

POSTAGE DUE

THE UNITED STATES
LARGE NUMERAL POSTAGE DUE STAMPS
1879-1894

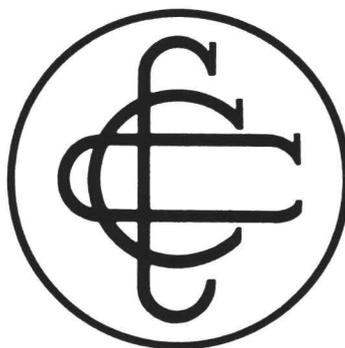
GEORGE B. ARFKEN

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1879-1894

BY
GEORGE B. ARFKEN

Chapter 2, Essays and Proofs
by Lewis Kaufman and George B. Arfken



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The colors of the stamps in the frontispiece are quite close to the actual colors but are not exact. They are intended to serve only as a guide and not for precise color matching. The photographic dyes may also change with age. It is best to use actual stamps for color matching or for making color standards.

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POSTAGE DUE

**THE UNITED STATES
LARGE NUMERAL POSTAGE DUE STAMPS
1879-1894**

GEORGE B. ARFKEN

FRONTISPIECE

- Top Row: Essays, Cut Close and Cut Small (see Chapter 2).**
- Second Row: Shades of the browns (see Chapter 3).**
- Third Row: Shades of the red browns (see Chapter 3).**
- Fourth Row: Shades of the bright clarets (See Chapter 3).**

The colors of the stamps in the frontispiece are quite close to the actual colors but are not exact. They are intended to serve only as a guide and not for precise color matching. The photographic dyes may also change with age. It is best to use actual stamps for color matching or for making color standards.



to Carolyn,

who persuaded me to buy an IBM Personal Computer.

Postage Due
The United States Large Numeral Postage Due Stamps
1879-1894

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A look at the references cited in the text and in the end notes will make it clear that this book has drawn on earlier work published in books and in philatelic journals. Many, if not most, of the citations are to papers by Warren R. Bower. In addition, Warren has been very generous with his time and his help through correspondence over the past several years. I greatly appreciate his help and am happy to acknowledge it.

Chapter 2, "Essays and Proofs," shows Lewis Kaufman as a joint author because this chapter follows closely the Kaufman-Arfken paper published in 1988 in the *American Philatelist*. Lewis has also helped in several ways ranging from providing government documents to offering postage due stamps with fancy cancels.

Four men have been very generous in permitting me to photograph their most unusual covers. They are Cortlandt Clarke, James P. Gough, Richard J. Micchelli and Peter A. S. Smith. I am very appreciative of their assistance in making this book as comprehensive as it is.

In the last three chapters, readers will find seventeen sets of drawings of postage due related postmarks, cancels on postage due stamps and precancels on postage due stamps. These drawings are the dedicated work of Robert Klanke. Without Robert Klanke's drawings, there would be no Chapters 10, 11 and 12.

The above assistance, which I gratefully acknowledge, refers to the actual development of the manuscript. It has been the encouragement and financial support of the Collectors' Club of Chicago that has converted the manuscript with photos and line drawings into this book.

Finally, I acknowledge, with love, the encouragement and patience of my wife, Carolyn.

George B. Arfken
Clearwater, Florida

PUBLISHER'S PREFACE

The Collectors Club of Chicago has a commitment to provide the philatelic community with publications that represent important contributions to our philatelic knowledge. We are very proud to present this book as the fourteenth in a series supporting that commitment.

Previous publications in this series are:

New York Foreign Mail Cancellations, by Arthur Van Vlissingen and Morrison Waud (1968)

Chicago Postal History, edited by Harvey M. Karlen (1970)

Franks of the Western Expresses, by M. C. Nathan (1973)

The United States 1869 Issue, An Essay-Proof History, by Fred P. Schueren (1974)

The United States Mail and Post Office Assistant, edited by Michael Laurence (1975)

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The Minnesota Territory in Postmarks, Letters and Covers, by Floyd E. Risvold (1985)

British Pictorial Envelopes of the 19th Century, by Ritchie Bodily, Chris Jarvis and Charless Hahn (1987)

We wish to especially express our thanks to Thomas Kendall for his significant assistance in the design, typography and production of this book.

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FORWARD

George B. Arfken is to be congratulated on authoring the first comprehensive work on the U. S. Large Numeral Postage Dues issued between 1879 and 1894. There have been many articles and treatises on the Large Numeral Dues over the years, but Arfken has pulled the whole subject together in an exhaustive and scholarly book. It will be the Bible for postage due collectors and students for years to come. Of particular interest are the cancellations, usages and rates illustrating the postal history relating the the Large Numeral Dues. One would expect such a thorough work from Mr. Arfken, a retired physics professor from Miami University of Ohio and the author of a recent 460 page book on the Canadian Small Queen Stamps of 1870-1897 entitled *Canada's Small Queens Era*. He is also a member of four Canadian philatelic societies as well as the American Philatelic Society and the U. S. Classics Society.

The income from the Fund established by Blema Cabeen (widow of Sandy Cabeen) has helped to finance the many publications of the Collectors Club of Chicago. I am sure Blema would be happy with this latest addition.

Morrison Waud

INTRODUCTION

The 1¢, 2¢, 3¢ and 5¢ United States Large Numeral postage due stamps were officially put into use July 1, 1879. The 10¢, 30¢ and 50¢ dues followed on September 19. With some color changes, these seven stamps continued in regular use until replaced in 1894 and 1895 by the Small Numeral Bureau of Engraving and Printing postage dues. Late usage of the Large Numeral dues was fairly common and occurred until distributed stocks of the stamps were exhausted.

The goal of this book is to pull together published and unpublished information about the Large Numeral postage dues and to present a comprehensive, coherent picture of these stamps and their usage. This study starts in Chapter 1 with a short look at the historical background and the need for postage due stamps, the world's first postage due stamp issued by France and the U. S. documents leading to the Large Numeral dues. Chapter 2 follows the definitive American Philatelist article by Kaufman and Arfken and gives a detailed treatment of the Large Numeral essays and proofs, contemporary and post-contemporary. Along with the proofs that were part of the production process, this chapter notes proofs that were essentially philatelic souvenirs. Chapters 3 and 4 treat all aspects of the stamps themselves: colors, imperforates, special printings, numbers issued, plate numbers and imprints, SPECIMEN overprints and plate flaws.

The next five chapters are devoted to postal usage of the Large Numeral postage due stamps. Chapters 5, 6 and 7 treat domestic usage, including non-letter mail usage. In addition to regular letter mail, attention is directed to soldiers' letters and ship letters. The conditions determining why some letters claiming to be soldier's letters or ship letters were accepted by the Post Office and some were rejected are explored. Chapters 8 and 9 are devoted to usage on overseas mail, both Universal Postal Union and pre- or non-Universal Postal Union. The U. P. U.-authorized surtax is discussed in detail. Since usage of the postage due stamps was intimately tied to the postal laws and regulations, close attention is paid to U. S. government laws and regulations and to U. P. U. regulations. Brief excerpts from these laws and regulations are quoted where relevant.

Postage due covers carry a wealth of postal markings, and these markings are usually important in trying to understand why a cover was rated postage due. Chapter 10 is concerned with these postage due related postal markings. This is a field that has been largely neglected by other books. Chapter 11 takes up the cancels that are found on the Large Numeral dues including the colorful (and illegal) ones. Chapter 12 explores the area of precancelled Large Numeral dues.

Throughout this book there has been an attempt to illustrate all significant points regarding essays, proofs, the postage due stamps and the many forms of postal usage and misuse. Numerous references are included, partly to acknowledge and give credit to those who published the information and partly to provide the reader with a start for further study.

CHAPTER 1.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. THE PROBLEM

The United States issued its first postage stamps, the 5¢ Franklin and the 10¢ Washington, on July 1, 1847. With postage stamps available to prepay postage, the policy of the Post Office was to encourage prepayment of postage and eventually, in 1855, to require prepayment of the postage. Three decades later, the principle of prepayment was well established, but this did not cover all postal charges. Some letters were improperly paid. Some letters were overweight. Some letters, undelivered or uncalled for, were advertised in a local newspaper and charged 1¢ for the advertisement. In addition to these letters, there were unpaid ship letters and steamboat letters.

One step taken by postal officials in handling underpaid mail was the use of a wide variety of DUE marks. Some of the postmarks were illustrated by Brinton [1] and by Alexander [2]. These DUE postmarks notified the addressee, with some official authority, that more payment was due before the mail could be delivered.

Another step in handling underpaid mail was the “Held for Postage” procedure. This was approved by Congress in the Act of March 3, 1855 [3]. The underpaid mail was literally held for postage. Notice was sent to the addressee to furnish the needed postage. When the postage was received, the letter was forwarded. If the postage was not received, the letter was sent to the Dead Letter Office. This system continued into the Large Numeral postage due era. The “Held for Postage” procedure was useful in many situations, but it did mean a significant delay for the letter being held.

Figure 1 shows the earliest known usage of “Held for Postage.” The letter, dated September 25, 1857, was franked with a Blood’s Local Post stamp good only for delivery in Philadelphia. However, the letter was addressed to New York and Blood’s did not deliver letters in New York. Blood’s turned the letter over to the U. S. Post Office Department, and the letter was then held for postage until the addressee provided the required 3¢ stamp.

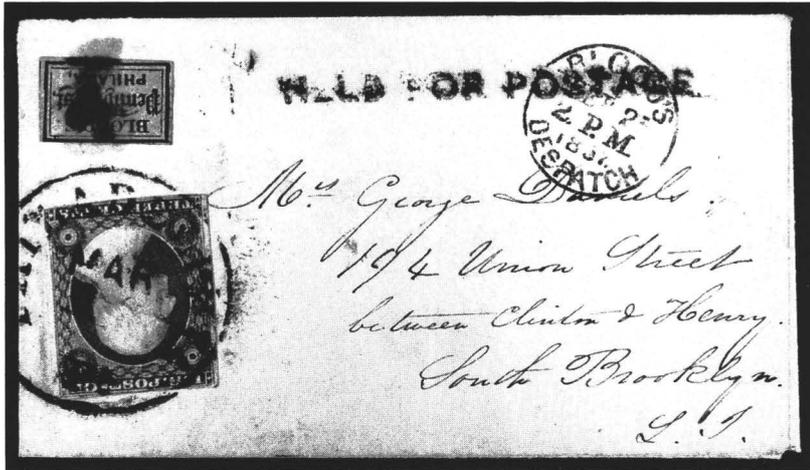


Figure 1. Addressed to South Brooklyn, L. I. (New York), but franked with a Blood's Local Post stamp for delivery in Philadelphia. Stamped "HELD FOR POSTAGE" and held until the addressee supplied the 3¢ U. S. stamp. September 25, 1857. Courtesy of James P. Gough.



Figure 2. The world's first postage due stamp, issued by France in 1859. Postage due 10 centimes.

An interesting step beyond the “Due” and “Held for Postage” postmarks was taken by Charles H. Colburn, the postmaster at Leominster, Mass. [4, 5]. During the 1850’s, the 1860’s and the 1870’s, Colburn devised and used a number of gummed labels, printed in black with metal handstamps on colored paper. Jarrett illustrated covers showing several examples: “UNDERCHARGED DUE 3 CENTS,” “FORWARDED DUE THREE CENTS,” “FORWARDED DUE SIX CENTS,” “MISSENT & FORWARDED,” “FORWARDED FREE” and others [6].

Jarrett and Graham were correct in calling the Leominster items “labels” [4, 5]. While of considerable historical interest, these Leominster items were not postage due stamps: they were adhesive labels. Postmaster Colburn used these labels as an alternative to handstamped postmarks. Still, we can look at these labels as forerunners or precursors of true postage due stamps. The “DUE” postmarks and the Leominster labels served to notify the addressee of the amount due, but this was not the real problem involved with underpaid mail. As emphasized by Waud [7], the real problem was one of accountability. To state the matter bluntly: how could the Post Office make sure that the money collected on underpaid mail would go into the Government’s accounts and not in the local postmaster’s pocket? This is not just speculation of writers a hundred years later: on page 307 of the 1880 *Report of the Postmaster General*, Third Assistant Postmaster General A. D. Hazen wrote:

Formerly this class of postage [underpaid] was paid in money without the use of [postage due] stamps, so that in securing the full returns of it the department was entirely dependent on the fidelity of the postmasters.

This lack of accountability is the fundamental limitation of two labels issued in the Netherlands Indies in 1845-46. Printed in Dutch, an English translation for Scott J1 is [8]:

Delivered by Inland Mail
Postage Due to be Paid in f Silver Coins
at Batavia.

The space following the “f” was to be filled in with the amount due. The second label, Scott J2, was identical to the above except that it called for copper coins rather than silver. Since they lack accountability, these items are not postage due stamps in the modern sense. Like the Leominster items, they are labels.

2. THE SOLUTION: THE WORLD'S FIRST POSTAGE DUE STAMP

The United States was not the only country facing the problem of postage due accountability. France had wrestled with the same problem and had come up with a solution. In 1859, France issued the stamp shown in Figure 2, the world's first postage due stamp. The inscription "Postes Chiffre 10 Centimes à Percevoir Taxe" has been given by Waud [7] as "To Collect 10 Centimes Charge for Post Office Account." A free and much simplified translation is "postage due 10 centimes."

Assuming adequate accounting procedures within the French Post Office, this stamp met the requirement of accountability. After the French postmaster affixed these stamps to underpaid mail and collected the amount due, he had to have ten centimes in the post office account for each stamp used and no longer in stock.

3. UNITED STATES AUTHORIZATION

The United States was slow to follow the French example. On March 3, 1879, Congress approved the required law, twenty years after the French adopted their system. The relevant parts of this Act of Congress have been given by Tiffany [9] and Luff [10] and are reproduced below.

Sec. 26. All mail matter of the first-class, upon which one full rate of postage has been prepaid, shall be forwarded to its destination, charged with the unpaid rate, to be collected on delivery; but postmasters, before delivering the same, or any article of mail matter upon which prepayment in full has not been made, shall affix, or cause to be affixed, and canceled, as ordinary stamps are canceled, one or more stamps, equivalent in value to the amount of postage due on such article of mail matter, which stamps shall be of such special design and denomination as the Postmaster General may prescribe, and which shall in no case be sold by any postmaster, nor received by him in prepayment of postage. That, in lieu of the commission now allowed to postmasters at offices of the fourth class upon the amount of unpaid letter postage collected, such postmasters shall receive a commission upon the amount of such special stamps so canceled, the same as now allowed upon postage stamps, stamped envelopes, postal cards, and newspaper and periodical stamps canceled as postage on matter actually mailed at their offices: Provided, The Postmaster General may, in his discretion, prescribe, instead such regulations therefor at the office where free delivery is established as, in his judgment, the good of the service may require.

Sec. 27. Any postmaster or other person engaged in the postal service who shall collect, and fail to account for, the postage due upon any article of mail matter which he may deliver, without having previously affixed and canceled such special stamps as hereinbefore

provided, or who shall fail to affix such special stamps, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of fifty dollars.

Here was authorization for the first U. S. postage due stamps. The details were left up to the Postmaster General: “stamps shall be of such special design and denomination as the Postmaster General may prescribe.” Section 26 also established two principles that will be mentioned later in this book: first, postage due stamps were not to be sold, and second, postage due stamps were not valid for postage. These two prohibitions appear repeatedly in the later official postal guides. See also Appendix B: Section 11 of Order No. 7.

Accountability, an essential feature of a postage due stamp, was perhaps implicit in Sections 26 and 27 quoted above. Accountability was made explicit in a paragraph of a circular dated May 5, 1879 from A. D. Hazen, Third Assistant Postmaster General:

The [postage due] stamps will be accounted for to the Auditor the same as other stamps, and will enter into the monthly report of stamps &c., received, sold, and on hand, required by the Regulations to be made by postmasters at Presidential offices to the Third Assistant Postmaster General.

In other words, the postmaster was required to affix postage due stamps to underpaid mail as a receipt for the underpayment collected. Then, the postmaster had to account for the money collected for any postage due stamps no longer in his stock, just as he had to account for regular postage stamps.

With the new postage due stamps authorized and, indeed, mandated by Section 26 of the Act of March 3, 1879, the Postmaster General turned to the company producing the U. S. postage stamps, the American Bank Note Co. We consider next the essays and proofs produced by the American Bank Note Co. for the first U. S. postage due stamps.

CHAPTER 1 REFERENCES:

- [1] Robert F. Brinton, “Postage Due Marks on United States Covers,” *American Philatelic Congress*, vol. 10, pp. 45-54, 1944.
- [2] Thomas J. Alexander, ed., *Simpson’s U. S. Postal Markings, 1851-61*, Second Edition, U. S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc., Columbus, Ohio, 1979.
- [3] Delf Norona, ed., *Cyclopedia of United States Postmarks and Postal History*, Quarterman Publications, Inc., Lawrence, Mass., pp. 213-216.

- [4] David L. Jarrett, "Leominster Adhesive Labels," *American Philatelist*, vol. 92, pp. 849-853, Sept. 1978.
- [5] Richard B. Graham, "Leominster Due Postage Labels of the 1860's," *The Chronicle of the U. S. Classic Postal Issues* (hereinafter "*Chronicle*"), vol. 41, pp. 47-50, Feb. 1989.
- [6] Effective July 1, 1866, letters forwarded to a new address at the written request of the addressee were forwarded free. Before this, such forwarded letters were considered to have been remailed and a second postal charge was levied.
- [7] Morrison Waud, "Postage Due in the United States to 1894," *American Philatelic Congress*, vol. 42, pp. 13-36, 1976.
- [8] Translation by Roelof Meijers of the American Philatelic Society Translation Committee, July 1989.
- [9] John K. Tiffany, *History of the Postage Stamps of the United States of America*, C. K. Mekeel, 1887.
- [10] John Luff, *The Postage Stamps of the United States*, Scott Stamp and Coin Co., New York, N.Y., 1902.

CHAPTER 2.

ESSAYS AND PROOFS

by Lewis Kaufman and George B. Arfken

This discussion of the essays and proofs of the Large Numeral dues follows closely the definitive paper by Kaufman and Arfken [1]. To help identify the various essays and proofs being discussed, attention will be paid to the classifications and descriptions found in the Brazer catalog [2] for essays and the Scott *U. S. Specialized Catalogue* [3] for proofs.

1. ESSAYS (IMPRESSIONS OF A PRELIMINARY DESIGN)*

When the U. S. Government decided to adopt a postage due system featuring accountability, the Post Office Department turned to the American Bank Note Co. to print the postage due stamps required. The American Bank Note Co. was printing the current issue of U. S. postage stamps. In complying with this request, the American Bank Note Co. followed the rather austere nature of most world-wide postage due designs: the dominant feature was a large numeral signifying the amount of postage due to be collected. On the U. S. dues, the numeral was surrounded by a border or frame of classic design. The example shown in Figure 1 includes the signatures of the engravers, James Dunn and Douglas S. Ronaldson. A picture of Ronaldson and a brief biography appears in Boggs' *Canada* [4].

* The term "essay" is somewhat vague and ill-defined. These items are perhaps better called "impressions of a preliminary design." Nevertheless, the term "essay" is in common use, especially by the auction houses that sell these items.

The white lathework lines deserve a special note. The usual die-to-transfer roll-to-plate process would yield inked (dark) lathework lines on a white background. To reverse the lathework image and produce white lines on a dark background, another step was necessary, requiring in effect a second die. Details have been given by Baxter [5]. Further discussion appears in Chapter 3, Section 1.

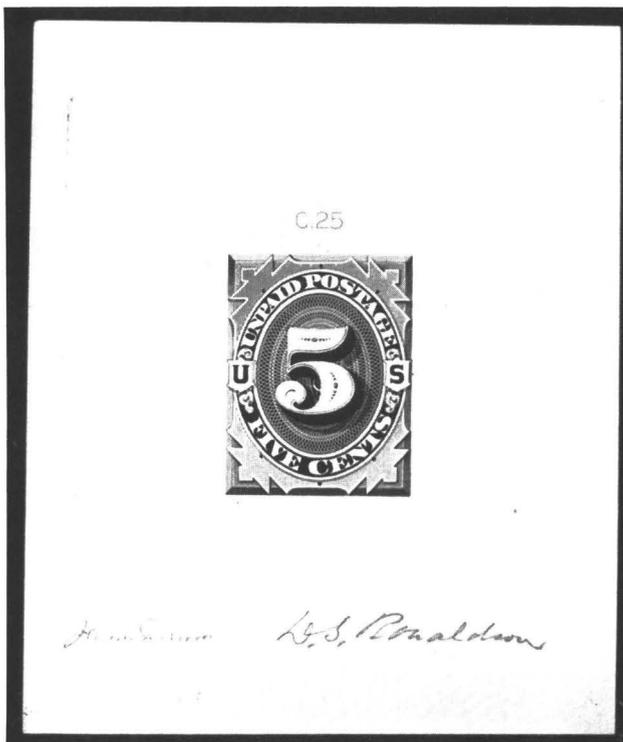


Figure 1. A die impression of an essay for the first U. S. postage due stamps.

At the direction of the Post Office, the American Bank Note Co. submitted designs for four denominations: 1¢, 2¢, 3¢ and 5¢. There are no essays of the 10¢, 30¢ and 50¢ postage dues. These latter denominations were not planned and not authorized until after the final design had been approved. Figure 1 shows the original design proposed by the American Bank Note Co. Note the upper label, which features the words “UNPAID POSTAGE.” Since the final product bore the inscription “POSTAGE DUE,” one can surmise that the original communication to the American Bank Note Co. specified the former inscription, while the latter inscription was

specified and substituted some time later.

Four categories of Bank Note die essays are known:

1. On india paper, die sunk on card (mostly 60 by 72 mm)
2. On india paper, cut small (mostly 25 by 32 mm, margins 1-4 mm)
3. On india paper, cut close (mostly 20 by 25 mm, margins 0-1 mm)
4. On ivory paper (60-70 by 70-80 mm)

Figure 2 illustrates category No. 2, cut small and category No. 3, cut close. While categories 2, 3 and 4 are listed by Brazer [2], the first essay type was apparently unknown to him at the time of the publication of his study in 1941. It is also interesting to note that, while essay categories 2, 3 and 4 bear die numbers C.10, C.23, C.24 and C.25 (corresponding to the 1¢, 2¢, 3¢ and 5¢ values, respectively), only the 1¢ value from category 1 shows a die number. The 2¢, 3¢ and 5¢ essays of category 1 show none. This suggests that, while all the values may have been engraved at the same time, given the tentative nature of the design, only the 1¢ value was initially assigned a die number.

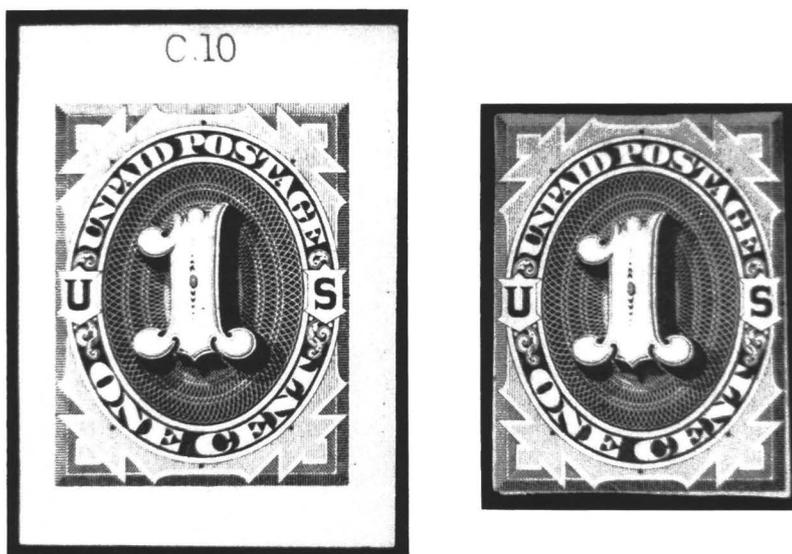


Figure 2. Essays, "cut small" and "cut close."

Kaufman and Arfken's study also showed that many of the colors known from category 3 (cut close) are the same as those found on category 1 (on india, die sunk on card). It would seem that examples of category 3 were, in fact, cut from category 1. In any case, these essays provide one of the more fertile collectible areas in the postage due field. A complete grouping of the four die categories in their different colors includes fifty-eight or more items. A listing follows in Tables 1 through 4.

Table 1. Essays printed on india paper, die sunk on card

	1¢	2¢	3¢	5¢
orange brown	x			
slate gray	x			x
dark red violet	x	x		
dull yellow	x		x	
light orange	x			
black		x		
red brown	x			

Table 2. Essays printed on india paper, cut small

	1¢	2¢	3¢	5¢
gray black	x	x	x	x
dull red	x	x	x	x
dull brown	x	x	x	x
dull green	x	x	x	x
dull blue	x	x	x	x

Table 3. Essays printed on india paper, cut close

	1¢	2¢	3¢	5¢
orange brown	x	x		x
slate gray	x	x		x
dark red violet	x	x		x
dull yellow	x		x	x

Table 4. Essays printed on ivory paper

	1¢	2¢	3¢	5¢
black	x	x	x	x
brown black	x	x	x	x
scarlet	x	x	x	x
blue	x	x	x	x

2. TRIAL COLOR DIE PROOFS, J1TC-J7TC

As noted previously, the government modified the original design to read "POSTAGE DUE" instead of "UNPAID POSTAGE." Figure 3 shows a trial color large die proof in blue of the 2¢ denomination, Scott number J2TCP1. A comparison of the essays of Figures 1 and 2 with Figure 3 illustrates this change in wording. The original wording was deemed inappropriate probably because these stamps would be used for receipts for (a) extra services such as advertising and (b) penalties. Neither of these charges constitutes "UNPAID POSTAGE." In addition to this major design change, there were minor changes in the design below the shields bearing "U" and "S." Also, as seen in the illustrations, the die numbers of the 1¢-5¢ values were altered by adding the suffix "A." The "C.10" on the 1¢ value, for example, became "C.10.A." It is tempting to identify the "A" of "C.10.A" as meaning "Approved." However, the "A" probably indicates a revision or second stage of the original

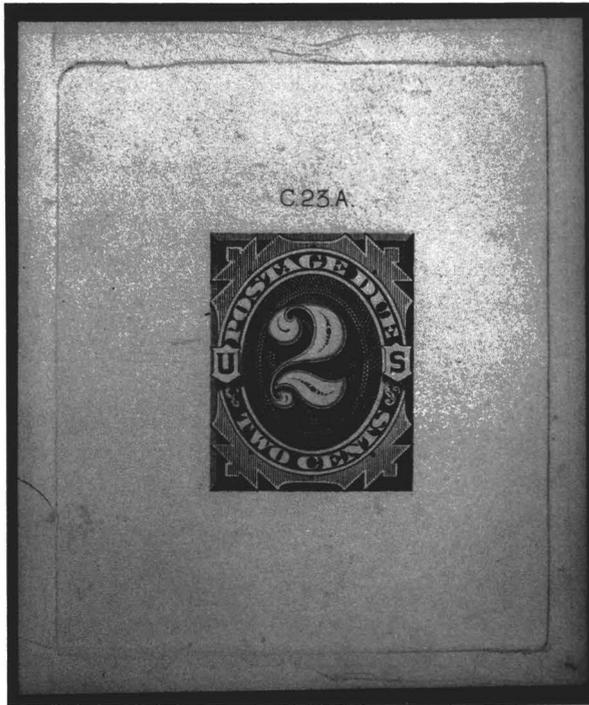


Figure 3. A trial color die proof in blue of the 2¢ denomination, J2TCP1.

“C.10” die. Indeed, the corresponding essay die for the 1¢ denomination was just plain “C.10” with no “A.” It should also be noted that no die numbers appear on the 10¢, 30¢ and 50¢ values, quite possibly because the dies for these three values were engraved approximately four months after the original 1¢-5¢ dies were produced.

The Scott *United States Specialized Catalogue* indicates the existence of small trial color die proofs as well as large trial color die proofs. It was the opinion of Kaufman and Arfken that all trial color die proofs originated from the large die format and that the small trial color die proofs were produced by trimming the large proofs to a smaller size. In any event, the small trial color die proofs listed in the trial color section of the *Specialized* are not related in any way to the small die proofs (J1P2 etc.) which emanated from the “Roosevelt Book” of 1903 or the printing of the small die proofs for the Panama-Pacific exhibition of 1915. The known large die trial color proofs are listed by color and denomination in Table 5.

Table 5. Known large die trial color proofs of the Large Numeral dues

	1¢	2¢	3¢	5¢	10¢	30¢	50¢
black	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
gray black	x	x	(P2)	x	x	x	x
ultramarine	x	x	x	x			
blue	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
blue green	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
yellow olive			x		x	x	x
orange	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
red orange	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
yellow brown	x				x	x	x
sepia		x			x	x	x
red brown	x			x			
gray					x	(P2)	x
olive bistre (ochre)						x	

A close comparison with the Scott *Specialized* will show that color designations have been both added and subtracted. This is largely due to the authors' use of the Stanley Gibbons *Colour Key* in helping to determine the colors which obviously did not fit the Scott listing.

The term “trial color” is somewhat misleading. Except for two colors, ultramarine and red brown, all of the colors listed have representation among the proofs of the 10¢, 30¢ and 50¢ dies. However, these three higher values came later. The four low value stamps were issued to the postmasters starting in mid-May (with strict

instructions not to use them before July 1). The 10¢, 30¢ and 50¢ postage due stamps were not issued until mid-September, four months later. By the time the 10¢, 30¢ and 50¢ dies were ready for proving, the final brown color had already been selected. Clearly, these so-called trial color proofs were not real trial colors. Therefore, it is quite likely that all of the proofs designated by *Scott* as “trial colors” (with the possible exception of the black proofs which were printed for plate inspection) were made for presentations to officials of the Post Office Department and other government officials as well as to officials of the American Bank Note Co. These trial color die proofs are quite rare. Brazer estimated that no more than two or three of each color of each denomination exist [6].

The term “trial color proof” is convenient and in common use. It is important to emphasize, however, that these colorful proofs were not “trial colors” in the true sense of the term.

3. LARGE DIE PROOFS: SCOTT P1

Scott lists the seven large die proofs in the issued color, brown, as J1P1-J7P1. These may have been made for the files of the American Bank Note Co. or for presentation, but because they are in the color of issue they merit and receive special listing. Figure 4 shows a die proof of the 5¢ denomination, J4P1.

No such die proofs are listed for the red brown postage due stamps, J15-J21. Indeed, with only a change in ink, no red brown die proofs should be expected. Logically, the same situation should prevail for the clarets as well. However, sets of large die proofs in colors quite close to the india paper clarets, J22P3-J28P3, exist. At first glance these appear to be J22P1-J28P1. However, these die proofs do not fluoresce under ultraviolet light. This is very important, since the bright claret plate proofs and the issued bright claret stamps do fluoresce [7]. It seems that these die proofs, now listed as J22P1-J28P1, were printed with a different ink than that used for the bright claret plate proofs and stamps. It is apparent that they have been misnamed. Further evidence for a revision is suggested by the apparent departure by 1887 of James Dunn, the gentleman who engraved the numerals on the U. S. Postage Dues, from the American Bank Note Co. [8]. Since the proofs in question were signed by Dunn, it would seem they were probably produced at the same time and for the same reason as the other “trial color” proofs: presentation.



Figure 4. The final design. A die proof of the 5¢ denomination, J4P1.

Two further notes on the die proofs should be mentioned.

First, the 5¢ die proof J4P1 of Figure 4 shows a dot about half a millimeter to the right of the design. This dot is one of two that defined a horizontal center line. The dies of the other denominations show similar center line position dots but farther out from the design. The center line dot on the 5¢ die appears on all 5¢ stamps and all 5¢ proofs through the Panama-Pacific small die proofs of 1915.

Second, one might expect, that with the same frame and background design, all seven dies (omitting the numeral and spelled-out denomination) might have been prepared from one master die. Louis Barrett, however, showed that all seven dies were engraved separately and independently [9]. He was able to illustrate clearly that there are differences among the dies, particularly in the vertical lines at the corners. A tabulation of these vertical lines is given in Section 2, Chapter 3.

4. TRIAL COLOR PLATE PROOF: SCOTT J1TCP4

Scott lists only one trial color plate proof. The color should have been chosen (and was chosen) long before, when the die was engraved. However, J1TCP4, the plate proof of the 1¢ plate on card, is a very special case. The proof was printed in black and was made for a needed inspection of the plate. Figure 5 shows this proof. Above the large numeral “1” the reader will see a flaw in the lathework in the form of a black speck. This black speck was not present on any 1¢ die proof or any other 1¢ plate proof. Nor was the flaw present in the essay die proofs: see Figure 2. It entered as a flaw on the transfer roll and was transferred to the plate. The plate was corrected and the speck removed from each position. Perhaps a new plate was laid down? The speck does not appear on the actual 1¢ stamps.

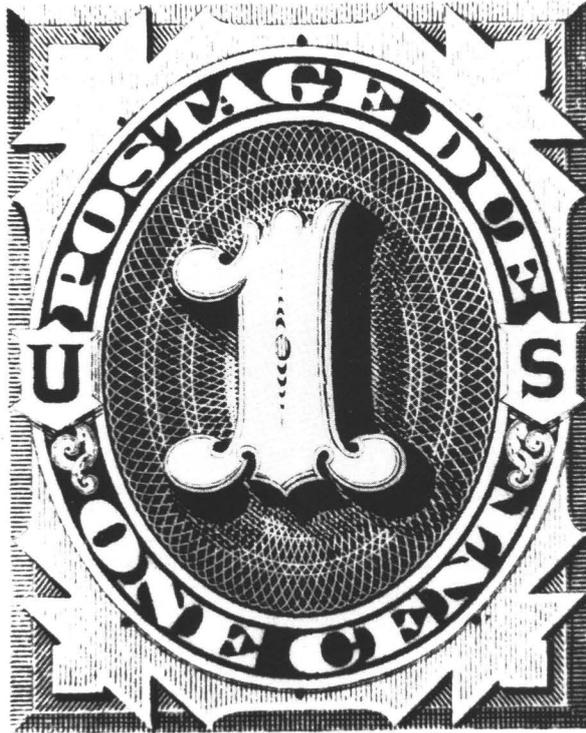


Figure 5. The only trial color (black) plate proof, J1TCP4.

5. PLATE PROOFS ON INDIA PAPER: SCOTT P3

In order to examine the color, clarity of impression, etc., the American Bank Note Co. pulled impressions on india paper from the 200-subject plates used for actually printing the stamps. Figure 6 shows an imprint block of the 2¢ value, Scott J2P3. Usually, india proofs are produced prior to the production of the stamps. This was probably true for the first group of postage dues ordered (1¢-5¢ values), but there is

some confusion surrounding the india proofs for the three high values. These proofs are not only distinctly different from the proofs of the four low values, but they appear in two different shades as well. (Except for the special case of the hybrid “H” proof, considered in the next section, no india plate proofs of the 10¢, 30¢ and 50¢ values exist in the brown color of the issued stamps).



Figure 6. An imprint and plate number block of the 2¢ plate proof on india paper, J2P3.

The initial difference in shades may be explained by the lapse in time between the preparation of the plates for the low values (April-May 1879) and for the high values. (A request was made on August 2, 1879 by the Third Assistant Postmaster General, to have the American Bank Note Co. “prepare dies and working plates for ‘Postage Due Stamps,’ of the denominations of 10, 30, and 50 cents.”) Proofs were forwarded to Hazen on August 26. The American Bank Note Co. was notified of his approval on August 29 and requested to prepare the plates at once [10].

In mixing ink for the submission of proofs to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, the American Bank Note Co. might not have attempted to match accurately the color of the low-value dues. Initial quantities of the low-value dues had already been printed, delivered to the Government, and were in use throughout the country. It is possible that a color “close” to the current stamps was all that was necessary. This theory might explain the reddish brown shade, which is often sold as J5P3-J7P3. (As a possible complication it should be noted that the large die proofs J1P1-J7P1 exist, all in the same medium brown color). Then, there is the problem of the dark, almost blackish, brown shades of the three high values. Conceivably, the blackish brown proofs were made for inspection of the plates. Or they may have been

made for some purpose outside the regular production process. Like the dark, slightly reddish, brown plate proofs these blackish brown plate proofs were probably made during 1879.

This blackish brown set is very rare and almost never offered at auction. Complete sheets of 200 subjects, india on card, each with imprints and plate numbers in four positions, TL, TR, BL and BR were sold in the Lilly sale on September 13-14, 1967. Plate number and imprint blocks, india paper only, were sold in the Robert A. Siegel sale of the Morrison Waud collection on May 28, 1980. These were quite possibly the same items from the Hackett collection of essays and proofs sold by H. R. Harmer, February 6-9, 1956. The Hackett sale, incidentally, was one of the greatest sales of essays and proofs ever held. The catalog is a must for the library of any serious student of these issues.

In 1891, the American Bank Note Co. switched to a new kind of ink for printing the postage due stamps. This new ink probably included the newly-developed aniline dyes. Unlike the earlier brown and red brown ink, the bright claret ink fluoresces under long-wavelength ultraviolet light [7]. The American Bank Note Co. made plate proofs of all seven denominations: J22P3-J28P3. These plate proofs, on india paper, are in the bright claret color of the stamps. The proofs do fluoresce, indicating that they belong with the bright claret dues J22-J28 and were not made at an earlier date.

6. THE "H" HYBRID PROOF

Plate proofs which simulate die proofs are known as hybrids. Hybrids were produced when individual india paper plate proofs were cut to shape and mounted on a piece of blank india paper which had been die-sunk previously on a large card. In addition to not being printed directly on the large piece of india paper, the hybrid also shows the presence of a stamp-sized welt on the back of the card.

Hybrids, instead of large die proofs, were made for sample books by bank note companies, since the former were more cost-effective and less time-consuming to produce. Hybrids exist for virtually all regular, commemorative, special delivery, postage due, official, newspaper, carrier and official seal issues through 1893. In fact, proofs of some U. S. stamps exist only in hybrid form.

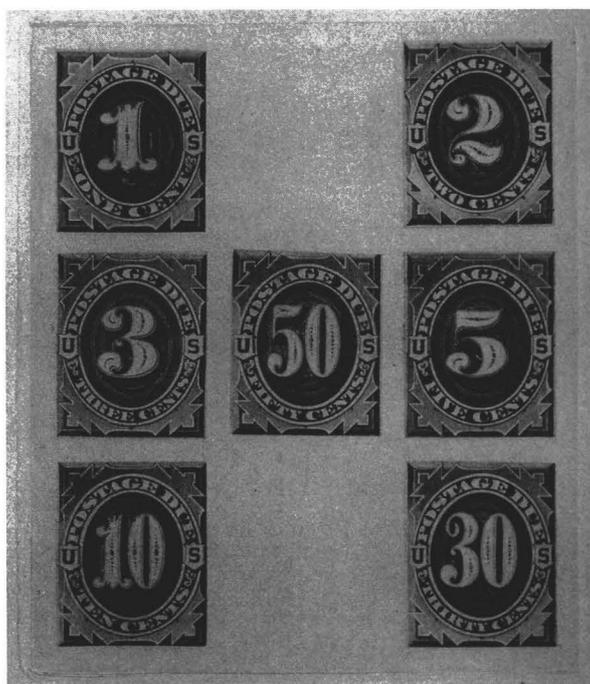


Figure 7. The hybrid “H” proof. Individual plate proofs on india paper.

Undoubtedly the most unusual hybrid form for the postage dues, or any other J.S. issue for that matter, is the “H” hybrid [11]. A glance at the illustration, Figure 7, makes the “H” nomenclature self-explanatory. Production of this oddity began in the normal manner with the use of individual 1¢-50¢ india paper plate proofs that had been cut to shape. However, instead of being placed “on” a large piece of india paper, the proofs were placed “in” precise spaces that had been carved out of

the india paper in an "H" format, so that the proofs would lie practically flush with the india paper. There is no exposed edge of india paper. Running one's finger over the proof confirms that there is no sharp discontinuity.

The history of this item is shrouded in mystery, and one can only conjecture the reason for its existence. Two important things should be noted, however.

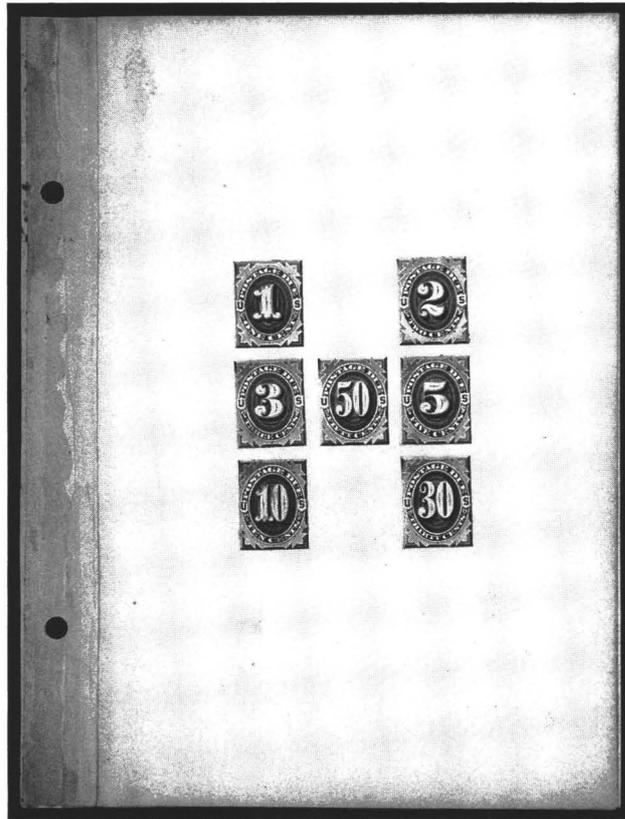


Figure 8. The hybrid "H" proof mounted as a page on a salesman's sample book.

First, all values are in the same color, a medium brown similar to the seven die proofs J1P1-J7P1 and to the four plate proofs J1P3-J4P3. This is unusual, since no regular india plate proofs of the 10¢-50¢ values exist in that same shade. It might also be that the proofs used for the "H" hybrid were excess or waste die impressions

which were not suitable for regular large die proofs. A study of the shades of the early postage due stamps leads to the conclusion that these "H" hybrids were made sometime about 1880.

Second, until recently, the only examples of the "H" hybrid known to the authors had been trimmed in size to approximately 100 by 125 mm. These examples provided no evidence of origin or use. However, a recent auction purchase by Lewis Kaufman has turned up an "H" hybrid on a gilt-edged, linen-hinged page, measuring 172 by 225 mm, with two holes punched at left. This was obviously designed to fit a post binder, and undoubtedly utilized in a salesman's sample book. Figure 8 shows this unusual "H" proof.

Why the "H" shape? One can only surmise that it was an attempt to catch the attention of the salesman's potential customers and also to save space in the sample book. These "H" hybrid proofs remain one of philately's intriguing questions. It is estimated that approximately 10 to 12 "H" hybrids exist. The hybrid "H" proof is not listed by Scott.

7. PLATE PROOFS ON CARD: SCOTT P4

Beginning in 1879, the Post Office embarked on a policy of presenting examples of all former and current postage, postage due, official, newspaper and carrier issues to members of Congress and other dignitaries. These examples were produced in the form of plate proofs on card. These card proofs were printed on five occasions: September 1879, October 1885, June 1890, January 1893 and May 1893. Five hundred of each of the individual stamp proofs were printed each time.

Each issue of these postage due card proofs was printed in 200-subject sheets, cut up primarily into singles, and placed in special envelopes. Since each of the five emissions was printed on cardboard of varying thickness, careful measurement can often determine the specific printing of a proof [12]. A note of caution, however, is in order. While uniformity of cardboard was an admirable goal, it sometimes was not achieved, leading to differences in thickness within the same printing. Consequently, the thickness measurements listed in Table 6 below, which were taken on fifteen individual sets of the Bank Note due card proofs, should only be used as approximations.

The color and thickness of the proofs and the dimensions of the envelopes that held the proofs are listed in Table 6. The two 1893 printings used fluorescent ink.

Table 6. Large Numeral postage due plate proofs on cardboard

Year of Issue	Proof Color	Thickness	Envelope Dimensions	Quantity of Proofs
1879	brown	0.0120-0.0135"	92 x 59 mm, with pointed flap	500
1885	brown	0.0090-0.0095"	92 x 59 mm, with rounded flap	500
1890	red brown	0.0105-0.0115"	134 x 73 mm	500
1893 I	bright claret	0.0110-0.0125"	133 x 73 mm	500
1893 II*	bright claret	0.0120-0.0135"	133 x 73 mm	500

* Note erroneous 1878 date on envelope.

Figures 9 through 12 show the envelopes that were used to hold the 1885, the 1890 and the two 1893 sets of postage due card proofs. The 1879 envelope, not shown, is the same as the 1885 envelope except that the flap on the rear is pointed. The 1885 envelope has a rounded flap.

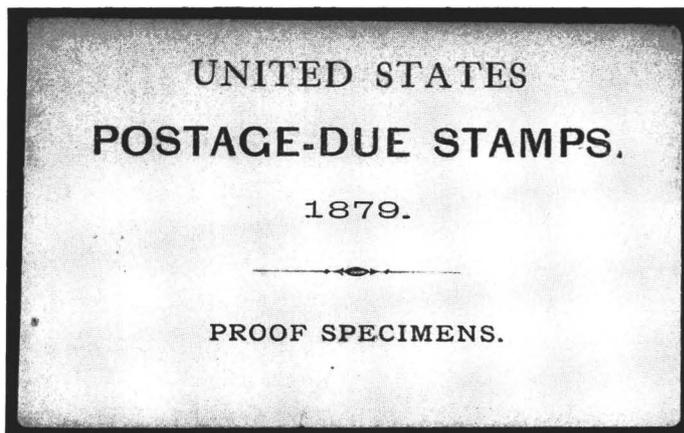


Figure 9. The envelope for the 1885 printing of the postage due card proofs. The flap on the rear is rounded. The envelope for the 1879 printing is the same except for a pointed flap.

United States Postage Stamps,

ISSUE

1879

Postage Due.

Figure 10. The envelope for the 1890 printing of the postage due card proofs.

United States Postage Stamps,

ISSUE

Postage Due.

Figure 11. The envelope for the first 1893 printing of the postage due card proofs.

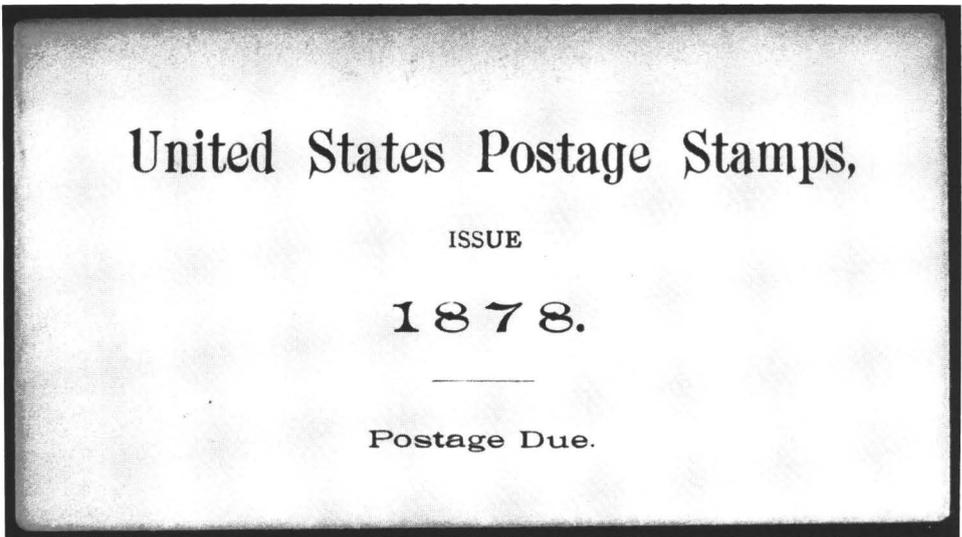


Figure 12. The envelope for the second 1893 printing of the postage due card proofs. The "1878" printed on the envelope was an obvious error: it should have been "1879."

These card proofs were made at the order (or request) of the Post Office Department. Card was selected for durability, in contrast to the fragility of the india paper proofs. The proof were distributed freely by the Post Office and by congressmen on the same basis as flower and vegetable seeds. Time and catalog listing have legitimized these card proofs. However, one should recognize that they are essentially philatelic gifts that played no part in the production of the postage due stamps.

8. ATLANTA PROOFS: SCOTT J1TC-J7TC

Atlanta, Georgia, was the site of the International Cotton Exposition in 1881. In accordance with the practices of the time, the Post Office Department had an exhibit at the Exposition. This exhibit included one pane of proofs of every U.S. stamp that had been issued to that date in each of five colors: black, scarlet, brown, green and blue. For the postage dues, one pane meant 100 individual proofs. The proofs were

on thin card, about 0.0075 to 0.0085 inches thick. These proofs are quite distinct from any other postage due card proofs. The 1¢ black Atlanta proof is free of the flaw of the J1TCP4 described in Section 4. This Atlanta black has a darker grayish tinge quite unlike the lighter black color of J1TCP4. The Atlanta brown is a very dark brown with a slight yellowish tinge, quite different from the lighter brown J1P4-J7P4 of Section 7. The Atlanta brown is almost identical to, although a touch lighter and yellower than, the blackish brown J5P3-J7P3 discussed in Section 5. Scott lists these Atlanta proofs under “trial color proofs” for convenience: J1TC-J7TC.

It is clear that the Post Office never intended these exhibition panes to fall into the hands of collectors. Brazer [13] recorded the story (perhaps apocryphal) of how the exhibit panes were rescued from a fire as they were about to be destroyed.

There is one further detail to note regarding the Atlanta “trial color” proofs. The postage due plates consisted of two panes of 100 positions each. Brazer wrote that about the year 1900 these second panes were cut up into singles and mounted in books of proofs for officials of the American Bank Note Co. These books, if they do exist, have never appeared.

9. ROOSEVELT SMALL DIE PROOFS OF 1903: SCOTT P2

The Large Numeral postage due stamps were replaced in 1894-1895, but this did not mean an end to the production of proofs from their dies. In 1903 [14] the Government produced approximately 85 albums, each containing 34 pages of die impressions of all postage stamps issued to that date, for presentation to congressmen and other officials. Each die was impressed upon a small piece of white fibrous paper, with 3 to 5 mm margins. This proof was then glued, along with other proofs, onto a large gray card about 11 by 7 inches in size. The proofs were usually arranged on each card by set. The cards, or pages, were bound into a volume which subsequently became known as the “Roosevelt Album” because it was issued during the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt. Allan Thatcher provided a comprehensive discussion of the contents of the Roosevelt Album [15].

Two sets of bank note postage due proofs were prepared for the Roosevelt album, Scott J1P2-J7P2 (brown) and J22P2-J28P2 (bright claret). Both sets were laid out in semi-circular fashion on the same card, page 19. The first set was labelled “1879,” the second set “1891.” The colors used by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in producing these

proofs deserve some comment.

Regarding the 1879 issue, it appears that an attempt was made to differentiate between the low and high values. In that set, the 1¢ through 5¢ values tend toward a lighter brown while the 10¢ through 50¢ values are a pale, slightly reddish brown. This distinction has been noted on every set examined by the authors and is not the result of an isolated color change. It is possible that the Bureau of Engraving and Printing was attempting to emphasize the four-month time difference between the printing of the low values in May and the high values in September.

The bright claret set, on the other hand, is in a much deeper color than the bright claret of the issued stamps. The color of the J22P2-J28P2 is very close to the maroon of the Stanley Gibbons *Colour Key*. Also of interest is the albino impression of the original die numbers above the designs of the 1¢ through 5¢ values in both sets. The 10¢ through 50¢ dies, engraved a few months later, did not receive any die numbers. Although listed by Scott through the 1980 edition of the *Specialized*, proofs of the red brown postage dues never appeared in the Roosevelt Album. The Roosevelt small die proofs J15P2-J21P2 do not exist. Figure 13 shows the 50¢ bright claret Roosevelt die proof and, for comparison, the 50¢ bright claret Panama-Pacific die proof.

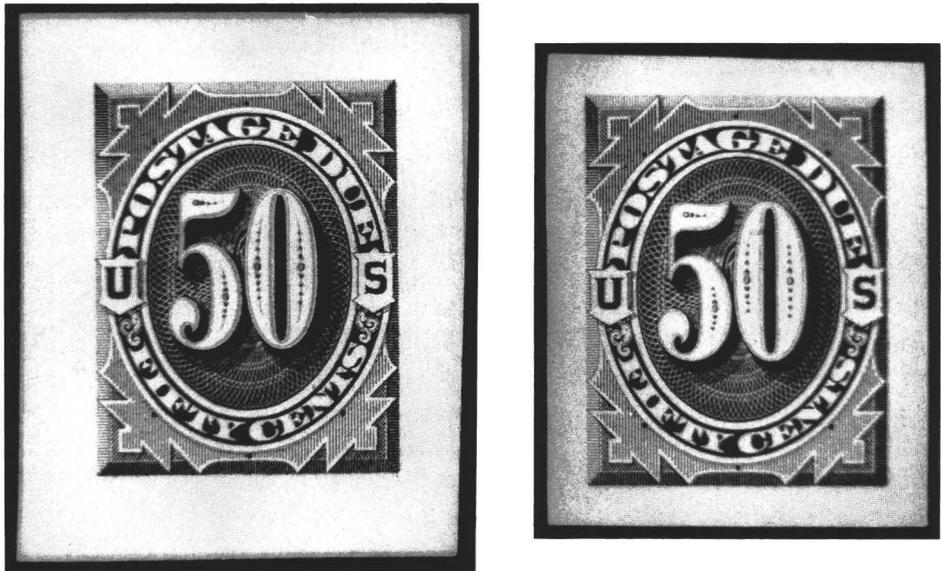


Figure 13. The 50¢ Roosevelt die proof, J28P2, on left, and the 50¢ Panama-Pacific die proof, J28P2a, on right.

10. PANAMA-PACIFIC SMALL DIE PROOFS OF 1915: SCOTT P2a

In 1915, the U. S. Government produced a special printing of the small-size die proofs for inclusion in its exhibit at the Panama-Pacific Exposition, held in San Francisco, California, from February 20 to December 4, 1915. The Post Office Department prepared three to five sets of 390 die proofs of U. S. stamps [16]. One complete set was given to the Smithsonian on April 23, 1915. The precise number of additional sets is not known. With regard to the postage dues, it can be stated categorically that in addition to the one set resting in the Smithsonian exhibit, two other complete sets are known in private collections. Further, additional copies of the 2¢, 3¢ and 5¢ proofs of the 1891 bright claret issue, J23P2a-J25P2a have also been recorded.

Brookman [17] reported that four sets of the Panama-Pacific die proofs were made. One set went to the Smithsonian's collection. The remaining three sets were later traded to a collector in exchange for some U. S. rarities, including various inverts, that the Smithsonian needed for its collection.

The Panama-Pacific die proofs were printed on a soft, white wove paper with a yellowish tinge. Margins, generally 2 to 3 mm wide, tend to be smaller than those of the Roosevelt small die proofs. This is shown in Figure 13. Given the nature of the printings, virtually all of these Panama-Pacific small die proofs have some degree of toning and should not be shunned because of this natural occurrence.

All three major colors were represented: J1P2a through J7P2a brown, J15P2a through J21P2a red brown and J22P2a through J28P2a "bright claret." The Panama-Pacific "bright claret" is much deeper than any of the issued stamps and is even deeper than the Roosevelt Album "bright claret." The color is very close to the Stanley Gibbons brown purple but also leans a bit toward the Stanley Gibbons deep claret. All these Panama-Pacific small die postage due proofs were made from the original American Bank Note Co. dies.

11. SUMMARY OF SHADES OF BROWN AND RELATED COLORS

By now the reader can see that there is an exciting variety of the Large Numeral postage due proofs. These varieties of the proofs include shades of brown, red brown and bright claret. In Table 7, we summarize these color varieties. Specification of the color shades in an absolute sense by written words is an almost impossible task [18]. Aside from three comparisons with the Stanley Gibbons *Colour Key*, we offer no absolute specification, but we do attempt to compare the shades of brown and the related colors, a relative specification.

Table 7. Shades of brown and related colors on the Large Numeral proofs

J1P1-J7P1	Die proof	Medium brown, no yellow, orange or red tinge. Consistent with postage dues of 1879.
J22P1-J28P1	Die proof	Claret, not fluorescent. Better renumbered as J1TCP1-J7TCP1.
J1P3-J4P3	Plate proof, india	Medium brown, close to J1P1.
J5P3-J7P3	Plate proof, india	Blackish brown, yellowish tinge. Could be renumbered J5TCP3-J7TCP3.
J19P3-J21P3	Plate proof, india	Dark, slightly reddish brown. Could be renumbered J5P3-J7P3.
J22P3-J28P3	Plate proof, india	Bright claret. Close match to issued stamps.
H	Hybrid proof	Medium to light brown, all seven denominations.
J1P4-J7P4	Plate proof, card	Orange brown.
J15P4-J21P4	Plate proof, card	Light red brown.
J22P4-J28P4	Plate proof, card	Bright claret. Close match to issued stamps.
J1TC-J7TC	Atlanta, plate, card	Blackish brown, similar to J5P3 but slightly yellower.
J1P2-J4P2	Roosevelt, die, wove	Medium light brown.
J5P2-J7P2	Roosevelt, die, wove	Similar to J1P2-J4P2 but with a little more red. Very close to SG reddish brown.
J22P2-J28P2	Roosevelt, die, wove	Deep bright claret. Very close to SG maroon.
J1P2a-J7P2a	Panama-Pacific, die	Light brown, wove paper.
J15P2a-J21P2a	Panama-Pacific, die	Medium, slightly reddish brown, wove.
J22P2a-J28P2a	Panama-Pacific, die	Close to SG brown purple but a bit toward SG deep claret, wove.

One note of caution. All of the india paper proofs were printed on india paper backed by card. Some of these proofs still survive as india on card and at first glance may appear to be card proofs.

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- [10] Post Office correspondence with the American Bank Note Co. between August 2 and August 29, 1879. On file in the National Archives.
- [11] Warren R. Bower, "The H Proofs of the First U. S. Postage Due Series," *Essay-Proof Journal*, vol. 25, pp. 3-4, 1968.
- [12] Howard S. Friedman, "United States Plate Proofs on Cardboard," *Essay-Proof Journal*, vol. 30, pp. 99-103, 157-173, 1973. vol. 31, pp. 106-113, 1974. Friedman was able to determine five ranges of card thickness and to correlate printing date with card thickness. However, Friedman himself wrote, "In the absence of a reference collection one is on precarious ground in attempting to determine the thickness of the cardboard used for each printing. There is little doubt that it varied considerably within each [printing] and from one [printing] to another, and that there may be considerable overlap."
- [13] Clarence W. Brazer, "U. S. Atlanta Trial Color Proofs," *Essay-Proof Journal*, vol. 2, p. 26, 1945.
- [14] Early writers gave 1904 as the year date. However a 1903 date is indicated by lot no. 1 of the John W. Kaufmann auction of December 8, 1984, which was a complete Roosevelt album dated March 9, 1903.

- [15] Allan M. Thatcher, "The Roosevelt Albums of United States Small Die Proofs," *Essay-Proof Journal*, vol. 10, pp. 67-71, 1953. Reprinted from *Stamps*, Oct. 31, 1942.
- [16] Francis J. McCall, "Panama-Pacific Die Proofs, 1915," *American Philatelic Congress*, vol. 22, pp. 133-148, 206, 1956.
- [17] Lester G. Brookman, *The United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century*, Vol. III, p. 222, H. L. Lindquist Publications, Inc., New York, 1967.
- [18] Roy H. White and Warren R. Bower, *The Encyclopedia of the Colors of United States Postage Stamps*, "Volume V, Postage Due Issues, 1879-1916," Philatelic Research, Ltd., Germantown, MD, 1986. This book offers very good color photos of the postage due stamps. Photos of a few proofs are included at the very end of the book.

CHAPTER 3.

THE LARGE NUMERAL POSTAGE DUE STAMPS, PART I

The May 5, 1879, Circular from Third Assistant Postmaster General A. D. Hazen (given in Appendix A) stated that 1¢, 2¢, 3¢ and 5¢ postage due stamps would be distributed to postmasters during that month. The circular included strict instructions to postmasters not to use these special stamps before July 1, 1879. The 10¢, 30¢ and 50¢ dues were not planned originally but were added later and issued to postmasters September 19, 1879 [1, p. 246]. All of the Large Numeral postage due stamps were printed by the American Bank Note Co.

1. PLATE LAYOUT, PLATE NUMBERS AND IMPRINTS

The Large Numeral dues were printed from 200-subject plates. These plates were laid out in two panes of 100 (10 by 10) with no gutter, but with arrows at top and bottom to indicate the midline. See Figure 1. The panes were cut apart along this midline, leaving a straight-edge along the right side of the L10-L100 column and along the left side of the R1-R91 column. Each plate carried the plate number and the imprint of the American Bank Note Co. in four positions. Table 1 lists the locations of the four imprint and plate numbers relative to the stamp positions.

Table 1. Location of imprints and plate numbers

	American Bank Note Company	Plate No.	Plate No.	American Bank Note Company
Above	L5, 6	L8, 9	R2, 3	R5, 6
Below	L95, 96	L98, 99	R92, 93	R95, 96

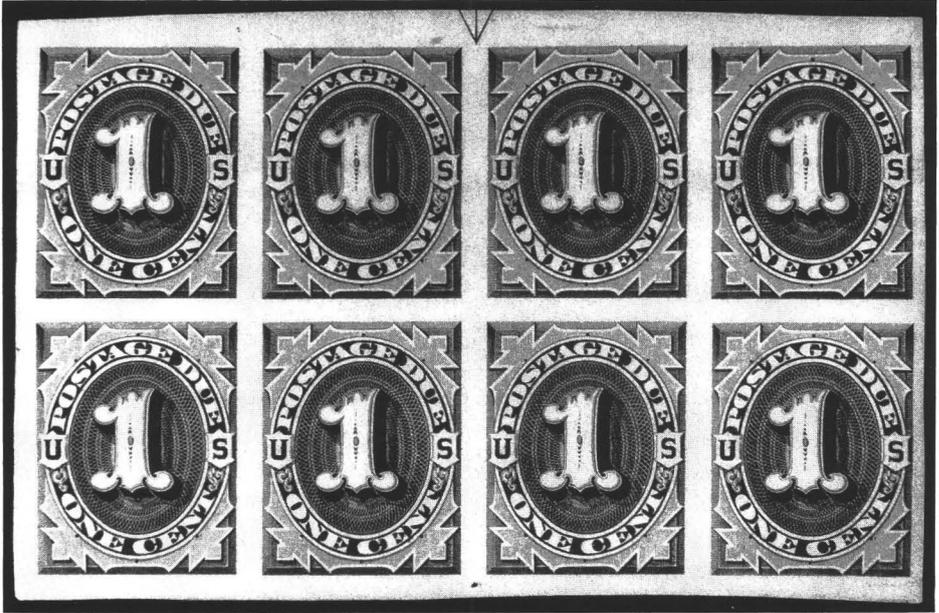


Figure 1. Block of eight of the 1¢ due showing the top arrow. Positions L9, 10, 19 and 20; R1, 2, 11 and 12. Plate proof on india paper, Scott J1P3.

This positioning put the imprint above the two top-row center stamps and below the two bottom-row center stamps of each pane. The numbers of the plates used for the seven denominations are given in Table 2 [1, 2].

Table 2. Plate Numbers of the Large Numeral Dues

Denomination	Plate Numbers
1¢	313 314
2¢	315 464
3¢	316 317
5¢	318
10¢	331
30¢	332
50¢	333

The numbering of the plates can be understood in terms of both the usage of the stamp and the timing of the denominations. Specifically, the 1¢ due saw heavy use on circulars and in making up higher charges throughout the Large Numeral era: two plates were needed immediately. The 2¢ due was little-needed during the first few

years: only one plate was laid down initially. Demand for 2¢ dues skyrocketed when the domestic rate was reduced to 2¢ per half ounce in 1883, so a second plate, No. 464, was made. Demand was heavy for the 3¢ due through the years 1879-1883, while the domestic postal rate was 3¢ per half ounce: two plates were produced in 1879. Demand for the 5¢ through 50¢ was less, so one plate for each denomination sufficed. The gap in plate numbers from 318 to 331 was a consequence of the delay in adding the 10¢, 30¢ and 50¢ values. Figure 2 shows an plate number and imprint strip of six of the 3¢ Large Numeral due. The left stamp is position R1, which shows the right half of the arrow.



Figure 2. Plate No. 317, AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY plate number and imprint strip of six of the 3¢ Large Numeral due.

The usual procedure followed by the American Bank Note Co. for producing stamps in this period went in three steps. For these postage due stamps featuring white line lathework for the background of the large, central numerals, an extra, preliminary step was necessary.

The lathework was inscribed, by machine, onto a soft steel preliminary die. This preliminary die was then hardened. A piece of soft steel which would eventually become the regular die was bent, fitted onto a roll about three inches in diameter, and then rolled back and forth with great pressure over the incised lathework lines on the hardened preliminary die. This procedure transferred the lathework lines, in reverse, to the curved piece of soft steel. This curved piece of steel was then straightened out and used in step 1. below. Details of this initial step and, indeed, of all of the plate production procedure, have been given by Baxter [3] and by Brazer [4]. Then,

1. The soft steel die was engraved and, after careful inspection, hardened.
2. A roll of soft steel, just slightly wider than the width of a stamp, was rolled back and forth over the die, under heavy pressure, to transfer the impression on the die to the roll (with highs and lows reversed). Then this transfer roll was hardened.

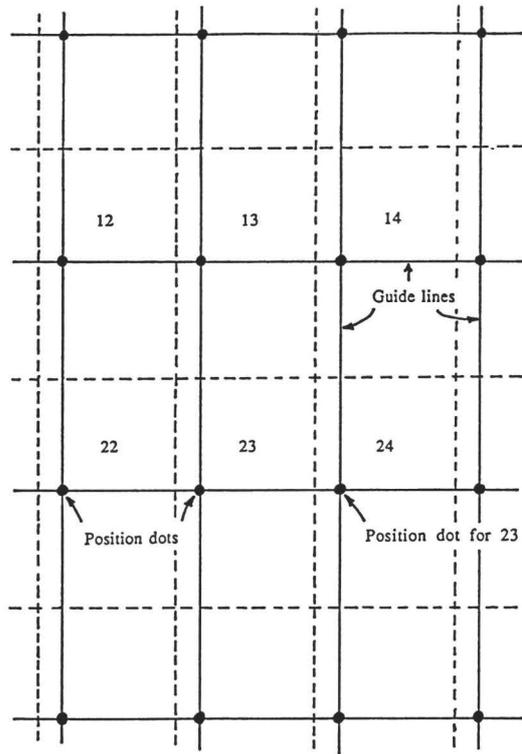


Figure 3. A schematic diagram showing the guide lines (solid lines), the position dots and the locations of the stamps (outlined with dash lines) as seen looking at a block of stamps.

3. The hardened transfer roll was then positioned on the soft steel plate and rolled back and forth under heavy pressure, in 200 locations, to produce the 200-subject plate for printing the stamps. Theoretically, each impression on the plate was a duplicate of the original die.

The position dots help tell the story of how the transfer roll was correctly positioned on the plate. A rectangular grid of faint horizontal and vertical lines was inscribed on the plate before any positions were entered. Most of these lines were later burnished out, but traces of them can still be seen, particularly on the india paper plate proofs of the brown postage dues. A small dot was punched into the plate at the intersections of these lines. This punch mark on the plate produced the position dot on the stamp. When the transfer roll was placed on the plate, its precise position was adjusted until the tip of a pointer on the side of the roll matched exactly the punched dot. Figure 3 shows the positions of horizontal and vertical guide lines and position dots relative to the stamps. Because we look at stamps and not at plates, the diagram is drawn to show the relative locations on a block of stamps. The stamps from the extreme left column of the sheet (L01, 11, ... 91) show no position dots. The position dots used for laying down the impressions for the stamps on the extreme right column

of the sheet (R10, 20, ... 100) are found in the selvedge on the right side. For further details see the papers by Brazer [5] and by Rich [6].

The Large Numeral postage due stamps show position dots that were used to lay out the plates. The four low values show position dots in or near the right arm of the "U" in the left shield. The dots are most easily seen on the 1¢ and 3¢ stamps, usually on the left edge of the right arm of the "U" for the 1¢ stamp and on the right edge of the right arm of the "U" for the 3¢ stamp. On the 2¢ and 5¢ values, the dot is often hidden in the arm of the "U." For the three high values, the dots are in or on the right side of the left arm of the "U" in the left shield and generally are well hidden. Figure 4 illustrates typical position dots. The plates were carefully made: no double transfers have been reported.

The perforation of the stamps nominally gauges 12 but is actually closer to 11 3/4. The postage due stamps were printed on a soft, porous paper, the same used by the American Bank Note Co. for printing the regular postage stamps.

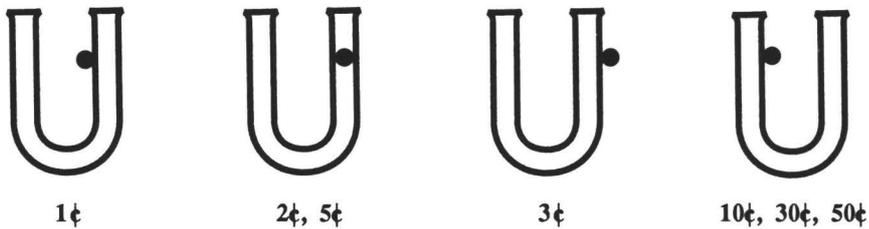


Figure 4. Typical position dots in the arms of the "U" in the left shield.

2. THE BROWN LARGE NUMERAL DUES: SCOTT J1-J7

Use of the four low-value dues, the 1¢ through 5¢ denominations, was authorized to begin July 1, 1879. (See paragraph 4 in Appendix A). Warren R. Bower and the author dismissed rumors of earlier, pre-July 1, usage because the rumors had never been documented and because the covers we had seen claiming pre-July 1 usage of postage due stamps were either ambiguous in the date or bore evidence of fakery [7]. Now, a well-documented example has surfaced. Figure 5 shows an overweight cover

from Port Edward, N. Y., dated June 19, to Warrensburgh, N. Y. The Warrensburgh postmaster applied one of the new 3¢ postage due stamps and cancelled it with a violet ring. He also stamped the cover with his town/date stamp: 20 JUNE 1879. This use of the postage due stamp, though unauthorized, is the earliest use yet reported. For those who may be suspicious, the cover has been certified by the Philatelic Foundation as genuine.

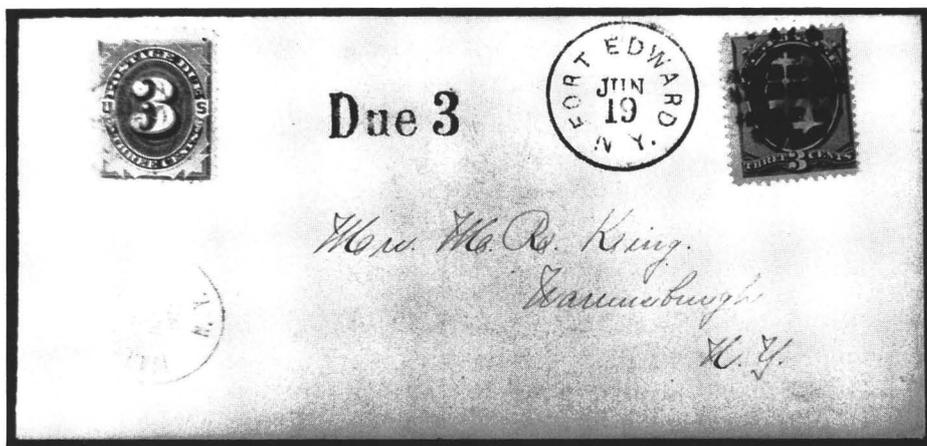


Figure 5. Unauthorized but still the earliest use of a U. S. postage due stamp. Three cents J3 tied on a cover to Warrensburgh, N. Y., dated 20 JUNE 1879. Courtesy of James P. Gough.

The 1¢ through 5¢ denominations were put into use,* officially, on July 1, 1879. The three high values, 10¢ through 50¢, were added later, appearing in mid-September 1879. The earliest authorized usages reported are J3s on two covers dated July 9, 1879. These covers, from the collection of Warren R. Bower, are illustrated in color by White and Bower [8].

At first glance, the seven postage due stamps appear almost identical, differing only in the large numeral in the center and in the spelled-out denomination below. One might expect that the engravers used a master die for the rest of the stamp.

* The term "issued" is really not appropriate here. The postage due stamps were distributed to the postmasters, but they were never issued to the general public. They were put into use starting July 1, 1879. The confusion over the date of "issue" goes back at least as far as Luff. Luff incorrectly listed May 9, 1879 (and no other date), for the four low values. September 19, 1879, was given for the three high values [1].

Barrett showed that this was not the case: all seven dies were engraved separately [9]. He was able to demonstrate clearly that there are differences among the dies, particularly in the vertical lines at the corners. Each corner of the ornate frame has a small square (with a corner of the square cut off). Figure 6 shows the squares in the upper left and right corners of the 2¢ stamp. Starting at the top of the small square in the upper left corner, there are two long vertical lines and the three short vertical lines. The square in the upper right has three long vertical lines and three short vertical lines. A tabulation of these vertical lines is given in Table 3.



Figure 6. The square in the upper left corner of the 2¢ postage due shows two long vertical lines and three short lines. The square at upper right has three long vertical lines and three short lines.

Examination of these vertical lines on the stamps (or examination of the numbers in the table) shows that all seven dies were different. All seven were engraved separately.

The color shades of the Large Numeral dues pose the only real problem in studying these stamps. Fortunately, there now exists a book by White and Bower with rather good color photos of the postage dues [8]. The very early printings of the dues were brown, not the reddish brown that the Post Office had announced in the May 5, 1879 Circular (see Appendix A). Some of the 1882 and 1883 printings were distinctly yellowish, a yellow brown. Some earlier writers thought that the yellow browns appeared in the first printings [10, 11]. A careful study of postage due stamps on dated covers by Warren R. Bower has shown that the earliest printings were

brown, and that the yellow browns did not appear until three years later. The yellow browns are particularly noticeable and common on the 3¢ stamps. These brown and yellow brown dues are Scott J1-J7.

Table 3. Tabulation of long and short vertical lines in the four corners of the Large Numeral postage due stamps.

	Upper Left	Upper Right	Lower Left	Lower Right
1¢	4l-4s	4l-4s	4l-4s	4l-4s
2¢	2l-3s	3l-3s	3l-2s	3l-2s
3¢	4l-2s	4l-2s	4l-2s	4l-2s
5¢	3l-3s	3l-3s	3l-3s	4l-2s
10¢	5l-2s	5l-1s	3l-2s	4l-2s
30¢	3l-3s	4l-2s	3l-3s	4l-2s
50¢	3l-3s	3l-3s	3l-3s	3l-3s

The notation "4l-4s" means 4 long lines and 4 short lines. Similarly, "2l-3s" means 2 long lines and 3 short lines.

The primary uses of the brown Large Numeral dues are summarized in Table 4.

Table 4. Primary Usages of the Brown Large Numeral Dues, 1879-1884.

1¢	advertising charge unpaid drop letters
2¢	overweight domestic letters, from October 1883 (seldom used singly before October 1883)
3¢	overweight domestic letters, through September 1883
5¢	seldom used singly
10¢	unpaid and overweight U. P. U. mail
30¢, 50¢	high charges on unpaid or underpaid U. P. U. mail, third-class mail uprated to first class

Table 4 shows that the 2¢ due was seldom used singly before October 1883; that is, during the 3¢ rate period. Four possible uses of single 2¢ dues come to mind:

1. on a 3¢ letter paid 1¢ (see Chapter 5, Section 4),
2. on an unpaid 2¢ drop letter (Chapter 5, Section 5),
3. on a 1¢ circular rated up to the 3¢ letter rate (Chapter 7, Section 2), and
4. on an incoming foreign (U. P. U.) letter 1¢ short (Chapter 8, Section 4).

All of these usages are very, very scarce.

All of the dues found use in making up higher charges. The chapters on postal usage of the postage due stamps illustrate the above uses and a number of very special, but very minor, uses of these dues. One possible use of the 30¢ and 50¢ dues was suggested by Bartels [12]. He reported that the origin of some lightly cancelled 30¢ and 50¢ dues was from collectors mailing underpaid bricks to themselves!

3. THE RED BROWN LARGE NUMERAL DUES: SCOTT J15-J21

The May 5, 1879, Post Office Circular (see Appendix A) had announced that the new postage due stamps would be a reddish-brown. They were not reddish brown: the new stamps were just plain brown. This discrepancy should not be surprising. Precise color control was almost nonexistent in 1879, and exact color probably was not a high priority in the production of these stamps.

Starting in 1884, quite possibly under pressure from the Post Office Department, the American Bank Note Co. began to add more red to the brown ink. The amount of red was increased gradually over the months of 1884 and 1885. It is most important to emphasize the gradual nature of the change from brown to red brown. There was no sudden, sharp change: brown from one printing, red brown from the next printing. Rather, we have essentially a continuous variation of shades, from brown printings in 1884 to obvious red brown printings in 1885.

The intermediate shades can cause problems for people who insist on forcing stamps into inappropriate classifications. The problem may be particularly acute for the 3¢ dues, J3 brown and J17 red brown. When the basic domestic rate was reduced from 3¢ to 2¢ per half ounce in 1883, some post offices found themselves with large numbers of the brown 3¢ dues. Virtually all the demand for 3¢ dues had vanished.* The New York Post Office, the country's largest post office, was seriously overstocked. Bower has documented that the New York Post Office was still using their stock of the brown 3¢ J3 dues in 1887 [13]. As a result of such overstocks and the

* A circular dated January 20, 1887, from Third Assistant Postmaster General Hazen offered to redeem unneeded and, presumably, uncanceled 3¢ postage due stamps. (April 1887 *Postal Guide*, p. 13).

almost complete disappearance of demand, very few of the red brown 3¢ J17 were printed. So, the 3¢ brown due, J3, is relatively common and relatively cheap. The 3¢ red brown due, J17, is relatively scarce and relatively expensive.

The problem of classification can assume great importance when an intermediate-shade 3¢ due is being sold. The seller points out that the color differs from that of a 3¢ brown, so the stamp must be a red brown J17. The astute buyer will point out that the stamp is not a “real red brown”: it doesn’t have nearly enough red. There is no easy solution because we have no generally agreed-upon definition or standard of a red brown postage due.

A consequence of this lack of a definition and standard for the red brown color of these stamps is that it makes little sense to try to fix an exact date for the earliest usage of any of the red brown dues [7]. The best one can do is to state the year: 1884 (and probably much later, perhaps 1887, for the 3¢ J17).

A study of the Scott *Specialized Catalogue* entries over the years for the red brown dues is of some interest. For many years, Scott gave the initial date for the red brown dues as 1887. Finally, Warren R. Bower, using red brown dues on dated covers, convinced the Scott editors that 1887 was incorrect. In 1968, the Scott catalog gave the year 1884 for the date of the appearance of the red brown dues, except for the 10¢ J19. The date for J19 continued as a very precise March 15, 1887. The story behind this strange date had been given by George B. Sloane [14]. According to Sloane, the date had been set years before by Lester G. Brookman, who had a copy of the 10¢ J19 with that date. Examples of the 10¢ J19 tied to covers dated before 1887 had been found, but for years the catalog retained the March 15, 1887 date. The anachronistic date was removed from the 1988 catalog.

The Post Office Department shares the blame for confusion over the date of distribution (or initial usage) of the red brown dues. The 1937 Post Office Department publication, *A Description of United States Postage Stamps*, states, “the color of all the [postage due] stamps is light brown. The color of these stamps was changed in 1889 to reddish brown and in 1891 to bright claret.” The Post Office’s 1889 date was in error by about five years.

Three other color shades merit some mention [15].

First, an orange brown appeared in 1884 and 1885. It is tempting to interpret this orange brown shade as an intermediate step in the gradual change from the brown dues to the red brown dues. Bowers’ study of the colors of the postage due stamps on dated covers showed that this is not the case. The orange brown dues seem to have resulted from some unplanned variation in the printing ink. Some of the orange brown stamps were overprinted SPECIMEN. These overprints are discussed in Section 4 of Chapter 4.

Second, some of the red brown shades varied toward the very dark end of the spectrum, thus yielding a dark red brown, really more dark than red.

Third, finally, as the admixture of red dye or pigment in the ink was increased, the stamps became a brown red, more red than brown. For all of these color variations, it seems fair to say that the printers of the 1880's were not really concerned about the color shades that would excite collectors a century later. All of these shades--orange brown, red brown, dark red brown and brown red--are grouped together as the red brown postage dues, Scott J15-J21.

By now the reader may have come to realize that color judgments by philatelists are often subjective. The experts can and do disagree among themselves. White [8] quotes several examples to point out disagreements, and he himself disagrees strongly with Waud [16] on occasion. One suggestion of White and Bower is worth repeating: develop your own set of color standards by using the stamps themselves. Avoid faded stamps or stamps that have picked up color from improper soaking. Otherwise, even cancelled, poorly centered or damaged stamps may serve as standards or references. Then, show your color standards to other collectors and dealers to see, for example, if your 1¢ light red brown is accepted as a brown J1 or a red brown J15.

Table 5. Primary Usages of the Red Brown Large Numeral Dues, 1884-1891.

1¢	advertising charge forwarding or return of third-class mail unpaid drop letters
2¢	overweight domestic letters
3¢	very little use
5¢	seldom used singly
10¢	unpaid and overweight U. P. U. mail
30¢, 50¢	high charges on unpaid and underpaid U. P. U. third-class mail uprated to first class

When the basic rate for domestic letters was reduced from 3¢ to 2¢ per half ounce on October 1, 1883, virtually all of the need for a 3¢ postage due stamp disappeared. The 3¢ postage due stamp continued to meet some minor needs. Occasional single-stamp usage occurred on German or Austrian post cards which had been prepaid their domestic rate and rated DUE 3 (Chapter 9, Figure 8). Pairs of the 3¢ due were used on British letters prepaid the domestic rate and rated DUE 6 (Chapter 8, Figure 19). The same DUE 6 applied to British private post cards that were uprated to letter rate. Combined use included making up 8¢ with a 5¢ due. Figure 4 of Chapter 9 illustrates this usage. Overweight Canadian letters provided another use for the 3¢ dues. Through-

out the Large Numeral era, the Canadian letter rate (domestic and to the United States) was 3¢. Overweight Canadian letters to the United States were charged 3¢ or a multiple of 3¢ for simple deficiency. An example (paid with a 1¢ and a 2¢ due) is seen in Figure 11 of Chapter 6.

All of the dues found use in making up higher charges. The chapters on postal usage of the postage due stamps illustrate the above uses and a number of very special, but very minor, uses of these dues.

4. THE BRIGHT CLARET LARGE NUMERAL DUES: SCOTT J22-J28

In 1891, the American Bank Note Co. switched to a new kind of ink for printing the postage due stamps. This new ink probably included the newly developed aniline dyes. The resulting color was redder and brighter. Philatelists of the day questioned the Post Office about the color difference in the postage due stamps. The Post Office denied, in writing, that there had been any "official" change. However, the Post Office did admit that, "the changes ... are due partly to inappreciable differences in the fibre of the paper ... and to mistakes in the mixing of the ink preparatory to printing"[17]. Today, with ultraviolet lamps available, the change is obvious: unlike the earlier nonfluorescent brown and red brown inks, the bright claret ink fluoresces orange under long-wavelength ultraviolet light [15]. This fluorescence may be taken as the defining characteristic of the bright clarets. If a Large Numeral due (bright claret or seemingly red brown) fluoresces, it is a bright claret. If it does not fluoresce, it is a red brown.

White [9], very much interested in the dyes and pigments used, has written of a nonfluorescent claret ink used in 1890. The stamps printed with this ink might best be grouped with the red browns. The red brown group, J15-J21, which already includes orange browns, dark red browns and brown red, has ample room for non-fluorescent clarets. Again, if the Large Numeral due does not fluoresce, it is not a bright claret.

Since fluorescence offers a positive test for the bright claret dues, theoretically it should be possible to fix fairly precisely on the date of their earliest appearance. The author and Warren R. Bower both have 1¢, 2¢ and 10¢ bright claret dues tied to covers dated 1891. Neither of us has examples of 3¢ or 5¢ bright clarets tied to covers

dated before 1892. It is necessary in this period that the bright claret postage due stamp be tied to cover for proof positive of date of use, insofar as precancellation was becoming very common. Both red brown and bright claret stamps are freely available in precancelled form. It would be relatively easy to create an early bright claret cover by replacing a precancelled red brown. For this reason, no emphasis can be placed on the earliest month and day. The best precision we can muster is that 1891 marks the first year of the bright claret dues.

Collectors should be aware of another factor when looking for early or earliest dates of usage of the bright claret dues. Unlike the 1879 browns, there was no official date of initial usage. Bright clarets went into the general stock of postage dues as soon as they were printed. The stamps were issued to post offices as they were requested, but not always on a "first in, first out" basis. The postage due stamps then went into inventory at the individual post office. Again, there was no guarantee of "first in, first out" usage. So, given these uncertainties of distribution, first use of the bright clarets cannot be pinned down to any specific date.

It seems likely that the 3¢ and 5¢ bright claret dues were delayed about a year because of existing stocks of the 3¢ and 5¢ red brown dues. As Table 5 indicates, there was little need for these two values, except in making up higher charges. Support for this hypothesis is given by the dates listed by Third Assistant Postmaster General Hazen for the exhaustion of the stocks of the 1¢, 2¢ and 10¢ values: 1¢ on August 14, 1894; 2¢ on July 20, 1894; 10¢ on September 24, 1894 [18]. The 1896 Report of the Postmaster General, p. 563, gives these same dates for issuing the Bureau of Engraving and Printing Small Numeral 1¢, 2¢ and 10¢ postage due stamps. The 3¢, 5¢, 30¢ and 50¢ Bureau dues were delayed, presumably to use up leftover stocks of these values of the Large Numeral bright claret dues. These dates for the introduction of the Bureau issue dues are listed in Table 6.

Table 6. Dates of Issue of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing Postage Due Stamps.

Denomination	Scott Number	Date of Issue
1¢	J31	August 14, 1894
2¢	J32	July 20, 1894
3¢	J33	April 27, 1895
5¢	J34	April 27, 1895
10¢	J35	September 24, 1894
30¢	J36	April 27, 1895
50¢	J37	April 27, 1895

Note the relatively late date of introduction of the 3¢, 5¢, 30¢ and 50¢ values. These stamps were less frequently used than the 1¢, 2¢ and 10¢ values. The January 1895 *Official Postal Guide*, page 941, states, “only the one-, two-, and three-cent stamps of the new design [J31 et seq.] have been printed, there being a supply of the old design [Large Numeral] in the other denominations still on hand.” (Presumably, “three-” is a typographical error: it should be “ten-”).

Bower pointed out that large numbers of the 3¢, 5¢, 30¢ and 50¢ Large Numeral dues were transferred from the American Bank Note Co. to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing when the Bureau took over the contract for producing stamps [19]. In an update to reference [19], Bower cited government documents to show that these 3¢, 5¢, 30¢ and 50¢ Large Numeral dues were destroyed in April 1895 [20]. Bower further noted that the government records gave no indication of any recall of the Large Numeral dues from post offices around the country when the Bureau of Engraving and Printing postage due stamps were introduced. The absence of any recall is supported by the many examples of late usage of the Large Numeral dues. Figure 22 of Chapter 8 illustrates use of yellow brown J3s in 1905.

The primary usages of the bright claret Large Numeral dues remained the same as those listed in Table 5 for the red brown dues. A variety of fascinating but still minor usages are illustrated in Chapters 5 through 9.

CANCELLED TO ORDER

Figure 7 shows an imprint block of the 5¢ bright claret J25. This particular block has an unusual history. You can imagine a cover arriving at the post office 20¢ due. A collector pays the 20¢ that is due and then persuades the friendly postal clerk to remove an imprint block from a pane of J25s, affix it to the cover and then cancel the due stamps lightly. It didn't happen that way. These postage due stamps were never affixed to any cover. They have full original gum. Whether or not there actually was a 20¢ due cover, this block was cancelled to order by the friendly postal clerk and handed over the counter in exchange for 20¢.

This friendly arrangement violated postal regulations. It should be pointed out, though, that it was not fraud or theft. The Post Office got its 20¢. Indeed, all of the mint Large Numeral dues that collectors have come from some similar arrangements, all contrary to postal regulations.



Figure 7. A lightly cancelled imprint block of four of the 5¢ bright claret J25 dues. The block has full original gum. It was cancelled to order.

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CHAPTER 4.

THE LARGE NUMERAL POSTAGE DUE STAMPS, PART II

1. QUANTITIES OF STAMPS ISSUED TO POSTMASTERS

The quantities of the postage due stamps issued to the postmasters may be found in the annual Reports of the Postmaster General. The quantities are given by denomination and by quarter of the fiscal year ending June 30. Luff collected and listed these data [1]. Table 1 lists the annual numbers issued by fiscal year.

Table 1. Numbers of Postage Dues Issued to Postmasters

Fiscal year ending June 30	1c	2c	3c	5c	10c	30c	50c
1879	5,755,400	642,900	8,396,000	873,300			
1880	1,199,000	695,000	2,999,900	767,500	502,800	64,280	56,020
1881	1,595,700	732,050	4,634,200	520,780	552,250	9,300	1,430
1882	2,328,350	958,300	6,801,650	532,560	739,930	11,050	3,470
1883	2,475,375	1,244,475	7,383,530	525,145	948,965	17,960	14,450
1884	3,467,500	7,905,600	724,250	454,550	1,021,270	26,360	12,668
1885	3,054,350	8,252,500	72,700	483,160	784,425	18,430	5,176
1886	2,392,500	1,881,100	61,300	359,280	771,110	3,260	1,100
1887	3,436,200	3,194,600	67,900	516,200	1,010,340	13,230	8,004
1888	5,521,600	3,330,900	137,100	580,460	1,214,540	14,780	6,192
1889	6,320,600	3,560,200	148,900	519,220	1,340,200	910	140
1890	7,072,200	4,624,400	138,950	504,890	1,286,510	10,910	330
1891	7,673,300	5,056,850	193,800	555,400	1,493,160	1,670	600
1892	8,789,800	6,137,400	177,300	741,000	1,697,190	5,620	3,100
1893	8,967,450	6,598,500	192,950	808,510	1,525,550	6,650	2,350
1894	8,441,900	7,131,700	242,900	603,780	1,608,470	6,290	3,106
1895	1,350,368	50,164	190,300	604,320	277,780	23,430	15,030
TOTALS:	79,841,593	61,996,639	32,563,630	9,950,055	16,774,490	234,130	133,166

Several features of Table 1 deserve mention.

1. The initial high numbers, for the 1¢ and 3¢ values in fiscal 1879 and for the 30¢

and 50¢ values in 1880, were a result of building up stock in post offices. Much the same thing happened with the 2¢ dues in 1884 and 1885 as a consequence of the drop in the basic domestic rate from 3¢ to 2¢ per half ounce October 1, 1883. Then, when the basic weight was raised to one ounce, July 1, 1885, the number of overweight letters dropped precipitously and so did the demand for 2¢ postage due stamps.

2. When the domestic postal rate was reduced from 3¢ to 2¢ in 1883, nearly all need for 3¢ dues vanished. For each of the years 1885, 1886 and 1887, the number of 3¢ dues issued to postmasters was less than 1% of the 1883 number. Much of this drastic drop was because post offices were using up stocks of the 3¢ due and not requisitioning new supplies. As previously mentioned, Bower has written about this situation at the New York Post Office, where precancelled 3¢ brown, J3 stamps were still being used in 1887 [2]. The Post Office did offer to redeem surplus 3¢ dues in 1887 [3]. Apparently, many post offices did not accept this offer. Brown J3s were still in use at some of the small post offices when the twentieth century began.

3. The numbers for the 1¢ Large Numeral due show fairly steady growth in the use of these stamps over the period 1880-1885. This is to be expected with increasing population and increasing use of mail. The jump to 5.5 million in 1888 from 3.5 million in 1887 was probably a consequence of the new regulations authorizing the forwarding or return of third-class mail postage due.

4. The quantities issued to postmasters for fiscal 1895 show drastic changes from 1894. The low numbers for the 1¢, 2¢ and 10¢ values are a consequence of the replacement of these values by the Bureau postage dues. The unusually large numbers of 30¢ and 50¢ values issued in fiscal 1895 suggest that the Post Office Department wanted to unload surplus stock of these seldom-needed Large Numeral dues and shipped them off to some of the larger post offices.

5. Very few 30¢ and 50¢ dues were used, compared with the other Large Numeral denominations. Arfken has published a survey of the few surviving 30¢ and 50¢ due covers [4]. Some of these rare covers are illustrated in the next chapters.

6. Table 1 shows that almost 80 million 1¢ Large Numeral dues were issued. Only two 200-subject plates were used to print them. This means that on average there were 200,000 plate impressions on the printing press per plate. This is an extraordinarily large number of impressions for a soft steel plate without re-entering the plate; that is, using the transfer roll to strengthen each worn stamp subject on the plate. While re-entering the plate with the transfer roll was common practice in earlier years, the inevitable result was double transfers or re-entries. No such double transfers or re-entries have been found on the 1¢ Large Numeral due or on any of the other Large Numeral dues.

Warren R. Bower and George Brett have suggested four possible explanations [5]

for the absence of double transfers despite such extended use of the plates:

1. Really expert re-entering of the soft steel plate. (While theoretically possible, this seems improbable).
2. Use of a better grade steel that did not wear as rapidly.
3. Relatively little abrasion from the particular inks used.
4. Case hardening of the plates. (The apparent erasure of a plate gash (Section 5) is an argument against such hardening).

Rich [6] pointed out that in the 1880's the American Bank Note Co. used case-hardening to harden the surfaces of soft steel plates so that they could be used longer. The hardened plate could, of course, no longer be re-entered with the transfer roll. But that is the key element here: no double transfers or re-entries are known on these Large Numeral dues. Bower and Brett did not reach a definite conclusion. Possibly two or three factors, such as Nos. 2, 3 and 4 were involved.

Monthly figures for the delivery of postage due stamps may be found in the Post Office bill books. For instance, the account for May 1879 shows that the American Bank Note Co. delivered [7]

2,814,500	1¢
332,200	2¢
4,295,700	3¢
473,600	5¢ postage due stamps.

This is about half of what is shown in Table 1 as delivered to the Post Office by June 30, 1879. Initially, the American Bank Note Co. was paid 9.98¢ per 1,000 stamps. This rate of payment dropped to 9.19¢ per 1000 stamps in July 1881 and 8.49¢ per 1,000 stamps in July 1885.

2. SPECIAL PRINTINGS: SCOTT J8-J14

The discussion of the postage due stamps in Chapter 3 skipped over Scott numbers J8-J14. Scott uses these numbers for the special printings of the Large Numeral dues. In 1875, the Post Office Department had ordered special printings of U. S. stamps for two reasons: first, to create an exhibit for the 1876 Centennial Exposition and, second, to get superb copies for stamp collectors. The 1879 special printings dis-

cussed in this section were strictly to provide collectors with superb copies.

The special printing postage due stamps have been described by several writers, including Bartels [8], Harris [9] and Waud [10]. Characteristics of these stamps are:

- Impressions: excellent, very clear.
- Color: deep shade of brown, slightly different from the color of J1-J7.
- Paper: granite white.
- Gum: white, crackly, different from the gum on J1-J7.

Despite these differences, it may not be easy to recognize a special printing due, especially if no comparison copy is available. The best course is to send the stamp you think is a special printing in to an expert committee for examination and a certificate. Figure 1 shows the 30¢ and 50¢ special printings, J13 and J14. Note how sharp the lathework is. This sharpness is a consequence of the care taken in the printing to produce a superior impression.



Figure 1. The 30¢ and 50¢ special printings, J13 and J14.

Harris made a point of insisting that the J8-J14 special printings were printed on soft porous paper with gum, despite Scott's statement that these were not gummed. Combs, in the article discussed below [11], may have been misled by Scott's erroneous statement. Waud corrected this and insisted that the stamps had gum.

The special printing dues pose a paradox, or as Combs termed it, an enigma: "Why are the 1¢ and 2¢ denominations the most valuable of the Postage Due Special Printings even though they apparently were issued in far greater quantities than the

remaining denominations?" As a specific example, the Scott *Specialized* lists 4,420 1¢ J8 and 179 50¢ J14 issued. Both J8 and J14 are rarities at auctions. Yet the 50¢ J14 does appear more often than the 1¢ J8. For comparable condition, the J8 commands a higher price than the J14, despite Scott's figures showing it to be twenty-four times more abundant. Combs came up with at least a partial resolution of this paradox. He did not claim proof but he did present very plausible arguments.

Referring to Table 2 below, a shipment of 500 of each of the special printing dues was received by the Post Office in Washington, D. C., on October 31, 1879. This shipment is listed in column 2. Luff [1] added in a second shipment, November 14, 1879, listed in column 3. The unsold stamps were destroyed on July 23, 1884, column 4. Adding the figure in column 2 to that in column 3, denomination by denomination, and then subtracting the corresponding figure in column 4 yields the number in column 5, accepted by Luff and by Scott as the number of special printing stamps of that denomination that had been issued. Combs' enigma is that these quantities in column 5 are wildly inconsistent with prices realized and frequency of appearance at auctions.

Combs argued persuasively on two key points. First, he argued that the second shipment of stamps, listed in column 3 of Table 1, were regular postage dues and not special printings. This set a limit of 500 to the possible number issued, shown in column 2 of Table 2. Second, Combs noted the record of a large order by stamp dealer G. B. Calman. The quantities Calman ordered in this one single order are tabulated in column 3. Combs believed that these stamps sent to Calman on this order were either lost or destroyed. So, subtracting Calman's order, column 3, from the revised number issued, column 2, Combs concluded that the number shown in column 4 was the number of stamps of the particular denomination available to collectors. Combs noted that, while the usual inverse relation between quantity and price was not followed perfectly, it approximated the relation much better than Luff's and Scott's numbers of stamps issued. For details of Combs' arguments, see his article [11].

Table 2. Luff's Calculation of the Number of the Special Printing Postage Dues.

1. Denomination	2. First Shipment, October 31, 1879	3. Second Shipment, November 14, 1879	4. Destroyed, July 29, 1884	5. Numbers Issued, According to Luff and Scott
1¢	500	5,000	1,080	4,420
2¢	500	5,000	4,139	1,361
3¢	500	5,000	5,064	436
5¢	500	3,000	3,251	249
10¢	500	3,000	3,326	174
30¢	500	1,000	1,321	179
50¢	500	1,000	1,321	179

**Table 3. Combs' Calculation of the Number
of the Special Printing Postage Dues.**

1. Denomination	2. Revised Number Issued	3. Calman's Order, November 10, 1879	4. Available for Collectors	5. Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue 1989
1c	500	400	100	4,420
2c	500	400	100	1,361
3c	436	100	336	436
5c	249	20	229	249
10c	174	10	164	174
30c	179	10	169	179
50c	179	10	169	179

One final point about the special printing dues deserves mention. The earlier special printing postage stamps were often mutilated by being cut apart with scissors. The 1879 special printing postage dues were pulled apart normally: they were not cut apart with scissors.

3. IMPERFORATES:

THE BROWN IMPERFORATE: 10¢, SCOTT J5a

Aside from color varieties (differing shades of brown), only one variety exists among the seven dues of the first issue, J1-J7. One pane of the 10¢ J5 escaped the perforating machine and became 10¢ J5a, imperforate. So far as is known, Post Office distribution of this imperforate error was a true accident [10, p. 20]. This 10¢ imperforate was known and listed by Scott as J5a in 1940, the year Scott introduced the modern "J" numbering for the postage dues. Figure 2 shows a strip of three of the 10¢ brown, J5a. This strip appears to be different from the strip of three illustrated by Waud. This suggests that an imperforate pane may have been cut into two strips of 3 and 47 pairs.

THE BRIGHT CLARET IMPERFORATES, 1¢-50¢, SCOTT J22a-J28a

The bright claret dues also exist imperforate. They were noted by Scott in 1943 and received "a" variety listings in 1969. Unlike the 10¢ brown, J5a, these bright claret imperforates were not accidents but were distributed deliberately. In 1935, Ward wrote that the 1890 definitives were ordered imperforate by the Post Office Department [12] for the Post Office Collection. Then, the Post Office collection was

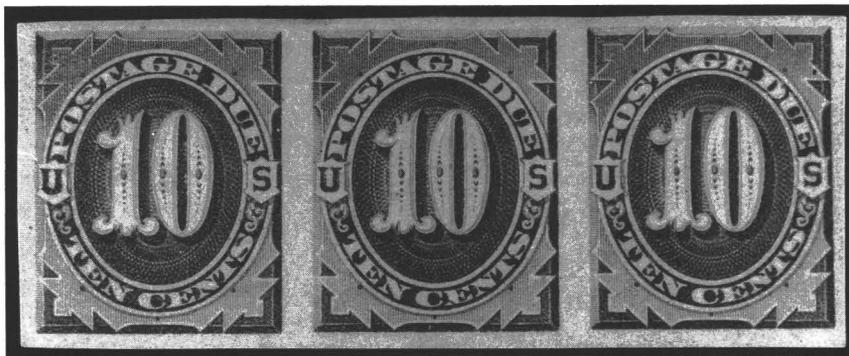


Figure 2. 10¢ brown, imperforate strip of three, J5a. Post Office distribution of this imperforate variety was accidental.

turned over to the National Postal Museum, now part of the Smithsonian. The imperforates were traded to dealers and collectors to get inverts and other rarities that were missing from the Post Office collection. The bright claret imperforates probably had the same origin. Figure 3 illustrates a bright claret imperforate pair, 50¢, J28a.

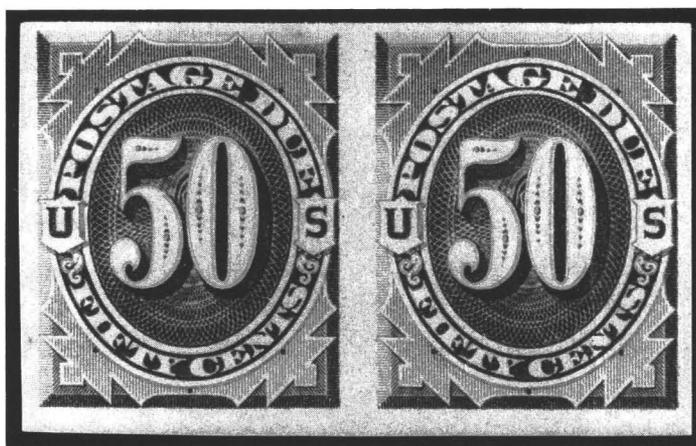


Figure 3. 50¢, J28a, bright claret imperforate pair. These bright claret imperforate varieties were distributed deliberately.

Quoting Ward, "... the 1891 imperforate postage dues, 1c to 50c, in bright claret with full gum, reached the hands of the philatelic public. In all 46 sets reached the public. These like the regular issue (the 1890 definitives) were cut into blocks and

pairs.” In addition to Ward’s “blocks and pairs,” it is now known that a set of strips of three exists. And, if there is one set of strips of three, there should be (or should have been) a second set of strips of three. Ward did not give the source of his number of 46 sets and it is not clear whether the 46 included two sets of strips of three or not. If we take Ward’s 46 as accurate, then the distribution of the bright claret imperforates could be {A}. If the two sets of strips of three are to be added to Ward’s 46, the distribution could be {B}.

46 Set Distribution {A}:	48 Set Distribution {B}:
41 pairs	45 pairs
2 strips of three	2 strips of three
3 blocks of four	1 block of four
46 sets total	48 sets total

4. SPECIMENS:

ORANGE BROWN: SCOTT J15SD-J21SD

The Large Numeral postage dues exist with a red SPECIMEN overprint. Most of these overprinted dues are orange brown, listed by Scott as J15SD-J21SD. Figure 4 portrays the 3¢ SPECIMEN, J17SD. The orange brown color of these stamps dates the overprinting as no earlier than 1885 or possibly 1884 [13]. Luff suggested that these stamps were overprinted SPECIMEN for distribution to members of the Universal Postal Union [1].

BROWN: SCOTT J1SD-J7SD

The true rarities of the Large Numeral SPECIMEN overprints are the brown J1 through J7 overprints. A few of the overprinted stamps are brown, J1SD through J7SD, rather than the orange brown J15SD through J21SD. The origin of these rarities is a matter of conjecture. Bendon’s book on SPECIMEN stamps offers some details [14]. Bendon writes that the Universal Postal Union asked for examples of the current stamps November 11, 1879, and again on December 28, 1885, with a follow up on December 22, 1887. The 1879 request was for 80 examples of each stamp. The 1885-1887 request was for 345 SPECIMENS of each stamp. The United States filled



Figure 4. Red SPECIMEN overprint on an orange brown J17. This is Scott J17SD.

the 1879 request by distributing the brown J1 through J7 without overprints [15]. In his support for these statements, Warren Bower advises that none of the brown J1SD through J7SD SPECIMENS he has examined have the color of the late 1879 or early 1880 shades [16]. The 1885-1887 request was filled by overprinting the orange brown J15 through J21. Bower believes that the existence of various subshades of the browns indicates that the printer took sheets of the postage due stamps from stock and included some brown sheets along with the orange brown sheets. Scott listed the brown J1SD in the 1947 catalog. The next three, J2SD through J4SD, were added in 1954. The remaining three possibilities still have not been granted catalog listing. Waud illustrated the “discovery copy” of J7SD in his 1976 article [10]. Figure 5 shows the 30¢ brown and the 50¢ brown SPECIMEN overprints, unlisted in Scott. The 50¢ J7SD shown here is different from Waud’s copy. This means that at least two copies of J7SD exist (and maybe only two).



Figure 5. J6SD, 30¢ brown and J7SD, 50¢ brown, unlisted in the Scott catalog.

5. PLATE VARIETIES: SCRATCHES AND GASHES

As emphasized in Section 1, no double transfers or re-entries have been found on the Large Numeral dues. However, there are constant plate varieties in the form of plate scratches and one defect that deserves the term "gash."

A plate scratch on the 1¢ J22 was found by Jack Blanchard in 1973. Warren R. Bower identified the plate position as L70 on plate no. 314. Initially, this variety was called a plate crack, but the smooth, regular line indicates a scratch on the plate rather than a crack. Later, Bower found a continuation of the scratch on position R61 (May 1976) and on R62 (February 1979) [17]. Figure 6 shows the constant plate variety, position L70.

Another plate scratch on this same 1¢ plate (no. 314) has been found on L74 and L75. Figure 7 displays this plate variety.

The 2¢ plates received their share of scratches over their long lifetimes. A gash may be seen on the pair of 2¢ red brown J16, shown in Figure 8. This variety has not been found on the 2¢ bright claret J23. Presumably, the defect was repaired. This could have been done by erasing both of these subjects on the plate and then, with the transfer roll, laying down new impressions [18]. This assumes that the plate had not been hardened.



Figure 6. One cent J22, position L70, plate 314.

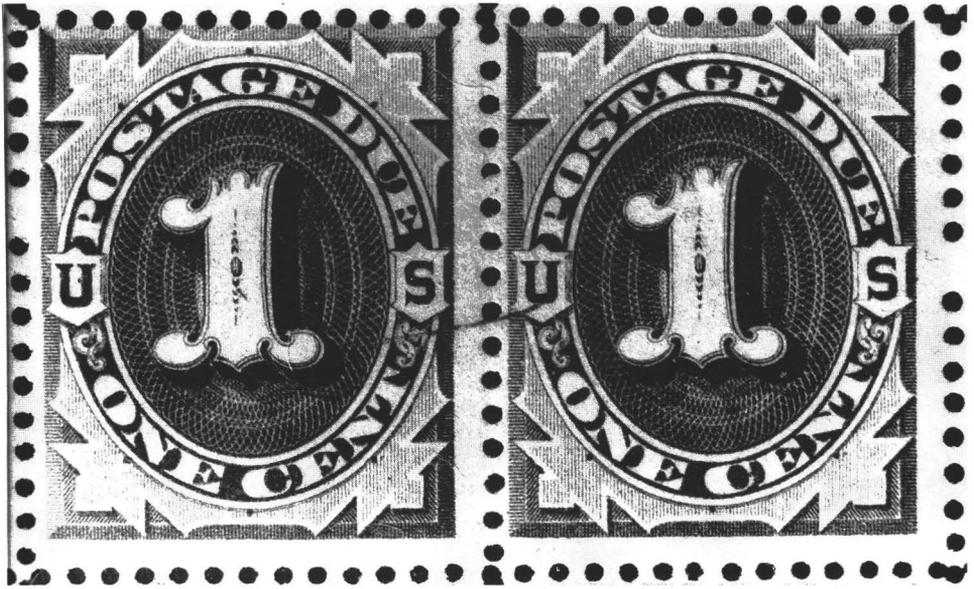


Figure 7. The plate scratch on 1¢ J22, L74 and L75, plate no. 314.



Figure 8. A plate gash joining two 2¢ J16 red browns. Plate and plate positions unidentified.

Two copies of the 2¢ bright claret with plate scratches are pictured in Figures 9 and 10. The scratches on these stamps and, indeed, all of the plate varieties listed in this section resulted from careless handling of the plates.



Figure 9. Plate scratches on 2¢ J23 through the numeral 2. Plate and plate position unidentified.

The scratches just described may be classified as plate varieties. Aside from pre-printing paper folds (see Figure 11), the Large Numeral dues demonstrate little in the way of freaks.



Figure 10. Plate scratch on 2¢ J23 through STAG of POSTAGE. Plate and plate position unidentified.



Figure 11. Preprinting paper fold on a 1¢ red brown J15.

6. INFLUENCE OF THE LARGE NUMERAL DESIGN ON OTHER COUNTRIES:

MEXICO

The U. S. Large Numeral dues had an attractive, classic design. Mexico drew upon this Large Numeral design for its 1882-1883 set of stamps. Quoting Gray [19], "In 1882 Senor de la Pena redrew [the design] for the Mexican government by removing the 'U. S.' at the sides and adding small numerals at the corners." The stamps exist overprinted with district name, number and abbreviated date. The stamps also exist without any overprint. The set was replaced with a different design in 1884. De la Pena's results are shown in Figure 12.



Figure 12. Mexico's 1882-1883 set: Scott no. 146, 2 centavo green, no. 147, 3c carmine lake and no. 148, 6c blue. The overprints shown are for Vera Cruz, Saltillo and Mexico City, respectively.

NEW SOUTH WALES AND AUSTRALIA

New South Wales issued its first set of postage due stamps January 1, 1891. Quoting from a booklet of the Australian Post Office [20]:

When the New South Wales postal administration decided in 1890 to introduce postage due stamps, it not only adapted for local application the rules of the United States Post Office regarding the employment of such stamps but also based the New South Wales postage due stamp design upon the contemporary United States postage due stamp.

It will be seen when a comparison is made between the United States stamp and the New South Wales design that the letters "U" and "S" in the shields at the side in the former were replaced by small drawings of a kangaroo and emu respectively, and the words "penny," "pence," "shilling" or "shillings" as appropriate appeared in lieu of the value expressed in words in cents. Room was also made for the letters "N.S.W." at the base of the revised design.

The central lathework does differ from the U. S. dues. The New South Wales set of postage due stamps ranged from Scott J1, 1/2 penny to J10, 20 shillings, all printed in light green. Figure 13 shows the 1 penny New South Wales due, the U. S. 2¢ due and the Australian 1 shilling due.



Figure 13. New South Wales 1p, Scott J2, U. S. 1¢ J22 and Australia 1 shilling, J18.

In 1901 Tasmania and the separate colonies on the Australian continent united to form the Commonwealth of Australia. The new Commonwealth needed postage due stamps and appropriated the New South Wales dues design. The initials "N. S. W."

were removed from the tablet at the bottom of the stamps and the tablet left blank [21, 22]. Plates made from these altered New South Wales dies were used to print Australia's first issue of postage due stamps. The blank tablet was eliminated in a second issue of postage due stamps. Also, additional dies were engraved to extend the issue. Figure 13 includes the one shilling value of this second issue. This is one of the newly-engraved additions: the New South Wales dues did not include the one shilling value. Scott lists the color of these Australian dues as emerald. They remained in use until 1909.

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CHAPTER 5.

POSTAL USAGE: DOMESTIC MAIL, PART I

The new postage due stamps were distributed to postmasters beginning in May 1879 with strict instructions that these new postage due stamps were not to be used before July 1. As this was a radically new system for handling postage due matter, the Post Office Department was soon obliged to issue a lengthy set of instructions. This was Order No. 7, August 15, 1879, reproduced in Appendix B. In addition, some post offices were temporarily exempted from having to use the new postage due stamps. These exemptions were ended by Order No. 267, March 28, 1882 [1]:

That from and after the 1st of April, 1882, the use of postage-due stamps for the collection of unpaid postage on matter arriving at destination through the mails - as required by Section 26 of the Act of Congress approved March 3, 1879 - will be extended to all post-offices throughout the country. Postmasters whose offices have heretofore been excepted from the operation of the act will after the date above named, resume the use of postage-due stamps according to the directions given in Sections 270 to 274 of the Postal Regulations.

T. O. Howe, Postmaster General

As of April 1, 1882, all U. S. post offices were to use the Large Numeral postage due stamps.

1. LETTERS PAID ONE FULL RATE BUT OVERWEIGHT

When the postage due stamps were introduced in July 1879, the letter rate was 3¢ per half ounce to all parts of the United States independent of distance. This 3¢ postal rate dated back to July 1, 1851, for distances up to 3,000 miles and to July 1, 1863, for distances of 3,000 miles and over. Often the weight of the letter exceeded this half

ounce, and letters were rated postage due. Indeed, overweight letters provided the most common use of the postage due stamps. Confirmation of this statement is given by the tabulation of quantities of the postage due stamps issued to postmasters, Table 1 of Chapter 4. For the years 1879 through 1883, the numbers for the 3¢ stamp are far above the numbers for any other denomination.

The regulations governing the treatment of overweight or underpaid letters were spelled out in the 1879 *Postal Laws and Regulations (P. L. & R.)*, Section 270:

Sec. 270. Postage-due Stamps for Insufficiently-paid Matter. - All mail-matter of the first-class upon which one full rate of postage has been prepaid shall be forwarded to its destination, charged with the unpaid rate, to be collected on delivery; but postmasters, before delivering the same, or any article of mail matter upon which prepayment in full has not been made, shall affix, or cause to be affixed, and canceled, as ordinary stamps are canceled, one or more stamps equivalent in value to the amount of postage due on such an article of mail-matter, which stamp shall be of such special design and denomination as the Postmaster-General may prescribe, and which shall in no case be sold by any postmaster nor received by him in prepayment of postage. [Act March 3, 1879]

Section 270 covers several points. Our immediate concern is the requirement that postage due stamps be affixed to the underpaid letter. These overweight covers often carry a handstamp "DUE 3" or equivalent, but nothing more specific as to why postage due was charged. Figure 1 shows an overweight cover with the more specific "Short Paid" handstamp used to cancel the 3¢ postage due stamp.

The covers showing the earliest reported, authorized use of the 3¢ J3 have been illustrated in color by White and Bower [2, p. 24]. There are two overweight covers, each with a 3¢ J3 applied in Boston on July 9, 1879. The earliest authorized uses of this 3¢ due and of the other postage due stamps have been discussed by Bower [3] and by Bower and Arfken [4]. For an unauthorized use before July 1, see Figure 5 of Chapter 3.

On October 1, 1883, the letter rate was reduced to 2¢ per half ounce. This meant a drastic reduction in the need for the 3¢ dues. Bower has documented this reduction for the usage at the New York Post Office [5]. It also meant a sudden, large increase in the need for the 2¢ due. The American Bank Note Co. was forced to lay down a second plate (No. 464) to meet the demand. Figure 2 illustrates the use of the 2¢ due on an overweight cover dated February 29, 1884.

On July 1, 1885, the basic weight was doubled from one-half ounce to one full ounce. The letter rate remained at 2¢ per ounce for over thirty-two years, until the World War I emergency rate of 3¢ per ounce was adopted on November 2, 1917.

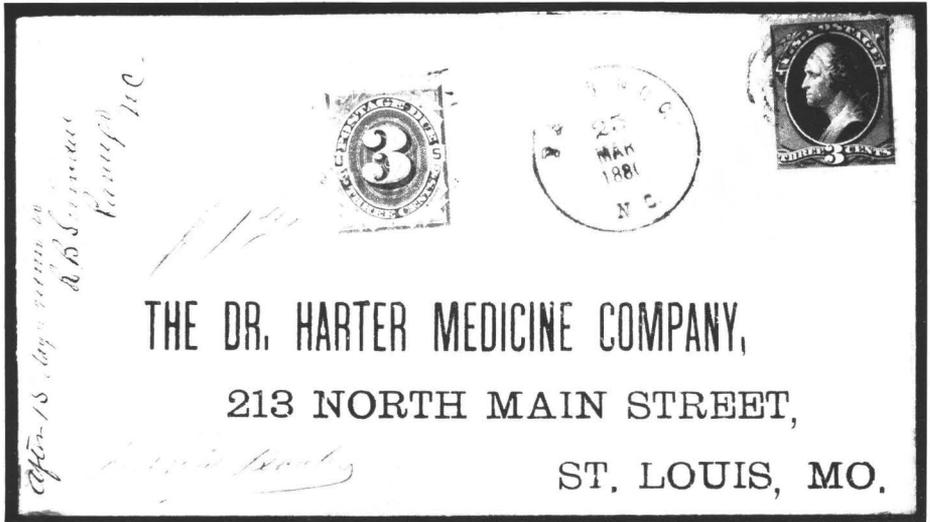


Figure 1. From Pantego, N. C., to St. Louis, Mo., March 25, 1881, overweight. Charged simple deficiency. Three cents yellow brown due cancelled with a purple "Short Paid" handstamp.

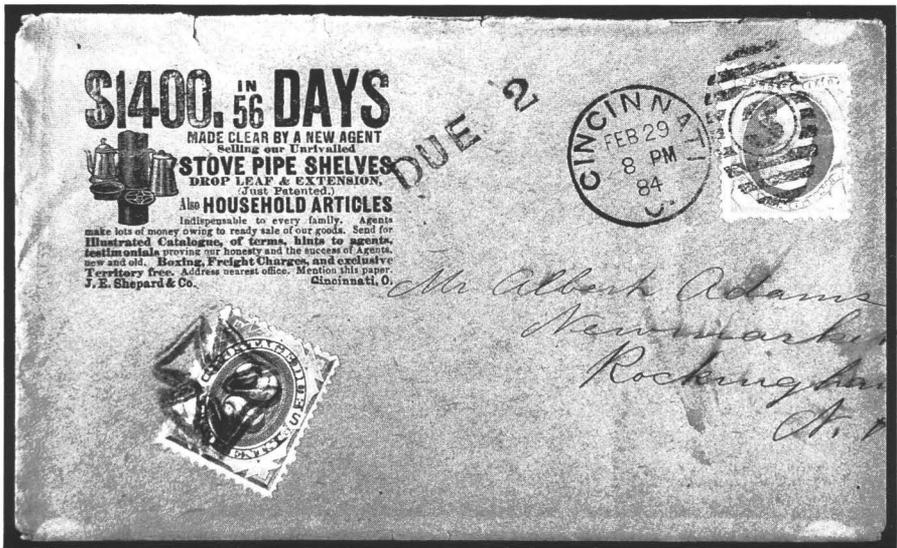


Figure 2. From CINCINNATI, O., FEB 29 84 to Rockingham, N. H. Two cents postage paid with Scott #183 vermilion, but the cover was overweight and DUE 2. Two cents brown J2 cancelled with a Maltese cross.

2. FORWARDED

Until July 1, 1866, forwarding a letter to a new address at the request of the addressee was considered remailing and required a second payment of postage. (Mail requiring forwarding on account of having been sent to the wrong post office in error was redirected at no charge). An Act of Congress, June 12, 1866 provided that, effective July 1, 1866, forwarding of first-class mail (letters) to a new address was free, provided the forwarding request was filed in writing with the postmaster. Authorization for forwarding prepaid letters was included in Section 371 of the 1879 *P. L. & R.*:

Sec. 371. Prepaid Matter to be Forwarded if Requested. - Prepaid letters shall be forwarded from one post-office to another, at the request of the party addressed, without additional charge for postage.

The word "request" was taken to mean a written request. The Post Office further interpreted "prepaid" to mean "prepaid one full rate."

Occasionally, one sees a postage due cover that has been readdressed. While postmasters sometimes did strange things, the most likely explanation for such a cover is that the letter was forwarded free but rated postage due because it was overweight. Figure 3 is an example of this situation. Posted in Wilmington, Delaware, June 21, 1885, the cover was addressed to Boston. The Boston Post Office affixed a 2¢ brown J2, cancelled it with a characteristic boxed X and sent the letter out to be delivered. Undelivered, the letter was stamped FORWARDED and sent on to South Scituate.

Affixing a postage due stamp and then forwarding the letter without collecting the postage due meant paperwork for the post office involved. Here, the Boston Post Office was out 2¢ for the 2¢ J2, while the South Scituate Post Office collected 2¢ without giving out any stamps. The procedure to resolve this situation was covered in Sections 8 and 9 of Order No. 7, August 15, 1879 (see Appendix B). These provisions of Order No. 7 were incorporated into the postal guides.

The situation posed by the cover of Figure 3, forwarding of a cover with a postage due stamp, was a continuing headache for the Post Office Department. The November 1892 *Postal Guide*, page 6, included a notice referring postmasters to Sections 559 and 560 of the 1887 *P. L. & R.* for the proper procedure to be followed. The notice bewailed, "a want of information or carelessness on the part of postmasters at third- and fourth-class post offices with respect to the regulations upon this subject."



Figure 3. Forwarded from Boston to South Scituate, June 22, 1885. No charge. Due 2 for being overweight. Two cents brown J2 applied at Boston and cancelled with a Boston boxed X. Courtesy of James P. Gough.

3. TOTALLY UNPAID

DOUBLING PENALTY

When postage stamps were introduced in Great Britain in 1840, it was found necessary to penalize letters that were not prepaid [6]. One of the main points of postal reform at that time was to get postal patrons to prepay postage, thus reducing the costly paperwork burden of collect postage. In the United States, the penalty took the form of higher rates for letters not prepaid. In July 1851, the rate was set at 3¢ per half ounce (up to 3,000 miles) if prepaid, but 5¢ per half ounce if sent collect. Prepayment was made mandatory in April 1855. In July 1879, when the Large Numeral dues appeared, the penalty for posting a letter totally unpaid was two-fold. First, an

unpaid letter was not to be forwarded to its destination, but rather was to be sent to the Dead Letter Office. From Section 431 of the 1879 *P. L. & R.*:

Sec. 431. Unmailable Matter to be Sent to the Dead-Letter Office. - All domestic letters, deposited in any post-office for mailing, on which the postage is wholly unpaid, ... shall be sent by the postmaster to the Dead-Letter Office in Washington.
...

(This provision was later modified and letters with less than one full rate paid were "Held for Postage." See Figures 8A, B and 9A, B in Section 4.)

Second, from Section 267:

Sec. 267. Double Postage on Unpaid Matter. - If any mail-matter, on which by law the postage is required to be prepaid at the mailing [post] office, shall by inadvertence reach its destination without such prepayment, double the prepaid rates shall be charged and collected on delivery.

Following an "Opinion of the Assistant Attorney General" dated July 18, 1880, the above statement was modified in the 1882 *Postal Guide*, p.737, to have "without such prepayment" replaced with "without any prepayment." So, any partial prepayment would avoid the doubling penalty. Figure 4 shows an example of this doubling penalty, a cover mailed from Louisiana without any stamps. It was rated DUE 6 and cancelled in blue with DEMOPOLIS, ALA. date stamps.

This doubling penalty on totally unpaid mail was the only penalty applied on domestic mail. All other postage due ratings on domestic mail were for simple deficiency. (On U. P. U. mail, Chapter 8, doubling the deficiency was mandatory).

SPECIAL DELIVERY

The special delivery system was authorized by an Act of Congress, March 3, 1885 [7]. The official announcement and regulations for the new system were contained in a circular from Postmaster General William F. Vilas dated August 11,

1885. This circular was reproduced in the September 1885 *Postal Guide*. From this circular and p. 14 of the September 1885 *Postal Guide*:

Sec. 3. That a special stamp of the face valuation of ten cents may be provided and issued, whenever deemed advisable or expedient, in such form and bearing such device as may meet with the approval of the Postmaster General, which, when attached to a letter, **in addition to the lawful postage thereon**, the delivery of which is to be at a free-delivery office, or at any city, town, or village containing a population of four thousand or over, according to the federal census, shall be regarded as entitling such letter to immediate delivery. ...



Figure 4. Mailed from Louisiana without a stamp. Should have been sent to Dead Letter Office. Rated DUE 6 with blue handstamp, double deficiency. Pair of yellow brown 3¢ dues cancelled with blue DEMOPOLIS, ALA., date stamps, June 24, early 1880's.

The special delivery stamp, Scott E1, was issued October 1, 1885. Notice the statement, "in addition to the lawful postage thereon." In a second communication, also dated August 11 and included in the September 1885 *Postal Guide*, the postmaster wrote:

Under no circumstances are [the special delivery stamps] to be used in the payment of postages of any description or of the registry fee, nor can any other stamps be employed to secure special delivery except the special-delivery stamp. The special-delivery stamp must be in addition to the lawful postage, and letters not prepaid with

at least one full rate of postage, in accordance with the laws and regulations, must be treated as held-for-postage, even though bearing a special delivery stamp.

The requirement of regular postage, in addition to the special delivery fee, was stated clearly in the 1887 *P. L. & R.* :

Sec. 670. How Sold and Used. - ... The special-delivery stamp must be in addition to the lawful postage, and any article of first-class matter not prepaid with at least one full rate of postage, ... must be treated as held for postage, even though bearing a special delivery stamp.

Some people forgot that requirement and thought the special delivery stamp was all that was needed for both regular postage and special delivery fees. At least one cover is known posted with a special delivery stamp but no postage stamp, handstamped "Held For Postage," and held until the writer provided the necessary 2¢ stamp. This really negated the purpose of "special delivery." Apparently, this problem occurred often enough that Congress, January 16, 1889, changed the rules just for special delivery letters. From the February 1889 *Postal Guide*, p. 15:

In future, whenever any special-delivery letter bearing only a special-delivery stamp, or a special-delivery stamp and an insufficient amount of postage stamps to pay the legal postage, is deposited for mailing at any post office in the United States, the postmaster shall not retain it, as has been the rule heretofore, but shall rate it up with the amount of deficient postage, and transmit it at once to the office of destination, where the postage shall be collected by means of postage-due stamps, in the same manner as other deficient postage is collected.

This rule applies to local special-delivery letters, as well as to that which is to be transmitted from one post office to another.

Figure 5 presents such a special delivery letter, postage unpaid, October 13, 1893. In accordance with the new regulation, this cover was forwarded Due 2. A 2¢ bright claret due was affixed and cancelled. The special delivery mail went through, postage due.

It should be noted that, on domestic mail, the general Post Office policy was to charge only the amount of the deficiency on underpaid letters without any penalty. The one exception in domestic mail was the totally unprepaid letter. These latter were not to be sent through the mail, but when they were sent on "by inadvertence," the rating was double the deficiency, as a penalty. The postage on the cover in Figure 5 was totally unprepaid, but the cover was not assessed the specified doubling penalty. Apparently, the language "shall rate it up with the amount of deficient postage" quoted above meant no doubling penalty on special delivery letters.

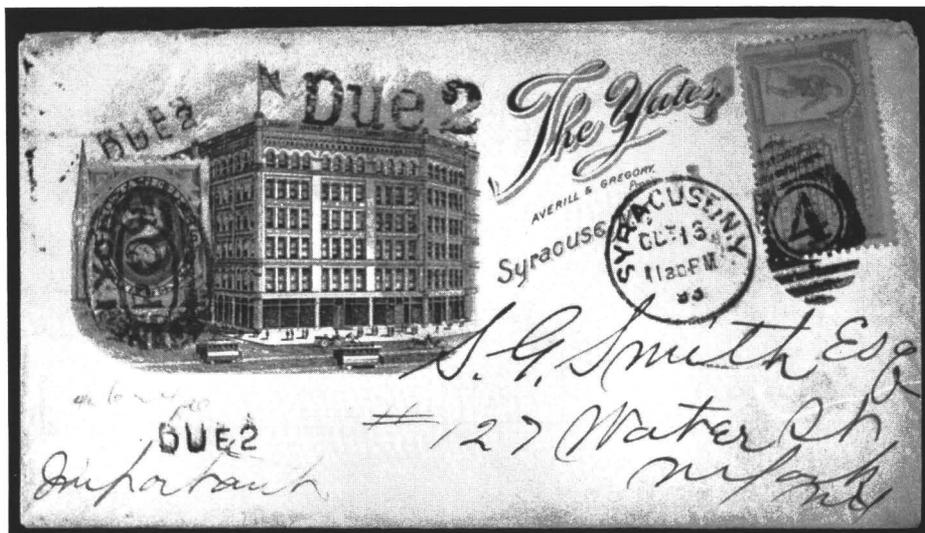


Figure 5. Special delivery, postage unpaid. Forwarded, due 2¢. SYRACUSE, N. Y., OCT 13 93.

4. ONE RATE PARTIALLY PAID

HELD FOR POSTAGE

Letters paid at least one full rate were forwarded to their destination, postage due if overweight. Letters totally unpaid were supposed to be sent to the Dead Letter Office. For letters with one rate partially paid, the Post Office had a different solution: hold the letter for postage [8]. From the 1884 *Postal Guide*, p. 562:

Letters. - When any letter of domestic address, prepaid at less than one full rate of postage, is deposited for mailing, it will be postmarked on the address side with the "RECEIVED" stamp, and the words "Held for postage" stamped or written on the upper right-hand corner of the envelope.



Figure 6. From MASSILLON, O., MAY 18 (1888), underpaid 1¢. Forwarded Due 1¢ instead of being stamped "Held for Postage." One cent red brown J15.



Figure 7. From TOPEKA, KAN., to Boston. Forwarded to New York and received AUG 2 1890 (backstamp). Probably letter mail short 1¢, paid with 1¢ red brown J15.

That was the rule, but sometimes it was more expedient just to forward the partially-paid letter postage due. Figure 6 shows a cover from Massillon, Ohio, May 18, 1888, prepaid only 1¢ and therefore 1¢ short. The cover was not stamped "Held for Postage" but was forwarded due 1¢ and receipted with a 1¢ red brown.

Sometimes, the interpretation of a cover is uncertain. The postmarks may not fit either of two sets of rules. Figure 7 illustrates this situation. The cover was mailed at Topeka, Kan., to Boston prepaid only 1¢. It was forwarded to New York, where a 1¢ J15 was added and well tied. Interpretation 1: first-class mail, short 1¢. Not noticed in either Topeka or in Boston. Caught in New York but not stamped "DUE 1." Interpretation 2: third-class mail. One cent due when forwarded from Boston to New York, but the required "forwarded, due 1" handstamp was not applied. Either way, some postmasters or postal clerks goofed.

The requirement of Section 431 of the 1879 *P. L. & R.*, that unpaid mail be sent to the Dead Letter Office, was modified to require that such mail should first be "Held for Postage." Details of this procedure were given in the 1884 *Postal Guide*, p. 562. Order No. 514 of May 19, 1883, as amended, specified that

1. Unpaid and underpaid letters were to be postmarked "Received" and that "Held for Postage" be written or stamped on the cover.
2. Notice was to be sent to the addressee asking for the entire deficiency.
3. When the needed stamps were received, the letter was to be forwarded.
4. The letter was to be held for two weeks waiting for the stamps (up to four weeks in remote areas). If the deficient postage was not received in this time, the letter should be sent to the Dead Letter Office.

One such "Held for Postage" cover appears in Figure 8A. It was mailed in Philadelphia, August 2, 1886. The addressee, Prof. Steele, was notified to provide 2¢ postage. Apparently he did so, for the letter was received in Galesburg, Ill., August 30. Figure 8B shows a label that the Philadelphia Post Office pasted on the back of the cover to explain the delay.

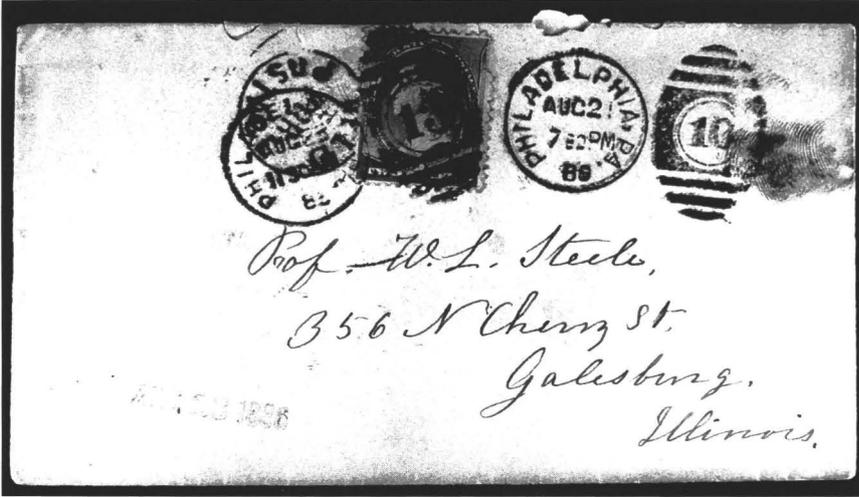


Figure 8A. This cover was mailed in Philadelphia, Pa., August 2, 1886 and "Held for Postage." When the required 2¢ in postage was provided by the addressee, the letter was forwarded. Courtesy of Peter A. S. Smith.

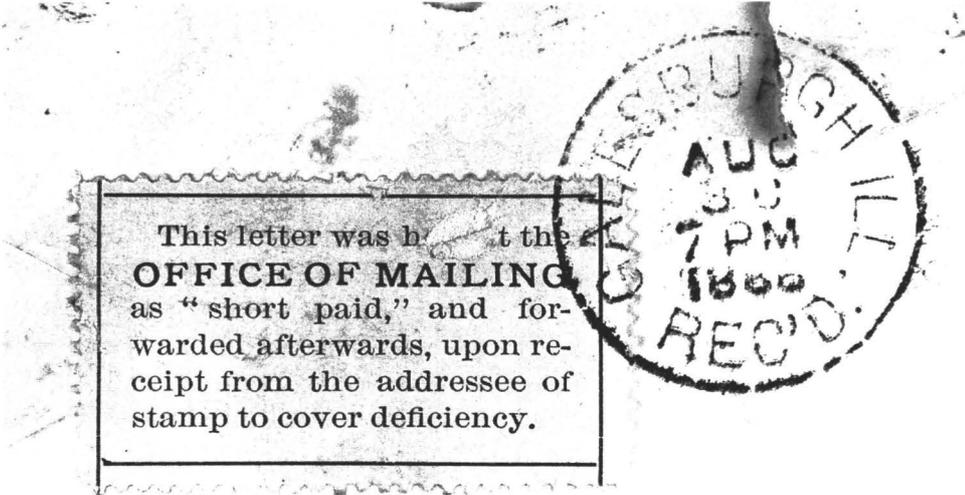


Figure 8B. The reverse of the cover of Figure 8A showing the label attached to explain the delay. Courtesy of Peter A. S. Smith.



Figure 9A. Mailed totally unpaid and “Held for Postage”, New York, October 19, 1886. Postage supplied by October 22 and the cover forwarded. Courtesy of Peter A. S. Smith.

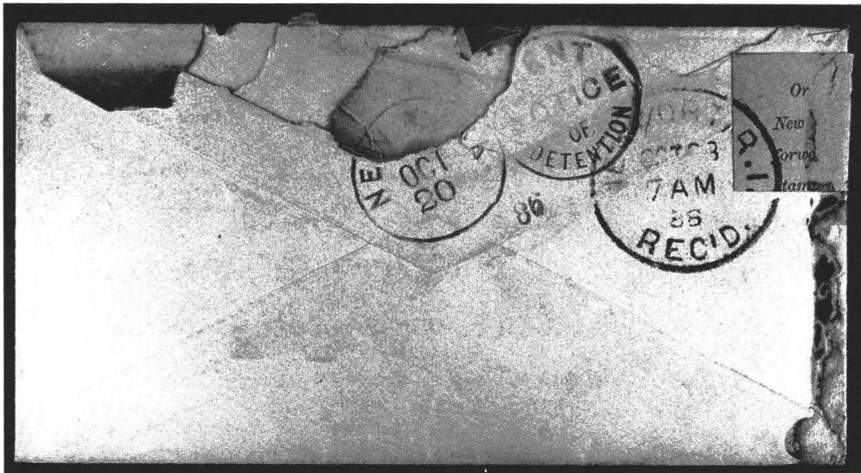


Figure 9B. Reverse of the cover of Figure 9A showing the left part of the “Held for Postage” label. Courtesy of Peter A. S. Smith.

New York also used “Held for Postage” labels. Figure 9A exhibits an unpaid cover, posted October 19, 1886. The label is wrapped around the left edge of the cover. Figure 9B shows the back of the cover with the left edge of the label. The label reads

Or - -ly "held for postage" at
New (York) as short paid, and now
forwa(rded) on receipt from you of
stamp(s ne)cessary for full prepayment.

Notice the New York double-circle postmark SENT NOTICE OF DETENTION in Figure 9B. Covers with these "Held for Postage" labels are quite scarce, despite the use at two of our busiest post offices.

5. DROP LETTERS

Drop letters were letters that were posted at and delivered from the same post office [9]. The rates were stated in Section 178 of the 1879 *P. L. & R.*:

Sec. 178. Postage on first-class Matter. - ... drop letters shall be mailed at the rate of two cents per half ounce or fraction thereof, including delivery at letter-carrier offices, and one cent for each half ounce or fraction thereof where free delivery by carrier is not established. ...

The basic weight was raised to one full ounce July 1, 1885.

UNPAID, NO DOUBLING PENALTY

At the start of the Large Numeral era, July 1879, when any letter, including a drop letter, was posted totally unpaid, it was supposed to be sent to the Dead Letter Office (1879 *P. L. & R.* Section 431). Failing that, the unpaid drop letter should have been charged a double rate as a penalty. This procedure was quickly changed. In the 1880 *Postal Guide*, p. 594:

RECAPITULATED AND NEW RULINGS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDING
DECEMBER 20, 1879.

9. Drop letters not having one full rate prepaid thereon are not subject to double rates; they may be delivered upon payment of the full amount chargeable thereon at the single rate.

Unlike an ordinary letter, an unpaid drop letter was not to be sent to the Dead Letter Office and was not to be charged a double rate. The unpaid drop letter was to be charged simple deficiency, 1¢, if there was no free delivery. Figure 10 shows this situation, an unpaid drop letter at Stillwater, Minn., July 2, 1894. Stillwater, with a population of 11,260 in 1890, did not have free delivery. A 1¢ bright claret J22 was affixed and cancelled with the Stillwater date stamp.

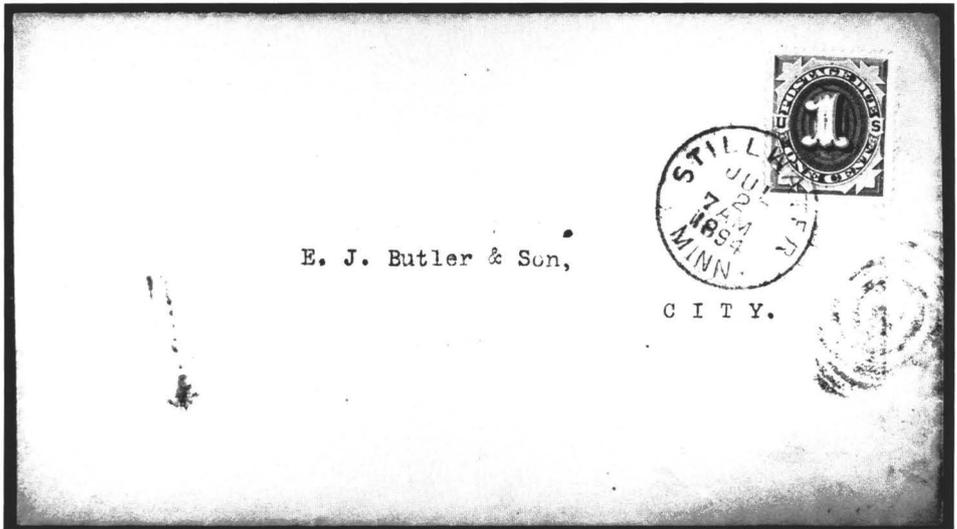


Figure 10. Totally unpaid drop letter, STILLWATER, MINN., JUL 2, 1894. Due 1¢ (simple deficiency, no free delivery). One cent bright claret, J22, affixed and cancelled.

UNDERPAID

Sometimes a 2¢ drop letter, posted where free delivery was available, would be prepaid only 1¢. One such cover, shown in Figure 11, was posted in Brooklyn, N. Y., May 28, 1889. The cover was stamped “Held For Postage” and presumably held until the writer or the addressee paid 1¢. In this case, the Brooklyn postal clerk elected to affix a 1¢ postage due stamp.



Figure 11. BROOKLYN, N. Y., MAY 28 89, 2¢ drop letter, 1¢ short. “HELD FOR POSTAGE.” One cent red brown J15 cancelled with a straight line date stamp.

Figure 12 shows an underpaid 2¢ drop letter at Lawrence, Mass., September 8, 1894. The postmaster, Lewis G. Holt, affixed a 1¢ bright claret due, J22, and cancelled it with his name stamp.

Two additional drop letters are illustrated in Chapter 6. Figure 5 shows a ship letter that was also a drop letter, while Figure 9 shows a steamboat drop letter.



Figure 12. LAWRENCE, MASS., SEP 8 94. Two cent drop letter, 1¢ short. One cent bright claret J22 cancelled with postmaster Lewis G. Holt's name stamp.

FORWARDED

There was another possibility for a drop letter. The letter could require forwarding to a new address. The catch here was that the drop letter postage might not cover the "one full rate" required for such forwarding. This was the case for the cover exhibited in Figure 13. Posted in New York, May 27, 1882, the proper 2¢ payment for the drop letter rate was 1¢ short of the 3¢ letter rate. This situation was covered in Section 431 of the 1879 *P. L. & R.*:

Sec. 431. Unmailable Matter to be Sent to the Dead-Letter Office. - ... But in large cities and adjacent districts of dense population having two or more post-offices within a distance of three miles of each other, any letter mailed at one of such [post] offices and addressed to a locality within the delivery of another of such [post] offices, which shall have been inadvertently prepaid at the drop or local letter rate of postage only, may be forwarded to its destination through the proper [post] office, charged with the amount of the deficient postage, to be collected on delivery.

If the underpaid and readdressed letter did not satisfy the conditions of Section 431, it could be sent to the Dead Letter Office but, more likely, would be "held for postage."



Figure 13. Two cent drop letter, NEW YORK, MAY 27 82. Forwarded to Brooklyn, DUE 1 CENT. One cent brown J3 cancelled with magenta Brooklyn donut.

The use of magenta-colored ink to cancel the postage due stamp in Figure 13 was illegal: see Chapter 11, Section 1.

6. ADVERTISED

Letters were advertised in the larger post offices, when carrier delivery failed, and in the smaller post offices with no carrier delivery. This meant publishing a list of names in a newspaper or posting a list of names in the post office. The conditions and restrictions on such advertising were spelled out in several sections of the 1879 P. L. & R.:

Sec. 444. Advertisement of Unclaimed and Undelivered Matter. - The Postmaster-General may direct the publication of a list of non-delivered letters at any post-office by a written list posted in some public place, or, when he shall deem it in the public interest, he may direct the publication of such list in the daily or weekly newspaper regularly published within the post-office delivery which has the largest circulation within such delivery; ...

Sec. 448. Charge on Advertised Letters. - All letters published as non-delivered shall be charged one cent in addition to the regular postage, to be accounted for as part of the postal revenue.

The charge provided for by this section is only made when compensation is paid for advertising letters by virtue of an order of the Third Assistant Postmaster-General in accordance with section 444. See also section 452.

Sec. 452. Advertisements in Newspapers. - No expense must be incurred in the advertising of unclaimed matter, nor any fee charged upon delivery of the same except by special permission from the Third Assistant Postmaster-General.

Sec. 453. Advertised Matter to be so Marked. - Every letter or parcel advertised must have plainly written or stamped upon the address side the word ADVERTISED together with the date of advertising.

SIX CITIES AUTHORIZED TO ADVERTISE IN NEWSPAPERS

Specific authorizations for the use of newspaper advertising and for charging 1¢ postage due were given in Post Office Department Order No. 7., August 15, 1879. See Appendix B.

Post Office Department Order No. 7., August 15, 1879.

3. No charge for advertising is allowed to be made upon the delivery of advertised letters, except at those six offices which have been expressly authorized by the Department to pay newspapers for publishing the list of undelivered letters, viz.: Baltimore, Md., Boston, Mass., Chicago, Ill., New Orleans, La., New York, N. Y., and Washington, D. C.

This list of six post offices permitted to advertise in newspapers was repeated in the postal guides through 1885. The 1886 *Postal Guide*, p. 713, dropped the list of these specific post offices. Presumably, permission to advertise and to charge 1¢ was granted to other post offices.

Handstamps to mark letters “Advertised” were purchased from sources outside the Post Office. Designs and wording varied widely. Some of the “Advertised” postmarks are illustrated in Chapter 10, Section 2. New York had one of the more elaborate handstamps, as shown in Figure 14. This cover, from Centre Bartlett, N. H., October 4, 1880, gave no street address in New York City. The letter was advertised, and a 1¢ brown J1 precancelled with blue New York pearls affixed. The letter was not claimed and was sent to the Dead Letter Office. This meant extra paper work for the New York Postmaster to get credit for the wasted 1¢ due.



Figure 14. ADVERTISED and Due 1 Cent, OCT (1880). This letter to New York was stamped UNCLAIMED and sent to the Dead Letter Office. One cent brown J1 with a blue New York pearls precancel.

Letters to be advertised included incoming foreign mail. Figure 15 shows a letter from Canada, December 21, 1892, to Cincinnati, Ohio. There is no street address. The letter was advertised, but to no avail. There is an UNCLAIMED stamp and the word INCONNU. (The latter is French for “not known.” Universal Postal Union usage called for French language markings [10]. Canadian mail was covered by United States-Canada treaties rather than by U. P. U. regulations, but the Cincinnati

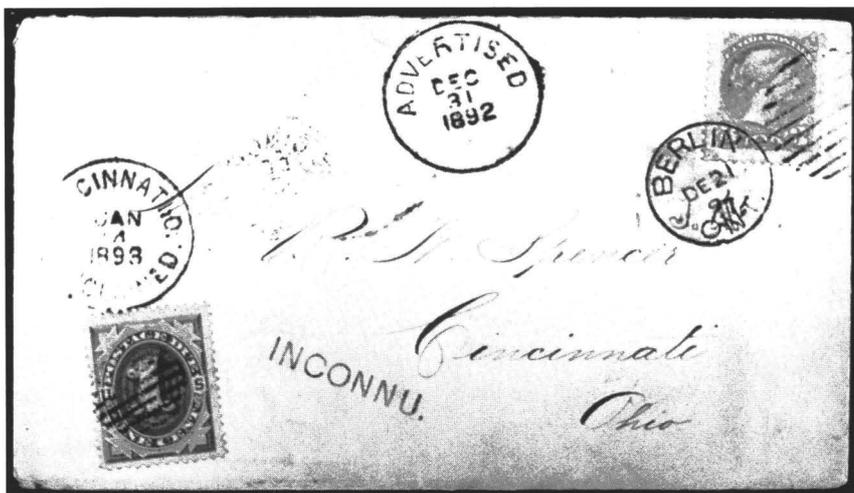


Figure 15. ADVERTISED, UNCLAIMED, INCONNU. From Canada, DE 21 92, to Cincinnati. Advertised and marked with a circular Advertised date stamp. One cent bright claret J22.

postal clerk used the French INCONNU just the same). The cover was returned to the Canadian Dead Letter Office.

Figures 14 and 15 show covers that were unclaimed, yet had postage due stamps affixed. One might ask why the due stamps were applied before someone came to claim the letters. At non-free-delivery post offices, the due stamps would not, or at least should not, have been affixed. At letter carrier offices, postal instructions were to affix the postage due stamps before the letters were sent out for delivery. See Appendix B for Sections 6 and 7 of Post Office Order No. 7. In the spirit of this regulation, the New York and Cincinnati Post Offices applied the postage due stamps when the letter was advertised and did not wait until the 1¢ advertised fee was collected.

In the 1880's, several of the large post offices added labels to covers that could not be delivered. Figure 16 shows an example of this. The cover, from Fitchburgh, Mass., October 4, 1884, to Boston, had a complete, but apparently erroneous street address. Failing delivery by carrier, the label was added as an explanation. Advertising (1¢ brown J1) did not help. The letter went to the Dead Letter Office.

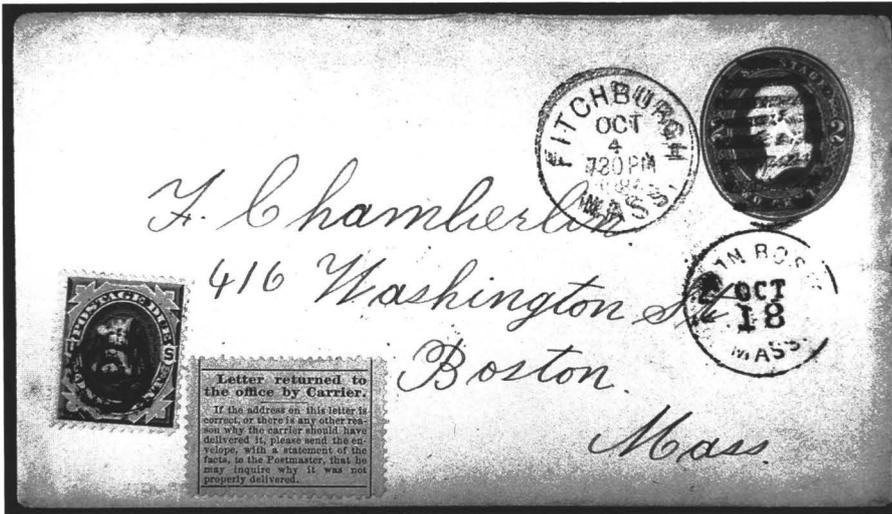


Figure 16. A carrier label to explain failure of delivery. From FITCHBURGH, MASS., OCT 4 1884, to Boston. One cent brown J1. Dead Letter Office backstamp.

These carrier labels are known on both white and yellow paper, perforated and with variations in wording.

7. FREE FRANKING: POSTAGE DUE

There was one other, most unusual, way in which a letter might be rated postage due. Section 412 of the 1887 *P. L. & R.* specified that the three living Presidential widows, Sarah Polk, Lucretia R. Garfield and Julia D. Grant, should receive the free-franking privilege, that letters to them or letters from them carrying their signatures should pass through the mail free. Richard Graham has discussed this free-frank provision for Julia D. Grant and has shown a December 1889 cover signed by Mrs. Grant that was rated Due 2 and had a 2¢ J16 postage due stamp attached [11]. According to Graham, this was not an isolated incident. Most of Julia Grant's letters were rated postage due. One suggestion was that the covers were not passed free because she did not write "free" on the covers.

The relevant regulations do not provide a satisfactory explanation of this Due 2 rating. Section 413 of the 1887 *P. L. & R.* included the statement:

To entitle to free carriage the word "free" should be printed or written and signed with the name and official designation, if any, of the person entitled to frank it, on the address face of the package, except in the case of matter addressed to the persons named in the preceding sections.

However, Section 413 was amended in 1888, and this blanket requirement for the inclusion of the word "free" was eliminated. The revised Section 413 was given in Order No. 115, May 25, 1888 and reprinted on p. 759 of the 1889 *Postal Guide*. There would seem to be no legal justification for rating Mrs. Grant's letter Due 2. The due rating could have been a result of ignorance or misunderstanding of the postal regulations. Graham also raised the possibility of politically inspired malice.

8. POSTAL CARDS

Following European and Canadian examples, the United States issued its first official government postal card on May 13, 1873. The Post Office placed some restrictions on the use of these cards. From the *Postal Guides* of 1880, p. 609 and 1881, p. 648:

145. Whenever anything whatever is attached to a postal card it is thereby rendered unmailable as a postal card, and can only be sent in the mails as first-class matter.

51. When a postal card which is unmailable by reason of any violation of law or regulation governing its transmission in the mails should nevertheless reach the office of destination, it must be treated as an insufficiently prepaid letter, and two cents additional charged and collected on delivery.

The 1881 *Postal Guide*, p. 603, did relax the restriction that nothing should be attached to the card. We find:

In using postal cards, be careful not to paste, gum (except an address tag or label), or attach anything to them.

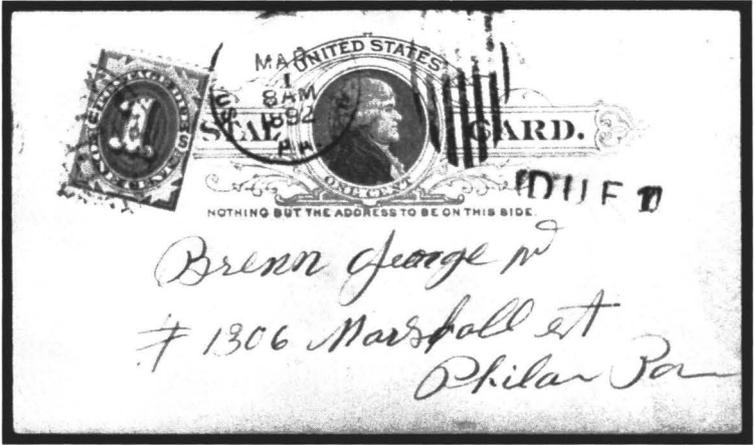


Figure 17A. United States postal card marked DUE 1.

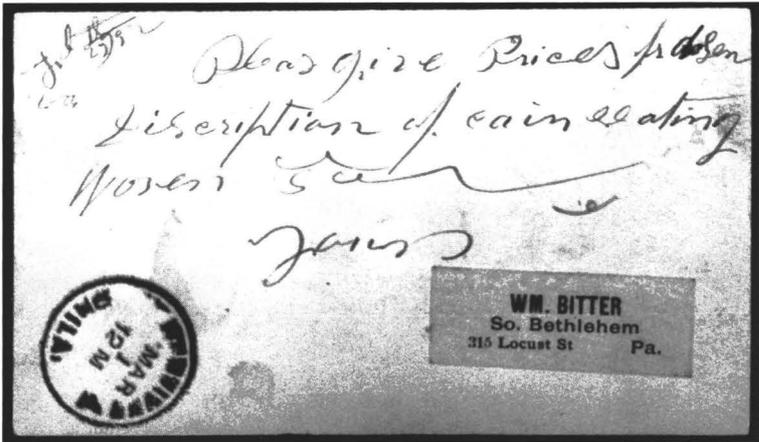


Figure 17B. The reverse of the card of Figure 17A showing the offending return address label. Pasting anything on the back of the card was contrary to regulations. Up rated to 2¢ letter rate.

So, pasting "an address tag or label" on the address side of the card was acceptable. This policy continued through the Large Numeral due era. Violations of this policy offered a possibility of postage due postal cards. Figures 17A and 17B present one such violation. A return address label was pasted on the back side of this U. S. postal card. The regulations permitted an address label on the front side of the card but did not permit a return address label on the back side! The card was reclassified as a 2¢ letter, paid 1¢, DUE 1.

Section 371 of the 1879 *P. L. & R.*, quoted in Section 1 of this chapter, authorized free forwarding of letters. Nothing was said about postal cards. This neglect of postal cards was remedied in the May 1883 *Postal Guide*, p. 10. Order No. 541 of April 9, 1883 authorized the free forwarding of postal cards.

PRIVATE POST CARDS

The Post Office claimed the exclusive right to issue postal cards (or post cards). The statement in the 1879 *P. L. & R.* was:

Sec. 142. Exclusive issue of Postal-cards by the Department. - Postal-cards are issued exclusively by the Department. Cards issued by private parties, which contain any written matter having the nature of personal correspondence other than the address cannot be passed through the mails at less than letter postage, as they are not "postal-cards" within the meaning of the law.

This ban on private post cards was promulgated by Order No. 31 of the Postmaster General, July 13, 1880. Because of inadequate publicity, Order No. 37, dated September 24, 1880, set the effective date back to January 1, 1881. This did not end the confusion. Order No. 44 of January 9, 1881 admitted that private post cards entirely printed could pass as printed matter. The ban on U. S. private post cards was lifted by Post Office Order No. 242, effective July 1, 1898. (1899 *Postal Guide*, p. 948).

In 1893, the U. S. Post Office did recognize and pass private post cards from U. P. U. countries that authorized them. See Chapter 9, Section 3.

CHAPTER 5 REFERENCES:

- [1] Photocopy of Order No. 267 provided by Lewis Kaufman, July 1989.
- [2] Roy H. White and Warren R. Bower, *The Encyclopedia of the Colors of United States Postage Stamps*, "Volume V, Postage Due Issues, 1879-1916," Philatelic Research Ltd., 1986.
- [3] Warren R. Bower, "Very Early Use of the Three-Cent 1879 Postage Dues (Scott J3)," *U. S. Specialist*, vol. 43, pp. 257-259, June 1972.
- [4] Warren R. Bower and George B. Arfken, "The Search Goes On," *American Philatelist*, vol. 101, pp. 53-56, January 1987.
- [5] Warren R. Bower, "The Mystery of the 'New York City Pearl' Precancelled Dues Late Usage," *U. S. Specialist*, vol. 46, pp. 472-477, October 1975.
- [6] Werner K. Elias, "Postage Due Charges", *Postal History Journal*, vol. 19, pp. 15-22, October 1975.
- [7] Henry M. Gobie, *The Speedy, A History of U. S. Special Delivery Service*, 1976.
- [8] Delf Norona, editor, *Cyclopedia of United States Postmarks and Postal History*, Quarterman Publications, Inc., Lawrence, Mass., pp. 213-216.
- [9] George B. Arfken, "Drop Letters and Bank Note Dues", *Chronicle*, vol. 39, pp. 56-59, February 1987.
- [10] A letter of February 25, 1887 signed by William F. Vilas, Postmaster General, specified that, effective April 1, 1887, all undelivered U. P. U. mail must show the reason for nondelivery in French. The Postmaster General's letter was printed in the April 1887 Postal Guide, p. 23.
- [11] Richard B. Graham, "Franks of President's Widows; Julia Grant", *Linn's Stamp News*, August 7, 1989, pp. 10-11.

CHAPTER 6.

POSTAL USAGE: DOMESTIC MAIL, PART II

1. SOLDIER'S LETTERS

The granting of a special rate for letters to or from soldiers on active service can be traced back to 1795 in Great Britain. An Act of the British Parliament set the postal rate at 1 penny per half ounce. In Canada, this became 2¢ per ounce [1]. The United States, responding to different circumstances, adopted a different system. Graham has described how the United States was forced to grapple with the problem of letters from soldiers in our Civil War [2]. The U. S. solution was to permit soldiers to send letters without prepayment and without incurring the mandatory doubling penalty on totally unpaid mail. At the end of the Civil War, the armies disbanded, so U. S. soldiers' letters essentially disappeared. But the soldiers' letters concept remained and the relevant laws remained in the law books, though not in the official postal guides [3].

From the 1879 *P. L. & R.*, Sections 179 and 180:

Sec. 179. Soldiers' sailors,' and marines' unpaid Letters Forwarded. - Letters written by non-commissioned officers and privates in the military service, or in the naval service (embracing the Marine Corps) on which postage is not prepaid, must be plainly marked on the outside, over the address, "Soldier's letter," "Sailor's letter," or "Marine's letter" (as the case may be), and this certificate signed with his official designation by a field or staff officer of the regiment to which the soldier belongs, or by the officer in command of his detachment or of the post, or by a surgeon or chaplain at a hospital. In the Navy or Marine Corps, the certificate must be signed by the officer in command of the vessel, or by a chaplain or surgeon on board, or by the officer commanding a detachment of marines on shore. All unpaid letters of soldiers, sailors, or marines, duly certified, must be forwarded to their destination charged with the amounts of postage due at single rates only, to be collected on delivery.

Sec. 180. Prepayment required on Officers' Letters. - Letters written by commissioned officers in the military, naval, or marine service cannot be certified as letters of soldiers, sailors, or marines.

Two points should be noted. First, the letter must be clearly labelled "Soldier's letter" etc., and second, the letter must be certified by an appropriate officer, chaplain or surgeon. In the British tradition, this waiver of prepayment in the 1879 *P. L. & R.* deliberately was not extended to commissioned officers. However, this exclusion of commissioned officers was changed in 1887. Section 323 of the 1887 *P. L. & R.* specifically authorized the soldiers' letter rate for officers.

In the Large Numeral era, the United States had very few soldiers, so there were few, if any, soldiers' letters. However, for Large Numeral postage due collectors, there is an opportunity provided by two circumstances. First, the Spanish-American war in 1898 meant many more soldiers than in the post-Civil War period and many more former civilians eager to write home. Second, late usage of the Large Numeral postage dues did occur, particularly at the smaller post offices. Peru, Missouri, was still using the 1¢ bright claret J22 in 1907.

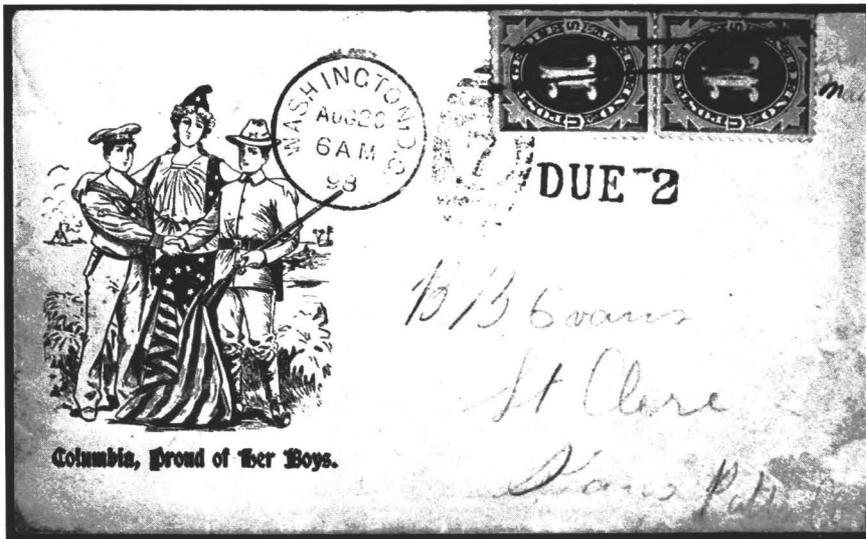


Figure 1. AUG 28 93. A Soldier's Letter. Sent totally unprepaid, certification covered by two 1¢ bright claret dues.

Given these two circumstances, Large Numeral postage due soldiers' letters could and did occur. Figure 1 shows a soldier's letter on a Spanish-American War patriotic cover. Postmarked WASHINGTON, D. C., AUG 20 98, and addressed to St. Clare, Kansas, the cover was received in Saint Marys, Kansas, August 22, 1898. The 1900 U. S. Census listed the population of St. Clare (township) as 347. Saint Marys had a population of 1390. The

letter was properly rated DUE 2, the domestic single rate with no penalty. (A totally-unpaid letter, not a soldier's letter, would have been rated DUE 4: see Chapter 5, Section 3). The Saint Marys Postmaster, who still had a supply of bright claret dues, applied two 1¢ J22s over the certification. The certification can still be seen when the cover is viewed from the rear with the light coming through the cover.

Covers like the one shown in Figure 2 posed a new problem for the Post Office. Because the Civil War had been a domestic struggle, soldiers' mail regulations had been promulgated in the context of domestic mail. Then, in the Spanish-American War, U. S. soldiers (and sailors and marines) were in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. Their letters were overseas mail. The Post Office responded to this problem with a series of departmental orders. Soldiers' letters entered the postal guides. In the 1899 *Postal Guide*, pp. 944-945, we find:

MAIL FOR THE UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Order No. 201

May 24, 1898

86. In view of the presence of United States forces in and near the Philippine Islands -

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: That articles of mail matter for or from persons connected with said United States forces shall be subject to the postage rates and conditions applicable to similar articles in the domestic mails of the United States.

The articles shall be sent to the Commandants of the forces by every opportunity offered by the sailing of a United States vessel for said forces. The sailing dates of the vessels cannot be announced in advance, and the articles should therefore be forwarded promptly to San Francisco in order that they may be dispatched thence to destination at the first opportunity.

Order No. 219, June 7, 1898, covered Cuba and Puerto Rico. Order No. 315, July 30, 1898, covered Hawaii. Then, finally, Order No. 514, December 3, 1898, brought the statements of the Postal Laws and Regulations into the postal guide (1899 *Postal Guide*, p. 945).

89. Mail matter sent to the United States by persons connected with the United States forces at or near Cuba, Porto Rico, Hawaii, or the Philippine Islands, in order to be entitled to the domestic rates of postage, under Departmental Orders Nos. 201, 219 and 315, current series, must be endorsed "Soldier's Letter," "Sailor's Letter," "Marine's Letter," or such other branch of service to which the writer belongs, and be signed thereunder with his name and official designation by a field or staff officer, post or detachment commander to whose command the soldier belongs, or by a surgeon or chaplain at a hospital where he may be; in the navy or marine service by the officer in command of the vessel, or surgeon on board; or officer commanding naval hospital or detachment on shore; and in other Government service by the person in charge of the branch to which the sender belongs. This order to take effect as follows: In Cuba and Porto Rico, on and after December 20, 1898; in Hawaii, on and after January 15, 1899, and in the Philippine Islands, on and after January 25, 1899.

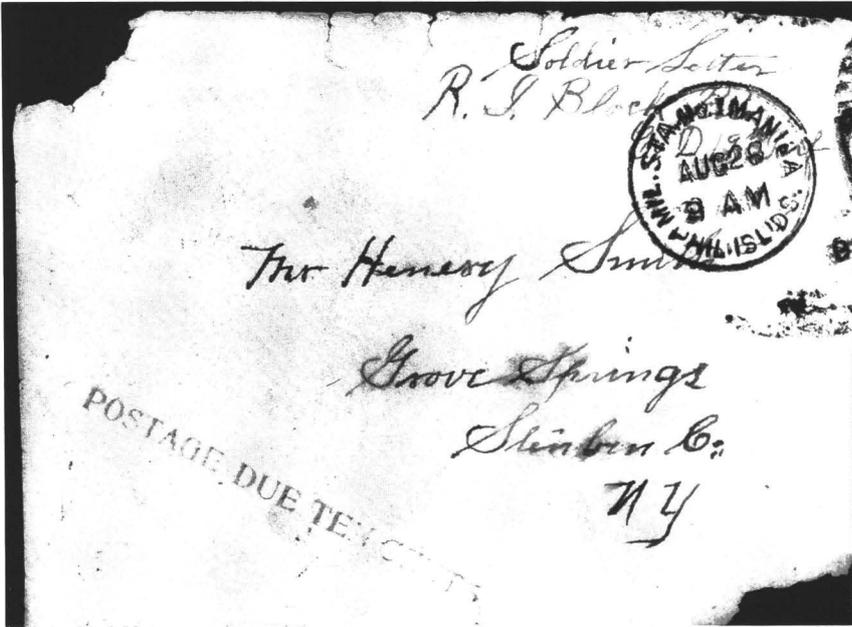


Figure 2. AUG 28 99. From the Philippines, a letter from a soldier that was not accepted as a “Soldier’s Letter.”

SOLDIER’S LETTER CLAIM DENIED

The Federal regulations took care of everything except human error. The cover of Figure 2 was posted in Manila, Philippine Islands, August 28, 1899, well after Order No. 514 took effect [4]. In the upper right corner of the front of the cover we have “Soldier Letter/R. I. Block, Pvt./Co. D. 19th Inf.” It looks as though Private Block certified his own letter instead of asking an officer to do it. Private Block’s error (or presumption) meant that his letter was not recognized as a “Soldier’s Letter.” The letter did not qualify for the no-penalty, 2¢ domestic rate. The letter was charged at the overseas rate of 5¢ per half ounce, doubled as a penalty and stamped POSTAGE DUE TEN CENTS [5]. The Grove Springs Postmaster probably didn’t have any 10¢ postage due stamps, but he still had a supply of dark brown 2¢ Large Numeral dues. So, he used five 2¢ Large Numeral dues, Figure 3.

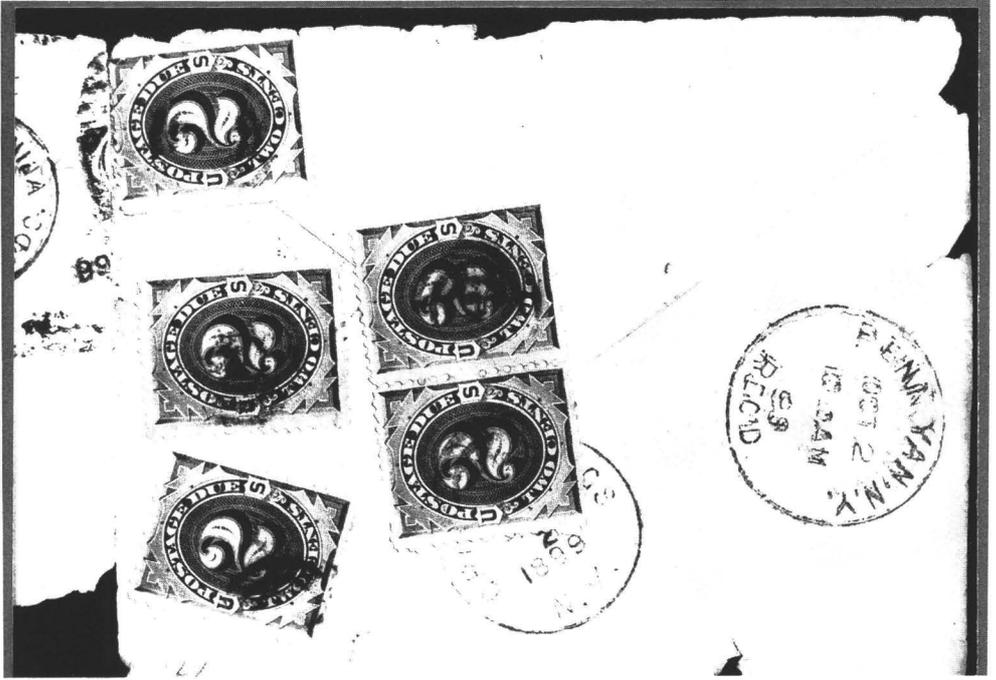


Figure 3. Reverse side of the cover of Figure 2. Not properly certified, rated POSTAGE DUE TEN CENTS instead of due two cents. Five 2¢ dark brown J2 stamps.

2. SHIP LETTERS

A detailed discussion of ship mail in the late 18th century and through the mid-19th century has been given by Neufeld [6]. Neufeld's study stopped just before the Large Numeral postage due era: the latest ship letter in his collection was dated 1878. Ship letters in the Large Numeral era have been discussed by Arfken [7].

“Ship letters” were defined in Section 256 of the 1879 *P. L. & R.*:

Sec. 256. Definition of Ship-letters. - The terms ship-letters and packets embrace the letters and packets brought into the United States from foreign countries, or carried from one port in the United States to another, in any private ship or vessel not regularly employed in carrying the mail, and in the latter case over a route where the mail is not regularly carried, before such letters have been mailed.

In principle, ship letters could be prepaid with U. S. postage stamps. In practice, the required U. S. stamps were not available in foreign countries, so usually ship letters were sent totally unpaid. From July 1, 1879 on, this meant that ship letters automatically became postage due covers.

The regulations governing ship letters were spelled out in the 1879 *P.L. & R.* :

Sec. 254. Payment for Ship-Letters. - The Postmaster-General may pay to the master or owner of any vessel not regularly employed in carrying the mail two cents for each letter carried between ports or places in the United States, or from any foreign port to any port in the United States; but all such letters shall be deposited in the post-office at the port of arrival.

Sec. 258. Rating up Postage on Ship-Letters. - At the post-office where deposited such letters will be charged with double rates of postage, to be collected at the office of delivery; that is to say, six cents for the single weight if mailed, and four cents the single weight if delivered at the post-office; ...

Doubling of postage dated back to July 1, 1863 [6, 8]. If the ship was a U. S. ship, the ship's captain or his agent was paid 2¢ for each ship letter he delivered to the post office. This payment to the captain appeared in the Postal Laws of 1851 and can be traced back to British practice in the 1670's [9]. The post office was reimbursed when the doubled postage was collected from the addressee.

Figure 4 shows a ship letter entering this country through New York, February 26, 1881. The New York Exchange Office accepted this letter as a ship letter. With the 3¢ per half ounce rate in effect in 1881, the letter was rated as DUE 6 CTS. The Charlestown, Mass., Post Office applied the two 3¢ brown dues and cancelled them with massive red crosses. (The use of red ink was illegal: see Chapter 11, Section 1).

A ship letter delivered to a major port which had carrier delivery service and addressed to that port, would be a drop letter liable to a 2¢ charge doubled to due 4¢ per half ounce. In the 3¢-per-half-ounce rate era, this due 4¢ drop ship letter would be clearly distinct from the normal due 6¢ ship letter. Two such ship drop letters have been reported. Figure 5 shows one of them.

The postal rate dropped to 2¢ per half ounce on October 1, 1883, and then to 2¢ per ounce on July 1, 1885. In the November 1883 *Postal Guide*, p. 24, postmasters were notified by a letter of October 16, 1883, from Postmaster General W. Q. Gresham, that the ship letter rate had become 4¢ per half ounce. The ship letter depicted in Figure 6 was liable to this doubled 2¢ rate. This cover from Belize, British Honduras, was landed at New Orleans March 1887 and forwarded overland to Holliston, Mass. Stamped SHIP and DUE 4, a 2¢ and two 1¢ dues were affixed.



Figure 4. Ship letter, FEB 26 81. DUE 6 CTS. A pair of 3¢ brown dues was applied at Charlestown, Mass. Heavy red cancels.



Figure 5. A ship drop letter, NOV 14 79. Landed at New York for delivery in New York. The cover was rated at double the drop letter rate: DUE 4 CTS.

Though declining in importance and frequency of receipt, ship mail remained on the books and continued to be received through the 1890's. Figure 7 illustrates a ship letter

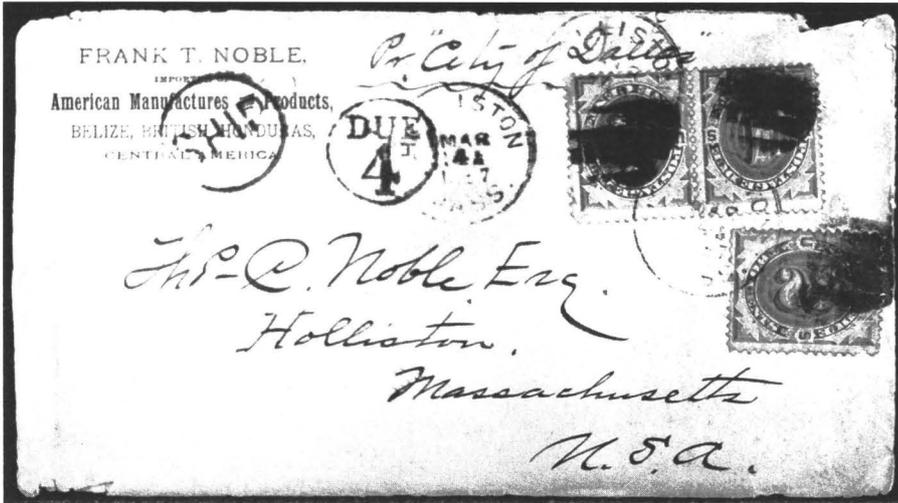


Figure 6. Ship letter from British Honduras, landed at New Orleans. Rated DUE 4. One 2¢ and two 1¢ red brown dues affixed.

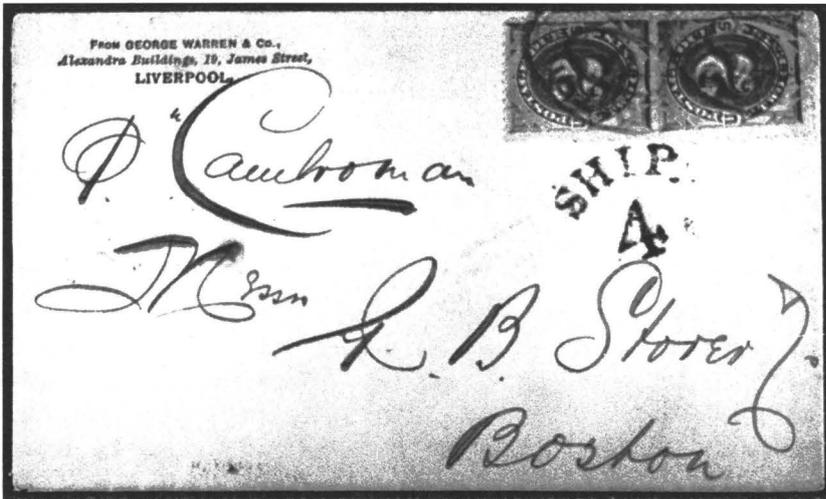


Figure 7. A ship letter from Liverpool, England. Entered United States at Boston. September 15, 1897 backstamp. Two 2¢ bright claret dues with black cancels.

from Liverpool to Boston, backstamped September 15, 1897. The Bureau dues had been issued three years earlier, but the Boston Post Office still had a supply of 2¢ bright claret Large Numeral dues. In the 1897 *Report of the Postmaster-General*, Third Assistant Postmaster General Kerr Craige noted that the appropriation for ship letters (and steamboat letters) for the current year was \$1,000 and asked for the same amount for the next year. He did note that the fee paid the master of the vessel was collected from the addressee. Apparently, government accounting practice required a separate appropriation.

The SHIP and DUE markings during this period were not standardized. Each post office seemed to have its own handstamps. Several of the SHIP markings are illustrated in Chapter 10, Section 5. Many DUE markings are shown in Chapter 10, Section 1.

SHIP LETTER CLAIM DENIED

Figure 8 shows a cover rated by the New York Exchange Office, March 17, 1882, as DUE 5 CENTS. This was a most unusual charge. (This was not an isolated accident: several similar covers from this and other correspondences are known). The cover carries a manuscript notation "Ships Letter / U. S. S. Alaska" and a handstamp "U. S. S. Alaska." The U. S. S. Alaska was a U. S. naval vessel operating in the Pacific Squadron [10]. It is clear that this letter was not accepted as a ship letter. The official, legal definition of ship letter quoted earlier included the word "private." Perhaps the writer on the U. S. S. Alaska had given this letter to a friend on board another naval vessel to deliver in New York or had otherwise arranged for the Navy to deliver the letter in New York. This would not be delivery by the master of a private vessel, and the letter would not qualify as a ship letter.

How was this letter to be rated? A totally-unpaid Universal Postal Union letter would have had the basic 5¢ per half ounce postal charge doubled as a mandatory penalty. But this was not a U. P. U. letter. Still, U. S. regulations [11] specified that the amount due on totally-unpaid mail was to be doubled as a penalty. (Drop letters were exempted from this penalty in late 1879). However, the doubling regulation appeared in the context of domestic mail, and this letter was not really domestic mail. The solution was to charge the letter the overseas rate for a letter from a country not in the Universal Postal Union and not covered by a postal treaty with the United States. This rate was 5¢ per half ounce, and so the letter was rated DUE 5 CENTS, simple deficiency. This 5¢ rate for letters from non-U. P. U., non-treaty countries is discussed and illustrated in Chapter 8, Section 1.

Actually, the addressee got a bargain: he had to pay only 5¢ to get his letter. If the letter's

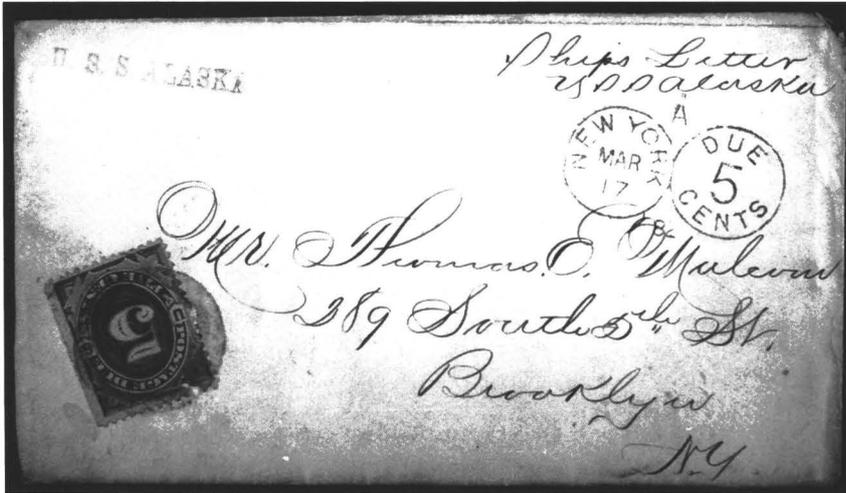


Figure 8. A letter from a ship but not a ship letter. From the U. S. S. Alaska. Rated DUE 5 CENTS, MAR 17 82. Five cent brown due applied in Brooklyn, magenta cancel.

claim to be a ship letter had been accepted, the letter would have been rated DUE 6 CENTS, and Mr. Malcolm would have had to pay one cent more. The post office came out rather well, also. It did not have to pay the captain of the ship delivering the letter, so it kept the entire 5¢ collected.

Another basis for rejecting a ship letter claim is discussed and illustrated in Chapter 8, Section 3, under the heading of unpaid U. P. U. mail.

3. STEAMBOAT LETTERS

The preceding section on ship letters deals with letters brought to the United States from a foreign port. In this section we consider letters delivered from a ship (steamboat) steaming from one U. S. port to another U. S. port. The steamboat captain or his agent received 2¢ for each letter delivered to the post office. From Section 253 of the 1879 *P. L. & R.*:

Sec. 253. Letters on Inland Steamboats. - The master of any steamboat passing between ports or places in the United States ... shall receive from the postmaster two cents for each letter or packet so delivered ...

Steamboat letters were classified as domestic mail, so the method of charging them was quite different from the rating of foreign mail ship letters. Steamboat letters were charged regular domestic postage plus 2¢ for the steamboat captain. From the 1881 *Postal Guide*, p. 670:

267. Letters deposited for mailing in post offices by masters of steamboats plying wholly between ports of the United States, if prepaid by stamps, should be forwarded to destination charged only with the fee of two cents paid to the master of the vessel under section 253, P. L. & R. 1879. If wholly unpaid they [Steamboat letters] should be forwarded to destination charged with double rates of postage in addition to the fee of two cents.

Steamboat letters were not liable to any doubling penalty unless they were totally unpaid. Table 1 summarizes the total charges for both ship and steamboat letters. The 3¢ period extended until October 1, 1883. The 2¢ rate included drop letters (with carrier delivery) during the 3¢ rate period and all letters from October 1, 1883.

Table 1. Charges for Ship and Steamboat Letters

	3¢ Rate		2¢ Rate	
	Totally Unpaid	Underpaid or Prepaid	Totally Unpaid	Underpaid or Prepaid
Ship Letter	6¢	6¢	4¢	4¢
Steamboat Letter	8¢	5¢	6¢	4¢

Ship letters were invariably totally unpaid. Steamboat letters were sometimes partially prepaid, sometimes not.

Figure 9 shows a steamboat letter posted aboard a Chesapeake Bay steamboat and delivered to the post office at Baltimore, November 17, 1879 or 1880. The letter was partially prepaid with a 3¢ entire. The charges were 2¢ for the captain and 2¢ for the drop letter rate, making a total of 4¢. So, the cover was underpaid 1¢. The cover was stamped STEAMBOAT, and a 1¢ brown J1 was affixed. This 1¢ due stamp had been precancelled with the Baltimore heart punch precancel. (This rare precancel and another rare punch precancel are discussed in Chapter 12, Section 4).

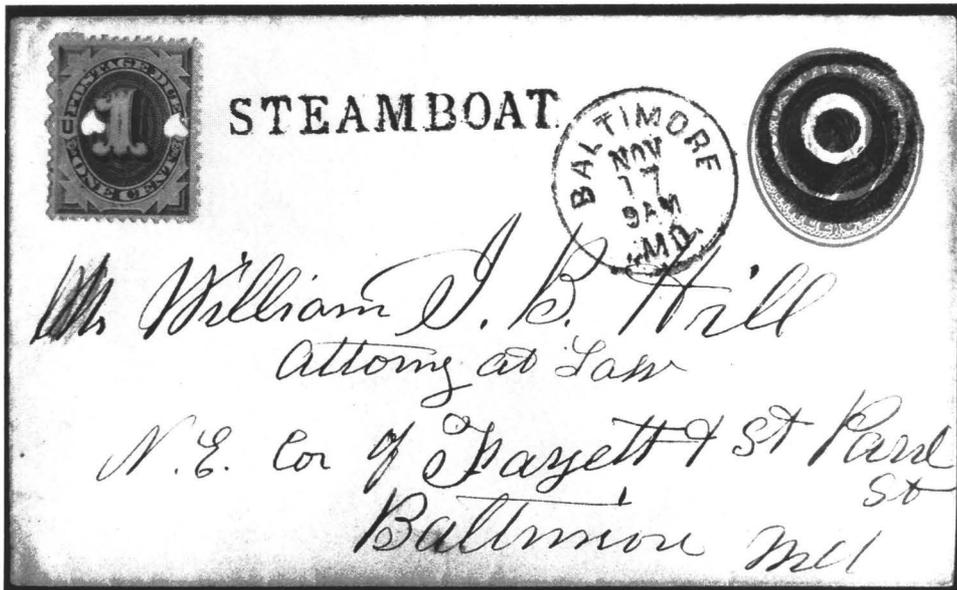


Figure 9. A STEAMBOAT drop letter delivered to Baltimore, NOV 17 (1879 or 1880). 2¢ to the captain, 2¢ drop rate. Prepaid 3¢ with a 3¢ entire: 1¢ short. One cent brown J1 with a Baltimore heart punch precancel.

A second steamboat letter is shown in Figure 10. This totally unpaid letter was delivered to Baltimore by a steamboat from Norfolk, Va. The Baltimore postal clerk stamped the letter STEAMBOAT, added the Baltimore date stamp, and forwarded the cover to Muscatine, Iowa. There, the letter was rated at 6¢ (unpaid 3¢ postage doubled), plus 2¢ for the steamboat captain, for a total of 8¢: DUE 8. The letter was advertised at Muscatine, but there was no charge for this advertisement. The year was 1880 or possibly 1881, and only six large post offices were authorized to charge the 1¢ advertising fee at this time. See Appendix B, Order No. 7, paragraph 3.

Railroads were rapidly replacing steamboats as mail carriers at the start of the Large Numeral era. Still, the 1880 *Report of the Postmaster General*, pp. 136-141, listed 131 steamboat services still in use. The Norfolk-Baltimore run was a 200-mile trip with six trips per week. The U. S. Government paid the Baltimore Steam Packet Co. \$18,000 annually to provide mail service along this route.



Figure 10. STEAMBOAT letter to Muscatine, Iowa via Baltimore, (1880 or 1881). Two cents for the captain, 3¢ unpaid postage doubled as a penalty to 6¢: total 8¢. DUE 8. One 5¢ and three 1¢ brown dues.

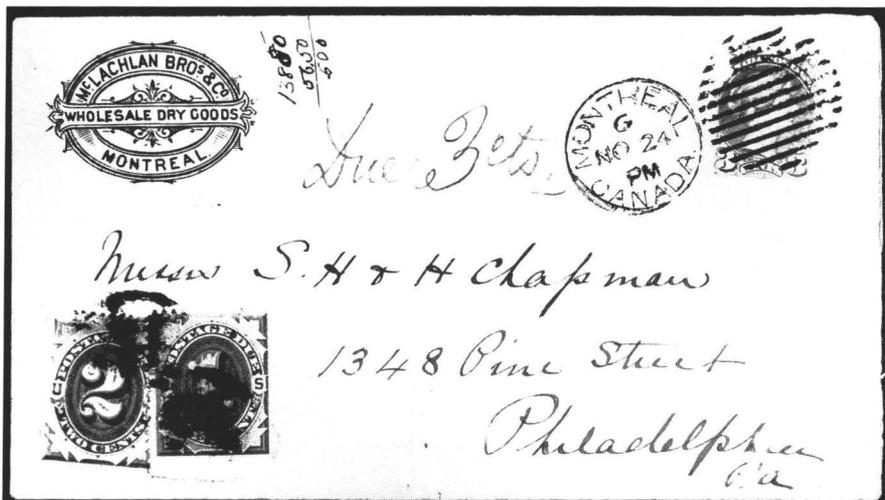


Figure 11. Canadian letter, overweight, Due 3 Cts. One cent J15 and 2¢ J16 red brown. Charged only simple deficiency, no U. P. U. doubling.

4. OVERWEIGHT LETTERS FROM CANADA

Since the United States-Canadian Postal Arrangement of 1875, incoming Canadian letters had been treated very much as U. S. domestic mail [12-14]. A Canadian letter, underpaid one 3¢ rate, was rated as DUE 3. United States-Canadian mail was covered by bilateral treaties rather than by Universal Postal Union regulations. There was no U. P. U.-mandatory doubling penalty. Figure 11 shows an overweight Canadian cover. Posted at Montreal November 24, 1888, the cover was found to be overweight, and a 1¢ and a 2¢ red brown due were applied in Philadelphia. The charge of 3¢ was based on the Canadian rate, which was 3¢ per half ounce.

A circular of October 19, 1883, from Superintendent of Foreign Mails Joseph H. Blackfan had reminded postmasters that underpaid Canadian letters were to be rated at the Canadian postal rate of 3¢ per half ounce (November 1883 *Postal Guide*, p. 28). This was repeated in Order No. 109, April 24, 1885, from Postmaster General William F. Vilas (May 1885 *Postal Guide*, p. 10). The Canadian letter rate became 3¢ per ounce on May 8, 1889.

Overweight Canadian covers with 3¢ in U. S. dues are surprisingly hard to find, particularly if receipted with a 3¢ red brown J17. One such cover has been illustrated by Cohen [15].

CHAPTER 6 REFERENCES:

- [1] George B. Arfken, "Soldier's Letters in the Small Queen Era," *BNA Topics*, vol. 43, pp. 49-53, May-June 1986.
- [2] Richard B. Graham, "Federal Soldiers' and Naval Letters," *Chronicle*, vol. 34, pp. 257-263, Nov. 1982; vol. 35, pp. 41-49, Feb. 1983.
- [3] George B. Arfken, "Soldier's Letters with Bank Note Dues," *Chronicle*, vol. 37, pp. 273-275, Nov. 1985.
- [4] The establishment of U. S. postal service in the Philippines is described by L. H. Flickinger in "The First United States Post Office in the Philippines," *U. S. Specialist*, vol. 48, pp. 445-447, Oct. 1977.

- [5] This interpretation of the rating was provided by Warren R. Bower (private correspondence, June 3, 1985) who referred to the *Daily Bulletin*, No. 5812, March 22, 1899. The doubling penalty was confirmed by similar covers prepaid 2¢ instead of the required 5¢ and then rated as due 6¢.
- [6] Gerard J. Neufeld, "United States 'Ship' Mail," *45th American Philatelic Congress*, pp. 93-107, 1979.
- [7] George B. Arfken, "Ship Letters and Bank Note Dues," *Chronicle*, vol. 38, pp. 200-204, August 1986.
- [8] Richard B. Graham, "Ship letter charges explained: first a fee and then a rate," *Linn's Stamp News*, pp. 12-13, February 27, 1984.
- [9] Howard Robinson, *Carrying British Mails Overseas*, New York University Press, 1964.
- [10] Detailed information about U. S. naval vessels may be found in the *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*. Under the heading "Alaska", this book notes that, "between June 1878 and December 1882 Alaska served with the Pacific Squadron, during which (March-June 1879) she provided protection against the Indians at Sitka, Alaska."
- [11] 1879 *Postal Laws and Regulations*, Section 267, p. 88.
- [12] The 1875 United States-Canadian Postal Arrangement is given in the 1875 *Report of the Postmaster General*, pp. 202-203.
- [13] The January 1888 Postal Convention between the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada and the April 1888 Amendments are given in the 1888 *Report of the Postmaster General*, pp. 842-845.
- [14] Section 1126 of the 1879 *P. L. & R.* lists the postal rates and regulations governing U. S. mail addressed to Canada.
- [15] S. F. Cohen, *Maple Leaves*, vol. 14, p. 299, August 1973.

CHAPTER 7.

POSTAL USAGE: DOMESTIC MAIL, PART III

1. NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers mailed from publishers or by news agents to subscribers were prepaid. They are not part of our study of the usage of postage due stamps. The situation changed when the newspaper was mailed or remailed by some individual. Newspapers mailed by a private individual, not the publisher or a news agent, were called transient newspapers. The 1879 *P. L. & R.*, Section 215, classified these transient newspapers with third-class matter, along with circulars, books, etc., and set the postal rate at 1¢ per 2 ounces:

Sec. 215. Third-class Matter and Postage thereon. - Mail-matter of the third class shall embrace books, transient newspapers, and periodicals, circulars, and other matter wholly in print (not included in section 184), proof-sheets, corrected proof-sheets, and manuscript copy accompanying the same, and postage shall be paid at the rate of one cent for each two ounces or fractional part thereof, and shall be fully prepaid by postage-stamps affixed to said matter.

The classification and the rate were changed by Act of Congress, June 9, 1884. As stated in the 1887 *P. L. & R.*, Section 351:

Sec. 351. Rate on Transient Newspapers, &c. - That the rate of postage on newspapers and periodical publications of the second class, when sent by others than the publisher or news agent, shall be one cent for each four ounces or fractional part thereof, and shall be fully prepaid by postage stamps affixed to said matter.

Transient newspapers became second-class mail, along with newspapers from publishers, and were given a rate of 1¢ per 4 ounces.

There was the possibility of underpayment when newspapers were mailed by a private individual. An example of this underpayment is shown in Figure 1. This is a complete wrapper, paid 4¢, due 10¢. Since we don't have the contents of the wrapper, we can only speculate on the details. One possible scenario is that the newspaper weighed 3-1/2 pounds and was mailed by A. Trube with 4¢ postage at the publisher's rate of 1¢ per pound "or fractional part thereof." A. Trube didn't realize that his rate for the transient newspaper was 1¢ per 4 ounces or 14¢ for the 3-1/2 pound newspaper. Prepaid only 4¢, it was rated Due 10.

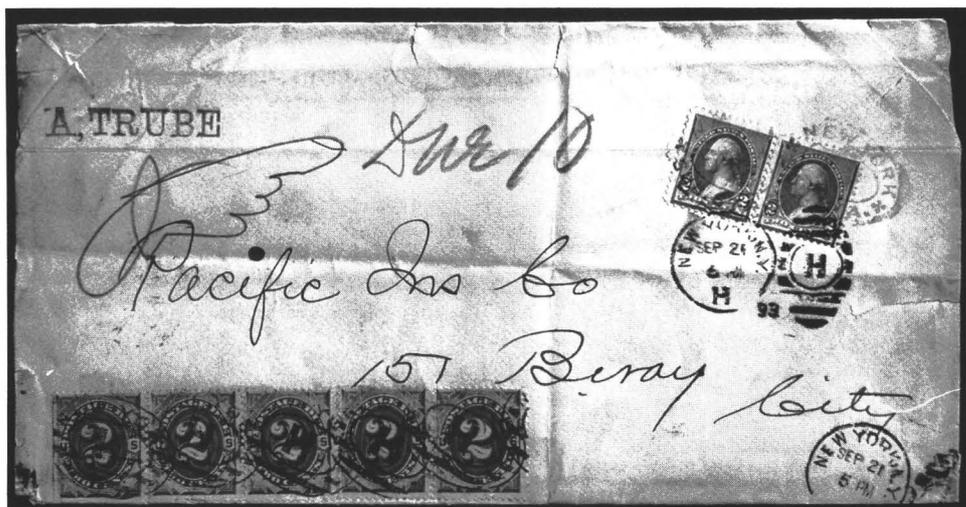


Figure 1. SEP 21 93. Newspaper wrapper paid 4¢, due 10¢. The wrapper may have held a 3-1/2 pound newspaper paid at the publisher's rate rather than at the transient newspaper rate.

Newspaper wrappers were seldom saved. The number that were sent postage due and that were saved must be very small.

2. THIRD-CLASS MAIL

Third-class mail consisted of circulars, books and other printed matter, not of the nature of correspondence. (Newspapers from publishers and news agents were classified as second class). Throughout the Large Numeral postage due period, the postal rate for third-class matter was 1¢ per 2 ounces. Complete prepayment was required.

FORWARDED

Some of the more interesting third-class postage due covers arose when third-class mail was forwarded. Section 371 of the 1879 *P. L. & R.* had two sentences:

Sec. 371. Prepaid Matter to be Forwarded if Requested. - Prepaid letters shall be forwarded from one post-office to another, at the request of the party addressed, without additional charge for postage.

All letters upon which one full rate of postage has been paid shall, and all other fully prepaid matter may be forwarded at the request of the party addressed, without additional charge for postage.

The first sentence, referring only to prepaid letters, was an Act of Congress. The second sentence, representing Post Office policy, extended free forwarding to all other fully prepaid mail matter including, of course, third-class mail. The February 1883 *Postal Guide*, p. 29, announced that Section 371 of the 1879 *P. L. & R.* had been amended. Authorization for forwarding third- and fourth-class mail free was deleted. The situation changed again on December 24, 1884 with Order No. 70 from Postmaster General Frank Hatton. Based upon Order No. 70, the 1885 *Postal Guide*, p. 695, contained the following provision:

661. Section 371, *P. L. & R.*, 1879, has been amended to read as follows: - "Sec. 371. All other mail matter (third and fourth class) when forwarded must be charged with additional postage at the rate that would be charged thereon if originally mailed at the office so forwarding the same, and the postmaster forwarding such matter shall indorse thereon 'Postage due for forwarding ____ cents;' and it shall be the duty of the postmaster at the office of final delivery to affix to the matter so forwarded postage-due stamps sufficient to cover the deficient postage, and in all cases collect the same before delivery. ..."

So, forwarding of third-class mail was considered remailing with a new charge for postage but sent on postage due. As an example of how detailed the postal regulations had to be, the December 1891 *Postal Guide*, pp. 15-16, carried the ruling:

Matter other than that of the first class is subject to an additional postage charge for each time it is forwarded.

An example of the forwarding policy is shown in Figure 2. An unsealed envelope, which presumably contained a circular, was prepaid to New York, N. Y. Re-addressed and forwarded to Springfield, Ill., it was rated due 1¢. Like most third-class mail, the cover did not receive a date stamp. From the use of the 1¢ bright claret J22, the date can be estimated as 1891 or later.

A more spectacular example of forwarded third-class mail is shown in Figure 3. A large envelope was mailed from Mechanicsburg, Pa., June 17, 1892, to Philadelphia. It was readdressed to Wynnewood, Pa., and forwarded, due 9¢. At Wynnewood, the 9¢ was receipted with four 2¢ red brown J16s and a bisected 2¢ J16. There is no indication that this bisect was deliberately contrived to create a philatelic item. The cover appears to show nonphilatelic use of a bisected postage due stamp.

Bisected stamps will be considered in more detail in Section 6. Here, we simply note that there was no law or regulation prohibiting the use of a bisected postage due stamp in this fashion [1].

RETURNED

Under the regulations in effect in 1879, undelivered third-class matter could not be returned to the writer unless the required postage was sent to cover the return mailing. From the 1879 *P. L. & R.*, Section 465:

Sec. 465. Return of other than First-Class Card and Request Matter. - Unregistered matter other than that of the first class cannot be returned free to the sender, even if a request to that effect be written or printed thereon, except first-class rates of postage be prepaid thereon.

As with forwarding, the Post Office policy changed with Order No. 70, December 24, 1884. From the 1885 *Postal Guide*, p. 697:

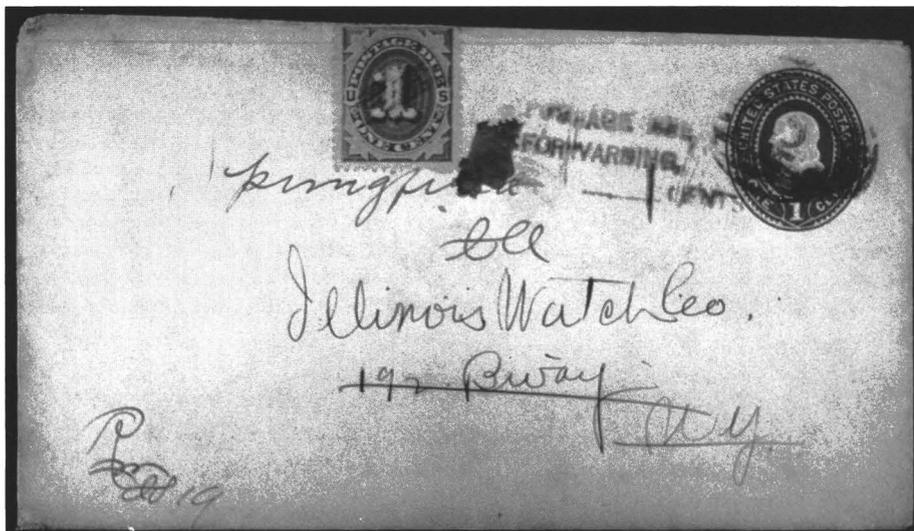


Figure 2. POSTAGE DUE FOR FORWARDING 1 CENTS. A circular forwarded from New York, N. Y., to Springfield, Ill. Postage paid by Scott U294, 1¢ blue envelope stamp. J22 1¢ bright claret.

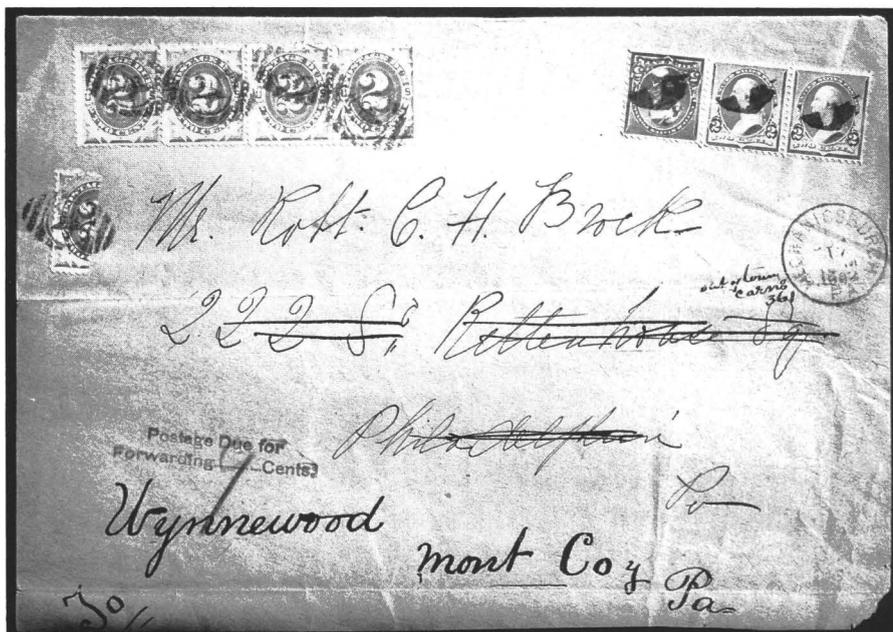


Figure 3. Forwarded third-class mail, MECHANICSBURG, PA., JUN 17 1892. Postage due 9¢ equal to original postage. Paid with strip of 4 and a bisect of 2¢ red brown J16.

686. Section 465, P. L. & R., 1879, has been amended to read as follows: - "Sec. 465. Letters and all mail matter prepaid at first class rates of postage may be returned to the sender without additional charge for postage; but all other mail-matter is subject to an additional charge for postage for returning the same. When the sender of matter which would be subject to return postage shall, by indorsement upon the wrapper or otherwise, request its return, postmasters should comply with the request within the time fixed by the sender, - if no time is fixed, then at the end of thirty days, - first charging such matter, however, with the necessary return postage, and indorse the same 'return postage due ___ cents,' and the postmaster at the office to which such matter is returned shall affix thereto postage-due stamps sufficient to cover the return postage and collect the same from the sender before delivering such returned matter. ..."

Third-class mail could be returned to the writer, in effect being remailed back to the sender postage due. Figure 4 shows an early example of this postage due return of a third-class unsealed envelope. Mailed from New York with a 1¢ gray blue Scott #206, to a New York address, it could not be delivered. In accordance with the new regulations, the cover was stamped RETURN POSTAGE DUE _____ CENTS and returned to the address in the upper left due 1¢. There is a JAN 18 1886 backstamp.

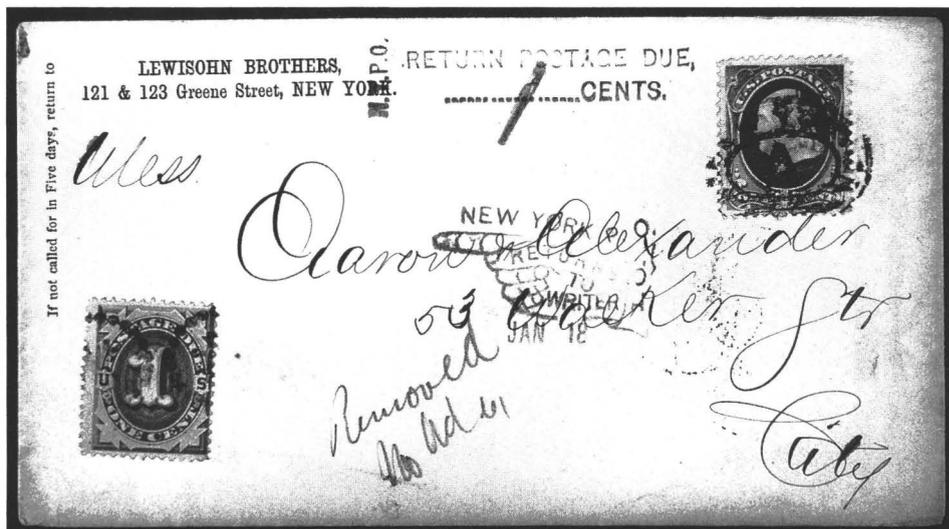


Figure 4. RETURN POSTAGE DUE 1 CENTS, NEW YORK, JAN 18 1886. Third-class mail returned and charged 1¢. J1 or J15 intermediate shade, New York pearls precancel.

Doubtless, postal clerks got tired of affixing 1¢ dues to large numbers of returned covers from large mailings. One solution, tried in Boston, was to tie many returned

covers together and affix the appropriate postage due stamps to the cover on top. This was bulk payment. The cover of Figure 5 was the top cover of a stack of 30 returned covers, each due 1¢. One 30¢ bright claret J27 showed the total amount due for the 30 covers. There is a BOSTON, MASS., JA 29 95 backstamp. The need for these 30¢ and 50¢ dues was very limited. As shown in Table 1 of Chapter 4, relatively few 30¢ and 50¢ Large Numeral dues were printed. Some, perhaps most, of the very few survivors have been illustrated by Arfken [2].

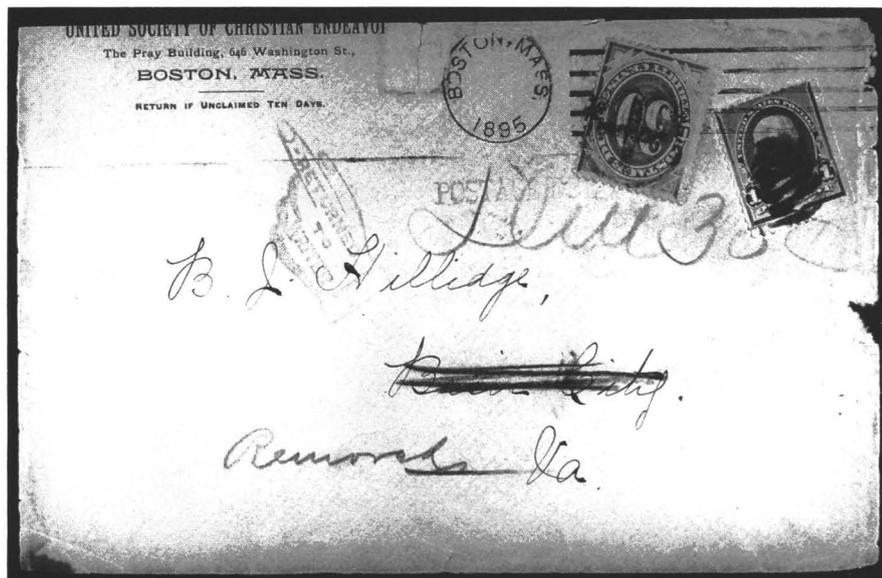


Figure 5. RETURNED TO WRITER, BOSTON, MASS., JA 29 95.
Bulk payment, 30¢ to cover charges of 30 third-class items returned.

With both forwarding and return authorized, it was possible for a cover to be first forwarded and then returned. This happened to the cover shown in Figure 6 from the Società Unione E Fratellanza Italiana. Mailed in New York with a 1¢ blue Scott #212 to a New York address, the cover was forwarded to Greenville, N. J., due 1¢. It was refused and returned to the Società, due 1¢ for a total of 2¢ due.

The practice of forwarding or returning third-class mail postage due ended June 30, 1898. Post Office Department Order No. 241, dated June 17, 1898, decreed that, effective July 1, 1898, second-, third- and fourth-class mail should not be remailed (forwarded) or returned until the required postage had been fully prepaid.

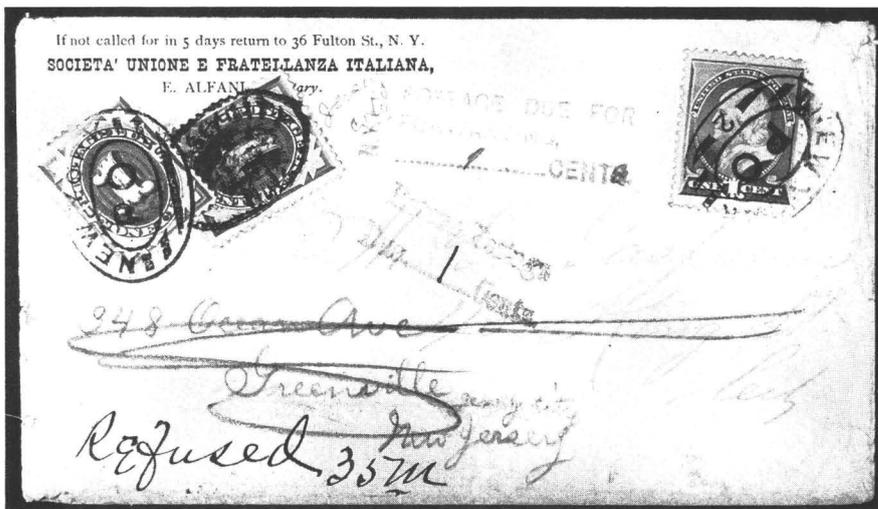


Figure 6. Third-class mail forwarded (due 1¢), refused and finally returned due 1¢. Two 1¢ J15s affixed.

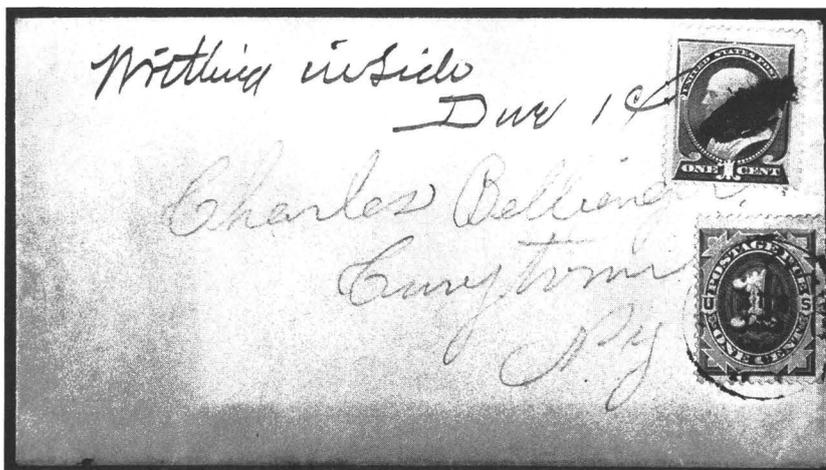


Figure 7. Writing inside, Due 1¢. Unsealed envelope found to contain writing and uprated to first class. One cent dark brown J1.

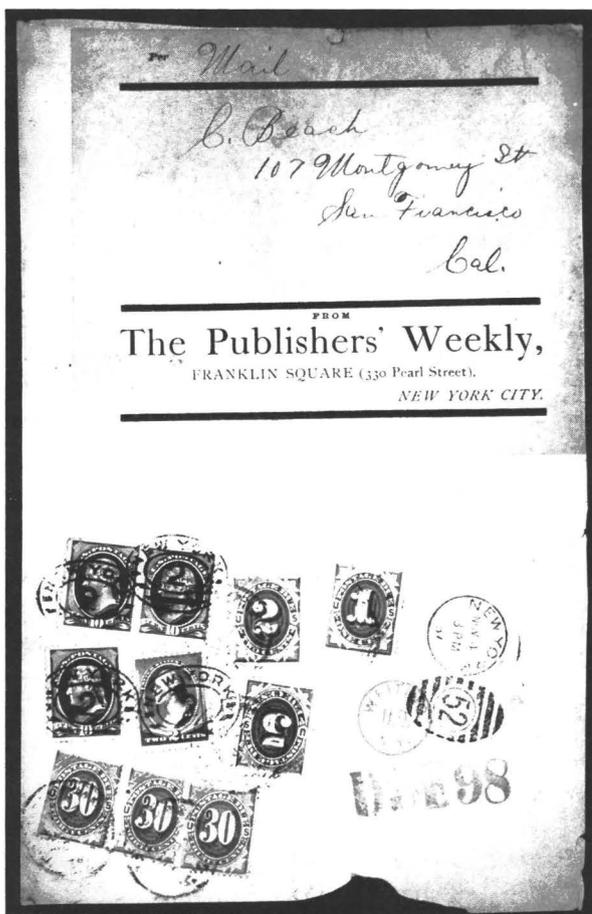


Figure 8. NEW YORK, NOV 4 87, WRITING. Third-class package uprated to first class. Prepaid 32¢ for 64 ounces. Charged for 65 ounces at 2¢ per ounce DUE 98. Paid with three 30¢ brown J6s and one each of 1¢ J15, 2¢ J16 and 5¢ J18, all red brown.

UPRATED TO FIRST CLASS

Compared to the relaxed attitude of the Postal Service today, the Post Office Department a century ago seems to have been paranoid about the possibility of any written communication in third-class mail. A general statement of policy was given on p. 714 of the 1883 *Postal Guide*:

533. Postmasters should inform themselves as to the nature of the contents of packages of matter prepaid as for third- or fourth-class matter, in order to rate them up if they contain matter subject to a higher rate of postage than has been prepaid thereon, or exclude them if they contain unmailable matter.

Figure 7 shows a cover that fell to this inspection policy. When writing was found inside this unsealed envelope, the cover was uprated from third class to first class, 2¢ postage, 1¢ short. There is a 1¢ dark brown J1.

A more serious example of uprating appears in Figure 8. From New York, November 4, 1887, this package was prepaid 32¢ to cover 64 ounces, the maximum weight permitted. (There was no limit to the weight permitted for a single book). When inspected, writing was found inside, and the third-class package was reclassified as first class. Apparently, the package was reweighed, found to be 65 ounces and charged \$1.30, due 98¢. The package was stamped WRITING and DUE 98, then forwarded to San Francisco. (One first-class rate had been paid!) Again, this is very rare use of the 30¢ Large Numeral postage due stamp.

3. FOURTH CLASS MAIL: PARCEL POST

Parcel post was subject to the same sorts of postage due charges as third-class mail: underpaid, forwarded, returned and uprated. However, parcel post wrappings were almost never saved; consequently, Large Numeral postage due parcel post wrappings are almost nonexistent. Indeed, only one example has been reported, and it is a case of remarkably late usage.

Figure 9 shows a portion of a parcel post wrapping from Reynoldsville, Pa., to New York, N. Y., January 1913. The package was uprated from fourth class to first

class because writing was found inside. This was unusually late usage of the 50¢ brown J7, especially from the country's largest and busiest post office. The use of regular dues, rather than parcel post dues, is reasonable, insofar as the package had been reclassified as first-class mail.

A new system of parcel post, with a new weight limit of 11 pounds and rates that varied with distance, was established in January 1913. This wrapping, from the first month of the new parcel post system, was prepaid 32¢ and rated at \$1.36 due, a total of \$1.68. At the first-class rate of 2¢ per ounce, this paid for 84 ounces, or 5 pounds, 4 ounces. The parcel post charge for this weight and zone 3 would have been 32¢, as was prepaid.

Along with proper usage of the new postage due stamps, there was, inevitably, misusage. Next we explore three areas of misusage: (1) payment of postage, (2) use on registered covers and (3) bisects.

4. MISUSAGE: PAYMENT OF POSTAGE WITH POSTAGE DUE STAMPS

The post office notice of May 5, 1879, SPECIAL STAMPS FOR POSTAGE DUE, (see Appendix A), included the clear statement that postage due stamps were not valid for the prepayment of postage:

These stamps are intended exclusively for the collection of postage due on matter arriving at destination through the mails, and are to be used in combination whenever required to cover unusual amounts of postage. They are to be canceled in the customary way, after having been attached to mail matter, and are never to be sold or received by postmasters for prepayment of postage.

The ban on using postage due stamps to prepay postage was repeated regularly in the postal guides. Nevertheless, there were covers franked with postage due stamps. Figure 10 displays one example. The cover was posted in July 1894 at Imperial, Pa., a very small town about 10 miles west of Pittsburgh. Allegheny City, the destination, is now a part of Pittsburgh. The two due stamps used and accepted for postage are 1¢ browns, J1. Imperial was listed in the 1895 *Postal Guide* but was too small to be listed in the 1900 U. S. Census. It is conceivable that the Imperial postmaster had run out of 1¢ and 2¢ stamps, that he was not familiar with the regulations, etc. Whatever the reason, this use of postage due stamps was misusage, contrary to regulations.



Figure 9. January 1913. From Reynoldsville, Pa., to New York, N. Y. Parcel post
 uprated to first class because writing was enclosed. \$1.36 due: two 50¢ brown J7s, 30¢
 J43, two 3¢ J47s. Courtesy of Cortlandt Clarke.

An attempt to pay the 5¢ overseas postage with a 5¢ postage due stamp is shown in Section 2 of Chapter 9. The converse of this misusage; that is, the use of a regular stamp to pay a postage due charge, is illustrated by Figure 15 in Chapter 8, Section 3.

5. MISUSAGE: REGISTRATION

The fee for registering a letter was 10¢ at the start of the Large Numeral due era, July 1879. The charge was reduced to 8¢ on January 1, 1893. The United States' first 8¢ stamp, the 8¢ Columbian, was rushed into production to pay this new, reduced registry fee.

In theory, there was no way in which a registered letter could carry postage due stamps. An ordinary letter might be dropped into a mail box unpaid or underpaid, but a letter to be registered had to be submitted directly to the postmaster or a postal clerk

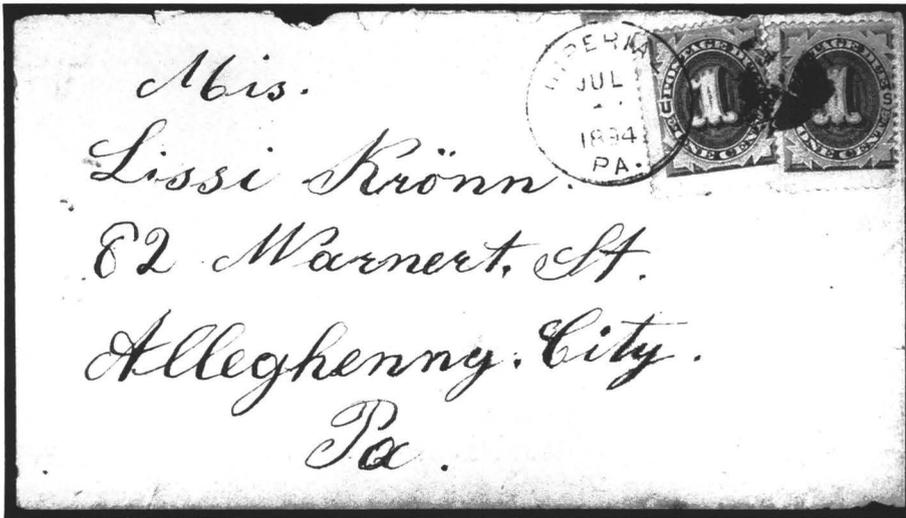


Figure 10. Postage paid with postage dues, two 1¢ brown J1s. Contrary to regulations. Posted at IMPERIAL, PA., JULY 1894.

who was supposed to see that sufficient stamps were affixed. This duty of the postmaster was spelled out explicitly in the 1879 *P. L. & R.*, Section 814:

Sec. 814. Rules for Sender of Registered Letters. - Postmasters before receiving a letter for registration must require the sender to have it fully and legibly addressed; to have his or her name and address indorsed across the end; to have placed all its contents in a firmly sealed envelope; and affixed the necessary stamps to pay postage and fee.

But postmasters were human and fallible, and postage due registered letters did occur [3]. The Post Office was ready for underpayment of postage and/or registry fee. From Sections 861 and 862 of the 1879 *P. L. & R.*:

Sec. 861. No Charge to be Made on Delivery of Registered Matter. - The law, section 812,* requires full prepayment of registry fee and postage, which is to be affixed by stamps to a letter or parcel when presented for registration; postmasters, therefore, receiving registered letters or parcels for delivery will deliver them to the addressee even if the requisite amount of stamps to cover postage and fee are not affixed, first examining them to see if the postmaster at the mailing post-office has performed his duty in this respect, and noting any cases where it has been neglected.

Sec. 862. Report when Stamps do not cover Postage and Fee. - A report of all cases where the postage stamps upon registered matter do not cover the postage and registration fee, showing the number of letter or parcel, date of mailing, post-office of origin, and amount of deficiency, must be made weekly to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, that it may be recovered from the mailing postmaster who has failed to comply with the law. See section 812.*

As a consequence of these laws and regulations, the 1881 *Postal Guide*, p. 604, carried the statement:

... when registered matter is received at a post office for delivery not having the necessary stamps affixed to cover the postage and fee, it is not rated up for collection from the person addressed, but must be delivered without charge.

Figure 11 shows a registered cover from Lund, Wisconsin, dated March 20, 1882. The 1¢ and 5¢ postage stamps paid double-rate postage, up to one ounce. A 10¢ brown J5 postage due stamp was used to pay the 10¢ registry fee. The reader will note that the 1879 *P. L. & R.* Sections 814 and 861 just quoted say “stamps,” but Section 862 does specifically say “postage stamps.” Certainly, the Post Office did not want the registration fee paid with postage due stamps. Presumably, the little post office at Lund had run short of stamps. The Chicago Post Office properly delivered the letter without charge to the addressee - and may have reported the Lund postmaster’s use of the postage due stamp to the Third Assistant Postmaster General.

* Section 812 notes that the postage and registry fee must be fully prepaid.

Page 625 of the 1885 *Postal Guide* announced a revision of Sections 861 and 862 which clarified the requirement that the registry fee be paid with postage stamps.

Sections 861 and 862, P. L. & R. 1879, have been amended to read as follows: -
Sec. 861. The law (section 3927 of the Revised Statutes) requires full prepayment of postage and registry fee on matter which is to be registered - the amount to be affixed in every case by postage stamps to the letter or parcel when presented for registration.

The responsibility for paying a deficiency in the postage was shifted to the addressee by Order No. 70 of the Postmaster General. His order, dated December 24, 1884, was reproduced in the February 1885 *Postal Guide*, pp. 10-12. A clear statement of this change in policy appeared in the 1888 *Postal Guide*, p. 712:

37-13. Deficiencies in postage on registered matter must be collected from the addressee by the delivering office, but deficiencies in registry fee must be reported to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General for collection from the mailing postmaster.



Figure 11. Registered from Lund, Wis., to Chicago, Ill., with the 10¢ registry fee paid with a 10¢ brown J5, March 20, 1882. Courtesy of James P. Gough.

From December 24, 1884 on, a deficiency in the postage was to be collected from the addressee, just as for an ordinary, unregistered, letter. However, the addressee was not liable for a deficiency in the registry fee. That was to be collected from the offending postmaster. This policy continued for the rest of the Large Numeral era.

Two serious breaches of postal regulations are illustrated by the cover of Figure 12. On March 2, 1894, this registered cover from Oakland Crossroads was received by the Postmaster in Saltsburg, Indiana Co., Pennsylvania. The required 2¢ postage had been paid by the 2¢ Columbian entire, but the registry fee was completely unpaid. This was clearly contrary to regulations.

The population of Oakland Crossroads, Westmoreland Co., Pa. was apparently quite small. The post office was listed in the postal guides of this period but the name did not appear in the 1900 U. S. Census. The postmaster of this small settlement may have been completely out of stamps. The cover may also have come to the postmaster with instructions to register it but without the 8¢ in cash or stamps. Whether as a matter of great urgency or of carelessness, the cover was sent off registered, but with the registry fee unpaid.

The alert Saltsburg Postmaster recognized that the registration fee was unpaid, then did his best to compound the misdeed. He stamped the cover POSTAGE DUE 8 CTS, affixed 1¢ and 2¢ bright claret Large Numeral dues and a left-over 5¢ brown Large Numeral due, and presumably collected 8¢ for the originating post office from the addressee. This, too, was contrary to regulations. The use of the Large Numeral dues, and the collection of eight cents from the addressee, were improper. The 8¢ deficiency was supposed to be collected from the “delinquent” Oakland Crossroads postmaster.



Figure 12. 1894, OAKLAND CROSSROADS, PA. Registered, but registry fee unpaid (illegal). Rated POSTAGE DUE 8 CTS. (also illegal). Received with 5¢ brown J4, 1¢ J22 and 2¢ J23 both bright claret.

A somewhat similar cover with 4¢ of the registry fee unpaid was illustrated by Searing [4]. The addressee was wrongly held liable in this case, also.

A different violation of regulations is shown in Figure 13. This cover was mailed at Pawpaw, Ky., April 11, 1897. The 8¢ registry fee was paid with three 3¢ brown J3s. Possibly the Pawpaw Postmaster, like his Oakland Crossroads counterpart, had run out of postage stamps. Alternatively, he may have wanted to use up a supply of the 3¢ dues, which had become largely useless since the rate reduction of October 1883. Whatever his motive, the use of postage due stamps to pay the registry fee was a violation of postal regulations. From p. 804 of the 1897 *Postal Guide*:

SPECIAL DIRECTIONS TO POSTMASTERS

Postmasters, before accepting a letter or parcel for registration, must see that it is enclosed in an envelope or wrapper bearing a correct and legible address; the name and address (post office and State) of the sender; ordinary postage stamps sufficient to fully prepay both postage and registry fee; ...

Note the phrase, "ordinary postage stamps." Postage due stamps were not acceptable for paying the registration charge. Unlike the Saltsburg Postmaster, the Indianapolis postal clerk did not rate this cover due 8¢. The cover affords no indication whether he reported the Pawpaw Postmaster's "crime" to the Third Assistant Postmaster General.

The reader may have noted that each of these three registered letters carried a pair of numbers: 65/65 for Figure 11, 61/61 for Figure 12 and 4/4 for Figure 13. The top number gave the number of that particular registered letter mailed at that particular post office, starting the count anew at the beginning of each quarter year. The bottom number gave the number of the registered package envelope that was used to ship the registered letters from one post office to another. This numbering system for all registered letters, not just these postage due examples, was mandated by Federal law. From the 1893 *P. L. & R.*, Section 1047:

Sec. 1047. Number Registered Matter and Registered Package Envelopes. - The registration book must be commenced each quarter with No. 1 and continued consecutively through the quarter, and the letters or packages registered correspondingly numbered. Registered-package envelopes are also to be numbered consecutively, commencing each quarter with No. 1.

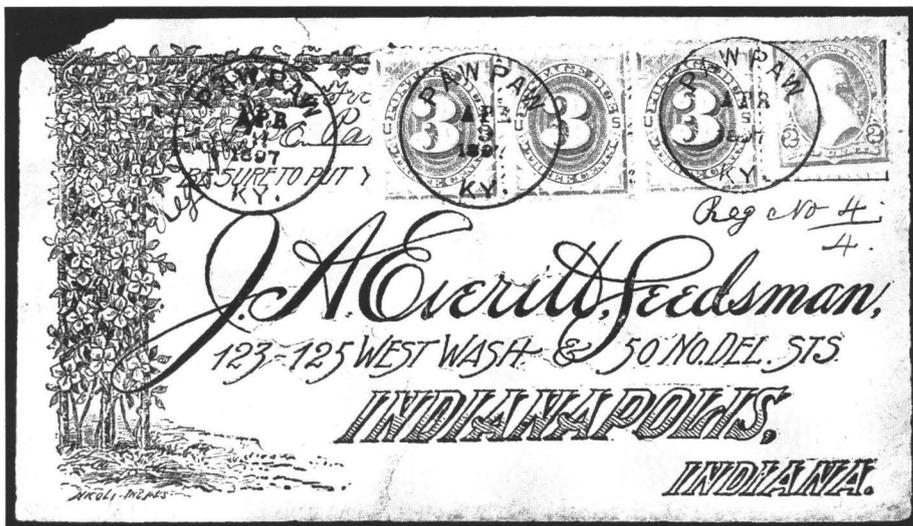


Figure 13. APR 11 1897, PAWPAW, KY. 8¢ registry fee paid with three 3¢ brown J3s, contrary to regulations. Overpaid 1¢.

6. BISECTS

The use of bisected postage stamps to prepay postage was definitely illegal [5]. Section 378 of the 1879 *P. L. & R.* contained the statement:

Sec. 378. Treatment of Matter Bearing Canceled or Improper Stamps. - Mutilated stamps and fractional parts of postage stamps and postage due stamps cannot be recognized in prepayment of postage.

The rationale for barring usage of fractional parts of stamps was that a stamp used once might be cancelled only on one edge or on one corner. If fractional parts of stamps were accepted, the uncanceled portion of the stamp could be used a second time. Despite their illegality, bisected postage stamps paid the postage on many 19th century U. S. covers [6].

An attempt to pay the 2¢ drop letter rate (with carrier delivery) with a bisected 5¢ indigo Garfield is shown in Figure 14. The cover was stamped NEW YORK APR 23, 11:30 PM J 88. The “J” was for Station J in the New York Post Office. Six-and-a-half hours later, the bisected 5¢ stamp was disallowed. Two 1¢ red brown dues were affixed and cancelled at the same Station J with NEW YORK APR 24, 6:00 AM J 88. Clearly, the 5¢ stamp is not tied across the cut edge, and this raises the question of bisection after passing through the mail. However, if the bisect had been a full 5¢ stamp on the cover when mailed, the postage due rating for being overweight would have been 1¢ or 3¢ or 5¢ etc., not 2¢. Also, although totally unpaid, the letter was a drop letter and so liable to only simple deficiency, not to doubling.

The sentence from Section 378 quoted above referred to bisecting postage stamps and to prepayment of postage. Beecher has written that there was no law or regulation barring the use of bisected postage due stamps as postage due stamps [1]. Certainly, the rationale for not allowing bisected postage stamps to prepay postage had little relevance to the use of bisected postage dues by the postmaster. Figure 3 earlier in this chapter shows a genuine, nonphilatelic use of a bisected postage due stamp.

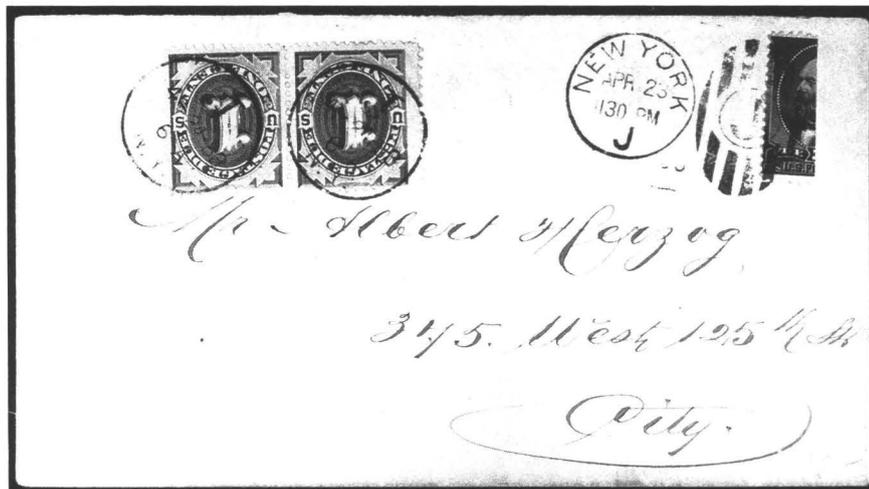


Figure 14. Attempted bisect usage foiled. Bisected 5¢ indigo Garfield not accepted for 2¢ drop letter rate. NEW YORK, APR 23 88. Two 1¢ red brown J15s.

Perhaps the best known of the Large Numeral bisects are the bisected 2¢ J23s of Thomson, New York in 1895. One of the Thomson bisect covers has been illustrated by Bower [7]. Mailed from Boston, the cover was deliberately underpaid 1¢. The Thomson

postmaster applied a bisected 2¢ bright claret due instead of a 1¢ due. Bower noted the existence of four very similar covers all from Boston to Thompsons Mills, Wash. Co., N. Y., all received October 3, 1895. No two bisected dues form a pair, so there may be at least four more Thomson bisect covers. Bower suggested that the Thomson bisects and other bisects (not Large Numeral dues) at this time were a response to a shortage of stamps. The shortage presumably was a consequence of the transfer of the stamp printing contract from the American Bank Note Co. to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Shortage or not, the existence of the four very similar Thomson Large Numeral bisect covers indicates that they were planned, contrived by the sender and possibly had the connivance of the postmaster. The usage was legal; the covers are philatelic.

The reader will have noted the discrepancy between the "Thompsons Mills" address and the THOMSON postmark. The 1895 *Postal Guide* lists a Thompsons Mill, Va. and a Thompsons Mills, Ga. but no Thompsons Mills, N. Y. The guide does list the Thomson, Washington (Co.), N. Y. So, the bisect covers were misaddressed.

CHAPTER 7 REFERENCES:

- [1] Henry W. Beecher, "More on Postage Due Bisects," *U. S. Specialist*, vol. 55, pp. 184-185, April 1984.
- [2] George B. Arfken, "The U. S. Large Numeral Dues," *American Philatelist*, vol. 105, pp. 40-46, 1991.
- [3] George B. Arfken, "Registration, Postal Regulations and Bank Note Dues," *Chronicle*, vol. 37, pp. 122-124, May 1985.
- [4] Richard M. Searing, "The Bank Note Period," *Chronicle*, vol. 35, pp. 275-276, Nov. 1983.
- [5] Richard B. Graham, "Bisected Stamps - The Postal Laws and Regulations", *American Philatelist*, vol. 88, pp. 31-34, January 1974.
- [6] Henry Stollnitz, "Nineteenth Century United States Bisects Used to Pay Postage," *Collectors Club Philatelist*, vol. 64, pp. 223-231, July-Aug. 1985.
- [7] Warren R. Bower, "The Bisected J23 Dues of Thomson, New York," *U. S. Specialist*, vol. 54, pp. 88-89, Feb. 1983. Also, p. 210, May 1983.

CHAPTER 8.

POSTAL USAGE: OVERSEAS MAIL, PART I

1. PRE-UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

PAID TO PORT OF DEBARKATION

In 1879, the United States was a member of the Universal Postal Union, but many Latin American countries were not. A common postal arrangement with these non-U. P. U. countries was internal domestic postage prepaid only to the port of debarkation, with the letter going postage due beyond that point. In the case of mail from Venezuela, the April 1878 Postal Guide (p. 41) stated, "Domestic rates are chargeable on all correspondence received from Venezuela." Figure 1 illustrates this practice with a folded letter from Caracas, Venezuela, paid to New York. On August 16, 1879, the New York Exchange Office rated the letter DUE 3, simple deficiency for regular inland (domestic) postage, no penalty. The "U. S. CURRENCY" was an obsolete marking. It is curious that the letter, addressed to New York, was not granted the 2¢ drop letter rate. Venezuela joined the U. P. U. January 1, 1880.*

The DUE 3 rating and the use of the obsolete U. S. CURRENCY handstamp on the cover of Figure 1 were not isolated accidents. Figure 2 shows a similar cover from La Guaira, Venezuela, October 16, 1879, endorsed "By the Barque Hornet." There is the DUE 3 and the same U. S. CURRENCY handstamp, this time November 14 (1879). Like the cover of Figure 1, this cover is also addressed to the wholesale New York medicinal drug house of Lanman and Kemp.

The "Hornet" referred to on this cover may well have been a ship of that name that was acquired by the U. S. Navy in 1865 and sold to private owners in 1869. In 1879, this ship

* Appendix C lists U. P. U. member countries and their date of adherence to the Universal Postal Union rate schedule.

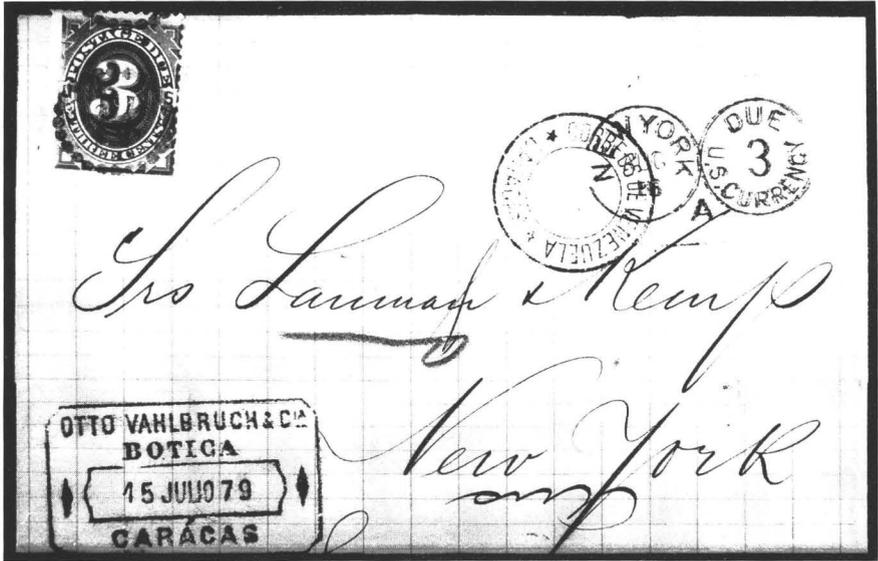


Figure 1. A folded letter from Caracas, Venezuela, paid to the port of entry (New York), AUG 16 1879. Rated DUE 3 for inland postage, comparable to simple deficiency for a domestic letter. The New York Due handstamp was obsolete. Three cents brown J1, gray blue New York pearls precancel.

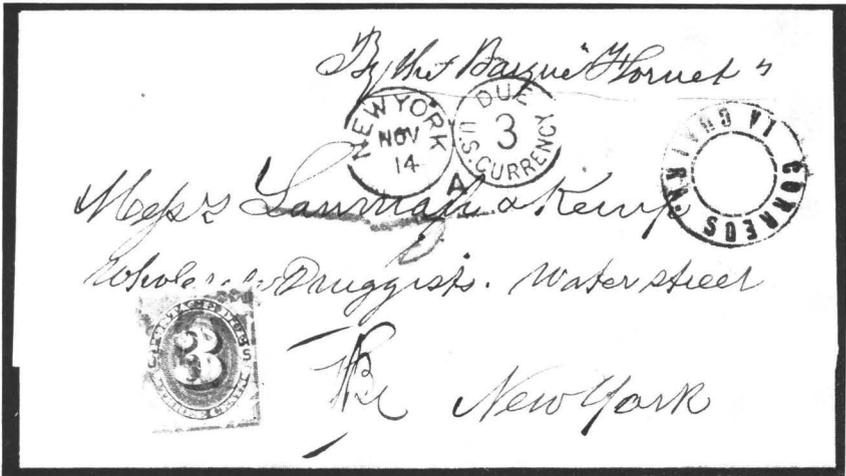


Figure 2. A folded letter from La Guaira, Venezuela, paid to the port of entry (New York). Carried by the "Hornet," probably in Venezuelan service or under contract to carry Venezuelan mail. Rated DUE 3, NOV 14 (1879). Three cents brown J1, blue New York pearls precancel.

may have been in Venezuelan government service or under contract to carry Venezuelan mail. Such an arrangement would help explain why the cover of Figure 2 was not treated as a ship letter.

A different postal arrangement had been established by Postmaster General Jewell in 1875 for countries not otherwise covered by postal treaties. From the 1875 *Report of the Postmaster General*, page xv:

...an order was made on the 13th of May, 1875, under the authority given by section 165 of the act approved June 8, 1872, reducing, from July 1, 1875, the single rate of United States postage from 10 to 5 cents on letters sent to or received from foreign countries with which different rates had not been established by postal convention or other arrangement. This reduction applied chiefly to correspondence sent to or received from the West Indies, Central America, and countries of the west coast of South America, ...

This policy is written out in Sections 1127 and 1128 of the 1879 *P. L. & R.* The postal arrangement is illustrated in Figure 3 with a cover from Cartagena, Columbia, that came to New York totally unpaid. It was rated DUE 5 CENTS, June 30, 1881, and forwarded to Boston. There, a 5¢ brown due was applied and cancelled with the red Boston propeller. The fact that this letter was forwarded to Boston without additional charge indicates that Postmaster Jewell's postal arrangement was not "to the port of debarkation," but to the destination. Also, as Columbia was not yet in the U. P. U., the mandatory U. P. U. doubling penalty did not apply. The 5¢ rating was simple deficiency. Columbia joined the U. P. U. July 1, 1881.

OTHER NON-U. P. U. POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS

There were a variety of other non-U. P. U. postal arrangements giving rise to different postage due covers. Figure 4 shows a cover from Valparaiso, Chile, May 1880, to Bangor, Maine. The cover crossed Panama by railroad. The 1880 *Postal Guide*, p. 631, lists the rate for U. S. mail to Chile as "Chili [*sic.*], British mail via Colon, 17¢ per half ounce." It is most likely that this 17¢ was also the rate for Chilean letters to the United States. The 10 centavos paid were insufficient and were ignored. The letter was rated as totally unpaid, due 17¢. The bold, black handstamped "12" was the British claim for carrying the letter from Chile to Panama. The 17¢ was receipted with brown 2¢, 5¢ and 10¢ dues. Chile joined the U. P. U. April 1, 1881.



Figure 3. From Cartagena, Columbia, non-U. P. U., unpaid. New York, June 30, 1881, DUE 5 CENTS, simple deficiency. Red Boston cancel on the 5¢ due.



Figure 4. From Valparaiso, Chile, to Bangor, Maine. Crossed Panama by railroad. The 10 centavo prepayment was insufficient. The cover was rated as unpaid, due 17 Cents. Two cents, 5¢ and 10¢ brown dues affixed. May 1880.

Figure 5 shows a cover from South Australia. Posted in Adelaide, South Australia, June 9, 1881, the cover was paid 6 pence (12¢ U. S.), but was rated due 5 CENTS upon reaching San Francisco. The postal arrangement behind the U. S. charge was described in the 1887 *Postal Guide*, p. 789:

The United States has no Postal Conventions with the other Australian Colonies (South Australia, West Australia). Consequently the United States postage only is levied on matter addressed for delivery in those Colonies (the Australian postage thereon being collectible of the addressees on delivery), and the same rates are required to be collected on matter received from those Colonies.

In the 1891 *Postal Guide*, p. 862, the above quotation was limited to South Australia, and the U. S. rate was specified as 5 cents per half ounce on letters. South Australia joined the U. P. U. October 1, 1891.



Figure 5. JU 9 81. From South Australia. No postal treaty: South Australian writer paid six pence in stamps. U. S. addressee paid 5¢ in cash.

The 1879 *P. L. & R.*, Section 1126, included New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and New Zealand in a list of countries not in the U. P. U. but with postal treaties with the United States. The U. S. rate for letters to these three Australian colonies and to New Zealand was 12¢ per half ounce. These postal treaties, unlike the U. P. U. convention, generally specified that the mail must be prepaid and did not grant free forwarding. The

cover shown in Figure 6 came to the United States unpaid as a consequence of the absence of free forwarding. Posted in England, August 8, 1881, the cover was properly paid six pence for mailing to New South Wales. There, the cover was readdressed and forwarded to San Francisco, unpaid. In San Francisco, the cover was stamped DUE 12, and 2¢ and 10¢ brown dues were affixed. The charge was simple deficiency because this cover from New South Wales was non-U. P. U. mail. All the Australian colonies and New Zealand joined the U. P. U. October 1, 1891.



Figure 6. Properly paid from England, AU 8 81, to New South Wales with a six pence stamp. Forwarded to San Francisco, non-U. P. U. and unpaid. DUE 12.

2. UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1862, U. S. Postmaster General Blair proposed an international conference to discuss common postal problems and to recommend solutions [1]. Blair's proposal led to an

international conference in Paris in May 1863. Though they had no authorization to sign a treaty, the conference delegates focused on the problems with the international mails and suggested changes in postal rates and practices. There was almost unanimous agreement on having a uniform weight for the basic rate, and the weight equivalent to fifteen grams (half ounce) was suggested.

In 1869, acting on a suggestion of Heinrich von Stephan, director of the posts for the North German Confederation, the German Postal Administration proposed a conference to negotiate a binding postal treaty for international mail. There were delays caused by the Franco-Prussian war and other problems, but finally the conference convened in Berne, Switzerland, on September 15, 1874. Twenty-one countries, including the United States, sent delegations. A draft treaty prepared by the German Postal Administration was used as a basis for discussion. Broad agreement was reached on a basic letter rate of 25 centimes (5¢) for a basic unit of 15 grams. Because of the supposedly high cost of lengthy sea transit, a surtax was permitted on letters going more than 300 miles by sea. This U. P. U. surtax was never applied on outgoing U. S. mail carried on U. S. packets but was applied by many countries sending mail to the United States (See Chapter 9, Section 1). Rowland Hill's reform of encouraging letters to be prepaid was adopted. The conference drafted the Treaty of Berne and established the General Postal Union as a continuing international organization. The Treaty of Berne was signed on October 9, 1874 and became effective July 1, 1875, establishing 5¢ per 15 grams (corresponding to a half ounce: a half ounce is actually a little over 14 grams) as the basic postal rate between members of the Union [2].

Further postal conferences were held every few years. The next conference met in Paris, and the resulting Convention of Paris was signed June 1, 1878, to be effective April 1, 1879. This treaty changed the name of the organization from the General Postal Union to the Universal Postal Union [3]. The postal rates set by this treaty are listed in Table 1. The treaties or conventions of the first four G. P. U. / U. P. U. postal congresses, dates of signing and effective dates are listed in Table 2. Further details about the history, organization and operation of the Universal Postal Union may be found in Coddington's book [6].

**Table 1. Universal Postal Union Rates
during the Large Numeral Postage Due Era**

Letters	5¢ per 1/2 oz.
Post cards	2¢ each.
Newspapers	2¢ per 4 oz. (through December 1880) 1¢ per 2 oz. (starting January 1881)
Other printed matter	1¢ per 2 oz.
Registration	5¢.

Table 2. General Postal Union / Universal Postal Union Treaties

Treaty - location	Date of signing	Effective date	Reference
1. Treaty of Berne	Oct. 9, 1874	July 1, 1875	[2]
2. Convention of Paris	June 1, 1878	Apr. 1, 1879	[3]
3. Additional Acts of Lisbon	Mar. 21, 1885	Apr. 1, 1886	[4]
4. Treaty of Vienna	July 4, 1891	July 1, 1892	[5]

The stamps on a letter coming to the United States from a foreign country were, of course, expressed in the currency of that foreign country. To see if the cover is properly paid, or how much it is underpaid, one has to know the value of the foreign currency. Table 3 lists some of the U. P. U. member countries that charged the 5¢ per half ounce U. P. U. rate on letters to the United States. For each country, the 5¢ letter rate and the post card rate are given in terms of that country's currency. A large number of U. P. U. member countries elected to apply the U. P. U.-authorized surtax on letters to the United States. These countries and the surtax they imposed are listed in Table 1 of Chapter 9.

Table 3. U. P. U. Letter and Post Card Postage to the United States in Local Currency

Country	Letters	Post Cards	Country	Letters	Post Cards
Austria-Hungary	10 kreuzer	5 kreuzer	Italy	25 centimes	10 centimes
Belgium	25 centimes	10 centimes	Italy 1893 -	25 centesimi	10 centesimi
Cuba	5 centimos	2 centimos	Japan	5 sen	2 sen
Denmark	20 øre	10 øre	Mexico	5 centavos	2 centavos
Egypt	1 piastra	20 paras	Netherlands	12-1/2 cents	5 cents
Egypt 1889 -	10 milliemes	5 milliemes	Newfoundland	5 cents	2 cents
France	25 centimes	10 centimes	Portugal	50 réis	20 réis
Germany	20 pfennig	10 pfennig	Russia	7 kopecks	3 kopecks
Great Britain	2-1/2 pence	1 penny	Spain	25 centimes	10 centimes
Greece	30 lepta	15 lepta	Sweden	20 øre	10 øre
Greece 1889 -	25 lepta	10 lepta	Switzerland	25 centimes	10 centimes

The Printer's Stone, Ltd. has collected and reproduced the tables of postage and surtax from the *U. S. Official Postal Guides* [7].

PENALTIES

Knowing the rate an incoming cover from a U. P. U. member country should have been charged is the first step in understanding any postage due. Knowing the penalty assessed on an unpaid or underpaid cover is the second step. The Convention of Paris made an interesting change in the penalty charged on an underpaid cover.

The 1875 Treaty of Berne permitted the passage of totally unpaid letters because this practice was still common in some of the countries represented at the Berne conference. However, to encourage prepayment of postage, the conferees agreed that a totally unpaid letter would be charged 10¢ per half ounce, double the 5¢ per half ounce charged for a fully prepaid letter. This penalty was continued by the 1878 Convention of Paris.

The Treaty of Berne declared that an underpaid letter should be charged as a totally unpaid letter but with credit given for the stamps affixed.* Effective April 1, 1879, the Convention of Paris changed this calculation to a doubling of the deficiency. For an overweight letter (over half ounce but not over one ounce), the postage that should have been paid was 10¢. If the letter was paid only a single rate, 5¢, the postage due calculations went as follows:

Treaty of Berne, effective July 1, 1875
Double rate, totally unpaid
10¢ doubled to 20¢
Less 5¢ credit for stamps affixed
DUE 15¢.

Convention of Paris, effective April 1, 1879
Double rate, paid single rate; 5¢ short
Double the deficiency
DUE 10¢.

Figure 7 shows a cover illustrating both of these postage due calculations. The cover was mailed from England August 1876. Overweight, the cover was properly rated DUE 15 CTS. Sometime later, a faker applied 5¢ and 10¢ brown postage due stamps. The cover is clearly a fake from two points of view: first, the Large Numeral dues did not exist in 1876, and second, when the Large Numeral dues came into use in 1879, the rating for this overweight cover would have been 10¢, not 15¢ [8].

* Allowing credit for the stamps affixed was relatively generous. Until February 1875, the United States and Canada allowed no credit for stamps affixed on underpaid letters going between their two countries. This was also the case for the 1880 cover from Chile shown in Figure 4.



Figure 7. FAKE: a change of U. P. U. penalties. Originally valid overweight cover from England, AU (1876). Properly stamped DUE 15 CTS. U. S. postage dues of 1879 added later. When U. S. postage dues were issued, the overweight penalty was 10¢, not 15¢.

3. COVERS TOTALLY UNPAID

U. P. U. DOUBLING PENALTY

Article 5 of the Convention of Paris, June 1, 1878, stated that the charges on letters would be:

- 1st. For letters, 25 centimes in case of prepayment, and double that amount in the contrary case, for each letter and for every weight of 15 grammes or fraction of 15 grammes.

Twenty-five centimes was 5¢ U. S., and 15 grammes was taken to be a half ounce, so the rate was fixed at 5¢ per half ounce for a fully prepaid letter and 10¢ per half ounce for an completely unpaid letter. Figure 8 shows an unpaid cover from Stockholm, Sweden, September 14, 1889. Unpaid covers like this one, sent by people in Scandinavia and Russia to their rich American cousins, are fairly common. The cover has been stamped with the U. P. U. symbol "T" (for the French word *Taxe* - the U. P. U. "T" symbol is discussed and illustrated in Chapter 10, Section 8) to indicate insufficient postage. The cover was rated DUE 10 CENTS by the New York Exchange Office. The 10¢ red brown J19 was applied in Perth Amboy, N. J. Figure 9 shows an unpaid cover from the part of Panama that would later become the Panama Canal Zone. It was rated due 10¢ and forwarded to Boston where the 10¢ bright claret J26 was applied.

The next cover, Figure 10, is an unpaid mourning cover from Cuba. The cover was rated DUE 10 CENTS, September 10, 1883 by the New York Exchange Office. It was forwarded to Boston, where a 10¢ brown due was affixed and cancelled with a black Boston cross.

Figure 11 shows a very special cover from St. Helena, a British island colony in the South Atlantic. The cover went as non-U. P. U. mail to England with a charge of 110 centimes or 22¢. From England to the United States, the cover was considered to be unpaid U. P. U. mail and was charged 10¢. The total, 32¢, was receipted in Boston, November 29, 1880, with a 2¢ brown J2 and a 30¢ brown J6. Three large wrappings, each with a brown 30¢ due are known, but this is the only actual cover with a 30¢ J6 reported so far [9].

The cover shown in Figure 12 raises some questions. What did it carry that led to a charge of 500 Cents? Where did it come from? Probably, this is part of a wrapping that held a bundle of unpaid letters from overseas. However, letters were supposed to be rated separately. Were there fifty letters, each rated at 10¢? The style of the encircled "T" suggests that the packet came from Russia or Denmark, but this is not certain. Whatever the answers to these questions, this cover with five pairs of 50¢ dues is a spectacular example of the use of high-denomination postage due stamps.

This is the place to explain the rejection of some letters claiming to be Ship Letters and the high due charges on these letters. Figure 13 shows a cover from the Malcolm correspondence discussed in Chapter 6, Section 2. However, this cover, dated April 3, 1882, was rated a high DUE 20 CENTS. A Brooklyn postal clerk affixed four 5¢ brown J4 dues and cancelled them with magenta Brooklyn donuts. These four J4 dues and the Brooklyn cancels are pictured in Figure 5 of Chapter 11. Why was this cover rated DUE 20 CENTS?

The answer becomes a bit clearer from examination of the postmarks on the cover of Figure 14. This cover, also, claimed to be a "Ship's Letter." This claim was denied. The cover shows a "T" in a hexagon, the British version of the U. P. U. mark meaning

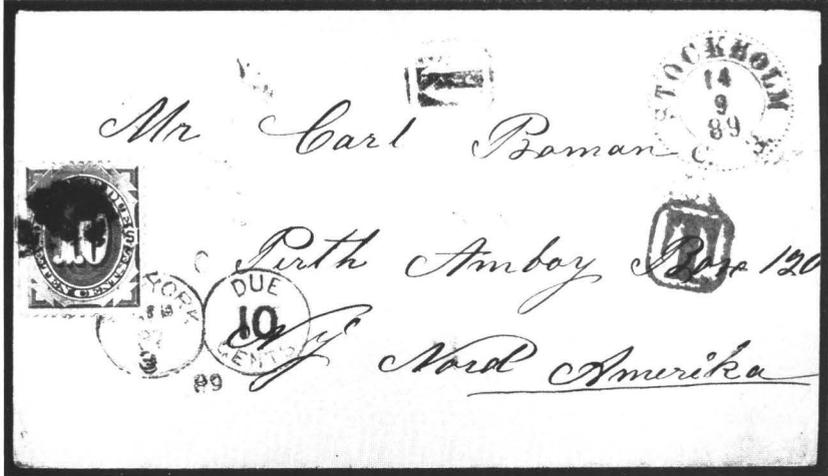


Figure 8. From Stockholm, Sweden, September 14, 1889, totally unpaid. Stamped with a black "T" (right) and a blue "T" (top). Five cents deficiency doubled, DUE 10 Cents.

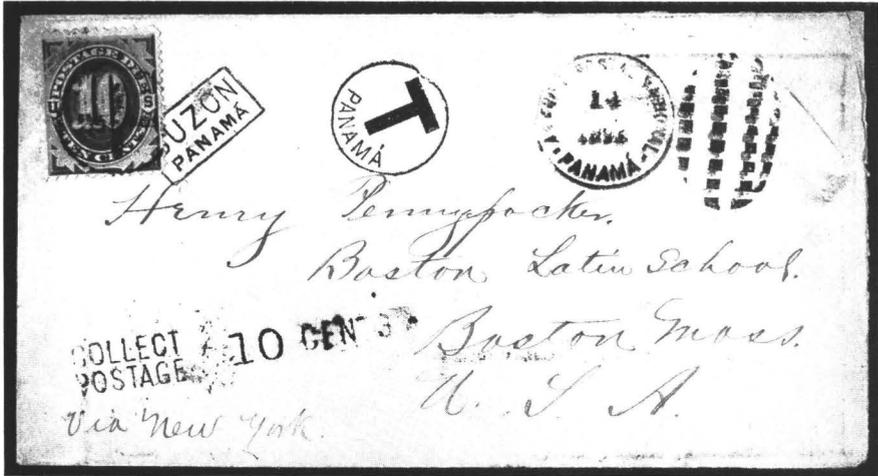


Figure 9. Totally unpaid from the Panama Canal area. Stamped "T / Panama." New York Exchange Office rated cover as COLLECT POSTAGE 10 CENTS. Ten cents bright claret due affixed in Boston and cancelled with a black Boston cross. September 22, 1893, Boston backstamp.

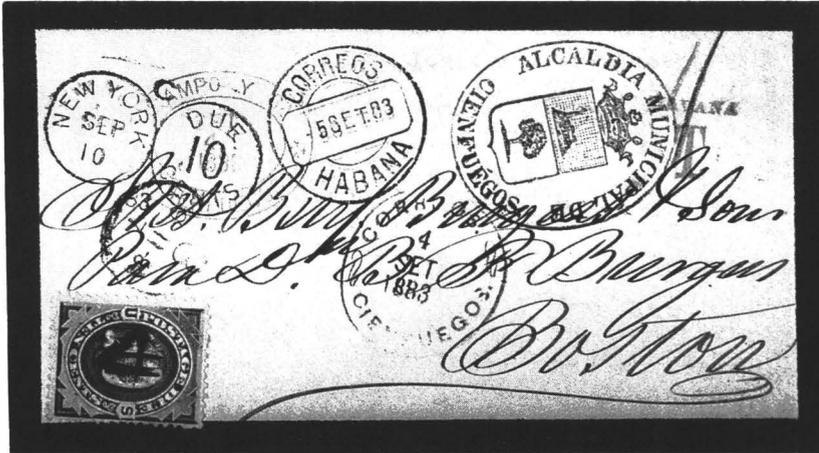


Figure 10. SEP 10 83. An unpaid mourning cover from Cuba, charged double 5¢ deficiency, DUE 10 CENTS. 10¢ brown J5.

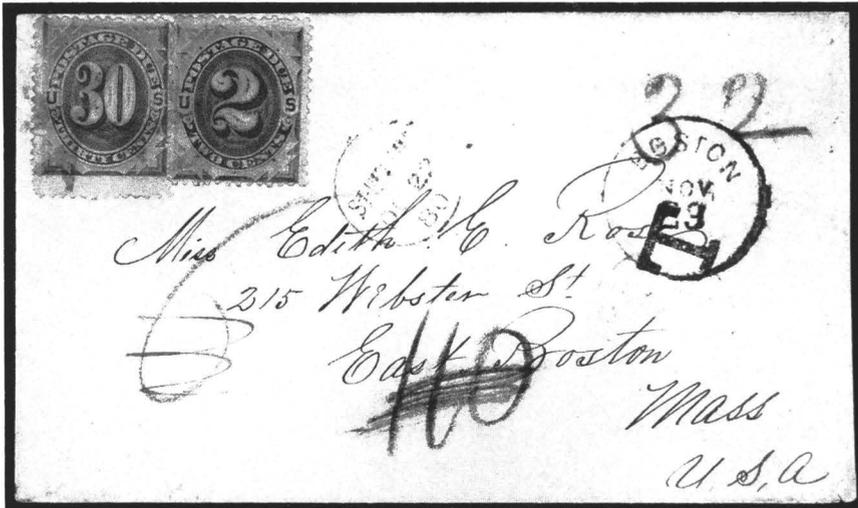


Figure 11. From St. Helena to England, OC 22 80. 110 centime (22¢) charge, non-U. P. U. Unpaid U. P. U. mail from England to the United States, NOV 29 (1880): 10¢ charge. Total due, 32¢. Paid with 2¢ J2 and 30¢ J6 brown. Rare use of 30¢ J6 on an actual cover.

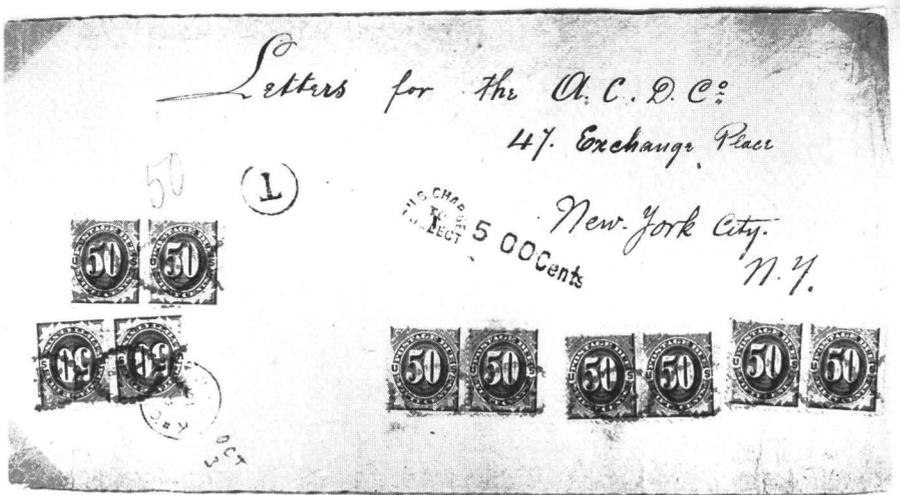


Figure 12. A parcel wrapping for foreign letters sent unpaid. The U. P. U. encircled "T" suggests Russia or Denmark as a possible origin. US CHARGE TO COLLECT 500 Cents. Five pairs of 50¢ J21s (dark brown with a tinge of red) with New York pearls precancels.

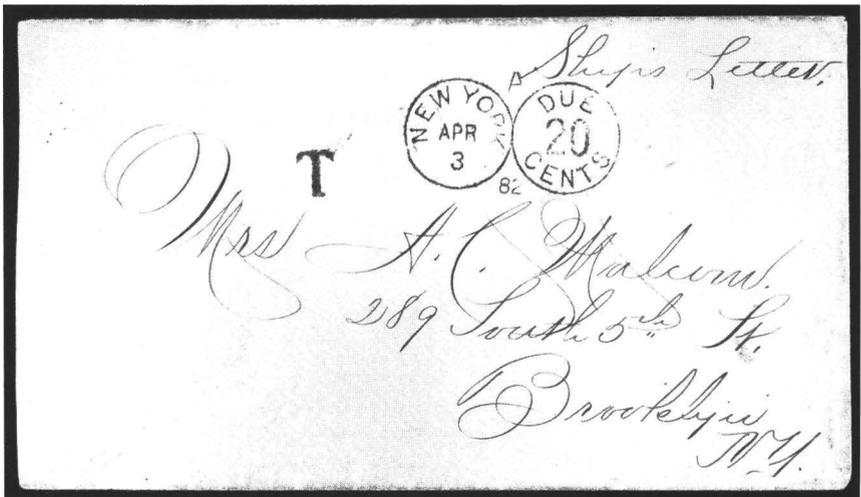


Figure 13. Ship's Letter claim rejected. Postmark "T" showed letter came via a U. P. U. country. Charged as unpaid U. P. U. mail, over half ounce, 10¢ underpaid. DUE 20 CENTS. April 3, 1882.

“insufficiently paid.” (See Chapter 10, Section 8 for more on these “T” marks). There is a British backstamp. The letters “LV” under the hexagon probably stand for Liverpool. So, this cover was forwarded to the United States from a member country of the U. P. U. and as such was U. P. U. mail. Apparently over a half ounce, the cover was short 10¢ (5d British). Doubled, this meant rating the cover DUE 20 CENTS.

A Washington, D. C., postal clerk affixed the two 10¢ red brown J19 dues and cancelled them with purple Washington ovals. Then, the cover was forwarded free to Boston. The Washington Post Office did not collect the 20¢ due and had to fill out a form to claim a credit for the two 10¢ dues. Boston collected the 20¢ and had to fill out a form explaining that they got the 20¢ instead of Washington.

The Malcolm cover of Figure 13 shows a small “T” on the front. Here is the evidence that this cover was forwarded to the United States by a member country of the U. P. U. The New York Exchange Office rated this cover also as unpaid U. P. U. mail, subject to the mandatory U. P. U. doubling penalty.

The cover of Figure 14 was forwarded to Boston without additional charge. Under U. P. U. regulations, forwarding was free. The 1891 Treaty of Vienna attached a restriction to some forwarding. As stated in a Notice to Postmasters, September 8, 1892, reproduced in the September 1892 *Postal Guide*, p. 7,

“unpaid letters and post cards, and insufficiently prepaid articles of every kind, when returned to country of origin, owing to their being reforwarded, or because they have become undeliverable, are liable, at the expense of the addressees or senders, to the same rates as similar articles addressed directly from the country of first destination to the country of origin.”

This meant that a U. S. letter to England, prepaid the U. S. 2¢ domestic rate, would be charged the 3¢ underpayment, doubled to 6¢, if the letter was returned to the United States. If the U. S. letter was returned from a country imposing a surtax (see Chapter 9, Section 1), the surtax would be doubled.

Finally, here is a totally unpaid cover and a violation of postal regulations. Figure 15 shows an unpaid cover from Copenhagen, Denmark, rated DUE 10 CENTS by the New York Exchange Office, April 11, 1885. The cover was forwarded to South Norwalk, Conn. The South Norwalk Postmaster should have affixed 10¢ in postage due stamps, but instead he affixed and cancelled a 10¢ brown Jefferson, Scott #209.

The postal regulations covering this situation were given in the 1885 *Postal Guide*, p. 693:

634. Postage-due stamps should be affixed upon the delivery of all matter upon which there is a charge, ...

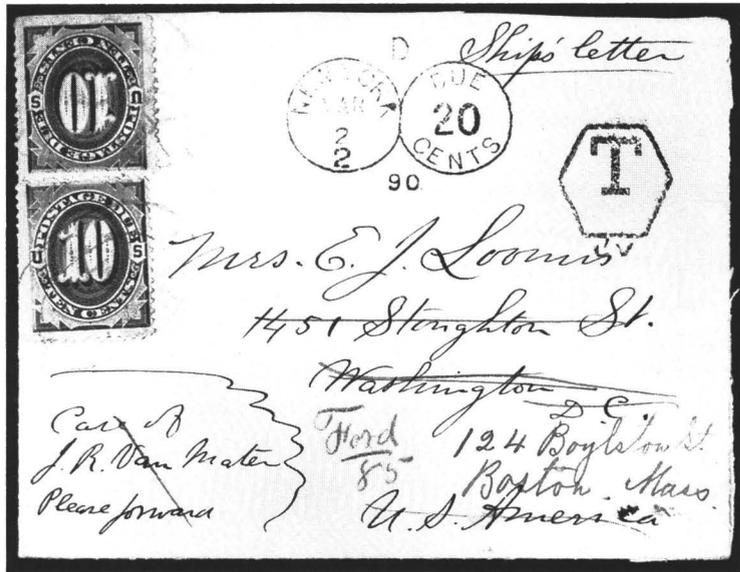


Figure 14. Ship's Letter claim rejected. Postmark "T" in the hexagon showed that the cover came via the U. K. Forwarded to the United States as unpaid U. P. U. mail. Over a half ounce, 10¢ underpaid. Doubled to DUE 20 CENTS. March 2, 1890.



Figure 15. Unpaid from Denmark and rated DUE 10 CENTS, April 11, 1885. Postage due charge receipted with a 10¢ postage stamp, contrary to regulations. Courtesy of James P. Gough.

635. When mail-matter arrives at a post office with postage due thereon, and the postmaster should have no postage-due stamps on hand, it would be his duty to receive the amount due in money, and when in receipt of postage-due stamps affix the amount in stamps to paper, cancel, and forward the same to the Third Assistant Postmaster General with an explanation of the matter.

On p. 694 of the *Guide* there was a very clear statement about not using postage stamps on postage due packages:

648. Ordinary postage stamps cannot be accepted in payment of postage due on insufficiently prepaid packages. Postage-due stamps must be affixed to all such matter, and the amount collected in money.

4. UNDERPAID COVERS

OVERWEIGHT

The case of insufficient prepayment was covered in Articles VI and VIII of the Regulations of Detail and Order agreed upon at the 1878 Convention of Paris. We have:

VI Application of Stamps

3. Unpaid or insufficiently prepaid correspondence is ... impressed with the stamp T (tax to be paid), the application of which devolves upon the office of the country of origin in cases of correspondence originating in the Union, ...

VIII Insufficient Prepayment

1. When an article is insufficiently prepaid by means of postage-stamps, the dispatching office indicates, in black figures placed at the side of the postage-stamps, the amount of the insufficiency, expressing it in francs and centimes.
2. According to this indication, the exchange office of the country of destination charges the article with double the insufficiency ascertained.

A typical example of an overweight cover appears in Figure 16. The cover was posted in England, June 12, 1889, with a 2 1/2d postage stamp paying one rate, up to a half ounce. The British post office found the cover overweight and stamped it with the "T" and "25"

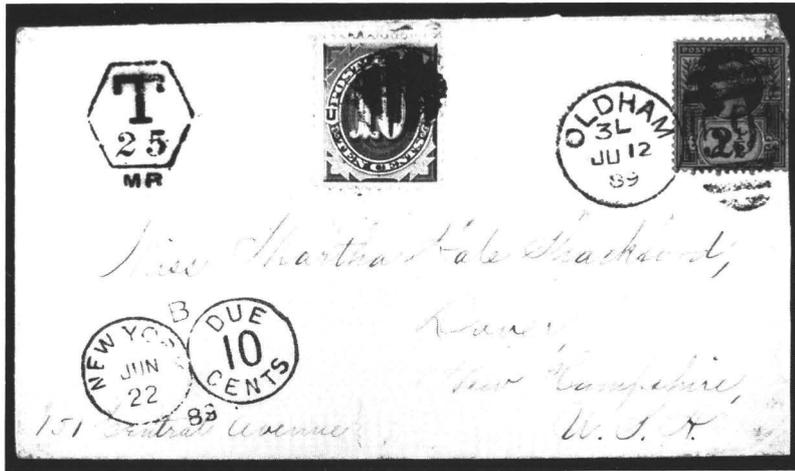


Figure 16. Overweight, paid only 2 1/2d for single rate, up to a half ounce. From England, June 12, 1889, stamped "T / 25." Rated DUE 10 CENTS by the New York Exchange Office. Five cent deficiency doubled, mandatory U. P. U. penalty.

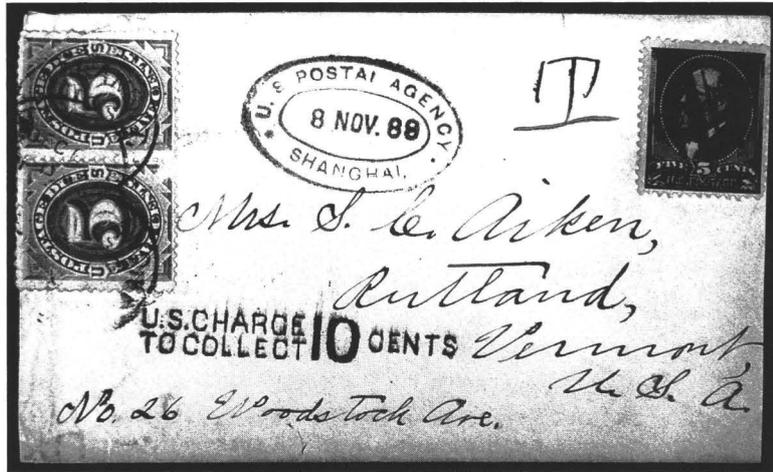


Figure 17. Underpaid from U. S. Postal Agency in Shanghai, 8 NOV. 88. US CHARGE TO COLLECT 10 CENTS. Pair of 5¢ orange brown dues.

in the hexagon, "T" for being insufficiently paid and "25" for being 25 centimes (5¢) short. The New York Exchange Office rated the cover DUE 10 CENTS and forwarded it to New Hampshire, where the 10¢ dark red brown J19 was affixed.

Figure 17 shows the same situation, 5¢ underpaid, but this time on a U. S. cover mailed in Shanghai, China, November 8, 1888. The U. S. Postal Agency in Shanghai marked the cover with a "T." The cover was treated as U. P. U. mail: 5¢ per half ounce, deficiency doubled. The San Francisco Exchange Office rated it U. S. CHARGE TO COLLECT 10 CENTS. The Rutland, Vermont, Post Office applied two 5¢ orange brown postage due stamps. Details about this U. S. Shanghai Postal Agency have been given by Bounds [10].



Figure 18. Overweight to Shanghai. From Bloomfield, N. C., August 2, 1895. Received in Shanghai, September 6, 1895, via New York and San Francisco. Ten cents bright claret J26. Courtesy of Peter A. S. Smith.

An example of an overweight cover going to Shanghai is shown in Figure 18. Posted in Bloomfield, N. C., August 3, 1895, the cover went to New York and then to San Francisco. The San Francisco Exchange Office stamped it with the U. P. U. "T" and the U. S. CHARGE TO COLLECT 10 CENTS and sent it on to Shanghai. The cover was received September 6, 1895, and a 10¢ J26 was affixed.

Letters and other matter were admitted to the mails to and from the U. S. Postal Agency at Shanghai, China, by an order from William F. Vilas, Postmaster General. The order,

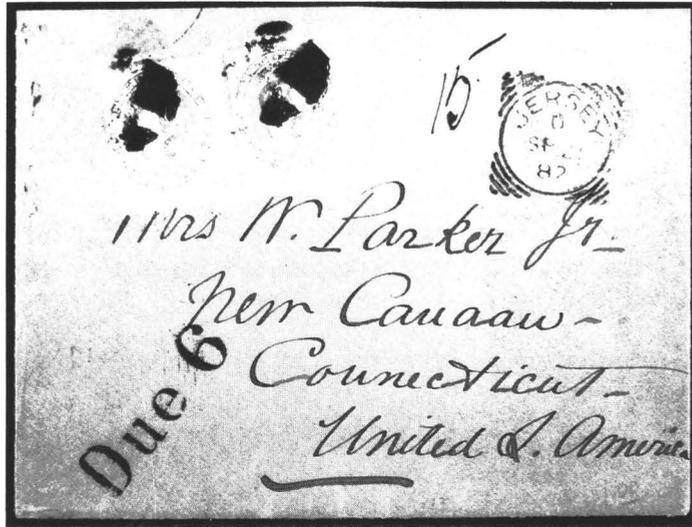


Figure 19. Prepaid only British domestic rate, 1 penny, September 22, 1882. Underpaid 1 1/2d, equivalent to 3¢. Doubled to Due 6. Two yellow brown 3¢ dues affixed. The 3¢ dues appear bright against the dark blue envelope.



Figure 20. From Berlin, Germany, paid 10 pfennig domestic rate. Underpaid 10 pfennigs or 2-1/2¢. Deficiency doubled and cover rated DUE 5 CENTS. Five cents red brown due with blue New York pearls precancel affixed. February 6, 1887.

printed in the June 1887 *Postal Guide*, p. 21, was dated May 2, 1887. The letter rate was set at the U. P. U. rate of 5¢ per half ounce. In the July 1887 *Postal Guide*, p. 22, Superintendent of Foreign Mails Nicholas M. Bell stated that U. P. U. penalties would apply to underpaid mail to and from the U. S. Postal Agency at Shanghai.

PREPAID DOMESTIC RATE

Next to being overweight one rate, probably the most common reason for underpayment was payment of the domestic rate instead of the U. P. U. rate. The domestic rate varied from country to country. So, payment of the domestic rate only on overseas letters resulted in a variety of postage due charges. Shown here are covers from Britain, Germany and France, each franked with the proper domestic rate, each with different postage due ratings.

Figure 19 shows a cover from Jersey Island, Great Britain, posted September 22, 1882, and franked with 1 penny (2¢) British domestic postage. The 3¢ deficiency was doubled to DUE 6, and two 3¢ brown J3s applied. This particular payment was the most common use of the 3¢ dues after the U. S. domestic rate dropped to 2¢ per half ounce in October 1883. It is curious that, despite a New York transit backstamp, there is no New York Exchange Office double-circle due postmark.

The domestic rate in Germany was 10 pfennigs or 2-1/2¢ U. S. So, the cover shown in Figure 20 was 2-1/2¢ underpaid or DUE 5 CENTS. Here, the postmarks are complete. We have a German date stamp (24, 1, 87), a bold, boxed "T" and the New York Exchange Office double-circle due postmark. The 5¢ due is a red brown J18.

Going one step further in domestic rates, the domestic rate in France was 15 centimes or 3¢ U. S., 2¢ short of the 5¢ overseas rate. Figure 21 is a cover properly paid as domestic mail in Paris, France, but underpaid 2¢ when forwarded to the United States. The cover was sent to Chicago where the Chicago Exchange Office rated it due 4¢. A pair of 2¢ bright claret J23s were affixed.

The cover of Figure 22 is included here in part because it shows prepayment of the domestic rate in Singapore. However, the main point in showing this cover is to illustrate how little need there was for the 3¢ dues in the 2¢ rate period and the difficulty the little post offices had in using up their stocks of these stamps [11, 12]. This cover was probably carried by a British ship at least as far as England, and entered the United States at New York. Rated DUE 6 CENTS, November 25, 1905, it was forwarded to Sandusky, Ohio where two 3¢ yellow brown J3s were applied. This was very late use of these stamps, 25 or 26 years after they had been printed.

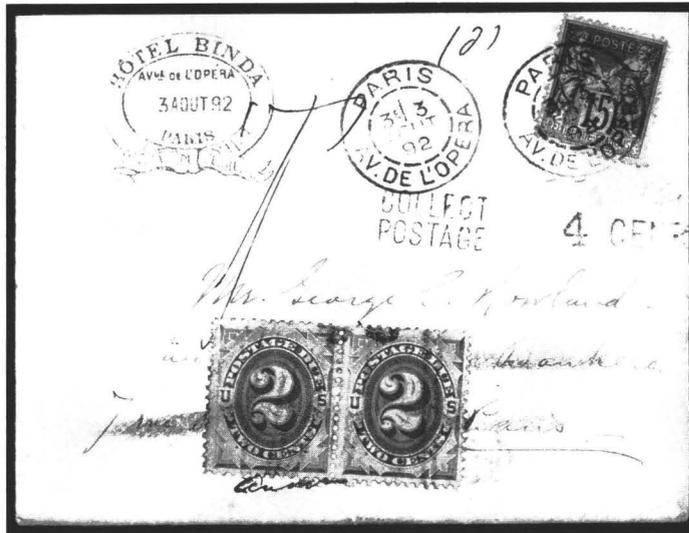


Figure 21. Domestic letter in Paris, France, forwarded to the United States, August 3, 1892. Large "T" written on cover. (Chicago address on back). Domestic rate 15 centime stamp corresponded to 3¢, 2¢ short of 5¢ U. P. U. rate. Doubled to COLLECT POSTAGE 4 CENTS. Pair of 2¢ bright claret dues added.

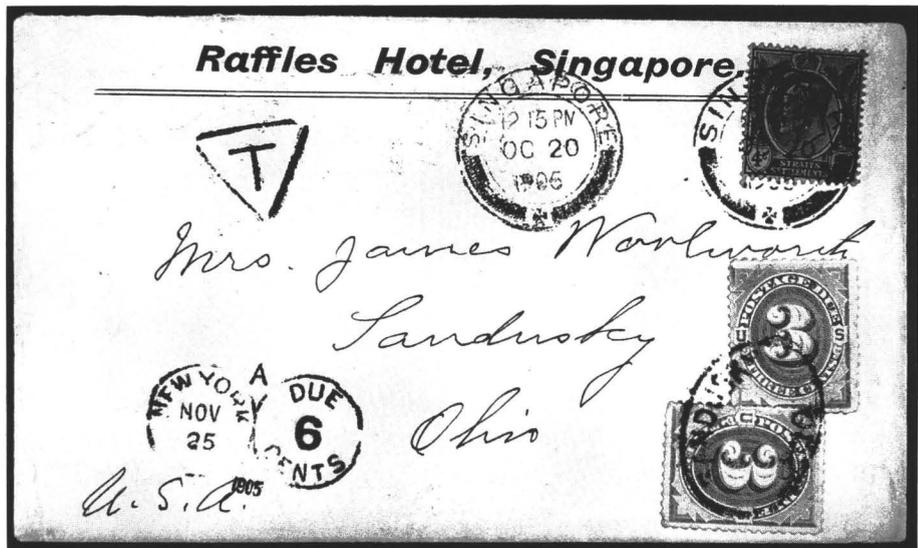


Figure 22. From Singapore. Rated DUE 6 CENTS by New York Exchange Office NOV 25 1905. Sandusky, Ohio, postal clerk used two 3¢ yellow brown J3s, probably printed some 25 years earlier. Very late use of J3.

RATING A SHIPWRECK COVER

The cover illustrated in Figure 23A was recovered from the wreck of the steamer Oregon off the coast of Fire Island, New York, March 14, 1886. Figure 23B shows a label attached to the back of the cover explaining the circumstances and, in effect, explaining the condition of the cover. The New York Exchange Office rated this cover U. S. CHARGE TO COLLECT 8 Cents. Why 8¢? The British stamp had been washed off after three-and-a-half months under water. Why was the cover charged anything? The answer to these questions goes back to Section VIII of the U. P. U. regulations quoted earlier in this chapter requiring the mailing office to mark the deficiency (expressed in centimes) with black figures beside the stamps. This cover shows a blue "20" at top left. The "20" is not black and it was not placed beside the stamp, but the New York Exchange Office interpreted this "20" as 20 centimes (4¢) underpayment and assessed the cover 8¢.

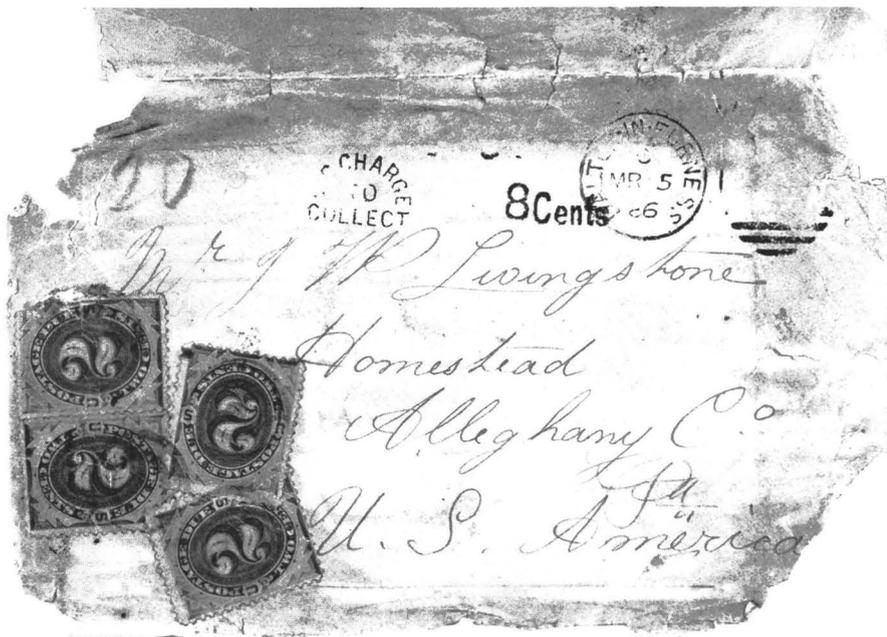


Figure 23A. A shipwreck cover from the Oregon, sunk off the U. S. coast March 14, 1886. British stamp washed off. Rated U. S. CHARGE TO COLLECT 8 Cents because of the blue manuscript "20" at top left, indicating a 20 centime underpayment. Four 2¢ red brown J16 dues affixed, July 1886. Courtesy of Richard J. Micchelli.

P. O., NEW YORK, N. Y., July 6th, 1885.

This piece is a portion of the mail forwarded from Queenstown, Ireland, *per* steamer OREGON on March 7th, and damaged by the sinking of that vessel off Fire Island on March 14th. Recovered from the wreck July 14.

HENRY G. PEARSON,

Postmaster

M. Y. P. O. PRIME.

Figure 23B. This label was affixed to the back of the cover of Figure 23A. Courtesy of Richard J. Micchelli.

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- [3] An English translation and also the original French version of the Convention of Paris are given in the 1878 *Report of the Postmaster General*, pp. 297-347. The English version is also given in Sections 1102 and 1103 of the 1879 *P. L. & R.*, pp. 231-262.
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- [11] Bower has written of the difficulty the country's largest post office had in using up its stock of the 3¢ J3s. "The Mystery of the 'New York City Pearl' Precancelled Dues Late Usage," Warren R. Bower, *U. S. Specialist*, vol. 46, pp. 472-477, October 1975.
- [12] In 1887, the Post Office had offered to redeem surplus 3¢ postage due stamps. (Circular dated January 20, 1887, reprinted in the April 1887 *Postal Guide*, p. 13).

CHAPTER 9.

POSTAL USAGE: OVERSEAS MAIL, PART II

1. U. P. U. - AUTHORIZED SURTAX

The Treaty of Berne, October 9, 1874, establishing the General Postal Union, was a complex and lengthy document [1]. Because it was breaking new ground in international cooperation, and because of its complexity, some points received only temporary solutions. One difficult point involved the costs and payment for mail going very long distances by sea or otherwise requiring unusual expense. Article X of the Treaty included the sentence:

Whenever a transit shall take place by sea over a distance exceeding 300 nautical miles within the district of the Union, the Office by or at the expense of which this sea service is performed shall have the right to a payment of the expenses attending this transport.

The treaty recognized that countries carrying mail to distant territories were entitled to compensation for this service. But the questions arose of who would pay this compensation, and how much should it be? Postal fees were fixed by Article III. After setting the standard rate at 5¢ per half ounce, Article III included the sentence:

For all conveyance by sea of more than 300 nautical miles within the district of the Union, there may be joined to the ordinary postage an additional charge which shall not exceed the half of the general Union rate fixed for a paid letter.

The phrase “additional charge” in the Postmaster General’s translation had been “une surtaxe” in the original French. So, we shall call this charge a surtax, a U. P. U.-authorized surtax. The authorization in Article III was for a surtax of 50% or 2-1/2¢ per half ounce. Some countries quickly adopted this optional surtax as a legitimate way of meeting the costs of lengthy sea transport. Great Britain adopted the maximum surtax for much of its far-flung mail service network [2, 3]. The United States declined to impose this optional surtax and held to the regular 5¢ per half ounce U. P. U. rate.

This optional surtax was revised by the Convention of Paris, June 1878, effective April 1, 1879 [4]. The relevant section of Article 5 of the 1878 Convention stated:

In addition to the rates and minima fixed by the preceding paragraphs, there may be levied;

1. For every article subjected to the sea transit rates of 15 francs per kilogramme of letters or post-cards and 1 franc per kilogramme of other articles, an additional charge, which may not exceed 25 centimes (5¢) per single rate for letter, 5 centimes per post-card, and 5 centimes per 50 grammes or fraction of 50 grammes for other articles.

Here was authorization for a surtax on letters of up to 5¢ per half ounce making the total postal rate a maximum of 10¢ per half ounce. This authorization was tied to the shipping rate of 15 francs per kilogram of letter or post card mail. This translates to \$1.30 per pound. The geographical connection is that nations such as Great Britain were permitted to charge rates such as this for conveying mail for overseas distances greater than 300 nautical miles.

The policy of the United States was set out by Postmaster General David M. Key in his 1879 *Report of the Postmaster General*, p. 30:

Article 5 of the Paris Convention establishes general rates of postage throughout the entire extent of the Universal Postal Union, with authority, however, to levy additional charges for the correspondence subjected to sea-transit rates of 15 francs per kilogram of letters and postcards, and 1 franc per kilogram of other articles; but as the correspondence sent from the United States to distant countries and colonies of the union to which these sea-transit rates are applicable, constitute a very inconsiderable part of the mail matter sent to postal union destinations, **I deem it expedient, in view of the desirability of fixing uniform postage rates, to waive the right to levy additional charges upon the correspondence addressed to such countries and colonies;** and accordingly issued an order directing the regular rates of union postage to be levied and collected in the United States on all correspondence exchanged within the Universal Postal Union (Canada excepted), without regard to distance or routes of transmission; thus realizing at once in our postal union relations uniformity of postal charges, the chief result which the system of the Universal Postal Union is designed ultimately to accomplish throughout the world.

In the 1881 *Postal Guide*, the United States began to tabulate the countries that opted for the U. P. U. surtax and the amount of surtax they levied. This information was included in the Foreign Mail section of the annual (January) postal guides. The 1881 table, "Statement of Surtaxes," contained 27 entries. The number rose to 61 by 1884 and stayed close to this number through 1892. Then, the number of countries and colonies levying a surtax declined and dropped to 36 by 1894.

Table 1 lists some of the countries that applied the U. P. U.-authorized surtax on letters to the United States. It is clear that most of the Latin American countries chose to impose the maximum permitted surtax (25 centimes or 5¢ for letters not crossing Panama). The

Table 1. Surtaxes Imposed on Letters to the United States

Country	Dates	5¢ Basic U. P. U. Rate	Surtax per 1/2 oz.	Surtax in centimes
Argentina	1881	8 centavos	8 centavos	25 ctm
	1882 - 1890	"	4 centavos	10 ctm
	1893 -	"	"	10 ctm
Brazil	1882 -	100 réis	100 réis	25 ctm
British India via Brindisi	1881 - 1888	2 annas	1 anna	12-1/2 ctm
	1881 - 1888	"	2-1/2 annas	30 ctm
Chile, via Panama	1882 - 1883	5 centavos	6 centavos	30 ctm
	1884 -	"	5 centavos	25 ctm
Strait of Magellan	1882 -	"	5 centavos	25 ctm
Columbia	1882 -	5 centavos	5 centavos	25 ctm
Costa Rica	1884 -	5 centavos	5 centavos	25 ctm
Ecuador	1884 -	5 centavos	5 centavos	25 ctm
El Salvador, via Panama	1883 -	5 centavos	6 centavos	30 ctm
	other routes	1883 -	"	5 centavos
Guatemala	1883 -	5 centavos	5 centavos	25 ctm
Haiti	1882 -	5 ctm de g.	5 ctm de g.	25 ctm
Hawaii	1883 -	5 cents	5 cents	25 ctm
Honduras	1881 -	5 centavos	5 centavos	25 ctm
Hong Kong	1881 -	5 cents	5 cents	25 ctm
Jamaica	1882 - 1890	2-1/2 pence	1-1/2 pence	15 ctm
Newfoundland	1883 - 1892	5 cents	3 cents	15 ctm
Nicaragua	1883 -	5 centavos	5 centavos	25 ctm
Norway Peru, via San Francisco	1882 - 1893	20 øre	5 øre	5 ctm
	1881	5 centavos	6 centavos	29 ctm
	1882 -	"	5 centavos	25 ctm
via Panama	1881	"	7 centavos	34 ctm
	1882 -	"	6 centavos	30 ctm
Siam	1887 -	7-1/2 atts	4-1/2 atts	15 ctm
Uruguay	1882 -	5 centavos	5 centavos	25 ctm
Venezuela	1882 - 1883	0.25 Bollvar	0.25 Bollvar	25 ctm

Note: The dates are the dates of listing in the U. S. postal guides.

surtaxes imposed by Chile, El Salvador and Peru for letters crossing the Isthmus of Panama were 5 centimes or 1¢ higher. The additional transit fee at Panama was recognized in the Regulations of Detail and Order of the Additional Acts of Lisbon, March 21, 1885, which declared, in Article III, that crossing the isthmus was an "extraordinary service" and justified a higher surtax.* Table 1 includes the dates when the surtax was charged, the 5¢ basic U. P. U. rate in the local currency and the surtax per half ounce, both in the local

* Article III of the Regulations of Detail and Order of the 1878 Convention of Paris had recognized that crossing Europe for letters to or from India and beyond and crossing the United States, east to west or west to east, were "extraordinary services."



Figure 1. From Argentina, JUL 10 79. Paid 8 centavos (5¢) postage but not the 8 centavo surtax. Rated DUE 10 CENTS, AUG 20 79. Pair of 5¢ brown J4s, New York pearls precancel.



Figure 2. From Argentina, March 1, 1883. Eight centavo entire paid the 5¢ U. P. U. rate. Four centavo surtax not paid. The United States listed the surtax as 2¢. Cover rated as U. S. CHARGE TO COLLECT 4 Cents. Large black "T" partly covered by left stamp of pair of 2¢ dark brown dues.

currency and in centimes. The dates have been taken from the U. S. postal guide tables that first appeared in 1881. For 1879 and 1880, the surtax was probably the same as that listed for 1881, unless there is evidence to the contrary. Three examples of postage due U. P. U. surtax covers follow [5].

The 1881 *Postal Guide*, p. 703, listed Argentina as imposing an 8 centavo (5¢) surtax, the maximum permitted. Figure 1 displays both sides of a cover from Argentina posted July 10, 1879. The sender paid the 8 centavos for the 5¢ U. P. U. rate but not the additional 8 centavos required for the surtax. The Argentine post office stamped the cover with a massive "T" to indicate underpayment. The New York Exchange Office rated the cover DUE 10 CENTS. A pair of precancelled 5¢ brown J4s was applied. The precancel is the New York pearls. The August 20, 1879, date from the due postmark documents very early usage of this precancel.

Argentina wanted the writers of letters to pay the shipping charges of the European shipping lines that picked up Argentine mail from Buenos Aires. There were also charges by U. S. lines that took over some of the mail for the United States and Canada at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, or ports in the Caribbean such as St. Thomas, Danish West Indies. However, by 1882 Argentina had lowered its surtax to 4 centavos. This corresponded to 2-1/2¢. The 1882 *U. S. Postal Guide* equated the 4 centavo surtax to 10 centimes, or 2¢. This "equivalence" was set by Article IV of the Regulations of Detail and Order adopted at the 1878 Convention of Paris.

Figure 2 shows another cover from Argentina with the 8 centavo (5¢) U. P. U. rate paid, but with the Argentine-imposed surtax unpaid. The cover is dated March 1, 1883, and the surtax had been reduced to 4 centavos, or 2¢ U. S. In the United States, this 2¢ was doubled to due 4¢. A pair of 2¢ deep brown J2s was affixed. The Argentine "T" is largely covered by these U. S. dues.

Like many other South American countries, Peru invoked a surtax on mail. From Table 1, the surtax was 6 centavos or 6¢ U. S. (via Panama) making the letter rate 11¢ per half ounce. The extra 1¢ over the usual 5¢ surtax was because of the fee for crossing the Isthmus of Panama by railroad. Figure 3 shows a cover from Lima, Peru, prepaid 11 centavos. There is a New York backstamp dating the cover as October 2, 1888. The cover was overweight, thus rated as due 22¢. A pair of 10¢ J19 dues and a 2¢ J16 due, all red brown, were affixed.



Figure 3. From Lima, Peru, prepaid one rate: 11 centavos including 6 centavo surtax. Overweight, rated due 22¢. Pair of red brown 10¢ J19 dues and a 2¢ J16 affixed. New York, October 2, 1888 backstamp.



Figure 4. January 1889. Two one-penny Jamaican stamps prepaid the U. P. U. printed matter rate of 1¢ plus a 3¢ Jamaican surtax. Uprated to letter mail, 5¢ plus 3¢ surtax. Four cents deficiency doubled to U. S. CHARGE TO COLLECT 8 Cents.

PRINTED MATTER UPRATED TO FIRST CLASS

Printed matter was permitted to pass through the U. P. U. postal system at the low rate of 1¢ per 50 grams. The weight corresponding to 50 grams was taken to be 2 ounces. (Newspapers were charged 2¢ per 4 ounces through December 1880). The letter rate was 20 times higher, so postal authorities were anxious that material passing at this low printed-matter rate not contain any letter-type communication. Printed matter had to be open to permit inspection. Any envelope that was sealed was automatically charged the 5¢ per half ounce letter rate.

Figure 4 shows a cover from Jamaica carrying the endorsement "Printings only." The two one-penny Jamaican stamps paid 1¢ for up to 2 ounces at the printed-matter rate and a 3¢ U. P. U.-authorized surtax. According to the 1889 *Postal Guide*, p. 767-68, the Jamaican surtax on printed matter was 1¢ per 2 ounces, but it seems likely that a Jamaican postal clerk used the 3¢ surtax appropriate for a letter. While the cover was still in Jamaica, a postal clerk either found the envelope sealed or inspected the contents of the unsealed envelope and found writing. The cover was stamped with a "T" in a triangle for insufficient postage. Uprated to letter postage of 5¢ plus 3¢ surtax, the cover was 4¢ underpaid. In New York, this 4¢ was doubled to 8¢. A pale orange brown 3¢ due and a deep red brown 5¢ due were applied. The color of the 5¢ due is appropriate for the 1889 date. The 3¢ due was probably printed five or six years earlier.

There is another possible explanation for the rating of this cover when it reached New York. The cover may just have been overweight, over the 4 ounces that the two one-penny stamps paid for. While this is possible, it is not likely. One would have to stuff a great deal of paper (perhaps two dozen sheets of ordinary 8 1/2" x 11" white paper) into this envelope to exceed 4 ounces!

2. INVALID STAMP: THE U. P. U. "0" MARKING

Figure 5 shows a cover franked with a three pence reddish lilac British inland revenue stamp. This stamp had been valid for the payment of postage until January 1883. At the time this cover was posted, October 7, 1885, this inland revenue stamp had no postal validity. Effectively, the cover was completely unpaid, but how was the U. S. postal clerk to know this?



Figure 5. U. P. U. zero marking. OC 7 85. British revenue stamp not valid for postage. Rated DUE 10 CENTS, OCT 17 85. Pair of 5¢ red brown J18s, light reddish brown. Cleveland ruled pen line precancel.

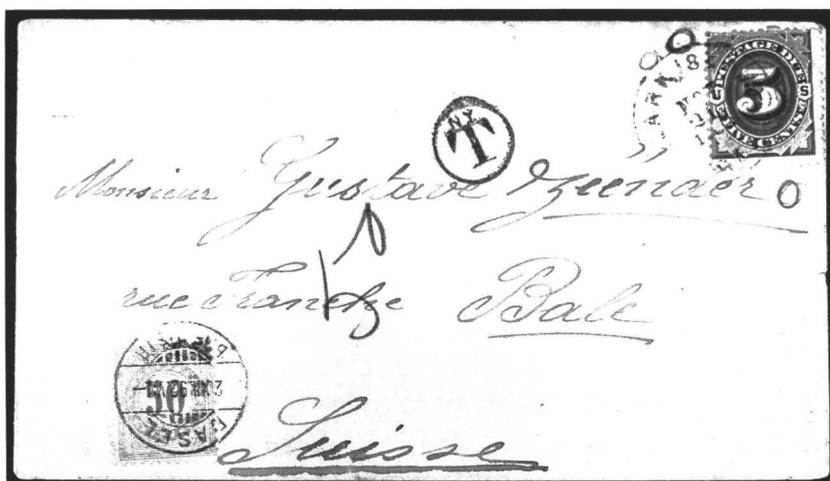


Figure 6. NOV 21 1892. Attempted payment of 5¢ U. P. U. postage with 5¢ red brown J18 rejected, U. P. U. zero marking. Charged 50 centimes (10¢) postage due in Switzerland.

The conferees at Berne in 1875 had recognized this problem and agreed upon a solution [6]. As stated in Section VIII of the Regulations of Detail and Order agreed upon at the 1878 Convention of Paris:

3. In case use be made of postage-stamps not valid for prepayment, no account is taken of them. This circumstance is indicated by the cipher (0), placed at the side of the postage stamps.

In practice, this zero marking was not restricted to invalid "postage-stamps" but was used to indicate any stamp that lacked postal validity. The British postal clerk marked zeros to the left of and below the revenue stamp. The "T" alerted the U. S. Exchange Office to the fact that the cover was underpaid. These zeros told the U. S. clerk that the stamp had no postal value. The cover was treated as unpaid and rated DUE 10 CENTS. The cover was forwarded to Cleveland, Ohio, where a pair of precancelled 5¢ red brown dues was applied.

Another example of the U. P. U. zero marking is provided by the cover of Figure 6. In November 1892, someone attempted to pay the 5¢ U. P. U. postage to Switzerland with a 5¢ U. S. postage due stamp, J18. The U. S. postage due stamps never had been valid for postage. See Section 4 of Chapter 6. The New York Exchange Office clerk notified his Swiss counterpart that the stamp was worthless for the prepayment of postage by marking zeros beside and below the postage due stamp. The cover was also stamped with the encircled "NY/T" to indicate insufficient payment. The Swiss post office rated the cover due 50 centimes (10¢) and affixed a 50 centime postage due stamp.

Some U. P. U. "0" covers have been altered, the zero marks having been erased so that the covers appear to be simply overweight covers, due 10¢. A clue to the correct identification of such covers is that post offices often did not cancel the invalid stamps. For example, the British Post Office did not cancel the revenue stamp on the cover shown in Figure 5.

Figure 7 provides another example of an invalid stamp not being cancelled. From Baden-Baden, Germany, this 1891 cover was franked with a 20 pfennig stamp that had been issued in 1875-77 and presumably demonetized. The stamp was not cancelled. Instead, it was blocked off with blue crayon lines to the left and below the stamp. A blue "T" was drawn at the top left. The boxed, handstamped "T" came from the German exchange office. Contrary to the U. P. U. regulations, no zero marks are visible. Blocking off the stamp, as done here, was not recognized in the U. P. U. regulations. However, the New York Exchange Office recognized the intent of the German markings and treated the cover as unpaid and rated it DUE 10 CENTS.

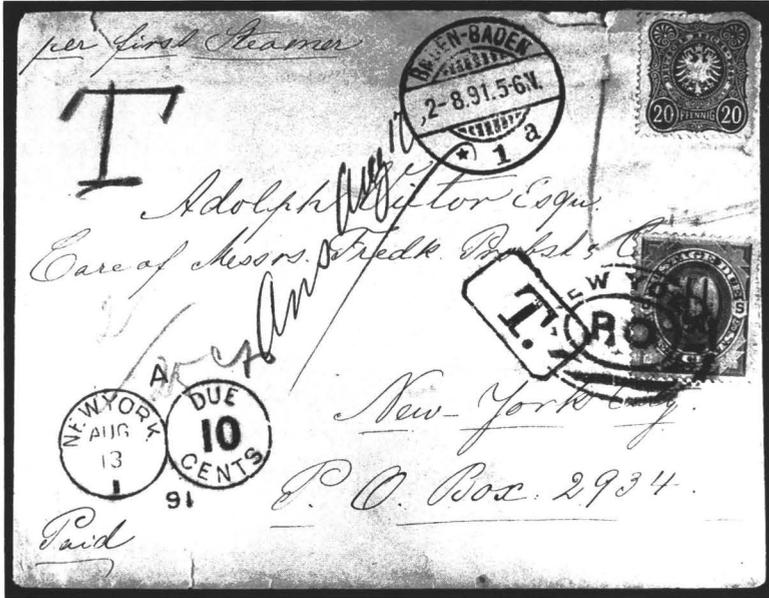


Figure 7. Posted with an invalid stamp, BADEN-BADEN, August 2, 1891. Rated DUE 10 CENTS by the New York Exchange Office. Ten cents red brown J19 affixed. Courtesy of Peter A. S. Smith.

3. POSTAL CARDS AND POST CARDS

PAID DOMESTIC RATE

Post cards were recognized as part of the international mail by the 1874 Treaty of Berne. Article 5 of the 1878 Convention of Paris set the rate for post cards as 10 centimes, or 2¢ U. S., per card. In most countries, the postal rate for domestic post cards was half this amount. So, another postage due item was created whenever a domestic post card of a foreign country was mailed to the United States.

Both Austria and Germany were special cases because of the value of their currency units, the kreuzer and the pfennig. The Austrian kreuzer was equivalent to 1/2¢. The overseas post card rate was 5 kreuzer, or 2-1/2¢. The domestic post card rate was 2 kreuzer, or 1¢. An underpayment of 3 kreuzer was doubled to 3¢. Twenty German pfennigs were equivalent to 25 centimes, or 5¢. The overseas rate for German post cards was set at 10 pfennigs, actually 2-1/2¢. The domestic post card rate was half this: 5 pfennigs or 1-1/4¢. When a German writer sent a domestic post card to the United States without extra postage, the card was 1-1/4¢ underpaid.

Figure 8A illustrates this latter situation [7]. It shows a German post card, mailed in Berlin, July 11, 1887. In New York the 1-1/4¢ underpayment was doubled to 2-1/2¢ and rounded up to 3¢. The card was stamped U. S. CHARGE TO COLLECT 3 Cents. A 3¢ light reddish brown postage due stamp was affixed and cancelled with a blue New York oval. The stamp is one of the intermediate shades discussed by Bower and Arfken [8]: it has enough red so that it differs from a J3 brown but not enough red to be an obvious J17 red brown.



Figure 8A. German post card paid 5 pfennig domestic rate, BERLIN 11 7 87 (July 11). Underpaid 5 pfennigs (1-1/4 ¢). Doubled to 2-1/2 ¢. Rated U. S. CHARGE TO COLLECT 3 Cents, JUL 20. Three cents light reddish brown due tied with blue New York oval.

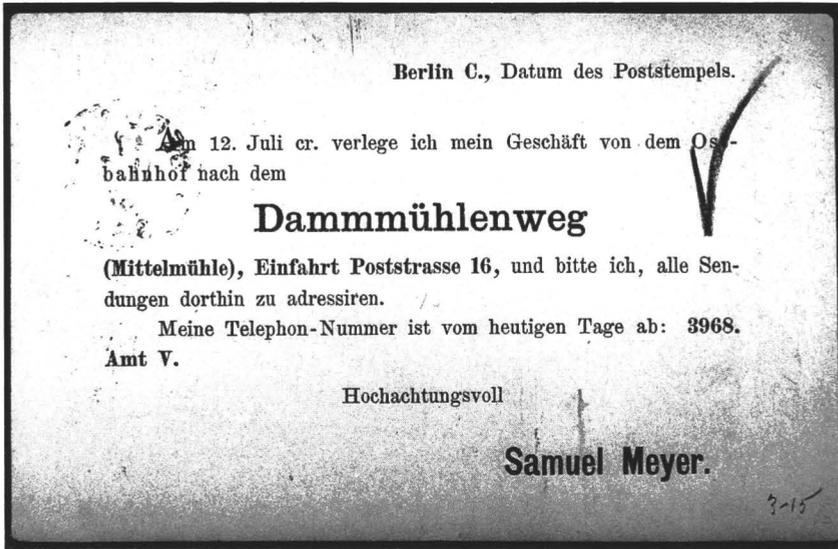


Figure 8B. The message side of the German post card of Figure 8A.

The irony of the complicated treatment of this card is that the card really wasn't a post card subject to the 10 pfennig rate. "Drucksache" meant "printed matter." As seen in Figure 8B, the reverse of the card was entirely printed. The card should have passed at the 1¢ per 2 ounces printed-matter rate. Unfortunately, the postal clerk thought it was an official German post card.

PRIVATE POST CARDS

As discussed in Section 8 of Chapter 5, the United States refused to allow privately issued post cards in the domestic mail at the postal card rate. This was also the policy for the U. P. U. mail. Article XV of the Regulations of Detail and Order of the 1878 Convention of Paris [4] stated:

4. Post-cards issuing from Union offices are alone admitted to circulation in the international service.



Figure 9. JY 23 95, England. Physically a post card but rated as a letter. “T/15” stamped in Britain for 3¢ deficiency. Doubled to 6¢ and receipted with a 5¢ bright claret J25 and a 1¢ Bureau Small Numeral due.

This prohibition of private post cards was continued in Section 394 of the 1887 *P. L. & R.*:

Postal cards issued by private persons are not admissible to international mails except when entirely in print and properly stamped at the foreign rates of postage.

Change was coming. Other countries had long allowed private post cards and wanted them admitted to the U. P. U. mail. The U. S. postal service relaxed a bit. In the 1893 *P. L. & R.*, Section 348:

Postal cards issued by private persons in those countries which permit such issue, are admissible to international mails when they conform to the foregoing conditions and are properly prepaid.

The “foregoing conditions” were the conditions of size, absence of attachments, etc., applicable to official government postal cards. This acceptance of foreign private post cards entered the 1893 *Postal Guide*, p. 916, as:

Post-cards issued by private individuals or corporations (in countries which authorize the issue of such cards) are required to be recognized and treated as post-cards in the country to which they are sent, provided they are received in mails made up in the country in which said cards originated.

This didn't quite solve all of the problems for private post cards. Figure 9 displays a card from England, dated July 23, 1895, and paid at the 1 penny (2¢) post card rate. Physically, it was a post card, a private post card. Possibly because it didn't say "Post Card," the British Exchange Office classified this card as an underpaid letter. The card was stamped "T" for being underpaid and "15" for the amount of the underpayment in centimes. Our exchange office doubled this deficiency and rated the "cover" due 6. The 6¢ was receipted with the unusual combination of a 5¢ bright claret Large Numeral due and a 1¢ Bureau Small Numeral due.

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- [7] George B. Arfken, "Early Postage Due Use - The 3¢ Red Brown, J17," *Chronicle*, vol. 34, pp. 213-214, August 1982.
- [8] Warren R. Bower and George B. Arfken, "The Search Goes On," *American Philatelist*, vol. 101, pp. 53-56, January 1987.

CHAPTER 10.

POSTAGE DUE POSTMARKS

The covers shown in the preceding five chapters display a variety of interesting and important postmarks, particularly important to those collectors who wish to know what happened to their covers. Apart from Brinton's pioneering effort, to be discussed later, the study of these postmarks has been rather neglected. Indeed, postage due-related postmarks during the Large Numeral era have been largely ignored. The two major works on early U. S. postmarks and cancellations [1, 2] have early cut-off dates, 1861 and 1869, well before the Large Numeral era. Mandel's fine study of rating marks [3], though purportedly covering the Bank Note era, totally ignored Large Numeral due covers and their rating marks. The new Herst-Sampson catalog, which lists itself as a guide, includes only four "due" and "held" postmarks for the Large Numeral era [4].

Here, then, is a presentation of representative samples of the postmarks occurring on Large Numeral postage due covers. There is no attempt to include every minor variety of every marking. Instead, typical postmarks are illustrated and discussed briefly. The discussion notes relevant factors such as the time, the postal regulations and geographical location. Cancellations on postage due stamps are considered separately in Chapter 11.

1. DUE POSTMARKS

Almost half a century ago, Brinton wrote about postage due marks and illustrated many of them [5]. His earliest dated use of the word "due" was July 24, 1835 for a written "due" and August 13, 1853 for a handstamped "due." Konwiser, quoting a letter from H. Morgan Ryther, offered a date of April 23, 1828 [6]. Unfortunately,

no details were given and no photograph was included. The selection of due marks in the following figures is based on marks that appear on Large Numeral covers. Hence, the time period for these figures is 1879 to about 1894.

Figure 1 shows 1¢ and 2¢ due marks that were in use during the Large Numeral era. Usually, the due mark was applied by the mailing post office to warn the delivering post office that additional postage should be collected. Occasionally, however, the mailing post office would overlook the deficiency, and the due mark would be applied by the delivering post office. The postage due stamps were to be applied by the delivering post office. See Appendix B, Post Office Order No. 7, sections 1 and 2. The 1¢ due marks came for a variety of reasons, as noted in the caption of Figure 1. The 2¢ due marks were all from unpaid or underpaid letters starting on October 1, 1883 when the basic rate was reduced to 2¢ per half ounce.

At the start of the Large Numeral era, July 1879, the letter rate was 3¢ per half ounce. All of the 3¢ due marks shown in Figure 2 came from overweight covers posted during the 3¢ period; that is, before October 1, 1883.

With the possible exceptions of due marks No. 7 and No. 10 of Figure 2, all of these 1¢, 2¢ and 3¢ due marks appear to be professionally made. Picturesque due marks handcarved by the local postmaster are known in the Large Numeral era, but they are rare. (Fancy cancellations are more common: see Chapter 11).

Due marks did not stop at 3¢. Figure 3 shows a sample of higher due ratings. Four of the five 4¢ due marks were for ship letters during the 2¢ rate period. The accompanying "SHIP" postmarks are shown in Figure 8. The two 8¢ ratings used all-purpose due marks, where the postmaster simply wrote in the specific amount due. As might be expected, both of these postmarks came from small-town post offices. The 98¢ and 100¢ due marks came from the New York Post Office and were used on third-class packages found to contain writing and consequently uprated to first-class mail. The New York Post Office, the country's largest, had a handstamp ready for any amount due.

2. ADVERTISED

Letters coming into a post office for delivery often did not carry a street address. So, how was the postmaster to deliver the letter to the addressee? Also, smaller post offices did not yet have free delivery. The solution was to advertise the arrival of the letter. In the larger

DUE 1 CENT

DUE 1 CENT

1.

2.

Due 1

DUE 1



3.

4.

5.

DUE 1c.

Due 2 Cts DUE 2 CENTS

6.

7.

8.

Due 2

DUE 2

Due 2

9.

10.

11.

DUE 2

Due 2



12.

13.

14.



DUE 2



15.

16.

17.

cities, this took the form of lists published in a local newspaper. In the smaller post offices, a list of the letters received was posted in the post office. The 1879 *Postal Laws and Regulations* decreed that:

Sec. 453. Advertised Matter to be so Marked. - Every letter or parcel advertised must have plainly written or stamped upon the address side the word ADVERTISED together with the date of advertising.

The early history of "Advertised" marks has been discussed by Graham [7]. In the Large Numeral era, some of the "Advertised" postmarks were quite modest circular marks. Some, such as the ones from St. Louis and from Springfield, Mass., were more flamboyant. New York used a distinctive oval "Advertised" postmark, often stamped in orange or some color other than black. The 1879 *P. L. & R.*, Section 377, required that black ink be used for cancelling postage stamps. General

Figure 1 (facing page). One Cent and Two Cents DUE Postmarks

Due 1¢

1. Chicago to Saginaw, Mich., February 1894. Underpaid.
2. Lancaster, Wis., returned to Springfield, Mass., March 1894. Third class.
3. New York, December 1883. Underpaid drop letter.
4. Detroit, September 1889. Underpaid drop letter.
5. New York to Brooklyn, May 1882, 19 mm diameter. Drop letter forwarded, underpaid.
6. Decatur, Ind., returned to Silver Creek, N. Y., February 1893. Third class.

Due 2¢

7. Northhampton, Mass., to St. Paul, Minn., September 1884. Underpaid.
8. Bolivar, N. Y., to Franklynville, N. Y., April 1884. Underpaid.
9. To New York, May 1884. Underpaid.
10. Washington, D. C., to St. Marys, Kan., August 1898. Unpaid soldier's letter.
11. Lebanon, N. H., to Woodstock, Vt., mid-1880's. Underpaid.
12. Cincinnati to Rockingham, N.Y., February 1884. Underpaid.
13. Portland, Me., to Boston, May 1894. Underpaid.
14. Brockton, Mass., to Bolsters Hills, Me., early 1880's, 24 mm diameter. Underpaid.
15. Atchison, Kan., to Philadelphia, early 1880's, 21 mm diameter. Underpaid.
16. Syracuse, N. Y., to New York, October 1893. Unpaid special delivery.
17. Poughkeepsie, N. Y., to Wooster, Ohio, May 1884, 33 mm diameter. Underpaid.

DUE 3

1.

Due 3 Cents

2.

Due 3

3.

Due 3

4.

DUE 3 CTS

5.

Due 3

6.



7.

DUE 3

8.



9.



10.



11.



12.



13.



14.



15.

DUE 3 C

16.

Due 3 Cents.

17.



18.

Order No. 39, October 25, 1880 stated, "The Postmaster General insists ... that black ink be used for postmarking." This Order was published in the *Daily Bulletin*, October 25, 1880. Nevertheless, the use of colored inks for postmarking continued. The New York oval appeared in at least three major versions: Nos. 1, 2 and 3 of Figure 4. Figure 14 of Chapter 5 shows the New York oval shown as No. 1 in Figure 4 here.

3. THIRD CLASS FORWARDED

Post Office Order No. 70, December 24, 1884, announced that third-class mail could be forwarded postage due. Order No. 70 specified the form of the marking to go on the mail matter: "Postage due for forwarding _ cents." In the 1887 *P. L. & R.*, the regulation took the form:

Sec. 562. 2. Other mail-matter, (third and fourth class) whenever forwarded, must be charged with additional postage at the same rate as if originally mailed at the forwarding office, with the rate noted thereon thus: "POSTAGE DUE FOR FORWARDING, ___ CENTS,"

Figure 2 (facing page). 3¢ DUE Postmarks for Overweight and Underpaid Mail

1. To Chicago, 1880, 1881.
2. Boston to Binghamton, N. Y., 1879, 1880.
3. Utica, N. Y., to Windsor, N. Y., early 1880's.
4. Philadelphia to New York, early 1880's.
5. Enfield, Ill., to Dakota Terr., November 1881.
6. Brooklyn to Boston, April 1880.
7. Chicago to Pittsfield, Ohio, June 1883.
8. Washington, D. C., to Garnaville, Iowa, April 1883.
9. Glendale to Plymouth, Mass., July 1879.
10. New York to Philadelphia, January 1880, 19 mm diameter.
11. New York to Hudson, N. Y., July 1879, 19 mm diameter.
12. Sharon, Pa., to Cincinnatus, N. Y., November 1882, 20 mm diameter.
13. Lockport, N. Y., to Ellenville, N. Y., August 1882, 21 mm diameter.
14. Bradford, Pa., to Jamestown, N. Y., early 1880's.
16. New York to Carlisle, Pa., July 1882.
16. Georgetown Sta., D. C., to Elizabeth, N. J., November 1881.
17. Conneaut, Ohio, to Versailles, N. Y., early 1880's.
18. Salem, Dakota, to Skowhegan, Maine, January 1883.

DUE 4 **Due 4 ct** DUE 4 CTS.

1.

2.

3.



4.

5.

6.

DUE 8

POSTAGE DUE..8....CTS.

7.

8.

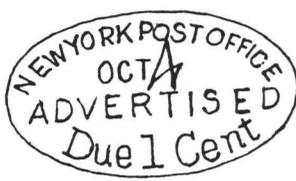
DUE 98 **DUE 100**

9.

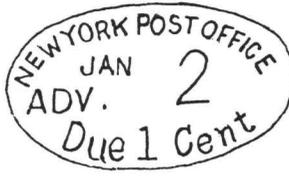
10.

Figure 3. High-Denomination DUE Postmarks

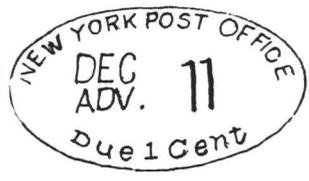
1. New Bedford, Mass., May 1892. Ship letter.
2. Portstown, Wash., September 1893. Ship letter.
3. To Pittsfield, Mass., early 1890's. Ship letter, port of entry unidentified.
4. New York to Waterbury, Conn., March 1891, 19 mm diameter. Underpaid.
5. New Orleans, March 1887, 20 mm diameter. Ship letter.
6. To Demopolis, Ala., early 1880's, 18 mm diameter. Unpaid.
7. Baltimore to Muscatine, Iowa, 1881. Unpaid, steamboat.
8. Oakland Crossroads, Pa., to Saltburg, Pa., March 1894. Unpaid registry fee.
9. New York, November 1887. Third class uprated to first class.
10. New York, November 1887. Third class uprated to first class.



1.



2.



3.



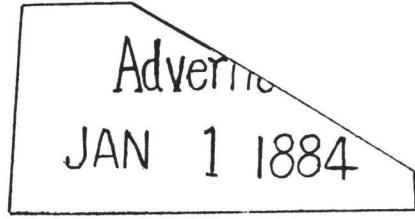
4.

RAPID CITY, DAK.
ADVERTISED

5.



6.



7.

ADVERTISED
SEP 15 1892
Springfield Mass.

8.

Figure 4. "Advertised" Postmarks

1. New York, October 1880, 38 x 21 mm.
2. New York, January 1882, 37 x 21 mm.
3. New York, December 1892, 38 x 21 mm.
4. Baltimore, March 1880.
5. Rapid City, Dakota, mid-1880's.
6. Cincinnati, December 1892, 28 mm diameter.
7. Baltimore, January 1884.
8. Springfield, Mass., September 1892.

Figure 5 shows a variety of the forwarding postmarks that were devised in response to this new regulation. The New York and Philadelphia postmarks, Nos. 1 and 2, followed the postal guide wording exactly. Both are shown on covers illustrated in Chapter 7, Section 2. The other two postmarks exhibit minor rewording.

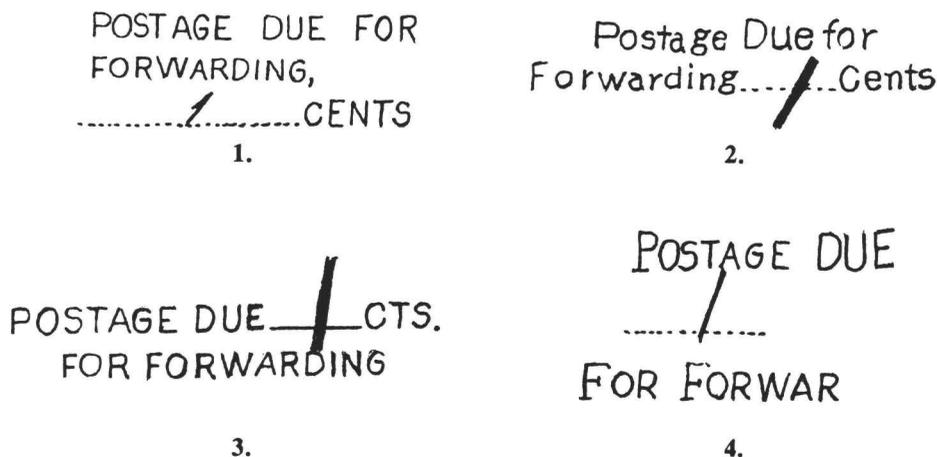


Figure 5. Forwarding Postmarks for Third-Class Mail

1. New York, late 1880's.
2. Philadelphia, June 1892.
3. Sterling, Kan., November 1893.
4. Boston, October 1894.

4. THIRD CLASS RETURNED

Authorization for returning third-class mail postage due was included in Post Office Order No. 70, December 24, 1884. The postmark specified was: "Return postage due __ cents." The regulation appeared in the 1887 *P. L. & R.* as:

Sec. 596. Return of Other than First Class and Request Matter. - All matter, other than first class, may be returned, but is subject to an additional charge for

postage for returning the same. When the sender of matter which would be subject to return postage shall, by indorsement upon the wrapper or otherwise, request its return, postmasters should comply with such request within the time fixed by the sender - if no time is fixed, then at the end of thirty days - first charging the matter, however, with the necessary return postage, and indorse the same "RETURN POSTAGE DUE ___ CENTS" ...

Mail could be forwarded only upon the written request of the addressee. Mail to be returned now required only a return address and a request for return on the envelope. The result was many more returned items than forwarded items and more "returned" postmarks than "forwarded" postmarks. Also, it became popular to stamp a hand on the envelope with the index finger pointing to the return address. Some varieties of the prescribed return statement and of the pointing hand are given in Figure 6.

Figure 7 shows the full cover with postmarks Nos. 4 and 8 of Figure 6. Both the pointing hands and the DUE mark were stamped in purple. This cover was forwarded from Ohio to Minnesota and marked "due 1" in manuscript. It should have been charged for both forwarding and return, for a total of 2¢. A similar case of both forwarding and return is pictured in Figure 6 of Chapter 7.

5. SHIP AND STEAMBOAT MARKINGS

Ship letters, discussed in Section 2 of Chapter 6, gave rise to a number of unusual postal markings. The New York Post Office used its double-circle form for the 6¢ charge before October 1883 and for the 4¢ charge from October 1883 on. There was also a double-circle form for 12¢ for a double ship rate during the pre-October 1883 3¢ period. The 4¢ double-circle form also saw use for ship letters for local delivery (ship drop letters) during the 3¢ period. New York and other ship postmarks are pictured in Figure 8. Since private ships delivered mail to many different ports, there are many varieties of SHIP markings.

By the start of the Large Numeral era in 1879, steamboats had largely lost out to railroads in the competition for contracts to carry the mail. Speed was of the essence, and steamboats were slow. Some mail still went on, or came from, the Chesapeake Bay steamboat line serving Norfolk and Baltimore. The STEAMBOAT post mark used on this mail is shown as No. 10 in Figure 8.

N.Y.P.O.

RETURN POSTAGE DUE

-----/-----CENTS.

1.

Return postage due-----/-----cts.

2.

N.Y.P.O.

RETURN POSTAGE DUE

ONE CENT.

3.

Return Postage

Due-----Cents.

4.

Returned to writer.

5.

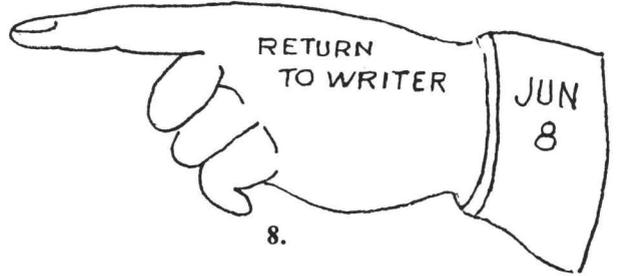
Return Postage

-----|-----Cents

6.

NEW YORK P. O.
RETURN
TO WRITER
JAN 18

7.



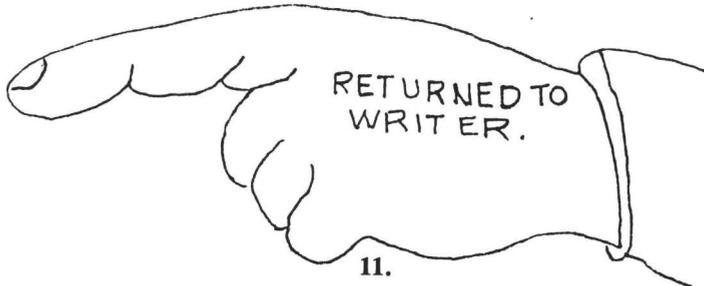
8.



9.



10.



11.

6. MISCELLANEOUS POSTAL MARKINGS

Along with the postmarks described in the preceding sections of this chapter, there was a variety of other postmarks stating or explaining what was being done with the cover. Perhaps the most common was "Unclaimed," which was stamped on a cover before sending it to the Dead Letter Office. Figure 7 shows the "Refused" postmark, used to explain why that cover was being returned. The "Writing" postmark of Figure 8, Chapter 7, explained why the third-class parcel was rated up to first class and rated "DUE 98." The "Detained ..." and "Held For Postage" marks explained why these letters were delayed. Figure 9 illustrates a selection of these postmarks.

The two circular New York postmarks contain initials in the center. It is tempting to identify the "I. D." of the "UNCLAIMED" mark as "Investigation Division" or "Inquiry Division," and the "U. D." of the "WRITING" mark as "Uprating Division," but these are only guesses.

7. UNITED STATES FOREIGN EXCHANGE OFFICES

Incoming foreign mail was directed through special post office sections, called exchange offices. Here, specially trained, experienced clerks would rate the incoming mail. Almost all trans-Atlantic mail came into the New York Exchange Office. Trans-Pacific mail entered at San Francisco. (Ship letters which entered at other ports were exceptions to this system). The importance of the exchange post offices was underscored by the 1881 *Postal Guide*, p. 697:

Figure 6 (facing page). Returned Postmarks for Third-Class Mail

1. New York, January 1886.
2. Buffalo, N. Y., late 1880's.
3. New York, November 1887.
4. Duluth, Minn., June 1894.
5. Lancaster, Wis., March 1894.
6. Greenville, N. J., late 1880's.
7. New York, January 1886.
8. Duluth, Minn., June 1894.
9. Decatur, Ind., February 1893.
10. Vallejo, Cal., January 1880.
11. Buffalo, N. Y., late 1880's.

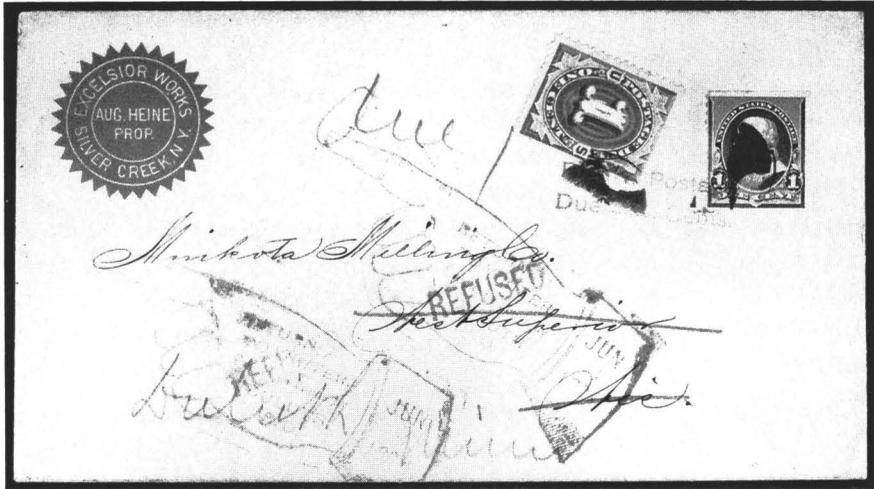


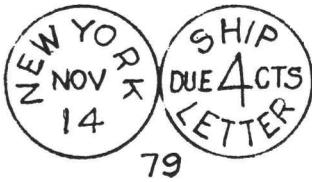
Figure 7. RETURN TO WRITER, JUN 3, 1894. Delivery and 1¢ forwarding charge refused. Returned to Silver Creek, N. Y.

The ascertainment and rating of deficient postage on correspondence for and from foreign countries, and the placing on the correspondence of the proper indications of such deficiencies, is the work of the exchange post offices, and not of the mailing post offices, unless the latter are also exchange post offices.

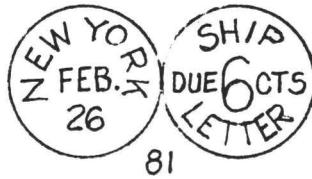
Section 1125 of the 1879 *P. L. & R.* lists the U. S. exchange offices that made up the mail for various foreign countries. Almost all trans-Atlantic mail from the United States went to or via England, France or Germany, with sailings direct or via England four days a week: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The exchange offices listed for this trans-Atlantic mail are given in Table 1.

San Francisco was the exchange office for all trans-Pacific mail. Key West and New Orleans were named as additional exchange offices for mail to Cuba and some of the other Caribbean countries.

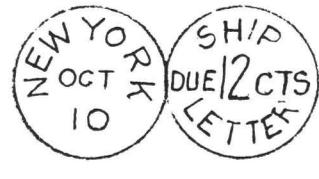
Figure 10 illustrates the distinctive due marks employed by the New York Exchange Office. The most-used due postmarks fall into two time periods, with two types of due marks in general use in each period. The double-circle, "opera glass," postmarks with tall thin numerals, Nos. 2 and 3, were used from the start of the Large Numeral era until 1889. The "U.S. CHARGE" in a semicircle postmarks, Nos. 7-9, were used in this same time period. Starting in 1889, the numerals in the double-circle form became shorter and heavier, as shown by Nos. 4 and 5. Also in 1889, the



1.



2.



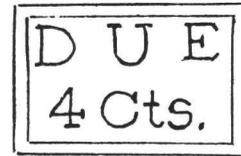
3.

**SHIP'S
LETTER**

4.

SHIP SHIP.
4

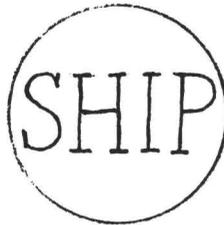
5.



6.



7.



8.



9.

STEAMBOAT

10.

Figure 8. Ship Letter Postmarks

1. New York, November 1879. Ship drop letter.
2. New York, February 1881.
3. New York, December 1880. Double rate.
4. Unidentified, early 1890's.
5. Boston, November 1886.
6. Baltimore, December 1888.
7. San Francisco, January 1887.
8. Portstown, Wash., September 1893, 29 mm diameter.
9. New Orleans, March 1887.
10. Baltimore, 1880, 1881. Chesapeake Bay steamboat.

UNCLAIMED

1.



4.

UNCLAIMED

2.

Unclaimed

5.

Unclaimed

3.



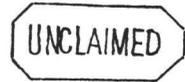
6.

INCONNU.

7.



8.



9.

*Detained at San Francisco
for POSTAGE.*

10.



11.

REFUSED

12.

HELD
FOR
POSTAGE

13.

semicircular forms were replaced by the two-line "COLLECT/POSTAGE" marking, Nos. 10-12. All of these forms are known with other numeral values. For instance, Figure 12 of Chapter 8 shows the semicircular form with "500 Cents."

There are two further points of interest in the two forms of the double circle due postmarks. The first is the indicium, a capital letter directly above the meeting point of the two circles. Presumably the letter refers to a station in the exchange office. Postmark No. 3, AUG 1879, shows no station letter. This is characteristic of the 1879 postmarks. The letters "A" and "B" had appeared by 1881, if not earlier. Later, all the letters through "H" appeared. Postmark No. 4 illustrates the "H."

The second point of interest is the use of these four New York Exchange Office due marks. In the 1880's, the double-circle due marks were applied almost exclusively to unpaid non-U. P. U. letters (Due 5) and to unpaid or overweight U. P. U. letters (Due 10, Due 20). The semicircular U. S. CHARGE TO COLLECT marking was used primarily on letters due other amounts. This distinction disappeared in the 1890's. It should be emphasized that there was no real difference between the terms "due" and "collect." All four of these New York Exchange Office postmarks meant "pay": pay both the unpaid postage and the mandatory U. P. U. penalty.

Two very unusual double-circle postmarks are included in Figure 10. Postmark No. 1 employs the phrase "U. S. CURRENCY." This wording had been used a decade earlier, when the U. S. currency had fallen in value relative to the British pound. In the Large Numeral era, the wording was obsolete and quickly disappeared from the exchange office postmarks. The postmark is seen in Figures 1 and 2 of Chapter 8. The "PAID ALL" of No. 6 was used as a backstamp on a properly paid U. S. cover to France that was returned as undeliverable.

Figure 9 (facing page). Miscellaneous Postmarks

1. Grand Rapids, Mich., April 1891.
2. New York, January 1883.
3. Lancaster, Wis., March 1894.
4. New York, August 1886.
5. Baltimore, January 1884.
6. Cincinnati, December 1892.
7. Cincinnati, December 1892. U. P. U. mark, French for "unknown."
8. New York, November 1887.
9. Vallejo, Cal., late 1880's.
10. Boston, Mass, August 1882.
11. Brooklyn, May 1889. Underpaid drop letter.
12. Duluth, Minn., June 1894.
13. San Francisco, April 1889.

**Table 1. U. S. Foreign Exchange Offices for U. S. Mail
to France, Germany, Great Britain
and to Countries Served via these three Countries.**

Office	Destination	Routing
Boston	France:	direct from New York via New York and England
	Germany:	direct from New York
	Great Britain:	direct direct from New York
New York	France:	direct via England
	Germany:	direct via England
	Great Britain:	direct
Philadelphia	Germany:	direct from New York
	Great Britain:	direct direct via New York
Baltimore	Germany:	direct from New York via New York and England
Chicago	Germany:	direct from New York
	Great Britain:	direct via Detroit (and via Canada) direct via New York
Detroit	Great Britain:	direct (via Canada)
		direct via New York
San Francisco	Great Britain:	direct via New York

The two postmarks, No. 13, "Due 4," and No. 14, "Due 6," may have been used because the standard forms (double-circle and semicircle) were missing, broken or otherwise unavailable. Alternatively, the covers showing these forms may have bypassed the New York Exchange Office. The cover showing the "Due 6," from England to Connecticut, does show a New York transit backstamp.

Figure 11 reproduces five postmarks used by the San Francisco Exchange Office. The two-line "U. S. CHARGE/TO COLLECT" form was used by San Francisco throughout the Large Numeral era. The "DUE 12," No. 2, was applied to the cover from New South Wales shown in Figure 6 of Chapter 8. The "5 CENTS," No. 4, was stamped on the cover from South Australia shown in Figure 5 of Chapter 8.

Figure 12 illustrates the operation of Chicago as an exchange office for incoming mail from Germany. This cover from Germany was paid double rate but was still overweight. There is a Chicago two-circle rating mark DUE 10 CENTS and the date July 26 (1889). There is no New York or Detroit postmark.

8. UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION “T” POSTAL MARKINGS

If an overseas letter from a country in the U. P. U. arrived at the exchange office completely unpaid, it was obvious that the letter was underpaid 5¢ per half ounce. (There might also have been a U. P. U. surtax: see Chapter 9, Section 1). With the mandatory U. P. U. doubling penalty (see Chapter 8, Section 2), the letter was rated at 10¢ per half ounce. But what if the required postage was only partly paid? How was the postal clerk to know that the payment was only partial? One answer was that the exchange office clerks were knowledgeable about foreign stamps, foreign currencies, foreign rates and U. P. U. surtaxes. However, the U. P. U. wanted the mailing country to warn the exchange office clerks in the receiving country that the letter was underpaid. The delegates at the Convention of Paris, June 1878, agreed on “T” (for the French “taxe”) as an international symbol for insufficient prepayment. As stated in the Regulations of Detail and Order, “VI. Application of Stamps” [8]:

3. Unpaid or insufficiently prepaid correspondence is impressed with the stamp T (tax to be paid), the application of which devolves upon the office of the country of origin in cases of correspondence originating in the Union, and upon the office of the country of entry in cases of correspondence originating in countries foreign to the Union.

Our postal guides repeated this information. From the 1888 *Postal Guide* p. 723:

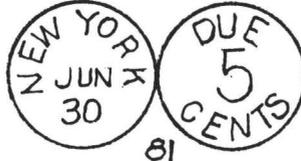
42. The letter “T” stamped upon the wrapper of an article received in the mails from a foreign country indicates that it was considered in that country as not fully prepaid, and that additional postage is to be collected on delivery.

The precise form of the “T,” and of any frame surrounding it, was left to the discretion of the individual member countries. Figure 13 shows the “T” symbols used by 16 different U. P. U. countries during the Large Numeral era. Two styles are shown for both Argentina and Germany. In addition, there is one unidentified “T” symbol from Figure 12 of Chapter 8. The symbols are grouped in Figure 13 according to the type of frame used: no frame, circle, rectangle, triangle.

The British “T” in a hexagon on the cover of Figure 14, in Chapter 8, notified the New York Exchange Office that this cover, claiming to be a ship letter, had actually come via England and was therefore U. P. U. mail. Unpaid and overweight, the letter was charged DUE 20 CENTS. If it had been accepted as a ship letter the charge would have been 4¢.



1.



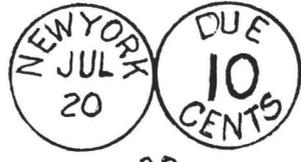
2.



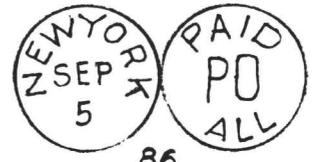
3.



4.



5.



6.

U.S. CHARGE
TO
COLLECT

5 Cents

7.

U.S. CHARGE
TO
COLLECT

8 Cents

8.

U.S. CHARGE
TO
COLLECT

20 Cents

9.

COLLECT
POSTAGE

3 CENTS

10.

COLLECT
POSTAGE

6 CENTS

11.

COLLECT
POSTAGE

10 CENTS

12.

Due 4

13.

Due 6

14.

Great Britain used enough different “T” symbols, with enough detail, to warrant a figure of its own: see Figure 14. In the early 1880’s, a double-circle form, Nos. 1 and 2, saw occasional use. A plain, bold “T” in a variety of forms was employed in 1879 and throughout the 1880’s. By the end of the 1880’s, an elongated hexagon had appeared, No. 6. One or two letters were included below the hexagon. Then the postal deficiency, in centimes, was placed under the “T” within the hexagon. The “15” usually resulted from a single rate letter prepaid only the one penny domestic rate (15 centimes = 1-1/2d = 3¢). The “25” usually came from an overweight letter, underpaid one rate (25 centimes = 2-1/2d = 5¢).

**Figure 10 (facing page). New York Exchange Office
DUE Postmarks**

1. Venezuela, November 1879.
2. Columbia, June 1881.
3. England, August 1879.
4. England, May 1894.
5. Sweden, July 1890.
6. U. S. cover returned from France, August 1886.
7. Germany, July 1882.
8. Jamaica, January 1889.
9. Haiti, November 1884.
10. Austria, October 1894. Post card.
11. Uruguay, February 1893.
12. Panama, 1893.
13. France to Albany, N. Y., January 1883.
14. England to New Caanan, Conn., September 1882. New York transit mark.

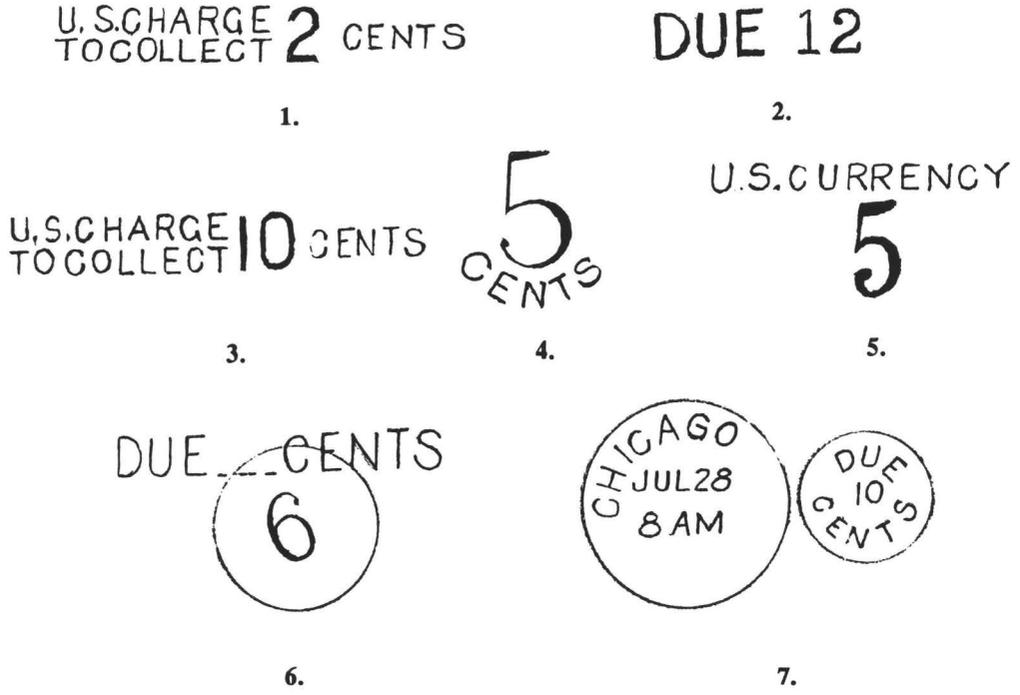


Figure 11. Other U. S. Exchange Office Postmarks

San Francisco

1. Partially paid ship letter, January 1884.
2. New South Wales, November 1881. Unpaid.
3. Shanghai, November 1888. Underpaid.
4. South Australia, July 1881.
5. South Australia, August 1887.

Boston

6. England to Boston, September 1889

Chicago

7. Germany to Chicago, July 1889.

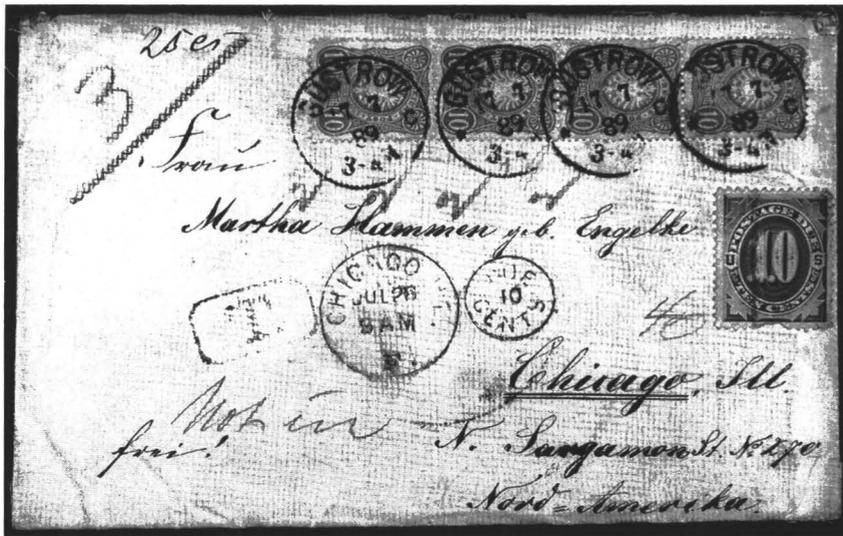


Figure 12. Paid 40 pfennigs for up to 1 ounce, but still overweight. Rated by the Chicago Foreign Exchange Office as DUE 10 CENTS, July 26, 1889. Ten cents red brown J19 affixed.



1.



2.

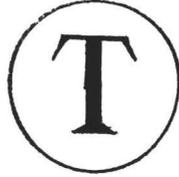
HAVANA



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



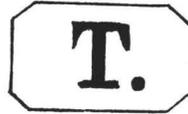
9.



10.



11.



12.



13.



14.



15.



16.



17.



18.



19.



20.



21.



22.

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- [2] Hubert C. Skinner and Amos Eno, *United States Cancellations, 1845-1869*, American Philatelic Society and Louisiana Heritage Press, 1980.
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- [8] English translation in the 1878 *Report of the Postmaster General*, p. 325. Also given in the 1879 *P. L. & R*, Section 1103, p. 246.

Figure 13 (facing page). Universal Postal Union "T" Postal Markings.

- 1. Argentina, 1879.
- 2. Austria, 1889.
- 3. Cuba, 1883.
- 4. Japan, 1881.
- 5. Argentina, 1889, 22 mm diameter.
- 6. Brazil, 1889, 18 mm diameter.
- 7. Denmark, 1886, 18 mm diameter.
- 8. Panama, 1893, 21 mm diameter.
- 10. United States, 1892, 15 mm diameter.
- 11. United States, 16 mm diameter.
- 12. Germany, 1890.
- 13. Germany, 1891.
- 14. Sweden, 1889.
- 15. France, 1879.
- 16. Haiti, 1884.
- 17. Jamaica, 1889.
- 18. Uruguay, 1893.
- 19. Canada, 1887, 19 mm diameter.
- 20. Canada, 1892, 18 mm diameter.
- 21. Canada, 1893, 18 mm diameter.
- 22. Unidentified, 17 mm diameter.

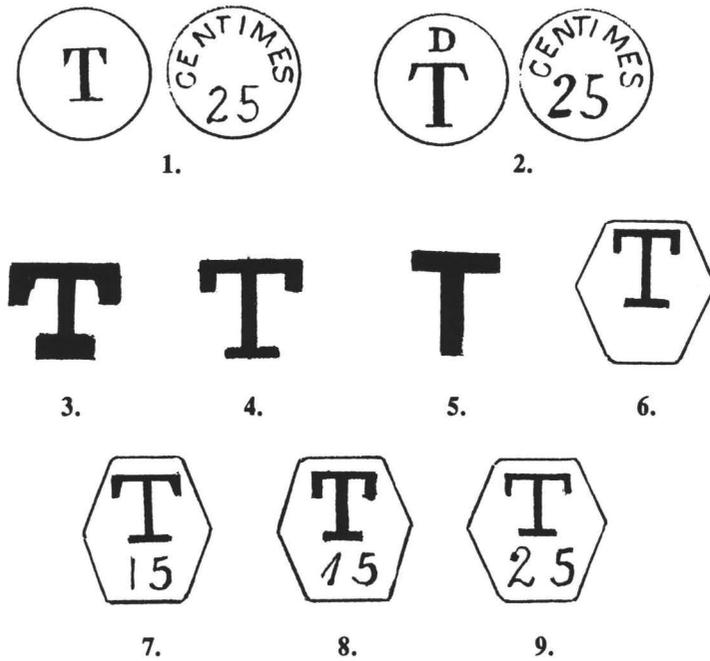


Figure 14. British "T" Postal Markings

1. May 1881. Overweight letter.
2. November 1884. Overweight letter.
3. August 1879. Overweight letter.
4. November 1885. Overweight letter.
5. January 1888. Letter prepaid domestic rate only.
6. May 1894. Letter prepaid domestic rate only.
7. July 1895. Post card charged letter rate.
8. November 1892. Letter prepaid domestic rate only.
9. March 1889. Overweight letter.

CHAPTER 11.

CANCELLATIONS ON POSTAGE DUE STAMPS

The Post Office mandated that postage stamps be cancelled so that the stamps could not be used a second time. In the 1879 *P. L. & R.*, this requirement appeared in Section 375:

Sec. 375. Postage-stamps to be Canceled. - Postage-stamps affixed to all mail-matter or the stamped envelopes in which the same is inclosed shall, when deposited for mailing or delivery, be defaced by the postmaster at the mailing [post] office, in such manner as the Postmaster-General may direct; and if any mail-matter shall be forwarded without the stamps or envelopes being so defaced, the postmaster at the office of delivery shall deface them, and report the delinquent postmaster to the Postmaster-General.

There exist two magnificent compilations of early U. S. postal markings and cancellations [1, 2]. Unfortunately, both of these books stop well before the Large Numeral era, thus are of only limited use in a study of the Large Numeral due covers. We proceed into territory that has been covered in part in the literature, but only in part.

1. COLORED CANCELS

Paragraph 3 of the May 5, 1879 announcement of postage due stamps (see Appendix A) specified that, “they are to be canceled in the customary way, ...” Postal regulations called for cancelling stamps with black printing ink or, if that was unavailable, with black writing ink. Again from the 1879 *P. L. & R.*:

Sec. 377. Manner of Canceling Stamps. - The cancellation or defacing required by section 375 must be effected by the use of black printing-ink, whenever that material can be

obtained; and where it cannot, the operation should be performed by making several heavy crosses or parallel lines upon each stamp, with a pen dipped in good black writing-ink. The use of the office rating or postmarking stamp as a canceling instrument is positively prohibited, inasmuch as the postmark, when impressed on the postage-stamp, is usually indistinct, and the cancellation effected thereby is imperfect.

General Order No. 39, October 25, 1880, called attention to the legal mandate that black ink be used for cancellations. This General Order was reproduced in the 1881 *Postal Guide*, p. 644. The pertinent statement was:

The attention of postmasters is respectfully called to sections 375 and 377, on page 103 of the *Laws and Regulations*, edition of 1879, in regard to the color of the ink to be used in canceling stamps, which are, in many cases, disregarded. The Postmaster General insists that these sections must be strictly complied with, and also that black ink be used in postmarking.

There was a good reason for demanding that the cancellations be struck with black printing ink. The Post Office had probably recovered from the paranoia of a decade past, when stamps had to have grills and various patent cancels were tried. But the basic problem still remained. The Post Office wanted stamps cancelled so that they would stay cancelled. New, untested, unauthorized colored inks might lead to cancels that could be washed off and the stamps used a second time. The best available solution, in the eyes of the Post Office Department, was to require black printing ink.

RED BOSTON CROSSES AND PROPELLERS

Despite the 1879 *P. L. & R.*, despite General Order No. 39 and the postal guides, some postmasters continued to use colored ink. Chief among these nonconformists were the postmasters and postal clerks of greater Boston. Here, red ink was used and used lavishly. Figure 4 of Chapter 6 offers a nice example of this. The cover, a ship letter, was landed at New York and forwarded to Charlestown, Mass., a part of greater Boston. Figure 1 shows a closeup of the stamps and the cancellation, which was struck in a brilliant red.

Blake and Davis have described Boston cancellations on postage stamps [3]. Bower has extended their work with his detailed study of the Boston cancellations on postage due stamps [4]. He found that the Boston Post Office used four different colors over the Large Numeral era:



Figure 1. Two 3¢ dues (J3) cancelled with massive crosses in brilliant red ink. Charlestown, Mass., February 1881.

purple or muddy magenta	mid-1879
vermillion red, fluorescent	late 1879(?) - mid-1882
dark red, nonfluorescent	mid-1882 - late 1883
black	late 1883 - .

Eight of the types of cancellations used are illustrated in Figure 2. Bower's type letters are used. For general interest, the black-ink cancels are included along with the red-ink cancels. It should be understood that these are the basic cancel designs. There are many minor variations because of wear of the cancelling instrument, differences in inking and differences in the force of application. One version of the large Maltese cross appears on the cover of Figure 3. This cover is a "Ship's Letter" that was not recognized as a ship letter but was rated at the special non-U. P. U. 5¢ per half ounce rate instead. (See Chapter 6, Section 2 and Chapter 8, Section 3 for a more detailed discussions). Table 1 lists Bower's types of Boston cancels with the approximate period of use and the dimensions of the cancels.

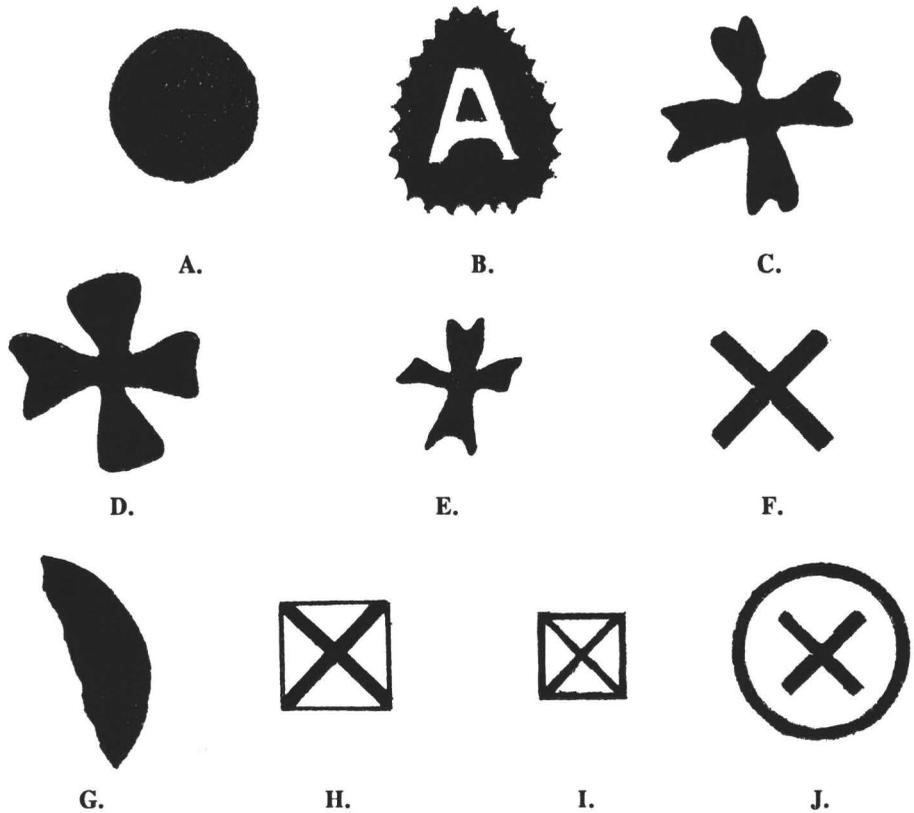


Figure 2. Boston cancels: Maltese crosses, propellers and Xs. See Table 1 for more information.

Table 1. Bower's Listing of Boston Cancels on Large Numeral Dues

Bower's Type	Years in Use	Description	Dimensions	Color of Ink
A	mid-1879	solid circle	20 mm dia.	purple
B	late 1879 - early 1880	leaf with negative A	irregular	vermilion red
C	1880	large Maltese cross	23 mm	vermilion red
D	1881	large propeller	23 mm	vermilion red
E	1882	small Maltese cross	17 x 14 mm	dark red
F	1882	large X	20 mm	dark red
G	1883	"blob"	irregular	dark red
H	1883 - 1886	large boxed X	13 mm square	dark red, black
I	1887 - 1889	small boxed X	10 mm square	black
J	1893 - 1894	encircled X	22 mm dia.	black



Figure 3. Ship's Letter claim rejected. Cover rated due 5¢ at non-U. P. U. 5¢ per half ounce rate. Entered at New York, May 14, 1881. Large red Maltese cross cancel.

Two special points concerning these cancels deserve mention. First, in late 1883, the Boston Post Office finally gave up its red inks and turned to the officially required black ink. Second, some of the Boston cancels were small and were socked on the nose, so did not tie the due stamp to the cover. Because some of these cancels do tie the postage due stamp to the cover, Bower asserted that the post marks shown in Figure 2 are true cancels and not precancels.

Figure 4, illustrates this second point. The cover is a ship letter from Liverpool, England to Boston. A Boston backstamp gives the date as November 11, 1886. The cancels on the two 2¢ J16 dues are the large boxed X, Bower type H. The cancel on the stamp on the right is socked on the nose and could be interpreted as a precancel. However, the left hand cancel ties the postage due stamp to the cover. Clearly, on this cover, the large boxed X is a cancel and not a precancel.

There is a further complication here. Hooper [5] illustrates a stamp on cover with a Boston cancel that appears to go beyond the edge of the stamp but does not show up on the cover. Hooper offers this as evidence that some of these Boston cancels may have been precancels.

Other red Boston cross and propeller cancels appear in Figures 3 and 11 of Chapter 8.

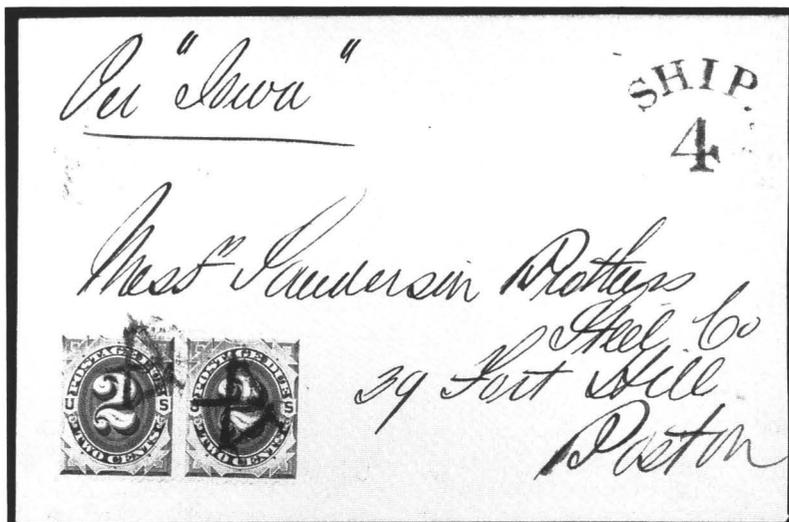


Figure 4. Ship letter from Liverpool, England, to Boston, arrived November 11, 1886. Due 4¢. Pair of 2¢ red brown J16 dues cancelled with large boxed Xs.

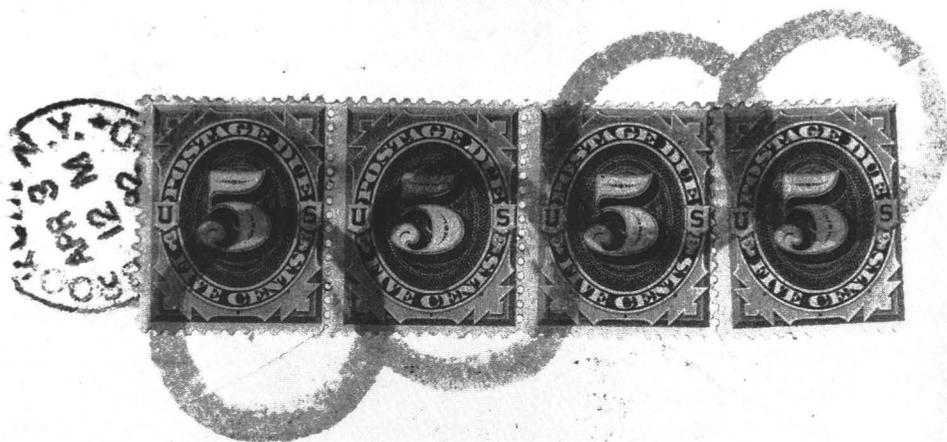


Figure 5. Four magenta "donut" rings used to cancel four 5¢ J4 dues. Brooklyn, N. Y., April 1882.

MAGENTA BROOKLYN DONUTS

The Brooklyn, N. Y., Postmaster seemed very fond of these circular cancels. They had an outside diameter of about 27 mm and an inside diameter of about 20 mm. They were stamped in varying shades of reddish, magenta or purple ink. Brooklyn used these reddish, magenta, purple circular cancels from 1879 through 1884. Figure 5 shows four of these Brooklyn "donut" cancels on a strip of four 5¢ dues (J4). The cover, shown in Figure 13 of Chapter 8, was claimed to be a ship letter but was delivered to the United States via a member of the U. P. U. and was therefore rated as unpaid U. P. U. mail. Being overweight (over half ounce, not over one ounce), the cover was rated as DUE 20 CENTS. A similar rejected ship letter appears in Figure 14 of Chapter 8.

Other magenta Brooklyn donut cancels are seen in Figure 13 of Chapter 5 and in Figure 8 of Chapter 6. The Brooklyn Post Office stopped using these colorful magenta donut cancels after 1884.

2. FANCY CANCELS

U. S. postmasters, particularly from the smaller towns, had a long tradition of creating fancy cancels. This tradition received strong encouragement from an 1860 order from the Postmaster General prohibiting the use of townmark or dating stamps for cancelling postage stamps. Two other factors should be noted here. First, postmasters from smaller post offices were required to provide their own cancelling instruments. A common solution was to carve the canceller from cork or a fine-grained wood such as maple. Second, the news of clever or fancy cancels spread rapidly, as fast as the mail. Other postmasters, seeing fancy cancels on incoming mail, could well have been inspired to try their own hand at carving a fancy cancel. Herst and Sampson have illustrated many such fancy cancels [6]. The individual fancy cancels are scarce, often rare. Cork devices, for instance, might last only a few days. However, different fancy cancels continued to appear throughout the Large Numeral era. Salkind has documented the fancy cancels found on the 2¢ red postage stamps of 1890-1900 [7]. Figure 6 shows a handcarved Jack O'Lantern cancel on a 2¢ Large Numeral due, J16.

A sample of fancy cancels found on Large Numeral dues is illustrated in Figure 7. The Boston crosses and propellers and the Brooklyn donut cancels can be claimed as examples



Figure 6. Fancy Jack O'Lantern cancel on 2¢ J16. Posted at Medford, Mass., DEC 1 1884, to Leavenworth, Kansas.

of fancy cancels. The bold designs of Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 suggest that the cancelling devices were carved from cork or soft wood. Nos. 3, 6 and 8 show sharp, narrow lines indicating use of hard wood or, more probably, metal. No. 3 comes from the cover of Figure 2 in Chapter 5.

The image of a rural postmaster carving a fancy design on a piece of cork or wood should not obscure the fact that cancelling and postmarking devices in high-quality wood, typically boxwood, and in brass, iron and steel were commercially available.

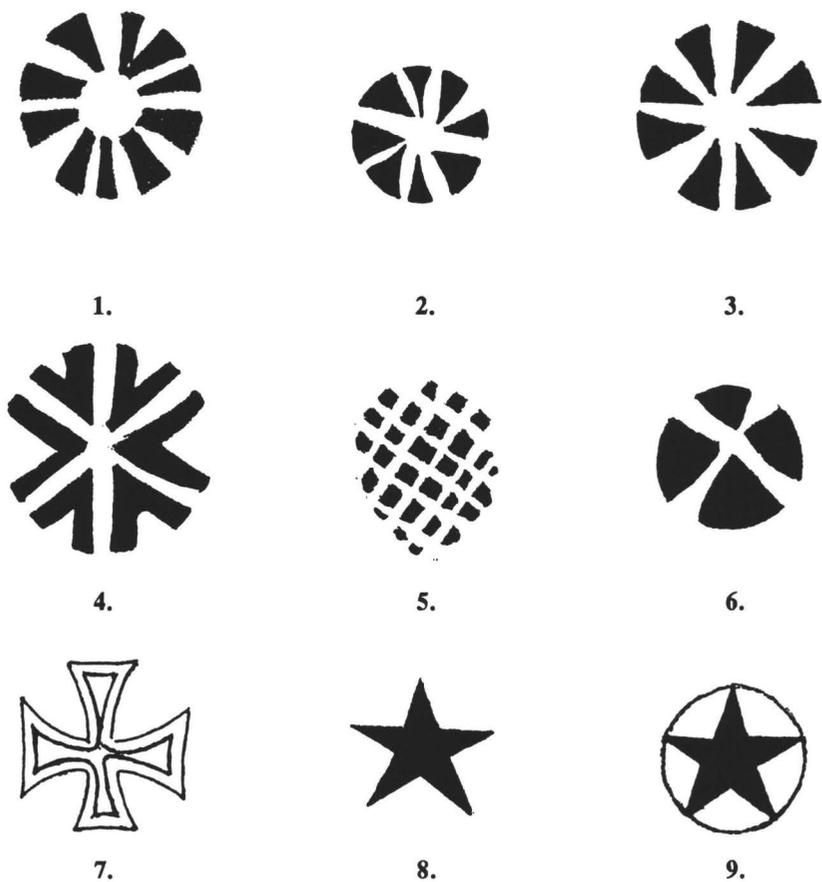


Figure 7. Some fancy cancels found on Large Numeral postage due stamps.

1. Hudson, N. Y., July 1879.
2. On J16. Courtesy Lewis Kaufman.
3. On J3. Courtesy Lewis Kaufman.
4. Brooklyn, N. Y., February 1880.
5. Woodstock, Vt., early 1880's
6. Morristown, N. J., December 1889.
7. Rockingham, N. Y., March 1884.
8. On J1.
9. Cedar Bluff, Ala., early 1880's.

**THE SADLER CO. BALTIMORE, MD.
KANSAS CITY, MO.**

RUBBER STAMPS FOR POST OFFICE USE.

SELF-INKING STAMP PADS.

COLORS: BLACK, RED, PURPLE, GREEN AND BLUE.



No. 0—2¼ x 3¼. Price, 20 cents.
No. 1—2¼ x 4¼. Price, 35 cents.
No. 2—3¼ x 6¼. Price, 50 cents.

IMPROVED LINE DATERS.

Complete with box of dates for years, months and days, twocenters, etc. The holders are of metal, neatly finished, with enameled handle. They are made in five styles, as shown below.



PRICES.

Nos. 1, 2 and 3, each, \$0.75
No. 4..... 1.00
No. 5..... 1.25

Postage paid.

No. 1.

MAY 20 1888

No. 2.

MAY 20 1888

No. 3.

SEP 24 1888

No. 4.

OCT 25 1888

No. 5.

JUN 23 1888

We furnish the entire set of Fifteen One-Line Stamps for Post Office use, as per samples below, postage paid, for

ONLY \$1.00.

The first three lines will be altered to suit the name of Postmaster, Assistant Postmaster, Town, etc.

**J. I. NORRIS, P. M.
L. Kain, Asst. P. M.
Richmond, Va.**

**DUE 1 CENT.
DUE 2 CENTS.
REGISTERED NO.
CORRECT.
RETURN TO WRITER.
POSTAGE DUE.
ADVERTISED.
UNCLAIMED.
Third Class Matter.
MISSENT.
FORWARDED.
HELD FOR POSTAGE.**

If less than 15 of these Stamps are wanted, the first 3 on the list will be 12 cents each, cash with order, the remainder 6 cents each as we have them in stock.



Price for this Hand, 15 cents.

Contractors to U.S. Post Office Department

xviii

Figure 8. Rubber Stamps for Post Office Use. An advertisement in the September 1892 *Postal Guide*.

3. DUE MARKS

Postal regulations required that postage due stamps affixed to mail matter be cancelled, but often this was not part of a routine job. Often the postmaster or postal clerk would grab whatever cancelling device was handy to cancel these stamps. One possible choice was the due mark handstamp. In Philadelphia, a frequent choice was the DUE 2 enclosed in a circle. An example of this sort of cancellation is presented in Figure 9. It should be noted that the use of such a postmarking stamp as a cancelling instrument was “positively prohibited” by Section 377 of the 1879 *P. L. & R.*, quoted at the beginning of this chapter. It would seem that the Philadelphia clerks in the early 1880’s, like their Boston and Brooklyn brethren, paid rather little attention to the fine points of the Postal Laws and Regulations. Figure 10 shows three examples of postage dues cancelled with rating instruments. The DUE 3 and DUE 2 (Nos. 1 and 3 in Figure 10) were used in Philadelphia. The “Short Paid” was stamped in purple ink at St. Louis.

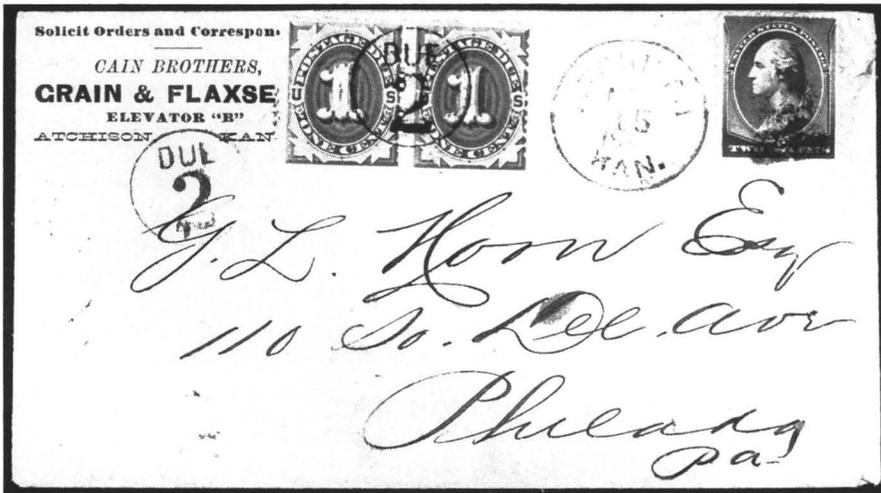


Figure 9. Atchison, Kan., to Philadelphia, early 1880’s. Overweight and DUE 2. Pair of 1¢ deep brown dues cancelled with “DUE 2” - illegally!



1.

Short Paid

2.



3.

Lewis G. Holt.

4.

Mass.

5.

ASST. P. M.

6.

MAY 29 1889

7.



8.



9.

Figure 10. Cancels on Large Numeral postage due stamps: Due marks, straight line name and/or date stamps and undated ovals.

1. DUE 3, Philadelphia, Pa., early 1880's.
2. Short Paid, St. Louis, Mo., March 1880.
3. DUE 2, Philadelphia, Pa., August 1884.
4. Lewis G. Holt, Lawrence, Mass., May 1891.
5. Springfield, Mass., September 1892.
6. ASST. P. M., Cleveland, Ohio, March 1880.
7. May 29, 1889, Brooklyn, N. Y.
8. NEW YORK, November 1887, undated oval.
9. HARTFORD, CONN., March 1893, undated oval.

4. NAME AND DATE STAMPS

Due markers were not the only unusual devices used for cancelling postage due stamps. Some postmasters used town name stamps or date stamps. The May 29, 1889 cancel, No. 7 of Figure 10, appears on the cover of Figure 11 in Chapter 5. In Cleveland, someone, perhaps the Assistant Postmaster, cancelled a due stamp with a handstamp reading "ASST. P. M." One postmaster, Lewis G. Holt of Lawrence, Mass., was so fond of his own name that he used his name stamp for cancelling postage dues. No. 4 of Figure 10 shows one such Holt cancellation. Figure 12 of Chapter 5 is another example.

5. CIRCULAR DATE STAMPS AND DUPLEX CANCELS

Circular date stamps and duplex cancelers saw considerable use in cancelling postage due stamps. Use of these instruments was technically a violation of Section 377 or the 1879 *P. L. & R.*, quoted earlier. Examples of circular date stamp cancels are seen in Figure 4 of Chapter 5 and Figures 13 and 14 of Chapter 7.

6. UNDATED OVALS

Postmasters were required to date letter mail. As dating was not required for third- and fourth-class mail, many post offices used undated ovals for cancelling this mail. It avoided the trouble of changing the date each day. These oval cancelling devices were available when there was a need to cancel postage due stamps. No. 8 in Figure 10 shows an undated New York oval, while No. 9 shows a Hartford, Conn., oval. Figure 11 illustrates the complete cover with this New York oval. This was a third-class circular mailed to a local address in New York City. Undelivered, it was returned 1¢ postage due. The 1¢ postage due stamp was cancelled with an undated New York oval. Fortunately, the cover is dated by the date on the hand pointing to the return address. Figure 8A of Chapter 9 shows a rather

special New York oval, special because it was stamped in blue. The New York post office used this oval New York Post Office cancel after it had used up its stock of 3¢ dues with New York pearls precancels. In the spring and summer of 1887, blue ink was used for these ovals (illegal, see Section 1). In the fall of 1887, the color of the ink was changed to black and stayed black for the remainder of the Large Numeral era.



Figure 11. An undelivered circular, NOV 16, 1887. RETURN POSTAGE DUE ONE CENT. The 1¢ deep red brown J15 was cancelled with a NEW YORK oval.

7. PEN CANCELS

Some collectors dislike pen cancels. However, Section 377 of the 1879 *P. L. & R.* authorized and directed the use of pen cancels, with black ink, as an emergency procedure. Two examples of pen cancels appear in Chapter 6: Figure 1, a soldier's letter addressed to St. Marys, Kan., and Figure 10, a steamboat letter addressed to Muscatine, Iowa.

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- [6] E. N. Sampson, ed., *Fancy Cancellations on Nineteenth Century United States Postage Stamps*, Third Revised Edition, Herman Herst, Jr., 1963.
- [7] Sol Salkind, *U. S. Cancels 1890-1900*, 1985. Salkind was mostly concerned with cancels on the 2¢ red stamps of this time period. Little attention was paid to cancels on the postage dues.
- [8] J. David Baker, *The Postal History of Indiana*, Vol. I, Leonard H. Hartmann, publisher, Louisville, Ky., 1976. See Chapter 11, "19th Century Development of Postal Markings," by Arthur H. Bond.

CHAPTER 12.

POSTAGE DUE PRECANCELS

A precancel will be defined here as, “the cancellation impressed on an adhesive postage stamp (or other stamp) under proper authority previous to the postal use of that stamp.” It should be noted that other writers often use the term “precancel” to refer to the precancelled stamp itself [1]. However, in this chapter there is more emphasis upon the postal marking and the method of making it than emphasis upon the actual stamp. So it is important here to retain “precancel” as the analog of “cancel.”

Hooper [1] traces U. S. precancels back to the use by James Hale & Co. on their local stamps in 1844. Almost all of the precancels before 1879 were precancels of individual stamps presumably under careful restriction by the postmaster. Careful restriction was called for because, from the Post Office’s point of view, it was important that the precancelled stamps be accepted only from an authorized user of the precancelled stamps. Precancelled stamps were not to be accepted from anyone else who might have soaked them off the mail and was attempting to use them a second time.

This concern about possible reuse of precancelled stamps was largely irrelevant for the postage due stamps. They were not valid for postage; the general public would have no postal use for them. From the postmaster’s point of view, it was much easier to precancel a pane of 100 postage due stamps spread out on a table in the post office than it was to cancel 100 stamps on envelopes or packages one-by-one. With this incentive to precancel postage due stamps, and with no worry about reuse, many postmasters precancelled the new Large Numeral dues.

1. NEW YORK PEARLS

The most common and quite possibly the most attractive precancel was the New York pearls, shown in Figure 1. The cover that received these precancelled 5¢ brown dues has



Figure 1. A pair of brown 5¢ dues precancelled with black New York pearls. August 20, 1879.



Figure 2. New York pearls precancel on a strip of 50¢ dues.

a New York double-circle due mark with a date of August 20, 1879. This is an early date, but the earliest reported use of the New York pearls is August 1, 1879 [1, p. 23]. New York continued to use this precancel until mid-1887. The latest recorded use is May 7, 1887. As a consequence of these dates, the New York pearls are found on the brown dues, and on the early printings of the red brown dues, but not on the bright clarets. Bower has studied how the New York Post Office was caught with a huge surplus of precancelled 3¢ dues when the domestic postal rate was reduced to 2¢ per half ounce on October 1, 1883 [2].

The New York pearls precancel occurs in all four possible orientations, the stem of the “Y” pointing left, right, up or down. Pointing left, as pictured in Figure 1, and pointing right are common orientations. The vertical orientations are rare. The precancel was impressed with a roller which precancelled one row of stamps at a time. In August 1879, and for a month or two after, the New York Post Office used black ink. Then they changed to blue ink and continued with that color for another seven-and-a-half years. As the New York Post Office was the country’s largest, and the major user of 50¢ Large Numeral dues, most of the cancelled 50¢ brown and red brown Large Numeral dues have the New York pearls precancel. Figure 12 of Chapter 8 displays five pairs of 50¢ red brown dues, each pair precancelled with the New York pearls. Figure 2 shows a strip of three 50¢ dues with bright blue New York pearls precancels.

2. CHICAGO PEARLS, CHICAGO “C,” ETC.

The Chicago Post Office also precancelled the new postage due stamps. Like New York, Chicago adopted an oval of “pearls.” Inside the oval there was a large “C” with the letters “PO” inside the “C.” Figure 3 shows this Chicago pearls design, a second Chicago precancel, the Chicago “C” and, for comparison, the New York pearls. The Chicago precancels, and some later Chicago precancels, have been illustrated and discussed in detail by Bower [3-5]. The Chicago pearls precancel was in use for only a brief period in 1880. Figure 4 shows this precancel on an overweight cover addressed to Chicago. The choice of purple ink for this precancel and for the Chicago “C” was unfortunate: the purple precancels show up very poorly.

In 1881, the Chicago pearls precancel was replaced by the Chicago “C.” Purple ink was used initially. In a matter of months, the ink was changed to black, as required by postal regulations. This Chicago “C” was used during the years 1881-1884 approximately. In late 1883, Chicago introduced a precancel of three black bars struck horizontally or vertically on the stamp. The three bars were each about 4 mm thick. The two spaces were each about 4 mm wide, giving the width of the three-bar pattern as 20 mm. Bower related that covers with postage due stamps with this three-bar precancel are known from before October 1883 (3¢ rate cover) through May 1887 [4].

In 1887, the Chicago Post Office began to precancel postage due stamps with three wavy black lines. The lines range from 1 to 1 1/2 mm in width, with a spacing of 6 to 9 mm between the lines. The precancel appears doubled on some stamps: an example is shown

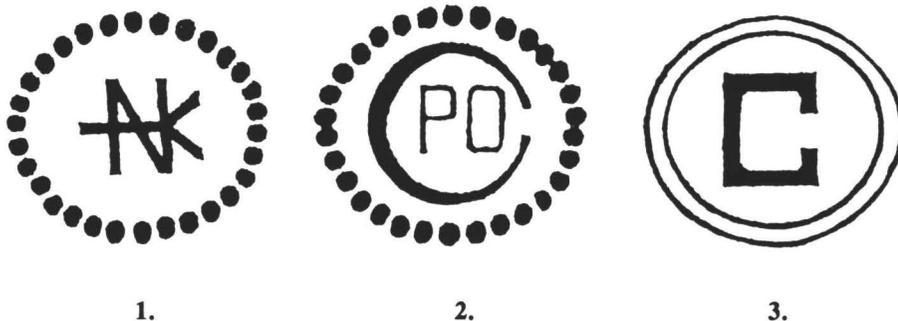


Figure 3. The New York pearls, 20 mm across, the Chicago pearls, 21 mm across and the Chicago C, 20 mm across.

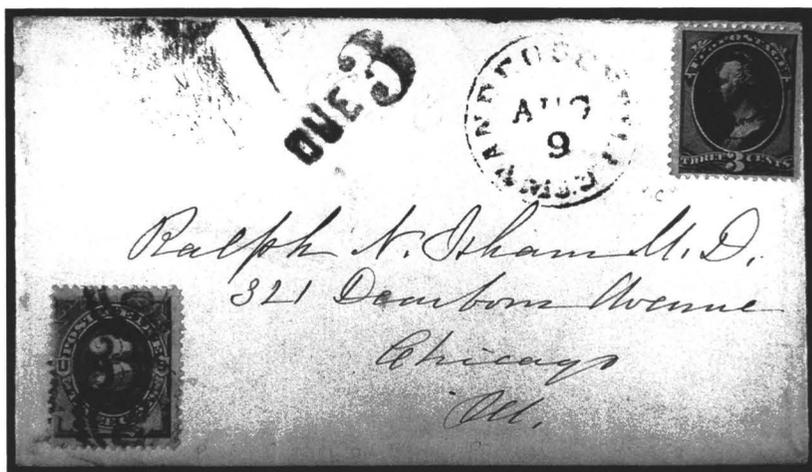


Figure 4. Overweight and DUE 3. Received with a 3¢ brown J3 precancelled with purple Chicago pearls.

in Figure 5. This cover was advertised and assessed 1¢ for the advertising. The precancelled postage due stamp is an unusual brown red, possibly a nonfluorescent claret. The regularity and evenness of the spacing of the wavy lines suggests that this was a new precancel and not just the three-wavy-line precancel impressed twice. Two examples of the wavy-line precancels are included in Figure 6. Chicago continued to use these wavy-line precancels through 1892 and probably for another year or two.

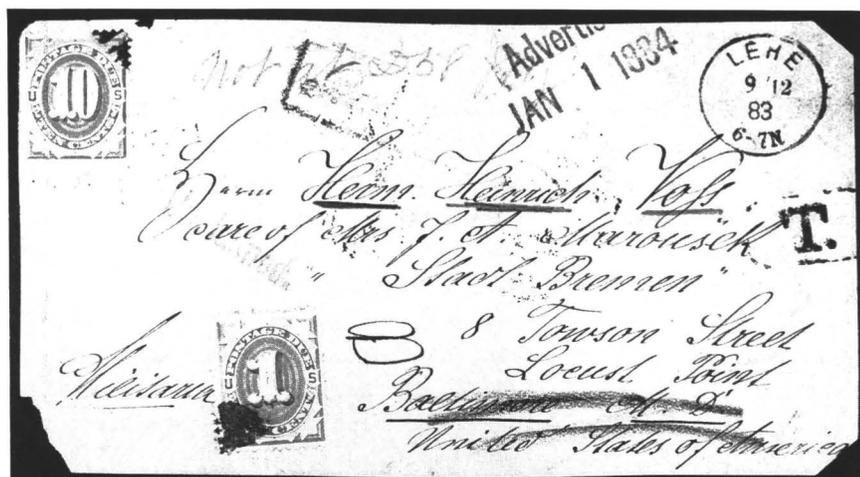


Figure 7. A German military notice, unpaid and unclaimed. Ten cents due for unpaid U. P. U. postage, 1¢ for advertising. The 1¢ J15 and the 10¢ J19, both orange brown, have Baltimore corner precancels.

Table 1 summarizes these Chicago precancels with the approximate period of use and the color of the ink used.

Table 1. Chicago precancels

Years of Use	Precancel Name	Color of Ink
1880	Chicago pearls	purple
1881-1882	Chicago C	purple (1881) black (1881-1882)
1883-1887	Three bars	black
1888-1892	Three wavy lines	black
1890	Narrow-spaced wavy lines	black

3. BALTIMORE CORNER PRECANCELS

The Baltimore Post Office precancelled many of the Large Numeral dues, but used a technique totally different from the rollers used in New York and Chicago. Baltimore postal clerks precancelled four postage due stamps at a time by placing the cancellation at the intersection of four stamps. This was similar to the method used for the Wheeling grid control cancels [6] on the 5¢ Franklins and the 10¢ Washingtons of 1847. Three forms of Baltimore's corner precancels are illustrated in Figure 6. The cover, actually a folded letter, that carries the precancelled 1¢ due shown as No. 4, is pictured in Figure 7. The 10¢ due on this cover also appears to have a corner precancel, but it's not clear what the rest of this particular precancel looks like. The letter is a German military notice. As the dates in the caption for Figure 6 indicate, Baltimore used such corner precancels throughout the 1880's and perhaps longer.

4. PUNCH PRECANCELS

Probably the strangest postage due precancels were the punched precancels of Baltimore, Md., and Binghamton, N. Y.

BALTIMORE HEART-PUNCH PRECANCEL

These Baltimore precancelled dues show one or two punches, leaving heart-shaped holes in the stamp. When found on cover, the holes are only in the stamp and not through the cover, thus making it clear that the punched hearts were precancels. Figure 8 shows a cover from England, prepaid only one penny instead of five pence. The deficiency, doubled, led to the 16¢ charge. This was paid with a strip of three 5¢ J4 dues and, presumably, a 1¢ due that is missing. Each of the 5¢ stamps shows two heart-shaped punches. The punches are in different positions in each stamp, which indicates that the stamps of the strip were punched one-by-one, a somewhat laborious process. In England, the cover was dated August 6, 1879. The Baltimore date was August 18 (1879). These precancels have been

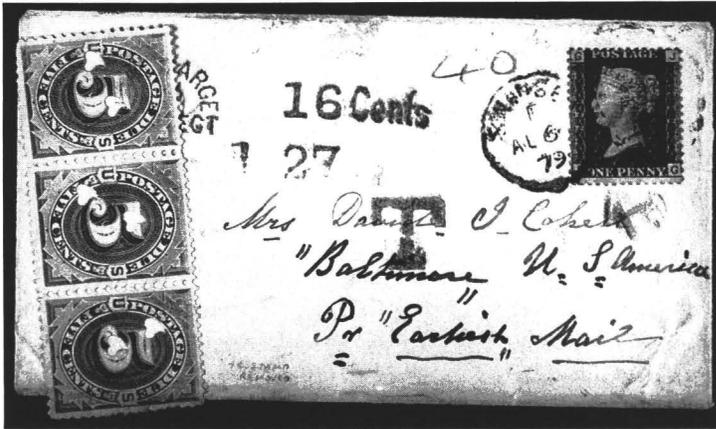


Figure 8. Overweight and prepaid only domestic rate for single weight. Short four pence, doubled to due 16¢. Strip of three 5¢ brown J4 dues, each with Baltimore heart-punch precancel. A 1¢ due is missing. August 18, 1879.

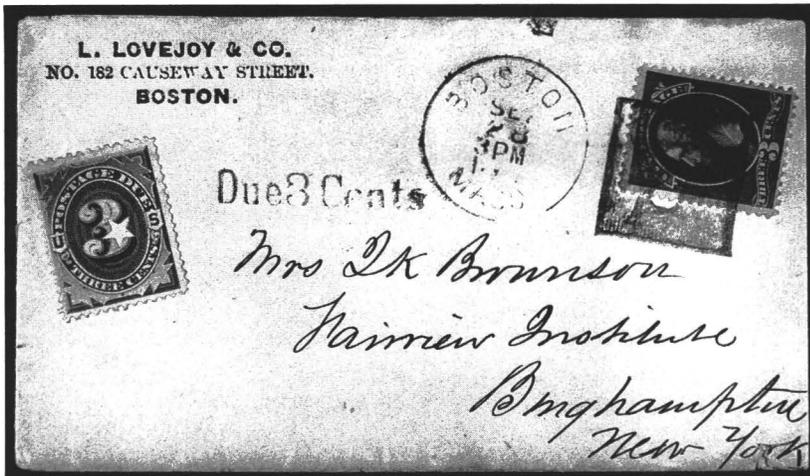


Figure 9. Overweight from Boston to Binghamton, N. Y., due 3¢. Three cents brown J3 with the Binghamton star punch precancel. September, probably 1879.

known and mentioned in the literature since 1936 [7]. Bower has discussed these Baltimore heart-punch precancels and has given 1879 and early 1880 as the period of usage [8]. Another example is shown in Figure 9 in Chapter 6.

BINGHAMTON STAR-PUNCH PRECANCEL

One other city adopted the punch technique for precancelling postage due stamps: the Binghamton, N. Y., Postmaster punched five-pointed stars in his postage dues. Figure 9 shows the Binghamton star-punch precancel. The cover bears no year date, but the year was probably 1879. It is a simple overweight cover, due 3¢, with a fancy Boston cancel on the 3¢ postage stamp and a rare star-punch precancel on the 3¢ brown postage due stamp.

Close-up photos of the Baltimore heart and the Binghamton star punch precancels are shown in Figure 10. The Baltimore heart stamp is from the steamboat cover, Figure 9 of Chapter 6. The Binghamton star stamp appears on the cover of Figure 9 above.



Figure 10. Close-up photos of the Baltimore heart and the Binghamton star punch precancels. Both were used in the 1879-1880 period.

5. BARS AND LINES

The preceding sections of this chapter have presented a number of very special and easily identified precancels. Now we consider the vast array of precancels that are not so special and are not easily identified: the lines and bars. These pose a problem but also present an interesting opportunity.

Figure 5 of Chapter 9 shows two 5¢ red brown J18 dues precancelled with a ruled straight line. From the address on the cover, we conclude that this precancel was applied by the Cleveland, Ohio post office. There is no problem so far. The problem comes when you consider these stamps or other similarly precancelled dues off cover. From an inspection of the stamps themselves, you might conclude that the ruled straight line was a precancel. Using a straight-edge would be easy when precancelling a pane of postage due stamps. It would seem unreasonably time-consuming to thus cancel a due stamp after it had been affixed to cover or package. How could you tell that the precancel came from Cleveland? This is the basic difficulty in collecting off-cover line- or bar-precancelled Large Numeral dues. Later, precancels would include town names, but in the Large Numeral period, the mute lines may have come from any one of many different post offices.

A study of the literature provides only some help. Many of the journal articles have been gathered together by Behrens [9]. A recent book by Souder discusses early precancels [10]. Unfortunately, Souder includes very little information on Large Numeral postage due precancels. Hooper [1, 11] offers a very nice introduction to line and bar precancels and gives references for further study.

Happily, not all of the line or bar precancels are impossible to identify. There are some distinguishable forms. The three-line precancel of St. Louis, shown in Figure 11, is one of these. The cover, from New York, was overweight. The St. Louis postal clerk applied a 3¢ yellow brown due precancelled with the distinctive St. Louis bars. The lines are each about 3 mm wide. The white spaces between the black lines are also about 3 mm wide, giving 15 mm for the overall width of the precancel. This 15-mm-wide, three-bar pattern is obviously different from the 20-mm-wide Chicago three-bar pattern described in Section 2. A cover dated June 1881 bearing this St. Louis precancel on a 1¢ J1 has been reported. Bower has studied this St. Louis precancel and has concluded that it was used through 1892 [12]. The precancel was applied vertically until about 1889, when the orientation was changed to horizontal.

Returning to precancelled dues on cover, there is also an opportunity here. Some collectors like to study the time sequence of cancels and precancels from one city by using dated covers. Bower's study of the usage of the Boston cancels has been discussed in Chapter 10. His records of the Chicago precancels [3-5] are in Section 2 of this Chapter.

Bower and other writers have studied the precancels from a number of other cities and often have worked out the times of use of the different precancels [5, 13].

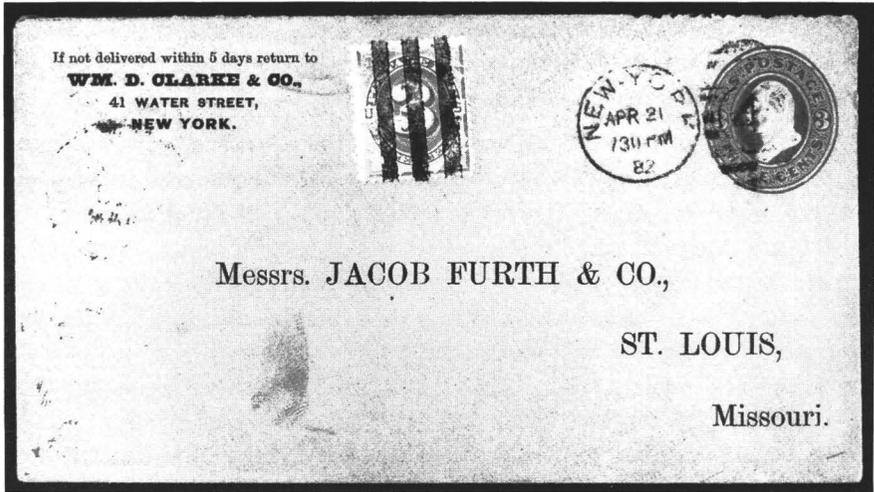


Figure 11. Overweight cover from New York, April 21, 1882. Three cents yellow brown J3 with St. Louis 3-bar cancel.

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- [7] "Punched Hole Precancel from Baltimore, Md." *The Precancel Bee*, vol. 9, p. 309, July 15, 1936.
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APPENDIX A.

SPECIAL STAMPS FOR POSTAGE DUE.

Post Office Department,
Office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General
Division of Postage Stamps, Stamped Envelopes,
and Postal Cards.

Washington, D. C., May 5, 1879.

By Sections 26 and 27 of the act of Congress "making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880, and for other purposes," approved March 3, 1879, it is made the duty of postmasters to affix to all mail matter that has arrived at destination without full payment of postage, and before delivery of the same, an amount of stamps equal to the postage due - the stamps to be of such special design as the Postmaster General may direct.

To avoid any confusion in the accounts of postmasters with the Auditor, and on account of the length of time necessary to prepare for the change contemplated by the above section in the mode of collecting and accounting for short paid postage, it has been decided to have the same go into practical operation on the 1st of July next. The Department, however, will begin issuing, some time during the present month, in anticipation of the wants of postmasters special stamps for the collection of postage due, of denominations of 1, 2, 3 and 5 cents. * * * * The color of all is the same - a reddish brown.

These stamps are intended exclusively for the collection of postage due on matter arriving at destination through the mails, and are to be used in combination wherever required to cover unusual amounts of postage. They are to be canceled in the customary way, after being attached to mail matter, and are never to be sold or received by postmasters for prepayment of postage.

Postmasters must distinctly understand that these stamps are not to be used until the 1st of July, 1879.

A supply of them will be sent at first to all post offices, in advance of requisitions from postmasters, and charged to their account; but afterwards they must be ordered on blank forms (No. 3285) to be furnished by the First Assistant Postmaster General. With the first supply of stamps, however, blank requisitions for future use will be inclosed.

The stamps will be accounted for to the Auditor the same as other stamps, and will enter into the monthly report of stamps &c., received, sold, and on hand, required by the Regulations to be made by postmasters at Presidential offices to the Third Assistant Postmaster General.

On the next page of this circular will be found the sections of the new Postal Laws and Regulations relating to the above described stamps, which are published in advance for the information and guidance of postmasters. The distinguishing numbers of the sections cannot now be given; but the

instructions are here printed in the same order in which they will appear in the forthcoming volume of the new Postal Regulations.

A. D. Hazen

Third Assistant Postmaster General.

APPENDIX B.

USE OF POSTAGE-DUE STAMPS

Post Office Department

Order No. 7.

Washington, D. C., August 15, 1879.

In reply to numerous letters from postmasters throughout the country asking explanations of the law and regulations requiring the use of postage-due stamps, the Department has caused the following circular to be prepared:

1. The post bill or unpaid letter bill is no longer required. Letters or other first-class matter deposited for mailing in a post office with one full rate of postage prepaid thereon, will be marked "Due 3 cents," "Due 6 cents," or whatever the amount may be, and forwarded like other letters. The "transcript of mails received" is also abandoned.

2. Postage-due stamps should never be affixed to insufficiently prepaid letters at the mailing post office, except upon over weight drop or local letters, upon which one full rate has been prepaid, but must always be affixed at the post office of destination, upon the delivery of all insufficiently prepaid matter received in the mail.

3. Postage-due stamps should be affixed upon the delivery of all matter upon which there is a charge, including ship letters, foreign letters, and advertised letters, as well as upon the delivery of all matter over-weight which the mailing postmaster has failed to charge up. It should be borne in mind, however, that no charge for advertising is allowed to be made upon the delivery of advertised letters, except at those six offices which have been expressly authorized by the Department to pay newspapers for publishing the list of undelivered letters, viz.: Baltimore, Md., Boston, Mass., Chicago, Ill., New Orleans, La., New York, N. Y., and Washington, D. C.

4. Postage-due stamps should never be affixed upon the delivery of registered matter. All registered matter received in the mails must be delivered by postmasters without any charge whatever. If the postage stamps upon a registered letter or parcel do not cover the postage and registration fee, the receiving postmaster must not collect the difference from the addressee, but should report the fact to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, who will collect the deficiency from the mailing postmaster.

5. Postage-due stamps must never be affixed to matter which is forwarded by request of the person addressed, returned to writer, or sent to the Dead Letter Office, except at letter-carrier offices.

6. At all ordinary post offices, postage-due stamps are not to be affixed until the delivery of the matter is requested. If the matter is uncalled for it will be returned to the writer, or sent to the Dead Letter Office, just as it was received. If the person addressed requests the letter to be forwarded, upon which there is postage due, it will be forwarded just as it was received, without affixing a postage-due stamp.

7. At letter-carrier post offices, postage-due stamps of the proper amount must be affixed to all matter received by mail upon which postage is found to be due as soon as the matter is received at the post office. The regulations for the use of postage-due bills in the case of matter forwarded by request, returned to writer, and sent to Dead Letter Office, for this reason, apply only to letter-carrier post offices.

8. Postmasters at the free-delivery post offices receiving a postage-due bill from another free-delivery post office, accompanying a forwarded letter having postage-due stamps affixed and canceled, should at once return the bill with the necessary amount of uncanceled stamps to the postmaster who sent it, and treat the letter in all respects as if it had been originally received and the postage-due stamps affixed thereon at their own post office.

9. Postmasters at all other post offices receiving a postage-due bill from a free-delivery post office will not return the bill nor the stamps until they have delivered the letter and got the money for the stamps, when they will account for the stamps sent back with the bill as sold, and count the postage-due stamps received on the letter as canceled by them. If the forwarded letter is not called for they will return the bill to the postmaster who sent it, and the letter to the Dead Letter Office with the regular return.

10. When an insufficiently prepaid letter is forwarded with postage-due stamps attached and a postage-due bill from a free-delivery post office to a post office at which free delivery has not been established, and such a letter is forwarded to another post office at the request of the person addressed, the postage-due bill should be forwarded with the letter, and the postmaster from whom the letter was received should be advised of this action. It will be the duty of the postmaster who delivers the letter and collects the postage due to return the bill with the proper amount of uncanceled stamps to the postmaster at the said free-delivery office as prescribed in section 274, P. L. & R. 1879.

11. Postage-due stamps must never be sold by postmasters.

12. Postage-due stamps must never be used by postmasters in place of official stamps for prepayment of letters.

13. Postage-due stamps must be accounted for as other postage stamps, and when improperly used or sold will be a charge against the postmaster and his sureties from which he can only be relieved by payment of their value in full.

14. Any uncanceled stamps except official stamps, may be returned with postage-due bills as required under section 274, P. L. & R. 1879.

Very respectfully,
(D. M. Key)
Postmaster General

APPENDIX C.

DATES OF ADHERENCE TO THE GENERAL POSTAL UNION / UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

Charter Members, effective July 1, 1875. (Treaty signed Oct. 9, 1874 in Berne):

Austria, Hungary	[1, p.26]
Belgium	
Denmark, Iceland, Faroe Islands	
Egypt	
Germany	
Great Britain, Malta	
Greece	
Italy	
Luxemburg	
Netherlands	
Norway	
Portugal, Madeira, Azores	
Rumania	
Russia, Asiatic Russia, Finland	
Serbia	
Spain, Balearic Islands, Canaries, N. W. Africa, W. Morocco	
Sweden	
Switzerland	
Turkey, Asiatic Turkey	
United States of America	
Montenegro	July 1, 1875

Charter Member, effective January 1, 1876:

France, Algeria [1, p.34]

Later Additions:

Gibraltar	January 1, 1876	[4, 6]
British India (including British Burma), Aden	July 1, 1876	[2, 9]
French Colonies (except Bassam, Assinie and Tamatave)	July 1, 1876	

Bermuda	April 1, 1877	
British Guiana	April 1, 1877	
Ceylon	April 1, 1877	
Hong Kong	April 1, 1877	
Jamaica	April 1, 1877	
Labuan	April 1, 1877	
Mauritius, Seychelles and Dependencies	April 1, 1877	
Straits Settlements	April 1, 1877	
Trinidad	April 1, 1877	
Tunis (Italian post office)	April 1, 1877	
Netherlands Colonies in Asia, Oceanica, and America	May 1, 1877	
Spanish Colonies in Africa, Asia, Oceanica and America	May 1, 1877	[11]
Tunis (French post office)	May 1, 1877	
Tangier (French post office)	May 1, 1877	
Japan	June 1, 1877	
Portuguese Colonies	June 1, 1877	[12]
Brazil	July 1, 1877	
Hong Kong post offices at Canton, Swatow, Amoy, Foo-Chow, Ningpo, Shanghai and Hangkow (China)	August 18, 1877	
Danish Colonies of St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John	September 1, 1877	
Greenland	September 1, 1877	
Persia	September 1, 1877	
Shanghai (French post office)	October 1, 1877	
Cambodia (French post office)	January 1, 1878	
Tonquin (French post office)	January 1, 1878	
Argentine Republic	April 1, 1878	
Hong Kong post offices at Hai-Phung and Hainoi (Tonquin)	April 23, 1878	
Canada	August 1, 1878	[2, 3]
Soodan [Egypt, July 1, 1875]	August 14, 1878	
Cyprus [Turkey, July 1, 1875, British colony, July 1, 1878]	December 20, 1878	
British Colonies on west coast of Africa: Gold Coast, Gambia, Lagos, Sierra Leone	January 1, 1879	
Falkland Islands	January 1, 1879	
British Honduras	January 1, 1879	
Newfoundland	January 1, 1879	
Andorra [served via Spain, July 1, 1875]	April 1, 1879	
Honduras	April 1, 1879	

Ionian Isles	April 1, 1879
Liberia	April 1, 1879
Liechtenstein [Austria, July 1, 1875]	April 1, 1879
Mexico	April 1, 1879
Monaco	April 1, 1879
Nubia	April 1, 1879
Peru	April 1, 1879
San Marino [Italy, July 1, 1875]	April 1, 1879
Salvador	April 1, 1879
Tripoli	April 1, 1879
British Leeward Islands: Antigua, Dominica, Nevis, St. Kitts, Tortula	July 1, 1879
Bulgaria [Turkey, July 1, 1875]	July 1, 1879
Venezuela	January 1, 1880
Bahama Islands	July 1, 1880
Ecuador	July 1, 1880
French Colonies of Grand Bassam and Assinie (Dependencies of Gaboon)	July 1, 1880
Uruguay	July 1, 1880
Dominican Republic	October 1, 1880
Grenada	February 1, 1881
St. Lucia	February 1, 1881
Tobago	February 1, 1881
Turk's Island	February 1, 1881
Chile	April 1, 1881
Columbia	July 1, 1881
Haiti	July 1, 1881
Paraguay	July 1, 1881
Guatemala	August 1, 1881
Barbados	September 1, 1881
St. Vincent	September 1, 1881
Hawaiian Islands [annexed by U. S. in 1898]	January 1, 1882
Nicaragua	May 1, 1882
Costa Rica	January 1, 1883
Tamatave	January 1, 1883
Siam	July 1, 1885

Congo	January 1, 1886	
Bolivia	April 1, 1886	
Samoan Islands (German post office)	February 1887	
Cameroons	June 1, 1887	
Gibraltar postal agencies at Tangier, Laraiche, Rabat, Casablanca, Saffi, Mazagan, and Mogodor (Morocco)	February 22, 1888	
Togo	June 1, 1888	
South-West Africa Territory	July 1, 1888	
Tunis [France, June 1, 1878]	July 1, 1888	
Marshall Islands	October 1, 1888	
Zanzibar (German post office)	April 1, 1889	
North Borneo	February 1, 1891	
Territory of East Africa	April 1, 1891	
Australian Colonies, New Zealand, Fiji, British New Guinea	October 1, 1891	[13, 14]
Bosnia-Herzegovina [Turkey, July 1, 1875]	July 1, 1892	
Natal	July 1, 1892	
Oil River Colonies (informal acceptance)	1892	[4]
South African Republic (Transvaal)	January 1, 1893	
Cape Colony	January 1, 1895	[4, 7]
British East Africa	December 1, 1895	[4, 8]
Zanzibar	December 1, 1895	[4, 8]
British Bechuanaland	1895	[4]
St. Helena, Ascension	October 1, 1896	[4, 10]
Orange Free State	January 1, 1898	[5, 10]
Korea	January 1, 1900	[14]
China	March 1, 1914	[10]

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- [10] James Bendon, *U. P. U. Specimen Stamps*, 1989; U. P. U. membership dates compiled by James Negus.
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- [12] Negus [10] gives July 1, 1877, for the Portuguese colonies.
- [13] Starnes [9] gives August 1891 for the Australian colonies.
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