

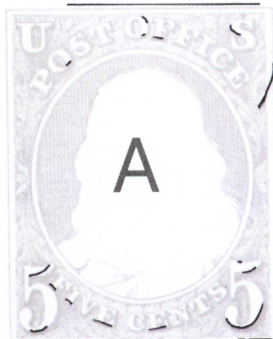
Types 'A' and 'B'

Double Transfers

Plate varieties are differences in particular plate positions that are consistent with each printing from a single state of that position. Double Transfers result from a position on the plate being incompletely erased and then re-entered. Positions are often erased and re-entered to get a quality entry.



e



Position 80R



e



Position 90R



e



e

'A' Double Transfer
bottom stamp part red
French accountability
marking.

'A' top stamp
'B' bottom stamp.

'B' Double Transfer in right stamp.

October 1850 folded letter from
Boston MA to New York City.

Two singles with 'A' Double
Transfer on left stamp.



e



Folded address sheet from
Baltimore MD to Pittsburg PA.

Vertical pair with 'B' Double
Transfer on top stamp.

Positions 90 and 100 R.

e

It is conjectured that Double Transfers 'C' and 'D' occurred late in the life of the plates after reworking and are less common than types 'A' and 'B'. The plate positions, 'C' and 'D', have not been determined. Thus all type 'C' and 'D' doubles transfers are from the forth and fifth printings after January 1850.



Horizontal lines doubled
in background



The left stamp shows 'C' Double Transfer.



The left stamp, the discovery copy, shows 'D' Double Transfer. Approximately a dozen copies recorded.



'Hart' copy



4th printing showing
clear but fuzzy lines.
Stitch watermark



Additional copies of the 'D' Double
Transfer, both late printings.





Left stamp type Mower shift 'E'
Double Transfer.
Liverpool 2 shilling handstamp.
Only recorded 5 cent stamp with this
marking.



Wagshal 'F' shift.
Discovery copy.
Approximately 6 recorded.



23 July 1847 folded letter from New York City to Albany NY. **First month of use.** Red New York City 13 bar square grid canceling the stamp. Stamp shows Double Transfer 'E', the Mower shift. This early use of an 'E' Double Transfer proves that it, along with the 'A' and 'B' Double Transfers, was on the plate from the beginning.

Plate Bruising in Margin



Cover from Baltimore MD. Stamp canceled with two strikes of '5' in circle and town postmark. Stamp shows plate bruising in the right margin. Bruising was caused by "over-rocking" the image into the plate causing a depression where ink could gather.

Mourning Cover

Dot in 'S'

The dot in 'S' occurred in all stamps in the 9th vertical column of the left pane.



Cover from Syracuse to Elbridge NY.



October 1849 folded letter from New York City to New Orleans LA. Left stamp dot in 'S' variety.

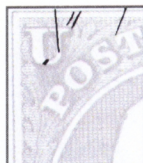
'T' Crack



Plate crack: 'T' with
broken left arm.
Position 69R.
Red brown shade.

e

Plate Scratches



Undocumented plate
scratch.
Orange brown stamp.

e

Broken and Recut Frame lines



Portion of folded address sheet. Stamp shows break in left frame line.

e



Recut left frame line right stamp.

Misaligned Plate Entries

Difficulty aligning the entries for
individual stamps led to frame
lines not lining up.



Right stamp higher than left stamp.

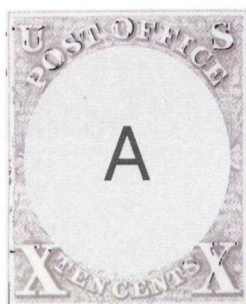
e



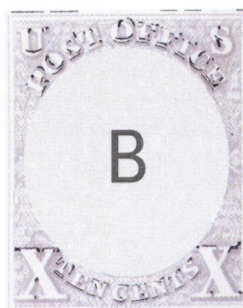
Top stamp to right of
bottom stamp.

e

There are four named 10 cent stamp Double Transfers designated by letters 'A' thru 'D'.



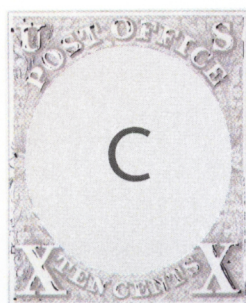
Type 'A'
Position 1R



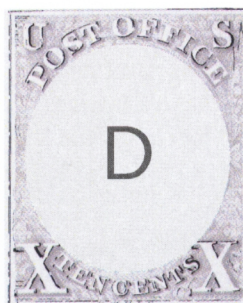
Type 'B'
Position 31R



Top stamp type 'B',
bottom stamp type 'D'.
Positions 31, 41R.



Top margin
Position 2R
Double Transfer type 'C'.



Orange red cork cancels.
Positions 41-43R, left stamp Double Transfer D.



November 1847 folded letter from Philadelphia PA to Bucyrus OH.
Double Transfer type 'D'. Position 41R.

‘Unnamed’ Double Transfers



February 1850 folded letter from Louisville KY to Philadelphia PA.

Position 2L Double Transfer in top frame line and at the top of stamp.

e

Cover from Chicago IL to New York City. Pair of 10 cent stamps pay the double rate over 300 miles. Lightened manuscript cancels.

Positions 5-6R. The right stamp has a Double Transfer in ‘POST OFFICE’.



e



e

Double frame line at left. Position 94L.

Guideline



e

Position 99L showing horizontal guideline
Original gum

Misaligned Plate Entries

Difficulty aligning the entries for individual stamps led to frame lines not lining up.



e

Left stamp higher than right stamp.



e

Bottom stamp to right of top stamp.

Stick Pin



Position 52L



Part of English shilling marking on left

Dot Over 'O' in 'Office'



Position 39R



Harelip



August 1849 double weight letter from Washington City DC to New Orleans LA. Right stamp is 'Harelip' variety. Position 57L. Left stamp position 35L.



Line in 'F' of Office



Position 68R

April 1851 folded letter from Saint Louis MO to Philadelphia PA.

Right margin strip of three with Panama red grid cancels. Positions 68-70R, left stamp line through 'F' of 'OFFICE'.



Plate Scratches



Double rate letter to Philadelphia. Entered the mail on the mail train from Boston to New York City. U.S. Express Mail route agent datestamp. Stamps positions 44-45R showing plate scratches between stamps.

Short Transfer



Double rate folded letter sheet from Chicago IL to New York City. Positions 21-22L. The left stamp of pair has short transfer at top.

Production varieties result from errors in printing a specific sheet or particular stamps on a sheet.

A pre-printing fold is created when the paper used for printing has a hidden fold or crease. After printing, when opened up, the areas hidden by the fold or crease appear as blank areas.



Cover from Philadelphia PA to Bell Air MD.



Three distinct folds



Occasionally the printing process results in either over or under inking or stray ink left on the paper from the process of removing the paper.

Inking anomaly

Excessive Inking



Dry Printing



Blue 'FREE' cancels stamp



September 1850 folded letter from Lockport NY to New York City.

The upper left corner of the right stamp shows extraneous ink that at one time was believed to be a double impression. There is clearly extra printing ink present.



Section Two - Postal Markings

First Official Canceling Device



The official grid, manuscript and New York City grid cancels are shown as well as 'PAID' and numerical rate markings and a large selection of fancy and unusual cancels. Town postmarks used to cancel stamps and straight-line town postmarks are included. The Wheeling control grid is shown.

First Official Canceling Device - 7 Bar Circled Grid

Postal regulations required that stamps were canceled or 'killed' either with a device to apply ink or by making a large 'X' to kill the stamp. The Post Office Department provided post offices that generated over \$300 in annual revenue with an 'official' killer to cancel stamps. This consisted of a 7 bar grid in a circle. Most postmasters that used a canceling device used the 7 bar circled grid.



Gray brown stamps
Red grids



Part strike French
entry mark



Blue grid



Blue grid



Brown grid



Cover from Roswell to
Darwin GA. Pair of 5 cent
stamps pay the double
rate under 300 mile rate.

Black grids



June 1851 folded address sheet
from Natchez MS to Philadelphia
PA. Pair of 10 cent stamps pay the
double rate over 300 miles.

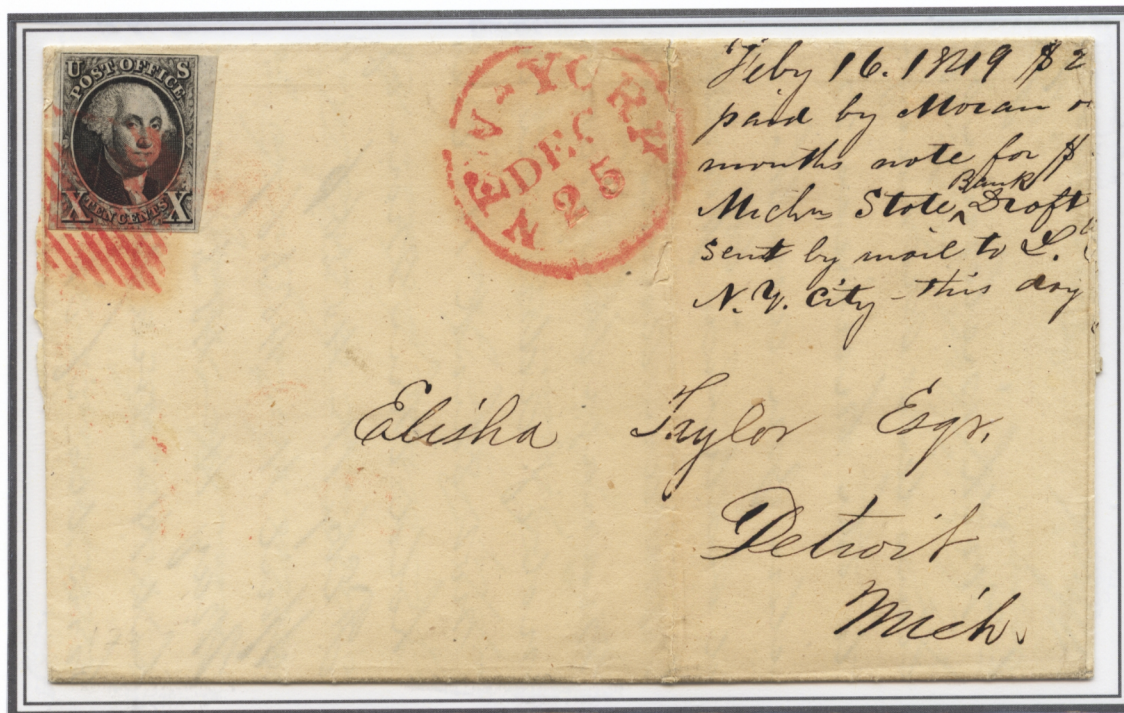
New York City did not adopt the 'official' 7 bar grid but continued to use the 13 bar square grid that was in use prior to the issuing of stamps by the federal government.

The two letters below from New York City were postmarked on Christmas Day. During the 1847 period, mail was the lifeblood of commerce and the only practical way for individuals to communicate.

In support of this, many post offices worked even on Christmas Day to expedite the mail.

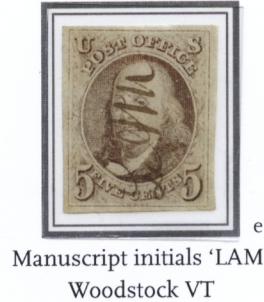


Folded address sheet to Troy NY.



Folded letter to Detroit MI.

Small post offices that were not issued stamps and/or the standard 7 bar grid typically used pen and ink to cancel stamps. By regulation this was to be done by making a cross or 'X' on each stamp.



April 1848 cover from
Columbia AL to North
Fairhaven MA.



Cover from Princeton NJ to
Savannah GA.

Green town postmark.
Brown stamps.

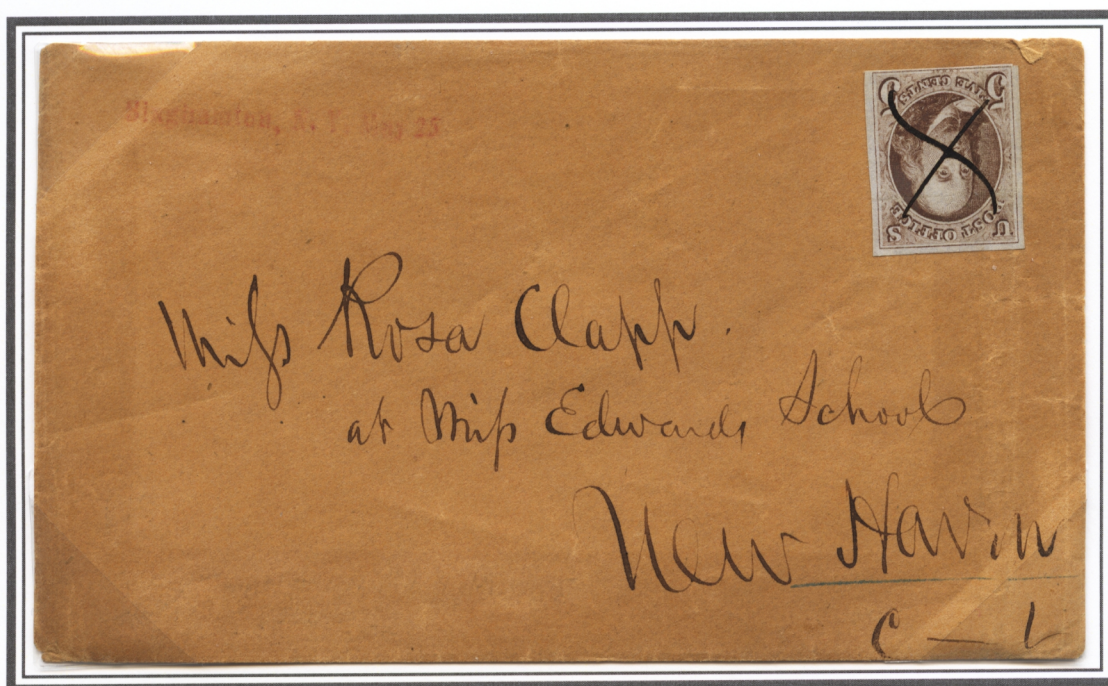
June 1849 folded letter from Watertown to Albany NY. Blue straight-line town postmark and two strikes of a blue '5' cancel stamp. Manuscript 'A' also cancels stamp. Only recorded use of straight-line Watertown postmark on 1847 cover.



Woodstock CT black straight-line town postmark and crossed bars.



Philadelphia Railroad straight-line used as a cancel.
Positions 63-65L



Binghamton NY to New Haven CT. Red straight-line postmark from Binghamton. Only recorded use of straight-line Binghamton postmark on 1847 cover.

Binghamton, N. Y. May 25

Rate markings were intended for use with stampless mail, either prepaid or unpaid. However, on occasion postmasters used these markings to cancel stamps.



October 1848 folded address sheet from Philadelphia PA to New York City.
Four strikes of blue '5' in double circle cancel stamp.



April 1849 folded letter from Philadelphia PA to Albion IL.
Two strikes of blue '10' in double circle cancel stamp.

Stamp canceled with red numeral '6' in circle.

This rate marking was used for unpaid incoming ship mail delivered to New York City and is unusual used to cancel an 1847 stamp.

Cover from New York City to Albany NY.



Two blue 'V's in double circles cancel stamp. Blue Utica NY fancy oval town postmark.

Folded address sheet from Utica to New York City.



Stamp canceled by two red '10's'. Blue town postmark.

May 1850 folded letter from Baltimore MD to Philadelphia PA.