

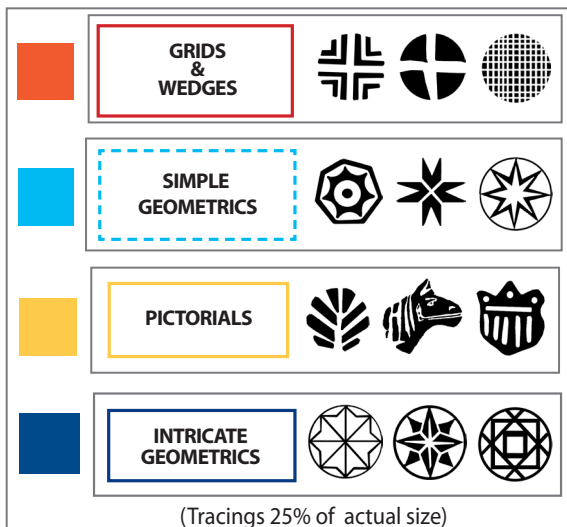
## EVOLUTION OF OUTBOUND FOREIGN MAIL CANCELLED IN NEW YORK CITY 1845-78

### The aim of this exhibit

To chart the evolution of outbound foreign mail cancelled in New York City 1845-78.

### How will this be achieved?

Outbound (and occasionally *inbound*) foreign mail of this period attracted over 315 specific cancels called 'New York City Foreign Mail' (NYCFM) cancels. This exhibit utilises the chronological issue of 162 of these cancels as a framework to show the wider postal history context. Cancel types are categorized and colour-coded as shown below;



### What percentage was NYCFM of the whole outbound foreign mail?

Based on the New York City post office foreign mail processing area it was approximately 10%.

### Why is the period 1845-1878?

In Jul 1845, a red New York integral-rate circular datestamp was first used on an outbound letter from New York City (to England).

By 1878, individualistic carved cancels were replaced by steel duplexes holding the cancel and datestamp in a fixed position.

### What factors made outbound foreign mail from New York City so significant?

- ~ in 1845 the City's postmaster, R. H. Morris, pioneered the first Postmaster's Provisional 5¢ stamp.
- ~ in 1849 the City's Post Office became one of the first US 'Exchange Offices' authorized to apply special markings on outbound foreign mail.
- ~ by 1869, 80% of United States contract mail sailed from New York City.
- ~ its port carried a third of the country's exports and a half of its imports. It was the US's most populous city from 1810. The mail, a critical facilitator of this progress, mirroring the commercial growth, not just of the city, but of the country as a whole.

### How is the exhibit organised?

It is split into five periodic sections.

Prologue 1845-49; first New York City foreign mail markings.

Period 1 1850-61; establishment simple grid NYCFM cancels.

Period 2 1862-70; multiple geometric, grid, wedge and pictorial cancels.

Period 3 1871-77; predominance of intricate geometric cancels. Introduction of first duplex cancels.

Epilogue 1878; NYCFM wood cancels replaced by duplexes.

Continuity is provided with **data blocks**, periodic summaries, highlighting the postal and cancel evolution in each period. Two astonishing aspects emerge; the growth of mail volumes and the increase of foreign destinations (see the tables below). The destinations shown in this exhibit can be considered as emblematic of NYCFM usage generally.

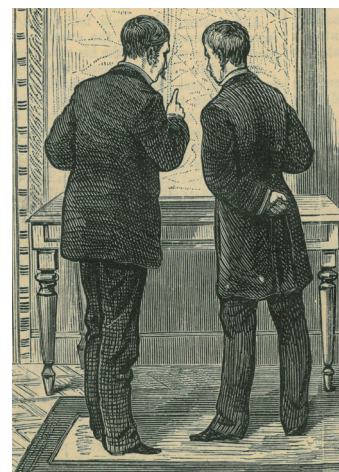
Outbound Foreign Volumes	
1850	66,100
1855	384,200
1860	294,200
1865	353,000
1870	709,900
1875	1,285,000
1878	2,077,300

Foreign Destinations	
<b>Period 1</b>	1850-1861 <b>12</b> countries in 12 years
<b>Period 2</b>	1862-1870 <b>31</b> countries in 9 years
<b>Period 3</b>	1871-1877 <b>44</b> countries in 7 years (figures based on destinations shown in the exhibit)

**Exchange office datestamps** are shown when not obvious and space allows. They show dates of departure from New York and debits and credits due under various treaties. **Fig. 1** shows an example noting postage fully prepaid to England.



**Fig. 1**



**Fig. 2** shows clerks consulting the map located in the Postmaster's Office at the Old Dutch Church, (New York City's post office 1845-1875).

From Frank Leslie's New York Illustrated Newspaper, 1877.

**Fig. 2**

### 'C' placed by a cover indicates the cover has certification

A list of NYCFM cancels, using the exhibitor's classification system, is shown at <http://www.philatelist.cz/cancels/>