

Yesterday in U.S. Stamp News:

A Brief History of U.S. Postal Stationery

Compiled and illustrated by Bill Lehr (From USSN, February 2005)

Catalog numbers are Scott/United Postal Stationery Society
 1853: First stamped envelope (3¢ Washington, Nesbitt 1st issue) is produced in the U.S.

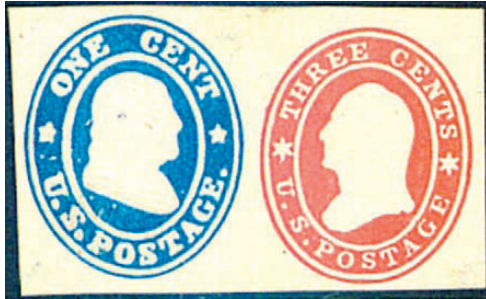


U1/1



U2/3

1860: First and only compound die stamped envelope (1¢ + 3¢ Nesbitt star dies)



U28/56

U29/59

1861: First stamped newspaper wrapper (1¢ Franklin star die)



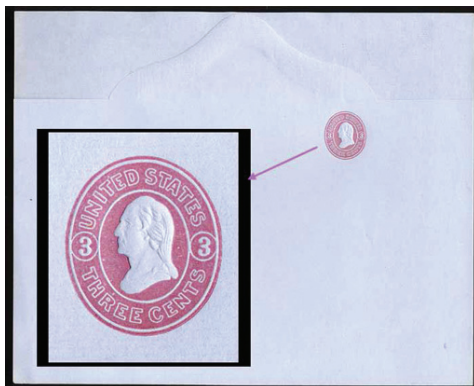
W18B/41A

W20/34

W21/37

W22/39

1861: First stamped letter sheets (3¢, 3rd Nesbitt issue, on blue, two sizes)



U36/82

1861: Demonetization of all first issue and most second issue stamped envelopes

U1-U18/U26-U33 demonetized; 1¢ issues remain valid

1861?: First counterfeit stamped envelope (1¢ Franklin star die, Nesbitt 2nd issue)



Counterfeit of U19/Die 12CF

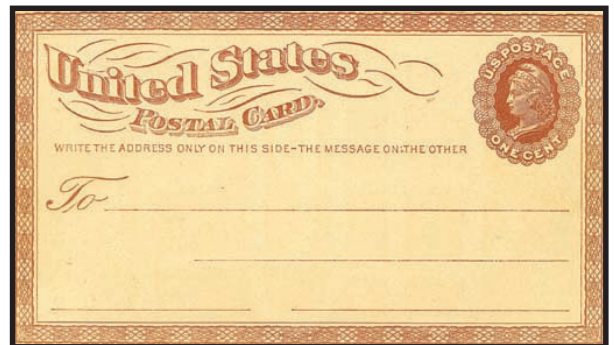
1868: First official reprints of U.S. postal stationery, Nesbitt issues as cut squares

1873: First stamped Official envelope (2¢ Post Office Dept.)



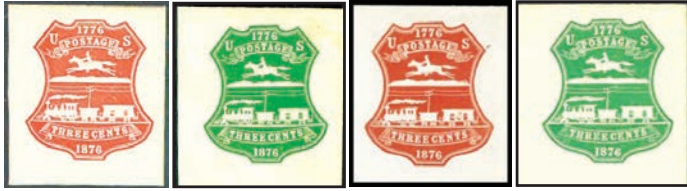
UO1/PD1

1873: First postal card (1¢ Liberty with large watermark)



UX1/81

1876: First commemorative stamped envelope (3¢ Centennial)



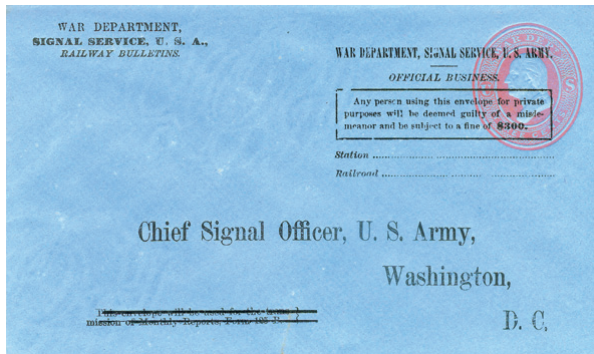
U218/643 U219/644 U220/645 U221/646

1877: Use of a "PENALTY" clause by the Post Office Department authorized by Congress

1879: First "PENALTY" overprinted stamped envelope (War Dept. Stationery), "PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300"

1879: First international postal card (2¢ Liberty)

1879: First "PENALTY" overprinted stamped envelope (War Dept. stationery)



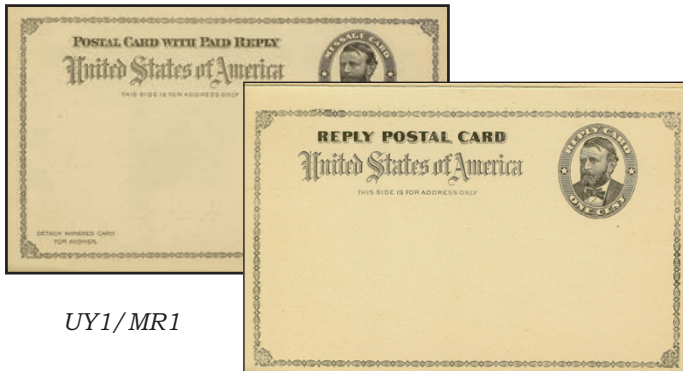
Ross Type 1 variety Xe penalty overprint on UO54

1886: Grant letter sheet is issued



U293/860

1893: First message/reply postal card (1¢ + 1¢ Grant)

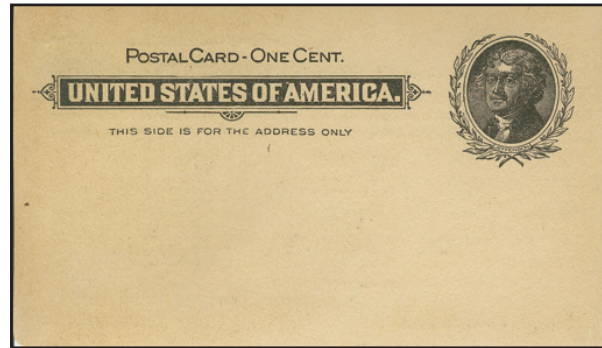


UY1/MR1

1893: First international reply postal card (2¢ + 2¢ Liberty, blue (UY2))

1897: First "PENALTY" clause stamp-less envelope authorized

1897?: First counterfeit postal cards produced (1¢ Jefferson, large wreath with name, Smith counterfeits)

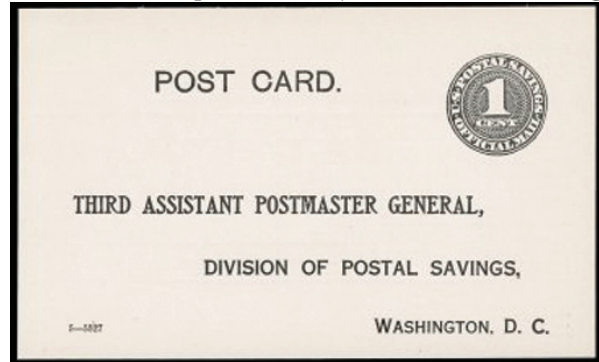


Counterfeit UX14

1902: Grant letter sheets withdrawn from sale

1908: First postal card with correspondence space on front (1¢ McKinley) (UX20)

1913: First Official postal card (1¢ U.S. Postal Savings)



UZ1

1915: (Official) Introduction of wove paper for stamped envelopes (Actually the discontinuance of laid paper)

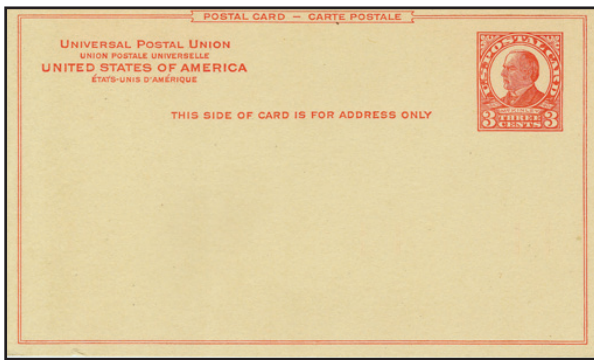
1920: First surcharging of stamped envelopes and postal cards



U447A/2743

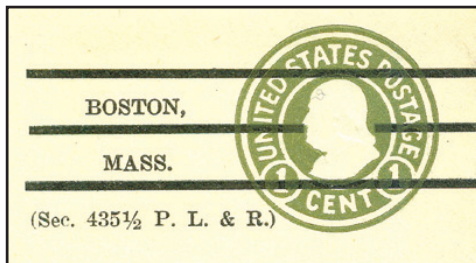
UX33/S44

1926: First international postal card (3¢ McKinley)



UX37/S53

1928: Post Office Dept. begins providing precanceled stamped envelopes (Local precanceled stamped envelopes and wrappers date to the late 1860s)



Boston type 1a1 precancel

1929: First air mail stamped envelope is produced.



UC1/AM-1

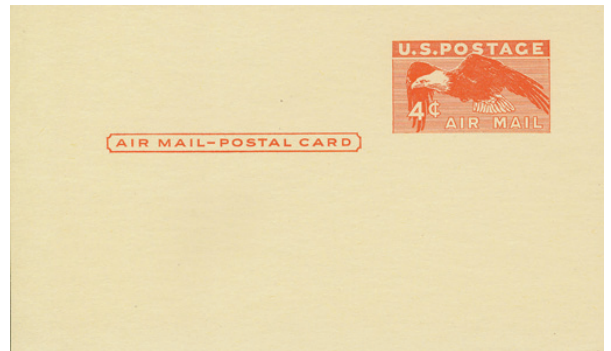
1934: Production of newspaper wrappers is discontinued

1947: First air letter sheet (10¢ DC-4 Skymaster) is produced.



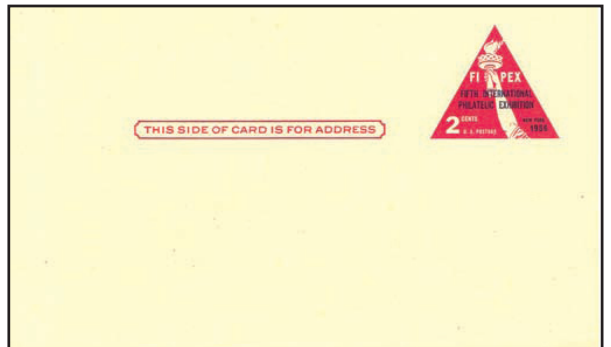
UC16/ALS-1

1949: First air mail postal card (4¢ eagle in flight) is issued.



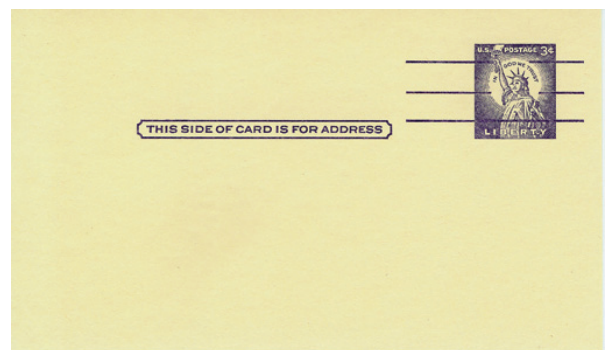
UXC1/SA1

1952: First commemorative postal card (2¢ FIPEX) is issued.



UX44/S61

1961: Experimental precanceled postal card (3¢ purple Liberty with precancel lines)



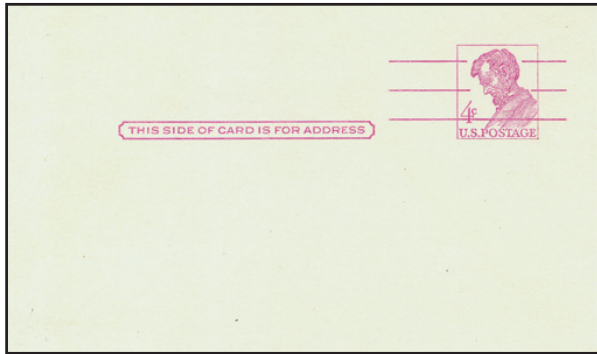
UX46d/S65

1965: "Silent" precanceled stamped envelopes for non-profit organizations (1-1/4¢ Liberty Bell)



U547/3509

1966: First tagged regular postal card (4¢ Lincoln)



UX48a/S66c

1973: Last air mail envelope issued (air letter sheets continue to be issued)



UC47/AM-107

1966: First international air mail postal card (11¢, Commerce Dept., Visit the USA) is issued.



UXC5/SA5



U583/3598

1977: First photogravure & embossed envelope (13¢ golf)

1977: First U.S. stamped envelope produced without embossing (13¢ Energy Conservation)



U584/3602

1967: First tagged regular (5¢ bald eagle, U550a/3525) and air mail (8¢ jet in triangle) stamped envelopes



UC37a/AM-97

1988: First typographed & embossed envelope (25¢, stars/USA)



U611/3713

1968: First tagged air mail postal card (8¢ stylized, pre-canceled eagle)



UXC9a/SA9

1989: First hologram stamped envelope (25¢, shuttle docking at space station)



U617/3735

1989: First multi-design sheet postal cards (15¢ America the Beautiful)

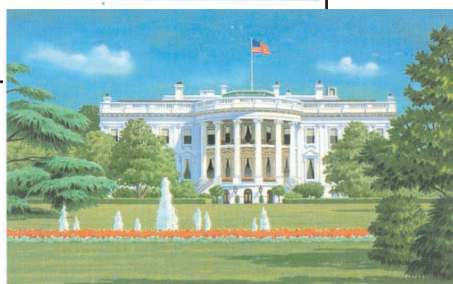


UX142a/S157

1989: First picture postal cards (15¢ White House, UX143/S156)/15¢ Jefferson Memorial, UX144/S158)

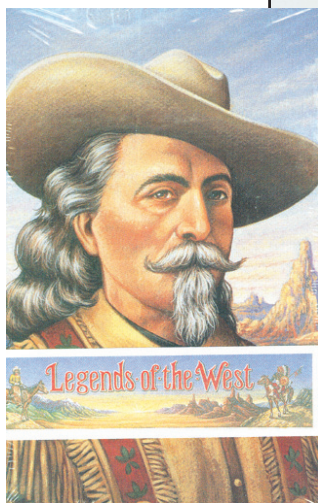
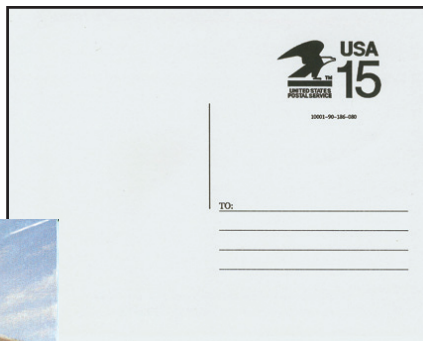


UX143/S156



1990: First computer vended postal card (15¢ Postal Buddy)

CVUX1/PB1



1994: First picture postal card set (Legends of the West)

UX178-UX197
S213-S232

1996: First picture postal card booklet (Summer Olympics)



UX261a
S225-S274

1999: Air letter sheets discontinued

2003: First Priority Mail stamped envelope



U652



2005: First modern letter sheet issued: 37¢ Garden Bouquet

U657

2007: First Express Mail stamped envelope (U661)

Bibliography

The Stamped Envelopes, Wrappers and Sheets of the United States, Tiffany, Bogert, Rechart, Scott, 1892;

Thorp-Bartels Catalogue of U.S. Stamped Envelopes, Century Edition, Thorp, Prescott

Holden, editor, Thorp, 1954;

Catalog of the 19th Century Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers of the United States, Mintz, Allen, editor, UPSS, 2001;

20th Century U.S. Stamped Envelopes, Haller, A.P., editor UPSS, 1984;

20th Century Supplement (1985-1990), Haller, A.P., editor UPSS, 1990;

U.S. Postal Card Catalog, 55th anniversary edition, Beachboard, J.H., editor, UPSS, 2000;

Scott 2004 Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps & Covers, Kloetzel, James E., editor, Scott, 2003;

Precancelled Envelopes of the United States, third edition, Smith, David W., editor, Precancel Stamp Society, 2003;

Counterfeits of the Star Dies, Undersander, Dan, *Postal Stationery*, Vol. 42, No. 1, Whole # 310, pps. 13-14;

"U.S. Envelope Die 12 Forgery Revisited", Lehr, Bill, *Postal Stationery*, Vol. 44, No. 3, Whole # 324, p. 53;

U.S. Postal Cards: Counterfeit U.S. Postal Cards, Stratton, Frank B. with Fricke, Charles A., "Postal Stationery", Vol. 13, No. 5, Whole # 150, pps 128-132.