

THE FIVE-CENT "BLUE" STAMPS

(EVEN THOUGH SOME OF THE EARLY UNITED STATES FIVE CENT STAMPS ARE VARIOUS SHADES OF BROWN, MOST THAT FOLLOW ARE BLUE. THUS THE NAME OF MY EXHIBIT!)

OUR FIRST STAMP WAS FIVE CENTS AND PAID THE LETTER RATE WHICH WAS IN EFFECT AT THAT TIME.

THE NEXT FIVE CENT STAMP PICTURED JEFFERSON AND IT WAS BROWN. SEVERAL VARIETIES IN DESIGN AND COLOR WERE PRINTED, IMPERF AND PERFORATED. THE LETTER RATE WAS FIVE CENTS UNTIL 1851, WHEN BY ACT OF CONGRESS, WAS CHANGED TO THREE CENTS.



THEN THERE WAS ALMOST NO NEED FOR A FIVE CENT STAMP UNTIL 1875 WHEN THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION SET THE RATE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES AT FIVE CENTS. WE ISSUED A FIVE CENT STAMP (SCOTT #179) FOR FOREIGN MAIL. IT WAS BLUE AND PICTURED ZACHARY TAYLOR. HERE IS THAT STAMP IN SEVERAL SHADES ON WHITE PAPER BY THE CONTINENTAL BANK NOTE CO.



IN 1879 THE SAME DESIGN WAS USED TO PRINT A STAMP ON SOFT POROUS PAPER BY THE AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO. (SCOTT #185). HOLD THIS STAMP TO LIGHT AND TEXTURE IS SIMILAR TO THE QUALITY OF NEWSPRINT.

