

**THE TOPPAN CARPENTER CASILEAR ISSUE
OF 1851-60 -- IMPRINT USAGES ON COVER**

Until 1894, all postage stamp production was contracted to private security printers. From the first regularly issued postage stamps, these printers identified themselves on their product through imprints on the stamp or sheet margins. This followed a common tradition among security printers and served predominantly as a form of free advertising.

In 1851, Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. was awarded the stamp production contract. This contract specified that the dies and plates for this issue would be the property of the United States Government. This was a departure from the previous issue, where the engravers retained ownership of the dies and plates.

Stamps of this issue were printed in sheets of 200 divided into two panes of 100 each. An identifying imprint extending the height of four stamps was placed along the left and right sides of the press sheets, outside of the image area of the stamps. Later, each plate in service received a number on the second line of the imprint. No one has yet found any reference or specifications for this imprint or the requirement to assign plate numbers in any correspondence between the printers and the Government.

Only four percent of the stamps printed by Toppan, Carpenter directly adjoined an imprint. The vast majority of these were cut away or detached prior to use. Therefore, imprint copies on cover are rare remnants of the hand of the engraver and printer carrying through the usage of the stamp.

This exhibit shows usages of the stamps of the issue of 1851 to 1860 with the imprints and/or plate number markings remaining. When possible, unusual rates, routes or usages were selected to show the imprint examples.

FIRST STATE OF TOPPAN CARPENTER CASILEAR IMPRINT - ONE LINE WITHOUT PLATE NUMBER

Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS, Phila., New York, Boston & Cincinnati.



1851 3¢ Orange Brown, position 41L5E - Newport, RI to Lyme, CT; Forwarded, due 5¢

ISSUE OF 1851-56
 TOPPAN, CARPENTER, CASILEAR & CO.

Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS, Phila., New York, Boston & Cincinnati.
 No 1



1¢ Blue, Type IV, Plate 1 Late - Positions 51-53L1L showing part of plate number '1' added to the imprint with this second version of the plate. PF Cert 394081



1¢ Blue, Type II, Plate 2 – Imprint Position 51L2 – June 17, 1856, Richmond, VA to Greenfield, VA.

Shortly after the beginning of production, a plate number was added outside of the imprints. This change in identification may have been the result of need to keep better track of plate wear and repairs. Each denomination received plate numbers beginning with number 1.

TYPE OF THE TIMES.

AN INDEPENDENT WEEKLY PHONETIC PAPER, & DEVOTED TO ALL THE TRUE INTERESTS OF MAN.

It is partly printed in the new orthography, which any one, who understands the old system, can read the end, after a few minutes' study. In patronizing a paper of this kind you will be promoting a good cause.

TERMS, 1 copy, \$3; 2 copies, \$5; invariably in advance. Office, Vine st. bt. 4th & 5th streets.

—LONGLEY BROTHERS, EDITORS & PUBLISHERS.—

LINO. IS PRINTED BY THE ABOVE FIRM.

THE MONTHLY YOUTH'S FRIEND.

An elegant illustrated paper, devoted to the Moral, Intellectual and Physical Improvement of the Young, 30 cents a year.

3 copies, by air, for \$1.

TO
 CINCINNATI.



The Spelling Reform.

FONOTIPI iz a rasjonal sistem ov speliw wurdz az da qr pronsnst, bj empleig an enlqrdj al-fabet kontaniw a separat leter for eq sænd, bj hwiq menz de drajeri ov lernij tu spel iz entrlj dispenst wid, and lernij tu red iz akomplift in wun-ford ov de tjm rekwiwd in de old wa.

"The children you exhibited had certainly made wonderful proficiency; and were in several of the essentials of good enunciation and reading, years in advance of most children taught in the old way."

HORACE MANN.

The Writing Reform.

PHONOGRAPHY is a truly philosophical method of writing the English language, with an Alphabet composed of the simplest geometrical signs, which accurately represent the sounds of spoken words. It may be written six times as fast as the ordinary longhand, and is equally as legible; and such is the simplicity of the art that its principles may be mastered in a few weeks, even without the aid of a teacher.

"We regard Phonography as one of the most important inventions of the age."—FOWLER & WILLS.

"Had this art been known forty years ago, it would have saved me twenty years of hard labor."—SENATOR BENTON.



Sole Agent for the State of Ohio, C. Casilear & Co. Bank Street, N.Y.

A. T. Starbuck

Oreg. Oreg. Oreg.

N.Y.

For Books, Periodicals, &c., Address Longley Brothers, Cincinnati, O.

Position 41L1L on Phonography advertising cover showing "No" from second line of imprint.

41L2L



Me

Beruyah Prutofuby

Oxford

Maine

Plate 2 Late – Positions 41L2L

ISSUE OF 1851-56
 TOPPAN, CARPENTER, CASILEAR & CO.



Pair with imprint and plate no. 3
 Positions 41 and 51L3 - Paying 6¢
 rate for letters over 3000 miles that
 was in effect from July 1, 1851 to
 March 31, 1855. Color indicates a
 1853 or 1854 usage.



Position 50R3.
 Albany, New York
 "STEAM / BOAT" marking
 indicating receipt at the
 mails from the captain of a
 non-contract ship. Albany
 commonly did not add its
 datestamp to such items.



Position 60R5L - Second
 line of imprint added to this
 plate when plate was
 reworked in 1855.

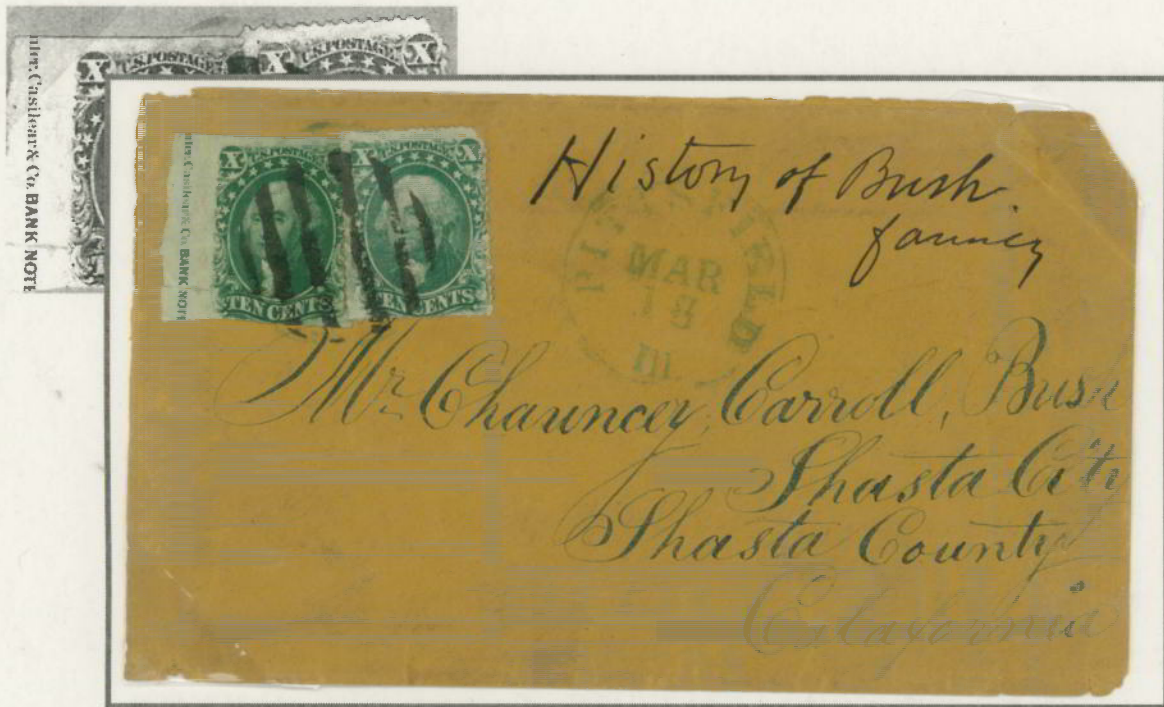
ISSUE OF 1851-56
TOPPAN, CARPENTER, CASILEAR & CO.



Positions 65-70R4 – September 14, 1856 – Shieldsborough, MS, through New York and London, to Paris. 21¢ rate to France paid by imprint strip of six of the 3¢ issue and 3¢ Nesbitt stamped envelope. Black French “13” *decimes* due for French delivery.



ISSUE OF 1851-56
TOPPAN, CARPENTER, CASILEAR & CO.



Westbound – Imprint position 41L1 – Pittsfield, IL to Shasta City, CA – Double 10¢ transcontinental rate with 1857 perforated example.
Only known example combining 10¢ imperforate and perforate issues with an imprint adhesive



Eastbound – Position 70R1 – Yankee Jim, CA to North Middleboro, MA – 10¢ transcontinental rate
Fewer than 10 imperforate covers with imprints are known

ISSUE OF 1857-60
 TOPPAN, CARPENTER & CO.

Toppan, Carpenter, & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS, Phila. New York, Boston & Cincinnati.
 N°11



Position 41L7 on 1860 circular from Boston



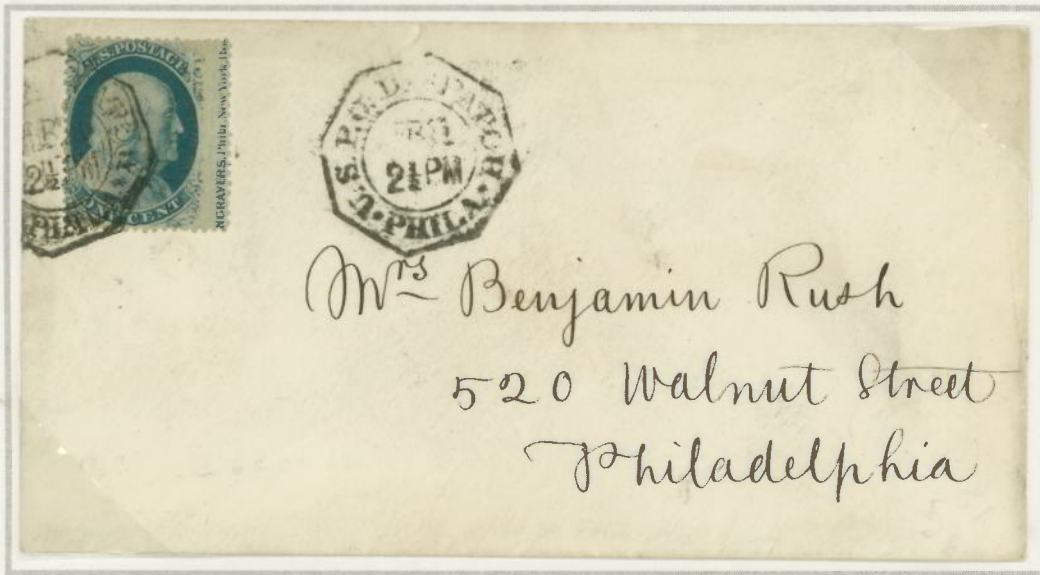
Position 51L7 with misperforation capturing part of plate number 7.

June 1, 1861 – San Francisco, CA to France. Likely misinterpretation of the rates with the sender paying the 10 cent transcontinental rate *plus* the 15 cent rate to France. Usages of 1¢ 1857 issues from West Coast post offices are unusual, as few rates from California required their stocking.



In 1857, new plates with spacing for perforations provided the opportunity to remove the name “Casilear,” who left the firm in 1854. Plate numbers for each denomination continued from imperforate plate numbers for each denomination.

ISSUE OF 1857-60
TOPPAN, CARPENTER & CO.

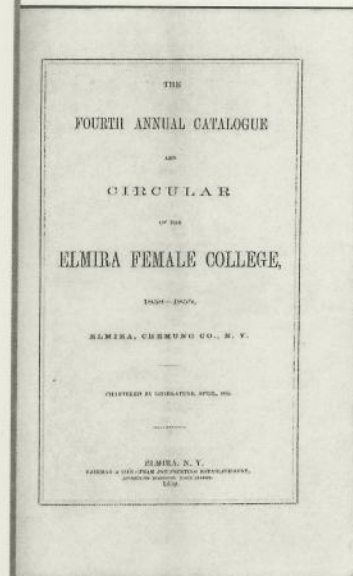
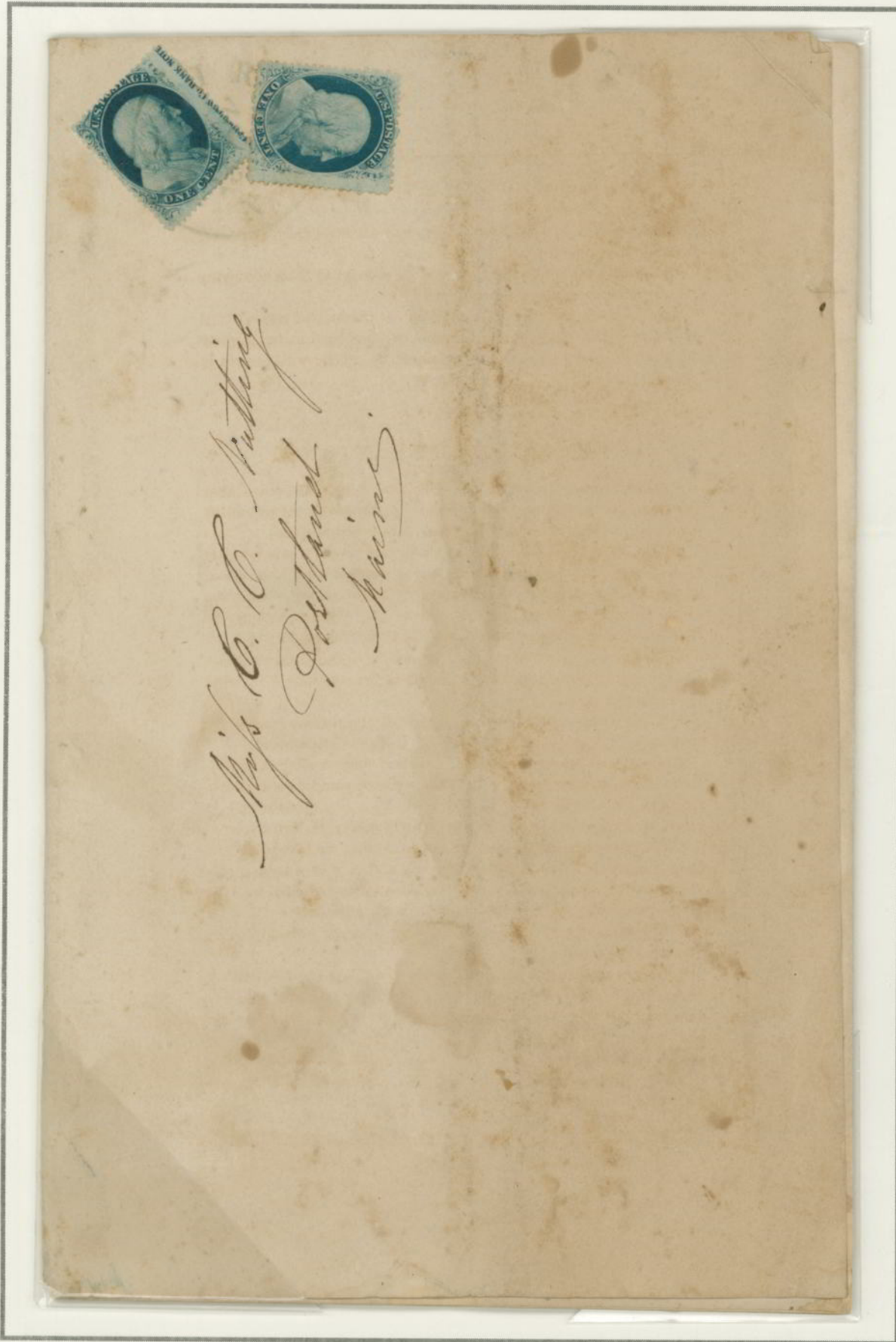


Position 50R8 - Paying 1¢ local carrier rate. Octagonal "USPO Dispatch Phila." datestamp showing 2:30 PM scheduled pickup.



Positions 41-61L8 - Orleans, IN to New Alban, MO -
Strip of three with most of first line of imprint on single rate letter.

ISSUE OF 1857-60
TOPPAN, CARPENTER & CO.



Scan of title page

Positions 65-70R4 – September 14, 1856 – Elmira, NY to Portland, ME. Two 1¢ adhesives, one with partial imprint, paying the printed matter rate on a 36 page catalog from Elmira Female College. Addressed and stamped on the inside of the back cover, which was folded over face for mailing.

ISSUE OF 1857-60
TOPPAN, CARPENTER & CO.



Imprint Positions 45-50R24 – November 20, (1860) – Stockton, Maine - Addressed to the Captain of the brig Crimea at **St. Thomas, West Indies**. Postmaster tore off the bottom portion of one stamp and folded the remaining portion before applying the datestamp. Apparent 1¢ underpayment of the 34¢ **British open mail rate through Havana**.



Position 50R25 – New Washington, PA to Philadelphia, PA – Includes part of plate number and “P.” likely abbreviating the word “Plate.” With only two exceptions, all plate numbers from 9 to 28 were followed by the letter “P.”

ISSUE OF 1857-60
TOPPAN, CARPENTER & CO.



May 16, 1858 - La Porte, California - to Nova Scotia, Canada. Apparent 1¢ overpayment of the 15¢ rate from California to Canada. Imprint position 41L shows 'Chin flaw' variety and is from one of the two as yet unidentified plates (either plate 13 or 17).



Positions 69-70R15 with 1¢ Type II position 1R4 on 3¢ entire - Princeton, IA to Jackson, CA - Paying 10¢ rate for mail crossing Rocky Mountains.



December 1860. New Orleans, LA, through Boston to France. Red “Boston / 24 DEC / PAID / 6” exchange office datestamp and black January 5, 1860 French transit stamp. Black boxed “P.D.” indicates that the cover was paid to destination.

Only known cover with an imprint multiple of the 5¢ type I stamp

Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS, Phila. New York, Boston & Cincinnati.

A survey of auction records of dated covers from New Orleans reveals that type I stamp usage exceeds that of type II for six months after the introduction of the type II stamps in other cities. As New Orleans was one of the greatest consumers of 5¢ stamps, this indicates there was likely a large stock of the type I stamps within the city at the time of the type II introduction.

ISSUE OF 1857-60
 TOPPAN, CARPENTER & CO.



Positions 31-33L2 – August 22, 1860 – Newport, RI to France. Double the 15¢ rate to France through Boston.



March 1, 1861 - Strip of four (positions 41-44L2) and two singles paying double 30¢ rate from San Francisco, through New York, to Germany.

ISSUE OF 1857-60
 TOPPAN, CARPENTER & CO.

Position 51L2 - On mourning
 cover to Santiago, Cuba.
 Oval "NA1" signifying North
 American origin (*Nave
 Americano*) and 1 *real due*.



Positions 61-63L2 – July 25, 1860 – Richmond, VA, through New York and London to **Melbourne, Australia**. Imprint strip of three with 3¢ paying the 33¢ rate by British mail via Southampton. Red “Melbourne OC 12 60” receiving mark on verso. PF Cert 359416

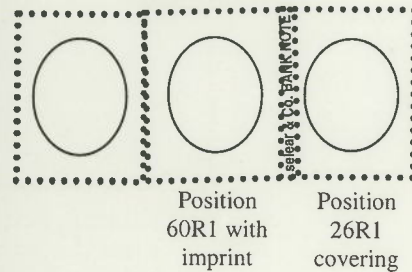
ISSUE OF 1857-60
 TOPPAN, CARPENTER & CO.



Positions 51-52L1 – April 10, 1860 – Cleveland, Ohio Loughborough, England Imprint pair of three with 12¢ paying the 24¢ treaty rate to Great Britain. Red “3” signifying credit to Britain of 3 cents for internal postage, as U.S. retained 3¢ domestic carriage and 16¢ for transatlantic carriage . Red “PAID / AP 25 60 / London” receiving datestamp. PF Cert 359416



Trace of imprint visible between stamps. Under strong backlight, the rest of the imprint is visible under right adhesive



April 4, 1860 – Through Boston, MA to Rome, Italy. 27¢ Rate by French mail.

ISSUE OF 1857-60
 TOPPAN, CARPENTER & CO.
 IMPRINT VARIETIES AND ERRORS

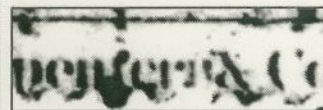


Plate 9 - "Carpenterar"
 imprint variety present in
 both left and right imprints



50-70R9

41L9 on 1860
 Lincoln campaign
 cover



Position 51L28
 "Carpenter.r" imprint variety

Brooklyn, NY to Williamstown, MA

In October, 1854, Casilear left the firm, the name being changed to "Toppan Carpenter & Co." It was not until more than two years later that any attempt was made to omit the name "Casilear" from the imprint. Toppan Carpenter transferred the first part of the imprint from the old transfer roll, rotated the roll and transferred the rest of the imprint. Poor execution caused a number of imprint varieties.

ISSUE OF 1857-60
 TOPPAN, CARPENTER & CO.
 ADVERTISING USAGES

1¢ Blue Position 4L7 on local letter from Indiana Asbury University, Greencastle, IN. Corner card listing faculty and teaching areas. School changed its name to DePauw University in 1871 following a \$600,000 contribution from the DePauw family.



Baltimore, MD to Martinsburg, VA. Embossed corner card for Fowler & Zeigler Commission Merchants.



May 18, 1860 – Louisville, KY to Lynchburg, VA. Embossed corner card for John Ward, Tobacco Factor.

ISSUE OF 1857-60
 TOPPAN, CARPENTER & CO.
 USAGE WITH LOCAL POST ADHESIVE



Swarts Dispatch - (1¢) Red – New York, NY to Poland, ME – To the mails private carrier service by Swarts paid by adhesive and cancelled by Swarts grid. 3¢ imprint position 50R3.

PATRIOTIC USAGES



July, (1861) – East Hampshire, MA, to West Chester PA –Marked “Due 3” as the letter likely exceeded ½ oz. Mailed about three months after the attack on Fort Sumter.



Position 70R15 – August, 1859 – Boscewen, NH to Danvers, NH. Sender writes “Go it Buchanan” in selvage probably expressing support for then President James Buchanan.

ISSUE OF 1857-60
 TOPPAN, CARPENTER & CO.
 CONFEDERATE AND POST DEMONETIZATION USAGES



Columbia, SC to Aiken, SC – March 4, (1861)
 1¢ with “Carpentear” imprint variety. Positions 31-51L10. Plate 10 earliest known use is June, 1860 indicating usage in South Carolina following their joining Confederacy on February 8, 1861 and prior to June 1, 1861, when the use of United States stamps stopped in the Confederacy.

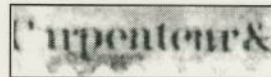


Plate 10 Carpentear imprint variety



October 20, 1862 –
 Fredrick, MD –
Post demonetization usage accepted paying 10¢ transcontinental rate approximately one year after the demonetization of these stamps.

March 1, (1866) –
 San Francisco, CA –
Demonetized 10¢ stamp not accepted as payment of additional 3¢ required postage. Marked "Due 6," reflecting 3¢ postage and 3¢ penalty due.
 PF Cert 346531



**THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY ISSUE
OF 1861-68 — IMPRINT USAGES ON COVER**

Until 1894, all postage stamp production was contracted to private security printers. From the first regularly issued postage stamps, these printers identified themselves on their product through imprints on the stamp or sheet margins. This followed a common tradition among security printers and served predominantly as a form of free advertising.

The requirement to demonetize and replace existing stamps at the beginning of the Civil War, as well as the coming expiration of the contract with Toppan Carpenter, the printers of the currently used issue of 1857, was the impetus for the awarding of a new contract for stamp production during 1861. Postmaster Montgomery Blair awarded the contract to the National Bank Note Company in June 1861 and the first stamps were issued two months later in August of that year.

Stamps of this issue were printed in sheets of 200 divided into two panes of 100 each. The National Bank Note Company placed six engraver imprints on the outside margins of the plate:

- Two copies of a 2-stamp wide horizontal imprint at the top center of each pane
- Two copies of the same imprint, oriented vertically, centered in the left and right sheet margins
- Two copies of a 4-stamp wide, 2-line imprint with plate number at the bottom in the center of each pane

Only eight percent of the stamps printed by the National Bank Note Company directly adjoined an imprint. The vast majority of these were cut away or detached prior to use. Therefore, imprint copies on cover are rare remnants of the hand of the engraver and printer carrying through the usage of the stamp.

This exhibit shows usages of the stamps of the issue of 1861 to 1868 with the imprints and/or plate number markings remaining. When possible, unusual rates, routes or usages were selected to show the imprint examples.



Imprint strip of three of the 1¢ Blue paying 3¢ letter rate from Bryant, IL to Philadelphia
Only known plate number multiple on cover

ISSUE OF 1861-68
NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY

ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW-YORK.
No. 1 Plate.



Three plates, numbered 9, 10, and 27 were used to produce the 150,000,000 1¢ stamps that were issued.

Only six covers are recorded with plate number copies of the 1¢ stamp

On all denominations of this issue, plate numbers appeared only at the bottom of each pane under the imprint. This bottom imprint spanned four stamps.

ISSUE OF 1861-68
NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY
DROP LETTER RATES



September 18, 1861, 1¢ Drop letter rate



September 8, 1863 - 2¢ Drop letter rate in effect July 1, 1863 to May 1, 1865

A "Drop Letter," is a letter that is deposited in a local post office by sender for local delivery. Drop letters were charged a fee of 1¢ (commencing July 1, 1851) until it was revised on July 1, 1863 to become a rate of 2¢ per ½ ounce. On May 1, 1865 the fee was once again reduced for local mail in cities without carrier service.

ISSUE OF 1861-68
NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY
DROP LETTER USAGES



Plate number 29

2¢ local rates – New York, NY and Rochester, NY



Plate number 30

The 2¢ “Black Jack” was put into use in July 1863 as a result of the postal act of March 3, 1863, which abolished carrier fees and established a drop letter rate of 2¢ per ½ ounce. This denomination was printed from seven plates, numbered 28, 29, 30, 31, 50, 51, and 53.

ISSUE OF 1861-68
NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY
LETTER RATE USAGES



January 18, (1869). Woonsocket Falls, RI to Elinville, RI. 3¢ Letter rate. Manuscript "Death" in upper left. Enclosed letter notifies recipient that "Grandfather Sheldon died last evening at eighty. The funeral will be Wednesday at One o'clock PM." Left half of top imprint in selvage.



3¢ Letter rate from Charles City to Lyons, WI. First line of lower imprint in selvage.

ISSUE OF 1861-68
 NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY
 LETTER RATE USAGES



August 29, 1863. New York, NY to Kensico, NY. 3 copies with part of lower imprint paying double 3¢ letter rate on Scientific American advertising cover.

NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY



May, 31 (1867). New York, NY to Westchester, NY. Overpayment of 3¢ letter rate, as the fee for carrier service ended in 1865. Stamps show upper half of side imprint. Side imprint was the same as the top imprint, but positioned vertically at rows five and six.

ISSUE OF 1861-68
NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY
CIRCULAR RATE USAGES



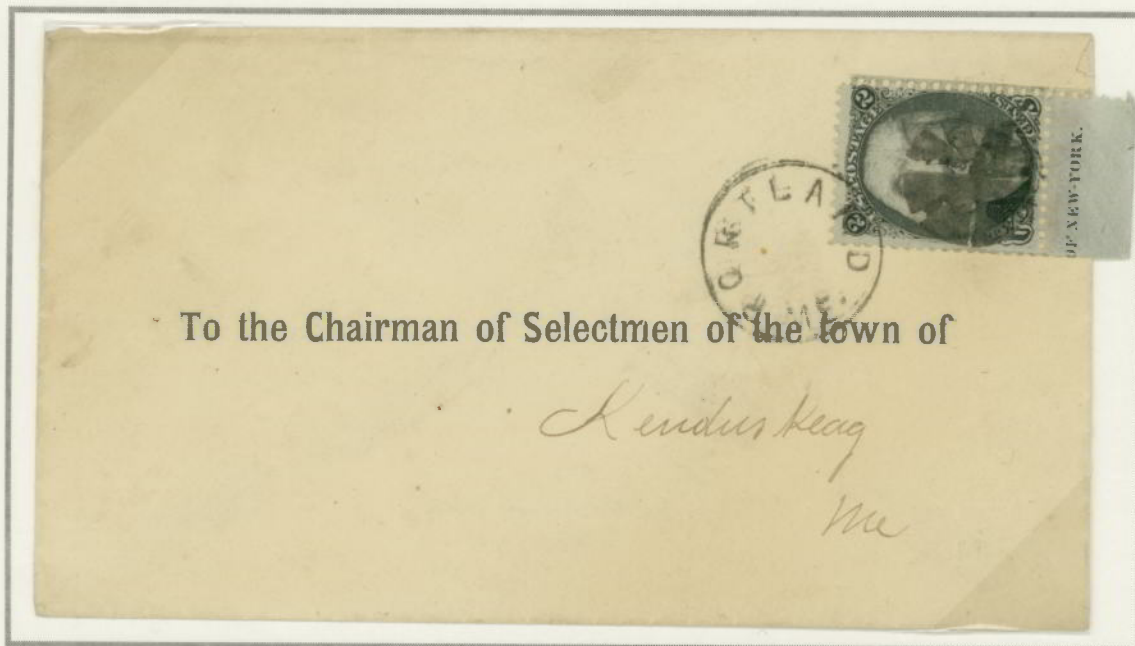
New York, NY to Calmar, Sweden. Printed circular dated November, 30, 1865. 2¢ Black Jack paid local postage and sea postage. Red "PAID ALL" applied in NY to indicate postage paid to Bremen under German postal treaties. Blue "America / Uber Bremen / Franco" transit mark confirms prepayment. Red and blue manuscript "6"s for 6 öre due from that point. Black Malmo January 2, 1866 transit datestamp on verso.

PFCert 220434

ISSUE OF 1861-68
NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY
CIRCULAR RATE USAGES



July 7, 1865. Freeport, IL to Black River Falls, MO. Printed corner card for C. C. Shuler, Printer of Bounty and Pension Blanks. Likely contained advertising circular addressed to another Claim Agent.



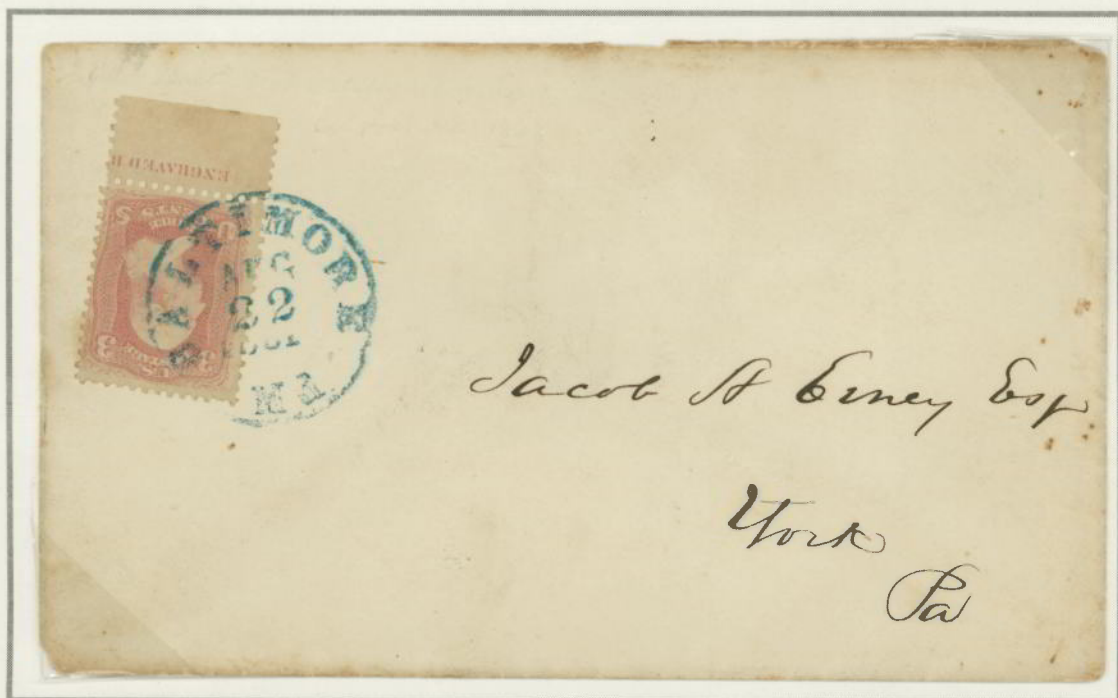
Portland, ME to Kenduskeag, ME. Mailed unsealed. Gum on envelope still fresh. Circulars mailed in envelopes were required to be mailed unsealed to allow inspection by postal authorities. Any handwriting on the circular would disqualify it for reduced rate mailing. Note use of undated Portland, ME cancellation as is typical of circular mail.

ISSUE OF 1861-68
NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY

NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY



September 11 and 15, 1867 - Neighboring stamps from the same sheet sent to the same addressee five days apart. Together, they comprise the **complete top imprint**.

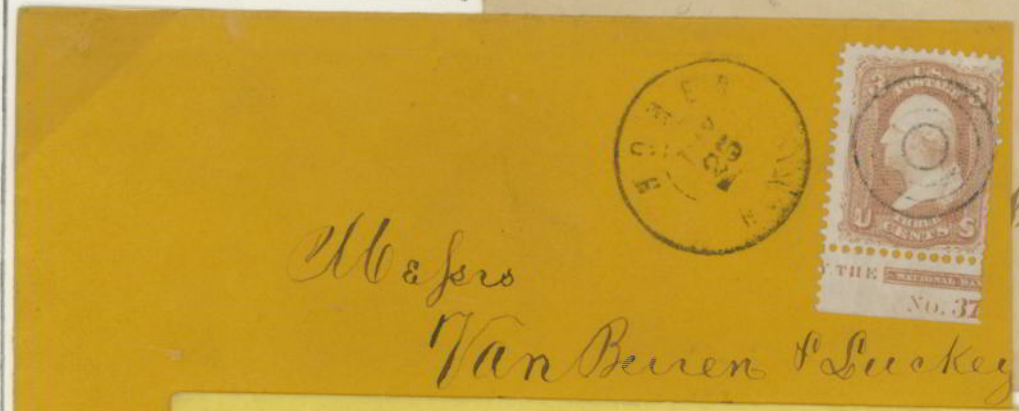


3¢ Pink – August 22, 1861 – Baltimore, MD to York, PA. Used within the **first week of issuance**.
Earliest recorded instance of the any part of the National Bank Note Company imprint

ISSUE OF 1861-68
NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY

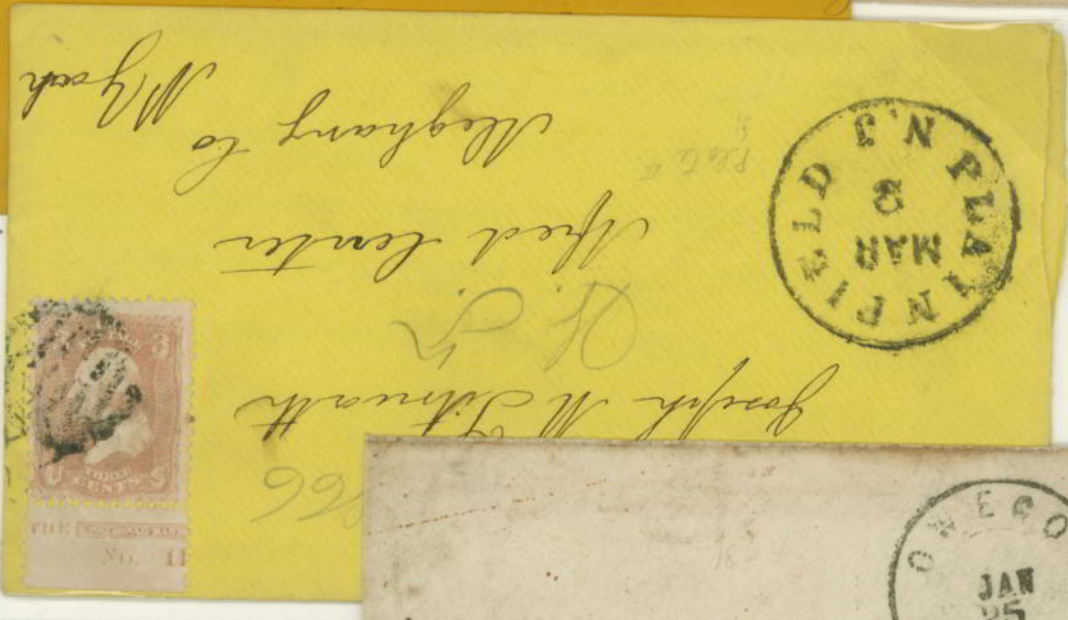


No fewer than 26 plates were used to print the approximately 1,750,000,000 3¢ stamps of the 1861 issue.



B. Mary. Roundly
Springfield
pt

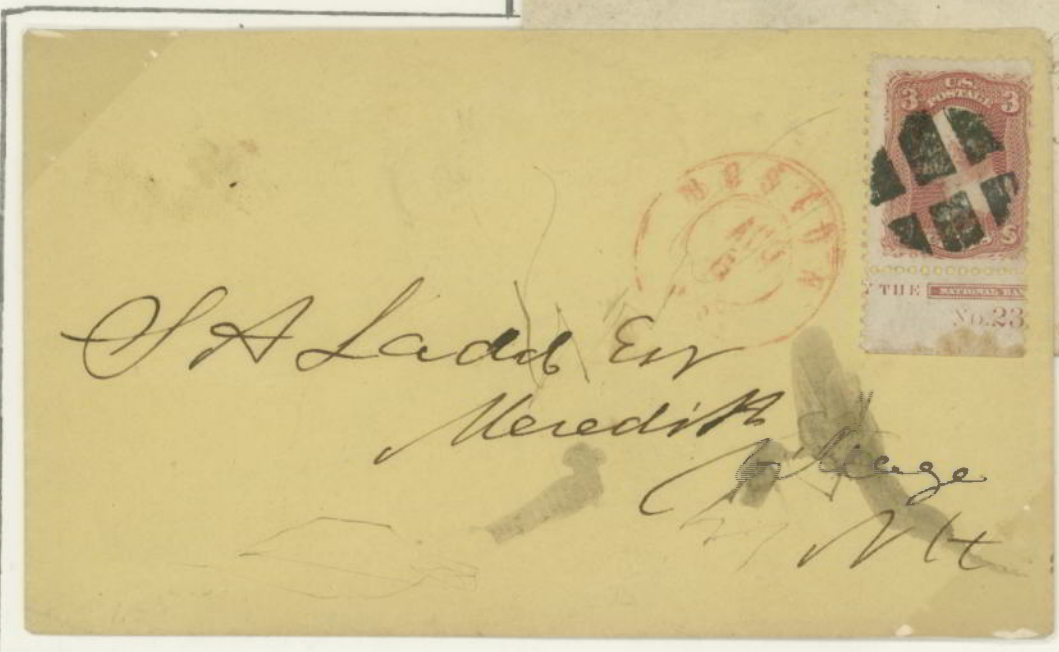
Messrs
Van Buren & Lukey



Joseph M. Johnston
West Center
Maryland to Myrtle



Mr James Hutchins
Alexandria
Va Virginia



J. A. Ladd Esq
Neredit
George
Mt

Pine Box

ISSUE OF 1861-68
NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY
ILLEGAL REVENUE USAGE

Warren, Ohio. April 7, 1869

I hereby certify that William S. Anderson
an applicant for admission to practice at the
Bar as an attorney and Counsellor at Law, is
over the age of Twenty one years, is of good Moral
Character that he is and has been for more than one
year but past a resident of the State of Ohio,
and citizen of the United States, that he has
regularly and attentively studied the Law during
the period of two years past, and that I believe
him to be a person of sufficient legal knowledge
and abilities to discharge the duties of an attorney
and Counsellor at Law

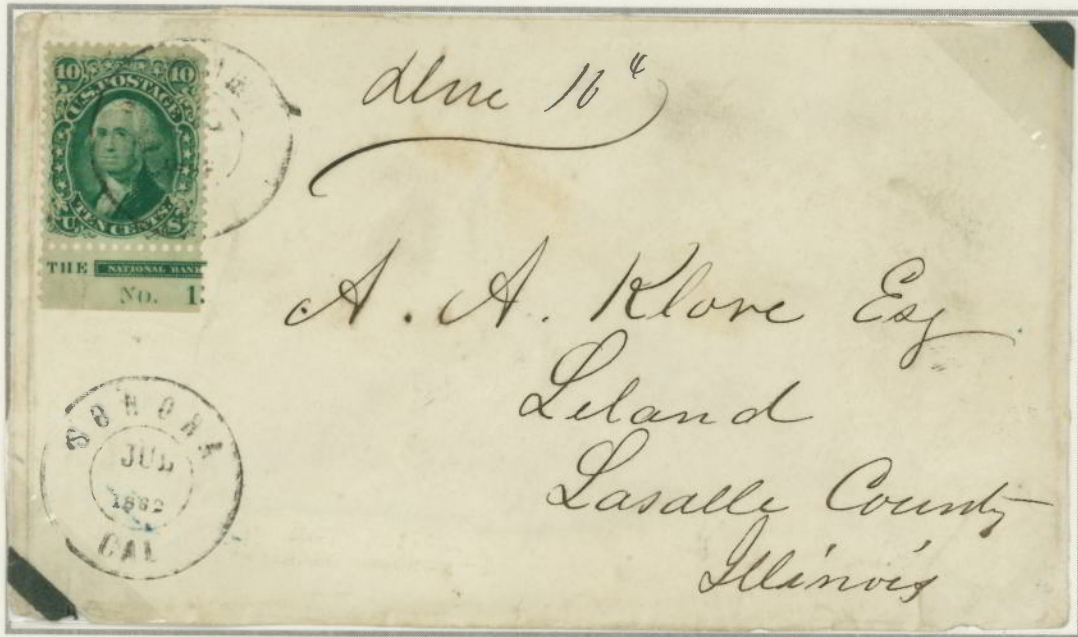
Charles E. Guilem
att. at Law.

J. C. Hutchins
City at Law



April 7, 1869 - Illegal usage of postage stamp, with imprint, to pay 5¢ revenue tax on legal document.
Ironically, the document is attesting to the fitness of a William Henderson to practice law.

ISSUE OF 1861-68
NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY



July 1862 (missing day slug in datestamp). Sonora, CA to Leland, IL
2 times 10¢ transcontinental rate underpaid and "Due 10¢" Imprint and "No. 15"



April 6, 1862 – San Francisco, CA to Orange, NJ. "Plate" and part of number 15. San Francisco
"Cog Wheel" Cancellation

On denominations above the 3¢, imprint copies on cover are decidedly scarce. The two imprint copies on this page are the only recorded plate number imprint copies of the 10¢ on cover. No on-cover copies of plate number 26, the other plate used to print the 10¢ denomination are known.

ISSUE OF 1861-68
NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY



January 5, (1868) – New York to Canada with left half of upper imprint.



December 5, 1867 – New York to Canada with right half of upper imprint.
Black "Quebec / DE 8 / 67 / C.E" backstamp.

ISSUE OF 1861-68
USE OF BRITISH IMPRINT SELVAGE
TO SEAL US COVERS



Position of stamps indicates that selvage was applied prior to mailing from the US

Imprint selvage from British 1d red stamps brought to the United States and used to seal and reinforce envelopes mailed back to London. Though both covers were sealed in the same way, they were addressed by different hands. British imprints carried information on price of stamps and instructions for their use, in addition to plate numbers.

**PICTORIAL ISSUE OF 1869
ENGRAVED AND PRINTED BY NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO.**

Plate 8 - Single rate usage
on advertising cover for
steam engines and
machinery



Plate 8 - Double rate usage
on advertising cover for
Hartford Fire Insurance
Company

Bottom imprint copy
(NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO.)
NEW YORK on narrow envelope
containing family correspondence

