copies touching or cutting into the frame line at top or bottom. Two copies are straight edges and three have defects, with two of these being from among the better centered copies. Centering for all known copies is as follows:

17	average
9	fine
6	fine/very fine
1	very fine

Seventy percent of the copies that have been submitted to the Philatelic Foundation actually are 610's. The difference between these two issues is design size. The 610 was printed by the flat plate method and measures 19.25mm high. The 613 rotary press design is ½mm taller since the plates have been stretched by curving them in height in order to fit them around the rotary press cylinder. A good millimeter gauge and magnifying glass are needed to detect this difference in height.

It is important to remember that these dimensions are not absolute. Stamp sizes may vary due to shrinkage, but this variation is not significant enough to make the rotary press design size indistinguishable from a stamp printed by the flat plate method. The 610 and 613 cannot be distinguished from each other by perforation characteristics, as they were perforated by the same machine at the same gauge.

The perf 11 rotary press Harding Memorial, Scott #613, is a very rare stamp, seldom seen offered for sale. Few have been submitted to the Philatelic Foundation for updated Certificates, which seems to indicate that once purchased, this issue is put into a collection and held for a very long time. The subject copy was submitted to the Philatelic Foundation and examined by the Expert Committee, using the guidelines outlined in this article. As one of the steps, design height was measured and determined to be correct. This copy was found to have no faults and was issued a clean Certificate stating "... that it is genuine".

Chapter II

U.S. Air Post & Back-of-Book

A Dissenting Opinion
The United States Graf Zeppelin Issue
By Philip Silver

A set of the United States Graf Zeppelin stamps of 1930, Scott #C13, #C14, and #C15 were Patients 109 889, 109 890, and 109 891 at the Philatelic Foundation. These, as shown in the illustrations, are used on piece and each stamp is canceled with a Chicago, Illinois handstamp of April 19, 1930, the first day of issue.

The opinion of the Expert Committee for two of the patients — 109 889 and 109 890 — is identical: "that the stamp did not originate on this piece and the tying first day cancellation is counterfeit." For reasons unknown to me, the opinion for patient 109 891 reads "that the stamp did not originate and the tying first day cancellation is counterfeit" and the words "on this piece" are omitted. I would assume, however, that this omission was simply an oversight in the preparation of the Certificate.

Subsequently, on October 29, 1982, a dealer submitted the items in question to me for my examination. He solicited my opinion of the authenticity of the April 19, 1930 cancellations, which purportedly tie the Graf Zeppelin stamps to their individual pieces.

Before proceeding to an analysis of the patients, let me say that I do not know why anyone would want to cut these valuable stamps from the covers to which they probably were affixed. But, assuming the stamps were on cover to begin with, whoever cut them off for the ostensible purpose of having used stamps on piece committed the crime of the century. As used stamps they catalogue at less than one-third of their value on first day covers.

One nagging question intrudes itself. Would the opinion of the Foundation committee experts have been different if these patients had been on full cover rather than piece? I would hope not! A cover should not grant a greater degree of acceptance than a stamp on piece if a committee of experts believes the tying cancellation is fraudulent. As Hans Stoltz states in "Forgeries, Counterfeits, Alterations: A Primer":[1]

> "More mysteriously still, faith in a cancellation seems to grow proportionately with the size of the piece of paper, reaching its highest degree when the stamp has a whole cover affixed to its back."

Upon receipt of the three patients from my submitter, I compared the cancellations — actually handstamps — with cheap commercial covers in my own reference collection. My purpose was to see if covers of approximately the same period bore similar handstamps. My finding was that the circular town and grid killer handstamps on my covers were reasonably close to the handstamps on the C13-C15 patients on piece. There were minor variations in the diameter of the town circle but that is not surprising. On my own reference covers, the diameter of the town circle varied from one cover to another, and there was a slight variance from these to the handstamps on the patients.

This should occasion no surprise. In a city as large as Chicago, with a great number of postal stations, one should not expect uniformity in the size of handstamps. Some handstamps may predate others in manufacture and may be used in overlapping periods with others of more recent vintage. What is important is that all should have similar characteristics in the formation of letters, in spacing, slant, etc. The lack of uniformity among my own covers and in comparison with the patients is indicative — to me, at least — that one cannot state with absolute certainty that the diameter of every Chicago circular town handstamp must be uniform in size, that every letter in that handstamp must be uniform in size, slant, etc. In other words, there is room for each — within minor limits — to resemble the other.

What is important is that all should have similar characteristics. In my opinion, those similar characteristics were present. There was, however, one major difference between the handstamps on my reference covers and those on the patients. This refers to the position of the year date. On one of my covers, the year date is placed almost on a line horizontally with the bottom of the town circle. On another cover, the year date is a millimeter or so below the bottom of the circle. As will be noted, therefore, there is no uniformity even among reference handstamps. On the patients, the year date is placed several millimeters above the bottom of the circle. Additionally, on patient number 109 890 the 1930 year date is underlined. The trimming was too close on patient number 109 889, and on patient 109 891 the handstamp was applied lower down on the piece, so the date does not show. Thus, it was impossible to note underlining of the year date for those two patients.

I have never seen such underlining of a year date but, by the same token, I cannot state with certainty that such a characteristic does not exist. Who, after all, has a complete reference library of machine cancellations and handstamps from every city and hamlet in the land? I recall that when I once submitted a patient of my own that purported to be a first day cover of Scott #C3 the Foundation's Expert Committee would not pass on it because they had no examples of the common "FOOD WILL WIN THE WAR/DON'T WASTE IT" slogan cancellation of 1918. Through my efforts, such items from several cities and with differing characteristics were eventually added to the Foundation's reference collection. What the Foundation should do — and, indeed, every other expert committee as well — is to purchase many, many thousands of cheap covers from cities all over the United States, and catalogue them by year for a truly important reference collection. With the increase in popularity of postal history items submitted for expertization, the building of such a library is not only a desideratum, it is a necessity. I grant you that this may be a monumental task, but it is necessary if an expert committee desires full certainty before it grants or denies a pedigree to a patient.

The methodology stated in the previous paragraph fits four-square with the first two of Scott R. Trepel's three methods as noted on pages 50 and 51 of his article, "An In-Depth Look At Fancy Cancels", in the 1983 OPINIONS book. First, there is reliance on general appearance and second, there is comparison with an authentic reference item. Trepel's third approach is the use of logic and that is what will be attempted now.

As is well known first day cancellations on the 1930 Graf Zeppelin stamps emanate only from Washington, D.C. On that April 19, 1930 issue date, the stamps were available, too, at the Philatelic Agency. Per notice of Third Assistant Postmaster General F.A. Tilton, dated April 3, 1930, the Graf Zeppelin stamps were also shipped to 99 different cities in the 48 states with instructions to place them on sale on April 21st, two days after the date of issue. The specific statement of that April 3, 1930 notice is, "The stamps will also be placed on sale at the following six offices on Apr. 21, 1930 ..." Chicago is one of the cities mentioned in Tilton's notice.

The question, then, is how could these stamps have received a Chicago first day cancellation of April 19, 1930 if they were not supposed to be available for public sale until the 21st. The notice merely stated that the stamps would be placed on sale on April 21st. That does not mean that they were shipped on that date. What happened, obviously, is that the stamps were shipped prior to that date, but postmasters in those 99 cities *were not supposed to sell them until April 21st.*

In view of a number of similar happenings in connection with other stamps, however, the possibility exists that the stamps arrived in Chicago prior to April 19, 1930, and were released by favor or happenstance on that date, making them available to receive the first day cancellation. A favor for a valued friend cannot be ruled out.

What, then, is the result of all of the foregoing observations. I would say that one cannot state with certainty that the cancellations are genuine. Their genuineness may be called into question because, on April 19, 1930, they were not supposed to be sold in Chicago for first day cancellation. The handstamps bear some characteristics of genuineness. On the other hand, they possess other characteristics that may be questioned in the absence of suitable reference material for comparison. To my knowledge, there is no positive proof that the cancellations are forged.

On the worksheets for these patients, only one member stated anything that might be termed analysis, according to information made available to me. In words of substance, his comments were that "the cancels are forgeries, bogus cancels that never existed", that they were handstamped, and that they were very easy to make. Reference also was made to bogus Boston, Massachusetts handstamps of September 24, 1909 on bogus Scott #372 covers. The information given me by a committee member did not indicate that the "bogus" handstamp for Scott #372 was submitted for reference. Eight members signed in agreement and two declined opinion. My letter of November 3, 1982 to the person who referred the pieces to me, and subsequently submitted by him to the Expert Committee with a request for reconsideration, was counted as one of the declinations. That letter contained most of the thoughts covered in this article.

The fact that the cancellations on the patients are handstamps certainly should not militate against them. Genuine first day cancellations from Washington, D.C. exist both in machine cancellations and handstamp form. Why, then, could they not exist in handstamp form from Chicago? One can also question the statement that they never existed. Did the Committee member himself have a reference of every handstamp in existence?. As to ease of manufacture, I must enter a demurrer. Handstamps are not easy to manufacture. The forger must be able to duplicate within minor limits the characteristics found in genuine marking devices. In the past, some forgers used the photographic process to make zinc handstamps, but these show a fuzzy appearance when applied. In any event, the handstamps on these patients do not seem to be of that genre.

Expert committees possess immense power to establish authenticity. But, they also possess the power to condemn because of the opinion process . In the instant matter, in my opinion, neither result should have flowed from examination of these patients. There were too many imponderables. My own preference would have been to decline opinion.

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[1] P. 4, *Opinions: Philatelic Expertizing — An Inside View*, Elizabeth C. Pope, Editor; 1983, published by The Philatelic Foundation.

Unraveling Some of the Mystery In Postage Dues

The 1895 and 1910-12 Issues

By Lewis Kaufman

Figure 1. Certificate 59 061.

One of the most perplexing areas of identification resides within the domain of the Postage Due issues. As a long-time collector in this field, having examined thousands of stamps, I have found a plethora of misidentified issues. Essentially, misidentifications occur due to a lack of familiarity with the rarer issues, an inability to recognize color names listed in a catalogue, and a difficulty in accurately reading a watermark. What I will try to do in the next several paragraphs is outline a series of hints in order to aid both collector and dealer in the identification of the most difficult of the Postage Due issues.

Special Printings

Issued in 1879, the Postage Due special printings provide great difficulty in identification since the Scott Catalogue gives only the following notation: Paper: Soft Porous, Color: Deep Brown. However, the regularly issued stamps are listed as having these same characteristics. Therefore, what's the difference? What makes one catalogue $22.50 and a virtually identical copy $4850? There are two major clues. First, the special printing gum is unique. It is clearer and whiter than the darker, yellowish gum found on the first issues. It is also somewhat crackly in nature.

However, what if, as often is the case, there is no gum? Well, the second key is the appearance of a so-called cameo effect when viewing the back of the stamp. The design and numeral on the front of the stamp appear to "come through" the paper and show quite vividly on the back. Viewing an ordinary stamp from the back does not yield the same effect. Now, while this is not an infallible test, it will help the reader to gain a better grasp of these often mystifying special printings and perhaps lead to the uncovering of a gem in the rough.

Issues of 1884 and 1891

A second problem among the Banknotes is the difficulty in separating the last two issues. It is not uncommon to find many of the issues of 1891 mistaken for their more expensive cousins of 1884-89. The answer rests with the ultra-violet light, that wonderful all-purpose tool of philately.[1]

Stamps of the 1891 claret group will give off an orange glow, while stamps of the 1884-89 red brown/brown red group (or the 1879 issue if you happen to have a very vivid imagination) do not show any reaction at all. It's as simple as that and as far as I know, it is an infallible test. This technique will also work on the plate proofs of J15-21 and J22-28.

Issue of 1894: The Vermillion Color

The 1c and 2c unwatermarked issues, Scott #J29 and J30, are rare stamps, much rarer than even their current catalogue values would indicate. Consequently, many stamps misidentified as the vermillions actually deserve "Fantasyland" as a more fitting home than the albums and stockbooks of collectors and dealers. Proper identification, however, is rather easy, especially when they are on cover. Here again we turn to the ultra-violet lamp. Vermillion stamps glow orange when activated by UV light.[2] The other stamps of the 1894-95 issue do not. Of course one should make certain that the stamp being examined is perforated 12. (There is a vermillion shade for Scott #J53, perf 10.)

Fifty Cent Issues 1895-1912 - J44 and J50

Ostensibly the watermark is the difference between J44 and J50, which are apparently identical on the face. The former is a double line while the latter is a single line. However, I have seen enough of these issues to know that even the "experts" can misread a watermark and mistakenly anoint the pauper a prince. This confusion need no longer occur. The answer appears in the design of the two stamps.[3]

The die made for the 50c issue of 1894-95 showed three to four little lathe marks overlapping the left side of the ball of the numeral 5.

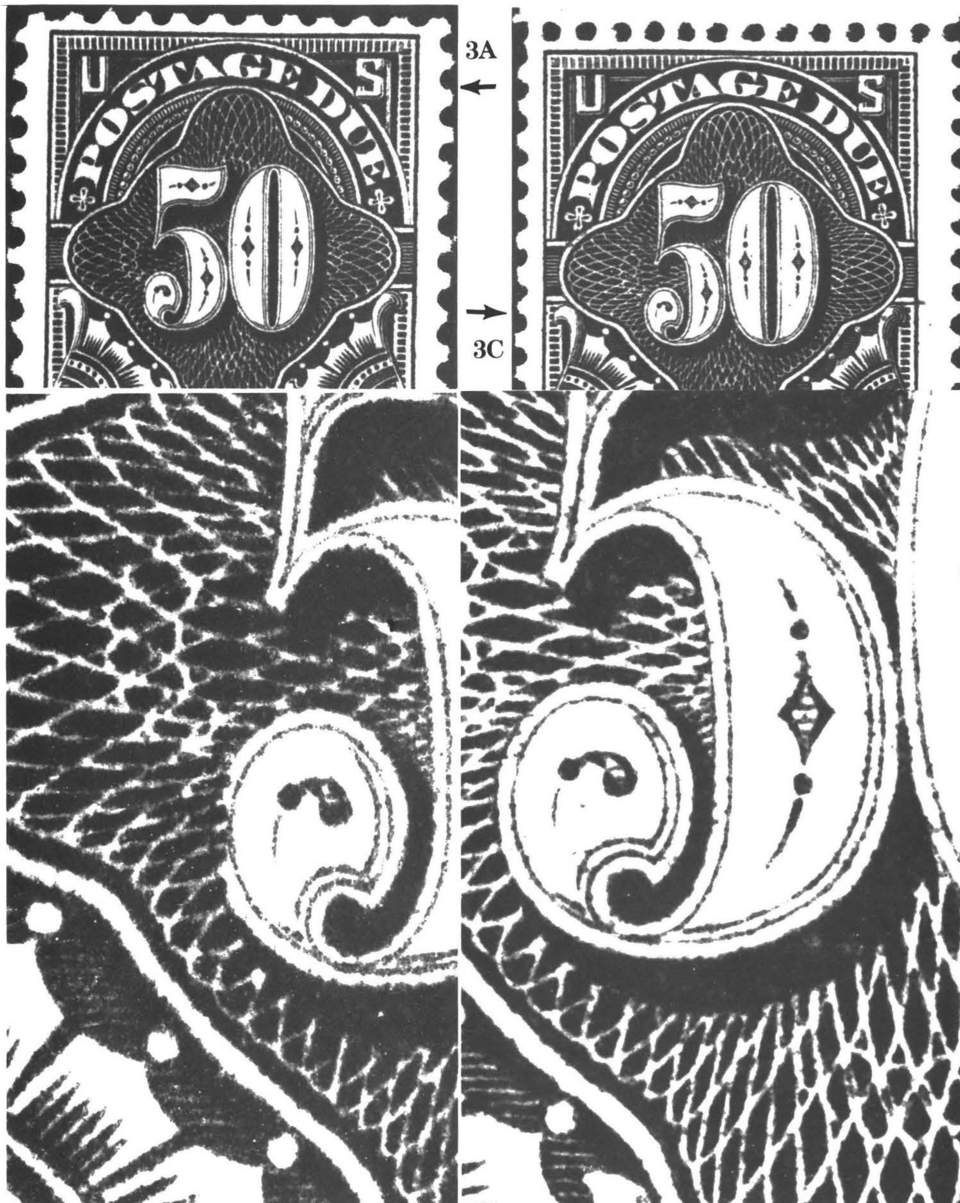
The imperfection was noticed prior to production and the instruction "off on roll" was made on a preliminary die proof (Figure 2). Consequently, the offending marks were removed from the transfer roll which was to be used in laying down the designs on Plate #74 and the resulting stamps,

Figure 2. Die proof (right) *showing portion of "off on roll" instruction* and blow-up of the offending marks destined for removal.

J37 and J44, did not have them.

Eighteen years later, the Bureau began printing 50c Postage Dues on single line watermark paper from 400 subject plates rather than double line paper from 200 subject plates. Therefore, in order to lay down a new 50c plate (#5527), a transfer roll was needed. Since the original transfer rolls no longer were available, a new transfer roll was made from the original die. That die, of course, still had the "lathe marks" and so too did the stamps it helped to produce (Figure 3). Thus through an error, we now have an infallible method for determining the difference between Scott J44 and J50. Watermarking the stamps is no longer necessary. If the stamp is perforated 12 and has the telltale "lathe marks" it is without question J50. If it does not have the marks, it is either J37 or J44. At that point it will be necessary to determine only if the stamp has a watermark, not what kind.

Hopefully these hints will serve to promote a greater degree of accuracy in identifying these very difficult issues.



3B

3D

Figure 3. J50 (left) shows the lathe marks from the original die, while the predecessor J37/J44 designs show the results of transfer roll corrections.

FOOTNOTES

1 Warren Bower, "Ultraviolet Identification of U.S. Postage Due Stamps and Proofs", *Essay Proof Journal*, No. 111, Summer 1971, Vol. 28, #3, pp. 99-100.

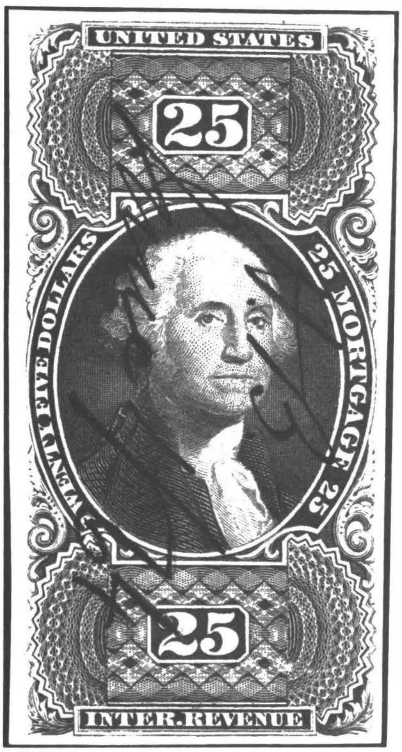
2 Bower, "Ultraviolet Identification ...", pp. 99-100.

3 Walter A. McIntire, "Two Different Stamps From the Same Die/The 1894-1930 50c Postage Due", *United States Specialist*, Dec. 1971, pp. 377-383.

A Mortgage Foreclosure

The $25.00 Mortgage First Issue

By Brian M. Bleckwenn



Certificate 123 196.

The subject of this article, a $25.00 Mortgage United States First Issue Revenue, is a fantastic-appearing imperforate stamp. It is a stamp that the overwhelming majority of sophisticated revenue specialists would be pleased to have in their collections ... or is it?

Expertizing First Issue Revenues follows traditional expertizing procedures: extensive visual inspection, comparison with known genuine and counterfeit examples and application of a specialized knowledge of the issue itself.

Based solely on the size of the imperforate margins, which are exceptionally large and well-balanced on all four sides, the stamp appears to be a truly outstanding example of this scarce imperforate revenue stamp. The margins have not been added and very careful examination under high magnification reveals absolutely no evidence of trimmed perforations.

When expertizing First Issue Revenues a great deal of attention is paid to the stamp's color (shade) and the paper on which it is printed. Nearly all First Issue imperforates were printed on a thin, hard paper which was used early in the life of the issue. Pale, generally dull shades predominate on the imperforates, rather than the rich, frequently vivid shades of the later perforated printings. The $25.00 Mortgage was printed in two basic shades, orange vermilion and scarlet vermilion. The West booklet states: "The $25.00 Mortgage can be found both perforate and imperforate in orange vermilion and scarlet vermilion, so there must have been more than one printing of the imperforate stamps." This is borne out by the ten recorded imperforate multiples of this stamp which are known in both basic shadings.

The paper varies from the traditional thin, hard paper normally associated with First Issue Imperforates to a paper of medium thickness with a slight mesh. Thus, unlike most other First Issue stamps, color and paper characteristics are not absolute in determining the genuineness of an imperforate $25.00 Mortgage.

Based on its overall outward appearance, this stamp should receive a genuine Certificate! Fortunately, expertizing does not rely solely on the physical examination process. The cumulative and diverse experience of those serving on the Expert Committee plays an equal and very important role in the expertizing process.

When this stamp was examined at The Foundation, a few very tiny fibers were detected on the back of the stamp. This immediately raised significant questions about the authenticity of the imperforate and created a serious conflict that had to be resolved before a proper Certificate could be issued. If the fibers were silk and the stamp printed on the experimental silk paper of the First Issue, then the stamp could not be a genuine imperforate. It would have been created by trimming a silk paper perforated stamp. Yet, the stamp bears an 1864 manuscript cancellation which predates the use of silk paper by nearly six years!

The $25.00 Mortgage was first printed on March 16, 1863 and delivered to the government on April 16, 1863. It continued to be printed as needed to maintain it in stock until September of 1871.

Most imperforates were issued early in the life of the First Issue. In fact, no First Issue Revenue issued after May, 1863 (with the exception of the $200.00 value) is known imperforate. Thus, most First Issue imperforates were used between November 7, 1862 (the date the printer received permission to ship imperforate and part perforate stamps) and sometime during late 1864 or early 1865. While a useful tool, cancellations do not provide absolute proof, as genuine imperforates could have seen use at a later date.

The silk paper on which First Issue Revenue Stamps are occasionally encountered is strictly an experimental paper which was introduced quite late in the life of the First Issue. Records indicate that it was utilized on a limited number of First Issue Revenues sometime after August of 1870.

Since the government rescinded permission to ship imperforate or part perforate stamps several years prior to the introduction of silk paper, no genuine imperforates exist on silk paper.

We must still resolve the apparent conflict of the 1864 yeardate cancellation and the presence of silk fibers. Examination under high magnification and ultraviolet reveals that the cancellation has been skillfully altered and retraced to attempt to conceal the alteration. An

1871 yeardate cancellation has been altered with two judiciously applied pen strokes to read 1864. Since the alteration of the yeardate might have been detected if the inks did not properly match, the entire cancel was very skillfully retraced to cover up any differences in the inks.

The faker realized that in spite of the stamp's exceptional appearance, the 1871 manuscript cancellation would raise questions that would invariably lead to a much closer examination of the stamp and the potential discovery of the tiny telltale silk fibers that would unravel the fraud which had been so cleverly executed.

Now that the apparent conflict between the paper and the cancellation has been resolved, there can be no doubt that this impressive looking "imperforate" was created by trimming a perforated $25.00 Mortgage on silk paper.

The creator of this "imperforate" went to great lengths to insure that it would be accepted by all but the most sophisticated specialists. All evidence of any perforations had been completely and very skillfully removed. A cancellation unacceptably late for a genuine imperforate was altered and then carefully retraced, so that the cancellation would not draw any undue suspicion on the genuineness of the "imperforate". While some silk fibers on the surface of the paper were apparently skillfully removed, a few just below the surface could not be removed without affecting the soundness of the stamp and consequently seriously reducing its value as an outstanding example of a truly scarce imperforate.

The members of the Expert Committee successfully saw through and penetrated the one weak link in the counterfeit's rather formidable armor. The Foundation issued a Certificate stating that the stamp is a "genuine Scott R100d with trimmed perforations".

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A China Combination Cover

By Carl A. Kilgas

Certificate 117 489

This is the story of a most desirable cover — from China to the United States, with combination franking of stamps of both countries.

Stamps of the First Customs Issue of Imperial China, 1878 — usually referred to as the "Large Dragon Issue" — are much sought after on cover. The same is true of the stamps of the Second Customs Issue, 1885 — known as the "Small Dragon Issue". To find them both on a single cover, particularly the scarce 5 Candarin "Wide Margin" or second printing of the first issue in combination with an early first printing "rough perf" 1 Candarin of the second issue, is of the greatest rarity. To find them both on a cover passing through the United States Postal Agency in Shanghai, China, makes for a real treasure.

The fact that the 1 Candarin is damaged in the upper right corner makes it suspect. It is a well-known trick to add a damaged stamp to a cover if such an addition would substantially increase the value of the cover. However, the "Peking Seal" chop or cancel covers both stamps; it measures correctly; and there is the proper tie to the cover.

The two Chinese stamps, placed across the back flap as they were on occasion as a further security measure, confirm the rate in effect at the time for mail from China to the United States via Japan — 6 Candarins. To most other countries the rate was 9 Candarins.

The 5c brown Garfield stamp of the United States may have been added at the United States Shanghai Agency or it could have been affixed at Peking or at the Chinese Customs Office in Shanghai. Both post offices carried a supply of "alien" stamps to forward mail out of China. This was necessary since China was not a member of the Universal Postal Union.

The cover was posted May 12, 1887, at the headquarters of the Inspectorate-General of Posts in Peking, indicated by the circular date stamp with "I.G. of Customs Peking May 12, 1887" which was applied to the envelope. The normal "Peking Seal" chop in Chinese characters was used to cancel both Chinese stamps.

Five days later, on May 17th, the cover was received by the Imperial Chinese Customs Office in Shanghai, and the "Shanghai Customs" transit mark was applied. Shanghai was the only port in China through which "alien" mail was received or dispatched.

The cover was turned over to the United States Postal Agency, also in Shanghai, to await a ship to take it to San Francisco via Japan — a shorter route than the one through Hong Kong. The U.S. 5c Garfield was canceled with the Agency's regular oval cancel on May 27th, ten days after the cover had been received by the Chinese Customs in Shanghai.

Arriving in San Francisco twenty-three days later, the cover received the "San Francisco PAID ALL" transit marking on June 19th. A prompt connection with the transcontinental mail is indicated by the New York "P.O." arrival June 26th, seven days after leaving the West Coast and, because the mountains were free of snow, well within railroad travel schedules at that time of the year. The total transit time was forty-five days, ten of which were spent waiting for a proper ship out of Shanghai via Japan.

A photo of this remarkable cover, along with comments in Chinese, is the 260th item in Professor James B. Whang's excellent series of articles "The Extant Large Dragon Stamp Covers" appearing in the *Postal Research Quarterly*, published by the Inspectorate General of Posts, Ministry of Communications, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China. This particular cover is in the November 1983 issue — #11, page 85.

This unusual cover is one of three reported. All markings are exceptionally clear, except possibly the New York "P.O." The cover is genuine in all respects.

The Little Stamp that Missed the Boat

A Prince's Letter Dispatch on Cover

By Richard Schwartz

Figure 1. Prince's Letter Dispatch, Scott No. 122L1, canceled by the Providence double circle town mark. Philatelic Foundation Certificate 122 913.

Sometimes an item that is submitted to the Foundation for an opinion contains a greater story — or a different one — from that which the collector suspects. Such was patient 122 913, a stamp issued by Prince's Letter Dispatch, Scott #122L1, and familiar to collectors of U.S. Locals and Independent Mails. Printed in sheets of 40 (8×5), the stamp is fairly common unused (catalogue value $5), less common used (catalogue value $50). Patient 122 913 was a used copy bearing a portion of the Portland double circle town mark. The opinion requested: Was the stamp genuine? Was the cancel genuine?

It was a relatively simple matter to determine that the stamp was genuine, using the Foundation's Luff reference collection and reference material in the examiner's possession. The Portland marking was the familiar double circle of 1861, the period in which the Prince stamp is believed to have been issued.

The Foundation's opinion: Stamp and cancellation are genuine. No doubt the collector was pleased.

However, there's more to the story. The usage is not what one would assume it to be — a Prince stamp used in the normal commerce of the post. For the stamp did not perform the service for which it had paid. It had been wasted.

The circumstances are interesting. Prince's Letter Dispatch, though found in the Locals section of the Scott Specialized Catalogue, was not a "local" post, but more properly a mail service that provided a supplemental means of transmitting letters from Providence to Boston. It was an unusual post for several reasons:

1. It was not established to compete with the U.S. Post Office, depriving it of postage. Each letter handled by Prince carried a 3-cents government stamp, usually Scott #65, in addition to the Prince stamp.
2. It appears to have been a one-way service, Portland to Boston. No covers are known showing carriage from Boston to Portland and there dropped into the Post Office.

This unusual situation was an outcome of Prince's established presence in Portland and in Boston. Prince's Boston and Portland Express had been operating between the two cities from about 1850, using the Portland Steam Packet for transportation. Covers are known from that period carried outside the mails and bearing a Prince express label, of which several types were produced. About 1860, the Express was augmented by a new service and stamps reading "Letter Dispatch J.H. Prince" were issued. While bearing no denomination, the stamps represented prepayment of a 2-cent fee. This new enterprise was established for the convenience of the citizens of Portland to carry late mail to Boston by the night boat.

The Portland Post Office closed the mails at 3:00 P.M. Correspondents, if they missed this closing, would have to wait for the mails to be made up the following morning. An alternative was provided by Prince's Letter Dispatch, for they accepted mail up to 7:00 P.M. Letters entrusted to Prince would be conveyed by the Prince messenger on the night boat to Boston and deposited in the Post Office early the following morning for transmission to other points or for local pick-up or delivery.

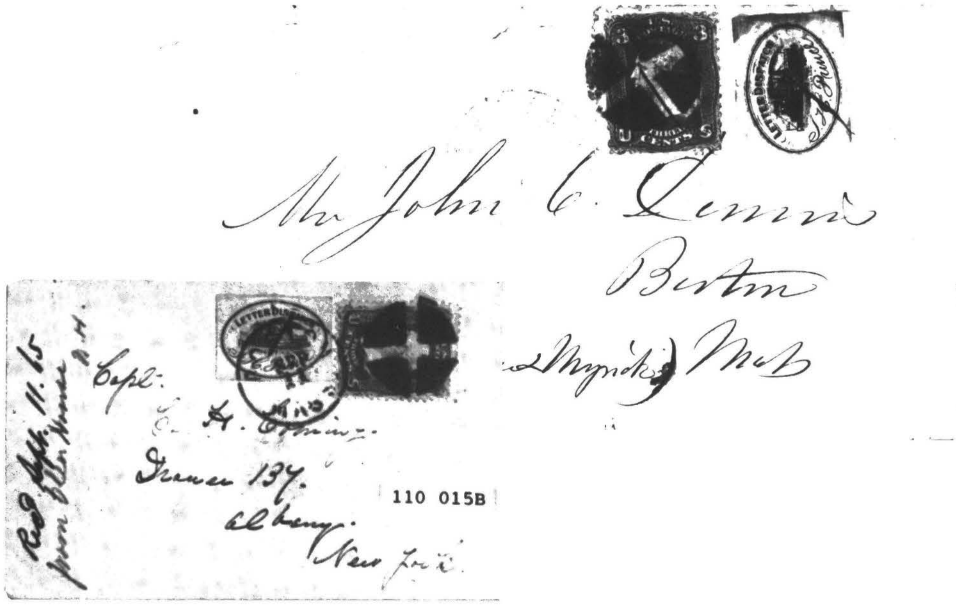


Figure 2 *(bottom)*. Prince's Letter Dispatch used with a 3 cent Scott #65. Brought by night boat from Providence and dropped into the Boston Post Office for transmission to Albany. Philatelic Foundation Certificate 110 105.

Figure 3 *(top)*. A similar cover, for pick-up or delivery in Boston. Certificate 41 132.

Letters using this service therefore bear the *Boston* marking. A letter bearing a Portland marking means that, for whatever reason, it missed Prince's 7:00 P.M. closing for the Boston night boat and was consequently dropped in the Portland Post Office for transmission the next morning.

Alas, patient 122 913 had missed the boat, an interesting tale that could not be told in the Philatelic Foundation Certificate.

Genuine

Bogus Type

Patton Type A

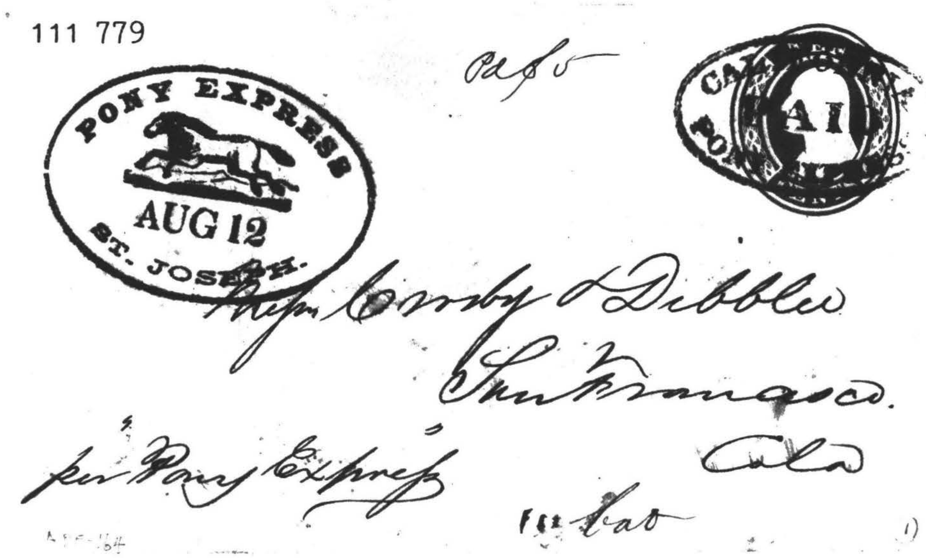
Dos Passos Type C

Patton Type B

Figure 4. The item submitted was compared with a known-genuine example (upper left) as well as with the various counterfeits reproduced above.

A Pony Tale

By Marc Haas



Certificate 111 779

This Pony Express cover from East to West is one of the very finest and rarest in existence.

The history of the "Pony" is so well known and has been described in such detail that it would be redundant to cover it in this article. It is one of the most interesting and romantic areas of philatelic history.

This particular Pony cover was not well known in philatelic circles outside of a few specialists. The cover resided in the Lichtenstein Collection for many years and did not come on the market until the breaking-up of that holding.

This cover is in magnificent condition. It was this very condition that raised doubts as to the cover's authenticity when it was offered at auction some years ago. Envelopes carried by the Pony Express were handled roughly, transferred several times from various carriers, and ended up in saddle bags. Very few have survived in very fine condition. The carmine St. Joseph marking is extremely rare, and on this cover the marking is so full-colored and pristine that it almost looks "made to order". The same is true of the "California Pony Express" marking in red over the 10-cent green envelope impression.

While the Lichtenstein provenance was in its favor, I felt further investigation was indicated, particularly in view of the fact that it represented such a large investment for those days — some $18,000 as I recall. The cover was sent to the three most knowledgeable experts in this field, in my judgment. These were Basil Pearce, Mel Nathan, and Scott Polland.

"Count" Pearce for many years was a Vice-President of the Wells Fargo Bank and was in charge of their history room. Mel Nathan, now deceased, was the author of the present textbook on Western Express Covers, and co-author of *The Pony Express* with William S. Boggs. "Doc" Polland was a leading physician who wrote extensively on western philately until his death a few years ago. The depth of his knowledge was almost unbelievable. He had seen almost everything in his field and had studied the area in detail. I received an opinion of "genuine" from these three men, with a letter from Nathan confirming the finding. At that time I did not submit the cover to the Foundation as I was completely satisfied with the opinions of these experts.

When the cover came into my possession a second time, in 1982, the Nathan letter had been misplaced. I felt it would be well to have a Foundation Certificate in view of the very high value which the cover had achieved. (The figure was well over $100,000.)

To expertize a cover such as this, we need to take a careful look at the type and color of the so-called Running Pony marking. We know that this style of Pony Express marking was primarily used on Westbound mail from St. Joseph, Missouri, but a few examples are known used on Eastbound mail sent through St. Joseph (thought to have been used accidentally). We also know that this marking exists in black as well as in carmine. However, it is considerably scarcer in carmine than it is in black. Only seven examples of the Running Pony marking in carmine were recorded by Boggs and Nathan in *The Pony Express*.[1] Of these seven covers only one had this marking in carmine on the face.

The carmine Running Pony marking is known used for approximately one month, from the middle of August to the middle of September. Due to the scarcity of these covers, the exact dates of usage are difficult to pin down. This cover which is dated "Aug 12" (1860) represents the earliest known usage. The E.A. Wiltsee cover dated "Sep 13" (1860) represents the latest known usage.

Mr. Wiltsee discusses his cover in an article in the *Collectors Club Philatelist*.[2] Interestingly, his cover is similar to the August 12 cover. Both are used on 3-cent Nesbitts and both have the red oval CALIFORNIA/PAID/PONY EXPRESS marking canceling the entire. In both cases the color of the two postmarks differs distinctly from the color of the Pony Express franks.

In his article Mr. Wiltsee states that "...Consequently it must be assumed that for a short period of time the expressman at St. Jo had access to a carmine inked pad; for in all other details the franks are identical with the usual frank."

To expertize this cover, the Running Pony marking was therefore compared to other known genuine examples in black. It compared favorably. Both the carmine Running Pony marking and the red oval CALIFORNIA/PAID/PONY EXPRESS markings were compared under the ultraviolet lamp to make sure that they were two distinctive inks, as they should be. This was found to be true. The ink of the Running Pony marking was also found to be a distinctive carmine shade and not red. Therefore, as this cover passed all of the above tests it was felt that it was "genuine in all respects".

This Pony truly is a thoroughbred!

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[1] *The Pony Express* by M.C. Nathan and W.S. Boggs, 1962, 108 pages, Collector Club of New York Handbook #15.

[2] "The Carmine Pony Express" by E.A. Wiltsee, *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Volume XI, No. 3, July 1932, pages 171-174.

Those Tandler Covers: Guilt by Association

By David L. Jarrett

Tandler correspondence forgeries are perhaps the most famous group of western express fakes existing. They were manufactured by Georges Carion, a resident of San Francisco, in the late 1890s. Carion obtained a genuine correspondence carried by Wells, Fargo — virtually all addressed to Tandler and Company, custom house brokers and merchants, in San Francisco — and added additional scarce western express handstamps to them, making rare conjunctive express covers. Conjunctive express covers are those handled by two or more different express companies, where part of the journey was by the originating express and completion (to San Francisco, in this case) by another company (Wells, Fargo & Company).

Some of the expresses known to have been faked by Carion are: Greathouse & Slicer, Yreka; F.W. Blake, Weaverville; Cram Rogers & Co., Weaverville; Rhodes & Co., Weaverville; Rhodes & Lusks, Yreka; Rhodes & Whitney, Weaverville; Rhodes & Whitney, Yreka; Hunter & Co., Mud Springs (shield shape); Hunter & Cos. Express, Mud Springs (oval); Langton & Bros. Express, Downeyville; and others.

There are several distinguishing characteristics to Tandler fakes. First, none of the covers have ink offsets from any of the additional handstamps on the reverse — only offsets from genuine Wells, Fargo handstamps. Offsets occasionally occur as mailing agents place one envelope on top of another just after they were handstamped but before the ink could dry, resulting in an offset transfer of part of the ink — like a blotter.

Second, most of the faked Expresses operated only in a limited region of California and could not have logistically connected with the Wells, Fargo office indicated for subsequent carriage to San Francisco. With one exception, the Wells, Fargo offices were located in an area that was not on a direct route to San Francisco. For example, many of the faked expresses operated in northern California — out of Yreka or Weaverville — and could not have connected with Wells, Fargo at the offices designated — Sacramento, Stockton and Nevada, for instance. They would have connected with Wells, Fargo offices or U.S. post offices just north of San Francisco.

The third and most conclusive observation that leads us to conclude all Tandler conjunctive express covers are forgeries is the fact that any one of the faked markings are identical with each other yet differ from their corresponding non-Tandler genuine handstamps used on various other correspondences. This factor thus eliminates the remote possibility that two genuine but similar handstamps were originally employed (as happened with certain railroad route agents back east).

These fakes were apparently carefully hand traced by Carion from genuine examples to produce a metal or hard rubber handstamp, since this was done long before photographic reproduction methods came into general use. Some of the faked handstamps (such as Langton & Bros., Downeyville — Figure 1) actually have the appearance of being hand drawn. Note the inconsistencies of the letters and the not perfectly symmetrical oval, which lacks a consistent curvilinear flow. Differences between genuine and forged handstamps lie mainly in the shape, spacing, and size of individual letters.

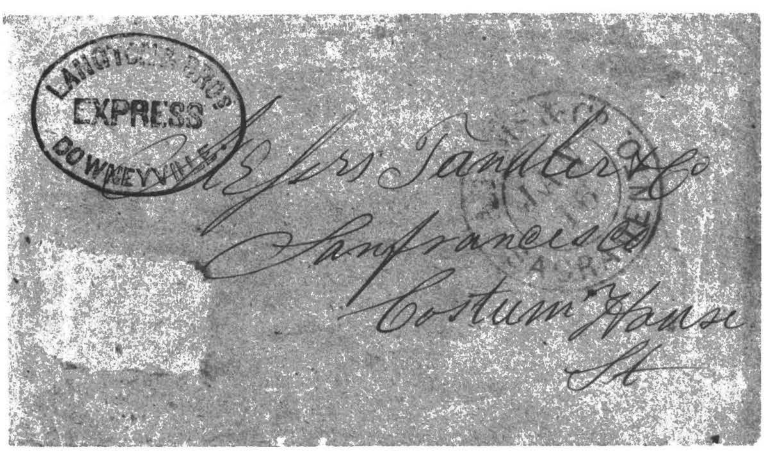


Figure 1. Fake Langton & Bros. Express, Downeyville. Observe the uneven flow of the oval rim, obviously hand drawn and not made by a mechanical template. The lettering has a hand drawn feeling, not made by printer's typesets inserted within the oval.

A comparison between two genuine Greathouse & Slicer Yreka octagons (PF certificates 113 556 and 68 215 — Figures 2A and 2B) and several Tandler forgeries (Figures 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 3E) reveals many minute but distinct differences that could not have resulted by a slurring or other misapplication of the handstamp to the envelope. The most obvious difference is that both genuine Greathouse & Slicers (from different correspondences) have slightly shorter letters in "YREKA" than the Tandler examples. In addition, in the Tandler covers, both "S"s and the "&" are rounder and fuller than on the genuine ones, which are skinnier. Furthermore, there are considerable differences in the slant of the slanting "WELLS FARGO & CO." letters between genuine and faked examples.

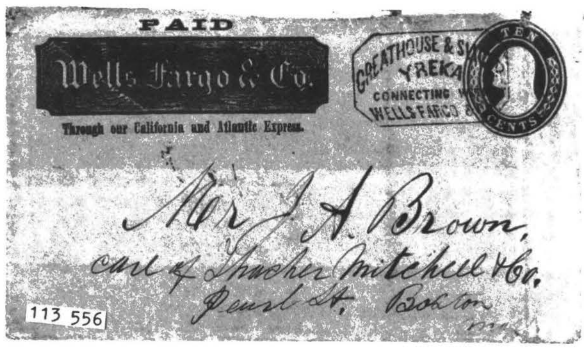


Figure 2A. Genuine Greathouse & Slicer octagon.

Figure 2B. Genuine Greathouse & Slicer express. Note the "Coll 25c" (Collect 25c) indicating a fee to be collected by a connecting express.

Figure 3A. Fake blue Greathouse & Slicer with genuine black Wells, Fargo, Mud Springs. None of the Tandler covers have color offsets on the reverse of the forged marking but do in many cases have a Wells, Fargo handstamp offset.

Figure 3B. Fake black Greathouse & Slicer with genuine red Wells, Fargo & Co., Nevada. Nevada is an out-of-the-way location for a direct Wells, Fargo connection between Greathouse & Slicer in Yreka and the destination, San Francisco.

Figure 3C. Fake black Greathouse & Slicer with genuine Wells, Fargo & Co., Sacramento. Greathouse & Slicer, operating stages out of Yreka, Humboldt County, would not connect with Wells, Fargo in Sacramento to transport mail to San Francisco.

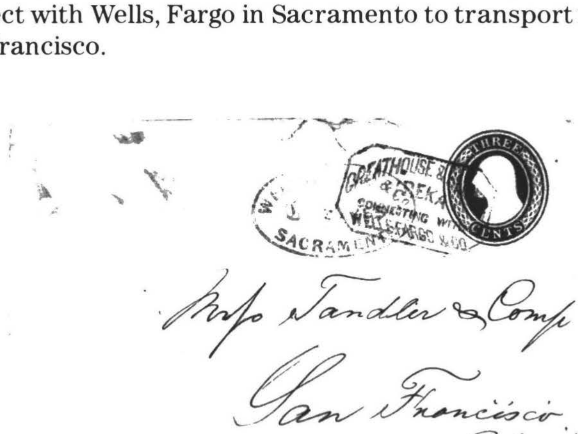


Figure 3D. Fake blue Greathouse & Slicer with genuine Wells, Fargo & Co., Sacramento.

Figure 3E. Fake black Greathouse & Slicer with genuine Wells, Fargo & Co., Stockton. Greathouse & Slicer, operating stages out of Yreka, Humboldt County would not logistically connect with Wells, Fargo in Stockton, located east of San Francisco, for subsequent carriage to San Francisco.

Carion did not limit his artwork to conjunctive express covers. He also added his faked handstamps to privately hand-carried Tandler covers, which were not carried by Wells, Fargo. For example, a faked Rhodes & Lusk, Yreka (Figure 4) was applied to a "Politenes of Mr. Newman, Esq." hand-carried out-of-the-mails envelope.

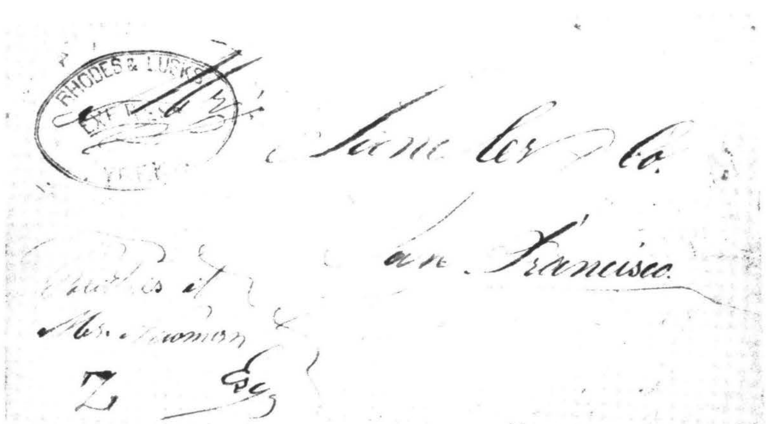


Figure 4. Fake Rhodes & Lusks, Yreka on genuine cover originally hand carried out-of-the-mails "Politenes of Mr. Newman Esq.".

Carion also apparently obtained some non-Tandler covers to apply his artwork. Figure 5 shows a Carion-manufactured Greathouse & Slicer, Yreka addressed to Samuel Grosh, Esq. Since Greathouse & Slicer only operated in northern California and did not run mail into San Francisco, the cover, if it were genuine, should have had another postal or express marking on it to reflect the other carrier.

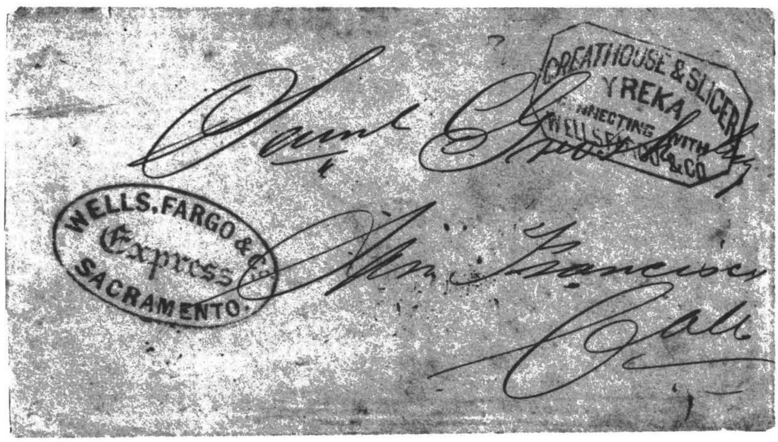


Figure 5. Stampless cover with fake blue Greathouse & Slicer with genuine red Sacramento Wells, Fargo. Letter addressed to Saml. Grosh Esq. — a non-Tandler cover.

Five other Tandler cover fakes are illustrated in Figures 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 with analytical comments on each.

Figure 6. Faked Hunter & Cos Express. Observe asymmetrical Hunter oval, with a fatter left side compared to right side and uneven bottom curve. Note the hand drawn characteristics of the lettering.

Figure 7. Fake Hunter & Cos Express. Mud Springs on genuine Wells, Fargo Sacramento cover. The shape and spacing of the Hunter & Cos letters differs from genuine examples.

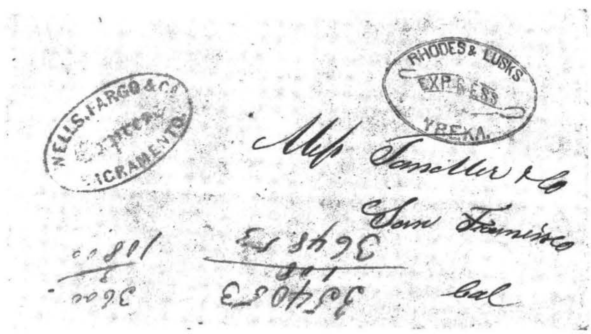


Figure 8. The forged Rhodes & Lusks handstamp differs from genuine examples mainly by the shape of its lettering. For instance, the "&" has a longer tail than the genuine, and the bottom curved scroll around EXPRESS is rounder and not as flat as the genuine handstamp. There is no way Rhodes & Lusks, running stages out of Yreka, could logistically connect with Wells, Fargo in Sacramento.

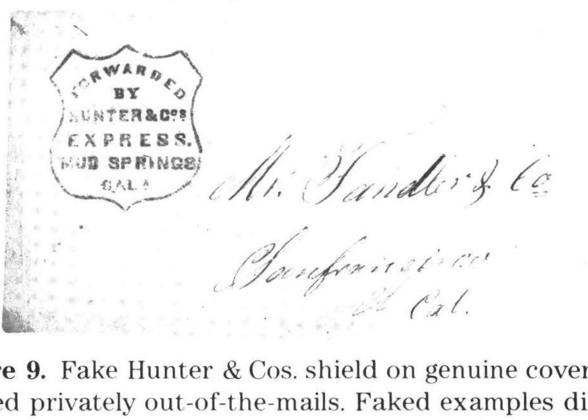


Figure 9. Fake Hunter & Cos. shield on genuine cover hand carried privately out-of-the-mails. Faked examples differ from genuine ones by the shape, spacing and thickness of individual letters.

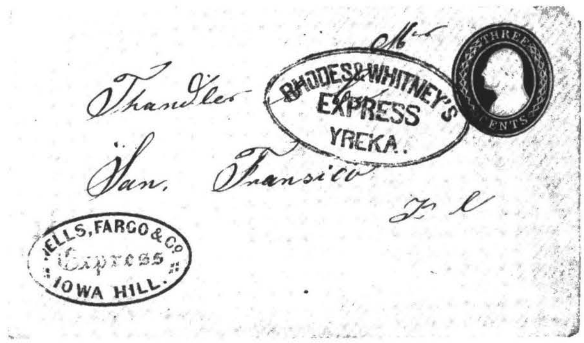


Figure 10. Fake Rhodes & Whitney's Express. The express company, operating out of Yreka in northern California, Humboldt County, could not logistically connect with Wells, Fargo in Iowa Hill, in Placer County, for subsequent carriage on to San Francisco. Each of the letters in the handstamp differs from genuine examples. For instance, the "&" has an overweighted top curve and is the same height as the other lettering, whereas the genuine is shorter and not top heavy; the "SS" is boxier and more square than the more graceful "SS" of the genuine; the period after YREKA is further away on the genuine.

It is this writer's hope that collectors owning faked Tandlers will donate them to the Philatelic Foundation to remove them from circulation. Many of them have a tendency to reappear as genuine examples.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mekeels, October 18, 1943, reprints an article on Tandler forgeries by Y. Souren, president of Philatelic Research Laboratories, Inc. Souren indicated that the Tandler correspondence encompassed the 1852-1860 period. It was altered by George(s) Carion, a former resident of Tahiti, who was a persona non grata with local postal authorities there (over his faking Tahitian overprints). Carion moved to San Francisco in 1895 and shortly thereafter acquired the Tandler correspondence.

Western Express, January 1956, has an editorial by editor Henry Clifford on Tandler forgeries. The April 1956 issue has a comment on them by Dr. W. Scott Polland. In the January 1974 issue, Dr. Polland commented on the Tandler forgery lot in the Knapp auction, Volume I, p. 229, lot #1900. He indicated that he never saw a Tandler combination express that was genuine. Those noted were Greathouse & Slicer, Yreka; F.W. Blake, Weaverville; Cram Rogers & Co., Weaverville; Rhodes & Co., Weaverville; Rhodes & Lusks, Yreka; Rhodes & Whitney, Weaverville; Rhodes & Whitney, Yreka; Hunter & Co., Mud Springs (shield shaped); Langton & Co.; and others.

July 1969 *Western Express* illustrates a fake Greathouse & Slicer, Yreka truncated rectangle used in combination with a Wells, Fargo Yankee Jim's. The October 1976 issue reprints an article on Georges Carion's Tandler fakes from *The Philatelist*, May 1975.

Stamps magazine, August 27, 1977, has an excellent article by Theodore L. Behr on Tandlers, mentioning that the Hunter & Co., Mud Springs shield is dangerously deceptive because of the logical conjunctive routing with Hunter and Wells Fargo in Sacramento.

PHOTO CREDITS

Photos 4 and 9 courtesy of Irwin Vogel. The balance of the Tandlers belong to The Philatelic Foundation reference collection.

A Matter of Location

The Lexington, Virginia Handstamped Paid and Provisional

By Peter W.W. Powell

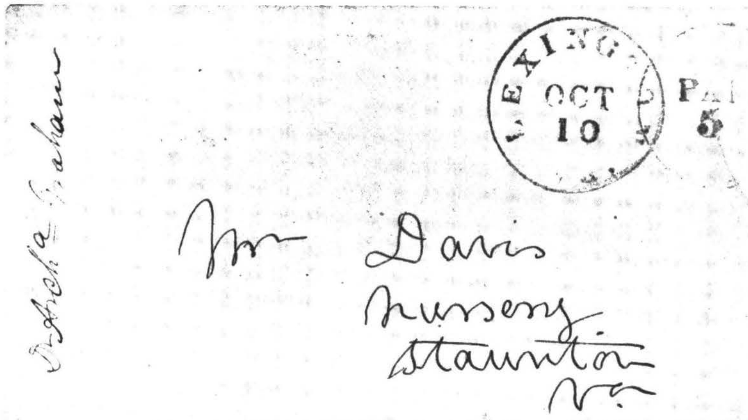
Two types of the "Paid 5" and three types of the "Paid 10" of Lexington are listed on page 79 of the 1959 *Confederate States Catalog and Hand-Book* by August Dietz. This article is concerned with both types of the "Paid 5" and Types I and III of the "Paid 10". These four markings do not exist exactly as shown in Dietz.

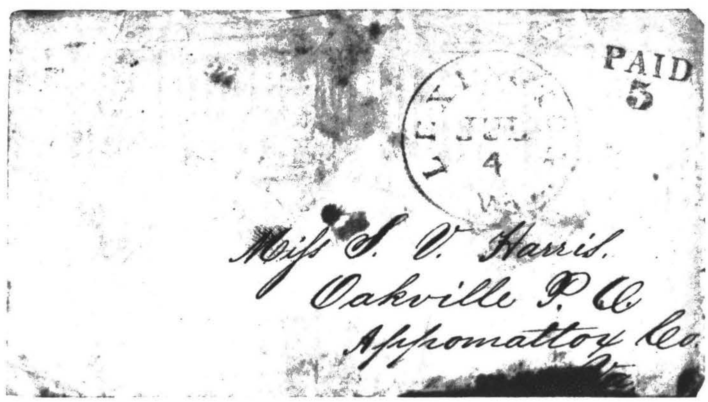
All four were made by taking the pre-war 30mm Lexington Canceler and inserting "Paid 5" or "Paid 10". These insertions were "type high", while we believe that the month and day logos, supplied with the canceler, were less than type high; i.e., shorter than standard printers' type. Thus when the "Paid" and the rate, borrowed or bought from a local printer, were inserted in the canceling device, they protruded enough to prevent the words "Lexington, Va." from showing completely when the device was struck on an envelope.

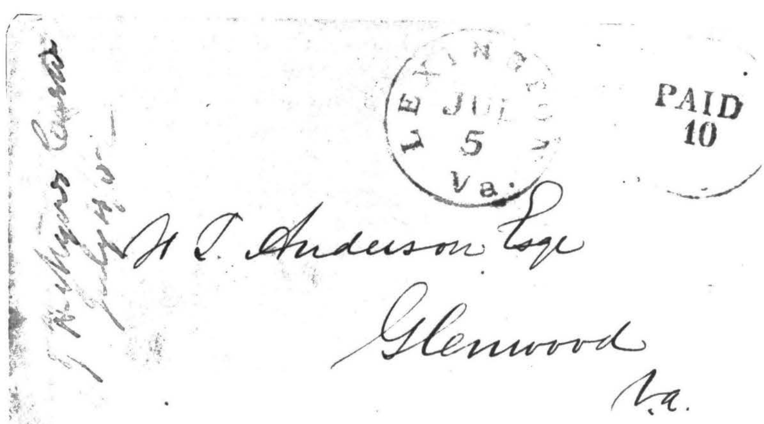
In every case that we have examined, a partial circle will show. We have never seen the complete absence of a circle, which would be possible if the device were struck perfectly; and we have never seen a completed circle, which was impossible due to the high center. Thus, instead of two types of the "Paid 5" and Types I and III of the "Paid 10", we have only one type of "Paid 5" and a combination of Types I and III of the "Paid 10", resulting in only one type. Several examples showing one or more of the letters of "Lexington" do exist.

Now that we have established the method by which these markings were made, let us discuss the procedure used to apply them. Let us also differentiate between a handstamped paid and a provisional. A handstamped paid is a marking applied at the time an envelope was mailed. A provisional is a marking applied to an envelope and sold for later use.

We have known for years that the Lexington markings seem to follow definite patterns particularly in their relationship to the cancellation. The relationship determines which is a handstamped paid and which is a provisional. If the paid marking is in the upper right corner and the canceler comes within ¾ of an inch of the partial circle or its extension, or actually ties it, then we have a provisional. Figures 1 and 2 show the postmark canceling the "stamp". Figure 3 shows the canceler within ¾″ of the "stamp". If the canceler is elsewhere in the cover, then the envelope is an example of a handstamped paid, even if the paid is in the upper right corner. Figure 4 is a handstamped paid.







Figures 1, 2, 3 *(top to bottom)*: All provisionals, based on the position of the PAID "stamp" and the canceler. The PAID 10 shown here is the only such provisional recorded.

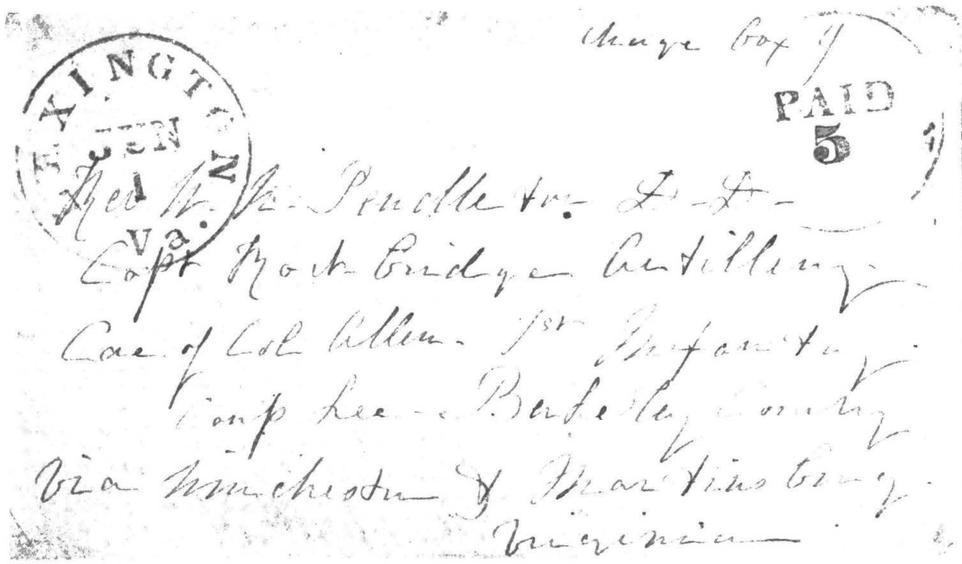


Figure 4. A handstamped paid.

A number of these covers have been examined over the years and their arrangement falls into three categories. The first category, provisional usage, has the rate in the upper right corner and the cancellation within ¾ of an inch of the partial circle. The second also has the rate in the upper right corner but the cancellation is located elsewhere, usually in the upper left quadrant. This type is a handstamped paid. The third form is the case where the postmark and the paid are randomly located. This, too, is a handstamped paid.

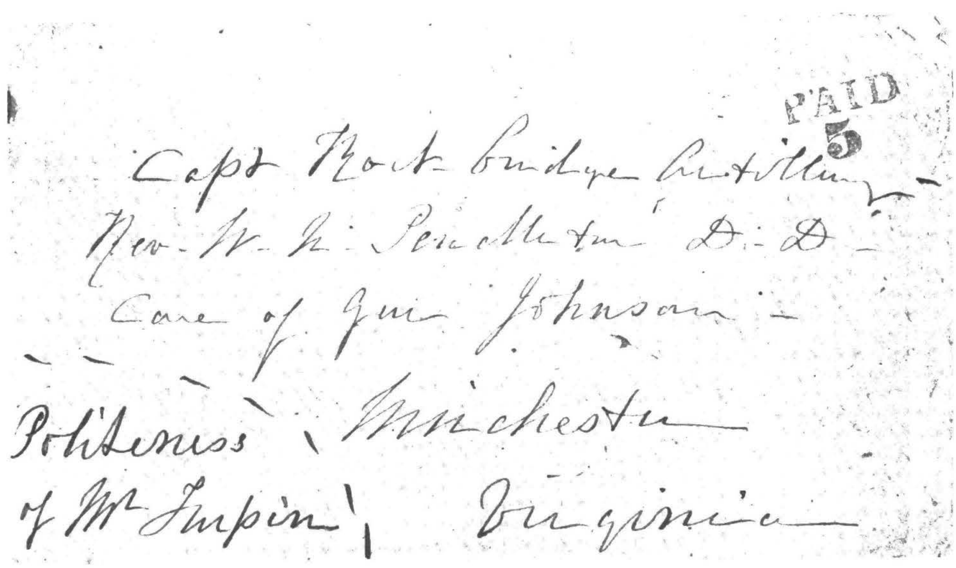


Figure 5. A "politeness of" cover.

One of the real tests for provisional status is the existence of unused examples. Until the discovery of the two covers shown in Figures 5 and 6, we could theorize as much as we wanted but could not offer proof in the form of an unused provisional to back up our ideas. A "politeness of" cover has long been known to have been carried outside of the mails by a friend going in the same direction. Although examples are known, genuinely postally used they are rare. A Way letter was picked up along the way by an authorized agent and mailed from the office to which he was heading. Why this last cover was not rated in Richmond we do not know. These two covers were both provisionals prepared by the Lexington Postmaster but not sent through the mails from Lexington.

Let us expand a bit on the provisional usage and why this particular format was chosen. First of all, as we have noted above, we have three distinct formats. Examples of the first form (the rate in the upper right corner and the cancel tying it or coming within ¾ of an inch from the circle) are not isolated examples. There are at least fifteen of these covers recorded. Of the second form (the rate in the upper right corner but cancellation in the upper left quadrant), there are about thirty in one collection and others are known. The third form (random placement) is scarcer, but there are five of these known in one collection and others do exist.

Regarding intent, the only arrangement that appears planned in its entirety is the first, with rate and cancel in the upper right corner. The second and most usually seen arrangement of the rate in the upper right and the cancel in the upper left can be explained by the postmaster's custom of stamping in the upper right. The third, random placement, is

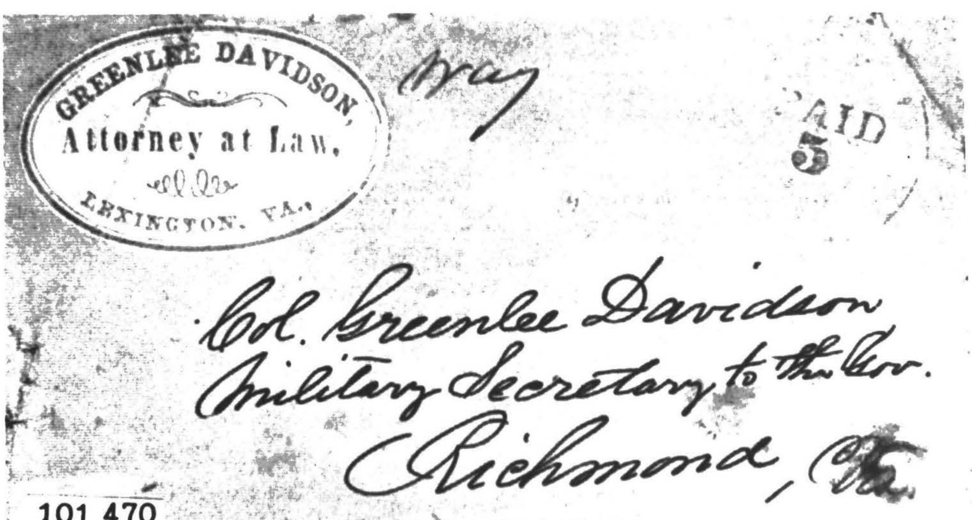


Figure 6. A "Way" cover.

the usual form for most handstamped paids, and is assuredly a handstamped paid. Scarcity alone would not determine which is the provisional, yet we do have in the first type an effort to cancel the "stamp" which does not exist in the second type.

We have established without a doubt that some of the Lexington Paids are provisionals in their unused state. (See Figures 5 & 6. Another cover is also known used with a paid marking and a stamp, making up a combination rate usage.) Of the two hundred provisional envelopes listed in the "1959 Dietz", sixty-eight were prepared in the same manner as the Lexingtons. We feel that the careful placement of the paid in the upper right corner and the effort to cancel or come close to canceling it gives us a positive pattern and a validation of provisional status as in Figures 1, 2, and 3.

Real or Reprint?

The Salem Provisional

By Tony L. Crumbley and Brian M. Green

Certificate 101 534

Figure 1. Surviving Handstamp Devices from the Confederate Post Office at Salem, North Carolina.

From Montgomery, Alabama, on May 20, 1861, Postmaster John H. Reagan sent out the fourth communication from the Confederate States of America Post Office Department. In this Circular Letter No. 4, Reagan requested each southern Postmaster "To retain in your possession, subject to further orders of this department, for the benefit of the Confederate States, all mail bags, locks and keys, marking and rating stamps, blanks for quarterly returns of Postmasters, and all other property, belonging to or connected with the postal service. And to return forthwith to the Chief of the Appointment Bureau of this department a full inventory of the same."

Whether or not all Postmasters complied with this order is unknown. One such Postmaster, Orestes A. Keehln, of Salem, North Carolina, complied with this order. With the original forwarded to Richmond, a duplicate copy of this inventory was retained for his records.

The persistence of Postmaster Keehln in retaining such records allows us to sample the materials needed to operate a post office of this period. To the authors' knowledge no such inventory of Confederate Post Offices has ever been published. The transcript of the complete inventory of Salem, Forsythe County, North Carolina, on June 1, 1861, follows:

"P.O. Salem Forsythe Co. No. Car. July 8, 1861

Chief of The Appointment Bureau
Post Office Department, Richmond, Va.

Sir, I take great pleasure, In accordance with Post Master Reagan's Instruction to Append below, an inventory of all Mail Bags, Locks and Keys, & all other property belonging to or connected with the Postal Service which remained in this office on June 1, 1861.

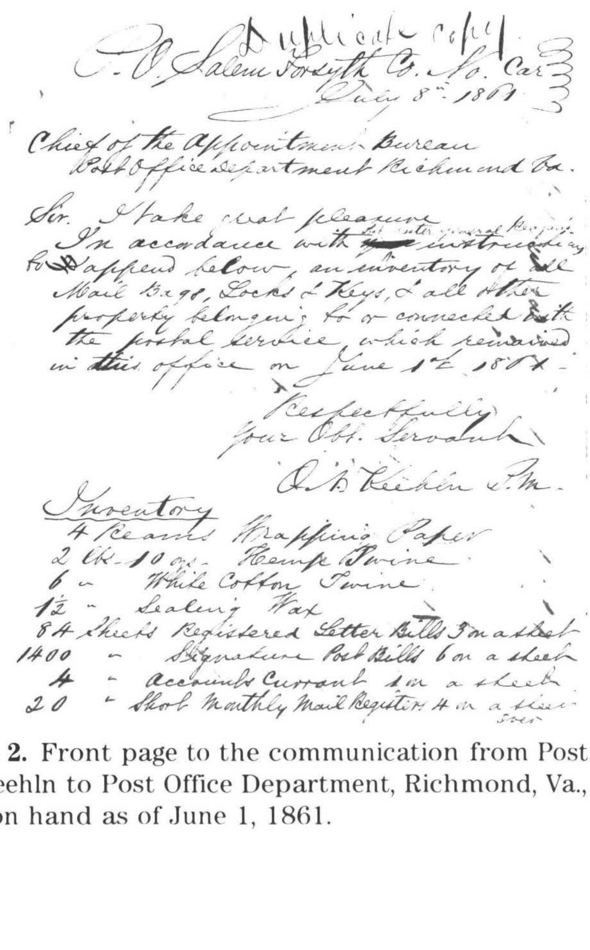
Respectfully
Your Obt. Servant
O.A. Keehln P.M.

Inventory
4 Reams Wrapping Paper
2 lbs. 10 oz. Hemp Twince
6 lbs. White Cotton Twine
1½ lbs. Sealing Wax
84 Sheets Registered letter Bills 3 on a sheet
1400 sheets Signature Post Bills 6 on a sheet
4 sheets Accounts Currant 1 on a sheet
20 sheets Short Monthly Mail Registers 2 on a sheet
10 sheets Long Monthly Mail Registers 4 on a sheet
20 Sheets Weekly Mail Registers 4 on a sheet
24 sheets Accounts of Registered Letters Received
27 sheets Account of Registered Letters Sent
17 sheets Account of Prepaid Printed Matter
20 sheets, Account of Regular News Paper
134 sheets of Mail Sent
163 sheets of Mail Received for delivery
5 Registered Letter Receipt Books
3 Iron Mail Keys
1 Brass Mail Key
3 Brass Mail Locks
25 Iron Mail Locks
9 Canvas Newspaper Mail Bags
3 Horse Mail Bags

14 Canvas Mail Pouches
1 Iron Office Stamp and Fixtures
1 Iron Paid 3 Stamp
1 Iron Free Stamp
1 Iron Paid Stamp
1 Iron Post Office Bureau Stamp
1 Wood Canceling Stamp
1 Iron 5 stamp
1 Iron 10 stamp
1 Letter Balance
1 Book "List of Post Offices" 1859 Edition
1 Book
1 Old Desk
1 Old Table
1 Letter Case

Respectfully Subscribed
O.A. Keehln
Salem
Forsyth Col.
No. Car."

June 1, 1861



Duplicate copy
P. O. Salem Forsyth Co. No. Car.
July 8th 1861

Chief of the Appointment Bureau
Post Office Department Richmond Va.

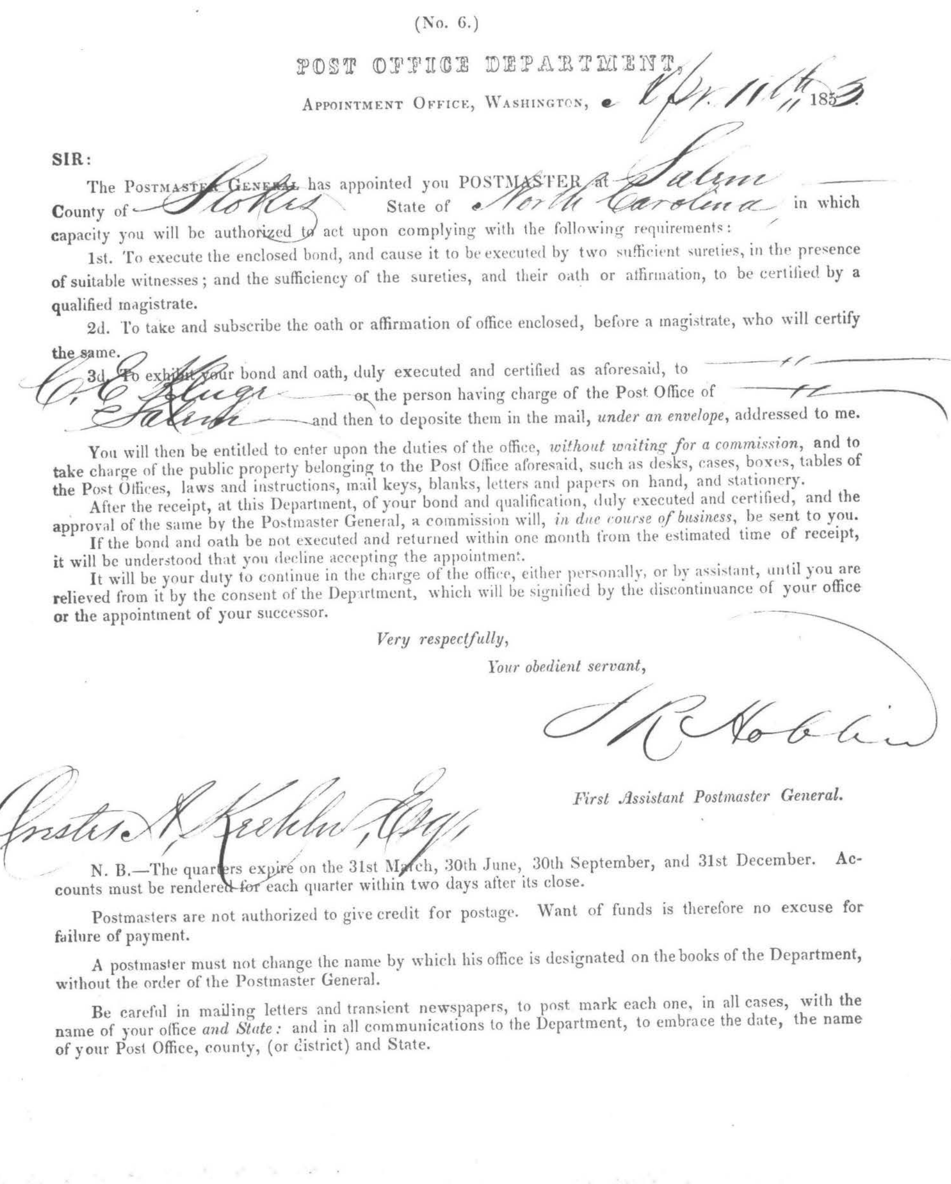
Sir. I take great pleasure
In accordance with the instructions to append below, an inventory of all Mail Bags, Locks & Keys, & all other property belonging to or connected with the postal service which remained in this office on June 1st 1861.

Respectfully
Your Obt. Servant
O. A. Keehln P.M.

Inventory
4 Reams Wrapping Paper
2 lb. 10 oz. Hemp Twine
6 " White Cotton Twine
1½ " Sealing Wax
84 Sheets Registered Letter Bills 3 on a sheet
1400 " Signature Post Bills 6 on a sheet
4 " Accounts Current 1 on a sheet
20 " Skel. Monthly Mail Register 4 on a sheet

Figure 2. Front page to the communication from Postmaster O.A. Keehln to Post Office Department, Richmond, Va., listing items on hand as of June 1, 1861.

Postmaster O.A. Keehln became the Postmaster of Salem on April 11, 1853 (Figure 3). He continued his duties throughout the War and afterwards until June 24, 1865. During this time, Salem had a population of approximately 3,000. The Salem post office continued to operate as such until 1899 when it merged with Winston to become Winston-Salem.



(No. 6.)

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

APPOINTMENT OFFICE, WASHINGTON, Apr. 11th, 1853

SIR:

The POSTMASTER GENERAL has appointed you POSTMASTER at Salem County of Stokes State of North Carolina in which capacity you will be authorized to act upon complying with the following requirements:

1st. To execute the enclosed bond, and cause it to be executed by two sufficient sureties, in the presence of suitable witnesses; and the sufficiency of the sureties, and their oath or affirmation, to be certified by a qualified magistrate.

2d. To take and subscribe the oath or affirmation of office enclosed, before a magistrate, who will certify the same.

3d. To exhibit your bond and oath, duly executed and certified as aforesaid, to C. C. Kluge or the person having charge of the Post Office of Salem and then to deposite them in the mail, *under an envelope*, addressed to me.

You will then be entitled to enter upon the duties of the office, *without waiting for a commission*, and to take charge of the public property belonging to the Post Office aforesaid, such as desks, cases, boxes, tables of the Post Offices, laws and instructions, mail keys, blanks, letters and papers on hand, and stationery.

After the receipt, at this Department, of your bond and qualification, duly executed and certified, and the approval of the same by the Postmaster General, a commission will, *in due course of business*, be sent to you.

If the bond and oath be not executed and returned within one month from the estimated time of receipt, it will be understood that you decline accepting the appointment.

It will be your duty to continue in the charge of the office, either personally, or by assistant, until you are relieved from it by the consent of the Department, which will be signified by the discontinuance of your office or the appointment of your successor.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

S R Hobbie

First Assistant Postmaster General.

Orestes A. Keehln, Esq.

N. B.—The quarters expire on the 31st March, 30th June, 30th September, and 31st December. Accounts must be rendered for each quarter within two days after its close.

Postmasters are not authorized to give credit for postage. Want of funds is therefore no excuse for failure of payment.

A postmaster must not change the name by which his office is designated on the books of the Department, without the order of the Postmaster General.

Be careful in mailing letters and transient newspapers, to post mark each one, in all cases, with the name of your office *and State:* and in all communications to the Department, to embrace the date, the name of your Post Office, county, (or district) and State.

Figure 3. Official notice of appointment of O.A. Keehln as Postmaster of Salem, North Carolina.

With the non-existence of postage stamps in the early days of the Confederacy, Postmaster Keehln saw a need for prepaid envelopes. Following the pattern set by other southern postmasters, Keehln had printed a quantity of provisional envelopes. The basic design consists of a circle (29mm in diameter) with the inscription "Post Office" at the top and "Salem, N.C." at the bottom following the curvature of the circle in Roman capitals. In a horizontal line across the center appears "O.A. Keehln, P.M." in condensed block letters.

Figure 4. Brass die used to print Salem provisional.

These are known to exist on three types of paper — white, buff and amber. This would lead one to think that perhaps three separate printings were made. The envelopes were printed without a rate. The rates were applied either by manuscript or handstamp.

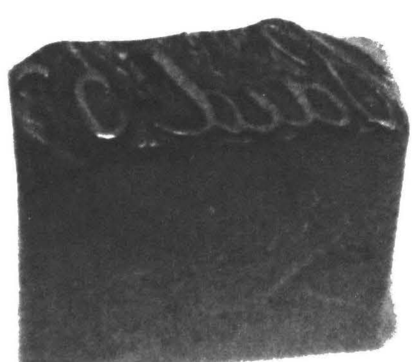


Figure 5. Paid 5 die found with the Salem provisional die.

It is difficult to place the first date of use of this provisional, as most surviving covers are without enclosure and were not year-dated. Close scrutiny of the month and day dates as well as the knowledge of the June 1862 rate increase indicates the covers were first used in August of 1861 and last used in November of 1862. The five types of provisionals and the quantities of each known to have survived are:

Type I
6 known

Type II
17 known

TYPE IIA

Type IIa
3 known

Type III
1 known

Type IV
1 known

Dietz first mentions the fact that the device used to manufacture this provisional was in the hands of a prominent North Carolina collector. That collector was R. Duke Hay of Winston-Salem. Mr. Hay obtained the device from the son of Postmaster Keehln. After Mr. Hay's death, the provisional remained in the Hay family. The authors recently examined the holdings of this family to clear up some of the mysteries around this provisional.

Many reprints of this provisional exist today. Most are considered post-war reprints. The article by Charles J. Phillips on the Salem Provisional, published in *Stamps*, September 5, 1936, tells the story of these reprints. Following is a quote from this article:

"On the first of May, I received a letter from Mr. George L. Keehln, dated April 30, 1888, in which he offered the Salem local. Mr. Keehln wrote: 'I enclosed sample on entire envelope, unused. The reason I have them, my father was Postmaster during the war. If you wish some, please state what you are willing to pay.' The same day I answered Mr. Keehln's letter in order to find out how many he had, if original or reprints and if he possessed the original die. I received a reply May 4th in which Mr. Keehln writes, 'the Salem locals were reprinted from the original die since the war. I have the original die myself. My father was Postmaster during the war and he saved it. The envelopes were made in the time of the war. They were issued in 1861. I have about 1,400 and will take $125.00 for them.' "

Mr. Phillips doesn't say if he purchased any of the reprints or not. However, considering the scarcity of the reprints today, certainly the entire lot never reached the philatelic market.

At least one of the reprints sold by George Keehln was docketed on the reverse by him indicating the genuineness of the handstamp used to make the reprint.

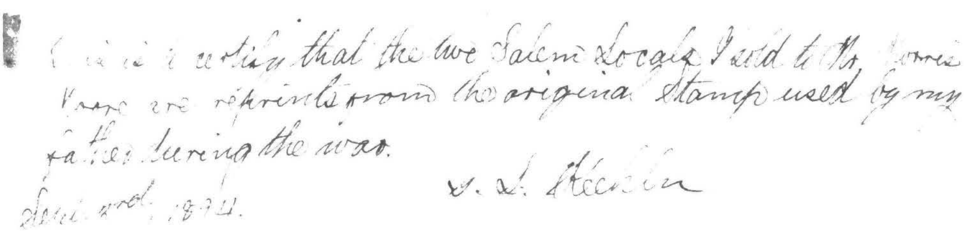

This is to certify that the two Salem Locals I sold to Mr. Jones here are reprints from the original stamp used by my father during the war.
G. A. Keehln
June 2nd, 1894.

Figure 6. Statement of Postmaster Keehln's son.

The third one, which is a negative format, in comparison to the others, has been a mystery for years. How did it come about? Was it cast from the die? Was it ever used? Is this the wooden handstamp mentioned by Keehln in his inventory?

In examining the holdings of the Hay descendants some light is shed on this item. The handstamp device used to make the cover remains with the other post office markers. The device shown in Figure 8 is a wood-cut handstamp of the same period as the other Due 5 wood-cut handstamp (Figure 9). From this, one can conclude the device originated with Keehln. Just when and for what purpose still is not clear. To the authors' knowledge the copy shown here of the negative reprint is the only known example. Further information on existing copies of this particular reprint as well as other information on the Salem provisional is wanted by the authors.

Surviving with the postal marking devices is the apparent die used to print the manuscript paid 5 in the reprints. The die is shown in Figure 5. From the design one can determine the die was made close to the same period as the provisional die. Could it have been that this die was actually designed for use with the provisional?

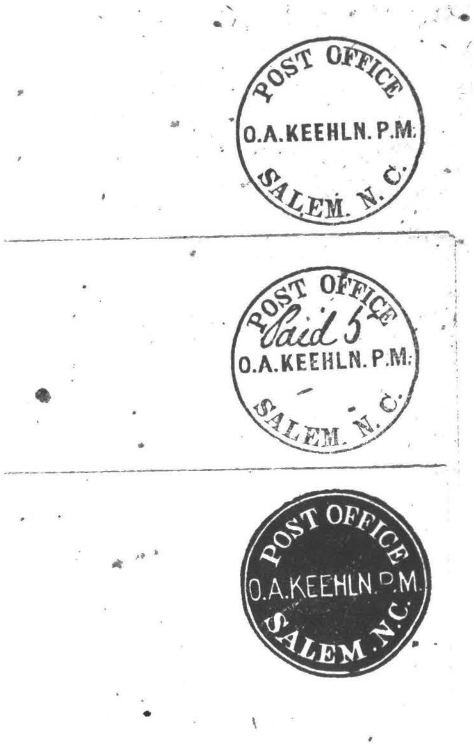


Figure 7. Examples of three types of reprints known to exist. All are known on the same type of straw paper.

Figure 8. Woodcut handstamp in negative design, similar to provisional die.

Figure 9. Due 5 handstamp remaining with Salem items. Note similarity to negative provisional handstamp.

When the item depicted by Figure 10 was sent to the Philatelic Foundation, it was analyzed by the Expert Committee to determine whether the provisional reflected contemporary usage.

The Committee compared it against reference items. Both the composition and characteristics of the manuscript rate marking as well as that of the handstamp and postmark favorably matched the reference copies. In addition, the addressee is of a known correspondence that has remained free of any philatelic manipulation. General S.F. Patterson was not on active duty as a Confederate general but had served his country well in previous years, including Mexican War service. He came from a prominent family to which the town of Patterson owed its name.

Based upon favorable comparison of the postal markings and its correspondence background, the Expert Committee was of the opinion that the cover was genuine in every respect and a Certificate was issued accordingly.

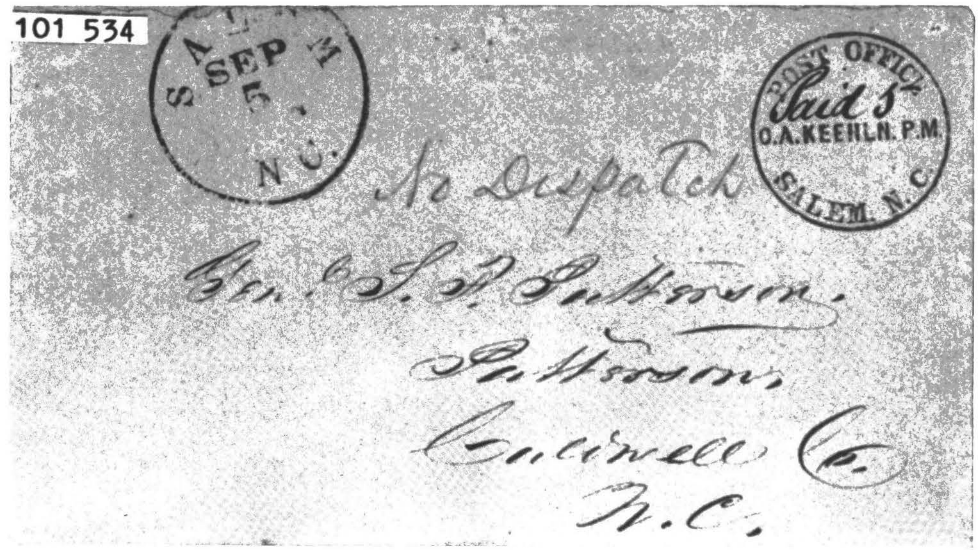


Figure 10.

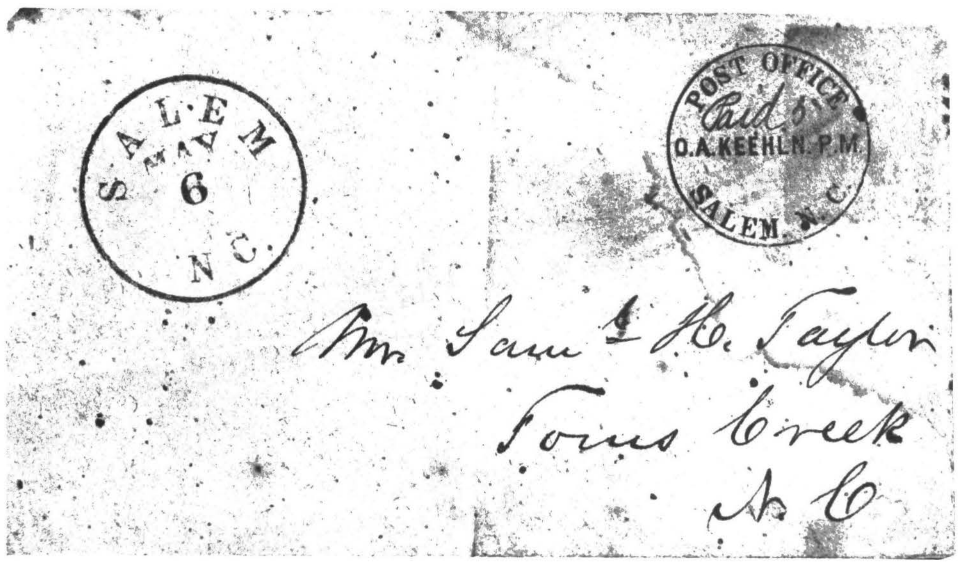


Figure 11. Type II Salem provisional — May 6 (186). Water stains remain where a stamp was removed indicating availability of stamps which rendered the provisional invalid.

The above photo of a Type II Salem provisional, in the Crumbley collection is another example of a genuine marking. Note the similarity in the two Paid 5 manuscripts (Types II, IIa). It is described by Dietz as written in a "labored hand". This same style is evidenced in the metal die used to print the reprints of the manuscript style Paid 5.

The Type IIa Provisional is one that some students feel is questionable.

Three examples of this type have been recorded, all of which are addressed to Thos. D. Cooper of Clemmonsville, N.C. The peculiarities of this cover which raise questions of their authenticity are the location of the control marking in the left hand corner. All others have been recorded as placed in the right hand corner. This indicates that the cover could have been a handstamp paid with the possibility that the provisional marking was added at a later date.

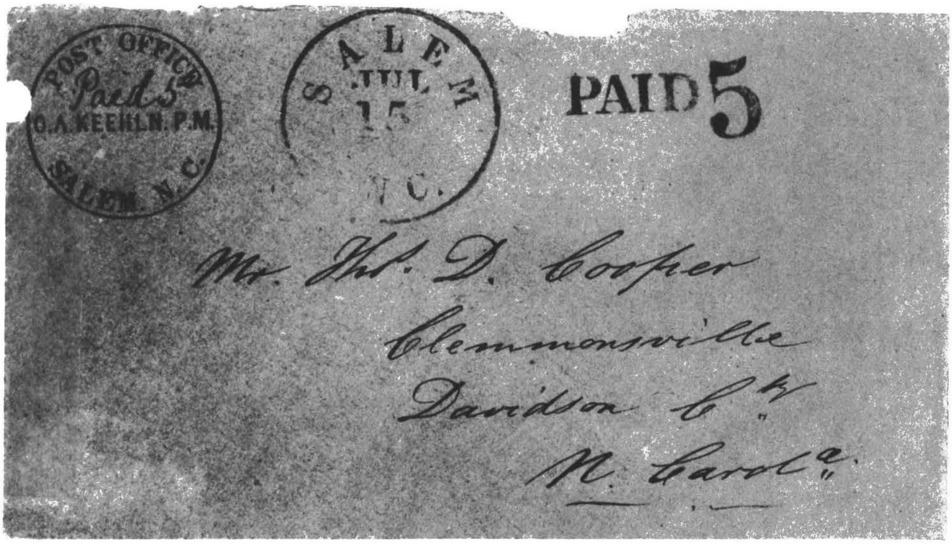


Figure 12.

Secondly, note in Figure 12 that the Paid 5 manuscript marking does not appear to have the same "labored hand" style as the previously listed covers. Accordingly, these covers should be put under close scrutiny to determine their authenticity.

Salient points to remember in reviewing the Salem Postmaster Provisionals for genuineness are:

1. No genuine unused covers or cut squares are known.
2. The more common reprint varieties are all on Civil War type straw paper.
3. Only one genuine cut square is known to exist. It has a partial strike of the CDS showing.
4. The manuscript paid marking should show the distinct "labored hand" of Postmaster Keehln.
5. Any manuscript style Paid 5 markings should indeed be manuscript and not printed.

The authors would appreciate hearing from anyone with copies of genuine Salem provisionals in their collection.

Forwarded by Substitution

The Confederate States "T-E-N" Issue

By Brian M. Green

Figure 1. Certificate 81 413.

Among the more popular of the uses of the Confederate general issues on cover are those showing forwarding by an adhesive stamp different from the one paying the basic postage. Especially desired are those utilizing one of the more valuable of the general issues. As a result, the opportunity presents itself for stamp substitution to make the cover a more desirable variety of exhibit calibre.

One of the scarcer and more popular of the general issues is the 1863 10c Archer & Daly "T-E-N" stamp, so called because the denomination is spelled out rather than in numeral format (Figure 1).

The "T-E-N" stamps were engraved by John Archer (a practical engraver and steel-plate printer once employed by The American Bank Note Company in New York) on a steel plate from which a relief was taken and transferred to a copper printing plate. It is believed that the plate consisted of two panes of 100 subjects. The stamp bears a portrait (based upon a bust by Volk) of President Jefferson Davis. It was printed in a blue ink on a wove paper. The stamp was issued imperforate (earliest recorded usage is April 23, 1863) with a colorless gum. Plating has not yet been completed and no full sheet has been located or recorded.

After brief service, the plate was retired. Legend has it that this was due to the resemblance of the portrait of Davis to that of President Abraham Lincoln. A more realistic reason would be due to the nature of the plate (copper), which did not allow large production of the stamps required.

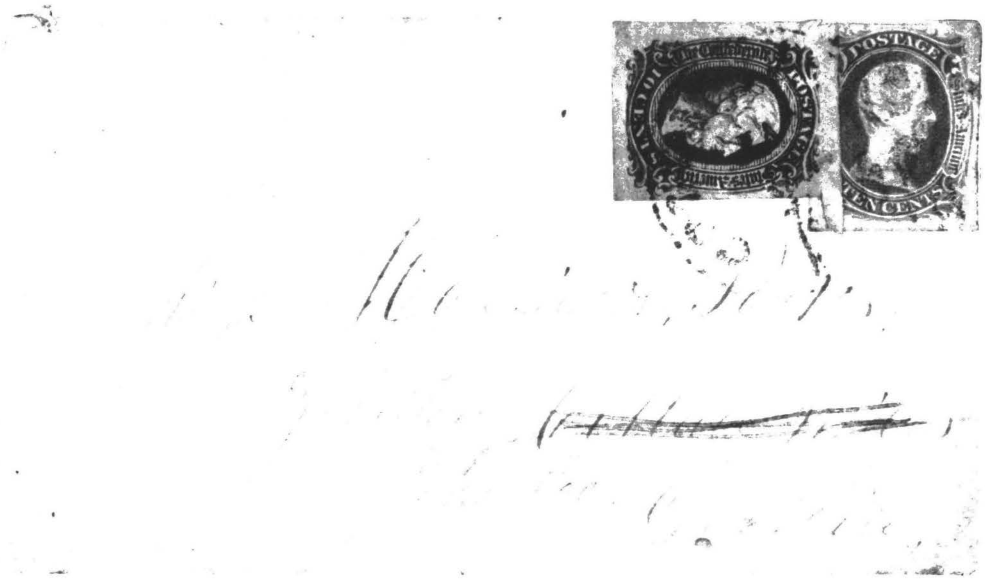


Figure 2. Certificate 122 331.

Recently a cover of the type discussed in the opening paragraph of this article was submitted to The Philatelic Foundation's Expert Committee for authentication (Figure 2). It bore two stamps — a "T-E-N" and a 10c Keatinge & Ball, Die B printing (Scott #12). Because of the Keatinge & Ball printing, usage had to be in the period between November 1864 (earliest recorded usage is November 7, 1864) and April 1865.

The patient was described as having a "T-E-N" with an indistinct postmark on a cover addressed to Cottage Mills, Georgia, and forwarded from there to Zebulon, Georgia, with the forwarding fee being paid by the 10c Keatinge & Ball stamp. This would be a very late usage of the "T-E-N" stamp, if not the latest, depending on the year date involved.

A detailed analysis of the stamps, postal markings and cover revealed a number of salient points which led to the issuance of an adverse certificate.

The "T-E-N" stamp had an illegible postmark that did not "tie" into that part of the cancel showing on the cover just to the lower left of the stamp. In addition, the two black inks appeared to be of different intensity (composition).

The 10c Keatinge & Ball stamp was placed sideways so as to "tie into" that part of the postmark which is on the cover and which was described as being that of Cottage Mills.

A check with several Georgia specialists revealed that no circular date stamp from that town had been recorded, and that only manuscript markings were known. If no circular date stamp was recorded for pre-War and early wartime usage, then it would be highly unlikely to find one in use near the end of the War.

Cottage Mills was a small town located in Chattahoochee County which adjoins (to the south) Muscogee County, the county in which the town of Columbus is located. Postal receipts shown in the 1861 United States Official Register are less than $18.00. Inference would be that Cottage Mills would not have gone to the expense of obtaining a circular date stamp, canceling instead via manuscript markings.

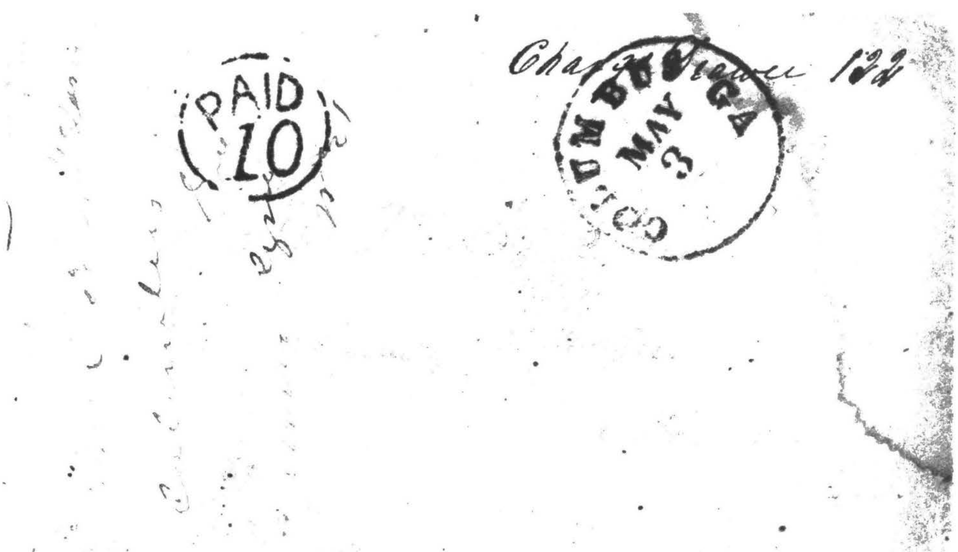


Figure 3. Postmark type used in Columbus, Georgia, during the 1864-65 period.

The format of that part of the postmark which is on the cover does, however, fit that of Columbus, Georgia, which had two types. The type in use during the 1864-65 period is shown by Figure 3. The other type is associated with the earlier period of the postmaster's provisionals. This earlier postmark has the state abbreviation at bottom in a different format (G^{A}).

In light of the above information, the Expert Committee was of the opinion that the cover originally had a 10c stamp (either an Archer & Daly or Keatinge & Ball printing) with a Columbus, Georgia postmark (its origin) going to Cottage Mills. From there it was forwarded to Zebulon by another 10c stamp, probably manuscript canceled. Both original stamps had either fallen off or been removed and a substitution was made, with a scarcer stamp (the "T-E-N") replacing a cheaper, ordinary one.

As a result, the Expert Committee issued a Certificate stating that the stamps did not originate on this cover.

Acknowledgements:
aGatherin', McCary Ballard

Chapter III

British Commonwealth & General Foreign

Paper Profits

The Canada Three-Pence "Beaver"

By Ernest A. Kehr

Certificate 22 340

There are few early classics that have caused philatelists more problems than the three-pence "Beaver" (and, to a lesser degree, the 6d "Prince Albert") of Canada's first issue. The cause of this was the use of two different kinds of paper: at first, handmade LAID, and later, machine-made WOVE. Because the philatelic importance and monetary value of the former is considerably higher than the latter, it is not at all unusual for the "Beavers" on the commoner wove to be described as laid by those who are not sufficiently knowledgeable and deliberately or accidentally misdescribe the less expensive variety.

A bit of background information concerning the papers and the stamps printed on them might be informative and helpful.

First, it is not at all surprising that Canada would have gone to a New York firm for the production of its first adhesive postage stamps. Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson had already produced, among other classics, the 1842 City Despatch Post locals for Alexander M. Greig; the New York Postmaster's Provisionals of 1845, and the first two federal issues of 1847. Moreover, this eminent firm had supplied other branches of the Canadian government with security paper.

The Legislative Assembly of Canada already had approved the introduction of "adhesive postage labels ... in 3, 6, and 12d denominations" on May 26, 1849, but it was not until March, 1851 that Postmaster General James Morris gave the New York firm a verbal authorization to produce them; a written contract was let via a letter of April 9. The plate having already been made for samples, it was possible to print 100,000 copies of the three-pence "Beaver" by April 10. But because intaglio printing was, until recently, possible only on wet paper, the firm had to "dry, press and gum the stamp sheets (that could be delivered) as soon as possible." The 500 sheets were delivered to Canada on April 15, with an additional 150,000 copies (750 sheets) promised "as soon as they could be got ready."

Now we must revert to the paper Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson used for its security printing. The best and most popular of the time was supplied by James M. Wilcox, of Philadelphia, who was a direct descendant of the founder of Ivy Mills, of Chester, Pa., the third paper mill established in Pennsylvania. This "banknote paper" was especially suited to fine intaglio printing and was in great demand by firms between Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and Cincinnati.

Being handmade, it naturally had to be laid. After couching, its rough surfaces had to be "polished" to make them smooth and to standardize their thickness (between .00275 and .00350). This might have been perfectly satisfactory for banknotes, elegant stationery and other intaglio products made from deeply incised engraving, but Mr. Morris found fault with it and so notified Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson after the initial supplies were received.

On Nov. 22, 1851, the firm wrote to W.H. Griffin, a postal officer in Quebec, saying, "... we will be happy to furnish the further supply of the 3d you mention, and will endeavor to print them on a better paper than the last (laid) proved to be."

Apparently, the New York firm had on hand, or specially ordered, wove paper also produced by Ivy Mills. Wilcox had acquired and was using a Fourdrinier machine which was capable of using two moulds — laid and wove — to make its paper. Through a sequence of operations, this machine spread "stuff" (paper pulp) onto the moulds, and through back-and-forth motions drained excess water, then permitted the almost dry sheets to pass under rollers for "finishing". When removed from the machine, such sheets were allowed to dry, be trimmed, and finally shipped to customers.

It may be difficult for philatelists to realize that the microscopic difference in paper thickness at the "laid" lines and at the spaces between them makes any difference in intaglio printing. But it very definitely does!

An engraved design has lines and dots of varying depths to give the whole that three-dimensional appearance which only intaglio can produce. When some of the finer, shallow lines of a design happen to be imprinted on the thinner portions of laid paper, they just don't reproduce clearly enough and give the whole an uneven or "spotty" appearance to the trained eye or under a collector's magnifier.

In any case, when a new supply of the "Beaver" was ordered, the contractors produced 250,000 stamps and delivered them to Toronto "about a month after receiving instructions" on March 20, 1852. These were the first Canadian stamps printed on wove paper. (Considering the firm's high standards of quality control, it is most likely that all were on the wove, but it is not at all impossible that some laid sheets were imprinted.) We should also remember that while the original printings were from 200-subject plates, the contractor informed Canada that this was awkward and asked permission to print sheets of only 100 stamps. This would seem to reassure one that with a smaller plate, the sheets of blank paper also would have been smaller and most probably would have been printed on smaller stock delivered by Ivy Mills.

These were the basic technical problems the Expert Committee faced in considering the authenticity of a cover franked with a fine example of the "Beaver", from Montreal to Kingston (Ont.), on Nov. 8, 1855, and sent to The Philatelic Foundation, since the owner believed the stamp to be a #1 (laid).

The date sounded the first alert. Because records clearly indicate that those on wove paper were delivered "about a month after receipt of the March 20th order", the stamps most likely were on wove. It is, of course, possible but not probable that the stamp could have been on laid paper. It would not have been the first time that a sheet or two of three-year-old stamps were in a safe and when new supplies were received they were stacked above old ones and not sold to the public until later. But that is most unlikely since Montreal was a large city whose populace used hundreds, if not thousands, of three-pence stamps for domestic mail.

Meticulous examination of the stamp led the committee to decide it was indeed printed on wove paper, identifying it as Scott #4 rather than the rarer #1. Moreover, the ink shade is typical of the 1852 printing rather than that of the 1851 stamps.

Now came the philatelic aspects of the cover, which demanded examination of it as a postal history item. The stamp itself had been correctly obliterated with the concentric circles "killer" cancellation in use at the time. The Montreal marking, with "L C" in the double-lined half circle at the bottom and date in the center, is the type used for a number of years before the first adhesive stamps came into being.

This type of postmarking handstamp was made in England by John Francis, of Clerkenwell, London, for the British Post Office, then shipped to Canada, until 1851, when the Canadian Post Office contracted directly with Mr. Francis. The one on the cover is the earlier type as evidenced by the obviously worn lettering of the brass handstamp.

Having taken all of these details into consideration and having examined the stamp with the scientific instruments at its disposal, the Expert Committee opined that "the stamp is not #1, but #4 genuinely used on cover."

The Continuing Search: Postal Forgery

The Canada 1897 Three-Dollar Jubilee Stamp

By Timothy A. Holmes

Certificate 124 276.

Figure 1. Submitted as 1897 $3.00 yellow ochre Jubilee, used with roller cancel.

In the process of examining of thousands of stamps each year at The Philatelic Foundation, the curators and expert consultants become highly attuned to the various methods of stamp manipulation in the hobby. Removed and faked cancellations, "restored" original gum, "improved" perforations, altered design types, stamps created from proofs, adhesives appearing on covers that never bore them — the pitfalls are many among the classic stamps. Those who work long hours for the Expert Committee become connoisseurs of purpose and keen observers of forgery. Of the broad range of material in the Reference Collection, it has been said that the most valuable and important is the counterfeit material.

A well-known example in the United States is the New York 2-cent counterfeit. Reported in early 1936, this well-matched imitation of the rotary press definitive was efficiently produced in sheets of 100 and bore a very good resemblance to the Bureau product. Sold in the business community as "discount postage" it saw substantial use in the short time before Federal Agents tracked and closed down the source.

It was reported by George B. Sloane that before the Federal agents had stopped the counterfeiting operation and seized the stocks, the forgeries were already being traded in the stamp community on their own merit.[1] This exemplifies the intrigue of fakes as interesting collateral material for collectors. Of course, collectors have at times been of invaluable help in discovering sources of forgery, as they were in the 1936 New York 2-cent case.

The attention to detail critical to such a search extends to the scrutiny given any forgery; then the scarcity of postally used forgeries becomes evident. The extensive efforts of governments (such as elaborate engraving) to prevent defrauding of the postal systems with counterfeit stamps appear to be almost entirely successful. A counterfeit which has passed through the post is a rarity of its own kind.

The stamp under examination here is submitted as a Canada $3 Jubilee. It is heavily roller-cancelled.

The year 1897 saw a change of government in Canada. With this a new stamp printing contract was let to the American Bank Note Company. The first job for the New York-based printers was the 16-stamp set issued to commemorate the 60th year of Victoria's reign.

It is reminiscent of the Columbian Exposition issue of the United States, released four years earlier. Both issues represented the longest set of values put into use for the two countries. In both countries it was also the first time values of one dollar and greater had been issued.

Of course there was an outcry from the watchful philatelic press, wary of unnecessary issues (then as now) created to make capital from the collector's instinct for completeness. It was argued that the highest amount that could possibly be required on a parcel sent by mail from Canada was $3.59 (including registration); on a letter only $1.65. Although this was not strictly true, and instances of parcel postage up to $15 could be cited by the Postmaster General, use of the $1.00 through $5.00 values was by no means a common occurrence. The majority of uses of the high values were of two types: stamps affixed in books to pay bulk rate on Second Class matter (newspapers and periodicals), and parcels bearing stamps. In both cases the roller type and other cancels were used.

When the stamp in question was examined, special attention was given to the printed surface. The design is faithful to unused examples, but parts of background lines show some breaking up. Most importantly, the lines forming the design show no depth, differing markedly from the beautiful, deep engraving so characteristic of the American Bank Note work. The item has the appearance of a surface printed stamp, on yellowish wove paper.

$3.00 Jubilee under examination.

Detail from American Bank Note Specimen.

Figure 2. Note that the lines forming the design lose clarity and show breaks on the subject item. The sparkle on the pearls and crown detail show this prominently.

The Expert Committee states that the subject is either photoengraved or surface-printed.

A very limited number of the $3.00 stamps sold to the public (fewer than 15,000 of the 25,000 prepared). There was no decline in quality among those released; major varieties do not exist. One printing took place, all from Plate 24.

The majority of experts looking at the stamp feel that the cancellation is genuine. While the city name is indistinct, its position relative to the number inserted into the roller is correct as compared with clearer examples on more common stamps in reference.

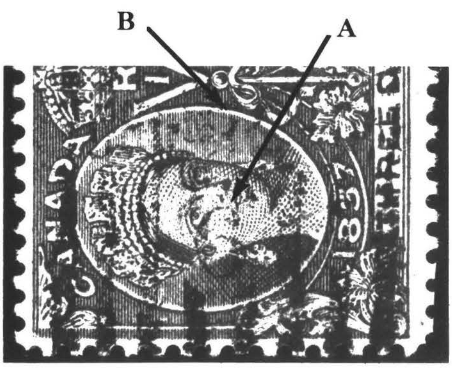


Figure 3. Seriffed numeral "6" (arrow A) under indistinct city name (arrow B) on subject under examination.

Figure 4. Numeral "9" in double-struck "Toronto-Ont" roller cancel on reference copy.

A leading New York expert dissents from the opinion that the cancellation is genuine. His reference collection shows two counterfeits of the One-Dollar stamp, both as used stamps. One bears a "High Street — Toronto" squared circle cancel, whose characters are narrow and elongated; the other has a roller-type cancellation, faintly showing the name "Nelson" in the city slot.

Figure 5. Reference counterfeit with "High Street—Toronto" cancellation.

Figure 6. Reference counterfeit with roller cancellation.

Winthrop Boggs noted of the Jubilee in his book, *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada* the following:

"Deceptive counterfeits, photo engraved, exist of the $1.00, $3.00, $4.00, and $5.00 denominations. The cancellations appear to be genuine, so that they were either made to defraud the Post Office, or a few were passed through the post to still further deceive collectors. They are slightly different in shades and paper, and not being line engraved will not mislead careful collectors.

An engraved counterfeit of the one dollar value is also known,

Figure 7. Value tablets on the two reference counterfeits (top, center) and on genuine American Bank Note Specimen.

made in Italy. It is rather deceptive but the lettering is noticeably thinner than in the genuine stamps."[2]

The consulting expert's stamps are definitely of the last type mentioned by Boggs, as the thin-legged "One Dollar" inscription shows. Not being able to confirm positively the cancel on the subject under investigation, he does not accept it as a genuine postal cancellation, but suspects it to be a means used by the forger to obscure the false nature of the stamp.

At the Foundation the final decision is made by the Committee. The cancellation under discussion is not found on the counterfeits in the Reference Collection. While it cannot be precisely identified, its characteristics are strong enough to allow its being a real postal cancellation as mentioned in Boggs. An exact match to the marking may someday confirm its validity. (For some experts this would be a necessity to remove all doubt.)

Many stamps of Canada have been counterfeited. Especially among the early 19th century issues are found the work of Fournier, Sperati and Oneglia, Panelli and the Spiro brothers. Many of the items produced by these, and others whose work goes uncredited, were made to be sold as imitations to collectors who could not otherwise obtain examples of the classics — only in later years to be sold as genuine. Those made to defraud the collector at the outset still haunt the stamp market.

This Jubilee stamp of high denomination has for the time being earned the distinction of being called a true counterfeit — a clandestinely-made item created to defraud, and passed by the Post Office as real.

FOOTNOTES

1 George B. Sloane, *STAMPS* magazine, January 4, 1936, article reprinted September 20, 1958.

2 *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada*, Winthrop S. Boggs, Chambers Publishing Company, Kalamazoo, MI 1945.

X-Ray and Example India: The 4 Anna Issue of 1854 With a Double Frame

By Robert P. Odenweller

Figure 1. Certificate 110 220.

Introduction

X-ray analysis is a sophisticated but little-known expertizing procedure. The actual process of X-ray analysis involves the bombardment of a small section of a sample with gamma radiation that excites the atoms of the elements comprising the material of which the sample is made. The electrons that are stripped off give a unique response at a particular level or levels of energy for each atomic element. Comparison of these response peaks with known energy levels for the various elements enables a determination to be made of which elements are present.

With stamps, such analysis would include the material of the paper; the pigment or pigments in which the stamp is printed; the cancellations, if any; the gum, if not soaked off; and any other trace elements that might have become part of the stamp over the years. The latter group could include sizing of the paper and impurities added when the stamp was soaked off the envelope, either from the water source or introduced as contaminants from the paper or ink of the cover or any other pieces that might have been soaked at the same time. Fortunately, most of these are usually not present in any great concentration, so they are rarely a factor, particularly in a concentration that would be considered significant. Further, if all inspections are to be made of a single stamp, most of such anomalies would be common to each reading and thereby made relatively inconsequential. There is always the additional possibility that elements present in one stamp may disappear in another, such as those present in the gum or in a fugitive element of a pigment that may disappear on soaking.

The display of information from an X-ray analysis is usually a graph, with the vertical axis representing the intensity of the response of the element to the radiation. The horizontal axis is calibrated to show the wavelength that is characteristic of each element that responds to the radiation. In some elements, more than one location along the horizontal axis may show a response if the element is present (see Figure 3a).

Establishing a standard X-ray "signature" for an issue of stamps is not a simple operation. A minimum of three separate stamps must be exposed to avoid the problems of anomalous contamination, as discussed above. For example, if a single stamp which had no lead in the pigment had been soaked in lead-contaminated water, a lead response might appear in the X-ray run, but would not be present in other similar examples that had not been similarly treated. A second example, from a separate source, would yield a different set of responses, with many the same as those of the first. The third run, from still another source, would tend to confirm the validity of one or the other as characteristic. More runs from still further examples would add to the total confidence in a particular set of findings, but the results would soon become more duplicated with each additional run.

To try to establish criteria based on a single run would be irresponsible and harmful since the above-described errors could always be present. In addition, a comparison of two stamps from different issues based on a single run of each, rather than compared runs of at least three examples of each of the two different issues, would only result in an examination of the similarities and differences between the two specific stamps rather than a definitive study of differences between the issues. This misguided attempt at saving the time and money that should be spent to obtain a more rigorous finding has been done at times by some careless researchers.

Following is an example of the application of X-ray analysis, using our India 4 Anna Issue of 1854 with Double Frame.

The sudden appearance of an unrecorded major variety among the world's great classics is ample cause for both suspicion and extraordinary measures when inspecting it for genuineness. Although the double-head and the famous inverted head varieties of the 1854 issues of India are recognized rarities, a double frame had never been reported until an example appeared in 1982. New varieties, while always possible, are not very probable.

On first inspection of the stamp, the "second" frame appeared fainter and somewhat paler than the "regular" frame, but such a difference is quite similar to double prints of issues from other countries. The presence of a cancellation makes the detection of the double frame a little more difficult, adding to the possibility that the variety could have remained undetected for all these years. The upward-centered second frame was a less complete impression and appeared to match the corresponding positions of the regular frame in a manner consistent with other double-impression stamps.

Visual examination and magnification yielded inconclusive results. The pigment of the second frame appears to be more orange than the orange-red of the regular frame, but that could easily have been due to the less intense impression. Use of the ultraviolet lamp for a different response under shortwave excitation was similarly inconclusive.

Other in-house techniques were considered, such as infrared and ultraviolet photography, but the owner wished to have more conclusive tests. While such photography would very likely give a good basis on which to form an opinion, X-ray analysis and spectrophotometry were felt to be an even more decisive approach.

A large photograph was made of the stamp (Figure 2) and areas were identified that would contain only the pigments of each respective frame. The first results received were from the spectrophotometric analysis. The curves plotted indicated different spectral responses of the two borders (Figure 3b) but again, the weakness of print could result in a similar difference in a genuine double print.

To be more significant, the curves should differ in shape, not in relative amplitude. It may be seen that these curves do differ somewhat at the lower end of the spectrum. The indication here is of two different shades, hence the likelihood that the inks are different, which would be adequate reason to pronounce the second frame a forgery.

Results of the X-ray analysis then provided the conclusive proof that the pigment of the second frame was different from the regular frame. The regular frame area samples (marked A2 on the photograph, Figure 2) had none of the cancellation or the second frame in the sample area. The X-ray response showed the presence of zinc, lead and small amounts of chromium, plus other trace elements. The sample area of the second frame posed a slightly more difficult problem. Due to the characteristics of the device used to measure the X-ray response, small amounts of the cancellation and the head vignette could have entered the sampled area. The regular frame, however, was not present, and the area selected represented what was considered the strongest concentration of second frame pigment for the test. If the results were to show that the pigments were the same, then all those elements present in the regular frame should have been present, along with the possibility of others that would represent the cancellation or vignette. The actual result of the test on the second frame, however, showed that there was no zinc, no lead, and no chromium present.

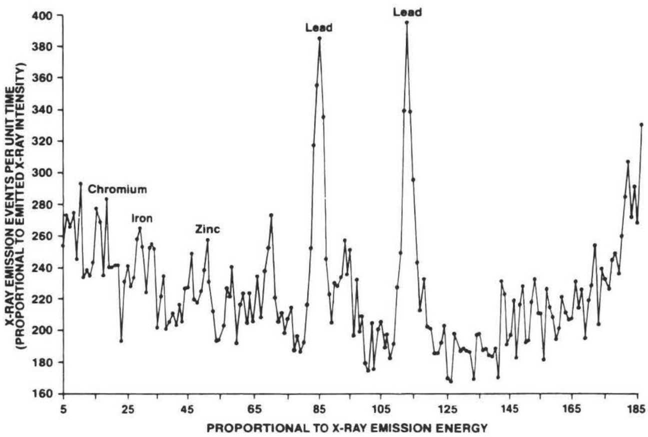
This dichotomy of findings, especially with the suggestion of difference in the spectrophotometric findings, was sufficient to state that the two inks were not the same in composition, and hence the second frame was judged to be fraudulent and the Expert Committee's findings were so reported.

A final point can be made. Some specialists have, in the past, stated that they could see which of two impressions was printed on top of another, or whether a cancellation was on top of or under an overprint or surcharge. The "expert's expert", Herbert J. Bloch, has led the field in stating, at Philatelic Foundation seminars and elsewhere, that this is pure nonsense and self-delusion. Oiliness of a pigment can reject a subsequent ink application making the second appear to be underneath the first. Too many factors, along with the exceedingly thin planes being considered, make such statements just what Mr. Bloch describes them to be — nonsense.

In examining the 4 Anna stamp, even knowing that the "second" frame followed the first, and using every possible means to see which appeared to be on top, it was still impossible to tell, even with a little wishful thinking. If anything, the second, fake frame appeared to be underneath.

In expertizing, first impressions, often called "the smell" of an item, are usually correct. This new "double frame variety" of such a highly regarded area of philately turned out to be no exception to this general rule.

Figure 2. The two areas marked by the squares represent the spectrophotometric sample areas shown on the graph. The inner area is marked "vignette" (A1) while the outer is labeled "border" (A2). The actually sampled areas are lightly marked in dotted ink, roughly circular in shape, yet each was exclusive of the color of the other.



This X-ray spectrum is similar to the one found while analyzing area A2, the frame of the basic stamp, which contains zinc, lead and other trace elements with small amounts of chromium.

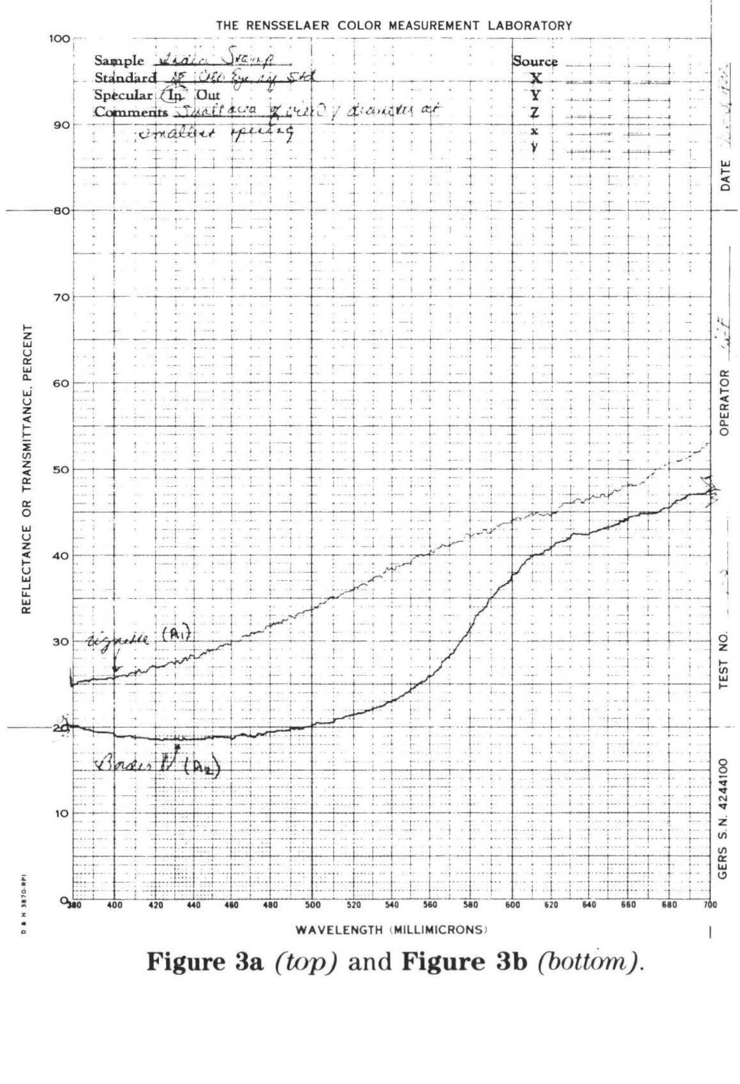


Figure 3a *(top)* and **Figure 3b** *(bottom)*.

A Study In Overprints

The "POSTES SERBES" Marking

By Richard M. Stevens

Figure 1. Certificate 131 587.

Background

In the fall of 1915 the Bulgarians joined the Austrian-German alliance. The combined attack of the three armies overwhelmed the Serbian and Montenegrin defenses. During the winter of 1915-16 the remains of the Serbian army, with many Serbian refugees, made their way across the Albanian mountains to the sea. By April 1916 the Serbians had been evacuated to the island of Corfu. Initially the Serbs used the existing Greek civilian post office, or the French or British field post offices.

On 3 May 1916 the field post office of the army general headquarters was moved to Salonika.[1] The postal service for the Serbs remaining on Corfu was then organized under the Serbian Ministry of Public Works.[2] A postmark inscribed in Cyrillic "MINISTARSKA POSTANSKA STANICA" can be found as a receiving mark as early as August 1916. Outgoing mail was still postmarked by the French field post office.

Eventually a formal agreement was concluded for the operation of the Serbian civilian post office on Corfu. No copy of this agreement has been

Figure 2. a. Genuine mark, early strike; b. Genuine mark, late strike; c. The "TYPE II"; d-f. Fake marks.

published. New stamps inscribed Serbia had been printed in Paris, but the Serbs did not want to use them while the homeland was occupied. Therefore it was agreed that the office would use French stamps. In conformance with this agreement and U.P.U. rules[3] a handstamp inscribed "POSTES SERBES" was prepared, and was applied to all mail handled between the Serbian and French offices.

This agreement seems to have taken effect during December 1916. During 1917 and 1918 all mail from the Serbian office was canceled with the MINISTARSKA postmark, and all mail not destined for the Serbian offices on the Salonika front was struck with the POSTES SERBES marking. This latter marking was struck in any convenient location on the piece of mail, and might or might not be partially or entirely on the stamps.

Initially the POSTES SERBES marking did not draw particular attention in philatelic circles. During the summer of 1918 certain stamp dealers became aware of this marking on used French stamps, and thought it might be an overprint. As the war was drawing to a close, approaches were made to the Serbian postal clerks, who obligingly placed neat favor cancels on large quantities of contemporary French stamps. This canceled-to-order material was then listed by the French catalogues as "overprints".

Even though every informed author over the years has debunked the "overprint" theory,[4 5 6 7] the standard catalogues continue to misrepresent this material to a greater or lesser degree. The Serbian government returned to the homeland by October 1918, but the post office at Corfu remained open, although its business must have been greatly reduced, acting mainly as a transit office.[6] On 13 October 1918, supplies of the New Serbian stamps (Scott #s 155-167) were sent to the Corfu office, replacing the use of French stamps. Orders for final closure of the Serbian office on Corfu were given on 24 June 1919.[3]

TYPES OF MATERIAL ENCOUNTERED

Postally Used.

Most of the postally used examples of the POSTES SERBES marking are found either on covers or on pieces. The subject of this P.F. Certificate (Figure 1) is an unusually high franking on a piece which was probably originally part of a parcel wrapping. As usual there is a single strike of the POSTES SERBES, even though there were nine stamps. The MINISTAR-SKA postmark is dated 22.4.1917. This is a fairly early usage, and the letters of POSTES SERBES retain their full height (Figure 2a). With continued use the letters became more compressed vertically, although the horizontal dimension was unchanged (Figure 2b). Note particularly the flat top of the "R", the form of the loops on the "P", "R", and "B", and the shape of the "O". In the MINISTARSKA postmark note that there is a small square or dot separating the upper and lower inscriptions at each side.

Most correspondence with the POSTES SERBES marking is either stampless or bears French stamps. The denominations normally encountered are 5, 10, 15, 25, 40, and 50 centimes, and 1 franc. The postmarks should be dated between December 1916 and October 1918. The dates are according to the Julian calendar, so there will be a discrepancy of 13 days when comparing them to French or Swiss postmarks. Covers from October 1918 onward may be found with Serbian postage, but these are very scarce. Somewhat less rare are covers with Greek postage. The Cividini collection contained covers with mixed frankings of French and Greek and of French and Italian stamps.[8]

Canceled-to-Order.

Most of the canceled-to-order material bears the POSTES SERBES marking neatly struck diagonally, with the MINISTARSKA postmark in one or more corners. These are typically offered in complete sets with pairs of the lower denominations, and singles of the 40 centimes to 1 franc. In addition to those listed above, these sets have the following additional values: 1, 2, 3, 20, 30, 35, and 45 centimes. If the postmark date can be read it is usually in September or October 1918.

In addition, one occasionally finds "mint" c.t.o.'s. Many authors have condemned these as fraudulent.[7,9] I believe this is too strong a condemnation. I consider them simply to be a second group of c.t.o. material which has only the POSTES SERBES marking, but is missing the MINISTARSKA postmark. These are found in multiples up to full panes of 25. I have never seen any such examples of the 20, 35, or 45 centimes.

Occasional c.t.o. examples are found with the "POSTES SERBES" in violet rather than black. I have never seen a violet marking on a postally used copy, although it would seem possible, since violet ink was used for censor and registration markings. I believe these violet POSTES SERBES are just additional material produced to please the stamp dealers.

The Type II POSTES SERBES.

A second type of the POSTES SERBES marking (Figure 2c) has been found on a few covers from Corfu. This same handstamp has also been found on covers from the Serbian post offices on the Salonika Front and from Belgrad after the war. Its status is highly questionable and has been treated recently by this author elsewhere.[10]

Fakes.

With the relatively high prices that the c.t.o. POSTES SERBES material has been bringing in recent years, a number of fairly crude fakes have appeared. The fakers have been too lazy to try to reproduce the MINISTARSKA postmark, so they have simply applied a POSTES SERBES marking. Known fakes are as follows:

A. A fake marking on mint pairs of French stamps. I have examples on the 1, 2, 5, 20, and 25 centimes (Figure 2d). Typically the shades of the basic stamps are different from those used for the legitimate c.t.o's. The general appearance of the handstamp is quite good, but the top of the "R" is not flat.

B. A fake marking POSTES on a single 10 centime French stamp with an indistinct French postmark (Figure 2e). The postmark immediately renders this item highly suspect. The "POSTES" could easily be taken for a late flattened version of the genuine handstamp, but the first "S" has been deformed almost into a backwards "2".

C. A very strange pair of the 10 centime French stamps with a diagonal "POSTES SERBES" and clear partial strikes of the Serbian cancel "MILANOVATZ G" (Figure 2f). The handstamp has slightly thicker than normal letters, and the bars on the "E"s are shorter than normal. If it were not for the odd postmark, this would be a very dangerous fake.

D. In addition one fake of both the POSTES SERBES and the MINISTARSKA has been previously reported.[11 12] This fake is always found on pairs of 5, 10, and 20 lepta stamps of Greece on unaddressed envelopes (Figure 3). The fake of the POSTES SERBES is rather good, although the letters are too thick. The MINISTARSKA postmarks can be readily recognized as fake, however, because the side ornaments have been elongated into short lines.

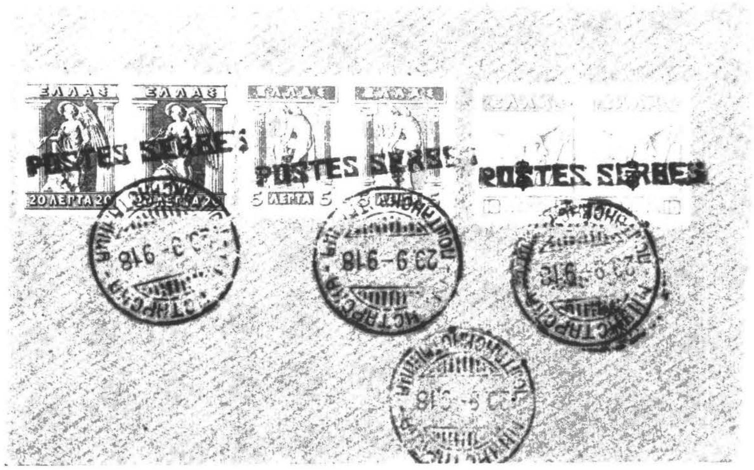


Figure 3. The MINISTARSKA cancels as well as the POSTES SERBES are fakes.

In general the field of the faker is limited because the value of the basic French stamps in unused condition is often higher than that of the corresponding POSTES SERBES item. Much greater rewards would come from faking entire covers, but the only such material yet seen are the Greek items listed above, and possibly the "Type II".

The postal history aspects of this subject are treated at much greater length in many of the articles in the Bibliography. The articles of Vukovic are particularly recommended for their references to official sources.

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11 D. Tomerlin: "Krivotvoreni Zigovi", *Filatelija* 21, 143-144 (Sept.-Dec. 1978).

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15 C. Deloste: *Histoire Postale et Militaire de L'Armee d'Orient 1915-1920.*

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A Spurious Danish West Indies Stamp

The 3¢ First Issue on Cover

By Michael Laurence

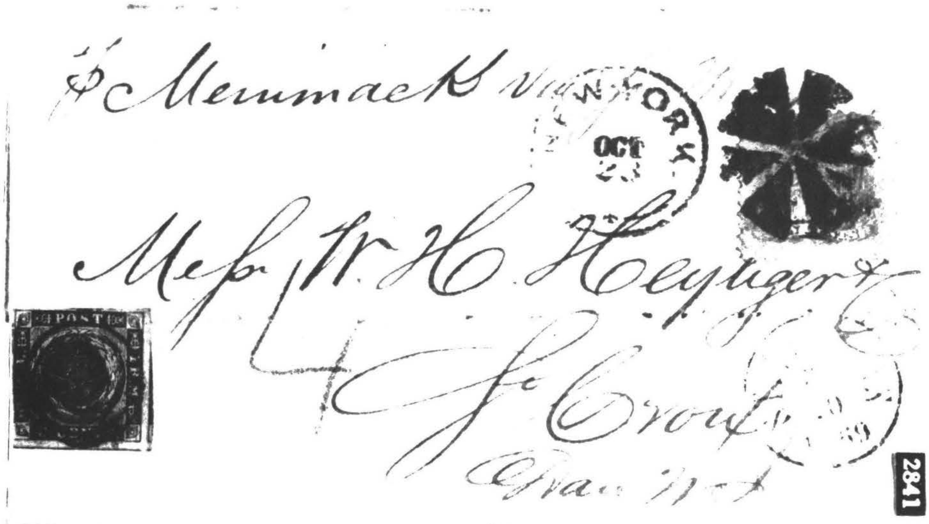

Figure 1. Certificate 2 841, with the Danish West Indies 3c first issue affixed.

Even before the cover shown herewith arrived at the Philatelic Foundation, it had attracted considerable attention. It was one of the featured items in a well-publicized New York auction of a "name" collection of the stamps and postal history of the Danish West Indies.

The imperforate 3c first-issue D.W.I. stamp, Scott #1a, is scarce on cover, cataloguing several thousand dollars. And while the stamp is occasionally found used in mixed-franking combination with the U.S. 10c green Washington stamps of the 1861 and 1867 series, it is rare indeed to see it in combination with the 10c 1869 stamp.

Even a cursory examination of the cover suggested problems. The Danish West Indies stamp, critical to the value of the cover, is socked on the nose with a 5-ring target killer characteristic of the Danish West Indies during the 1860's and 1870's. However, the killer did not tie the stamp to the cover.

Moreover, a sharp and prominent filing crease crossed the entire cover and ran right under the DWI stamp — but the stamp itself seemed unaffected. Microscopic analysis of the stamp revealed no disturbances in paper fiber. Either the stamp's fibers had some miraculous recuperative powers heretofore unknown to modern physics, or the stamp itself had not been affixed to the cover when it was originally folded and filed away in the business correspondence in which it had long reposed.

Subsequent comparison of this cover with other 10c 1869 covers from the same correspondence, and with other covers from New York to St. Croix from the same era, confirmed that there was no postal history justification for the spurious D.W.I. stamp. Virtually all authentic mixed franking uses of first issue D.W.I. and U.S. stamps involve covers outbound from the islands to the U.S. The 10c 1869 stamp on this cover paid the postage from New York to St. Thomas, and the cover was then sent collect from St. Thomas to St. Croix — with due postage represented by the crayon “4”.

The Expert Committee concluded that the D.W.I. stamp had been added to this otherwise genuine cover. The stamp was subsequently removed, and the cover now reposes in a prominent New York collection (Figure 2).

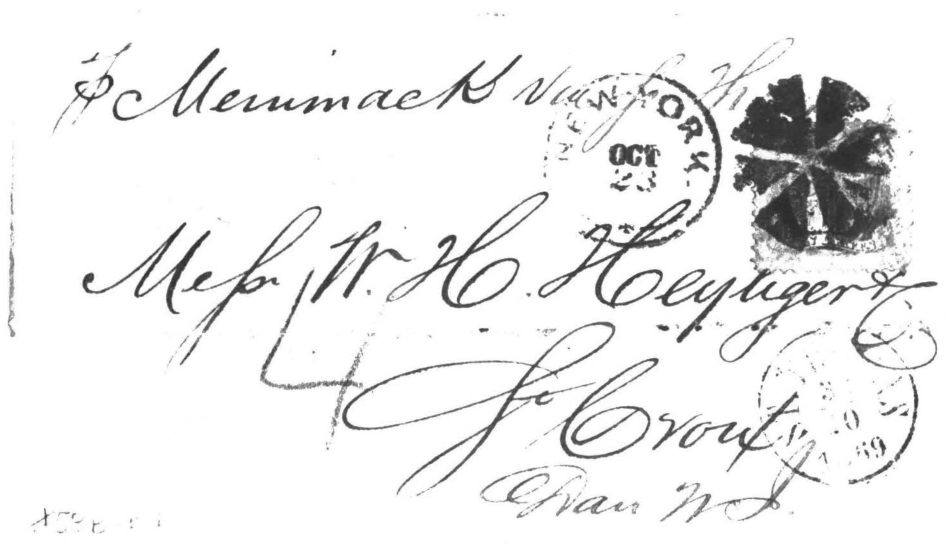

Figure 2. Our subject cover in its proper state — without the spurious D.W.I. issue.

Expertizing Egypt

The "Broken Obelisk" and "Port Fouad" Provisional

By Ernest A. Kehr

A thorough knowledge of stamps and postal history is the foremost basic essential anyone must have mastered before undertaking the examination of questionable material for the rendering of an opinion. Scientific instruments (which are becoming more sophisticated all the time) for such work are extremely helpful — but only when the examiner knows that for which he is looking and can interpret revelations. A familiarity with the technical aspects of stamp production — printing methods, paper manufacture, kinds of inks used for stamp printing and postmarking — are useful as well. Necessary, but often overlooked for at least a preliminary determination, is some knowledge of philatelic activities at the time postage stamps were put into circulation.

This all is reflected via two Egyptian stamps submitted to The Philatelic Foundation in recent years.

Figure 1.

The first is the so-called "Broken Obelisk" found on the one-piaster value of the country's first pictorial set. It was issued on Aug. 1, 1867, and because of its wide use a second printing was distributed during July 1869, and remained on sale until demonetization on Feb. 1, 1872.

Production contract for this and the five other values of the set was let to V. Penasson, a European printing firm in Alexandria, whose work generally was accepted as the best in all Egypt at the time.

The major design was the same for all values; the Sphinx and Khafre Pyramid in a central oval, the left flanking panel with Hadrian's Pillar of

Alexandria, while the one at right depicts Cleopatra's Needle, now in New York's Central Park. Only the top and bottom panels, indicating franking value, are appropriately different on the respective denominations.

Production was somewhat unusual in that the designs were meticulously engraved by F. Hoff, a Silesian craftsman who'd been recruited from his native Hirschberg to work for Penasson. Each die had four (2×2) designs and, as is the case in making multiple pictures, each has a few tiny differences which philatelists know as "Types I, II, III, and IV".

Impressions from the dies were transferred 50 times to a lithographic stone to make it possible to print 200 stamps on each sheet. No matter from what part of a sheet it was separated, any block of four will have all four types.

Flaws found on lithographed stamps could have been caused in two ways:

1. In making up a printing surface, the delicate transfer matrix can be slightly folded (or torn) to create a minor philatelic variety, or
2. During printing, a foreign substance can fall between stone and paper, or the surface itself can be scraped, in both cases creating other varieties.

In many ways, the "Broken Obelisk" is a mystery stamp since we know so little about it, except that it is unquestionably a genuine variety — and presently, a scarce rarity.

Existence of the flaw was not noticed (or at least not reported) until roughly six decades after it came into being. It was first mentioned (according to my reference files) in the Philatelic Society of Egypt's distinguished journal *L'Orient Philatelique* but not listed in any catalog until the late Georges N. Zeheri gave it recognition in the first edition of his *Specialized Egypt and Sudan* of 1937.

We have no record whatsoever of whether it came from the first or second printing. Further, records are non-existent to show whether the flaw was noticed by an alert pressman and then corrected, and if so, how many sheets were printed in the interim. This could be determined only if a clearly postmarked specimen turns up. If it is dated before July, 1869, we can be sure it came from the first printing, otherwise the question will remain. It is known that post office stocks included first printings even after the second was made and distributed for use.

There have been a number of counterfeits made of the second issue to defraud collectors. These are so well known (they are so crudely made) that none would deceive any knowledgeable philatelist. On the other hand, reported minor varieties, including the "Broken Obelisk", haven't lured the fakers, chiefly because of their relatively low market value. Even if they attempted to create one by painting in an imitation of the notched monument, the Expert Committee's instruments would betray the doctoring.

It was a combination of all these basic facts and factors that enabled the Expert committee to render an opinion of the submitted specimen as being genuine.

In contrast, a "Port Fouad" provisional, also submitted, represents an entirely different situation.

Figure 2.

Here we have an example of an inexpensive basic stamp having been given a spurious copy of what looks like a simple overprint to hike its worth drastically for sale to a gullible collector.

On December 9, 1926, Egypt released a three-value set to commemorate the International Navigation Congress in Cairo. It depicts an "ancient Egyptian ship", said to have been part of Queen Hatshepsut's fleet since the original painting is on one of the walls of her temple at Deir el Bahri.

Only 12 days later, delegates to that congress, with Egyptian officials, were taken to a new community built on the east entrance to the Suez Canal, opposite Port Said. Its facilities were intended to relieve shipping problems as vessels waited for permission to sail through the waterway. Named in his honor, the new city was dedicated by King Fouad.

To mark the occasion, 2,500 sets of the basic stamps were sent to the Government Printing Works, in the Boulaq quarter of Cairo, to be given a lithographed, two-line overprint "PORT FOUAD" to the right of the ship's sail.

A black rectangle obliterates the "LE CAIRE" beneath the ship's prow. None of the known forgeries have this characteristic.

The counterfeiters applied their overprints to all three values of the

Navigation Congress set (as well as to the half-pound King Fouad commemorative of April 2, 1926, on which the overprint is in a single vertical line). But because the five-millieme had a printing of 297,500 copies it was more common than the other two, of which only 197,500 copies were printed and sold. It was natural then that there are more of the five-millieme fakes around.

With all this information, plus reference copies in its collection, The Philatelic Foundation's Expert Committee was able to declare the submitted specimen to have an overprint that is counterfeit.

Identifying Genuine Hot Air
Ballon Monte Covers
By Ernst M. Cohn

Certificate 95 168

"Ballon monte" is French for "manned balloon". It is also the nickname given to a letter carried by manned balloon ("par ballon monte") out of besieged Paris between September 23, 1870, and January 28, 1871. That usage was derived and popularized almost immediately from the post office decrees of September 26, published in the *Journal Officiel* of September 27, 1870 (and hence valid as of that date). The two decrees regulated the Paris airmails and prescribed that endorsement on letters that were to go by balloon. Nothing was said about an endorsement for balloon postcards, because cards were not yet admitted to the regular French mails in any case.

Evidently, balloon letters posted before September 27 cannot have been inscribed that way. Yet genuine ones are sometimes found with the phrase added later, even handstamped in purple ink, with one or two "l"s in "ballon". Such an inscription is a nuisance, whether misspelled or not, but does not detract greatly from the collectibility of the pieces. No handstamp impressions of that type appear to be contemporary.

The scale of the airlift dwarfed all previous aerial operations, and souvenir-minded scrapbook owners everywhere demanded something looking like a balloon letter or like the tiny pigeongrammes that provided the only successful official link from outside into Paris. Souvenir makers in France, Belgium, and Great Britain, at least, were happy to oblige. Thus we have the strange case where philatelists must watch out not merely for fakes and forgeries but also for scrapbook fillers that never were meant to fool them.

Letts, Son & Co. (Ltd.), London, sent their souvenir (Figure 1) together with a letter and a resume of the Paris balloon operations to the press, which gave it widespread publicity and mentioned the availability of the item for sixpence. The rather crude imitation is described in detail in the *Postal History Bulletin* No. 64 (Sept./Oct. 1952, pp. 73-4), and its origins are chronicled by Francis J. Field in the next issue, No. 65 (Nov./Dec. 1952, pp. 87-8). *The Curiosity Hunter* (Rockford, Ill.) got Letts' news only in time for its issue of Jan./Feb. 1874 (p. 16) and failed to state the price in U.S. currency.

Dr. Carroll Chase had a copy offered to him from Germany for a mere

Figure 1. The Letts, Son & Co. souvenir.

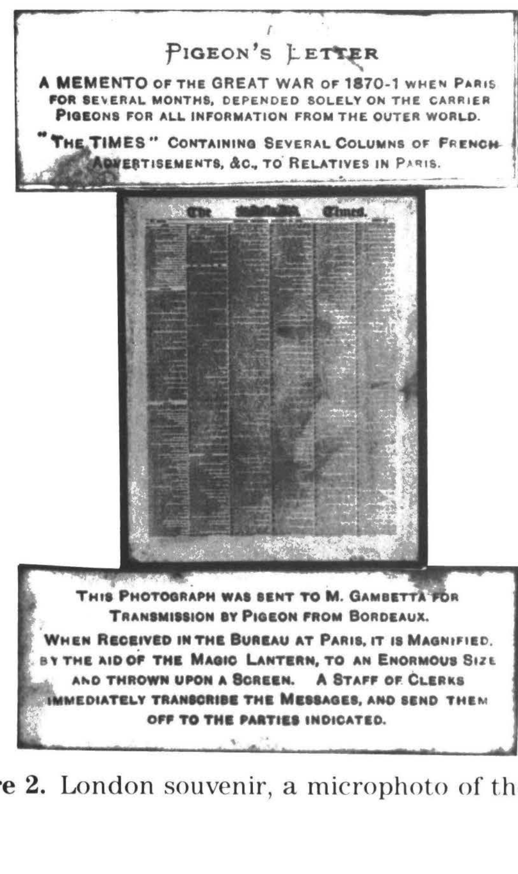

Figure 2. London souvenir, a microphoto of the *Times*.

$125,000, because the 20-centimes stamp was a "colour misprint. The greatest rarity of the world." However, he recognized it for what it was (11th Yearbook of the American Philatelic Congress).

In 1966 and again in 1967, a leading British auctioneer sold a number of the Letts souvenirs, noting that they supposedly had been prepared by the managing director of the *Daily Mail* for distribution to friends "and are thus very scarce ..."

No forged pigeongrammes are known, whether of the earlier paper or later collodion variety. There are, however, at least four types of collodion-film souvenirs. One (series?) which apparently has not seen the light of day for many years, was prepared in Brussels; one made in London; and two produced in Paris by rival photographers, one of whom would have liked to have had the contract for producing the official collodion pigeongrammes, the other of whom did.

The London souvenir (Figure 2) is a microphoto of the *Times*, which carried its "agony column" on the front page in those days and was used to get word from London into Paris. However, no microfilm of it ever reached Paris during the siege. Instead, the paper itself was carried in fairly regularly inside the U.S. diplomatic pouch.

The London Stereoscopic & Photographic Co., which sold the souvenir in an appropriately imprinted cardboard frame, planted its phony tale about a pigeon flight in the *Times* of January 30, 1871. Ninety-nine years later, the *Times* agreed that John D. Hayhurst's expose of the matter was correct (see France & Colonies Philatelic Society *Bulletin*, 19 No. 3, Oct.-Dec. 1969, pp. 3-5; also his "The Pigeon Post into Paris, 1870-1871", 1970, pp. 43-44).

Phony stories about phony covers continue to be planted in the philatelic press by shady salespeople trying to legitimatize their wares in that manner.

Photographer Dagron's SIMULACRE pigeongramme (that title in Figure 3, is visible with the naked eye but still often overlooked) comes closest to being the real thing, because he modeled it upon the messages he sent from Bordeaux to Paris. The first of 16 panels is inscribed with that term for "imitation" as well as other explanatory text. The other 15 panels contain imitation messages, similar to the real ones. The frame numbers 627-642, at the top and also visible without magnification, were deliberately chosen so as to be higher than the highest frame number actually used. This souvenir was given away in large quantities for advertising purposes. It also was sold at least until 1906 not only for private profit, but also to raise money for the Bartholdi monument to balloons and pigeons. The monument used to grace Paris until World War II, when the Germans removed the metal; the French took away the concrete a few years later.

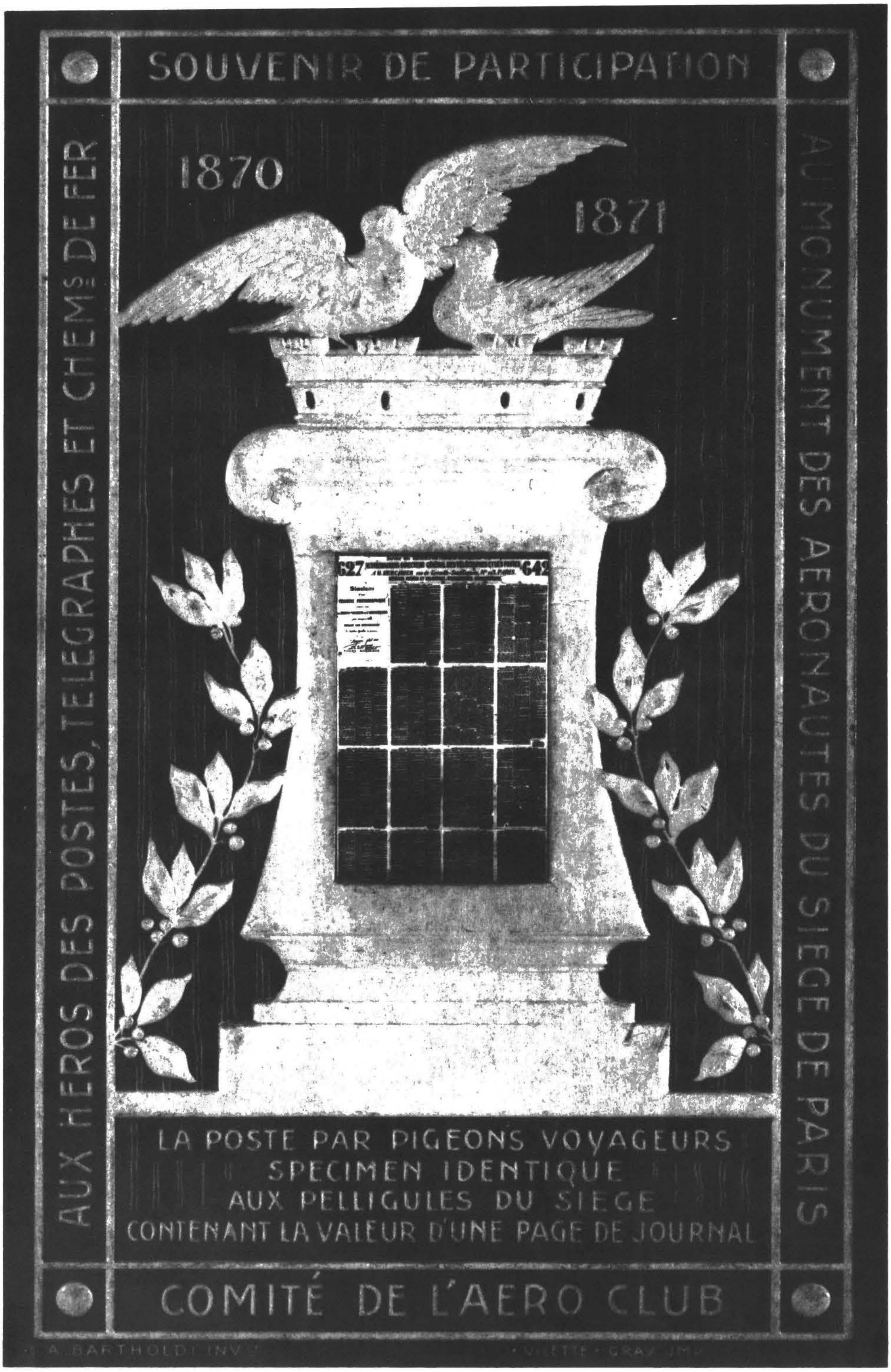

Figure 3. SIMULACRE pigeongramme was sold for private profit and to raise money for the Bartholdi monument.

The advice given in *The American Philatelist* on "Paris Balloon Mail - How to Detect Forgeries" (Vol. 54, No. 3, Dec. 1940 and No. 9, June 1941) is only partly correct but nevertheless useful for its basic message: the first things to check on such covers are the stamps, postmarks, and well-known private cachets.

Older stamps do exceptionally occur on ballons montes, but later stamps obviously cannot, even though fakers have removed and/or added later varieties to generate rarities. The Bordeaux wartime stamps, printed during the siege of Paris, evidently were not available in the cut-off French capitol. They occasionally can be found legitimately used on flown covers, viz., when people outside of Paris added them for paying additional postal charges for forwarding balloon mail. Also, the Bordeaux and Paris stamps were "overprinted" by some German joker with "B.BALLON P.E.", which was rendered in one German magazine as "Per BALLON Post Expedition", being — as they stated — an impossible combination of misspelling and improper French usage. Nevertheless, even those Cinderellas have been faked.

If a balloon cover was handled by a Paris post office (not all of them were), then the stamp is generally canceled by a six-pointed, dotted star, either mute or with a number in the center. The suburbs used dotted, numbered lozenges. The numeral must, in any case, correspond to the post office whose circular date stamp is struck on the face of the cover. The post office must have existed at the time of the war. Favor cancels from offices that were opened years later are known on fakes.

Exceptionally, a circular date stamp was used as a canceler, the most famous one being the red "PARIS SC" marking, which occurs on about 3% of the roughly 2.5 million Paris siege balloon covers. Statements of its occurring in black are mistaken. Only one SC handstamp was used during the siege. It was applied to mail delivered at a special "balloon window" of the central Paris post office. SC mail was kept together and often separately from the normal mail, making SC covers useful as tracers for special cases.

An error occurs for all SC markings in the dater portion on November 29 and 30, when the "28" was inadvertently left in the stamp rather than the last two digits of 18*70*. The partly inverted marking was discovered only when changing over to December 1. The two errors were flown aboard the "Jules Favre II".

SC mail bags aboard the "Montgolfier" and the "General Chanzy" appear to have been destroyed by the Germans, who captured most of the mail from the former and the whole balloon with its contents in the latter case.

The cover that is the subject of the Philatelic Foundation's Certificate No. 95 168 is a ballon monte to Senegal. It shows that red postmark, usually found on mail of VIPs (Figure 4). It was lot 305 in the late Irwin Heiman's 228th auction in March 1969. I have not seen the original, but the rate is proper, the breaks in the SC circles are typical, and the two SC strikes are at nearly the same angle with respect to the face of the cover, as expected. The "par ballon monte" appears to have been written with a different pen but probably by the same hand. Hence I agree with the opinion that the letter is genuine. Due to the lack of information about the date and place of the earliest postmark from outside of Paris, I have no way of knowing the balloon on which the cover was flown out.

Figure 4. Certificate 95 168.

Until the end of October, delays in balloon mail transport were not uncommon and caused by the accumulation of letters and the lack of lift capacity. Soon afterwards, the situation was reversed, so that large quantities of delayed printed matter, samples, etc. were airlifted together with "first-class" mail. Still, delays occurred even then from time to time, some because of military reasons. Hence one must be careful about perfectly genuine but wrongly attributed ballons montes.

The specific balloon, or routing by other means, is often impossible to specify, or sometimes only with great difficulty. Characteristics for attribution are known for the most part, but a single reference text on the subject does not yet exist. The buyer of an extraordinary piece — one carried via rare balloon, or U.S. diplomatic pouch, or a smuggler — would do well not only to get a certificate of authenticity but also a convincing explanation as to why the seller ascribes a certain piece to a certain route.

The majority of Paris siege covers are indeterminate as concerns the exact balloon that took them out of Paris. That does not make them undesirable pieces by any means, but they do not deserve the premium that one must pay for a known balloon.

Flown covers without any Paris postmark might have been overlooked in the rush. I have one such, as proven by the remnants of the six-pointed dotted star impressed from the still-moist strike on the adjacent letter with which it was bundled. More likely, however, such letters were entrusted either to one of the two balloon-builder companies or directly to the pilots or passengers.

Nadar, whose real name was Gaspard-Felix Tournachon, was born on 6 April 1820. He contributed to the Paris press, was a Bohemian, caricaturist, writer, editor, freedom fighter for the Poles, photographer (who took the first aerial and first underground photos), balloonist and opponent of LTA aerostation (yes, both), supporter of research for heavier-than-air craft, founder of a group for military balloon observation in the 1870 war, and one of the originators of the Paris balloon mails, to name only his most important activities He died on 21 March 1910. The authoritative biography "Nadar" was published by Jean Prinet and Antoinette Dilasser at Paris, 1966, 285 pp.

Nadar and his associates had a handstamp made before the start of the siege, which they later used to mark letters entrusted to their company for transport. It is always struck in red. Shortly after Nadar quit the company, the remaining associates had a new handstamp made. It occurs in red on part of the mail from the "General Uhrich". The remainder of its covers of that type and those on all subsequent flights are struck in blue. These cachets cannot occur on balloon mail entrusted to the Godard family of balloon builders, nor on mail that was processed at a Paris post office, nor in any color other than those indicated. The impossible ones are fakes, of course, one of which attained a high price at a recent U.S. auction.

Easiest to recognize of all ballons montes forgeries are those made on stationery showing the massed-flag emblem above the address panel. Their background, appearance, and usage have been described in some detail (E.M. Cohn, "Durable French Air Mail Fakes", *The American Philatelist* No. 948, pp. 31-33). Maury, the famous French dealer, was responsible for having this emblem printed on a very dark blue piece of legitimate airmail stationery for folded letters. He also had a wide range of colors of paper and cardboard of postcard size printed with that emblem, all shortly after the siege(Figure 5).

The Maury printings and leftover newspaper-letters as well were used by a forger named Ressejac for creating "rare" ballons montes, particularly addressed to Russia. One of his creations turned up on the West Coast not long ago; his handwriting gave it away.

It must be remembered that special balloon stationery, for manned as well as unmanned balloons, was produced by private enterprise and without need of official sanction, with but one exception. The exception was the reply card that could be bought in Paris, enclosed in a balloon letter, and used outside for answering four numbered questions in proper sequence with "yes" or "no". Used cards were collected at the telegraph office attached to the Government Delegation, set in type, reduced photographically for transmission by homing pigeon to Paris, and subsequently destroyed. Used cards are fakes almost without exception. One or two are known to have been sent back to Paris, but by normal mail channels and after the siege.

Figure 5. The ballon monte forgery showing the massed flag emblem.

Reply cards that are filled out and carry a handwritten number at the top, but neither adhesive stamp nor postmark, were used inside Paris for transcribing incoming messages from pigeongrammes and for delivery in envelopes to recipients. They are invariably of type 3, the most common one, and appear not to have been faked, because they were not in demand. The only doctoring I have seen has been an added (unused) 5-centimes stamp.

Most difficult to recognize as fakes and forgeries are those covers that are prepared on contemporary paper or stationery, provided with normal adhesive stamps and proper handstamps. In one case, I was able to spot the work of a faker because, in preparing a whole series of newspaper-letters, he had "sent" them to the same person but placed him in a number of different towns in quick succession. A Parisian could not possibly have been informed as promptly as that of a series of changes of address.

A rather amusing case came to light when I acquired an otherwise genuine ballon monte, addressed to Baden and supposedly censored there. Inquiries revealed that (1) Baden had had no censorship in 1870/71, (2) the name of the supposed censor is not listed among Baden state employees, and (3) the position (title) mentioned in the endorsement was much too high for the small post office in which he supposedly had worked. The cover, while not totally worthless, lost much of its charm and value as a result of this crude joke.

Acknowledgements
Figure 1 courtesy of Mr. Leo Stawecki
Figure 2 courtesy of Mr. John D. Hayhurst

What's In A Name?

The France Sage Se-Tenant

By John Lievsay

Figure 1. Certificate 127 529.

Jules-August Sage won the competition in 1875 for a new design for stamps of France, the "Peace and Commerce" series issued from 1876 to 1900. The placement of his name at bottom left, J.A. Sage Inv, is the principal identification key to the two types of the issue. The location of the "N" of "Inv" identifies the type. Type I has the "N" under the "B" of "Republique"; Type II has the "N" under the "U". Modern work in the official archives has established that Type II, "N" under "U", was the original die, and has traced the history of printings through successive types, sub-types, and different methods of plate-making (Figure 2).

The most elusive item in the series is the se-tenant pair, Types I and II next to each other, of the 25c ultramarine, Scott #81b (Yvert #78a). Yes, tougher than the 1c Prussian blue or the unissued 20c of Type I. The value was printed in this color from plates of both types from June/July 1876 to October 1876 when a change in the Type II plates was made. The Type II-S 25c ultramarine was the only value of Type II printed from mosaic plates. (The 1898 printings of 5c and 10c were from plates with mixed panes of 25, so that the se-tenant pairs of the two types are separated by the gutter between the panes.) Problems with mixed cliches in the plates of France did not begin with this issue; see the tete-beche pairs of some earlier issues, or the 10/15c combination of March 1875. The literature says "some" pairs and blocks of the 25c are known; from my own work with the 1874 printings of 25c Ceres (Types II and III se-tenant, Yvert 60Bd) of which 48 pieces have been recorded, I feel confident to suggest that it is an equally small number.

So it is with some excitement that we approach the recently submitted pair, patient 127 529 (Figure 1). Preliminary examination — right color,

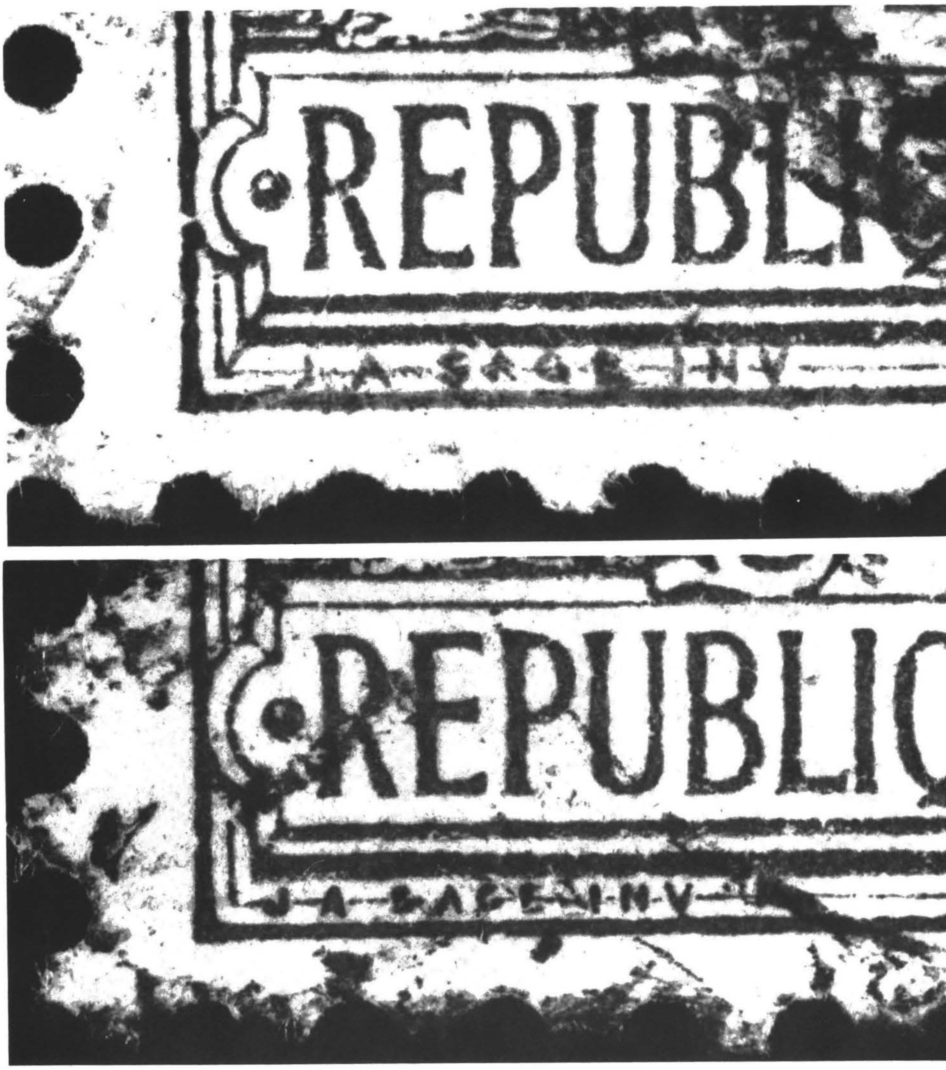

Figure 2. The two Types, I (top) with the "N" in INV under the "B" of Republique; Type II (bottom) with the "N" under the "U" in Republique.

cancel of correct period ties the pair, imprints are of different types, and there is no apparent variation in the lettering such as there was in patient 20 090 in the reference collection. Dipping in fluid does not show anything, and 25x magnification still does not show any reason for suspicion. This is probably closer scrutiny than most collectors would give at a dealer's booth or in an auction viewing room. Well, let's run it under the ultraviolet lamp while we're at it.

OOPS! That slash at lower left of the lefthand stamp reflects as bright orange, and the entire imprint section reflects more white than the rest of the stamp. No reaction when turned over; but edge-on the orange line

Figure 3. The tell-tale slash, revealed under ultraviolet light.

Figure 4. Another pair, from the Foundation's reference collection. Note the repair work in the right stamp (bottom left corner). This fake, revealed under ultra-violet, could not be detected under high magnification. It is, in fact, the "Type I" we illustrated in Figure 2!

is visible at both side and bottom. Under the 200x microscope it is just possible to see where the imprint section of a genuine Type I stamp has been married into this pair of Type II-A. The patient failed the last of the routine tests.

References

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Germain, *25 Centimes Ceres de 1871 au Type II*, 1963

Joany et al, *Histoire des Timbres-Poste au Type Sage*, 1980

Yvert, *Catalogue Specialise*, 1975

Fakes and Forgeries
The Israel Doar Ivri Issue
By Seymour Banchik

As the British mandate over Palestine drew to a close and the declaration of the establishment of the Jewish State became imminent, officials responsible for the country's postal service took steps to prepare stamps for the new state. The decision to prepare and print the stamps was taken before the embryo state had officially been given a name, so that the stamps were inscribed "Doar Ivri" (Hebrew Post). The "Doar Ivri" set contained nine denominations: six low values — 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, and 50 mils — and three high values — 250, 500, and 1000 mils. They were printed and distributed to all Post Offices except Jerusalem, which was under siege, and were put on sale May 16th, 1948.

The new stamps aroused great interest among collectors for a number of reasons. The different printing plates were used several times during 1948 and 1949. Plate No. 1 for all nine values; Plate No. 2 for the 5 through 50 mils, and Plate No. 3 for the 15 mils. In addition, a variety of papers were used for the different printings. The inscribed tabs attached to the bottom row of stamps in the sheet became standard for all subsequent issues. Rare perforation varieties are found in certain values of the first printing; the 3 mils — 10×10; the 15 mils — 10¾; the 10×11 found on the 3, 10, 20, and 50 mils; and the 3, 5, and 10 mils rouletted stamps. The various tab types of the nine values can be identified by the uneven vertical positions of the letters on the tabs due to the linotype process used in setting the type.

The rarest of all the Doar Ivri stamps is, however, a variety of the lowest value of the series, the 3 mils perforated 10×10. No more than 59 sheets were printed (we know for certain of the existence of 28 plate blocks), and they were sold at only five post offices. At a recent auction a 3 mil plate block, 10×10, brought $18,000.

The scarcest tab variety is the 15 mils, type VI, which is found only in the second printing of plate 1 on sheets 15001-07000. Out of the total printing of 2000 sheets, printed on three different varieties of paper (transparent, thin yellow, and thin white), less than a dozen examples have been found to date.

In recent years we have seen a great proliferation of fakes and forgeries of some of the gems of Israel philately. Above all it must be emphasized that these remarks are intended for all, not just for the collector, as dealers and auctioneers also are frequently fooled. Most of the rarities of Israel philately were produced during the earliest years of the State. While our philatelic knowledge of these years is growing all the time as research and collation of information continues, much of the information has yet to filter down to the average dealer or collector. Because of the popularity of the period, these better pieces command high premiums. These premiums, coupled with the aforementioned relative ignorance, provide an ideal setting for the talents of a faker or forger. While many types of these are known in this period these comments will be confined only to those which (A) involve expensive material, (B) are most difficult to detect, and (C) are frequently offered.

All philatelists are advised to take suitable precautions when involved with any doubtful, strange or expensive materials. These comments are not written to frighten. Instead, all should feel more comfortable to know that we are aware of these false materials and are endeavoring through expertizing to inform the buyers of their existence. Philately is a wonderful hobby but a dangerous one unless it be informed philately.

REGUMMING: There are three comparison points to help in identifying regumming of Doar Ivri rarities.

1. The first printing with 10×10, 10×11, rouletted and 10¾ were all printed on thin yellow paper. The gum is very flat, shiny and smooth.
2. The regumming process tends to leave small amounts of gum residue on the perforations. With magnification you will detect small nodules of gum extending outward from the perforations.
3. Regummed perforations are much stiffer than normal and therefore feel very stiff when rubbed against the skin.

REPERFORATIONS: Reperforation of genuine stamps is done so they can be sold as their more expensive counterparts. It is more difficult to reperforate the holes between the stamp and a tab, than down the vertical side of the stamp and tab. Under a high power magnifying glass one can identify differences in the tampered perforations. The forger, using a sharp cutting tool, produces a straighter edge on the side of the holes that are changed, therefore they appear half rough and half straight. Some holes also become oblong rather than round.

REATTACHED TABS: A cleverly attached tab and stamp that has the original gum makes it almost impossible to discover the forgery with the naked eye. Again the forger may not realize that the stamp and the tab originate from two different plates, printings, or papers. The easiest method to detect rejoined tabs, if not seen through a magnifying glass, simply would be to gently bend the stamp and tab and observe if the perforations in the middle raise or separate. If they are rejoined, a split or line will show up across the perforations.

Figure 1. Both stamps have reattached tabs, the left crudely, the right expertly done. (The numbers in the tabs are Foundation Certificate numbers and not on the tabs themselves.)

It is suggested that whenever one of the Doar Ivri stamps with rare perforations is being purchased, a collector should follow a precise regime of evaluation. First, check whether the gum is smooth rather than granular. Second, rub the perforations against the back of your hand to see if they are sharp (indicating regumming). Next, carefully lay the stamp against a pair of 10×10, 10×11, or 10¾ perforated stamps that are available. Make sure the perforations match absolutely along the entire length of the stamp and tab. Finally, carefully examine all of the perforations for asymmetry, and unusually straight perf tips.

PLATE BLOCK GROUPS, TAB TYPES, PAPER VARIETIES AND PERFORATIONS: Once able to identify the printing dates through knowledge of the stamps, one then opens up the world of postal usage. The matter of printing dates is not purely of academic interest. Fortunately for us the forgers of covers were not careful about placing early printings of Doar Ivri stamps on covers. Many forged covers can be easily identified by finding improper frankings and later printings canceled with forged or outright bogus early postmarks.

OUTRIGHT FORGERIES: Forgeries of the three high values (200, 500 and 1000 mils) show in the middle of the arabic script an inverted "V". It appears as a blunt down stroke. One must compare this to a genuine similar value stamp or a printed catalogue photo of the same value. The forged 1000 mils (Scott #9) has a noticeable error, the first "0" leans to the right. The printing and inking are poorly done. Most important are

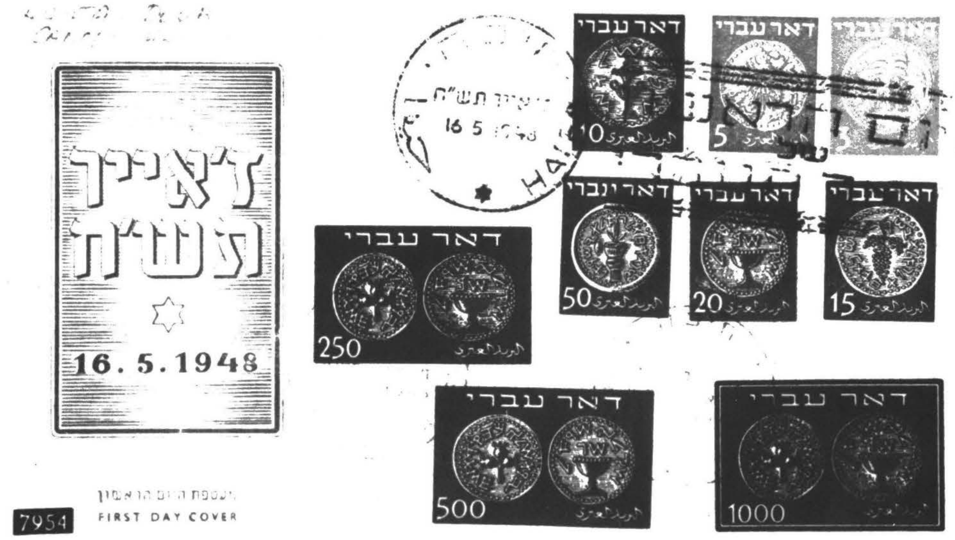


Figure 2. A genuine Doar Ivri First Day Cover.

the color shades (brightness or dullness) when matching up to any genuine stamp of the same value.

Figure 3. A genuine (left) and counterfeit (right) 1,000m tab single. Note the poor quality of the inking and the printing in the counterfeit.

A few minutes spent prior to purchase may mean a savings of hundreds of dollars later on.

Expertizing Japan

The Offices in Korea 1½ Sen Issue

By Michael Ruggiero

Entires that have passed through the mails can, at times, be difficult to expertize. One difficulty arises in the possibility that the stamps, now on the entire, did not originate on the item. Either stamps were switched or the entire was originally a stampless usage. Another problem results from some post offices that allowed the canceling of stamps, and the return of the entire to the person who requested the cancellation. Finally, the original stamps may be on the entire, but they and/or the cancellations may have been altered. This is the possibility that confronts us in this article.

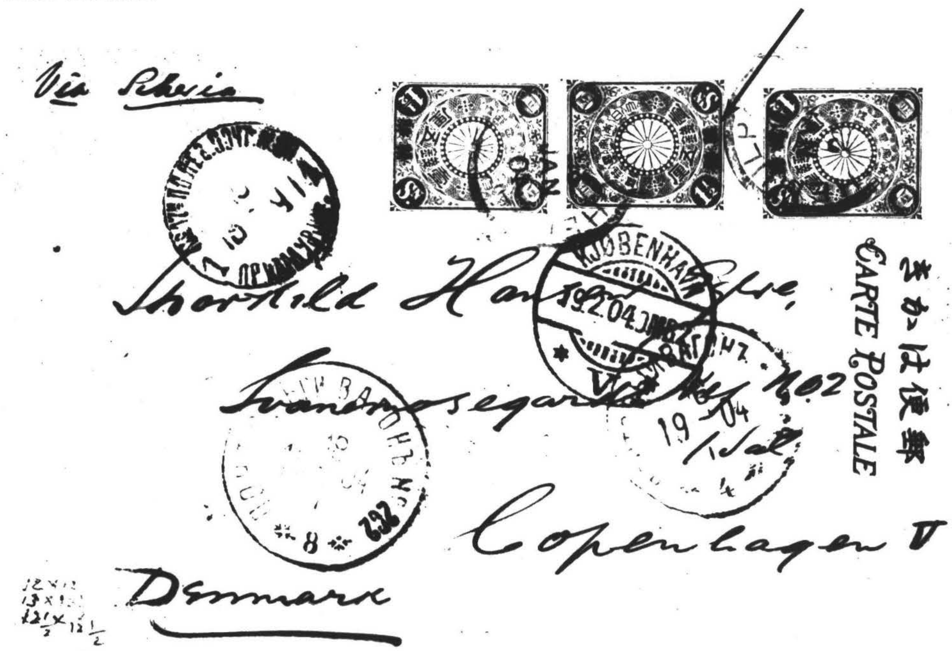


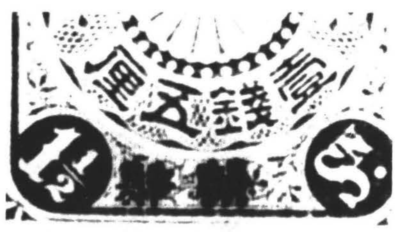
Figure 1. Certificate 45 424.

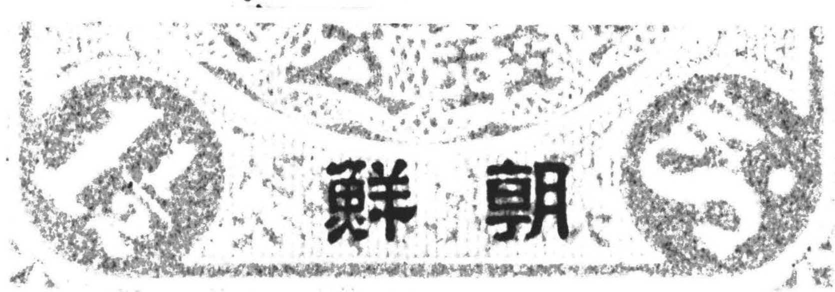
The postcard in Figure 1 was submitted to the Foundation for expertizing. This postcard is very similar to two other cards commented upon by R.P. Alexander in his article in *Linn's*, November 1, 1976. Each of these postcards is franked with three copies of the same stamp, the Japan Offices in Korea (O.I.K.) 1½ ultramarine, Scott #3; each card was sent to the same addressee in Denmark by the same sender, a stamp dealer in Korea; and all three cards were mailed from the Japanese post office in Chemulpo (Inchon) Korea. All three cards were overfranked.

The card submitted was dated in January 1904. The day is unclear, but the month and year are clear. The two cards upon which Mr. Alexander commented were dated June 15, 1904.

The Japan O.I.K. 1½ Sen stamps were issued on October 1, 1900 and withdrawn from sale on April 1, 1901. After April 1, 1901, the regular issues of Japan, not overprinted, were utilized in Korea, including Japan Scott #94. The Offices in Korea Scott #3 is this Japan stamp with the overprint applied. Being an odd denomination and having a short usage, the O.I.K. #3 is scarce, either mint or used. Overseas use is not common.

Though withdrawn from sale in 1901, O.I.K. stamps in the hands of the public were valid for postage until 1922, but O.I.K. stamps used after 1901 are uncommon. We know of only two covers with O.I.K. stamps on them used after 1901. One is dated October 22, 1902, the other is dated in 1903. The 1903 cover, which was offered as Lot 117 in the Kwan Lee auction of May 21, 1983, was franked with the O.I.K. eight Sen value, Scott #8. It is used in combination with Japan Scott #96, the 2s regular issue in use at that time. The feeling is that the sender had the 8 Sen O.I.K. stamp, placed it on the entire, then purchased the 2 Sen regular issue at the post office to make the 10 Sen rate required to the United States.





Figures 2, 3. An enlargement (top) of the overprint of one of the 1½s stamps from the submitted item (Figure 1) and another enlargement (bottom) from a known-genuine stamp.

Figure 2 shows an enlargement of the overprint on one of the 1½ Sen O.I.K. stamps which are on the postcard submitted to the Foundation and shown in Figure 1. The two other overprints on that postcard are similar to this one. Figure 3 shows an enlargement of the overprint on a genuine O.I.K. 1½s. By comparison we can see that the genuine is clear and very precise, while the overprints on the postcard are crude.

There are many differences between the overprints. A few are as follows:

1. In the first character on the right, the two vertical strokes are further apart on the genuine overprint.
2. The third character from the right has two short strokes on top of the upper vertical stroke on the genuine. On the overprints in Figure 2, there is only one short stroke on top.
3. Referring back to the middle stamp in Figure 1, the pair of characters on the right are slanted. On the genuine, all characters are in line.

Of the three postcards known, no one has ever questioned the strikes. All appear to be genuine and the time differences between strikes are valid for the service offered at this time. They were sent via Siberia or via the U.S. When sent via Siberia, they have Russian transit strikes (see Figure 1); the one sent via the U.S. had a transit strike from Moji, Japan.

When rendering opinions on overprints in combination with a cancellation that ties the overprint to the stamp, some have said that they can tell if the overprint is over or under the cancellation. We have never felt this was a valid judgement that could be utilized uniformly during expertizing, especially when the overprint and cancellation are of a similar color. The overprints on the O.I.K. #3 stamps were applied in black. At times the Japanese post offices in Korea used a bluish canceling ink, but in this case (Figure 1) they used black ink to apply the CHEMULPO Roman lettered strike.

This is not the first time that the overprints on stamps on this type postcard have been questioned. Use of O.I.K. stamps in 1904 is highly improbable and both R.P. Alexander and well known philatelist Dr. Varro E. Tyler, have felt that the overprints on postcards similar to this one are not genuine. Most important, the overprints on the stamps in Figure 1 do not compare to the known genuine example.

After considering all the above, it was the opinion of the Foundation that the overprints on the 1½ Sen stamps in Figure 1 are not genuine.

Acknowledgements

As we complete this second OPINIONS volume, we hope the reader will join with us in expressing appreciation to the following individuals:

To Carl O. Mamay, whose photographic skills produced most of the illustrations in this book, including the many dramatic and graphic photo presentations.

To Ann-Marie Scesney, whose production coordination resulted in the timely completion of manuscripts and their conversion into ready-to-set articles.

To Steve Karbo and the staff of Karbo Photomechanics, who produced a finished product in a thankfully brief period of time.

To Foundation Curator Peter Robertson and Assistant Curator Brian Green, whose technical assistance and alertness to potential write-up subjects made the task of filling in the gaps and avoiding the gaffes much easier than it otherwise might have been.

To the authors, who rushed to complete their manuscripts, then waited patiently through the production and editing process.

And to the rest of the Foundation Staff...

Timothy A. Holmes .... Executive Secretary
Alan L. Kaplan .... Curatorial Aide
Cecilia M. Livingston .... Accounting Department
Leo L. Livingston .... Expert Committee Support
Roselina F. Nino .... Secretary and Receptionist
Rose M. Romeo .... Contributor Services Coordinator

... for their enthusiastic participation in the comprehensive process that begins with an idea from the Foundation's Planning and Development Committee and concludes with a finished product that we all hope you, the reader, have enjoyed.

John F. Dunn
Director of Education