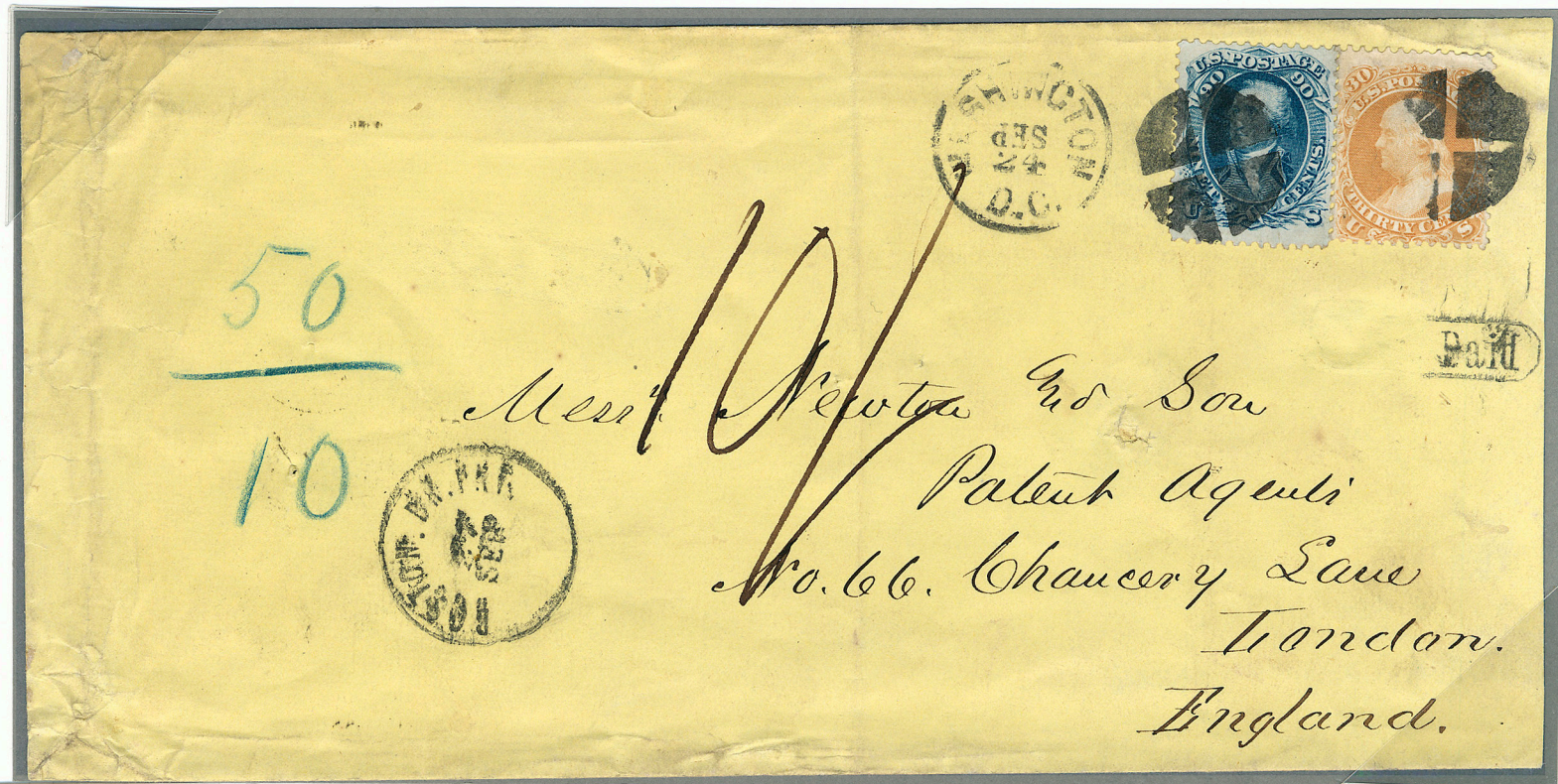


"The 30 Cent and 90 Cent U.S. 1861 Issue"

With the outbreak of hostilities between the North and the South in 1861, And the end of the contract for the production of the current issue of stamps, it became necessary for the Union to seek bids from printing companies to manufacture new stamps having different designs from the previous issue. The National Bank Note Company submitted a set of new designs to the Post Office Department for approval and received the contract. Their samples, properly Called essays and trial colors, are better known as "August Issues" or "Premiere Gravures". The finished "second" designs and colors for each denomination Were approved by the Postmaster General, and printing began.



The 30 cent and 90 cent stamps were designed by James Macdonough and engraved by Joseph E. Pease (Portrait) and William D. Nichols (Frame). Records estimate that 3,300,000 copies of the 30 cent stamp and 388,700 copies of the 90 cent stamp were printed and delivered to post offices during August of 1861. Plates of 200 subjects were cut vertically into panes of 100. All 30 cent stamps were printed from plate #7, with the earliest known use being August 20, 1861. All 90 cent stamps were printed from plate #18, and the earliest known use is November 27, 1861.

This exhibit is a traditional study of the 30 cent and 90 cent stamps of the 1861 Issue. Each denomination is developed separately. Examples of the various types of essays, trial colors, die and plate proofs, experimental types, "Specimens", shades of unused stamps, and cancellation varieties are shown. Extensive study is also given each denomination by usages on cover to most of the recorded destinations. These are exhibited alphabetically by country or continent with rates and routes noted for each cover. Many rare destinations and rates are shown. There are thirteen 90 cent covers shown in this exhibit: a record of its own. Provenance is given on items of particular importance where records have been kept.

1861
"Premiere Gravure"

Type I



30¢ Black, die essay on India, die sunk
on 150x220mm card. Die size: 46x60mm.

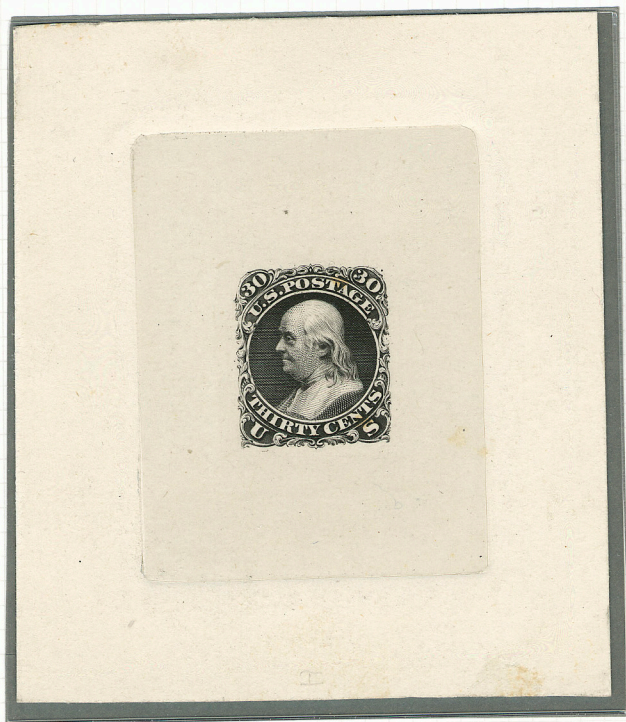
Die Type I-

No die number or imprint. Outer frame at
left, hairline on head, and silhouette
at lower right not fully complete. Used
to produce all stamp and plate proofs.

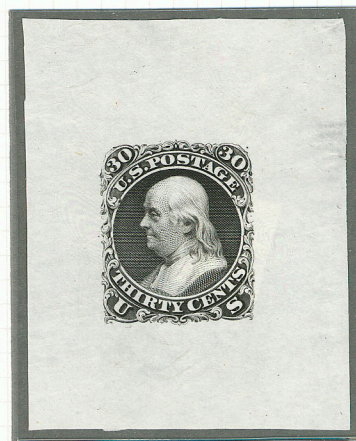


1861
"Premiere Gravure"

30¢ Black die essay on India

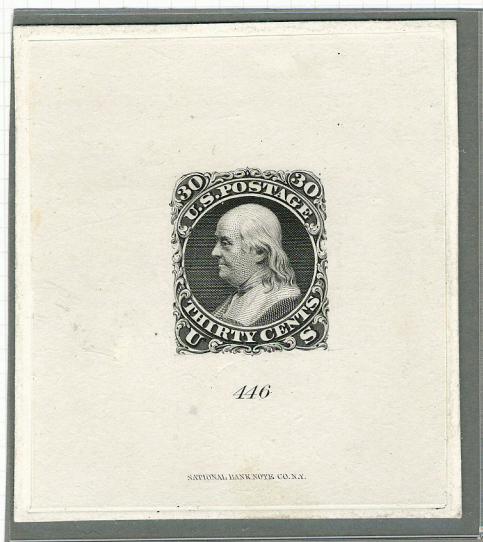


Type I
Die sunk

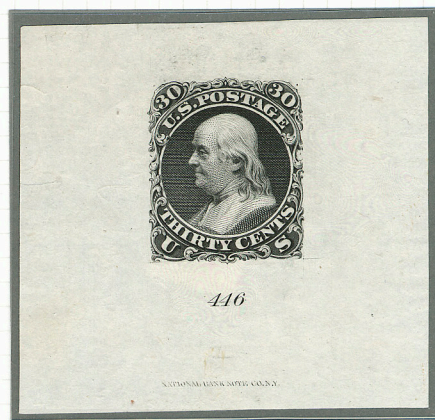


Type I
Not die sunk

Die Type II-
Die number 446 and imprint
below design. More complet-
ely engraved. Not used in
plate production.



Type II
Die sunk



Type II
Not die sunk

1861

"Premiere Gravure"

Die Essays on India,
die sunk on card
61x63mm.



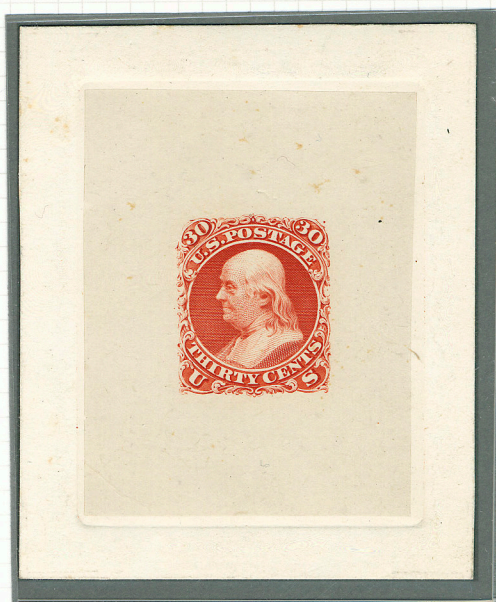
Dull gray blue



Violet Brown



Dull rose



Scarlet

1861

"Premiere Gravure"

30¢ Green, First Design, Die Essay on
India, Die sunk on 145x218mm card.

Examples on full size card are rare.



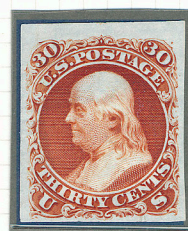
1861

"Premiere Gravure"

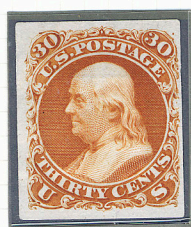
Plate Essays on India Paper



Deep red
orange



Brown red
orange



Dull brown
orange

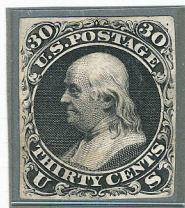


Red orange

1861

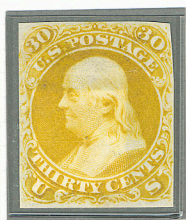
"Premiere Gravure"

Plate essay on split thin card

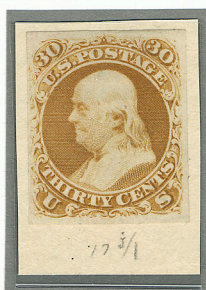


Black

Plate essays on semitransparent stamp paper



Deep Yellow



Deep Yellow
Orange
(2 known)



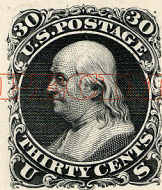
Dark Orange

1861

"Premiere Gravure"

Type I

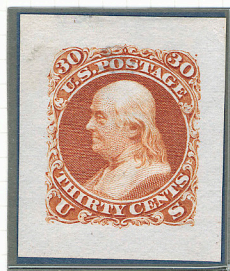
30¢ black, plate essay mounted on card,
152x225mm., red-orange "Specimen" ovpt.
and imprint at bottom of card. From the
salesman's Sample book of engravings.



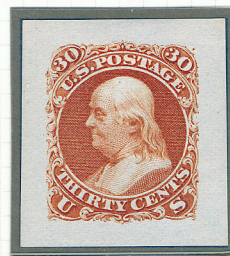
SPECIMEN
POSTAGE STAMP
FROM THE
NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY
NO. 1 WALL STREET
NEW YORK

1861

"Premiere Gravure"



Red Orange



Red Orange
on bluish
paper

Small die Trial color Proofs



Dull Red Orange
(3-5 known)

Pan-Pacific Trial color Proof

1861

Large Die Proof on India
Die sunk on Card

30¢ Orange



1861

Large Die Proof on India
Die sunk on Card

30¢ Dull Orange





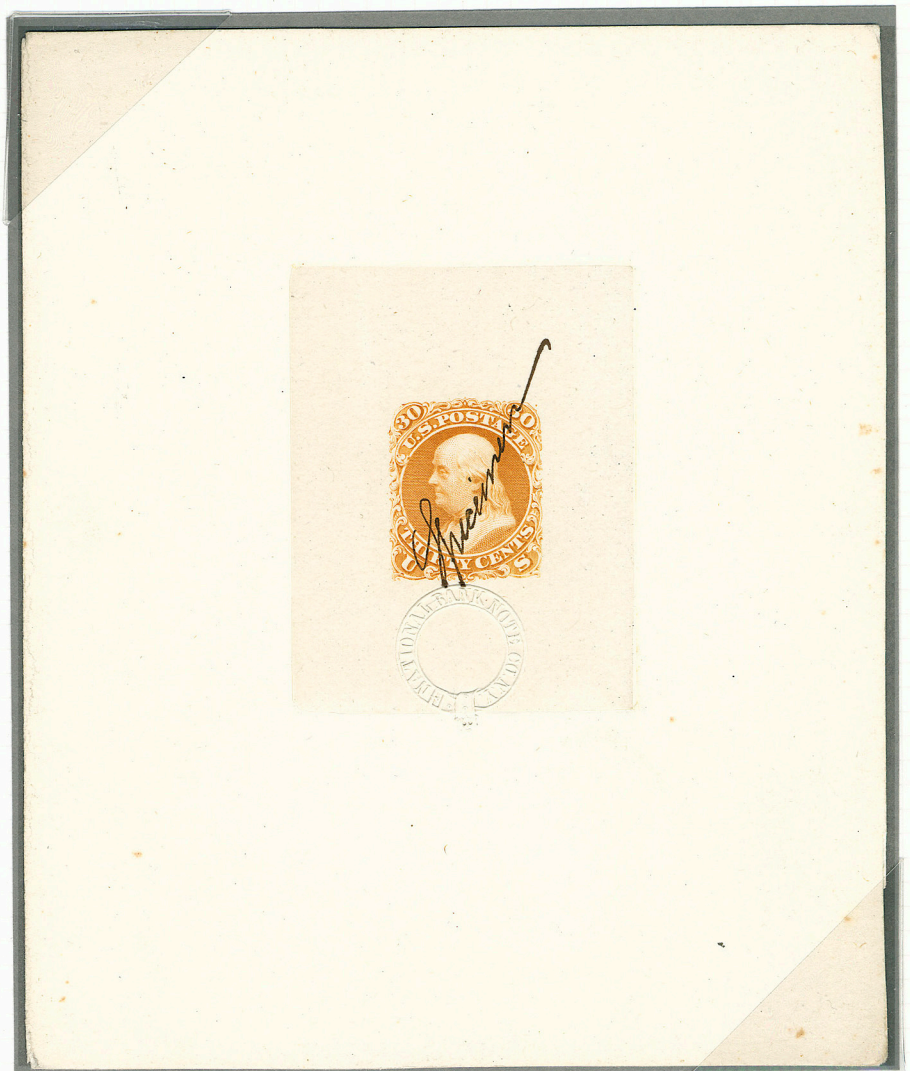
30¢ Orange
Large Die Proof on India
Die sunk on 48x61mm. card

30¢ Orange large die proof
on India, die sunk on
113x137mm. card.

Manuscript "SPECIMEN" ovpt.

National Bank Note Company
embossing under design.

Likely an example from the
salesman's Sample Book.



30¢ Orange large die proof with black
"Specimen" overprint mounted on card,
imprint of the National Bank Note Co.
at bottom. From salesman's Sample book.

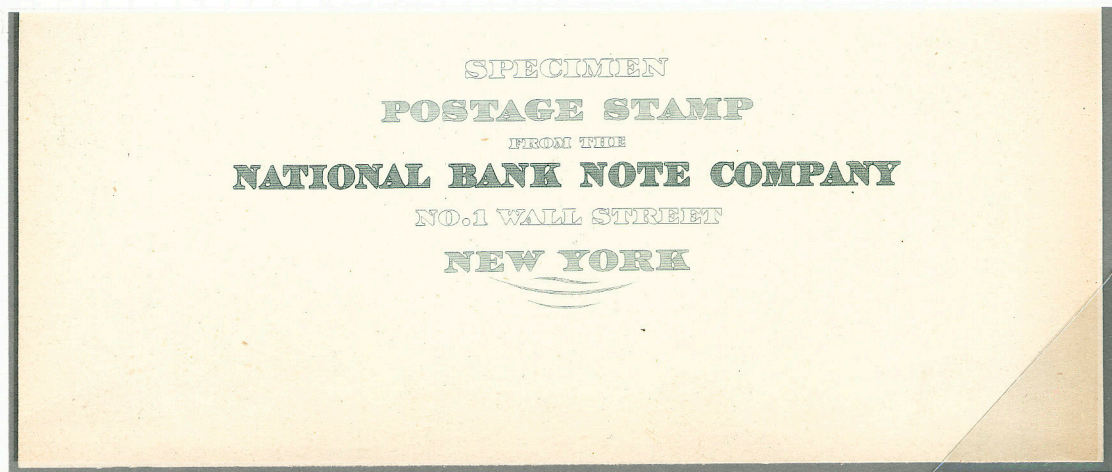


SPECIMEN
POSTAGE STAMP
FROM THE
NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY
NO. 1 WALL STREET
NEW YORK

1861

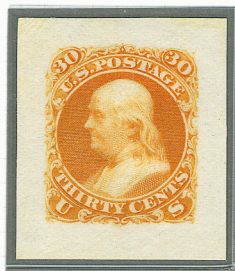


30¢ Orange large die proof on India, mounted on 143x192mm. card, with a black "Specimen" overprint (printed lower than previous example), from the salesman's Sample Book of the National Bank Note Company.

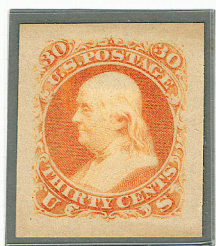


1861

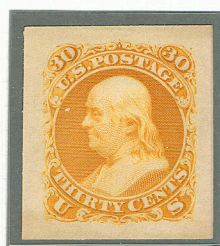
30¢ Orange



Small die proof
(from the Roosevelt album)



Orange

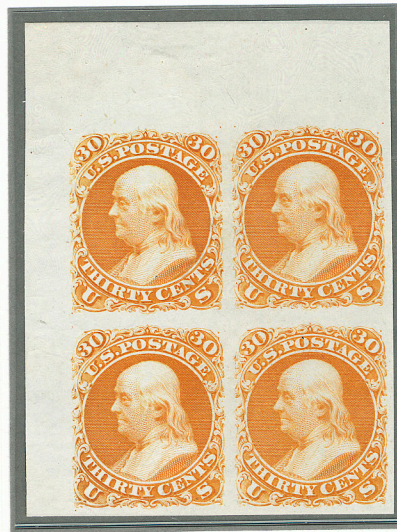


Yellow Orange

Pan-Pacific small die proofs
(3-5 known)

1861

Plate proofs on India paper



Orange margin block



Bright Orange



Dull Orange