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Postal History Place: **U.S. 1¢ 1861 Used as Carrier**

(From Mekeel's Weekly May 19 & STAMPS Magazine July 19, 1941, with images added)

The U.S. 1¢ 1861 Used As Carrier On Cover

(From Mekeel's Weekly, May 19, 1941, by Tudor Gross)



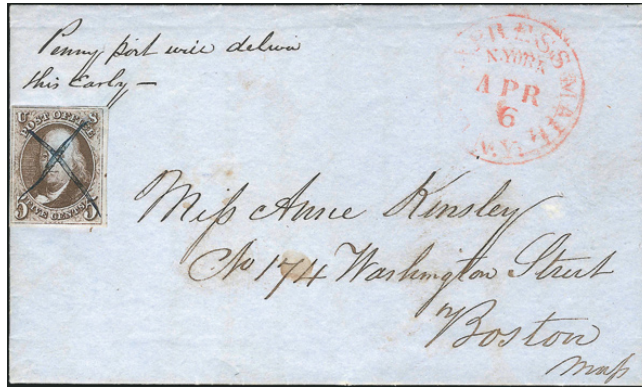
Although I have used covers with other issues to show examples of the Carrier Fee subject, this cover shows the specific subject of the articles, the 1861 1¢ Blue (Sc. 63). It bears a horizontal strip of four tied by circle of wedges and a "New-York 22 Jan. 1863" double-circle datestamp on a cover to Philadelphia, the four cents paying the 3¢ domestic postage plus 1¢ carrier fee.

In Chapter 46, Vol. 11, of Stanley B. Ashbrook's remarkable book on the 1¢ 1851-57, there is a very complete account, written by Elliott Perry, of the use of 1¢ stamps as carriers.

To attempt to elaborate on this story would be but to carry "coals to Newcastle". Briefly, however, the facts are these. In the early days letters were mailed to a person "at the Post Office", and not to his home or business address. It was the common custom, especially in the smaller town and cities, for people to call at the post office for their mail, which was held in "general delivery" or placed in private boxes for which a rental was paid. Under the Act of 1860, at certain of the larger cities where there was a U. S. carrier system, an extra charge of one cent was required to pay the "postman" to carry the letter to the post office, or deliver it from the post office. These men, as well as those

employed before 1860, were not salaried employees of the government, but received their pay from the carrier fees. As one cent, in this country, was commonly called a “penny” (even as it is today), the carrier was known as the “Pennypost”, a designation very generally applied when the writer was a boy.

This cover shows payment of the carrier fee for delivery to the addressee before the Act of 1860: An 1848 folded letter to Boston with the 1847 5¢ brown (Sc. 1) cancelled by a manuscript “X”, and a red “U.S. Express Mail N. York N.Y. Apr. 6” circular datestamp



on blue, instructions at top “Penny Post will deliver this early.” The instructions told the Boston post office to deliver this by carrier and the 2¢ carrier fee was collected from the recipient. (In this case “Penny Post” was the name of a private carrier company in Boston, and not the common terminology described by the author.)

It should be borne in mind that I am not attempting, in this article, to discuss “carrier stamps”, as such. The *Scott Specialized Catalogue* lists these various issues, some of which were put out by the Government, and some by private individuals. My purpose is merely to discuss the use of the 1¢ 1861 as a carrier fee and to attempt to explain what it means when we find it used with a 3¢ of the same issue.

In New York, as in some other cities, “collection depots” had been established to accommodate those who did not wish to make the long trip to the Post Office. A one cent stamp was required to pay the “collection charge” to take the letter to the main office. The one cent stamp, therefore, was for “carrier use”, and that is what we mean when we say that the 1¢, in connection with a 3¢, is “used as carrier”.

For some time I had felt that it was perfectly possible for a person living in New York, let us say, to mail a let-

ter to a street number in Boston, and pay the delivery fee (in Boston) in advance. This would mean that a letter, not deposited in the main New York Post Office, but in a “collection depot”, would have cost the sender five cents (1¢ for collection fee, 3¢ for out-of-town postage, and 1¢ for delivery fee). But how would the Boston postman collect the delivery fee if it had been paid in New York? I put the question to Elliott Perry, our leading authority on the subject, and he replied, “I don’t think the delivery fee in another city could be prepaid by affixing an additional U.S. postage stamp. When the letter was first mailed, all the U.S. stamps on it would have been cancelled.”

Mr. Perry furthermore made the following important statement:

“All the 3¢ plus 1¢ combinations of 1861 stamps prepaid the collection fee to the post office of mailing. If the delivery fee in the city to which a letter was addressed had to be prepaid there was no way of prepaying it on letters ‘from the mails’. If it did not have to be prepaid, the fee could be collected in cash from the addressee...and the letters bear no marking to indicate such delivery.”

The same authority states that “at New York red was commonly used for markings indicating prepaid carrier fee and black for unpaid”.

I later put the same question to Stanley B. Ashbrook, who, with due apologies to Elliott Perry, offered a suggestion. He wrote that he felt that a letter could be mailed with the “freight” paid all the way. In other words, he believed that a man sending a letter from New York to a street address in Boston could pay the collection fee to the New York Post Office and the delivery fee from the Post Office in Boston. This bore out my previous feeling that stamps, were originally designed to prepay postage, and that a sender of a letter who wanted the recipient to receive it without cost, could pay the whole bill in advance. If he put on the envelope a 3¢ stamp and two one cent stamps, it showed the postmaster that he paid the collection fee in New York and the delivery fee in Boston.

Mr. Perry says “When the letter was first mailed, all

the U.S. stamps on it would have been cancelled". But, as Mr. Ashbrook writes, what difference does it make? Washington, after all, was the interested party, and if it sold a 1¢ stamp later used for collection fee in Boston, and afterwards was debited one cent for collecting this fee, the account was square. In other words, the Boston Postmaster did not charge the New York Postmaster (who sold the two one cent stamps), but debited Washington, which had already received the one cent carrier delivery fee when it sold the one cent stamp to the New York Postmaster.

There are two objections to this theory, both advanced by my friends, Dr. R. F. Chambers of Providence and Mr. Perry. Covers bearing the 5¢ rate at this period are practically unknown. They are possible but not probable. Furthermore, they advance the theory that the postmaster in Boston could not tell from the letter received by him that the carrier fee, paid in New York, paid the fee for the New York or Boston Carrier. If two one cent stamps were applied, this would be apparent, but if the letter were posted in the main New York Post Office, without any distinguishing mark, the Boston Postmaster could not tell if [only one] 1¢ stamp was for collection fee to the N.Y. Post Office or for delivery fee from the Boston Post Office. So a New York cover with a 1¢, plus 3¢, to Boston does not necessarily prove that the carrier fee paid the delivery fee in Boston. Secondly, they say that covers of this period do not show by special markings or cancellations that the carrier fee was paid in advance, and so we cannot state too positively just what took place.

Per contra I offer the following:

I have in my collection two covers franked from New York to a street address in Boston by Martin Van Buren, a former President of the United States. The first was mailed with "free" written in the upper right hand corner, and franked "M. Van Buren". It also contains a 1¢ stamp, in the upper left hand corner, cancelled with a red carrier cancellation. This 1¢ stamp was evidently intended to pay the delivery fee in Boston to the street address of the recipient. The letter was held at the New York Post Office

for additional postage, as the authorities apparently did not know that Mr. Van Buren enjoyed the franking privilege, as an ex-President. Two cents more were collected, and the letter finally sent to Boston, bearing the original stamp with the carrier cancellation and a pair of 1¢ stamps bearing a black New York town cancellation.

Two weeks later, Mr. Van Buren sent a second letter to the same addressee, at his street address, but this time only one 1¢ stamp was applied, and “free, M. Van Buren” was written in the upper right hand corner. The stamp is cancelled with a circular town cancellation, reading “New York Free”. Evidently, the sender had informed the N.Y. Post Office that he had the franking privilege, and that therefore his signature represented the equivalent of 3¢ in postage. Consequently, the 1¢ stamp must have been for carrier service and, in my opinion, paid the delivery fee in Boston. The Government received the one cent for this delivery fee, since it sold the stamp, but the postmaster in Boston, in paying one cent to the carrier, would charge it up to Washington, and the books balanced.

Here again my theory may be wrong, but I do not see how any other explanation can be given for these two covers.

One more example. Mr. Ashbrook showed me a cover mailed at Fort Lee, near New York, to a street address in the latter city. The cover bears a 1¢ and 3¢ stamp. As Fort Lee had no carrier system, it seems fair to assume the 1¢ stamp was intended to pay the delivery fee in New York. It is, of course, possible, as Mr. Perry suggests, that the postage was overpaid, but I cannot but feel that the public at that time knew what the correct amount should be. Even today we seldom overpay unless we fear the letter is over-weight and, therefore, needs another stamp.

Perhaps some of the readers of this article can throw more light on this disputed question and if they can, I hope they will.

I have been interested to see how many covers I could find from different cities where a 1¢ 1861 stamp was used with 3¢ stamp presumably as carrier. To date I have found

this carrier rate on covers from only the following cities, viz., New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, New Haven and Brooklyn. There are doubtless others, but I have not seen them.

The whole subject of “carriers”, as used in various sections, is fascinating and I recommend to those interested that they refer to the Ashbrook books on the One Cent 1851-5 for more complete information. As a matter of record, I might add that New York had a variety of carrier cancellations, mostly in red, but some in black. Philadelphia used two types, both in black, one, the rarer, being the U.S.P.O. Dispatch, and the other U.S. Penny Mail.

The U.S. 3¢ Plus 1¢ 1856-1863

(From Stamps Magazine, July 19, 1941, by Stanley B. Ashbrook)

In the recent article on the U.S. One Cent of 1861, by Tudor Gross, in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, an extremely interesting point was emphasized regarding the U.S. carrier rate covers of 3¢ plus 1¢, period 1856-1863. I refer especially to the issue of *Mekeel's*, of May 19, 1941, pages 325 and 326. I wish that all students of 19th Century U.S. would read these two pages very carefully, because I think that by doing so they will have a much better knowledge as well as appreciation of this special class of covers, known to specialists as the “3¢ plus 1¢.”

Such covers comprise the stamps of three different issues viz:

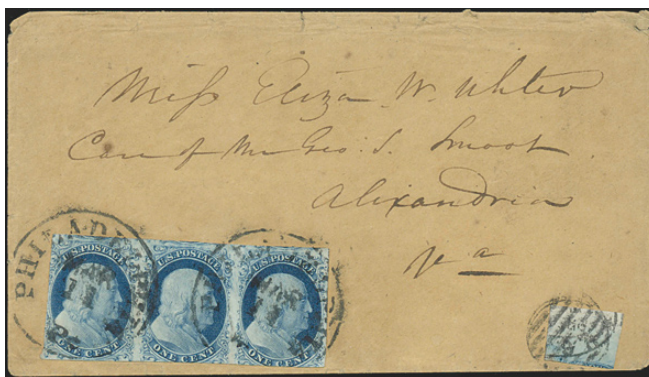
(A) 1851 Issue (see also, page 7)

An 1851 1¢ Blue, Type IV and 3¢ Dull Red, Type II (Sc. 9, 11A), with the 1¢ cancelled by a grid (carrier marking), both stamps tied by “Philadelphia Pa. Jun. 4” (1856) circular datestamps on a cover to a New



York City street address, a rare use of the 1¢ 1851 stamp to pay the carrier fee in Philadelphia after supply of the Eagle stamp (Sc. LO2) was exhausted in 1856.

A strip of three of the 1851 1¢ Blue (Sc. 7) paying the postage on this cover. Paying the Carrier fee for delivery to the post office is a U.S.P.O., Philadelphia Pa., 1¢ black (Sc. 7LB18), which is a small rectangular stamp that



was produced by handstamping the design on the sheet margin paper of the One Cent 1851 stamps. This example shows only one-quarter of the handstamp and part of the 1¢ 1851 design at the top, tied by a grid cancel. The 1¢ Blues are tied by "Philadelphia Pa. Mar. 11" circular datestamps on the cover to Alexandria Va. (see also page 17) It is believed that when other printed carrier stamps were not available these U.S.P.O. handstamped adhesives (Sc. 7LB14, 7LB16 and 7LB18) were prepared by one or more carriers and affixed by them to show receipt of the carrier fee when paid by coin.

(B) 1857 Issue

The 1857 1¢ Blue, Type V (Sc. 24) horizontal pair and two singles, tied by large grid cancels with matching "Philadelphia Pa. Mar. 6, 1862" circular datestamp on a mourning cover to New York, a late



use of 1¢ 1857s to pay postage and carrier fee, even though the issue had been demonetized months earlier. As Philadelphia was a major city and there was no shortage of the new issue, the stamps must have been accepted because it was a mourning cover.

(C) 1861 Issue (see page 8)

In my opinion, the 3¢ plus 1¢ covers should be divided into two separate classes as follows:

(1) Covers showing the carrier fee of 1¢ prepaid to the Post Office, thus a Carrier Collection Fee.

(2) Covers showing the Carrier Fee of 1¢ prepaid from the Post Office to the street address, thus a Carrier Delivery Fee.

Although this cover to New York City shows the intended use of the 1861 1¢ Blue (Sc. 63) to pay the carrier fee to the Philadelphia post office and a 3¢ Rose (Sc. 65) to pay the postage, the stamps are tied by a “Philadelphia Pa. Jul. 1, 1863” circular datestamp—the first day of the free carrier service. The cover also bears an octagonal carrier backstamp.



I might add that the class of 3¢ plus 1¢ covers showing prepayment of the Carrier Fee to the Post Office, are by no means rare, but the second class, 3¢ plus 1¢, showing prepaid street address carrier delivery are not only quite scarce but are in fact rare, and therefore highly desirable. If you doubt this, you will find that most any collector who makes a specialty of carrier covers will be able to show you a number of the first class, but few, if any, of the second class, i.e., 3¢ plus 1¢, prepaid carrier Delivery Fee from the Post Office TO the street address.

It will be noted in reading the comments by Mr. Gross on this subject that there exists a difference in opinion between Elliott Perry and myself on what I consider a very interesting point. This difference in opinion is briefly thus:

Ashbrook maintains that a person living outside of New York, for example, could have had a letter delivered to a street address in New York City by a payment in postage of 3¢ plus 1¢. Mr. Perry disagrees, and stated according to Mr. Gross, “all the 3¢ plus 1¢ combinations of 1861 stamps prepaid the collection fee to the Post Office of mailing.”

Let us carefully analyze this point. Just to be specific, we will refer solely to the New York Post Office and the year of 1862.

Letter carriers not only collected mail from letter boxes

A 1¢ Blue, Type II and 3¢ Brownish Carmine (Sc. 7, 11) tied by grid cancels on an 1852 blue folded letter to New York, the cover also with a “Baltimore Md. Aug. 30” circular datestamp, an extremely rare use of the 1¢ 1851 to prepay the carrier fee on an outbound letter.



scattered throughout New York City and conveyed said letters to the Post Office, but they also delivered letters from the Post Office to street addresses, for a fee of one cent usually collected from the addressee. Letters addressed to points outside of New York City, which were placed in letter boxes had to be prepaid at the rate of 3¢ plus 1¢, the 1¢ being the fee, per letter paid to the carrier, or rather to the carrier fund. These are facts and admit of no argument.

Regarding letters to be delivered from the Post Office to street addresses. We must remember that we had no regular Government employed letter carriers until 1863. The Act of March 3, 1863, effective July 1, 1863, provided, “That letter carriers shall be employed at such Post Offices as the Postmaster General shall direct for the delivery of letters and for their services they shall severally receive a salary, etc.”

Prior to the enactment of this law, carrier service both to the Post Office and the street address delivery were at the expense of the public. Some of the public were willing to pay extra for such service, while others were not. Those willing to pay 1¢ each to have their mail delivered to their home or office addresses undoubtedly gave written instructions to the Postmaster to deliver their mail from the Post Office to their street addresses. Those of the public not willing to pay the 1¢ fee per letter, called at the Post Office and received their mail.

Thus it will be noted that mail in general was held at



An 1857-61 1¢ Blue, Type Ia (Sc. 19) used with a 3¢ Dull Red, Type II (Sc. 26), each tied by "Chicago Ill. Apr. 5, 1858" circular date stamps on a folded printed circular originating in Mexico and addressed to Howland

& Aspinwall at a New York City street address, datelined "Yrapuato, Febrero 15 de 1858", sender's routing "Por el Paquete Ingles". This cover was offered in a Robert A. Siegel auction with a lot description that included: "The basis for 4¢ postage on this printed circular is uncertain. The possibilities are: a) it was rated 4¢ for a multiple circular rate, b) the 1¢ was affixed first, but the 3¢ was deemed necessary for the letter rate, or c) the sender mistakenly thought it was possible to prepay a 1¢ carrier fee for delivery in New York City. An accompanying letter from Ashbrook states "If the 1¢ was not intended to pay the carrier delivery fee in New York, then I do not know why it was put on this cover".

the New York Post Office until called for, and all mail which was delivered to street addresses by letter carriers was taxed 1¢ per letter, this 1¢ being the carrier delivery fee, usually collected upon delivery.

How did the clerks know what letters to hold and what letters were to be turned over to carriers for street address delivery if they did not have on file special instructions from people who wished their letters delivered?

A Cincinnati Post Office announcement of 1859, among other things stated:

"Persons wishing their letters to be delivered to them by the carriers, should hand into the Post-Office a written direction to that effect; etc." (The above is from the chapter on "Carriers and Carrier Markings," by Elliott Perry in the Ashbrook book, Vol. 2, page 164.)

I am quite positive that the carrier fee of 1¢ could be prepaid on a letter originating outside of New York City, such prepayment insuring the delivery of the letter to the street address in New York City. On this point Elliott Perry does not agree with me. The mere fact that Mr. Perry and

I do not agree is of course of little consequence. The point I particularly wish to emphasize is this: Covers showing the 3¢ plus 1¢ rate, originating in towns outside of New York City, addressed to street addresses in New York City, are in existence, but such items are rare, and in all probability their significance is not appreciated by the great majority of collectors. I am very anxious to obtain a record of such covers and will appreciate the loan of any that are not included in my files.

In Mr. Gross' article, the question was raised as to whether or not a person living in New York City could not prepay a letter to be delivered to a street address in Boston by placing on such a letter 5¢ in postage, i.e., 3¢ for the regular rate, 1¢ carrier fee to the New York Post Office and 1¢ street delivery carrier fee in Boston. I am sure I have never seen such an item or any similar item with postage and two carrier fees prepaid by 1¢ stamps. But because Perry and Ashbrook have never seen such an item is surely no proof whatsoever that there were any postal regulations contrary to such prepayment.

As stated in the Gross article, I have a cover in my collection with a 3¢ and a 1¢ 1861, both tied by a postmark of "Fort Lee, N. J. Feb. 25" (1862). This cover is addressed to a street address in New York City. I do not think there is the slightest doubt that the 1¢ 1861 on this Fort Lee cover prepaid the carrier fee from the New York Post Office to the street address. According to Mr. Gross, Mr. Perry suggested that the postage was overpaid, but in my opinion, the evidence this cover exhibits is far too strong to dismiss the item with the "overpaid theory."

We know that a resident of New York City could prepay with a 1¢ stamp the carrier fee insuring the delivery of a letter to a street address in New York City. Could it be possible that this privilege was denied to a resident of Fort Lee, N.J. by the Post Office Department? Suppose a person residing in New York City prepaid a letter with a 1¢ stamp to insure street delivery in New York City, then went across the Hudson River to Fort Lee, N.J. and did the same thing. Would his letter with a 3¢ plus 1¢ be denied,

prepaid street delivery in New York City, without charge to addressee?

Permit me to cite a hypothetical case. Mr. Blank, was a resident of New York City, but he did not have on file at the New York Post Office any instructions to deliver his mail by carriers to his home address. He went on a business trip to a small town in Pennsylvania and had occasion to write an important letter to his wife. He was aware that she would not call at the Post Office for mail, hence on his letter he put a 3¢ 1861 plus a 1¢ 1861, so as to insure prompt delivery of the letter to his wife at his home address. Can we assume that the New York Post Office clerks didn't know that this letter was to be delivered by carrier? On the other hand suppose Mr. Blank had written instructions at the New York Post Office to deliver mail to his home address, does anybody suppose that he was not permitted by the Post Office Department to prepay the carrier delivery fee as well as the regular postage?

There are excellent reasons why "3¢ plus 1¢ delivery to street address covers" are rare. In the first place, the Post Office Department did not require prepayment of the delivery to street address carrier fee, but they certainly did not prohibit it, and that is the main point of issue between Mr. Perry and myself. In the second place it was the usual custom to collect the carrier delivery fee, it being assumed, I suppose, delivery of mail from the post office to a home address was a special service for which the recipient was willing to pay the carrier, the one cent fee. But there were exceptions to the custom, and at times there were instances where the carrier delivery fee was prepaid by the sender of the letter, perhaps to avoid causing the addressee any expense or to insure prompt delivery of the letter to the street address. Such instances from Fort Lee, N. J., to New York City and from San Francisco to Washington, D. C., are cited in this article.

Suppose we consider the 3¢ plus 1¢ stamped envelopes issued by the Post Office Department late in 1860 or early in 1861. These are the star die type commonly called the Compound envelopes. According to the Perry theory that

all 3¢ plus 1¢ carrier rates represent solely the collection fee to the Post Office, then we must assume that these 3¢ plus 1¢ Compound stamped envelopes were only issued for use in cities having letter boxes for the collection of mail. I entirely disagree with such a theory or supposition. These stamped envelopes of 3¢ plus 1¢ were intended for the convenience of the public and the 1¢ was put on such envelopes for two purposes, i.e., to prepay the carrier collection fee, or to prepay the carrier delivery fee. As proof I submit the following evidence which I consider conclusive. The Annual Report of the Postmaster General dated December 1, 1860, stated as follows:

“The envelope with the One Cent and Three Cent stamps will be required in cities where there are lamp post letter boxes or other depositories for letters, to be conveyed by carriers to the Post Office, the One Cent paying the carrier’s fee, and the other stamp paying the postage on letters to be sent out of the city by mail. *This envelope will also be used by those who, when addressing their city correspondents, desire to relieve them from the payment of the carrier’s fee for delivering their letters at their domicil.*”

I doubt if the quotation in italics could be any plainer or more to the point. If the 1¢ was to prepay the carrier delivery fee, then the 3¢ indicated the letter was to originate outside of the city. With this conclusive evidence before us, can anyone doubt that a person in New York was not permitted to use one of these Compound envelopes to a correspondent in Boston and thus prepay the Boston street address carrier delivery fee, provided he took his letter direct to the New York Post Office? If he wished to mail such a letter at a lamp post box in New York City it is quite evident, an extra 1¢ stamp would have been required.

While no such 3¢ plus 1¢ plus 1¢ covers are known to this writer either made up by stamps or by Compound envelopes and a 1¢ stamp, this certainly does not prove that such double carriers rates were not possible, much less prohibited.

In the Chase collection, at one time, was a 3¢ U.S. stamped envelope plus a 1¢ 1857 Type V postmarked

Utica, N.Y. and addressed to a New York City street address. My description of this cover is quite incomplete, but in all probability the 1¢ prepaid the carrier delivery fee in New York City.

So far as we are aware the Postmaster General did not permit the use of regular 1¢ postage stamps to prepay the carrier fee before 1856, therefore, I think there is little possibility that any covers showing uses before 1856 of the 1¢ stamp prepaying the carrier fee will be discovered. (Collection or Delivery.)

3¢ 1861 Plus 1¢ 1861, “Held for Postage”

Recently Harry M. Konwiser submitted to me a 3¢ 1861 plus 1¢ 1861 cover which I considered rather interesting. Both stamps are tied by two New York postmarks of March, 1863, and the cover is addressed to Chester, N.J. On the face is the New York straight line marking, “HELD FOR POSTAGE.”

In my opinion this letter was dropped in a lamp post letter box and only bore the 3¢ stamp. The addressee was notified that the letter was being held for postage, (1¢) and this was remitted and the letter forwarded. The cover bears evidence that the 3¢ stamp was applied first and the 1¢ stamp later. To support this supposition I call attention to the following quotation from the Annual Report of the Postmaster General, dated December 1, 1860:

A Blood's Penny Post, Philadelphia Pa., (1¢) Black (Sc. 15L18) used with a 3¢ Dull Red, Type II (Sc/ 26), both tied by “Philadelphia Pa. Dec. 7, 1860” octagonal datestamps on a cover to Falsington Pa., marked “Held

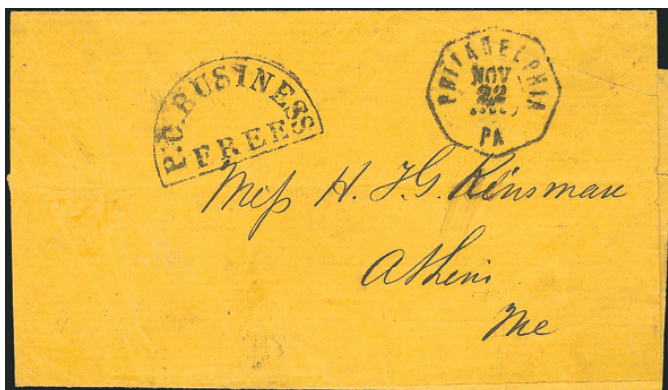


for Postage” and “Rec’d/Dec 7” each in framed handstamp, the 1¢ Blue Type V (Sc. 24) tied by a second Dec. 17 octagonal datestamp. This cover was deposited in a U.S. mail box and held until the appropriate carrier fee was paid.

“The same indisposition to obey the postal laws has been manifested by the non-payment of the carrier’s fee on letters collected from the boxes for the mails in those cities in which this feature of the penny post has been introduced. The act of July 3, 1836, is imperative in requiring the prepayment of this fee, and concurring, as I do, fully in its policy, I have not felt justified in suspending or in any degree modifying its operation. As, however, the date of its enforcement is so recent, it has been deemed advisable to pursue for a limited period the course already mentioned as having been adopted in reference to another class of letters, after the passage of the act of March 3, 1855. The letters are now retained for the payment of the carrier’s fee, and the parties addressed are notified in order that, if they choose to do so, they may make the payment, which should have been made by the writers. Through the press, and by placards on the letter boxes, every possible publicity has been given to this law, and yet from inadvertence, or fraud, or other cause, numerous letters continue to be deposited in the boxes on which the carrier’s fee is not paid.

“The courtesy of the department in giving the notice alluded to—which has imposed upon it a heavy burden—in-

A “Philadelphia, “Due 1 Cent” Notice of Procedure. The folded notice to Athens, Me., states “A Letter, bearing your address, is detained in this Office for non-payment of Postage. It will be sent to you upon enclosing to



me, without delay, ONE one cent Postage Stamp, and PRE-PAYING your note of reply. Please return this Circular. Respectfully, yours, N. B. BROWNE, Post Master.”. It is postmarked November 22, 1860 and “P.O. Business Free”. This procedure was followed when a letter for the post office was dropped in a carrier box without prepayment of the 1¢ carrier fee.

stead of being appreciated, has been the means of provoking much bitter and senseless animadversion on the part of those who find themselves overtaken by the unpleasant consequences of their own neglect or fraud, or of that of their correspondents. To all this, it is sufficient to reply, that the postal authorities are but performing a plain and simple duty in enforcing this law, and if embarrassments ensue it is but proper that they should fall upon those by whose willful or heedless conduct they have been superinduced.”

Referring to the two covers mentioned by Mr. Gross in his article and franked by ex-President Martin Van Buren. I doubt if either one of these show sufficient evidence to assume that they were prepaid to insure carrier delivery in Boston. Mr. Gross stated, the first one has a 1¢ 1861 in the upper right hand corner tied by red N. Y. carrier marking and franked “Free — M. Van Buren.” I think Mr. Van Buren put the 1¢ stamp on this cover to prepay the 1¢ carrier fee to the New York Post Office, by dropping this letter in a letter box. I have never seen this cover, but from the description I have no theory to account for the fact the letter was held at the New York Post Office for additional postage, though it is quite possible perhaps that the letter was franked “Free” and dropped in a lamp post box without the 1¢ stamp to prepay the collection carrier fee. There were no free carrier fees.

The second cover appears quite normal, that is, a franked “Free” by the ex-President together with a 1¢ 1861 to prepay the carrier fee from the letter box to the New York Post Office. Mr. Van Buren died in 1862.

3¢ Plus 1¢, New York—Philadelphia—Boston

The great majority of 3¢ plus 1¢ carrier covers existing in various collections throughout the country show use at New York, Philadelphia and Boston and represent prepayment of the 1¢ carrier fee to these post offices from letter boxes or designated depositories. Rare items consist of uses at Brooklyn, Washington and Baltimore. The Eagle carrier was used at Cincinnati at least up to 1860 but I have never seen a Cincinnati cover showing a 3¢ plus 1¢ regular postage.

Another example of a cover with the U.S.P.O., Philadelphia Pa., 1¢ Black (Sc. 7LB18) also seen on page 7. In this instance the full handstamp is seen. The stamp, used to evidence payment of the carrier fee, was used on a 3¢ Red Nesbitt entire



that pays the postage and is canceled by a "Philadelphia Pa. Feb. 21" circular date stamp. As explained on page 7, the handstamped Philadelphia carrier stamps (on U.S. 1¢ 1851 sheet selvage) were used contemporaneously with the printed U.S.P.O. stamps, leading students to the belief that they were prepared by one or more carriers and affixed en route to show receipt of the carrier fee when paid by coin.

In the Louis A. Ireton collection, is a cover which I consider most unusual. This cover has a 1¢ 1851, Type IV tied by the circular black postmark reading, "San Francisco, Cal., 20 Oct—FREE." It is addressed "Gen. J. W. Denver, Washington, D. C." I believe that this cover shows rather conclusively that the One Cent stamp prepaid the carrier delivery fee at Washington.

General Jas. W. Denver was a congressman from California at Washington during 1855 and 1856, taking his seat in December, 1855, his term expiring March 4, 1857. Therefore I assume the use of this cover is Oct. 20, 1856. As a congressman he was entitled to receive his mail free, hence the San Francisco postmark with Free.

We have no evidence of a U.S. carrier service in San Francisco in 1856, hence it is safe I think to assume the 1¢ stamp did not prepay the collection fee to the San Francisco Post Office. On the other hand there was a carrier service at Washington and the 1¢ stamp on this cover, in all probability paid the delivery fee in Washington. Thus this cover is a frank Free plus 1¢ carrier fee.

U.S. 3¢ plus 1¢ 1856-63, Baltimore

I believe that 3¢ plus 1¢ covers showing Baltimore postmarks, (to the Baltimore P.O. for transmission to the

A Baltimore, Md., 1¢ Green Carrier stamp (Sc. 1LB4) used with a 1¢ Blue, Type II (Sc. 7), both stamps tied by a blue "Baltimore Md. Feb. 24" circular datestamp on a cover to a local Baltimore street address.



This is the only recorded cover with a combination of a One Cent 1851 and the Baltimore Green Carrier stamp. This cover was described in a Siegel Galleries lot description that explained, "A quirk of the postal regulations created the potential for a drop-letter and carrier-fee combination. If a letter were deposited at the post office ("drop letter") and delivered to the addressee by a carrier, both the 1¢ drop rate and 1¢ carrier fee would apply. However, if the letter were given to the carrier department, which was an entity separate from the post office, the drop rate did not apply, and the intra-city 1¢ carrier fee would be sufficient to have the letter delivered to the addressee by the carrier department. It is obvious that the cheaper method was used more often. In this rare instance, the sender used a 1¢ regular stamp, prepaying the drop-letter rate, and affixed a 1¢ carrier.

mails) are most unusual, and my files show a record of but only two such items. The following is a description of these two covers:

(A) 3¢ 1857 plus 1¢ 1857, both tied with Blue Baltimore postmark, addressed to Galena, Md.; Knapp Collection and lot 2562 in the Knapp sale. To demonstrate how little an unusual item like this is really appreciated this cover sold at the ridiculous price of \$4.00.

(B) 3¢ 1857 plus 1¢ 1851, Type IV, both tied with blue Baltimore postmark, addressed to Kinvale, Westmoreland Co., Va.; Tracy Simpson collection, ex-L. B. Mason.

There is a bare possibility that both of the above covers are prepaid "Way" letters, that is, each originated at a point on a mail route terminating at Baltimore, and were first placed in the U.S. Mail at that city, the carrier bringing same to the Post Office being paid a Way fee of 1¢ on each letter.

Post Offices with Carrier Service, 1852-1863

The Annual Reports of the Postmaster Generals from 1852 to 1863 each contain in the statements of gross receipts and expenditures items as follows (1860 Report):

Receipts on Account of Letter Carriers—\$208,506.22.

Expenditures—For payments to Letter Carriers, \$208,506.22.

In each report the receipts are the same as the expenditures, but none of the reports are complete because in many instances various cities reported only for one or two quarters of a fiscal year.

Thus I think we may be safe in assuming that there were offices which had carrier service, but made no report, of the receipts and expenditures for carrier service as the law provided that in no offices were the expenditures to exceed the receipts.

The incomplete reports, however, give us at least a partial list of the post offices throughout the country which had a fee carrier system from 1852 until July 1, 1863.

The following is a list of post offices from the Annual Reports, with the years listed of the inclusion of each office:

For Fiscal Years Ending June 30th

New York-1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863.

Philadelphia - 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863.

Boston-1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863.

Baltimore, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863.

New Orleans-1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860.

Harrisburg, Pa. - 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863.

Syracuse, N.Y. - 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859.

Lowell, Mass.-1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863.

Manchester, N.H.-1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861,

1862, 1863.

Rochester, N.Y.-1857.

Roxbury, Mass. - 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861.

Troy, N. Y.-1858 (B).

Providence, R.I. -1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863.

Washington, D.C.-1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863.

St. Louis, Mo.-1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863.

San Francisco, Cal.-1859 (A).

Kensington, Pa.-1861.

Brooklyn, N.Y.-1863 (C).

Note

Notations from Annual Reports.

(A) "This return was for the 3rd quarter, 1858, and the only one ever received from San Francisco, Calif."

(B) "No returns received from postmaster at Troy for the 3rd quarter of 1857 and first quarter of 1858."

(C) "Office discontinued in March, 1862."

(D) "The rates vary in different cities, which accounts for the apparent discrepancies."

(E) "The rates charged for carrying letters, papers, etc., in the several cities, vary; which accounts for the apparent discrepancies in the amounts received."

In the Annual Reports, Brooklyn, N.Y., was not listed until 1863, yet I have a cover in my collection with a 3¢ 1857 plus a 1¢ 1857, postmarked "Brooklyn, N.Y." and addressed to a village in Indiana. See Ashbrook book Vol. 2, page 156, for illustration. Evidently Brooklyn never made a Report of Carrier Receipts and Expenditures until 1863.

In the Chase collection at one time was a cover with two fine vertical pairs of the 1¢ 1857, Type V used to Texas, with the postmark of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Mr. Perry reported a patriotic cover in the L. B. Mason collection from Brooklyn, N. Y. (April 27, 1861) with a 3¢ 1857 plus a 1¢ 1857, Type V. In the Edw. S. Knapp collection was a cover with a strip of four 1¢ 1861 tied by black grids and a Brooklyn postmark of July 11, 1862. (lot 2770 Knapp sale).

Here we have a record of four different Brooklyn covers with 3¢ plus 1¢ prepaid carrier fees to the Brooklyn Post Office.

In the Annual Reports, no mention is made of Hartford, Conn., yet I think there is little doubt there was a Government Carrier Service at this office in the late 1850s. I have a small piece of a cover with 3¢ 1851 plus a 1¢ 1851 (Type II, Pl. 2) both tied by a Hartford, Conn., postmark. In all probability this is a prepayment of the carrier fee to the Hartford Post Office.

In the 1864 Report is a list of post offices showing the number of letters “Held For Postage,” “Held for Carrier’s Fee,” etc., etc., from January 1 to June 30, 1863. New Haven, Conn., is listed as having 4,290 letters “Held for Carriers’ fee and sent to the Dead Letter Office,” together with 6379 letters “Held for Carriers’ fee and delivered upon notice to party addressed.” Evidently New Haven had a carrier system in the early 1860s.

To those collectors interested in carrier rates, carrier markings, uses, etc., may I call their attention to the excellent chapter on this subject by Elliott Perry in Volume 2 of the Ashbrook Book on the U. S. One Cent 1851-1857.

I will greatly appreciate the loan of any unusual 3¢ plus 1¢ covers, especially those showing a prepaid street address carrier delivery. All items will be returned promptly.—Stanley B. Ashbrook, 1941.

A 1¢ Blue, Type V (Sc. 24) used with a 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) single and vertical half used as 1¢ (Sc. 73b), tied by circle of hollow segments cancel and “New-York Sep. 2?” (1863) circular datestamp. The cover to Little Falls N.Y., shows an attempted use of



the demonitized One Cent 1857 to pay what was by then the obsolete Carrier fee, which had been abolished in July 1863.