

FIRST U.S. STAMP ISSUE

August 2, (1847)

The first U.S. stamps were issued July 1, 1847. Lancaster received 1600 of the 5 cent stamps and 100 of the 10 cent stamps.

This cover with a Aug. 2 postmark and a receivers notation that it was written Aug. 1, 1847, indicates that this is the earliest known use of the 5 cent stamp from Lancaster. The manuscript grid marking suggests a type of pre-cancel.



APS Certificate #157776 (9/2004)

March 29, 1850



The letter has a Harrisburg dateline but was posted at the Lancaster Post Office

FOREIGN MAIL - SWITZERLAND

May 20, (1856)

Strip of three 10 cent Type II 1855 issue

PRUSSIA CLOSED MAIL

This letter to Laufenberg, Switzerland was sent by the 1852 Treaty with Prussia. May 20 Lancaster town mark with the three 10 cent stamps. Red manuscript "Paid" and "30". The stamps were obliterated with a red manuscript. A New York "Paid 7" May 24 date stamp shows U.S. credit to Prussia of 7 cents. The total amount according to the Prussian agreement was 30 cents, this paid letter to Prussian border with Switzerland, but not beyond.



The letter went on the Steamer "Atlantic" a ship in the Collins Line arriving in Liverpool on June 4. Letter arrived at Aachen, Prussia on June 6. The reverse shows a June 8 date, when letter was handled on Baden railroad. The boxed Franco Preuss handstamp applied at Aachen and indicated letter paid to border only. Postage (blue manuscript 3) due at destination 3 krenzer.

The Collins Line (The New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company) was formed in response to the Postmaster General's advertisements for an American Steamship company to carry mail between the United States and Europe. The company supplied successful mail service until 1858.

This cover has a 1989 Jakubek certificate

FOREIGN MAIL - WURTTENBERG

July 30, 1843

Letter from Lancaster to Wurttemberg via New York and Havre, France.

Blue Lancaster, Pa. July 30, CDS and matching "PAID" with a manuscript "18 3/4", the zone rate for a single letter 150-400 miles. (Lancaster to New York)

"Havre Packet at New York" endorsed on bottom of envelope.

Red "Outre Mer Le Havre" French entry CDS (Aug. 26) and blue Paris transit marking (Aug. 27) on reverse.



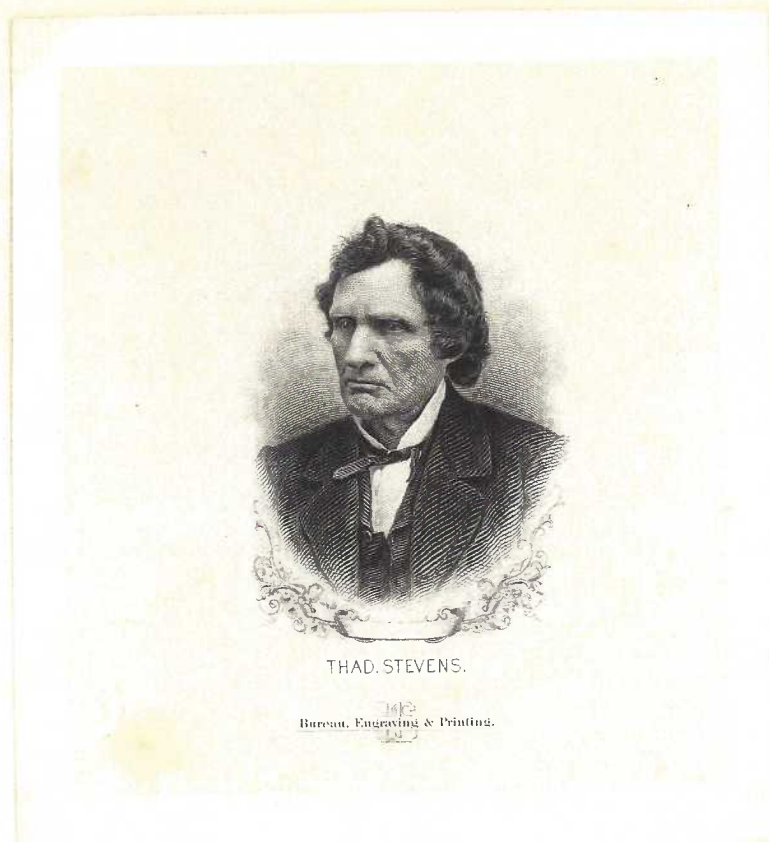
Entire letter written in German

The 42/4 and 46 kreuzer in red crayon was rate accounting in Wurttemberg, 42 kreuzer to France and 4 kreuzer internal fees. The 47 kreuzer in black indicates it was paid by the recipient. The extra 1 kreuzer was a local fee in Wurttemberg.

FREE FRANK - Thaddeus Stevens

October 28, 1853

This cover showing a typical "Free Frank" by Thaddeus Stevens, during his tenure as a member of the House of Representatives, from 1851 to 1853. Mr. Stevens, a Lancaster native, served a total of thirteen years in Congress from Pennsylvania.



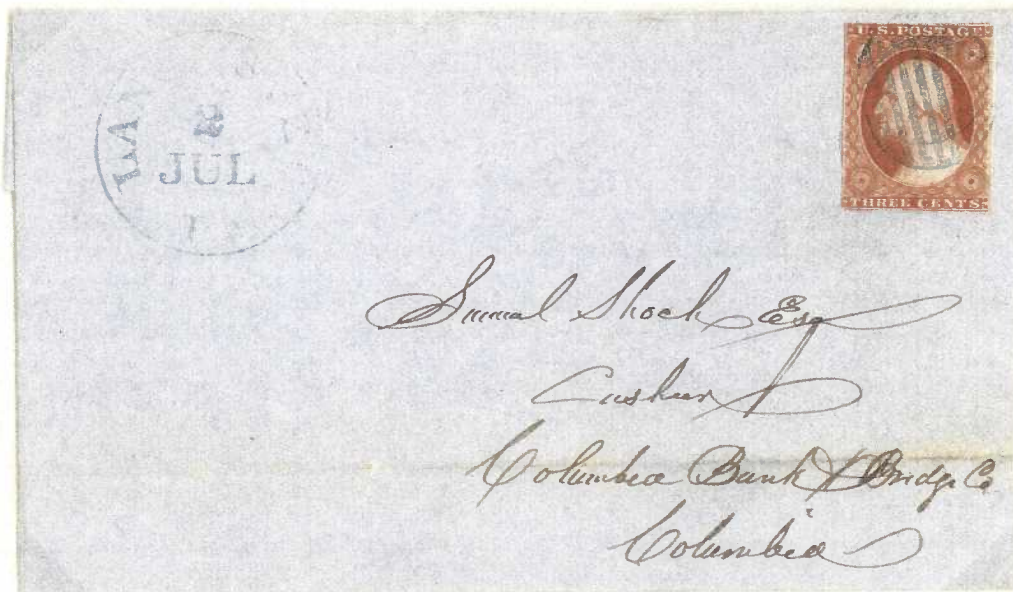
1851 3 CENT ISSUE

Act of July 1, 1851: 3 cents under 3000 miles prepaid

THE 3 CENT ORANGE BROWN STAMP WAS ISSUED JULY 1, 1851. THE COVERS BELOW WERE POSTED AT LANCASTER ON THE 2nd AND 3rd OF JULY 1851, THUS PRODUCING SECOND AND THIRD DAY COVERS.

JULY 2, 1851

2nd DAY COVER



JULY 3, 1851

3rd DAY COVER



CIRCULAR BLUE GRID HANDSTAMP

LANCASTER, PA.

(1851-185+)

32mm Circular Date Stamp

Reported colors: Green(1851) Blue(1852)

Reported markings: Geometric, "5", "Paid 3" oval

1851-1852 TOWNMARK

1851 Rate: 3 cents prepaid,
5 cent not prepaid

The following four covers with blue and green CDS were used for a short but undetermined period of time. Current covers are known from 1851 and 1852 only. Two examples of these shown here bear a 3 cent 1851 issue, and a geometric oval grid handstamp common to this era. The third is a "5" non-prepaid handstamp, and the fourth a prepaid "PAID 3" oval handstamp

July 17, 1851

Month and day are reversed

Green Townmark



May 10, 1852

Blue Townmark

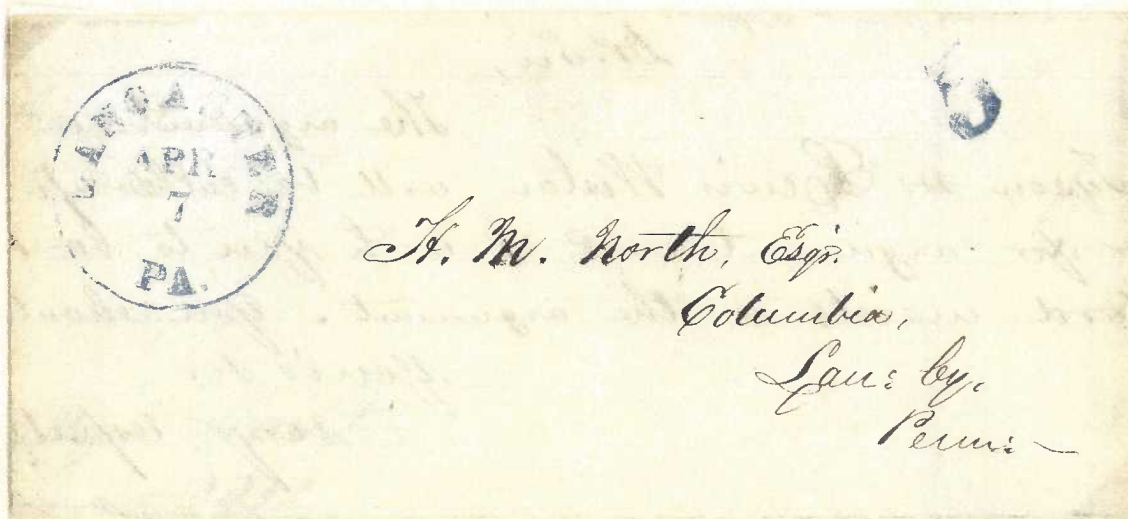


TOWNMARKS: BLUE

April 7, 1852

"5" Due - Not prepaid

Blue Townmark



May 13, ()

PAID 3 in oval

Blue Townmark



The "PAID 3" oval handstamp is uncommon on this townmark.

Reported covers with this townmark are dated 1851 or 1852, but it cannot be assumed that the postmark was only used during those two years.

LANCASTER, PA.

(1854-1855)

High A

33 mm Circle

Reported postal markings: PAID 3 in oval, 5,10, PAID

Reported colors: Green, Black

HIGH A TOWNMARKS

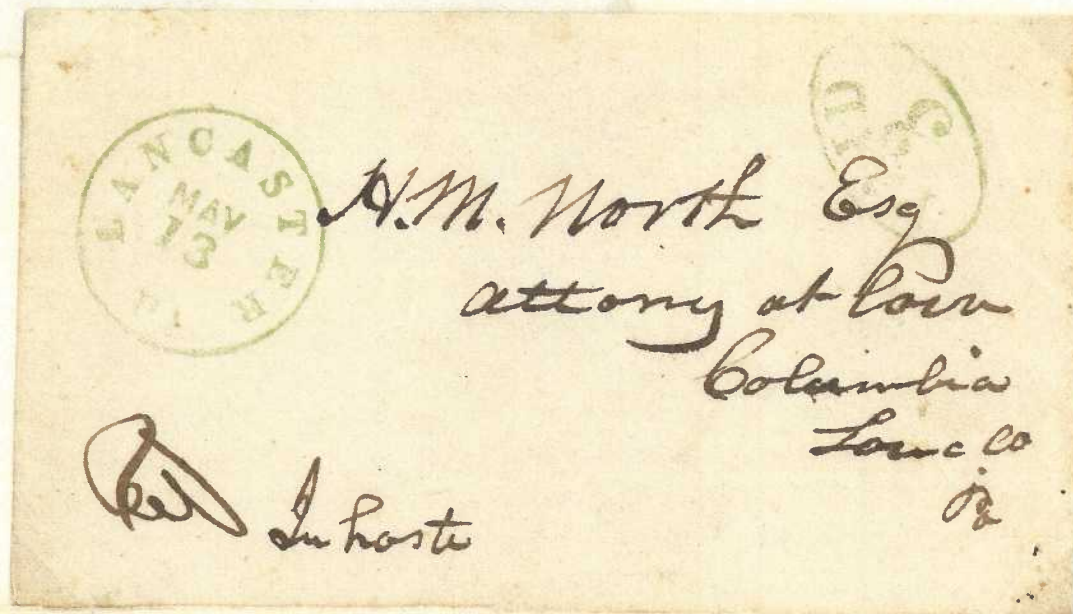
1851 Rate: 3 cents prepaid per 1/2 oz.



Jan. 24, ()

"Charge box 281" - 3 cents
charged to senders post
office account.

May 13, 1854



May 17, ()

Ladies cover



HIGH A TOWNMARKS

Jan. 6, 1854

Act 1851: 5 cents not prepaid



Recipient would pay postage

March 13, ()

1853 dull red 3cent issue

1851/55 Rate: 3 cents prepaid



Year date on back flap on this ladies cover may be 1857 or 1859.

In that case this townmark may have been used over a longer period than previously reported.

FOREIGN MAIL - GERMAN STATES

March 31, 1854

Prussian Closed Mail

Lancaster to Wurttemberg. Green March 31 Lancaster circular date stamp. Lancaster postmaster marked "30" stating the unpaid letter rate in the upper right corner, although not required many postmasters did.

Letter sent to New York where it was prepared to go in the Prussian closed mail. The 1/2 oz. letter rate by Prussian mail was 30 cents. The exchange office clerk marked the datestamp showing U.S. debit to Prussia of 23 cents (U.S. was entitled to 23 cents) and that the letter would go by British packet.

Letter placed in a closed bag and placed on board the Cunard steamship "Africa" departing New York on April 5 and arriving at Liverpool on April 18.



The closed mail bag was sent through the U.K. and Belgium to Aachen, Prussia the exchange office with New York for Prussian mail. "AACHEN" circular datestamp on reverse indicates that the bag was opened April 19. The letter was marked with a manuscript "45" in blue ink to indicate 45 kreuzer (equivalent to 30 cents) postage due at destination. The red ink mark under the 45 was probably placed there in Wurttemberg to emphasize the postage due amount.

The reverse shows a Schomberg, Wurremberg April 22 datestamp, probably the nearest post office.

FOREIGN MAIL - GERMAN STATES

Oct. 10, 1854

Lancaster, Pa. cover to Kirchheim u/Teck, Wurttemberg, a German state bounded by Baden and Bavaria.

Black Lancaster, Pa Oct 10 (High A) circular date stamp. Black New York - Bremen Packet CDS shows a 5 cent debit to Bremen for U.S. postage by the 1853 U.S.-Bremen Convention.

Red "24/9 Kr R America Uber Bremen" is the Bremen accounting mark showing 24 Kreuzer for sea postage to Bremen and 9 Kreuzer internal German fee.

This was an unpaid letter. The manuscript "30" states the unpaid rate by Prussian mail, but the letter went by Bremen mail.



Cover was transported via the W. A. Fritze & Co. Steamer "Hansa", departing New York on Oct. 17 and arriving in Bremen on Nov. 3rd.

The "Hansa" (formerly the steamship "United States") was sold to the German Confederation and became the flagship of Admiral Brommy of the German Fleet. Later it was sold to W.A. Fritze & Co. and made only eight round trips in 1853, 1854 and one in 1857. Mail carried on these crossings is uncommon.

Circular back stamp indicates that this letter was delivered to Kirchhelm on 7 Nov. 1854.

TOWNMARKS of the 1860's - 1890's

The townmarks of this era had several changes, but were usually used for extended overlapping periods. The information shown for the following postmarks are a fairly accurate approximation, but should not be considered absolute.

1865 - 1870's

23 mm CDS

Reported colors: Black

1870's - 1880's

25 mm CDS

Reported colors: Black, Blue

1880's - 1890's

26 -27 mm CDS

Reported colors: Black

CORK "KILLER" HAND STAMPS - 1860's -1890's

During the early 1800's hand stamps were supplied to postmasters that had yearly revenues that exceeded \$400.00. These hand stamps were made of brass or cast steel. After 1850 hand stamps were supplied to post offices with receipts over \$300.00. Offices doing more than \$200.00 were supplied with wooden (boxwood) hand stamps. The postmasters of small towns with revenues under \$200.00 had to supply their own. Many of these post offices prepared their devices using cork. The production of these devices made for a great array of original postal markings, some very elaborate some not.

Maltese Cross

Masonic



TOWNMARKS - 1860's

May 30, 1866

23 mm CDS

Act of 1863: 3 cents/1/2 oz. all U.S.

This letter went from Lancaster to Ephrata, Pa. The intended recipient was no longer there. The letter went back to Lancaster on June 2, where it was forwarded with a "Due 3" charged back to the sender.



Sept. 1, 1869

23mm CDS

2 cent drop rate



2 cent black 1864 postal stationary

TOWNMARKS - 1870's

Aug. 1, (1876)

25 mm CDS

Act of 1863: 3 cents all U.S.



Reversed 1 in date stamp
"76" cork killer
3 cent green 1870 issue

May 15, 1874

25mm CDS

Act of 1863



3 cent 1870 issue
Note the different sizes of the month and day insert