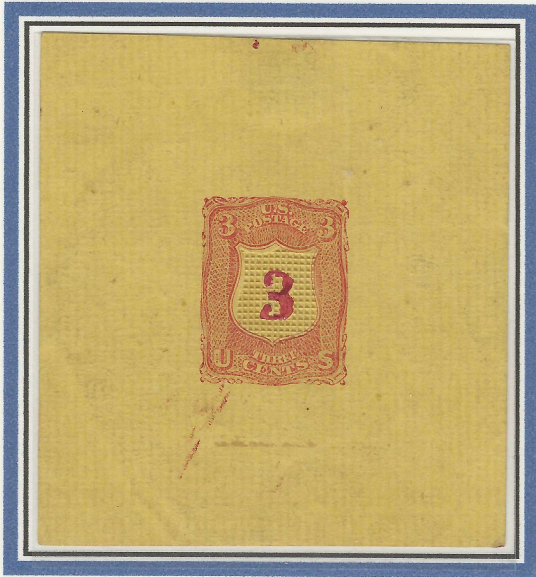


The Evolution of the Grill

Shield grill Rarities

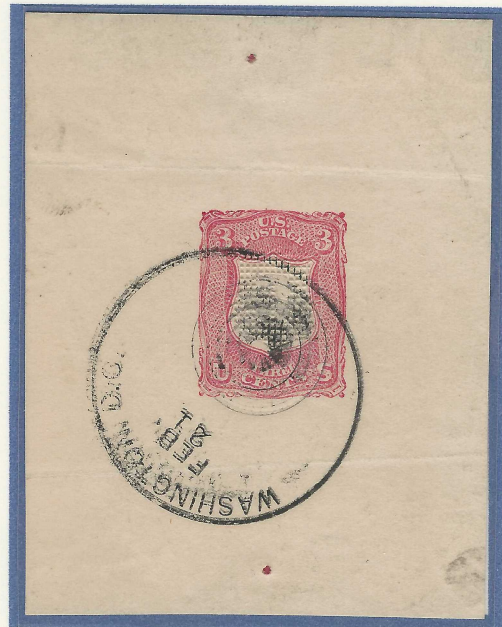
Only one known.



Die on thick yellow laid,
partial gum

*Deep pink. Hand drawn
'3' in red*

One of only two known.



Die on thick white wove,
gummed

Deep pink

Experimental cancels test
the effects of cancelling

The Evolution of the Grill

'Flat top' biscuit grill essays on the 3c stamp: gummed; and imperf or perf 12

i). Points down

Rose
Mint unhinged
Top imprint block of 12.
From: Finkelburg.



Rose

Pen and ink cancel tests the effect of grilling



Rose

Cancelled by New York City Segmented Diamond in Circle



e: PF

Postal use in July 1867 pre-dates the patent

Fewer than 15 copies exist

Dim red

Biscuit grill test on the typographic essay



ii). Points up



Rose

Pen lines test the effect of grilling



Rose

'No 2' in ink

Rose

Top imprint block



e: PF

Lake

Top marginal pair

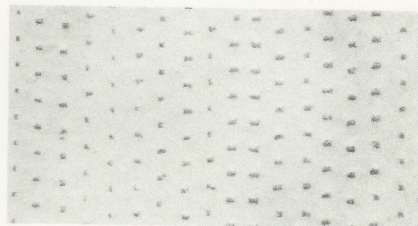


Black

The Evolution of the Grill

'Music box' grill essays on the 3c stamp: gummed and perf 12

Rose, points up
Margin pair with
imprint

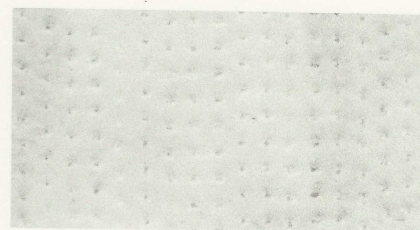


Scan from the back shows points down

*Scan from the back shows points up
The regular pattern*



*Scan from the back shows points up
The irregular pattern*



e: PF
Rose, points down
Regular pattern



Rose. Top marginal block of 4.
Points down
Irregular pattern

e: PF
Rose, points down
Irregular pattern



Rose. Bottom margin single, points down
Irregular pattern

The Evolution of the Grill

Timeline of Grill Use

(based on earliest known use)

A grill: 13th August, 1867

C grill: 18th November, 1867

Z grill: 25th January, 1868

D grill: 2nd February, 1868

E grill: 19th February, 1868

F grill: 23rd April, 1868

The A grill was introduced for experimental use in August, 1867.

The grill was made by pressing a 'V' into the back of the stamp. This created the pointed top 'male' grill with points up when viewed from the front. Though it lasted longer than any but the F grill, not many were distributed.

Like the A grill, not many of the C Grill were distributed because it was experimental.

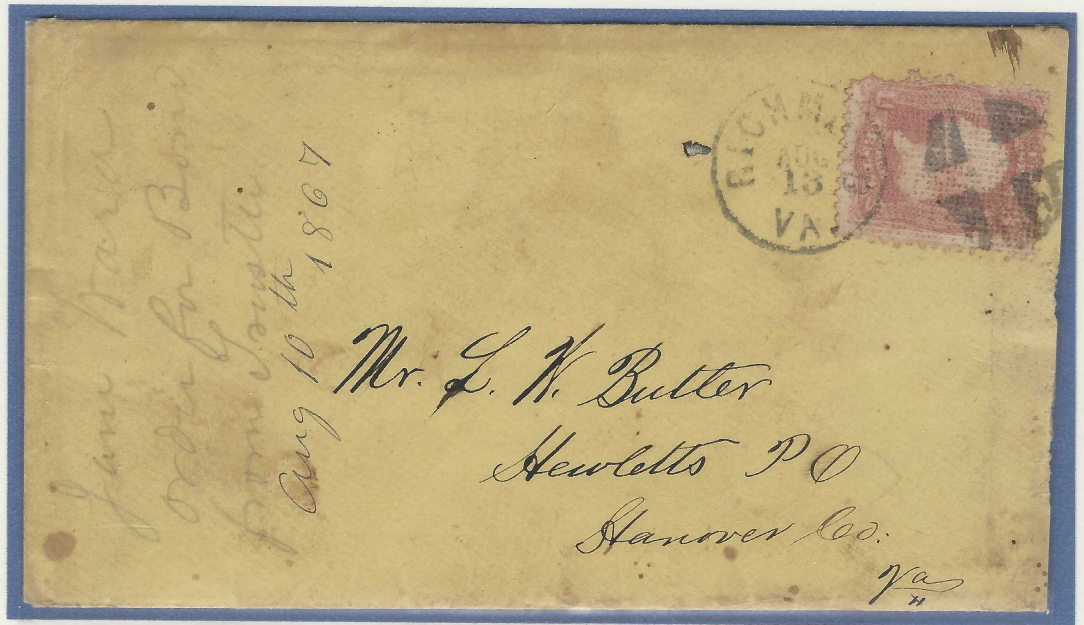
The first grill in full production was the Z grill – but only for a week. It's therefore rarer than both the A and C grills. The D grill didn't last long either. The E grill is quite common. The F grill lasted for a nearly a year and is the most common.

The A grill: plate proof and postally used stamps of the A grill – points up, perf 12



Plate proof

Earliest known use: One of only four



e: PF

Top imprint block of 4; imperf, gummed on stamp paper
Bright rose, verging on lake

e: Stanley Ashbrook

This cover is the earliest known use of a grilled stamp up to this date - Nov 24 1867
Wm. B. Ashbrook

The issued stamp

e: PSE

Rose: from the right edge of the left pane of 100 stamps on a sheet of 200



e: PSE

Rose: Illustrates the problem of separating the stamps.



The Evolution of the Grill

C grill essays on various papers, gummed, all points down

The A grill only lasted a few months because of the damage that separation did to the stamps. The C grill replaced it. Like the A grill, it is considered experimental. Earliest known use: November 18th, 1867.



C grill essay on white wove, points down, perf 12.

Dimensions: 16-17 x 18-21 points (12.5-13.5 x 16-17 mm)

Signed by **James Macdonough** (general manager of the N.B.N.C.) and **Alexander Duke** (operator of the grilling machine).

The C grill was produced by planing down the A grill roller. Partial erasure created the ghost of a grill around the C grill.

From: the Finkelburg collection

The series below shows the effect of different degrees of pressure.
The grilling on the pair on the right is like the issued stamp.



*On pale tan
wove*



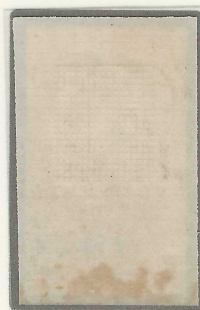
*On pale pink
wove*



*On white
wove*



On white wove

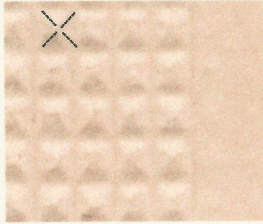


Uncatalogued Variety
Imperf, gummed.

Subjected to full pressure.

The Evolution of the Grill

C grill: plate proofs and postally used stamps



The scan clearly shows the 'X' pattern indentation.

e: PF

Rose



Plate proof: imperf margin pair on stamp paper, gummed

The issued stamp: C grill

(EKU: November 18th 1867)

e: PSE



Rose
Perf 12, points up

A condition rarity
Only one stamp grades higher

e: PSE



Perf 12, up
Variety: *partial erasure*
Rockwell 'blue bird' fancy cancel



Perf 12, points up
Variety: *double grill, one split*

The Evolution of the Grill

C grill experiments with surface printed stamps: various papers and inks, gummed

Macdonough's 1863 letter to Zevly had dealt with attempts to prevent reuse and cut costs. By the 2nd half of the 1860's, the N.B.N.C. was conducting extensive experiments to try to achieve both aims in one stamp.

Charles Steel believed that the answer to the problem lay in a combination of lithographic printing with grills. We see the results of those experiments on this page.



Dark Blue
Imperf on white wove



Black
Imperf on lilac-grey paper

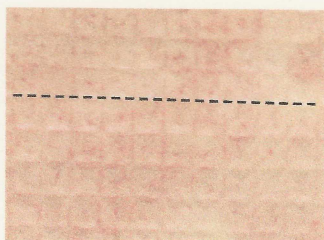
Examples on white wove, points down, perf. 12



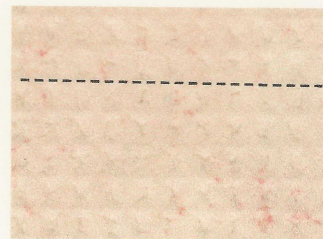
Examples on white wove, points up, perf. 12



Scans of the grills taken from the back



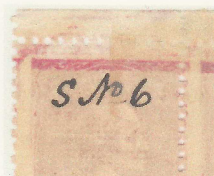
Points down taken from the back shows the familiar 'peaked ridge'



Points up shows the familiar 'furrows'

The Evolution of the Grill

C grill experiments with surface printed stamps: various papers and inks, gummed



'S No 6' on the back.
Significance unknown



Red
Points up

Black
Points up

On greenish grey chemical
paper, perf. 12

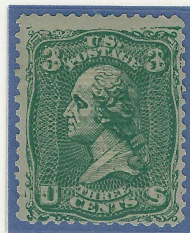


Black
Points down

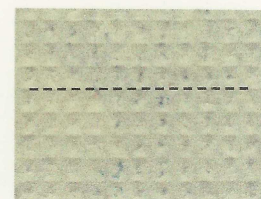
Orange
Points down



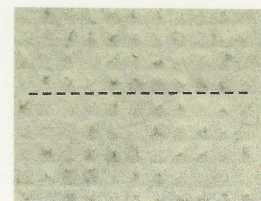
Blue
Points down



Green
Points up



Points down scan from
the back – a **ridge**



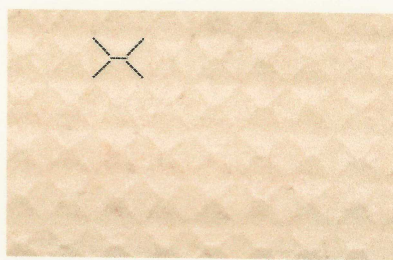
Points up scan from
the back – a **furrow**

The Evolution of the Grill

The Z grill: the first grill into full production. Dimensions: 13-14 x 18-21 points; 11-11.5 x 13.5-14 mm.



*Large scale horizontal 'rooftop'.
This became the Z grill.*



*The scan shows the distinctive
'rooftop' shape of the Z grill*

The issued stamp: Z grill

(EKU: January 25th 1868)

e: PSE



Brown red

Perf 12, points down

A condition rarity: only one
stamp grades higher

e: PSE



Rose

Perf 12, points down

The Evolution of the Grill

The Z experiments: various papers and inks, mostly gummed, perf 12.

Numerous experiments were conducted using the Z grill in 1867. The staining on some stamps is probably due to paper that's been chemically treated to change colour when exposed to water.

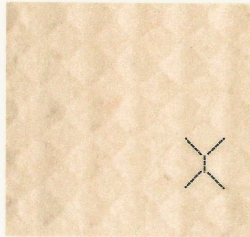


The Evolution of the Grill

The D grill: quickly followed the Z grill. Dimensions: 15 x 17-18 points; 12 x 14-14.5 mm.

The issued stamp: D grill

(EKU: February 2nd 1868)



The vertically oriented 'rooftop' of the D grill – modeled using a scan of the Z grill

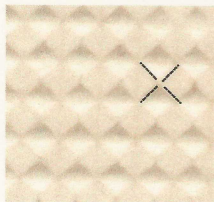


e: PSE
Rose: perf 12, points down



e: PSE
Rose red: perf 12, points down

The E grill: the first widely used grill. Dimensions: 14 x 15-17 points; 11 x 12.5-14 mm.



The E grill uses the 'biscuit grill' shape, points down. It's also known in the vertical rooftop form

Blank E grill plate proofs.
Perf 12, gummed.



The issued stamp: E grill

(EKU: February 19th 1868)



e: PSE
Rose red: perf 12

A condition rarity: the highest graded E grill



e: PSE
Rose: perf 12



e: PF
Lake red: perf 12



e: PSE
Rose red: perf 12



e: PSE
Red: perf 12



e: PSE
Brown red: perf 12

The Evolution of the Grill

The E grill bisect on cover



e: PF

The only known example of a properly cancelled grill bisect.

This cover led to a lot of speculation and two articles in respected journals before the **Philatelic Federation** determined that it was a fraudulent use of an E grill, but that it had been properly cancelled and gone through the post.

The F grill: a wild fold-over creates multiple perfed edges and a point down and up grill



e: PF

The F grill: A very rare double grill quadruple split on cover

The Evolution of the Grill

The F grill: the most widely used grill. Dimensions: 11-12 x 15-17 points; 8.5-9 x 15-17 mm.

The F grill was the 'biscuit grill' shape; perf 12, points down. It is also known in the vertical 'rooftop' shape.



Plate proof: imperf pair on stamp paper, gummed
Rose

The issued stamp: F grill

(EKU: April 23rd 1868)



e: PSE *Red*



e: PSE *Red*



e: PSE *Rose*

Thin paper and other varieties



e: PSE
Red, thin paper
Condition rarity



e: PSE
Rose, thin paper
Condition rarity



*Perfectly aligned
double grill*

Wild perf

The user has torn the stamp to get the whole stamp onto the envelope



Epilogue

Like most USA classic stamps, stamps associated with the 3c Washington of 1861 were reprinted many times. The reprints create a fitting epilogue to this exhibit. In this section I show:

- The so-called 'Centennial' reprints of 1875
- The 1881 Atlantic trial color proofs produced for display at the Atlanta Cotton Exposition
- Plate proofs on card – produced between 1879 – 94 for sale to collectors
- The Panama-Pacific small die proofs of 1914-15

1875: First official reprints of U.S. postage stamps

On March 27th, 1875, the US Post Office distributed a circular offering reprints of U.S. postage stamps to the public 'upon application'. Although philatelists have attributed the purpose of the re-issue to the 1876 Centennial celebrations, there is no proof of this. 10 000 of each stamp were ordered, but few were sold before they were withdrawn.

The 1861 3c Washington; 475 were sold but only 24 have been recorded used.

e: APS, PF, PSE

On white paper

This is one of only two graded 85, the highest grade achieved to date.



Red brown

1881: Atlanta Cotton Exposition special printing

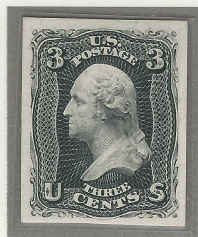
Atlanta hosted the world's first International Cotton Exposition in 1881, from October 5th to December 31st. In order to exhibit at the event, the US Post Office ordered reprints in five colors of the stamps produced to that time.

Afterwards, a single sheet of 100 of each of the stamps was made available for distribution to collectors.

Imperf on stiff white card



Green



Black



Scarlet



Brown



Blue

Epilogue

1879 – 94: official reprints for collectors

Between 1879 and 1894, the US Post Office produced five sets of plate proofs of the 1861 issue for sale to collectors. They were produced in the years: 1879, 1882, 1890, 1893, 1894. The proofs were imperf, ungummed; and printed on stiff white card.

Sets were distributed in envelopes.



First printing, 1879
500 sets, Rose Brown



Third printing, 1899
500 sets, Rose Lake

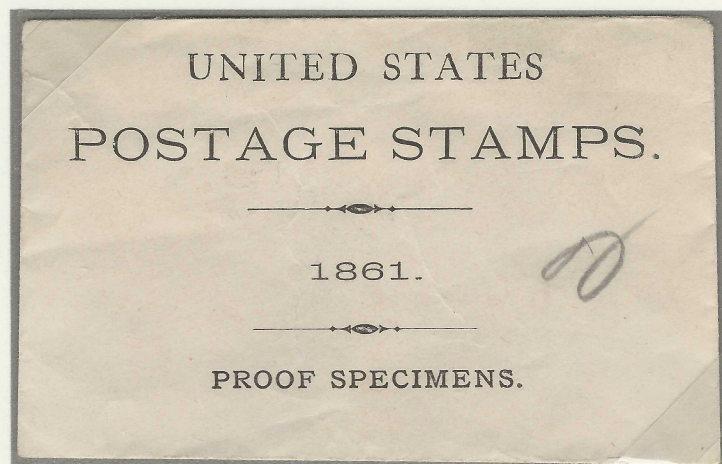


Fourth printing, 1890
500 sets, Dull Rose

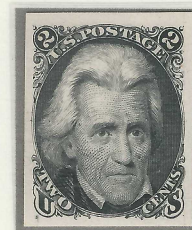


Fifth printing, 1894
500 sets, Rose

The envelope used for the 2nd printing (1882) along with a full set.



Dark blue



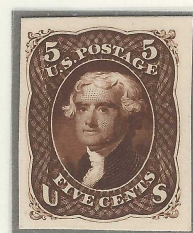
Black



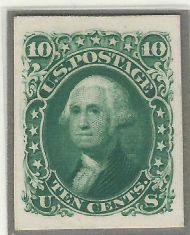
Rose



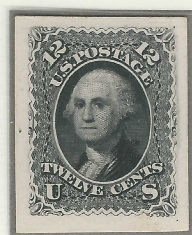
Scarlet



Brown



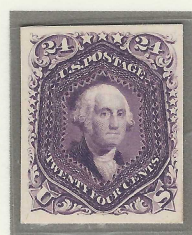
Green



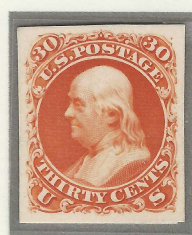
Black



Black



Red violet



Orange



Blue

(From first printing)

Epilogue

1915: Panama-Pacific special printing

The first Panama-Pacific International Exposition took place in San Francisco from 20th February to 4th December, 1915. The U.S. Post Office produced a special set of U.S. stamps for the event. The so-called 'exposition set' was produced on 14th September, 1914; and delivered to the Post Office on 2nd February, 1915. It has been lost.

A second set was given to the Smithsonian Institution on 20th March, 1915.

The reprints are extremely rare and very few complete sets of any issue are known in private hands.

Only 3 – 5 copies of the 1861 3c are thought to exist.

This is one of only **one or two complete sets** in private hands.

Small die on soft yellowish wove paper



e: PF – First design
Deep red



e: PF – Trial Colour
Rose



e:PF – Trial Colour
Lake



e:PF – Trial Colour
Scarlet

Ronald Burns notes that many additional small die prints were produced after 1915 e.g for the Texas Centennial in 1936 (15 sets). I end this exhibit with the Panama-Pacific set because of their extreme rarity.