

UNITED STATES 19th Century 7 Cent to 90 Cent Stationery

High denomination 19th century United States used postal stationery is defined as paying double or more rates of postage. The quantity of material available during the last forty years has been sparse.

In the earlier issues produced by Nesbitt, the 6 cent denomination paying interesting rates is difficult to find; the high rates are rare.

The 7 cent denomination envelopes prepared by the Reay firm used in the proper period (prior to June 30, 1875) before the commencement of the General Postal Union have been exhaustively studied by the exhibitor and fewer than forty usages are recorded. The 7c envelope prepared by the Plimpton Company has never been found in proper period use.

The Plimpton Company became the supplier after 1875. The need for high value envelopes during the period was very limited because the postal service required that all parcels pay postage even when packages were carried outside the mail by express companies, primarily by Wells Fargo Express. These high denomination envelopes were in most cases attached to the parcels in some manner.

Many of the uses of these higher denominations were sent by stamp dealers to their European clients and enclosed mint stationery of the period. The denominations of 9, 12, 15, and 24 appear to be much more difficult to locate than the 30 cent and 90 cent envelopes. The exhibitor has attempted to avoid showing express company usages whenever possible. Wells Fargo in the mid-1860's printed their logo on stationery so those uses by this company without their logo are rare. No 30 cent or 90 cent envelopes with Wells Fargo imprint have been recorded.

About forty used 30 cent envelopes have been recorded used mainly to Germany. Uses to other countries have proven to be very difficult to acquire, but several are shown including China.

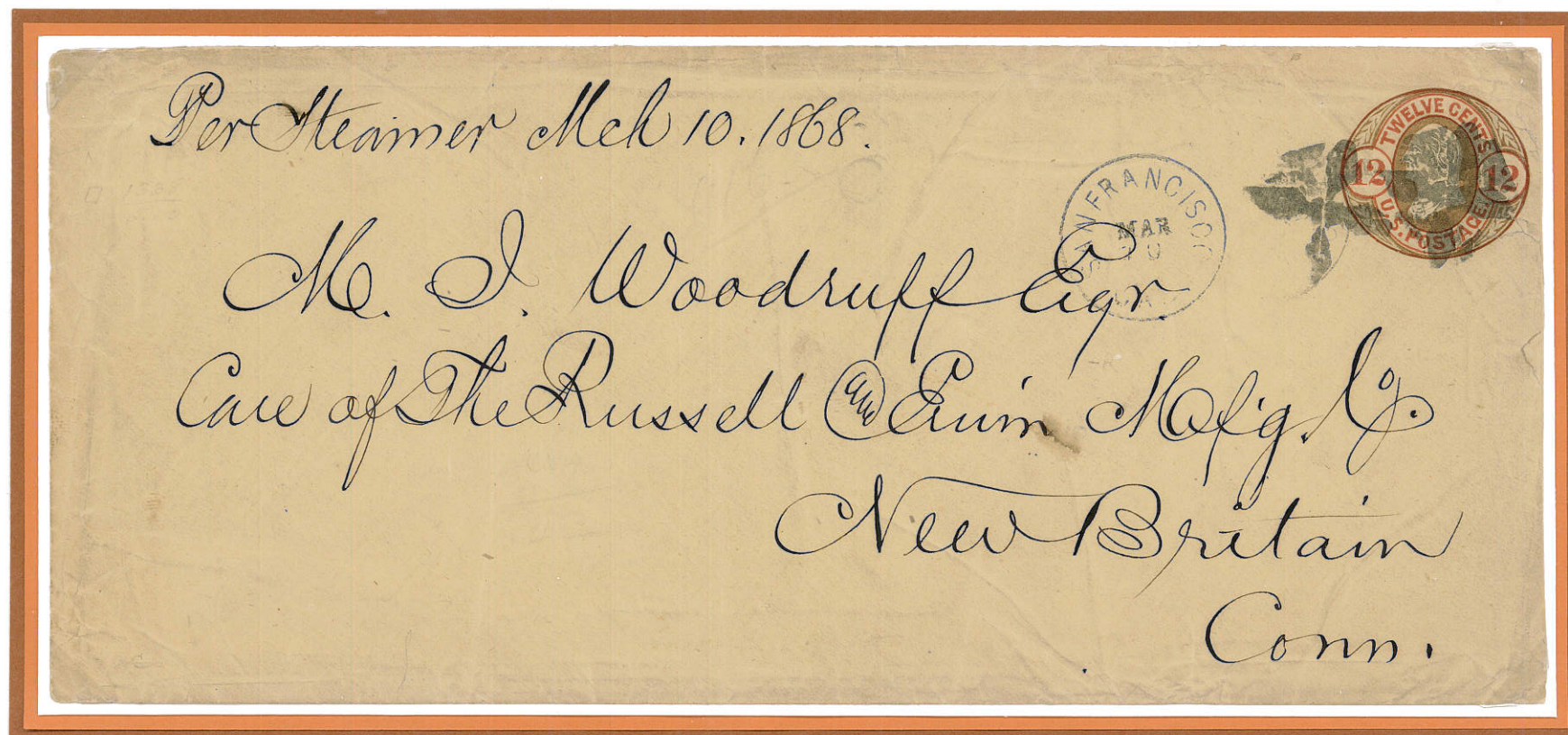
A study of postally used stationery of any denomination is one of the last uncharted areas of postal history and deserves far more study. In the United States, the collecting of postal stationery has been primarily a study of the indicia and the corner has been cut. Unfortunately, this has destroyed some important usages of the stationery exhibited here. For instance, the cut squares which appear on the 7 cent title page—4 cut squares with NY foreign mail cancels—cannot exhibit their source of mailing and location of addressee. This is also true of the rare 40 cent item below.



1861

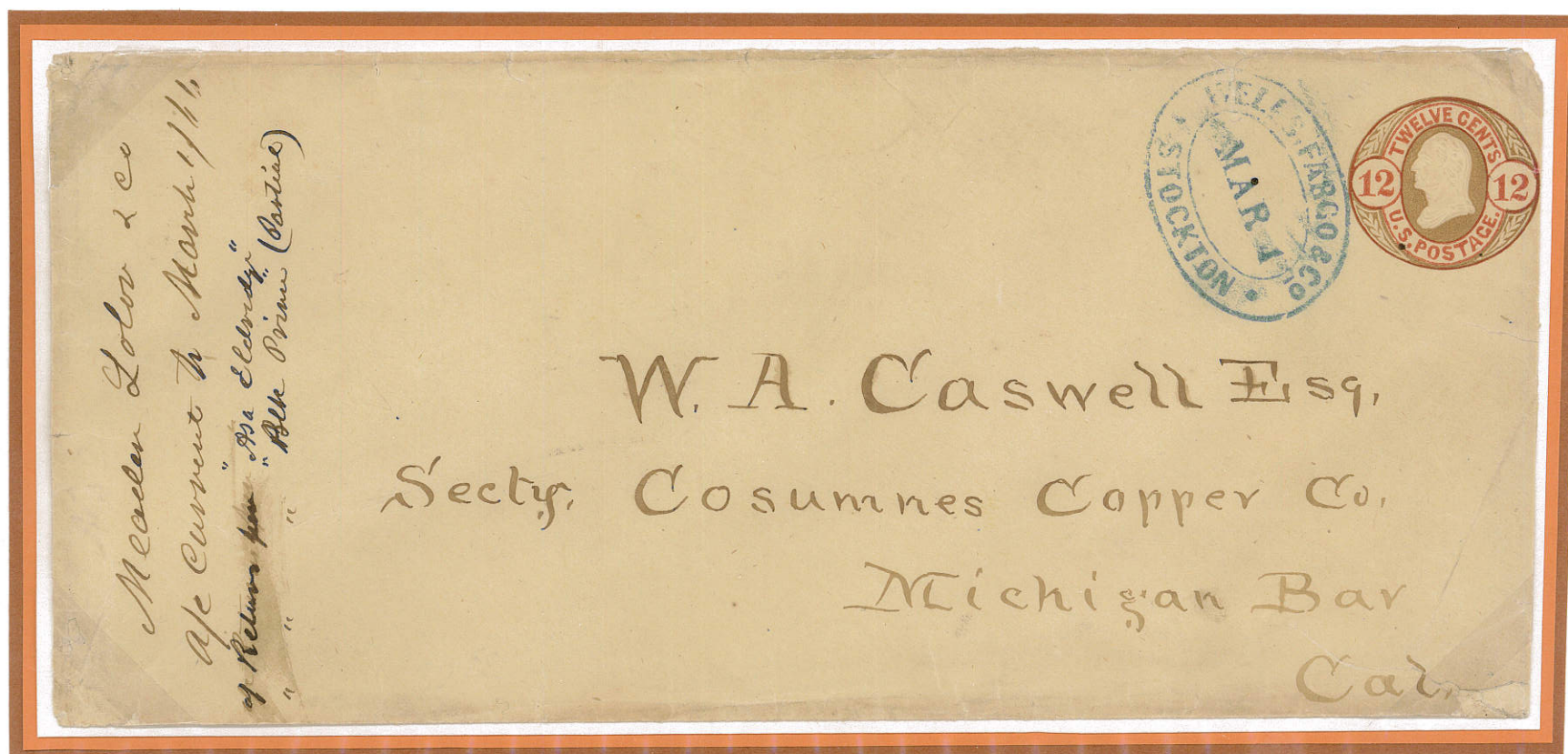
George F. Nesbitt
Watermark 1

Usage



Russel and Irwin Manufacturing Company, San Francisco, Ca. to New Britain, Ct., 9 March 1868 (backstamp).
Per Steamer from San Francisco 10 March, 1868

Only recorded example used outside Wells Fargo delivery system.



Wells Fargo and Company, Stockton, to Michigan Bar, Ca., 1 March, 1866.

1861

George F. Nesbitt

Watermark 1

Usage



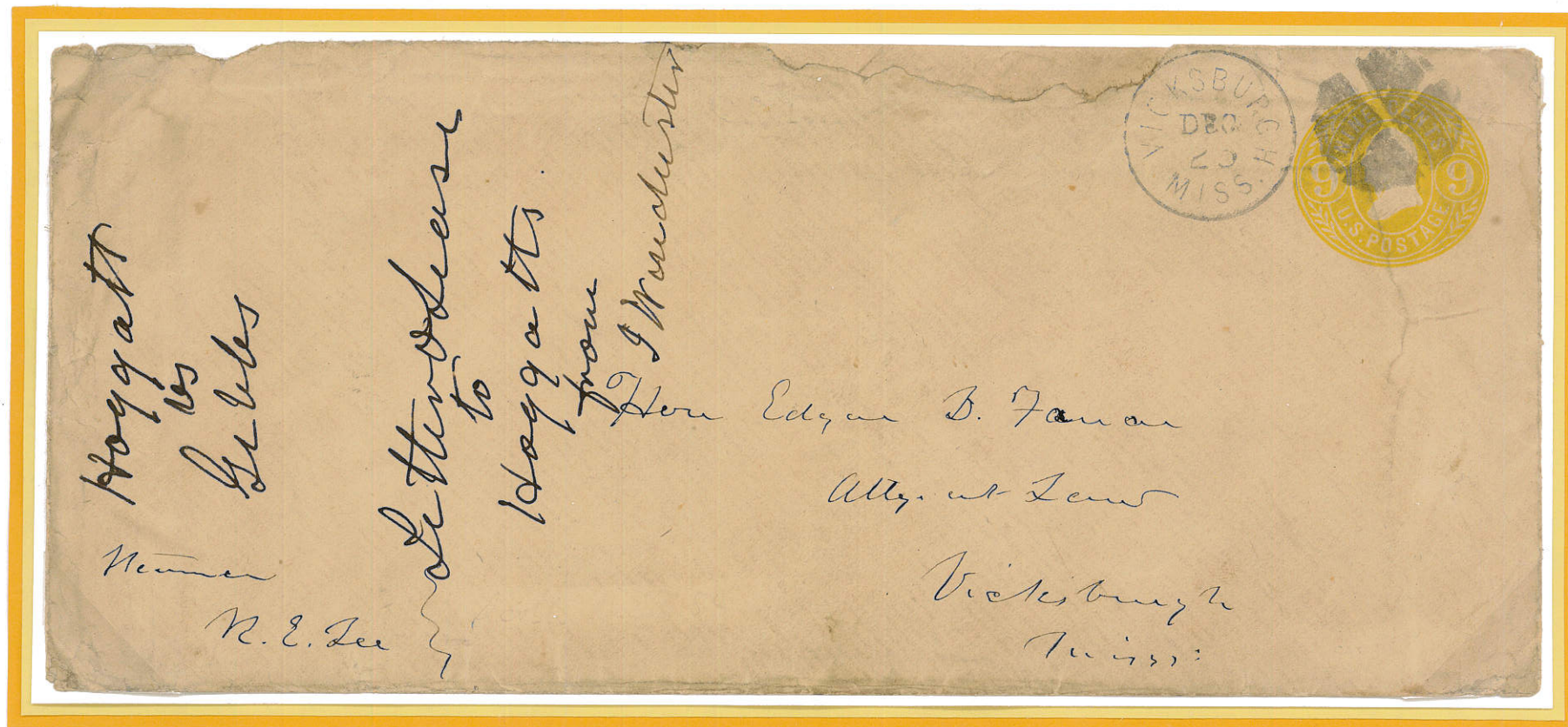
Wells Fargo and Company, San Francisco, Ca., 30 April, circa 1864.

1865

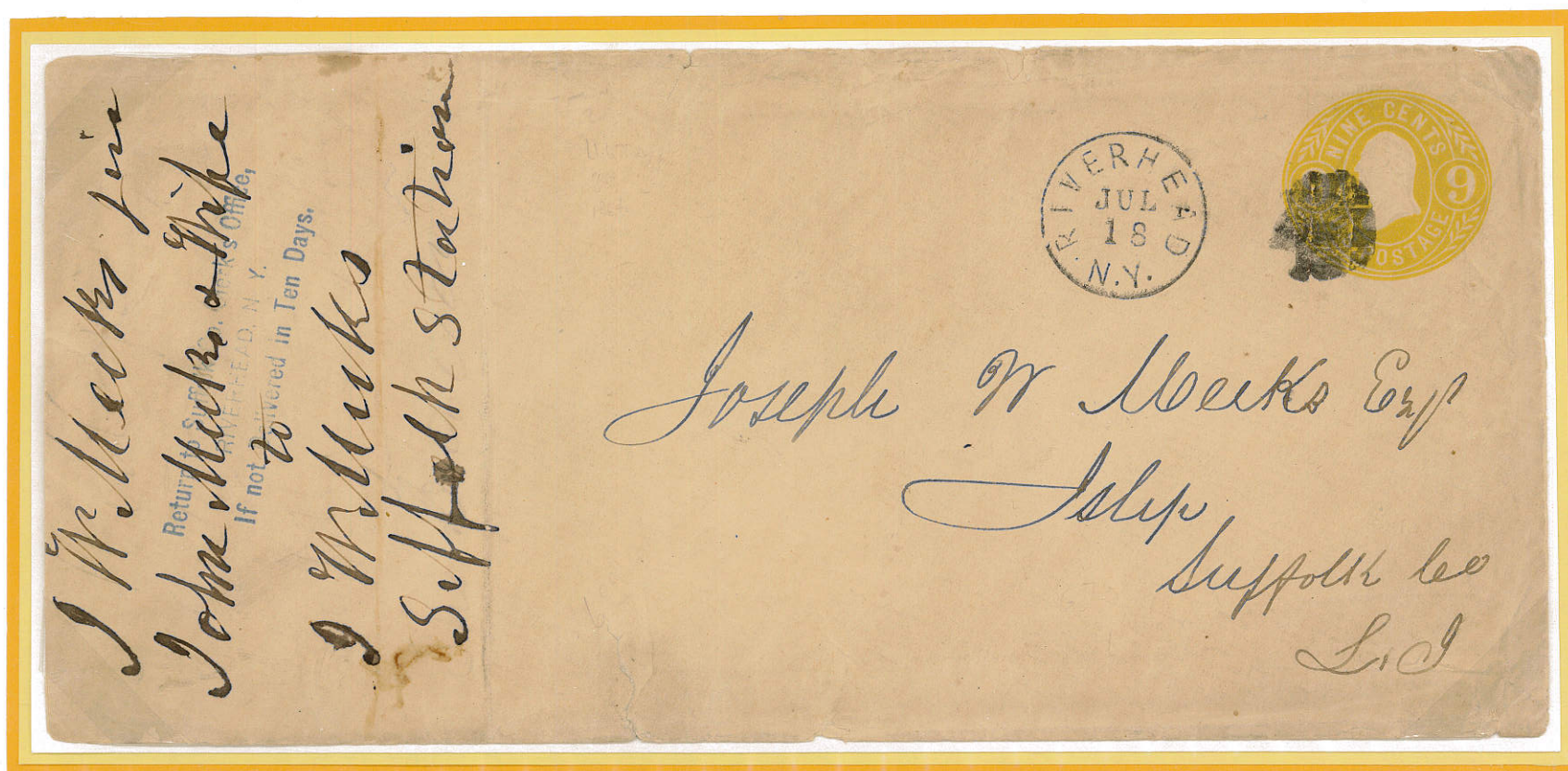
George F. Nesbitt

Watermark 1

Usage



Vicksburg, Ms. local usage, 23 December, circa 1866, first class rate 1.5 ounces (9¢).



Riverhead, to Islip, Suffolk County, Long Island, N.Y., 18 July, circa 1880, first class rate 1.5 ounces (9¢).

1865

George F. Nesbitt
Watermark 1

Usage



San Francisco to Oakland, Ca., 26 October, 1870, 3 ounce letter rate 18¢ (3¢ per 1/2 oz.).



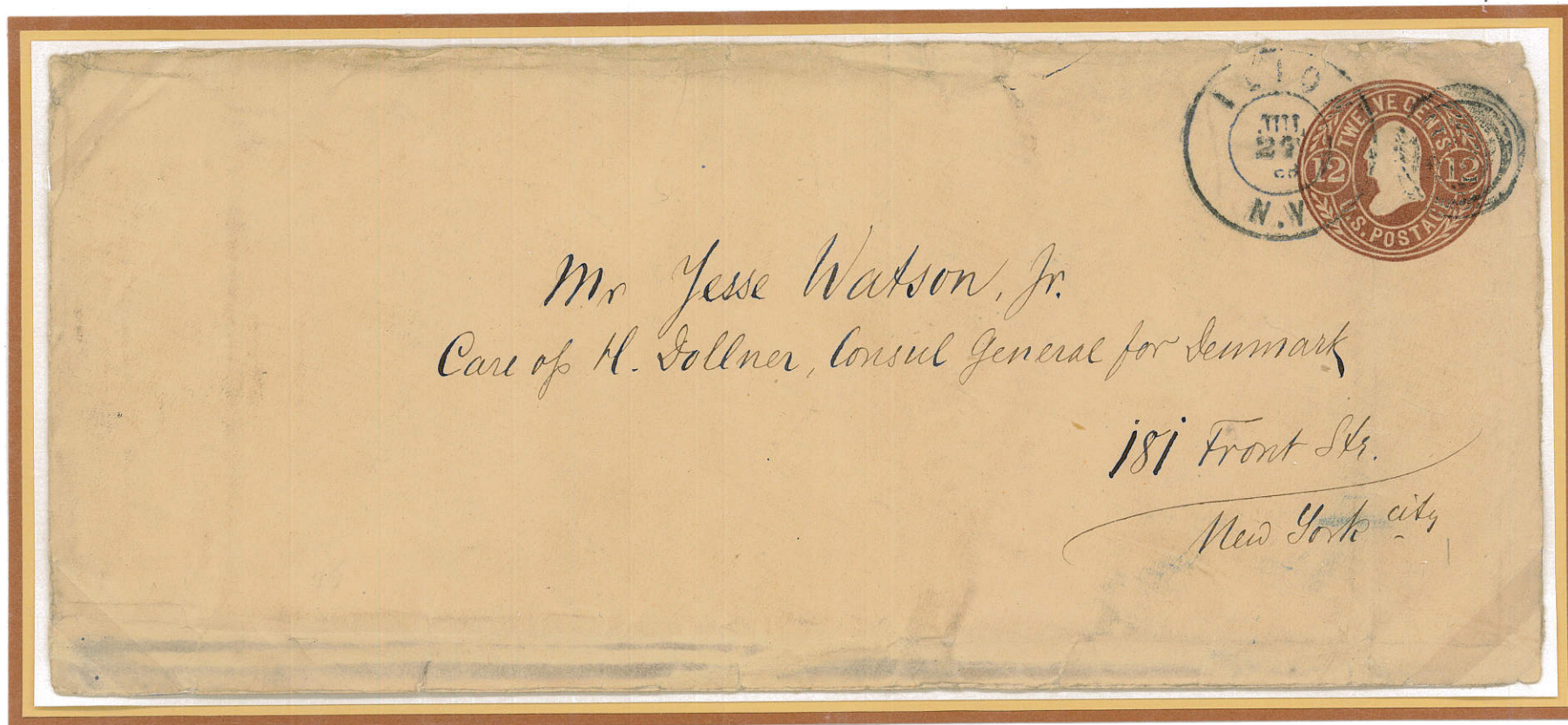
San Francisco to Oakland, Ca., 19 April, 1871, affixed to 6 ounce package 36¢ (3¢ per 1/2 oz.).

1865

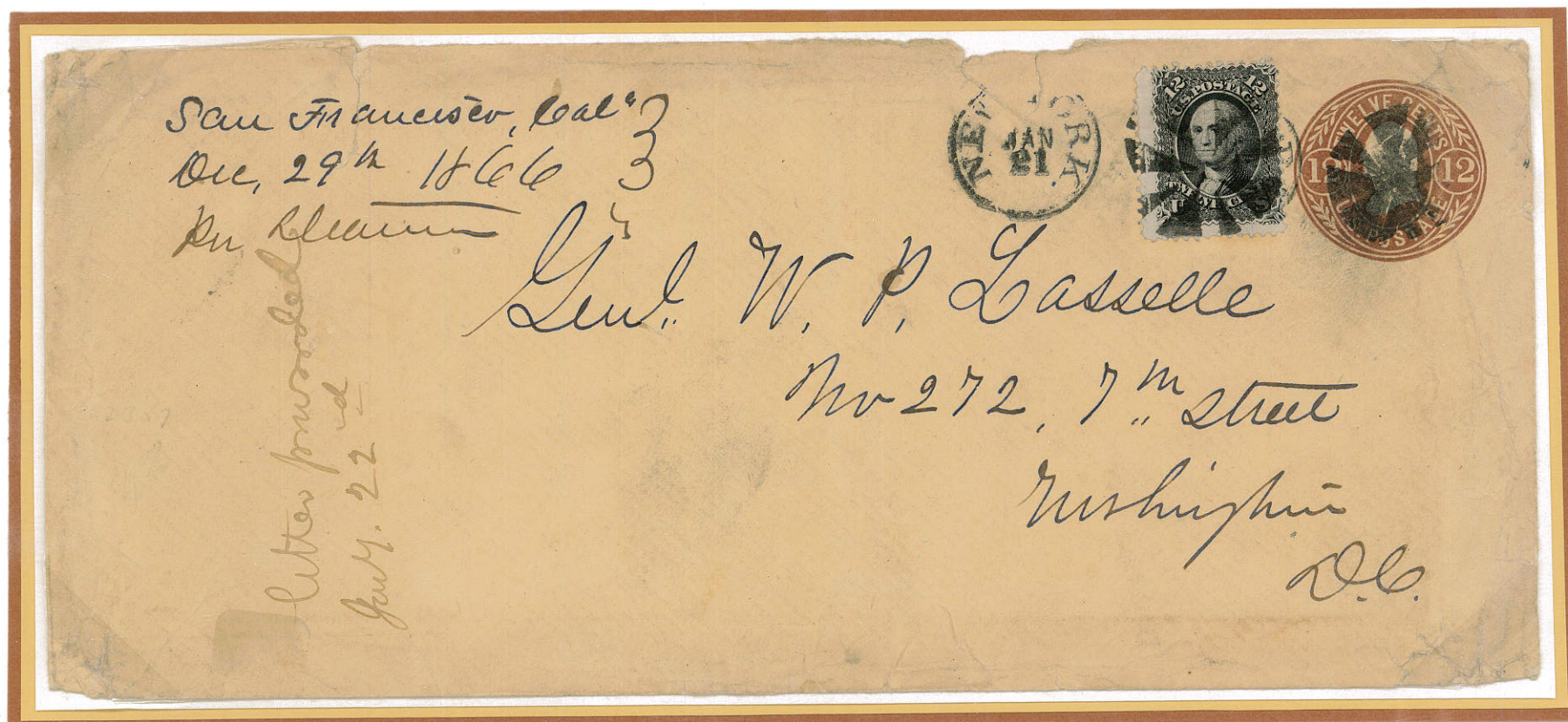
George F. Nesbitt

Watermark 1

Usage



Illom to New York, N.Y., 29 July, 1868, 4 oz. letter rate (3¢ per 1/2 oz.).

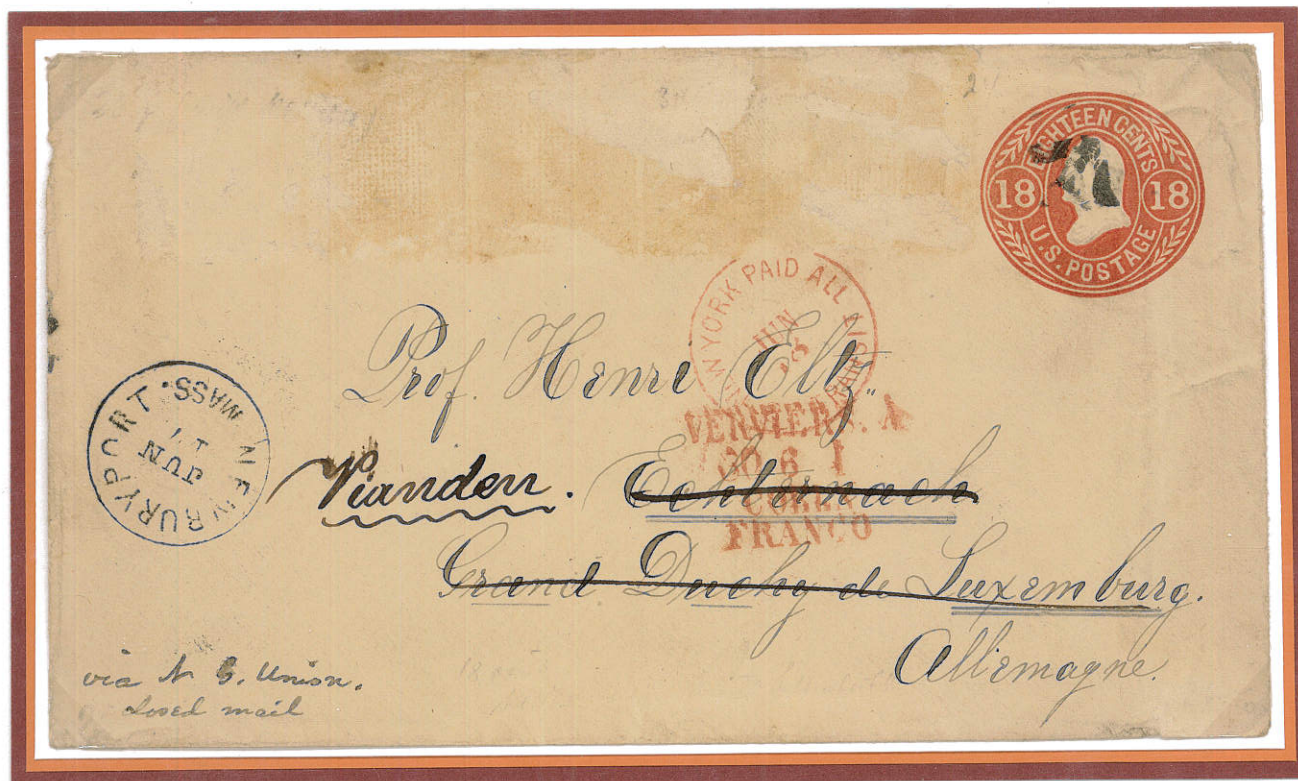


San Francisco, Ca. to Washington, D.C., 29 December, 1866, first class rate 1.5 ounces (12¢).
Via New York, N.Y., backstamped 22 January, 1867 by Carrier.
Forwarded 22 July, 1867 with additional 12¢ postage added.

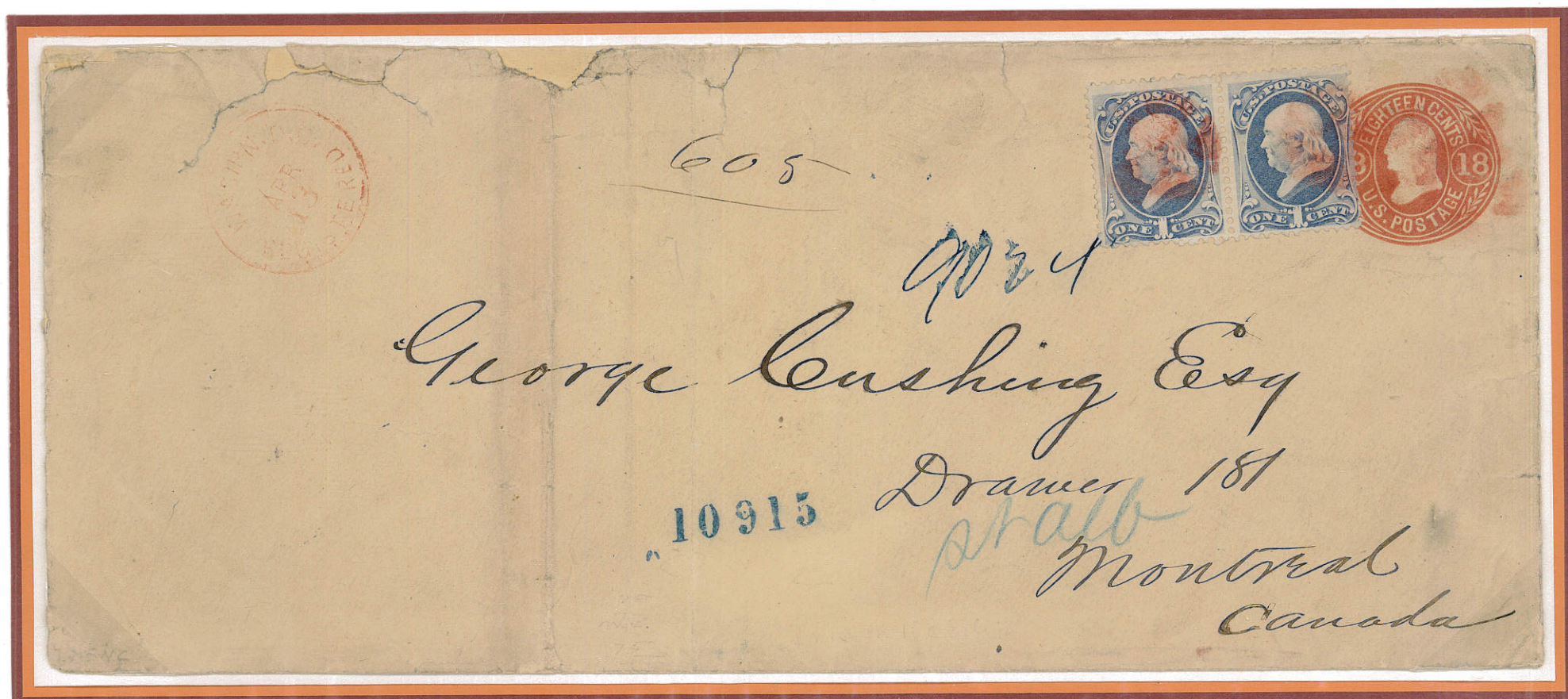
1865

George F. Nesbitt
Watermark 1

Usage



Newburyport, Ma. via New York, N.Y. to Luxembourg and forwarded to Germany, 17 June, 1866.
Via North German Union closed mail (manuscript) surface letter rate 1.5 ounces (18¢).



Washington, D.C. to Montreal, Canada, 13 April, circa 1876 with red cancel.
First class letter rate 2.5 ounces (15¢); registered (5¢) - Canadian Treaty.

1865

George F. Nesbitt

Watermark 1

Usage

PAID
Wells Fargo & Co.
OVER OUR CALIFORNIA AND COAST ROUTES

24
U.S. POSTAGE
24

THE BANK OF CALIFORNIA,
SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA.

FROM
GOLD HILL AGENCY.

Wells Fargo and Company Express, Gold Hill Agency, Virginia, NV. to San Francisco, Ca., 28 September, 1868, first class rate 4 ounces (24¢).

Via New York = Havre
TOO LATE (N.Y. REG. DIV.)

712

REGISTERED

MAY 25 1889

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.

REGISTERED

MAY 2

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.



Monsieur Lion Lacapère
45 Rue de la Harpe
Paris
France



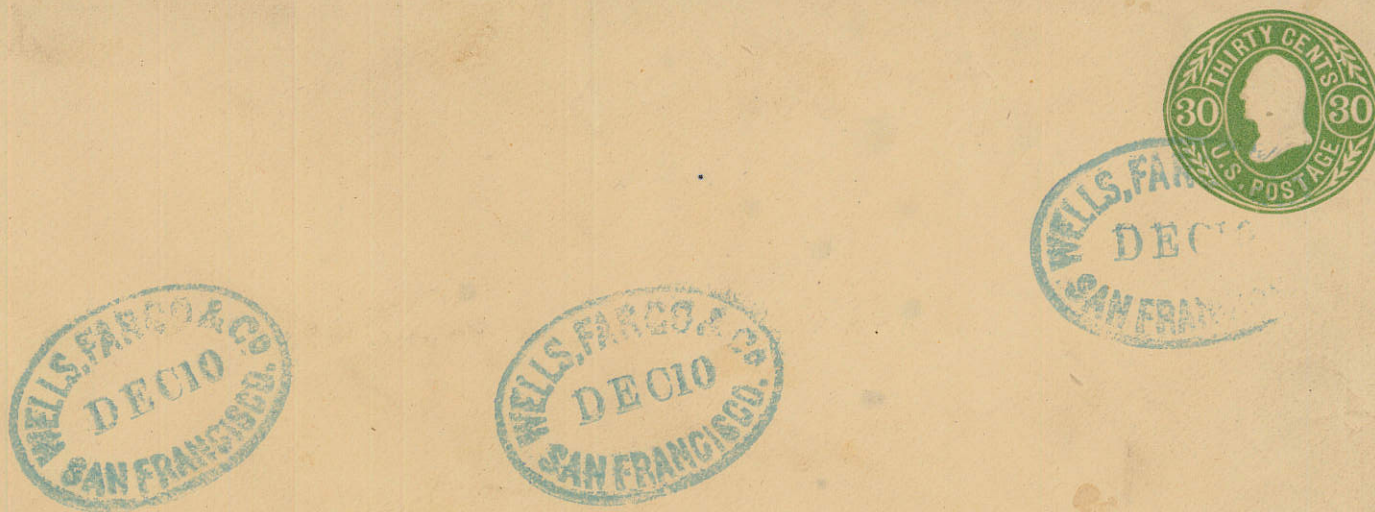
Atlantic City, N.J., to Paris, France, 25 May, 1889, registered (10¢) first class rate >45 grams (20¢).
via Havre, marked "TOO LATE (N.Y. REG. DIV.)" for ship from N.Y., backstamped New York, 26 and 27 May, 1889 (REG'Y DIV.).

1865

George F. Nesbitt

Watermark 1

Usage



San Francisco, Ca. domestic use, 10 December, 1867.
Gum adhesive on rear, envelope carried delivery documents for package.



Washington, D.C. via New York, N.Y. to Berlin, Prussia (Germany), 17 June, 1886, N.Y. PAID 24 June, 1886.
First class letter rate 90 grams (5¢ per 15 grams).

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. Laubenheimer, 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



42

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.

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.

Reay Issue with NYFM cancels



12



61



16

George H. Reay Printing
Hub Proof



Issue. 1871
No. Mason #56
Type. Hub
Die. Proof.
Var.
Paper.
Size.
Knife.
Gum.
Wmk.
Var.
Remarks: May
be unique.
Ex-
Leighton E.
Wells
Collection

Two Reported Examples

George H. Reay Printing Proofs

"Changes Suggested June 7. '71
W.H.H.T." endorsement of W. Terrell,
Third Asst. Postmaster General

Altered hair outline suggested in ink.
The suggested changes were not made.
This was likely due to time constraints.



proof on card



proof on card



proof on card



proof on paper



proof on paper

The proofs on this page were found in 1967 among the effects of a direct descendant of W.H.H. Terrell.

The Only Reported Proofs On Paper Or On Card

George H. Reay Printing

10c Registry Fee, 7c Rate To Denmark



7 December 1873 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from L.W. Durbin, **registered** closed mail to Denmark

10c Registry fee paid by 10c Continental printing, Copenhagen 21 December arrival backstamp

The Only Reported Example Showing This Rate

10c Rate To Switzerland



15 July 1872 Bangor, Maine to Switzerland, supplemental postage paid with 1c and 2c 1870 Issue

17 July New York Paid All Via England & Ostend transit, Lausanne 31 July 1872 arrival backstamp

George H. Reay Printing

8c Registry Fee

3c Domestic Rate

8c Registry Fee in effect from January 1, 1874 to June 30, 1875



8 January 1874 Jacksonville, Oregon to San Francisco, California

8c registry fee plus 3c domestic postage

supplemental postage paid with pair 2c 1870 issue

Only Reported Example Showing This Rate

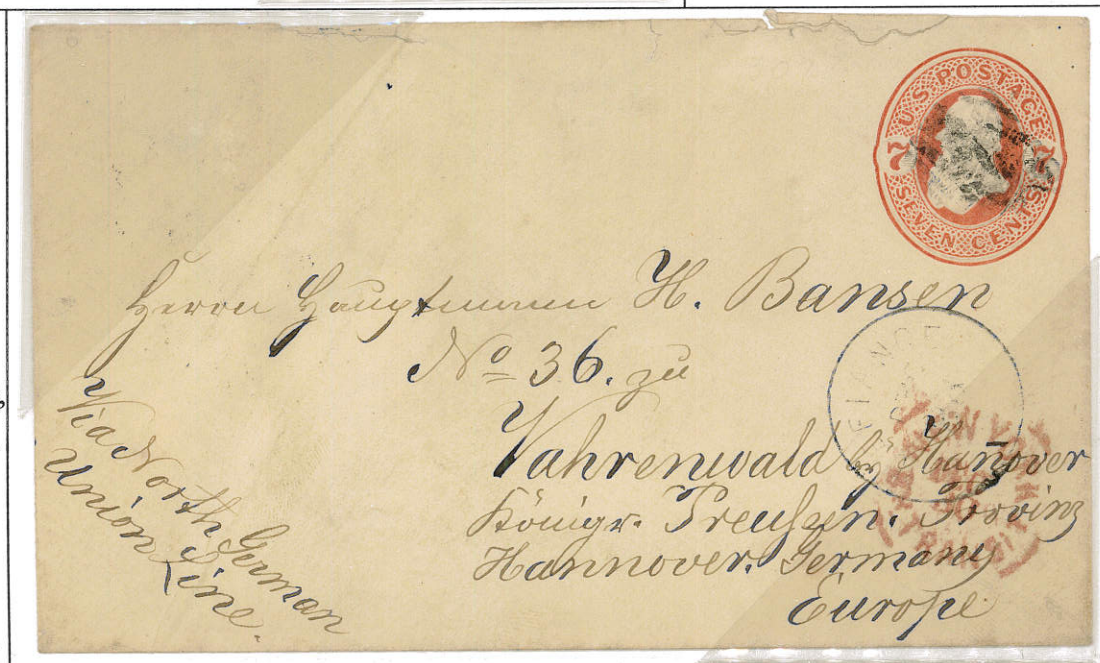
George H. Reay
Printing
7c Rate To Germany

imprinted cover
 16 June 1872 New Orleans,
 Louisiana to Germany by
 N.G.U. closed mail
 21 June New York transit
Earliest Recorded Usage



21 July 1872 New Braunfels,
 Texas to Germany by N.G.U.
 closed mail
 31 July New York transit

28 December 1874 Defiance,
 Ohio to Germany by N.G.U.
 closed mail
 30 December New York
 transit



George H. Reay Printing

8c Registry Fee

6c Rate To Germany



29 August 1874 New York, New York (from N.F. Seebeck), registered to Germany by Direct Service
supplemental postage paid with 7c 1870 Issue

Direct Service Paid All marking

Posen 12 September arrival backstamp

The Only Reported Example Of This Combination

George H. Reay Printing

8c Registry Fee

6c Rate To Great Britain



13 May 1874 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from L.W. Durbin, **registered** to England
imprinted cover, supplemental postage paid with 6c and 1c 1870 Issue
25 May 1874 London Registered transit, Birmingham 25 May 1874 arrival backstamp



2 April 1875 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from L.W. Durbin, **double rate**, **registered** to England
supplemental postage paid with 10c and 3c 1870 Issue
Birmingham 13 April 1875 arrival backstamp
very light amber paper variety

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 2

Usage



Watermark 2

Palestine, Texas. to
Alton, Illinois,
4 Jan., 1893,
Registered (10¢),
First class rate 3 oz. (6¢).

Examples of used
12¢ envelopes are
difficult to find.



New York, N.Y. to Eltville a/R (am Rhein), Germany, 1 Nov, 1878 via steamer 'Germania'.

Registered (10¢), first class rate 3 oz. (10¢).

Label indicating 'From Foreign Country via Railpost 10, Verviers-Cologne - Registered'.

Backstamped New York - Registered Mail 2 Nov. 1878; Received Eltville a/R, Germany 13 Nov. 1878.

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 5

Usage

Per Steamer Republic
Via England

J. J. Neven Du Mont

Rechnische
Zentung

Cologne
(Germany)



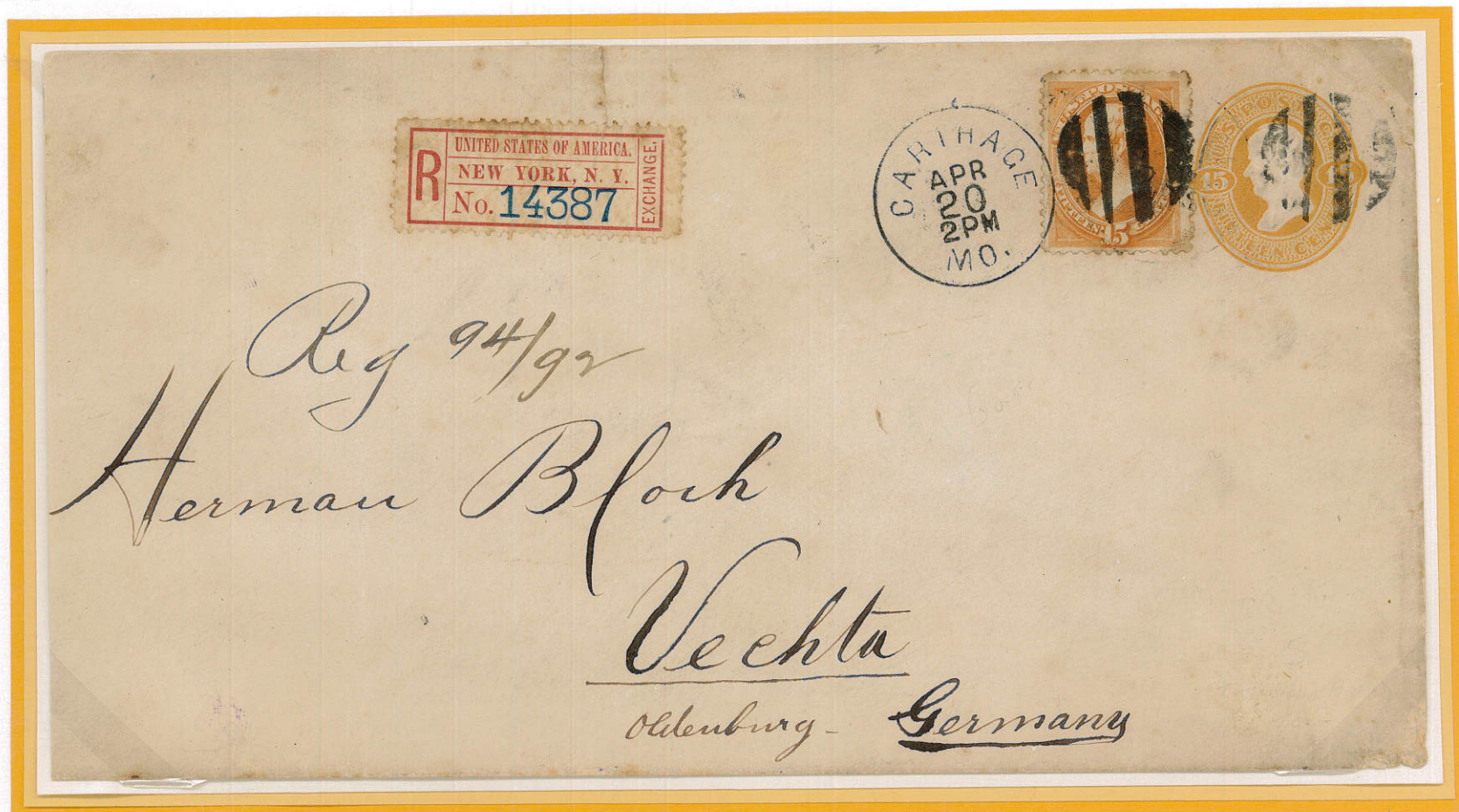
New York, N.Y. to Cologne, Germany via England (on board the steamer 'Republic') 1 July 1885.
First class letter rate 2.5 oz. (25¢).

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 5

Usage



Carthage, Mo. to Vechta, Oldenburg, Germany, 20 April, 1883, registered (10¢) first class rate >45 grams (20¢).
Backstamped New York, N.Y., 23 April, 1883 and Vechta, 6 May, 1883.



New York, N.Y., Station G to Leipzig, Germany, 5 December, 1894, registered (10¢) first class rate 1/2 oz. (5¢).
Backstamped Leipzig 13d, 17 December, 1894.

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 2

Usage



New York, N.Y. to The Hague, Holland, 20 January, 1883, registered (10¢), first class rate >60 grams (20¢).
via S.S. Germanica, backstamped Gravenhage, 31 January, 1883.



New York, N.Y. to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 21 April, 1881, registered (10¢), first class rate >45 grams (15¢).
Backstamped Rio de Janeiro, 30 May, 1881.

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 2

Usage



New York, N.Y. Branch G to Leipzig, Germany, 5 December, 1894, registered (10¢), first class rate <1/2 oz. (5¢), return receipt (free).
Backstamped Leipzig 13d, 17 December, 1894.



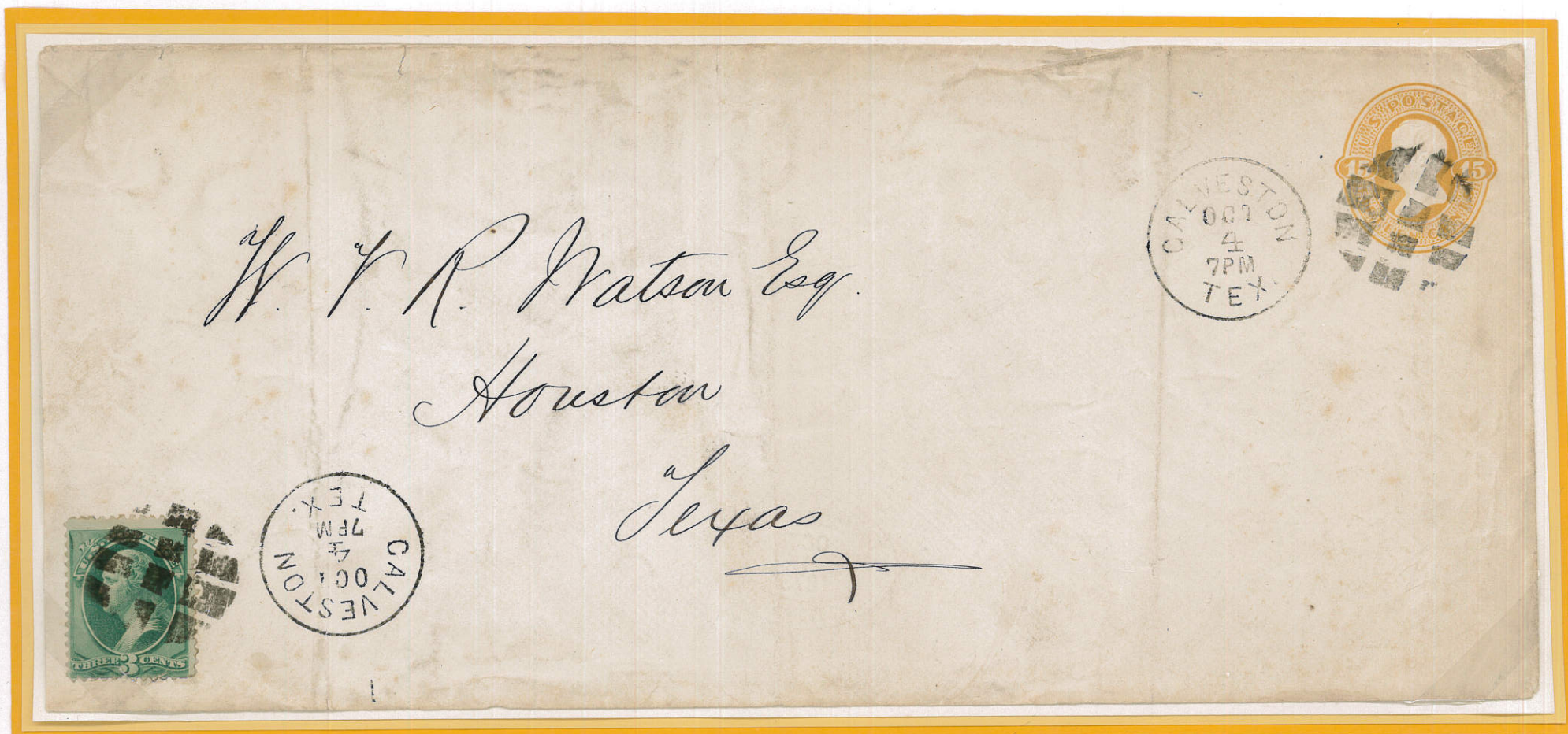
New York, N.Y. Branch G to Dresden, Germany, 3 September, 1880, registered (10¢), first class rate >30 grams (15¢).
via S.S. City of Richmond and routed over Railpost 10 Verviers-Cöln route (label).
Backstamped Dresden 9 (Altstadt), 17 September, 1880.

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 2

Usage



Galveston, to Houston, Tx., 4 October, 1879, first class rate 3 oz. (18¢).



San Francisco, Ca. Branch B to Hoboken, N.J., 2 March, 1885, registered (10¢) first class rate 2 oz. (8¢).

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 5

Usage



Watermark 5



Messrs Flint Peabody & Co.
Agents, SAFETY NITRO POWDER CO.

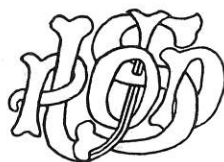
430 CALIFORNIA ST.
SAN FRANCISCO.

Wells Fargo and Company Express
Local use within San Francisco, Ca., circa 1880s

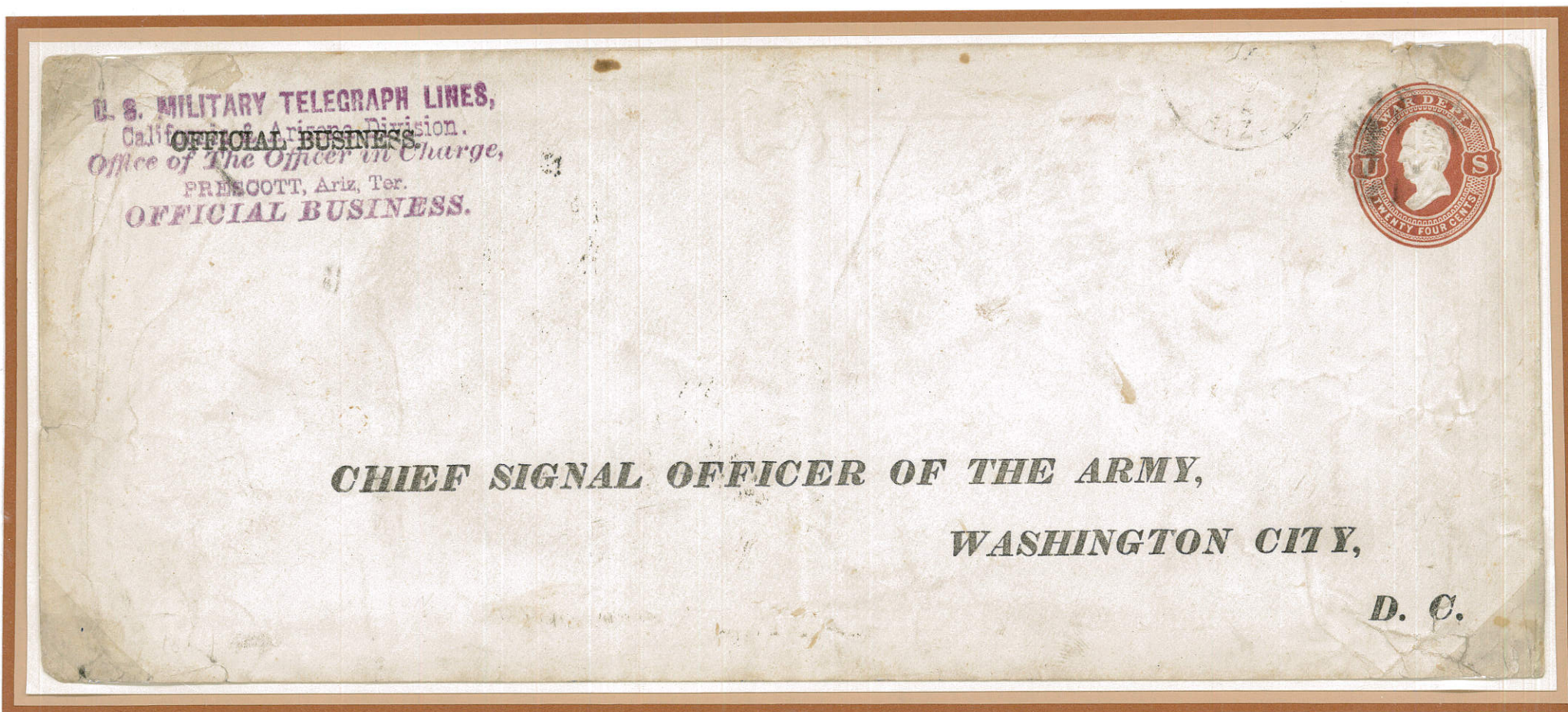
1873

George H. Reay
Watermark 2

Usage



Watermark 2



U.S. Military Telegraph Lines, California and Arizona Division
Prescott, Az Territory. to Washington City, D.C., May, 1884.
Backstamped Washington (4), D.C. Rec'd, 25 May, 1884.

Examples of used 24¢ official envelopes are difficult to find.

1870-1871

George H. Reay

Watermark 2

Usage



New York (2), N.Y. to Galveston, Tx., 15 October, 1874.



Washington, D.C. (Free) official use by U.S. State Department (24¢ postage as free mail was not recognized internationally)
10 March, 1873 via New York, N.Y. (Paid All), 13 March, 1873 to Kiel via Hamburg, Germany, 24 March, 1873.

2 Examples recorded.

United States 30¢ Stationery

Plimpton Issues 1874-1903 / Source Material and Usages

History

High value stationery was progressively introduced by the US Post Office starting in 1861 and culminating with issuance of the first 30 and 90-cent values in 1870. Modern collectors, thinking of letters, find 30-cent envelopes to be illogical. There were very few items of such weight to justify a high postal rate in a small envelope, particularly after lowering of foreign postal rates coinciding with the General Postal Union (GPU) on July 1, 1875. Given the practical culture of the US Post Office in the 1800s, suspicions of a legitimate purpose only come from a lack of knowledge of postal services of that period.

High value envelopes were not intended for simple letters as they would never reach that tariff level based on the limited size of the envelopes. Rather, the 30-cent envelope was used for letters with added special services and as "parcel" envelopes which traveled with parcels. Like parcel cards and forms commonly used in Europe, envelopes allowed for an easier process of sorting parcels in the distribution systems of the day. The envelope was preferred in the US postal system of that period as it could also carry documents accompanying a parcel.

Study

Before the creation of a parcel post service with lower tariffs, parcels were sent at letter rates, both domestically and overseas. In such cases, it was easy for a parcel to reach the 30-cent tariff: 3 ounces for foreign mail between 1875-1907 (at 5¢ per half-ounce); 5 ounces for domestic mail from 1861-1883 (at 3¢ per half-ounce) and 15 ounces for domestic mail from October 1, 1883 into the early 20th century (at 2¢ per ounce).

As private parcel services opened for business (the Post Office monopoly only applied to letter mail), Post Office sorting systems changed and postage rates fell, eliminating the need for higher value envelopes. This resulted in the last printings of high value envelopes in 1894 with the latest known usage in approximately 1908.

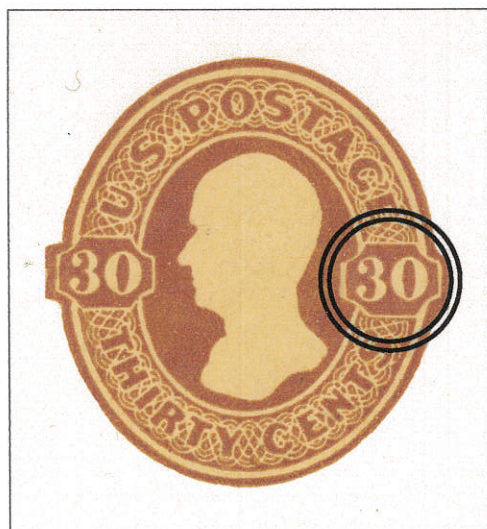
These envelopes, when used for parcels, typically contain two or more sets of numbers on their face: a registration number and a parcel number. The parcel number was an easy identifier for a "bin room" function as the parcels were moved in transit and ultimately called-for by the addressee at the post office of destination.

The surviving 30-cent covers, were sent primarily to Europe: Germany, France and Sweden; none are known to Africa or South America. Virtually all used examples are legal and extra-large sizes. 'Printed to private order' envelopes were produced in 1888 for a so-called stamp dealer 'consortium'. None were postally used and they are omitted from this exhibit.



New York, N.Y. Branch Post Office 'Station F' to Aix la Chapelle, (Rheinish) Prussia
Posted on 5 November, 1890, Processed through N.Y. Registry Division 5 and 6 November, 1890
Received 15 November, 1890 in Aachen 'Station 1 - Ankunft', Prussia

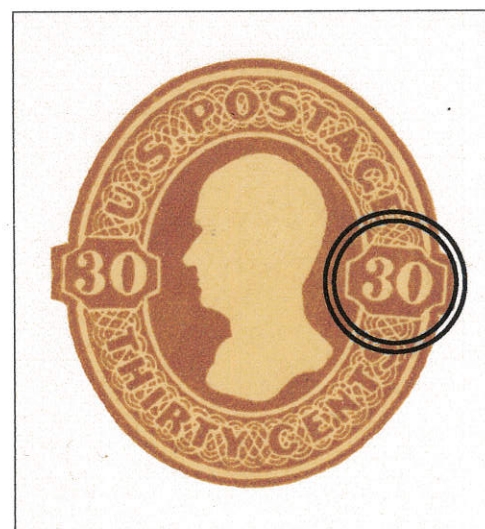
Type Identification



Reay printing



Value tablet angle differences



Plimpton printing



Watermark 2



Watermark 6



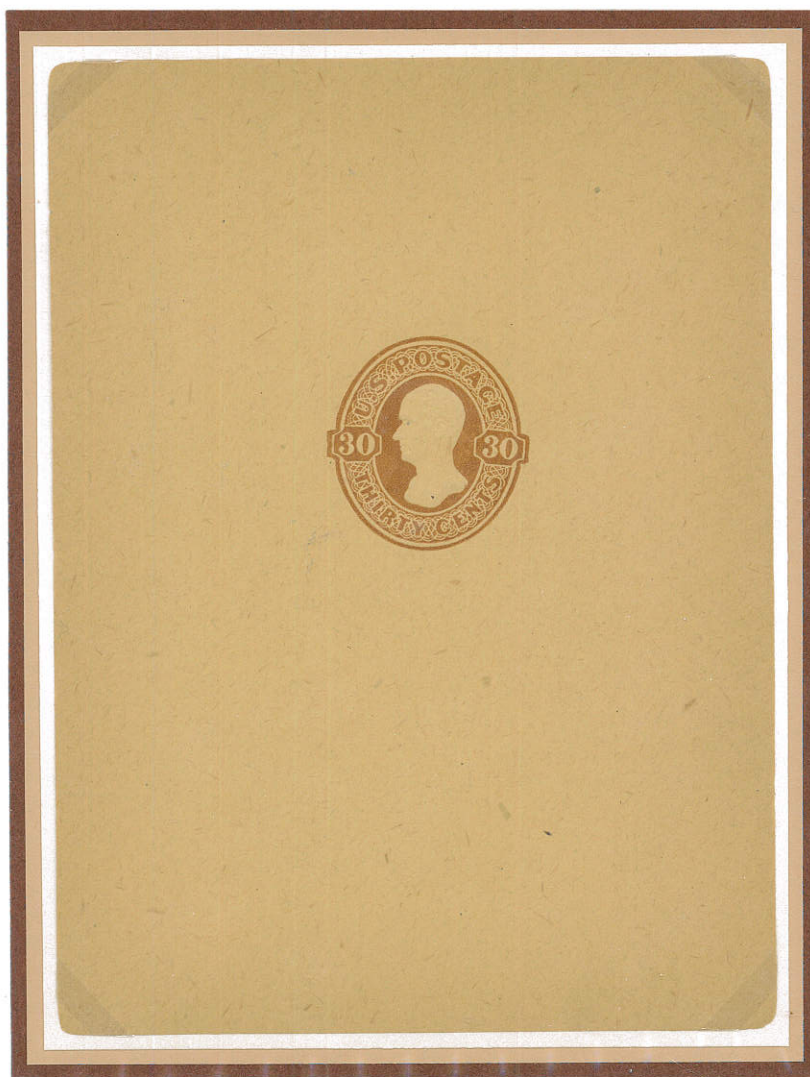
Watermark 7

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 7

Bidder's Paper Sample

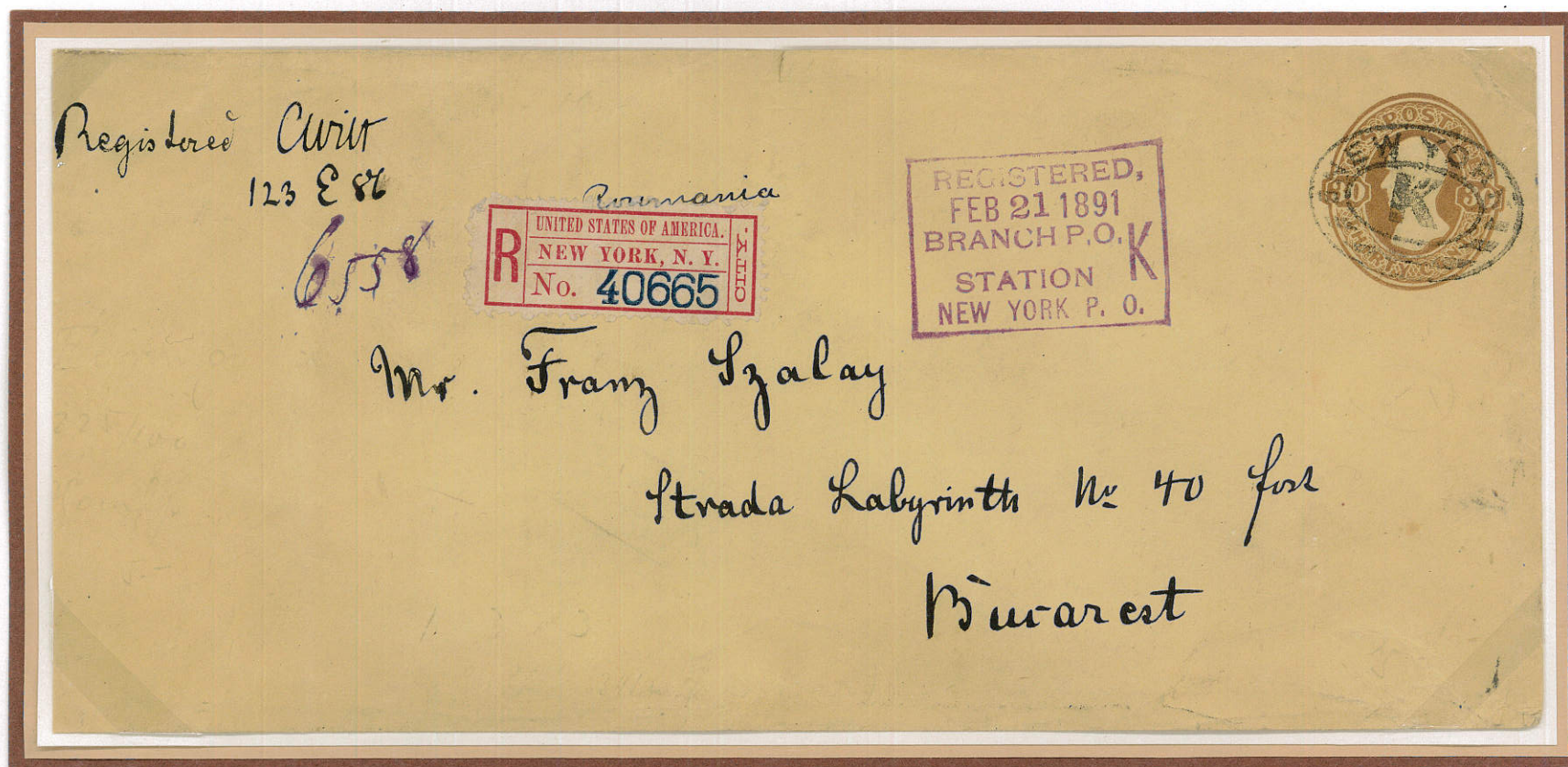


1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 7

Usage



New York, N.Y., Station K to Bucarest, Romania, 21 February, 1891, registered (10¢).
Backstamped Bucarest 8 March, 1891.



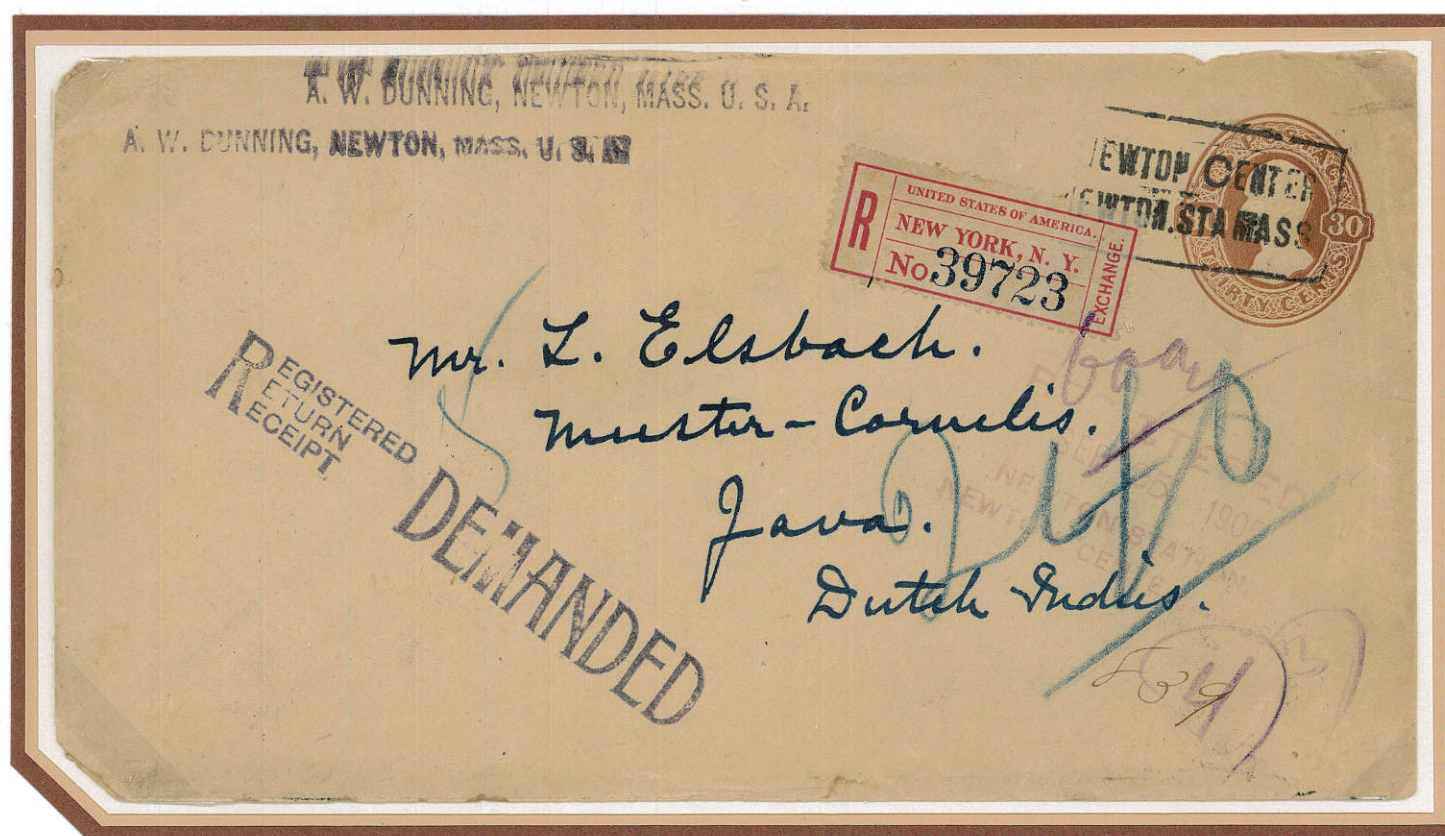
New York, N.Y., Station G to La Hague, Holland, 18 April, 1890, registered (10¢) with return receipt requested (5¢).
Backstamped Mannheim, 8 July, 1890.

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 7

Usage



Newton, Ma., Newton Station to Muster-Cornelis, Java, Dutch Indies, 25 September, 1905.

Registered (10¢) with return receipt demanded (5¢).

Foreign registry through New York, N.Y. 26 September, 1905.

Backstamped London, England, 2 October 1905 and

Muster-Cornelis, Java, 30 October, 1905.

Examples of stationery used to the Dutch Indies are exceptionally difficult to find.



Scan of rear

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 7

Usage



New York, N.Y. to Mannheim, Germany, 27 June, 1890.
Backstamped Mannheim, Germany 8 July, 1890.
Examples of paper color and quality.

1874-1903

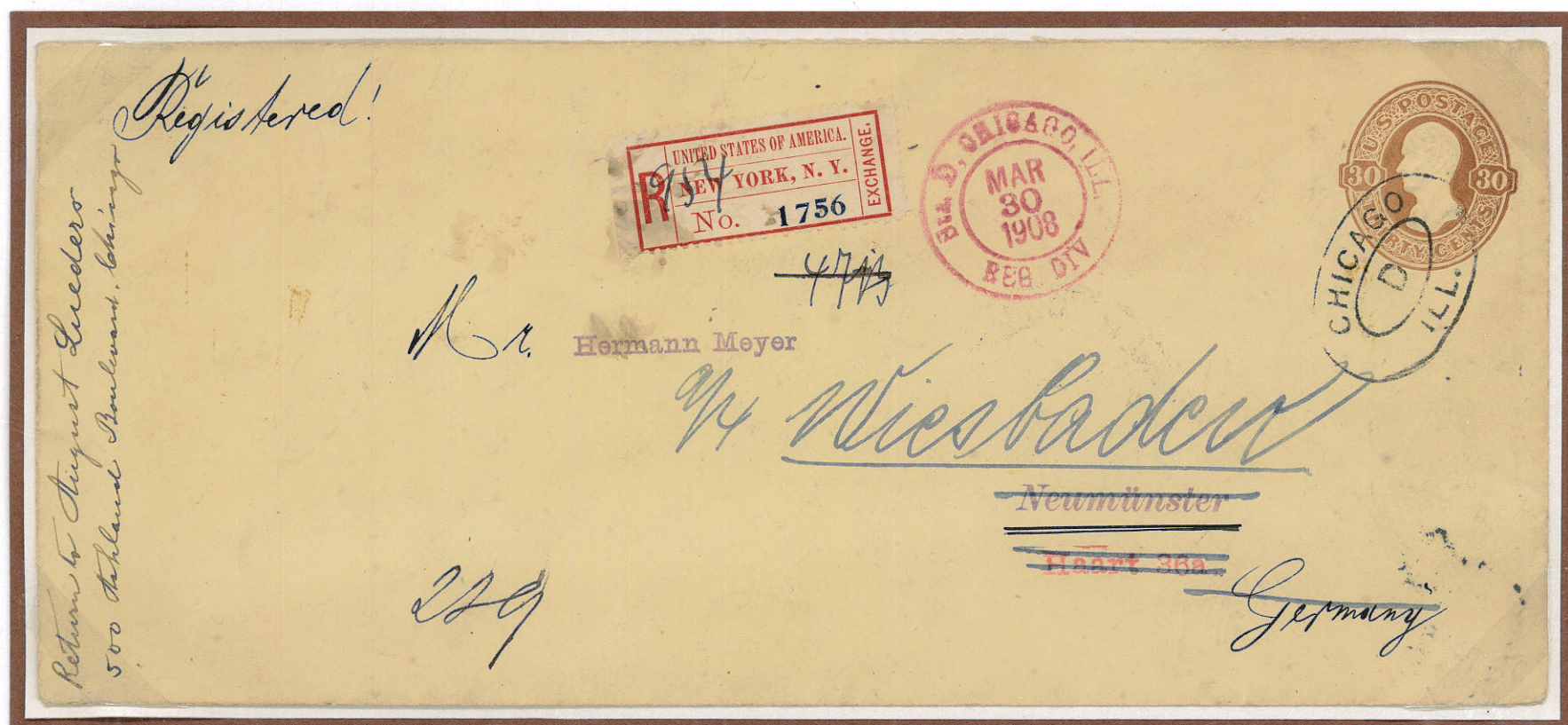
Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 7

Usage



Saint Louis, Mo. to Hannover, Germany, 26 July, 1890, registered (10¢).
Forwarded and backstamped Barsinghausen, 9 August, 1890.



Chicago, Ill., Station D to Neumünster, Germany, 30 March, 1908, registered (10¢).
Forwarded and backstamped Wiesbaden, 10 April, 1908.

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 7

Usage



New York, N.Y. (Branch G), to Leipzig, Germany, 17 June, 1889.
Registered (10¢) with return receipt demanded (5¢).
Foreign registry through New York, N.Y., 18 June, 1889.
Backstamped London, England, transit 2 July 1889

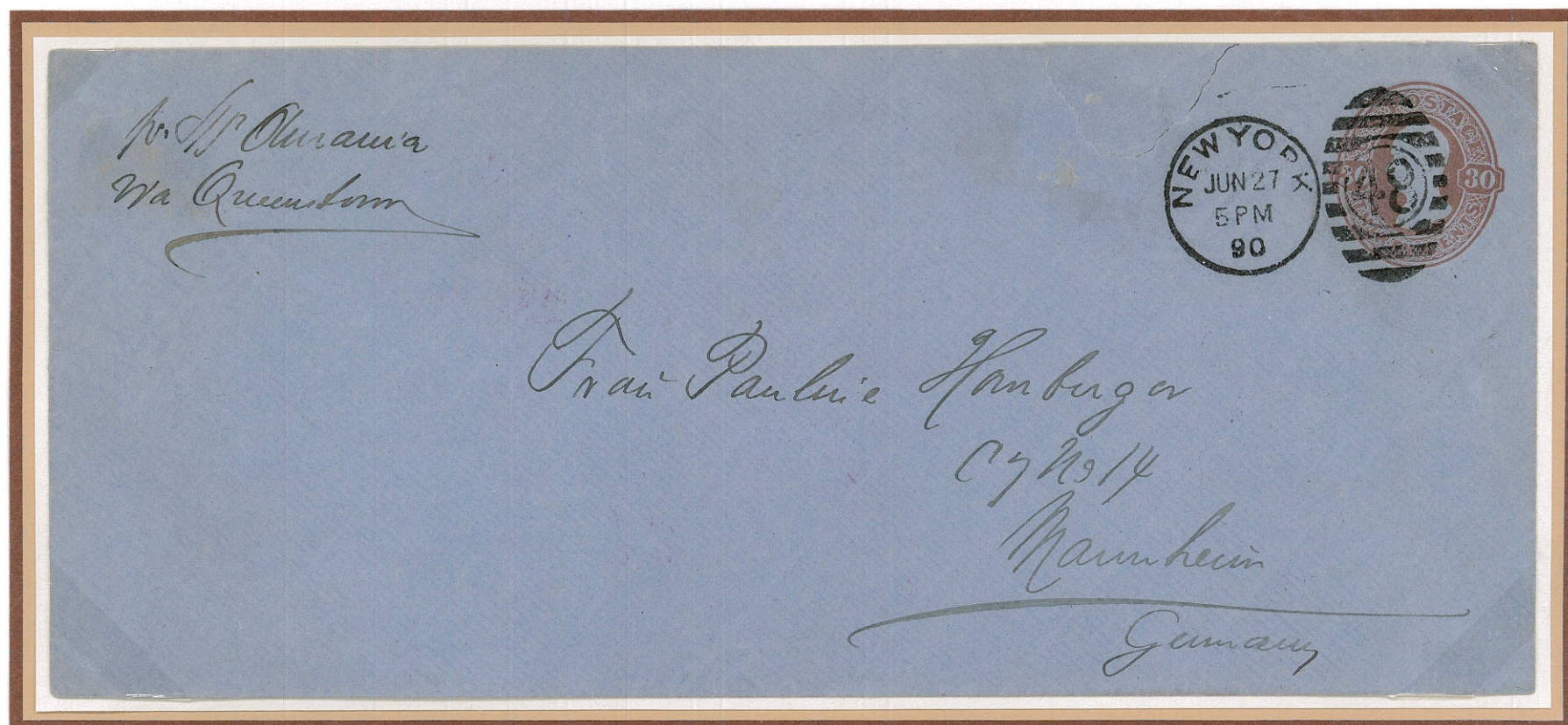
Highest franking (70¢ total) reported on 30¢ stationery.

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 7

Usage



New York, N.Y. to Mannheim, Germany, 27 June, 1890.
Backstamped Mannheim, 8 July, 1890.



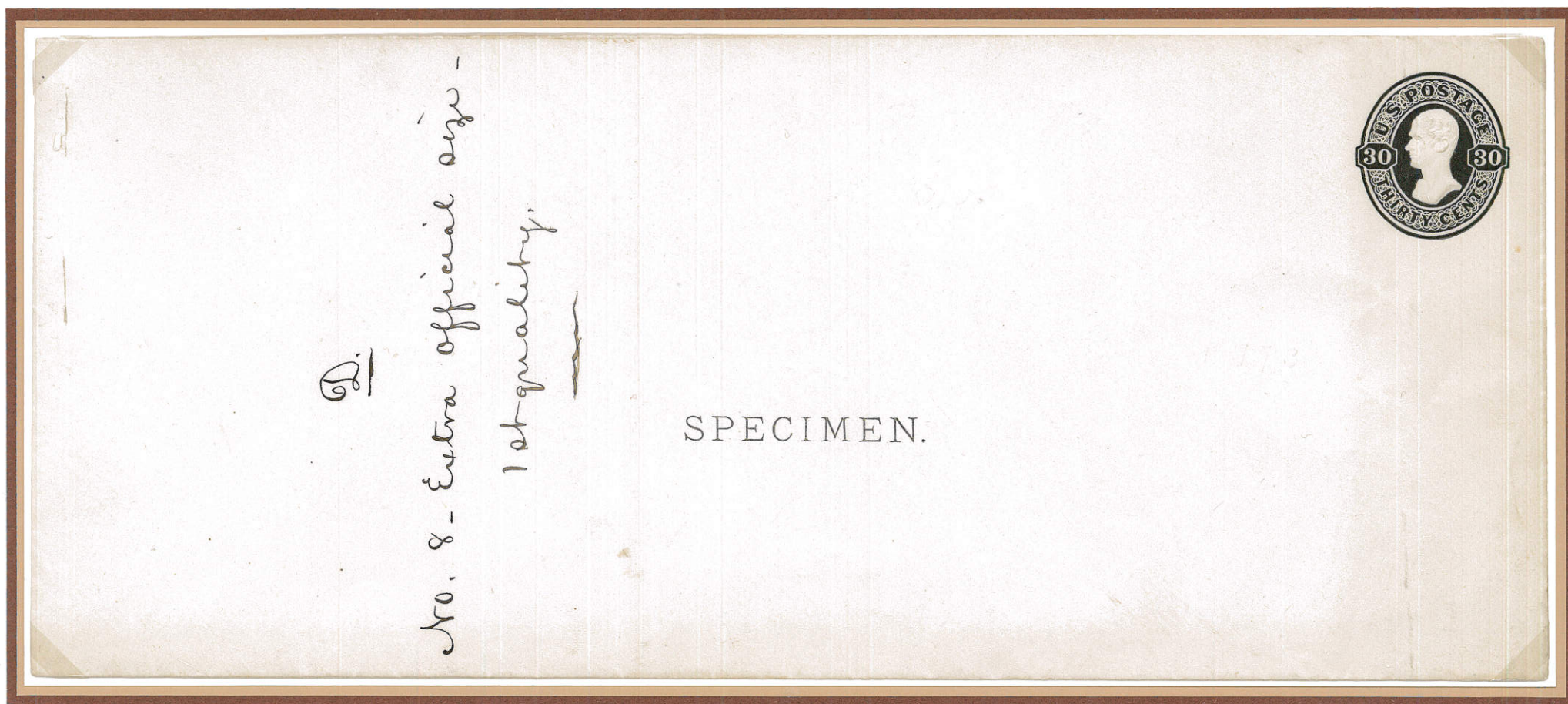
New York, N.Y. to Hamburg, Germany, 26 September, 1889, registered (10¢) with return receipt requested (5¢).

1870-1874
George H. Reay
Watermark 2

Specimen



Watermark 2



White paper specimen.

Hand written note with details of size (8) and paper quality (first).

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 6

Usage

Lothe Gamba
826. Sutter st
S. F. Cal.

U. States America
Postmark 19 Mr.



P August Wöhlmann Esq
Room 43.

Palace Hotel
City

Local use within San Francisco, Ca., 12 November, 1887.

Registered.
unpaid

89

7235



Messrs W. & M. Manus Bros.

Sixth st and Cass street Ave
Philadelphia

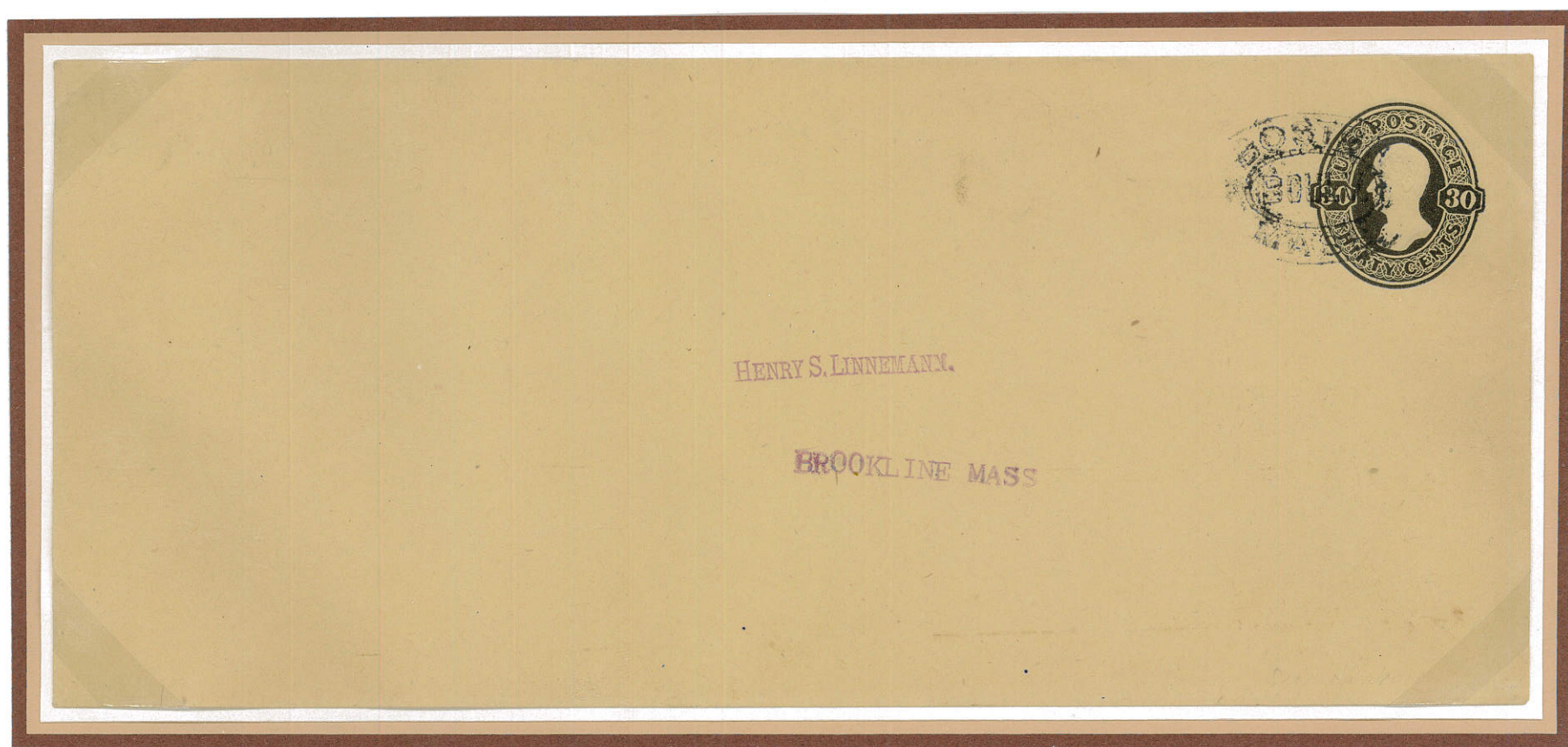
(No. Dealers)

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 7

Usage



Boston, Ma., BOULV (Boulevard) Barnch to Brookline, Ma.

Examples of used 30¢ envelopes (black indicia) with watermark 7 are extremely difficult to find.

1874-1903

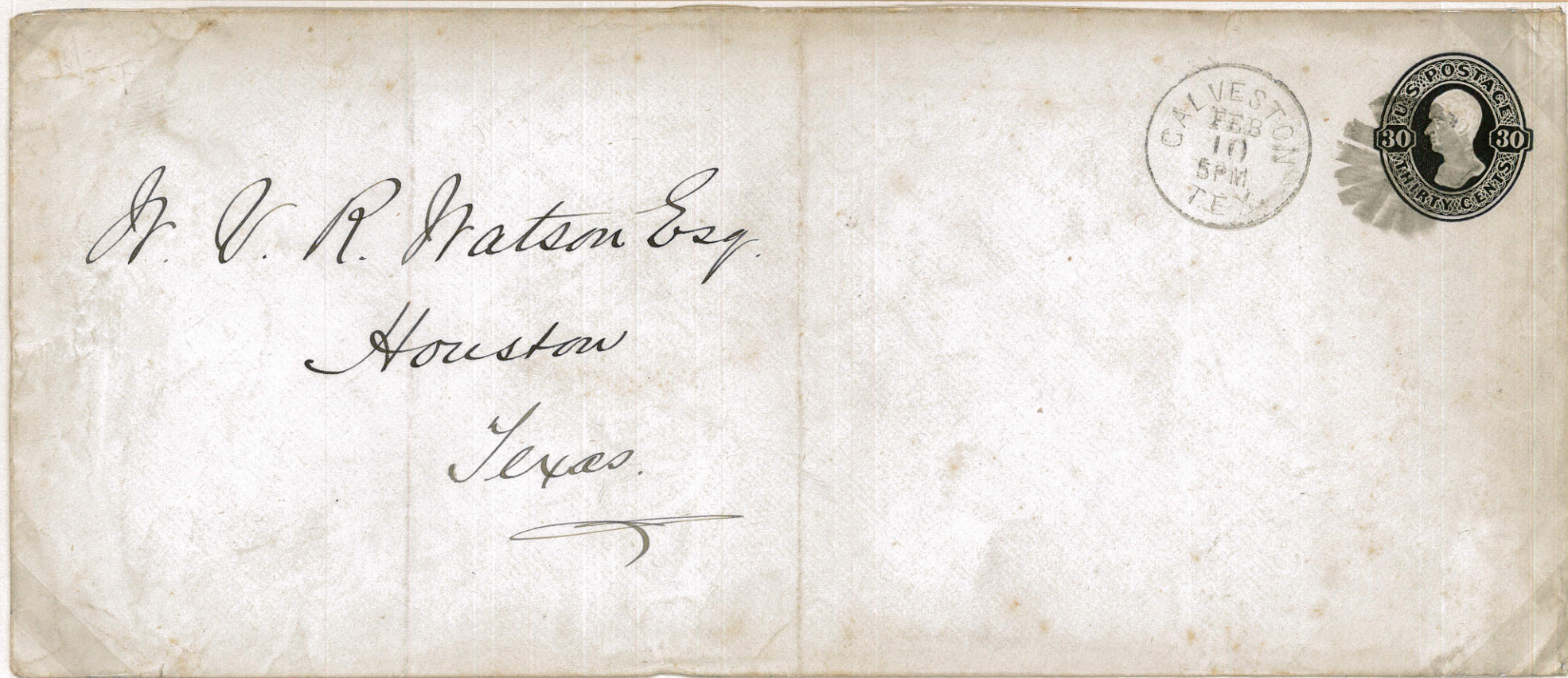
Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 2

Usage



Watermark 2



Galveston, Tx. to Houston, Tx., 10 February, 1879.
Backstamped Houston, Tx. 10 February, 1879.

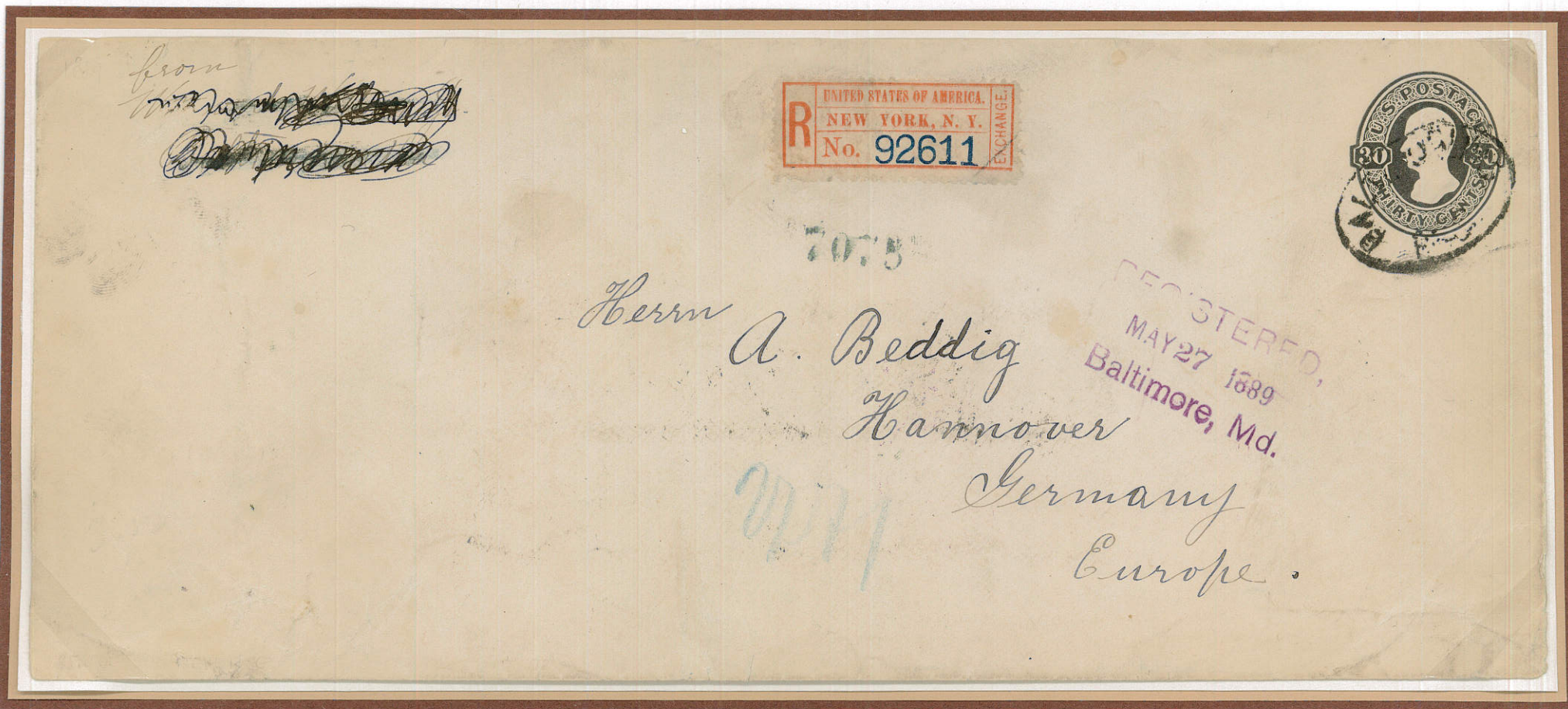
Examples of used 30¢ envelopes with watermark 2 are extremely difficult to find.

1874-1903

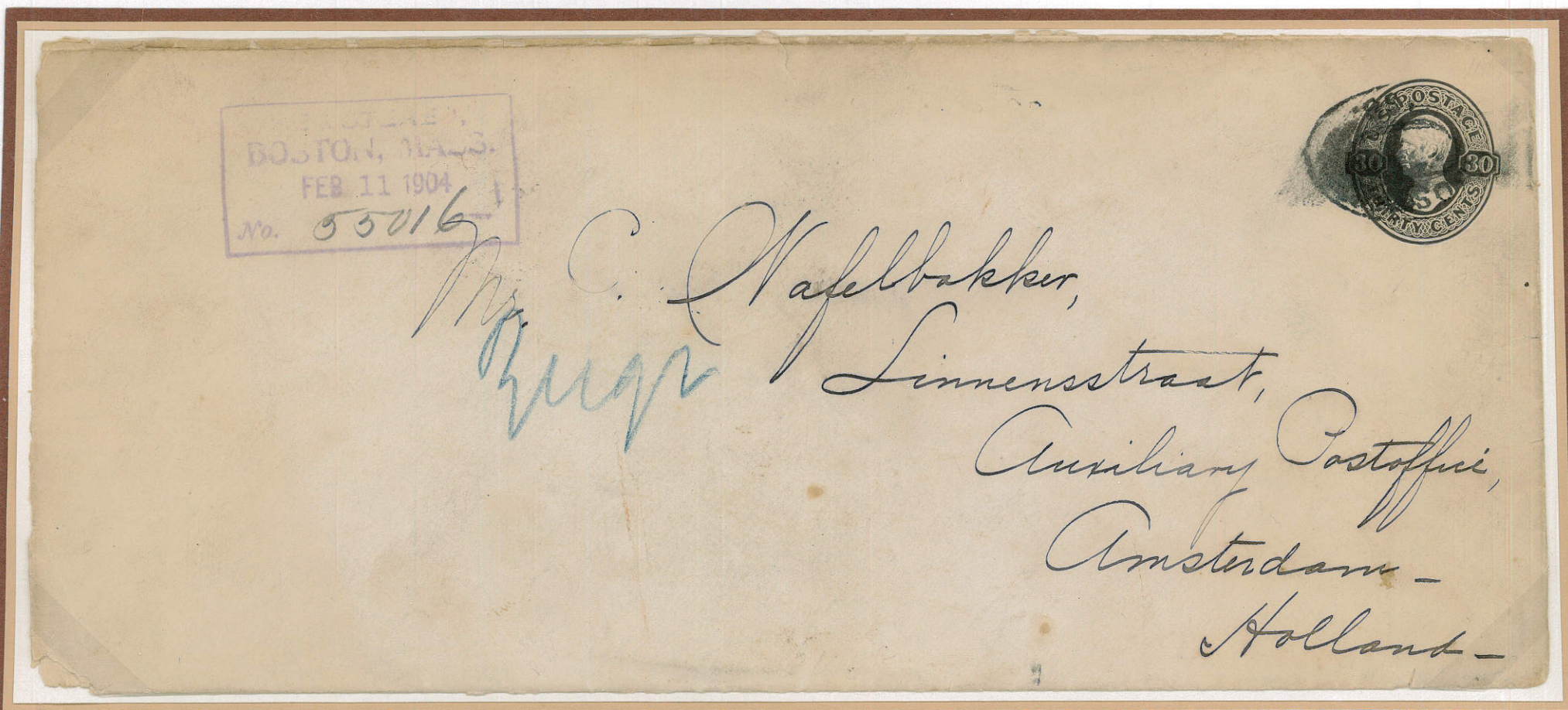
Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 6

Usage



Baltimore, Md. to Hannover, Germany, 27 May, 1889, registered (10¢).
Backstamped Hannover, 8 November, 1889.



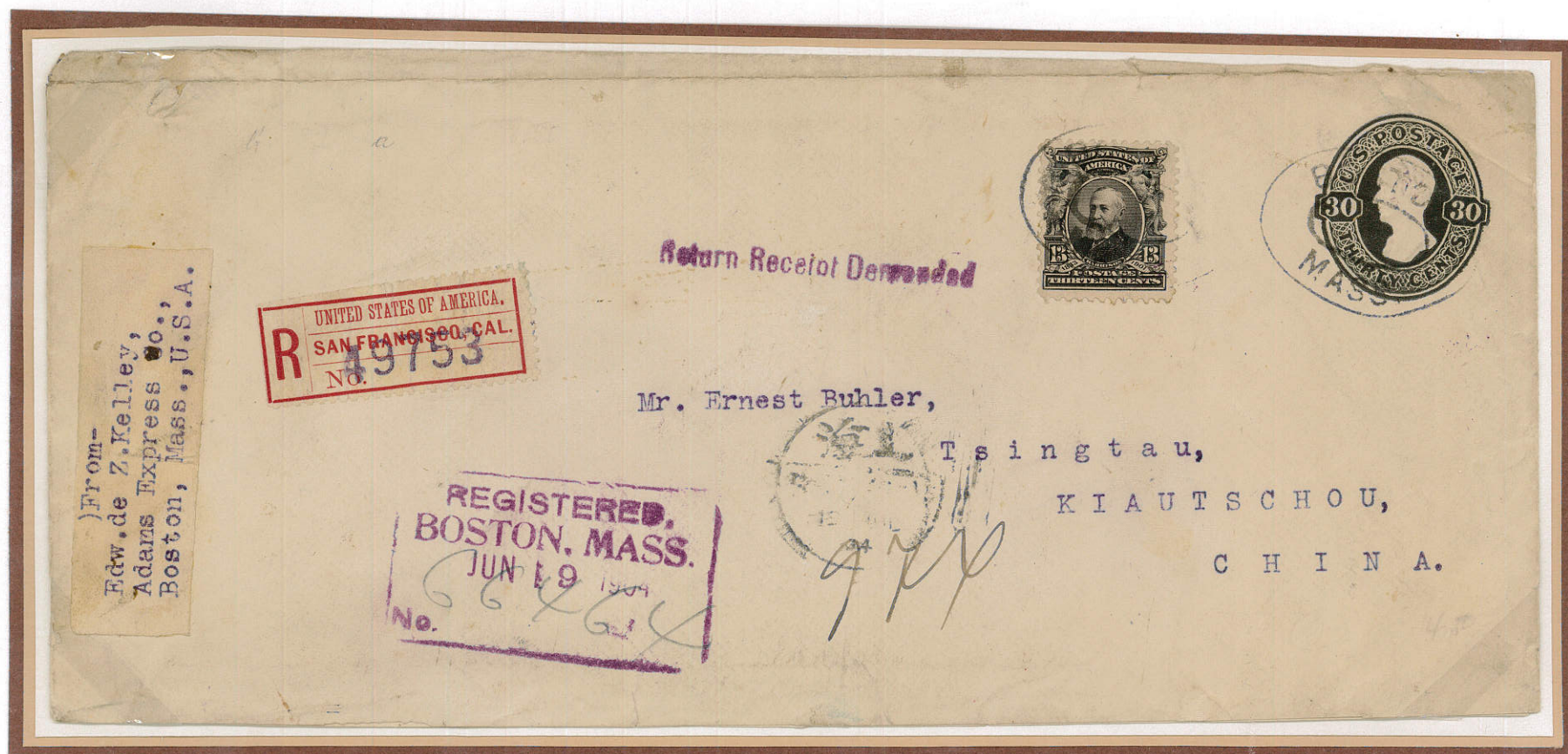
Boston, Ma. to Amsterdam, Holland, 11 February, 1904, registered (10¢).
Backstamped Amsterdam, 28 February, 1904.

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 7

Usage



Boston, Ma. to Kiautschou, China, 9 June, 1904.
Registered (10¢) with return receipt demanded (5¢).
(Domestic registration fee 8¢ likely mis-charged in this case)
Foreign registry through Ferry Station, San Francisco, Ca., 14 June, 1904.
Backstamped Tsingtau, Kiautschou, China, 22 July, 1904.

**Examples of used 30¢ envelopes (black indicia) with watermark 7
to a foreign destination are exceptionally difficult to find.**



Scan of rear

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 6

Usage

Registered. — Reg No 139
Per. S. S. Oregon. 117



REGISTERED
JAN 21 1886
Plainfield, N. J.

Dr. M. Vedel.

Kanikestræse 18.

Copenhagen. K.
Denmark

Plainfield, N.J. to Copenhagen, Denmark, 21 January, 1886, registered (10¢) via Steamship 'Oregon'.
Backstamped transit New York, N.Y., 23 January, 1886; Copenhagen, 2 February, 1886.



L. F. Winstanley Esq.

Christchurch

New Zealand

O. P. 39

New York, N.Y. to Christchurch, New Zealand, 28 February, 1890, registered (10¢).
Backstamped transit San Francisco, Ca. 5 March, 1890; Christchurch, 2 April, 1890.

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 6

Usage

R. R. BOGERT & CO.,
Room 37 Tribune Building,
NEW YORK CITY.

REGISTERED.



Wm. Major E. B. Evans
Boaz Island
Bermuda

New York, N.Y. to Boaz Island, Bermuda, 1 October, 1887, registered (10¢).
Received Hamilton, Bermuda 2 October, 1887.

St. Philadelphia

Señores

Rivas Braasch & Tensohn

Curacao



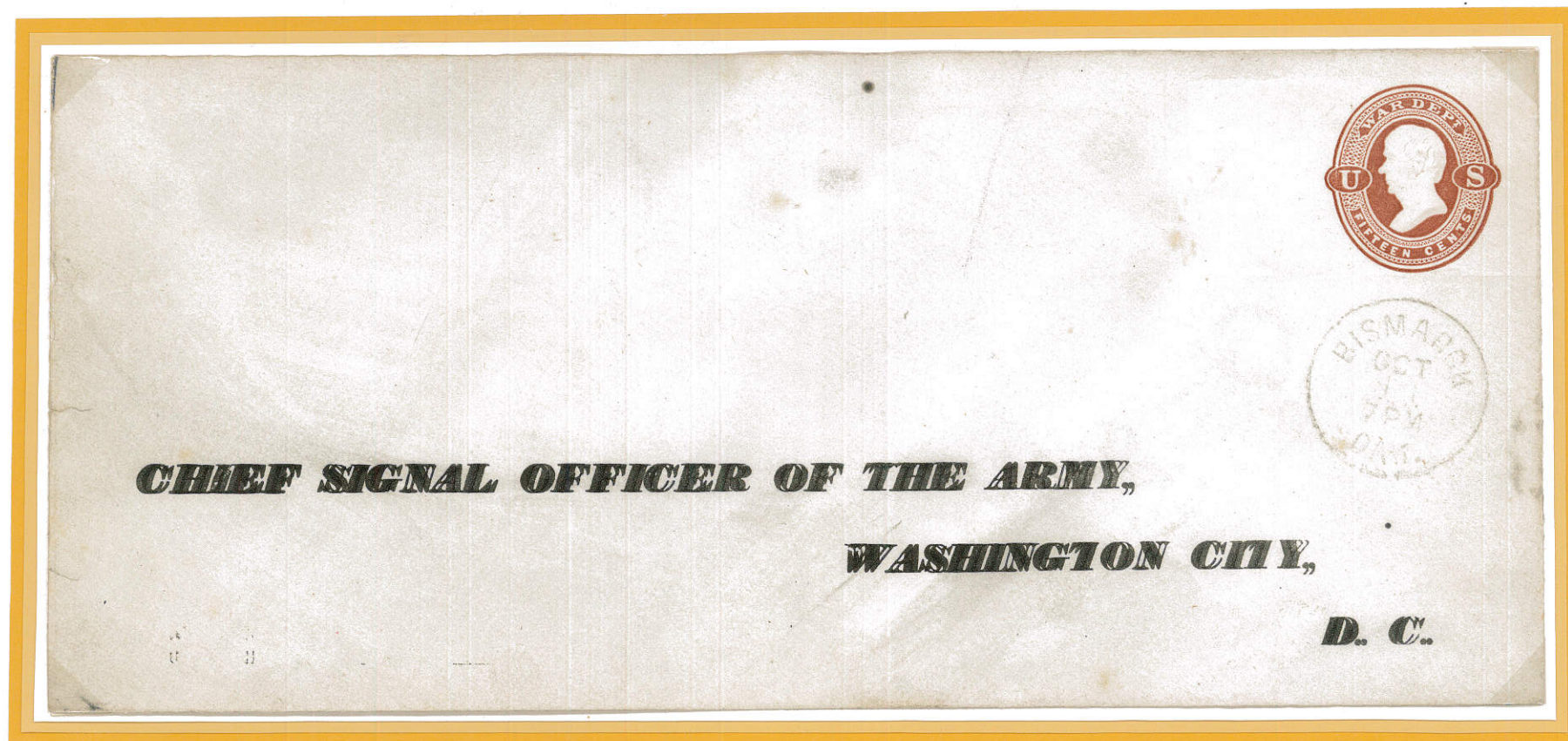
New York, N.Y. to Curacao, 26 May, 1886, via the Red 'D' Line, S.S. New York.

1874-1903

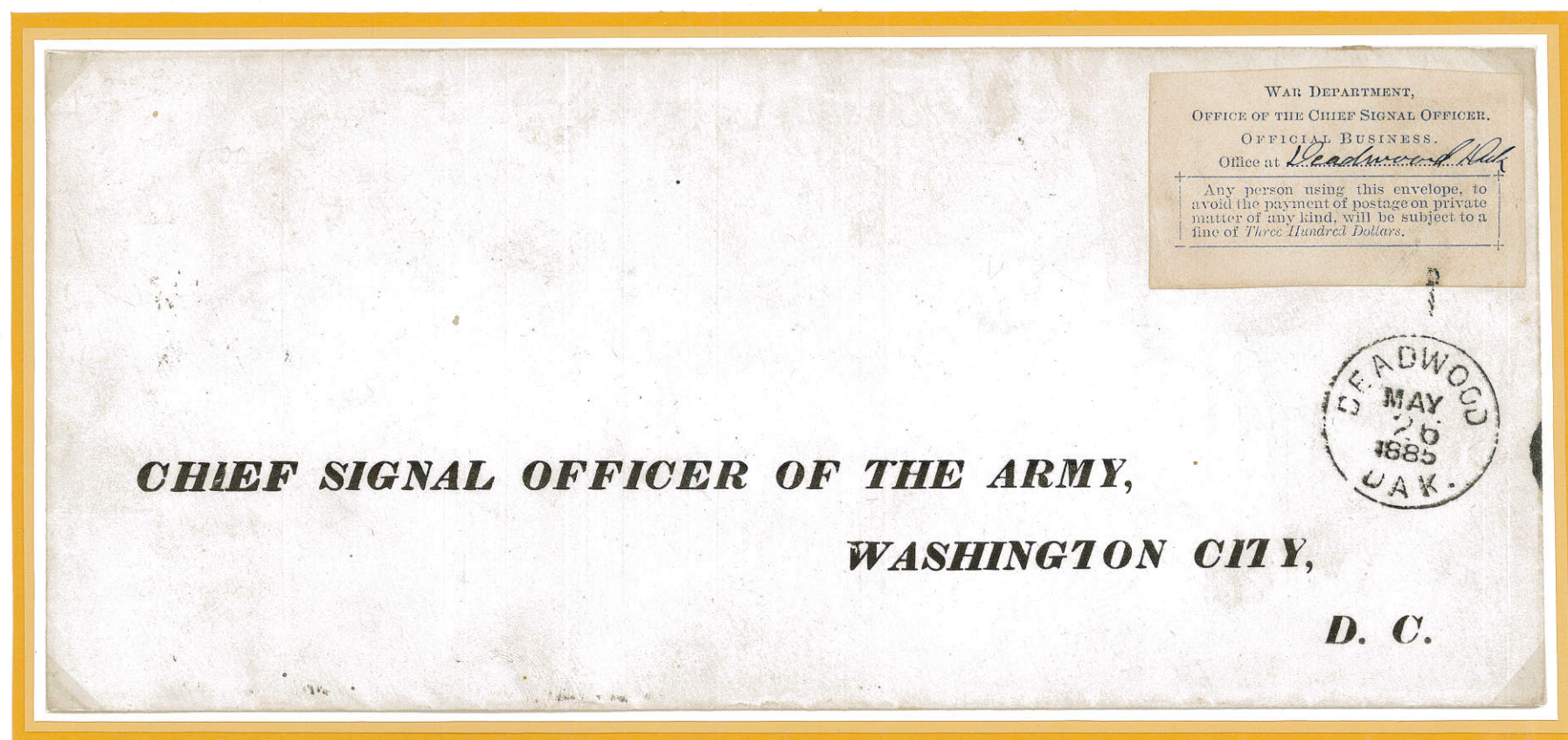
Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 2

Official Usage



Bismark, Dakota Territory to Washington, D.C., 11 October, 1883, first class rate change 1 October reduced from 3¢ to 2¢ per half oz.
Backstamped Washington, D.C., 15 October, 1883.



Deadwood, Dakota Territory to Washington, D.C., 26 May, 1885, with penalty clause label of the Chief Signal Officer pasted over indicia value.
Backstamped Washington, D.C., 1 June, 1885.

United States 90¢ Stationery

Reay and Plimpton Issues / Source Material and Usages

History

High value stationery was progressively introduced by the US Post Office starting in 1861 and culminating with issuance of the first 90-cent value in 1870. Modern collectors, thinking of letters, find 90-cent envelopes to be illogical. There were very few items of such weight to justify a high postal rate in a small envelope, particularly after lowering of foreign postal rates coinciding with the General Postal Union (GPU) on July 1, 1875. Given the practical culture of the US Post Office in the 1800s, suspicions of a legitimate purpose only come from a lack of knowledge of postal services of that period.

High value envelopes were not intended for actual letters as correspondence would almost never reach that tariff level based on the limited size of the envelopes. Rather, the 90-cent envelope functioned as a "parcel" envelope which traveled with parcels. Like parcel cards and forms commonly used in Europe, envelopes allowed for an easier process of sorting parcels in the distribution systems of the day. The envelope was preferred in the US postal system of that period as it could also carry documents accompanying a parcel.



Havana, Mexico
11 March, 1886

Study

Before the creation of a parcel post service with lower tariffs, parcels were sent at letter rates, both domestically and overseas. In such cases, it was easy for a parcel to exceed the 90-cent tariff: 9 ounces for foreign mail between 1875-1907 (at 5¢ per half-ounce); 15 ounces for domestic mail from 1861-1883 (at 3¢ per half-ounce) and 45 ounces for domestic mail from October 1, 1883 into the early 20th century (at 2¢ per ounce). As private parcel services opened for business (the PO monopoly only applied to letter mail), PO sorting systems changed and postage rates fell, eliminating the need for higher value envelopes. This resulted in the last printings of high value envelopes in 1894 with the latest known usage in 1915.



Red D Line S(team) S(hip) 1/28/86., N.Y.

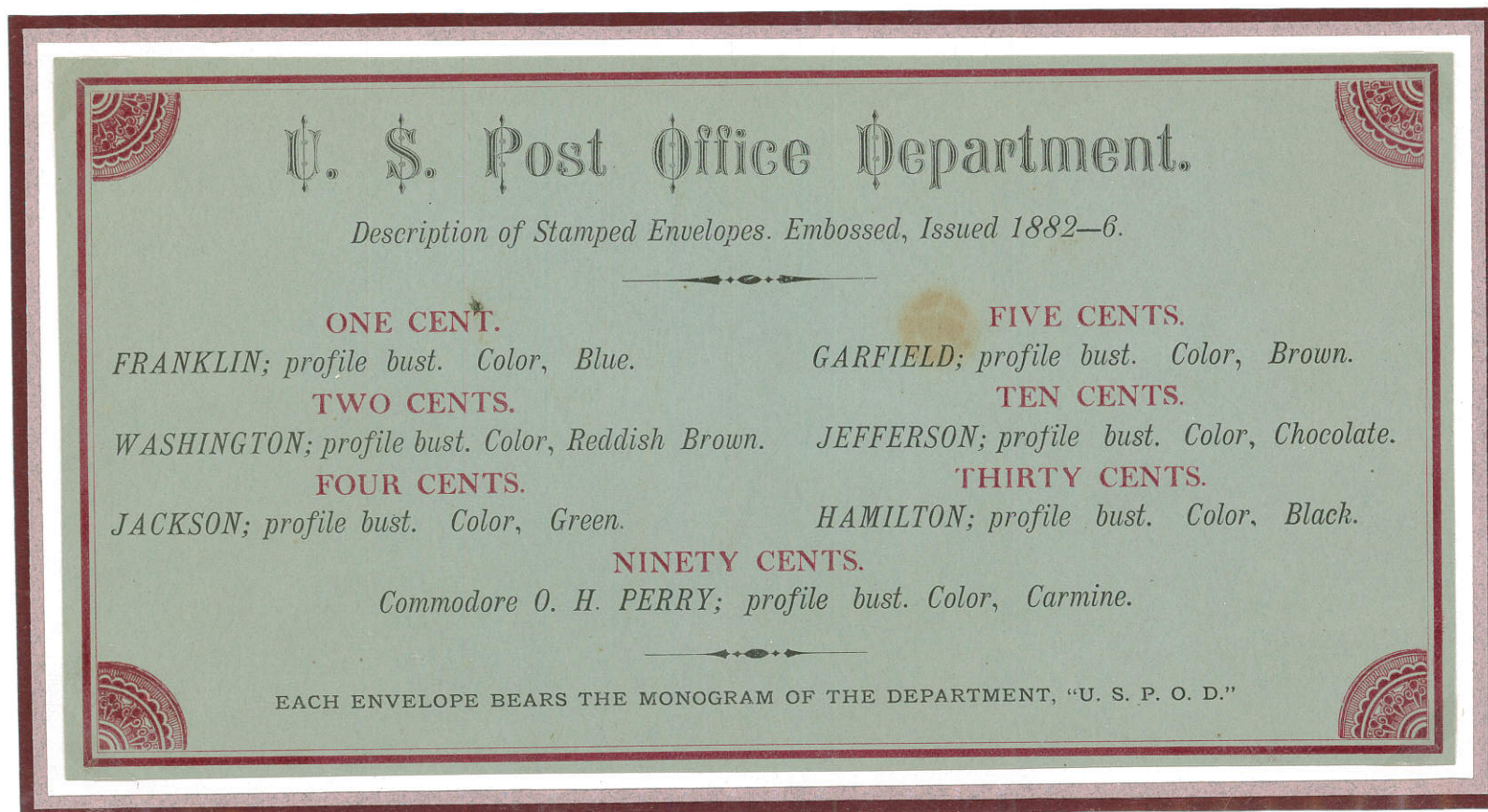
These envelopes, when used for parcels, typically contain two or more sets of numbers on their face: a registration number and a parcel number. The parcel number was an easy identifier for a "bin room" function as the parcels were moved in transit and ultimately called-for by the addressee at the post office of destination. The few surviving 90-cent covers, went primarily to Europe: Germany, France and Sweden; none are known to South America. Virtually all used examples are legal and extra-large sizes. 'Printed to private order' envelopes were produced in 1888 for a so-called stamp dealer 'consortium'. None were postally used and they are omitted from this exhibit.

Facing Slip

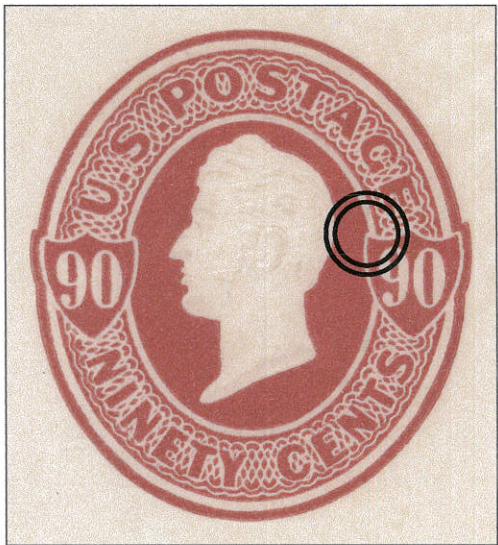
Exhibit Content

Essays, paper samples and specimen envelopes illustrate printer proposals, many of which are unique. Both domestic and international usages of actual issues are rare.

Fewer than 35 of the 90-cent postally used envelopes are recorded of which half are shown. Given the variety of colors of embossed stamps as well as different papers and envelope sizes, most examples stand as rarities in American philately.



Type Identification



Reay printing



Shield design differences



Plimpton printing



Watermark 2



Watermark 5



Watermark 6



Watermark 7

1870-1874
George H. Reay
Watermark 5

Specimen



Reay Specimen Envelope



Exhibitor records nine
different colors/shades

Only recorded example of essay with manuscript note

1870
National Banknote Company

Trial Color Essays



1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 6

Specimen



Watermark 6

If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to



I - i

BIDDER'S SAMPLE, BLANK REQUEST.

Bluish paper specimen.

1870-1874
George H. Reay

Bidder's Paper Samples / Specimen



BIDDER'S SAMPLE.
No, 8, First Quality.

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 7

Bidder's Paper Samples



First, second and third quality paper samples.

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 7

Bidder's Paper Samples



1870-1874

George H. Reay

Watermark 2

Usage



Watermark 2



Baltimore, Md. to Munich, Germany, 20 February, 1893, registered (10¢).
Backstamped Munich, 3 March, 1893.

Only recorded example of a postally used 90¢ Reay envelope on cream paper.



Scan of rear

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 5

Government Frame Sample Used as Postage

The Post Office Department used special wooden frames containing samples of actual envelopes which were hung in the lobbies of Main Post Offices. These envelopes had information as to paper quality and quantity purchase price specially printed on them for the benefit of Post Office patrons.



Watermark 5
Unlisted on this
value in catalog



Philadelphia, Pa. to Paris, France, 12 February, 1889, registered (10¢).
Backstamped Paris, 26 February, 1889.
(faded indicia color due to sunlight exposure in post office lobby)

Quality and
Price imprint

Only recorded example of a postally used 90¢ Frame Sample.



Scan of rear

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 6

Usage

Registered

Mrs. Adelaide North

6573

REGISTERED

AUG 12 1893

World's Fair Station,
CHICAGO, ILL.

Switzerland

Zürich

19 Hottingerstrasse



Chicago, Ill. (World's Fair Station) to Zürich, Switzerland, 12 August, 1893, registered (10¢) - missing label.
Backstamped Zürich, 25 August, 1893.

REGISTERED

Monsieur Emile Jottrand

4 Rue N. D. Debonnaire

Belgium

REGISTERED
STATION
DEC 12 1907

Mons



New York, N.Y. to Mons, Belgium, 12 December, 1907, registered (10¢) - missing label.
Backstamped Mons, 22 December, 1907.

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 6

Usage

Registered
S S S Fulda *via England*
had minutes
C. Muller
5 rue de la
France *Paris*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NEW YORK, N. Y.
No. 83471

NEW YORK, N. Y.
4-14
1886
REG'D DIV.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
10c

New York, N.Y. to Paris, France, 14 April, 1886, registered (10¢).
On board S.S. Fulda, via England.

F. Schutze
543 Market St.
S. Francisco.
Cal.

3232

3232

REGISTERED
APR 23 1887
SAN FRANCISCO,
CAL.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NEW YORK, N. Y.
No. 28924
EXCHANGE

M. Moral
2 bite' Condorcet
Paris *France*

NEW YORK, N. Y.
10c

San Francisco, Cal. to Paris, France, 23 April, 1887, registered (10¢).

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 6

Usage

H. Grün Esq^{re}

Room 703

Palace Hotel, Market Street
San. Francisco



Local use within San Francisco, Ca., 22 June, 1891.

Registered

16703

16708

55708

Arminius Cig. Manf. Comp.

1331 Point Breeze Ave

Phil^a Pa.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
NOV 26 1890
REGISTERED.



Local use within Philadelphia, Pa., 26 November, 1890, registered (10¢).

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 6

Usage



Philadelphia, Pa. to Leipzig, Germany, 26 March, 1888, registered (10¢).
Backstamped Leipzig, 9 April, 1888.



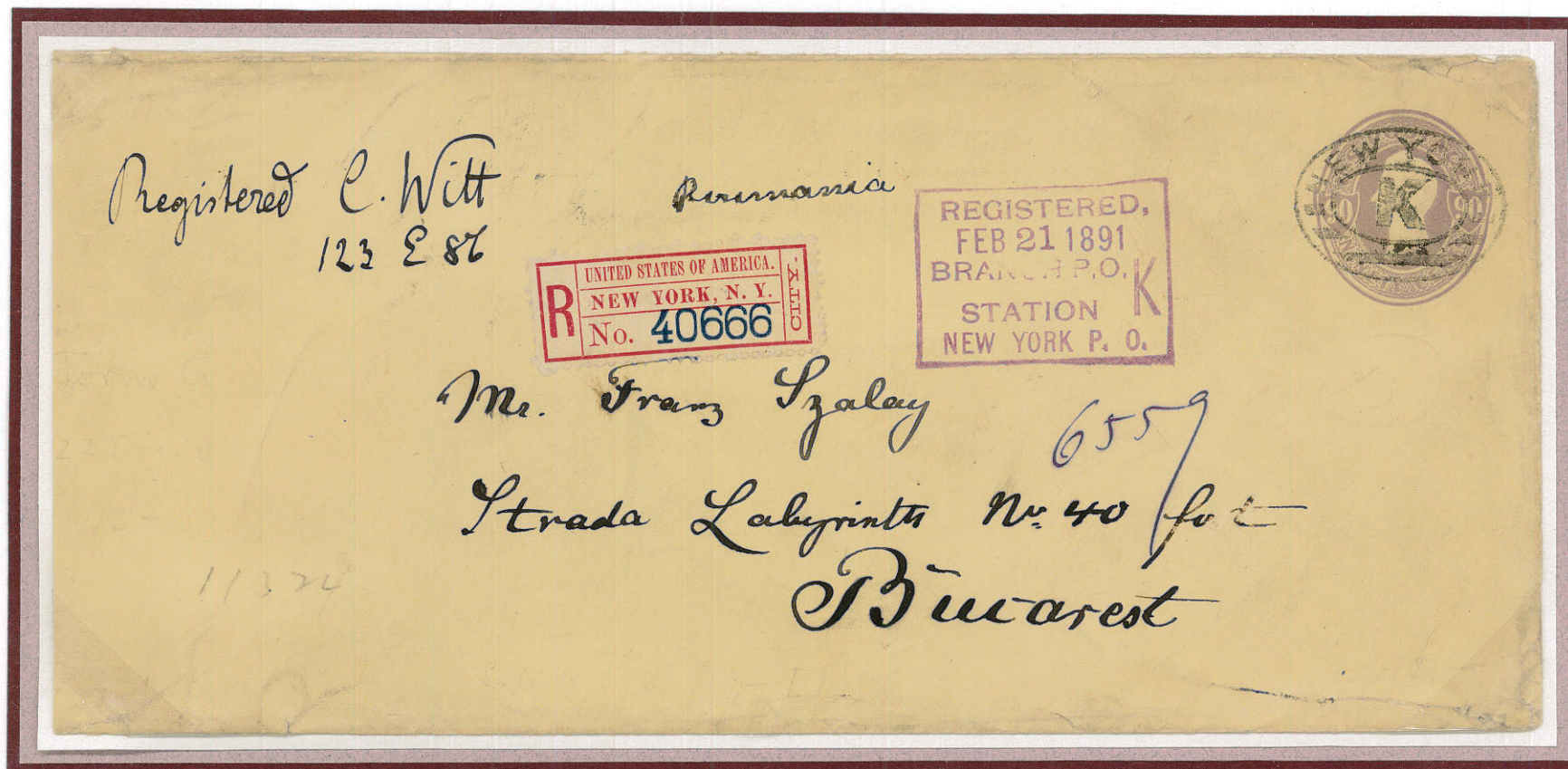
Galveston, Tx. to Leipzig, Germany, 21 November, 1889, registered (10¢).
Backstamped Leipzig, 6 December, 1889.

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 7

Usage



New York, N.Y. to Bucharest, Romania, 21 February, 1891, registered (10¢).
Backstamped Bucharest, 3 March, 1891.



Chicago, Ill. to Neumünster, Germany, 28 March, 1908, registered (10¢).
Forwarded to Wiesbaden, Germany.
Backstamped Neumünster, 8 April, Wiesbaden, 9 April, 1908.

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 7

Usage



Newton, Ma. to Java, Dutch Indies, 12 March, 1906, registered (10¢).
(Domestic registration mis-charged 8¢). Return receipt demanded (5¢).



Boston, Ma. to Roodepoort, Transvaal, South Africa, 23 March, 1905, registered (10¢), return receipt demanded (5¢).
Backstamped New York, N.Y. Registry 24 March, 1905, Roodepoort, South Africa 20 April, 1906.

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 7

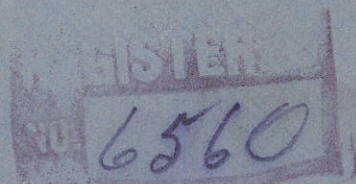
Usage



August Schroder Esq,
71 Milwaukee Ave
Milwaukee
It is

Boston, Ma. to Milwaukee, Wis., circa 1887, parcel post cancel.

From J.V. Ferrari
Fort Smith, Ark



W. H. Mackie, Esq.,

REGISTERED
RETURN
RECEIPT
REQUESTED

c/o Western Mesaba Electric Co.,

Return Receipt Demanded

BOVEY, MINNESOTA

Fort Smith, Ar. to Bovey, Mn., 21 April, 1915, registered (10¢), return receipt requested (free).
Single line "Return Receipt Demanded", Backstamped Bovey, Mn., 23 April, 1915.

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 7

Usage

Registered



Herrn



Emil Paengen



Germany.

*Düsseldorf
Jakobstraße 7.*

New York, N.Y. to Düsseldorf, Germany, 4 November, 1890, registered (10¢).
Backstamped Düsseldorf, 13 November, 1890.

Germany

Registered

Emil Paengen



4675

*Düsseldorf
Jakobstraße 7.*

New York, N.Y. to Düsseldorf, Germany, 12 November, 1890, registered (10¢).
Backstamped Düsseldorf, 20 November, 1890.

1874-1903

Plimpton Manufacturing Company

Watermark 7

Usage



New York, N.Y. to Aix la Chapelle, Prussia, 19 November, 1890, registered (10¢).
Backstamped Aix la Chapelle, 30 November, 1890.



New York, N.Y. to Aix la Chapelle, Prussia, 1 December, 1890, registered (10¢).
Backstamped Aix la Chapelle, 13 December, 1890.