

1879 MERCURY ISSUES

Type I - Black on Blue stamps  
Blue on Blue stamps  
Circular rate

The blue paper stamps may have been issued for use to pay the 1¢ fee for delivery of circulars. They are normally found with undated postmarks while the pink (2¢) stamps are found with dated postmarks.



Black on Blue  
Perf. 11½



Blue on Blue  
Perf. 11



Blue on Blue  
Perf. 11½



Perforated 11½ at the top  
and bottom and 11 on each  
side.

Compound perforations are a result of the hand fed perforating machines used. Sheets of stamps were first perforated in one direction before being fed through a second time in the opposite direction. If a second machine with a different perforation spacing was used for the second pass the result was a compound perforation.

1878 MERCURY ISSUES

Type 1 - Black on Pink stamps  
Perforation varieties

The paper color was changed to a pink wove in the later half of 1878. The variety of perforations on these stamps is due to the hand fed and operated perforating equipment used by the printer.



Perf. 11



Perf. 11½



Perf. 12



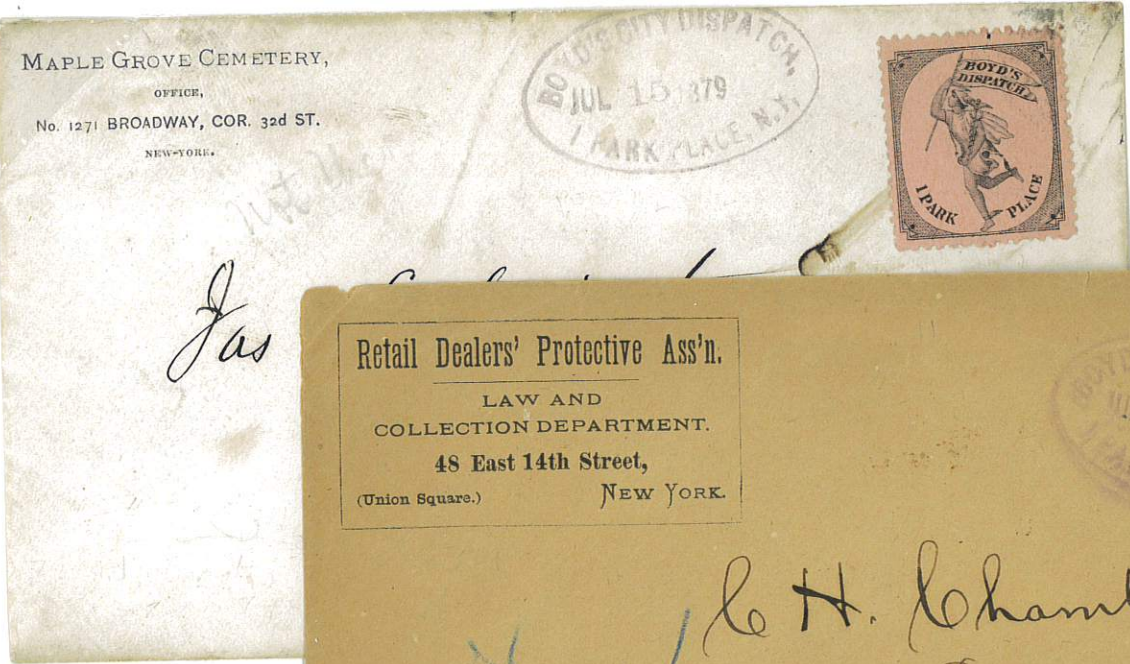
Perf. 12½



Perf. 12 x 12½



Perf. 12 x 11½



June 11, 1879

"Not there" notation  
by Boyd's.

July 15, 1879

Older cancellations continued to be used despite name change.



1881 MERCURY ISSUES

Type II - Black on Blue stamps

TYPE II  
Printed by J. Gibson  
Lithographed in sheets of 100



The Type II design is characterized by the absence of any break in the inner frame line at the bottom. The big toe is slightly raised, the other toes are touching the inner frame line. The tip of the wing attached to the left ankle points to the top of the "P" in "PLACE".

Black on blue wove paper.  
Perforated 12, 16 and compound.



Perf. 16

Weak 1881 cancel

The stamps printed by J. Gibson may not have been long in use, multiples or on cover examples have not been found.

1880 MERCURY ISSUES

Type I - Black on Lavender stamps  
Typical usages

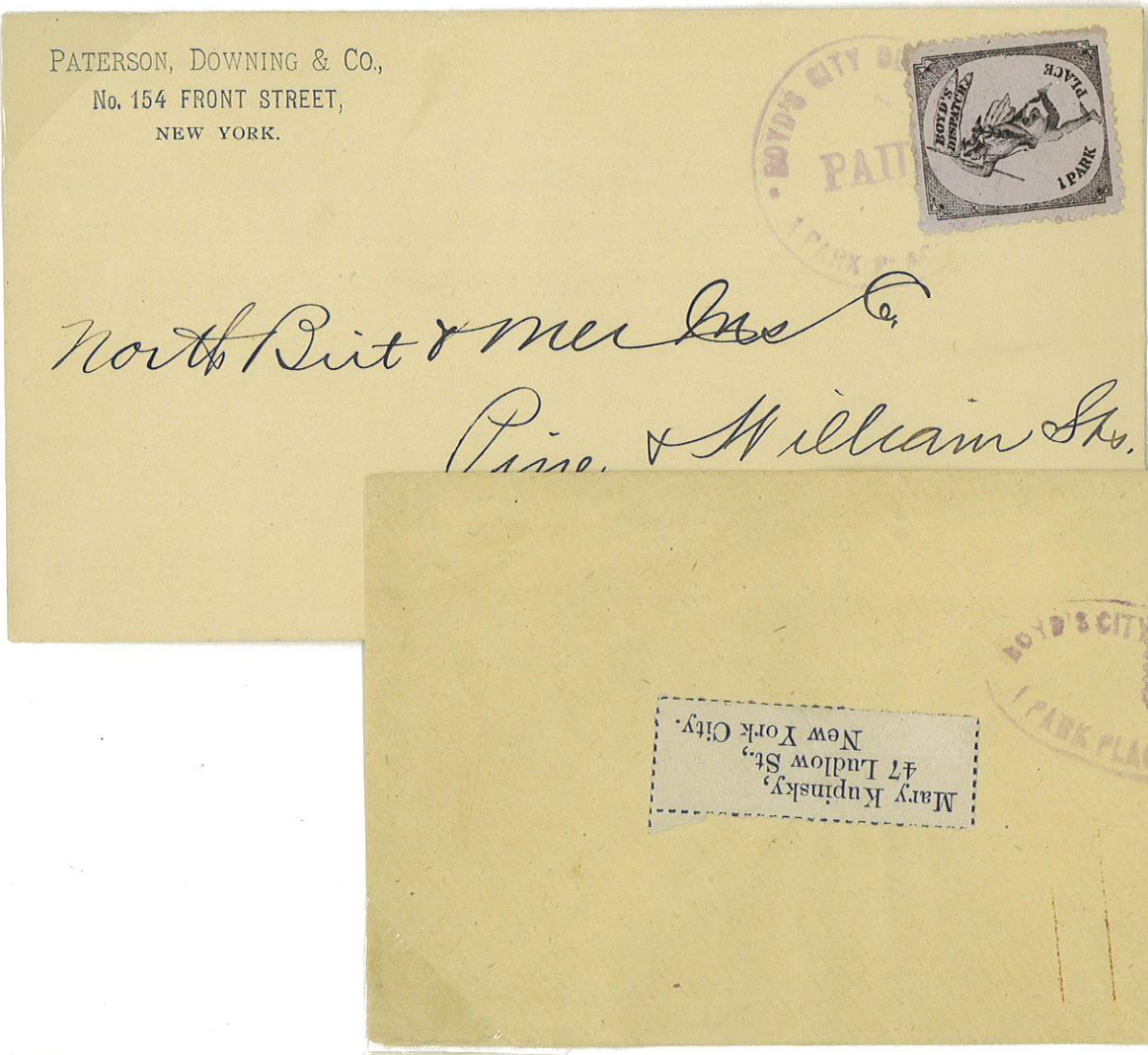
Wove paper used during 1880 was very course and had a high fiber content, resulting in normally rough perforations on this issue.



Perf. 11 1/2 x 12 x 11 x 11



Perf. 11 1/2 x 11 1/2 x 11 1/2 x 12





# 1882 MERCURY ISSUES

Type III - Black on Blue Stamps

## TYPE III

Printed by the "Evening Post".  
Lithographed in sheets of 100.



Type III differs from Type II in that the big toe points down and all toes appear to be touching the inner frame line. The wing attached to the left ankle is much more curved than in the other two types and its tip points well above the top of the "P" in "PLACE".



Black on Blue wove paper Perforated 16 only.



Business letter mailed Dec 20, 1882

# 1881 MERCURY ISSUES

Type II - Black on Pink stamps  
Typical business mail with dated cancels

The wove paper used in 1880 was replaced with a better quality laid paper in 1881. The paper varies in color from pink to lilac-pink.

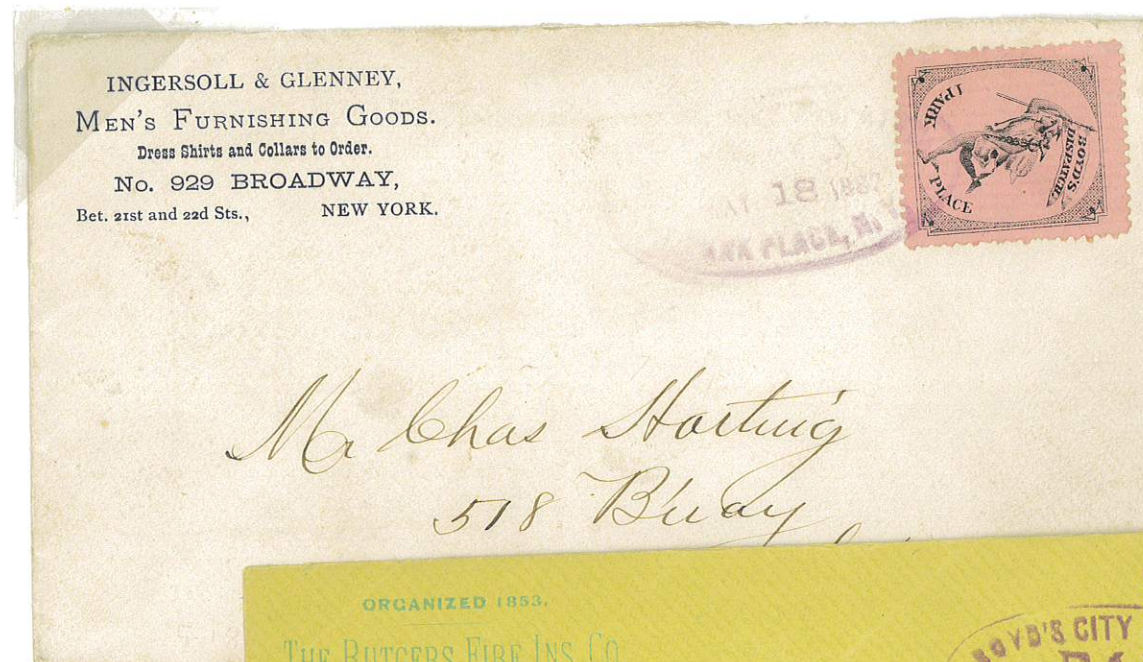
Black on Pink laid paper.  
Various perforations.



Pink paper  
Perf. 16 x 12

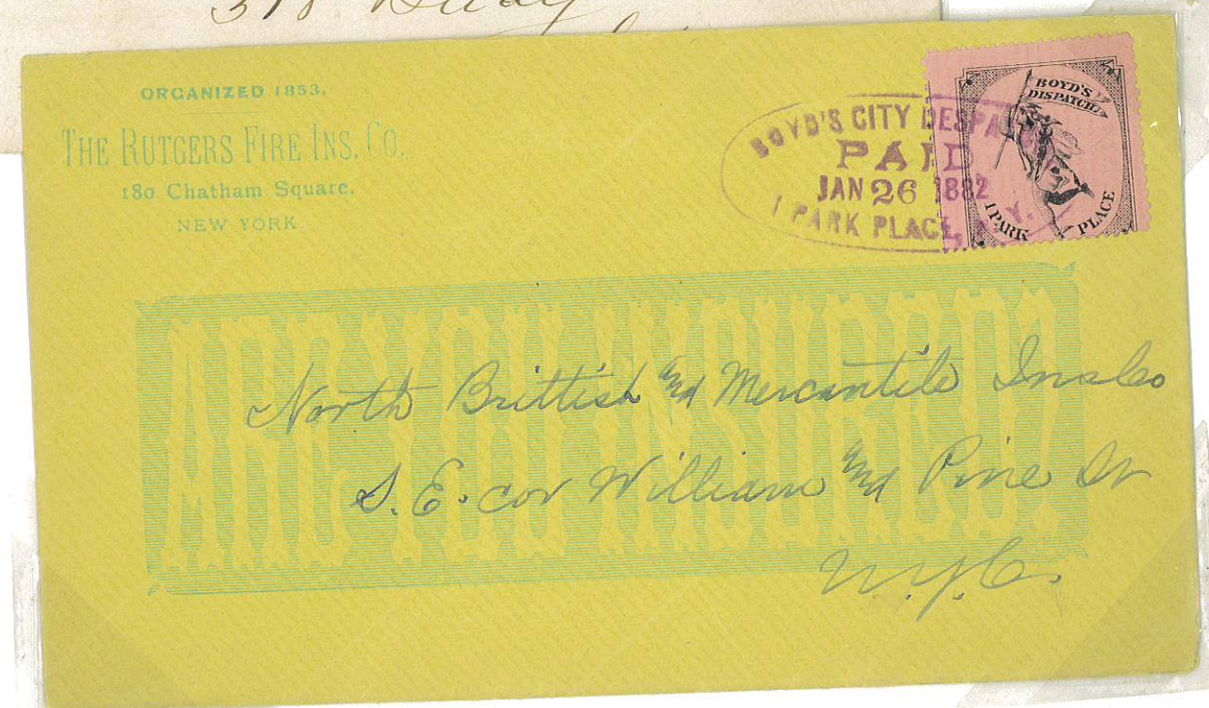


Lilac-pink paper  
Perf. 12



May 18, 1882  
Perf. 12

Jan. 26, 1882  
Perf. 16 x 12





1882 MERCURY ISSUES

Type III - Black on Blue stamps  
Business mail examples  
"City Circular Despatch" cancel



March 1, 1883

The return address indicates the proprietor had a telephone. The first telephone was installed in Boston in 1878.

1881 MERCURY ISSUES

Type II - Black on Lilac-Pink stamps

Black on Lilac-pink laid paper.  
Perforated 12, 16 and compound.



Perf. 12



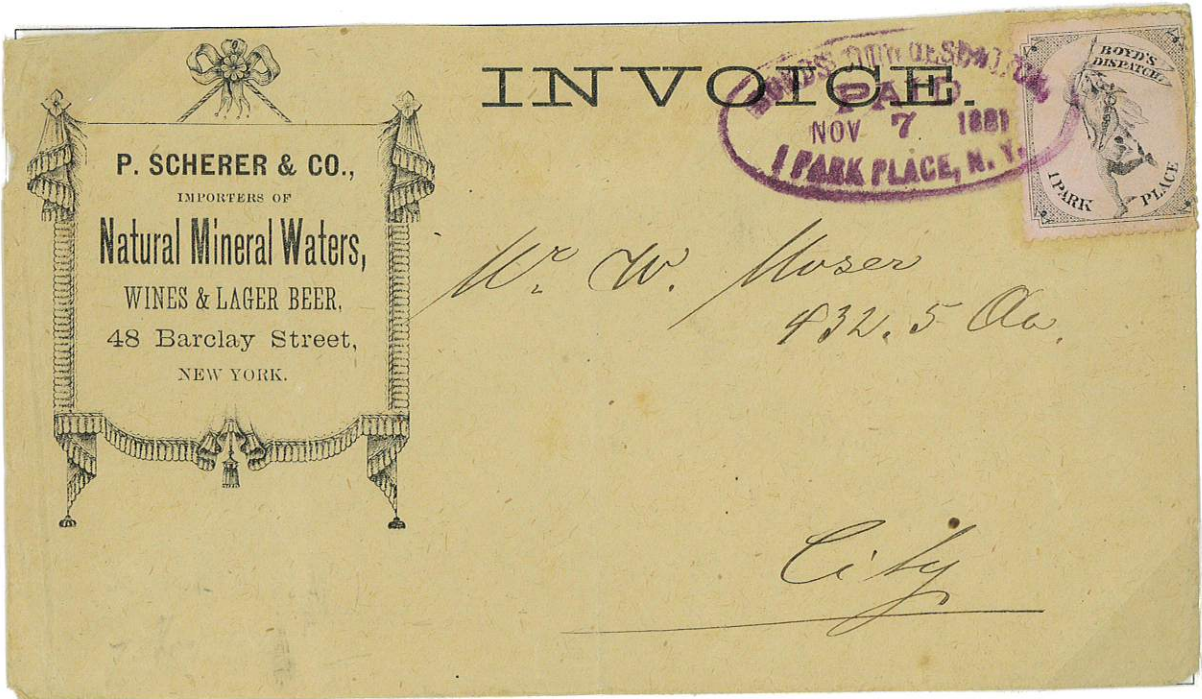
Perf. 16

Circa 1883



A new cancellation which seems to emphasize the delivery of "Circulars".

The use of the dated / PAID postmarks now confuses the assumption that blue stamps were used exclusively for circulars (1¢).



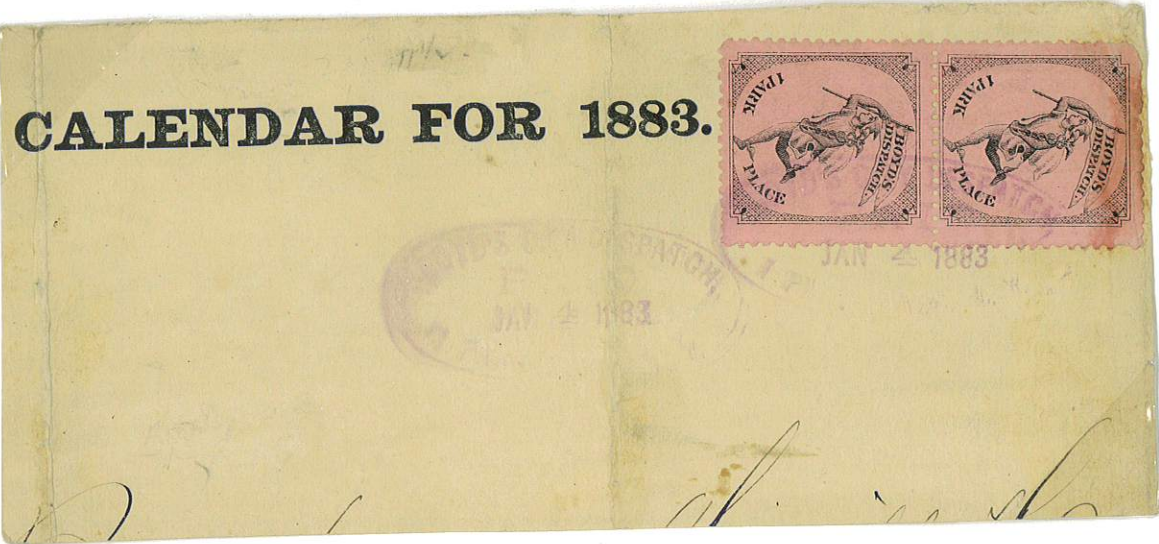
November 7, 1881

Perf. 12



1882 MERCURY ISSUES

Type III - Black on pink stamps  
Multiple rate examples



January 4, 1883

A portion of a large envelope containing a calendar, the mailing fee was 4¢.



April 28, 1883

The address portion of a package wrapper from the Knickerbocker Portrait Gallery, the package probably containing photographs. Sent prepaid for 6¢.

This example of a triple rate is the first seen.

1882 MERCURY ISSUES

Type III - Black on pink stamps  
Dated postmarks and "fancy" cancel

Black on Pink wove paper.  
Various perforations.



Perforated 16



These are perhaps the best known and commonplace of the Boyd's stamps. Full sheets and multiples are not uncommon. This Maltese Cross "fancy" cancel was a duplex device, the only one used by Boyd's.



