

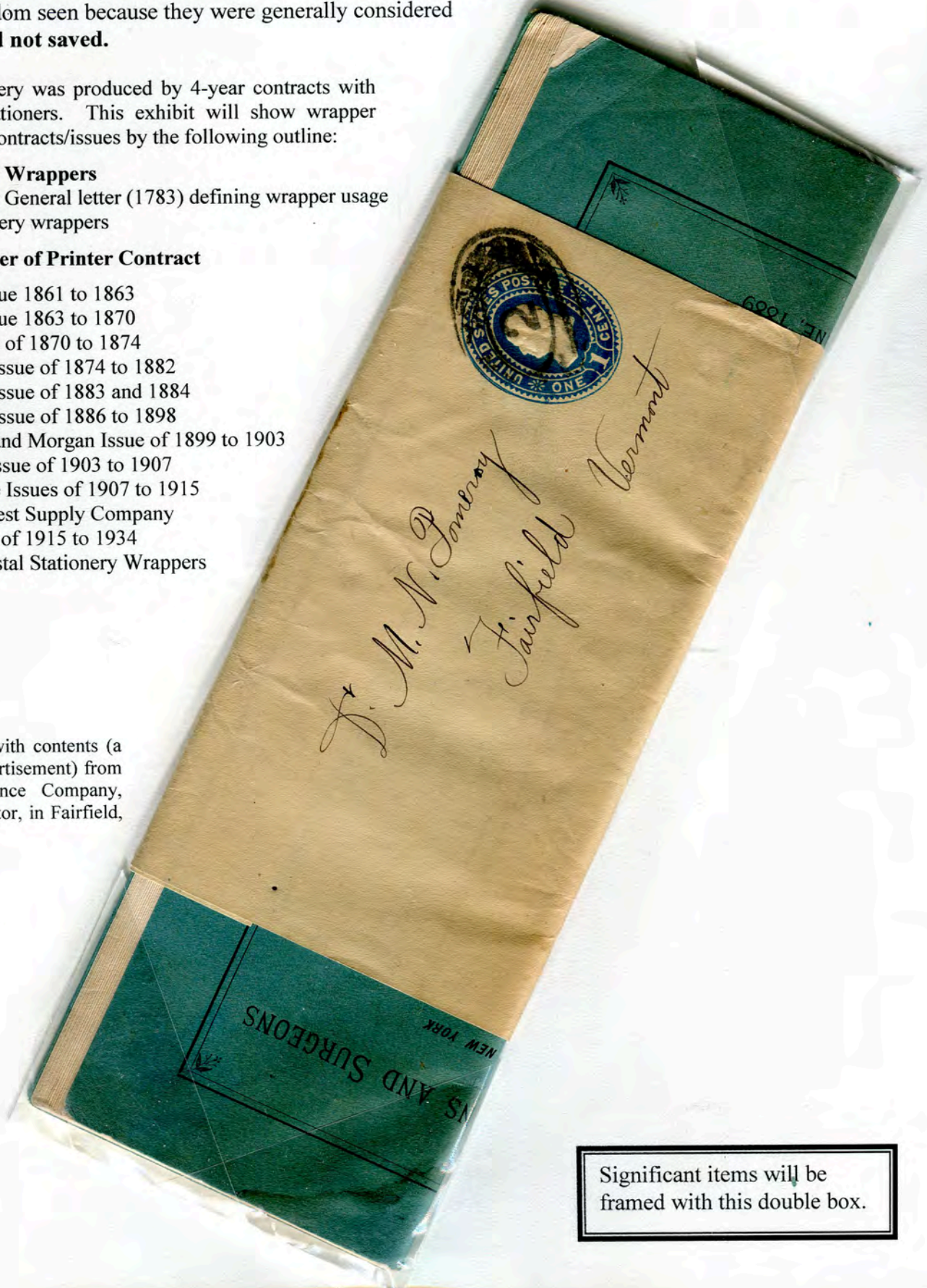
U.S. Postal Stationery Wrapper Usage

This exhibit presents the usage of U.S. postal stationery wrappers from their first issue in 1861 until their discontinuation in 1934. Wrappers are rectangular bands of paper with stamps printed on them and gummed at one end, intended for wrapping around a **newspaper, periodical or commercial mailing**. Wrappers are seldom seen because they were generally considered **“Junk Mail” and not saved.**

U.S. postal stationery was produced by 4-year contracts with private printers/stationers. This exhibit will show wrapper usages according contracts/issues by the following outline:

- ❖ **Pre stationery Wrappers**
 - Postmaster General letter (1783) defining wrapper usage
 - Pre-stationery wrappers
- ❖ **Usages by order of Printer Contract**
 - Nesbitt Issue 1861 to 1863
 - Nesbitt Issue 1863 to 1870
 - Reay Issue of 1870 to 1874
 - Plimpton Issue of 1874 to 1882
 - Plimpton Issue of 1883 and 1884
 - Plimpton Issue of 1886 to 1898
 - Plimpton and Morgan Issue of 1899 to 1903
 - Hartford Issue of 1903 to 1907
 - Mercantile Issues of 1907 to 1915
 - Middle West Supply Company Issues of 1915 to 1934
 - End of Postal Stationery Wrappers

An early wrapper with contents (a newsletter and advertisement) from Aetna Life Insurance Company, New York to a doctor, in Fairfield, Vermont.



Significant items will be framed with this double box.

Postmaster General Letter (1783) defining wrapper usage

Letter from Ebenezer Hazard, Postmaster to the Continental Congress, sent in reply to a local postmaster providing the definition of wrapper usage: "...the proper way of sending them is **open**..." This distinction of "**open**" (visible) versus "**closed**" is applied here and was used until the cessation of wrappers.

The letter has a Bishop "13/AV" and "FREE" handstamps on the folded over bottom portion.

Phil^a. Aug^o 29th. 1783

Sir,

My late Absence from this City has prevented your hearing from me upon the Subject of News Papers; - if they are enclosed in Letters they pay the same Postage as if they were Letters; - the proper Way of sending them is open, in the Case of the Post-Rider (who receives a Perquisite for carrying them) & not to put them in the Mail at all; - if they are sent in the Mail they must be paid for as Letters.

I am

Sir, your humble Serv^t

Ebenezer Hazard

13
AV

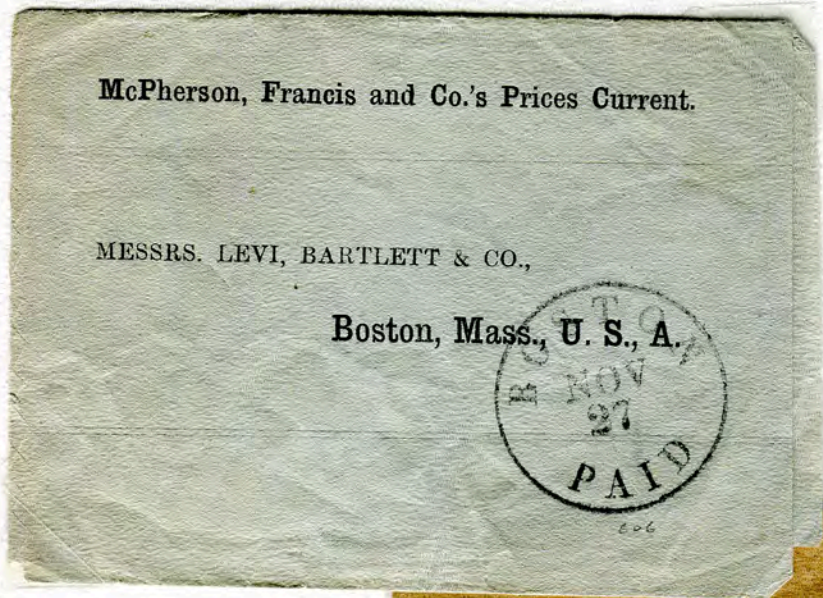
Dudley Woodbridge Esq^r
Postmaster 2^d 0⁰
at Norwich

Ebenezer Hazard Esq^r
Aug^o 1783

Pre-Stationery Wrappers

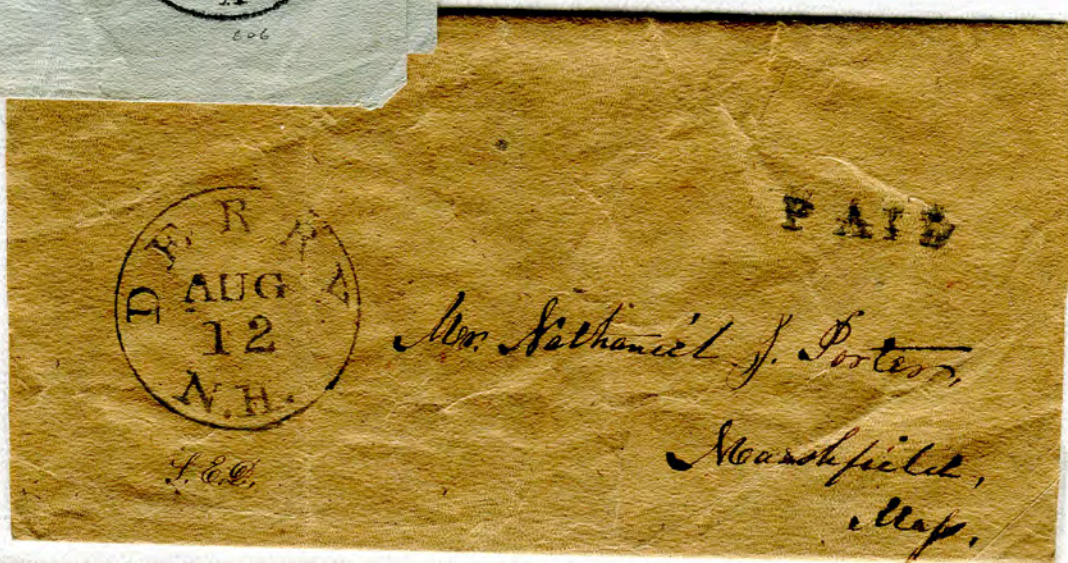
Stampless

Wrappers were seldom used for newspapers until transient rates were established because newspapers from the publisher were delivered free within the county and (after 1851) paid quarterly outside the county. The printed circular rate was set in the postal laws of 1794 at 1¢ per sheet not exceeding 50 miles; 1½¢ up to 100 miles and 2¢ over 100 miles (sheet sizes were specified in later years). Rates remained until July 1, 1845 when changed to 2¢ per sheet for any distance and raised to 3¢ on July 1, 1847.



The wrapper to right contained price list. The wrapper below, marked "PAID", must have contained a circular, though, not marked as such, since ends are open.

The wrapper, below, marked "Free" without notice of P.O. business must have been mailed between 1847 and 1852. (PL&R 1847 states "All postmasters whose compensation did not exceed \$200 for the year ending 30th June 1846, may also send free, and receive free, all written communications, on **their own private business, not weighing over one half ounce.**" Beginning in 1852 free franking was allowed only for P. O. business that was marked as such.



Pre-Stationery Wrappers

With Stamps added

In 1852, a rate of one cent was established for each newspaper, periodical, unsealed circular, or other article of printed matter, not exceeding 3 ounces sent to any part of the United States. Beginning in 1857 prepayment of the transient rate with stamps or otherwise was required. The Act of February 27 1861 changed most third class rates to 1¢/oz for less than 1500 miles and 2¢/oz for more than 1500 miles to be paid by stamps. **Stamps were used on home-made wrappers** before postal stationery wrappers became available in 1861.

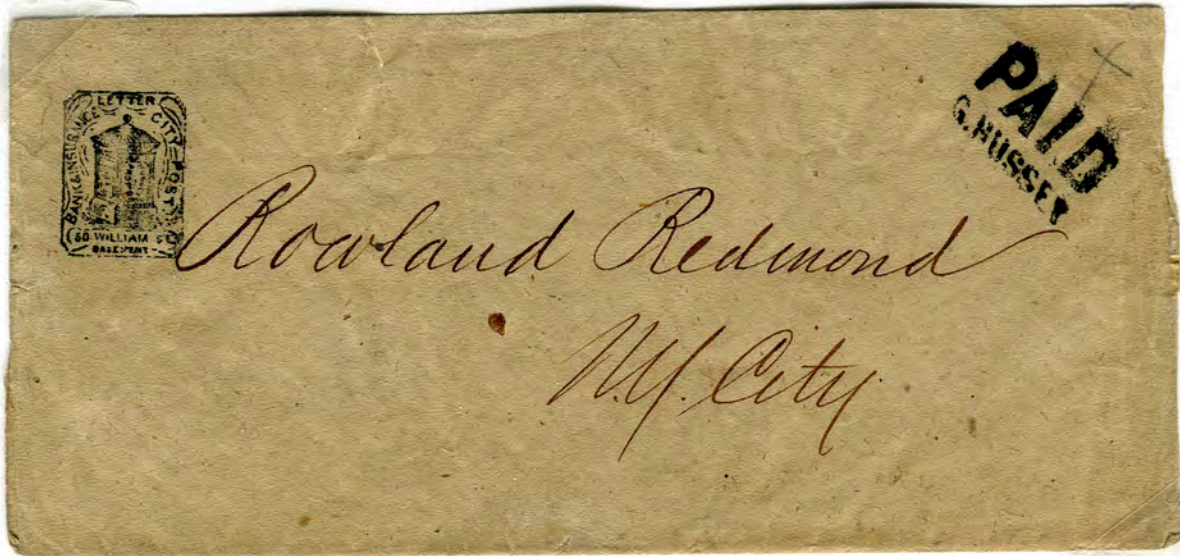


Homemade wrapper sent from Boston to Long Meadow, MA using the 1852-1857 one cent imperforate stamp for the periodical, circular or other printed matter rate.

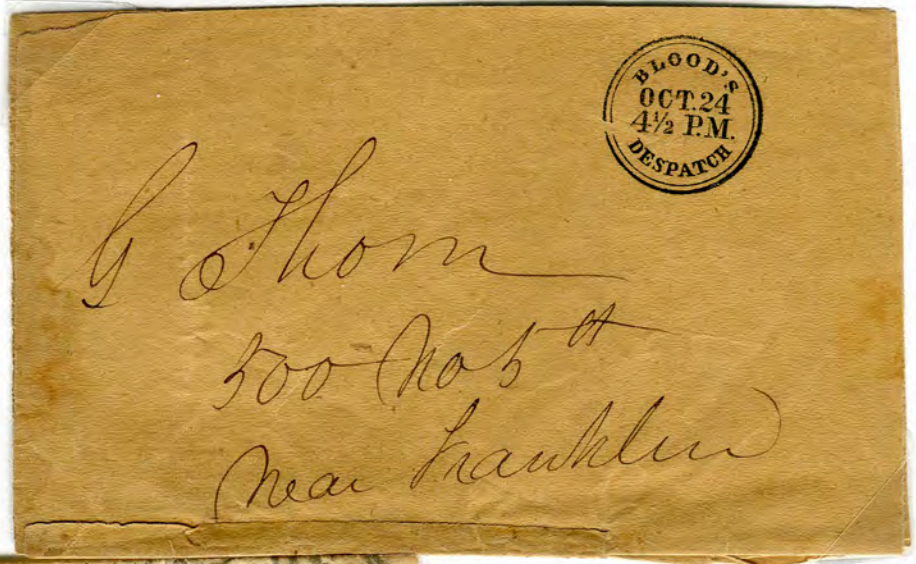


The lower wrapper with the 1861 stamps has a manuscript "6 copies" and was likely for printed matter greater than 3 to 4 oz mailed over 1500 miles.

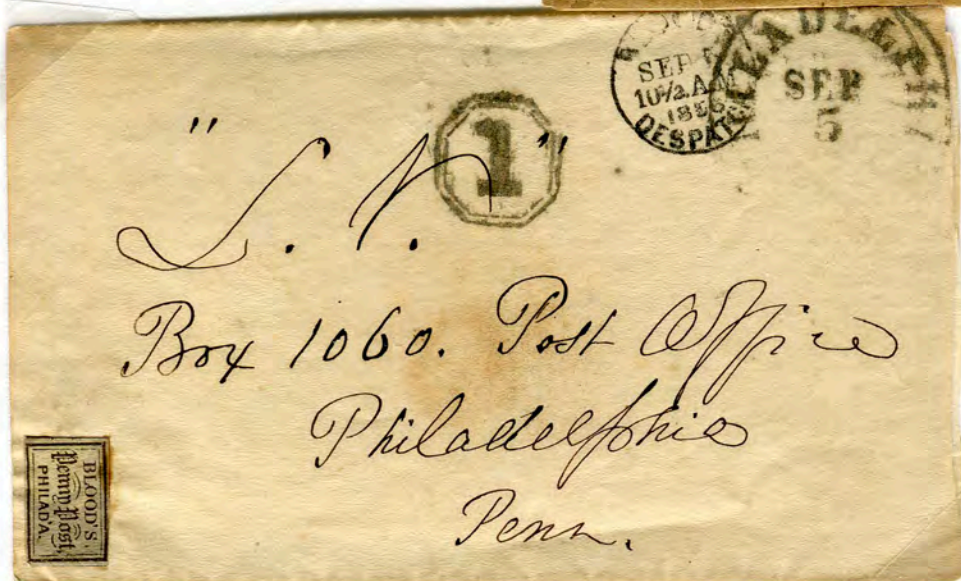
Private local posts also delivered items in wrappers (identified by open ends), generally at the one cent rate before the Post Office issued stamped wrappers.



Hussey's Post, New York N.Y., 1856 handstamped (unstated value) black on manila wrapper open at both ends and with clear strike of "Paid/G. Hussey" two-line handstamp to local addressee.



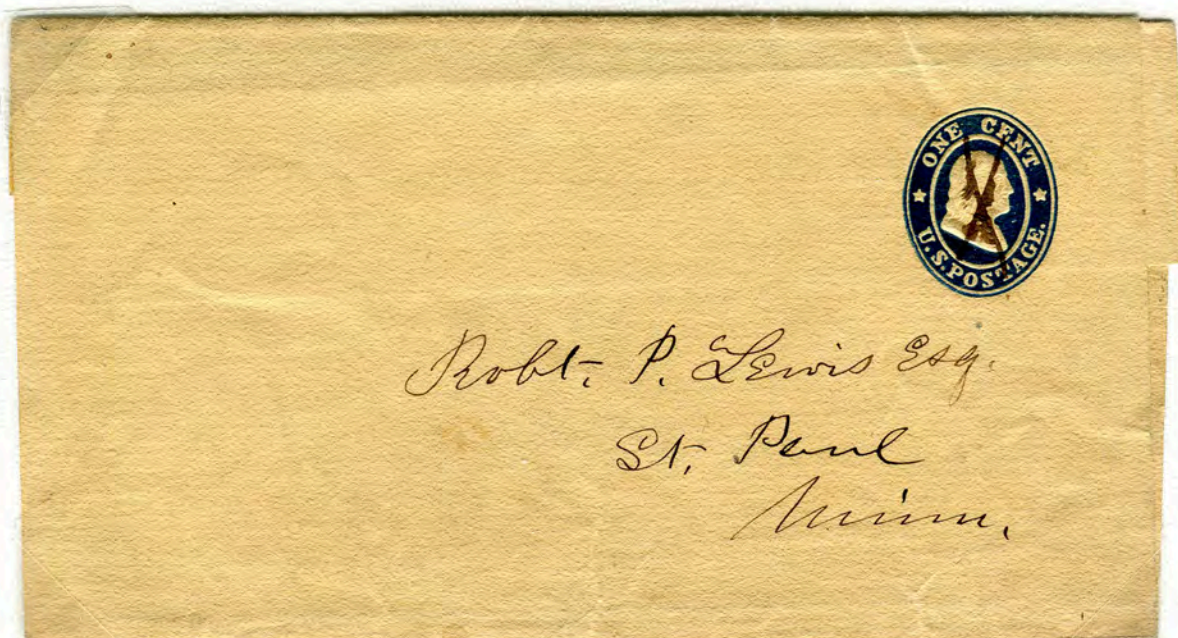
A Blood's Despatch handstamp on a wrapper with open ends used within Philadelphia during the early 1850's.



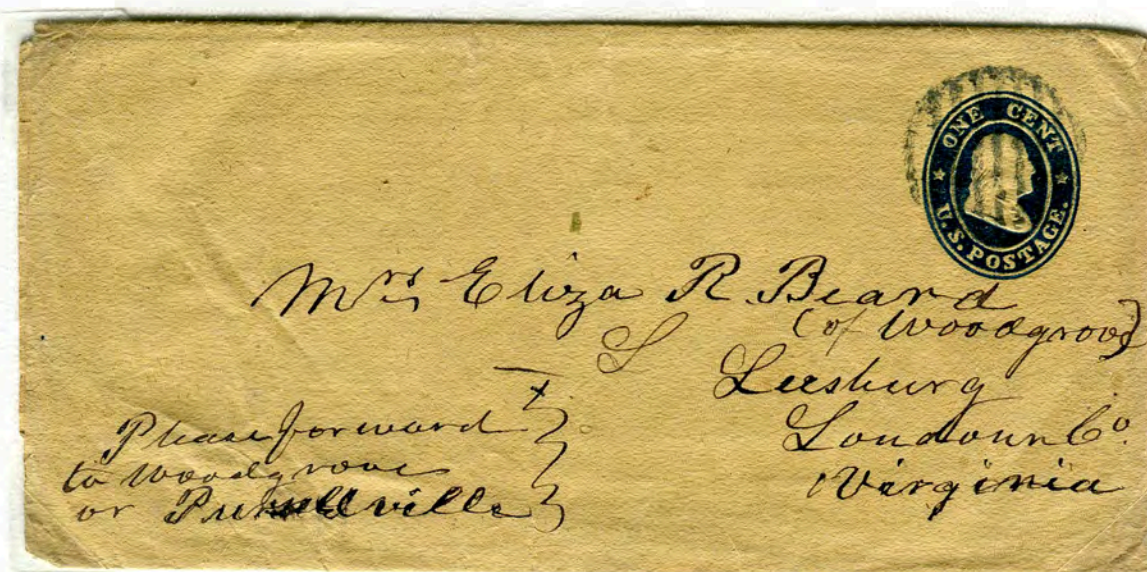
Used in Philadelphia for printed matter during September, 1856 as indicated by the Blood's stamp and the handstamp. The '1' in the octagonal box indicates that it was rated at 1 cent postage.

Nesbitt Issue 1861 to 1863

Stamped wrappers were first issued for the second class rate, effective Feb 27, 1861, of 1¢ per oz mailed up to 1,500 miles. Wrappers were not used for subscription mailings of newspapers and magazines (that were generally paid quarterly) but rather used for **transient mailings** of single copies of newspapers and periodicals and for **catalogs, and other commercial** mailings. These wrappers were issued on buff and manila papers and experimentally produced on orange paper but no used copies are known. Buff paper, being made from cotton rags as other stationery, is less common for wrappers.



Wrapper on buff paper with manuscript cancel.



Prior to 1869 little reference to forwarding transient mail occurs in Postal Laws and Regulations but it is **thought that transient mail was forwarded at the first class rate and required agreement to pay**. Thus, in spite of the request, the above wrapper would not have been forwarded unless postage were guaranteed to the forwarding Post Office.

Nesbitt Issue of 1861 to 1863

Civil war paper shortages caused the Post Office to look for less expensive paper sources for wrappers. Manila paper used (below) was made from **plant material and has longer fibers (often 6 to 8 mm) with dark brown inclusions.**



The 1 cent stamp on the top wrapper is an early shade and was likely **added for double weight** or 2¢ per oz beyond 1,500 miles while the 1 cent stamp on the middle wrapper is a later shade and was possibly **added for the rate change** effective July 1, 1863.



A wrapper made into an envelope and used for first class mail with the 2¢ Jackson added to make up the three cents first class rate. This occurred (though infrequently) because paper was in short supply during the Civil War.

Nesbitt Issue of 1861 to 1863

Free Franking

The President, certain members of the military and executive branch, Members of Congress, Secretary of Senate and the Clerk of the House had free franking privilege until 1873. **Free franking was limited** by the Acts of Congress March 3, 1825 and March 3, 1845 to any letter, newspaper, or packet **not exceeding 2 oz except for public documents**. No signature was required for the free franking prior to March 1, 1869.

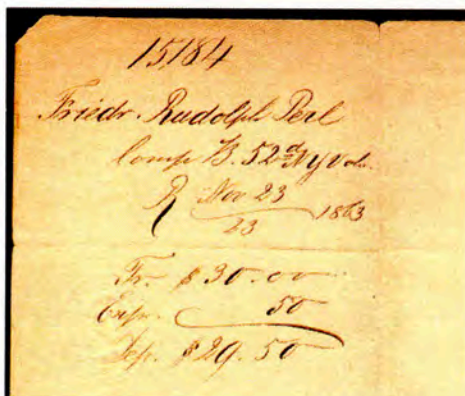
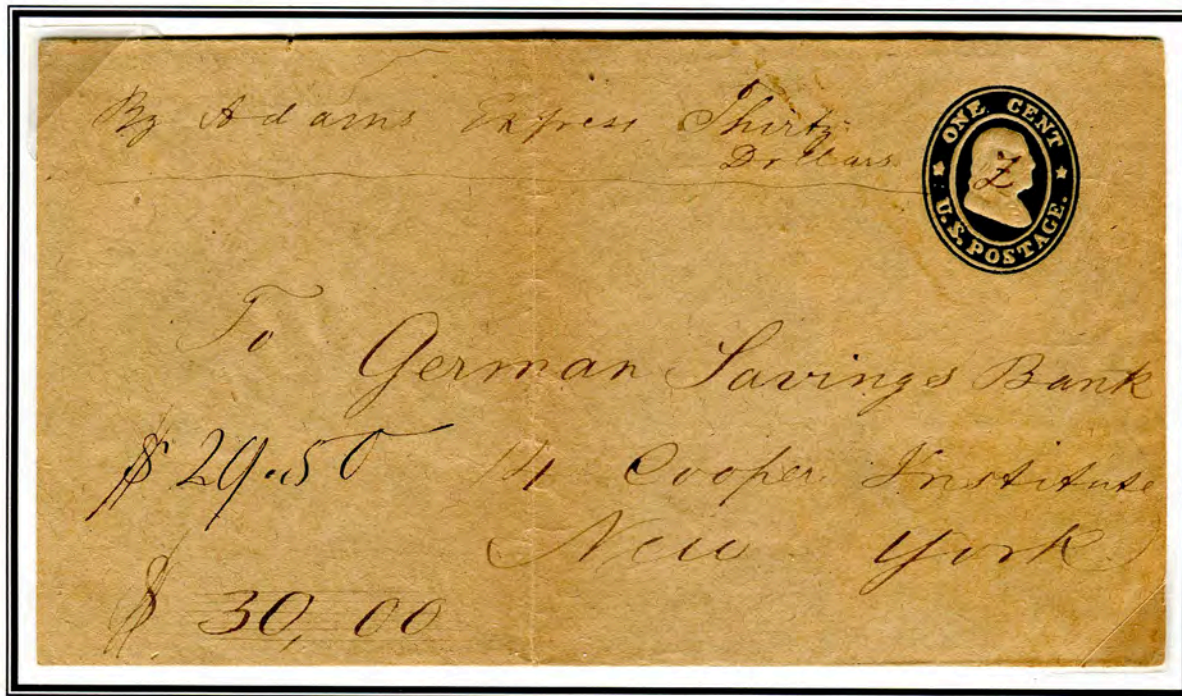
Franking privilege at this time only covered one rate for other than public documents so it is likely that these wrappers enclosed items that were not a public document and weighed between 2 and 4 oz so the **FREE cancel covered the single weight** and the stamped wrapper was necessary for the additional weight above 2 oz.

Wrappers cancelled with a circular "WASHINGTON CITY D.C. FREE" or "WASHINGTON, D. C. FREE"

The cancellation on top wrapper (as shown at right) and other cancel were used in Washington D.C. during the 1860's for free franked mail.



The Postal Act of August 31, 1852 required **express companies** to buy stamped envelopes for carrying mail and **to cancel the envelope when used, even if it never entered U.S. Post Office Department mail.** However use of wrappers by express companies was not considered. Like the items below occurred due to paper shortages.



The first issue wrapper (above) was used by the Adams Express Company to convey \$29.50 from a soldier serving in the Union Army during the Civil War (Nov 23, 1863) to the German Savings Bank in New York. The Express Company was required to pay postage even though the wrapper and contents never entered the mail.

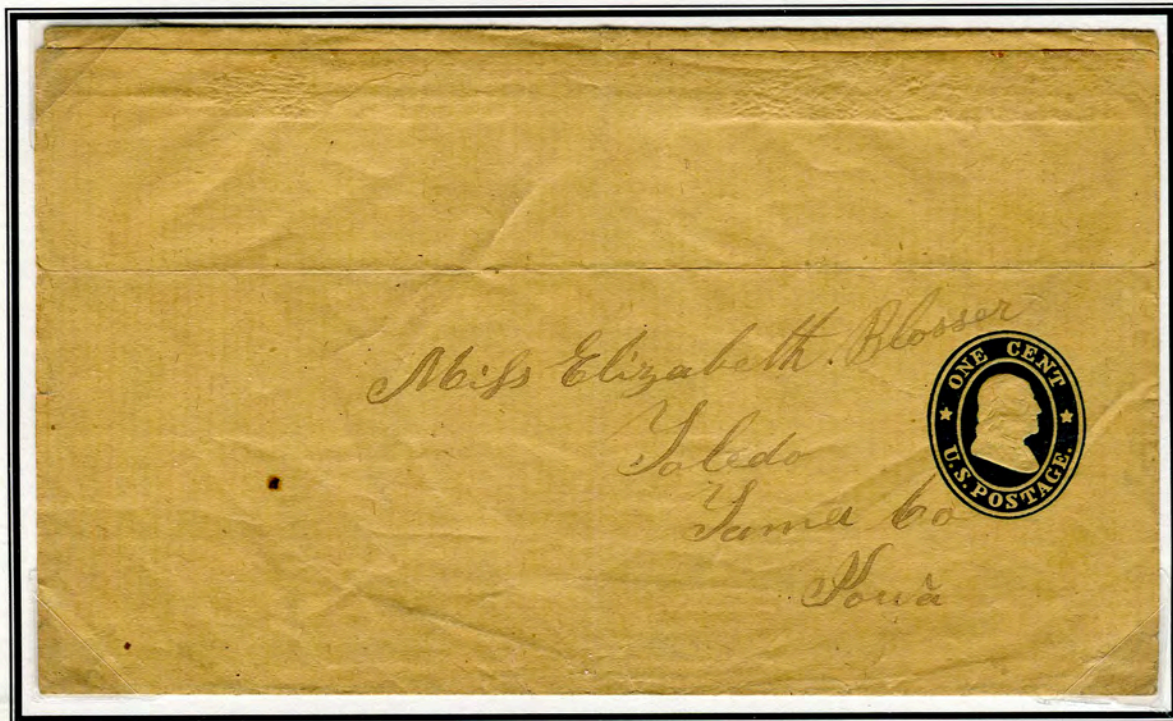
This wrapper likely had no contents only the note written inside the wrapper (shown to left) which was the name of the soldier, his address, the date, and amount being sent. Note that Adams Express charged 50 cents for the transaction.

Only two reported uses of wrappers outside the mails.

Wrapper carried outside the mails by Wells Fargo from San Francisco, CA to Virginia City, Nevada Territory. Wrapper has a blue, double ring Wells Fargo Express hand-stamp and matching "PAID" in oval.



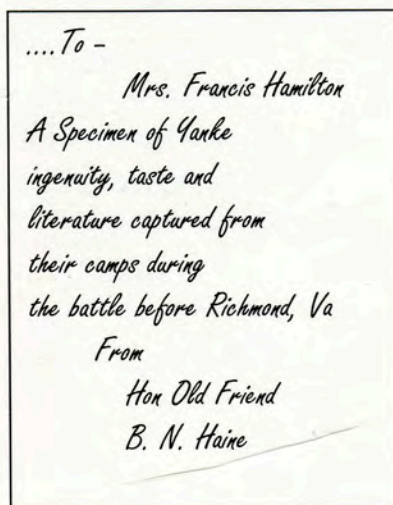
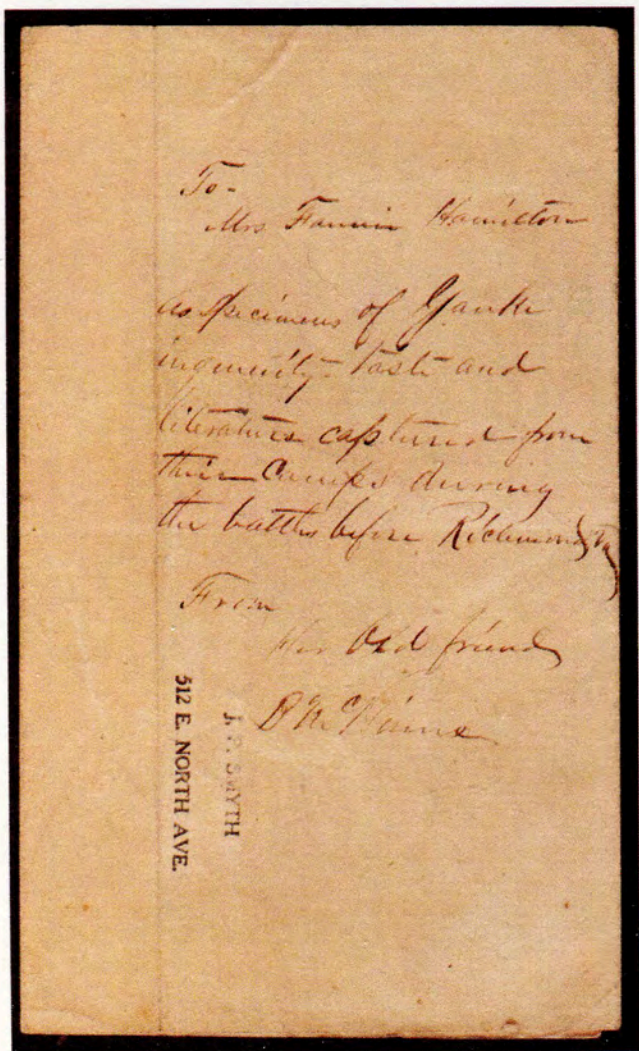
The star die wrappers were not demonetized along with stamps and other envelopes in 1861 because few had been shipped to the South. Nesbitt first issue wrapper taken from body of Union soldier by a Confederate soldier and sent to South with message on back.



Back of wrapper

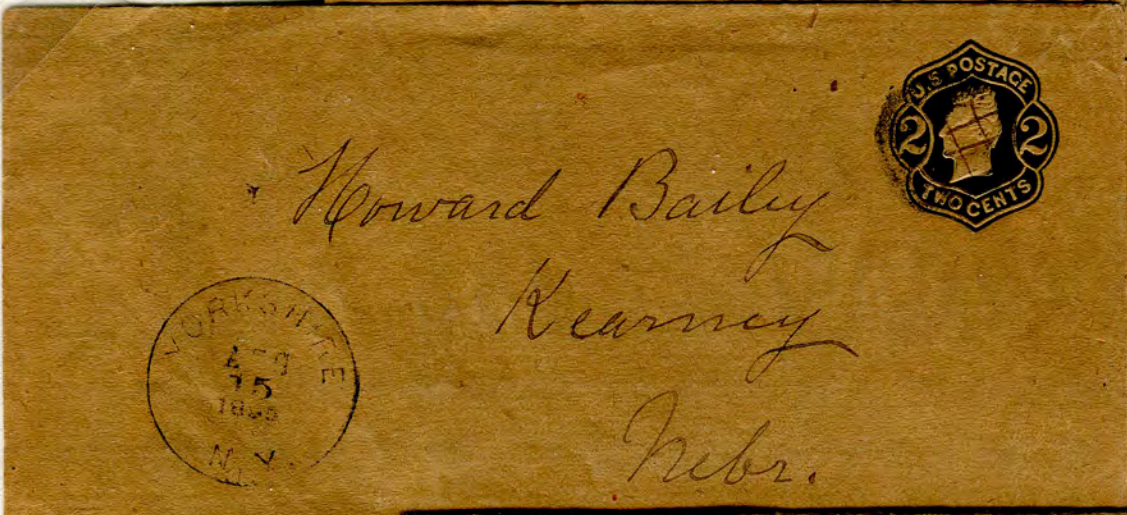
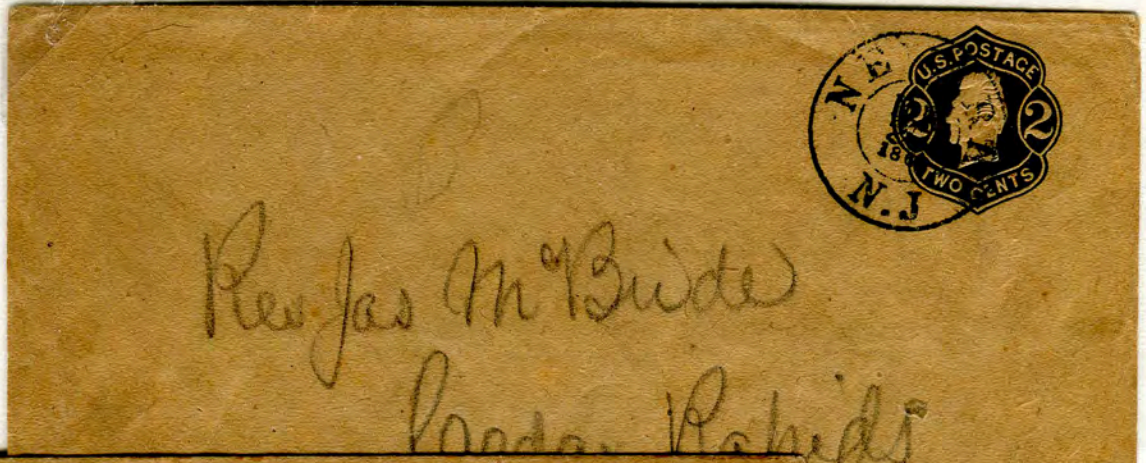
Paper was scarce so the confederate soldier wrote the note (to left and below) on the back of a captured wrapper and sent it to Mrs. Francis Hamilton (likely outside the confederate mails since there are no markings to indicate mailing).

The message on the back reads:



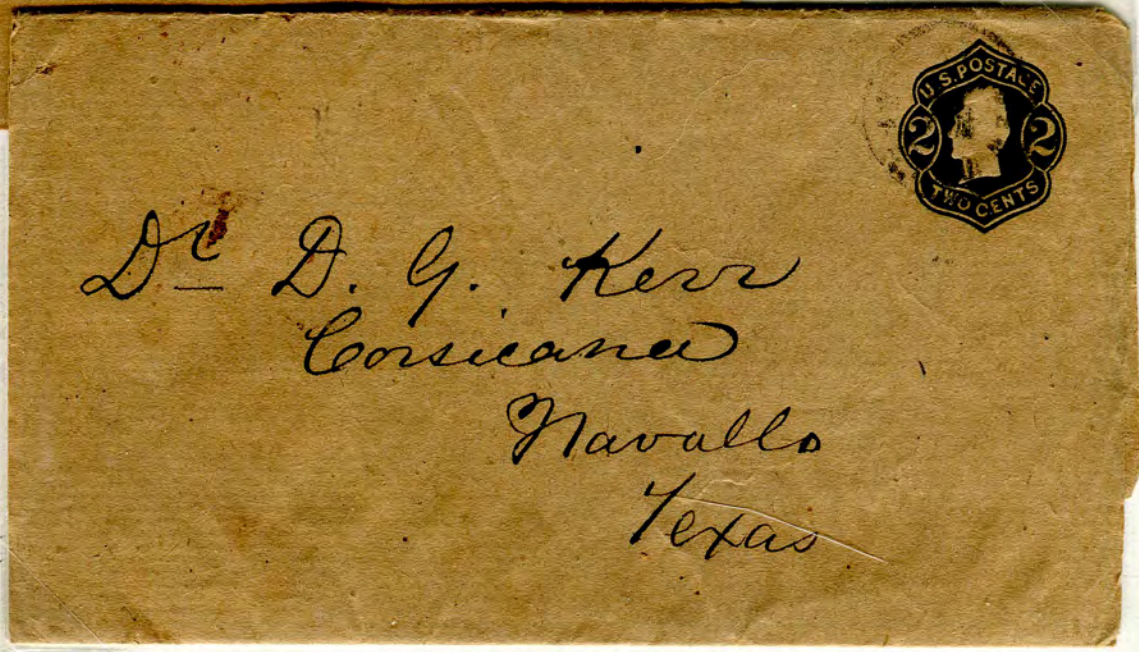
New wrappers were issued when the **postage rate was raised** to 2 cents per 4 oz. or each fraction thereof and prepayment required for transient second class matter (newspapers and magazines other than sent from publisher by subscription) and the newly defined third class (all other printed matter and miscellaneous) on July 1, 1863. These stamp dies have **"POSTAGE" spelled out** and were issued on manila paper variable in quality, color and thickness as shown by the paper differences below. These wrappers were in use only a short time.

The circular date cancel at the right from Newark, NJ is for **Nov 2, 1862**. If correct, this would be the **earliest date of use** for these wrappers. However, since the date is 8 months before the believed date of issue, it is more likely that the postmaster mistakenly had the wrong year in the canceller.



Circular date cancels are uncommon on second and third class mail. Wrapper cancelled Aug 15, 1865 in Yorkshire, NY.

OFFICE OF *Hoody, Bradley & Co.*
COTTON FACTORS.
W. J. Hoody
J. J. Bradley
J. S. Hoody
Second Street
Galveston, Sept. 19, 1868.
Dear Mr. Kerr
I have been
back about ten days, and found
that the mail has not been
sent any where this week, and
will be sent on the 25th, but we
will not forget to call on
you again here, it will be
very soon after that time.
With a very kind
and affectionate
regard to you and
yours,
I remain,
Dear Sir,
Your
obedient
servant,
W. J. Hoody



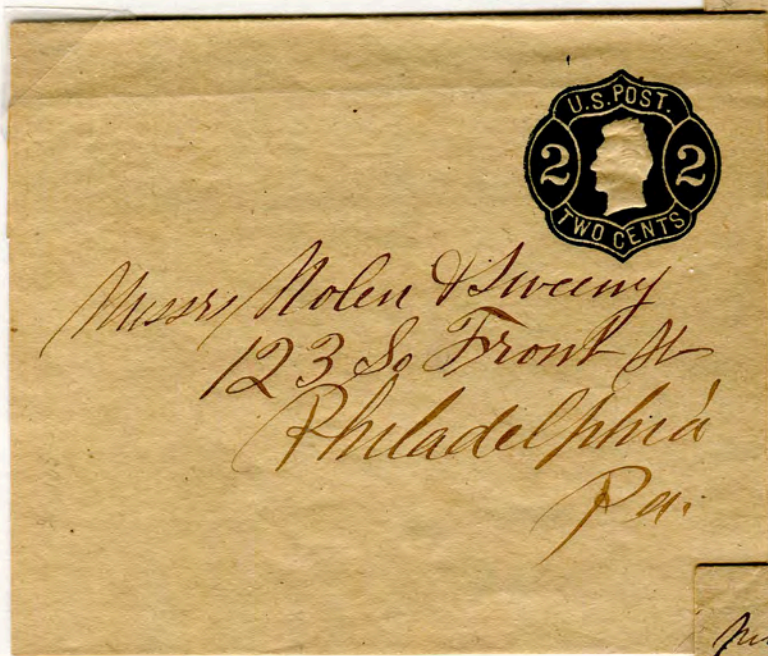
2¢ Wrapper used illegally to carry handwritten letter in 1868 from Galveston to Corsicana, TX (contents at left)

The two cents wrappers were re-issued with "POST" replacing "POSTAGE" to improve printing characteristics. Both buff and manila papers were used which can only be distinguished by fiber type, not by paper color. Two major die types are recognized: one is 1 mm wider than the other.



Extremely scarce wrappers made from the higher quality buff paper. The wrapper above used from Alexandria, Virginia to Boston, Massachusetts.

The wrapper to left was likely used locally (since it is addressed) but uncanceled.



Note the manuscript "Printed" on the manila wrapper to Newport, R.I. to indicate that contents were printed material (2nd class).



The smaller size manila wrapper (at left) from Charlottesville to Stewartsville, VA has an unusual blue-green cancel.

Wrapper with form printed inside used to request delivery of books from Mercantile Library of New York.

Folio *L 485*

} Returns

Wants one of the following:

.....

.....


.....

Name *W. G. Lambert Jr* Address *58 West 52 St*

RULES TO BE OBSERVED IN USING STAMPED ORDERS.

1. Write your name and address very distinctly in ink.
2. Never apply for a book the title of which you do not find in the Library Catalogue, or in one of its Supplements.
3. Be careful to give the names of the Authors of all books applied for except Novels.
4. Put the names of several books on every order. One of the books named will then be promptly sent. If your order bears the name of one book only, it may remain in the Library for weeks before the book can be procured.
5. Have the Return Book ready for the Carrier when he calls for it.
6. Address complaints or suggestions to the Librarian. They will, in all cases, receive immediate attention.

Drop this in any P. O. Box.



MERCANTILE LIBRARY,
Astor Place,
City.

This pre-printed wrapper and local stamp were purchased at the library. The customer filled out the form and **mailed the wrapper with preprinted address to the library.** Requested books would be delivered from the library for a fee of five cents paid by the **local stamp.** This procedure was initiated in 1865 and continued for several years thereafter.

Wrapper front (reduced)

Pre-UPU postal rates for second or third class mail varied depending on negotiated agreements.

Sent by Cusachs & Ogden (per backstamp) August 30 from New Orleans, LA to **Barcelona, Spain** with partial New Orleans duplex circular date stamp. On arrival in Spain, stamped with 'Barcelona, 16 Sep' receiving stamp on back and blue Spanish " $\frac{1}{2}$ Rs" postage due handstamp.



Backstamp



Earliest known date of use (at left) of Aug. 31, 1867 as indicated by British receiving stamp on lower left. Marked one penny due (1^d) in black. Note that most wrappers usages cannot be dated because U.S. cancels for second class mail generally did not have month or year date.

Only known wrapper use for 6¢ newspaper rate to England.

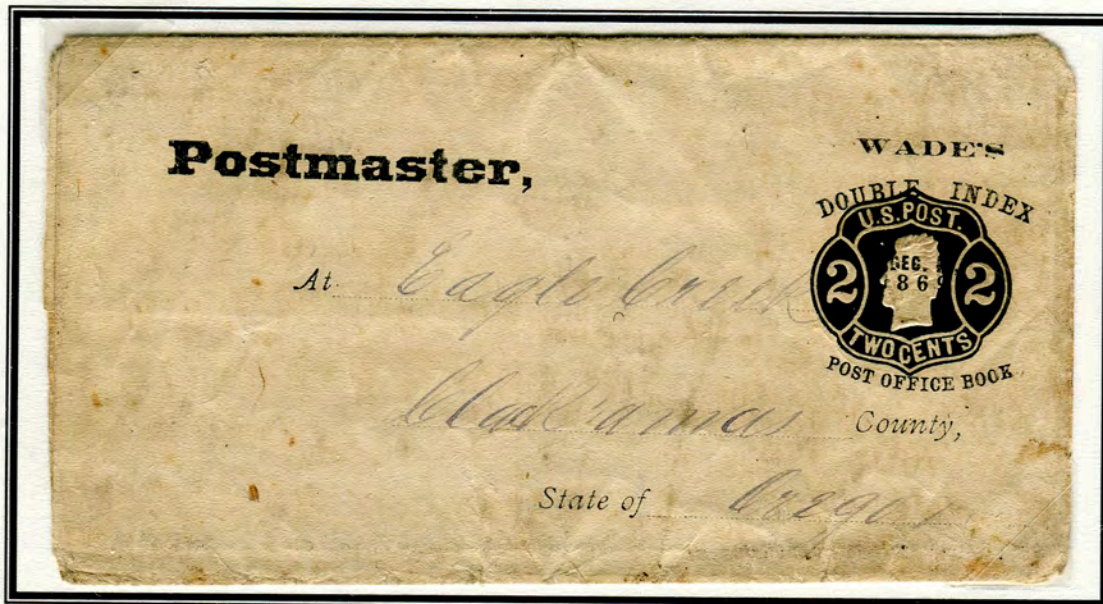
ca. 1868 (New York, N.Y.) to London, England. 2¢ Wrapper (up-rated with pair of 1863 2¢ Blacks tied by cork cancels. An uncommon franking for the short-lived 6¢ newspaper rate per the 1867 convention with Great Britain where printed circulars were included in the book rate of 6¢. This rate was in effect from September 1, 1867 to December 1868.





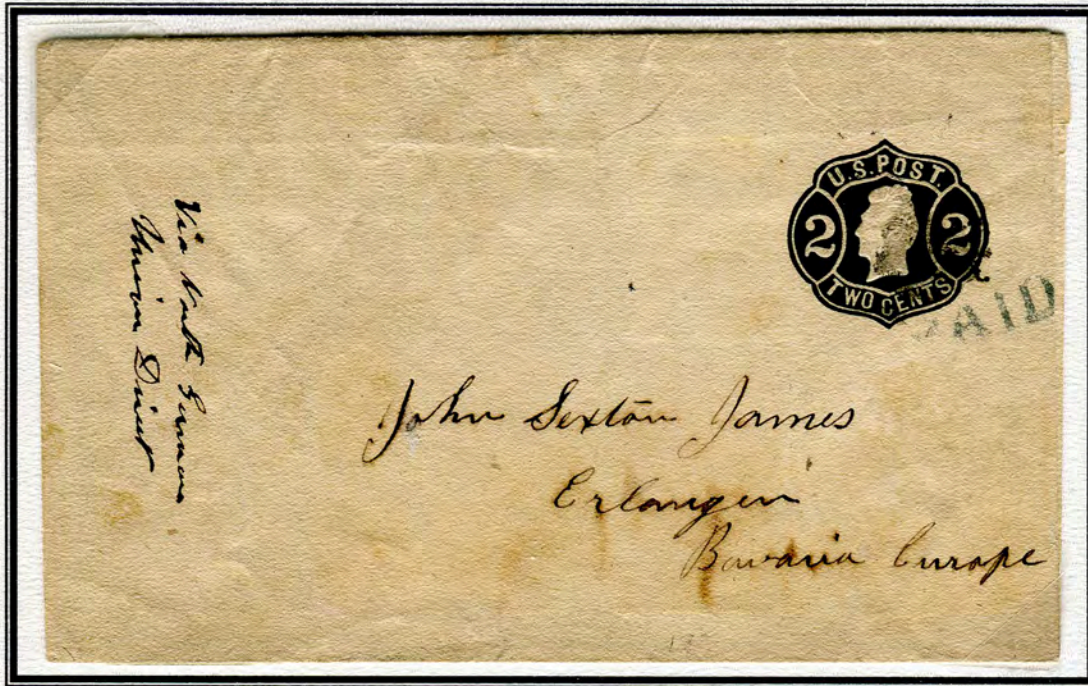
The wrapper to Burlington, Iowa has a fancy cartwheel cancel. At this time postmasters in small post offices had to pay for their own canceling devices. Some chose to carve a canceller out of wood or cork rather than buy one. In doing so some carved designs such as the cartwheel above.

One of two reported usages of earliest precancelled wrapper.



This wrapper is **the earliest U.S. precancelled wrapper** or envelope known. A.B. Wade was postmaster at South Bend, Indiana during the latter 1860's and 1870's. On the side he was a publisher of account books for keeping post-office records. The wrappers were used to mail circulars, prospectuses, or sample pages promoting the accounting books to various postmasters. The 'WADE'S/DOUBLE INDEX/POST OFFICE BOOK' and the date of 'Dec 11, 1869' were preprinted precancels. 'Postmaster' and 'at,' 'County,' and 'State of' address lines, were also separately preprinted. This wrapper was sent to a postmaster in Eagle Creek, Oregon.

Pre-Universal Postal Union second class mail usages to foreign countries are scarce, and especially so for Postal Stationery wrappers. Postal rates varied with country depending on negotiated agreements. The two wrappers below have **PAID ALL** handstamps (applied in New York) to indicate prepayment of all postage per negotiated treaties.

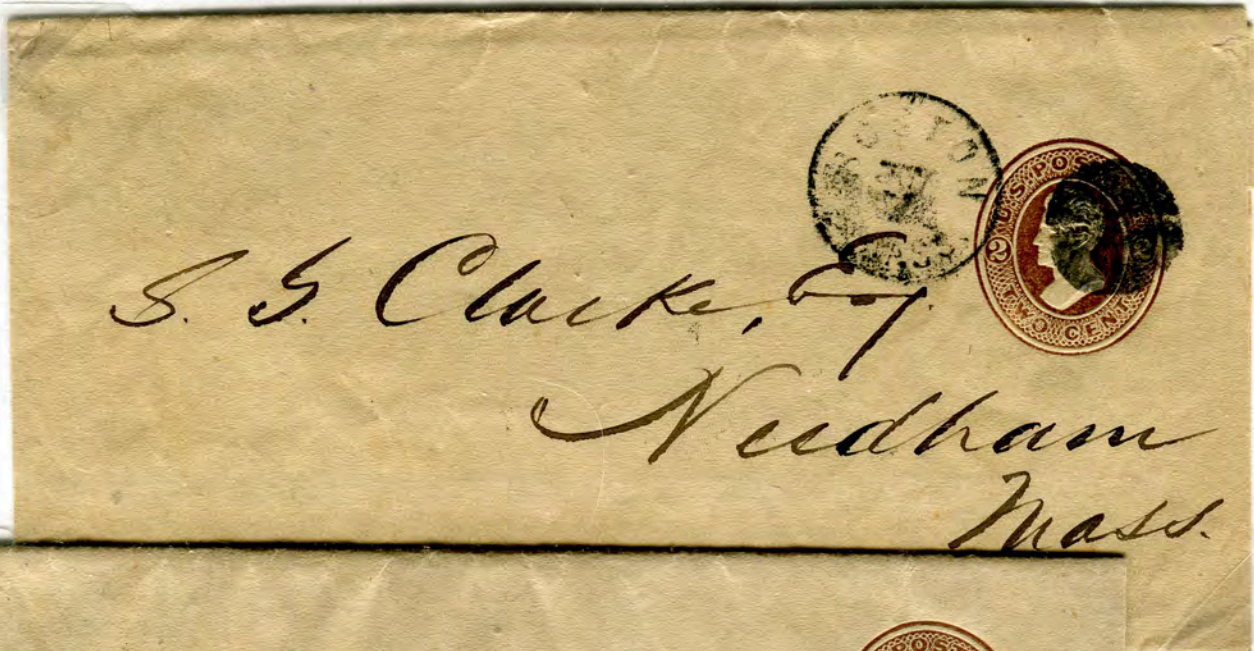


The larger size manila wrapper above was sent at the 2 cent rate. It is endorsed, vertically at left, 'Via North German Union Direct' and has a 'PAID (ALL)' handstamp to indicate no postage due on arrival.



The wrapper to Switzerland, with a 2¢ F grill Blackjack added for double rate, also has a partial 'PAID ALL' hand stamp

In 1870 George Reay was awarded the contract for printing U.S. Postal Stationery. He was required to make **new dies with new designs**. Many consider the engraving of these issues to be among the best on U.S. postal stationery in the 19th century.



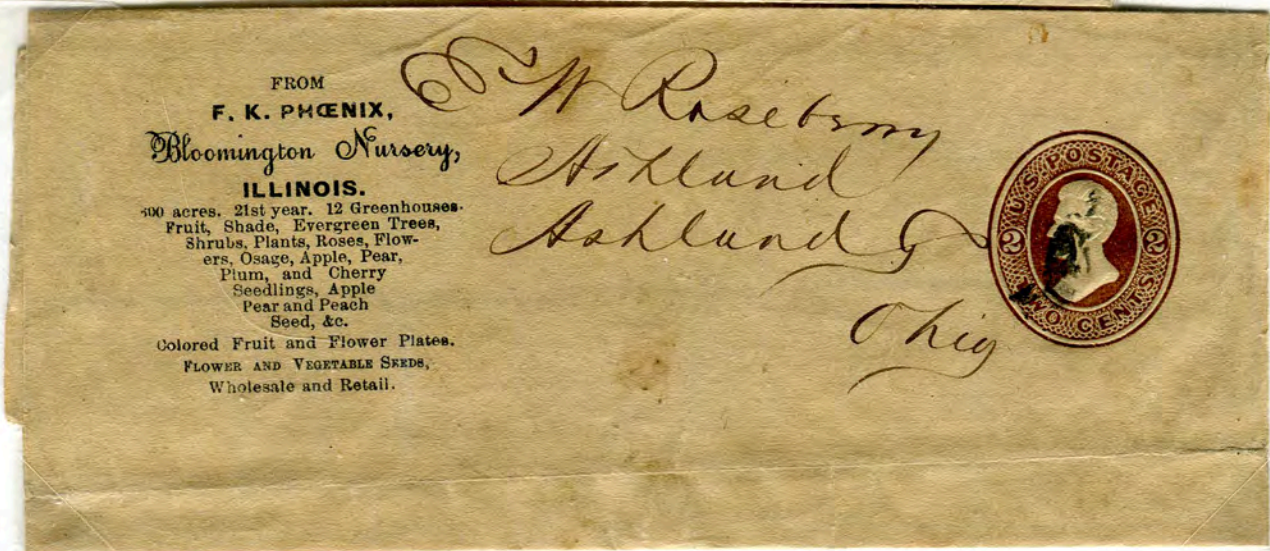
To the Assessors of

Shertown Shertown

MASS.



Partially Pre-printed address with line to add town name is unusual. Wrapper carried a circular to assessors in Massachusetts.



FROM
F. K. PHENIX,
 Bloomington Nursery,
 ILLINOIS.
 500 acres. 21st year. 12 Greenhouses.
 Fruit, Shade, Evergreen Trees,
 Shrubs, Plants, Roses, Flow-
 ers, Osage, Apple, Pear,
 Plum, and Cherry
 Seedlings, Apple
 Pear and Peach
 Seed, &c.
 Colored Fruit and Flower Plates.
 FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SEEDS,
 Wholesale and Retail.

*W. Roseberry
 Ashland
 Ashland
 Ohio*

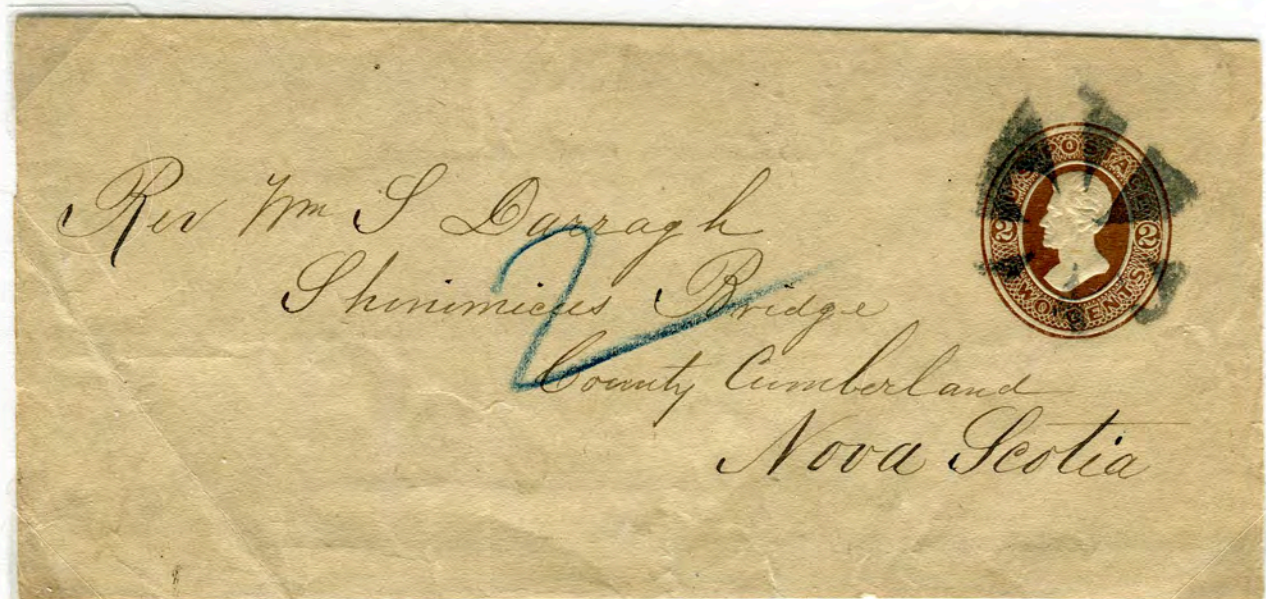


This is the first issue to have any advertising printed on the wrappers. The above wrapper was used to mail a nursery catalog.

Uses of 2¢ Reay wrappers to foreign destinations are scarce due to the short period of use.



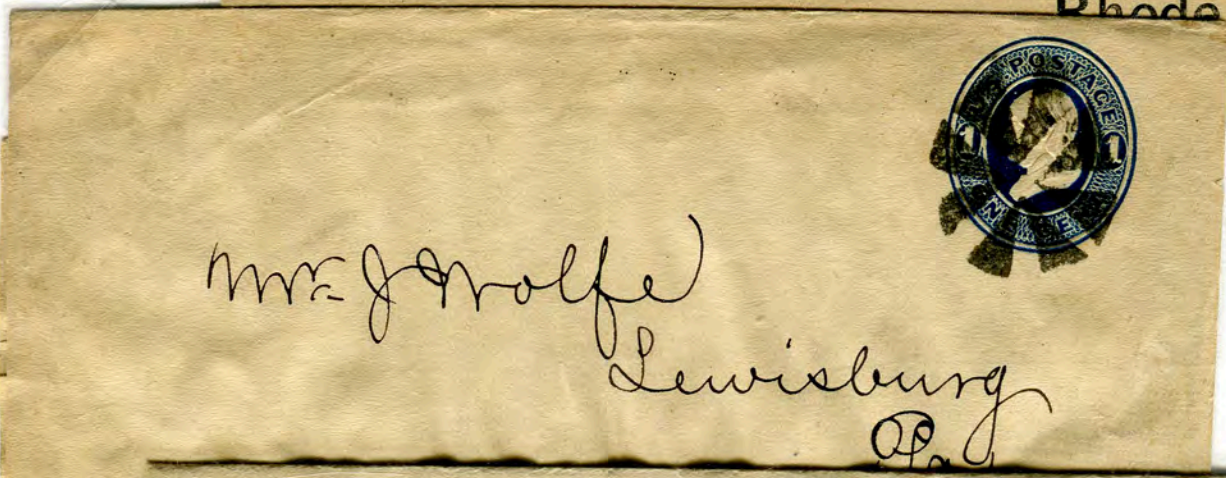
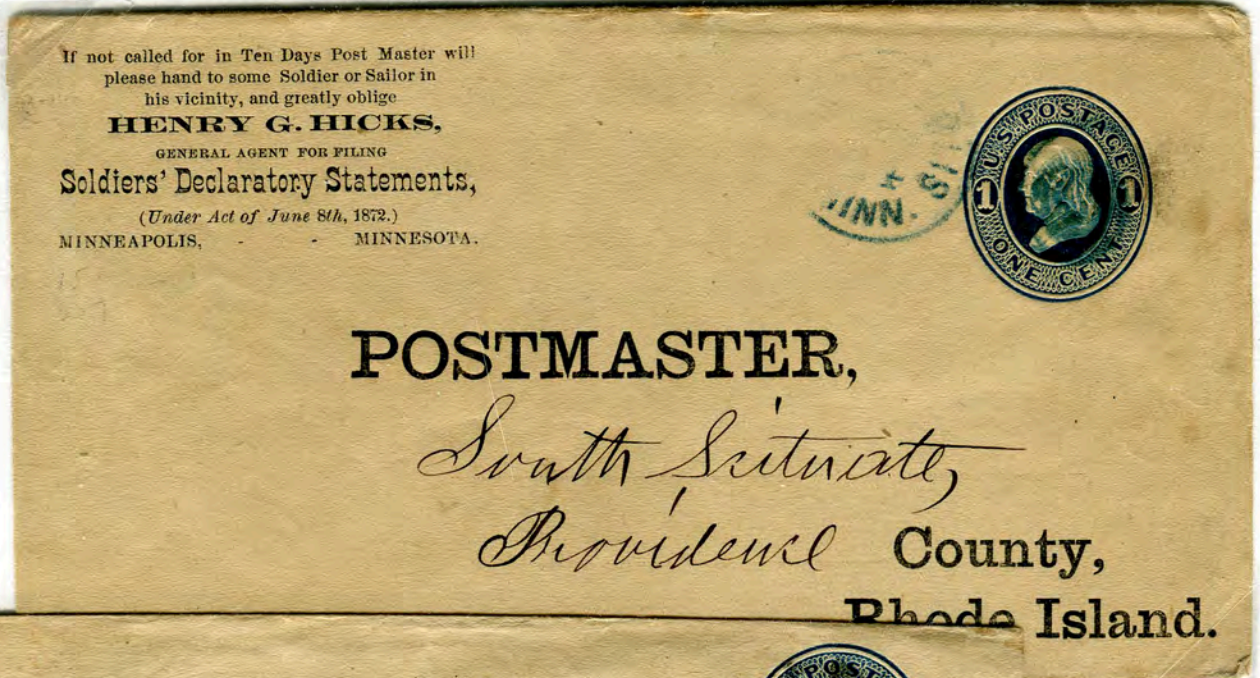
Wrapper sent to Leipzig Germany with 1c added. The wrapper was sent per the S.S. Lahn, a North German Lloyd passenger and freight steamship.



The lower wrapper was sent to Nova Scotia. It has a cartwheel fancy cancel.

Effective June 8, 1872 the rate for local delivery of newspapers, excepting weeklies and periodicals, and circulars was lowered to one cent for up to 2 oz. for but prepayment was required and new wrappers were issued to meet the need. The one cent Reay wrappers were printed only a short time and are scarce.

Unusual Reay wrapper with partial address and return corner card

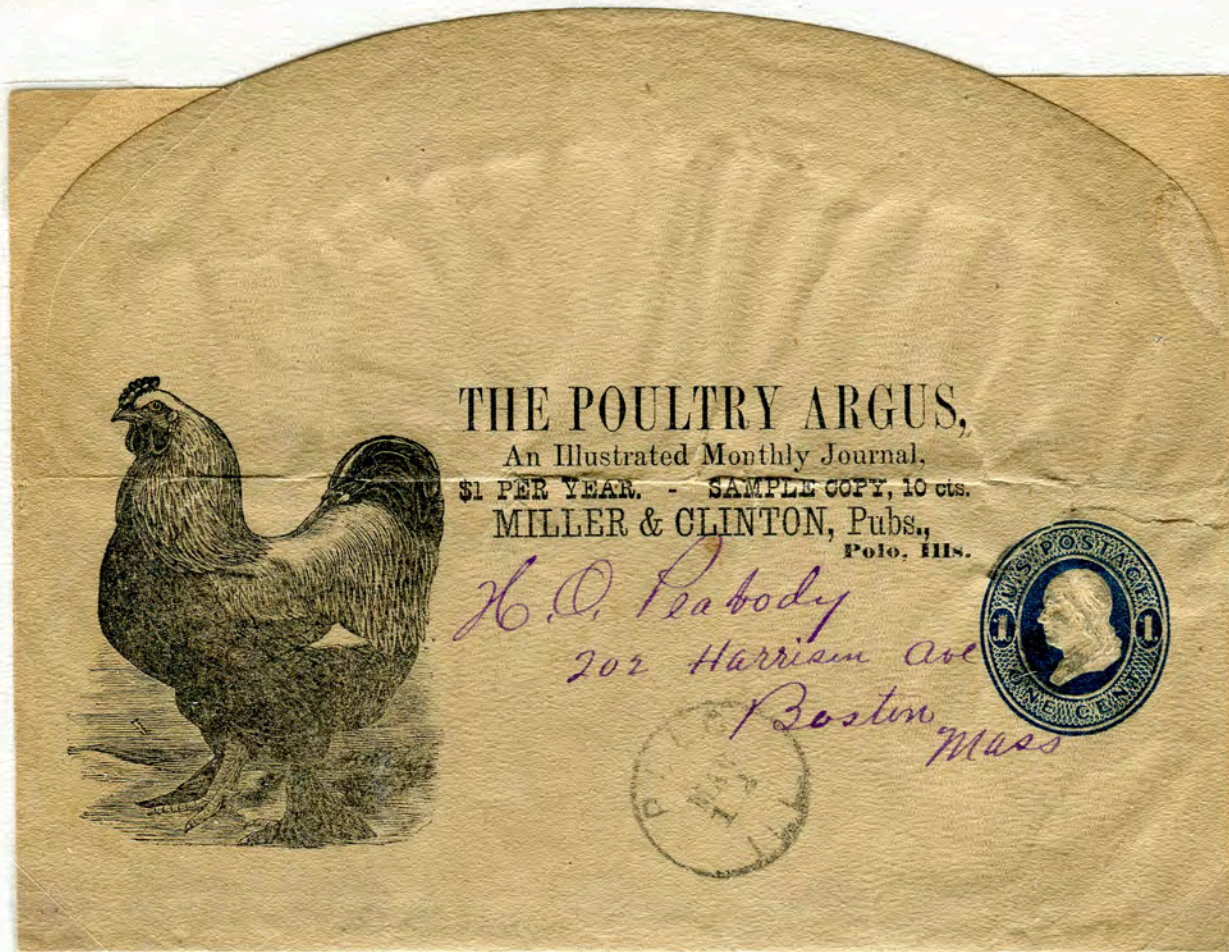
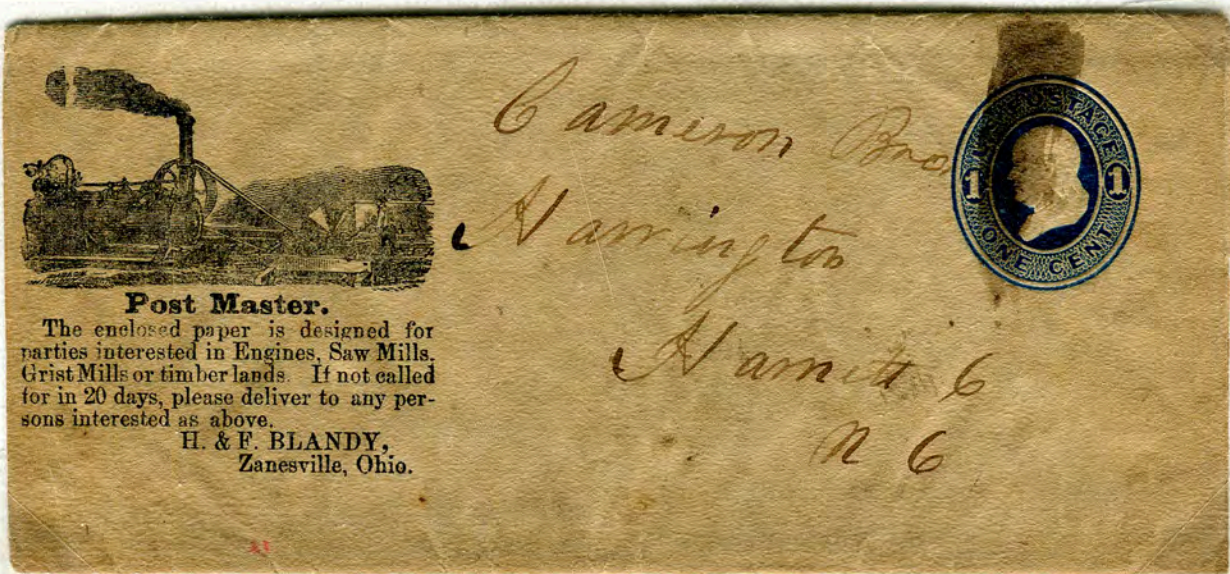


The middle wrapper to Lewisburg, PA has a star fancy cancel.



The bottom wrapper is a quadruple rate sent to Lt. Frank Hanford, aboard the U.S. Flag Ship *Tennessee*, (a confederate ironclad taken into the U.S. navy) while it was located near **Yokohama, Japan**. It has a manuscript "via San Francisco" to indicate routing.

A number of companies printed a corner card with company name and address but a few went further to print advertising or an image on the wrapper.



The examples above on the Reay issue of 1872 are the earliest seen.

The "PAID ALL" marking was used per treaty of 1868 with North German Union to indicate prepayment of all postage.



This wrapper was sent May 22, 1874 (per docking on back) at 4 cent newspaper rate for under 4 oz by closed mail via England from the New York Exchange Office through Germany to Holland. The **foreign mail cancel on wrapper is reported only used on printed matter**. Northern German Lines Steamer Weser II departed New York 23 May and arrived in Southampton on 2 June. A receiving stamp on the back indicates the wrapper arrived in Rotterdam, Holland on 3 June.



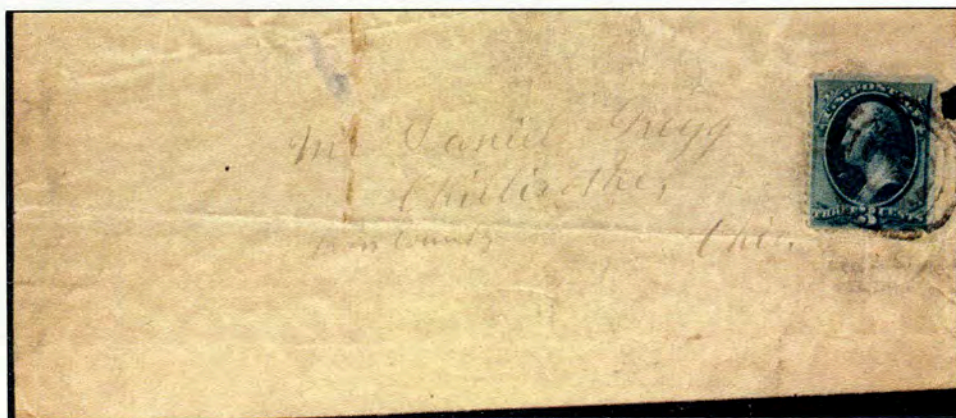
Rotterdam Receiving Stamp



Meyer Brother and Co, NY date stamp

Reay produced high quality work and printing errors, such as the double impression below, are very uncommon.

Reuse of postal stationery is much less common in the early 1870s than earlier when paper was more scarce.



Inside of above wrapper

This wrapper was used twice: first on Nov 15, 1875 when sent to Portsmouth, Ohio with 3 cents added postage for the quadruple weight; then it was then **turned inside out and used the second time** to Chillicothe, Ohio with the 3 cents stamp added (reduced image).

This wrapper has a **double impression** of the stamp, offset almost 1 cm. Feeding a wrapper through the printing press twice is unusual. Possibly it was done because the first image was light due to lack of ink.

A few, rare instances of precancelled wrappers occur during the 19th Century as experiments arranged privately with local postmasters.

PRESERVE THE INSIDE END OF THIS WRAPPER.

From GEO. S. HARRIS, Land Comm'r B. & M. R. R. Co., Burlington, Iowa.

If not called for in 10 days, will the Post-Master hand this to some other person who would be interested to obtain reliable information concerning Farms and Homes in Iowa and Nebraska, for sale on 10 years' credit at 6 per cent. interest, and no payment of principal for FOUR years.



Wm. M. Cline

Hartford City
Ind.



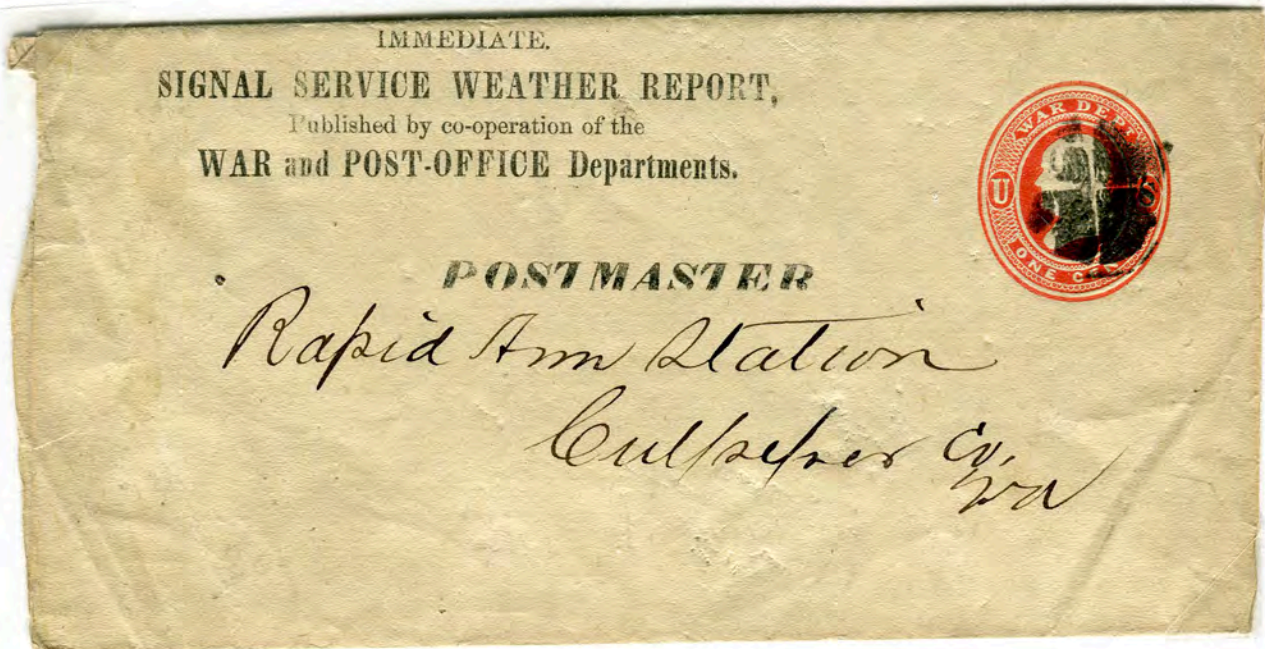
In case you or your friends have occasion to write or come to me, please return this Shield

GEO. S. HARRIS, Land Comm'r.,
B. & M. R. R. Co., Burlington, Iowa

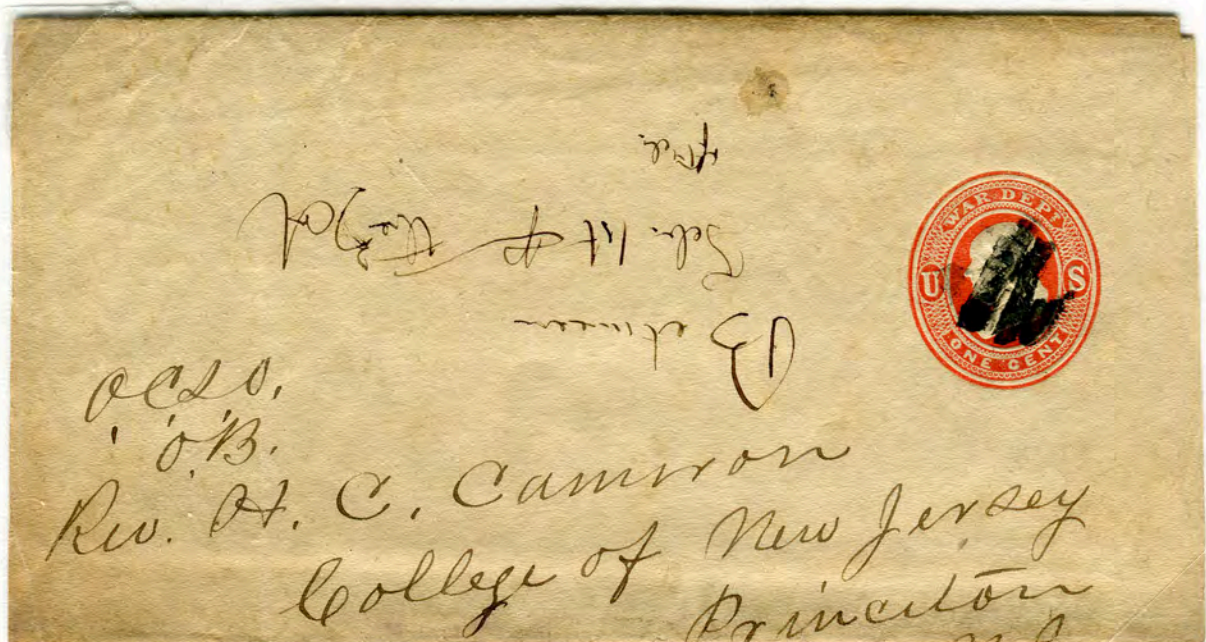


The only known precancel on a Reay wrapper is the local precancel from Burlington, IA shown above.

Official stamps and stamped envelopes were authorized by Congress on Mar, 3, 1873 to curtail misuse of free franking. Accordingly, the Post Office Department had a wrapper produced for official use, primarily for mailing weather reports by the Signal Service Corps.



The most common use of the one cent wrapper was for mailing weather reports to postmasters and other individuals from regional offices who received the report by telegraph. Though entering the mail as third class, they were treated as first class mail.



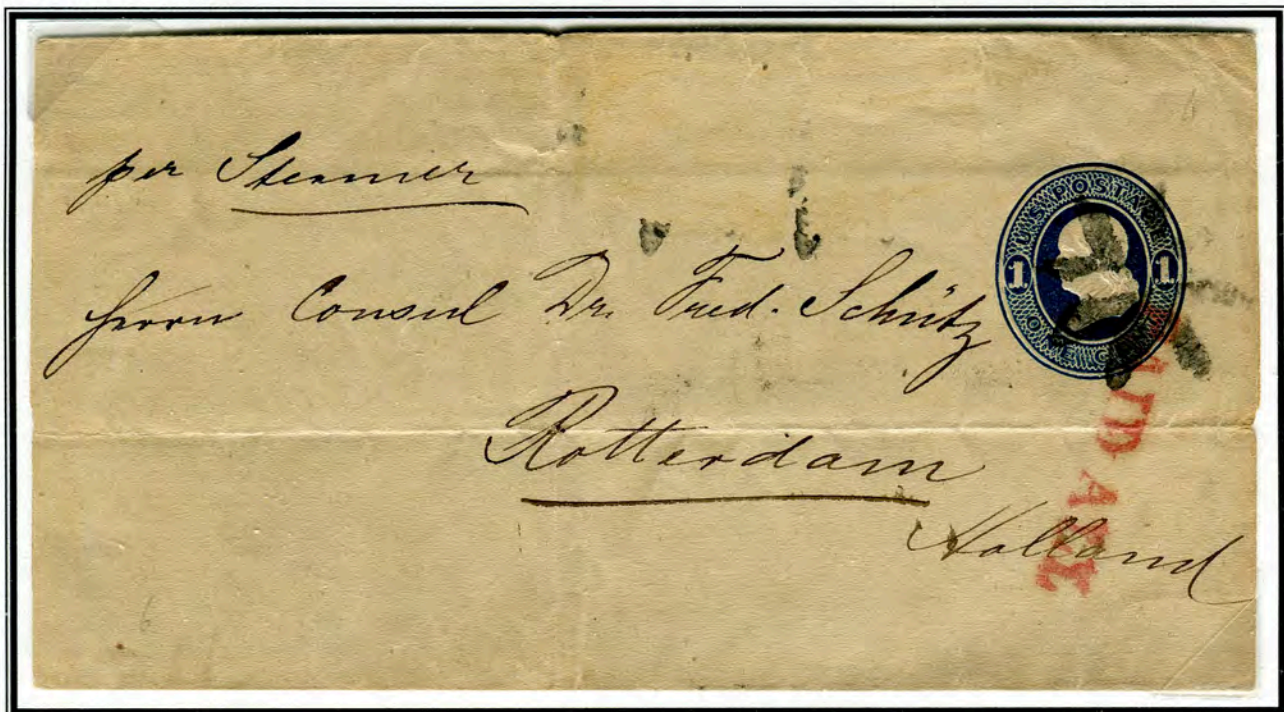
Usages of War Department wrappers other than for weather reports are scarce. Note that the wrapper above, to Princeton, N.J., also does not have the preprinted 'SIGNAL SERVICE WEATHER REPORT' corner card.

Plimpton Manufacturing Co. got the U.S. envelope contract in 1874 and began producing envelopes and wrappers, albeit of much lower quality than previously. The first one cent die (narrow front of bust) was used only a short time, occurs only in dark blue and is difficult to find used.

Wrapper cancelled with a leaf fancy cancel.



This double rate wrapper was misdirected to Charlestown, MA, received a 'MISSENT' handstamp, and forwarded to Cambridge, MA. Missent mail was forwarded free while other forwarded second and third class mail required postage, except between 1879 and 1887.



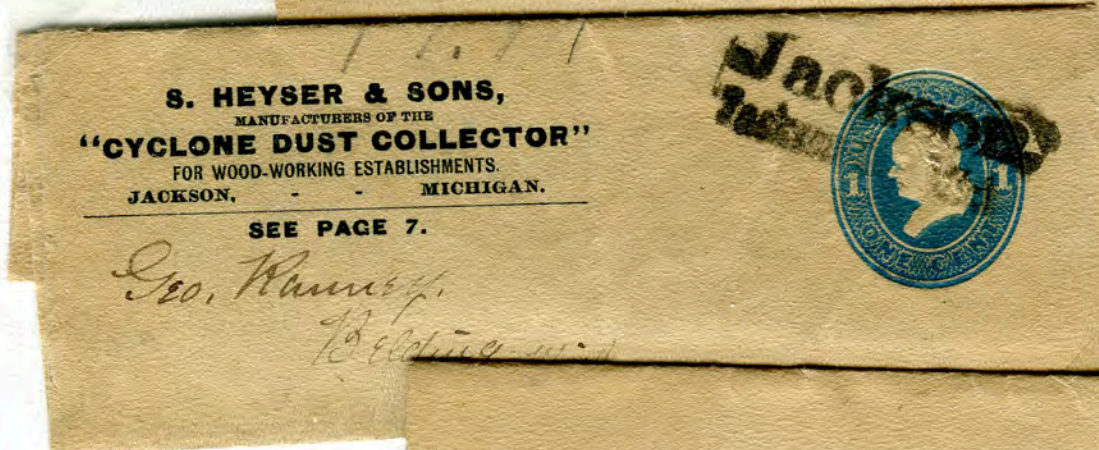
New York Foreign mail cancels were usually applied to mail originating in New York and going to foreign destinations other than Canada. Above is one of 6 known wrappers with a foreign mail cancel from the classic period (1870 to 1880). The wrapper also has a red "PAID ALL" handstamp.

The second one cent die (wide front of bust and network in 'O' of POSTAGE) was used on wrappers through 1882 and is much more common. Initially printed in dark blue, the ink color was changed to light blue on July 26, 1875 to differentiate one cent envelopes from the dark blue five cents envelopes.

Dark blue stamp on wrapper with 1¢ Franklin added for double weight.



*Mr. John M. Comstock
Burlington
Vermont.*



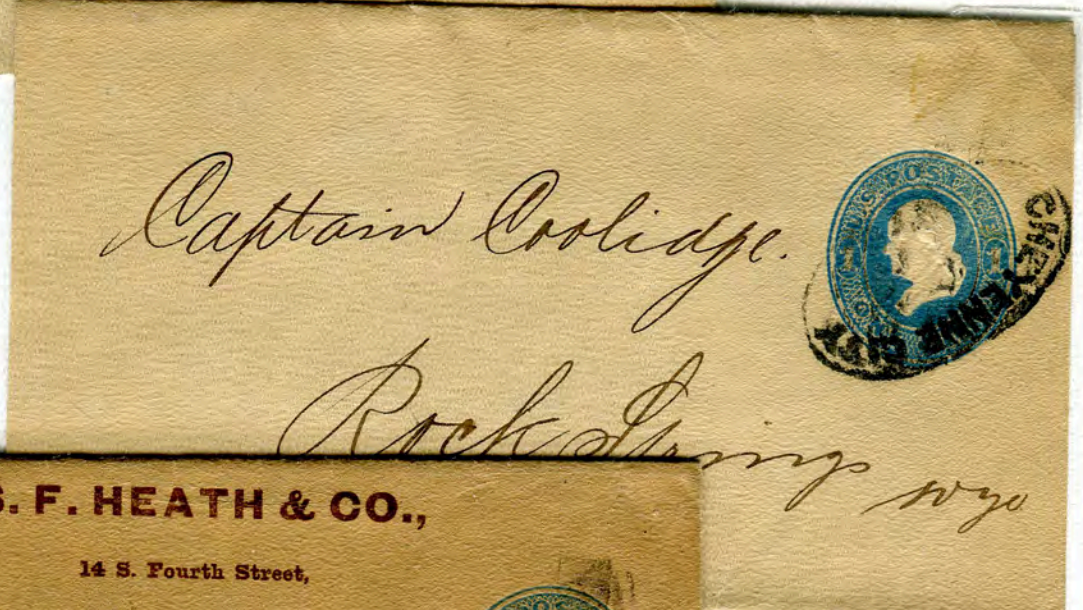
S. HEYSER & SONS,
MANUFACTURERS OF THE
"CYCLONE DUST COLLECTOR"
FOR WOOD-WORKING ESTABLISHMENTS.
JACKSON, - - MICHIGAN.
SEE PAGE 7.

*Geo. Hamby,
Bellingham*



Unusual Jackson, MI straight line cancel on wrapper with printed corner card and advertising. This is the small wrapper (140 mm wide) compared to the larger items above.

Wyoming Territorial use. The single line oval third class cancels began in the 1870s.



Captain Coolidge.

Rock Spring Wyo



S. F. HEATH & CO.,
14 S. Fourth Street,
Minneapolis, - Minn.

Bicycles, Boats, Shipman Engines, Hammond Type-Writers.

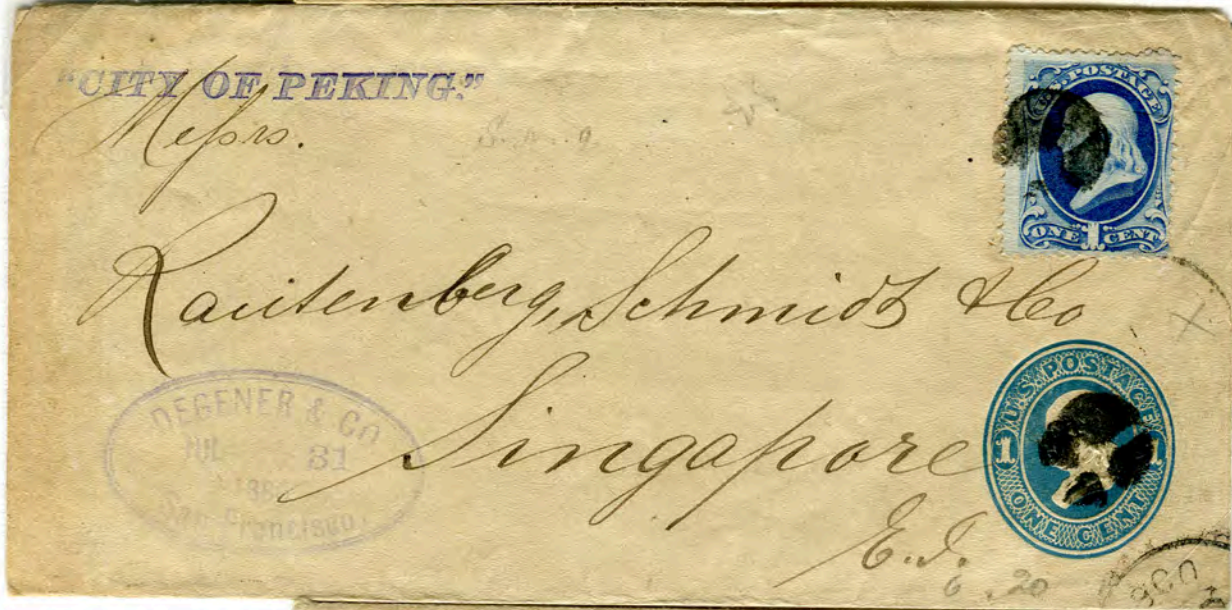
To L. L. Rene,
White Bear Lake,
Box 21. Minn.



Wrapper with printed address and advertising with early use of typewriter for address of recipient.

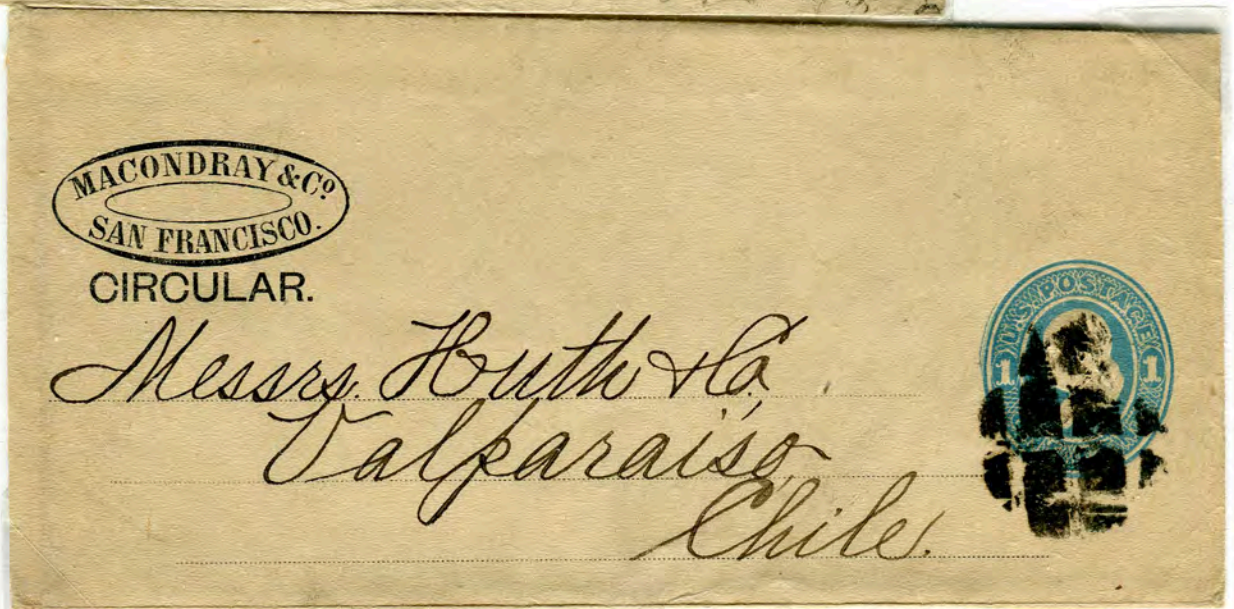
The 1870's marked the beginning of expansion of American Business around the world and the wrappers above reflect such activity.

To Singapore with routing instructions "Per Belgio" a steamship owned by Occidental and Oriental Steam-ship Company that carried mail from San Francisco to China and Japan.



With handstamped routing instructions ("City of Peking.") and a merchant's handstamp with date.

With preprinted company name, "CIRCULAR." and lines for addressing Sent to Valparaiso, Chile. With grid cancel.



These Plimpton wrappers were printed with **advertising** after purchase from the Post Office. Note the request on the bottom two wrappers to deliver to another interested person if the addressee did not call for the item in 10 (or a few) days.



A. D. Alexander
Baton Rouge
E. Baton Rouge Co
La.



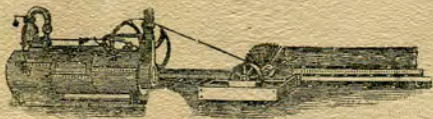

SUNNYSIDE NURSERIES.
FRANK FORD & SON, - Proprietors.
RAVENNA, OHIO.
 Catalogue Free to All who Apply.
Specialties.—Small Fruit Plants, Seed Potatoes,
 Sweet Corn, Tomato Seed, Early
 Colton Apple.

David Groudyke
Eugene
Vermillion Co. Ind



Lee's Favorite.

POSTMASTER.
 If not delivered to the one addressed
 in a few days, please deliver to some
 one interested in Small Fruits or Gardening.




POST MASTER,

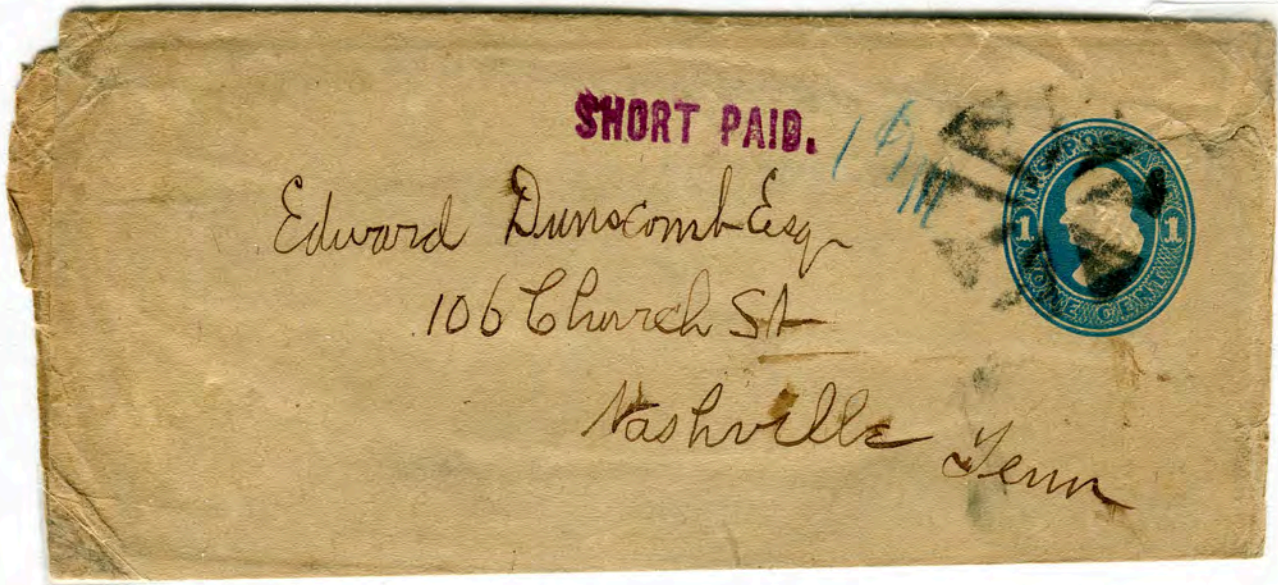
The enclosed paper is designed for parties interested in Engines, Saw Mills, or timber lands. If not called for in 10 days, please deliver to any person interested as above.

H. & F. BLANDY,
 Zanesville, Ohio.

J. Pennock
Chatham
Chester Co
Pa



Postage due was assessed wrappers if over weight or containing writing which made them first class mail.



Postage due assessed with unusual 'SHORT PAID.' marking and blue manuscript '1¢ / III' to indicate amount due.



Any handwriting on second or third class mail made it first class mail. The Postal Guide of 1883 stated:

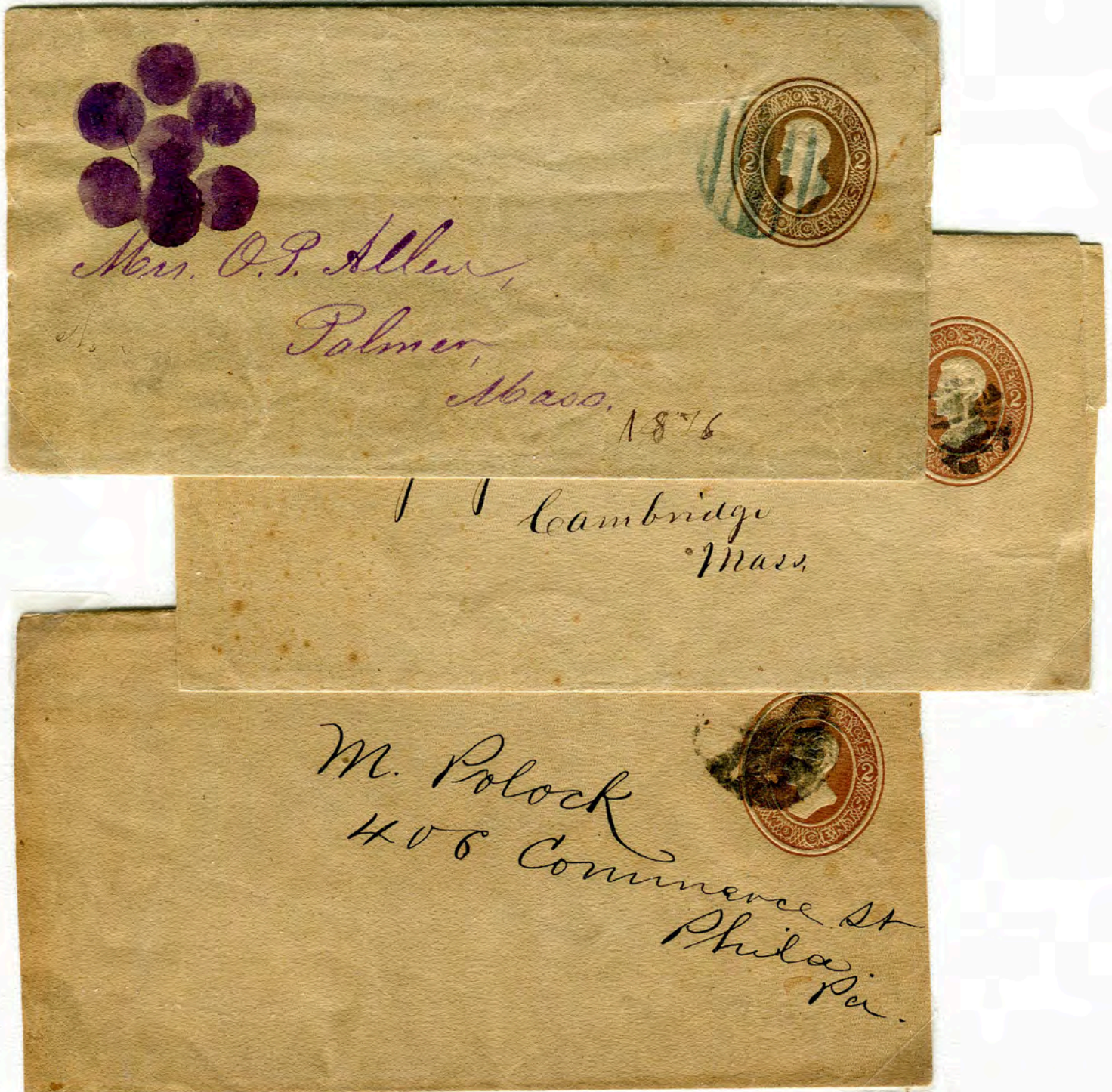
Postmasters should inform themselves as to the nature of the contents of packages of matter prepaid as for third- or fourth-class matter, in order to rate them up if they contain matter subject to a higher rate of postage than has been prepaid thereon,...

The wrapper above to Ontario, Canada was found to contain a letter or handwriting as indicated by the pencil "Contains a letter" manuscript marking. The discovery was likely made by the Belleville Postmaster since it has a Belleville circular date stamp. The wrapper is stamped "RETURNED FOR POSTAGE" because of additional needed for first class. There is no indication of additional postage paid so the wrapper likely was not remailed.

The Plimpton Issue of 1874 to 1882

Two Cents Brown Wrapper

Two cents brown wrappers were issued for double weight items, those weighting 1 to 2 oz effective Mar 3, 1875 or items weighing 2 to 4 ounces effective May 1, 1879 2 to 4 oz. Two cents wrappers were 6 to 10% of the number of total wrappers issued depending on year, so all usages are uncommon. The wrappers were produced with brown ink for only one year before the color was changed to vermilion. Four dies (48, 49, 51, and 52) were used to print the brown two cents wrappers.



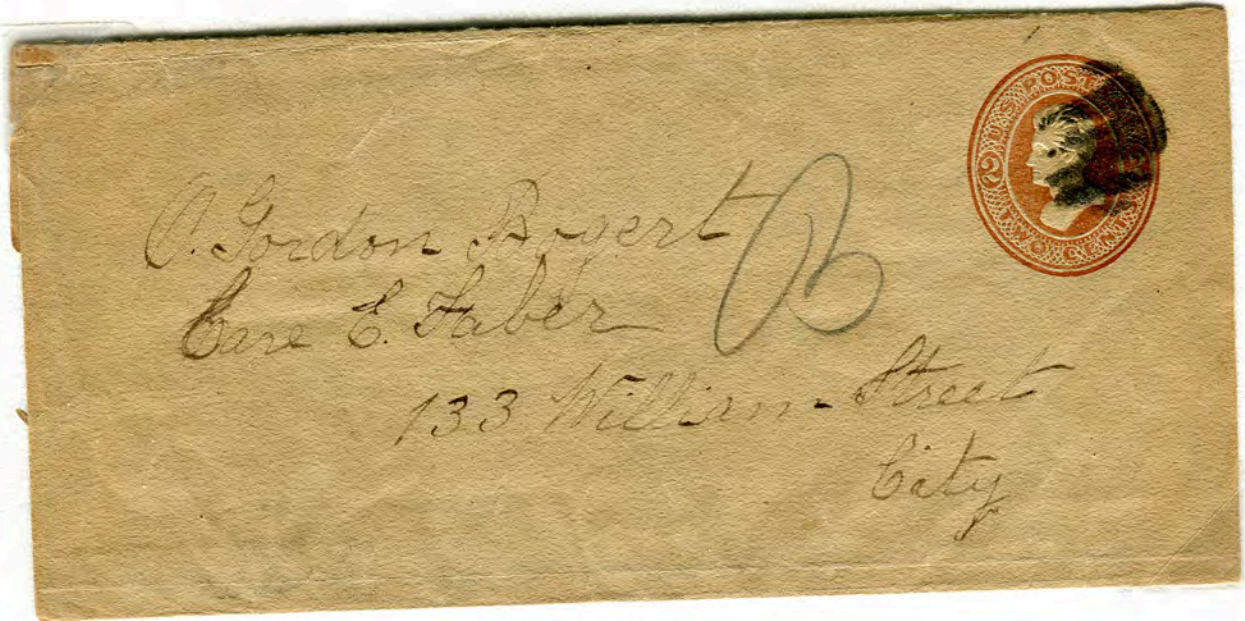
Wrappers printed with Die 48 (with thin and narrow 2's in ovals) using brown ink.

All three known usages
of Die 48 in brown.

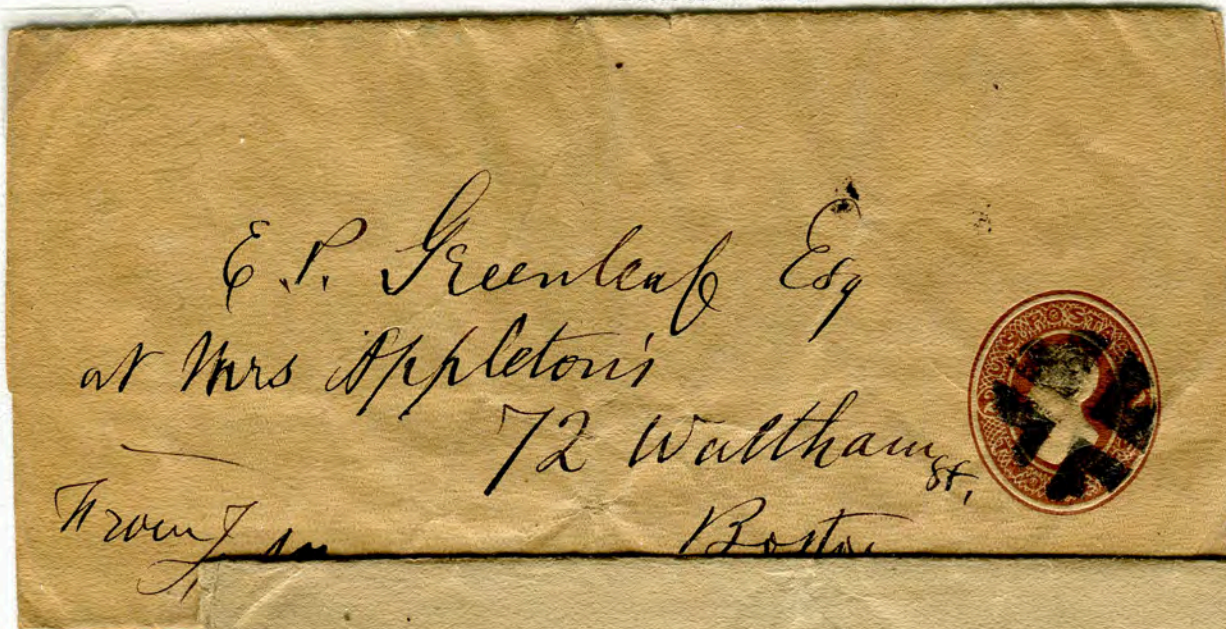
The Plimpton Issue of 1874 to 1882

Two Cents Brown Wrapper - Domestic Use

The third die (51) is similar to previous except that the 'O' of 'TWO' has a network in the center and the fourth die (52) has short, thick 2's in ovals.

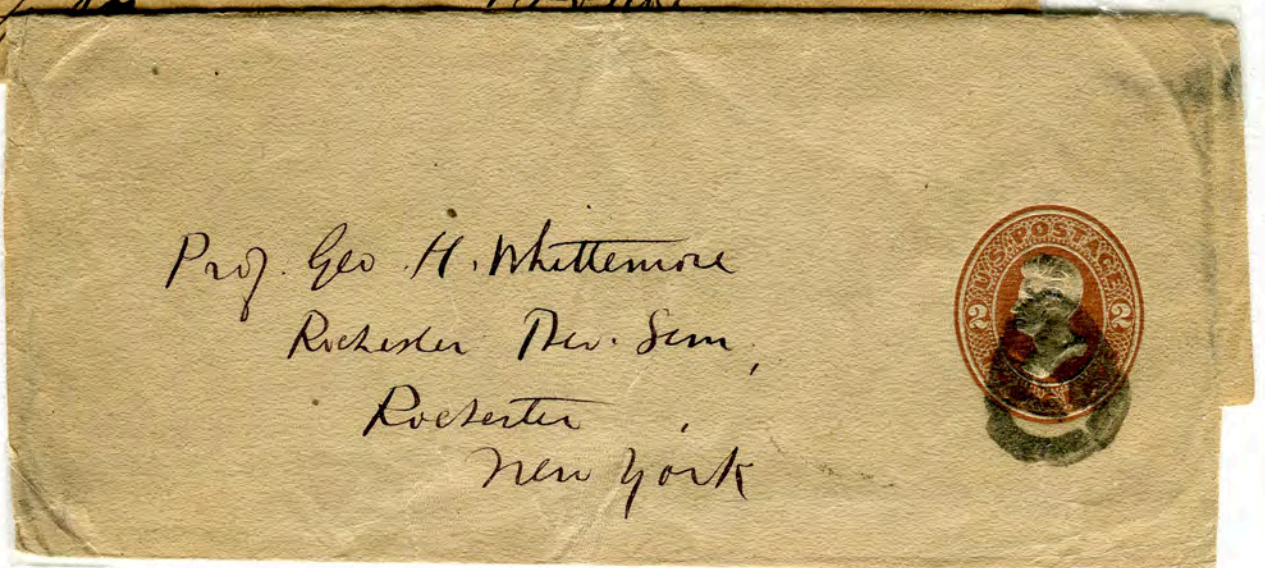


Local use of die 51



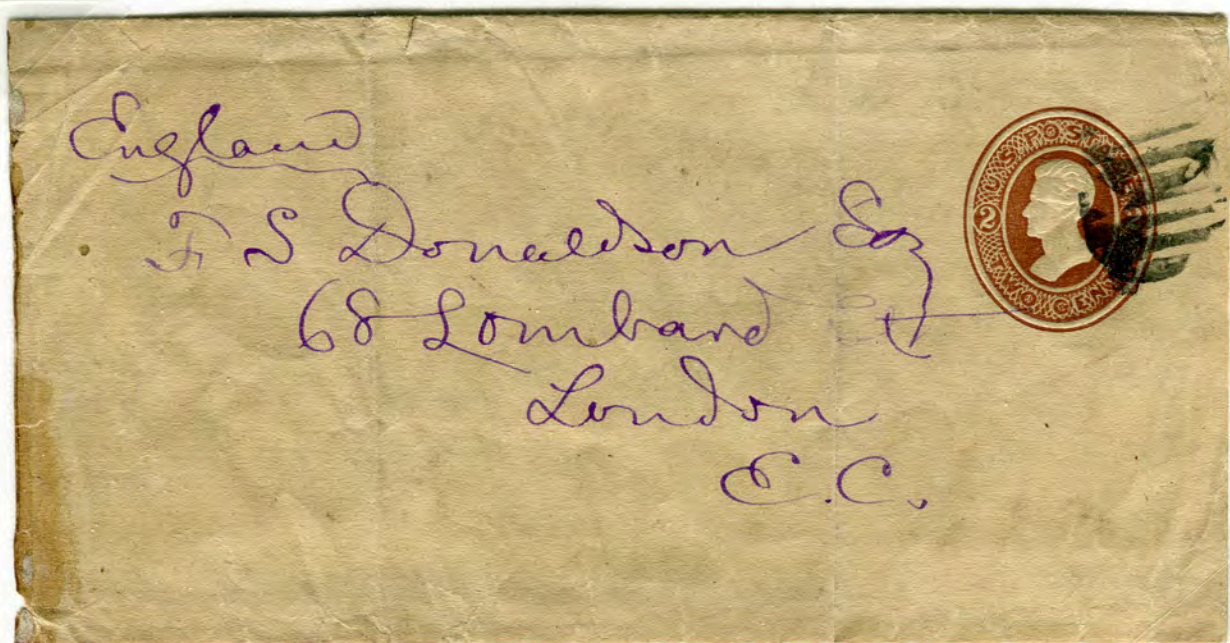
Die 52 with cross fancy cancel.

Die 52 with leaf fancy cancel.



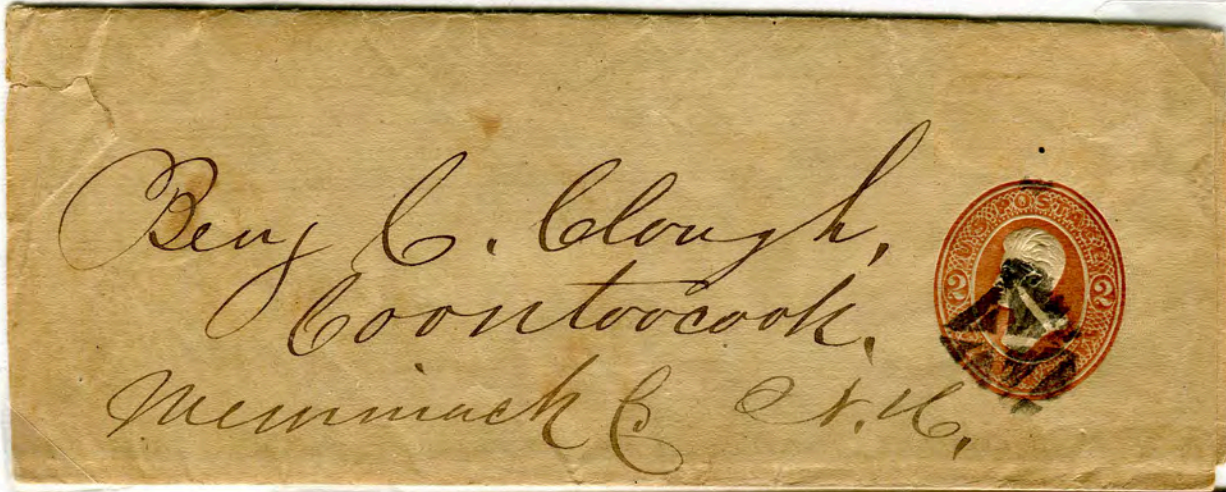


An unusually heavy wrapper to Germany with a 1¢ and 3¢ stamps added for six times standard weight.



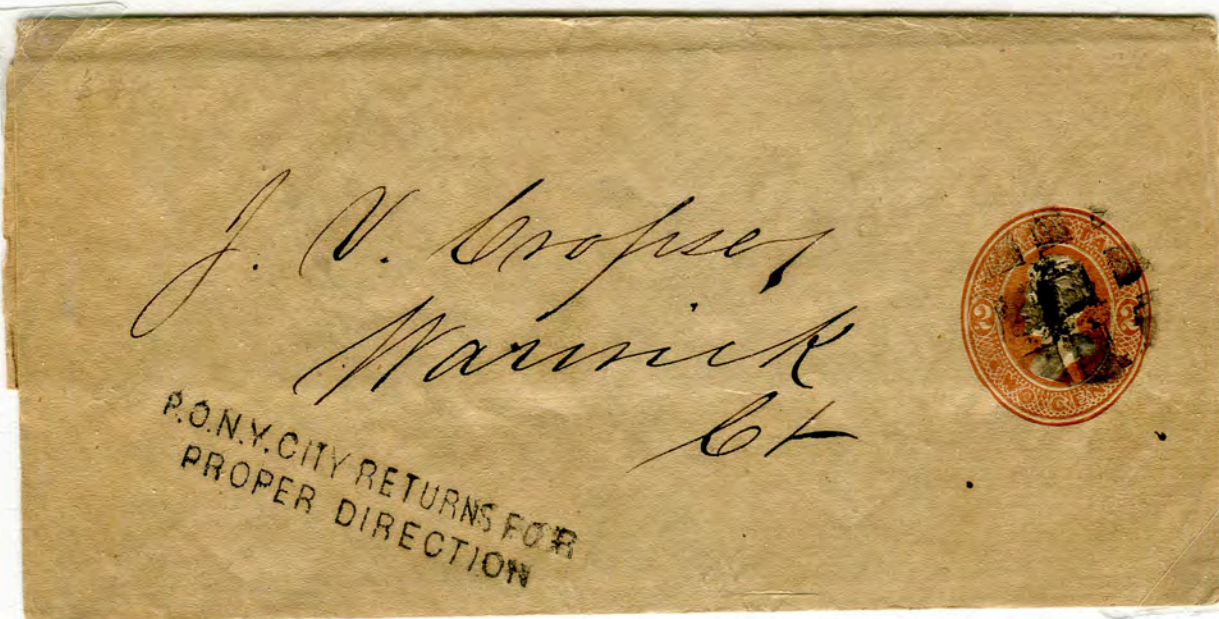
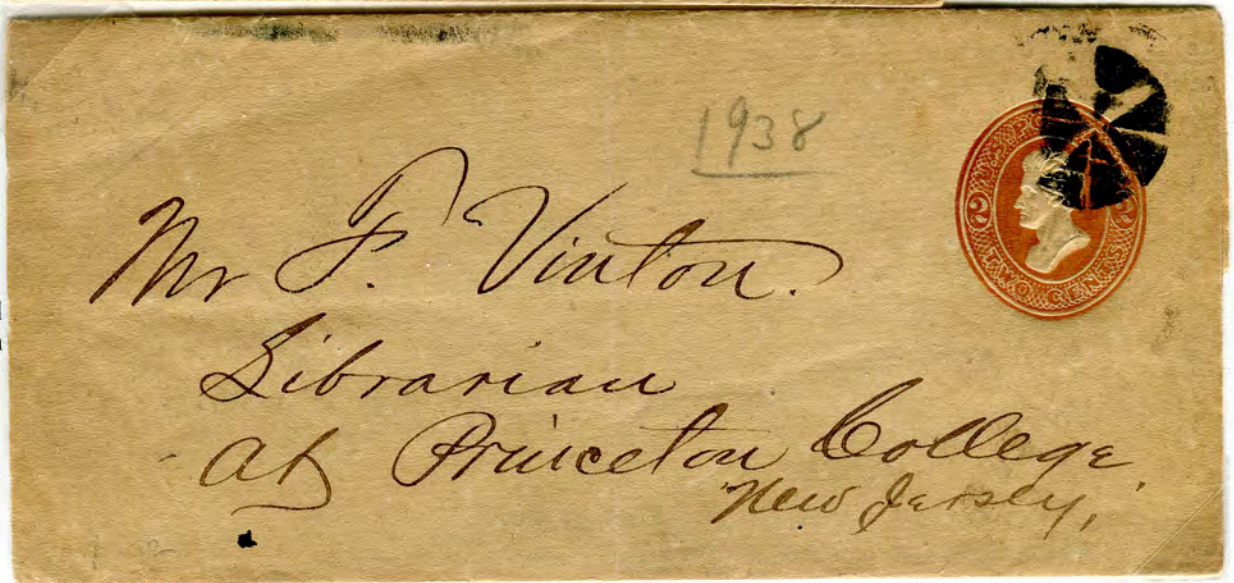
Usage to London, England with bar cancel.

The second die (49) is characterized by tall 2's in ovals and the 'O' of 'TWO' has a plain center.



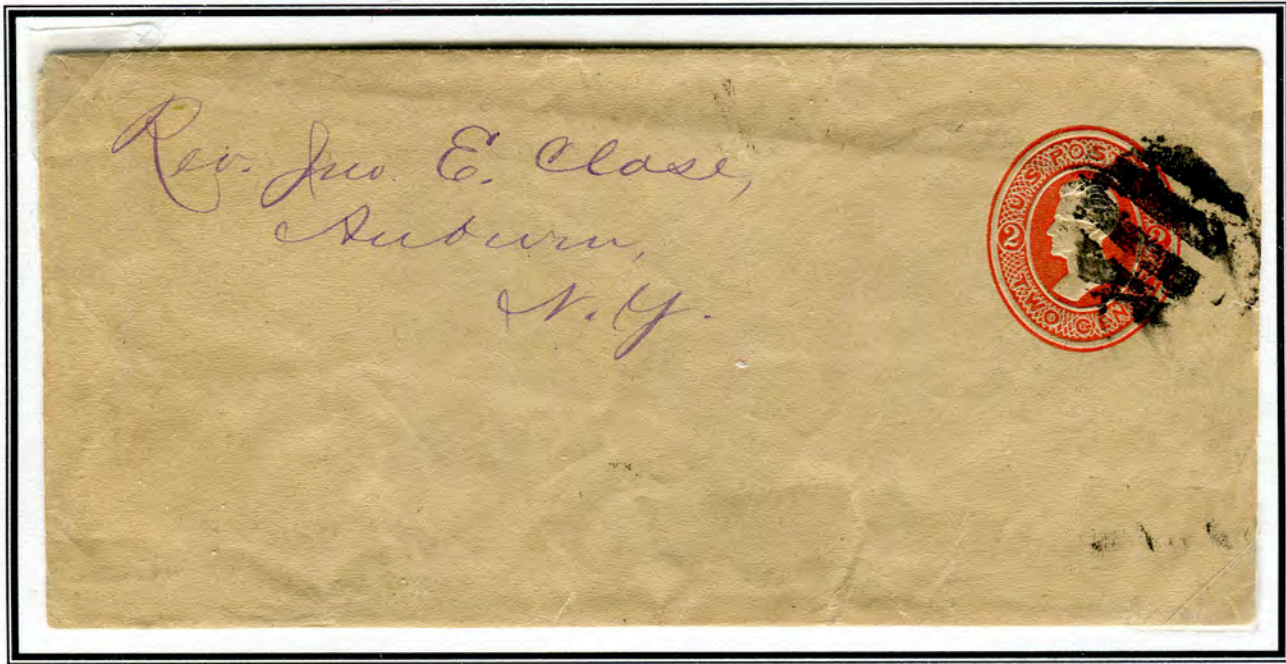
Cancel with geometric design.

Circle of wedges cancel to librarian at Princeton College



The lower wrapper is a local use within New York City and has the hand stamp "P.O.N.Y (Post Office New York) CITY RETURNS FOR PROPER DIRECTION" with a manuscript "Returned to/ R. C Reeves/ 185 & 187 Water St/ City" on the back.

The stamp ink color on wrappers was changed from brown to vermilion on July 26, 1875 along with the two cent stamps to match UPU color standards for stamps and stationery used for second or third class mail.



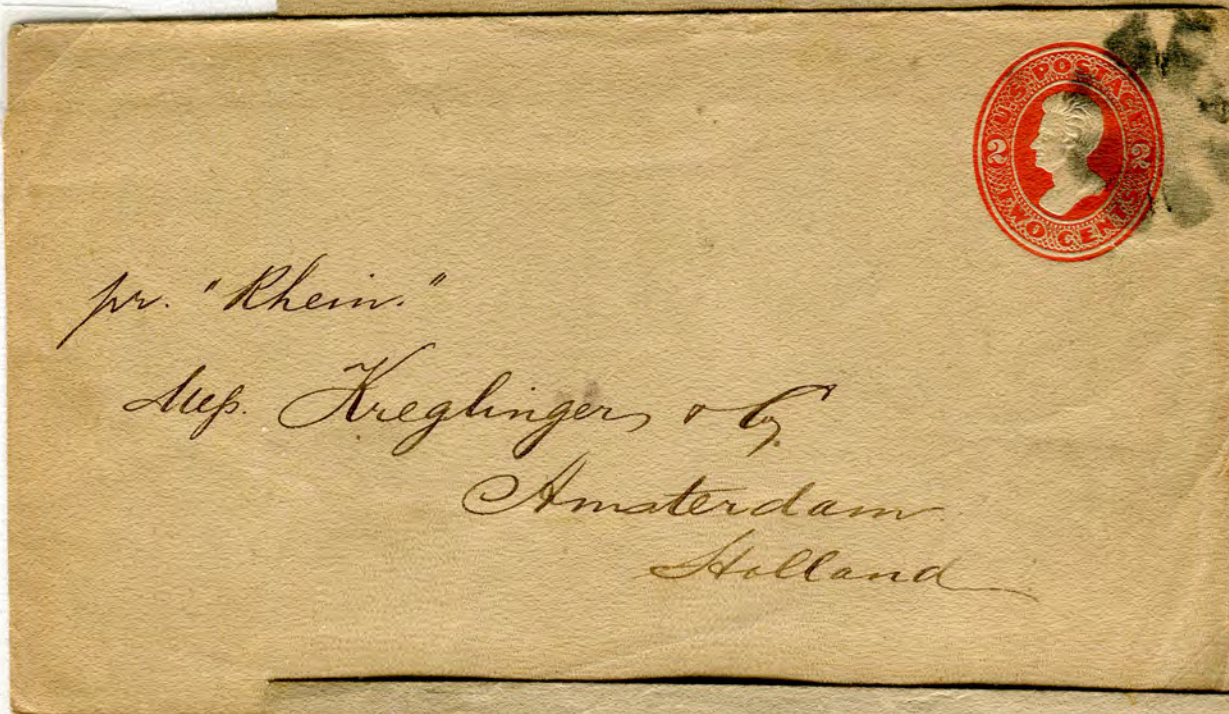
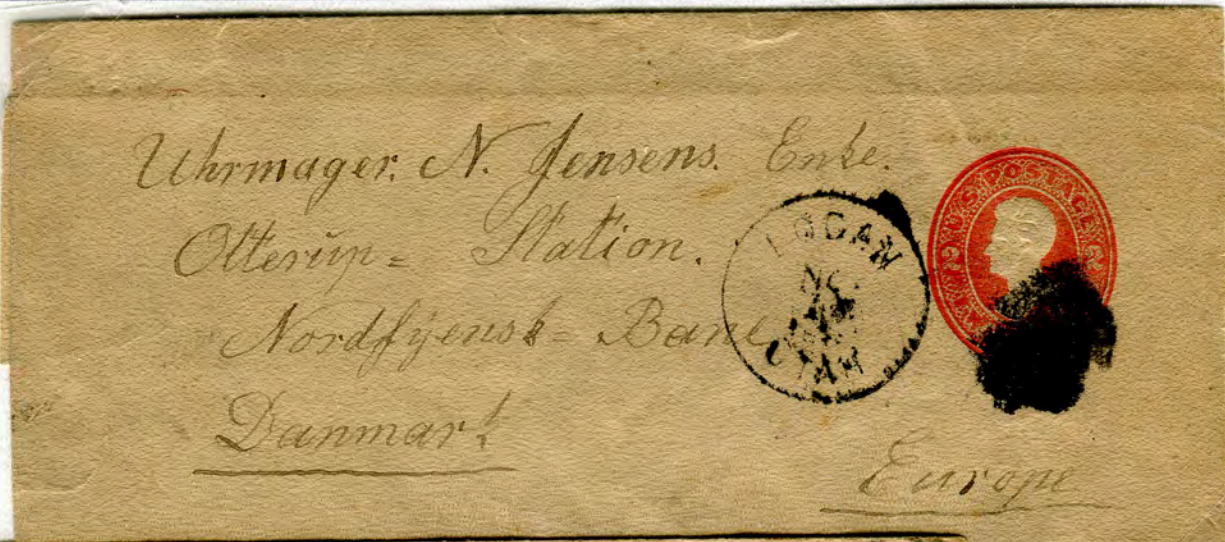
Only known usage of Die 48 vermilion wrapper.

The first two cents die (48), printed mainly brown wrappers, was used again for a very short time.

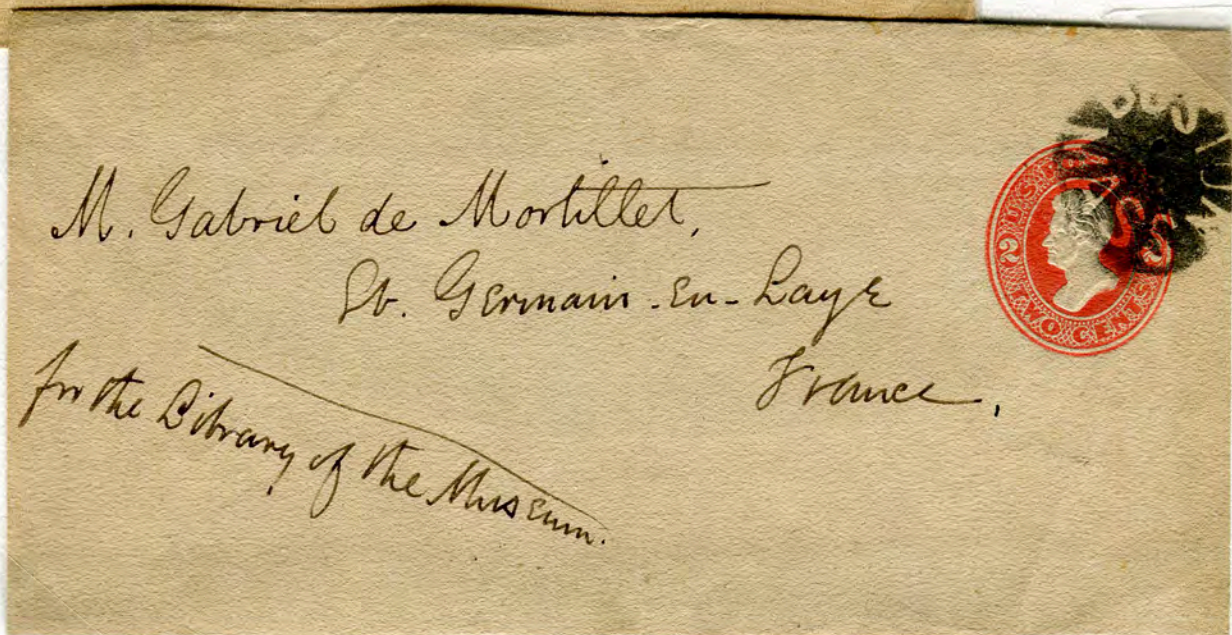


One other die (52) was used for both brown and vermilion wrappers and two new dies were used only on the vermilion wrappers.

Territorial uses of wrappers, as shown by the wrapper to right from Logan, UT to Denmark, are exceedingly scarce. A "smudge" cancel on 3rd class mail is common



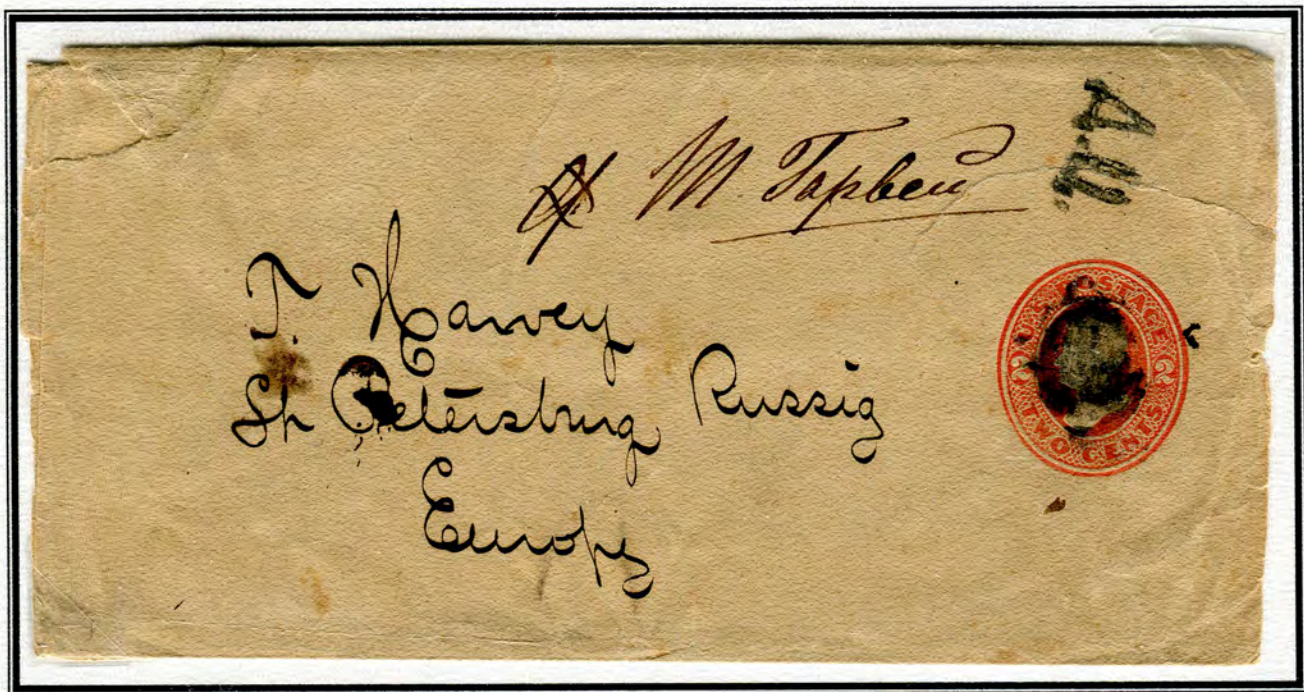
To Holland, with NY Foreign Mail Cancel sent on Apr 19, 1877 (per back-stamp). New report, as only two covers previously known with this cancel and none on wrappers.



To France with a fancy Boston, Mass cancel



The "PAID ALL" marking was used per treaty of 1868 with North German Union to indicate prepayment of all postage. This two cent wrapper was sent to Berlin from San Francisco, CA sometime after early 1875. The "PAID ALL" marking indicated that all postage was paid for 2 oz weight.



Above is the first reporting of a Russian civil censorship marking from St. Petersburg for foreign newspapers and other printed matter on a U.S. wrapper from the 1870s.

One of two known censor markings on 3rd class mail.

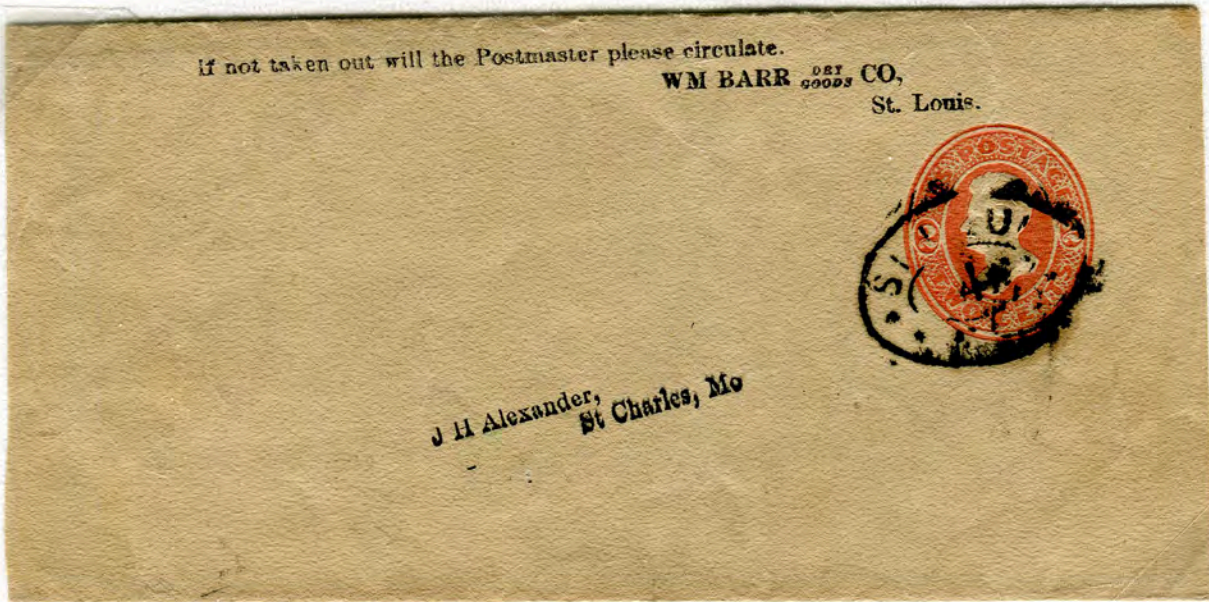


D.T's Handstamp

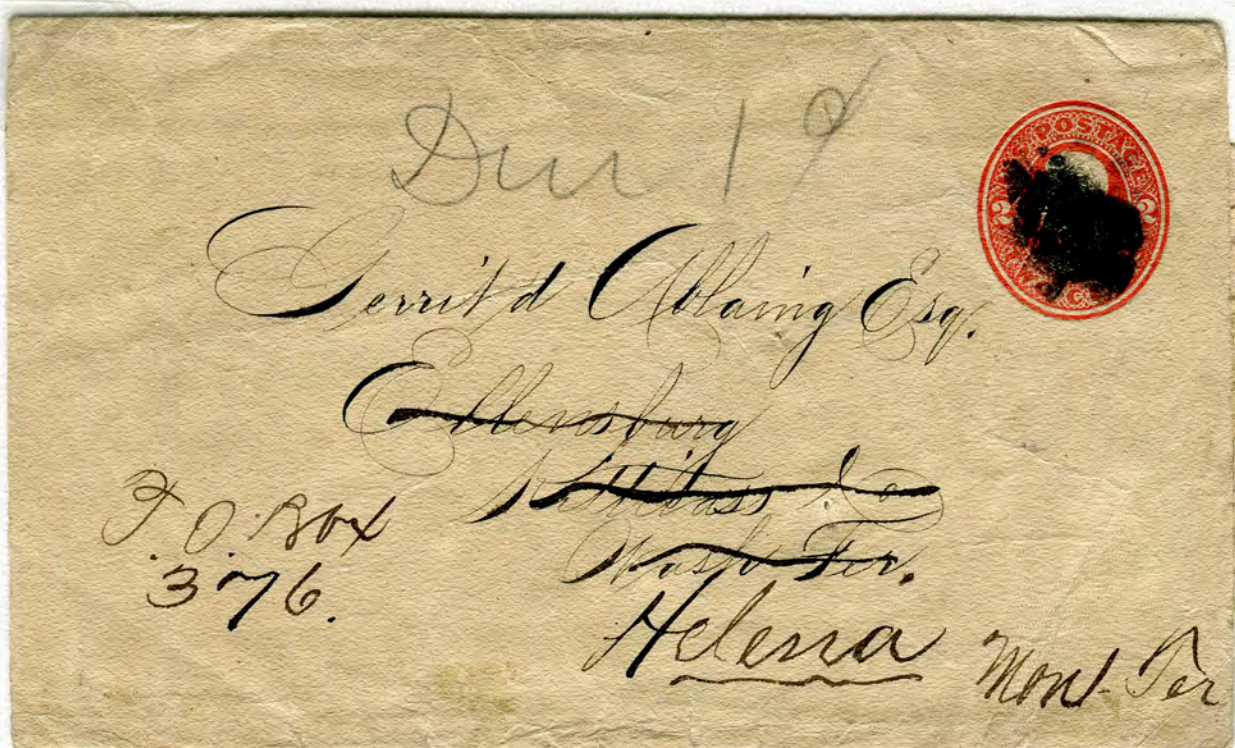
The Plimpton Issue of 1874 to 1882

Two Cents Vermillion Wrapper - Domestic forwarding

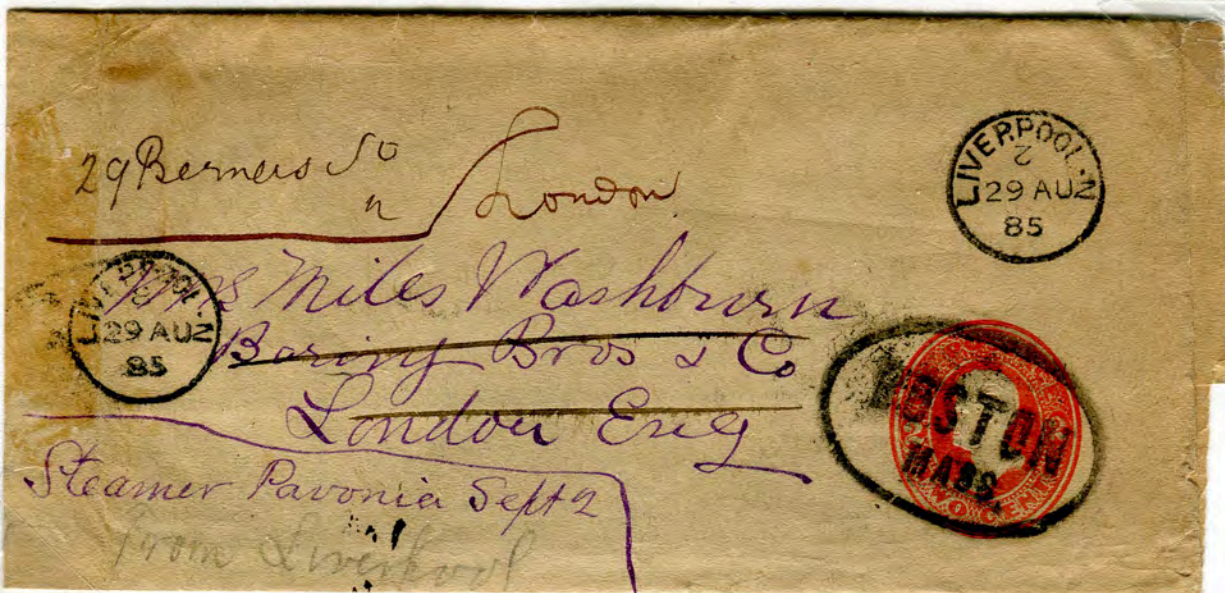
Following 1869, except between 1879 and 1887, the transient rate (1¢ per 2 oz. until 1925) applied to forwarding of wrappers. Many senders, especially of commercial advertisements, catalogs, etc did not want to pay forwarding but **wanted material given to someone** else as shown on the top wrapper. The bottom wrapper was charged 1¢ for forwarding.



Wrappers carrying advertisements, if undeliverable, sometimes had a statement for the postmaster to give the wrapper and contents to someone else.

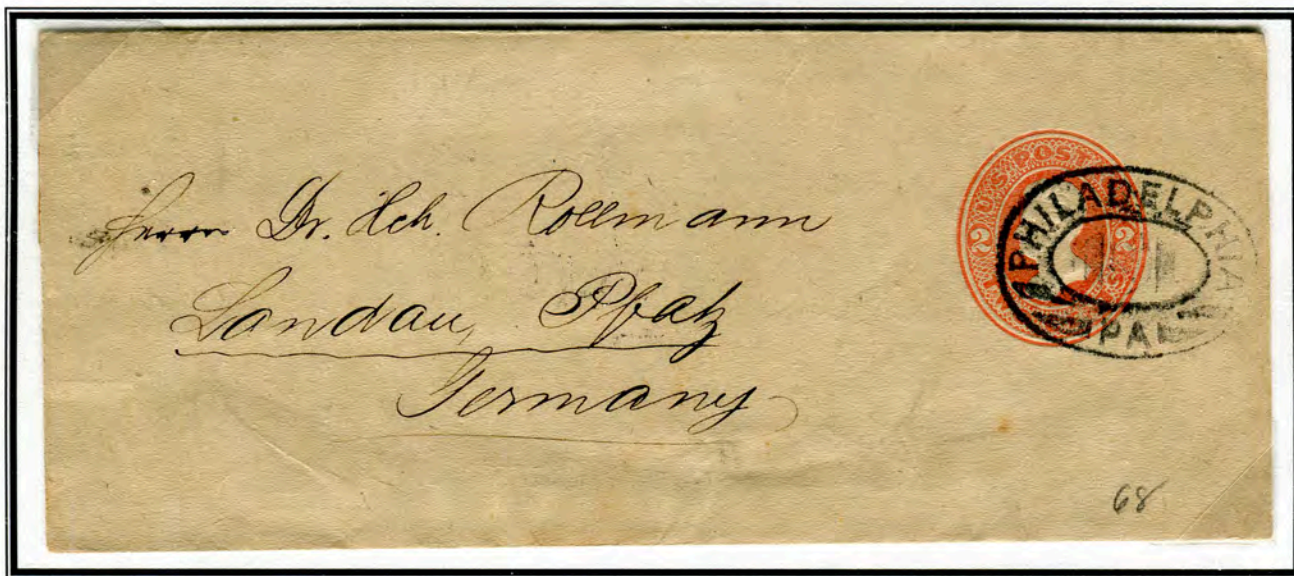
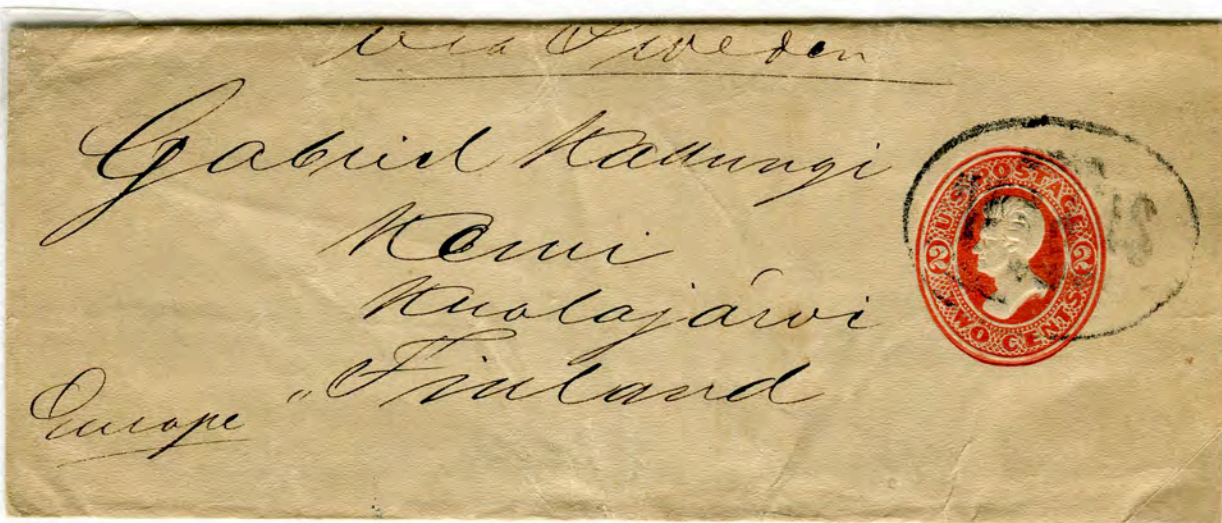


This wrapper was sent to Washington Territory and then forwarded to Helena, Montana Territory. It was marked in pencil 'Due 1¢' to reflect the forwarding charge.



Post Office Dept contracts called for use of watermarked paper. Wrappers printed on unwatermarked paper, as the one to right, are extremely uncommon.

Wrapper sent to Finland, which at this time was an autonomous Grand Duchy within the Russian Empire. Wrapper was sent "via Sweden" before Russia instituted censorship in the late 1800s

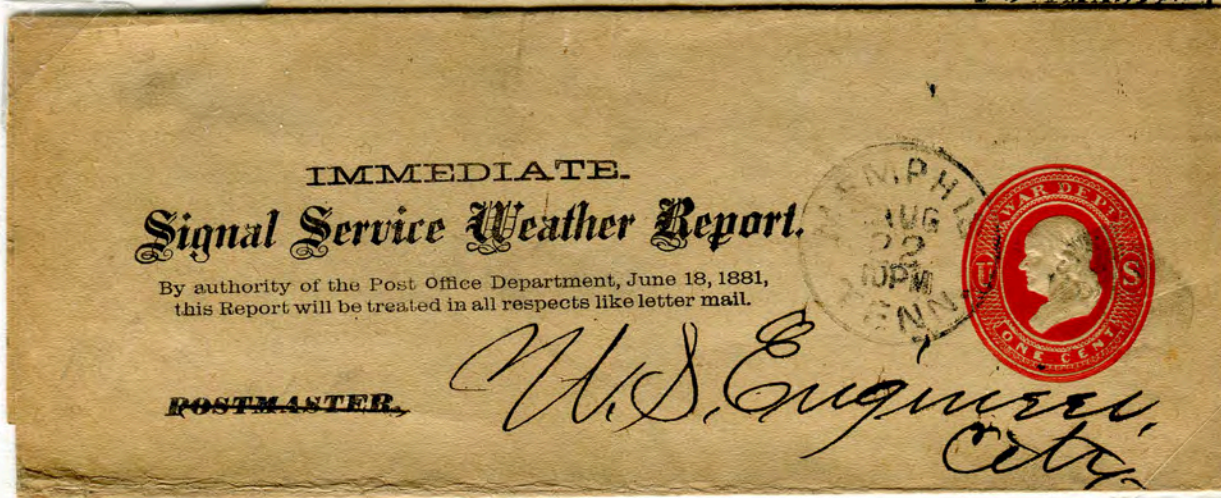
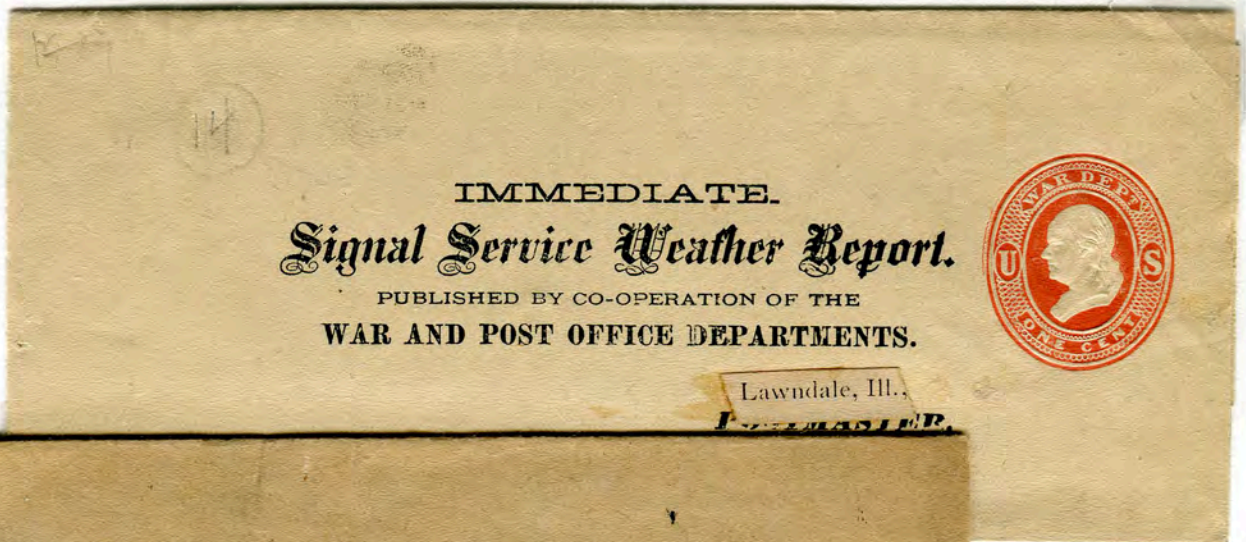


Die 55 red wrapper sent to Germany.

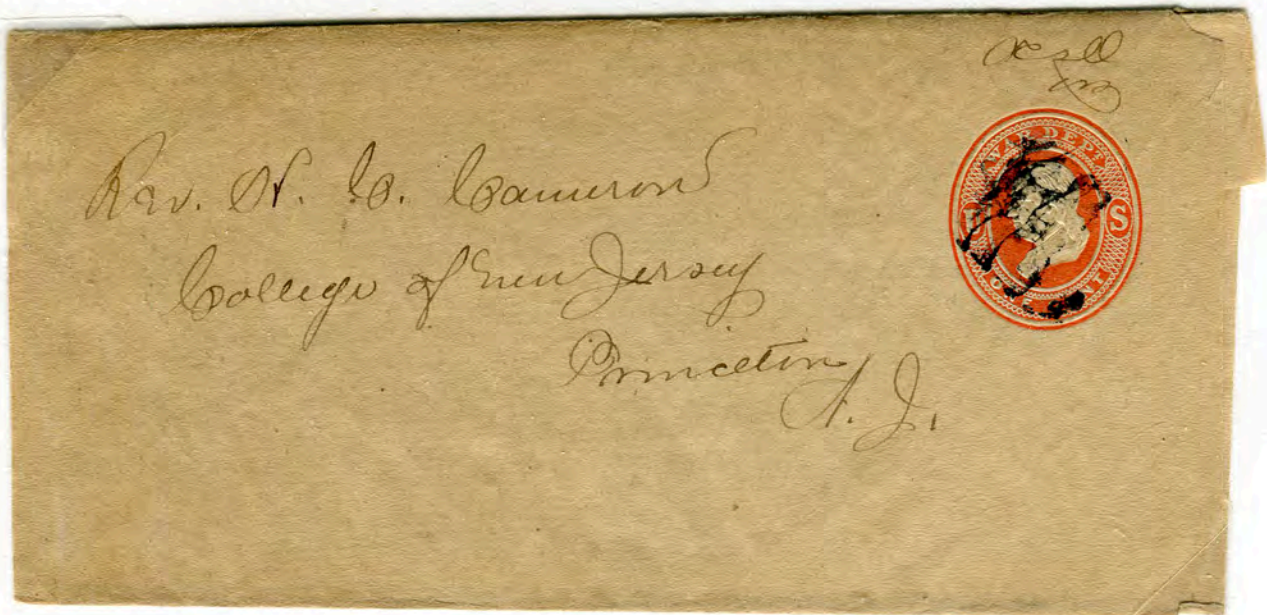
Only known usage of Die 55 vermilion wrapper.

Official stamped envelopes and wrappers had been authorized by the Act of March 3, 1873 and production of wrappers continued with the Plimpton contract, albeit with new dies, until Penalty mail instituted by Congress in 1877.

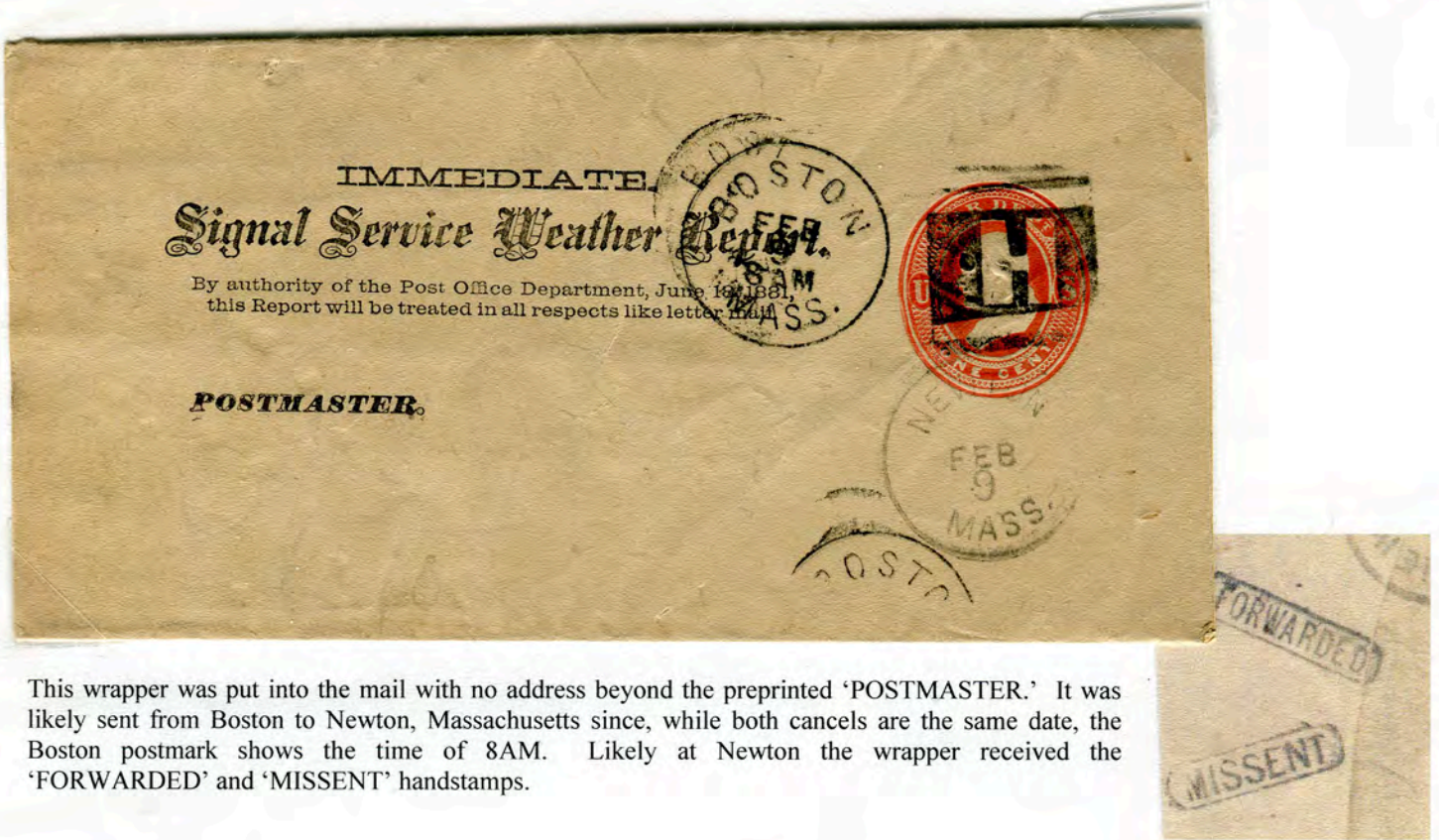
At right is a used copy of the rare type two die characterized by elongated lower bar of 'E' in 'ONE' and 'CENT' and incomplete circles around the 'U' and 'S'.



The upper wrapper to the Lawndale, Illinois Postmaster, contained weather forms for the Postmaster to fill out, typical of the most frequently seen use of these wrappers. The lower wrapper is an **uncommon use of the wrapper to mail someone other than a Postmaster** as it was sent to the Water Service Engineer. Note the font changes in the Signal Service corner card on the Reay and Plimpton wrappers.

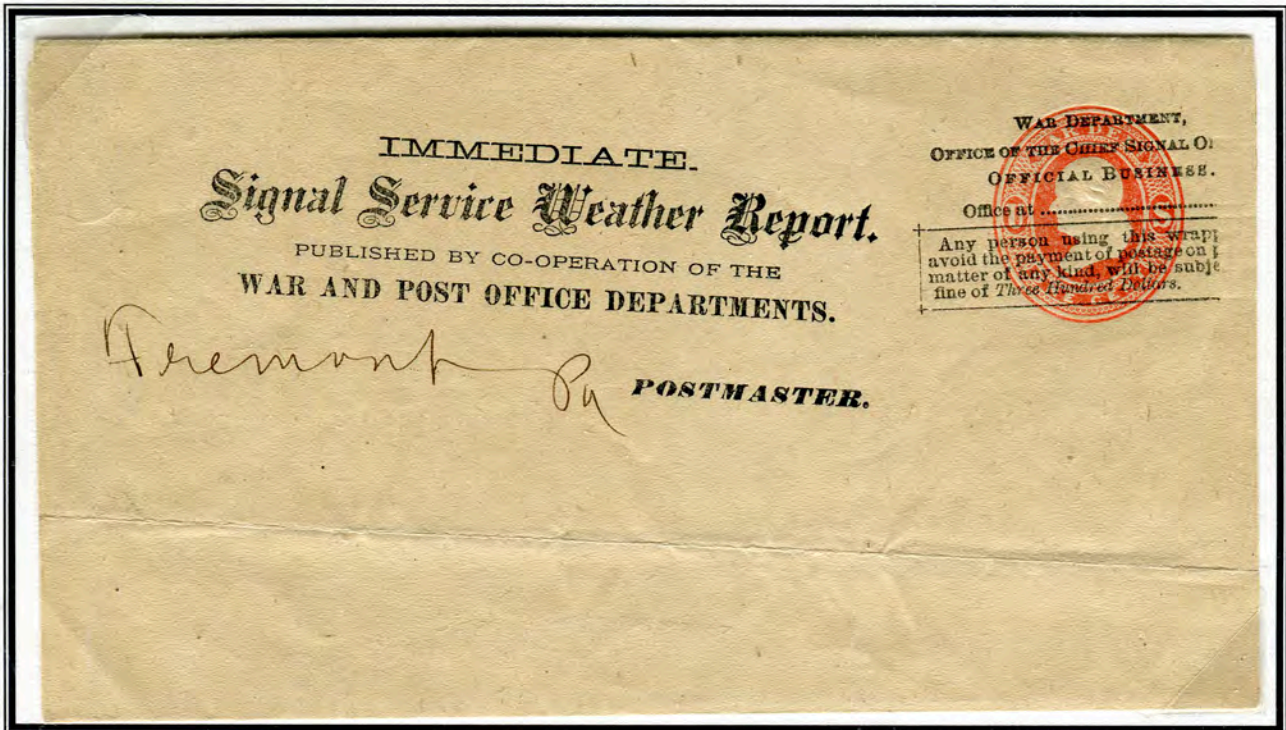


This wrapper without the Signal Service Weather Report corner card and sent to other than a post master is very uncommon.



This wrapper was put into the mail with no address beyond the preprinted 'POSTMASTER.' It was likely sent from Boston to Newton, Massachusetts since, while both cancels are the same date, the Boston postmark shows the time of 8AM. Likely at Newton the wrapper received the 'FORWARDED' and 'MISSENT' handstamps.

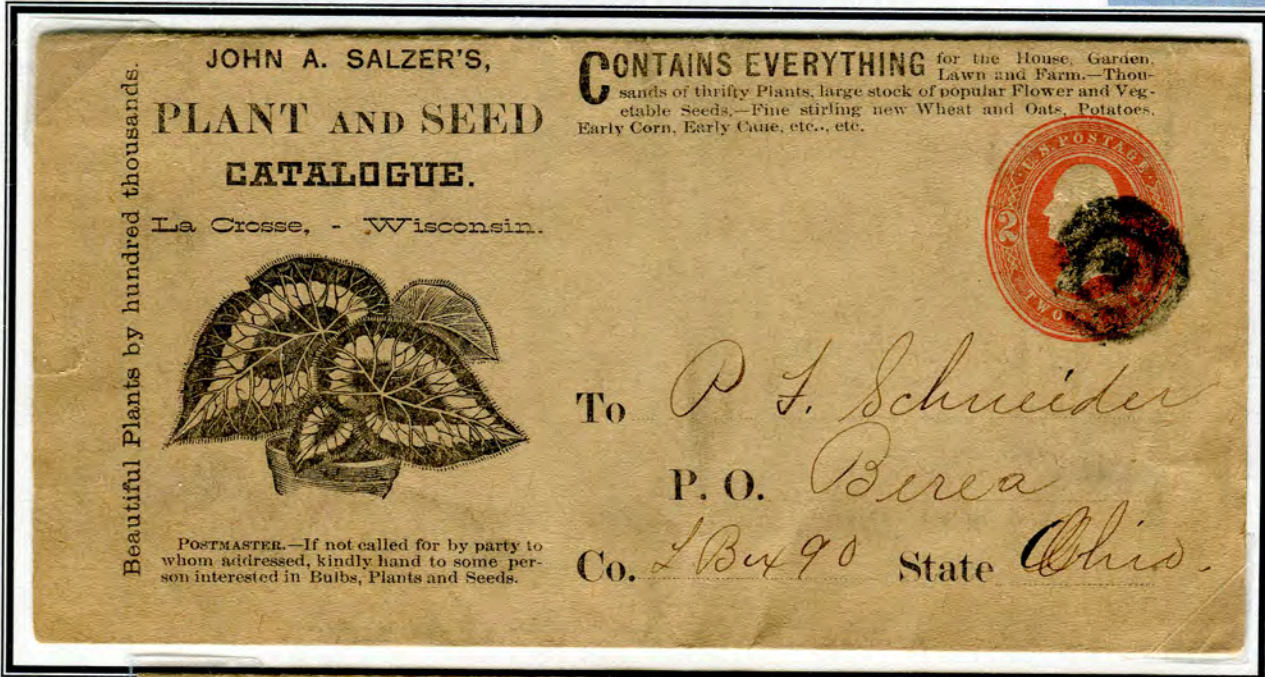
The Congressional Act of March 3, 1877 provided for official penalty markings to replace stamps and stamped envelopes. A small number of wrappers were **overprinted with the penalty marking** as a method of using existing officially stamped envelopes and wrappers.



A Plimpton War Department Wrapper overprinted with Penalty Marking.

The stamp design was changed in 1883 because **first class postage was reduced** from 3¢ to 2¢ per half ounce effective October 1, 1883. The bust of Washington was moved from 3¢ to 2¢ stamps and stamped envelopes (and wrappers). The first design, with grill work between the ovals, did not print well and only the **second design** with two thin lines just inside the outer oval **was used for wrappers**. It was first printed in red (as first class stamp) but changed to brown in less than one year.

Only copy reported with advertising.



Beautiful Plants by hundred thousands.

JOHN A. SALZER'S,
PLANT AND SEED
CATALOGUE.

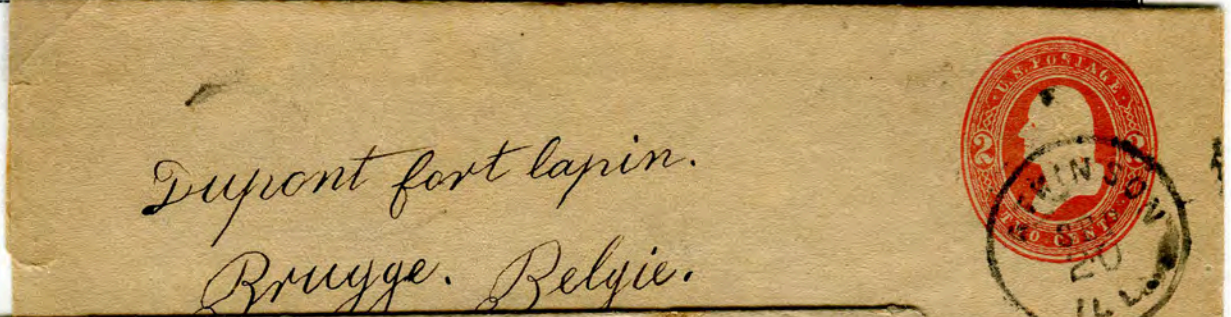
La Crosse, - Wisconsin.



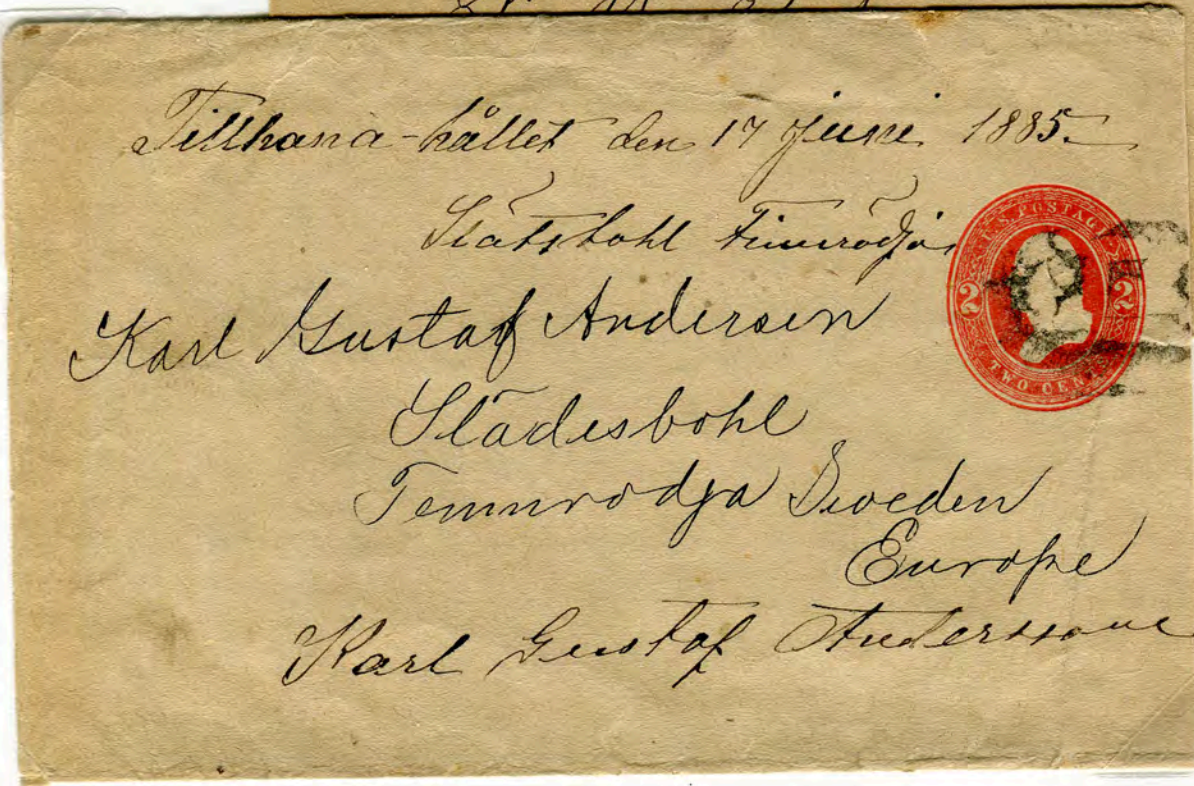
POSTMASTER.—If not called for by party to whom addressed, kindly hand to some person interested in Bulbs, Plants and Seeds.

CONTAINS EVERYTHING for the House, Garden, Lawn and Farm.—Thousands of thrifty Plants, large stock of popular Flower and Vegetable Seeds.—Fine sterling new Wheat and Oats, Potatoes, Early Corn, Early Cane, etc., etc.

To P. F. Schneider
P. O. Berea
Co. L Bu 90 State Ohio.



Duyont fort lapin.
Bruyge. Belgie.

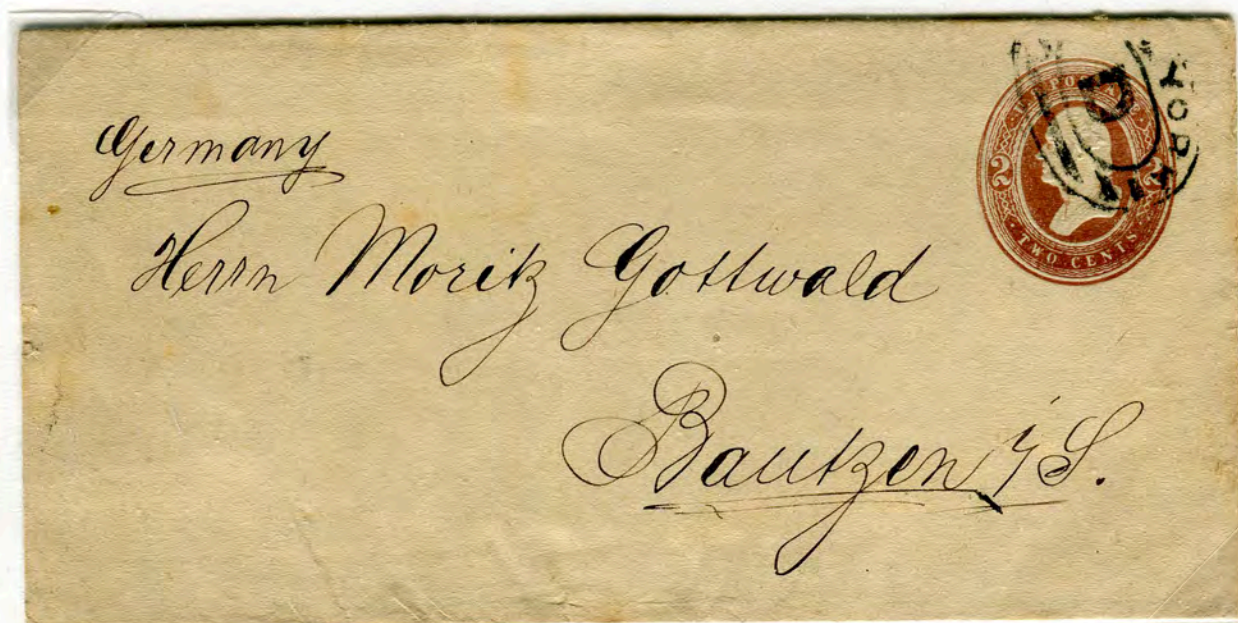
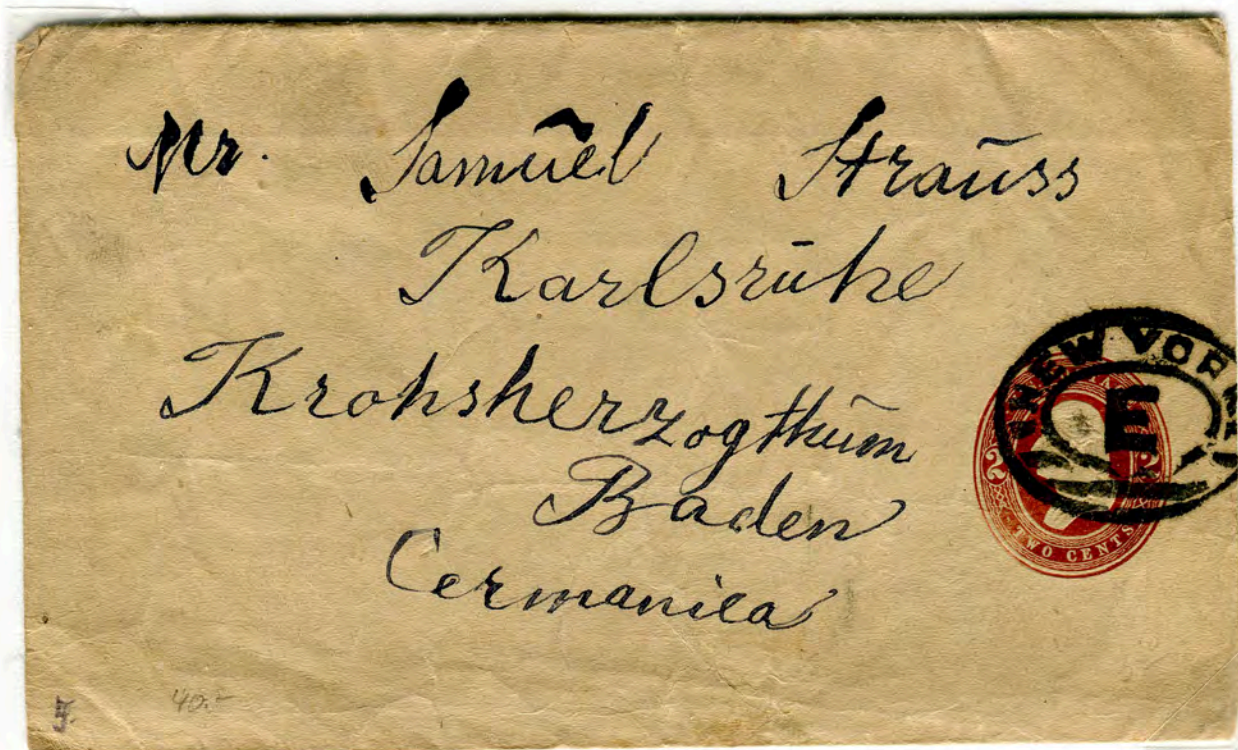


Tillhanda-kallet den 17 juni 1885.
Stadsbohl Timrodja
Karl Gustaf Andersson
Stadesbohl
Timrodja Sweden
Europe
Karl Gustaf Andersson



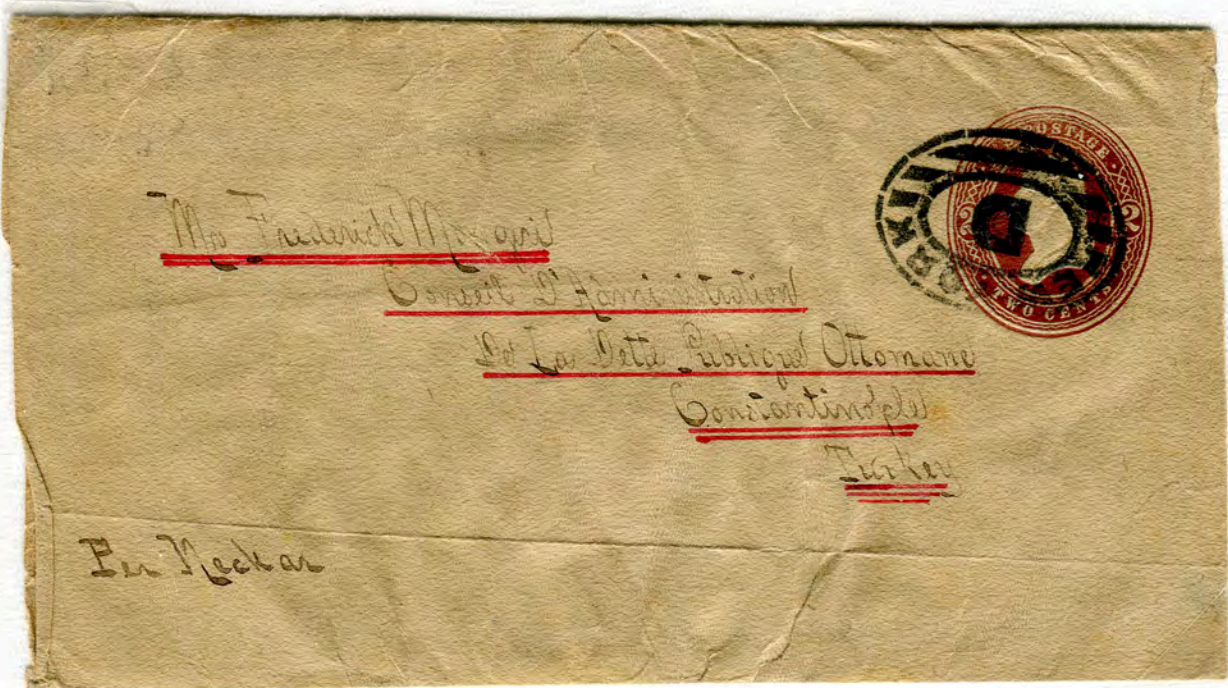
Wrappers to foreign destinations, other than Germany, are especially scarce. These wrappers are to Belgium and Sweden.

The color was changed from red to brown in May, 1884 to match color change of stamps for first class. The poor printing quality of this die is shown on indicia of both wrappers where inking is uneven. Few wrappers were produced with this die before the working dies were recut.



Germany is the most common foreign destination for wrappers in the 19th century because of the large number of German immigrants and because of the vast commercial business between the U.S. and Germany which exported many chemicals and other manufactured items to the U.S. until World War I. The upper wrapper, to Karlsruhe was likely from an immigrant based on spelling and handwriting while the lower wrapper to Bautzen (in eastern Germany) may have related to business.

Few usages of this wrapper exist to foreign destinations due to the short period of use.



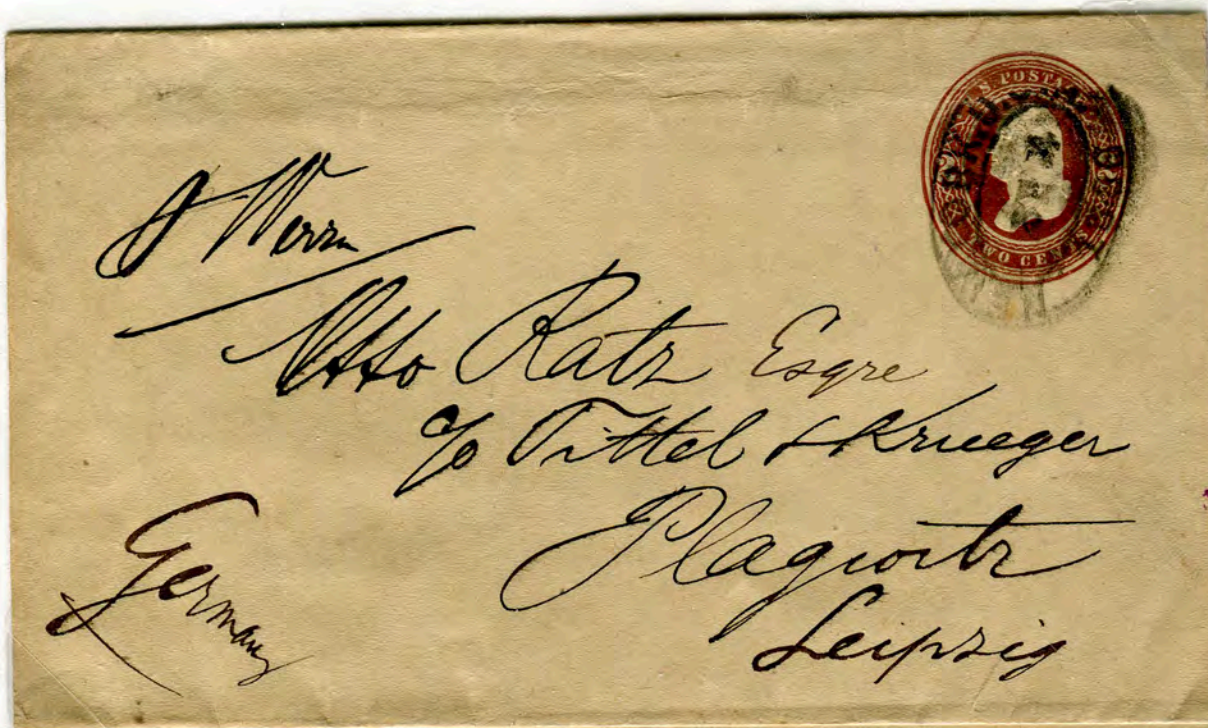
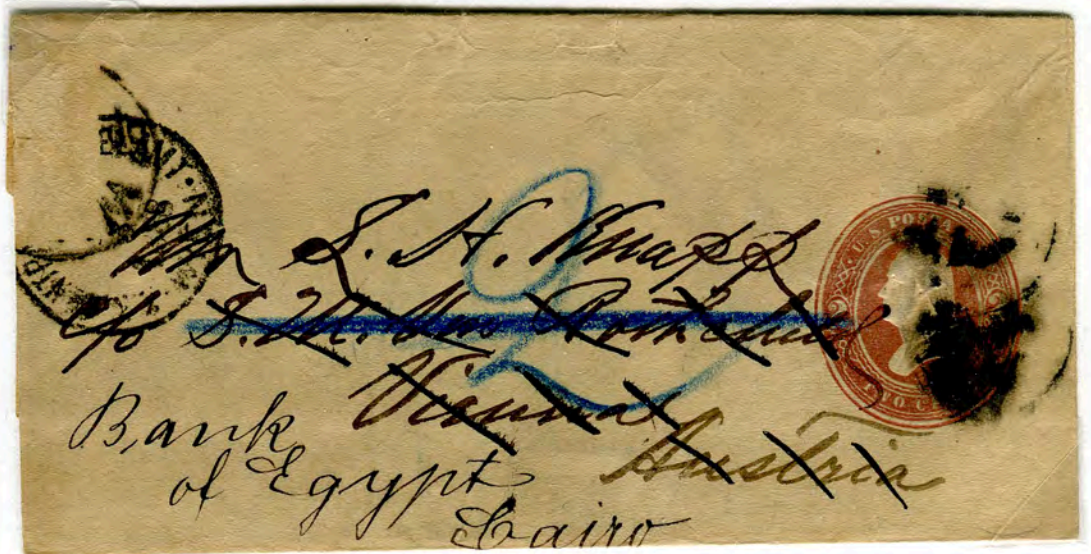
Sent to Constantinople, Turkey per ship 'Nekar' of the North German Line.



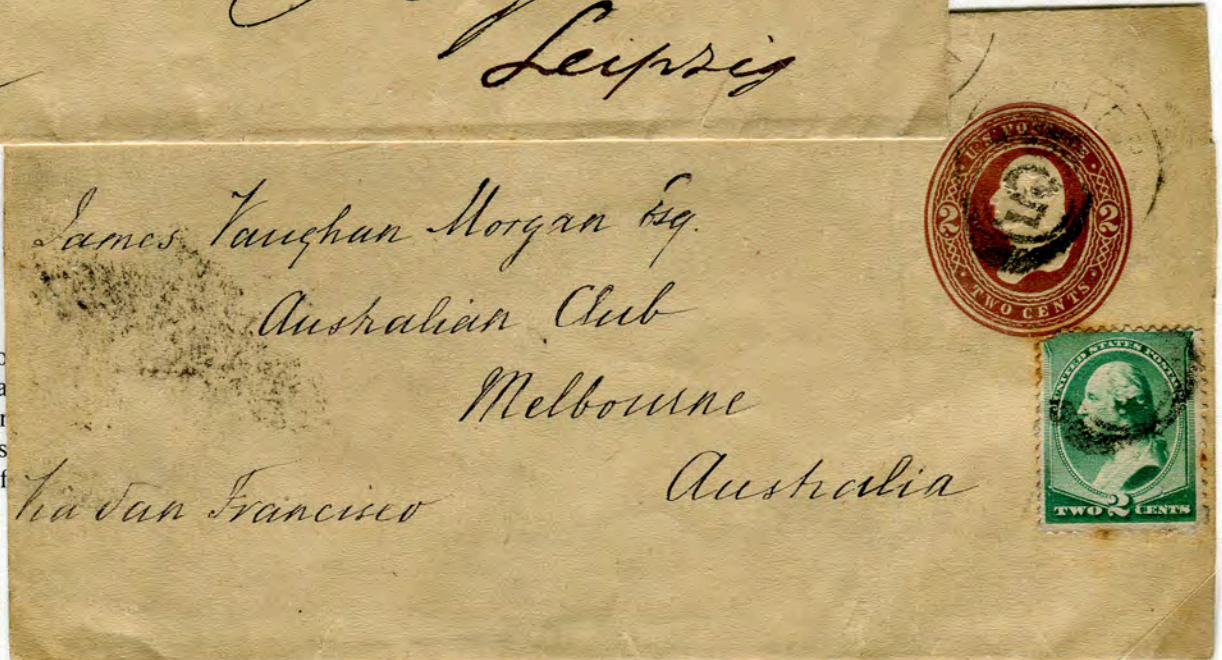
This wrapper to Buenos Aires, Argentina was undeliverable. The boxed 'OFICIA DE LISTA/22 Feb 86/CAPITAL' means that the item was posted (listed) in Buenos Aires and 'Devuelto de impresos' means return to sender/printed matter.

The second, far scarcer die 82 used on wrappers has the lower back bust point rounded.

The small sized wrapper to right was sent to Vienna, Austria and forwarded to Cairo, Egypt. Per UPU agreement of 1875, forwarding among UPU countries was at no additional charge. The wrapper had a stamp or label attached to the left and to contents to hold the two together that was removed with the contents.



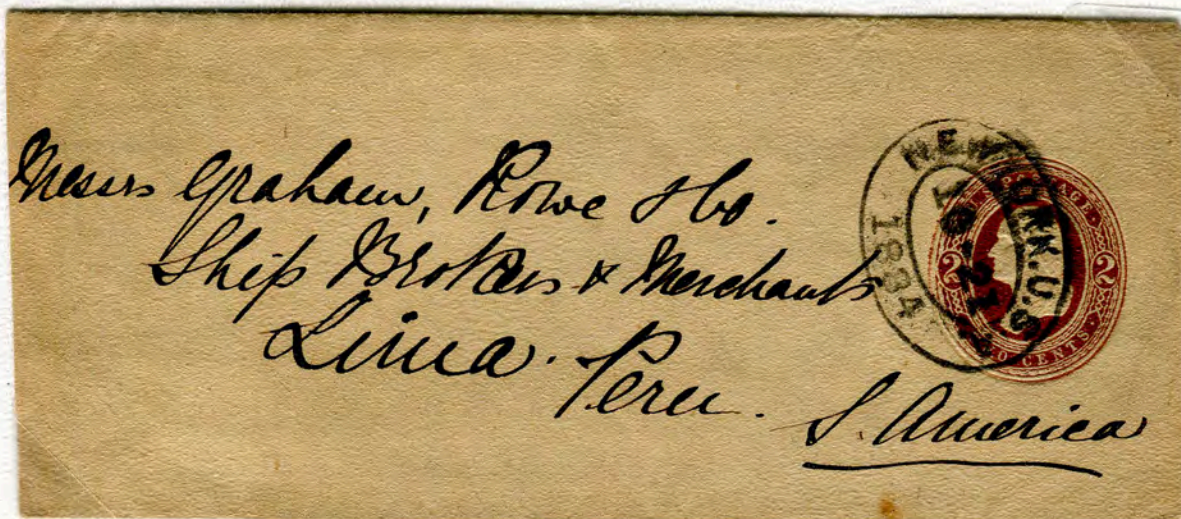
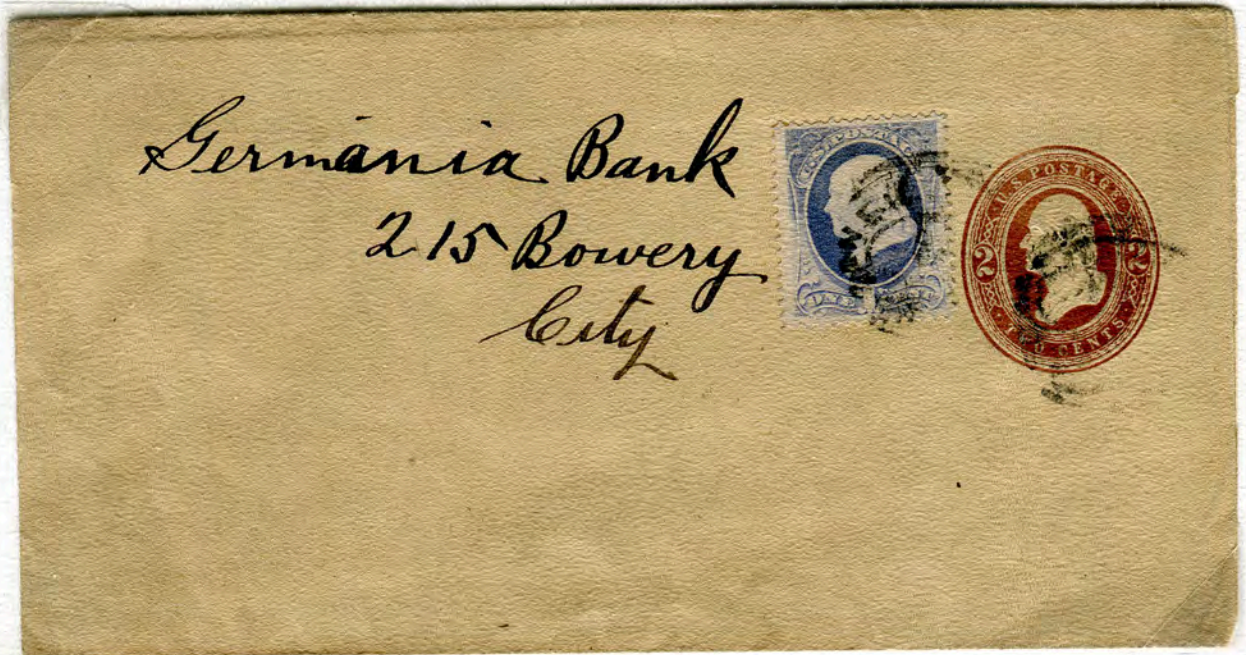
Use of larger sized wrapper to Leipzig Germany.



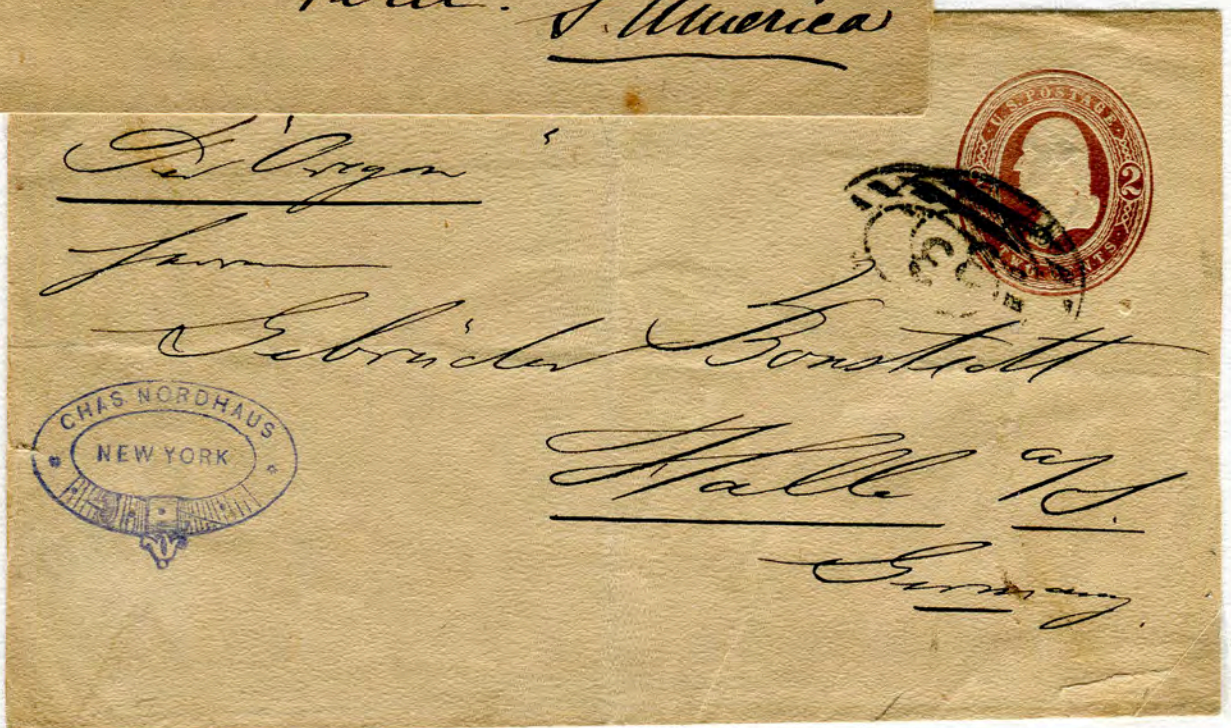
Use of larger wrapper to Melbourne, Australia with 3¢ stamp added for quadruple rate. It was routed via the City of San Francisco.

Working dies were recut in an attempt to improve printing characteristics but printing quality did not improve.

Local use of a wrapper for an item weighing 5 to 6 oz.



Sent to Peru, South America with an oval foreign mail handstamp containing 'NEW YORK U.S.' and date (October 21, 1884). Third class mail cancels with dates are unusual.

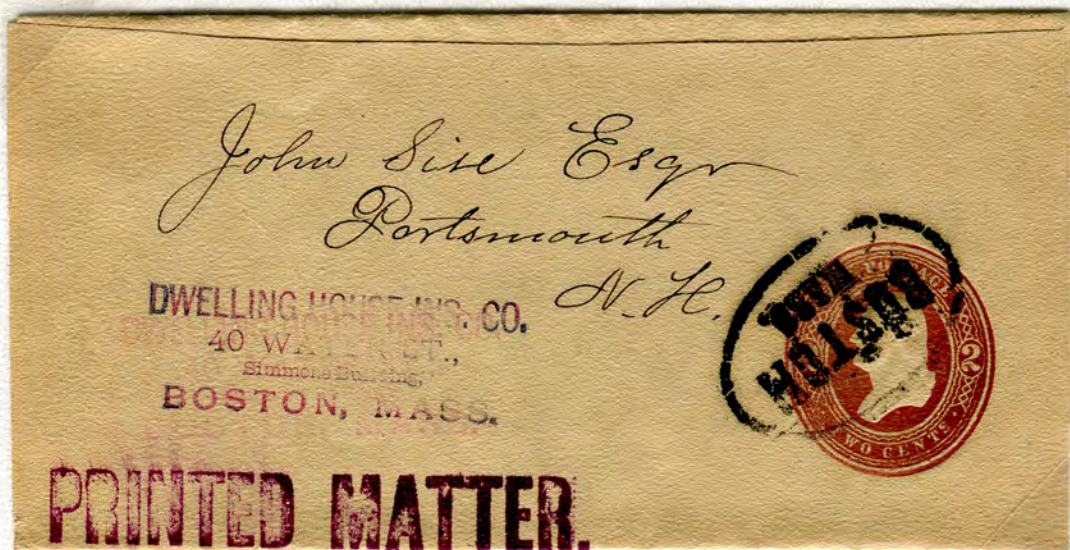


Addressed to Germany with routing instructions 'Per Oregon,' a ship that carried mail to Europe.

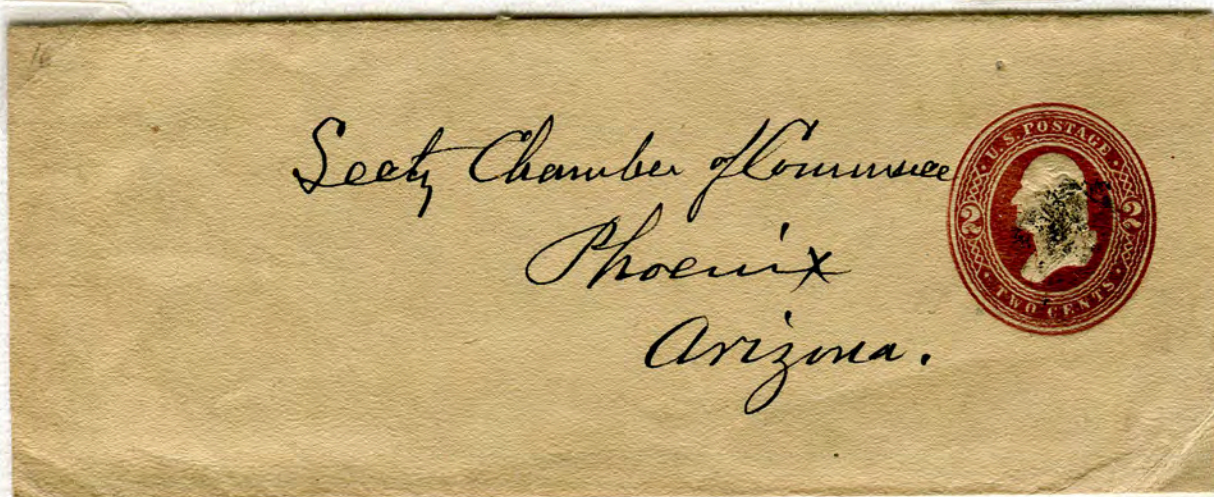
The Plimpton Issue of 1883 and 1884

Design Change - domestic use

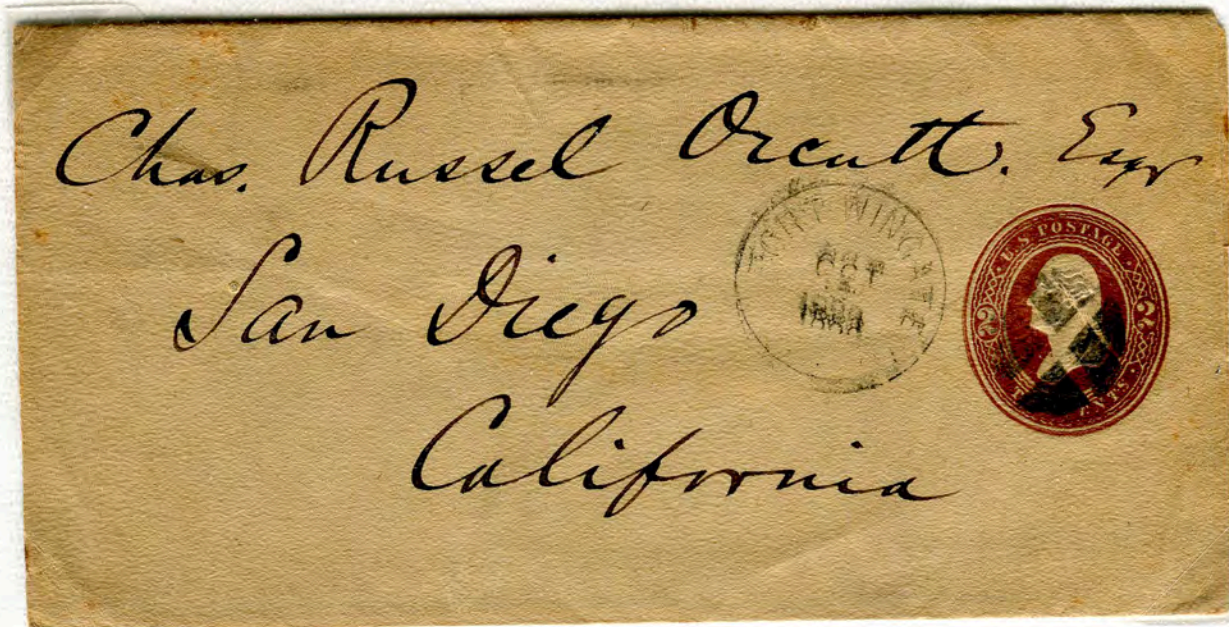
In an attempt to improve printing characteristics, the die was changed to have one line inside the outer oval. The most common form of this issue has a pointed bust at lower back (Die 81). This wrapper was issued in two sizes: 140 mm wide and 160 mm wide as shown.



Small size wrapper with "PRINTED MATTER" to indicate 3rd class.



Large size wrapper. Territorial use from Fort Wingate, NM to San Diego with Oct 3, 1888 cancel.

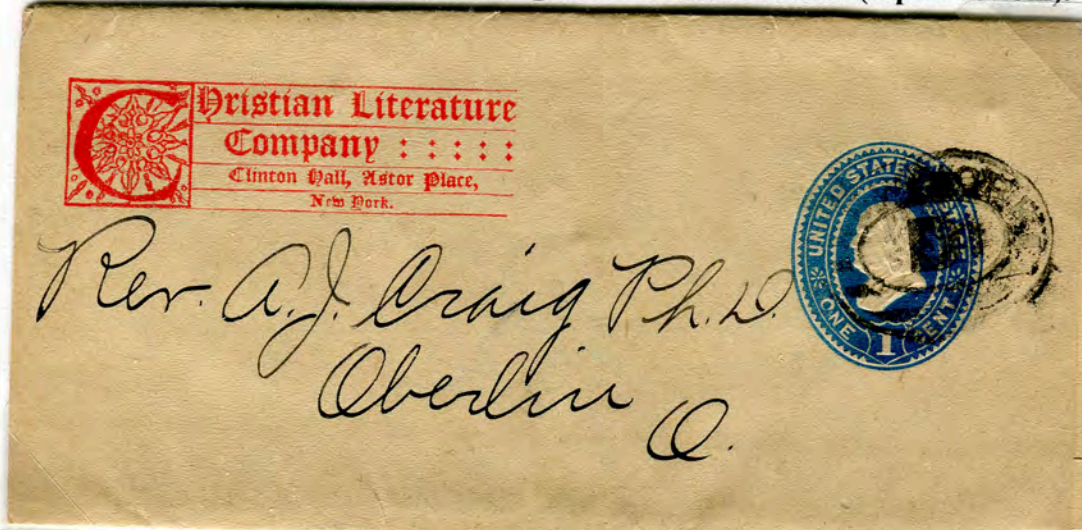


Sent to Arizona while it was a territory.

The Plimpton and Morgan Issue of 1886 to 1898

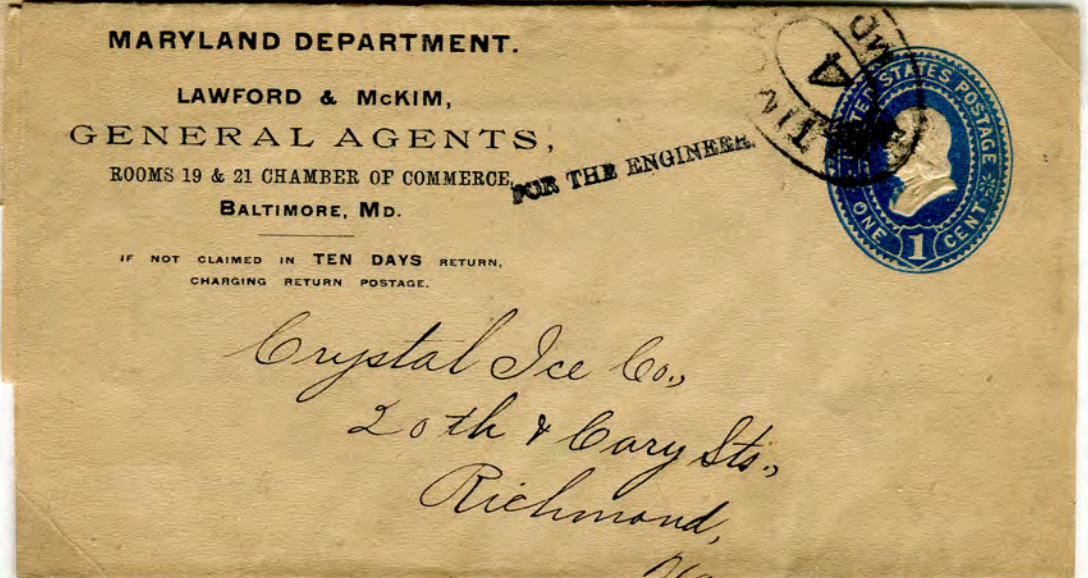
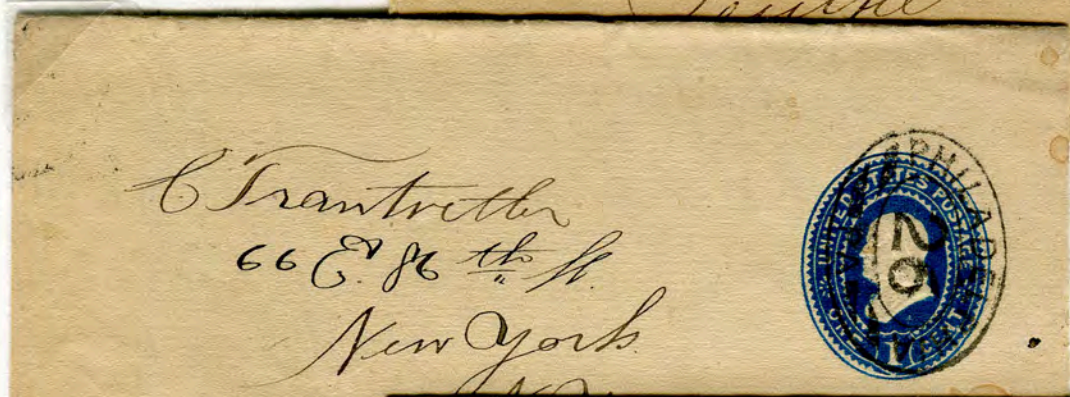
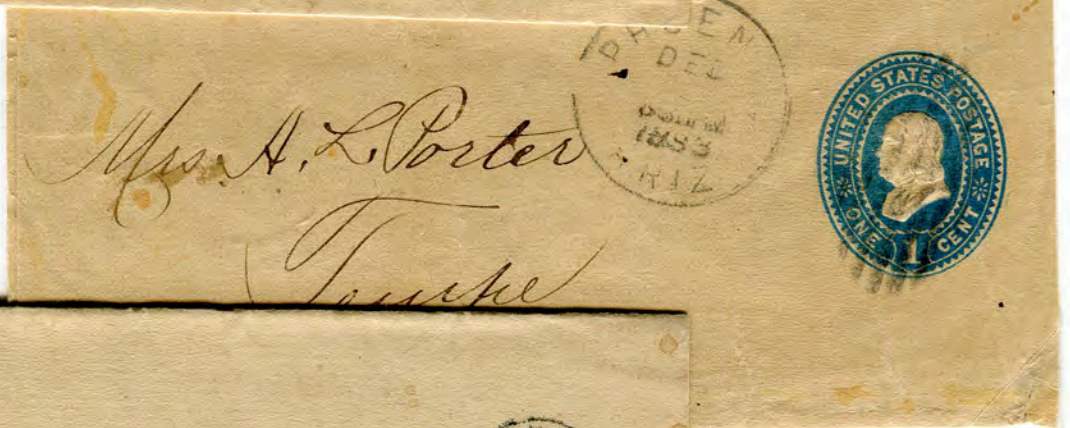
Domestic use

The Postal Contract of 1886 reserved the right for the Postmaster to change the dies and ink colors of envelopes and wrappers which he immediately did. This was the **single most widely used wrapper**: It was in use for a long time (1886 to 1898), during a period of expanding commerce but before the advent of precancels, permit and bulk mails. The stamps vary from **light to dark blue shades (top to bottom)**.



With a fancy corner card for Christian Literature Company.

Territorial usages as this wrapper use from Phoenix to Tempe, Arizona are very uncommon. It has a circular date cancel, likely because Phoenix did not have a 3rd class cancel.



Dark blue stamp shades used from Philadelphia and Baltimore. The lower wrapper must have contained a catalog "for the engineer."

The Purcell Envelope Company received the 4-year contract to produce U.S. Postal Stationery beginning Oct 1, 1894. However, this company could not meet contract requirements and, after a few months, the contract reverted to Plimpton and Morgan Companies. Purcell produced some wrappers **on wove, rather than laid paper**. While Purcell one cent wrappers and envelopes have traditionally been designated as having dark blue stamps, the stamps on these wrappers range from **light to dark blue and disprove the claim**.

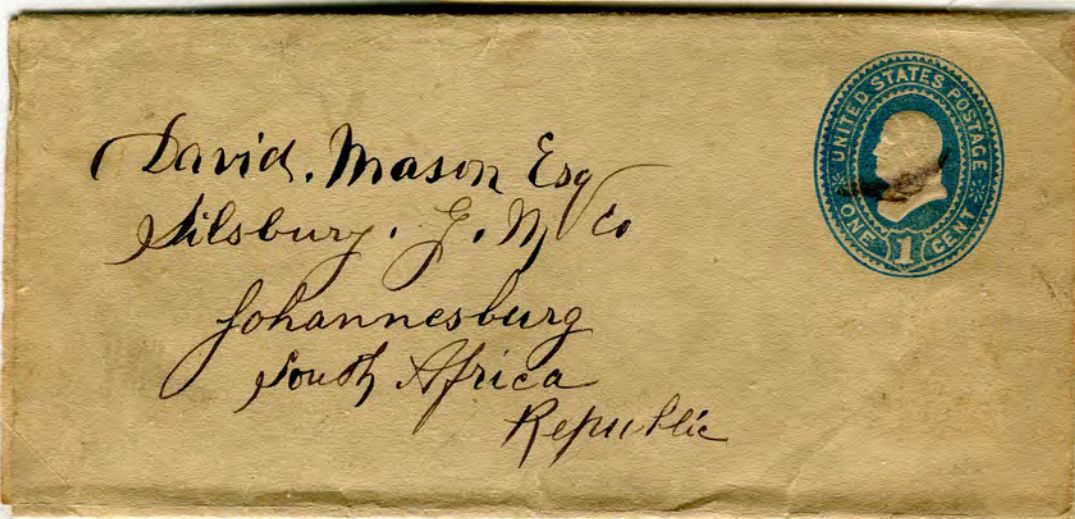
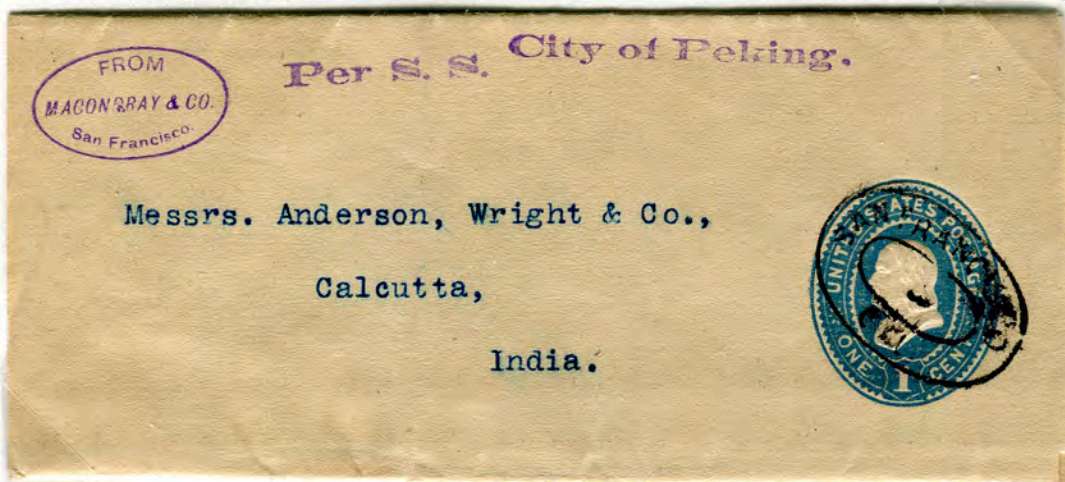


Heamer
 par la Champagne
 Mr.
 J. Kremboer
 Vorstand
 Kgl. Hof
 Nordbahnhof
 Vienna
 Austria

367-5-ave
 Mess Renwick B. Penwald
 Renwick

Italy
 Ill.
 Sig. Cav. Prof. Onorato Fava
 Via Stella N. 45
 Napoli

Expansion of American business caused wrappers to be used to many distant lands.



Use of two wrappers to pay the double rate to Danzig (below) is because the cost of the second wrapper made this more expensive than putting a stamp on a single wrapper for the additional postage needed.



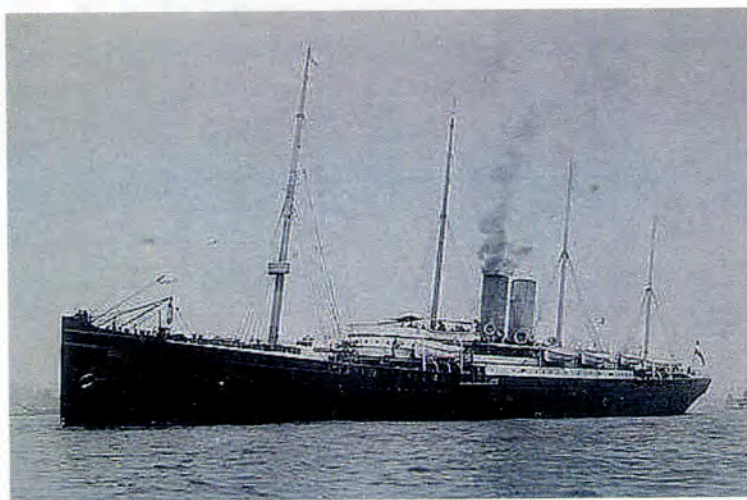


This wrapper was onboard the North German Lloyd Bremen S.S. *Eider*, a German luxury passenger liner traveling from New York and bound for Bremen via Southampton with 227 passengers and 167 crew. She ran aground about half a mile from shore off St. Catherine's Point on the Isle of Wright in the English Channel during in a dense fog on Sunday night, January 31st, 1892.

The captain believed that the liner would ride off the bar with the tide. Some of the cargo was jettisoned. At 7am the next day, a lifeboat approached *Eider* to warn that a gale was approaching. The captain felt sure that tugs would arrive in time and **asked the lifeboat to carry some of the mail bags ashore** instead of the passengers. As conditions worsened all passengers and crew were removed with no loss of life; however, the ship was lost.

The mail was taken charge of by officials from the Newport Post Office. Two markings were used, one in German for mail bound for Bremen and the scarcer one in English (**Saved from wreck of S.S. "Eider"**) for mail bound to Southampton.

This wrapper is addressed to Southampton and contains the Chicago Stamp News dated January, 1892 with an advertisement for World's Fair Packets of world wide stamps (referring to Columbian World's Fair).



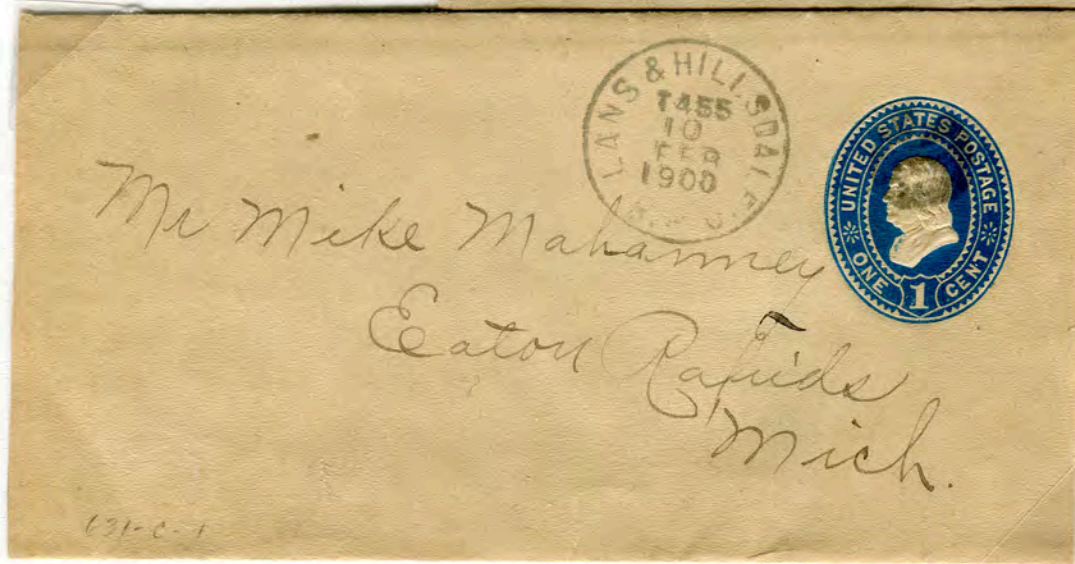
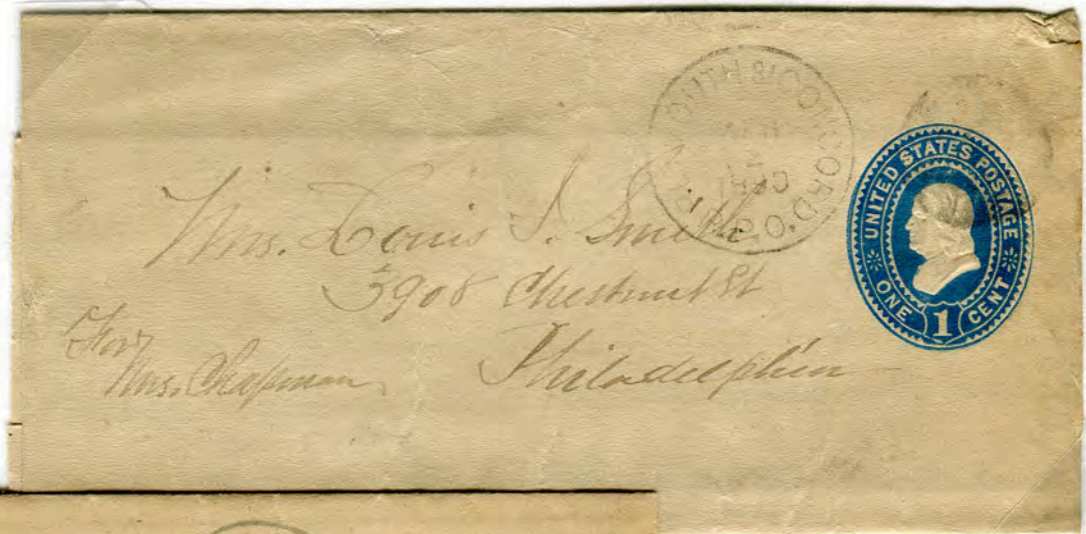
The North German Lloyd S.S. *Eider* built in 1884.

Only reported
wreck cover

Railway Post Offices (RPO's) were post offices established in rail cars to **sort mail as the rail car was traveling** along its route. The Railway mail service was established in 1869 and mail cars were attached to most passenger trains during the 1880 and 1890. The wrappers above, with RPO cancellations, were cancelled and sorted aboard a railway car while it was traveling the route.

Plymouth and Concord RPO

From Plymouth, NH to Concord, NH
Via Boston, Concord & Montreal R.R.
Reported 1873 to 1883
Shown here applied in 1890.



Lans and Hillsdale RPO

From Lansing to Hillsdale, MI
Via Lakeshore & Michigan
Southern R.R.
Reported 1883
Shown here applied in 1890.

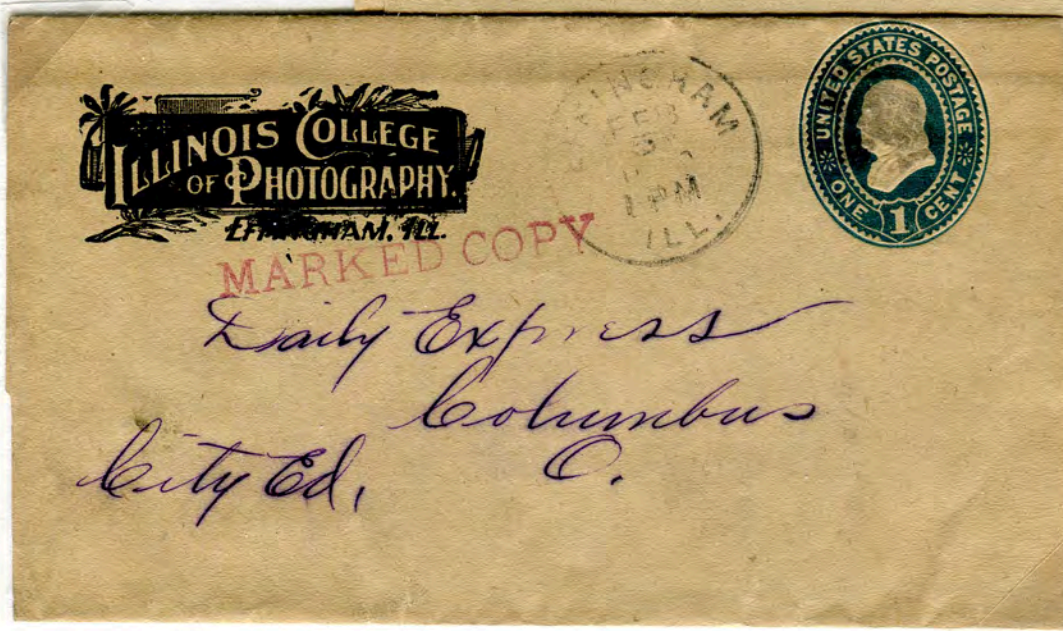
Dwight and Peoria RPO

From Dwight, IL to Peoria, IL
Via Chicago and Alton R.R.
Shown here applied in 1899.

This wrapper was forwarded within Germany as indicated by having the German handstamp in black "21 8 NACHZUSENDEN NACH" (August 21 to be forwarded on).



Items marked 'SAMPLE COPY' or 'MARKED COPY' could be mailed as second class transient mail at the more favorable rate of 1 cent per 4 oz rather than third class rate of one cent per 2 oz until 1925.




The red 'R' in a circle topped with a crown is a postman's mark in London, England, likely applied because of the forwarding.



Illustrated wrappers, while never common, occurred most frequently in the late 1800s. Some were text only and some were extremely ornate including engraved images.

THE BEST SHOE DRESSING IN THE WORLD.




THE BLACK DIAMOND
For Ladies & Childrens
Boots & Shoes
DRESSING
MADE BY
PARKER, HOLMES & CO.
BOSTON, MASS.

Harison L. Hart
Halifax




WANTED: MAN TO FILL \$5,000 POSITION.
See Advertisement, fourth page, enclosed Complimentary
Copy "THE INVESTOR'S GUIDE."

Empire Silk Works
469 Broome



New York City.

Please Hand to Man You can Recommend, If You are Not Interested.



I'M FROM THE
ANIDROSIS
Sanitarium
TO ALLEVIATE
Suffering Humanity
By Smothering the
Germs of Disease
By Compound Vapor Fumigation.
DR. S. F. CONANT,
Skowhegan, Me.
Humane Employment for 700,000
Men and Women.

*If not called for in Ten Days
give to some Rheumatic.*

The Compound Vapor Bath!

The True Guide to Health and Security to Wealth
All obstructive elements secreted to the defeat of nature promptly eliminated and disinfection assured, thus allowing Mother Nature to go on with her reconstructive work. A great boon for Rheumatics.

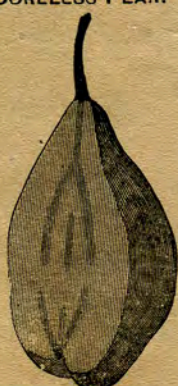


PLEASANT VALLEY NURSERIES

LINEE LN
CORELESS PEAR.


*If not called for in 5 days Postmaster please
hand to someone interested in Culture
of Small Fruits.*

J. S. COLLINS & SON,
Moorestown, Bur. Co., N. J.



All the New and Choice Sorts of Berries and Fruit Trees Specialties.

Henry Rittenhouse
Fairmount, Ind.



NO CORE!
NO SEEDS!
Trees free from blight

Many wrappers contained third class material (advertising) for which no forwarding was desired and the sender wanted the advertising material given to any interested party. These wrappers sometimes had statements like "If the addressee has moved leave at the house" or "if not called for please hand to some party who is buying Machinery" or "If not called for postmaster please hand to some prominent farmer."

POSTMASTER: If not called for please hand to some party who is buying Machinery, and oblige,

David N. Brown Machinery Co.,
1113 to 1121 N. Sixth St., ST. LOUIS, MO.



Ingersoll & Dull Co
Bellerive
Ill

PLEASE HAND TO YOUR ENGINEER

HARTFORD, CONN.
MAY 8 '96



J A Dubnar Mfg Co
NORTHVILLE MICH

A. Rush
185 Melrose St.
Chicago Ill



Instruction for Delivery.
If addressee has moved,
leave at the house.

Following 1866, except from 1879 to 1887, the transient rate (1¢ per 2 oz. until 1925) applied to forwarding of wrapper. However, third class mail would not be forwarded unless postage was guaranteed or arrangements made for payment by addressee.



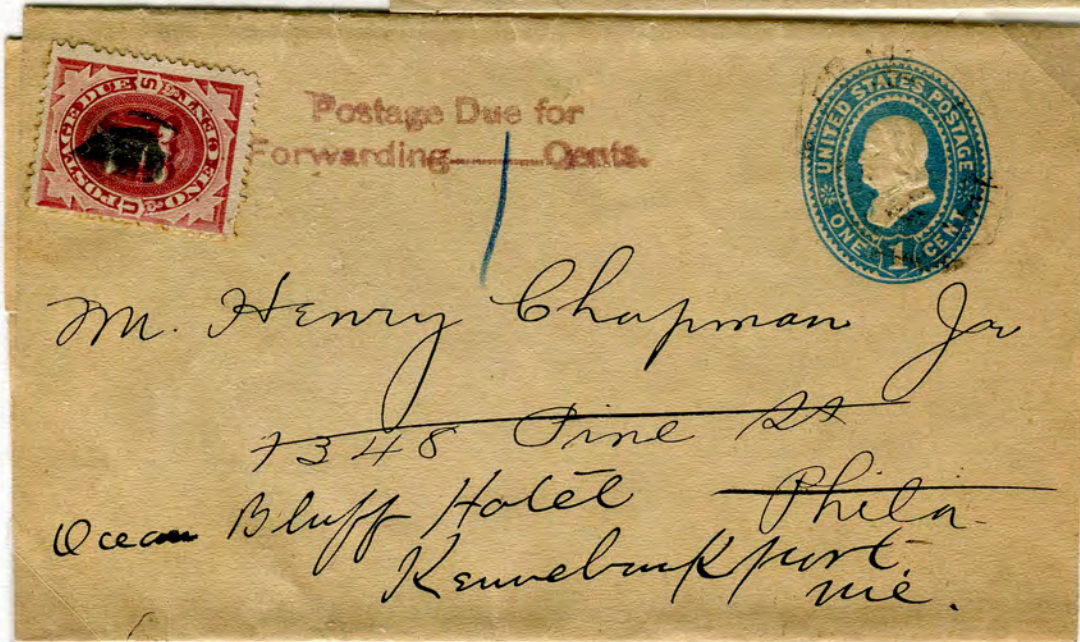
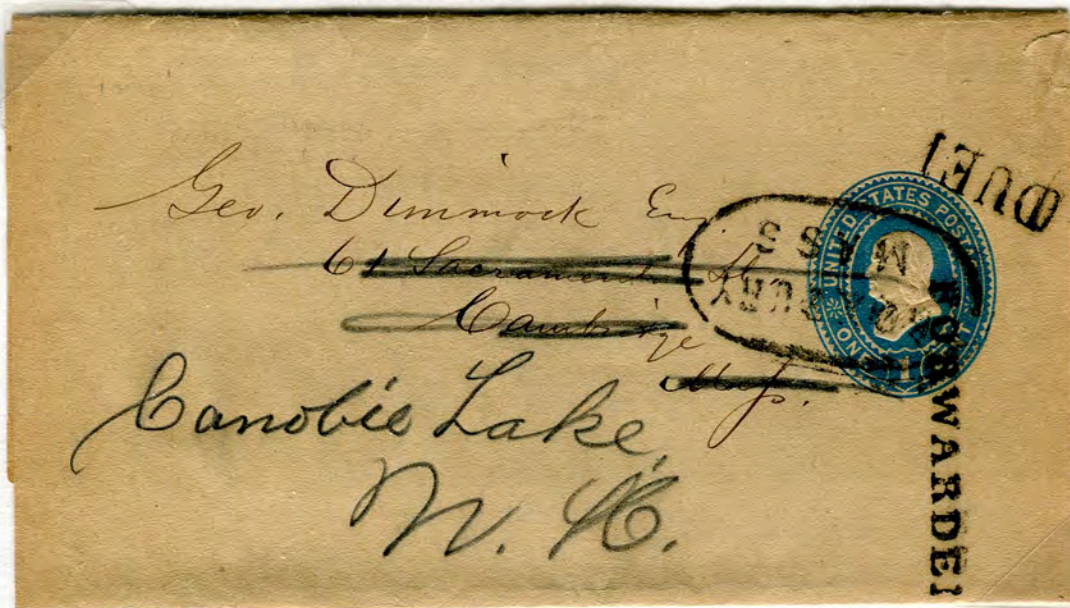
The wrapper at right specifies that return postage will be paid if it is not called for in 10 days.

This wrapper and contents were refused (in blue manuscript) by the addressee, stamped with pointed hand 'RETURNED TO WRITER' and charged return 1¢ postage due



Wrapper was sent from New York (per cancel on the wrapper stamp) to Chicago, Illinois in the 1890s. It was then forwarded to La Fargeville, New York. The 1¢ blue 1894 Franklin stamp was added and cancelled in Chicago for forwarding.

When forwarding was desired and no prior postage payment arrangements had been made, postage due was charged to the wrappers at the rate of transient mail.



The charge for forwarding wrappers only pertained to those forwarded between post offices. The top and bottom wrappers were redirected within a post office and not charged additional postage.

Local use within Philadelphia, PA where Post office corrected street address.

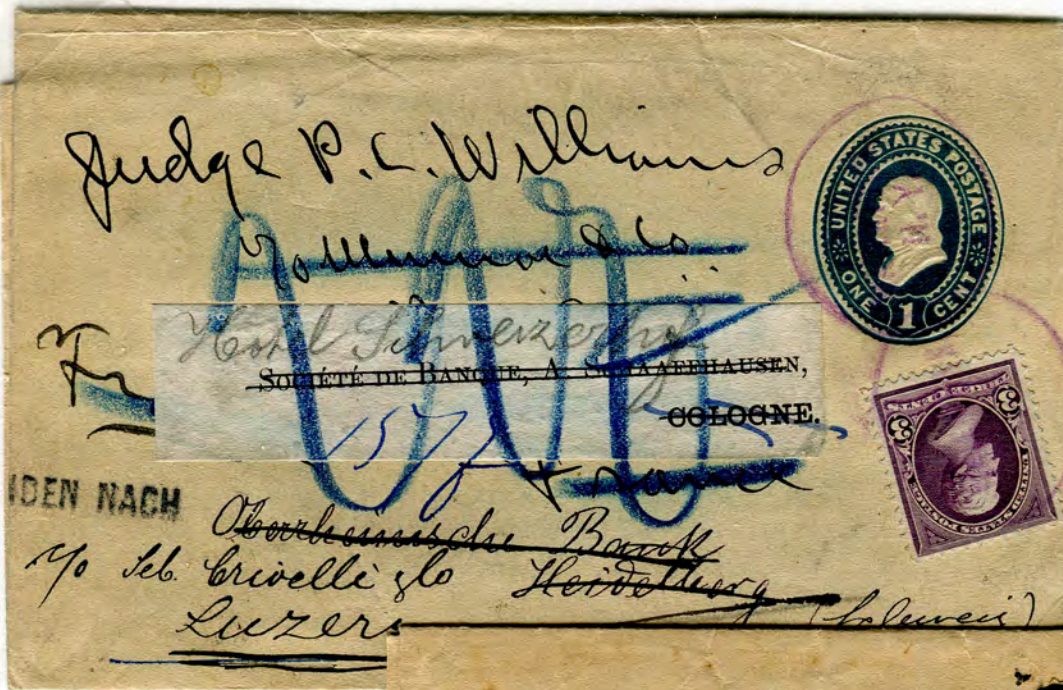


Sent from Chicago, IL to La Fargeville, NY this wrapper and contents were forwarded Richfield Springs, NY without additional postage evident. Apparently the Professor was traveling and staying with different individuals and possibly the first host (c/o) paid postage in cash for forwarding.



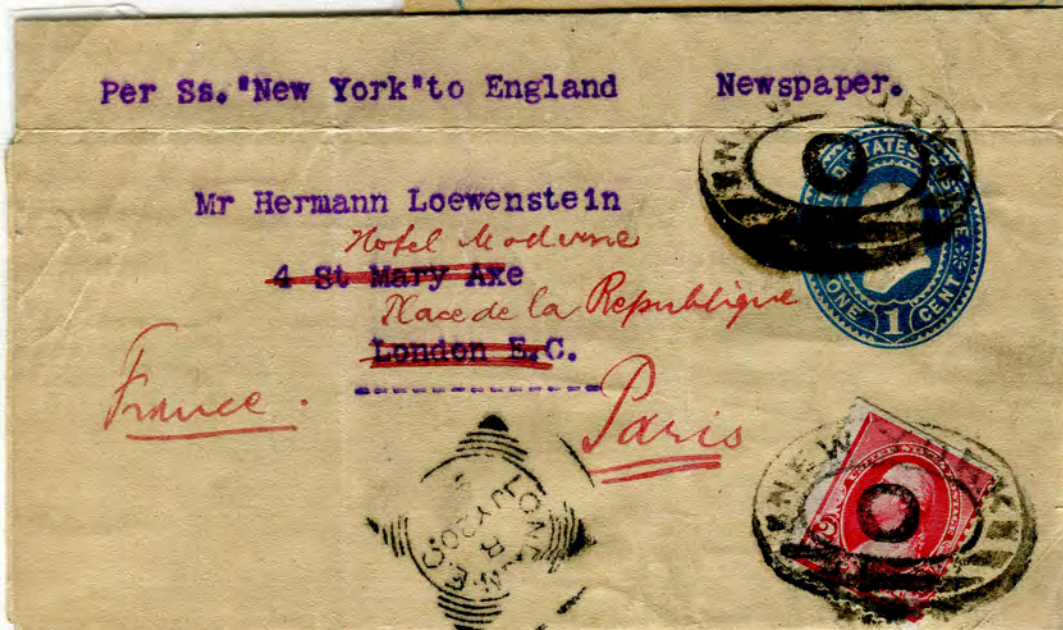
Sent to Somerville, MA, this wrapper had street address added by Post Office and unusual handstamp applied: "PLEASE INSTRUCT YOUR CORRESPONDENTS TO ADDRESS YOUR MAIL TO STREET ADDRESS AND NUMBER" on lower right.

The UPU treaty of 1875 directed that no additional postage was to be charged for redirection of posted items within the Universal Postal Union. As indicated by the wrappers above, UPU members redirected third class mail within country and to different countries with no additional charge.



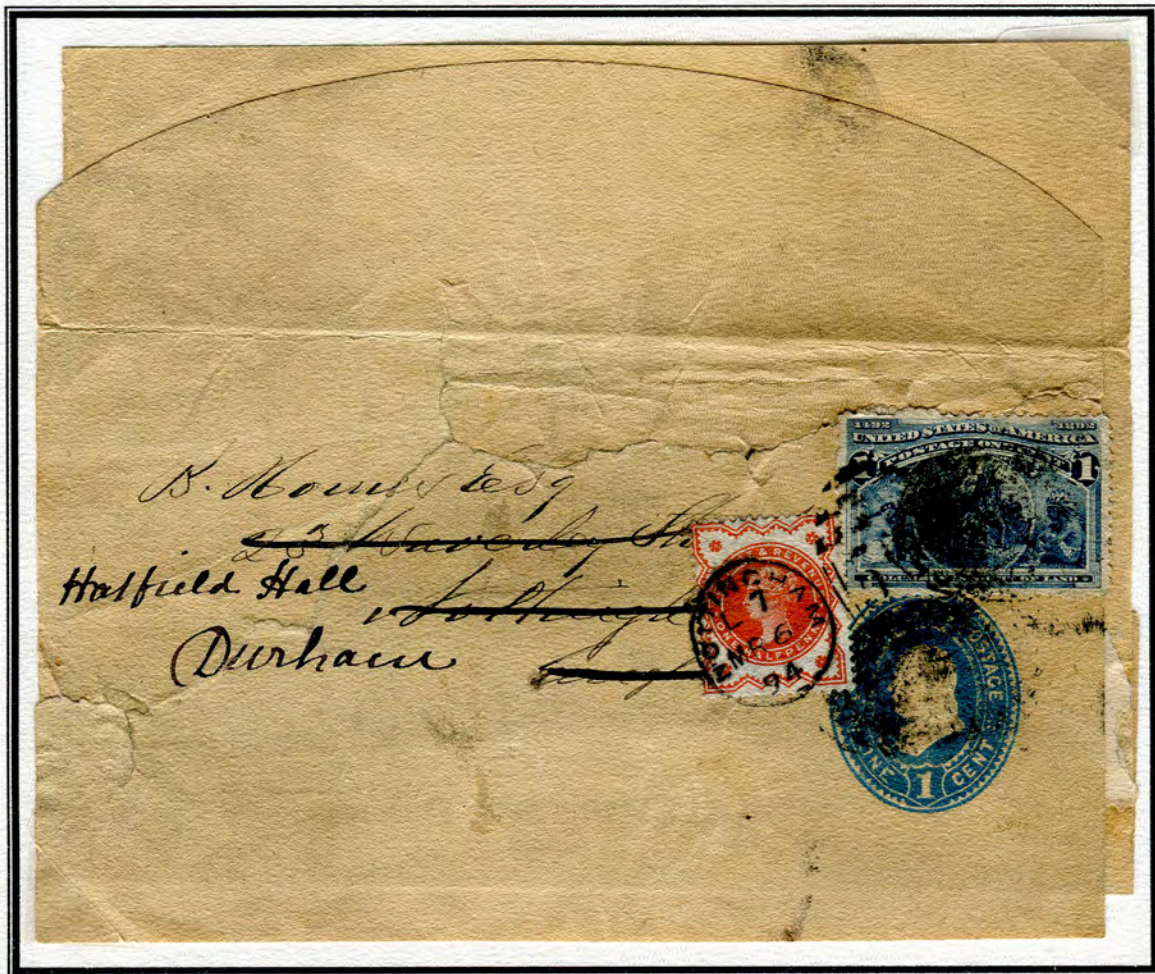
Wrapper with 3¢ stamp added for correct rate of 1¢ per 2 oz. up to 8 oz. Sent to Paris, France and forwarded three times: to Cologne, Germany, to Heidelberg, Germany and to Luzern, Switzerland. Partial 'NACHZUSENDEN NACH' handstamp (send after or forward). Munroe & Co Paris 7 Rue Scribe forwarder oval hand-stamp on reverse.

Sent to Buenos Aires, Argentina and forwarded to Rosario, Argentina (through Santa Fe, Argentina). Note the circular 'AUSENTE' (absent) hand stamps.



Sent to London, England and forwarded to Paris, France. With London boxed cancel.

This most unusual wrapper was sent to Nothleigh, England. It must have been removed from the mails. A **British one half penny stamp was added** (for internal rate of 3rd class postage). Since there is no indication of postage due, the British stamp must have been added because the forwarder though postage was needed to forward the wrapper to Durham, England.

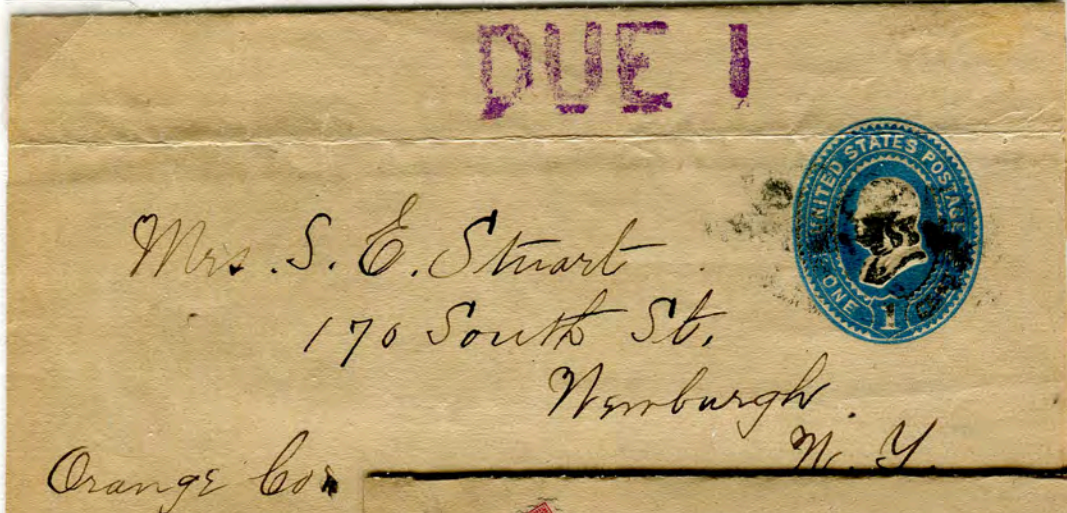


This wrapper was sent to the **Dead Letter Office**. Since second and third class mail was not sent to the Dead Letter Office, it is reasonable to assume that there was something special about the contents of this wrapper, **likely because it had writing and treated at first class mail**. The wrapper is stamped 'DUE 1' and 'HELD FOR POSTAGE.' The Dead Letter Office attached the **label with manuscript 'H3717' and 'Vol 19'** to indicate location of the item within the Dead Letter Office when the sender or addressee responded.

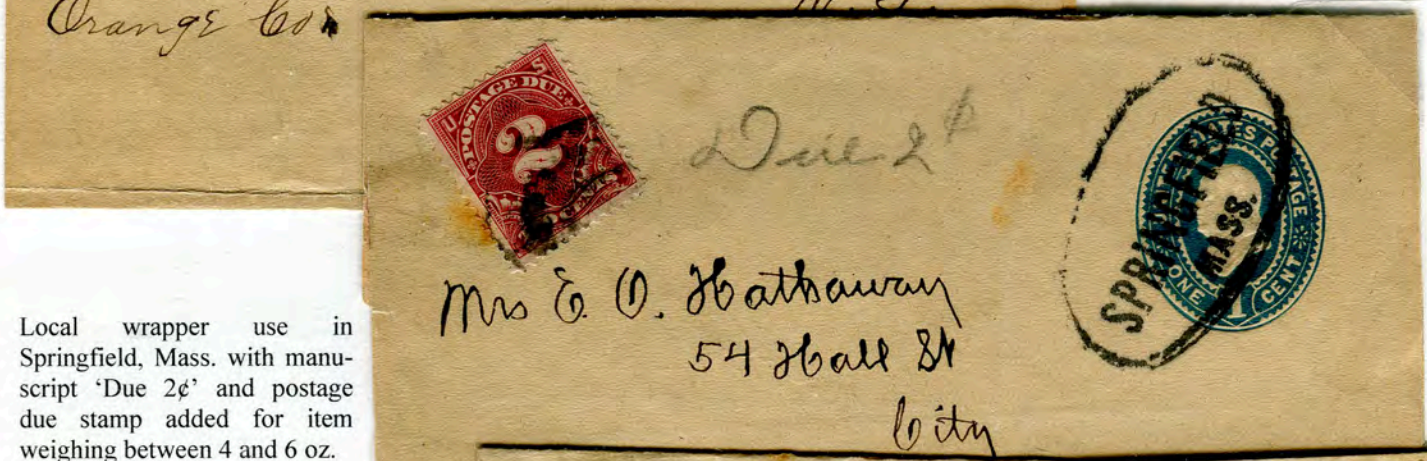


Only reported wrapper with Dead Letter Office markings.

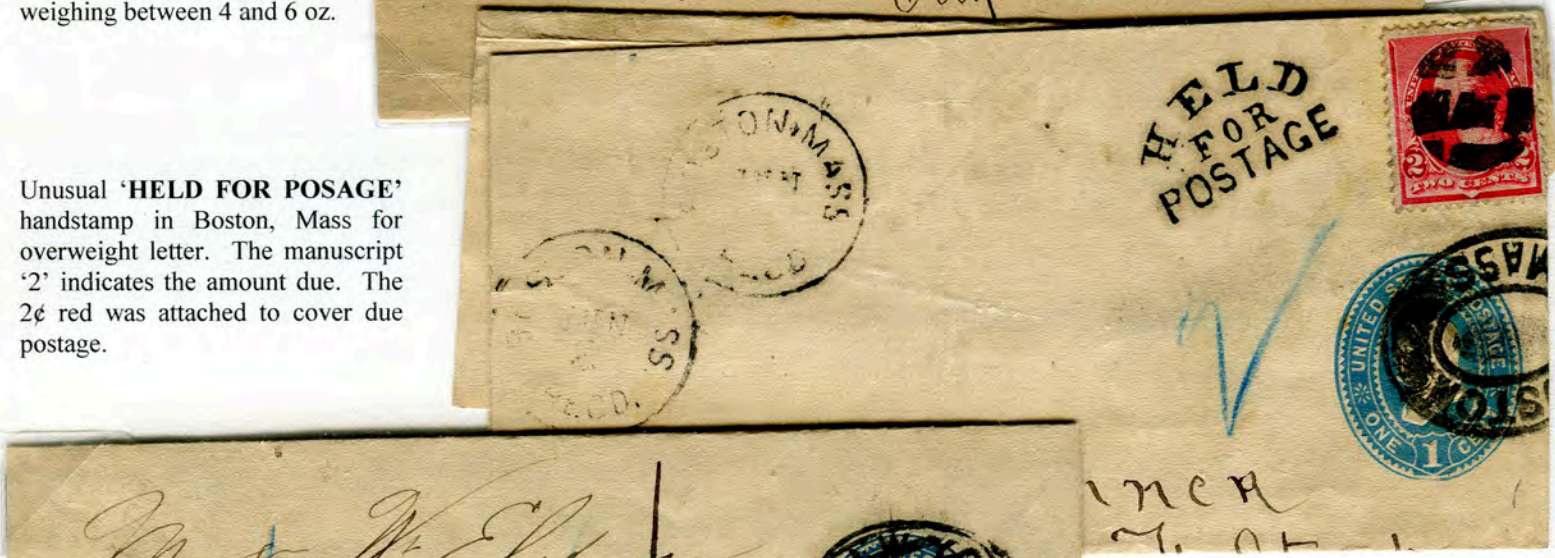
Postage due was charged when wrappers and contents were found to be overweight at the rate of 1¢ per 2 oz.



Wrapper sent to Newburg, Orange Co., New York with a purple 'DUE 1' handstamp to indicate that the wrapper and contents were over weight and 1¢ was owed.



Local wrapper use in Springfield, Mass. with manuscript 'Due 2¢' and postage due stamp added for item weighing between 4 and 6 oz.



Unusual 'HELD FOR POSAGE' handstamp in Boston, Mass for overweight letter. The manuscript '2' indicates the amount due. The 2¢ red was attached to cover due postage.

Sent to Brussels and found to be over weight so marked with 'T' in circle in New York and blue manuscript '5' (5 centimes equaled one cent).

Internationally mailed wrappers with postage due that received markings other than the 'T' in a circle and manuscript amount due or with postage due stamps are extremely uncommon.

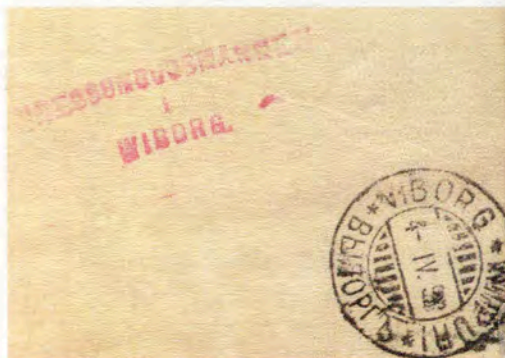


The curved staff to left of indicia and boxed 'More to pay / above 2 oz / 466' are London Foreign Branch rate handstamps for the amount due to the UK addressee and are very unusual on wrappers.



This wrapper to Switzerland was overweight and charged 40 centimes (8¢) which was doubled to 80 centimes postage (blue manuscript '80'). Swiss postage due stamps were added for amount due.

Civil censorship occurred during the attempted Russification of Finland by Imperial Russia from 1898 until World War I. Wiborg was part of Finland (under Russian sovereignty) per treaty of 1812 and then ceded back to Russia in 1947 and is now called Vyborg, Russia. These wrappers were sent to Wiborg, Finland (at this time, later a part of Sweden) for censoring, as indicated by receiving stamps where they received the red censor marking "PRESSOMBUDSMAN I WIBORG" before being sent on to their address within Finland.



“TOO LATE” handstamps were used in New York to indicate that the item had arrived too late for the intended ship and was sent on another ship.



The above wrapper was sent from New York to Calcutta, East India in 1896. It was directed to be sent per “Steamer New York” but arrived too late for dispatch on the intended ship and received the “TOO LATE” handstamp to indicate dispatch on another ship. The wrapper was rated postage due in New York as indicated by the black “T” in circle with “NY” above it. The back receiving stamp for Calcutta, India is pictured. The wrapper also has a circular handstamp ‘OVERLAND POSTAGE DUE 1’ which was applied in Calcutta to indicate overland transport of the item rather than transit by coastal steamer.



Wrapper receiving a handstamp at destination indicating **loss of contents** while in transit.



Sent from Chicago to London during June, 1889. In London it received a circular N.P.B. (News Paper Box) hand-stamp with date. Wrapper was also hand-stamped in London “Found in N.P.B without contents.”

Though less common than in earlier periods, wrappers were sometimes reused due to scarcity of paper, either by re-addressing the front or by turning the cover and using the other side.



This wrapper was used locally, the address was crossed out, and then readdressed and sent to Germany with 4 cents added postage.



The above wrapper was used to Jeffersonville, Ind with 2 cents postage added for triple rate. The wrapper was turned over, a 1 cent stamp was added and the wrapper reused to send an item to Germany as shown in the image to left (reduced size).



Wrappers sent with contents that had value, either intrinsically or because of the information contained, on rare occasions were **registered**. **Registry labels** were issued to comply with the 1882 Universal Postal Union resolution requiring international registered mail matter to have a label or impression of a stamp with a capital letter 'R' in Roman text. The U.S. Post Office chose to use gummed labels which were in use between January 1, 1883 and January 24, 1911 **only by post offices authorized** to handle inbound and outbound foreign registered mail and are exceedingly scarce on wrappers.



This registered wrapper was sent when the registry rate was 10 cents (from July 1, 1875 to Jan 1, 1893) to Batavia, Java using a 10 cents Columbian stamp to pay the registry fee. The wrapper has a New York registry label.

Airmail services only occurred towards the end of postal stationery wrapper use and, since 2nd and 3rd classes of mail were generally not deemed urgent, was not normally used for mail in wrappers.



One of two reported, both in exhibit.

Airmail use of wrapper with 5¢ Roosevelt stamp added to make up six cent rate. The wrapper is a late use and likely philatelic but is one of only two reported wrappers sent by airmail.

Wrappers sent special delivery are scarce.



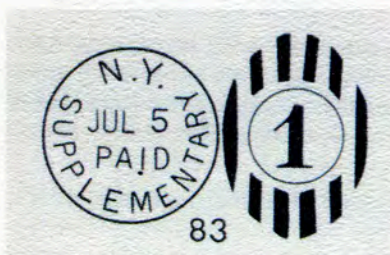
Wrapper sent from Madison, WI to an address in Madison, WI on May 15, 190? The sender apparently wanted **delivery the same day**. This is the entire wrapper (it was shortened before use) because the upper and lower cut ends match and split the receiving cancel.

Two of 4 reported wrappers sent special delivery.



Special delivery wrapper was sent from Malvern, PA to Philadelphia, PA (about 20 miles). Philadelphia receiving stamps on Sept 13 and 16, 1899 indicate that the special delivery may not have expedited delivery of the item much.

Supplemental mail was a special mail rate in a few port cities, established in July, 1853, allowing late mail being sent internationally to be posted with the outgoing mail after the post office had closed. At certain times this mail was collected at a general post office and sent to the ship and at other times mail was **accepted at the dock** immediately before being put on the ship. A **double regular rate** was charged to get the mail aboard ship after the regular mail closing and before sailing time. Postage could be paid in cash or postage.



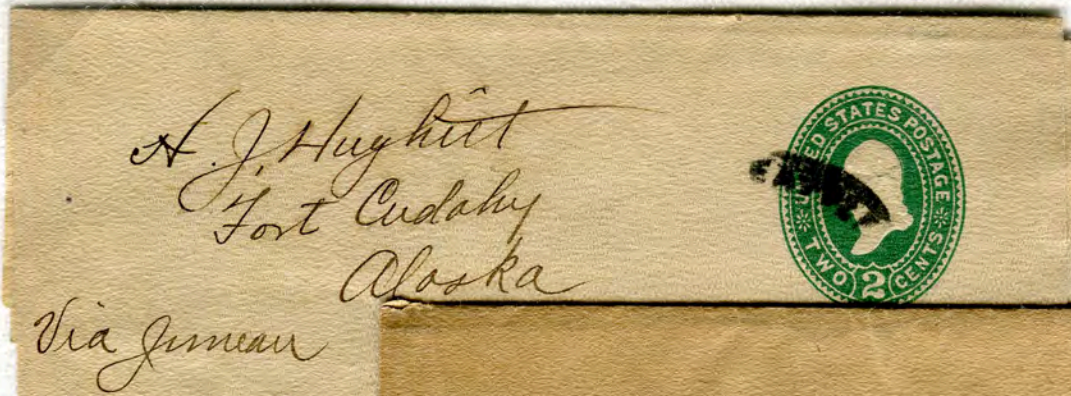
New York Type F supplemental mail marking



This wrapper to Curacao, West Indies was posted as supplemental mail in New York on May 21, 1898 as indicated by the supplemental mail cancel over the indicia and added 1¢ stamp. The supplemental mail marking is Type F used from 1878 to 1898 at the New York General Post Office. It is the **only reported** Postal Stationery wrapper for which the **extra supplemental mail charge** was paid as indicated by the handstamp.

Only reported wrapper with supplemental mail marking.

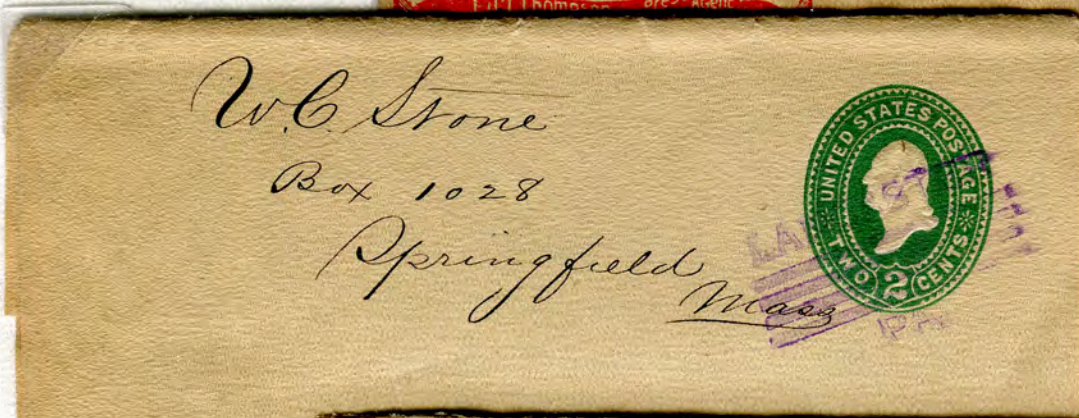
A new design of the two cents wrapper for double rates was issued in green with the new contract in 1886.



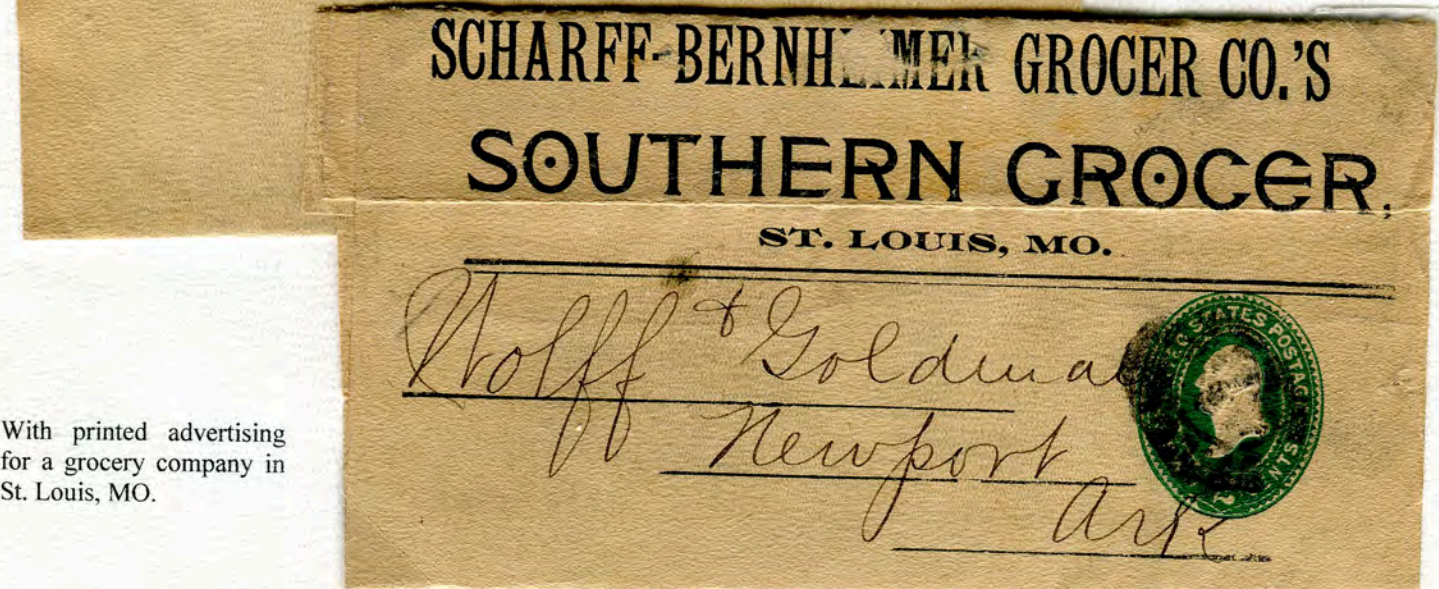
Use from Seattle to Fort Cudahy in the territory of Alaska "Via Juneau."



With ornate advertising for the Brockton Fair in Plymouth County, MA.



With unusual purple straight line "Lancaster, PA" cancel.



With printed advertising for a grocery company in St. Louis, MO.

This wrapper was sent to Kharkoff, Russia with both English and Cyrillic address. It likely went by ship to Odessa in the Ukraine for censoring where it received transit markings and the D.Ts Odessa Censor hand-stamp (to left of stamp) that was applied to foreign newspapers and other printed matter.

This wrapper is on scarce wove paper without watermark.

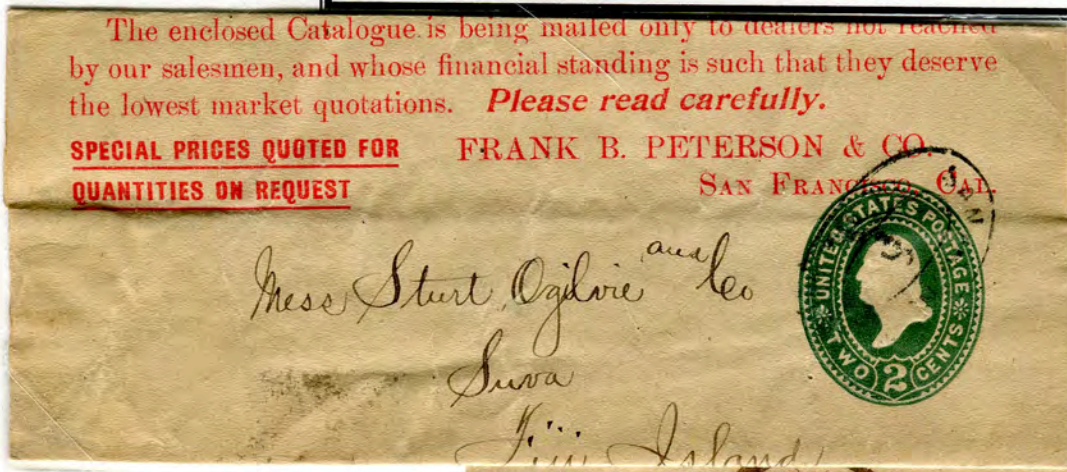


The enclosed Catalogue is being mailed only to dealers not reached by our salesmen, and whose financial standing is such that they deserve the lowest market quotations. **Please read carefully.**

SPECIAL PRICES QUOTED FOR QUANTITIES ON REQUEST

FRANK B. PETERSON & CO. SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

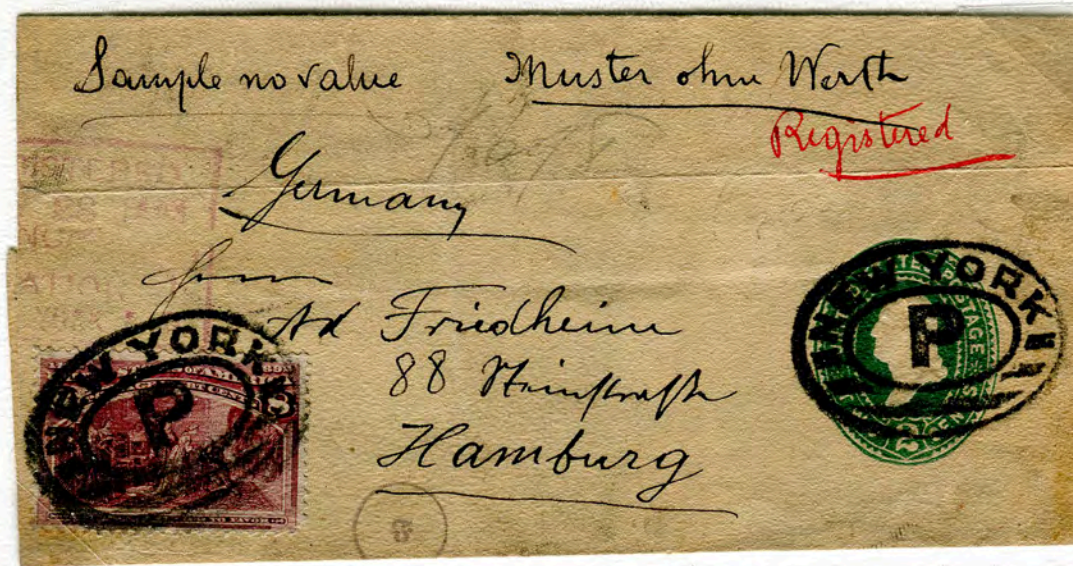
Wrapper with advertising sent to Suva in the Fiji Islands.



Wrapper sent from Michigan to Tokyo, Japan. The wrapper has an unusual Aarwood, Kalkaska Co, Michigan circular dated cancel of Nov 20, 1894 and Japanese receiving cancels in brown with manuscript Japanese address.

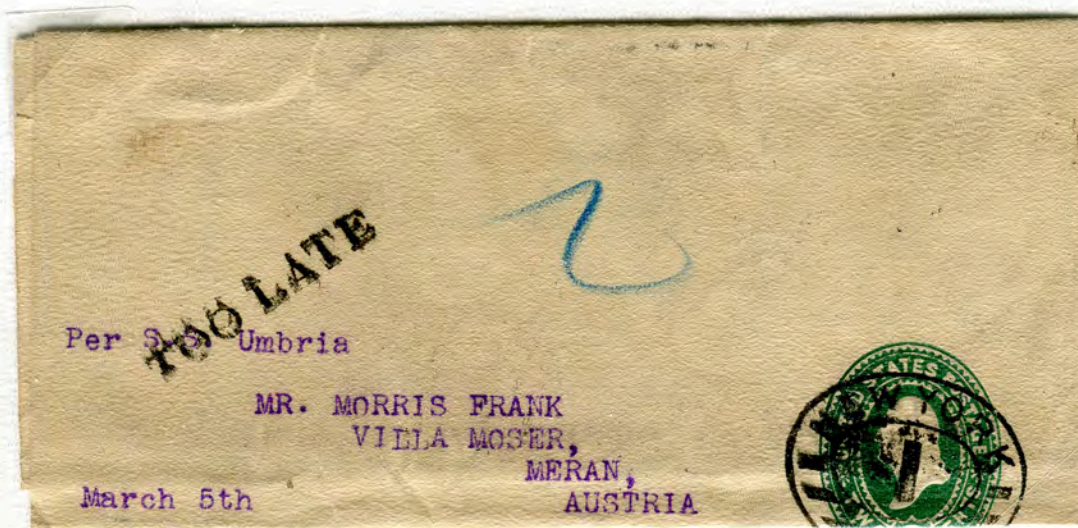


Registered wrappers to foreign countries are extremely scarce.



This wrapper was sent registered to Hamburg, Germany as indicated by the manuscript “Registered” in the upper right corner. There is a portion of a red “Registered” square handstamp on the left side (the rest of the handstamp likely struck the contents of the wrapper). Oval registry handstamps on the back indicate that the wrapper was mailed July 28, 1893 from New York and arrived in Berlin on August 7, 1893.

‘TOO LATE’ Auxiliary Marking.



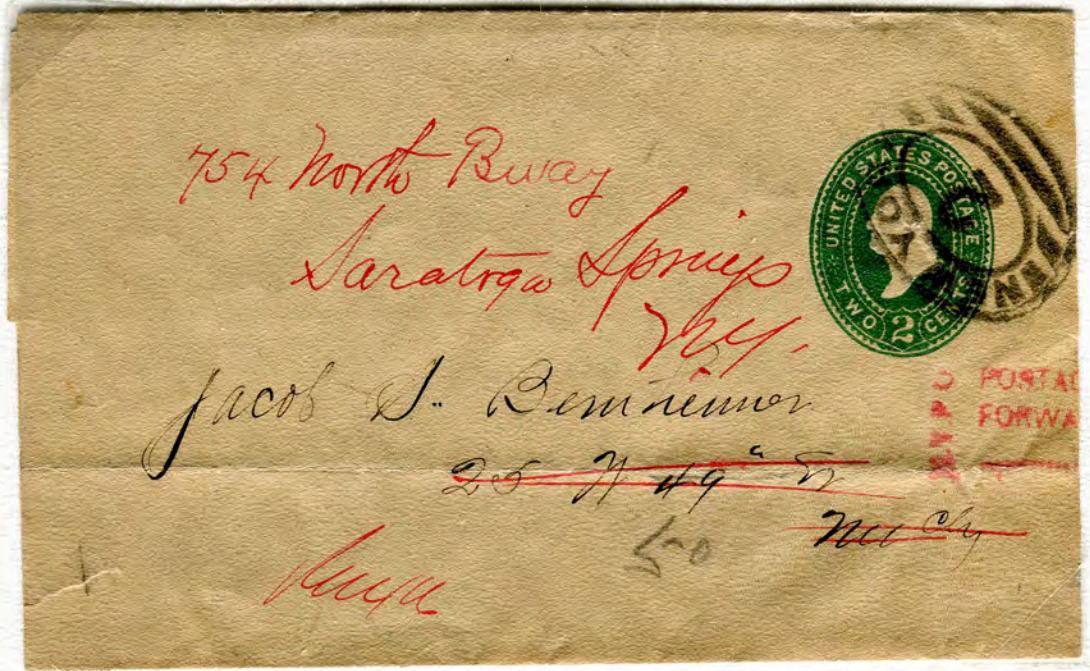
The wrapper was directed “Per Str Umbria” but was delivered too late to be put on board the requested ship. The wrapper received the “TOO LATE” handstamp in New York and was sent on another ship. This wrapper was sent to Meran, Austria and arrived on March 20, 1897 per handstamp on back (pictured at right). The city is now Merano in the Trentino-Alto Adige region (also known as South Tyrol) in northeastern Italy. The region was Austrian until 1918 and became a part of Italy after World War I.



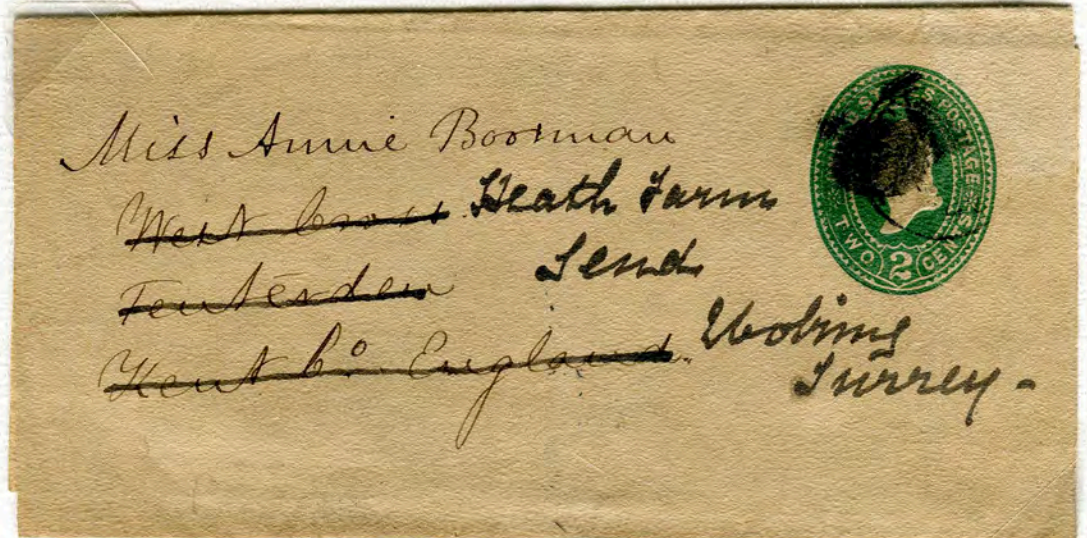
Forwarding Agents were commonly used to forward mail to Americans traveling abroad. This wrapper was sent to Mr. James Brown of Brown, Shipley and Co., in England, who were well known **forwarding agents**. They forwarded the wrapper to **Gaze and Sons in Cairo**, who were also **forwarding agents**. Gaze and Sons received the wrapper, applied the purple oval handstamp, and company forwarded the wrapper and contents to **Mr. Vickers in Naples, Italy**, also a **forwarding agent**, who presumably delivered it to Mr. James Brown. All this forwarding between countries occurred with no postage due as per UPU agreement.



Additional postage was required for forwarding wrappers within the U.S after 1887. The handstamp below the stamp (printed partially on the contents) reads "NYPO Postage Due for Forwarding ___ Cents"



International mail was forwarded at no charge per the UPU of 1875 as on the wrapper below forwarded from Kent Co to Surrey, England.



This individual could not be located in spite of forwarding twice within Buenos Aires, Argentina and then the wrapper received the handstamp "Devuelto de impresos" (return to sender/printed matter).

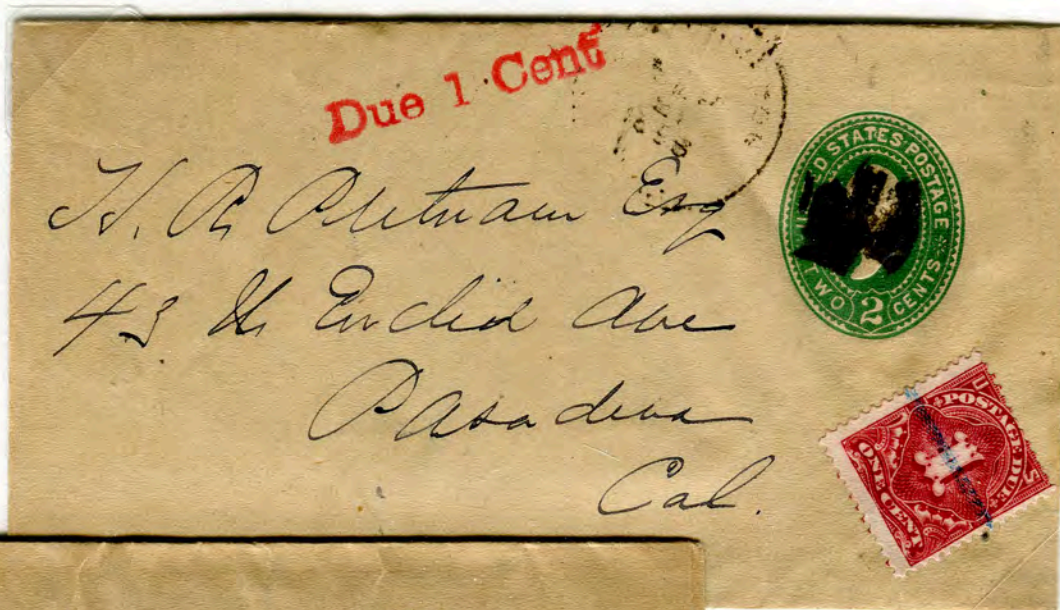
Postage due was assessed wrappers as additional postage was required for being overweight.



The 1¢ Franklin stamp was applied over a handstamp "Short Paid. D.S. Postage Due 1 Cts" On the back is an oval handstamp "Dead Section St. Louis Mo P O" with date and a manuscript "Trade Mag." The item was probably mailed as second class but considered to be third class at the higher rate.



Dead Section Handstamp



This wrapper was likely found to be overweight at the delivery office and received the red handstamp. The 1¢ Postage due stamp was added to ensure collection from the recipient

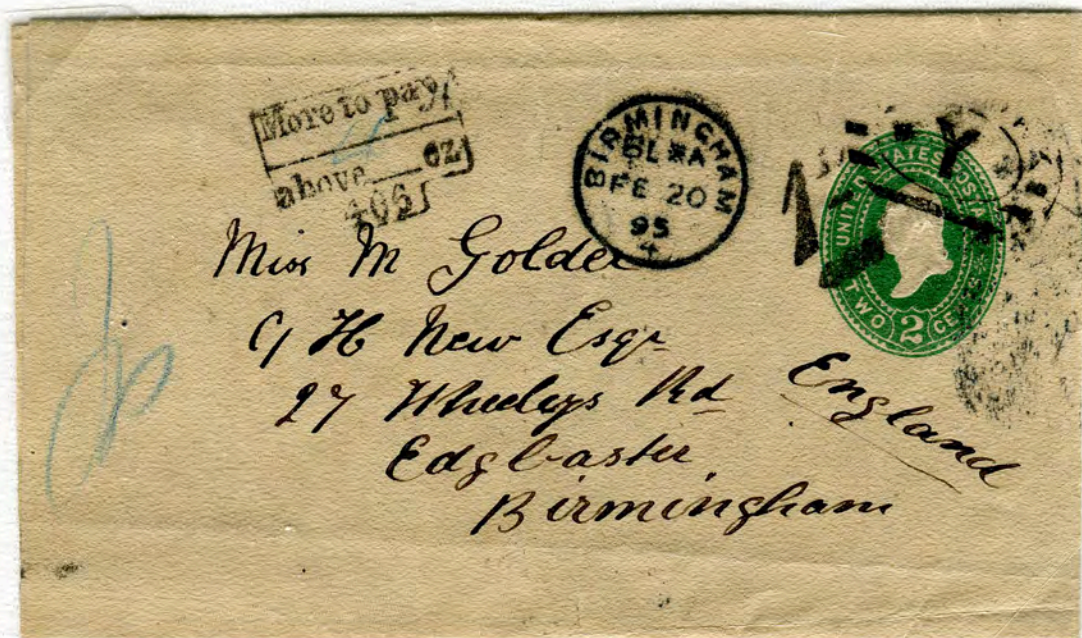


This wrapper was noted as being deficient in postage in the NY Foreign Mail Office and received "T" in a circle and blue deficiency marking most commonly used for postage due on inter-national mail. Note that both were first marked 5 (centimes or 1 cent) postage due and that was crossed out and raised to 10 (centimes).

Some countries applied additional marking for postage due on arrival in that country.



To Halifax Yorkshire, England the wrapper and contents weighed over 2 oz and was stamped with the curved staff of the London Foreign Branch indicating postage due and 'More to Pay/Above 2 oz/ 466' with blue manuscript '1 d'. The wrapper also has a star cancel applied at the site of mailing.

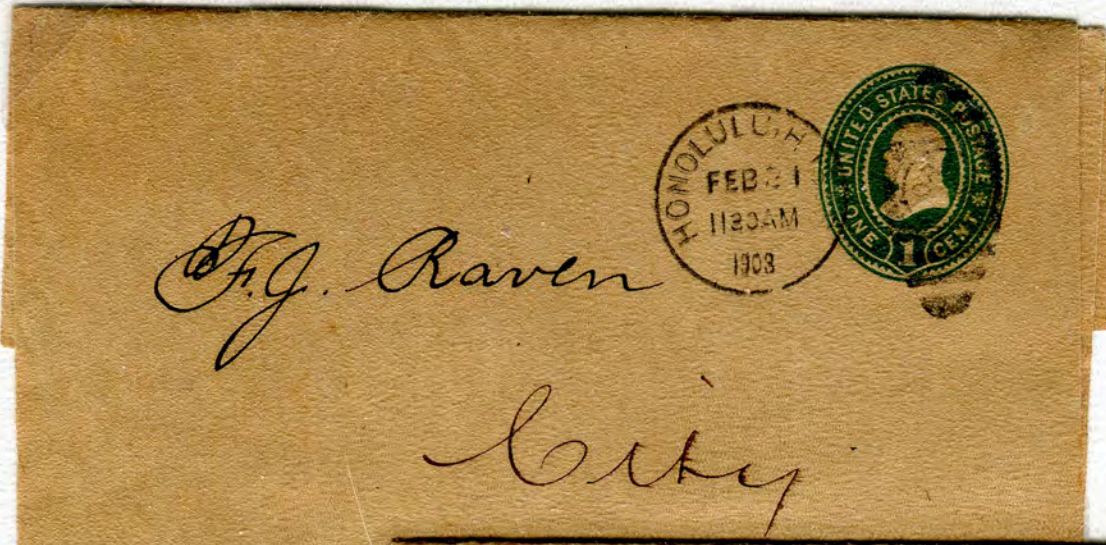


A wrapper to Birmingham, England that was over 4 oz and stamped 'More to Pay/Above 4 oz/ 466.' The blue manuscript '1 p' and black hand-stamp both indicate the amount due.

The Plimpton and Morgan Issue of 1899 to 1903

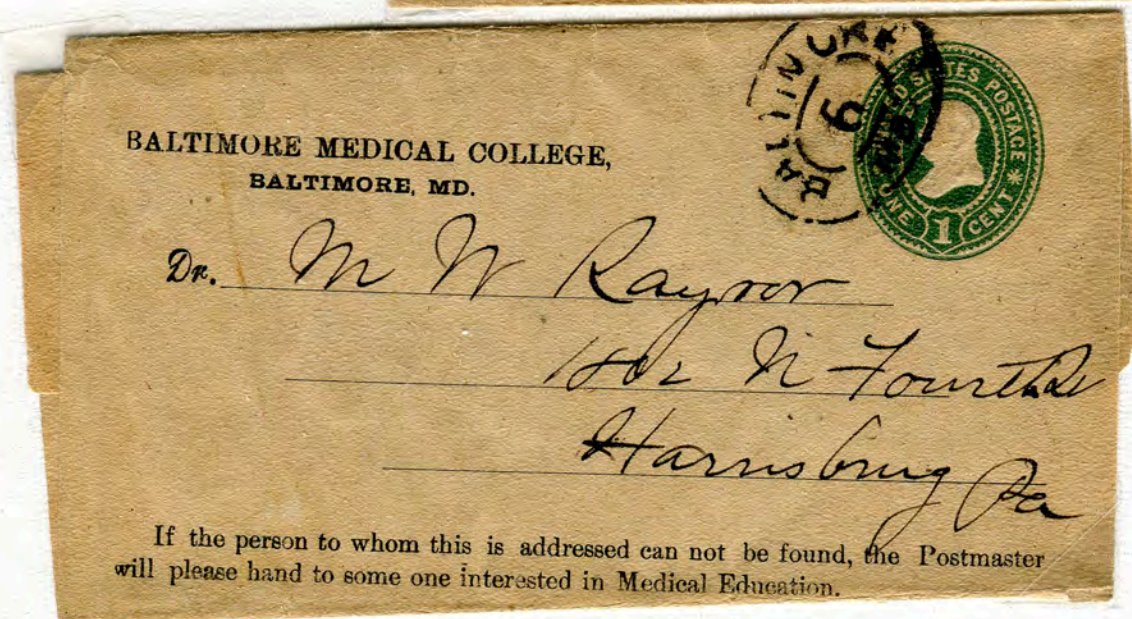
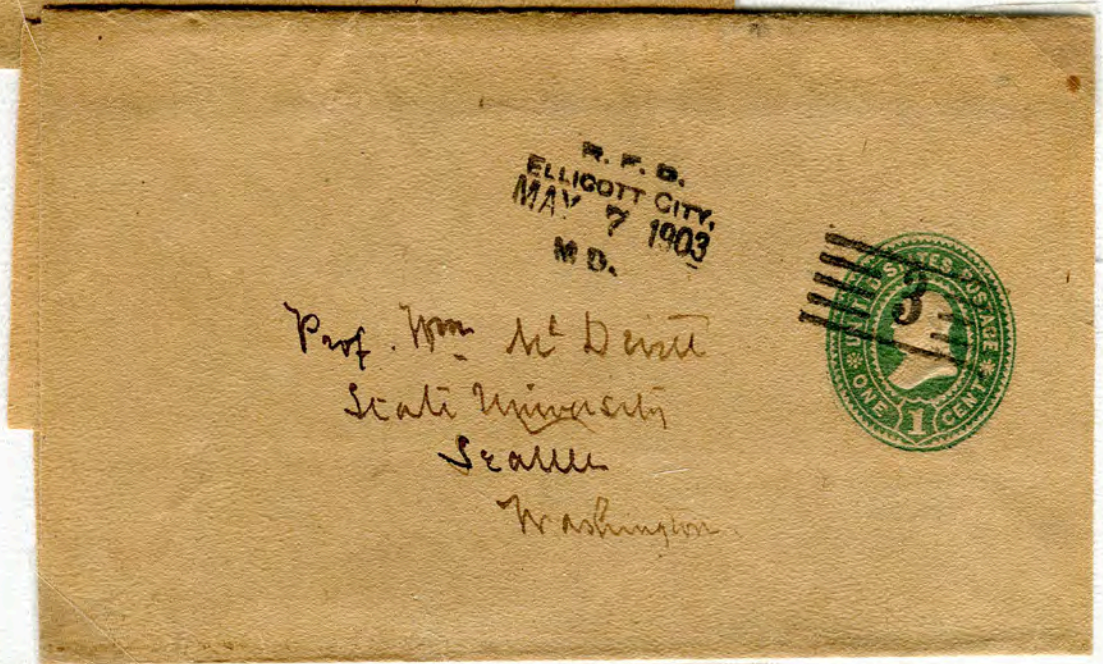
Domestic Use

Stamp designs were changed slightly and stamp colors were changed from blue to green for the one cent with the 1899 contract.

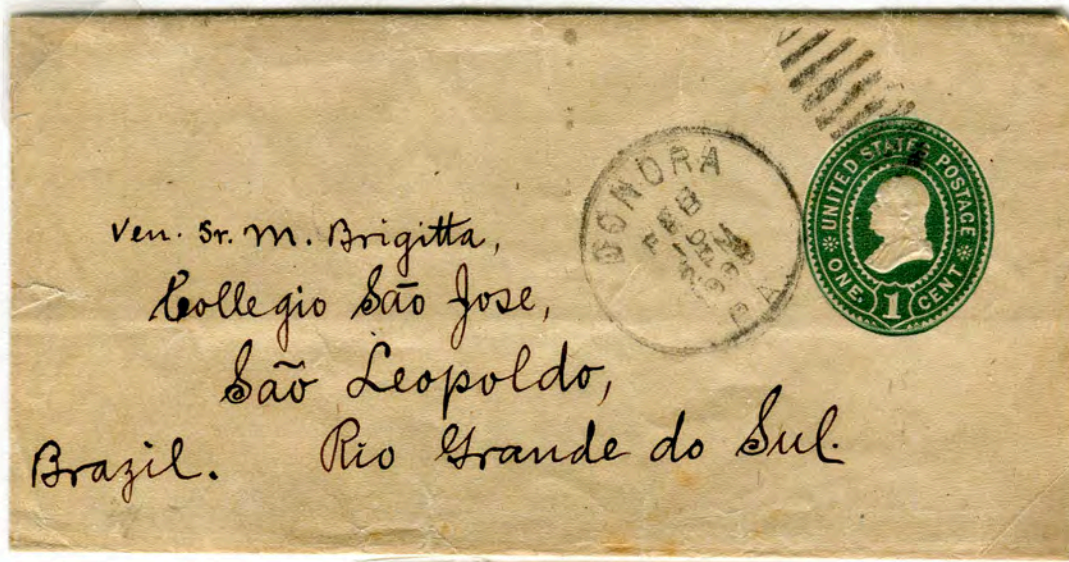


Used locally in Honolulu, Hawaii Feb 3, 1903.

With Ellicott City, MD Rural Free Delivery (RFD) cancel. RFD became official service in 1896 and Ellicott City started service on Jan 1, 1898.



With Baltimore Medical College corner card and request to "hand to some one interested in Medical Education."



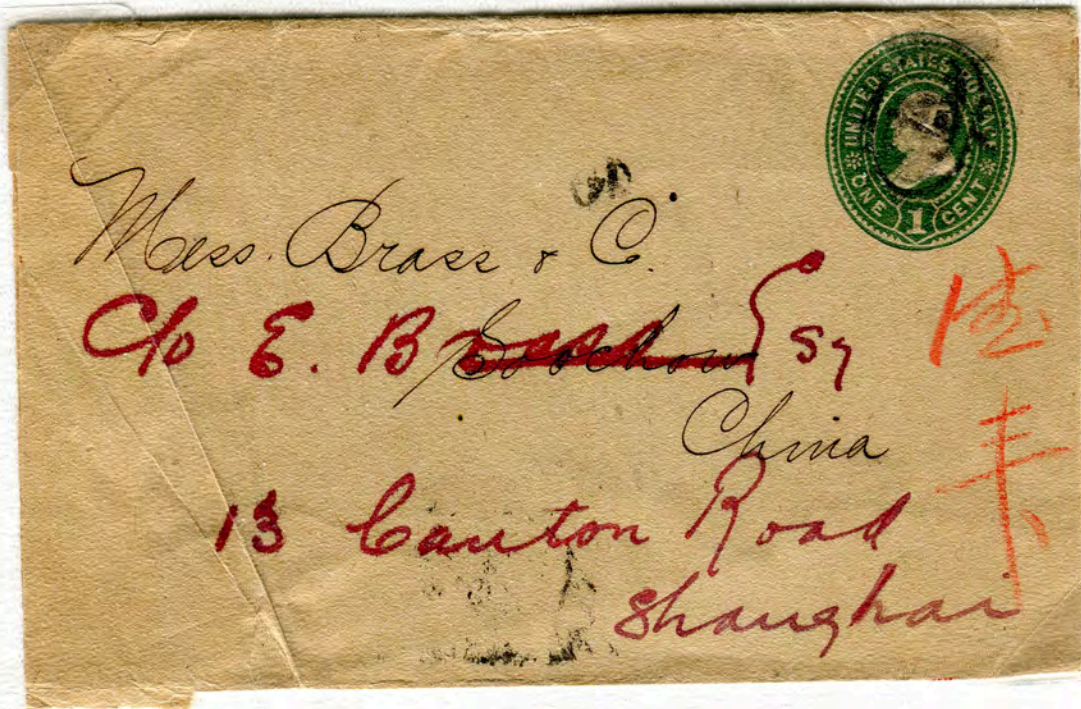
This wrapper to Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil has a nice circular cancel with date.

This uprated wrapper is to a French missionary in Manyamba, Cameroon, then German West Africa.



Territorial use from Octave, Arizona to Scotland in 1902. One of 7 known copies of the Octave cancel and the only one on wrapper. Octave is now a DPO and ghost town.

These wrappers, sent to foreign countries, were redirected with unusual markings.



Backstamps

This wrapper was sent to Soochow and forwarded to Shanghai. It has a Shanghai local post handstamp on back as shown above.



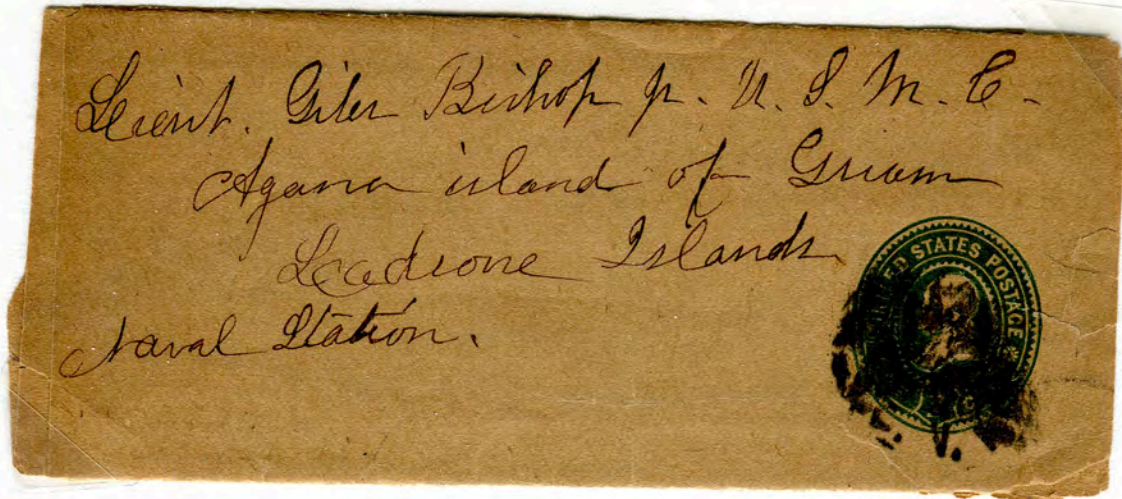
Backstamps

Sent from Boston, MA and addressed to Geneva, Switzerland, this wrapper was **missent** to St. Petersburg, Russia then returned to Geneva, where it received an address correction and was forwarded to Berne, Switzerland. The manuscript (in French) '*mal dirigé*' meaning 'missent' or 'misdirected' was applied.

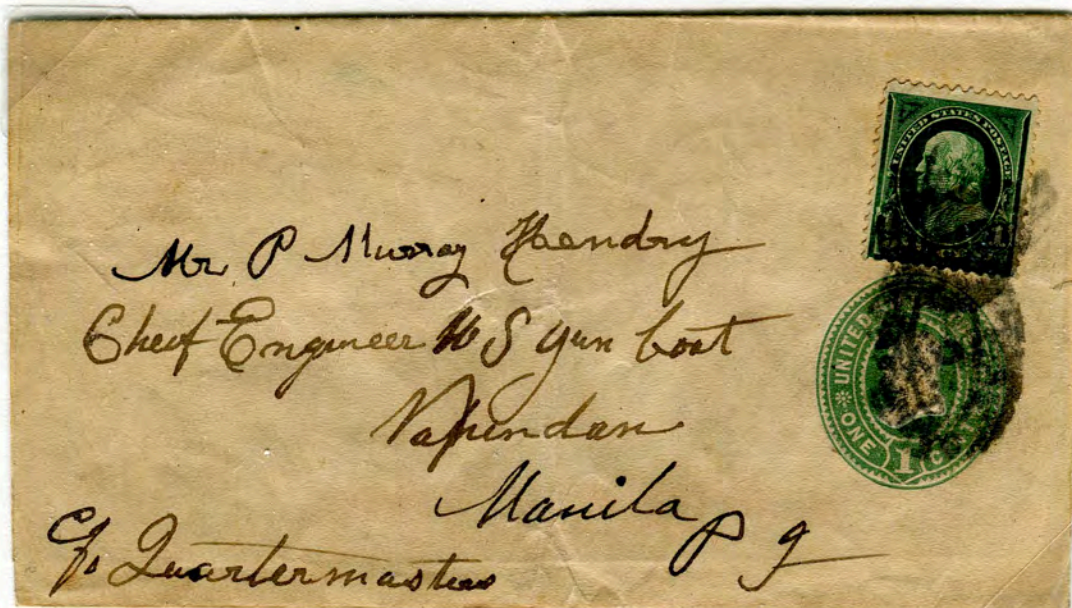
The Plimpton and Morgan Issue of 1899 to 1903

Use to military in Pacific

These wrappers were sent to U.S. military in the Far East during the 19th century and are technically internal U.S. usages.

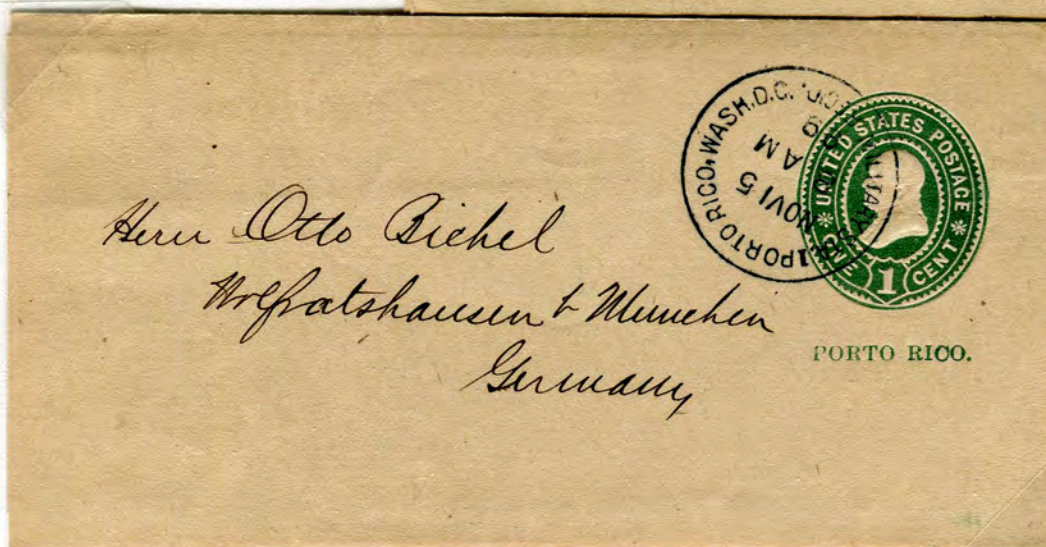
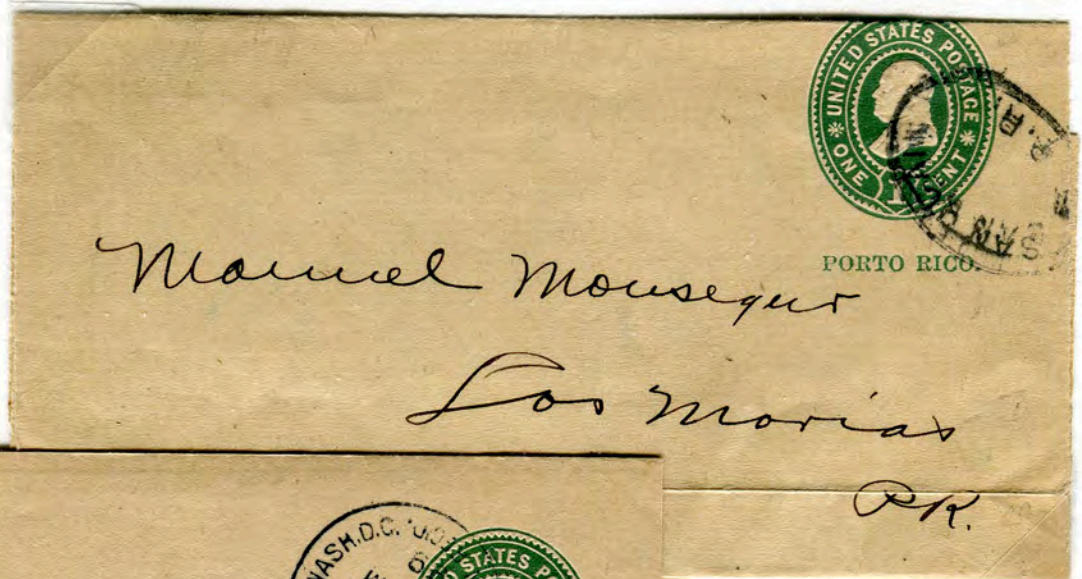


Sent to a Bishop of the US Marine Corps at the Naval Station at Agana Island of Guam at Leadone Islands. Agana was and is the capital (now called Hagåtña) of islands now collectively called Guam.



Wrapper sent to a chief engineer stationed on a gun boat at Manila in the Philippine Islands.

Local use of overprinted wrapper within Puerto Rico.



Use from Military Sta. 1, Puerto Rico to Munich, Germany.

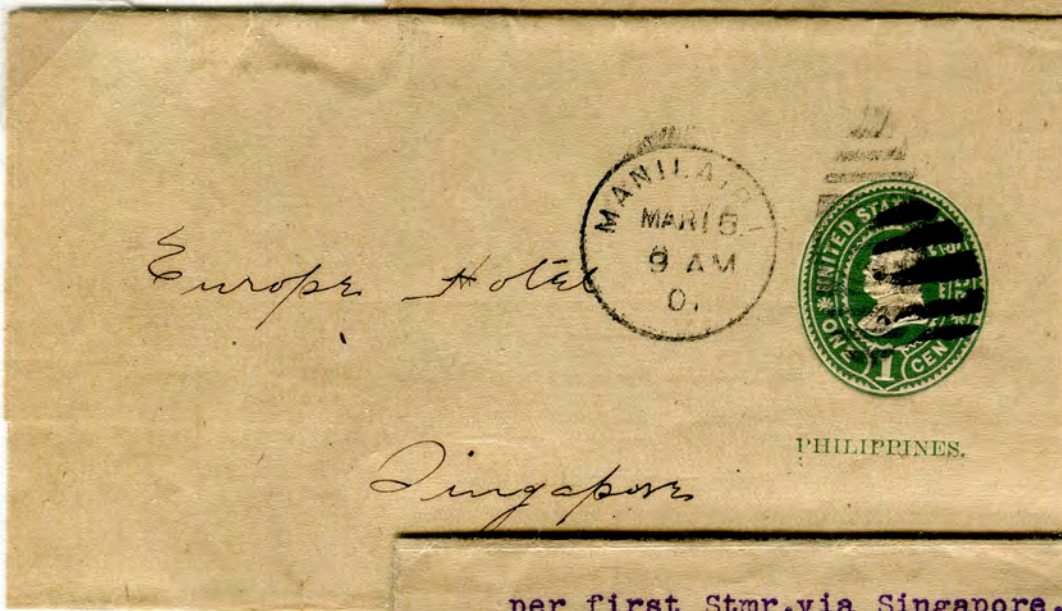
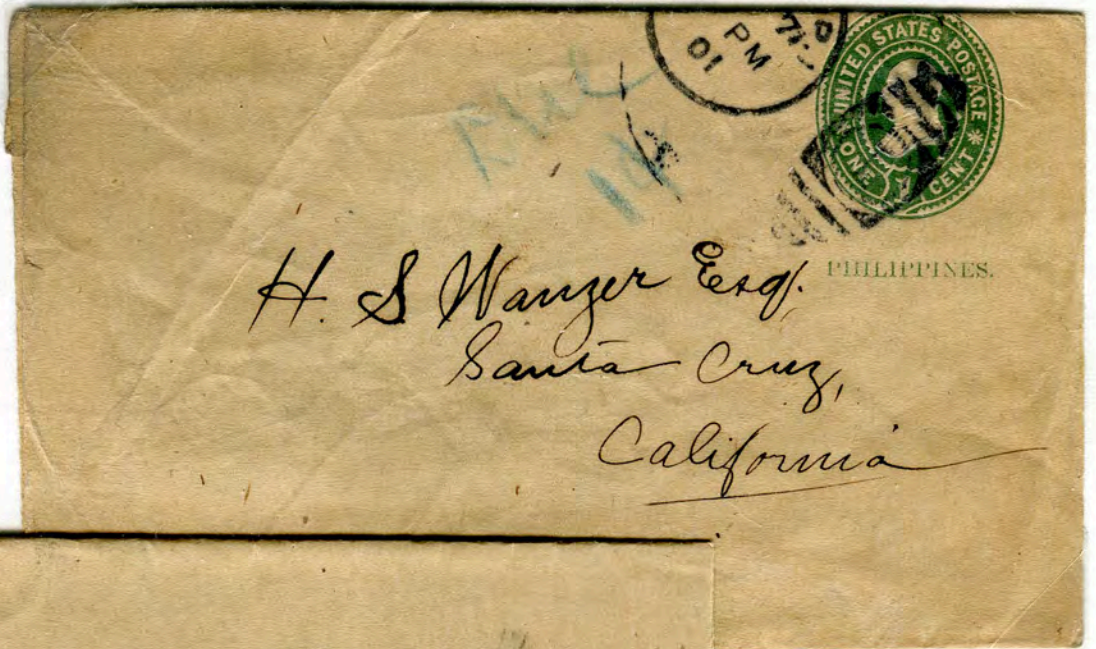
A commercial use sent to Hamburg, Germany with overprinted 1 cent stamp added for double weight. The wrapper has a purple oval handstamp of Isidro A. Sanchez in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The wrapper is endorsed 'Par Correo Español' to indicate handling 'Per Spanish Mail.'



One cent wrappers were additionally overprinted 'PORTO RICO.' for use within Puerto Rico.

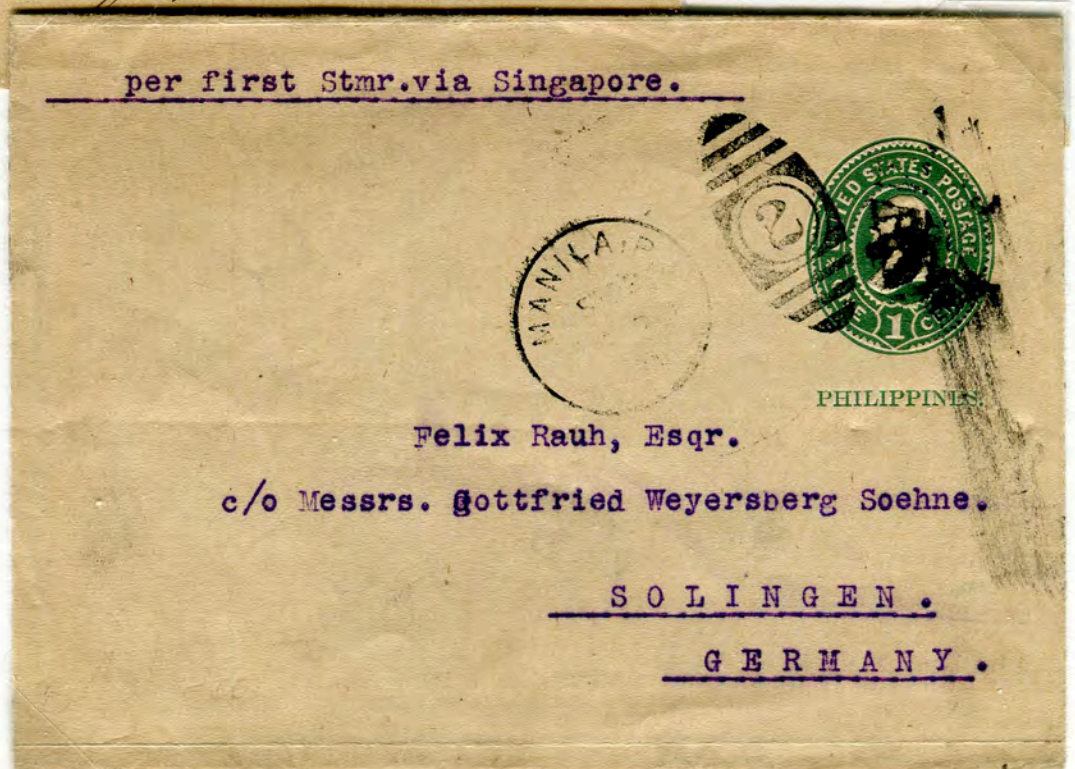
As a result of the Spanish-American War of 1898 we acquired the Philippine Islands and Puerto Rico. Wrappers were overprinted with the possession name for use from those possessions.

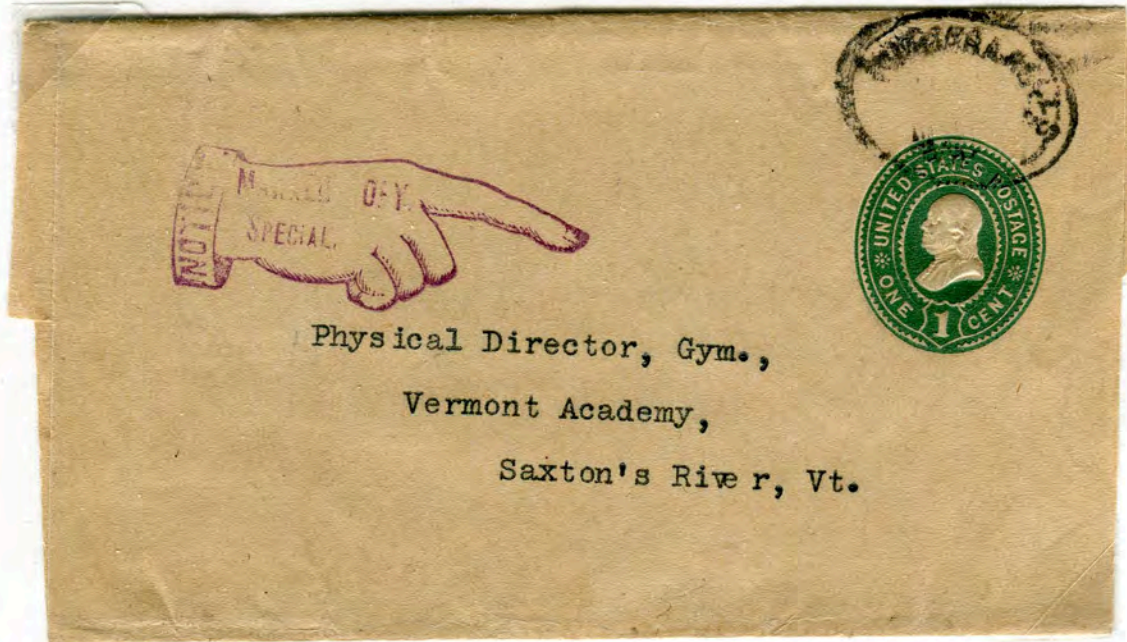
This wrapper, sent to Santa Cruz, CA from Manila, P.I., was overweight and marked 'DUE 1¢' in blue crayon.



Wrapper sent to Singapore is cancelled with a Manila, P.I. circular date cancel rather than a typical 3rd class obliterating cancel.

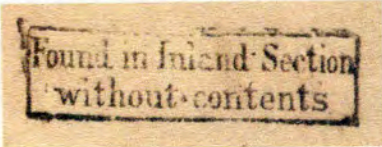
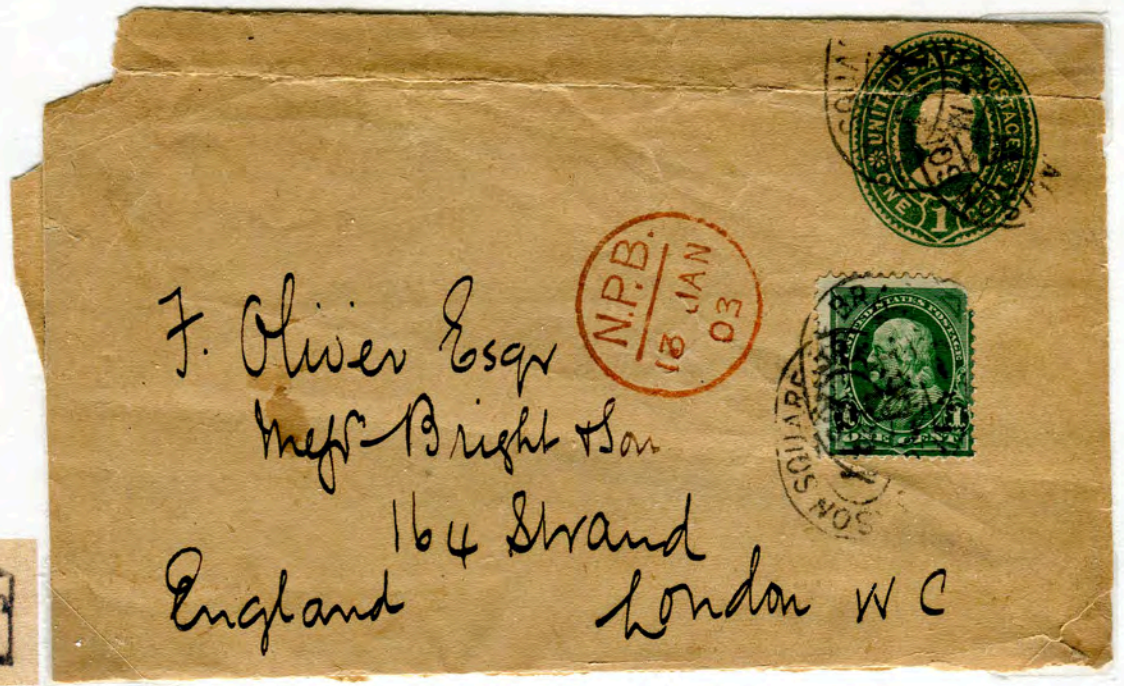
This wrapper was sent from Manila, P.I. to Germany per first steamer via Singapore as indicated by the endorsement.





Ornate pointing hand with 'NOTICE Marked Copy Special.' to indicate special rate.

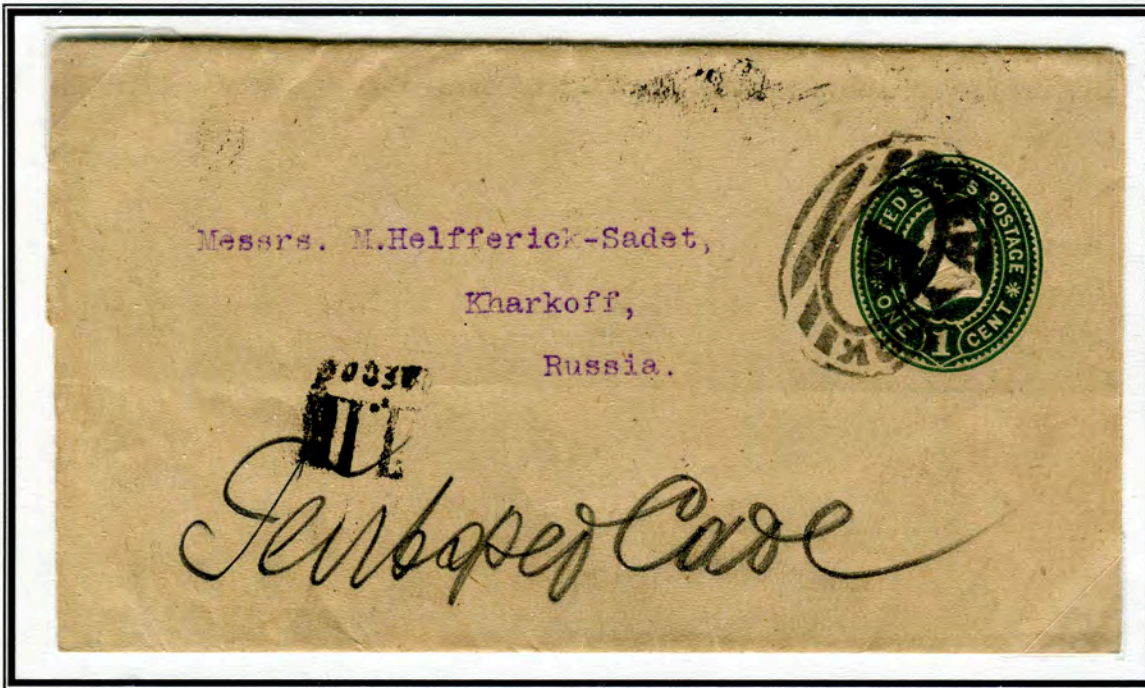
Second class mail included newspapers and other periodicals. A special category existed for items marked 'SAMPLE COPY' or '**MARKED COPY**' which could be mailed as second class transient mail at the more favorable rate of 1 cent per 4 oz rather than third class rate of 1 cent per 2 oz until 1925.



Handstamp on back

Loss of contents in transit indicated by a circular N.P.B. handstamp with date of January, 13, 1903. On the back this wrapper is a black, rectangular boxed handstamp '**Found in Inland Section without contents**'.

Mail was censored going into Russia due to internal policy and into South Africa due to the Boer War.

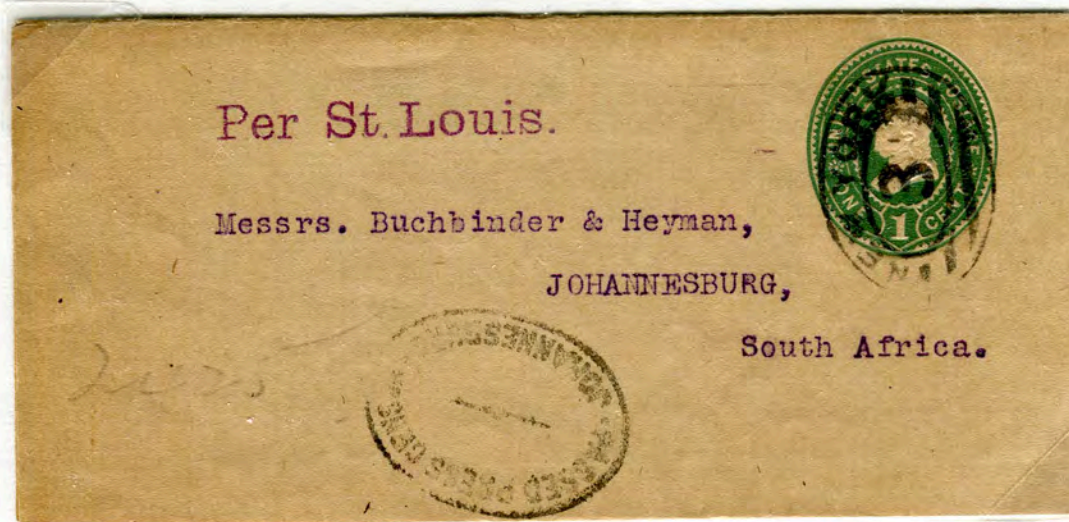


D.Ts. Odessa
Handstamp

One of six examples of this cancel recorded by Skipton & Michalove

This wrapper was sent about 1900 to Kharkoff, Russia. It likely went by ship to Odessa in the Ukraine for censoring where it received transit markings and the **D.Ts Odessa Censor handstamp** (shown above and on front of wrapper) that was applied to foreign newspapers and other printed matter. The wrapper also has censor's manuscript notation.

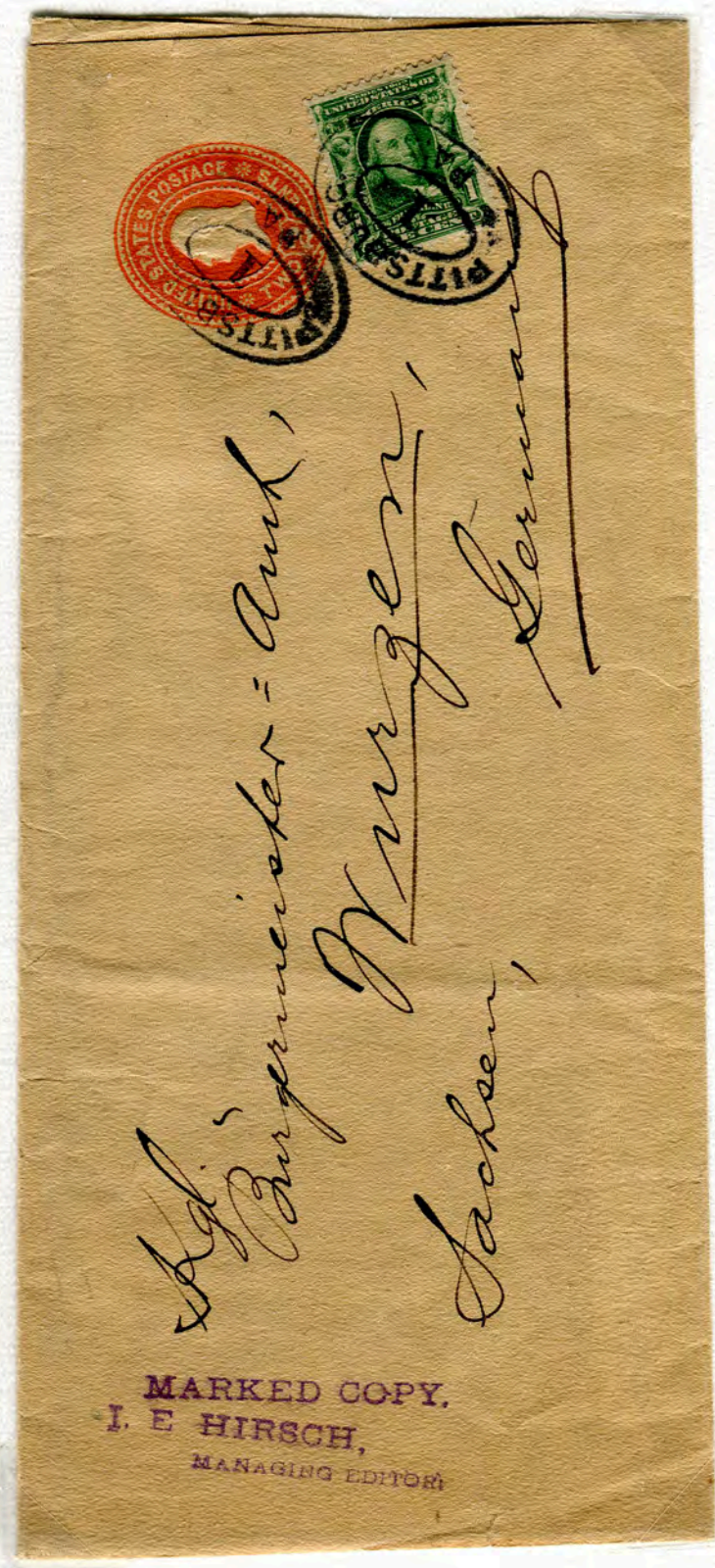
Russian Internal Censoring – Czarist Russia censored mail, including newspapers and magazines, during the period prior to World I while attempting Russification of the empire.



Wrapper send from New York to Johannesburg with oval "PASSED PRESS CENSOR JOHANNESBURG" handstamp

Great Britain censored mail going into South Africa during the second **Boer War** (1899 to 1902).

The two cents wrapper was also issued in a larger size, 204 x 305 mm, but these were seldom used due to extra cost and difficulty of storing and handling the larger wrappers. Fewer still were saved in good condition.



This wrapper to Bremen, Germany has a handstamp of the sender (Knoop, Frerichs & Co), routing instructions ('Per Ivernia' part of Cunard Line) and a purple German handstamp, 'POSTFACH No. 530' which translates to 'P.O. Box 530'.



To Bavaria, Germany with 10¢ stamp added for and extremely unusual 12 times the standard rate of 1¢ per 2 oz.

Wrapper with 2¢ stamp added for double weight to Grand Turk Island in the West Indies, routed "per S/S New York."



The Plimpton and Morgan Issue of 1899 to 1903

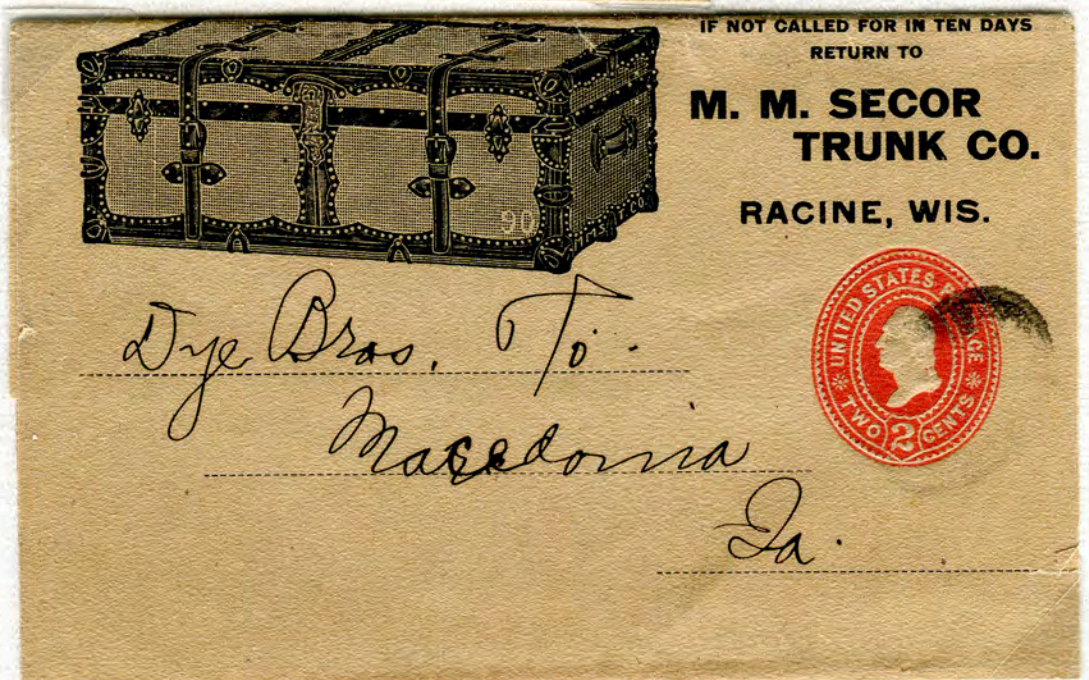
Domestic Use

The color of the two cents wrapper was also changed from green to red with the new contract in 1899.

This wrapper, to Indianapolis, Indiana has a 3 cents stamp added for quadruple rate (6 to 8 oz).



This wrapper, used in Syracuse, NY, is orange and demonstrates the color variation that occurs with this issue.



Ornate advertising on wrapper used from Racine, WI to Macedonia, IA.

The 1899 Postal Contract was the first time a four cents wrapper was issued. They were very large wrappers (255 x 375 mm) and intended for mailing Sunday newspapers. These wrappers were less than 0.1% of total wrapper sales each year and, because of large size, were seldom saved.

Shown at right is a domestic use of the 4¢ wrapper. Such usages of these are uncommon because it was less expensive to add stamps to a 2¢ wrapper than to buy the larger 4¢ wrapper.

The wrapper to Italy (far right) was sent registered and has a NY registry label. Most unusual is that the 8¢ registry fee was paid by the 5¢ stamp and 3¢ from the wrapper.



Registered Wrapper used to Ireland

This wrapper was sent registered to Athlone, Ireland on June 19, 1908 from Boston, MA. The wrapper is handstamped 'Third Class' to indicate postal rate. The registry fee was 8 cents so the remaining postage (23 cents) paid third class transit (as indicated by handstamps) for 44 to 46 oz. The wrapper has purple registry handstamps from both the Cambridge substation and the Boston Main Post Office. It has the blue crayon cross for registered items applied in London.



W. C. Proctor Esq.
 Franklin St.
 Mass.
 191

Athlone Ireland

Third Class

Third Class

50469

June 19, 1908 P. O. City, Massachusetts

Wm. Doyle & Co. Ballinacorney
 Ballinacorney
 Ballinacorney
 Ballinacorney

1908

1908

1908

1908

1908

Books and other large items were sometimes sent **wrapped in a stamped wrapper** and were permitted as long as the wrapper was **not sealed**.



This 4¢ wrapper to London, England from Chillicothe, OH carried an item (likely a book) approximately one inch thick. The 26 cents postage paid the 8¢ registry rate and 18¢ for an item weighing up to 36 oz. It was handstamped with a registry CDS in Chillicothe and sent to the exchange office in New York where it received a registry label. The blue crayon crosses applied in London and used to mark registered mail are clearly visible on front and back.



Back of wrapper folded as originally so markings match up (reduced size)

The contents were held in by two paper strips whose remnants are visible on the right side of the wrapper, front and back. Items in wrappers **could be banded but must be unsealed** to permit examination. British Registered S.E.D.O. (South Eastern {London} District Office) cancels are visible on the left.

Mailed books were a special category of third class and remained so, regardless of weight, even after items weighing more than 8 oz were moved to parcel post in 1913. The rate was one cent per 2 oz from 1874 until 1925.

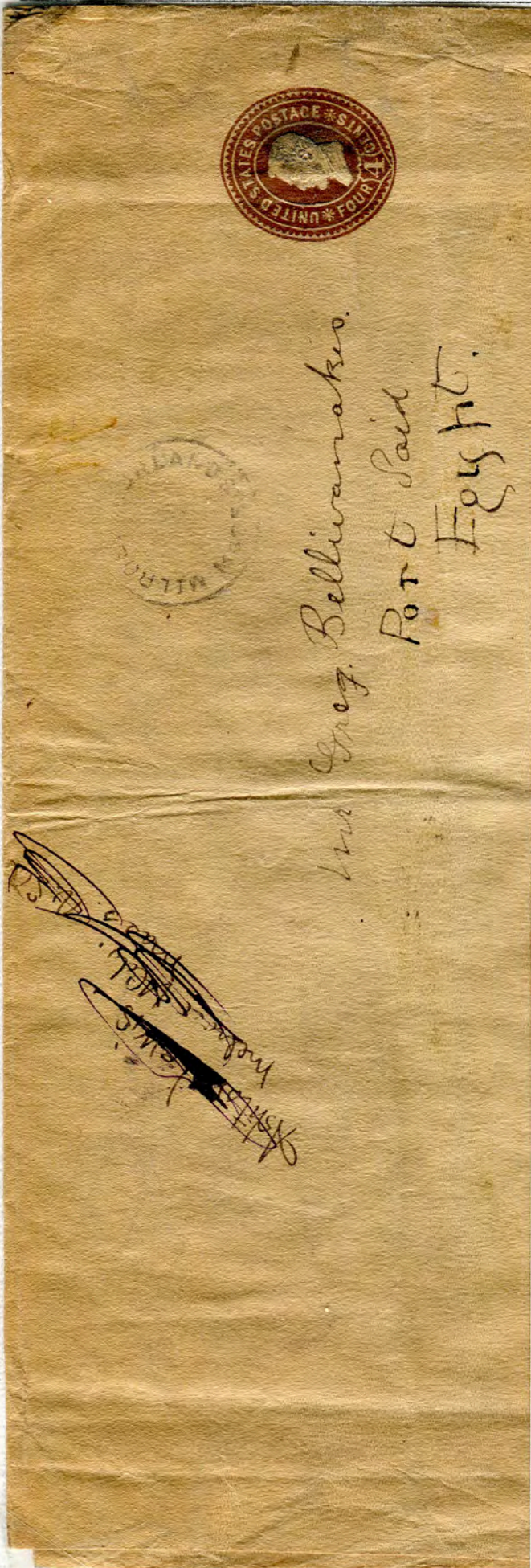


This wrapper was likely folded around a book and sent from Chillicothe, Ohio to a library in Saxony, Germany in 1911. It was sent registered and "Per German Steamer." The rate for registered items at this time was 10 cents so the remaining 18 cents paid the third class library rate for items weighing between 34 and 36 ounces.

Four Cents Wrapper

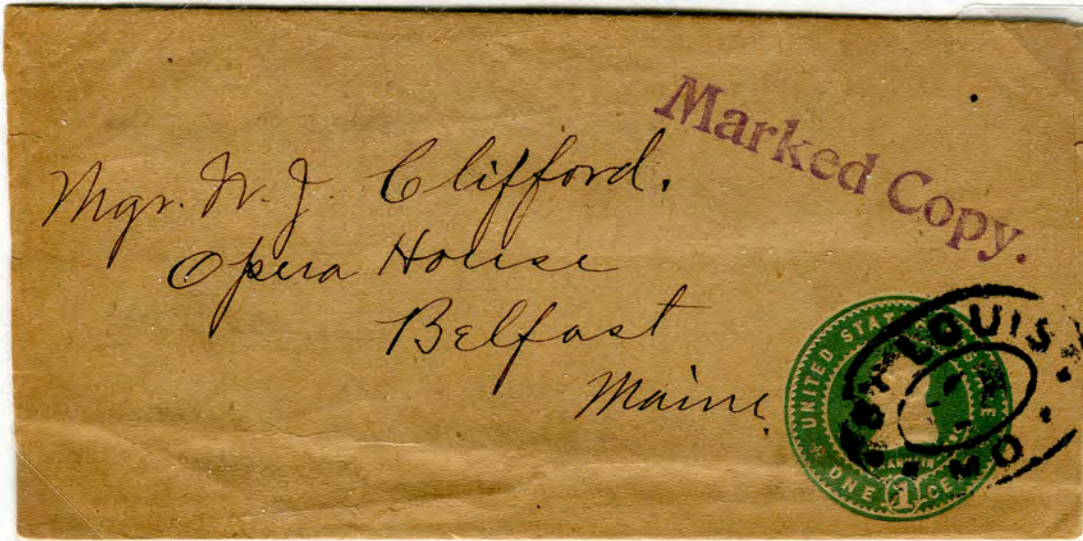
Wrapper reused back to original sender.

The wrapper and contents were sent to Port Said, Egypt where the recipient put a label over his address, attached a 2 milli me (1 ) stamp and reused the wrapper to send an item back.



Back of wrapper

Hartford Manufacturing got the postal stationery printing contract in 1903, wrestling it away from Plimpton who had **had the contract for almost 30 years!** New designs, paper source and watermark were used. Note the differences in the green color of the stamps because shortages prior to WWI made consistency difficult.



Items marked 'SAMPLE COPY' or 'MARKED COPY' could be mailed as second class transient mail at the more favorable rate of 1 cent per 4 oz rather than third class rate of 1 cent per 2 oz until 1925.

Unusual block cancel for local use within Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



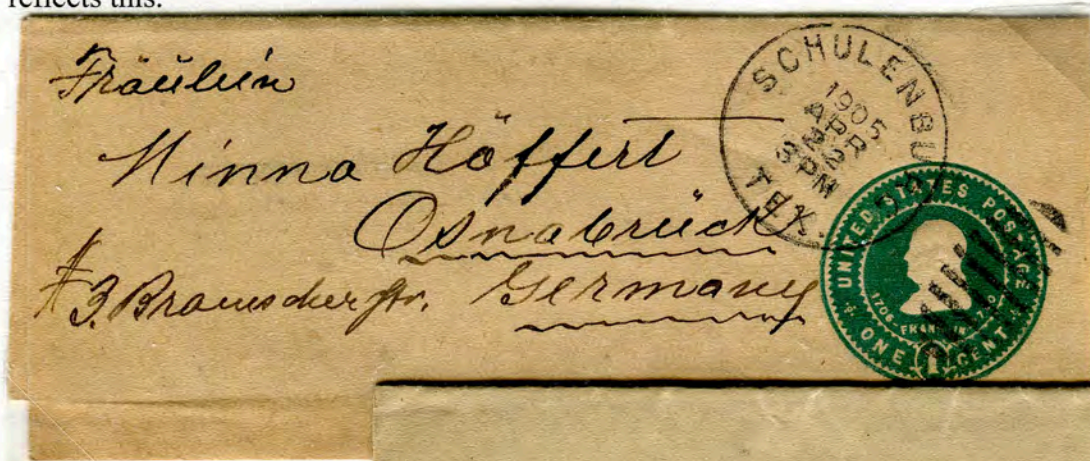
**J. G. LAIDACKER
SAINT CLAIR, PA.**

POSTMASTER TAKE NOTICE.—If this for any reason cannot be delivered to the party addressed, advise the publisher and postage will be sent for return. (See Postal Laws and Regulations, Section 675.)

*J. J. Nettus
Box 567
Seneca
Kansas*

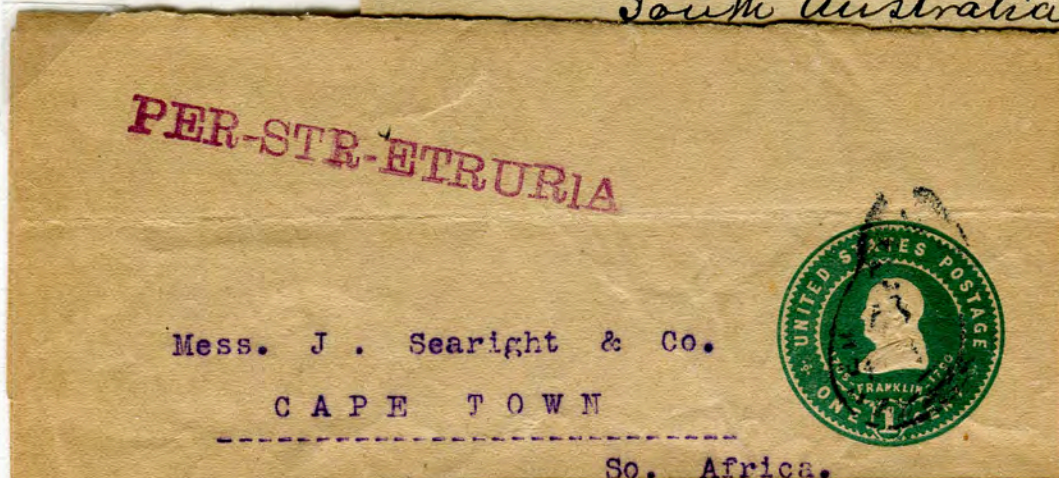
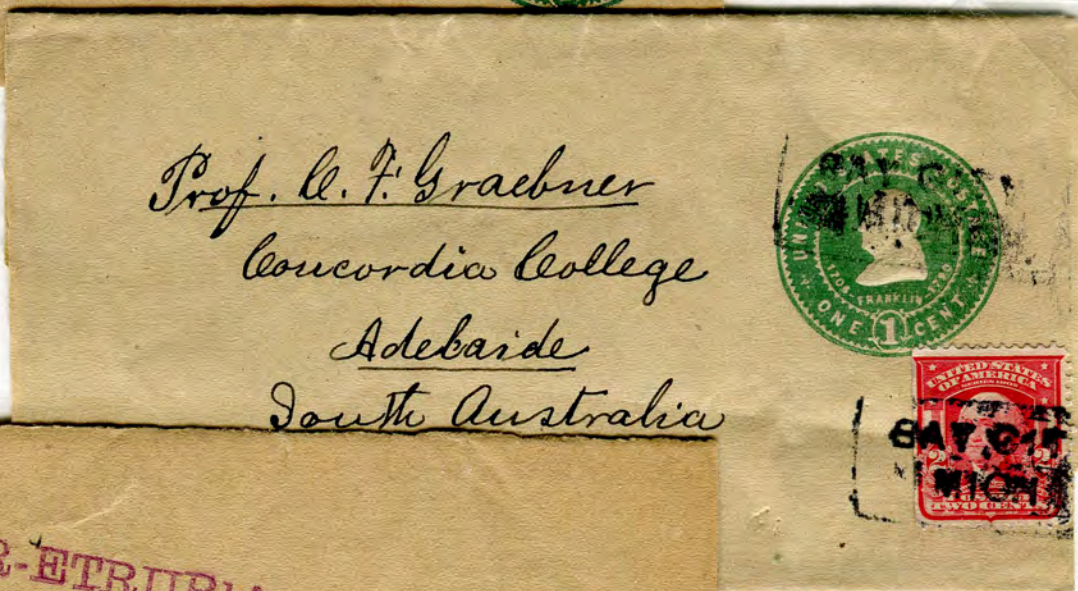
The wrapper to the left was sent from St. Clair, PA to Seneca, Kansas. It contained something of value since it has a request for return if not deliverable and guarantees return postage.

American business expanded into most parts of the world at the turn of the last century and wrapper usage reflects this.

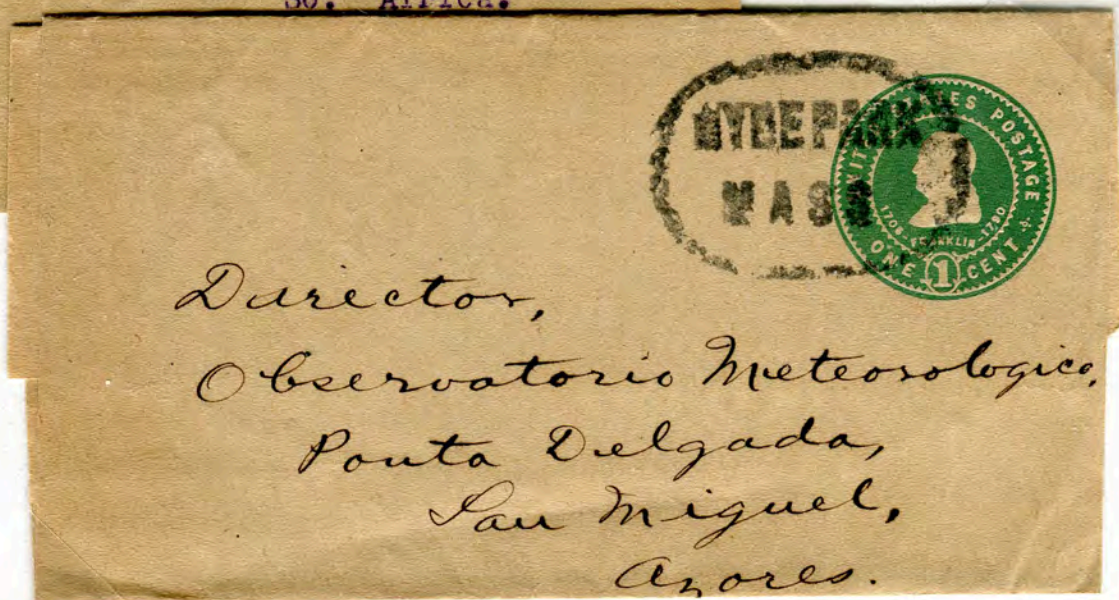


Circular date stamp cancel used from Schulenburg, Texas, likely because the small town did not have a 3rd class cancel.

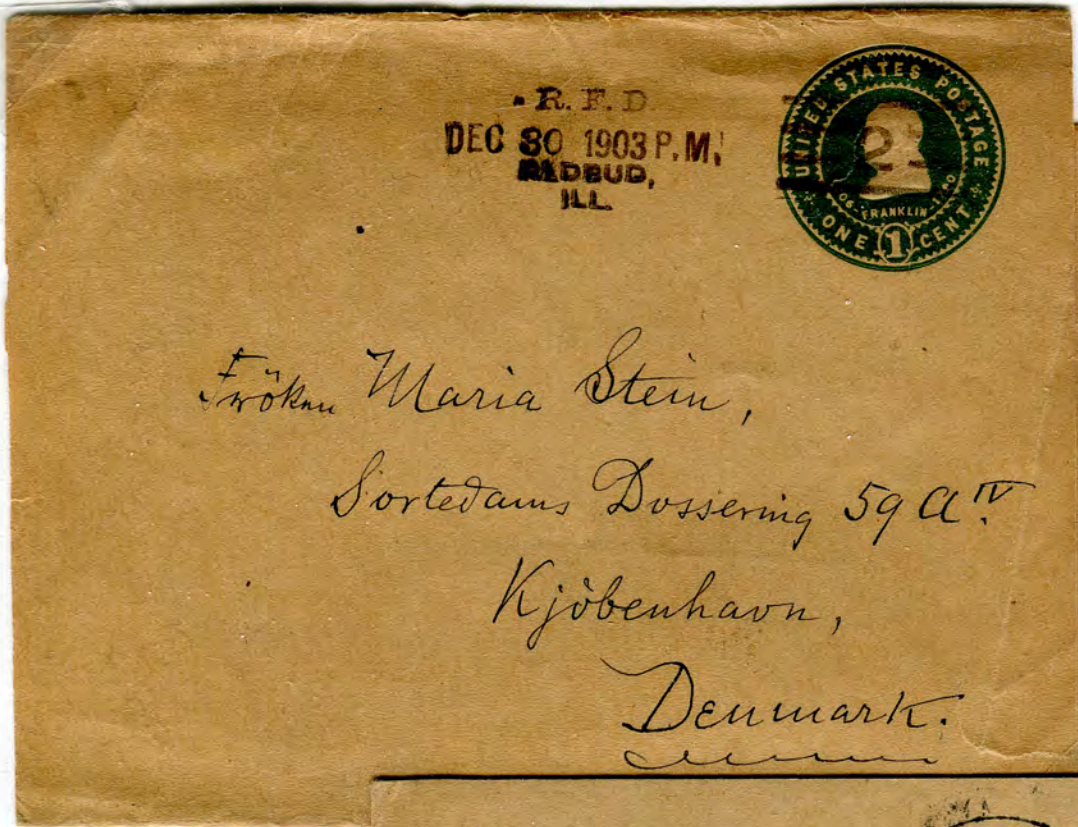
Triple weight use to Adelaide, South Australia with boxed Bay City, Michigan cancel



Use to Cape Town, South Africa with steamer routing instructions handstamped (PER-STR-ETRURIA).

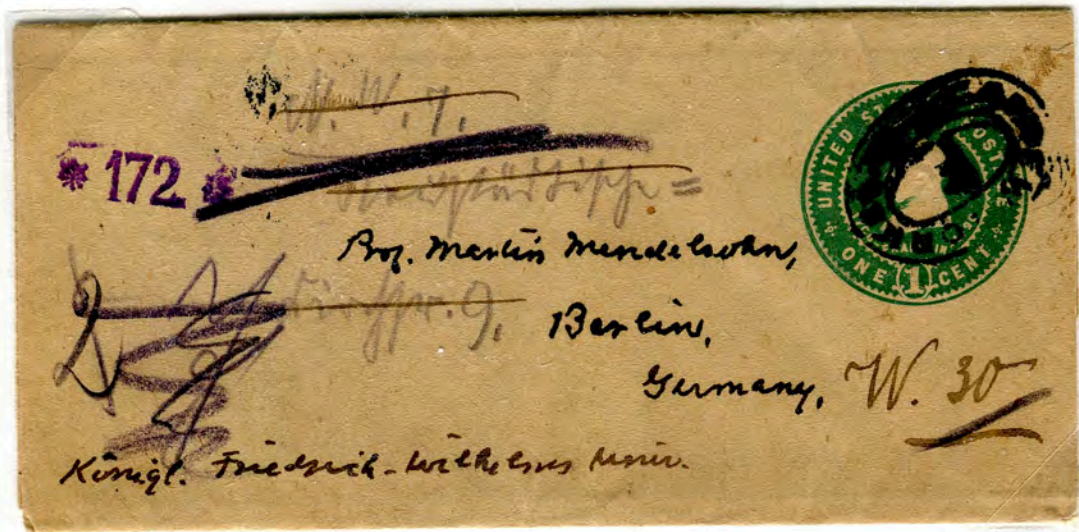
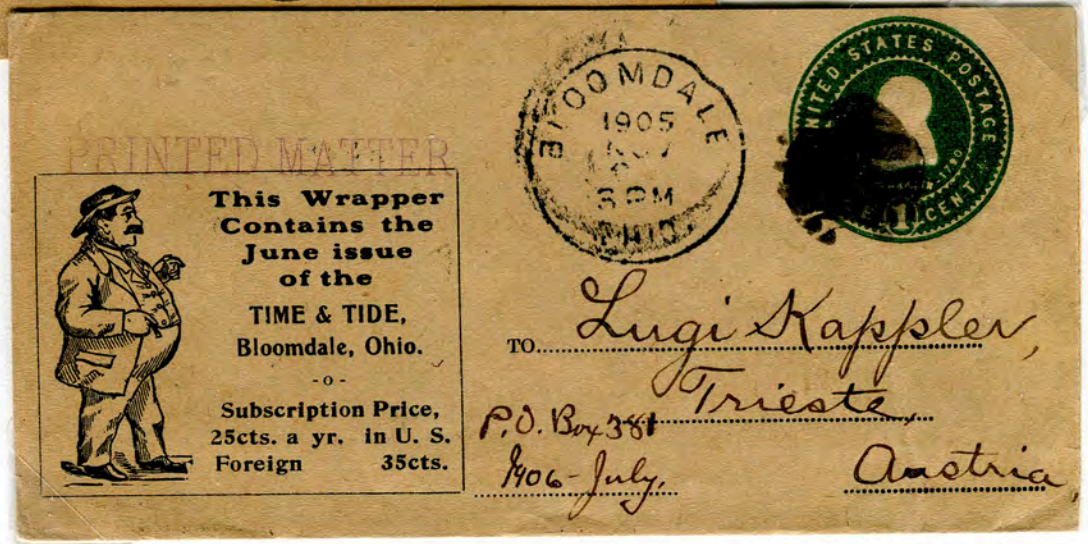


An oval Hyde Park, Mass cancel on wrapper to San Miguel, Azores



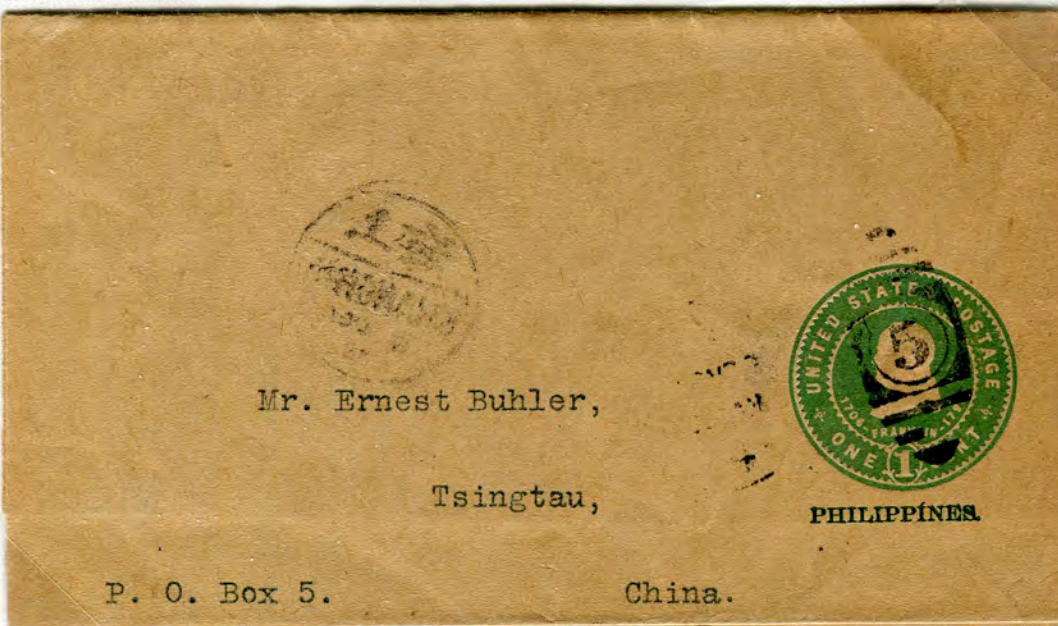
Rural Free Delivery became an official service in 1896 per order of President Grover Cleveland. Postmaster General Charles Emory Smith ordered effective Aug 1, 1900 that "rural carriers are authorized and required to cancel stamps on all letters collected by them, whether intended for delivery on the routes or to be mailed from a collecting office." A RFD cancel from Red Bud, ILL is shown at left on a wrapper sent to Denmark.

A wrapper with advertising for a magazine which was generally sent second class and paid quarterly, this was a promotional copy sent at transient rate. The circular date cancel, likely used here because the small post office did not have a third class cancel.

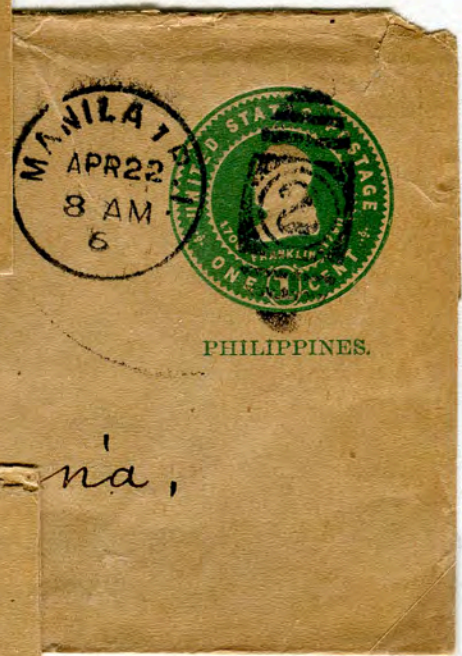


European Postmen sometimes applied marks to indicate that they had handled the mail. The "*172*" is a postman's postmark in Berlin, Germany likely applied because the item was forwarded (twice).

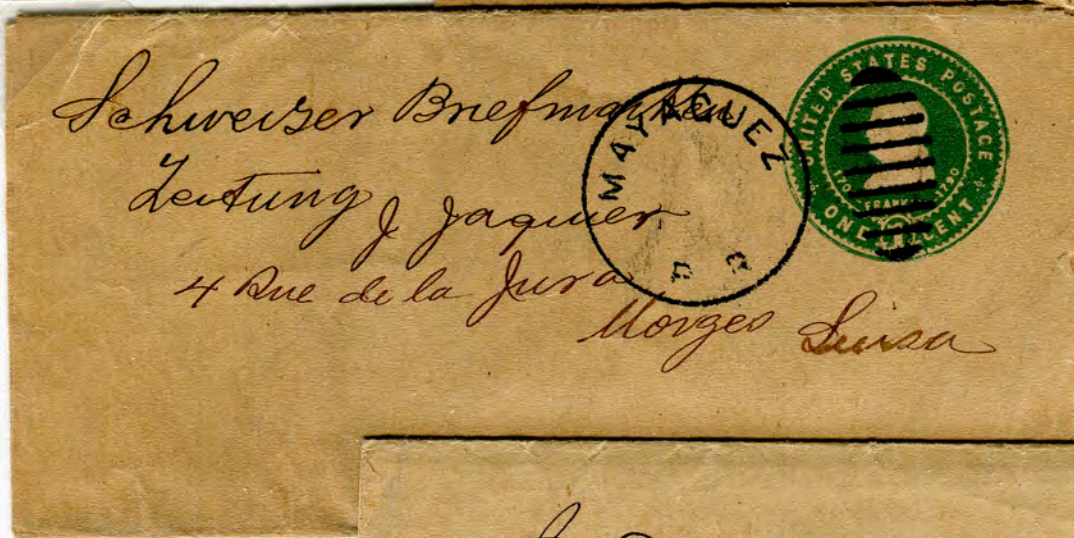
The one cent issue was also overprinted 'PHILIPPINES.' for use in that possession but not overprinted for use in Puerto Rico.



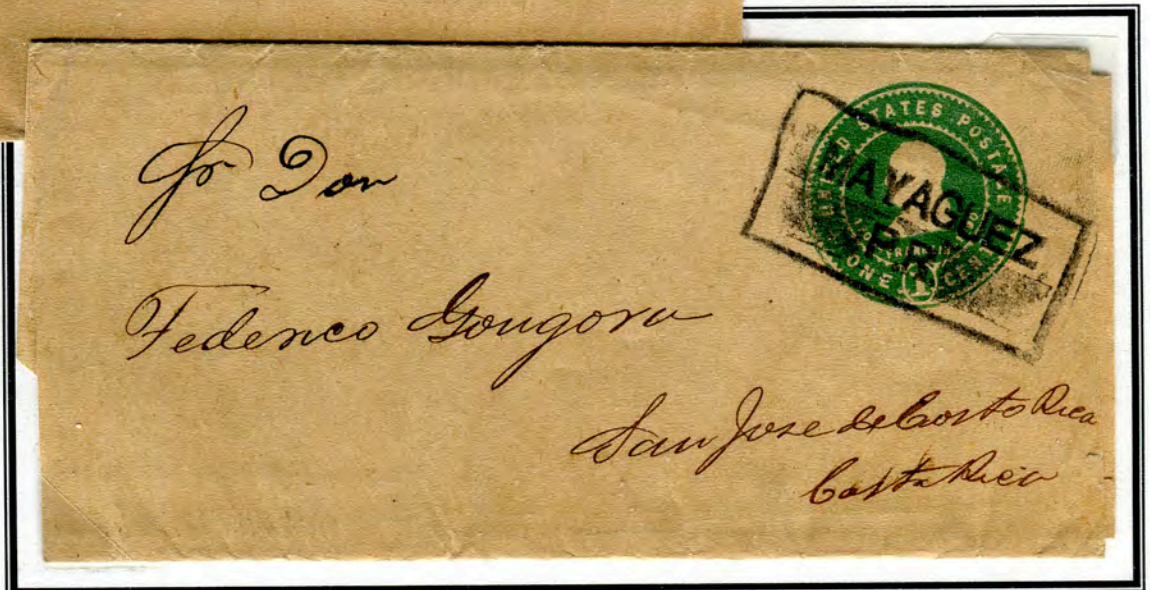
This wrapper was used to port city of Tsingtau, China (modern Qingdao). It has a black receiving stamp from Shanghai, China on front and back.



The lower wrapper was used from Manila to York, Pennsylvania.



Wrappers of this issue were not overprinted for use in Puerto Rico. The two wrappers were used from Mayaguez, Puerto Rico to Morges, Switzerland and San José, Costa Rica. Note the differing cancels.



Postmasters were instructed to watch for handwriting on items contained in wrappers and charge the first class letter rate when finding such.



This wrapper contained writing as indicated by the two purple handstamps 'Contains Writing.' The wrapper was weighty and had had a 2¢ stamp added for wrapper and contents weighing up to 4 oz (also indicated by the manuscript '4 oz' on left). With the upgrading to first class because of the writing, the amount due was four times 3¢ (minus partial payment of 3¢ on wrapper) for a total of 9¢ due. The wrapper is stamped with a purple 'POSTAGE DUE _____ CENTS' with manuscript '9' filled in.

The Post Office attempted to deliver this wrapper to the addressee with the postage due and the addressee refused to pay the postage due. The wrapper was then handstamped with a pointing hand and 'Return to Writer' with the reason checked that it was refused. The wrapper was also handstamped 'Do not use this envelope or wrapper again.' before return to sender.

The 2 cents wrappers of the new issue were larger than previous wrapper issues. Use was small as sales averaged only 7 to 8% of total wrappers. Note how the stamp color changes from carmine to red (left to right) showing variation due to poor manufacturing conditions. Usages are to Australia, Turkey, and Chile.



*Yates
Koster & Co
La Concepcion*

CHILE



*Schakidji & Yarendji
408 411 Sidjaret - Han
Constantinople*



Messrs. Fletcher, Chester & Co.,
#69-71 Elizabeth St.,
Melbourne,

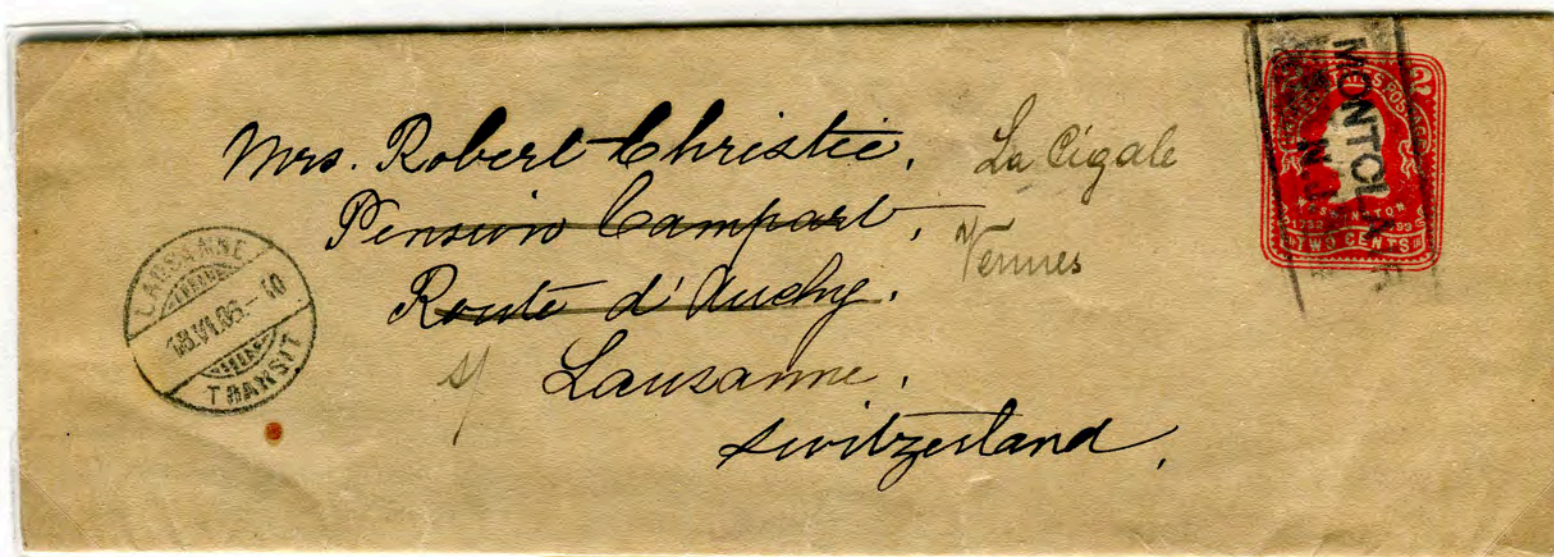
Victoria.

The stamp dies wore rapidly and had to be recut. Stationery with recut dies began appearing a little over a year after the contract began, but wrappers were much later. The recut dies can be identified by all short vertical lines to the right of the 'TWO CENTS' in the banner and the more rounded 'D' in 'UNITED'.



Wrapper used to Germany with 5 cents added for 7 times rate. Note that most cancels on wrappers are partials because of the thickness of the contents.

Earliest Reported Date of Use for recut die on wrapper.



Sent from Montclair, NJ to Lausanne, Switzerland and forwarded within city. Receiving stamp on front from Lausanne indicates wrapper arrived in city on June 18, 1906.

On rare occasions these wrappers were registered.



The above wrapper was sent from Chillicothe, Ohio to Templeton, Cal registered, as indicated by the circular dated cancel, in 1907. The rate for the wrapper was 8 cents for the registry and 4 times the 1 1/2 oz. rate for a total of 8 ounces weight.

The wrapper at left was sent registered from Mannsville, NY to Boston, Mass as indicated by the purple registry stamp at the upper right. The manuscript "Registered No 7/566" in the lower half indicates that the wrapper was letter number 7 in envelope number 566 for that quarter of the year sent registered from that post office.

The rate for the Hartford wrapper to Boston, Massachusetts was 8 cents for the registry and 6 times the 1 1/2 oz. rate for a total of 12 ounces weight.

The Hartford Issue of 1903 to 1907

Four Cents Wrapper

Four cents wrappers were also issued but seldom used. Sales were only 221,000 over six years compared to 224 million 1¢ and 19 million 2¢ wrappers. Usages are scarce, both because of the small issue volume and because the large wrapper size (255 x 375 mm) made saving them difficult.



*Max Benzler & Sohn
31 Blecker St
Hartford*

*From Max Eulenberg
Bamberg
Germany*

HENRY FELDMANN & SON,
General Insurance Agency,
380 E. 149TH ST. S. W. COR. 3RD AVE., N.Y.
NEW YORK.

Fourth-class was established in 1879 to include all matter not covered in first, second, or third class, except single books, books and documents published by order of Congress, or official matter from any Dept of Government and weighing ≤ 4 lbs. The rate was one cent per ounce until parcel post was established in 1913.



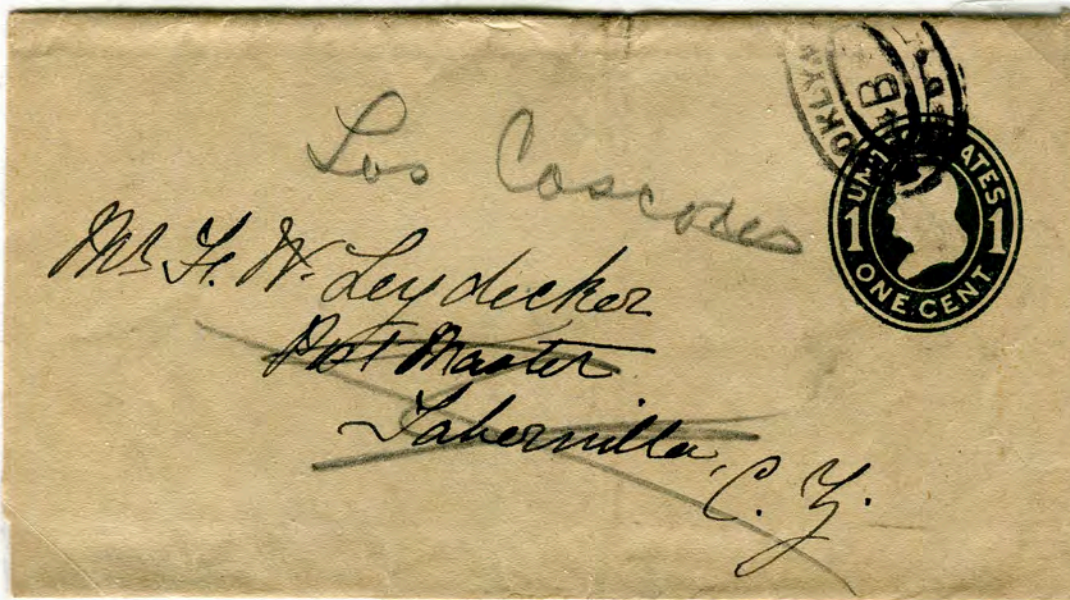
This wrapper, marked '4th Class,' must have contained printed matter other than a magazine or newspaper, that weighed between 11 and 12 ounces.

This wrapper was sent registered to Budapest, Hungary on Apr 11, 1907. The registry fee was 8 cents, leaving 5 cents for postage of items weighing 8 to 10 oz.

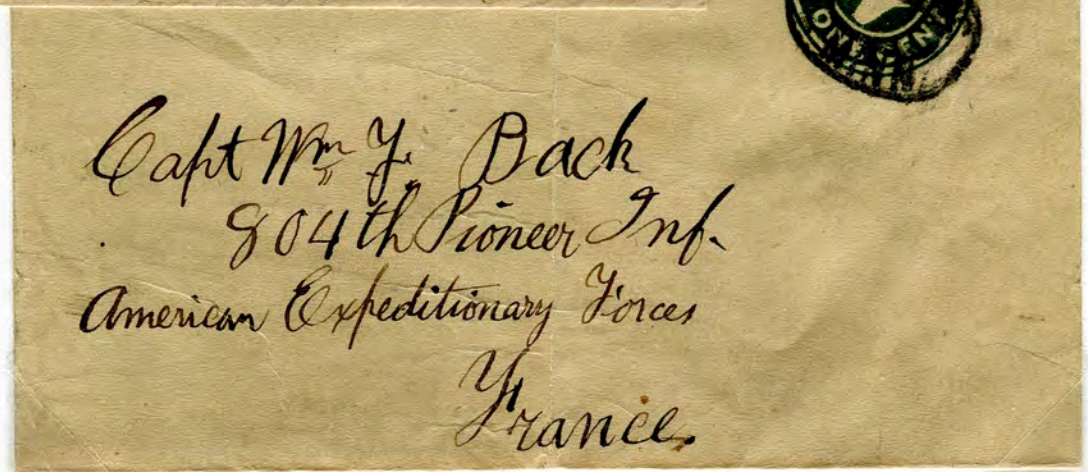
The wrapper has a New York Registry label issued to comply with the 1882 Universal Postal Union resolution requiring international registered mail to have a label or impression of a stamp with a capital letter 'R' in Roman text. The U. S. Post Office chose to use gummed labels which were only applied by those post offices authorized to handle inbound and outbound foreign registered mail. Use occurred between January 1, 1883 and January 24, 1911.



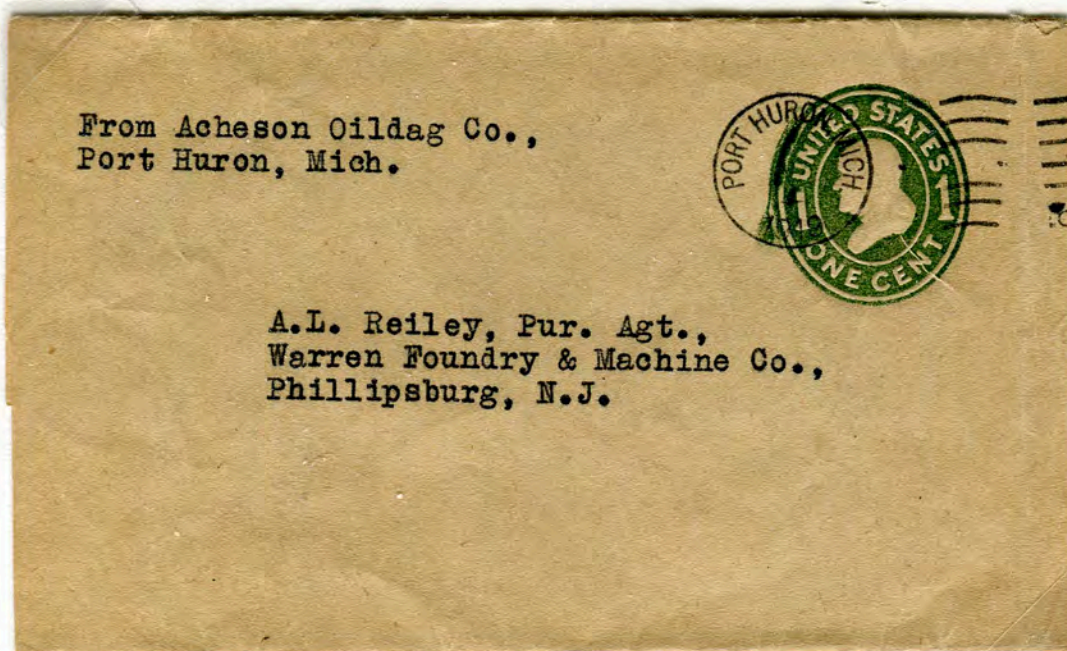
The Mercantile Corporation won the contracts for printing envelopes and wrappers from 1907 to 1915. This was a period of experimentation and change as wrappers were printed both with traditional sheet fed presses and on new rotary fed presses. Most wrappers were printed with a Huckins rotary press which fed individual precut blanks through and printed stamps from dies curved on a cylinder.



Sent to Tabernilla, Canal Zone and forwarded (at no additional charge) to Los Cascotes, Canal Zone.



This wrapper was sent to an officer in the American Expeditionary Forces in France during WWI.



The contract for postal stationery required use of a watermark on all envelopes and wrappers. This wrapper is printed on unwatermarked paper by error.

A paper fold in the lower right portion of the stamp occurred during printing, leaving an unprinted area, sometimes erroneously called a "cracked die".

The 1 cent wrapper was additionally printed with the following three dies on different presses.

Miehle flat bed Press

Die 112
Narrow D (2 mm) in UNITED

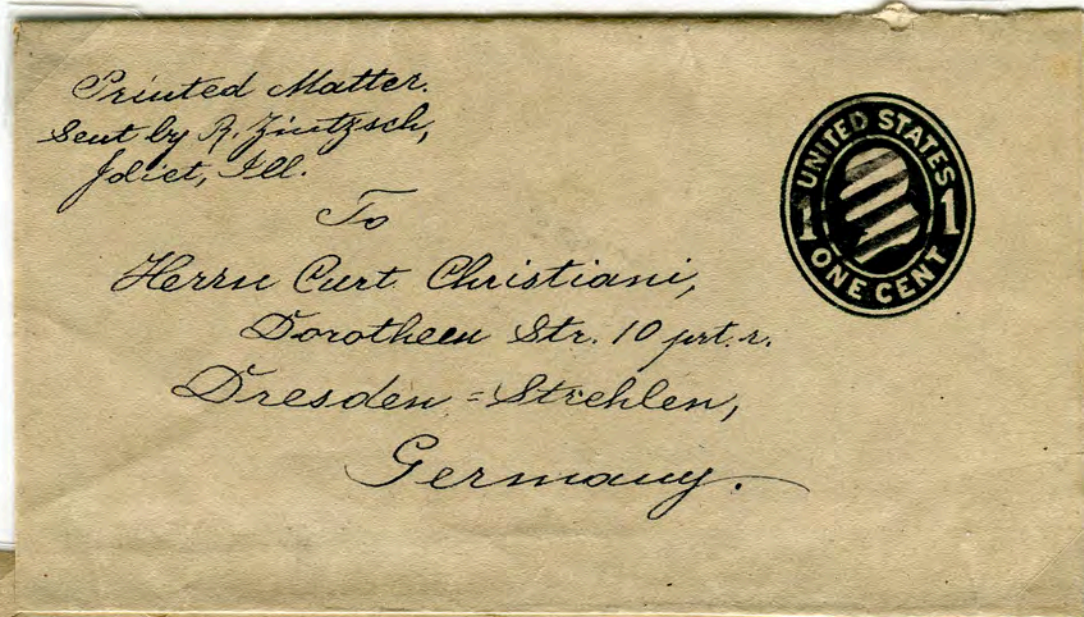
Extremely unusual wrapper with 3 pfenning German stamp added for remailing within Germany



Huckins Rotary Press

Die 113
O of ONE is oval not circular

Sent to Germany form Joliet, Ill where cancel with parallel bars was used.



Kenny Rotary Press

Die 114
Back of bust forms an angle at T of CENT; O of ONE is circular and NE are parallel

With added postage for 5 times third class rate of 1¢ per 2 oz or for wrapper and contents weighing 8 to 10 ounces.



The Mercantile Issue of 1907 to 1915

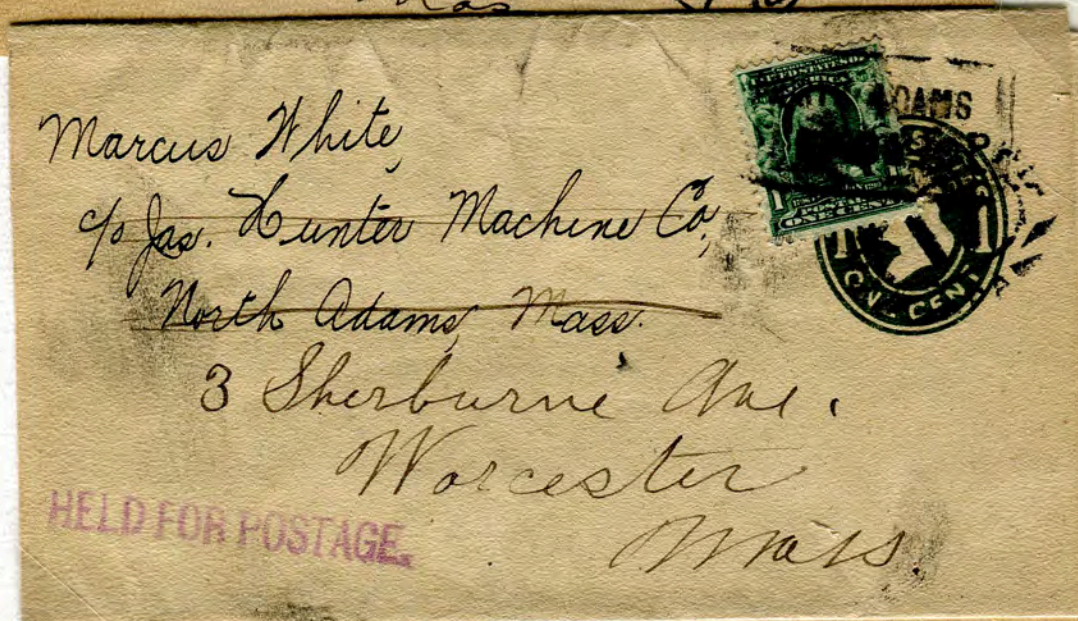
Forwarding Wrappers

The Act of June 13, 1898 required prepayment of third-class postage each time a third class item was forwarded. This practice continued until well after wrappers were no longer used.



This wrapper was originally mailed with the one cent Washington-Franklin added to pay two cents postage for an item weighing between 2 and 4 ounces. The wrapper was then forwarded with the two cents postage again paid by the two one cent second bureau stamps.

The middle wrapper was mailed from Philadelphia held for postage for forwarding and forwarded after the one cent was paid (1902 Bureau Issue) with North Adams boxed cancel.



This wrapper, mailed to Warren Foundry and Machine Co, was addressed to Philipsburg, PA while the company is actually located in Philipsburg, NJ. The Post Office in Philipsburg, PA corrected the address by crossing out the "PA" and adding "NJ" in blue manuscript and then added the purple handstamp: "Deficiency in Address/Supplied by Post Office at/Philipsburg, Pa." Wrapper and contents were forwarded without additional charge.



The Mercantile Issue of 1907 to 1915

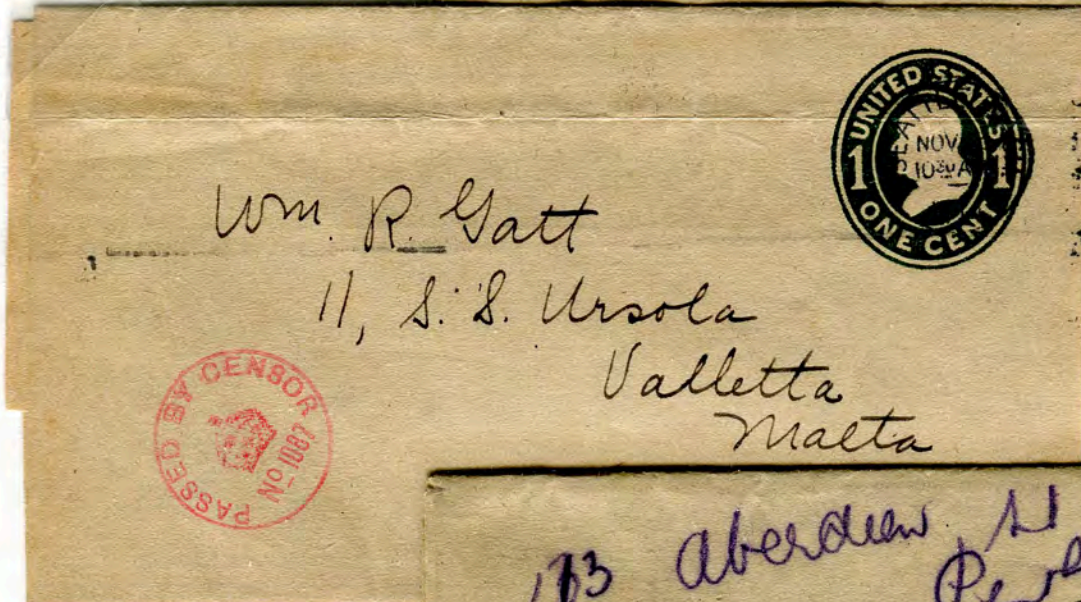
Censored

These wrappers were mailed after the beginning of World War I in Europe and received auxiliary handstamps denoting censorship by the various participants.



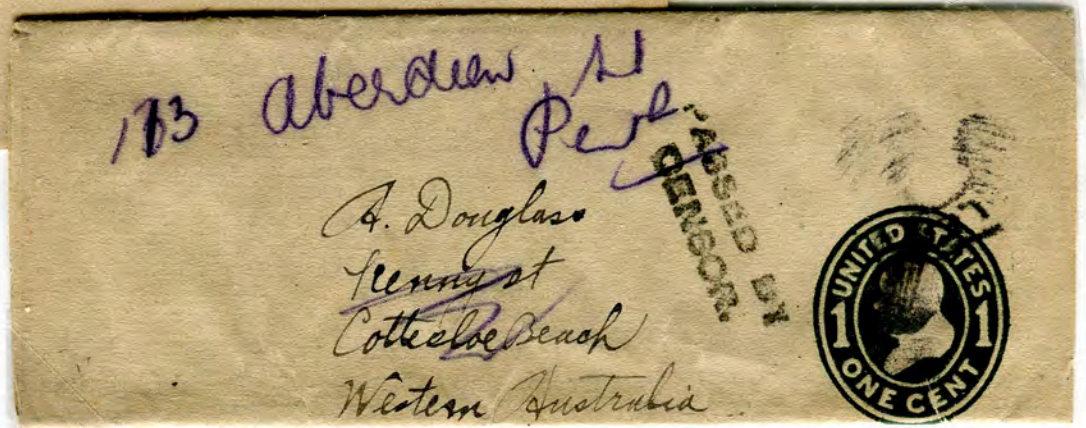
Sent from Cleveland, OH in 1916 to Laibach, Austria-Hungary (now Ljubljana, capital of Slovenia). This wrapper was censored by the French.

This double rate wrapper was routed through Norway to Germany where it was censored by the Germans, as indicated by the hand-stamp and delivered.



Sent from Seattle, WA to Valletta, Malta, likely through Great Britain, where it was censored by the British and received the red censor marking with the crown.

Sent to Western Australia where it was censored by the British and received the handstamp "PASSED BY CENSOR". The wrapper was forwarded from Cottesloe Beach (a suburb of Perth) to Perth, in Western Australia.



Handstamps, normally applied to letters, for postage due are scarce on wrappers.

This wrapper to England was found to be over weight. The 1¢ Washington-Franklin stamp addition to the wrapper paid the printed matter rate for up to 4 oz but wrapper and contents apparently weighed between 8 and 10 oz. The blue colored pencil '4' on the left represents the shortage of 2 cents doubled which matches the 2 pence due handstamp (2^d 7. S. I.). The UPU treaty penalty effective Apr 1, 1879 on partially paid mail was to double the amount underpaid.

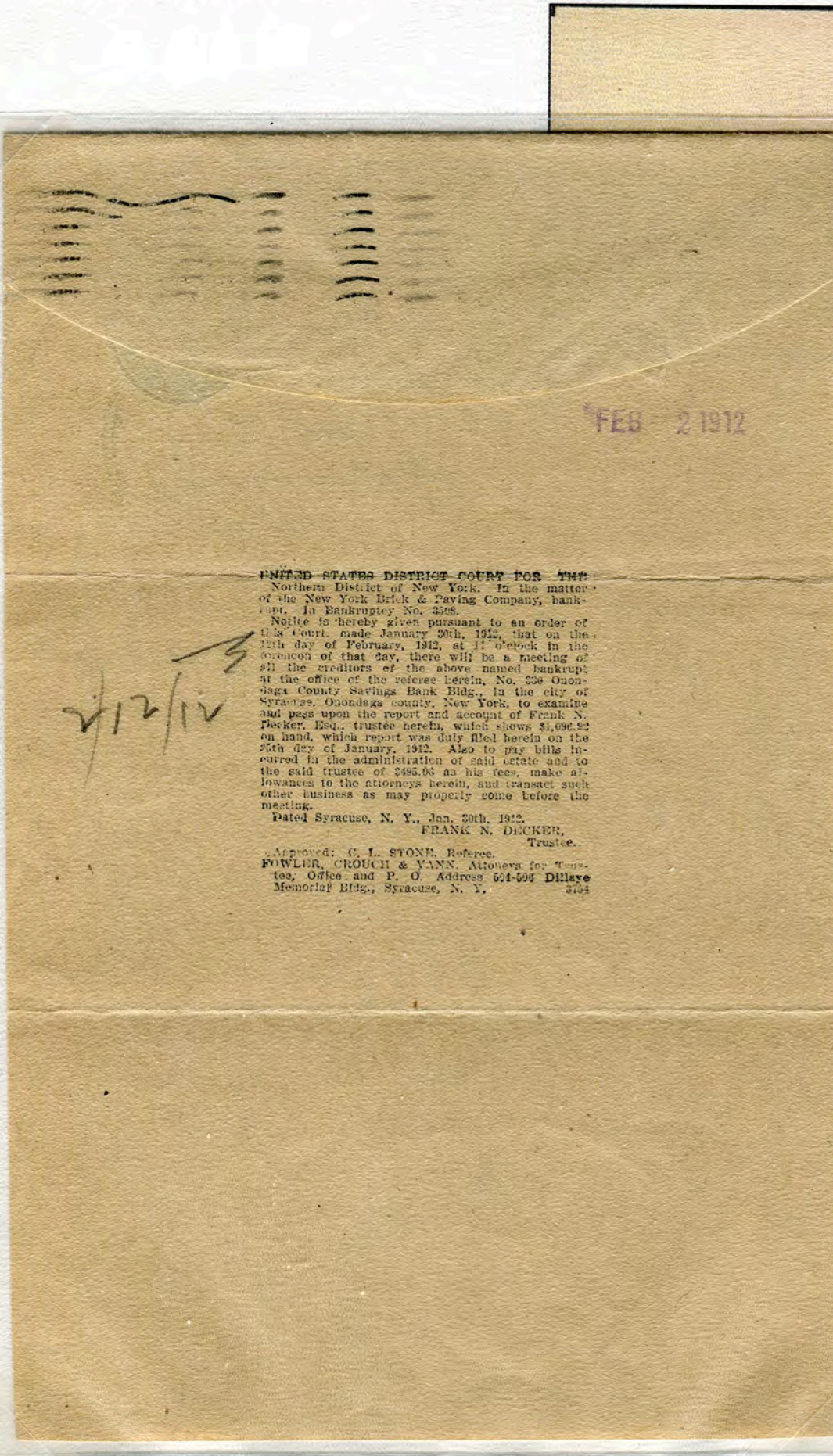


Overweight wrapper sent to sent to Scotland with handstamp and manuscript 'OVER 2 OZ' and handstamp in lower left of '1' with manuscript 'dm' to indicate doubling of amount underpaid.

This wrapper to Lapptrask, Finland has two Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition stamps added to pay 5 times the single rate for up to 10 oz. The wrapper has UPU standard black "T" in the circle to indicate postage due. The pencil "7/20" indicates 7 rates and 20 centimes due (2 cents or 10 centimes insufficiency which was doubled). As per UPU regulations, there were no additional charges for forwarding.



Wrappers with printing on the inside for use as a flyer are scarce. This practice is uncommon, because it was less expensive to print the flyer on paper and add a stamp rather than to pay for the wrapper.



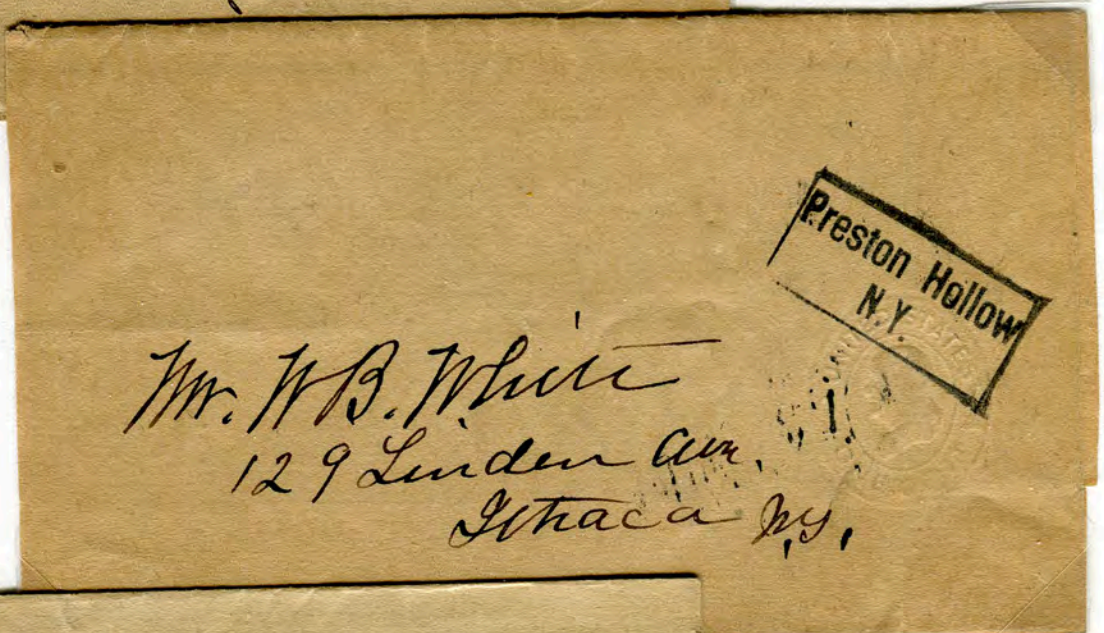
Front of wrapper (reduced)

This wrapper had a bankruptcy notice printed inside (left) and was sent as a circular to those involved in the bankruptcy.

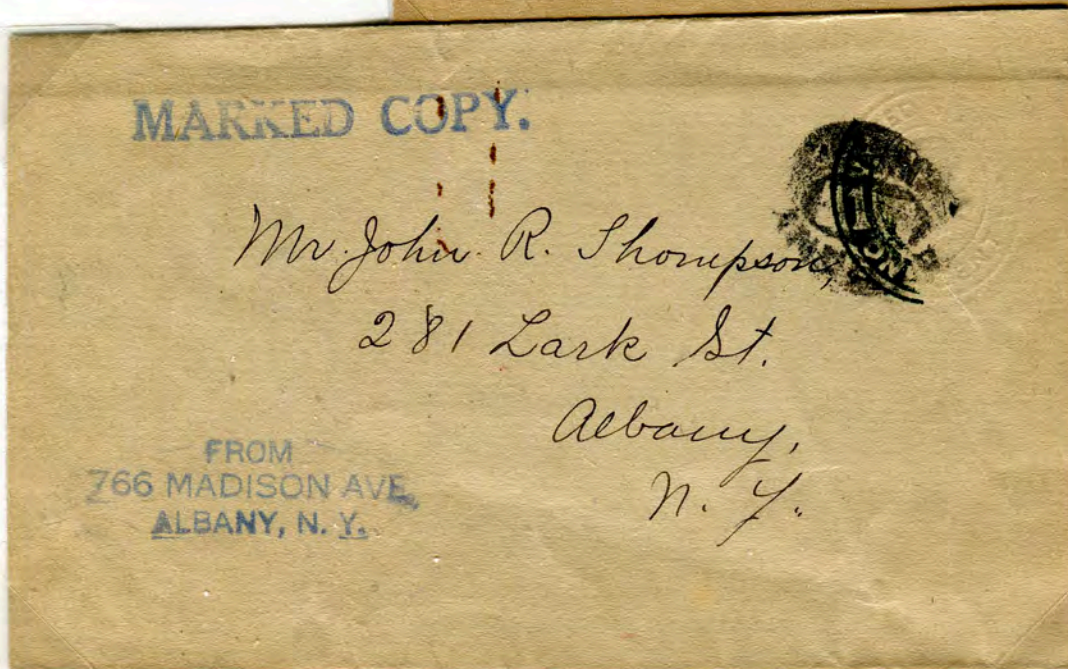
Wrappers were printed in sheet fed presses, meaning that precut blanks were fed through individually for printing. An albino occurred when two sheets were fed through at once and only the top sheet was printed. Albinos are uncommon in stationery and scarce in wrappers. Usages are even much less common.



Use from Kingston, NY with note, on left, to Postmaster that the wrapper has a "stamp impression but no color."

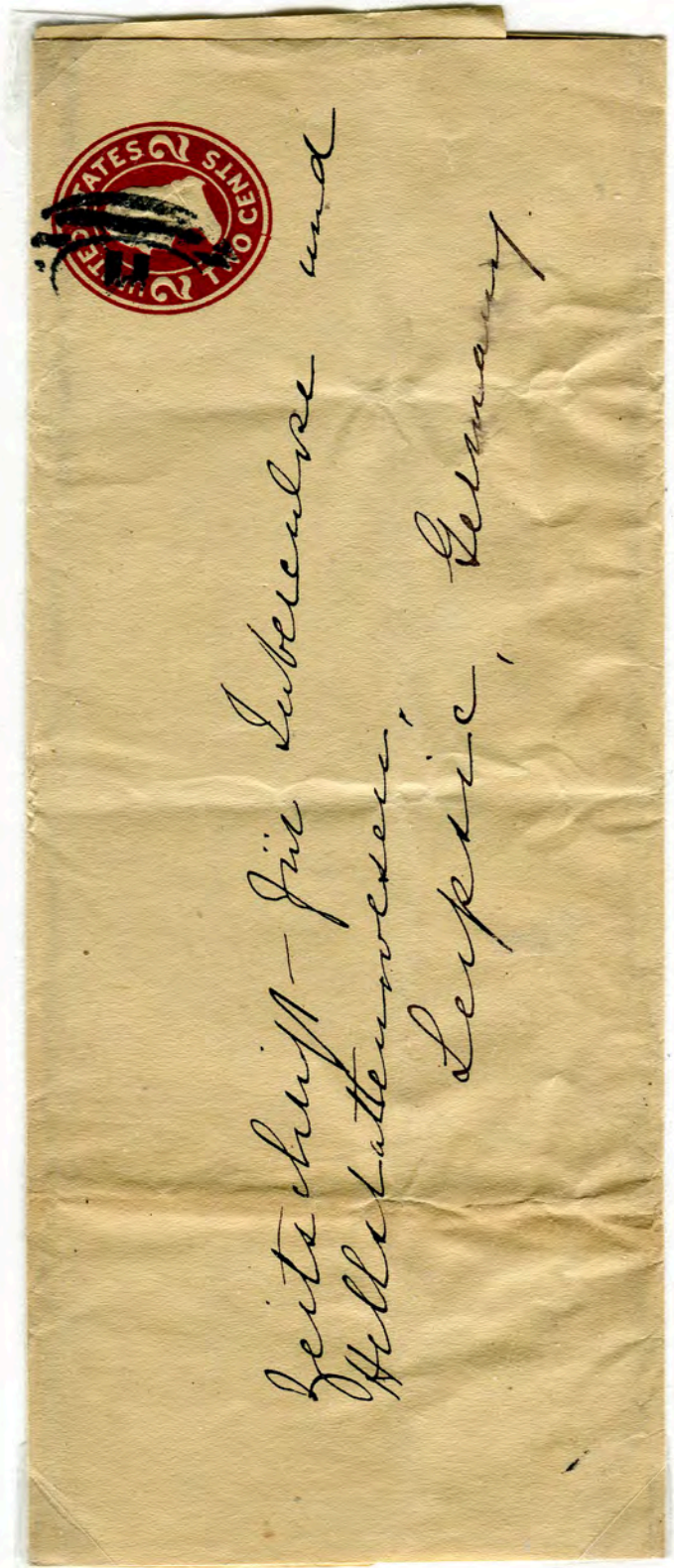
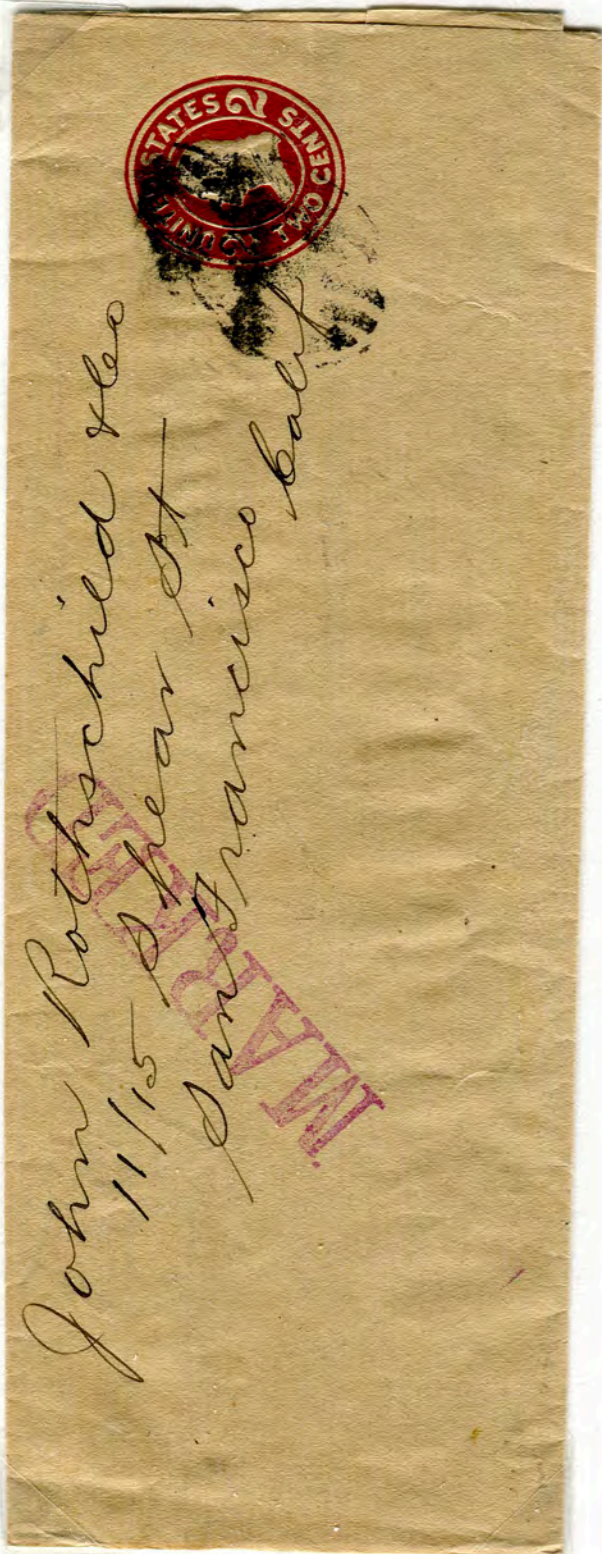


Use from Preston Hollow, NY with boxed cancel.

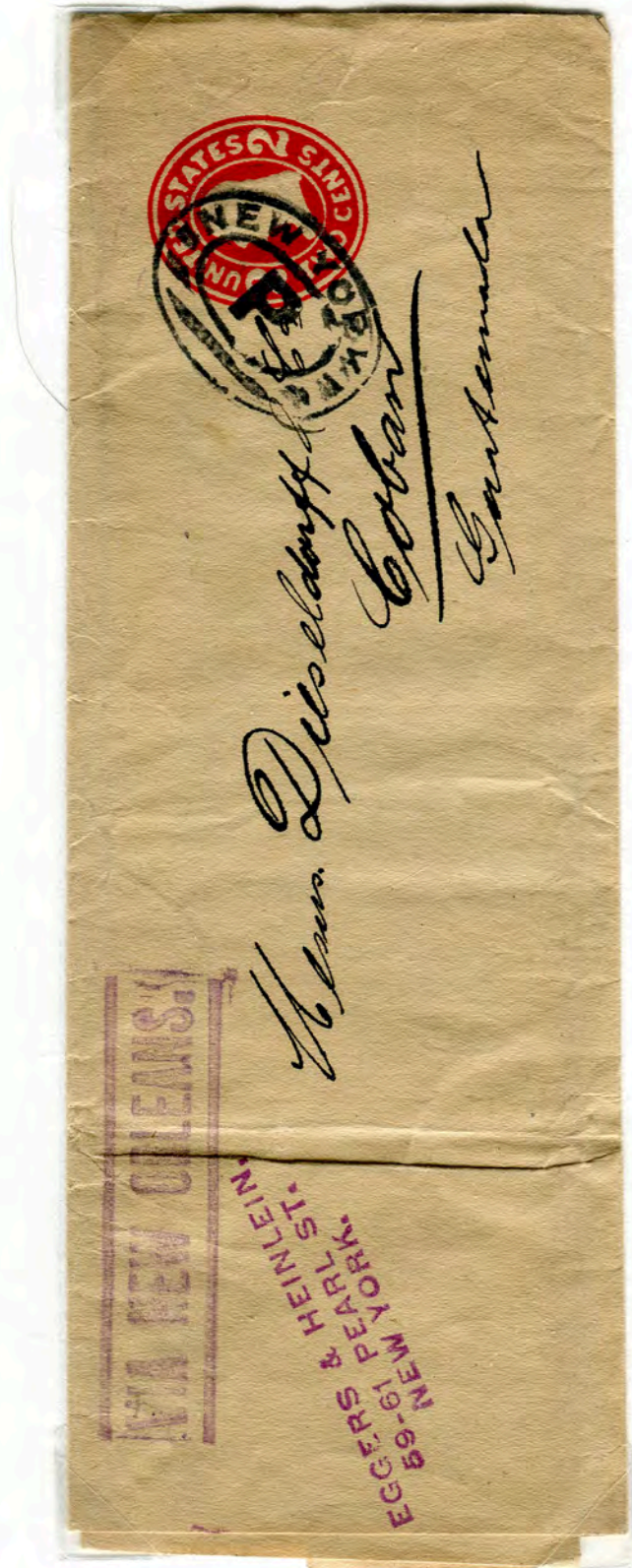


Partial printings are actually less common than albinos. These could only occur by a second sheet laying over a portion, but not all, of the die printing area. Such usages are extremely rare.

The two cents wrappers were issued in a larger size than previous issues. The two cents wrappers were less than 10% of total wrapper sales and, because of the size, were difficult to save, so few remain. The two cents wrappers (and envelopes) were first printed with brown red ink (below) for only a few months.



The bulk of two cents Mercantile wrappers were printed with carmine ink as shown below. These wrappers were printed from four different dies, all on the Huckins Press, below is Die 115 with the 'O' of 'TWO' and 'C' of 'CENTS' as elongated ovals and narrow 'S's'.



The remaining three Huckins die types of the two cents wrapper are shown below from top to bottom: with recut hairline (die 116), with wide 'S's (die 119), and upper corner of front bust cut away (die 121).

J. G. Merrill
Box 156,
Wendell, Mass.,
U. S. A.

Miss J. H. Reardon,
27 Holbaistrasse,
Königs, Switzerland.



ALBERT B. MERRILL
BONDS
BOSTON, MASS.
P. O. BOX 1772

Mr. Ernest H. Merrill
40 Harvard St
Sammerville, Mass.



J. E. CONANT & CO.,
(AUCTIONEERS)
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS



Warren Foundry Mach. Co.,
Phillipsburg, N. J.

This was a period of transition from laid to wove paper. Dies 115 and 121 were printed on both laid paper (previous pages) and wove paper (below).

IMPORTERS' GUIDE,
47 BROADWAY
NEW YORK CITY, U.S.A.

R. WIERING & CO.
PIEDRAS 393,
BUENOS AIRES.
ARGENTINA. S.A.



POSTMASTER:

If this catalog is not delivered in 15 days, kindly notify us at the end of that time on regular card notice 3540, being sure not to show more than this one catalog on such notice. Show the addressee's name, the amount of postage this wrapper shows we paid when it was first mailed.

Send notice to NEW YORK HARDWARE CO., 222 East Fifth St., Los Angeles, Cal., and we will send postage for withdrawal or return.

FROM NEW YORK HARDWARE CO., LOS ANGELES, CAL.

*Mr. F. M. Adams
Glendora, Cal.*

R.I.



Note that the mailer printed a requested on the lower wrapper to receive notice of failure to deliver with Form 3540. This form cost less than mailing the catalog back to sender.

Illustrated wrappers from the 20th century are much less common than during earlier years.

Brockton Fair

OCTOBER
5-6-7-8
1909

Julius C. Dellmuth
East-Dedham
Mass




Big Minstrel Number

"SPOTLIGHT"

IN CELEBRATION OF THE

Cohan and Harris Minstrels

with
Geo. Evans and 100 Honey Boys

Editor, Sunday News
Zanesville, Ohio



MADE BY
CHARLES A. EATON

You can depend upon it




Mr. E. J. Pollard
Collage St
Rutland
Vt

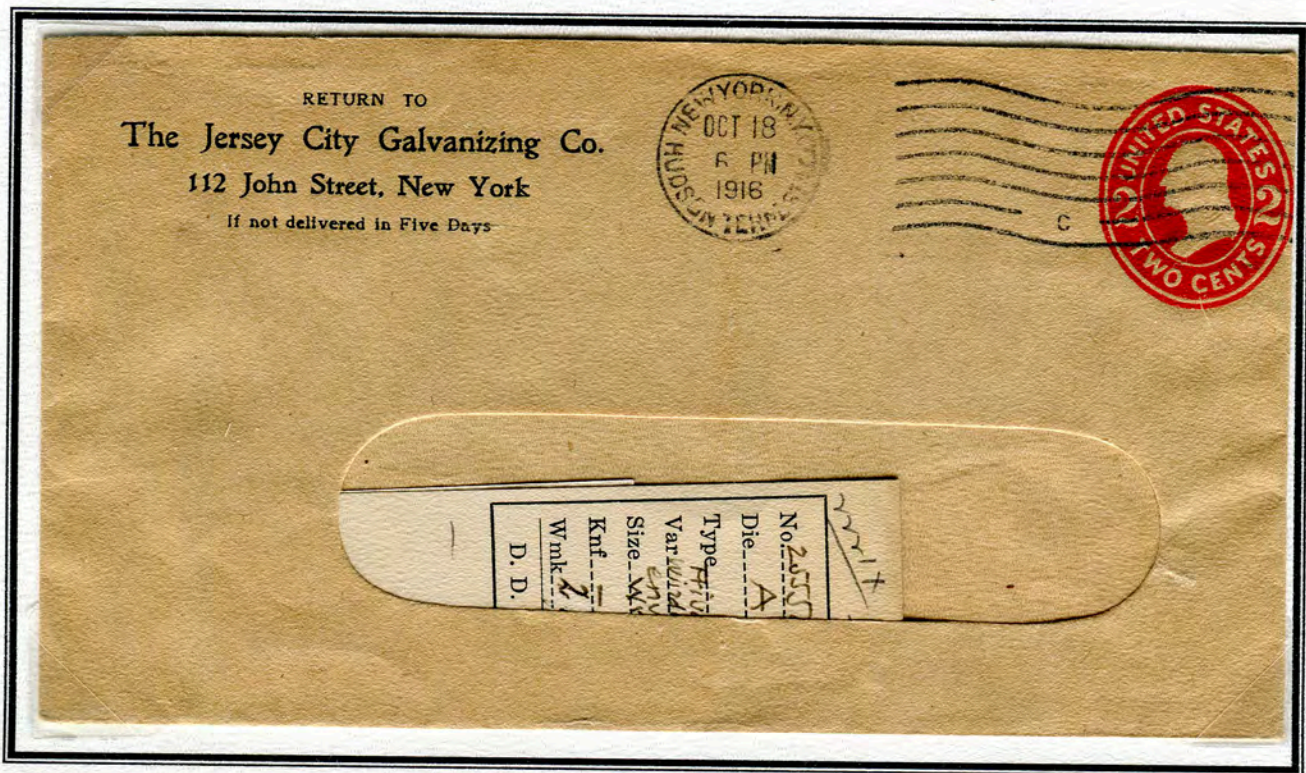


This is the Third Issue of the

FUSION FLASHLIGHT

Mr. J. A. Bredin
1538 Shebbens av
City





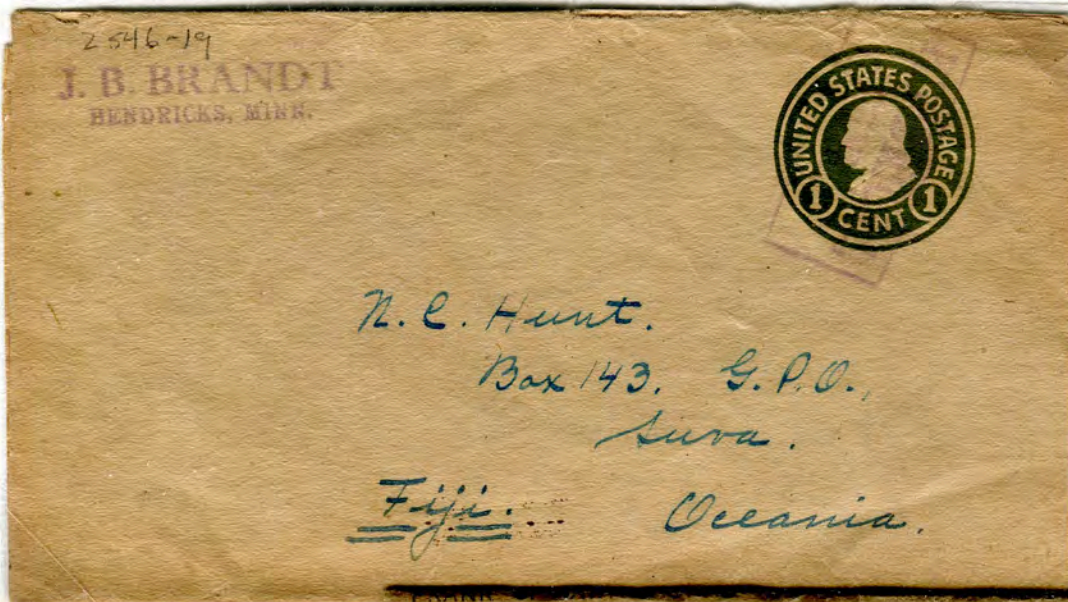
This wrapper was manufactured into an envelope and was used in 1916 – one year before the U.S. Post Office began manufacturing window envelopes.

One of four known copies of Mercantile wrapper made into windowed envelope

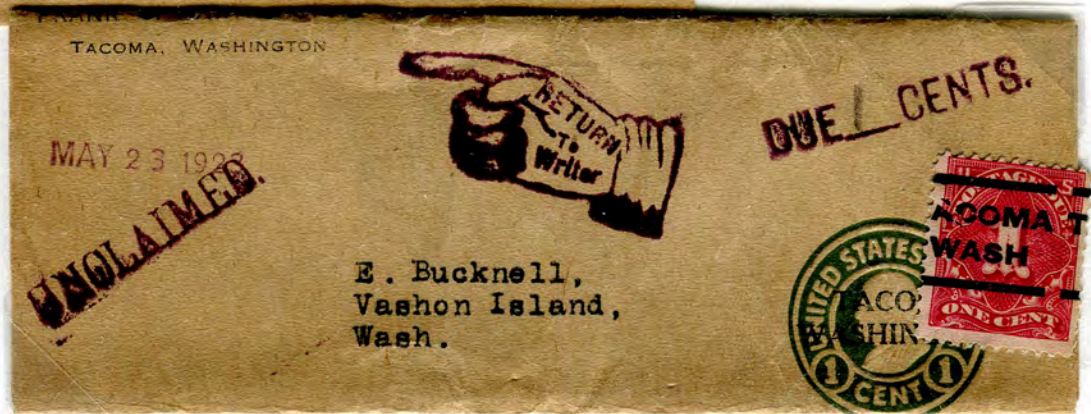
The wrapper was better suited to make window envelopes than assembled envelopes because the window could be cut out of several wrappers piled together when unfolded and then wrappers could be folded and glued into envelopes. With an envelope, one would have cut each envelope individually so the cutting die did not cut through both the front and back of the envelope when cutting the window.

All known copies have the same corner card of “The New Jersey City Galvanizing Company.” Windowed envelopes were and are required to have a sender’s address in the upper left corner per the Postal Laws and Regulations of 1913. This requirement is still in existence today.

The Middle West Supply Company won the postal contract in 1915 and new 'circular die' designs were issued. These were printed on wove paper, often without watermark. The upper two wrappers are printed from die 127 as were most of the one cent circular die wrappers. The lower wrapper is the **scarce second die**.



Sent to Fiji with boxed cancel from Hendricks, MN.



Precancelled wrapper with 'Due 1 cent' handstamp and for returning wrapper and contents to sender as the sender guaranteed postage for return item if not deliverable.



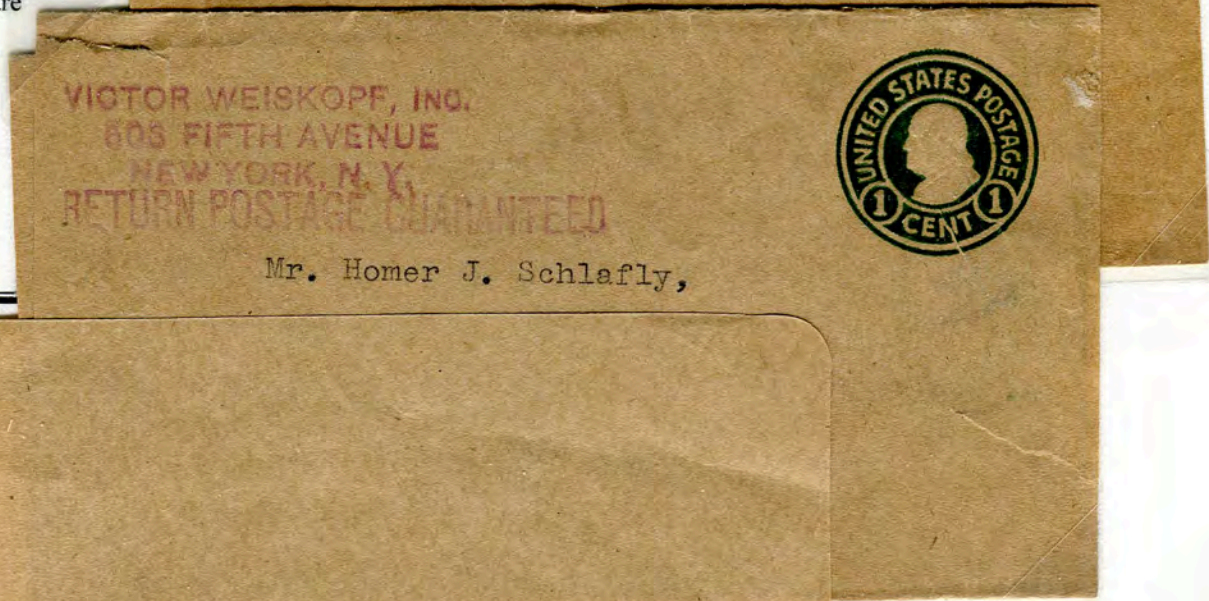
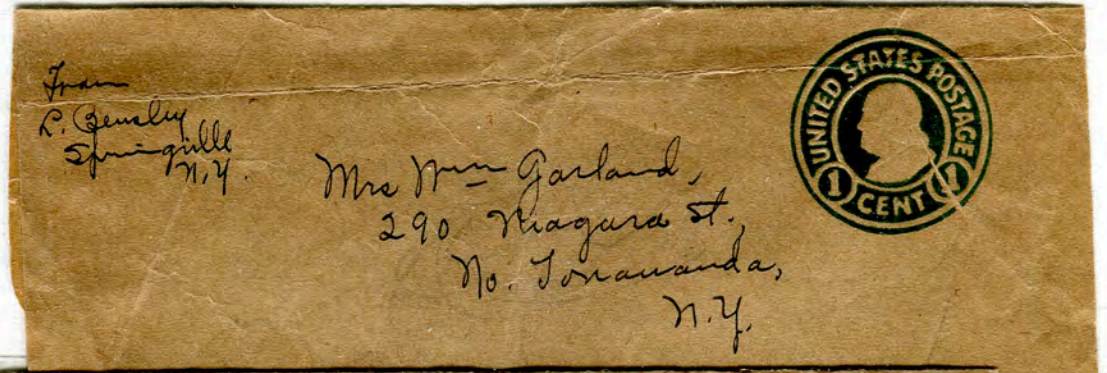
Printed with Die 129 (large 'NT' of 'CENT' that is widely spaced and knob of hair at back of neck). All four known copies of the wrapper with this scarce die have the same advertising.

One of four known copies of this wrapper die, all are used.

Shortages of chemicals, due to German embargo prior to World War I, resulted in varying paper types.

Shortages resulted in some wrappers being printed on thinner, glazed paper.

Note that stamps of both wrappers have an unprinted line through the design at lower right due to a paper fold during printing. Such printing flaws are common to this issue.



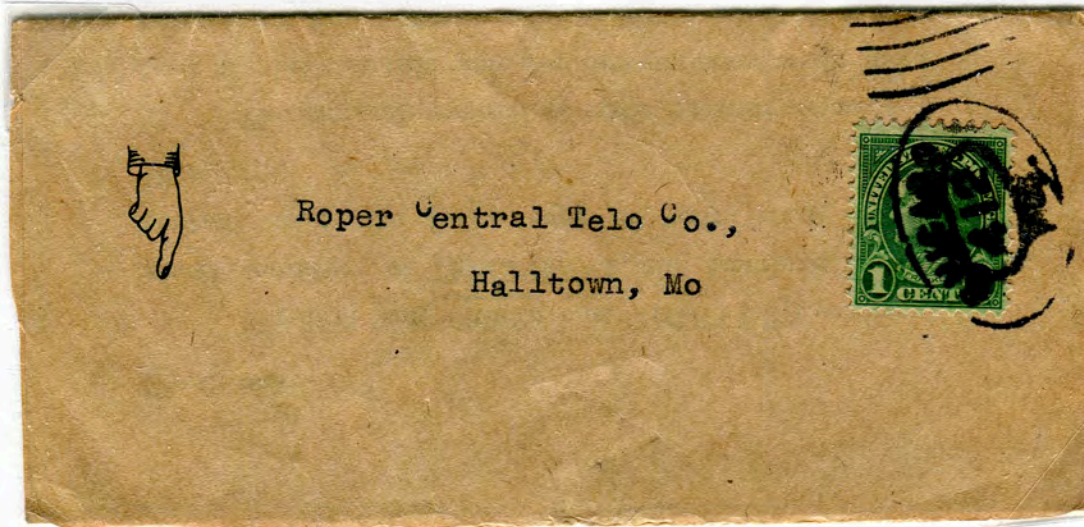
Some one cent wrappers were issued with glazing only on one side. The stamp was to be printed and the address written on the glazed side. However, a few wrappers accidentally had the stamp printed on the unglazed side. This wrapper is printed on the unglazed side and was sent from Chicago to Baden, Germany.



This wrapper was sent from Savannah, California to Seymour, Texas as indicated by the postmarks. Four 3¢ stamps were added to pay the 10¢ Special Delivery Fee and to raise the postage to 3¢ for first class. This was less expensive than paying 15¢ for 3rd class Special Delivery plus 1¢ for third class rate (rates in effect July 1, 1928 to Nov 1, 1944).

One of two known Special Delivery usages of this issue.

Unusual with message printed on inside of wrapper.



Wrapper with stamp added and sent from Chicago to Halltown, MO

Gentlemen:-

We offer you without cost THIRTEEN consecutive weekly numbers of TELEPHONY, the American Telephone Journal, in return for a copy of your latest Telephone Directory.

The unusual proposal is made because we need your book (or list) at this time for our statistical work and files; because we know they cost something to compile and print; because you may not have many of them left; and because of your trouble in the matter.

Simply mail your directory in this special wrapper, which is postpaid, and your address on it will automatically put you on our mailing list for the promised three months' service.

Also note how we have written your title and address. If in any way wrong, please correct, that your company may appear as it should in the forthcoming Directory of the Telephone Industry.

Respectfully,
TELEPHONY PUBLISHING CORP.
Chicago

This wrapper was sent to various telephone companies with the message at left printed inside. Recipients were asked to use the preaddressed wrapper to mail back a copy of their latest telephone directory.

(Pictures reduced)

Telephony Publishing Corp.
608 So. Dearborn Street
Chicago

The preaddressed wrapper (right) was folded inside for initial mailing and to be used by recipient for mailing telephone directory back to sender.

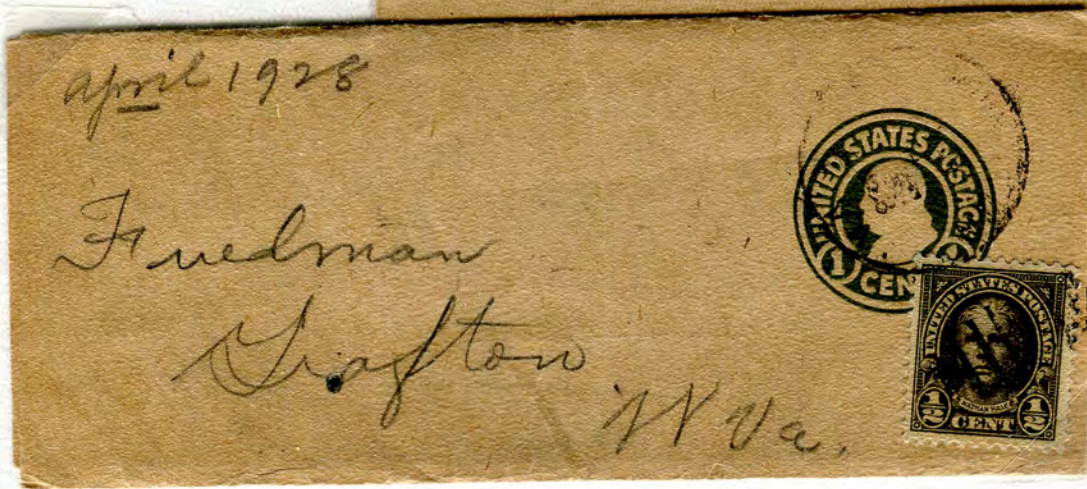
The Middle West Supply Company 1915 to 1934

Rate Increase

The postage rate increase on April 15, 1925 resulted in $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ stamps being needed for the additional postage. The lower wrapper represents a **provisional use of half of a one cent stamp** when $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ stamps were not available. While not officially sanctioned, both the Fresno and Big Creek, California post offices accepted the usage.



Aurora Beacon News
Aurora, Illinois



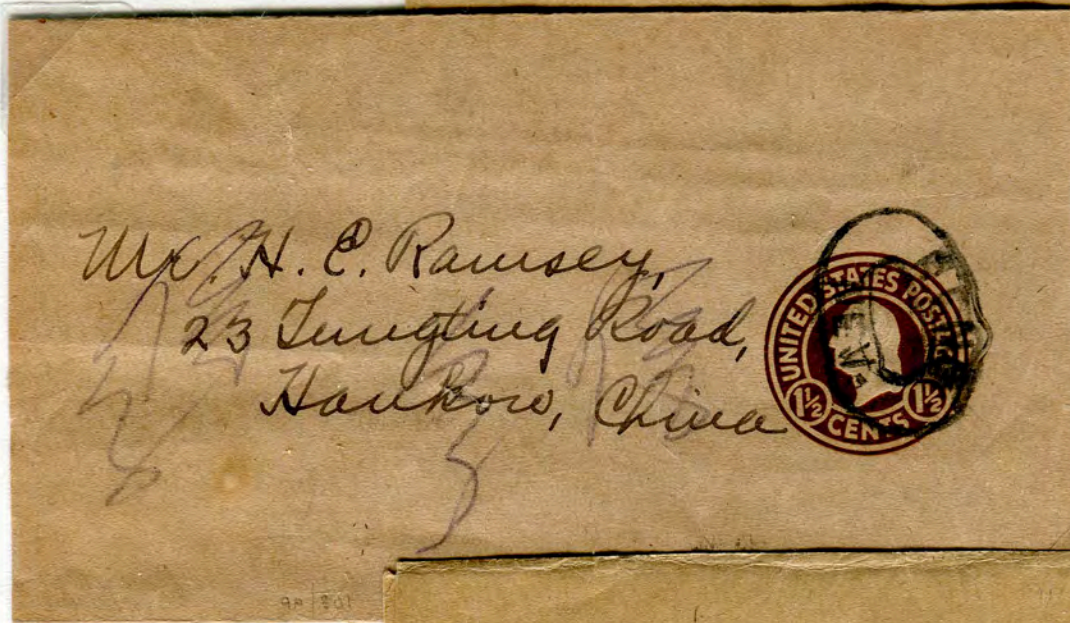
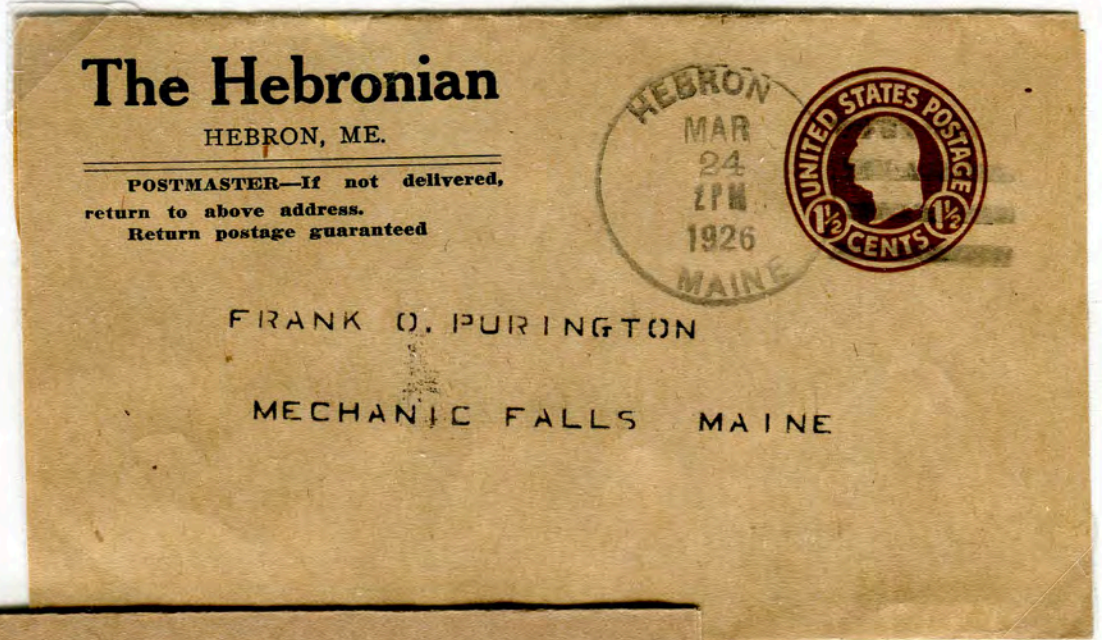
Mr. F. A. Bartram
Box 186
Big Creek, Calif.

The Middle West Supply Company 1915 to 1934

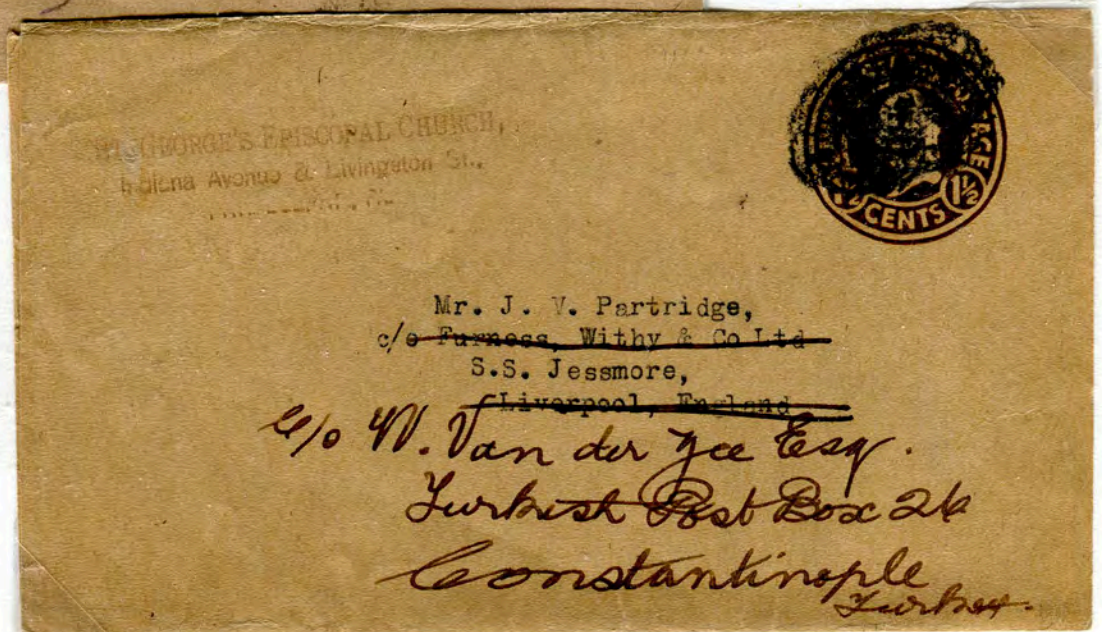
Rate Increase

The 1½¢ wrapper was issued following the Apr 15, 1925 rate increase for third class mail from 1 cent per 2 oz to 1½ cents per 2 oz. Usages to foreign destinations seem unusually uncommon for this issue.

With printed corner card for The Hebron, a newspaper in Hebron, Maine. The wrapper also has a circular date stamp unusual for 3rd class mail.



Sent to Hankow, China, now a part of the city of Wuhan, the capital of the Hubei province, China.



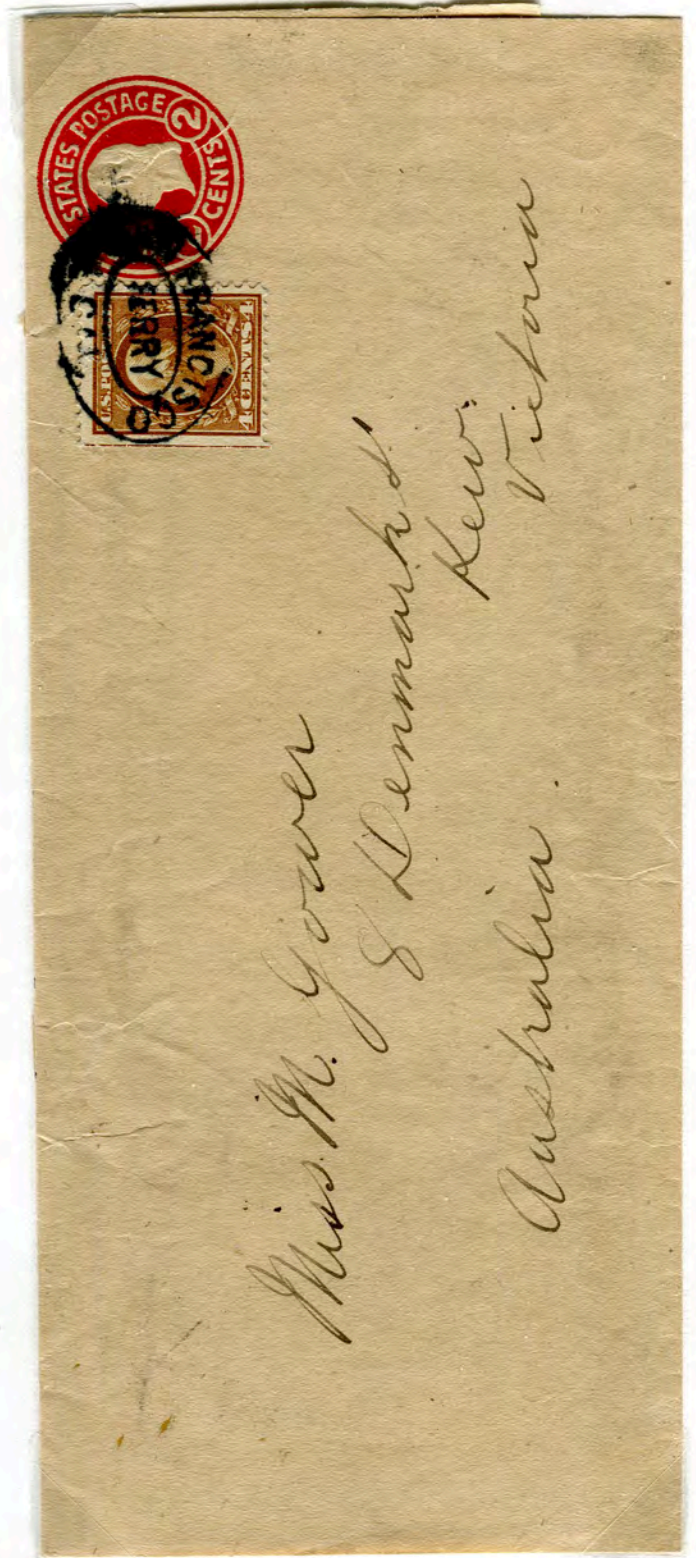
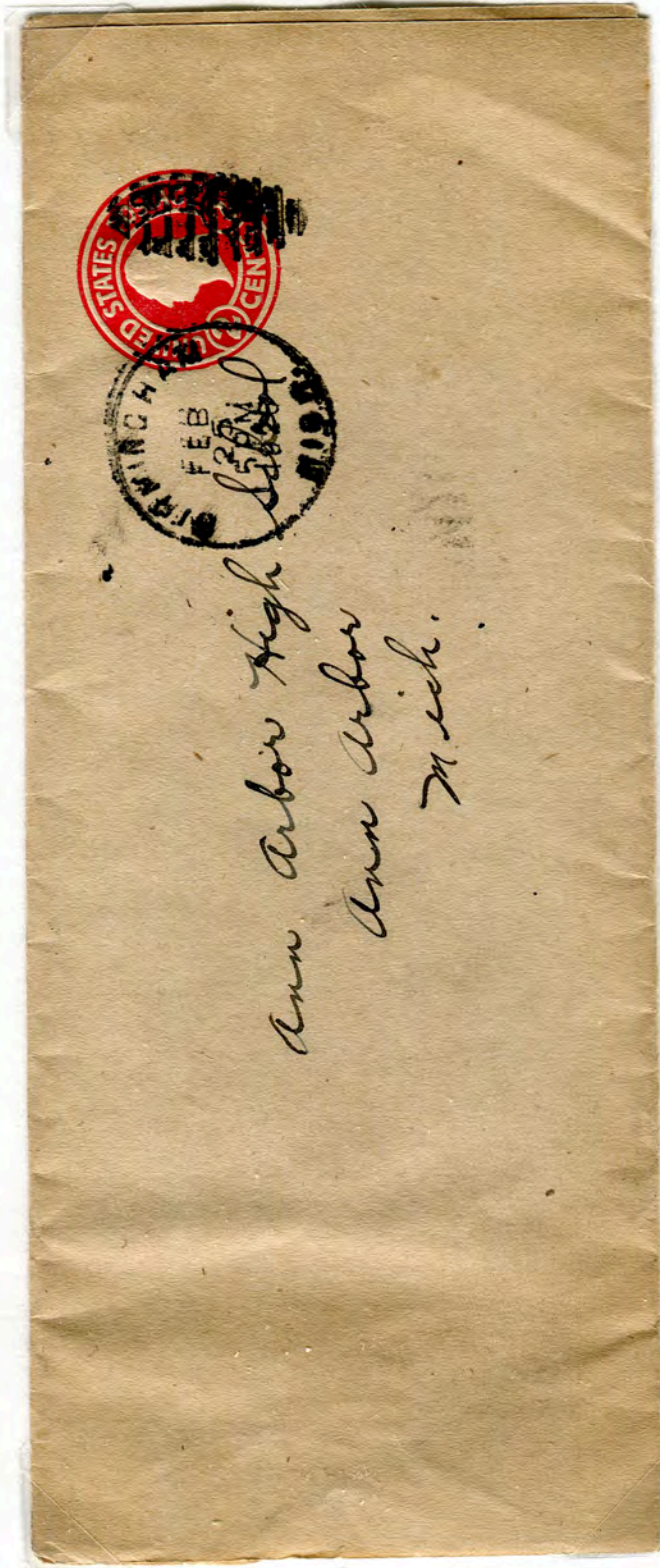
Sent to Liverpool, England and forwarded to Constantinople (now Istanbul), Turkey.

Mail was censored by many countries during World War II. Mail was censored across the British Empire before the U.S. entered the war. While printing of wrappers ceased in 1934, wrappers were available from postal stocks for some number of years thereafter.



This wrapper was sent from the United States to **Rangoon, Burma** at the beginning of World War II. On April 1, 1937 Burma was separated from India and came under direct British Administration. The five cent stamp was added to the wrapper for the quadruple rate. Since the rate was $1\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$ per each 2 oz or fraction thereof, the wrapper and contents weighted between 6 and 8 oz and was overpaid by one half cent. The wrapper has a partial Rangoon receiving stamp on the right with green **triangular Rangoon Censor marking** (PASSED/CENSOR/RANGOON with '3' in center) on the left.

Two cents wrappers were also printed. Need for these wrappers increased after the postage rate for second class mail increased to 2 cents per oz on Apr 15, 1925. The wrappers show uses to Michigan and Australia.



War shortages stimulated attempts to produce wrappers with different paper. Brown paper, similar to grocery bag paper, was used, either glazed on one side or unglazed. The left wrapper to Illinois is brown paper glazed on one side, the other two wrappers are manila paper of varying colors/qualities.



Miss Mary Barr
281 Warren St.
Newark, N.J.



Dr. Erick E. R 1155
Strehlener Str 68
Cincinnati, R



Mr. Clarence W. Bahman
Franklin Grove
Illinois

The Middle West Supply Company 1915 to 1934

Two Cents Rate

Due to shortages caused by World War I and extending some time after, some wrappers were issued with glazing on only one side. The glazed side was to have the stamp printed on it and be used for the address. However, a few wrappers accidentally had the stamp printed on the unglazed side.

Only reported 2 cents wrapper printed on wrong side and used to foreign country.



Printed Matter

Herrn Dr. Behrendsen

Germany

Charlottenburg 2
Goethestr 78/I



This is the only known wrapper sent **airmail special delivery** and is thus included, though it is undoubtedly a favor item. It was sent from Crystal Lake, Ill at 6 pm on May 16, 1936 to Chicago and canceled at 9 pm on its way to Kansas City, Missouri, where it arrived at 2:30 am on May 17 (per cancel on back).

Only reported wrapper sent airmail special delivery.

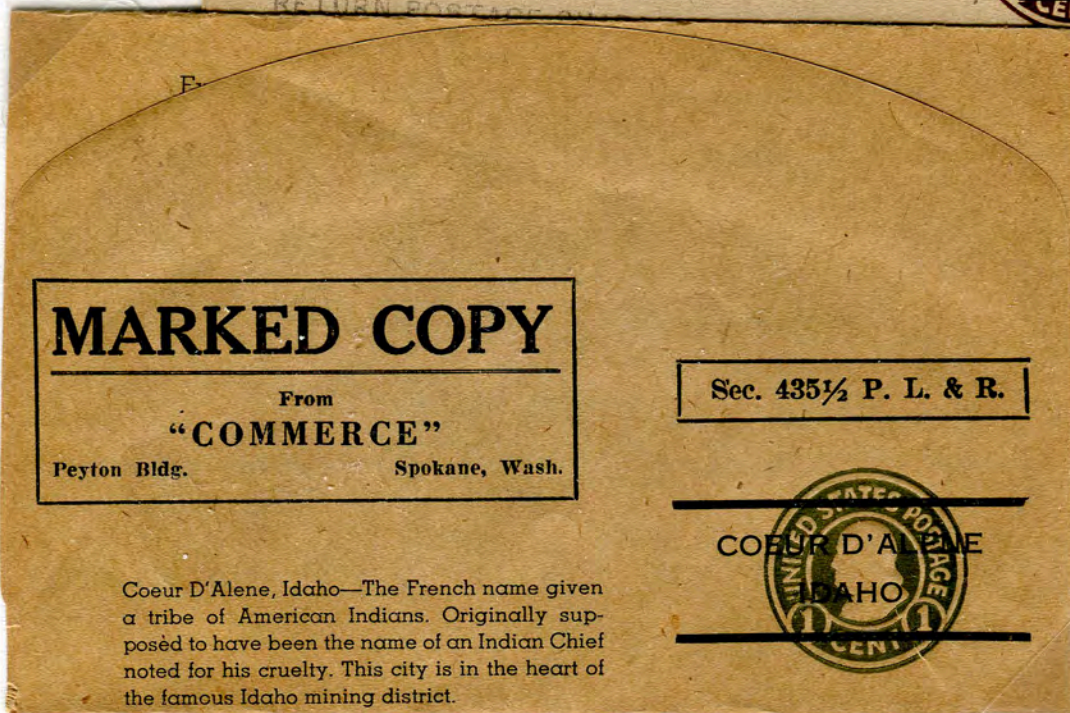
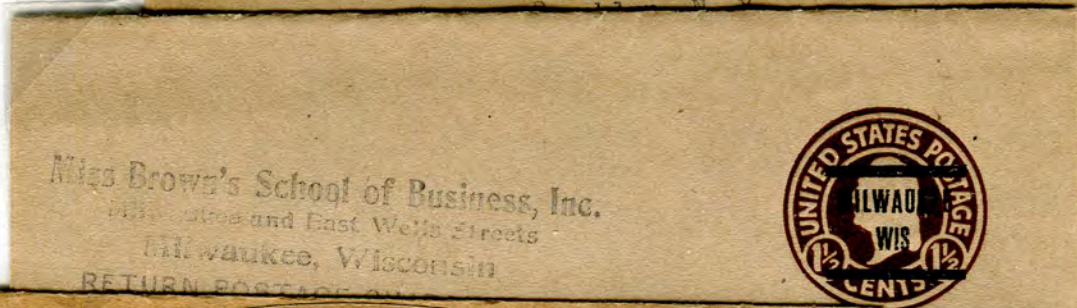
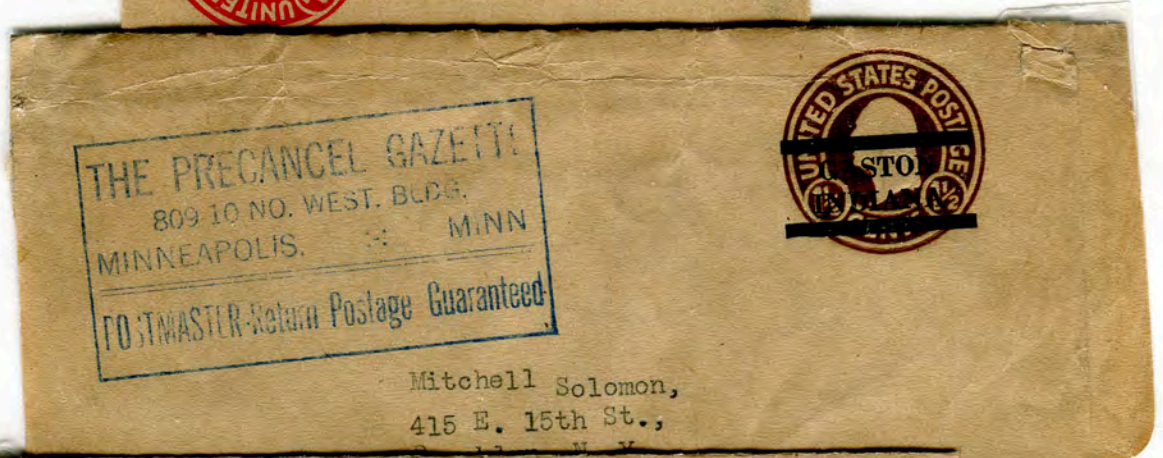


The Middle West Supply Company 1915 to 1934

Precancelled wrappers

The bulk of precancel wrapper use exists on the **circular dies of 1915 to 1934**. Precancelled envelopes were authorized in August 1928 and printed by Middle West Supply Company but wrappers were not. Precancelled wrappers **were all locally printed** and are very uncommon.

The 2¢ red wrapper is precancelled for National Stockyards, Illinois.



Coeur D'Alene, Idaho—The French name given a tribe of American Indians. Originally supposed to have been the name of an Indian Chief noted for his cruelty. This city is in the heart of the famous Idaho mining district.

This precancel references Sec. 435½, P. L. & R. (Act of May 29, 1928) as required on envelopes.

The End of Postal Stationery Wrappers

Sample Copy of
The PHILATELIC MART
from
1024 Oak St., Atchison, Kansas



Sec. 562 P. L. & R.

A philatelic journal mailed with notice of end of wrapper issue. Note the reference to Sec 562 P.L. & R below the stamp.

Collectors Notice
Save this wrapper: As they have been discontinued by the Post Office department and soon will be obsolete.

Lawerence G. Mohr

124 East 84th St.

New York City

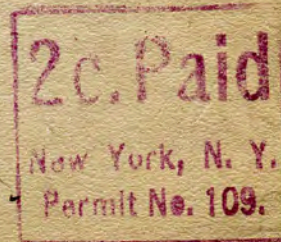
New York

Advancing bulk-mailing technology, included the use of precancels, mailers permits and automated addressing and packaging resulting in declining use and discontinuance of U.S. Postal Stationery wrapper issue in 1934.

Replacements for stamped wrappers shown below include an early mailers permit on wrapper issued in New York, NY and a precanceled stamp on a wrapper sent to France during WW II and returned by censor with label on back (copy at lower left.)

R. R.
Mrs. A. J. Moss
Chicago

7615 Morgan St.



EXAMINED BY 7718

V MALEZIAN
22 RUE DE PETITE ST JEAN
MARSEILLE FRANCE



THIS COMMUNICATION RETURNED TO SENDER BECAUSE IT IS ADDRESSED TO AN ENEMY OR ENEMY-OCCUPIED COUNTRY. PERSONAL MESSAGES OF NOT MORE THAN 25 WORDS MAY BE SENT THROUGH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS. INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE NEAREST RED CROSS OFFICE.