

1837 Post Office Seal & 1861 \$1 NW Bank Note to 1876 Centennial Envelopes



In 1837 the United States Postal Department (POD) adopted a seal depicting a post horse & rider with sack inscripted "U S Mail." From a 1775 Benjamin Franklin circular.



In 1869, the stamps issued focused on transportation and the advancement of the POD, not the usual images of well-known political figures. Postmaster General Alexander Randall put out bids in 1868, late in the term of unpopular President Johnson, to be issued in February 1869. President Grant was elected in 1868 and took office in 1869.

Inspired by the 1837 POD seal, the design for the stamp had a post horse and rider, a postman, and a sack with the inscribed letters "U S." This was the first U.S. stamp to bear an image other than a prominent American - **1869 2-cent stamp, Scott US No. 113.**



POD 1837
Seal



POD 1837 Seal – Reversed & Stretched

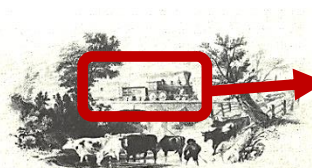


Scott US No. 113

In the same issue of stamps, the National Bank Note Co. used an image from "The Crossing," and from the One-Dollar North Western Bank note of Warren, PA, for a train image on the **1869 3-cent, Scott US No. 114.**



One-dollar bank note-August 1,
1861

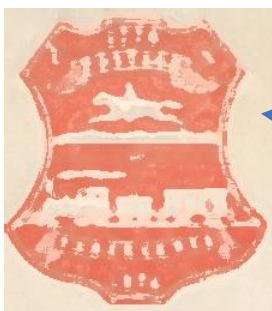


Die proof, "The
Crossing," by National
Bank Note Co.



Scott US No. 114

In 1870, a year after President Grant took office, Postmaster General John Creswell who was "saddled," so to speak, with the transportation contract and stamps initiated in 1868, recalled the 1869 issue.



1876 Scott U.S. No. U218
Die 71, Vermilion-Red

However, for the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial, the POD "stamped-envelopes" used the post rider, and locomotive with telegraph lines, **1876 3-cent Scott U.S. Nos. 218, 219, 220, 221.**



1876 Scott U.S. No. U221
Die 72, Green