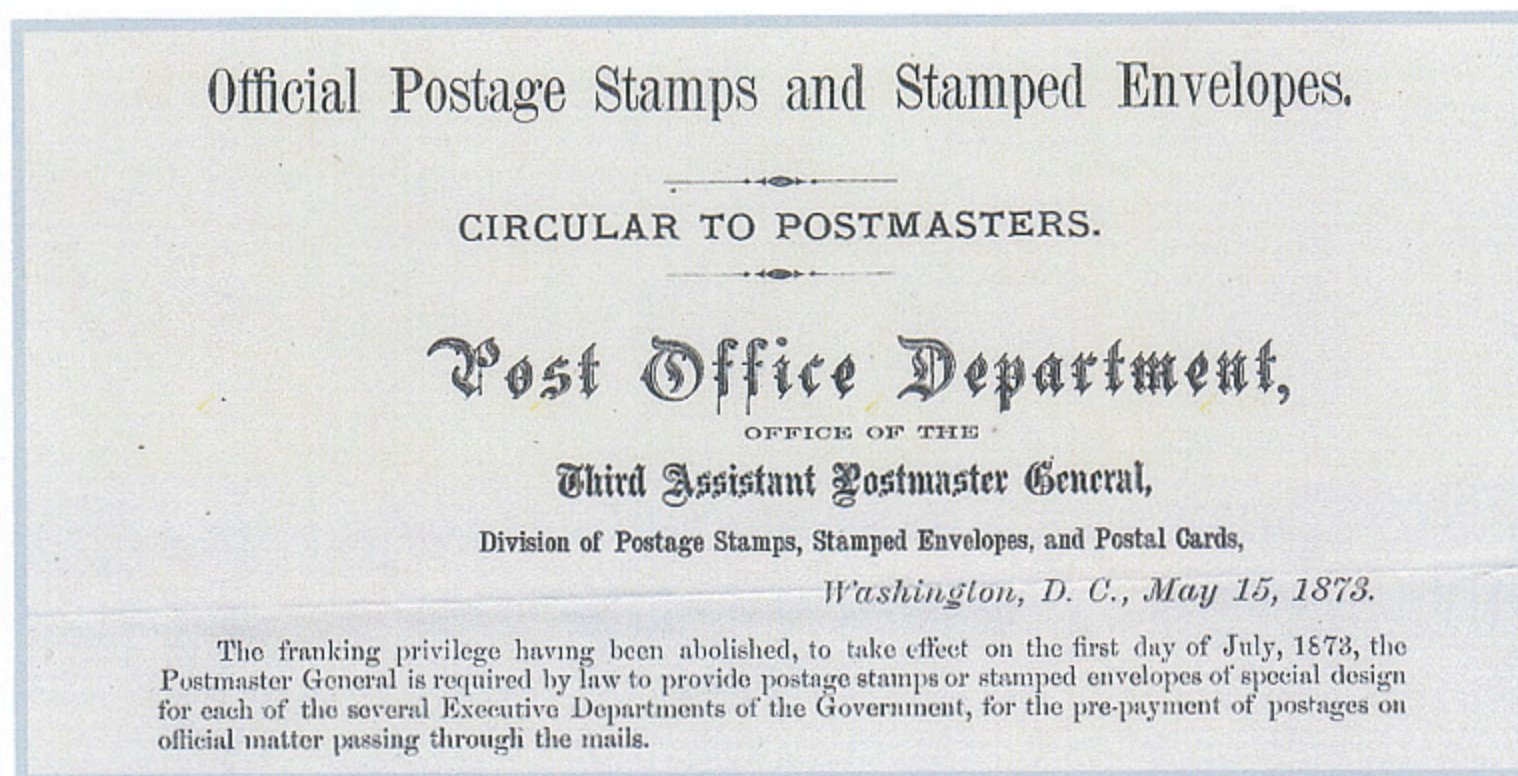


LINCOLN PORTRAIT DEPARTMENTAL STAMPS: 1873 TO 1879

After years of abuse that produced huge postal deficits, Congress abolished the franking privilege in 1873 and authorized official stamps to be prepared for the Executive Office and its subordinate departments. In less than three months, the Continental Bank Note Company adapted the designs of the regular issues to produce 90 different stamps by July 1. A distinctive frame design and color was assigned to each department. Official stamps were not valid for use by the public.



15 May 1873, trimmed copy of Official Announcement from the Third Assistant Postmaster General for the issuance of official stamps and envelopes. Abolishment of the franking privilege was to take effect on July 1, 1873.

The Continental Bank Note Company printed the official stamps in 1873 on hard paper. They were not very popular, therefore, on March 3, 1877, penalty franks were authorized for the department offices in Washington, D.C. only. In 1879, despite the expanded use of penalty franks, certain needed values of six departments were printed again by the American Bank Note Company on soft, porous paper. The use of penalty franks was gradually expanded to include field offices and the use of official stamps was finally discontinued on July 5, 1884.

Eight of the nine departments are displayed with selected proofs, trial color proofs, unused stamps and multiples, cancellations and used multiples, and usages. Significant items are highlighted with a reddish border. The Post Office used a numeral design instead of vignettes, and therefore it is not included in this exhibit.

Exhibit Outline

- Agriculture 1873
- Executive 1873
- Interior 1873, 1879
- Justice 1873, 1879
- Navy 1873
- State 1873
- Treasury 1873, 1879
- War 1873, 1879

Lincoln Portrait Departmental Stamps

On April 4, Postmaster General Creswell ordered Continental Banknote Co. to design and engrave the new official stamps. This was just three days after taking possession of the National dies and setting to work making new plates for the regular issues. At this early stage, apparently it was deemed that the designs for the new Official issue would have to be adapted from the regular issue then in use, in order to afford the printer any chance of meeting the July 1 deadline.

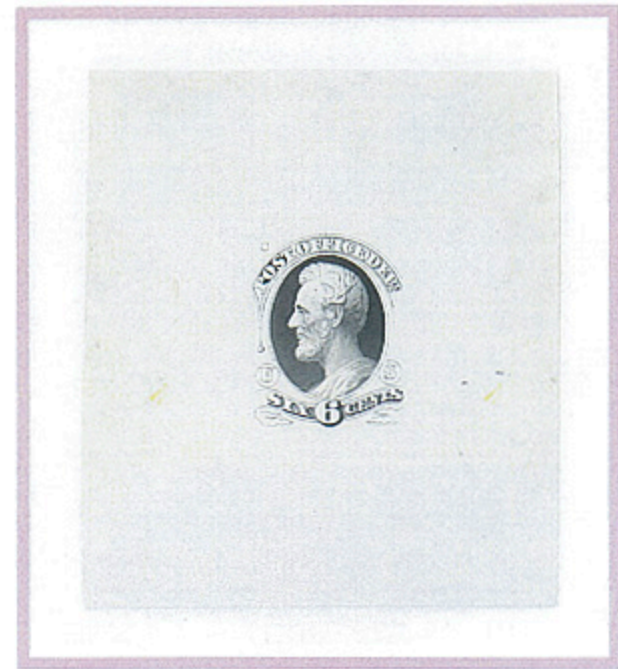
Master Die Essay



Die in black on India,
impressed on card

Vignette and value label only essay with regular issue frame elements removed. Used by Continental as master transfer die for producing the Official Issue.

Incomplete Die Essay



Die in black on
white ivory paper

Incomplete engraving of design with Lincoln vignette, without rectangular frame design. The Post Office design was later changed to a numeral vignette.

Complete Designs



Agriculture



Executive



Interior



Justice



Navy



State



Treasury



War

Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture, established in 1862, was not made an Executive department until 1889, and its commissioner was not of cabinet rank. The bulk of its mail pertained to seed orders, crop reports and weather reports. Prestamped envelopes were sent out to many rural areas. The need for higher value stamps was badly overestimated in the beginning, and after 1875, additional supplies of only the 3¢ and 6¢ were ordered. Penalty envelopes were not extensively used during the transitional period. Covers from this department are the most difficult to find, since clerks in Washington, D.C. "skinned" the stamps off all incoming mail to sell to stamp gatherers.

Plate Proofs



Plate on India



Plate on card



Die proof on wove

A special printing of small die proofs was produced in 1904 by the Roosevelt Administration. Eighty five presentation albums were created using these proofs.

Trial Color Plate Proof



Black on India

"Atlanta" Trial Color Plate Proofs



Plate proofs on thin cardboard

Plate proofs reprinted in five different colors at the request of the Post Office Department. These proofs were displayed at the International Cotton Exposition held at Atlanta, Georgia in 1881. Only one sheet of one-hundred was printed in each of the five colors.

1873 Department of Agriculture

Issued Stamps



1875 Special Printings

Special Printings of Official stamps were made in 1875 at the time the other Reprints, Re-Issues and Special Printings were made. They were overprinted "Specimen" so that they could not be used as regular postage.



373 Issued



Foreign Transfer
of 6¢ Agriculture
Position 40

Used Stamps - Cancels



Blue Revenue



Dakota Terr.



Two Ring Target



Star in Circle



Positive Star



Letter "A"



Quartered Cork



Magenta Rings



Black Rings



Purple Maltese
Cross

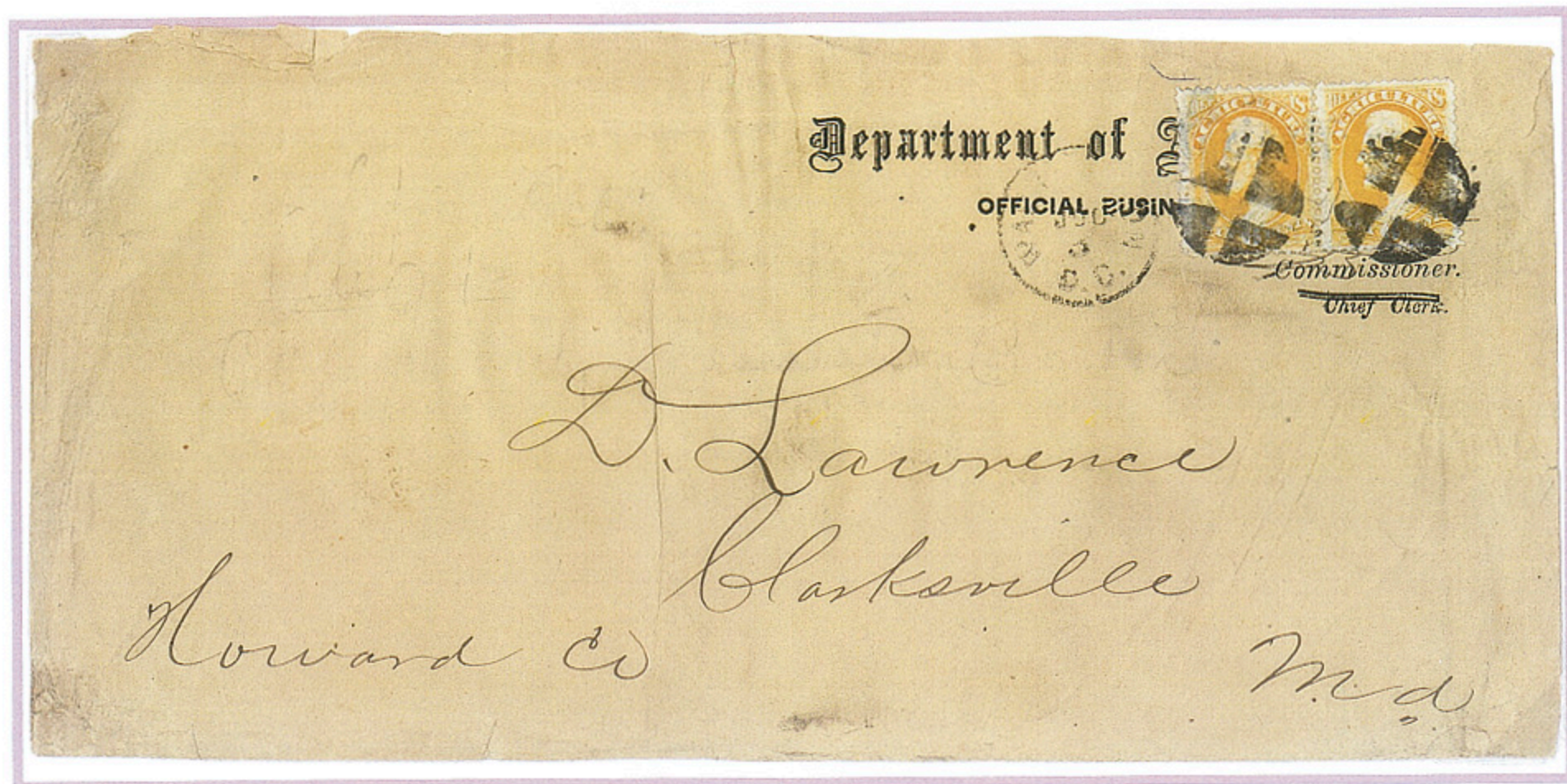


Maltese Cross



"Bat"

**1873 Department of Agriculture
Domestic Usage**



3 July (1874) Washington, D.C. quadruple rate to Clarksville, MD.
Obsolete chief clerk free frank envelope bearing clerk's signature applied beneath stamps.

The earliest of only four recorded 6¢ Agriculture usages.

The only recorded used multiple.

Used multiples of the Department of Agriculture stamps are extremely scarce with no blocks recorded.

Not a department per se, these stamps were prepared for the use of the President and his personal staff. The stamps were valid during the administrations of Presidents Grant, Hayes, Garfield and Arthur, but most usages are from Grant's second term, since Hayes' inauguration coincided with the first authorization of penalty envelopes on March 3, 1877. All usages are from Washington, D.C. or Long Branch, New Jersey where Grant had a summer retreat. Only five lower values were issued because no bulky mailings were anticipated. It is believed that President Hayes continued to use the stamps on his personal correspondence, with official business mail sent out in penalty envelopes and social invitations franked with regular Bank Note stamps.

Roosevelt Small Die Proof



Die proof on wove

Plate Proofs



Plate on India



Plate on card

The Executive

Large Die Proof



1873 The Executive

Trial Color Plate Proofs



Black on India



Brown Carmine on card



Brown Carmine
on India

Issued Stamps



Double transfer in "6"
Position 6
The only recorded
plate number item



The only recorded block

"Atlanta" Trial Color Plate Proofs



Plate proofs on thin cardboard

1875 Special Printings



3,485 Issued



Pre-Printing
Paper Fold

Used Stamps - Cancels



Leaf



Purple Star
Long Branch, NJ



Quartered Cork



Circle of Vs



Split Cork

Variety



Pre-Printing
Paper Fold

1873 The Executive
Franking Privilege Foreign Usage / Domestic Usage

This envelope was sent just prior to the abolishment of the free franking privilege and the issuance of Official stamps. The President's mail was usually sent abroad by diplomatic pouch.



9 February 1873, Washington, D.C. to Paris, France, President U.S. Grant free frank not valid for foreign mail, bearing 6¢ regular issue in combination with 1867 3¢ issue for postage.
 French entry postmark and 10 décimes due rating.

No similar usage recorded.

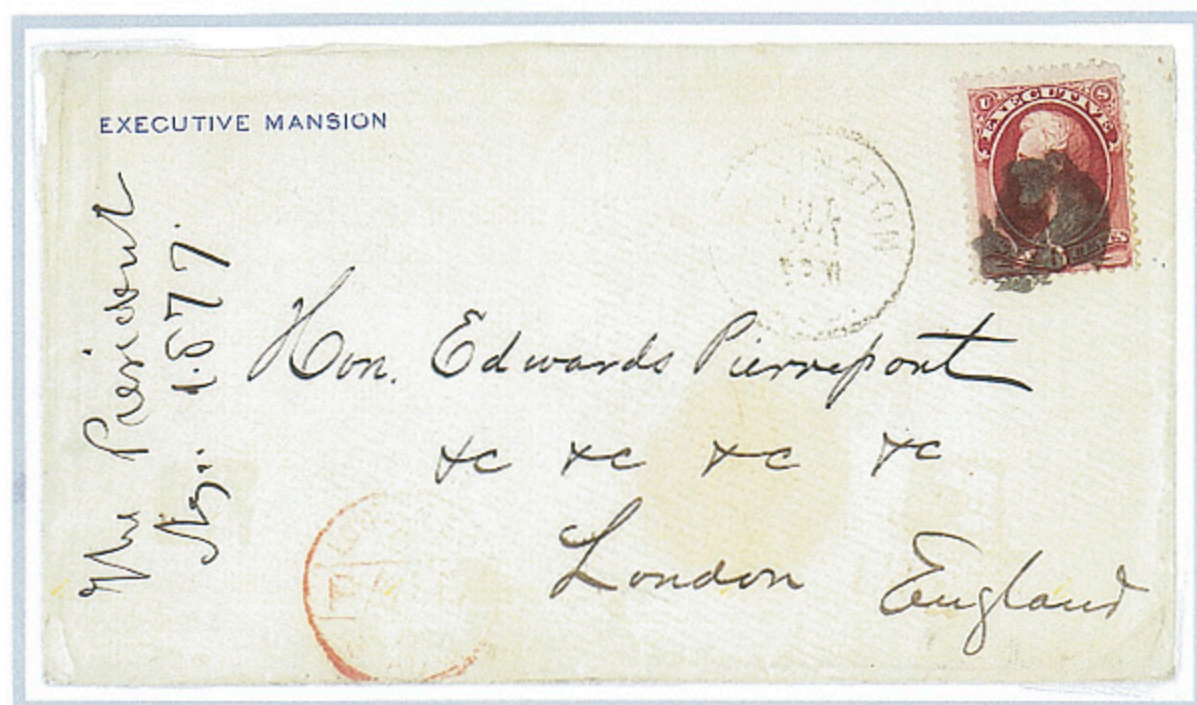


10 August 1877, Washington, D.C. double rate to Imlaystown, NJ.
 Official Executive Mansion imprint in blue.

One of only seven recorded 6¢ Executive usages.

Sent during the administration of Pres. Rutherford B. Hayes.

1873 The Executive
Foreign Usage to England



30 July 1877 Washington, D.C. single 6¢ treaty rate to London, England, addressed to U.S. Minister Edwards Pierpont, red London arrival. Docketed "Mr. President Ag 1877".



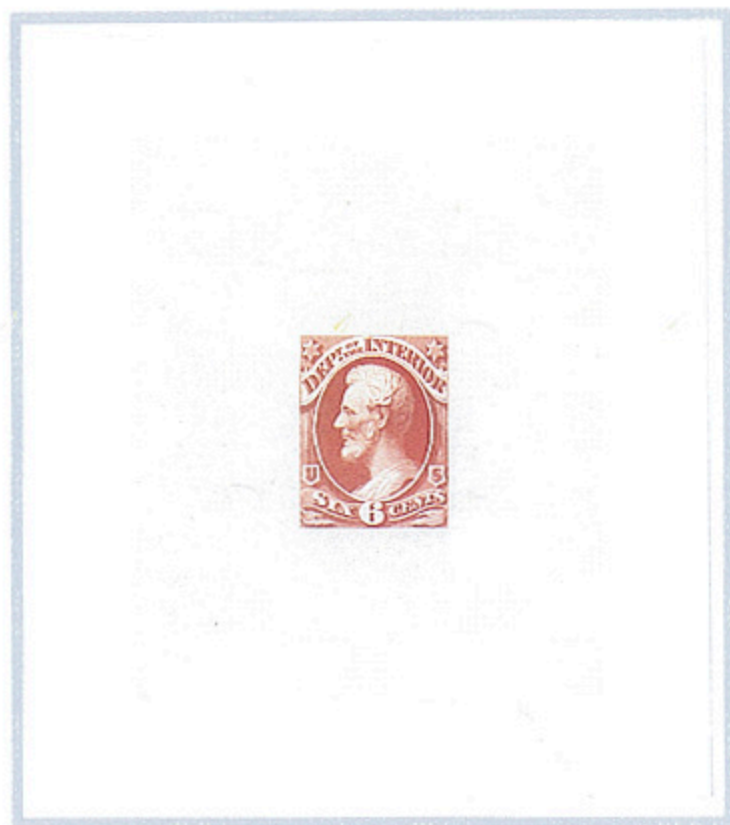
23 April 1877 Washington, D.C. double 6¢ treaty rate to London, England.
Red London arrival postmark.

The only recorded used multiple, on or off cover.

Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior, established in 1849, is headed by a Secretary, whose office distributed stamps to eight bureaus: General Land Office, Pension Office, Patent Office, Indian Office, Bureau of Education, Geological Survey, Census Office, and the National Museum (The Smithsonian Institution). The Land Office and the Pension Office generated the most mail, and Land Office usages were well dispersed across the country. The Bureau of Education and the Census Office used official stamps on their return mailings. The Department of the Interior used penalty envelopes extensively during the transitional period, 1877-1884, although fresh supplies of official stamps were also being ordered up until the very end.

Large Die Proof



Large die proof, die sunk on card

Plate Proofs



Plate on India



Plate on card

Roosevelt Small Die Proof



Die proof on wove

"Atlanta" Trial Color Plate Proofs



Plate proofs on thin cardboard

1873 Department of the Interior Issued Stamps

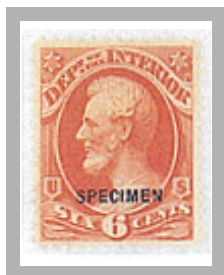


Missing Perfs



Imprint upper left corner margin block of ten

1875 Special Printing



83 Issued



Imprint and plate number "56" lower left corner margin block of twelve

1873 Department of the Interior Cancellations



Dakota
Territory



Geometric
New Orleans, LA



Two Ring Target
Blue



Two Ring Target
Purple



Violet
Star in Circle



Negative "M"
Denver, CO



Negative "76"



"Used Up"
Traverse City, MI



3rd Class Oval
Washington, D.C.



1873 Geometric
Washington, D.C.



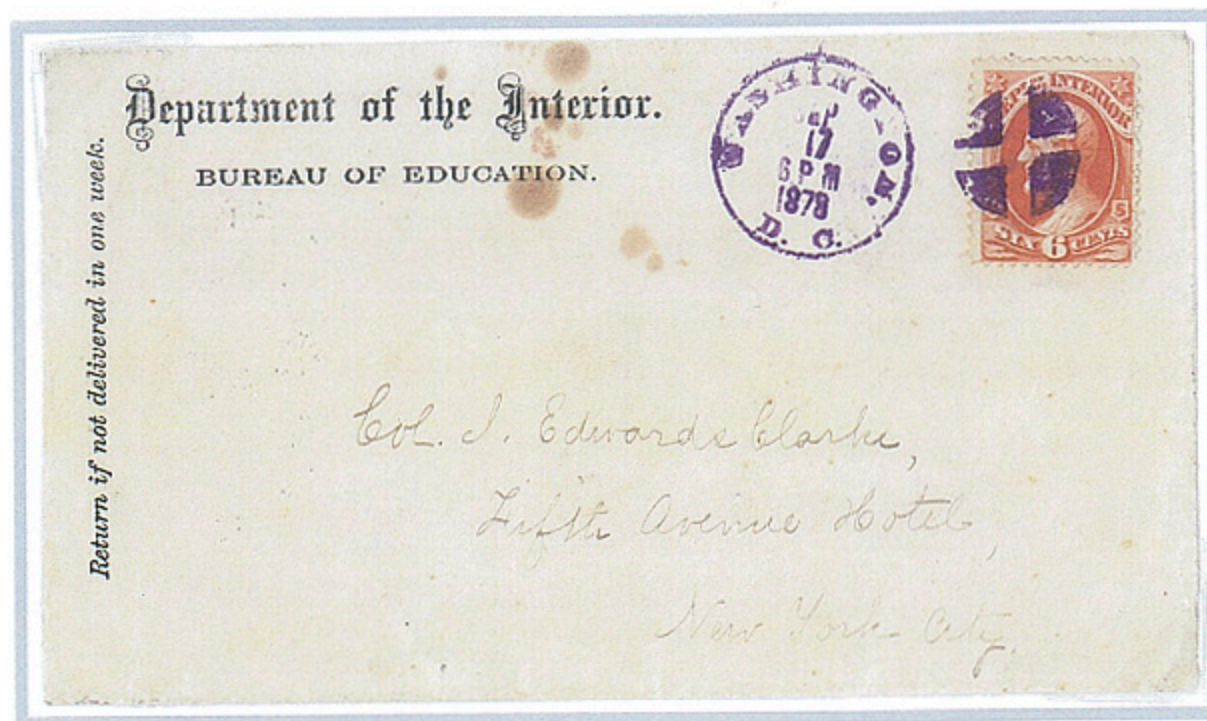
1874 Geometric
Washington, D.C.



Fishtail "3"
Washington, D.C.



Circled "T"



17 September 1878, Washington, D.C. double rate to New York, NY.
This distinctive violet canceling ink was used by Washington D.C. in 1878 only.

**1873 Department of the Interior
Domestic Usage**

7 October, Washington, D.C. Patent Office
double rate to Morristown, PA.



Foreign Usage

4 April 1876, Washington, D.C. to Padua, Italy.
Padua April 13, 1876 backstamp.
1¢ Overpayment of the 5¢ U.P.U. rate.



1873 Department of the Interior
Domestic Usage



24 February 1877, Washington, D.C. to local street address, quadruple the 2¢ per ½ ounce local letter rate.



30 March, Washington, D.C. to Baltimore, MD, two singles paying quadruple the 3¢ per ½ ounce letter rate.

1879 Department of the Interior Issued Stamps

Used Stamps



Crazy Perfs



Block of twelve, the **largest** recorded used multiple



“11” in Rings
Philadelphia, PA



Negative “5”
Boston, MA



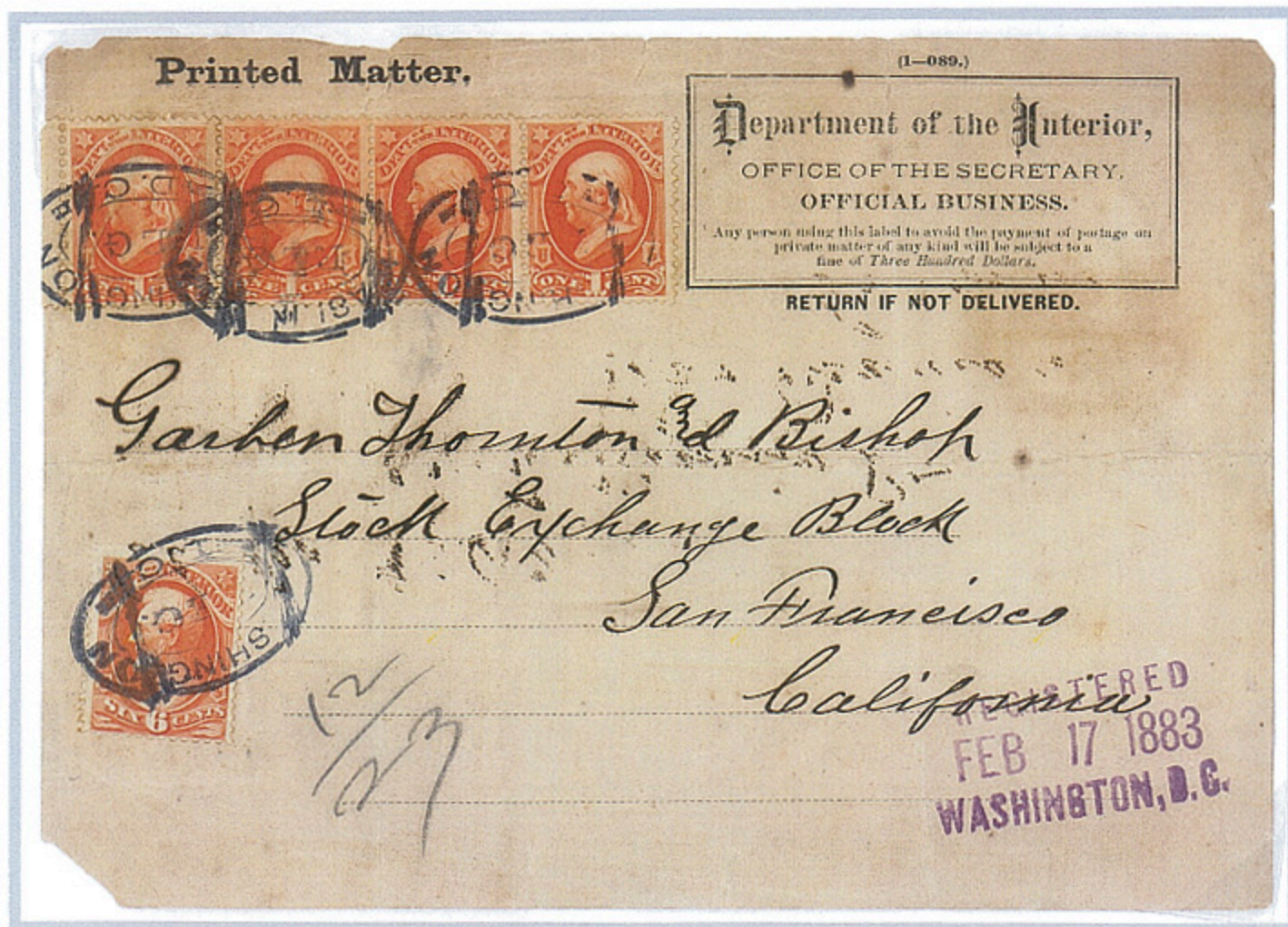
plate number “56” bottom row block of twenty with Continental Bank Note Co. Imprint.

The Continental Bank Note Co. merged with the American Bank Note Co. on February 4, 1879. All Official stamp plates were transferred and utilized by the new American firm for the printing of the 1879 soft paper issue.

**1879 Department of the Interior
Domestic Usage**

17 February 1883, Washington, D.C.
registered printed matter label
to San Francisco, CA.

6¢ used with 1¢ strip of four paying
the registry fee, postage paid
by penalty frank.



Department of Justice

The Department of Justice, established in 1870, is headed by the Attorney General of the United States. Stamps were furnished to 172 U.S. district attorneys, U.S. Marshals and clerks on the United States courts, as well as to the Office of the Solicitor of the Treasury. This department converted over quickly to using penalty envelopes, and although the American Bank Note Company reprinted the 3¢ and 6¢ values in 1879, very few stamps were requisitioned after 1879. Legal size covers are typical given the nature of the documents enclosed. Unused blocks are scarce and used blocks are unknown.

Plate Proofs



Plate on India

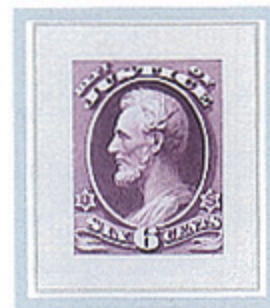


Plate on card
Bright Purple



Plate on card
Dark Purple

Roosevelt Small Die Proof



Die proof on wove

"Atlanta" Trial Color Plate Proofs



Plate proofs on thin cardboard

"Goodall" Trial Color Small Die Proofs



In 1879, Albert C. Goodall, President of the American Bank Note Co., ordered six sets of small die trial color proofs printed for his stamp agents. The five issued colors are black, deep green, dull gray blue, deep brown and dull red.

1873 Department of Justice

Issued Stamps



Purple



The only recorded plate number block



Bluish Purple

1875 Special Printing



163 Issued

Used Stamps - Cancels



Mask



Geometrics
New Orleans, LA



1873 Geometric
Washington, D.C.



9-Section Leaf



Violet
Washington, D.C.



Chicago Blue



Blue Cork
Providence, RI

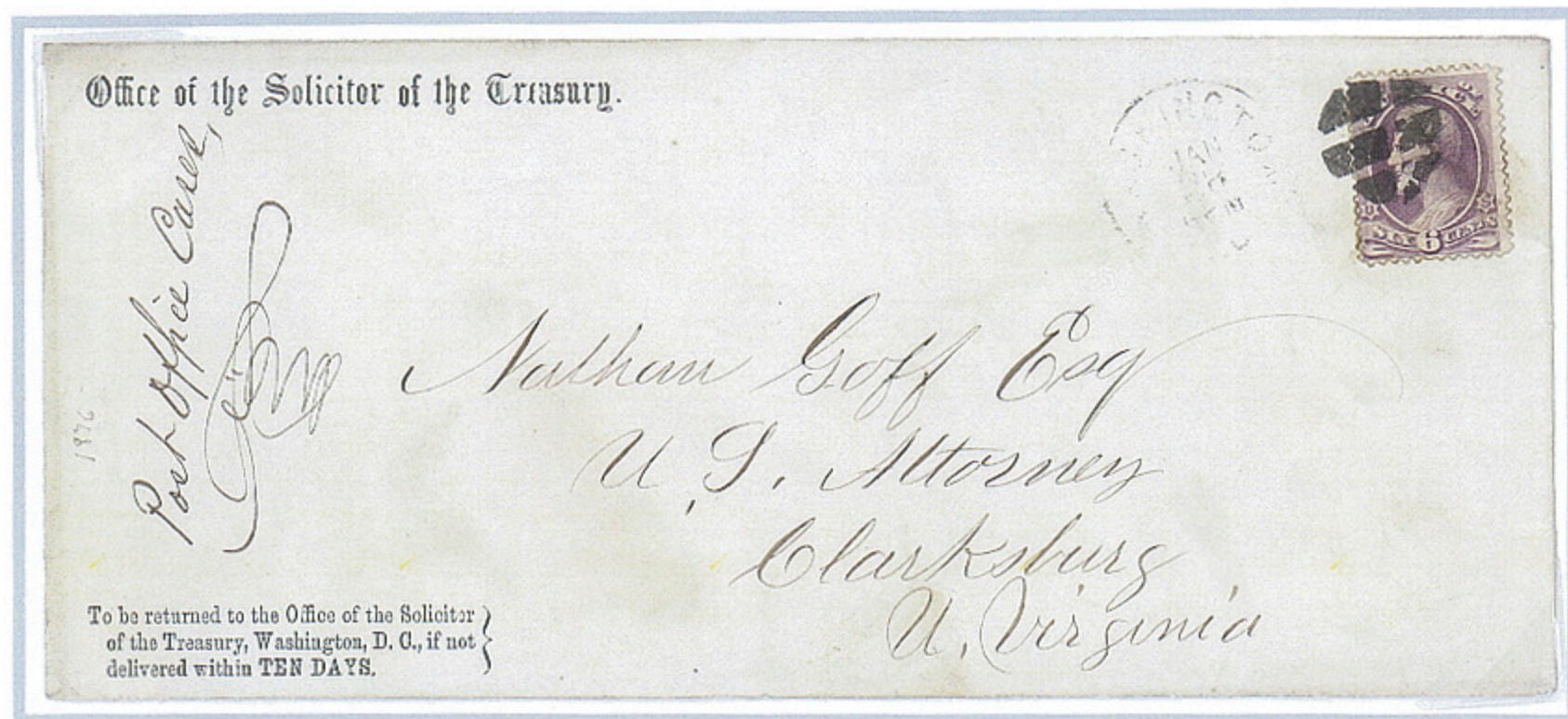


Cincinnati, OH



Geometric
Brooklyn, NY

1873 Department of Justice
Domestic Usage



28 January (1876), Washington, D.C. Office of the Solicitor of the Treasury double rate to Clarksburg, WV.

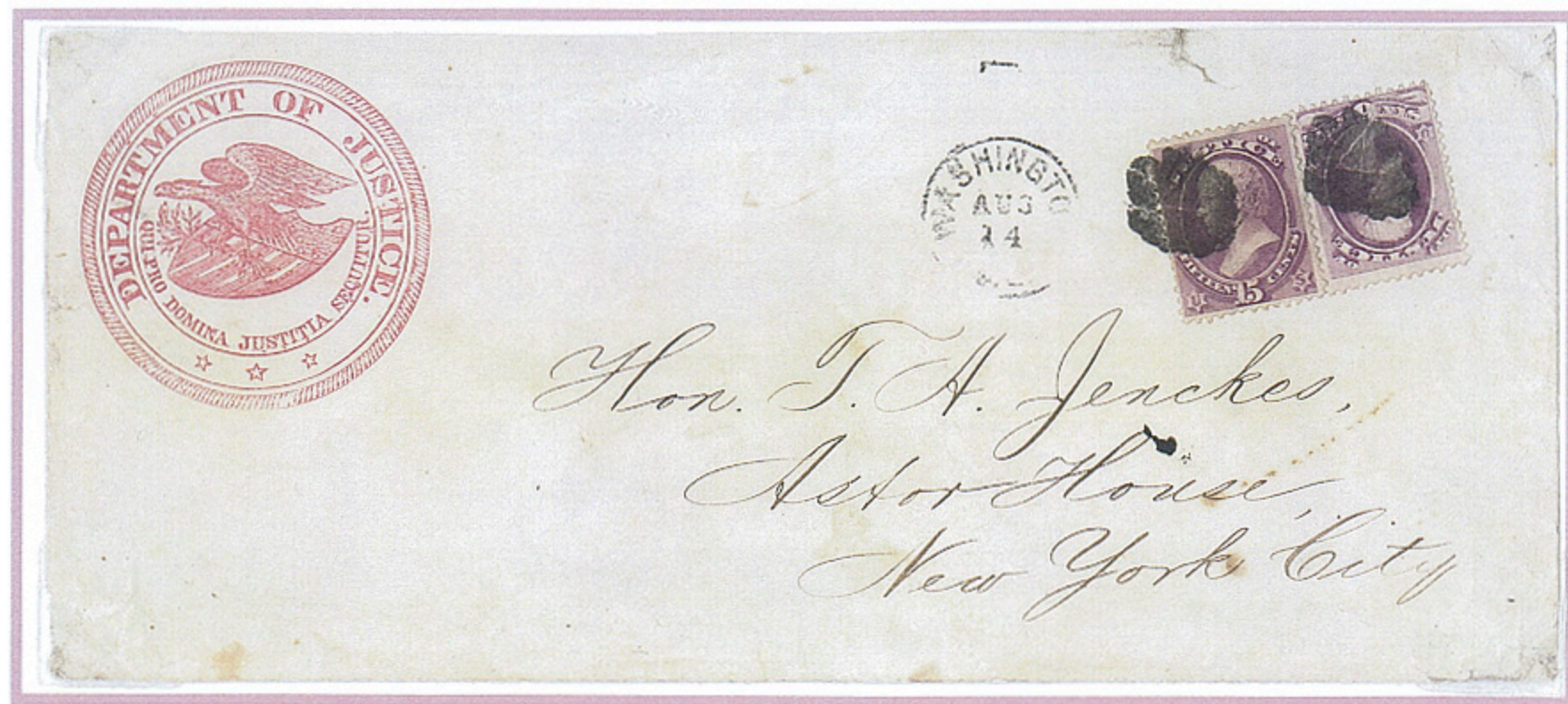


9 September, Washington, D.C. double rate to Clarksburg, WV. Department crimson seal corner card.

**1873 Department of Justice
Domestic Usage**



8 March, Washington, D.C. triple rate to New Orleans, LA. Crimson Department Seal corner card.
One of only three recorded 3¢ and 6¢ Justice frankings.



14 August 1873, Washington, D.C. septuple rate to New York, NY. Crimson Department Seal corner card.
The Washington, D.C. 23mm circular datestamp was used in 1873 only.

The earliest recorded use of both the 6¢ and 15¢ Justice, and one of only three recorded 6¢ and 15¢ Justice frankings.

**1873 Department of Justice
Domestic Usage**



26 January, Washington, D.C. thirteen-times rate to Clarksburg, W.V. Crimson Department Seal corner card.

The only recorded 6¢ and 30¢ franking.

One of only three recorded 30¢ Justice usages.

1879 Department of Justice

Issued Stamps



Used Stamps - Cancellations



"2" in 4-Rings
Cincinnati, OH



2-Ring Target
Purple

Domestic Usage



12 May (1880), Helena, Montana Territory double 3¢ first class letter rate to Virginia City, Montana Territory.
Manuscript "O.B." official business endorsement by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The only recorded 1879 6¢ Justice usage.

Navy Department

The Navy Department, established in 1798, is headed by its Secretary. Stamps were distributed to eight bureaus — Yards and Docks, Navigation, Ordnance Construction and Repair, Equipment and Recruiting, Provisions and Clothing, Steam Engineering, Medicine and Surgery — and to other officers, including the Superintendent of the Naval Academy, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and paymasters. Official stamps were not typically enclosed for return postage, but were often used to forward mail to sailors at sea. A full complement of eleven values was prepared for this department. During the transitional period, stamps and penalty envelopes were used simultaneously, but only low value stamps (1¢ - 6¢) were requisitioned after 1879. All values except the 3¢ are scarce on cover.

Plate Proofs



Plate on India



Plate on card

Roosevelt Small Die Proof



Die proof on wove

1875 Special Printing



116 Issued

"Atlanta" Trial Color Plate Proofs



Plate proofs on thin cardboard

1873 Navy Department Issued Stamps



Dull Blue



Ultramarine



Bright
Ultramarine



Varieties



Double Transfer on Left (Pos. 93)



Line through "N"
Position 36



Imprint and plate number "53" upper left corner margin block of twelve.
Positions 2 and 6 with the vertical line through "N" of "Navy" variety.

*The vertical line through "N" of "Navy" variety was caused by a leading edge gouge of the transfer roll, not the engraver.
It is found on a total of 18 positions comprising: 2, 6, 9, 22, 29, 30, 36, 39, 40, 46, 50, 55, 65, 66, 78, 87, 88 & 98.*

**1873 Navy Department
Cancellations**



Green



Red
Washington, D.C.



Violet
Washington, D.C.



Magenta



Phil. Navy Yard
Blue Favor



Geometric
New Orleans, LA



Negative "D"
Boston, MA



Negative "C"
Boston, MA



Four Diamonds



NY Steamship



Positive "2"
New York, NY



30 August 1878, Washington, D.C. double rate to Delphi, IN. Washington, D.C. used violet ink in 1878 only.

**1873 Navy Department
Domestic Usage**

11 June 1880, Washington, D.C. double rate
to New York, NY.

Navy Department.
Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Navy Department
Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting



Julian Hook Esq.
229 Broadway
New York



on J. Loring Esq.
Dover Plains
Duchess Co
New York

Commenced 1880

2 July, Washington, D.C. double rate to New York, NY.

Dec 29. 76

Extract from by March 29

Apr 1. 2. 3 & 1876.

Lieut J. E. Craig M. S. N.

Medina.

Orleans, Co. New York.



23 December 1876, Washington, D.C. double rate to Medina, NY. "Hydrographic Office, U.S. Navy" backstamp (scan at left).

**1873 Navy Department
Domestic Usage**



18 July, Philadelphia, PA, triple rate to U.S. Marine Corps Office "Island House" in Atlantic City, NJ.
One of only two recorded 3¢ and 6¢ Navy frankings.

Foreign Usage

2 September 1878, Washington, D.C. to seaman onboard the U.S. Flagship "Hartford" in care of the U.S. Navy Department at Washington, D.C., bearing 3¢ regular issue paying the single domestic rate.

Forwarded to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil by the Navy Department with 1¢ and 6¢ Navy to make up the 10¢ GPU rate (double those of normal members until UPU formation on Apr. 1, 1879).

One of only four recorded Official usages to Brazil.

The only recorded 1¢ and 6¢ Navy franking.

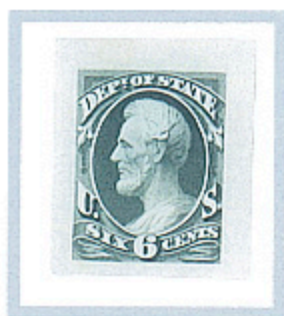


Department of State

The Department of State, established in 1789, is headed by its Secretary, the highest appointive office in the federal government. A full complement of eleven values, 1 cent through 90 cents, matching the regular issue stamps, were prepared, along with four special dollar values intended to prepay postage on dispatch bags and international parcels. Such mail required significant amounts of postage prior to adoption of the attempted standardized lower General Postal Union (GPU) rates of 1875, and the broader Universal Postal Union (UPU) rates of April 1, 1878

Most Department of State stamps were used in Washington, D.C., although the dispatch agent in New York was also furnished stamps. Stamps were applied on all incoming diplomatic pouch mail before it entered the regular domestic mail stream. Penalty envelopes were not extensively used in the transitional period, especially since they were not accepted as valid postage by foreign governments.

Roosevelt Small Die Proof



Die proof on wove

Plate Proofs



Plate on India



Plate on card

Large Die Proof



Large die proof, die on sunk on card

1873 Department of State

"Atlanta" Trial Color Plate Proofs



Plate proofs on thin cardboard

Issued Stamps



Bright Green



Dark Green



1875 Special Printings



467 Issued
Overprint
Shifted to Right

Varieties



Foreign Transfer
of 6c Executive
Position 41



Foreign Transfer
of 6c Executive
Position 41



Triple Transfer
(Foreign & Double Transfers)
Position 61



"Specimen"
Error Overprint
Only 3 Recorded



Foreign Transfer
of 6c Executive
Position 71

1873 Department of State
Used Stamps - Cancels



Red
Washington, D.C.



Violet
Washington, D.C.



3rd Class F.M. Oval
New York, NY



Leaf



Ringed Numerals
Washington, D.C.



Domestic Usage



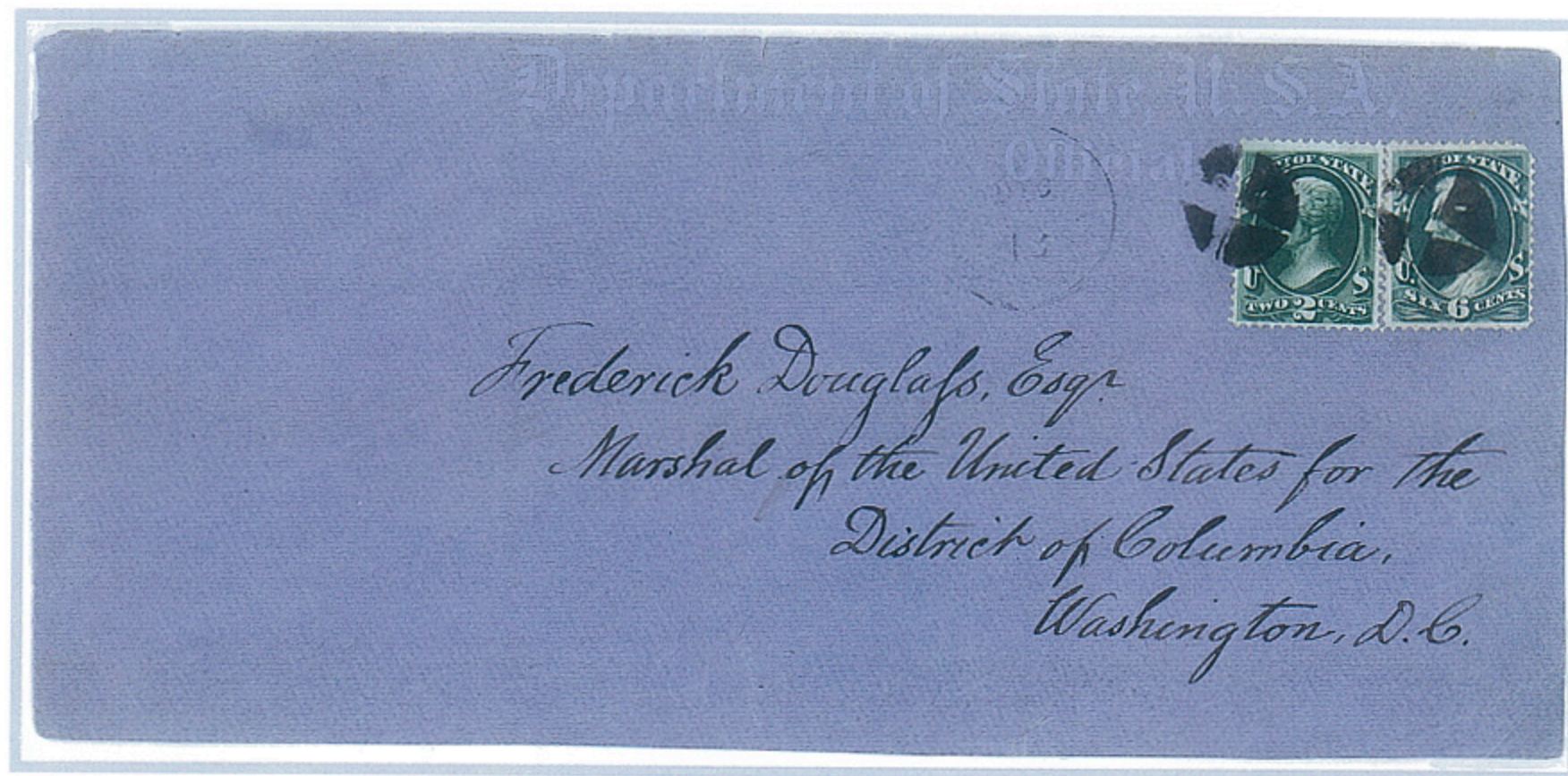
2 September (1873), Washington D.C. double rate to the Consul
General of the Orange Free State at Philadelphia, PA.
Washington, D.C. 23mm datestamp used in 1873 only.

23 March, Washington D.C. double rate to Muscatine, IA.
Negative all-over Examiner of Patents envelope.

1873 Department of State
Domestic Usage - Local



30 November, Washington D.C. triple local rate (3 x 2¢) to the Judge Advocate General.
Negative all-over department envelope.



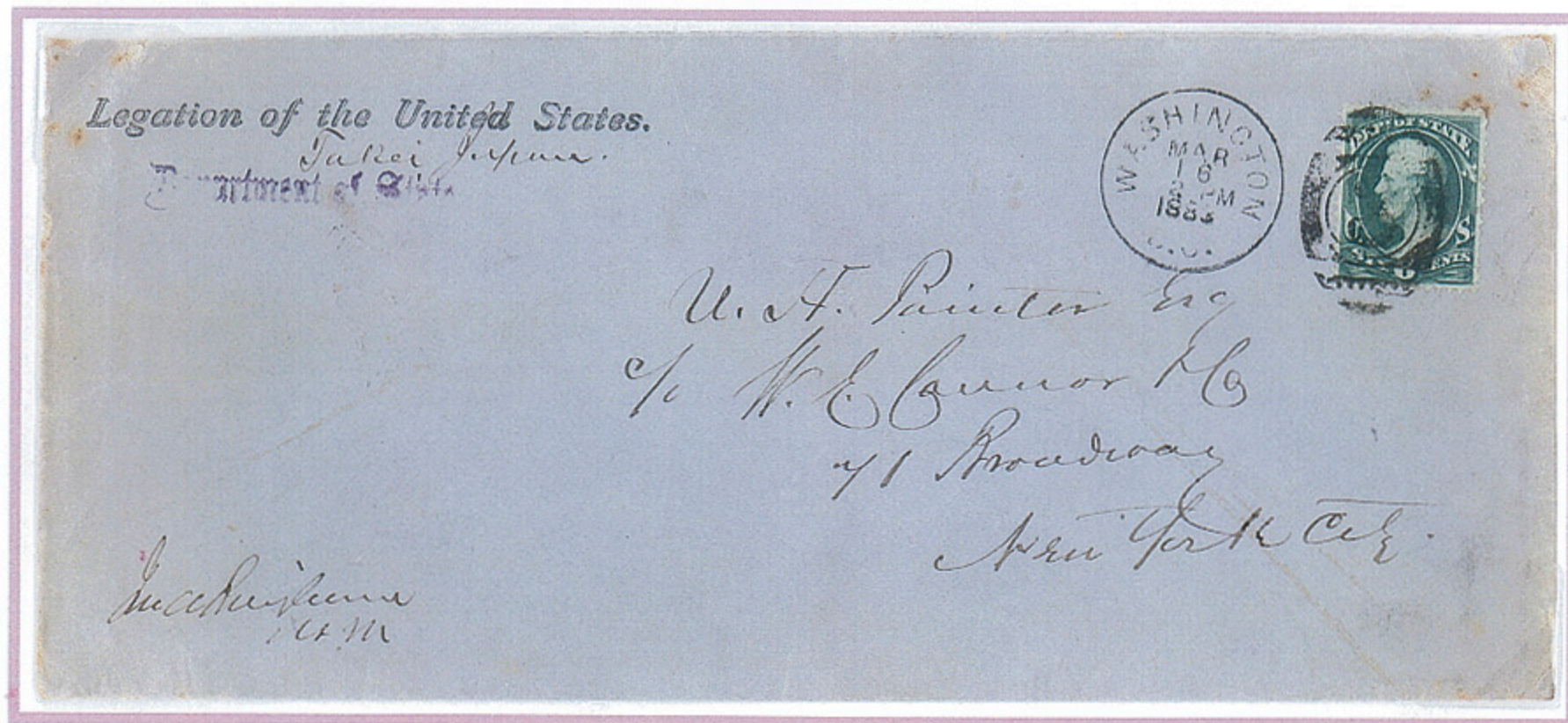
1878, Washington D.C. quadruple local rate (4 x 2¢) to Frederick Douglass as U.S. Marshal for the District of Columbia.
Frederick Douglass was a famous abolitionist and appointed the first black U.S. Marshal in 1877.

**1873 Department of State
Incoming Diplomatic Pouch Mail**

3 March 1876, Callao, Peru to Washington D.C. by diplomatic pouch,
entered mails 28 March 1876 to San Francisco, CA at double rate.



Bolivia to Washington D.C. by diplomatic pouch,
entered mails 4 Jan. 1882 to Peoria, IL at double rate.



Tokyo, Japan to Washington D.C. by diplomatic pouch, entered mails 16 March 1883 to New York, NY at double rate.
The only recorded incoming consular cover from Tokyo, Japan.

Treasury Department

The Department of the Treasury, established in 1849, is headed by its Secretary, a member of the President's cabinet. Official stamps were distributed to a large bureaucracy, including customs officials and collectors of internal revenue. Regular postage stamps were furnished for return mailings. Penalty envelopes were introduced early and extensively used during the transitional period. After 1879, only 10¢ values were requisitioned to pay the registry fee on penalty envelopes.

Large Die Proof



Large die proof, die on sunk on card

Roosevelt Small Die Proof



Die proof on wove

Plate Proofs



Plate on India



Plate on card
Yellow Brown



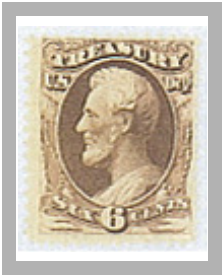
Plate on card
Brown

"Atlanta" Trial Color Plate Proofs



Plate proofs on thin cardboard

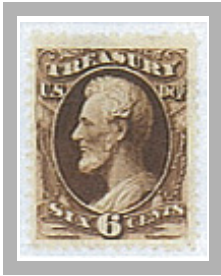
**1873 Treasury Department
Issued Stamps**



Yellow Brown



Brown



Dark Brown



85 Issued

1875 Special Printing

Used Stamps - Multiples



New York City



1873 Treasury Department Used Stamps - Cancels



Blue "H"
Savannah, GA



2-Ring Target
Blue



Red



Purple Cross



Station "D"
New York, NY



Geometric
Washington, D.C.



Donut



Grid



Blue "2"
Cincinnati, OH

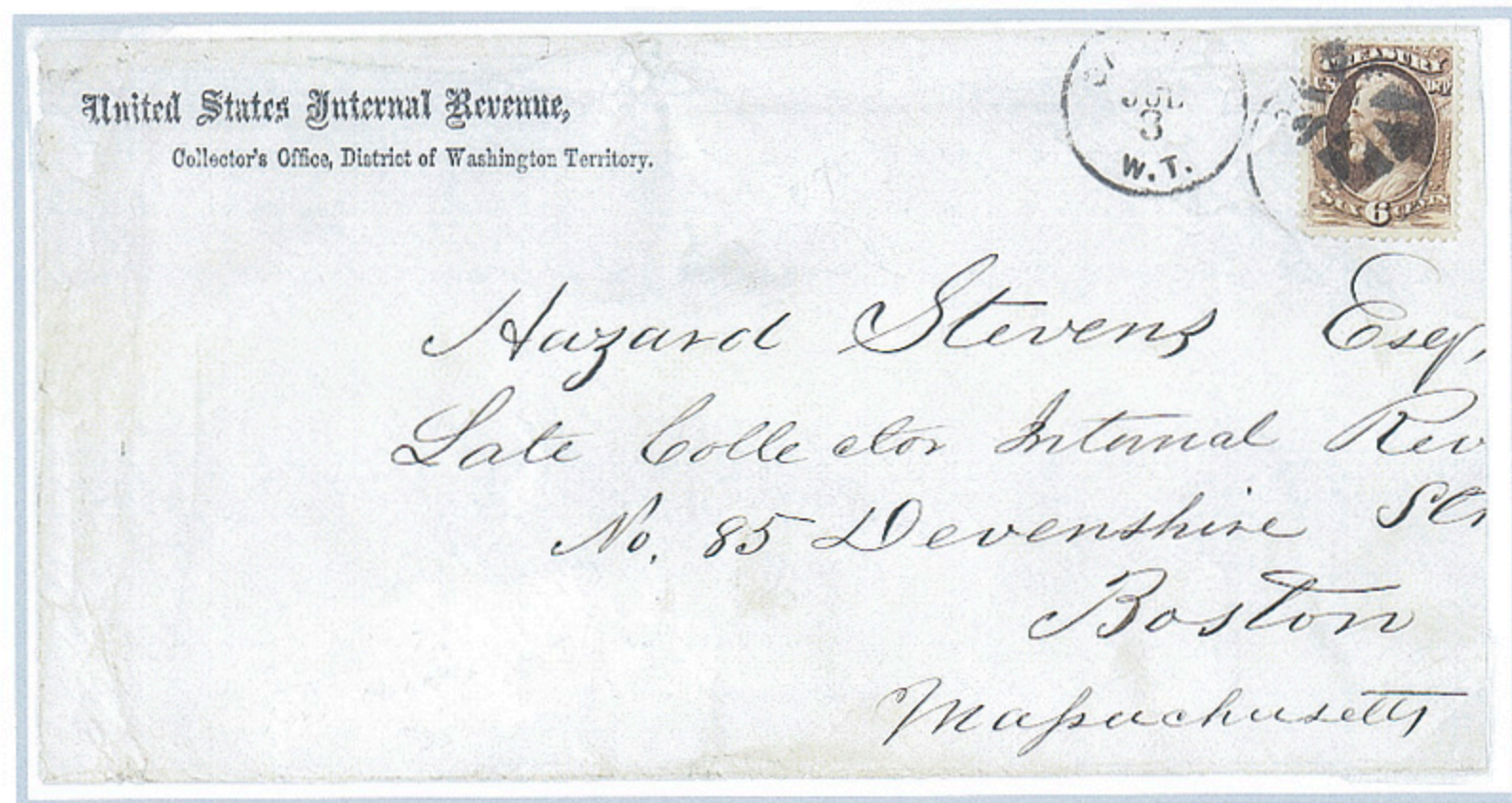


Blue Cross
St. Louis, MO



Patent Cancel
Louisville, KY

Territorial Usage



3 July 1875, Olympia, Washington Territory double rate to Boston, MA.

1873 Treasury Department
Domestic Usage - Registered

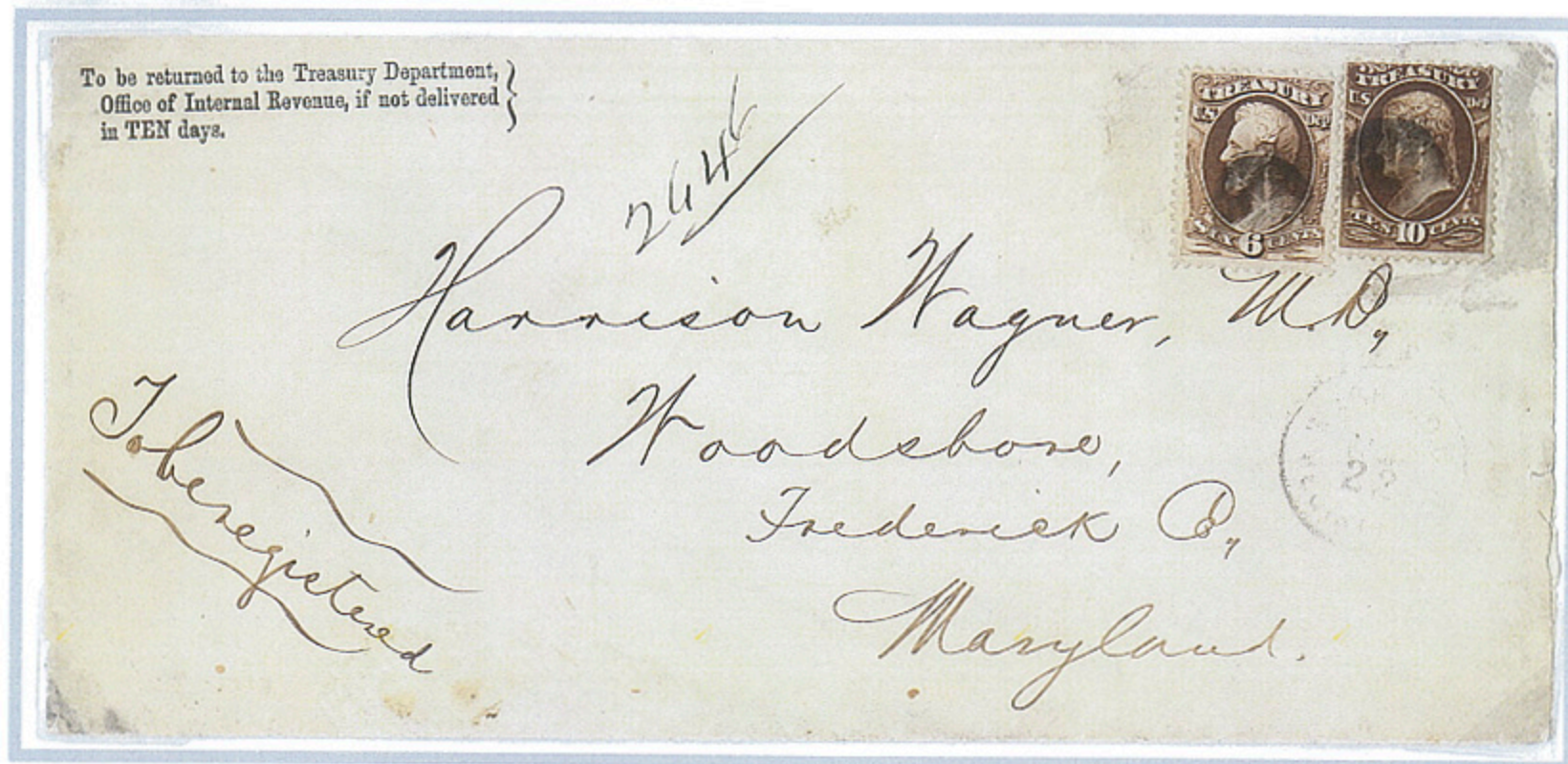


30 October 1877, Providence, RI registered local use (2¢ + 10¢) overpaid 1¢ with mixed franking of 6¢ Treasury and regular issue stamps.
 Private use presumed in the absence of an imprinted official corner card.



August 1876, West Virginia I.R.S. Office registered envelope at the septuple rate (21¢ + 10¢) to Clarksburg, WV.

1873 Treasury Department
Domestic Usage - Registered



22 May, Washington, D.C. registered double rate to Woodsboro, MD.



18 May, Washington D.C. triple rate to Plymouth Union, VT with special free registry.

By special regulation, the Redemption division of the U.S. Treasury was entitled, by the Treasurer's frank, to free registry in sending new bills in exchange for mutilated currency. The correspondence of Warren R. Taylor yielded a number of official covers.

1873 Treasury Department
Foreign Usage



5 August, Grove City, OH to Leipzig, Germany at 1¢ overpayment of the 5¢ G.P.U. rate effective July 1, 1875. Lack of corner card may indicate illegitimate private use.
The only recorded Treasury usage to Germany.



1877, Washington, D.C. to London, England at the single and double G.P.U. rates, overpaid by 1¢ and 2¢ respectively.
Official stamps were valid on overseas mail until April 1, 1879.

1879 Treasury Department
Issued Stamps

Used Stamps - Cancellations



Ringed Circle

Blue Negative
Star



3rd Class Oval
St. Paul, MN

Negative "K"
Boston, MA

"7" in Rings
Philadelphia, PA



Imprint and plate number "51" top row block of twenty

**1879 Treasury Department
Domestic Usage**



8 February 1881, Galena, MO registered single rate (3¢ + 10¢) to Washington, D.C.
Private use presumed in the absence of an imprinted official corner card.



31 January 1881, Washington, D.C. sextuple rate to Sherburne, VT.
Treasury Department envelope with penalty imprint that was not valid on correspondence with private citizens.

War Department

The War Department, established in 1789, was headed by its Secretary, aide-de-camp to the President, ex-officio Commander-in-Chief. Official stamps were distributed to the Quartermaster General, the Surgeon General, the Paymaster General, the Commissary General, and the Ordnance Office, among others. The Chief Signal office, or clerk of the weather, generated a large volume of mail, chiefly using postal stationery. Official mail from forts was usually franked with War Department stamps, although a few Indian agents used Interior Department stamps. Official stamps were not used for return postage. Penalty franks were little used during the transitional period, and fresh supplies of stamps were requisitioned through 1884. This department had a huge inventory of stamps on hand when their use was finally abolished and did not comply with the Post Office request to return unused stock.

Plate Proofs



Plate on India



Plate on card
Plum



Plate on card
Rose

Roosevelt Small Die Proof



Die proof on wove

9 May 1861, telegram from Springfield, Ill. to Abraham Lincoln with a message that reads simply "Will you accept a regiment commanded by me for the war.- Wm. Phillips". Lincoln sends the telegram on to Simon Cameron, his first Secretary of War with "I think the name is Phelps - He is a good man. Will the War Department please answer him? A. Lincoln."

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WASHINGTON OFFICES—No. 432 PENNSYLVANIA AV.; U. S. CAPITOL; WILLARD'S, AND NATIONAL HOTELS.

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The public are notified that, in order to guard against mistakes in the transmission of messages, every message of importance ought to be repeated by being sent back from the station at which it is to be received to the station from which it is originally sent. Half the usual price for transmission will be charged for repeating the message, and while this company will as heretofore use every precaution to secure correctness, it will not be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery of repeated messages beyond an amount exceeding five hundred times the amount paid for sending the message, nor will it be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission of unimportant messages from whatever cause they may arise, nor for delays arising from interruptions in the working of its telegraphs, nor for any mistake or omission of any other company over whose lines a message is to be sent to reach the place of destination. All messages will hereafter be received by this company for transmission subject to the above conditions.

J. KENDALL, Gen'l Supt.,
4 WALL STREET, N. Y.

E. S. SANFORD, Pres't.,
NEW-YORK.

24 Dated Springfield May 9 1861.

Ret'd, Washington, 9 1861, o'clock, min. M.

To A. Lincoln

Will you accept a regiment
commanded by me for the
war -
Wm Phillips

11/27 Ed 7

I think the name is Wm
Phelps - He is a good man.
Will the War Department please
answer him?
A. Lincoln

**1873 War Department
"Atlanta" Trial Color Plate Proofs**



Plate proofs on thin cardboard

Issued Stamp



1875 Special Printing



111 Issued

Used Stamps - Multiple



Used Stamps - Cancels



Red



Violet



Chicago Blue



Iron Cross



Circled "A"
New York, NY



Circled "14"
New York, NY



Positive "T"
St. Paul, MN



1874 Geometric
Washington, D.C.



Geometric
New Orleans, LA



Christian Cross
New Orleans, LA



Circled Star

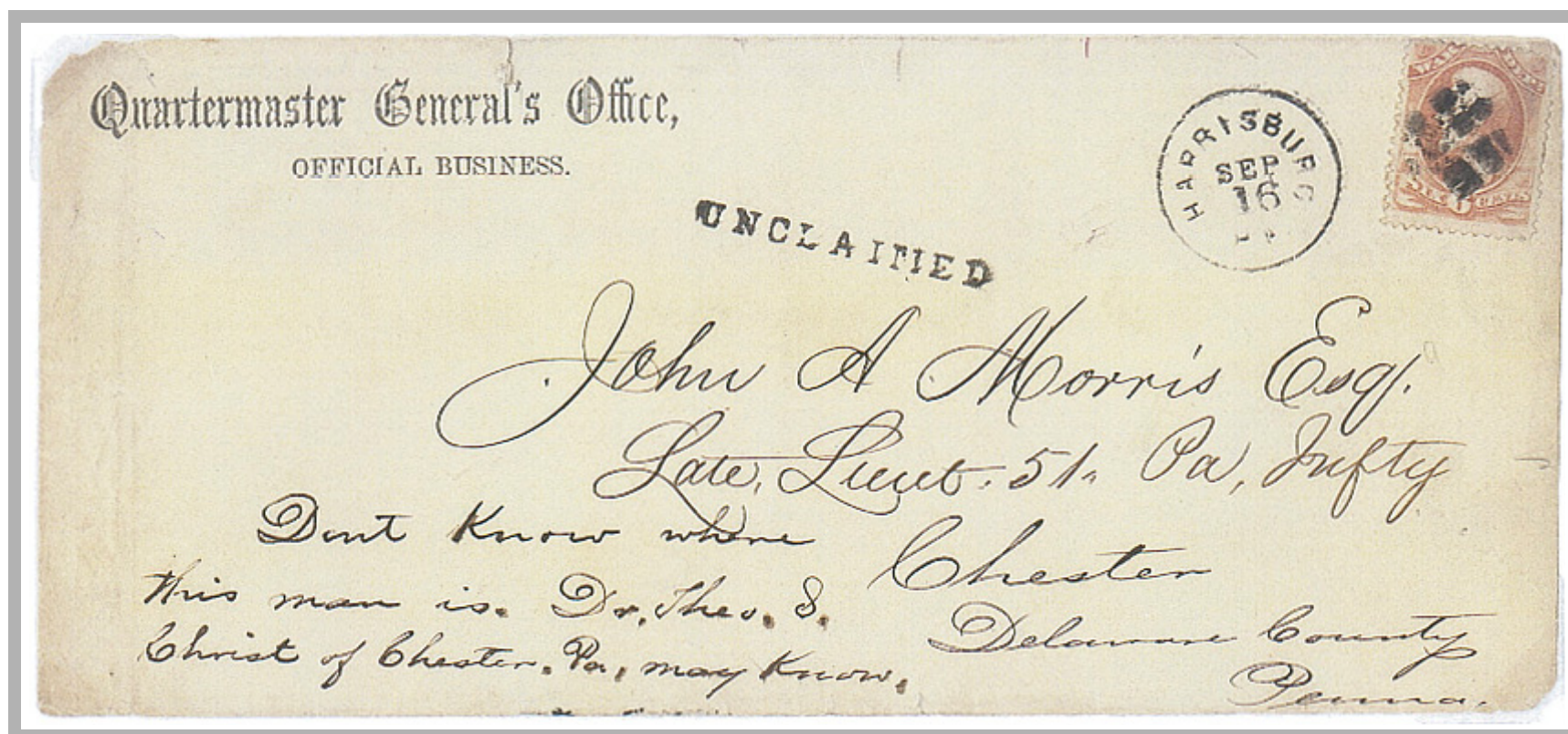


Bismark
Dakota Terr.

1873 War Department
Domestic Usage - Auxiliary Markings

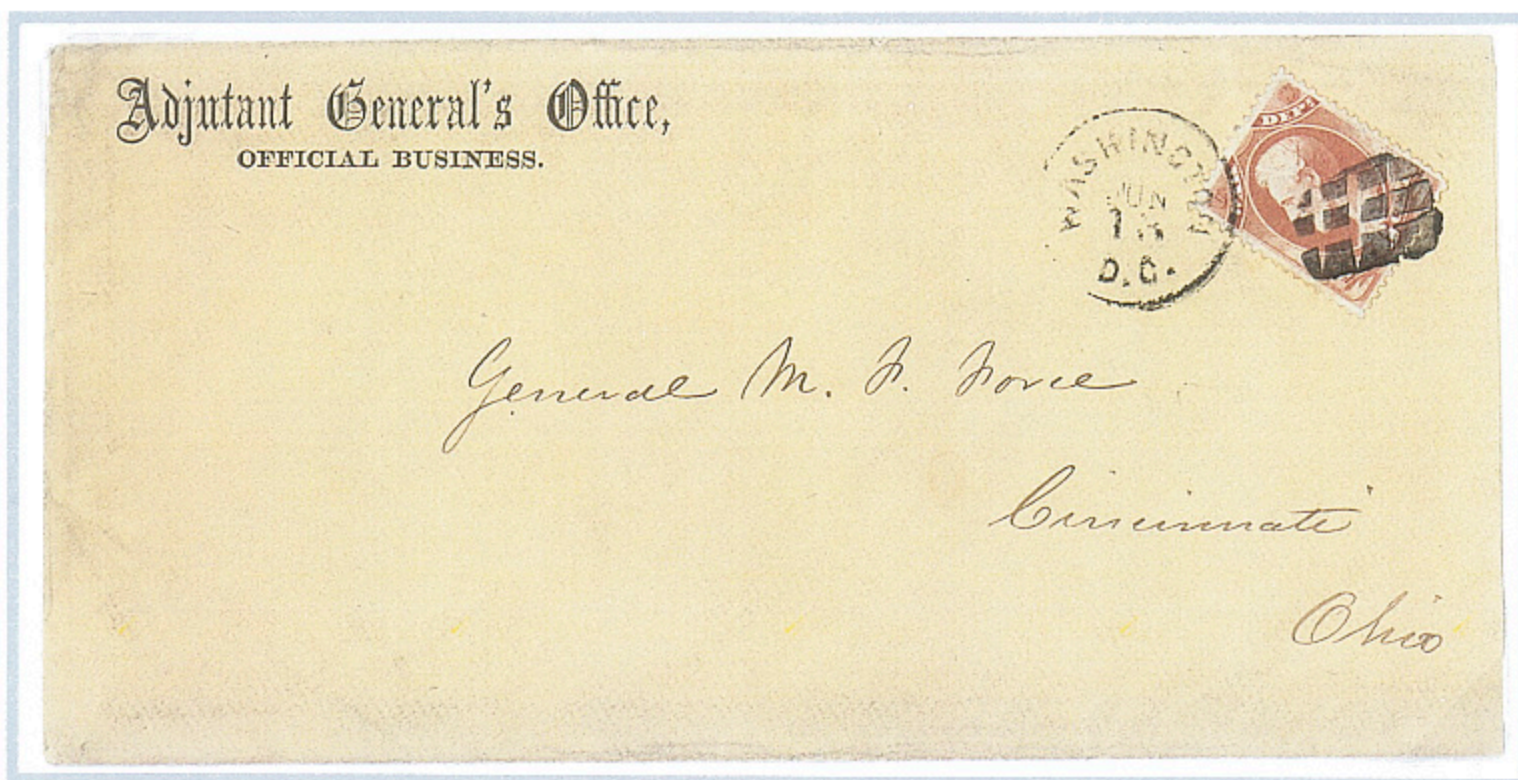


25 March (1874), Washington, D.C. double rate to Baltimore, MD. "Returned to Writer" and "Not Found" handstamps. This geometric cancellation was used by Washington, D.C. in March 1874 only.



16 September, Harrisburg, PA double rate to Chester, PA. "Unclaimed" handstamp and manuscript "Don't know where this man is."

1873 War Department
Domestic Usage



13 Jun, Washington, D.C. double rate to Cincinnati, OH.



October 3, Washington D.C. double rate to **Fort Abraham Lincoln** in Dakota Territory. Crossed cannons corner card.

Fort Abraham Lincoln was established in 1872 and closed in 1891. Custer was stationed there at the time of the Massacre at Little Big Horn.

1873 War Department
Domestic Usage



13 October 1881, West Troy, NY triple rate to Frankfurt, KY. Watervliet Arsenal crossed cannons corner card.



23 July, Buffalo, NY nine-times rate to Youngstown, NY. Manuscript "O.B." official corner card.

1879 War Department

Issued Stamps - Plate Block



Imprint and plate number "60" top block of eighteen

Used Stamps - Multiples



Circled Star Cancellations
The largest recorded 1879 6¢ used multiple

Used Stamps - Cancellations



Geometric
New Orleans, LA



Purple Grid



Cross



Blue "4"
Cincinnati, OH



Negative "A"
Boston, MA



Coeur D'Aléna
Idaho Terr.



Cincinnati, OH



Kicking Mule
Port Townsend, W.T.



Bluish Gray

**1879 War Department
Used Stamps - Fort Cancels**



Fort Thomas
Arizona Terr.



Fort Bowie
Arizona Terr.



Fort Reno
Indian Terr.



Fort Lewis
Colorado



Fort Leavenworth
Kansas



Fort Cummings
N.M. Terr.



Fort Wingate
N.M. Terr.



Fort Apache
Arizona Terr.



Fort Totten
Dakota Terr.



Fort Meade
Dakota Terr.



Fort Keough
Montana Terr.



Fort Shaw, Montana Terr.



Fort Buford, Dakota Terr.



Jefferson Barracks
Missouri



Fort Bridger
Wyoming Terr.



Fort McKinney
Wyoming Terr.



Fort Fred Steele
Wyoming Terr.



Fort Sherman
Wyoming Terr.



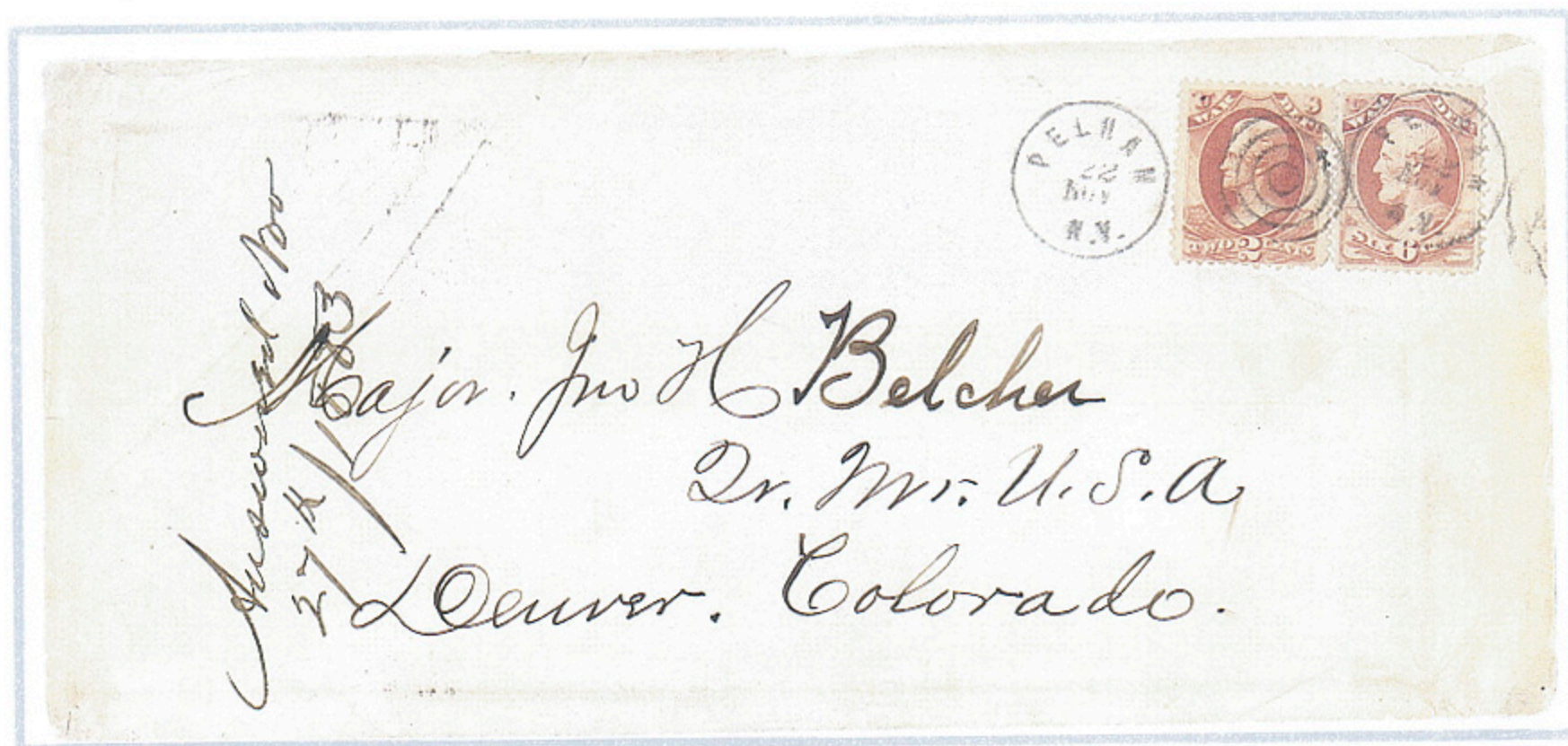
Fort Snelling
Wyoming Terr.

1879 War Department
Foreign Usage



30 October 1882, Washington, D.C. to Vienna, Austria
at 1¢ overpayment of the 5¢ U.P.U. rate.
One of only three Official usages to Austria.

Domestic Usage



22 November 1883, Pelham, NY quadruple rate (2¢ per ½ ounce) to Denver, CO.