

## THE AEF BOOKLET PANE STAMPS OF 1917

The United States entered the war on April 6, 1917 and prepared to send large numbers of men to fight in Europe. At first, soldiers could send first class mail from the Army Post Offices in France to the U.S. at domestic rates (*Postal Bulletin* of June 18, 1917) so it was expected that large quantities of 1 and 2 cent stamps would be required for mailing postcards and letters to folks at home. For convenience, it was decided to print special booklets containing 10 panes of 30 stamps each. The first batch of 500 booklets of each denomination was shipped from the Bureau of Engraving & Printing in July and arrived in France in early August. A much larger second shipment of 2,500 of each of the booklets followed a month later.

Because of the way in which they were printed, the stamps from the AEF panes were different from other varieties with Washington images. In order to get panes of 30 stamps each, the paper was rotated 90° on the press from the orientation used to produce sheet stamps. As a result, the output was of 360 stamps per print as compared to 400 when four panes of 100 normal stamps were printed. During this process, the paper was moistened and when the stamps dried, they shrank slightly relative to the grain so that the stamps from the AEF panes were a little wider and shorter than those from sheets.

The expected major use of these stamps never came about because the troops were granted free franking for first class mail sent from the APOs as of October 4, 1917 by act of Congress. Thus, most use of stamps from the AEF panes tends to be multiple franking to pay the 10¢ fee for registered mail and to pay postage on mail of non-military personnel (i.e. war correspondents, staff members of the American Red Cross, YMCA and similar organizations, and certain others permitted to use the APOs but not exempt from postage).



Registered cover franked with both AEF booklet pane stamps, sent from APO 706 at the General Headquarters at Chaumont, France.

Because of the events described above, AEF booklet stamps have always been scarce. It is believed that no more than 20 mint panes of the 2¢ stamp and no used panes have survived. The largest used multiple of the 2¢ stamps is a block of 29; the largest multiple on cover is a block of 24 used to mail a newspaper. Examples of solo 1¢ stamps on postcards are especially scarce, primarily because this rate became obsolete with the imposition of the one cent war tax on November 2, 1917.



THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

21 EAST 40<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

EXPERT COMMITTEE

No. 0266937

11/30/92

We have examined the enclosed item, of which a photograph is attached, and described by the applicant as follows:

Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Cat. No.	Issue	Denom.	Color
498f	1917	1¢	green
<small>Scott's unless otherwise specified.</small>			
499f	1917	2¢	rose

SINGLES FROM BOOKLET PANES OF 30 WITH 10¢ ON REGISTERED COVER TO WESTFIELD, NJ, U.S. MILITARY EXPRESS SERVICE REGISTRY CANCEL.

AND WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT:

IT IS A GENUINE USAGE THE 10¢ STAMP WAS TORN BEFORE USAGE. \* \* \* \* \*

A 125623

*Richard Champagne*

For The Expert Committee  
ACTING Chairman

Submitted by

RICHARD A CHAMPAGNE LTD

MINT 1 CENT AEF  
BOOKLET PANE



300  
1 CENT POSTAGE STAMPS  
\$3.

The special booklets each consisted of ten 30-stamp panes with appropriate covers and interleaving. Nearly all of the booklets were notoriously centered this example of a full pane is well above the average in this respect.

**MINT 2 CENT AEF  
BOOKLET PANE**



**300  
2 CENT POSTAGE STAMPS  
\$6.**

While 1 cent booklet panes are uncommon, the 2 cent panes are 20th Century rarities. Estimates by various authorities are that only 12 to 20 mint panes have survived.

No. 22 264

Jan 10

19 66

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION  
22 EAST 35TH STREET  
NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the enclosed USA

1917 2c. rose Scott #499f booklet pane

of 30 unused o.g.

submitted by Jack E. Molesworth Inc.

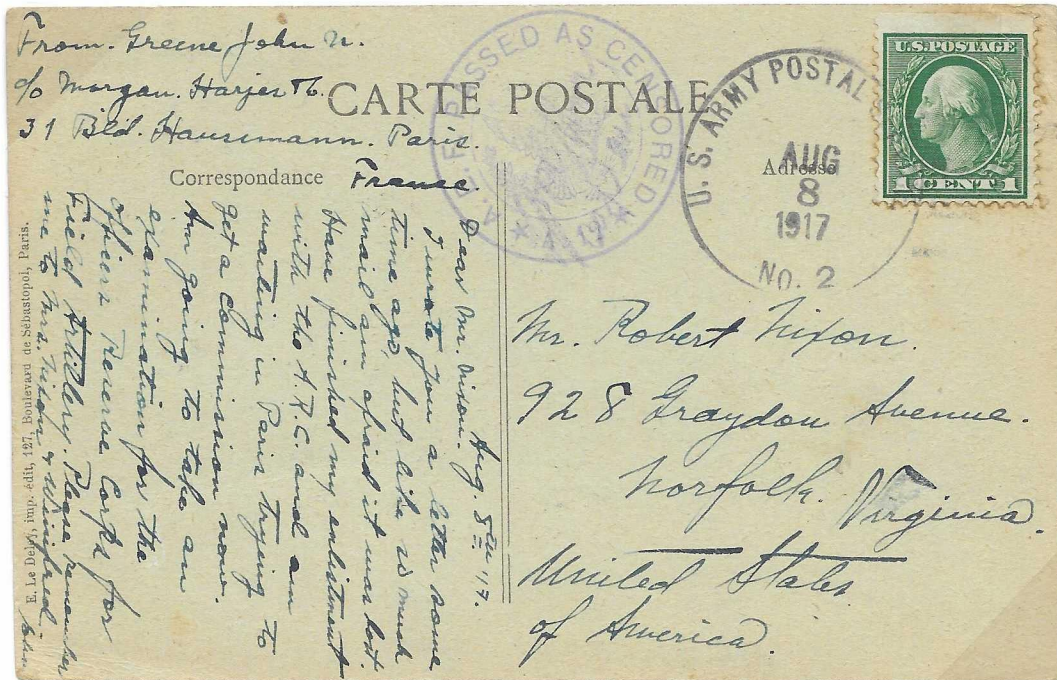
of which a photograph is attached and are of the opinion

that it is genuine

For The Expert Committee  
Chairman



**1 CENT AEF PANE SINGLE  
EARLIEST RECORDED USE**



Postmarked at APO No.2 (located at 29, Boulevard Bourdon in Paris) on August 8, 1917, this card is the earliest recorded use of the 1 cent AEF booklet stamp. Clearly from the July shipment from the Bureau, it then arrived in France early in August. The use of stamps from this shipment is extremely elusive, with only one other example during August having been reported (August 15).

The primary intended use for the AEF 1 cent stamps was for the mailing of postcards to friends and relatives back home. However, examples of such usage are quite scarce due to two factors. First, the troops were granted free franking of first class mail as of October 4, 1917. Second, the imposition of the war tax on November 2, 1917 meant that those civilians, such as war correspondents, Red Cross and YMCA workers, and other non-military persons entitled to send mail through the APOs at domestic rates, had to pay 2 cents for postcards henceforth.



The  
American Philatelic  
Expertizing Service



P.O. BOX 8000  
STATE COLLEGE, PA. 16803

CERTIFICATE: 112704



Members of The American Philatelic Expertizing Service have examined the item submitted and it is their opinion that it is

United States, single from Scott No. 498f, used on earliest documented cover (post card), 08/08/1917, genuine in all respects. - - -

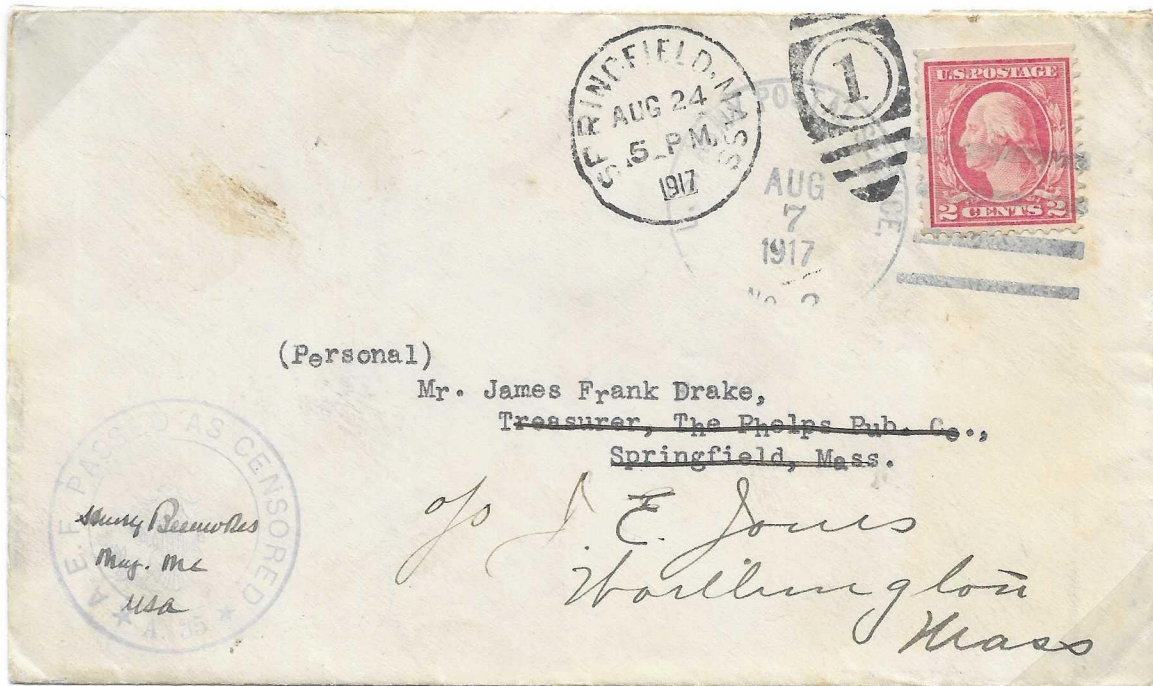
*[Handwritten Signature]*  
(APS Authorized Signature)

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
(ASDA Authorized Signature)

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
(Administrator Signature)

Date JUN 17 1938

**2 CENT AEF PANE SINGLE  
EARLIEST RECORDED USE**



Postmarked at APO No. 2 on August 7, 1917, this cover is the earliest recorded use of any AEF booklet pane stamp to pay postage on a soldier's letter from France. There is no return address, but the enclosure indicates that the sender was H.S. Middlemiss at "Hdqts. Amer. Exp. Forces, France."

The AEF booklet stamps were printed in large sheets of 360 subjects, the same as for the normal booklet panes of 6 stamps. However, the slitting of the sheets to produce panes of 30 was substantially different, which produced unusually wide margins on the top and bottom rows of the panes. This process is described in detail in an article in *The United States Specialist* June 1995 edition.

1917 Two Cent Rose, Type I, A.E.F. Booklet Pane Single

Earliest Documented Usage of Any A.E.F. Booklet Pane Stamp

# American Philatelic Society

## Expert Committee Report

Members of the American Philatelic Expertizing Service have examined the item submitted and it is their opinion that it is:

**United States, single from Scott No. 499f, used on earliest documented cover, 8/7/1917, genuine in all respects.**



505 EDU

#499f, tied by August U.S. Air as an end very earl Mass. wi ner creas

Upon the 1917 prep as civilian booklets tha value's book latelist, wro France arri philatelic re Philatelist" denominatio August of 19

Covers posted card usages be common fran was granted fr in November established as t two 2c covers here is not only the earliest do speculate that tl ment of bookle Tuesday August be that the stam possible date. Ac

*Robert E. Lamb*  
(APEX Authorized Signature)

*G. Mercer Busby*  
(Administrator Signature)

No. 125103

Date: MAR 16, 2000

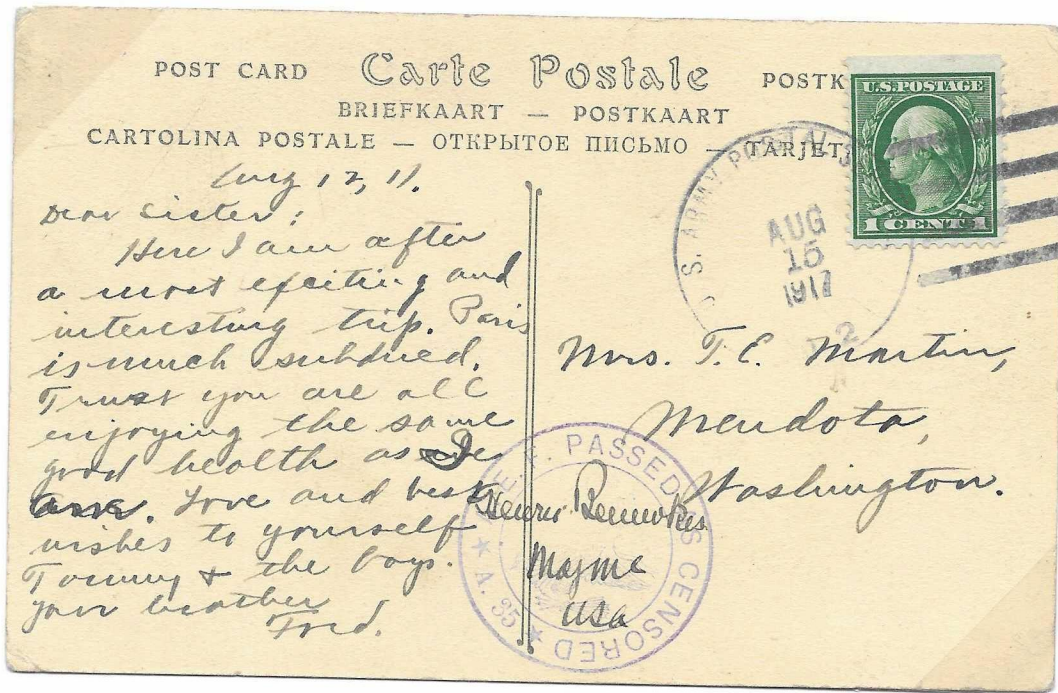
**The American Philatelic Expertizing Service**  
P.O. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803 USA

Phone: 814-237-3803 • Fax: 814-237-6128  
Website: [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org)



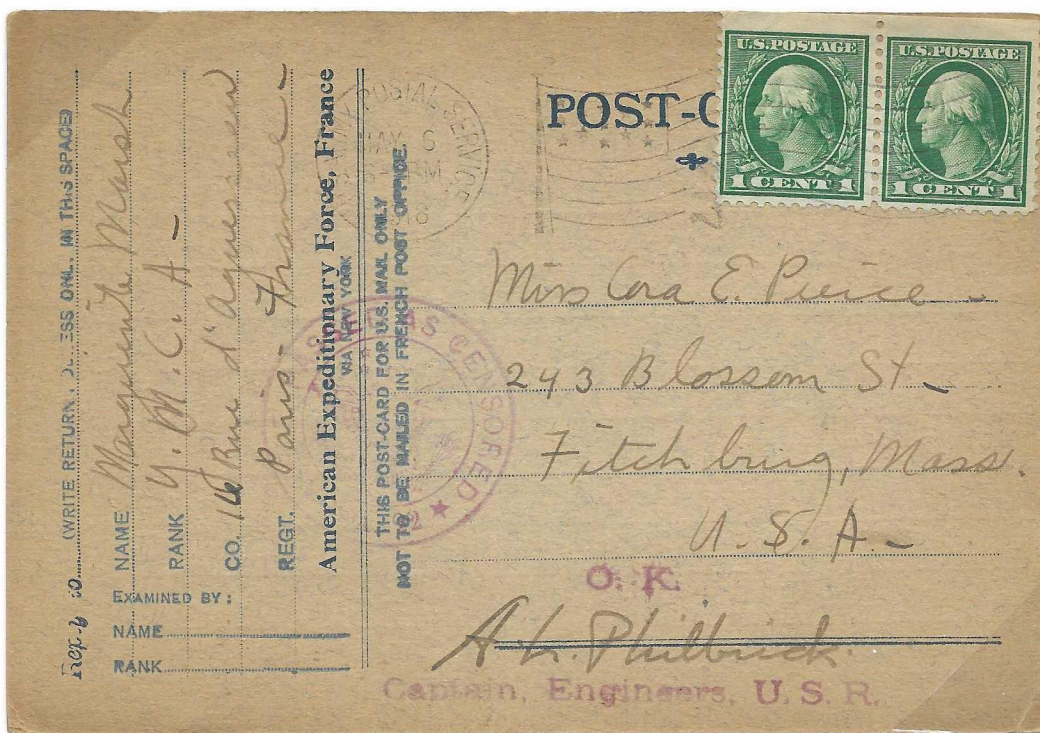
A Service of the APS Since 1903

1 CENT AEF PANE SINGLE  
USED ON POSTCARD



Postmarked at APO No.2 in Paris on August 15, 1917, this card is a proper use of the 1 cent single from an AEF pane prior to the imposition of the war tax. Whether mailed by a soldier or civilian is not indicated. This stamp was clearly from the first shipment from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, which arrived in France in early August.

**1 CENT AEF PANE STAMPS  
ON POSTCARD SENT  
BY A CIVILIAN**



Postmarked at APO 717 (located at Tours) on May 6, 1918, this postcard is franked with a pair of 1 cent AEF booklet stamps. Mailed by a female staff member of the YMCA in Paris, 2 cents postage was required.

**1 CENT AEF PANE STAMPS  
ON REGISTERED COVER**

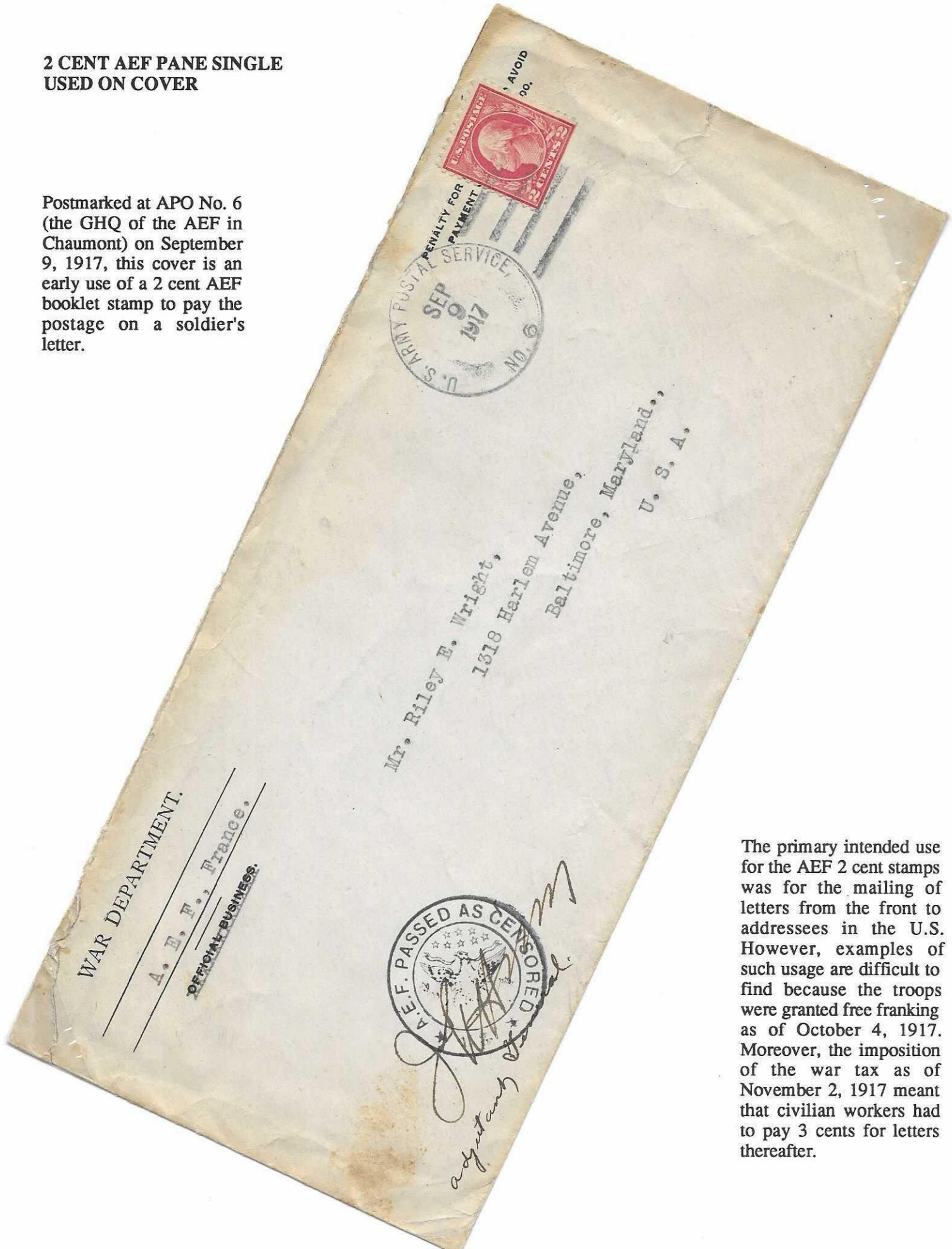


**Postmarked at APO No. 5 (located at Bordeaux) on Nov. 25, 1917, this cover is franked with a block of twelve 1 cent AEF booklet stamps. Mailed by a Lieutenant in the 18th Engineers, it is 2 cents overpaid as only the 10 cent registration fee was required after the free frank was granted for first class postage.**

Once the soldiers were granted free franking for their cards and letters, the principal military use of the AEF booklet stamps was to pay special service fees, such as registration. Covers so franked are scarce but can be obtained by diligent searching.

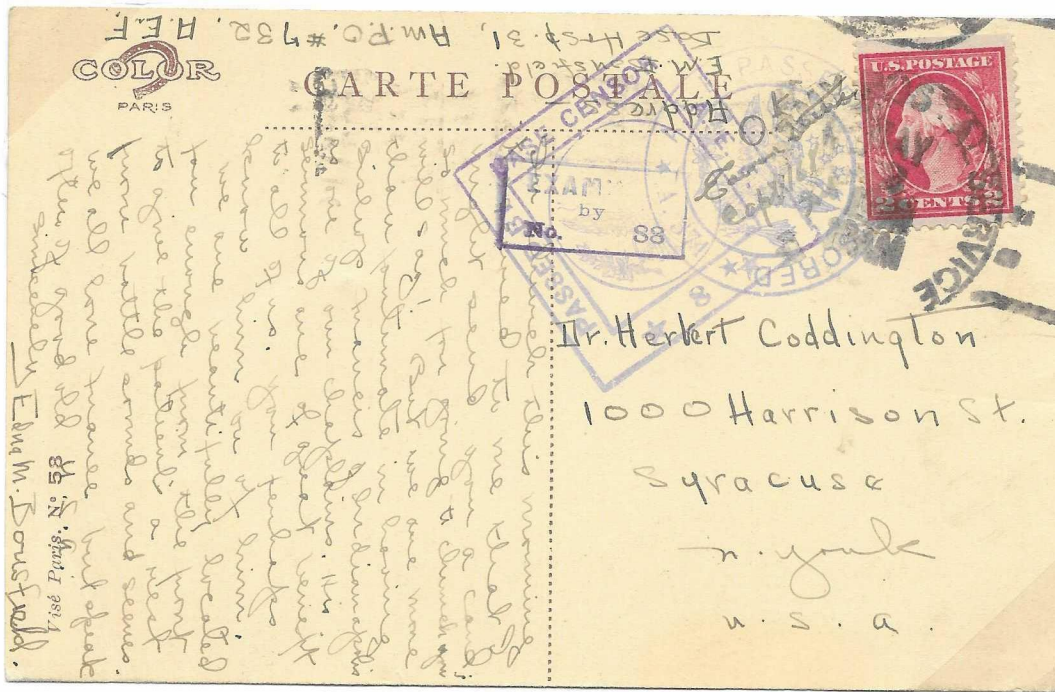
**2 CENT AEF PANE SINGLE  
USED ON COVER**

Postmarked at APO No. 6 (the GHQ of the AEF in Chaumont) on September 9, 1917, this cover is an early use of a 2 cent AEF booklet stamp to pay the postage on a soldier's letter.



The primary intended use for the AEF 2 cent stamps was for the mailing of letters from the front to addressees in the U.S. However, examples of such usage are difficult to find because the troops were granted free franking as of October 4, 1917. Moreover, the imposition of the war tax as of November 2, 1917 meant that civilian workers had to pay 3 cents for letters thereafter.

2 CENT AEF PANE SINGLE  
USED ON POSTCARD



Postmarked at APO No.782 in Chateau-Thierry on May 2, 1918, this card is a proper use of the 2 cent single from an AEF pane subsequent to the imposition of the penny war tax. Mailed by Edna Bousfield, a female assigned to Base Hospital #31, to a doctor in Syracuse, N.Y.

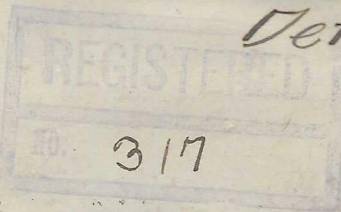
2 CENT AEF PANE STAMPS  
ON REGISTERED COVER

From Sgt. T. Wood  
Co. C, 16th Engrs (L)

43907



Miss Anne M. Davies  
290 Lincoln Av  
Detroit  
Michigan  
U.S.A.



SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE

For more than 1,000 branches throughout France

You will find Wells Fargo blank forms and instructions. You  
The identical form filled out by you is immediately sent by the  
SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE to us in PARIS and the payment order is  
dispatched by mail or cable to our New York office and thence to the  
address given by you. If by mail we send a duplicate by following  
steamer to ensure prompt payment should the original be lost.

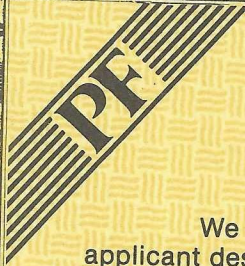


A block of 24, plus a single on the address label, of the 2 cent AEF stamps used to send the March 29, 1918 edition of the "Stars & Stripes" newspaper by registered mail from France to the U.S. This is the largest recorded multiple of these stamps on cover. The paper is postmarked on the reverse at APO 712 at Is-sur-Tille on April 8, 1918. Also applied was the April 26 receiving mark of Detroit, Mich. An extraordinary usage.

**USED 2 CENT AEF  
BOOKLET PANE  
STAMPS**



There are no recorded complete used panes of 2 cent AEF stamps. As mentioned in *The Postal History of the AEF, 1917-1923*, published by the War Cover Club in 1990, the block of 29 shown here is the largest known surviving multiple of used stamps.



THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

270 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

EXPERT COMMITTEE

No. 0130405  
4/09/84

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

Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Cat. No.	Issue	Denom	Color
499f	1917	2¢	rose

Scott's unless otherwise specified.

USED  
COMPLETE PANE WITH THE BOTTOM RIGHT STAMP  
MISSING AND PART OF THE SELVEDGE WITH AEF  
CANCELLATIONS

OF WHICH A PHOTOGRAPH IS ATTACHED AND  
ARE OF THE OPINION THAT:

IT IS GENUINE \* \* \* \* \*



For The Expert Committee  
CO- Chairman

**2 CENT AEF PANE STAMPS  
ON REGISTERED COVER**



**Postmarked at APO No. 728 (Army Artillery HQ) on Apr. 14, 1918, this cover is franked with an irregular block of five 2 cent AEF booklet stamps. Mailed from the 7th Aviation Instruction Center, the stamps properly pay only the 10 cent registration fee.**

Note that although addressed internally within France, the same postage was charged to soldiers as if such mail had been sent to the U.S.

1 & 2 CENT AEF PANE STAMPS  
 USED ON COVERS SENT  
 BY CIVILIANS



Covers sent in summer 1918 by civilians entitled to use the APOs. For such mail, postage was required to be paid at the domestic rate of 3¢ for letters, including the penny war tax. These examples were sent by staff members at the YMCA headquarters in Paris to addressees in the United States.

1 & 2 CENT AEF PANE STAMPS  
TO A FOREIGN DESTINATION



Other than to Britain, Canada and France, AEF mail to foreign destinations is highly unusual. Obviously, such covers franked with booklet pane stamps are even more so. This cover from APO 705 to Denmark in May 1918 is one of only two examples recorded to that country. It was sent by Lt. Winding of the 18<sup>th</sup> Engineering Regiment to a relative in Copenhagen, where it was received 23 days later.

2 CENT AEF PANE STAMP  
USED ON REGISTERED LETTER  
TO A FOREIGN DESTINATION



While first class mail sent by soldiers was free of postage after October 1917, this did not apply to letters sent to foreign destinations, which were charged at the U.P.U. international rate of 5¢ per ounce. Part of this rate was paid by a 2¢ booklet pane stamp with other stamps added to pay the postage and registration fee. Mailed from APO 702 (in Paris) in July 1918, it was received in Corfu, Greece 19 days later.