

## THE SEVEN CENT STANTON ENTIRES 1871-1875

In 1870 the United States Post Office Department ordered a seven cent envelope as a companion piece to the proposed seven cent Stanton adhesive stamp. Both were to have been used to prepay the new direct mail treaty service rate to Germany. A change in the contract for production of the envelopes, the Franco-Prussian War in Europe, and the changing postal rates due to uncertain sailing schedules resulted in the delay of the actual issuance of the seven cent entires until after October 1, 1871.

### Reay Issue



*No curl on tail of the numeral 7's at sides.*

George H. Reay of Brooklyn, New York, held the contract to produce seven cent envelopes until 1874. The designer of the seven cent Stanton envelope was Rudolph P. Laubheimer, a master die sinker from Germany. He was also responsible for designing the other denominations of envelopes produced by Reay. When the Plimpton Manufacturing Company was awarded the contract to produce envelopes on October 4, 1874, Reay would not turn over his dies; a new die was executed which remained in use until production of the seven cent entire ceased.

### Plimpton Issue



*Curl on tail of the numeral 7's at sides.*

This exhibit will show the only known proofs, specimens, unused entires and the postal history of these two issues. The seven cent envelopes did not see wide distribution. Of the 30,250 Reay envelopes printed, only 53 have been recorded used and only 30 of these were used prior to July 1, 1875, when the treaty rate for which they were intended was no longer valid. None of the 3,000 envelopes printed by Plimpton is known genuinely used in period. They may not have seen regular issuance.

### Reay Issue with NYFM cancels



The usages of these envelopes fall primarily into two classes. Covers used to Germany, the treaty usage, are mostly from towns with large immigrant populations. The other class comprises usages from stamp dealers. These usages, during the correct period, are noted in the exhibit and include usages from L.W. Durbin and N.F. Seebeck. Durbin apparently purchased a box of 500 of the envelopes to use in his normal course of business. See exhibitor's articles in *Collector's Club Philatelist*, Vol. #45, 1-3.

### Reay Issue with NYFM cancels



This exhibit contains all of the known proofs of these issues as well as nineteen of the thirty full entires known used prior July 1, 1875. Combinations with all denominations of adhesives of the 1870 regular issue to the 10c value are also present.

