U.S. Private Perforations
John V. Farweli Co. (circa 1908-1917)

In 1908, the John V. Farwell Company of Chicago, Illinois, a large dry goods organization, began using a new and faster means of doing their large number of mailings. This was accomplished by operating the affixing equipment that was made by the Schermack Mailing Machine Company, (formerly the Detroit Mailing Machine Company), of Detroit, Michigan, using the 1902 2-cent Shield issue.

The Farwell Company must have had a very large number of mailings because around 1910 they were doing about $20,000,000 in sales. With Schermack Company charging 50 cents over the face value for each of their 3000 coil roll of stamps; it is no wonder that in early 1911 the Farwell Company must have felt that they could save money by perforating the same imperforate stamps in-house. Only 1-cent and 2-cent stamps would be perforated by the Farwell Company.

Tom Chambers, a Farwell employee, produced several types of perforations while he experimented making coil stamps similar to the Schermack Type III perforated stamps they were currently using. Their perforating machine used pins to make the holes. Even as late as 1937, these various types of perforations were known as Chambers perforations. They perforated full sheets of 400 then cut them into strips then made coils. The details of the mechanism were never fully disclosed.

There are five known groups of perforations, with each group having different sub-types.

Group 1 has two types. Group 2 to 5 sub-types are described by the number of holes above an un-perforated space and the number holes below that space, such as 2A3. The two different spacing sizes between the sets of holes, were made by removing pins from the perforating machine, are classified as A for 2.5mm and B for 4.5mm. Group 5 is only known with A spacing.

Because of possible faults in the perforation process, the pins either broke or were misplaced in the device creating examples of mixed classifications as well as a shifting of the alignment of perforations.

The Farwell perforation holes are all the same size, 1.5mm in diameter with 0.5mm spacing between them, but not along the entire length of the stamp, as noted above.

Group 1: 6 holes or 7 holes
Group 2: 2 holes over 3 or 3 holes over 2
Group 3: 3 holes over 4 or 4 holes over 3
Group 4: 4 holes over 4
Group 5: 5 holes over 4 or 4 holes over 5

The printing of the 1908-1909 and the 1910-1911 U.S. stamp issues had different spacing on the vertical rows of stamps. This was done because the Bureau of Engraving and Printing was having difficulty with paper waste due to unequal shrinking of the sheets because of wet printing process problems. They spaced part of the sheet with 3mm spacing and the rest at 2mm spacing. Therefore there are pairs, strips and blocks of these issues with varying spacing between 2mm and 3mm because of the continual shrinking of the paper. This is the reason why there are multiple listings of the same issue shown here.

U.S. Private Perforations John V. Farwell Co.

Plate Numbers found with different Types of John V. Farwell Co. Perforations and various P.O. Issues.

Included here are several covers with Farwell perforated stamps but not on Farwell Company envelopes. There are commercially used, and several seem to be from individuals, all of whom acquired Farwell perforated stamps by some means, either by special request or through a friend.

Sometime in 1917 Farwell stopped producing coils and went to United States government coils.

Farwell Company is known to have used sheets with the following plate numbers:

Group 1	Type I-6 Holes-not known;	Type I-7 Holes-May 24, 1911;
Group 2	Type 2A3-July 28, 1911;	Type 2B3-not known;
Group 2	Type 3A2-June 27, 1911;	Type 3B2-not known;
Group 3	Type 3A4-not known;	Type 3B4-October 28, 1911;
Group 3	Type 4A3-not known;	Type 4B3-October 7, 1911;
Group 4	Type 4A4-May 17, 1912;	Type 4B4-October 11, 1911;
Group 5	Type 4A5-not known;	
Group 5	Type 5A4-not known;	

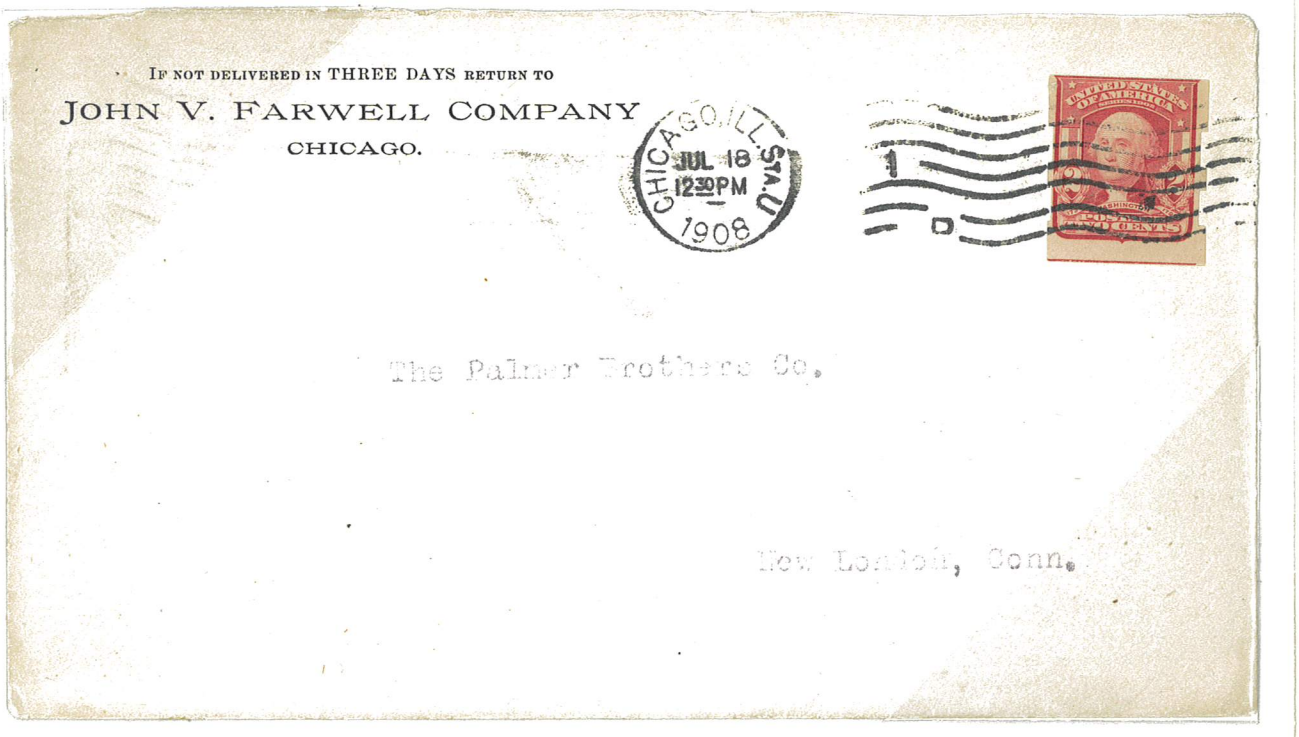
Type 2A3	Issue of 1910-1911	2 cent	5608			
Type 2B3	Issue of 1910-1911	1 cent	5489	5598		
		2 cent	5608	5624		
Type 4A	Issue of 1910-1911	1 cent	5484	5679	5709	
		2 cent	5619			
	Issue of 1912	1 cent	5867	6041	7294	
		2 cent	5740	6151	7501	7708
Type 4B	Issue of 1910-1911	1 cent	5484	5679	5709	5715
		2 cent	5619	5624		
	Issue of 1912	1 cent	5831			
		2 cent	5740	5785		
Type 4AB	Issue of 1910-1911	1 cent	5679			
		2 cent	5608	5624	5686	
	Issue of 1912	1 cent	5831	6041		
		2 cent	5785	6151		
Group 5	Issue of 1912	1 cent	6615			

U.S. Private Perforations
John V. Farwell Co. (circa 1908-1917)

Schermack Period (1908-1911)

Prior to perforating its own stamps, the Farwell Company used affixing machine postage stamps provided by the Schermack Company

Early Schermack Usage
Issue of 1906

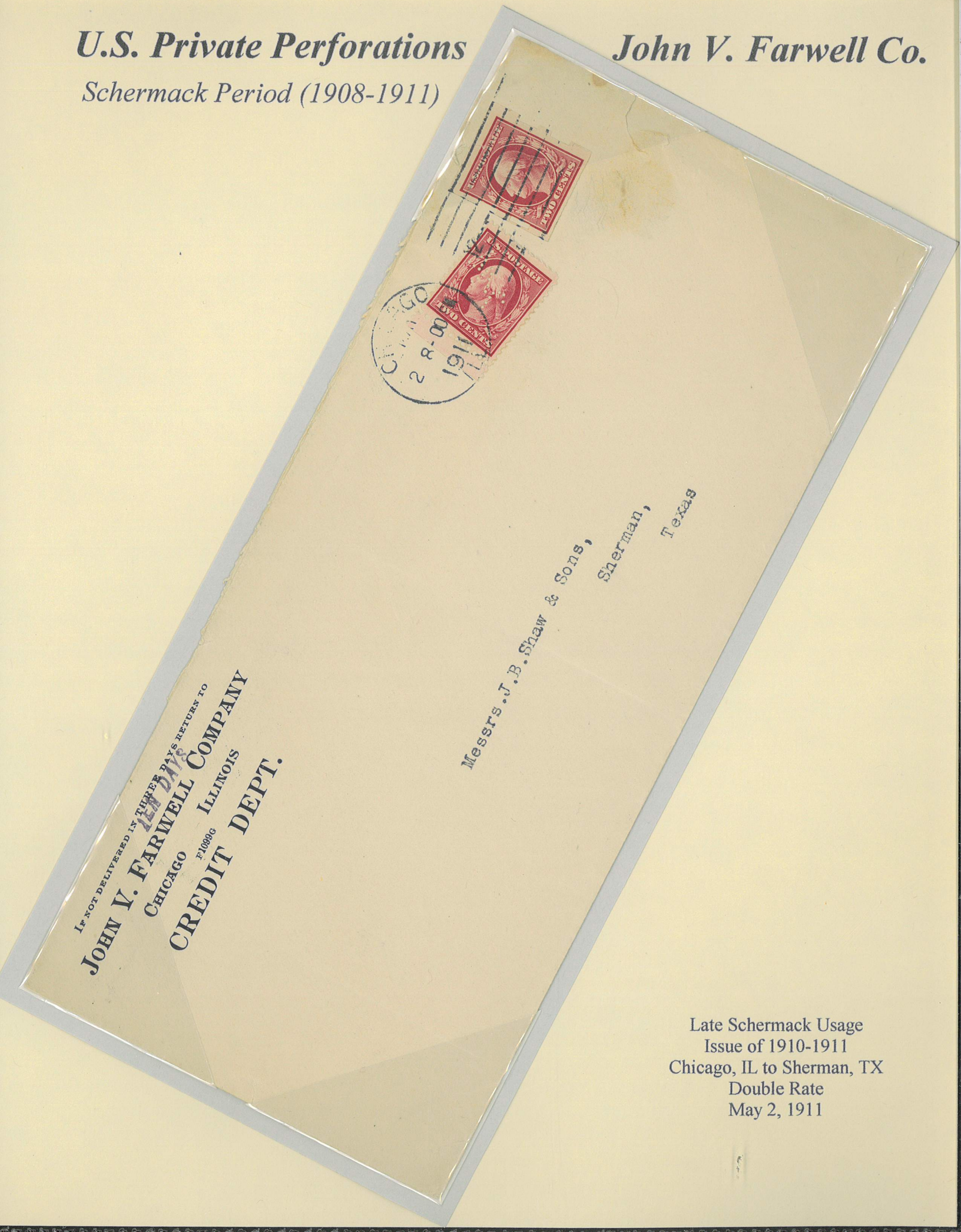


Chicago, IL to New London, CT
July 18, 1908

U.S. Private Perforations

Schermack Period (1908-1911)

John V. Farwell Co.



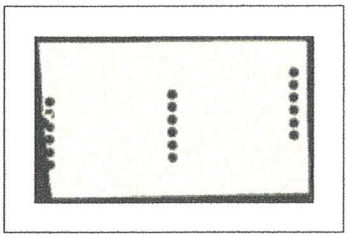
Late Schermack Usage
Issue of 1910-1911
Chicago, IL to Sherman, TX
Double Rate
May 2, 1911

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 1
6 Holes
Issue of 1910-1911

During the production of the various types of Farwell perforations there was some process or procedure that caused some form of shifting alignment of the perforations from column to column. Sometimes the shifting goes between .5 to 4 millimeters up and then down the same amount. There is not sufficient knowledge of the entire perforating process to have a firm reason for this occurrence. Shifted perforations are the norm in some groups.



Shifted Perforations
e

2.4 mm
e

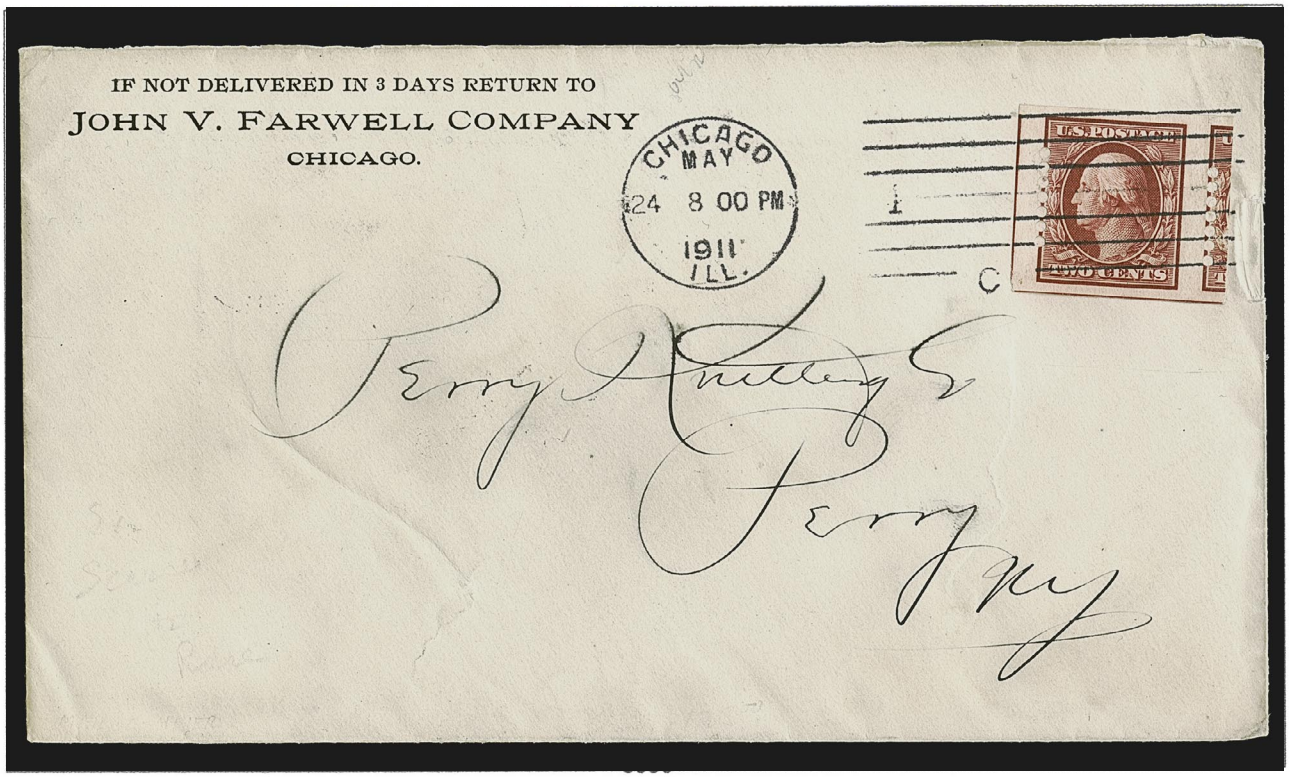
Shifted Perforations
3 mm
e
(ex-Agris)

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 1
7 Holes
Issue of 1910-1911

First Day of Use with this type of perforation



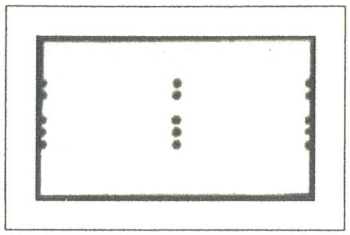
Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL to Perry, NY
May 24, 1911

Private perforation miscuts as seen on envelopes and stamps may have been caused by poor staff handling or maybe production process jamming, this is only guess work.

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 2
Type 2A3
Issue of 1910-1911



Shifted Perforations

2.6 mm

Many Farwell envelopes have also been found with the stamp inverted on the envelope. Somewhat unusual for a business. Seems that someone might have found it easier to fit the roll of stamps into the affixing machine that way or it just did not matter to them.

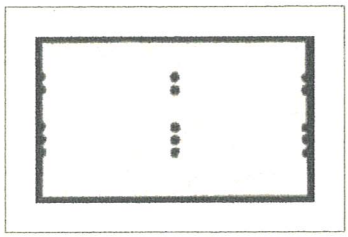
Inverted

Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL to Perry, NY
September 27, 1911

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 2
Type 2B3
Issue of 1910-1911



2.3 mm
e

(ex-Belasco)

3 mm
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 2
Type 2B3
Issue of 1910-1911

Shifted Perforations

Paul C. Denzin, a stamp dealer from Milwaukee, WI, having removed the above stamp from a destroyed Farwell envelope swore on November 15, 1945 that it was a genuine used Farwell Type 2B3 Issue of 1910-1911 stamp.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
(SS
MILWAUKEE COUNTY)

PAUL C. DENZIN on oath deposes that he is a stamp dealer at Milwaukee, Wis.; that the attached 2¢ U.S.postage stamp, Scott cat. #384,Farwell private perf., 2 perf. over 3 perf. cancelled with 7 straight lines, one broken by letters "ATION" was removed by him from a Farwell cover inadvertently destroyed dated at time of and is guaranteed Farwell use.

Paul C Denzin

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 15 day of November, 1945.

Notary Public, Milwaukee Co. Wisconsin

Notary Verification

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 2
Type 2B3
Issue of 1910-1911

Chicago-Canal Station Cancel

e

2.2 mm
e

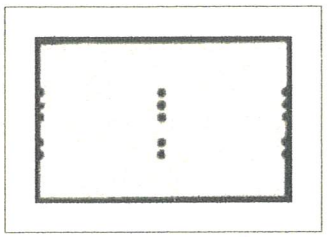
(ex-Agris)

3 mm
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 2
Type 3A2
Issue of 1910-1911



2.1 mm
e

(ex-Belasco)

3 mm

3 mm
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 2
Type 3A2
Issue of 1910-1911

e

3 mm
e
(ex-Grunin)

2.1-2.5 mm
e
(ex-Howard)

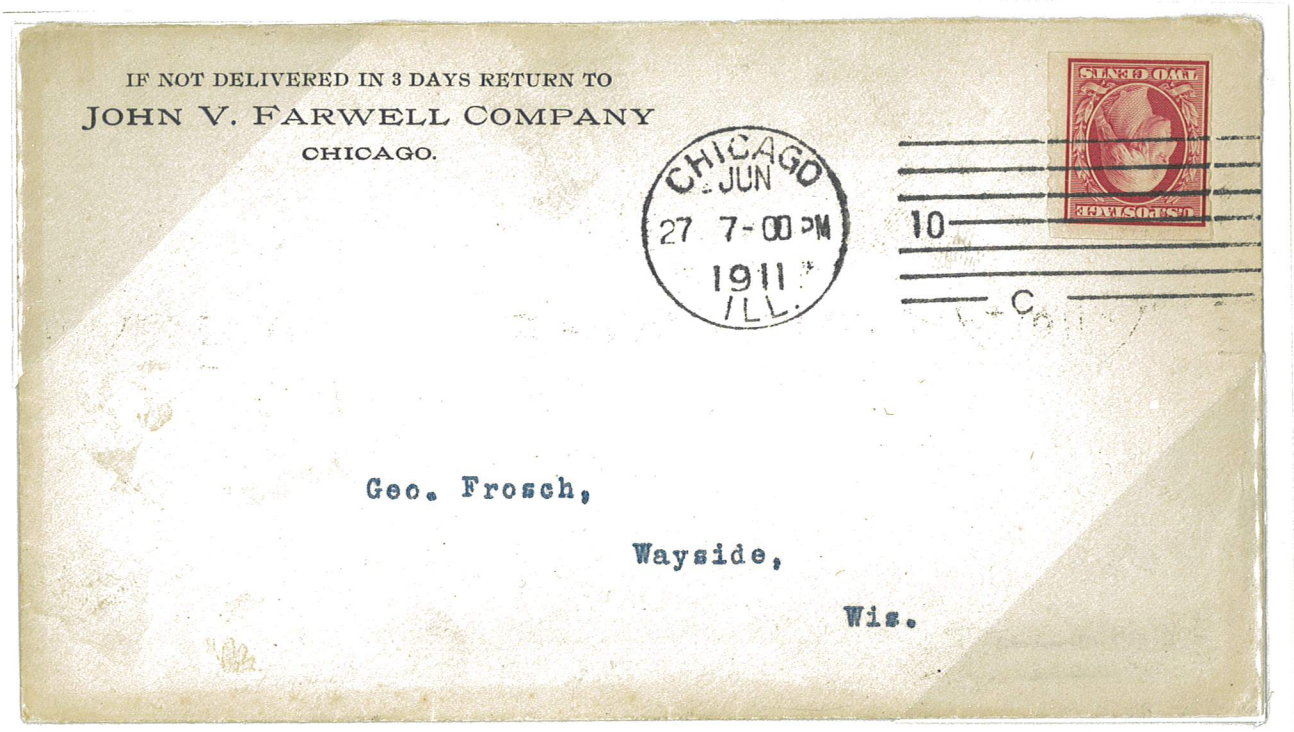
Guideline Strip
Shifted Perforations
2.3-2.5 mm
e

U.S. Private Perforations

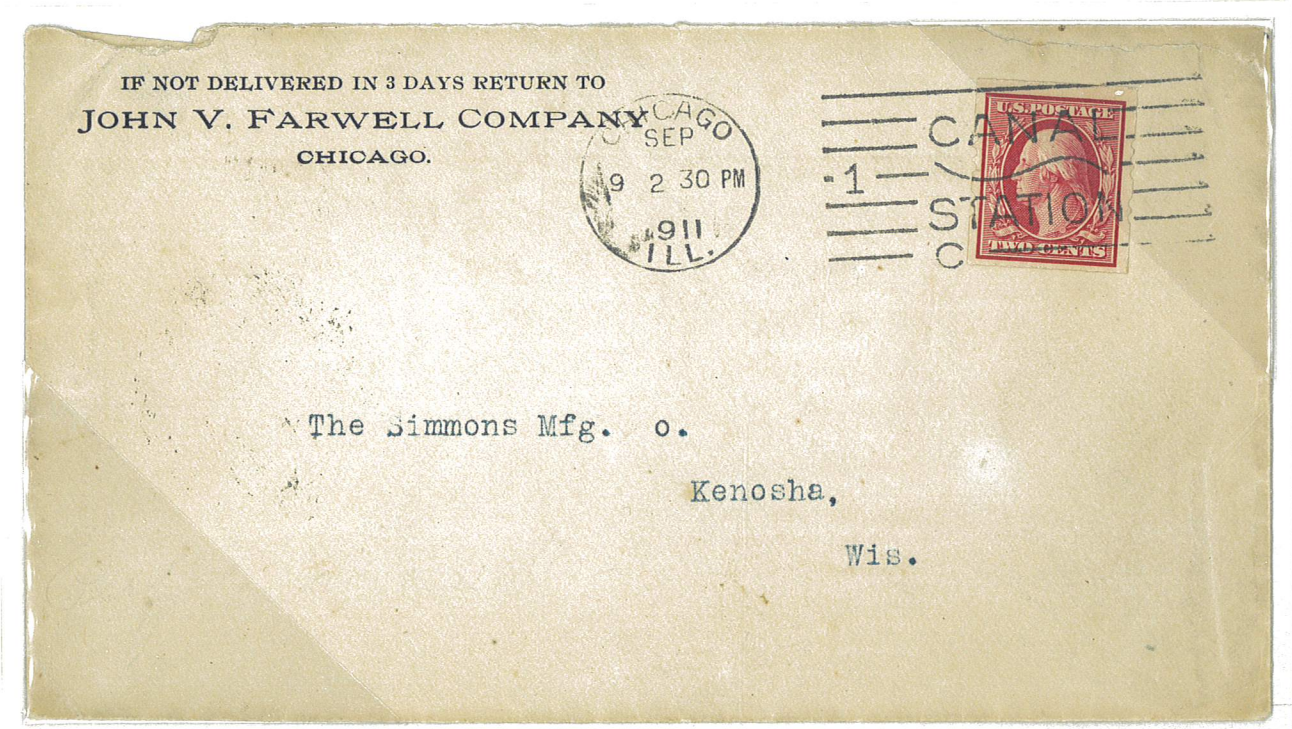
John V. Farwell Co.

Group 2
Type 3A2
Issue of 1910-1911

Inverted



Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL to Wayside, WI
June 27, 1911

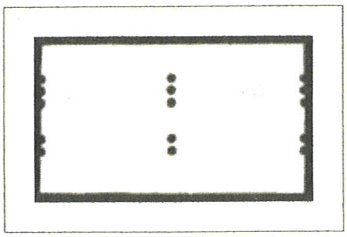


Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL to Kenosha, WI
September 9, 1911

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 2
Type 3B2
Issue of 1910-1911



There are very few examples of pairs with pasteups found or reported. However, several singles have been found on and off envelopes. There must have been pasteup "request" items from collectors and dealers but for some reason the requests were not always honored by the company.

Plate Cracks in Right Margin

Pasteup

Pasteup with Margin Imprint

3 mm

Guideline Pair
2.3 mm
e

(ex-Belasco)

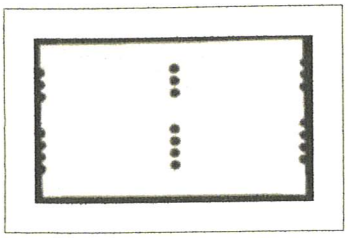
2.4-3 mm
e

Guideline Strip
2.8 mm
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 3
Type 3B4
Issue of 1910-1911



e

e

2.3 mm

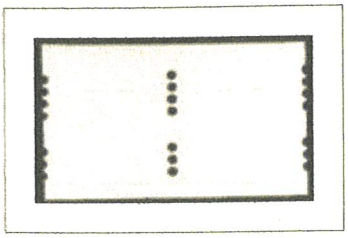
3 mm
e

Guideline Pair
2.7 mm
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 3
Type 4B3
Issue of 1910-1911



Shifted Perforations
2.4 mm

3 mm
e

2.1-2.9 mm
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 3

Type 4B3

Issue of 1910-1911

Pasteup

2.3 mm
e

3 mm
e

Guideline Strip
2.7-2.9 mm
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 3
Type 4B3
Issue of 1910-1911

Earliest Known Use

Inverted

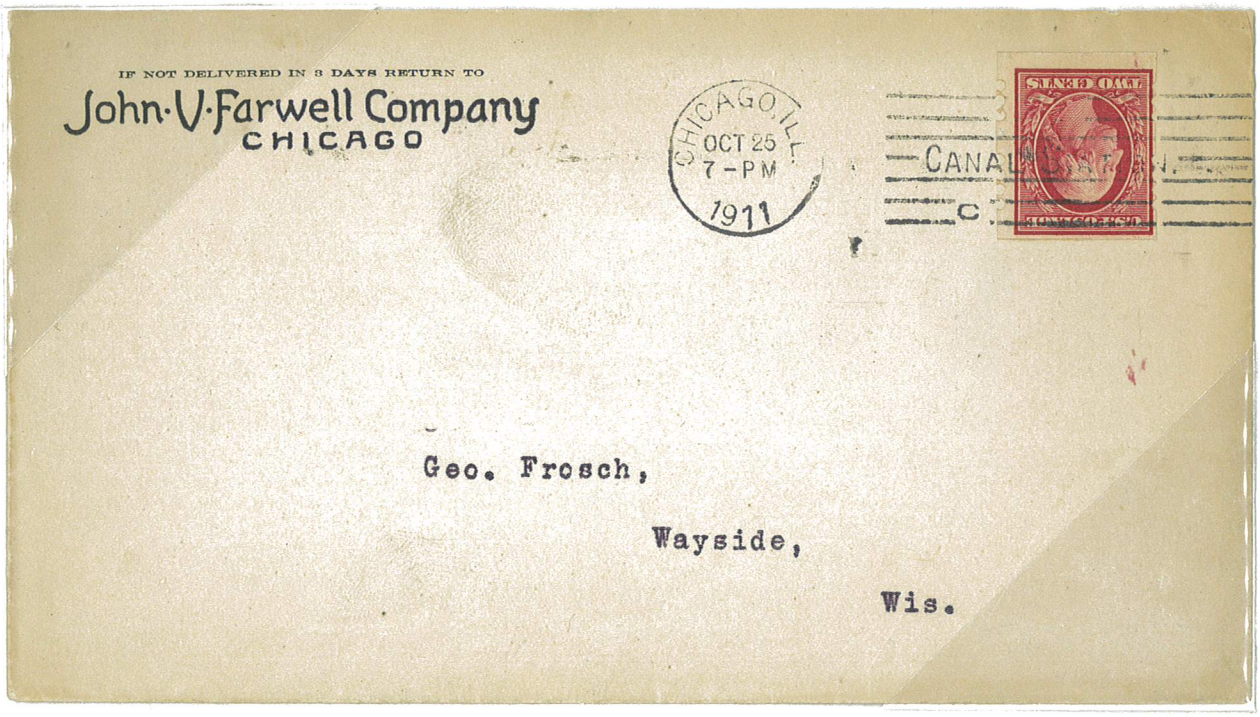
Chicago, IL
October 7, 1911

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 3
Type 4B3
Issue of 1910-1911

Inverted



Chicago, IL to Wayside, WI October 25, 1911

(ex-Howard)

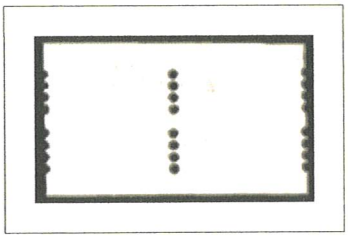
Inverted

Chicago, IL to Attleboro, MA November 28, 1911

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1908-1909

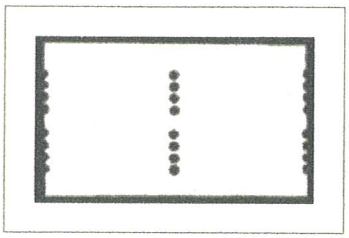


Pair
2.6 mm
Guideline at Left

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1908-1909



Shifted Perforations
2.4 mm
e

Shifted Perforations
2.8 mm

(ex-Belasco)

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1910-1911

2.2 mm

Shifted Perforations
2.6 mm
e

Guideline Pair
Shifted Perforations
2.7 mm
e

Different Shifting Positions

Shifted Perforations
2-3 mm
e

Shifted Perforations
2-3 mm
e

Guideline Strip
Shifted Perforations
2.5 mm
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1910-1911

Plate Number Margin Strip
2.6-2.8 mm
e

2.5-2.8 mm
Plate Number Imprint A5679

Plate Number Margin Strip
3 mm

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1910-1911

Shifted Perforations
2.3 mm

Shifted Perforations
3 mm

Guideline Pair
Shifted Perforations
2.3 mm
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1910-1911

Shifted Perforations
3 mm
Plate Number Imprint 5619
e

Arrow Guideline Strip
Shifted Perforations
2.8-3 mm
Stuck on Card

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1910-1911

2.3-3 mm

3 mm
e

Guideline Strip
2.2 mm
e

ex- Sheldon, Grunin

Guideline Strip
2.7-3 mm
e

Margin Plate Number 6041 Strip
Shifted Perforations

Top Arrow Block
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

One Cent Unsealed Circular Rate

Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL to Fostoria, OH
May 17, 1912

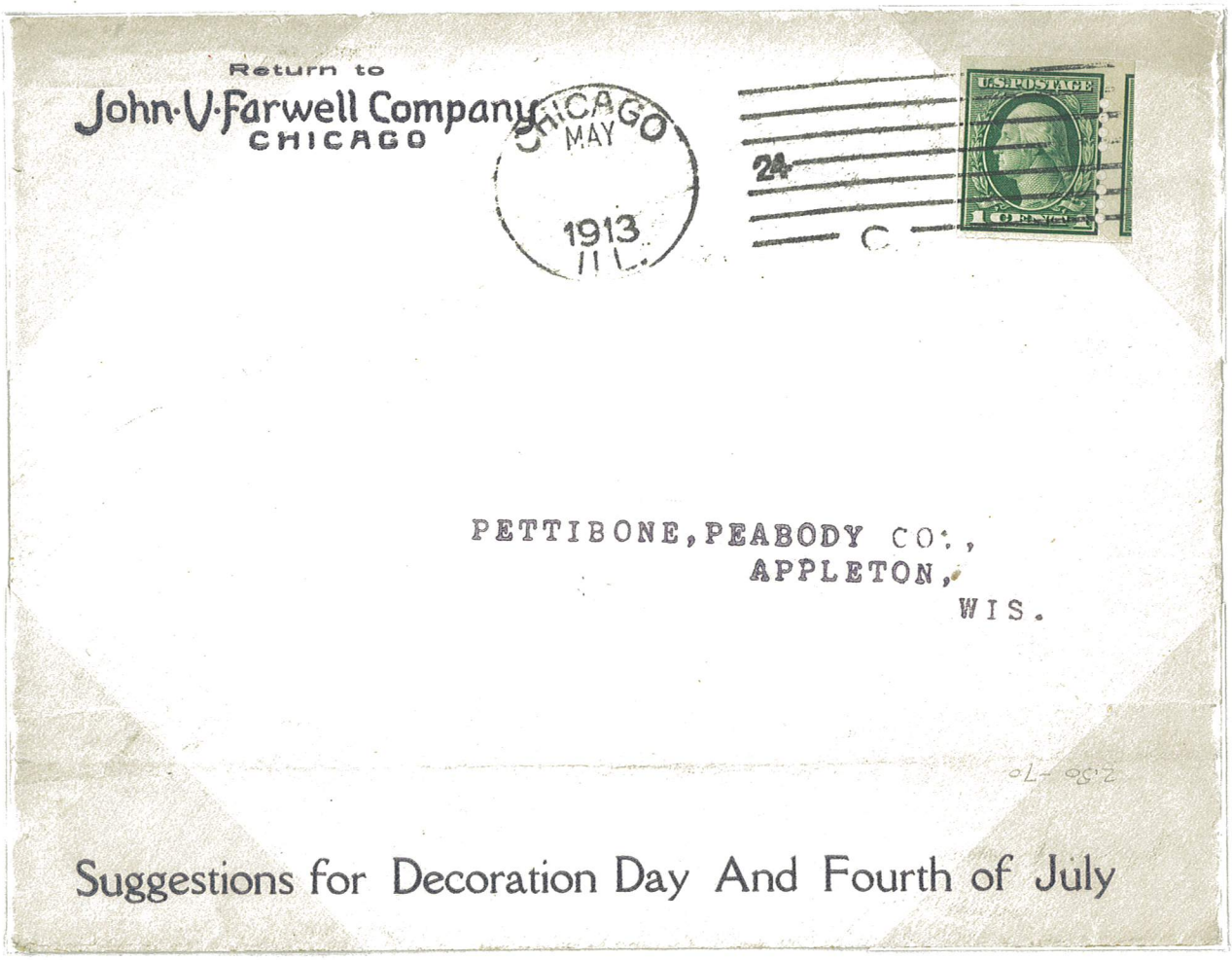
(ex-Agris)

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

Farwell Advertizing Envelope



Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI
May 1913

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

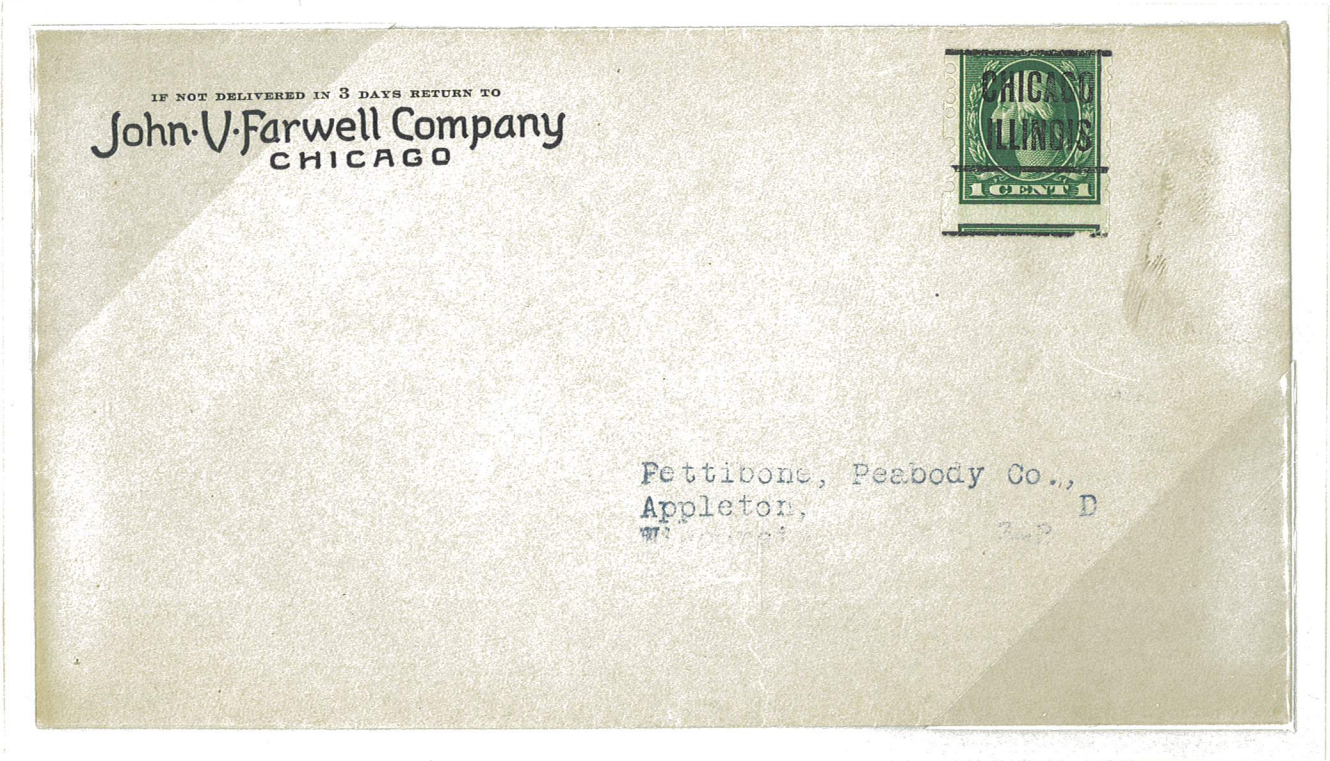
Farwell also obtained imperforated sheets of Chicago precancel stamps. Only the 1-cent issue of 1912 has been found with both Type 4A4 and Type 4B4 perforations.

One of Two Known

Precancel
Chicago, IL

Only Known Precancel Usage

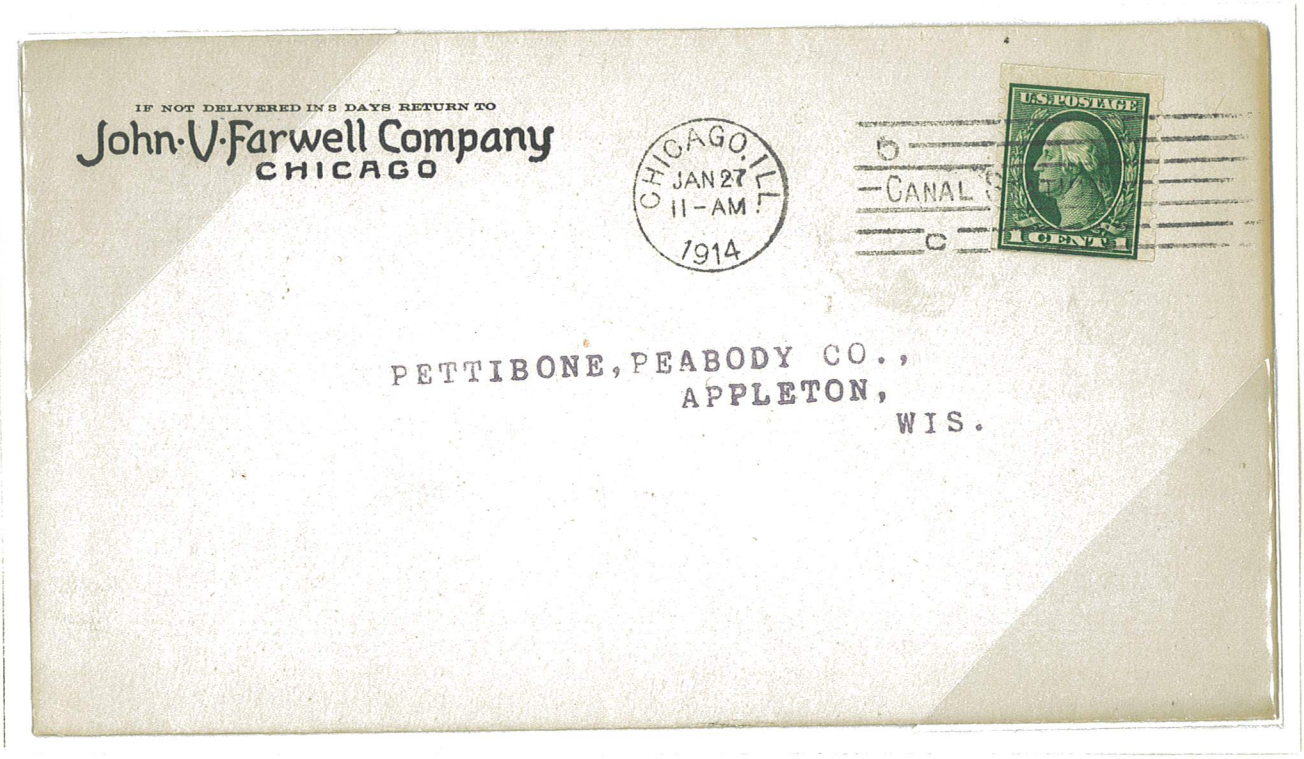
Chicago Precancel



Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912



Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI
January 27, 1914

Chicago, IL to Norwalk, OH
1914

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

Shifted Perforations

Guideline Pair
Shifted Perforations
e

Shifted Perforations
Part Plate Number Imprint A5740
e

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

Shifted Perforations
Plate Number Imprint A5740
e

e

Guideline Strip

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

Largest Known Multiple

Corner Block of 16
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

Collectors became quickly aware when a new type of perforation was first created by Farwell (Chambers) and they "requested" examples of these. Farwell, after awhile, not wanting to be bothered by this demand, supplied Type 4 sheets and other items to Chicago stamp dealer, Thomas C.E. Hunter. In return he replied to collector and dealer requests by supplying pairs, strips and blocks.

e

Shifted Perforations
Plate Number 6151
e

Some of the stamps Hunter received had the Types 4A5 and 5A4 varieties.
These varieties occurred when a pin in the second row from the top was not removed and if the sheet was inverted.
Hunter was selling the pairs at 15 cents for the 1-cent issue and 20 cents for the 2-cents issue.
Dealers received a 50% discount.

Plate Number 6151
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

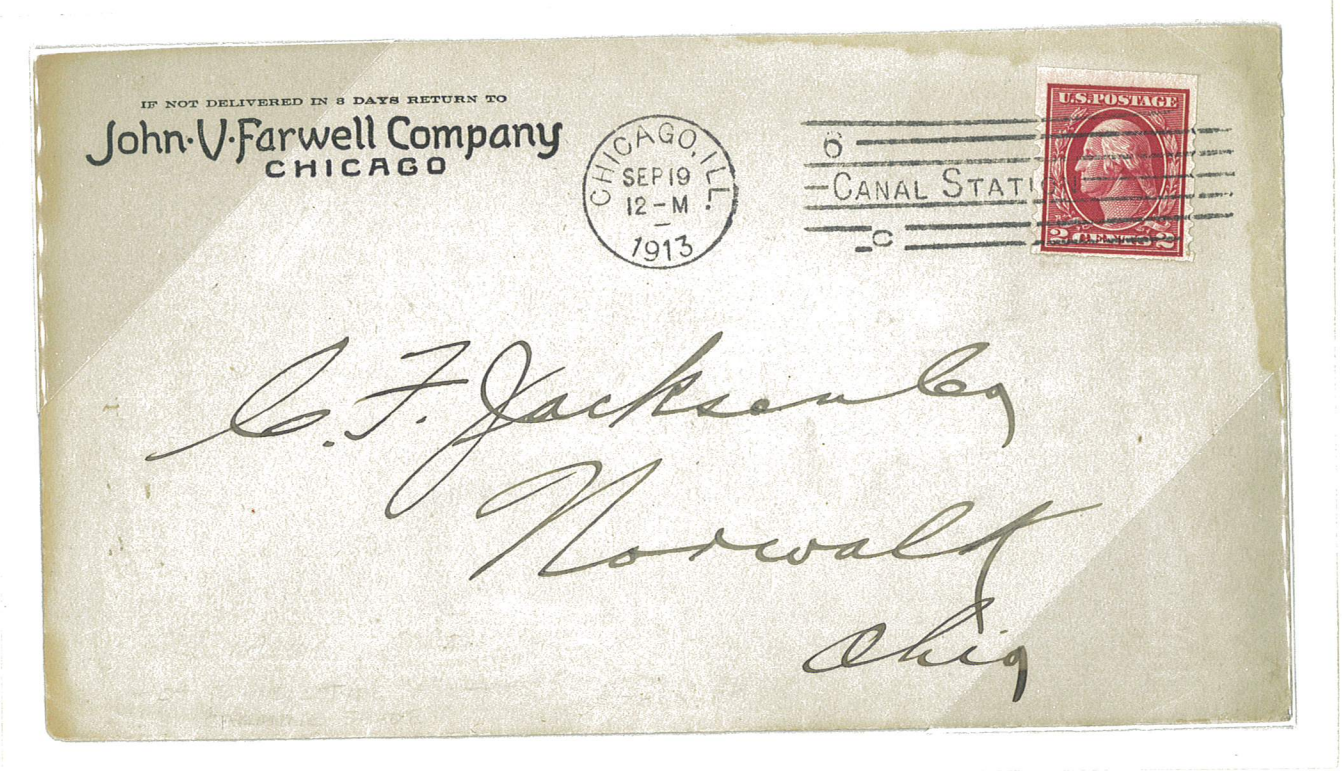
Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

Chicago, IL to Sherman, TX
November 22, 1912

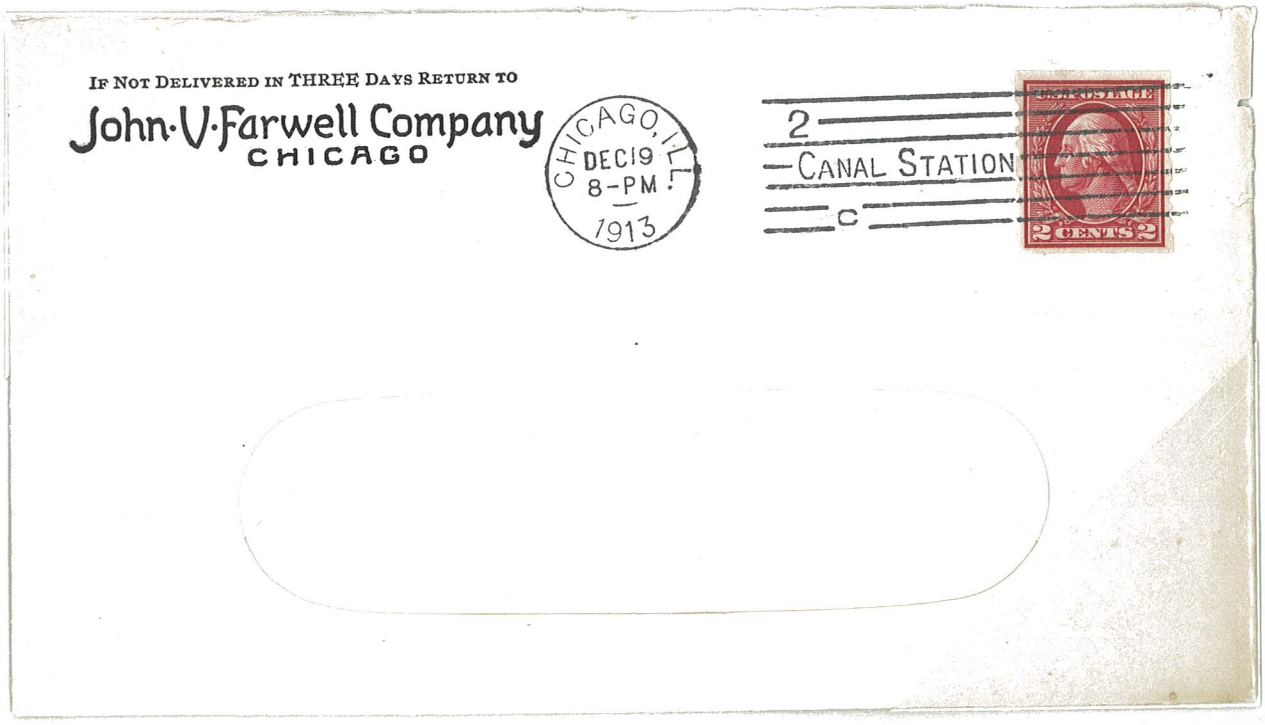
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912



Chicago, IL to Norwalk, OH
September 19, 1913



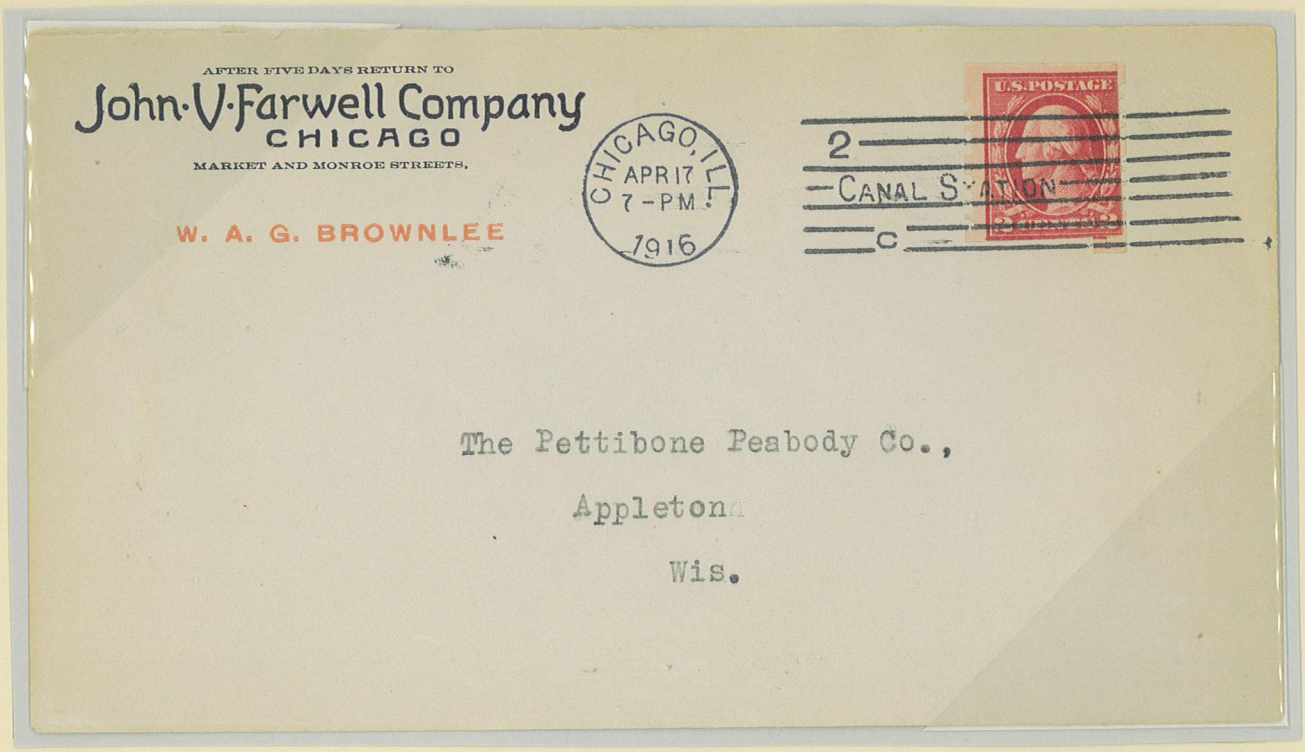
Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL
December 19, 1913

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

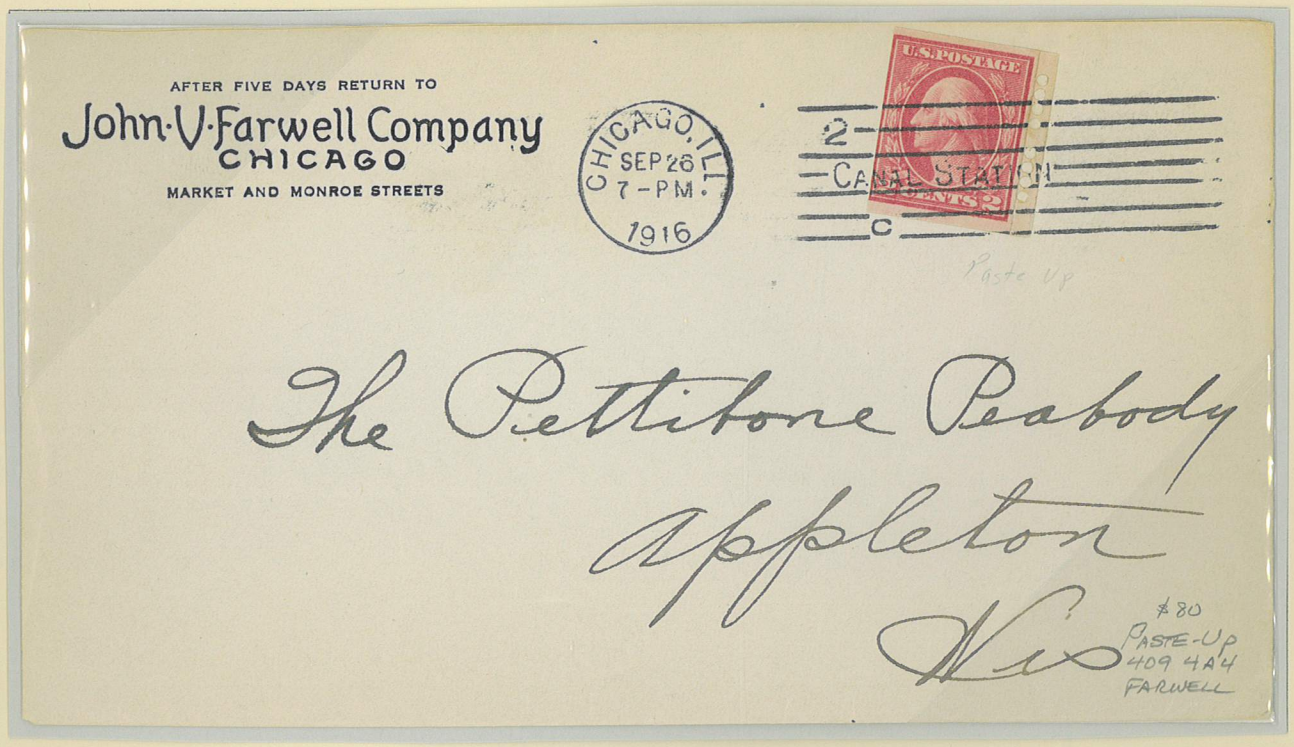
Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

Pasteup



Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI
April 17, 1916

Pasteup with Wide Tab



Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI
September 26, 1916

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

Post Office Official Seal Usage

Chicago, IL
March 18, 1915

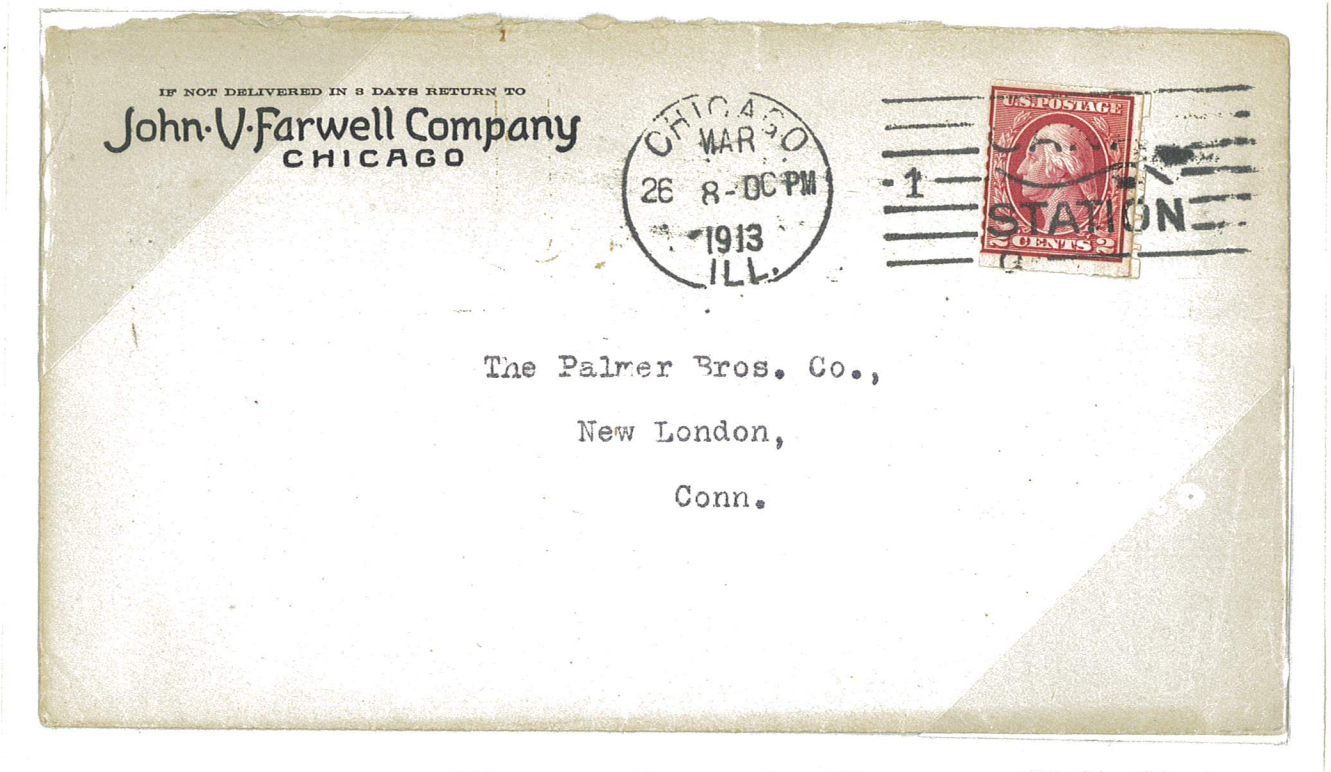
Guideline

Chicago, IL
September 29, 1915

U.S. Private Perforations — *John V. Farwell Co.*

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

Only Reported Example
Type A Spacing on Left
Pasteup on Right with Type B Spacing



Chicago, IL to New London, CT
March 26, 1913

Type A Spacing

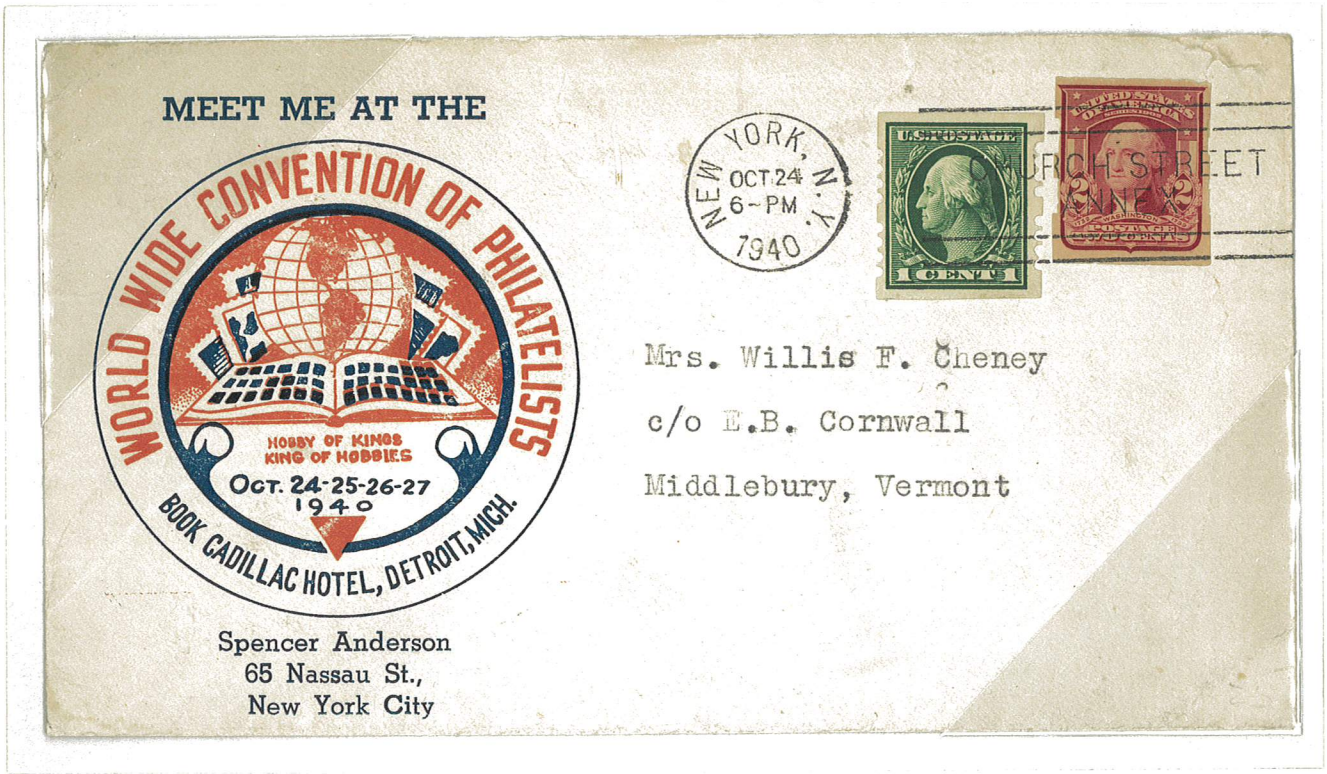
Type B Spacing on Pasteup

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1912

Combination of issues and private perforations



Single with 2¢ Lake Die II issue of 1906 having Schermack Type III perforations
New Yok, NY to Middlebury, VT
October 24, 1940

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1916-1917

Shifted Perforations
2.6 mm
e

(ex-Agris)

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1916-1917

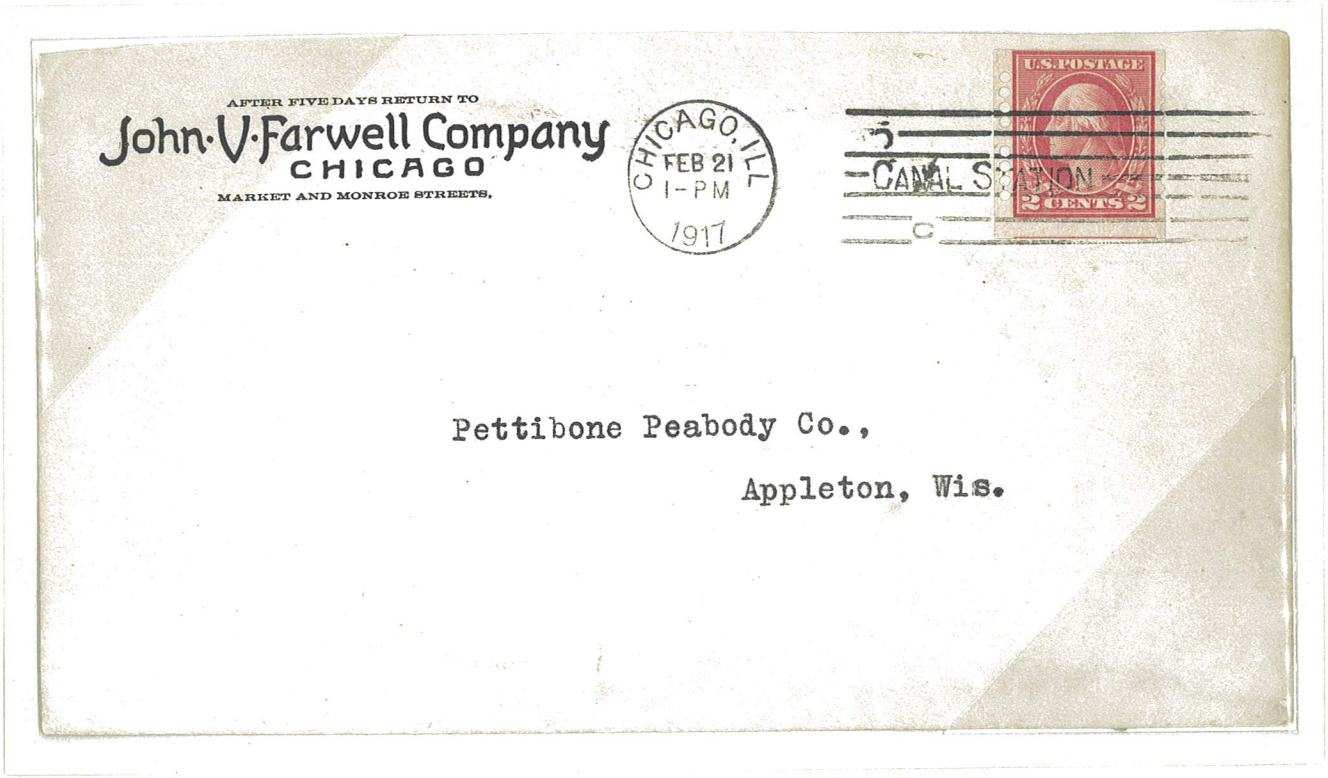
Earliest Known Issue Usage

Chicago, IL
October 24, 1916
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1916-1917



Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI
February 21, 1917
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4
Issue of 1916-1917

The overall majority of John V. Farwell Company mailing envelopes found was at those customer key cities, not Monona, Iowa.

Just as unusual is the Post Office Seal on the mailing and the P.O. stamped notation.

Chicago, IL to Monoma, IA
March 13. 1917

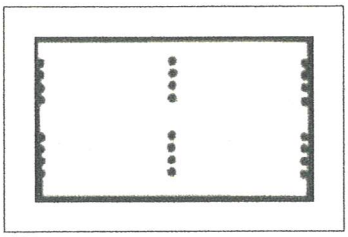
Missent Envelope
Two OX17 Postal Seals

(lifted/replaced)

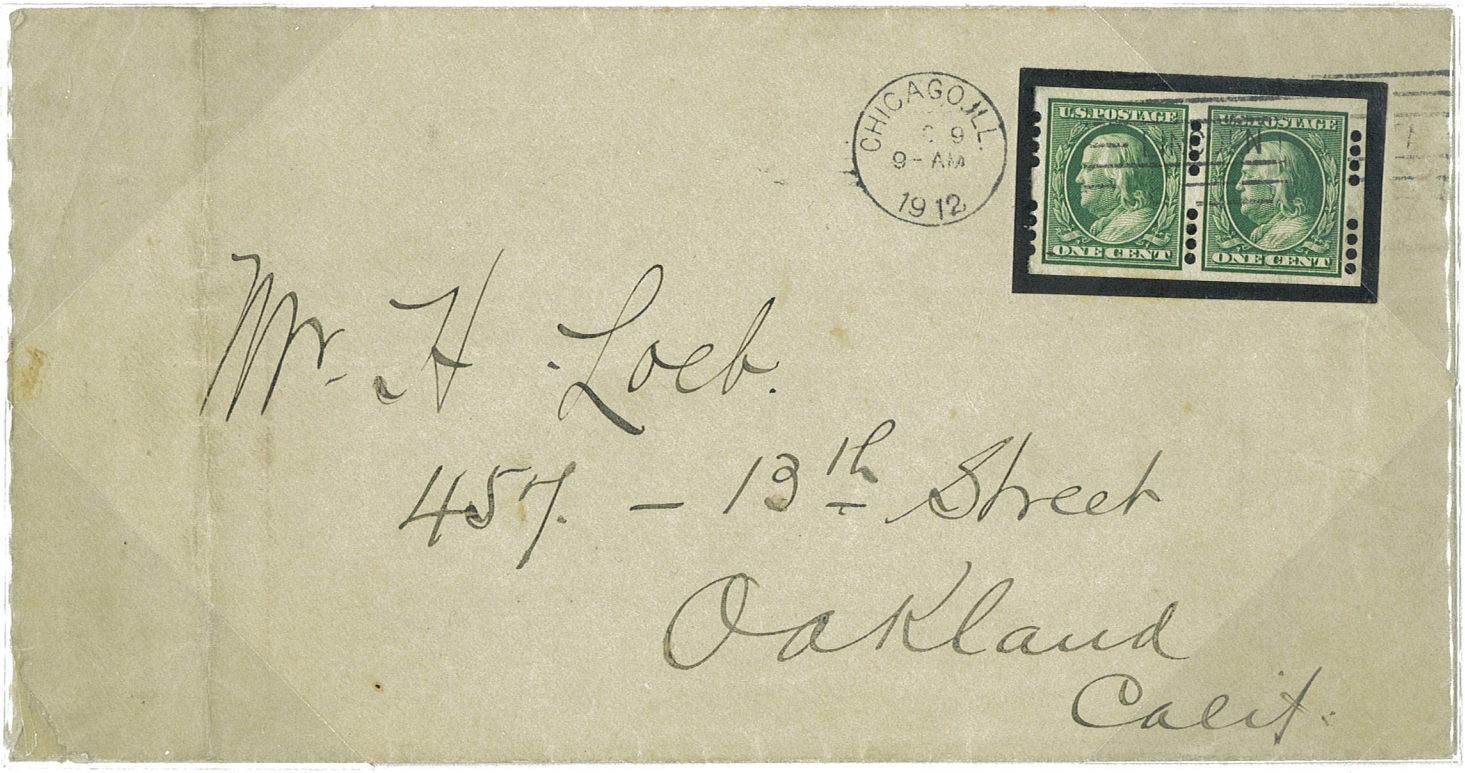
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1908-1909



Only Known Used Example
Unusual Usage on non-Farwell envelope



Pair
2.6 mm
Chicago, IL to Oakland, CA
Dec? 9, 1912
e
(lifted & replaced)

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1908-1909

Shifted Perforations
2.4 mm

Shifted Perforations
2.6 mm

(ex-Belasco)

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

2.7 mm

Imprint Pair
Shifted Perforations
3 mm

2.3 mm

Shifted Perforations
2.7 mm

Guideline Pair
Shifted Perforations
2.6 mm
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Shifted Perforations
Imprint Margin
2.6 mm
e

Shifted Perforations
Imprint Margin
2.6 mm
e

Shifted Perforations
2.5-3 mm
Plate Number Imprint 5484

2.6 mm
Plate Number 5715

Guideline Strip
2.2-2.3 mm
e

Guideline Strip
Shifted Perforations
2.6 mm

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

2.7 mm
Plate Number Imprint A5715

2.7 mm
Plate Number Imprint A5715

Mysteries of Farwell Perforation

There are several examples of Farwell perforated items that bear no clear explanation of their existence.

One is the margin items that are missing perforations. Did a Farwell employee just stop the process when he reached the last vertical row at the end of the run by accident or laziness? This variety is seen on both left and right margins and both 1-cent and 2-cent issues.

Margin Column Perforations Missing

Shifted Perforations
2.7 mm
Plate Number Imprint A5679

e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

One Cent Unsealed Circular Rate

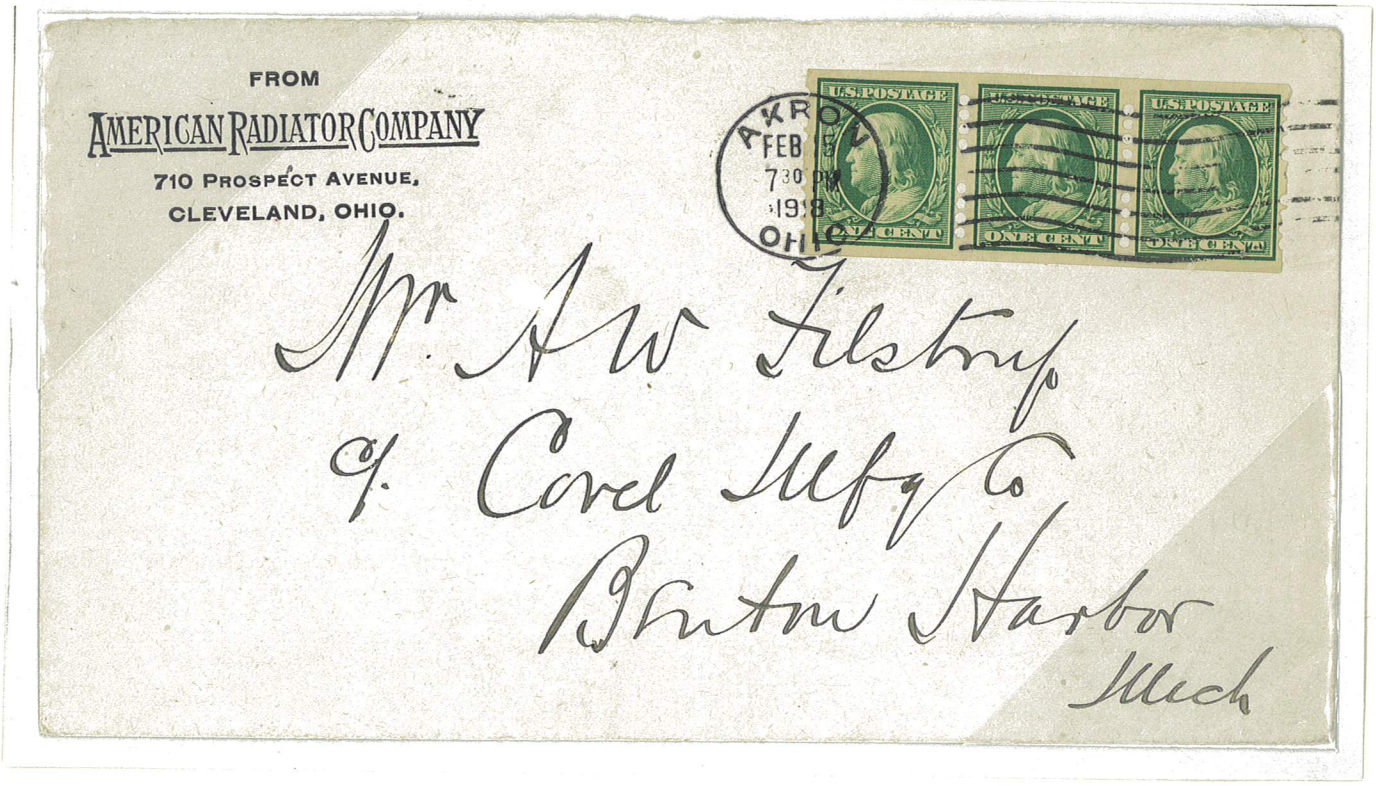
Chicago, IL to Brenham, TX
January 1912

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Three Cent War Rate
Unusual Usage on non-Farwell envelope



Strip
Shifted Perforations
Akron, OH to Benton Harbor, MI
February 15, 1918

Covel Mfg Co covers are also found with John V. Farwell Co, United States Automatic Vending Co, Schermack Mailing Machine Co, Brinkerhoff Vending Machine Co and their own private perforated stamps.
One reason is that A.W. Filstrup, the president of the company was a stamp collector.

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Shifted Perforations

Pasteup

Margin Single

2.3 mm

Shifted Perforations
3 mm

Imprint Pair
Shifted Perforations
3 mm

Guideline Pair
2 mm

Guideline Pair
2.6 mm

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

2.5-2.7 mm

Shifted Perforations
2.3-3.2 mm

Imprint Strip
Shifted Perforations
3 mm

Guideline Strip
Shifted Perforations
2.3 mm
e

Guideline Strip
Shifted Perforations
2.7-3 mm

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Shifted Perforations
3 mm
Plate Number Imprint 5624
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Earliest Known Usage

Chicago, IL to Grimms, WI then redirected to Greenleaf, WI
then redirected back to Grimms, WI, then redirected to Wayside, WI
October 11, 1911
October 12, 1911
October 13, 1911
October 19, 1911
(ex-Agris)

Backstamps

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Inverted

Chicago, IL to Milwaukee, WI
January 20, 1912

(ex-Agris)
Inverted

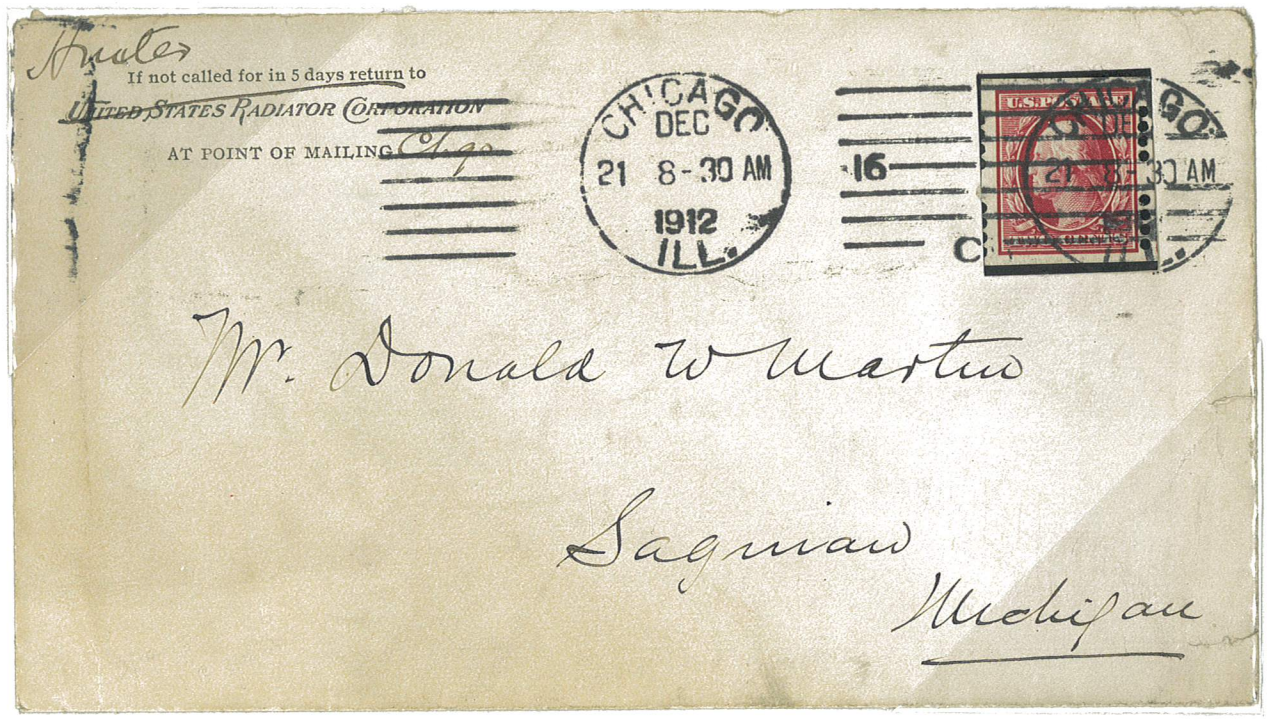
Chicago, IL to Attleboro, MA
January 29,1912
(ex-Agris)

U.S. Private Perforations

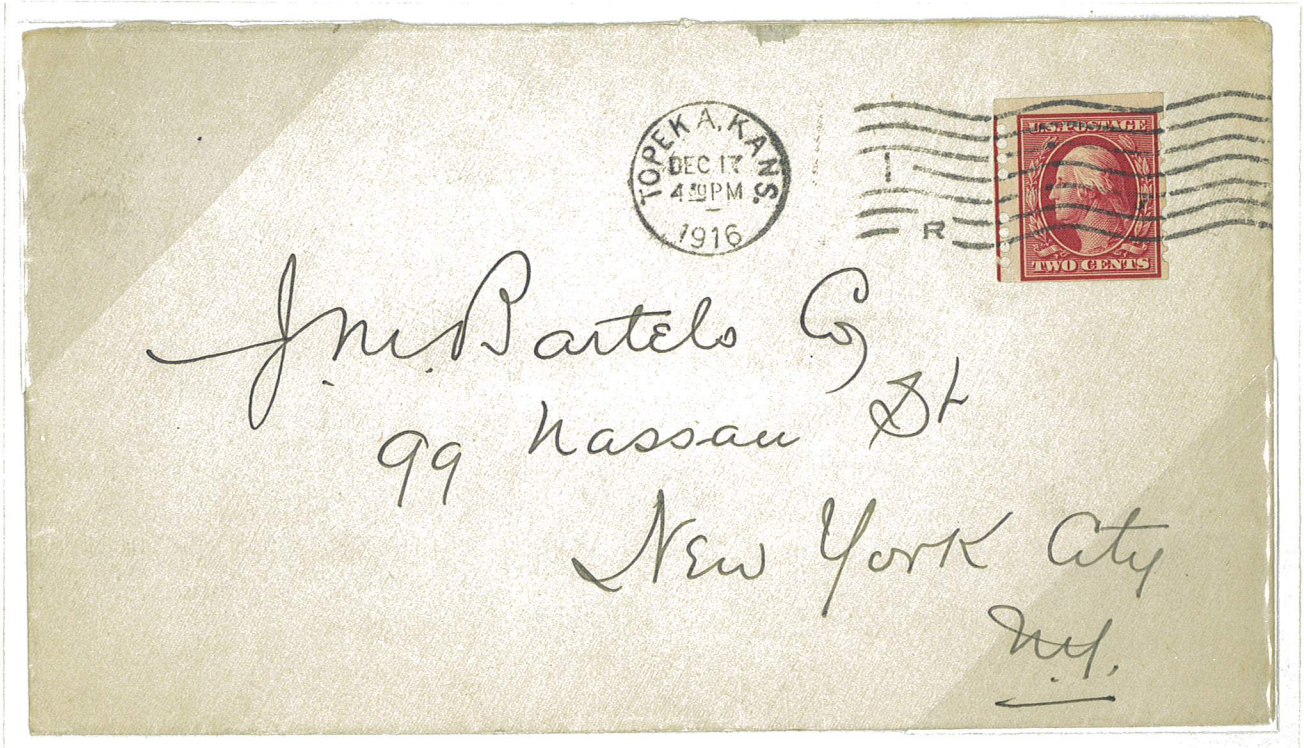
John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Unusual Usage on non-Farwell envelopes



Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL to Saginaw, MI December 21, 1912
(lifted & replaced)



J.M. Bartels Co.was a Stamp Dealer
Topeka, KS to New York, NY December 17, 1916

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Thomas Hunter, as noted before, was selling Farwell's perforated stamps to dealers and collectors. His note "Chambers Perforations" was what the perforations was originally called.

Pair
3 mm
Chicago, IL to Oakland, CA
November 26, 1912

(ex-Belasco)

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

Shifted Perforations

e

Margin Column Perforations Missing

Plate Number A5831

Guideline Pair
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

Strip
e

Margin Strip
Shifted Perforations
e

Guideline Strip

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL to Seaton, IL
July 1912
(Front Only)

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

Combination of issues with private perforations

Pair with Pairs of 1¢ and 2¢ issue of 1910-1911 having
Farwell Type 4B4 Perforations along with a Pair of 2¢ issue of 1912 with Farwell Type 4A4 Perforations
Chicago, IL to La Porte, IN
December 11, 1912
(ex-Belasco)

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

Shifted Perforations

Pasteup
4B4 on left
4A4 on right

Shifted Perforations
e

Margin Column Perforations Missing

Shifted Perforations

Guideline Pair

Shifted Perforations

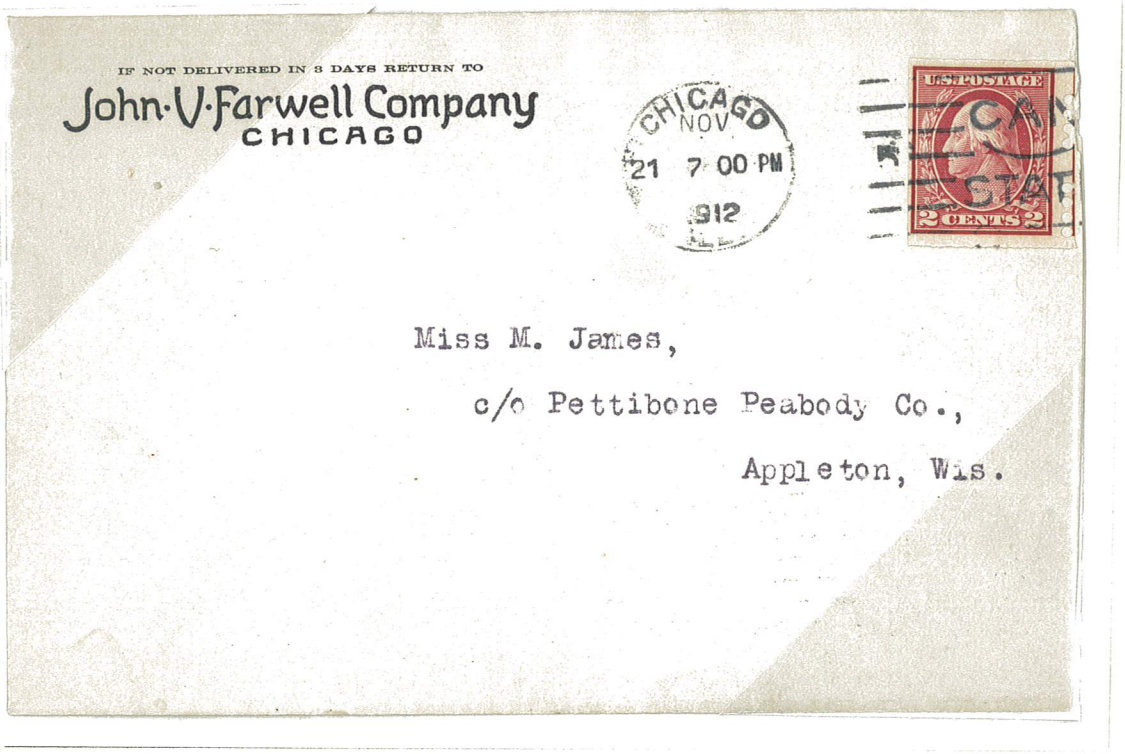
Shifted Perforations
Plate Number 5740
e

Guideline Strip
e

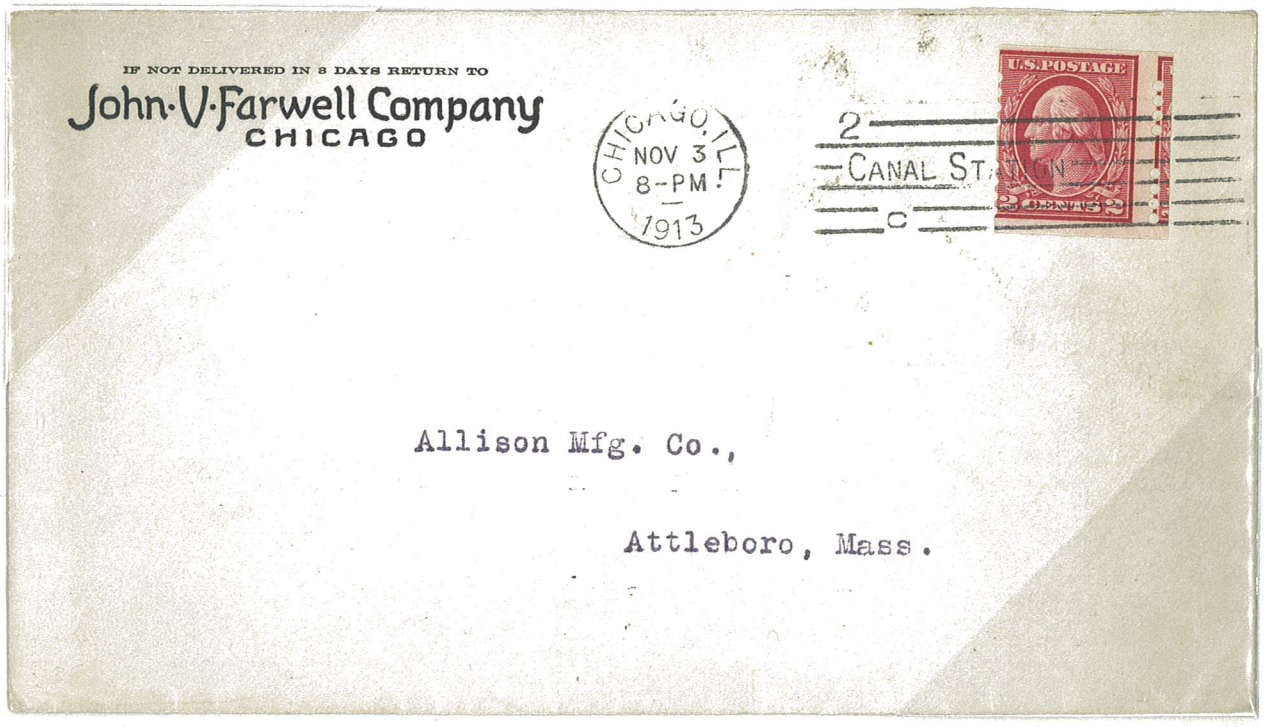
U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1912



Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI
November 21, 1912



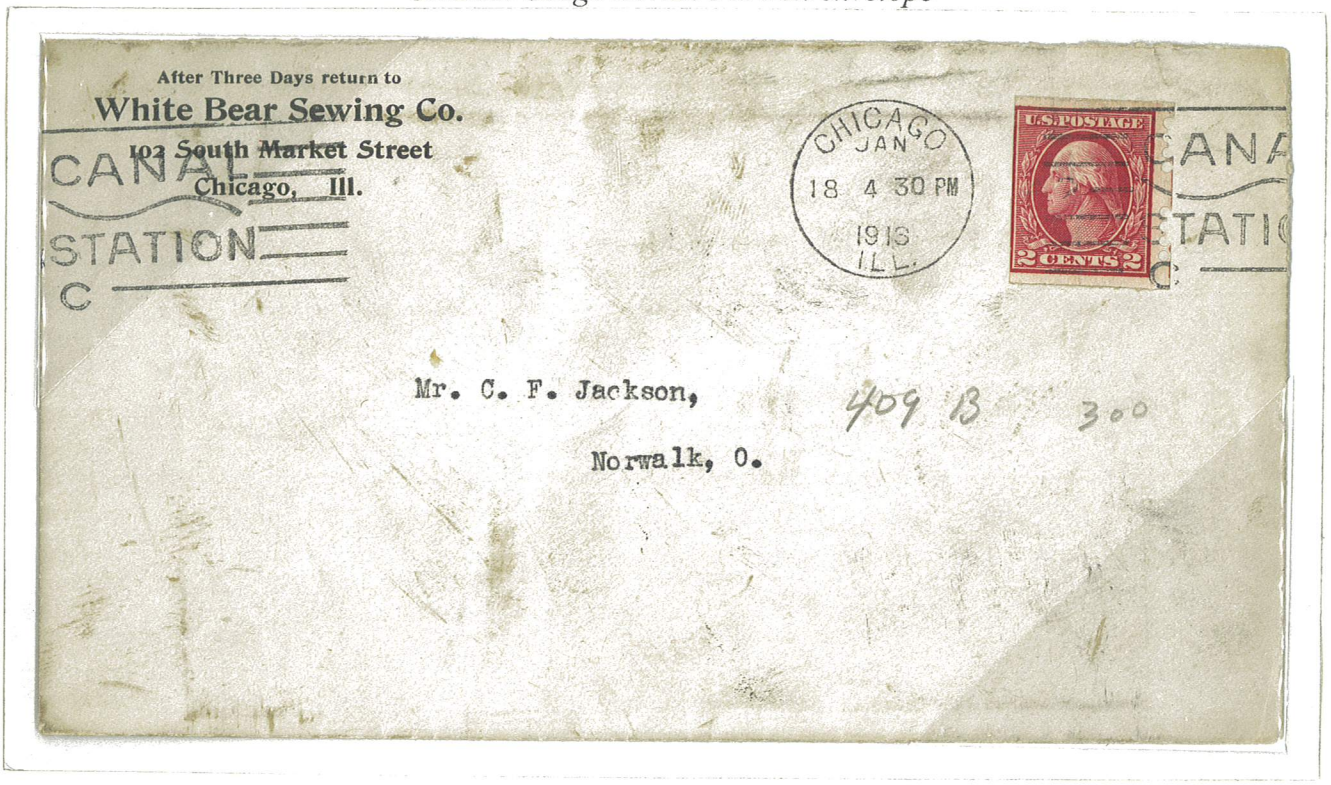
Chicago, IL to Attleboro, MA
November 3, 1913

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

Unusual Usage on non-Farwell envelope



Chicago, IL to Norwalk, OH
January 18, 1913

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

Guideline

Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL
January 27, 1915

Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL
November 16, 1916

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

Only Reported Example
Type B Spacing on Left
Pasteup on Right with Type A Spacing

Chicago, IL
February 13, 1914

Type B Spacing

Type A Spacing on Pasteup

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1916-1917

Shifted Perforations
Chicago, IL
December 12, 1916
(lifted & replaced)

Imprint Pair
Shifted Perforations
e

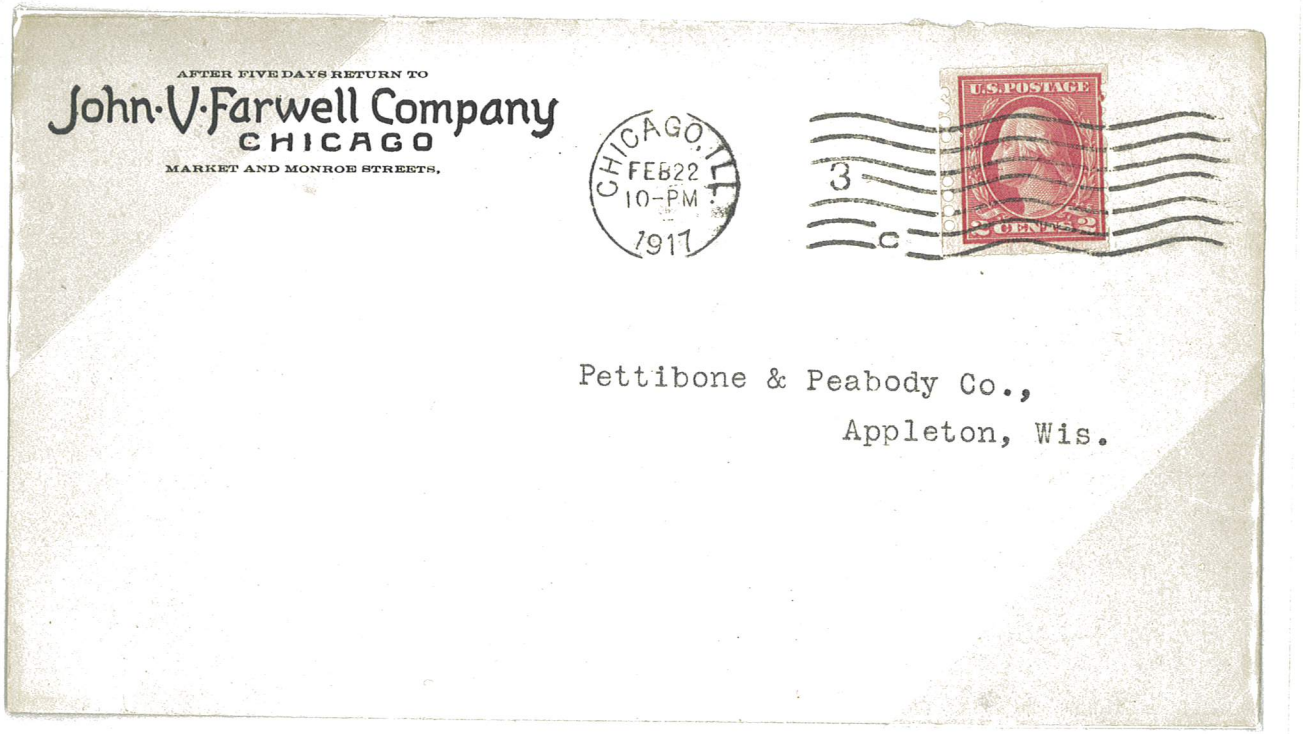
Largest Known Multiple

Guideline Strip

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4B4
Issue of 1916-1917



Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI
February 22, 1917

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4

Type 4A4 and Type 4B4

Issue of 1910-1911

During the perforation process the pins used to punch the holes were sometimes spaced differently in each row in an effort to center the perforations. This resulted in having both Type A and B spacing in the same row. This can be seen in the following examples.

Combination Perforations
4B4-4A4-4A4
3 mm

Combination Perforations 4B4-4A4-4A4-4A4-4A4

Margin Strip with Pressmen Initials
3 mm
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4 and Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Shifted Perforations
2.6 mm
Left Column Type A
Center Column Type B
Right Column Type B
e

Margin Block
Shifted Perforations
2.6 mm
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B

Guideline Block
Shifted Perforations
2.6 mm
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B

Arrow Guideline Block of 8 with Pressmen Initials
Shifted Perforations
3 mm
Bottom Center Row Type A
Margin Top Column Type A
Top Center Row Type B
Margin Bottom Column Type B

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4 and Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Shifted Perforations
3 mm
Plate Number Imprint A5679 with
Pressmen Initials
Top Row Type A
Middle Row Type B
Bottom Row Type B
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4 and Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Combination Perforations 4B4-4A4-4A4

Pressmen Initials
Shifted Perforations
3 mm

One of a few known Pasteup on any Farwell Issued Stamp

Shifted Perforations

Combination Perforations
4A4-4B4-4A4

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4 and Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Guideline Block
2.3-2.4 mm
e
Top Row Type A
Bottrom Row Type B

Shifted Perforations
2.3-2.4 mm
Middle Row Type A
Top Row Type B
Bottom Row Type B
e

3 mm
Top Row Type B
Bottom Row Left
Column Type A
Bottom Row Middle and
Right Column Type B
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4

Type 4A4 and Type 4B4

Issue of 1910-1911

Shifted Perforations
3 mm
Top Margin Column Type A
Bottom Middle Column Type A
Bottom Right Column Type A
Bottom Margin Column Type B
Top Middle Column Type B
Top Right Column Type B
e

Shifted Perforations
3 mm
Top Margin Column Type A
Bottom Middle Column Type B
Bottom Right Column Type B
Bottom Margin Column Type B
Top Middle Column Type A
Top Right Column Type A
e

Guideline Block
Shifted Perforations
2.2 mm
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B

Center Guideline Block
Shifted Perforations
2.3 mm
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B
(ex-Sheldon, Grunin)

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4

Type 4A4 and Type 4B4

Issue of 1910-1911

Shifted Perforations
3 mm
Plate Number Imprint 5608
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B
Middle Row Type B
e

Shifted Perforations
2.5-2.7 mm
Plate Number Imprint 5686
Bottom Row Type B
Top Row Type A
Middle Row Type B
e

Shifted Perforations
3 mm
Plate Number Imprint 5624
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B
Middle Row Type B
(ex-Sheldon, Grunin)

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4 and Type 4B4
Issue of 1910-1911

Unusual Usage on non-Farwell envelope

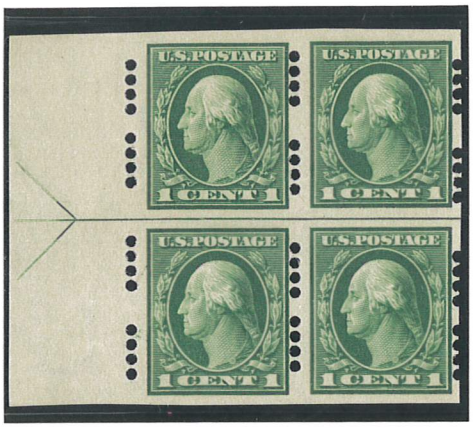
Shifted Perforations
Philadelphia, PA to Topeka, KS
January 8, 1915
Left Margin Type A
Right Margin Type B

Thomas C. E. Hunter of Chicago was given the job of handling collector and dealer requests for Farwell perforations after the company decided not to process the same. Hunter was given 400 pairs of the 1910 Issue and 600 pairs of the 1912 Issue. It is believed that he had both the one and two cent stamps in sheet format from which he created pairs, strips and blocks.

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4 and Type 4B4
Issue of 1912



Arrow Guideline Block
Shifted Perforations
Margin Top Column Type A
Bottom Middle Column Type A
Bottom Right Column Type A
Top Middle Column Type B
Top Right Column Type B
Margin Bottom Column Type B
e

Arrow Guideline Block
Margin Top Row Type B
Margin Bottom Row Type A
e

Center Guideline Block
Shifted Perforations
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4

Type 4A4 and Type 4B4

Issue of 1912

Shifted Perforations
Margin Row Type A
Top Row Type A
Middle Row Type A
Bottom Row Type B
Plate Number 6041
e

Shifted Perforations
Top Row Type A
Middle Row Type A
Bottom Row Type B
Plate Number 6041

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4

Type 4A4 and Type 4B4

Issue of 1912

Margin Strip
Shifted Perforations
Combination Perforations
4A4-4B4-4B4-4B4-4B4

Block
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B
e

Centerline Block
Shifted Perforations
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4
Type 4A4 and Type 4B4
Issue of 1912

Arrow Guideline Block
Shifted Perforations
Top Margin Left Column Type A
Top Margin Column Type B
Bottom Margin Left Column Type B
Bottom Margin Column Type A
e

Guideline Block
Shifted Perforations
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B

Top Row Type A
Middle Row Type A
Bottom Row Type B
Plate Number
6151

(ex-Belasco)

Margin Column Perforations Missing

Shifted Perforations
Bottom Row Type A
Top Row Type B
Middle Row Type B
Plate Number
Imprint A5785
e

U.S. Private Perforations

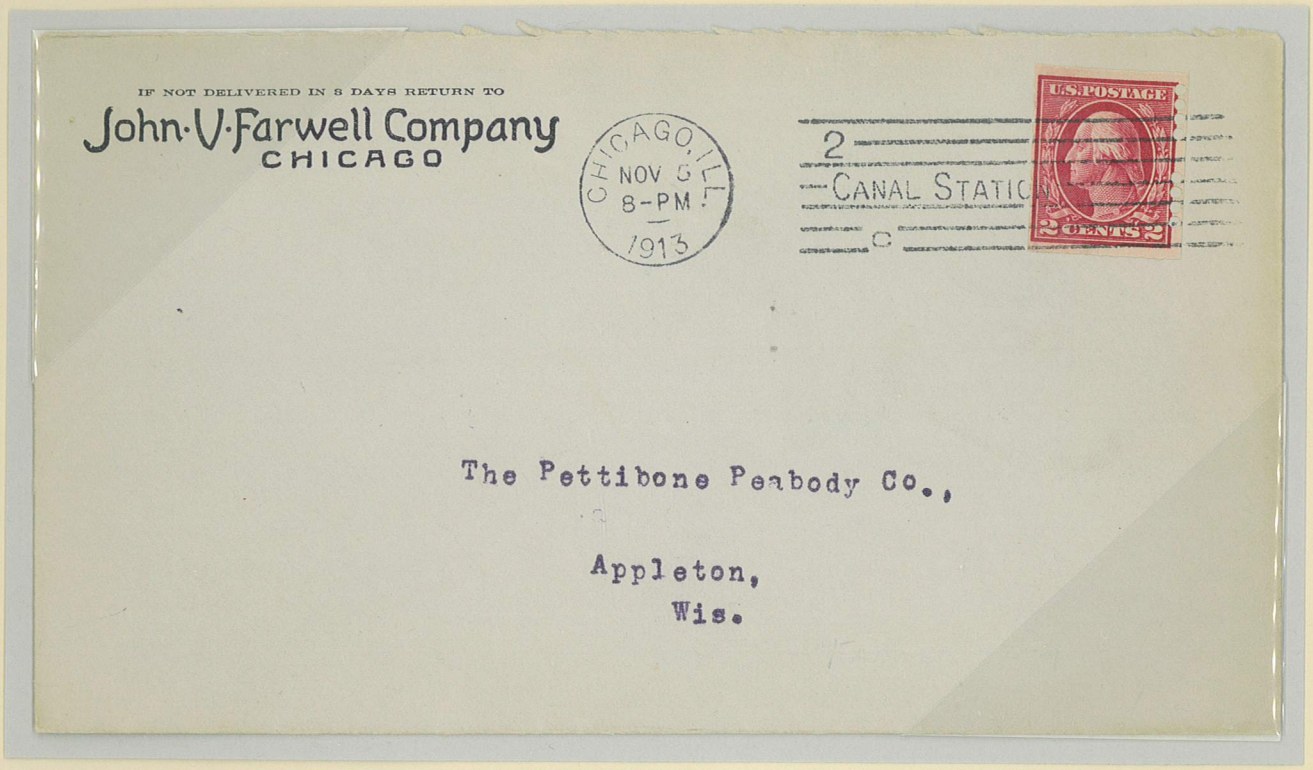
John V. Farwell Co.

Group 4

Type 4A4 and Type 4B4

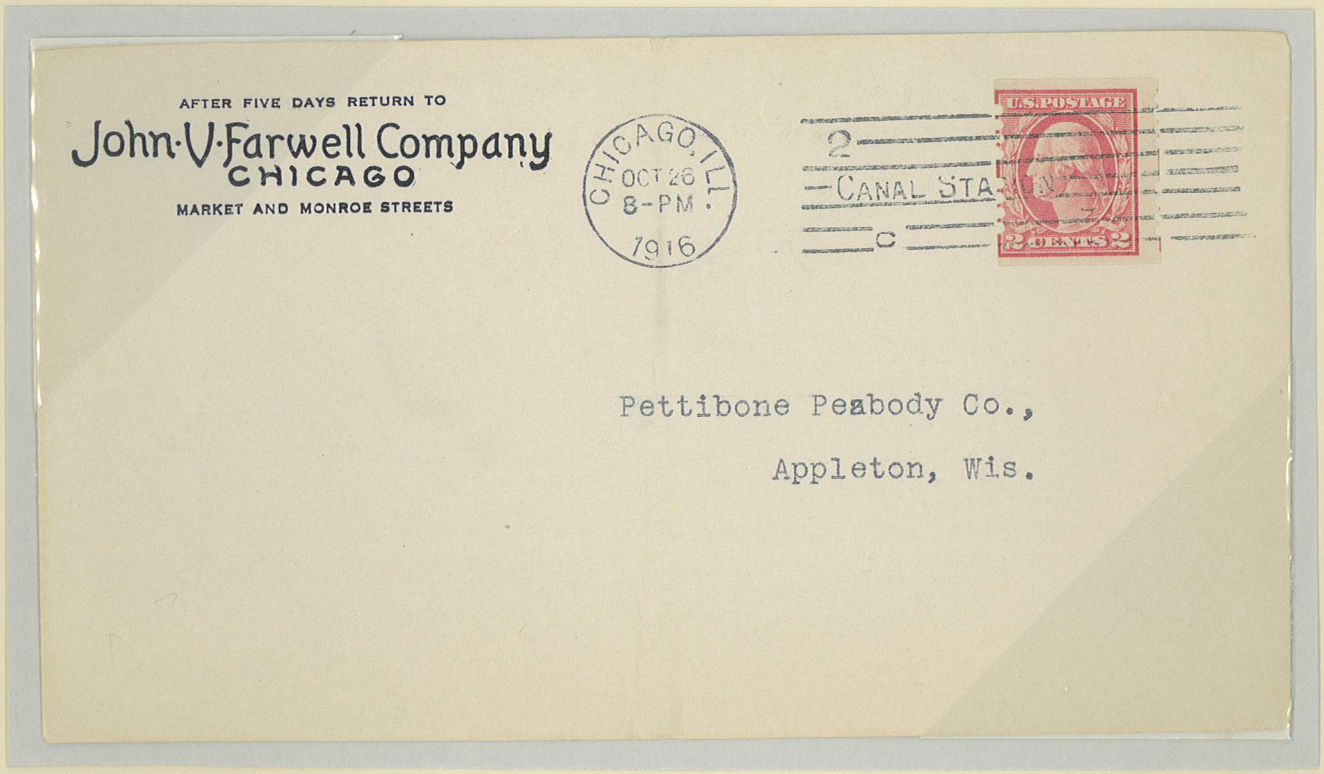
Issue of 1912

Type A at Left and Type B at Right



Shifted Perforations

Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI November 5, 1913



Shifted Perforations

Chicago, IL to Appleton, WI October 26, 1916

Group 5
The Error Group
Type 4A5 and Type 5A4

Dealing with this Group 5, Types 4A5 and 5A4, it has been believed to had been a mistake in the early part of Farwell's development. Because of the perforation size as well as the placement of the perforating pins, the vertical spacing between the sets of perforations was either "A", 2.5mm or "B", 4.5mm, except for Group 5 which only has "A" spacing.

The company had developed a device that fed a sheet of 400 imperforated stamps into it and had a perforating arm that had rows of perforating pins on it. No one is sure if the arm had one row of perforating pins or twenty (20) rows of pins. The logical and efficient method would have been twenty rows matching the sheet size. By removing or adding these perforating pins, different combinations occurred.

If there had been only one arm then first or second row from the top of the sheet with the extra perforating pins. Then each of the other 19 rows would be same except if they found the error and fixed it.

Twenty rows of perforating pins is the most likely process. Since only the first stamp row from the sheet top was the one reportedly with the extra pin then the rest of the 19 rows would have the 4X4 perforations.

Therefore since the fifth perforating pin was only placed in the first or second row from the sheet top, there could not be any block having either Types 4A5 or 5A4 in each row of the block.

One theory regarding this Group 5 comes from Howard's book (pp. 71-72) where he mentions a letter from Vinton Sisson, someone who was dealing with the early perforations of many different company stamps, stating that Farwell had settled on the 4x4 system. But an employee who was to remove a pin from the arm to have the device produce the 4x4 perforations failed to do that. This produced a perforation that had a 4x5 configuration because he left a fifth perforating pin in the second row from the top of the sheet.

A second theory was that a full sheet of stamps were inverted being placed in the device so that the 5 holes were now on the top row and the 4 on the second row of each stamp.

A third theory comes from Belasco's book (pp. 97) where he describes a 1912 letter to C.H. Mekeel a well known dealer from a Thomas Hunter, a Chicago dealer. He thought that the 4x5 combination was produced because an employee carelessly inserted a fifth perforating pin into the second row from the top of the sheet of stamps.

If the fifth perforating pin was carelessly placed in the first row from the top of the sheet, we would then have a Type 5A4 perforation.

Group 5
The Error Group
Type 4A5 and Type 5A4

All of these speculations do not explain a few of the following:.

Shown here is an example of a pair and strip with a Type 4B4 perforation in the stamp margin and Type 4A5 on the balance of the item. Was one pin not put in or the balance not pulled out?

Then there is the opposite scenario, a strip with a Type 5A4 in the left margin and the balance with Type 4B4. Here did they forget just one pin and pulled the rest, who knows?

Also there is a pair with a Type 4A5 then Type 5A4 on the balance. Did the left stamp edge have one pin added to the second row and the balance added to the top row?
Do we call this a Type 4A5 or a Type 5A4?

There is a paste-up strip with a Type 4A5 in the first two columns from the left and then it is pasted to a Type 4B4 with Type 4A5 on the balance of the strip. This happens when the left stamps are at the end of a strip and then pasted to the next strip's margin.

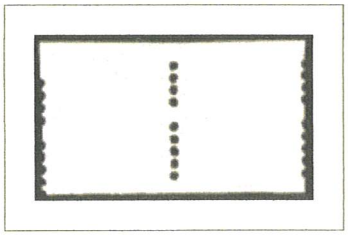
So what is the Farwell Group 5? Is it a series of compounding errors caused by poor management, poor training of staff, carelessness or just a poorly designed piece of mechanism?

Since we see this Group 5 on the 1¢ and 2¢ issues of 1910-1911 as well as 1912, this problem may have started in 1911 when they started producing their stamp perforations, but as we see it continued on until they stopped production.

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 5
Type 4A5
Issue of 1910-1911



It occurred during the production of Group 4 when an extra perforating pin was carelessly inserted in the device in the second row of the perforating device producing the Type 4A5.
When it was accidently inserted in the first row it produced examples of Type 5A4.
This is the reason blocks would only have the extra pin hole on one row not two, neither Type 4A5 or Type 5A4 on both rows of a block.
Because of the extra 5th perforating pin the spacing between the perforation set of holes are always A Type.

2.3 mm
e

Shifted Perforations
3 mm

(ex-Grunin)

2.5-2.7 mm
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 5
Type 4A5
Issue of 1910-1911

This block is an example show the Type 4A5 perforations only in one row of the block.

Margin Column Perforations Missing

Shifted Perforations
2.8 mm
Top RowType 4A5
Bottom RowType 4A4
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 5
Type 4A5
Issue of 1910-1911

2.3 mm

Shifted Perforations
3 mm
e

Combination Perforations 4A5-4A5-4B4-4A5-4A5
Showing the left pair attached to the right pair by the margin missing a 5th pin.

Pasteup Strip
Shifted Perforations
e

Guideline Strip
Shifted Perforations
2.2-2.4 mm

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 5
Type 4A5
Issue of 1912

e

Guideline Pair
e

Guideline Strip
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 5
Type 4A5
Issue of 1912

Only Known Used

Shifted Perforations
e

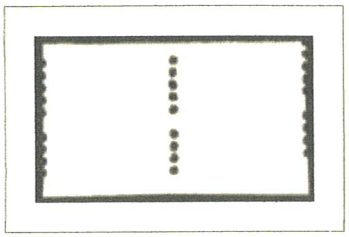
(ex-Miller)

Guideline Strip
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 5
Type 5A4
Issue of 1912



It occurred during the production of Group 4 when an extra perforating pin was carelessly inserted in the device in the first row of the perforating device producing the Type 5A4.
When it was accidently inserted in the second row it produced examples of Type 4A5.
This is the reason blocks would only have the extra pin hole on one row not two, neither Type 5A4 or Type 4A5 on both rows of a block.
Because of the extra 5th perforating pin the spacing between the perforation set of holes are always A Type.

Guideline Pair
Shifted Perforations

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 5
Type 5A4
Issue of 1912

(ex-Belasco)

Guideline Pair

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 5
Type 4A5
Issue of 1910-1911

Farwell Group 5, the following examples also occurred.

The 5th pin missing from the second row of the margin but not the remaining stamps in the second row. Or did they forget to remove the other 19 pins.
Producing the following combination of perforations.

Combination Perforations 4B4-4A5-4A5

Margin Pair
Shifted Perforations
2.7 mm

Combination Perforations 4B4-4A5-4A5-4A5-4A5

Shifted Perforations
2.6-2.7 mm

Group 5
Type 4A5
Issue of 1910-1911

. Farwell Group 5, the following examples also occurred.

The 5th pin missing from the second row of the margin but not the remaining stamps in the second row. Or did they forget to remove the other 19 pins.
Producing the following combination of perforations.

Combination Perforations 4B4-4A5-4A5

Shifted Perforations
3 mm

Combination Perforations 4B4-4A5-4A5-4A5-4A5

Shifted Perforations
3 mm

(ex-Sheldon, Grunin)

Group 5
Type 4A5
Issue of 1912

Combination Perforations 4B4-4A5-4A5

Margin Pair
e

U.S. Private Perforations

John V. Farwell Co.

Group 5
Type 5A4
Issue of 1912

Farwell Group 5, the following examples also occurred.

The 5th pin inserted in the first row at the left but not the remaining stamps of the first row, or the 5th pin was not removed from the first row.
Producing the following combination of perforations.

Combination Perforations 5A4-4B4-4B4-4B4

e

Combination Perforations 5A4-4B4-4B4-4B4

Shifted Perforations

(ex-Sheldon, Grunin)

The 5th pin inserted in the second row at the left but also in the first row of the remaining stamps.
Producing the following combination of perforations.
So is this a 4A5 or a 5A4?

Combination Perforations 4A5-5A4-5A4

(ex-Grunin)