

Until late 1846, the majority of cancels on the NY Provisional were done in manuscript. That appears to have changed dramatically with the introduction of the 13-bar grid canceller in November 1846. At that point manuscript cancels declined to ~10-15%. Of the manuscript cancels, perhaps 85-90% were in blue ink, with the rest split between black and magenta. 📖

Blue Manuscript

Pos. 9-10
"ACM"



Pos. 5-10
"ACM"

PFC
385770

New York to Grand Rapids, Mich.

February 14, 1846

A review of the over 750 covers in the census of the New York Postmaster Provisional on the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society website confirms that the black and magenta manuscript cancels account for ~15% of all manuscript cancels on this stamp, and that magenta appears a bit less common than does black. 📖

Magenta Manuscript



Pos. 1
unsigned

PFC 132904

New York to Boston, Mass.

August 18, 1845

Black Manuscript

Pos. 9
"ACM"

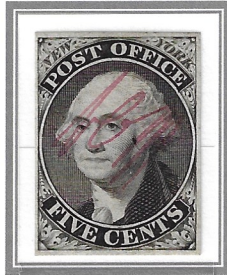


New York to Plattsburg, NY

January 11, 1846

By July 17 we start to see various types of initials on the stamps. The most common of these markings are “ACM” with all initials connected, written in magenta ink. The initials were of Alonzo Castle Monson, brother-in-law of Postmaster Morris, but applied not only by Monson, but likely by several other clerks as well.

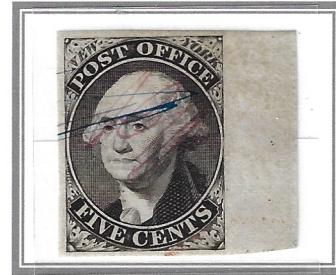
Unused



Pos. 25



Margin Copy



Pos. 15

One of 3 strips of three, on cover or piece



Pos. 6-7-8



Pos. 39-40

New York, NY to Buffalo, NY

February 14 1847

PFC 504576

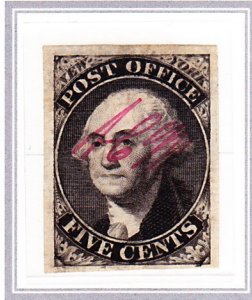
The next most common type of initials are very similar to those of the previous ones, with the difference being that the “AC” are connected but not connected with the “M”. These were believed to have been applied by W.C.R. Engrist, a clerk in the post office. They are perhaps not quite so common as the “ACM” fully connected.

AC M

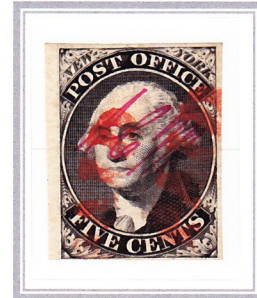
Unused

“PAID” cancel

Pos. 4



Pos. 11



Unused Pair



Pos. 1-2



Pos. 6

RPS 83227

New York to New Haven, Conn.

January 17, 1847

Control Markings

Se-Tenant Pairs "ACM - AC M"

There are possibly 7-8 examples of adjacent NY Provisional adhesives with different control initials. One is a vertical off-cover pair with one of the stamps not initialed. There are 4-5 off-cover examples with the initials "ACM" (Connected) - "AC M" (unconnected), and a single off-cover example with initials in the reverse order. Finally, there is one example on cover with "ACM" (connected) - "AC M" (unconnected).

ACM AC M

Pos. 24
"ACM"



Pos. 25
"AC M"

PFC 454583

The Only Recorded Use on Cover of a Se-Tenant Pair



PFC 474278

New York to Buffalo, NY

March 21, 1846

Pos. 13, 14
"AC M" - "ACM"

The initials “A.C.M.”, with periods, were likely signed by Marcena Monson, the brother of Alonzo Castle Monson. It is seen in two forms, with and without an additional roll of the forward curve at the beginning of the “C.” The former (with) is less common and is pictured below. Both types, in total, are less common than the other ACM initials. The earliest known example of the “A.C.M.” initials is on July 17, 1845.

A.C.M.

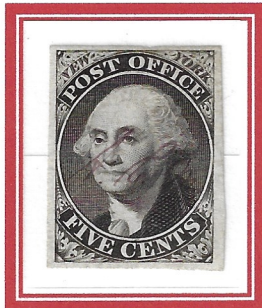
Unused

NYFM “5 PAID”

Pos. 15

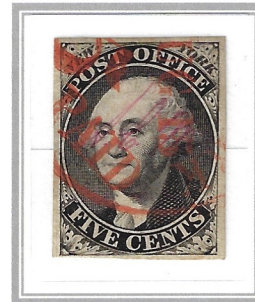
One of 6 reported examples

PFC 167094



Pos. 1 w/ additional roll

PFC 271842



Variety - A C M.

Pos. 29-30

PFC 504297



Pos. 40

PFC 265730



New York to Philadelphia, Pa.

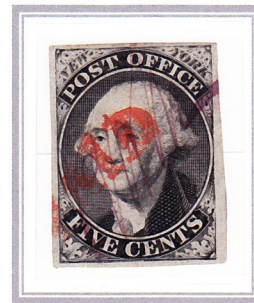
September 15, 1845

The initials “RHM” are the least common type of initials, with the exception of “M.M.Jr. ”, which is known only on a full cover, a cover front and an off-cover example. There are 13 covers known franked with the “RHM” variety, and less than 25 off-cover copies. Of the latter, one is unused; five are on gray paper (with two having the initials reading up, rather than down as normal), and one is on pelure paper. The earliest known example of “RHM” control initials is on July 17, 1845.



“RHM” Reading Up on Gray Paper

There are four recorded examples of off-cover gray paper stamps with “RHM” reading upwards, and three reading downwards.



Pos. 31

One of 6 covers from NYC with the “RHM” control marking



Pos. 14

PFC 216461

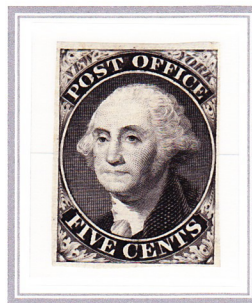
New York to New Bedford, Mass.

March 13, 1846

The earliest examples of the New York Postmaster Provisional adhesive had no control markings, as shown by the covers postmarked on July 15, 1845. However, examples exist of adhesives on gray and blue paper without control initials, thus some of the last sheets produced escaped being initialed as well. They are probably a bit less common than the "A.C.M." examples.

Unused on
Pelure Paper

Pos. 32



PFC 321611

Pos. 6, 7



PFC 448931

New York to Michigan

November 15, 1845

Postmarks

red 30mm CDS (NEW - YORK with no rate)

The American Stampless Cover Catalog indicates that this CDS was used in several variations as early as 1833. However, by the time this issue was introduced on July 15, 1845, integral 5c and 10c CDS' had been introduced. Per the Scheuer census, this CDS - with no integral rate - is seen on only 5% of New York Postmaster Provisional covers.



Pos. 25
"ACM"

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

New York, NY to Troy, NY

September 28, 1846



Pos. 13-14
"ACM"

The rate of 10c was for a letter of up to ½ oz. sent over 300 miles.

PFC 277528

New York, NY to Trinity, La.

October 30, 1846

Postmarks

red 30mm CDS (Integral Curved 5c and 10c)

These CDS were in use prior to the first day of use of the NY Postmaster Provisional adhesive, and lasted throughout its use.

Pos. 38
"ACM"

The rate of 5c was for a letter of up to 1/2 oz. sent up to 300 miles.



New York to Pottsville Pa..

March 14, 1846



Pos. 22-23
"ACM"

The rate of 10c was for a letter of up to 1/2 oz. sent over 300 miles.

New York to Greensboro, Ala.

October 2, 1846

This CDS was reserved for letters sent to Europe, reflecting the 5c portion of the 24c rate that had to be paid in the U.S. by the sender. It is known used from July 31, 1845 to December 30, 1846. The cover below is one of 30 genuine covers recorded as sent to France.

Pos. 25
"ACM"



PFC 180472

New York via Boston and London to Lyons, France

July 15, 1846

Cunard steamer *Britannia* (July 16 - July 31)



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

An additional 25 decimes was paid by the addressee for Br. sea post and transit (10 dec.) and Fr. transit (15 dec.).

These CDS appear to have been used during the period from November 1846 to April 1847. Instead of the curved "5 Cts" following the arc of the circle, they contain the rate in a straight line, usually separated by the date above by a 12mm bar. Approximately 10 NY Provisional covers are known with the 5c CDS and only three examples are recorded with the 10c CDS.

Both Adhesives are on Gray Paper

Pos. 19
"ACM"

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



PFC 515910

New York, NY to Lakeville, Conn.

March 23, 1847

The Only Recorded On-Cover Example of a Gray Paper Pair

Pos. 14-15
"ACM"

The rate of 10c was for a letter of up to ½ oz. sent over 300 miles.



PFC 265728

New York, NY to Greensboro, Alabama

April 30, 1847

Earliest Documented Uses

Rawdon, Wright & Hatch first delivered these stamps to the NY Post Office on Saturday, July 12, 1845. Philip Wall states "...it is believed that the stamps were not placed on sale until Monday, July 14." The earliest documented use (EDU) of these stamps is on July 15. Only three are known sent to domestic addresses, while 12 are known sent to foreign destinations. The reason for the preponderance of the latter appears to be in the July 14 advertisement from PM Morris promoting the stamp and its use in expediting the making up of the mails for the steamer *Acadia*. None of the stamps on the EDUs have control markings.



One of 3 Recorded Earliest Documented Domestic Uses

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

PFC 185777

New York to Philadelphia, Pa.

July 15, 1845



One of 11 Recorded Earliest Documented Foreign Uses

Posted 5c paid as a 0-½ oz. letter sent up to 300 miles to Boston, it transited London, Boulogne and Paris on its way to Augsburg. At Augsburg, it was marked 50 kreuzer due (34 kr. for France and 16 kr. for Germany).

PFC 503946 - cleaned

New York *via* Boston, Liverpool and London to Augsburg, Bavaria

July 15, 1845

Cunard steamer *Acadia* (July 16 - 29)

Domestic Usage

up to 300 miles

up to ½ oz.

The New York Postmaster Provisional stamp was very widely used to nearly all states in the U.S. (at that time) and to thirteen foreign countries.



Within the 0-300 mile rate zone, this stamp was used to other New York cities and towns; to all the New England states except Maine (where the destinations were in the >300 mile rate zone); to Pennsylvania; New Jersey; Delaware; Maryland; and the District of Columbia.

The 0-300 mile zone is shaded in light blue.

To New York State



Pos. 22
"ACM"

PFC 110782

New York to Mount Laurel, NY.

March 25, 1847

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

To Connecticut



Pos. 14
"ACM"
no periods

The rate of 5c was
for a letter of up
to 1/2 oz. sent up
to 300 miles.

New York to Hartford, Conn.

September 12, 1945

To New Jersey
First Two Weeks of Use

Pos. 4
unsigned

The rate of 5c was
for a letter of up
to 1/2 oz. sent up
to 300 miles.



New York to Plainfield, NJ

July 25, 1845

Sent from Norfolk to New York
Forwarded to Maryland with Provisional Adhesive

"ACM"

The rate of 5c was
for a letter of up
to 1/2 oz. sent up
to 300 miles.



Norfolk, Va. to New York, forwarded to Baltimore, Md.

Dec. 24, 1845

Sent to Rhode Island

Pos. 32
unsigned

The rate of 5c was
for a letter of up
to 1/2 oz. sent up
to 300 miles.



New York to Providence, R.I.

September 4, 1845