

Masonic Symbols



Orland, Indiana
"all-seeing eye"



Flaming sword



All-seeing eye

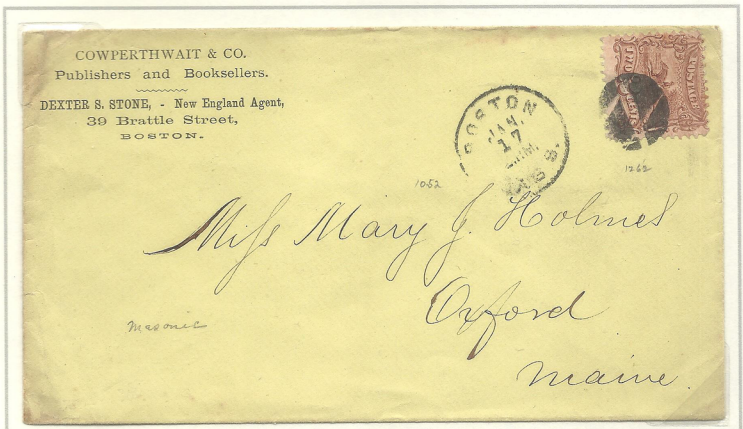


Red coffin
Watertown, MA



Square and
compass

Negative square
and compass,
Boston, MA



Insects



Small bee
New York City



Medium bee
New York City



Large bee
Adrian, MI



Station "B" bee
New York City (e)



Honeycomb
Providence, RI (e)



Insect
Mt Vernon, OH (e)



Shoo fly
Kittrell, NC (e)



Fly

5. Domestic Use of the 2c 1869 Pictorial Stamp

This section uses the 2¢ Pictorial as a mirror to illustrate the rate structure and variety of postal uses in 1869 – and thereby demonstrates the significance of this stamp as a **primary workhorse for all classes of domestic mail**.

A striking feature of domestic mail during the one-year heyday of the Pictorials is the wide-ranging use of the 2¢ stamp across the franking spectrum. Some 2¢ uses are relatively common, such as first-class carrier letters in one of 47 cities with established local delivery service. Another category that accounts for much 2¢ franking is the unsealed business circular, along with the gamut of third-class uses categorized by the Post Office as “miscellaneous mailable matter,” including books, pamphlets, wrappers, maps, prints, sheet music, seeds, samples, etc.

Earliest Documented Use

The 1869 issue had its first use in New York City. The postmaster there had permission to release 1869 stamps only when existing stocks of earlier stamps had been exhausted, one denomination at a time. The first 1869 stamp sold to the public was the 2¢ value. Earliest documented use of this stamp — and of any 1869 stamp — is March 26th, 1869.



Earliest documented use of the 2¢ Pictorial. **One of two EDU covers known**, both with New York City postmarks for March 26.

Year date of 1869 is established by an enclosure written in same style of script, with identical letterhead inscription (BRUCE & CO.) on both enclosure and the envelope rear flap. (The EDUs for other 1869 low values are 27 March (3¢) and 1 April (1¢)).

(e)

5. Primary Uses

5.1 Carrier

By 1869, carrier service had been established in most major cities. In the 47 cities with carrier service, postage for locally delivered mail was 2¢ per ½ oz. Mail sent (or forwarded) beyond a locale's area of carrier service cost 3¢.

For towns and cities without carrier service, mail could also be "dropped" at a post office for pick-up by the addressee. The reduced fee for such drop items was 1¢ per ½ oz. (This drop rate was not available in areas covered by carrier service, where the minimum postage was 2¢.)



Philadelphia carrier service, 2¢ for local delivery of letters up to ½ oz.



New York City carrier, double rate (½-1 oz.), with 2¢ embossed envelope of 1864.

Primary Uses

5.1 Carrier (+ Private Carriage)



Letter originated in Bremen, Germany. Carried privately to New York City for insertion into mail at the 2¢ carrier rate (thereby saving between 5¢ and 13¢ international postage, depending on the year and route of mailing.)

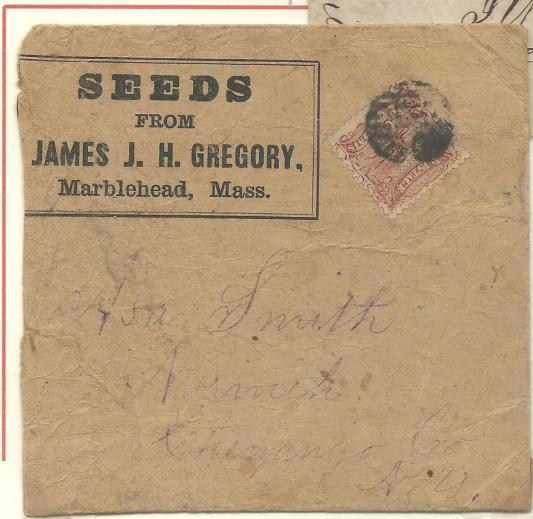
5.1 Carrier (+ Forwarding)

Letter franked at 2¢ carrier rate for delivery within New York City (June 12 cds on reverse). Forwarded on June 13th to Ithaca, with 3¢ additional first-class postage required to send this sealed letter to a non-local destination.



5.2 Seed Packet

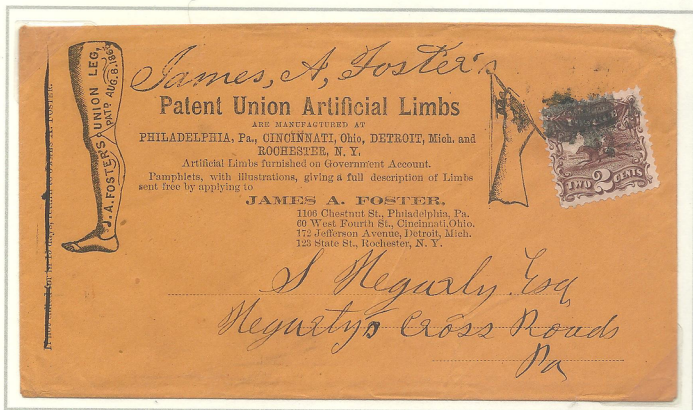
The Postal Act of 1866 set up a special rate for mailing seeds (2¢ for up to 4 oz.) A seed packet was the one item of third-class mail that could legally be sealed. This is the **only known example** of a mailed seed packet with a 2¢ Pictorial.





Unsealed third-class cover eligible for the 2¢ circular rate. Advertising a “sugar-coated” product with the implied endorsement of four governments.

(c)



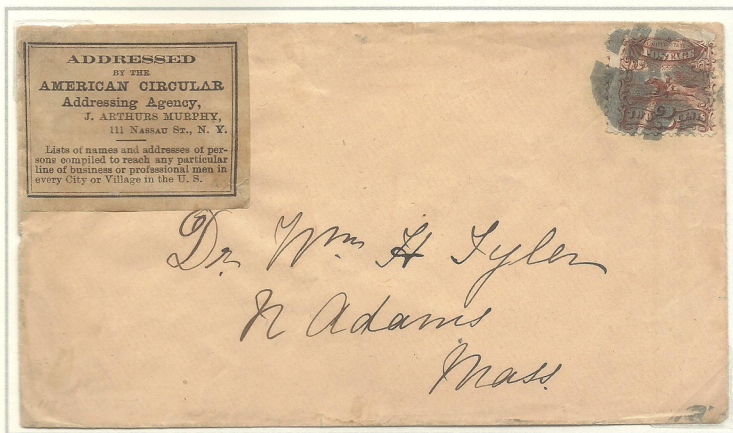
Two-cent circular featuring a product much in need after the Civil War.



Only known use of the 2¢ Pictorial on a patriotic envelope.

(e)

An early example of targeted, direct-mail advertising.



Legal announcement sent at 2¢ circular rate on July 13, but not successfully delivered. Eventually, the document was

RETURNED TO WRITER

Primary Uses

5.4 Wrapper

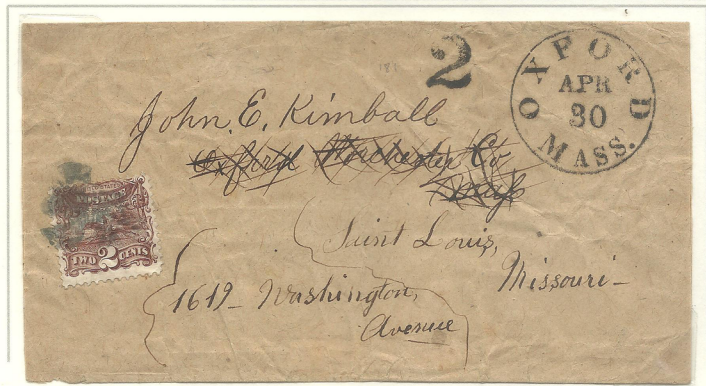


Two-cent periodical rate, requiring pick-up at local post office without delivery service. **Fewer than 25 domestic wrappers** are known with this stamp.

Embossed 2¢ wrapper of 1864, plus additional franking to pay 4¢ book rate for a publication weighing up to 4 oz.



Rev. Beriah Green,
Whitesboro, Oneida Co.,
NEW YORK.



Local wrapper forwarded from Oxford, MA to St Louis, MO. The hand-stamp "2" denotes 2¢ postage due from addressee (no 3¢ forwarding fee since wrapper and contents were open for inspection). **Only known example of 2¢ Pictorial** used with a forwarded wrapper.





Sealed greeting posted on Valentine's Day at Davenport, IA. Double 1¢ drop rate needed for weight of ½-1 oz. (Davenport did not have carrier service in 1870.) Fewer than 10 valentines known with this stamp.

5.6 Forwarding of Circular



Gummed but unsealed Grand Army of the Republic envelope addressed to San Francisco post box at 1¢ drop rate, but posted without a stamp. Local YMCA intervened charitably to provide postage (1¢ for original drop rate, plus 2¢ to pay for forwarding of what was probably a printed announcement) to Sonora, Tuolumne County, CA.

Sonora CDS (May 21) appears at the top. Envelope rerouted back to original San Francisco post box (S.F. May 26 CDS at right).



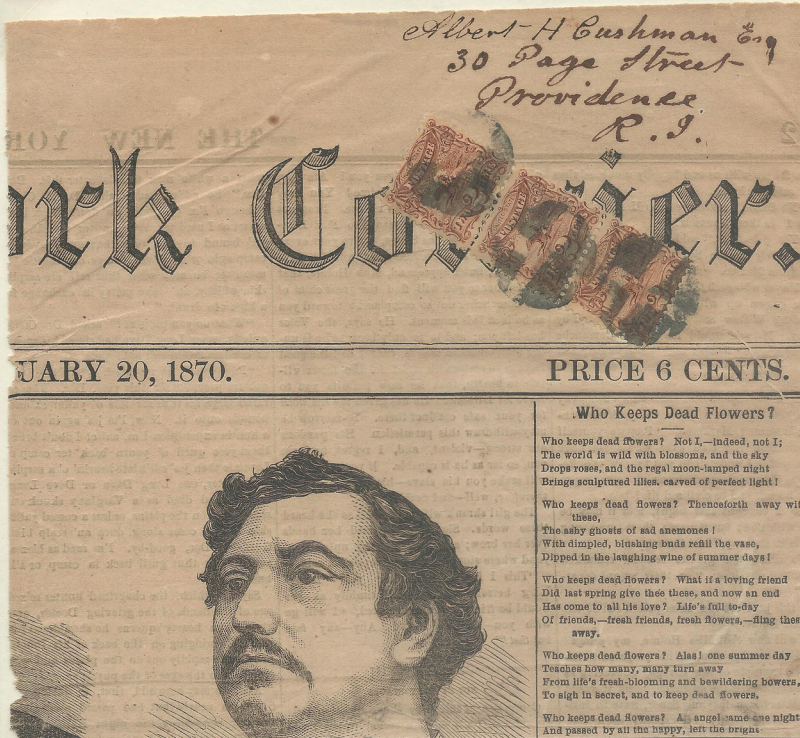
Sealed letter weighing up to $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. from Greenwich to Cambridge, New York.



Double 3¢ first-class rate for sealed mourning cover weighing up to 1 oz.

Sheaf of documents from
New York City
(September 3, 1869)
to a bank located in
Canajoharie, NY,
franked at the 9th
rate (4½-5 oz.)
for first-class mail.





One of two known examples of a domestic newspaper franked directly with a 2¢ Pictorial.

Postal records show 17,293 newspapers delivered in Providence, RI during February 1870. Almost none were franked with stamps since postage on newspaper subscriptions was prepaid in advance to the post office on a quarterly or yearly basis.

Why the 6¢ franking on this newspaper? Most likely, it was mailed from New York at the first-class rate, which cost 6¢ for up to 1 oz. Alternatively, if carried privately to Providence and inserted into the mail stream there, it would take 6¢ for carrier delivery of a document weighing 1-1½ oz.

The *New York Courier* was a weekly literary journal, published Sundays, with the February 20, 1870 edition comprising eight large pages and weighing 1-1½ oz. These facts allow for either the carrier or first-class explanation for the 6¢ franking.

By 1869, three cents was sufficient to send a first-class letter to all destinations in the United States. This included letters sent by any combination of land and water transport. Formerly, some domestic letters sent via water transport had been charged an additional 2¢ ship fee. A few examples of this obsolete 5¢ franking can be found with Pictorial stamps.



Over-franking at obsolete 5¢ rate for combined water (2¢) and land (3¢) carriage. Cover likely routed from Braidwood, Illinois via the nearby Illinois and Michigan Canal to Chicago and then overland to the Mississippi River and downriver to Edina, Missouri. Fewer than ten examples of this obsolete rate are known with Pictorial stamps.



First-class letter over-franked at obsolete 5¢ land/water rate. Up the Mississippi River from New Orleans (4 Dec 1869) to connect with the new transcontinental railroad, and onward to San Francisco (received 13 Dec).



*Mrs. J. Otis
Lawrence Co.*

FIFTEENTH AND SIXTEENTH
ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MANAGERS AND TRUSTEES
OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO
Ladies' Protection and Relief Society,
FOR THE TWO YEARS ENDING
SEPTEMBER 9, 1869.

ORGANIZED, 1853—INCORPORATED, 1854.

SAN FRANCISCO:
EDWARD BOSQUI & CO., PRINTERS, LEIDESDORFF STREET, CORNER CLAY.
1869.

Postal regulations established a separate, low rate of 2¢ per 4 ounces for “miscellaneous mailable matter,” including pamphlets, posters, book manuscripts, maps, sheet music, engravings, etc.

Mixed Franking with Previous
and 1869 Issues



Registered letter from New York to Springfield, IL. Registration fee of 15¢ plus 3¢ for first-class letter. Postage paid by combination of grilled stamps from the 1868 and 1869 issues. Sent from the Custodian of the Lincoln Tomb to the Secretary of the Lincoln Monumental Association.

Franked with 1869 Pictorial Issue

15c Registry Fee



Registered letter from New York to Hartford, CT. Registration fee of 15¢ plus 6¢ for double-weight, first-class letter weighing ½-1 oz.

Franked with 1869 Pictorial and Later Banknote Issues



Registered letter from Fly Mountain, NY to East Haddam, CT. Registration fee of 15¢ plus 3¢ for first-class letter paid by grilled 10¢ banknote, ungrilled 6¢ banknote and 2¢ Pictorial.