

via Prussian Closed Mail



Portion of reverse reduced 50%

April 1855 cover to Hamburg.

Privately carried from San Francisco on the *Sierra Nevada* to Panama and the *Star of the West* to New York.

Wells Fargo delivered the letter to the New York post office where it left on 4 April on Collins packet *Atlantic*. The letter arrived 18 April in Liverpool, 20 April in Aachen and Hamburg on 21 April. Oval 'ST.P.A.' is the city post datestamp of Hamburg.

13 silbergroschen is Prussian debt to Hamburg. 18 schillings due. 23 cents credit to the US.



Double rate via British Open Mail



June 1856 cover from Knoxville TN to Berlin Prussia. The letter left New York 28 June on Havre Line ship *Argo* arriving in Southampton 10 July.

Stamps paid the 2x 21 cent British Open Mail rate to London. Other charges on receipt.

London applied the 'U.S. PKT' and on back Aachen applied 'SEEBRIEF PER ENGLAND UND AACHEN' double circle handstamp. Manuscript blue '2f' applied in Aachen for double rate. 14 silbergroschen due Prussian postage due.



Reduced 20%



From New Mexico Territory

June 1852 folded address sheet from Santa Fe New Mexico Territory to Munich Bavaria. Santa Fe balloon town postmark. Carried by Waldo, Hall & Co. route 4888 from Santa Fe to Independence MO.

Stamps pay double the 30 cent Prussian Closed Mail rate. The letter left New York 30 June on Cunard packet *Europa*. New York transit mark showing 14 cent credit to Prussia. 'AACHEN (date)/FRANCO' mark indicating the closed mail bag was opened on the train from Belgium (AACHEN exchange office) and accepted as fully paid.



June 1856 letter from New Haven CT to Munich Germany paying double the 30 cent Prussian closed mail rate. Departed New York 11 June on Cunard packet *Africa* to Liverpool 13 June. 14 cent credit to Prussia.

Strip of three and single stamp are type III. Pair combination type III and IV.

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March 1855 letter from Cincinnati OH to Frankfurt Germany paying the 30 cent Prussian Closed mail rate on British packet *Africa* from Boston to Liverpool arriving 7 April. Red '7' credit to Prussia. Closed Mail bag exchanged at Ostende Belgium arriving in Aachen on 10 April. 'FRANCO' marking applied in Aachen indicating fully paid.

Boston British Packet marking, 'AACHEN' transit and Frankfurt arrival markings on the back.







February 1857 from Bridgeport CT to Bienne Switzerland via Prussian Closed Mail. The letter was fully paid to destination but the New York Foreign Mail desk credited Prussia with 7 cents instead of 12 cents. Prussia then treated this as a letter paid to the GAPU border.

Strip of three 10 cent stamps types III, III, II positions 1-3L. Positions 1 and 2 are misplaced transfer positions. Single 5 cent stamp. Stamps pay 35 cent rate to Switzerland.



March 1856 cover from New Haven CT to Schaffhausen Switzerland via Prussian Closed Mail. Left New York on Cunard packet *Asia* 5 March to Liverpool on 18 March. Large '12' credit to Prussia. The mail bag went through Belgium arriving 19 March in Aachen Prussia where it was opened and the letter was marked with the 'Aachen d m/Franco' boxed datestamp.

10 cent stamps all type II.



This letter was franked 5 cents, the British Open Mail rate. It appears that England and France also treated it as a letter. Switzerland, however, treated the letter as a circular. The folded document appears to be a circular with no writing inside. The 15 cent decimes due France was not crossed out and most likely paid to France.

**Only recorded Use of a Type 1b one cent stamp on a letter or circular to Switzerland.  
One other letter recorded with a type 1b stamp to Europe.**



February 1852 folded letter or circular left New York City on Cunard packet *Niagara* to Liverpool. The letter was sent to France and on to Germany. In France marked 13 decimes due. However in Switzerland treated the 'letter' as a circular marked 20 rappen due.

1 cent stamps positions 9-10R1<sup>E</sup>, are types Ib and II. Dull red 3 cent stamp is type II.





Cover from New Orleans to Bodenbach Austria by Prussian Closed Mail. Faint New York Exchange Office marking.

Stamps pay the 30 cent rate which prepaid postage to Bodenbach. 'FRANCO' marking indicating fully paid.

Bodenbach receiving mark.

December 1856 cover from Albany NY to Gratz Austria via Prussian Closed Mail.

The letter was sent from New York to Boston and then to Liverpool via Cunard packet *Canada* arriving 13 January.

Stamps positions 64-66L.



Recut top label & over both 'X's  
Recut top label  
Recut bottom label



## Greece



November 1854 letter to Athens Greece. Manuscript 'Prussian Closed Mail'. The stamps paid the 42 cent rate to Athens via Prussian Closed Mail. From New York 11 November on American packet *Pacific* to Liverpool 22 November. The closed mail bag was opened on the train from Belgium on 23 November. 'FRANCO' marking indicates postage was fully paid. Trieste transit and 31 November Athens arrival mark on back.

## Sweden via Winter Route



November 1853 folded letter from Charleston SC to Stockholm Sweden. From New York on Cunard steamer *Asia* 2 November to Liverpool arriving 13 November. By train to Aachen marked in blue ink Prussian debit 13 3/4 Sgr. for British and Belgian transit. The letter was exchanged in Hamburg on 16 November. The Swedish postage due is 1 R 8 Sbc equal to 56 Skilling Banco. The blue manuscript in the lower center is 18 3/4 Sgr. debit to Sweden. The number 46 in the upper right corner is the number on the Swedish postal chart.

The winter route was by land either stage or railroad from Aachen to Cologne via Hamburg, Kiel, Kosor, Copenhagen, Helsingborg, Gotenburg to Stockholm.

1 cent pair type IV positions 95, 96Lr<sup>1</sup> and three cent dull red type II.

On reverse 'Per Steamship James Badger between New York and Charleston'





April 1855 folded letter from New Orleans LA to Turin Sardinia. Left Boston 9 May on Cunard packet *Africa*. arrived in Liverpool 20 May and Turin 25 May. Strip of five stamps pays the 5 cent British Open mail rate by British packet. Stamps are all type IV from column 5, rows 1-5 R1<sup>1</sup>.

November 1856 cover from New Orleans LA to Intra. From New York City 17 November on *Baltic* to Liverpool arriving 30 November. From London exchanged at Calais and traveled to Paris, through Switzerland to Intra arriving 6 Dec. 17 decimes due.

Stamp pays the 5 cent rate via British Open Mail by British Packet.





## Papal States

February 1856 folded letter from New York to Rome Italy. 24 cent postage overpaid the 21 cent rate. From New York 20 February on American packet *Washington* to Southampton 10 Mar. The letter was exchanged at Calais and went by train to Paris. From Paris the letter traveled overland and by boat to Rome.

'VIA DI MARE' marking signifies routing by sea to the harbor of Civitaecchia. From the harbor the letter traveled by train to Rome.

Calais and Paris transit marks and Rome receiving mark. Manuscript '38' bajocchi due.



September 1855 cover from Chicago to Sardinia departing New York 19 September on American Packet *Atlantic*, arriving in Liverpool 30 September. Strip of seven stamps pays the 21 cent British Open Mail rate by American packet. French entry marking in black reflecting letter from the United States by American packet. Italian transit and receiving markings on back.





August 1856 cover from Trenton NJ to Hong Kong China. From Trenton the letter went to New York City 23 August on American packet *Argo* to Southampton 4 September. 21 cent Open Mail rate by American packet to Great Britain. Remaining postage of 6 pence was to be collected from the recipient.

From Great Britain the letter traveled on a series of Peninsular and Oriental Line steamers. First on the *Indus* to Alexandria Egypt arriving September 19. Overland to Suez and then on steamer *Oriental* arriving 13 October at Galle Ceylon. The letter arrived in Hong Kong on 1 December on steamer *Norna*. Very faint red British transit and black Hong Kong receiving backstamps on reverse.



December 1858 cover from Greenfield MS to Shanghai China by British Mail via Southampton. Sailed from New York 23 December on Cunard steamer *Europa* to Liverpool 4 January. Southampton to Alexandria, then overland to Suez and by ship to Ceylon and Hong Kong. Stamps pay the 33 cent prepaid British mail rate to China other than Hong Kong. 28 cent credit to the UK.

3 cent stamp perforated, 10 cent pair positions 21-21L, type III, and the single 65L, type IV.



Paid and Sent by the 38 cent Prussian Closed Mail Rate



November 1856 folded address sheet from Providence RI to Hong Kong China. Carried from Boston MA by Cunard steamer *Canada* to Liverpool arriving December 1st. From Liverpool to Aachen through Belgium. From Aachen by train through Vienna to Trieste. By Austrian Lloyd steamer to Alexandria, overland to Suez and then by P&O steamers to Hong Kong.

Bold one shilling debit handstamp. Alexandria 17 December transit and 1 February Hong Kong arrival handstamps on back. Ten cent stamps type II. Three cent stamp type II position 3L2<sup>1</sup>.

The only recorded example of 5 cent stamp traveled by the Prussian Closed Mail route to China.





October 1852 circular from Charleston SC to Ghent Belgium. From New York steamer *Africa* to England and then to Ostend via Open Mail.

The 4 cent newspaper rate applied until April 1853. '1' applied in England for 1 pence or 2 cents due England. 15 decimes due from recipient. The postal accounting rectangular box applied in Ostend was not used.

There are fewer than five recorded examples of this rate to Belgium.

Circular franked and endorsed to go by 6 cent Prussian Closed Mail printed matter rate, however the convention had no provisions for circulars, only newspapers. This rate applied only to newspapers.



January 1857 circular from Mobile AL to Augsburg Bavaria. The circular is a cotton market report in French.

Franked to go by the 6 cent Prussian Closed Mail rate, it was sent via England British Open Mail. From Britain thru France to Germany by rail.

English accountancy mark 'GB 2 PK', applied in the UK, indicating 2 francs per kilogram due UK.

Stamps brownish carmine.

Only recorded example attempting to pay this rate with stamps.



## From Beirut

May 1857 letter from Beirut Lebanon carried undercover to Boston MA by French Syrian Line to London and then by Cunard steamer. In Boston it entered the mail and was sent to Tolland CT. Boston forwarder oval handstamp on back 'FORWARDED BY/J.M. GORDON/TREASURER/A.B.C.I.M./BOSTON.' 'BEIRUT/May 25 1857' handstamp probably applied by the consulate.



## From Malta



November 1852 letter from Malta to Norfolk VA. Sent by private carrier to New York City where it entered the mail and was sent to Norfolk.

Malta forwarder handstamp on the front and the New York forwarder Lillie & Rasines oval handstamp on the back.

The stamp was applied in New York City.

## To Constantinople Turkey

February 1852 letter from Nashua NH to Constantinople Turkey. Sent to Boston by USPS. From Boston carried privately to Turkey.

Stamp is plate one late experimental orange brown.







Between 1847 and 1860 the demand for stamps was growing quickly. Both postmasters and customers were growing tired of the time consuming practice of cutting stamps apart.

The first release of officially perforated stamps occurred 27 February 1857. Only the three cent stamp was released at this point until early June 1857. The one cent stamp was introduced in the summer of 1857. By 10 June all other denominations were perforated ending the era of imperforate stamps.

Government  
experimental  
perforations



Positions 86, 96L2<sup>1</sup> rouletted 7  
1/2 horizontally and perforated  
15-16 vertically and horizontally.  
Manuscript cross hatching.  
Original gum.

### Earliest recorded use of a government perforated United States Stamp

One of three recorded covers used on 28 February 1857.



28 February 1857 cover from Philadelphia to Pughtown PA.  
Stamp pale claret type I position 35R7.

### Earliest recorded use of 1 cent government perforated stamp



July 1857 printed matter from Castleton to Johnson VT. Catalogue of the Faculty and Students of Castleton Medical College. Stamp type II from plate 2. Castleton postmark 'JUL 25'.



### Issued With Perforations From Imperforate Plates

In 1857 the Post Office began perforating the stamps that were currently being issued imperforate. The plates used for imperforate stamps were spaced such it was difficult to apply perforations without cutting into the design. The large piece from the 1 cent plate 1 Late, the full sheet of three cents stamps and the large block of 12 cent stamps, all shown earlier, make the narrow spacing clear. This page shows perforated stamps from plates used to print the imperforate stamps. New plates created after the decision to perforate the sheets was made had somewhat wider spacing but it was not till the issue of the 1860's that this issue was properly addressed.



January 1858 folded address sheet from New York to Havana Cuba. Mixed franking imperforate and perforated pairs both from plate 1. Carried by the New York & Charleston Steamship Company leaving New York January 16. In Charleston it transferred to steamer Isabel to Cuba.

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August 1857 folded address sheet from New York City to Scotland. Pair of plate 1 12 cent perforated stamps. Frame lines recut.







March 1858 cover to London. Mixed franking. 1 cent stamps type IV plate 1 late. 10 cent stamp imperforate type II. 12 cent stamp plate 1. Boston to Liverpool on Cunard ship America. Fully paid, 19 cents debit to UK.

March 1859 folded address sheet from New Orleans to Naples France. Strip of three type III, II, III.



Mixed franking. Vertical strip of three rose type one 3 cent perforated stamps, one dull red imperforate 3 cent and imperforate 12 cent stamp. August 1857 cover from Boston MA to London. British packet Europa. Red '19' credit to England. Forwarded with 1p British stamp.



With the outbreak of the Civil War there were supplies of United States stamps in the Confederate States. To prevent these stamps from being used or sold they were demonetized by the Postmaster General in August 1861 and replacements developed. Each postmaster implemented the demonetization as the new stamps became available to the postmaster. By 1861 most available stamps were from the issue of 1857 and imperforate stamps from the issue of 1851-1856 were not commonly seen but certainly were still in use.

Only recorded cover bearing an 1851-1856 issue stamp and 'OLD STAMPS/NOT RECOGNIZED' marking.



November 1863 cover from Philadelphia PA to Phippsburg ME. Stamp position 27L<sup>1</sup>.

The stamp is tied with a Philadelphia duplex postmark with ten blade grid. The 'OLD STAMPS/NOT RECOGNIZED' and 'DUE/6' were applied in Philadelphia. Philadelphia received the newly designed stamps 19 August 1861 and a few days later would no longer accept the issues of 1851 and 1857. Six cents was due because as of 1 July 1863 a penalty of double the required postage went into effect for letters not properly paid: three cent for postage and three cents for penalty. The penalty lasted until 1 May 1865.



Cover from Cambridge to Lowell MA. Three cent stamp not accepted, two cent stamp added and 'due 1' indicating one cent due from recipient. Mailed after the penalty period ended.