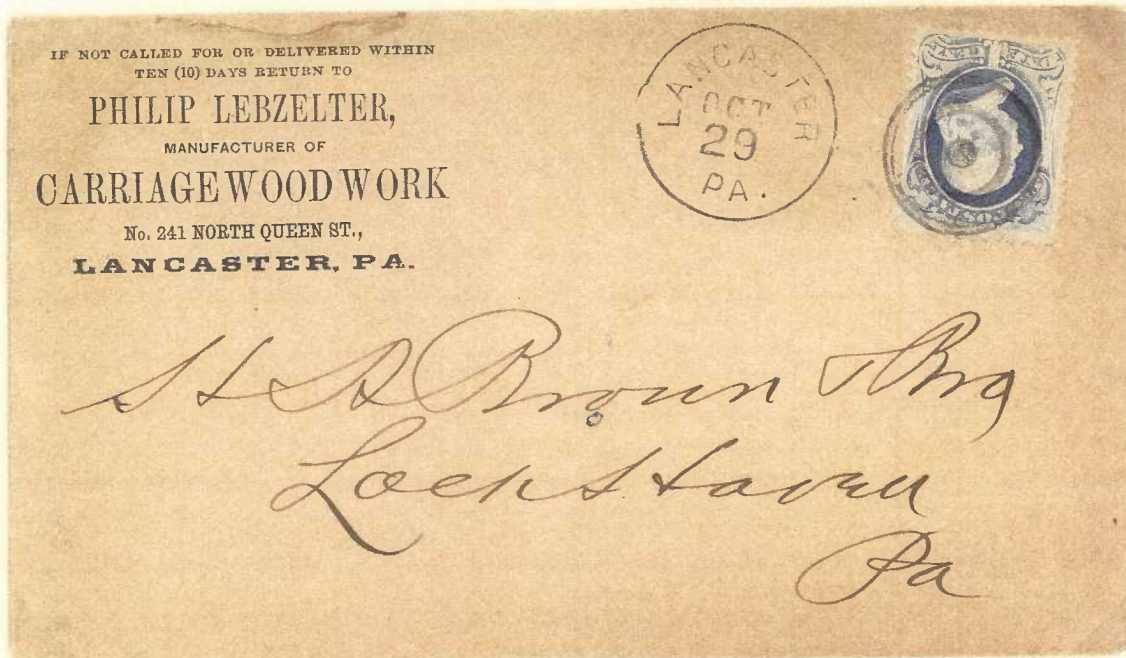


TOWNMARKS - 1880,s

Oct 29, ()

26 mm CDS

Act of 1851: 1 cent unsealed circular

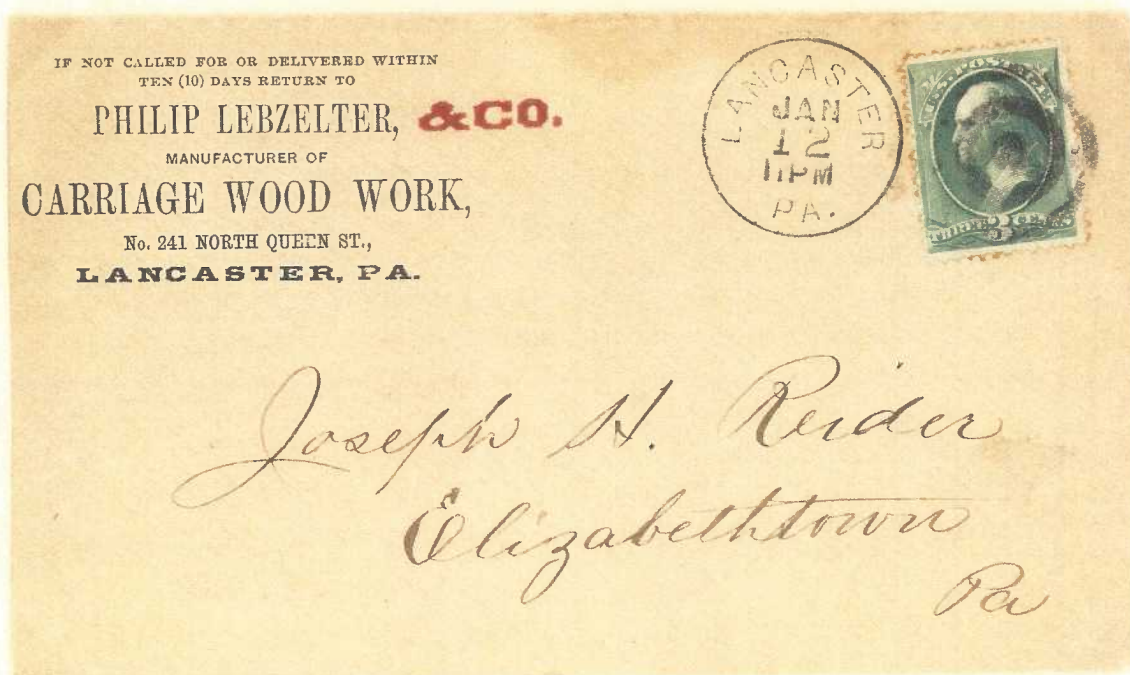


TOWNMARKS with TIME

Jan. 12 11PM, ()

26 mm CDS

Act of 1863: 3 cents



Both cover from same company. Still in Lancaster today

TOWNMARKS - 1870's

Jan. 16, ()

25 mm CDS

Act of 1863: 3 cents all U.S.

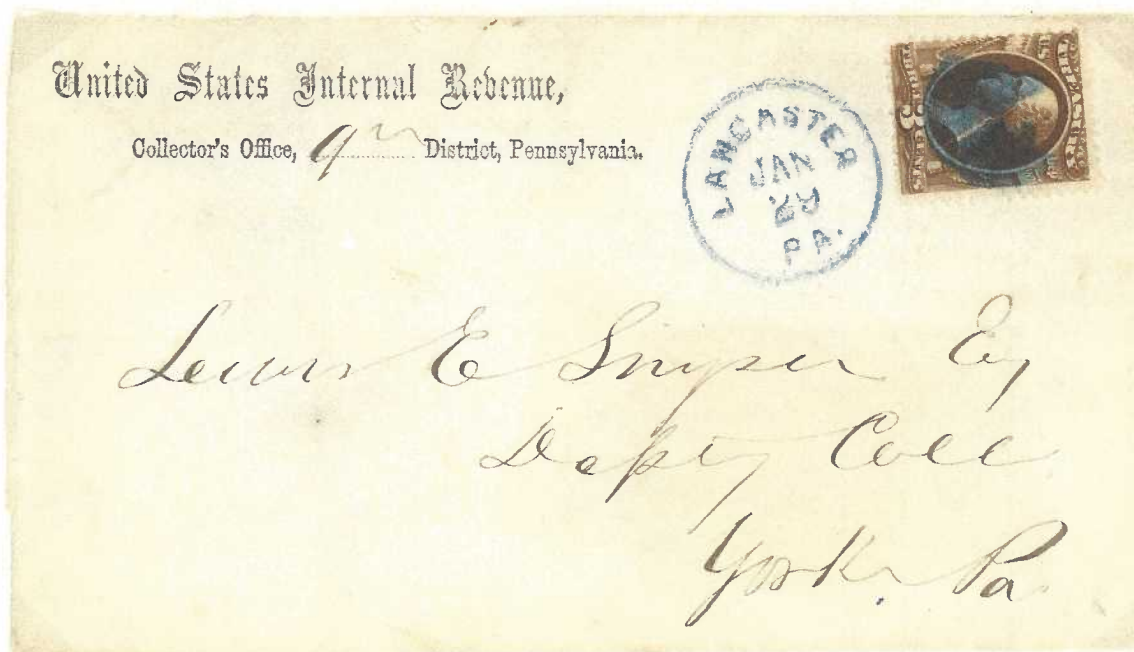


3 cent green 1875 issue

Jan. 29, ()

25mm CDS

Act of 1863



3 cent Treasury Official with cork killer

OFFICIAL MAIL - POST OFFICE DEPT.

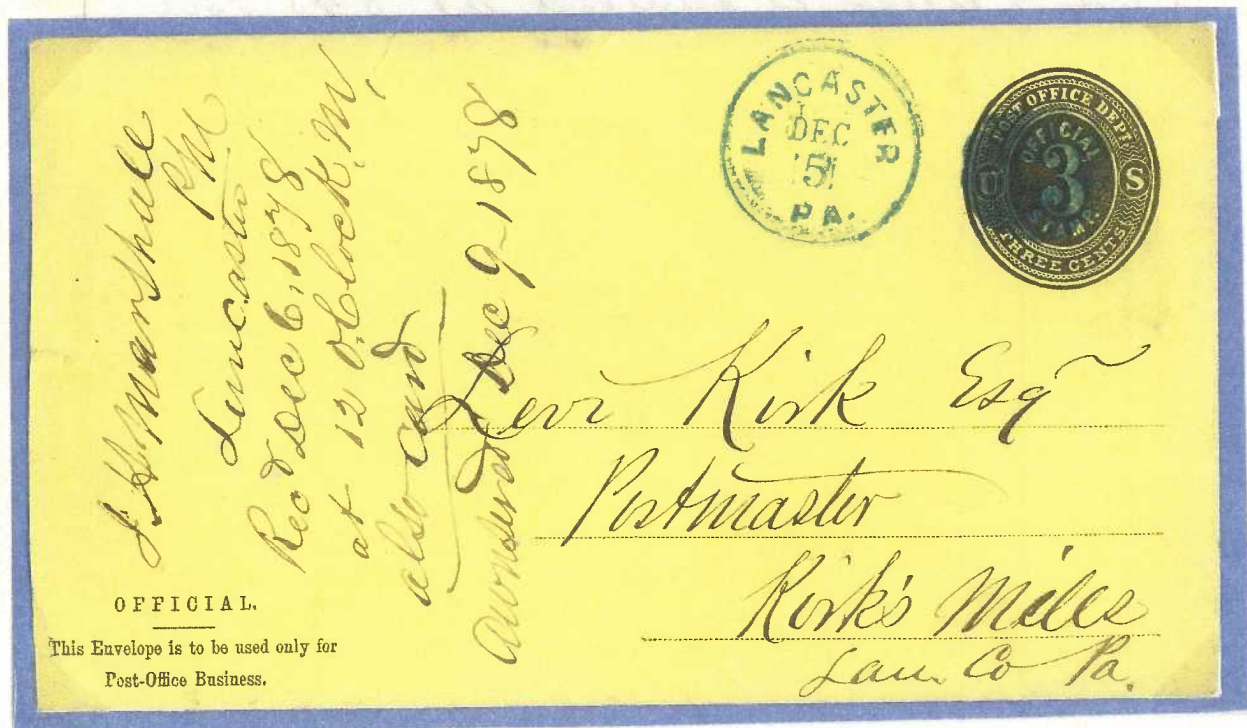
Dec. 5, 1878

Franking privileges for post offices, were abolished July 1, 1873. The Postmaster General authorized the use of Official stamped envelopes and stamps for all government departments.

This 3 cent Post Office official 1873 stamped lemon envelope, was used by J. H. Marshall, the Lancaster postmaster, for correspondence to Levi Kirk, the postmaster of Kirk's Mills, Lancaster Co., Pa.

POST OFFICE,
J. H. MARSHALL, P. M.

Lancaster, Pa., Dec 5th 1878.



The cover has exceptional interest since it contained the original letter written on Lancaster post office stationery. The letter discusses solving a mail problem concerning lost papers. "There is sure one to blame for all this and it must be solved" the solution was to place the papers in a tie sack and forward them in care of the Mail Agent.

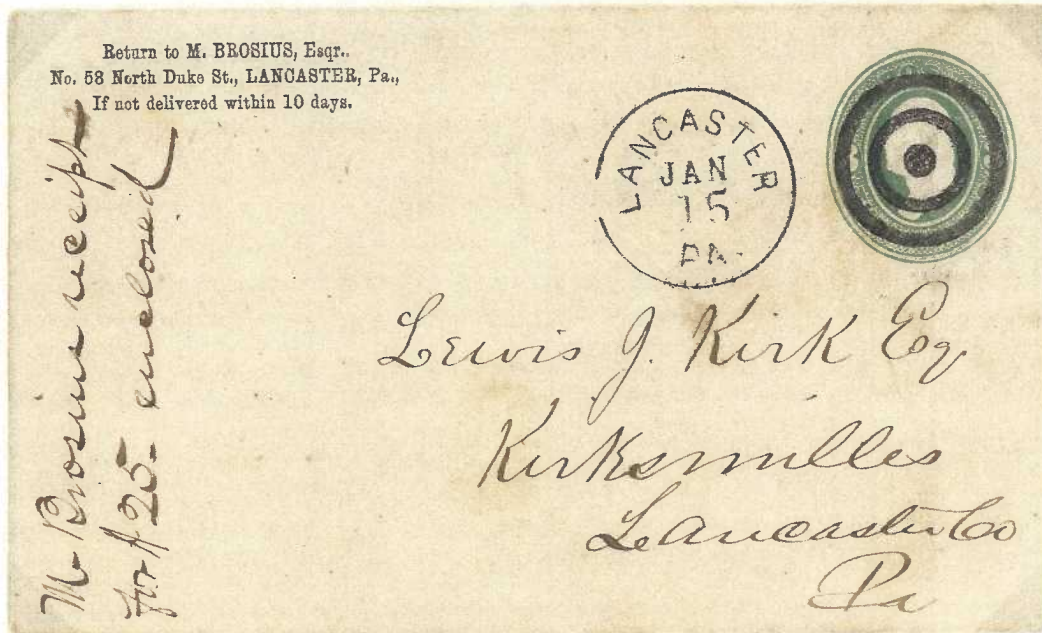
TOWNMARKS - 1880's

The postmarks on this page are from the same hand stamp. Apparently the duplex hand stamp had a flaw producing an impression missing a section of the outer ring. Another example of the same is on the following page.

Jan. 15, (1881)

26 mm CDS with section missing

Act of 1863: 3 cents



3 cent green stamped envelope

April 26, (1881)

26 mm CDS

Post card rate: 1 cent



Bullseye duplex hand stamp

FOREIGN MAIL - FRANCE

DEC. 1, 1868

30 Orange 30 cent issue with geometric grid

LANCASTER to FRANCE via ENGLAND by AMERICAN PACKET

This letter carried to Nice, France from Lancaster under the French Convention of April 1, 1857. This agreement established a postal to France using the than existing transatlantic routes. These routes included New York, Philadelphia, Boston, San Francisco, Havre, France and inland from Calais to Paris, France.

The Postmaster at Lancaster applied the circular date stamp (note the reversed Dec1), the geometric grid, and PAID after applying the 30 cent stamp. The manuscript "30" in red pencil was to comply with the regulations that the total collected be so recorded.

The 30 cent rate included:

- 3 cents Lancaster to New York
- 12 cents sea transit
- 12 cents British transit
- 3 cents French inland postage (Calais to Paris)



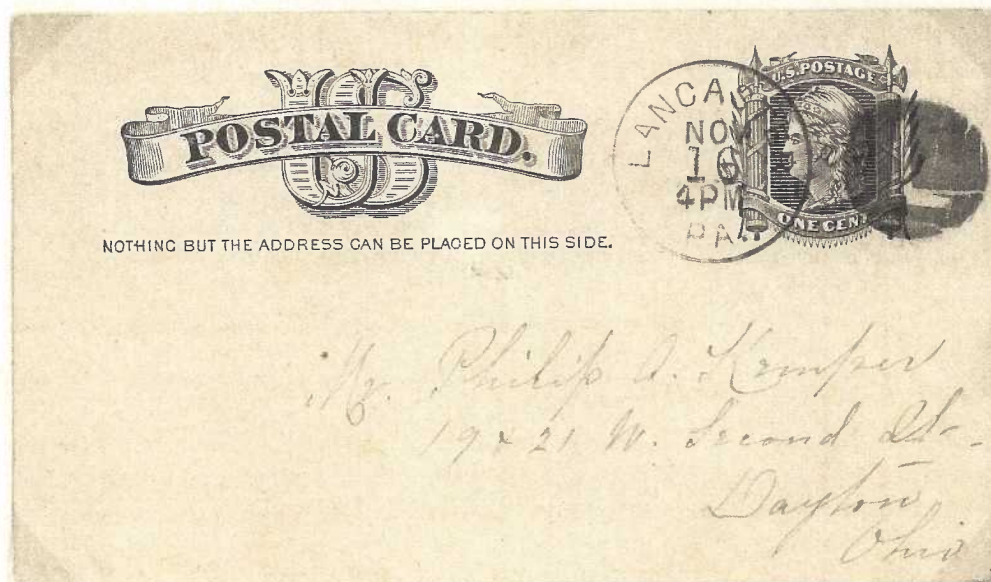
At New York, a 12 cent red CDS PAID Dec. 2 marking was applied and debited. As required by the Convention, a circular blue Dec. 13, '68 date stamp "ETTAS UNIS SERV AM CALAIS" was applied in England. The French collected 15 cents for the British overland transit and inland postage from Calais to Paris. The cover reverse has Paris and Nice receiving handstamp.

TOWNMARKS 1880's with TIME

Nov. 16, 4PM

26 mm CDS

1 cent 1875 postal card



Negative "L" cork hand stamp

ADDRESS SUPPLIED BY Lancaster , Pa. PO

Omaha, Neb. Sept. 24, 2PM

Lancaster, Pa. Sept. 28, 6PM

26 mm bullseye duplex

Act of 1883: 2 cent all U.S.

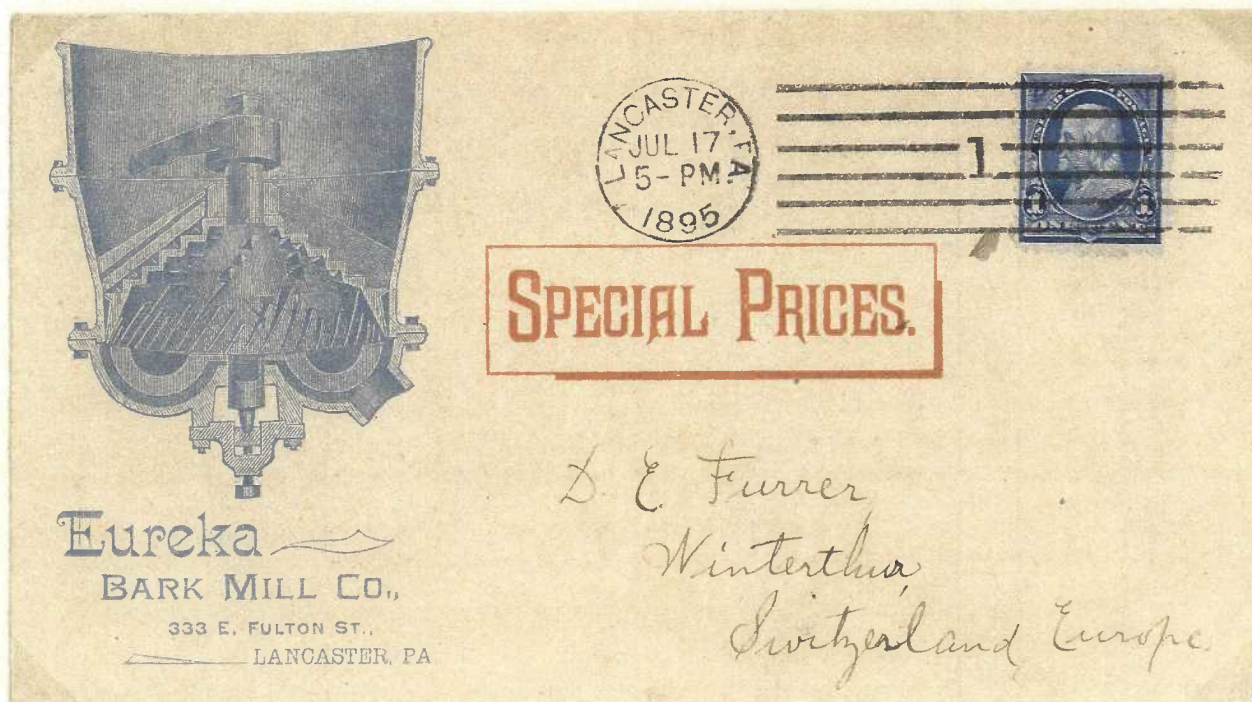


Letter sent from Omaha, Neb. to Lancaster, Pa. in error. Address supplied by Lancaster post office and forwarded to Lancaster, Mass. This magenta hand stamp is a excellent example of this unusual marking which may be unique.

FOREIGN MAIL 1890's

July 17, 5-PM, 1895

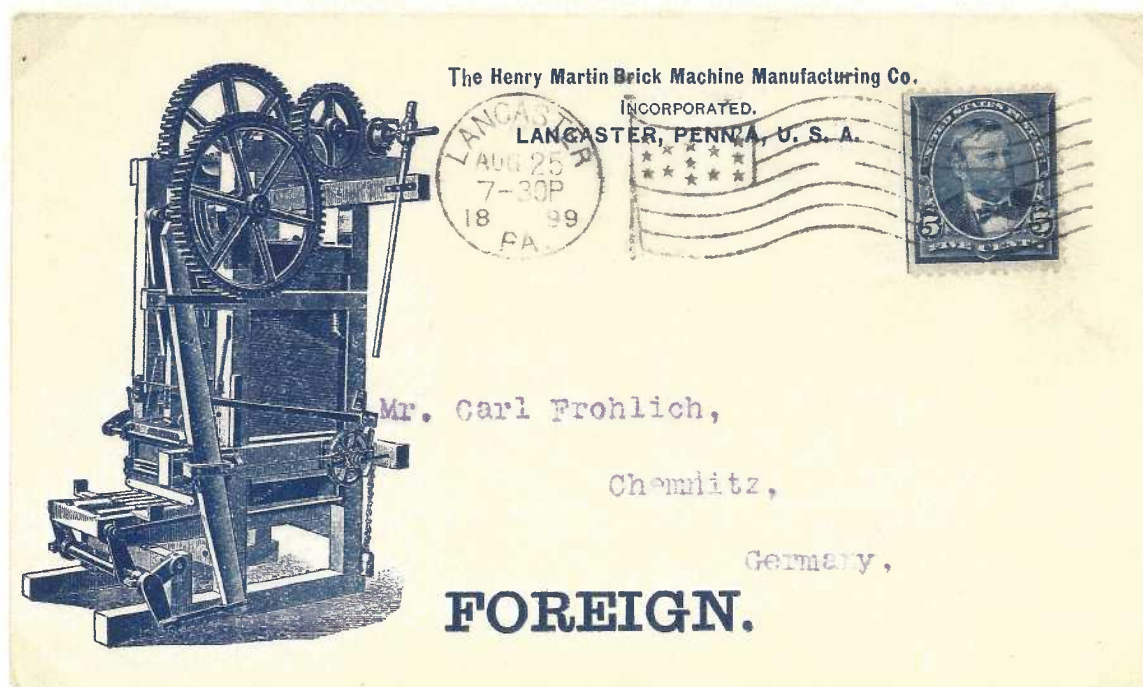
1 cent blue 1890 issue



Advertising cover to Switzerland

Aug. 25, 7-30P, 1899

5 cent 1898 blue issue



Advertising cover to Germany - Chemnitz receiving mark on reverse

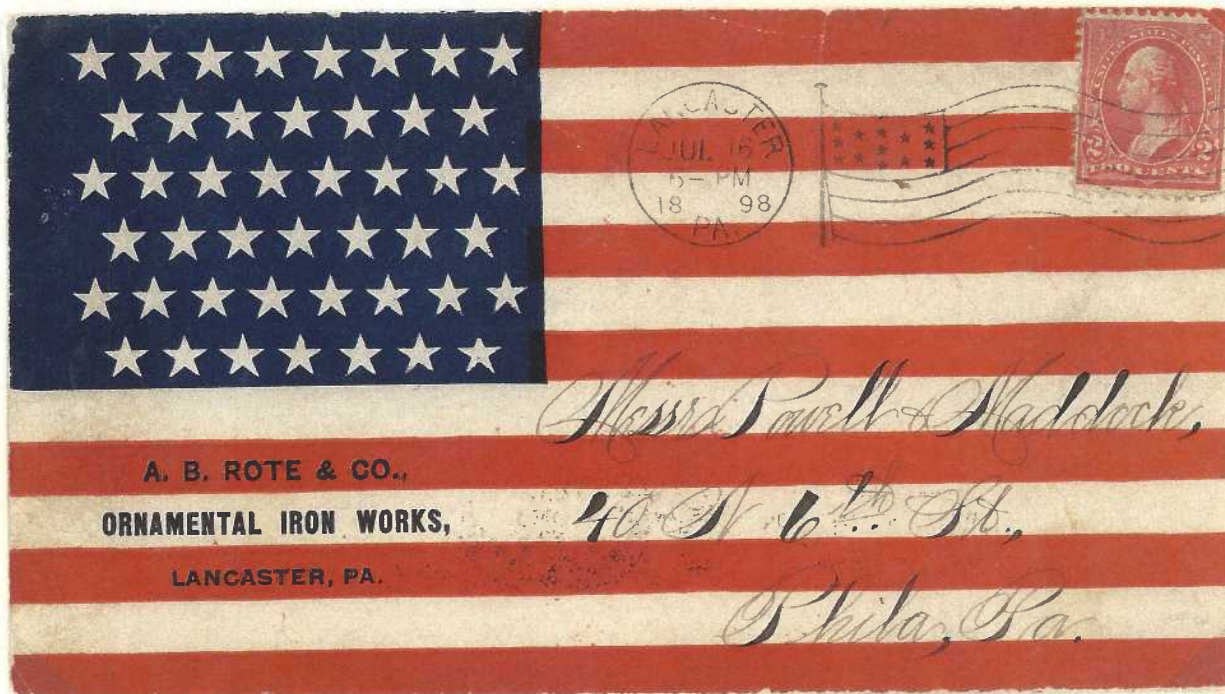
MACHINE CANCELLATION

First introduced in Boston in the late 1800's, machine cancellation lead to a much faster processing of the mails, but the originality of those early postmarks was missing. Following are several machine canceled covers

July 16, 6PM, 1898

2 cent 1890 issue

Act of 1883: 2 cents all U.S.



45 STAR FLAG ADVERTISING COVER - A. B. ROTE & CO.

Jan. 19, 1897

BAUSMAN & EABY

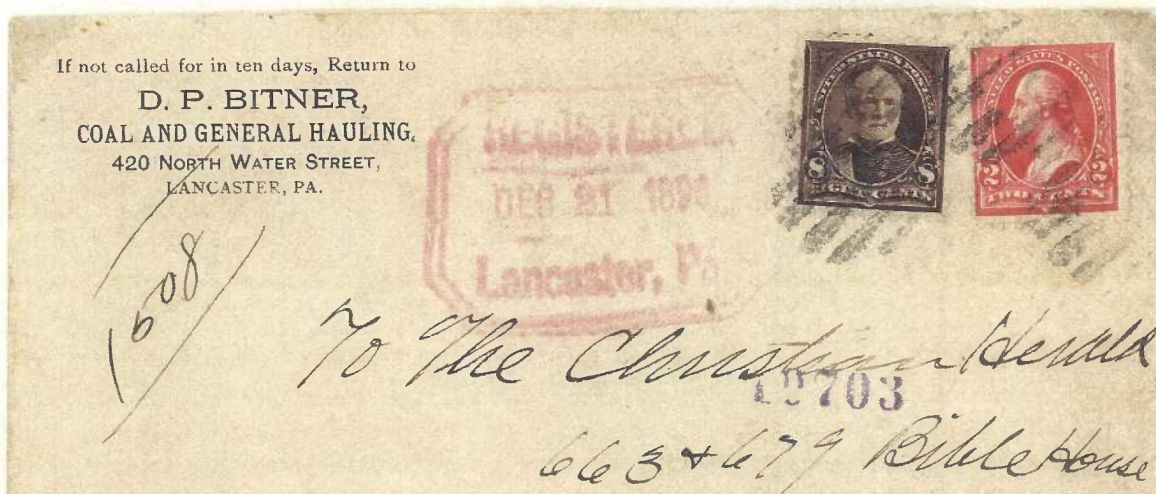
Act of 1883



REGISTERED LETTERS

Records of valuable letters were maintained even during the stampless period. The following covers show a 8 cent registration fee plus the 2 cent postage under the Act of 1883.

Dec.. 21, 1896



Nov. 4, 1898



Jan. 29, 1887

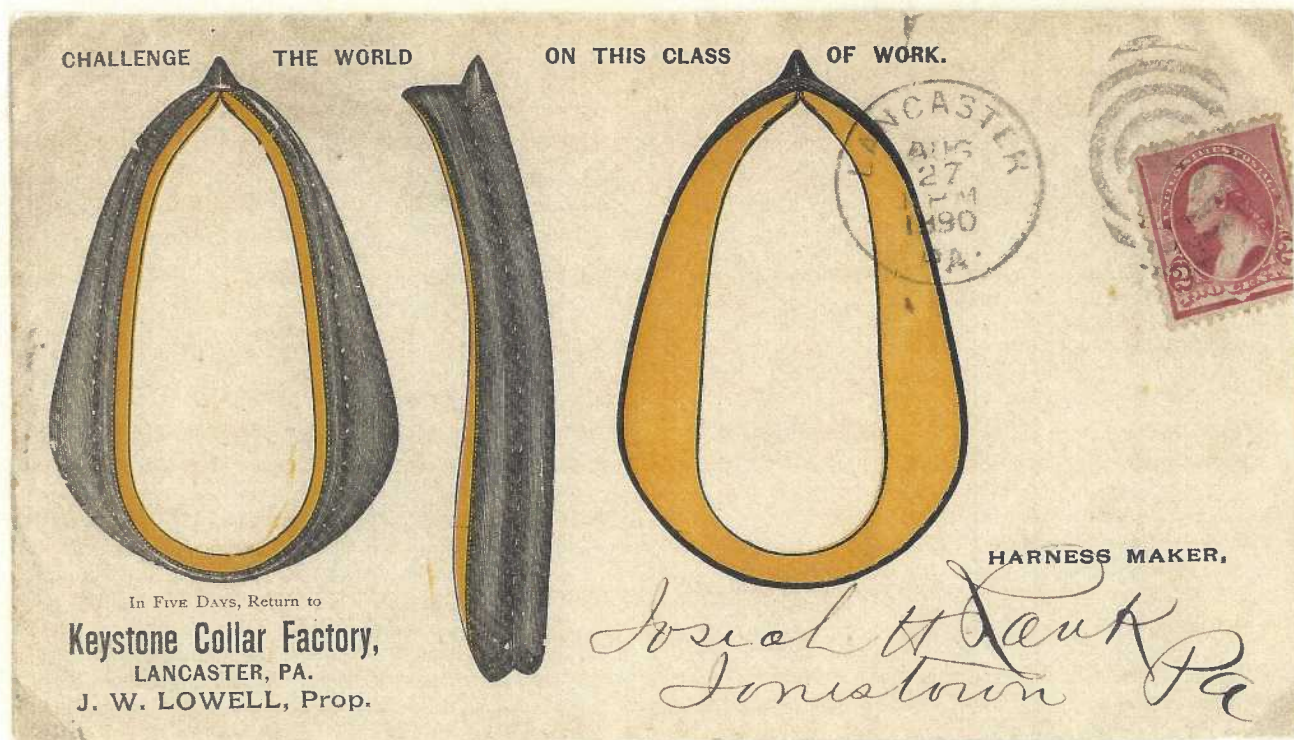


TOWNMARKS - 1890's

Aug. 27, 1PM, 1890

27 mm CDS

Act of 1883: a cents/ 1/2 oz.
2 cent 1890 carmine issue

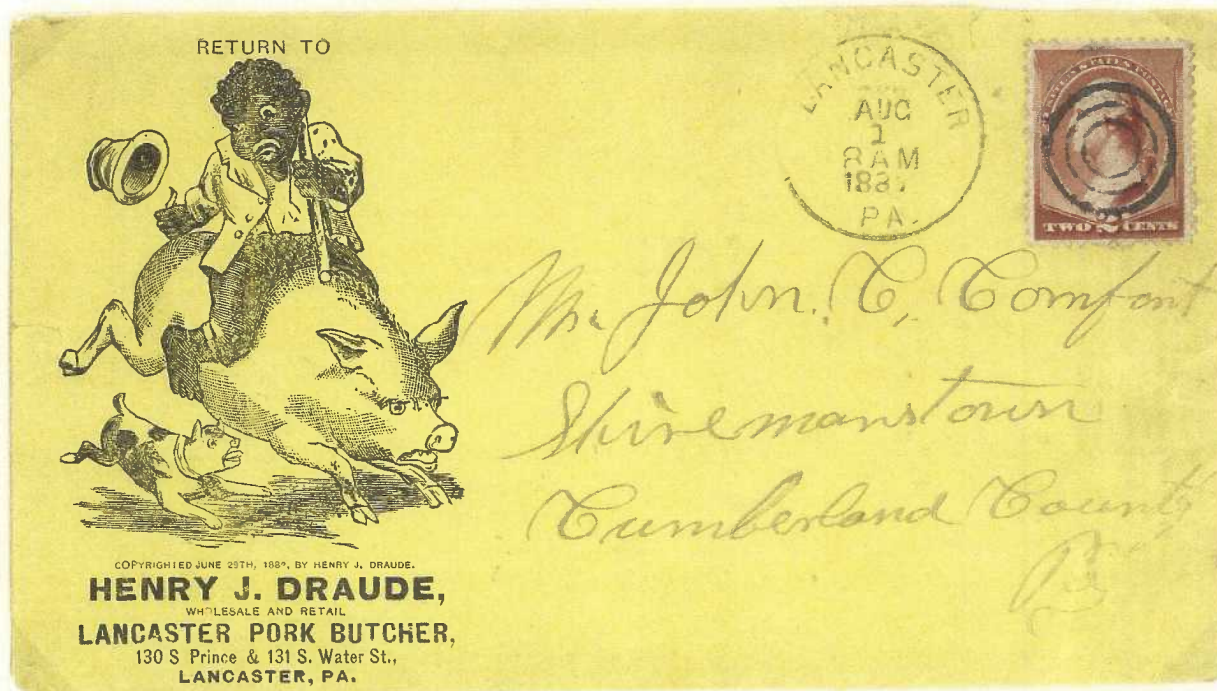


Geometric duplex on advertising cover

Aug. 1, 8AM, 1887

27 mm CDS

2 cent brown 1870 issue



Duplex hand stamp on copyrighted Henry J. Draude advertising cover

DROP LETTERS

The 1 cent Drop Letter rate was in effect from the Act of 1855. A drop letter had to be posted at the office from which it was to be picked up.

Circa 1890

Stamp obliterated with pencil

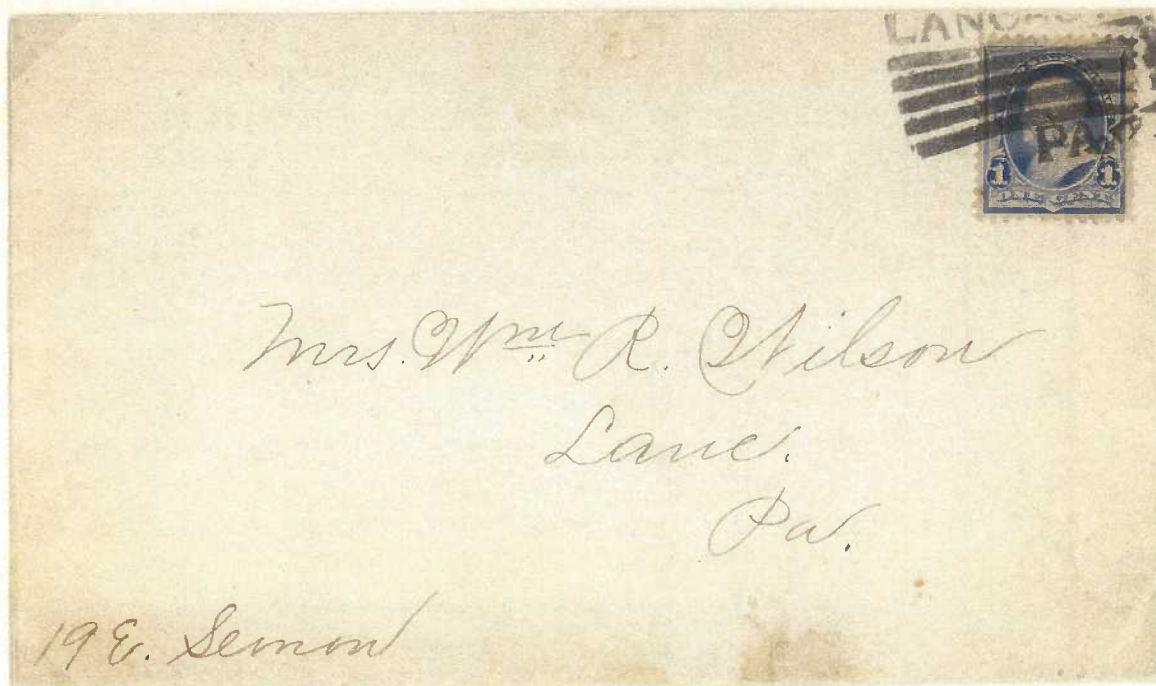
1 cent dull blue issue



Circa 1890

5 bar black Lancaster, Pa townmark

1 cent deep blue issue



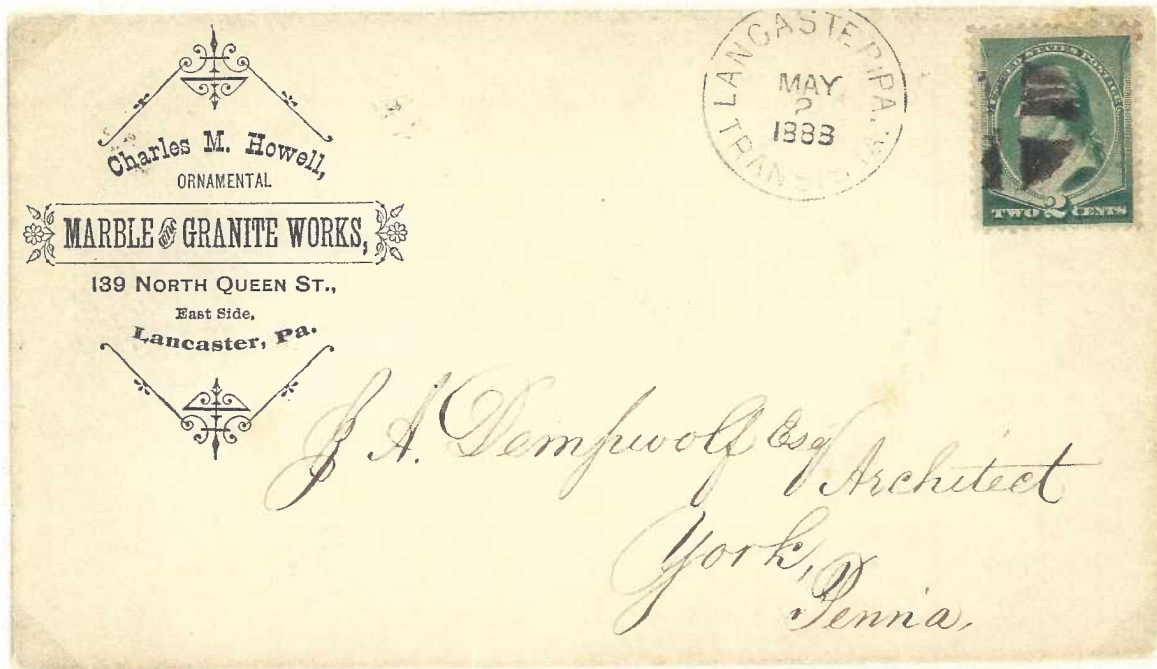
TRANSIT SYSTEM

Starting in 1864, the Post Office Dept. equipped rail cars for the distribution of mail. The transit offices were part of the Railroad Mail System which was disbanded in 1977. The following cover were being sent along the east-west railway system to Pequea and York.

May 2, 1888

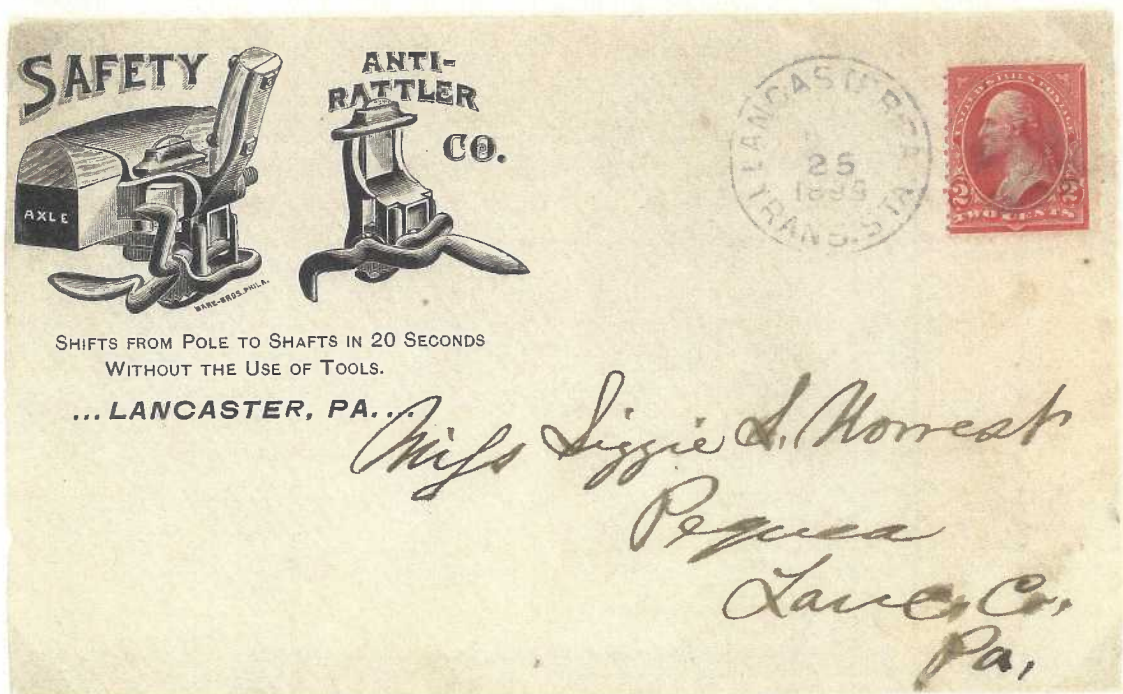
Act of 1883: 2 cents

2 cent green 1887 stamp



March 25, 1899

2 cent 1890 carmine



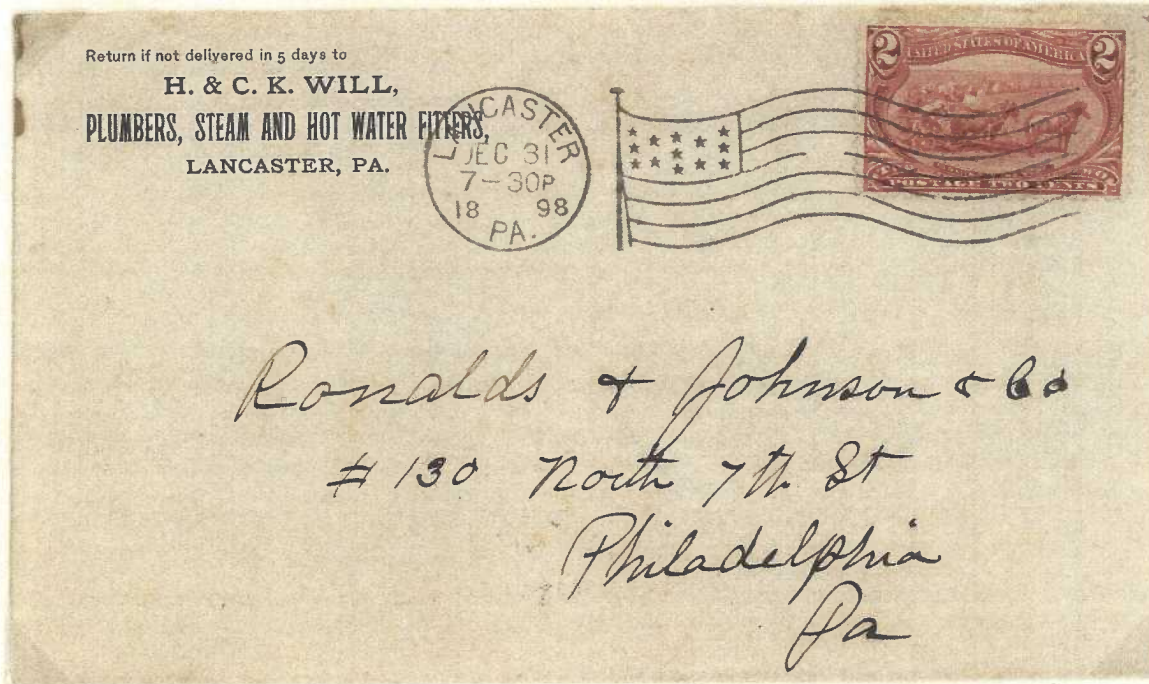
MACHINE POSTMARKS - FLAGS

One of the most popular collecting areas of machine cancellations are the various flag postmarks. Following are two Lancaster examples.

Dec. 31, 7-30P, 1898

2 cent copper red 1898 issue

Act of 1883: 2 cents



Nov. 14, 10 30A, 1899

2 cent 1890 carmine issue

Act of 1883



Stamp placed over IRS penalty frank

UNSEALED CIRCULARS

The Act of 1851 provided that unsealed circulars 1 Oz. or less up to 500 miles be charged 1 cent postage. This applied to newspaper wrappers. Following are several examples of unusual townmarks used on this type of mail.

Magenta 5 bar
townmark



Ornate 4 bar
black townmark



Ornate oval magenta Lancaster, Pa. townmark

