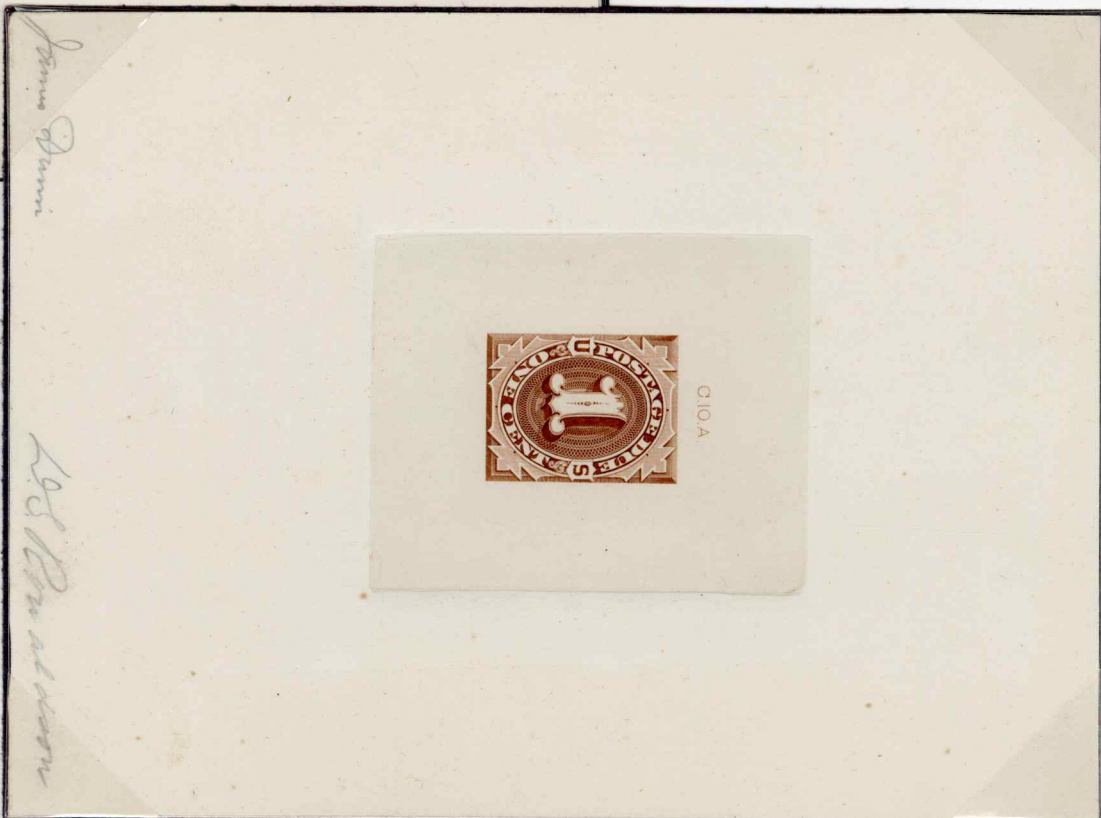
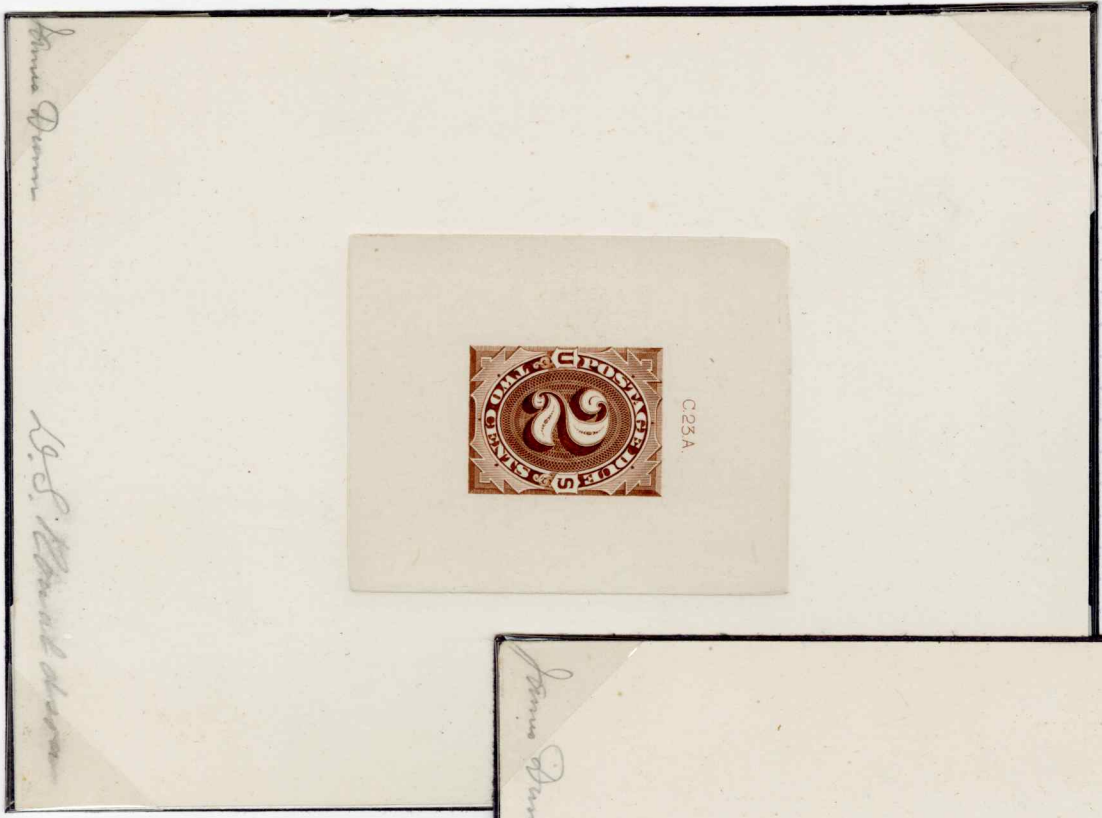


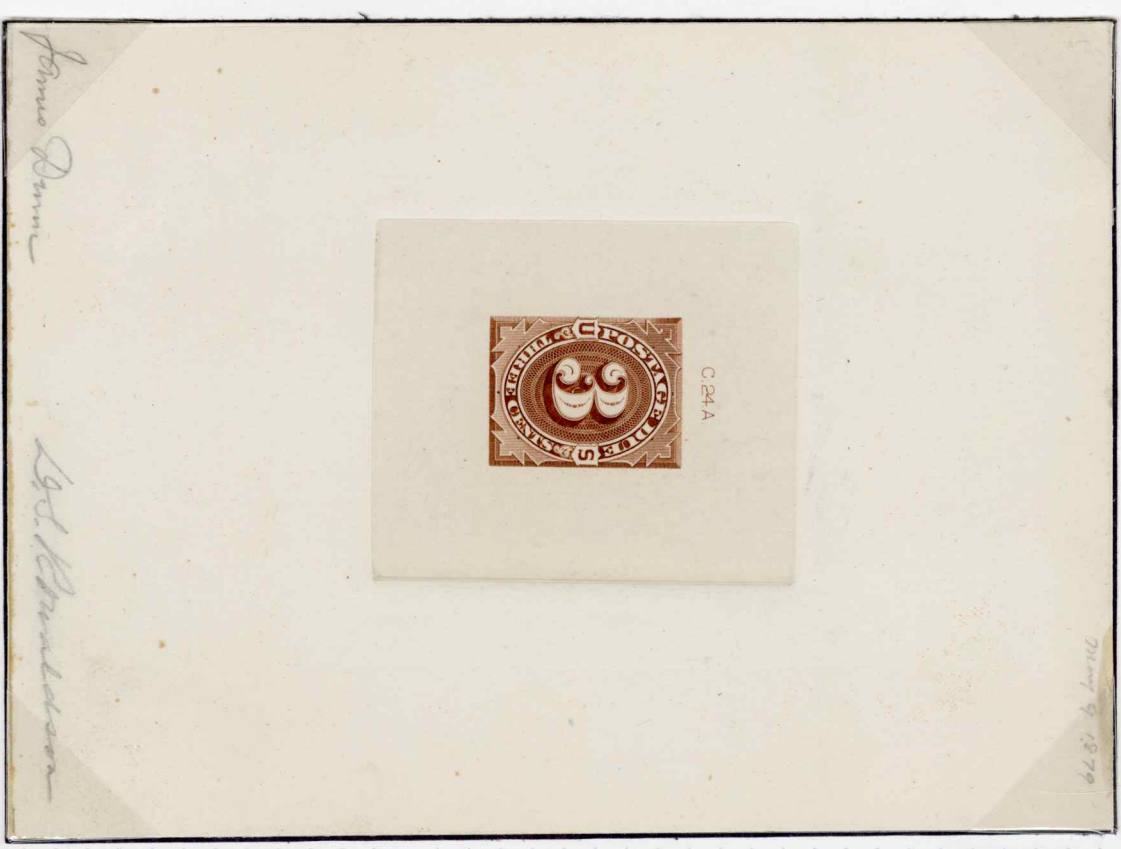
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Signed, Sunken Die Proofs: The First Issue (1879)

Signed by the Designer and the Engraver



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Signed, Sunken Die Proofs: The First Issue (1879)

Dated: May 9, 1879



Postage due collectors have often wondered how the date May 9, 1879 came to be associated with the USA's first postage due issue date since the earliest recorded usages of any value are the first week in July. The date was referenced by a bulletin of the US Post Office from the contract with the printer which stipulated not the date for issue, but presentation of proofs for approval. This plate proof of the three cent value is the only recorded example with the date.

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