

The Half-a-Presentation



Presented to the
Philatelic Society of Lancaster County
October 12, 2022
by David H. Hunt

In homage to:
Clyde Jennings
*Imitation is the sincerest
form of flattery*

Nine 1/2 cent stamps have been issued by the U. S.

551

653

704

803

1030



J68

J69

J79

J88

Die Proof on white wove paper 551P1a



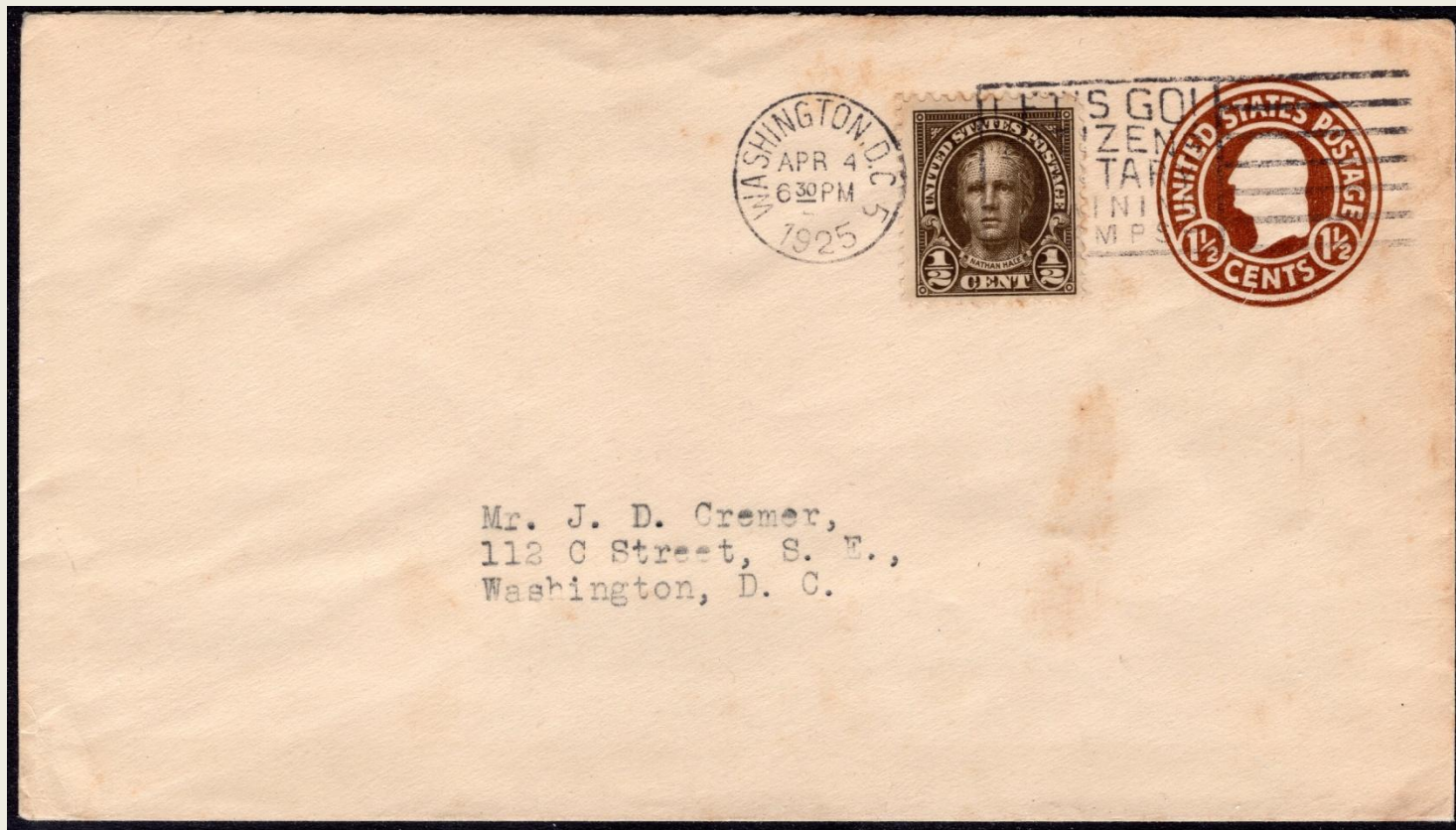
Design of the first 1/2 cent stamp 1925.
Depicts Nathan Hale, Revolutionary War hero.



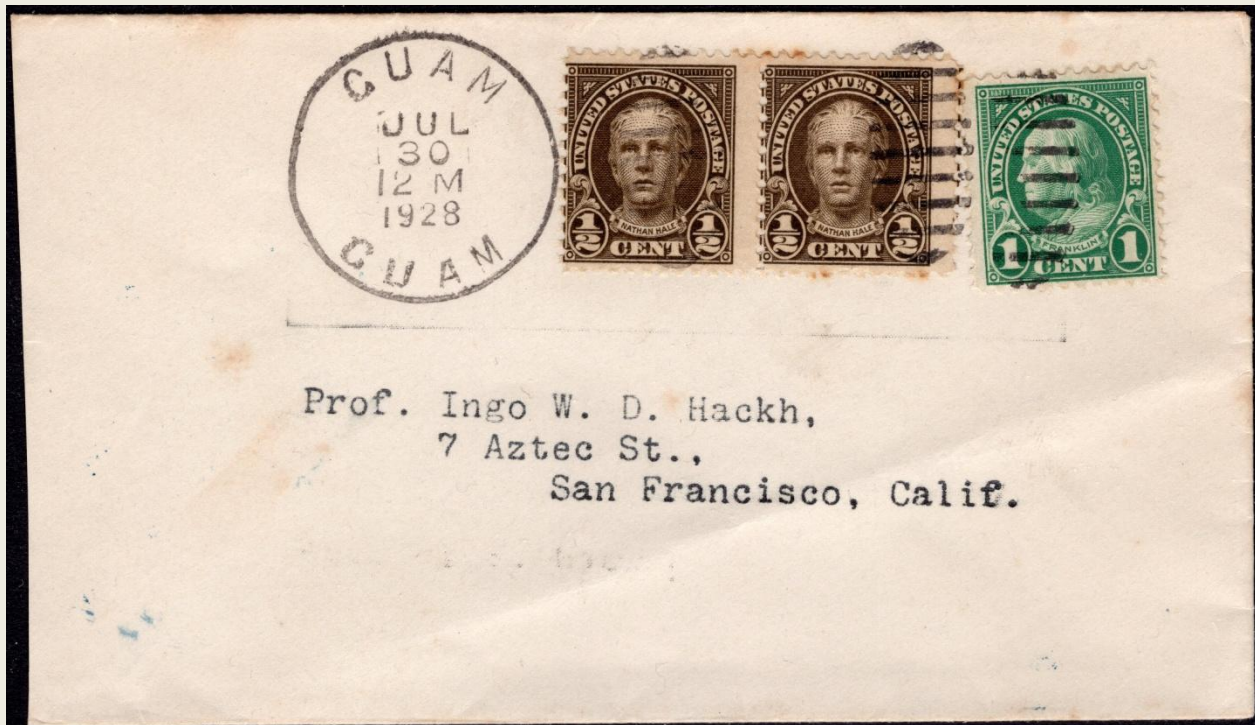
The first 1/2 cent stamp issued: Scott 551.

Flat plate P11

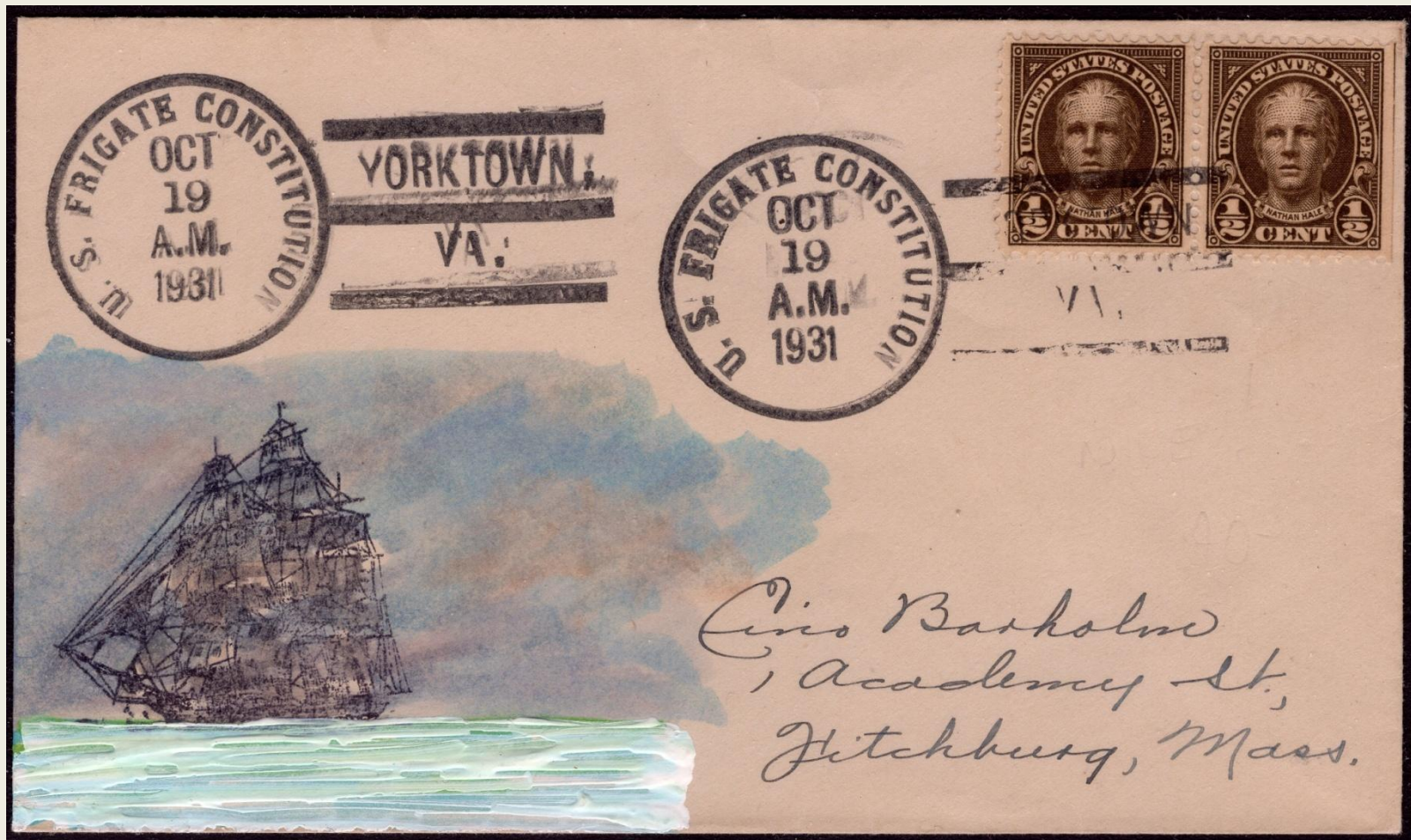
April 4, 1925



Sc. 551 on U481 cover
FDC for the Nathan Hale stamp



Usage of Sc. 551 on cover.
This one posted in Guam.



Sc. 551 pair on cover



Four Sc. 551 on a special flight cover

STATION D, P. O. BOX 43. NEW YORK, N. Y.

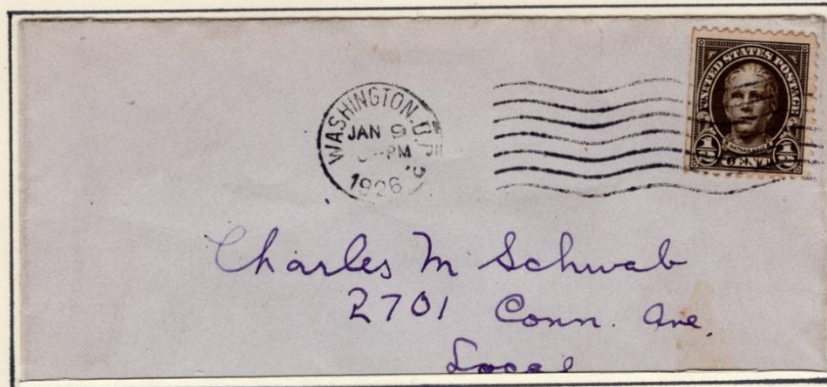
SEC. 435½ P. L. & R.



Providence Inst for dau.
Bx 1462
Providence, R. I.

P11

Sc. 551 Cover with pair of precancelled stamps



Never has been a half-cent postage rate. Got past postal employees, no postage due collected from addressee

Mutilating postage stamps illegal to prevent cutting off prior cancel and re-using

A page from
Clyde Jennings'
exhibit
showing illegal
usages





Second 1/2 cent stamp.

Scott 653

Rotary Press P11x10-1/2

May 25, 1929



Scott 653 Plate 19652 Position 72
(center stamp in second row in these blocks)
Damaged stamp at left, repaired stamp on right



Left image: Damage to nose and mouth
Center image: Normal for comparison
Right image: Repaired stamp



Scott 653 strip of three on cover.
Postmarked on Memorial Day.

Sec. 562 P. L. & R.



Providence Institution for Savings

P. O. Box 536
Westfield, Mass.
Return Postage Guaranteed

SEC. 562, P. L. & R.



Secretary,
Eastern Star, Mt. Vernon Chapter 233
Mt. Vernon, Ill.

Wm. A. ...

P11 x 1 1/2

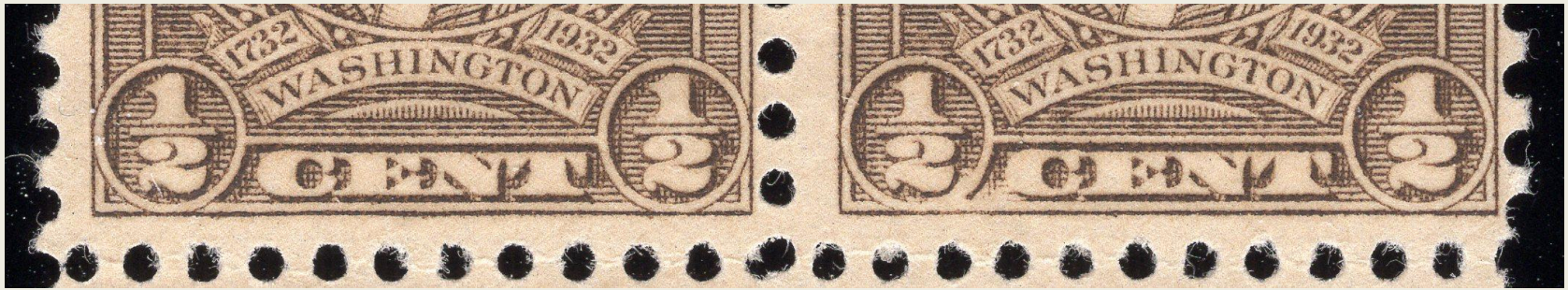
Sc 653 Precancelled pairs on cover



A ½ cent Scott 653 used to up-rate a postal card to Australia, plus as a bonus, a ½ d Australian postage due stamp.



This cover is a nice segue to the third ½ cent stamp. A patriotic cover from Bug, KY with a ½ cent Hale (Sc. 551) and a ½ cent Washington (Sc. 704), along with a 2 cent Washington (Sc. 707).



A block of the 1/2 cent stamp from the Washington Bicentennial set of 1932. Position UR8 from plate 20560 (the UR stamp in this block) shows an incomplete transfer in the circle around the left '1/2'. This stamp is the only 1/2 cent commemorative.



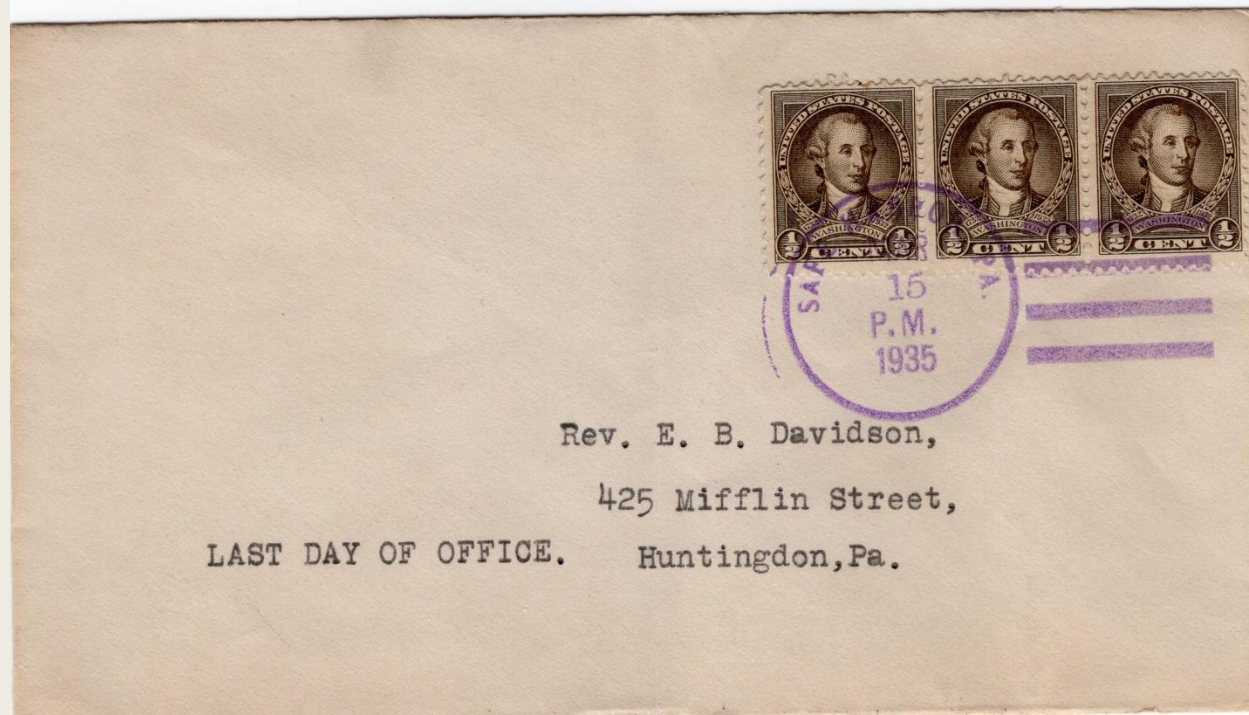
Jan. 1, 1932 FDCs for Sc 704 & 706 (top)
and a block of 704 (bottom)



Two covers from
Lancaster County

T: Bird in Hand
postmark

B: Last Day for
Safe Harbor, PA
Post Office
1838-1935





The fourth $\frac{1}{2}$ cent stamp. Sc. 803, from the 1938 Presidential series. Scott does not list shades, but here are two, or maybe just over/underinking.

BELMONT STAMP CO.
5843 VICKERY BLVD.
DALLAS 6, TEXAS

Return Postage Guaranteed



FIRST CLASS MAIL



IMPORTANT
MESSAGE
ON REVERSE

*Charles P. Hocking
519 West 3rd St.
Mitchell,
S. Dak.*

A pair of 1/2 cent
Franklins used on a
postcard from a
stamp dealer

Form No. 1

What! - - no bids?

A careful check of all bids thus far received on lots included in our current MAIL SALE fails to disclose receipt of any bids from you. Since you have bid on material in our previous sales we were wondering if you may not have forgotten to mail in your Bid Sheet.

With the closing date for receipt of bids still some time away there should still be ample opportunity to check through the many lots listed in the catalogue of our current Mail Sale for material that you can use.

We respectfully suggest that you give this matter your preferred attention.

Yours very truly,

Mail Sale No.

17

BELMONT STAMP COMPANY

Closing Date:

OCT 26 1951

(George E. Myers)

After 5 days, return to
FAILOR-STRAFER MACHINERY CO.,
22-24 Pollock Avenue,
JERSEY CITY 5, N. J.
Return postage guaranteed.



A single Sc. 803
Uprating a U481
and a precancel
pair.

McCALL CORPORATION
2019-2227 McCALL STREET DAYTON, OHIO
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED



Two event covers
with Scott 803.
T: First Flight
from Monterey, CA
to Boston, MA
July 20, 1938



B: The late,
lamented SEPAD
Sept 18, 1943





The last 1/2 cent postage stamp, Sc. 1030/1030a.

The pair is a wet printing (Sc. 1030a), issued Oct. 20, 1955.

The plate block is a dry printing (Sc. 1030) issued in May 1958.



A First Day Cover of the 1/2 cent Franklin,
Scott 1030a (wet printing)



A card postmarked by a Twin Mountain, NH Bretton Woods Rur. Sta. handstamp and a Bretton Woods, NH machine cancel.

How did the originator manage this with just a 1/2 cent stamp?



“POSTED ON THE HIGH SEAS / RMS CARONA”
A 3 cent UN postal card plus 2 cents in US postage.

The Postage Due Stamps

The First 1/2 Cent Postage Due



J68



J68 on cover dated April 15, 1925

Earliest known use.

Mr. Ward prepared a small number of these of which perhaps seven still exist, according to Clyde Jennings.



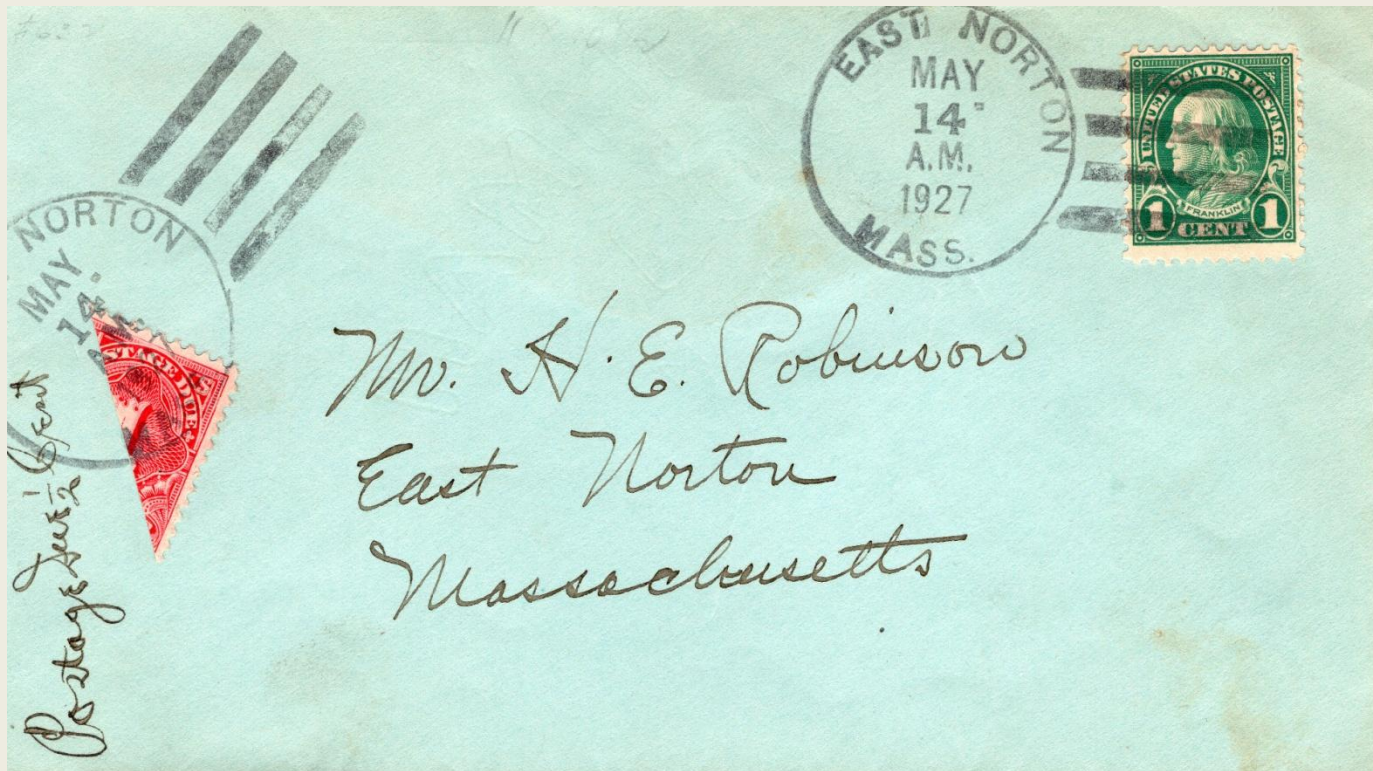
A single J68 used on cover
with three 1/2 cent Nathan Hale stamps (Sc. 551)



Strip of three J68 with Appleton, WI precancels (note that they are misplaced) used on a U483 local cover. Lots of neat postal markings on this one.



Single J68 on a U499 envelope.
U499 is a 1 ½ cent surcharge on a 1 cent envelope.
The attempted uprate to 2 cents using a bisected
1 cent stamp was not accepted.



Bisect of a J61 1 cent postage due stamp used on an East Norton, MA cover May 14, 1927. Scarce provisional 1/2 cent postage due use from a small town (now DPO).

Ex. Clyde Jennings



J69

Issue of 1930

Flat plate Perf 11



J79

J79a

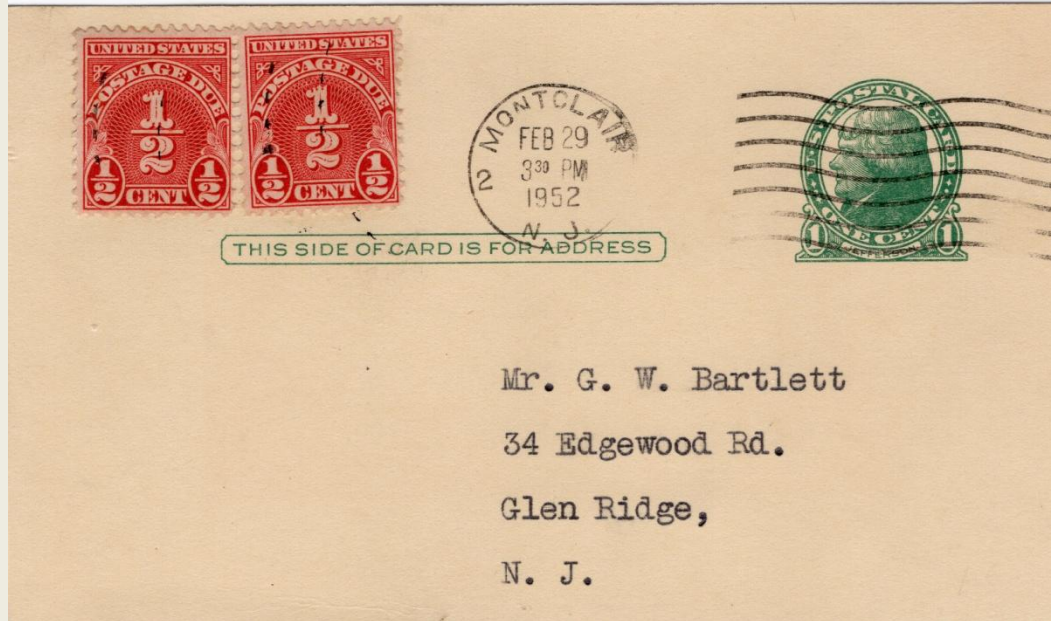
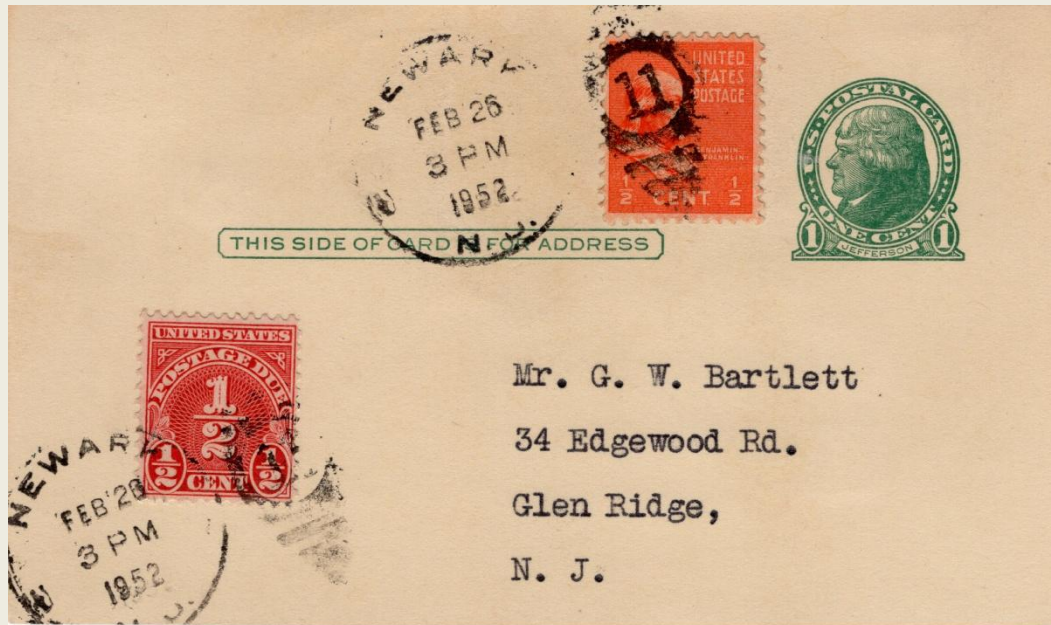
Issue of 1931

Rotary Press printing Perf 11x10.5

Early printings were in dull
carmine, later printings in scarlet.



1/2 cent J69 and 1 cent J70 used on cover mailed without postage. An unused 1/2 cent Franklin 803 lightly stuck on as “change”.

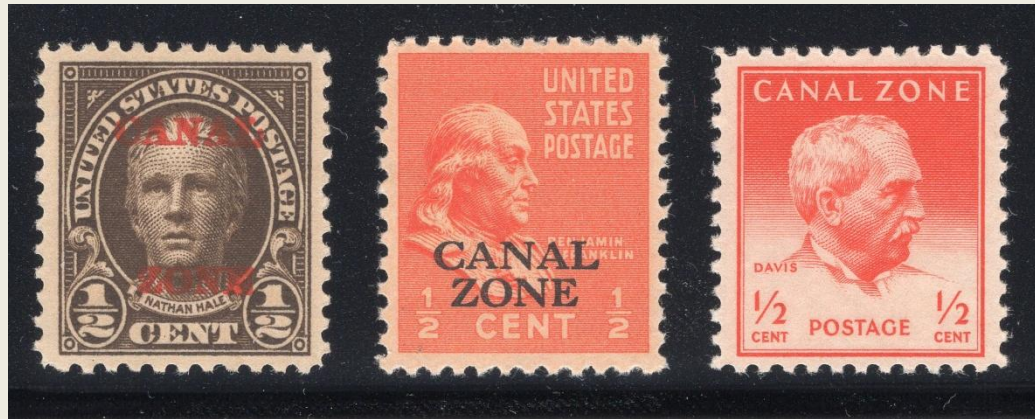


Two underpaid UX27
postal cards with J79
applied.
Post card rate was 2 cents
as of Jan. 1, 1952
Ex. Clyde Jennings



J88 Postage Due Issue of 1959.
These two showing small misregistration
of the value.

Canal Zone



The Canal Zone issued three 1/2 cent stamps. The first two were overprinted U.S. stamps while the third was a specific Canal Zone design.



The first ½ cent Canal Zone stamp (Scott CZ70) was made by overprinting US Scott 551 with the Type A (flat top A) **CANAL ZONE** overprint. Issued April 15, 1925.

Ex. Clyde Jennings



A single use of CZ 70 on cover, but I think this was just an excuse to get the two postage dues (J18-19). Note that the dues have the sharp top A. The Canal Zone never issued a ½ cent postage due stamp.

OVERPRINTED FOR USE IN THE CANAL ZONE

Issue of 1938

Perforated 11X10½

Rotary Press Printing

This is a page from Clyde Jennings' exhibit showing varieties of the second CZ ½ cent stamp (Scott CZ 118). This stamp was made by overprinting US 803. It was issued Sept. 1, 1939.



Used



Unused



Used



Bright orange



Orange



Dull orange



Block of four



Plate number block

Precancels



Color cancel

(blue)



25 subject
handstamp



100 subject
printed



Numeral cancel

(duplex)

Overprinting Plate Varieties & Printing Freak

The next page from Jennings' exhibit. It shows overprint varieties. Note the 'floating' overprints on the stamps at right.

"Fly Speck" Philately



Broken "C"

Broken "O"



Sharp early print, heavy worn impression

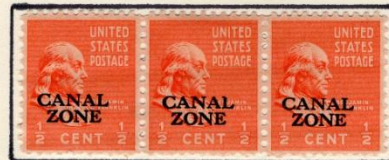


Note how overprint "floats" upward, a 4MM range.

SERIF MISSING ON BOTTOM OF "Z", Lower Left



"ZONE", "N" short serif, left & right



Middle, serif broken on "L"

**CANAL ZONE
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE**

BALBOA HEIGHTS
SEP 1
9 30 AM
1939
CANAL ZONE



PROVISIONAL OVERPRINTS

1/2 ct. & 1 1/2 cts.
SEPT. 1, 1939

*Box 18
Hghts*

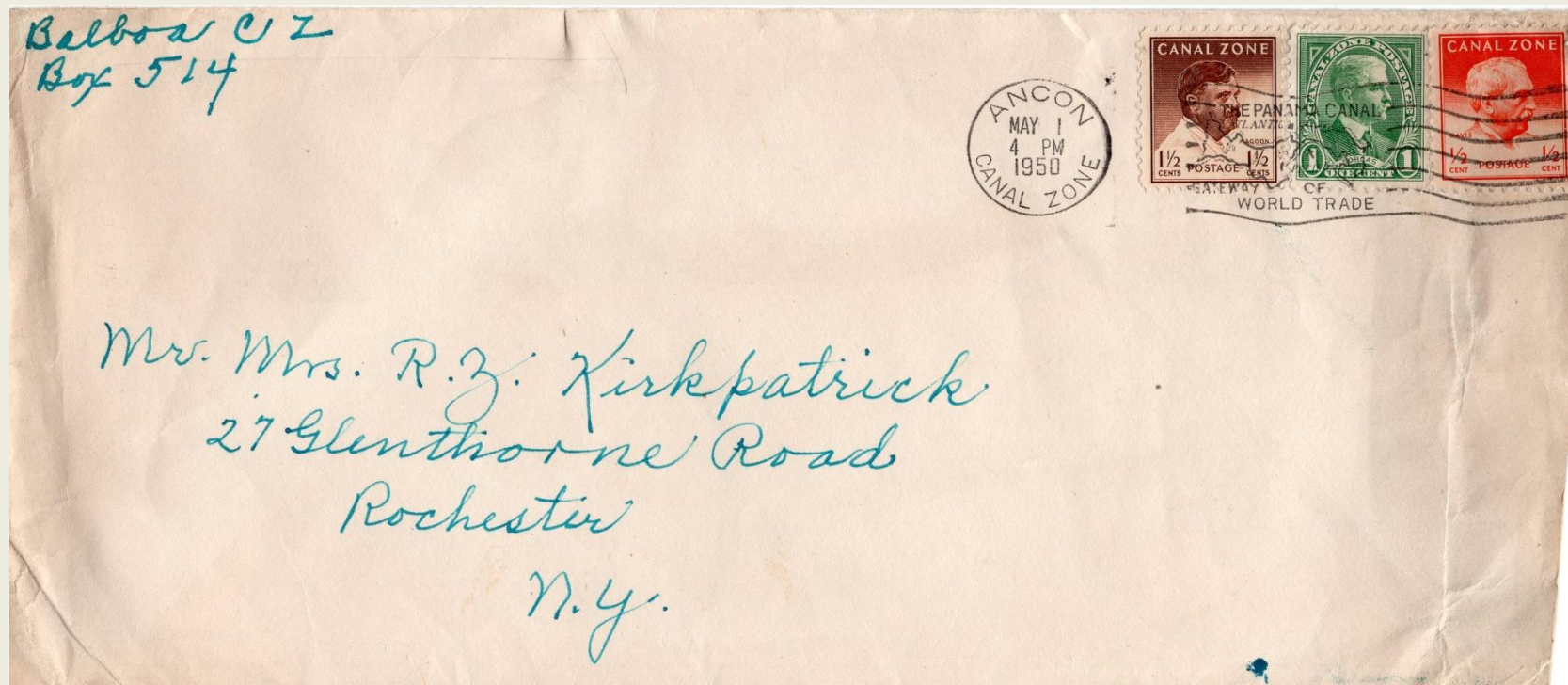
A First Day Cover of Scott CZ 118.



A few CZ 118 used on cover.



CZ 138, a 1/2 cent stamp with specific Canal Zone design. The portrait is of General George W. Davis who was appointed to the Canal Commission in 1904 and later became the first Governor of the Canal Zone.



The 1/2 cent Davis stamp used on cover.

As an off-topic comment: Maj. Gen. William Gorgas M.D., pictured on the green 1 cent stamp, was the son of Confederate general Josiah Gorgas, a native of Pennsylvania, who was the CSA's Chief of Ordnance. It was William who conquered yellow fever in the Zone which allowed the canal to be built.