

Key Dates and Correspondence Regarding Problems Experienced by Toppan, Carpenter (1851-61 Era)

<i>Date</i>	<i>From who to whom</i>	<i>Summary of Issue</i>
6/21/51	TCC to John Marron	First delivery to Waller: Some (80,000) were held back due to poor gum; some delivered apparently show signs of haste.
6/23/51	John Marron to TCC	Out of stock. Need more with all haste.
6/24/51	TCC to John Marron	"Private" letter: Problems with gum adhesiveness (sugar used in mixture). Have contacted England for help with gum.
6/24/51	TCC to John Marron	"Private" letter: TCC had problems with color (brilliancy) but now corrected.
6/25/51	TCC to John Marron	Second delivery. Some items delivered are ones for which color will not stand (3c).
6/29/51	John Marron to TCC	Post Office out of 3c and 1c stamps. Send all you can.
7/2/51	TCC to John Marron	"Private." Acknowledges availability problems in getting stamps to postmasters; doing all possible; 15 people from early morning to dusk (plus transients).
7/2/51	TCC to John Marron	Oily, transparent look or appearance is paper size issue; TCC shipping poor items.
7/2/51	Newspaper editorial in Philadelphia Public Ledger [Chase, p. 10]	Editorial discussing inadequate supply for new postage stamps, for which the demand has been very great.
7/2/51	TCC to John Marron	Gumming still an issue; TCC shipping poor items.
7/3/51	Newspaper editorial in Philadelphia Public Ledger [Chase, p. 10]	Another editorial saying demand for new stamps is up significantly due to lower postage rates; supply inadequate.
7/4/51	Newspaper editorial in Philadelphia Public Ledger [Chase, p. 11]	Editorial in Philadelphia newspaper says NYC has similar shortage. Says 2.3 million have been received and dispatched to post offices; 3-400,000 per day manufactured.
7/7/51	Newspaper editorial in Daily Cincinnati Gazette [Chase, p. 11]	Editorial says about 2.3 million have been dispatched to prominent points; 400,000 manufactured per day now.
7/8/51	John Marron to Waller	Get all stamps TCC has. [We have no details or quantities about this delivery.]
7/8/51	Newspaper editorial in Boston Daily Evening Transcript [Chase, p. 11]	Editorial says about 2.3 million have been dispatched to prominent points; 400,000 manufactured per day now.
7/9/51	Newspaper editorial in Philadelphia Public Ledger [Chase, p. 11]	Editorial saying the complaints about lack of sufficient quantities continue.
7/10/51	PMG Hall to TCC [Chase, p. 41]	Regrets TCC inability to furnish more stamps; needs full effort to increase supply; estimates needs 2.5 million per week min, 3-4 million preferred; urgent.
7/10/51	Newspaper article in Daily Cincinnati Gazette [Chase, p. 12]	City Intelligence section of Daily Cincinnati Gazette says demand has increased 50%.
7/11/51	John Marron to PM White of Philadelphia	Get all TCC is prepared to provide. [We have no details or quantities about this delivery.]
7/11/51	TCC to PMG Hall	TCC anticipated large demand for 3c and made two plates, which were worked double; will at once engrave another 3c plate.
7/14/51	SA Howland to John Marron [National Archives]	SA Howland wants stamp contract for New England states. [This letter was apparently written as TCC was having trouble keeping up with demand.]

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7/16/51	Newspaper editorial in Philadelphia Public Ledger [Chase, p. 12]	Editorial complaining that the three cent stamps are useless because the gum does not stick.
7/17/51	John Marron to TCC	Marron directs TCC to make only 3c stamps.
7/17/51	Newspaper editorial from Boston Evening Transcript [Chase, p. 12]	Editorial repeating Philadelphia Ledger complaints about gum, and repeating an editorial from Providence Journal encouraging prepayment by stamps.
7/18/51	Newspaper article in Daily Cincinnati Gazette [Chase, p. 12]	The demand for postage stamps is great and the government cannot supply it.
7/19/51	Newspaper editorial from Philadelphia Public Ledger [Chase, p. 13]	Editorial complaining that the stamps do not stick; some say it is operator error (i.e., too much wetting by tongue)
7/24/51	John Marron to TCC	Necessary to engrave 4th plate of 3c; due to demand and to avoid delays which retouching of plates necessary.
8/4/51	TCC to John Marron	Responds to gum complaints; TCC says: limited to first two weeks, but still in post offices far and wide; remedied. Now using best gum Arabic, mixed with white glue; Lowell sample equivalent, but has ordered a barrel, for use. Samples sent.
8/4/51	TCC to PM White (of Philadelphia)	This is the first delivery of 12c stamps (for which we have a record) to the Post Office from TCC since the end of June.
8/5/51	John Marron to TCC	Post offices have been supplied with stamps (initial load in is complete); can reduce future shipments to weekly delivered every Monday; future shipments 1.5 million stamps of which .1 is 1c and 1.4 is 3c. Printing of other values resumes about now.
8/8/51	TCC to John Marron	Carpenter is going to London and Paris re gum issues. Leaves on Pacific on 8/16/51, and will be absent about 2 months. Suggests letters of introduction.
8/12/51	John Marron to TCC	Ink on 1c rubs off very much; still blurred or mottled due to gum. Several complaints were forwarded.
8/12/51	John Marron to TCC	Provides complaints re lack of adhesiveness.
8/12/51	TCC to John Marron	Discusses letters of introduction for his upcoming trip to Europe re gum.
8/13/51	TCC to John Marron	Replies re recent gum complaints: Carpenter says surely this is old stamps, not recently gummed ones, based on testing. They ordered some Lowell gum (England); also Carpenter asks re letter to Lawrence.
8/16/51	[See TCC letter to Marron dated 8/8/51]	Samuel Carpenter departs to London on Pacific, to investigate solutions to gum problems.
8/19/51	TCC to TCC	Memorandum to 9/29/51 TCC letter; dated 8/19/51; Mr. Perkins informed Carpenter that they had similar problem in England; baskets full of stamps fall off.
9/15/51	TCC to TCC	Memorandum to 9/29/51 TCC letter; dated 8/19/51; gum quality varies from batch to batch even for same manufacturer in England; Carpenter will go to manufacturer in Manchester (used by Perkins Bacon); England solved their problems, so will USA.
9/15/51	PM Carr (of Bangor Me) to John Marron	Sends receipts for recent stamps delivered, and returns the 3,000 one cent stamps due to gum adhesiveness. These are the worst he has seen.
9/29/51	TCC to John Marron	Responds to two gum complaints: says they are concerned; gum adhesiveness was a problem in England and Carpenter is there investigating solutions. Testing of current gum shows it adequate; complaints are from those who are careless, hasty, ignorant.
10/4/51	TJ Husband (Chemist) to PMG Hall [National Archives]	TJ Husband proposes paper with adhesive substance to help with current sticking problems.

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10/4/51	TJ Husband (Chemist) to PMG Hall [National Archives]	TJ Husband proposes paper with adhesive substance to help with current sticking problems.
10/4/51	[Chronicle #171]	EKU for 3c plate 1L for experimental orange brown color (Scott #11). [This cover has no direct evidence (year date, docketing, enclosure) to confirm 1851 usage.]
10/6/51	TCC to John Marron	A note on this letter indicates that gumming on this shipment was good and showing confidence that gumming will prove satisfactory to public.
10/12/51	[See Ashbrook Special Service, p. 119]	EKU for 3c plate 1L for experimental orange brown color (Scott #11), which has direct evidence (enclosure) to confirm 1851 as year of usage.
10/22/51	[Siegel #783 (Amonette Sale), lot #319]	EKU for 3c plate 1L for brownish carmine color shade (Scott #11).
11/7/51	TCC to John Marron	Gives stock on hand: 2 million 3c; 150,000 1c fully ready; also has large amount ready for gumming; they have held off gumming due to anticipated return of Samuel Carpenter.
11/7/51	John Marron to Asst. PM John Montgomery	There was a big problem with color on 1c stamp (allowing reuse). Marron relates this in context with choosing a color for the Eagle Carrier stamp, where he says the color must be uniform.
11/10/51	TCC to PMG Hall	Summaries findings from trip to England re gum: newness of paper is an issue (gum absorption issue); England had similar problems; brought back French and English gum samples.
11/10/51	TCC to PMG Hall	TCC recommends that they make deliveries in a sheet size of 200 vs. 100 stamps for less curl, thus allowing greater adherence.
11/10/51	[See TCC letter of 11/10/51]	Approximate date that Samuel Carpenter returned from trip to England, where he investigated finding solutions to gum problems.
11/12/51	John Marron to TCC	Acknowledges letter. of 11/10. PMG is pleased with report on gum and plans to publish part of it in Intelligencer; willing to adopt 200 per sheet.
11/13/51	TCC to John Marron	No objection to his letter on gum being published by PMG; concerned re bad stock already distributed.
11/24/51	TCC to John Marron	New gum has not arrived and must print/gum more stamps soon.
12/1/51	PMG Report extract (date approximate)	PMG Report discusses gum adhesiveness has been issue but believed solved for future.
12/4/51	John Marron to TCC	Send all you have, as Post Office balance is of old gum (841,000 3c, 165,800 1c in hands of postmasters); when they do stick they do not have tenacity; recent shipments appear satisfactory.
12/8/51	TCC to John Marron	1.5 million 3c stamps were delivered to White, perfectly gummed; considerable portion of Eagle Carriers printed and gummed; some previously printed 1c's not yet gummed but will be; please destroy all imperfectly gummed stamps, will issue credit.
12/9/51	TCC to John Marron	New gum from England now in use. This gum is a lighter color.
12/10/51	John Marron to TCC	Since November Post Office has tried 200 vs. 100 per sheet, but very inconvenient due to handling in mail bags. Please revert to 100 per sheet.
1/9/52	TCC to John Marron	Use of dark Lowell gum on 1c stamps has commenced; strongly adhesive but too dark; English gum nearly exhausted, slightly less adhesive; recommends use of Lowell gum in future due to US vs. English sourcing (distance), even though Lowell more expensive.

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1/9/52	TCC to John Marron	Use of dark Lowell gum on 1c stamps has commenced; strongly adhesive but too dark; English gum nearly exhausted, slightly less adhesive; recommends use of Lowell gum in future due to US vs. English sourcing (distance), even though Lowell more expensive.
1/14/52	John Marron to TCC	Based on testing: English gum preferred; Lowell gum causes curling of paper.
1/17/52	TCC to John Marron	TCC has ordered large supply of English gum, in interim using new Lowell gum. They are now pressing every sheet after gumming, yielding smoother impression; uniformity of color for 3c in last 2 months.
1/17/52	TCC to John Marron	TCC has ordered large supply of English gum, in interim using new Lowell gum. They are now pressing every sheet after gumming, yielding smoother impression.
1/28/52	John Marron to TCC	Send no more carriers and 1c stamps unless ordered.
2/9/52	TCC to John Marron	Part of current shipment has French gum - lighter in color.
5/3/52	TCC to John Marron	Remaining stock of one cent stamps have the old dark colored gum which was applied too thick (as gummers were determined to make it stick); also "curling" issue.
5/3/52	TCC to John Marron	They have been exclusively on 3 cent stamps since so ordered some months ago. Stock has run low on 1c stamps.
4/2/53	EL Lincoln to John Marron [National Archives]	PM Lincoln (of Worcester, Mass) complains re inferior quality adherence of stamps.
4/2/53	John Marron to TCC	More gum complaints, after an apparent period of relative calm.
4/4/53	TCC to John Marron	Surprised about more gum complaints. They have not varied process or people for some time; their testing shows no problems; accuses complainers of ignorance; asks for names of complainers so they can investigate
5/3/53	TCC to John Marron	Regrets that Marron did not provide names of parties who complained of "lack of adhesiveness of the Stamps" (gum issue), as TCC very desirous of satisfying Marron that complaint not well founded.
5/4/53	John Marron to TCC	Expresses trust in TCC and somewhat apologizes for letter of 4/2/53. Forwards two complaints.
5/6/53	TCC to John Marron	Neither of prior complainers have provided proof of gum problems; TCC sent PO purchased samples to each as well, and instructions of how to lick them properly; awaiting results from complainers.
5/24/53	TCC to John Marron	Not a word from complainers (PM's at Batavia and Worchester); "let PMG Campbell make me his Axe Grinder for 3 minutes...PM would mean Post Mortum"; "savage" response.
9/5/53	TCC to John Marron	More comments re 2 complainers on gum; discusses stamps sticking together in transit; gum may be thicker; may be summer weather; may be damp newspapers in same pouch; if 1c stick more than 3c perhaps due to haste in preparation due to on hand quantity.
1/12/54	TCC to John Marron	PS on shipment #49: we have no one cent stamps but will forward as soon as possible.
1/23/54	TCC to John Marron	Could not supply all the 3c stamps ordered as demand exceeded expectations; plates not at hand but requested; can make delivery in one week.
1/30/54	TCC to John Marron	PS says "You may rely hereafter on having an ample supply to meet all the demands of the department."

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2/9/54	JT Gest to John Marron	Since having placed all their "force" on three cent stamps (assumed to be first wanted) they have not enough 1c stamps on hand to fill order of 7th; will keep enough on hand in future to avoid recurrence; will send one box of stamps on 11th of Feb.
4/28/54	TCC to John Marron	Box Availability, leading to shipment problem: Was unable to fill full amount ordered as only 4 (not 5) boxes were sent.
5/10/54	TCC to John Marron	Box Availability, leading to shipment problem: Anxious to know why more boxes not sent to them. PMG Campbell had previously ordered all stamps we may have ready but they could not send them
9/29/54	JT Gest to John Marron	Box Availability, leading to shipment problem: Boxes used for stamp deliveries not received. This has happened before.
1/12/55	TCC to John Marron	12c stamps sent on 12/29/54 were gummed imperfectly several years ago [editor's note: perhaps as much as four years ago]; demand so small none recently printed; please return same for new; apologies.
3/27/55	TCC to John Marron	They are prepared to handle increased demand due to new postage law in effect 1st April.
4/10/55	John Marron to TCC	Marron anxious re 10c stamp; only 700,000 of 1c left.
4/12/55	TCC to John Marron	10c stamp plate will be ready for printing on 4/25/1855, with supply on 5/1/55.
4/12/55	TCC to John Marron	1c stamps ready for delivery at any moment.
4/12/55	TCC to John Marron	Responds to gum issues: gum on face due to size of paper and care by operators. Entry indicates about 9 million on hand.
5/3/55	TCC to John Marron	Unable to fill order for 12c due to low on hand supply, and little recent demand. Will fill balance of 12c order and balance of 10c order by 5/7/1855.
5/18/55	Summary of Stamp Agents & Clerks [National Archives]	Jesse Johnson hired as Stamp Agent at salary of \$1200 per year.
6/14/55	Summary of Stamp Agents & Clerks [National Archives]	Edwin Lamasure hired as Jesse Johnson's assistant at \$700 per year.
7/7/55	J Johnson to John Marron [National Archives][verify this date]	Jesse Johnson sends a brief report of his activities, and says that if demand is going to continue any length of time, he needs more help.
8/13/55	TCC to John Marron	Replies to letter of 10th (missing); say TCC will fold stamps as directed, but thinks damage is more from weather and modes of conveyance.
12/17/55	J Johnson to John Marron [National Archives]	Jesse Johnson states that they are behind in their work and need more manpower. Docketing indicates that Marron told him to employ an assistant for three months.
12/20/55	Summary of Stamp Agents & Clerks [National Archives]	WH Oakford hired as Jesse Johnson's second assistant at \$700 per year.
1/12/56	Summary of Stamp Agents & Clerks [National Archives]	ST Durand hired as Jesse Johnson's third assistant at \$700 per year.
1/18/56	Summary of Stamp Agents & Clerks [National Archives]	W Kelly hired as Jesse Johnson's fourth assistant at \$700 per year.
3/10/56	Summary of Stamp Agents & Clerks [National Archives]	GW Fox replaces W Kelly as Jesse Johnson's fourth assistant at \$700 per year.
4/18/56	Summary of Stamp Agents & Clerks [National Archives]	GW Fox resigned as Jesse Johnson's fourth assistant, position not refilled.
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6/2/56	J Johnson to John Marron [National Archives]	Jesse Johnson says his time has expired to employ his extra assistants, and he still needs more manpower.
11/1/56	Summary of Stamp Agents & Clerks [National Archives]	WH Oakford's position eliminated (not refilled) as Jesse Johnson's second assistant.
1/2/57	Act of 1/2/1857 [National Archives]	Act of 1/2/57 required all transient printed matter to be prepaid, thus further increasing the demand for stamps.
2/19/57	TCC to PM Miller (of Philadelphia)	Dispute with Judge Waterbury re 2c stamp; PMG needs to authorize it if desired.
2/24/57	Nelson Waterbury (Asst. PM NYC) to TCC	Disputes letter of 2/19/57. Says Marron authorized 2c stamp, with head of John Hancock. This conversation occurred in TCC's Philadelphia office.
2/26/57	TCC to Nelson Waterbury (Asst. PM NYC)	Apologizes for problem, says he has written to PMG to authorize the stamp. Mentions 3 partners are in NYC.
2/26/57	TCC to PMG Campbell	Asks for directive to print 2c stamp, per Waterbury dispute.
2/27/57	Asst. PM (of NYC) Waterbury to John Marron	Asks Marron to recorder TCC to print 2c stamp, as TCC has lost it.
7/1/61	[EPJ #84, p. 158]	Advertised effective date for new stamp contract with National Bank Note. This was later changed.
7/27/61	NBN to AN Zevely [American Philatelist, July 1961, p. 743]	Letter proposes revised delivery date of 8/15/61 due to color issues and shortage of supply.
8/1/61	[American Philatelist, July 1961, p. 742]	Tentative official delivery date for National Bank Note issues.
8/10/61	Summary of Stamp Agents & Clerks [National Archives]	Stamp Agency was moved from Philadelphia to New York City.
9/1/61	[Insert reference]xx	Newspaper article telling of shortage of supply of new designed stamps from National Bank Note Company.
9/12/61	[Insert reference]xx	National Bank Note company authorizes Charles Steel to gum 1000 sheets/day; perforate 7,500 sheets per day.
9/14/61	[Insert reference]	Letter discussing color problems.
9/30/61	Guest[?] to Zevely[?]	Due to shortage of National Bank Note stamps, TCC's old stamps (1857 issue) were reintroduced. Hence TCC is due more money (\$3,324) as they had struck a deal with the Post Office to write down the old inventory as unusable.
9/17/62	DJ Browne to AN Zevely [National Archives]	Submits an improved adhesive gum for stamps. He has sent a gallon to Butler Carpenter.
10/30/62	Butler and Carpenter to AN Zevely [National Archives]	Samuel Carpenter of TCC ha given them a small quantity of gum for trial. Asks for more. Copy sent to J Browne.
11/28/62	DJ Browne to AN Zevely [National Archives]	He has sent one hundred pounds of French gum to Butler and Carpenter for trial. Initial reports from BC is that it is unfavorable, and he questions results.
12/24/62	DJ Browne to AN Zevely [National Archives]	Browne has also sent a sample of his gum to National Bank Note. Complains about how tested, and cancellation of a larger order.
12/31/67	[Insert reference]	Zevely to A. Mann, Treasurer, National Bank Note Company, re gumming stamps.