



# The United States SPECIALIST

*for the Collector of Postage & Revenue Stamp Issues of the United States*

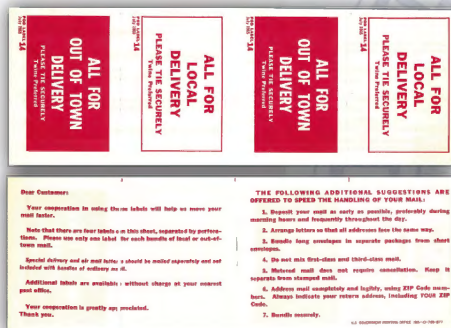
WHOLE NUMBER 1125

161—New Post Office, Chicago

## Early Chicago Pre-cancels (the C's) on the Brown Large Numeral Postage Due Stamps



— plus —



## USPOD Label 14 Facing Slips

— and —

1939 Trans-Atlantic Air Mail Stamp and World War II



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# The United States SPECIALIST

*the journal of the United States Stamp Society*

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WHOLE NUMBER 1125

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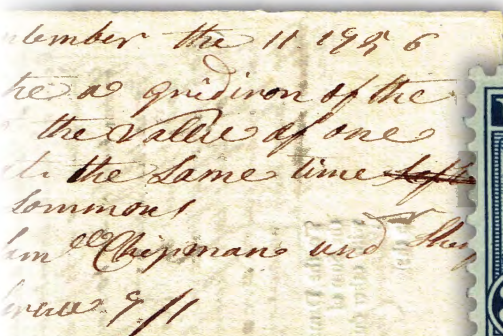
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*Vintage Photo of the Month*

## Starting Westward

by **Rodney A. Juell**

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This month's photo (previous page) shows the statue *Starting Westward* by Gutzon Borglum being installed in a park in Marietta, Ohio. Our secondary photo this month shows President Roosevelt dedicating the statue on July 8, 1938 (below). Just a few days later (on July 15), the Northwest Territory stamp (Scott 837) was issued in Marietta, honoring the sesquicentennial of the Northwest Territory in general and the founding of the city of Marietta in particular. The stamp's vignette features Borglum's statue (Borglum being best known as the creator of Mount Rushmore). A plate block of the rotary press stamp, designed by Robert Miller, is shown above.





from the Modern Postal History Committee

## USPOD Label 14 Facing Slips

by **Stuart Gitlow**

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Figure 1.

Not that long ago, post offices had at least two mailslots for first class mail deposits, one for local service and another generally marked “Out of Town.” Mail deposited into the local slot would be canceled on site, then cased and distributed, with some locations distributing the mail on the same day. By the early 1970s, local branch sorting nationwide was eliminated for efficiency purposes, and mail would get sent from the local post office to a centralized location for sorting and canceling, then returned to the local post office if necessary and distributed from there. Same-day delivery disappeared since mail deposited at one site in the morning had no chance of being sorted externally and then returned for distribution

before the day’s single delivery. But of importance to our highlighted label today, the need to have postal patrons separate their mailings into local and out-of-town bundles was no longer present.

Now, head back to the 1950s. At the time, post office patrons were encouraged “to separate and tie letter mail into local and out of town packages.” Additional separation was possible for airmail and Special Delivery. Postal Bulletin 19578 from 10/7/52 is the first to mention Form 1500. Undated versions of this form are divided by roulette into



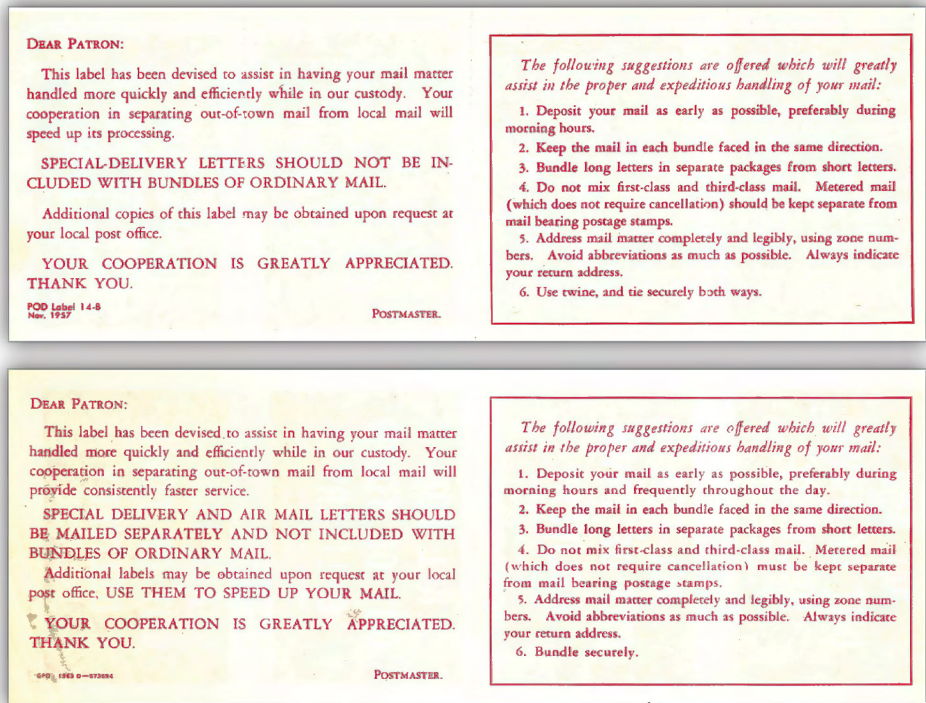


Figure 2.

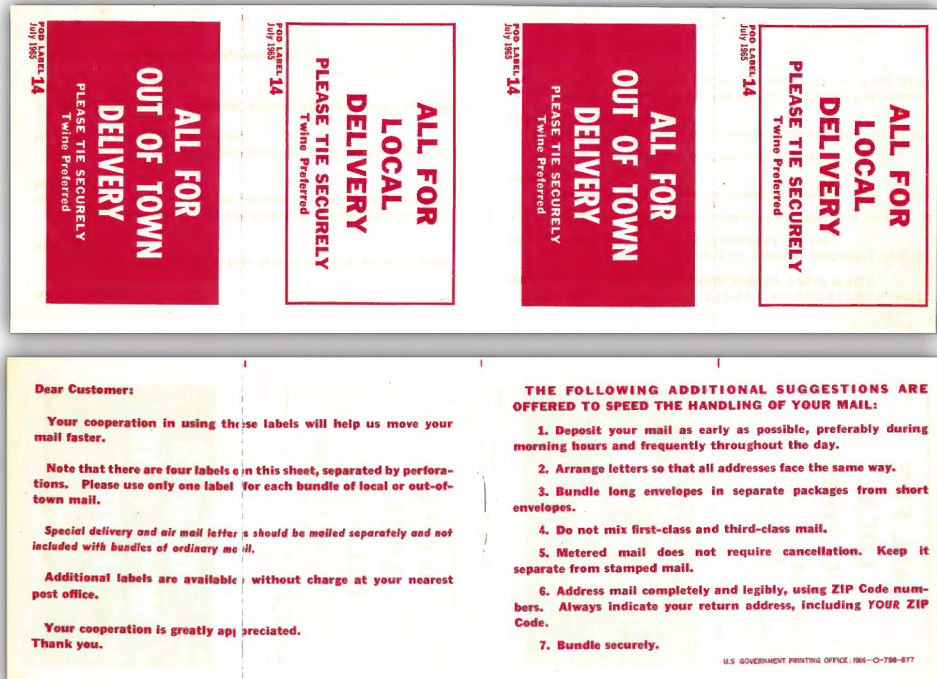


Figure 3.



Figure 4.

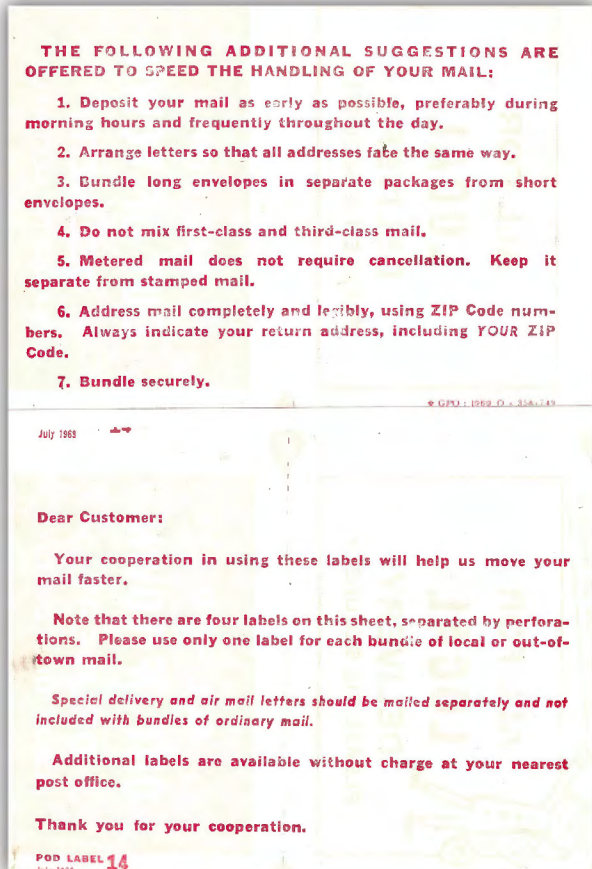
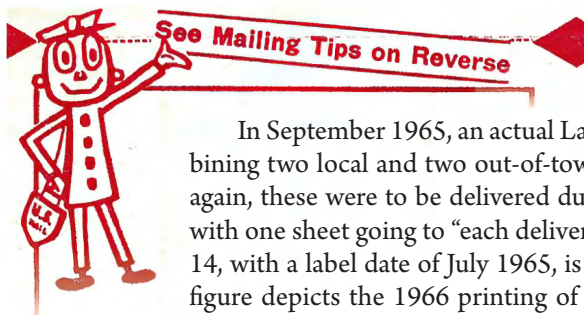


Figure 5.

four sections, two of which are local facing slips and the other two being out-of-town slips. This was the first use of the Form 1500 name since a prior version from the early 1940s was internally used for rendering of accounts for clerks and laborers.

Postal Bulletin 20049 from 9/27/57 is the first to mention Label 14 as a replacement for Form 1500, and during the 1957 holiday season, both were widely available. Label 14, interestingly, didn't actually exist, but instead was a package of two pages of four facing slips divided by roulette, with one page containing Label 14A, meant to face local bundles, and another page holding Label 14B, meant for out of town bundles. This was very similar to the prior Form 1500, and indeed, the 9/27/57 article refers to Forms 1500-A and 1500-B, suggesting that those forms had already morphed into the approach that would be used with the labels. On December 1, 1958, every patron was to receive a small supply of Labels 14A and 14B with their mail delivery. This process was repeated annually through 1964's holiday season. Label 14A used red print on a white background, and Label 14B used the reverse approach. A single version of POD Label 14-A from November 1963 has been reported; three examples of Label 14B have been reported, from November 1957 and January 1963, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, and from November 1963.





In September 1965, an actual Label 14 was issued, this time combining two local and two out-of-town labels on a single sheet. Once again, these were to be delivered during the first week of December, with one sheet going to “each delivery stop” on the route. POD Label 14, with a label date of July 1965, is shown in Figure 3; although the figure depicts the 1966 printing of the facing slips, it is likely quite similar to the original. The annual distribution of Label 14 to all postal customers continued, and in July 1969, a new version of the label was printed, this time featuring Mr. Zip, and shown in Figures 4 and 5. The final mention of Label 14 being distributed to all customers for the holidays was in the October 2, 1970 issue of the Postal Bulletin, with no further examples of the facing slips reported. Larger mailings would continue to be segregated for local and out-of-town bundles using pressure-sensitive bands, a topic we’ll explore in another article.



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# Early Chicago Precancels (the C's) on the Brown Large Numeral Postage Due Stamps

by **Harry K. Charles, Jr., Ph.D.**

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## Introduction

After the introduction of the first United States postage due stamps in 1879, they were used as receipts for the payment of insufficient postage or other postal fees and assessments.<sup>1</sup> Since they were required by law to be affixed (and canceled) on unpaid or underpaid mail, they saw widespread use, especially in the larger cities such as New York, Boston, Baltimore, and Chicago. The use of postage due stamps caused the already busy clerks to make the extra effort to affix and cancel these stamps. In order to facilitate the handling of large volumes of postage due mail, some postmasters decided to precancel the postage due stamps. Since it was easier to precancel an entire sheet or pane of stamps, many postmasters used rollers with distinctive designs—often resulting in different orientations of the precancel depending upon the rolling direction and the orientation of the underlying sheet (or pane).

Perhaps the most distinctive of these early precancels on the brown Large Numeral postage due stamps (Scott J1 to J7, 1¢ to 50¢, respectively) was the New York Pearl.<sup>2</sup> A circle of pearls with the superimposed letters N and Y in the center. They were applied by roller in both blue and black ink and were in use for many years. Baltimore took a different approach; they used a ticket punch to pre-punch holes in their postage due stamps either individually or in small blocks. The punch used had a heart-shaped design, giving rise to the “Baltimore Hearts” punch precancels.<sup>3</sup> Boston used a variety of cancels on their postage due stamps, many of which may have been precancels.<sup>4</sup>

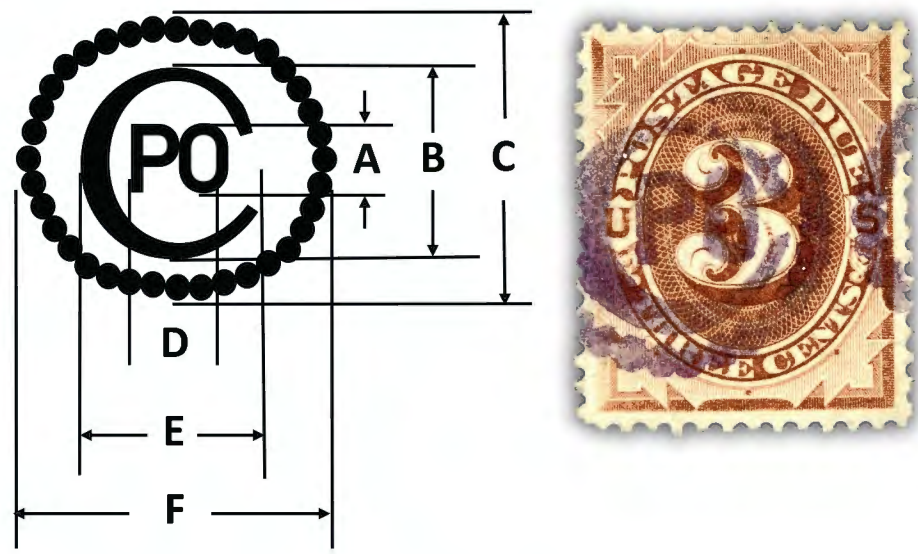
Chicago also used precancels on the first postage due stamps (brown Large Numeral dues) with distinctive designs that represented variations of the letter “C” for Chicago, as described in the sections below.

## Chicago “Pearl”

The Chicago post office precanceled the brown large numeral postage due stamps (Scott J1 to J7, 1¢ to 50¢, respectively) starting in 1880, according to Arfken.<sup>5</sup> Their first precancel was the Chicago Pearl.<sup>6,7</sup> Like New York,<sup>8</sup> Chicago adopted an oval (almost



circular) ring of pears for their first precancel. Inside the pearl ring was a large letter “C” with the letters “PO” inside the “C.” This Chicago Pearl design is shown schematically on the left in Figure 1, with certain key dimensions indicated by the letters A through F. The measured values for these dimensions are given in Table 1 in millimeters. An actual Chicago Pearl precanceled stamp (Scott J3) is also shown in Figure 1 on the right. The Chicago Pearl was printed in dull purple ink, and because of the complexity of the design, it makes it difficult to see against the brown background of the large numeral postage due stamps. The Chicago Pearl precancel is known on all denominations of the brown postage due stamps except the 30¢,<sup>9</sup> as detailed in Table 2.



*Figure 1. Chicago Pearl Pre-cancel. On the left is a schematic of the pre-cancel with key dimensions indicated by the letters A through F (values given in Table 1). On the right is a Chicago Pearl pre-cancel on a 3¢ brown large numeral postage due stamp.*

**Table 1. wKey Dimensions (in mm) of the Chicago Pearl and “C” Pre-cancels on the Brown Large Numeral Postage Dues**

Pre-cancel Type	Dimension Letters						
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Pearl Circle with Interior “C” & “PO”	5.3	14.0	20.3	7.6	15.3	22.9	
“C” within Oval Rings, boxy “C”	2.6	8.1	7.6	13.8	19.1	17.8	22.8
“C” in Monogram Form	3.8	20.3	10.2				

*Dimension letters refer to diagrams in Figures 1, 2, and 3, respectively. All dimensions are in millimeters (mm).*

**Table 2: Known Denominations of the Brown Large Numeral Postage Due Stamps with Chicago Pearls and Chicago “C” Pre-cancels**

Pre-cancel Type	Ink Color	1¢	2¢	3¢	5¢	10¢	30¢	50¢	Comments
Pearl Circle with Interior “C” & “PO”	Dull purple (gray ink reported)	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ		Δ	Used 1880
“C” within Oval Rings, boxy “C”	Magenta	Δ	Δ	Δ		Δ		Δ	Used 1881-84
“C” within Oval Rings, boxy “C”	Dark Gray (to Black)	Δ	Δ	Δ		Δ			Used 1881-84
“C” in Monograph Form	Dark Gray (to Black)			Δ		Δ			Used 1882-?

Figure 2 illustrates a pair of Chicago Pearls on a cover mailed in Chicago to a city address.

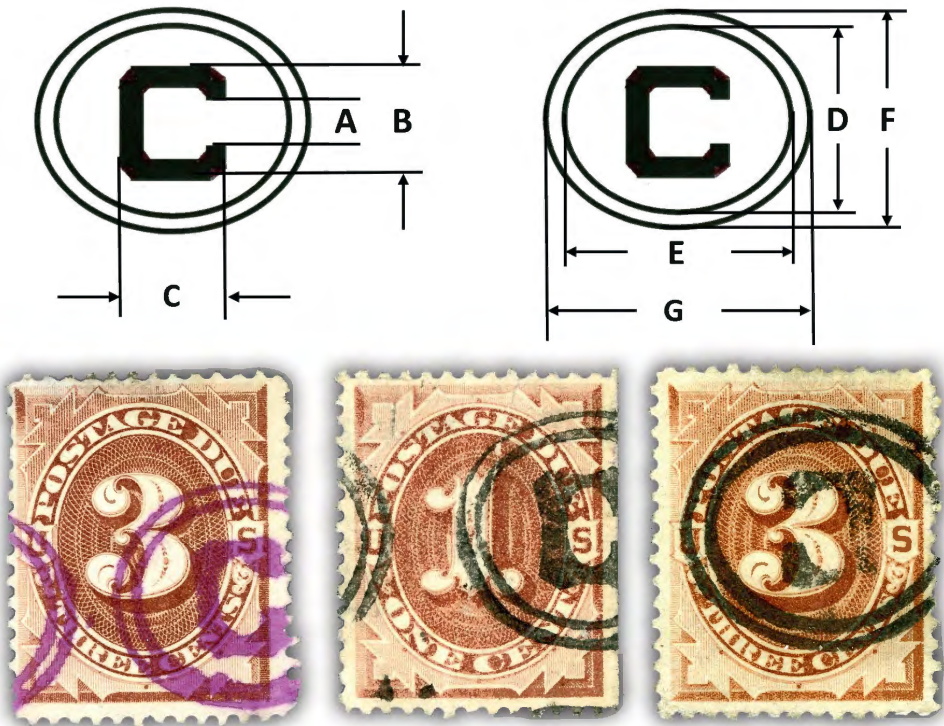


Figure 2. Above is local cover mailed on November 2, 188x in Chicago, Illinois, by the water department to a lawyer in the city using a 2¢ orange vermillion (Scott 183) stamp. The cover was rated Due 6, and the payment was receipted by a pair of Scott J3 postage due stamps precanceled with the Chicago Pearl, as shown enlarged on the left. The cover measures 180.3 mm wide by 101.6 mm high but is reduced at the left by approximately 7-8 mm.

**Chicago “Ringed C”**

The Chicago “C” in oval rings design (or “Ringed C” design) was next, being introduced in 1881. The Chicago “Ringed C” consists of a large rectangular “C” inside double oval rings. This Chicago “Ringed C” design is shown schematically at the top of Figure

3 with certain dimensions indicated by the letters A through G. The measured values in millimeters for these dimensions are given in Table 1. Actual Chicago “Ringed C” precanceled stamps (Scott J1 and J3) are shown in Figure 3 at the bottom. The Chicago “Ringed C” precancel was printed first in bright magenta ink, as shown on the left stamp at the bottom of Figure 3. It was later changed to black ink as required by postal law. The Chicago “Ringed C” precancel is known on all denominations of the brown postage due stamps except the 5¢ and 30¢<sup>10</sup> with magenta ink (See Table 2). In black ink, the Chicago “Ringed C” precancel is only known on the 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, and 10¢ denominations. Examples of the “Ringed C” on cover are shown in Figures 4 and 5.



*Figure 3. Chicago “Ringed C” precancel. On the top are schematic representations of the “Ringed C” precancel with key dimensions indicated by the letters A through G (Values given in Table 1). At the bottom are Chicago “Ringed C” precancels (magenta and black inks) on 1¢ and 3¢ brown large numeral postage due stamps.*

## Chicago “Monogram C”

The Chicago “Monogram C” design was introduced as early as 1882. It was not mentioned by either Arfken<sup>11</sup> or Bower.<sup>12</sup> The Chicago “Monogram C” consists of a large freestanding monogram type “C.” The Chicago “Monogram C” is shown schematically at the left of Figure 6, with certain key dimensions indicated by the letters A through C. The measured values in millimeters for these dimensions are given in Table 1. An actual Chicago “Monogram C” precanceled stamp (Scott J3) is also shown in Figure 6 on the



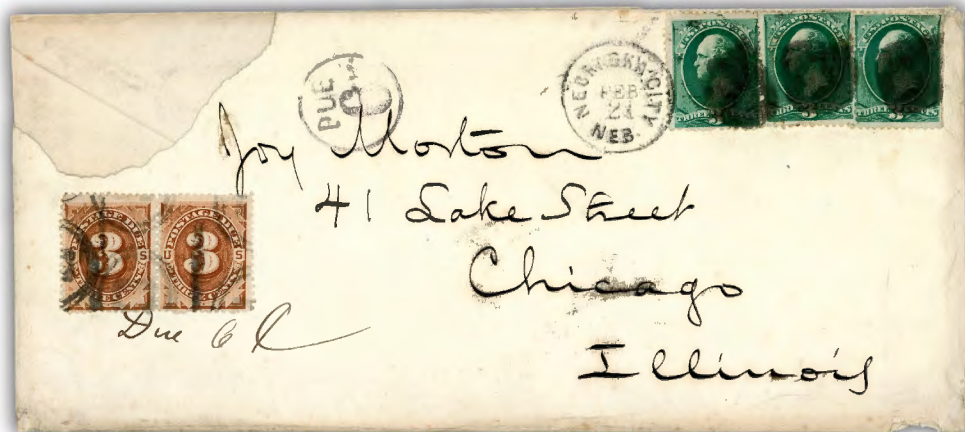


Figure 4. Above is a cover mailed from Nebraska City, Nebraska, on February 21, 188x to a Joy Morton in Chicago. The cover was posted with three Scott 182 dark ultramarine three-cent stamps. The cover was rated Due 6, and its payment receipted with a pair of J3 postage due stamps precanceled with the Chicago "Ringed C." The pair is illustrated enlarged at the left. The cover measures 212.3 mm wide by 101.1 mm high. The cover is heavily damaged from opening at the upper left. It also appears that even though the stamps were precanceled with the ring C precancel, there appears to be a black ink line down the center of the right-hand postage due stamp – probably due to the "roller" edge.



Figure 5. Above is a foreign cover from Dresden, Germany, mailed (without postage) on July 8, 1882. The receiving Chicago back stamp was dated July 31, 1882. The cover was rated 10¢ postage due (double the international rate). The postage due payment was receipted with a 10¢ Scott J5 with a Chicago "Ringed C" precancel, as shown on the right. The cover measures 148.6 mm wide by 83.3 mm high.



right. The Chicago “Monogram C” is printed in gray to black ink and is known on only the 3¢ and 10¢ denominations<sup>13</sup> (see Table 2). On cover, examples of the “Monogram C” are illustrated in Figures 7 and 8.

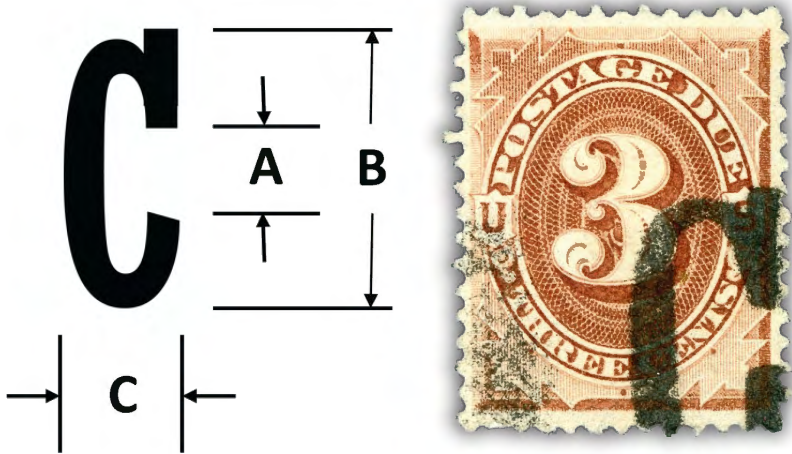


Figure 6. Chicago Monogram “C” Precancel. On the left is a schematic of the precancel with key dimensions indicated by the letters A through C (values given in Table 1). On the right is a Chicago Monogram “C” precancel on a 3¢ brown large numeral postage due stamp.



Figure 7. Above is a cover mailed from Janesville, Wisconsin, on November 13, 188x, to a Mrs. Russell in Chicago, Illinois, using a 3¢ Scott 182 dark ultramarine stamp. The cover was rated Due 3, and its payment receipted by a J3 postage due stamp with a Chicago “Monogram C” precancel (shown enlarged at the left). The cover measures 149.9 mm wide by 85.1 mm high. The cover is roughly opened at the left and is short by about 2-3 mm.





Figure 8. Another similar cover addressed to Mrs. Russell from Janesville, Wisconsin, is shown above. The cover was mailed on December 2, 188x, and again was rated 3¢ postage due. The due payment was receipted by a J3 postage due stamp with a Chicago "Monogram C" precancel, as shown enlarged on the left. This cover measures 152.4 mm wide by 86.4 mm high.

## Summary

The text above explores the three Chicago C-type precancels used on the brown large numeral postage due stamps. The Chicago C-type precancels are not known on the red brown or claret large numeral postage due stamps. A schematic representation of each C-type precancel is presented along with associated typical dimensions (Table 1). Their use on various denominations of the large numeral brown postage due stamps is given in Table 2. Individual stamps with each type of Chicago C precancels are shown, along with their representative use on postage due covers. Although they are easily recognized and known by philatelic scholars for many years, the Chicago C-type precancels appear to be relatively scarce, especially on cover. Hence, due to this scarcity, damaged covers should not be shunned as long as the precanceled stamps are intact (e.g., Figures 5 and 8). The Chicago Pearl is much less common than its New York counterpart (the New York pearl), which can be easily found both off and on cover. Although the "Monogram C" was used later in the brown large numeral postage due period, it seems to be relatively scarce.

Following the Chicago C-type precancels, Chicago used a variety of line type precancels, including wavy lines, double wavy lines, and several iterations of bars. These precancels are beyond the scope of this article, and the reader is referred to the book on *Silent Pre-cancels* by Smith.<sup>14</sup>



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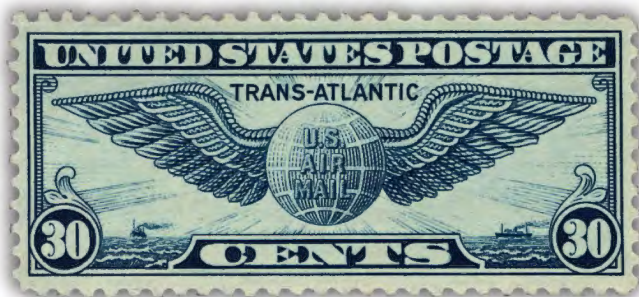
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## 1939 Trans-Atlantic Air Mail Stamp and World War II

by **Paul M. Holland**

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Aviation entrepreneur Juan Trippe and Pan American Airways were initially rebuffed in a dispute with the British over landing rights in their hoped-for trans-Atlantic routing, as this was the most prestigious and profitable passenger route in the world. The British resisted because they had no equivalent long-range “flying boat” technology of their own. With political and diplomatic delays frustrating these original plans, Trippe made the daring decision instead to establish a trans-Pacific air route between San Francisco and China that would employ the new giant flying boat technology that was still under development. Transpacific flights began in 1935.<sup>1</sup>

Once transpacific airline service was well established, and the new Boeing 314 flying boat that could fly even greater distances and carry heavier loads became available, a transatlantic route to Europe via the Azores and Lisbon, Portugal became feasible. This bypassed the need for British landing rights. As a result, in April 1939, Postmaster General (PMG) James A. Farley announced that transatlantic airmail service would be inaugurated in the near future at a postage rate of 30¢ per half ounce. Regarding first flight covers, he warned that the initial flight might take place with no advanced warning once final certification by the Civil Aeronautics Authority was granted, so collectors were advised to prepare covers and send them to the New York Postmaster, who would apply a special cachet on the left side of the envelope.<sup>2</sup>

Then, on May 6, it was also hurriedly announced that a new 30¢ airmail stamp would be issued on May 16, 1939.<sup>2</sup> Since there had been little time available for designing this



new airmail stamp, the winged-globe airmail design was adapted by the addition of an inscription "TRANS-ATLANTIC" over the globe and adding ships-at-sea below (Scott C24). Alvin R. Meissner was credited with this design. The stamp's vignette was engraved by F. Pauling and C. A. Brooks, with lettering by E. M. Hall. They were printed on a rotary press in sheets of 200 divided into four panes, with four printing plates employed, 22381-22384.

Shown in Figure 1 is a May 16, 1939 first day cover (FDC) bearing Amon G. Carter's specially printed Shady Oaks Farm cachet that was sent to Marvin McIntyre. McIntyre was one of FDR's long-time presidential secretaries who had been in poor health and was recuperating in Asheville, North Carolina, before returning to duty at the White House. It might be noted that Amon Carter was an especially valued supporter of FDR's New Deal and the publisher of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, who liked creating covers using blocks of airmail stamps and sending them to friends. The cachet itself displays a detailed map of the transatlantic airmail route, with a dashed line showing the route from Fort Worth to New York City, then by giant flying boat across the Atlantic via the Azores to Lisbon, north along the coast, and finally across to Marseille, France.

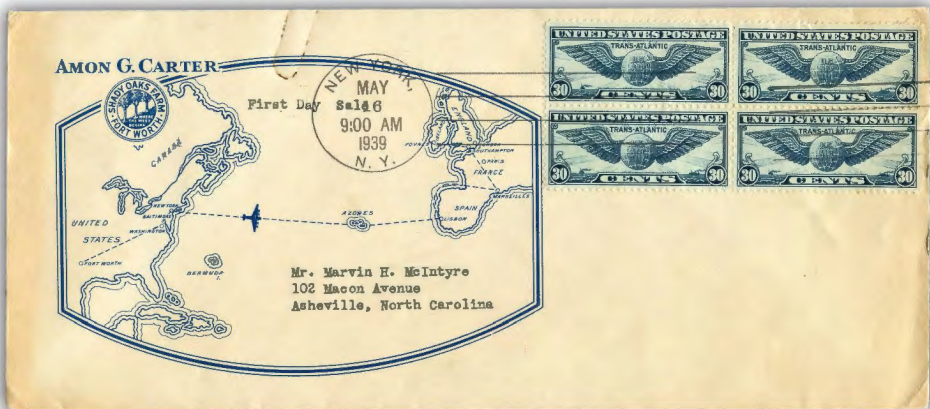


Figure 1. May 16, 1939, FDC from Amon Carter to Marvin McIntyre.

The first flight for this new transatlantic route took place a few days later, on May 20, 1939. A full set of First Flight covers on official stationery sent by PMG Farley to Vincent C. Burke, Jr., one of the sons of the postmaster of Washington, DC, is shown in Figure 2. Arrival backstamped postmarks for the Azores, Marseille and Lisbon are shown below.

Another May 20, 1939, First Flight cover that more clearly shows the official cachet applied in New York City is shown in Figure 3. Here, details of the massive Boeing 314 flying boat, including the unusual sponsons projecting outward from the bottom of the hull to provide improved stability in the water, can be seen. Note that this is franked with a plate number single from the first printing plate, and an especially clear backstamp arrival postmark for Marseille is shown below.

As with Pan American's giant flying boats in the Pacific, these aircraft were named "Clippers" after the fast nineteenth-century American sailing ships that plied the world's oceans. Shown in Figure 4 is the Boeing 314 *Yankee Clipper*, the first of these in transatlantic service.



Figure 2. First flight covers on official PMG stationery.





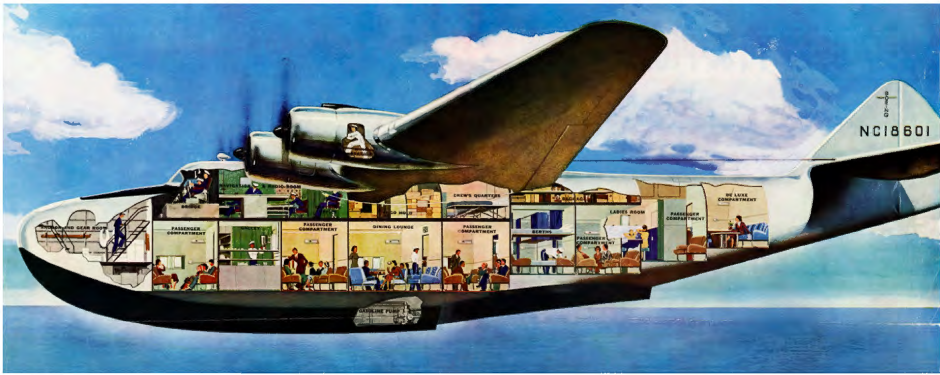
Figure 3. First flight cover with a plate number single and clear Marseille backstamp.



Figure 4. The Yankee Clipper.

For passengers, Pan American's new Boeing 314 Clipper offered unparalleled luxury for trans-oceanic airline travel. The cutaway drawing in Figure 5 shows how this giant flying boat was divided into a number of compartments. There were five cabins for passengers that, instead of airline seats, had plush armchair seating that converted into Pullman-like sleeping berths, plus there was a deluxe compartment at the back nicknamed the "Bridal Suite." In addition, there was a main lounge/dining room for meal service and relaxation, separate restrooms/changing rooms for men and women,

and a galley (kitchen). The wings were so large that the flight engineer could access the engines via internal crawlways if necessary. There was also a crew deck, crew quarters and baggage compartments.



*Figure 5. Cutaway drawing showing accommodations on Pan American Airway's Boeing 314 Clipper.*

Although not nearly as luxurious, by 1939, the British also had flying boats capable of crossing the Atlantic. Shown in Figure 6 is the Caribou, a Short S30LR (Long Range) Flying Boat that operated on a more northerly route across the Atlantic. It would depart from Southampton near London, making a stop in Ireland to top up its fuel tanks, then fly on to Newfoundland to complete the ocean crossing.



*Figure 6. Short S30LR (Long Range) Flying Boat named the Caribou.*

I am fortunate to have an August 18, 1939, airmail cover from Chichester in Sussex to Los Angeles, California, franked with a single, very lightly canceled George V Seahorse stamp, one of my all-time favorite stamp designs. Moreover, the notation "Via Trans-Atlantic Air Mail: Caribou" is inscribed on the front. This cover was mailed just two weeks before World War II began with Hitler's invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939. Interestingly, this George V seahorse stamp itself remained current until superseded by a George VI high-value 2/6 stamp on September 4, a few days later.

By late August 1939, talk of war was in the air, especially once the Hitler-Stalin pact was signed on August 23. Among the items in my collection of FDR White House correspondence is an August 28, 1939, letter to Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr. from Missy LeHand thanking him for the cablegram he sent to FDR on August 25. Member of a





Figure 7. August 18, 1939, airmail cover franked with George V seahorse stamp (Scott 222).

prominent American family (he was actually Cornelius Vanderbilt IV, although he went by “Jr.”) Vanderbilt was a publisher, writer, and well-connected international gadfly who led a colorful life and was a frequent White House visitor. In 1926, he interviewed Benito Mussolini in Mussolini’s car while the car was traveling in Italy at a high rate of speed. The car hit a child, killing it instantly. The car simply kept going, and Mussolini turned to Vanderbilt, saying, “What is one life in the affairs of a state?” When Vanderbilt related this story at a conference a few years later, it ultimately created an international incident. Vanderbilt had also encountered Adolf Hitler in Germany and, in 1934, made what is now regarded as the first anti-Nazi documentary. Titled *Hitler’s Reign of Terror*, the film was made covertly by Vanderbilt while visiting Nazi Germany shortly after Hitler’s rise to power, and he especially used this to highlight the Nazis’ oppression of the Jews. A trailer for this film is available on the website of the Library of Congress.<sup>3</sup> When released in the United States, it again triggered diplomatic protest, this time by Germany.

Mussolini and Hitler are pictured together in Figure 9, on the January 30, 1941, German “charity” semipostal stamp from my representative worldwide collection celebrating the Rome-Berlin Axis. Issued as propaganda, the surtax was used to benefit Hitler’s National Culture Fund.

The new 30¢ winged-globe airmail stamp designed for sending transatlantic airmail letters to Europe became an iconic stamp during the early World War II era. It was the first ever 30¢ US airmail stamp, and its period of use extended from May 1939 until it was replaced by the 30¢ Transport airmail stamp on September 25, 1941. Usage can be divided into a period of little over three months leading up to the start of World War II



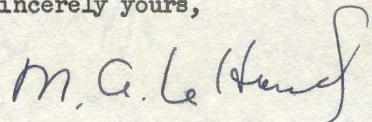
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 28, 1939

Dear Mr. Vanderbilt:

This is just a brief note to acknowledge the receipt of your cablegram of August twenty-fifth to the President, and to advise you that I promptly placed it before him. Please be assured that, as always, he appreciates your interest.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. A. LeHand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "S" at the end.

M. A. LeHand  
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., Esq.,  
640 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N. Y.

Figure 8. August 28, 1939, White House letter to Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr.

in Europe and a second period of more than two years of wartime usage. During this time, the Axis powers conquered and then dominated much of the European continent. During this second period, wartime censorship became a routine feature in postal history. I have representative examples of censored covers franked with the 30¢ winged-globe stamp for mail sent to Germany, Italy, Great Britain, occupied Greece and Vichy France. An excellent resource for those interested in details about censor covers is the Civil Censorship Study Group.<sup>4</sup>



Figure 9. Mussolini and Hitler depicted on Rome-Berlin Axis stamp (Scott B189).

Shown in Figure 10 is my July 24, 1940, example sent from Chicago to Germany. Flown by Transatlantic Clipper via Lisbon as shown on the cover, the long strip of censor tape on the back shows that it was opened and examined by the “oberkommando der Wehrmacht.” Note that by this time, France had fallen, and the Germans were preparing to invade England.



Figure 10. July 24, 1940 cover from Chicago to Germany censored by the OKW.



An analogous cover sent from Utica, NY, to Naples, Italy, on December 3, 1940, is shown in Figure 11. Here, the Italian censor tape, which partially covers the postage stamp, reads “(V)erificato per censura,” which translates as “checked for censorship.”



Figure 11. December 3, 1940, censor cover sent from Utica, NY, to Naples, Italy.

Shown in Figure 12 is my March 6, 1941 cover from Wilmington, Delaware, to Mobberley, a small town in Cheshire, England. The number on the censor tape shows that it was examined in London, and by this time in the war, all airmail to Britain would have been flown on the northern route via Newfoundland in Canada.

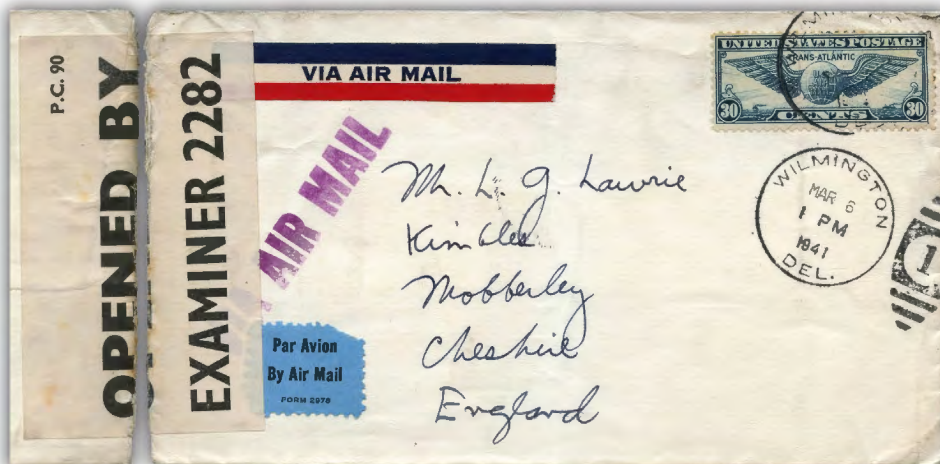


Figure 12. March 6, 1941, censor cover from Wilmington, Delaware, to England.

The most complex and interesting 30¢ winged-globe airmail censor cover in my collection is shown in Figure 13. This April 21, 1941, airmail cover is hand-addressed in Greek from The Chocolate Shop in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. It was apparently mailed to family members in Greece the day after it surrendered following the German invasion. The “oberkommando der Wehrmacht” (OKW) censor tape shows that it arrived in Greece alright; however, the OKW censor tape covers an even earlier (unidentified) piece of



censor tape, suggesting that there may have been significant delays. Coupled with the chaos caused by the German Blitzkrieg attack and occupation of Greece, the letter was apparently undeliverable and was returned to the United States. This is clearly shown by the November 29, 1941, machine slogan cancellation from New York City on the back of the cover that reads “BUY DEFENSE SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS.” There must have been further delays at the New York post office until finally, all mail service to Greece was suspended on December 12, 1941, once the United States found itself at war with Germany. This resulted in the “RETURN TO SENDER SERVICE SUSPENDED” handstamp on the front of this cover. According to Dann Mayo, the faint “PASSED BY CENSOR” handstamp beside the censor tape on the front was likely from the field station of the Office of Censorship in New York City, applied after wartime censorship in the United States came into effect in mid-December. The cover would then finally have been returned to the sender.



Figure 13. April 21, 1941, censor cover from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to Greece.

Lastly, in Figure 14, I show my cover sent to Brive-la-Gaillarde in Vichy, France, from Flushing, NY, on October 19, 1941. This represents late usage of the 30¢ winged-globe airmail stamp, as the 30¢ Transport was issued about three weeks earlier. An arrival backstamp shows transit through Marseille on October 30, presumably after a censorship delay. In fact, the examiner number 4592 shows that this cover was censored in Bermuda en route. Interestingly, Brive-la-Gaillarde was a regional capital of the French resistance during World War II and the first city in occupied France to liberate itself without outside assistance on August 15, 1944.



Figure 14. October 19, 1941, censor cover from Flushing, New York to Vichy, France.

The theme of Vichy France also features in the Academy Award-winning classic film *Casablanca*, released in 1942 (see Figure 15). Starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, the plot revolves around obtaining two coveted letters of transit that would allow the bearers to get onto an airplane and fly to Lisbon, and thereby escape to the United States from occupied Europe, presumably by transatlantic Clipper.



Figure 15. Scene from motion picture *Casablanca* (1942).

*Casablanca* also played an important role in World War II. In January 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt flew on Pan American's Boeing 314 Dixie Clipper to the wartime Casablanca Conference in Morocco to meet with Winston Churchill and other war leaders, becoming the first Ameri-

can president to fly while in office. Just two months after the successful Allied landings in French North Africa, it was decided to invade Italy, step up the strategic bombing of Germany, and insist on the unconditional surrender of the Axis powers. Of special note, during the long return journey from the conference on January 30, 1943, FDR celebrated his 61st birthday while in flight. Roosevelt is shown preparing to cut his birthday cake while seated next to Admiral William Leahy in the Boeing 314 Clipper's dining room in Figure 16. Across the table is his close aide, Harry Hopkins, who is seated next to Captain Cone, the Clipper's pilot.



**Figure 16.** FDR aboard Boeing 314 Clipper on his birthday, January 30, 1943.

By the time of Franklin D. Roosevelt's death in 1945, the golden age of giant flying boats was coming to an end, and they were replaced by faster, longer-range, land-based aircraft that could take advantage of new and expanded airport facilities around the world. This helps make censored mail franked by the 30¢ winged-globe airmail stamp and flown on giant flying boats such a nostalgic symbol of the World War II era.

### **Acknowledgments**

The author gratefully acknowledges help from Dann Mayo with World War II censor covers and Tony Ward for help with the routing used for my George V Seahorse cover.

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2. Brian C. Bauer, Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Stamps of the United States 1933-45, *Linn's Stamp News*: Sidney, Ohio 1993, page 187-189.
3. *Hitler's Reign of Terror* (1934), Trailer for this film is available at the website of the Library of Congress: <https://www.loc.gov/item/mbrs00017393/>
4. Dann Mayo, "Collecting Postal Civil Censorship," *The American Philatelist*, February 2022, pages 122-138.



By *His* **GEORGE the Second**, by the Grace of **GOD**, of Great Britain,  
France and Ireland, **KING**, Defender of the Faith, &c.

To the Sheriff of Our County of *Essex* his Under-Sheriff or Deputy, Greeting.

**W**E Command you that you Summon *John Wood of Newbury in*  
*our County aforesaid Baker*

(if *he* may be found in your Precincts) to appear before Our Justices of  
Our Inferiour Court of Common Pleas to be holden at *Salem* within and for Our said  
County of *Essex* on the *second* Tuesday of *July* Next Then and there  
in Our said Court to answer to *William Noyes of Newbury aforesaid*

*Cordwainer* ~~and~~ In a Plea of *Trespas* on the case For that whereas ~~in that case~~  
the said William is *our* good and honest Subject ~~and from the~~  
times of his Nativity ~~hitherto~~ always hath carried and behaved himself as such and  
hath been all his Lifetime esteemed of a good Name Character and Reputation by all  
that knew him. And always was free and even unsuspected of any kind of Felony  
or Theft or any other atrocious Crimes. Nevertheless the said John well knowing  
the Premises. But contriving and maliciously Intending to deprive the said  
William of his good name. Character Credit, and Reputation which he before had  
and to bring upon him the Ill. will. and Displeasure of his Friends, Neighbours  
and to cause him to be punished for Theft According to the Laws of this Province  
at Newbury aforesaid on the fourteenth Day of May Instant in the presence hearing  
of many of our good Subjects spoke & published with a loud Voice these following  
False Scandalous, & Opprobrious English words of & concerning the said William  
"I have lost sixteen Shillings and you (meaning the said William) have stole it  
"I have lost sixteen Shillings and you or I (meaning the said William ~~or~~  
himself) have stole the same but I (meaning himself) did not steal it nor  
have I got it ~~and~~ know Nothing about it. And the said John afterwards at  
said Newbury on the sixteenth day of May Inst. of his further malice against the said  
William in the presence hearing of many others of our good Subjects with a loud voice  
spoke pronounced these following False Scandalous English words of & concerning  
the said William "I have lost sixteen Shillings and you (meaning the said William  
have stole the same) I have lost sixteen Shillings and you or I (meaning the  
said William or himself) have stole the same but I (meaning himself) did not steal  
"it nor have I got it ~~and~~ know Nothing about it. By the speaking and publishing  
of which false scandalous words the said William is greatly injured in his  
good Name & Character and is bro't into great Disrepute and has the Displeasure  
and Ill will of his Friends & Acquaintance. & many that used to deal w<sup>th</sup> him ~~and~~  
by reason thereof now refuse to deal w<sup>th</sup> him and has been put to great  
anxiety of mind & labour of Body to manifest his Innocency

To the Damage of the said  
the Sum of *Eight*  
other due Damages: And have you there this Writ, with your Doings therein. Witness  
*John Choate* Esq; at *Salem* the *Seventeenth* Day of *May*  
in the *Thirtieth* Year of Our Reign. Annoque Domini, 1757.

*William Noyes as he saith*

*Joseph Wood it's Clerk*



# America's Embossed Revenue Stamp Paper, Part V: Essex County Common Pleas Court - Massachusetts Bay

by **Roger S. Brody**  
USSS #11814 | [brody@usstamps.org](mailto:brody@usstamps.org)  
and **John C. Rowe**

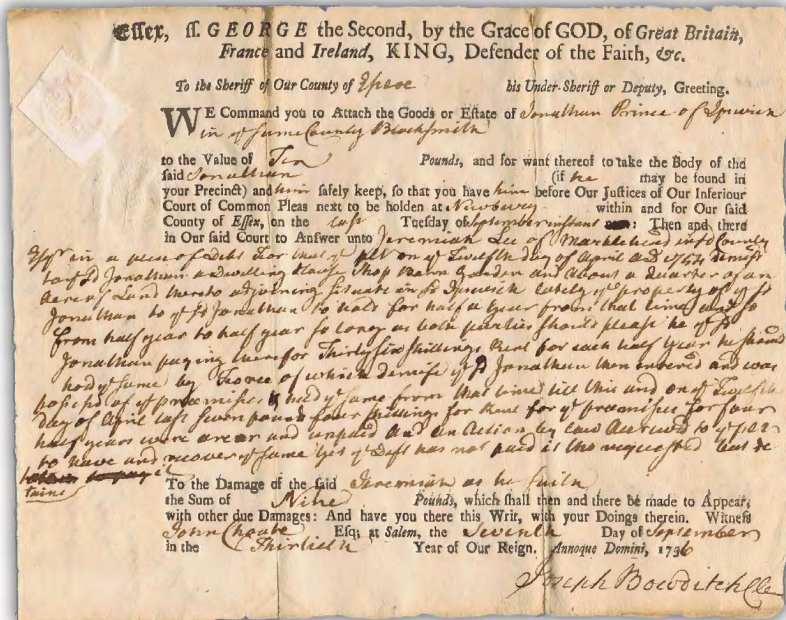


Figure 1. 2p Essex Writ long form (preceding page), short form (above).

## Essex County Common Pleas Court Writs

Essex County was created by the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony on May 10, 1643, when it was ordered “that the whole plantation within this jurisdiction be divided into four shires. Named after the county in England, Essex then comprised the towns of Salem, Lynn, Wenham, Ipswich, Rowley, Newbury, Gloucester, and Andover.

Since more than two-thirds (69%) of the surviving Massachusetts documents are Essex County Common Pleas Court writs of various types, many documents bear further detailed examination. About 13% of the writs are Justice of the Peace Writs. The remainder are Common Pleas Court Writs, which are the subject of this section. Printed Essex County writs exist as both long-form and short-form documents. Only about one-tenth



are long-form writs on a full 12½ to 13-inch long by 7½ to 8-inch-wide sheet of paper (Figure 1). Those known are all printed forms for writs of summons or execution. The great majority of the writs are short-form printed writs of arrest. In all cases of various types, examples are known of a given form being edited in ink to read as an alternative writ. For Essex County, summonses are found edited to read as arrest warrants, as well as arrest warrants being edited to read as writs of execution or summonses.

The sheet layout used in printing the short-form writs was probably two by two on a large folio sheet of paper. The size of the printed writ documents is 8 1/4 long by 6 5/8 inches wide. The mid-eighteenth-century paper size that lends itself to efficient production of these sheets is foolscap: a common size of about 13 3/8 by 16 3/4 inches. The laid wires run parallel to the long or eight-inch side, i.e., horizontally on the printed writs. Practically all the writs are watermarked, and the watermarks almost invariably straddle the long border with half appearing on one writ and half on the neighboring document – either above or below – thus lending credence to the two-by-two layout hypothesis.

**Table 1. Frequency of Occupations as Sampled on Writs**

Occupation	Percentage
Gentleman/Esqr.	18
Yeoman (Farmer landowner)	15
Husbandman (Tenant Farmer)	10
Cordwainer (Shoemaker)	8
Widow	8
Innkeeper	4
Caulker (Boats/Windows)	3
Mariner	3
Merchant	3
Shipwright (Ship Builder)	3
Tailor	3
Other	22

**Occupations**

The occupations of the plaintiffs and defendants listed on the writs are an interesting study. The largest part of the writs shows the class structure of wealth in the colony wherein they involve businessmen or upper-class individuals (esquire or gentlemen) suing a multitude of other persons of various occupations for loans in the form of notes, accounts, or bonds. Another quarter of the writs involve farmers (husbandmen and yeoman), reflecting the heavy agricultural economy of the day. There are several occupations that reflect the broad maritime orientation of Essex County in the form of mariners, shipwrights, caulkers,

shoremen and fishermen. Many of the writs involving merchants involve transactions for fish. The frequency of the occupations as sampled on the writs is displayed in Table 1.

Lastly, the occupations on the sampled writs lumped as “Other” in Table 1 include blacksmith, bookkeeper, bricklayer, cabinet maker, clerk, cooper, fisherman, glazer (window installer), housewright (house builder), joiner (skilled carpenter), laborman (laborer), physician, sadler, scrivener (scribe or clerk), sheriff, shopkeeper, shoreman (stevedore), single woman, tanner, victualler (tavern keeper), and weaver.

**Signatures on Writs**

The III penny stamped writs for appearance and execution from various terms of the Court of Common Pleas within Essex County signed by Joseph Bowditch are espe-



Essex, ss. To the Sheriff or Marshal of the said County of Essex, or either of their Deputies, or Constables of the Town of ~~Salem~~ within the said County, or to any or either of them, Greeting.

IN His Majesty's Name, you are Required to Attach the Goods or Estate of ~~Joshua a Middelton aforesaid~~ <sup>Joshua a Middelton aforesaid</sup> ~~human man~~ to the Value of ~~Twenty~~ <sup>Twenty</sup> Shillings, and for want thereof to take the Body of the said ~~Joshua a Middelton~~ <sup>Joshua a Middelton</sup> (if he may be found in your Precinct) and him safely keep, so that he may be had before me, Joseph Bowditch, Esq; One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid, at my Dwelling-House in Salem, on Monday the ~~seventh~~ <sup>seventh</sup> Day of ~~February~~ <sup>February</sup> next at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon; Then and there to Answer to ~~Abijah Esq; of Salem in said County~~ <sup>Abijah Esq; of Salem in said County</sup> Gentleman In a Plea of the Case for that the Defendant at ~~Salem Middelton~~ <sup>Salem Middelton</sup> on the ~~seventeenth~~ <sup>seventeenth</sup> Day of ~~July~~ <sup>July</sup> last by his note of Demand for Value received promised the Plaintiff to pay him or his order One Pound seventeen Shillings and Four pence lawfull money by the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September then next yet the requested he hath not paid it but denies to do it.

To the Damage of the said ~~Abijah~~ <sup>Abijah</sup> as he saith the Sum of ~~Twenty nine~~ <sup>Twenty nine</sup> Shillings, as shall then and there be made to Appear, with other due Damages. Hereof fail not, and make due Return of this Writ, with your Doings therein, unto my self, at or before the said ~~seventh~~ <sup>seventh</sup> Day of ~~February~~ <sup>February</sup> — Dated at Salem aforesaid, the ~~24<sup>th</sup>~~ <sup>24<sup>th</sup></sup> Day of ~~January~~ <sup>January</sup> in the 30<sup>th</sup> Year of His Majesty's Reign. Annoque Domini, 1757

Joseph Bowditch

Essex, ss. GEORGE the Second, by the Grace of GOD, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, KING, Defender of the Faith, &c.

To the Sheriff of Our County of ~~Essex~~ <sup>Essex</sup> his Under-Sheriff or Deputy, Greeting.

WE Command you to Attach the Goods or Estate of ~~Joshua Swett of Newbury~~ <sup>Joshua Swett of Newbury</sup> in the county of ~~Soyner~~ <sup>Soyner</sup>

to the Value of ~~Fourteen~~ <sup>Fourteen</sup> Pounds, and for want thereof to take the Body of the said ~~Joshua Swett~~ <sup>Joshua Swett</sup> (if he may be found in your Precinct) and him safely keep, so that you have him, before Our Justices of Our Inferiour Court of Common Pleas next to be holden at ~~Salem~~ <sup>Salem</sup> within and for Our said County of ~~Essex~~ <sup>Essex</sup>, on the ~~last~~ <sup>last</sup> Tuesday of ~~December~~ <sup>December</sup>: Then and there in Our said Court to Answer unto

~~Richard Greenleaf of Newbury aforesaid Gentleman~~ <sup>Richard Greenleaf of Newbury aforesaid Gentleman</sup> In a plea of the Case for that whereas the said Joshua at Newbury aforesaid on the third day of March, Anno Domini 1755. by his promisory note of that Date for value recd. promised the said Richard to pay him seven pounds and one penny 1/4. lawfull money on Demand with lawfull Interest for 1/4. same till paid. Yet the said Joshua the req<sup>d</sup> has not paid 1/4. same but denies to pay it.

To the Damage of the said ~~Richard Greenleaf~~ <sup>Richard Greenleaf</sup> as he saith the Sum of ~~Fourteen~~ <sup>Fourteen</sup> Pounds, which shall then and there be made to Appear, with other due Damages: And have you there this Writ, with your Doings therein, Witness Thomas Berry Esq; at Salem, the ~~last~~ <sup>last</sup> Day of ~~December~~ <sup>December</sup> in the Twelfth ninth Year of Our Reign. Annoque Domini, 1758.

Joseph Bowditch

Figure 2. IIP Writ signed Bowditch Writ as Justice of the Peace (top), and IIP Writ signed Bowditch as Clerk of Essex County Common Pleas Court.

cially numerous, constituting 85% of all the warrants known. Bowditch was a member of a well-known Salem family of mariners, being the son of Captain William Bowditch, a famous Salem mariner, merchant, and representative in the colonial assembly. Called Squire Bowditch by his contemporaries, he was a well-known and well-liked Clerk of Courts for Essex County. During his life, Bowditch was a Salem shipping merchant, Essex County Sheriff, County Court Clerk, and Justice of the Peace. He was born on August 21, 1700, the sixth of eleven children, and died on October 6, 1780 (Perley, 1926). These surviving court documents come not from his personal files but from Essex County files.

Figure 2 illustrates two writs with Bowditch's signature, the first being one as a justice of the peace stamped with a II pence stamp, and the second in this role as clerk of the Essex County Common Pleas Court with a III pence stamp.

All of the III pence stamped Essex Common Pleas writs, regardless of where the court session was to be held (Salem, Newbury or Ipswich), are witnessed by either Thomas Berry (abt. 1668-1756) or John Choate (1697-1765) who were each "Judge of Probate of Wills and for Granting the Administrations with the County of Essex." Dr. Thomas Berry was an eminent physician in Essex County. Born in Boston, and a graduate of Harvard, he moved to Ipswich in Essex Co. when he married his first wife, Martha Rogers. He was prominent in county affairs, being the Colonel of a militia regiment, a representative to the Colonial Assembly in 1727, 1729, and 1730, and a member of the Governor's Council. Berry was also Justice of the Sessions courts and common pleas and Judge of Probate. Writs written through August of 1756 are witnessed by Berry, while those of September 1756 and onward are witnessed by Choate. The records are silent on when John Choate, also of Ipswich, became Judge of Probate replacing Dr. Berry. The first known document signed by him is datelined September 8, 1756, almost a month after his predecessor's death. Based on the numbers surviving, there is about a 2:1 ratio of Berry writs versus Choate writs, i.e., about 63% of the writs are found witnessed by Berry while 37% are found witnessed by Choate.

## Notations of Service

The notations of service on the reverse of the writs give an insight into the slow communication and travel of the period. Writs served within Essex County averaged five days from the date of issuance with a median interval of two days. Essex writs served outside

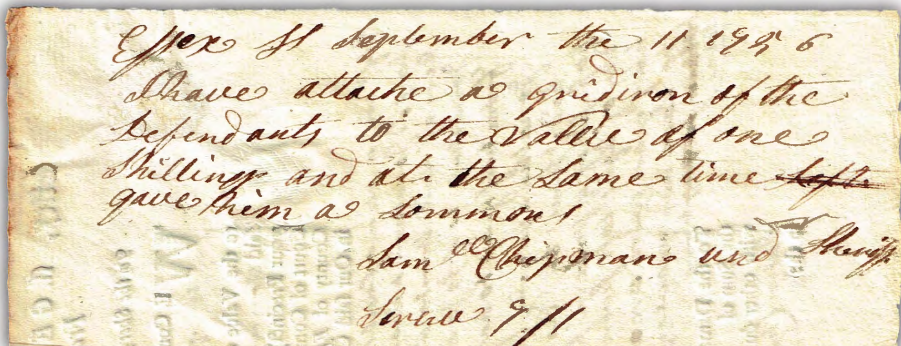


Figure 3. Samuel Chipman, Under Sheriff, serviced of an arrest writ September 11, 1756, four days after issuance.

the county (principally in the adjoining counties of Suffolk, Worcester, and Middlesex) averaged a 23-day interval with a median interval of seven days.

More than 40% of the Essex writs are found served by Samuel Chipman. He signed as Deputy Sheriff until June 23, 1756, and as Under Sheriff after that date.

The back of a writ of arrest bears the signature of Under Sheriff Sam Chipman (Figure 3). It was served on September 11, 1756, four days after issuance, with the words, “I have attache a gridiron of the defendant to the value of one shilling and at the same time gave him a sommons.”

**Table 2. Representation of Essex County Officers on County Writs**

Individual	Office	Percent	Where Notes of Service Found
Samuel Chipman	Deputy Sheriff	16%	Throughout Essex County but Majority in Ipswich and Gloucester
	Under Sheriff	25%	Throughout Essex County
Nathaniel Brown	Under Sheriff	14%	Throughout Essex and Middlesex County
	Deputy Sheriff	4%	In Newbury and Salem only
Issac Smith	Deputy Sheriff	6%	In Newbury, Ipswich and Gloucester
Joseph Willott	Deputy Sheriff	6%	In Newbury only
Moses Merritt	Deputy Sheriff	4%	In Salem and Haverhill
Samuel Stevens	Deputy Sheriff	2%	In Gloucester only
Clement King	Constable	2%	In Newbury only

Eighteen percent of arrest writs are found with notes of service by Nathaniel Brown, who signed as Under Sheriff until June 23, 1756, and then as Deputy Sheriff after that date. A sampling of the frequency of notes of service for individuals is summarized in Table 2.

The remaining 20% of the writs were served by various sheriffs, under sheriffs, deputies, constables, and other officials such as coroners, of other counties such as Middlesex (9%), Suffolk (9%), and Worcester (2%).

The items attached to assure appearance are a subject that also bears analysis. About 44% of the writs indicate that the law enforcement official just attached a chair or table to assure the defendant's court appearance. More interesting are those where the official attached the “body” of the defendant. About one-eighth (13%) of the writs have the service made in this manner, with 4% having the defendant committed to jail and another 5% indicating that the defendant made bail. In another 14% of the cases, the house and/or acreage of the defendant was attached. A detailed listing of the items attached in the sample of Essex County writs is shown in **Table 3**.

**Table 3. Items Attached in Sample of Essex County Writs**

Item Attached	Percentage
Table	14
Chair	30
“Body” of defendant	13
Dwelling House	9
Acreage	5
Cash	4
Pine Timber	2
Quart Pott	2
Silk handkerchief	2
Sword	2
Reading of the writ	14
Other	3



Essex, *II*. GEORGE the Second, by the Grace of GOD, of Great Britain,  
France and Ireland, KING, Defender of the Faith, &c.

To the Sheriff of Our County of *Essex* his Under-Sheriff or Deputy, Greeting.

WE Command you to Attach the Goods or Estate of *Willabee Favor* of  
*Newbury* in our County of *Essex* *Caulthon* —

to the Value of *Twenty* Pounds, and for want thereof to take the Body of the  
said *Willabee Favor* (if he may be found in  
your Precinct) and him safely keep, so that you have him before Our Justices of Our Inferiour  
Court of Common Pleas next to be holden at *Salem* within and for Our said  
County of *Essex*, on the *Second* Tuesday of *July* next: Then there  
in Our said Court to Answer unto *Ralph Cross Shipwright and Leze Rogers*  
*widow*. Both of *Newbury* aforesaid In a plea of the case For that whereas the  
said *Willabee* at *Newbury* aforesaid on the *Seventh* Day of *July* *1755* by  
promissory note of that Date by him subscribed and deliv<sup>d</sup> to the p<sup>rs</sup> for  
value rec<sup>d</sup> promised the p<sup>rs</sup> to pay them by the names of *Ralph Cross* & *Leze*  
*Rogers* administrators to the Estate of *Benjamin Rogers* late of *Newbury* Deceased  
the sum of *nineteen* Shillings and *ten* pence one farthing lawful money in  
two months after Date with lawful Interest for the same till paid  
Yet the said *Willabee* the<sup>a</sup> after req<sup>d</sup> has not paid the same but *Denys*  
to pay it

To the Damage of the said *Cross and Rogers* as they say  
the Sum of *Twenty* Pounds, which shall then and there be made to Appear,  
with other due Damages: And have you there this Writ, with your Doings therein. Witness  
*Thomas Barry* Esq; at *Salem*, the *Twenty* *fourth* Day of *June*  
in the *fourth* Year of Our Reign. *Anno Domini, 1756*

*Joseph Bowditch*

Figure 4. Above, IIIp Writ of Attachment against Willabee Favor, June 29, 1756; next page, IIp conveyance by Favor and his wife Jane, July 29, 1755.

## Relationships among Documents

Most of the collectible colonial documents exist independently as single items. However, there are occasionally intriguing relationships found among these documents. For instance, there is an interesting set of Massachusetts documents known referencing one Willabee Favor of Newbury. Figure 4 shows a Writ of Attachment with a III pence embossed stamp executed June 29, 1756, in Newbury commanding the sheriff of Essex County to attach Favor's goods up to £20 to satisfy a £6.19.10¼ promissory note debt of July 7, 1755, owed to Leze Rogers, widow of Newbury storekeeper Benjamin Rogers, and a shipwright, Ralph Cross, as administrators of Benjamin Rogers' estate (Laurence, 1999). In the absence of goods of this amount, the sheriff is to arrest Favor and hold him until court convenes. The reverse of the writ indicates that upon service, the Under Sheriff confiscated a "quart pott" and left a summons. Figure 4 also shows a July 21, 1755, deed of a property conveyance signed by Favor and his wife, embossed with a II pence stamp. Perhaps the conveyance for a sum of £8.13.4, which is close to the amount on the writ resulting from the note, indicates Favor's pressing need for money.

A writ is also known where the same Leze Rogers and Ralph Cross who sued Willabee Favor on June 29, 1756, sued a Thomas Arnold of Salisbury in Essex County the preceding day for a £30.8.11½ promissory note. It is probable that this was also for funds owed them as administrators of Benjamin Rogers' estate. Lastly, another June 29th writ of the same year indicates a suit by Rogers and Cross as executors against Benjamin



To all People to whom these Presents shall come greeting Know ye that We Willabe Faver of Newbury in the County of Essex and Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England Culver and Jane Faver wife of the said Willabe Faver for & in consideration of Eight Pounds thirteen Shillings & four pence lawful money to us in hand before the undersigned Delivery hereof well and truly paid by Samuel Plummer the third of Newbury aforesaid Cordwainer, the Receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge and our selves therewith fully satisfied and contented and thereof and of every part and parcel thereof, do exonerate, acquit and discharge him the said Samuel Plummer his Heirs Executors and Administrators for ever by these presents, Have given, granted, bargained, sold, aliened, conveyed and confirmed; and by these presents do freely, fully, and absolutely, give, grant, bargain, sell, aliene, convey & confirm unto him the said Samuel Plummer his Heirs and Assigns for ever, A Piece of Land lying in the Town of Newbury aforesaid, containing Four Rods and an half be the same more or less Bounded South Easterly by said Plummer's Land, South Westerly by Prospect Street Twenty Seven feet ten inches, North Westerly by our own land about Sixty three feet eight inches, and North Easterly by Land of the Heirs of Hannah Richardson out Eleven feet, To Have and To Hold this said granted and bargained Premises with all the privileges and Appurtenances to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining, to him the said Samuel Plummer his Heirs and Assigns for ever, to his and their own proper use benefit and behoof for ever, and We the said Willabe and Jane Faver for us our Heirs Executors and Administrators, do Covenant promise and grant, to and with the said Samuel Plummer his Heirs & Assigns, that before the undersigned hereof we are the true, sole and lawful Owner of the above bargained premises and have in our selves good Right, full power & Lawful Authority to grant, bargain, sell, convey & confirm said bargained Premises in manner as aforesaid. And that the said Samuel Plummer in manner as aforesaid for himself his Heirs and Assigns shall and may from time to time and at all times hereafter lawfully peacefully & quietly, have, hold, use, Occupy, possess, Enjoy, the said, demised and bargained premises with the Appurtenances thereto and thereto, and freely & lawfully, acquit, & discharged from all and all manner of former or other Gift, Grants, Bargains, Sales, Leases, Mortgages, Wills, Entails, Forfeitures, Dowries, Judgments, Executions or Incumbrances of what name or nature soever, that might in any measure obstruct or make void this present Deed. And furthermore We the said Willabe Faver and Jane Faver Do for our selves our Heirs Executors and Administrators Covenant & Engage, the above demised premises and Appurtenances, to him the said Samuel Plummer his Heirs and Assigns, against the claims & demands of any person or Persons whomsoever, for ever hereafter, to warrant, Save and Defend by these presents, in Witness whereof we the said Willabe Faver and Jane Faver have hereunto set our hands & seals, this Twenty first Day of July in the Twenty ninth year of King George the Second, Rex Anglorum Domini

1757  
Signed & sealed & Delivered

in presence of

John Brown  
Nathan Hale

Attest: 15 Newbury July 21 1757

The above named Mr Willabe Faver & Mrs Jane Faver  
acknowledge the above instrument to be their free act and  
Deed before me - Nathan Hale Justice Peace -

his mark  
Willabe Faver

Jane Faver



Woodbridge, a gentleman of Newbury, for the amount owed for a £30.14.8 promissory note written to the deceased shopkeeper in 1753.

Further, the Ralph Cross, who repeatedly sued others as an estate administrator, is found in the sampled warrants himself as the subject of a suit. A March 8, 1756, warrant is known where Benjamin Studley, an Ipswich shopkeeper, sued Stephen Emerson, an Ipswich yeoman, as principal and Ralph Cross as a surety on a £110 bond debt made in 1739 when plaintiff, Cross, was a shipwright.

Robert Hooper was a merchant who sued Jonathan Proctor, another merchant, on March 15, 1756, for the costs of borrowed fish. The same Robert Hooper then sued a Nathaniel Harriden, shoreman, on April 30, 1756, for an account balance totaling £27.9.9½ for a dozen caps, a barrel of sugar, and ropes purchased from Hooper.

A John Oliver, victualler (tavern keeper) of Malden in Middlesex County is found sued at least twice on stamped warrants. On March 9, 1756, he was sued for the amount of a £10.14.10 promissory note datelined about two years earlier on August 27, 1754, payable to a Benjamin Moers of Haverhill in Essex County. He was sued again about three months later for the amount of a three-month promissory note of £9.6.8 datelined July 24, 1755, due to George Curtis, a Danvers husbandman.

## Document Printings

Printings of the Essex County Common Pleas Court writs were probably made periodically as the need for additional copies arose, accounting for the various varieties of wordings and type settings found on these documents. There are two different types

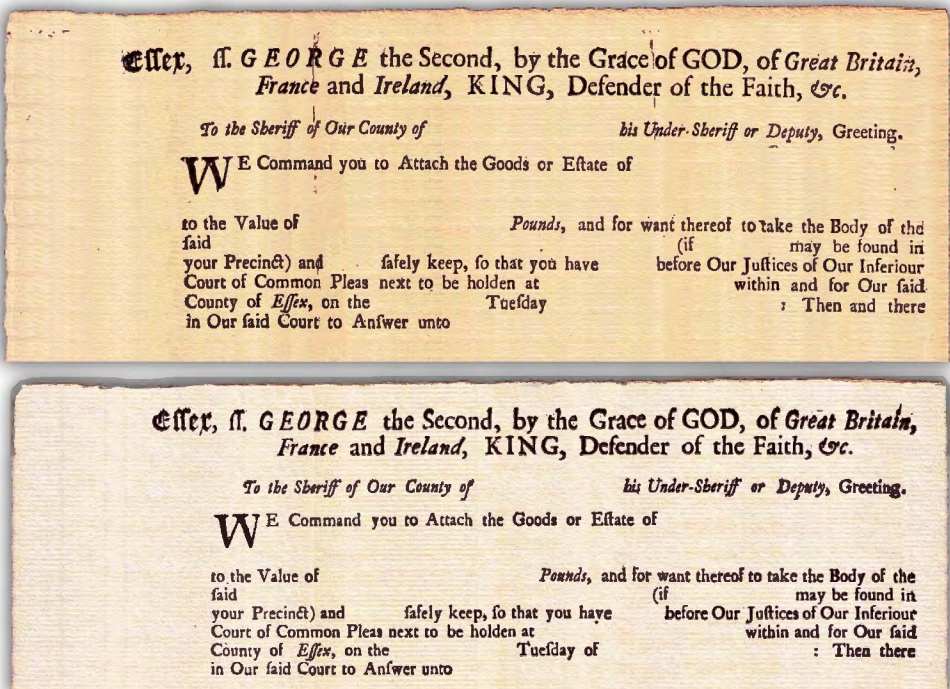


Figure 5. Essex Writ Type TAT, Set 3 (top). The bottom writ is Type II, Set 2.



of wordings on the short-form writs of arrest. In Type TAT, the tenth line of the opening paragraph reads “County of Essex, on the Tuesday of next: Then and there,” while Type TT reads “County of Essex, on the Tuesday of next: Then there” with no “and” between “Then” and “there” (Figure 5). About 79% of the writs are type TAT, with the remainder being TT.

Individual printings of short-form writs can also be differentiated from other warrants by noting various irregularities in the type settings. At least five settings are known:

- Type Set 1 has the comma following “GOD” in the first line over the space between “the” and “Faith” in the second line. It also has the “o” within “of” centered over both letters of the “ai” of “Faith” in the second line.
- Type Set 2 has the comma following “GOD” in the first line over the “e” in “the” and the “o” in “of” over the “F” of “Faith” in the second line. Type Set 2 documents are only known with Type TT printings.
- Type Set 3 has the comma following “GOD” in the first line over the “F” in “Faith” and the “o” in “of” over the “i” of “Faith” in the second line.
- Type Set 4 has the comma following “GOD” in the first line equidistant over both the “h” and “e” in “the” and the “o” in “of” over the space between “the” and “Faith” in the second line.
- Type Set 5 has the comma following “GOD” in the first line equidistant over both the “e” at the end of “the” and the space between “the” and “Faith” in the second line. It also has the “o” within “of” equidistant over both the “F” and the “a” of “Faith” in the second line.

Table 4. Distributions of Various Printings and Type Settings

	Type Set 1	Type Set 2	Type Set 3	Type Set 4	Type Set 5
TAT	29%		36%	7%	7%
TT		21%			

Table 4 shows the distribution of the various printings and type settings.

Most of the writs, and particularly those from the initial stamped printings, bear a distinctive watermark (Figure 6). The writs are printed two to a side on a large folio sheet of paper with the ornate initials of “GR” (for King George) under a crown on one side and a figure of Britannia on the other. The latter design consists of a seated figure of Britannia holding a trident with a crowned lion rampant, holding a raised sword in one paw and a bundle of arrows in the other. The entirety is enclosed within a circular palisade (or picket fence) with a barred gate in the center. The legend “Pro Patria” is set immediately above the head of the lion. Later printings are known on paper with the Anglo-Dutch coat of arms watermark on one side and the initials “IVC” on the other. About 2% of the documents are found watermarked with a crown over a circle made with two outstretched wings containing the initials “GR.” This is the Vryheyt watermark of Holland used as early as 1711. One document is known with the initials “IVC.”

There appear to be at least five distinct print typeset groupings based on the document and watermark differences noted with the dates of use in Table 5.

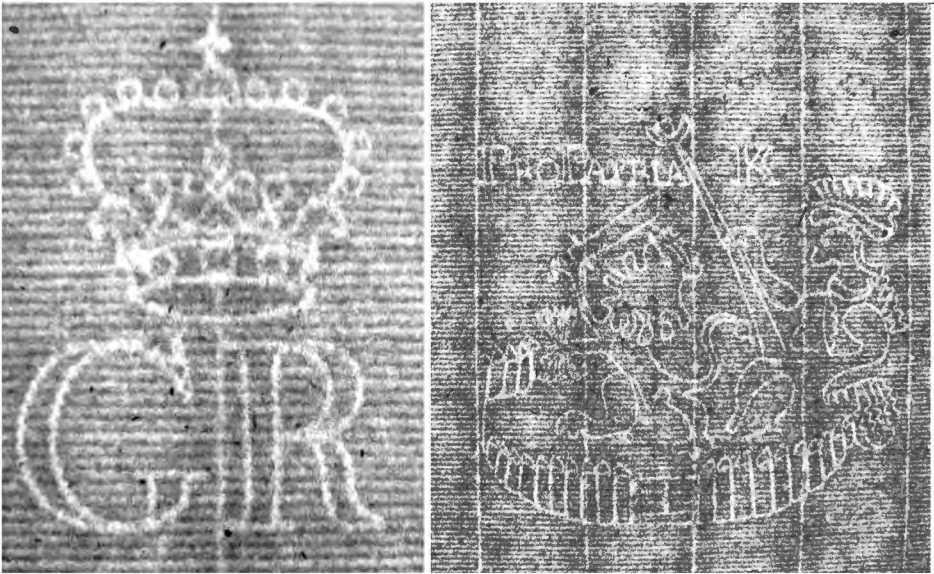


Figure 6. Watermarks: left, “GR” (Georgius Rex, i.e. King George); right, “Pro Patria” ({Britannia & Lion)

Table 5. Characteristics of Settings on Essex County Writs

Type	First Known Use	Last Known Use	Watermark(s)	Percent
TAT-1	May 16, 1755	Sep 14, 1756	Britannia, Crown over “GR”	29
TT-2	Nov 21, 1755	Jul 9, 1756	Britannia, Crown over “GR”	21
TAT-3	Dec 16, 1755	Nov 16, 1756	Britannia, Crown over “GR”	36
TAT-4	Dec 1, 1757	Dec 3, 1757	“IVC” Crown over “GR”	7
TAT-5	Dec 10, 1757	Dec 12, 1757	“IVC”	7

The first grouping is TAT-1, which appears to be the printings in use at the time that the tax went into effect. This printing has significant usage, with one large batch dated from May 1755 through late November 1755 and another minor group used in September 1756.

The second print grouping, TT-2, was in use from November 1755 through July 1756. These TT-2 prints seem to occur in periodic batches throughout the duration of stamped Essex County writ usage. They are especially prevalent in batches in November of 1755, March of 1756, and lastly June and July of 1756.

The TAT-3 group has the longest usage span from December 1755 through November 1756, predominating in the period from December 1755, through June 1756.

Lastly, the two latest-dated types of Essex County writs (TAT-4 and TAT-5) were all in use after the expiration of the tax in December of 1757.

While there are significant differences in the numbers of each of the various printing groups, they are not as significant to collecting interests as seems at first glance. The different groups exhibiting valid usage within the effective period of the Massachusetts

revenue law all exhibit about the same order of magnitude of survival frequency. The printings used after the tax expired (and correspondingly of less interest to most collectors) have a much lower frequency of use.

Based on the profile of document differences and relationships to watermarks as well as other subtle document differences, it seems that it should be possible for some future student of the III pence denomination to tentatively plate the short-form writs of arrest within each of the various major printing groups; this being dependent upon obtaining enough copies to make statistically valid comparisons.

## Massachusetts Document Features

Most of the Massachusetts documents are on printed forms. Even most examples of cut squares show evidence of being extracted from printed forms. This is due to the great number of Essex County existing writs, all of which are on printed forms. Excluding the writs, about 75% of the surviving conveyances and bonds are holograph.

The paper with these colonial duty stamps is English or Dutch-manufactured laid paper; wove paper would not be produced in quantity for another 40 years. Almost all the paper at this time in New England was imported from Holland and Great Britain. Holland produced the best quality and greatest quantity of paper. To popularize their paper for the British trade, the Dutch mills added a watermark with the letters GR under a crown.

It is a characteristic of most of the English colonial documents that they include a phrase qualifying the date by stating the year of the reign of the current monarch, such as “... in witness whereof I the Said Willabee Faver have hereto Set my hand & seal this Twenty first Day of July in the Twenty ninth year of King George the Second, Reign Anno Domini 1755.” This is especially true of the printed documents such as writs of seizure, bonds, and conveyances. This qualification is found on about 67% of all the documents and 90% of the printed documents.

All bonds, deeds, mortgages, and conveyances required a duty. The lowest Massachusetts amount reported for these documents was £8.13.4, and the highest was £100. The highest amount of damages sought on a suit documented by a warrant was £150.

These seemingly small amounts correlate to much higher values today. One factor that must be sorted out is the use of amounts on financial documents in Massachusetts

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being expressed in both “old tenor” or “new tenor,” where the latter is often defined as “current money.” For sixty years, starting in 1690, Massachusetts had issued a very depreciated currency based on provincial bills of credit against anticipated tax revenues. However, a succession of wars and attendant expenses, together with outlandish schemes for redemption blocked by England, prevented the redemption. Governor Shirley eventually used a large reimbursement for expenses for an expedition against Louisburg during an earlier war with France (the War of the Austrian Succession, known in the colonies as King George’s War) to redeem the old currency (old tenor) in 1749. This was at the rate of about 7.5 old pounds for each “new tenor” pound.

Due to inflation and development and changes in the exchange rates between pounds and dollars, the value of colonial pounds has risen significantly from 265 years ago. Thus, small transactions of £8 correlate to \$1,945, and larger amounts of £100 or £150 are equivalent to amounts of \$24,300 or \$36,500 in 2022 (Nye, 2022).

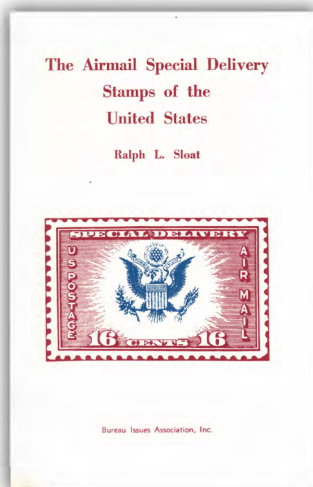
## Acknowledgment

This article and the following articles covering America’s Colonial Stamp Taxation are a collaboration based on the original research and unpublished writings of John C. Rowe. Some documents illustrated have been digitally enhanced for clarity.

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compiled by **Kim D. Johnson**

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#????

**Pinatas Booklet**

**P1111**



#????

**Snow Globes Booklet**

**P1111**



#????

**Winter Woodland Animals Booklet**

**B11111**





#????	Ruth Bader Ginsburg			
B11111	‡	‡	LL	LR
3rx3c	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9*			





▲ #???? OSIRIS-Rex  
 P11111 # # LL LR  
 3r x 3c 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9\*

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Michigan City, IN
- 17503 Joffre Cross, Houston, TX
- 17504 Dwayne Bagley, Portage, MI
- 17505 David Stokes, Fulshear, TX
- 17506 Michael Cortese, Concord, NH

## APPLICATIONS PENDING

- 17488-17501

## NEW MEMBERS

- 17482-17487

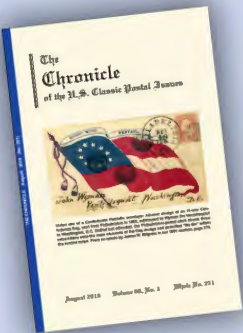
## REINSTATED

- 13595 Greg Johnson,  
Stone Mountain, GA
- 15502 Bryan Kendall, Fremont, NE
- 17434 Richard Zane,  
Cape May Court House, NJ

## TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

August 31, 2023	1423
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>	
New members	6
Reinstatements	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>SUBTRACTIONS:</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NET CHANGE</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	
September 30, 2023	1432

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