

Revised: Feb, 2025

Synopsis page(s) for:

**THE 1861 1-CENT FRANKLIN ISSUE –
USED TO PAY DOMESTIC POSTAL RATES AND FEES – 1861-1869**

Statement of purpose and scope – This exhibit will illustrate how the new 1861 1-cent stamp was used to move the mail during the American Civil War and reconstruction era when new postal rates were in effect.

Treatment:

This exhibit begins with basic First-Class letter rates across the continental United States followed by “problems” that were encountered with deliveries. Additional Services requiring additional postal fees such as Carrier rates, Supplemental Mail, Advertised and Registered Mail are exhibited in the second section. The third and fourth sections deal with Local and Third-Class usages. The fifth section shows fascinating foreign destination covers where the 1861 1-Cent Franklin stamp **paid the US domestic portion** of the postal rate.

Knowledge, Study and Research:

Research and development for this exhibit began in November of 2013. Resources of information for this exhibit were:

- > Evans, Donald L.; *the United States 1c Franklin 1861-1867*; copyright Linn’s News, 1997.
(primary);
- > Beecher, Henry W. and Wawrukiewicz, Anthony S. *U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-1993*; The Traditions Press, 1994;
- > Beecher, Henry W. and Wawrukiewicz, Anthony S. *U.S. International Postal Rates, 1872-1996*; Cama Publishing Company, 1996.
- > Piskiewicz, Leonard; *Chicago Postal Markings and Postal History*; James E. Lee Publishing, 2006
- > Skinner, Hubert C. and Eno, Amos; *United States Cancellations 1845-1869; APS Handbook Series*; 1980.

Rarity and Condition:

Throughout this exhibit I have exhibited **the best possible examples available** of the various rates and usages of the stamp during this period. Some of the covers in this exhibit may show signs of wear-and-tear. Considering the fact that this stamp was issued over a century and a half ago, this in all likelihood, is to be expected. Some of these covers have been torn, tattered, stained and were possibly hauled in haversacks across battlefields of the American Civil War. Even so, I feel that I have the best quality of material obtainable for this exhibit. Also, I have shown only one example of each rate/usage, except where a noteworthy variation in rate or usage has occurred.

To start, **there four key items** in this exhibit:

First, Page 1 – The cover on the title page is **one of only two recorded examples** of covers postmarked in Hartford, Connecticut, where both 1-cent 1857 and 1861 stamps were valid for postage during this brief **9-day Hartford Exchange Period**; August 17-25, 1861.

Second, Page 5 # 1 – A local letter **free-franked by ex-President Martin Van Buren**, requiring a one-cent carrier fee.

Third, Page 12 #1 – A third-class cover containing seeds for planting. It is only one of two known covers franked with the 1861 1-cent issue having the **“SEEDS ONLY”** marking. **It is the finest surviving example of Third-class mail for this issue.**