

SYNOPSIS
The 5¢ Garfield Memorial Stamp of 1882
FEBRUARY 2013

Purpose and Scope:

This is a four frame traditional exhibit on the design, production and uses of the 5¢ Brown Garfield memorial stamp issued in 1882.

Treatment, Balance and Condition:

The exhibit begins with a prologue explaining the role of Garfield's wife Lucretia in the design of the stamp. Following is a frame on development and production including essays, proofs, specimen stamps and production examples including plate numbers and multiples, both mint and used. The uses section begins with examples of period cancels including a few pages of extraordinary cancels rarely found on the Garfield stamp. Next is a section on Supplementary Mail use followed by UPU use to various countries grouped in alphabetical order by continent/region (Africa & Middle East; Asia/Pacific; Caribbean; Europe, Latin America. One page is devoted to US Official and Offices Abroad followed by domestic uses. Add-on rates for regular first class service and registry service are shown, several with DPO origins or from territorial towns. The uses section ends with two fine examples of illegal use, being mailed from outside the United States; one of these being taxed for postage due, but the other being successful. The final page is an epilogue which transitions to the issuance of the 1888 Garfield of the same design but in the required UPU blue (Indigo) color. Also shown is a very late (non-philatelic use to Poland in 1910.

The text throughout is Palatino Linotype while philatelic information is provided where appropriate in Arial font 9. Since this is a traditional exhibit I have tried to avoid details of routes and rates except where appropriate to the importance of the given cover. In most cases the finest material representing the choice of philatelic element has been provided. However, in some cases, the best choices of items suffer from the period of use and may show some effects of their handling. Most material is outlined with a discrete black box; important or unusual items have **bold font for their description** and exception items are outlined in **red**. Certified items are designated by a red ©.

Challenge:

While the stamp was used primarily for the UPU rate and, therefore, might be considered common, it still commands a decent catalog value especially in mint condition and for multiples or unusual material such as plate number singles or strips, etc. The archival material is especially difficult to find yet I have amassed a respectable showing for that section including a unique item from the American Bank Note Company archives. I have endeavored to find unusual and esoteric locations both for origins and destinations in showing the uses. When more common destinations might be occasionally shown, the cover will likely have some exception feature such as overall advertising.

What you will not find:

The exhibit purposely focuses on the stamp as produced for its intended use. Therefore, the special printing on soft porous paper from 1882 is not shown. This was produced for political favor and was never intended to enter the postal stream for actual use. Similarly, late reproduction proofs, the Roosevelt and Panama-Pacific are not shown.

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Important Items:

As mentioned above important items are described with bold font and exception items are outlined in red. Below is a listing of exceptional items following by a less formal listing of some of the many important items in the exhibit.

F1/5-6 (double page). ABNC gray black essay on India paper (121 mm x 98 mm) sunk on horizontal card. "V" series number, ex- ABNC Archives. Only reported example ©.

F1/11. Mint horizontal block of eight (third largest multiple recorded)

F1/13-14 (double page). Largest know multiple use on cover consisting of horizontal block of 8, one horizontal pair, horizontal strip of 3, horizontal strip of 6, and 9 single stamps totaling 28 stamps. Guaymas Mexico to Paris, 1886. Wells Fargo paste up.

F2/6. Unrecorded Fresno City CA arrow obliterator. Also on same page, unrecorded Elberry MD "E" in Star obliterator.

F2/8. Unlisted "bee" obliterator. Also on same page unlisted postmaster flag cancel from Wilcox PA 1887.

F2/13. Use to Goreé [Island] Dekar [Senegal], 1888. Very scarce destination.

F3/6. Use to Faial, Azores, 1885. Very scarce destination.

F3/16. DPO Riverside OR to Fürstentum, Liechtenstein. Very scarce destination.

F4/9. Smithsonian Institution official cover to Bordeaux 1885. Rare to find official use.

Also on same page, US Postal Agency in Shanghai to Maine, 1888. Rare.

F4/15. Successful illegal use from England to US, 1887 ©. Rare

F4/16. Mint block of the 1888 issue Indigo stamp. ©.

In addition to these exceptional items listed above there are many other import origins or destinations. By example: Bassein, Burma; Foochow, China; Hamakua, HI; British Guiana; Guernsey; Nykarleby, Finland; Mexico to Paris quadruple rate; 1887 advertising collar to Berlin; Miskolc, Hungary; Lastra de Signa, Italy; Palma de Mallorca; Post Station Fasowka, Russia; Lilla Hestra, Sweden; La Marquesa, Colombia; very early use to Kobe Japan; Rostoff on Don, Russia; Helvetia WV (population 56 in 1887 !) to Langnau, Switzerland; and, a very late (non-philatelic) use to Cieszyn Poland, 1910.

References:

Aside from the Scott catalog listing information for Scott #205 and the Linn's U.S. Stamp Facts 19th Century book (p. 151), there is little available on this stamp. I believe the exhibit will speak for itself.