

# THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORATIONS ON UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMPS:

1855 - 1857

September 2019

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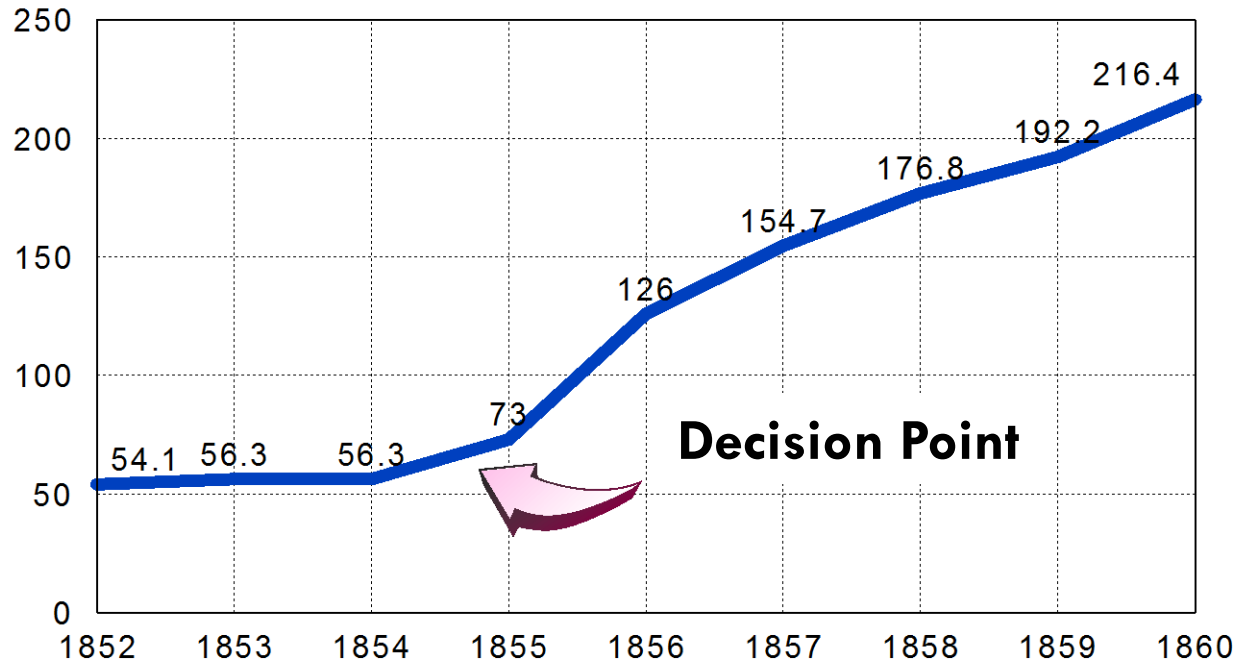
# Events Preceding Purchase of Perforating Machine by Toppan, Carpenter & Co. (TCC)

As viewed in March 1855

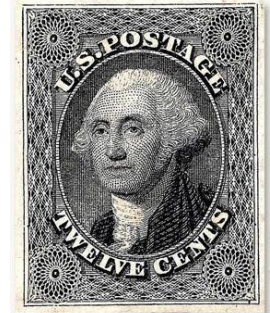
2

## Annual Quantities of U.S. Postage Stamps Issued

Twelve Months Ending June 30 of Year Given



Source: Origin & Use of Postage Stamps, Stamped Envelopes &c. Report of A.D. Hazen, Third Assistant Postmaster General, for fiscal year ending June 30, 1878.



# Key Drivers

3

- Use of stamps anticipated to increase significantly
- Existing methods for separation were inadequate
  - ▣ Scissors
  - ▣ Rulers and/or straight edges
  - ▣ Rouletting
  - ▣ Manual tearing



1850's H. Chapin U.S. Standard #15 Boxwood and Brass Rule Ruler



1850s Henry Sears & Co. Scissors

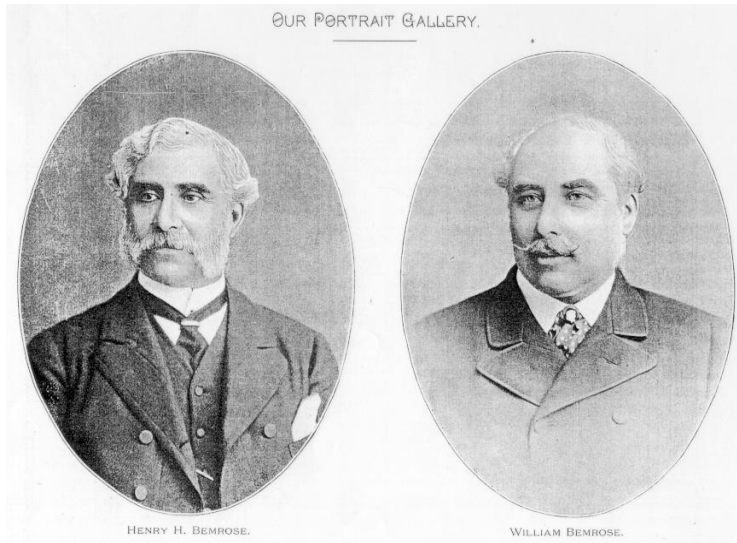


1855 Waterbury Roulette

# The Inventors – Henry & William Bemrose

*Patented the Rotary Perforating Machine that TCC used to perforate U.S. Stamps*

4



Rotary Perforating Machine (ca. 1861)



Close-up of SI NPM machine, showing matching sets of pins & holes (ca. 1913)



# Midland Place – Early 1900's

*Printers, Publishers, Stationers*

5



MIDLAND PLACE.  
MAIN BUILDING.

Early 1900's

Early 1990's



THE SPECIAL PRINTING OF 1855

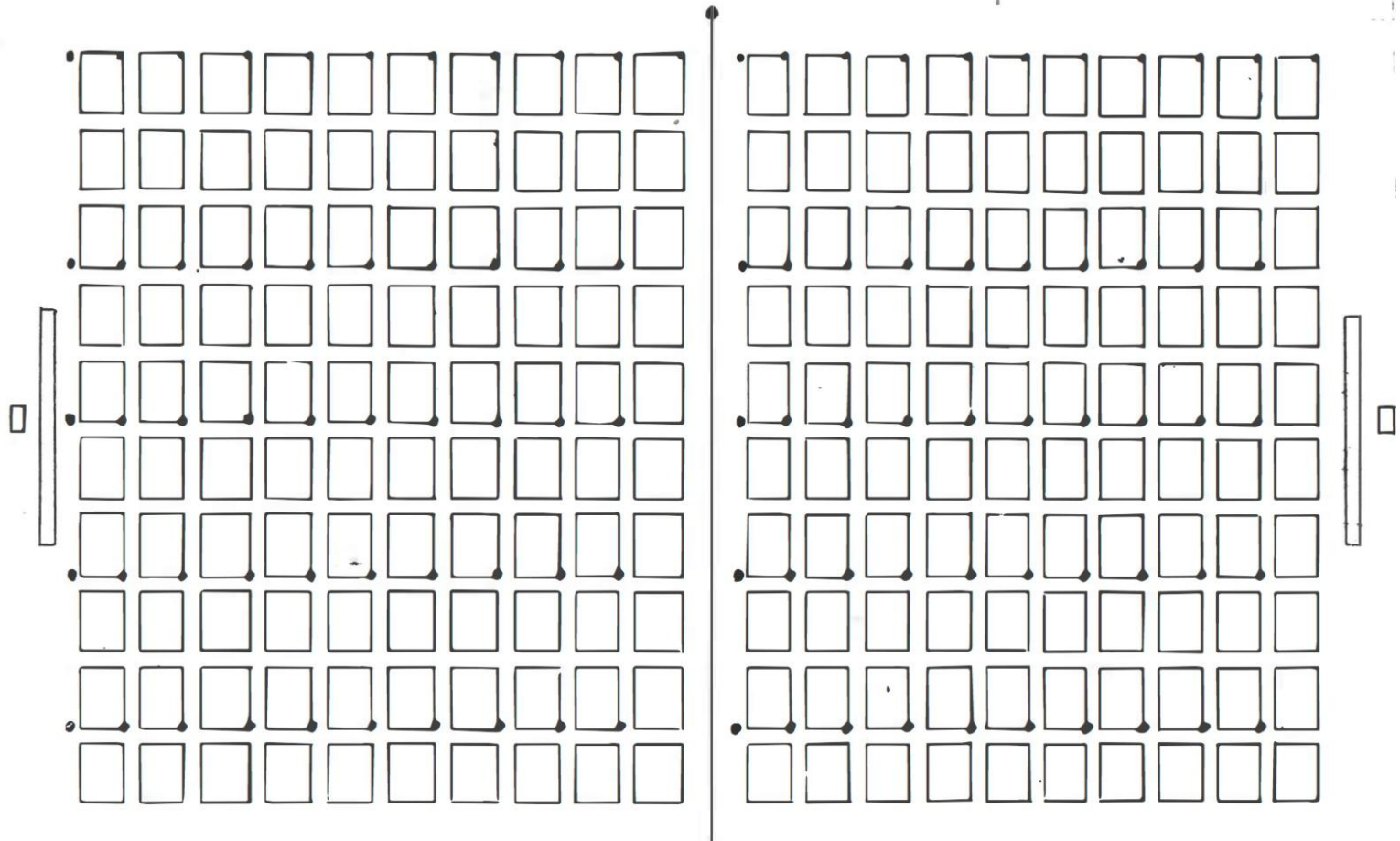
*THE “BRUSH STROKE” PLATE PROOFS OF THE  
3¢ 1851 ISSUE*



# The 200 Subject Plate Layout

2 Panes of 100, with TCC Imprint, Plate Number, and Centerline

7





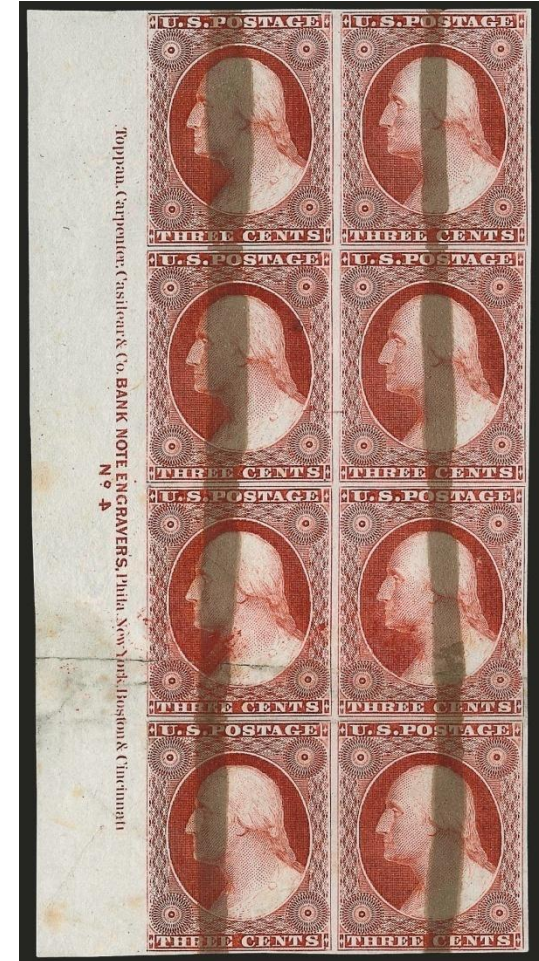
# The Special Printing of 1855

8



7-8, 17-18L4

- Scott #11P3
- Obliterated by black, brush-applied ink
- All Items from Plate 4
- 2 sheets of 200
- On ungummed, proof (not India) paper
- Brownish carmine shade



31-32, 41-42, 51-52, 61-62L4



# What Happened in 1855...

- Two sheets of 200 stamps (400 in total).
- Folded separately to about 3x4 inches, placed in same letter.
- Mailed 3 October 1855 to Perkins, Bacon in England.
- Arrived in London on 15 October 1855. One sheet forwarded to Bemrose in Derby, England.
- Used by Bemrose to ensure proper adjustment of cylinder and rouletting wheels to fit stamp layout.
- Not provided for purpose of proving the machine could work on U.S. stamps. TCC had already been convinced that it would, and had ordered a machine.

# 1855 Letter from Perkins, Bacon to Bemrose

*Discusses TCC panes and shrinkage*

10

**London No. 69 Fleet Street  
16<sup>th</sup> October 1855**

**Gentlemen,**

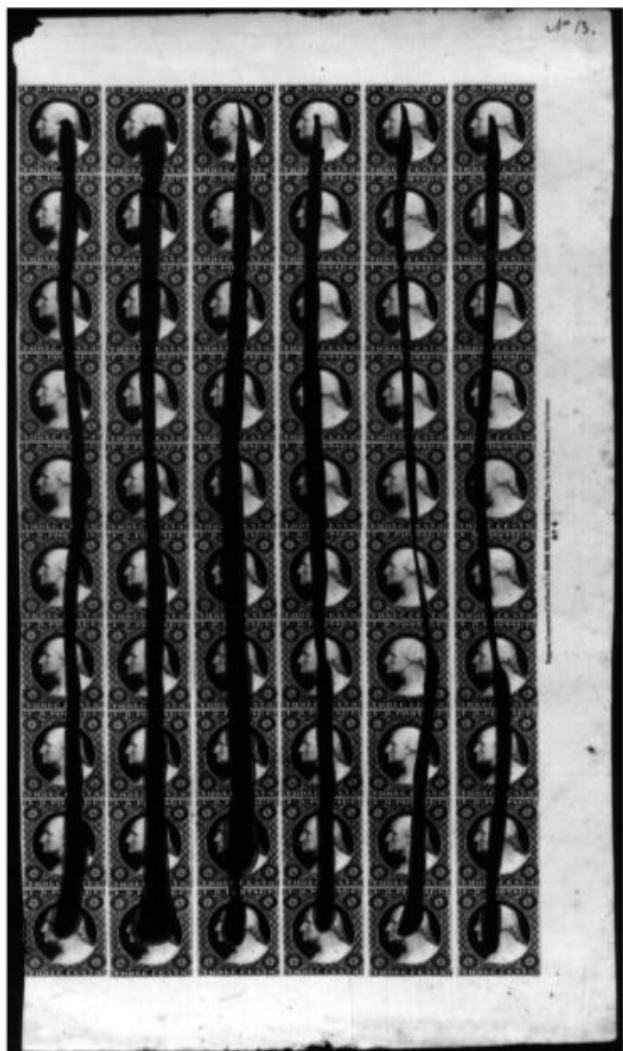
***...Messrs. T.C. & Co. are right as to the size of the heads being alike in the English & American stamps & they are right also as the number of 20 heads one way but those 20 are not placed at all the same as to distance between each stamp....***

***We have examined the subject of Shrinkage of the paper by gumming & although the American paper is less tough & consequently may shrink less than the English... the differences... must be trifling..., so that you may act upon this information or wait for a gummed sheet from the United States whichever you think best.***

**Perkins, Bacon**

# The Right Perkins, Bacon Pane: *Prior to its 1953 Breakup*

11



**All of the proofs were cancelled with black ink brush strokes to prevent use as postage**



**There is a "No 13." in upper right corner**



# 1855 Letter from Bemrose to Perkins, Bacon

*Bemrose have TCC panes & requested gummed*

12

**Derby, Oct. 17, 1855**

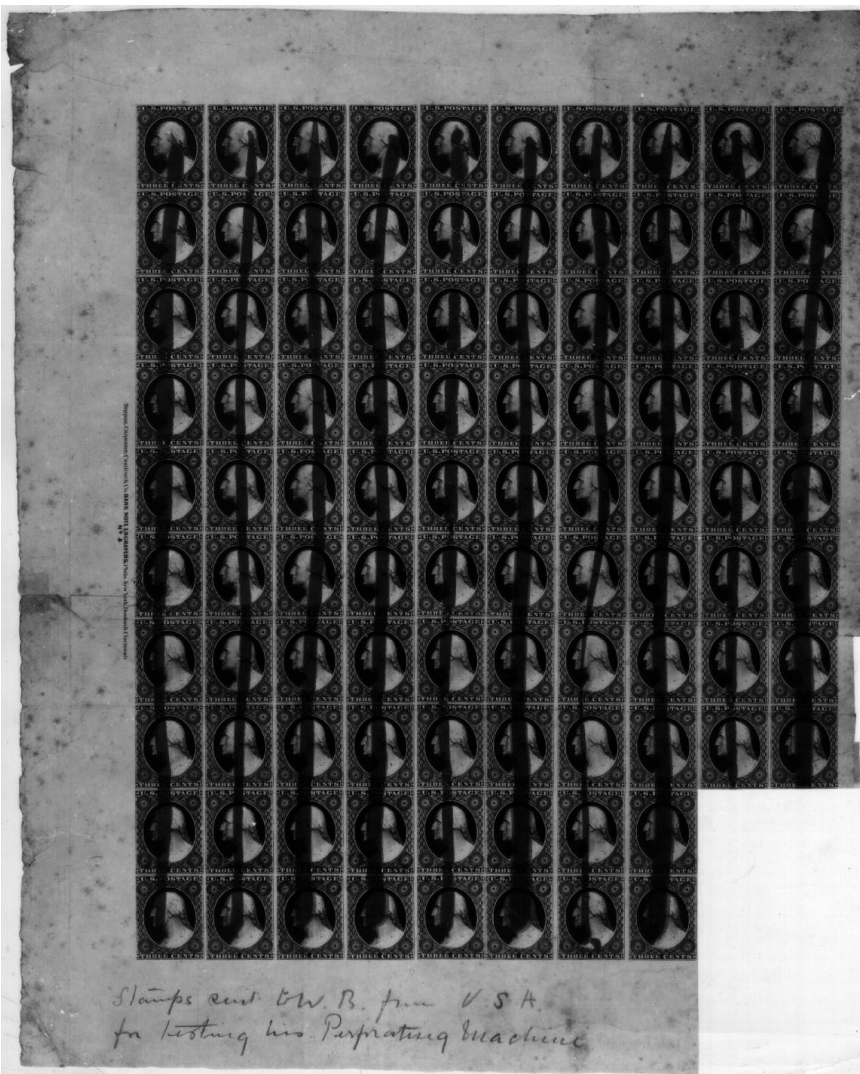
**Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.**  
**Gentlemen,**

**...We have Messrs. Toppan's in hand, & have written them for a gummed sheet that we may adjust as nearly as possible....**

**Wm. Bemrose & Sons**

# The Left Bemrose Pane: *Prior to its 1962 Breakup*

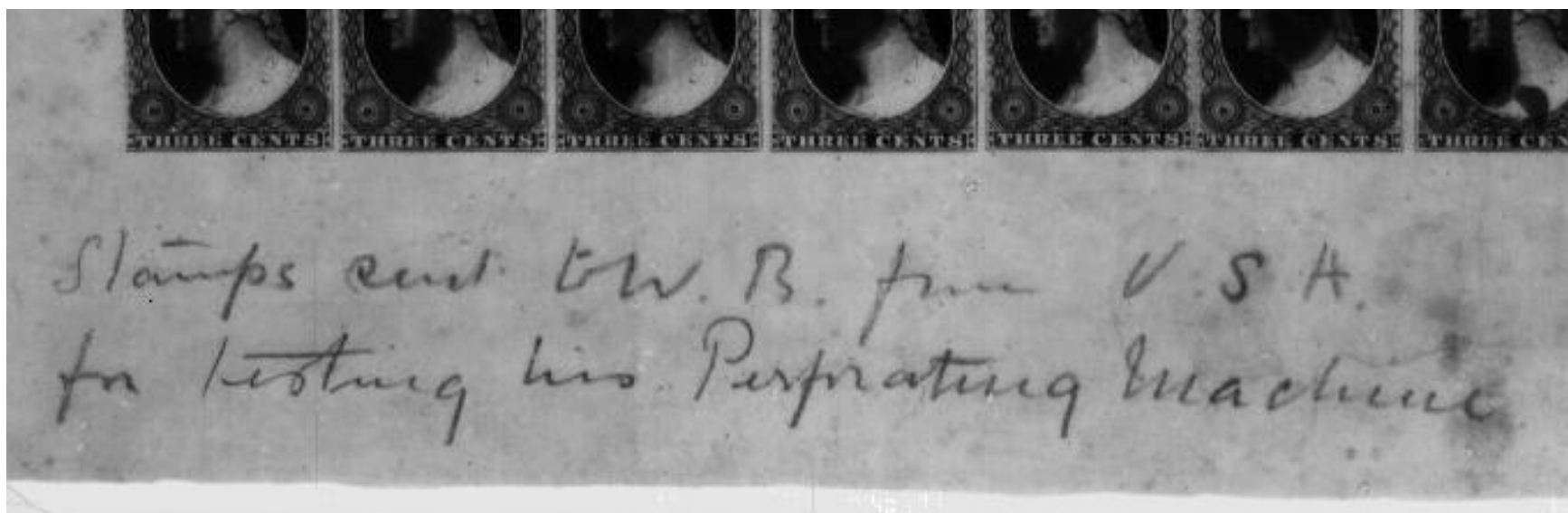
13



**All of the proofs  
were cancelled  
with black ink  
brush strokes to  
prevent use as  
postage**

# Lower Left Corner of Left Bemrose Pane

14



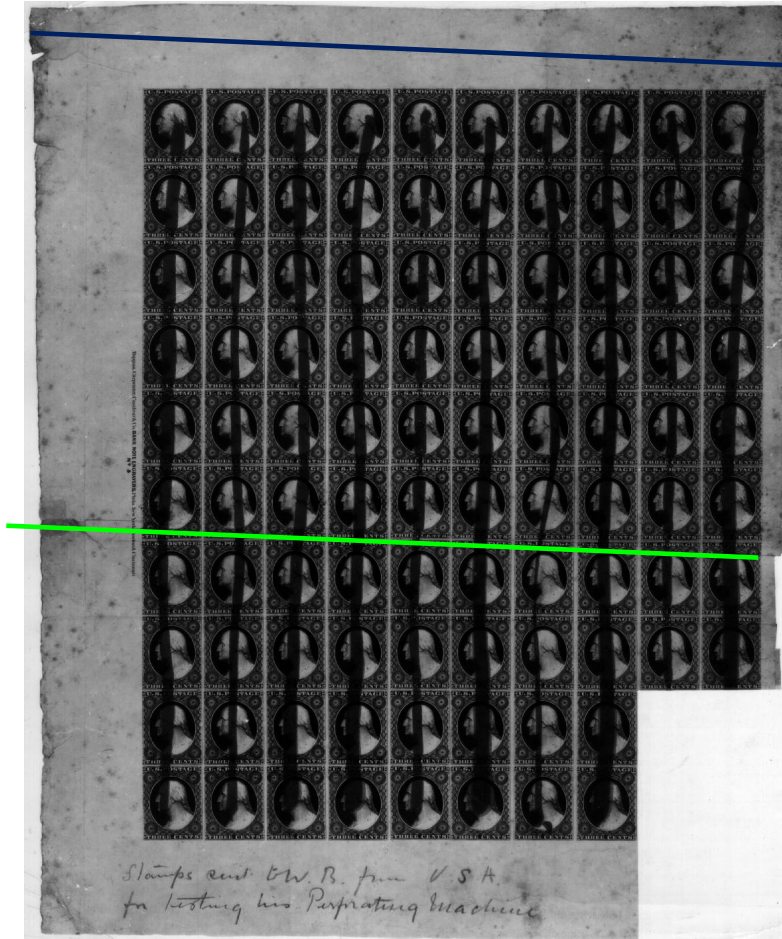
***“Stamps sent to W.B. from U.S.A.  
for testing his Perforating Machine”***



# The Left Bemrose Pane: Lines of Rouletting

*Wilson Hulme discovered a second line across middle of pane.*

15



**Previously Reported**



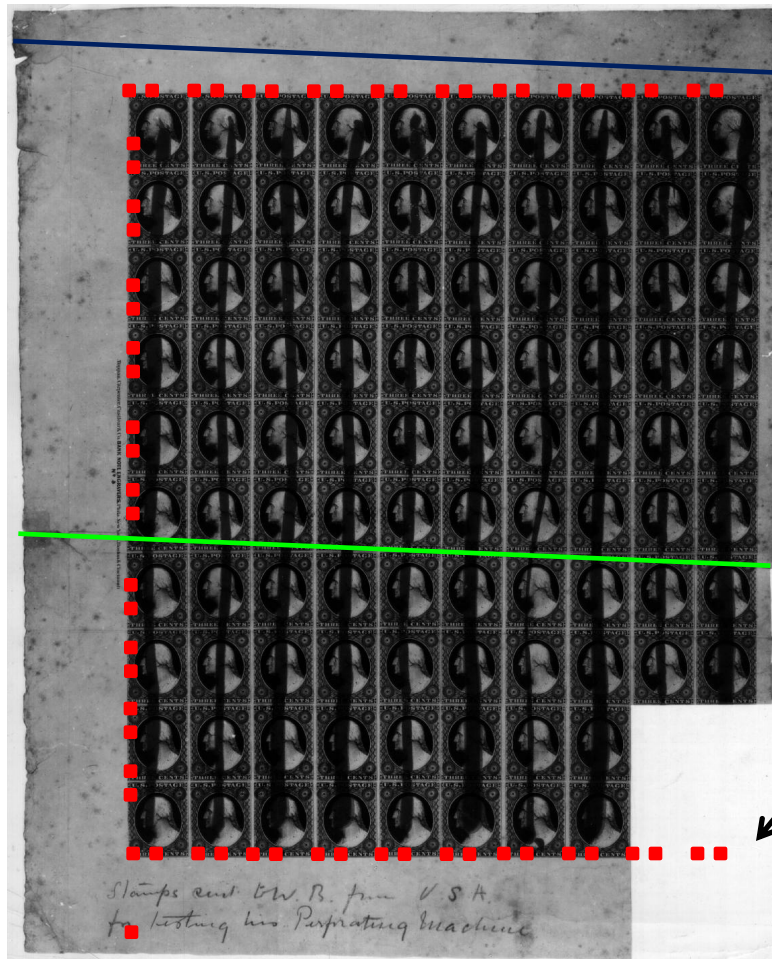
**Previously Unreported**



# The Left Bemrose Pane: Pin Holes

*Hulme discovered previously unreported pin holes on outer edge stamps.*

16



**Previously  
unreported  
pin-holes on  
outer edge  
stamps  
(depicted as  
red squares)**

# Summary

17

- Two sheets of 200 stamps (400 in total) were folded separately to ~3x4 inches, placed in same letter, and mailed 3 Oct. 1855 to Perkins Bacon in England.
- Arrived in London on 15 Oct. 1855. One sheet forwarded to Bemrose in Derby, England, where they ensured proper adjustment of cylinder & rouletting wheels to fit stamp layout.
- Two horizontal lines of rouletting were produced on the Bemrose Panes, as well as pin holes on outer edge stamps.
- Bemrose machine arrived at TTC in NYC on 4 April 4 1856
- Subsequent testing shows rouletting will not work. The machine is converted into a perforator.
-



# Earliest Documented Use of a Government Perforated Stamp in the U.S. – Scott #25

18



#25 - 3¢ Dull Red, Type I

Tied by two strikes of  
**"New-York Feb. 28, 1857"**  
circular datestamp with  
clear year date on small  
cover to New Milford Conn.

1 of 3 known EDU.

The first experimentally perforated stamps were delivered to the U.S. government on February 24, 1857. Seven cities were chosen for distribution. According to *North American and United States Gazette* of February 27, "...Ninety thousand were ordered for the cities of Philadelphia and New York, and thirty thousand for New Orleans and other cities of the South and West."

- EDU of a perforated stamp is Saturday, 28 February 1857, based on 1 cover from Philadelphia and 2 from NY.
- Experimental period continued until 10 June 1857, when the original six-year contract with TCC expired.
- Renewed 8 April 1857, effective 10 June, after which all stamps perforated as mandated by new contract terms.

# REDISCOVERY OF “BRUSH STROKE” PAIR

*67-68L4 FROM BEMROSE LEFT PANE*

# Rediscovered Pair from the Left Bemrose Pane: *Plated as 67-68L4 with horizontal roulette line across top*

20



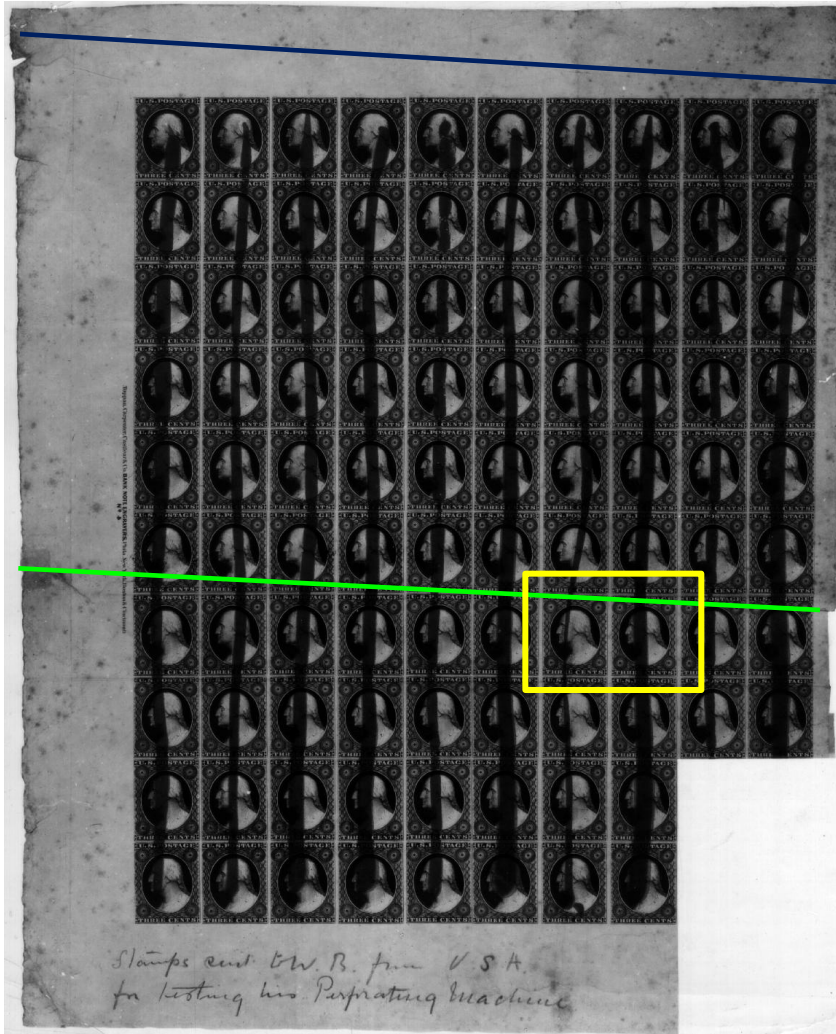
#11P3, 67-68L4, brush stroke pair, rouletted across top of both stamps.  
Discovered & plated by C. DiComo | 2018-07



# The Left Bemrose Pane: Lines of Rouletting

*Wilson Hulme discovered a second line across middle of pane.*

21



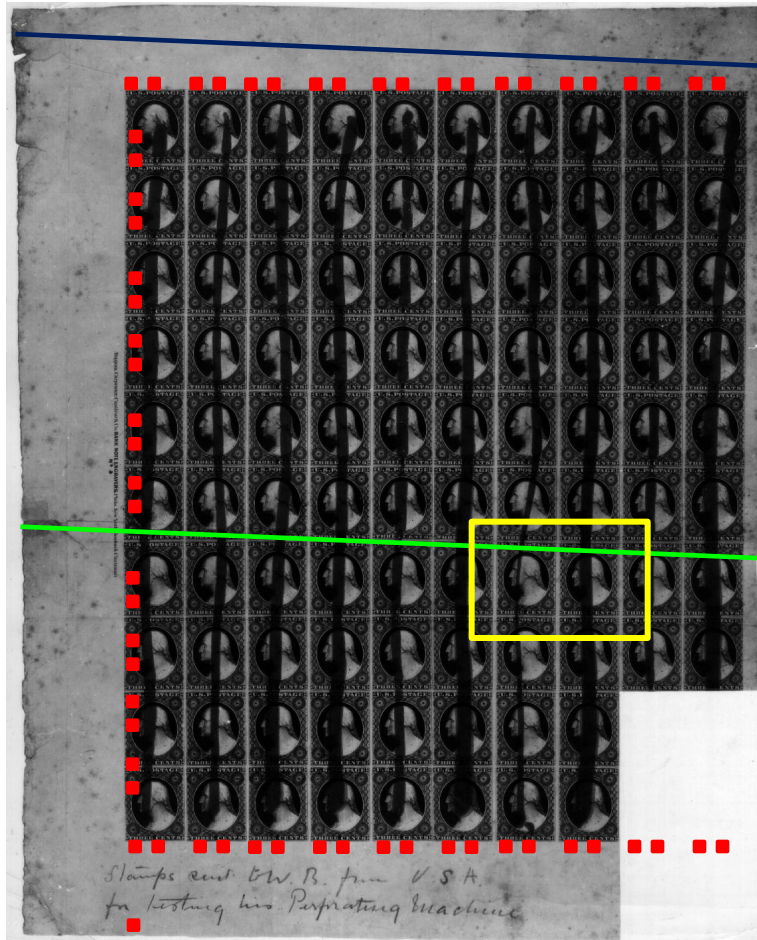
67-68L4 pair has horizontal line of rouletting across top of both stamps. Clearly seen on reverse below.



# The Left Bemrose Pane: Pin Holes

*Hulme discovered previously unreported pin holes on outer edge stamps.*

22



**Previously unreported pin-holes on outer edge stamps (depicted as red squares)**



CURRENT STATE OF “BRUSH STROKE” PANES

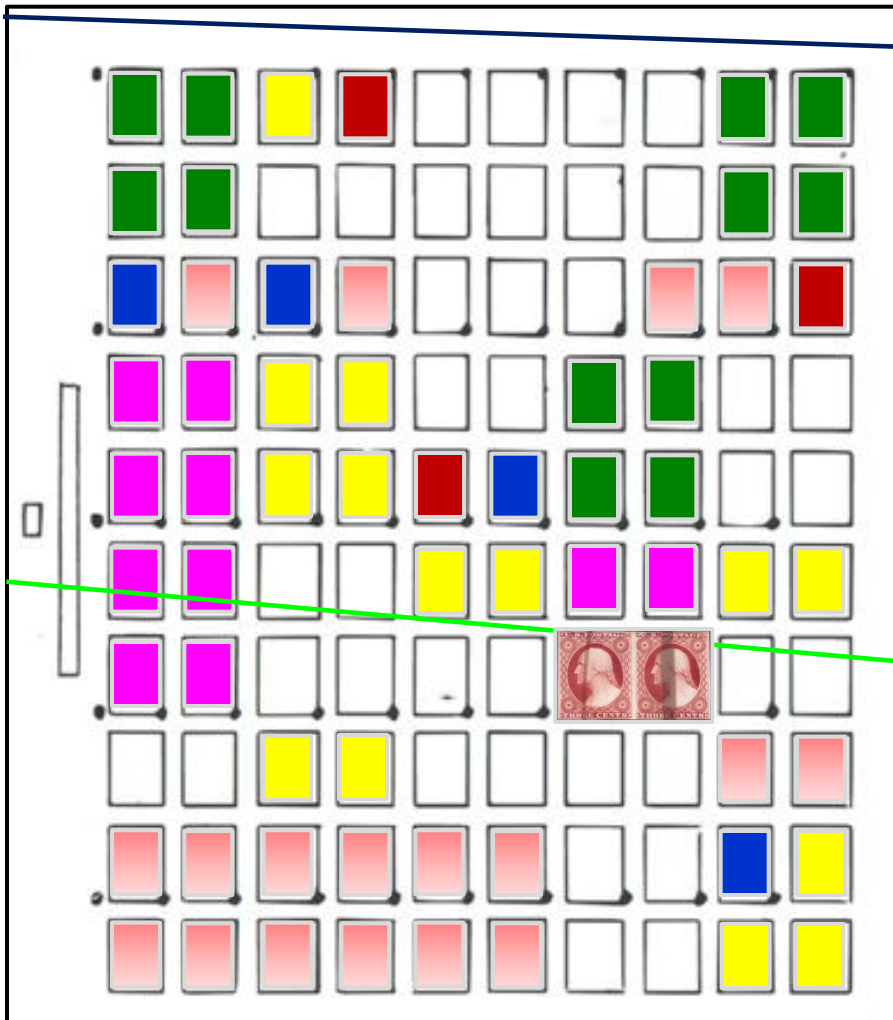
*AS BEST AS CAN BE DETERMINED - 2019*



# The Left Bemrose Pane:

*As of 2008, W. Wilson Hulme's Reconstruction*

24



**#11P3 – 3¢ Brownish Carmine  
Brush Stroke on Proof paper,  
Reconstructed left pane.**

## **Hulme Inventory in 2007:**

- Bemrose Left Pane = 34
- Bemrose Right Pane = 9
- Perkins Left Pane = 100
- Perkins Right Pane = 29 (+2)

**New Find Added: 67-68L4**

*Siegel Sale 965, Lot 213, 2008*

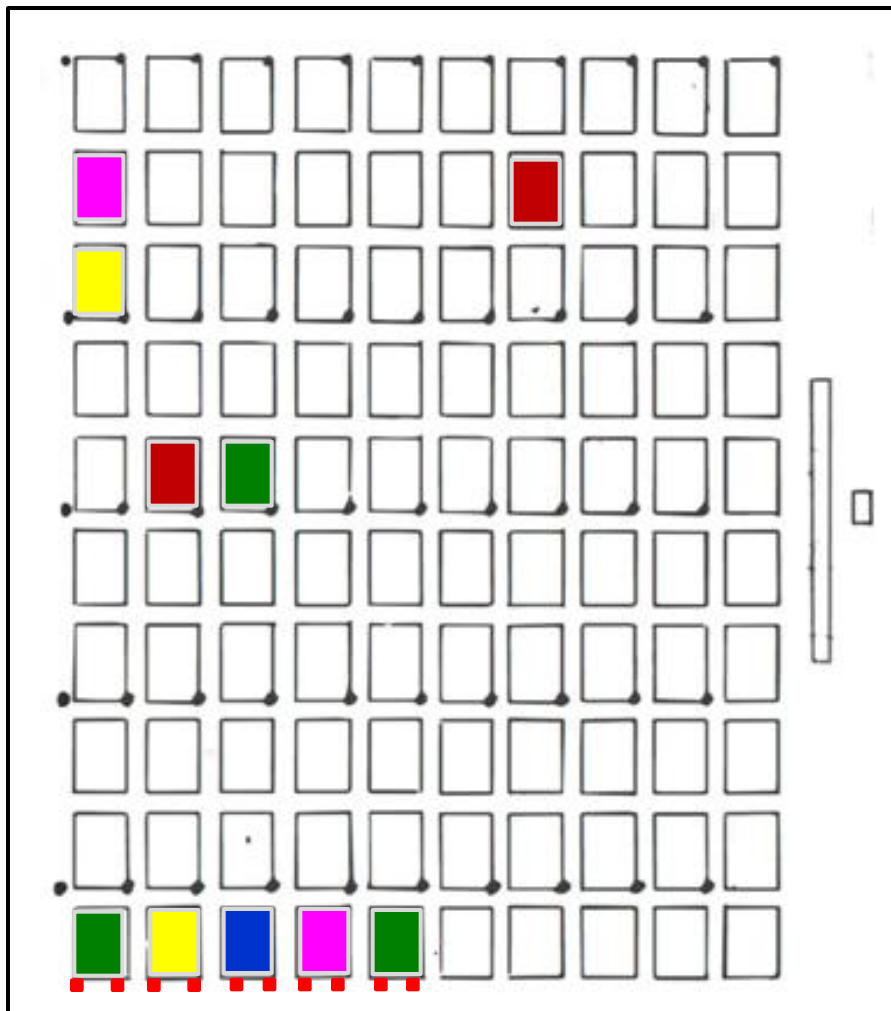
*Ex. W. Wilson Hulme*



# The Right Bemrose Pane:

*As of 2008, W. Wilson Hulme's Reconstruction*

25



Pin-holes on all outer edges stamps (denoted by ■)

**#11P3 – 3¢ Brownish Carmine  
Brush Stroke on Proof paper,  
Reconstructed right pane.**

**Hulme Inventory in 2007:**

- Bemrose Left Pane = 34
- Bemrose Right Pane = 9
- Perkins Left Pane = 100
- Perkins Right Pane = 29 (+2)

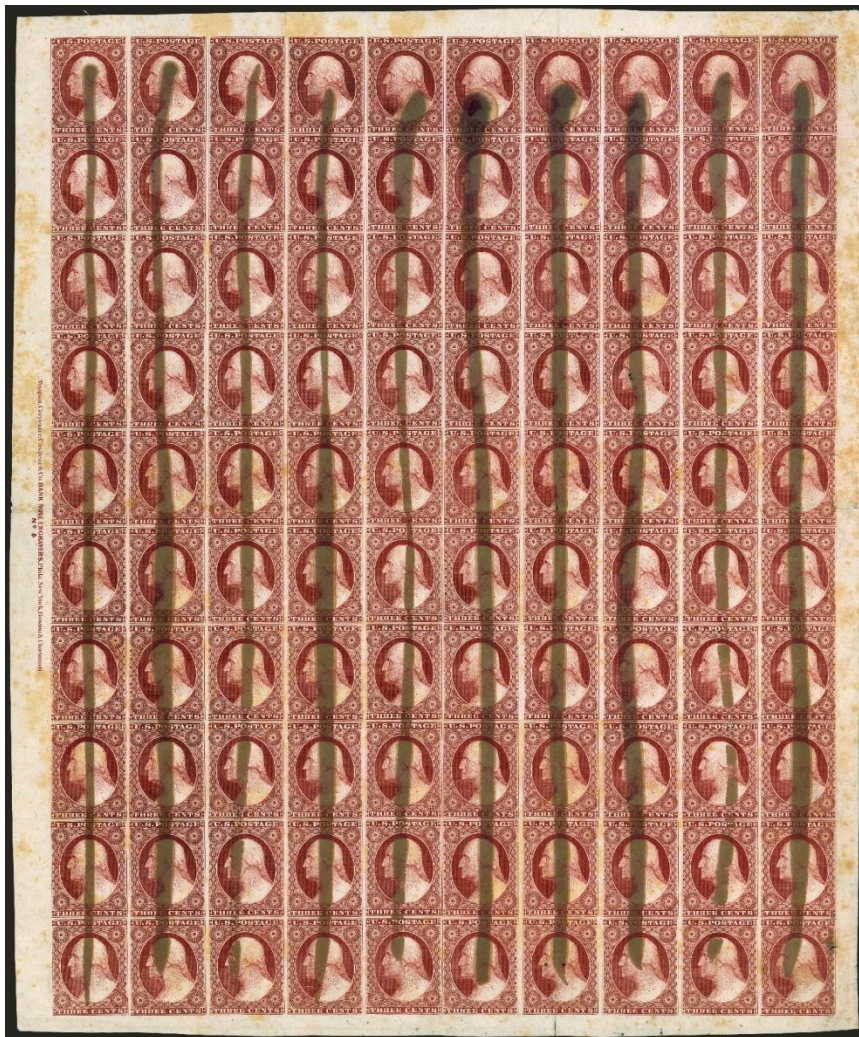
**Siegel Sale 965, Lot 213, 2008**

**Ex. W. Wilson Hulme**

# The Left Perkins, Bacon Pane:

*As of 2008, Sold Intact, ex. W. Wilson Hulme*

26



**#11P3 – 3¢ Brownish Carmine  
Brush Stroke on Proof paper,  
complete left pane of 100 with  
full Imprint and Plate No. 4  
(reversed numeral).**

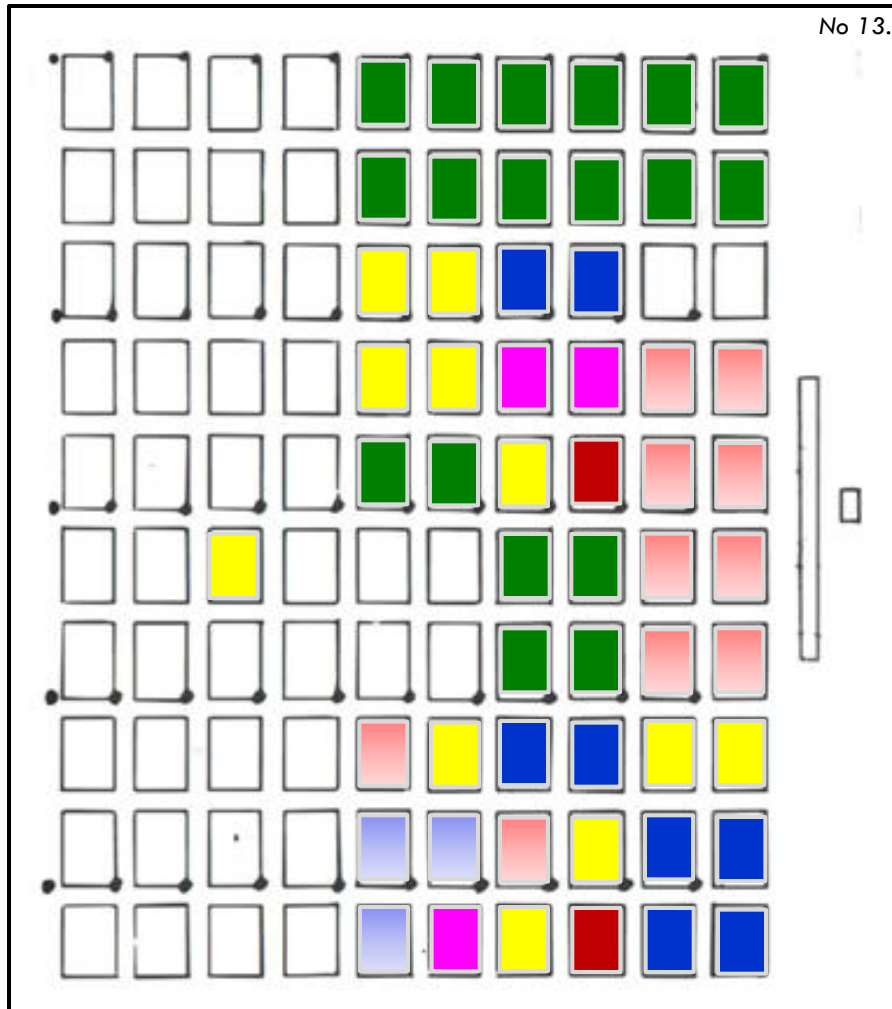
**Toppan Carpenter & Co. mailed  
two sheets of 200 stamps to  
Perkins, Bacon in 1854.**

***Siegel Sale 964, Lot 212, 2008  
Ex. Earl of Crawford, Keightley & W.  
Wilson Hulme***

# The Right Perkins, Bacon Pane:

*As of 2008, W. Wilson Hulme's Reconstruction*

27



**#11P3 – 3¢ Brownish Carmine  
Brush Stroke on Proof paper,  
Reconstructed right pane.**

## **Hulme Inventory in 2007:**

- Bemrose Left Pane = 34
- Bemrose Right Pane = 9
- Perkins Left Pane = 100
- Perkins Right Pane = 29 (+2)

**Siegel Sale 965, Lot 213, 2008**

**Ex. W. Wilson Hulme**

# THANK YOU / QUESTIONS?

*\* DEDICATED TO W. WILSON HULME, WHOSE SEMINAL RESEARCH ON THE BRUSH STROKES THIS PRESENTATION IS BASED ON; AND WHO MENTORED ME ON THE 3¢ 1851-57 ISSUE UP UNTIL HIS UNTIMELY PASSING IN 2007.*

*\* ANY ERROR AND/OR OMISSION IS THE PRESENTERS RESPONSIBILITY.*