

Integral Rate Postmarks of Cincinnati, Ohio

This exhibit shows 15 of the 16 reported "integral rate" postmarks of Cincinnati utilized during the 1845-51 and 1851-55 rate periods, organized by rate period, marking, and rate. Varieties in use and color are shown, as is use in combination with adhesive postage stamps, notably including the 1-cent eagle carrier stamp, the 1-cent 1851 issue, and the Browne's local post. Several markings are known in quantities fewer than ten. Items of particular philatelic significance are identified with red dots.

Cincinnati first used "integral rate" markings in June 1847, and continued to utilize them until prepayment of letter postage with stamps became mandatory on January 1, 1856. Markings were primarily on letter mail (3 cents, 5 cents, 10 cents), but also on circulars (1 cent, 2 cents, 3 cents), locally mailed items (1 cent), and crossborder and transatlantic mail (5 cents and 10 cents to pay domestic portion of postage; 10 cents to Canada; 24 cents to pay treaty rate to Great Britain).

The "integral rate" markings of Cincinnati represent one city's advance in postal efficiency. By including the rate as part of the postmark, a postal clerk complied with the mandates of Section 23 of the Instructions to Postmasters to postmark, date, and rate mail, all in a single step. Some markings additionally included a "paid" designation, further reducing clerk workload. Ironically, the first integral rate marking was introduced only two days before the introduction of adhesive postage stamps, the widespread (and eventually mandatory) use of which would eventually render the markings obsolete.

1845 Rate Period

3 Cents

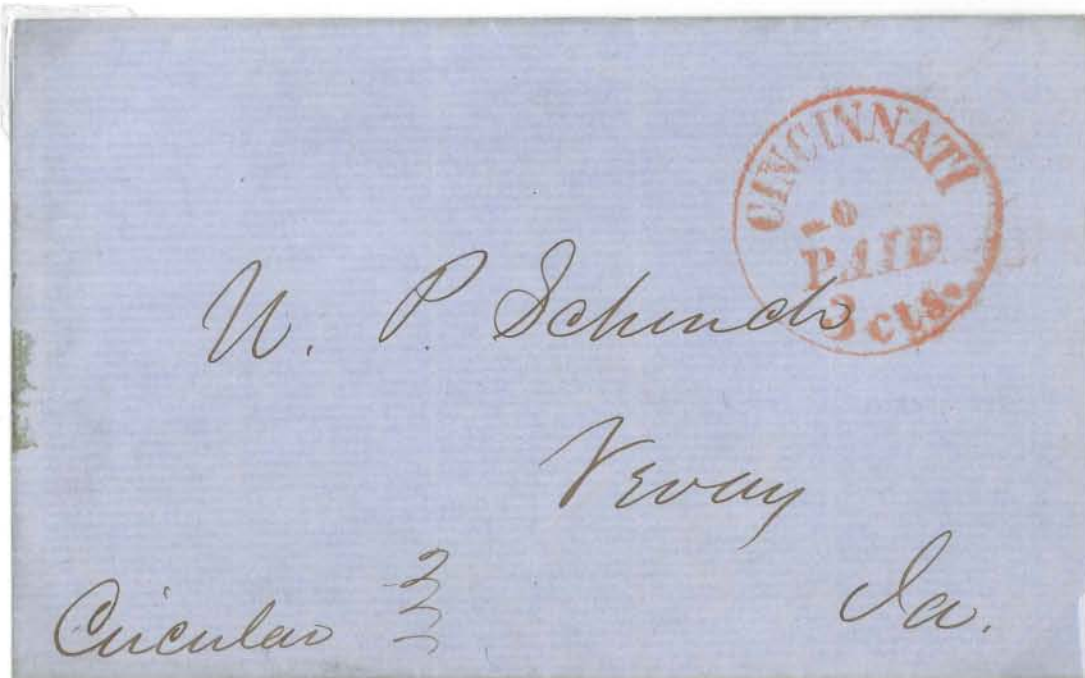
Circular Rate

(Act of March 3, 1847)

No date was required for circulars.

Reported November 1849-
June 1851

Fewer than 10 examples
recorded on
circulars



5 Cents

Letter Rate

(under 300 miles)

June 29, 1847

Earliest recorded Cincinnati
integral rate marking

One of two reported
examples of this marking in
1845 rate period

1845 Rate Period
5 Cents
Letter Rate
(under 300 miles)

July 30, 1849



The "5cts" marking is reported in red from June 1847 through the end of the 1845 rate period and appears both with and without a horizontal line. This line is the edge of the slug and does not represent the existence of multiple devices.



March 22, 1850

Letter rate mail could be sent paid or unpaid; prepaid mail was required to be marked as such

No line below date



May 21, 1850

5 cent 1847 adhesive; stamp cancelled with obliterator

81 reported 1847 issue covers from Cincinnati at 5-cent rate

April 19, 1851

5 cent 1847 adhesive; integral rate obliterated to indicate prepayment where stamp was located elsewhere on cover



The marking was also used on mail bearing adhesive stamps. The Cincinnati post office took care to match the rate to the postmark, even though the presence of stamps rendered the integral rate duplicative and unnecessary.

1845 Rate Period
5 Cents
Letter Rate
(under 300 miles)

December 8, 1850

Prepaid

Charged to account of
member of Ohio
Constitutional Convention of
1850



April 28, circa 1850

Likely arrived at Cincinnati
by steamer and privately
forwarded to the mails
by Milward & Oldershaw

Attempted prepayment by
charge account obliterated at
Chillicothe

December 21, 1847

Manuscript integral 5
"mimic"

Only recorded example of
this marking



The manuscript date and "5" in this marking suggest that the rate slug in the 5cts marking may have been removable.

1845 Rate Period
10 Cents
Letter Rate
(over 300 miles)

June 27, 1849

Prepaid single rate



June 30, 1851

Unpaid single rate.

Last day of the 1845 rate period; Latest reported use of this marking



July 12, 1850

Unpaid double rate under 300 miles



February 28, 1848

Originated at New Orleans Feb. 14, 1848; carried by non-contract steamboat to Cincinnati; entered mails there and charged at 10 cents for over 300 miles letter rate

Fewer than 10 reported of this marking in conjunction with STEAM handstamp



The "10" marking is reported in red from August 1847 through the end of the 1845 rate period. While primarily intended for use with mail sent at the single letter rate over 300 miles, it was also used to mark double-rate letters (over 1/2 ounce) under 300 miles.

1845 Rate Period
10 Cents
Letter Rate
(over 300 miles)



October 1, 1850
to Haverhill, MA

145 reported 10-cent 1847
covers from Cincinnati

December 2, 1847

26 reported covers using two
5-cent 1847 issue stamps
from Cincinnati to pay 10-
cent rate



August 16, 1848

Originated at Louisville and
entered mails at Cincinnati
after carriage by steamboat up
Ohio River

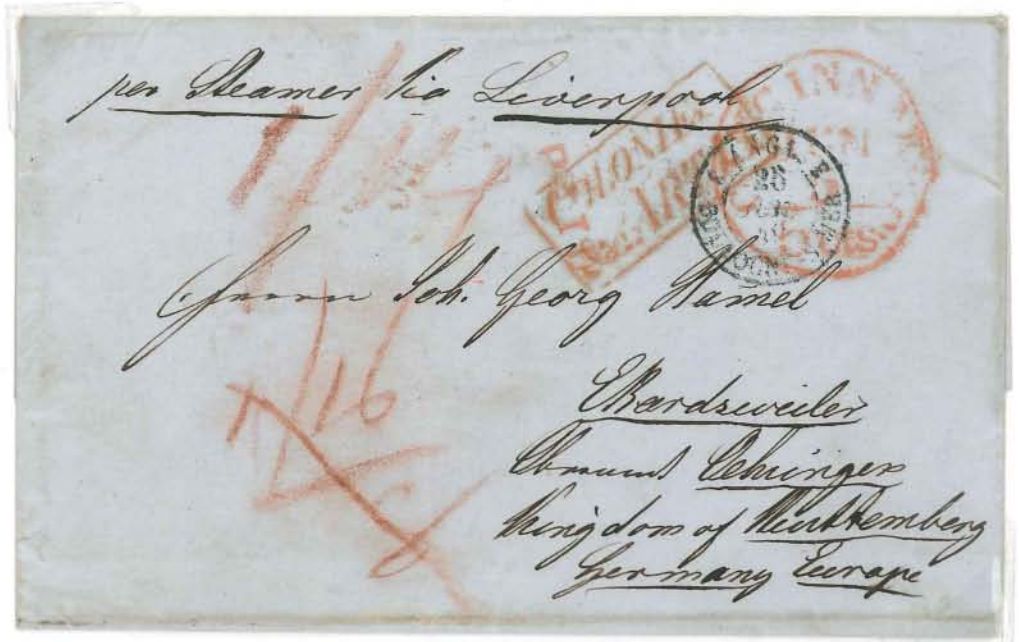
One of two reported
"STEAM" covers with 2 5-
cent 1847 issue stamps (of 5
"STEAM" covers with 5-cent
1847 issue)

1845 Rate Period Foreign Mail

June 5, 1849

Cincinnati to Wurttemberg,
via New York, England and
France

Postage prepaid to British
mail system (5 cents); via
Cunard line vessel *Niagara*,
departing NY June 13 and
arriving Liverpool June 25;
entered the French mails at
Boulogne



May 1848

Prepaid domestic postage,
intended 24 cent debit to
Bremen under Bremen
Convention mails applied at
New York

No Ocean line vessel to
Bremen departed in May
1848; debit struck out and
letter sent unpaid via Cunard
line vessel to Liverpool,
entering French mails at Le
Havre

In certain circumstances portions of postage to destinations abroad could be prepaid. Foreign postal systems added additional charges.

1851 Rate Period
Circular Rates
1851-1852

September 5, 1851
 Integral "paid 1"

5 examples recorded



August 20, 1852
 Integral "paid"

Fewer than 10 examples
 recorded



August 14, 1851
 (per collector docketing)
 Integral "paid 2"

Sent less than 500 miles; 2 cent
 rate indicative of overweight
 contents

Only recorded example



Printed circulars could be sent for one cent (up to 500 miles) per ounce if prepaid under the Act of March 3, 1851. A single marking was used with an "integral paid" that appears without a rate slug, as well as with a "1" or "2" rate indicated.

1851 Rate Period
Circular Rates
1853-1855



October 23, 1852

Integral "1 paid"

Only recorded example of this marking in blue

Only recorded use of this marking in conjunction with an adhesive stamp (1 cent 1851, Type II, 40R1E)

Illustrated in Neinken

June 12, 1853

Integral "1 paid"



In October 1852, the rate structure for circulars and other printed matter was simplified to a uniform one cent per three ounces anywhere in the United States. A new marking was introduced.

1851 Rate Period Drop Rate

Circa 1853

Integral "1 paid"

Only recorded example of this marking on a drop rate cover

Only recorded example of this marking with additional "PAID" handstamp



Local, or "drop," mail for delivery at the post office of origin cost one cent; prepayment was not required. Cincinnati typically utilized red ink on prepaid mail during the 1851 rate period.



Circa 1855

Integral "1 unpd"

Fewer than 10 examples recorded

Circa 1855

Integral "1 unpd"

Sender paid for "to the mails" carriage by government carrier (likely by depositing in a letter box) but did not pay for drop fee

One of two reported examples used in conjunction with adhesive carrier stamp



Cincinnati used an unusual marking for unpaid drop rate mail, which is believed to be the only United States stampless postal marking to utilize the word "unpaid."

1851 Rate Period
Letter Rate
3 Cents—Prepaid



July 3, 1851

Integral "3 cts" and use of circular grid obliterator

Approximately ten reported examples with adhesive stamps; this marking used on adhesives for approximately one week

Third day of use of 3 cent 1851 adhesive

November 12, 1851

Charge box notation showing postage charged to account rather than paid in cash



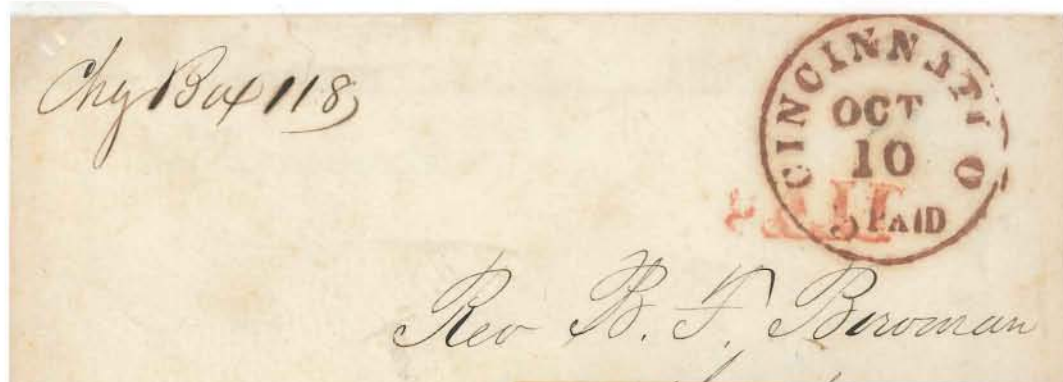
February 12, 1853

Only recorded example in blue

Red "paid" handstamp applied at postal counter; postmark likely subsequently applied

Effective July 1, 1851, prepaid letter rate mail for distances under 3,000 miles cost three cents. Cincinnati utilized the handstamp previously used for circulars, with the addition of date slugs.

1851 Rate Period
Letter Rate
3 Cents—Prepaid



October 10, 1854



Circa 1854

Cameo corner card

A smaller postmark appeared in January 1853 and was used through 1855.



August 21, 1854

Approximately ten examples
recorded

An additional "3 paid" marking was utilized from July through September of 1854, concurrently with the smaller marking.

1851 Rate Period
Letter Rate
3 Cents—Prepaid

December 7, 1855

One of two recorded
 examples lacking a second
 "PAID" handstamp



An unrated "paid" marking was used for letter mail between February 1852 and August 1855 for letter mail. It does not precisely match either the "1 paid" or "3 paid" markings and represents a distinct device.



Circa 1854

Free frank of Salmon P.
 Chase as United States
 Senator (served 1849-55)

Circa 1855

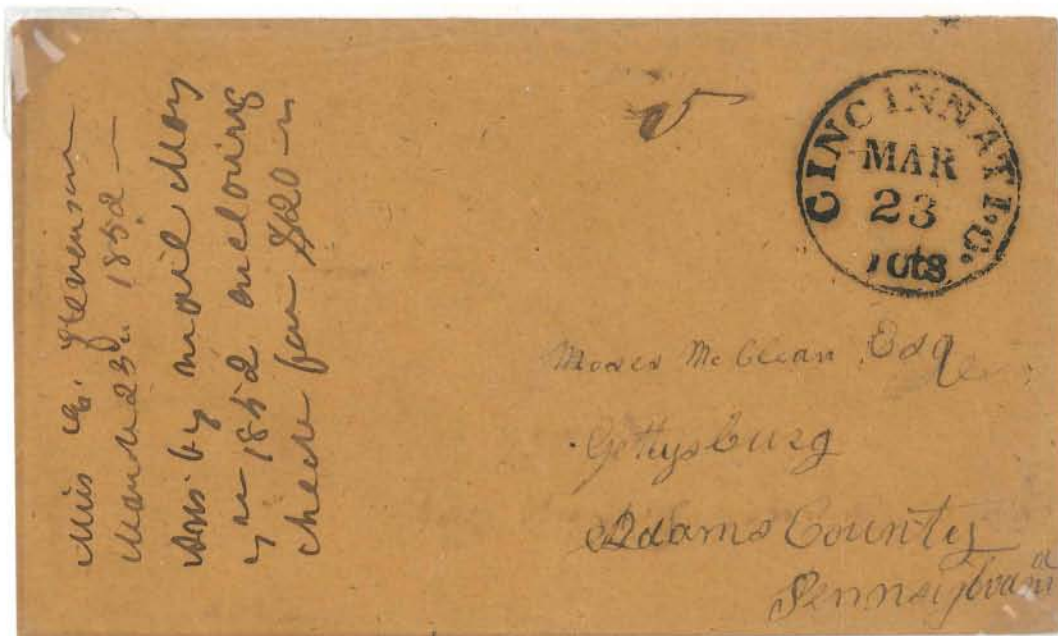
Sent free to Commissioner of
 Pensions; franking privilege
 allowed privilege holder to
 send and receive mail without
 cost



A "free" integral rate marking was used for letter mail sent under a franking privilege between March 1853 and October 1857.

1851 Rate Period
Letter Rate
5 Cents—Unpaid

March 23, 1852



Effective July 1, 1851, unpaid letter mail was charged 5 cents. The existing "5 cts" marking continued in use, with black ink instead of red ink. The 5 was either partially cut away or wore down.



August 13, 1853

Forwarding use
 (originated at
 Philadelphia on
 August 2; total of 10
 cents due to recipient)

Red "FORWARDED"
 applied at Cincinnati

June 6, 1853

Written on board the
 Steamboat Tweed, on the
 Ohio River below
 Louisville

Entered mails at
 Cincinnati



A new marking was put into use with an integral 5 in mid-1852; blue ink was placed into general use for unpaid mail.

1851 Rate Period
Letter Rate
5 Cents—Unpaid

January 11, 1853

Advertised at New Orleans, 1 cent due

June 14, circa 1853

1 cent printed matter rate—incorrectly postmarked with "5" integral rate marking intended for letter mail



Circa 1853

1 cent Browne & Co. adhesive pays "to the mails" carriage

5 cents domestic letter postage unpaid

A second variety of this marking exists with an upright, rather than italic, figure "5." It is reported used from December 1852 to August 1854.

March 18, 1855

Only recorded example of this marking



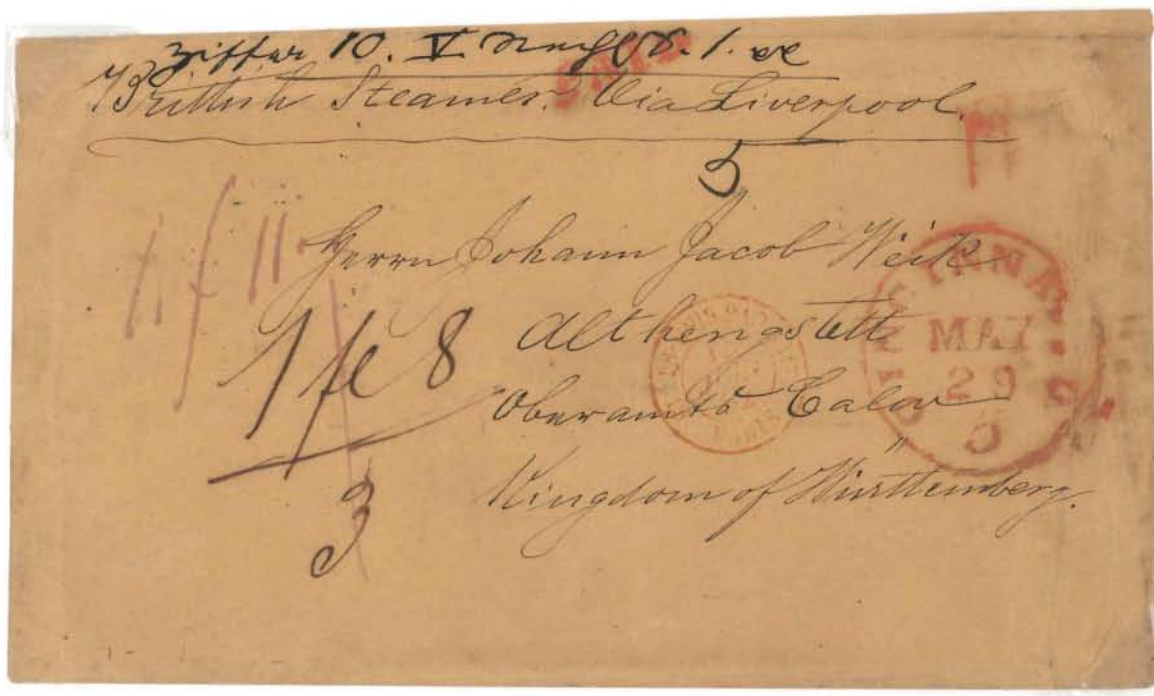
By 1855, unpaid mail was uncommon. This marking appears to have been locally assembled.

1851 Rate Period
Foreign Mail

December 11, 1852

10-cent fully prepaid rate to
 Canada; exchanged to
 Canadian mail system at
 Buffalo NY

Only recorded
 example of this marking



May 29, 1852

5 cents represents
 prepaid British open mail
 rate; carried by Cunard
 line steamer Africa,
 departed New York June
 2 via Liverpool (June
 12), to Paris and then to
 Wurttemberg

Three recorded examples
 in red on transatlantic
 mail

Additional means of prepaying mail to foreign destinations evolved in the early 1850s. Integral rate markings were used infrequently on such mail.

The End of Integral Rate Markings

September 27, 1852

Adhesive (applied to back flap) overlooked; letter incorrectly marked as unpaid

Manuscript "Overch'd 5" subsequently added to prevent collection of postage upon receipt



February 17, circa 1853

Double rate letter; single rate pre-paid (3 cents) and second rate unpaid

Only reported cover with two Cincinnati integral rate markings in different colors



March 29, circa 1855
to Columbus, OH

"1 unpaid" marking applied in error to unpaid letter rate mail; corrected in manuscript

Only recorded example of this marking showing rate correction



May 6, circa 1854

Erroneously marked as unpaid domestic mail despite prepayment of 20 cents at post office counter

Only recorded example of this marking with integral rate obliterated



The use of postmarks with integral markings could lead to confusion and rating errors, undermining postal efficiency. Mandatory prepayment by adhesive stamp ultimately eliminated the need to rate mail items, and rendered integral rate markings obsolete.