

STUNNING RECENT FIND

The 1912 Chicago Local TB Issue Tied

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This recent find is *quite* special. Because of this seal it will be considered one-of-a-kind. There are multiple enhancements in addition to that. Before I present why this seal is special and even unique pasted on postcard I do need to cover what's known about it. That will require a little bit of history.



1912 National Seal

Christmas Seals began in the United States in 1907 as a local endeavor sold in Delaware State and in Philadelphia PA. The American Red Cross took the seal sale nationally in 1908. The 1912 seal was only the fifth National Christmas Seal and processes from creation and printing to delivery and distribution were still being refined. But most importantly seal sales generated money to fund the Anti-Tuberculosis effort of the American Red Cross. And there lay the problem(s) that might have lead to the creation of the Chicago Local look-a-like issues of 1912 - 1914.

The first likely problem to cause the creation of a Chicago Illinois 'local issue' for 1912 was demand for the stamps and product shortages. More than a few large metropolitan areas in the country realized shortages and resorted to having local printings done. We believe this was with and without the necessary permission. These are found listed in the National Christmas Seal catalog for the recognized replacements but also in the U.S. Local TB Christmas Seals catalog.

A second possible reason Chicago had knock off seals printed was political. The arrangement with the American Red Cross was they supply the material and method while State and Local chapters would supply the manpower and distribution and then owe the National a certain percentage of the money raised, after the state and locals had purchased the materials to begin with. So there were breakaway organizations and one case of entire state deciding to produce their own Christmas Seal and keep everything.

I believe the thinking behind the Chicago Locals was that Illinois would be ready if relations with the American Red Cross soured or supply was not enough.



Above: The three Chicago Tuberculosis Institute 'Locals' Note the factious Union Label at bottom of each. It is made up of the figure 8 at left of a bow tie shape over oval with indistinct tiny lettering.

Reported decades ago in *Seal News* publication there was an attempt to identify the Union Label by someone in the Chicago area. This report stated that Union Label markings or logo must be registered to be legitimate. No record of this was found and it was considered bogus.

A Chicago Local seal is unusual and the catalog valuation and sales have defined them as rare. The recent 2019 US Local TB catalog revision by Mr. McInturff values a 1912 at \$400.00 They have held this sort of high value to collectors for many decades.

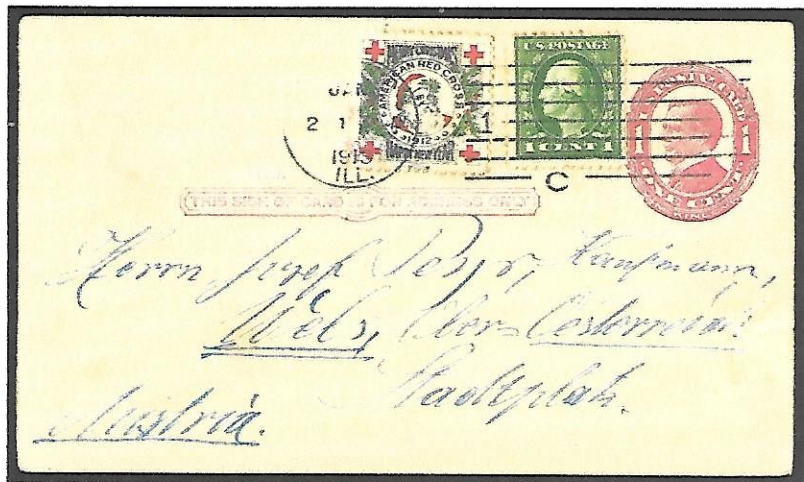
What hasn't been said thus far is that no usage of any of the three Chicago Local's was known or recorded. So it's been thought these were not available to the public or were not printed in the year of issue. This find does answer the year of printing. But doesn't really answer if these were in the public hands. Few entire sheets are known to exist and seem to transfer ownership only when entire collections are sold.

Naturally this pertained to an item going out of the country which the Austria address confirmed. A nice enhancement is a tied seal to foreign destination.

My eye was caught by the Santa image appearing weak, although it wasn't. But it seemed odd. I used the magnifier on my computer on the date stamp to confirm it was Chicago ILL Jan 2 1:30 AM and that the seal was not a worn plate print. Instead what I saw was the fake union label belonging to the Chicago TB Institute making this a rarity item. But better still it's an unknown usage of this rarity neatly tied by two canceling postal marks. Ridiculously great.

The Chicago creations vary some from the originals as none of those three years were exact copies reproduced with a Union Label inserted. They were, how shall I say it, inspired forgeries. It's still unclear to me if the National American Red Cross was aware of these at the time.

The message side of this post card is the final enhancement to this piece. It's the Happy New Year! greeting at the bottom.

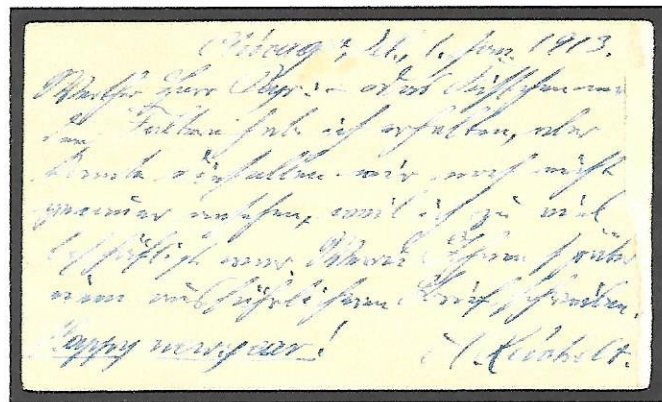


Address side of up rated postal card with 1912 Chicago Local tied twice; one date cancel, one US Foreign Mail auxiliary rubber stamp

When I first saw the above item listed on an on-line auction site, I didn't know what I was looking at. What I noticed was the faint rubber stamp left of the Christmas seal making this much more valuable than a regular 'tied' 1912 seal. And indeed it was the scarce New York City Foreign Mail Service rejection tying the seal to the card.

Not familiar with this oddity? When Christmas and other charity seals first became popular and their use on mail encouraged - there were countries that not only objected to their use on address side of card or cover but refused to accept them into their mail stream.

As a huge amount of foreign bound mail moved through New York City a four line rubber stamp was devised to notify the sender the specific reason for it's not being sent. It read: *'Christmas or other adhesive charity (stamps placed) on address side prohibited by the Country of destination. Foreign Section.'* This required the Foreign Mail Section to maintain a list of countries not allowing seals on address side but to also pay attention to seeking the offenders and reject them. So this was a *not so minor* enhancement to the tied seal, despite its weak impression.



Message side of the rarity dated Chicago Ill., 1 Jan. 1913 The English greeting at bottom confirms an 'enhancement'.

Christmas seals from 1907 Type II to 1919 included Happy New Year in the design, except 1913 which didn't. Early January postmarks are legitimate and proper usage for those years. Much harder to come by than the 4 week window for Christmas Greetings. It doesn't translate to more money but does confirm the entire reason for this rarity postcard being made.

Thrilled as I am - I intend to list this rarity on eBay, I believe mid-September.