

1876 Centennial Exhibition: New Philatelic, Transportation, and Technical Machine

American Topical Association "My One-Page Exhibit"; By Dr. Bill DeWitt, Bill@DeWitt.com

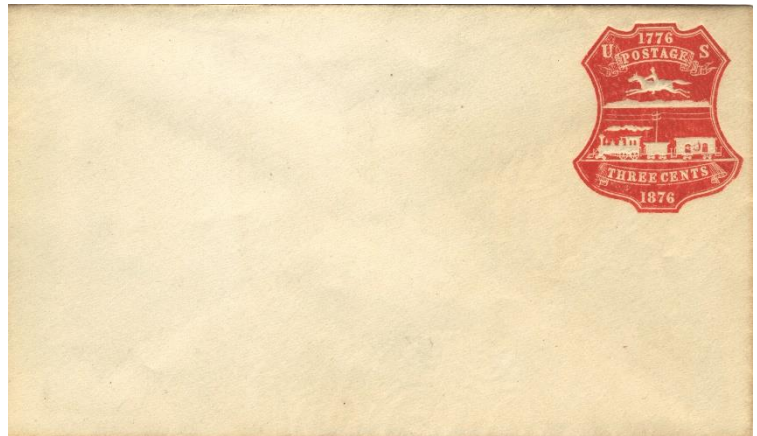
Purpose: To show how a philatelist might have observed new envelopes with embossed transportation stamps, manufactured at the 1876 Centennial Exhibition, traveled on the new Southern Central Rail Road from Auburn, New York to Philadelphia, and seen a new typewriter create a typed address on an embossed stamp envelope.



At the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, the United States Post Office Department created embossed stamps on "Centennial Stamped Envelopes. They are of two sizes- No. 3, full letter, and No. 4 ½, commercial; of but one grade of paper – first-quality white; and of but one denomination – 3 cents. The embossed stamp is in the form of a shield, inclosing [sic] a mounted post-boy; train of cars, and telegraph pole and wire, as the principal figures...the full letter size is printed in green, and the commercial size in vermilion."¹



The embossed stamps were printed on Plimpton envelopes which had been made on an "envelope-making machine which, working from the blank piece of paper, embossed, gummed, folded and counted the completed envelopes in groups of 25."²



A traveler from Auburn, NY, to the 1876 Centennial Exhibition may have taken the Southern Central Railroad which had been

chartered in Auburn, N.Y. in 1865. The Southern Central began operation from Sayre, PA to Fair Haven, NY in 1871-1872. Travel to the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition on October 9, 1876, as shown on this S.C. R.R. ticket³, was possible on the newly completed railroad.



Sholes & Glidden
Typewriter 1876
(Remington No. 1)

At the 1876 Centennial Exhibition many new technologies were shown and among them was the new Sholes and Glidden typewriter, patent purchased by Remington in 1873 (sold as

Remington No. 1). The new typewriter technology was used on a limited basis to address the embossed Plimpton envelopes manufactured at the U.S. Post Office Department Exhibition kiosk.



In 1876, a philatelist from Auburn, N.Y.

could have ridden the new Southern Central Rail Road from Auburn, NY to Philadelphia, observed the creation of a Plimpton envelope with an embossed stamp, and seen the envelope addressed with the new typewriter.

¹ (Signed) E.W. Barber, Third Assistant Postmaster General. May 23, 1876

² U.S. Commemorative and Special Printed Envelopes: 1876-1965, Maisel, Wm. H., 1974, pg. 4

³ Office of the Historian, Sterling, N.Y.