U.S. CLASSICS COLORED CANCEL EXTRAVAGANZA!

LET'S TAKE A PEEK INSIDE MIKE'S VAULT

1ST SEPTEMBER 2022

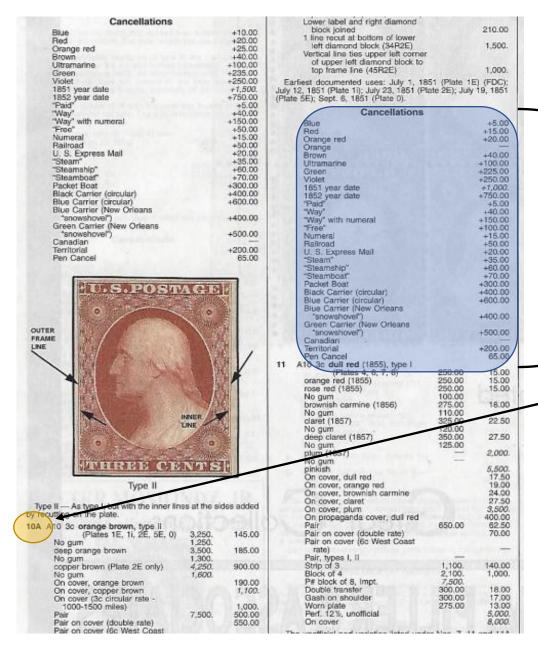
Introduction – Why Colored Cancels?

If you read the May 2022 CFSC Newsletter, you got to know a little bit about me and my collecting habits. The topic was primarily centered around graded stamps. The focus of the article was my take on a sensible approach to buying/investing in graded stamps. Further, I gave the reader my take on hinged vs. never hinged gum; when to buy in this condition. Lastly, I mentioned that when buying used stamps, my goal was to only collect these prior to U.S. Scott# 218, or calendar year 1890. My recipe for a used stamp besides being sound and certified is to strive for a light face-free cancel if in black, or a colored cancel that compliments the stamp. Many colored cancels carry premiums as well, an added bonus!

So, the added bonus is obviously the additional price premium; however, for me, it goes beyond that. Yes, I am an investment/collector. But I quickly became intrigued with the beauty and rarity of colored cancel stamps, particularly when they compliment the color of the stamp itself. Let's face it, most black cancels are not eye appealing or attractive. Many obliterate the stamp design and probably will not find a home in my collection. I realize that these cancels, while not for me, often have historic significance or tell a story - that's cool \odot .

Colored cancels became a second source of collecting for me with an investment twist

Colored Cancels Premiums – US Scott Catalogue

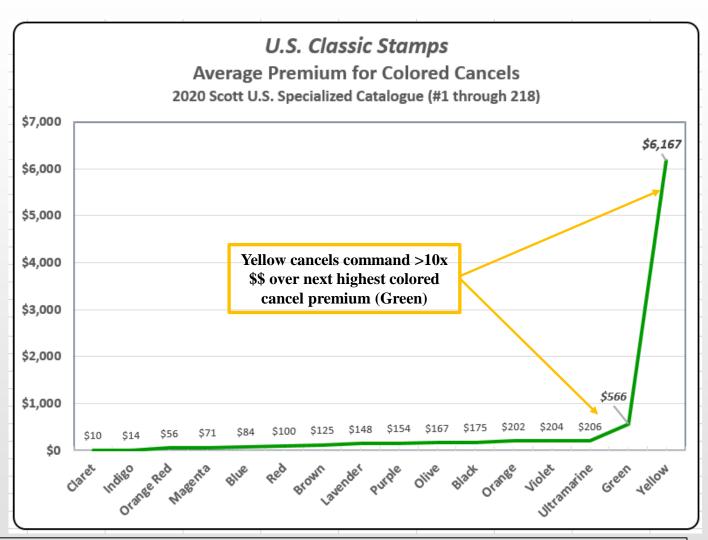


Scott Specialized Catalogue of US Stamps and Covers provide premiums for colored cancels from #1 through # 218 (or years 1847 – 1888)

Under each catalogue number are listings of prices for not only colored cancels but other cancellations such as years or special markings

Colored Cancels - Premium Comparison

Cancel	# Scott	Avg.	Relative
Color	Listings	Premium	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



This analysis is comprised of 734 listings for colored cancel premiums!

A Bit of Trivia - Did You Know??

Black is considered a premium over a colored cancel on only 3 U.S. issues!

Does anyone know the answer?

The Answer Is:



Scott# 1 (and varieties)



Scott# 2



Scott# 39
Rare used with any cancel

In all 3 cases, Red is the primary cancellation color!

Note: These are not in Mike's collection – source is from Siegel Power SearchTM

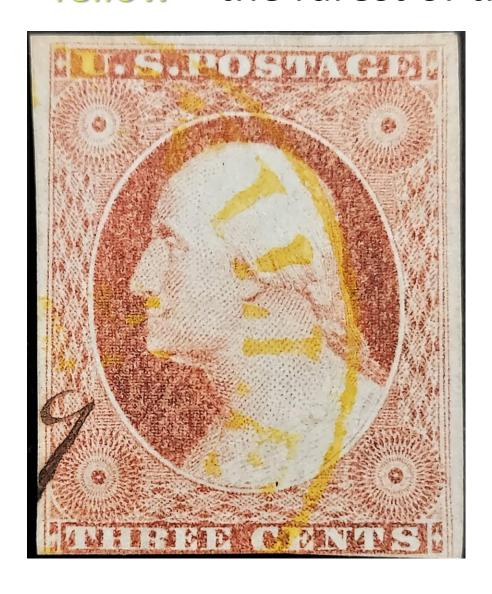
Scott Catalogue Premiums for Colored Cancels – Mike's Beef – Some Colors Are Grossly Undervalued

Knowing that a value needs to be assigned in order to publish a catalogue is logical and understandable. Stamp values are supposed to represent a history of sales & auctions with periodic adjustments up or down based on market demand. Graded stamps are typically updated based on auction activity, although not frequently enough. The Professional Stamp Experts (PSE) Stamp Market Quarterly (SMQ) is not updated nearly enough and Scott's graded section of their U.S. Specialized Catalogue (now published separately) is only updated annually.

But colored cancel stamps? I've never seen a price change! The previous chart depicts price premiums for colored cancels from data that Scott elects to publish. Where does their data come from? Why is it not updated? There is no discussion about the origin for this data in the Scott U.S. Specialized catalogue. I am contemplating calling Jay Bigalke, Scott catalog editor-in-chief, and having this discussion.

Colored cancels on some issues are extremely rare yet have paltry premiums listed in the catalogue. An exception is green which have high premiums but do come up at auction with some frequency. Others like violet, ultramarine and true orange, are so rare that only a handful are documented and rarely surface yet they do not command the value they deserve. As I share my gems with you, I will try to highlight what I am talking about.

In Case You Missed It... Yellow – the rarest of them all!



Only 10 certified examples with yellow cancels known to exist!

U.S. Scott# 11A var – 1982 & 2021 PF certs:

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, genuinely used, and has an added portion of a Black "9" manuscript cancel in India-type ink (sound)

Scott does assign a hefty premium for yellow but is it enough? I have not found solid auction data to make my own determination. They do double the amount for one on cover, yet most of the ones I have researched, the yellow cancel is not tied to the stamp (next 2 slides will enlighten us). Seems less appealing to me and certainly can't understand their reasoning.

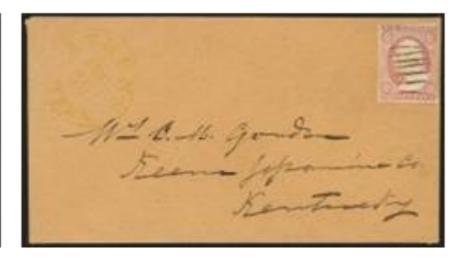
Rarity of Yellow Cancels:

R. A. Siegel Power Search

- A Siegel Power Search reveals only 3 genuine yellow cancels in the history of their auctions sincel 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





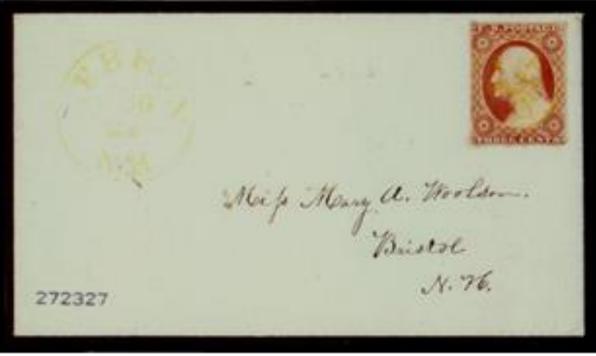


Rarity of Yellow Cancels:

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





Green – my fave!



<u>U.S. Scott# 9 – 2017 PF Cert:</u> Green Jackson, MI town postmark (sound)



<u>U.S. Scott# 10A - 2010 & 2022</u> <u>Certs:</u> Green grid cancel (sound F-VF 75)



<u>U.S. Scott# 11A – 2017 PF Cert:</u> Green town postmark (sound VF-XF 85)

As previously mentioned, green cancels command the 2nd highest premium yet appear with frequency at auction or for sale

Green – my fave!



<u>U.S. Scott# 24 – 2010 PSE &</u> <u>2022 PF Certs:</u> Olive Green C. D. S. postmark

Olive Green C. D. S. postmark (sound VF 80)



U.S. Scott# 26 - 2013 PSE & 2021 PF Certs:
Green grid cancel (sound XF-S

95)



<u>U.S. Scott# 65 – 2022 PF Cert:</u> Green 4-ring bullseye cancel (sealed tear/repair)

Green – my fave!



<u>U.S. Scott# 69 – 2008 PF Cert:</u> Green cork cancel (sound) Amazing "Emerald" Green!



<u>U.S. Scott# 78 – 2014 PF Cert:</u> Dark Green 5-ring target cancel (small corner crease, bottom right, ex. Wade Saadi)



<u>U.S. Scott# 114 – 1991 & 2013 PF Certs:</u> Green segmented cork cancel (sound)

One must settle for not as well-centered examples or even ones with minor faults if they want one in their collection! Any #78 bearing a green cancel has only appeared twice in a Seigel auction since the 80's

Violet & Ultramarine – rare and very undervalued



<u>U.S. Scott# 18 – 2005 & 2022 PF</u> <u>Certs:</u>

Plate 12, C Relief, Violet Ultramarine grid cancel (sound VF-XF 85)



<u>U.S. Scott# 69 – 1989, 2008 &</u> <u>2022 PF Certs:</u>

Ultramarine "12" in circle handstamp (sound)



<u>U.S. Scott# 162 – 2009 & 2022 PF</u> <u>Certs:</u>

Ultramarine intertwined "U.S." fancy cancel (sound)

Rare? You Bet! Only one other #18 with a violet cancel (a defective pair) has appeared in a Seigel auction – Scott premium, a paltry \$150. #69 with ultramarine, no other in Siegel's history – listed but unpriced in Scott. #73 with ultramarine, none in Siegel's history and the PF only has certified one pair on cover – Scott premium, \$150, hmm... hence my beef! *And the latter two with fancy cancels to boot!*

Closer Examination — Intertwined US Fancy Cancel *Thank you, Tom Lera!!*

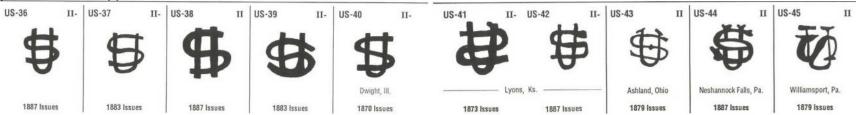






Using Photoshop and other tools, tricks to remove color or enhance certain aspects of an image can help accentuate the postmark more clearly!

Other examples of this type of cancellation:



References: 1) "United States Cancellations 1945 – 1969", Hubert C. Skinner and Amos Eno

2) "Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1970 – 1894", James M. Cole

Orange – surprisingly difficult!



<u>U.S. Scott# 1b - 1960, 2004, 2010 & 2022 PF certs:</u>

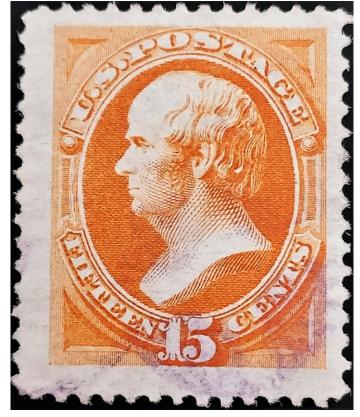
This is the rarer Orange Brown shade complimented by true Orange circular grid cancels (Sound VF 80)

Scott provides a reasonable premium for a true orange cancel. Could it be higher? My quest for an orange cancel rivals that of yellow. They are just not out there - for any issue. You can find orange-red or red-orange quite a bit but not a true orange. My research has only yielded a handful of other true orange canceled stamps.

Purple – very complimentary



<u>U.S. Scott# 90 – 1992 & 2022 PF Certs:</u> Purple cork cancel, (sound)



<u>U.S. Scott# 152 – 2010 PSE Cert:</u> Purple cancel (sound VF 80J)

Purple cancels are available to collectors if one is patient. In fact, most are inexpensive, especially on later issues. However, some command high premiums such as \$250 for a purple cancel on a 15-cent #152. The same stamp except with the secret mark, #163, only has a \$10 premium. Not sure why. Again, there is no explanation provided in the catalogue.

Purple – very complimentary



<u>U.S. Scott# 161 – 2002 &</u> <u>2022 PF Certs:</u> Purple cancel (sound XF 90)



<u>U.S. Scott# 187 – 2010 PSE</u> <u>Cert:</u> Purple cancel (sound XF 90)

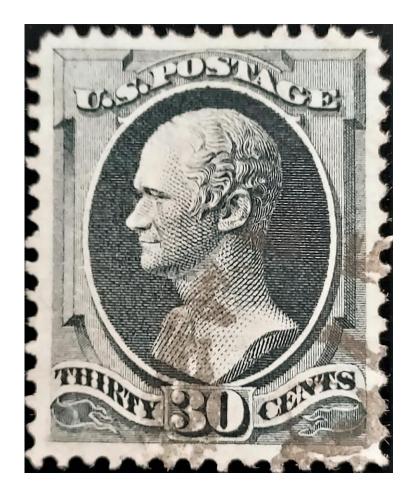


<u>U.S. Scott# 210 – no Cert:</u> Purple 4-ring cancel (sound)

Brown – extremely undervalued



<u>U.S. Scott# 11A – 2014 PSE Cert:</u> Brown C. D. S. cancel (sound VF 80)



U.S. Scott# 165 – 2008 PSE Cert: Brown cancel (sound XF 90)

Genuine Brown cancels are available, but very infrequently. So why are the price premiums so low? The #11A is only \$75 for Brown and the # 165 is a ridiculously low \$30



USYOPUS





U.S. Scott# 1 - 2005 PSE
Cert:

Red circular grid cancel (sound VF 80)

<u>U.S. Scott# 2 - 2012 PSE</u>
<u>Cert:</u>
Red grid cancel (sound XF-S 95)

<u>U.S. Scott# 8A - 2018 PSE</u>
<u>Cert:</u>
Red grid cancel (sound XF 90)

U.S. Scott# 9 – 2013 PSAG
Cert:

Red carrier cancel, position 74L1L (sound VF 80)



U.S. Scott# 13 - 2017 PF
Cert:
Red grid cancel (sound)



U.S. Scott# 17 – 2009 PSE
Cert:
Red grid cancel (sound F-VF 75)



<u>U.S. Scott# 21 – 2002 PSE</u>
<u>& 2022 PF Certs:</u>
Red New York Carrier postmark, position 37R4 (sound VF-XF 85)



U.S. Scott# 22 – 2003 APEX Cert:

Red circular grid cancel, position 38L4 (sound)



2021 PF Certs: Philadelphia octagon cancels (sound XF 90)



<u>U.S. Scott# 29 - 1998 & U.S. Scott# 37 - 2009 &</u> <u>2021 PF Certs:</u> Red postmark and Black Red grid cancel (sound VF-XF 85)



U.S. Scott# 63 – 2018 PSAG Cert: Red "Paid" C. D. S. cancel (sound XF 90)



U.S. Scott# 72 – 2019 PSAG <u>& 2022 PF Certs:</u> Red grid cancel (sound XF 90)



U.S. Scott# 90 "E" Grill – 1985 PF & 2015 PSE Certs: Red and Black cancels (sound)



<u>U.S. Scott# 91 – 1998, 2009</u> <u>& 2022 PF Certs:</u> Red cork cancel (sound, VF-XF 85 "XQ")



<u>U.S. Scott# 116 – no Cert:</u> Red fancy quartered cancel (sound)



<u>U.S. Scott# 150 – no</u>
<u>Cert:</u>
Red New York town cancel (sound)



<u>U.S. Scott# 151 – 2022 PF</u>
<u>Cert:</u>
Red Grid cancel (sound VF 80)

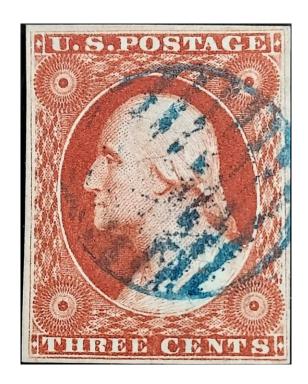


<u>U.S. Scott# 153 – no Cert:</u> Red cancel (sound)



<u>U.S. Scott# 155 – 2001 PF</u> <u>& 2005 PSE Certs:</u> Red town cancels (sound XF 90, ex. Nicholas Kirke)

Blue – lovely eye appeal



U.S. Scott# 10 - 2017 PF Cert: Blue grid cancel (sound)



<u>U.S. Scott# 10A – 2014 PSE</u> <u>Cert:</u>

Blue Appalachicola (FL) cancel (filled thin upper left corner)



<u>U.S. Scott# 30A – 2013 PF</u> <u>& 2014 PSE Certs:</u>

Purple 4-ring cancel (sound XF 90)



U.S. Scott# 88 "E" Grill – no Cert:

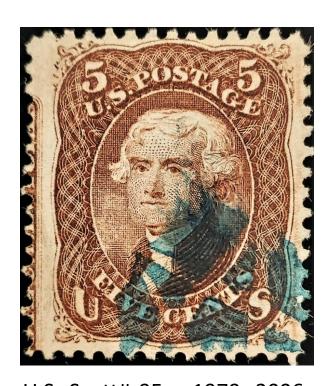
Blue fancy cancel (sound)

Blue – desirable Wells Fargo Express pair



<u>U.S. Scott# 35 pair – 1990, 1997, 2008 & 2022 PF Certs:</u>
Central strike of Blue "Wells Fargo & Co. Express 20 Oct." double-circle handstamp cancel (sound XF 90, ex. Dr. Vernon Morris)

Blue – lovely eye appeal

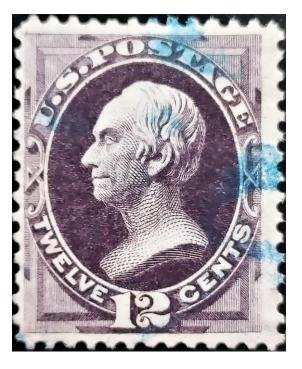


<u>U.S. Scott# 95 – 1979, 2006</u> <u>& 2022 PF Certs:</u> Blue segmented cork cancel, part imprint (sound, VF-XF

85 "XQ")



<u>U.S. Scott# 145 – no Cert:</u> Blue fancy cancel (sound)



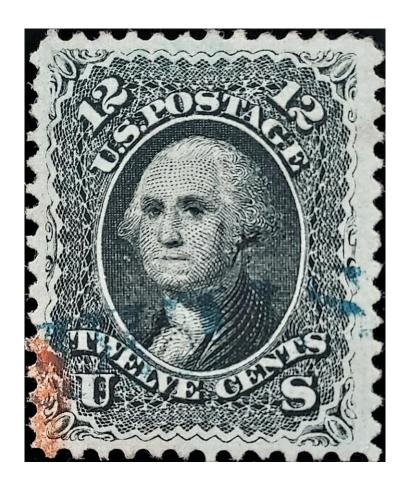
<u>U.S. Scott# 162 – no Cert:</u> Blue cancel (sound)



<u>U.S. Scott# 163 – 2003 & 2022 PF Certs:</u>

Blue quartered cork cancel (clear 2003 cert., small thin in left margin noted on later cert. – both PF)

Other colors or multiple colors – they all add pizzazz!



<u>U.S. Scott# 69 – 2009 PSE Cert:</u>
Blue and Red cancels (sound VF-XF 85)



<u>U.S. Scott# 188 – 2022 PF Cert:</u>

Magenta target cancel (faint crease top left corner)

Buyer Beware!!

- When it comes to colored cancels, other than the common red and blue, it is wise to get a valid and fairly recent certificate from an accredited service. More than half of the stamps sent in for authentication with less common-colored cancels are either altered of counterfeit
- My choice for consistency is the Philatelic Foundation (PF)
- As an example, the PF database for violet and ultramarine cancels show most are fake! Very few genuine examples exist

Here are some fake or altered stamps as submitted to the PF:



Cert# 308999:
AND WE ARE OF
THE OPINION
THAT
It Is Genuine With
AN ALTERED OR
COUNTERFEIT
YELLOW
CANCELLATION



Cert# 436539:
AND WE ARE OF THE
OPINION THAT
IT IS A GENUINE SCOTT 1,
BROWN SHADE, WITH A
MANUSCRIPT CANCELLATION
REMOVED AFFECTING THE
COLOR, AND A VIOLET
CANCEL FRAUDULENTLY
ADDED.



Cert# 505082:
AND WE ARE OF THE
OPINION THAT
IT IS A USED SCOTT 11A,
WITH A BLUE
PHILADELPHIA TOWN
CANCEL, PORTIONS OF
WHICH HAVE BEEN
REDRAWN IN
ULTRAMARINE

Closing Remarks / Comments / Questions