United States of America

The Trans-Mississippi Issue of 1898

“WESTERN CATTLE IN STORM”
The $1.00 value used on large corner card cover.
Registered mail from New York to Bavaria in July, 1908.

The City of Omaha, Nebraska, was a worldwide focal point in 1898, when the community staged the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition. The set of nine stamps issued to commemorate the event are among the legends of United States philately.

In 1897, Edward Rosewater, editor of The Daily Bee newspaper in Omaha, asked the Postmaster General to issue stamps for the exposition. Consenting to the proposal, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing designed the stamps to appear in two colors. The idea was abandoned when the Spanish-American War caused the Bureau to spend much of its time producing revenue paper to support the conflict.

Nevertheless, with a stamp in the set considered to be the most beautiful ever produced by the U.S.—the $1.00 “Western Cattle In Storm” issue—the Trans-Mississippi Issue became an enchanting set for philatelists. Its importance in commemorating America’s successful western expansion cannot be underestimated.

Pages shown here—from the most extensive collection ever formed of this issue—offer important off-cover examples of the stamps (including major one-of-a-kind items) and significant domestic and foreign destination usages. Particular attention is called to the large multiples of the higher values.
**Pre-Exposition Advertising**

**Exposition Pass**
Trans-Mississippi International Exposition Pass, issued as complimentary card which was good for admission at any Pass Gate.

**An Early Exposition Corner Card**
Primitive-appearing Trans-Mississippi Exposition advertising corner card used on two-cent entire used on October 10, 1896, nearly two years before the opening of the exposition.
The One-Cent Issue

Foreign Destinations

To Panama
One-cent issue combined with one-cent definitive for post card rate from Colon, Panama, in August, 1904.

To Yokohama, Japan
One-cent issue combined with 3-cent Bank Note issue on one-cent entire to pay five-cent UPU letter rate to Japan in March, 1901.
The One-Cent Issue
Foreign Destinations

To St. Martin, West Indies
Five-cent UPU letter rate on registered 2-cent entire
to West Indies in November, 1899.

To British Virgin Islands
One-cent issue in combination with Columbian and Pan American
issues on 2-cent entire. Registered to Hellebourg Reunion, BVI in July, 1902.
The One-Cent Issue
Foreign Usages - From The Far East

"U.S. Postal Agency - Shanghai"
One-cent value on one-cent postal card from Kiauchow, China with 1/2-cent Kiauchow adhesive paying postage to Shanghai, from which the card was dispatched.

From Military Station Post office - Manila, Philippines
Two-cent domestic letter rate for soldier's letter from the U.S. military facility in the Philippines.
The One-Cent Issue
Foreign Destinations

To Tunis
One-cent issue combined with 1, 2 and 5-cent definitives on 1-cent entire on registered cover to Tunis, Africa, in Nov., 1899.

To Russia
One-cent in combination with 3-cent definitive on 1-cent entire from Cleveland, Ohio, to Warsaw, then a part of Russia. Machine cancel. Five-cent UPU rate, March, 1899.
The Two-Cent Issue
“Farming In The West”

Imprint Copies
Unused examples of pairs and a block of four showing the full Bureau of Engraving & Printing imprint.
The Two-Cent Issue
Local Use At Exposition

Personally Signed Pass Enclosed
Two-cent domestic rate on cover addressed to recipient (at the "Indian Camp") within the Trans-Mississippi Exposition grounds. Signed "U.S. Indian Congress" pass enclosed.
The Two-Cent Issue
Domestic Usages

Exposition Machine Cancel
Trans-mississippi Exposition official corner card cover with two-cent paying domestic letter rate. Exposition Station postmark August, 1898.

The Origin of the “Kicking Mule” Cancel
Cover to famed Boston stamp dealer, Warren Colson, contains letter from Postmaster of Port Townsend, Wash, in which the latter describes the origin of the “Kicking Mule” cancel (used to cancel stamp on this cover).
Chinese Imperial Post stamps
Two-cent issue on postal card with Chinese stamps paying Shanghai Local postage...then dispatched by U.S. Postal Agency, Shanghai, Dec., 1899.

Soldier's Letter To Japan Bearing Japanese Stamps
Underpaid cover from Japan...then sent from U.S. Military Station, Cavite, Philippines, in May, 1899.
The Two-Cent Issue
From U.S. Military Station, Havana, Cuba

“The Fourth U.S. Postage Stamp Sold At Military Station, Cuba”
Hand-cancelled copy of two-cent value (not actually placed into the mails) that has numerous verification signatures that stamp was among the first U.S. stamps sold at U.S. Military Station, Havana, Cuba.
The Two-Cent Issue
From Military Station Post Offices, Philippines

From the U.S.S. Bennington

From “Military Station No. 1 - Philippines”
Two-cent domestic rate soldier’s letter to Seattle, Wash, in April, 1899.
Pre-Exposition Advertising In Omaha, Nebraska

1897
Commercial firm added Exposition advertisement to their business envelope, as did a large number of local companies.

Philatelic-Related - 1898
Trans-Mississippi Exposition advertising logo as part of business envelope for local stamp collecting publication.
Swiss, Japanese & U.S. Frankings

Originating In Switzerland

Reverse showing Kriens receiver and U.S. Dead Letter Office marking.
The Two-Cent Issue
Unusual Covers

Color Lithograph Corner Card
Two-cent domestic rate on colorful corner card for ammunition.

On Flag Patriotic Cover
Special Delivery usage with two-cent paying domestic letter rate on full-color patriotic cover from Crawfordsville, Indiana, on June 24, 1898,
The Two-Cent Issue
Usages On Philippines Postal Cards

Unusual Combination Usage
The Two-Cent Issue
From Outside The U.S.

From Canada
On "Rule Britannia" corner card: mailed from Montreal with Canadian definitive and forwarded from Tenafly, NJ, with two-cent issue paying domestic letter rate.

From "Porto Rico"
UPU foreign rate of five cents on corner card cover from U.S. Military Station No. 1 in San Juan, Porto Rico. The latter was then still a Spanish possession.
The Two-Cent Issue
On Wrapper To France

Two-cent issue pays foreign rate for newspapers on this wrapper cancelled with a New York circular rate oval handstamp in August, 1898.
The Two-Cent Issue
Foreign Destinations

To Canada - “Held For Postage”
Letter returned to sender from Boston, Mass, post office because of missing postage. Two-cent domestic rate (also good for mail to Canada).

Underpaid To Austria
Two-cent stamp underpays the 5-cent UPU foreign letter rate. Austrian postage due stamp (30 centimes) applied at destination.
The Two-Cent Issue
To Turkey

To Turkey
Five-cent UPU rate to Constantinople in October, 1898. Via London.

To Turkey
From Buffalo, N.Y. - seven cents overpays the UPU foreign letter rate. July, 1898.
The Four-Cent Issue
Domestic Usages

“Admiral Dewey” Cancel
Four-cent issue cancelled with highly uncommon East Clarenden, Vermont, fancy cancel of Dewey.

Exposition Cancel
Double the domestic letter rate of two cents. Postmark of the Exposition Station ties stamp to cover. August, 1898.
The Four-Cent Issue
“Indian Hunting Buffalo”

Imprint Copies
Unused examples of pair and blocks of four showing the full Bureau of Engraving & Printing imprint.
The Four-Cent Issue
Foreign Destinations

To Uruguay
Overpayment by four cents of the UPU 5-cent foreign letter rate and eight cents registry. To Montevideo in Nov., 1903. New York and Uruguayan registry labels.

To Denmark
Thirteen cents combination postage (with Columbian stamp on 5-cent entire) pays registry and 5-cent UPU letter rate to Kolding in Oct, 1898.
First Day of Issue & Earliest Usage

Pre-First Day of Issue - “Earliest Known Usage of the Two-Cent Value”
Postmarked at Harrisburg, Pa., June 16, 1898, the day before official first day.

First day cover of one-cent issue from Washington, D.C., on June 17, 1898.
The Four-Cent Issue
To India

To Karachi
Mourning cover with five cent UPU foreign letter rate to Karachi from New York in October, 1898.

Registered To Quetta
Registered usage of five-cent letter rate to Quetta, Baluchistan, India, in Nov, 1899.
The Four-Cent Issue
To Russia

Five-Cent UPU Rate To Russia
Two covers to Russia, the latter a double weight cover that required postage due upon arrival in Novorossisk in June, 1899.
Letter Sheet To Germany
Four-cent issue added to two-cent letter sheet to overpay by one cent the 5-cent UPU rate to Hamburg in 1899. Rubber stamped corner card.

To Belgium
Overall flag patriotic cover bearing 5-cent UPU rate to Antwerp on May 5, 1899.
The Four-Cent Issue
To The Pacific

To Sumatra
Five-cent UPU foreign letter rate to Padang on machine-cancelled cover. March, 1899

To Australia, Forwarded To Fiji
Thirteen cents combination postage on registered cover to Sydney, Australia, then forwarded to Suva, Fiji, in March, 1900. From Lamar, Mo., via San Francisco.
The Four-Cent Issue
The Far East

From U.S. Postal Agency - Shanghai, China To Prague
“Red Band” cover to Prague (April 13, 1900) bearing Dowager Empress issue tied by local Kiauchow, China, handstamp. Dispatched with 5 cents UPU postage from U.S. Postal Agency in Shanghai.

To U.S. Military Station - Philippines
Seven Port Townsend, Wash, “Kicking Mule” handstamps tie 4-cent issue and one-cent definitives on two-cent entire to Manila. May, 1900.
The Five-Cent Issue
"Fremont On Rocky Mountains"

Imprint pairs
Plate number imprint pairs with full BEP imprint.

Imprint Block
Upper right sheet margin imprint plate number block
of 10 with full Bureau of Engraving & Printing imprint. Plate No. 602.
The Five-Cent Issue
Domestic Usages

Imprint Pair On Cover
Ten cents postage for 8-cent registry fee and 2-cent domestic letter rate. From Boston, Dec., 1900.

Combination Usage
Five-cent issue with one, two and four-cent stamps on a six times domestic letter rate cover on June 23, 1898.
The Five-Cent Issue

Exposition Cancel

Five-cent issue overpays single weight domestic rate cover.
Postmark of Exposition Station post office ties stamp.
August 3, 1898. Less than 75 recorded examples of this duplex cancel.

On Patriotic Corner Card To Austria

Five-cent and eight-cent issues combine for UPU letter rate and registry fee to Austria in July, 1899.
To Iceland
Single letter rate registered cover to Dyrafjord, Iceland, from Cleveland, Ohio, in November, 1899. Via New York, Reykjavik and Kjobenhavin.

To Finland
Five-cent UPU foreign letter rate on corner card cover from Philadelphia, Pa., to Helsinki in September, 1898.
The Five-Cent Issue
Usages In The Pacific

To Hawaii
Double weight registered letter to the Hawaiian Islands; Nov., 1898.

From U.S. Postal Agency - Shanghai, China
Five-cent UPU foreign letter rate to San Mateo, Calif., Sept., 1899.
The Five-Cent Issue
To South America

To Venezuela
Single weight registered cover with five-cent issue in combination with
Columbian 3-cent issue on 5-cent entire to Caracas in Nov., 1899.

To Argentina
Two five-cent issues on double weight cover to Buenos Aires per Steamship
   Luciana from New York in October, 1898.
First Day of Issue

“The Cover From Which The Scott Listing Was Made”
One through 10-cent values from Washington, D.C. on June 17, 1898.
No other 10-cent value known on first day cover.

One-cent issue postmarked Pittsburgh, Pa., June 17, 1898.
On Columbian Entire.
The Five-Cent Issue
Foreign Destinations

To Island of Bermuda
Five-cent UPU rate to Hamilton, Bermuda, in Feb., 1922. Very late usage.

Postage Due To Ecuador
Five-cent issue underpaying double letter rate cover to Guayaquil.
Ecuadoran postage due applied on arrival. April, 1899.
To England - Forwarded To Japan


To Italy

Thirteen cents pays UPU foreign letter rate and eight cents registry on cover from Hiram Deats (early president of American Philatelic Society) to Rome, Italy, in December, 1898.
The Five-Cent Issue
To India

Registered To India - Returned To Dead Letter Office
Thirteen cents pays 5-cent UPU foreign letter rate and eight cents registry on cover to Baluchistan, India. Return to U.S. and "Unclaimed".
Numerous transit markings on front and reverse.

Machine Flag Cancel On cover To Assam, India
Five-cent UPU foreign letter rate from Portland, Oregon, in March, 1899.
The Five-Cent Issue
From Philippines To Norway

Via Hong Kong - Double Weight Cover
Two five-cent issues pay twice the UPU foreign letter rate of five cents on cover from U.S. Military Station Post Office, Manila, Philippines, to Bodo, Norway. April, 1899.
The Five-Cent Issue
Mixed Frankings

Postage Due To Belgium
Double weight cover underpaid by 5-cent stamp on cover to Antwerp in October, 1899. Fifty centimes Belgian due stamp applied on arrival.

Underweight Letter To France
The Five-Cent Issue
From Porto Rico

From Military Station No. 4, San Juan, Porto Rico, to New York, November, 1899.

G. TINAUD.
JOYERIA, RELOJERIA Y OPTICA.
PLAZA DE ALFONSO XII.—San Juan, Pto.-Rico.

Mrs.

W. P. Sampers & Co.
195-199 Fulton Street.
New York.

From Military Station, San Juan, Porto Rico, to Copenhagen, Denmark Transit through France. March, 1899.

„Clara“.

Hrr.

Moses & Son G. Melchior.

Copenhagen.

Denmark.
The Five-Cent Issue
To Germany

To Baden
Five-cent UPU foreign letter rate to Germany in August, 1898.

To Schlesien
Double UPU foreign letter rate to Germany. From Washington, D.C., July, 1898.
The Eight-Cent Issue
“Troops Guarding Train”
(Two different plate numbers)

Imprint Block - Imperforate Between Horizontally
Unused top sheet margin plate number imprint block of four with full Bureau of Engraving & Printing imprint. Plate. No. 609.

Imprint Block
Unused top margin plate number block of six with full ABNC imprint.
Plate Number. 643.
The Eight-Cent Issue
Foreign Destinations

From Montana To England With Straightline “FOREIGN” cancel.
Eight-cent issue and 5-cent definitive on 5-cent entire for double weight postage and registry on cover to London in Nov., 1899. Illustrated in Luff.

To “Hayti”
Eight and four-cent Trans-Mississippi issues on one-cent entire. Registered single weight cover to Island of Hayti in June, 1899.
Registered On Corner Card Covers

Eight-cent issue is used for registry fee on corner card cover from Wisconsin State Seminary (1899) and on cover from stamp dealer in Boston, Mass. (1900).
Earliest Usages From Omaha

“Earliest Omaha Usage of One-Cent Value”
Postmarked on June 22, 1898. No known June 17 usage from Omaha.

“Earliest Omaha Usage of Two-Cent Value”
Postmarked on June 18, 1898. No known June 17 usage from Omaha.
The Eight-Cent Issue
To Canada

Registered From Early Stamp Dealer
Double weight letter with 12 cents postage
to Napierville, Quebec in December, 1898.

Patriotic Corner Card
Single weight registered letter to Lenoxville, Quebec
in August, 1898.
Registered To Belgium

Eight-cent in combination with one and four-cent Trans-Mississippi issues and 5-cent definitive pay registry fee and double weight letter rate postage to Antwerp in October, 1899.
The Eight-Cent Issue
To Cyprus

From Baltimore, Maryland
Eight-cent issue in combination with 4-cent Columbian and one-cent definitive pay for UPU letter weight registered cover to Larnaca, Cyprus in April, 1900.

From Sterling, Illinois
Eight-cent and five-cent on registered cover. Transit through London in August, 1898. To Larnaca, Cyprus.
The Eight-Cent Issue
Foreign Destinations

To Germany
A plate number imprint pair of the eight-cent issue overpays by three cents the five-cent UPU letter rate and eight cents registry. Sept., 1898.

To Manila, Philippines
Eight and one-cent Trans-Mississippi issues and 2 and 1-cent definitives on registered cover to Philippines from New Whatcom, Wash, in October, 1900.
The Ten-Cent Issue
"Hardships of Emigration"

Imprint Copies
Unused examples of pairs and a block of four showing the full Bureau of Engraving & Printing imprint.
The Ten-Cent Issue
The Far East

From U.S. Military Station - Philippines
Ten-cent issue pays double UPU foreign letter rate to Madrid, Spain in April, 1899.

To Hong Kong
Ten and eight-cent issues pay double the UPU foreign letter rate and eight cents registry from San Francisco to Hong Kong July, 1898.
Combination Usages

“Kicking Mule” Cancel
One through 10-cent values on cover to Wave Island, Fla, from Port Townsend, Wash.

Registered Usage To England
One through 8-cent values on June, 1895, registered cover to London.
The Ten-Cent Issue
To Europe

To Switzerland
Ten-cent issue used with eight-cent stamp paying double letter weight and registry fee to Zurich in March, 1899.

To Italy
Two ten-cent and one five-cent Trans-Mississippi issues combine with one and two-cent definitives to pay two-ounce letter rate to Florence. June, 1899.
Two usages showing domestic letter rate postage of two cents and eight center registry.
Top cover is on official Post Office Dept. corner card cover.
The Ten-Cent Issue
Domestic Usages

Exposition Cancel
Ten-cent used on cover postmarked with the Exposition Station duplex cancel. August 3, 1898.

Used With Revenue Stamps - From Hawaii
Ten-cent on 2-cent entire accompanied by two 2-cent proprietary revenue stamps. November, 1900. All stamps tied.
The One-Cent Issue
"Marquette On The Mississippi"

Imprint Copies
Unused examples of pairs and a block of four showing
the full Bureau of Engraving & Printing imprint.
From U.S. Military Station Post Office - Manila, Philippines

Ten and four-cent Trans-Mississippi issues combine with definitives to pay six times UPU letter rate and eight cents registry. Transit through Hong Kong and Brindisi en route. April, 1899.
The Fifty-Cent Issue

Unused Imprint Pair - Full Bureau of Engraving & Printing Imprint

Used Imprint Pair - Full BEP Imprint
Plate number imprint pair used from Eastwood, N.Y., March, 1902.

Unused Imprint Block of Four - Full BEP Imprint
The Fifty-Cent Issue

Domestic Usage

On piece used from U.S. Military Station, Philippines in 1899.

On Bank Commercial Cover

Fifty-cent combined with two 2-cent definitives pay eight cents registry plus 23 times the domestic letter rate on heavy business-sized cover from Omaha to Fremont, Nebraska in June, 1899.
Single On Registered Cover
Eight cents registry plus overpayment of eight times 5-cent UPU letter rate to Germany in January, 1899.

Single On Cover
Eight cents registry plus 21 times domestic letter rate from Omaha to Fremont, Nebraska, in July, 1899.
To Belgium

Sixty-eight cents postage for letter rate and registry on business cover to Brussels.
Twelve times UPU 1/2 oz rate, plus eight cents registry. Feb., 1899.

To Germany

Two 50-cent and nine one-cent Trans-Mississippi issues combine on registered usage to Nuremberg in January, 1899.
From The Philippines
Two 50-cent and three ten-cent issues combined with Philippines overprints on registered letter to Budapest, Hungary in November, 1899. From U.S. Military Station Number 1, Manila.
From Heusler, Indiana
Two registered covers from Dr. Ernst Heusler who mailed them from his namesake hometown, June and November, 1898.
The One-Dollar Issue
“Western Cattle In Storm”

Unused Imprint Block
Upper left sheet margin plate number imprint block of ten showing full Bureau of Engraving & Printing imprint. Plate No. 606.

Never hinged right sheet margin pair with partial arrow.

Single used from Manila, Philippines in Sept., 1899.
The One-Dollar Issue
To Germany

The $1.00 issue combined with two one-cent stamps on registered cover, per Steamer Campania, to Muhlhausen in August, 1898.
New York registry oval cancels tie stamps.
To Germany

The $1.00 issue used alone on registered cover from Boston to Baden in December, 1898.
The One-Cent Issue
Domestic Usages

Exposition Corner Card
One-cent printed matter rate on machine-cancelled cover from the Trans-Mississippi Exposition Publicity and Promotion Office.

Commercial Exposition Corner Card
Two-cent domestic letter rate on real estate corner card bearing advertisement for the exposition.
The Dollar Values
From The Heusler Correspondence

From Heusler, Indiana
Two registered covers from Dr. Ernst Heusler who mailed them from his namesake hometown, June and November, 1898.
The Two-Dollar Issue
"Mississippi River Bridge"

Imprint Strip
Upper left plate number imprint strip of five with full BEP imprint. Plate No. 613.

Imprint Block
Upper sheet margin plate number imprint block of four. Plate No. 613.

Used In Tandem With $1.00 Value
On piece from Heuser, Indiana, July, 1898.
The $2.00 Value Registry Usages

Used on piece with New York oval Registry cancels
In combination with 50-cent value and 8 and 15-cent definitives.

Registered to Hungary
Solo usage of the $2.00 value on cover mailed from Yonkers, New York, to Budapest in December, 1900. Transit through New York City.
To Germany

The $2.00, $1.00, 50, 10, 8, and 4-cent Trans-Mississippi issues in combination on foreign letter rated cover to Berlin on Sept. 22, 1898.

From Brooklyn, New York.
The Two-Dollar Issue

To Germany
$2.00 issue used with other Trans-Mississippi issues on letter mail to Berlin, Germany in September, 1898.

To Switzerland
Single on business corner card cover to Basel. Registered usage from Baltimore, Maryland, through New York in August, 1898.
Registered Usage To Germany

The one through $2.00 values cancelled by New York's Madison Square Post Office Station oval registry cancels on cover to Munich in July, 1898.
From Alaska Territory
Two-cent domestic rate cover with target cancels mailed from Koserefsky, Alaska Terr., in November, 1900.

Canadian-American Friendship Post Card
One-cent post card rate on multi-colored post card from Lowell, Mass.
The One-Cent Issue
Domestic Usages

Flag Patriotic
Two-cent domestic letter rate from Grand Rapids, Mich., in Nov., 1898.

Early Stamp Dealer Corner Card With "Kicking Mule" cancels
Postage due on overweight domestic letter rate cover from Cleveland, Ohio, to Port Townsend, Wash. Mule cancels on due stamps.