

Baker's U.S. Classics:

The One Cent 1861 Issue

by Hugh J. & J. David Baker

(From STAMPS Magazine, February 20-May 1, 1965, with images added)

[We begin in this issue a series of articles from the Baker Brothers on the United States 1861 Issue. JFD.]

February 20, 1965



Scott 63

The 1¢ of the 1861 Issue

In a series of columns to follow we will picture the stamps of the 1861 issue and give related information.

The 1¢ value, not only being the first in order, was also actually the first value known used. Stamps off cover record the date of August 17th, while the earliest used on cover now recorded is August 21st, 1861.

In searching our clipping file for articles on the 1¢ stamp, very few articles were found.

The most extensive group of articles were by E. Tudor Gross of Providence, Rhode Island, who, at the 1922 A.P.S. convention (Springfield, Mass.) was encouraged by Daniel Hammatt, a former Topeka (Kansas) collector, to form a specialized 1¢ collection. He reported interesting findings in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* beginning April 21st and continuing through November 24, 1941. Another article on carrier use appeared in March 27, 1943.

[We will present these comprehensive articles in future issues of *USSN Online*. JFD.]

In all the years George Sloane wrote, not one column appeared on the 1¢ 1861. Calvin Christian reported on the die impressions in the August 3, 1957, issue of *Stamps*.

E. Tudor Gross raised the question: "Why is this stamp so hard to secure in fine to superb condition when supposedly 138 million copies were issued without grill from August 1861 to 1867?" This question could undoubtedly be asked about every value of the 1861 issue, as well as the preceding 1857 issue. Since the common cause of poor condition is poor-centering between perforations, a future column will be devoted to this subject.

E. Tudor Gross reported that in his search for superb used and unused copies of this stamp from dealers' approvals and accumulations, the percentage of superb copies was extremely small. He specifically referred to a lot of 1,400 which provided 20 first-class copies, of which only twelve could be rated as superb.

He further observed that by 1861 envelopes had just come into general use and, unlike the folded letter bearing the address and stamp, were thrown away even though the contents of the letter might be saved.

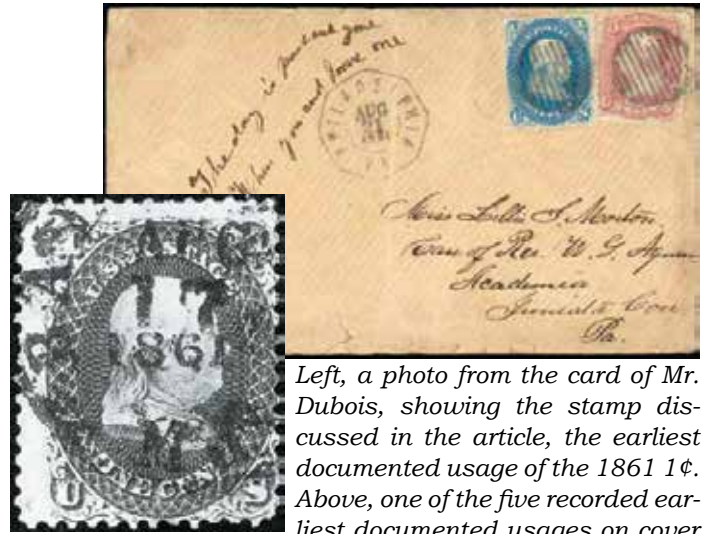
Most of the use of 1¢ stamps was as a single stamp on drop-letters or on circulars, not in multiples of three to pay the first class letter rates, and therefore more liable to be consigned to the waste basket. This is another reason for the scarcity of superb 1¢ it 1861s.

March 13, 1965

The 1¢ 1861 Stamp

Previous columns have discussed various interesting subjects about this stamp (Scott's No. 63) or uses of it. This column will enumerate some statistics about the stamp itself.

At this writing the earliest recorded use is an off cover stamp cancelled in Baltimore with the date of August 17, 1861, while the earliest use on a cover is August 21, 1861.



Left, a photo from the card of Mr. Dubois, showing the stamp discussed in the article, the earliest documented usage of the 1861 1¢. Above, one of the five recorded earliest documented usages on cover of the 1861 1¢ blue on August 21, 1861 used from Philadelphia, Pa., and Pittsburgh, Pa., used with a 3¢ rose (Sc. 65) tied by circled grid cancellations on cover to Academia, Pa., with matching "Philadelphia Pa Aug 21 1861" octagonal date stamp, prepaying the 1¢ carrier fee plus 3¢ domestic rate, also with a manuscript verse at left that reads, "The day is past and gone when you and I were one." See also the June 19, 1965, column at the end of this 1¢ section.

This was the first issue of stamps to be printed by the National Bank Note Company of Philadelphia, therefore the plate numbers of the plates used to print it start with one for the essays. These essays are listed in Scott's catalogue as the "August" issue.

Block of four with National Bank Note Imprint. This is a Lowenberg, Wyckoff and Macdonough Patent Trial Color Plate Proof on Surface Coated Paper (an attempt to prevent stamp reuse), Imperforate, (Sc. 63TC5). James Macdonough was one of the National Bank Note Company founders.



The 1¢ stamps, including the grilled issues, were printed from plates 9, 10, 22, 25 and 27.



1¢ olive green Trial Color Plate Proof, perforated and gummed (Sc. 63TC) in a bottom imprint and plate number strip.



1¢ Blue Plate Proof on India (Sc. 63P3) bottom imprint and plate no. 27 block of twelve.

It is estimated that about 138 million stamps without grill and an additional 7 million with grill were printed. The 1¢ stamp is known with 11x14mm "Z" grill, the 11x13mm "E" grill and 9 x 13mm "F" grill.

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.

Stamps from Plate 9 can be found with a dot in the upper portion of the left side of the "U" in the lower left corner. Other varieties include double transfers, copies printed on both sides of paper, and a pair imperforate vertically.

The color varies from a very pale blue to the beautiful dark blue and indigo shades. The indigo and ultramarine shades appear to be the hardest to fine.



A 1¢ blue (Sc. 63) with an unusually wide left sheet margin and the perms missing between the left selvage and the stamp.



Another fabulous cover showing the intended 1¢ local usage in Chicago, the 1¢ stamp not only showing the plate 10 and partial imprint—but the stamp also is imperforate between the bottom of the stamp and the margin!



From the 2009 Spink Shreves Auction of the Cunliffe Inverts of the World Collection, this stamp is one of only two examples in existence of the 1861-66 1¢ Blue printed on both sides with the impression on the back inverted, Sc. 63c. Note that this is not an offset from another stamp, but an actual printing on the back. With a \$4,000 SCV in 2009, it sold for a huge \$57,500, plus 15% Premium. The 2016 SCV is \$35,000

Only a [vertical] dash of color under the extreme right tip of the ornament at the right of the left figure "1" distinguishes this design from the original design known as the "August".



June 19, 1965

The 1¢ 1861 Earliest Use

This column for March 13, 1965 (page 34), mentioned the earliest recorded use of the 1¢ 1861 as August 17, 1861. Warren DuBois, a Los Angeles dealer, found the stamp in a small collection in 1938.

The newspapers reported the find widely, including a very inflated \$50,000 estimated value. The impression of the

handstamp is very clear, making the date and year beyond question.

This stamp was exhibited at the Treasure Island Golden Gate 1939 International Exhibition. My thanks to Warren DuBois, who retired as a dealer in 1948, for the information. Anyone aspiring to own this stamp may obtain it from Mr. Dubois at a considerable discount from the estimated value previously quoted.



The top cover, to Philadelphia, shows the 1861 1¢ Blue (Sc. 63) in a

horizontal strip of four tied by circle of wedges and a "New-York 22 Jan. 1863" double-circle datestamp, the four cents paying the 3¢ domestic postage plus the then-current 1¢ carrier fee.

Although the bottom cover, to New York City, shows the intended use of the 1861 1¢ Blue (Sc. 63) to pay the carrier fee to the Philadelphia post office and a 3¢ Rose (Sc. 65) to pay the postage, the stamps are tied by a "Philadelphia Pa. Jul. 1, 1863" circular datestamp—the first day of the free carrier service, so the 1¢ stamp was no longer necessary.



This Patriotic cover to a Union soldier bears an attractive octagonal "U.S. Penny Mail, Phila. Pa. Jun. 13" datestamp. The cover, with an 1861 1¢, Sc. 63, shows upright, "Jeff. Davis Going to War". It looks to be a rather crude effort—until you turn it upside down and see what the artist was aiming for: "Jeff. Davis Returning From War" in the likeness of a jackass.

Baker 1861 Study to Be Continued

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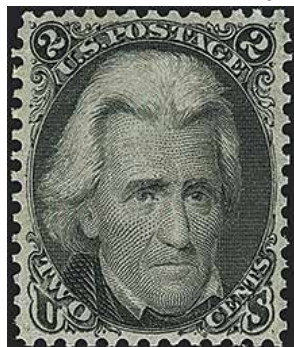
The Two Cents 1861-66 Issue

by Hugh J. & J. David Baker

(From STAMPS Magazine, February 20-May 1, 1965, with images added)

July 10, 1965

The 2¢ 1863 Stamp



Scott 73

During March 1863 Congress approved a postal act abolishing carrier fees and establishing a prepaid rate of 2¢ for drop letters. This rate could be paid by two 1¢ stamps, but the large anticipated demand made the issuing of our first 2¢ postage stamp and 2¢ embossed government envelopes practical.

Phil Ward quoted in one of his columns a June 6, 1863 letter from J. Macdonough, Secretary of the National Bank Note Co. acknowledging receipt of a letter from A. N. Zevely, Third Ass't P.M.G., "instructing us to print the 2 ct. Postage Stamps in black," and continues: "The printing commences this morning and we will be prepared to supply the demand on the 1st of July."

The 2¢ was printed from seven plates: 28 to 31, 50, 51 and 53. An interesting side note here. The later printing of the 2¢ and 15¢ denominations helps us determine when certain of the fifty-three plates may have been made. The 3¢ was the only one of the original denominations for which plates were made after May 1863. Three plates, 38 to 40, never were used to print stamps. These might have been 1¢ plates, because the use of 1¢ stamps decreased greatly after July 1863.



1863 2¢ black (Sc. 73) cancelled by clear "Philadelphia Pa. Jul 1 1863" town cancel, the unique First Day usage of this issue.



2¢ Black (Sc. 73) bottom imprint & plate No. 29 strip of four

It is estimated that 256,566,000 2¢ stamps were issued without grill and an additional 75,000,000 with grill in D, Z, E, and F patterns. The decline of demand for the 1¢ can be seen from the 10,000,000 issued grilled compared with the 75,000,000 2¢ stamps issued grilled. Plate varieties exist, such as cracked plate, double and triple transfer, and short transfer. Also the printed on both sides printing variety.



2¢ Black Z Grill (Sc. 85B) with clearly defined grill on the face, as well as an additional grill impression in the selvage.

Maurice Cole has tabulated forty covers bearing bisected stamps. Although this practice was outlawed by the PMG in 1853, the practice existed during the middle 1860s, primarily for the 2¢ only. Most uses show a bisected stamp with another 2¢ stamp to pay the three-cent postage. A number of 2¢ bisected covers are known to be faked.

November 20, 1965

Correction on Column of July 10th on 2¢ 1863 Stamp

Incorrect: "Three plates, 38 to 40, never were used to print stamps." Correct: Nos. 38, 39 and 40, which are missing



2¢ Black Diagonal Bisect (Sc. 73a) used with 1861 1¢ blue (Sc. 63)—the only recorded example of the 2¢ Black Jack bisect used to make up the 2¢ Local Rate—tied to drop cover across the diagonal by a four-rings cancel, also with matching "Quincy Pa. Sep 16" c.d.s.

from the (National Bank Note Co.) sequence, are those for the stamps for Newspapers and Periodicals, issued in 1865. Plates 56, 57, 58, 59 and 60 are the plates made for the reissue of 1875 and not for the original issue.

August 7, 1965

Why Jackson's Portrait on the 2¢ Black Jack?

Why should Andrew Jackson's portrait have been chosen in March 1863 to be the first President's portrait other than Washington and Jefferson to be engraved on a U.S. postage stamp?

It was probable that all Presidents other than Washington and Jefferson who had passed away prior to the date of selection were considered. The choice could be made from the two Adams, John and John Quincy, Madison, Monroe, Jackson, Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, Tyler, Polk, and Taylor.

Of the eligible Presidents only John and John Quincy Adams from Massachusetts and Martin Van Buren of New York were from states not a part of the Confederacy.

Why Andrew Jackson, a native of Tennessee, then a state of the Confederacy? Andrew Jackson's portrait had been used on a number of bank notes, issued by Tennessee banks in the 1850s. The National Bank Note Co., the printers of this stamp, had also printed a number of these bank notes.

Confederate postage stamps used the portraits of three Presidents of the United States: Thomas Jefferson on the 10¢ in November 1861, Andrew Jackson on the 2¢ in March 1862, and George Washington on the 20¢ in 1863.

Maurice Cole in his book, *The Black Jacks of 1863-67*, devotes a chapter to this question. Was this stamp, printed in black, intended as a commemorative? What was there about Andrew Jackson to commemorate? Born in South Carolina in 1767, defender of New Orleans in 1815, inaugurated in 1829, he passed away in June, 1845. This stamp was certainly not a memorial.

Some Southern congressmen had threatened secession because of the tariff of 1828. At a Jefferson Day dinner in Washington during April, 1830 Andrew Jackson proposed a toast: "Our Federal Union; it must be preserved."

It has been observed that Jackson's portrait may have been used as a gesture to indicate the desire of the Northern States to reunite with the Confederate States and re-establish the Federal Union.

Probably government records or letters of the Post Office Department exist which answer the question raised. But as the research on



From the 1998 Robert A. Siegel Rarities Sale, these two items relate to Jackson's selection for the new 2¢ issue. The off-cover stamp contains in the sheet selvage the sender's message in manuscript, "the Union must and shall be preserved". The Patriotic cover with single cancelled by target shows a soldier and sailor holding a banner also reading "The Union Must and Shall Be Preserved". This declaration also is inscribed on the Andrew Jackson statue in New Orleans, which was erected in 1856.

this column progressed it became clear that the availability of the engraving and the Confederate use of Jackson's portrait may have prompted the decision.

August 22, 1964

The "Atherton" Shift

(Note: We have replaced the photos mentioned in this column with better, more recent photos. JFD.) Have you ever heard of the "Atherton" shift? Stanley Ashbrook discovered and named it. He commented on it as follows in an article in the April 1946 issue of *The American Philatelist*:

"Here we have one of the most remarkable double transfers on U.S. stamps...I have for years classed the One Cent 1851, Type II, 89R2 as the No. 1 among remarkable examples of this variety, and this 2¢ Black Jack could rank as No. 2. Perhaps some would even rank it equal to the 1¢, 89R2.

"I first saw the (Atherton shift) in the Herbert P. Atherton collection in 1922. In addition to single, off-cover copy, Mr. Atherton also had a cover with a strip of three, the lefthand stamp in the strip being this remarkable double shift."

Tony Russo, the well known Chicago dealer and collector of the 2¢ Black Jack, very recently added this cover to his collection and provided the accompanying photo of the stamp on his cover. Some years ago Stan Ashbrook sent Tony a picture of this cover which he had taken on August 28, 1922. It was sold to Brigham for \$63.00 as Lot 166 in the first Emerson Sale, auctioned

October 19, 1937. The back of the cover has a notation of "\$175" (probably Emerson's cost); also, "only three singles known". Two single copies are illustrated on pages 211 and 212 of Brookman's *The 19th Century Postage Stamps of the United States*. It is believed this variety came from a first condition of the plate. After discovery, the position was erased and a fresh entry made, hence possibly not many sheets containing the shift were sold. The cover was posted at Warrenton, Virginia, May 13th 1867.

November 14, 1964

Another Remarkable 2¢ Black Jack

Since the remarkable shift pictured here was discovered by Marvin Preston, of Ferndale, Michigan, while perusing a dealer's stock in 1951, it could be rightly called the "Preston" shift.

At the recent NAPEX in Washington, D.C., Mrs. Arthur Lane, the philatelic curator for Harry F. Allen, of St. Petersburg, Florida, pointed out and explained the many unusual items in this outstanding 2¢ Black Jack exhibit.

My eyes popped out when I saw this unusual stamp, especially since it is mounted with a photograph, another print of which I had just received a week earlier from Mr. Preston.



by Daniel F. Kelleher
The Barbara Fosdyke Collection
auctioned off by
Schuyler Rumsey

A u c - t i o n s i n 2 0 1 0 c o n - t a i n e d f o u r c o p i e s o f t h e A t h e r - t o n s h i f t,

including this example that shows the doubling in the upper left. Ex-Russo, this is one of those illustrated in the Brookman book. Other examples are known.

This double transfer is certainly as remarkable as the “Atherton” shift, which appears in the upper left hand corner of the stamp. The “Preston” shift appears all along the right side of the stamp from the top to the bottom. This is not as strong a double transfer as the “Atherton.”

The Barbara Fosdyke Collection auctioned off by Schuyler Rumsey Auctions in 2010 con-



tained four copies of the Preston shift, including this example that best shows the dou-

bling in the upper right. Other examples also are known.

Unlike the “Atherton,” of which at least four copies are known, no other copy of the “Preston” shift has been reported to either Mr. Preston or Mr. Allen. [See caption above. JFD.]

Stanley Ashbrook once commented to Tony Russo, a well-known collector of Black Jacks, that almost every Black Jack had a shift in it if you looked for it carefully. A tremendous quantity of these stamps were printed and the plates took hard wear; consequently, every imperfect transfer showed up sooner or later during different stages of wear on the plates.

June 17, 1967

Black Jack Preston Shift

Referring back to our column of 14 November, 1964, we pictured a stamp with a large double transfer along the whole right side. This was called the “Preston” shift after Marvin Preston of Ferndale, Michigan, who picked it out of a dealer’s stock in 1951. Unlike the “Atherton” shift, of which at least four copies are known, no other copy of the “Preston” shift has been recognized until Leo Stawecki of Detroit produced the copy illustrated here, a second copy.

For those of our readers who perhaps do not have access to our earlier column we would like to repeat that at the time of the earlier column no other copy of this shift had been reported. We are delighted, therefore, to be able to report a second copy. We thank Marvin Preston for forwarding the photograph and information to us.

*Jackson
1863-64 en-
tires, right, Sc.
U48, below,*



*Sc. U46 with-
Commission
design.*

Baker 1861 Study to Be Continued

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Baker's U.S. Classics:

The Three Cents 1861-66 Issue

by Hugh J. & J. David Baker

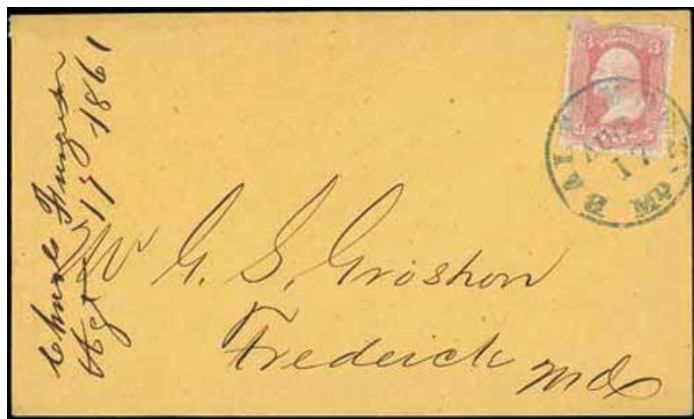
(From STAMPS Magazine, March 20, 1965, with images added)

Scott's catalog devotes three numbers to the 3¢ denomination of the 1861 issue. No. 66, the lake shade, would seem more properly listed with the "August" or with the trial proofs since the catalog notes that "This stamp... was not regularly issued. It is believed that they are trial color proofs."



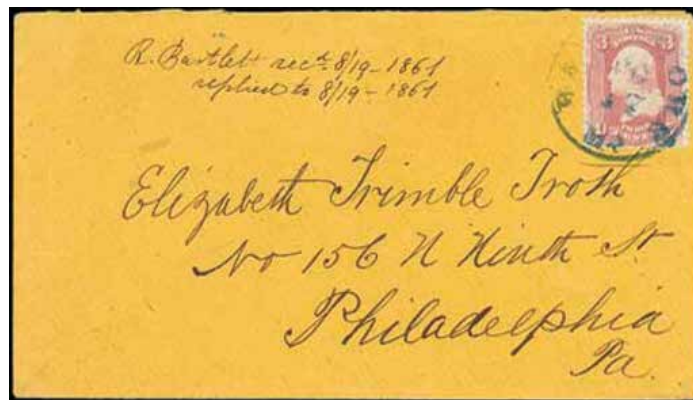
Bottom imprint and plate no. 34 block of eight, the only recorded Plate Number Block of the 3¢ Lake (Sc. 66).

[It is now listed in the Trial Colors section of the Scott Specialized as 66TC6. JFD.]



Above, 1861 3¢ pink (Sc. 64) tied by blue "Baltimore Md. Aug 17" circular date stamp on orange Goschen correspondence cover to Frederick Md., docketing at left "Agt 17 - 1861", the only recorded First Day Cover of the 1861 3¢ Pink.

Right, 1861 3¢ pigeon blood pink (Sc. 64a) tied by "Lancaster Aug 21 1861" c.d.s. on small yellow piece, the Earliest Documented Use of the Pigeon Blood Pink shade.



1861 3¢ rose pink (Sc. 64b) tied by blue "Baltimore Md. Aug 17" c.d.s. on cover to Philadelphia Pa., clear 1861 docketing, the unique FDC.

Scott's No. 64, the pink; and No. 65, the 3¢ rose, was regularly issued for postage, the pink being first used on August 18th and the rose August 19th, 1861.

A future column will be devoted to the problem of color. About 100,000 were believed to have been printed in the pink shade from Plate 12 only.

About 1,782,000,000 of the 3¢ stamps without grill and 306,000,000 with grill were printed from 28 plates, Nos. 11 to 14, 19 to 21, 23, 24, 32 to 37, and 42 to 49.

This is the least expensive stamp to purchase, even grilled, of all the issues prior to the 3¢ greens of the 1870s. It should be found in every collection of U.S. stamps.

It is not surprising that all grills known to exist should be found on this stamp, namely, A, B, C, D, Z, E and F.

[Not all 3¢ 1861-66 issues are common. Shown here is the B Grill, Sc. 82, one of four known. It sold for \$575,000 hammer plus 15% Buyer's Premium in the Robert A. Siegel Galleries Rarities Sale. For an extensive discussion of this lot and the Siegel Census, go to <http://siegelauctions.com>. JFD.]



This is the only stamp to be issued as a substitute for coins. They were issued for a year during the Civil War as a coin substitute, but could not stand the wear and tear of pockets and pocketbooks, and were soon redeemed at post offices.

Although no copy is known to exist now, the Postmaster at Mason, Michigan, reported in October 1863 receiving letters from the southwest bearing counterfeit 3¢ stamps. A soldier reported the sutlers [sellers of provisions] following the Army had these for sale.

See page 35 for a color display.

Our August 2011 *Stamp News Online* included a reprint of an article by noted expert Elliott Perry titled, "The 3¢ Pink of 1861," which first appeared in the July 5, 1941 *STAMPS Magazine*—at a time when stamps could not be reproduced in color. In addition to that article I created this color display.

Reproduced here, it is not an attempt to identify match one specific stamp with one specific color, simply because in my online search to find such stamps, I confirmed the point made by Perry that there is a wide variety of shades that are identified under any one specific color. JFD.

Scott 64, pink

(2012 SCV \$14,000 unused / \$1,000 used:



Scott 64a: pigeon blood pink

(2012 SCV \$50,000 unused / \$5,000 used:

Pigeon blood pink has been explained as having a bluish tint.



Scott 64b: rose pink

(2012 SCV \$600 unused / \$160 used:



Scott 65: rose

(2012 SCV \$125 unused / \$3 used:



The third stamp from the left is described as rose with a pinkish hue.

Baker's U.S. Classics:

The Five Cents 1861-66 Issue

by Hugh J. & J. David Baker

(From STAMPS Magazine, March 27, 1965, with images added)

March 27, 1965

The 5¢ 1861 Stamps

The 5¢ design is listed in Scott's in three color variations: No. 67, the beautiful buff; No. 75, the red-brown and No. 76, brown.

All these stamps were printed from Plate 17. About 175,000 were printed in the various shades of buff and can be found used about ten months after August 19th, 1861 the earliest use now recorded.

Covers bearing these stamps to or from the Pacific Coast are particularly prized.

Top, 5¢ Buff (Sc. 67) pair tied by "Sonora Cal. Mar. 4, 1862" circular date-stamp on small cover to Hinsdale Mass.

Bottom, 5¢ Buff (Sc. 67) pair tied by "Preston Conn. Sep. 9" with day in manuscript on cover to Sacramento City, Cal., 1861 docketing at left.



Left to right: Scott 67, 70, 75

The color was darkened to red-brown (Scott's No. 75) for the second printing, first recorded used January 2, 1862 (see piece below). About one million were printed in this shade. Incidentally, Civil War patriotic covers bearing these stamps are hard to find (see cover below).



1861 5¢ brown yellow (Sc. 67a) tied by "Boston Br. Pkt. Paid Aug 21" red c.d.s. on large part of folded lettersheet to Halifax, Nova Scotia, also with black "5" rating handstamp, the earliest documented use of the 1861 5¢ brown yellow, used on the first day of issue at Boston.

1862 5¢ red brown (Sc. 75) used with 10¢ green (Sc. 68) tied by N.Y. Foreign Mailstar in circle cancellations on small piece showing red Calais Jan. 13, 1862 entry c.d.s., the earliest recorded use of the 5¢ red brown.



5¢ Red Brown (Sc. 75) tied by perfect blue "Baltimore Md. Dec. 12" c.d.s. to "Union and Liberty Now and Forever"

Patriotic cover to Boston.

No stamps of the buff or red-brown were grilled, as this process was not started until 1867. About 680,000 of the brown, Scott's No. 76, were grilled but with just two patterns, the overall "A" grill and the 9 x 13 "F" grill. Either of these is very hard to find in very fine condition.

(See page 17 for an "F" Grill.)

One of the covers bearing the date of February 3, 1863, the earliest recorded use of the brown, is



5¢ Dark Brown "A" Grill (Sc. 80a), one of four recorded used examples.

a cover with 5¢ and 10¢ stamps paying the 15¢ rate to Hanover, Germany from Dayton, Ohio.

About 6,500,000 stamps were printed with-

out the grill. A color variety of the brown is the very dark shade described as black brown which is found used during 1866 and 1867.

Since all of these stamps were printed from the same plate, they should all have the same plate varieties. These are a double transfer of top frame line, bottom frame line, or both top and bottom frame line.

To Be Continued



5¢ Brown F. Grill (Sc. 95)



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Baker's U.S. Classics:

The Ten Cents 1861-66 Issue

by Hugh J. & J. David Baker

(From STAMPS Magazine, March 27, 1965, with images added)



Left to right: Sc. 62B (formerly Sc. 58), Sc. 68, Sc. 85D Z Grill, Sc. 89 E Grill, Sc. 96 F Grill

April 3, 1965

The 10¢ 1861 Stamps

The 10¢ produces the oddity of the 1861 issue. The so-called "August" is first actually known used September 17, 1861, while the "September," or regular issue, is known used as early as August 20, 1861.

10¢ dark green First Design (Sc. 62B) used with 5¢ buff (Sc. 67) and 30¢ orange (Sc. 71) two singles, each tied by circular grid



cancel on 1861 folded Payen correspondence cover to Lyon, France, with red "New York Paid Sep. 17" c.d.s., magenta "60" credit, red French (10.1) entry and matching framed "P.D." handstamp, endorsed "Steamship Arabia". This is the earliest documented usage of this issue.

The "August," Scott's No. 58 [now Scott 62B], was printed from Plate 4 on thin and semi-transparent paper. About 500,000 or 2% of all 10¢ stamps are in this design (Type I). A number of these were sent to the territories and California and are found used from these areas into the year 1862.

10¢ dark green First Design (Sc. 62B) tied by blue "Wells, Fargo & Cos. Express S.Frco. 11 Jan." (1862) double-circle datestamp on cover to New York City with Wells, Fargo & Co. red frank.



The Type II, Scott's No. 68, is the regular issue printed from Plates 15 and 26. Some 27,300,000 were issued without grill and another 5,300,000 with Z, E and F Grills.

Until July 1, 1863, the 10¢ stamp was used for mail to and from California, Oregon and Washington. Three are known used on Pony Express covers, all during October, 1861. After this time it is found used alone or in combination with other values to make up rates to foreign lands.

The 10¢ "September," Scott's No. 68, has a very pronounced colored marking in the "TAG" letters. These all seem to appear in stamps printed from Plate 26. Cyril dos Passos discussed the "TAG" variety in the December 1956, and March 1959 issues of the *American Philatelist*. R. J. Engle, Jr., and D. A. Dromberg added their ideas in November 1960 and August 1962 issues of the same publication. [Shown here is the "TAG" double transfer on the 10¢ E Grill, Sc. 89, pictured above.]



Their discussion also raises the question as to what possibly happened to Plate 15 which caused the essay Plate No.4 to be put into use until the problem could be remedied.

This stamp could carry a prepaid letter farther than any other denomination except the 90¢ prior to this time, because starting in August 1867, 10¢ would prepay a letter across the Pacific to Japan and China from anywhere in the U.S.

10¢ Yellow Green (Sc. 68) tied by target cancel with light strike of "Stafford N.H. Jul. 2" circular datestamp on 1868 cover



to Swatow, China, endorsed "Via California", with red "New York Paid All Direct Jul. 9" c.d.s., also with Hong Kong (Sep. 7) and Swatow (Sep. 10) backstamps, carried on the Pacific Mail Steam Ship Japan.

Baker's U.S. Classics:

The Twelve Cents 1861-66 Issue

by Hugh J. & J. David Baker

(From STAMPS Magazine, April 10, 1965, with images added)

April 10, 1965



Sc. 69

The 12¢ 1861 Stamps

Occasionally there is a stamp which is itself attractive in design, but has little of interest to tell about. This is why my clipping file for this stamp contains not a single item.

The design is pleasing. It was the most altered from the original essay, with the entire corner design outside the wavy white margin added in each corner.

All stamps, Scott's No. 69, were printed in black from Plate 16.

Sc. 69 pair with part imprint and plate no. 16 selvage at bottom. No plate blocks or full imprint multiples are known for this issue.



Stanley Ashbrook recorded October 16, 1861, as the earliest known use. However, Bob Markovits of Middletown, New York, may have an earlier date. [The EKU now is August 30, 1861—see photo below, from the 1996 Fisher Collection Auction Catalog.



Scott 69 used on August 30, 1861 folded letter to Bordeaux, France, along with 3¢ c. 65 with manuscript "Trenton, N.J. Aug 30th 1861" endorsement at top, the 12¢ stamp tied by red New York exchange c.d.s. and Calais transit c.d.s., the earliest recorded usage of Scott 69.

Approximately 7,314,000 stamps without grill and 3,700,000 with grill were printed. The high percentage of grilled to the total stamps printed, one third, is most unusual and not found in any other values. Why?

The 12¢ stamp paid the quadruple domestic rate, certainly not much of a demand. It is found used with other values to pay the 15¢ rate to Bremen, Hamburg, or to France, or in pairs to pay the 24¢ rate to England prior to December 31, 1867, or alone to pay the 12¢ rate after January 1, 1868. The reduced rate to England explains the increased demand for this stamp grilled.

12¢ (Sc. 69) tied by blue "Chicago Ill. Supplementary Mail Jul. 10" c.d.s. on cover to Wickliffe Ohio, an extremely scarce single franking paying quadruple domestic rate.



12¢ (Sc. 69) vertical pair tied by grid cancels with matching "Kingston N.Y. Apr. 8" (1867) double-circle datestamp on small cover to London, England, also with red New York 19¢ credit datestamp and London Paid AP 20 datestamp.

12¢ F. Grill (Sc. 97) tied by Shield fancy cancel and "Cambridge Mass. Jul. 14" (1868) c.d.s. on small cover to London, England, also with red Boston and London datestamps.



It is found grilled in three patterns Z, E, and F (Sc. 85E, 90, 97).

The black color lends itself to attempts to remove cancellations so that the stamp could be regummed and sold as unused. Collectors beware!

The varieties are double transfer, top only, bottom only, and top and bottom.

The Twenty-Four Cents 1861-66 Issue

by **Hugh J. & J. David Baker**

(From *STAMPS Magazine*, April 17, 1965, with images added)

April 17, 1965

The 24¢ 1861 Stamps

The 24¢ of this issue is in a class by itself for two reasons: first, the essay design was unchanged, and second, the color problems. The essay of the 30¢ was also unchanged but a distinct shade change occurred immediately.



24¢ grayish lilac, Francis Patent Essay (Sc. 70-E)

Shades and tones of shades are difficult to describe. Just how are you going to distinguish the gray lilac 60a from a gray lilac 78a? If you happen to keep a file of these columns, the table in the August 29th 1964 Stamps may be



24¢ dark violet First Color (formerly Sc. 60, now Sc. 70TC6 Trial Color proof)

helpful to better understand the total problem. [See next column. JFD.]

Now, as to quantities; hereafter are listed the approximate quantities issued by shade: No. 60, violet, 40,000; No. 70b, steel blue, 80,000; Nos. 70, and 70a, red lilac and brown lilac, 400,000; Nos. 78, 78a, lilac, gray lilac and 78b, gray, 9,620,000 issued without grill and 200,000 with the 9x13mm F grill pattern only.

The principal use of the 24¢ was to pay the single rate to England until December 31, 1867. It also was used as multiples or with other values to pay higher rates or multiple rates to foreign lands.



1862 24¢ deep red lilac (Sc. 70) tied by red grid and "N. York Br. Pkt. 'Paid 19' Jan 7" c.d.s. on 1862 yellow cover to Norwich, England, with Norwich (1.20.1862) receiving backstamp and docketing at top, "Pr Steamship Niagara fr. Boston", the earliest documented usage of the 24¢ red lilac shade.

A scratch under the "A" of postage is the only variety in the design. The lilac shade is known printed on both sides.

August 29, 1964

The 24¢ 1861 Color Problem

In the April 28th Siegel sale, eighteen lots of the 24¢ 1861 on cover were offered. In examining these covers and re-examining the 24¢ stamps off cover in my own collection, the considerable confusion caused by color printings and color changelings of this issue suddenly came into focus.

The 24¢ value is one whose design was not changed from the first design to the actual issue; therefore, colors and the earliest recorded dates of use of these colors become a vital factor in determining how they should be cataloged.

Here are the catalog listings in the order of earliest recorded date of use. An examination of this tabulation will point out some of the problems.

Scott # & Color

60 Violet

60a Grayish-Lilac

70b Steel Blue

70 Red-Lilac Jan. 7, 1862 [same now]

70a Brown-Lilac

78a Grayish-Lilac

78 Lilac

78b Gray

78c Blackish-Violet

Earliest EKU [& present date]

Aug. 20, 1861 [no longer listed]

Oct. ?, 1861 [no longer listed]

Oct. 4, 1861 [now Sept. 21]

Feb. 11, 1862 [now Feb. 5]

Oct. 3, 1862 [now Oct. 23]

Feb. 20, 1863 [no date now given]

? [now Oct. 29, 1862]

(May, 1864) [now May 1, 1863]

[Scott now lists a 70c EKU of August 20, 1861]
[Scott now lists a 70d EKU of Sept. 1-0, 1861]
[Scott now lists a 78c EKU of May 1, 1863]

As you look at the table, you will notice that varieties of a color occur earlier than the basic colors from which the variety was derived. This situation had not been unnoticed by earlier students, one of whom was Stanley B. Ashbrook. Mr. Ashbrook wrote an article in the *American Philatelist*, July 1946, from which he quoted later in writing his Issue No. 9 Special Service (December, 1951) "I presented my belief that the 24¢ 1861 Steel Blue was not a natural color...the 24¢ stamp was never issued in that color...rather the Steel Blue listed in the [Scott] U.S. as 70b was a natural color changeling of the 24¢ Violet, No. 60."

The present [1964] Scott's *Specialized U.S. Catalog* warns: "There are numerous shades of the 24¢ stamp in this, and the following issue. Color changelings of No. 78 are frequently offered as No. 70b."

Mr. Ashbrook's comment on the above statement, which has been used for a number of years, was "This I doubt, and would state if the items referred to are 'changelings in color', — natural, of No. 60 and No. 70 the Violet and the Red-Violet, respectively. There are many stamps which are sold as No. 78 which are, in fact, color changelings of the Red-Lilac No. 70."

[We quote from the auction lot description from which the Trial Color Proof at the right came:

"The Dark Violet trial printing and Violet regular issue shades are often confused, and the Scott Catalogue adds to the confusion by putting the Dark Violet (the old Scott 60, which is still stated on P.F. certificates) in the Trial Color Proofs section as 70TC6, while the Violet gets a front seat as Scott 70c. In our opinion, there is really no justification to relegate the Dark Violet to the Trial Color Proofs section. As a result, the stamp offered here is undercatalogued in relation to other 24¢ stamps of equal rarity. For example, Scott 70c has a value of \$35,000 versus Scott 60 (70TC6) at \$15,000.

"All 24¢ stamps were printed in the design shown here from Plate 6. The stamps are cataloged at present under three numbers — 60; the essay number August 20th, 1861 (earliest date), which should cover all colors found until No. 70; the red lilac, appears January 7, 1862. If this statement were a fact, the steel blue (earliest date October 4, 1861) would be 60b instead of its illogical placement now as 70b."]

(We show on page 14 examples of the different Scott listed stamps, keeping in mind that the colors as printed here are not necessarily accurate due to variations in photo reproductions from the sources and in our processing. JFD.)



Sc. 60, violet



Sc. 70, red lilac



Sc. 70a, brown lilac



Sc. 70b, steel blue



Sc. 70c, violet



Sc. 70d, pale gray violet



Sc. 78 lilac



Sc. 78a, grayish lilac



Sc. 78b, gray



Sc. 78c, blackish violet



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as to prevent their access to other parts of the office....Orderly conduct of the messengers while on their trips should be strictly enforced. The necessity of good behavior in the streets when making deliveries or returning should be enjoined and postmasters should give strict attention to their conduct generally, and no one should be retained who is not diligent, faithful, courteous and well-behaved.

Sec. 643. Postmasters to Require Efficient Service.—Postmasters should...equalize as far as practicable the compensation of the messengers. To this end...a messenger employed during the busy hours of one day may be assigned to the duller hours of another day. So, too, changes should be made in assignments to night duty....No car fare or other incidental expenses can in any case be allowed to any messenger....

Sec. 645. Payment of Messengers.—...Messengers should be employed with the understanding that they shall receive the full 8 cents per letter actually delivered, not exceeding \$30 during any one month. But where the business may be reasonably expected, or shall prove, sufficient at any office to warrant it, the postmaster may employ his messengers at a less rate per letter, or by the hour (at not exceeding 12 1/2 cents per hour, calculating eight hours' service per day), or by the month, being certain not to exceed the total permissible allowance....

The Stamps

The first Special Delivery stamp, Scott E1, the 10c blue "Running Messenger" was issued in 1885. It included the inscription, "Secures Immediate Delivery at a Special Delivery Office." The 1886 Congress made the stamps available at all

Columbian stamps. The 10-cent orange was not discontinued until May 19, 1894, when the stock on hand was exhausted. On October 10, 1894, Scott E4 was issued on unwatermarked paper. This was followed by the same design, Sc. E5, issued August 16, 1895 on USPS double line watermarked paper. (See page 3.)

In 1902, the "Running Messenger" was replaced by a "Bicycle Messenger". Scott E6, a 10c light blue, was the first example, issued on December 9.




Artist R. Ostrander Smith used this self-photograph as usual model for his Bicycle Special Delivery stamp design.

On December 12, 1908 a new design, Scott E7, was issued. The 10c green stamp featured the Helmer of Mercury, "Messenger of the Gods", but the innovative design proved to be its downfall, as postmasters complained that the new stamps were escaping special delivery treatment because of the altered shape, design and color.

After the 1908 stamp was discontinued by order of June 9, 1909, the 1902 "Bicycle Messenger" special delivery design was brought back. Although new plates were used, the 1902 and 1909 stamps are indistinguishable; however, the 1909 printings can be distinguished by plate numbers 5240, 5243, 5244, 5245, with later printings also having an "09" suffix.

Subsequent varieties of the "Bicycle Messenger" differ as to perfs and watermarks. (See page 3.)

In 1912, the stamp design was updated from a Bicycle to "Motorcycle Delivery". The first version of this design, Scott E12 was placed on sale in Washington, D.C., on July 12, 1922.




Record card of Die #33, used to produce the "Running Messenger" Special Delivery stamps, Sc. E1-E5 offices, and upon any articles of mailable matter, but it was not until September 6, 1888 that a stamp, Scott E2, the 10c blue, was issued with the inscription "Secures Immediate Delivery at any Post Office".

On January 24, 1893 a 10-cent orange, Sc. E3, was issued to avoid confusion with the blue 1-cent and 4-cent

Baker's U.S. Classics:

The Thirty Cents 1861-66 Issue

by Hugh J. & J. David Baker

(From STAMPS Magazine, April 24, 1965, with images added)

The 30¢ value is akin to the 12¢ in that it hasn't provoked much interest since it had a limited use and not even one variety in design has been discovered.

The essay was printed in a very definite red-orange shade.



30¢ red orange Large Die Trial Color Proof on India (Sc. 71TC1).



30¢ red orange First Design (Sc. 61, now 71TC6)



Sc. 71

Like the 24¢ there was no change in design for the regular issue but the color of the stamp issued, Scott's No. 71, was a softer, less bright shade, described as orange.

The earliest recorded use is August 20, 1861.

1861 30¢ (Sc. 71) tied by circular grid cancel on cover to the "Ship Nile" at Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, with matching "New



London Ct. Aug 20 1861" c.d.s., the earliest documented use.

It is thought that about 3,000,000 stamps were issued without grill and some 282,000 with grill. A very small number of grilled all over stamps were issued, but only a very few remain today. Practically all are grilled with the 9x13mm F grill.



30¢ A Grill, Sc. 81

This stamp has one variety, a printing error, printed on both sides.

This (Sc. 71) is one of the hardest stamps of the issue to find used in very fine condition. [See Addendum below.] In addition to the perforations not being of the best, cancellations smudged easily, and most of those found do not appear sharp and clear.

The 30¢ stamp paid the rate via Prussian Closed Mail to Germany until



30¢ F Grill, Sc. 100

the prepaid rate was reduced to 28¢ in October 1861. It paid the double rate to France and combined to help pay rates greater than 30¢ to foreign countries.

Alone, the 30¢ doesn't show up well but there is no more beautiful cover than a 5¢ brown, a 10¢ green and a 30¢ combination cover, or uses in combinations with the 1¢ and 3¢ stamps.

5¢ red brown, 10¢ green, 30¢ orange (Sc. 68, 71, 75) tied by large Boston "Paid" grids, also with red "Boston Br. Pkt. 40 Mar. 4" credit datestamp on 1863 folded letter to Manila, Philippines, with red London transit, Hong Kong and receiving backstamps, red "1d" credit and "2" due marking for Philippine postage.



30¢ Orange (Sc. 71) used with 2¢ black (Sc. 73) and 24¢ Lilac (Sc. 78), tied by large four-bar open grid cancel on 1865 cover to Baden, Germany, 30¢ also tied by blue boxed "Aachen Franco" handstamp, also with light strike of red "Boston Br. Pkt. 14 Paid 3 May" datestamp, transit and receiving backstamps. Stamps pay the double 28¢ rate via Prussian Closed Mail.



ADDENDUM

In his November 16, 1940, STAMPS Magazine column, George Sloane wrote, 30¢ August, 1861, Used: In one of the large auction sales of U.S. stamps scheduled for this month,

there is listed a copy of the 30¢ stamp of the so-called “August,” 1861 Issue, Scott’s No. 61. The description reads, “A cancelled copy of this much-discussed stamp. This copy was shown to a leading authority on U.S. stamps. He made the following statement: ‘This copy is exactly as unused copies, paper also O.K., thin and transparent. Cancellation apparently genuine. It is likely that some regularly issued printings of the 30¢ were in the same colors as the 30¢ Premieres—an idea which occurs now that I see this used copy.’ Obviously a rare item; probably unique. (Stamp nicked at left).” The photo in the auction catalog shows the copy to be cancelled with one of the customary cork obliterators, of the period of no particular design. If this cancellation can be proved genuine, assuming, of course, that the stamp itself



The unique used Sc. 61, still listed as 71TC6 with a note that this one used example exists. (So why is it not listed as a postage stamp? JFD.)

is of the rare “August” issue, it would upset many theories regarding this issue.

Bringing it up to date, this stamp described by Sloane last came up for sale in the Siegel Galleries 2012 Auction of The Natalie Grace Collection of Used U.S. Stamps. The caption reads in part, “30¢ Red Orange, First Color (61). Bold strike of quartered cork cancel which is consistent with the style used in 1861, vivid color, small repair at lower left replacing a small piece of the stamp [this would have been the nick described in 1940], few added perfs at right....”

“It is likely that a small supply of the ‘Premiere Gravures’ and First Colors reached philatelic hands at an early stage. Several First Design denominations are known cancelled—a 12¢ is known with manuscript ‘New’ written across the design—but the placement and style of cancel means that they cannot conclusively be shown to have gone through the mails, and are likely experimental or control cancels. The example offered here, with the same design as the issued stamp but in the distinct First Color, has a cork killer cancellation and condition issues that suggest it was sent through the mail. It is a great rarity of the issue.”

Baker's U.S. Classics:

The Ninety Cents 1861-66 Issue

by Hugh J. & J. David Baker

(From STAMPS Magazine, May 1, 1965, with images added)

The 90¢ value of any issue is difficult to find used on letter mail. No single rate of postage even to the far corners of the earth required 90¢. Therefore all known covers using this stamp bear a multiple rate.

The design differs from the essay only by the dotted line between the two solid lines forming the peak above "U.S. Postage." You will notice that the portrait of Washington is the same as used on the 90¢ 1860 but framed in an oval.

Left, the 90¢ First Design, now listed in the Essay section as Sc. 72-E7h; right, the stamp as issued, Scott 72, with magnified views of the peak described by the Baker Brothers.



It is hard to believe that the 90¢ Plate 18 was not printing stamps as early as the 5¢ Plate 17.



Plate 18 Strip of four, photo source the Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog, which does not list a Plate 17.

The 5¢ stamp was known used August 19th, but the earliest recorded use of the 90¢ is November 27, 1861. This is an Augustine Heard cover from Boston to Hong Kong.

About 388,700 stamps were printed without grill and 30,000 with the 9x13mm "F" grill only.

Of the 31 covers we have recorded bearing the 90¢ stamp only one is a domestic use, a cover (front only) from Stockton, Cal., to Rockport, Mass.

There are no design or printing varieties noted for this stamp.

This value is the only stamp of this issue not known to have been used on a patriotic cover. The fact that it primarily was used on foreign covers does not eliminate the use of a patriotic cover, as a number of foreign uses of patriotics exist.

Shown in the next column are three important 1861 90¢ covers.



The 90¢ F Grill, Sc. 101

The only recorded complete cover with the 90¢ F Grill, Sc. 101, used with a 12¢ E Grill (Sc. 90) to pay the triple 34¢ combined American-British



Packet rate to Peru via Panama, the 90¢ tied to this 1869 cover by an indistinct San Francisco date stamp, also with a San Francisco Paid May 8 exchange credit handstamp, blue San Francisco merchant's oval handstamp, red pencil "3" (for triple rate), red pencil "72" credit, and British Post Office at Panama datestamp.

90¢ Blue F. Grill (Sc. 101) tied by blue "Norwalk O. Mar. 1?" datestamp, used with 24¢ purple and 30¢ Black (Sc. 153, 154), tied by matching blue cancels on large part of cover front only to Cleveland court house, 1873 receipt docketing also ties 90¢ stamp. Only two recorded, the other being the complete cover above.



90¢ Blue (Sc. 72) lightly cancelled in black with "New Orleans La. Dec. 22" (1866) circular date stamp alongside, the cover to Paris, France, also with red "New York Paid Dec. 29" circular datestamp, red crayon "60" cents credit, boxed "PD" handstamp, and red French embarkation datestamp (Dec. 29). The stamp was used to pay six times the 15¢ treaty rate to France, but in New York it was evidently found to weigh less and France was credited 60¢ for the 5-times rate. The additional postage was kept by the United States.

