

# The Benjamin Franklin One Cent Green

THE 1902 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN  
ONE CENT GREEN



This collection represents a brief study of the one cent value of the famed series of 1902. The stamp was designed by R. Ostrander Smith and the die proof was approved by Third Assistant Postmaster General E.E. Madden on December 15, 1902.

The stamp was issued on February 3, 1903, replacing the issue of 1894, and remained in general use for a period of six years ending in December 1908.

During its reign, the stamp was issued in sheet form, both perforate and imperforate; booklet form and in coils. It is known to exist in nine color varieties and Bureau of Engraving and Printing records show that 11,174,161,974 copies were produced.

Tom Geiger





## » The Series of 1902 Definitives -

- » Only two stamps (8 cent – Dec, 13 cent – Nov) issued in 1902. All others issued in 1903 or later.
- » Criticized when new as too gaudy and ornate in design.







## » Some Facts -

- » Issued February 3, 1903 as part of the Series of 1902
- » Designed by R. Ostrander Smith
- » Die Proof approved by Third Assistant Postmaster General E.E. Madden on December 15, 1902.
- » This issue was printed as a sheet, both perforate and imperforate, booklet form and as coils.
- » BEP records show that 11,174,161,972 copies were printed.
- » Production ceased in November 1908, but supplies lasted at post offices through 1909.



# » Raymond Ostrander Smith

- » Lived 1873 to 1933
- » Worked for American Bank Note Co. through 1897, and again after 1902
- » Worked for Bureau of Printing and Engraving 1897 through 1902.
- » Designed:
  - > Trans Mississippi Issue - 1898
  - > Pan American Issue - 1901
  - > Series of 1902 Definitives (except replacement 2 cent Washington)



Sheet Stamp  
Scott 300  
Perf 12  
First Day:  
Feb 3, 1903



### **An important note about first days in this era!**

There were no official first day covers or ceremonies. Reported “first day of sale” was per USPOD records of stamps shipped to post offices.

“Early usage covers of stamps may be days, weeks, even a month after the reported first day.





Booklet Pane  
Scott 300b  
Perf 12  
First Day:  
Mar 6, 1907



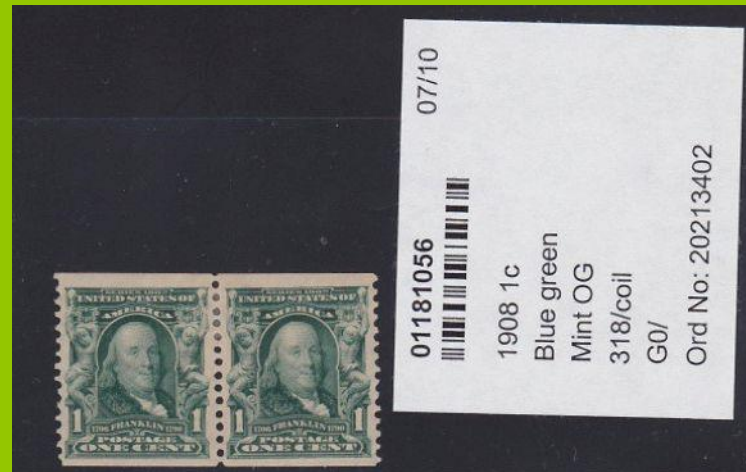
Sheet Stamp  
Scott 314  
Perf = None  
First Day:  
October 2, 1906



Coil Stamp  
Scott 316  
Perf 12  
Horizontally  
First Day:  
Feb 18, 1908



Coil Stamp  
Scott 318  
Perf 12  
Vertically  
First Day: July 31, 1908



# United States Possessions

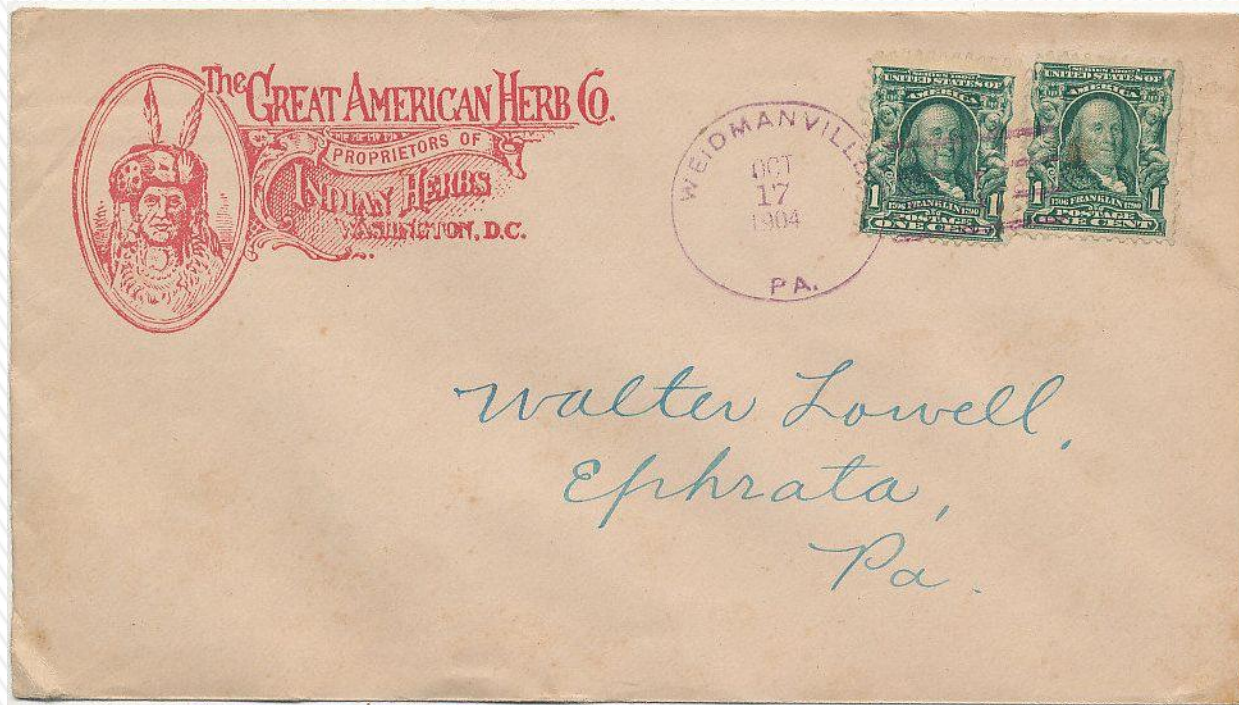
Canal Zone  
Sheet Stamp  
Scott 4  
Perf 12  
First Day:  
July 18, 1904



Philippines  
Sheet Stamp  
Scott 226  
Perf 12  
First Day:  
September 20, 1903







## » Usage Facts -

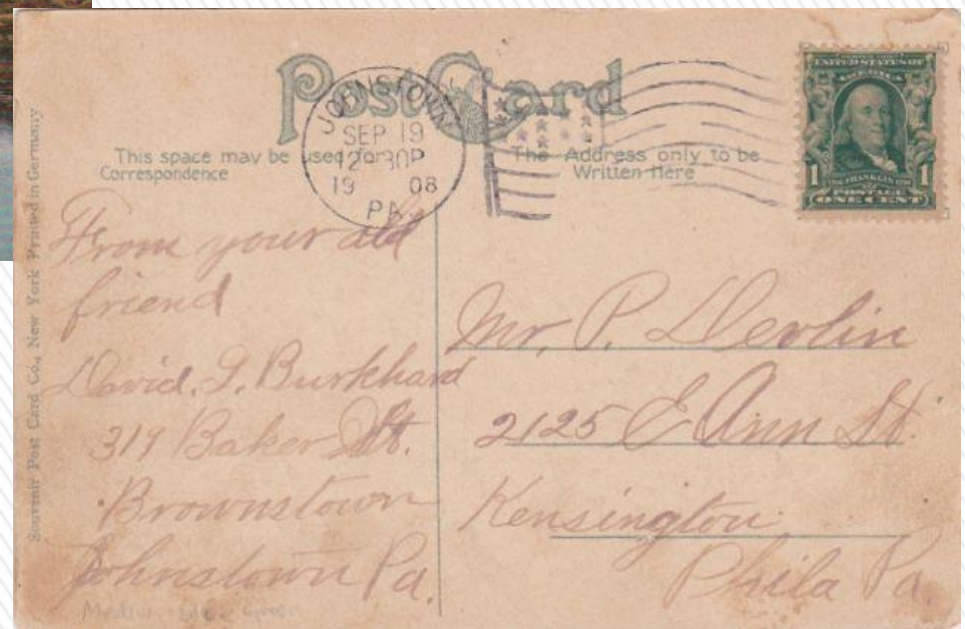
- » The stamp was issued to fill the need for:
  - > The postal card rate of one cent.
  - > The local postage rate of one cent, within the city
  - > Second, Third and Fourth Class Mail
  - > To be used as supplemental postage to achieve higher postal rates
  - > Valid for use in multiples - two 1 cent stamps for 2 cent postal rate



## » In The Beginning...



**The One That Started  
This Madness 45 Years  
Ago...**



» It all started rummaging through a ten cent cover box as a youngster. I found this card.







## » Why Collect this one stamp?

- » I thought this stamp was beautiful!
- » I was a big fan of Ben Franklin
- » It was over the 20<sup>th</sup> century date line
- » It was cheap!
- » It hadn't been done before.

As a teenager, I was in awe of valuable early stamp exhibits and reasoned that I could do a similar serious study on a much cheaper stamp!

**Little did I know I had stumbled on one of the greatest eras of change in postal history!**





## » The Times At A Glance - 1905

- » The average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47 years.
- » Less than 20 percent of homes were electrified.
- » Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.
- » A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.
- » Your most prized possessions were your watch and fountain pen
- » The wireless telegraph was cutting edge cool.
- » There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S., and only 144 miles of paved roads.
- » Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California.
- » The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower!
- » The average wage in the U.S. was 22 cents per hour, the average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year
- » More than 95 percent of all births in the U.S. took place at home.
- » Ninety percent of all U.S. doctors had no college education.
- » Five leading causes of death in the U.S. were:
  - » 1. Pneumonia and influenza 2. Tuberculosis 3. Diarrhea 4. Heart disease 5. Stroke
- » The American flag had 45 stars.
- » Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii, and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.
- » The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was only 30!
- » Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and ice tea hadn't been invented yet.
- » There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.
- » Two out of every 10 U.S. adults couldn't read or write.
- » Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.
- » There was no television or radio.





## » The Era of Change

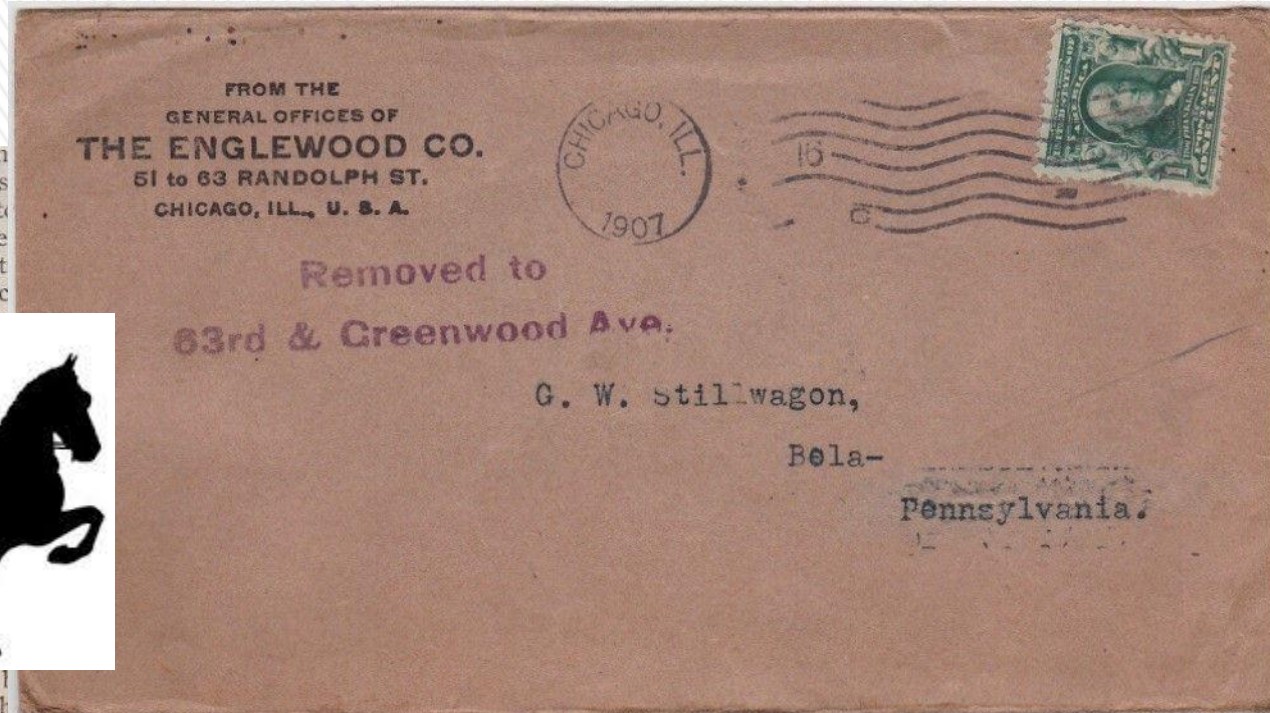
- » Motorization of mail movement
- » The development of stamp affixing and vending equipment
- » The use of mail as an advertising medium
- » The postcard frenzy
- » The first booklet panes
- » Territorial Overprints on US stamps
- » The first perfin and precancel usage
- » The first Christmas seals





# » Motorization of Mail Movement

# The Era of Change



While the specifications of these eight vehicles, the pictures of these buggies and surreys under the same name in our three large fact sheets. In those price lists we also illustrate thousand combinations of designs in constant trimmings of buggies, surreys, wagons, c



Therefore you can see that all these vehicles will be clean, fresh jobs. However, the only ch

## Here are the Descriptions of Our Immediate Shipment Buggies and Surreys above referred to:

### SPECIAL IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT RUNABOUT—STYLE ENGLEWOOD ECLIPSE STICK SEAT.

Regular cash price with shafts.....\$ 41.25  
 Regular C. O. D. price with shafts..... 43.25  
 Regular credit price with shafts..... 45.25  
 Credit terms, \$12.50 cash and \$5.00 monthly, no interest. For special immediate shipment of this buggy as per the following description, remit \$2.85 extra with your order.  
**WHEELS**—38-42-in., 3/4-in. steel tire.  
**GEAR**—Has 15-16-in. Collinge collar, 1,000-mile arch axle.  
**BODY**—22 in. wide by 54 in. long. Stick seat with double bent spindles of exceptionally handsome pattern.  
**TRIMMINGS**—Fancy leather.  
**PAINTING**—Body and seat black, with spindles painted to match gear.  
**Gear, red.**  
**TRACK**—4 ft. 8 in. or 5 ft. 2 in.

### SPECIAL IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT BUGGY—STYLE ENGLEWOOD RAYMOND S.

Regular cash price with shafts.....\$ 45.50  
 Regular C. O. D. price with shafts..... 47.50  
 Regular credit price with shafts..... 49.50  
 Credit terms, \$10.00 cash and \$5.00 monthly, no interest. For special immediate shipment of this buggy as per the following description, remit \$2.85 extra with your order.  
**WHEELS**—38-42-in., 3/4-in. steel tire.  
**GEAR**—Has 15-16-in. Collinge collar, 1,000-mile arch axle. Has the Happy Idea Side Springs, which are the easiest riding springs made.  
**BODY**—22 in. wide by 54 in. long.  
**TOP**—Leather quarter, four bow handy pattern. Rubber roof and rubber lined back curtain; green back rubber side curtains.  
**TRIMMINGS**—Fancy leather.  
**PAINTING**—Body black, fancy striped. Gear green, suitably striped.  
**TRACK**—4 ft. 8 in. or 5 ft. 2 in.

(OVER)







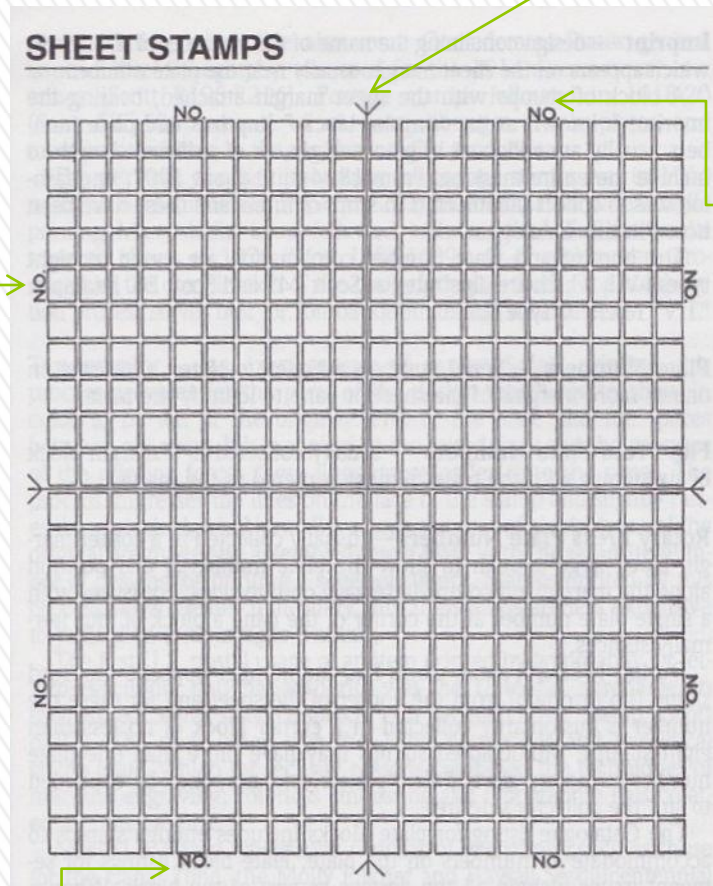
## » The Era of Change Motorization of Mail Movement





# » 1 Cent Green – Sheet Stamps

> 4 sheets of 100 cut from 1 sheet of 400



# » 1 Cent Green – Sheet Stamps

## > Plate Markings

Engravers Mark

Plate Number

BEP Logo





# » 1 Cent Green – Sheet Stamps

> The OOPS! Department



Misperfs



Under inking  
on dry paper



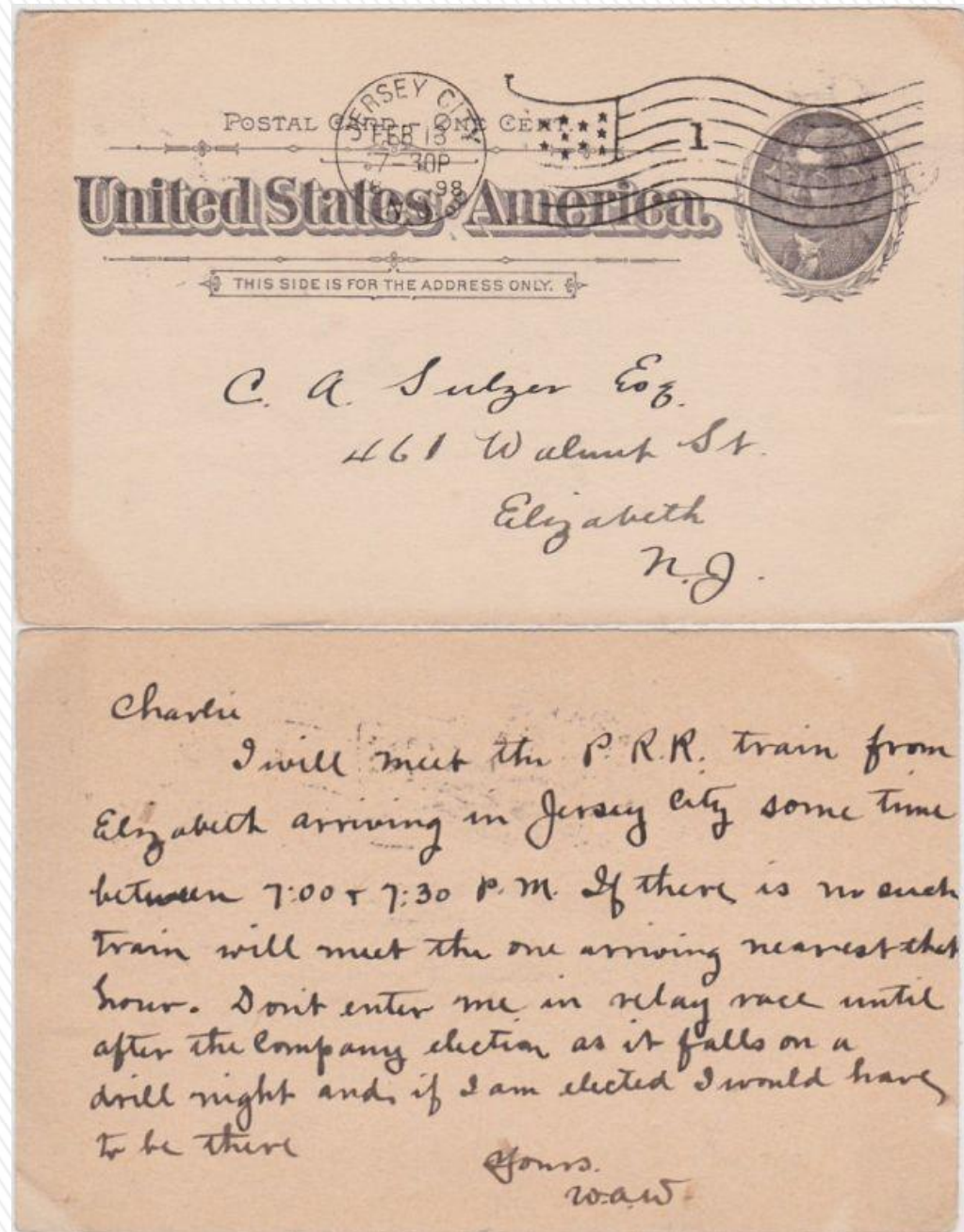
## » Postal Rates of this Era

Postal Rate Description	Rates
<b>First Class Mail</b>	
+ Postcards	1 Cent
+ Drop Letters	1 Cent Per Ounce
+ Letters	2 Cents Per Ounce
<b>Second Class Mail</b>	
(No written messages allowed for Second, Third and Fourth Class Mail – Violators charged for first class)	
Transient Newspaper Rate	1 Cent per 4 ounces
<b>Third Class Mail</b>	
Printed Matter, Precancels & Permits	1 Cent per 2 ounces
<b>Fourth Class Mail</b>	
Items not included in other classes	1 Cent Per Ounce



## » The Postal Card

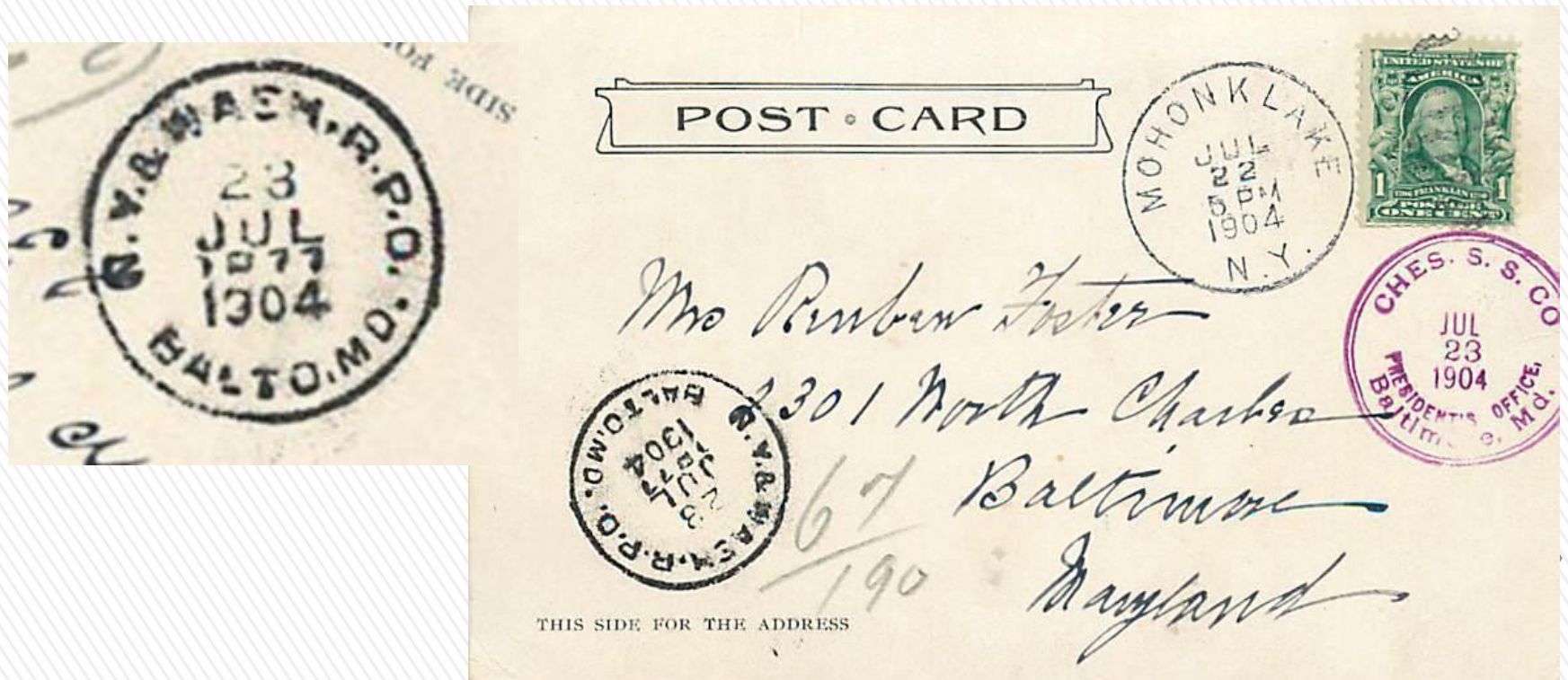
- > Postal Cards were first issued by the United States Post Office Department in 1873 as an efficient way to send notes.
- > Messages were only allowed on the reverse side and were an important means of communication.



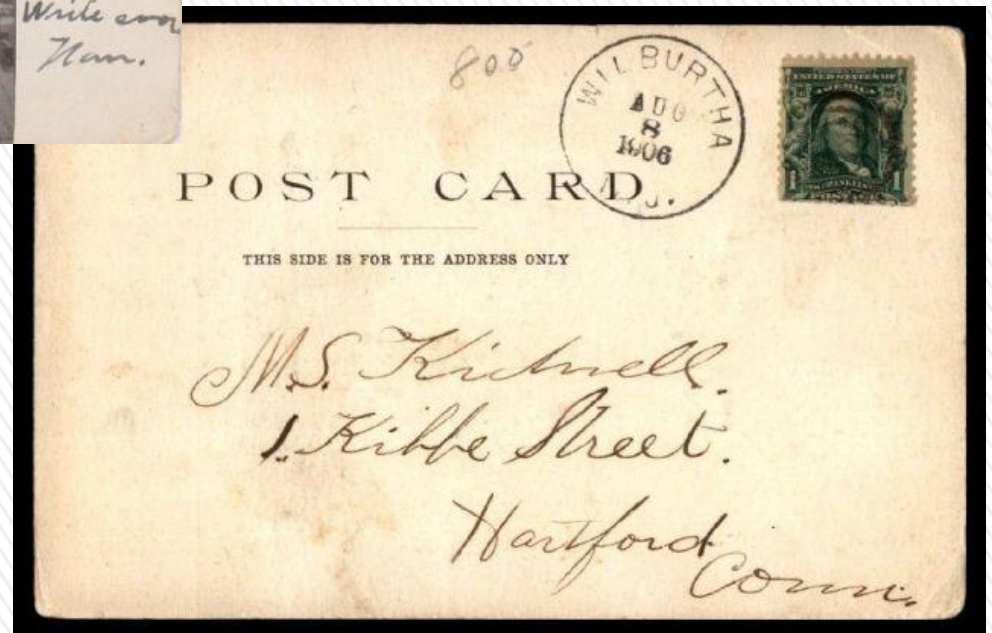


## » 1 Cent Green – Post Card Usage

- > Picture Post Cards appeared around 1898-1901. They followed the same rules. Early cards are very scarce.
- > The modern post card started a fad in the early 1900s, as people eagerly collected the pictures of far away places.



# » 1 Cent Green – Typical Card of the “Address Side Only” era.





# » 1 Cent Green – Post Card Usage

- > From this period onward until late 1906, cards were marked “Address Side Only”.



Postcards with messages on address side were treated as letters at 2 cent rate



## » 1 Cent Green – Post Card Usage

- > From 1907 onward the postal laws were changed to reflect the UPU standard allowing messages on the left side of the card. This is the rule we follow to this day.





## » 1 Cent Green – Post Card Usage

- The Universal Postal Union (UPU) postage charge for a post card to foreign destinations was two cents, easily paid with a pair of Ben Franklins.



Postcard from West Hoboken, NJ to Switzerland



- » **1 Cent Green – Local Letter “Drop Box”**  
The postage charge for a letter within a single city was only a penny



Letter mailed within Seattle, Washington





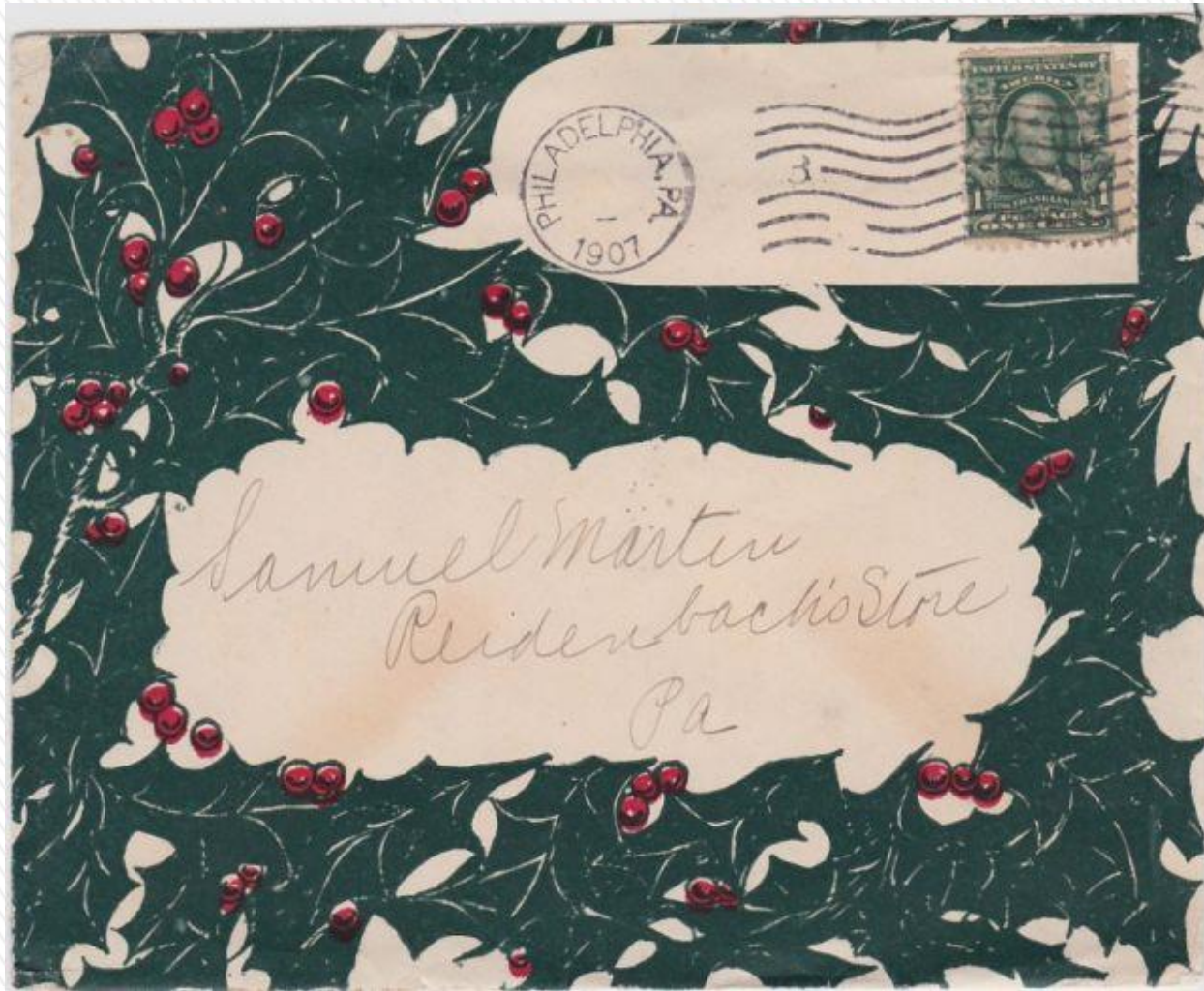
## » 1 Cent Green – Unsealed Circular Rate

The postage charge for a commercial mailing in an unsealed envelope was one cent, for up to two ounces



Sheriff's Mailing from Hayward to Madison, Wis

## » 1 Cent Green – Unsealed Circular Rate

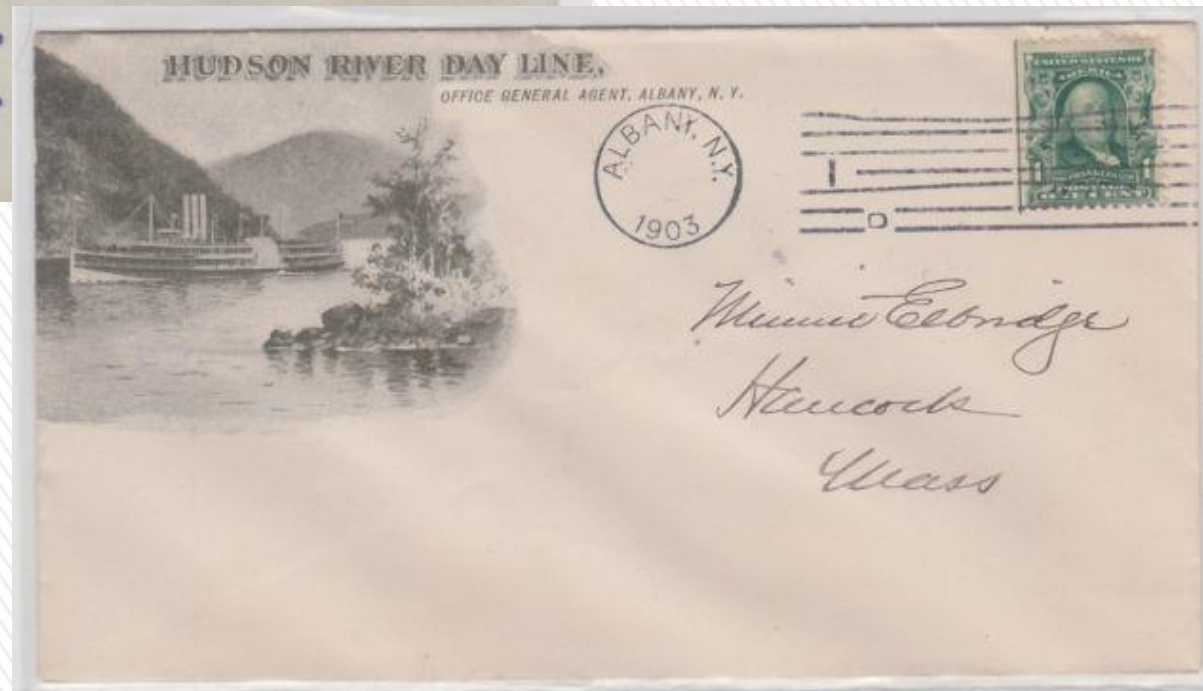


Christmas Mailing – Note absence of date in cancel



# » 1 Cent Green – Commercial Mail Usage

> More unsealed circulars. The beginning of junk mail!



# » 1 Cent Green – Commercial Mail Usage

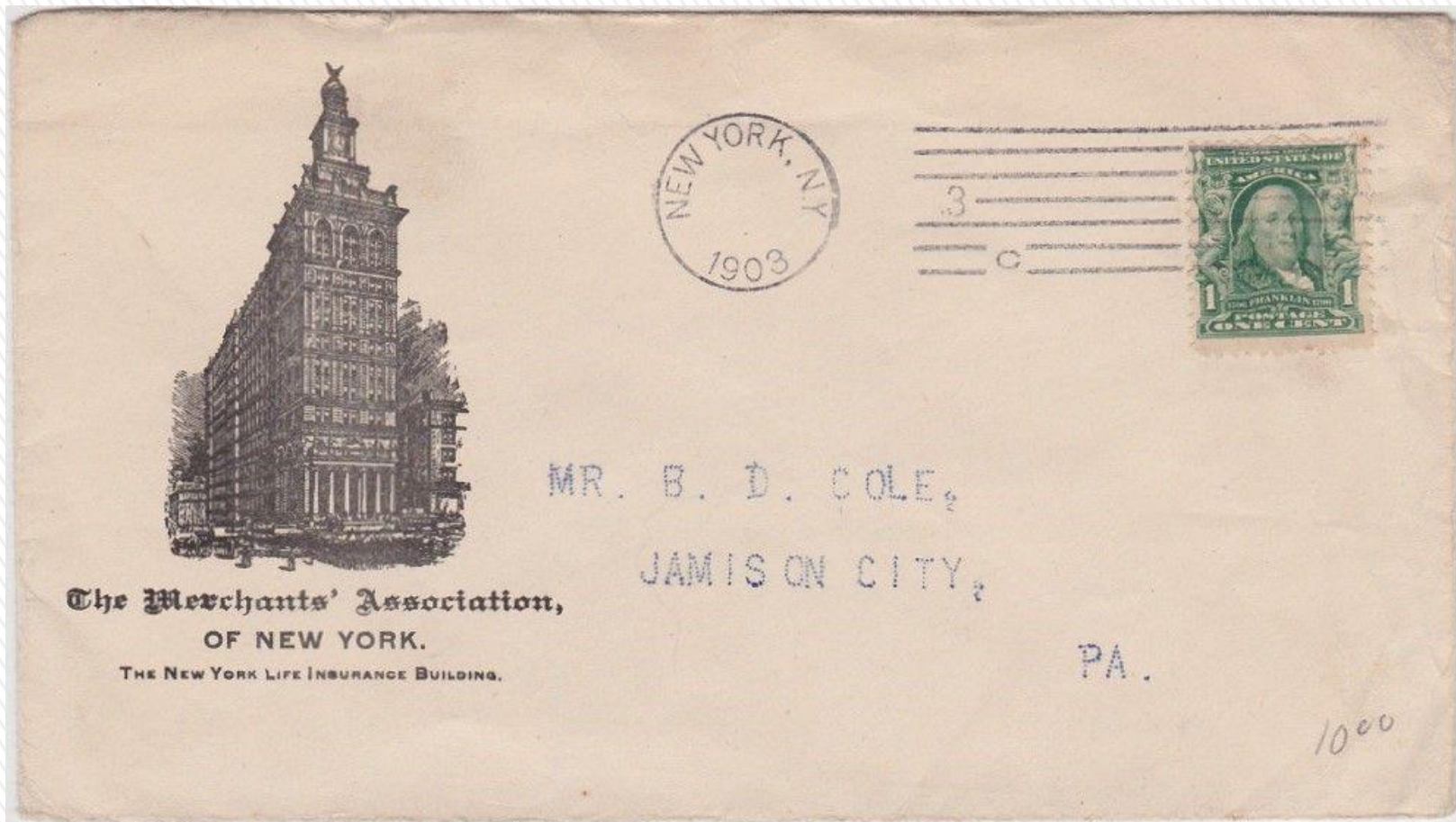
> More unsealed circulars.





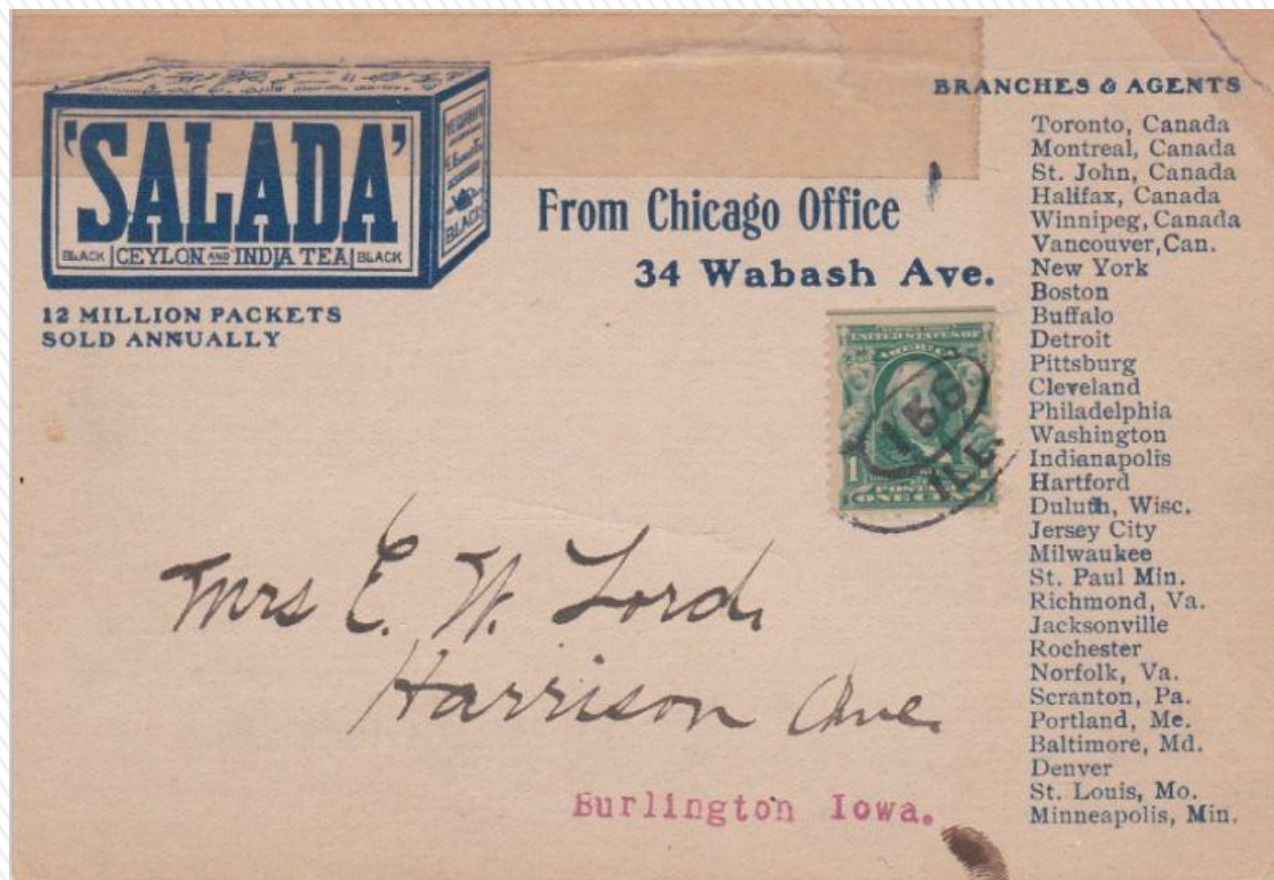
# » 1 Cent Green – Commercial Mail Usage

> More unsealed circulars.



# » 1 Cent Green – Commercial Mail Usage

> Commercial sample rate of 1 cent for up to 4 ounces





# » 1 Cent Green – Commercial Mail Usage

## > Third Class Mail



- > Third class mail at 1 cent per 2 ounces.
- > This box top with 14 cents postage represented 28 ounces of glassware!



## » 1 Cent Green – Regular Mail Usage



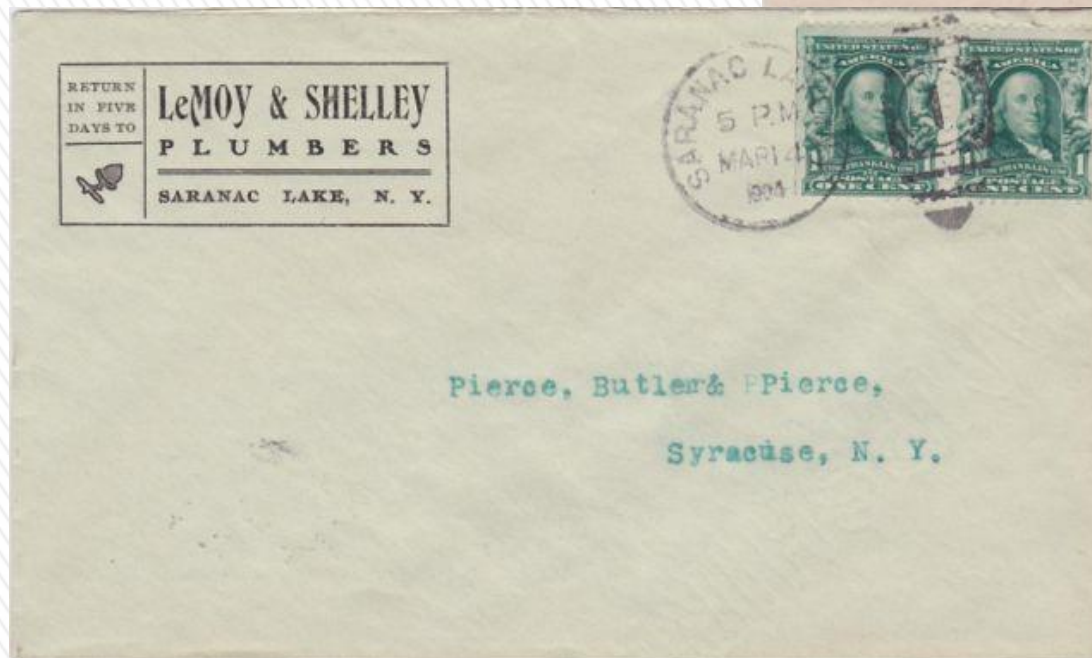
The postage charge for a personal letter within the United States was 2 cents per ounce





# » 1 Cent Green – Regular Mail Usage

The postage charge for a commercial letter within the United States was also 2 cents.



# » 1 Cent Green – Regular Mail Usage

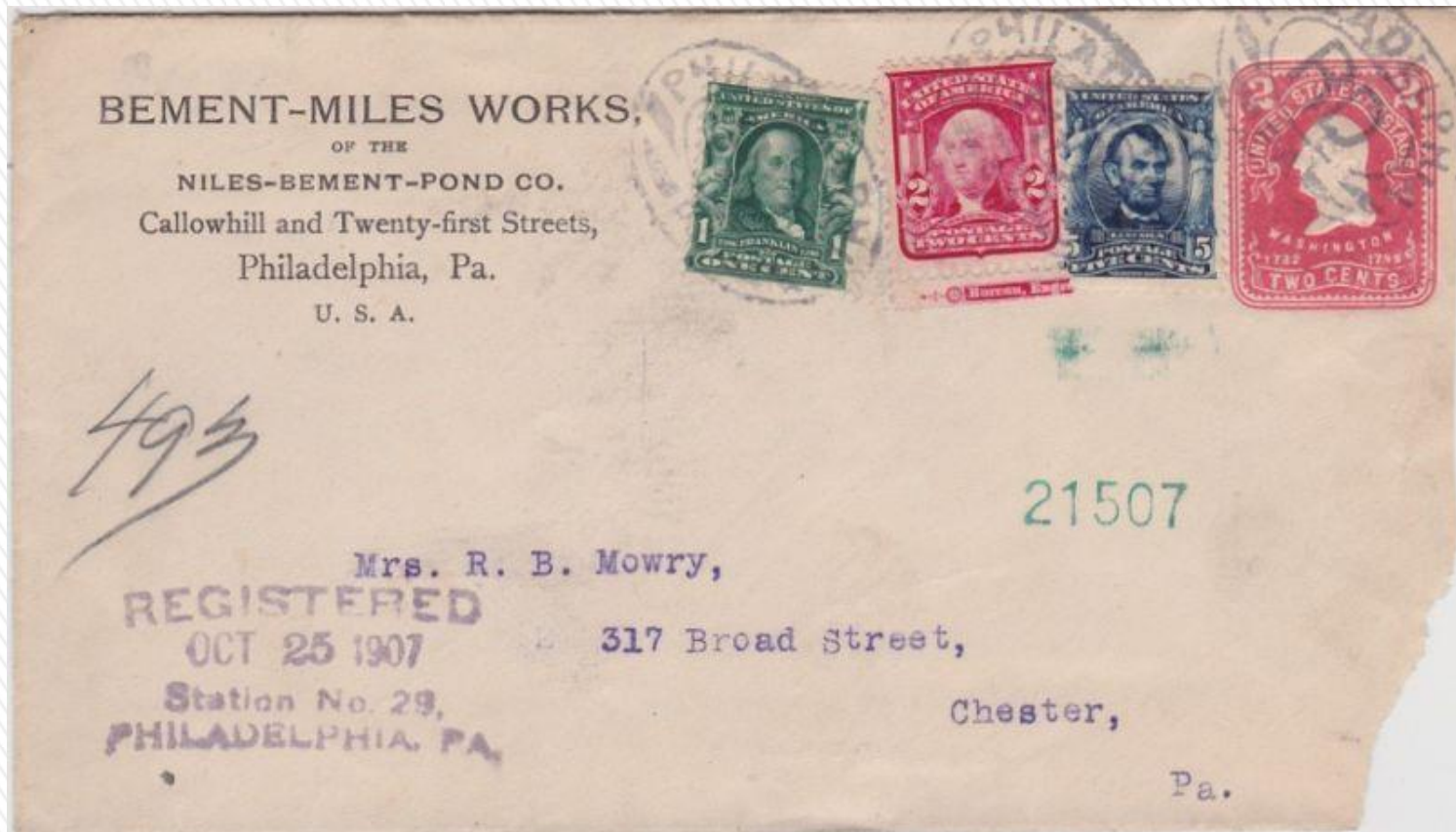
Mixed older stamps to make the two cent rate





# » 1 Cent Green – Registered Mail Usage

8 cent Registered Mail fee (plus 2 cent first class rate – total of 10 cents) made up with a variety Series of 1902 stamps, on postal stationery.



# » 1 Cent Green – Special Delivery Mail Usage

10 cent Special Delivery Fee on top of the 1 cent postal card rate.





## » 1 Cent Green – Treaty Nation Usage

Postal Treaties were established with some countries to extend domestic postal rates to these entities.

Country	Treaty Date	Domestic Rates for:	Applied to:
Canada	1875	All Mail	Entire US Postal System including possessions
Mexico	1887	Letters and Postcards	
Cuba	1901		
Panama	1905		
Great Britain	1908	Letters Only	Continental US Only
Germany	1909		US and Hawaii



# » 1 Cent Green International Mail Usage

- The Universal Postal Union (UPU) postage charge for a letter outside the United States was 5 cents per ounce.



Germany

Pre postal treaty at  
International Rate

Denmark





# » 1 Cent Green International Mail Usage

> A few more examples



Switzerland



Argentina

# » 1 Cent Green International Mail Usage

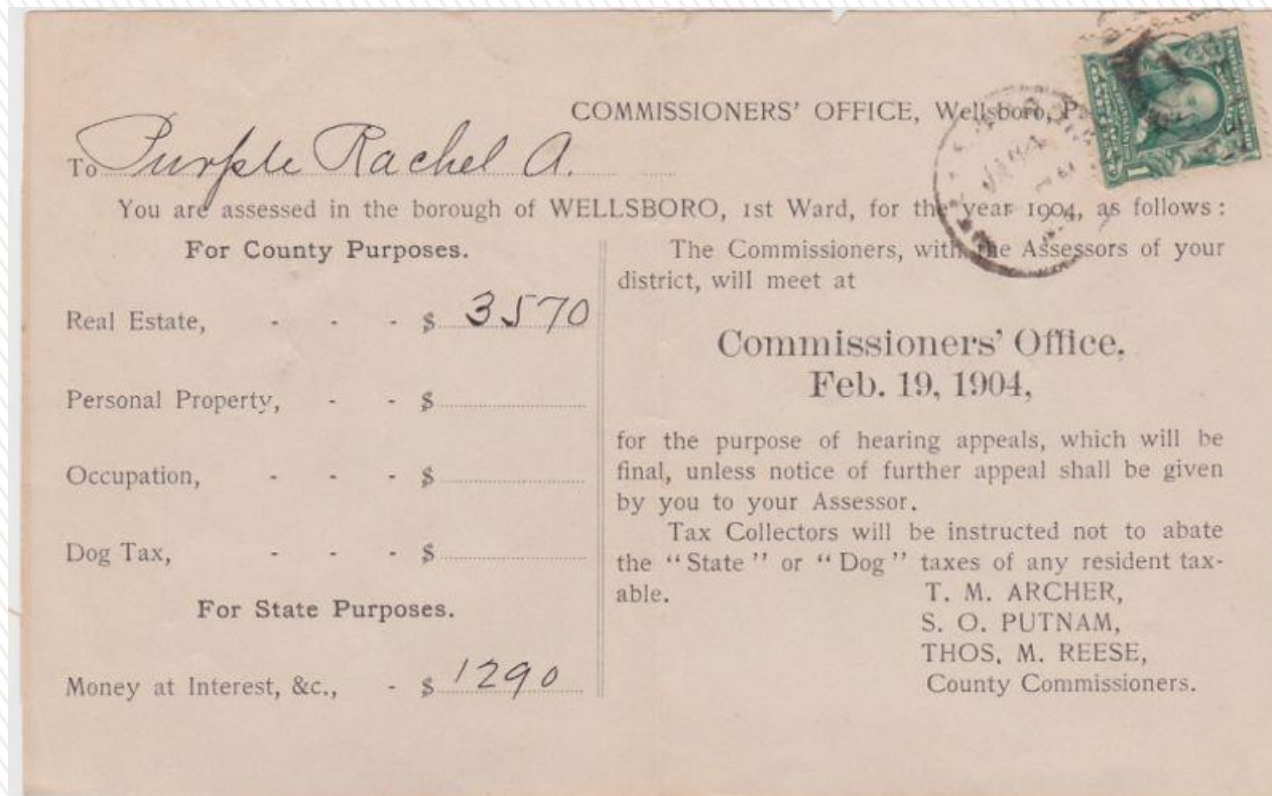
- > International Registry Rate was 8 Cents on top of the UPU postal rate of 5 cents for 13 cents total.





# » 1 Cent Green Documentary Usage

- > To secure a postmark as an official date stamp a postage stamp must be present.



County Tax Bill in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania



» 1 Cent Green

» Documentary Usage

Property Deed from New Mexico Territory.

Interesting that it's entirely in Spanish

MONTICELLO  
MAR  
18  
1905  
MEX.

TERRITORIO DE NUEVO MEXICO,  
PRECINTO No. 7  
CONDADO DE SIERRA.

RETORNO DE PROPIEDAD  
DE  
*Chaves Jesus.*

RECAPITULACION.

Valor de Propiedad Raiz, -	\$ 100 <sup>00</sup>
Valor de Propiedad Personal,	92 <sup>00</sup>
Exencion Menos, - - - -	19 <sup>00</sup>
Cantidad Total, - - - -	\$ 19 <sup>00</sup>

Examinada y aprobada por el  
Cuerpo de Comisionados de Condado.

1905

Presidente Cuerpo Comisionados de Condado.





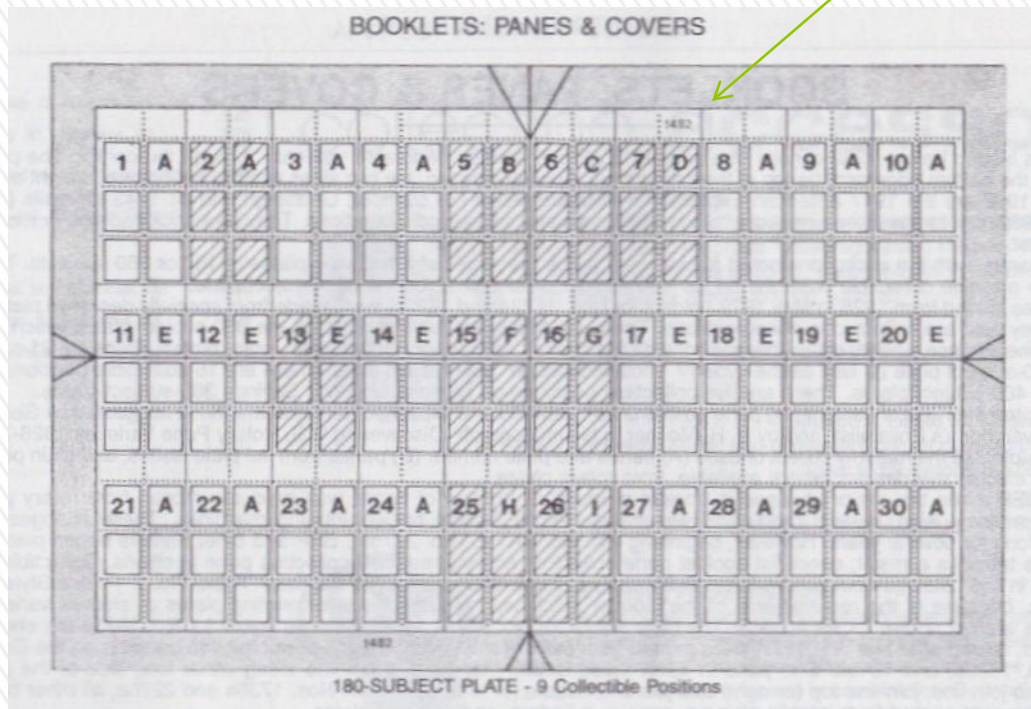
# » 1 Cent Green – Booklet Panes

> The Third USA Booklet Pane 300b

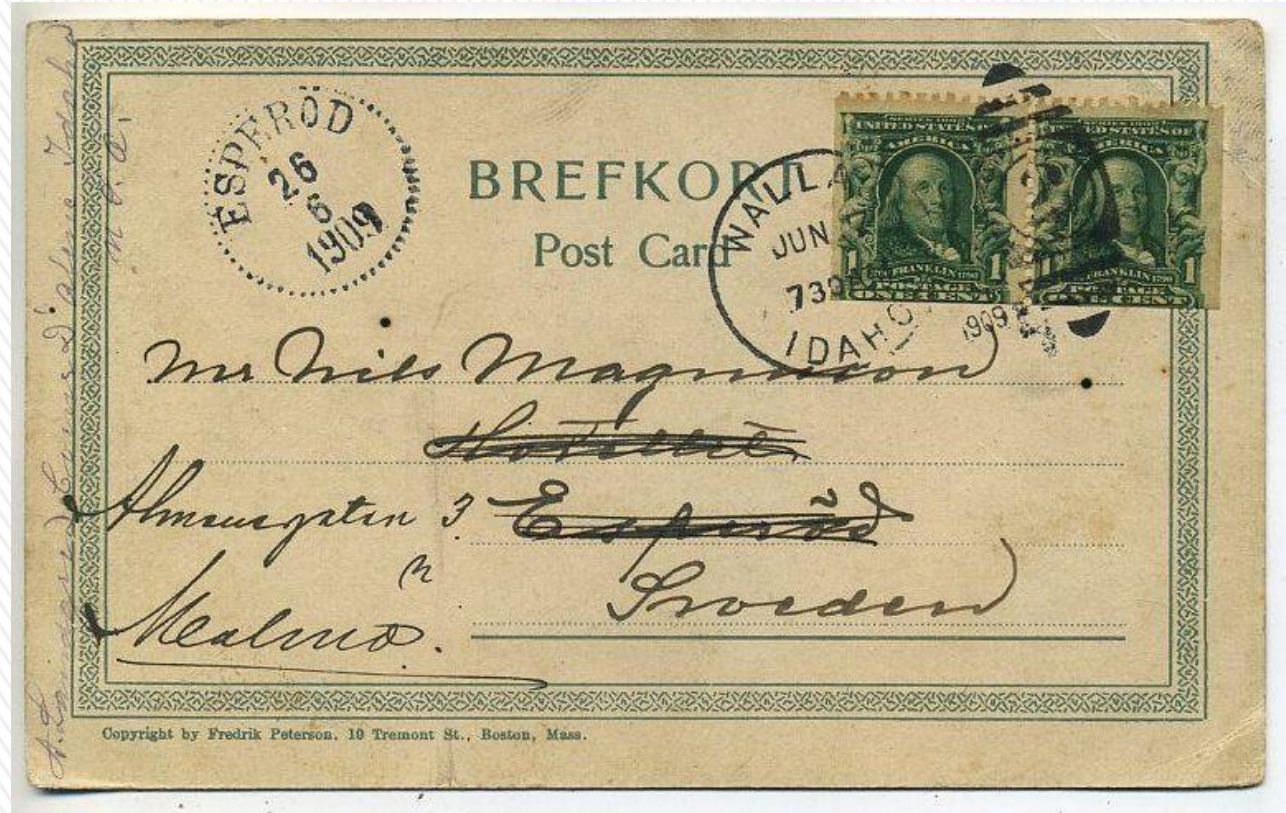
> 9 Collectible Positions



Plate  
Number  
Pane



# » 1 Cent Green – Booklet Panes



Booklet Pair On International Card



Perf Error Pair

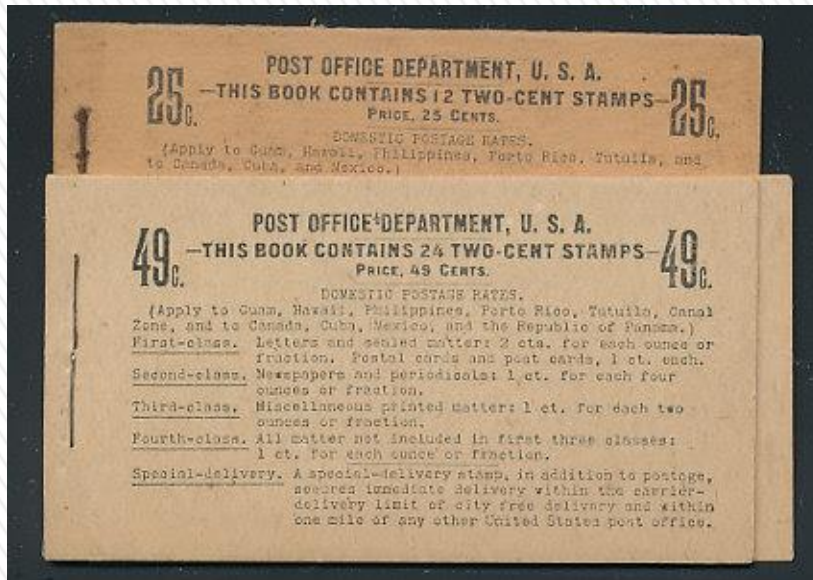




# » 1 Cent Green – Booklet Panes



Booklet Remainder of 300B

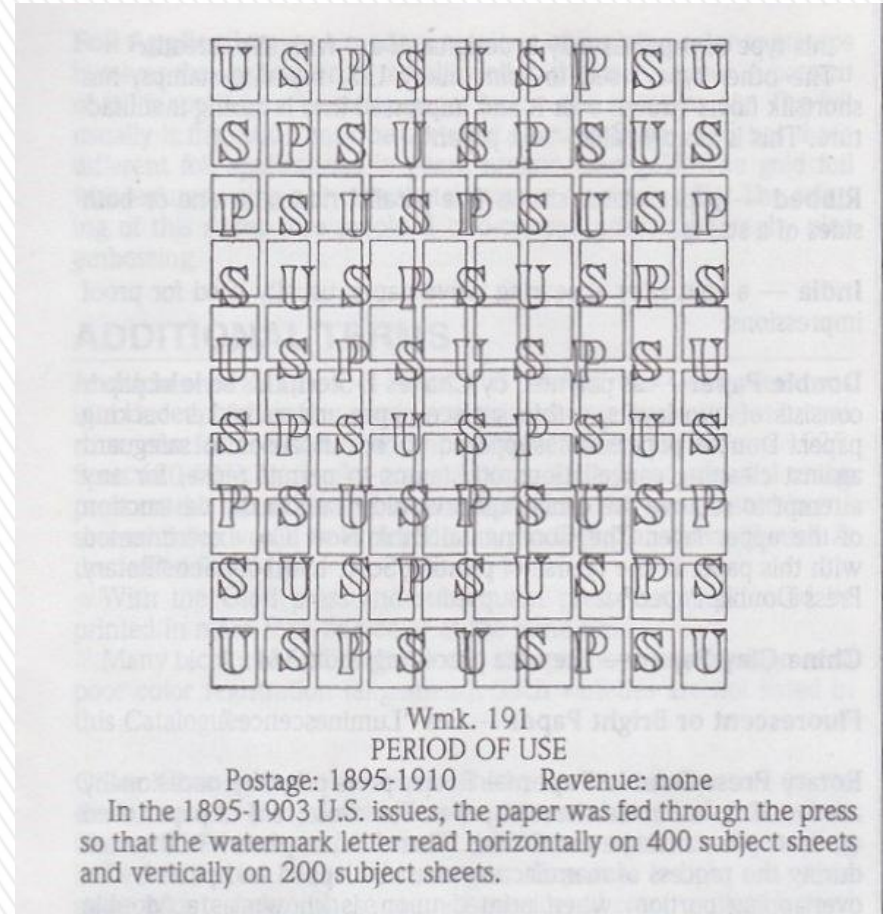


Booklet Covers Of Era



# » 1 Cent Green – Watermarks

- > Type 191 Watermark
- > Sheet Stamps:
- > Horizontal Watermark
- > Booklet Panes:
- > Vertical Watermark





# » 1 Cent Green – Imperforate Sheet

Scott 314 – Sheets of 400 stamps

Imperforate Sheets

Shared Plate Numbers



Stamp was issued for fledging manufacturers of stamp vending and affixing machinery. Many fell into collector hands as well.



# » 1 Cent Green Imperforate Sheet Usage





# » 1 Cent Green Imperforate Sheet Usage



# » 1 Cent Green – Private Perforations

Scott 314 –



Stamp was issued for fledging manufacturers of stamp vending and affixing machinery. A story for another day.





## » 1 Cent Green – Canal Zone

Scott 4 –



The Canal Zone Post Office was established on June 24, 1904 when nine post offices were opened to support the construction of the Panama Canal. The US Series of 1902 stamps were overprinted. Their use was less than a year and very rare to find on cover. ➤

## » 1 Cent Green – Philippines

Scott 226–

Issued:

Sept 20, 1903

Replaced:

Sept 6, 1906



Following the US occupation of the Philippines in 1898, the Postmaster General ordered postal facilities be established with rates similar to domestic rates.





# » 1 Cent Green – Philippines

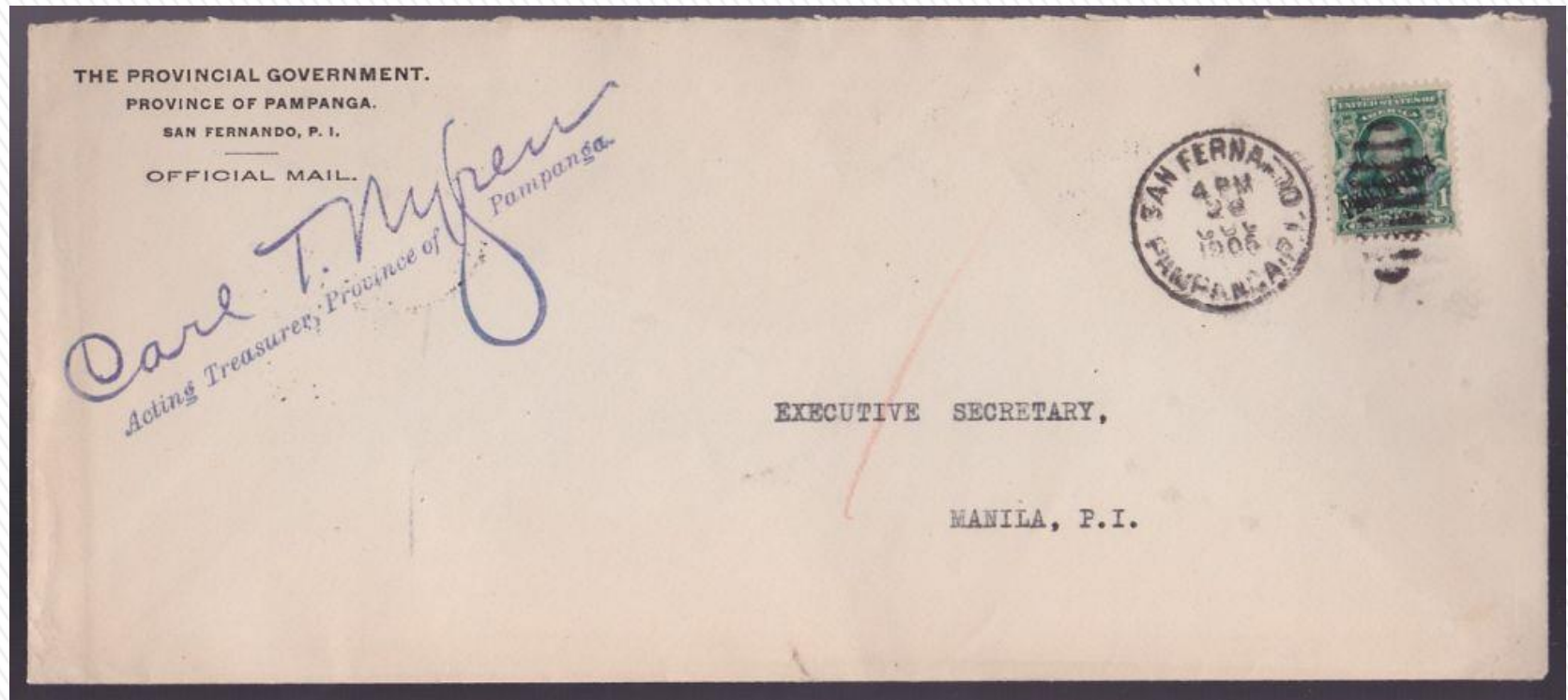
Scott 226–



The Series of 1902 saw service with Philippines overprints, in 1903 and 1904. Close to 10 million of Scott 226 were distributed, so they saw wide usage. ➤

# » 1 Cent Green – Philippines

Scott 226–



One Cent Rate on Official Mail within the Philippines. >



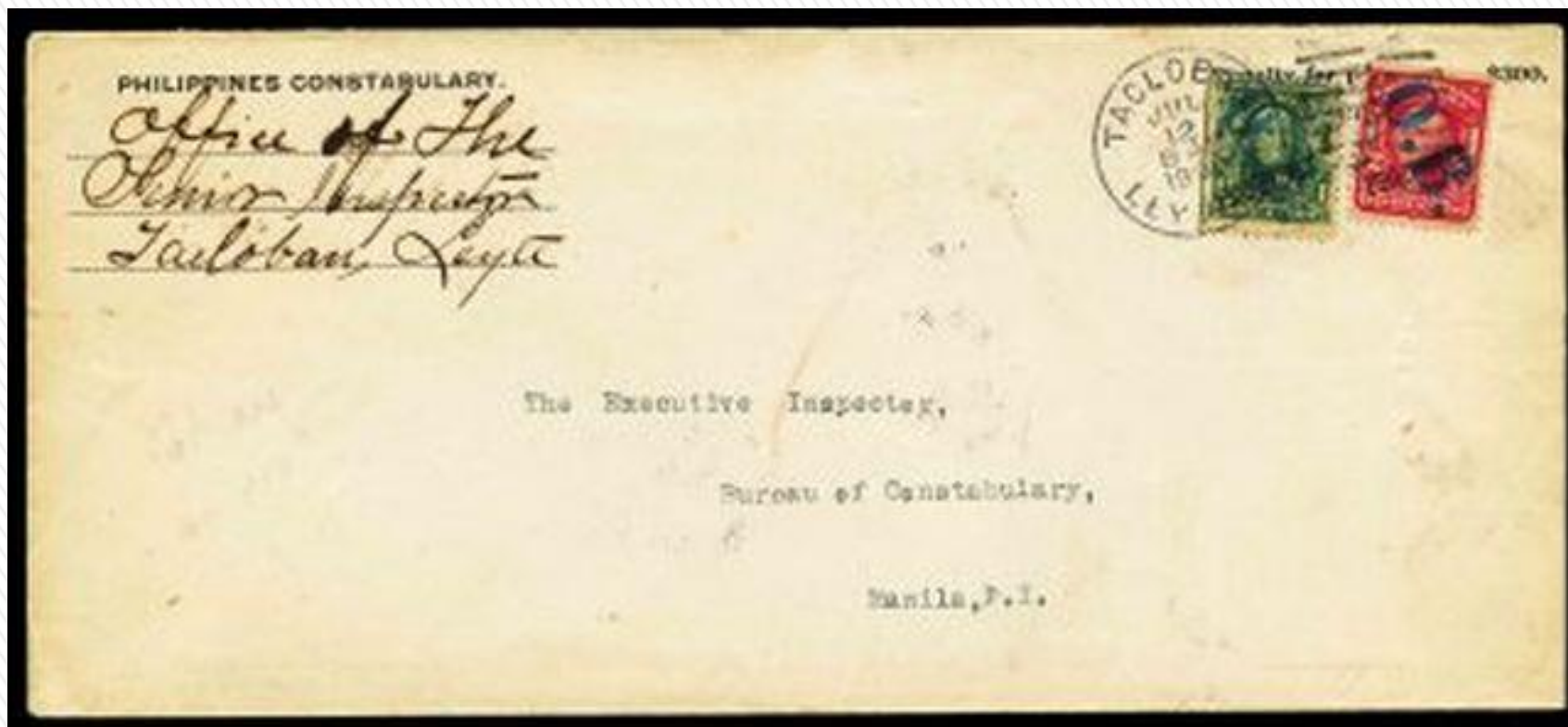
# » 1 Cent Green – Philippines Scott 226



**Soldier Mail  
travelled a month  
in transit**

# » 1 Cent Green – Philippines

Scott 226–



“OB” – “Official Business” Overprint



# 1 Cent Green – Philippines

Scott 226

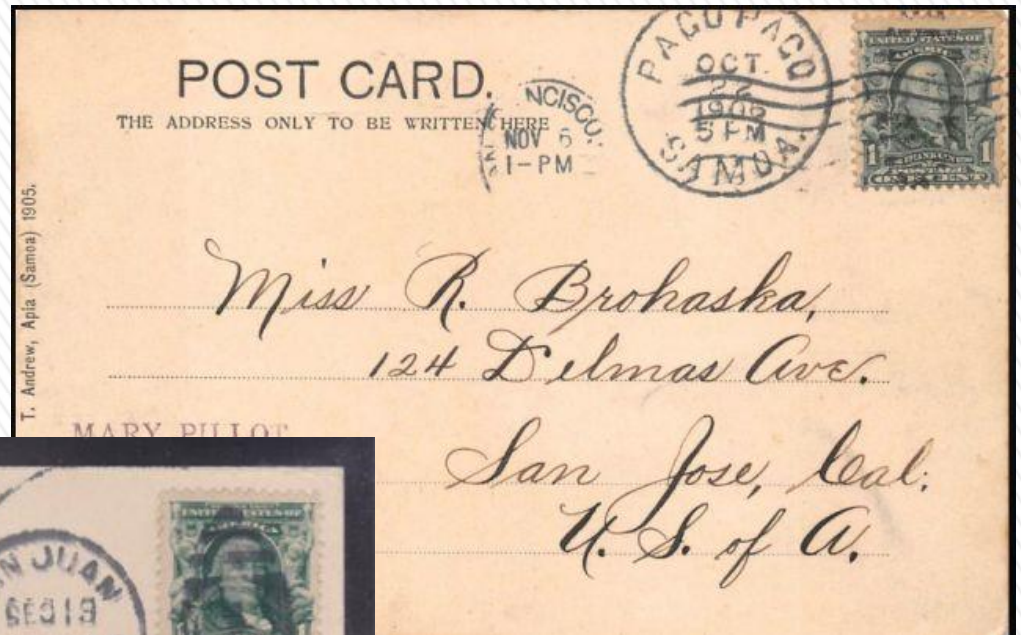
Partial Sheet  
of 89 Stamps





# More US Possessions

## Samoa



## Puerto Rico





# More US Possessions

## Alaska

January 3, 1959



## Hawaii

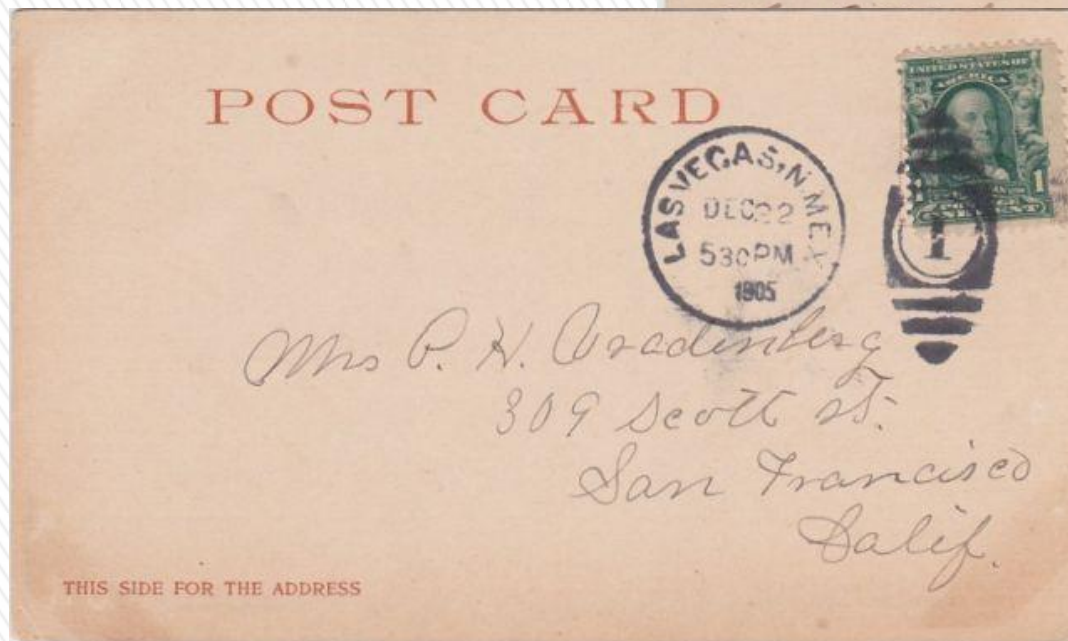
August 21, 1959



# More US Possessions

## Arizona

February 14, 1912



## New Mexico

January 6, 1912





# More US Possessions



Oklahoma

November 16, 1907

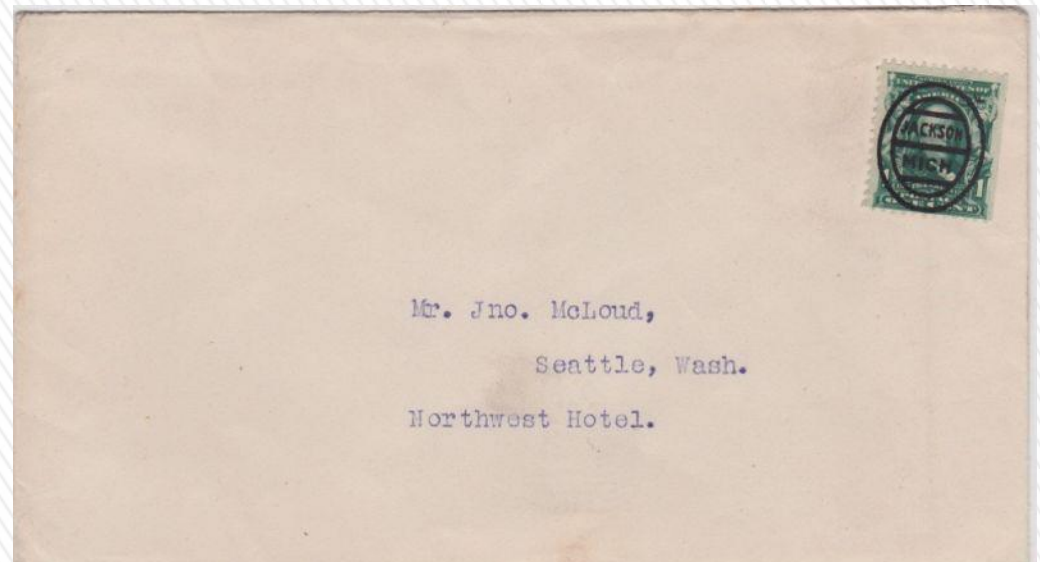
Indian Territory

And yes, I still  
need Guam!



# 1 Cent Green – The First Precancels

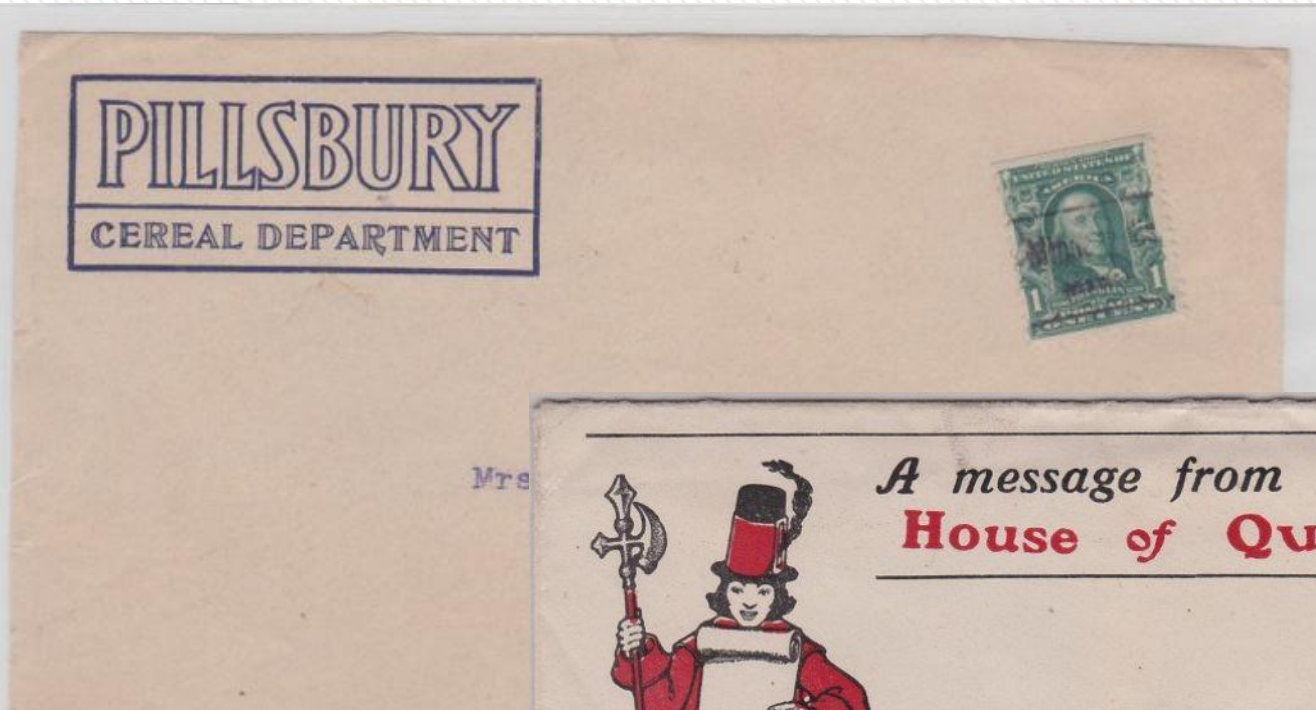
Precancelled stamps were done on an unofficial basis before 1903 when the United States postal regulations specified that precancels consist of the city and state printed between two bold parallel lines. Universal adoption took a number of years but by 1910 virtually all precancels conformed





# 1 Cent Green – The First Precancels

Precancels of this era are scarce because few survived on cover



**Pillsbury  
Cereal Department  
Minneapolis, Minn  
Precancel**



**Burley & Tyrrell Co  
China and Porcelain  
Chicago, Ill Precancel**



# 1 Cent Green – The First Precancels



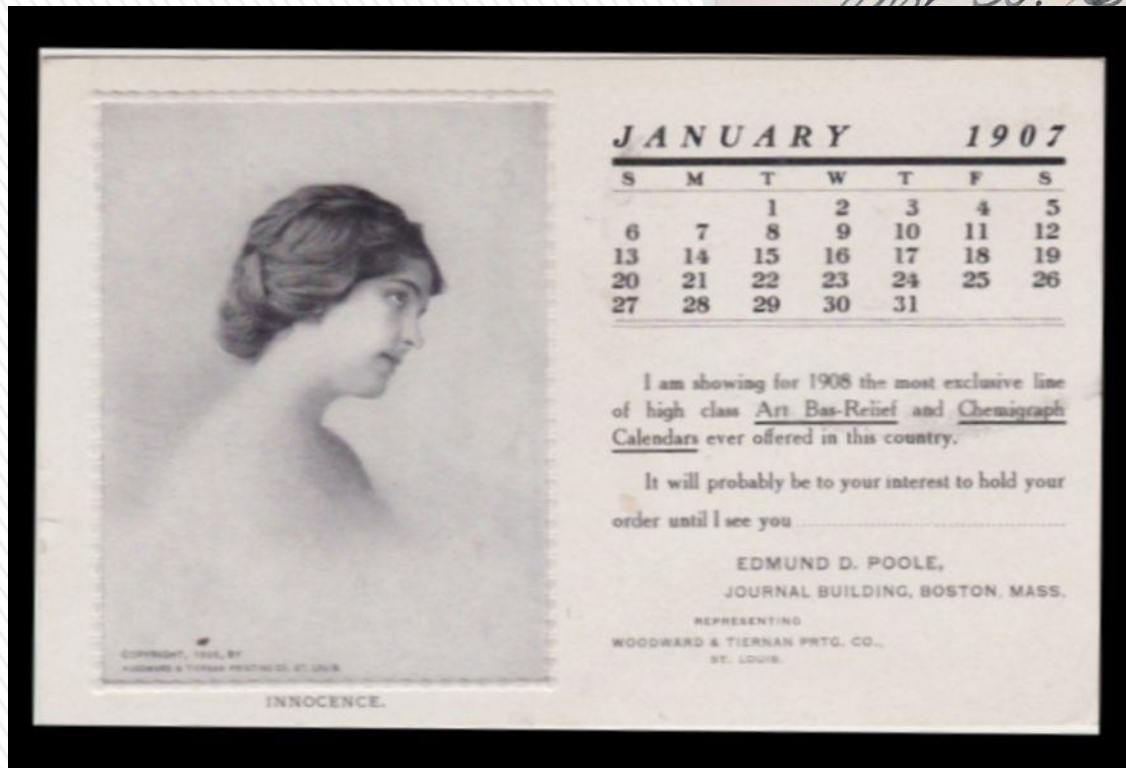
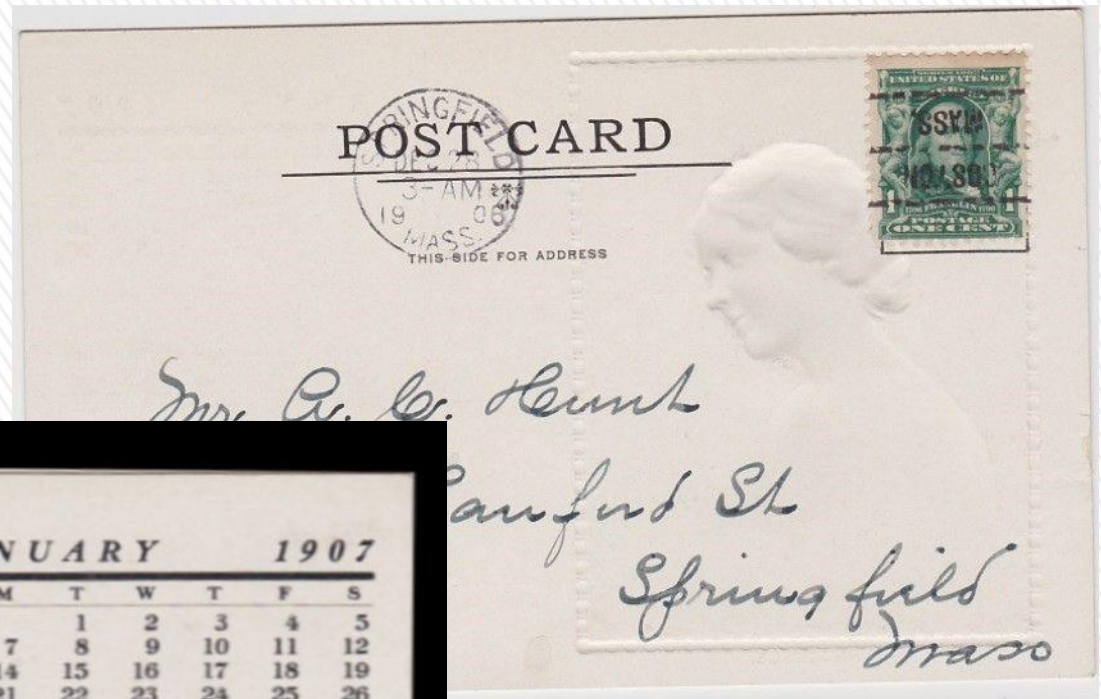
International Food Stock Co  
Minneapolis, Minn Precancel



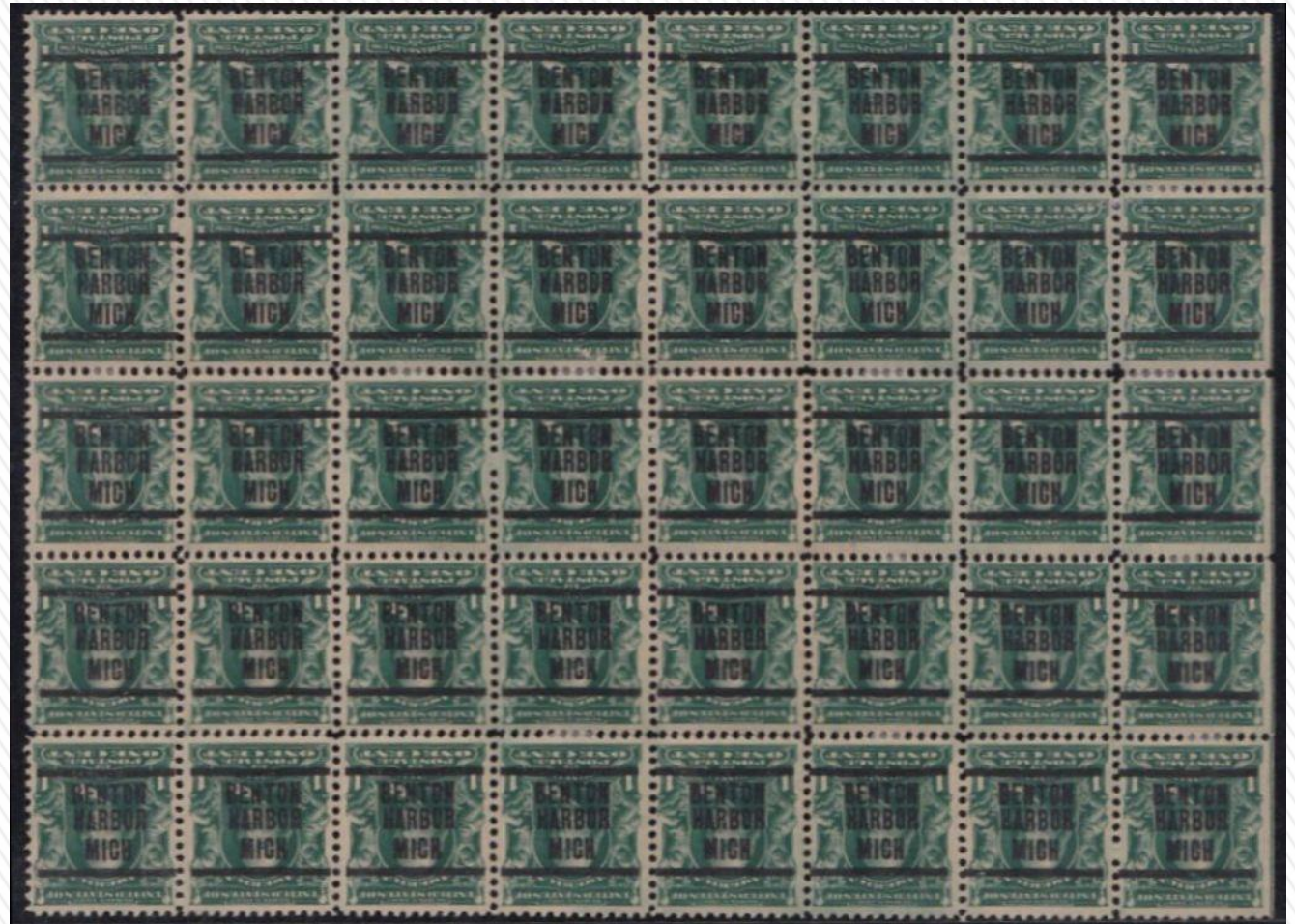


# 1 Cent Green – The First Precancels

Agent for  
Woodward & Tiernan Printing  
Selling Calendars  
Boston, Mass Precancel



# 1 Cent Green – The First Precancels

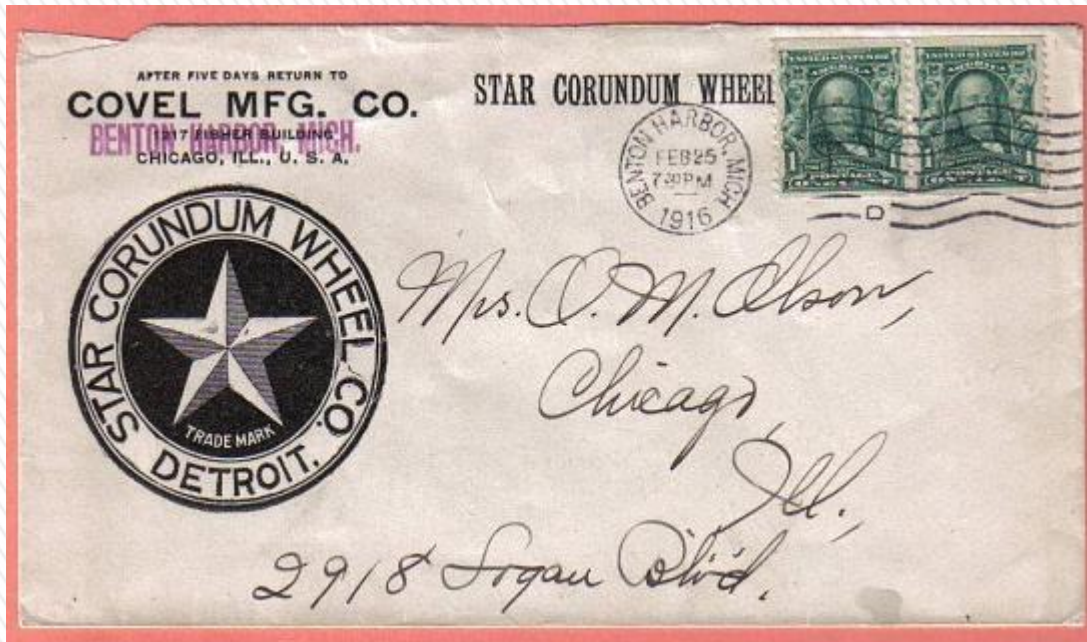


Scranton, Penn and Benton Harbor, Mich precancel mint multiples



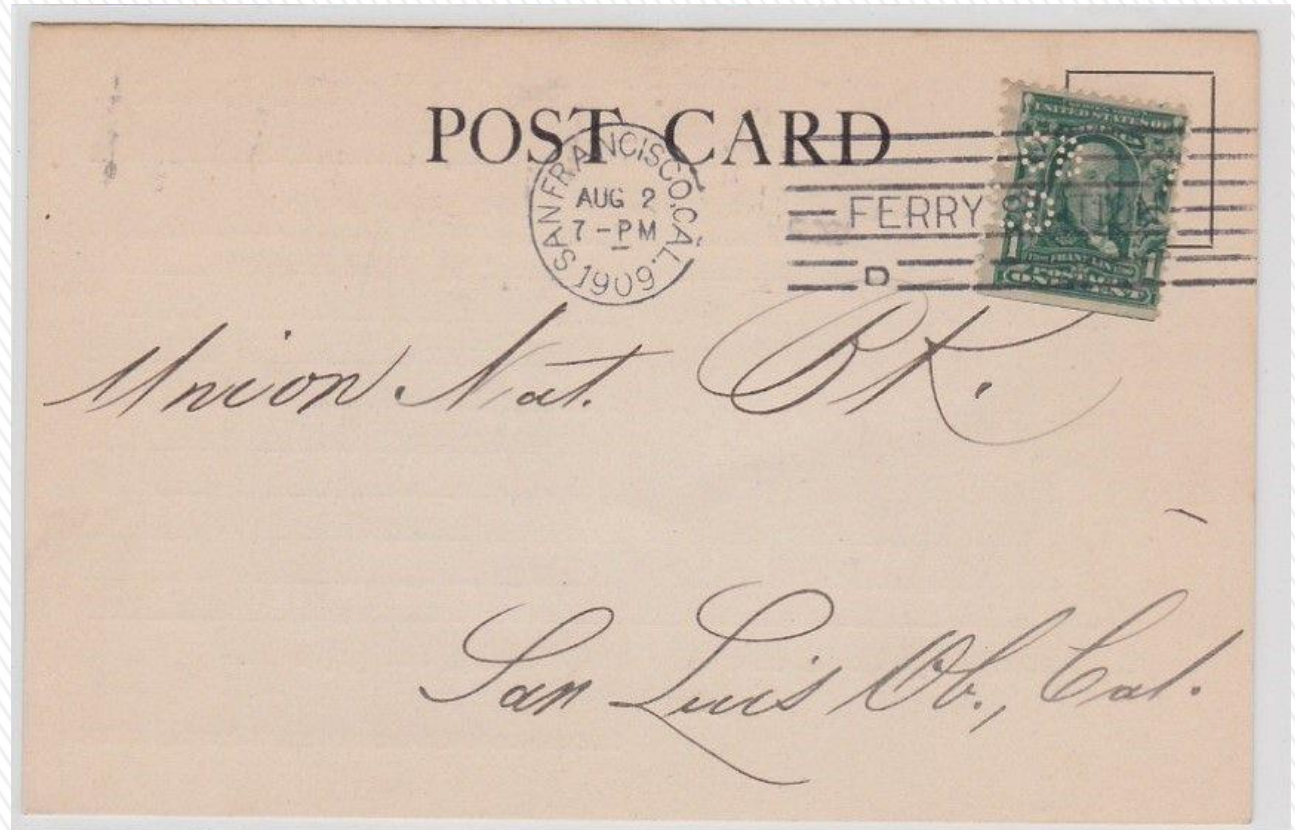


# The Covell Connection – Alvin Filstrup



# 1 Cent Green – The First Perfins

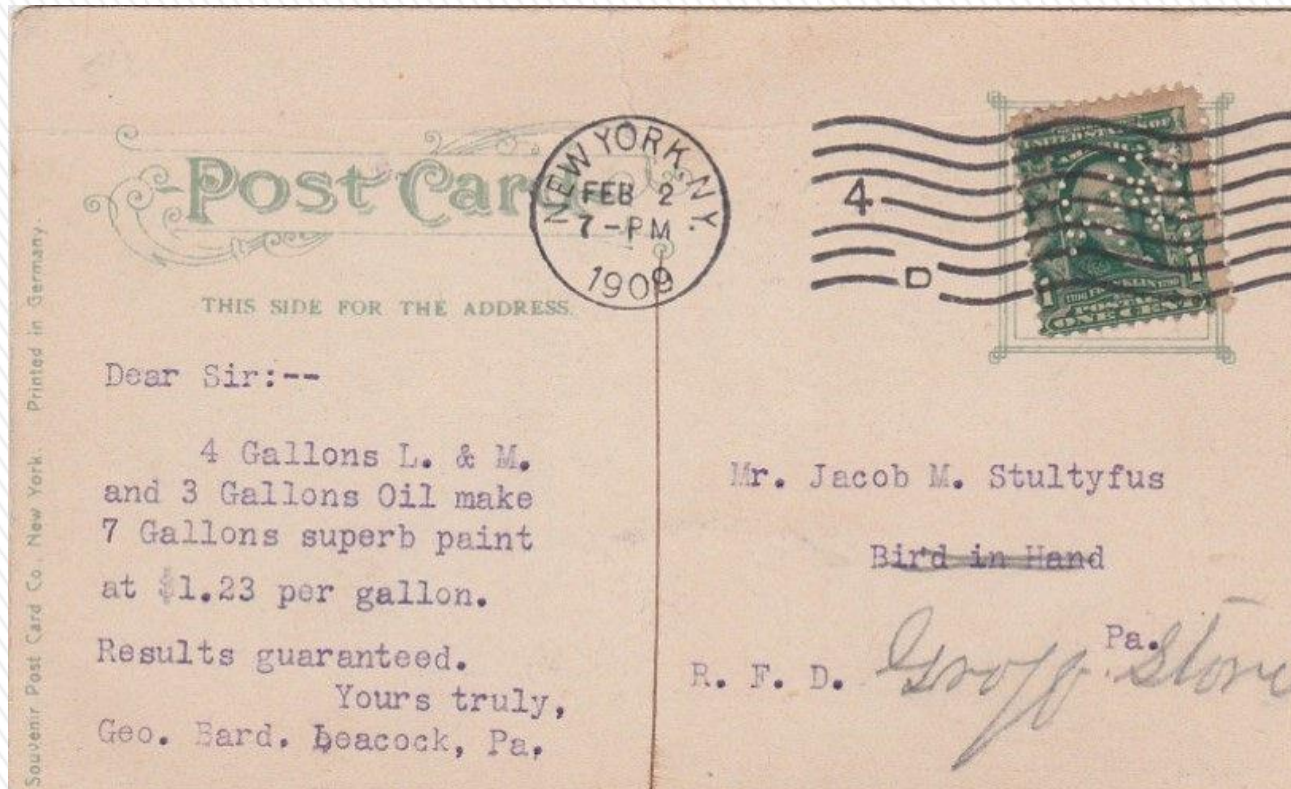
ACB LD Perfin  
used by  
The Anglo & London  
Paris National Bank.



Used mainly from 1908 until the 1950's, perfins were commonly used in an attempt to discourage theft of stamps by company employees. Perfins originated in England where, unlike the U.S., one could redeem postage for cash at any post office. Perfins were phased out as meter mail devices became popular. ➤



# 1 Cent Green – The First Perfins



**Longman & Martinez Paint Company L&M Perfin  
Companies gave perfin stamps to their traveling salesmen and men  
in the field to use for appointment making and communications**



# 1 Cent Green – The First Perfins

OFFICIAL RECEIPT  
Rock Island, Ill. **FEB 23 1909**

Received of addressee and passed to credit the following amounts:

Benefit Ass'm't \$	
No.	
Per Capita	
Supplies	10
Certificate Fees	
Total	

C. W. HAWES,  
Form 449½ Head Clerk, M. W. of A.

This series of six views can be obtained for 10 cents.  
Rock Island Post Card Co., Rock Island, Illinois

NO. 4 WOODMEN SERIES

POSTCARD  
3  
ROCK ISLAND  
POST CARD CO.  
FEB 23 1909

Mr. *J. W. Donald*  
Clerk of Camp No. *4640*, M.W. of A.  
*Severely*  
State *Kansas*

**Modern Woodmen of America MWA Perfin**  
**This was a fraternal organization with an elaborate headquarters in**  
**Rock Island, Illinois**

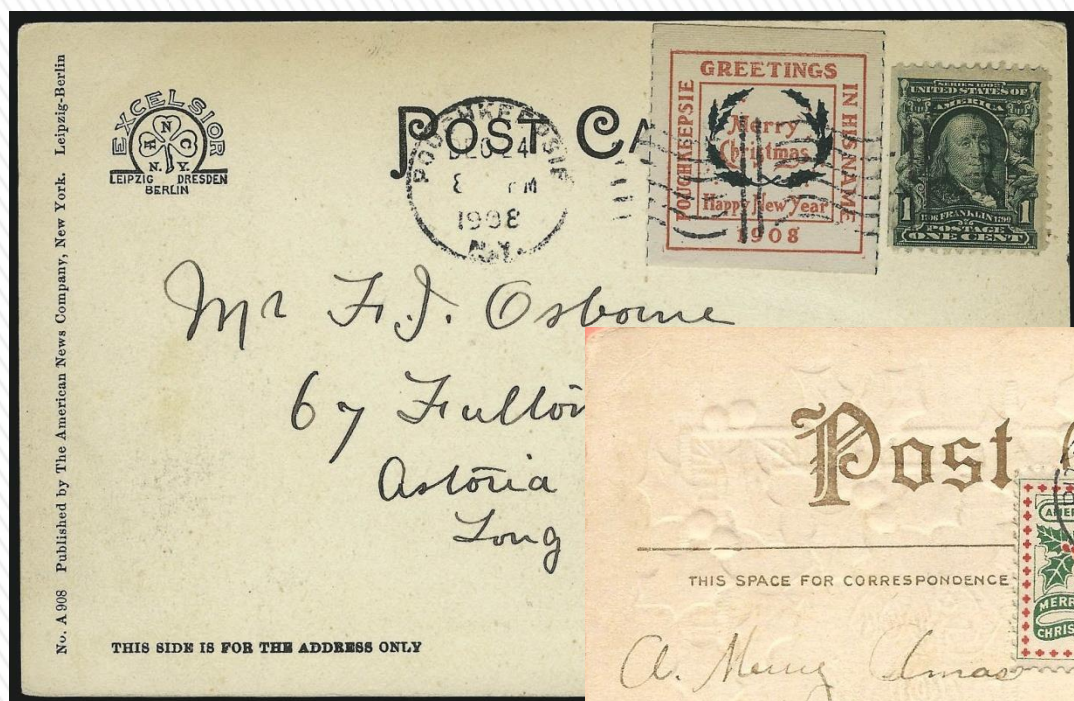








# 1 Cent Green – The First Christmas Seals



1908 and 1909 are also within our stamp's reign, although I have yet to secure a 1909 seal on cover with Scott 300





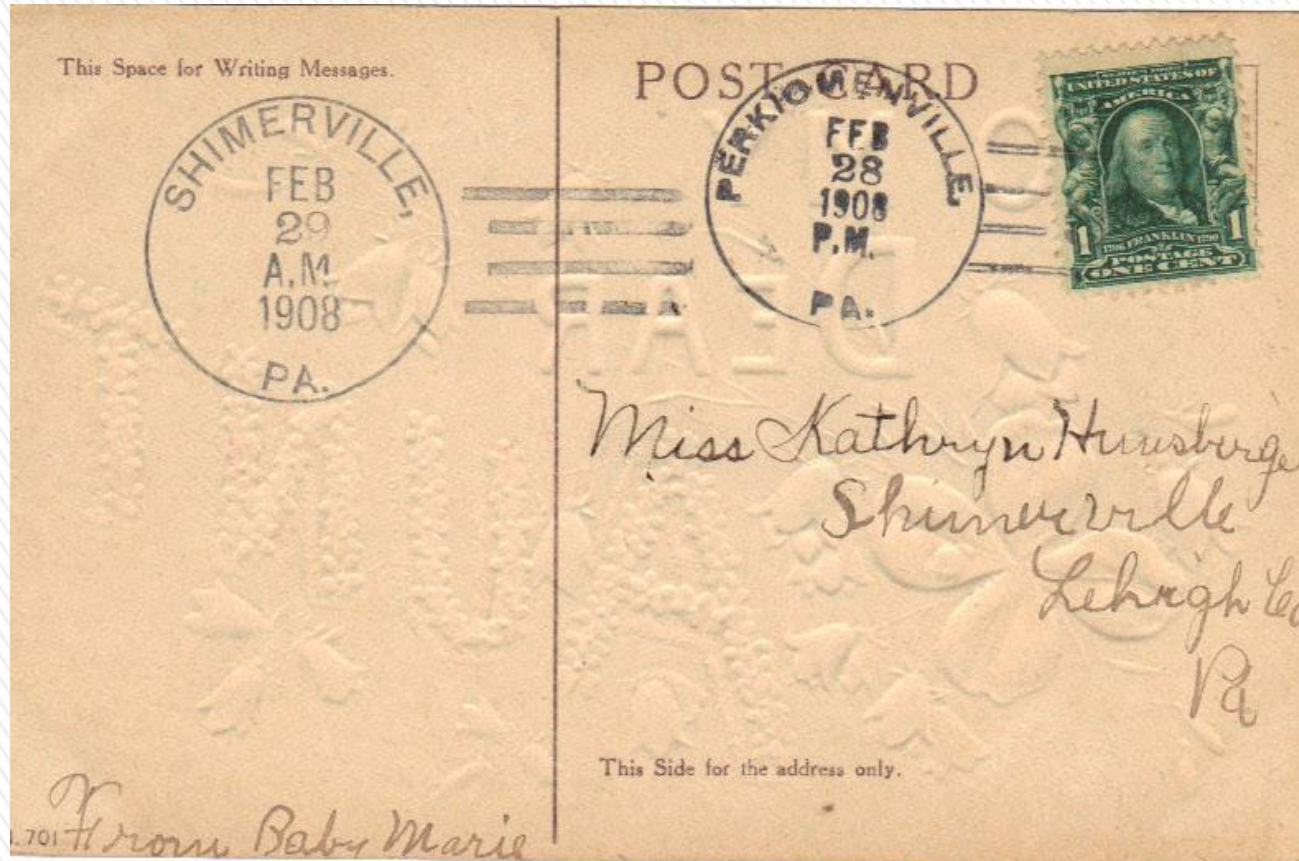
# 1 Cent Green – Christmas Eve and Day



Mailed on Christmas Eve in Chalfant, Pennsylvania and received in Harlingen, New Jersey on Christmas Day.



# 1 Cent Green – 1908 Leap Year Cover



Mailed on February 28 in Perkiomenville Pennsylvania and received in Shimerville, Pennsylvania on February 29<sup>th</sup>, 1908







**Thank You For Your Interest and Attention!**

