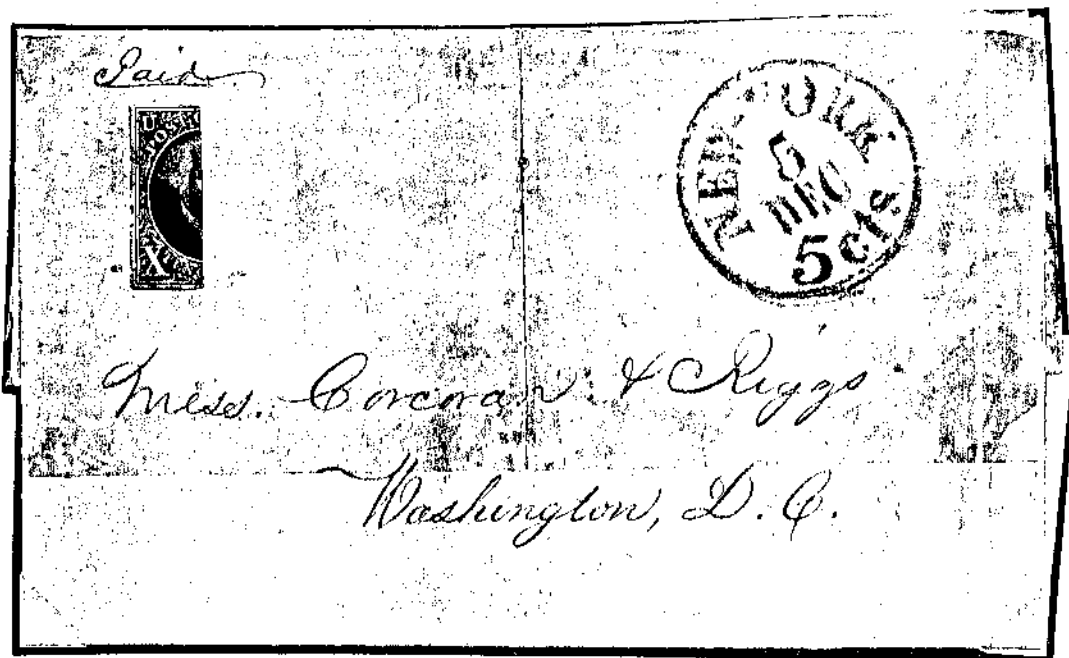


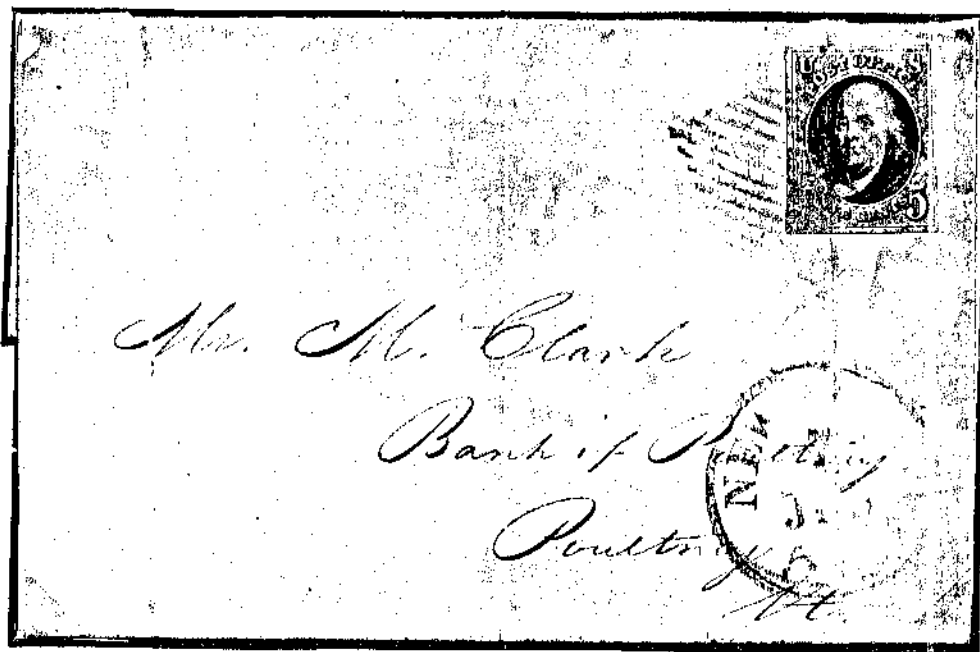
Miller Collection

These matching halves are from the same stamp, position 89R1. Both have the same addressee and are from New York City. The bisect on the top cover was recognized as valid for 5¢ postage on November 30. The bisect on the lower cover was genuinely used on December 5, but it may or may not have been accepted for 5¢ in postage.



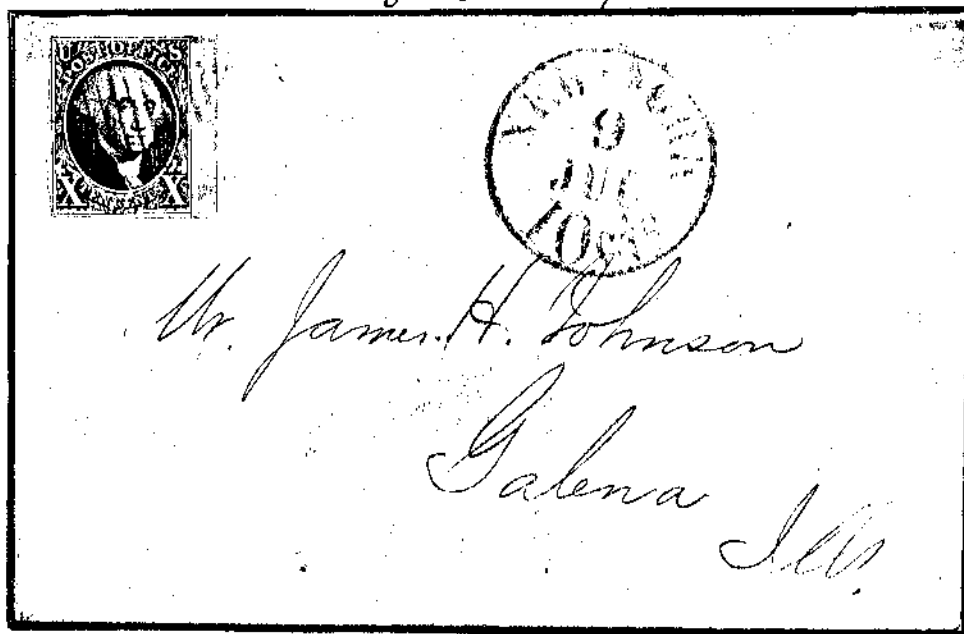
PAIRS OF NOTE

EARLY USES OF THE FIRST U.S. STAMPS



July 7, 1847

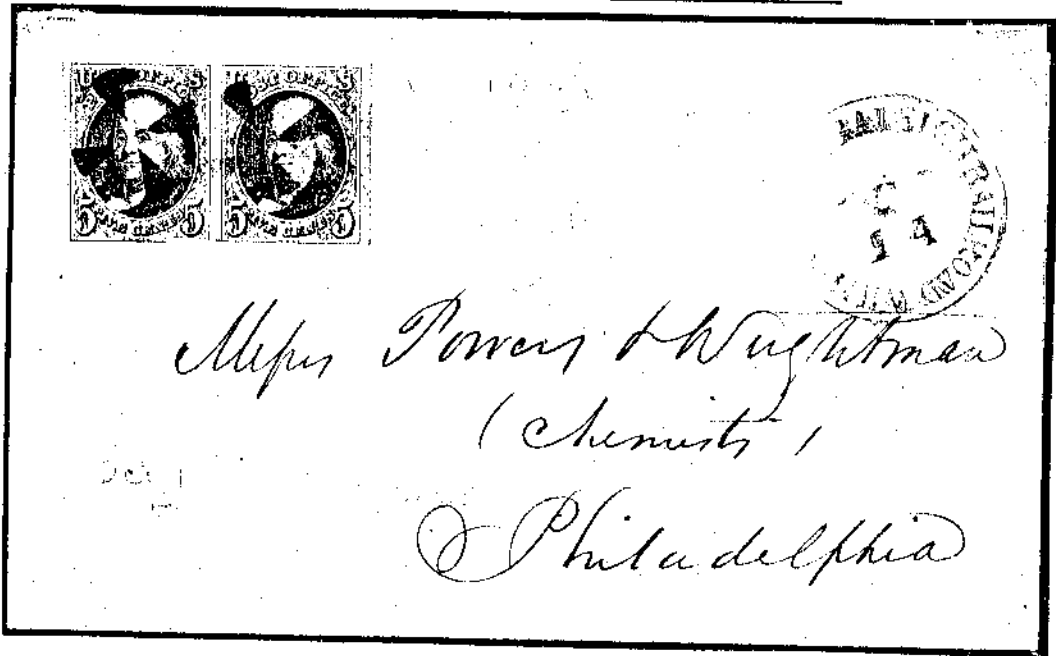
The stamps were issued only to the New York City Post Office on July 1, 1847, but no covers are known postmarked on that date. This is the earliest known 1847 cover bearing a 5¢ stamp.



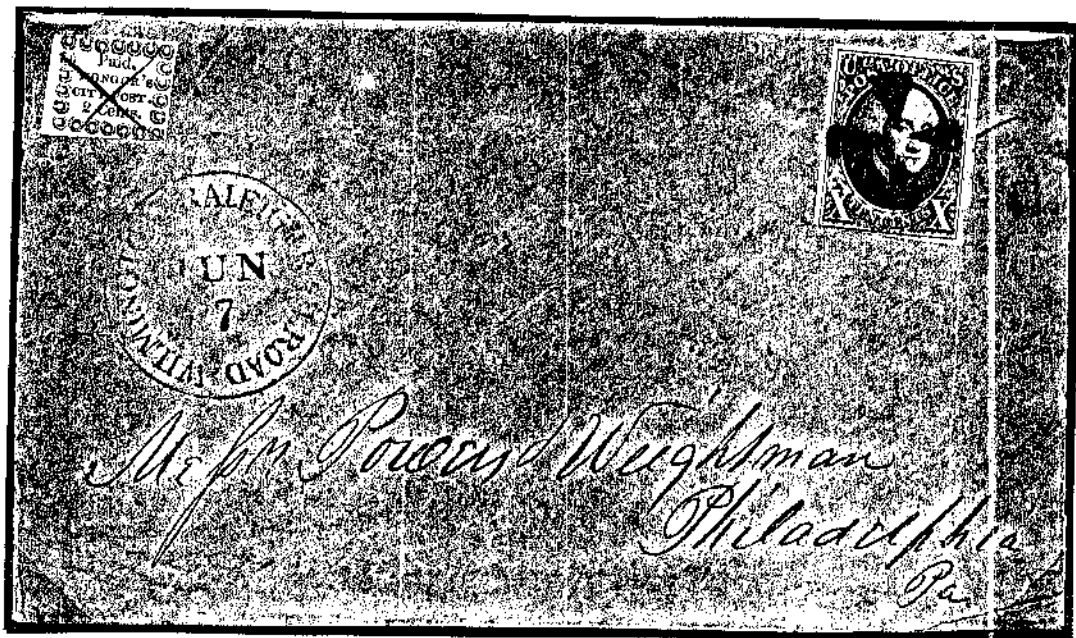
July 9, 1847

This is the second earliest known 10¢ cover. The earliest is July 2.

PAIRS OF NOTE
WILMINGTON & RALEIGH RAILROAD
"THE WINDMILL"

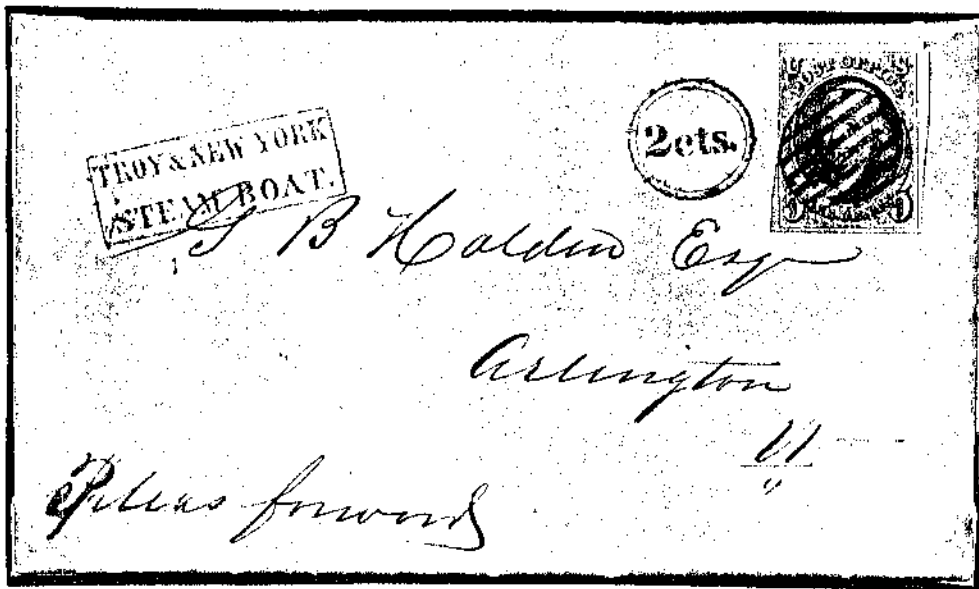


This pair of 5¢ stamps required two strikes of the distinctive "Windmill" cancellation used by the route agent on this line.

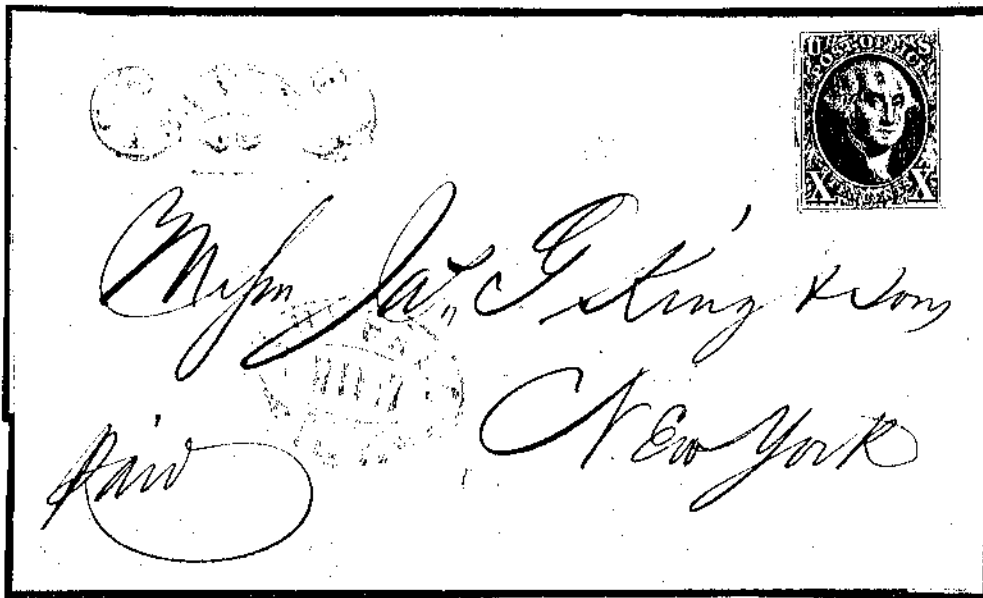


John H. Honour was a letter carrier in Charleston, South Carolina. He had this stamp printed for the convenience of his customers.

PAIRS OF NOTE

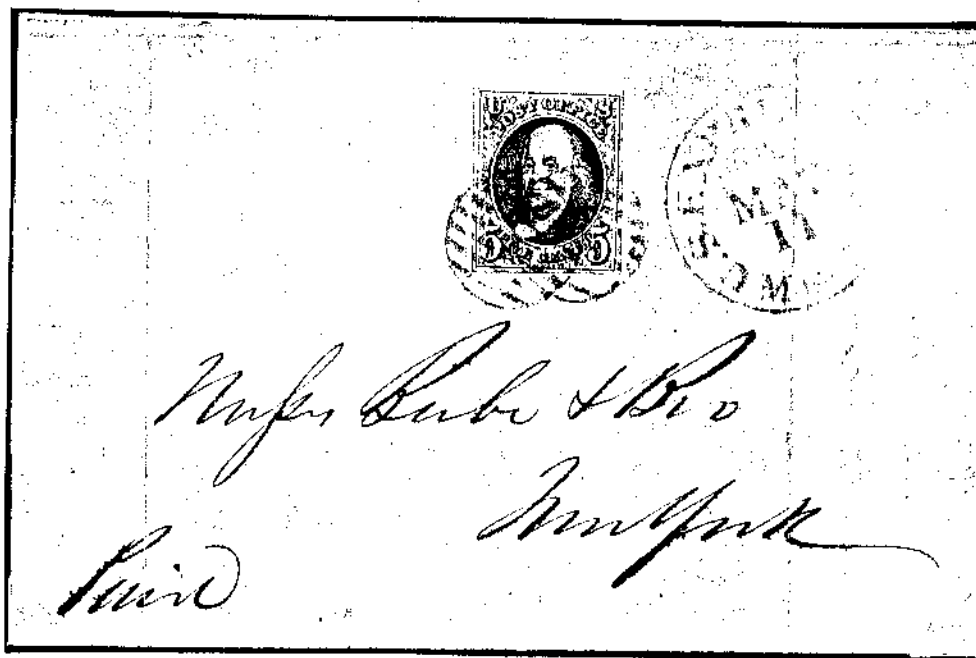


The Troy & New York Steamboat handstamp was struck on board a non-contract mail carrier on its way up the Hudson River to Albany. The "2 cts" handstamp represents the amount due the captain for this carriage. The letter was mailed from New York.

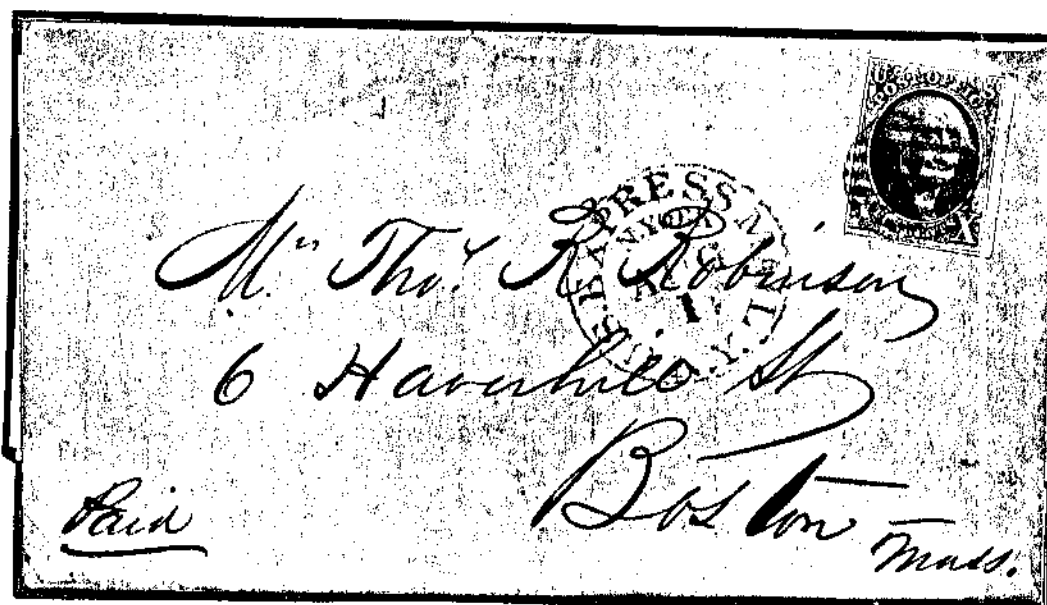


This STEAMBOAT handstamp was also applied to a cover carried on a non-contract steamboat moving down the Hudson River to New York City. Two cents was paid the captain, even though this amount is not rated on the cover.

PAIRS OF NOTE
U. S. EXPRESS MAIL
N. YORK AND BOSTON

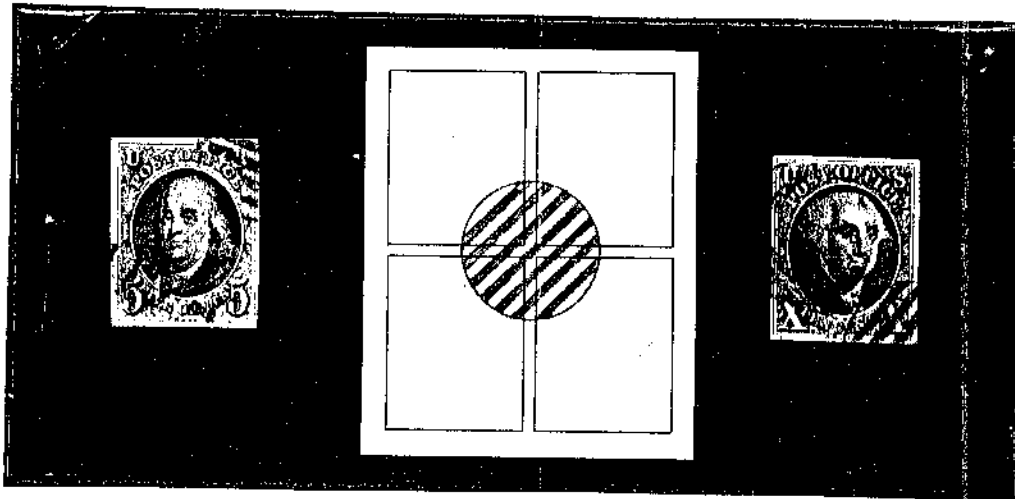


South from Boston on May 11, 1849.



North from New York. This August, 1851, date is an illegal late use of a 10¢ stamp, which had been demonetized as of July 1, 1851.

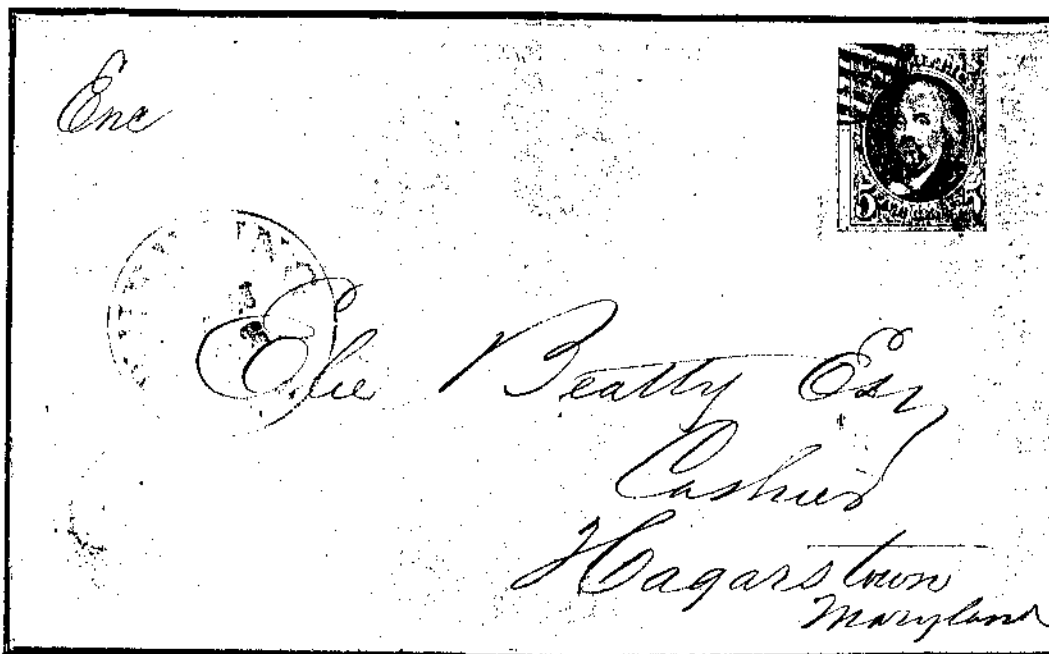
PAIRS OF NOTE
THE WHEELING GRID



The red grid struck in the center of the four stamps was probably intended as a control by the Wheeling, Virginia, post office. However, the grid did cancel the stamps and thus may have created the first precancelled stamps.

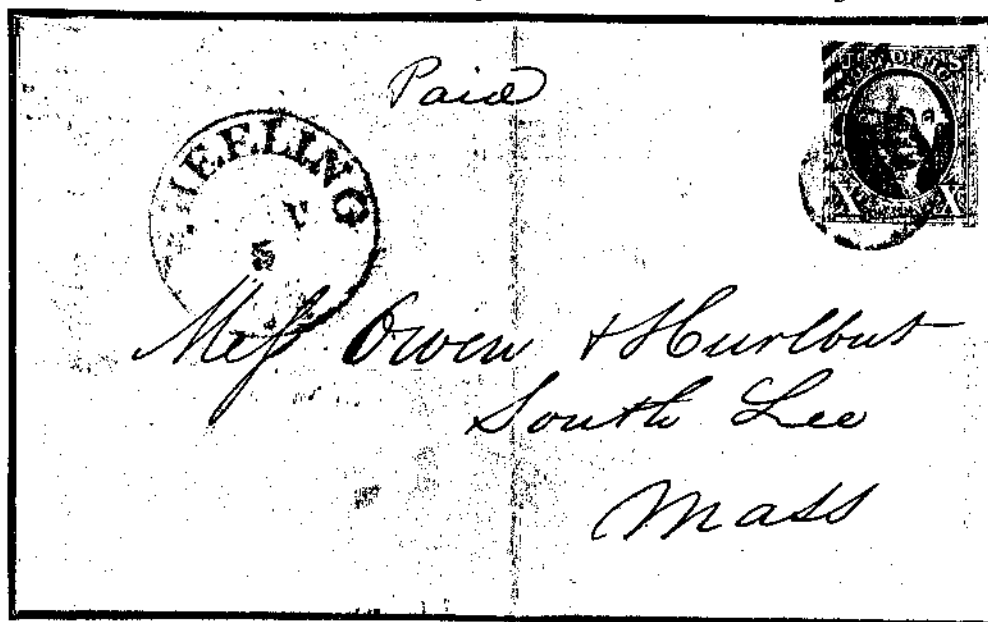
The grid was struck so distinctly and was so precisely centered on a block of four stamps (one-fourth on each stamp), that it is possible to identify these two off-cover stamps as originating at the Wheeling post office.

PAIRS OF NOTE
THE WHEELING GRID



January 22, 1848

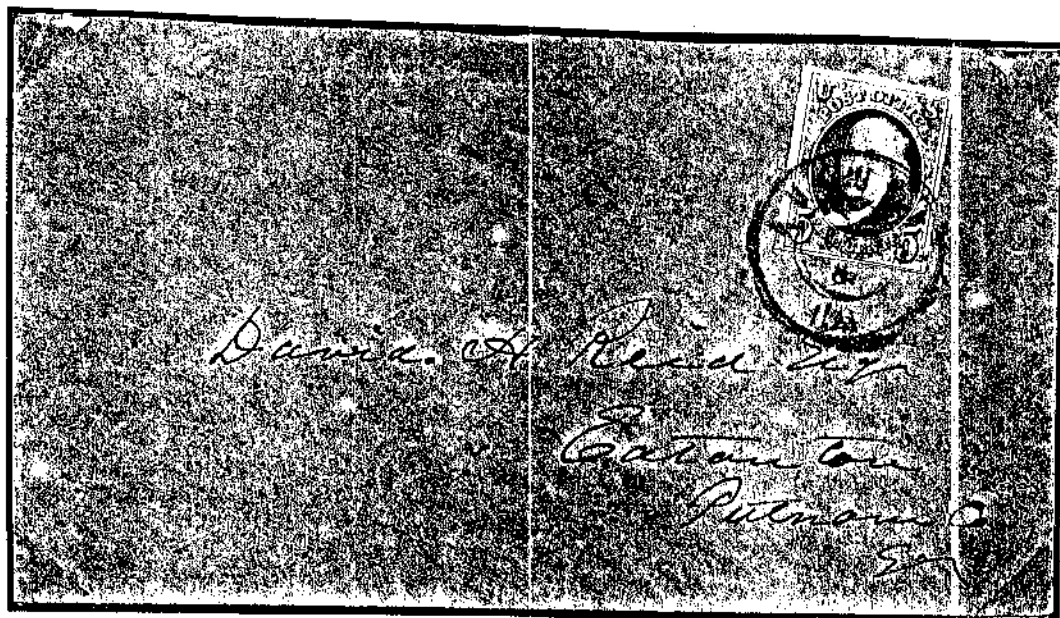
This is the only 5¢ cover presently known. From the Hagerstown Bank find.



November 5, 1847

The 7 bar grid was used only on the first shipment of stamps to Wheeling. The latest known use is March 2, 1848. Later covers from Wheeling do not have the grid.

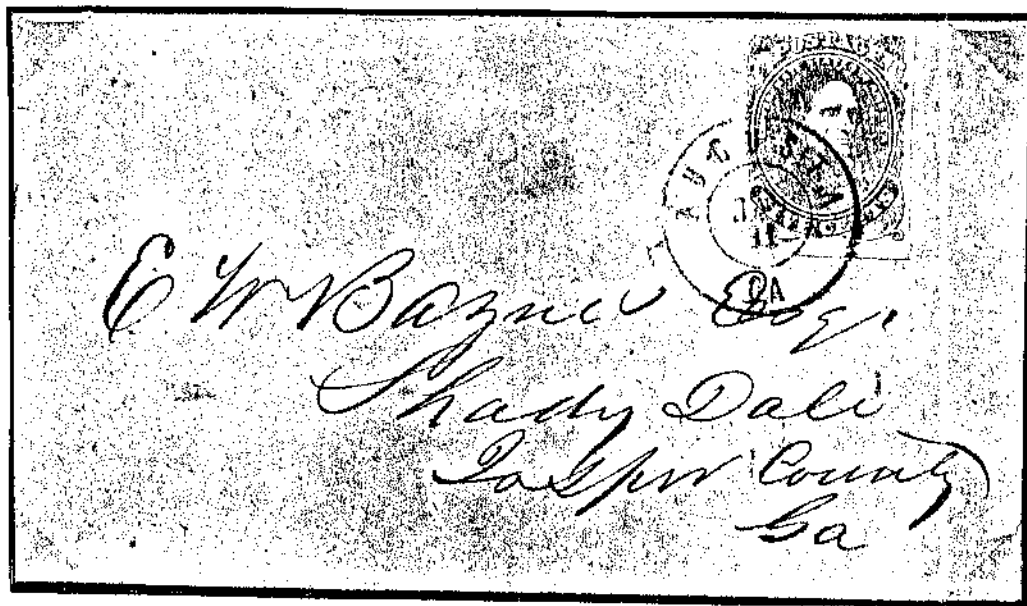
PAIRS OF NOTE
CONFEDERATE USE



January 8, 1862.

Augusta, Georgia

This 5¢ stamp was accepted to pay the 5¢ Confederate rate in effect until July 1, 1862.

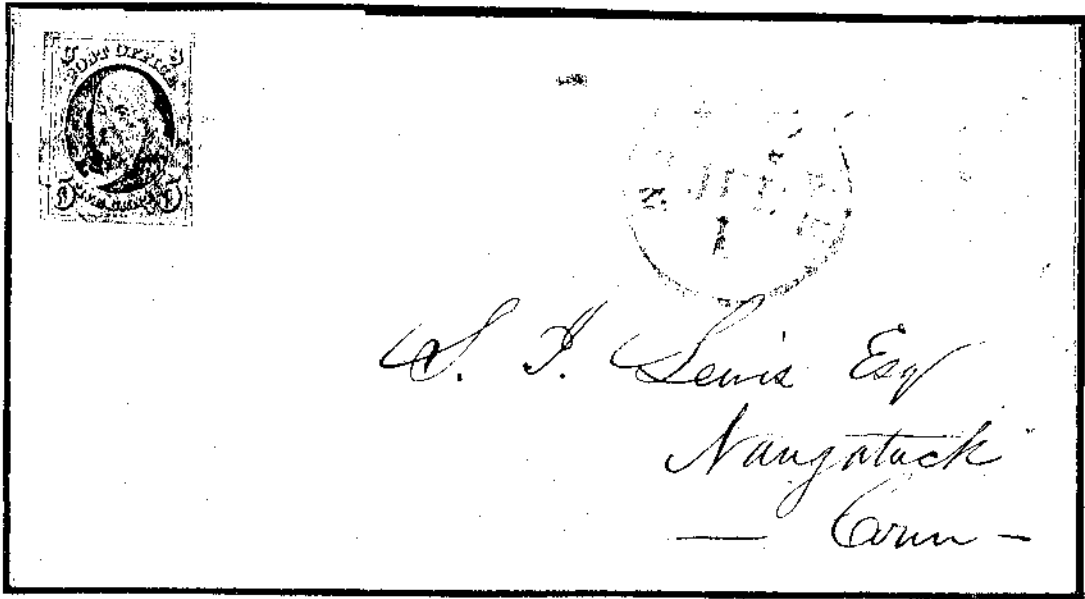


January 11, 1862.

Augusta, Georgia

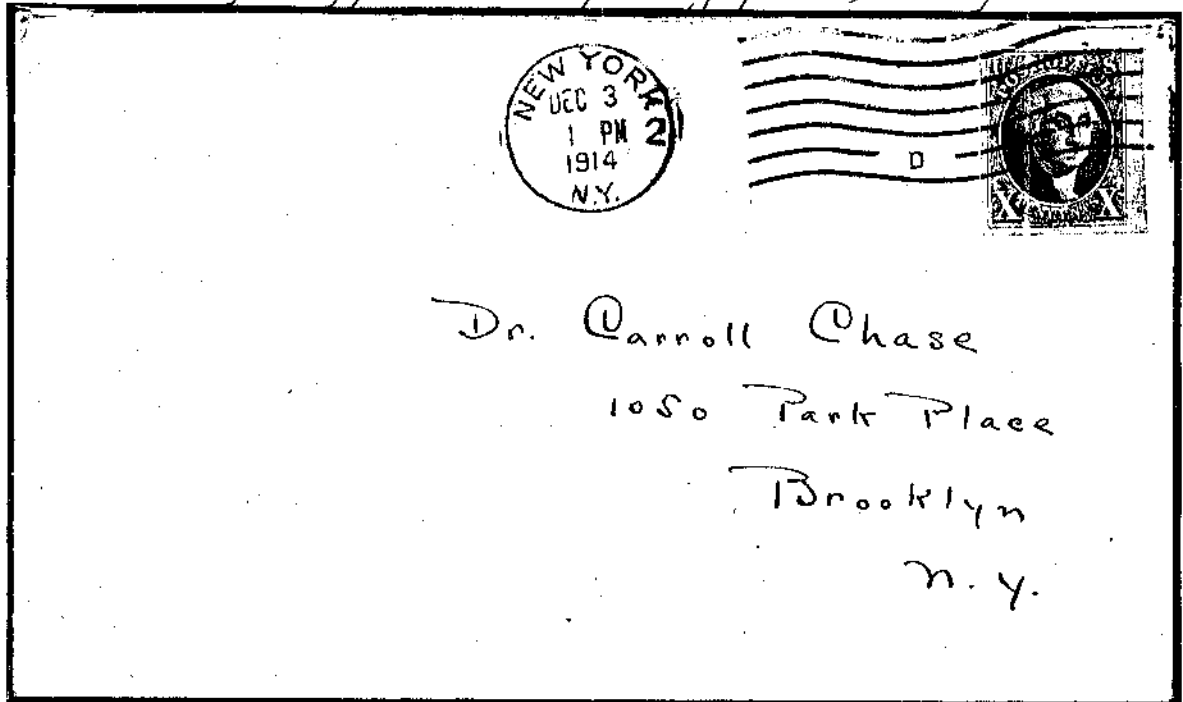
This 5¢ Confederate stamp was used at Augusta just three days later.

PAIRS OF NOTE
ILLEGAL LATE USES



July 1, 1851

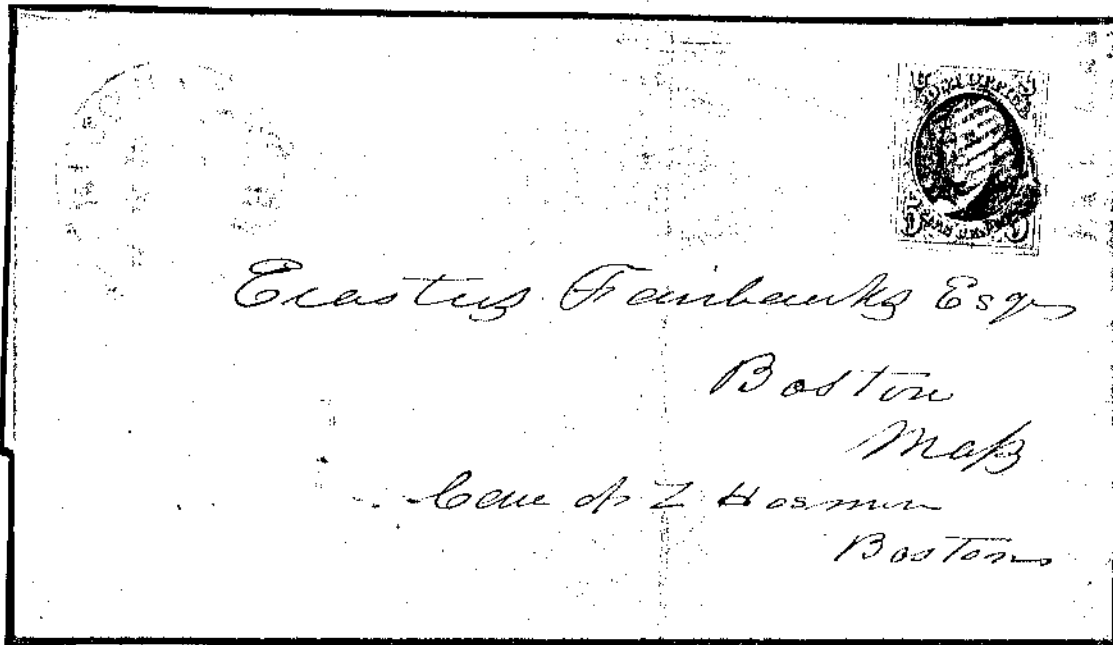
A "first day of use" of the demonetized stamps. This pale shade is characteristic of the fifth and last printing of the 5¢ stamp.



December 3, 1914

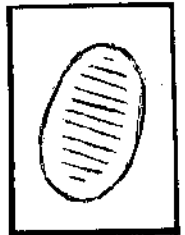
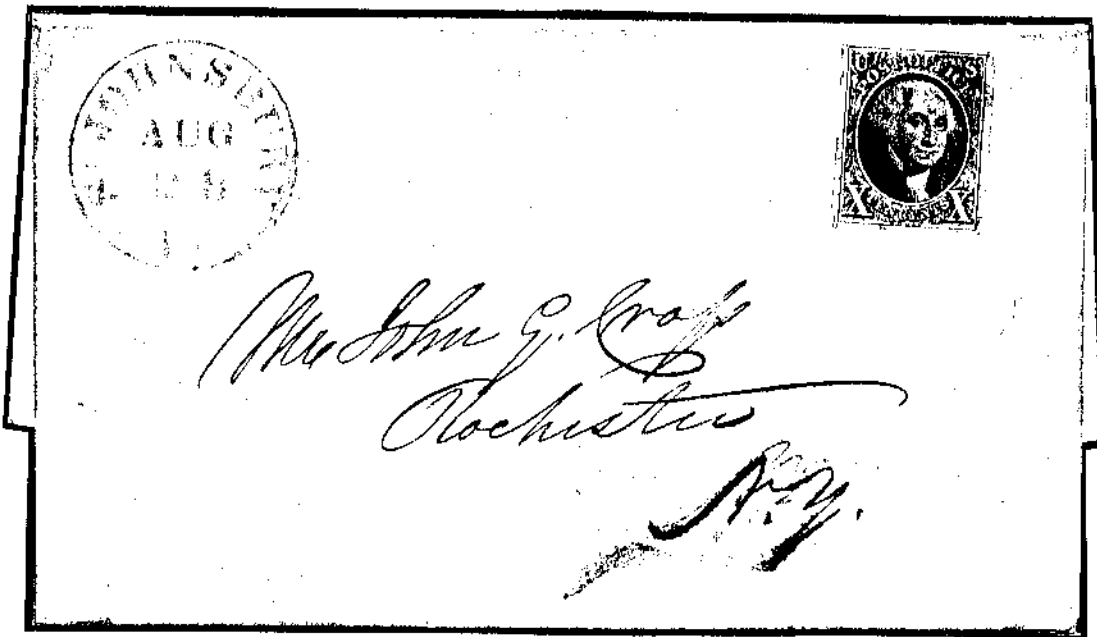
From Dr. Chase to himself to see if the stamp would be recognized.

PAIRS OF NOTE
ST. JOHNSBURY SCARAB



September 28, 1849

Distinct strikes of the scarab cancellation, such as this, are unusual.

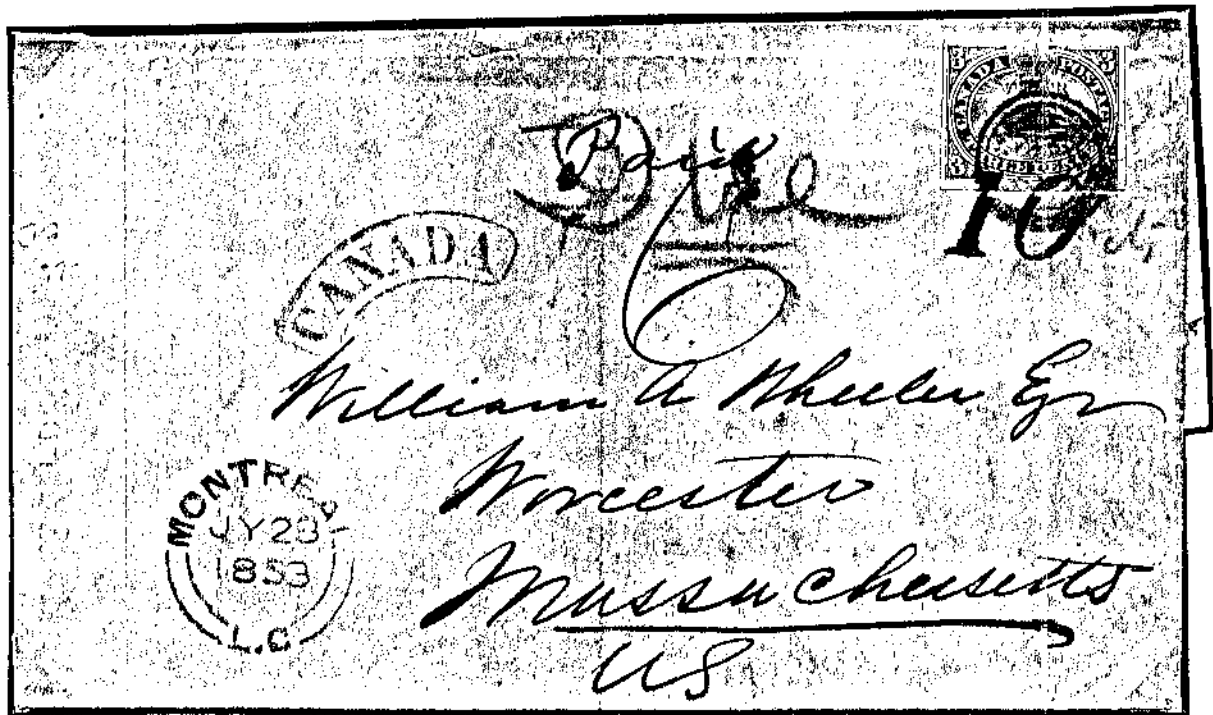
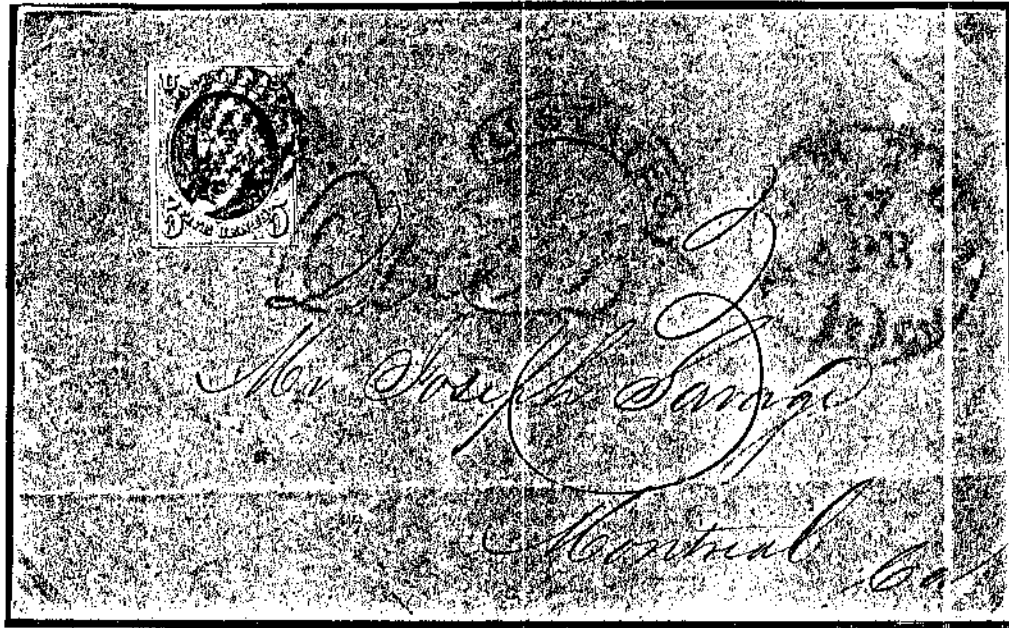


August 28, 1849

The scarab was usually faintly or indistinctly struck, as on this stamp.

PAIRS OF NOTE

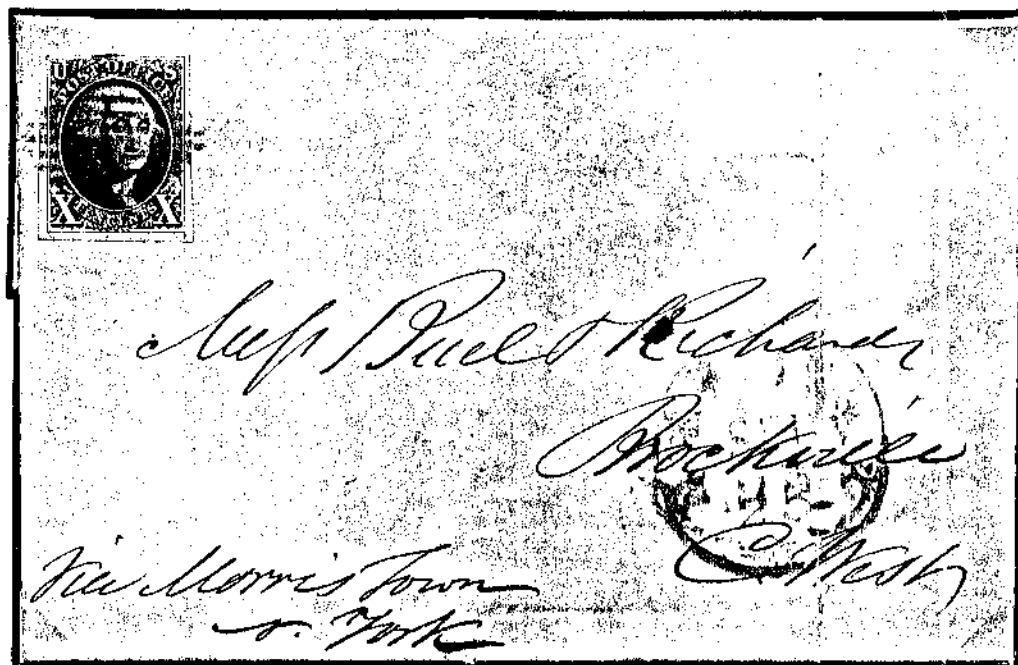
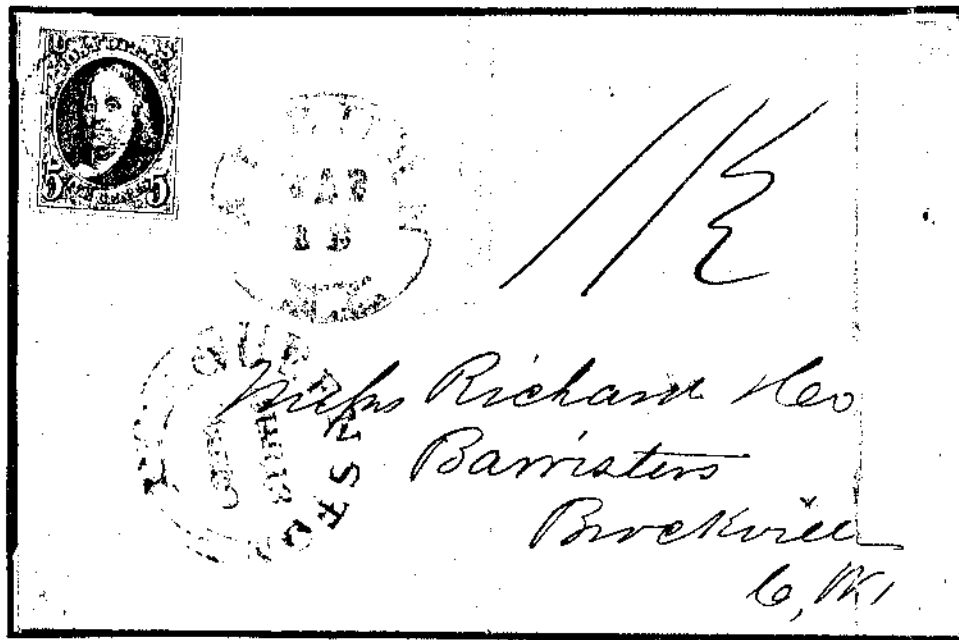
Short Paid To and From Canada



The through rate was 10¢; partial payment should not have been permitted. However, on the top cover the 5¢ stamp was recognized and the balance rated "Due 5" or 3d. On the lower cover the 3d stamp was disregarded and the full rate of 6d. or 10¢ was due.

PAIRS OF NOTE

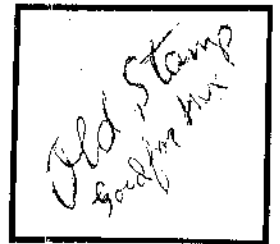
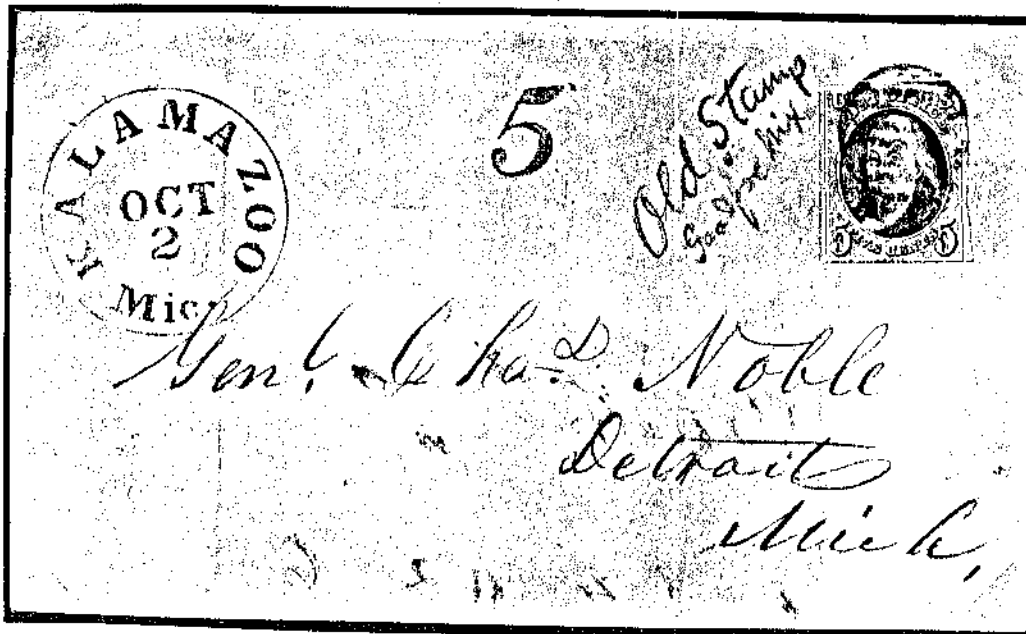
Canada Postage FREE or 11½ pence



The top cover has 11½ d. Canadian postage due from the border office at Queenston to Brockville (200-300 miles). Mail to Canada West was routed via daily service to Queenston. No postage was due on the bottom cover to the same destination, because the sender specified "via Morris town," the U.S. office opposite Brockville.

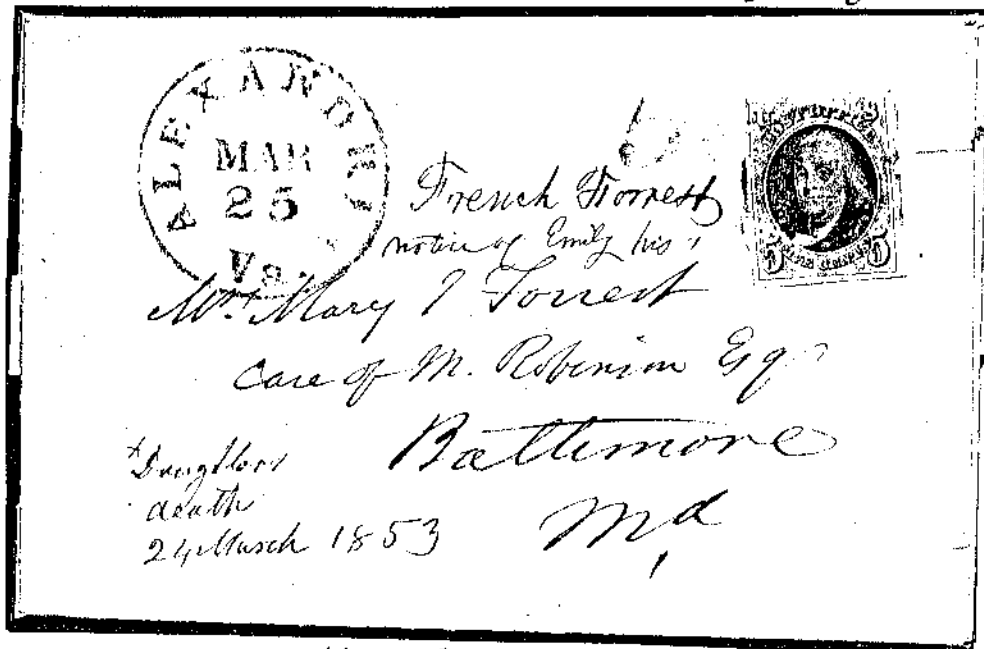
PAIRS OF NOTE

NOT VALID FOR U.S. POSTAGE



October 2, 1851

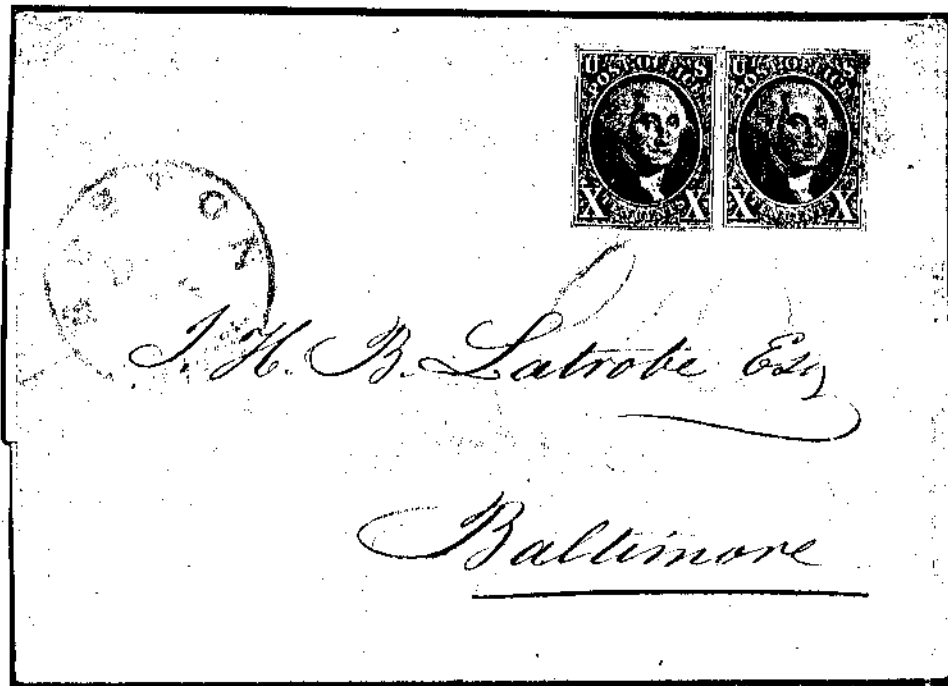
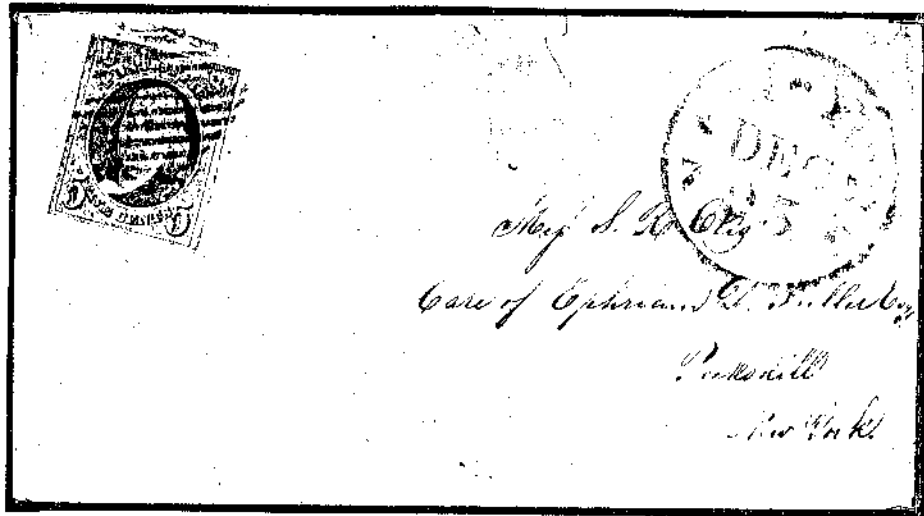
The 1847 stamps were demonetized as of July 1, 1851, but could be exchanged for cash or valid postage for an additional 90 days, until October 1, 1851. On October 2 this stamp was no longer valid for either postage or cash.



March 25, 1853

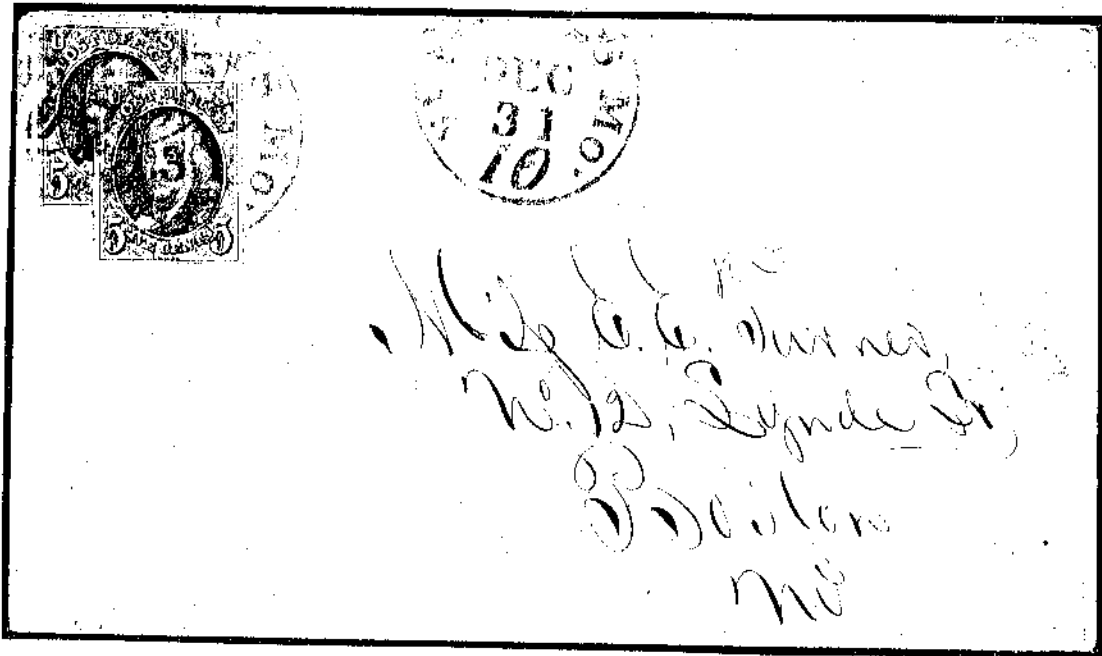
Stamp not recognized and letter rated the unpaid 5¢ rate then in effect.

PAIRS OF NOTE
CHRISTMAS CANCELLATIONS

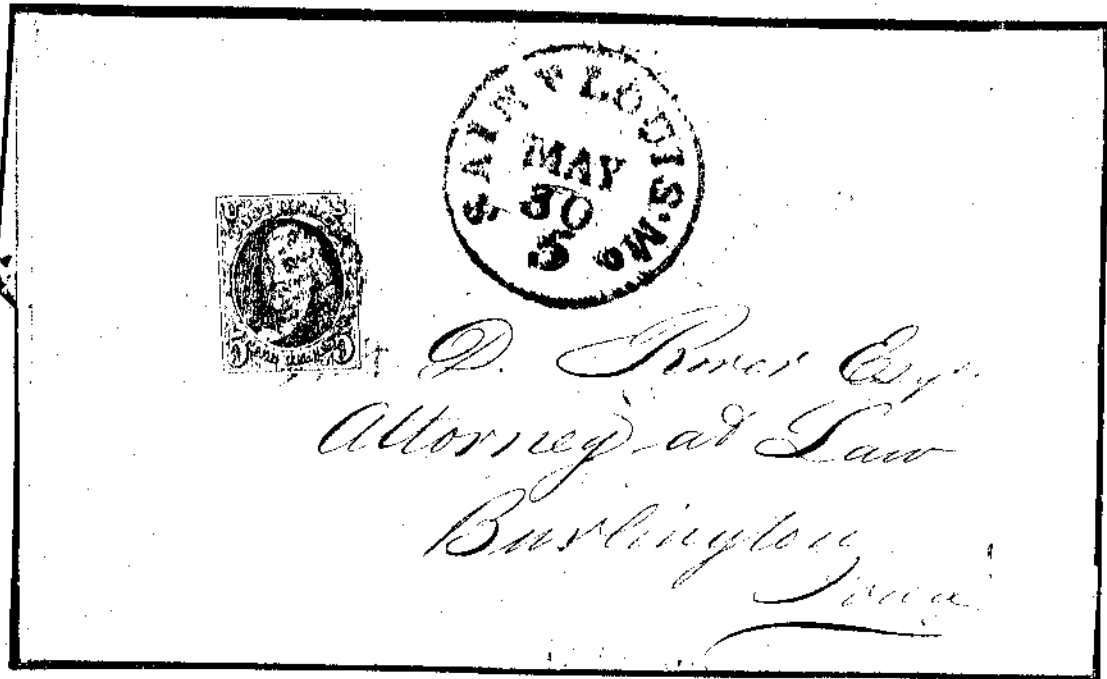


PAIRS OF NOTE

"ST" LOUIS AND "SAINT" LOUIS



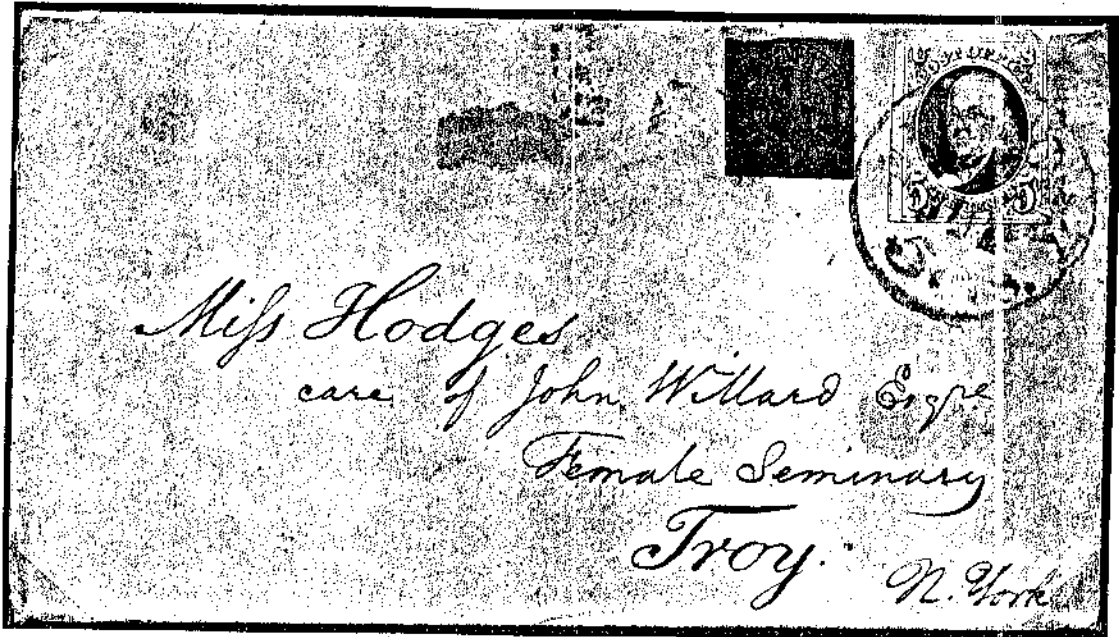
The St. Louis post office used this "st" townmark until November, 1850.



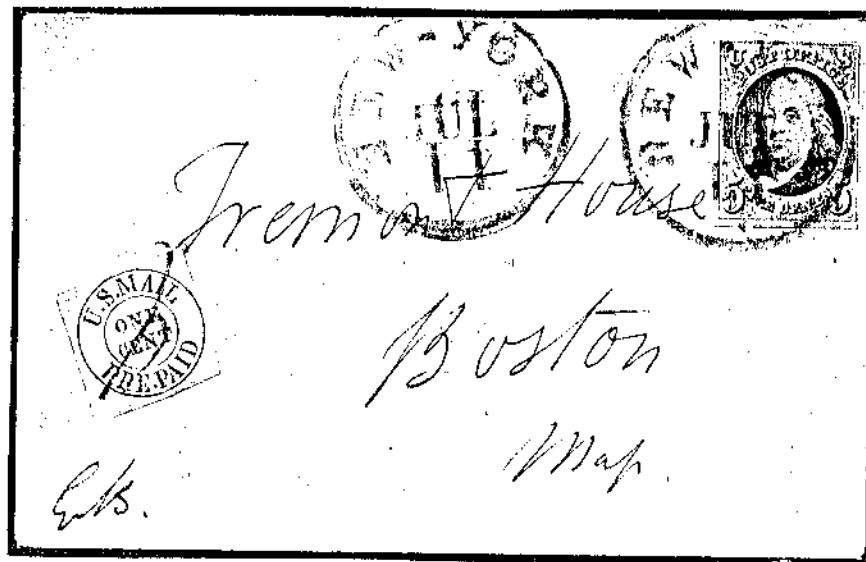
May 30, 1851

The earliest known use of the "SAINT" townmark is November 8, 1850. Thus, 1847 covers with "SAINT" in the townmark may be year-dated even though there is no other evidence of the year date on the cover.

PAIRS OF NOTE
USE WITH 1¢ U.S. MAIL



Robert Morris, the New York postmaster, issued these stamps to pay for official carrier service to the city post office from letter boxes. The rose colored stamp was issued in 1849.



The color of the U.S. MAIL stamp was changed to yellow in 1850.