

# **COUNTERFEITS, FAKES AND FORGERIES OF U.S. POSTAL STATIONERY**

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## **TERMINOLOGY & EXAMPLES**

**BILL LEHR © JUNE 2015**

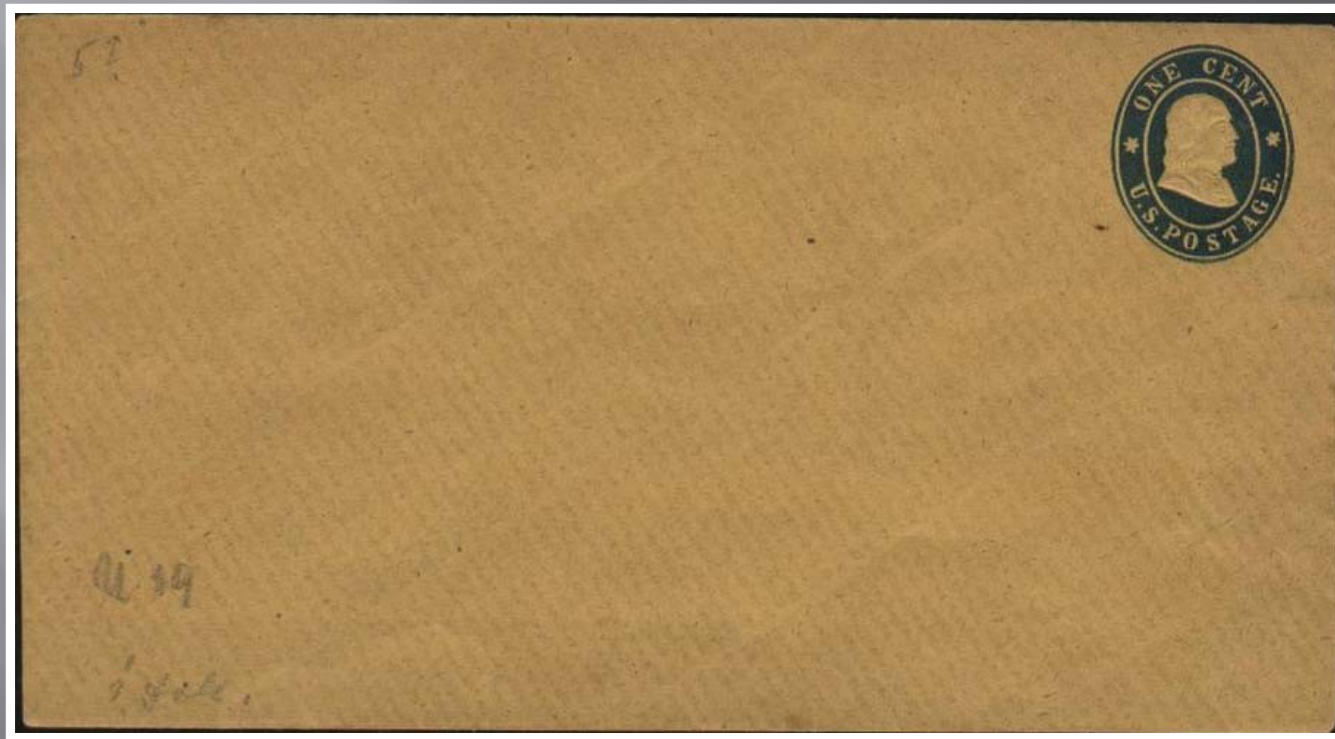
# Counterfeits

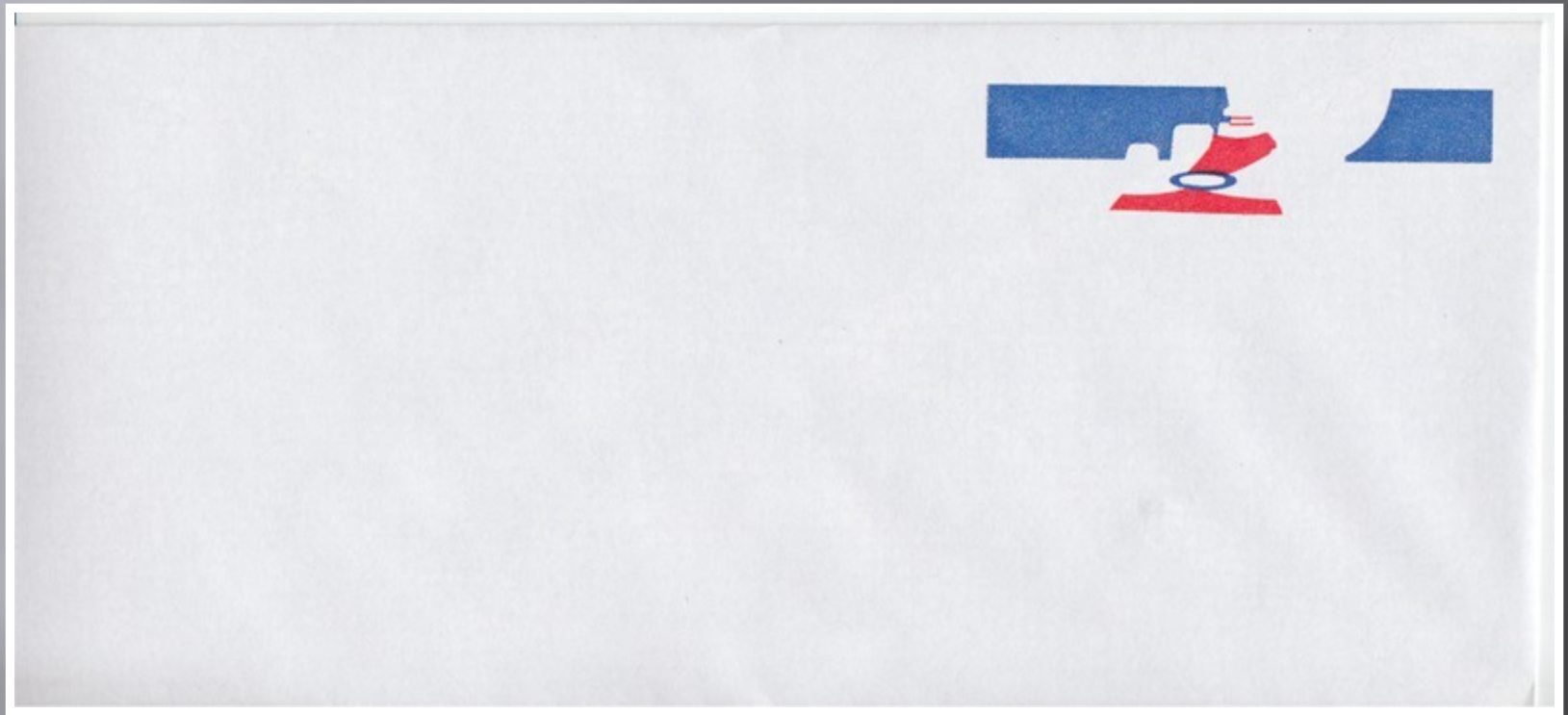
Counterfeits are created to defraud the government of revenue.

## Die 12 Counterfeit

2<sup>nd</sup> Nesbitt 1¢ blue star die, Scott U19, with the head of Franklin facing right. Earliest known bogus US entire. Discovery copy shown.

Note the six pointed stars. Genuine Die 12 has five pointed stars.





## Die 218/U567 Owen Silvious Counterfeit

Silvious not only counterfeited the 15¢ Auto Racing envelope, but the black omitted error, and a number of cacheted FDCs. Although sold as reproductions, they do not meet the size requirements and they also violate copyright law. Mediocre reproductions on cheap envelopes.

Inmate Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Inmate Number 20099  
Housing Unit 0Q1 306T  
Utah State Prison  
P.O. Box 250  
Draper, Utah 84020



COINWORLD  
911 Vandemark Rd.  
P.O. Box 150  
Sidney, OH 45365-0150

Address Service Requested

5-8-00  
A1

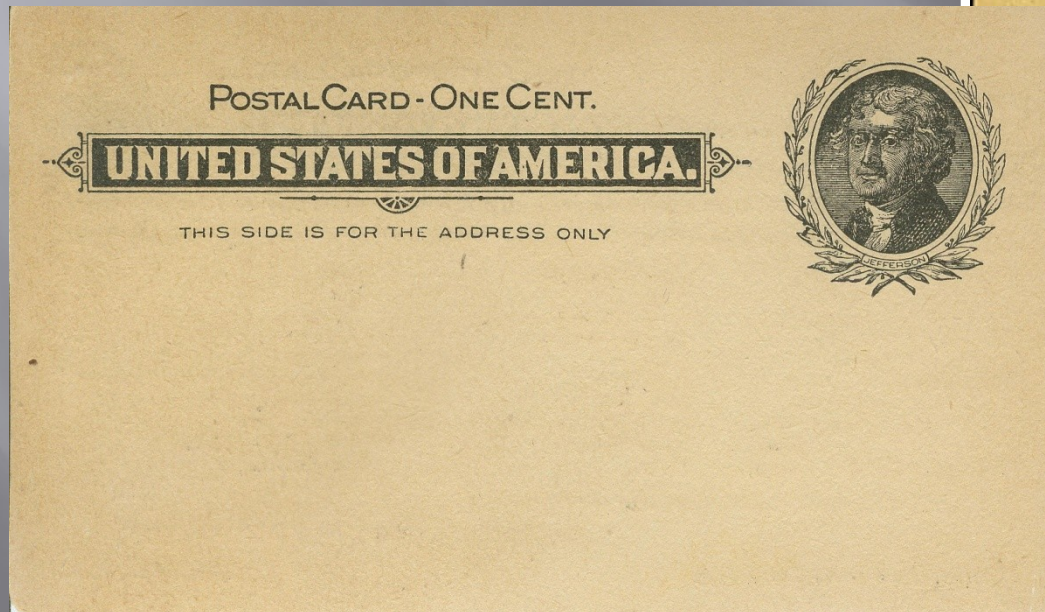
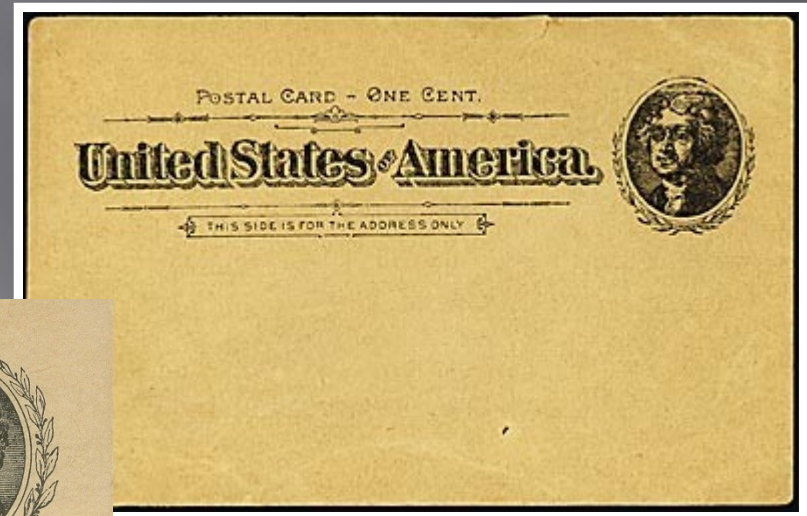
45365X0150 30 

## Die 272/U642 Counterfeit

Compliments of John Hotchner, this hand drawn version of Die 272 passed through the US mails. Interesting to note that the lack of tagging went unnoticed as this envelope traveled from Utah to Ohio.

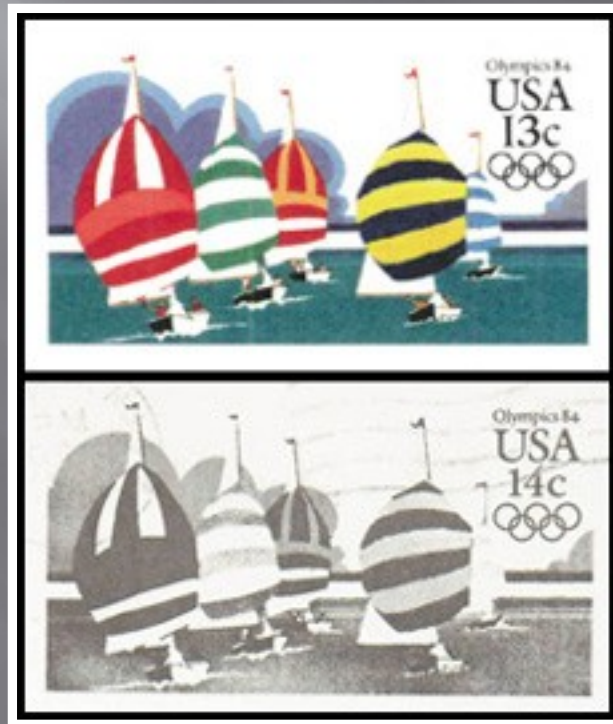
# Smith Counterfeits

AKA the Chicago counterfeits. S14/UX12 from the 1894 contract and S17/UX14, from the 1898 contract were extensively counterfeited. This is probably the most extensively documented US postal stationery counterfeit.



## S117/UX100 Counterfeit

Postally used card with a December 1986 Paterson, NJ machine cancel.  
Believed to be genuine cards with the denomination altered by the printer who also printed the notice on the back. Only one known.



# Forgeries

Forgeries are created to defraud the collector.

# Forgeries begin with the earliest issues

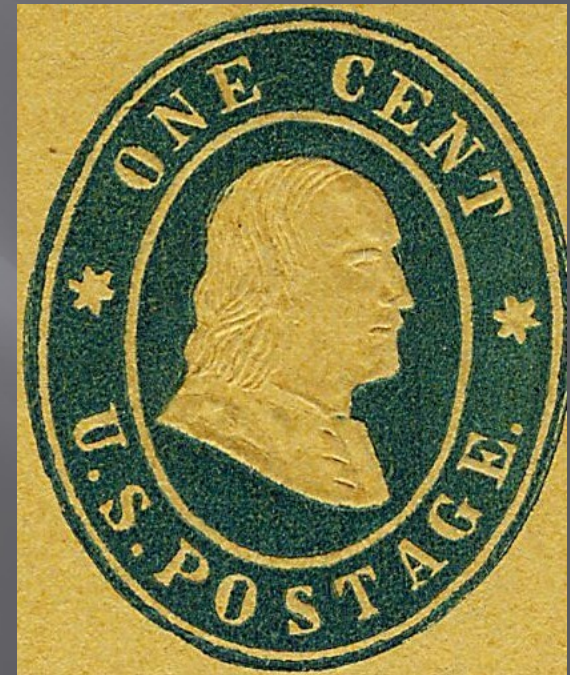


# Some issues have many varieties of forgeries

DIE 12 CLASS 2



DIE 12FGT1



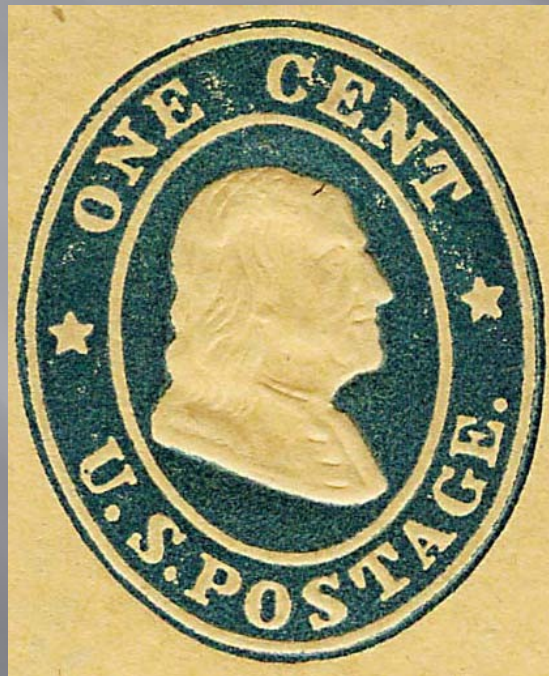
DIE 12



DIE 12FGT2



DIE 12 CLASS 3



DIE 12FGT3



# Wrong head wrong way

DIE 9



DIE 9FGT2



# Multiple heads, no problem

DIE 14FGT1

DIE 14FGT2



# Multicolor not exempt

DIE 18- BROWN & RED



DIE 18FGT1



# Dyslexic forger

DIE 18- BROWN & LAKE

DIE 18 FGT2



# More dyslexic forger

DIE 21



DIE 21FG





## Nothing too difficult: Centennial Type 2 Forgeries

Known both entire and cut square in a variety of colors. Frequently seen with fake French cancels but these forgeries originated in Germany.



# Changelings

DIE 15FKT1



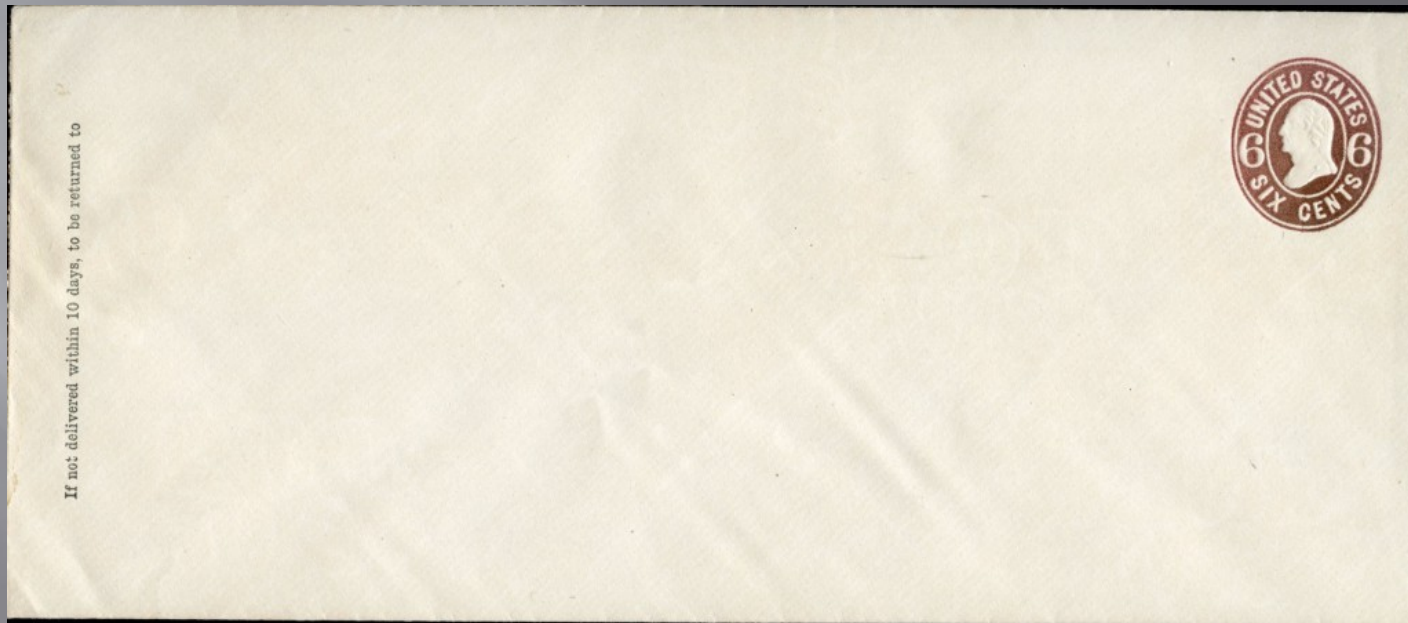
DIE 15FKT2



# Mother Nature creating another changeling

DIE 27FK

OXIDATION OF THE STAMP



# Mother Nature Fools Experts!



The infamous UO72 certified as UO72a, not once, but twice.  
Seems someone forgot to look at the back.  
Another window sill special.

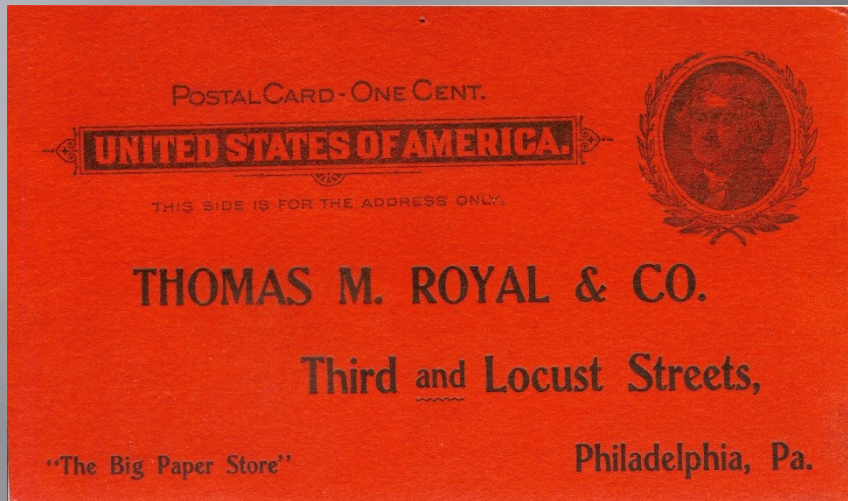


## ALS2b/UC16ab fake error of color

Another changeling .

# Bad Dye Jobs

S17/UX14D FAKE  
SALMON PAPER



S21/UX17 FAKE  
GREENISH PAPER



# Surcharge Hi-jinks

Extensive use of surcharges during the 20<sup>th</sup> century allowed the fakers free reign. An inexpensive item could become a rare or unique one.

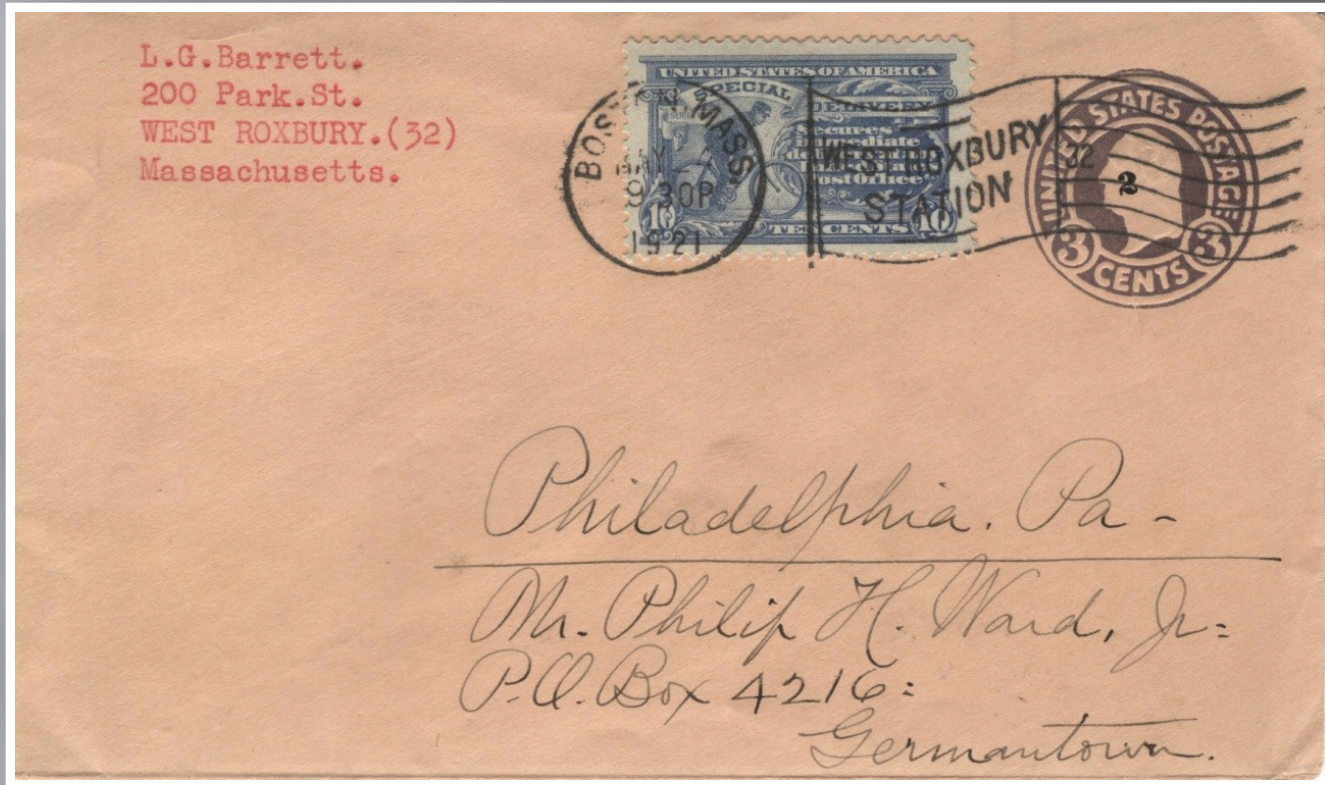
## Surcharges added as a favor



Both collectors and dealers with connections inside of the various post offices were able to obtain items surcharged by favor. Separating these favor items from genuine surcharged in error items was quite a problem.

Fake surcharges range from crude  
to very well executed.





## Barrett fake of a 1920 provisional surcharge

Philatelist LG Barrett created his own fake which passed through the mail to noted Philadelphia stamp dealer Philip H Ward.



## U586b accidental fake

The private printer, following instructions to duplicate the corner card also reproduced the surcharge from the genuine U586 that was supplied as a sample. U586 is the 16¢ blue USA revalued to 15¢.

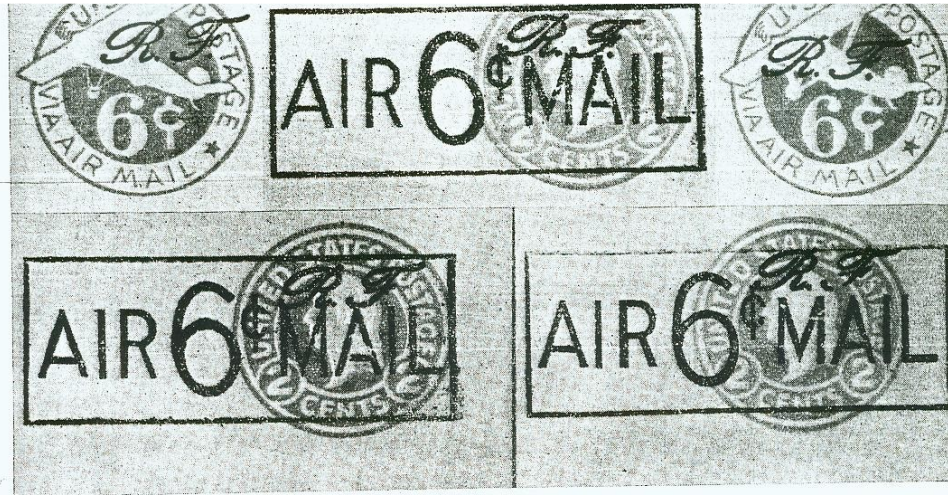
## Fakes of the Boxed '6' Air Mail Surcharge



Scott Catalog composite shown upper left.  
Tracings of several of the Boxed '6' air mail surcharge fakes below.

# The Economist Stamp Co. RF Fakes

There are no genuine mint RF overprinted envelopes and no genuine script style RF overprints. These overprints were applied as control markings at the time of mailing.



These unused entire Military Envelopes were overprinted "R.F." for use by the French Naval Forces in Southern France under authority granted by the United States Navy Department.

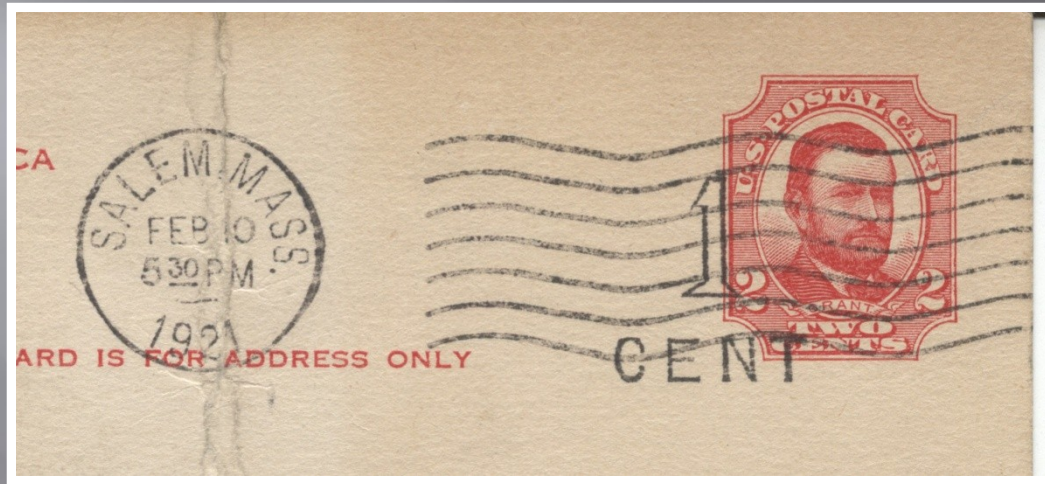
We secured the only available supply from a U. S. Naval Officer who was on the spot but with the sudden termination of the European war, his

ship sailed half way around the world before reaching New York.

Only a limited supply is available of the five varieties illustrated above and described below. As these will unquestionably appeal to United States, Entire Envelope, Airmail and War Issue collectors, we suggest a prompt order to avoid disappointment.

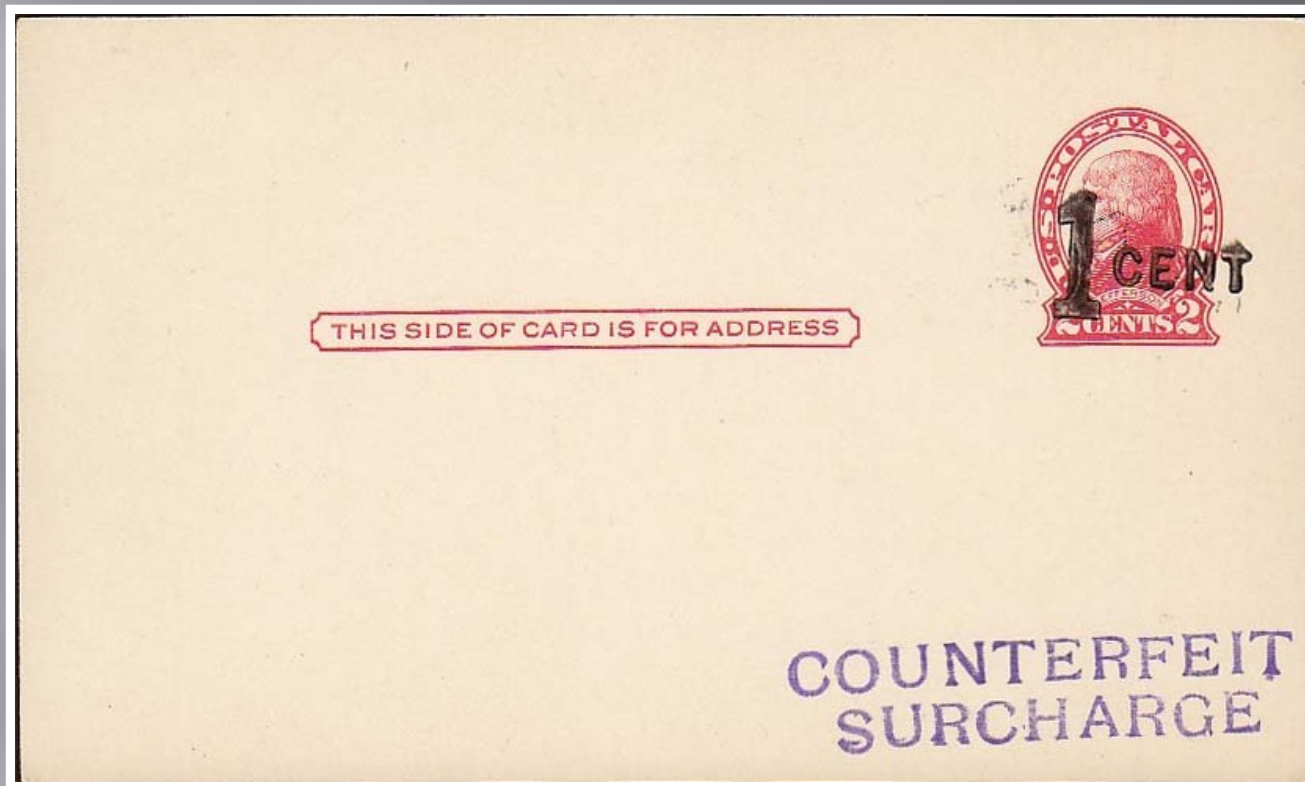
## The Principal Differences Are:

- #UC4—6c orange—Die C—Heavy "6" and Narrow "E"
- UC5—6c orange—Die D—Thin "6" and Broad "E"
- UCM1—6c on 2c—"R" of "AIR" thin, all letters level



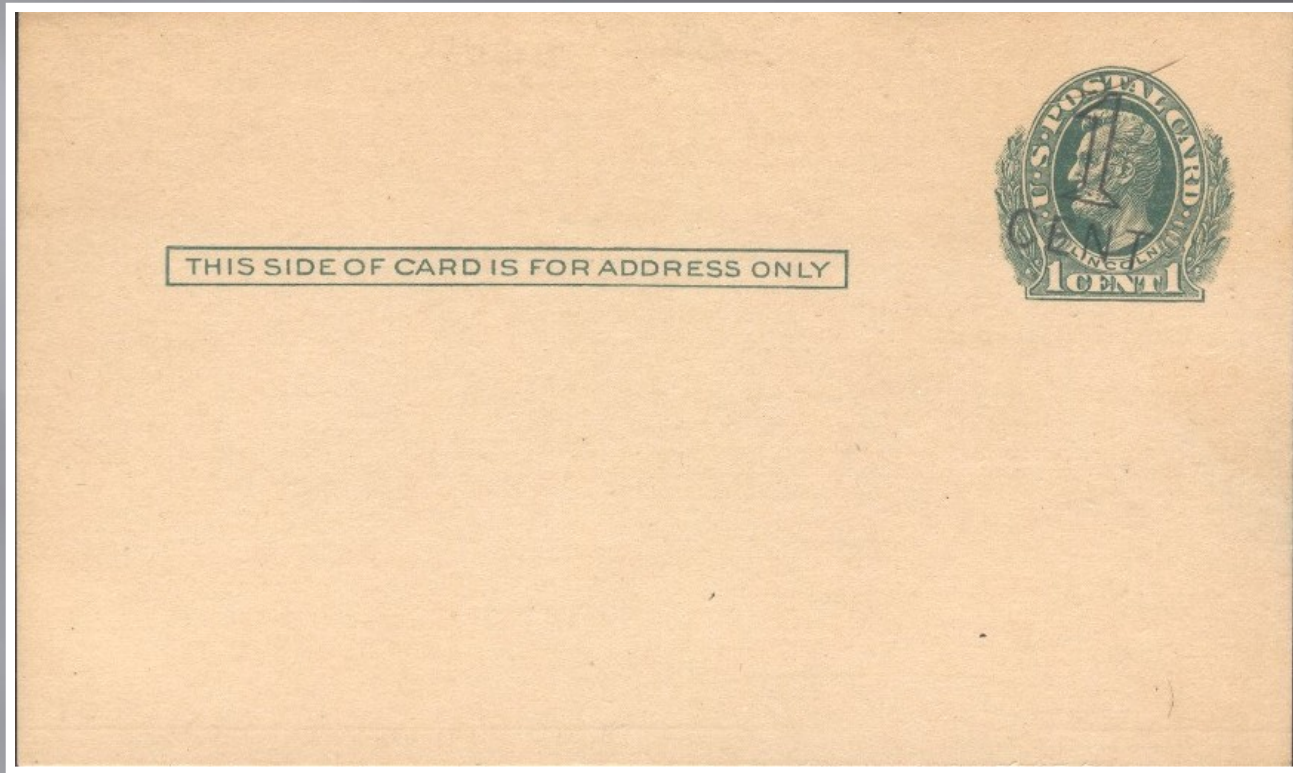
## Favor overprints on postal cards

The fakers did not ignore postal cards for favor surcharges. These favor surcharged postal cards were a very big problem for the catalog editors.



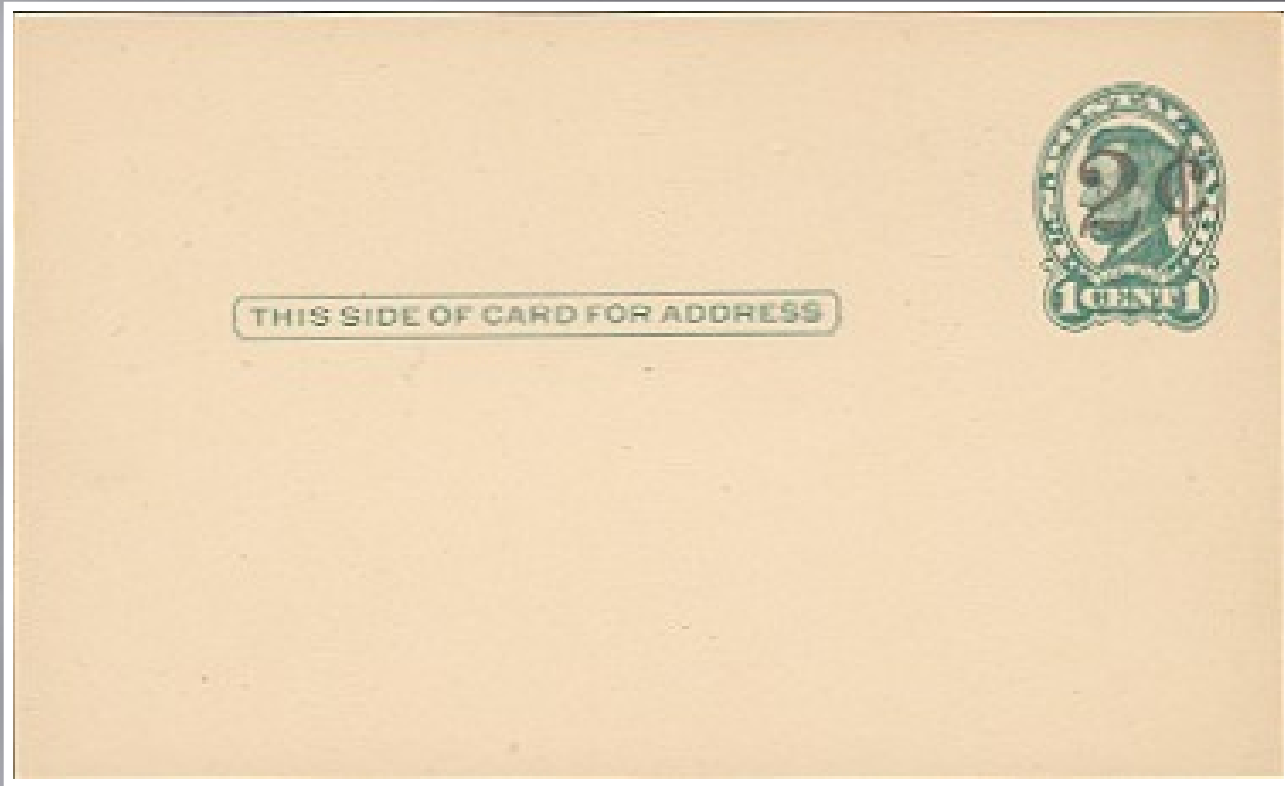
**Fake of the one-line canceling machine  
surcharge**

Shown is a fake of S43/UX31.



## **Fake of the 1920 Two-line canceling machine surcharge**

Known on a variety of cards including  
S33/UX24, S36/UX26 (shown), and on S40/UX28



## Collector created novelty

S40/UX28 with fake revalue to 2¢

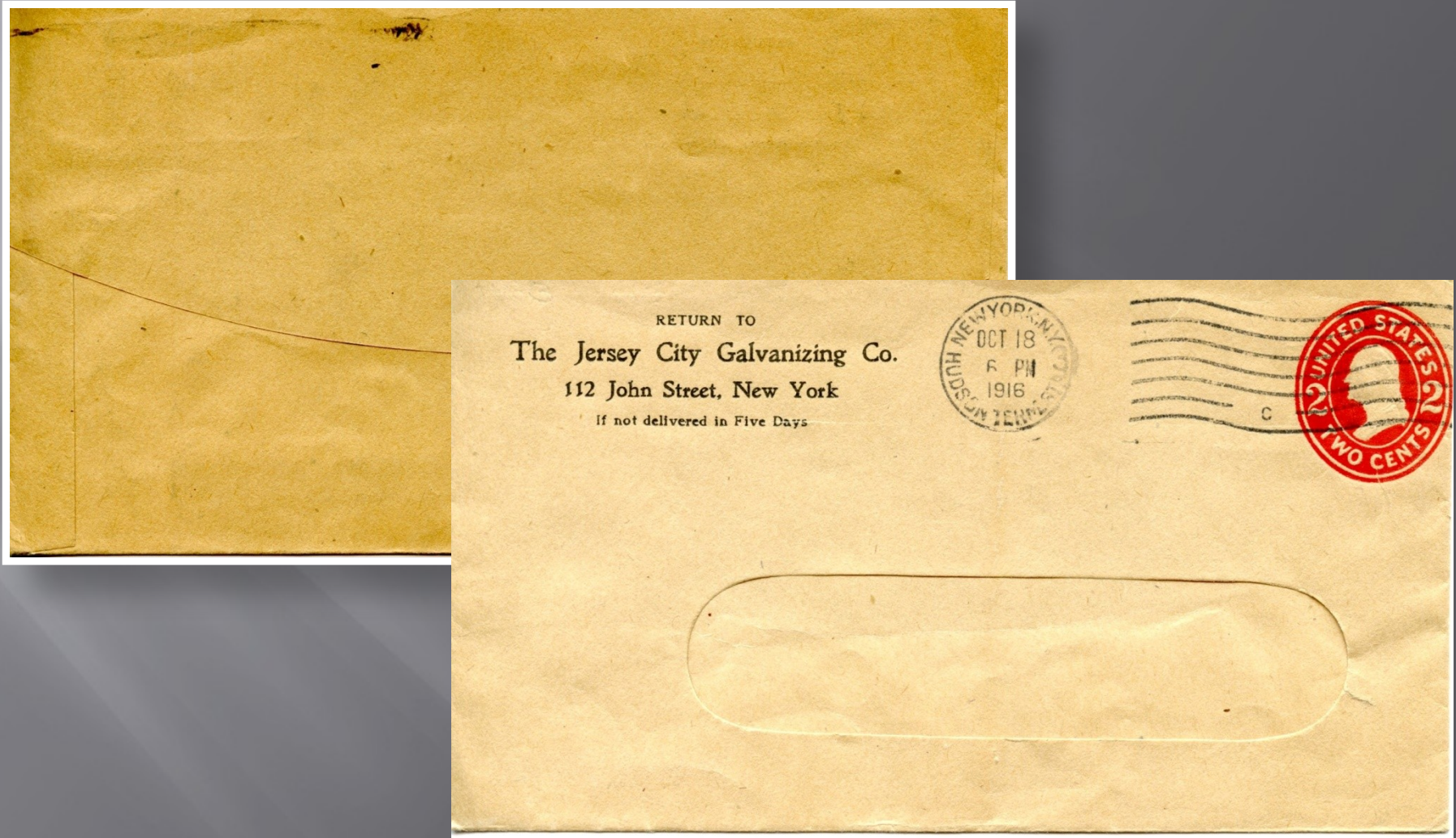
# Recut entires

Creative minds and idle hands.

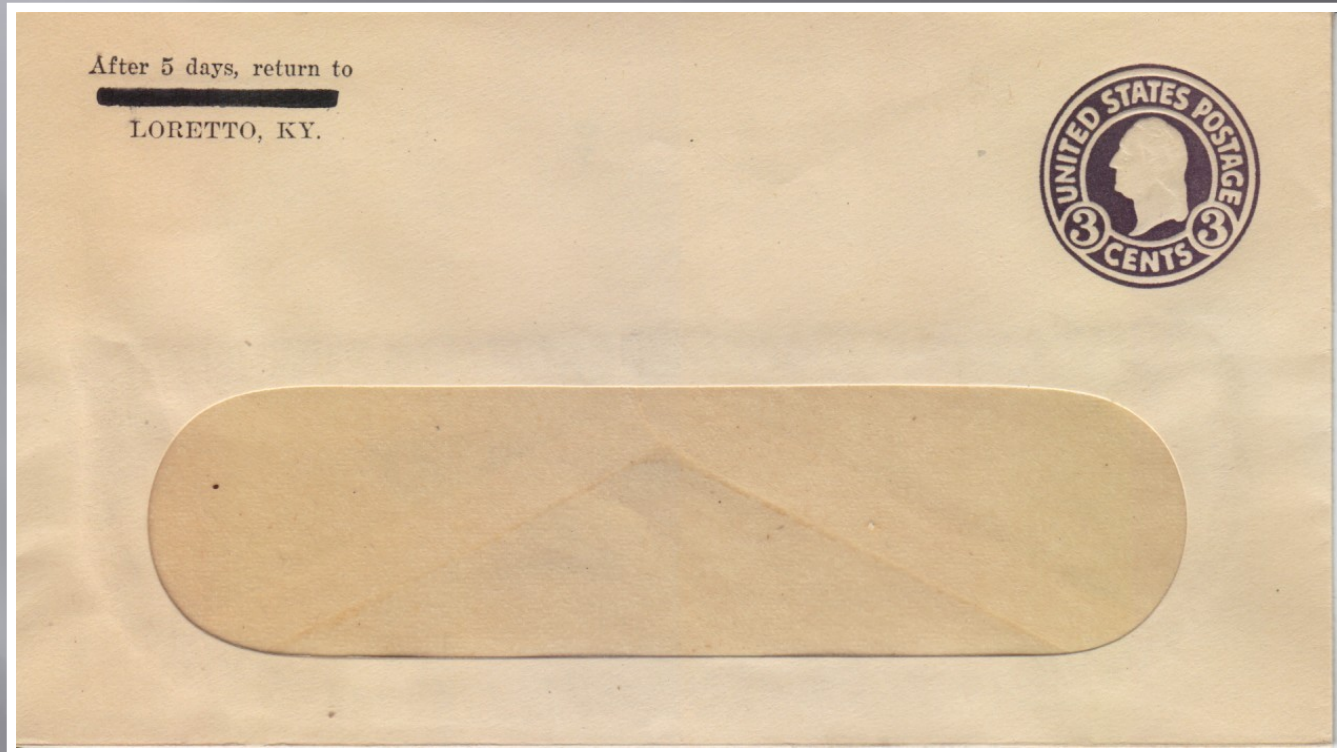
A few genuine items miscut for private reasons and some creative ones for nefarious reasons.

## Newspaper wrapper converted to a window envelope

Use of window envelopes had been approved by the PMG but were not available from the post office. Unfortunately we do not know what this envelope contained.



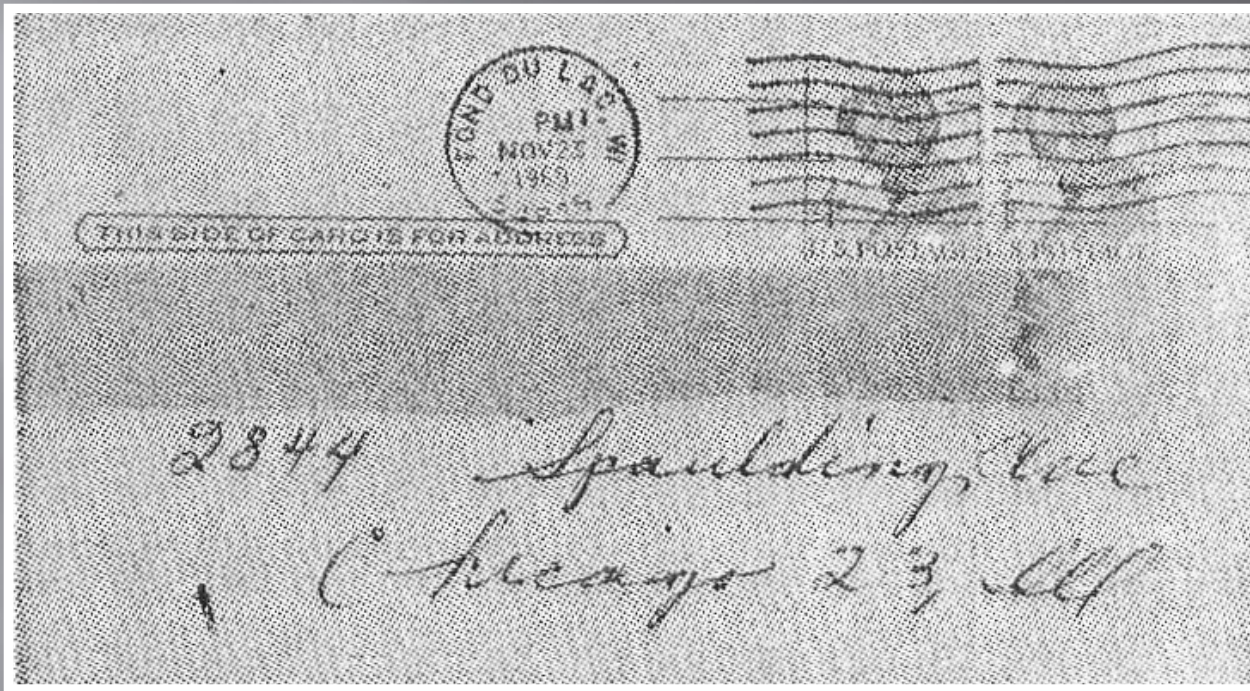
## Reverend Clancy Young and his creations



Rev. Young created a variety of non-existing envelopes including a new size an 1899 Plimpton & Morgan, adding gum to a never gummed 1¢ circular die, and the addition of windows to a variety of envelopes including 2¢ Mercantile, 1¢, 2¢, and 3¢ circular dies. Portions or all of the return addresses were obliterated to prevent tracing of provenance.

# Use of cutouts

The use of US postal stationery cut outs for payment of postage has always been illegal. Use of cut outs creates fakes that may also qualify as oddities.



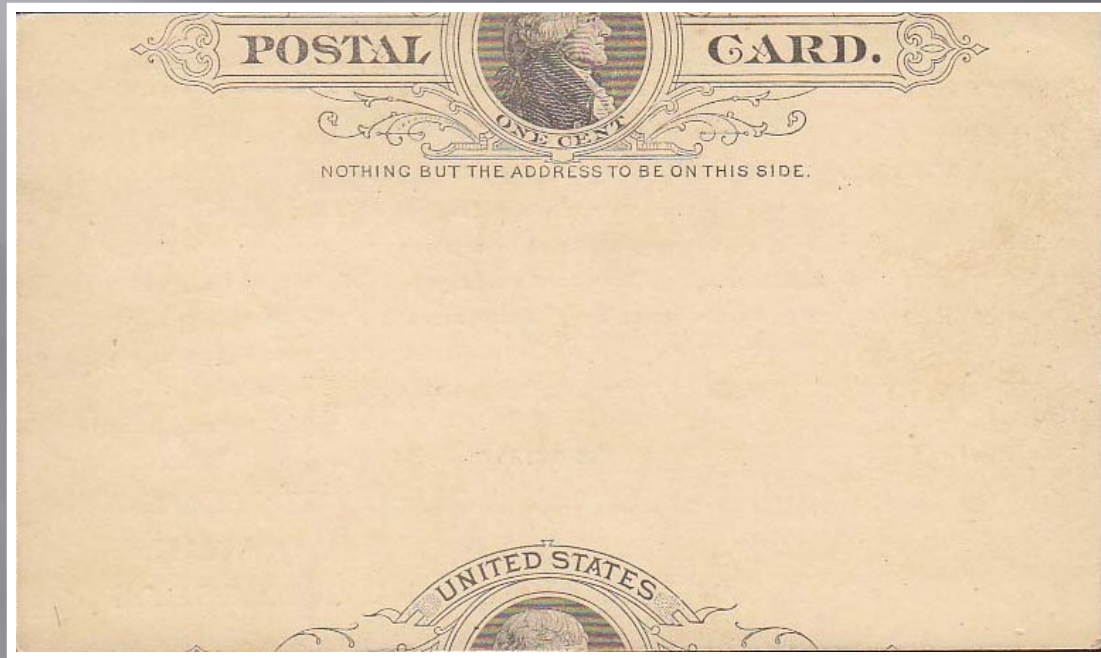
## Fake double impression

The use of US postal stationery cut outs for payment of postage has always been illegal. Use of cut outs creates fakes and also qualify as oddities.

# Miscut postal cards

Some were created as party favors, others as deliberate fraud.

# S8/UX9 issued December 1886



## Fake Miscuts as approval items

Avalon Stamp Company and Tatham Stamp Company, among others, manufactured fake miscuts for sale to their clients.





*Pike Expedition, November 1806, Rocky Mountains*

© 2005 USPS  recycled

**S463/UX449 fake miscut**

# Enhanced

Privately applied additions that fall outside of the definition of fakes



## Privately applied air mail borders

Die 159/U528 with privately applied air mail border following the recommendations of the post office. Yes, the air mail rate was still 5¢ in February of 1932. Horizontal red and blue bars were also used.

## Applied to enhance the apparent value

The 1874 Plimpton War Department envelopes have been among the less valuable official mail envelopes. A dealer decided to enhance the value and salability by adding pictures of locomotives.

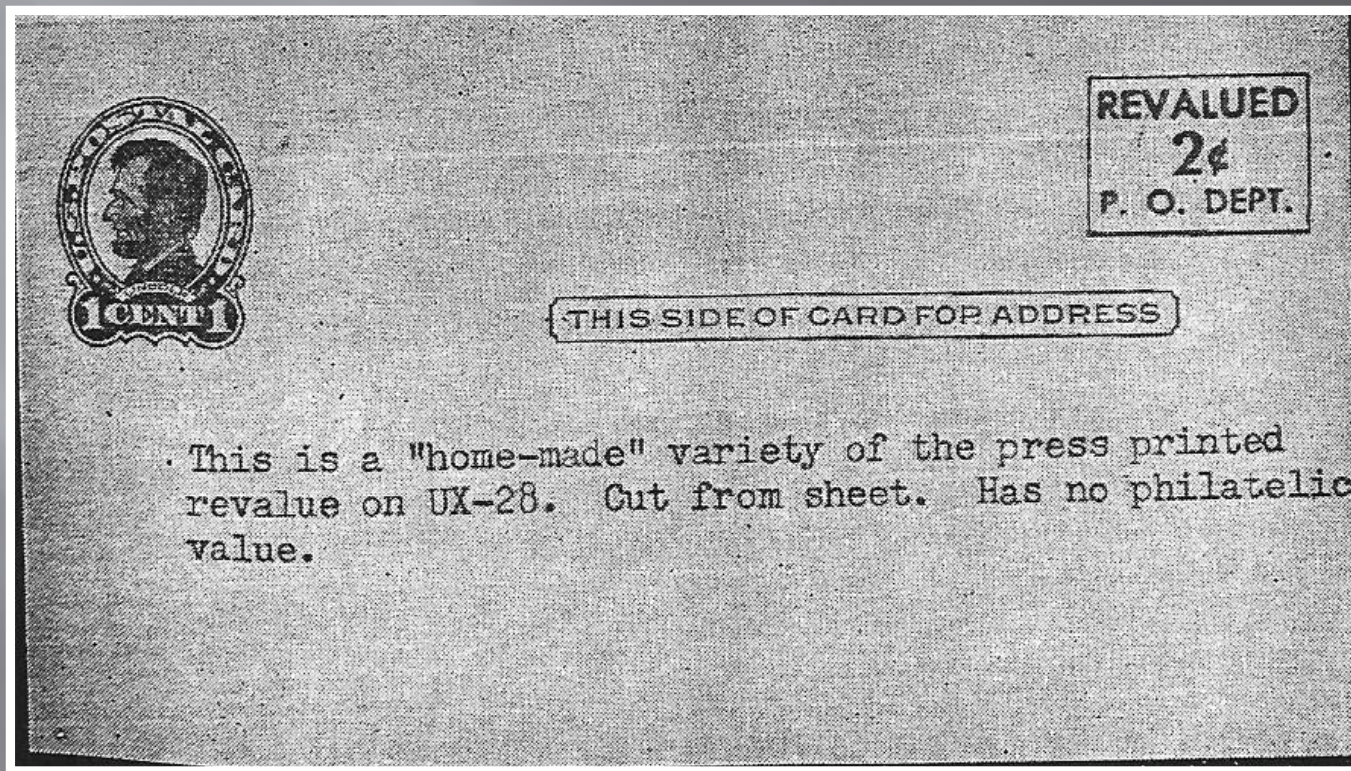


# Combination fakes

Really creative fakers would often combine types of fakes to creating even more interesting items.

## Fake miscut with fake revalue

Two for the price of one.



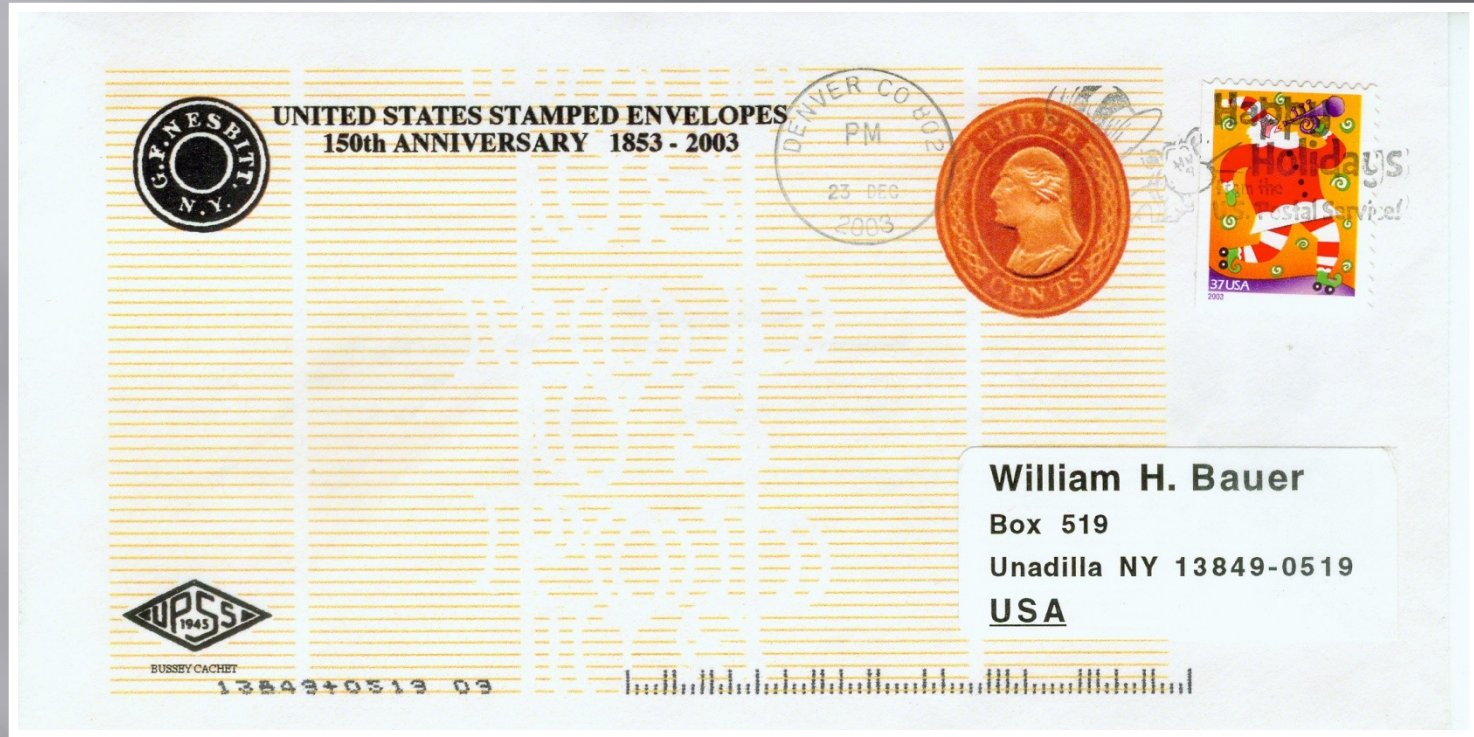
# Facsimiles

Reproductions or imitations of genuine items.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Nesbitt, Die 1 Facsimile

Cover Collectors of America, 1941





## Die 5 Bussey facsimile

No copyright along with demonetization in the 1860s keep this facsimile from being considered a counterfeit.

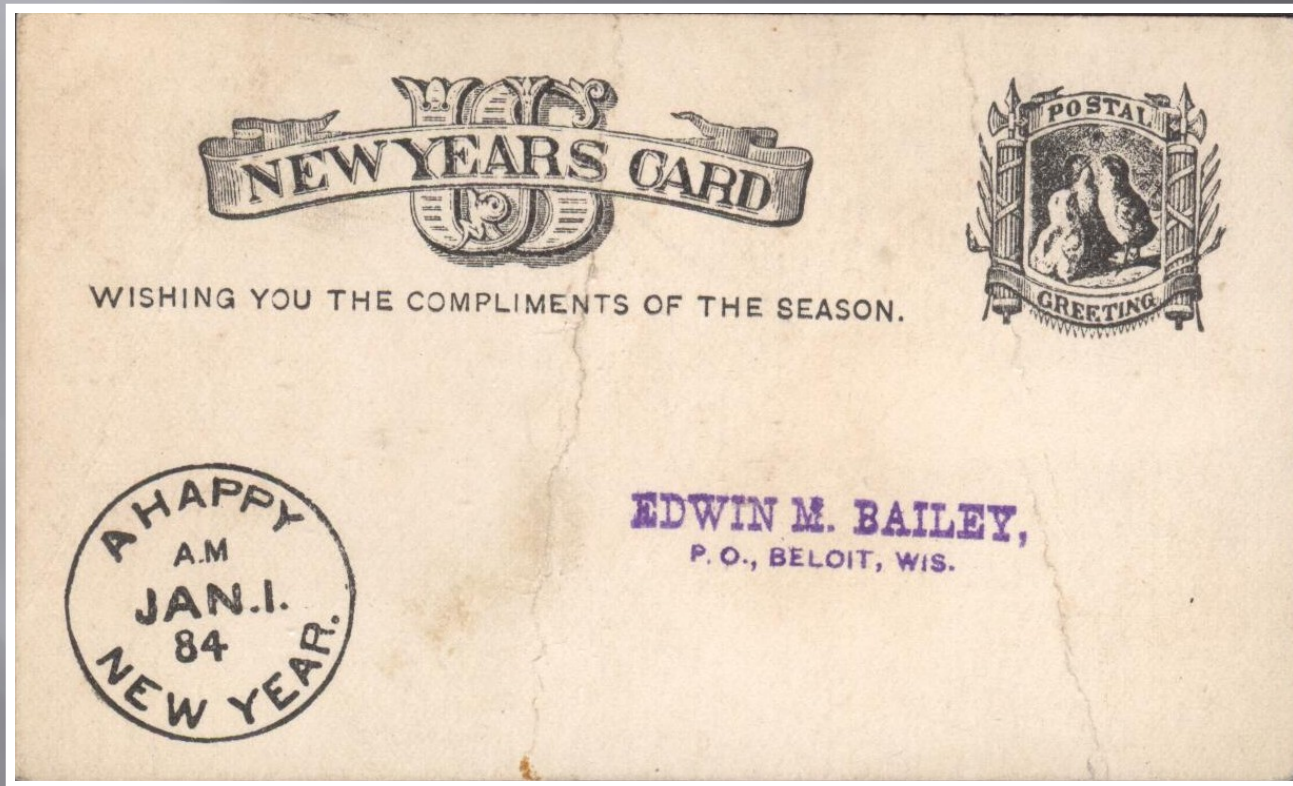
# SA1/UXC1 Facsimile



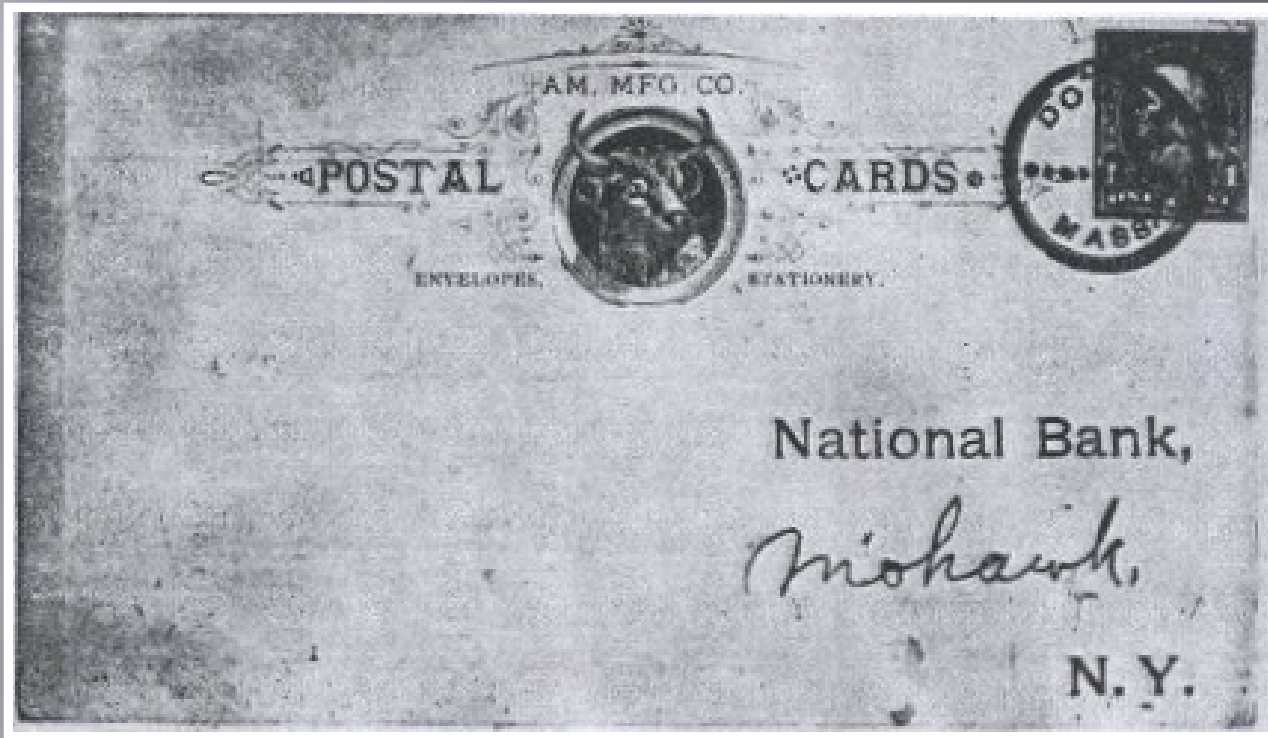
# cinderellas

Fanciful items that may imitate genuine items.

## Holiday Cards

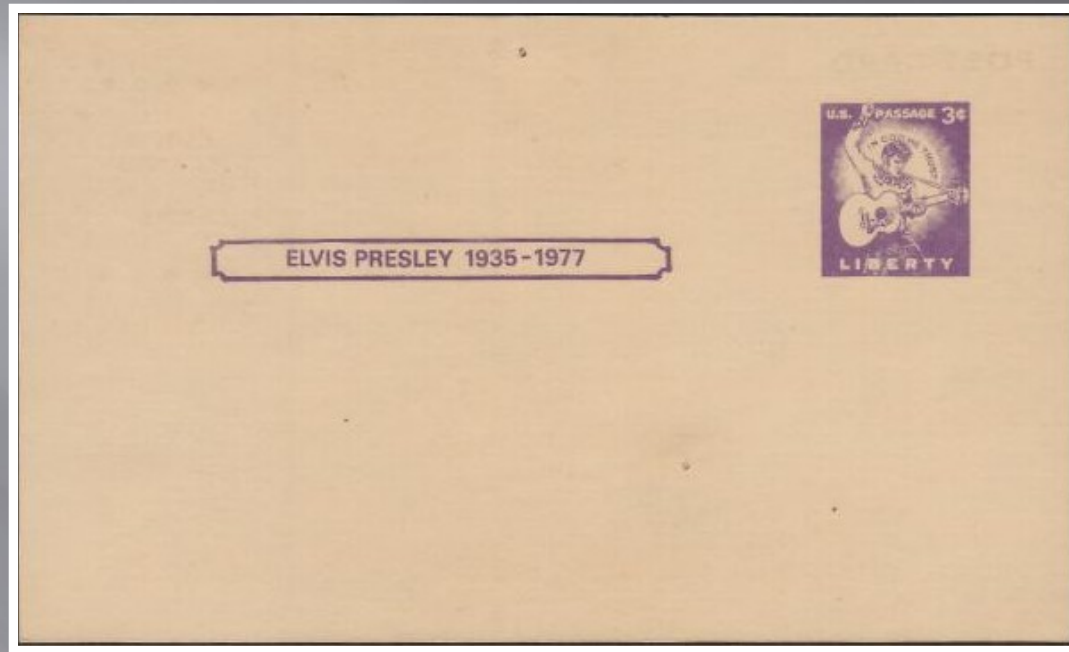


S6/UX 7 imitation shown.



## Advertising

Shown here is an imitation of S8/UX9 used by the AM. Mfg. Co.



## Elvis memorial card

Imitation of S63/UX46, the 3¢ purple Statue of Liberty postal card