



13,
RARE

UNITED STATES

ENVELOPES

—BY—

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AND

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RARE UNITED STATES ENVELOPES.

In the whole realm of United States adhesive stamps, a realm of vast expanse, almost every nook and corner has been investigated by a Livingston, so that today it is a rare occurrence in the philatelic world to hear of the appearance of a new star, whether of first or tenth magnitude. Not only is nearly every adhesive stamp issued by the United States Postal Department well known, its parentage and birthday duly chronicled, but the specialists have made most minute researches, so that we now possess masterly works, real philatelic classics, leaving but little to be added to our knowledge of United States adhesive stamps.

The situation is quite different as we turn from these to United States envelopes. At the present moment we have but one historical work. The first historical notes are found in Dr. W. E. V. Horner's Catalogue of U. S. Envelopes, published originally in December, 1878, republished by him in 1884, revised and continued by E. B. Hanes in 1889. How many of the present generation of collectors know Horner even by name? Nevertheless he laid the cornerstone of the history of United States envelopes, and thereby is entitled to unstinted thanks and everlasting gratitude of all envelope collectors.

It is curious to note that when Dr. Horner's second publication appeared the National Philatelic Society had appointed a committee consisting of Messrs. R. R. Bogert and Joseph Rechert, to prepare a list of the stamped envelopes of the United States. At the same time Mr. J. K. Tiffany, of New York, was contemplating the publication of a work of a similar nature as a companion to his history of United States adhesive stamps. Four years later (in 1888) at the Boston Convention of the American Philatelic Association, it was decided to abandon the issuance of two separate publications, and to prepare a standard work to embody such historical data concerning United States envelopes as were then available. The united efforts of Mr. Tiffany, Bogert and Rechert produced the "Stamped Envelopes, etc., of the United States," published in 1892 by the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Lim., containing historical notes and a list of all U. S. envelopes known to the compilers. The list was later rewritten and revised, without the historical notes, by Mr. Geo. L. Toppan, for the Advanced Collectors' Catalogue.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge that this famous trio of philatelists laid broad foundations and erected a monument which will last through centuries. Certainly it was not their fault that the noble structure they had reared was not and could not be complete as to details, because at the time they labored many official documents had already disappeared, lost beyond recovery. Again, for many years following the introduction of stamped envelopes, neither the Department nor the contractor kept records beyond the mere number of envelopes manufactured and delivered to postmasters. As far as we know the Department demanded the submission of proof dies, and perhaps samples of the quality of the paper to be used; thereafter the contractor did pretty much as he pleased, and what appeared to him necessary or convenient. For an illustration take the first issue of United States envelopes of 1853.

The Department ordered a proof die for a Three Cents stamp bearing the portrait of Washington. The contractors, Geo. F. Nesbitt & Co., of New York, submitted a die which was accepted. He then started the manufacture of envelopes, with the result that we have five different dies enumerated in our general catalogue as Dies 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Now, as a matter of fact, Die 1 of 1853 shows ten different heads of Washington, which proves conclusively that the die, originally submitted, was several times redrawn, apparently without any knowledge or permission of the Department. Next Die 2 of 1854, commonly described as the "narrow straight end" Die, has three heads of Washington, and Die 3 or the "K end" Die, has two. And

finally, of Die 5 there are thirty distinct varieties, doubtless due to recutting, and of the total, ten are of the type employing letter T with a long top stroke, while the rest for some unknown reason show the letter T with a short top stroke.

Without going into further details, the facts already cited are sufficient proof of the assertion that in the early days of envelope issues the Department did not exercise any real supervision. Consequently the committee of the National Philatelic Society, not finding any official records excepting ordinary circulars, and discovering no evidence that the Department had ever authorized a change of the original Three Cent Die, assumed that no more was to be said or known.

Of course there are other reasons why our knowledge of United States envelopes is today far from being complete. The introduction of improved machinery for the manufacture of envelopes brought about certain changes in their shape, but often no definite data can be assigned for the appearance of the new-comer. And again, while the Department's schedule officially called for certain sizes and papers, the manufacturer did not supply them; vice versa, the latter manufactured envelopes not called for by the schedule. Thus the student of United States envelopes finds many perplexing problems, and it is small wonder that even at the present day comparatively few collectors can tell the story of a scarce and highly valuable envelope, and that often even great philatelic lights have quite divergent opinions as to the standing of a number of rare envelopes.

Evidently then what we need is the compilation of a work giving us the fullest possible information concerning all such United States envelopes that are considered rare, likewise of those that have been discovered since the "Historical Notes" were published. This is not an easy task, nor is it possible to do it justice within the scope of a paper to be read before a convention, but the authors hope that, in spite of such manifest drawbacks, their united efforts may at least help to awaken in the hearts of many collectors of United States envelopes a desire for further research into the history of this branch of philately. Indeed, there is no field that will so richly reward the labors of the painstaking student as the study of United States envelopes, of which the existence of many is shrouded in mystery.

Before taking up the subject matter of this paper it may not be amiss to give those who do not collect United States envelopes an idea of the number and the extent to which stamped envelopes are now required. Taking the envelope issues of all countries of the World, excluding the United States, their combined number for one year is but one-half the total needed in the United States. During 1906 the daily average was from 3½ to 4 million. The Postal Department issued 1,230,287,750 envelopes, 30.82% of which were ordinary and 69.18% special request, i. e., envelopes with printed return cards. The gross selling value of stamped envelopes and newspaper wrappers issued to Postmasters amounted to \$24,615,397, their postage value \$23,059,900, thus leaving \$1,555,497 to defray the cost of manufacture and distribution. Figured on the entire population of the United States (85,817,230), we used 14 envelopes for each man, woman and child. This is indeed an astonishing figure.

It is also highly interesting to observe, and it proves how greatly the stamped envelope is favored by Americans, that comparing the years 1905 and 1906, the percentage increase in ordinary postage stamps was 8.9%, while that of stamped envelopes, excluding newspaper wrappers, was 15%, or nearly twice that of the former. Is this not an augury for the increasing number of envelope collectors?

Dealing, as we shall presently do, with United States envelopes which are rare, it is apropos to ask what induced the United States Postal Department to issue the stamped envelope. Probably a dozen ready answers will suggest themselves, but it is reasonable to affirm that they all will be wrong. The following is a quotation from "The Stamp Collector's Magazine," August 1, 1867, p. 128:

"Alex. W. Randall, Postmaster-General, explains the reason why our stamped envelopes were introduced.

By an Act of Congress of August 1, 1852, Sec. 300, Postal Laws, stamped envelopes were authorized, it having been found that this was the best, if not the only

way of preventing frauds, which resulted in a very considerable reduction of the revenue of the Department."

We might therefore style the United States stamped envelopes "Anti-fraud Postal Issues."

We will now commence with the envelopes of 1853, or the First Issue.

As the original die of the Three Cents Red was changed several times between September, 1853, and September, 1860, we find five distinct dies in place of one, designated by collectors of entire envelopes A, B, C, D, E respectively, and by those who collect cut square stamps Dies 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

FIRST ISSUE—1853.

Three Cents Red. Die A.

(Narrow curved label.)

White paper. Full letter. Size 3.

Bartels 2a:

An unwatermarked copy on wove paper was found in 1906, and is now in the Worthington collection.

This die exists also with ten different heads of Washington. Of these only one used copy (S. 3 on white paper) is known with Head I; none have so far been found on buff paper. Nearly all unused envelopes of Die A may be considered rare.

Three Cents Red. Die C.

(K ends)

Bartels 6a:

This die on knife 1 (note size) was unknown to Horner. Only a used copy has been chronicled so far, the present resting place of which is unknown.

Bartels 7:
Scott 1303

The same die on Size 3, Knife 2, or Full Letter was unknown until 1879, when Mr. Durbin first called attention to it publicly. It is still rare, although quite a number of copies have gradually come to light since then.

Three Cents Red. Die E.

Bartels 12:
N. P. S. 13:
H. ½:

(Medium curved label; the common die of the series.)

The die on Knife 6 or Ladies' Note Size was listed by Horner in the supplement to the 1884 edition. It is known that this peculiarly shaped envelope appeared prior to September 30, 1860. At present there exist probably less than half a dozen copies. An entire unused specimen was in the Harrison sale and is described "Undoubtedly one of the rarest U. S. envelopes, almost unique."

Six Cents, Red and Green.

(Issued July and September, 1853, respectively.)

Bartels 20-23
Scott 1306, 1307
1315, 1316

These envelopes ordinarily are not considered rare. In 1895 Gilbert Harrison, however, announced that this die has four different heads of Washington of which, as we know now, Head I on White and Buff Paper in Green is very rare. About five entire copies are known on buff, while the white is only known cut square.

SECOND ISSUE—1857-61.

(Stars as side ornaments.)

One Cent, Blue.

The die appeared in 1860 and continued to be in use for ten years. It is known with a period and without a period after "POSTAGE." The ONE CENT die is of particular interest to

collectors, because the Post Office used it for its first newspaper wrapper, and also on account of a new color of paper, originally called gold, later on orange. All envelopes and wrappers on the latter paper are more or less rare. There are several varieties in each case, of which the envelope showing the bust touching the inner frame, both front and back, is by far the most common. All others are quite rare on orange.

The wrapper of this issue on buff paper without period is decidedly rare, but one entire copy being known.

One copy of a white envelope, S. e 2, presumably unique (Knife 18, Var. 10) is in the Worthington collection. "Historical Notes," p. 33, state:

"There exists a number of the ONE CENT, Die 12, Var. b., on white laid paper, unwatermarked, the envelope having a form quite unlike any of the official knives, and of the size 140x78. It is most probably a trial envelope."

Three Cents, Red.

N. P. S. No. 37-42.

There are six envelopes on Creamy Buff, laid paper, chronicled by Messrs. T. B. & R. on Knives 3, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17, respectively, and all unwatermarked. The first two on S. 7, the next two on S. 8, and the last two are odd sizes. These envelopes, all extremely rare, are now generally believed to be proofs. Several sets are known.

In the addenda to the 3rd edition of Horner (p. 61) there is listed 47a, b, Note Sheet, Color Red, 3c White and Blue, and it is stated, "Probably never issued to the Public." This pair was in the Castle collection, and later acquired by Mr. Mason.

Six Cents, Red.

B. 60 and 61
N. P. S. 43, 44
H. 46, 47
S. 1321, 1325

The envelope on white and buff paper is rare, but few entire copies being known on buff. Horner in his 1884 Edition, p. 11, writes: Numbers 46-47 are exceedingly rare, among the most so of any United States envelopes."

THIRD ISSUE—July 1, 1861 to September, 1864.

Three Cents, Rose.

Inscription in outline block capitals and colorless figures of value at sides in small circles.

B. 66
N. P. S. 68
H. 52½

In this issue there are four rare envelopes: White Paper: Size 1, Knife 10.

Horner chronicled this envelope in his supplement to the 1884 Edition.

B. 71
N. P. S. 83
S. 1335

Orange Paper: Size 3, Knife 2. Several unused copies are known.

B. 79a
N. P. S. 82

Buff Paper: Size 5, Knife 12. No watermark. Several entire envelopes are known.

B. 80
N. P. S. 84
S. 1335

Orange Paper: Size 5, Knife 12. No watermark.

FOURTH ISSUE—1863-64.

Two Cents, Black.

U. S. Post & U. S. Postage.

S. 1344, 1345

It is well known that there are two dies of U. S. POSTAGE, of which the one in which the horizontal down stroke of Figure 2 starts off at once from the stem instead of curving back, is the rare one. This die, commonly known as B, exists on Buff and Orange Paper; more copies are known on Orange than on Buff.

FIFTH OR REAY ISSUE—1870-1874.

Two exceedingly rare envelopes should be mentioned, i. e.

Two Cents, Brown.

B. 154a:

Orange Paper; Size 6: 161x89. Knife 31.

The only copy known is in Worthington's collection. It was chronicled by Messrs. T. B. & R. as N. P. S. 184, but as no one had seen a copy it was not listed with a special number in Bartels' Catalogue.

Three Cents, Green.

B. 191a:

White Paper. The envelope appears as a rarity on Size 5, Knife 31, but in 1905 a used envelope was found in New Orleans, having a similar shape to Knife 31, but the bottom flap considerably wider at top. This recent discovery is now catalogued as Knife 31a. The unique specimen is in the Mason collection.

Plimpton, Die A: One Cent and Two Cents on Cream.

S. 1452, 1453

Both of these are so far unknown entire. About 50 or 60 of each were obtained by Messrs. Bogert and Burger a number of years ago. They were all cut, and indications point to their having been prepared but never sold at a post office.

Plimpton. Two Cents Brown, Die A on Orange.

S. 1468a.

B. 257c, N.P.S. 315, (Size 4). One entire copy known.
H. 404

B. 257d, N.P.S. 316, (Size 6). One entire copy known.
H. 409

Horner 1884 edition, p. 39, under heading "Envelopes which were probably prepared especially for the Centennial" records:

H. 404 Size 4, Die C, Brown, Two Cents, Orange Paper (Die C is doubtless an error).

H. 409 Size 6, Die A, Brown, Two Cents Orange Paper.

The same author, p. 40, writes "Two cents on orange arises from the same source (Cent. Exh.), and according to the officer who arranged the Government set for the Centennial, but five sets of them exist."

However, in the supplement to the 1884 edition Horner, p. 67, again chronicles:

H. 404 Size 4, but as Die A, Brown, Two Cents Orange, ung
H. 409 Size 6, Brown, Die A, Two Cents Orange.

And in a note he writes: "About numbers 404 and 409 there is little doubt that they were prepared solely for the Centennial."

Tif. Bog. & Rech. Historical Notes, p. 41, N. P. S. 315 and 316 write:

"The short time that this die (A Two Cents, Brown) was in use is shown by the fact that no originals were made from it on orange paper, in sizes 4 and 6, either from the old knives 39, 42, or new knives 41, 43. A few were specially prepared for the Centennial on both knives 41 and 43. These sizes on this paper (orange) were not gummed, and the specimens exhibited differ from what the originals would have been in the form of knives, as well as in the peculiar paper and color of the impression.

B. 259
N. P. S. 1940
H. 395
S. 1715

Plimpton: Two Cents Red, Die A, Wrapper.

Horner 1884 edition, p. 31, speaking of the Philadelphia issue, writes:

"A very curious circumstance in connection with Die A of both One Cent and Two Cents occurred about the end of 1877. These long unused dies were resuscitated, and ungummed orange envelopes, Size 4, were put on sale at Philadelphia, New York and Boston, bearing One Cent, Die A, while newspaper wrappers, bearing Die A, of the **Two Cents in Red** began to appear in the mails. No satisfactory explanation was ever given, and the mysterious strangers disappeared as suddenly as they had come."

On Page 39 Horner quotes No. 395, Die A, Red, Two Cents Manila, and in his remarks on p. 40 states:

"No. 395 is a very rare wrapper, and probably due to the using of Die A while a fresh transfer was being made from Die C."

Messrs. Tif., Bog. & Rech, p. 41, "Historical Notes" refer to the Two Cent, Die A in **vermillion color** as follows: "The die is also said to exist on Knife 44, S. 4½ both in brown and in vermillion with square gum, and the chroniclers of both specimens attribute to them the character of re-issues in 1877. If either exist the brown could not be a reissue, as the value was only current in vermillion, after the size 4½ was introduced, and the vermillion with square gum could hardly have been re-issued in 1877 as all the envelopes of the size then made had round gum. The whereabouts of either of these varieties seems to be unknown."

Mr. C. H. Stone, of Cambridge, Mass., had in 1906 an entire unused copy which he sold to Geo. L. Toppan. The Scott Stamp & Coin Co., of New York, had also an entire unused copy. Another is in the Strauss collection. In 1906 J. M. Bartels found a cut square used copy in the South, and several have appeared in auction sales.

Plimpton. Two Cents Brown, Die B, on Cream.

Three cut square copies are known on this paper. They are of recent discovery and so far have not been listed in any catalogue. They are entitled to the same standing as the One Cent Die A, and Two Cent Die A on cream, which have been listed for years.

Plimpton. Two Cents, Vermillion, Die B3.

There are known two cut squares, i. e.:

Cut Sq., amber paper. Dr. Bower's collection, Bridgeport, Conn., contained the only known copy.

B. 269a

B. 269b

Cut Sq., orange paper, found by C. H. Stone, 1906, in Washington. It was bought by a N. Y. dealer.

Horner, p. 66, 1884 Edition, chronicles:

Wrapper (S. 1717a,) H. 396½, Die B, Red, Two Cents. In all probability this is Die B3. As a matter of fact B3 vermilion is known as a copy marked Specimen was sold for \$41 in the auction sale of Harrison's collection (May, 1895). The catalogue states, "A great rarity."

S. 1469a

B. 276b.

H. 411

Plimpton, Two Cents, Vermillion, Die C, on Orange.

Size 6, Knife 43. Noted by Horner, Second Edition 1884, p. 39, as follows:

In addition to the above list, which I believe to be a complete one of the envelopes of this issue, a number were gotten up for the set on exhibition in the Government Buildings at the Centennial. Quite possibly some of these got out and into circulation, as several sets of many of them were prepared, and in view of this I append a list of all the known varieties:

H. 405, Size 4, Die C, Red, Two Cents, Orange Paper.

H. 411, Size 6, Die C, Red, Two Cents, Orange Paper.

Horner in his closing notes asserts (p. 40). "The Two Cent on Orange arose from the same source (Centennial Exhibition), and according to the officer who arranged the Government sets for the Centennial, but five sets of them exist."

Col. E. B. Evans, in his "List of U. S. Envelopes," (p. 262) chronicles Plimpton, Die C, Two Cents Red,

No. 137a, S. 4, Full Letter

No. 137b, S. 6, Extra Letter

and adds: "It seems very doubtful whether No. 137 exists."

C. H. Stone early in 1906 obtained nearly one-half of an orange envelope with Die C, vermilion. It was sold to a Boston dealer, January, 1908. In October, 1907, Stone found another copy of this stamp, again one-half of an envelope, and sold it to the same party. A third cut square copy is in a Utica, N. Y., collection.

The Scott Catalogue inserted it as No. 1469a in the 1907 edition.

Plimpton Three Cents, Die A on Blue.

An unused cut square copy was in the Ayer Collection, and was sold by the New England Stamp Co. It is unique as far as known. S. 1469a (the second).

Three Cents Red, Philadelphia Die. (Centennial Issue.)

S. 1423a

Several entire envelopes on white paper, Size 4½, Knife 44, are now known.

Plimpton & Morgan, 1879, Star Wmk.

One Cent, Die B, Size 1, on Amber.

B. 472

N. P. S. 621

Messrs. T. B. & R., p. 45, "Historical Notes," say:

"ONE CENT on Knife 46, Amber, on Size 1, is an envelope not on the schedules at any time but a couple of thousand were made, only a few of which ever got out of the factory."

Entire copies are in the Worthington & Stein collections.

EIGHTH ISSUE, 1879.

Plimpton & Morgan.

Three Cents, Die C on Blue and Fawn.

The so-called egg shaped head.

B. 525, 526
S. 1476, 1484

In this issue we meet two very rare envelopes, one on blue paper, and the same die on fawn, the latter is frequently referred to as the rarest U. S. envelope. Die C, which was used without any official sanction, as far as we can ascertain, made its appearance in 1881. Some envelopes on blue paper with the special request card of the firm of Shepard & Morse, lumber dealers, doing business near Worcester, Mass., were seen in that city in 1896, and through a resident some used envelopes were sent to Mr. F. P. Brown and Mr. B. L. Drew, both of Boston, and offered for sale. Both envelopes were bought by Brown. Knowing that the die was rare he sent his assistant, Mr. Kennedy, to Worcester to make a further search for additional copies. After two days he succeeded in obtaining six used entire copies. Doubtless from 500 to 1000 envelopes were printed, because, as stated above, they were special request, but of this entire number only eight used copies were discovered, one-half of which have been cut square. Major Dutton, of San Antonio, also wrote to Mr. Brown that he had a copy which had been sent to him by the 3rd Asst. Postmaster-General, but this envelope has also disappeared. No blue envelope, Die C, was found in the Harrison sale in 1895. At least two unused copies are known entire.

B. 526

Fawn Paper. A very rare U. S. envelope. Several used specimens entire or cut exist in prominent collections. In May, 1908, C. H. Stone had one unused cut square copy.

Two Cents Vermilion, Die D.

Appeared in 1881. Star wmk.

B. 499, 500
N. P. S. 683, 684
H. 629½, 630½
S. 1424

Several entire copies on white are known.

The amber formerly listed is now omitted from Scott's catalogue and is believed not to exist.

NINTH ISSUE—October, 1883.

Two Cents Red. Washington. Inscription in Large Letters.
Numerals Long and Slim. Star Watermark.

S. not listed.
B. 638
N. P. S. 1949
H. 804½

The wrapper of this series is doubtless the rarest of the United States. Messrs. T. B. & R. (p. 60) state:

"That Die 66 was made on paper watermarked E (Star) is beyond question. Its issue for public use is however questionable; but that copies got out of the manufactory is beyond dispute."

Entire copies can be seen in a New York and a Western collection.

B. 637
N. P. S. 783
H. 799

In addition to the wrapper there is also a rare envelope, Size 5, Knife 50, white paper, the color of the stamp being brown instead of red. It has been considered a proof. Entire copies are in the Worthington and Mason collections. It is, however, not impossible that the brown color is merely due to faulty ink. Messrs. T. B. & R., speaking of the great variety in the shade of the impression (p. 47), say that the color approaches sometimes "lake," and on the other hand almost "brown."

They catalogued the envelope as "Brown, N. P. S. 783."

In Hanes' 3rd Edition of Horner's catalogue we find the following interesting statement about this envelope. But one box of H. 799 were brought to light. They were furnished to a Philadelphia business house and nearly all of them were used for business purposes.

Four Cents, Green. October, 1883.

Watermark 82.

B. 671-672.

Two varieties of this die exist, known as A and B, the latter with the triangular part of the figure 4 broad.

Two very rare envelopes. Size 5, Knife 50 on White and Amber. That these envelopes exist marked "specimen" was well known, but for a long time it was doubtful if they had ever been issued postally. One white envelope was sold at auction in 1906 and is in the Worthington collection. Another was picked up in Boston as late as 1907.

The existence of 672 is still a matter of doubt.

SERIES OF JULY, 1884.

Two Cents, Brown: Head of Washington. (So-called Kellog Die).

Two wavy lines in oval. Watermark 82.

The color of this die should have been brown but the contractors began the impression in red and quite a number of sizes are said to have been issued. They were, however, quickly withdrawn, and but a small number was sent out. Messrs. T. B. & R. list 12 envelopes, color vermilion. Of these but four are now in existence and are, of course, rare. There is also a Manila Wrapper, color red.

B. 759

Red on White Paper. Size 4½. Knife 49.

N. P. S. 887

An entire unused copy in the Harrison sale

H. 916, S. 1518

B. 764c

Red on White Paper. Size 5. Knife 50. About 12 copies known.

B. 747

Size 2, Knife 47. Red on Blue Paper.

N. P. S. 894

A small lot of these were in the Holton stock.

H. 910, S. 1521

B. 760

Lake on White Paper. Size 4½. Knife 49.

N. P. S. 896

Two entire unused copies in Harrison sale (No. 789) marked "very rare."

H. 917, S. 1510a

In the 3rd Edition of Horner's Catalogue it is stated of No. 917 that but four specimens are known. A number of these were found later in a Pennsylvania post office.

TENTH ISSUE, PLIMPTON & MORGAN ISSUE, October, 1886.

Wmk. U. S. Letter S covering both arms of U.

Ten Cents, Brown. Die B.

B. 878a

Amber Manila. Size 7. Knife 51. On tissue paper. One entire copy known. In March, 1907, several unlisted envelopes of the Ten Cents Die were found by V. M. Berthold, i. e.

- B. 883a On Blue Paper. Size 8. Knife 52. One copy.
 B. 883b On 0. Buff Paper. Size 8. Knife 52. One copy.
 These are in the Mason collection.
 In October of the same year Mr. Stone also discovered one of each of these envelopes. They are in the Worthington collection.

Thirty Cents, Black: Penalty Wmk. October, 1886.

- B. 902a Two rare envelopes:
 N. P. S. 1063a Manila, Size 7, Knife 51.
 Found Jan., 1896, by S. S. & C. Co. (See A. J. of P. Vol. 9, 1896, page 87).
 B. 902b Amber Manila, Size 8, Knife 52. Six copies known.
 Messrs. T. B. & R. state (p. 50).
 "Sample envelopes were also prepared in the new manilla paper for sizes 4 and 6 and amber manila paper for other sizes, which were watermarked with a peculiar watermark consisting of the letters P O D. Most of them were marked "Sample" and none probably were issued for use. Those known will appear in the lists though there are doubtless others."
 It is almost certain that the two other rare envelopes, i. e.:
- B. 921a Thirty Cents: Size 8, Knife 52, on Amber Manila paper, and
 N. P. S. 1073
- B. 922a Ninety Cents: Size 8, Knife 52, on Amber Manila paper, owe
 N. P. S. 1074 their existence to the above explanation.

ELEVENTH ISSUE. PLIMPTON & MORGAN. 1887-1889.

In the contract of 1886 the Postmaster-General had reserved the right to change the color of the One and Two Cent dies, and they appeared in September, 1887. One Cent, Blue, Franklin, and Two Cents, Green, Washington, both in toothed frame and at the bottom an eight-sided shield with the numerals of value.

A number of rare envelopes were the result of the change. The reason of their existence is explained by Messrs. T. B. & R., as follows: (p. 51).

"Some time after the new dies were in use, a few varieties were found impressed with what is styled the "rejected die." It is stated that it was used upon a machine employed for filling special orders.

"Recently a few copies of what are understood to have been original dies engraved of this design of the One and Two Cent values have found their way out of the manufactory, and it is stated quite a number were manufactured before the dies were rejected but were withheld from issue. Such varieties as are known have been duly listed."

- N. P. S. 1075 This rare die of the One Cent Blue is called "Tiffany Die." G of Postage has no cross bar. The story goes that Tiffany had a box of 500 envelopes, that one evening he invited some of his friends, and after showing them the rare die he deliberately burned all the envelopes except 25. Perhaps a dozen entire unused envelopes are now in various collections. There was one entire copy in the Harrison sale, No. 834, marked "a great rarity."

Two Cents Green, Die A (Rejected Die).

G of POSTAGE has no cross bar.

B. 935
N. P. S. 1101
S. 1580

Amber Manila. Size 3. Several copies known.

B. 938
N. P. S. 1100
S. 1574

Manila. Size 3. Two used and one unused copy are known.

B. 936
N. P. S. 1098

Blue. Size 3. At present we do not know of any copy of this size on blue paper.

B. 943
N. P. S. 1099
S. 1567

Blue. Size 5. Two entire unused copies known, besides a number of used.

There was one unused copy each of the Amber Manila and the Manila in the Harrison sale, which sold for \$85 and \$80 respectively. Other copies exist in prominent collections.

The Manila envelope was printed for a Surety Company in Montreal, doubtless not less than a box of 500. This company, in sending circulars to the United States, enclosed one of these envelopes for reply. When returned the envelopes were opened and thrown aside, but one of the clerks discovered that the die was rare, and in 1894 sent a cut square used copy to Mr. F. B. Brown, which the latter bought. He also sent a copy to two other dealers. Brown then ordered two more cut square copies and finally obtained 20 entire used copies. At present we know of 20 entire used copies and 12 or 15 cut square copies. It is stated that the clerk found between 50 and 60 copies.

Besides the rare envelopes of the Two Cents Green Rejected Die, there are three Two Cents Green with the regular die watermarked 82, which are rare.

B. 951a
N. P. S. 1129

Blue. Size 3.

B. 952a
N. P. S. 1121

Oriental Buff. Size 3.

B. 988
N. P. S. 1105

White. Size 10, Knife 54.

It is of interest to advert here to the official inquiry which was made in January, 1885, by a committee appointed by the Postmaster-General to inspect and investigate all stamped envelope manufacturers. From the report of this committee made Feb. 24, 1885, we learn that

"no stamps have been intentionally impressed upon envelopes of size, color or quality not authorized by the Department, and if at any time this has been done, the contractor's superintendent assures us that it was due to accident. In regard to the issue of a few stamped envelopes bearing the postal-service watermark, the superintendent further states that the paper must have been mixed at the paper mills, and that only a few envelopes of this kind could have been made without detection. The contractors are positive that stamps have not been embossed on paper without watermark; that if such envelopes are in existence they are counterfeits."

Nevertheless, the three rare envelopes with watermark 82 exist, but their "raison d'etre" is unexplainable.

In 1905 the writer located in Washington some envelopes which up to then were absolutely unknown:

| | |
|----------|--|
| B. 990a | Four Cents Carmine: White, Size 4½, K. 56. (7 copies known). |
| B. 990b | Four Cents Carmine: Amber, Size 4½, K. 56. (3 copies known). |
| B. 1014b | Thirty Cents Brown: White, S. 4½, k. 49. (4 copies). |
| B. 1014c | Thirty Cents Brown: Amber, S. 4½, K. 49. (8 copies). |
| B. 1026b | Ninety Cents Purple: White, S. 4½, K. 49. (5 copies). |
| B. 1026c | Ninety Cents Purple: Amber, S. 4½, K. 49. (6 copies). |

TWELFTH ISSUE.

Plimpton & Morgan, 1890.

(Letter S of watermark covering only one arm of the U instead of its entire body.)

No change was made in the dies, but the circular of the Postmaster-General dated Dec. 16, 1890, informs the postmasters that "a considerable quantity of the old watermarked paper has been used in the manufacture of envelopes since the beginning of the new contract; but after January 1, 1891, only paper with the new watermark will be authorized."

As a matter of fact we also find in this issue some envelopes with the P O D or Penalty Watermark.

One Cent Blue on Blue and Oriental Buff.

| | |
|----------|---------------------|
| B. 1043a | Blue paper. Size 5. |
| S. 1566a | |
| B. 1043b | O. Buff. Size 5. |
| S. 1560a | |

These two rare envelopes were discovered in 1900 by H. F. Coleman in Washington, two copies of each. One pair is in a Boston collection and the second in the La Renotiere collection, Europe.

In 1907 Stone obtained four copies of the blue, three marked "Specimen," also four copies of the O. Buff, all marked "Specimen" at left side of envelope.

Besides these there are known:

2 cut sq. copies on Blue Paper, and
3 cut sq. copies on O. Buff.

Ten Cents Brown, Die B. 1890 Watermark.

| | |
|----------|---|
| B. 1134a | Blue, Size 3. (Only one entire envelope known.) |
| B. 1137 | A. Manila. Size 7. (Several copies known). |

THIRTEENTH ISSUE, COLUMBIAN SERIES—1893.

Two rare envelopes claim our attention, i. e.

| | |
|---------|---|
| B. 1152 | Two Cents Violet. Size 3, Knife 48, with the U. S. Watermark of the 1890 Issue. This unique specimen was found by W. Odiorne of Huntington, Pa., in a lot of envelopes which he obtained in New York. |
|---------|---|

The envelope is in the Worthington collection.

| | |
|----------|---|
| B. 1170a | Five Cents, Slate, is the other rare Columbian envelope. |
| S. 1587a | This is plainly an error, printed in the color of the 10c value. A portion of a box was found by Mr. Rothfuchs at the Washington Post Office in 1893. |

We know that during 1883 the paper for United States envelopes was made by the Parson's Paper Co. This appears from a reference in the Historical Notes of Messrs. T. B. & R. (p. 51) from which we quote:

"Complaints having been made of the quality of the envelopes furnished by the contractors, specimens were referred by the State Department, August, 1884, to Mr. Whiting, of the Whiting Paper Company, who stated that 'the paper was made either by the Parson's Paper Co. or the Whiting Paper Company.' How a United States envelope with the monogram of the Parson's Paper Co. could ever be issued, we do not know."

Not listed but also known are:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| B. 1275a | Size 4. White Paper. Knife 62. (82 watermark). |
| B. 1277a | Size 4. Amber Paper. Knife 62. (82 watermark). |
| B. 1299a | Size 14. White Paper. Knife 63. (82 watermark). |
| B. 1301a | Size 14. Amber Paper. Knife 63. (82 watermark). |

SIXTEENTH ISSUE, 1899.

Plimpton & Morgan. (New Dies.)

The rarities in this issue are all of the 4 cent denomination on white paper.

Four Cents, Brown, Die A.

- | | |
|----------|---|
| B. 1416a | Size 5. Knife 75. Three copies are known. |
| B. 1421a | Size 9. Knife 61. With watermark U. S., POD94, of which 3 copies exist also. These were discovered October, 1907. |

Four Cents, Brown, Die B.

(Draped bust in notched oval.)

- | | |
|----------|--|
| B. 1422a | Size 5. Knife 75. First found by G. L. Toppan, May, 1907. |
| S. 1600 | 12 copies known. The four cents envelope was not officially issued in Size 5. Several of these have been cut square. |
| B. 1423 | Size 9. Knife 61. Three entire copies were known, all unused, of which one was later cut square. One entire copy is in a French, the other in the Mason collection. In addition about 27 used copies, all cut square, were found in Chicago and New York, having been used by the Produce Exchange at New York. |

It might also be well to chronicle the existence of

Two Cents Red, Die A.

With U. S. POD94 wmk., instead of 1899.

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| B. 1340b | White. 3 copies. Size 5. Knife 75a. |
| B. 1341b | Amber. 2 copies. Size 5. Knife 75a. |
| B. 1342a | Blue. 2 copies. Size 5. Knife 75a. |
| B. 1343b | O. Buff. 2 copies. Size 5. Knife 75a. |

These envelopes were also discovered in October, 1907, but they are not believed to have been issued.

Complete set in the Mason and Worthington collection.

ISSUES OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

Plimpton, 1875-1876.

Several very rare envelopes, of which we have no official information.

S. 1846

One Cent on Amber.

Never issued and exists only with "Specimen" in corner; It may therefore be considered as belonging to the class of proofs or factory samples. For many years it has been listed cut square and is decidedly rare. The principal cut square collections contain a copy. As an entire, marked Specimen, it is known in two sizes with three different knives.

One Cent on Orange.

These were undoubtedly produced about the same time as the One Cent on Amber. Recently two cut square copies became known, and their status is certainly equal to the latter.

B. 2281

Ten Cents on Amber.

H. 454

1875. Size 7. Knife 34. Rare.

S. 1850

B. 2279

1876. Size 3. Knife 41. Rare.

H. 438

S.

B. 2289

Fifteen Cents on Amber.

H. 467

1875. Size 8. Knife 36. (220 issued.)

S. 1852

B. 2291

Thirty Cents on Amber.

H. 460

1875. Size 7. Knife 36. (210 issued.)

N. P. S. 1777

One copy in Harrison sale marked "great rarity."

S. 1853

B. 2293

1875. Size 8. Knife 36.

H. 469

One copy in Harrison sale, marked (very rare).

N. P. S. 1778

Plimpton & Morgan Issue, 1878.

B. 2318

White. Size 8. Knife 52. Wmk. U. S. POSTAL SERVICE (unique).

N. P. S. 2852a

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.**Plimpton Issue, 1874. Three Cents.**

Under act of March, 1877, the Blue paper envelopes were to supersede these on Canary. (Hist. Notes, p. 54). "The blue envelopes, which exist with both square and round gum, are to be noticed. They were only revealed to collectors quite recently.

B. 2063

Three Cents Black on White. Size 5, Knife 50. U. S. P. S.

N. P. S. 2583

H. 706

B. 2066

Six Cents Black on White. Size 5, Knife 50. A number of copies is known.

N. P. S. 2587

H. 708

B. 2026a

Black Stamp on Blue Paper.

N. P. S. 2542

Size 3. Knife 41. Round gum.

H. 475¼

B. 2026b Size 8, Knife 36 Found by Bartels in Washington, April, 1908.

It is said by Mr. Madison Davis, former Chief Clerk to the 3rd Assistant Postmaster-General (now Asst. Postmaster at Washington) that blue paper envelopes were prepared for and used exclusively at the New York Post Office.

Blue Stamp on Blue Paper.

B. 2026c Size 3, knife 41. Round gum.
 B. 2026d Size 8, Knife 36. Found by Bartels in Washington, April, 1908.
 used copy.
 B. 2026e Size 5, knife 43. Round gum.
 B. 2026f Size 5, knife, 43. Square gum.
 B. 2026g Size 7, knife 34. Square gum.

All Post Office Department envelopes on blue paper are very rare.

The above enumerated United States envelopes comprise by no means all rarities, because not unfrequently an envelope, priced low by cataloguers and supposed to be common, is now exceedingly difficult to obtain. It is our hope, however, that this first attempt at compiling a list of rare United States envelopes, with such historical and other notes of interest to collectors as we have been able to gather, may furnish the basis of a more compendious and elaborate memoir on all rare United States envelopes. Certainly the time is ripe for such work, and, if written, will assist materially in spreading enthusiasm for the collection of the stamped envelopes of the United States. The field is an inviting one for the best efforts of the American Envelope Society, to which this task is respectfully recommended.

VICTOR M. BERTHOLD,
 J. MURRAY BARTELS.

Boston, July, 1908.