

Judge's Synopsis

Boston's Use of the 1847 Issue

Treatment and Background Information

This single frame postal history exhibit shows the range of uses of the United States' first adhesive issue from Boston, on letters sent both domestically and to foreign countries.

The organization is straightforward. Starting with a prologue – the use of a New York postmaster provisional on a letter sent from Boston to New York, it follows with domestic 1847 covers, and then those sent to Canada and to Europe. It ends with the use of the 5c and 10c 1847 post June 30, 1851. These demonetized uses were accepted for postage, as were nearly all such uses from other post offices. Within each chapter, the organization is by the distance (under/over 300 miles) paid for by the adhesives, and then by weight. Marcophily information is shown within a light gray box, and routing information generally below the cover in a smaller type font. **Important covers are framed in red. Covers with certificates are noted by an "e".**

Importance

The first adhesive issue of any country is quite important. Boston received its initial shipment on July 2, the largest quantity except for New York and Philadelphia (and a quantity quite close to the latter). There are enough rare and unusual items included that it would be essentially impossible to duplicate this exhibit.

Personal Study and Research

I have been studying and collecting this material for 10-15 years. First, with reference to the "Alexander Census" in the publication printed edited by Tom Alexander by the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society (USPCS). More recently, Mark Scheuer has made a census available on the USPCS website (uspcs.org) and continually updates it. The "rarity statements" in this exhibit are based on that current information. I wrote an article on this subject for the Chronicle of the USPCS in 2014.

Condition - The covers in this exhibit are in excellent condition with predominantly very fine or better examples of the adhesives. **Please note that my scanner makes wrinkles and creases look much worse than they are.**

Rarity

Key covers in this exhibit follow. While all noted items are rare, red-bordered items are of particular importance. Items added in the past 9 months are noted with a *.

- One of the best examples of the New York Postmasters Provisional stamp on a cover sent from Boston to New York (Prologue).
- One of 2 recorded strips of three 5c 1847 stamps used from Boston.
- One of 2 recorded combinations of the 5c and 10c 1847 used from Boston.
- One of 2 recorded examples of four 5c 1847 stamps paying the quadruple rate from Boston.
- One of 2 recorded covers sent from Boston with a strip of 4 5c 1847 stamps.
- The only recorded example of a vertical pair of the 10c 1847 used from Boston
- The only recorded combination of a 5c 1847 and a Boston Penny Post adhesive used to a foreign country.
- The only example of an 1847 cover carried by Favor's Express; the only stamped cover with the scarce rectangular Favor marking.*
- A very rare use of the 1847 Issue on a letter sent from one part of British North America to another via the U.S. Post Office.
- One of 2 recorded U.S.-U.K. treaty letters paid by a combination of a 5c 1847 plus cash, sent to the U.K. with an additional 19c.
- The second of those 2 recorded 1847 letters sent under the U.S.-U.K. treaty and the only one sent to France *via* American Packet (16c paid in cash)
- The latest of the 5 recorded demonetized uses from Boston of the 5c 1847.
- The only recorded demonetized use of the 10c 1847 from Boston, and the only one known on a cover to Canada.
- One of three recorded 1847 covers from the U.S. to Mexico; the only one from Boston.*
- The only recorded 10¢ rate (5c pair) 1847 cover with the Boston Carrier issue.
- One of four recorded 1847 covers with the second Boston Carrier.

(Over)

Key References

1. The Chronicle of the U.S. Classics Postal Issues. February 2014, Vol. 66, No. 1. Whole No. 241, page 21.
2. The 1847 census site on the website of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society - <https://www.uspcs.org/resource-center/censuses/1847-cover-census/>