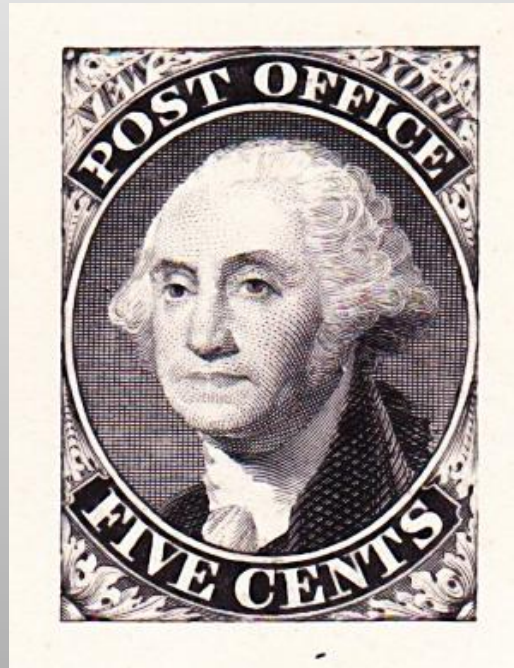


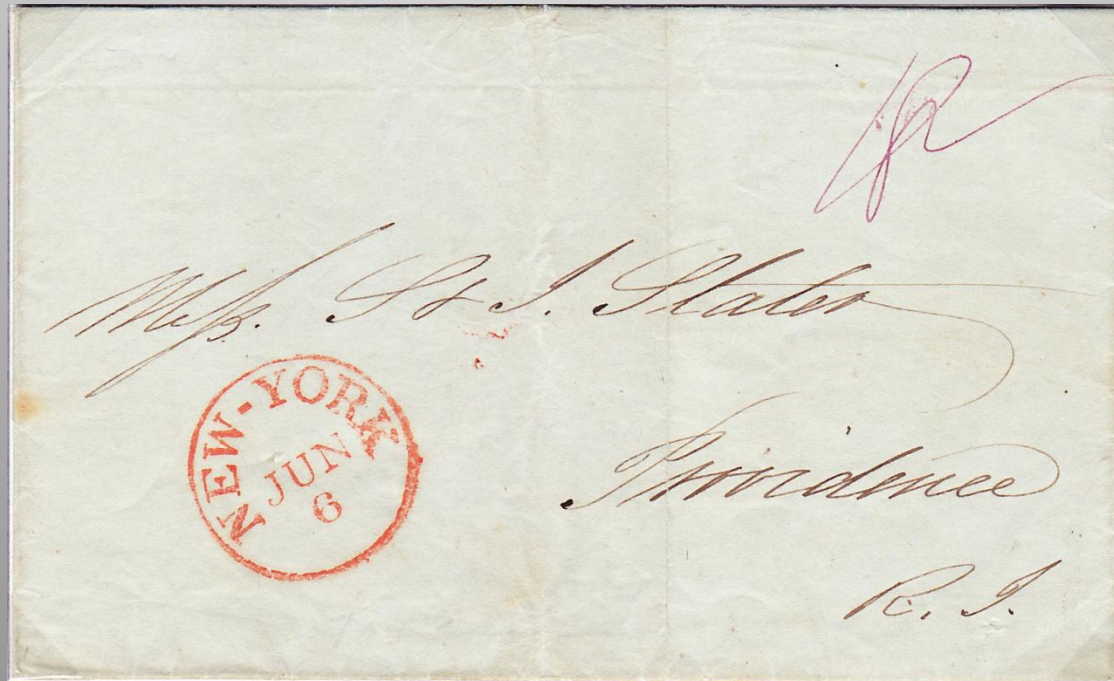
# The New York Postmaster Provisional Stamp of 1845



Presented to the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County  
March 13, 2019

# The Back-Story

- Before 1845, sending a letter could be very expensive.
- Rates began at 6¢ per sheet for a letter sent up to 40 miles to 25¢ for a letter sent over 400 miles.
- A letter sent from New York to Providence, like the one below sent on June 6, 1843, cost 18¾¢.



# Independent Mail Cos. Cut Rates

- Beginning in 1839, independent companies began carrying the mail much more cheaply, putting great pressure on the Post Office..
- The letter below, sent from Boston to New York on May 6, 1844, would have cost 18¾¢ if the post office carried it, but cost only 6¼¢ when carried by the American Letter Mail Company.





# The Post Office Concedes

- In March 1845, Congress reduced and simplified postal rates to 5¢ per ½ oz. for a letter sent up to 300 miles, and 10¢ for a letter sent over 300 miles.

December 20, 1847



July 20, 1848

# Where are the stamps?

- But in March 1845, Congress did not authorize the printing of postage stamps.
- They began being used in the U.K. in 1840, and Brazil in 1843
- U.S. Independent Mail companies had begun using them in early 1844.



Carried by Hale & Co.  
from Boston to NY  
on April 9, 1844

Stamps were sold at  
20 for \$1.00

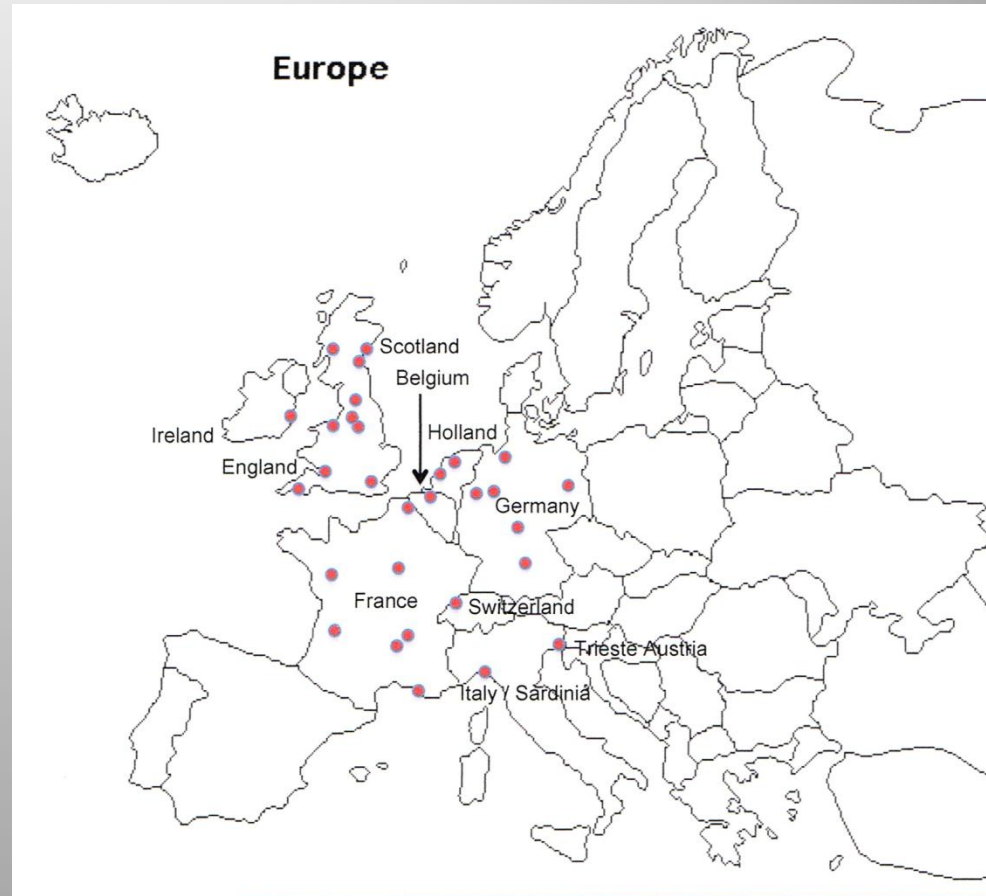
This ½ - 1 oz. letter  
cost 10¢.

# Postmaster Creativity

Since stamps were not prohibited, postmasters of several cities and towns decided to have them printed privately, as a benefit to them and a convenience for their customers.

- ❖ Alexandria, Va.
  - ❖ Annapolis, Md.
  - ❖ Baltimore, Md.
  - ❖ Boscawen, N.H.
  - ❖ Brattleboro, Vt.
  - ❖ Lockport, N.Y.
  - ❖ Millbury, Mass.
  - ❖ New Haven, Conn.
  - ❖ New York, N.Y.
  - ❖ Providence, R.I.
  - ❖ St. Louis, Mo.
- Most of these stamps are quite scarce or even rare
  - The New York stamp, however, was broadly used, not only within the U.S. but also to the rest of North America and most of Western Europe.

# The Broad Use of the NY Provisional





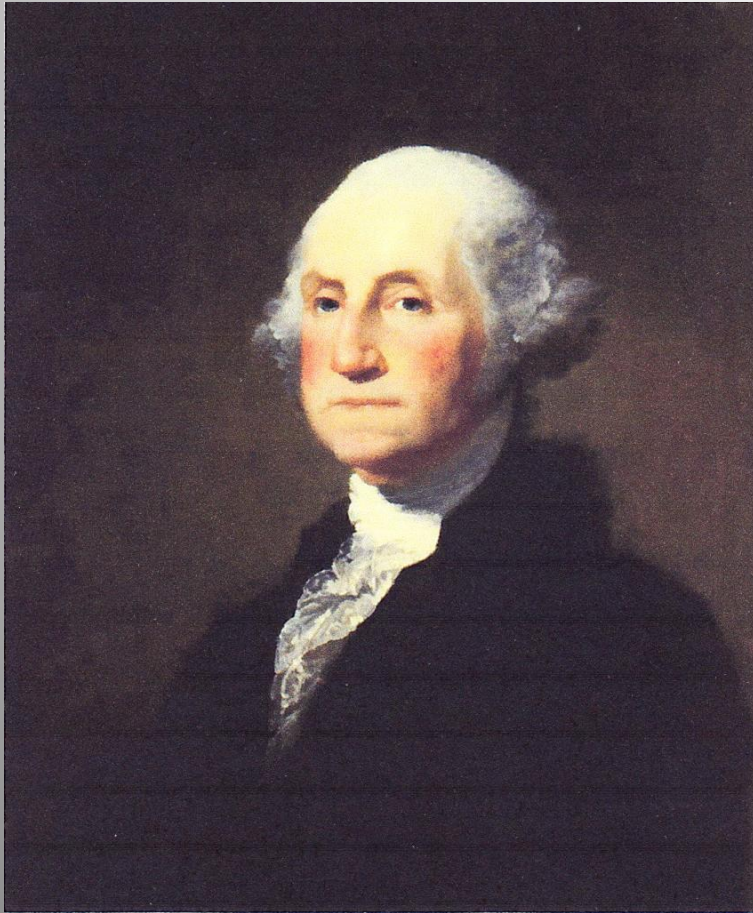
# The New York Postmaster

- Robert Hunter Morris was the postmaster from 1845-1849
- He had been Mayor in 1841-1844 and in 1852 became a NY Supreme Court Justice





# Design of the New York Provisional



- PM Morris contracted with Rawdon, Hatch & Wright to design and print the stamps, using an image of George Washington.
- They were already using (on currency) an image of the first president copied from the famous portrait painted by Gilbert Stuart in 1797.

1845  
Uncanceled Plate

	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4	No. 5
57:15 No. 2 No. 4 No. 7 No. 20 No. 23 No. 29					
No. 6					
No. 11					
No. 16					
No. 21					
No. 26					
Reauil Tobacco	No. 31 	No. 32 	No. 33 	No. 34 	No. 35 
Reauil Tob	No. 36 	No. 37 	No. 38 	No. 39 	No. 40 

- Courtesy Robt. A. Siegel

Courtesy Robt. A. Siegel

# “Hallmarks” of the NY Provisional

- There are two key “hallmarks” of the NY Provisional issue
  - Paper varieties, especially colors
  - Control initials

# Paper Varieties of the NYPP

Pos. 32  
"A.C.M."

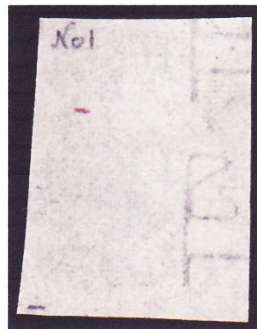


**Pelure** is a very thin paper that shows the design quite well from the reverse.

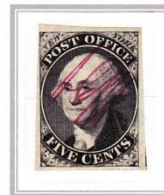
**Pelure Paper**



**Double Line Watermark**

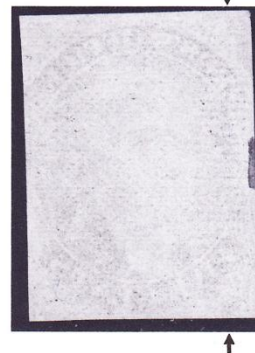


Pos. 1  
"ACM"

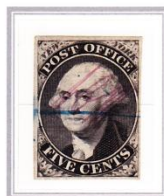


The **double line** is clearly seen, with the first letter an "E" or "F".

**Stitch Watermark** ↓



Pos. 19  
"ACM"



The **stitch** watermark is difficult to see and runs vertically at the far left.



# Paper Varieties of the NYPP (2)

Pre-printing Paper Crease



# Paper Colors of the NYPP

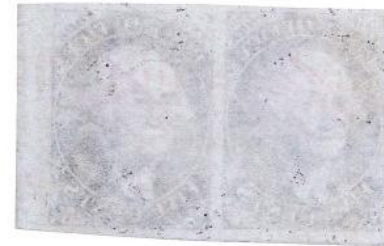
- The vast majority (95+%) of stamps were printed on a bluish-white paper.
- In the last shipment of stamps from Rawdon, Hatch & Wright (January 1847, some sheets were on a deeper blue or battleship gray paper.
- They are difficult to distinguish from the front, especially when cancelled, but may be seen more easily from the back.



Bluish-white



Gray



Blue

# The Blue Paper NYPP

- An estimated 50 examples of the NY Provisional on blue paper exist and there are 12 covers in the Scheuer Census on the USPCS website. The earliest is March 4, 1847.
- The blue paper is generally harder than the bluish-white and thicker.

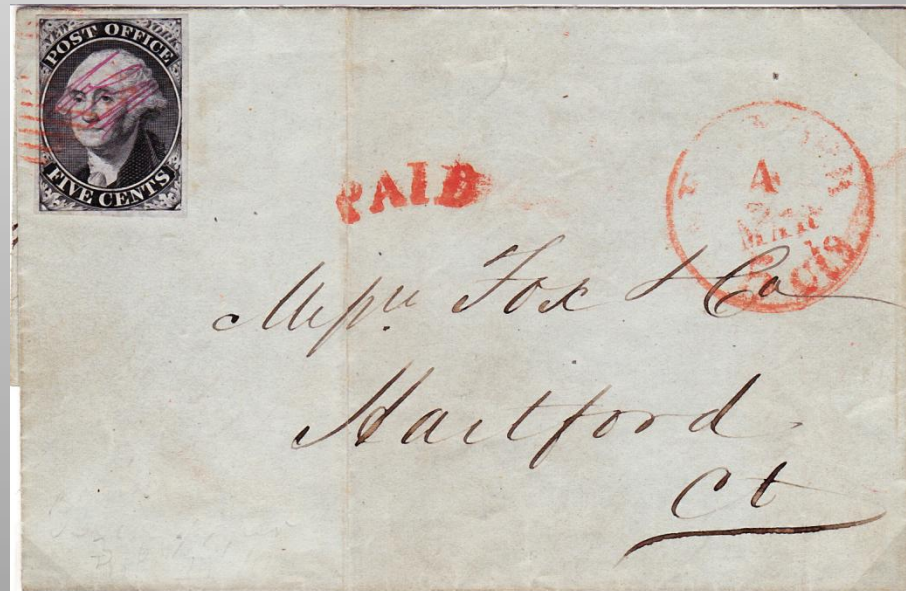


One of 4 known pairs



One of 2 unsigned  
and used

Ex-Morris



New York to Hartford, Conn

March 4, 1847

# The Gray Paper NYPP

- I have found records of 25 off-cover gray paper stamps, including two pairs, three with no control initial and 7 with “RHM” initials. Siegel claims there are 12 recorded covers (plus one in my collection not counted)
- The gray paper is also on a hard paper but with variable thickness.



New York to Lakeville, Conn  
1847

March 30,



One of 7 with  
“RHM” initials



# The Control Initials

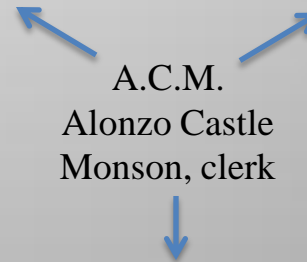
- After a few days where no control markings were put on the stamps, on July 17, 1845 we start seeing a variety of initials.
- These are believed to be control markings, possibly added to help prevent the use of stolen stamps.



R.H.M.  
Robert Hunter  
Morris, PM.



All letters  
connected



A.C.M.  
Alonzo Castle  
Monson, clerk



“C” and “M” unconnected

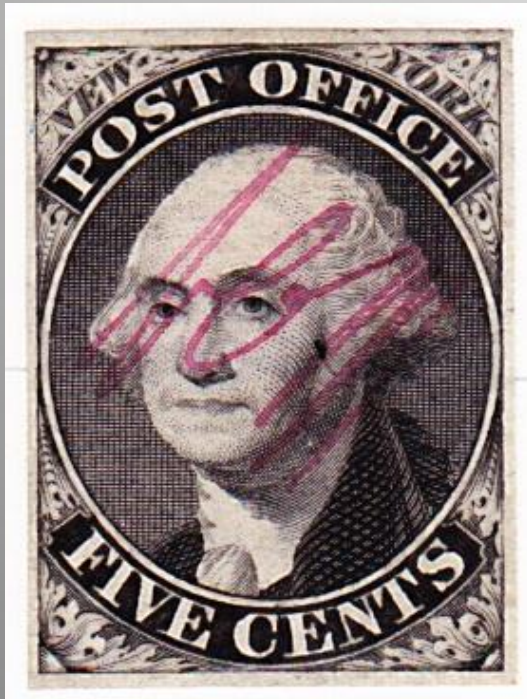
M.M. Jr.  
Marcena Monson Jr.  
Asst. Deputy PM



With Periods

# “ACM” Initials (all connected)

- The “ACM” initials of Alonzo Castle Monson, postal clerk, brother-in-law of PM Morris and brother of Marcena, are seen on the vast majority of the NY Provisional stamps. The most common has all three letters connected.



New York to Ann Arbor, Mich.

March 24, 1847

# “ACM” Initials (“AC” connected)

- This is only slightly less common than the all connected” variety. Besides Alonzo Castle Monson, other clerks likely applied these initials as well, accounting for the difference in handwriting.



New York to New Haven, Conn.

January 17, 1847





# “ACM” connected – unconnected se-tenant pair

- There are 7-8 examples of two different signatures appearing on consecutive stamps. Only one, posted on March 21, 1846, is on cover.





# “ACM” connected – unconnected

- The most striking example is an unused vertical pair where one of the copies is unsigned.



Courtesy Robt. A. Siegel

# “A.C.M.” Initials (with periods)

- This variety is the least common of all “ACM” initials. They were probably applied by Marcena Monson, brother of Alonzo. The ECU is on July 17, 1845



New York to Philadelphia, Pa.

September 15, 1845



# “R.H.M.” Initials

- Other than the “MM Jr” initials, this is the scarcest type, with only 13 known covers and less than 25 off-cover stamps.
- Sent on March 13, 1846, this is one of 6 known covers from NYC bearing these initials



# “M.M. Jr” Initials

- Easily the rarest of the control markings, only three examples are known: one off cover stamp, on single on a full cover and a pair on a cover front.
- These are the initials of Marcena Monson Jr., Asst. Deputy PM.



Photo from USPCS census

New York to Bethany, Va,

February 16, 1847



# Covers of Particular Interest

- First Day of Use
- The Philadelphia “R”
- Railroad Covers
- Local and Carrier Use
- Cover Sent from Outside NYC
- Multiples
- Foreign Use

# First Day of Use

- The earliest known covers were posted on July 15, 1845
- 12 are to foreign countries, including The U.K., Germany and France
- Only 3 are domestic uses.
- The cover below was sent to Philadelphia, and appears to have been locally delivered to a lawyer on south 4<sup>th</sup> St.



# First Day of Use

- On July 14, 1845, Postmaster Morris placed an ad in the *New York Herald* noting the July 16 sailing of the Cunard steamer *Acadia*, that use of the new stamp would “expedite the making up of the mail” and allow their letters to reach Europe sooner.
- The cover below was rated 5c to get it to Boston. It arrived at Augsburg, 50 Kreuzer due (34 Kr. to France and 16 Kr. to Germany (Bavaria)).





# The Philadelphia “R”

- These are among the earliest Registered or “Recorded” covers.
- The earliest known are on November 1, 1845.
- There are 7 examples on NY Provisional covers.
- Note that the stamp is a bottom right corner margin example.



New York to Philadelphia, Pa.

March 11, 1846

# Railroad Covers

## NY-Philadelphia Railroad

- These covers were posted on the railroad, rather than at the NY PO, and marked by railroad agents. Only 4 such covers are currently known.



New York to Philadelphia, PA.

February 5, 1847

This 0-½ oz. letter was accepted  
as paid at the Philadelphia PO

This is a 1-1½ oz. letter with the 5¢ stamp  
accepted and 10¢ due from the addressee.



New York to Philadelphia Pa.

May 18, 1846

# Railroad Covers

## Long Island Railroad

- This unique cover was sent from NY City through the Atlantic Avenue tunnel (built in 1844, it is the world's oldest subway tunnel) then by an eastbound LIRR train to Greenport, LI and from there by LIRR steamboats connecting to RR lines to Boston.



New York to Boston, Mass.

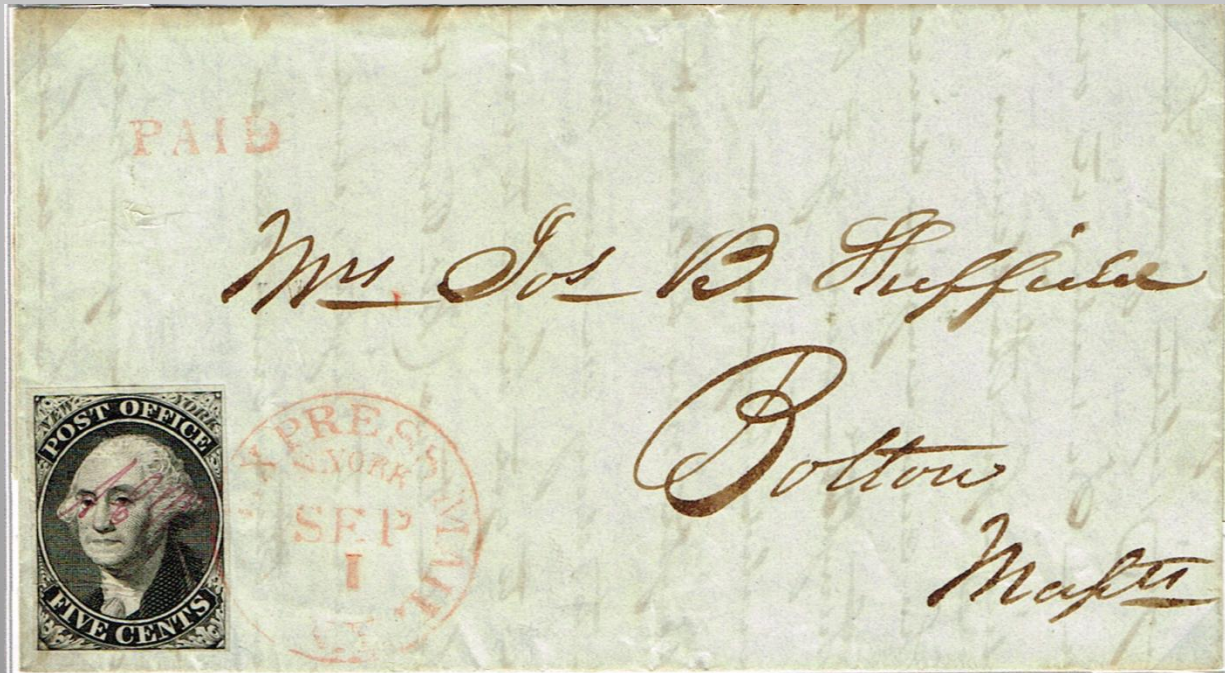
February 7, 1846



# Railroad Covers

## New York - Boston Express Mail

- A total of 7 covers are known bearing the U.S. Express Mail, New York marking. Three are to foreign destinations. This mail was not handled differently, although it did reflect mail that did not go through the NY Post Office, but was put directly on the train.



New York to Bolton, Mass.

September 1, 1845

# Local and Carrier Use

- Only a very few NY Provisional covers are known which bear a local or carrier stamp. Two covers are recorded with the 3c U.S. City Despatch post stamp. One other with the Boyd's City Express stamp is known.



New York to Washington, D.C.

June 19, c.1846



# Covers Sent from Outside NYC

- PM Morris recognized that stamps would occasionally be used on mail sent from other cities. He sent other PMs a letter telling them to treat them as unpaid, and he would accept them as paid when they reached NY.



- Sent from **Boston** on November 8, 1845
- One of <10 recorded intact covers

- Sent from **Philadelphia** on May 25, 1846
- One of two known, the other a pair on cover sent *via* NYC to Canada.





# Covers Sent from Outside NYC

- Sent from **New Hamburg, NY** to New York on Sept. 6, 1845.
- One of 7 known covers from New Hamburg
- All have the “RHM” initials on the stamp



# Multiples

- Four covers are known with a strip of 4.
  - Two are in the Erivan Haub collection (Court of Honor NY2016)



New York to Marietta, Ohio

June 2, 1846



# Multiples

- The cover below contains the second largest multiple, from NYC to Buffalo at a 30¢ rate (1-1½ oz. sent over 300 miles)



New York to Buffalo, NY

April 3, 1846



# Multiples

- The cover with the largest multiple, called the Hasbrouck cover, has a block of 9 and strip of 3. The 60c postage pays a 6-times rate for a cover sent over 300 miles, to Ogdensburgh, NY, on the Canadian border.



New York to Ogdensburgh, NY

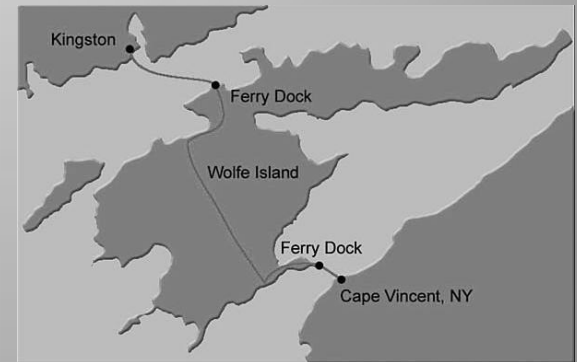
April 1?, 184?

# Foreign Mail

- The New York Postmaster Provisional was sent to countries throughout North America and Western Europe.
  - Canada
  - The Maritimes
  - Mexico
  - England, Scotland  
and Ireland
  - France
  - Germany
  - Belgium
  - Switzerland
  - Holland
  - Austria
  - Italy

# Canada

- There are about 8 covers known sent to Canada.
- Posted on Jan. 22, 1847, it was sent overland to Cape Vincent NY. It then took two ferries, one from the U.S. to Wolfe's Island, a second from Wolfe's Island to Kingston, Canada.
- Because of that the normal 2d ferriage charge was 3d.





# England / Austria



- Posted Nov. 28, 1845 and carried to Liverpool by the Cunard steamer *Britannia*. The addressee paid 1sh for sea post and British transit.

- Many covers to the U.K. were forwarded to Austria, either “under cover” (no further postal markings) or through the post.
- Posted Jan. 31, 1846 and carried to Liverpool by the Cunard steamer *Hibernia*. Delivered in London where the 1sh packet rate was paid, then forwarded by post to Trieste. The addressee paid 38 Kreuzer for French and Swiss transit and for the Austrian domestic post.



# France / Scotland



- Posted July 15, 1846 and carried to Liverpool by the Cunard steamer *Britannia*. The addressee in Marseilles paid 21 decimes (10 dec. for British sea post and transit, and 11 dec. for French transit).

- **One of 12 FDU's sent to a foreign country.**
- Posted July 15, 1845 and carried to Liverpool by the Cunard steamer *Acadia*. It was rated 1sh due for the transatlantic rate.
- The only EDU with a pair of adhesives





# Switzerland / Belgium



- There are four full covers known to Belgium.
- Posted Oct. 15, 1845 and carried on the Cunard steamer *Cambria* to Liverpool. Marked 1sh, 8d in the U.K. for sea post and Br. Transit. Sent by packet to Ostende, Belgium and when it reached Anvers, marked 24 decimes due (20 dec. Br. Sea post and transit, plus 4 dec. for Belgium transit).

- There are four covers known to Switzerland.
- Posted Jan. 31, 1846 and carried on the Cunard steamer *Hibernia* to Liverpool. It traveled through France to Switzerland under a postal agreement between the U.K. and France in 1843. In Switzerland it was rated as a 1/4-1/2 oz. letter, with 46 Kreuzer due for British sea post and for British, French and Swiss transit.





# Epilog - The Issue of 1847

- On March 3, Congress authorized the PMG to prepare postage stamps “to facilitate the transportation of letters in the mail” and as “evidence of the prepayment of the postage...” The 5c and 10c stamps were again printed by Rawdon, Wright & Hatch, now with Edson as a fourth partner. They were issued on July 1, 1847 and the New York Post Office ceased selling the Provisional issue.

A copy of the 5c 1847 stamp used as a direct replacement for the NY Provisional on a 0-½ oz. letter sent on Feb. 3, ~1850 under 300 miles to Boston.



A pair of the 10c 1847 stamp used for increased convenience on a ½-1oz. letter sent on June 14, 1850 over 300 miles to New Orleans.

