



Lot 16



Lot 16
Detail of Handstamp

New Haven, Connecticut

Lot 16

5c Red on Light Bluish White entire, Black Signature (8XU2). Full clear impression of provisional handstamped marking with “*E A Mitchell*” signature in brownish-black and crossed out with blue pen line applied at the post office, mostly clear strike of red “New Haven Ct. Sep. 27” (1845) circular datestamp on cover addressed by Professor Benjamin Silliman to “*Mrs. Profr Hubbard, Hanover, Dartmouth College, New Hampshire*” (Silliman’s daughter and the wife of Professor Oliver P. Hubbard), a note on the inside of the envelope (on the flap and open area) reads:

“Saty. 27 Septr. The party is over — only about 30 people — everything went beautifully & ma is quite well this morning & glad she has done it. Most of my Southern debts are now paid. Miss Harrahs I suppose will visit us — they are now at Portland Me. with a sister. Mr. Jones has arrived and he and Mary and perhaps other of the family may come up. Next friday the lectures begin again. Students are coming in to be examined but nobody as yet to go to work. Mrs. Thacher was with us last evening — is improved & appears very happy to get home again.” The Saturday, September 27, dateline in the notation confirms the 1845 year date.

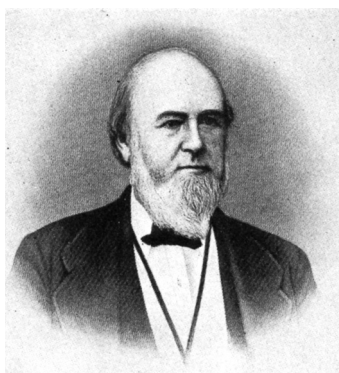
The corner with the provisional marking was previously cut from the envelope and hinged in place (five of the eleven recorded New Haven provisionals are cut-outs). However, it has recently been skillfully restored with the cuts invisibly sealed. The accompanying photograph of the envelope before this work was done will confirm that the paper and markings are entirely original and nothing was added.

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. ONE OF TWO RECORDED ENVELOPES WITH THE NEW HAVEN PROVISIONAL HANDSTAMP STRUCK IN RED ON WHITE WITH BLACK SIGNATURE (SCOTT 8XU2). ONLY ELEVEN EXAMPLES OF THE NEW HAVEN PROVISIONAL ARE RECORDED, INCLUDING SEVEN IN RED AND FOUR IN BLUE, BUT ONLY THREE EXAMPLES OF THE RED ARE COMPLETE ENVELOPES. THIS BEAUTIFUL NEW HAVEN PROVISIONAL ENVELOPE HAS NOT BEEN OFFERED AT AUCTION SINCE THE 1922 FERRARY SALE.

Census No. 8XU2-COV-01. Ex Ferrary (with his small purple trefoil handstamp at lower right) and Lapham. Small “W.H.C.” (Warren H. Colson) handstamp at lower right. Scott value of \$125,000.00 is based on the 1989 sale of the entire addressed to Francis Markoe Jr. (Census No. 8XU2-COV-02). Estimate \$30,000-40,000

The New Haven Postmaster

The New Haven provisional envelopes were issued in 1845 and 1846 by Postmaster Edward A. Mitchell (1815-1876). Mitchell received his postmaster’s appointment from President John Tyler on September 12, 1844. This followed Tyler’s decision not to run for election and, instead, to endorse James K. Polk, the Democratic Party candidate and a strong advocate for Tyler’s cause of Texas annexation. Mitchell took over as New



Edward A. Mitchell (1815-1876)
New Haven Postmaster
1844-1849

Haven's postmaster on October 24 and served four years under the Polk administration. He was replaced on July 2, 1849, by John B. Robertson, a Whig Party follower appointed by President Zachary Taylor.

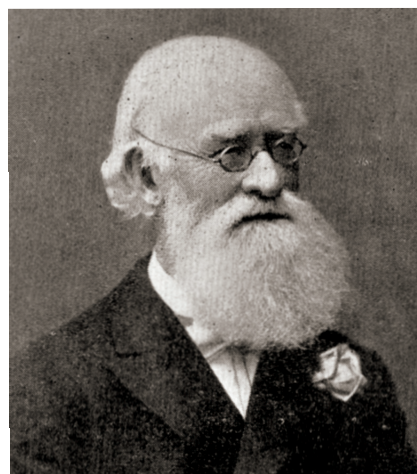
The New Haven Provisional Handstamp

The origin of the device used to make the New Haven provisional stamped impressions has been well-documented in a book published in 1932 by Carroll Alton Means (*The New Haven Provisional Envelope*). The hand-held brass die still exists and is located at the Whitney Library in the New Haven Museum (previously known as the New Haven Colony Historical Society). Also located at the library is a drawing of the New Haven provisional design, which is unsigned, but was donated by the foster son of Augustus E. Lines, a prominent engraver and jeweler in New Haven during the years Postmaster Mitchell issued his provisional envelopes.



The original New Haven handstamp device and the disfigured envelope to Horace Clark, both of which are part of the New Haven Museum collection
Courtesy of the Whitney Library at the New Haven Museum

Means obtained a copy of Lines' account book for this period, in which the following entry appears: "July 14, 1845, E. A. Mitchell To Engraving Post Office Stamp \$6.00." Lines was born in New Haven on November 4, 1822, and died in the city 80 years later, almost to the day, on November 8, 1902. He learned the metal-engraving trade in downtown New York City and worked there until 1844, when he returned to New Haven to establish himself in business (www.connecticutgenealogy.blogspot.com/2011_04_01_archive.html).



Augustus E. Lines (1822-1902)
New Haven Engraver

The Silliman Correspondence

The sender of this New Haven provisional envelope was Professor Benjamin Silliman (1779-1864) of Yale University. Yale's biography of Professor Silliman calls him "the father of modern scientific education in America." In 1805 Silliman was the first science professor in the United States to be sent abroad on a scientific mission. He created the first modern science course in the United States and traveled to Europe to study and to purchase books for the library and apparatus for the laboratories (www.yale.edu).



Professor Benjamin Silliman (1779-1864)

Professor Silliman embraced the use of envelopes and prepaid postage soon after the July 1845 postal reforms went into effect. Four of the six recorded New Haven envelopes were addressed by Silliman himself, and a fifth was addressed by his son, Benjamin Jr.

Professor Silliman mailed this envelope to his daughter, Faith Wadsworth Silliman (1812-1887), giving her name as "Mrs. Profr. Hubbard." Silliman's daughter was married to Dr. Oliver Payson Hubbard (1809-1900), a Yale graduate in the class of 1828. From 1831 to 1836 Dr. Hubbard was Professor Silliman's assistant in Yale's chemical laboratory, where they aided Charles Goodyear in early experiments which led to the discovery of the vulcanization process for rubber. In February 1836 Dr. Hubbard was appointed Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy and Geology at Dartmouth College. A year later he married Faith Silliman (1812-1887), and, in 1840 she gave birth to their first child, a son whom they named Grosvenor Silliman Hubbard.

Faith Silliman Hubbard died in 1887. Her surviving husband, Oliver, died in 1900, and their son, Grosvenor, died in 1918. It is probable that the New Haven provisional



Philippe la Rénotière von Ferrary
(1850-1917)

envelopes addressed to Faith and Oliver Hubbard by her father came from Oliver's estate in 1900 and were sold to Philippe la Rénotière von Ferrary. Ferrary's collection contained five New Haven provisional envelopes: the disfigured 8XU3 envelope addressed to Clark (lot 564 in Gilbert sale 3), the envelope from Professor Silliman to Francis Markoe Jr. (lot 566), which was found by E. B. Sterling in 1892, and all three envelopes addressed to Faith and Oliver Hubbard (lots 565, 567 and 568; lot 568 is the cover offered here). Although it is possible that Ferrary bought the three Hubbard envelopes from Faith Hubbard's estate after she died in 1887, it seems more likely that the envelopes reached the market after her husband's death in 1900. Ferrary predeceased their son.

New Haven Provisionals' Classification and Quantities Known

The New Haven provisional envelopes and cut-outs are rare as a group. Beginning with the discovery of the first cut square by William P. Brown in 1871 (shown at left), a total of only eleven examples have been recorded — seven in Red and four in Blue.



The first New Haven provisional discovered—reported by William P. Brown in 1871

Of the seven impressions in Red, there are just three complete envelopes, two cut squares, and two cut to shape. One of the cut-to-shape examples — with brownish-black signature — is part of the Tapling collection at the British Library and will never be available to collectors.

The four Blue impressions are found on one cut-to-shape piece and three envelopes. One of the Blue-handstamp envelopes was ruined a year after its discovery, in 1889, when C. H. Mekeel tried to enhance the faded blue ink by applying a solution of sulfate of iron (this envelope was donated to the Whitney Library at the New Haven Museum in 1993). The blue handstamp ink on the two other envelopes has faded, leaving the cut-to-shape example as the clearest representative example of the Blue.

The Scott Catalogue listings for the New Haven provisionals (8XU1 to 8XU4) specifically identify the colors of the handstamp, signature and paper. The footnote states that each New Haven envelope is unique, but the second 8XU2 envelope offered here was not known to census-takers. To help clear up the confusion for philatelists trying to determine how many of each Scott number exist, the chart on the opposite page shows the color variations in hierarchy by handstamp, signature and envelope paper, with each type identified by Scott number and quantity recorded (envelope, cut square or cut to shape). The census quantities correspond to the photo census appended in this catalogue.

Philip T. Wall recently published his own census of the New Haven provisional (*Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 90, No. 6, November-December 2011), but he did not list the September 27 envelope (8XU2) in the Frelinghuysen collection, because a photograph was unavailable until now (it was not illustrated as lot 568 in the 1922 Ferrary sale catalogue). The chart presented here and the census in this catalogue correct all of the past errors and omissions, especially with regard to the ex-Ferrary (lot 568) envelope offered in this sale.

This offering of a New Haven provisional is a good opportunity to express our views about the Scott Catalogue listings, 8XU1 through 8XU4. The Red impressions are listed in the Scott Catalogue under 8XU1 (magenta signature) and 8XU2 (black signature). The envelope color for 8XU1 is white, while the envelope color for 8XU2 is described as “light bluish.” We have examined all of the known envelopes, and the paper appears to us to be plain white, possibly with some very slight variation. The “light bluish” term was probably picked up from the Ferrary sale catalogue, which described three of the envelopes (lots 566-568) as “papier légèrement azuré.” Further, the difference between a signature in magenta and black (which is really brownish-black) should not warrant separate major listings, and the editors seem to agree by listing the blue handstamp with blue or black signatures under one number, 8XU3.

Scott Classification of New Haven Provisionals and Quantities Recorded



The major numbers assigned to envelope colors for 8XU3 (Blue on Buff) and 8XU4 (Blue on White) are also inconsistent with the catalogue’s treatment of the Baltimore handstamped envelopes. Prior to 1972, the Baltimore envelope colors were accorded individual major numbers. John R. Boker Jr. successfully argued that the envelope colors were confusing and too unimportant to be listed separately, and the Baltimore listings were consolidated without regard to color. The benefit of the current Scott Catalogue listings, even if inconsistent and possibly inaccurate, is that the value differences due to condition are reflected in the seven separately-priced variations.

Sale History of the September 27 Envelope

Henry G. Lapham displayed his Postmasters’ Provisionals at the Collectors Club of New York on April 4, 1928, and Charles J. Phillips reported that the collection included two New Haven “Envelopes,” one described as “blue on buff” and the other as “red on white.” Phillips must have erred in reporting both items as envelopes. At the time, only two examples of the Blue-handstamp provisional were known: the envelope sold in the 1922 Ferrary auction (lot 565) and the cut-to-shape example found by C. H. Mekeel in 1894 (ex Hunter and Chapman). Since Arthur Hind bought the complete envelope in the Ferrary sale and owned it in 1928, the example shown by Lapham must have been the cut-to-shape piece (8XU3-CTS-02), which was displayed in C. E. Chapman’s exhibit in the 1913 International Philatelic Exhibition in New York (the catalogue entry notes “5c blue on buff, the only copy known”). Chapman’s collection was bought by the Nassau Stamp Company in April 1915 and dispersed privately to various collectors, including Lapham. As for Lapham’s “red on white” envelope reported by Phillips, it had to be the envelope in the Frelinghuysen collection, because the other New Haven Red-handstamp on white paper examples can be traced to other collections during this period. Since this envelope was neither photographed in the Ferrary sale catalogue nor sold at auction after Lapham’s ownership, it has eluded census-takers for the past 80 years, including Carroll Alton Means and Philip T. Wall.