

IMPERFORATE TRIAL COLOR PROOFS ON STAMP PAPER



*2c Olive Green & 18c Light Brown Official - Only Examples Recorded
20c Yellow Official - Three Examples Recorded*

Imperforate trial color proofs on stamp paper are known only for the 2c regular postage, 18c official and 20c official. These examples are printed on gummed stamp paper and are all overprinted "Cancelled" in red. These trial color proofs were printed prior to the regular issues and prepared as trials, not only regarding color, but also to test printing on gummed stamp paper. While the black center establishes a later phase in production after the brown centers had been rejected, the frame color on each shows the final color choice had yet to be decided. Overprinted "Cancelled" to prevent subsequent use, they were supposed to have been destroyed along with all the preliminary drawings, proofs, and perforation errors as Jose Topacio, Director of Posts declared in writing on January 28, 1927. When some of that material showed up in the hands of the public, several government investigations ensued and multiple lawsuits against the Director and postal employees were filed, alleging the archival material and errors were intentionally released or produced for profit. The Director was absolved and the Bureau employees were exonerated of complicity when it was concluded the material was made and released by accident or sold over the counter at face value.