



VERY FINE. A RARE EXAMPLE OF THE ONE-CENT 1851 ISSUE WITH CHICAGO PERFORATIONS. APPROXIMATELY 19 EXAMPLES ARE RECORDED. THIS IS ARGUABLY THE FINEST SINGLE EXTANT.

1c Blue, Ty. II, Chicago Perf 12-1/2 (7 var). Brilliant color, lightly cancelled by numeral handstamp with "1" showing on stamp, well-balanced margins, single soiled perf top at left

The origin of the Chicago perforation was revealed in an article published by Jerome S. Wagshal in the *Chronicle* 130 (May 1986). To briefly summarize Mr. Wagshal's revelations, the inventor of the machine used to create the Chicago Perf stamps was **Dr. Elijah W. Hadley**, a Chicago dentist. He probably constructed the machine in 1854. Over a two-year period, beginning in November 1854, **Dr. Hadley's** device was offered for sale to the Post Office Department thru R. K. Swift, a prominent Chicago banker and businessman. The distinctive 12-1/2 gauge Chicago Perf was applied to sheets of the 1c (Plates 1 Late and 2) and 3c 1851 Issue, the former being considerably rarer. According to the census of Chicago Perf items compiled by W. Wilson Hulme II (*Chronicle* 175, Aug. 1997), a total of 19 examples of the 1c Chicago Perf have been recorded, comprising 2 unused, 5 used on included in this .covers and 12 used off cover (including a strip of three). (We thank Dave Roepke for some of the data that has been included in this article)

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“Always live within your income, even if you have to borrow money to do so”. ~ Josh Billings

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