

## *Stamp Specialist:*

# The 6-Cent Lincoln Bank Note Issues, Pt. 2

By George C. Hahn (*From the Stamp Specialist Volume 11, The Gray Book*)

### POSTAGE RATES

By the Act of March 3, 1863, (12 Stat. 704-707) mail was divided into three classes. The first class of mail embraced letters and matter wholly or partly in writing, except book manuscripts and corrected proof sheets. This Act also fixed the maximum standard weight for the single rate of letter postage at one-half ounce avoirdupois, and fixed the rate of postage on domestic letters not exceeding one-half ounce in weight at three cents, and three cents additional for each additional half ounce or fraction thereof, to be prepaid by postage stamps affixed. (This was the first law which established a uniform rate of postage on letters, regardless of the distance transmitted.)

If any matter, on which by law the postage is required to be prepaid at the mailing office, shall reach its destination without such prepayment, double the prepaid rates shall be charged and collected on delivery. (i.e. postage due). Postage on returned dead letters, not registered as valuable, shall be three cents for the single rate; registered as valuable, double rates.

This domestic postage rate remained in effect until the Act of March 3, 1883, reduced the postage on first-class matter to two cents a half ounce or fraction thereof, effective on and after October 1, 1883. The rate of postage on first-class domestic matter was further reduced, effective July 1, 1885, to two cents for each ounce or fraction thereof under the Act of March 3, 1885.

It will consequently be seen that the 6-cents Lincoln Bank Note stamps paid the double basic postage rate on domestic first-class mail between 1870, the year of issue of the first of these stamps, and September 30, 1883, when the reduced rate went into effect. After October 1, 1883, the 6-cents Lincoln Bank Note stamp paid the triple basic rate.

There also was need for a stamp of that denomination for use on mail to foreign countries. A six cents postage rate on mail of the first-class was in effect in 1870 for letters mailed to Canada and Great Britain. This six cents rate on letters to British North American Provinces, except Newfoundland, remained in force throughout the 1870-1874 period, however, the rate to Newfoundland was reduced in 1873 to six cents as well. In 1875 the domestic postage rate on first-class mail was extended to Canada and Newfoundland and only three cents for letters not exceeding one-half ounce in weight was required to the above countries.

In 1871 the rate to Prussia and the German as well as Austrian states was reduced to six cents on direct mail. In 1873 the six cents rate covered

letters sent to these countries via Stettin. Last but not least the six cents rate covered letters to be mailed to the Sandwich Islands.

Various combinations of the 6-cents stamp with stamps of other denominations could be used and among the most popular ones were the 6-cents stamp with a 10-cents stamp to cover the 16-cents rate of 1873 to France via England covering full pre-payment of postage. This 16-cents rate was in effect on letters weighing over one-third but not over half an ounce. Two of the 6-cents stamps in 1870 paid the letter rate to Norway, while a combination of the 6-cents and 10-cents denominations paid the basic rate for letters to Spain and Portugal. In 1873 it took two of the 6-cents stamps to pay the basic rate for letters to Spain, while as early as 1870 two of the 6-cents stamps sent a half-ounce letter to Switzerland via North Germany and in 1872 to Switzerland via England. Last but not least two of the 6-cents stamps paid the rate to Russia between 1870 and 1874 via North Germany.

The Universal Postal Union Treaty of Berne became effective on July 21, 1875, and under this agreement uniform international rates were established between twenty-two countries, all of whom were signatories to the treaty. This rate was established for letters at 25 centimes, the equivalent of 5-cents in our currency.

*I was unable to find matches to the illustrations in the Specialist, which also were too blurry to use. A selection of the rates, as well as other relevant usages, follow on this and subsequent pages. JFD.*



1870 6¢ Carmine "H" Grill (Sc. 137) to Bristol Hills, Me., tied by blue 4-bar square grid cancel, with matching "Chicago Ill. Jul. 29" circular datestamp (hereafter, c.d.s.), paying double rate.



1870 6¢ Carmine "H" Grill (Sc. 137) cancelled by blue Star cancel and tied by matching "Chicago R.P.O. Aug. 9" c.d.s. on 1871 cover to Montreal, Canada, paying 6¢ rate to Canada.



1870 6¢ Carmine "H" Grill (Sc. 137) tied by cork cancel, with "New Orleans La. Dec. 10" c.d.s., also with red "New York Dec. 15" c.d.s. on 1871 blue folded cover to London, England, with red London "Paid" datestamp (Dec. 31, 1872), docketing inside, paying 6¢ rate to Great Britain.



1870 6¢ Carmine, 2¢ Red Brown "H" Grills (Sc. 137, 135), two 6¢ and one 2¢ for 14¢ total, paying 6¢ rate to England and 8¢ registry fee, all tied by negative "E" cancels, unreadable New York c.d.s. on small June 1873 cover, also with red British registry handstamp.



1870 6¢ Carmine "I" Grill (Sc. 137A), tied by circle of Vs, also with red "New York Jul. 31" (1872) c.d.s. on blue folded letter to Wolverhampton, England, docketed at left, also with receiving backstamp, paying 6¢ rate to England.



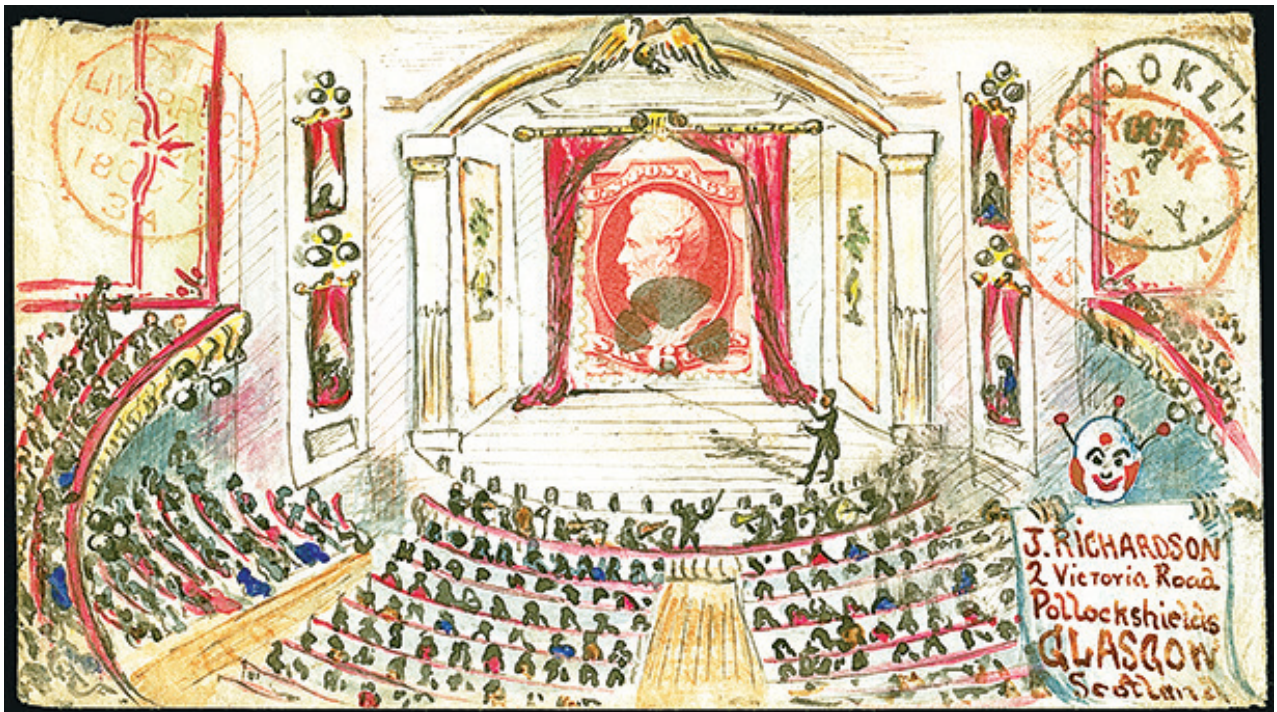
1870 6¢ Carmine (148) horizontal strip of three with full "National Bank Note Co. New York" imprint in top sheet selvage, tied by cork cancels, also with "Richmond Va. Nov. 5" (1872) c.d.s. and "Registered" framed handstamp to New York City, blue company receiving datestamp, paying the 3¢ rate plus 15¢ registry fee.



1870 6¢ Carmine and 3¢ Green (148, 147) tied by bold strikes of San Francisco Foreign Mail crossroads cancel on 3¢ Green entire to Hilo, Hawaii, with magenta "San Francisco Cal. Sep. 13 Paid" c.d.s. applied at the foreign-mail office, paying double the 6¢ treaty rate from San Francisco to Hawaii.



1870 6¢ Carmine (148) horizontal strip of six used with single 3¢ Green (147), all with target cancels on homemade cover to Nashville Tenn., with "Livingston Tenn. Dec 4" c.d.s., the largest on-cover strip of the 6¢ 1870 issue, paying 13-times the 3¢ rate.



1870 6¢ Carmine (148) tied by quartered cork cancel, with "Brooklyn N.Y. Oct. 7" (1870) c.d.s. on tissue-paper cover with elaborate hand-drawn illustration of a concert hall with an orchestra and conductor and audience members, a clown at right holds the address panel to Glasgow, Scotland, also with red New York transit at upper right, Liverpool c.d.s. at upper left, Glasgow receiving backstamp, stamp trimmed at right prior to use and tied by the elaborate design of the curtain. From a Siegel Galleries Rarities Auction, where the question was asked, "Is that someone with a gun by the balcony at far left, or is it a flag?"



1870 6¢ Carmine (148) used with 1¢ Ultramarine and 3¢ Green (145, 147) tied by "Providence R. I. Feb. 20" (ca. 1871-72) duplex datestamp and quartered cork cancel on State of Rhode Island Secretary's Office illustrated corner card cover to Copenhagen, Denmark, also with red "New York Paid All Feb. 21" transit datestamp and "2½" cents fractional credit handstamp, and red "Wfco 1" German credit handstamp, prepaying the 10¢ North German Union direct rate cover to Denmark.



1870 6¢ Carmine (148) with red target cancel, matching "Baltimore Md. Oct. 16 5 PM" c.d.s., stamp tied by "New York Paid All Oct. 17" c.d.s. on 1871 yellow cover to Hersberg, Germany, also with red "Hamburg Franco" transit datestamp, paying 6¢ North German Union direct rate via Hamburg.



1870 6¢ Carmine (148) used with 10¢ Brown (150), the 10¢ a replacement hinged in place but does have an "H" cancel that is likely from Hiogo, 6¢ tied by cork cancel, also with "Yokohama Japan Jun. 22" (1872) c.d.s. on blue folded cover originating in Nagasaki, Japan, to London, England, blue oval "Van De Pol, Nagasaki" company handstamp struck on front and back, sender's directive "Via San Francisco", red "PAID" in frame handstamp with blue crayon "16" indicating payment in cash for stamps applied at Yokohama, red "New York Jul. 24" datestamp, and red "London A Paid 7 AU 72" datestamp.



6¢ Carmine and 10¢ Brown (148, 150) tied by diamond-shaped cork cancels, with "Atlantic City N.J. Jul. 24" (1873) c.d.s. on cover with printed address to Paris, France, red "Philad. Paid All Jul. 25" and London "Paid" (Aug. 6) transit datestamps, red crayon "12" credit, Drexel Harjes & Co. blue oval forwarding handstamp and Philadelphia street address written at lower left, apparently sent back to Philadelphia outside the mails, paying the 16¢ rate to France via England.



1870 6¢ Carmine (148) horizontal pair tied by two bold strikes of circle of wedges cancel, also with "U.S. Postal Ag'cy Shanghai Oct. 12" (1873) c.d.s. on cover to Nagasaki, Japan, blue "Forwarded by Russell & Co. Shanghai Oct. 11, 1873" double-oval ribbon-marker datestamp on back, paying the double Interconsular rate from Shanghai to Nagasaki.



1870 6¢ Carmine (148) used in combination with 1873 1¢ Ultramarine (156) and horizontal pair of 1873 10¢ Brown, 1873 Issue (161), all tied by grid cancels, also with "Bardwell's Ferry, Mass. Apr 3" (1876) circular datestamp, perfect strike of red "New York 1.10 Apr 4" credit datestamp (110 centimes = 22¢) on cover to Ahmednuggur, India, sender's routing "Via Brindisi", red London Paid transit datestamp, red crayon "1" British Colonial credit, Sea Post Office and Ahmednuggur arrival backstamps, prepaid in accordance with the 27" rate during the GPU/UPU period (the credit in centimes replaced old U.S. currency credit markings).



1873 6¢ Dull Pink used with 10¢ Brown (159, 161) tied by circle of wedges cancel on blue folded cover to Cadiz, Spain, with red New York 12¢ Nov. 5 credit c.d.s., London transits, red "PD" in ovals, paying the 16¢ rate by British Mails via France.



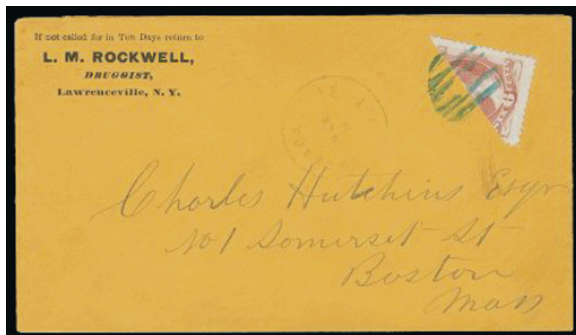
1873 6¢ (159) used with 1870 10¢ (139) tied by wedges cancels, with "New Orleans La. Jul 22" c.d.s., also with "New 12 York" date stamp, "PD" in oval, "London Paid", "Franco" in oval and arrival backstamp, paying 16¢ British mail rate to Portugal.



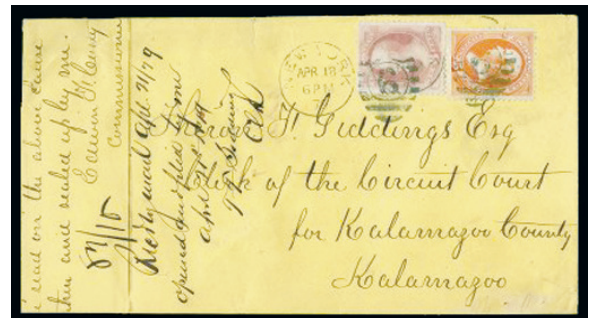
1873 6¢ Dull Pink tied by target "Amherst Mass. Jun. 6" double-circle datestamp to Kohala Hawaii with magenta "Too Late" handstamp, 1878 docketing, paying rate to Hawaii.



1873 6¢ Carmine (159) tied by indistinct cancel, with matching "Savannah GA Aug 26 6 PM" c.d.s., to Arendal, Norway, paying the 6¢ printed circular rate to Norway.



6¢ 1873 Bank Note used as 3¢ (Sc. 159b) tied by blue grid cancel and matching Lawrenceville, N.Y. c.d.s. to cover addressed to Boston, paying 3¢ domestic rate.



1879 American Bank Note (186) used with 15¢, tied by "New York/Apr 18 79" duplex cancels to 1879 court cover from New York City to Kalamazoo, Mich., the Earliest Documented Usage of the 1879 6¢.



1882 6¢ (208) tied by circles and "Lebanon PA. Mar 27 8 AM" to Grand Forks, Dakota Territory, with Fargo, Dakota Territory transit and arrival backstamps.

To be Continued