

Chapter 27 / Usage Graphs

For utility and ease of use, the usage graphs are presented in order of denomination, beginning with 1c.

Usage graphs were first prepared for single-rate (or fee) uses, and these are listed above graphs in boldface preceded by check-off boxes (☐). However, when the combination-rate uses were added next, they presented a problem because of their multiple-rate descriptions. As a solution, the “combos” are distinctively enclosed in description boxes that begin with the “&” symbol. Note: Readers of the first edition of the Prominent Americans field guide will note improvements to the Usage Graph format (see below).

How to Read the Usage Graphs

☐ **Airmail letter, domestic, 8c/oz. [mult]**

Jan 7 '63/M ○○○○○○○○○○ ○○○○○○○○○○○ ○○○○○○○○○○	Nov 19 '65/F ●● ●●●●	●●●●●●●● ●●●●●●●●●● <u>May 14 '66/Su</u> Jan 6 '68/Sa
4c Sheet untag.X2	6 mo	(1 yr, 7+ mo)

The graph above is adapted from “4c x 2 (8c) Usages” in the Prominent Americans field guide and is an example of a Usage Graph, using the major symbols which might be found within the graphs. It shows that the 4c Lincoln, first issued on Nov. 19 '65/F, was available for approximately six months to pay the 8c domestic airmail letter rate before a replacement stamp became available on May 14 '66/Su, and the 4c Lincoln was available about 19 more months to pay this rate during the time a more-specific stamp was available (from either the same series as the case here, the 8c Einstein, or a new series). Below is a breakdown of the parts of this graph to explain these details. (Many graphs are much simpler, with only one or two boxes.)

☐ **Airmail letter, domestic, 8c/oz. [mult]** ← *rate description(s)*

► **Rate description(s)** – above each graph in boldface is a list of rates, fees, and/or combinations that equal the given stamp value indicated. The type of usage (solo, multiple, etc.) is denoted in brackets at the end of the entry or entries that

apply (see Glossary near front for explanation of these types). Note that for combo rates and fees, they are listed in description boxes starting with “&”.

☐ **Airmail letter, domestic, 8c/oz. [mult]**

Jan 7 '63/M oooooooooooooo ooooooooooooooooo oooooooooooooo
4c Sheet untag.X2

← *stamp variety*

▶ **Stamp variety** – below the first box in each graph, the stamp varieties being charted are listed in **boldface**. Unless there are significant usage dates involved, additional varieties of the same stamp design are not assigned their own graphs but are listed here also. (If applicable, the approximate time each variety was available *prior* to the given rate is shown nearby, labeled with “/” for each year and “=” for each month.)

☐ **Airmail letter, domestic, 8c/oz. [mult]**

Jan 7 '63/M oooooooooooooo ooooooooooooooooo oooooooooooooo
4c Sheet untag.X2

← **graph** box with Rate Start, and months of Rate Period before stamp use (unshaded box)

▶ **Rate Period graph** (“before stamp” unshaded box) – the first box (graph) in this example is unshaded, which signals the rate timeframe *before* our stamp was issued. The first box (whatever shading) always shows the Rate Start date, and then some or all of the months for the given rate, depending on when the stamp was issued. **“Open” circles** (o) denote months of rate period in which the stamp was *not available* for use, **or no longer authorized** (*i.e., replaced precancels*). Bars (|) are placed to denote where calendar years end.

Some graphs differ in details from this example, depending on their rate and usage dates. For example, they might start with the second box used in our graph:

☐ **Airmail letter, domestic, 8c/oz. [mult]**

Jan 7 '63/M oooooooooooooo ooooooooooooooooo oooooooooooooo	Nov 19 '65/F ●● ●●●
4c Sheet untag.X2	5+ mo

← **graph** box shaded for rate while “stamp available”, and months of this period (solid frame & ● dots)

▶ **Rate Period graph** (“stamp available” shaded box) – a shaded box with **solid dots** (•) denotes months in which the stamp variety was *available*. If the stamp was on-sale prior to the rate, a shaded box is first with only solid dots after the

Rate Start date. Approximate timeframes are spelled out below applicable shaded boxes (here, "5+ mo" means the 4c was in-use over five months until a replacement came, or the rate ended). (Near the box will be a note like "/////=(avail 5 yrs, 1+ mo. prior)", showing how long ago the stamp was issued, using "/" per year and "=" per month.)

If the stamp became available *after* the rate started, as in this example, the stamp's initial release date is shown in boldface underline (near start of dots in the shaded box.) Here, **Nov 19 '65/F** is the 4c Lincoln untagged sheet stamp issue date.

<div style="text-align: right;">(dashed frame)</div> <div style="text-align: center;">↓ shaded box ↓</div>		
Jan 7 '63/M ○○○○○○○○○○○○ ○○○○○○○○○○○○ ○○○○○○○○○○○○	<u>Nov 19 '65/F</u> ●● ●●●●	●●●●●●●● ●●●●●●●●●● <u>May 14 '66/Su</u> Jan 6 68/Sa
4c Sheet untag.X2	6 mo	(1 yr, 7+ mo)

(usage ref. IKX1020)

► *Rate Period graph shaded box* ("replacement stamp") – if needed, a dashed-frame shaded box in a graph alerts you to the part of the rate period in which another stamp came along as likely replacement for the given Americana stamp design. (Some graphs don't have this box, if the rate ended before the Americana stamp is replaced.) The non-boldface date which is underlined in a shaded box is the date of release for the replacement stamp. Note that the months of rate usage continue until the end of the rate period, also noted by a given end-date that is always the last date in each graph (whatever the box's shading). In this example, the 8c Einstein was issued on May 14 '66/Su, so it served as likely replacement for "two 4c" Lincoln stamps, the subject of this Usage Graph (showing the domestic airmail letter rate of 8c per ounce from Jan. 7 '63/M through Jan. 6 '68/Sa).

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13c USAGES

Note: The 13c E&S could also have been prepared using local precancels or Mailer's Postmark Permit-allowed cancels; and the 13c coil using MPP cancels.

Notice the break-out of this issue's various production formats, based on different release dates... some of the designs in the series have dramatically different timeframes among their formats.

- ☐ **Airmail letter (USA, Mexico, Canada), 13c/oz; [†8] [solo] [mult]**
- ☐ **Int'l airmail, other articles ("AO"), > 2 oz, 13c/2-oz.* [p213] [add]**

Mar 2 '74/Sa oooooooooo oooooooooo	Oct 31 '75/F •• Dec 30 '75/Tu
13c bkl sgl 13c bkl sgl, vended	2 mo

Mar 2 '74/Sa oooooooooo oooooooooo	Nov 25 '75/Tu • Dec 30 '75/Tu
13c coil	5 weeks

Mar 2 '74/Sa oooooooooo oooooooooo	Dec 1 '75/M • Dec 30 '75/Tu
13c E&S, perf 11.2	1 mo

*- int'l rates ended 3 days later than domestic rates, Jan 2 '76/F.

- ☐ **4th-Class Library Rate 3 lb, 13c (7c 1st lb, 3c/addl lb). [solo]**

Jul 6 '75/Su oooo	Oct 31 '75/F •• Dec 30 '75/Tu
13c bkl sgl 13c bkl sgl, vended	2 mo

Jul 6 '75/Su ooooo	Nov 25 '75/Tu • Dec 30 '75/Tu
13c coil	5 weeks

Jul 6 '75/Su ooooo	Dec 1 '75/M • Dec 30 '75/Tu
13c E&S, perf 11.2	1 mo

[†31]

- ☐ **3rd-Class single-piece, ≤ 2 oz, 13c; [†21/22]**
- ☐ **Canada, Mexico surface printed matter & small packet, ≤ 2 oz, 13c. [p348] [solo]**

Dec 31 '75/W ●●●●●● Jul 17 '76/Sa	
13c bkl sgl	<u>6+ mo</u>
13c bkl sgl, vended	
13c coil	
13c coil, city-state precancel*	
13c E&S, perf 11.2	

== (bkls avail 2 mo. prior)
 = (coil, E&S avail 1 mo. prior)
 *- estimated made available in time (printing Nov 28, 1975).

(this graph, and more 13c usage graphs, continue from here in e-book, stopped here for demo.)



30c USAGES

(Competing 15c x2 usages possible in all cases, since 15c Flags issued a year prior. The 30c lines-only precancel is not broken out separately, since its use was primarily for mail-order fulfillment parcels by the largest catalog firms.)

- [] Int'l Surface letter (except Canada, Mexico), ≤ 1 oz, 30c; [p8]
- [] Aerogramme, 30c; [p210] [solo]
- [] Int'l Airmail, >2 oz & ≤ 32 oz, 30c/½ oz (\$1.40 1st 2 oz).* [p108-109] [add]

Jan 1 '81/Th ●●●●●●●● ●●●●●●●● ●●●●●●●● ●●●●●●	Sep 2 '84/Su ●●●● ●●
30c	3 yr, 8 mo
	Feb 16 '85/Sa ●●
	(5+ mo)

/===== (avail 1 yr., 4 mo. prior)
 *- additionally, per 1 oz > 32 oz.

- [] Int'l Surface printed matter (except Canada, Mexico), non-standard shape ≤ 1 oz, 30c. [solo]

Jan 1 '81/Th ●●●	Mar 21 '81/Sa	[p86,93]
30c	2+ mo	/===== (avail 1 yr., 4 mo. prior)

"Fantasy" Rarity Trivia

During the 15c letter rate era, from May 29 '78/M (through Mar 21 '81/Sa), 30c was the cost of registry service for each add \$1000 of indemnity, when mailing an item not under \$1 million value. I used to think these "fantasy" scenarios could only occur in contract stations where no post office meter was used (you know, two guys or gals walk up with a \$.001 million value packet in negotiable securities, having applied a meter back at the office for the \$354.55 registry fee with commercial insurance for \$1 million value. One interrupts the other talking to the clerk to point out the packet actually has \$1000 more (s/he was not aware of the other's meter task, but came along for security). So the clerk takes out a 30c Americana [after Aug. 23, 1979 of course] to remedy the underpayment....) But I now realize a post-office-affixed stamp to a previously metered item at the counter could occur at any post office where the meter machine was inoperable at that moment. [t35/36]

Late uses, 30c

[] 30c Parcel Airlift (PAL) Surcharge, ≤ 2 lb, Mar 22 '81/Su – 1990's, years past 30c Laubach Sep 2 '84/Su issue date. [add]

Irregular / contingency uses, 30c

[] 30c x3 (90c) 4th-class BPM sgl-pc rate, Zones 1&2, >7 & ≤ 8 lb, Mar 22 '81/Su - Oct 31 '81/Sa.
 [] 30c x3 (90c) 4th-class BPM sgl-pc rate, Zone 3, >5 & ≤ 6 lb, Mar 22 '81/Su - Oct 31 '81/Sa. [BPM: t33/34][mult]