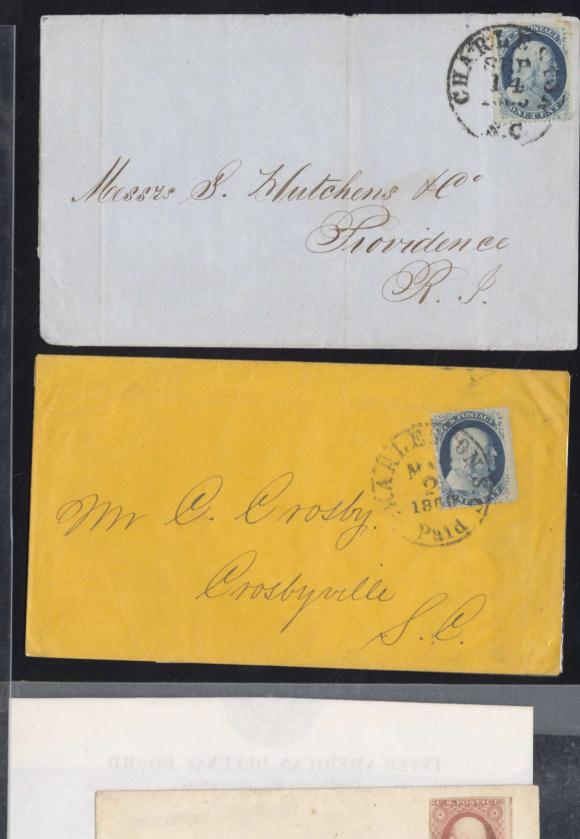
The Postal Act of 1851...primary provisions, effective June 30, 1851 rates reduced to $3 \ \text{c}$ per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce if prepaid and $5 \ \text{c}$ if unpaid, up to 3000 miles. Double rates for over 3000 miles. Drop letters reduced to $1 \ \text{c}$ each. Advertising fees $1 \ \text{c}$. Printed matter prepaid at 1 to $5 \ \text{c}$ per ounce, depending on the distance, and double rates if unpaid.



July 11, 1851; The reduced rates went into effect on July 1, 1851, and the Post Office at Charleston was ready with the new AN-4 cancelling device which could be used for prepaid letters either with or without a postage stamp. The old red ink continued in use for only about six weeks before being changed to blue. The circular grid killer was not used on this early use of the Series 1851 stamp.





734

12237



January 15, 1856-61; A-25 cancel on Series 1855 Nesbitt & Co. envelope with 10 domestic postage for distances in excess of 3000 miles. The letter likely travelled to California on a US Mail Steamship Line vessel to Panama and was carried across the Isthmus of Panama on the Panama RR. The last leg of its journey was by way of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co.

Charleston, South Carolina



0/2235

August 18, 1851-54; the 20x4mm S-9 "PAID" and AN-4 town marking indicates 3¢

postage paid in cash at the Post Office.



August 19, 1851; Series 1851 3ϕ stamp cancelled by both the AN-4 town cancel and the grid killer, which about this time was phased out of use for nearly a decade. This is very early use of the blue ink at Charleston.

The Act of 1855 made prepayment of domestic postage cumpulsory after April 1. Domestic rates under 3000 miles remained at 3 %, but were increased to 10 % for longer distances. Drop letters and circulars still cost 1 %. Many old cancels continued in use, but by 1857 new ones appeared. Initially, use of blue cancel ink used since August 1851 was continued; however, Charleston soon switched to black ink exclusively. This would continue until the 1870's.



July 10, 1855; Series 1851 3¢ stamp cancelled by very late use of AN-5 in blue.



May 15, 1856-60; Continued use of AN-5 Charleston marking into black ink era. Delivery to post office, a few blocks away, provided by Charleston Hotel as a service to its patrons.

Charleston, South Carolina

012240



November 19, 1855; Series 1851 3¢ stamp cancelled by AN-17 "PAID" marking without the dividing line. A typical black bordered mourning envelope. Handstamped on reverse by "D. MIXER - CHARLESTON HOTEL" marker indicating that the letter was carried to the post office by the hotel management as a service to its patrons.

012241



November 29, 1859; A-26 cancel on mourning envelope with Series 1857 3¢ stamp.



12243

December 9, 1858; A-26 town cancel on Series 1857 3¢ stamp that paid only half the required postage on a letter weighing between $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 ounce. The additional 3¢ was collected on arrival.

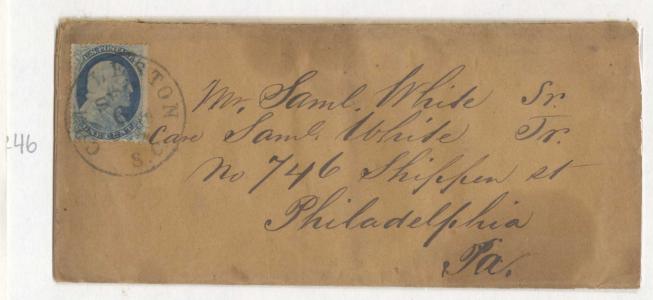


April 2, 1858; A-26 town cancel on two Series 1857 3ϕ stamps fully prepaid postage on double weight letter.

Charleston, South Carolina



April 2, 1856; Type IV, Series 1851 stamp cancelled by AN-17 marking without dividing line. Contains printed notice dated April 11, 1856.



September 6, 1859 with inverted year logo in Type A-26 town cancel. Series 1857 1¢ stamp on a wrapper originally containing a printed circular.



September 6, 1859; Type A-26 town cancel with inverted year logo. Series 1854 Nesbitt & Co. stamped envelope and Series 1857 3ϕ stamp fully prepaid postage for double weight letter.



June 22, 1855-60; Three Series 1851 3ϕ stamps fully paid postage on $1 - 1\frac{1}{2}$ ounce letter. AN-17 town cancel is variety without dividing line under date.



012249

012250

July 22, 1859; AN-18 cancel on Series 1857 3ϕ stamp. Letter sent via railroad to Mayesville in mid-state. The Wilmington & Manchester RR connected with the South Carolina RR out of Charleston at Manchester.



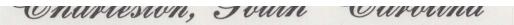
October 13, 1858; Series 1854 Nesbitt & Co. stamped envelope with embossed logo of commission merchant. Unlike the block letter "PAID", the AN-18 town cancel does not have subtypes with and without dividing line.



February 26, 1852-55; Type AN-17 town cancel without dividing line on Series $1851\ 3c$ stamp.



July 19, 1857; Early use of this new AN-18 town cancel with serif letters in the "PAID" on a Series 1851 3ϕ stamp. The cancelling device was used later on occasion by the Confederate Post Office. Since no rate was integrated into the cancel, it could legitimately be used for any prepaid letter.





November 19, 1859; Series 1854, Die 5, white, stamped envelope by Nesbitt & Co.



May 1, 1860; Series 1854, Die 5, buff stamped envelope by Nesbitt & Co.



May 14, 1852-55; Another example of the AN-17 town cancel without dividing line.



October 23, 1860; A-26 cancel and 3ϕ "Star Die" Nesbitt & Co. stamped envelope, issued in 1860 and demonitized with other pre-Civil War stamps July 11, 1861.





October 1, 1853; Series 1853, Die 1 stamped envelope by Nesbitt & Co. Blue AN-17 "PAID" without dividing line. Apparently forwarded by company messenger to another address in New York City. Forwarding by a local post or government carrier would have resulted in an additional fee and probable postal marking.





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