

*Yesterday in Mekeel's:*

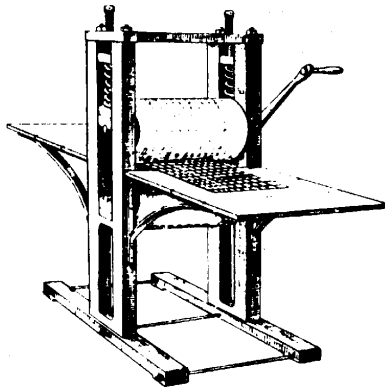
## **The U.S. One Cent 1861 Issue, Part IV**

by **E. Tudor Gross** (*From Mekeel's Weekly, April 21, 1941, with images added*)



## E. Grills and Reissues

### I. Grills



*A grilling machine showing the grilling cylinder*

the abuse of cleaning the cancellation from used copies so that stamps might be used over again. Many postmasters in the early sixties cancelled stamps by pen and ink, which cancellation, with proper chemicals, could be readily removed.

The idea of the grill was to submit the stamped paper to an embossing which would prevent this procedure. In the language of the patent, "the paper is gummed, embossed so as to impair its texture in parts, smoothed and printed on portions of its face. In canceling, the paper in its broken portions absorbs the ink, rendering the latter irremovable and preventing the fraudulent second use of the stamp."

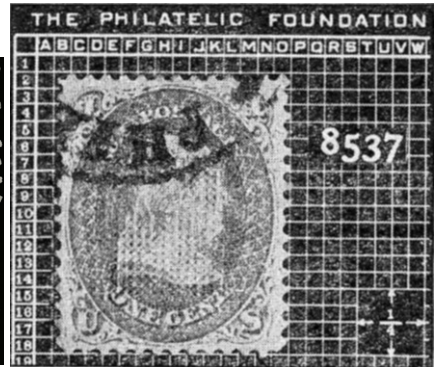
1¢ blue "C" Grill Essay with (Sc. 79-E15i) with 11 x 16 mm male grill impressed points down on face of stamp, the only recorded example. This male grill differs from the issued "C" Grill (only for the 3¢ stamp, Sc. 83), which was made by a female grill surface of embossed depressions. When applied to the sheet, facing toward the depressions, the female "C" Grill created raised bosses on the face of each stamp.



While it is the purpose of this article to discuss only the 1¢ 1861, known as No. 63 in the catalogue, we cannot over look the fact that the grilled stamp, No. 85A, 86 and 92, is identical in design with the earlier issue. [Although the essay above shows a C Grill, the 1¢ was not issued with a C Grill.]

The only difference [in the four 1¢ stamps, Sc. 63, 85A, 86 and 92] is the grill, which did not in any way affect the design of the stamp. The size of the grill varies in millimeters, some being 11x14 (not priced in the catalogue), some 11x13, and the most common being 9x13. I feel that a specialized collection of No. 63 should also show copies of the grilled stamp, and a few pages might properly be set aside for single copies, unused and used, as well as covers, and if possible, blocks, both unused and used.

I have previously stated that I consider the grilled stamp of the 1¢ 1861 as a separate issue. While it is true that the stamp is the same (the identical die having been used), the issued product differed from the earlier issue in that the surface of the paper had been altered by the grill. This grill, according to Luff, was a "device covered by patent No. 70147, granted to Charles F. Steele, Brooklyn, N. Y., Oct. 22, 1867". Its purpose was to endeavor to prevent



*The Gross "Z" Grill and photo from the Philatelic Foundation going back to the 1940s when it was first certified as genuine (see page5).*

[The 11x14mm dimension mentioned by Tudor Gross as not being priced in the catalogue is the Z Grill, Sc. 85A, which now is priced at \$3,000,000. Shown in the next column are the two known examples. The Miller Collection example that was once on display in the New York Public Library and is now on loan to the National Postal Museum. The other example, on which the catalogue value is based, is owned by William Gross—no relation to Tudor Gross—who traded his C3a Plate Block to Donald Sundman of the Mystic Stamp Co. so that Gross could complete his United States stamp collection.



*Miller "Z" Grill*



*Sc. 102, used (the 2-21 SCV for used is \$1,600; for unused og. it is \$750*

### II. Reissues

At the time of the Centennial Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia, the Post Office Department wished to make a display of early U.S. stamps. Most of the original plates had been destroyed, so that new plates, in most cases, were made to show these early stamps in mint condition. In the case of the 1¢ 1861, a new plate was produced in 1875, by the original printer, the National Bank Note Co. The stamps later appeared, without grill on hard white paper with crackly gum. According to Scott's Catalogue, only 3,195 copies of this 1¢ stamp were issued, and although they were not intended for actual use by the public, some copies ultimately reached the mails and were cancelled like any other stamps of the time. To quote Scott's Catalogue, "These stamps can be distinguished from the 1861-66 issue by the shades and the paper, which is very white instead of yellowish". While it is not difficult to buy unused copies of these reissues, genuinely used copies are scarce and make a nice addition to a specialist's collection. [Scott now also notes brighter color and yellowish gum as identifiers, the 1¢ Re-Issue being Sc. 102]

### F. Plate Varieties

One of the pleasing things about this stamp, to me at least, is that there are few plate varieties. Eye-sight is valuable, and the searching for types, shifts, double transfers and recuts is exacting, to put it mildly. Many copies offered as double transfers are really not double transfers at all, but simply copies where the

ink has not "taken". A double transfer strictly speaking, shows the design "struck twice", and these are very seldom found on this stamp. Scratches and ink blotches occasionally show up, but as a rule this stamp has few plate varieties.

The most noticeable is the "dot in U", a variety that appeared on the first plate and is easily distinguishable. It is found in the "U" at the bottom of the stamp, and because this variety is encountered only on the early printings, as is shown by covers cancelled

in 1861, the assumption naturally is that it came from the first plate, or Plate No. 9. To be sure covers showing this variety have been found cancelled in the spring of 1862, but this does not mean that the stamps were printed in that year. Copies bought in 1861 may not have been used until later and so a late use proves nothing.

### G. Paper Varieties

There are two major varieties of paper, horizontally laid, and vertically laid. The former is the scarcer. Then there is thin paper, thick paper, and "stitch watermark". The latter is scarce, and in my collection I have only three copies. It seems strange to list these as "paper varieties", but I know of no other classification in which to put them.

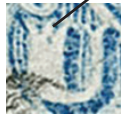
### Conclusion

A few remarks in closing may not be inappropriate. While used strips of three of any 1¢ stamp are always sought after, they are not, in my opinion, as difficult to find as used pairs. The out-of-town rate was 3¢, usually paid by the 3¢ stamp, but occasionally it was paid by three one cent stamps.

The 2¢ drop letter rate was in effect only about two years in places having less than 50,000 inhabitants, although it continued at two cents in cities having carrier systems.

This latter rate was provided for by the issuance in July, 1863, of the Andrew Jackson 2¢ "Black Jack", thereby obviating the necessity of using two one cent stamps for local postage.

Covers bearing pairs of the 1¢ stamp, therefore, are not common, and even off cover they are not frequently offered.



Scott 63 strip of three, each stamp cancelled by "Paid" straightline, affixed over an uncanceled strip of three 1¢ Blue, Type II (Sc. 20) with "Manchester Ct. Oct. 14 (1861)" c.d.s. on U.S. Flag Patriotic cover to Adamsville N.Y. The late 1861 Federal demonetization of all United States stamps issued before the new 1861 series resulted in the rejection of 1857 Issue stamps as prepayment.



Scott 63 pair tied by "Burlington Vt. Jan. 6, 1863" double-circle datestamp on unsealed Commission Merchant's corner card cover to Barton Vt.

Blocks in used condition are particularly scarce. For years I have attempted to keep run of all of these blocks that have come on the market, as well as to check those known to be in other collections. Up to the present, I can account for no more than thirty, ranging in size from four to twenty-five copies, but, of course, some blacks probably exist that I have not heard of.

Obviously, cancellations on single copies vary in rarity according to their use. The Specialized catalogue prices these very well, but naturally it cannot list all types known. Supplementary Mails, Types A and B, for example; are extremely rare, and yet a fantastic Waterbury cancellation will cause bidders at an auction to go to almost any limit. To put a catalogue value on such an item would be out of the question. This all goes to prove however, as I said earlier, that cancelled copies have much more appeal than unused or mint specimens, and that the field for specializing is consequently much more extensive.

If, in presenting this rather informal and far from complete story on the 1¢ 1861, I have given collectors something to think about concerning this fascinating stamp, I shall feel that the effort has not been in vain.

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### Supplementary Notes U.S. 1¢ 1861

By E. Tudor Gross

[On November 24, 1941, Tudor Gross returned to the pages of STAMPS with this column.]

Since writing my article on the U. S. 1¢ 1861, I have gone over my collection with a view to seeing if there were any points that I might have omitted, or that should be elaborated on. I have found some which may be of interest as a sort of supplement.

First, I should mention paper varieties. The rarest of these are the "laid papers", of which there are two, horizontally laid and vertically laid. The former is the scarcer, and in unused condition, especially mint, they are seldom found. Then there are stitch watermark, thin paper, and thick paper. Naturally, these varieties are not noticeable on the face of the stamp, so are merely noted for the benefit of those who specialize.

While red cancellations, whether carriers or design, are not particularly scarce, red town postmarks, on the stamp, are not common. Most towns and cities used black ink, some using both black



Scott 63 horizontal strip of three cancelled by "Paid" in ovals and tied by a red "Boston Mass. Dec. 10" c.d.s. on cover to Bangor Me.

and red, but red has been found in only a few localities. It is very easy to confuse a New York carrier cancellation with a New York town cancellation, but the latter is entirely different.

Supplementary Mail cancels are extremely scarce, and only two are known, viz., New York and Chicago. The former



A Philadelphia Pa., Apr 16, 1862, c.d.s. ties a 1¢ blue (Sc. 63) block of four on a cover to Baltimore Md., the only recorded use of a 1¢ 1861 block of four paying the 3¢ letter rate plus a 1¢ Carrier fee—one of the few reasons for the need for four cents in postage at that time.

was used solely for foreign mail, while the latter, and by far the scarcer, was used only on domestic correspondence. Of the latter I have two covers, one a single and one containing three singles. The New York cancellation, being used on foreign letters, would only be found with stamps of higher denominations and I have yet to find one on cover. The three copies in my collection are off cover and were evidently found abroad, after they had been removed from the original envelope.



Scott 63, with a red NY Supplementary Mail cancel

Scott 63 cancelled by Star fancy cancels, with a Norwich & Worcester R.R. Jan. 13" circular datestamp on a cover to Nashua N.H.



There are all sorts of other designs, like the "Waterburys", for instance, which I would not attempt to rate.

Scott 63 tied by a perfect strike of the Waterbury, Connecticut, Man with Hat fancy cancel (Rohloff E-5), with "Waterbury Con. Apr. 22 '66" double-circle datestamp on a cover to Rev. Joseph Anderson in Waterbury, the stamp paying the 1¢ drop rate. This cover sold for \$66,125 including the 15% Buyer's Premium in a 2015 Siegel auction. Interestingly, it was the auction of The Benjamin Franklin Bailar Collection: A Study of the First PMG—Bailar being a former Postmaster General and an avid stamp collector as well as an admirer of Benjamin Franklin.



Blocks of any stamp are always interesting, whether unused or used. In this particular stamp, the used blocks are the hardest to find. Sometime ago two whole panes, unused, came on the market, and a collector once wrote me that he had an unused block of seventy-six. All of these could be split up into blocks of various sizes and therefore could out rival any used blocks known. But used blocks were cancelled between 1861 and 1866 and, as I said in my article, very few exist. Whether on or off cover, they are rare, and to date twenty-five is the largest used block found. I have cancelled blocks of four, six, eight, fifteen and twenty-five, and I doubt if more than thirty or thirty-five exist.

In reviewing my cover collection, I find a number which might call for special mention. Steamship cancellations are not common, and I have one that I believe unique. It is Steamer Perry on a cover bearing three 1¢ stamps, addressed to Newport, R. I., and also cancelled "Steamboat". The Perry, in Civil War times, plied between Providence, Newport and Fall River, and carried mail. She was much like the Narragansett Bay Excursion boats of the Gay Ninety era, but did not have the extensive tourist or summer commuter traffic that the later steamers had in serving the resorts along the shore from Providence to Newport. (See page 5)



A block of four with Wilmington, Delaware circular date stamps.

"Railroads" are scarce. For years I tried to find a cover with one of these cancellations. Finally I secured one and now have

Among other rarities should be mentioned Express company cancellations. I have only two, neither on cover. One is Wells Fargo and the other U.S. Express Mail. These are the only ones, off cover, that I have seen. I feel sure that our Western collectors, who specialize in these cancellations, have some on cover, but unfortunately I don't own one.

1¢ Blue (Sc. 63)

used with 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) tied by blue "Chicago Ill. Supplementary Mail Sep. 29" circular datestamp on cover to Baltimore, with 1863 docketing at left.



A foreign destination usage of which Gross apparently was not aware: a 1¢ Blue used with 3¢ Rose (Sc. 63, 65) tied by blue "Chicago Supplementary Mail Sep. 28" circular datestamps on cover to Belleville, Canada West, with red "U. States Paid 10" in circle.



Under the subject of used cancellations, aside from the above mentioned, I would say that "Numerals" are scarce, and that "Stars" are rarer than "Targets".

Scott 63 rejoined pair cancelled by blue "Wells, Fargo & Cos. Express S.Frco. Jan. 17" double-circle datestamp, stamps well-centered, separated and rejoined. [They were separated again, offered as singles in two separate 2015 Siegel auctions, so unless the same buyer purchased both, they are still separated. JFD.]

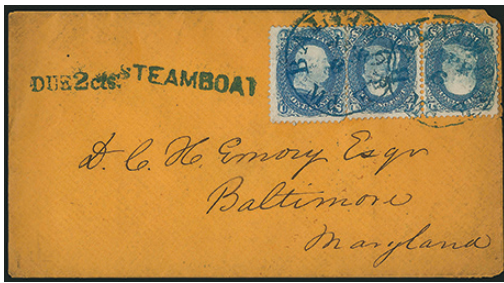


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[This example with a Target cancel was illustrated in Part 2, November 2020 USSN, of this Reprint of the Tudor Gross article with images added. See the next column for a Stars cancel. JFD.]



A strip of three on a cover with blue "Steamboat" and "Due 2 cts." straightline handstamps, stamps tied by blue Baltimore circular datestamps, addressed to Baltimore, original enclosure dated 1863.



five, but that is not many over a period of twenty years. [See page 4 for a Railroad cover.]

Revenues used as postage with 1¢ 1861 are seldom found. I have two covers showing this use, and I doubt if many exist. Of course, revenues should not have been used for this type of postal service, but they "got by" and, consequently, are most interesting. In a somewhat similar classification should be noted the use of the 1¢ stamp as revenue, that is, on checks or notes. These are not particularly scarce, but it is just one more use of the stamp that should be noted.



Scott 63 with a May 1867 manuscript cancel, used as a Revenue stamp with 2¢ Bank Check and 2¢ Internal Revenue stamps (Sc. R6c, R15c) on a document from San Rafael Cal. regarding payment for building of a home.

### Patent Envelopes

One of the most interesting "essays", if you please, is the patent envelope put out privately, in Brooklyn, N. Y., as a means of proving positively that a letter, dated on a certain day was actually mailed on that day. The idea was to cut, by an egg-shaped die, the upper right corner of an envelope leaving strips of the paper still joined to the edges of the die cut circle. The letter would be inserted in the envelope, thus showing through, and the stamp, either 1¢ or 3¢ as the case might be, would be placed over the strips of paper in the middle of the punched space. This meant that the stamp would not only adhere to the strips, but would also be stuck to the letter inside. To remove the letter, the strips would have to be broken, and as a result, the stamp with its day and year cancellation, would be affixed to the enclosure, and the envelope could be thrown away.

Assuming that the postmaster cancelled the stamp as above indicated, the letter would bear positive evidence that it was mailed on the date noted, and the envelope itself was unnecessary. This patent was purchased by Leeds & Veaux of Brooklyn and they thoroughly expected that the government and the public would want to make use of it. The fact is, however, that Washington was not impressed, and while a number of the envelopes were actually used, the experiment proved to

be a failure. I have a cover bearing the 1¢ stamp and evidently mailed by the owners of the patent to themselves, as a sample, no doubt, since it is addressed to Leeds & Veaux, Flushing, N.Y. The stamp, unlike some of the 3¢ denomination I have seen, bears a day and year cancellation, and is the only patent envelope cancellation that I have seen or heard of that is so cancelled on the 1¢.

Scott 63, three singles, affixed along the top of a Leeds and Franklin Patent envelope, right stamp properly affixed over latticework, each tied by



"Stratford Vt. Jun. 29" circular datestamp, addressed to South Harwick Vt., the stamp affixed over latticework lifted and placed on blue card (latticework still adheres to back of stamp). The stamp with its dated cancel would have been affixed to the contents. Note the cut upper right corner of the envelope.

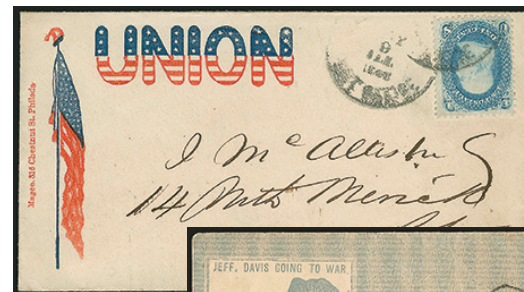
Other cancels that I might mention that are scarce on cover are:

- Philadelphia Post Office.
- Black Double Carrier.
- Stars.
- Numerals;

Covers bearing a 1¢ stamp that are none too common are:

- Patriotics with a single 1¢ stamp.
- Hotels.
- Straight line cancellations.
- Advertising covers.
- Covers used with 1857 issue.
- Registered cancellations.

The only cover that I have ever seen, with the latter cancellation, is in my own collection. It has thirty copies, several of them damaged, but all have the word "Registered" struck across the face. Incidentally, this cover is said to be the one bearing the largest use of the 1¢ stamp yet discovered.



Top, Scott 63 single tied by blurry strikes of Philadelphia Sta. A datestamp on "Union" and Flag Patriotic cover to a local address.

Bottom, Scott 63 single tied by octagonal "U.S. Penny Mail, Phila. Pa. Jun. 13" datestamp on Jeff Davis Going and Returning From War Patriotic to local address. When turned upside down it turns Davis into a Jackass.