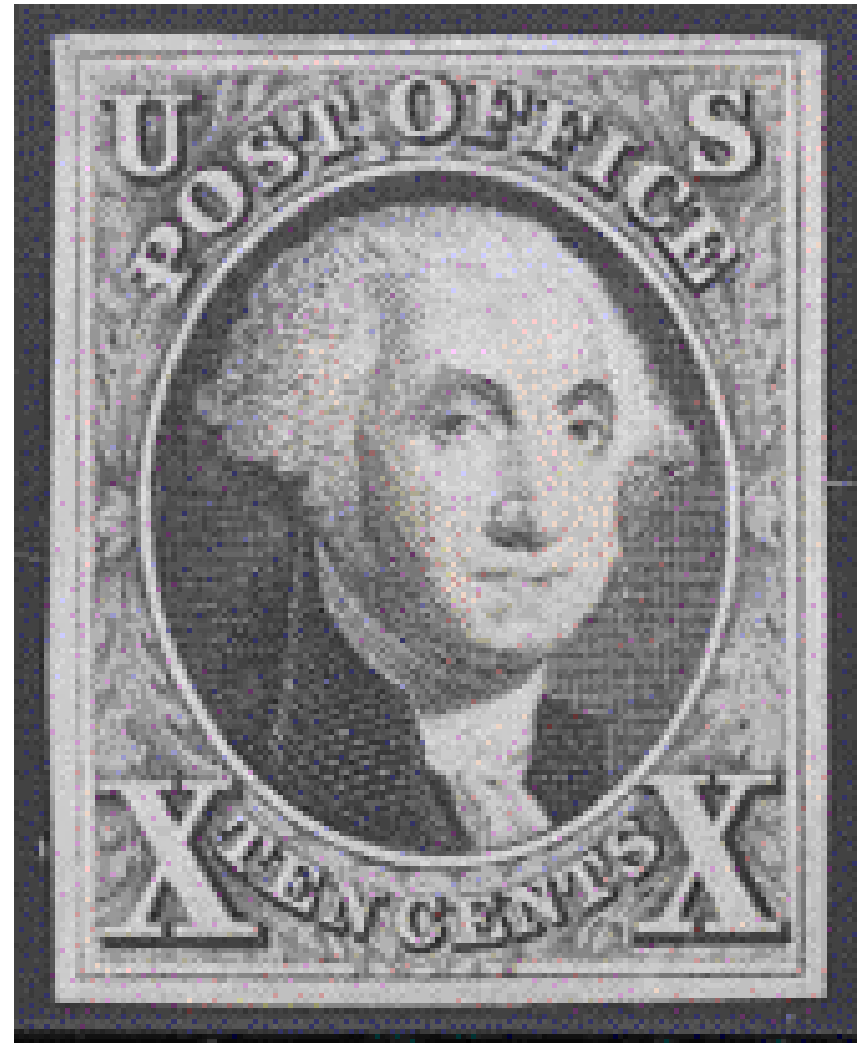


Benjamin Rush (to father, Richard) cover sold for \$1,200,000 in 2006

# Census of Scott #1 & #2 on Cover



Scott #1 and #2 were issued on July 1, 1847 in New York City, July 2<sup>nd</sup> in Boston, July 7<sup>th</sup> in Philadelphia, and July 11<sup>th</sup> in Washington DC. By July 31<sup>st</sup> only 11 cities had copies of the stamps. The stamps were only officially in use through June 30, 1851 when they were demonetized.





Earliest known cover of 10 cent Washington (Scott #2) was July 2, 1847.

Why would someone use postage stamps? Pre-payment of mail was not mandatory. The use of stamps was not required. Over 90% of surviving covers from 1847 are stampless. The convenience of posting a stamp after the post office closed is overstated. Patrons had to go to the post office to collect their mail. The use of stamps only avoided standing in line. Perhaps their novelty helped them catch on with the public.



Earliest known use of the 5 cent Franklin is New York City to Liverpool, England mailed on July 7, 1847



New Hamburg  
July 8<sup>th</sup> N. Y.

James Duane letter  
July 8 1787

Rev. Dr. Johnson  
13 July 1787

Ben. Johnson Esq.

Ithaca

N. Y.

The earliest known domestic cover was sent of July 8<sup>th</sup> from New Hamburg NY to Ithaca NY. New Hamburg, NY is about 80 miles north of New York City. About halfway to Albany, it is just south of Poughkeepsie along the Hudson River.





A block of 4 plus a single prepaid the 24 cent rate to England in Feb 1849 on this cover mailed from Philadelphia

3.564 million five cent stamps were issued.

845,000 ten cent stamps were issued

How many covers survive?



This double rate letter from NYC to Canada was only paid to the border ("to the lines"). An additional 9 pence was paid in Canada. This cover was mailed on May 31, 1849.

The first census of 10 cent Washington on covers was published in 1970 by Creighton Hart and Susan MacDonald. Their book listed 1821 covers. Hart thought he counted 90% of all existing Scott #2 on cover. In fact, he counted less than half the surviving covers



This awesome cover, mailed on the Little Miami RR on June 1 1851 to Baltimore sold for \$40,000 in Siegel's sale # 767.

Hart started his census in 1955. While he was collecting information about existing covers, he asked dealers to estimate the number of surviving covers. Guesses ranged from a low of 500 to a high of 75,000. The average estimate was 14,510. The most common guess was 10,000. Second was 5,000. Almost 1/3 of the guesses was below 5000.

Hart concluded that, based on the dealer's estimates, between 5000 and 10,000 covers exist, with 80% bearing Scott #1 and 20% bearing Scott #2.





Mailed on June 16, 1851 from Rochester NY to New York City.

The year of mailing is determined from the dateline inside this folded letter.

Envelopes were rarely used for private mail. Each sheet was charged separately.

After Susan MacDonald died and Creighton Hart's eyesight started to fail, the work on the census was taken over by Thomas J. Alexander. His monumental work, The United States 1847 Issue : A Cover Census was completed in 2000 and published in 2001 by the US Philatelic Classics Society.



This cover front sold in Siegel's Rarities of the World auction in 1966 for \$650.

Technically, the magnificent sheet corner stamp is not tied to this cover.

Alexander took 30 years to complete his census. His book lists 13,239 covers of which 9552 bear Scott #1, 3629 bear Scott #2 and an additional 58 covers have both. This total includes 319 covers declared as fakes.

Not counting the fakes and combo covers, 28% are Scott #2 and 72% are Scott #1



One of only 4 recorded covers from California.

This gem sold for \$19,000 in Siegel's 679<sup>th</sup> sale.

The cover was mailed May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1856, well after the stamps were demonetized.

Although being an excellent reference, Alexander's book has one disappointing aspect. Only about 200 covers are illustrated.

Starting in 2005, I started collecting images of Scott #1 and #2 on cover. Today I have over 3470 images, or about 25% of all the existing covers.





Bisects of the ten cent Washington were never sanctioned for use but were frequently allowed by Postmasters and carriers. The cover on the right, dated May 13, 1848 is the earliest known bisect on cover.

Scans from the internet have excellent resolution. Items come from Auction houses all over the world including Siegel, Bennett, Schuyler Rumsey, Cherrystone, Regency Superior, Feldman, and Harmers. Also, eBay is an excellent source. Overlapping images in photographs, a common practice in early catalogs, is a thing of the past.



Dating covers using auction descriptions is error prone. This cover was dated May 19<sup>th</sup> in a recent Daniel F. Kelleher sale catalog. The cancel was double struck, extending the '1' and doubling the '0'. The faint '0', when seen with a loupe, shows the complete circle. The darker '0' is the same height as the darker '1' whose base is about 1/3 the way up the fainter '1' (note the triangular serif at the base).



Dated Mar 24, 1851, this is 1 of 3 known covers with Boyd 20L7. One other is dated Sept 22, 1847 – about 1 year before this carrier was known used – and is probably a fake.

Another problem with Alexander's book is that it is, well, a book. Looking up listings is somewhat cumbersome. Arranged chronologically from the city of origin, its use requires being able to read the datestamp and guess the year.

Some covers are hard to read. Date stamps can be missing or poorly inked. Sometimes they cover the stamp. Cross referencing by destination would help but then the book would be far too big.





This cover from Wheeling Va (before West Virginia became a state) dated Sept 1, 1847 shows a red grid in the lower left corner of Scott #2. Some philatelists consider this a control mark. Others consider this the first pre-cancel.

So I spent about 1 year (more like ~80 hours) typing some of the information in Alexander's book into MS Excel. My spreadsheet contains the date, the mailing location (city and state or country), the destination (city and state or country) and a numbering system.

Covers not listed in Alexander are ID'ed using a separate count.

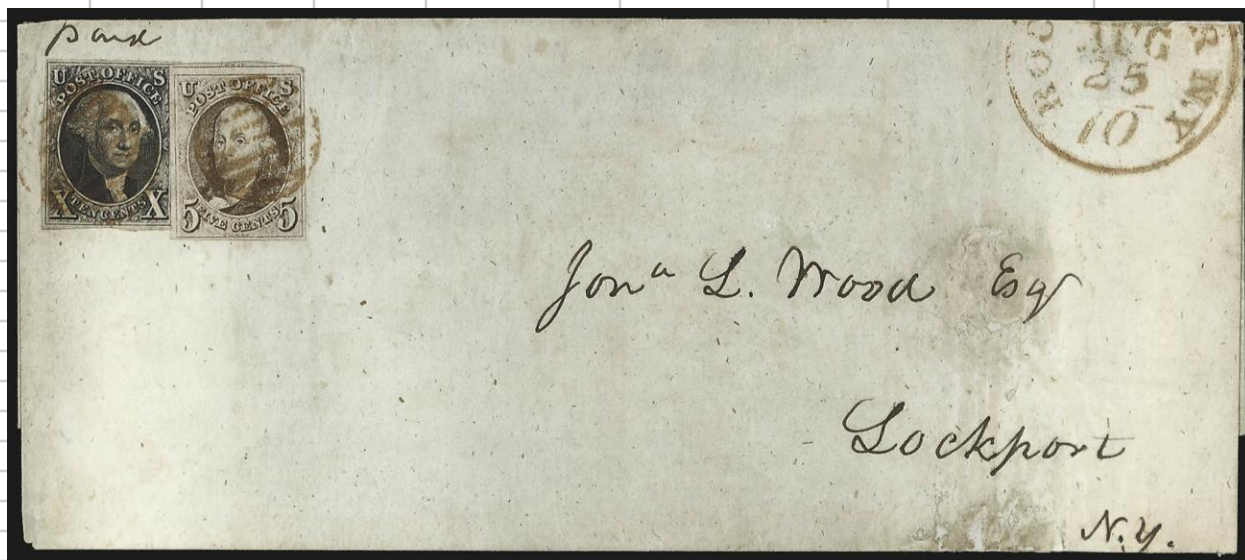


This cover, dated Oct 10, 1850 sold for \$20,000 in Siegel's 526<sup>th</sup> sale. The 4 singles paid the 40 cent rate to California.

To date I have added 723 covers to Alexander's census – 540 with Scott #1 and 183 with Scott #2.

Additionally, hundreds of corrections to Alexander's listings were found – including year dates, missing addressee names, destinations, etc. In many cases, being able to digitally enhance the cover has helped find the errors.

Alexander									
				E	F	G	H	I	J
				5c	Listed	Not Listed	Total	Estimated Total	% not listed
13959		# 1	9552	10c	1797	538	2335	12412	23.04
0.24744		# 2	3629	Total	937	182	1119	4334	16.26
0.27301	0	# 1 + # 2	58		2734	720	3454	16746	20.85
		Total	13239						
		Fakes	70						
#	Imag	Fake	Scott	Date	From Town	State	To Town	State	Addressee
8168			2	12/28/xx	Rochester	NY	NYC	NY	A. Bell & Son
8169	X		1 2	8/25/xx	Rochester	NY	Lockport	NY	Joha(than) L. Wood
A432	V		1	9/1/47	Rochester	NY	Dansville	NY	Miss Sarah A. Endreys
A433	V		1	11/1/47	Rochester	NY	Phelps	NY	S. Baldwin
A434	V		1	1/3/49	Rochester	NY	Phelps	NY	S. Baldwin
A435	V		1	6/3/50	Rochester	NY	Cleveland	Oh	T. C. Severance
A436	V		1	10/10/50	Rochester	NY	Lyons	NY	James C. Smith
A437	V		1	8/xx/xx	Rochester	NY	Schenectady	NY	David Cady Smith
A438	V		1	9/13/xx	Rochester	NY	Albany	NY	W. A. Herrick
A439	V		1	11/22/xx	Rochester	NY	Mt Morris	NY	L. J. Ames
A440	X		2	3/9/48	Rochester	NY	NYC	NY	Wice Stebbins



Sold for \$12,000 in 1999, this combo cover from Rochester to Lockport mailed Aug 25<sup>th</sup>, 18xx is number 8169 in Alexander's census. The covers following it are not listed in his book





This magnificent combo cover, dated April 4, 1851, recently sold for over \$200,000.

Excel was chosen as a database because of its filtering capabilities and my ability to write macros. I have a macro to open the Word document containing each selected cover. I don't have to search through directories.

The filters and counting functions allow me to quickly count all covers from, say, NY, or sent to Canada.



This combo cover, dated May 28, 1849, sold for \$15,500 in Siegel's 679<sup>th</sup> sale.

So let's examine the covers – where they were sent from and where they were sent to.

As stated earlier, most of the 1847 stamps were delivered to Post Offices in large cities. A whopping 54% of all surviving covers were sent from the following places: 1. NYC (21.5%), 2. Philadelphia (11%), 3. Boston (8%), 4. Baltimore (5%), 5. St. Louis (2.2%), 6. Cincinnati (1.7%), 7. Troy NY (1.6%), 8. New Haven (1.5%), 9. New Orleans (1.4%) and 10. Albany NY (1%)



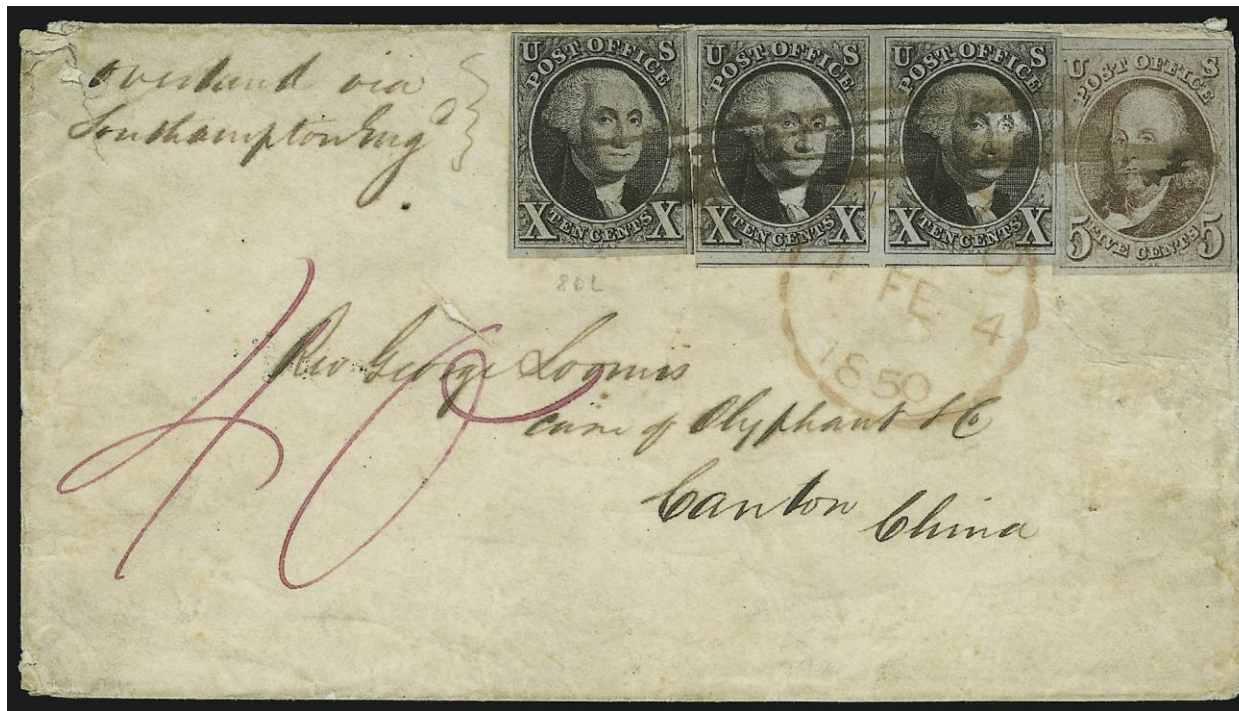
This cover from NYC to Girvan Scotland was mailed on Aug 13, 1848. It sold in Siegel's 755<sup>th</sup> sale for \$6000.

These 10 cities received over 65% of the stamps: 1. NYC (27.8%), 2. Philadelphia (12.2%), 3. Boston (10%), 4. Baltimore (4.3%), 8. St. Louis (1.7%), 6. Cincinnati (2.1%), 9. Troy (1.4%), 10. New Haven (1.2%), 7. New Orleans (1.9%) and 5. Albany NY (2.6%)

Note the cities are listed in the same order as the previous slide but numbered in order of % stamps delivered.

Albany NY and New Orleans had a relatively low survival rate. St. Louis had a relatively high survival rate.





This unique 1847 cover to China was pen cancelled when mailed and cancelled Feb 4, 1850 upon reaching Southampton, Eng. It traveled to Hong Kong and then on to China.

Cover survival rates depend on the destination and not the point of origin. Stamped mail from the major cities was dispersed across the country and the world just as stampless covers were.

Our 10 listed cities only received 31.5% of the surviving 1847 covers. NYC received 10.3% and Philadelphia received 10%. Only 16 covers (0.1%) survive addressed to St. Louis and 33 covers (0.24%) survive to Troy NY.



The 10 cent stamp paid for mailing from Buffalo to Albany on Feb 21, 1850. The 5 cent stamp paid to forward the letter to Albion NY on Feb 25, 1850. This cover sold for \$60,000.

Southern cities, other than New Orleans, received few 1847 stamps. Covers from the southland are rare.

The destruction wrought by the Northern armies during the Civil War probably destroyed many covers. A shortage of paper, that resulted in many "turned" covers, probably destroyed many more.



No 1847 stamps were sent to California. This cover from San Francisco was mailed on Jan 1, 1851 and traveled to NY via Panama by ship. The addressee, Howland & Aspinwall were backers of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company and probably had stamps on board.

Of course, every used 1847 stamp originated on a cover so stamp collectors destroyed many more covers in their zeal to fill those spaces in their albums.

It's the scarcity of covers that make them more valuable than used stamps.

Many covers were created to take advantage of this scarcity and fake covers exist in the hundreds. Many even have fake cancellations that tie the stamp to the cover. These fakes are uncovered when the forger makes mistakes. A 10 cent cover from NYC to Logansport Indiana dated June 2, 1846 is an obvious fake





The latest known use of Scott #2. This cover was mailed on Aug 21, 1860 and sat in a dead letter office for almost a year before being delivered on June 11, 1861. (Siegel sale 544, lot 31A)

As mentioned earlier, I've added 723 covers to Alexander's census. This brings the total to 13,962 comprising 10,092 five cent covers, 3812 ten cent covers and 58 combination covers. The ten cent covers comprise 27.3% of the total, which is higher than Hart's original estimate of 20%

The total is approaching the surveyed dealer's average estimate of 14,500 which is, surprisingly, quite accurate, in retrospect.



This Aug 14, 1850 cover from Montreal to San Francisco was short 20 cents postage. The 4 ½ pence manuscript on the right represents the Canadian postage.

Where do I go from here? My 3470+ images comprise just over 800 MB on my hard drive. The images are stored in MS Word documents along with descriptions from auction lots, additional scan from sellers, etc. They would comfortably fit on a DVD. I may eventually issue a companion disk to Alexander's book.

A complete set of images cannot be made. Many covers are off the market, residing in people's collections or museums. At some point, few covers will be added.



A fantastic cover from Toronto Canada to London England mailed May 15, 1851. Five #1 from the US and one #1 from Canada. Quite a combo cover!

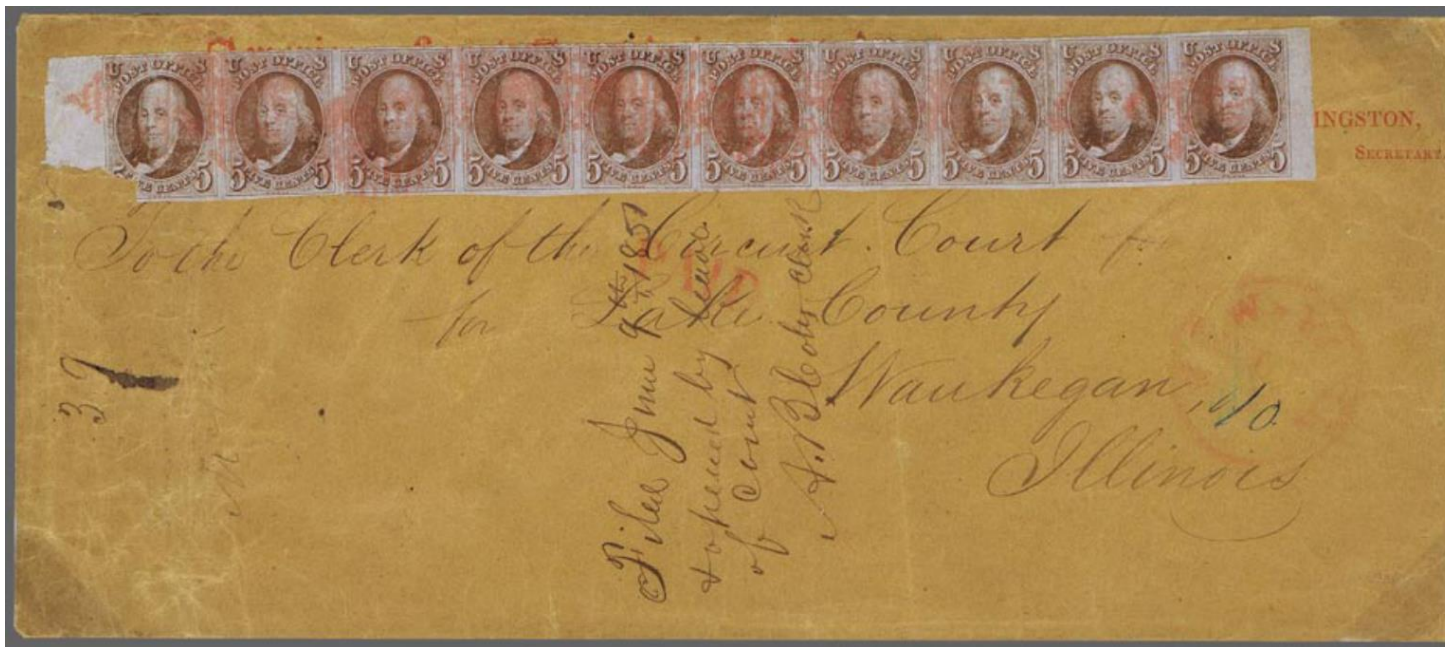
First, I will contact Thomas Alexander to see if he is interested in the many corrections and additions I found to his listings. All are based on the images I've collected so they can be verified. At some point, he may be interested in issuing a 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.





This Dec 4, 1851 cover originated in Lima Peru and was sent to Tepic, Mexico. The cover never entered the US, which is probably good because the stamps had been demonetized by the time this cover was sent.

I am also planning to write an article for the American Philatelist on this topic. With the US census underway, this topic has a nice tie in and should be of some interest to readers.



A few more beauties:

A strip of 10 (above) of Scott # 1 is the largest multiple on cover

This is the only block of 4 on cover.







Here is the other largest multiple on cover (see Rush cover on title page). This cover was mailed on Sept 24, 18xx and sold for \$115,000 in Siegel's 596<sup>th</sup> sale.

For the time being, I will keep collecting. It will be interesting to see the next census results in 2020.