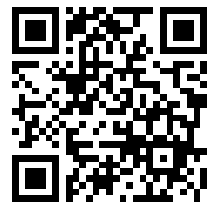


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BY H. L. WILEY

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AUTHOR OF

*United States Parcel Post Stamps, United States Stamp Booklet, United States Postal Savings Stamps*

WITH A CHAPTER ON

**CHARACTERISTIC CANCELLATIONS**

By CHARLES A. NAST

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## LINES TO THE 3c GREEN.

By EUGENE FIELD.

Written Sept. 24, 1888.

Good-bye, old stamp, it's nasty luck  
That ends our friendship so.  
When others failed you gamely stuck,  
But now you've got to go.  
So here's a flood of honest tears,  
And here's an honest sigh—  
Good-bye, old friend of many years—  
Good-bye, old stamp, good-bye!

Your life has been a varied one,  
With curious phases fraught—  
Sometimes a check, sometimes a dun,  
Your daily coming brought;  
Smiles to a waiting lover's face,  
Tears to a mother's eyes,  
Or joy or pain to every place—  
Good-bye, old stamp, good-bye!

You bravely toiled, and better men  
Will vouch for what I say;  
Although you have been licked, 'twas when  
Your face turned t'other way,  
'Twas often in a box you got  
(As you will not deny)—  
For going through the mails, I wot—  
Good-bye, old stamp, good-bye!

Ah, in your last expiring breath  
The tale of years is heard—  
The sound of voices hushed in death,  
A mother's dying word;  
A maiden's answer soft and sweet,  
A wife's regretful sigh,  
The patter of a baby's feet—  
Good-bye, old stamp, good-bye!

What wonder, then, that at this time  
When you and I must part,  
I should aspire to speak in rhyme  
The promptings of my heart.  
Go, bide with all those mem'ries dear  
That live when others die—  
You've nobly served your purpose here—  
Good-bye, old stamp, good-bye!

116518B

# THE U. S. 3c GREEN, 1870-1887.

By H. L. WILEY.

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Continued study of these common stamps is attended with increasing interest. Numerous varieties of more or less importance to the student are found in the various printings.

When I turned my attention to these stamps I found the available data widely scattered throughout the pages of various publications and my first work was to concentrate these widely distributed notes. With the work already accomplished by other writers, my own notes are herewith combined, and I hope that this "summary" may contain something of interest for those collectors who enjoy the twists and turns of the complicated issues of a "common" stamp.

The general groups into which these stamps are divided are marked by the three companies which printed them. The design of the stamps was changed during the contract of the third company, thus creating a fourth variety which constitutes an additional main division. These principal divisions are as follows: printings by

1. National Bank Note Company.
2. Continental Bank Note Company.
3. American Bank Note Company.
4. Re-engraved Issues by the American Bank Note Company.

These various printings are commonly termed:

1. "National."
2. "Continental."
3. "American."
4. "Re-engraved."

The duration of the several printing periods was as follows:

Printing.	Inclusive Dates.	Elapsed Time.
National	Mar., 1870 to Apr., 1873	36 Mos.
Continental	Apr., 1873 to Feb., 1879	70 "
American	Feb., 1879 to Apr., 1881	24 "
Re-engraved	Apr., 1881 to Sept., 1887	77 "

My personal estimate of the total number of stamps of each printing is as follows. It is believed to be within 3% of the correct figure.

Printing.	Total.
National	1,200,000,000
Continental	2,720,000,000
American	1,240,000,000
Re-engraved	1,478,000,000
(Vermilion '87-'90)	16,500,000

In 1883 the 2c rate for letter postage became effective and the issues of the then current 3c green fell to a comparatively insignificant figure. The color of the 3c stamp was changed to vermilion in 1887. During the life of the vermilion stamp, about 30 months, approximately 16,500,000 were printed and issued.

An "unpicked" mixed lot of 10,000 of the National and Continental issues only contained the following percentages of the various minor varieties.

Variety.	% of Total.	No. Found
Pen cancellations	2%	200
Blue	8%	800
Red	1/12 of 1%	8
Purple	5/12 of 1%	42
"Paid"	1/30 of 1%	3
Year dated	1/4 of 1%	25
Pairs and strips (stamps)	7%	700
Blocks	1/4 of 1%	25
Grilled	1%	100
Stitch Watermark	1/12 of 1%	8
Ribbed paper, Vert. Ribs	1/4 of 1%	25
" Hor. "	2%	200

The stamps on vertically ribbed paper are evidently much scarcer than those on the horizontally ribbed paper. They are usually more easily distinguished than the horizontally ribbed variety and that may account for their relative scarcity in some instances where collectors have examined certain lots upon which other opinions are subsequently based.

## The Papers Used.

The general characteristics of the papers used in the various printings are substantially as follows:

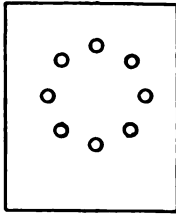
Issue.	Texture.	Av. Thickness.	Color
National	Hard	.00275"	White
Continental	Hard	.00275"	White
American	Soft	.00830"	Cream
Re-engraved	Soft	.00830"	Cream

A few of the later stamps, printed by the Continental Bank Note Company, were on the soft "American" papers. Probably 50,000,000 of these soft paper stamps were the Continental printings.



The plates used by the Continental Company for printing the soft paper stamps include Nos. 265 and 290. The known shades of these printings are gray-green and deep green.

The National Issues include double paper varieties, which are rare. The double papers are fairly common in the Continental issues. The Re-engraved stamps are found on the "Douglas" patent paper in which the thinner of two layers is perforated with 8 small holes, arranged in a circle and so spaced that one complete design falls upon each stamp in the sheet.



"DOUGLAS" PATENT ON  
34 RE-ENGRAVED.  
DOUBLE PAPER & 8 HOLES.

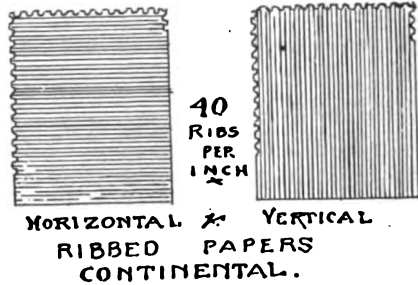
The Continental series includes a few experimental specimens printed on a thin paper in which the fibers of which a heavy starch filling had been incorporated under the terms of one of the numerous patents of the Charles F. Steel series. This patent was dated March 15, 1875. It is reported that 10,000 of these stamps were printed and sold.

Another Continental paper experiment includes a double paper in which the surface paper had been weakened by a number of short horizontal cuts.

All of these brilliant attempts at protecting the Government from the activities of the "stamp cleaner" involved additional printing costs and considerable expenditure for patent rights and royalties, so it is reasonable to assume that the Post Office Department has suffered less from the stamp cleaners than it would have from the inventors.

The greatest production of these altruistic gentlemen was the grill or embossing which was used from 1867 to 1870. The grilling process broke the fibers of the paper so that the grilled stamps, in the blush of their perfection, absorbed almost one-fiftieth as much of the cancelling ink as the ordinary soft paper issues of the American series.

### Ribbed Paper.



The ribbed paper stamps comprise about 2% of those printed by the Continental Bank Note Company,—about 55,000,000 having been on the ribbed paper. The ribs are either vertical or horizontal and are spaced 40 to the inch. They show on both sides of the paper, but are generally more distinct upon one side than the other. They are more plainly visible by reflected light than by transmitted light, that is, they are more distinct when the surface of the stamp is viewed directly than when the stamp is held "to the light."

The horizontal ribs are more frequently found in mixed lots, the ratio being about 8 horizontally ribbed specimens to 1 showing the vertical ribs. The stamps with the ribs showing only on the face or inked side are five or six times as scarce as those with ribs showing on the reverse and are somewhat more difficult to find because of the inked surface having been affected and flattened by contact with the plate.

The ribbed effect varies from faint but unmistakable traces over parts of the stamp to clear ribbing over the entire surface. The common shade in which 95% of these stamps is found is a dark olive green, tinged with a golden yellow, but lighter shades of a character entirely different are sometimes found. The characteristic dark shade is found in stamps showing no trace of the ribbed effect and this fact adds another complicating feature to these stamps. Two or more inks were used while the ribbed paper was in service, and two or more papers were used while the characteristic shade of ink was being applied. It is not possible for me to state which was used first or which lasted the longest and the problem calls for dated copies, the only feasible means by which this point can be determined.

Assuming that approximately 55,000,000 ribbed paper stamps were printed and that the average weekly output was 9,000,000 stamps, it will be seen that these stamps were printed within a pe-

riod of about six weeks. The average deliveries to postmasters during the time the Continental Company was at work, was 115,000,000 stamps per quarter. The average during 1873, 1874 and 1875 was slightly lower than this but was in excess of 110,000,000 stamps per quarter. To assume that 35,000,000 was the monthly output of 3c stamps for this period is probably within 5% of the correct figure. This assumption indicates that 55,000,000 ribbed paper stamps were printed in six weeks provided that these ribbed paper specimens formed the entire output of all of the presses working on 3c stamps.

That they did is supported by the fact that very few ribbed paper stamps exist except in the characteristic shade and it is highly improbable that the characteristic ink would have been confined to only a part of the presses engaged in printing the stamps. The Continental Company used nineteen hand presses and two steam presses but the ribbed papers were not the product of the steam presses because the work done on these presses was confined to five values, the 1c, 2c and 3c of the general issue and the 2c and 3c of the Post Office Department and the ribbed papers are found on many other values of general and departmental issues.

Another fact that tends to support the "quick work" theory is that the characteristic ink is practically confined to the 3c ribbed paper stamps, whereas if the ribbed paper had been used through an extended period, the stamps printed thereon would be found in as great a number of shades as the ordinary varieties.

We must conclude therefore, that Crawford Capen was in error when he stated that "The first use of paper of this kind was made in 1873, the largest use in 1874 and the final use late in 1875 or possibly early in 1876." My opinion is that this paper was used for a period of approximately six weeks. I have no dated copies, but as Capen refers to the use of the paper as early as 1873 and as the general appearance of the stamps indicates a decided effort toward perfection, which might naturally characterize the early efforts of the new contractors, I am inclined to believe that the stamps were printed sometime between June and December, 1873. Dated copies can fix the date at which the stamps appeared and the foregoing analysis seems to limit the period during which the paper was being used.

The plate numbers of two other denominations of the ribbed paper stamps are known; they are No. 22 for the 7c stamp and No. 31 for the 15c stamp. These low numbers would tend to fix

the period during which the ribbed paper was used but this evidence is not worth much because but one Continental plate was made for each of the values noted. The last recorded delivery for the 7c was for the quarter ending June 30, 1875, so we may at least say that the paper was used before that date.

Contact with a worn blanket on the press roll or with the sheets of mill boards between which bunches of sheets are flattened after being printed might have produced the ribbed paper, but both of these theories must be discarded in this instance because these ribbed papers are almost invariably found in the one shade of ink. We cannot believe that this one peculiar shade of ink was successfully obtained month after month or that the shade was perfectly matched by subsequent batches of ink. The ink was used for a limited time, probably less than two months, because practically no stamps are found in this shade except those on ribbed paper.

The thickness of the ribbed paper is as follows:

TRIBBED PAPER—THICKNESS TABLE.

Thickness, Inches.	No. on Hor. Ribs.	No. on Vert. Ribs.
.0023	1	—
.0024	5	—
.0025	8	8
.0026	24	2
.0027	26	—
.0028	20	3
.0029	3	—
.0030	4	1
.0031	1	—
.0032	1	—
.0033	1	—
.0034	1	—
Total	95	14

The average thickness is .00265", the minimum is .00230", and the maximum .00340". It will be noted that fully 80% of the ribbed paper specimens range in thickness between .0025" and .0028", a characteristic peculiar to these stamps.

Probably the most interesting detail in connection with the ribbed paper is that the dimensions of the stamps printed thereon are different from those of all other stamps. This proves conclusively that the paper is a distinct and individual product of the paper mills, a distinct variety, and entitled to recognition as such.

The dimensions of the ribbed paper stamps which I have examined are as follows:

Note. The dimensions of the design are expressed in thousandths of an inch, the thickness of the paper in ten-thousandths of an inch.

*Dimensions of Design and Thickness of Paper, Vertically Ribbed, 3c 1873.*

No.	Width.	Length.	Thickness.	Shade
1	.760	.995	.0025	Light
2	.770	.990	.0025	Light
3	.770	.990	.0025	Light
4	.770	.990	.0025	Normal
5	.770	.990	.0026	Normal
6	.770	.990	.0028	Normal
7	.770	.990	.0028	Normal
8	.770	.995	.0025	Light
9	.770	.995	.0025	Green
10	.775	.995	.0025	Bluish
11	.775	.995	.0025	Normal
12	.775	.995	.0025	Light
13	.775	.995	.0025	Light
14	.780	.995	.0026	Light
15	.780	.995	.0028	Normal
16	.780	1.000	.0029	Light
17	.780	1.000	.0030	Light

Average .773 .9971 .002625

*Dimensions of Designs and Thickness of Paper Horizontally Ribbed, 3c 1873.*

No.	Width.	Length.	Thickness.	Shade
1	.780	.985	.0023	Normal
2	.780	.980	.0024	Light
3	.780	.980	.0024	Light
4	.780	.980	.0024	Normal
5	.785	.980	.0024	Normal
6	.785	.990	.0024	Normal
7	.780	.980	.0025	Normal
8	.780	.990	.0025	Normal
9	.780	.990	.0025	Normal
10	.780	.975	.0025	Normal
11	.780	.975	.0025	Normal
12	.785	.980	.0025	Light
13	.785	.980	.0025	Normal
14	.785	.990	.0025	Normal
15	.780	.975	.0026	Normal
16	.785	.975	.0026	Normal
17	.780	.980	.0026	Normal
18	.785	.980	.0026	Normal
19	.785	.980	.0026	Normal
20	.785	.980	.0026	Normal
21	.785	.980	.0026	Normal
22	.785	.985	.0026	Light
23	.785	.985	.0026	Light
24	.785	.985	.0026	Light
25	.785	.985	.0026	Normal
26	.785	.985	.0026	Normal
27	.785	.985	.0026	Normal
28	.785	.985	.0026	Normal
29	.785	.985	.0026	Normal
30	.785	.985	.0026	Normal
31	.785	.985	.0026	Normal
32	.785	.985	.0026	Normal
33	.785	.985	.0026	Normal
34	.785	.985	.0026	Normal
35	.785	.990	.0026	Light
36	.785	.990	.0026	Normal
37	.785	.990	.0026	Normal
38	.785	.995	.0026	Normal
39	.780	.980	.0027	Normal
40	.780	.980	.0027	Normal

No.	Width.	Length.	Thickness.	Shade
41	.780	.980	.0027	Normal
42	.780	.980	.0027	Normal
43	.785	.980	.0027	Light
44	.785	.980	.0027	Normal
45	.785	.980	.0027	Normal
46	.785	.980	.0027	Normal
47	.785	.980	.0027	Normal
48	.790	.980	.0027	Normal
49	.790	.985	.0027	Normal
50	.780	.985	.0027	Normal
51	.785	.985	.0027	Normal
52	.785	.985	.0027	Normal
53	.785	.985	.0027	Normal
54	.785	.985	.0027	Normal
55	.785	.985	.0027	Normal
56	.785	.985	.0027	Normal
57	.785	.985	.0027	Normal
58	.790	.985	.0027	Light
59	.780	.990	.0027	Normal
60	.785	.990	.0027	Normal
61	.785	.990	.0027	Light
62	.790	.990	.0027	Normal
63	.790	.990	.0027	Normal
64	.790	.990	.0027	Normal
65	.780	.980	.0028	Light
66	.780	.980	.0028	Normal
67	.780	.980	.0028	Normal
68	.780	.985	.0028	Light
69	.780	.985	.0028	Normal
70	.780	.985	.0028	Normal
71	.785	.985	.0028	Light
72	.785	.985	.0028	Normal
73	.785	.985	.0028	Normal
74	.785	.985	.0028	Normal
75	.785	.985	.0028	Normal
76	.785	.985	.0028	Normal
77	.785	.985	.0028	Normal
78	.790	.985	.0028	Light
79	.790	.985	.0028	Light
80	.785	.990	.0028	Light
81	.785	.990	.0028	Normal
82	.785	.990	.0028	Normal
83	.785	.990	.0028	Normal
84	.785	.990	.0028	Normal
85	.790	.990	.0028	Light
86	.790	.990	.0028	Normal
87	.785	.980	.0029	Normal
88	.785	.985	.0029	Normal
89	.785	.985	.0029	Normal
90	.780	.980	.0030	Light
91	.790	.980	.0030	Normal
92	.785	.985	.0030	Light
93	.785	.985	.0030	Normal
94	.785	.985	.0030	Normal
95	.785	.985	.0030	Normal
96	.785	.990	.0030	Normal
97	.785	.990	.0030	Normal
98	.790	.990	.0030	Normal
99	.790	.990	.0030	Normal
100	.790	.990	.0030	Normal
101	.785	.990	.0031	Normal
102	.785	.990	.0032	Normal
103	.790	.990	.0033	Normal
104	.785	.985	.0034	Normal
Average	.784	.985		

3c Continental—Summary of Dimensions of Design of Ribbed Paper Stamps.

NOTE.—Number measured; Vert. Ribs, 17; Hor. Ribs, 96. "V" indicates column for Vertically ribbed stamps, etc.

WIDTH OF DESIGN

Length	.760"		.765"		.770"		.775"		.780"		.785"		.790"	
	V.	H.	V.	H.	V.	H.	V.	H.	V.	H.	V.	H.	V.	H.
.975									1		1			2
.980									13		12			3
.985									6		35			9
.990					35				1		16			
.995	6				11		24		12		1			
1.000									12					

The above summary indicates that all vertically ribbed stamps are .990" or more in length and .780" or less in width and that all horizontally ribbed stamps are .990" or less in length and .780" or more in width. That is, the

vertically ribbed stamps are almost invariably longer than any normal stamp not on ribbed paper and that over 80% of the horizontally ribbed stamps are wider than normal specimens not on ribbed paper.

Thickness of Papers Used in Various Printings.

(Thickness is given in ten-thousandths of an inch.)

Thickness. Inches.	National		Continental		American		Re-engraved	
	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.
.0019	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
.0020	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
.0021	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
.0022	1	1	7	2	—	—	—	—
.0023	4	4	3	1	—	—	—	—
.0024	6	6	16	5	—	—	—	—
.0025	22	22	56	18	1	—	—	—
.0026	15	15	33	11	2	1	3	4
.0027	19	19	54	17	2	1	2	3
.0028	14	14	59	19	12	4	3	4
.0029	9	9	18	6	5	2	1	1
.0030	4	4	38	12	46	15	20	25
.0031	1	1	7	2	8	3	1	2
.0032	2	2	12	4	49	17	13	17
.0033	1	1	3	1	45	15	6	9
.0034	—	—	2	1	49	17	8	11
.0035	—	—	—	—	35	12	6	8
.0036	—	—	—	—	18	6	4	5
.0037	—	—	—	—	13	4	3	4
.0038	—	—	—	—	6	2	2	3
.0039	—	—	—	—	4	1	2	3
.0040	—	—	—	—	4	1	1	1
.0041	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Observed	100		311		301		75	

Summary of Paper Measurements.

National,	83%	included between	.0025	and	.0030
Continental,	83%	"	"	"	.0025 " .0030
Continental, Ribbed,	83%	"	"	"	.0025 " .0028
American,	85%	"	"	"	.0030 " .0036
Re-engraved,	77%	"	"	"	.0030 " .0036

I believe that the foregoing record of paper thicknesses will serve to reduce the amount of guess work which has characterized paper descriptions. I found that some of the "thin" paper, submitted by several of our well known "experts," measured over .0030" and that some of the "thick" papers of which they were equally positive in their descriptive terms, measured less than .0026", merely proving that they guessed incorrectly. I have learned that the *texture* of the paper controls the opinions generally rendered as to its thickness. I believe that some day the use of an accurate micrometer will supersede the pinching and flipping and smelling and snapping by means of which our authorities form their valued opinions relative to the thickness of paper.

---

### Double Paper.

The National printings include several values on double paper, made under the specifications of the Steel patent which was issued February 16, 1869. It is probable that the three cent stamp exists on this paper although all that are reported by Luff are two values, the six cent and the twenty-four cent. All of the lower values of the Continental printings have been found on double paper. The shades of the 3c stamp on this paper are "Green, Dark Green, Pale Blue-Green," according to Luff.

The paper consists of a comparatively thick base which is approximately .0025" thick and a thinner sheet which measures about .0012", making the total average thickness of the double paper stamps .0037" although copies are found varying in thickness from .0035" to .0041". Contrary to the general belief I have found that continued boiling in violently agitated water will not separate the two sheets composing a double paper stamp and I doubt if any have been separated by soaking in cold water. In looking for these things I measure the thickness of the stamps and any that are found to exceed .0034" are laid aside as "suspects" and later, boiled for five minutes. After this the stamp is laid upon a glass surface and an instrument with a razor edge about 0.10" in length (made from a strip of the blade of a safety razor) is used in starting the break between the two sheets forming the stamp. Any stamp on reasonably thick paper can be split for a short distance by this process and the entire batch of "suspects" is thus treated and

laid aside for about twenty minutes. The corners of the stamp, thus separated, afford holds for two pairs of straight edged tweezers. After the moisture has practically all evaporated, but while the glue or size in the paper is still "plastic" an attempt is made to lengthen the separation between the two corners which have been "scraped" apart. If the stamp separates cleanly and easily, and does not tear through either sheet, it is assuredly a double paper specimen, but if the tendency is for one of the corners to tear loose from the stamp it may be regarded as a "thick paper" variety. In the average batch of ten Continental stamps suspected to be on double paper, the harvest usually consists of about eight specimens. The value of the micrometer is therefore readily apparent. The instrument which I use for these measurements was specially constructed for this work and the ordinary micrometer calipers are practically useless in this connection.

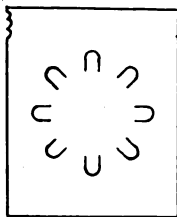
Practically all of the American printings can be separated into two sheets of paper because the ink and the varnish and drier contained therein form a semi-waterproof, compact surface fabric from which the back of the stamp may be detached. These are not "double paper" stamps and are not often offered as such.

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### Chemical Papers.

Various experiments with papers in which some sensitive chemical had been incorporated, were made during the period in which the Continental stamps were being printed and some of these stamps have been found on the "safety" papers. They are known on yellow-brown and violet colored papers although these colors may be the result of chemical action. The stamps on the violet colored paper are nothing more than experimental essays and those on the brown papers deserve about the same status. The violet papers are either laid or wove. Paper men are familiar with a flood of patents of this kind, issued from 1865 to 1885. Some of these papers were so sensitive that the action of "impure" air, containing low percentages of harmless gases, would completely alter their color and thus destroy their usefulness. One "historian" mentions a consignment of this paper which changed color while it was being used in the press room of a well known printing company.

### Fletcher or "Cogwheel" Punch.



FLETCHER PATENT  
"COGWHEEL PUNCH"  
No. 91,108 - JUNE 8, 1869.

The one cent and three cent stamps of the Continental series received extensive treatment at the hands of another inventor of the period. The patent dated June 8, 1869, issued to C. A. Fletcher, procures for that gentleman the proceeds resulting from the use of a circular series of eight "U" shaped punches as a means of preventing the second use of the postage stamps to which his patent had been applied. The one cent stamp and the three cent stamp issued by the Continental Bank Note Co., were used as a basis of experiment. Ten thousand of these stamps were made and sold at the Washington post office in 1877. The invention had practically no merit and it met a deserved fate after having afforded some of the stamp dealers of that period another opportunity for a corner in "rarities."

### The Grills.

Some of the stamps printed by the National Bank Note Co. were grilled in 1870 and 1871. That company printed about 1,200,000,000 3c stamps and of these about 2% or 2,500,000 were grilled. The work on the grills on these stamps is in the nature of reluctant and perfunctory compliance with the stipulated terms of a contract rather than a workman-like attempt at obtaining the effect indicated by the terms of the specifications.

The grill was tentatively supposed to break the paper fibers over an area of about one-fourth of the stamp, instead of which the characteristic grill often consists of a few irregular indentations of practically no value for the purpose intended, showing, quite often, but ten or fifteen raised points out of a total which should have consisted of from 120 to 208.

In some specimens the only evidence of a grill is a few minute raised points.

The ordinary specimen usually shows comparatively faint traces of the grilling over about one-fourth of the intended area. The points are generally less distinct in the outer rows than in the "interior" of the grill. In one grilled block of four in my collection the left edges of the grills are well defined, the remaining sections fading into invisibility at the right. In another large block in mint condition the only evidence of the grill is a faintly impressed, *solid* line about .25" long in relatively the same position on each of twelve stamps. Some of the remaining stamps in the same block show no trace of the grill, while on four more copies in the same block the grill stands out like those on some of the clear issues of 1867. Pairs exist in which one stamp shows the grill and the other does not.

The grill with 11x13 rows of points is the one most often seen although this size may easily be mistaken for the ones with 10x14 or 11x14 points. The following sizes are recorded by Luff. (Size in points):

10 x 12
10 x 13
11 x 11
11 x 13
12 x 14
13 x 15
13 x 16

In Goodwin's "Specialized United States" the following grills are listed:

Size in Millimeters.	Size in "Points."
8 x 10	10 x 12
8 x 10½	10 x 13
8½ x 9	11 x 11
8½ x 9½	11 x 12
8½ x 10½	11 x 13
8½ x 11½	11 x 14
8½ x 12½	11 x 16
10 x 12	13 x 15
10 x 12½	13 x 16
11 x 12½	14 x 16

Future observations, made with the assistance of a healthy imagination and inaccurate instruments, will no doubt increase this list to some slight degree but we must admit that the field is somewhat limited.

The points on these grills are spaced 32 per inch so that the above points may be read correctly and interchangeably as "thirty-seconds of an inch."






Stevenson, in the *Collectors' Journal*, has elaborated upon the subject of grills and has advanced several new ideas, among which he states his belief in the theory that the grill roller was subjected to one or more "trimmings" which produced grills of various character. A

review of the possible varieties which might be produced by one unaltered roller under other variable conditions, and a consideration of the spirit in which the National Bank Note Company executed their work leads me to doubt that they indulged in any trimming (except where the Government was concerned) or other superfluous refinements tending to improve the output wherever these refinements involved an expenditure of time or money.

The last grills noted in the issue of 1867 consisted of 11x16, 11x17, 12x15, or 12x16 points and it is probable that the same roller used on these stamps, after having been idle for four years during the intervening issue of 1869 on which the grills were much smaller, was again brought into service for the stamps of the 1870 issue.

It is my belief that this roller may have been trimmed up and used for these later stamps, or that a new roller was made and used but I do not believe that more than one roller was used nor that the one which was used was ever retouched after having been put in service.

There are several types of impressions in the 1870 grilled stamps:

- |   |              |   |                       |
|---|--------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | .....        |    | PIN POINTS            |
| 2 | XXXX         |    | CROSSES               |
| 3 | XXXX         |   | TRUNCATED PYRAMIDS    |
| 4 | XXXX         |  | "RIDGE" PYRAMIDS      |
| 5 | XXXX<br>XXXX |  | ROUNDED, BLUNT, DOTS. |

### GRILL POINTS

1. Pin-point punctures made by the tips or points of the grills.
2. Pointed pyramids, which produced crosses in the flattened paper.
3. Truncated pyramids, producing "squares" in the paper, inclosed in other "squares."
4. Ridge pyramids, caused by inaccurate machine work in making the roller.
5. Blunt, rounded dots.

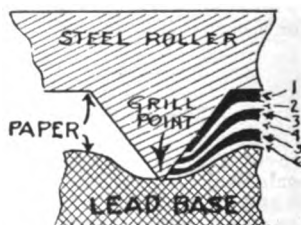
I believe that all of these were produced by the same roller and were not the result of alterations in the roller nor the use of different rollers.

Assuming that the points on the roller were reasonably sharp and that several sheets of stamps were fed through the machine at the same time, the result

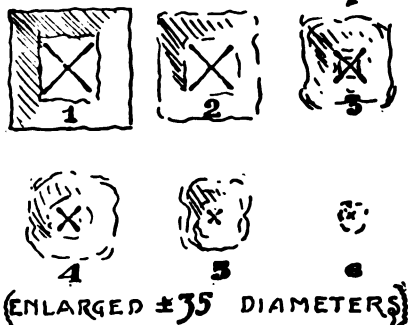
would be as many different types of grills as there were sheets of stamps.

It is impossible to believe that the sheets of stamps were fed through the machine singly. The height of the grill points was equal to the thickness of from six to ten gummed sheets, under pressure, and the operator would have quickly determined the maximum permissible number of sheets upon which the impressions would show. It may have been that extra intervening tissue sheets were used between the printed sheets for the purpose of preventing any possible adhesion between the gum and the ink, but as this would have meant considerable extra expense for labor and material it may well be discarded. Eliminating the "intervening sheet" idea it is probable that about five sheets of stamps were fed under the grill roller at each operation. The resulting grills are herewith illustrated.

One or two sheets nearest the backing material would show pin points; the sheets near the middle of the pile would show blunt, rounded impressions and the two sheets nearest the grill roller would show fairly perfect pyramids, the character of which would be modified in the subsequent operation of flattening out the grills. I have no belief in the theory that any special "flattening" process was made to form part of the routine through which these stamps were manufactured. The lower



### 6 SHEETS UNDER GRILL RESULTING GRILLS



(ENLARGED  $\pm 35$  DIAMETERS)

sheets of a pile of paper more than six inches high are usually pretty flat after a few hours of "weighting".

The edges of the pyramids forming the grills could not have been sharp and clean angles at any time, for such a condition would produce cuts as clean as those made by a razor. None of these grills are found in which the paper has been cut cleanly. The paper invariably shows signs of having been subjected to tension and not shear, and the fibers have been pulled apart and not cut as would have been the case had the corners of the pyramids been reasonably sharp. Sharp edged pyramids, pressed into lead, do not strain and roughen the fibers of an intervening sheet of paper,—the action is that similar to that of pressing the sharp edge of a knife blade into a sheet of paper, and the results are the same. We must believe, therefore, that a roller with dulled pyramids was used and that several sheets of paper were fed through at each operation.

The substance against which the grill roller worked was probably a lead plate during the early days of the patent, but by 1870 I believe that the operators would have discovered several preferable substances. Luff refers to cardboard in this connection where he writes relative to the grills believed to have been formed by truncated pyramids on the roller. In this instance the stamp referred to is an early type of the 3c 1867. Cardboard would not have been satisfactory because it was undoubtedly too hard and because it would have furred up and lost its identity after a few passes of the grill roller, thus necessitating frequent renewals of a comparatively expensive substance.

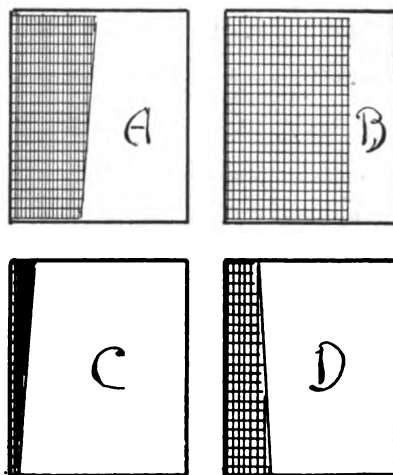
Sheet lead would flow under a roller similar to the grill roller. It would, at the same time, become correspondingly thinner. If the roller were maintained at a fixed distance from the base supporting the lead plate it is evident that the impressions would quickly lose their early form.

It is possible that an alloy of lead, somewhat harder than that metal, was used, and that a few preliminary passes of the roller, under pressure, created a series of depressions in the metal bed which were accurately meshed in subsequent passes of the roller. The continuous bands of embossing around the ends of the roller were possibly left there with the object of securing this perfect "register" rather than as a positive feed device for the sheets of paper which would *not* have required a device of this kind to have kept it in position.

We have considered cardboard, lead, and a somewhat harder metal like babbitt metal, as possible backing substances for the grill roller. An argument tending to disprove the metal backing theory is that not the faintest trace of metallic lead can be found on these stamps under the most powerful microscopes. We know that any paper brought into intimate contact with clean metallic lead or other similar soft metal will retain traces of the metal, often visible to the unaided eye and invariably visible under a microscope of moderate power. I do not, therefore, believe that a lead plate was used in this connection. I think it probable that a backing of leather, fiber, rubber, cork, canvas, or some similar substance was used. Leather is quite within reason. It was easily obtainable, cheap (where length of service is considered), was elastic, firm, soft, durable, and would not have worn rapidly nor shredded nor "flowed" under the action of the grill roller. Grills produced upon a leather backing would be more nearly the duplicates of the genuine grills, point for point, than those resulting from any other process.

I believe that I have shown, in the foregoing paragraphs, that the different grills were probably the result of varying methods of manufacture and varying conditions rather than the result of the use of more than one grill roller.

#### Marginal Grills.



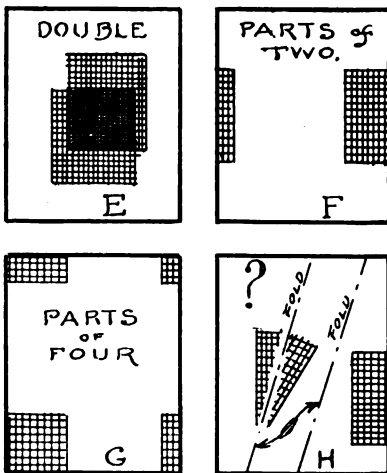
"MARGINAL" GRILLS.



These grills extend the full length of the stamp as shown in the illustration. Nearly all of the 1870 series have been found with this marginal grill which was the result of contact between the edge of the stamp and the band of embossing around the end of the grill roller. A sheet of stamps fed into the machine too far to one side or at a slight angle might easily traverse the distance between the regular rectangular grills and the marginal grill. This distance was at least one inch and probably nearer two inches.

The marginal grills are very scarce. The 3c stamp showing this grill is worth at least \$2.50.

### Double Grills, Etc.



### GRILL VARIETIES

Double grills are comparatively scarce. They are the result of a second grilling of the sheet. The incentive prompting this process would probably have been an attempt on the part of the operator to rectify the unsatisfactory product of his haste or carelessness. Where the stamp has passed through the grilling machine twice, one grill will generally be found to have been more heavily impressed than the other.

About one sheet in fifty was fed into the machine in a position resulting in the presence of parts of two or four grills on the same stamp. Stamps showing parts of four grills in their true relative positions as illustrated, are rarely

seen although they are known to exist. The register of the grilling machine lengthwise of the stamp was evidently susceptible to more perfect regulation than was the transverse register, as the grills are more often out of position transversely than vertically.

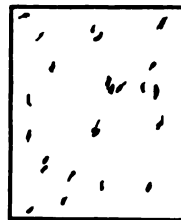
Stamps showing various irregular grilled areas caused by folds in the sheet at the time it was fed through the machine are recorded by Luff. These peculiar errors would probably occur only at a corner of the sheet. They are very uncommon, and the "average collector," has never seen one.

### 3c 1873, Grilled.

Among other values, a few three cent stamps of the Continental issue were grilled in 1876, forwarded to Washington, and there sold to the public. It is known that a new grill roller was made for this series of grilled stamps. Campbell and Watt, machinists of New York, were the men who made this roller.

This action in grilling these stamps was the result of a suggestion made by officials of the Continental Bank Note Co., during the hearing of a stamp cleaning case in the Federal courts in 1876. The grill roller used in this instance may still exist as the ultimate fate thereof is not available for record. The roller used on the stamps printed by the National Bank Note Company, was destroyed in 1884, as a grill roller. It was transformed into a ticket chopper and was used for destroying tickets which had been used in paying tolls on the Brooklyn Bridge.

### Straw Paper.



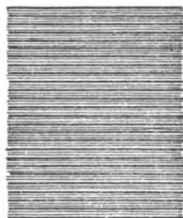
"STRAW" PAPER AS SEEN IN CONTINENTAL AND AMERICAN ISSUES.

About 10% of the stamps ordinarily accredited to the Continental Bank Note Company show straw fibers in the paper. Practically all of the stamps printed by the American Bank Note Company show these straw fibers and it is possible that the "Continental" having these fibers are from that indeterminate group printed just before the American company took charge, in the early weeks of 1879, at which date the Continental company had already begun the use of the softer papers which later formed what we know as the "American" paper. This straw paper is not, however, a soft paper. It is firm and snappy and crisp. These stamps range in thickness from .0024" to .0031". Fully 90% of these stamps will measure either .0025" or .0030", the other 10% being "outlaws" of various thickness. The majority of the stamps measure .0025".

The dimensions of the design vary from .775"x.975" to .785"x.990". The average dimension is .7825"x.9825".

The straw fibers are plainly visible to the unaided eye. The color of these fibers is usually light brown, forming a strong contrast with the normal wood fiber. The average fiber length is .03". Copies showing but one fiber should not generally be accepted without careful examination. The typical copies used for the above measurements showed from 15 to 25 distinct fibers in each stamp. Holding the stamp to the light often reveals the presence of additional fibers in the interior of the paper structure, thus proving conclusively that the paper pulp contained a percentage of straw and that the visible fibers were not accumulated subsequent to manufacture, by contact with pasteboard, strawboard or straw fiber envelopes. This paper is comparatively common and forms a distinct variety which to the best of my knowledge, has never been recognized or previously noted. It deserves exactly the same status as the "rag" papers of a recent date but it will never be as notorious or as valuable. It is too plentiful to afford much amusement for the philatelic crooks identified with some of the darker chapters of the rag paper days but it will no doubt prove to be an interesting detail for the studious collector of these issues.

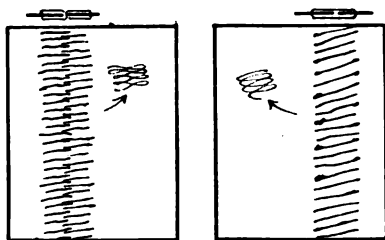
### The "Two-One" Paper.



THE "TWO-ONE"  
RIBBED PAPER.

This paper was shown to me some months ago by W. L. Stevenson. In looking through an assorted lot of Continental 3c stamps I found two copies in 2,000 stamps examined so I assume that it is fairly scarce. The horizontal ribbing appears to consist of one heavy line followed by two lighter ones, from which the paper has derived its name. It appears somewhat as shown in the illustration. Vertical ribs, similar to the commoner "ribbed paper", are present in the copies which I have seen but they are not as clear as the typical "2-1" horizontal ribs. The heavy lines are spaced about 23 per inch, which, multiplied by three, gives the spacing of heavy and light ribs, which is about 70 per inch. Alternate spaces between heavy ribs seem to be slightly greater than intervening ones. The color is a soft, pale bluish green. The impressions are not sharp. The thickness of the paper is .0027" to .0028".

### Stitch Watermarks.



NATIONAL CONTINENTAL  
AMERICAN RE-ENGRAVED.  
STITCH WATERMARKS.

Approximately one stamp in every thousand should show in the body of the paper, evidence of the impression made in the wet pulp by the stitches with which the ends of the continuous web of the paper machine were sewed together. On all the specimens which I have seen this "watermark" is vertical. This watermark would invariably be transverse to the "machine direction" of the paper,—that is the direction in which the paper travels through the machine.

This watermark is more easily seen in the thicker papers when the stamp is held so that the light is reflected from it to the eye in a line approximately at right angles to the surface of the stamp. In the thinner papers the stitch watermark is easily seen by holding the stamp to the light. There are peculiar exceptions to both of these rules. The stitches are usually spaced about 40 per inch in the National and Continental issues and 30 per inch in the American and Re-engraved issues.

In the National and earlier Continental stamps the stitches are generally the "over and under" type, similar to that used in sewing the cover upon a baseball, while in the later stamps of the Continental company and in those of the American issues the stitches were the "over and over" type. These differences are easily seen in the resulting watermarks.

#### Shades and Inks.

These stamps have been found in the following shades which are quoted direct from the notes by Luff. To this list I have added the names of the pigments which match the shades of the stamps and which will serve as a positive means of identification.

##### NATIONAL.

1. Pale green, green, pale yellow-green, yellow-green, deep green, pale green.

2. Malachite green, plant green, cobalt green, Hooker's green, (deep), cinnabar green (deep).

##### CONTINENTAL.

1. Bright yellow-green, pale yellow-green, yellow-green, deep yellow-green, green, dark green, blue-green, dark blue-green, olive-green, pale dull green, dull green, dark dull green, gray-green, pale blue-green.

2. Malachite green, permanent green (light), cobalt green (deep), plant green, cinnabar green (deep), Alazarine green (deep), chrome green.

##### AMERICAN.

1. Pale bright green, yellow-green,

dull green, deep dull green, gray-green, dark green, myrtle green.

2. Plant green, green lake (deep), Hooker's green (deep), cinnabar green (deep).

##### RE-ENGRAVED.

1. Gray-green, yellow-green, blue-green.

2. Cobalt green (deep), plant green.

Under the action of acids all of these stamps lose the yellow pigment and turn blue and "cleaned" stamps will usually show a decided bluish tone.

#### The Plates.

The numbers of the plates from which these 3c stamps were printed are as follows:

##### NATIONAL.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 25, 29, 31, 32, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 54, 55; Total, 27 plates.

##### CONTINENTAL.

1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 135, 136, 138, 139, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 231, 232, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 309, 310; Total, 112 plates.

##### AMERICAN.

311, 312, 321, 322, 323, 324, 329, 330, 334, 335, 340, 341, 341A, 342, 343, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 350A, 351, 352, 357, 358; Total, 26 plates.

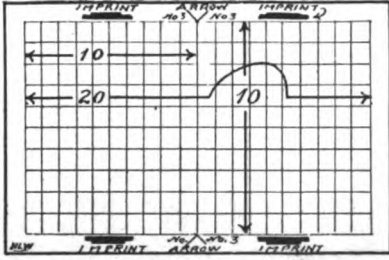
##### RE-ENGRAVED.

365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 395, 396, 397, 398, 408, 409, 410, 411, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421; Total, 34 plates.

The last plate of those recorded in the Re-engraved series was used for printing the vermilion stamp. It is No. 421. No other plate was used for the vermilion stamp.

The plates contained 200 subjects arranged in two panes, side by side, of 100 stamps each. All of the plates listed above were plates of 200 subjects and no other sizes were used for printing the 3c stamps.

My only source of information on this subject is the book written by Luff and the following quotations are lifted intact from that work.



**PLATE DIAGRAM**  
for

**NATIONAL, CONTINENTAL, and  
AMERICAN PLATES.**

"The imprint appears at the middle of the top and bottom of each half of the (National) plate. Between each imprint and the central dividing line is the number of the plate, in script numerals, preceded by "No." Two styles of imprint were used. The first was "NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK" in white capitals, on a small panel with rounded ends, surrounded by two thin colored lines. The second imprint was "ENGRAVED AND PRINTED BY THE—NATIONAL BANK-NOTE CO. NEW YORK", in two lines of white capitals, on a tablet with pearly edge and surrounded by a single thin colored line. The first variety has been seen on plates numbered as high as 27 and the second on 32 and higher numbers."

"The imperforate three cent stamps were printed from plate 11."

"Only a very limited amount of information can be obtained in regard to the plate numbers of the embossed stamps. The following numbers are all that are known but doubtless many other plates were used especially for the one, two, and three cent stamps." (For the three cent stamp, plate No. 11 is the only one listed.)



**NATIONAL**



**CONTINENTAL**

The plates used by the Continental Bank Note Company were commenced in 1873 and the first plate was completed on April 7, of that year. These plates were engraved with a "secret" mark, which in the instance of the three cent stamp consists of a heavy line of shading on the lower margin of the upper fork of the ribbon which bears the word "THREE." A period of over twenty years elapsed before the keen(?) eyed collector discovered the existence of these secret marks. These secret marks were added to the Continental stamps for the purpose of distinguishing the work of the Continental Bank Note Company from that of their predecessors. None of the National plates were used for the three cent stamps by the Continental Company.

In printing these stamps the Continental Bank Note Company used two steam



No. 1

"NATIONAL" IMPRINT.

*No. 3*



No. 2

"NATIONAL" IMPRINT.

*No. 2*



No. 3

"CONTINENTAL" IMPRINT.

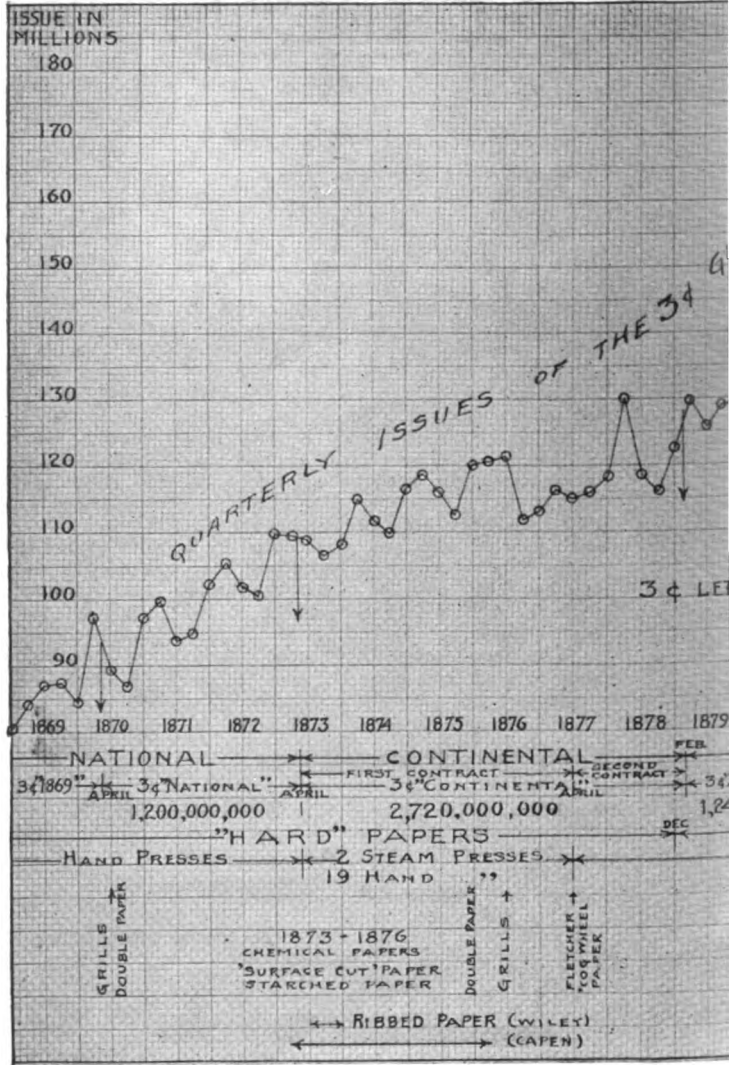
*No. 23*



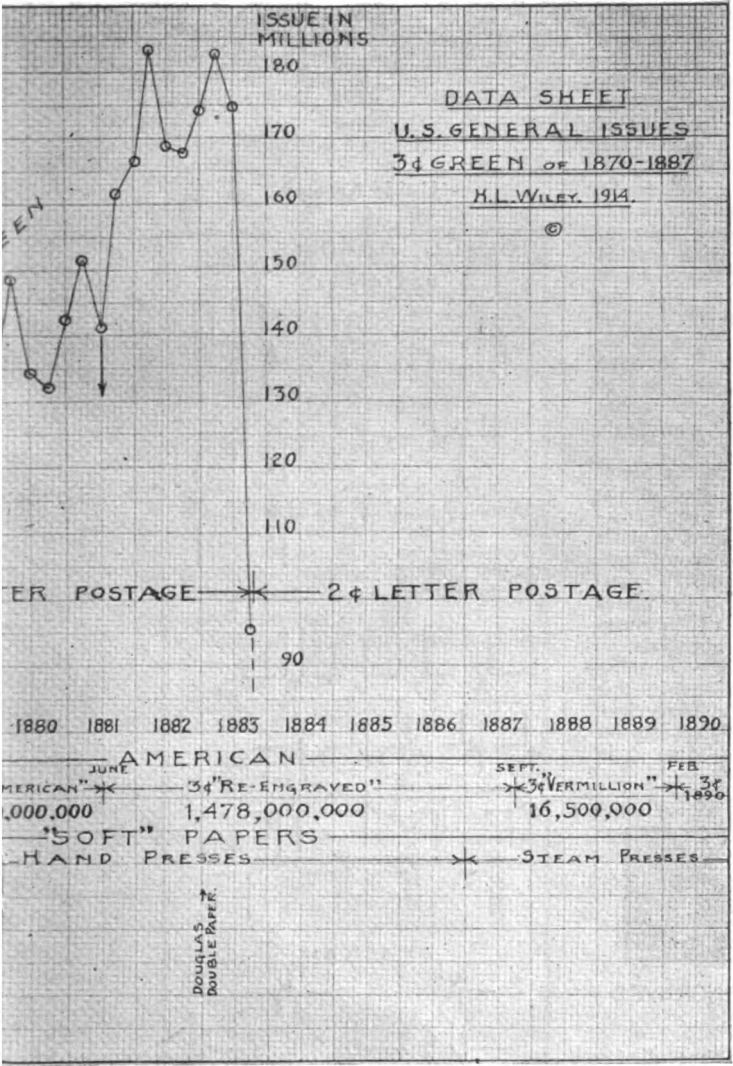
No. 4

"AMERICAN" IMPRINT.

*No. 411*



DATA SHEET U. S.



1870-1887, 3c GREEN.

presses and nineteen hand presses. Luff states that the following plates were used on the steam press: 3c Plates; Nos. 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 180, 187, 193.

The American Bank Note Company with which the Continental Company was consolidated on February 4, 1879, used several of the plates of the previous issue, among which 292, 309, and 310 are listed by Luff. It is probable that a considerable number were used in addition to those noted.

In regard to the Continental imprints, Luff states that "The imprint appears at the middle of the top and bottom of each half of the plate. It is very much like the second style used by the National Bank Note Company and reads, "PRINTED BY THE—CONTINENTAL BANK-NOTE CO. NEW YORK." in two lines of white capitals, on a panel with beveled edges and surrounded by a thin colored line. Between each imprint and the central dividing line appear "No." and the plate number. Numbers 2 to 193 inclusive are ordinary numerals inserted with punches. Numbers 1 and 219 to 310 inclusive (except 233) are script numerals, from 5½ to 7½ mm. high, engraved on the plates."

The American imprints, on the plates made by that company consisted of the words, "AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY," in heavy faced, shaded capitals without frame or other surroundings. The imprints and plate numbers occupied the same positions as on the plates of the previous contractors. The numbers were all in small italic numerals.

The "Re-engraved" plates, forming one of our principal divisions in this article, were made by the American Bank Note Company and the imprint and location thereof are the same as in the "American" issue.



ORIGINAL

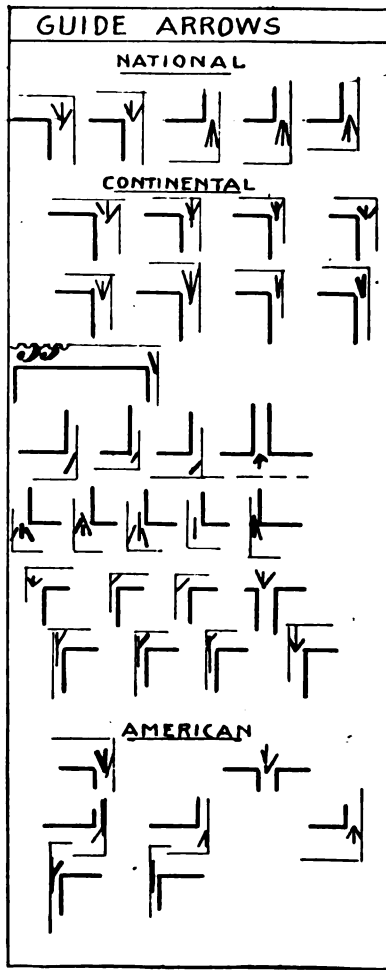


RE-ENGRAVED

The re-engraved stamps are distinguishable from the preceding issue printed by the American Bank Note Company, through various minor differences in the design. The most noticeable detail is a short horizontal dash, 0.05" in length, which has been added below the "ts" of

"Cents." This dash is about 0.04" above the lower edge of the design. The most striking feature of the re-engraved stamps is the apparent lack of shading adjoining the white oval surrounding the portrait. The shading around this oval medallion appears to be but half as wide as in the former issues. The addition of vertical lines to the background of the medallion renders it a solid mass of color in the majority of cases. The original lines of various areas of the shield and background have been deepened.

Guide Arrows.



### Plate Lines.

No "guide lines" were engraved on any of these 3c plates. The upper and lower margins show small "arrows" at the middle of the sheet. The arrows, as usual, point toward the center of the sheet. Stamps which show parts of the arrow and the numerals of the plate number are sometimes found.

The illustration shows the characteristics of the various marginal arrows which are available for study in my personal accumulation.

Out of a total of 38 stamps showing arrows on the margins the locations were as follows:

Corner of Stamp.	Position.					Total.	Per Cent.
	National.	Continental.	American.	Re-Engraved.			
N. E.	2	9	2	—	13	34%	
S. E.	3	4	3	—	10	26%	
S. W.	—	5	—	—	5	13%	
N. W.	—	8	2	—	10	26%	
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Found,	5	26	7	0			

Per cent., 14% 68% 18% 0%

The 38 stamps showing arrows on the margin were found in an "unpicked" lot of 6,000 mixed National, Continental and American issues. The normal yield should be one "arrow" stamp for every fifty examined in case the sheets were cut exactly on the arrows.

In this case but one stamp in one hundred and sixty shows the arrow.

### Perforation.

All of these stamps were perforated 12. Luff reports the three cent Continental imperforate and in a horizontal pair, imperforate between the stamps. In the National issue, he reports the three cent stamp imperforate, and another variety with "Impression on the reverse." The imperforate three cent National was from plate No. 11.

Wide margins are common in all of these issues and alleged imperforate stamps are often offered to the uninformed. Copies showing parts of adjoining stamps on both sides and with large margins at top and bottom are not uncommon. The normal top or bottom margins of the top or bottom rows were about three times as wide as the common "interior" margins and the top and bottom horizontal rows of perforations usually run through the imprint so that stamps are often found with wide up-

per or lower margins which show parts of the marginal imprint. The distance between the designs of adjoining stamps varies from .09" to .11", the average being very nearly .10". This distance is approximately the same in all issues and in both vertical and horizontal directions although the stamps are somewhat nearer together vertically than horizontally. I believe that it was the intention of the manufacturers to make these spaces exactly one-tenth of one inch and that the variations from this dimension are mechanical errors. The theoretical "stamp distance" is therefore 1.1" vertically and 0.90" horizontally as the designs approximate 1.00"x0.80", but actual measurements will almost invariably show quantities slightly smaller than this.

### Cancellations.

The earlier stamps were cancelled with whatever happened to be available, and the appropriately whittled end of a broomstick seems to have had an extended vogue. About ten per cent. of all the stamps observed had received colored cancellations of which blue predominated. The colored and pen cancellations in a mixed lot of these stamps will run about as follows:

Type.	Quantity.
Pen,	2%
Color,	10%
Red,	1/12 of 1%
Purple,	5/12 of 1%
Blue,	8%

"Paid" cancellations are quite rare. Dated cancellations which are of great value in determining the approximate time of printing are scarce. The philatelist fortunate enough to own more than ten dated copies of these stamps should use his accumulation as a basis for a larger collection of these things, adding to it as opportunity offers. The date on the stamp is of value in establishing the status of the specimen and as a contribution to the data applicable to the various issues of a similar kind.

An analysis of the pen cancellations existing on 103 copies of the 3c National and Continental issues is recorded herewith. The fact that about 90% of the pen cancelled stamps observed are copies in which the cancellation falls completely on the stamp and does not extend to the envelope may be of value in considering some of the "bisected provisionals" which are offered to collectors from time to time in which "philatelic evidence" in the form of numerous pen strokes extending over both stamp and paper are strongly in "evidence."



**Pen Cancellations. 3c National and Continental Issues.**

Type of Cancellation.	No. Found.	C. on Stamp Only	C. on Stamp & Envelope
Initial	2	2	—
Endorsement	3	2	1
Scrawl	7	7	—
1 Stroke	3	1	2
2 Stroke	14	10	4
3 Stroke	26	24	2
4 Stroke	1	1	—
5 Stroke	2	2	—
2 Crossed 1-1	12	11	1
3 Crossed 1-2	10	10	—
4 Crossed 2-2	16	15	1
4 Crossed 1-3	3	2	1
5 Crossed 2-3	2	2	—
7 Crossed 3-4	1	1	—
8 Crossed 4-4	1	1	—
Total,	103	91	12
Percentage,	100%	88%	12%

**Statistics of Issue.**

The student may be one who takes an interest in comparative statistics and for his benefit and for the sake of completeness as far as it may be attained by my efforts, I have burdened this article with the following figures taken from Luff's Encyclopedia.

**Quarterly Reports Showing Number of 3c Postage Stamps Issued from 1870 to 1890.**

For Quarter Ending	Number	For Quarter Ending	Number
12-31-1869	84,567,400	9-30-1880	132,174,800
3-31-1870	97,434,900	12-31-1880	142,142,100
6-30-1870	89,449,100	3-31-1881	151,953,500
9-30-1870	86,944,500	6-30-1881	141,143,400
12-31-1870	97,146,100	9-30-1881	161,825,800
3-31-1871	99,791,100	12-31-1881	166,676,000
6-30-1871	93,719,500	3-31-1882	183,352,000
9-30-1871	94,873,100	6-30-1882	168,609,900
12-31-1871	102,041,000	9-30-1882	167,930,400
3-31-1872	105,623,600	12-31-1882	174,138,800
6-30-1872	101,963,800	3-31-1883	182,868,500
9-30-1872	100,535,000	6-30-1883	174,862,100
12-31-1872	109,830,000	9-30-1883	95,461,000
3-31-1873	109,519,800	12-31-1883	5,000
6-30-1873	108,729,600	3-31-1884	25,200
9-30-1873	106,718,300	6-30-1884	34,900
12-31-1873	108,041,600	9-31-1884	.....
3-31-1874	115,068,100	12-31-1884	200,000
6-30-1874	111,708,600	3-31-1885	66,000
9-30-1874	109,835,800	6-30-1885	153,000
12-31-1874	116,605,600	9-30-1885	200,000
3-31-1875	118,961,600	12-31-1885	155,500
6-30-1875	115,932,500	3-31-1886	319,600
9-30-1875	112,466,600	6-30-1886	201,200
12-31-1875	120,080,400	9-30-1886	61,100
3-31-1876	120,640,200	12-31-1886	312,000
6-30-1876	121,529,000	3-31-1887	791,500
9-30-1876	111,583,700	6-30-1887	100,000
12-31-1876	112,827,900	9-30-1887	100,500
3-31-1877	116,530,000	12-31-1887	604,100
6-30-1877	115,192,300	3-31-1888	1,884,700
9-30-1877	115,943,700	6-30-1888	1,441,100
12-31-1877	118,525,600	9-30-1888	825,300
3-31-1878	130,316,300	12-31-1888	1,715,400
6-30-1878	118,542,900	3-31-1889	2,005,200
9-30-1878	115,967,700	6-30-1889	1,545,700
12-31-1878	122,377,100	9-30-1889	3,588,900
3-31-1879	129,675,600	12-31-1889	1,085,500
6-30-1879	125,633,600	3-31-1890	2,805,400
9-30-1879	128,951,300	6-30-1890	2,666,500
12-31-1879	129,452,900	9-30-1890	2,053,700
3-31-1880	143,615,700	12-31-1890	2,596,300
6-30-1880	134,568,700		

The approximate totals of each issue are as follows:

National	1,200,000,000
Continental,	2,720,000,000
American,	1,240,000,000
Re-engraved,	1,478,000,000
Vermilion,	16,500,000
Total, except vermilion stamps,	6,638,000,000

Under date of January 14, 1885, A. D. Hazen, then Third Assistant Postmaster General, in recommending the destruction of the existing stock of official stamps and other obsolete issues of the regular series, included in his letter the following paragraph:

"I have excepted from this recommendation the 3c stamps of the ordinary series of which there are 135,800 in the vault, for the reason that though their general use has been discontinued occasional calls are made for them by some of the larger offices."

In compliance with another clause in the recommendations made by Mr. Hazen, the Postmaster-General, under date of January 14, 1885, ordered that plates for all obsolete, ordinary and official stamps be cancelled, "except one working plate of each." In the Issue of 1870, as it was officially known, which was then the current series, the plates for the 3c, 5c, 7c, 12c and 24c denominations were included among those ordered cancelled. The intention of the Department was to keep the original dies, one or more transfer rolls, and one working plate, of each denomination.

On February 24, 1885, the committee reported that the destruction of the various stamps had been accomplished as ordered, except for certain issues and denominations of the Newspaper and Periodical stamps, with which we are not at present concerned.

**Provisional Issues, Etc.**

To the best of my knowledge, none of the 3 cent stamps under discussion, were used in an irregular manner. Bissected provisionals and pre-cancelled issues are not recorded by any philatelic writer nor have such stamps appeared. Mr. Luff speaks of a stamp which may possibly be in the nature of a provisional issue but it is improbable that such is the true status of the stamp.

He says: "I have in my collection, a 3 cent green of the regular issue of 1882 which is over-printed in two lines in black, 'P. O. DEPT.—24c' with a bar across the original value. This stamp was presented to me by Mr. C. A. Townsend who writes that he knows nothing about the stamp except that he found five or six copies including one

pair in a large quantity of stamps which he purchased some years ago. The stamps had been accumulated by a young lady who was not a philatelist who had made the oft repeated attempt to collect a 'million stamps.' My copy is uncancelled."

**Re-Issues.**

The Post Office Department issued a circular dated Washington, March 27, 1875, reading in part as follows: "The Department is prepared to furnish upon application, at face value, specimens of adhesive postage stamps issued under its auspices as follows." (Included under this list of stamps was the issue of 1870 then being printed by the Continental Bank Note Company under the terms of its first contract.)

This circular was issued from time to time after the date given above. Mr. Luff in describing these stamps, says that "it is certainly difficult to distinguish the stamps of this printing from those of the regular issue. It requires a keen eye for color and great familiarity with the stamps of the period. The stamps of the special printing have the finish and appearance of careful workmanship which have been noticed in companion sets. Many of them were printed from worn plates. They are on the peculiarly white, crisp paper which was used for the reprints and reissues. Occasionally one has the crackled white gum but most of them have none.

A notable feature of this set is that the perforations are seldom perfect. The stamps were not separated in the usual way by tearing them apart but were cut apart with scissors and as a result the perforations were much mutilated and the design is practically damaged. The color of the 3 cent as nearly as can be described is a blue-green."

The plates used for the 3 cent stamp of this printing were probably included between numbers 238 and 255 although no definite data is obtainable.

A second special printing unknown to philatelists until discovered and reported by Mr. Luff in 1896 was made by the American Bank Note Company probably in 1880; the records show that 500 copies of each value were received from the stamp agent on July 16, 1880. The characteristics according to Mr. Luff's description of these stamps are as follows: "The paper and the perforations are the same as were then in regular use (soft paper, perforated twelve);

the stamps were not gummed, the colors are slightly deeper and richer than usual but the differences are not easily expressed. The color of the 3 cent stamp is blue-green.

It is very difficult to tell these stamps from those of the regular issue. A very careful comparison with a set known to have been purchased in the period is the only way to identify the specimens. The stamps are of great rarity. Only five complete sets and a few ordinary copies are known to exist. It has not been possible to learn the numbers of the plates used for this printing. The two special printings of the 1872 series are treated in the records as being one issue and we are therefore unable to say how many of each were sold. The total of the two is small and it is probable that the sale of the latter was extremely limited. The figures are as follows:

1875 Received	10,000
July 16, 1880 Received	500
Total	10,500
July 16, 1884 On Hand	10,233
Sold	267

A few of the 3c of 1881-82, with various other stamps of the period, were surcharged "SPECIMEN." These were intended for the Universal Postal Union

**Check List.**

*General.*

Dated Cancellations Pairs	
"Paid"	"
Pen	" Strips
Colored	" Blocks
Arrows	Shades
Imprints	Freaks
Plate Numbers	Double Transfers
Guide Dots	Stitch Watermarks

*National.*

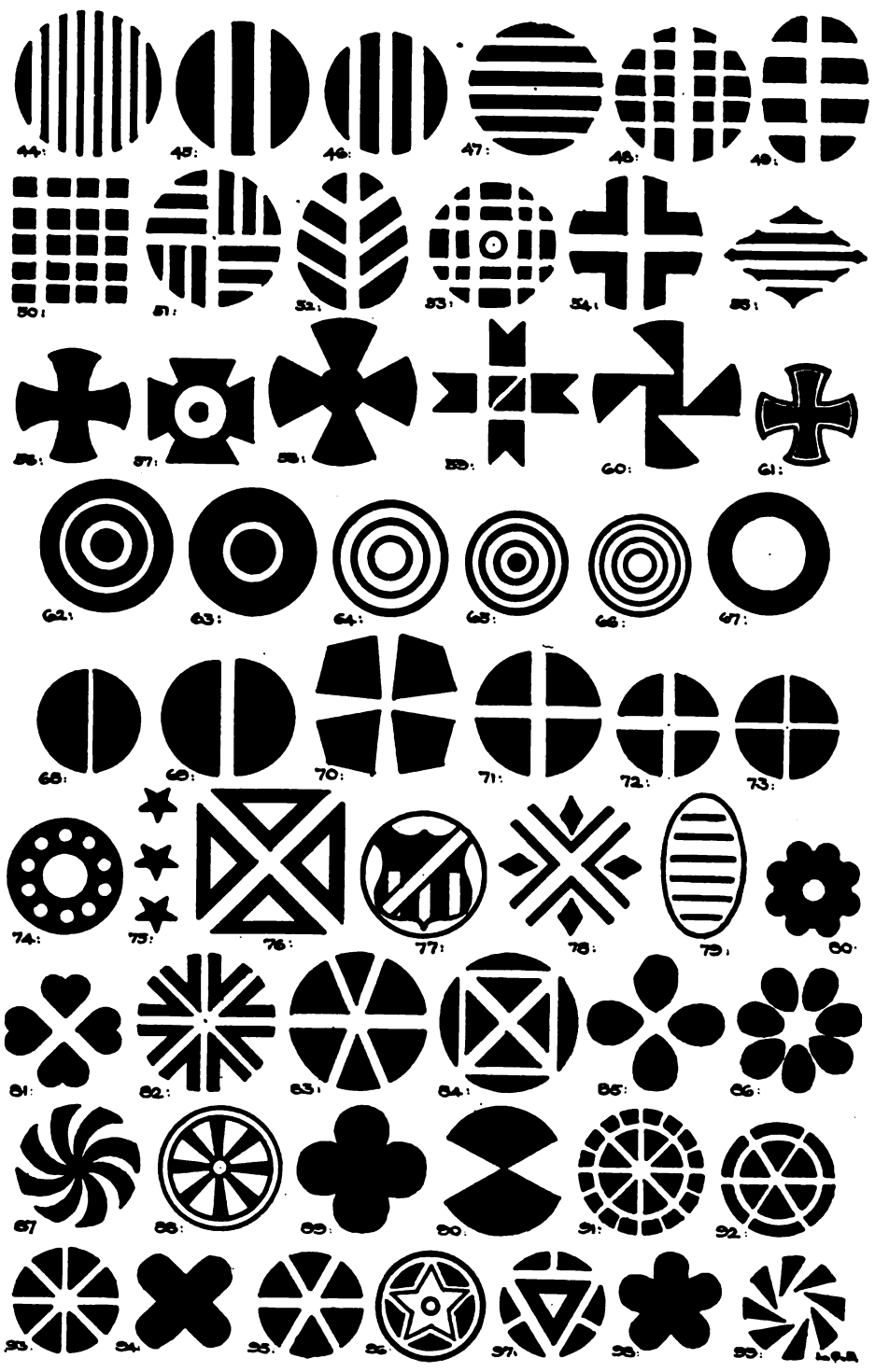
Double Paper (?)	Marginal Grill
Grilled	Imperforate
Double Grill	Part Perforate

*Continental.*

Grilled	Horizontal Cuts
Double Paper	Imperforate
Ribbed Papers	Part Perforate
Starched Paper	Laid Paper
Chemical Papers	Straw Paper
Fletcher (Cogwheel)	
Patent	



SOME "CHARACTERISTIC CANCELLATIONS" ON THE



*American.*

Straw Paper            Double Paper (?)  
"Specimen"

*Re-engraved.*

Straw Paper            Douglas Patent

The foregoing check list includes several varieties which are not ordinarily obtainable by the average collector. Undoubtedly there are many more common varieties which are of interest. If the American and "Re-engraved" issues are studied they will yield much that is worthy of record. These stamps have been neglected because they were

too "common" to attract the fastidious collector whose envious eye is too often fixed upon the unobtainable beauties that grace the albums of the great.

Acknowledgement is made to author and publishers of "The Postage Stamps of the United States" for valuable data contained therein which have formed an important part of this article.

Much of the material which was studied was supplied through the kindness of Mr. E. B. Power.

Without the valuable information written by Mr. Luff and the indispensable stamps furnished by Mr. Power, this article could not have been prepared.

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## CHARACTERISTIC CANCELLATIONS.

By CHARLES A. NAST.

It has been suggested that a short article on the growing fad of collecting U. S. stamps for their cancellations, would make a fitting addenda to the scientific and historical sketch of the preceding pages, especially so as the 3c green offers a wonderful field in this departure and yields a greater variety in this respect than any other stamp.

Nothing is truer than the fact of evolution in philatelic ideals and the fashions of postage stamp collecting. There was a time when only used stamps were collected, and it made little difference as to the resultant condition so long as the little bit of paper had performed its office. After a while there was a well defined objection in certain quarters against collecting used stamps which had been disfigured by the ink and smudge of the cancelling device. The discriminating collector appeared, the one who collected only used specimens but demanded that they be "lightly cancelled". This really was the happy medium between the two extremes. From this position, however, it was only a step to the "town" and "dated" cancellation, and then slowly but surely the historic value of the obliteration began to be realized. Today cancelled stamps of the old U. S. issues are rated according to the color, design, clearness of impression and the meaning and purpose of the cancellation marks they bear, and are priced for their beauty and definiteness independent of any catalog. So it is not surprising that the 3c green with a record of seventeen years' constant use should come in for a

goodly show of attention and study in our day.

In the beginning of its service, all the forms and figures for cancelling the older issues were still in use, but soon a distinctive class of steel die hand cancellors, peculiarly adapted to its size came into use. Here and there one picks up occasionally specimens cancelled with the old fanciful cork designs of starry form, but the great mass of cancellations on the 3c green which are characteristic of the period of its use, consists broadly of Numerals and Letters in a circle surrounded by an ellipse composed of either horizontal or vertical bars, tho, as will be shown later, there are innumerable other designs. I might say, parenthetically, that all the designs found on the 3c green are also found on the 2c vermilion, 2c green, 2c brown, and the 1c blue stamps of the corresponding period, and these latter are fast coming into favor, but it is with the 3c green only that the present article is concerned.

There is some difference of opinion among specialists in this stamp, as to their proper arrangement in the album. Dr. H. G. Holch who was one of the first to collect these cancellations, adheres to the numbers in the catalog. This, I find, makes for duplication on hard and soft papers and the several divisions accorded the National, Continental, and American companies. The grilled stamp, of course is in a class by itself, but in my own practice, leaving the grills aside, I divide all the cancellations on the 3c green into two grand divisions, viz.: First, all

papers and printings, indiscriminately from Die I and secondly, the re-engraved followed at the end, by its successor, the 3c vermilion.

After all it is the cancellations we are collecting and not stamps, and as there is neither watermark nor perforation to disturb us, it is just what the eye can take in at a glance.

Taking then, my own collection as a guide I will explain the different sections as they appear, bearing in mind that all now enumerated are from die I, the cancellings done by steel dies and are in black ink always, except where otherwise designated; and finally that this check list of the first various printings can without much change, be used for the re-engraved division.

To begin, let us take the numerals having horizontal bars. Numbers 1, 2, 3 are plentiful and as they ascend, especially after 10, specimens, grow scarcer. My highest is 40, but the late lamented Charles E. Jenney, who was a student in this line, wrote that he had No. 48 and he thought they ran as high as 52 as some concurrent stamps were found with this number. The next section consists of the same numerals, but with vertical bars and these are extremely rare, especially in the first die I printings. I have seen only Nos. 1 to 6 inclusive. It should be remembered that of each of the foregoing there are many varieties of the figures. I have at least a dozen different 1's and nearly as many figures 2 and 3, and this is what adds zest and interest to their collection. One never grows less keen because a dozen different styles of a single numeral grace the page, because any moment another variety may appear. It is a never ending pleasure.

Section III. Taking my own and the collection of Mr. A. K. McDaniel as a basis present numerals from 1 to 11, in the same circle surrounded by another, the two rings about 10 mm. apart filled in with horizontal bars. Any higher number would indeed be a rarity. Next we have numerals of generally very large size surrounded by *three* concentric rings. These are also known from 1 to 11. This is again followed by the same numbers surrounded by *four* concentric rings. I know this variety only from 1 to 8. The figures are smaller as a rule. The next section presents all the varieties of the two, three and four circles cancelled in blue, and a prettier page it would be hard to find. I have never seen any blue cancellations of the three rings variety tho they may exist, and of the four rings in blue, I have only one specimen, the figure 2.

And now we come to a cancellation that started with the 3c green and is characteristic of this stamp to a large degree. I refer to the colorless cancellations. These are great big daubs of ink sometimes nearly covering the stamp, but in the center the numeral stands out clean and clear. I do not think these were applied with a steel dauber nor cork, as the outlines are too clear cut, but I am of the opinion they were made of box wood. Nos. 1 to 13 are not uncommon but anything higher than this is a scarce item. These punches are sometimes round and sometimes square and these are what are known as double circle and double square varieties, in each of which plenty of ink surrounds the colorless figure. They are known as high as 22, after which there is a break till 75, 76, 77, 78 and 79 are reached, these are known as colorless "year dates". Mr. Jenney had all. I have seen only 76 and 79.

Now let us turn back and instead of "numerals" substitute "letters". All the letters from A to L are found with horizontal bars and also the letter W but between L and W there is a great dearth which only extraordinary luck will fill up. Letters with vertical bars are frequently met with from A to L. Personally I have no knowledge of any higher letter tho they may exist. The colorless sections also present a splendid array from A to L after which M N P S and W are a little scarcer. The omitted letters likely exist also, but I have only seen Q.

The next consists of compound letters. I have U.S., PA. and PO. all three occur with horizontal bars, the last two also with vertical bars. Many of these latter bear also the year date ranging from 79 to 86 but are extremely scarce.

The stars appear next. These are of all sizes, and in some cases a smaller star is enclosed by a larger one. I have seen also the letters US in the center of a star. Some have wings about them and are often seen in red, purple, and blue. Steel dies very likely.

Maltese crosses of various shapes come next. These in turn are followed by "targets" of every kind, and the "grid-iron" cancellations found in blue, red, purple as well as black. Then a page of "town" and "dates", a section of "arrows" and then for want of a better name what I call "quarterings". By this I mean the cork cancellation, divided into four parts by colorless lines at right angles, followed by the "cork constellation", these are the "quarterings" divided into eight divisions of various shapes, giving us the famous starry-like form.

Sometimes they look like cogwheels, but always when clear cut, they present a fine appearance. Many of these are taken over from the cancelling punches used on the 3c stamp of the '57 issue.

Mr. Wiley particularly mentions the PAID cancellation and I agree with him as to its rarity. I have a copy in which the letters composed of open lines, are surrounded by a circle. Judge Jas. K. Doughty has shown me this in Roman type diagonally across the stamp.

But there are still many other odd and unique things in this department. I have endeavored here to give only what may be found in quantity and which are with a little search within the reach of all.

Finally, there is a large class of extremely scarce cancellations that turn up occasionally but not numerous enough to classify such as flags, shields, masonic emblems, stove pipe hats, dogs' and birds' heads, skull and cross bones, anchors, linked chains, etc., etc., etc., and it is safe to say that no other stamp offers such a splendid variety of interesting cancellations. In conclusion, I beg to append a tentative check list, but it must be remembered that the same list given here is, with one or two omissions, to be duplicated for the stamps of the re-engraved division.

### Check List.

- 1.—Cancellations on Grilled stamps.
  - 2.—Numerals with horiz. bars.
  - 3.—Numerals with vertical bars.
  - 4.—Numerals in two circles with horiz. bars.
  - 5.—Numerals in three concentric rings.
  - 6.—Numerals in four concentric rings.
  - 7.—Numerals in blue ink.
  - 8.—Colorless Numerals.
  - 9.—Letters with horiz. bars.
  - 10.—Letters with vertical bars.
  - 11.—Colorless Letters.
  - 12.—Compound Letters two or more.
  - 13.—Stars.
  - 14.—Maltese Crosses.
  - 15.—Targets and pin wheels.
  - 16.—Quarterings and Geometric figures.
  - 17.—Octagon, wheel and starlike cancellations.
  - 18.—Cork cancellations in blue ink.
  - 19.—Dates and town cancellations.
  - 20.—Extreme rarities, strips and blocks.
- With the exception of the first section, all the others may be found on the re-engraved, 3c green; tho some sections are very scarce, notably Nos. 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, and 18.

### CLEANING STAMPS.

As these 3c greens are often found in bundles and large quantities, sometimes thrown aside for years, it becomes necessary to cleanse them. Beware of hot water and hot suds! If soap is necessary, immerse for three or four minutes only in cold suds, then rinse thoroughly in successive plain waters till clean. But remember all soaps contain lye and this is fatal to the bloom and brilliancy of the stamp while the lye will surely attack the surcharge leaving the cancellation a dull grayish black.

## RUBIAT PHILATELIQUE.

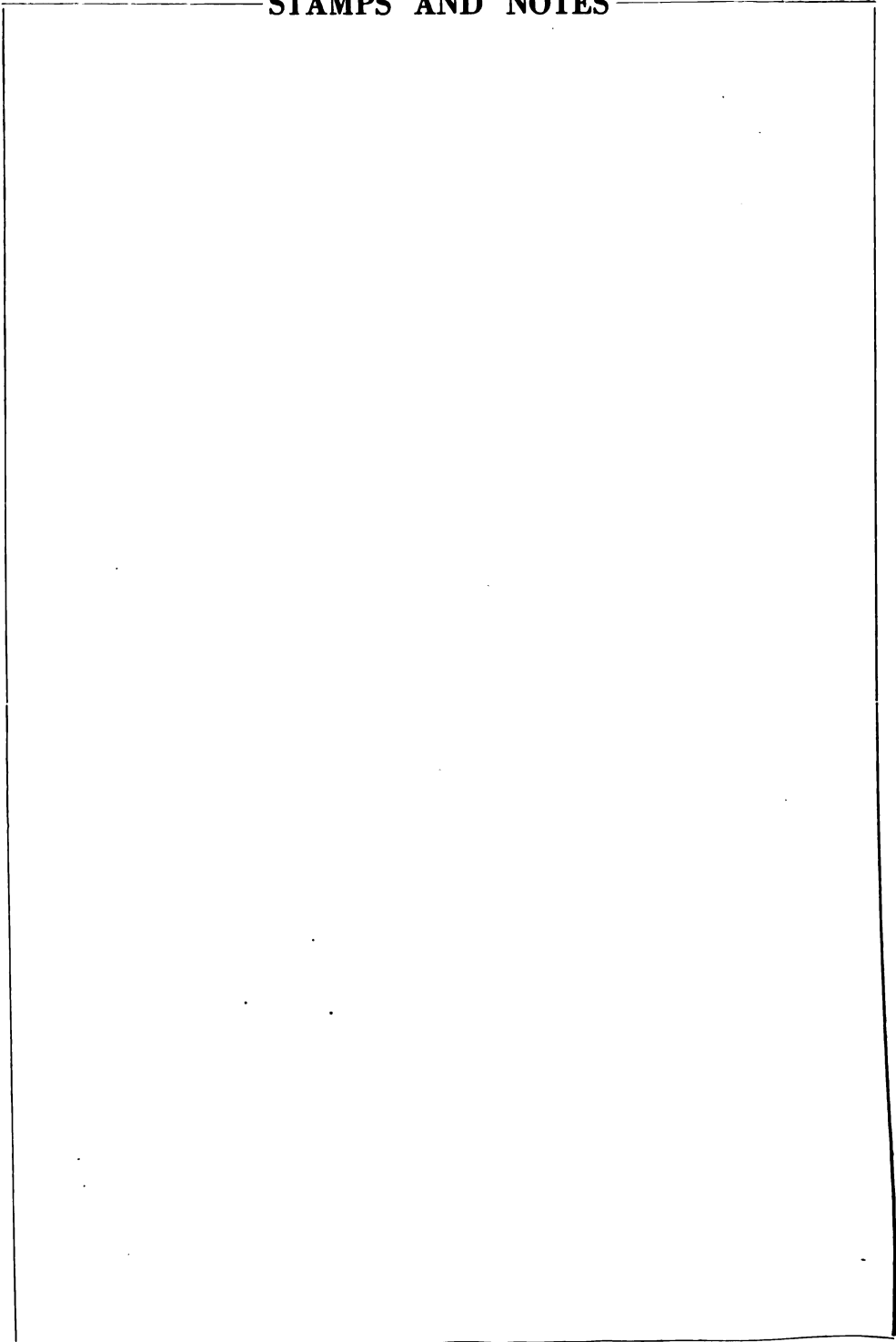
By KARL A. PEMBER.

*With apologies to the Tent-maker.*

A garret lined with chests in many a row  
Well filled with letters of the long ago,  
No one to bother you the whole day through;  
Ah, garret then were paradise enow.

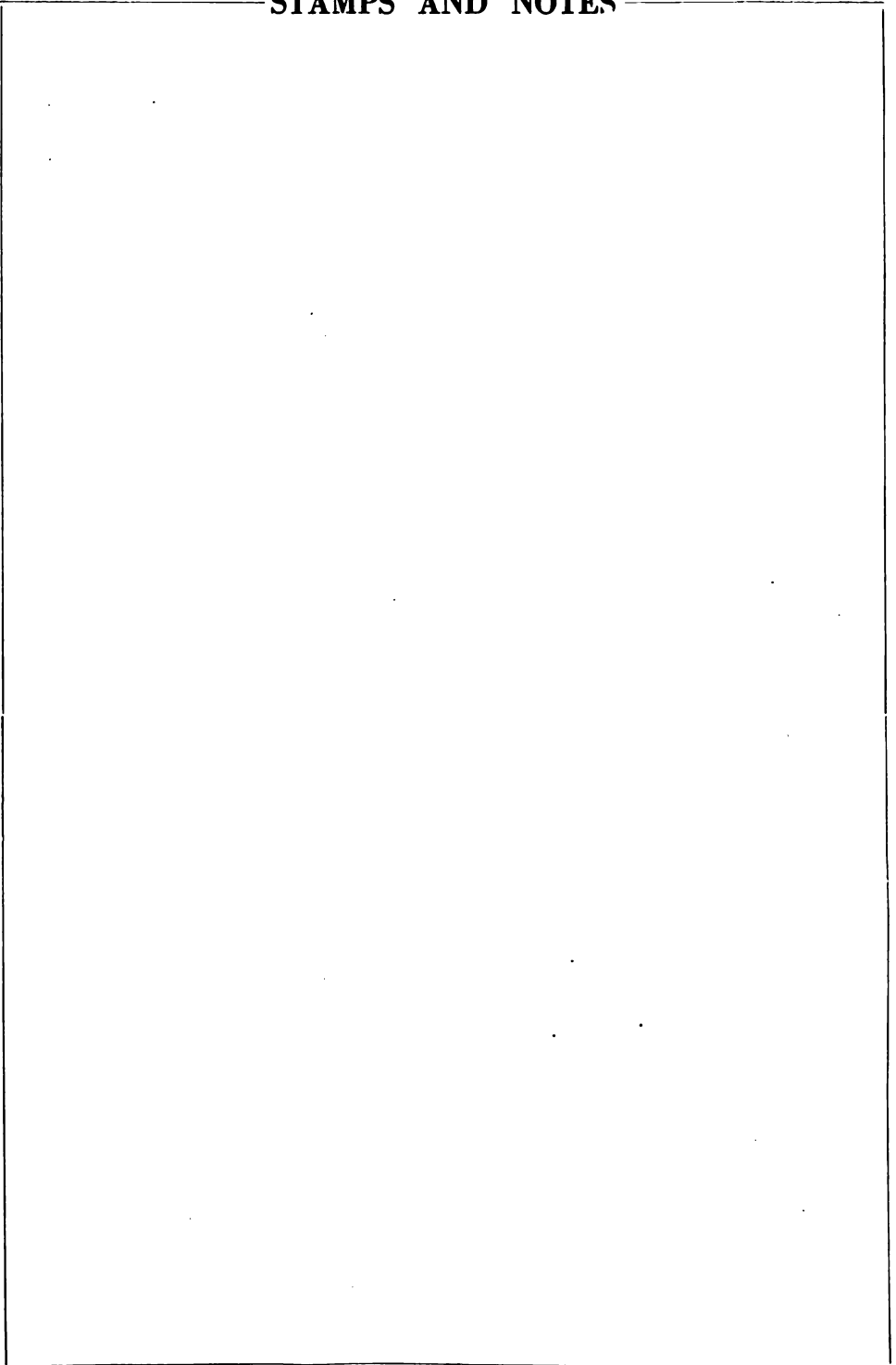
Before the lot's looked over one by one  
Methought a "Brattleboro"! "Millbury"! or some  
Such rarity might come to light!—Alas!  
Just three-cent-greens I find when all is done.

STAMPS AND NOTES



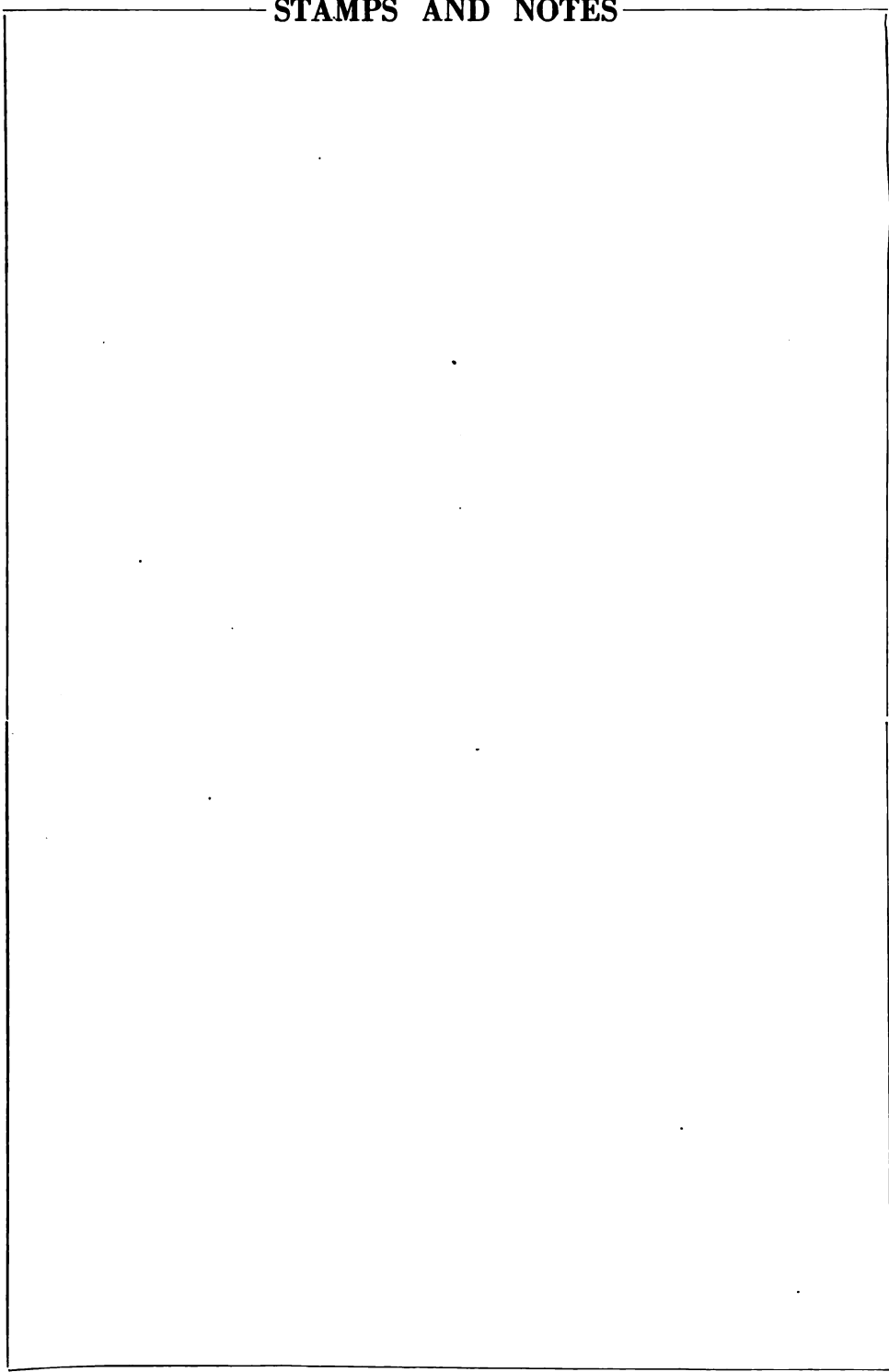


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