

The Use of Boston's "PAID in Grid" Cancels: 1851-1859

Purpose and Scope

To show how the use of these cancels changed over time and to show their use on the various imperforate issues of the period.

Organization

Major chapters are organized chronologically by cancel (small red, small black, large black). Within each chapter, by issue and within issue by denomination. Use of the term "reported", in regard to dates used, refers to Blake & Davis' *Boston Postmarks to 1890*. Use of the term "known" means known to the exhibitor.

Background

On July 7, 1851, Boston introduced what is arguably the most iconic cancel of the era - the 17½mm "small Boston PAID" - to be used on the new 1851 issue. The **red / magenta** cancel did not show up well on the new orange brown adhesives, and it was used only until Aug. 1. The same cancel was used in **black** ink from July 12, 1851 to January 23, 1852. It was replaced by a 24-24½mm version and varieties were used for about 10 years. **Important covers are bordered in red.** e = certificate



Small Red / Magenta PAID in Grid (7/7/51 to 8/1/51)

1¢ 1851

Two of Only 2-3 Known 1c 1851 Covers with the Small Boston Red PAID

Unsealed Printed Circular

A 1c rate was charged on each circular of less than ½ oz., sent up to 500 miles.*

Boston to Beverly, Mass.

July 14, 1851

This 29½mm Boston CDS is reported used from Feb. 29, 1844 to May 6, 1852.



A 3c rate was charged for a letter of up to ½ oz. sent up to 3000 miles.*

Boston to Hartford, Conn.

July 14, 1851

This 32mm Boston (small "3cts") integral rate CDS is reported used from July 1, 1851 to Jan. 18, 1854.

* all domestic letters were rated per Act of Congress, Mar. 3, 1851 (eff. July 1)



Struck in Red

A 3c rate was charged for a letter of up to ½ oz. sent up to 3000 miles.

Boston to New York, NY

July 23, 1851

This 30mm Boston CDS with integral "3" is reported used from 7/16/49 to 8/25/51.

Struck in Magenta

A 6c rate was charged for a letter of ½-1 oz. sent up to 3000 miles.

Boston to Providence, R.I.

July 24, 1851

This 30mm Boston CDS with integral "6 cts" (bold 6) is reported used from 7/9/51 to 10/3/55.



New Discovery

Last Known Use

Struck in Magenta

A 3c rate was charged for a letter of up to ½ oz. sent up to 3000 miles.

Boston to New York, NY

August 1, 1851



The small black Boston PAID in grid was first used on January 12, nearly 3 weeks before the Boston Post Office ceased using the small red cancel

*The Only Recorded Example of the
Small Black Boston Paid in Grid on the 10c Issue of 1847*



Boston via Buffalo to Hamilton, Canada West

December 20, 1851

The 10c rate was for a through letter of up to ½ oz. sent up to 3000 miles to the border, and from there anywhere in Canada.

This worn 30mm Boston
integral rate (slanted "10") CDS
is reported used in red from April
14, 1849 to February 19, 1856.

Drop Letter

The 1c rate was for a letter dropped off and picked up from the same post office.

Boston to Boston, Mass.
December 27, 1851

This 32mm Boston integral rate ("1") CDS is reported used in red from October 10, 1851 to December 28, 1851.



Messrs J B Clapp & Son
Boston



Messrs F. H. Hayes
Newbury

Unsealed Printed Circular

A 1c rate was charged on each circular of less than ½ oz., sent up to 500 miles.

Boston to Newbury, Vt.
August 21, 1851

This 29mm Boston integral "PAID" CDS is reported used in red only from August 8-21, 1851.

It was created for circulars and is an LKU.

The 3c rate was charged for a letter of up to ½ oz. sent up to 3000 miles.

Boston to Providence, RI
September 26, 1851

This 32½mm Boston integral "3cts" CDS is reported used in red from July 29, 1851 to Nov. 20, 1856.



W. C. Simmons Esq
Providence
R.I.



Earliest Reported Day of Use

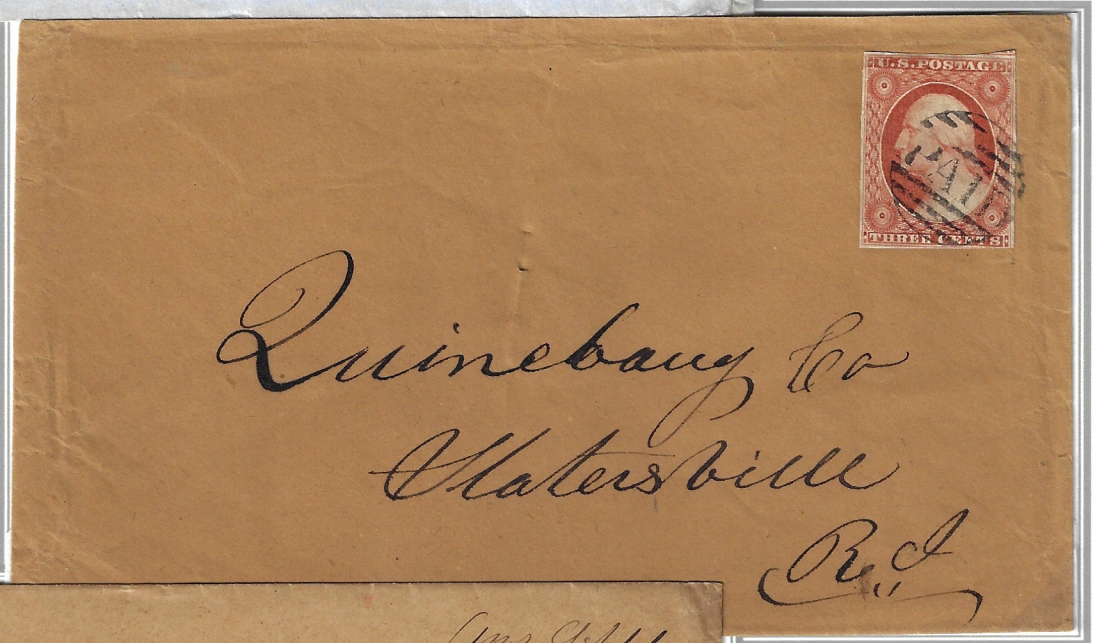
The rate of 3c per ½ oz. was for a letter sent up to 3000 miles. This letter weighed ½-1 oz and was marked "5 Due" in red crayon.

Boston to Hartford, Conn.
July 12, 1851

Only Known Example with No Boston Postmark

The 3c rate was charged for a letter of up to ½ oz. sent up to 3000 miles.

Boston to Slatersville, R.I.



With Boston Carrier

The Boston semi-official Penny Post adhesive paid the rate to the post office.

The 3c rate was charged for a letter of up to ½ oz sent up to 3000 miles.

Boston to Mt. Vernon, N.H.
August 27, 1851



½ - 1 oz. letter

The 6c rate was for a letter of ½-1 oz. sent up to 3000 miles.

The 32mm Boston integral rate CDS (large "6 cts") is reported used in red from Sept. 29, 1851 to Sept. 24, 1855.



Boston to Wallingford, Vt.

January 16, 1852

Sent to California



Boston to Sacramento City, Calif.

January 23, 1852

New Discovery

Latest Known Day of Use

The 6c rate was for a letter of up to ½ oz. sent over 3000 miles.

The 12c adhesive was issued on July 1, 1851 and the earliest known usage is August 4. Per the U.S.-U.K. Postal Convention of 1848, letters could be sent unpaid or fully prepaid. The 12c adhesive was designed primarily for such transatlantic use, although it was used for other purposes as well.

*One of only 2 known 12c covers cancelled with the Small Black Boston PAID**



Boston to London, England, carried privately to Florence, Italy
R.M.S. *America*

October 9, 1851

The 24c rate was for a letter of up to ½ oz. sent to the U.K., per U.S. - U.K. Postal Treaty of 1848. The 19c credit to the U.K. was for transatlantic and internal U.K. carriage.

The '19' accountability mark is reported used in red from June 22, 1850 to Nov. 16, 1859.

*For the other known cover, see Brookman, L.G., *The United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century*, Lindquist, 1966, p.175.

The Latest of Two Known Examples of the Large Black Boston Paid in Grid on the 5c Issue of 1847

The 5c rate was a 2c overpayment for a letter of up to ½ oz. sent up to 3000 miles.

Boston to Greenland Depot, N.H.
July 27, 1852

This 30mm Boston CDS ("Mass.") is reported used in red from January 23, 1844 to July 13, 1856.



Drop Letter

The rate of 1c was for a letter dropped off and picked up from the same post office.

Boston to Boston, Mass.
June 2, 1853

The 32mm Boston CDS is reported used in red from Dec. 14, 1851 to Jan. 23, 1858.



The rate of 3c was for a letter of up to ½ oz. sent up to 3000 miles.

Boston to Duxbury, Mass.
September 23, c1854

The 30mm Boston CDS is reported used in red from Jan. 23, 1844 to July 13, 1856.

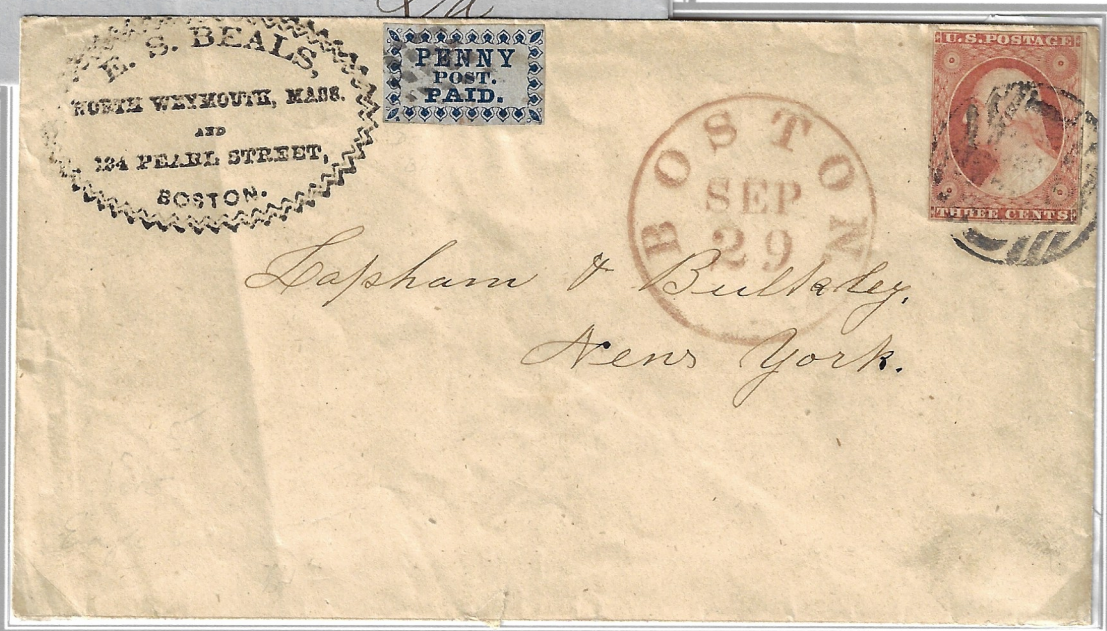




First Reported Day of Use

The rate of 3c was for a letter of up to ½ oz. sent up to 3000 miles.

Boston to New Orleans, La.
January 16, 1852



With Boston Carrier

The Boston semi-official Penny Post adhesive paid the rate to the post office.

The rate of of 3c was for a letter of up to ½ oz. sent up to 3000 miles.

Boston to New York, NY
September 29, c.1853

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The Only Reported Example of the Large Red PAID ERROR

The 3c rate was for a letter of up to ½ oz. sent up to 3000 miles.

Boston to Wareham, Mass.
November 10, 1852



“Ocean Penny Postage”

Mitchell Imprint
League of Universal
Brotherhood Design

The rate of 3c was
for a letter of 0-½ oz.
sent up to 3000 miles.

Boston to Roxbury, Mass.
September 2, c. 1853

Double Weight

The rate of 6c was for
a letter of ½-1 oz. sent
up to 3000 miles.

Boston to Providence, R.I.
June 5, 1852

The 32mm Boston (large “6cts”) inte-
gral rate CDS is reported used from
Sept. 29, 1851 to Sept. 24, 1855.



Triple Weight

The rate of 9c was
for a letter of 1-1½
oz. sent up to
3000 miles.

Boston to New York, NY
April 21, 1852



Sent to and from the Pacific - 6c Rate

The rate of 6c was for a letter of 0-½ oz. sent over 3000 miles.



Boston to San Francisco, Calif.

May 19, c.1853

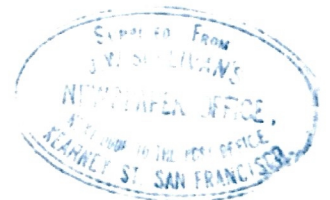
**“Supplied from J. W. Sullivan’s Newspaper Office
Next Door to the Post Office, Kearny St. San Francisco”**



**Left at Sullivan’s,
Sent by Express and
Canceled at Boston**

The rate of 6c was for a letter of 0-½ oz. sent over 3000 miles.

Letters sent by express were left uncanceled until their destination.



(reverse)

San Francisco via Boston to Farmington, Falls, Me.

c.1852

Sent to the Pacific - 10c Rate

(Act of Mar. 3, 1855, eff. Apr. 1)

Overpaid 2c to Oregon - Sent One Day after the Rate Change

“Can’t Make the Change”

The rate of 10c was for a letter of 0-½ oz. sent over 3000 miles.



Boston to Salem, Oregon

April 2, 1855

Part Paid to California - “Due 8”

The rate of 20c was for a letter of ½-1 oz. sent over 3000 miles.

When franked with stamps, there was no penalty for part paid mail.



Boston to San Francisco, Calif.

January 4, 1857



**To the Maritimes via
Cunard steamer**

The rate of 3c was for a letter of 0-½ oz. paid to the port of departure.

The rate of 8d Canadian currency included 5d British packet postage and 3d inland postage from Halifax to Pictou, N.S.

Boston via Halifax to Pictou, NS

July 20, 1853

Cunard steamer *America*

Overland to Upper Canada

The rate of 10c was for a through letter of 0-½ oz., per the U.S.-U.K. Postal Convention of 1848, formally adopted between the U.S. and Canada on April 6, 1851.

Boston to Toronto, Upper Canada

December 13, 1854

This 30mm Boston worn integral rate CDS is reported used from April 14, 1849 to February 19, 1856.



British Open Mail to France

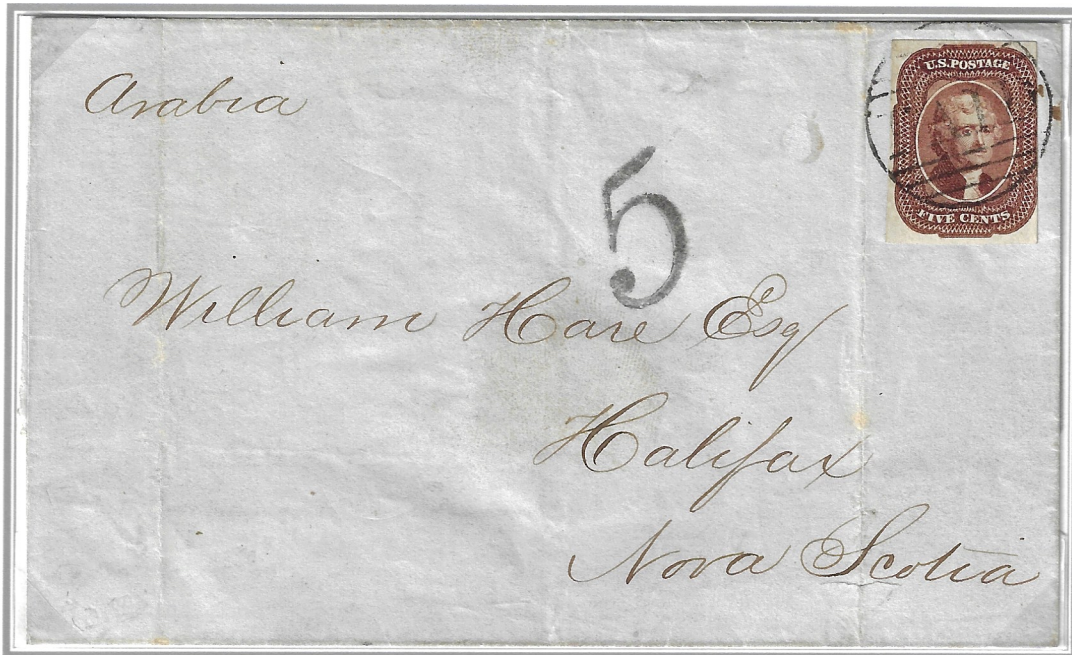
The rate of 5c was the rate to the port for a 0-½ oz. letter sent by British Open Mail via the U.K. to France. The addressee paid 19 decimes for sea post, British and French transit.

Boston via Liverpool and London to Paris

September 26, 1855

Cunard steamer *Africa*

The 5c adhesive was likely available at post offices in early March 1856; the earliest known use is March 24. The reason for its issuance is not known; most uses are on foreign mail, such as in the examples below.



**Sent to Halifax via
Cunard Steamer**

The 5c paid the U.S. portion of the rate to Canada by Cunard steamer, for a 0-½ oz. letter, from 1854 to Jan. 1, 1860.

5d Canadian currency was paid upon arrival.

Boston to Halifax, Nova Scotia

August 23, 1859

Cunard steamer *Arabia*



Sent to France

The 15c rate was for a letter of 0-¼ oz. sent to France, per the U.S.-French Postal Convention of 1857.

The GB 1^F 60^C marking indicated the bulk rate per 30g.

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Boston via New York to La Rochelle, France

December 22, 1857

Cunard steamer *Europa*

To Nova Scotia

The rate of 10c for a through letter of 0-½ oz. was per the U.S.-U.K. Postal Convention of 1848, adopted by the Maritimes in July 1851.

Boston to Kentville,
Nova Scotia
Jan. 22, 1857



To Cuba

The rate of 10c was for a letter of 0-½ oz. sent by U.S. packet up to 2500 miles, as of July 1, 1851.

The "NA" (North America) and "1" (1 real due) were struck in Cuba.

Boston to Santiago de Cuba
December 24, 1855

To Hawaii via California

The rate of 10c was for a letter of 0-½ oz. sent over 3000 miles, per Sec. 1 of the Act of Congress, Mar. 3, 1855 (eff. July 1).

Boston via New York,
Panama and SF to
Honolulu, Hawaii
June 4, 1857
U.S.M.S. *Illinois*
to Aspinwall



Sent to California

The 12c rate paid for a ½-1 oz. letter sent over 3000 miles.

This rate lasted until April 1, 1855.

Boston to San Francisco, Calif.
April 4, 1851



Sent to the U.K.

The 24c rate paid for a 0-½oz. letter sent to England, per the U.S.-U.K. Postal Convention of 1848

There was a 19c credit to the U.K.

Boston to Warrington, Eng.
March 17, 1855
Cunard steamer *Canada*

Sent to France

The 15c rate was for a letter of 0-¼ oz. sent to France, per the U.S.-French Postal Convention of 1857.

There was a 12c credit - 4c to France and 8c to the U.K. for British Transit and Sea Post.

Boston to Paris, France
May 20, 1857
Cunard steamer *Europa*



The perforated issues were introduced in the latter part of 1857, though the imperforates are seen on mail through at least 1859. Varieties of the large Boston PAID are used to cancel stamps into 1862.