

Competition for the 1861 contract

Evolution from First Design to Issued Stamp

The issued stamp has a **vignette** based on the **Primary Die** but with a strengthened silhouette around the chin.

Basic First Design: no frame; no ornaments in 'US' or '3'



Basic First Design

Complete First Design: elaborate scrolls for frame: ornaments in 'US' and '3'



Complete First Design

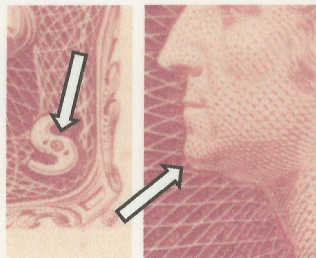


Transitional Die

Transitional Die: the scrolls and ornaments have been partially removed



Die for the issued stamp
New frame, strengthened silhouette around the chin; and simpler ornaments in 'US' and '3'



The Issued Stamp with new frame

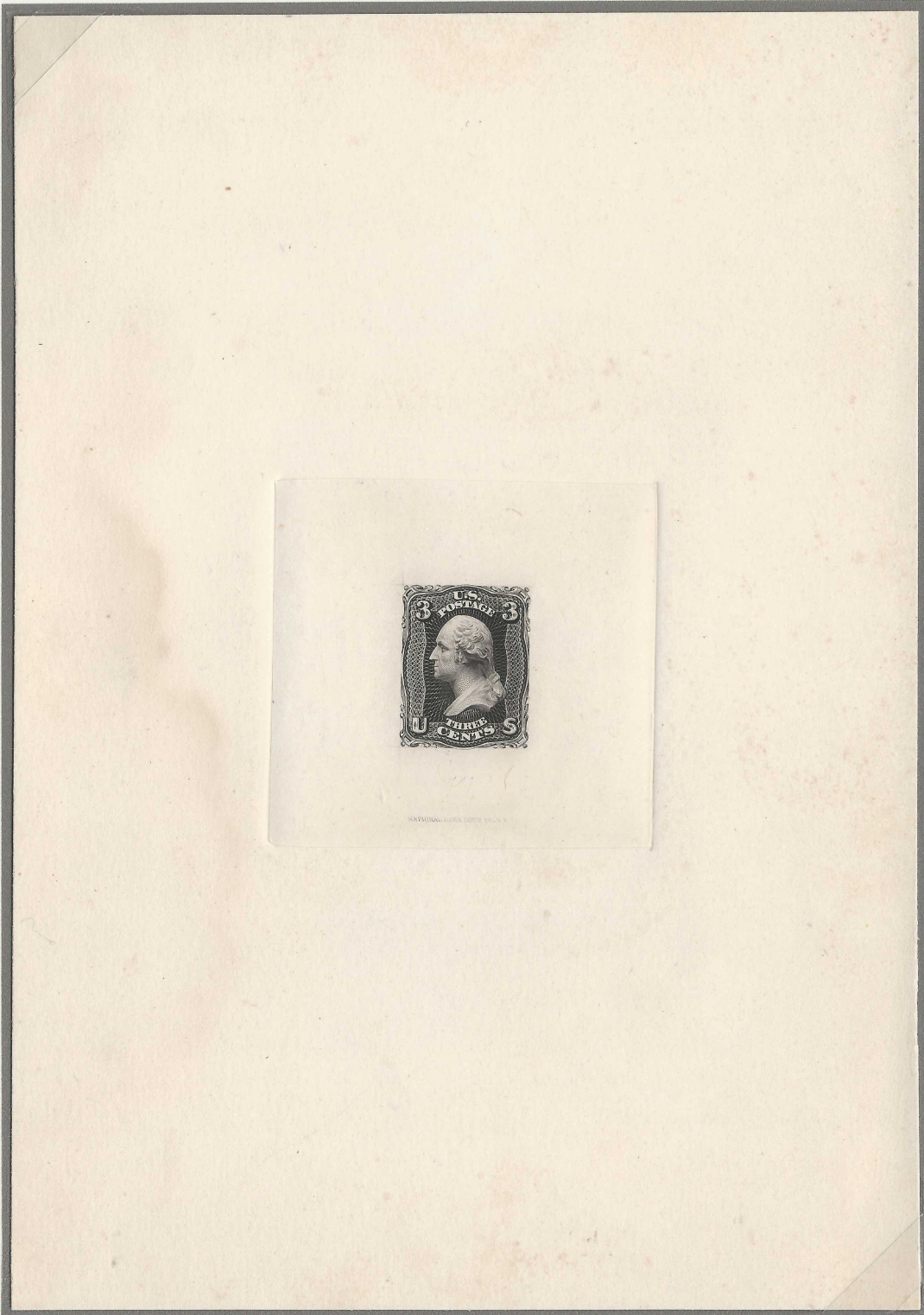


Approved Design

In this section I show:

- Color trials of the approved design including the rare **Carmine Pink**
- Proofs of the approved colors including the rare die proof in **Pink**

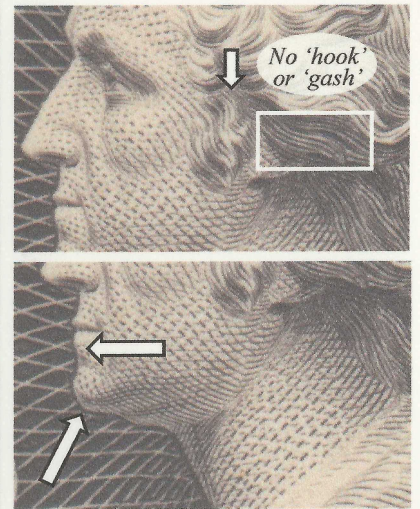
Large die color trial: die on India (58 x 55 mm) sunk on card (139 x 199 mm)



Black

Albino die no. 441.

Printer's imprint in black.



The approved design is from the primary die with the silhouette extended.

Ex- Earl of Crawford

Approved Design

Large die color trial: die on India (58 x 55 mm) sunk on card (full size: 139 x 206 mm)



Lake

*Die no. 441 and printer's
imprint in Lake*

Approved Design

Trial colours cut down



Dark Brown

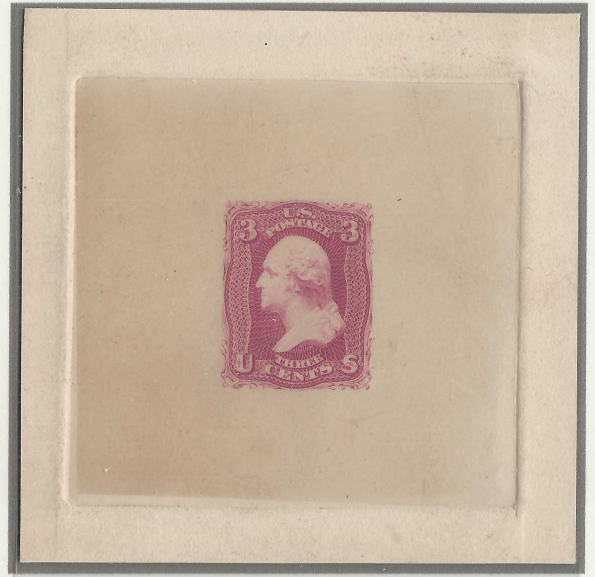


Blue



Dull Red

Deep Pink Large die color trial (58 x 55 mm) sunk on cut down card (73 x 73 mm)
Albino imprint and die no. 441.



e: PF



Brown Large die color trial (58 x 55 mm) sunk on cut down card (73 x 73 mm)
Albino imprint and die no. 441.



Green Large die color trial (58 x 55 mm) sunk on cut down card (66 x 66 mm)
Imprint and die no. 441 in green



Ochre Large die color trial (58 x 55 mm) sunk on cut down card (98 x 93 mm)
Albino imprint and die no. 441.

Approved Design

Plate 44: imperf plate proofs designated as trial colors

The plate block designated 'rose' is nothing like the expertized 'classic rose' of the issued stamp, yet it is found as a color on the issued stamp.

Similarly, the two additional plate proofs are designated as the trial color 'dull red', and are also colors that can be found on the issued stamp.



Plate Block

Rose plate proof on India, would originally have been stuck on Card

Imprint Block
Dull red plate proof on India stuck on Card



Plate Block

Dull red plate proof on India stuck on Card



Approved Design

Specimen and Control Number: including a cut down example from a sample book

'Specimens' served two purposes. The first, as per the block of four below, was so that Post Offices would have copies of the true postage stamp. The second (as per the page from the sample book) was to advertise the printers' product.

Rose

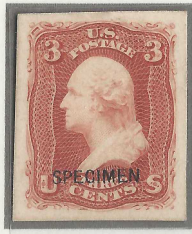
*The catalogued version
of the 'specimen'*



e:PF

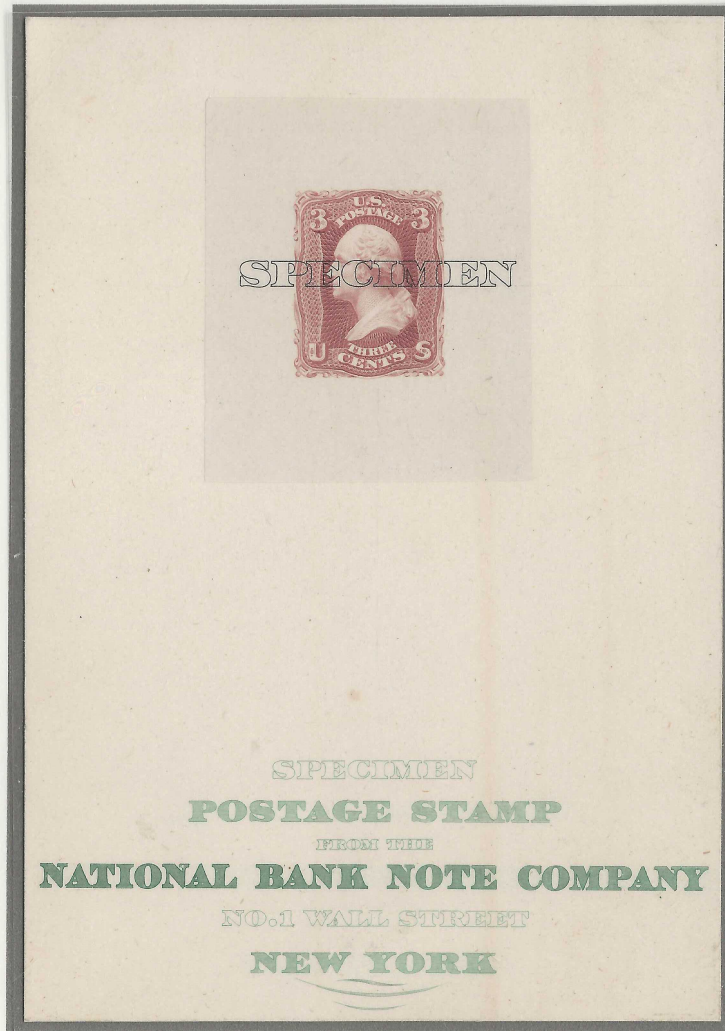
Uncatalogued

'Specimen' on card.
Probably a reprint from
the 1879-94 period.



Control No: 7890

*All stamps of the 1861
series exist with control
numbers. Their purpose
is unknown.*



Rose: overprinted in black and green

Die on India (44 x 50 mm) pasted on cut down card

Approved Design

Full page Specimen: from a National Bank Note Company book of samples

Rose

Overprint in grey blue

Die on India (44 x 50 mm) pasted on card (full size: 144 x 225 mm).

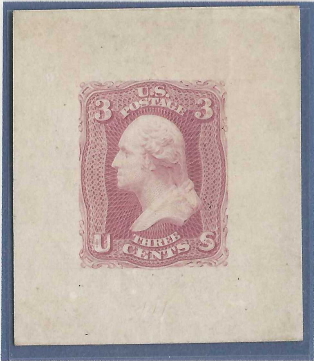
From an N.B.N.C. sample book.



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

Approved Design

Approved colors



e: PF

Pink. Cut down die proof still stuck to the card.

Albino die no 441.
Printers imprint cut off.

Shade variations on the issued stamp make it difficult to distinguish trial from approved colors. The die proofs on this page are described as the approved colors: *Pink* and *Rose*.



Rose.

Printer's imprint in black,
albino die 441.

Full size die proof
(58 x 53 mm) sunk on full
size card (134 x 194 mm).

Approved Design

Plate proofs designated as trial colors

These tend to be described as **trial colors** in various catalogues. But as **Drews and McClung** have shown, they can also be found on the issued stamp*

Trial color: imperf and gummed on stamp paper



Dark carmine
(e: PF)

Trial colors: perf 12 and gummed on thin stamp paper



Carmine pink
(e: PF – very few expertized are known)



Lake
(e: PSE, a condition rarity)



Carmine rose



Plate Block
Lake plate proof on India

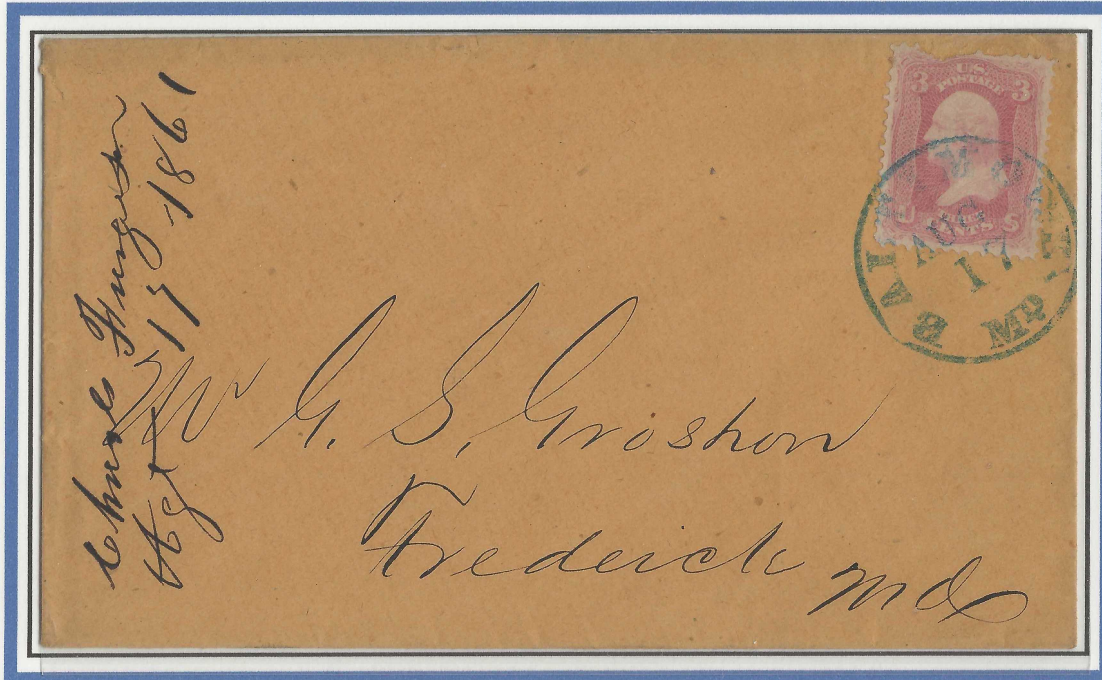
*See Richard Drews 'US Issues of 1861-68' – a presentation to the Collectors Club of Chicago; and McClung in various issues of The Chronicle and in the Scott Specialized Color catalogue of 2005

The Used Stamp

The stamps were delivered to the agent in New York on August 16th, 1861. In this section I show:

- **Earliest known use**
- The stamp: shades, **expertizing inconsistencies**, rare errors including **printed double, printed both sides**
- Example of Civil War use including rare prize court mail
- Use to make up postal rates; unauthorized use for revenue purposes

August 17th, 1861 is the earliest known use. Two covers are recorded: **pink** and **rose pink**

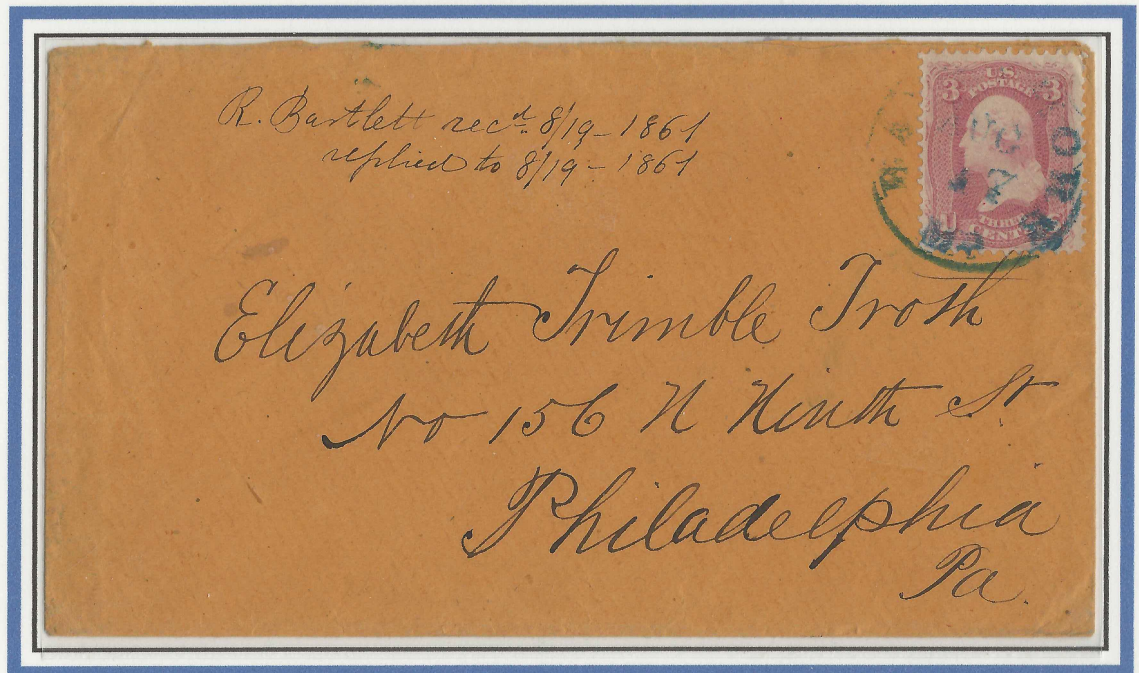


e: PF

Pink

e: PF

Rose pink



The Used Stamp

The Civil War

The Union government never recognized the Confederates, referring to them simply as 'rebels'. As a result, when rebels seized Fort Sumter in the break-away state of South Carolina on **April 12 1861**, it was deemed by the North to be an act of war. By this time, preparations for the printing of new stamps were well underway.

Prize court mail

On **April 16th**, just four days after the attack on Fort Sumter, Lincoln ordered a blockade of the Southern ports. Its purpose was to prevent supplies from reaching the rebels by sea. Prize court mail originated on ships that were caught while trying to run the blockade. This letter is an example.

The writer of this letter, Engineer W.H. Shannon, left New York for Hong Kong on **April 13th**, just one day after the start of hostilities.

He wrote the letter to Charles Gordon on **September 7th** while in Hong Kong.



Case #84, exhibit #18.

'HF' was Henry Flanders, the prize court commissioner.

The Letter went from Hong Kong back to New York by hand. From there it was sent to **Saunders and Son** on the British colony of Nassau. 10c pays the postage to Nassau.

Saunders and Son were used by the rebels as forwarding agents for mail. They forwarded the letter to Charles Gordon who lived in the South. '8' in blue crayon indicates the postage due. But the schooner on which it was traveling, the 'Defiance', was captured on Sept 7th, 1862 while trying to run the blockade.

The 'Defiance' was processed through the prize court in Philadelphia (case #84); and the letter entered into evidence as exhibit #81. 'HF' stands for Henry Flanders, the prize court commissioner.

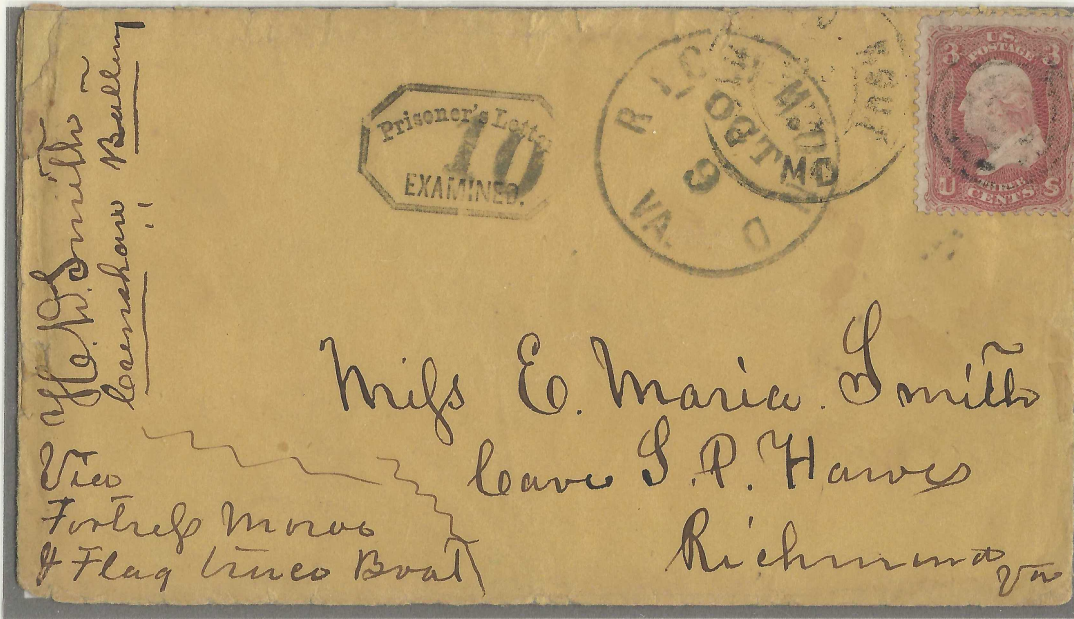
The Used Stamp

Prisoners of War

During the war, the two sides exchanged post by 'flag of truce'. This often involved carrying the mail to a pre-determined meeting point in the middle of a river – hence the reference to a 'flag of truce boat'.

These two letters are from prisoners of war held in the North. Both letters were processed through **Fort Munroe** which had become a staging post for exchanging mail with the rebels in 1862.

Cover from prisoner of war at Camp Hoffman in Point Lookout, Maryland.
Note the censor's mark 'Prisoner's Letter – Examined'.



3c prepays the rate to the point of exchange.

'10' was the postage due to the rebel service. The 'floating 10' postmark for postage due, was used from Sept 2nd to Oct 9th, 1864.

This letter was received on the last day of use.

Dual use

Prisoner's letter from Johnson's Island (Sandusky, Ohio).

Examined by censor G.S.B.

In this case the sender must have included money to pay the Confederate postage.

The Confederate 10c stamp would have been applied and cancelled in Richmond.

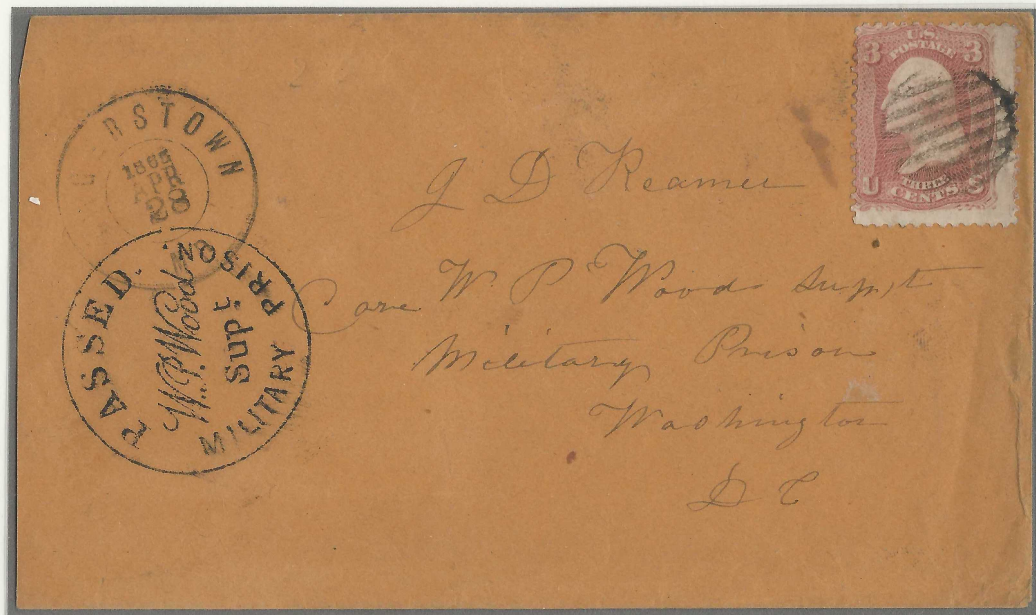


The Used Stamp

A letter sent in the North with a rebel connection

A cover from Hagerstown, Maryland to Old Capital Prison, Washington. Note the date, **April 28th, 1865**. Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on **April 15th**. The addressee, J. D. Reamer, was a rebel sympathizer suspected of involvement in Lincoln's assassination. Hence his imprisonment.

An unusually clean strike
of the censor's mark



A Confederate patriotic cover accepted for postage in the North



A Confederate
cover accepted for post
in the North

The Used Stamp

Main Shades and expertizing inconsistencies*



Pink
(e: PF, PSE)



Lavender Pink
(e: PSE)



Rose Pink
(e: PF)



Classic Rose
(e: PSE Rose)



Bright Rose
(e: PSAG)



Bright Rose Red
(e: PSE Rose; PSAG
Bright Rose Red)



Crimson Rose
(e: PSAG Bright
Rose Red)



Deep Rose
(e: PSAG Deep
Rose)



Pale Rose



Pale Brown Red
(e: PSE Rose; PSAG
Pale Brown Red)



Dull Red
(e: PSAG Pale Brown
Red; PSE Brown Red)

*Despite intensive study, experts cannot agree on the shades for the 1861 3c. Note the multiple, obviously different examples of 'Rose' as expertized by the PSE. Where there is disagreement I select a classification in line with the Scott Specialized Color Guide for United States Stamps (prepared by McClung, 2005).

The Used Stamp

Pigeon Blood Pink: Ashbrook reference copy along with two additional examples



Pigeon Blood: 1
(e: PF, PSE – more
'carmine')



Pigeon Blood: 2
(e: PF, PSE – more
'lavender')



THIS IS IN MY OPINION THE
REAL "PIGEON BLOOD PINK" - I Have
As of This Date Made A Very Careful
Comparison Side By Side With My
Reference Copy
Queen's University
Dec 10 1953

Ashbrook noted two shades of 'pigeon blood' – pale and deep. Ashbrook's reference copy on the envelope is similar to the stamp on the left. It is therefore probably 'pale', making the one on the right 'deep'.

The Used Stamp

Rare shades on the brown spectrum illustrate the problems with **expertizing**



Brick Red
(e: PSAG Deep
Brown Red)



Carmine Lake
(e: PSAG Deep
Brown Red)



Deep Brown Red
(e: PSAG Deep
Brown Red)



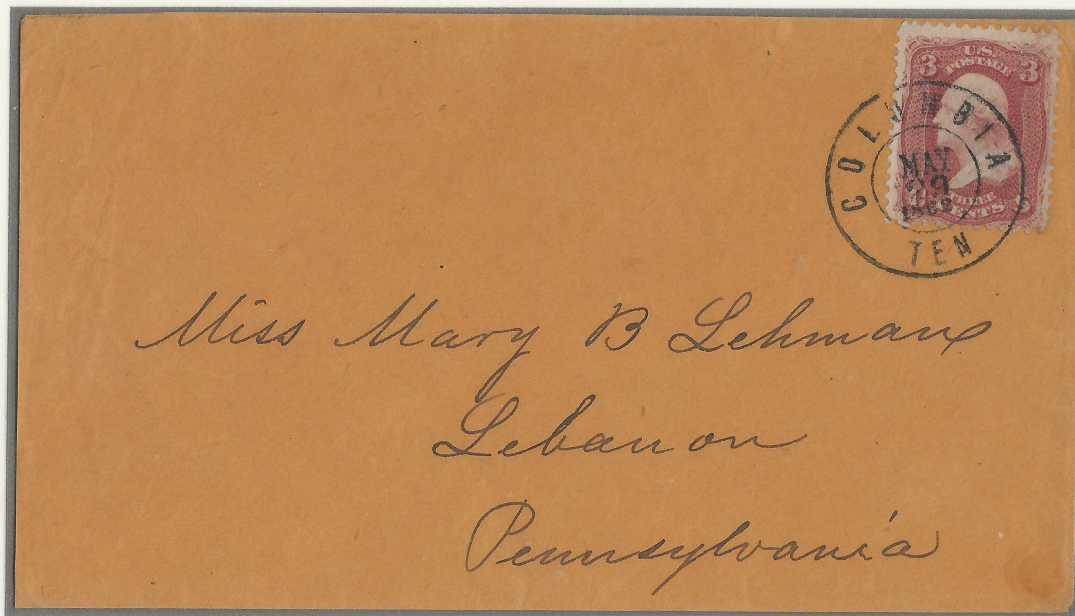
Lake Brown
(first appears in
mid 1864)



Brown
(first appears in
early 1866)

Brown Red: Ashbrook's reference copy

Although McClung dates '**Brown Red**' to 1865, this cover is dated May 29, 1863; and must surely take precedence. Ashbrook's reference colour is richer than the highly graded stamp on the right.



Brown Red
(e: PSAG Brown Red;
PF Brown Red)

