

1867 (August): the first postally used 'A' grill was an experimental 'biscuit grill' with points up

The 'A' grill: plate proofs and the issued stamp

Research: the correspondence between Steel and Zevely proves that Zevely gave Steel permission to test an embossed stamp in December 1865. It took the NBNC 18 months to follow through.\*



e: PF  
Lake

e: PF  
Bright rose

Gummed on stamp paper



Gummed on stamp paper



e: PF  
Rose

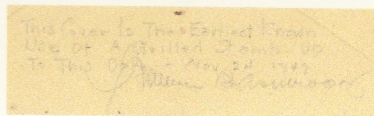
The issued stamp

Earliest known use of a 'grill': August 13<sup>th</sup> 1867

Four recorded



e: Stanley Ashbrook

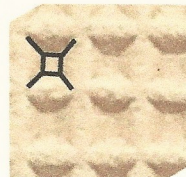


\* Exhibitor's original research, due for publication in The Chronicle in 2019

October 1867: Steel patent 70,147 for an embossed stamp was granted



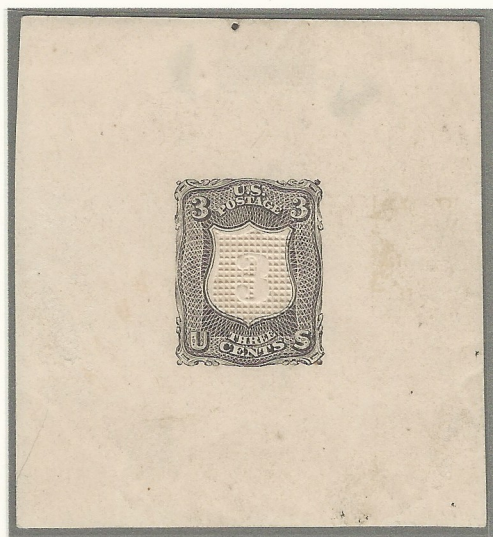
- Steel's idea:
  - To use lithographic printing for the design
  - To leave a portion of the design blank for embossing
  - To use chemically sensitive yellow paper
- The essays on this page stick strictly to Steel's patent



These essays use a flattened pyramid grill

**Research:** the correspondence between Steel and Zevely suggest that these '3 in shield' essays based on Steel's patent document, were produced late in November 1867\*

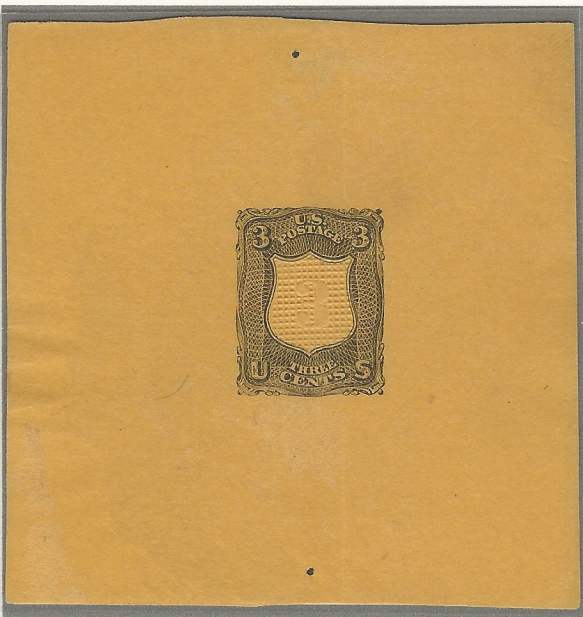
**Dies made according to Steel's patent:** wove paper, gummed



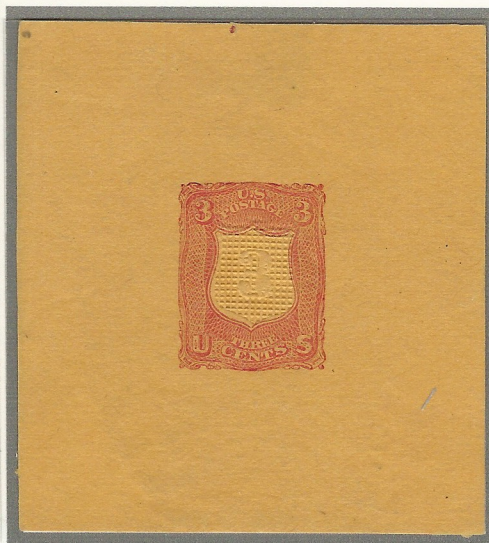
Black on white wove



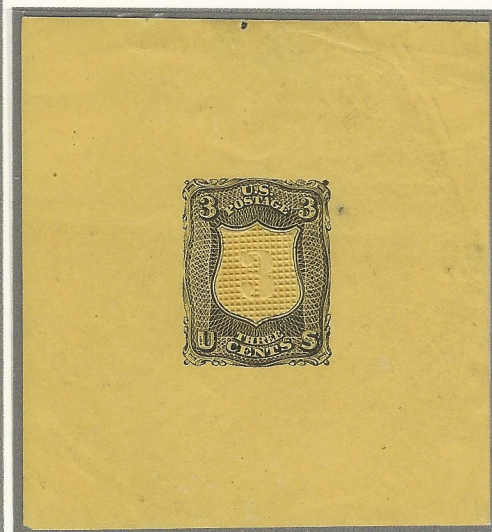
Deep pink on white wove



Black on yellow-orange wove



Deep pink on yellow-orange wove



Black on yellow wove

\* Exhibitor's original research, due for publication in The Chronicle in 2019

Steel's patent rarities

One recorded example



Die on thick yellow laid,  
partial gum

*Deep pink. Hand drawn  
'3' in red*

Two recorded

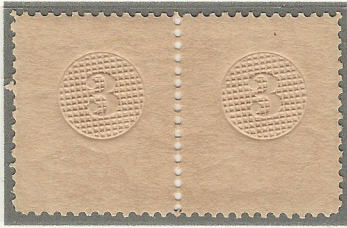


Die on thick white wove,  
gummed

*Deep pink*

Experimental cancels test  
the effects of cancelling

Steel used the same flattened pyramid grill for his '3 in circle' experiments



'3 in circle' grill.  
Tan paper, perf 12, gummed



White wove paper  
Steel's patent calls for pressure to flatten the embossing.  
This essay records 'a half hour's pressure after embossing'.

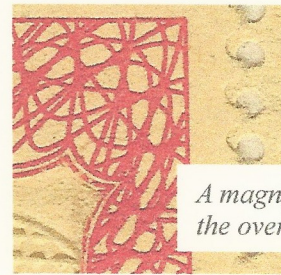
Model: lithographic frame pasted over '3 in circle', perf 12

One known example



Orange paper, frame in red.

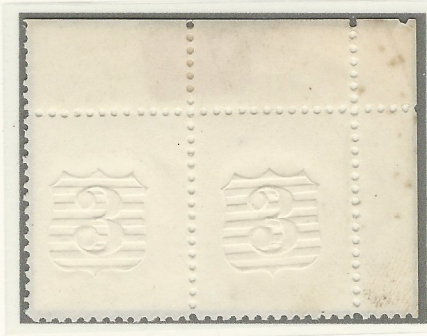
Tests pen and ink cancellation



A magnified scan shows the overlapping perfs

Additional shield shaped grill essays for use with Steel's patent design

Embossed '3' in shield on white wove paper, thick bars, perf 12, ungummed



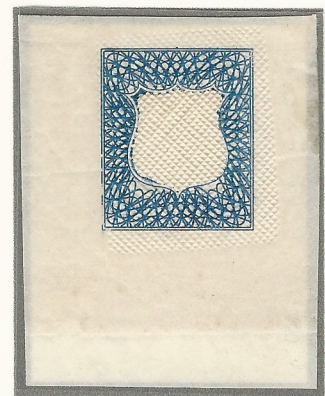
Typographic design printed in blue on lilac  
Embossed center  
Imperf, ungummed



Thin bar variety

Blue typographically printed frame. Blank embossed center.

Pyramid grill, points down



1867 (November): 'C' grill essays, proofs and used stamps

**Research:** the archives show that Zevely instructed the NBNC to produce 'a million or more' stamps for testing on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 1867. Postal use of the 'C' grill followed in late November.

Only known example



'C' grill essay on white wove, points down, perf 12.

Produced by planing down the 'A' grill to create a stamp with an embossed center. Dimensions: 16-17 x 18-21 points (12.5-13.5 x 16-17 mm)

Signed by Macdonough and Alexander Duke.

Steel's patent suggested that pressure should be applied to the 'grill' to flatten it before printing

No pressure



Pale tan wove



Pale pink wove

Light pressure



White wove

Heavy pressure



On white wove

Rose e: PF



Plate proof: imperf margin pair on stamp paper, gummed

The issued stamp: 'C' grill

(EKU: November 18<sup>th</sup> 1867)

Perf 12, points up



Rose

e: PSE

Grill varieties



Partially erased grill



Double grill, one split

'C' grill experiments with surface printed stamps: various papers and inks, gummed



Blue  
Imperf on pale blue paper



Dark Blue  
Imperf on white wove



Black  
Imperf on lilac-grey paper

Perf 12 stamps on white wove, points down



Light  
brown



Dark  
brown



Yellow



Red



Black

On November 16<sup>th</sup> 1867, Maun of the NBNC, sent a set of six experiments to Zevely of the USPO. They included three sets of surface-printed grill essays. These essays may be from that batch.

'C' grill experiments with surface printed stamps: white wove, perf 12, points up



Yellow



Brown



Light blue



Pink



Blue



Orange yellow



Red



Dark green



Black

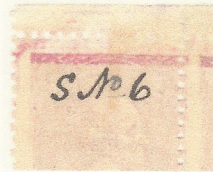


Orange

'C' grill experiments with surface printed stamps: various papers and inks, gummed



Red  
Points up



'S No 6' on the back.  
Significance unknown



Black  
Points up

On greenish grey chemical  
paper, perf. 12



Black  
Points down

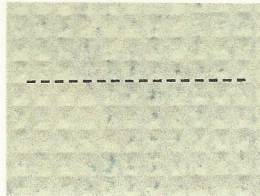
Orange  
Points down



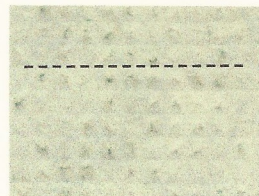
Blue  
Points down



Green  
Points up



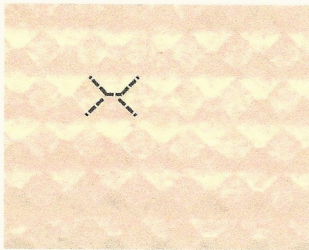
Points down scan from  
the back – a ridge



Points up scan from  
the back – a furrow



The 'Z' grill: dimensions: 13-14 x 18-21 points; 11-11.5 x 13.5-14 mm.



A scan shows the 'roof-top' shape of the 'Z' grill



Test of the horizontal 'roof-top'. This became the 'Z' grill.

The issued stamp: 'Z' grill

(EKU: January 25<sup>th</sup> 1868)



e: PSE

Brown red  
Perf 12, points down

'Z' grill experiments: various papers and inks, mostly gummed, perf 12.

i). On dull violet laid paper



Red

Brown

ii). On wove paper of various colours



Green on green

Red on yellow

Brown on straw

Red on pale lilac

Black on yellow



Red on salmon

Brown on yellow

Red on straw

Brown on pale lilac

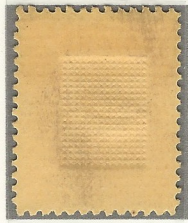
Red on green

'Z' grill experiments: various papers and inks, mostly gummed, perf 12.

Although the Scott catalogue lists the grilled blanks as a set of essays the margin block on the right suggests that they are merely tabs.



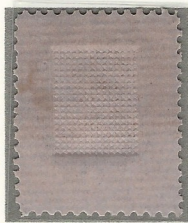
*Salmon laid*



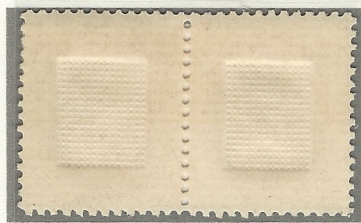
*Yellow*



*Pale lilac*



*Dull violet laid*



*Straw*



*Green*



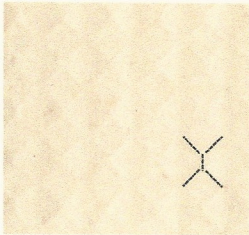
Brown on salmon laid paper.




Black on yellow tinted paper

The 'D' grill: quickly followed the 'Z' grill. Dimensions: 15 x 17-18 points; 12 x 14-14.5 mm.


**The issued stamp: 'D' grill**  
(EKU: February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1868)



*The vertically oriented 'rooftop' of the D grill*

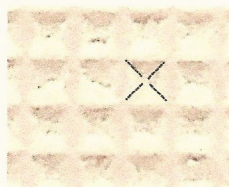


e: PSE  
Rose: perf 12, points down



e: PSE  
Rose red: perf 12, points down

The 'E' grill: the first widely used grill. Dimensions: 14 x 15-17 points; 11 x 12.5-14 mm.




The 'E' grill uses the 'biscuit grill' shape, points down. It is known in the vertical rooftop form


Blank 'E' grill plate proofs.  
Perf 12, gummed.




**The issued stamp: 'E' grill**  
(EKU: February 19<sup>th</sup> 1868)




e: PSE  
Rose red: perf 12  
**A condition rarity:** the highest graded E grill




e: PSE  
Rose: perf 12




e: PF  
Lake red: perf 12



e: PSE  
Rose red: perf 12



e: PSE  
Red: perf 12



e: PSE  
Brown red: perf 12

The 'E' grill bisect on cover

Only known example



e: PF

This cover led to a lot of speculation and two articles in *The Chronicle* before the **Philatelic Federation** determined that it was a fraudulent use of an E grill, but that it had genuinely gone through the post.

The 'F' grill: a double grill quadruple split on cover



e: PF

**The 'F' grill:** the most widely used grill. Dimensions: 11-12 x 15-17 points; 8.5-9 x 15-17 mm.

The 'F' grill is a smaller version of the 'E' grill



*Rose*

Plate proof: imperf pair on stamp paper, gummed

Only known example

e: PF



*Scan of the front*

Mint examples are known. There are no other known examples used.

**The issued stamp: F grill**

*(EKU: April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1868)*



e: PSE *Red*



e: PSE *Rose*

**Thin paper and other varieties**



e: PSE  
*Red, thin paper*



e: PSE  
*Rose, thin paper*



*Perfectly aligned double grill*

*Wild perf*

The user has torn the stamp to get the whole stamp onto the envelope



**Chapter 8: Epilogue**

Like most USA classic stamps, stamps associated with the 3c Washington of 1861 were reprinted many times. The reprints create a fitting epilogue to this exhibit. In this section I show:

- The 'Centennial' reprint of 1875
- The 1881 Atlantic trial color, proofs produced for display at the Atlanta Cotton Exposition
- Plate proofs on card – produced from 1879 – 94 for sale to collectors
- The Panama-Pacific small die proofs of 1914-15

**1875: First official reprints of U.S. postage stamps**

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1875, the US Post Office distributed a circular offering reprints of U.S. postage stamps to the public 'upon application'. Although philatelists have attributed the purpose of the re-issue to the 1876 Centennial celebrations, there is no proof of this. 10 000 of each stamp were ordered, but few were sold before they were withdrawn.

The 1861 3c Washington; 475 were sold but only 24 have been recorded used.

e: APS, PF, PSE

*On white paper*

*This is one of only two graded 85, the highest grade achieved to date.*



*Red brown*

**1881: Atlanta Cotton Exposition special printing**

Atlanta hosted the world's first International Cotton Exposition in 1881, from October 5<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. In order to exhibit at the event, the US Post Office ordered reprints in five colors of the stamps produced to that time.

Afterwards, a single sheet of 100 of each of the stamps was made available for distribution to collectors.

*Imperf on stiff white card*



*Green*



*Black*



*Scarlet*



*Brown*



*Blue*

1879-94: official reprints for collectors

Between 1879 and 1894, the US Post Office produced five sets of plate proofs of the 1861 issue for sale to collectors. They were produced in the years: 1879, 1882, 1890, 1893, 1894. The proofs were imperf, un gummed; and printed on stiff white card.

Sets were distributed in envelopes.



First printing, 1879  
500 sets, Rose Brown



Third printing, 1899  
500 sets, Rose Lake

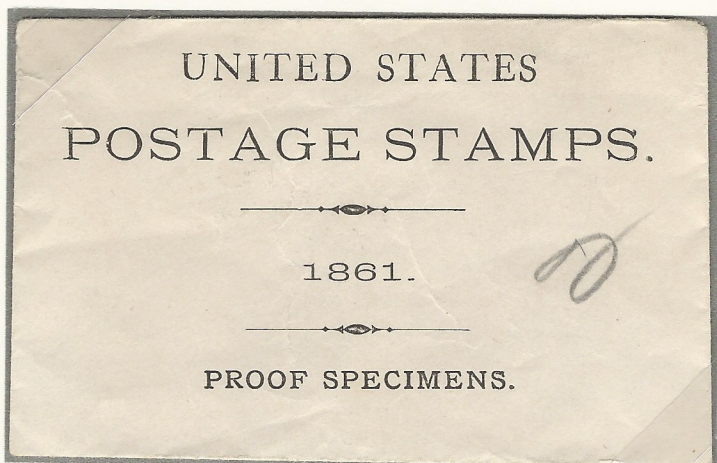


Fourth printing, 1890  
500 sets, Dull Rose

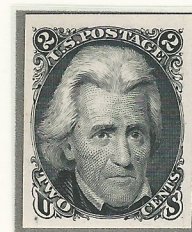


Fifth printing, 1894  
500 sets, Rose

The envelope used for the 2<sup>nd</sup> printing (1882) along with a full set. 1000 sets on very thin card.



Dark blue



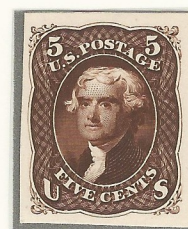
Black



Rose



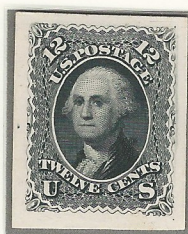
Scarlet



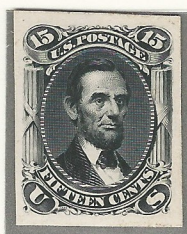
Brown



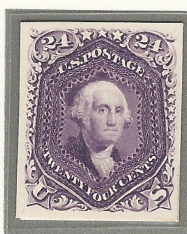
Green



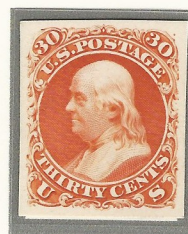
Black



Black



Red violet



Orange



Blue

(From first printing)

**1915: Panama-Pacific** special printing

The first Panama-Pacific International Exposition took place in San Francisco from 20<sup>th</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> December, 1915. The U.S. Post Office produced a special set of U.S. stamps for the event. The so-called 'exposition set' was produced on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1914; and delivered to the Post Office on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 1915. It has been lost.

A second set was given to the Smithsonian Institution on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1915.

The reprints are extremely rare and very few complete sets of any issue are known in private hands.

Only 3 – 5 copies of the 1861 3c are thought to exist.

This is one of only **one or two complete sets** in private hands.

*Small die on soft yellowish wove paper*



e: PF – First design  
*Deep red*



e: PF – Trial Colour  
*Rose*



e:PF – Trial Colour  
*Lake*



e:PF – Trial Colour  
*Scarlet*