Ten Cent Jefferson

National Bank Note Company

Issue of 1870 With Grill

Printed on Hard White Wove Paper
Perforation 12
H Grill

Unused

Used
PF Cert. 0317605

Used
PF Cert. 0251678

In August 1867 the Postmaster General authorized all stamp printings to be embossed with grills. The object of the grills was to break the fiber of the stamp paper so that the ink of the cancelling device would soak in and make washing for a second usage impossible. Various sized grills were used between 1867 and 1870. However, when the National Bank Note Company won the new stamp series production contract in 1870, such grilling began being phased out, and the Issue of 1870 was printed both with and without grills. The intaglio (recessed) printing plates were of 200 stamps arranged in two panes of 100, each with ten stamps across and ten rows down.

The pyramidal shape of the embossing points are illustrated above. Such points are impressed down through the face of the stamp.

The H grill measures about 10x12mm and ranges from 11-13 by 14-16 points. The graphic is taken from the left used stamp above. Grill impressions on this issue are usually faint or incomplete.
Ten Cent Jefferson

Continental Bank Note Company

1873
Design of 1870 With Secret Mark

In December 1872, the Postmaster General advertised for bids for the printing of postage stamps for the period of May 1873 through April 1877. The contract was awarded to the Continental Bank Note Company of New York in the spring of 1873. The master dies used by the National Bank Note Company accompanied the contract. A Continental engraver cut a curved line in the colorless ball below the end of the curved panel under the E of POSTAGE, and a new transfer roll was made which was used to produce the new plates for production of the 10 cent Jefferson by Continental. The printing plates were of 200 stamps arranged in two panes of 100.

Printed on Hard White Wove Paper
Perforation 12
Earliest Recorded Use: 8/2/1873

Unused
Original Gum
Grade VF-XF 85
PF Cert. 512946

Unused
No Gum
Grade VF 80
PSE Cert. 01323636

Used
Grade XF-Sup 95
PSE Cert. 01182596

Used
Grade VF 80J
PSE Cert. 01323638

National

Continental

Secret Mark
During the period 1875-76, the U.S. Post Office Department carried out an experiment to prevent reuse of stamps for postage, which was similar in purpose to the production of grilled stamps earlier. Six values of the Issue of 1873, including the 10 cent Jefferson, were produced using two-layer paper - the variety now referred to as double paper. "The upper portion [layer] receiving the impression [during printing] was soft and porous. Supposedly, any attempt to clean off the cancelling mark would render the impressed portion perfectly pulpy and thus effectively destroy it. The stamps did not meet with much favor and the plan was abandoned." (Coin and Stamp Journal, January 1877) PSE Certificate 01262729
Ten Cent Jefferson

SILK PAPER

Continental Bank Note Company

1873
Design of 1870 With Secret Mark

Normal printings of the Continental Bank Note Company were on white wove paper of differing thicknesses from thin to thick. However, another type of paper used by Continental in very small quantities is known generally by the term silk paper. This is also a white wove paper, but it contains, in small quantities, all-black silk fibers in very short strands of varying lengths that were impressed into the paper during manufacture as illustrated above. This unused stamp was printed on such paper. PF Certificate 0216266
In February 1879 the three major bank note printing companies - National, Continental, and American - consolidated into one known thereafter as the American Bank Note Company. It assumed the Continental postage stamp contract of 1877, using its 10 cent Jefferson plates with secret mark but printing on soft porous paper instead of thinner white wove used by Continental. Two types of 10 cent Jefferson stamps are associated with the initial printings of this consolidated company - those with secret marks and those without - and this and following pages show those with secret mark. As in all regularly issues stamps of this period, the printing plates were of 200 stamps arranged in two panes of 100.
Ten Cent Jefferson

Block of 12 - Used

American Bank Note Company

1879
Design of 1873 With Secret Mark
Soft Porous Paper
In early 1882 the American Bank Note Company produced a re-engraved 10 cent Jefferson. They made a duplicate die from an old National transfer die (without secret mark) and erased the frame. Using the original portrait medallion and perhaps part of the inscription panels, a new frame was engraved imitating the original but having heavier lines. On this new type the vertical shade lines were spaced farther apart, so there are four vertical lines between the left edge of the portrait oval and the edge of the shield, instead of the five lines found in previous issues of this design. In addition, there are four horizontal lines above the upper curves of the shield instead of the three found in the earlier issues. The printing plates were of 200 stamps arranged in two panes of 100.

Printed on Soft Porous Paper
Medium to Thick
Perforation 12

Unused
Original Gum, NH
Grade XF 90
PSE Cert. 01148961

Used
Grade XF-Sup 95
PSE Cert. 01199166

Used
Grade XF 90J
PSE Cert. 01231052
PF Cert. 0234751

4 horizontal lines instead of 3

4 vertical lines instead of 5
Ten Cent Jefferson - Fancy Cancellations

PICTORIALS

American Bank Note Company

1881-82
Design of 1873 Re-engraved

This is the rare and superbly struck “U S Mail within Padlock” cancellation of Stoneham, Massachusetts. It is known to have been used on 9/1/1884, and few genuine examples exist. This may be the only example of this cancellation found on the 10 cent Jefferson issue of 1882. PF Certificate 0317312

This is the equally rare and well struck “Locomotive & Tender” cancellation of South Hanson, Massachusetts. Fewer than five genuine examples are recorded and this the only example found on the 10 cent Jefferson issue of 1882. PF Certificate 0359939
Ten Cent Jefferson

American Bank Note Company

1882
Design of 1873 Re-engraved

EXPERIMENTAL CHEMICALLY TREATED PAPER

Beginning in the 1860s, various individuals patented several chemically based methods for preventing & discouraging removal of cancellation ink and reuse of postage stamps. The processes used chemically soaked papers so that any attempt to remove cancellations resulted in the actual defacing of the used stamp. The U.S. Post Office Department experimented with these processes on a number of occasions up through the late 1880s by printing small quantities of regular issues on such papers and using them in the mails. All involved using a special fluid as part of the cancellation procedure to deface the stamp to thwart reuse. However, none of these processes were popular or ever accepted for general use. Over time these papers darkened and became brittle so that today the few remaining examples are extremely fragile and must be handled with great care.

From BOSTON to NEW YORK CITY

Triple rate 2 cents per oz, domestic registered letter, plus 10 cents registry fee, total 16 cents paid. This letter was mailed at the Cambridge Branch of the Boston PO 1/13/1890 and sent by rail to New York. J.M. Bartels signature on reverse. PF Certificate 461984
Ten Cent Jefferson
Special Delivery Domestic Mail

American Bank Note Company
Design of 1873 re-engraved

From MILWAUKEE, WS
To ST PAUL, MN

5 times 2 cents per oz.
domestic mail rate plus
10 cents special delivery
fee for a total 20 cents

Mailed for special delivery service in
Milwaukee at 5:30pm 4/9/1889 and
sent by rail to St Paul arriving 8:00am
4/10/1889 per backstamp. Docketing
indicates this legal papers packet was
sent to and received by the Clerk of
the 2nd Judicial District Court at St
Paul. This is an uncommon usage of
the 10 cent Jefferson franking.
2 cents per oz, domestic mail rate, plus 10 cents registry fee. This registered letter has one of the renown Port Townsend, WA, “Kicking Mule” fancy cancellations produced for small post offices by C.A. Klinkner & Co. of Oakland, CA. This registered letter was mailed on March 26th, 1886 and may be the only recorded usage of a 10-cent Jefferson large banknote design adhesive with a “Kicking Mule” cancellation.

Although most famously known for its Port Townsend usages, this fancy cancellation is also known used in Forbestown, Susanville, and Goleta, CA, as well as Neah Bay, WA.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Registered Domestic Mail Usage

From WATERBURY, CT, to HARTFORD, CT

American without secret mark

3 cents per half oz, domestic mail rate, plus 10 cents registry fee. This registered letter has one of the famous Waterbury fancy cancellations attributed to John W. Hill, postal clerk and later postmaster of Waterbury, CT. According to Paul C. Rohloff, who chronicled these cancellations in his 1979 book, The Waterbury Cancellations 1865-1890, this “Whittling Yankee” produced no fewer than 252 different cancellations, including 31 different rosettes of the general type seen above. The cancellations were rarely used in foreign mails with only 5 recorded and most of those to New Brunswick. This registered letter was mailed on March 29th, 1882 (per dateline on enclosure). The cover may be the only recorded usage of a 10-cent Jefferson large banknote design adhesive with a Waterbury cancellation.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Registered Domestic Mail Usages

To NEW YORK

Continental with secret mark

3 cents per half oz domestic rate plus 10 cents registry fee. This bold Syracuse calligraphy S fancy cancel is a rare and striking usage. PF Certificate 495126

To MASSACHUSETTS

Continental with secret mark

Magenta

3 cents per half oz domestic rate plus 10 cents registry fee. The Syracuse calligraphy S fancy cancel in magenta was struck on this lady’s cover one month after the blue example above. PF Certificate 495125
Single rate 10 cents per half oz, ocean steamship mail “blanket rate.” Originated at Havana, Cuba, 9/6/1871 per inner docketing, the letter was carried privately to St Thomas, Danish West Indies, via the Pelayo, where it was turned over to a forwarding agent. The forwarder applied the U.S. 10 cent Jefferson stamp and posted it at the local St Thomas Post Office, which dispatched it aboard the American contract mail carrier, the New York & Brazil Steamship Company steam packet North America, for carriage to Rio de Janeiro. From there it was conveyed by Great Britain’s Pacific Steam Navigation Line Lusitania, arriving Buenos Aires 10/26/1871 per inner docketing. Of 30+ known period covers from Cuba to Argentina, only the earliest three have a U.S. stamp with no British stamp, and thus this is an important rarity.

This is the handstamp of the St Thomas forwarding agent J. Niles & Co, which is applied to both front and reverse. Niles received the letter from Havana and placed it into the mails.

This St Thomas cds of the local Danish Post Office which actually processed the letter for dispatch aboard the monthly Brazil Line steamer calling at St Thomas enroute.
Single rate 10 cents per half oz. American packet direct. This letter was mailed at Woodstock, VT, 1/17/1874 and dispatched from New York 1/23/1874 by United States & Brazil Mail Steamship Company steamer Merrimack, arriving St Thomas DWI 1/29/1874 per backstamp. The British postal representative at St Thomas sent it in the mails aboard a Royal Mail Steamship Company steamer which arrived Barbados 1/31/1874 per backstamp. Barbados is a scarce destination for covers of this period.

The NY Exchange Office applied the cds at left on the date of dispatch from New York which was several days after the letter’s arrival from Woodstock, VT. Normal U.S. practice was to apply the exchange office cds on the date of dispatch overseas.

This is the cds of the British postal representative at St Thomas and was applied to the reverse to show its enroute handling.
Single rate 13 cents per half oz, British mails via St. Thomas. This whaling ship correspondence was mailed at New Bedford, MA, 4/3/1876 and dispatched from New York 4/15/1876 to Bermuda aboard the New York & Bermuda Steamship Line Canima, arriving on or about 4/18/1876. Here, it was placed aboard the monthly Halifax to St. Thomas British mail packet which called at Bermuda enroute. The British postal representative at St. Thomas, Danish West Indies coordinated its dispatch to Barbados aboard the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company packet Corsica which departed 4/26/1876 per circular datestamp on the reverse. The Corsica arrived at Barbados 4/29/1876 and the Barbados PO sorted the mail 4/30/1876 per backstamp. The letter was held until called for by the addressee, Captain H. A. White, master of the sailing bark Seine, 234 tons, a whaler out of New Bedford. The Seine was on an extended whaling voyage in the south Atlantic Ocean. It had sailed from New Bedford in July 1875 and did not return until October 1876, during which period it took 575 barrels of sperm-oil and 25 barrels of whale-oil.

The St Thomas PO applied this circular datestamp on the reverse to denote its enroute handling for the British postal representative at that Danish-owned island.

Applied on date of dispatch by the NYPO Exchange Office, the “8” acknowledged the 8 cents credit to England for the onward movement of the letter from Bermuda to Barbados.
Single rate 10 cents per half oz, American packet direct mail. This cover with its letter enclosed was mailed at New York on 7/9/1874 and sent by American steam packet to Bermuda, mistaken believed by the writer to be in the West Indies. Addressed to a gentleman who was secretary to the immigration board, it was received by him 7/13/1874 per inner docketing.

The New York Foreign Mail cancellation of a multiple pointed star type is one of the most common, although in this case used to a most uncommon NYFM destination.

Earliest Use
2/3/1873

Latest Use
5/15/1875
Paid as single rate 17-cents per half oz, American packet via Colon, Panama, then British packet onward to Bolivia. However, the letter should have been rated as 5-cents per half oz UPU, as Bolivia joined the UPU effective 4/1/1886, over nine months before this letter was sent. Mailed 12/27/1886 at Dover, NJ, sent by rail to NY arriving the same day per backstamp, where it was sent by steam packet to Colon. There it crossed the isthmus by the Panama Railroad to Panama City, where the British exchange office sent it on to Bolivia by British packet of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company. Pre-1890 US covers to Bolivia are quite scarce. In this same correspondence, another mailed 6/30/1887 using the same pre-UPU rate is known.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

From BRAZIL to WASHINGTON, DC

10 cents per half oz, incoming “blanket” steamship mail rate. This letter was posted aboard the **USS Lancaster** at sea for dispatch by the first mailing opportunity. The *Lancaster’s* mail was eventually delivered for mailing at the Rio de Janeiro PO, but after the United States & Brazil Mail Steamship Co monthly mail packet for the US had departed on 10/26/1870. Thus, the Rio PO sent this letter as a loose steamship letter on the British-owned Ocean Steam Ship Co steamer _Agamemnon_ which sailed 11/14/1870 and arrived at New York 12/5/1870. Note the incomplete Rio de Janeiro black circular datestamp of 11/14/1870 on the cover’s face, as well as the reddish-orange boxed P.P. handstamp. The latter probably indicates the local Brazilian postal fee was paid at the Rio PO but that Brazil did not consider it a fully paid letter since the US postage stamp had no meaning in Brazil. Note also the **N.YORK/DEC 5/STEAMSHIP** circular datestamp of the New York Exchange Office accepting the letter as fully paid.

This fancy datestamp of USS Lancaster, a bark-rigged screw sloop-of-war and flagship of the US Navy’s South Atlantic Station from 1870 through 1875, was backstamped on the reverse by the ship’s mail clerk while at sea.

This partial circular datestamp of the Washington PO Carrier Division was applied on the reverse upon receipt of the letter from New York, probably on 12/6/1870. The Carrier Division was responsible for local delivery.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usage

To CONNECTICUT From CARIBBEAN SEA

National without grill

Double 10 cents per half oz, inbound steamship rate. This ship’s letter originated from a crew member aboard the U.S.S. Kansas, then operating in the western Caribbean Sea. Ship letters were loose letters routinely carried by the captains of non-mail contract, inbound steamships from origin to the first U.S. port called. For a fee charged to the letter writer, the captain delivered this ship’s letter to the post office at New York immediately upon arrival on 5/4/1873, where he paid the required 20 cents postage. The letter continued in domestic mails to West Meriden, CT, where it was received 5/5/1873 per docketing. The U.S.S. Kansas was an 836-ton screw-propelled steam gunboat originally commissioned in December 1863 during the Civil War. During this period it was on a surveying expedition of the east coast of Central America that began 1/1/1873 and concluded 7/15/1873.

This circular datesstamp used to cancel the stamps on the letter is known used by the NYPO Foreign Division from June 1872 through September 1977.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To CHILE

National without grill

22 cents per half oz, American packet, then British packet via Colon. The letter was mailed at Yarmouth, ME, 2/12/1872 and sent by rail to New York. The NY Post Office Foreign Division dispatched it aboard the Pacific Mail Steamship Co packet Ocean Queen, 2715 tons, which departed New York 2/15/1872 and arrived Colon, Panama, 2/25/1872. There the mails for Chile were exchanged to the British postal agency, who sorted and sent them cross-isthmus by Panama Railroad to Panama City. They were placed aboard the British-owned Pacific Steam Navigation Co packet Caldera which departed 2/25/1872. The Caldera passed its mails for Chile to the Pacific Steam Navigation Co packet Araucania, probably at Callao, Peru, which carried them on to destination at Valparaiso, Chile, arriving 3/13/1872. The Valparaiso Post Office applied the large red-orange “25” denoting the 25 centavos (equivalent to 25 US cents) internal postage due. This would have been paid by the American Consul, who held the letter until pickup by the addressee, Osborne Merrill, of the American sailing ship Oakland when it called at Valparaiso 4/5/1872, per docking on the reverse. The Oakland, 1237 tons, was owned and commanded by Captain R. Merrill and was home-ported in Brunswick, ME. The mixed franking of 1869 and 1870 issues on foreign destination covers is quite scarce.

This circular datestamp was applied by the NYPO on the sailing date of the Ocean Queen and denotes 12 cents credit to the British postal agency at Colon, Panama.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To CHILE

Continental with secret marks

Single rate 22 cents per half oz, American packet via Colon, Panama, then British packet to Chile. Privately carried from Havana, Cuba, to New York, the letter was placed in the mails by New York forwarding agent Maitland, Phelps & Co 7/17/1874. This cover is one of only three New York Foreign Mail covers reported used to Chile and is ex Braus and ex Klein.

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of a circular geometric type, as struck, has broken inner and outer borders of the wheel.

Earliest Use
2/12/1874

Latest Use (re-carved)
10/16/1876

This New York P.O. Foreign Division circle date stamp is struck in red (orange) to denote a 12 cent credit to Great Britain for onward movement of the letter from Panama to Valparaiso.

This 14mm handstamp applied by Chilien PO refers to the 15 centavos inland postage due, which was in addition to 22 cents (US) paid.
Single rate 13 cents per half oz, British mails via Colon (Panama). Mailed at New York 9/14/1878, but interestingly not dispatched by the NYPO Foreign Division to Panama until 9/19/1878, an unusual delay of five days. A reason may be that the Atlas Line advertised in NY newspapers that their steamer *Ailsa* would depart on the 14th; however, it actually departed on the 13th. Perhaps the sender mailed his letter for the advertised 14th sailing date that for some reason had left early. In any case, the letter was actually sent via the Pacific Mail Steamship Company packet *Colon* which arrived Colon, Panama, 9/28/1878 where it was handed over to the British mail office there and received their scarce TRANSIT handstamp seen on the cover’s face. Unfortunately, the monthly Royal Mail Steam Packet Company steamer had departed the day prior to the letter’s arrival in Colon. Noting the addressee was the British Charge d’Affaires in Bogota and perhaps not wanting to await the next scheduled steam packet, the British mail office apparently used the firm of R.C. Crompton, forwarding agent in Colon, to arrange timely carriage of the letter on to Bogota and thus that forwarding agent’s handstamp on both the front and reverse of the letter. If so, this would have been a very unusual routing, perhaps used only because it was for a British government official.

This rare marking of the NYPO Foreign Division shows the 8 cent credit to Great Britain who operated the mails from Panama to Columbia.
Double rate 10 cents per half oz, American packet. Mailed at New York and dispatched 4/28/1875 aboard the Alexandre Line steamship City of New York, 1715 tons, which arrived Havana, Cuba, 5/4/1875 per backstamp. Note the large 13mm “2” applied by the Havana Post Office indicating 2 reales (equivalent to 25 US cents) to be collected for internal postage due, the proper amount for a double rate letter. In addition, there is a blue double oval merchant datestamp of the addressee firm S. Corte-Real on the reverse. Also present is the enclosed letter containing four pages of commercial correspondence. Ex Kirke

This New York Foreign Mail cancel of an elaborate positive geometric type was applied by the Foreign Division of the NYPO. As is normal for such mail to the West Indies, the circular datestamp is in black.
Single rate 10 cents per half oz, American packet. Mailed at New York and dispatched on a Southern Mail Steamship Company packet which departed for Cuba on 5/1/1875 and arrived at Havana on 5/12/1875 per backstamp. Note the 21x13mm rectangular "NA 1 Reel" internal postage due rating handstamp indicating 1 real (equivalent to 12.5 US cents) to collect from the addressee, as the US franking paid postage only to the Cuban port. In addition, there is a blue double oval 5/13/1875 merchant daterstamp on the reverse indicating the date of receipt by the firm of S. Corte-Real. The cover contains a business letter from the National Bank Note Company replying to previous correspondence.

This New York Foreign Mail cancel of an elaborate positive geometric type was applied by the Foreign Division of the NYPO.
To S. Cortes-Real
Havana, Cuba

Dear Sir,

Your valued favor of 24th Inst. is received. I am instructed to make an estimate of the cost of the labels referred to without knowing how much printing matter there will be in the autograph notice, and how many labels will be required by your firm. We shall therefore feel obliged if you will be so good as to send us the wording arranged as you wish it to appear on the labels and, if possible, a sample of the quality of paper required, advising us at the same time what number of labels you would order at first and the approximate quantity that you would require per month or year thereafter.
Double rate 18 cents per half oz, British mails via St Thomas. Mailed 6/3/1871 at Philadelphia, PA, per backstamp and sent by rail to New York, the terminal of the West Indies mail packets. The red-orange manuscript “16” denoting the 16 cents credit to Great Britain and New York circular datestamp were applied by the NYPO Foreign Division. That office dispatched it 6/8/1871 by West Indies packet to St Thomas, Danish West Indies. Its estimated arrival at St Thomas is about 6/19/1871. Since the Royal Mail Steamship Company packet departed just prior, the letter was held at St Thomas for the next packet, Elbe, which sailed on 7/2/1871 and arrived Jacmel, Haiti, 7/3/1871. Dominican Republic mails were off-loaded and sent on by local ship to Santo Domingo, arriving 7/6/1871 per faint blue circular datestamp on the front. The letter was held there by the U.S. Consul until called for by its addressee, a U.S. Navy assistant surgeon. This is a very scarce double rate usage to a very scarce destination. Ex Arthur White
From DOMINICAN REPUBLIC to CANADA via NEW YORK

10 cents per half oz, ship letter carried on a non-contract steamship to New York. Posted at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 12/14/1889, per postmark, postal authorities apparently dispatched it as a ship letter aboard the steamship Carib. The New York PO sent it onward to Canada as fully prepaid mail (2 cents to the captain of the Carib, with the US retaining the remaining 8 cents). This method of mail movement was unusual but sometimes used in the West Indies when a sender did not wish to await the departure of the next contract steamer, even though the letter would have been rated lower at the Dominican Republic currency equivalent of the 5 cent universal UPU rate. The Dominican Republic joined the UPU in 1880. PF Certificates 170559 & 521330

This “opera glass” transit daterstamp was applied to the back of the letter by the Foreign Division of the New York PO upon receipt, and also denotes the date forwarded onward by rail to the Canadian border exchange point.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To ECUADOR

American with secret mark

20 cents per half oz, treaty closed mail via Panama. Mailed at New York on 5/1/1879 two months before Ecuador joined UPU. This is an early use of the Issue of 1879 printed by the American Banknote Company and is addressed to Quito, the capitol of Ecuador. The cover is an all-over design, advertising cover of the New York Herald, a prominent newspaper of that period with offices at the corner of Broadway and Ann Streets.

This letter was initially processed for the NYPO domestic mails per the black NY duplex horizontal grid 4-in-circle cancellation above. It was subsequently transferred to the Foreign Division where this red cancel was applied on date of departure by steamer in closed mails for Ecuador via Panama.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To MEXICO

National with grill

10 cents per half oz, American packet direct. Mailed at New York on 9/30/1870 (year established by inner docketing) and dispatched aboard Alexandre Line steam packet City of Merida, 1492 tons, on 10/1/1870, arriving Veracruz on or about 10/15/1870. Note a slight purple tinge to the postmark and cancellation. This grilled 10 cent Jefferson franking of the Issue of 1870 paid for conveyance only to the Mexican port of entry under the U.S.-Mexican postal convention of 1862. Although this convention was proclaimed by President Lincoln in June 1862, the treaty rates were not used until early 1870.

This handstamp was applied by the Mexican postal authorities to denote 4 reales (equal to about 50 U.S. cents) to be collected upon delivery for the domestic portion of the postage.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To MEXICO

Quadruple rate 10 cents per half oz, American packet direct. Mailed at New York and placed aboard the New York and Mexican Mail steam packet City of Mexico on 11/8/1873 and carried to Vera Cruz, arriving there on 11/21/1873. The large 16mm black 6 handstamp was applied by a Mexican postal clerk denoting the 6 reales (equal to about 75 U.S. cents) internal postage due for domestic delivery. The letter was sent by the New York forwarding agent “Moller & Trebaud” whose blue oval handstamp is noted at upper left. The 30 cent Alexander Hamilton stamp represents a scarce usage, as only about one percent of all NY Foreign Mail period covers had such franking.

Earliest Use
10/20/1870

Latest Use
5/13/1876

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of a traditional medium sized 8-wedge type is found in a number of varieties from 22-28mm in diameter.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To MEXICO

Double rate 10 cents per half oz. American packet direct. Endorsed "via New Orleans," the routing is presumed to be from New York 2/15/1875 by rail to New Orleans and then by steam packet to Mexico. With Guadalajara near the west coast of central Mexico, it is unlikely the routing was entirely by land, given the state of internal transportation capability in northern Mexico. The small 8mm black 25c handstamp is a Mexican postal marking denoting 25 centavos internal postage due on delivery. The blue circle date stamp is a previously unlisted type of the New York forwarding agent Fred’k Probst & Co. Although the cancel applied to the stamps is duplexed to a domestic type time-of-day circle date stamp, Weiss regards it as a type of NY Foreign Mail cancellation because of usage, and I agree.

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of a negative representative number type is 29mm in diameter and rare, as this is the only proven foreign mail usage.

Only Proven Use
2/15/1875
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To MEXICO

Single rate 10 cents per half oz, American packet direct mail. Mailed at New York and dispatched 4/20/1875 aboard the New York and Mexican Mail steam packet City of Mexico and carried to Vera Cruz. Interestingly, there is no indication of internal postage due, which should have been the case since the rate only paid for carriage to the frontier. Per handstamp on the reverse, this letter was sent by the New York forwarding agent “M. Echeverria & Co.” who is known to have had an extensive commercial correspondence with clients in Mexico.

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of an elaborate positive geometric type has 6 positive inner diamonds in the center and 6 positive wedges on the outer circle. A scarce cancel on cover, it was only used for two months.

Earliest Use
2/26/1875

Latest Use
4/23/1875
Single rate 13 cents per half oz, American packet to Colon, then British packet to destination. Mailed at Philadelphia, PA, 1/29/1878 and forwarded by rail to New York where it was dispatched by American steam packet on 1/31/1878 to Colon, Panama (Columbia). Upon arrival at Colon, it was turned over to the British postal agent, who placed it aboard the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company steamship *Para*, 3805 tons, which departed Colon 2/9/1878, arriving Greytown, Nicaragua, 2/11/1878.

This marking of the New York Post Office Foreign Division indicates an 8 cents credit to Great Britain for the onward carriage of the letter from Colon to Nicaragua.
Double rate 13 cents per half oz, American packet to Colon, then British packet to destination. Mailed at Phoenixville, PA, 3/25/1878 and forwarded by rail to New York where per red circular datestamp it was dispatched by American steam packet on 3/30/1878 to Colon, Panama (Colombia), arriving 4/8/1878. There, it was turned over to the British postal agent, who placed it aboard the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company steamship Moselle, 3298 tons, which departed Colon 4/10/1878, arriving Greytown, Nicaragua, 4/12/1878. Note the red pencil marking 16/2 in the lower left. This was applied by the NYPO Foreign Division indicating a 16 cents credit to Great Britain and the double rate weight of the letter. Note also in the lower right the black straight line handstamp TRANSIT as well as the Colon circular datestamp applied by the British at Colon.
Incoming mail, fully prepaid, double 10 cents per half oz, inbound steamship letter rate. Per large blue circular handstamp of a Callao, Peru, bookseller on reverse, this letter originated there and was probably carried privately, or possibly by favor of diplomatic pouch, to New York. It was routed through the New York P.O. Foreign Division, where it received a New York Foreign Mail cancel on 4/13/1875 and sent on through domestic mails. The stamps were likely affixed by the Callao bookseller, as he was known to have often done so with his letters to the USA. This is a very rare usage of a New York Foreign Mail cancel.

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of an elaborate positive geometric type has six positive diamonds in the center and six positive wedges on the outer circle.

Earliest Use
2/26/1875

Latest Use
4/23/1875
Incoming mail, partially prepaid, 17 cents per half oz, British mail to Panama, then American packet to New York. Placed directly on British mail packet at Callao, Peru, without going through Peruvian post office, exchanged at Panama 11/14/1875 to American mails, arriving New York on 11/25/1875. Exchange debits with England were settled in specie. However, letters from Peru collect to US were settled with the addressee in currency. With a currency-gold depreciation ratio of 1.12 to 1 in late 1875, the amount to be collected reflected the 12 cents specie (14 cents currency) due to England for Peru to Panama segment plus 5 cents for Panama to New York portion, total 19 cents.

This 20mm handstamp was applied by British mail clerks at their Panama exchange office to denote debit of 12 cents specie due from US.

New York PO applied this hand stamp to denote 9 cents to be collected from addressee (19 cents currency total postage less 10 cent US stamp affixed at Callao).

N. YORK/STEAMSHIP circle date stamp as cancellation was normally used on incoming steamship mail bearing US stamps. This particular marking was in use between August 1867 and December 1876.
Single rate 22 cents per half oz, American packet to Panama then British packet. The letter carried by this lady's envelope was mailed at Bath, ME, 6/2/1870 per backstamp and sent by rail to New York. The Foreign Division of the New York PO dispatched it aboard the Pacific Mail Steamship Company steam packet *Alaska* which departed 6/4/1870 and arrived at Aspinwall (modern Colon), Panama, on or about 6/13/1870. Upon arrival there, the mails for Peru were turned over to the British postal authorities who forwarded them cross-isthmus by Panama Railroad to the Pacific shore and placed them aboard a British-owned, south-bound Pacific Steam Navigation Company packet which arrived at Callao, Peru, on 6/30/1870, per backstamp. Mixed frankings of the Issue of 1870 in this case with the 12-cent value of the Issue of 1869 are quite scarce. Although the Philatelic Foundation certificate no. 498248 erroneously indicates an 1873 usage, the actual usage is 1870 as confirmed by PMSS sailing tables as well as a known identical 1870 correspondence in the same hand addressed to the same person aboard the same sailing ship in care of the same agent in Callao. This June 1870 usage of the un-grilled 10-cent Jefferson of the Issue of 1870 was within the first month of the earliest recorded on-cover usage (5/19/1870) of that stamp.

This circular datestamp of the Foreign Division of the NYPO was applied on the date of dispatch aboard the PMSS steam packet which sailed for Panama on the date indicated.

This handstamp was also applied by the Foreign Division of the NYPO and recognizes the credit of 12 cents to Great Britain for carriage of the letter from Panama to Peru.
Single rate 22 cents per half oz, American packet to Panama, then British packet. The letter was mailed 12/28/1870 at Stockton (Springs), ME, per the un-inked circular datestamp at upper left. It traveled by rail to New York were it was dispatched 1/4/1871 on the Pacific Mail Steamship Company packet *Ocean Queen* to Panama. There, it was turned over to the British exchange office who sent it by Panama Railroad to Panama City on the Pacific Ocean side of the isthmus, and then onward by British packet of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, arriving at Callao, Peru, 2/10/1871 per backstamp. Note the unusual mixed franking of the 1867 issue 2-cent Jackson and pair of 1870 issue 10-cent Jefferson. The letter is addressed to the captain of the sailing bark *Isaac Hall* in care of a Callao merchant. PF Certificate 446542

This circular datestamp of the New York Post Office Foreign Division was applied on the sailing date of the contract steam packet upon which the letter was dispatched. The “12” denotes the 12 cents credit to the British exchange office in Panama for onward movement via British packet to Peru.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To PORTO RICO

Continental with secret mark

Single rate 13 cents per half oz, British mail via Havana or St. Thomas. Mailed 3/22/1876-7 at Haverhill, MA, and forwarded by rail to New York. Although an actual year date is not present on any marking on this cover, the scarce rate under which it was carried was only in effect between July 1875 and May 1877. Thus, the year date can be deduced as either 1876 or 1877. It was dispatched to San Juan, Porto Rico, from New York 4/1/1876-7 by steam packet, and possibly via Havana rather than St. Thomas, due to a lack of any St. Thomas markings normally applied when transiting that intermediate stop. An indistinct Puerto Rico circular datestamp is present on the reverse.

This marking was applied by the NYPO Foreign Division and denotes an 8 cents credit to Great Britain for onward movement.

This 9mm “2” denotes the 2 reales (equal to about 25 cents) internal postage due for carriage within Puerto Rico.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

National with grill

6 cents per half oz, treaty rate to Prince Edward Island (a British North American Province) overpaid 4 cents. Addressed to an officer aboard the USS Guard, this letter was mailed 8/16/1870 at Hartford, CT, and dispatched by rail and ferry to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, arriving 8/19/1870 per backstamp. The 4 cent overpayment is intriguing. The treaty rate to Prince Edward Island before 1868 was 10 cents, and the then current rate to Newfoundland was 10 cents. Perhaps there was confusion about the proper rate either on the part of the sender or the postal clerk. The grilled franking is type H. PF Certificate 38768 & PF Certificate 498248
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To ST. CROIX, DANISH WEST INDIES

10 cents per half oz, American packet New York to St. Thomas. This outer folded letter sheet received forwarding services by the New York forwarding agent A. BAIZ & Co, who delivered it to the New York Post Office Foreign Division on 4/24/1871. The Forwarding Division dispatched it aboard the U.S. & Brazil Mail Steamship Co steamer Merrimack on that same day. It arrived at St Thomas on 4/30/1871 and was forwarded by the St. Thomas Post Office on 5/1/1871 by island packet to St. Croix, a scarce destination for this period. The manuscript blue pencil “4” was applied by the St. Thomas PO denoting the 4 Danish skillinges (equivalent to about 2.4 US cents) due upon delivery in St. Croix.

This oval datestamp was applied by the New York forwarding agent, A. Baiz & Co. Such agents usually provided mail collection and forwarding services, primarily for overseas commercial clients with insufficient mail service to other overseas destinations.

This intransit circular datestamp was applied by the Danish post office at St. Thomas during processing of mail received from the Merrimack.
Single 6 cents per half oz, Treaty rate plus 3 1/2 cents “paid beyond” postage since destination was in French North American territory, total 9 1/2 cents. The letter was mailed at Philadelphia 6/12/1872 and probably forwarded by steamer to Halifax, Nova Scotia, arriving 6/17/1872. It was sent on to Sydney, Cape Breton Island, arriving 6/19/1872, then to North Sydney, Cape Breton Island, arriving 6/20/1872, from whence it was ferried to destination and held at the French Cable Office until eventual pickup by the addressee, a member of the U.S. Coast Survey service, on 7/4/1872. St. Pierre & Miquelon is a very scarce destination for covers of this period. PF Certificate 440007
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To ST. THOMAS

via Bermuda

S. MICHIE & CO.

NEW YORK

V. Martineau & Co

ST THOMAS

Single rate 13 cents per half oz, British mails via Havana. Mailed at New York and, although rated via Havana, was dispatched 11/23/1876 via American packet to Bermuda which connected with the British steamer on the Halifax to St Thomas run, and arrived St Thomas 12/5/1876 per backstamp.

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of a traditional notched 6-wedge type is approximately 30mm in diameter and shows signs of extended wear.

Applied by the New York Exchange Office, the "8" refers to the 8 cents credit due to Great Britain for the onward movement of the letter from Bermuda to St Thomas.

Only Known Use
11/23/1876
Single rate 12 cents per half oz, treaty direct mail. This mixed franking, mourning cover likely carried the sad news of a family death, but never arrived in the hands of the addressee. The letter was addressed to Rev. E.I. Parker, care of the Y.M.C.A., Sydney, and its initial journey was:

- Mailed: Oneonta, NY 3/3/1887
- Transit: Albany, NY 3/3/1887 per backstamp
  San Francisco, CA 3/9/1887 per backstamp
- Arrived: Sydney, NSW 4/6/1887 per backstamp

It was then franked (probably courtesy of the Y.M.C.A.) with a vertical pair of the Queen Victoria 1 penny red, perforated 11x12, of the NSW Issue of 1882-91.

- Forwarded at: Sydney, NSW 4/18/1887
- Arrived: Launceston, Tasmania 4/21/1887 per backstamp
  Melbourne, Victoria 4/26/1887 per backstamp

When it was not called for, the Melbourne PO applied the boxed UNCLAIMED AT MELBOURNE handstamp and sent it to the Melbourne Dead Letter Office on 10/27/1887 per backstamp where its journey ended.
Single rate 23 cents per half oz, fully prepaid North German Union direct. Mailed at Providence, RI, 6/2/1873, transited New York and dispatched 6/5/1873 as closed mail aboard the HAPAG Line steam packet Frisia, arrived Hamburg 6/18/1873, from whence it was forwarded transiting the Austrian office at Alexandria, Egypt, 6/26/1873 where it entered the British mails. It was placed aboard the P & O steam packet Khedive departing Suez 6/27/1873, arrived Bombay 7/9/1873, and forwarded on through Calcutta to Rangoon. The red-orange manuscript “17” is the NY credit of 17 cents to NGU. Since the sender failed to endorse routing instructions that would have allowed use of the 20 cents direct mail via Brindisi rate, it had to be routed at the more expensive 23 cents rate. This is a rare if not unique NGU cover to Burma, as well as rare if not unique use of the 23 cents rate after November 1871.

Applied upon arrival at the Hamburg Exchange Office, the FRANCO recognizes the letter is fully prepaid to destination.

This “wf 7” manuscript marking means “weiterfranco” (paid beyond) in the amount of 7 silbergroschen, equivalent to the 17 cents NY credit.

The Indian PO sorters (team E) on the P & O packet Khedive applied this backstamp after the mail was placed aboard at Suez.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To CHINA

Single rate 10 cents per half oz, American packet via San Francisco and Yokohama. Mailed at New York on July 21st, probably in the 1870 - 1874 period, carried by rail to San Francisco where it was placed aboard a Pacific Mail Steamship Company packet and carried via Yokohama to Shanghai. Note the New York time-of-day circle date stamp, which is normally associated with domestic mails. This cover has a partially restored right edge. New York Foreign Mail covers to China are scarce.

This is the only known usage of this type five point star New York Foreign Mail cancellation on foreign mails. It is known on several domestic covers.

Only Reported Use
7/21/—
Incoming mail, fully prepaid, 10 cents per half oz, inbound steamship letter rate from the U.S. Postal Agency, Shanghai. A pre-printed address, commercial usage, it was dispatched from Shanghai 6/13/1871 aboard the Pacific Mail Steamship Company branch line packet Arizona and arrived Yokohama, Japan, on 6/21/1871. The Shanghai mails were transferred to PMSS steamer America which departed 6/22/1871 and arrived San Francisco 7/15/1871. The San Francisco Post Office forwarded it on to destination by rail on 7/16/1871 per backstamp.

This scarce circle datestamp is the 3rd type used by the Shanghai Agency, and its known usage is from March 1868 to October 1871. This is one of three recorded examples found on a letter franked with the 10 cent Jefferson stamp.
Incoming mail, fully prepaid, 10 cents per half oz, inbound contract steamship letter rate from the U.S. Postal Agency, Shanghai. Per backstamp, this letter was brought by Shanghai forwarding agent, Russell & Co, to the U.S. Postal Agency in the Shanghai Consul General’s Office on 10/11/1871. That office dispatched its outbound trans-Pacific mails on the Pacific Mail Steamship Company branch line packet New York which sailed 10/12/1871 and arrived Yokohama 10/20/1871. The mails were transferred to the PMSS steamer Japan which sailed 10/23/1871 and arrived at San Francisco on 11/15/1871. This letter was included in the overland mails sent onward by the San Francisco PO by rail on 11/16/1871 per transit marking. Notably, this cover was franked with a grilled 10 cent Jefferson stamp, which is believed to be the only existing such usage known from the U.S. Postal Agency, Shanghai. PF Certificate 0240943

This rarely seen datestamp was used by the Shanghai forwarding agent, Russell & Co, during the early 1870s.

The U.S. Postal Agency, Shanghai, used this circular datestamp from March 1868 through October 1871. This is one of two recorded usages found on letters franked with the 10 cent Jefferson stamp.
Incoming mail, fully prepaid, 10 cents per half oz, inbound steamship letter rate from the U.S. Postal Agency, Shanghai. This letter was dispatched in a closed mail bag 10/12/1873 aboard the Pacific Mail Steamship Company branch line steamer Costa Rica which arrived at Yokohama, Japan, 10/20/1873. There, the mails from the Shanghai Agency were transferred to the PMSS steamer Japan which departed 10/21/1873 and arrived San Francisco on 11/12/1873. The Foreign Division of the San Francisco PO opened the mail bags and sorted these incoming foreign mails. This letter was forwarded by rail to destination in New Hampshire.

This seldom seen circular datestamp saw intermittent usage from October 1872 through September 1875 and is normally found on incoming individual letters carried on inbound non-contract mail steamships.
Single rate 10 cents per half oz, American packet via San Francisco and Yokohama, Hong Kong special rate which included the dependent port of Amoy. Mailed at New York 3/20/1875 and carried by rail to San Francisco where it was placed aboard the Pacific Mail Steamship Company steam packet City of Tokio which sailed 4/1/1875. After calling at Yokohama, Japan, the City of Tokio arrived at Hong Kong per backstamp on 4/29/1875. Its treaty port and Shanghai mails were immediately transferred to the Peninsular & Orient Steam Navigation Company (British) steamer Lombardy which departed that same day. This letter arrived at Amoy on 5/1/1875 per docketing. China is a scarce destination for New York Foreign Mail covers, and this letter is a part of the well-known correspondence to the missionary Reverend Leonard Kip.

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of an elaborate negative geometric type is normally about 28-31mm in diameter.

Earliest Use
2/27/1875

Latest Use
8/19/1881
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To CHINA

Continental with secret mark

AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY, 
160 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK. 
RETURN AFTER TEN DAYS.

Received 25th March 1875 
Leonard Kip, Jr. 
Amoy China. 

Single rate 10 cents per half oz. American packet via San Francisco and Yokohama, Hong Kong special rate which included the dependent port of Amoy. Mailed at New York on 3/27/1875, it was carried by rail to San Francisco, where having missed the latest steamer for Hong Kong by two days, it was held and placed aboard the next Hong Kong steamer, the Pacific Mail Steamship Company steam packet China which sailed 4/17/1875. After calling at Yokohama, Japan, enroute during 5/12-14/1875, the PMSS China arrived at Hong Kong on 5/21/1875 per backstamp. The letter was then carried on the Peninsular & Orient Steam Navigation Company steamer Zambesi which sailed north for Shanghai from Hong Kong on 5/24/1875, calling enroute at the treaty port of Amoy on 5/25/1875, the destination of this letter. This cover is part of the extensive and well known Kip missionary correspondence. Ex Van Vlissingen-Waud and ex-Weiss

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of a 4-point star type is normally 27-29mm in diameter. Scarce on cover, it is one of nine recorded uses of which three have 10 cent Jefferson franking.

Earliest Use 8/21/1873
Latest Use 4/-/1875
Ten Cent Jefferson - Registered Foreign Mail Usage

To CHINA

American re-engraved

5 cents per half oz, UPU rate, plus 10 cents registry fee. This registered letter was mailed at Portland, OR, on 2/8/1887 and sent by rail to San Francisco. The SFPO Foreign Division affixed the red San Francisco Exchange label required by UPU convention on outgoing registered foreign mail. The letter was dispatched aboard the Pacific Mail Steamship Co steamer City of Sydney which sailed 2/13/1887 and arrived Hong Kong 3/24/1887. The Hong Kong PO advertised and held it for three months before marking it “unclaimed” and returning it in the mails for the USA. Upon arrival at San Francisco, it was sent on 8/13/1887 to the Dead Letter Office in Washington, DC, for final disposition.

This marking was applied to the reverse of the cover by Hong Kong postal authorities after it was not claimed at its general delivery window despite being advertised and held for about three months.

This triangular datestamp was struck on the reverse by the USPO’s Dead Letter Office at the completion of processing. In the 19th century there was only one such office, and it was located in Washington, DC.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To INDIA

Fully prepaid, single rate 22 cents/half oz, British mail via Southampton. Mailed 6/11/1872 at Boston, placed aboard Cunard steam packet *Hecla* departing 6/11/1872, arriving at Queenstown, Ireland on 6/21/1872. From there, it was carried by rail and ferry via London and then by steam packet to Alexandria, Egypt, where it was carried overland to Suez, departing 7/12/1872 on P & O steam packet *Cathay*, arriving Bombay on 7/25/1872, and finally overland to Ahmudungger Camp P.O. arriving 7/27/1872. Part of famous Bissell missionary correspondence to India.

Boston Exchange Office marking indicating 18 cents credit to Great Britain for onward portion of postage from Great Britain to India for single rate letter.

London Exchange Office marking indicating one pence credit from British Post Office to India.

This backstamp was applied by Indian PO sorters (sorter set or team C) aboard P & O packet *Cathay* while enroute between Suez and Aden.

This receiving circle date stamp on reverse was applied by the destination post office in India.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To INDIA

Total 44 cents postage paid, double rate 22 cents/half oz, British mail via Southampton. Mailed 12/4/1872 at Boston, mailbag carried by train to New York, placed aboard HAPAG steam packet *Silesia* departing 12/6/1872, arriving at Plymouth on 12/16/1872, thence via London to Southampton, departing 12/19/1872 on P & O Steamship Co packet *Delhi*, arriving at Alexandria on 1/4/1873, then overland to Suez, departing 1/6/1873 on P & O steam packet *Ellora*, arriving Bombay on 1/19/1873, and finally overland to Ahmedungger arriving 1/22/1873. Part of famous Bissell missionary correspondence to India.

Boston Exchange Office marking indicating 36 cents (18 cents x 2) credit to Great Britain for onward portion of postage from Great Britain to India for double rate letter.

London Exchange Office marking indicating 2 pence credit from British Post Office to India. Note also the lining out of the Boston credit marking.

This backstamp was applied by Indian PO sorters (sorter set D) aboard the P & O packet *Ellora* while enroute between Suez and Aden.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To INDIA

Continental with secret mark

Fully prepaid, single rate 17 cents per half oz, German mail, first month of this new and scarce rate usage. Mailed 7/12/1875 at Gettysburg and carried by rail to New York. Although endorsed “Via Southampton,” it was dispatched in sealed mailbags for German mail 7/13/1875 aboard the Guion steamer Wyoming, eventually transiting Munchen (Munich) on 7/27/1875 per backstamp. The Munich PO forwarded it to Suez where it was placed aboard the P&O steamer Thibet departing on 8/6/1875 and arrived Bombay on 8/18/1875. It traveled by rail to its addressed destination at Shahjahanpore in Northwest India, arriving 8/21/1875. From there it was forwarded postage due of 1 anna per boxed handstamp on reverse to addressee at Nainital where it arrived 8/23/1875, all per backstamps. Ex Albert and ex Ainsworth.

Red crayon “60” is the U.S. credit to Germany of 60 centimes, the proper credit for a 17-cent letter by German mail under the GPU convention. U.S. kept 5 cents and had to credit 12 cents or 60 centimes to Germany using the GPU conversion of 5 centimes = 1 cent. Since the 17-cent rate was effective only one year, the letter must have been sent in July 1875. If 1876, the credit would have been 5 cents or 25 centimes since the rate to India had been lowered to 10 cents.

This circular backstamp was used by Indian PO clerks (team A) in sorting mail aboard the P&O packet Thibet enroute between Suez and Bombay.
Single rate 21 cents per half oz, British mail via Southampton. The red-orange manuscript “80” is the US credit of 80 centimes (equivalent to 16 US cents) to the British in payment for onward movement to India. The large “4TH” handstamp is the British credit to the colonial India PO for internal postage within India. The letter was mailed 11/23/1875 at Audenried, PA, and sent by rail to New York. The NYPO Foreign Division dispatched the letter aboard the Cunard steamer Bothnia, which sailed 11/24/1875, arriving Queenstown, Ireland, 12/3/1875. There the mails were put ashore and sent onward by rail and ferry to London where they arrived 12/4/1875 per red-orange LONDON PAID circular datestamp. Although properly paid and endorsed “via Southampton,” the letter missed the Southampton P&O steamer sailing by two days. Rather than hold the letter, it was sent trans-Europe to Brindisi, Italy, to meet the 12/13/1875 sailing of the P&O steamer Hindostan from that port. Although the rate for this routing was 27 cents, no additional charge was made. The Hindostan arrived Alexandria, Egypt, 12/16/1875, where the mails were sent cross-isthmus by rail to the Red Sea port of Suez and placed aboard the P&O steamer Deccan, which departed 12/24/1875. The Deccan arrived Bombay, India, 1/5/1876, and the letter was sent by rail to Shahjahanpore in Northwest India, arriving 1/8/1876 per backstamp. Total transit was 47 days. The 21-cent British mail via Southampton rate was available only from July 1875 to June 1876 and is a very scarce usage. Ex Arthur White

This circular backstamp was applied by Indian PO clerks (team C) aboard the Deccan who sorted the mail in transit between Suez and Bombay. The date shown is always the Suez departure date.
Dual rate, U.S. transit cover: 10 cents per half oz, incoming steamship mail “blanket rate” for carriage from Japan to U.S.; and 9 cents French direct mail, overpaid 1 cent, for carriage from U.S. to France. At the time originally sent, the U.S. rate to France via direct mail was 10 cents per half oz, but this changed in August while the cover was enroute. By the time it cleared the NYPO Foreign Division in September 1874, the rate had been reduced to 9 cents per half oz.

This is an important postal history cover from the known Henon numbered correspondence. It is from a French mining engineer, Dr. Augustine Henon, at Ikuno, Japan, to his wife in Lyon, France, and is docketed 7/10/1874 as letter number 55 of the whole correspondence and number 44 of the covers sent from Ikuno. All Henon covers are small, as he used a double envelope system to send his letters from Ikuno to Yokohama inserted in larger envelopes for dispatch through the Japanese domestic mail and then passed on to U.S. or French consulates at Yokohama. From there they were forwarded on in a variety of manners. From Yokohama, this letter was sent privately outside the mails per favor of the captain of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company steamer *Japan* which departed Yokohama 8/3/1874 and arrived San Francisco on 8/24/1874. The captain properly tendered the letter as an inbound ship letter at the San Francisco PO which sent it by rail to New York on 8/25/1874 per circular datestamp. The NYPO Foreign division applied the faint red *NEW YORK/SEP 2/PAID* and sorted it to a French closed mail bag which was dispatched aboard the North German Lloyd steamer *Minister Room* which sailed 9/2/1874. After crossing the North Atlantic, the *Minister Room* put its French mail bags ashore at Le Havre, France, on 9/13/1874, which were placed aboard the Paris-bound traveling mail railcar and opened for sorting per French *ET-UNIS/13 SEPT 74/ANGL.AMB.HAVRE* double circle datestamp. Per backstamps, it transited Paris on 9/13/1874 and arrived Lyon on 9/14/1874. Total time in transit from Ikuno, Japan, to Lyon, France, was 66 days.

APEX Certificate 154514 and PF Certificate 0413121
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

From JAPAN to GERMANY

National without grill

Combination single rate, 10 cents per half oz, inbound steamship letter rate to the U.S. + 3 cents per half oz, U.S. domestic mail to transit across country + 7 cents per half oz, NGU closed mail via England, total 20 cents. Originated at Hiogo, Japan, 7/30/1872, per green merchant backstamp, carried privately to the U.S. Consul at Yokohama where it entered the mails 8/7/1872, dispatched 8/8/1872 aboard Pacific Mail Steamship Company packet Alaska, arrived San Francisco 8/31/1872, and forwarded 9/1/1872 to New York. There it was dispatched in closed mails 9/11/1872 aboard the Guion Line steamship Wyoming, put ashore at Queenstown, Ireland, 9/23/1872, forwarded cross channel by the British, and arrived Hamburg 9/26/1872 per backstamp.

This datestamp indicates this letter entered U.S. mails at the post office abroad at the U.S. Consular Office at Yokohama, Japan. This service was first approved by the U.S. Post Office Department in 1867.

This datestamp was applied at the Foreign Division of the NYPO where it was sent on as NGU closed mail via England.
Single rate 10 cents per half oz, inbound steamship letter rate to the U.S. This letter was placed in the mails at Yokohama, Japan, 3/10/1874 and dispatched aboard the Pacific Mail Steamship packet *Alaska* which departed 3/11/1874. It arrived at San Francisco 4/3/1874 and was forwarded on 4/4/1874 per circular datestamp by rail to New York.

In 1867 the USPOD approved a post office abroad at the U.S. Consular Office at Yokohama. This was the first circular datestamp used for outgoing mail at that facility.

This letter originated elsewhere in Japan and sent by means unknown to this forwarding agent in Yokohama. For a fee such agents undertook to see that the clients’ letters were transported to destination. These agents did not act as carriers themselves. This particular marking is very scarce.
Single rate 10 cents per half oz, UPU rate, plus 15 cents registry fee, for a total 25 cents paid. Mailed at New York 10/3/1885, this registered letter was dispatched to England aboard the Cunard Line steamship Servia, 7392 tons. (Note the red NY Registry Exchange Label used in accordance with an 1882 Universal Postal Union resolution which required them on international registered mail effective 1/1/1883.) The letter transited the London PO 10/12/1885 and was sent in the mails cross-channel by ferry and rail to Brindisi, Italy, where it was placed aboard the P&O steamship Tanjore which sailed 10/19/1885. Upon arrival 10/23/1885 at Alexandria, Egypt, the mails were sent by fast train to Suez where they were placed aboard the P&O steamship Surat which sailed that same day. The Surat arrived at Colombo, Ceylon, 11/5/1885 where the far east mails were transferred to the P&O steamship Malwa which sailed 11/6/1885 and arrived Singapore 11/12/1885. The Singapore colonial PO sent the letter onward by Dutch colonial steamer, arriving at the port of Semarang on the central north shore of the island of Java in the Netherlands East Indies on 11/18/1885 per backstamp. The total transit time was 47 days. (Note the blue pencil cross on the face of the envelope - as well as on the reverse - a British marking convention emphasizing its registered mail special handling requirement.) Registered covers to Java from this period are quite rare.
Single rate 10 cents per half oz, American packet via San Francisco to Hong Kong, thence British Packet. This letter was mailed 5/9/1884 at New York and sent by trans-continental rail to San Francisco. There it was dispatched 5/27/1884 aboard Occidental & Oriental Steamship Company packet *Oceanic* for Yokohama and Hong Kong. Arriving at Hong Kong on or about 6/25/1884, it was exchanged to the British colonial postal system and dispatched 7/3/1884 on the southbound P&O Steam Navigation Company packet *Massilia* arriving Singapore 7/8/1884. Onward carriage to Bangkok, Siam, was via local Singapore colonial mail feeder service. Examples of the trans-Pacific American packet rate to Siam from New York are believed to be scarce. Ex Albert and PF Certificate 448669

This backstamp was applied by the San Francisco PO Foreign Division upon receipt from New York. The Foreign Division made up the mail bags for dispatch aboard trans-Pacific contract carriers.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

Single rate 28 cents per half oz; British mail via Southampton. Mailed at Batavia, NY, on 11/6/1874, this letter was carried by rail to New York, where it was dispatched by contract mail steamer (North German Lloyd or White Star) on 11/7/1874. The mails were put ashore at Queenstown, Ireland, on 11/17/1874 and sent by rail and ferry to London, arriving 11/18/1874 per partial red-orange LONDON PAID circular datestamp. The London PO included the letter in the next mails made up for Cape Colony, Africa. These were placed aboard a Union Line steamer which departed from Southampton on 11/26/1874 and arrived after a passage of 26 days at Cape Town on 12/22/1874 per circular datestamp. Ex Starnes & PF Certificate 460169

This circular datestamp was applied by the Foreign Division of the New York PO. The “24” denotes the credit in U.S. cents to Great Britain for onward carriage of the letter to destination with 2 cents domestic and 2 cents sea postage retained by the U.S.

This London Exchange Office marking recognizes the one pence credit (equivalent to 2 cents U.S.) from the London PO to Cape Colony for local domestic postage.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usage

To CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

Continental with secret mark

Single rate 10 cents per half oz, UPU. This letter was mailed from Nantucket, MA, on 3/22/1878 and sent to London in open mails, arriving 4/2/1878 for transit on to destination. The Cape Verde Islands are located about 500 miles west-northwest of the west African port city of Dakar, Senegal, and are a rare postal history destination for this period.

This London Exchange Office circular datestamp reflects the open mail service given to the cover. The route was from the U.S. (either Boston or New York) and thence by British mails to St. Vincent in the Cape Verde Islands.
Single rate 17 cents per half oz, North German Union closed mail, underpaid 7 cents. Mailed 3/20/1874 from Weston (there were no fewer than 20 towns by that name during this period). By red pencil the NYPO Foreign Division initially credited NGU 10 cents. This was marked out and the proper credit of 4 cents annotated, again by red pencil. The letter was dispatched 3/24/1874 on the Eagle Line steamer Goethe, 3400 tons, scheduled to sail that day. However, it actually sailed 3/25/1874 and arrived Hamburg 4/6/1874. The large, stylized black “3” handstamp was applied by a NGU clerk noting the 3 silbergroschen (equal to about 7 cents) postage due. It was sent on by rail to Triest, arriving 4/8/1874 per backstamp and dispatched by steamship to Alexandria, arriving 4/17/1874 per backstamp. Here the letter was hand-stamped with the very indistinct AFF. INSUFF. marking, which in Italian means “affrancatura insufficiente” or insufficiently paid. (In 1865 the Egyptian government had bought out the privately-owned Italian “Poste Europa,” one of six European government post offices maintained in Egypt to provide internal postal service, thus the Italian language marking.) The blue crayon “1 - 20” denoted the 1 piaster 20 paras (equal to about 7 cents) postage due, restating the NGU due marking in local currency. The letter arrived Cairo 4/17/1874 per backstamp.

**INSUFFICIENTLY PAID**

This handstamp was applied by the NYPO Foreign Division to call attention to its postage due status as it moved through the mails.

**unzurreichend frankirt**

This handstamp was applied by the NGU at Hamburg to restate the postage due status of the letter while being carried by its mail service.
Single rate 27-cents per half oz, British mails. Mailed 7/11/1878 at Unadilla, NE, and sent by rail to New York, where the New York Exchange Office dispatched it by contract mail steamer to England on 7/16/1878. The “110” of the red “opera glass” double circular NY datestamp indicates 110 French centimes (22-cents US equivalent) credit to Great Britain (French centimes being the treaty approved accountancy medium between countries at that time). The US retained 5-cents under UPU. The British postal authorities likely dispatched the letter in its closed mail bags for Mauritius from Southampton, England, aboard a British Union Castle Line steam packet to Cape Town, South Africa, and then onward by that line’s service to the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius. The Mauritius PO forwarded it by local shipping to Tamatave on the east coast of Madagascar, an island off east Africa. PF Certificate 473620

Per this circular datestamp, the letter arrived at London 7/27/1878 and was fully paid to destination.
Single rate 16 cents per half oz, British mail via Marseilles. This whaling ship correspondence was mailed at New Bedford, MA, 3/13/1877 and sent to the Boston Post Office where the exchange office dispatched it by steamship to England. It arrived at the London Exchange Office 3/26/1877 which forwarded it via Marseilles, France, to destination. The large red manuscript “55” on the face was applied by the Boston Exchange Office to denote the 55 centimes (equal to 11 cents) credit to England for the carriage of the letter from England to destination. Note that following the signing of the General Postal Union treaty, all credits and debits were required to be in French francs and centimes, thus the 55 centimes credit in this case. The letter is addressed to a member of the crew of the sailing bark Atlantic, 297 tons, under the command of Captain Benjamin F. Wing. The Atlantic had sailed from New Bedford in August 1876 on an extended whaling voyage to the Indian Ocean and returned in September 1879. During the voyage the Atlantic took 425 barrels of sperm-oil, 950 barrels of whale-oil, and 7,000 pounds of whalebone.

This red LONDON PAID on the face of the cover was applied by the London Exchange Office on the date indicated when the letter was processed for dispatch to Mauritius.
Double rate, 5 cents per half oz, General Postal Union. The letter was mailed at Pilot Point, TX 8/5/1889 and sent by rail to the Foreign Division of the New York Post Office. It was included in the open mail bags to Great Britain dispatched on a contract steamer and arrived at the London Post Office 8/19/1889 per backstamp. London sent it per docketing instructions cross channel for carriage by rail to Lisbon, Portugal, arriving there 8/23/1889 per backstamp. Lisbon included it in their mails for the Portuguese colonies along the west coast of Africa where it was delivered to the British Consul at St Paul de Loanda (modern day Luanda, capital of Angola). This is a second month usage of GPU (later Universal Postal Union or UPU) rates to Portuguese Angola, a rare postal history destination during this period.

This is the circular date stamp found on the reverse of the cover and applied upon receipt by the Lisbon Post Office from London.
Single rate 27 cents per half oz, British open mail via England. Mailed at New Bedford, MA, 8/8/1881 and sent by rail to New York where it was forwarded in the open mails to England on 8/10/1881. It arrived at London on 8/22/1881 per backstamp from whence it was dispatched via either the Union Line or the Castle Line which provided alternate weekly sailings to Capetown, stopping enroute at St. Helena, an island in the South Atlantic, where it arrived 9/24/1881. The letter is addressed to the Captain Andrew R. Heyer of the sailing bark Wanderer, 303 tons, a whaling vessel on a whaling voyage in the south Atlantic Ocean that left New Bedford in June 1878 and returned May 1882. While in the south Atlantic, it was expected to call periodically at St. Helena and thus this letter. During its extended voyage, it took whales that yielded 1,600 barrels of sperm-oil and 1,000 barrels of whale-oil. Covers to this destination are quite scarce.

When the General Postal Union went into effect 7/1/1875, accounting between member countries had to be made in French francs and centimes. In 1881 the British transit rate to St. Helena was 11 pence or 22 U.S. cents. Add this to the 5 cent GPU/UPU rate from the U.S. to England to get the overall 27 cent rate to St. Helena. 22 cents was equivalent to 1 franc 10 centimes, or 110 centimes. Thus, the 110 credit to England is shown on this NYPO Foreign Division “opera glass” postmark for the transit onward from there to St. Helena.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To SYRIA

Rev. JAMES S. DENNIS,
BEIRUT.

FRENCH MAIL. 
Via MARSEILLES. 

Unpublished “phantom rate” 28 cents per half oz, via combined British open mails (single rate) and French mails (two rates - 10 to 15 grams), overpaid 2 cents-U.S. retained 4 cents only. The letter was mailed at Newark, NJ, 7/25/1870, dispatched by the NY Exchange Office 7/27/1870 aboard the Guion Line steam packet Wisconsin (first voyage), arrived Queenstown, Ireland, 8/8/1870, transited London 8/9/1870, Calais and Paris 8/10/1870, Marseilles, and on to Beirut, Syria, by French steamer, arriving 8/30/1870. Per pre-printed routing, it was probably originally franked for the expired French treaty mails single rate to Syria of 30 cents per half oz.

This NY Exchange Office cds on the reverse is consistent with “phantom rate” usage, as the letter was sufficiently prepaid to cover an unpublished but known routing via British open mails and then on via British-French treaty mails.

The faint red marking under the Newark cds is this London PAID, by which England recognized the letter was fully prepaid.

This was the credit by the NY Exchange Office to England. England was only entitled to 24 cents of which France would be credited 18 cents by them. However, NY credited everything except what belonged to U.S.

The Beirut receiving backstamp is typical of the types used by the French mails. France operated post offices in Beirut as part of the French Levant from 1857 to 1885.
10 cents per half oz, UPU via Aden. This letter to a whaling ship captain was mailed at New Bedford, MA, on 8/19/1878 and sent by trans-Atlantic contract mail steamer to Europe. It transited Brindisi, Italy, on 9/4/1878, from whence it was carried by steamer via Suez and Aden to Zanzibar, arriving 10/13/1878 per circular datestamp on the cover’s face. This is one of only two recorded covers to Zanzibar franked with the 10-cent Banknote stamp issues used in the 1870s and 1880s. Ex Dubro Ex Walkley PF Certificate 546234

This type of datestamp is recognized by postal historians as the Proud Type D2 and was used by the Zanzibar PO (operated by the Indian Post Office under the authority of the British Consulate at Zanzibar) from 6/1/1878 to 7/31/1879, thus year-dating this cover.

This circular datestamp was applied on the reverse by the Italian PO at Brindisi, a port located on the Adriatic Sea in the heel of the Italian boot. Although actual routing to destination is not ascertained, French mail steamers of the Messageries Maritimes were known to operate via Suez & Aden in the Indian Ocean littoral during this period.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To BALEARIC ISLANDS

Single rate 28 cents per half oz, British open mail via France - a short lived rate in effect from January to October 1870. Mailed at New York and dispatched 6/15/1870 per red (orange) NEW YORK PAID ALL/Br TRANSIT circle date stamp on reverse. The open mail bag was placed aboard the Guion Line steam packet Nebraska, 3,900 tons, on the dispatch date, arrived Queenstown 6/26/1870, transited London 6/27/1870, forwarded via Paris and arrived Yviza (Ibiza), Ibiza Island in the western Mediterranean, about 7/3/1870 per inner docketing. The red (orange) PD in small oval is a British marking which stands for “fully prepaid to destination.” This is one of five NY Foreign Mail covers reported to the Balearic Islands.

Earliest Use
6/11/1870

Latest Use
6/18/1870

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of a traditional crossroads type is scarce and normally about 24-25mm in diameter. Only six covers with this cancel are recorded.

This handstamp was applied by the NY Exchange Office to indicate a credit of 24 cents to Great Britain for the onward portion of postage from England to the Balearic Islands.
Double 10 cents per half oz, Belgian closed mail via England. This letter is part of the Drummond correspondence which is known for its variety of black and blue Chicago geometric cancellations. It was mailed at Chicago on 12/30/1872 and sent by rail to New York. The Foreign Division of the NYPO applied the red-orange NEW YORK PAID ALL circular datetamst and the blue pencil “2” denoting two rates, and dispatched it 1/8/1873 aboard the Guion steamer Nevada which put its mails ashore at Queenstown, Ireland, 1/19/1873. The Belgian closed mail bag was sent on by rail and ferry to Brussels, arriving 1/21/1873 per backstamp. The franking is a pair of 10-cent grilled stamps of the U.S. Issue of 1870. Notable is that the left stamp of the pair has no discernible grill while the right stamp has a split late state type H grill. In addition, the cover is signed on back, “Found March 21, 1927, J. M. Bartels” who was a distinguished philatelist and postal historian. PF Certificate 90846 and PF Certificate 496730

This particular type of Chicago geometric cancel was not included in Paul K. Berg’s authoritative Chicago Blue Postal Markings, 1870-1877. The letter received at least two strikes of the geometric hand-stamp displayed at right.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To DENMARK

Single rate 13 cents per half oz, North German Union direct mail (last month of rate). Mailed at New York and dispatched 6/9/1870 aboard the North German Lloyd steam packet Hannover, transited Bremen 6/24/1870, and arrived Copenhagen 6/25/1870. The large 12.5mm red “2 1/2” was applied by New York Exchange Office denoting a credit to NGU for the prepaid onward movement of the letter from Bremen, Germany to Denmark. NYFM covers to Denmark are scarce.

This NYFM cancellation of a traditional crossroads type is normally 24-25mm in diameter and scarce.

Earliest Use
6/9/1870

Latest Use
6/18/1870

This marking was applied at Bremen upon arrival. “Franco” was used by NGU to indicate the letter was fully prepaid to Germany.

This New York Exchange Office circle date stamp is found on the reverse, instead of the more normal front of the letter and denotes the date of dispatch by steamer.

Also applied at Bremen, this marking restated the 2 1/2 cents credit in silbergroschen for forwarding the letter on to Denmark. “Weiterfr.” stands for weiterfranco or “paid beyond.”
Ten Cent Jefferson - Registered Foreign Mail Usages

To ENGLAND

Continental with secret mark

Double 5 cents per half oz, UPU, plus 10 cents registry fee. Mailed at Philadelphia 2/9/1876 and arrived at Birmingham, England, 2/21/1876 per backstamp. The routing was Philadelphia to New York by rail and then by steamer to England. This 3-color franked cover represents a scarce usage because the stamps are affixed to a 7 cent vermillion on amber paper U.S. Post Office embossed envelope. This embossed envelope was printed by George H. Reay of Brooklyn, NY, under contract to the Post Office and was first issued in 1871 about a year after the rest of the Issue of 1870. It’s purpose was to prepay one-half oz North German Union direct mail letters to Prussia and the other German states, as well as the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. This rate had been reduced from 10 cents effective July 1, 1870, after the rest of the issue had already been contracted. Later, after the direct mail rate was further reduced to 6 cents, the 7 cent rate became applicable to these countries for the closed mail rate via England. In 1872 the closed mail rate to Denmark was also made 7 cents. The usage to England on this cover was post-July 1, 1875, when the UPU uniform 5 cents per half oz rate between the U.S. and most of Europe became effective.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To FINLAND (RUSSIA)

National without grill

Single rate 11 cents per half oz, NGU closed mail via England (a 1-cent US stamp was originally present at upper right but is now missing). Mailed at New York 1/24/1873, the letter was dispatched on the HAPAG steam packet *Silesia* which put its closed mail bags ashore at Plymouth, England, on 2/3/1873. The cross channel NGU closed mails were forwarded via Belgium to Aachen, Germany, where the mail bags were opened and sorted. This letter was sent by rail to St. Petersburg, Russia, arriving there per backstamp Julian calendar 1/27/1873 - 2/8/1873 by Gregorian calendar used in the U.S. and Europe. It was sent onward to Christinestad, Finland, then a grand duchy of Russia, arriving that same day per partial boxed black datestamp at the top of the cover. The red script handstamp “Franco” means fully prepaid and was probably applied at St. Petersburg. US covers to Finland during this period are rare. This cover is believed to be the only known NYFM cover to Finland.

The 4 in this NYPO Foreign Division datestamp denotes the 4 cents credit to NGU for the onward carriage of the letter to Finland.

The handstamp at right was applied at the Aachen exchange office. The “Wfr” stands for weiterfranco or “paid beyond.” The 1-1/2 silbergroschen equals about 4 US cents and restates the credit on the NY datestamp above for forwarding the letter to Russian Finland.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To FRANCE

National with grill

10 cents per half oz, American or French packet direct. This folded letter sheet was mailed at Washington, DC, on 7/17/1870. It represents a very early usage of the 10 cent Type H grilled stamp of the U.S. grilled issues of 1870, being cancelled only six days after the earliest recorded usage. The cover was sent by rail to New York where it was dispatched aboard the HAPAG steamer Cinbría which departed 6/21/1870. The French mails were put ashore at Cherbourg 7/2/1870, sent by rail to Paris arriving 7/3/1870, and then forwarded to Havre, arriving also on 7/3/1870 per backstamp.

PF Certificate 0303488 and PF Certificate 498249

This datestamp was actually applied on the date shown at the foreign division of the Paris PO, and indicates the letter was from the U.S. and entered France at Cherbourg.

By French Imperial decree of 12/22/1869 and effective 1/1/1870, letters arriving in France by the direct U.S.-France route were subject to 8 decimes (about 15 U.S. cents) postage due for internal postage, as this postal rate only covered carriage to the French frontier. This stylized blue 8 handstamp is unusual in that such handstamps were commonly struck in black.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To FRANCE

National without grill

Supplementary mail usage 10 cents fee plus single rate 10 cents per half oz, direct mail via American contracted packet, for total 20 cents postage paid. Mailed 9/26/1871 at New York pierside instead of at the post office, thus the supplementary mail fee, placed aboard Hamburg - American (HAPAG) Line steam packet Thuringia, 3200 tons, landed at Cherbourg, France, 10/7/1871, forwarded via Paris 10/8/1871, and arrived Lyon, France, 10/9/1874 per backstamp.

This was the first type of the NY Supplementary Mail markings used and normally struck in red. One of only three reported such covers with 10 cent Jefferson franking.

Earliest Banknote Use
1/4/1871

Latest Banknote Use
6/11/1873

Only reported example of this New York Foreign Mail cancellation of a traditional 5-bar grid type.

Only Known Use
9/26/1871
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To FRANCE

National without grill

4th progression, 26 cents for 2/3 - 1 oz, open mail via England. The letter was dispatched 7/20/1872 aboard the Inman Line steam packet City of Montreal, 4450 tons, arrived Queenstown 7/31/1872, transited London 8/1/1872 and Calais 8/2/1872, and arrived Angouleme 8/2/1872 per receiving backstamp. As further explained below, this is an example of **marginal rate letter** that when weighed at the New York Post Office window weighed over 2/3 oz but less than 1 oz, which describes the accepted postal weights for 4th progression rated letters, thus the 26-cent franking.

Earliest Use
7/21/1870

Latest Use
4/26/1873

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of a traditional circular 6-bar grid type is actually scarce and normally about 21mm in diameter.

When this letter was weighed in grams at the NYPO Exchange Office, it must have scaled at more than 18.98 grams (2/3 oz), but not more than 20 grams, the upper limit for 3rd progression. Therefore, the Exchange Office applied the above red (orange) circular date stamp indicating only 12 cents credit to Great Britain, not the 18 cents credit due a proper gram-weighed 4th progression letter (the USPO retaining 14 cents in this case).
Triple rate 10 cent per half oz, American or French packet direct. Mailed at New York City on 9/7/1872, this letter was rated for carriage in direct mails aboard the French Line packet departing that same day. French direct mails were only partially prepaid as far as the port of entry in France. However, as explained under the NEW YORK PAID graphic below, the letter was actually dispatched to the French open mails via England route sent aboard the Inman steam packet City of Paris which also departed on 9/7/1872. The City of Paris sent its mails ashore at Queenstown, Ireland, on 9/16/1872, which were then carried by ferry and express trains to London. There, the open mail bags were sorted and this letter sent onward on 9/17/1872, transited Calais 9/18/1872, and arrived per backstamp at Angouleme on 9/18/1872. PF Certificate 0306801.

Earliest Use
4/14/1870

Latest Use
4/23/1879

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of a traditional crossroads type is one of the most widely used and with many varieties.

An example of a marginal weight letter, when the letter was weighed in grams at the NY Exchange Office, it scaled at more than 28.45 grams (one oz), but not more than 30 grams. Thus, it qualified for the better, fully prepaid 4th progression open mail rate service and received the red (orange) circular date stamp above denoting 18 cents credit to Great Britain (the USPO keeping 12 cents) for onward movement to addressee in France.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To FRANCE

1st progression, 10 cents for 0 - 1/3 oz rate, open mail via England. Mailed 11/15/1872 at New York, placed aboard mail packet at New York on 11/16/1872, transited London on 11/30/1872, and arrived Bordeaux, France, on 12/2/1872. The NEW PAID YORK/6 circle date stamp was applied by the New York Exchange Office and indicates a 6 cents credit to Great Britain for onward movement to destination in France. The red (orange) PD in small circle handstamp was applied by British postal authorities and means “paid to destination.” A very late usage of a grilled stamp, it is ex Van Vlissingen-Waud, ex Beals, and has PF Certificate 188208.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To FRANCE

1st progression 10 cents for 0 - 1/3 oz, open mail via England (6 cents credit to England). Mailed at New York City by a house and insurance agent to his client in Paris, the letter was addressed in care of the well known Paris forwarding agent, John Monroe & Co. It was likely dispatched 2/19/1873 aboard the Guion Line steamer Nevada which landed its mails 3/1/1873 at Queenstown, Ireland, where they were forwarded on to London by rail and ferry. The open mail bag was sorted at London on 3/3/1873 per red (orange) LONDON/PAID datestamp, where the London clerk also affixed the red PD in oval acknowledging the letter was fully paid to destination. It then transited Calais on 3/4/1873, was sent on by rail to Paris arriving that same day, and was duly delivered there to John Monroe & Sons. After holding the letter for some days, it was forwarded on 3/14/1873 per backstamp to Modena, Italy, where it arrived on or about 3/16/1873, per blue French circular datestamp.

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of a simple geometric type normally measures about 30x30mm. It is scarce on cover, this being one of two recorded used with the 10 cent Jefferson stamp.

Earliest Use
2/19/1873

Latest Use
3/15/1873
1st progression, 10 cents for 0 - 1/3 oz, open mail via England. Mailed at and dispatched by the Detroit Exchange Office 5/15/1873, conveyed on the Canadian Grand Trunk Railway from Detroit to Riviere du Loup, the mail terminus established on the St. Lawrence River 120 miles below Quebec, where it was embarked and departed aboard Canada’s Allan Line steamer Circassian on 5/17/1873. After crossing the north Atlantic, the mails were off-loaded at Londonderry (port city of Moville), Ireland, carried by train to Dublin, then by steamer ferry to Liverpool, and by rail to London, arriving 5/28/1873 per circular datestamp. The mail bags were opened and sorted there, the letter dispatched on to France via Calais, and arrived at Paris that same day. PF Certificate 0417913

Postal markings of the Detroit Exchange Office are quite scarce. That office only made up foreign mails for Europe from the states of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky that were sent via Allan Line steamship out of Canada.

This handstamp was applied by the Detroit Exchange Office to denote the 6 cent credit to England. Not immediately noticeable, it is located under the overlap of the red London Paid and CD in circle.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usage

To FRANCE

National without grill

20 cents 1/2 - 2/3 oz 3rd progression rate, open mail via England. Mailed at San Francisco, CA, 6/15/1873, it was sent by rail to New York. The Foreign Division of the NYPO included the letter in its open mail bags for England which were dispatched aboard the Guion Line steam packet Nevada, 3125 tons, which sailed 6/25/1873. The Nevada put its mails ashore off Queenstown, Ireland, from whence they were forwarded by rail and ferry to London, arriving 7/7/1873. The London PO opened and sorted the mails, forwarding this letter by ferry cross channel to Calais, and then onward by rail arriving first at Paris 7/8/1873 and then continuing by rail to Bordeaux, France, arriving 7/9/1873 per backstamp. The rate required for this letter is an example of a scarce usage.

This circular datestamp was applied by the NYPO Foreign Division and indicates the letter was fully prepaid to destination with a credit of 12 cents to England for onward post to France.

This circular datestamp was applied by the London PO upon arrival during sorting and annotates the date of dispatch to Calais, France.
To FRANCE forwarded to SWITZERLAND

1st progression, 10 cents for 0 - 1/3 oz, open mail via England. This letter was mailed at New York and dispatched on 7/31/1873 in a sealed bag of open mails for England aboard Hamburg-American steamship Westphalia, 3150 tons, which off-loaded its British mails at Plymouth on 8/10/1873. These were sent by rail arriving 8/11/1873 at London where open mails were sorted, and this letter was sent onward in the daily British cross channel mails to Calais, France, arriving there that same day. At Calais, the mails were placed aboard the traveling mail railcar for Paris, sorted enroute, and arrived Paris also on 8/11/1873. The Paris forwarding agent Hottinguer & Co picked the letter up at the post office, re-addressed it, added the 30 centimes stamp of the French issue of 1872, and re-mailed the letter on 8/12/1873. It transited Luzern, Switzerland, on 8/13/1873 and arrived at Engelberg approximately 20 miles south of Luzern on 8/14/1873 per backstamps. The red PD in circle was applied in London indicating “paid to destination.” The claret boxed PD is the French abbreviation for “port paye jusqu’a destination,” indicating the forwarded letter was also prepaid to destination. This is a scarce example of a pre-UPU mixed U.S. and French issues usage.

This traditional NY Foreign Mail cancellation of a complete 19mm circular six bar grid has one bar missing on the cover due to a partial mis-strike by the clerk during cancellation.

The 6 in this NYFM postmark recognizes the 6 cents credited to Great Britain in payment for prepaid carriage on to addressee in France and is known only in the color shown.
4th progression 26 cents 2/3—1 oz. open mail via England, a scarce rate. Mailed at Boston on 7/14/1874, the Boston Exchange Office sorted it to an open mail bag for England and sent it to New York by rail where the open mail bag was dispatched aboard the Cunard Line steamship Scotia (3871 tons and the last of the Cunard paddle steamers) which sailed 7/15/1874. The mails were put ashore at Queenstown, Ireland, on 7/24/1874 and forwarded by rail and ferry to London. The London Exchange Office sorted the open mail bag on 7/25/1874 and sent the letter on to Calais arriving that same day. From there it went by Calais-to-Paris traveling mail railcar, arriving Paris 7/26/1874 per backstamp. Note the large manuscript red pencil “18/2” denoting the Boston Exchange Office credit of 18 cents to England for the 2-rate letter. The pre-printed return address of the cover is that of the well known Boston investment firm of Kidder, Peabody & Co. Ex Berkinshaw-Smith and ex “Patrick Henry.”

This circular dastestamp of the Boston Exchange Office is believed to be the only known usage, as it is not recorded in the exhaustive study of Boston Postmarks done by Blake and Davis in 1949.
Double rate 9 cents per half oz, French treaty-closed mail via England, overpaid 2 cents. Mailed at New York and dispatched in sealed bag for French mails 9/26/1874 on North German Lloyd steam packet Hohenstaufen, 3,000 tons, with the mail bag forwarded upon arrival at Southampton 10/8/1874 to France and the letter arriving at destination 10/10/1874 per backstamp. As this letter was mailed during the second month of the new French treaty rates, it may have been franked by sender as a 3rd progression open mail via England rate letter, but sent direct service by the NY Exchange Office. The French red boxed P.D. acknowledged the letter was fully paid to destination.

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of a multiple pointed star type is normally 26-29mm in diameter.

Earliest Use
9/17/1874

Latest Use
11/30/1874
To France

Double 9 cents per half oz, French closed mail (overpaid 7 cents). Mailed at Poughkeepsie, NY, on 11/10/1874, the letter was sent by rail to New York. The NY Exchange Office of the NYPO dispatched it in closed mails for France on 11/11/1874 aboard the Cunard steamship Abyssinia, 3376 tons. The ship put its mails ashore at Queenstown, Ireland, 11/20/1874. The French closed mails were trans-shipped by rail and ferry cross-channel to Calais, France, and then by rail to Paris, arriving 11/22/1874 per backstamp. The letter was addressed in care of the well-known forwarding agent, Monroe & Co, of Paris, who forwarded it privately to the addressee in Munich, Germany, who received it 11/25/1874 per docketing. The amount of the 7 cents overpayment of postage is unusual. Although the November 1874 issue of United States Mail & Post Office Assistant showed the old open mail via England progression rates as still valid, the 4th progression rate (letter weighing more than 2/3 oz but not more than one oz) was 26 cents, not the 25 cents franking affixed to the letter. In any case, the new French-U.S. Postal Convention of 1874 had gone into effect on August 1st, over three months earlier. Since this letter was dispatched in French closed mails at the double rate of 18 cents under the new convention, the USPO retained the 7 cents overage.

This circular datestamp was applied by the NY Exchange Office. PAID indicated the letter was fully prepaid to destination in Paris.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To FRANCE

Continental with secret mark

P.S. O. Hermann

Monsieur Olivier ami

Rue du 20 Juin

Marseille, France

Single rate 9 cents per half oz, French mail direct, overpaid 1 cent. Mailed at New York and dispatched 1/30/1875 aboard the North German Lloyd Line steamer Hermann, which arrived Southampton, England, 2/10/1875. The closed mail bag for France was transshipped and arrived Calais, France, 2/11/1875. There it was placed aboard the Calais - Paris traveling railroad post office, the mail bag was opened, and the mail sorted. This letter continued on by rail and arrived Marseille 2/12/1875.

Earliest Use
1/13/1875

Latest Use
2/20/1875

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of an eight point star type was normally 29-32mm in diameter.

The PD in this French marking stands for "port paye jusqu’a destination" which translates to fully prepaid to destination.
Double 10 cents per half oz, North German Union closed mail. This letter was mailed at New York and dispatched in German closed mails on 10/8/1870 aboard the Inman steam packet City of Paris, 3000 tons. The mails were put ashore at Queenstown, Ireland, on 10/17/1870, and the German closed mails were sent onward by rail and ferry, arriving Cologne, Germany, 10/19/1870 per backstamp.

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of the traditional spoke type is found 21-23mm in diameter. The partial strikes on this letter resulted when the mail clerk's canceller struck the letter obliquely multiple times - not uncommon when multiple stamps needed to be cancelled.

Earliest Use
4/11/1870

Latest Use
12/19/1876
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To PRUSSIA (GERMANY)

National with grill

10 cents per half oz, North German Union closed mail via England. This leaf tobacco and cigar advertising cover, franked with a type H grilled 10 cent Jefferson stamp, was mailed at Baltimore on 11/15/1870 and sent by train to New York. Per docketing, the New York Exchange Office dispatched it in the closed mails for Germany aboard the Guion steamer Nevada, 3125 tons, which sailed 11/16/1870, debarking its mail bags off Queenstown, Ireland, on 11/26/1870. The closed mails proceeded by rail and ferry cross-channel to Germany, arriving at Gottingen, Prussia, 11/29/1870 per backstamp. The year of mailing is deduced as 1870, as the closed mail rate to the North German Union was reduced to 7 cents on 10/1/1871. PF Certificate #478223

This NY Foreign Mail circular datestamp was applied by the NY Exchange Office (NYPO Foreign Division) indicating its British transit routing.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Registered Foreign Mail Usage

To PRUSSIA (GERMANY)

Continental with secret mark

6 cents per half oz, North German Union direct mail, plus 8 cents registry fee, for a total of 14 cents. This registered letter was mailed at New York City 3/3/1875 and sent in a sealed direct mail bag aboard the Hamburg-American (HAPAG) Line steamship Suevia, 3600 tons, which sailed 3/4/1875. Upon arrival in Hamburg on or about 3/18/1875, the Eingeschrieben (registered) label was affixed. The letter was then sent onward in German domestic mails and was ready for delivery in Leobschuetz on 3/20/1875.

This Exchange Office handstamp of the NYPO was applied to specify the routing of the letter and that the letter was fully prepaid.

This circular negative B cancel was applied when the letter was posted in New York City at the Branch Station B office on 3/3/1875. The letter was then sent to the Exchange Office at the main Post Office for processing for the foreign mails.

Upon arrival of the registered letter at Leobschuetz, this circular datestamp was applied to the back of the envelope to indicate its availability for delivery.
Quadruple 5 cents per half oz, UPU rate, for a total of 20 cents plus 10 cents registry fee paid. Mailed at New York 12/17/1884, it was dispatched in a sealed registered mail bag aboard the Cunard steamship Oregon, 7375 tons. The letter arrived at Lobau (about 50 miles east of Dresden) in Saxony, Germany, on 12/27/1884 per backstamp. Note the red New York Exchange label indicating its registered letter status, as well as the large magenta triangle-in-circle handstamp on reverse associated with NY registered mail.
5 cents per half oz, UPU rate plus 10 cents registry fee. This registered letter with printed cachet of a philatelic wholesale importer was mailed at Paris, Texas, 8/9/1888 and sent by rail to the registry division of the New York Post Office, arriving there 8/14/1888 per backstamp. That division affixed the numbered orange New York Exchange accountability label for registered letters and sent it in a sealed registered mail bag aboard a contract steamship for Germany. It arrived at Leipzig in Saxony, Germany, on 8/25/1888 per backstamp and was delivered to the addressee that same day per boxed merchant date stamp on front.
HIGH VALUES To GERMANY

American Issue of 1879, Design of 1873
American Issue of 1882. Design of 1873 re-engraved

La Gascogne. Registered.

Berlin,
Germany.

This cover front of a larger registered high value document packet was sent from New York to a firm in Berlin and illustrates the usage of high value franking from two different issues. This piece was mailed 9/3/1887, and the stamps applied paid the rate for 13 oz (26 times 5-cents per half oz, UPU) plus 10-cents registry fee, for a total of $1.40. The manuscript “La Gascogne” is docketing for carriage in the mails placed aboard the French Line steamer La Gascogne, which entered service in 1886 and sailed between LeHavre and New York. It was part of a class of liners known for their speed and were capable of making the trans-Atlantic run in 7 days.

The French Line steamship La Gascogne, 6800 tons
HIGH VALUES To GERMANY

American Issue of 1888, Design of 1873
American issue of 1862, Design of 1873 re-engraved

Berlin,
Germany.

These cover fronts from two larger registered high value document packets were sent from the same NY firm to Berlin and illustrate similar usages of three different issues of high values. The above piece was mailed 8/28/1889 with the stamps paying the rate for 10 oz (20 times 5-cents per half oz, UPU) plus 10-cents registry fee, for a total of $1.10. The franking on the piece below paid the rate for 7.5 oz (15 times 5-cents per half oz, UPU) plus 10-cents registry fee, for a total of 85 cents.

American Issue of 1888, Design of 1873
American issue of 1882, Design of 1873 re-engraved
American Issue of 1879, Design of 1873
Double rate 10 cents per half oz, Netherlands closed mail. Mailed at New York and sent in closed mail bag aboard Inman steam packet *City of Paris* 10/7/1871, which arrived at Queenstown, Ireland, 10/16/1871. Per receiving circle date stamp on reverse, this letter arrived Amsterdam 10/18/1871.

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of an 8-point star type is 26mm square and considered scarce.

Earliest Use
5/23/1871

Latest Use
12/11/1872
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To HOLLAND

National without grill

Single rate 10 cents per half oz, Netherlands closed mail. Mailed at New York and dispatched in closed mail bag aboard Inman steam packet City of London 12/2/1871, arriving Queenstown, Ireland, 12/13/1871. The receiving circle date stamp on the reverse shows the letter reached Amsterdam 12/15/1871.

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of a simple geometric type is approximately 21mm in diameter and considered quite scarce.

Earliest Use 11/19/1871

Latest Use 12/2/1871

This handstamp on reverse is similar to those used to denote transit through a European border exchange office. Such usually had their own special marking. This marking would seem to indicate the sealed mail bag was opened for sorting as it transited the Dutch border.
Single rate 10 cents per half oz, Netherlands closed mail via England. This cover was mailed at New York City and included in a sealed mail bag for Holland. The mail bag was placed aboard the Guion Line steam packet Nevada which departed New York 6/5/1872. The Nevada went aground in a fog near Queenstown, Ireland, on 6/16/1872, at which time the mail was put ashore. The cover was forwarded in its closed mail bag to Holland and arrived in Amsterdam on 6/18/1872 per backstamp.

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation, sometime known as the “bear paw,” is of a curious design and quite unlike any other NYFM. A scarce marking, fewer than 10 have been reported.

Earliest Use
6/5/1872

Latest Use
6/15/1872
Supplementary mail usage 10 cents fee plus single rate 10 cents per half oz, rated for Netherlands closed mail, for a total of 20 cents postage paid. Since it was placed in the mails pierside, thus the supplementary mail fee, the letter was actually handled as open mail via England. Mailed at New York 8/13/1873 and dispatched aboard North German Lloyd steam packet Hansa, 2900 tons, landed at Southampton 8/26/1873, transited London 8/27/1873, and arrived Amsterdam 8/28/1873 per backstamp.

This is the second type New York Supplementary Mail marking used and the least common. Such markings were for mail brought to pierside at the last hour before sailing and after regular mail bags had been sealed.

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of an 8-point star type ranges about 25-29mm in diameter. Unusual black cancellation, as most are struck in red in conjunction with supplementary service prior to GPU/UPU.

Earliest Use
8/9/1873

Latest Use
11/29/1874

Earliest Use
4/18/1873

Latest Use
5/18/1874
Supplementary mail usage 10 cents fee plus single rate 10 cents per half oz, rated for Netherlands closed mail, for a total of 20 cents paid. Mailed at New York pierside 8/15/1874, thus the supplementary service fee, dispatched aboard North German Lloyd steam packet America, 2750 tons, landed at Southampton 8/26/1874, transited London 8/27/1874, and arrived Amsterdam 8/28/1874. Although the letter was rated for Netherlands closed mail, it actually was carried as open mail via England because it was brought to pierside at the last hour before sailing and after regular mail bags had been sealed.

This is the third type New York Supplementary Mail marking used. It was struck in red (orange) as was normal for the period prior to the implementation of the GPU/UPU Convention.

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of a multiple pointed star type is typically 26-29mm, scarce on cover, and normally struck in red when used for supplementary service.

Earliest Use
8/15/1874

Earliest Use
8/5/1874

Latest Use
8/23/1877

Latest Use
9/29/1874
To HOLLAND

Single 10 cents per half oz, Netherlands closed mail via England. This cover was mailed at New York and dispatched 12/2/1874 in closed mails for Holland aboard the Cunard Line steam packet Parthia, 3167 tons. The Parthia put its mails ashore off Queenstown, Ireland, 12/13/1874 from whence the Dutch closed mails were forwarded by rail and ferry across Great Britain and the English Channel, and then on by rail arriving in Amsterdam and Enkhuizen on 12/16/1874 per backstamps. This is the proving and still only known complete cover franked with the unique New York Foreign Mail target cancel and thus a great rarity. PF Certificate 0396101

This 7-ring target NYFM cancel is 19mm in diameter and differs, both in number of rings and diameter, to the numerous common target cancels used by many 19th century U.S. post offices in domestic mails. Note also that the width of the ring-lines is much narrower than seen in most domestic target cancels.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To ITALY


This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of a simple geometric type is normally 23mm x 23mm. A scarce cancellation used only three days, this is one of two reported used with the 10 cent Jefferson franking.

Earliest Use
6/27/1872

Latest Use
6/29/1872
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To ITALY

National without grill

Supplementary mail usage 10 cents fee, paid in cash at pier-side, as was sometimes the practice, plus single rate 10 cents per half oz, North German Union direct via Hamburg. Mailed 8/15/1872 at New York pier-side rather than at the post office, placed aboard the Hamburg-American (HAPAG) Line steam packet *Hammonia II*, 2965 tons, transited Hamburg 8/29/1872, entered the Italian domestic mails at Verona, Italy, 8/31/1872, passed through Naples 9/3/1872, and arrived Palermo, Sicily, that same day, the latter three dates all per backstamps.

Type A of the New York Supplementary Mail markings and normally struck in red, this is one of only three reported covers with 10 cent Jefferson franking.

This framed marking was affixed by the Hamburg Exchange Office of NGU. The term “FRANCO” means fully prepaid to destination.

This manuscript numeral “4” was applied pier-side by the NY Exchange Office clerk to denote 4 cents credit to NGU for the onward movement of the letter to Italy.

This red notation applied at Hamburg restates 4 cents credit to NGU as 1 1/2 silbergroschen (about 3.6 US cents) for carriage of the letter on to Italy.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Registered Foreign Mail Usages

To ITALY

[Image of an envelope with stamps and handwritten text]

10 cents per half oz, Italian closed mail, plus 8 cents registry fee, total 18 cents paid. This registered folded letter sheet was mailed at the New York Post Office on 9/5/1874 where the manuscript registration control numbers "6/17551" were annotated. It was dispatched aboard the Inman steam packet City of Richmond, 4560 tons, which sailed that same day, and put its mails ashore at Queenstown, Ireland, on 9/14/1874. The Italian mails were sent by ferry and rail cross-channel, eventually arriving at Verona, in northern Italy, on 9/18/1874 per backstamp, where the mails were processed into the Italian postal system. This folded letter sheet arrived at Napoli (Naples) on 9/19/1874 per backstamp. Registered letters to Italy during this period are relatively scarce.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To ITALY

Continental with secret mark

Double 10 cents per half oz, Italian closed mail via England. Carried privately from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, to New York. Mailed at New York and dispatched 11/5/1874 in a closed mail bag aboard the Hamburg - American (HAPAG) Line steamer Thuringia, arrived Plymouth, England, 11/16/1874, from whence the closed mail bag was forwarded on to Italy.

Earliest Use
8/13/1874

Latest Use
12/16/1874

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of an elaborate negative type is normally 26-28mm in diameter.
To ITALY

Continental with secret mark

Single rate 10 cents per half oz, Italian closed mail via England. Mailed at New York, dispatched in sealed mail bag for Italian mails on Cunard steam packet Russia on 12/23/1874, arrived Liverpool 1/2/1875. The sealed bag was forwarded to Lavorno, Italy, where it arrived on 1/6/1875, was opened, and the mail sorted. The letter arrived Volterra, Italy, 1/7/1875. Covers with this New York Foreign Mail cancellation are scarce.

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of fouled anchor and stars is 22-23mm in diameter and highly prized fully struck.

Earliest Use
12/21/1874

Latest Use
4/3/1875
Ten Cent Jefferson - Registered Foreign Mail

To LUXEMBOURG

American re-engraved

5 cents per half oz, UPU rate. This registered letter was mailed at Decorah, IA, 3/1/1886, sent by rail to New York arriving 3/4/1886, where the NYPO Foreign Division applied the red accounting label denoting registered mail and dispatched it via contract mail steamship. It probably transited England, from whence it was sent onward cross channel, transiting Brussels, Belgium, 3/15/1886, Luxembourg City 3/16/1886, and arrived at Echternach, Luxembourg, also on 3/16/1886 per backstamps. Luxembourg is a scarce destination for U.S. foreign mails during this period, especially for a registered usage.

This backstamp indicates the accountable registered letter transited Brussels, Belgium, on the date indicated.

This backstamp was applied when the letter transited Luxembourg City before being sent on to Echternach about 20 miles to the northeast.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To NORWAY

Single rate 10 cents per half oz, Swedish-Norwegian closed mail. Mailed at New York 2/21/1874 and dispatched aboard the North German Lloyd steam packet Hansa in a sealed closed mail bag. Upon arrival at Bremerhaven, Germany, the closed mail bag was forwarded on, unopened, to Norway. The printed return address of FUNCH, EDYE & CO. is that of a New York shipping agent that was known to have represented various foreign shipping companies including the Norse-American Line and the Holland-America Line. NYFM covers to Norway are quite scarce with less than ten being recorded.

This NYFM postmark was applied by the NYPO Foreign Division and is a scarce type.

Weiss declared this NYFM 8-section oval grid cancel to actually be a rare type despite its seemingly common design.

Earliest Use 1/20/1874
Latest Use 4/16/1874
Single rate 12 cents per half oz, North German Union closed mail (overpaid 3 cents, as the former 15 cent rate had been reduced to 12 cents two months prior). The letter was mailed at Assumption, IL, 12/8/1871 and sent by rail to New York. The New York Exchange Office dispatched the letter in a closed mail bag on 12/13/1871 aboard the Guion Line steamship Wisconsin, which put the mails ashore at Queenstown, Ireland, on 12/23/1871. The British postal authorities forwarded the closed mail bag across the English Channel and on by rail to NGU postal authorities. They opened and processed the mail bag, applying at lower left the large red handstamp “Wfco 2” abbreviating Weiterfranco (literally paid beyond) 2 silbergroschen (equal to 4.8 US cents). This restated the 5 cent credit noted on the red NEW YORK circular datestamp shown below.

This rather scarce datestamp was applied by the NY Exchange Office to denote the 5 cent credit to NGU for carriage of the letter on to Russia.

The date on this St Petersburg Post Office backstamp translates as “16 Dec 1871.” It reflects the Julian calendar used by Russia at that time and was equivalent to “28 Dec 1871” on western calendars.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To SWEDEN

National with grill

14 cents per half oz, North German Union closed mail. Although properly franked for the NGU closed mail rate and mailed at New York on 8/6/1870, the letter was mistakenly dispatched in the open mails for England aboard the Inman steamer City of London, 2550 tons. The open mail bags were put ashore 8/17/1870 at Queenstown, Ireland, for onward carriage by rail and ferry to London. On 8/19/1870 the London Exchange Office sent the letter directly to Sweden under an 1866 Convention that allowed a single rate of 6 pence, to be divided equally, thus the 3 pence credit to Sweden. Carriage was over a British direct contract mail route between Hull in the United Kingdom and Gothenburg, Sweden. New York Foreign Mail covers to Sweden are quite scarce, particularly those franked entirely with grilled stamps of the Issue of 1870.

PF Certificates 7484 and 446541

This rare NYFM postmark was created by removing the NOTES portion of U.S. NOTES lettering as well as a credit numeral.

This traditional grid-type NYFM cancel was originally circular. It is shown here missing the upper left third which likely was caused by wear and breakage.

The London Exchange Office struck this circular datestamp to denote its processing of the transiting letter.

The London Exchange Office applied this 3 pence (6 US cents equivalent) marking to denote a credit to Sweden.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To SWEDEN

Single rate 14 cents per half oz, North German Union closed mail via England. This letter was posted at Olympia, Washington Territory, 4/25/1871. It was carried overland to Puget Sound, sent by coastal steamer to San Francisco, and forwarded via transcontinental railroad to New York. On 5/13/1871 the NYPO Foreign Division dispatched it in closed mail for Sweden aboard the Inman Line steam packet City of Brooklyn, 2900 tons, which put its mails ashore off Queenstown, Ireland, 5/22/1871. The closed mail for Sweden were sent by ferry and rail across Great Britain and then the English Channel to Oostende where they were forwarded by rail to NGU postal authorities at Aachen, Germany. At Aachen the mail was put aboard a German railway mail car where the bags were opened, and this letter sorted and marked as paid to Sweden. The letter was then forwarded by rail and ferry to Sweden, arriving there 5/26/1871 per Swedish railroad mail car backstamp. The 14 cent rate was in effect from 7/1/1870 through 9/30/1871, but properly paid and dispatched covers of this rate are scare, and Olympia represents a rare origin for such usage. Ex Stever

The NYPO Foreign Division applied this datestamp denoting 4 cents credit to NGU for onward carriage to Sweden.

This handstamp was applied by NGU exchange office at Aachen restating the 4 cent credit from the U.S. as the equivalent 1½ silver grochen for carriage to Sweden.
To SWEDEN

11 cents per half oz, North German Union closed mail via England. The letter was mailed at Omaha, NE, on 12/30/1871 and sent by rail to New York. The New York PO dispatched it aboard a contract mail carrier (either Cunard, Inman, or North German Lloyd) on 1/6/1872. The closed mail bags were put ashore at Great Britain and forwarded by ferry and rail to NGU postal officials who sent it across the Baltic Sea to Sweden where it arrived at Lund on 1/18/1872 per backstamp.

The Foreign Division of the NYPO applied this cds on the date indicated. The 4 denotes the 4 cents credit to NGU for the letter's onward movement to Sweden.

This handstamp was applied at the North German Union exchange office at Aachen. It recognizes and restates the 4 cents credit from the U.S. as the equivalent 1 1/2 silver groschen credit by NGU to Sweden.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To SWEDEN

National without grill

Single rate 10 cents per half oz, NGU direct mail. Mailed Lindsborg, KS. 4/3/1872 and sent by rail to New York where it was dispatched aboard the HAPAG steam packet Cimbria 4/11/1872, arriving Hamburg 4/24/1872. At Hamburg the direct mail bag was opened, sorted, and this letter marked with the red framed HAMBURG/24 4 72/FRANCO datestamp and red 1 1/2 Wf handstamp before forwarding to Sweden, arriving at destination 4/26/1872 per backstamp.

The NYPO Foreign Division applied this red circular datestamp on the dispatch and sailing date as was the normal practice.

This red handstamp was applied at Hamburg denoting the 1 1/2 silbergroschen (about 4 cents) for carriage onward to destination in Sweden. The abbreviation Wf stands for “weiterfranco” which literally translates “paid beyond” meaning the letter was fully paid to destination, in this case, in Sweden.
Double rate 11 cents per half oz, North German Union closed mail. Mailed at Keokuk, IA, 5/7/1872, sent by rail to the Chicago Exchange Office which dispatched the letter in a closed mail bag for NGU 5/9/1872. Upon arrival at New York, the closed mail bag was put directly aboard the North German Lloyd steamship Rhein which sailed 5/11/1872. The Rhein arrived Bremerhaven 5/23/1872, and the closed mails were opened at the NGU Exchange Office at Bremen, sorted, and forwarded to Sweden, arriving 5/26/1872 per backstamp. The pencil “2” in the upper left quadrant was annotated by Chicago calling attention to the double rate status. The red crayon “Wf 3”, applied by Bremen, stands for weiderfranco (fully prepaid to destination) 3 silbergroschen, which restated the 8 cents equivalent credit on the faint red Chicago circular datetamp.

This heretofore unknown 27mm circular datetamp of the Chicago Exchange Office is very faint and denotes the 8 cents credit to NGU for carriage of this double rate letter on to Sweden.

The checkerboard fancy cancel of Keokuk, Iowa, was probably carved by a Keokuk Post Office clerk, a common practice of smaller post offices.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To SWEDEN

Continental with secret mark

Single rate 9 cents per half oz, Swedish-Norwegian closed mail via England (overpaid 1 cent). Mailed at Allegheny, PA, 6/4/1874, transited New York and dispatched 6/6/1874 in a closed mail bag aboard the Cunard Line steam packet *Parthia*. The mail bag arrived Queenstown, Ireland, 6/16/1874, where it was forwarded on and transited Goteborg, Sweden, 6/18/1874 per backstamp, before arriving Maholm, Sweden. Note the hairline, vertical pre-printing paper fold in the stamp. PF Cert. 0326467.

The fancy leaf cancellation of Alleghany, PA.

This is a previously unreported NY Exchange Office cds, which was applied during transit at New York.
Single rate 10 cents per half oz, Swiss closed mail via England and Belgium. Mailed at Chicago 6/27/1870 and sent to New York by rail, the letter was dispatched by closed mail by the New York Exchange Office 6/29/1870 aboard the Guion Line steam packet *Minnesota* which arrived Queenstown, Ireland, 7/10/1870. The closed mail bag was forwarded via London and Belgium to Switzerland, where it was opened, the mail sorted, and this letter sent along in Swiss domestic mails to Bezirke, arriving 7/14/1870 per backstamp. The use of a grilled 10 cent Jefferson stamp on a foreign cover is scarce. PSE certificate #20850.

Applied by the New York Exchange Office on the date of dispatch by steamer, this cds reflects the correct routing. The NEW YORK PAID ALL/DIRECT cds was probably applied first but was the incorrect routing, and thus the second cds shown here.
Double rate 10 cents per half oz, Swiss closed mail via England and Belgium. Mailed at New York 2/22/1871, placed in sealed bag for Swiss mails and sent by train to Boston, where it was dispatched 2/23/1871 aboard the Cunard Line steam packet Calabria, 2,902 tons, and arrived Queenstown 3/5/1871. The closed mail bag was then forwarded via Ostend, Belgium, to Neuchatel and arrived 3/8/1871. The large blue crayon 2 was applied by the NY Exchange Office indicating a paid double rate letter.

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of a representative simple Greek cross type is normally 22-23mm wide and high. It is known with and without the time-of-day NY circle date stamp, the former being unusual but not unknown in NY Foreign Mails. This is a rare cancel with but 4 reported to foreign destinations.

Earliest Use
1/19/1871

Latest Use
5/18/1872
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To SWITZERLAND

Single rate 10 cents per half oz, Swiss closed mail via England and Belgium. Mailed at New York and dispatched 6/21/1871 aboard the Guion Line steam packet Colorado, 3,500 tons, and arrived Queenstown 7/2/1871. The closed Swiss mail bag was forwarded via Ostend, Belgium, on to Locarno, Switzerland, where it arrived 7/7/1871.

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of a representative elaborate small shield type is 17-19mm x 19-21mm high and considered a scarce cancel.

Earliest Use
6/6/1871

Latest Use
7/3/1871
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usage

To SWITZERLAND

National without grill

10 cents per half oz, Swiss closed mail via England. Although the NYFM postmark is unclear, this cover was probably mailed at New York in the latter part of December 1872 and dispatched via England and Ostend, Belgium, by contract mail steamer. The letter arrived at Basel, Switzerland, in the early part of January 1873 per partial Basel backstamp.

Weiss recorded the few known usages of this scarce 14-segment traditional-type oval grid NYFM cancel as between 12/28/1872 and 1/4/1873 with this an example of a complete, clear strike.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To SWITZERLAND

10 cents per half oz, Swiss closed mail via England. Although docketed for dispatch aboard the White Star Adriatic which sailed 2/8/1873, the letter missed that departure. The New York Exchange Office then dispatched it in the Swiss closed mail bag aboard the next contract mail steamer - the Guion Wisconsin, 3700 tons, which departed 2/12/1873. The Wisconsin put its mails ashore at Queenstown, Ireland, on 2/23/1873 from whence they were sent by rail and ferry to Switzerland, transiting Basel on 2/26/1873, and arriving Neuchatel that same day, per backstamps.

This NY Foreign Mail cancellation is of a traditional miscellaneous design found in two separate types. This is type 2 and is only recorded on three covers and is usually found with an incomplete strike.
These two noteworthy Chicago covers are examples of the very scarce fancy pictorial cancellations from the Chicago Blue period of the mid-1870s. Part of the correspondence of Georgia Gilbert to her husband, H.T. Gilbert, in Lausanne, Switzerland, they were written two days apart, and, remarkably, each has a different pictorial cancel. The rate was 10 cents per half oz, Swiss closed mail via England and Ostend, Belgium. The first departed Chicago 10/28/1873 by rail and then New York 10/30/1873 aboard the HAPAG steamer Westphalia. The second departed Chicago 10/30/1873 and New York 11/1/1873 on the NGL steamer Hermann. They were received at Basel and Lausanne on November 12th and 15th respectively per backstamps.
10 cents per half oz, Swiss closed mail via England. Mailed at New York 4/13/1875 and dispatched aboard the Eagle Line steamer Goethe, 3400 tons, which was scheduled to sail that same day. However, it actually sailed one day late on 4/14/1875. The letter arrived Lausanne, Switzerland, 4/26/1875 per backstamp. Note the “Charles Hauselt/New York” merchant handstamp.

This postmark was applied by the NYPO Foreign Division denoting a fully prepaid letter by closed mail via England and Ostende, Belgium, from whence it proceeded by rail.

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation is of an elaborate positive geometric type that has 8 positive inner diamonds with 8 positive triangles at the outer apexes of the diamonds and measures about 29mm in diameter.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To TRANSYLVANIA

National without grill

This letter was franked for North German Union closed mail service at 10 cents per half oz, but was actually sent North German Union direct at 7 cents per half oz, and thus overpaid 3 cents. Mailed at Boston, MA, it was dispatched 3/20/1871 in a locked mail bag by rail to New York. The bag was placed aboard the Hamburg-American (HAPAG) Line steamer Holsatta which sailed 3/22/1871 and arrived at Hamburg on 4/4/1871. From there it traveled by rail to destination in Transylvania, a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The Boston Exchange Office applied this cds which shows the letter’s rate status as paid to destination and routing classification as direct but not in closed mail.

The North German Union exchange office at Hamburg opened the direct mail bag upon arrival, sorted it for onward movement, and applied this marking.