THE U.S. 3¢ 1857 ISSUE

ROBERT R. HEGLAND

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Many of the individual items from this collection were used to illustrate the plate varieties in articles published in The Chronicle in 1980.

Any collectors reviewing this collection are invited to send their notes on dates of usage of any of these plate flaws to this collector to record for future publication.

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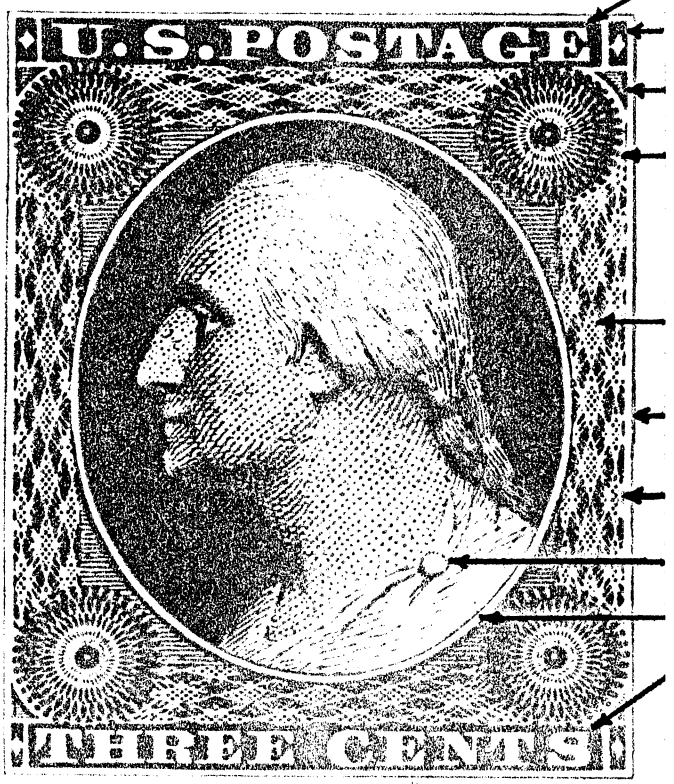
The U. S. 3¢ 1857 Issue

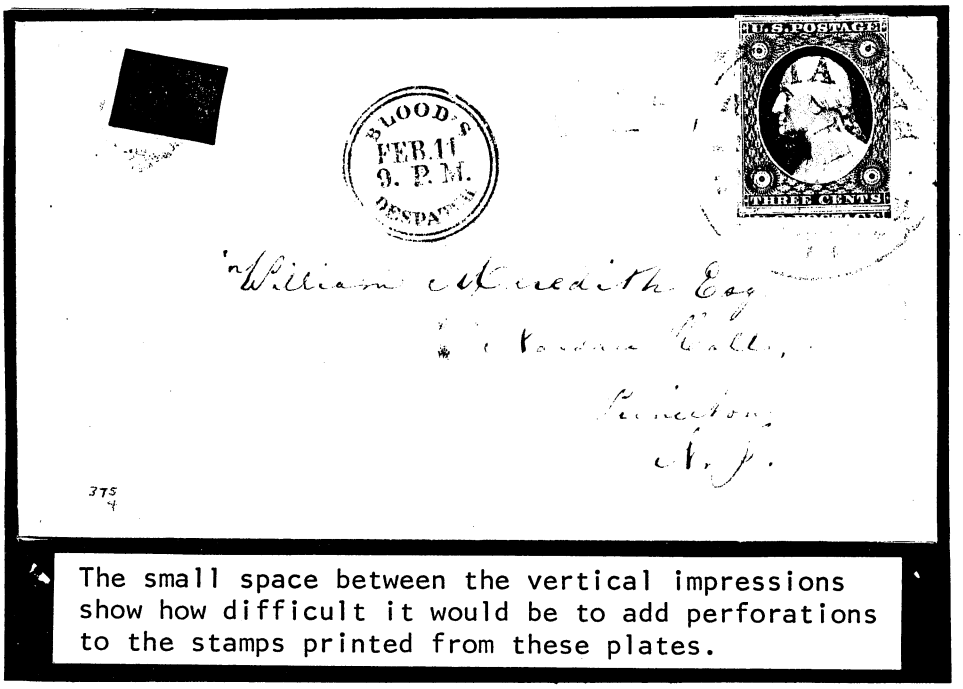
BACKGROUND: In 1856 and 1857 the Post Office Department negotiated with Toppan, Carpenter, and Co. to begin perforating the designs that had been in use since 1851. As early as 1852 various businesses privately used mechanical devices to help in separating individual stamps from the imperforate sheets. The quantity of stamps needed in the late 1850's was increasing dramatically with the westward movement. The nation was growing and the volume of mail and demands on the Post Office Department reflected this demand. The Department introduced perforating in 1857.



Upper label block
Upper Right (UR) diamond block
UR triangle
UR rosette
Tessellated work
Outer frame line
Inner frame line
Toga button
Medallion
Lower label block

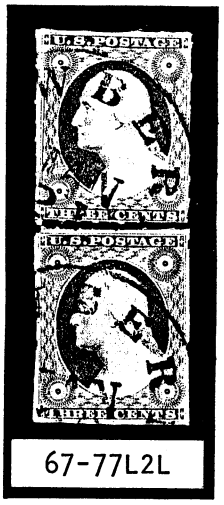
The design of the 3¢ issue is simple and pleasing to the eye. To aid in the discussion of the design and the location of points of interest, certain names have been assigned to the different portions of the design. Some of these names are shown on the above diagram.

1851 IMPERFORATE ISSUE: In 1851 Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. won the contract to print a series of postage stamps. The designs finally chosen remained in use until the Civil War. The firm had previously only printed paper money - never stamps. Perhaps this helps to explain why they didn't leave more space between the stamps to allow for easy separation. Most of the copies that have survived have been cut into during the separation process.



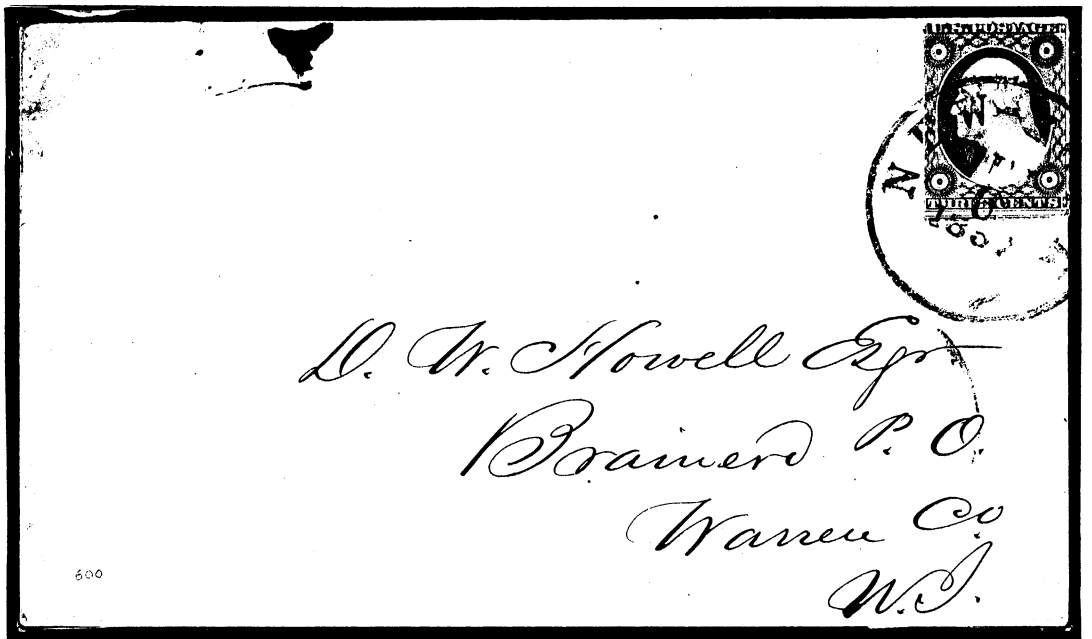
The small space between the vertical impressions show how difficult it would be to add perforations to the stamps printed from these plates.

EXPERIMENTAL ROULETTING: Separating individual stamps from sheets was usually done by scissors. Occasionally there were attempts to make this separation easier by rouletting the sheets. These attempts were evidently made by firms with large mailings. They did not last for any significant length of time.



67-77L2L

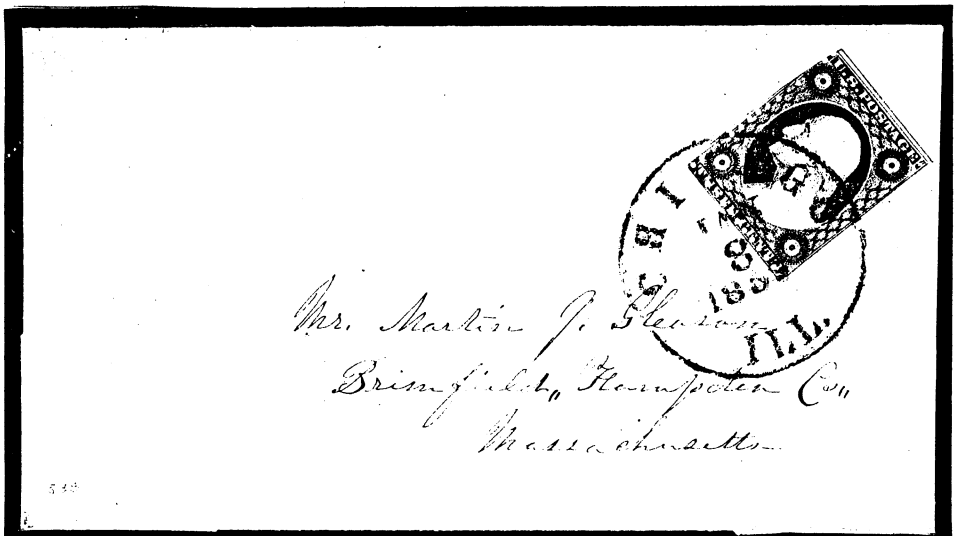
In 1852 and 1853 an unofficial rouletting gauging from 5 to 7 was used in Newbern, NC. About 25 copies are known including 4 reconstructed pairs only one of which shows the rouletting between the stamps.



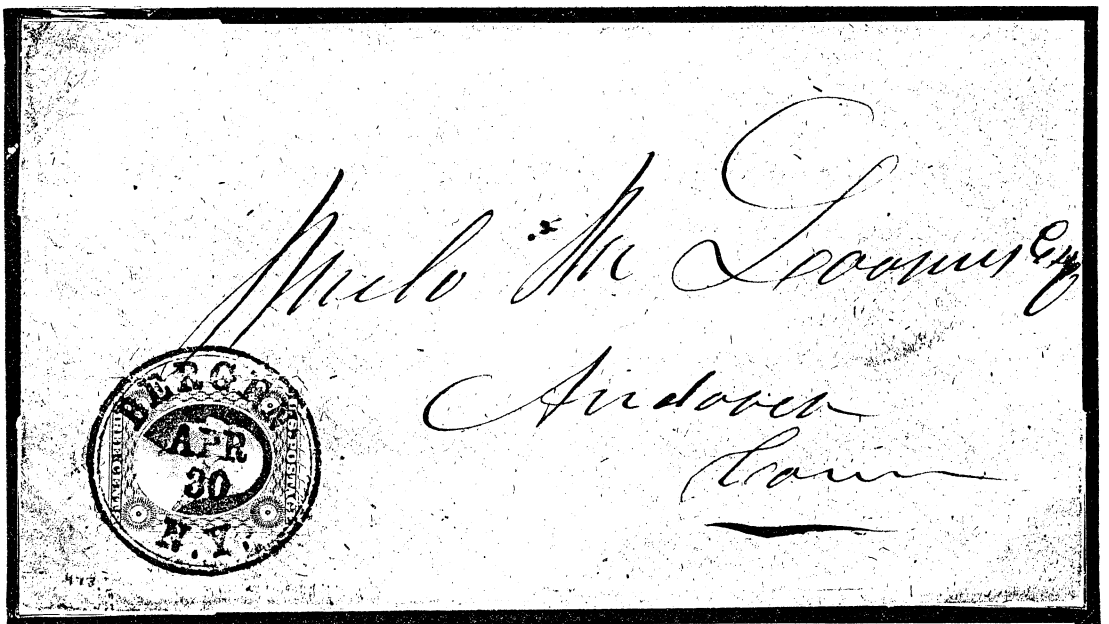
July 6, 1857. Around this stamp can be seen traces of rouletting. No other copies have been reported.

EXPERIMENTAL PERFORATIONS: The so-called "experimental perforations," which are better termed "unofficial separations," were used from some cities in 1856 and 1857. Some are perforated others are saw-toothed.

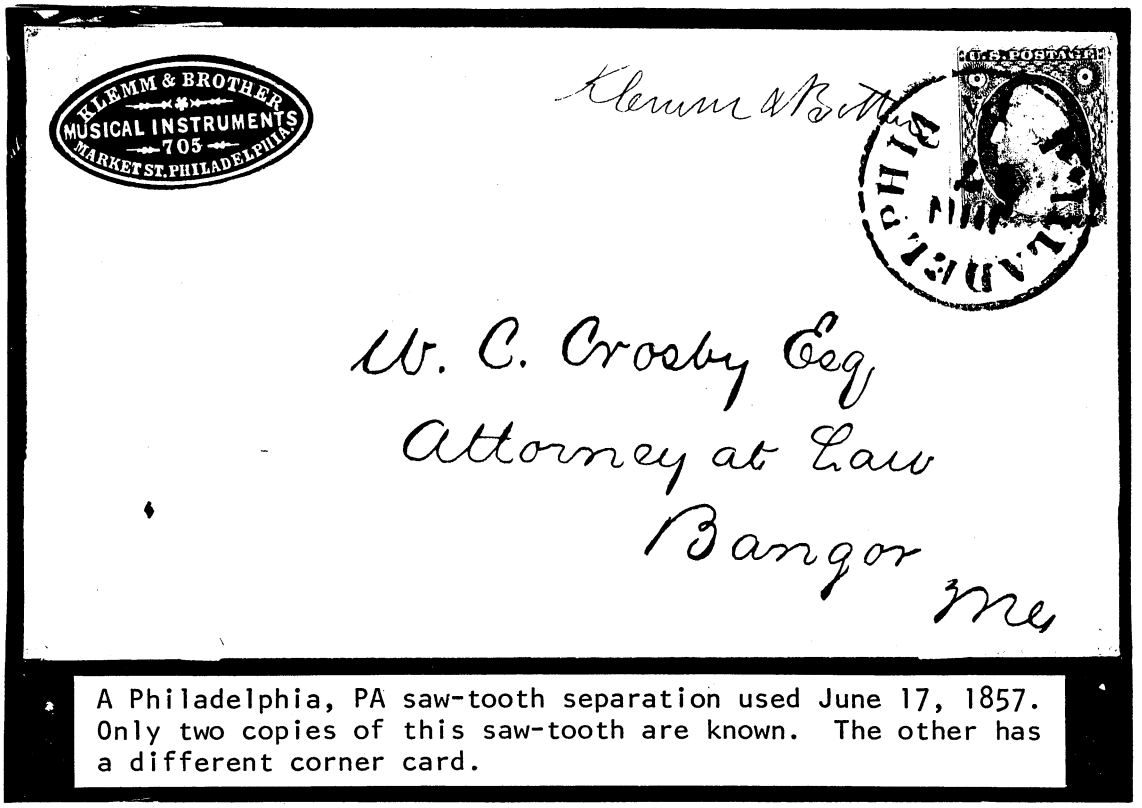
Although intended to help postal patrons separate individual stamps, these examples of the Chicago perf show separation by scissors. This is normal for copies of this experimental perf.



The Chicago Perforation(83L3)-Stamps with perforations measuring from 12 1/2 to 13 are known used in Chicago from July 14, 1856, to April 2, 1857. They were used by several companies and individuals. 20 copies known.

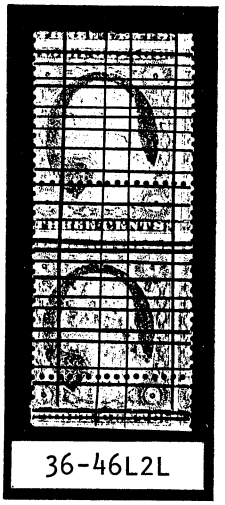


The Bergen, N.Y. saw-tooth separation gauging from 9 to 9 1/2. Most of the copies known were used in March, 1856. There are fewer than 10 copies known.

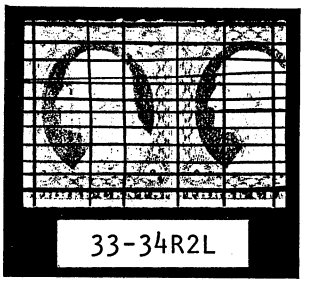


A Philadelphia, PA saw-tooth separation used June 17, 1857. Only two copies of this saw-tooth are known. The other has a different corner card.

AUTHENTIC TRIAL SEPARATIONS: When Toppan, Carpenter & Co. acquired the perforating machine from Bemrose and Sons, they evidently ran experiments with a few sheets of stamps. The sheets are of a color used in 1855 and are heavily ruled with black ink horizontally and vertically. The rouletting is 7 1/2 horizontally on both pairs shown. The vertical pair also shows horizontal perforations of 16 and vertical perforations of 15 1/2. Five pairs are known.



36-46L2L



33-34R2L

BASIC TYPES OF THE 3¢ 1857: After the perforating started, it became evident that there was insufficient room between the impressions to allow space for the perforations without cutting into the design. It was decided that new plates must be made.

Type I - This type resulted from perforating the stamps made from the old, closely-spaced plates. There are horizontal frame lines at the top and bottom of each stamp.

Type II - This type resulted from the new plates. The frame lines run from the top of the plate to the bottom with no horizontal frame lines and no break in the line between each stamp.

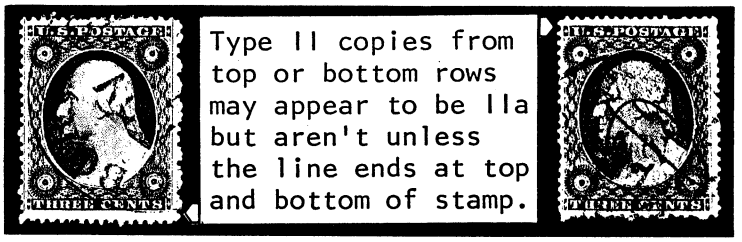
Type IIa - This type also resulted from the new plates but there is a break in the frame line between each stamp. There are no horizontal frame lines.

Care must be taken in identifying Types II and IIa since the frame lines of both types end at the top and bottom of the sheet. In order to be a Type IIa stamp the frame lines must end at both the top and the bottom of the stamp.

Type I - frame lines vertically and horizontally with no lines between stamps.

Type II - frame lines vertically from bottom to top of plate. No horizontal lines

Type IIa - frame lines from top to bottom of each stamp. No horizontal lines.



Type II copies from top or bottom rows may appear to be IIa but aren't unless the line ends at top and bottom of stamp.

PLATES USED FOR 3¢ TYPE I: The plates that were used for the early attempts at perforating that had been used for the imperforate issues were plates 2L, 3, 4, 5L, 6, 7, and 8. Plates 4, 6, 7, and 8 were used much more than were those with inner frame lines as shown by the following printing statistics:

Plate Number	Millions Issued-Perf With Inner Lines	Millions Issued-Perf With No Inner Lines
2L	.5	
3	.5	
4		7.8
5L	.6	
6		7.8
7		15.5
8		6.2
Total	1.6(4.1%)	37.3(95.9%)

Of all the stamps printed from the plates used for the Imperforate issue, the imperforate stamps amount to 90.4% and the perforated 9.6%. Of those 9.2% are without inner lines and only .4% have the inner lines.

With Inner Frame Lines

Plate 2L

21L2L

Plate 3

17L3

Plate 5L

1L5L

With No Inner Frame Lines

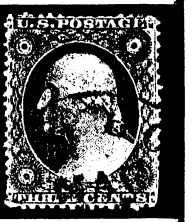
Plate 4

71R4

Plate 6

48R6

Plate 7

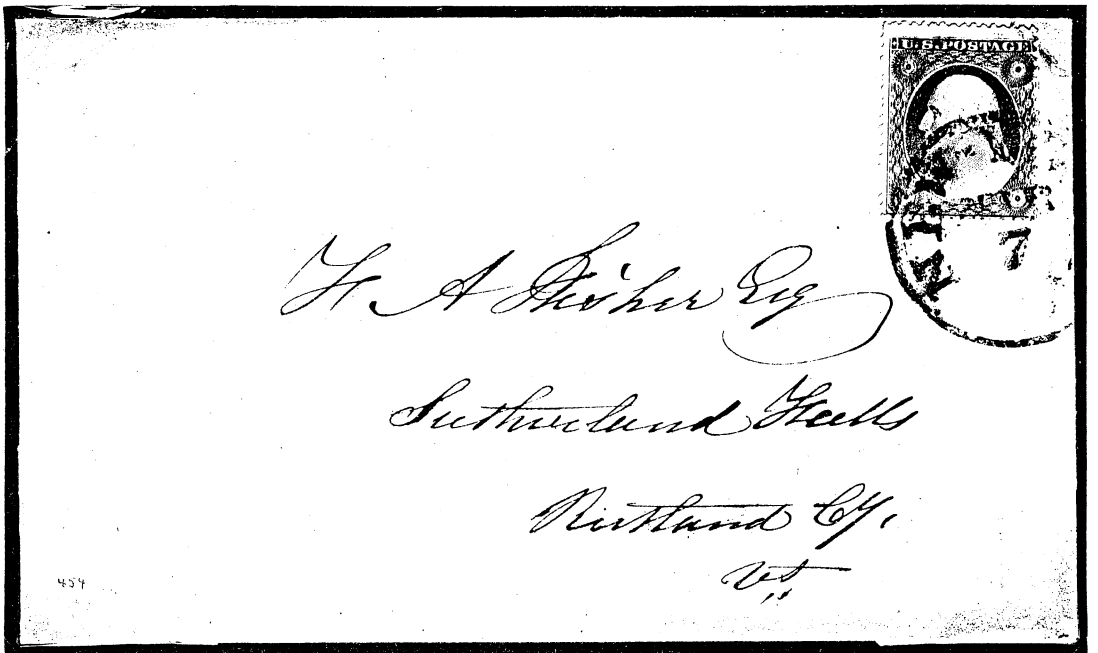


47R7

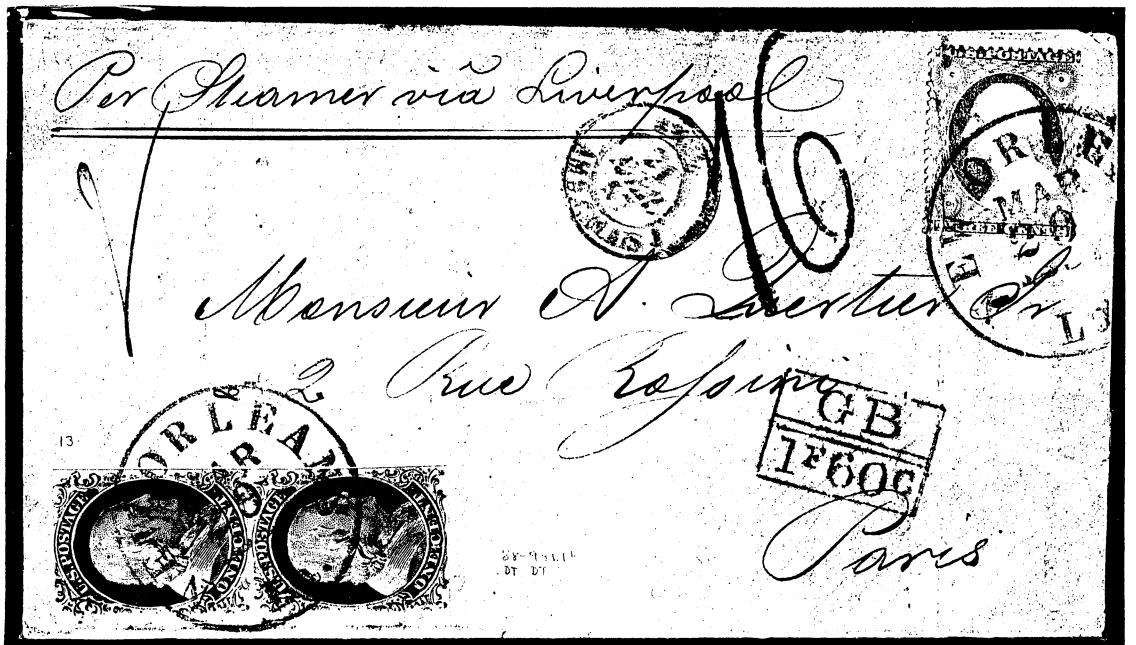
Plate 8

14R8

EARLY PERFORATIONS: In early 1857 Toppan, Carpenter, & Co. produced a limited number of sheets of the 1851 imperforate issue with perforations in response to a government contract. These were evidently used mostly at major cities in the east such as New York and Washington City. Their usage was very limited in late February through July 1857 but began to appear with regularity after that time until the new plates for Type II and Type IIa were ready to carry the majority of the production needs.



Early use of the perforated Type I dated March 7,(1857). The stamp is from plate 6 or 7 as are all of the very early copies that are known.

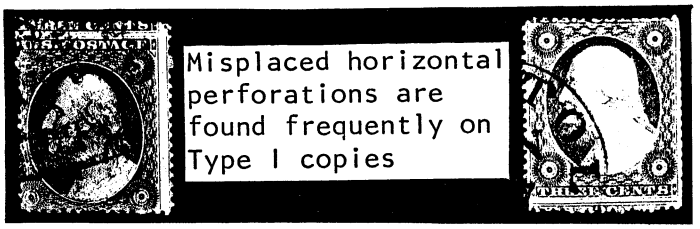


Early use of the 3¢ perforated on March 29, 1857 in combination with two 1¢ imperfs. This cover was used during the three month period. Only after April 1 could letters be fully prepaid to France. This rate represents the U. S. inland rate. The recipient had to pay sea and inland French postage.

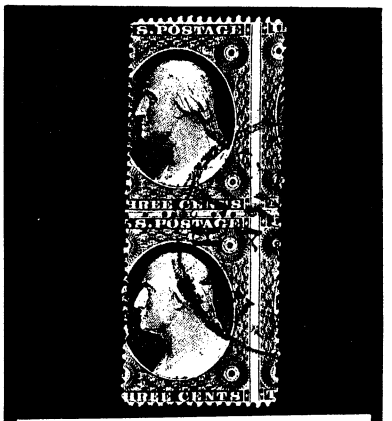
PERFORATION VARIETIES ON TYPE I: Not only were the stamps from Type I very close together on the sheets but the firm applying the perforations was new to the task. Many examples exist where the perforations are far from being where they should be. Neither the public nor the postmasters appear to have fully appreciated the new method of separating stamps from the sheets since they were often still cut from the sheets with scissors and the perforations were not used.

Evidently cut into vertical strips, then cut or torn with care being taken to include the THREE CENTS

Evidently cut into horizontal strips, then torn on the vertical perforations for singles

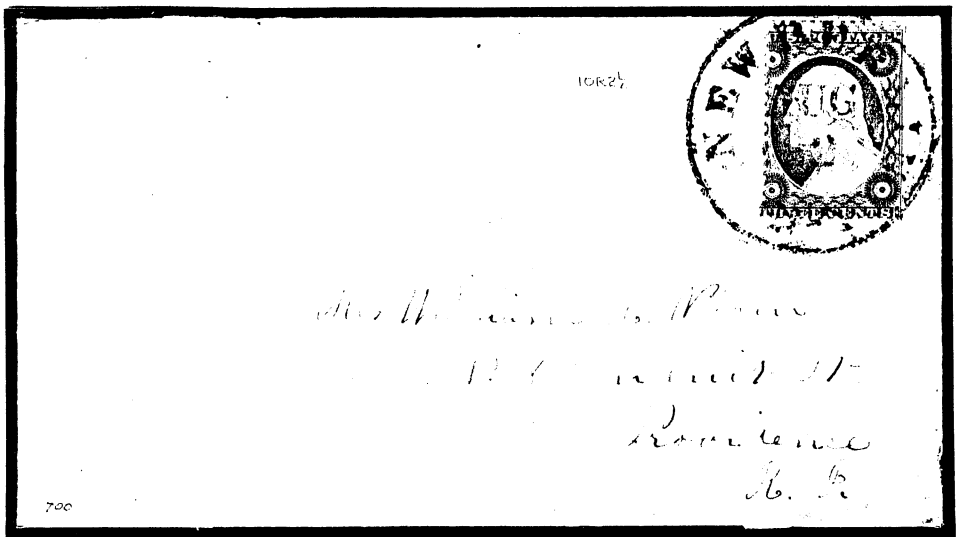


Misplaced horizontal perforations are found frequently on Type I copies

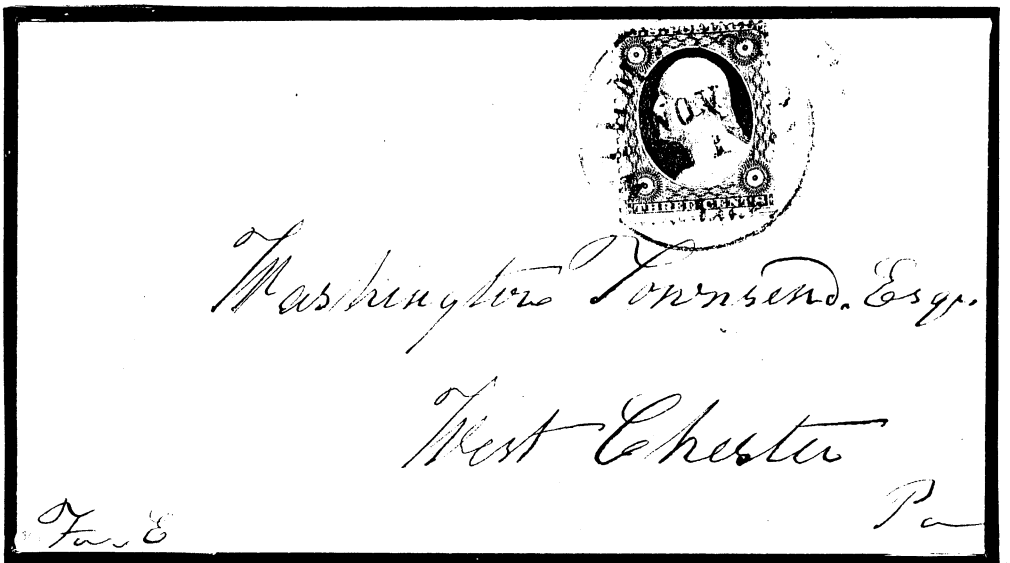


Vertical perforations misplaced as far as shown on this pair are found infrequently

ENGRAVING VARIETIES ON TYPE 1: Many of the varieties that are found on the imperforate stamps can be found on the perforated.

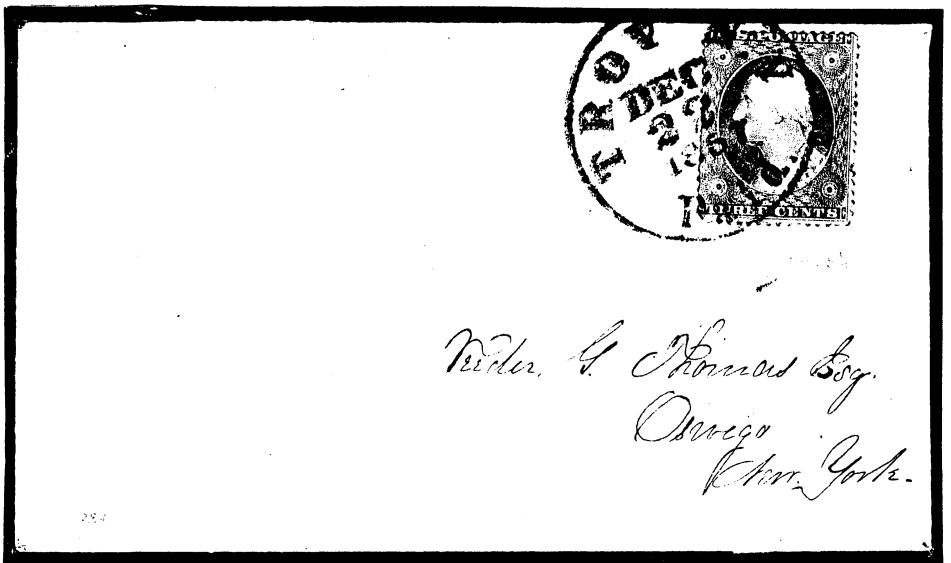


10R2L Recut Button - Several small lines have been recut around the toga button. This position was designated as a cracked plate for a time but study shows it to be recut



47R6 Recut Bust - Several small lines have been recut on the bust and two lines have been recut at the bottom of the medallion.

CRACKED PLATES ON TYPE 1: One of the plates used for the imperforate stamps developed a crack late in its use and so copies can be found on the perforated Type 1. The crack probably developed from warming or cooling the plate too rapidly during the printing process.

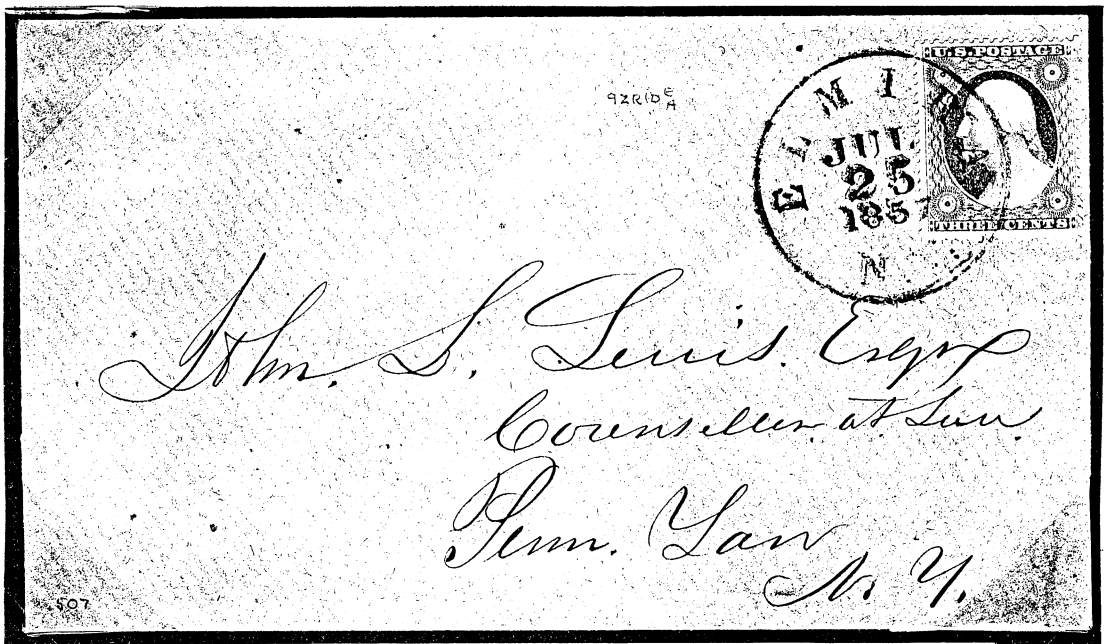


74L5L - A very light, short crack runs through the S of CENTS. This is the end of the major crack in Plate 5L.

84-94L5L major crack

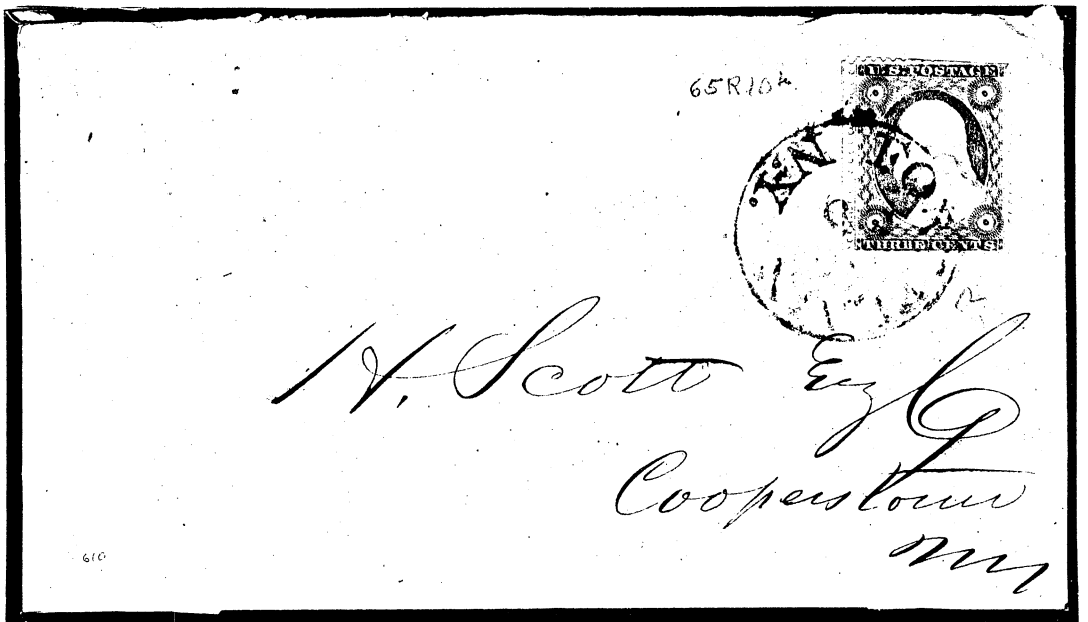
PLATES USED FOR 3¢ TYPE IIa: Only two plates were used for printing the Type IIa stamps, which had frame lines that ran only from the top to the bottom of the design with a break between positions in different rows. These plates, however, were each reentered two times creating an early, intermediate, and late state of each plate. It has been estimated that the following quantities were used from each state:

Plate	Millions Issued	% of Total	% by Plate
10E	7.3	22.2	
10I	7.3	22.2	66.6
10L	7.3	22.2	
11E	5.0	15.2	
11I	5.0	15.2	33.4
11L	1.0	3.0	
	32.9	100.0	100.0



92R10E-Early use of plate 10, early state, used on July 25, 1857. The earliest known use is July 11.

DOUBLE TRANSFERS ON 3¢ TYPE IIa: The double transfers(DT's) on the type IIa stamps are numerous. These were caused, generally, when the engraver burnished down the existing plate and attempted to reenter the design over an old design to strengthen it. The late states of Plates 10 and 11 show some striking double and triple transfers that show most strongly in the center circle of the rosettes. Plate 11L has a particularly large number of these reentries.

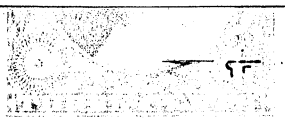


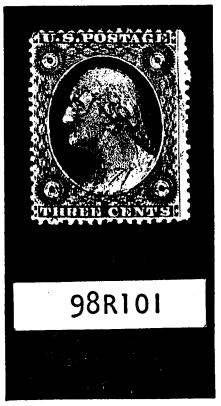
65R10L-A striking double transfer from the late state of plate 10 that shows a doubling in each of the four rosettes.

THE "PHANTOM E" DOUBLE TRANSFERS: Two different positions on Plate 10 show nearly identical and very remarkable double transfers. Both 61R and 98R on the intermediate and late states of the plate show a line through the lower right rosette. Careful inspection and measurement of this "line" has led to the conclusion that it is, in reality, part of the outline of an E, evidently from the E in POSTAGE in the top label. That such a shift could occur in position 61R is understandable under the 6 relief roll entry system that was used. The cause of the same shift in the bottom row is much harder to understand and to accept.

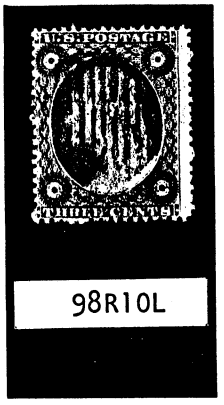
61R10I

61R10L





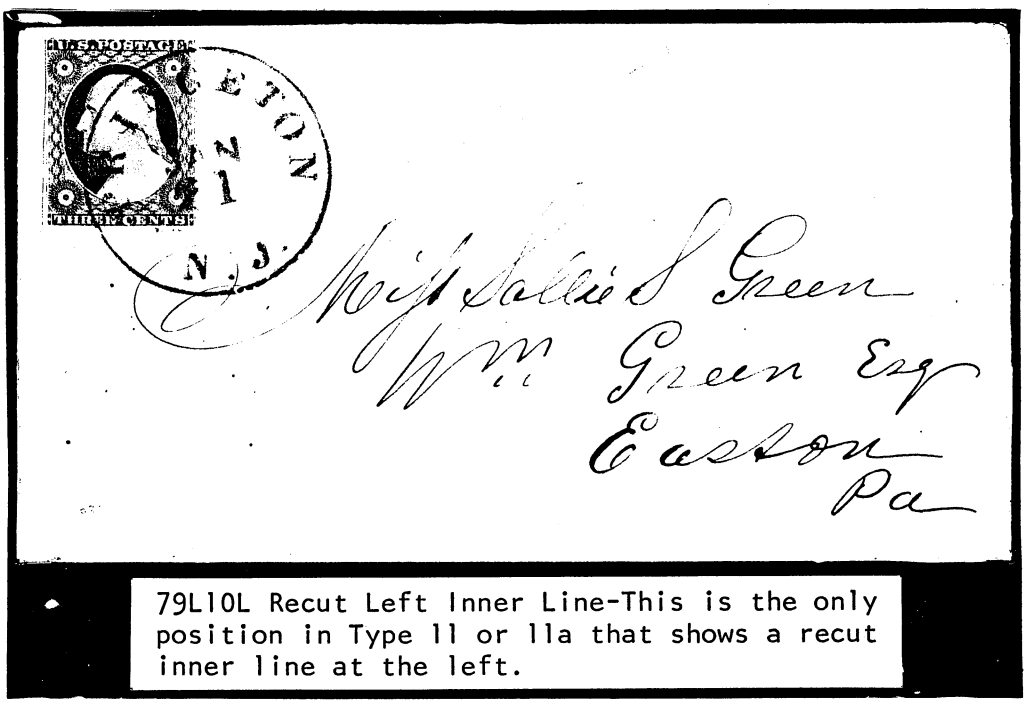
98R10I



98R10L

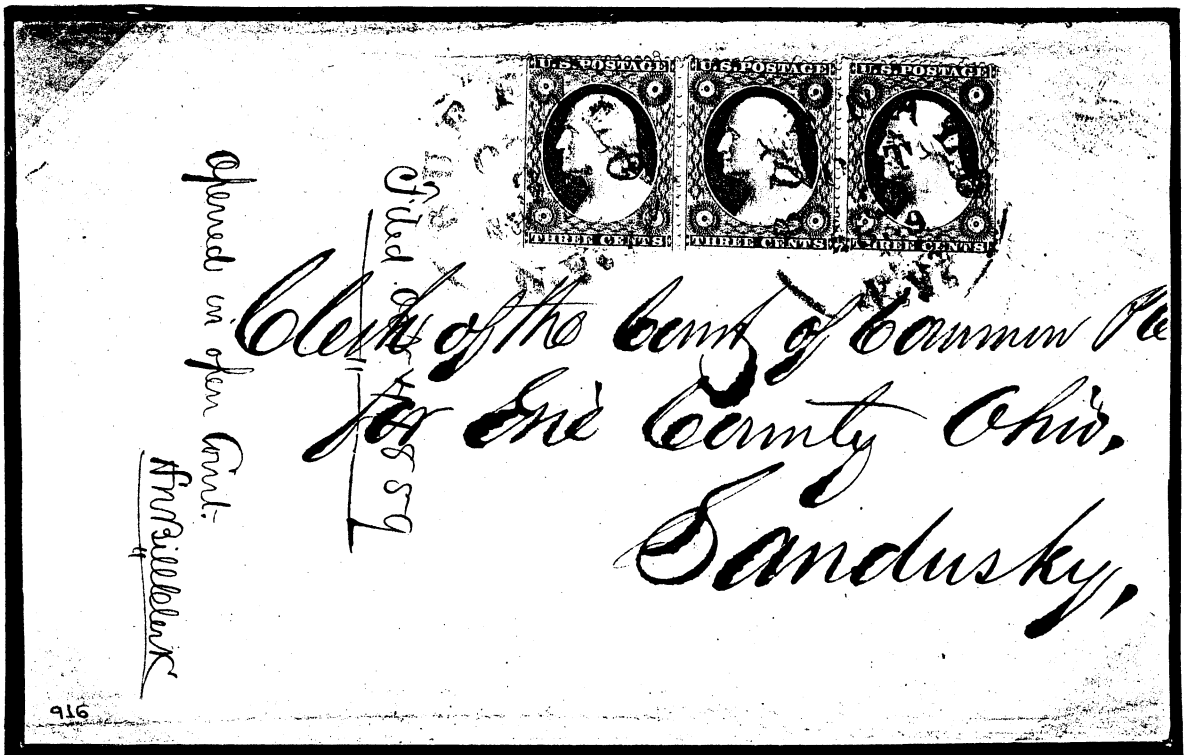
RECUT INNER FRAME LINES ON TYPE 11a: Type 11a has recut inner right frame lines on 17 different positions and a recut inner left frame line on only one position.

An example of one of the recut inner right frame lines



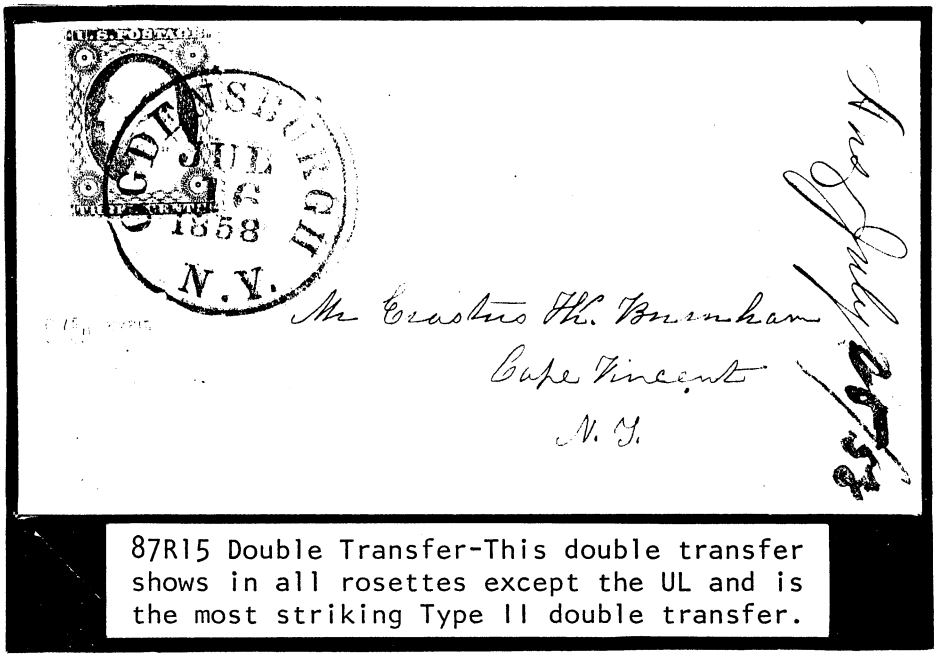
79L10L Recut Left Inner Line-This is the only position in Type 11 or 11a that shows a recut inner line at the left.

PLATES USED FOR 3¢ TYPE II: Plates numbered 9 and 12 - 28 were used for printing the Type II stamps, which had frame lines that ran from the top of the plate to the bottom with no break between the individual stamps on the plate. Since there are two of those plates that existed in both early and late states, a total of 20 different plates were used. Examples from some of these plates are very common. Other plates were evidently used for only a very short period of time and examples from those plates are very rare and desirable items.



October 3, 1859 - Earliest known use of Plate 26; 4-6R26. The previous early date was January 21, 1860. This strip shows the rosette flaw in 4R26 and the wishbone crack between 5-6R26.

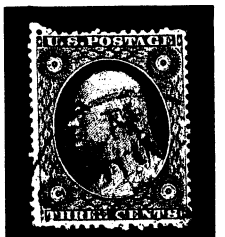
DOUBLE TRANSFERS ON 3¢ TYPE II: There are relatively few major double transfers on the Type II stamps. Only one position shows significant doubling in the centers of more than one rosette. A few other positions show significant doubling in only one rosette. Many positions show a slight shift in the centers of the rosettes.



87R15 Double Transfer-This double transfer shows in all rosettes except the UL and is the most striking Type II double transfer.

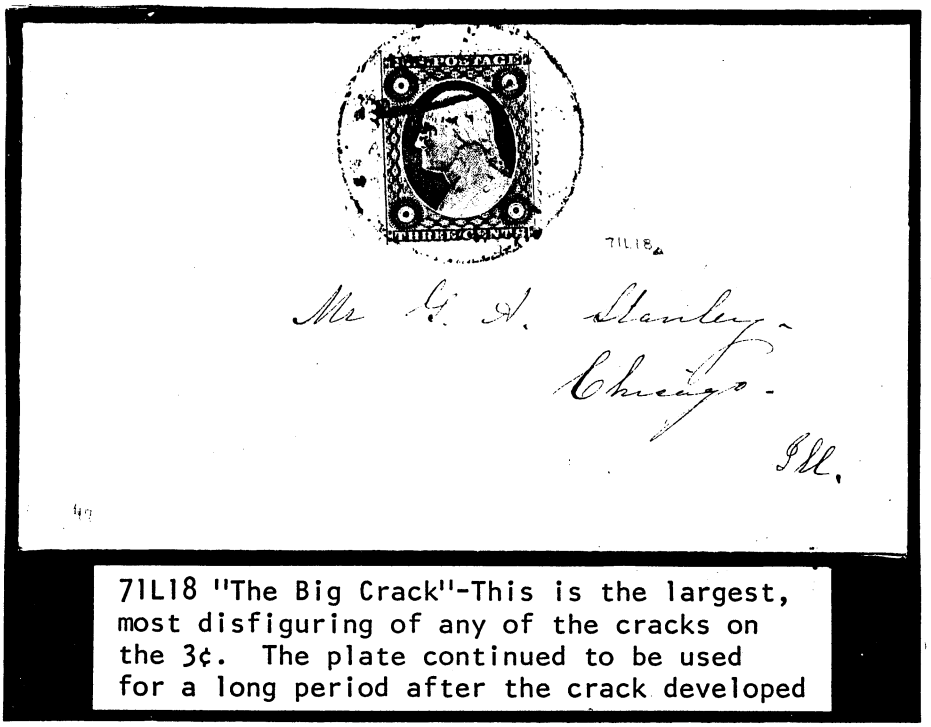
4R20
DT in UL
rosette

7R23
DT in LR
rosette



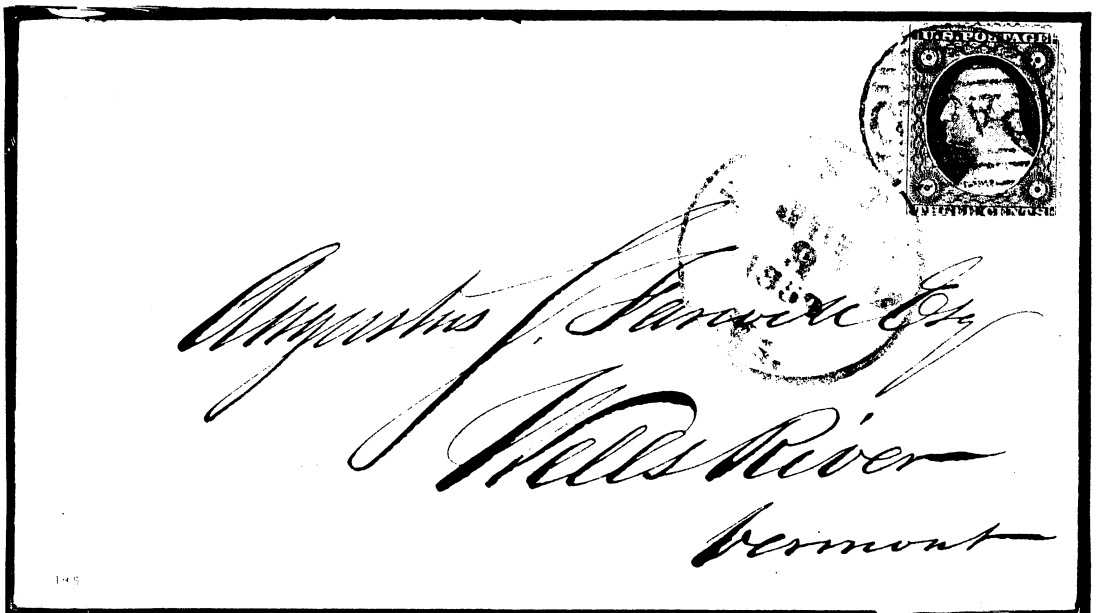
8R24
DT in UL
rosette

CRACKED PLATES OF 3¢ TYPE II: Only two different cracks are known on plates that were used to prepare the Type II stamps. One is the large, well-known "Big Crack" and the other the crack through the lower right rosette. Many copies of the Big Crack are known but only 5 copies of the crack through the rosette are known.



71L18 "The Big Crack"-This is the largest, most disfiguring of any of the cracks on the 3¢. The plate continued to be used for a long period after the crack developed

Crack through
LR rosette

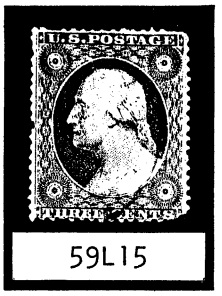


Crack through lower right rosette. Only one copy of this crack is known on cover.

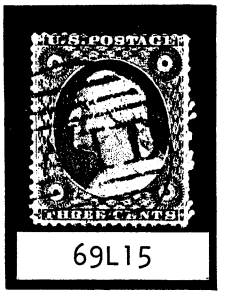
RECUTTING ON TYPE II: There was a greater variety of recutting on the Type II plates than there was on the Type IIa plates. This recutting ranges from the light recutting of the triangles on Plate 15 to the recut inner right frame line on Plate U.

Triangle Recutting: Several different positions on Plate 15 show very light recutting in the upper left triangle. Most of these were also recut in the top of the left tessellated work. These light lines tended to wear away as the plate wore.

19L15

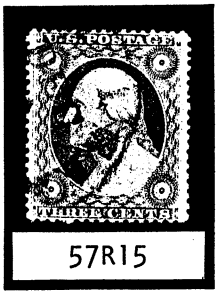


59L15



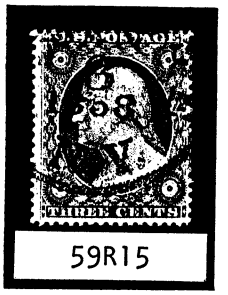
69L15

17R15



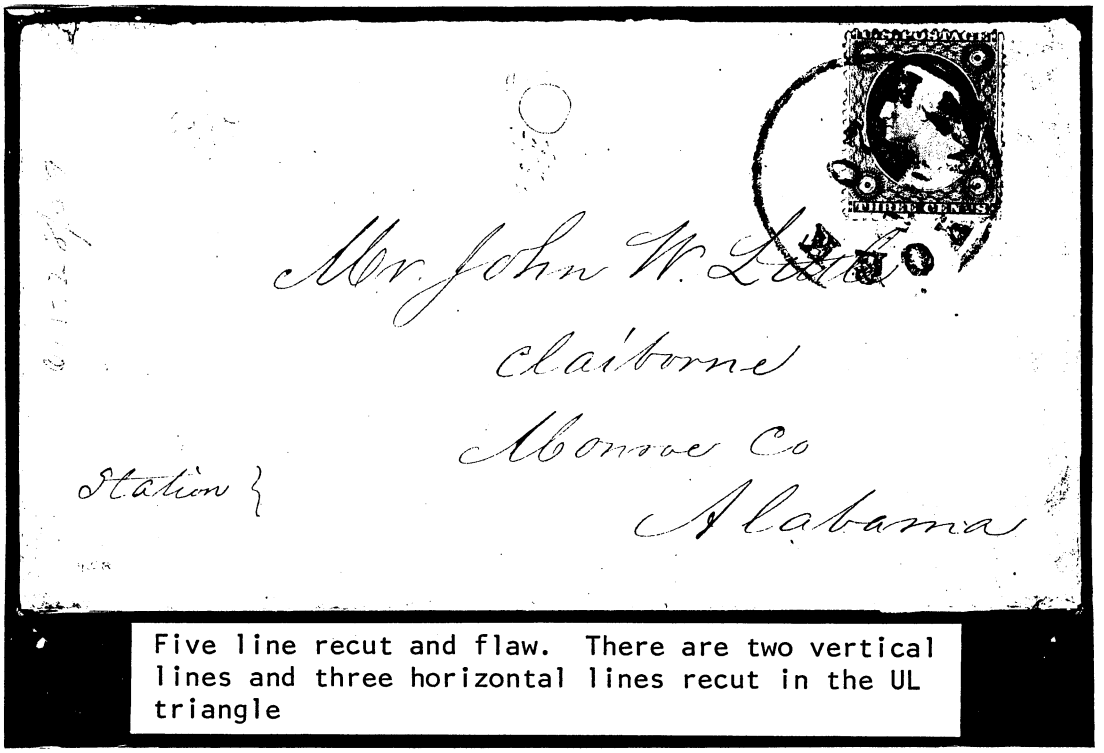
57R15

58R15



59R15

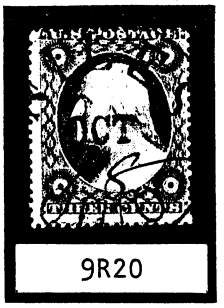
Triangle Recutting: Only one triangle was recut on the Type II plates except for the triangles recut on Plate 15. This one triangle which has five lines recut has not yet been plated. This position also shows a flaw with three dots in it below the triangle in the tessellated work.



Five line recut and flaw. There are two vertical lines and three horizontal lines recut in the UL triangle

A Relief Flaw Recutting: Only three positions on the plates used for the Type II stamps had both of the white areas over the lower left rosette recut or retouched on the A Relief.

8R20



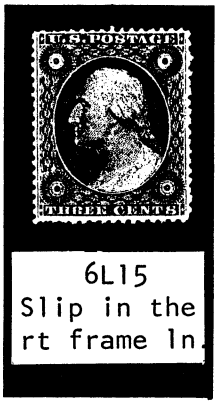
9R20

T98

RECUT INNER FRAME LINE ON TYPE II: Type II has one recut inner line on all of the plates used for the Type II. It is from position 3R of a yet unidentified plate that has been given the designation of Plate U.

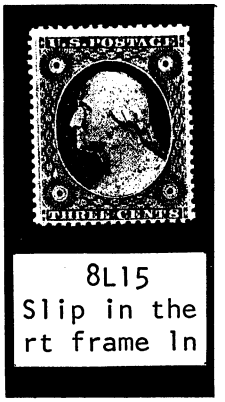
3RU
This is the only recut inner line on Type II

SLIPS IN RECUTTING THE FRAME LINES ON 3¢ TYPE II: While the engraver was recutting the frame lines prior to using the plates for printing, his engraving tool slipped many times producing some light and some heavy extra lines that are connected to the frame lines but that diverge from the frame line. These exist in both the right and in the left frame line and both to the right and to the left of the primary frame line.

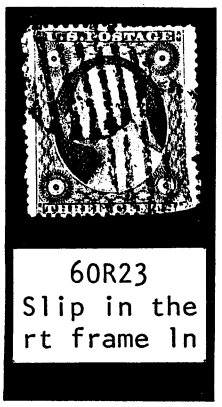


6L15
Slip in the
rt frame ln

1L24
Slip in the
rt frame ln



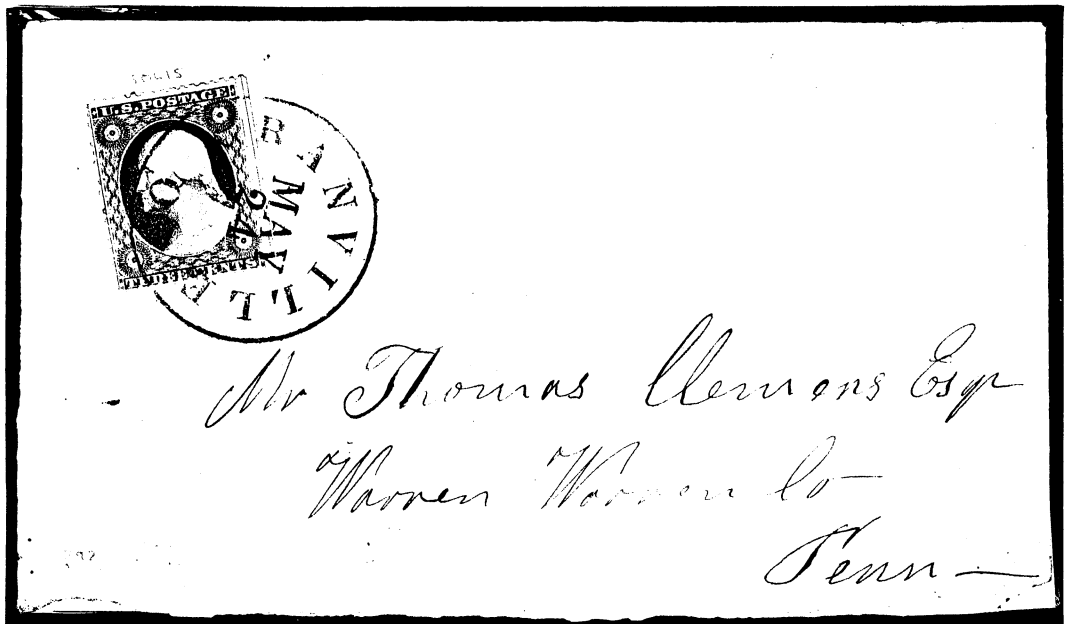
8L15
Slip in the
rt frame ln



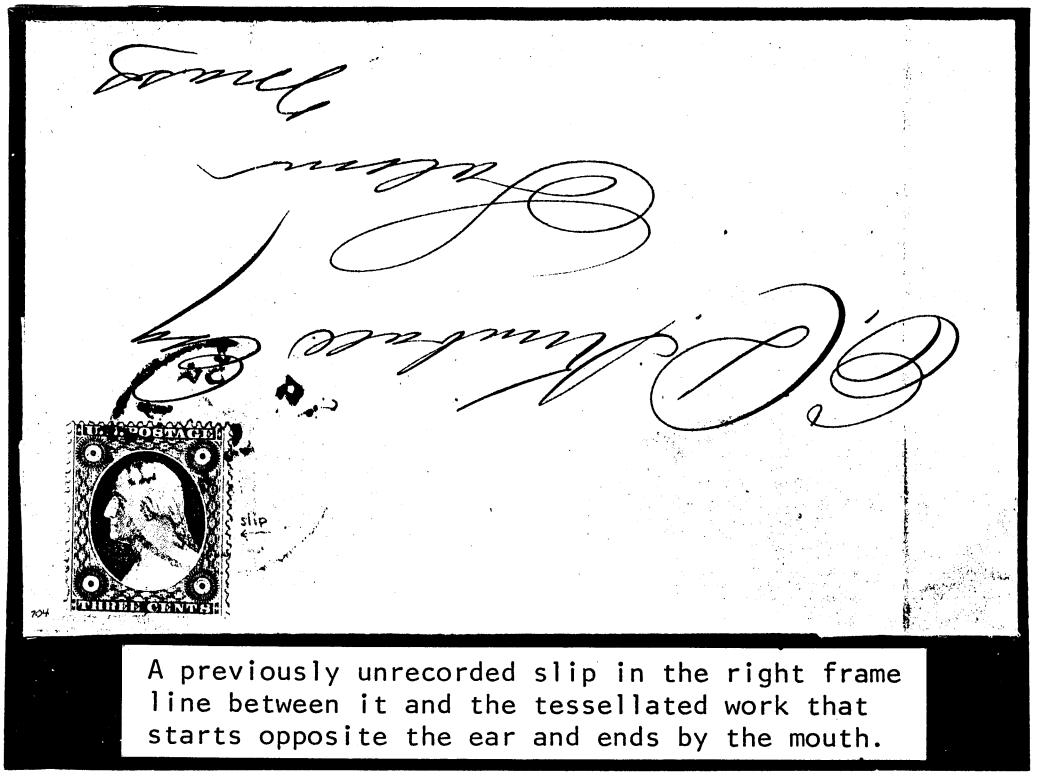
60R23
Slip in the
rt frame ln

99L15
Slip in the
rt frame ln

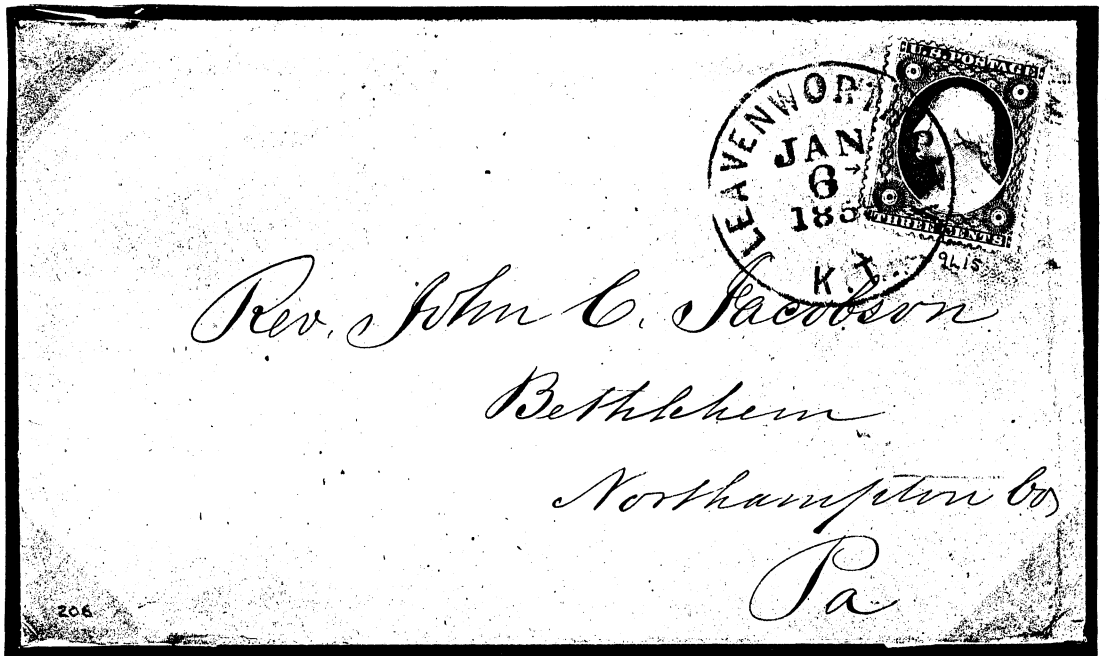
100R9
Slip in the
rt frame ln



50L15 Slip in Right Frame Line-This position shows two slips between the frame line and the tessellated work. One starts opposite the middle of the UR rosette and ends at the bottom of the rosette. The other starts opposite the forehead and ends opposite the eye.



A previously unrecorded slip in the right frame line between it and the tessellated work that starts opposite the ear and ends by the mouth.



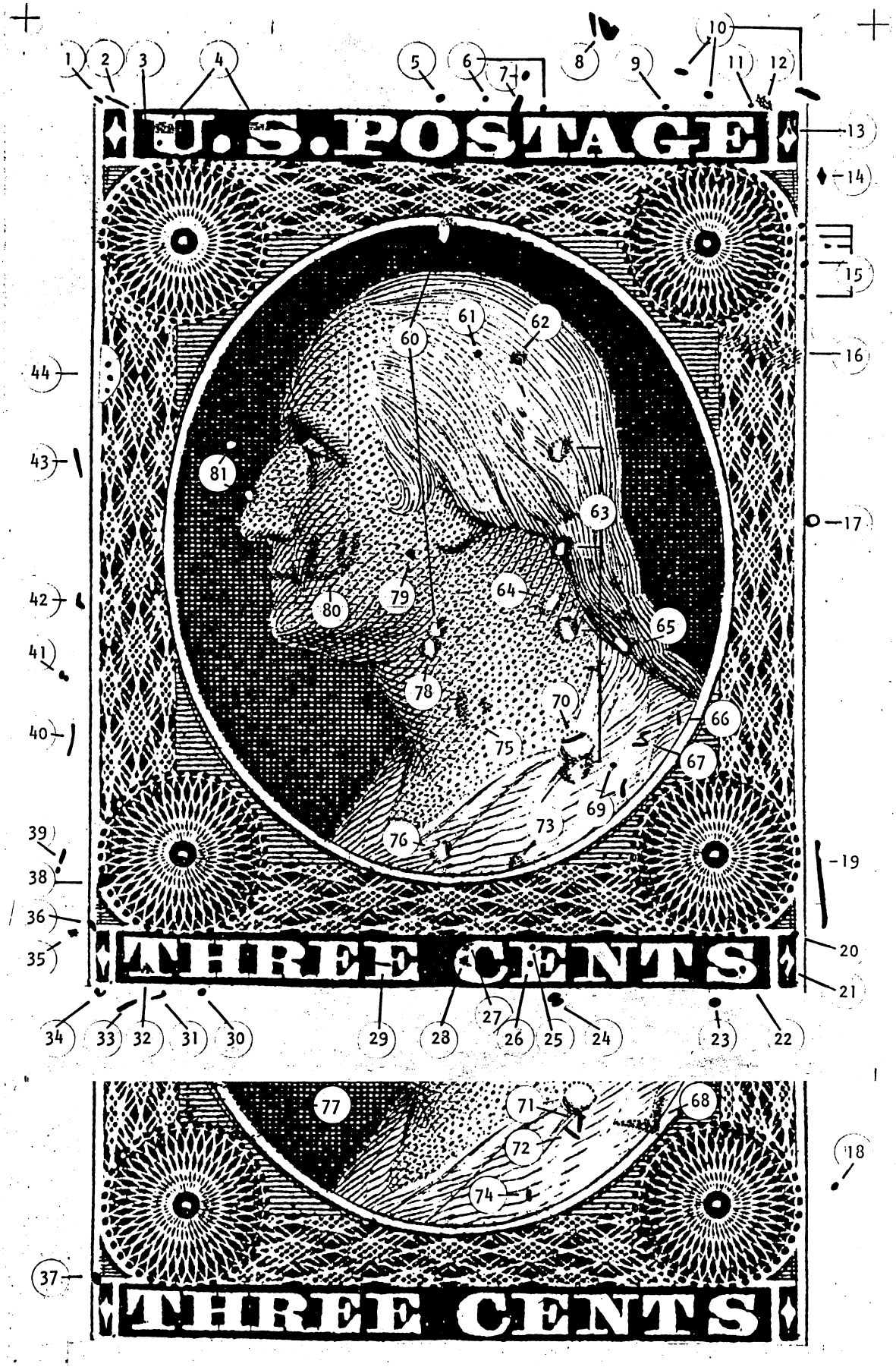
9L15 Slip in Left Frame Line-This slip starts in the left margin opposite the LL rosette and extends up to opposite the chin.

7R15
Triple left
frame line

99R15
Triple left
frame line

slip I
slip left
frame line
at bottom

1L28
slip left
frame line
opp. nose



Published in Chronicle 105 of Feb 1980, these charts show the plate flaws. The following flaws are keyed to these flaw numbers.

Flaw No	Position	Name of Flaw	Comments	Sources (a) 1	2	3
1	--	Dash over UL DBlk	F Relief	32		
2	84R10	Dash over UL DBlk		31	o	
3	9L20	Dot in U of U.S.		39	o	
4	2L9 b	US Flaw		7	o	65/17
5	10R15	Dot over O	see also Flaw #16		o	65/1
6	10R27	Dots over ST		12	o	
7	9R15	Dash thru S		46	o	64/8
8	8L15	Blob over A			o	
9	10R20	Dot over G		16	o	65/2
10	6L24	Dots over GE		13	o	65/5
11	85R10 c	Dot over E			o	64/5
12	71R24 d	Crescent over E			o	65/8
13	T53 f	Dash in UR DBlk			o	Chr 47
14	--	Diamond by UR Tri		53		
15	35R11 g	5 Dots Flaw		45	o	64/7
16	10R15 h	Faint UR Corner	see also Flaw #5		o	
17	46R28	Large Rt Margin Dot			x	65/14
18*	--	Small Rt Margin Dot	10th row		x	66/12
19	48L24	Heavy Dash in Margin		49	o	65/6
20	-- j	Dot over LR DBlk	10th row		o	
21	-- k	Dash LR DBlk				
22	--	Dot in S of CENTS		24	o	67/2
23	10RP(14)	Dot under S of CENTS	T144 f		o	
24	99R10L	Dot under E of CENTS			o	64/6
25	T56 f	Dot high in E of CENTS			x	Chr 47
26	--	Dot low in E of CENTS	6th row		x	66/8
27	--	Blur high in C of CENTS		21	o	
28	--	Blur low in C of CENTS		22	o	
29	--	Dash in E of THREE	C Relief	23	o	66/14
30	T52b f	Dot under H of THREE			o	Chr 46
31	--	Hook under T of THREE		48		
32	27R10i	Blur in T of THREE			o	Chr 83
33	31L15	Dash under T of THREE		38	o	66/13
34	77L23	Moon under LL DBlk		35		
35	--	Dot to Lt of LL DBlk			o	66/15
36	55R25	Dot at UL of LL DBlk		41	o	
37*	--	Dot at UL of LL BBlk	2nd row		x	66/10
38	4R26	LL Rosette Flaw			o	66/9
39	--	! by LL Rosette		47	o	
40	--	Dash NW of LL Rosette		42		
41	61L26	Double Dot by Imprint			o	65/10
42	52R24 m	Inverted Comma		29	o	65/7
43	10L24 n	Vertical Dash at Lt			o	
44	--	Tessellated Flaw	5-line recut		o	
45-		reserved				

* Flaw is illustrated on partial figure
a Sources: 1-Cabeen illustration number from Chronicle 6, Plate B 2-an "o" indicates that illustration was prepared from a copy in the author's collection; an "x" indicates an approximate location from a narrative description; 3-a "#/#" shows the page and paragraph in the Chase 3¢ Book, a "Chr #" shows a Chronicle number.
b Shows on both early and late states
c Shows on early and intermediate states(also on late(see Chr 83))

Flaw No	Position	Name of Flaw	Comments	Sources (a) 1	2	3
60	74R25	Double Medallion Flaw		1	o	65/9
61	3L20	Small Dot in Head			o	65/3
62	92L11i	Large Blur in Head			o	Chr 87
63	18L28	Quadruple Flaw		2	o	66/2
64	58R26	Flaw by Back of Neck			o	65/11
65	14R28	Queue Flaw		5	o	65/12
66	10R25	Shoulder Dash			o	
67	--	Shoulder S		28	o	
68*	34R20	Triangle on Shoulder		25	o	65/4
69	--	Shoulder Semicolon		27	o	66/6
70	--	Split Button		26	o	66/4
71*	--	Pendant under Button	D Relief	6	o	66/5
72*	--	Slash under Button	6th row		o	67/1
73	75R28	Blur over E of CENTS			o	
74*	--	Dash over E of CENTS			o	65/16
75	56R28	Big Neck Flaw		11	o	65/15
76	--	Flaw between E C			x	66/11
77*	--	Weak over LL Rosette		50	o	66/1
78	2L26	Small Neck Flaw		9	o	66/7
79	27R25	Dot by Ear			o	Chr 54
80	48R26	Cheek Flaw		3	o	66/3
81	27R28	Double Dot by Nose			o	65/13
82-		reserved				

d The author's copy has only a faint blur
f A "T#" indicates a top row copy that has not yet been plated
g Shows on intermediate and late states
h The weak area covers the entire UR corner of the impression
j The author's copy from Chase has notes discussing an identical copy owned by Lester Downing
k Discussed and illustrated in the "Perf Book" on page 50.
m Chr 6 states the position is 54R24 but should read 52R24
n T. W. Simpson states that this flaw does not always show

Abbreviations:

Ros - Rosette	Tri - Triangle	DBlk - Diamond Block
UL - Upper left	UR - Upper right	LL - Lower left
LR - Lower right	NW - Northwest	Lt - Left
Rt - Right		

Figure 28. Listing of flaws inside the medallion

PLATE FLAWS: There are several different types of plate flaws that can be found on the 3¢ issue. Some flaws are a result of defects in the metal used to make the plates. In some cases the metal was harder in some places than it was over the rest of the plate which resulted in high spots that didn't hold the ink. In other places the metal was softer than the adjacent metal which allowed the design to hold more ink than normal. Other flaws were caused by careless handling of the plate such as letting a hard object drop onto the plate causing a pit in the surface that held ink. These flaws range from the size of a dot to a series of four large gouges on one position.

Flaws in the Top Margin

5

10R15
Dot above O in the top margin.

6

10R27
Dot over ST in the top margin

7

9R15
Dots above ST in the top margin

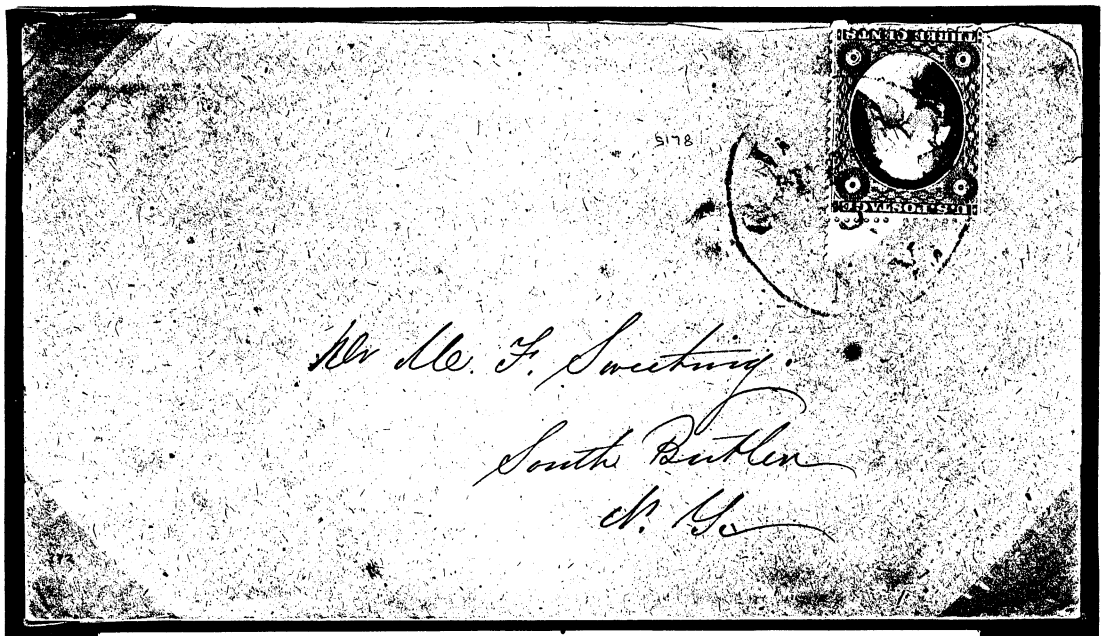
9

10R20
Dot above G in the top margin

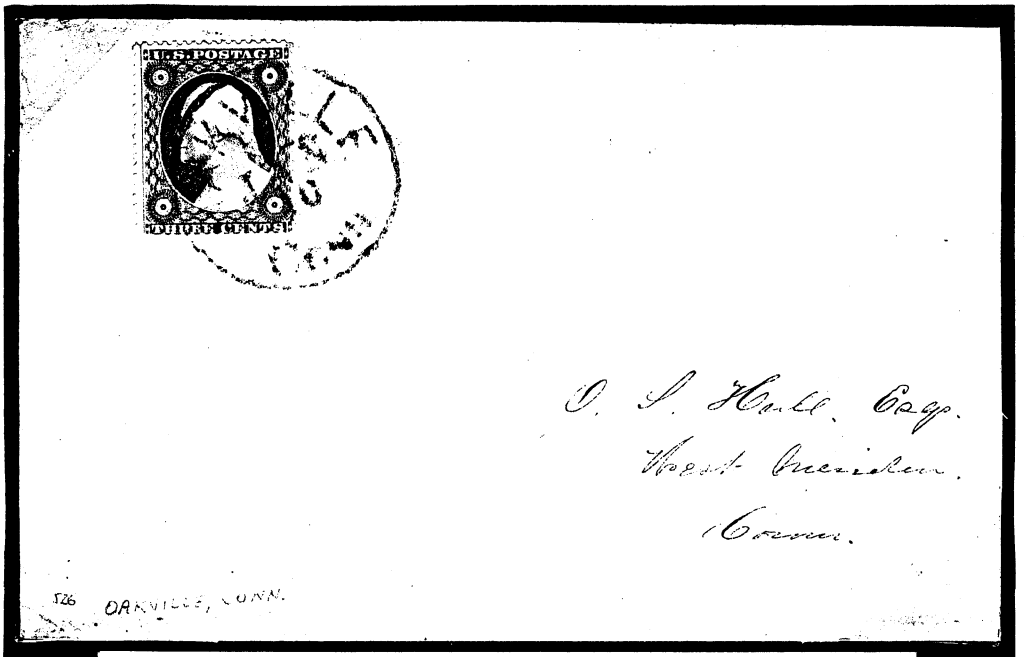
10

6L24
Dot above E in the top margin

8



8L15 Flaw over A of Postage-This flaw shows only on copies that show at least a part of the top sheet



Dot over Diamond Block-A strong dot appears over the UR diamond block between the two positions.

Flaws in the Lettering

27

Dot in the C of CENTS

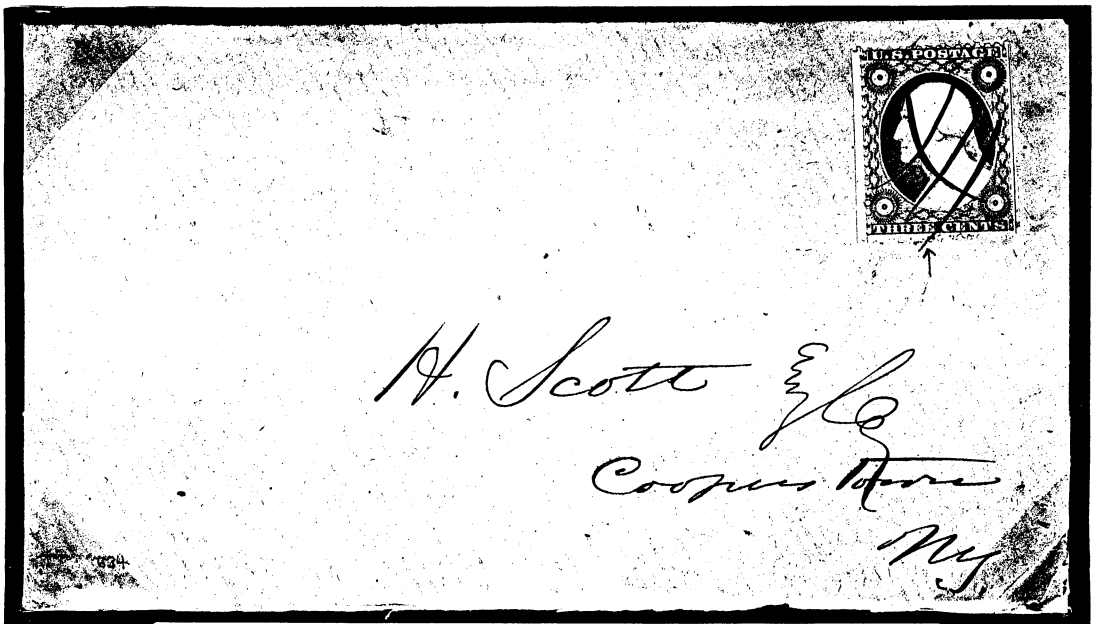
22

Dot in the S of CENTS

28

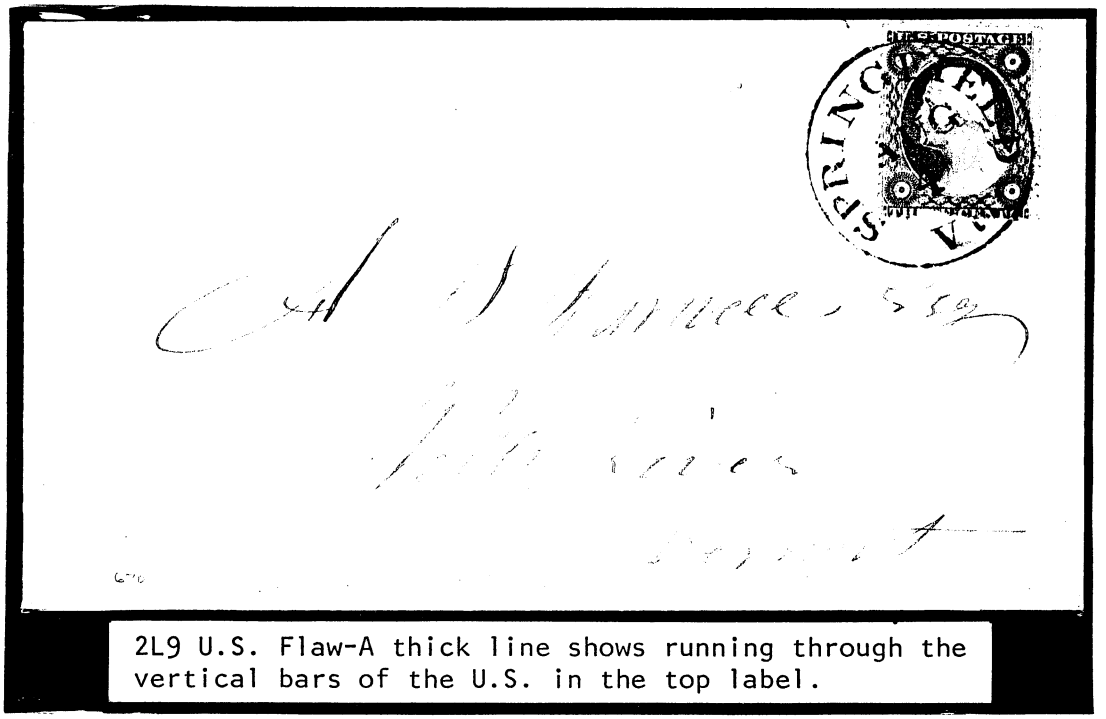
Dot in the C of CENTS

29



Dash in E-A light horizontal line shows in the vertical leg of the second E of THREE.

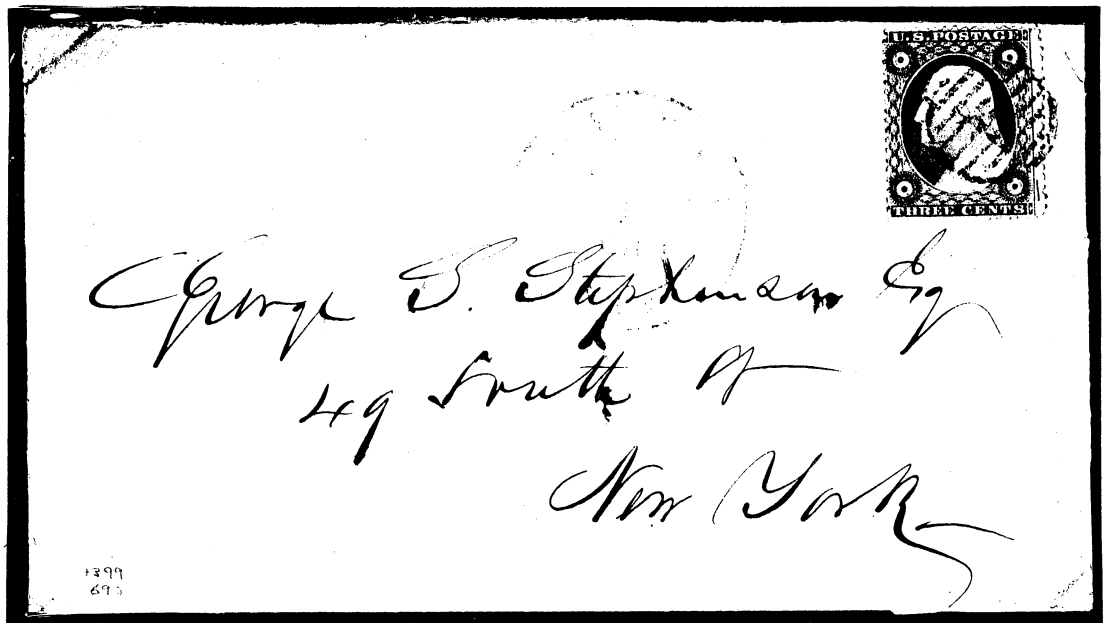
4



2L9 U.S. Flaw-A thick line shows running through the vertical bars of the U.S. in the top label.

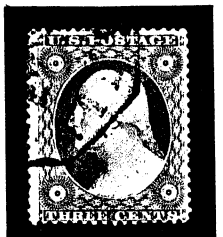
Flaws in the Left, Right and Bottom Margins.

19



48L24 Margin Dash-A long, heavy line shows in the right margin opposite the lower right rosette.

42

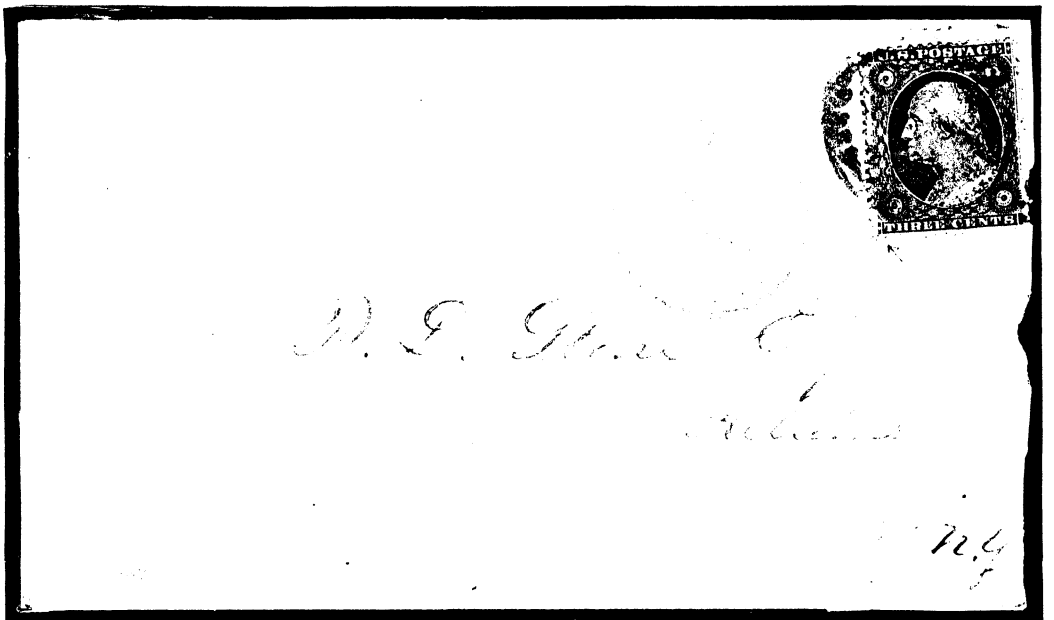


52L24
Dot at left opposite the chin.

35

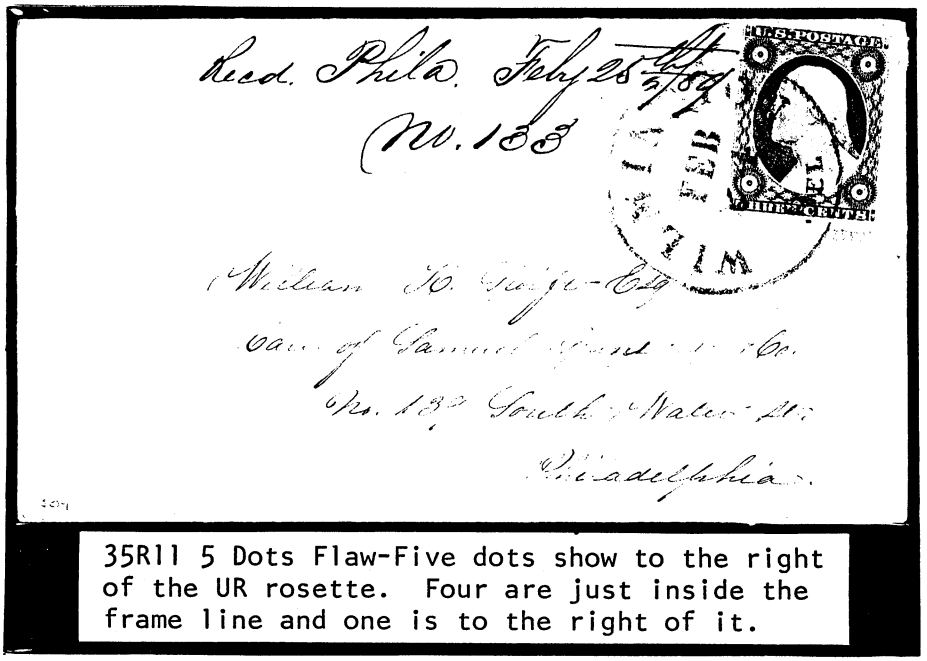
Dot to left of the LL diamond blk

33



Dash under T-A short dash shows under the T of THREE in the bottom label.

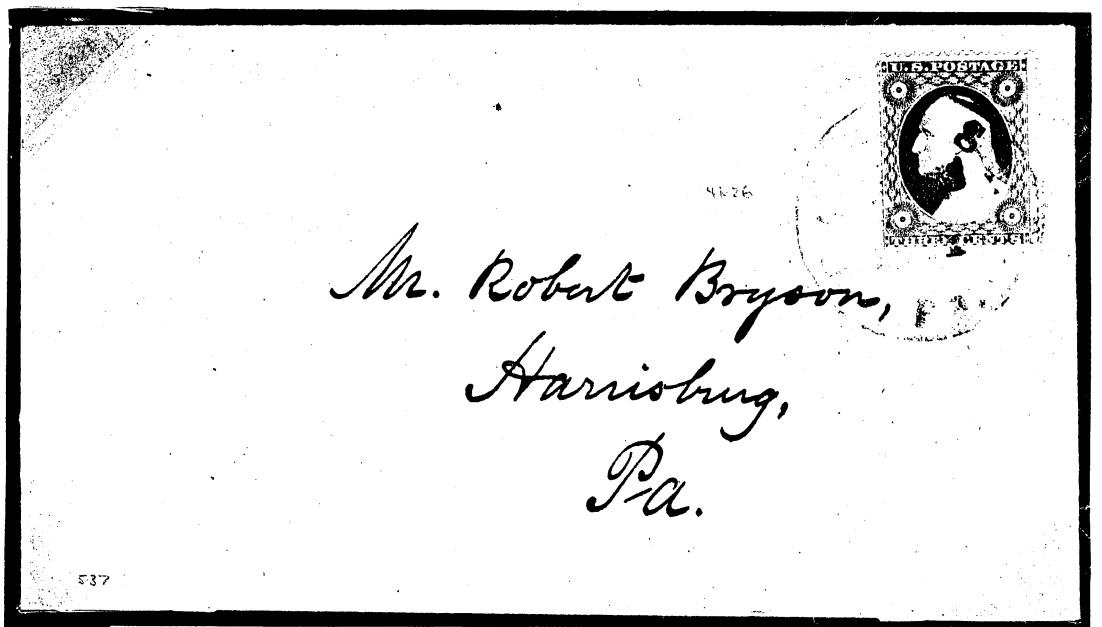
15



35R11 5 Dots Flaw-Five dots show to the right of the UR rosette. Four are just inside the frame line and one is to the right of it.

Flaws in the Design outside of the Medallion

38



4R26-A flaw in the LL rosette that shows just above the lower left triangle.

44

Five lines recut in UL triangle. Flaw under UL rosette.

39

Exclamation mark at the left of the LL rosette

36

55R25
Blur above lower left diamond blk

Flaws in the Medallion

80

48R26
Cheek flaw

75

56R28
Large neck flaw

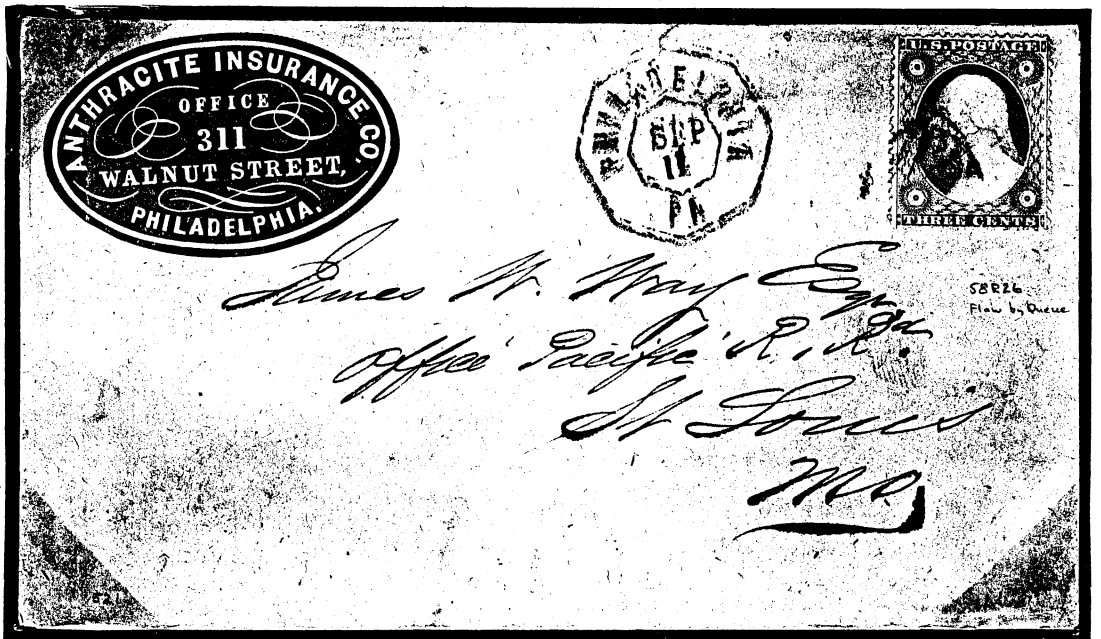
78

2L26
Small neck flaw

60

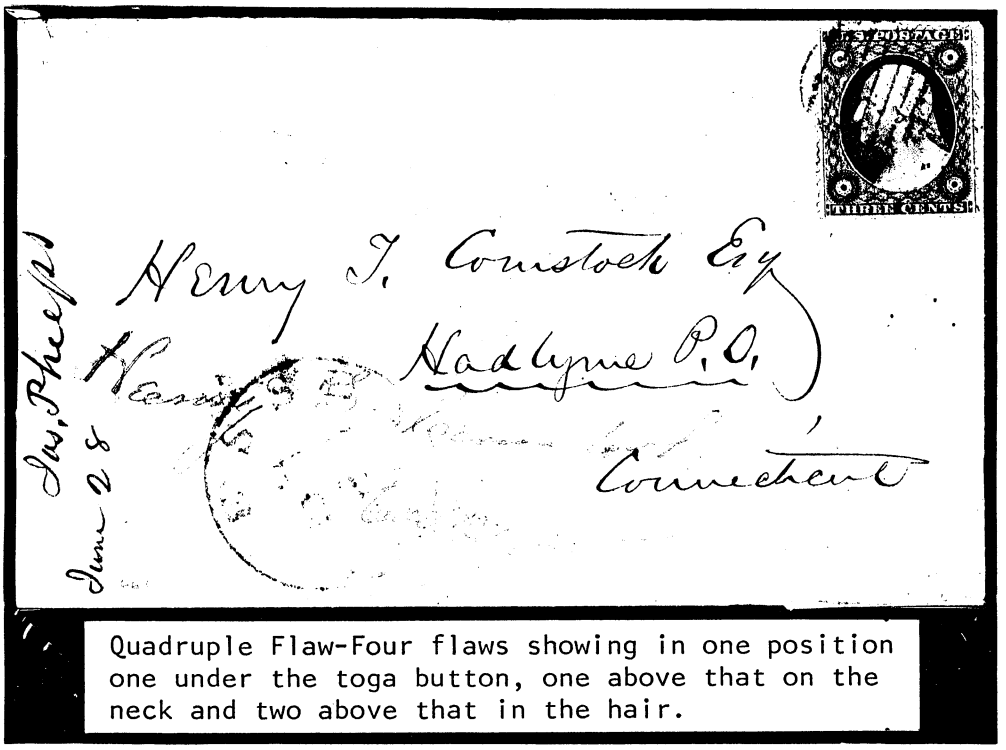
74R25
Double flaw over head and by chin

64



58R26 Flaw by the Queue-A flaw appears below and to the right of the ear close to the hair queue.

63

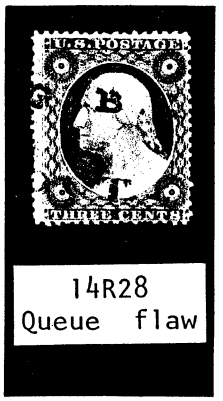


Quadruple Flaw-Four flaws showing in one position one under the toga button, one above that on the neck and two above that in the hair.

73

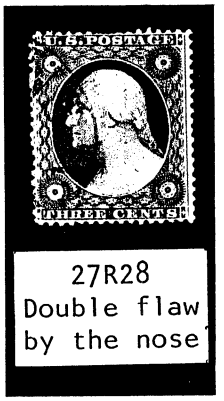
Torn toga over the E of CENTS

65

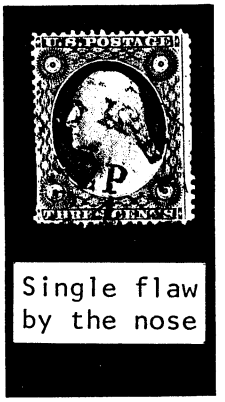


14R28
Queue flaw

81

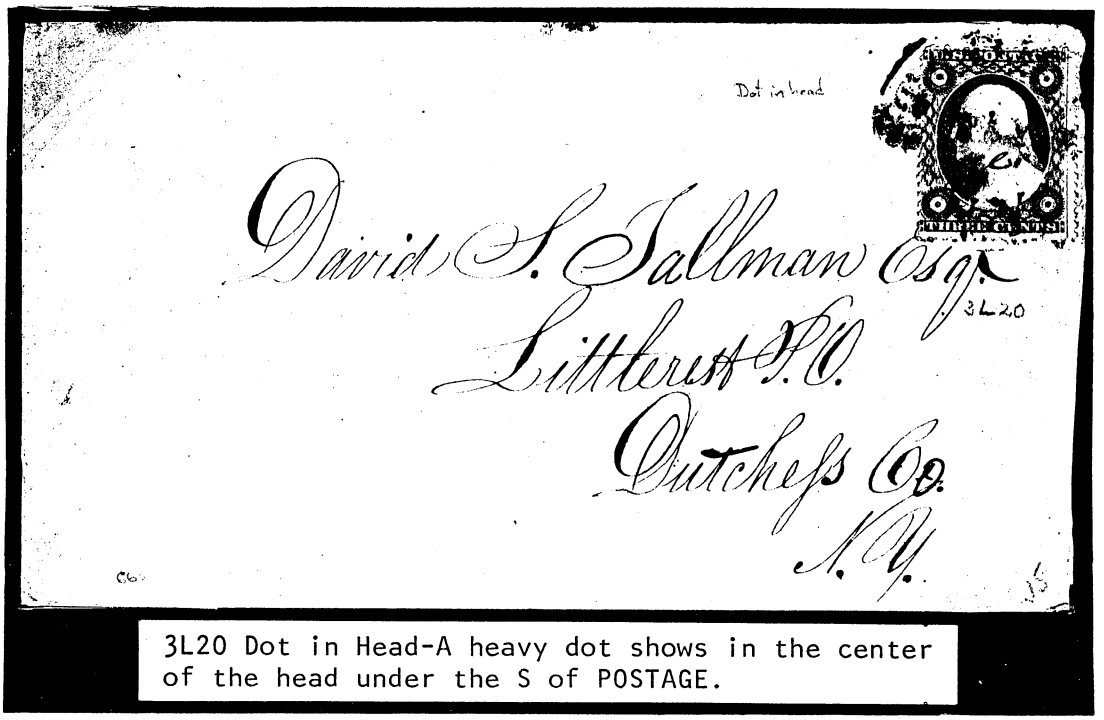


27R28
Double flaw by the nose



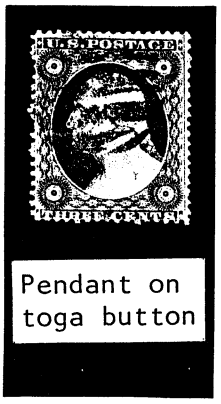
Single flaw by the nose

61



3L20 Dot in Head-A heavy dot shows in the center of the head under the S of POSTAGE.

71



Pendant on toga button

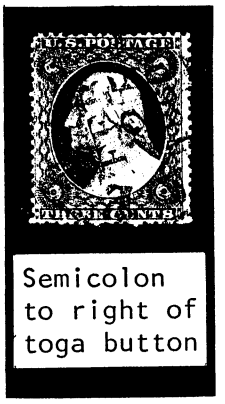
70

Split thru toga button

67

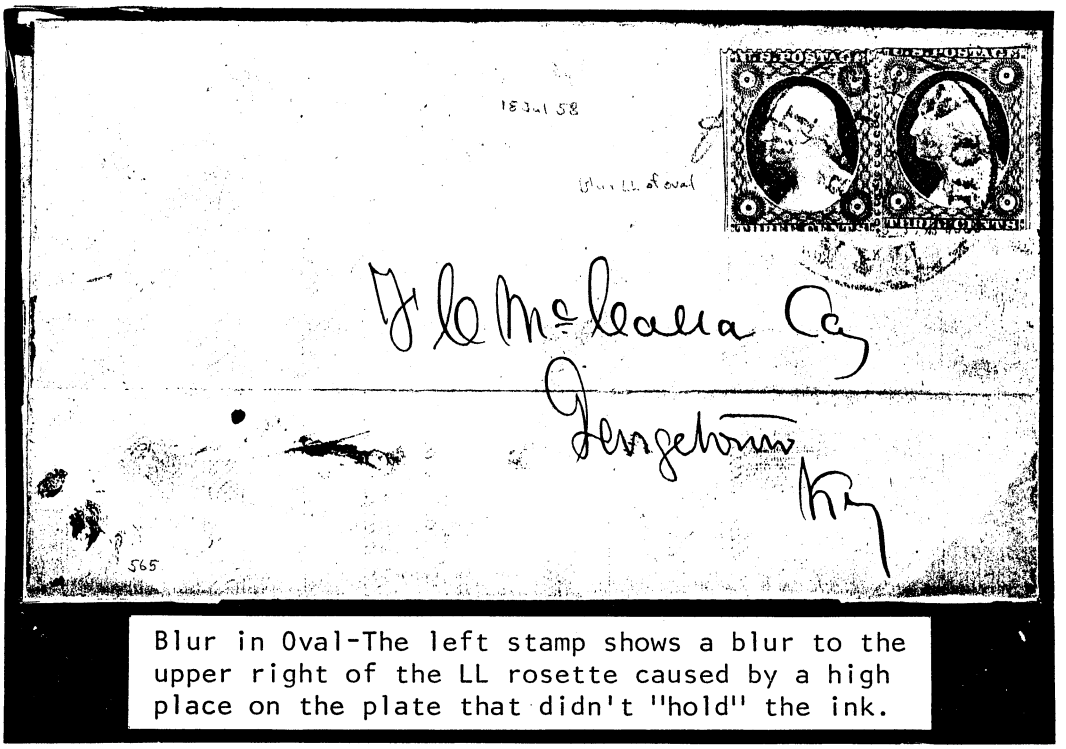
"s" mark on shoulder to right of toga button

69



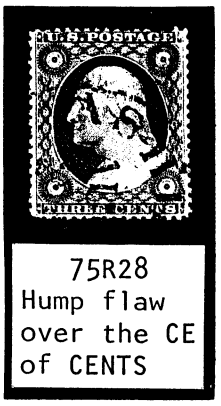
Semicolon to right of toga button

77

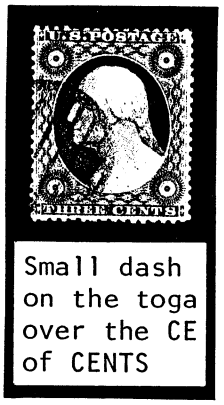


Blur in Oval-The left stamp shows a blur to the upper right of the LL rosette caused by a high place on the plate that didn't "hold" the ink.

73



75R28
Hump flaw over the CE of CENTS

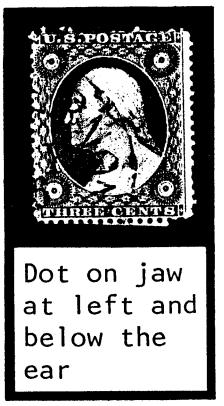


Small dash on the toga over the CE of CENTS

68

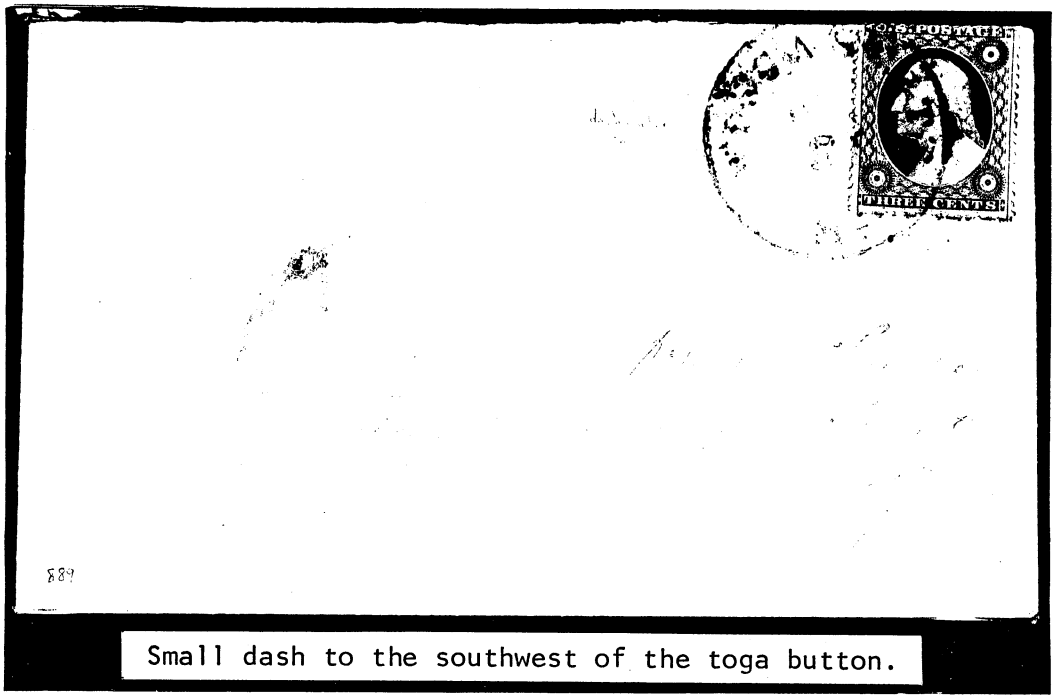
34R20
Triangular flaw on the shoulder

79



Dot on jaw at left and below the ear

72



Small dash to the southwest of the toga button.

PRINTING VARIETIES: Since the printing of these stamps was done by hand, many varieties can be found that show some carelessness on the part of the printers. First, the plate was inked and the excess ink was wiped off by hand. The paper used had to be wet for the ink from the plate to adhere to the paper. The paper was placed on the press and pressure was applied. The printed sheet was then removed from the press and stacked to dry. These examples show some of the problems that the printers experienced in producing the large quantities of sheets that were needed to satisfy the needs of the public.

Foreign material adhearing to plate during the printing process

Smudge caused by careless removing of the sheet from printing press

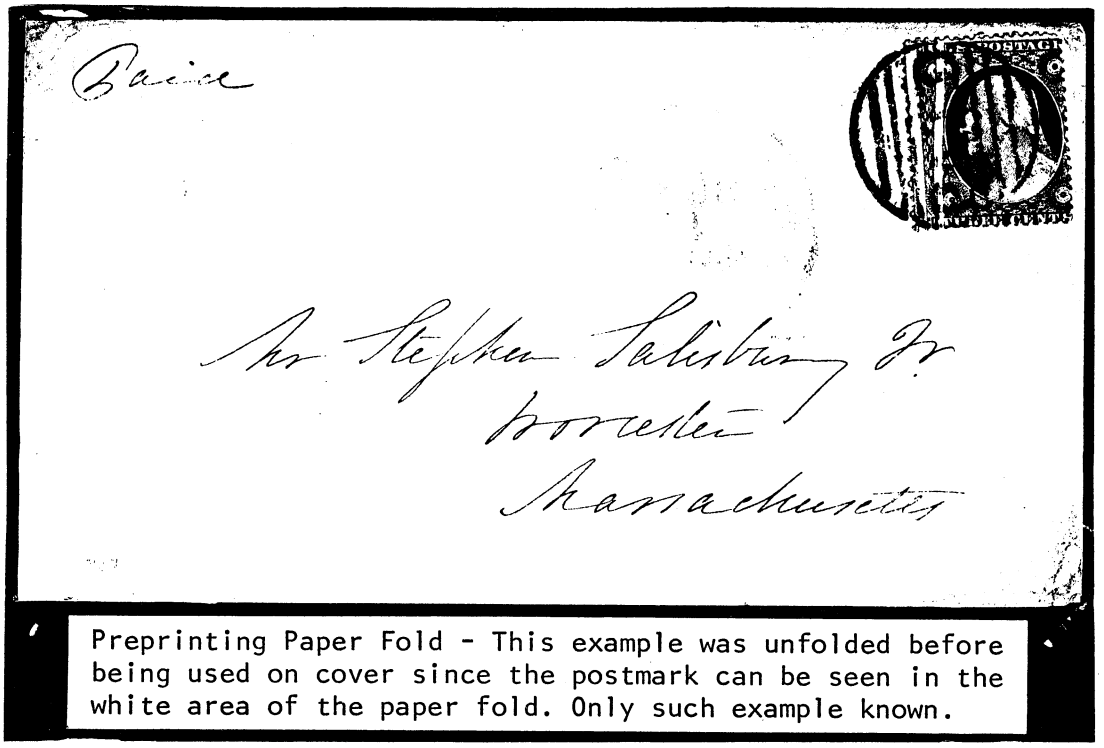
Overall toning that is characteristic of an early impression from the plate

Preprinting paper crease caused by not smoothing the wet sheet of paper

Dry paper impression caused by the corner of the sheet drying before being printed

Smears in the stamp caused by careless handling of the sheet before drying

Unevenly wiped plate with more ink wiped from the bottom than from the top



Preprinting Paper Fold - This example was unfolded before being used on cover since the postmark can be seen in the white area of the paper fold. Only such example known.

PERFORATION VARIETIES: Although the stamp manufacturers became better at aligning the perforations as time went by, they still had problems in properly aligning the sheets of stamps so that the perforations would fall between the stamps. Double vertical perforations are frequently found when an attempt was made to realign the sheet at the proper place.

Vertical perforation tripled

Vertical perforation doubled

Horizontal perforation doubled