

# United States POSTAL CARD

WRITE THE ADDRESS ONLY ON THIS SIDE-THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER

To \_\_\_\_\_

## First U.S. Postal Card

Some interesting things that I learned  
after obtaining a few of these cards  
in an on-line auction lot.

George D. Hauber, Sr.  
December 2022  
PSLC



United States  
Postal Card



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To **First U.S. Postal Card**

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Scott's Specialized (1975 ed.)  
shows two postal cards in 1873:

**NOTE:** (There is no Scott's **UX2**)

**UX1** – issued May 13, 1873

**UX3** – issued July 2, 1873 (approx. 6 weeks apart)

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They appear to be identical. So how do you tell them apart?

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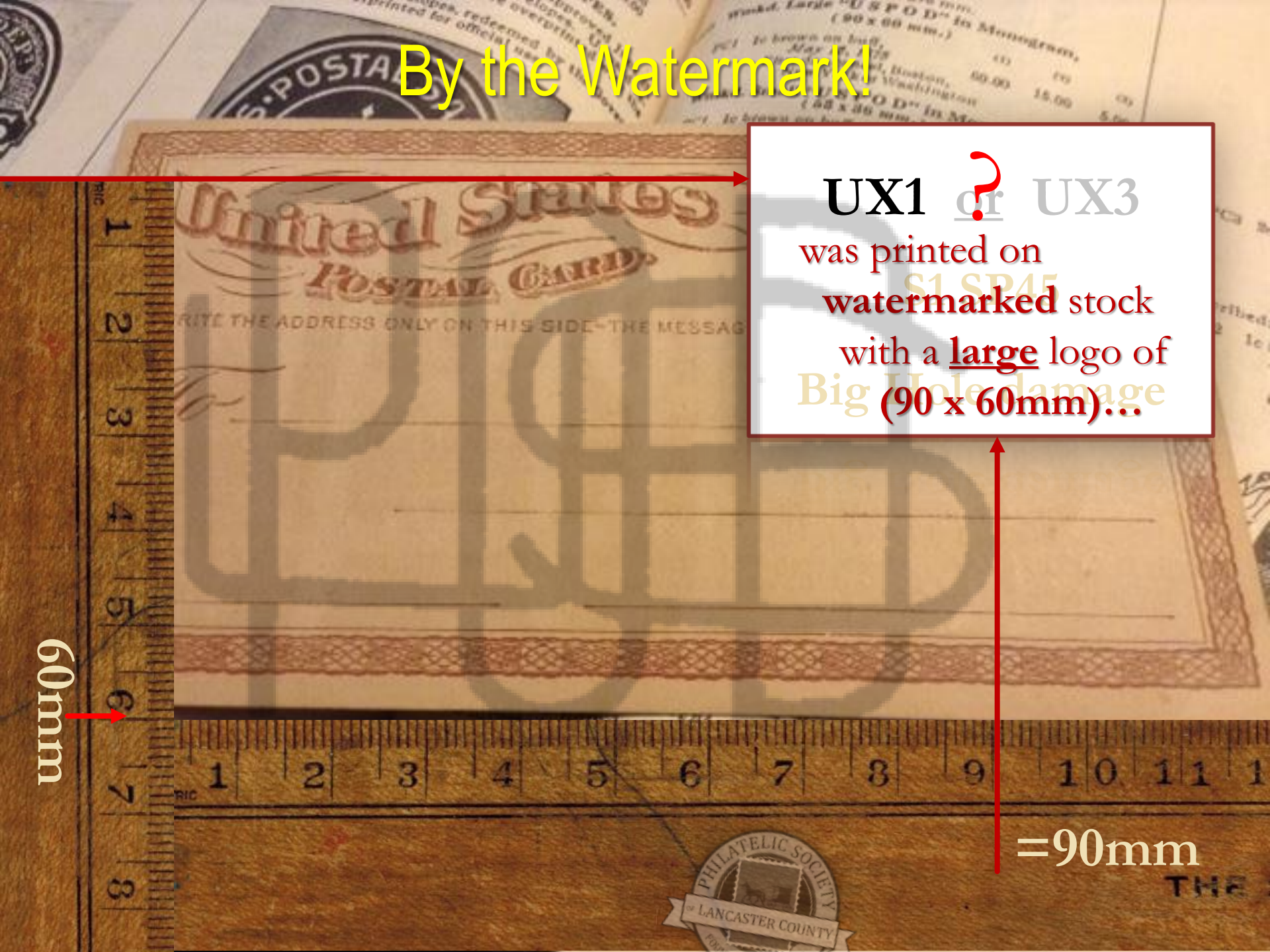


# By the Watermark!

UX1 ? UX3  
was printed on  
watermarked stock  
with a large logo of  
Big Hole damage

60mm

=90mm





S1 SP45  
Big Hole  
damage



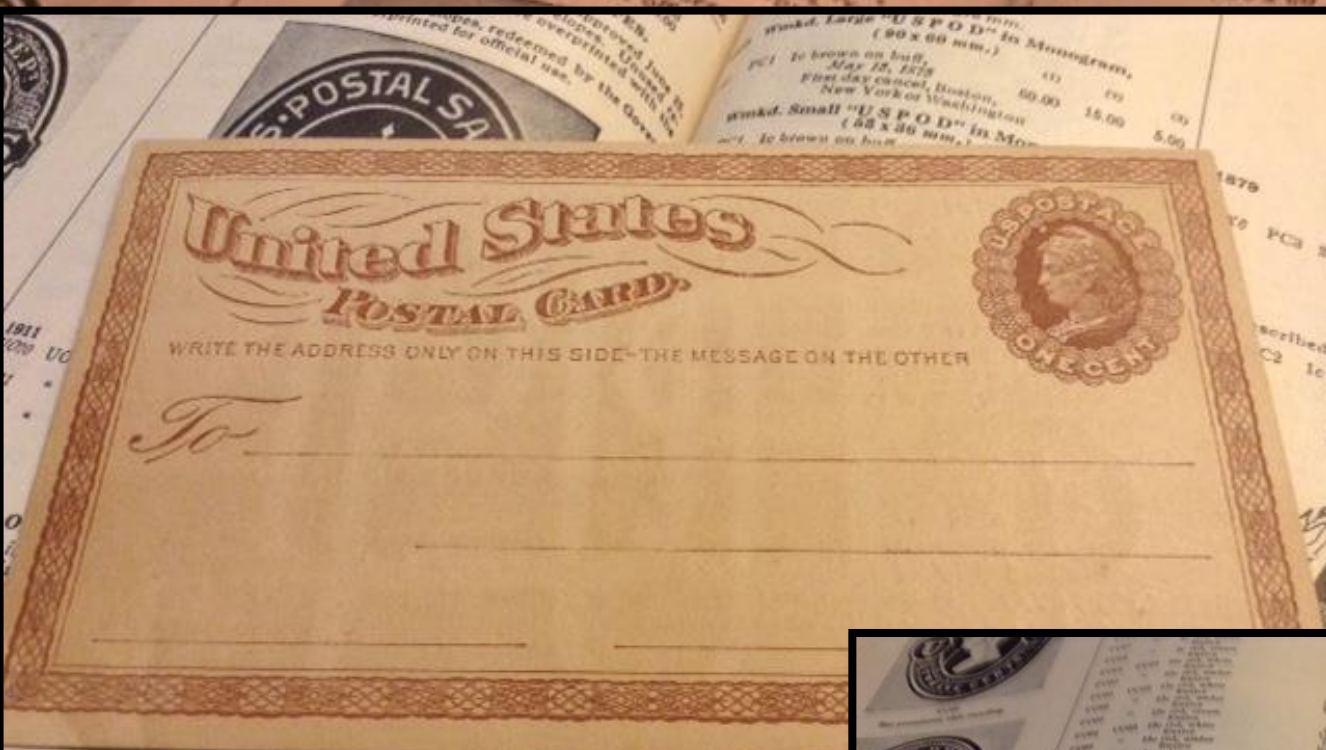
**UX1 or UX3**  
**...visible by holding**  
**the card up to a**  
**strong light!**  
**Big Hole Damage**

(Thanks, Robert!)



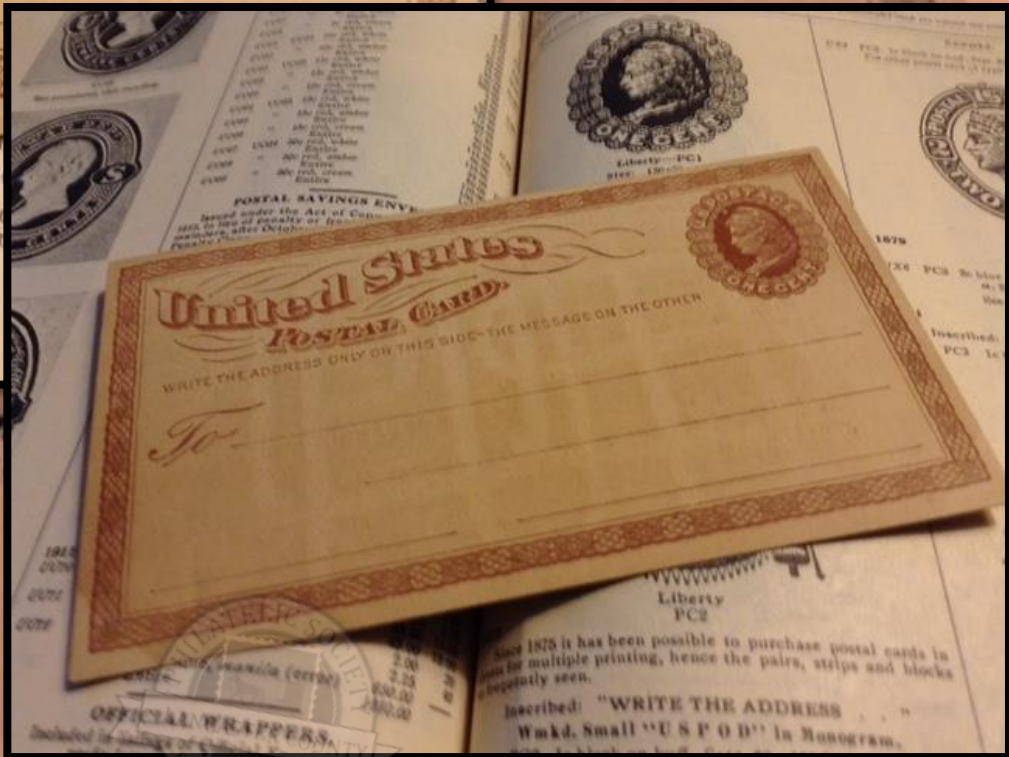
**NOTE:**  
It was no easy task to hold this postal card up to the light and then trying to hold an iPad steady in the other hand in order to take a picture, holding both steady while clicking the shutter!





Can you see it?

Sometimes the watermark shows up in normal light depending on the way the card was stored and exposed to moisture, heat, etc.







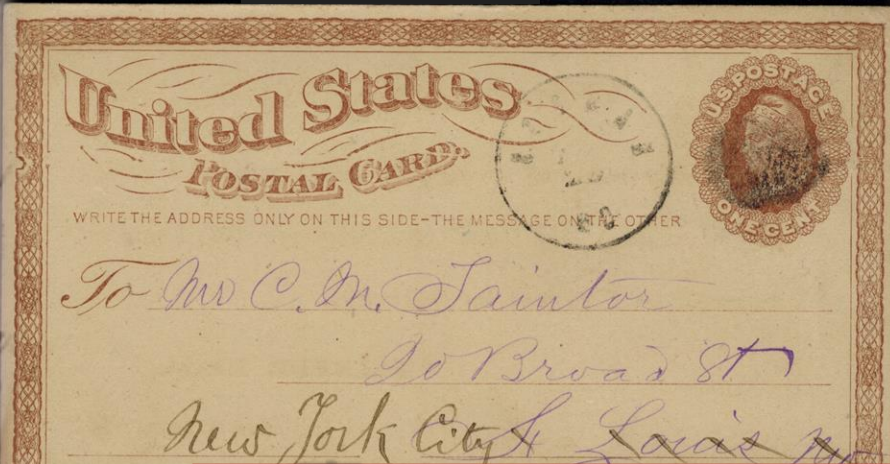
The watermark could show up in any one of 4 positions

Normal      Reversed      Inverted      Inverted & Reversed

Watermark Positions, as seen from address side  
(Shown in reduced size)



# The difference between UX1 and UX3 ?



UX1 or UX3  
UX3 was printed on  
watermarked stock  
with a small logo:  
(53 x 36mm.)

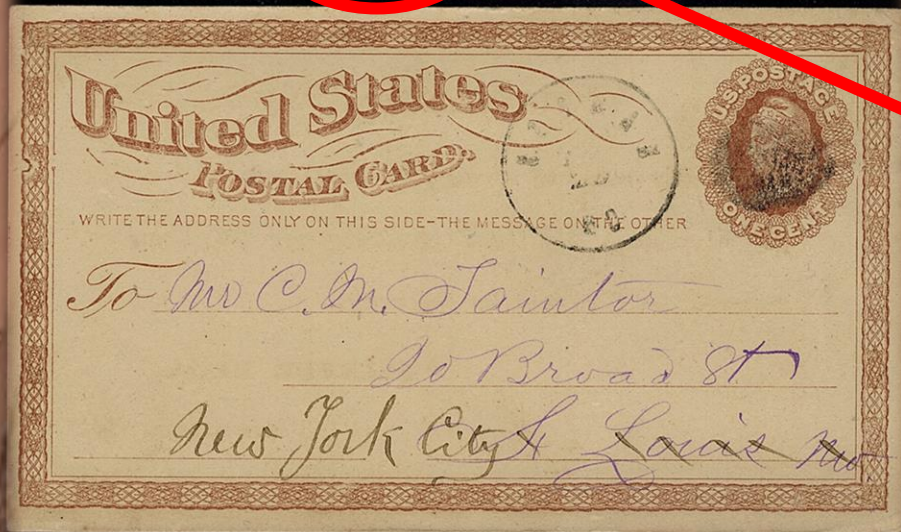


THE



Front

S1 SP45  
Big Hole  
damage



UX1 or UX3

**S1 SP45**

**Stamp# Plate#**

United Postal Stationery  
Society Nos.

Sometimes, a postal card might be identified by the previous owner, in some way (such as this small tag)



Sometimes, a postal card might be identified by **looking on the back** to see if there are any pencil markings.

UX1 or UX3

S1 SP45

Big Hole damage

*Rt Tainter  
Hermann Mo.*

Hermann, Mo., July 3d, 1873.  
*Mch, 2<sup>o</sup> 1876*

To obviate sending money by mail we send a five  
Gallon sample keg of Ives' Seedling for \$6, Concord  
There is no Coat of Arms on a card, had one imposed  
\$5, payable to Express on delivery  
upon me once by a Syracuse painter and I have not  
that now,

**X. M. TAINTER BROS.**  
Hermann, Mo.

nn, Mo.

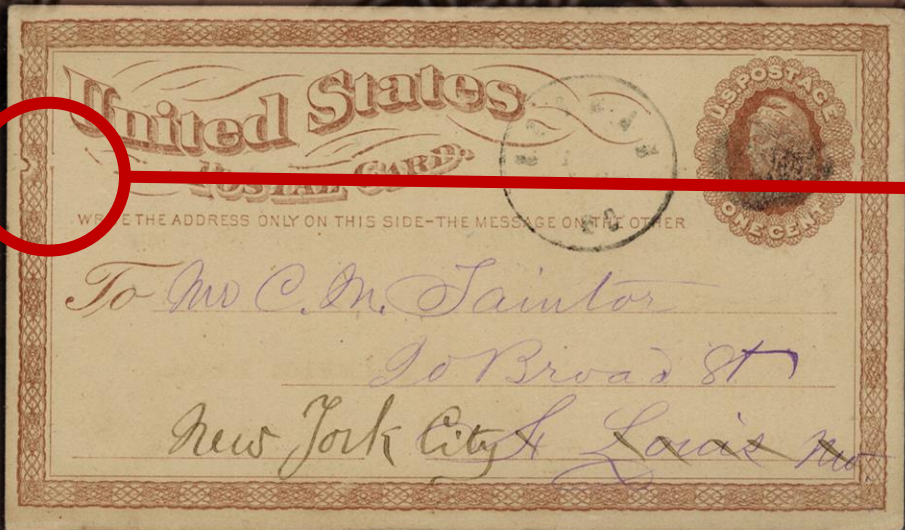
S1 SP45

S1 SP45



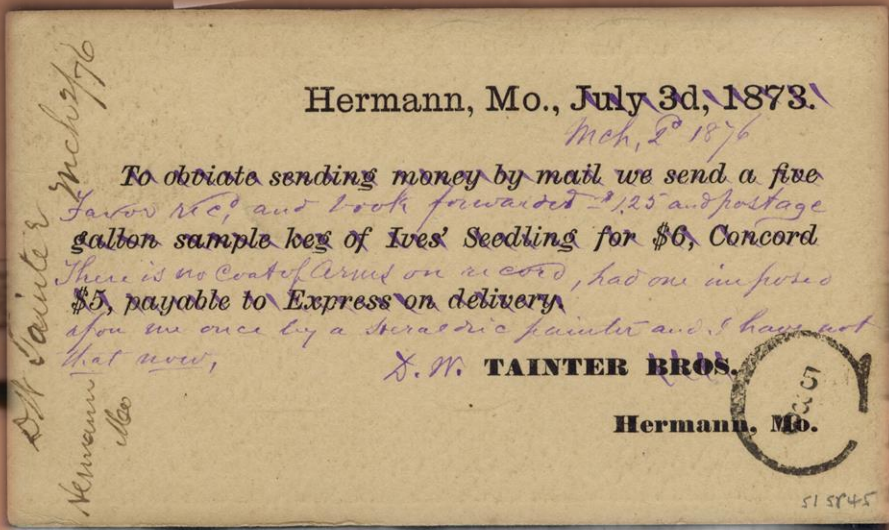


Front



Big Hole damage

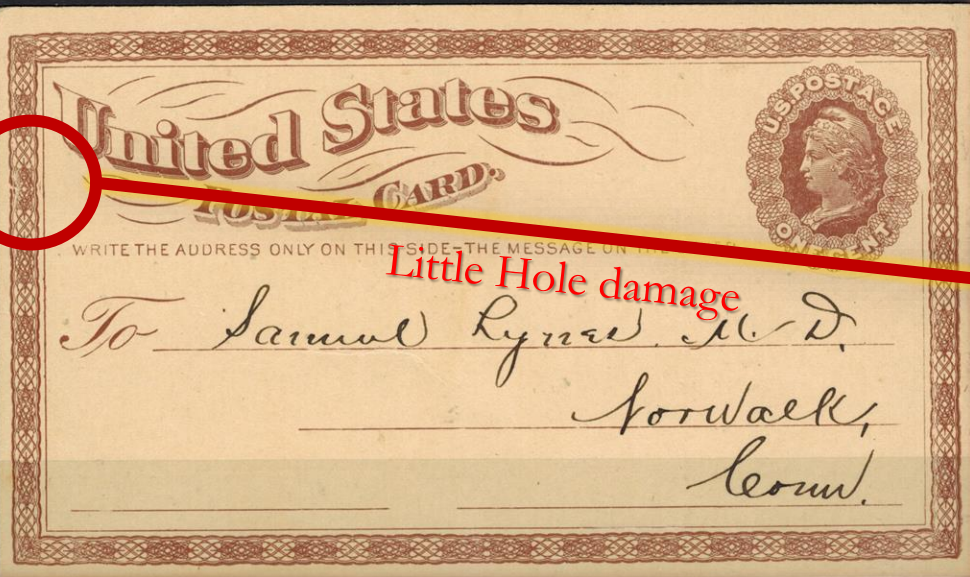
Back



Monogram.  
150.00 80.00 37.50  
position, inverted, re-  
often dim.



S1 SP17  
Little hole  
damage



Little Hole damage

S1 SP17  
Little hole  
damage



S2 SP7  
Intr. Re-cut



Inter. Hole Re-cut

pt. 28 monogram. 150.00 80.00 37  
and in normal position, inverted,  
and reversed. It is often dim.



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Comments  
and/or  
Questions?

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