



The Unique, Rare Genuine Yellow Placerville, CA Postmark on U.S. Scott# 11A



Presented by: Mike Smith

21 April 2022

Introduction

- Back round on Mike's collecting interests
- Passion for colored cancels on U.S. classics have always been a subset of my philatelic collection
- Green is rare and my favorite but yellow is most intriguing, and elusive
 - Searched for over 25 years for a yellow cancel
 - Never found one until Schuyler Rumsey "Gems of Philately" sale, December 18, 2020 – there it was, it struck me square in the face!
 - I aggressively bid, and successfully won, the amazing stamp you will see in a moment
- What started as a simple acquisition of a rare stamp ended up taking me on a journey back in time
- Prepared a single frame exhibit of this stamp to showcase at FLOREX 2021
 - Received a silver-bronze ribbon
 - Received the Novice award



The Stamp

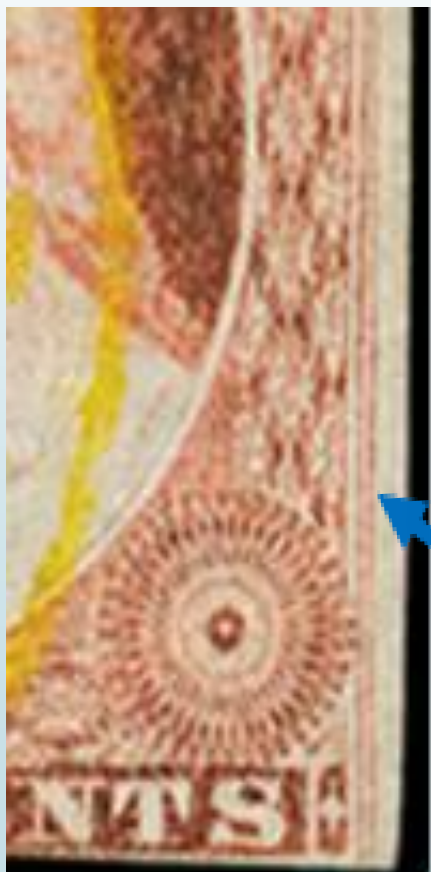
This unique 3-cent George Washington imperforate stamp was issued in 1853 in the dull red shade and boasts a rare bold Yellow Placerville, California cancel. It is a sound 3-margin copy, U. S. Scott# 11A (Type II) variety, genuinely used, and has an added portion of a Black "9" manuscript cancel in India-type ink.

Previously featured in the
September 2021 CFSC Award
Winning ☺ Newsletter article
"A Rare Thing - For Sure"



The 3-Cent Design & Type Characteristics

The 3-cent issues from the 1851 – 1857 era (Scott# 10, 10A, 11 & 11A) bear a portrait of Washington as taken from a bust created by French neoclassical sculptor, Jean-Antoine Houdon (1741-1828). The 3-cent postal rate effective July 1, 1851 was enacted by Congress on March 3rd of that year and required prepaid postage for ordinary letters delivered up to 3,000 miles for each ½ ounce.



For many years, the U.S. Scott Specialized Catalogue only listed the 3-cent imperforate Washington stamp as either a number 10 or 11 (depending on shade). Scott# 10A and 11A were added in 2008 as standalone listings after much debate about stamps containing both left and right frame lines as major types. Scott 10 and 11, the Type I (one) stamps, contain only an outer frame line at the left and right. Scott 10A and 11A contain both an inner and outer frame line recut along both sides rendering them as Type II (two). Many varieties of recutting exist, as is the case with this stamp which contains an added frame line at the right. This only occurred on Plate 3 resulting in possible plating positions of 58L, 68L, 78L, 88L or 98L.

Genuineness

1982 Philatelic Foundation (PF) Certificate# 0111171

Note 1: Certificate states this is a Scott catalogue #11 but it is actually an 11A. Scott# 11A first appeared in the 2008 U.S. Scott Specialized Catalogue (along with 10A, 25A, 26A and 36B) after this certificate was issued; details discussed on previous slide.

Note 2: Stamp submitted to the PF by Mr. Clyde Jennings.

PF

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION
270 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016
EXPERT COMMITTEE

No. 0111171
10/14/82


We have examined the enclosed item submitted by the applicant described as follows:

Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

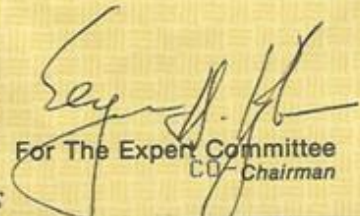
Cat. No.	Issue	Denom	Color
11	1853-55	3¢	dull red

Scott's unless otherwise specified.

~~On piece~~ with yellow PLACERVILLE CA cds.
OF WHICH A PHOTOGRAPH IS ATTACHED AND
ARE OF THE OPINION THAT:
IT IS GENUINE * * * * *



submitted by CLYDE JENNINGS




For The Expert Committee
Chairman

CUSTOMER COPY

Genuineness

2021 Philatelic Foundation (PF) Certificate# 574287

The Philatelic Foundation (PF) concluded the yellow Placerville (pronounced "PLASS-ər-vil") cancel to be genuine; no evidence of gold dust/specs were found in the ink.

		The Philatelic Foundation		No. 574287
22 East 35th Street • 4th Floor		New York, NY 10016		03/18/2021
		EXPERT COMMITTEE		
We have examined the enclosed item, of which a photograph is attached, and <i>described by the applicant</i> as follows:				
Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA				
Cat. No.	Issue	Denom.	Color	
11AVAR	1853	3¢	dull red	
<small>Scott's unless otherwise specified.</small>				
USED, YELLOW PLACERVILLE, CAL. POSTMARK WITH MS. DATE..				
AND WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT:				
IT IS A GENUINE YELLOW POSTMARK, THE STAMP FROM PLATE 3, WITH AN EXTRA FRAME LINE AT RIGHT				
				
574287				
Photocopies of this Certificate are not valid.				
For The Expert Committee Chairman				
Submitted by				
SCHUYLER RUMSEY, INC.				
J329786				

History and Provenance

- This stamp was once owned by the late Mr. Clyde Jennings, a well-known philatelist with a penchant for colored cancels on classic U. S. stamps and covers
 - Mr. Jennings purchased this stamp in 1979 at ARIPEX in Phoenix, AZ, from a dealer that had a plate study stock of the 3-cent 1851/1857 Washington issue
 - He submitted the stamp to the Philatelic Foundation (PF) for authentication (reference the 1982 PF certificate above showing his name as the submitter)
 - He surmised that the yellow cancel may have been used by the local postmaster to commemorate the gold rush in some way; however, his extensive research came up empty
 - Mr. Jennings wrote a detailed and interesting article on yellow cancels, of which this stamp was the highlight, in The American Philatelist, The Journal of the APS, 1000th (silver) Issue, May 1984, Volume 98, No. 5, pages 497-499
- Prior to Mr. Jennings' acquisition, there is no documented history of this stamp
- Mr. Jennings later sold the stamp to an anonymous collector years later
- It did not appear again until the December 2020 Rumsey auction at which time I became the new and proud owner!

Mr. Jennings specialized in the collecting of United States stamps and postal history, especially cancellations of stamps on cover. His collection was so significant that it won numerous gold awards at national and international philatelic shows. He was also credited with being a major force on the Florida Philatelic Exhibition (FLOREX) show committee of the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs. Most notably, Mr. Jennings received the coveted Luff Award in 1988 and was posthumously inducted into the APS Hall of Fame in 2007.



Clyde Jennings (March 28, 1916 – May 17, 2006), of Florida, was a prominent figure in philately with his colorful speeches, writings, personality, and leadership in the hobby.

Validity of the Placerville Cancel

- It would have been perfect had this stamp remained on its original cover; thereby authenticating the cancel from Placerville, CA without question
 - When in time, it was removed from the cover, one will never know – hence the mystery of philately
- Luckily, enough of the lettering “ERVILLE” was struck onto the stamp itself
 - This was adequate for both Mr. Jennings and the Philatelic Foundation (PF) to determine this stamp’s origin
- Mr. Jennings later purchased a pair of U.S. Scott# 11A with a clear Placerville cancel in dark blue for the purposes of proving the yellow-cancelled stamp’s origin



Validity of the Placerville Cancel (continued)

- The following conclusions were documented by himself and the PF in determining that the stamp with the yellow cancel is indeed from Placerville:
 - Size of lettering, font type and spacing visually appears similar
 - Both stamps were photographed, and the negatives overlaid to confirm a perfect match
 - For the 1851-1857 3-cent stamp issues, only 2 other towns were known with postmarks that end in “erville”: Fisherville, CT (name is between 2 ovals) and Weaverville, CA (oval shape). These were both ruled out since they do not match the Placerville strike: (Reference: Carroll Chase – “The 3c Stamp of the United States, 1851-1857 Issue, revised edition)

The Philatelic Foundation certified the town to be Placerville, CA on both certificates

Rarity of Yellow Cancels

- Added price premiums for genuine yellow cancels rank at the top over other colored cancels (based on values listed in the 2020 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers)
- Scott only acknowledges and assigns premiums for yellow cancels on Scott# 11, 11A and 65
- The PF states only about 10 genuine yellow cancels are known/certified to date (based on a telecom with a PF specialist, May 2021)
- In 1984, Mr. Jennings also noted that only 10 genuine yellow cancels were known to exist. No additional examples have surfaced in over 35 years!

Although not as valuable, one could surmise that this stamp is even more rare than the famous and popular inverted C3a Jenny airmail stamp of which one sheet of 100 stamps are documented versus the 10 known yellow-colored examples!

No additional examples of yellow cancels have surfaced in over 35 years!

Rarity of Yellow Cancells:

R. A. Siegel Power Search

- A Siegel Power Search reveals only 3 genuine yellow cancels in the history of their auctions since keeping computerized records
- All are Scott# 11/11A, all on cover with a yellow postmark but not tied to the stamp on 2 of the 3 covers



Rarity of Yellow Cancells:

PF Certificate Search

- A PF Certificate Search reveals 2 yellow cancels in addition to Siegel's Power Search
- Both are Scott# 11/11A, both on cover with a yellow postmark and yellow cancels tied to the stamp



Analytics - Premium Comparison:

Yellow vs. Other Colored Cancels

- The 2020 Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue provides price premiums for various colored cancels from the classic era (catalogue #1 through 218)
- Based on data analysis from this catalogue, a comparison of the average price for all colored cancel premiums clearly shows that yellow stands above the crowd!

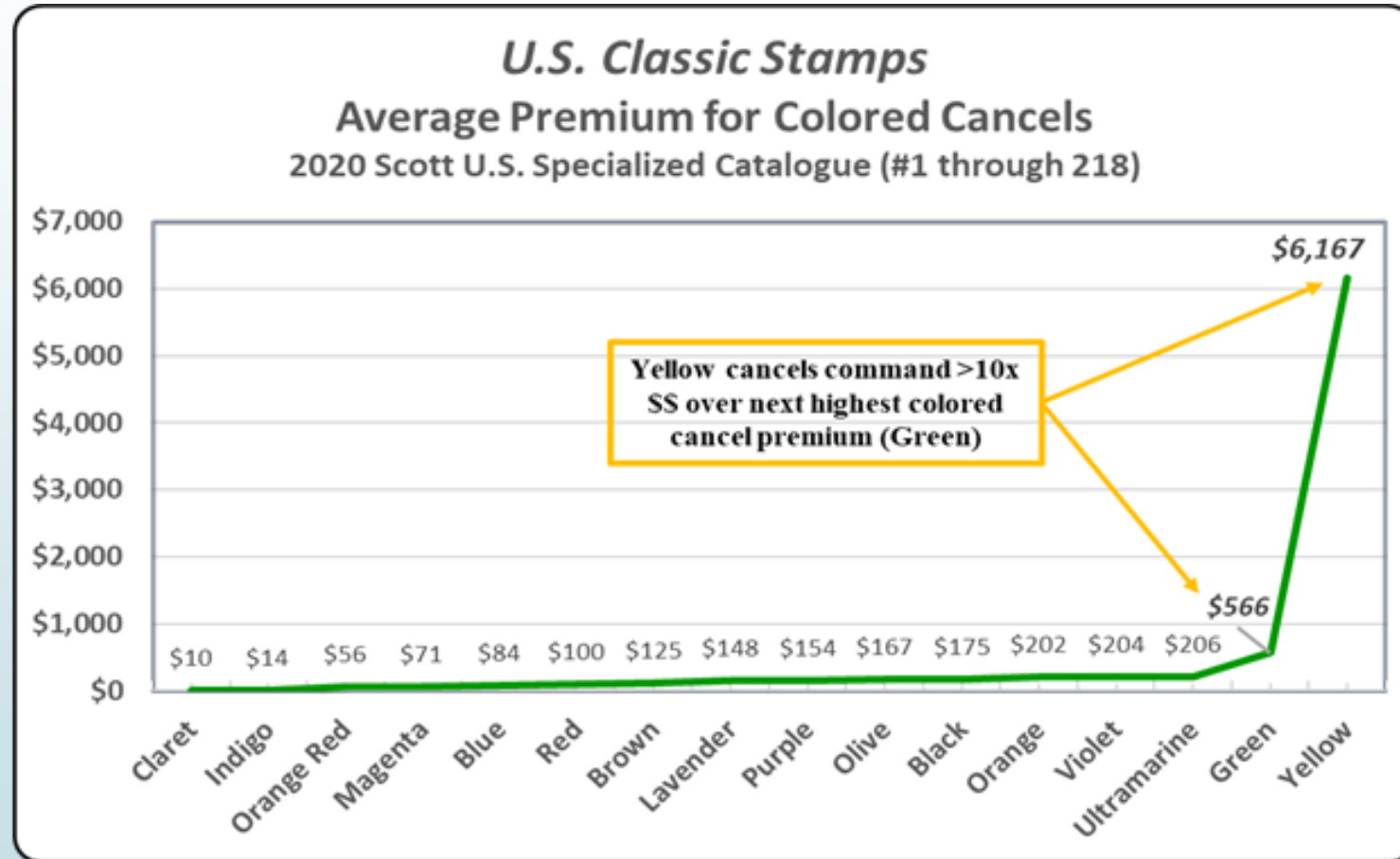


Scott Catalogue
ored Cancel Price

Cancel Color	# Scott Listings	Avg. Premium	Relative Rarity
Claret	1	\$10.00	1.0
Indigo	2	\$13.75	1.4
Orange Red	29	\$56.03	5.6
Magenta	84	\$70.88	7.1
Blue	153	\$84.29	8.4
Red	142	\$100.48	10.0
Brown	55	\$124.55	12.5
Lavender	2	\$147.50	14.8
Purple	65	\$153.74	15.4
Olive	3	\$166.67	16.7
Black	3	\$175.00	17.5
Orange	25	\$202.04	20.2
Violet	24	\$203.85	20.4
Ultramarine	46	\$205.90	20.6
Green	97	\$565.82	56.6
Yellow	3	\$6,166.67	616.7

Analytics - Premium Comparison (continued):

Yellow vs. Other Colored Cancels

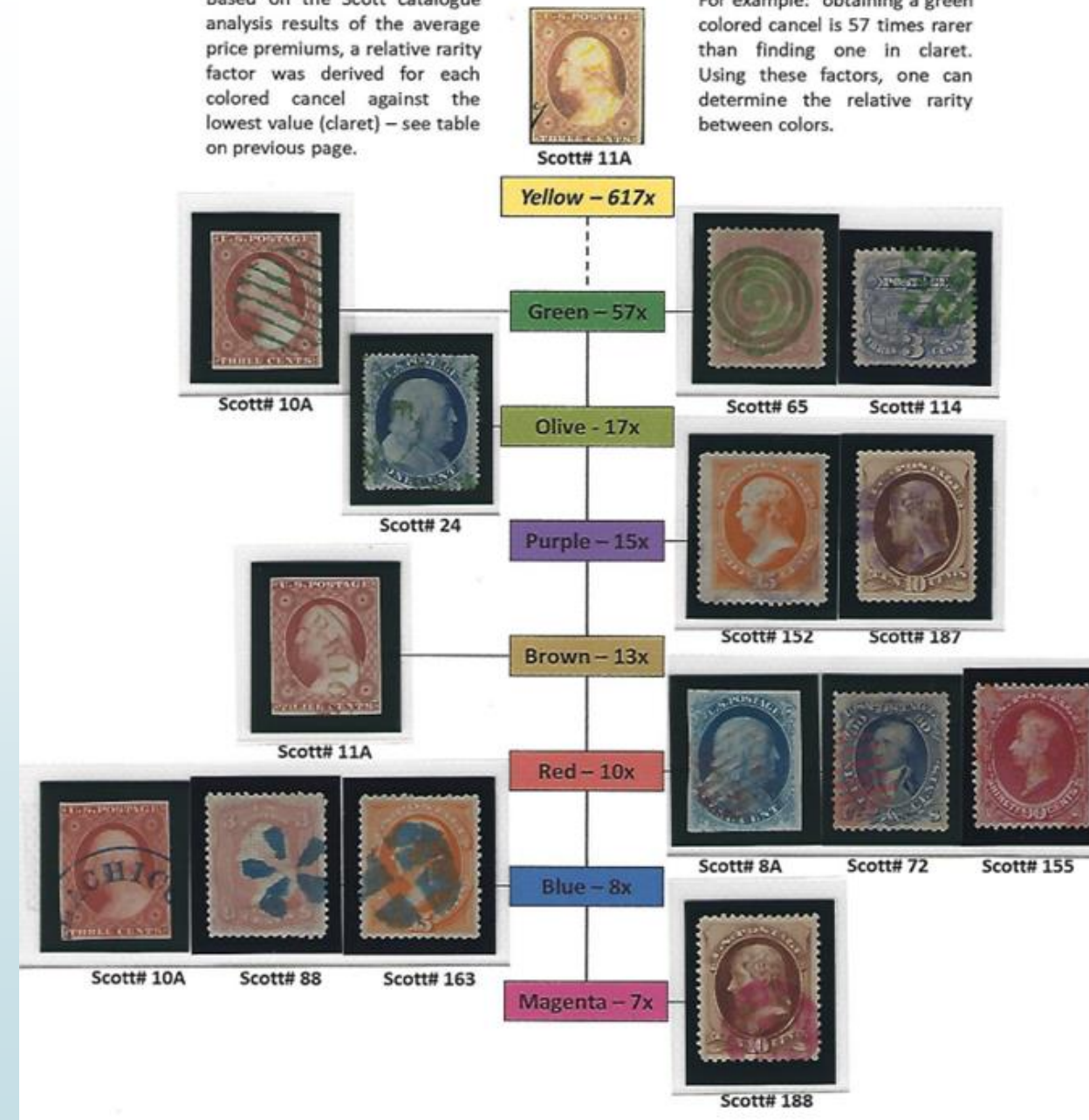


The 2020 Scott catalogue data clearly shows that yellow cancel premiums are greater than 10 times more over the next rarest color (green)

Philatelic Examples: Colored Cancellations – Relative Rarity

Based on the Scott catalogue analysis results of the average price premiums, a relative rarity factor was derived for each colored cancel against the lowest value (claret) – see table on previous page.

For example: obtaining a green colored cancel is 57 times rarer than finding one in claret. Using these factors, one can determine the relative rarity between colors.



Fake Yellow Cancels

Of course, there are those who attempt to fool the experts by creating fakes by either alteration of an existing postmark or simply adding one outright. This is further testimony to the rarity of yellow cancellations if one goes to this length to alter a perfectly good stamp. I felt it was fitting to show some of these in this exhibit, if for no other reason than to educate fellow philatelists.

The message here is: Always obtain a certificate of authenticity from an accredited service!



"It Is Genuine With AN ALTERED OR COUNTERFEIT YELLOW CANCELLATION"



"AND WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT It Is Genuine Defective And The Cancellation Is Counterfeit"



"IT IS A USED SCOTT 87, BUT WITH A COUNTERFEIT YELLOW CANCEL, A SMALL TEAR AT BOTTOM LEFT, AND ADDITIONAL SMALL CREASES"



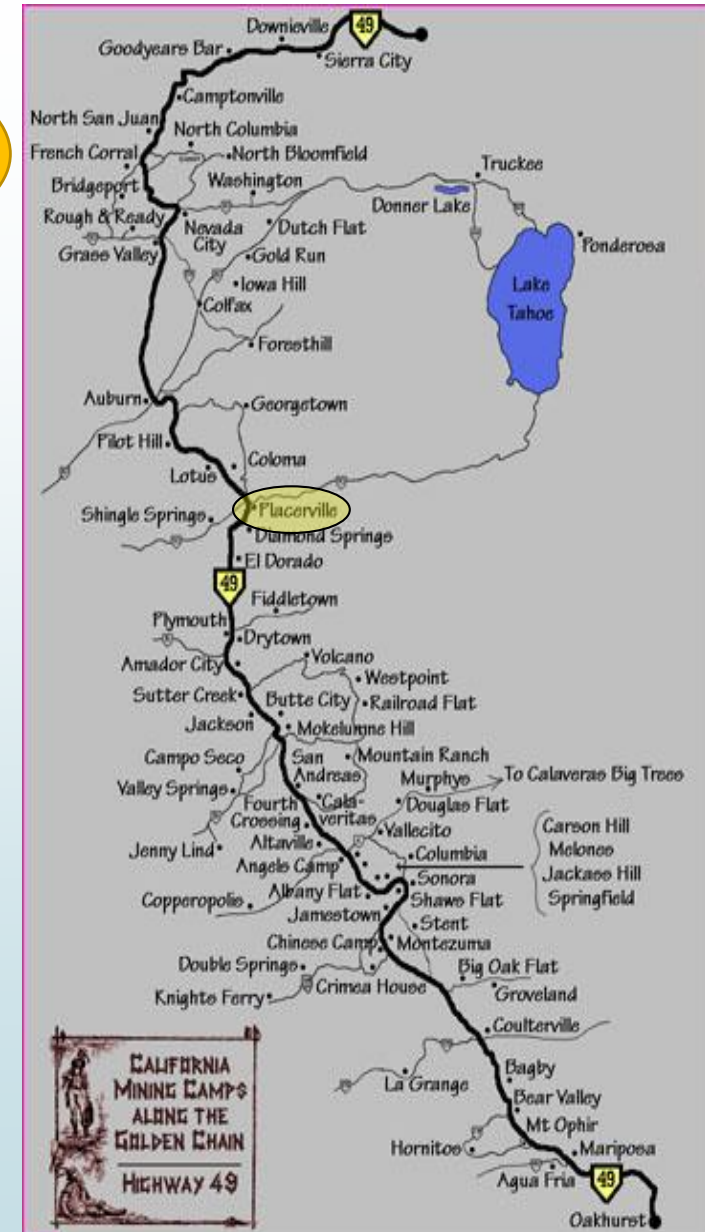
"It Is A Genuine Usage But THE POSTAL MARKINGS ARE IN A FADED RED COLOR AND NOT YELLOW"

What is amazing is in the 3 blatant cases, if a little research had been done by the offender, they would have realized that genuine yellow cancels are only known to exist on Scott# 11, 11A and 65! What a shame because the 30-cent Eagle and Shield is a gorgeous stamp without the added fake cancel.

The Importance of Placerville and the California Gold Rush

Placerville was an early mining town established during the California Gold Rush of 1848 – 1849. People flocked to the region noted as “The Golden Chain” along Highway 49 by the thousands from the east. They left everything behind in hopes of striking it rich from the gold ore deposits laden in the riverbeds of this hilly landscape. But many were not successful and ended up stranded in the region to find other work.

“THERE’S GOLD IN
THEM THAR HILLS!”



Map of Placerville and the California Gold Rush

The small insert below alongside the legend shows the entire state of California with the red zone indicating the main Gold Rush region. A detailed map of this region shows Placerville to be smack dab in the middle of the action!





History & Facts About Placerville

- Placerville was first settled in 1848 by William Daylor of Sutter's Fort, CA
- Nestled in the hills of El Dorado County at an elevation of 1,867 feet, the town was originally called Dry Diggings, then Hangtown because of vigilante justice carried out there for crimes associated with gold mining
- A suggested name change to Placerville occurred in 1850 due to rich "placers", or gold ore deposits, being discovered in nearby Weber Creek, but it did not become official until 1854 when the city became incorporated
- At one point, Placerville was the 3rd largest city in California and served as the western terminus of the Overland Trail
- As the Gold Rush fever grew, many people migrated west in hopes of striking it rich but many were not successful with mining
 - These folks often settled in Placerville and found other means to make a living
- The next 2 slides highlight five men who became famous that had ties to Placerville during the gold rush days

Famous People With Ties To Placerville

Levi Strauss – (Clothing Manufacturer)

Levi's traces its history back to 1853 when Levi Strauss, an immigrant from Bavaria, ***moved to California during the gold-rush era*** seeking to open a West Coast outpost of his family's dry goods business. While he had his business in San Francisco, ***he is credited with supporting Placerville and the California mining industry*** in the early days. Eventually, he became known and famous for the manufacturing of durable blue jeans for miners, patented in 1873. Who hasn't owned a pair?!



John Mohler Studebaker (American Automobile Manufacturer)

In the mid-1850's, at around 20 years old, John Studebaker ***lived and worked in Placerville at 543 Main Street making wheelbarrows for gold miners.*** He invested his earnings with his brothers in the Studebaker Wagon Corporation that eventually led to the Studebaker automobile company.

Famous People With Ties To Placerville (continued)



Mark Hopkins, Jr. – (Businessman & Railroad Executive)

On January 22, 1849, Hopkins left New York City on the ship “Pacific”. After rounding Cape Horn, the ship arrived in San Francisco on August 5, 1849. **Hopkins opened a store in Placerville, California;** however, it did not succeed. He relocated to Sacramento where he opened a wholesale grocery in 1850 with his friend Edward H. Miller. Miller would later be secretary of the Central Pacific Railroad. In 1861, as part of “The Big Four”, he founded the Central Pacific Railroad.



Amasa Leland Stanford (American Industrialist & Politician)

Amasa was the founder of Stanford University. ***Migrating to California from New York at the time of the Gold Rush, he became a successful merchant and wholesaler,*** and continued to build his business empire. He spent a single two-year term as Governor of California after his election in 1861, and later eight years as a United States Senator. As president of Central Pacific Railroad, beginning in 1861, and later Southern Pacific, he had tremendous power in the region and ***a lasting impact on California, including Placerville.***



Philip Armour – (Businessman & Meatpacking Industrialist)

A 20-year-old Armour ***arrived in Placerville, California barefoot*** after traveling across America from his parents’ farm, much of the journey on foot. ***He joined the others in the Gold Rush fever*** and reportedly made \$8000 between 1852–56. He moved back to the Great Lakes region (Cincinnati and Milwaukee) where he made his fortune selling meat to the U.S. Army during the Civil War. He eventually settled in Chicago in 1875 and established the famous Armour & Company business.

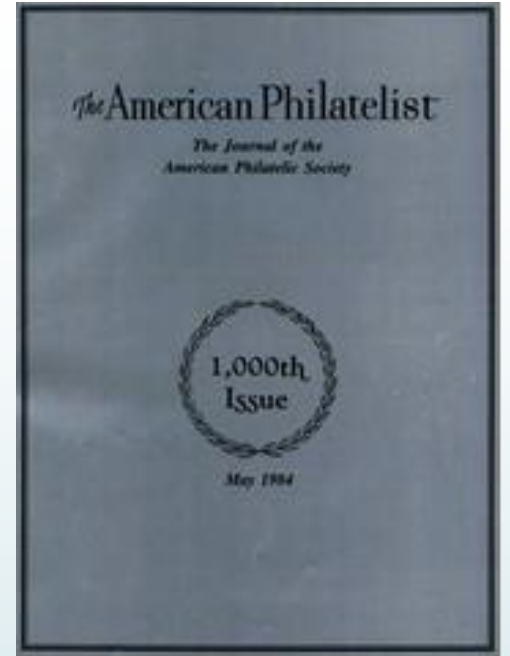


Placerville, CA Today

- As the gold rush faded, Placerville settled into a small California town laden with historical sites from days gone by
- Placerville's logo featuring a hangman's noose, in reference to the town's history as "Hangtown," was removed in 2021 by town council vote
- The town is registered as California Historical Landmark # 701.
- Today, about 11,000 folks call Placerville their home
- Museums and music festivals are the most popular venues for both locals and tourists
- Some notable modern people who resided here include artists, sports legends and politicians such as:
 - **Thomas Kinkade (Famous American “Painter of Light”)** - moved to Placerville at age 5 with his family
 - **Toby Hall (Professional Baseball Player)** - Professional Baseball Player (catcher), drafted by Tampa Bay Devil Rays – lived and attended El Dorado High School in Placerville
 - **Jerome R. Waldie (U.S. Representative)** - considered a liberal Democrat from California, instrumental in the downfall of then President Richard M. Nixon, retired and died in Placerville
 - **Vladimir Peter “Spider” Sabich Jr. (American Alpine ski racer, member of U.S. Ski Team)** - member of the U.S. Ski Team on the World Cup circuit during late 1960s, tragically killed at 31 years old by a gunshot under controversial circumstances. He attended high school in Placerville and is buried at Westwood Hills Memorial Park in Placerville
 - **Larry LaLonde - Primus Guitarist (American Funk Metal group)** - lived in Placerville

Resources & Acknowledgements

- The American Philatelist, The Journal of the APS, 1000th (silver) Issue, May 1984, Volume 98, No. 5, pages 497-499. Article written by Mr. Clyde Jennings (which contains this stamp)
- Carroll Chase – “The 3c Stamp of the United States, 1851-1857 Issue”, revised edition, Quarterman Publications, revised edition (January 1, 1975), Lawrence, MA
- 2020 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, 98th Edition, released October 2019, Amos Media, Sidney, OH
- The American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) – telecom with Ms. Marsha Garman, January 12, 2021
- Siegel Auctions Power Search https://siegelauctions.com/lot_lkp.php



Many thanks to Mr. Scott Wieduwilt and Schuyler Rumsey of Rumsey Auctions for assisting me with my persistent inquiries about this stamp! After successfully bidding and winning this awesome stamp in their December 18, 2020 “Gems of Philately” auction, I was determined to find out as much about its history and provenance as possible.

Additional thanks to the experts at the Philatelic Foundation for their valuable insight regarding the genuineness and importance of this philatelic treasure.

Finally, a shout out and thank you to my fellow collectors at the Central Florida Stamp Club (CFSC) for giving me the confidence and encouragement to move forward on exhibiting. Without their expertise and guidance, I would never have had the initiative to put this exhibit together



Final Thoughts

Philately brings about many interesting stories. While this very rare stamp stands on its own, to be able to tie it to a town from the heart of the California Gold Rush days and learn a bit about its rich history and the people who called Placerville their home is a special treat!

In addition, it is a true privilege to learn about Mr. Clyde Jennings through the acquisition of this stamp. Although I never had the pleasure of meeting him in person, I have fellow club members who knew him and his friendly demeanor towards others. The fact that Mr. Jennings once owned this stamp and did a tremendous amount of research and documentation on it, makes its acquisition even sweeter.

My goal was to share this philatelic treasure and its remarkable history with my fellow collectors. I also wanted to bring to light the rarity of yellow cancellations on early classic United States postage stamps. It is clear how special this stamp really is and as a philatelist, I will be a good steward of its care so when that time comes, it will be equally cared for by its next owner and preserved for many generations to enjoy.

It is my hope you have enjoyed this presentation and a short trip back to an exciting time in the history of this great nation

One Last Thing

Other than myself, there is only one other human being I would trust on this Earth to handle my stamps (click on the link below and turn up the volume)

“I’ll Get The Tongs”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=beWjk_Q6yZ4 (start clip at 1 minute for ~20 seconds)



Quiz: What movie was this from and who are the actors? (answers on next slide)



Randy Quaid, (brother of Dennis Quaid) and Chevy Chase
Vegas Vacation - 1987