AMERICAN PHILATELIC CENTER
2009
PENN STATE
1966 - 1970
United States Philatelic Classics Society

Founded in 1951

Centennial of the 1851 General Issue Stamps
Centennial Exposition

July 1-31, 1851

CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION
The First U.S. 1c, 3c and 12c Postage Stamps 1851-1857

THE ’51 CENEX
July 1-July 31, 1951

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Smithsonian National Postal Museum
Postal Reform of 1851
General Issue Stamps of 1851

1 cent - circular mail

3 cent - up to 3000 miles

12 cent - overseas
General Issue Stamps of 1851

Franklin Carrier stamp - Nondenominational

Eagle Carrier stamp 1 cent
Federal Carrier Stamps - 1851

• Ordered by the postmaster from the 3rd Assistant Postmaster General.
• Stamps paid for by the respective carrier department.
• An extension of the 1847 federal government prepayment by stamps applied to carrier transmittal.
Franklin Carrier Stamp - LO1

- October 17, 1851

- Nondenominational “STAMP.”

- Too similar to 1 cent - Scott #5-9
Eagle Carrier Stamp - LO2

- November 17, 1851.
- Purchased by the city’s carrier department for use there only.
- Concurrent with prior carrier department stamps.
Two Philadelphia Eagle Carrier Cancellation Discoveries, New LRD, and a New Theory
1753

- Ben Franklin, Postmaster General.
- Carrier delivery from the “Mails” was 2 cents.
- No door to door transmittal.
1849

- Competitive pressure from the private posts.
- Postmaster General Cave Johnson reduced carrier “fees” by 50% in large cities.
- One Cent - prepayment “To the Mails.”
  prepayment “City Mail.”
  cash “From the Mails.”

“Uniform one cent fee for all carrier services.”
1849 - Carrier Department Stamps

- Baltimore - 1LB
- Boston - 3LB
- Charleston - 4LB
- Louisville - 5LB
- Philadelphia - 7LB
1849 - Carrier Department Stamps

- New York - 6LB
- St. Louis - 8LB
- Cincinnati - 9LB
- Cleveland - 10LB
1849 - Carrier Department Stamps

- Local adjunct to the Post Office
- Financially autonomous
- Carriers compensated by “fee for service.”
- Prepaid carrier stamps covered the cost of printing stamps and anticipated local service.
- City oriented rather than Nation oriented.
1851 Reform

- Further pressure from the private posts.

- Postmaster General Hall mandate:
  Free collection “To the Mails.”
  One cent “City Mail.”
  Two cents delivery “From the Mails” cash, as from the past 100 years.
1851 Reform

• National prepaid carrier delivery was a concept ahead of it’s time.

• 90% of intercity mail was still sent collect. The carrier collected his fee and the postage in cash.

• 10% of intercity mail was prepaid by stamp. The carrier collected his fee only in cash.

• Goal: Full prepayment on intercity and intra-city transmittal.
Failure of Eagle carrier stamps

- Not valid at another city.
- Usable only for City letters.
- Unnecessary for free “To the Mails” collection.
- Dichotomy:
  - Federal intercity.
  - Local intra-city.
- Carriers resisted Federalization.
New York in 1851

- Few cancelled Franklin carrier stamps.
- No cancelled Eagle carrier stamps.
- Respected free “To the Mails.”
- Protested 50% reduction and did not purchase Eagle carrier stamps for City Mail.
Philadelphia - 1851 through 1853

- Transition period of concurrent use.
- Decreasing use of carrier department stamps.
- Increasing use of federal eagle carrier stamps.
- Both types purchased by the carrier department.
Philadelphia city mail - 1850’s

December 11, 1854

HENRY CROSKEY
LUMBER COMM.MERCHANT
First Wharf below Green St

PHILADELPHIA

Mssrs Clay & Jones
No. 47 South 5th Street
Philadelphia
Philadelphia city mail - 1850’s

October 3, 1853
Philadelphia city mail - 1850’s

- Undated
Philadelphia city mail - 1850’s

- Unique Blood’s combined with eagle carrier
- Unique Philadelphia eleven bar grid cancel
Philadelphia drop letter - 1850’s

Unique eagle carrier cancel
Outbound “To the Mails”

July 14, (1853) to New York
Outbound “To the Mails”

March 5, (1852-4) to New Jersey
Outbound “To the Mails”

Two Transcontinental Eagle carriers
Outbound “To the Mails”

- Ten Transatlantic Eagle carrier covers
- Unique Eagle carrier combined with 12 cent
Outbound “To the Mails”

- Latest recorded Philadelphia Eagle carrier - June 29, 1857
- Unique Philadelphia boxed grid cancel
Philadelphia 1851-1857

- Ignored the Postmaster General in 1851.
- Submit that the Carrier Department continued the 1849 “Uniform one cent fee for all carrier services” beyond 1851.
Conclusion

• The carrier fee system with separate accounting was provincial and too restrictive to be compatible with a large scale Federal carrier prepayment plan.

• In Philadelphia 1851 through 1853 was a transition period for prepaid carrier stamps.

• In 1851 the Philadelphia Carrier Department ignored the Postmaster General and continued the 1849 “Uniform one cent fee for all carrier services.”
July 1, 1860

- Postal Act of 1860 mandated a return to the 1849 “Uniform one cent fee for all carrier services,” as had been continued in Philadelphia.

- One cent for:
  - Carrier collection “To the Mails.”
  - City Mail.
  - Carrier delivery “From the Mails.”
July 1, 1863

- Fee system terminated.
- Carriers became **salaried** employees.
- No additional charge for carrier collection or delivery.

- Two cents for unsealed circular or “Drop” letter.