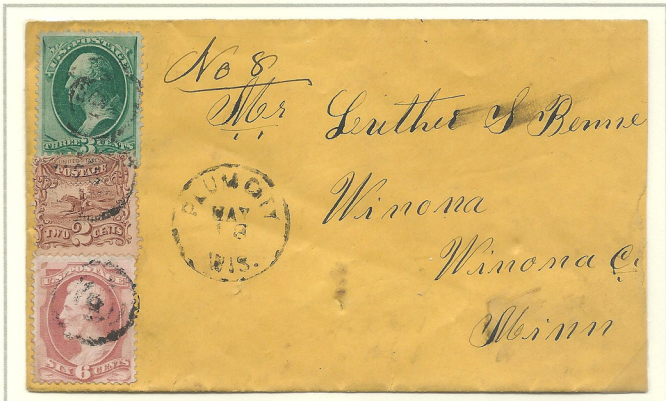


## 8c Registry Fee

Between 1869-1873, the registration fee for domestic mail was 15¢. This fee was reduced to 8¢ for a brief period between January 1, 1874 and July 1, 1875. During the 18 months of the 8¢ rate, three registered covers are known franked with the obsolete 1869 2¢ Pictorial stamp.



Registered letter from Plum City, WI to Winona, MN, May 18, 1874 or 1875. Posted with 3¢ and 6¢ banknotes stamps of 1873. **One of three known covers franked with 2¢ Pictorial stamp at 8¢ registration rate.**



First-class letter from West Finley, PA (enclosure dated March 27/74) to Oberlin, OH with manuscript postmaster's signature at left. Letter included \$10 in banknotes sent at 8¢ registration rate. Posted with 1¢ banknote stamp of 1873 and 2¢ Pictorials (one defective). **Second of three 8¢ registration covers with 2¢ Pictorials.**



Bisected 2¢ used to complete 3¢ first-class rate. Old-time holiday service: From St Cloud, MN (Christmas Day) to St Louis (New Year's Day), then forwarded to New Orleans (general delivery).

(e)



Officially, bisected stamps were not valid for use during the 1869-70 period. Even so, about 35 examples of covers with bisected 2¢ Pictorials have been recorded. Most are from small post offices, and one can surmise that a shortage of 1¢ or 3¢ stamps necessitated the practice.


Nonetheless, a few bisects from large post offices, such as this 1870 example from New York City, suggest that bisect use was widely tolerated, until explicitly banned by an 1873 Postal Act.



24.

UNITED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE.  
ANNUAL TAXES, MARCH, 1870.

To *Samuel Miller*  
of *Luray*, in  
the *Ch* Division *Ch* District,  
and State of *Virginia*



**TAKE NOTICE**

That, in pursuance of the acts of Congress, you are required to make out a Return according to the forms within, and deliver the same to me, at my office, WITHIN TEN DAYS FROM THE DATE HEREOF, or an addition of FIFTY PER CENTUM will be made to the proper tax.

No Return will be accepted unless made out in detail, that is, with the proper entry opposite each item of the Return, and the whole subscribed and sworn to.

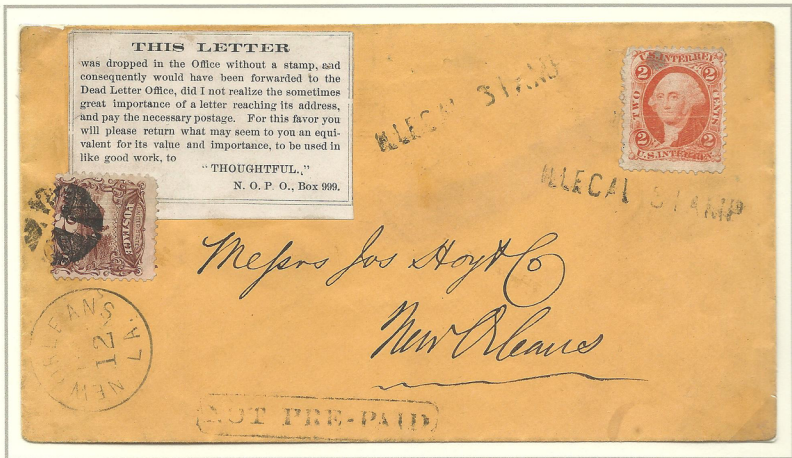
The form and manner for declaring that a person is not possessed of a taxable income, under the proviso of Section 118, of the Act of June 30, 1864, amended by the Act of March 2, 1867, is prescribed by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to be the within Return, properly filled up, subscribed and sworn to, as above indicated.

Dated this *26th* day of *March*, 1870.

*Oran J. Bramhall*  
Assistant Receiver.

OFFICE AT *Luray, Va.*

Local 1¢ drop rate at Luray, VA. One of two known examples of the 2¢ 1869 bisect used on a complete tax notice. (The other resides in the Miller Collection at the New York Public Library.)



Unsealed envelope posted with internal revenue stamp of 1864 to pay 2¢ circular rate. Marked "ILLEGAL STAMP" and "NOT PRE-PAID." As an act of goodwill, an anonymous benefactor named "THOUGHTFUL" added a 2¢ 1869 Pictorial, hoping that the recipient, a commercial firm, would respond generously to this charitable act.



Unfranked letter "HELD FOR POSTAGE" at Newark, NJ. As a charitable gesture, someone with access to the Newark Post Office added a stamp and applied a "Samaritan" label asking for reimbursement. Fewer than 10 Samaritan covers known with the 2¢ Pictorial. (e)

Revenue stamps were not allowed to be used as postage. Similarly, postage stamps were not legal to pay internal revenue fees. The document on this page, a receipt of payment for more than \$20, required a 2¢ revenue tax. This was initially paid with a 2¢ Pictorial, cancelled by a blue hand-stamp from the supplier ("Vose, Dinsmore & Co./Railway/Car Springs/1 Barclay Street/New York"), and docketed on the receipt for February 2, 1870.

All vouchers, for services, must specify the nature of the services, the time when and where, and under whose direction rendered; if for merchandise, or other articles, must specify the items, date of sale or delivery, when or to whom delivered, and by whom purchased; if for labor performed or articles furnished upon a special contract, it must, in addition, refer to the contract, by giving names of parties to contract, and the date.]

**THE NEW-YORK CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY,**

1869.

To Vose, Dinsmore & Co. Dr.

DATE.	ITEMS.	DOLLARS.	CTS.
Dec. 9.	100 Rolute Springs $\frac{1}{2}$ ct. 2. in. 7.00 15% off	59.5	
10.	100 do H. Johnson "	59.5	
	40 do M. H. Tommen "	23.8	
15.	100 do J. Jones "	59.5	
17.	100 do do "	59.5	
22.	100 do do "	59.5	
		<b>321.3</b>	



No 1. Barclay Street

Received, of **THE NEW-YORK CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY**, by the hands of **T. A. KNOWER**, Paymaster, Thirty Two Hundred & Thirteen -  $\frac{\#}{100}$  Dollars in full for the above account.

Dated, New York Dec. 22 1870

Witness, John T. McFarham

Vose Dinsmore & Co.  
Parties

A few weeks later, when the document reached the railroad audit office, presumably someone there recognized the improper use, applied the correct orange revenue, and killed it with a dated hand-stamp ("N.Y.C.R.R./Feb/26/1870/Service Office"). About 50 items are known with a 2¢ Pictorial seeking to pay an internal revenue fee, but this is the only recorded example to date of a combination usage on a revenue document.



Despite its short period of use, the 1869 issue taps into a rich vein of postal history. Before the accounting simplification of the Universal Postal Union in the mid-1870s, international mail required complex accounting and handling procedures, usually resulting in an exotic array of rate, route, and other markings on covers.

British, French, and German international mail services dominated global correspondence during the lifetime of the 1869 stamps — each system with its own rate structure and accounting credits. Another factor contributing to the diversity and richness of Pictorial postal history is that in January 1870 both Britain and France changed postal rates for U.S. mail using their respective services.

This final exhibit section shows a variety of unusual international uses, beginning with Canada and proceeding geographically around the globe to end with Hawaii. Generally, U.S. mail to Canada was not affected by ongoing changes in European postal services, but there were some uncommon cross-border routings into and out of Canada, as illustrated by the next two covers.

### Cross-Border Use between Canada and U.S. — Paired Line Office

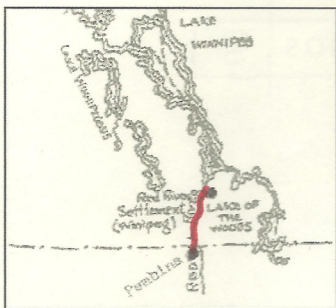


Houlton, Maine (18 Jan) to Woodstock, New Brunswick, Canada (18 Jan). Handstamped "PAID 2" at Houlton showing reduced 2¢ cross-border rate for paired line offices between the U.S. and Canada (normal rate to Canada was 6¢). Woodstock, NB is about 10 miles distant from Houlton, ME. **Ten examples of this special rate are known with the 2¢ Pictorial.**

**Cross-Border Use  
Between Canada and U.S.  
— Red River Settlement**

In 1869-70, mail from the isolated Canadian outpost at Fort Garry on the Red River (modern Winnipeg) was first routed by private courier down the river to Pembina in the U.S. Dakota Territory to enter the U.S. mail system before being sent on to its destination in eastern or western Canada.

U.S. stamps were sold at Fort Garry to pay for the standard 6¢ first-class rate from the U.S. to Canada. This was the only available Southern route for Canadian mail posted north of Dakota.



Pembina, Dakota (6 Sep) to Montreal, Canada (1869), paid at the normal 6¢ U.S. rate to Canada. **One of two Canadian Red River Settlement covers known** franked with the 2c Pictorial.

Distance from Fort Garry/Red River Settlement (Canada) to Pembina (U.S. Dakota Territory) was about 70 miles by river.

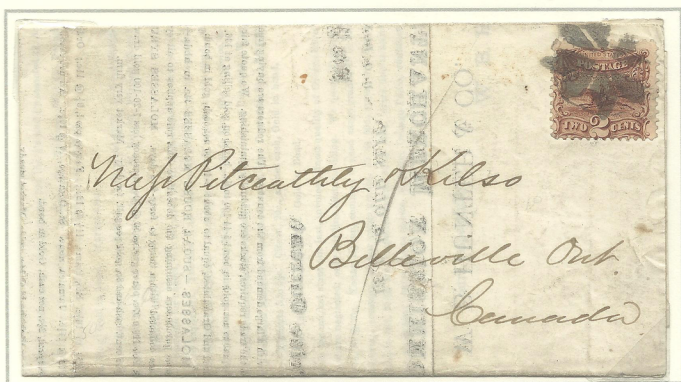
## British Columbia



Sebastopol, CA (25 Feb) to Victoria, British Columbia (not yet part of Canada). Cover lacks year date, but appears to have been franked as 1¢ overpayment of 10¢ rate to British Columbia in effect until 1 July 1870. If the mailing date is 25 Feb 70, this would be EDU of the 3¢ ungrilled National Banknote on cover.

A more logical explanation is a mailing year of 1871/72, although reduction of the rate to British Columbia from 10¢ to 6¢ makes this cover either substantially overfranked or 1¢ underfranked for a 12¢ double rate. (Cover restored.)

## Printed Matter



2¢ printed matter rate for commercial circular from U.S. to Canada.  
Manuscript "1" penny due for local delivery in Canada.



## 34c British Mail Rate

Letters from the U.S. East Coast to the West Coast of South America usually traveled by steamer to Aspinwall on the Atlantic side of Panama, then transited overland to the Pacific coast of Panama, and continued to destination on a British-owned Pacific Steam Navigation Company ship.



San Francisco to Callao, Peru (2 Nov 69). British mail 34¢ rate to Peru, with “24” cent credit to Britain, for carriage from Panama to Callao. Franked with 2¢ Pictorials and 30¢ “F” grill, plus San Francisco crossroads cancel. (e)



New York (— Feb 70) to Lima (“4 Mzo 1870” arrival backstamp). British mail 34¢ rate to Peru, with red crayon “24” cent credit to Britain. Sent just before the 34¢ rate changed to 22¢.

## 22¢ Rate (after 15 Feb 1870)



Bath, Maine (18 May), franked at reduced British mail rate to Peru, through New York exchange office (21 May) with "12" cent credit to Britain.

(c)



Bath, Maine (May 19 backstamp) to Callao, Peru at 22¢ British mail rate to Peru with "12" cent credit to Britain. Franked with medley of 1869 Pictorial issues, with one 2¢ stamp overlapped to back of cover.

## Double Rate Frankings from Davis Correspondence

(Most double-weight covers to Peru are addressed to Mrs. D.H.B. Davis, wife of an American businessman whose trading company was headquartered in Lima.)

**Double 34¢ Rate  
Franking**



Portchester, NY (31 Aug 69) via Panama (11 Sep) to Lima, Peru (1 Oct). American packet to Panama and then by British packet to Peru. Franked at 68¢ double rate, but credit of "24" to Britain instead of "48" indicates New York exchange office assessed cover as single rate.



**Double 22¢ Rate  
Franking**

Portchester, NY (20 Apr 70) via Panama to Lima Peru (9 May) at 44¢ double rate, with "24" cent double-rate credit to Britain



The 2¢ Pictorial appears on many international covers. During the 1869-70 era, Britain had by far the largest network for international mails. Since a British penny (1d) was then equal to U.S. 2¢, most British Mail rates to foreign lands were expressed in even numbers in terms of U.S. postage. Thus, the 2¢ Pictorial became a useful complementary stamp to help complete many international rates.

### 28¢ Rate to Argentina via British Mail



Boston (31 May 70) via London (13 Jun) to Buenos Aires (22 July). Red Boston and London PAID circular markings, with red crayon "24" credit to Britain applied at Boston exchange office. **One of two recorded 24¢ Pictorial covers to Argentina, and the only one via 28¢ British Mail rate.**



First-class letter from Spirit Lake, IA (26 Sep), via New York (20 Oct), to Monterey, Mexico. Franked with 2¢ Pictorials, 3¢ grilled banknote of 1870, and 3¢ pink on buff envelope of 1864 to pay 10¢ sea mail rate to Mexican border. Received “2” reales postage due handstamp in Mexico for local delivery fee. (Handstamp “2” is located to left of green banknote stamp.)

(e)



2¢ printed matter rate to Mexico, with New York merchant cachet dated Dec 3, 1869. Handstamped “1/2” reale postage due by Mexican postal authorities as fee for local delivery.

(e)

## 10¢ Sea Rate from West Indies



2¢ Pictorial strip from Christiansted, Danish West Indies to Boston, MA. Tied by New York cross-roads cancel in use 1871-73. Stamps affixed in St. Thomas, with "Christiansted, 1871" origin cds underneath strip. Part of red manuscript just showing at right of strip likely denotes U.S. postage of 10¢ was paid. "St. Thomas, 13/5/1871" transit cds and "N. York Steamship, May 20" entry cds.

Sent from St. Thomas aboard the *North America*, departing St. Thomas on May 13th and arriving in New York May 20th, 1871. **Unique franking of 2¢ Pictorial to pay the 10¢ West Indian rate**, perhaps due to a temporary shortage of 10¢ stamps at the St. Thomas post office.



## 2¢ Printed Matter Rate from West Indies



St. Thomas, West Indies (Aug 1869) to Waldboro, ME. Mercantile prospectus sent at 2¢ rate for printed circulars weighing up to 1 oz.

**REDUCED CHARGES.**

**J. NILES & Co.'s CIRCULAR**  
TO  
**Owners, Masters and Agents of Vessels.**

St. Thomas, W. I., 2nd August, 1869.

WE the undersigned having recently made arrangements for the supplying of Tonnage to a large number of our correspondents in the exporting Islands, will from this date, and especially during the Crop Season, be prepared to give or procure employment to the largest number of Vessels in our consignment at any one time.

As an inducement to parties who consign their Vessels to our house, we offer that from the first day of October next, we will make a reduction in our Charges or Commissions, fixing the same from that date at only 2½ per cent. (Two and a half per cent.) on Charters to the UNITED STATES, and also on gross sales of Consignments of Lumber and other Merchandise.

Parties interested in Vessels, calling at this port, will at once recognize the advantages of having a house established here, prepared to receive the consignments of Vessels as SHIP AGENTS; and whose thorough knowledge of the business, acquired from a long practical experience extending over a period of upwards of Twelve years, will enable the same to transact all business appertaining thereto, in a prompt, efficient and economical manner, as also to study the interests of owners in the Freight market.

We enter and clear Vessels and attend to their ordinary business free of charge unless chartered through us.

Yours respectfully,  
**J. NILES & CO.**

5¢ Sea Rate from United States to Cuba



New York to Havana (receiving backstamp 31 July 76). Franked with Pictorials and 10¢ Banknote of 1873. Triple franking of 5¢ rate to Cuban frontier effective 1 July 1875. Bold “5” reales due marking applied in Cuba for local delivery fee.

Cuba to United States during Military Occupation

Havana to New York, 10 June 1899, when Cuba was under U.S. military administration. Sent during short period when only U.S. military and government employees could use regular U.S. stamps in Cuba. (Franking comprised of 1¢ stamped envelope of 1894, 4¢ rose brown definitive of 1898, 2¢ Pictorial, and 10¢ Special Delivery stamp of 1893. This unusual medley, combined with traditional form of address to a young lad, suggests display or philatelic intent for the franking.)

