

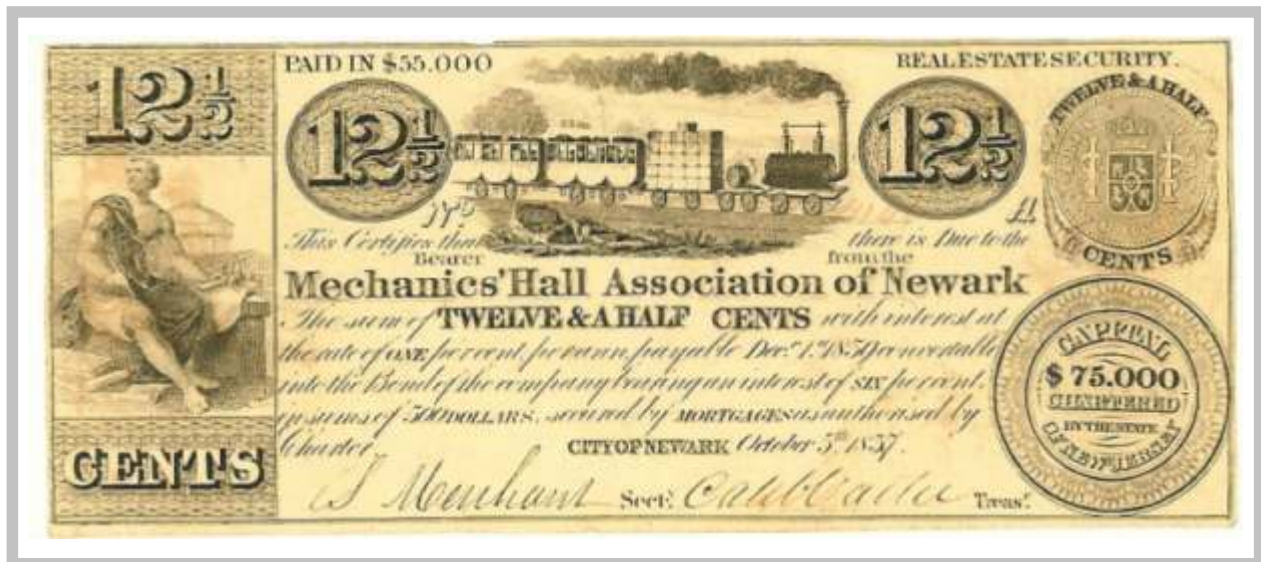
1839 - Domestic Rates

Fractional Scrip with Spanish Coin



Elizabeth City, North Carolina usages, 12½¢ and 25¢ rate handstamps (1839, 1835)

Neither the 12½¢ or 25¢ postal rates in effect from 1816 until 1845 were based on decimal divisions of the dollar.



1837 12½¢ interest bearing scrip with illustration of Spanish Colonial 1 real coin at right

Fractional scrip that circulated, especially during Panic of 1837, was often related to the Spanish Colonial coins in circulation. Denominations as well as illustrations are a reflection of those coins.



24 March 1839 Elizabeth City, North Carolina to Kingston, Massachusetts  
\$1 due rate for a packet weighing 1 ounce, blue "100" rate handstamp

*An Act of March 3, 1825 established postal rates for "packets" weighing one ounce or more. A one ounce packet was subject to quadruple postage. In this case the single sheet letter was twenty-five cents for distance over 400 miles. The "100" rate handstamp appearing on this cover is exceptional and is the only reported example from this town.*



1820 960 reis minted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

*These 960 reis coins of Brazil were legal tender in the United States and circulated at the value of one dollar. This example was struck over a Spanish Colonial eight reales coin under the Reign of John VI.*



16 May 1839 Boston to New York City, packet of letters weighing 43 ounces, prepaid \$32.25  
 a one ounce packet was quadruple 18¾¢ rate (75¢), and for 43 ounces (75¢ x 43=\$32.25)

*This packet enclosed letters from a Boston agent to a mail forwarder in New York timed to catch the departure of the Transatlantic Steam Ship Company steamer Liverpool. The enclosed letters were given to the steamer purser by Abraham Bell as freight money letters and a fee paid for carriage to England. An exceptionally high postal rate.*



1790 - 8 escudos minted in  
 Popayan, Colombia



1793 - 8 escudos minted in  
 Popayan, Colombia

*Gold doubloons of Colombia, a Spanish Dominion, were legal tender in the United States and circulated at the value of \$16.25 each after the gold standard change of 1834. The 1790 example bears a portrait of Charles III, who had died in 1788, but here identified as Carol IV, while the 1793 example bears a portrait of Carlos IV identified as Carol III.*





16 September 1841 Benvenue, Pennsylvania to Zavalla, Texas Republic, paid 25¢ to New Orleans and forwarded by ship to Galveston with Texas ship rate of 6¼¢ plus 50¢ rate to Zavalla, 56¼¢ total due

The postal service of the Republic of Texas, in operation from December 7, 1835 until December 29, 1845, employed postal rates based on the Spanish coin fractions. A forwarding agent resident at New Orleans forwarded mails to and from the United States. The cover above bears a Wm. Bryan, Agent of the Texian P.O., New Orleans oval backstamp.



\$1.00 Republic of Texas note

The Republic of Texas \$1.00 notes were authorized by an Act of December 14, 1838 and were redeemable only for promissory notes. They circulated at less than face value except when used for Republic debts, such as postal charges.



15 May 1844 New York City To Boston by Hale & Co.'s Independent Mail  
6¼¢ due rate handstamp applied at New York office

*Handstamp reflects the 6¼¢ published rate for mail between New York and Boston. Hale's New York City office used this handstamp as a collect marking. It is known used March 5, 1844 to June 14, 1844.*



1823 one half real coin minted in Mexico City

*The Empire of Augustin Iturbide lasted a mere nine months immediately proceeding the establishment of the Republic of Mexico on March 19, 1823. This one half real coin, from the Empire of Iturbide, was equivalent to 6¼¢.*



13 July 1844 New York City local usage with street delivery  
prepaid with 3¢ United States City Despatch Post carrier stamp of New York City

*In August 1842 Greig's City Despatch Post, a private local post in New York City, was sold to the Post Office Department and Greig was appointed as an official carrier. The three cent stamp covered carrier fee and local postage.*



1837 quarter real coin (cuartilla) minted in Guatemala

*The Central American Republic, which was confederacy of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, declared independence from Spain in 1821 and existed for fifteen years. Cuartillas, only 11.6mm in diameter, were the smallest silver coins that circulated in the United States. Value was 3¢.*



15 May 1845 Utica, New York to New York by Livingston, Wells & Pomeroy's Express  
\$1.12 express fee prepaid, with steamer illustrated label, addressed to Hiram Denio

*Livingston, Wells & Pomeroy was a private Express company that carried letters that related to shipments, such as this. Their service utilized the railway from Utica to Albany and then to New York City by steamboat.*



1749 gold trade ducat minted in Holland

*Gold trade ducats circulated widely in the Dutch settlements of New York, such as the Mohawk Valley where Utica is located, until the 1850's. The value in 1845 was \$2.20 and change would have been received on above letter. The addressee, a Circuit Judge, was instrumental in preserving the manorial land rights of the Van Rensselaer family.*





10 August 1845 New York City to Hartford, Connecticut  
5¢ postal rate paid with New York City provisional adhesive issue

*The domestic postal rate was reduced to five cents for distances to 300 miles effective July 1, 1845. Adhesive stamps were issued provisionally by the postmasters of a few larger offices to aid prepayment of postage.*



1834 five cent coin minted in Philadelphia

*The "capped bust" series of half dime coins were introduced in 1829 and continued to be minted until 1837. The circulating supply was never adequate to meet the demand but they augmented the circulating foreign coins.*





20 August 1847 Syracuse, New York City to Albany, New York  
5¢ dark brown 1847 issue adhesive used to prepay the postage

*The March 3, 1845 Act of Congress, effective July 1, 1845, reduced the postal rate for a single letter sent up to 300 miles to five cents. The first 5¢ stamp was issued in July 1847 for prepayment of this postal rate.*



1847 half dime minted in Philadelphia

*The Christian Gobrecht design, Liberty seated, half dime coin was introduced in 1837 and remained in use with only minor modifications until February 21, 1853 when silver content value was reduced.*



26 June 1851 Saint Louis, Missouri to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
10¢ black 1847 issue adhesive used to prepay the postage

*The March 3, 1845 Act of Congress, effective July 1, 1845, set the postal rate for a single letter sent over 300 miles at ten cents. The first 10¢ stamp was issued in July 1847 for prepayment of 10¢ postal rates.*



1847 dime minted in Philadelphia

*The Liberty seated dime, designed by Christian Gobrecht, was introduced in 1837 and remained in use with only minor modifications until February 21, 1853 when silver content value was reduced.*



6 February 1851 Matanzas, Cuba, via Charleston, South Carolina to Portland, Maine  
11 February entered mails at Charleston from steamer *Isabel*, 12½¢ due

*A contract steamship route between Charleston and Havana was instituted in 1847. The 12½ cent rate was in effect from July 1, 1847 until July 1, 1851.*



1828 one real coin minted in Zacatecas, Mexico

*The Mexico one real coins circulated extensively in the United States at a value of 12.5 cents.*





27 June 1851 San Francisco, California to Benecia, California  
12½¢ due rate handstamp

*Handstamp reflects the 12½ cent rate for mail between places in California that was in effect from 1848 until June 30, 1851. However, the San Francisco post office did not start operating until March 15, 1849.*



ca. 1816 one real Spanish Colonial coin counter stamped by insurgents

*This one real coin was counter marked by insurgent General Guerrero in the south of Mexico between 1816 and 1821 during the Mexican Revolution. The base coin was a Colonial one real portrait coin.*



11 January 1851 New York City to San Francisco, California, unpaid 40¢ rate by Reynold's Express from the post office to the Southern Mines collect \$2 handstamp

Mail service to San Francisco commenced in 1849 and the rate for letters from the East was 40¢. At San Francisco this letter was picked up by Reynold's Express and taken to the addressee at the mines. The \$2 charge included the 40¢ postage due that Reynold's had paid when they picked up the letter.



1840 France five francs coin

1814 half escudo gold minted in Mexico City

The actual value of each of these coins was 93¢. However, both circulated widely in California at the rate of \$1 each. The 1847 Donner Party to California carried large numbers of French 5 franc pieces as excavation at the site has shown.



1 November 1849 San Francisco, California to Newport, Rhode Island and forwarded to Florida  
40 due handstamp for California rate plus 10¢ forwarding at Newport, total due 50¢

*The August 14, 1848 Act of Congress stipulated a 40¢ postal rate for letters from any place on the Pacific Coast to any place within the territory of the United States. California didn't become a state until 1850.*



1848 half dollar coin minted in New Orleans

*The Christian Gobrecht design, Liberty seated, one-half dollar coin was introduced in 1839 and remained in use with only minor modifications until February 21, 1853 when silver content value was reduced..*





4 October 1850 Mercersburgh, Pennsylvania printed circular to Smithburg, Maryland  
a printed prospectus sent collect for 3¢ due

*In 1847 the postal rate for a single sheet printed circular, such as the above, was three cents. This rate was reduced to one cent after July 1, 1851 for distances under 500 miles.*



1843 quartilla, minted in Mexico City

*Cuartillas, one fourth of a real coins, were the smallest silver coins that circulated in the United States. Value was 3¢.*



31 May 1851 from *USS Mississippi* at Leghorn, Italy by Harnden & Company to Exeter, New Hampshire  
 Harnden's Liverpool backstamp showing charges of 2sh 3d. (54¢), red "64¢" due including 10¢ US

*Harnden & Co. provided trans-Atlantic mail services, via their offices in Boston and Liverpool, in competition with the government subsidized packet services. Cunard Line packets were utilized.*



1835 Hannover one thaler, illustration from coin value guidebook

*Although German silver coins were considered to be promiscuous, and not legal tender, they did circulate in German speaking areas of the country before 1857. An 1846 guidebook illustrated this 1835 one thaler coin. The English word "dollar" is derived from the German word "thaler."*