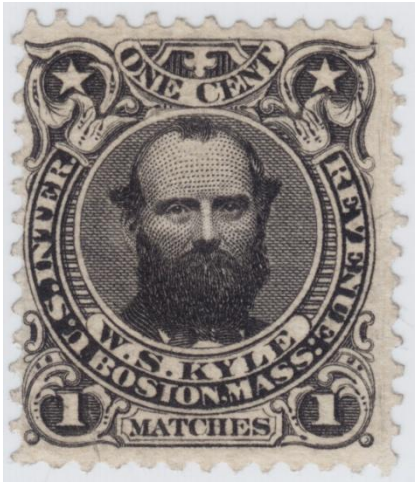
The W.S. Kyle Match Company and the Scarce Private Die Proprietary Stamp RO122e on Experimental Silk Paper



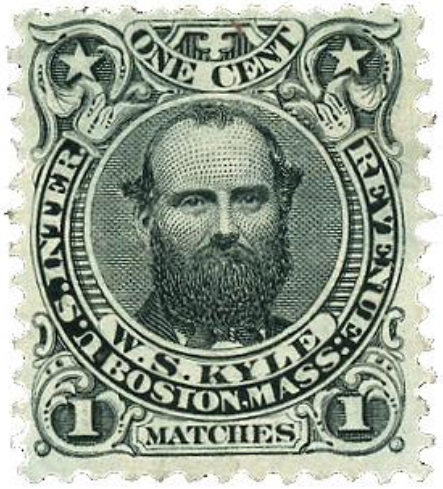
Brief History & Examination of Paper

by Charles J. DiComo, PhD

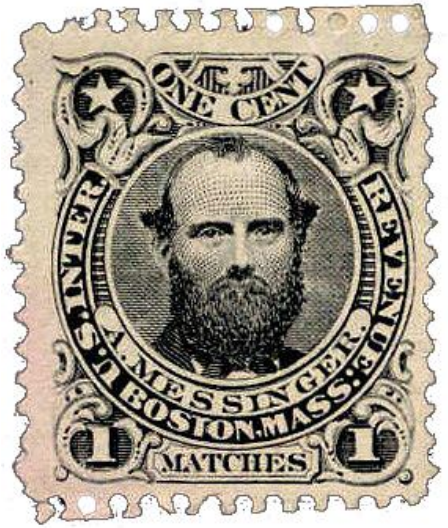
November 2021

W.S. Kyle Match Company, Norton, Massachusetts

- W.S. Kyle ran his factory for a short time after his private die stamps were issued in March of 1865, as they were delivered to Austin Messinger after March 1866.
- In 1875, Messinger had the die altered to show his name and he continued to operate the factory even after Diamond Match bought it circa 1881.
- Kyle & Messinger stamps were scissors-separated haphazardly and it is not unusual to find perforations trimmed off on one or more sides.

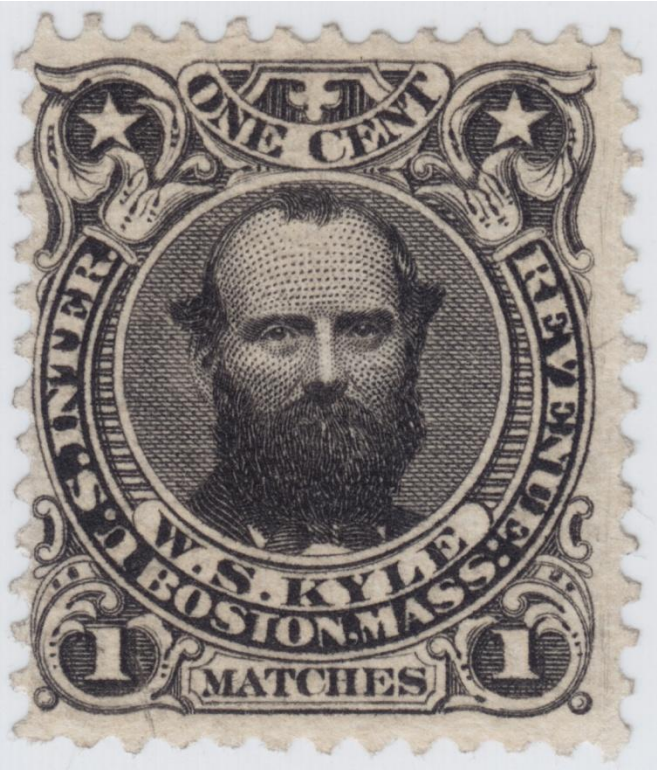


#RO122 – 1¢ Black, W.S. Kyle, issued Mar. 1865 to Aug. 1875: 17,076,000 on old paper; 21,155,609 on silk paper. **Note:** In 1870, some W.S. Kyle stamps were printed on Experimental Silk paper.



#RO133 - 1¢ Black , A. Messinger, issued 1875 to May 1883: 54,578,510 on silk, pink and watermarked papers.

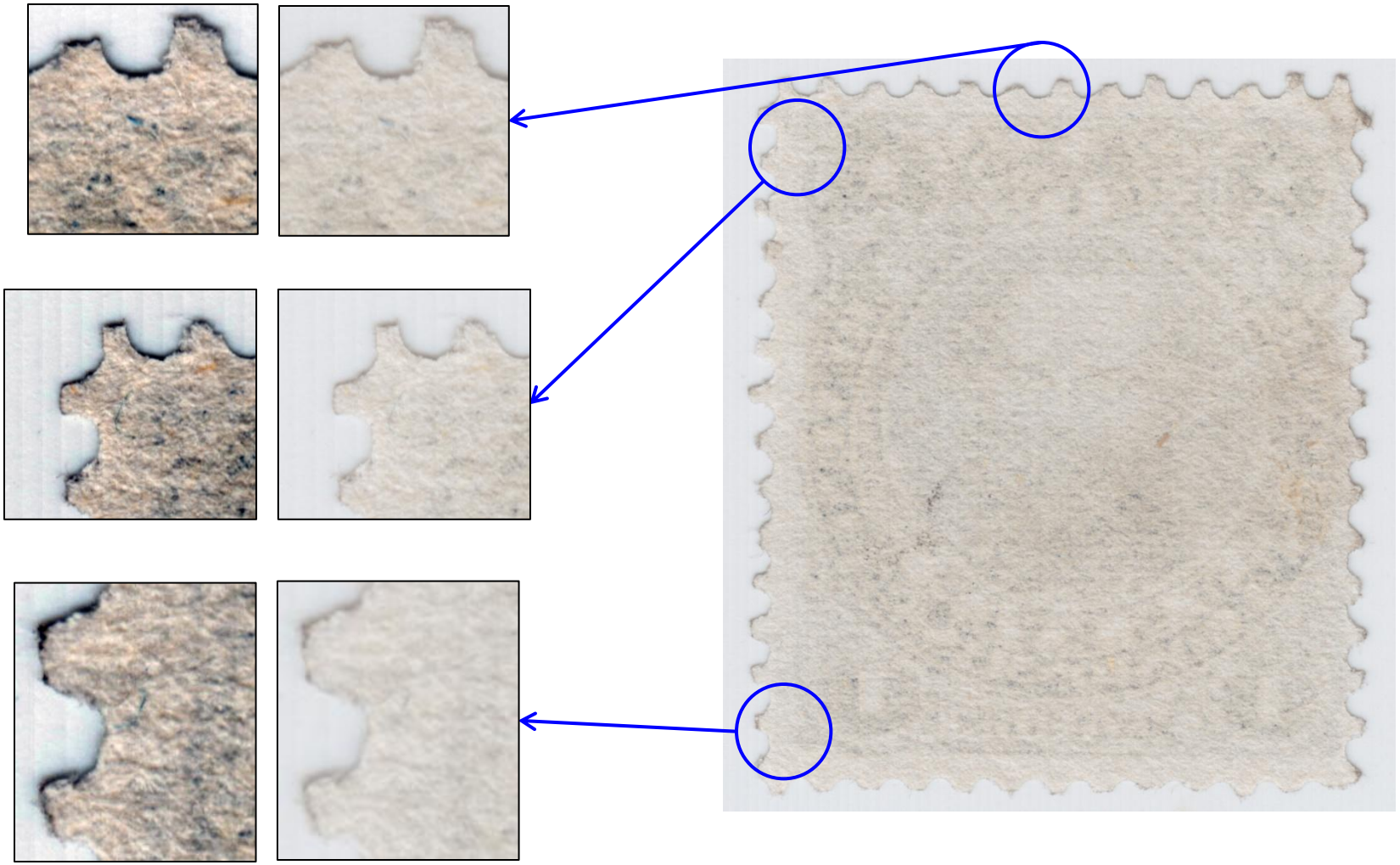
The 1¢ W.S. Kyle Stamp RO122e on Experimental Silk Paper



1¢ Black, full face portrait of Mr. Kyle upon a circular disk, with hatched ground, bordered by a colorless line. Above in a colorless, curved label with rounded ends “ONE CENT” and below “W.S. KYLE”. Beginning at the upper left side and encircling the central disk reads “U.S. INTER.” at left, “REVENUE” at right and “BOSTON, MASS.” below. At top, colorless five-points stars inside foliated ornaments, at bottom numerals of value “1” and in bottom center “MATCHES”. The design is 19.5x20.5 millimeters, printed in 210 stamps per sheet, from 1865 through 1875.

charlesdicomo@gmail.com

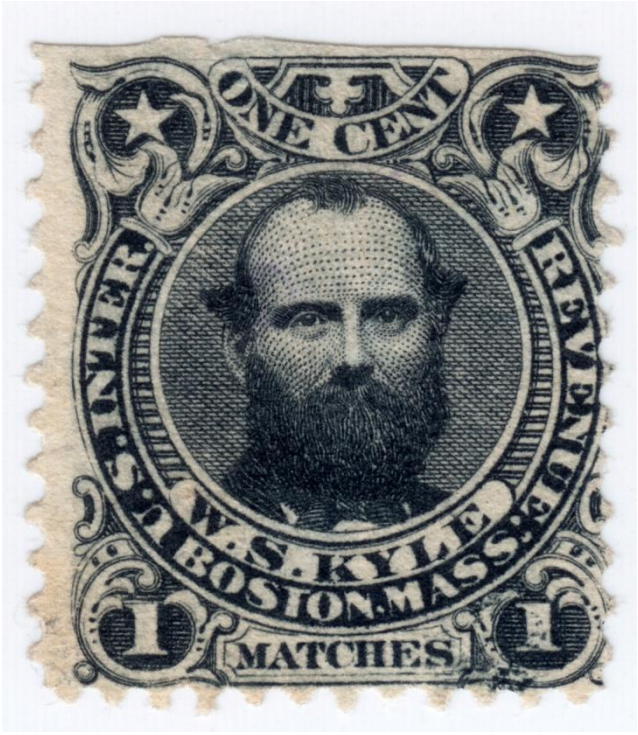
The Reverse Showing Embedded Short, Blue Silk Fibers



NOTE: To highlight the embedded short blue silk fibers, the cropped images had “Color Levels” adjusted in Photoshop.

charlesdicomo@gmail.com

A 2nd Example of RO122e showing a short blue silk fiber embedded in thicker, whiter and more fibrous paper.



NOTE: To highlight the embedded short blue silk fibers, the cropped images had "Color Levels" adjusted in Photoshop.

Comparison: Experimental Silk Paper vs. Old Paper

Two copies (top and left) of RO122e on experimental silk paper backlit against an RO122a (right) on old paper.

Experimental Silk Paper characteristics:

(a) Thicker paper than old paper;

(b) Printed image appears bolder than on old paper;

(c) Whiter and more fibrous than old paper;

(d) Contains a number of short, embedded blue and red silk fibers (sometimes only 1).

charlesdicomo@gmail.com