

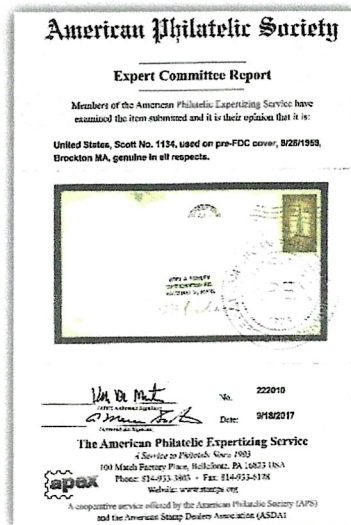
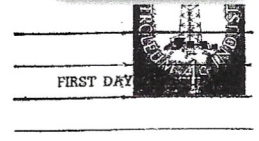
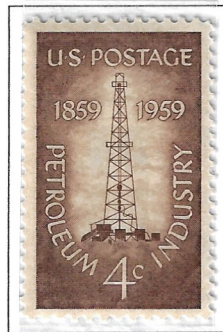
# Earliest Recorded Use of the Petroleum Industry Centennial Commemorative Issue of 1959

Anthony J. Curiale

On August 27, 1959, the USPOD issued the Petroleum Industry Centennial commemorative stamp in Titusville, PA to coincide with Edwin L. Drake's successful drilling of the first commercial oil well. Over 800,000 first day covers were serviced by the post office with one of the two cancels shown (2/3 original size) nearby.

The cover displayed below bears a copy of the Petroleum Industry Centennial commemorative stamp with a circular date stamp machine cancellation reading BROCKTON/MASS AUG 26/10 AM/1959.

The cover was sent for an expert opinion for proof of pre-FDC commercial postal use and genuineness of cancel. The opinion favors its authenticity.



The cancel was likely made by a cancelling machine made by the Universal Stamping Machine Company of New York which first appeared in 1909, and various models were in use for many, many years. About 1920, Universal was taken over by the Pitney-Bowes organization, but Universal machines remain on the market to this day and were likely in use in Massachusetts in 1959.

