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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 1870.

I have examined the envelope sent from Minneapolis to St. Charles, Illinois, posted on January 19th (1870?), with an embossed rectangular frame at upper-left and embossed inscription **"MINNE HA-HA",** and a photograph affixed in the frame depicting the Minne Ha-Ha Falls, franked with one postage stamp of the United States of America **"Locomotive",** 3 cents ultramarine, Scott Catalogue #114, cancelled and tied to the envelope by the duplex **"MINNEAPOLIS / MIN. / JAN 19",** and no other postal markings, a colour reproduction of which is on the reverse side of this certificate, in true size, and am of the opinion that:

The envelope, photograph and postage stamp affixed, and postal marking mentioned above are **genuine in all respects.** The postage stamp has a small unobtrusive fault. The envelope itself is in fresh and very fine state of preservation. The envelope was especially created with machine embossing in order to carry this photograph. As such, it represents the invention of a new way of using photographs, to enhance a mailed article or to convey a message through a picture. Although photographs of this type existed before 1870 (*), I have no record or knowledge of an earlier photograph used to decorate an envelope. It is, in my opinion, a very early example, if not the first, in the category of photographic picture envelope or photographic picture postcard. It is a very rare illustrated cover. I have signed it on the reverse side.

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(*) It was a photograph of Minnehaha Falls which inspired Henry Wadsworth Longfellow to write his famous poetry about Hiawatha.

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