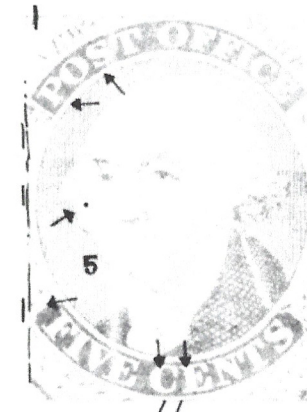
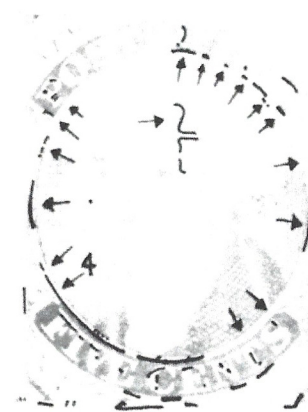
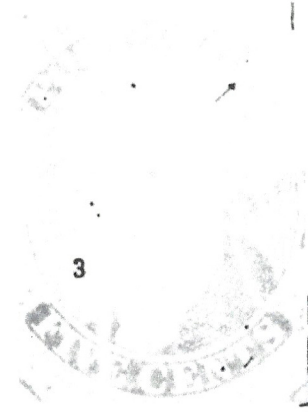
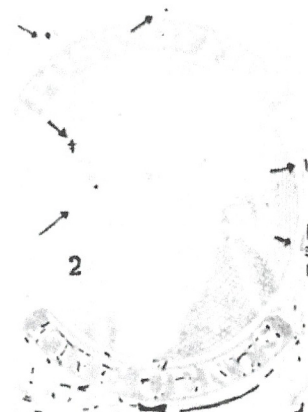
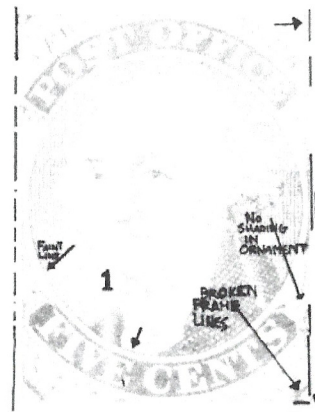
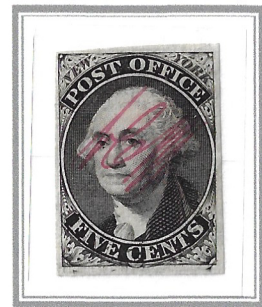


# Reconstruction of the Sheet of 40

The finished stamp was printed from a plate of 40 subjects, in eight rows of five. Diagrams are taken from "The New York Postmaster Provisional", by Stanley M. Piller, 1991



Pos. 1



Pos. 2



Pos. 3-4



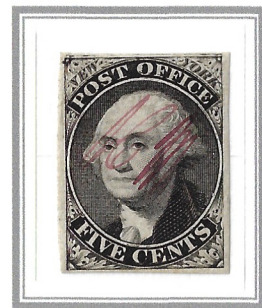
Pos. 4

Pos. 5



Pos. 6

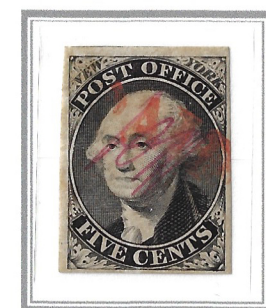
Pos. 7



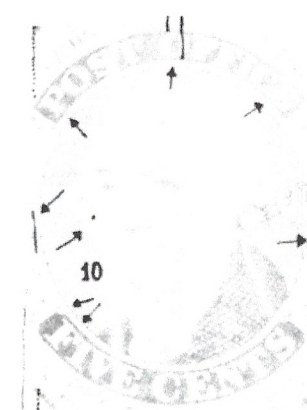
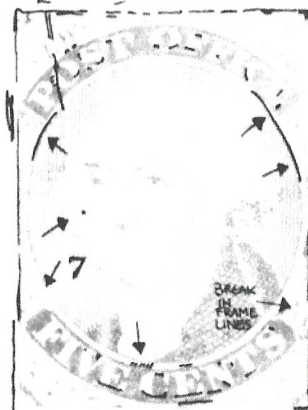
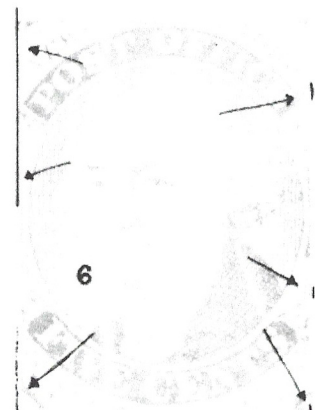
Pos. 7



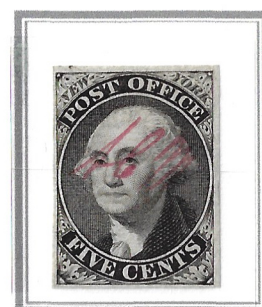
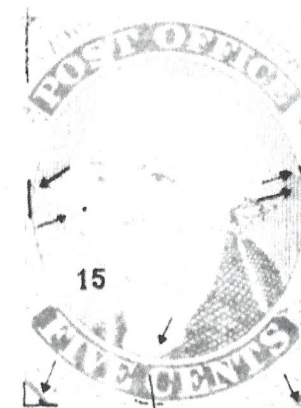
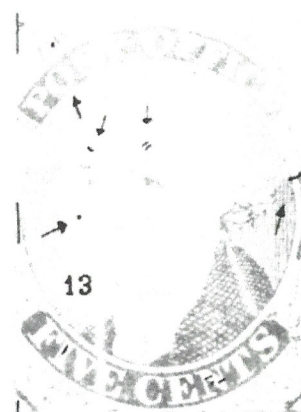
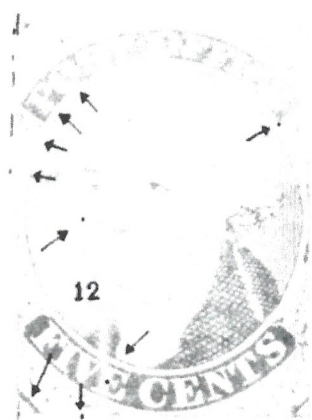
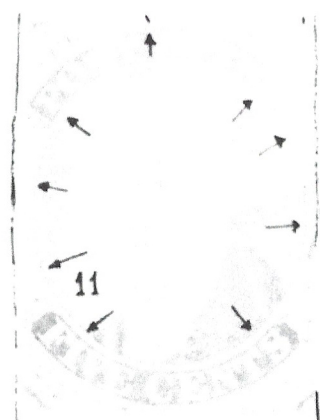
Pos. 8-9



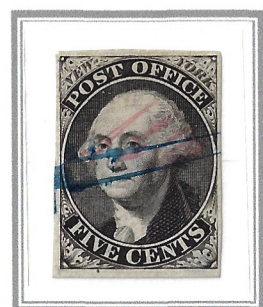
Pos. 10







Pos. 11



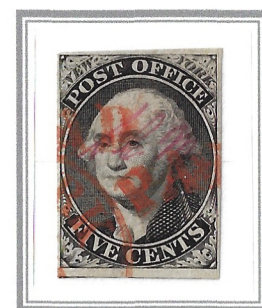
Pos. 12



Pos. 13



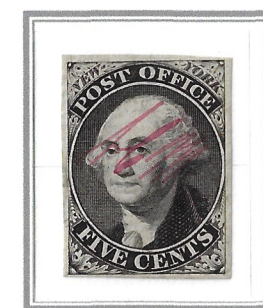
Pos. 14-15



Pos. 16



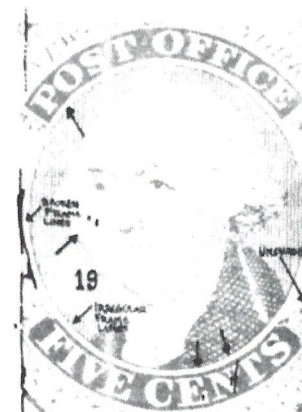
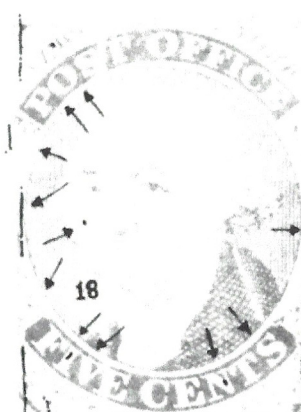
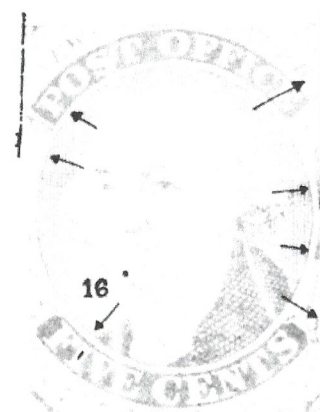
Pos. 17-18



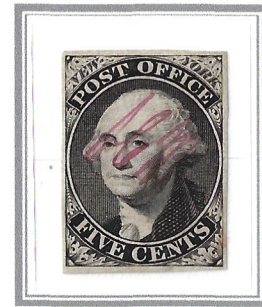
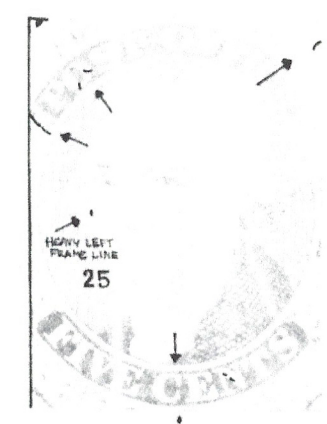
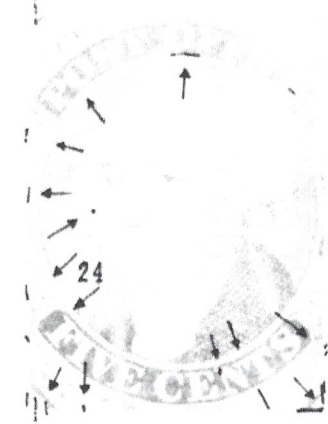
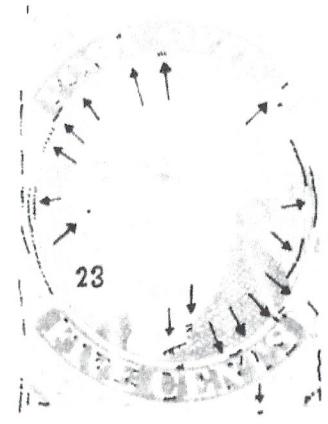
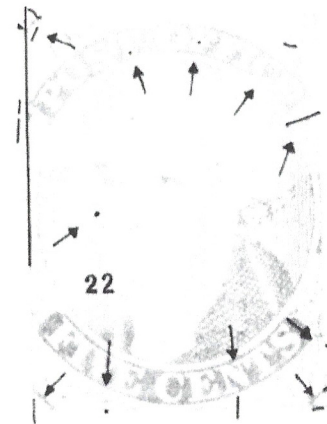
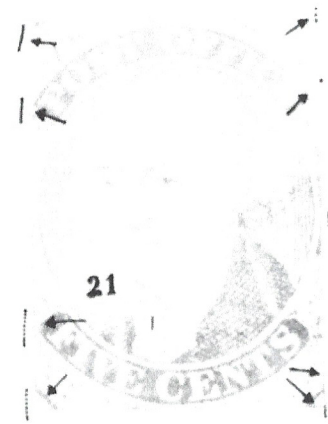
Pos. 19



Pos. 20



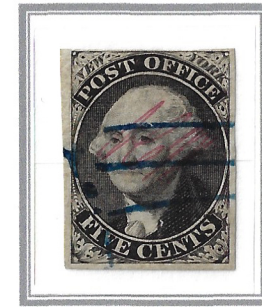




Pos. 21



Pos. 22



Pos. 23



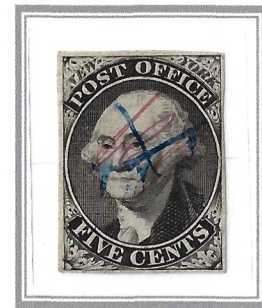
Pos. 24

Pos. 25

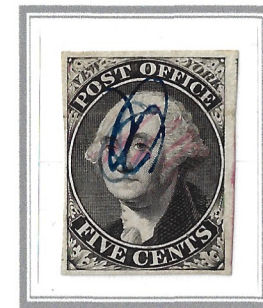


Pos. 25

Pos. 30



Pos. 26



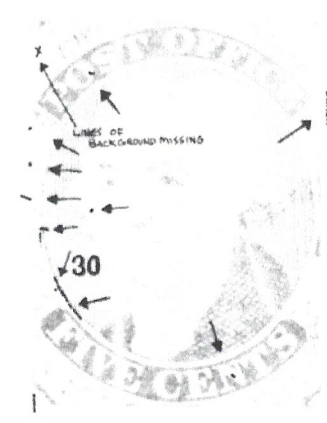
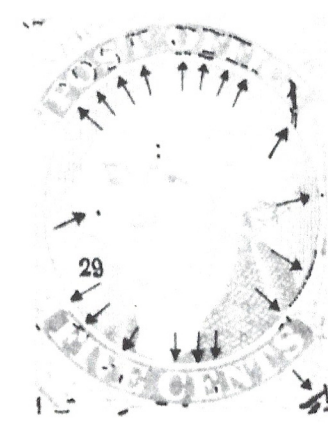
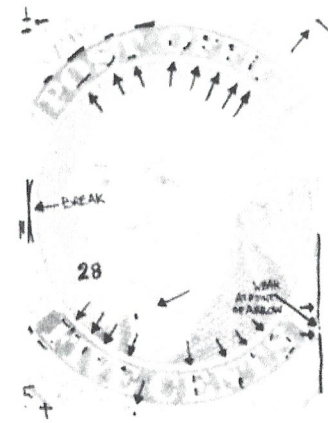
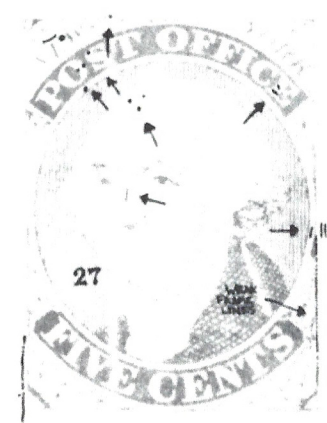
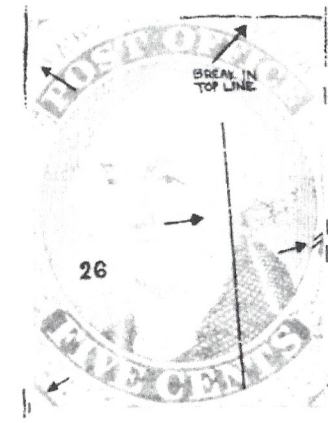
Pos. 27



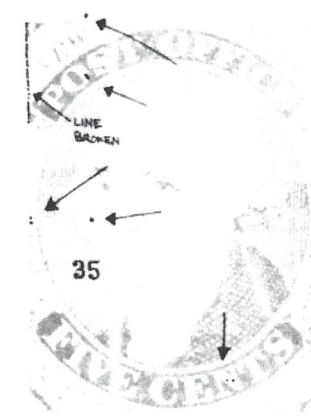
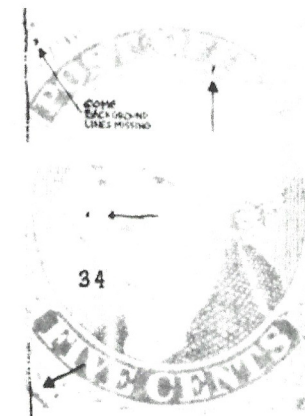
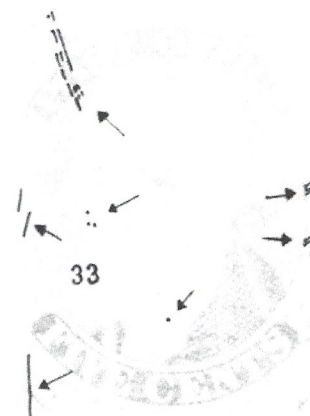
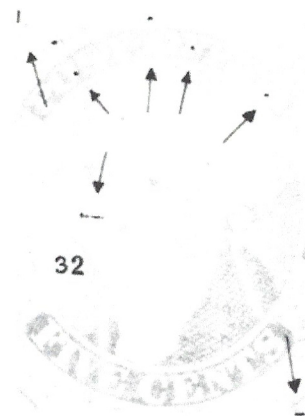
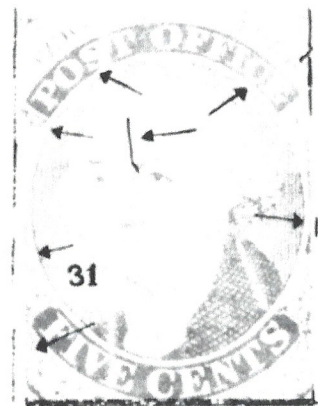
Pos. 28



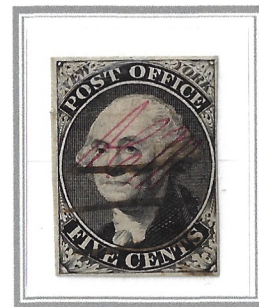
Pos. 29







Pos. 31



Pos. 32



Pos. 33



Pos. 34-35



Pos. 36-37

Pos. 38

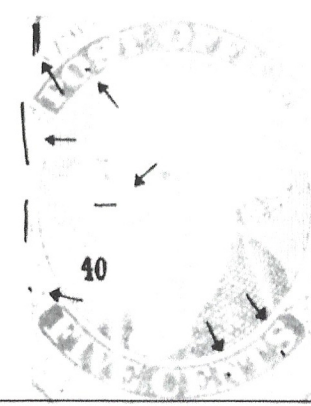
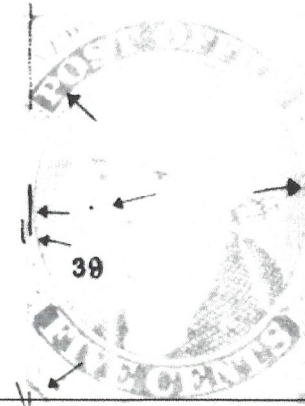
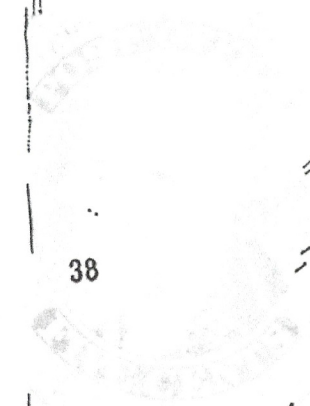
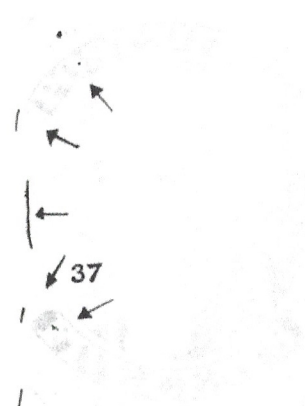
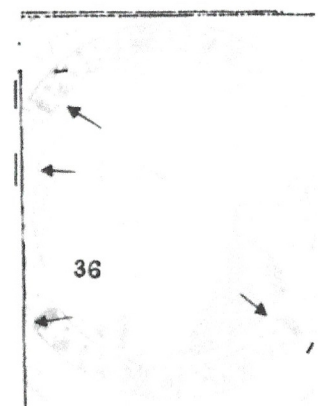


Pos. 38

Pos. 39



Pos. 40





## The Full Sheet of Forty

### Attempts at Plating

The first attempt to describe this stamp was in an article in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* (1894), in which Frederick W. Hunter stated that it was a pane of 100 in a 10x10 format. Much of his evidence was "hearsay".

John N. Luff was the first U.S. collector to actually attempt the plating of the stamp, and both he and O.S. Hart thought it was a pane of 50 in a 5-column format. However, stamps for some of the positions were never identified.

In 1921, A. Hatfield Jr. published a reconstruction as a 40-subject pane in the correct 5x8 format.

### Printing

Postmaster Robert H. Morris paid the first bill for the stamps out of his own pocket. It amounted to \$55.01, including \$40 for engraving the steel plate; \$10 for printing 1000 sheets; and \$5.01 for 167 sheets of gummed paper.

A total of 3,590 sheets of 40, or 143,600 stamps, were delivered by the printers Rawdon, Hatch & Wright to the New York Post Office between July 12, 1845 and January 7, 1847.

### Survival Rate

In 1965 John R. Boker estimated that 6000 New York provisional stamps had survived, including 300 uncanceled examples. In 1982, Phillip T. Wall later revised those numbers to 5,500 total, on and off cover, with 500 of those uncanceled. As of May 2016, the Scheuer Census on the U.S. Philatelic Classics website includes 836 covers (or stamps on piece). This includes 188 with two stamps; 5 with 3 stamps; 25 with four stamps; 1 with 6 stamps; and 1 with 12 stamps.

### Postmaster Announcements

On July 12, 1845, Morris sent a letter to the postmasters of Boston, Philadelphia, Albany and Washington D.C., including an example of the stamp, and alerting them to the possibility that a letter bearing one of them might be posted at their post offices. He advised them to mark the letter unpaid and indicated that when it reached his post office, he would consider it a paid letter.

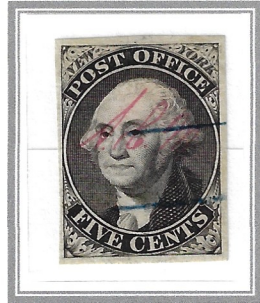
On July 14, 1845, Morris placed two advertisements in the New York papers. One informed the public of these stamps, and that they would be sold in strips of 5 at the main and branch post offices only. The second noted the July 16 sailing of the Cunard steamer *Acadia* from Boston to Liverpool, and that use of the new stamps would expedite the making up of the mail for Boston.





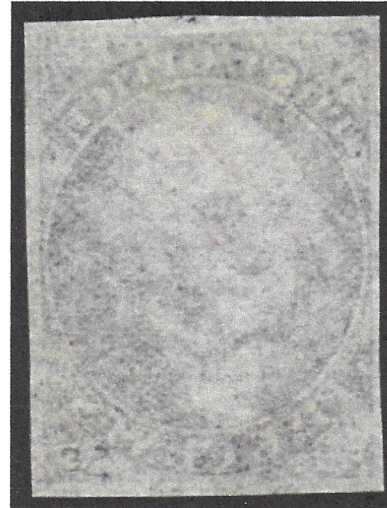
Below are examples of two different watermark varieties and of a pelure paper variety. Enlarged scans of the reverse are shown which best bring out the various characteristics of each. Note that the “ACM” or “A.C.M.” seen next to the stamps below are the initials of the deputy clerk, Alonzo Castle Monson, applied for security purposes. These will be explained in more detail later in the exhibit.

Pos. 32  
“A.C.M.”

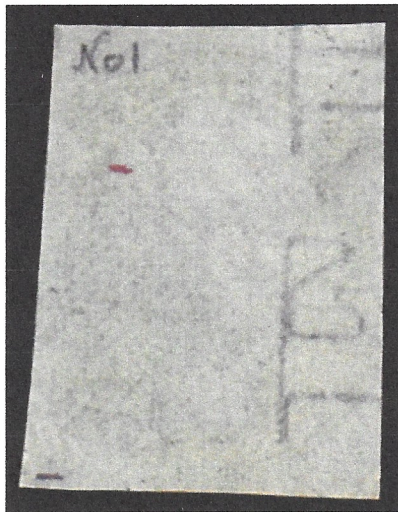


Pelure is a very thin paper that shows the design quite well from the reverse.

Pelure Paper



Double Line Watermark

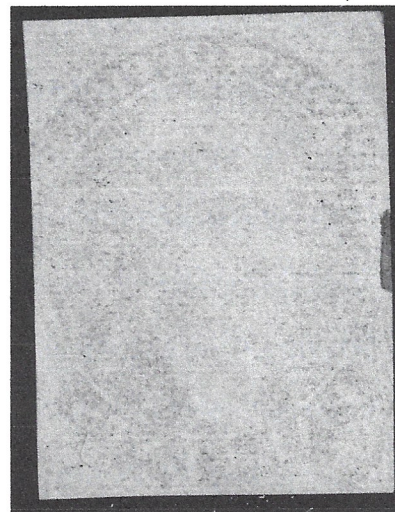


Pos. 1  
“ACM”

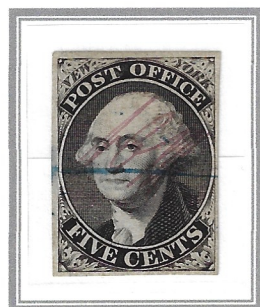


The double line is clearly seen, with the first letter an “E” or “F”.

Stitch Watermark ↓



Pos. 19  
“ACM”



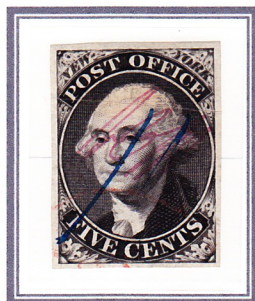
The stitch watermark is difficult to see and runs vertically at the far left.





The off- and on-cover examples below show evidence of creases in the stamp paper that were made before printing and thus did not take up ink during the printing process.

Pos. 14  
"ACM"



The crease runs from just below the "P" of "POST" across and slightly down.

The crease in the stamp on the cover below runs from the middle left edge diagonally right and down through the "CE" of "CENTS", just missing the bottom left of Washington's chin.

Pos. 8  
"ACM"



The rate of 5c was for a letter of up to ½ oz. sent up to 300 miles.

PFC 415519

New York to Philadelphia, Pa.

October 11, 1845



The colors of the paper the NY Provisional was printed on include bluish white, gray and blue. The bluish-white accounts for perhaps 95% of all stamps. The blue and gray paper varieties are believed to have come from the last printing of 100 sheets on January 7, 1847. All known blue and grey covers are postmarked after that date.

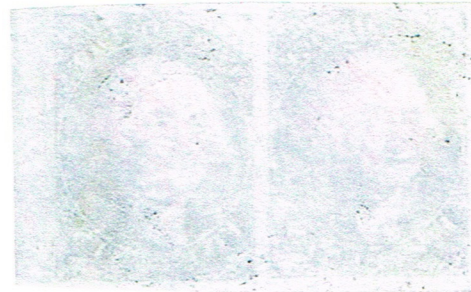
It is often quite difficult to tell these papers apart, especially when they are on-cover and canceled. For that reason I have put **enlarged scans** of the backs of pairs of the bluish-white, gray and blue papers below. Each of these items is in this exhibit.



**Bluish-white**  
(see Frame 3, page 12)



**Gray**  
(see Frame 3, page 7)



**Blue**  
(see Frame 3, page 6)

**On-cover Stamp on Bluish-white Paper**

Pos. 7-8  
"ACM"



PFC 351185

New York to Ann Arbor, Mich.

March 21, 1847



The blue paper variety is a hard paper of medium thickness. It is estimated that 40-50 examples of the NY Provisional on blue paper exist. There are twelve covers franked with blue paper in the Scheuer Census of the NY Provisional, the earliest dated March 4, 1847.

One of 4 known blue paper pairs

One of 2 Used, Unsigned

Pos. 9, 10  
"ACM"



PFC 331778

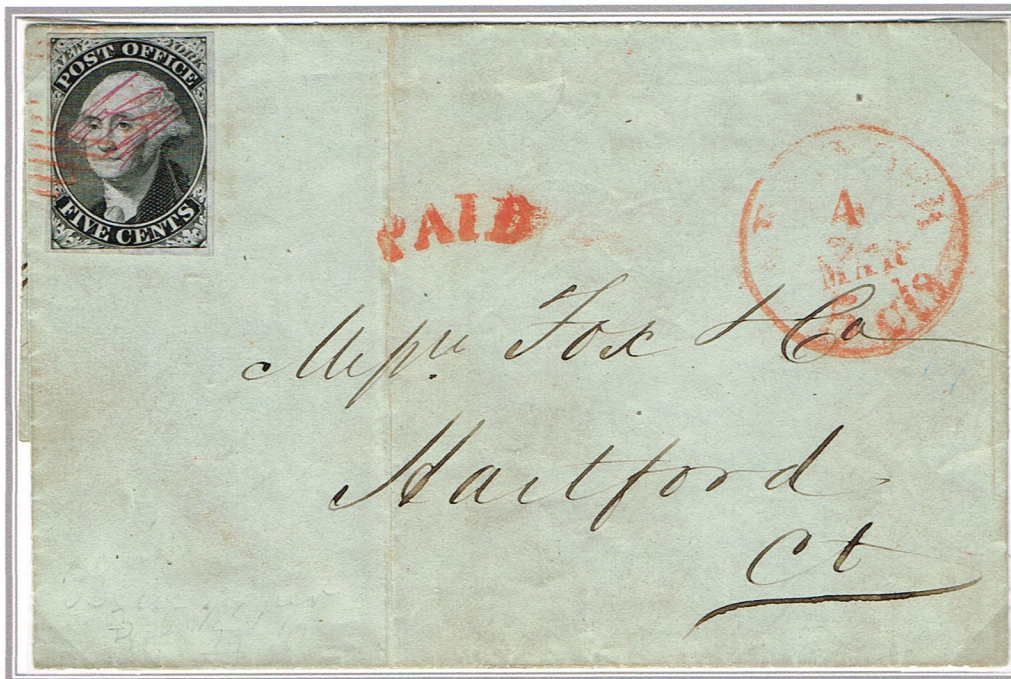
Pos. 4



PFC 264805

The Earliest Recorded Example of the Blue Paper Variety

Pos. 9  
"ACM"



PFC 483250

New York to Hartford, Conn.

March 4, 1847



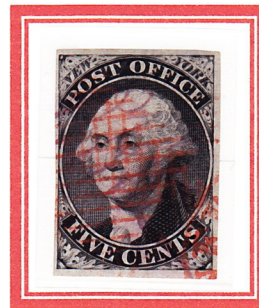
The gray paper variety is a hard battleship gray of thin or medium thickness. I have found records of 25 off-cover gray paper stamps, including two pairs, three with no control initials, and seven with "RHM" initials. According to Siegel Auction Galleries, there are twelve recorded covers bearing gray paper adhesives, not including the example with the straight line 5c CDS in Frame 3, page one of this exhibit. The earliest known use of the gray paper variety is February 8, 1847. Gray paper stamps on cover appear to be more elusive than blue paper on-cover examples, although the reverse seems true with off-cover examples.

**"RHM" Initials  
Reading down**



PFC 504298

Pos. 31-32



Pos. 38

There are four recorded examples of off-cover gray paper stamps with "RHM" reading up, and three reading down.



Pos. 37  
"ACM"



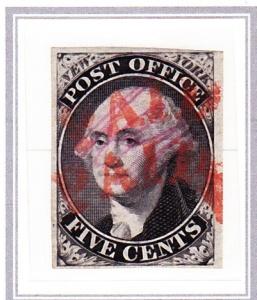
PFC 304759

New York to Lakeville, Conn.

March 30, 1847

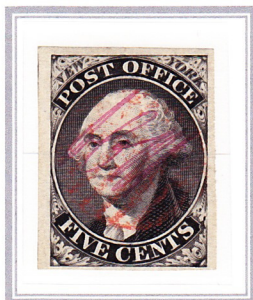


Curved "PAID"

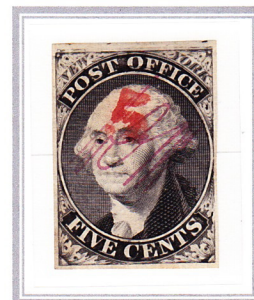


PAID

Boston Grid Cancel

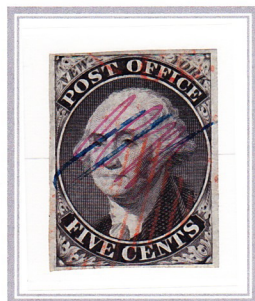


"5" Rate Mark



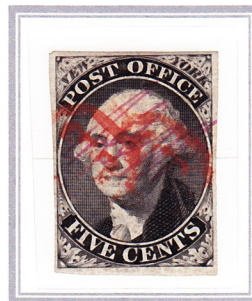
5

Canadian Split Circle "U.C."



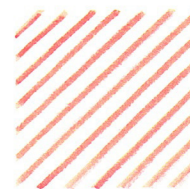
Blue Paper

"U.S." in Octagon



Fewer than 12 examples recorded

13-bar Grid



Used from Nov. 1846