In the January number, volume III, of this paper was given, what was then supposed to be, a complete list of these stamps; but since then, through the research of Mr. W.P. Brown, we are enabled to add another stamp to this interesting group. We refer to the New Haven envelope stamp, the *fac simile* of which heads this article.

This stamp was issued by Mr. E.A. Mitchel, the post-master of New Haven, about the year 1845, but as he was unfortunately destroyed his papers, is unable to give us the exact date. They were prepared for the same purpose as most of the other stamps of the series, *i.e.*: to give persons an opportunity of posting letters after the office was closed, which before stamps were used was impossible, as the money for postage had to be given to the post-office clerk with the letter, who usually stamped it with the word *paid* in red ink. The first one of these stamps we saw some four years since we suppose to be simply one of these “paid” hand stamps made more fancy than usual, which from the indistinct printing it very much resembled. About a year after we saw another one, and as this looked somewhat better concluded to try and find out something about it. We wrote to the P.O. department, and was informed that E.A. Mitchell was post-master in 1846, and then wrote to a gentleman of our acquaintance in New Haven, asking him to find out if Mr. Mitchell was still alive; but as he informed us that he had been dead several years, we let the matter drop, and was of course much pleased, to find Mr. Brown had succeeded in solving our doubts.

Since writing the above, the following article from the pen of Dr. J.A. Petrie has been handed us:

Within the last month or two, there has been discovered a new stamp, or rather an old one resuscitated, and to Mr. Brown belongs the honor of first describing it. His article, however, is of interest more particularly, in his relating how he discovered the stamp; as it really gives but few particulars concerning the history and other points of interest about it.

Mr. Brown in his article, says: “This stamp (of which he gives an illustration) we obtained in an old collection made up by a prominent lawyer of New Haven about eight years ago, which was stolen from him within a year and sold to us. The book containing his address, we applied to him for information about the New Haven stamp, which is a rather indistinct impression, printed in red with the signature of the P.M., in purple ink.

The owner was quite surprised at our letter as he had not seen the collection for several years, and supposed it lay in some old chest; but upon our returning it, he presented us with the stamp in question.”

So much for the way in which this stamp was discovered.

After this, Mr. B., goes on to give a few points as to the rates of postage, &c., but there are many facts as to number used, number printed, varieties and other questions relating to it, which I was anxious to have answered, and therefore I applied to Mr. E.A. Mitchell and made full inquiries concerning it.
I have received from him in a reply a letter, of which I append a copy.

New Haven, Ct., May 15, '71.

J.A. Petrie, M.D.

Dr., Sir,

Yours of the 6th and 13th are at hand. Being extensively engaged in business, I have but little spare time to devote to the Postage stamp matter. – My object in getting up this stamp was simply to accommodate the public, as I charged no profit. – The postage was uniform, 5c., for all distances, and weight I think, half ounce; same as at present, but prepaid.

As no letters could be paid after business hours or Sundays, these were convenient for that purpose as well as others, –

Many brought their own envelopes, and I only charged 5c., for the postage. –

The business of the office was so limited, that, to prevent objection by the P.O. Department, or forgery, I signed each one. –

The stamp (or die) is a small hand stamp, and was made by F.P. Gorham, then the principal engraver of New Haven, but now deceased. – I considered the whole matter at the time, of so little importance, that many minor facts in the case are entirely gone from my mind. – I think all were printed on white envelopes, and stamped in red ink and signed in blue ink. – Red ink (vermillion) was used as the office ink in stamping the letters, and think that must have been the color. –

It is possible that buff envelopes were used for a few, but probably not.

I have no way of knowing how many were printed, or when commenced and ended, as all my papers and accounts of current business of the office are destroyed. – The amount sold were few and probably not over 2,000 all together. – They being done by hand and with no motive of profit, they were not generally offered for sale. – I was appointed Post-Master, Sept. 12th, 1844, and was succeeded by John B. Robertson in 1852.

I cannot state the cost of the plate. –

The plate or stamp is a single short-hand stamp. The stamp is of brass. There was only one denomination, that being 5c. – The impression was always on envelopes. – I had not thought of the stamp since leaving the Post office until I received a letter from Mr. Brown, and after hunting up the stamp, I printed a few myself and sent him, writing on them, “canceled”. – Thinking possibly there might be some objection by the P.O. Department to my striking off impressions, I inclosed (sic) a copy to the P.M. Gen’l, giving a short history of it, and asking if there would be any objection to my furnishing some to friends and stamp collectors. Unlike his predecessors, C.A. Wickliffe, Cave Johnson and Mr. Collamer
under whom I served, who always required any respected letter to be answered, he has not given me any reply; this is my reason for writing canceled on those sent Mr. Brown. –

So far I have not had over 20 impressions issued. – If I had any on hand when I left the office they were destroyed, as stamps came in use the latter part of my term. I have had three applications for the die, and am offered as high as $100 for it. Parties also want a stereotype plate made, and others want 1,000 of the impressions.

As the original purpose was not to make money, so I shall positively refuse to sell any impressions, or sell the stamp. –

As the stamp seems to possess a centenial (sic) kind of value quite unanticipated by me, I have decided to place it in possession of the New Haven Colonial Historical Society.

I shall in a few days have a pad ready so that I can print a few perfect impressions, when I will send you a few more –

I have not as yet heard of any of the old envelopes coming to light. – As all originals had my own signature, of course I cannot furnish lots to dealers, even if I wished.

I am yours.

E.A. MITCHELL.