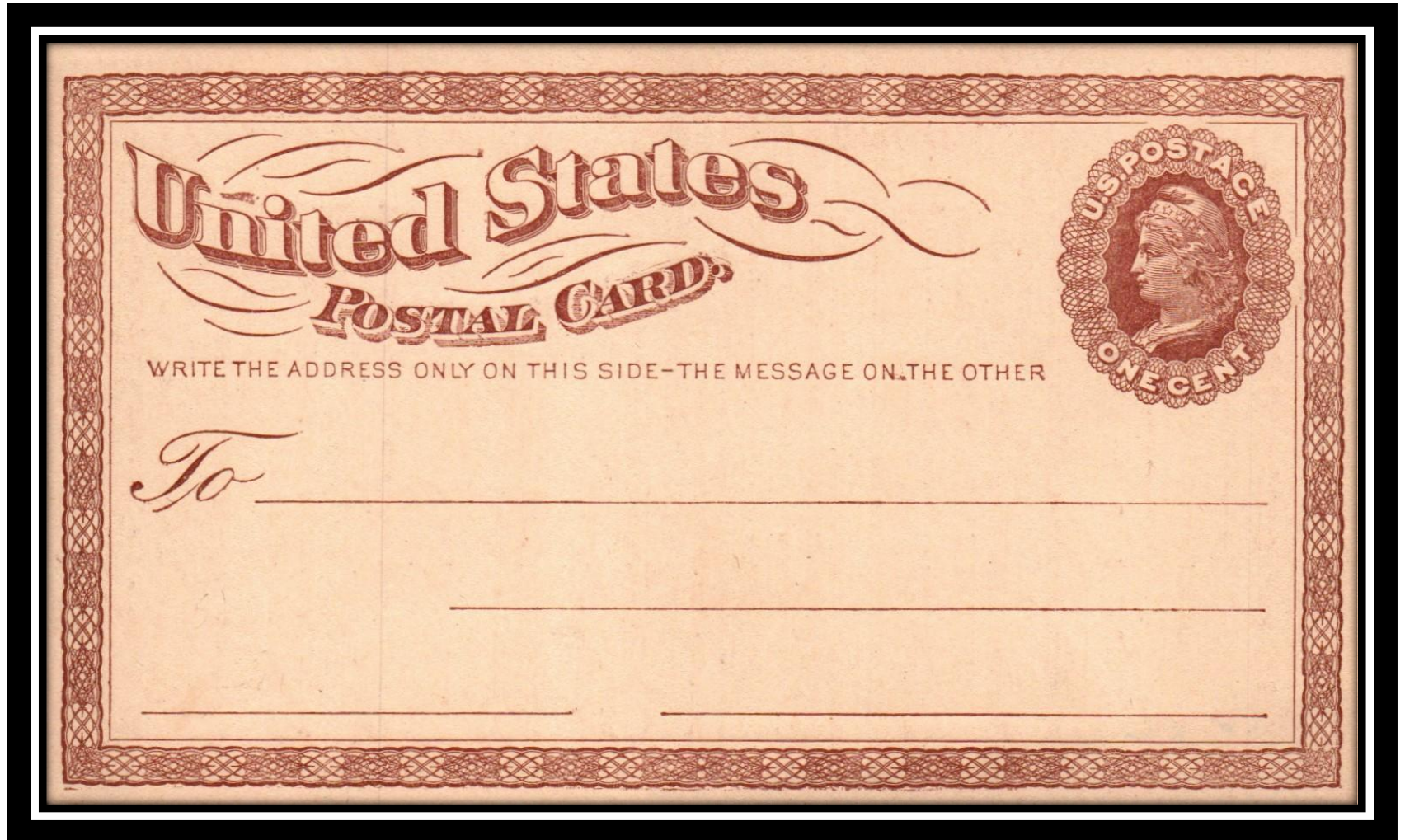
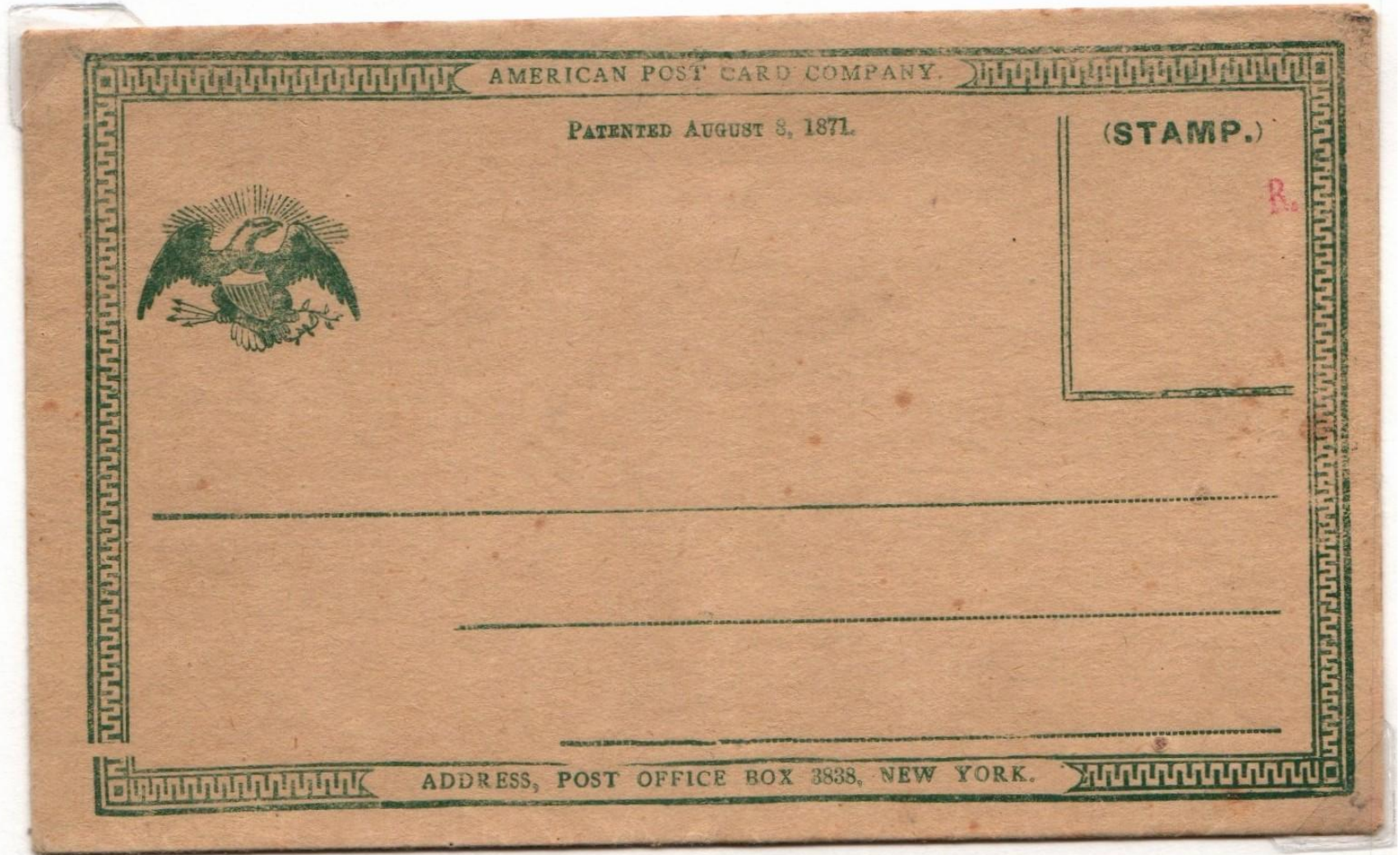


# First Issue Postal Card of 1873



DEVELOPMENT: Forerunner

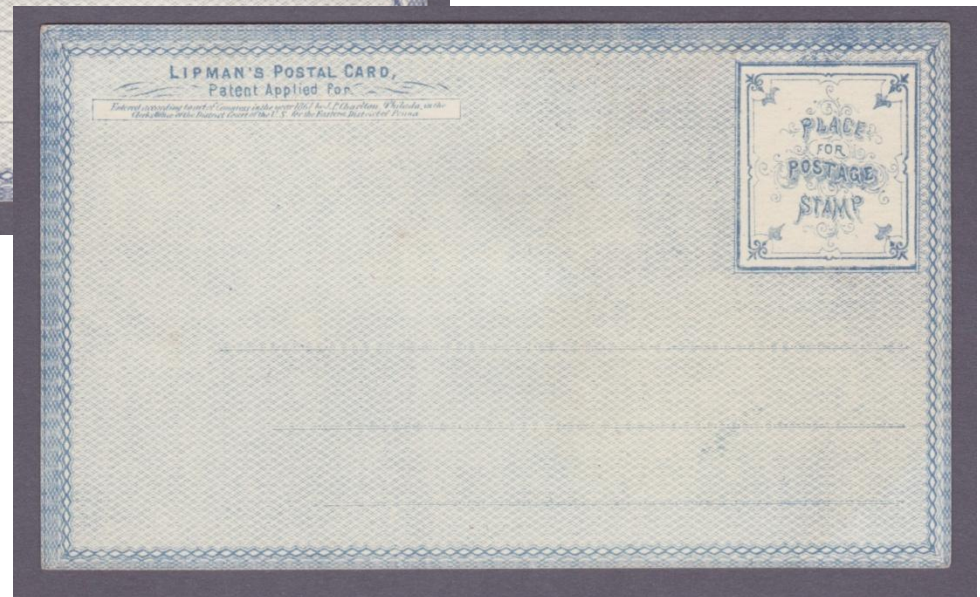
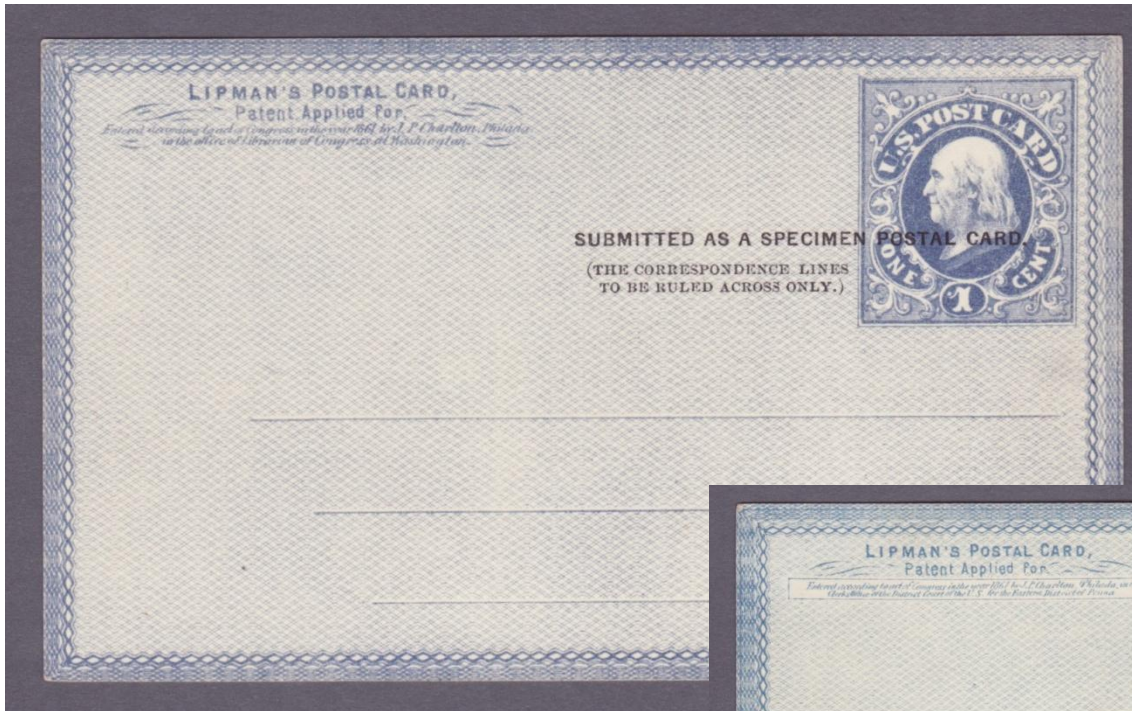
American Post Card Co. August 1871



Postal Card Forerunner UX1E-Ea

# DEVELOPMENT: Forerunner Essay

## The Lipman Postal Card Design May 1872



# DEVELOPMENT: Forerunner Essay

Lees & Skeen July 1872

## POSTAL CARD.

*Write only the Address on this side—the Message on the other.*



**To** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# DEVELOPMENT: Forerunner Essay

Unattributed Banknote Engraver July 1872



# DEVELOPMENT: Forerunner Essay

America Bank Note Co. July 1872



# DEVELOPMENT: Forerunner Essays

Continental Bank Note Co. July 1872



# DEVELOPMENT: Forerunner Essay

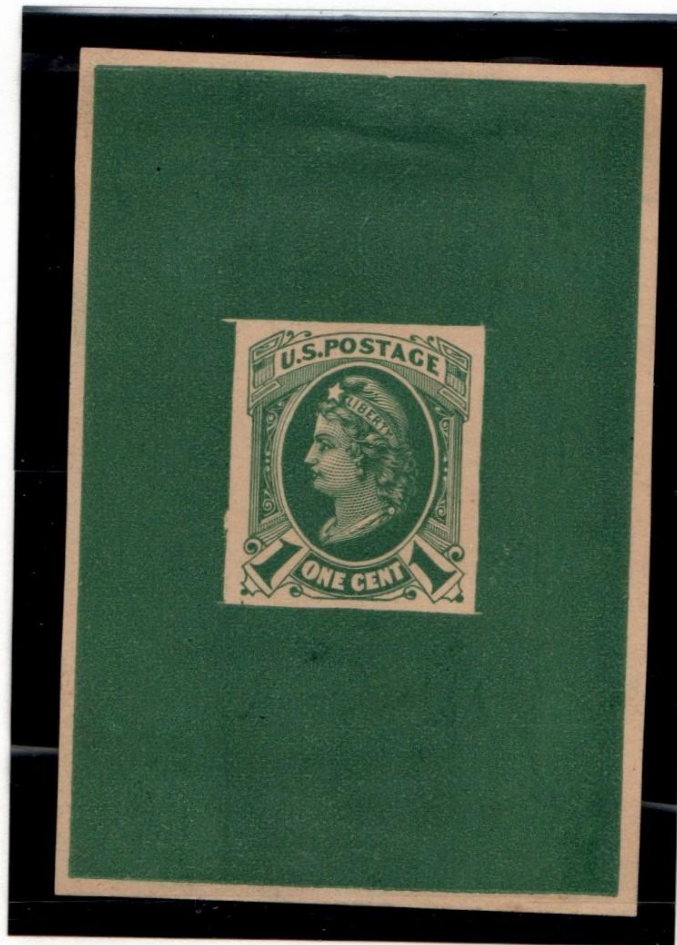
National Bank Note Co June 1872



National Bank Note Company

Design Attributed to James Macdonough

# DEVELOPEMENT



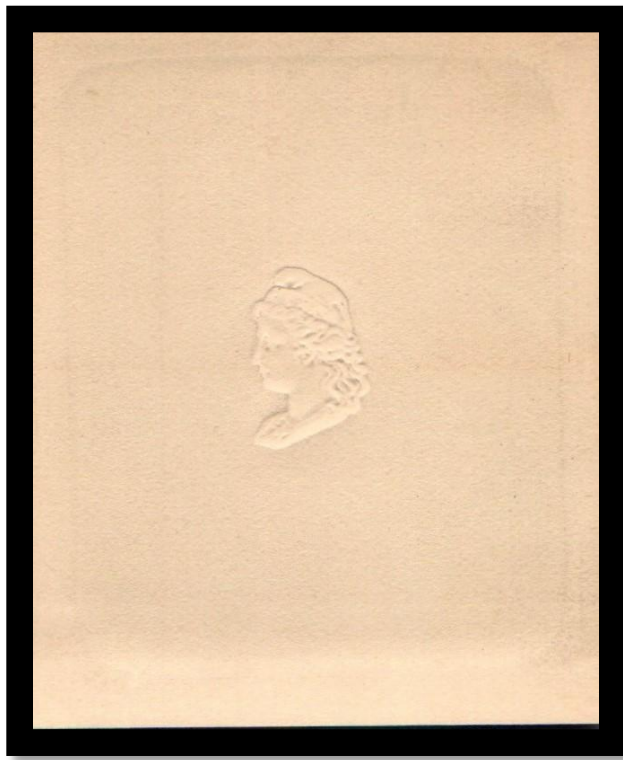
1872 UX1E-Y One Cent

Dim Deep Green

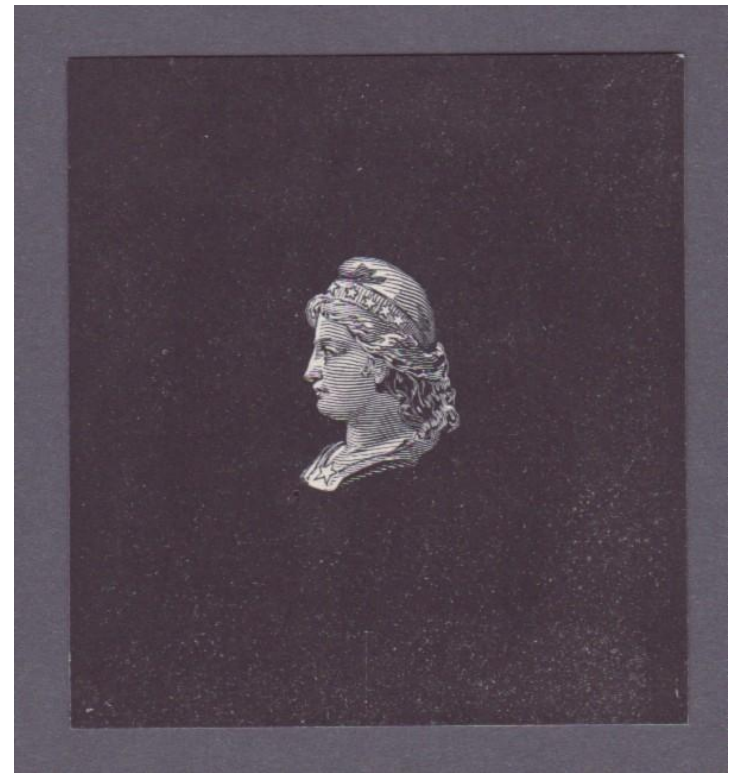
Typographed from an engraved steel die.

# DEVELOPMENT: Die Essays National Bank Note Co.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Progressive Die Essay



Albino embossed on wove paper



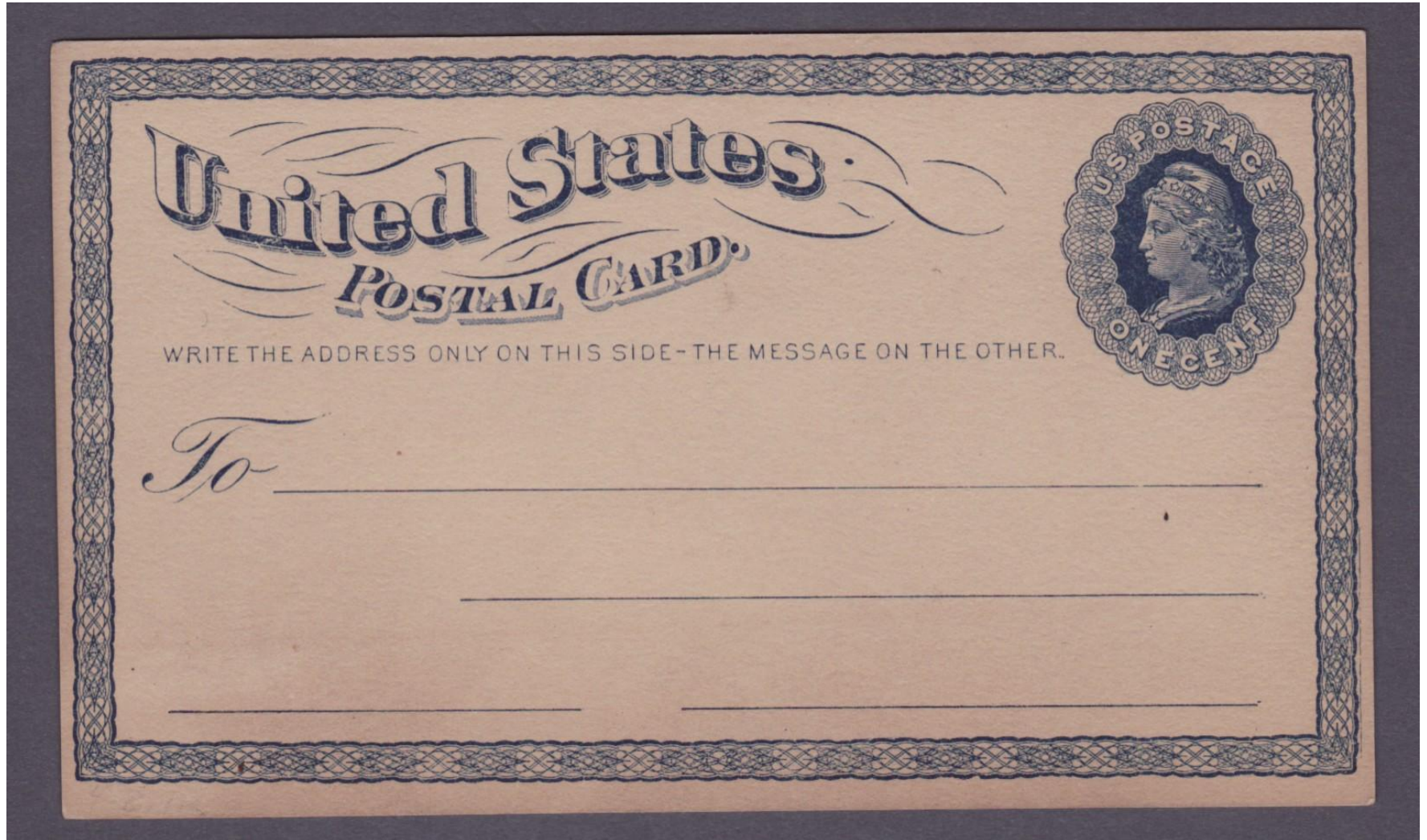
Typographed from engraved steel die.

# DEVELOPMENT: Die Essay

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Progressive Die Essay



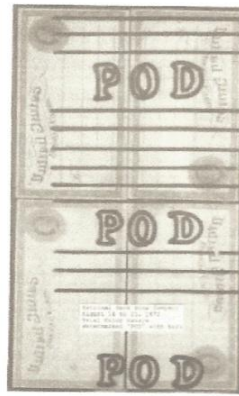
# DEVELOPMENT: Completed Essay



# Development : Trial Colors



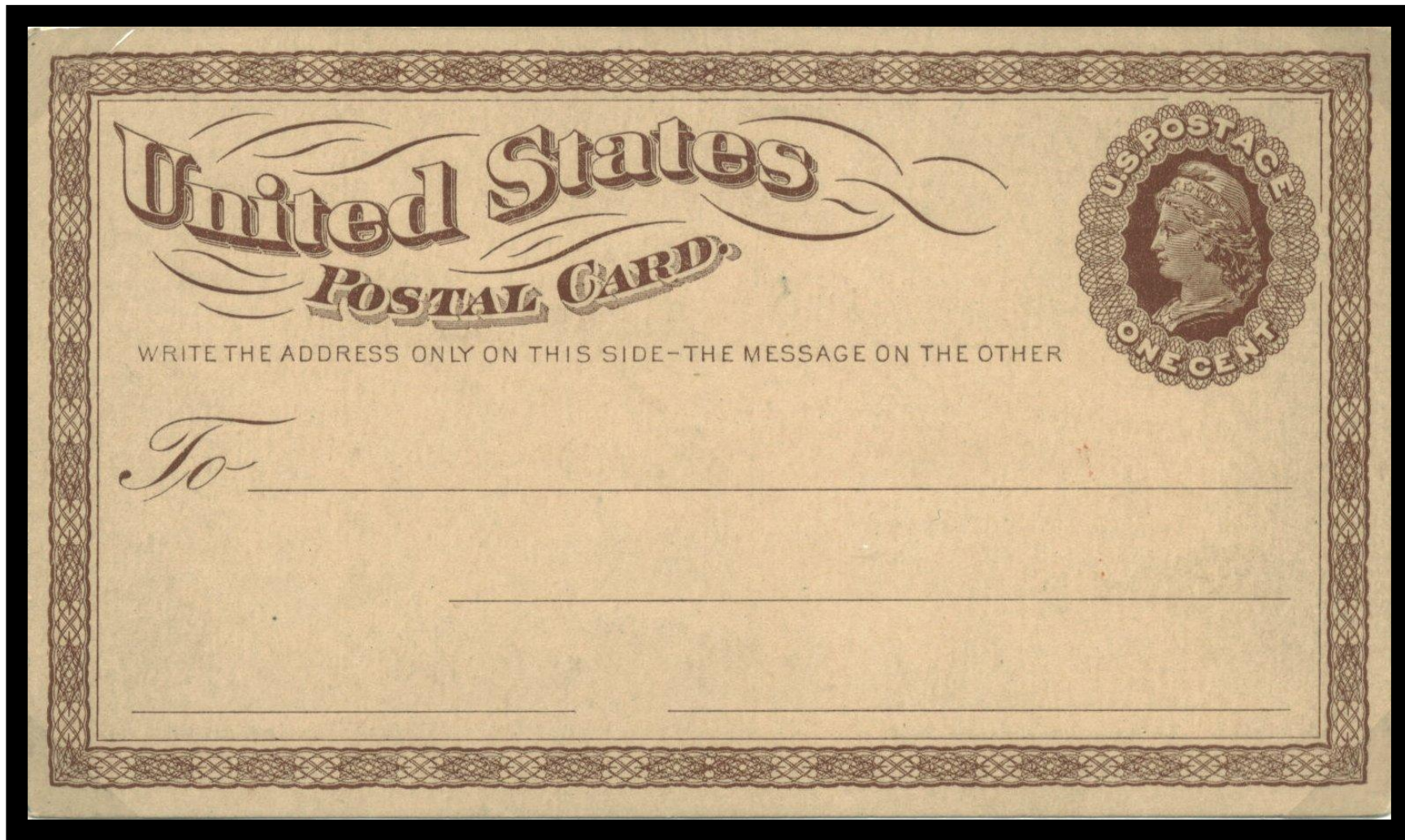
# DEVELOPMENT: Watermark Essay



Essay watermark  
reads up or down  
on trial colors.



# DEVELOPMENT: Master Die Proof UX1Pa



DEVELOPMENT:  
Secret Mark



# DEVELOPMENT

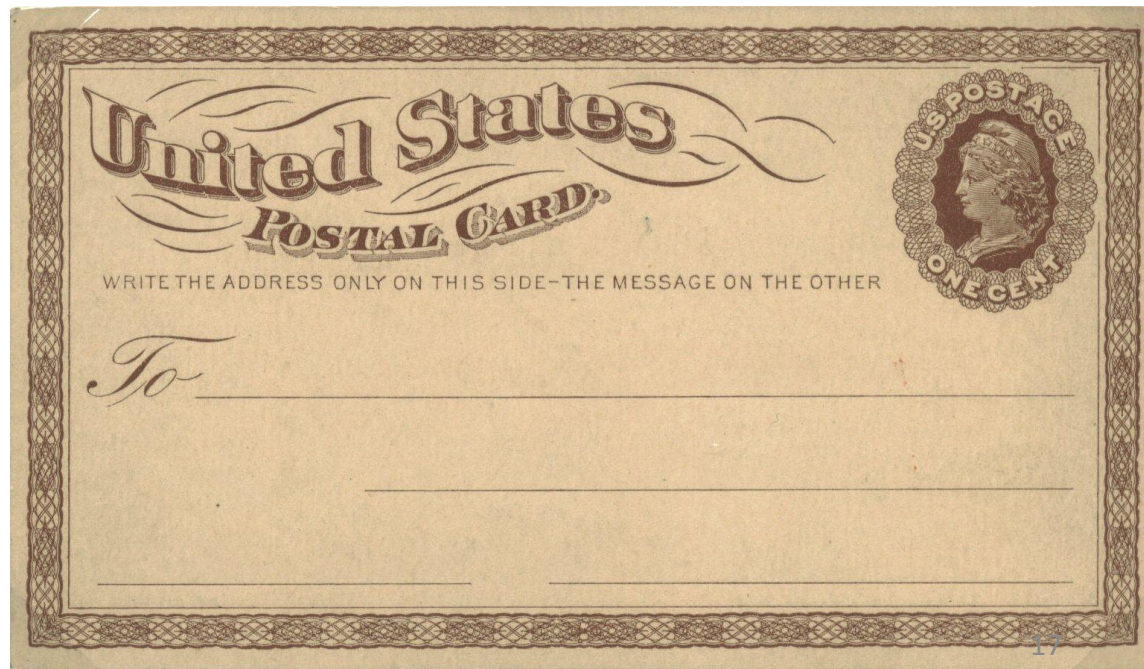
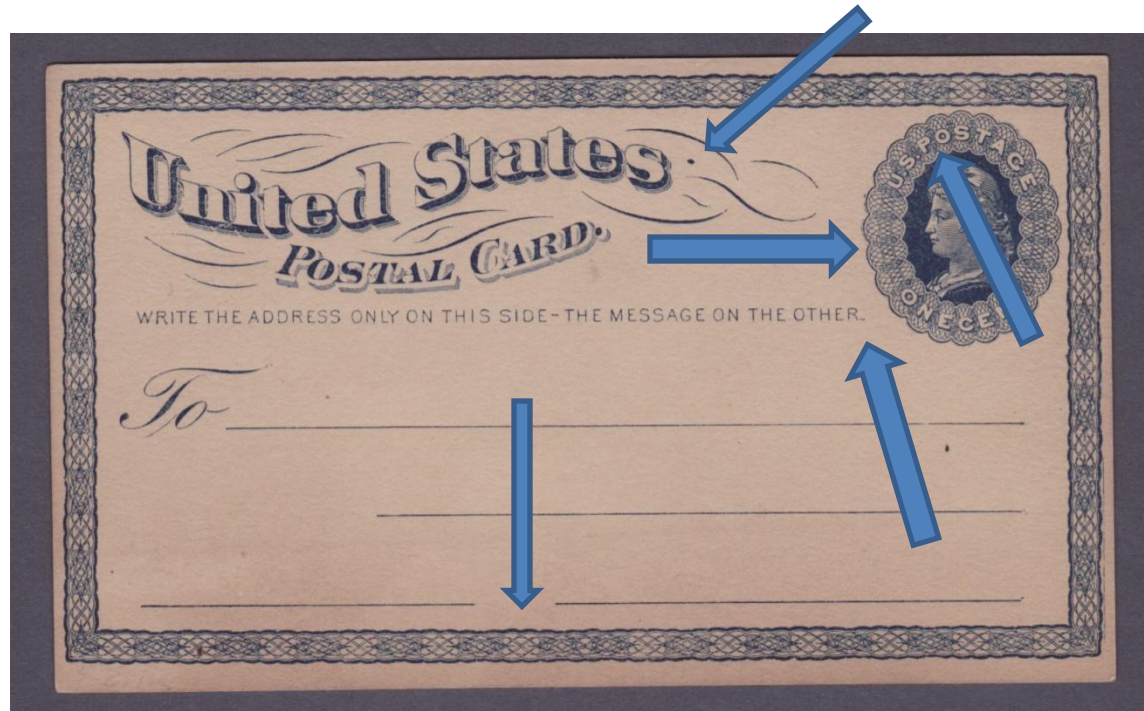
## Essay & Proof Differences

1. Knife edge around scallops of Liberty
2. No knife edge inside border.
3. Large dot near “S” of “States”
4. Small lettering for “U.S. POSTAGE” and “ONE CENT”
5. Scrolls slightly different in size and shape.

Final Design: Normal

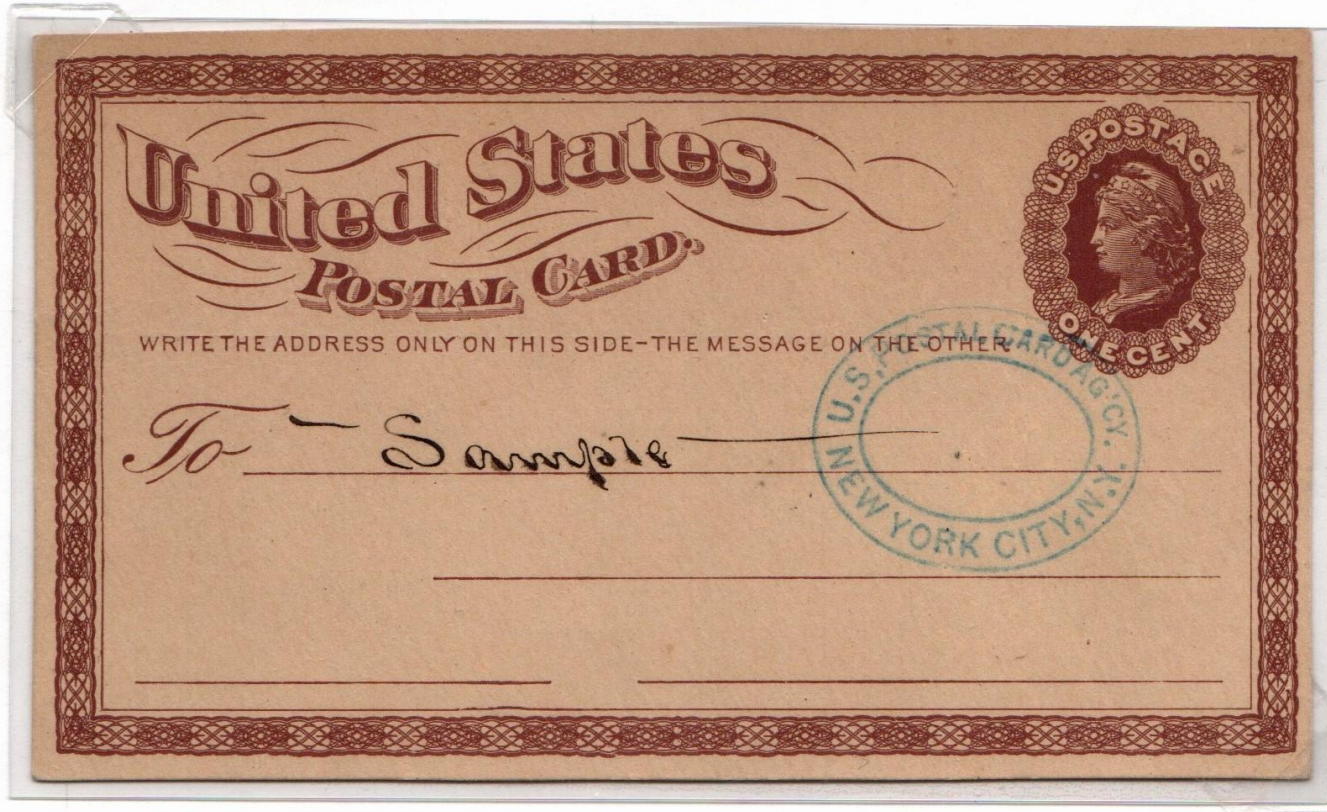
Color Proof

Unwatermarked UX1Pcd



## PRODUCTION: Approved Design

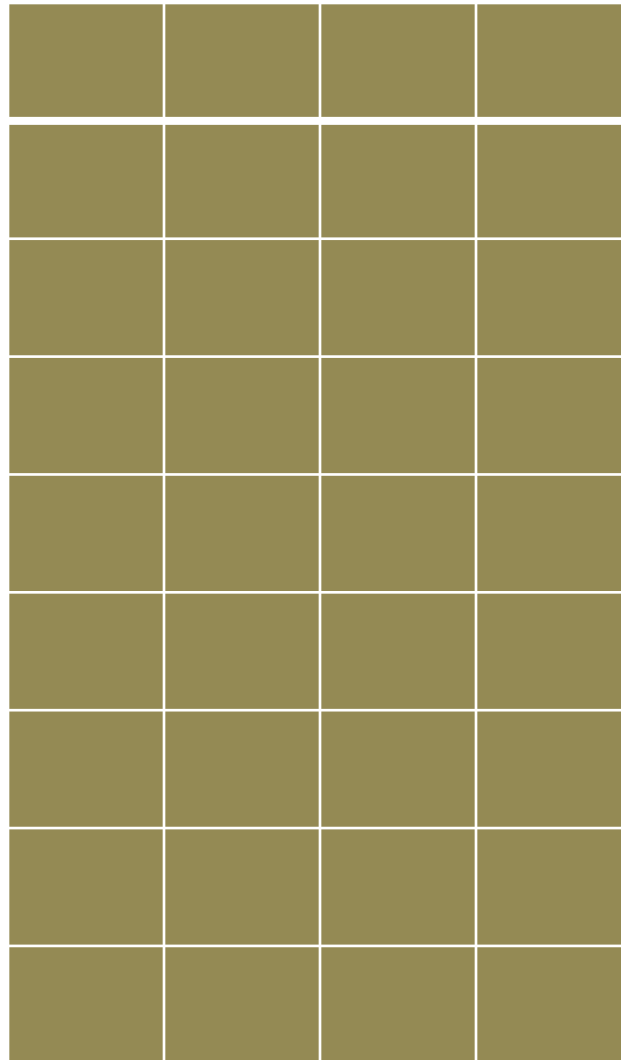
By August of 1872 a final design was approved, a new die was completed and a transfer roll had been made from it. From the master die a total of 72 plates were created. Plates were bolted together and arranged 4 X 9. Two 36 subject plates were created. Each individual die had definite characteristics, distinguishing it from other. It is possible to identify all the working dies but the exact position of each plate in the form cannot be proved in most cases as only one multiple is know. The adopted color of ink used to print is called velvet brown.



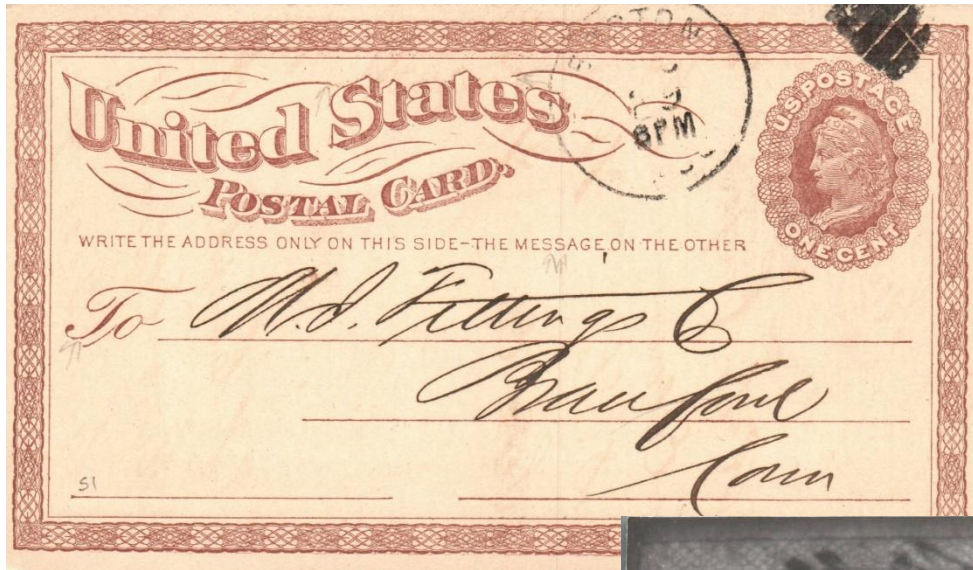
UX1PS Production Speciman

Taken from the first sheet approved.

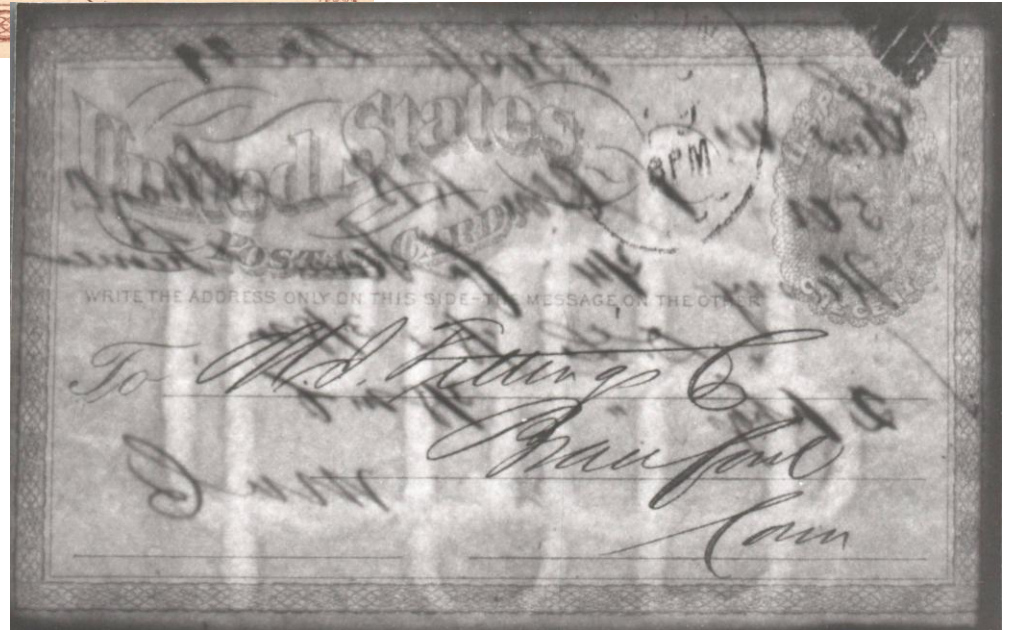
PRODUCTION: Plate Layout 4X9



# PRODUCTION : Large Watermark

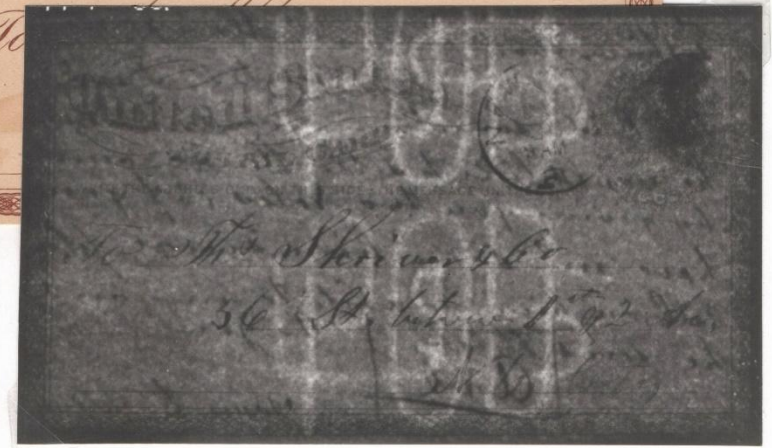


Watermark Monogram measures  
60mm x 90mm.



# PRODUCTION : Small Watermark

Type I : Shape  
of "O" in POD is  
round. Measures  
53mm x 35mm



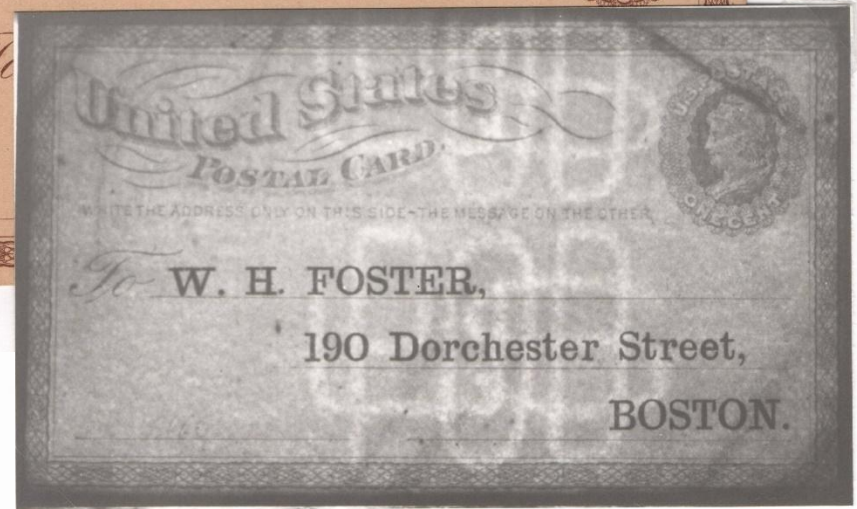
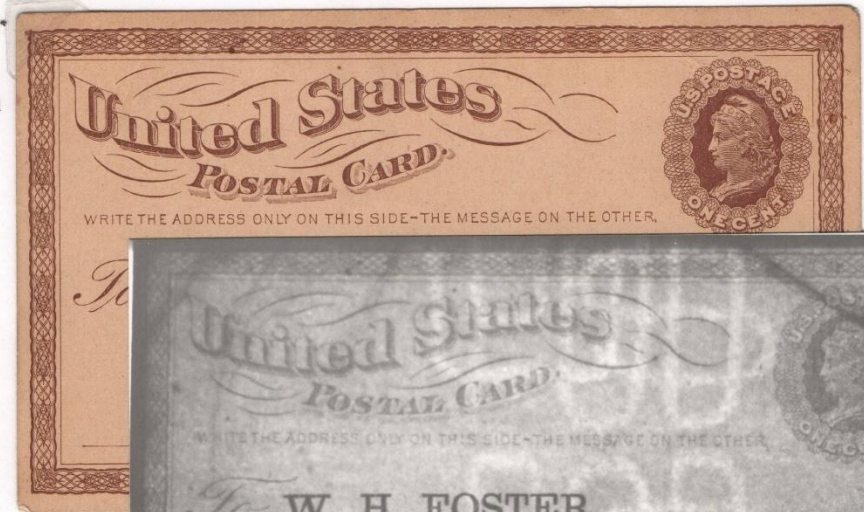
Type II : Shape  
of "O" in POD  
is elongated.  
Measures  
55mm x 38mm



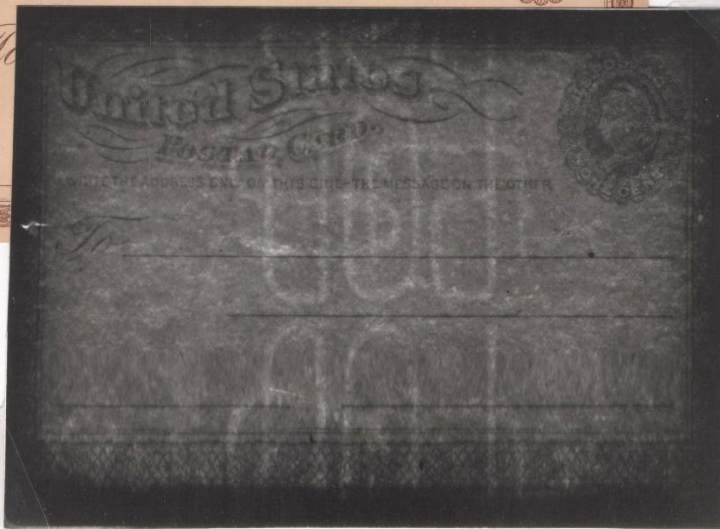
Two mills produced card  
stocks requiring two dandy  
rolls. Two slightly different  
types of watermarks exist.

PRODUCTION :  
Small Watermark:  
Varieties : Position

Normal Position



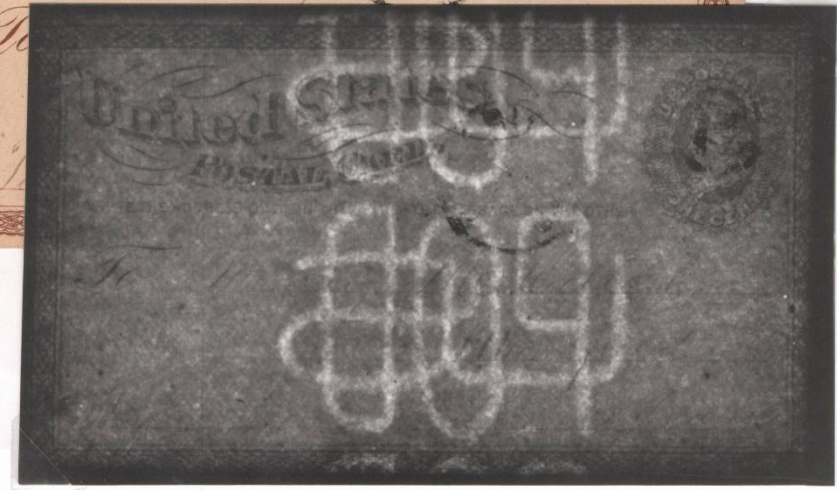
Inverted Position



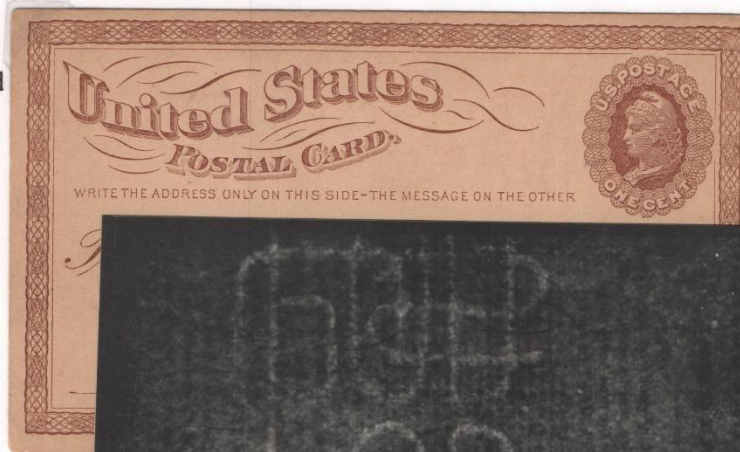
Four watermark positions occur during printing. Other than normal, the other three are created by improper feeding of the sheets by pressman like the large monogram.

PRODUCTION :  
Small Watermark:  
Varieties : Position

Reversed Position



Inverted & Reversed  
Position

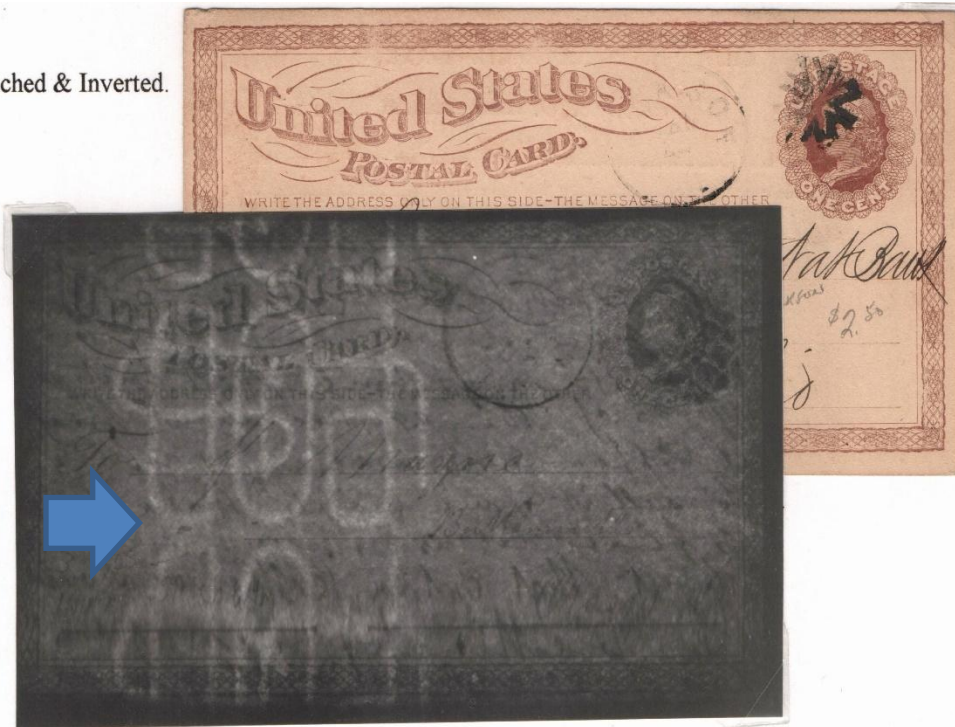


PRODUCTION :  
Small Watermark:  
Varieties : Stitch

Stitch.

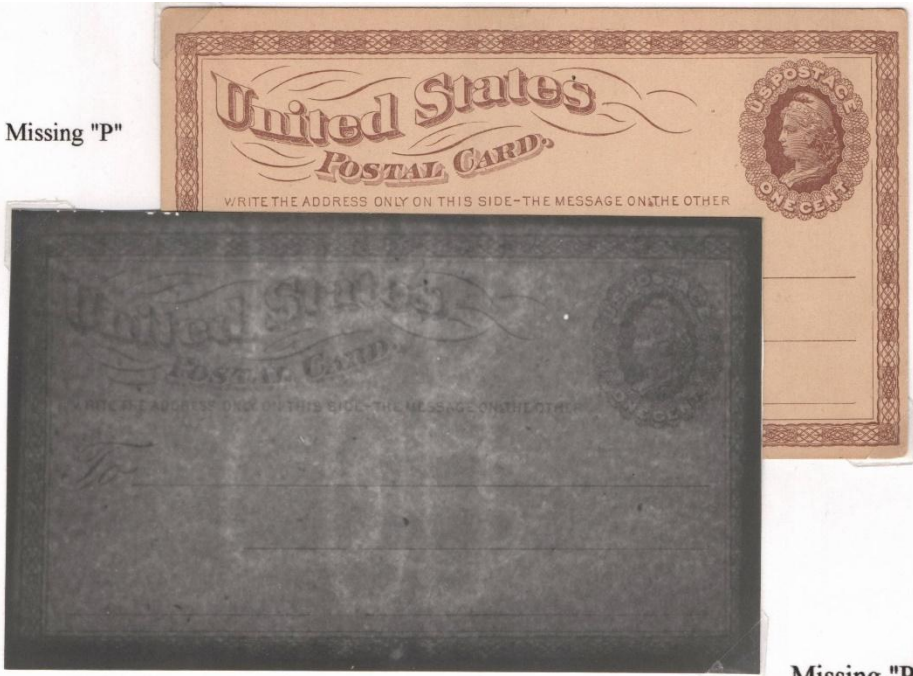


Stitched & Inverted.



Stitch watermarks occur when the wire screening of the dandy roll becomes separated and wire is used to stitch it together. The repair becomes part of the watermarking process.

Missing "P"



PRODUCTION :  
Small Watermark:  
Varieties : Missing Letters

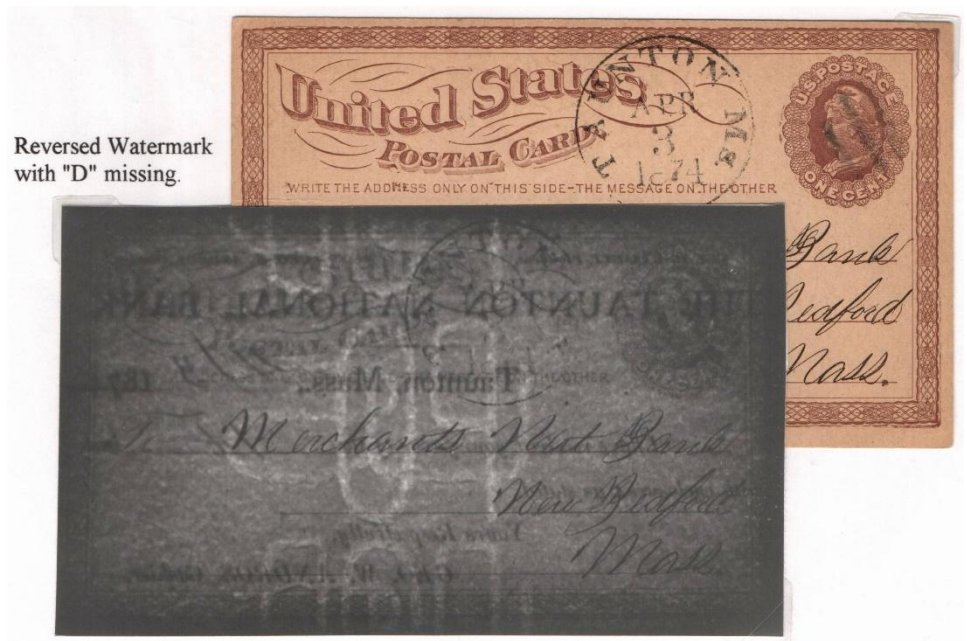
Missing "P & U"



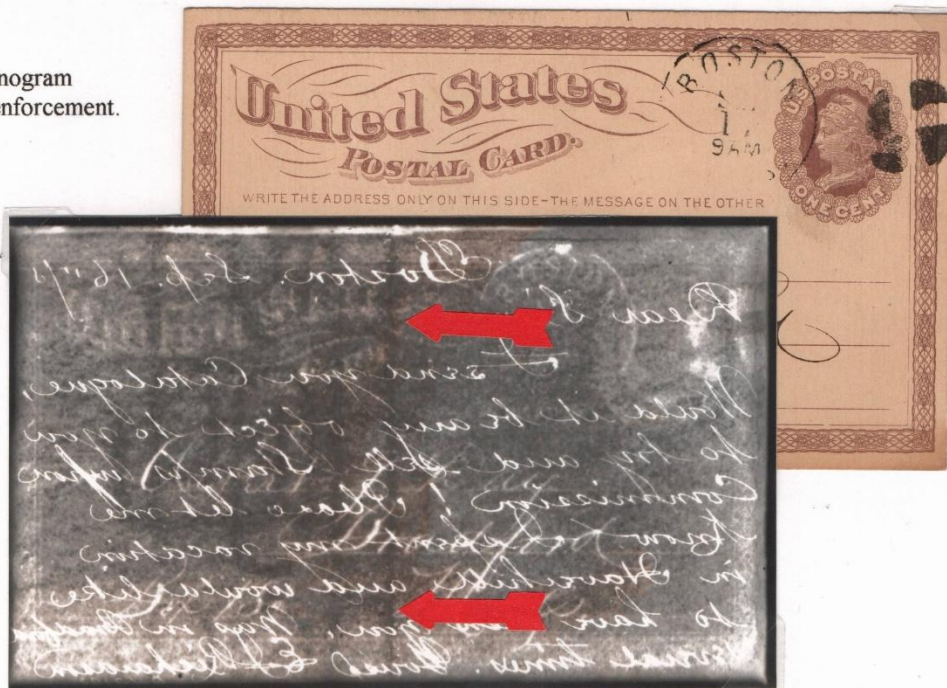
Occasionally portions of the monogram would break away from the dandy roll. Watermarks were produced where one or more letters missing. Repairs were made quickly.

PRODUCTION :  
 Small Watermark:  
 Varieties : Missing Letters

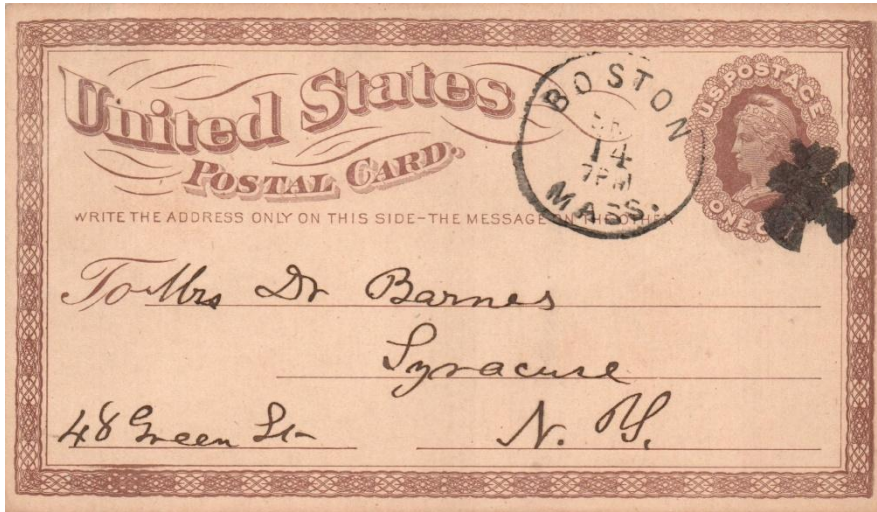
Reversed Watermark  
 with "D" missing.



Monogram  
 re-enforcement.



# PRODUCTION : Unwatermarked



**Professional**  
STAMP EXPERTIZING

PSE#23961  
CERTIFICATE NO.  
08/03/94

One Datan Center, Ste. 1149 • 9100 S. Dadeland Blvd., Miami, FL 33156

CAT #	ISSUE	DENOM	COLOR
US#UX3a	1870	1 Cent	Brown

PROFESSIONAL has examined this submission and is of the opinion that:

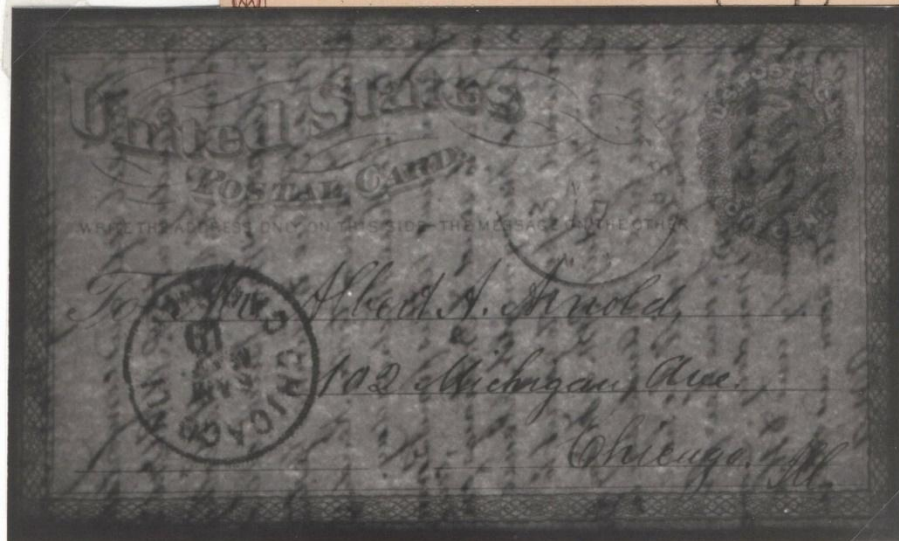
"it is genuine used postal card with no watermark and vertical and diagonal creases".

*The opinions rendered by PROFESSIONAL are based upon the best judgment and expertise of highly specialized philatelic consultants using current information available to them. PROFESSIONAL's opinions do not constitute a guarantee that an item is genuine or that others may reach a different conclusion as to description. No warranties are therefore expressed or implied in PROFESSIONAL's opinions. The physical condition of a stamp may change with time through improper handling, storage or alteration, therefore, the opinion given here may not apply beyond the date of this certificate. Xeroxes or copies of this certificate are INVALID.*

EXPERTS: R. Champagne 1   W. Maisel 2   R. Shoemaker 3

*Handell*  
Chairman, Board of Consultants

Apparently  
Unwatermarked



The majority of unwatermarked cards are late printings on watermarked paper. Many of the wire monograms had become so worn that the watermarks were barely or no longer visible.

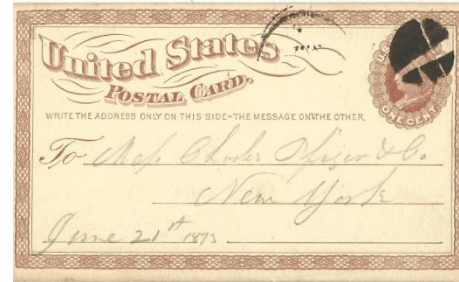
# PRODUCTION : Original State Plate



SP-4



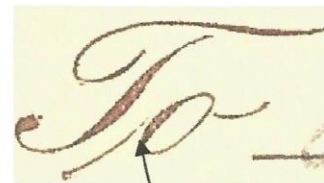
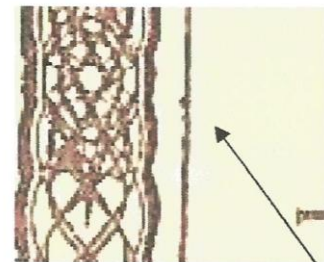
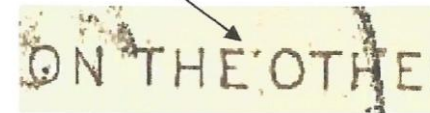
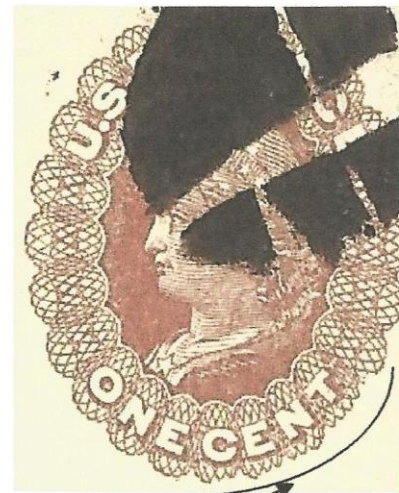
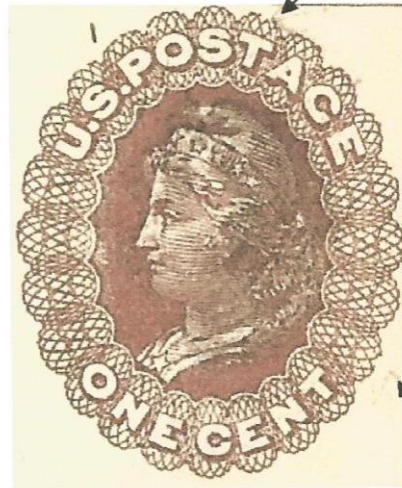
SP-7



SP-23



SP-45



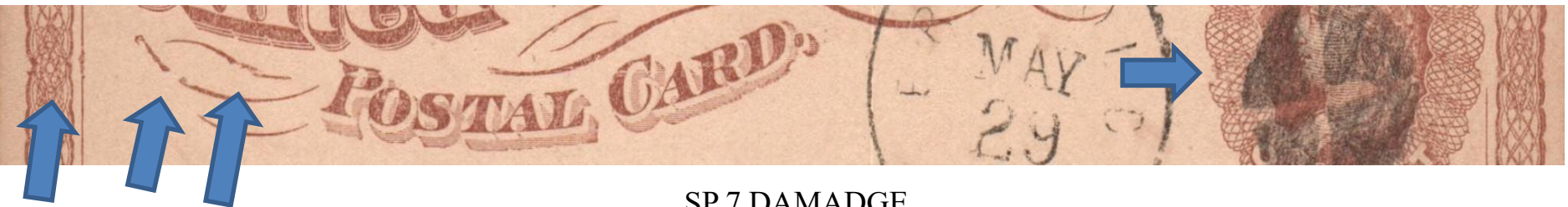
# PRODUCTION : Plate Damage



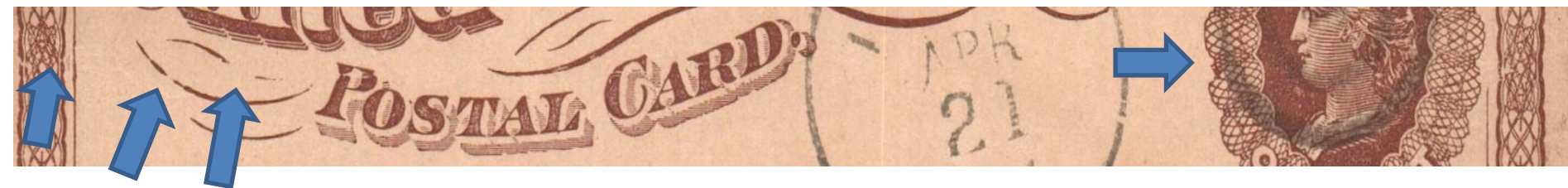
SP4 DAMADGE



SP4 RECUT



SP7 DAMADGE



SP7 RECUT

# PRODUCTION : Plate Damage



SP23 DAMADGE



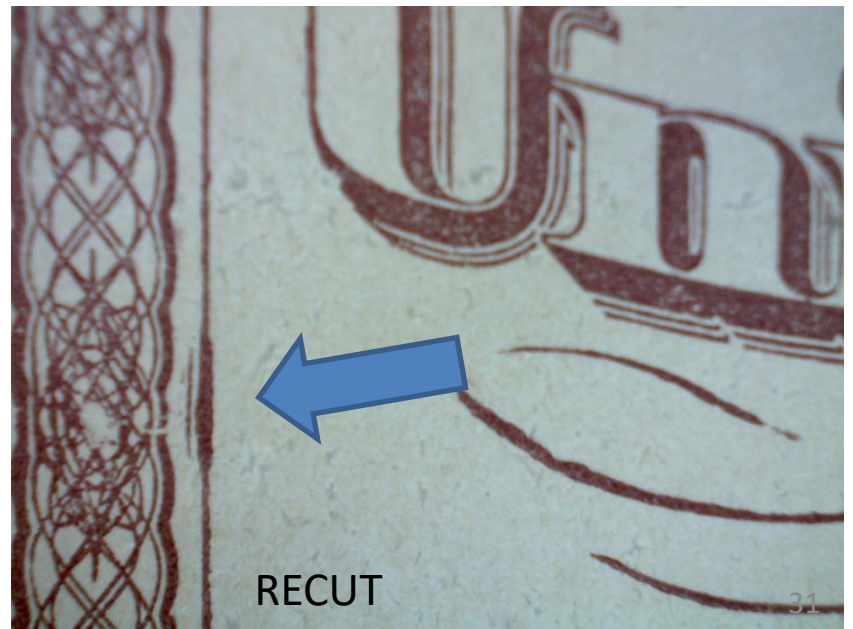
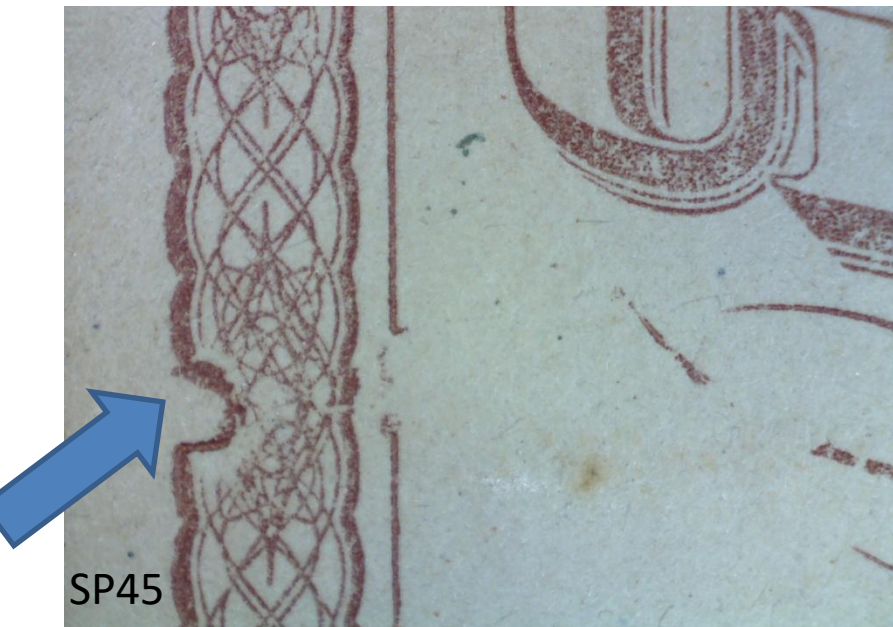
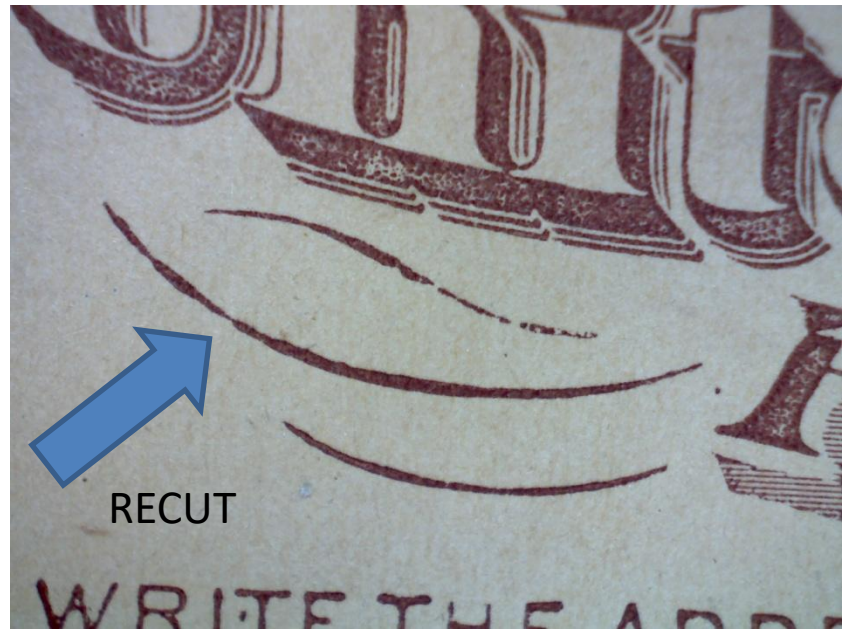
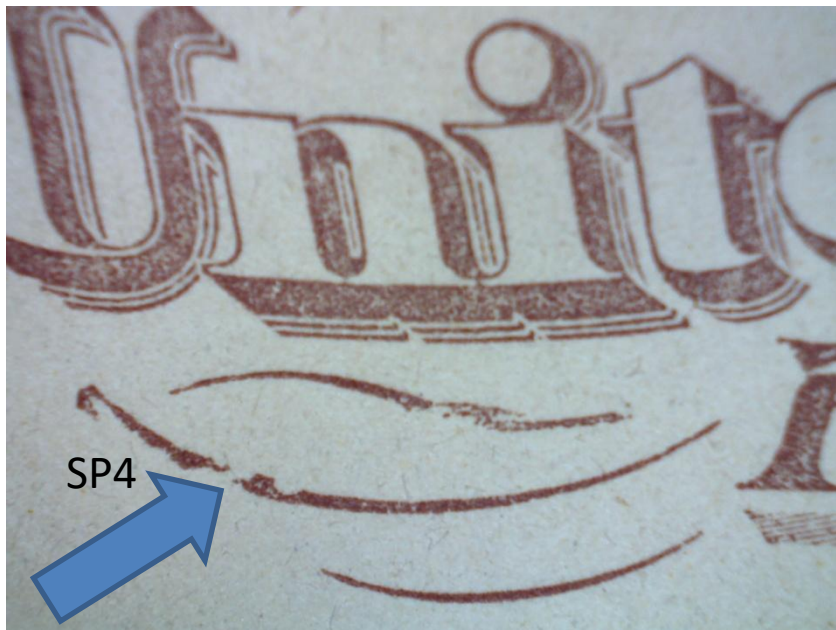
SP 23 RECUT



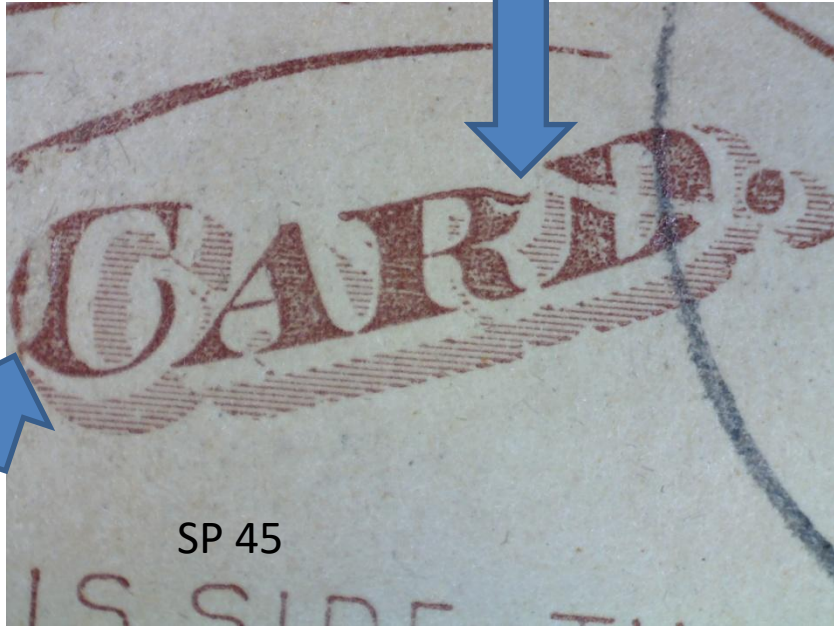
SP 45 DAMADGE



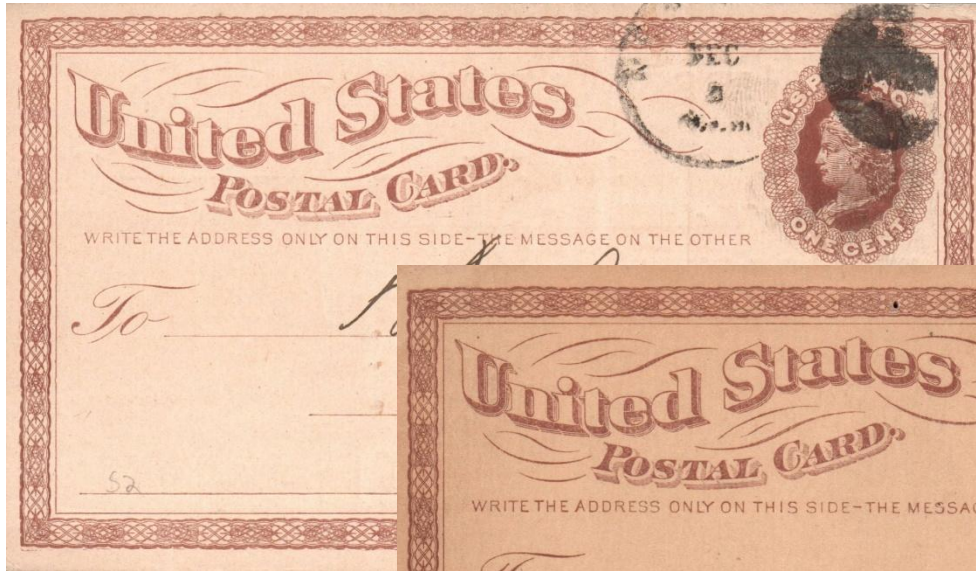
SP 45 Recut



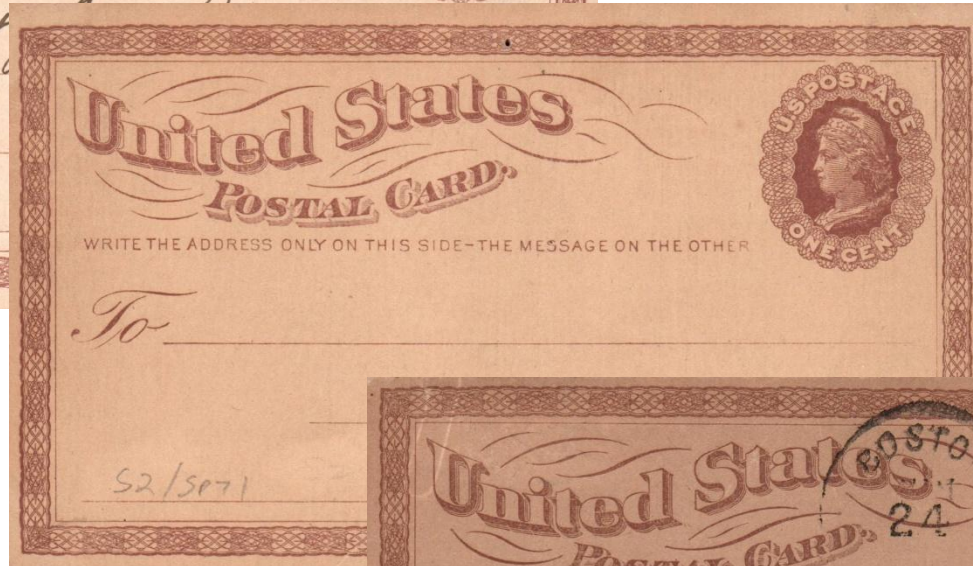
# PRODUCTION : Plate Damage



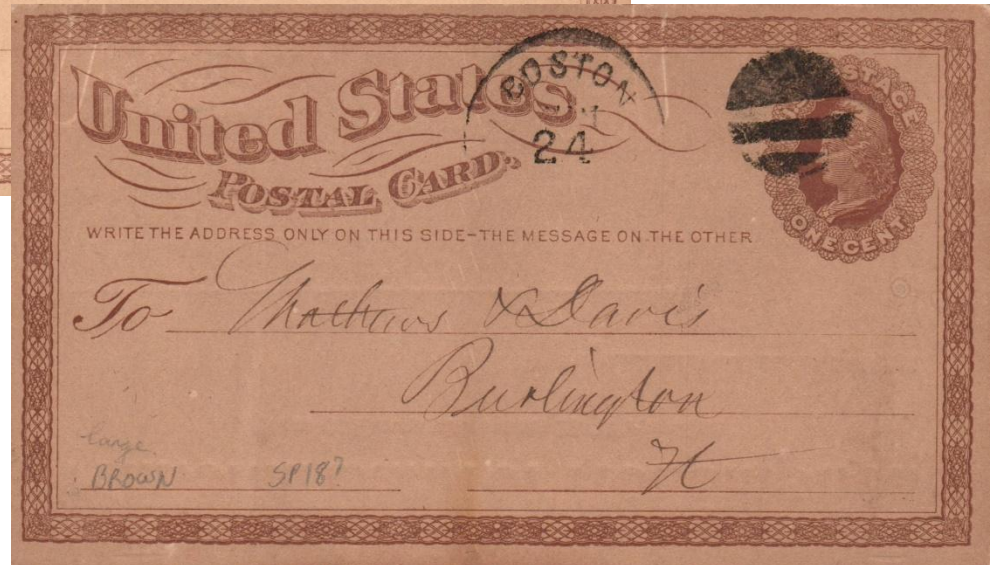
# Production: Paper Varieties



Light Buff



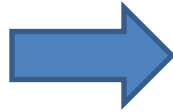
Dark Buff



Brown

# Production: Miscut Cards

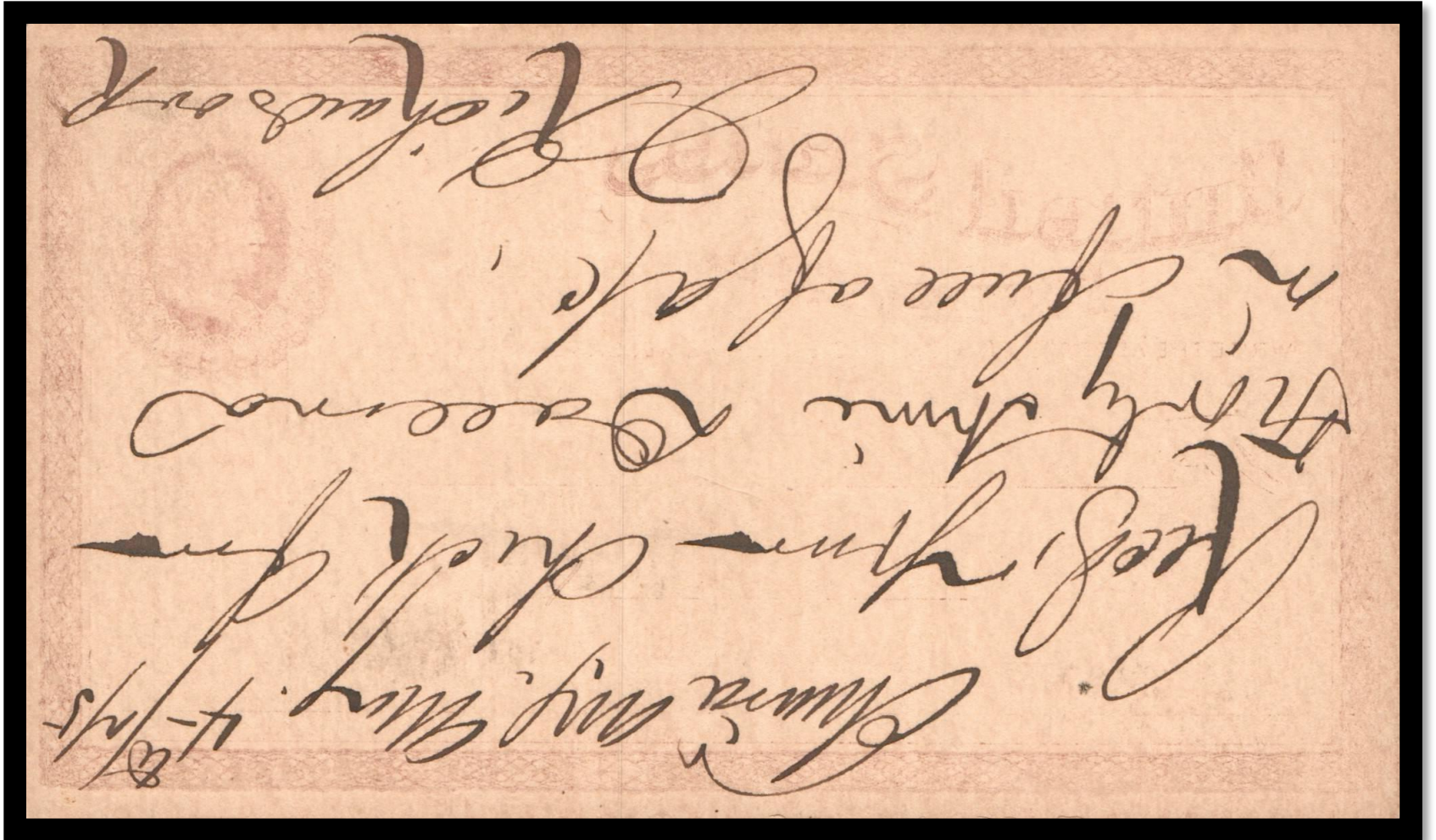
Vertical Miscut



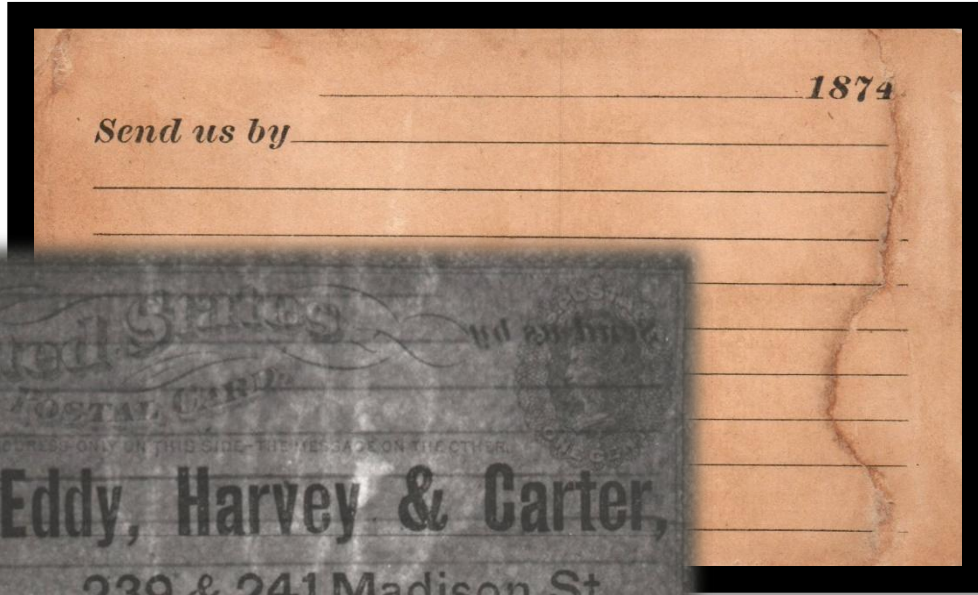
Horizontal Miscut



Production: Offset



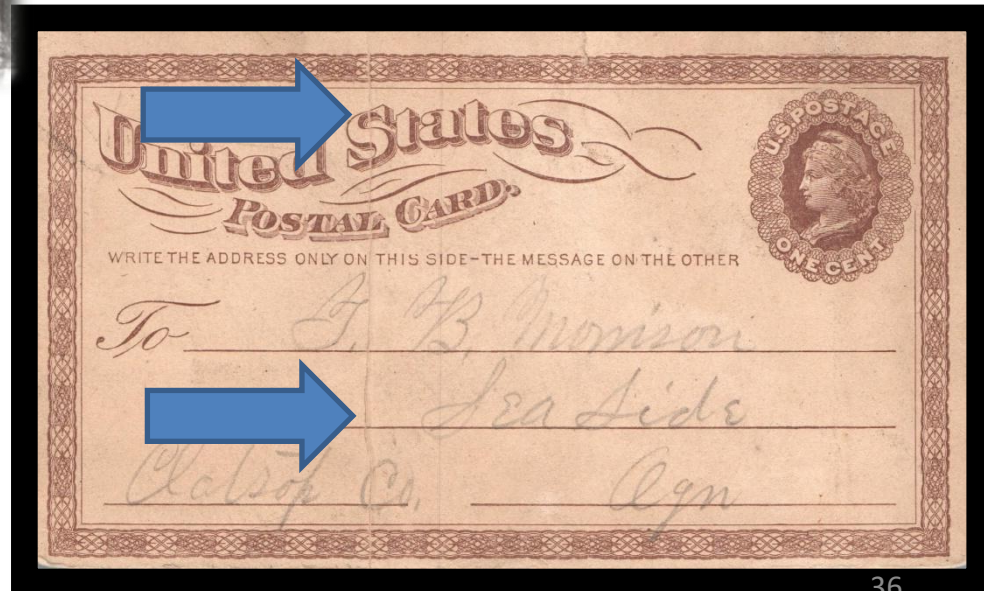
# Production: Anomalies



Vertical paper maker paste up



Pre printed paper crease.



# POSTAL HISTORY: Postal Card Announcement

## POSTAL CARDS.

### CIRCULAR TO POSTMASTERS.

#### Post Office Department,

Office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General,  
Division of Postage Stamps, Stamped Envelopes, and Postal Cards,

Washington, April 15, 1878.

The necessary appropriation having been made for the purpose, the Department will, on the 1st of May, 1878, commence the issue to Postmasters of the Postal Cards authorized by the act of June 8, 1872.

#### DESCRIPTION.

The card adopted is five and one-eighth ( $5\frac{1}{8}$ ) inches in length and three (3) inches in width; and is made of good stiff paper, water marked with the initials U. S. F. O. D. in monogram.

The face of the card is engraved on steel, surrounded by a border, in scroll work, one-eighth of an inch in width. The one-cent stamp, printed on the upper right hand corner, is from a profile bust of the Goddess of Liberty looking to the left, and surrounded by a lattice-work border, with the words "U. S. Postage" inserted above and "One Cent" below. On the upper left hand corner are the words "United States Postal Card," with directions to "write the address only on this side—the message on the other." Underneath, and occupying the lower half of the card, are ruled lines on which to write the address, the top line being prefixed with the word "To." The back of the card, intended for the communication, is entirely plain, being devoid even of ruled lines. In color, the body of the card is light cream; the printing, velvet brown.

No variation in size, shape, color, or in any other particular, will be made from the regular style to accommodate special cases; nor will the Department do any printing on the cards beyond that specified in the description.

#### PRICES.

Postal Cards will be sold for one cent each, neither more nor less, whether in large quantities or in small.

#### USES.

The object of the Postal Card is to facilitate letter correspondence and provide for the transmission through the mails, at a reduced rate of postage, of short communications, either printed or written in pencil or ink. They may therefore be used for orders, invitations, notices, receipts, acknowledgements, price lists, and other requirements of business and social life; and the matter desired to be conveyed may be either in writing or in print, or partially in both.

In their treatment as mail matter they are to be regarded by Postmasters the same as sealed letters, and not as printed matter, except that in no case will undelivered cards be returned to the writers or sent to the Dead Letter Office. If not delivered within sixty (60) days from the time of receipt they will be burned by Postmasters.

#### IRREGULAR CARDS.

An ordinary printed business card may be sent through the mails when prepaid by a one-cent postage stamp attached; but such card must contain absolutely no written matter except the address; otherwise it will be treated as not fully prepaid, and refused admission into the mails.

#### COUNTERFEITS.

All cards different from those herein described, with postage stamps printed or embossed thereon, and purporting to be U. S. Postal Cards, are counterfeits; and the manufacture of such cards, or the attempt to use the same, will subject the offender to a fine of five hundred dollars and imprisonment for five years. (See 178, Postal Code.)

#### SPOILED CARDS.

Postmasters will not, under any circumstances, be permitted to redeem or exchange Postal Cards that may be misdirected, spoiled in printing, or otherwise rendered unfit for use, in the hands of private holders.

#### REQUISITIONS.

The Department will not furnish less than five hundred (500) Cards on the order of a Postmaster. Individuals desiring Postal Cards will purchase them of a Postmaster, as in no case can they obtain them upon direct application to the Department.

RETAIN THIS CIRCULAR FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

E. W. BARBER,  
Third Assistant Postmaster General.

# POSTAL HISTORY: Early Use: First Week



Washington DC May 14, 1873



Boston, Massachusetts  
May 15, 1873



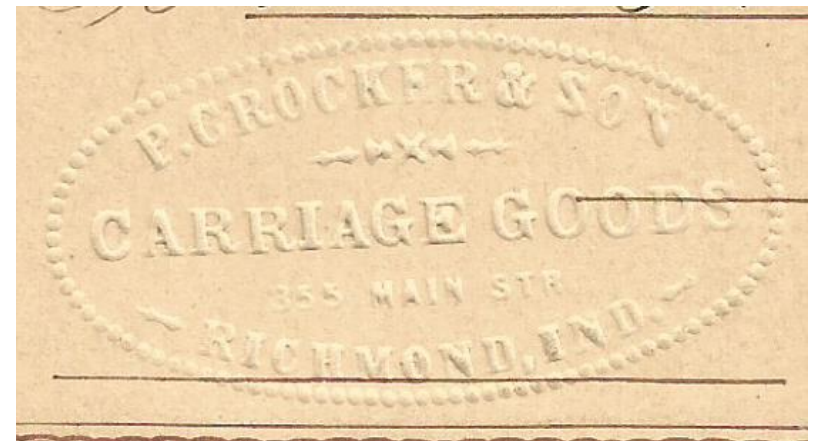
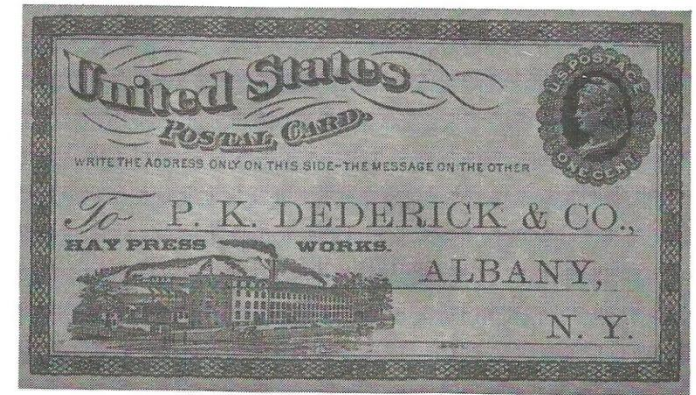
New York City May 16, 1873.  
ERP for Original State SP 7

POSTAL HISTORY: Infraction of Postal Card Rules

Postal guide rules state the postal cards are unmailable when there is anything printed or written on the front of the card despite the endorsement "WRITE THE ADDRESS ONLY ON THIS SIDE". If detected it should have been charged double letter rate (2 x 3c) less the 1c credit for the postal card. Otherwise Due 5c. These examples went undetected.

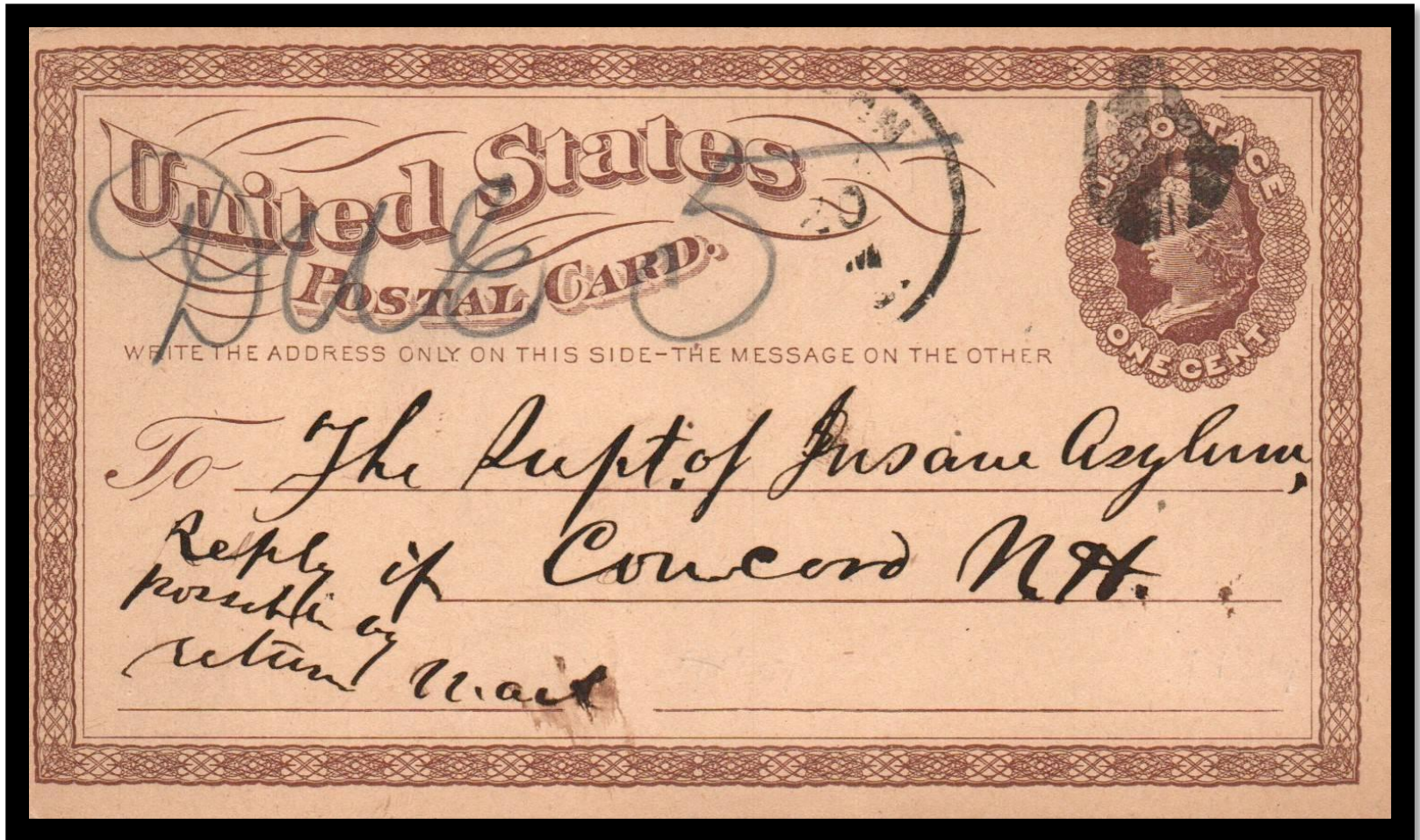


Phoenix Insurance Co. Hartford, Connecticut. 1874



Embossed P. Crocker & Son Carriage Goods Richmond, Indiana. 1874

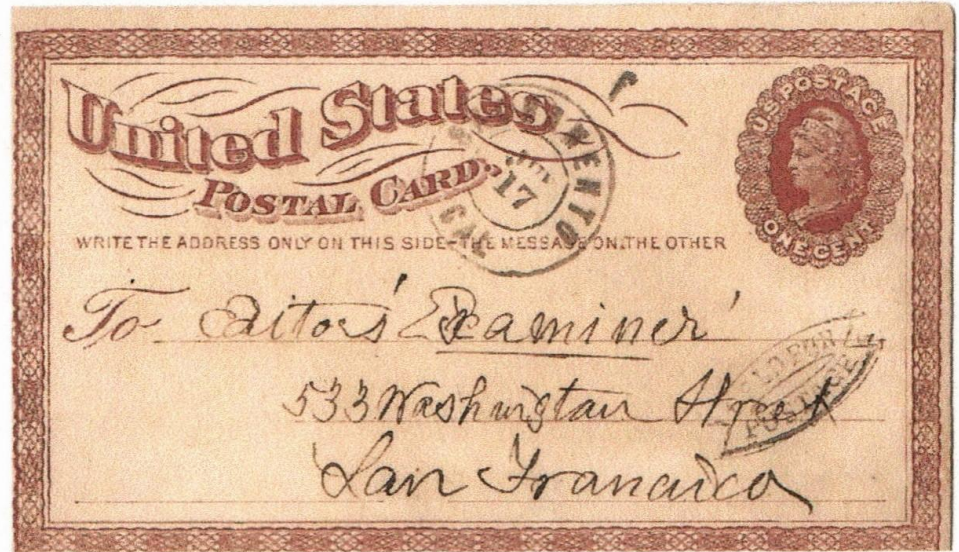
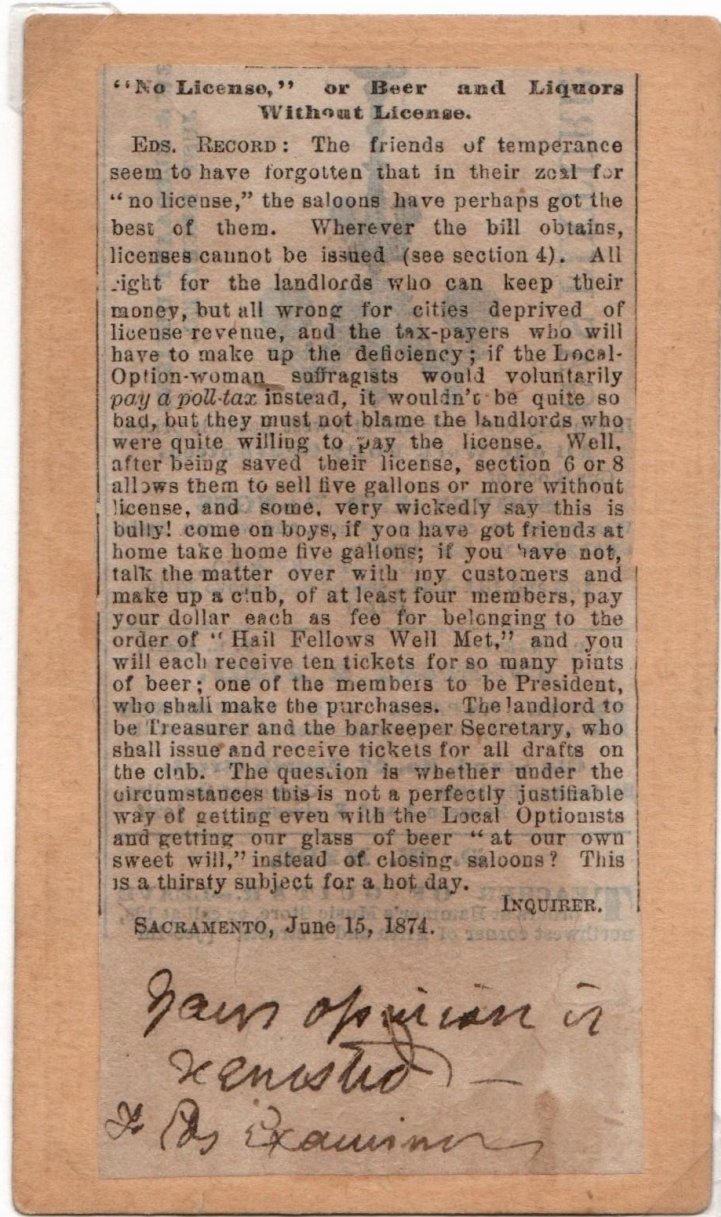
# POSTAL HISTORY : Infraction of Postal Card Rules



Write The Address Only On This Side

# POSTAL HISTORY: Infraction of Postal Card Rules: Attachments

Paper printed and pasted on postal cards were subject to the letter rate postage of 3c.

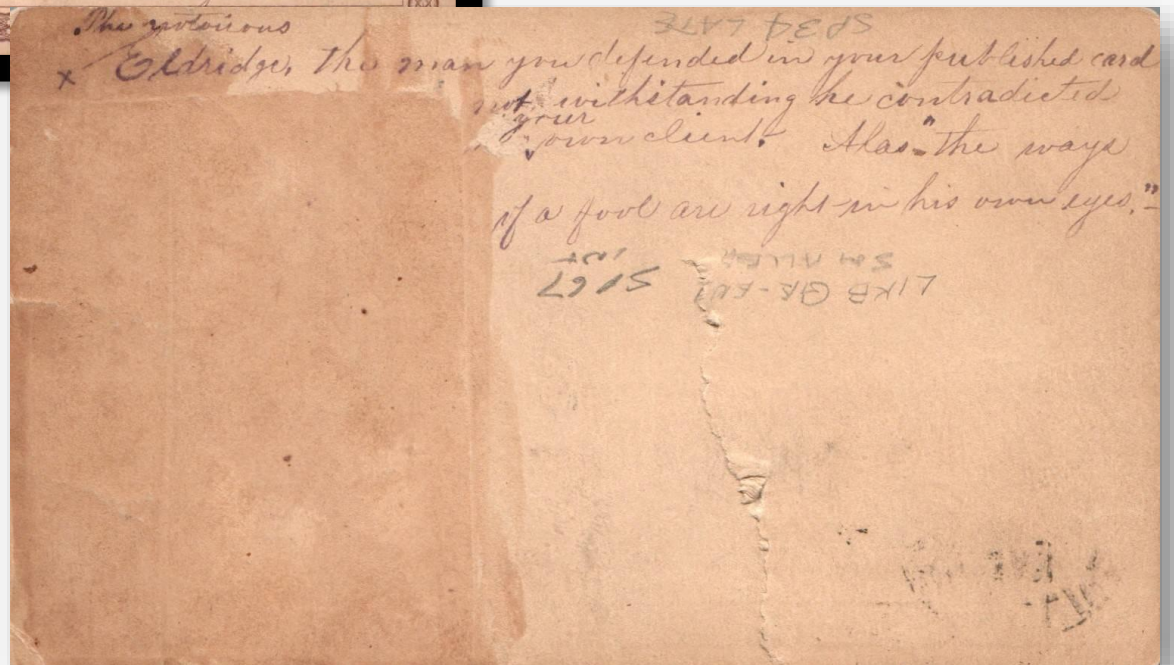


Sacramento, California to san Francisco, California with "HELD FOR POSTAGE" auxiliary marking. June 17, 1874. This card was held for 2c additional postage to pay the letter rate.

## POSTAL HISTORY : Properly Rated Attachment



Properly rated to the 3c letter rate because of the attachment that was on the back of the card. The piece of paper glued required 2c additional postage.



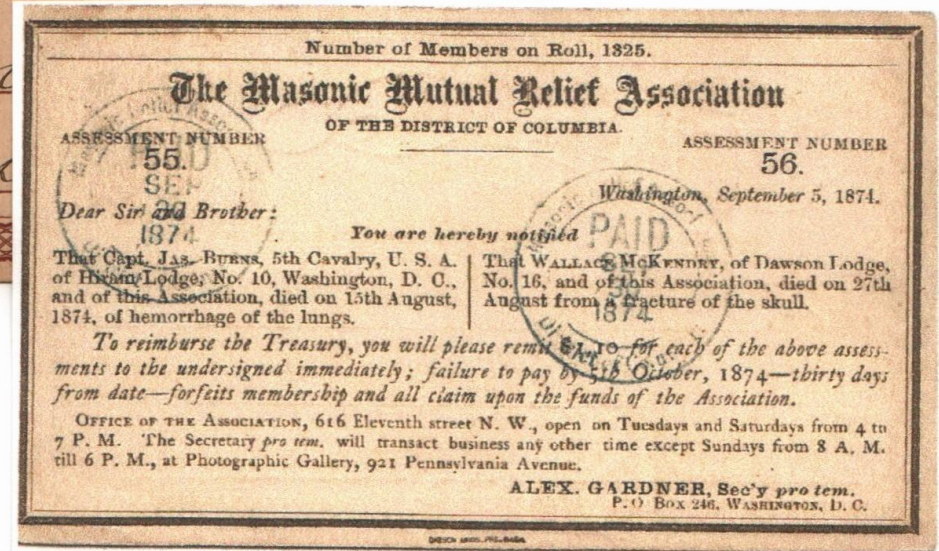
**POSTAL HISTORY: Remailed: Mutual Relief Association.**

Mutual Relief Associations used postal cards to print assessment notices which were returned with the assessed amount enclosed in a envelope. The secretary would then mark the card received and returned it to the same address as a receipt. Although the ruling predates the issue of the first postal card April 30, 1873, relief associations were granted permission to re-mailed assessment notice receipts at the 1c postal card rate.



First Mail : September 4, 1874

Second Mail: September 30, 1874



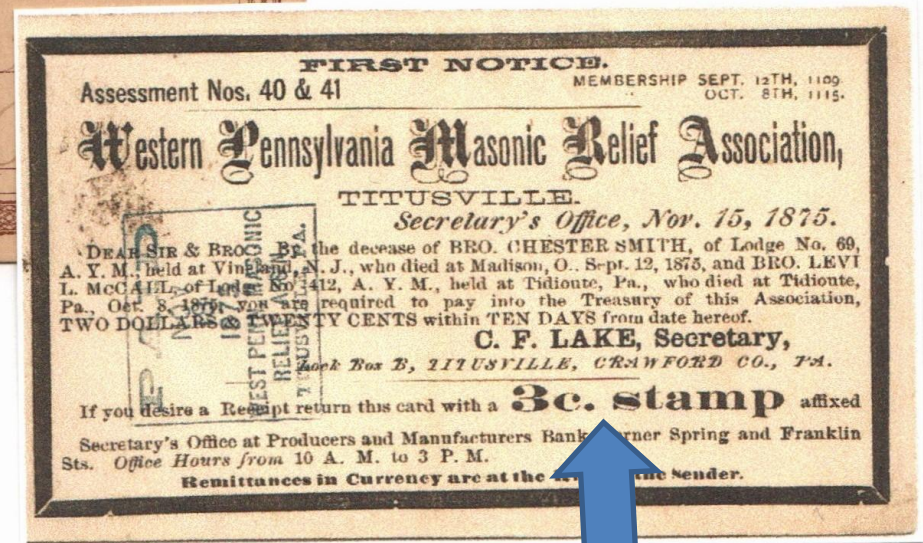
# POSTAL HISTORY: Rемаiled Rule change



In the summer of 1875, the Attorney General ruled that a re-mailed postal card to the same addressed must be charged the 3c letter rate. Notation at the bottom of the card.

First Mail: November 15, 1875

Second Mail: November 19, 1875



# POSTAL HISTORY: Forwarding Remailed

A legal delivery is when an mailed article is delivered to a designated address. It cannot be remailed except when prepaid anew. To qualify for free forwarding the card must not be out of the custody of the Post Office.

Pockester Depot, Oh to Newburg, OH  
forwarded to North Ridge, Oh



These cards were received and then redelivered to the post office for forwarding thus a 1c stamp was required according to post office regulations.

Sycamore, Ill to Ashland Mills,  
Oregon forwarded to Stockton, CA

**POSTAL HISTORY:** Forwarding

As per *Postal Law & Regulations 1873* : " When a postal card has reached the office to which it is addressed, it may at the request of the party addressed, be forwarded to another post office without additional charge."



Buffalo, New York to a local address then forwarded to Cleveland, Ohio 1873.

Madison, Wisconsin to Fairmont, Nebraska forwarded to Plattsmouth, then York Nebraska and finally to Akron, Ohio 1875.



# Postal History : Rемаiled

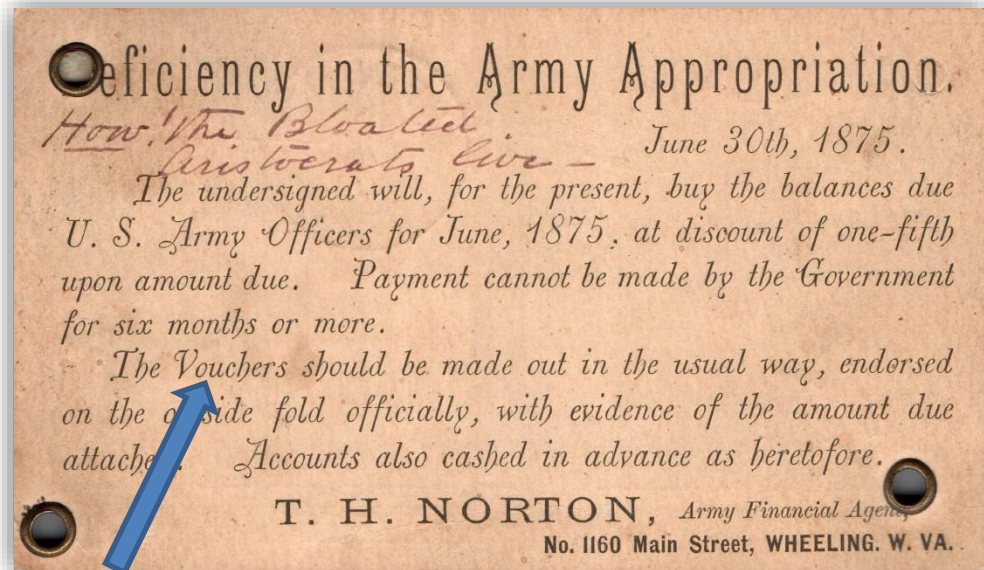


Wheeling , WV to the Commanding Officer Co. E, 8 U.S. Cavalry /Ft Mc Rea , New Mexico Territory. It was then readdressed using a paper paste over and mailed with a 3c stamp. The card was originally attached to a package , possibly to pay vouchers as referenced in the text on the back of the postal card using the three mental grommets. The reuse required the 3c letter rate.

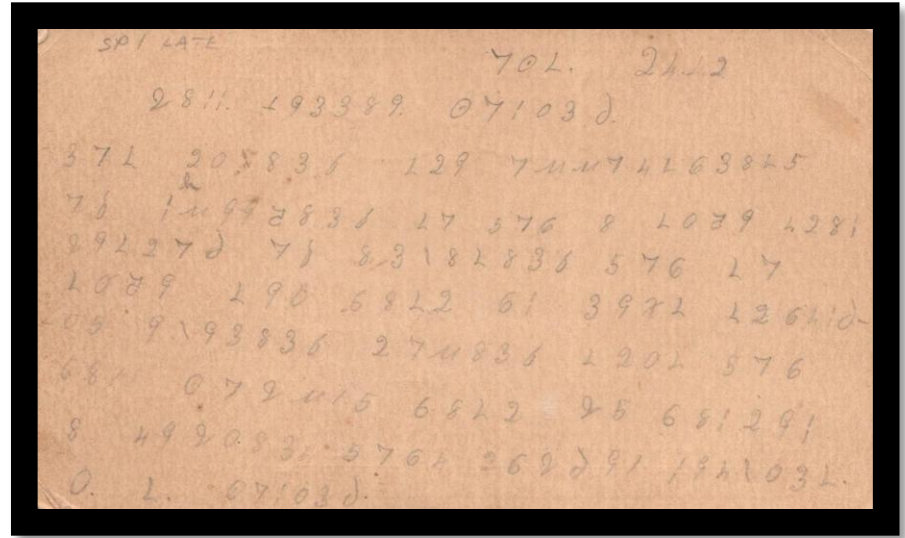
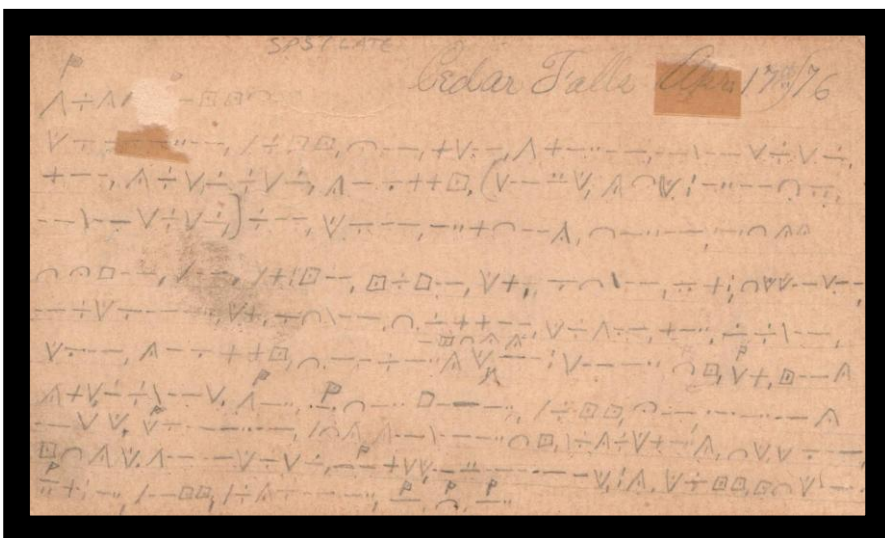
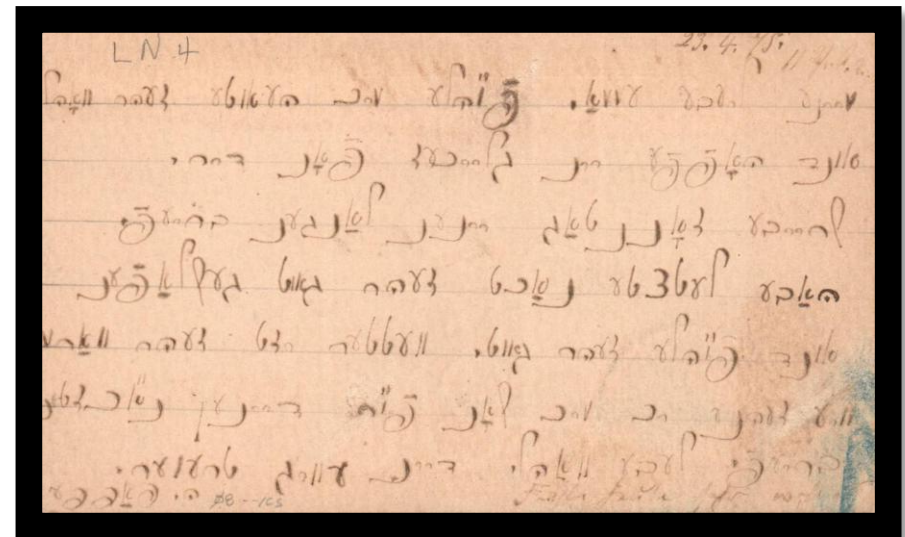
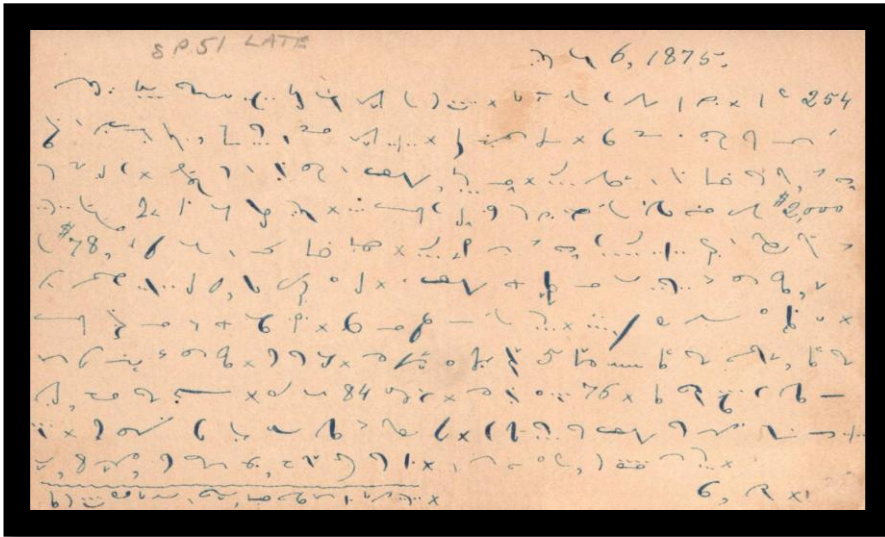
First Mail: Wheeling , WV to Fort McRea, New Mexico Territory July 1, 1875.

Second Mail: Ft. McRea, new Mexico territory to Allegan, MI July 5, 1875.

**Postal Guide of 1875, Rule 63:** *Postmaster should not receive into the mail anything with a postal card affixed to it, except letter postage in full is paid on the entire package.*



# POSTAL HISTORY : Coded Messages

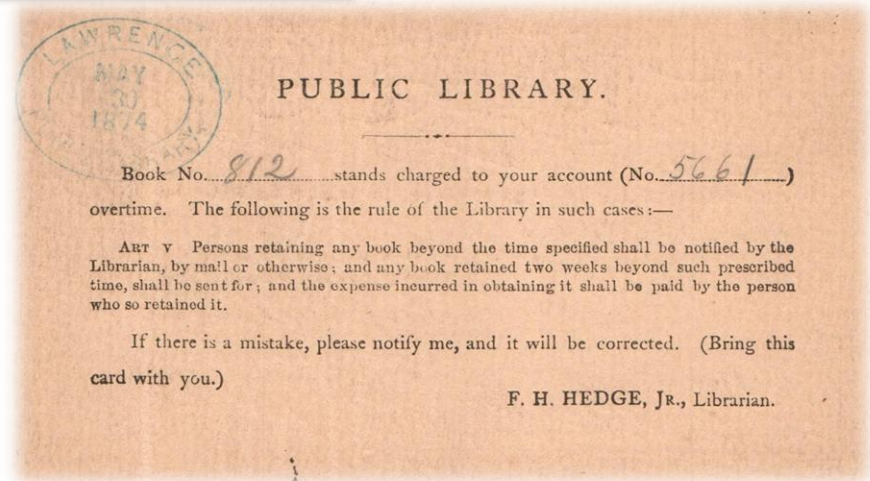


**POSTAL GUIDE** July 1876 page 76: **Rule 45** There is no objection to the communication on postal cards being made in characters or figures for the purpose of concealing the message, provided such characters or figures do not appear to be obscene.

# POSTAL HISTORY : Return To Sender “ UNCLAIMED ”



Since marked “Unclaimed” by the Lawrence, Mass. post office, this card would have normally been destroyed. This was a Library over due notice and, as public service was returned to sender.

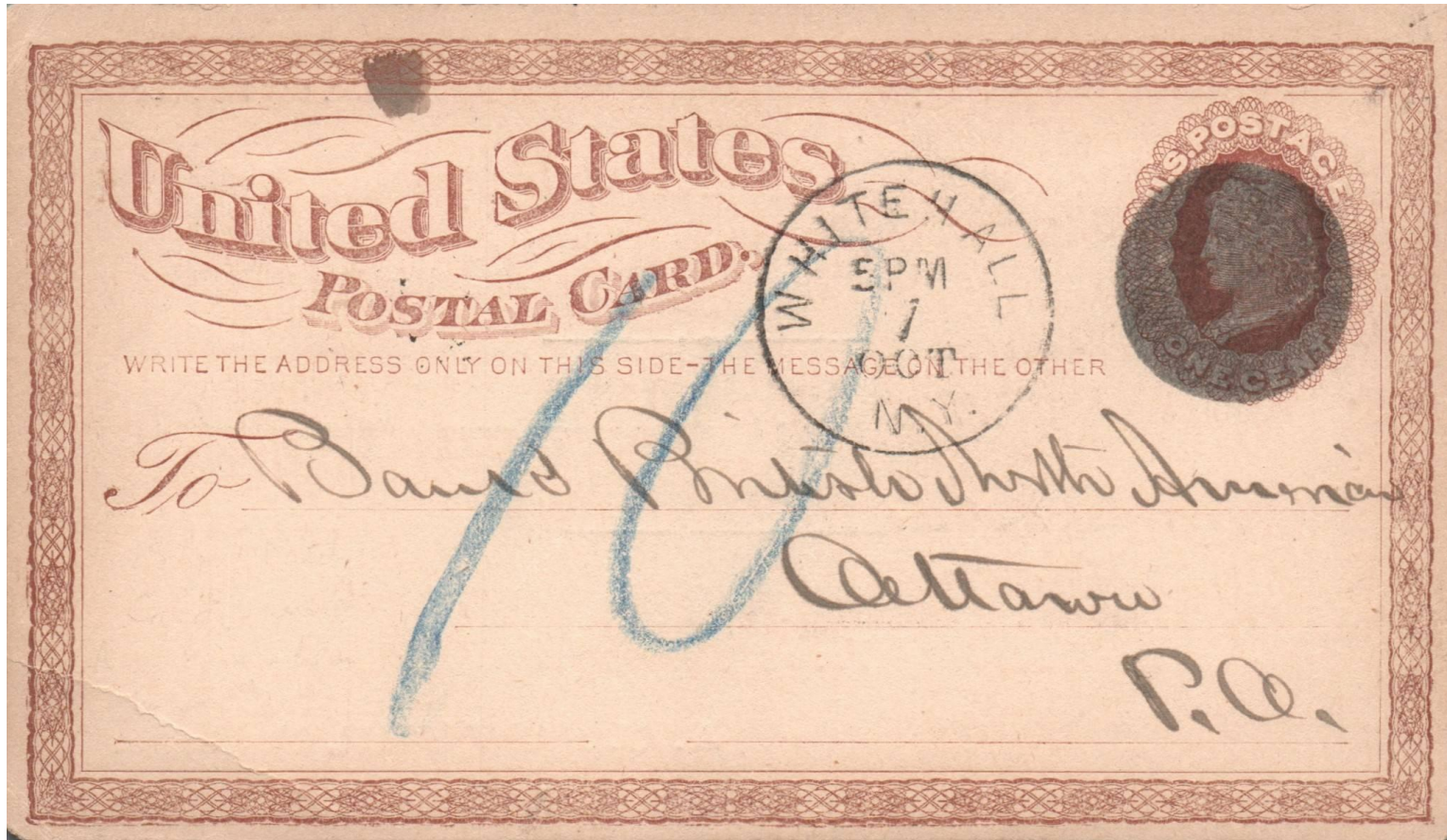


POSTAL HISTORY: Infraction of Postal Card Rules: Coated Cards

The Post Office Department refused to redeem unused printed or spoiled postal cards. A few enterprising individuals took the unused postal cards and covered the message side by bronzing hoping the Postmaster would not declare them unmailable. The rules changed in 1879 when cards could be redeemed in stamps or stamped envelopes.



## Postal History : Pre UPU and Pre Treaty to Canada



Whitehall, NY to Ottawa, Canada October 7, 1874. Prior to a postal treaty with Canada, the prepaid letter rate to Canada was 6c, not prepaid 10c. Despite a 2c postal card treaty rate from July 1, 1873, this card was treated as a unpaid letter. The blue crayon "10" denote 10c due by the recipient with no credit given to the 1c card.

# Postal History: Treaty Rate to Canada



To Prince Edward Island May 11, 1874 2c rate

The 2c postal card rate to Canada began on July 1, 1873 until December 30, 1874. It was reduced by treaty to 1c effective January 1, 1875.



To Kingston, Ontario April 15, 1876 1c treaty rate.

## Postal History : Pre UPU to England: Due 5 ½ Pence



Beaufort, SC to Ringwood, England May 12, 1875. Before the formation of the UPU on July 1, 1875 postal card rates were the same as the letter rates to the country of destination unless a special postal card treaty rate was negotiated between individual countries. The letter rate to England was 6c. The recipient had to pay 5 ½ pence, the correct postage of three pence reduced by ½ penny for 1c U.S. postage and a fine of 3 pence for underpayment.

# Postal History: Foreign Destination : Pre UPU Treaty Rate to Germany

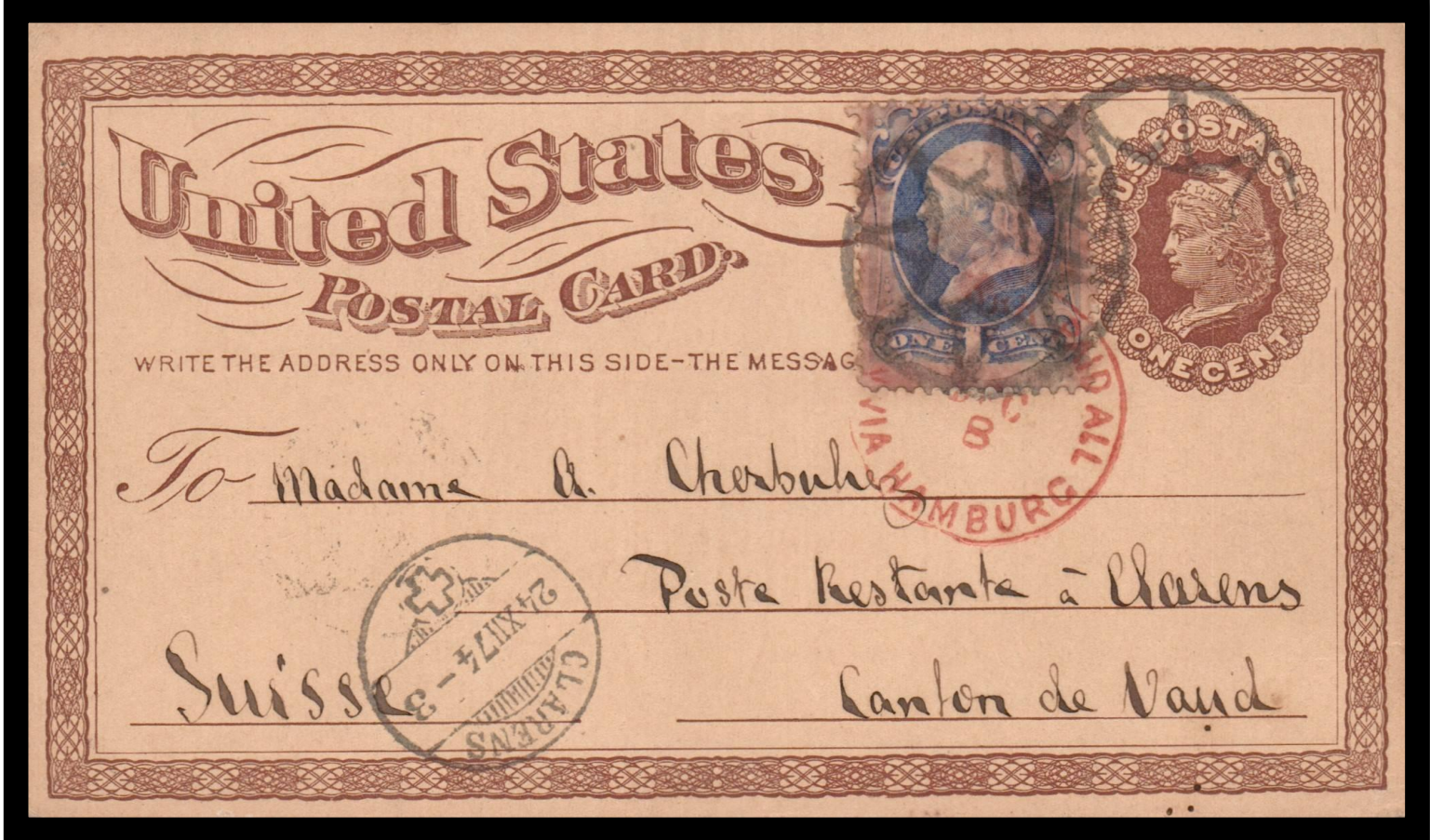
The 2c rate to  
Germany began on  
December 1, 1873.



Union Pacific R.R. (RPO) to Heidelberg, Germany. Date lined Green River Station, Wyoming Territory. April 27, 1874

# Postal History: Foreign Destination : Pre UPU Treaty Rate to Switzerland

The 2c rate to Switzerland began May 1, 1874.



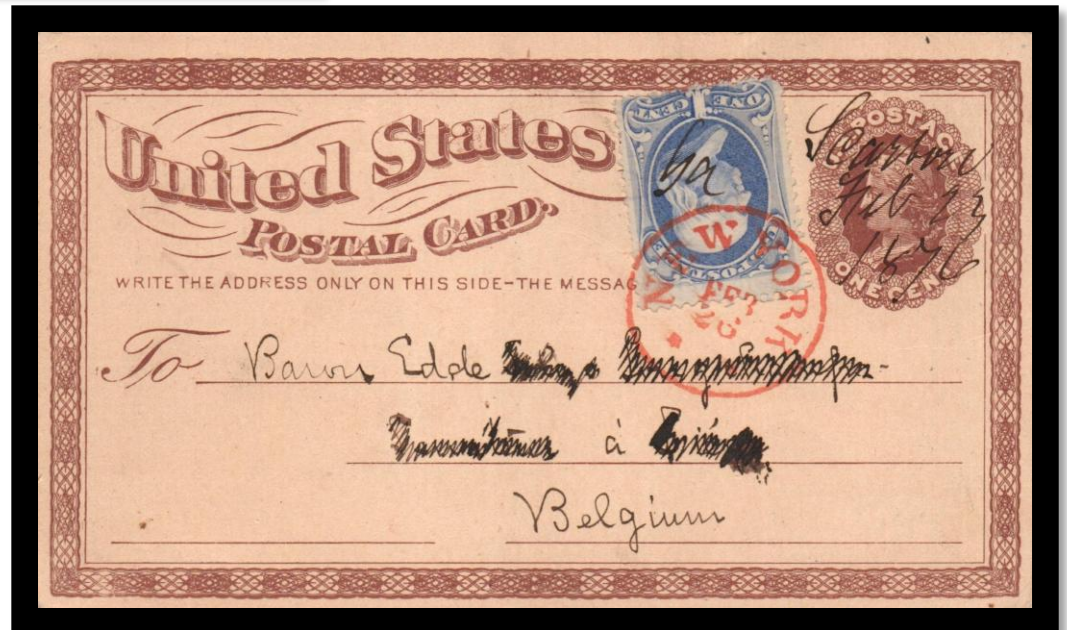
New York to Clarens, Canton de Vaud , Switzerland December 5, 1874. NYFM ST-8P6 Carried on the maiden voyage of “Klopstock” (Eagle Line) Ex Kirk

# Postal History: UPU: Destinations



**FRANCE:** Knoxville, TN to Vincelles, France then redirected to St Maurice de Cazevielle. February 10, 1876. France's membership to UPU was delayed until January 1, 1876.

**BELGIUM:** Scarboro, GA to Liege, Belgium. February 22, 1876.



# Postal History: UPU: Destinations



**Denmark:** New York City to Copenhagen, Denmark. November 13, 1875.

**Sweden:** Red Wing, MN to Trollhattan, Sweden. August 4, 1875.



# Postal History: UPU: Destinations



**Scotland:** Mt Zion, VA to Edinberg, Scotland. February 3, 1877.

**Poland:** Titusville, PA to Soldau, Prussia which is now Dzialdowo, Poland. July 6, 1875. Early UPU usage. Message in Hebrew.



# Postal History: UPU: Destinations



Medina, NY to St Petersburg , Russia. September 6, 1875.

**Only known first issue US postal card to Russia.**

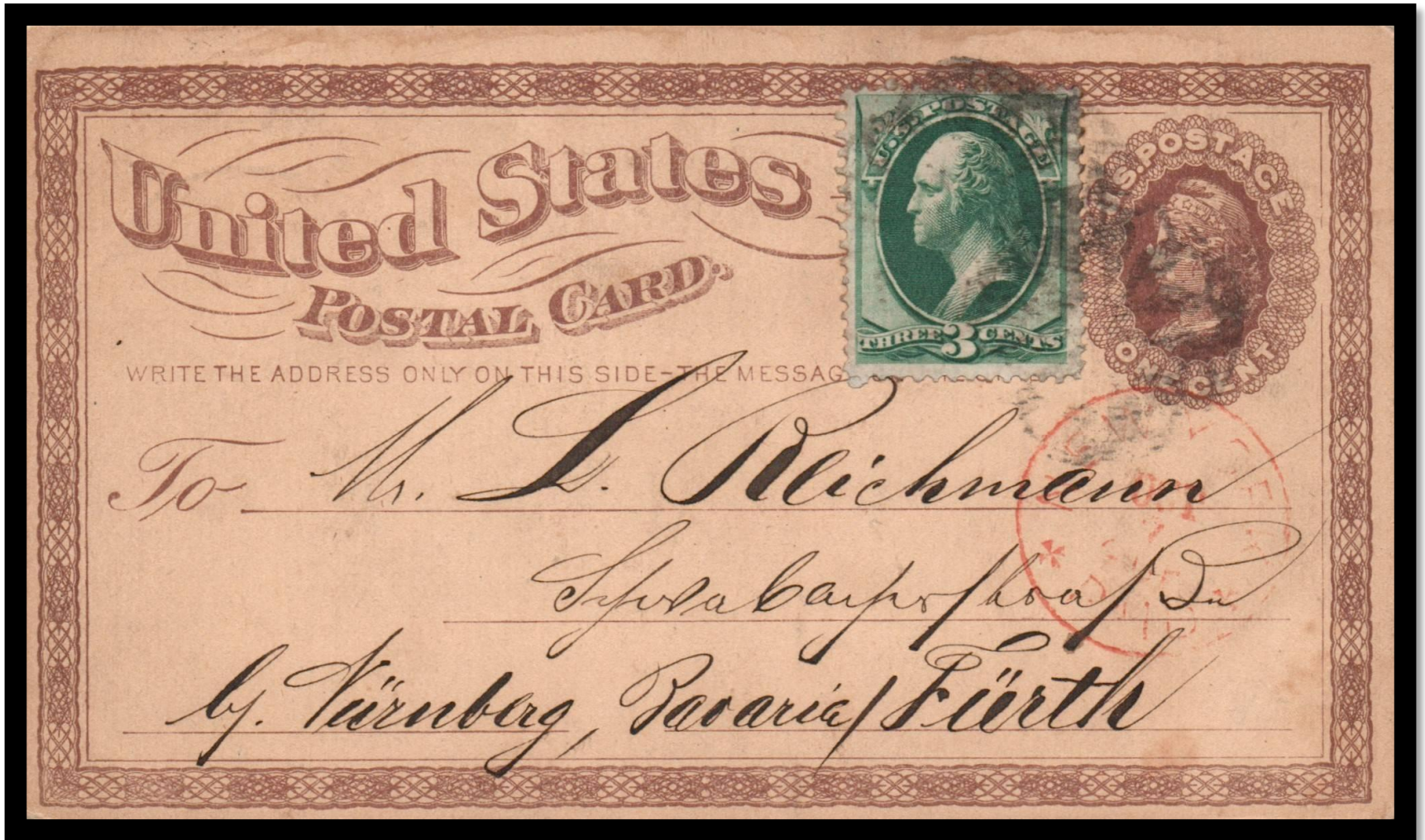


# Postal History: UPU: Due



New York to Dresden, Germany January 1, 1886. Short paid 1c . UPU rules required that the deficiency in the rate be doubled when collected from the recipient. Due 5 centimes in New York = 1c US. Marked due 10 Pfenning to the recipient, double the deficiency . 10 Pfenning = 10 centimes = 2c US. Late but legitimate use.

# Postal History: Supplementary Mail



“New York Sup Paid” to Bavaria October 7, 1875. Supplementary mail were letters and postal cards that were posted in the New York Post office and put in special bags for a trans Atlantic voyage after the regular ship mailbags have been sealed. Rate was twice the 2c UPU rate. **One of three usages reported on the first issue postal card.**

# Postal History: Cancellations

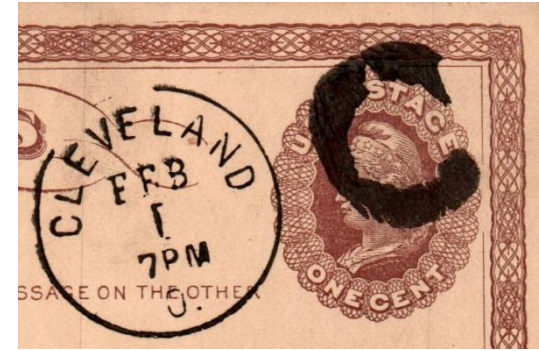
The Banknote stamp era occurred from 1870 – 1894. During this time the number of post offices doubled and the introduction of postal cards increase the volume of mail. The vast scope and variety of cancellations make the postal card well suited and popular to collect cancels.



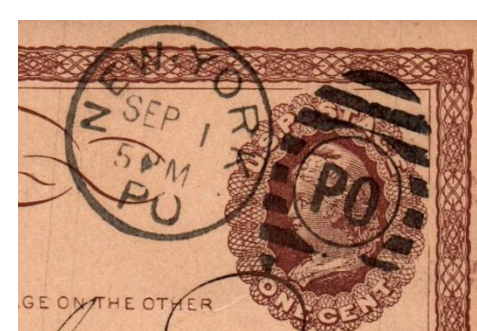
# Postal History: Fancy Cancellations



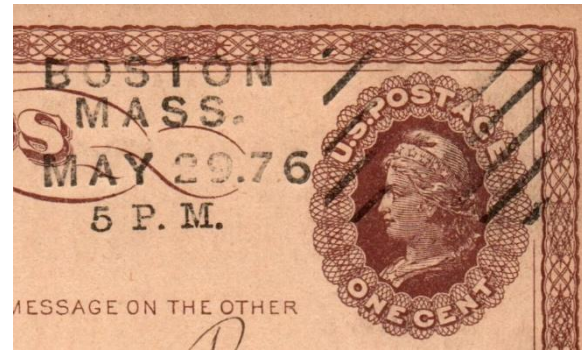
# Postal History: Letter Cancels



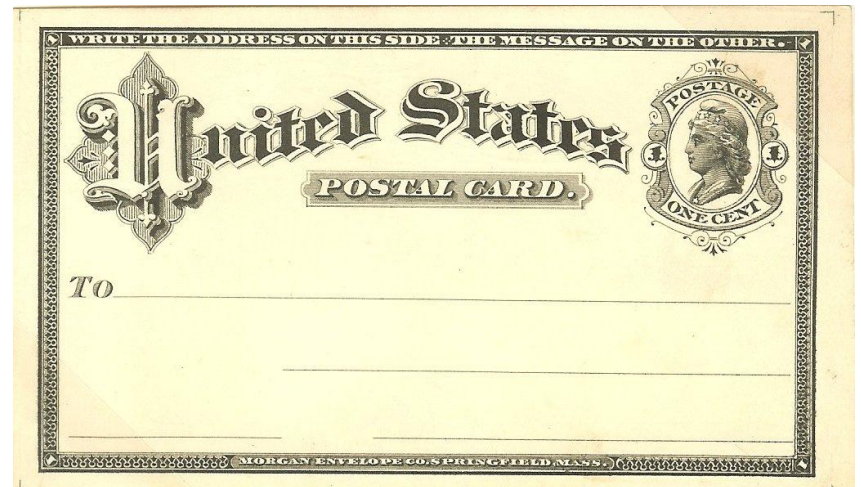
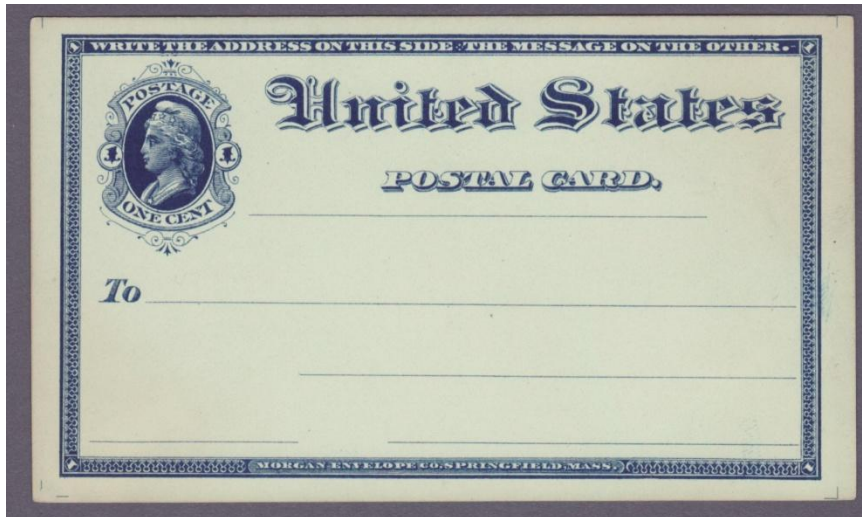
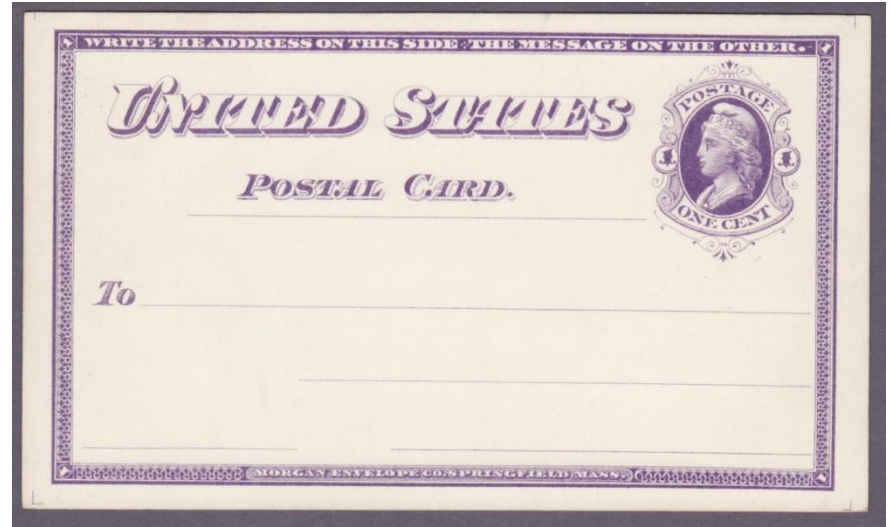
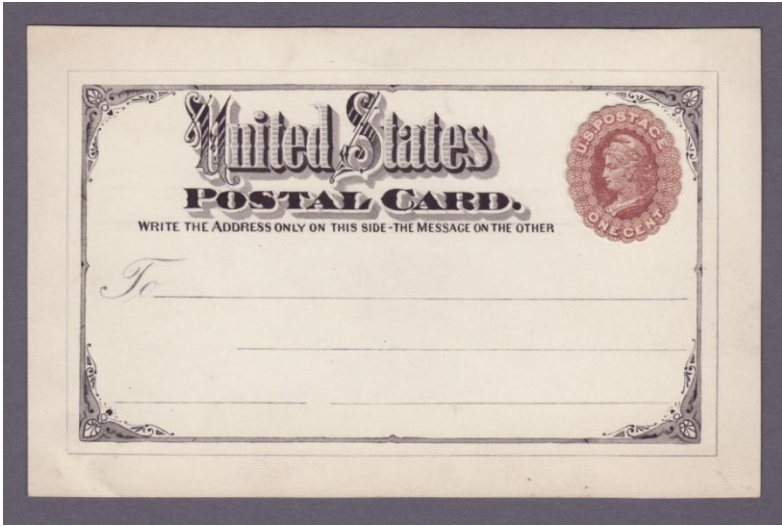
# Postal History: New York City Cancels



# Postal History: Levitt Machine Cancels



# Second Design Essays : Morgan Envelope Co.



# Unfinished Typo graphed Essay made from engraving

US Bureau of Engraving & Printing



## SECOND DESIGN: Watermarked Paper

In early 1875, the printing plates of the first issue were badly worn. New plates were not made as the National Bank Note Co. retained the original mater die and transfer roll. The Post Office had formed a new contract with the Continental Bank Note Co. to print stamps thus, their relationship with National Bank Note was no longer close. To solve this, the Post Office used a new design and amended the Morgan Envelope Co.'s contract to make these changes. The Postmaster General authorized the discontinuance of watermarked paper. A small quantity of watermarked paper was still on hand and was authorized to be used up. About 2.8 million cards were printed.



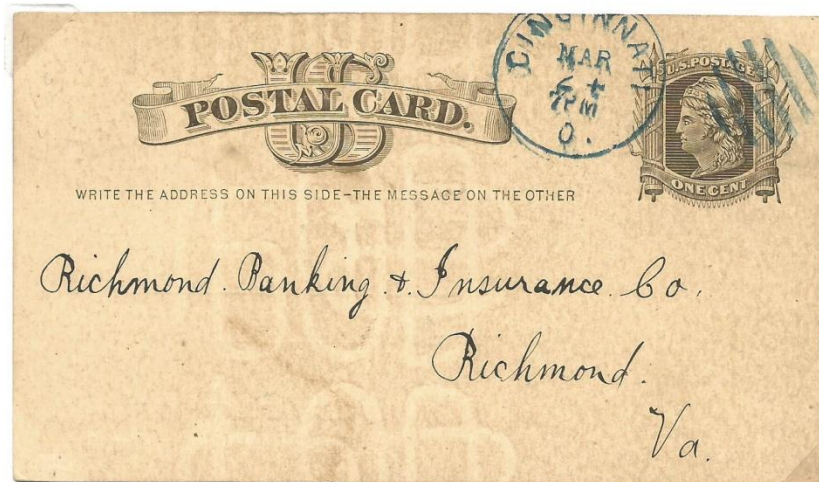
SECOND DESIGN: Watermark Positions

Since the new issue was to be printed on unwatermarked stock, no care was taken on which way the sheets were fed into the press with the watermarked stock. This accounts for the watermark being found in all four positions. The old stock was produced with badly worn monograms. Most cards are found with weak watermarks. Clear watermarks are scarce.



Reversed

Inverted & Reversed



## References

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2. Historical catalogue of U.S. Postal Card Essays & Proofs by Bill Falberg & Dan Undersander.
3. A Contemporary Account of the United states Postal Card 1870-1875 by Charles Fricke.
4. U.S. Domestic Postal Card Regulations 1874-1885 by Robert Stendel.
5. *Postal Stationery September – October 2013* Volume 55 Number 5. Census of USA Postal Cards Used Internationally Before Their Rates Were Established by Alex Gundel.
6. Plating of the first United States postal card by Charles A. Fricke.

