

The 8.4 Cent Americana Piano Coil



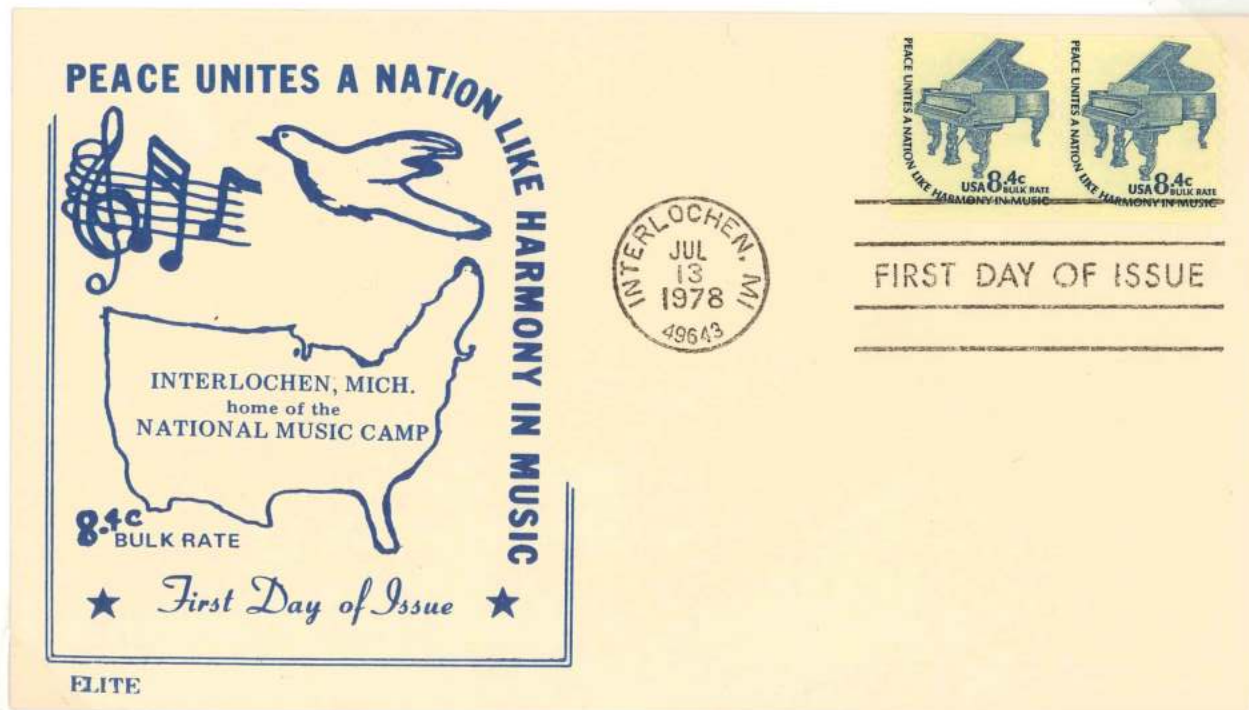
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The 8.4 cent Americana piano coil was designed by the graphic design firm Kramer, Miller, Lomden, and Glassman. The stamp was issued for bulk rate use. It came in a coil of 500 or 3,000 stamps. The stamp was available unprecanceled, with a standard 2-bar precancel or a city/state precancel.

This exhibit presents varieties of the precancel, the imperforate and imperforate between errors, problems that occurred in the printing process (freaks), and usage of the stamp.

Highlights include the Wayne, Pennsylvania precancel; the Newark, New Jersey imperforate pair; and the rare Brownstown, Indiana imperforate pair.

Publicity photo



The first day of issue for the 8.4 cent Americana piano stamp was July 13, 1978.

Issued Stamps



The stamp depicts a Steinway grand from 1857.



Package label from original coil



Complete coil in original packaging
(Property of exhibitor)



A seam between the two plates used to print the stamps produces a joint line every 24 stamps.

**The stamp was issued in a coil of 500 or 3000.
The equipment used to produce the stamp produced a joint line.**

Issued Stamps



2-bar precancel



City/state precancel



The unprecanceled stamps were tagged, while the precanceled stamps were not. Property of the exhibitor.



Shiny gum
(corn dextrin)



PVA dull gum
(pregummed paper)



Precancel gap



Joint line occurring in
the precancel gap



Shifted precancel

The stamp was issued with both a 2-bar and a city/state precancel. Only the unprecanceled stamp was tagged. As the shift from shiny gum to pregummed paper occurred the year that the stamp was being manufactured, the stamp can be found with both gum varieties.

City/State Precancels



The stamp was primarily issued precanceled for use on bulk rate mail.

City/State Precancels, cont.



There were a total of 144 different city/state precancels used.

City/State Precancels, cont.



On September 21, 1978, the Postal Service stopped offering city/state precancels for individual towns and switched to just the 2-bar precancel. As a result, some city/state precancels were only produced in small quantities and are scarce, such as Marion, Ohio; Hicksville, New York; and Wayne, Pennsylvania.

Imperforate



Imperforate pair



Joint line in center of missing perforations



Imperforate, miscut



Newark, NJ
precanceled imperforate



Brownstown, Indiana
precanceled imperforate

In some instances, perforations were omitted entirely, resulting in the imperforate error.

Imperforate Between



Imperforate between, strip of 4



Joint line on the missing perforations



Missing perforations to the right of the joint line



Missing perforations to the left of the joint line



Missing perforations to the right of precancel gap

During the production of the stamp, a line of perforations was sometimes missed. This results in the imperforate between stamp. The placement of the missing perforations varies around other features of the stamp such as the joint line and precancel gap.

Misperforation and Missing Perforations



Misperforated through
the I of "In"



Misperforated showing
precancel gap



Missing all but two
perforations



One full perforation and one blind perforation,
joint line to the right of missing perforations



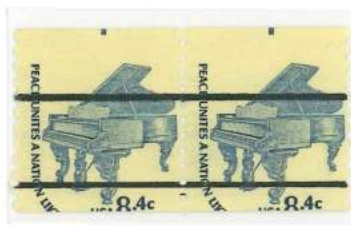
One perforation, occurring in
conjunction with the
precancel gap

During the production of the stamp, the paper was not always lined up perfectly in the perforator, resulting in the misperforated freak. Other times individual perforations were sometimes missed, producing a partially perforated stamp.

Miscut



Miscut with portion
of adjoining stamp
visible



Miscut with
electric eye markings
showing



Miscut, plate numbers
38715 and 38725



Miscut, plate
number 38752



Miscut, plate numbers 38725 and 38715

Multiple varieties of miscuts exist.
16 different plates were created for the printing of the stamp, only 9 of which have been reported.

Bulk Rate Use

POPULAR
**PHOTO-
GRAPHY**

P.O. Box 2775
Boulder, Colorado 80322



"R.S.V.P."

Commercial bulk rate usage, Boulder, CO precancel



MR RICHARD IRVIN
13531 HOWEN DR
SARATOGA CA 95070

San Francisco, CA precancel

The ordinary usage of the stamp was sending bulk rate commercial items. From May 29, 1978 to January 27, 1979, 8.4 cents was the regular third-class bulk rate, and from January 28, 1979 to March 21, 1981 8.4 cents was the basic presort rate.

Bulk Rate Use-Precancel Gap



Commercial use,
stamp with precancel
gap

As the precancel gap was a regular feature of the stamp, it can be found on covers.

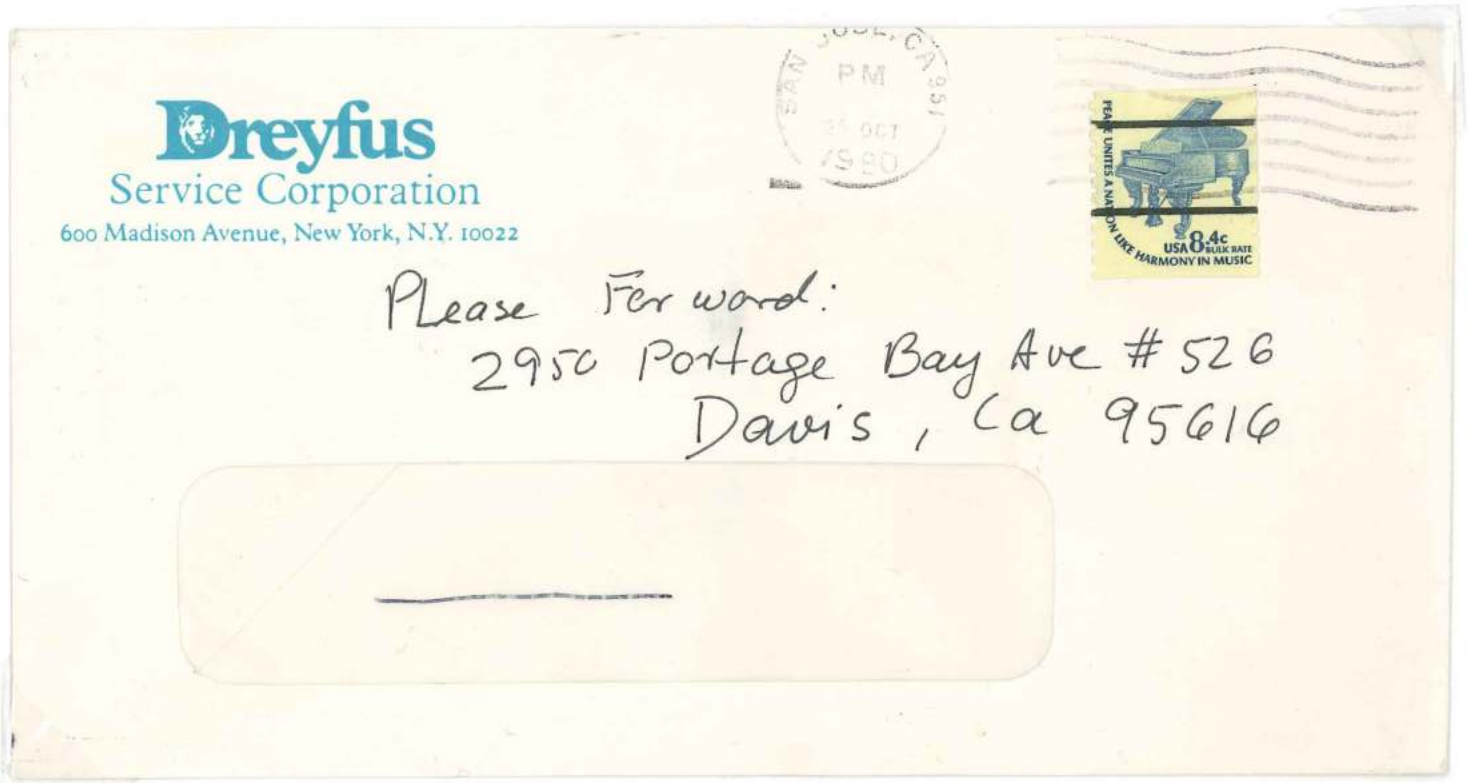
Bulk Rate Use-Joint Line



Commercial use,
stamp with joint line

The joint line occurred regularly and can therefore be found on covers.

Bulk Rate Use



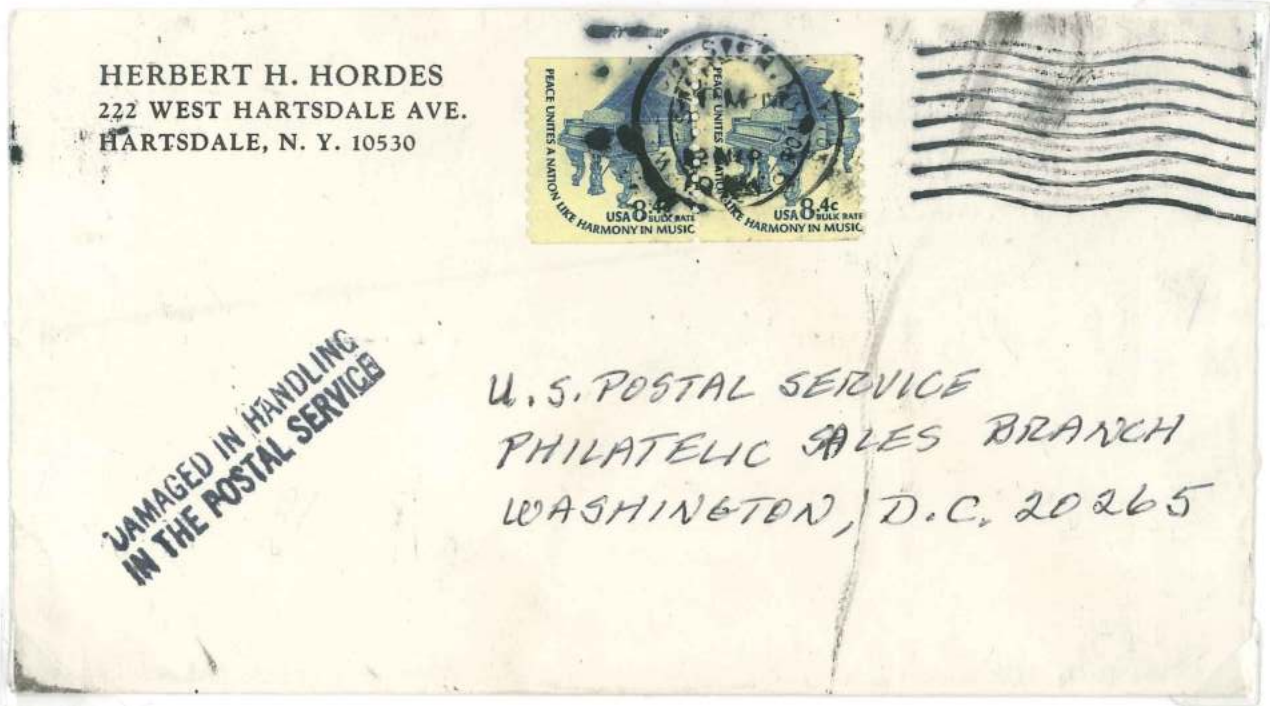
Bulk rate mail could be forwarded without additional charge.

First Class Use

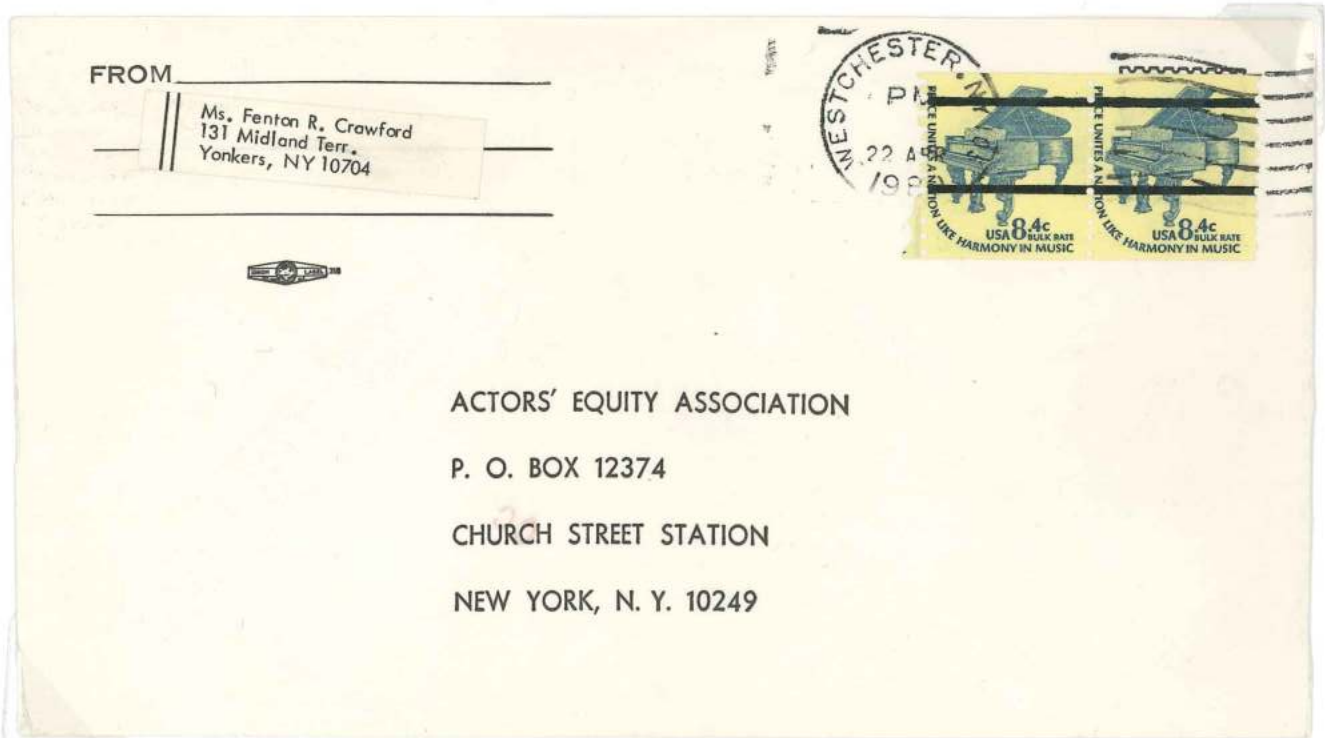


The unprecanceled stamp was primarily used on philatelic mail.

First Class Use



Circa 1980
Pair overpays first class rate of 15 cents
Damaged in handling



April 22, 1980
Pair overpays first class rate of 15 cents

Although unusual, the stamp can be found used to send first class mail.

Subsequent Use



Even after the stamp could no longer be used for it's intended purpose, the stamp remains valid for postage.