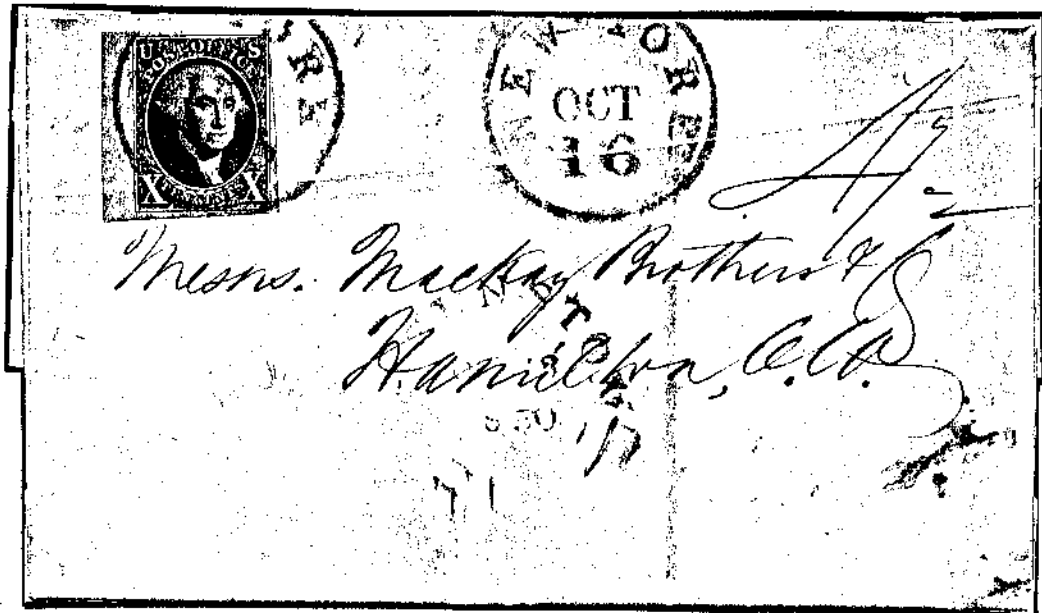


COLOR OF CANCELLATION

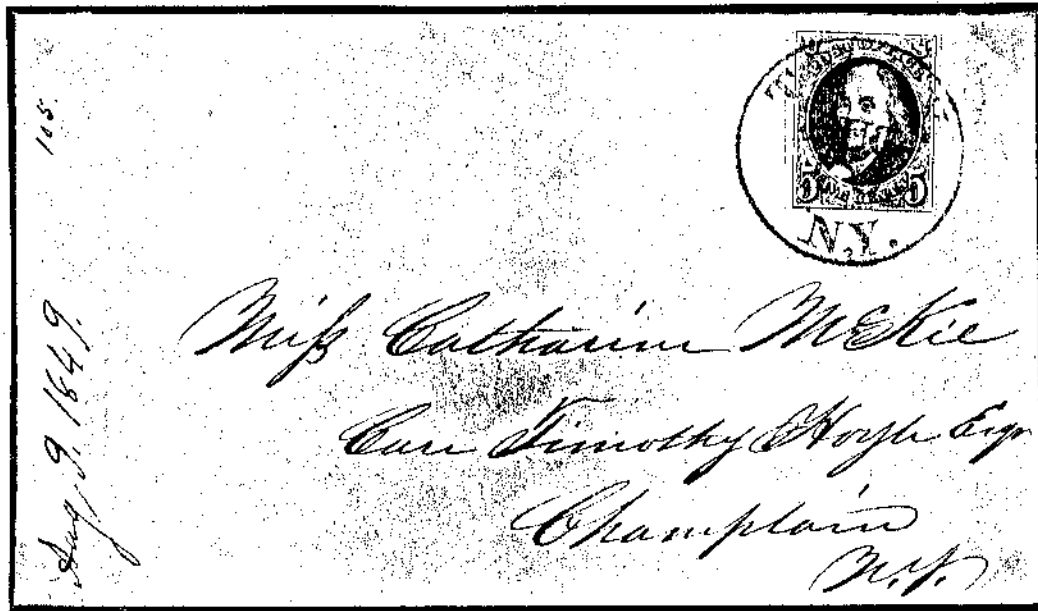
RED



"It did not take most postmasters long to discover that red was the one color that satisfactorily cancelled both values.... perhaps 75% are found with red cancellations." Dr. Carroll Chase.

COLOR OF CANCELLATION

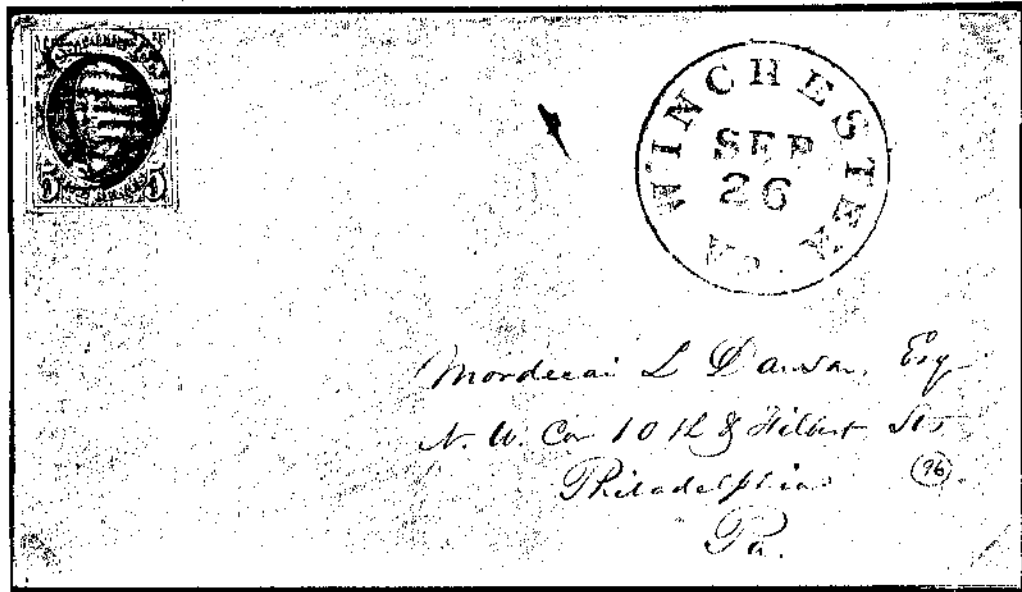
BLUE



"Prior to the issuance of the stamps, each postmaster followed his own whim in choosing the ink. Blue was the next most popular color (after red), perhaps 15% being thus cancelled." Dr. Carroll Chase.

COLOR OF CANCELLATION

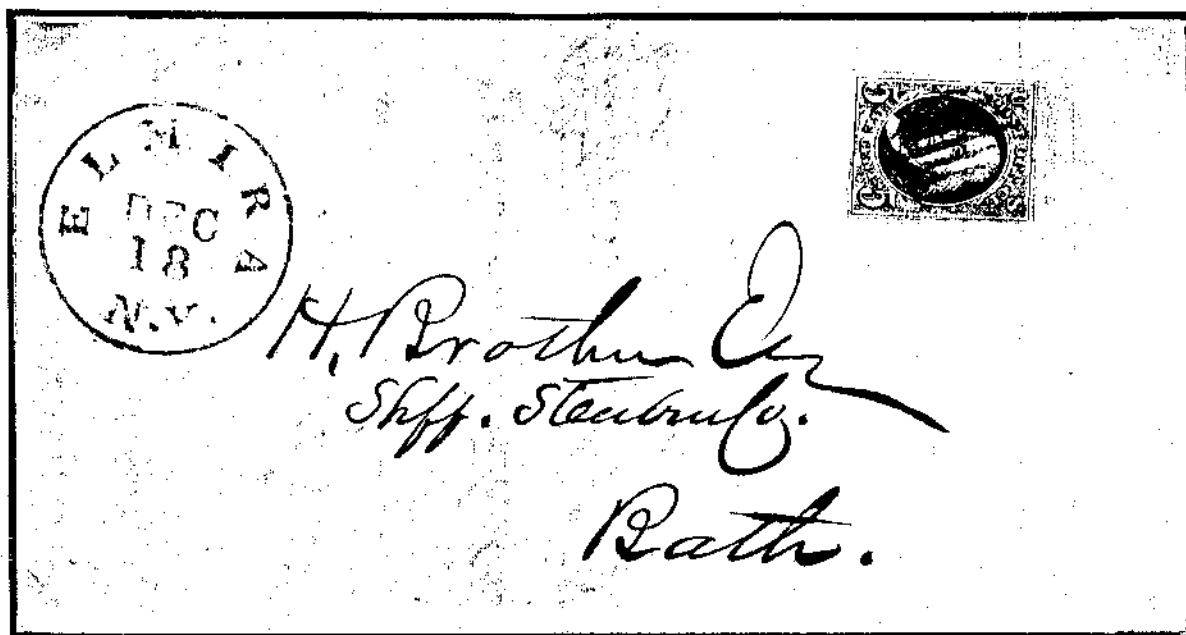
BLACK



"Black cancellations are uncommon, but not rare..." Dr. Carroll Chase.

COLOR OF CANCELLATION

ORANGE



Orange is red with yellow added. Most orange cancellations are a medium size, as here.

COLOR OF CANCELLATION

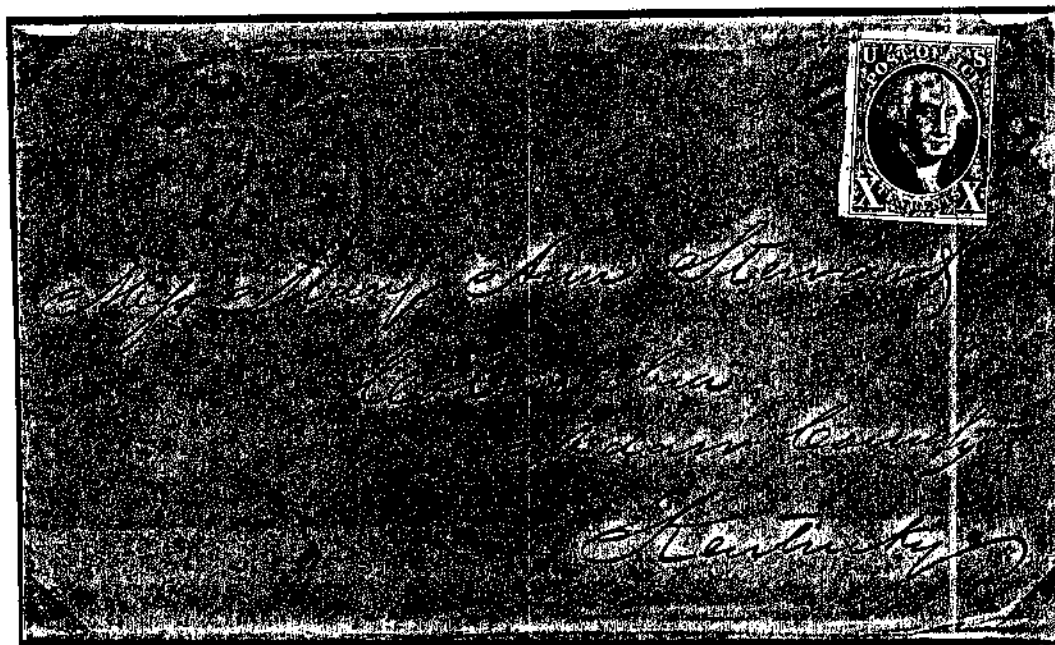
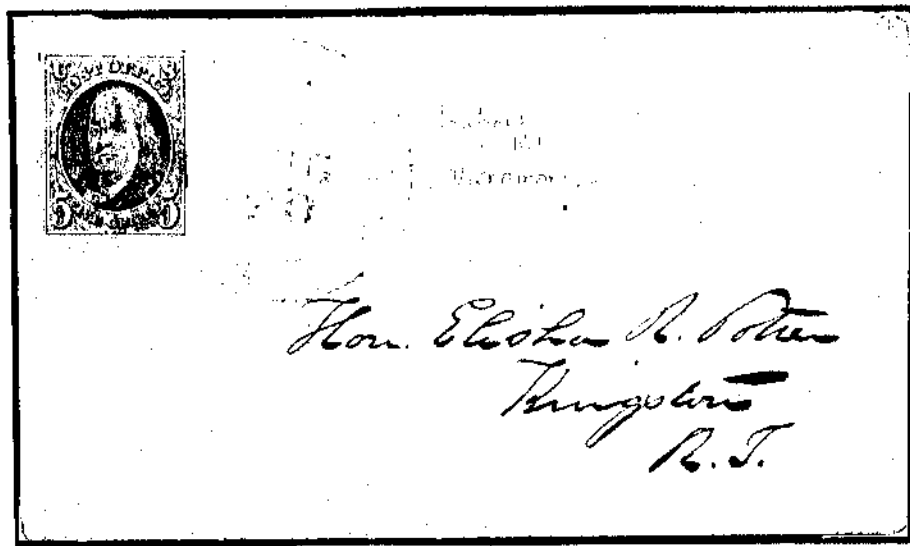
BROWN



Brown is red or orange with black added. It is a fairly rare color cancellation. Most browns are of a medium size, as here.

CO L O R O F C A N C E L L A T I O N

U L T R A M A R I N E

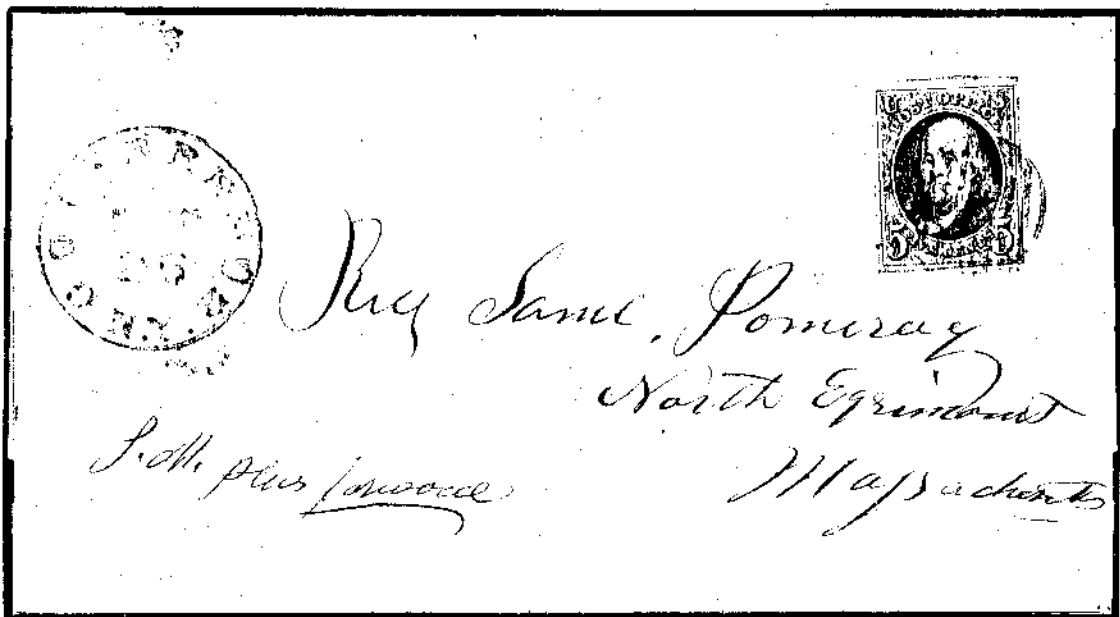
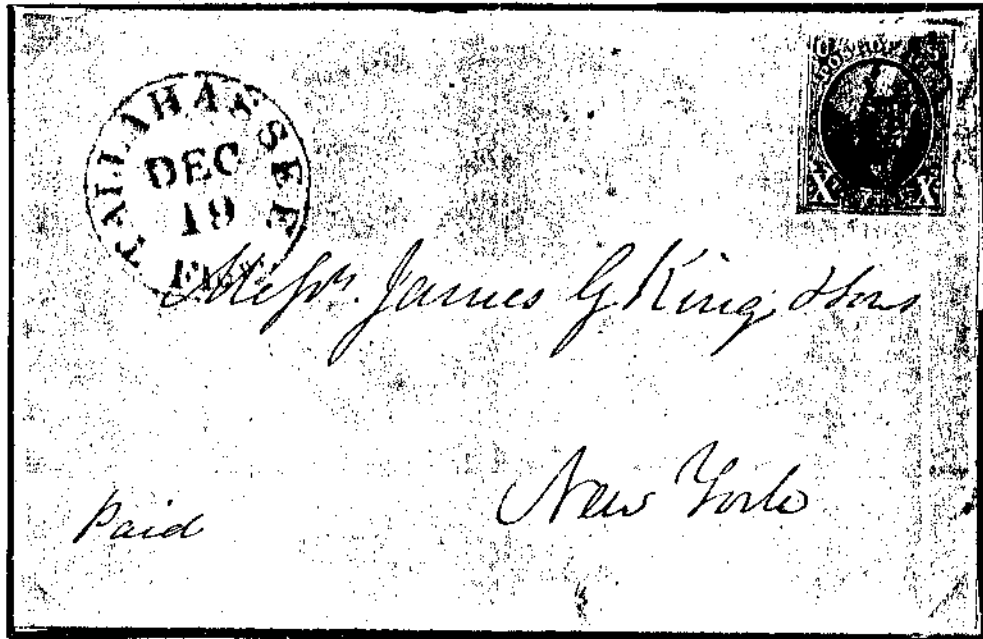


"A few stamps have been seen, all off cover, cancelled in an undoubted ultramarine, entirely different from any of the ordinary blue cancellations." Dr. Carroll Chase (1916).

"The 10¢ stamp is known on a Newport cover, with a violet postmark known as 'ultramarine'." Elliott Perry (1930).

COLOR OF CANCELLATION

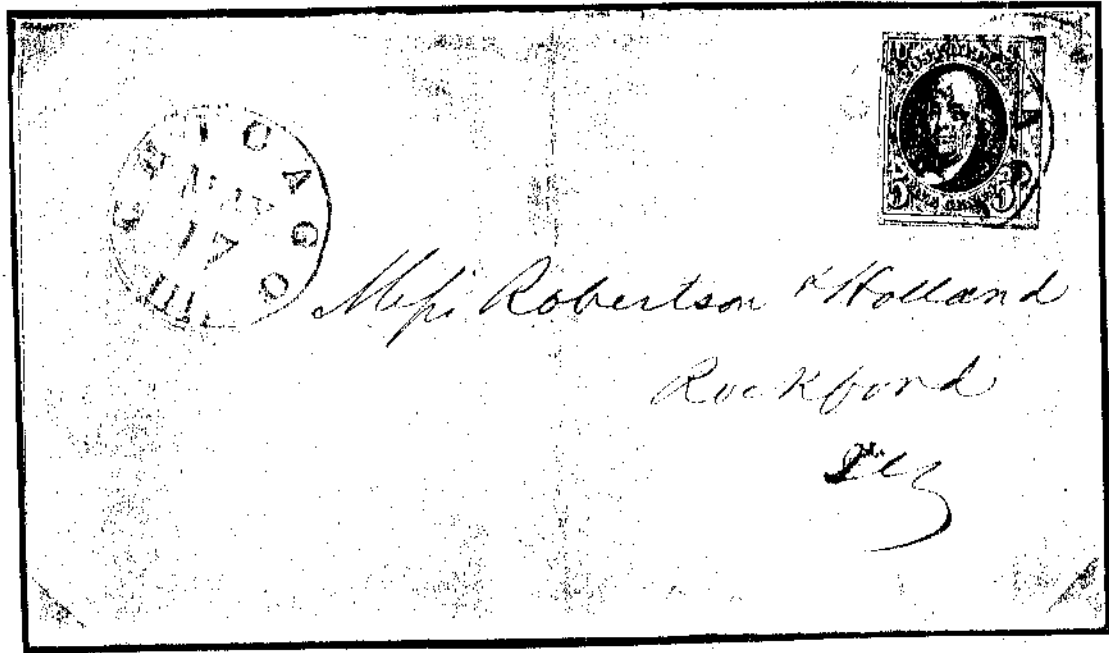
GREEN



"A few towns used green, but seldom if ever throughout the life of the issue." Dr. Carroll Chase.

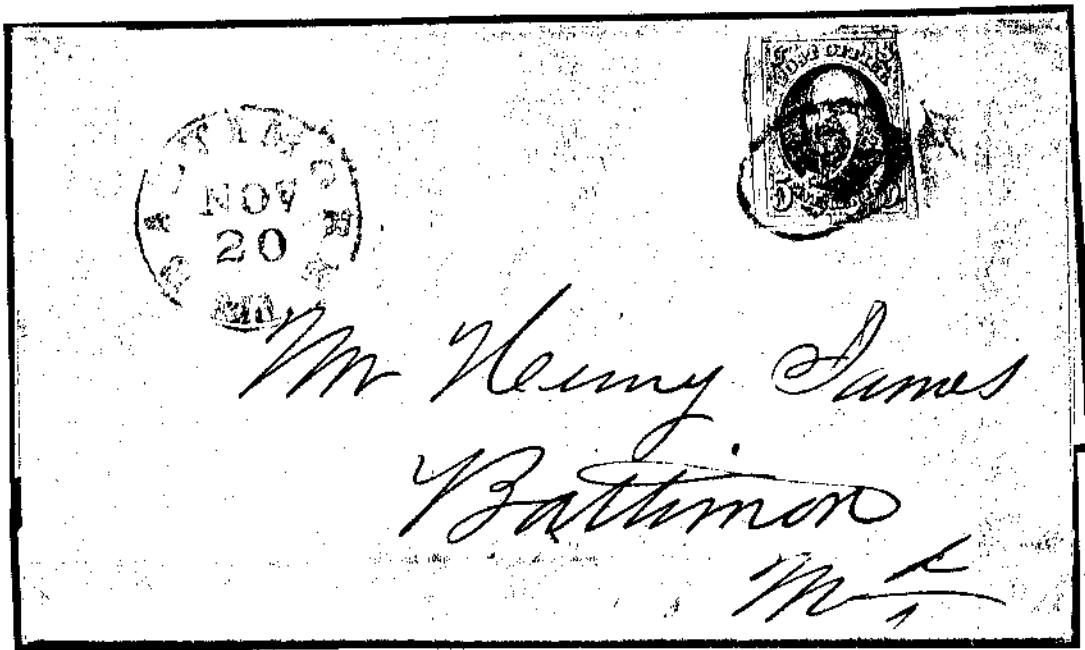
COLOR OF CANCELLATION

"CHICAGO PINK"



*"The 'pink' is the rarest of the color cancellations."
- Dr. Carroll Chase.*

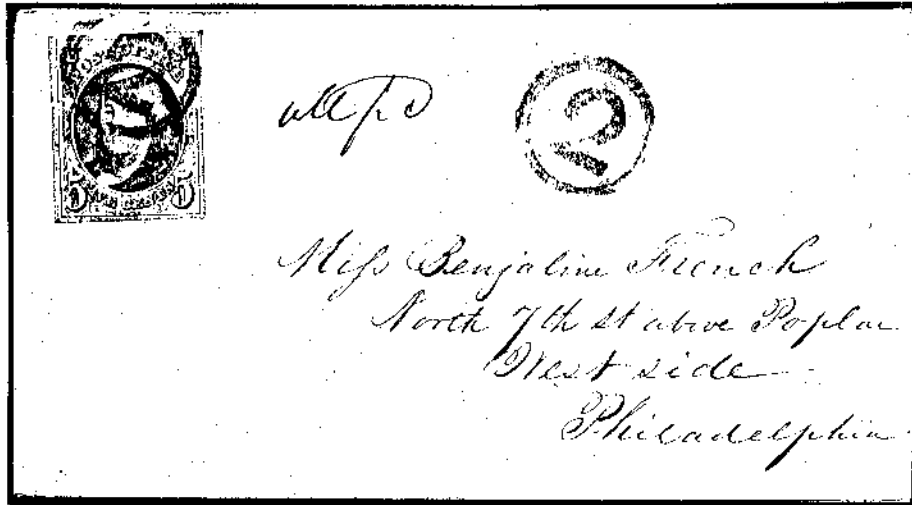
2¢ DROP LETTER



From Baltimore on November 20, 1849. Covers of this period from Baltimore often bear a characteristic blue oval rate marking enclosing the rate figure "5" or "10." Drop letters (those addressed to the same post offices at which they were mailed) were rated only two cents. The oval "2" handstamp was used in rating such letters.

The 5¢ stamp overpays the 2¢ drop rate. This is the only example known from Baltimore.

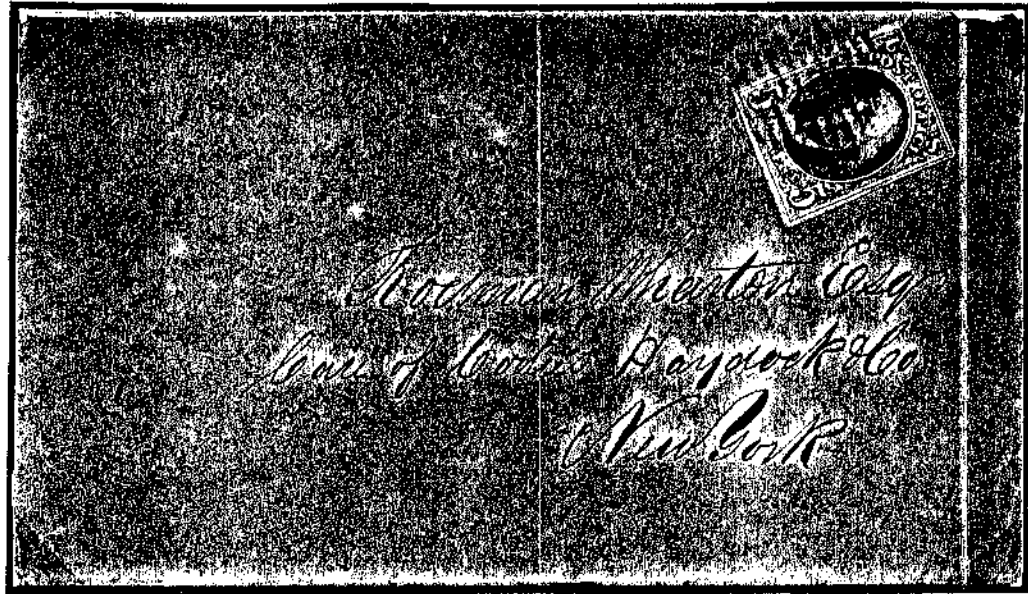
2¢ DROP LETTER



This cover to Miss Benjamin French does not have a Philadelphia townmark, but does have the encircled "2" marking used at Philadelphia on drop letters.

There was an official carrier service at Philadelphia charging a 1¢ fee each way to or from the post office. The manuscript notation "all pd" probably instructs the carrier that the 5¢ stamp is sufficient to pay not only the 2¢ drop rate but also the additional 2¢ in carrier fees to and from the post office.

2¢ DROP LETTER

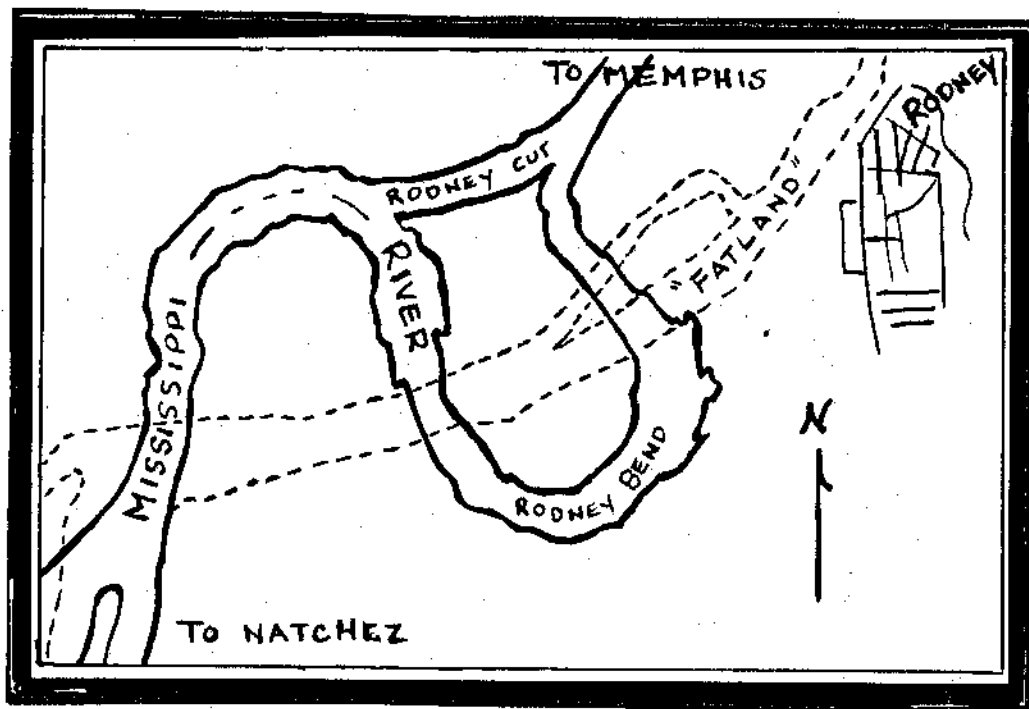
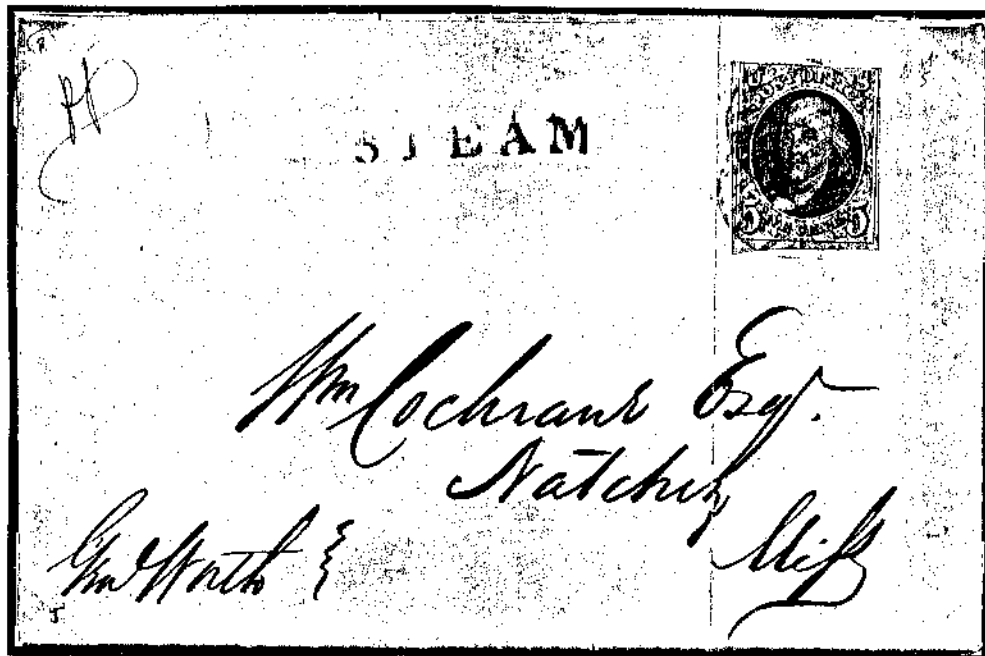


The drop letter rate was 2¢, but no stamp of that denomination was included in the first issue of postage stamps. Many examples are known of the bisection of the 10¢ stamp to pay the 5¢ rate, but no examples of a 5¢ stamp bisected to pay the 2¢ rate have ever been found.

This cover has no townmark, but its origin in New York City is established by the 13-bar grid cancellation used only at New York City.

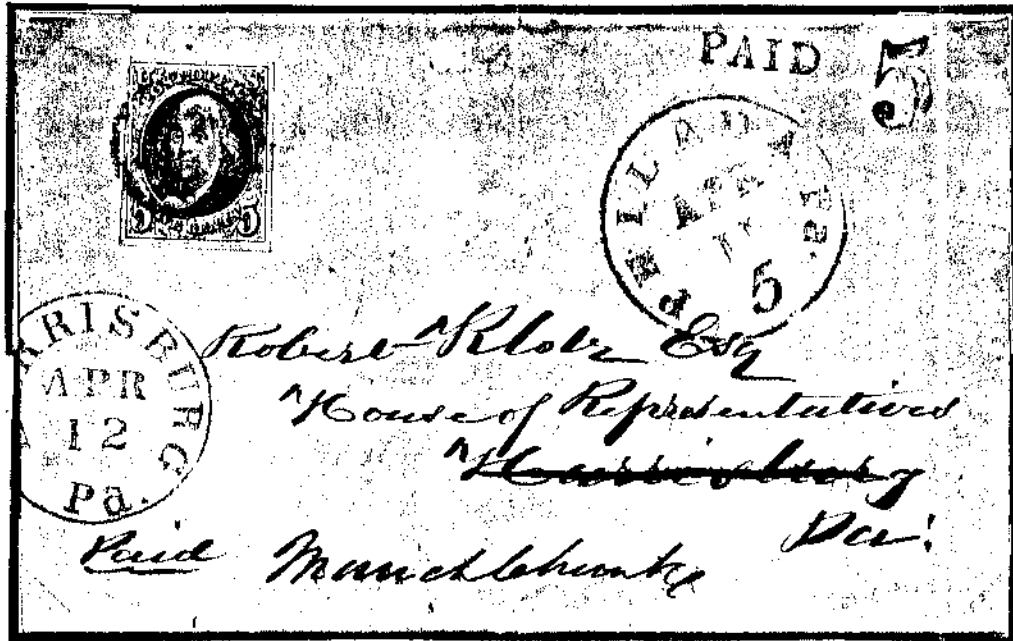
MISSISSIPPI PACKET

"GENERAL NORTH"



The dateline on this letter is Rodney, Mississippi, now a ghost town. The map shows how Rodney was left high and dry after the Mississippi River suddenly changed its course in 1865. More cotton was shipped from Rodney in the 1850's than any other river port.

FORWARDED



From Philadelphia on April 11, 1849. Letters were not forwarded free of charge during the 1847 period. They were charged an additional fee based on weight and distance from the point of forwarding to the new destination just as if the letter had originated at the point of forwarding.

The 5¢ stamp paid the postage to Harrisburg. Someone at the House of Representatives there paid an additional 5¢ in cash and forwarded the letter to Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania.

MISSENT AND FORWARDED



Letters which were missent through a post office error were forwarded free of charge. This letter from Mobile, Alabama, to Haverhill, New Hampshire, was delivered to the Hanover, New Hampshire post office by mistake. The postmaster at Hanover, in accordance with instructions, wrote "missent to & forwarded" and struck his office townmark.

VALENTINE COVER



Valentines are the only greeting cards sent during the currency of our first stamps. The valentines at this time were hand painted with an appropriate verse copied from a commercial book of poems.

This valentine is postmarked "Feb. 14" but any time during February was considered proper.



Forget-Me-Not

*To find if of thee I'd be content
I'd have with thee the humblest lot
No richer fortune would I covet
Than gentle maid's Forget-Me-Not*

St. Valentine's Day

