

25X Transcontinental Rate Usage, Mixed Use of 1c, 10c and 12c Stamps  
Used for Commercial Purposes, 14 Oct, 1857



San Francisco, CA, to Coleman & Bailey (ship chandler and operator of omnibuses, 105-197 Thames St. 105-197 (by 1858 city directory), Baltimore, MD, 14 Oct, 1857 dated CDS, via Panama, 10c rate (after 1855).

14x 1857 perforated 10c Green, Types I (horizontal strip of 5, scarce), II, and III 2 x 1c are Type II.

12c Pos. left to right: 74-76R1, 64-66R1, 86-88R1

Total postage is 9x 12c (\$1.08) + 14x 10c (\$1.40) + 2x 1c (\$0.02) = \$2.50, (25X 10c transcontinental rate). (E)

24X Rate < 3000 Miles, **Largest 12c Letter Franking**



Plattsburgh, NY, to Elizabethtown, NY. Red and black ink mixture yields brownish appearing grids and CDS. Vertical pair are pos. 11L1/11L1; strip of 3 are pos. 22L1-25L1.

Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, to Washington, D.C., 1 Jan, 1855 via **Chorpenning Route**  
2X or 3X Transcontinental Rate, Mixed Usage, **2 Recorded Examples**



Chorpenning Route, mail delivery under contract from Utah, via California, to the East. With no intercontinental railroad, the mail would be carried over the Old Spanish Trail to California then "Via Panama" for transport to the east. 12c stamp (pos. 17R1) pays 2X transcontinental rate. 3c stamp plate, color and ink date to 1855. Postal history indicates the two 3c stamps likely paid a PM unofficial double rate from Salt Lake City to California. **By mid-1855, the 10c transcontinental rate had gone into effect.**

VI. Domestic Uses

Large and Heavy Mail  
Printed Matter

Domestic Printed Matter Charged Multiple Letter Rate\*



Large 22 page, 2.75 oz. tea auction market catalog as mailed.  
New York to Providence, RI, 23 Aug, 1854, carried by Express Mail Train.  
Charged 6X First Class Letter Rate (3c/ .5 oz.)

Marked "market catalog," by the sender, the printed matter rate (1c at the time) was likely assumed. However, the catalog was wax sealed and contain copious written notes, which violated the regulations of 1852 and 1851, respectively.

*Only example of printed matter used with 12c 1851 by specialists.\**

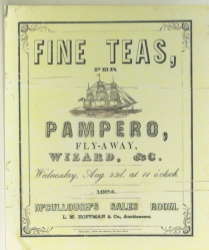
CHANGE: Printed matter rates changed 3 times in the decade.

1 March, 1851: 3c rate for "Pamphlets unconnected with written matter."

30 August, 1852: 1c rate for "all printed matter not exceeding 3 oz."

"unsealed" requirement.

3 March, 1855: 3c rate per .5oz for printed matter containing ANY writing, signs, marks.\*



## VI. Domestic Uses

### Transcontinental Rules Before 1855 Changes

#### 3X Transcontinental Rate (18c), Mixed Usage



New Bedford, MA to San Francisco, 19 Jan, 1853, outer folded letter sheet, paid fully with stamps.

#### 3X Transcontinental Rate Part Paid With 12c Stamp



Boston, MA to San Francisco, 19 Oct, 1854, folded letter sheet. 2 letter rates paid with 12c stamp, cancelled with "PAID", third rate (unpaid) marked in Boston with "10 cts" (DUE). Pos. 47R1. [One 12c example recorded with this rate and due marking.](#)

[New transcontinental rates had gone into effect in 1 July, 1851. Boston introduces the new "PAID" cancel \(Blake 621\) and the "DUE" cancel \(Blake 539 and 540, ca. 1853-1854\) to manage the rate deficiencies.](#)

# NEW POSTAGE ACT.

## Instructions to Postmasters.

The particular attention of Postmasters and others is invited to the provisions of the annexed act, passed at the last session of Congress. It will be observed—

1st. That from and after April 1st, 1855, the single rate of postage on a letter conveyed in the mail for any distance *between places in the United States* not exceeding three thousand miles, is three cents; and for any distance exceeding three thousand miles, ten cents.

2d. That from and after April 1st, 1855, pre-payment, either by stamps, stamped envelopes or in money, is compulsory.

3d. That from and after January 1st, 1856, all letters between places in the United States must be pre-paid, either by postage stamps, or stamped envelopes.

4th. That the laws relating to the franking privilege are not altered.

5th. That the existing rates and regulations in regard to letters to or from Canada and all other foreign countries remain unchanged.

Unpaid letters mailed before April 1st, 1855, will be forwarded and delivered upon the payment of the postage by the person addressed.

Postage stamps and stamped envelopes of the denomination of ten cents will be prepared and issued speedily; and the Department will use every exertion to supply all the Post Offices with one and three cent stamps also, as fast as they may be required.

Absolute prepayment being required on all letters to places within the United States, *from and after 1st April, 1855*, great care should be used, as well in prepaying the proper amount on letters above the weight of half an ounce as on single letters.

Postmasters will post up conspicuously in their respective offices a notice calling attention to the provision of the act requiring prepayment.

The provisions in regard to the registration of valuable letters will be carried into effect and special instructions issued on the subject as soon as the necessary blanks can be prepared and distributed.

JAMES CAMPBELL,

*Postmaster General.*

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

March 12, 1855.

*New Postage act  
March 27/1853-*

New Use After 1855 Act

Domestic Registration – 4X Rate – Special Instructions



Single 12c stamp pays 4X rate from Philadelphia to Chelsea, VT, 12 June, 1856. Unreduced, square envelope contained gold foil from producer in Philadelphia for renowned dentist Sebre Gustin, and is marked "P.O. Stamp Lightly." Reg. # 217, Pos. 49L1. The Act of 3 March, 1855 provided for registration of valuable letters, requiring 5c cash prepayment per letter as of 1 July, 1855. *5 Recorded Examples of Domestic Registration With 12c Stamp*

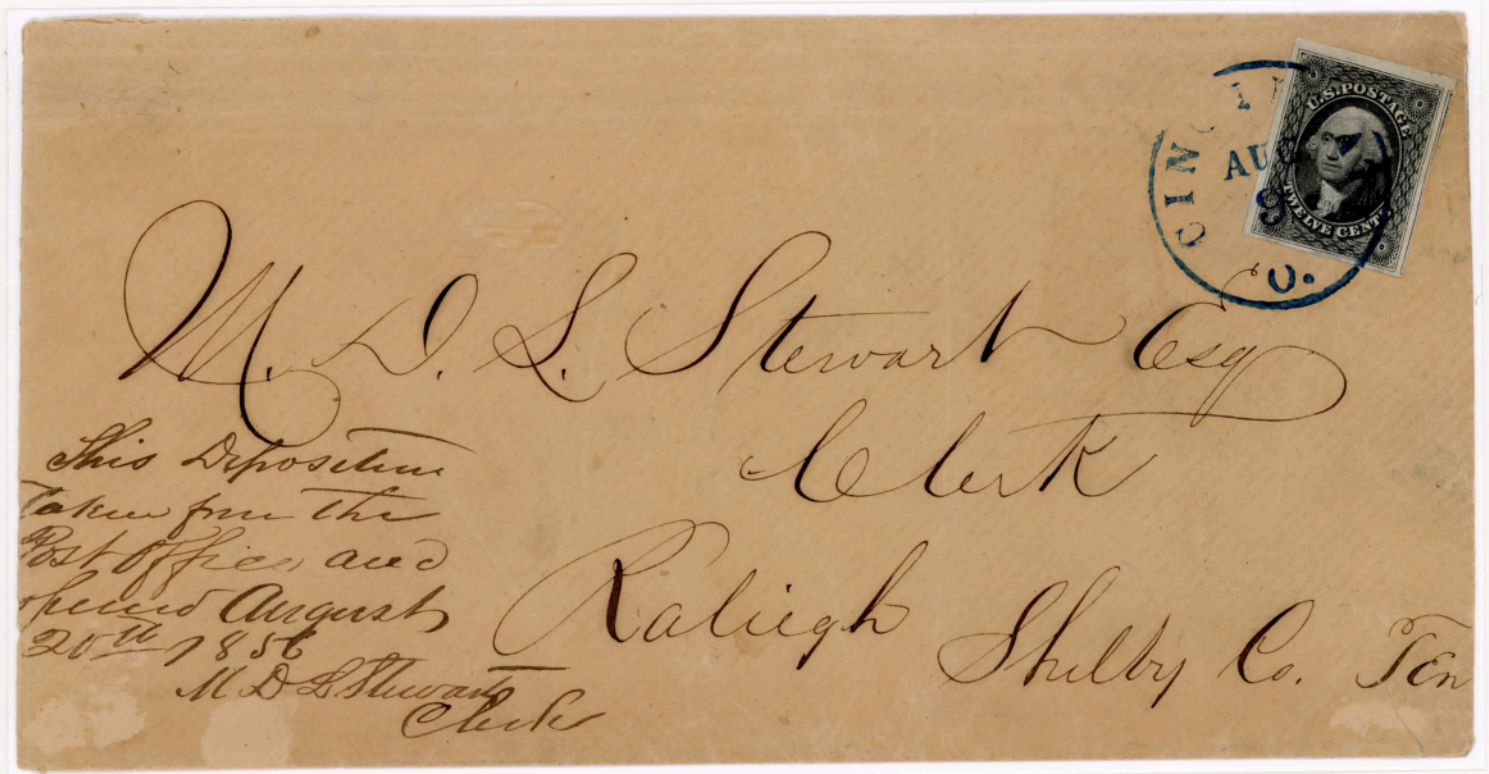
Domestic Registration – 5X Rate



Mixed denominations pay 5X domestic rate ≤ 3000 miles from Lancaster, PA to Philadelphia, PA, 14 Feb 1857. Manuscript "R" and No. 70 denote registration. 12c pos. 35R1.

Uses After 1855

After the 1855 Postal Law Changes, Quadruple Rate Most Common\* 12c Use



Cincinnati, Ohio, to Raleigh, Tennessee, 9 August, 1856  
Legal deposition, officially opened by county clerk. Stamp position 1R1.

The 1855 introduction of the 10c transcontinental rate and stamp reduced the use of 12c stamps for that purpose.

\*The 12c stamp remained the workhorse for heavier legal and commercial mails, with the most common franking being the single stamp, quadruple domestic rate use. The survival rate for such covers was low, and no large caches have ever been discovered.

## VI. Domestic Uses

### Transcontinental Rules After 1855 Changes

2X Rate Part Paid With 12c Stamp



San Francisco to Philadelphia, dateline 23 July, 1855, sent 23 July and received 24 Aug, 1855. Pos. 22R1 (E)

POD regulations, effective 1 July, 1855, Chapter VIII, Section 75: "Letter part paid should be dispatched charged the additional postage due at the prepaid rate, according to distance, established at said account, i.e.,  $(2 \times 10c) - 12c = 8c$  (Due).

12c Stamp Overpays New 10c TC Rate



San Francisco, 11 July to Philadelphia, 13 Aug, 1855. There was a shortage of 10c stamps at this time. Only 12c overpay example recorded. Pos. 32R1.

New transcontinental rates led to new 10c stamp issue whose supply to the west coast was disrupted early in their existence.



## VI. Domestic Uses

12c Use After 1855

Transcontinental Rate Change

### Double Transcontinental Rate Using the 12c Stamp – East to West



Boston, MA, to San Francisco, 19 April, 1856. A 12c stamp (Pos. 74L1) is combined with two Type IV 1c and two Type 1 3c to pay double the 10c transcontinental rate.

*6 recorded examples with complete 1851 series used for this purpose.*

The transcontinental rate was changed to 10c / ½ oz. on 1 April, 1855. A 10c stamp was issued as well.

### Double Transcontinental Rate Using the 12c Stamp – West to East



San Francisco, CA, to Philadelphia, PA, 5 Aug, 1856. A 12c stamp (Pos. 31L1) is combined with two Type IV 1c and two Type 1 3c to pay double the 10c transcontinental rate. (E)

## 12c Pays Rates by U.S. Star Routes on Inland Waterways



New Orleans to Rodney, MS, 25 April, 1857. Multipage commercial letter  $\leq 3000$  miles carried by U.S. Mail Packet "Natchez." Blue hand stamp serves as cancel and is the only carrier appearing with route marking (7309). 12c pays 4x rate. Pos. 59R1. Route 7309 was discontinued in mid-1858. Its replacement Route 8165 continued until May, 1861, when all contracts of seceded states were discontinued bringing an end to this U.S. Star Route contract.  
Both of these examples are considered unique by specialists.



Outer wrapper of sealed court deposition from New Orleans to Baton Rouge via Route 7809. Received 16 Oct, 1856. 12c pays portion of 5X rate. Three strikes of this "steam" cancel is characteristic of Baton Rouge. Pos. 58L1. Route contract existed from July, 1856 to March, 1857, daily, New Orleans to Cairo, IL on the Mississippi River.

VI. Domestic Uses

Non-Postal

Uncommon Use of Used 12c Stamp in Traditional Legal Role as a Seal (Sigillum)  
Michigan Deed Transfer, Ann Arbor, 5 April 1855

bearing even date herewith, executed by the said *William Tate*  
of the second part, then these presents and the said *Tate* shall cease  
to be of force or effect of them or any part thereof  
shall be lawful for the said part of the second part, his heirs, executors, administrators  
of the second part, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, to grant, bargain,  
the highest bidder without appraisal, and on such sale to make and execute to the pur-  
Deeds of Conveyance in Law, and from the moneys arising from such sale to retain so  
ve accrued thereon

closure of this mortgage, including reasonable charges for attorney's or solicitor's services,  
executors, administrators or assigns.

set *their* hand and seal, the day and year first above written.

*William Tate*

*Sarah M Tate*



STATE OF MICHIGAN, }

COUNTY OF *Washtenaw*

the above described

*William Tate & Sarah M his wife*

I hereby certify that on this *5th*

ss.

day of *April*

A.D. 18*55*

to me well known to be the individual described in, and who executed the foregoing mortgage, personally  
acknowledged before me that *They* executed the same for the uses and purposes therein expressed. And  
the said *Sarah M. Tate*

wife of the said *William Tate*

upon a private examination, separate and apart from *he &* said husband acknowledged before me  
that *she* executed the foregoing mortgage freely, and without any fear or compulsion from *he &* said  
husband or any other person. Given under my hand.

*Wm. M. ...*  
*Wm. M. ...*

Use of personal seals as above had legal significance in contract law. The seal signified official execution of the deed, that is, "signed, sealed and delivered." It fell out of favor in late 19th, early 20th century, overall.

The used stamp was likely supplied by the attorney. It happened to be the 12c stamp.

Non-postal uses are very uncommon.

Most Uncommon - Domestic Cancel Used on Foreign Mail at New York City



New York to Liverpool by Am Pkt, Dep NY 20 Aug 1853 on Collins Line *Arctic*, Arr LP 30 Aug 1853, Pos. 11-12L1

Domestic Cancel Used on Foreign Mail at New York City in Red, Not Known in Domestic Department at the Time



New York by Am Pkt, Dep NY 10 June 1854 on Collins Line *Baltic*, Arr LP 21 June, Arr London 22 June, 1854, Pos. 95-96L1

The New York Post Office endured the most change in activity and volume in the decade. Errors or non-standard practices were going to occur with such high volume and so many departmental changes, but they are very uncommon.

Over 600 Foreign Rate Changes, Rules, Exchange Offices, Especially New York, Drive Marking Changes  
 12c Stamps Bear Many "New" Markings of the Decade, Sometimes Used as Cancels



Incoming Ocean Mail,  
 Foreign or Domestic, "New"  
 Pos. 11L1



French receiving marking used  
 as a cancellation, "New"  
 Pos. 47R1



NY, Supplementary Mail  
 Type A (E), "New"



NY, Double British Credit "6"  
 "New," Pos. 44R1-45R1



NY, British Credit "3c"  
 by Am Packet, "New"



NY Exchange Office  
 British Pkt, "New," Pos. 5L1  
 Used For 7 months (E)



NY British Pkt Credit "38"  
 "New," Used For 7 months (E)  
 Pos. 63-6t4L1



NY British Pkt Credit "19"  
 "Old," Pos. 19R1



"Franco Pruss" – Aachen Exchange Office hand  
 stamp. Letter paid to G.A.P.U. Border. "New"  
 Pos. 36-46L1



Only recorded example of Victoria Post Office, Victoria, V.I. hand stamp  
 used with 12c imperf pair (Pos. 45-46R1), pays 29c rate with 5c Brick Red  
 Arr. London on Cunard Africa, Nov 5, 1860.

VII. Foreign Uses

London -Mixed Country Franking, Forwarding

2X Ireland Rate

Great Britain Treaty Rate Cover Forwarded to Paris, France



12c pair (Pos. 56-57L1) pays the treaty rate to London, Dep 9 Sept, 1857 on Cunard Line's *America*, Arr Liverpool 20 Sept. Forwarded to Paris by Peabody & Co, Arr Calais 22 Sep, and Paris 22 Sep, 1857. 4d GB added for forwarding. (E)

Double Treaty Rate to Ireland



Dep New York 12 Dec (date stamped 11 Dec), Arr Liverpool 25 Dec, Dublin 26 Dec, 1852, on American Packet Collins Line's *Baltic*. New York red "6" credit to GB for Am pkt.; 12c pos. 52-55L1. (E)

## VII. Foreign Uses

### Great Britain other than England

#### Treaty Rate to Wales



#### New Orleans to Port Penrhyn, Bangor, Wales

Dep. New Orleans 27 Nov, 1852, Dep Boston 8 Dec on Cunard Line's *America*, Arr LP 20 Dec, Arr Bangor 21 Dec.  
All letters to Wales during this period are very uncommon. Pos. 88-98R1. Very fine early printing.

#### Treaty Rate to Scotland



#### New Orleans to Edinburgh, Scotland

Dep. New Orleans 9 Mar, 1857, Dep NY on Cunard Line *Persia*  
Arr LP 28 Mar, mails offloaded to LP 29 Mar, 1857, due to fog. Pos. 9-10R1.  
Covers to Scotland during this period are relatively uncommon.