



Lot 5



Detail

LOT 5°

One of two recorded covers with the Brattleboro postmaster’s provisional stamp showing any part of the engraver’s imprint—in addition to its rarity as an imprint example, this cover with a sound stamp tied by the “Paid” handstamp is one of the finest known

ESTIMATE \$20,000-30,000

DESCRIPTION

Brattleboro, Vermont, 5¢ Black on Buff (5X1), Position 8, three huge margins showing guidelines at sides and traces of “**Engd. by Thos. Chubbuck, Bratto.**” imprint at bottom, slightly into frameline at top left, beautiful deep shade and impression, tied by red “PAID” straight-line handstamp with matching “Brattleboro Vt. Sep. 6” (1846) circular datestamp on folded letter to Lewis Woodruff at New York City

PROVENANCE

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 11/15/1955, lot 37

Muriel B. Hayes

Philip T. Wall (collection sold privately)

Siegel Auction Galleries, 2000 Rarities of the World, 5/13/2000, Sale 824, lot 17, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

USPCS census no. 20203

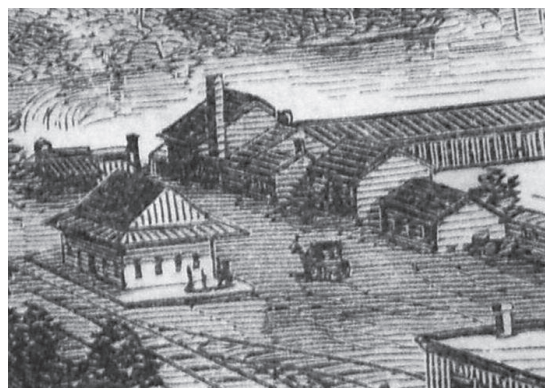
<https://www.uspcs.org/resource-center/censuses/postmasters-provisionals-cover-census/>

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1969)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine stamp and cover; file fold clear of stamp



First railroad station in Brattleboro, built in Winter 1849—detail from an engraving by Thomas Chubbuck

Source: www.brattleborohistory.com

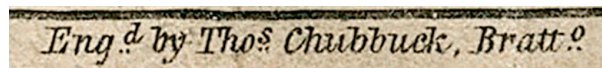
HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Brattleboro Postmaster’s Provisional Stamp

The Brattleboro, Vermont, postmaster responsible for the engraved adhesive provisional stamp is Dr. Frederick N. Palmer, who was appointed in July 1845 by President James K. Polk. He was replaced in November 1848 after the election of the Whig candidate, Zachary Taylor.

Dr. Palmer issued his provisional stamps during the summer of 1846, going to considerable expense to produce them. Considering that this small post office had revenues of \$1,748 in 1847, the \$9 paid by Dr. Palmer for engraving and printing his stamps was a relatively large expense.

The stamp itself is small and rectangular in shape. The central design element is Palmer’s facsimile initials “*F.N.P.*” At top is the post office name, at sides the letters “P.O.,” and at bottom the denomination “5 Cents.” The plate of ten subjects was arranged in two horizontal rows of five. Directly below the center stamp of the bottom row is the engraver’s imprint “Engd. by Thos. Chubbuck, Bratto.” The stamps were printed in black on a thick buff paper. The soft, porous nature of the paper makes the stamps extremely prone to thins on the back or scuffs on the face. The stamp on this cover is sound, which is remarkable in and of itself.



Thomas Chubbuck’s imprint below Position 8—this detail is from the only known stamp with the complete imprint (not lot 5)

The 52 stamps recorded by Philip T. Wall reflect an unusually high survival rate. By comparison, for the 1847 Issue, of which the Brattleboro post office received 3,600 5¢ and 300 10¢ stamps, there are only fourteen 5¢ 1847 covers and no 10¢ 1847 covers recorded in the USPCS census.

Of the 52 stamps recorded in the USPCS census, only five are from Position 8, below which the imprint is engraved. Two of the four are off cover, and three are on covers, one of which is cut in at bottom and does not show any part of the imprint. The cover offered here was part of the Wall collection, which was sold privately and dispersed over several years—Mr. Gross acquired the cover in the 2000 Rarities of the World sale. ■