

Revised: March, 2025

Synopsis page(s) for:

**THE 1861 1-CENT FRANKLIN ISSUE –
USED TO PAY DOMESTIC POSTAL RATES AND FEES – 1861-1869**

Statement of purpose and scope – This exhibit will illustrate how the new 1861 1-cent stamp was used to move the mail during the American Civil War and reconstruction era when new postal rates were in effect.

Treatment:

This exhibit begins with basic First-Class letter rates across the continental United States followed by “problems” that were encountered with deliveries. Additional Services requiring additional postal fees such as Carrier rates, Supplemental Mail, Advertised and Registered Mail are exhibited in the second section. The third and fourth sections deal with Local and Third-Class usages. The fifth section shows fascinating foreign destination covers where the 1861 1-Cent Franklin stamp **paid the US domestic portion** of the postal rate.

Knowledge, Study and Research:

Research and development for this exhibit began in November of 2013. Resources of information for this exhibit were:

- > Evans, Donald L.; *the United States 1c Franklin 1861-1867*; copyright Linn's News, 1997.
(primary);
- > Beecher, Henry W. and Wawrukiewicz, Anthony S. *U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-1993*; The Traditions Press, 1994;
- > Beecher, Henry W. and Wawrukiewicz, Anthony S. *U.S. International Postal Rates, 1872-1996*; Cama Publishing Company, 1996.
- > Piskiewicz, Leonard; *Chicago Postal Markings and Postal History*; James E. Lee Publishing, 2006
- > Skinner, Hubert C. and Eno, Amos; *United States Cancellations 1845-1869; APS Handbook Series*; 1980.

Rarity and Condition:

Throughout this exhibit I have exhibited **the best possible examples available** of the various rates and usages of the stamp during this period. Some of the covers in this exhibit may show signs of wear-and-tear. Considering the fact that this stamp was issued over a century and a half ago, this in all likelihood, is to be expected. Some of these covers have been torn, tattered, stained and were possibly hauled in haversacks across battlefields of the American Civil War. Even so, I feel that I have the best quality of material obtainable for this exhibit. Also, I have shown only one example of each rate/usage, except where a noteworthy variation in rate or usage has occurred.

To start, **there four key items** in this exhibit:

First, Page 1 – The cover on the title page is **one of only two recorded examples** of covers postmarked in Hartford, Connecticut, where both 1-cent 1857 and 1861 stamps were valid for postage during this brief **9-day Hartford Exchange Period**; August 17-25, 1861.

Second, Page 5 # 1 – A local letter **free-franked by ex-President Martin Van Buren**, requiring a one-cent carrier fee.

Third, Page 12 #1 – A third-class cover containing seeds for planting. It is only one of two known covers franked with the 1861 1-cent issue having the **“SEEDS ONLY”** marking. **It is the finest surviving example of Third-class mail for this issue.**

Fourth – Page 16 #2 – Cover additionally franked with a 2-cents stamp from the next (Pictorial) issue of stamps.

SPECIAL NOTE: The first cover of this exhibit is additionally franked with one stamp from the **preceding** issue of stamps and the last cover is additionally franked with one stamp from the **succeeding** issue of stamps.

Other items of note are:

Page 3 Two covers franked with revenue stamps, **before and after regulations changed.** All three covers on this page have different amounts of postage due, **2, 4 and 6 cents.**

Page 5 #1, - The Blood's Penny Post cover went through the mail during the period of time between the end of the private local posts with government service and the issuing of the 1861 one-cent stamp, **(less than one half-year time span).**

Page 5 #2 – The cover was used during a period when a **temporary rate** for the Chicago Branch Post Offices was in effect. **Only 19 examples of this usage with this stamp have been recorded.**

Page 6 #2 – The Chicago Supplementary cover is **one of only five examples** that have been recorded with this marking with this stamp usage.

Page 7 #1 – An advertised cover with an **exceptionally clear** scarce blue Dead Letter Office marking.

Page 12 #2 - The cover shows a pre-paid circular in an unsealed envelope with the advertisement **printed inside the envelope.**

Page 14 #2 – A newspaper **sent to Scotland.**

Page 15 #2 – A newspaper **sent to Montpellier, France, banded together with a homemade wrapper.**

Presentation: The title of each major section is introduced in **large bold underlined type**, with sub-sections printed in *italic type*. Special information is printed in **smaller underlined bold type**. Key items will be highlighted with a **red frame**, and foreign information is printed *blue italic type*. (e) = expertised covers. **Certificates of authenticity are attached to the reverse side of the page.**

Final comments:

A question that is often asked is “Why is this exhibit only a single frame?”

The exhibit illustrates this stamp being used under less than usual circumstances, as pointed out in the Rarity/Condition section of this synopsis, and to deviate from the non-descript covers with common rates and usages. Finding covers with these unusual postal issues in exhibitable quality presented a great challenge. Using covers addressed to foreign nations where the one-stamp paid only the **domestic portion of the rate** also limits the scope of this exhibit considerably.

Also, exhibiting covers only illustrating **domestic** rates and usages limits the scope of this otherwise broad topic. This is important because it illustrates how domestic mail circulated during a time of war with the use of a new series of issued postage stamps. The finest quality of material available of this 1861 1-cent issue is contained in this exhibit.

THE 1861 1-CENT FRANKLIN ISSUE –

- USED TO PAY DOMESTIC POSTAL RATES AND FEES– 1861-1869

Purpose and Scope – This exhibit will illustrate how the new 1861 1-cent stamp was used to move the mail during the American Civil War and reconstruction era when new postal rates were in effect. (Sometimes this stamp paid only a portion of a combined rate. On covers addressed to foreign locations, it was used to pay the domestic portion of the rate.) This was the only 1- stamp available during this span of time.

Historical Background – By the spring of 1861, 11 southern slave-holding states had seceded from the United States and formed the Confederate States of America, leaving tens of thousands of dollars' worth of the 1857 postal issues remaining in the hands of southern postmasters. Concern was raised that these stamps could be smuggled into the northern states where they could be sold with the profits raised benefiting the Confederacy. To combat this situation, Postmaster General Montgomery Blair declared that the 1857 stamps should be “**demonetized**” (**declared invalid for postage**) in the second quarter of 1861 and the production of a new series of stamps with new designs was to begin in June of that same year. The new stamps were first released to the general public (the North) on August 17, 1861, in Hartford Connecticut.

PLAN OF THE EXHIBIT:

Pages 1-3	<u>First-Class Letter Rates</u>	Pages 12-13	<u>Third-class Mail</u>
Pages 4-8	<u>Additional Services</u>	Pages 14-16	<u>Domestic Rates on Foreign Mail</u>
Pages 9-11	<u>Local Letter Rates</u>	Page 16	<u>Phasing Out</u>

Presentation – Major section titles are printed in large bold underlined type, with the sub-sections printed in *italic type*. Key items will be highlighted with a **red frame**. Foreign postal information will be printed in *blue italics* and (e) = expertized covers.

First-Class Letter Rates

Hartford Exchange Period

3-cents per half-ounce rate under 3,000 miles

(in effect from April 7, 1855, until June 30, 1863)

The Hartford Exchange Period is defined as the 9-day span of time between August 17-25, 1861, when both the **out-going** 1857 and the **newly issued** 1861 1-cent Franklin stamps could be used as valid postage, simultaneously. The incoming 1861 issue was placed on sale August 17 in Hartford, Connecticut, while the previous 1857 issue was demonetized on August 26.



1 cent – 1857 issue.
2 cents – 1861 issues.
3 cents – total postage.

Three-cents per half-ounce (under 3,000 miles) domestic letter rate.

One of only two recorded examples of Hartford Exchange Period covers.

CDS postmarked August 22, 1861. (e).