



The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 27

FEBRUARY 1971

NO. 6

WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS
(1½-CENT TO 10-CENT, INCLUSIVE) — ISSUE OF 1932



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The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was organized in 1934 for the purpose of encouraging research and study in Masonic Philately, and to establish bonds of good fellowship among Masons who are stamp collectors. The need for the organization has proved itself through the years with its ever increasing membership and the formation of other Masonic stamp clubs in the United States.

★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Every Month
(Except July and August)

COLLECTORS CLUB BUILDING
22 East 35th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10017

BEPEX 1971

Bepex 1971, the thirty-seventh anniversary exhibition sponsored by the association of Bergen County (New Jersey) Philatelists Inc., will be held on March 11, 12 and 13th, 1971, at the Garden State Plaza, Civic Auditorium, Route 4 and 17, Paramus, New Jersey.

This year a Masonic Stamp Club award will be presented for the best Masonic exhibit.

MASONIC METER "FIRST"

The familiar Masonic emblem of the Square and Compass will appear for the first time in a postage meter slogan to commemorate the Centennial of Fidelity Lodge No. 113, F. & A. M. of Ridgewood, N.J. which was established January 27, 1871.

Collectors desiring cachet covers franked with the special meter slogan imprint on the anniversary date may obtain three covers by sending \$1.00 and a stamped, addressed envelope to George H. Wettach, Box 312, Fair Lawn, N.J. 07410.

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE 150 YEARS OLD

The Grand Lodge of Maine celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1970. To commemorate this event they have for sale First Day Covers. These are fine blue Artmaster Masonic cachets with the 1970 State of Maine stamp. Most Worshipful Leon Sanborn, Past Grand Master of the State of Maine advises us he has enough cachets with the single stamp to supply all our members. They are available at 55 cents each or 10 for 5 dollars. There is also a limited number with plate blocks. These cost 75 cents each or 10 for seven dollars. A limited supply of numbered plate blocks can also be had at \$1.10 each. Those members interested should send their order to, Leon Sanborn, 61 Johnson Road, Gorham, Maine, 04038.

WASHINGTON BI-CENTENNIAL ISSUE

The topical collectors who specialize in painting should not overlook the 1932 series honoring our first president. The post office department selected paintings by six artists and a sculpture by Jean Antoine Houdon to picture on this set of stamps (see cover).

Charles Wilson Peale's pictures of Washington appeared on four of the stamps in the series. The portrait on the half cent stamp was painted in 1777 and is now in the Metropolitan Museum

of Art. The Virginia Colonel was the title of the painting on the 1½ cent stamp. The original is now in Washington and Lee University. This was painted in 1772. In 1777 Peale painted a picture of Washington in his general's uniform. This portrait done at Valley Forge is now located in the State Normal School at West Chester Pa. It is pictured on the 3¢ stamp. The fourth Peale portrait selected was done in 1795 and is on the five cent stamp. The original is now in the possession of the New York Historical Society.

John Trumbull was the artist whose paintings appeared on the 6 and 7 cent stamps, the six cent, also shows Washington in his general's uniform. It was painted in 1792 and is now in Yale University. The seven cent stamp while only showing the head and bust was taken from a full length portrait painted in 1780. The original picturing Washington in a colonial uniform can now be seen in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Gilbert Stuart was the artist who painted the pictures that were reproduced on the two cent and ten cent varieties. The likeness of Washington, painted at Germantown, Pa., known as the Atheneum Portrait (two cent) is now in the Boston Museum of fine Arts. This picture was painted in 1796. The ten cent stamp was taken from a Stuart painting done in 1795 which is now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. This is known as the "Gibbs-Channing" portrait.

Mr. William Patton of Rhinebeck N.Y. owns the original painting shown on the four cent stamp. This picture was painted by Charles Peale Polk.

The eight cent stamp is a profile bust portrait of Washington facing to the left, this was reproduced from a crayon drawing made from life by Charles B. J. Saint Memen, at Philadelphia in 1798.

The nine cent stamp is the likeness of Washington modelled from a pastel portrait now in the possession of the Masonic Lodge of Alexandria, Va., for whom it was drawn. William J. Williams is the artist who drew this picture from life in 1794.

The profile bust of Washington pictured on the one cent stamp was done in 1785. This piece of art by Jean Antoine Houdon can now be seen at Mount Vernon.

The Bi-Centennial stamps were first placed on sale Jan. 1st, 1932 at the post office in Washington, D. C.

DID WASHINGTON LAY THE CORNERSTONE OF THE CAPITOL?

By Bro. Herman Herst, Jr., 32°

The question heading this little article is actually a rhetorical one, since the one asking it has long since passed to that bourne from whence no traveler returneth. The inquirer was William S. Gardner, Grand Master of Masons, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the query was put just short of a century ago.

The contents of otherwise common letters of no philatelic value is often of considerable interest, even though commercially, there is none. So it was with the following letter enclosed in a battered soiled envelope with a common 3¢ green, and a common Boston postmark.

"William S. Gardner
Grand Master of Masons
October 28th, 1871
27 Tremont Rd.
Boston

"My dear Br. Poore:

"At the laying of the cornerstone of the new Post Office, etc at Boston on the 16th inst. I stated that Washington as a Mason, arrayed in the paraphernalia of the Craft laid the cornerstone of the Capitol at Washington in 1793. For this statement I have been arraigned as stating a historical untruth by certain anti-Masons.

"I have replied giving the Order of the Procession and the services performed as published in the newspapers of the day, also Grand Master B. B. French's statement at the laying of the cornerstone of the National Washington Monument. Also Grand Master Scott's statement when he laid the cornerstone of the Virginia Washington Monument.

"I thought perhaps that you might aid me in giving some authority upon this question.

"If you can, you will confer a favor upon me personally, and upon the Craft.

"Fraternally yours,

WILLIAM S. GARDNER
Grand Master

Of course we do not know what the answer was, and we can only hope that our late Brother did receive the reply from Bro. Poore that he had hoped to receive.

For those of this generation, perhaps some member of the Craft better informed on the subject than is the writer can answer the question. "Did Washington lay the cornerstone of the capitol?"

Abraham Lincoln Was Not A Freemason

Some members of the masonic fraternity have claimed that Abraham Lincoln was a Freemason. It has been asserted that Lincoln was initiated in one of three lodges; namely, the Grand Lodge of New York, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and an army lodge, attached to General Grant's forces in front of Richmond, Virginia. One masonic lodge even attempted to provide Lincoln with post-humous membership. On May 17, 1865, the Lodge of La Franche Union, at Choisy-Le-Roi, Department of the Seine, notified the United States Minister that "From this date the name of Abraham Lincoln is inscribed on the list of our members, and at each session, for three months, a brother will rise at the call of his name and answer: 'Abraham Lincoln died like a Mason, to elevate humanity, outraged by slavery.' At the expiration of three months we will celebrate a Masonic Funeral to his memory, inviting the brethren of all the other lodges." This resolution was signed by "Bourgeon, Jr. Venerable" and twenty-four members of the lodge.

Other masons with little documentary evidence to rely upon have stated, "if Lincoln was not a mason he should have been," that he was the greatest uninitiated mason, that he was a mason "at sight," that he was a post-humous (only living men can be accepted for membership) mason, and that "a man can be a Christian outside the church and a man can be a mason outside the lodge." In fact, it is asserted that the Gettysburg Address reads so much like a masonic document that many have claimed Lincoln for membership in the craft.

Daniel B. Robinson in an address before the Prairie Lodge, No. 1008, A.F. & A.M. stated that "His (Lincoln's) every public utterance seemed to come from the lips of a master mason, his every public act seemed to be guided by the inspired mind of a Free and Accepted Mason and the very life he lived—in all its greatness—was an exemplification of the masonic precepts . . ." However, Robinson did not claim for Lincoln masonic membership.

William H. Grimshaw in his *History of Freemasonry*, 1903, lists Lincoln as a Freemason. In a letter dated April 5, 1917, he said, "So far as my book is concerned I quoted M. Edouard Quartier-la-Tente, P.G.M. Swiss Grand Lodge 'Alpina' who in the *Annuaire International Masonic Association* listed

Lincoln among illustrious Freemasons." Mr. Grimshaw continued, "I will further state that Mr. J. H. Brooks, who was Mr. Lincoln's messenger, informed me that Mr. Lincoln was a Mason. The degrees were conferred in an Army Lodge attached to Gen. Grant's Army in front of Richmond." Grimshaw wrote to Robert T. Lincoln, making inquiries about Lincoln's alleged masonic membership, and the son replied that there were no papers or other records among his father's papers to indicate that he was a mason.

In the memorial volume published by the government in Washington, D.C., 1867, entitled "The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln . . . Expressions of Condolence and Sympathy Inspired By These Events," there are found the tributes of forty-four masonic bodies, most of these plainly referring to Lincoln as a brother mason. Today in many Central and South American masonic lodges, it is taken for granted that Lincoln was a mason. In a letter addressed to the editor on September 21, 1966, the statement is made by a grand master of a masonic lodge in Brazil that "since most of the abolitionist leaders were masons it was quite natural, with the help of the exalted latin imagination, to enroll him (Lincoln) in the masonic rank and file . . . with a view to step up their enthusiasm for the Cause." A Grand Secretary of a masonic lodge in Brazil wrote on July 18, 1966, "In Brazil we ever know that Great President Abraham Lincoln was a Freemason".

A Grand Secretary of a Colorado Grand Lodge wrote a letter dated March 15, 1960, stating that he had seen a picture of Lincoln in masonic regalia in a masonic publication printed in Ecuador, and a mason of New Jersey, on December 9, 1959, wrote of a recent trip to Paris, France where he saw "President Abraham Lincoln dressed as a Freemason" in "La Grande Loge De Franco" next to a picture of President George Washington who actually was a Freemason.

While Lincoln was not a Freemason, he did have some early and cordial contacts with members of the fraternal group. Albert J. Beveridge, in his work "Abraham Lincoln 1809-1858" commented on the death of a good masonic friend of Lincoln: "On February 12, 1842, Bowling Green died. He was a Mason and Springfield Lodge Number 4 of that order conducted his funeral in a

grove near his cabin. Lincoln was there, and, at Mrs. Green's request, tried to say something at the grave of his old friend. Some who heard him, recall that his remarks were very fine and others that he made a sorry failure." In all likelihood, the "sorry failure" was the result of Lincoln's inability to control his emotion.

Mrs. Lincoln, on October 29, 1860, in a letter from Springfield addressed to D. Burgess, went on record regarding Lincoln's alleged masonic membership by stating, "Mr. Lincoln has never been a mason or belonged to any secret order . . ." The Rev. Dyer Burgess of Adams County, Ohio, was an anti-mason adherent, and he wished to support Lincoln if he did not belong to any secret society.

Previous to Mrs. Lincoln's statement, but during the same month, Dr. Robert Morris of Oldham County, Kentucky visited Lincoln in Springfield. In reporting his conversation with the Presidential candidate, he recorded these words:

"Mr. Lincoln, I came up the road last night with an old Masonic friend, Judge Douglas. Last Friday I came down to Louisville with another Masonic friend, Mr. Breckinridge, and a few weeks ago one of my agents, Mr. Porter, met in the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, Mr. John Bell, so you see all three of your opponents for the presidential chair are Freemasons.

"Mr. Lincoln replied: I am not a Freemason, Dr. Morris, though I have a great respect for the institution."

During the 1860 political campaign for the Presidency the Grand Lodge of Illinois meeting in Springfield declared a recess in their deliberations in order that the Grand Lodge representatives might call on Mr. Lincoln. During the conversation which ensued Lincoln said: "Gentlemen, I have always entertained a profound respect for the Masonic fraternity and I have long cherished a desire to become a member, but I have never petitioned because I have felt my own unworthiness to do so." With the masonic visitors offering a protest Mr. Lincoln continued: "I might be overcoming my hesitancy and be petitioning at the present time, but I am a candidate for political office, and by some such action would be misconstrued. For this reason, because my motives would be misconstrued, I must for the time being refrain."

This statement has caused many masons to believe that Lincoln would have petitioned for membership in 1869 if he had lived.

Benjamin B. French, Grand Master of the District of Columbia and Commissioner of Public Buildings in the nation's Capital, wrote a statement for a magazine entitled "The Masonic Trowel" published in Springfield, Illinois, dated May 15, 1865:

"After Mr. Lincoln's election, signs of serious trouble were evidently manifest, and those Masons who knew Mr. Lincoln's kindly and trusting nature were very anxious that he should become a Mason. Dr. (Ira A. W.) Buck was then Grand Master, and in an easy way led Mr. Lincoln to converse upon the subject. In the course of the conversation, Mr. Lincoln remarked that he had often thought of the matter; that he believed it to be a good Institution, but no one had asked him to join, and he had put the matter off until business and other causes had engrossed his entire time. He made up his mind to be initiated, but after thinking the matter over he said that he would be liable to be charged with wrong motives, and he would defer the matter to some future time.

"Knowing only what he then knew, the motive which impelled him to decline Masonic honors was creditable; knowing what every Master Mason knows, his decision is to be lamented, for had he been a Master Mason, the chances for assassination would have been less."

In a letter dated at Washington City, April 20, 1865, to a mason named Harmon G. Reynolds, Benjamin B. French, who will be remembered by Lincoln students as the man who introduced Edward Everett at the Gettysburg Cemetery dedication and who wrote the ode which was sung by the Baltimore Glee Club, made the following statement about Lincoln's qualifications for masonry and his failure to secure membership:

"Abraham Lincoln was not a Free Mason, but he should have been. His pure heart, his honest and upright life, his kindly feeling toward every human being, his love of his country, his devotion to all her institutions, indeed his entire character as a man, would have made him an eminent Free Mason. He once told me how highly he respected our Order, and that he at one time had fully made up his mind to apply for admission into it; but, said he, 'I feared I was too lazy to do all my duty as I should wish to were I a member, and I have kept postponing my application.' I told him it was by no means too late now. To which he laughingly replied, 'Well, perhaps some day I may

ask you to let me in.' "

The Summer of 1955 issue of the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, pages 191-198, under "Lincoliana Notes" has a section devoted to "Lincoln and The Masons." In addition to the French statement and the letter to the editor of The Masonic Trowel as are partly given above, the article appearing in the Journal also contains the resolution on Lincoln's death, (April 17, 1865) passed by the masonic lodge in Springfield:

"The members of Tyrian Lodge No. 333, A.F.&A.M., in regular communication convened, with members of Springfield Lodge No. 4, Central Lodge No. 71, and other worthy visiting brethren, deem this a suitable occasion to express their opinions as Masons and citizens in this momentous crisis; therefore,

Resolved, That as the immediate friends and neighbors of our late beloved and now revered President Lincoln, we deeply and sorrowfully deplore his death.

Resolved, That the scrupulous honor and honesty of President Lincoln in all his private relations, his faithfulness and kindness as a husband and father, his fairness and ability as a lawyer, his wisdom and public spirit as a citizen, and his patient, humane and honest career as a magistrate and statesman, furnish examples worthy of all praise and imitation.

Resolved, That we sincerely condole with the bereaved widow and fatherless children in their terrible and irreparable loss.

Resolved, That the decision of President Lincoln to postpone his application for the honors of Masonry, lest his motives should be misconstrued, is in the highest degree honorable to his memory.

Resolved, That the murderer of President Lincoln, and the assassin of Secretary Seward, should be hunted with unceasing vigilance and vigor until found, and be brought to trial, judgment and punishment . . .

O. H. Miner, W.M. J. R. Tyson,
H. G. Reynolds, T. R. King,
Jesse K. Dubois, Pierson Roll,
John C. Reynolds, Secretary. Committee.

The late Harry E. Pratt, the editor of the Journal, pointed out that all the signers of this resolution had known Lincoln personally. The names of thirty-one other lodges that endorsed the resolution are given in the May 15, 1865 issue of The Masonic Trowel only to be followed by one hundred more in subsequent issues.

Perhaps we should concur with the Most Excellent Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, Benjamin B. French, that "Abraham Lincoln was not a Freemason, but he should have been."

Editor's Note: The editor is indebted to Bert Sheldon, Washington, D.C. who made a selection of the essays and printed material relative to Lincoln's masonic membership, used in this short article, in the Library and Museum of the Grand Lodge F.&A.M., State of New York, 71 West 23rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10010.

MULREADY COVERS

By Edwin Mayer

The new adhesive stamps (one penny black and 2 penny blue) were not the only postage innovations planned and put into execution at the inception of penny postage in England.

Simultaneously with the stamps 1d and 2d wrappers and envelopes were issued at a price of 1½d and 2¼d, or lesser rates for quantities. The price of course including not only the cost of the envelope or wrapper but prepaid postage as well.

The design was by William Mulready RA and was selected from perhaps 2700 submissions. The envelopes and covers were placed on sale on May 1, 1840, but were not available for use until May 6th. A few examples are known to have been prematurely passed through the post. It seems certain that Sir Rowland Hill, the moving spirit behind the Mulready's and the adhesive stamps, anticipated a greater demand for the covers and envelopes than for the adhesive stamps—certainly a wider demand than was accorded, for the whole issue had to be withdrawn in 1841 and a large remainder in bulk stock destroyed.

The 1d covers or envelopes carried a letter up to ½ ounce weight, and the 2d covers or envelopes up to one ounce. Any excess weight had to be prepaid by the attachment of stamps. The covers were sold either singly or in sheets of twelve. The envelopes only in sheets of twelve and therefore needed cutting up.

Stereo number on the 1d cover was preceded by a capital letter, and on the 2d covers by a lower case letter.

The envelope as cut out of the large sheet of 12 was of diamond shape with the front lying squarely between the points of the diamond. All that had to be done to make up the envelope was to fold the point of the diamond. It would then be gummed to safeguard an

enclosed letter, but it is likely that sealing wax was the sealing agent used in the great majority of cases.

The paper used was Dickinson's silk thread paper, so named because it had silk thread embedded in its texture as a security measure against forgery. In the case of the covers two blue threads across the whole width of the paper horizontally below the main design and three pink threads across in similar fashion above the main design. In the envelopes when opened out, the flaps to the left and right of the main design are each crossed by three threads, two pink flanking, one blue.

The printing forms were of twelve stereotypes. Each stereo individually numbered but no attempt was made to maintain numerical order.

The advent of the Mulready design was widely greeted with ridicule, and abuse—so much so, and so quickly that within one week after the first day of issue Sir Rowland Hill was writing, "I fear we shall be obliged to substitute some other stamp for that designed by Mulready, which is abused and ridiculed on all sides." It is interesting to note that the term "stamp" had not at that time become restricted almost entirely to adhesive stamps as it now is. The term then meant any impression struck to indicate prepayment of postage. The adhesive stamps were at that time universally referred to as "labels". The ridiculing of the Mulready design was not confined to words. Numerous caricatures appeared lampooning the issue in typical Victorian style.

The central device is a figure of Britannia standing on a pedestal of rock in the midst of the ocean. At her feet lies the British Lion and against her left knee a shield on which is depicted the Union Jack. Britannia's arms are outstretched in the act of dispatching winged messengers. The uppermost of the flying figures on the right is drawn with only one leg. Below these figures are a Laplander in a sleigh drawn by a reindeer, on the right, and ships in full sail on the left. A range of mountains is in the distant background. To the right again is a group, probably intended to represent William Penn negotiating with a party of Indians. Further on are some women and children under a Palm Tree and in front of them appears to be a planter in a broad brimmed hat, superintending the heading up of two casks. These are no doubt emblematic of the west. On the left there are Oriental groups, first Chinese with very conspicuous pigails, then a pair of laden camels and then two

elephants apparently about to be laden, while a Turk or Persian in the foreground is seated writing a letter. Finally at the side of the rather limited space left for the address are groups of larger figures, the one on the right showing a mother reading a letter of good news to her two children and that on the left, a son (or daughter) reading what is evidently bad news to a parent.

The design however beautiful as a work of art was altogether unsuited to the specific purpose for which it was intended.

LUTHER BURBANK

By George W. Henderson

Luther Burbank, an American Plant breeder and Horticulturist, developed many new trees, fruits, flowers, vegetables, grains and grasses. He also improved many plants and trees already known. Many common foods we eat every day come from his experiments. Among plants he developed are the Burbank potato, the Shasta Daisy, the Spineless Cactus, and the white blackberry. Burbank also developed several hundred new ornamental plants. His experiments with plums and prunes completely changed the growing of these fruits in California.

Burbank was born in Lancaster, Mass. on March 7th, 1849. Burbank moved to California in 1875 and settled in Santa Rosa. He saved money to buy land for a nursery. In a few years he owned a prosperous business. Not interested in business he sold his nursery in 1893 and set up an experimental farm at nearby Sebastopol, Calif. His home in Santa Rosa had many rare trees, shrubs and flowers. It is a shrine and is opened to the public every day.

Luther Burbank was made a Master Mason August 13th, 1921. Lodge No. 57 Santa Rosa, Calif. He passed away April 11th, 1926.

A three cent postage stamp was issued in his honor in 1940 and is included in the Famous American series.

MASONRY IN BELGIUM

By Wessel M. Lans

The Belgium Postal Administration issued a philanthropists set in November 1970; with it the memory of four respected personalities was honoured. Two of them were Freemasons: Camille Huysmans and Paul Pastur.

Paul Pastur played a prominent part in the social uplift of the poor mining district of Hainault in Belgium, among other things by founding a technical high school called after him. I already

mentioned him in a contribution in our monthly September 1968. He was a member of the "Charite Lodge" in Charleroi. Initiated: July 28, 1892. Raised: July 8, 1899.

Stamp: Belgium Scott B601 Source: The Secretary of the Lodge "La Charite"

Camille Huysmans was born May 26, 1871. In Liege he was conferred a doctor's degree in German philology. By his political interests he became, by the way of journalism, well known in the national and international labour movement. The series of functions he performed in his long industrious life is impressive:

1905-1921 secretary of the International Socialist Bureau.

In these same years he was a member of the city-council of Brussels.

Since 1910 he was a member of the Belgian Congress.

At the same time he was an enthusiastic fighter for the Flemish Movement and for turning the State University of Ghent into a Flemish one.

During W.W.I. he founded schools for working men in the Dutch internment camps and he devoted himself to bringing the belligerents together in Stockholm.

In 1921 he became a member of the Antwerp city-council. From 1925-1927 and from 1946-1949 he was a minister. He was Burgomaster of Antwerp 1933-1946. During W.W.II, he lived in London in exile.

Bros. Huysmans died in Antwerp, February 25, 1968.

Bro. Camille Huysmans was initiated October 15, 1900 in the Lodge "Les Amis Philanthropes" in Brussels; passed April 15, 1901; and raised June 24, 1901. January 2, 1933 he became a member of the Lodge "Marnix van St. Aldegonde" in Antwerp. January 21, 1958 he handed in his resignation from the Craft.

Source: The Grand Secretary of the "Grand Orient de Belgique".

U. S. POSTAGE FIRSTS

By Joseph Nathan Kane

The first navy mail service was established May 27, 1908 when an appropriation was made for the year ending June 30, 1909 (35 Stat. L. 417) to designate enlisted men of the navy as naval mail clerks to receive \$500 and \$300 extra respectively. The U.S.S. "Illinois", "Prairie", and "Rhode Island" were the first vessels afforded postal facilities, naval post officers having been established thereon August 15, 1908.

The first ocean mail contracts were

authorized by act of March 3, 1845 (5 Stat. L. 732) "to provide for the transportation of the mail between the United States and foreign countries." The first contract was made in 1847 with the Ocean Navigation Company, for the transportation of United States mail once a month between the ports of New York City, Southampton, England and Bremen, Germany, the compensation to be 16,666 for each round trip. The "Washington" pioneer of American ocean steamers, started the service June 1, 1847. The contract expired June 1, 1857.

The first ship subsidy was established "to provide for the transportation of mail between the United States and foreign countries, and for other purposes." The act (5 Stat. L. 739) approved March 3, 1845 authorized the Postmaster General to make contracts with citizens of the United States for the carrying of mail in American vessels, by American citizens. The rate paid per letter for mail to Mexico and the West Indies was 10 cents a half ounce, 20 cents an ounce, and 5 cents for each additional half ounce; for ports not less than 3,000 miles away the rate was 24 cents a half ounce, 48 cents an ounce, and 15 cents for each additional half ounce.

The first overland mail service to the Pacific coast was begun on September 15, 1858, by the Cleveland Mail Coaches, the old John Butterfield Stage Line. Stages left Tipton, Mo., and San Francisco, California, simultaneously every Monday and Thursday. The route was authorized under government contract, authorized by act of March 3, 1857 (11 Stat. L. 189), for six years at a cost not to exceed \$300,000 per annum for a semi-monthly service, \$450,000 for a weekly service, and \$600,000 for a semi-weekly service. The contract was signed on September 16, 1857 at \$600,000 a year for six years, for semi-weekly trips in both directions in "good four horse post coaches or spring wagons suitable for the convenience of passengers as well as safety and security of the mails." The specified running time for the 2,800 miles was to be not more than 25 days. The first trips were made in a few hours less than 24 days.

The first Parcel Post service was authorized August 24, 1912 (37 Stat. L. 559) when appropriations were made for the service that started January 1, 1913. Previously the weight limit of mail had been four pounds. The rates of the Parcel Post service depended upon the weight of the package and the distance carried.