

U.S. 1857 Issue

Paper Change of 1859

AJ Valente

Paper Change of 1859

- Why was the stamp paper changed?
- What were the stamps/plates affected?
- When was the change effective?

1855

- Great Britain introduces perforated stamps



1857

- Trial of perforations on U.S. stamps



June 22, 1857

- From Samuel Carpenter

“ . . . We had ordered previously 300,000 sheets of this paper of another party which will be delivered in ample time for our wants and we are hence in no immediate necessity for the article which you will manufacture for us. . . .

November 25, 1857

- From Samuel Carpenter

“Dear Sirs, Your favor of October 29, and November 20, with the box of 12,000 sheets of PS [postage stamp] paper, has been received. And we have it at last in our power to inform you that this paper is entirely satisfactory and you can furnish the balance of the order in the same style, . . .”



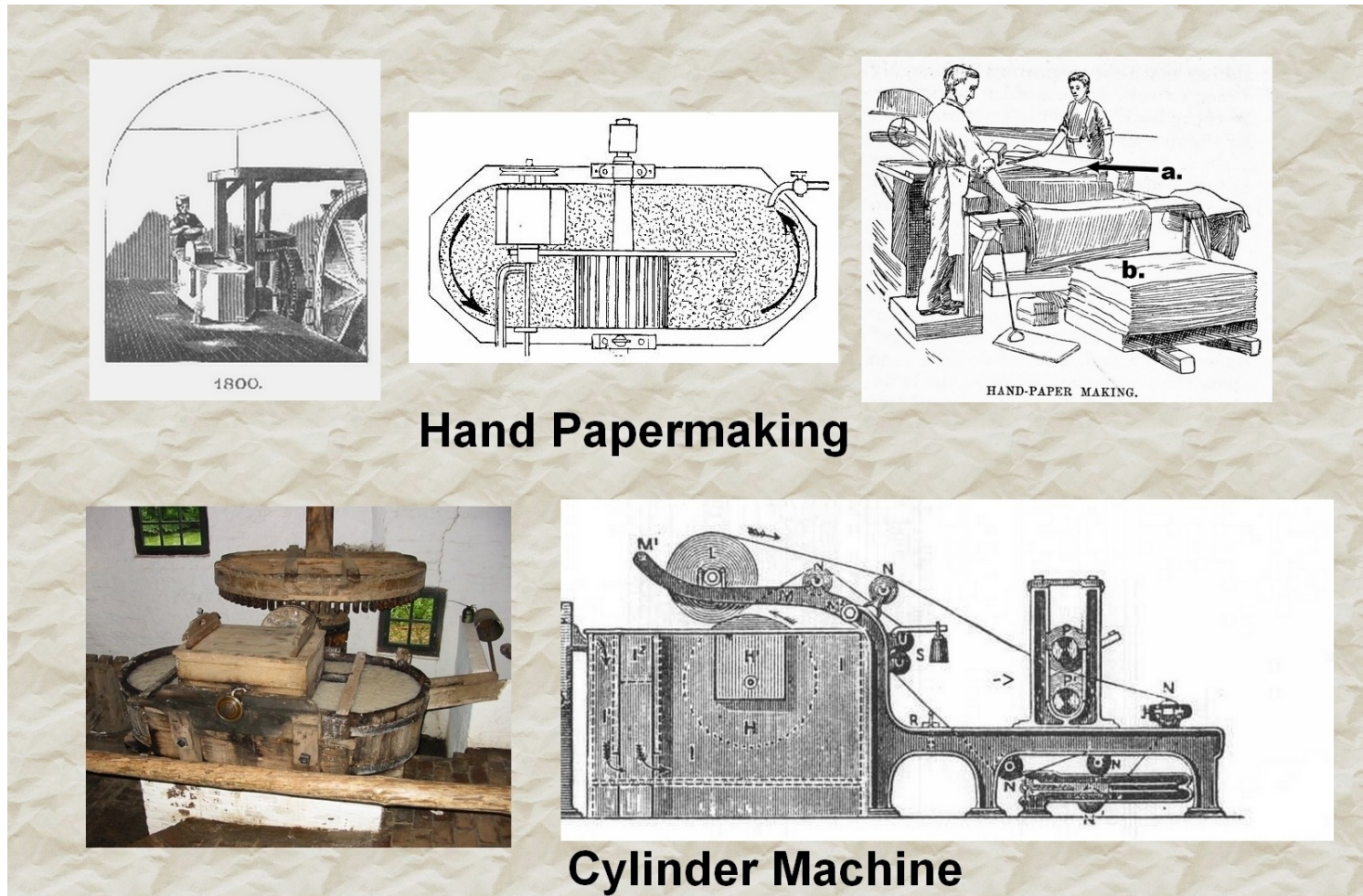
January 14 of 1858

- Crane Correspondence:

“Dear Sirs, Invoice as follows: 124,588 sheets of stamp paper. ”

Paper Manufacturing

- Handmade vs Cylinder Machine:



Paper Grain Test

- Willcox Paper:



Paper Grain Test

- Crane Paper:



July 18, 1858

- In June of 1858, to keep-up with ever-growing demand, the stamp department moved to a larger facility at 425 Chester Street.
- Crane Correspondence:

We would thank you to make for us 100,000 sheets of postage stamp paper.

Blind Perforations



Paper Comparison

- Crane vs Willcox”

Feature	Crane	Willcox
Shrinkage	Horizontal	Very Little
Thickness	Narrow	Wide
MisPerforation	Little	Substantial
Cost	Higher	Lower

November 13, 1858

- Crane Correspondence:

“We are sorry to be compelled to state that the stamp paper furnished by you was very unsatisfactory. . . . We are therefore being supplied by another party with a perfect article at the same rate as that you furnished.”

November 26, 1858

- Crane Correspondence:

“The article we are now using is an even texture and better adapted to our purposes than that you furnished.”

June 7, 1859

- Travers' Papers Clipping:

"Recent investigations in the affairs of the Post Office lead to the belief that the department . . . loses one million of dollars a year by the use of counterfeit and rewashed postage stamps."

INTERESTING FROM WASHINGTON.

Extensive Frauds on the Post Office Department by the use of Counterfeit Postage Stamps—Return of the President—The Neutral Rights Question, &c.

OUR SPECIAL WASHINGTON DESPATCH.

WASHINGTON, June 7, 1859.

Recent investigations in the affairs of the Post Office lead to the belief that that department of the government loses one million of dollars a year by the use of counterfeit and rewashed postage stamps. It is believed that there are two classes of persons engaged in this nefarious business—one which manufactures, either from engraved or photographed plates, and sells new postage stamps; and another that gathers those which have been used from waste paper collections, and by means of an acid washes off the Post Office stamp that was put on them when they passed through the office.

Under the present postal system there is no means of guarding against the first named evil, for the manufacture of the postage stamp is so simple that one man can make his plate and produce thousands of sheets without the aid of a single person. To dispose of them he has only to come into collusion with some of the postmasters or their clerks, of which there are more than fifty thousand in all throughout the country, and the constant losses of money in passing through the mails does not give a high standard of honesty among them. All of them are entrusted with the sale of stamps, and no check can be kept upon them, for there is no possibility of ascertaining how many stamps are in the hands of the people. When letters are posted the clerks have

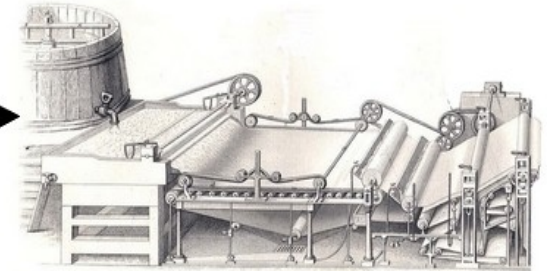
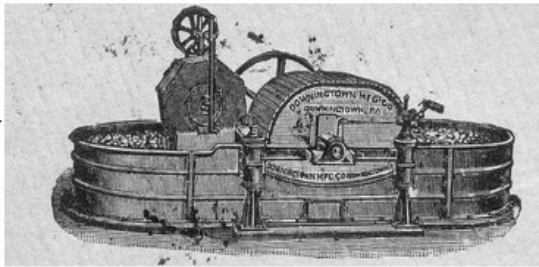
the sale of stamps, and no check can be kept upon them, for there is no possibility of ascertaining how many stamps are in the hands of the people. When letters are posted the clerks have no time to scrutinize the stamp on them, and they are rapidly defaced with a black stamp. As the letters with the defaced stamps on them pass again into the hands of the people, the department can form no positive idea to what extent the fraudulent stamps are used.

The same difficulty of detection attends the rewashed stamps, but they are supposed to be used to a less extent than the counterfeits, on account of the greater facilities for selling the latter. Efforts have been made, both in this country and in England, where the same difficulty is encountered, to obtain an indelible ink for the purpose of defacing the used stamps, but without success; and the inefficiency of our police system for preventing the operations of counterfeiters leaves the manufacturer of surreptitious postage stamps to labor with impunity.

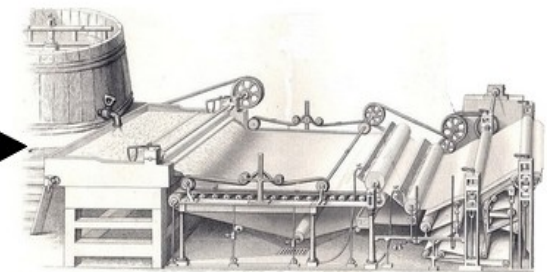
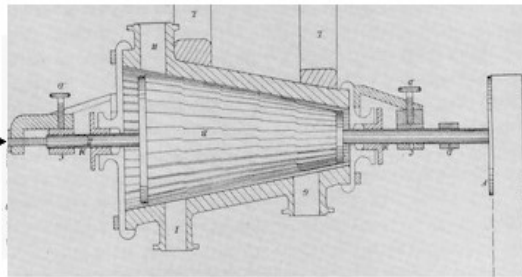
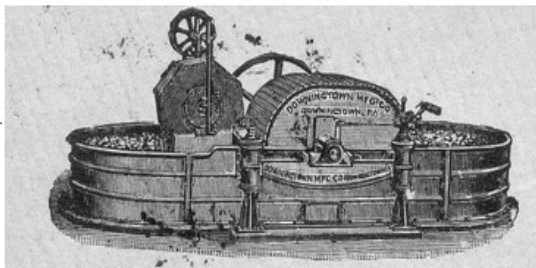
It is the opinion of persons well versed in the affairs of the Post Office Department here, that these frauds have an intimate connection with the deficiency in its revenues, and could the Postmaster General devise some means to stop them the Department would soon become a self-sustaining one. The only possible manner of doing it seems to be to abolish entirely the use of postage stamps, and resort to prepayment by the use of stamped envelopes, which should be guarded in their manufacture by water marks in the paper, and every other contrivance and improvement in the style and construction of envelopes which the Postmaster General can possibly devise, without increasing too much the cost of the envelope to the public.

High vs Low Rag Paper

High Rag Paper

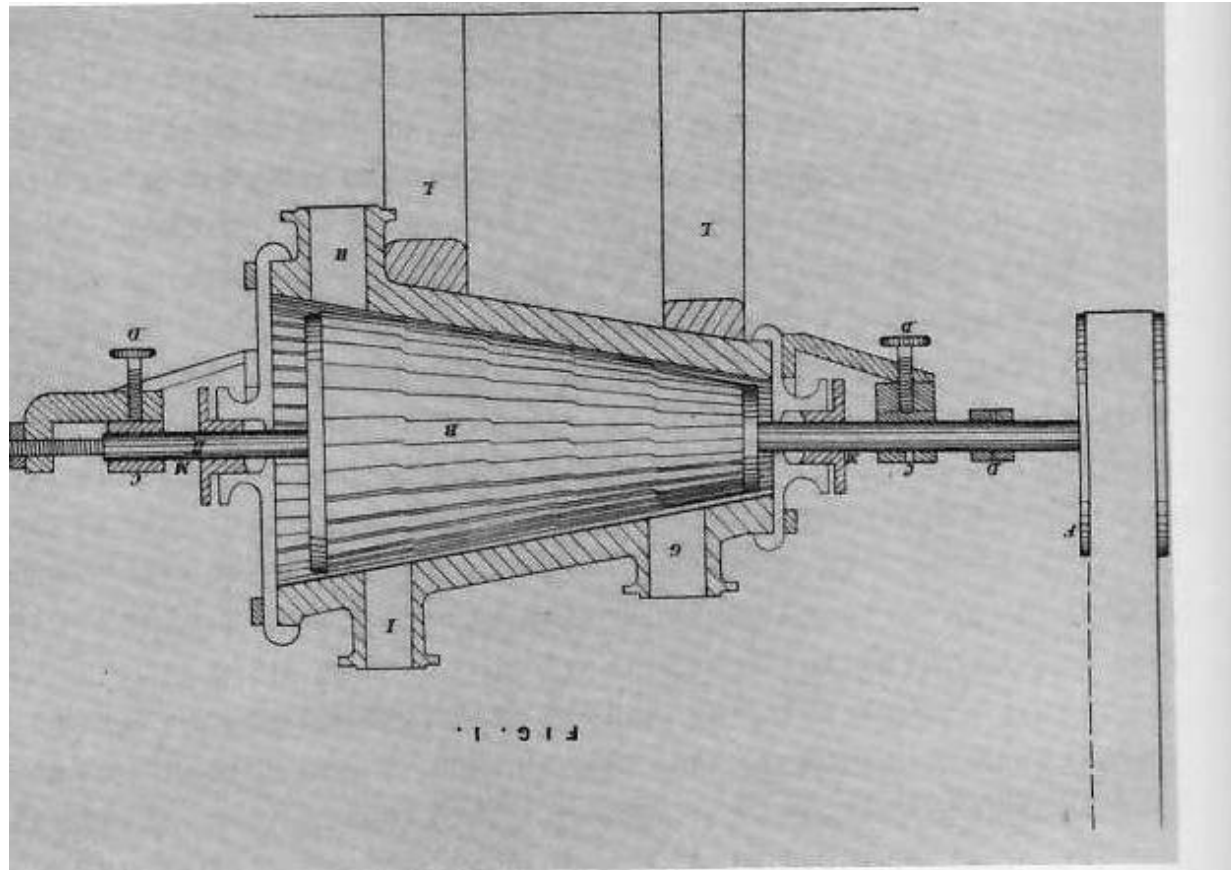


Low Rag Paper



(Refiner)

Jordan Refiner



High vs Low Rag Stamp Paper

Feature	Low Rag	High Rag
Shrinkage	None	Moderate
Cost	Low	High
Ink Penetration	Lower	Higher
Impression Quality	Fine	Very Fine

Stamp Issues on High Rag Paper:

Issues	Paper
One-ct. Plates 1L, 2, 4, 7, 8	Willcox
One-ct. Plate 5	Crane
Three-cts. Plates 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Willcox
Three-cts. Plates 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17	Crane/Willcox
Five-cts. Plate 1	Willcox
Ten-cts. Plate 1	Willcox
Twelve-Cts. Plate 1	Willcox

Stamp Issues on Low Rag Paper

Issues	Paper	ENU
One-ct. Plates 9, 10, 11, 12	Willcox	September 18, 1859
Three-cts. Plates 21 & on	Willcox	January 18, 1859
Five-cts. Plate 2	Willcox	May 4, 1860
Ten-cts. Plate 2	Willcox	April 29, 1859
Twelve-Cts. Plate 3	Willcox	June 1, 1860
Twenty Four-cts Plate 1	Willcox	July 7, 1860
Thirty-cts. Plate 1	Willcox	July 8, 1860
Ninety-cts. Plate 1	Willcox	September 11, 1860



47th Annual Stamp Convention
meets in Foot Falls, Idaho