

Stamp Specialist:

Victorian Canada—Part 4—The Cents Issues

By Ed Richardson (From the Stamp Specialist Volume 12, The Maroon Book)

Note: I was unable to find matches to the illustrations in the Specialist. A selection of 1859 Cents stamps and usages follow the text on pages 16 and further. JFD.

On July 1, 1859 the monetary system of the Provinces of Canada was changed from sterling to decimal currency based on dollars. On the same day this new monetary system became law, there were placed on sale the new series of postage stamps, the first Canadian Cents Issues. Since the dies of the Pence issues were utilized in the preparation of the dies for the new series, the basic designs are similar. This of course does not apply to the 2c value which was not added to the series until August, 1864.

This issue has long been a favorite with the old time Canadian collectors. Its numerous paper, perforation, shade and plate varieties, including several re-entries of both major and minor importance, together with an interesting range of cancellations, tend to give it "top billing" among Canadian issues. This is particularly true of the 5c "Beaver." All values have been given searching study by such outstanding B.N.A. students as Dr. Lewis Reford, Fred Jarrett, Dr. K. M. Day, Brig. Gen. M. A. Studd and Sen. James A. Calder.

It was Dr. Reford who first announced the discovery of the three perforation varieties, and their chronological order. The following list indicates the approximate dates of their usage, as determined from dated specimens examined by various students. It must be remembered that the earliest date of usage for each perforation variety, will of course vary slightly for each denomination.

Perf. $11\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$, the early period, from July 1859 to March 1863.

Perf. $11\frac{3}{4} \times 12$ or $12 \times 11\frac{3}{4}$, the middle period, from March 1863 to April 1865.

Perf. 12×12 , the final period, from April 1865 to the end of issue, Dec. 1867.

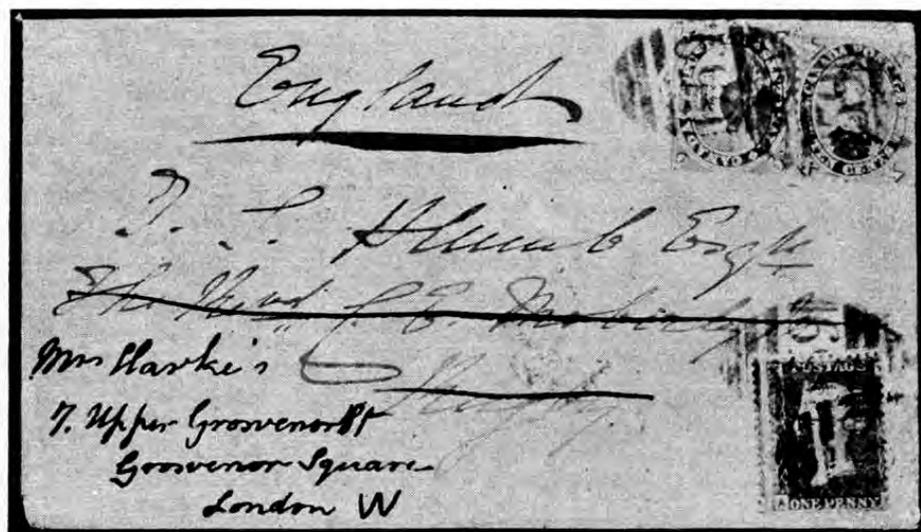


FIG. 13

Cover from Canada to England, prepaid with a 5c and 10c '59, making up a 15c rate, probably an overpayment of the $12\frac{1}{2}$ d Canadian Packet letter rate, with the 1d red used to collect forwarding fee. Note the use of British cancellations on the Canadian stamps.

—From the Jarrett Collection.



FIG. 14

An unusual postmaster's Initial (?) cancellation, Jarrett's type 1069, used on the 5c '59.
—From the Jarrett Collection.

Paper varieties are less pronounced and of less interest than those of the Pence issues. Jarrett lists five major types, all being varieties of wove paper. They include coarse, hard and fine textured papers, with a color range of greyish, white and yellowish, and varying in thickness from a "thick" to a "thin."

Of greater interest in this issue are the numerous shade varieties, the popular 10c "Prince Consort" being an excellent example. Twenty-six different orders for this stamp were placed with the American Bank Note Co. Each order was filled by one, two or three different printings, each resulting in a variation of shade, many of them being very distinctive. The outstanding shade varieties, all from early printings, are:

Black Brown, predominately black. (Why is this one shade variety selected for special catalogue recognition by being listed as a distinct major variety?) Not to be confused with the dark brownish purples often offered as the real black brown.

Chocolate-Black. This and the Black Brown made up the two printings filling the first order, the Black Brown being the first printing.

Bright Red Purple.

Dull Greyish Red Purple.

All of these being of the early printings, have the $11\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$ perforations. The middle perforation period, (the compounds), predominates with various shades of purple, while those of the final period, (perf. 12), are the violets.

The major re-entry on the 5c Beaver is an exceptional example of this type plate variety. The entire left hand side shows very pronounced doubling, and no glass is needed.

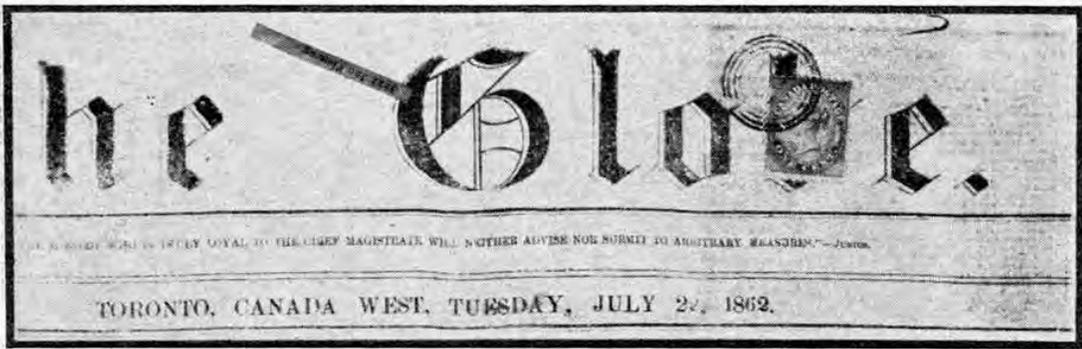


FIG. 15

Showing the proper use of the 1c '59. on a newspaper, THE GLOBE of Toronto, July 22, 1862. These newspapers must have been taken in bulk to Galt, where they were placed in the mails, as the numeral "13" cancellation which ties this stamp on, was in use at Galt, not Toronto.

The most interesting cover items of this issue are those showing various foreign rate combinations, (Figs. 13 & 16), and those used on U. S. Civil War patriotic envelopes, (Fig. 1). Both the 2c and the 17c values are very scarce on cover.

Cancellation varieties, while not as numerous as on later issues, are in sufficient variety to claim a few pages in any Canadian specialist's album. Only the earliest types of crown, leaf and cork cancellations (Fig. 14), will be found on the '59 issues, since the major portion of these were not created until after 1868. Pen, target and bar cancels are most common, while Railroad cancels are classics. The most popular are the 4-ring numeral cancels. (Fig. 15). These designate the larger post offices, having been assigned alphabetically.



FIG. 16

An interesting cover to France, via London. It is partially prepaid in stamps of the Provinces of Canada '59 issue, and in part by the 1st Dominion issue, the Large Cents of 1868. This is an early use of the '68s.

—From the Jarrett Collection.

The 1859 Cents Issues: The Stamps



Scott 14, used



Scott 15



Scott 16
Black brown



Scott 17
Red lilac

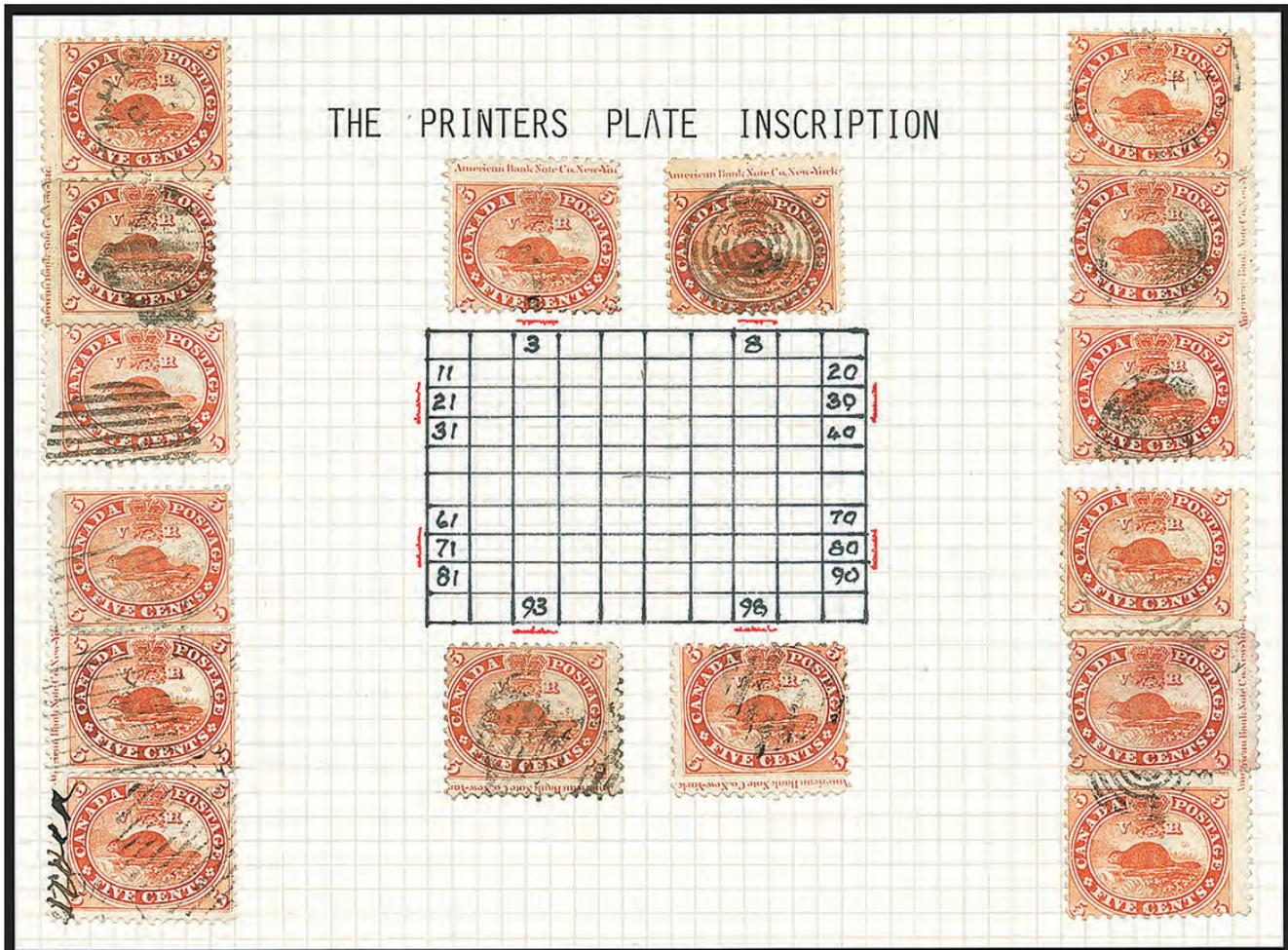


Scott 18, note the Six
Pence in the frame and
the 12-12c in the corners

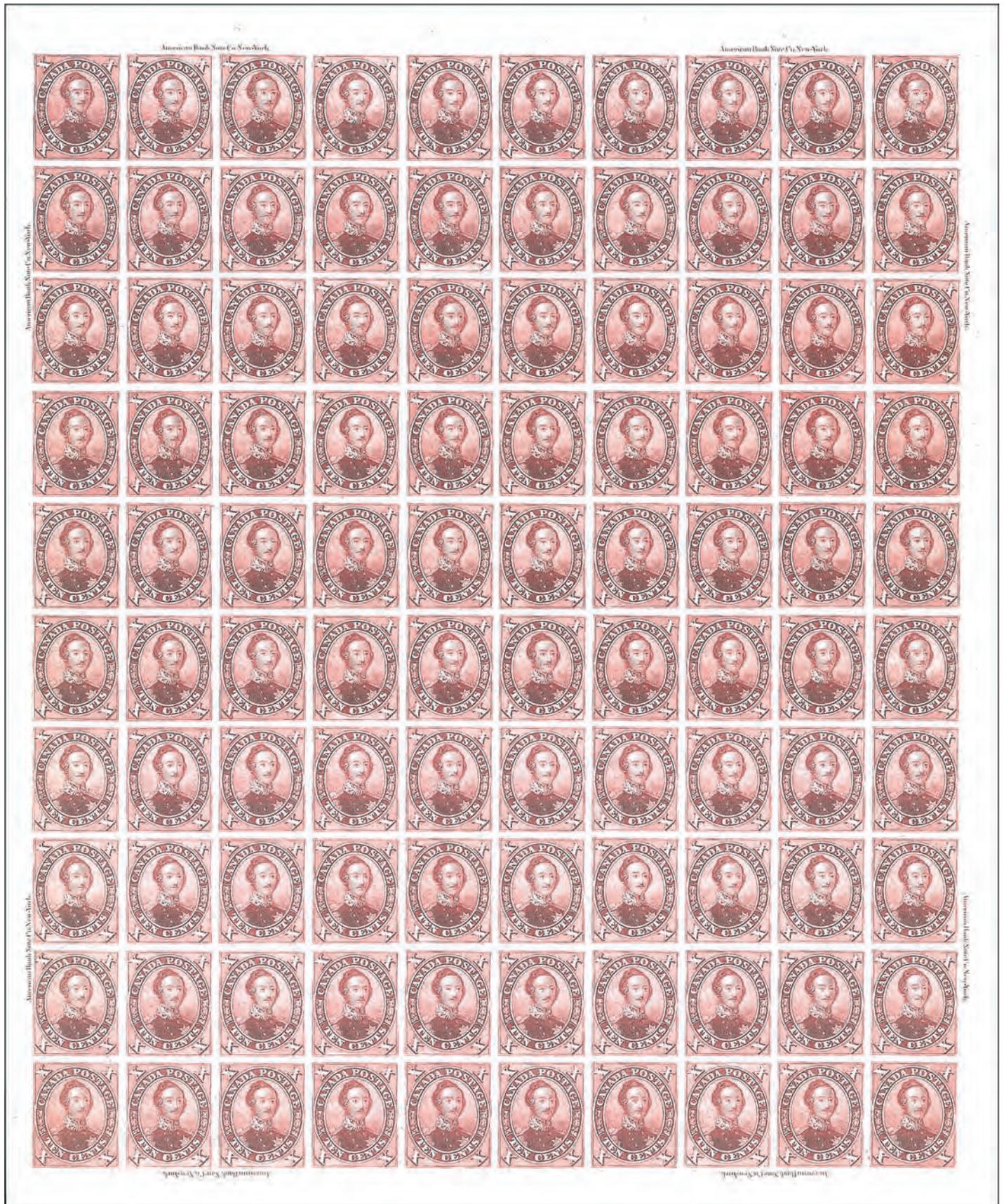


Scott 19, note the Seven-
teen Cents in the frame
and the "8d Stg." [Ster-
ling] in the corners

1859 5c Display comprising sixteen stamps showing complete reconstruction of sheet margin imprints, each clearly showing captured "American Bank Note Co." imprint



The 1859 Cents Issues: The Stamps, Cont.



10¢ Brownish Purple Trial Color Plate Proof on India (Unitrade 17TCi) sheet of 100 with double “American Bank Note Co. New-York.” imprint on each side, affixed to original card backing. This issue was printed from a single plate of 100 subjects.

The 1859 Cents Issues: The Stamps, Cont.



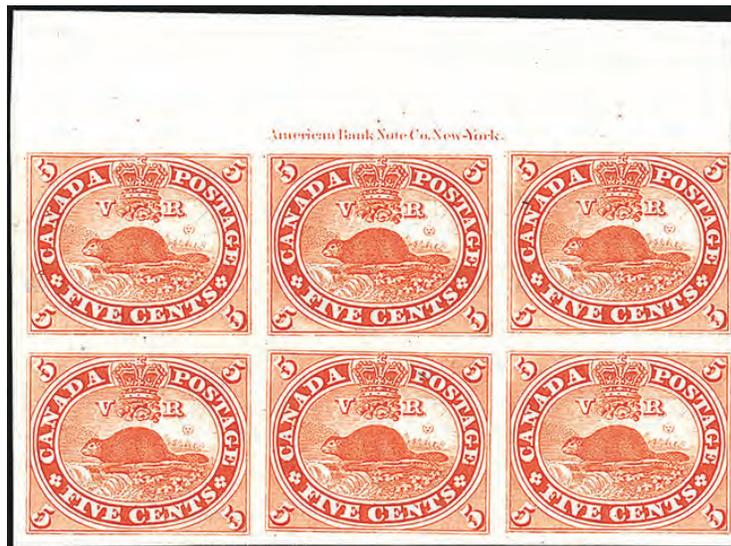
1859 1¢ Rose Plate Proof pair, Unitrade 14Pii, with Diagonal black "Specimen" Overprint



1859 5¢ Issue Plate Proof with red diagonal Specimen overprint



1859 17¢ Blue Plate Proof on India (Unitrade 19P) horizontal pair with sheet margin at left



5¢ Orange Vermilion Trial Color Proof on India (Unitrade 15TC) Top margin
American Bank Note Company imprint block of six.

The 1859 Cents Issues: The Covers



1859 1¢ Rose horizontal pair and 5¢ Vermilion single (Sc. 14-15) tied by 1865 Montreal rimless grid duplex circular datestamp on yellow registered cover with merchant's corner card, the 1¢ pair paying the 2¢ registry fee and the 5¢ paying domestic postage.



1859 5¢ Vermilion and 12-1/2¢ Yellow Green (15, 18), horizontal pair of each, tied by target handstamp and "London C.W. Oct. 1, 1866" datestamp on small pink cover to Amoy, China, with London transit, Hamilton and Hong Kong transit backstamps, paying the 35¢ rate to China.

The 1859 Cents Issues: The Covers, Cont.



1859 5¢ Vermilion (15) tied by grid cancel and "Montreal C.E. OC 9 65" c.d.s. on Lymans Clare & Co. Drug Warehouse all-over illustrated advertising cover to Woodstock, Canada West, also with arrival backstamp



1859 10¢ Chocolate Brown (Unitrade 16i) tied by four-ring "17" numeral target (Unitrade RF4, "very scarce") with matching "Ingersoll C.W. JY 7 59" rimless circular datestamp at bottom left on large cover front only to Chippawa, dated six days after the earliest recorded use (July 1).



1859 10¢ Brown (17b) tied by "Montreal C.E. MY 12, '64" duplex cancel on cover from Donald Alexander Smith to Hampton Falls N.H., original letter datelined "Cartwright Labrador 5th Nov. 1863", in transit five months so probably held during the winter months. From the Robert A. Siegel Galleries lot description where this cover was found, "Donald Alexander Smith, 1st Baron Strathcona and Mount Royal, was one of the richest men in Canada, governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, president of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, president of the Bank of Montreal, and Canadian High Commissioner to Great Britain."



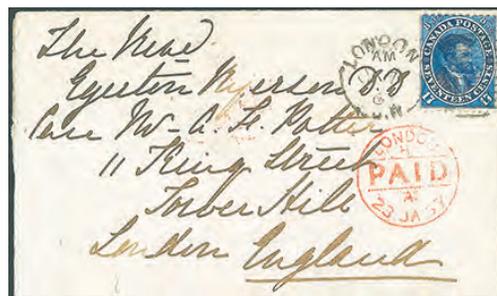
1859 12-1/2¢ Yellow Green (18) tied by neat strike of "Peterboro C.W. JA 16, 1866" duplex on mourning cover to Navan, Ireland, Montreal and receiving backstamps, red "Paid Derry Col. Packet JA 30, 1866".



1859 12-1/2¢ Yellow Green Perf 12 (18) vertical pair, tied by grids on blue cover to Gibraltar, neat "Montreal C.E. AP 25, 1862" c.d.s., red London transit, manuscript "Money to pay" crossed out at left.



1859 10¢ Red Lilac (17) tied by grid cancel and "Montreal C.E. PM DE 17 67" duplex datestamp on blue folded letter dated Montreal, December 13, 1867, from Thomas H. Howell to Charles Thorel, "Japan, care of J. B. Williams Esqr., 305 Front Street, San Francisco Cal.", with sender's directive "Via Panama", the city destination "Yokohama", who paid 10¢ additional postage for the blanket steamship rate to Japan, perfect strike of magenta large "PAID ALL" double-line circle handstamp, carried on Pacific Mail Steamship Co. The Canadian stamp paid the letter as far as San Francisco.



1859 17¢ blue (19), deep rich color, on small cover to England, tied by "London C.W. 1867" grid duplex, also with red London "Paid", very attractive example of the single 17¢ rate per Royal Mail Steamer.

To Be Continued