

A Primer on Boyd's City Express Post
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Boyd's City Express of New York City was one of the first local posts operating in the US, and endured government pressure to close down longer than any other post. As a result, many stamps and covers were issued and serviced, thereby making it easy to develop a good collection of both stamps and covers.

Brief History of the Post¹

John T. Boyd opened his post for business on June 17, 1844 at 45 William Street, next to Wall Street, in downtown Manhattan. He advertised two deliveries daily at 9am and 3pm for two cents up to 26th Street. He also advertised deliveries to Brooklyn for three cents² and letters to the press for free.³ In addition, Boyd advertised that he would handle money deliveries only if they were registered at their office. On such covers, the signature of "J. T. Boyd" is seen as the registry agent. On Sept. 30, deliveries increased to four per day, at 9, 12, 2 and 4 o'clock. Postage to Brooklyn was reduced to two cents.

During 1844, Boyd's maintained business by delivering mail for independent mail companies, at first with Pomeroy's Letter Express and Pullen & Co.'s Express, later with American Letter Mail Company, Well's Letter Express, Hale & Co., and on occasion with other companies (Figure 1). Although he advertised the placement of 200 collecting stations (probably mail-boxes) from the beginning, conjunctive covers during the first few months of operation are seen more often than local delivery covers. Deliveries to the US post office for out of town delivery are rarely seen until early 1845.

Although Boyd's initially delivered mail from out of town for independent mail companies, primarily Pomeroy's, the Act of Congress effective July 1, 1845 largely eliminated the carriage of mail between cities except by postal workers or contractors. Boyd's was apparently not permitted to pick up US mail from out of town for local delivery, although exceptions exist. Thus, Boyd's postal business involved intra-city delivery of mail and delivery of letters to the Post Office (or to a PO collection box) from this time until around 1885.

¹ Other sources provide a more detailed history of Boyd's, notably Donald Patton's book *The Private Local Posts of the United States* and Henry Abt's unfinished series of articles in Robson Lowe's *The Philatelist* in 1950. There have also been several articles in *The Penny Post* detailing Boyd's stamps, postal history and history of operations.

² Since Brooklyn and New York operated US post offices, the rate between the two cities was five cents for letter mail. Here Boyd's is already competing with the post office, or at least attempting to compete. Letters carried by Boyd's to Brooklyn in 1844-45 are scarce.

³ Greig's 1842 New York City Despatch Post was the first to advertise free carriage of mail and newspapers to the editors of the "Public Press."

Boyd's increased its intracity and to-the post-office business throughout 1845. At the same time, the government's City Despatch Post was declining, and closed late in 1846 (Mead almost immediately re-opened the post under private management.) Other posts sprang up in the 1844-45 time period that offered some competition with Boyd's, including Cummings' City Post, Dupuy & Schenck's City Dispatch Post, Hanford's Pony Express, Barr's Manhattan Express Post and the Franklin City Dispatch. Later, Bouton's City Dispatch, Hall & Mills Free Dispatch Post, New York City Express Post and Stone's City Post joined in the competition for letter mail business in New York City. In January of 1847, Aaron Swarts opened his post in the old Chatham Square Branch of the New York post office. He later bought John Bouton's post and became Boyd's largest competitor.



Figure 1. Boyd's used conjunctively with Pomeroy's Express, Aug. 1, 1844.

In January 1849, the government returned to the city delivery business and placed 25 "stations" for the deposit of letters, which made four daily collections and deliveries, while introducing their simply designed "U. S. Mail/One Cent/Pre-Paid" stamp (Scott No. 6LB9). Boyd quickly advertised that he had over 1000 collection boxes, one in nearly every block below 50th Street. In 1849, Boyd's introduced diecut stamps, reportedly in small boxes at a premium above their usual charge of two cents per stamp. Boyd recognized the convenience of stamp separation for firms who needed larger quantities to prepay their mail, and the number of diecut stamps on cover is testimony to their popularity. The US government did not routinely adopt perforations until 1857.

Frustrated in its attempts to gain the revenue and control of local delivery of letter mail, the US Congress passed an act on March 3, 1851, that designated the streets of New York City to be postal routes. The Franklin and Eagle carrier stamps (Scott Nos. LO1-

LO2) were intended to permit prepayment of local mail left in US boxes or with the carrier. Letters delivered from the mails were due two cents on delivery; the New York post office rarely if ever allowed private posts to pick up mail for local delivery during this period. However, Boyd boldly advertised in August of 1851 that he would continue his local delivery services, and ignored the 1851 Act. Others like Blood's of Philadelphia did likewise.

The depression of 1857-58 probably set Boyd's business back, but the economy recovered in 1859. John T. Boyd died on June 8, 1859, and his 17 year-old eldest son, John T. Boyd, Jr., took over the business. Unfortunately for Boyd's, Joseph Holt was appointed Postmaster General in March, 1859; Holt was determined to eliminate the remaining private posts. He installed locked mail boxes on the streets of New York City in November, 1859, so that citizens could drop mail in them after the drug stores, stationers, and other places that collected mail for Boyd's had closed for the day. He also recommended to Congress that the drop letter charge be dropped in favor of only a carrier charge to, from or through the post office.

In May, 1860, Boyd Jr. reduced the rate for the first time in its history to one cent for all classes of mail. At about the same time, Kochersperger, the new proprietor of Blood's Penny Post in Philadelphia, defied the new governmental notice concerning post roads. The government took Kochersperger to court, but lost, because carrying mail on streets not used by mail carriers was deemed legal according to the law.

Nonetheless, the young Boyd closed his post on August 1, 1860, and sold it to William and Mary Blackham late in 1860. The Blackhams announced the re-opening of the post on Dec. 24, 1860 (Figure 2). The Blackhams restored the two cent fee for local delivery of mail, but provided a one cent rate for delivery to the post office and for circulars and magazines. The Blackhams subsequently relocated the office to 39 Fulton Street late in 1862, and began delivering rail and steamer timetables to its customers free of charge, paid for by advertising. The Blackhams made a brief exploration of the philatelic market by issuing gold stamps on colored papers (Scott Nos. 20L20-20L22.)

**BOYD'S
CITY EXPRESS,
OFFICE, 45 WILLIAM ST.**

The former business of this Office will be resumed December 24th inst.

Letters Deposited	}	7 o'clock, A. M.	}	will be sent out	}	9 o'clock, A. M.
before	}	10 " " "	}	for delivery	}	12 " " "
		12 " P. M.				4 " P. M.

Postage, 2 Cents.

LETTERS FOR POST OFFICE, 1 CENT.

CIRCULARS, 1 CENT.

Figure 2. Business card announcing re-opening of Boyd's by the Blackhams.

More importantly, they turned to bulk collection and delivery of circulars, bills, notices and pamphlets, and apparently began maintaining address lists. In 1864 Boyd's introduced its first stamped envelopes, which are rare today. For reasons that are not clear, Boyd's was able to continue its business of local mail delivery until US Government officials raided it on May 4, 1883 along with another competitor, George Hussey. Fines were imposed but the posts carried on their business. It appears that Boyd's local delivery of mail ended around 1885. Hussey's closed in 1890, while Boyd's turned to the development and sales of mailing lists and address labels, and as of today they are still in business as an alumni search service.

Boyd's Rates Compared with NYC Post Office Rates

The rate for Boyd's mail service was two cents until May of 1860, when it was reduced to one cent. On re-opening of the post by the Blackhams, letters to the mail were delivered for one cent and local deliveries were performed for two cents. Probably in 1877, Boyd's prepared subsequent issues with no value stated, and presumably reduced its rate to one cent. However, there could have been different rates for different classes of service, but no advertising or other documentation has been found.

It is useful to compare Boyd's rates with those of the NYC Post Office. Roth has analyzed this subject thoroughly, and the following table abstracts the data relevant to the kinds of mail Boyd's might handle in competing with the Post Office.⁴ We can refer to these categories of mail handling as (1) carrier pickup and delivery of local mail, (2) drop letters "to the Mails," (3) left at the PO "for the Mails," (4) drop plus carrier delivery, (5) drop letters for pickup at the PO by the addressee, (6) carrier pickup plus drop, and (7) carrier delivery "from the Mails."

The New York Post Office charged more when a letter was dropped at its office for carrier delivery than if it were placed in a collection box for local delivery (until 1860). It only cost one cent from 1849-60 to leave an addressed letter in a US collection box for carrier delivery, yet it cost two cents to put it in the box for deposit at the Post Office for the addressee to pick it up as a drop letter. These rate differences certainly suggest that the least expensive way to deliver a letter from within New York City was to place the street address on it and leave it in a collection box!

At two cents, Boyd's rate for local mail delivery was more than the Post Office's rate of one cent from 1849-60. Yet, Boyd's maintained a prominent position in providing this service, as the comparatively larger number of surviving Boyd's postal examples suggest.

⁴ Roth, SM. Summary of drop letter and carrier postal rates, New York City (1794-1885). *The Chronicle* 26(4): 210-212, (Nov) 1974.

	6/1/1794 to 6/30/1845	7/1/1845 to 6/30/1851	7/1/1851 to 4/2/1860	4/3/1860 to 6/30/1860	7/1/1860 to 6/30/1863	7/1/1863 to 6/30/1885
Placed in collection box for carrier pickup and intra-city delivery	2c	2c (1c in Feb 1849)	1c	1c	1c	2c
Placed in collection box for out of town delivery	NPR	NPR + 1c	NPR	NPR + 1c	NPR + 1c	NPR
Left at PO for out of town delivery	NPR	NPR	NPR	NPR	NPR	NPR
Drop at PO for carrier delivery	3c	4c	2c	1c	1c	2c
Drop at PO for pickup by addressee	1c	2c	1c	1c	1c	2c
Placed in collection box for pickup at PO by addressee	1c	2c	2c	2c	1c	2c
From out of town for carrier delivery	NPR + 2c	NPR + 2c (NPR + 1c in Feb 1849)	NPR + 2c	NPR + 1c	NPR + 1c	NPR

Table 1. NYC Postal Rates (NPR = Normal Postal Rate, varying by weight until July 1, 1845, when it became 5c for distances under 300 miles and 10c for greater distances; June 30, 1851, when it became 3c for prepaid letters under 3000 miles, 6c for prepaid letters over 3000 miles, 5c for unpaid letters under 3000 miles and 10c for unpaid letters over 3000 miles; and April 1, 1855, when single letters were prepaid 3c for distances under 3000 miles and 10c for over 3000 miles.)

During the 1845-60 period of ownership by John T. Boyd and later his son, the operation must have provided advantages for his customers. These probably included more frequent deliveries and therefore speedier service, and more collection boxes and carriers than the Post Office; the use of delivery times in handstamps; the availability of stamps for prepayment at hotels, drug stores and other box locations; the innovation of diecut stamps for the convenience of large customers; providing street addresses so that customers did not have to rely on directories published annually; secure collection boxes; reliable service; and the goodwill of the citizens who may have viewed the Post Office's attempts to close private enterprise as bureaucratic and inappropriate.

Stamps and Postage Stamped Envelopes Used by Boyd's

John T. Boyd designed an eagle on globe design that was used from 1844 until around 1867. The first 15 issues were printed in black on green surface-colored paper, except for the "social" gold on white printings (Scott Nos. 20L5 and 20L9), which were supposedly made for wedding announcements, invitations, and the like. For a few months in 1857, printings were made in red and orange on white paper (Scott Nos. 20L12

and 20L13), but apparently the green color was preferred and a new printing was made in green in 1857 (Scott No. 20L14.)



Figure 3. 20L1 original used.

Figure 4. Forgeries of 20L1 by Taylor and Scott.

Surviving examples of the first three issues, Scott Nos. 20L1-20L3, are not common. They were used in the early 1844-45 period when Boyd's was just beginning to obtain local delivery business. Off-cover examples are less common than those on cover. (Figure 3). Figure 4 shows Taylor and Scott forgeries of 20L1.



Figure 5. 20L4, showing early and late (worn) impressions.

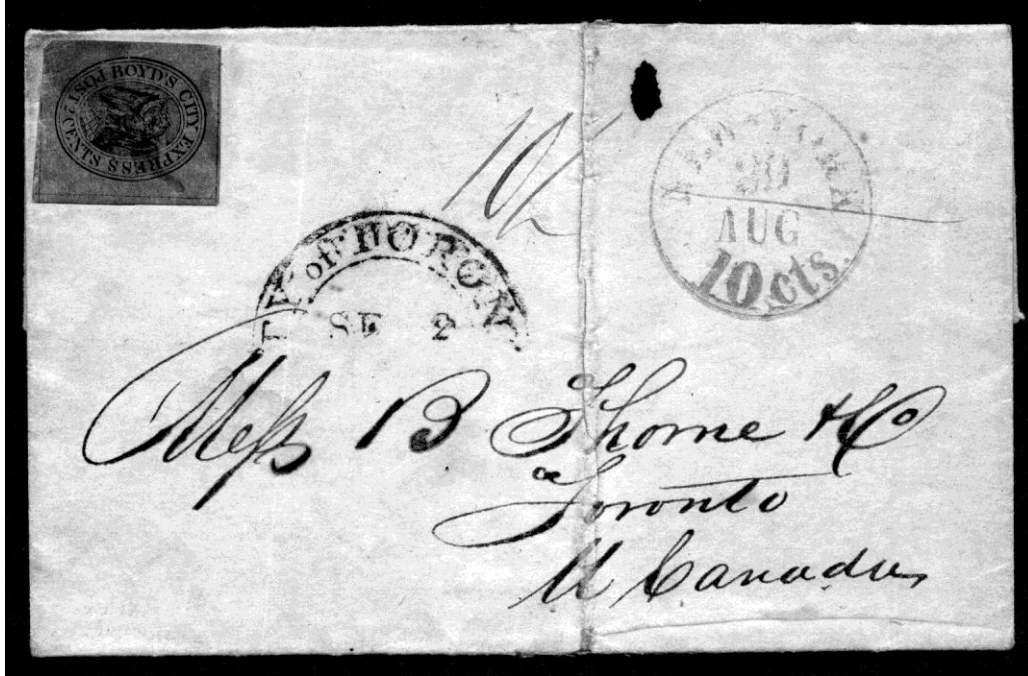


Figure 6. 20L4 “To the Mails” to Canada.

On the other hand, examples of 20L4 (1845-48) off and on cover are much more common (Figure 5 shows early and late impressions from the plate), and show both local delivery and “To the Mails” usages, with the latter being more desirable (Figure 6). A darker dull green printing was made around 1847, although it is not listed. Scott No. 20L7 replaced this stamp in mid-1848 and was in use until 1852. It is also easily obtainable.

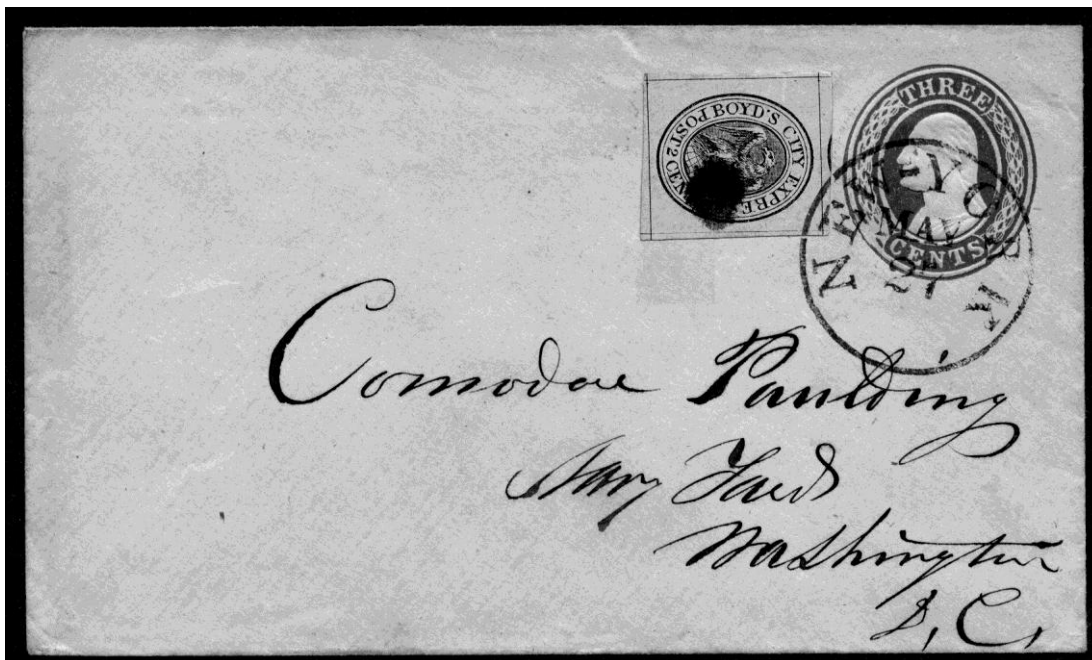


Figure 7. 20L8 “To the Mails” on U2 postage stamped envelope.

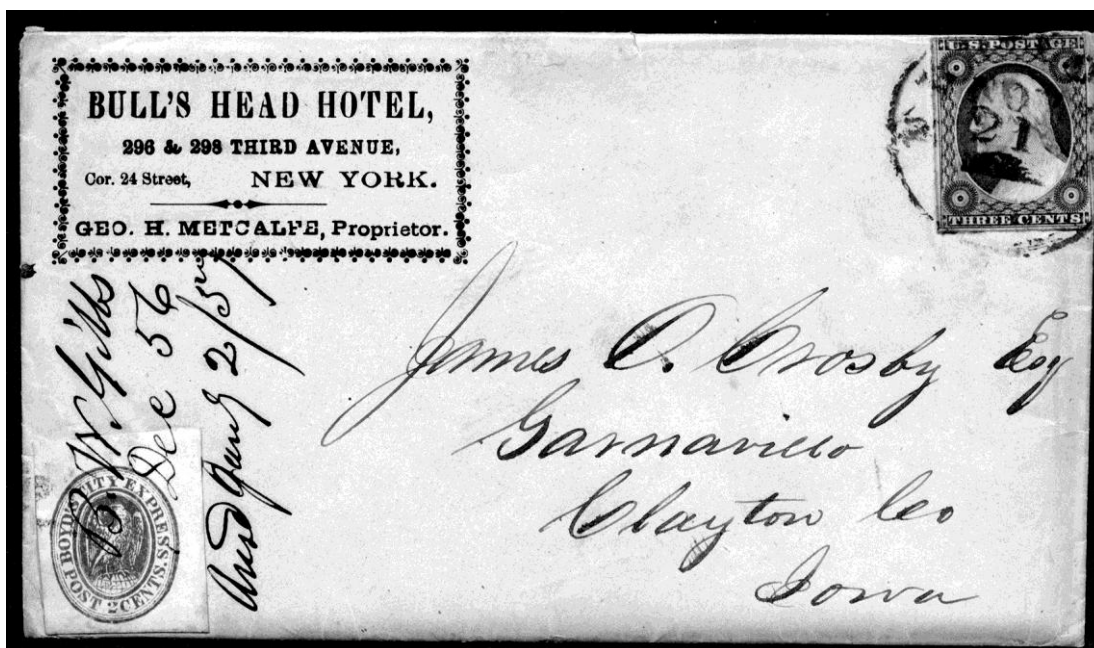


Figure 8. 20L12 from Bull's Head Hotel, NYC, to Iowa with 3c 1851 stamp.

Late in 1852, Scott No. 20L8 was prepared (Figure 7), and in mid or late 1854, 20L10 was produced. Both issues are often available from dealers. In December, 1855, 20L11 was used, followed by 20L13 in May 1856, and 20L12 in June 1856 (Figure 8).

These were replaced by 20L14 in early to mid-1857, so that copies of 20L11-20L13 were not in use very long and are difficult to obtain. No. 20L14 is commonly found on cover. However, only a single sheet of 100 of 20L14 is known today. In fact, most of the issues to this point are scarce in unused condition, so apparently few remainders existed.

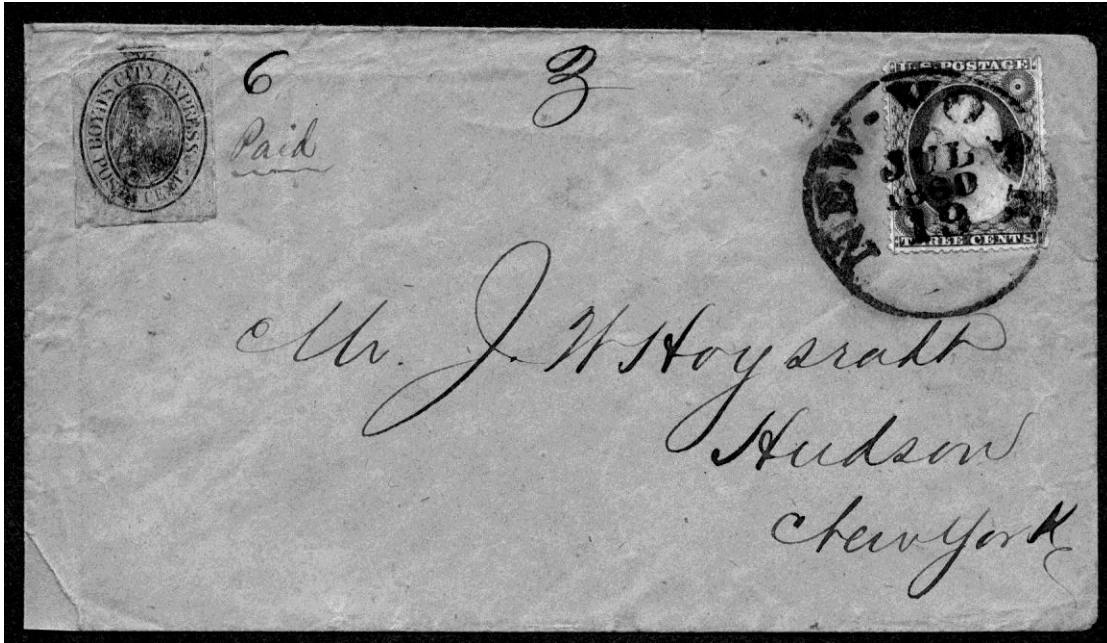


Figure 9. 20L15 "To the Mails" with 3c 1857, July 19, 1860.

John Boyd, Jr., modified the 20L14 two cent plates when he reduced the rate to one cent in 1860 and made 20L15, but it was a sloppy job and every position is identifiable, some with much of the "S" of "CENTS" remaining. Large quantities of remainders in unused condition exist, including perhaps 50 sheets of 100. However, used specimens are scarce, since the period of use was only about two and a half months (Figure 9).



Figure 10. 20L16 tete-beche pair from upper right corner of sheet.

Figure 11. 20L17 varieties, the “ONE CENTS” error and the inverted “1” error.

When the Blackhams took over, they introduced the two cent 20L16 and a one cent stamp with the same design, the latter issued in several shades grouped together as 20L17 black on lilac and 20L18 black on blue gray. In preparing the plate for 20L16, the top row was inverted, resulting in ten tete-beche vertical pairs from the sheet of 100 (10x10). Full sheets of 20L16 are rare, but tete-beche pairs are not (Figure 10). This error was corrected when the one cent plate was made. Scott’s catalog continued to list tete-beche pairs for 20L17-20L18 until the 2003 edition. However, in one position on the one cent plate, the “S” of “CENTS” was not erased, creating a scarce variety. In another position the “1” is inverted. These stamps were used from 1861 until around 1865 or 1866 (Figure 11).

Although the literature suggests that Scott Nos. 20L19-20L22 comprised a “philatelic” issue for collectors, 20L19 is much scarcer than the others, and could have been intended to emulate the earlier “social” gold on white stamps. On the other hand, verified used copies may not exist, so perhaps this issue is a trial color plate proof. 20L20-20L22 exist unused in almost all cases, and they apparently were printed from the 20L16 plate with top row inverted, so that tete-beche varieties exist; these are much scarcer than those of 20L16. It is interesting to note that this so-called “philatelic issue”

was printed from the same plate as 20L16, which is known to be used in early 1861. If the original plate was altered to form the one cent 20L17-20L18 plate, when and how were the so-called “philatelic issues” printed? Either they were printed early in 1861 along with 20L16, and then the plate was altered to make the one cent stamps, or the 20L16 plate was a different plate from the one cent plate. The lack of multiples of one cent stamps makes the determination difficult, so research needs to be done comparing the one cent stamps with the two cent stamps, looking for common plate position characteristics.



Figure 12. 20LU4 used entire.

It appears that the Blackhams issued Boyd’s first series of postal stationery in 1864, Nos. 20LU1-20LU11A. Unused entires are occasionally found, but used entires along with used cut squares are very rare (Figure 12).



Figure 13. 20L23 tete-beche cross-gutter pair.

The Blackhams next issue was 20L23 in 1866, using the same stones as Boyd used to prepare 20L11-20L13. Sometime later, reprints of all of these stamps were made, but the plate for the reprints was different enough that reprints can be identified. The reprint plate is known as Plate C. In order to determine if a given stamp is a reprint or not requires checking every position of Plate C to determine if it is from the reprint plate or not.⁵ (Figures 13 and 14). Unused examples of 20L11 and 20L13 must always be checked, as most of those on the market are from the reprint Plate C.

At about the same time, the one cent stamps of 1861 were replaced with a new issue in two colors, Scott Nos. 20L24-20L25. These are very scarce in used condition. Reprints were made of both issues. The original 20L24 is on highly glazed paper with an ink that is grayish-black, while reprints are not very glazed and inked in a deeper black. Reprints of 20L25 are assumed to be the ungummed specimens of the original since no other identifying characteristics have been found. Gummed examples of 20L25 are originals or remainders of the originals.

Boyd's covers from mid-1868 through most of 1877 are decidedly uncommon, and dated covers from this period are even more difficult to locate. During this time, Boyd's issued a number of postage stamped envelopes, starting in 1867, and began to issue bank notices with their stamp design on them in 1874. These are all scarce in used condition, with the possible exceptions of 20LU13 and 20LU18. The 1880 bank notice, 20LU50, is common in unused condition due to a supply of remainders, but the rest of the notices are rare or unknown in unused condition (Figure 15).

⁵ These characteristics were worked out by Donald Patton in his book mentioned earlier, and reproduced by Larry Lyons in his *Identifier*, Volume I.

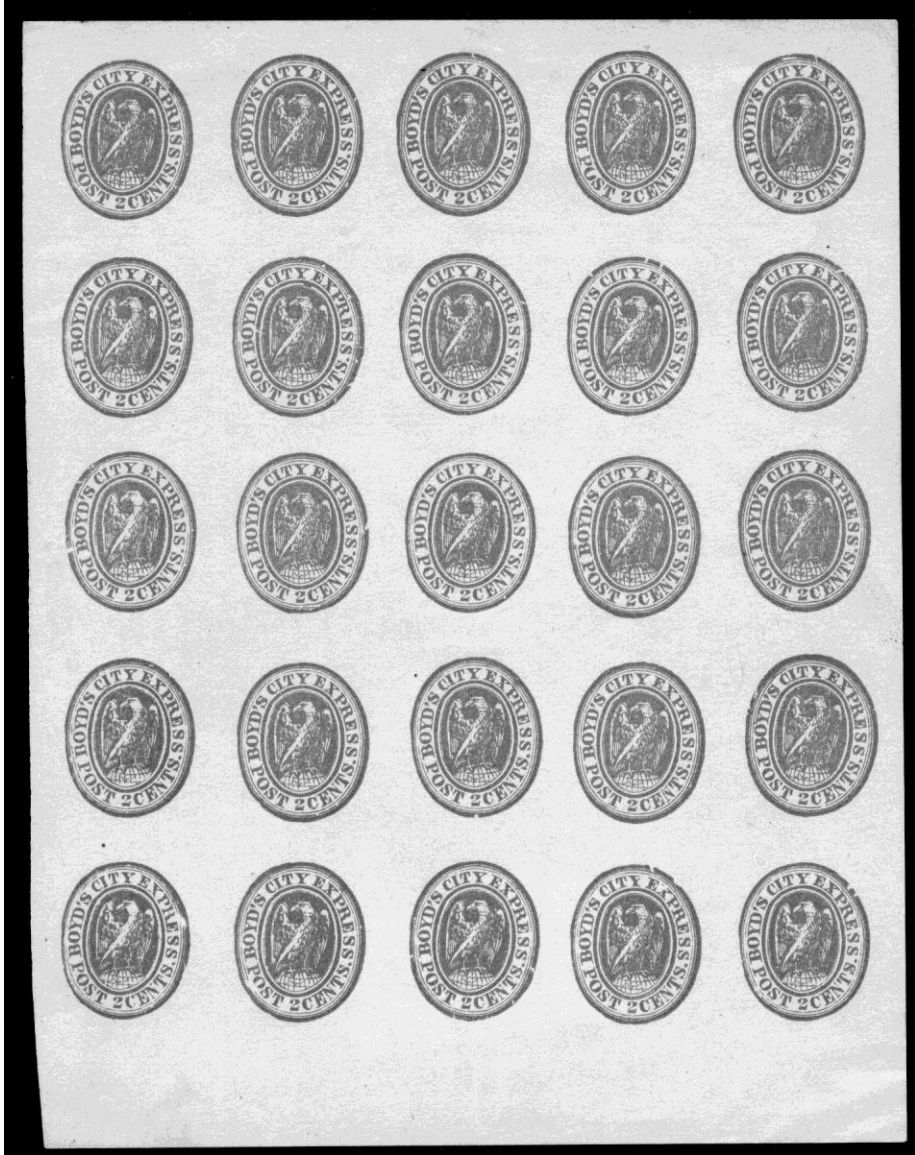


Figure 14. 20L13 reprint sheet, Plate C.

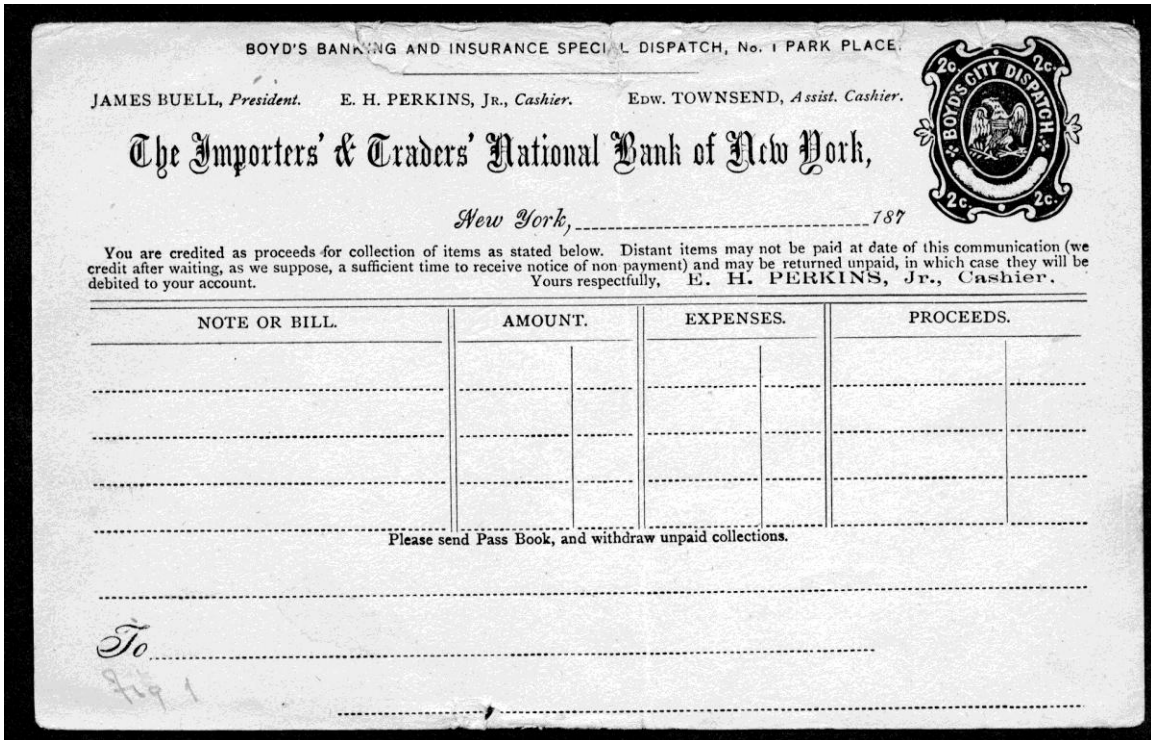


Figure 15. 20LU45, unused bank notice.

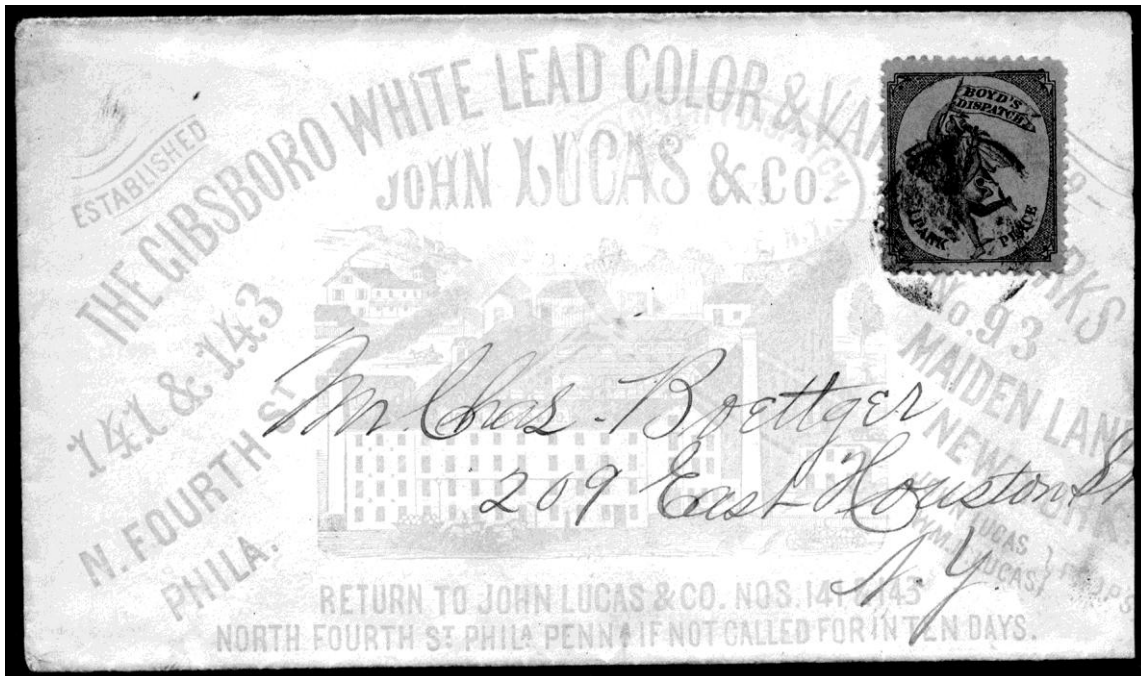


Figure 16. 20L44 on all-over advertising cover.

Scott No. 20L26 was adapted from the envelope design by boring out the address “39 Fulton St.” This was the first major design change from the eagle on globe theme, and has been referred to as the framed eagle design.⁶ A single sheet of 20L26 survives today and permits plating of individual copies, although it is doubtful that as many as 100 examples other than the sheet are known. (Hollowbush originally owned this sheet, and Perry was able to plate individual stamps from it.) In 1877, the same design but with “1 Park Place” added as the address was issued as 20L30-20L33 depending on perforation type (imperforate or perforated) and paper type (laid or wove). The first two (20L30-20L31) are imperforate, and the rest perforated in various gauges. The brown on yellow stamp (20L34) was briefly used and is hard to find in any condition. Covers of 20L34 are rare. After a short period, the denomination “2c” was removed, and the stamp was printed in various shades, perforations and papers as 20L35-20L36. Used stamps and covers from 20L26 through 20L43A almost always bear a black “PAID” in circle cancellation on the stamp. All of the issues from 20L26 through 20L43A used on cover are scarce to rare.

With the return of year-dated handstamps in 1877,⁷ it becomes easier to date Boyd’s stamps. The framed eagle design was replaced by the Mercury design in 1878. In all probability, 20L43A was issued before 20L43, with covers of the former known used mostly in July and August of 1878, and the latter mostly from August through October, 1878. The red and red-orange Mercury’s, as well as a dull red-brown shade first listed in the 2003 catalog, are difficult to find used or unused, particularly in sound condition.

A variety of three designs, various perforations, and the use of wove or laid papers gave rise to the many pink and blue Mercury stamps, 20L44-20L56 (Figure 16). First appearing in 1879, the Mercury’s were used until the raid in 1883, and even occasionally thereafter up until about 1885. The corresponding Mercury envelopes (20LU33-20LU44A) seem to have been used from 1879-1881.

The change in the nature of Boyd’s business in order to offset lost mail delivery revenues is readily observed in the printed bank notices for the Importers’ and Traders’ National Bank, currently listed as 20LU46-20LU53. Printed on one side only, they each carry the design of the current stamp in use from 1874 to 1885, and presumably were filled out by the bank for delivery by Boyd’s to the bank’s customers regarding transactions on their accounts. These items are more like postal cards than postal stationery. They are generally scarce and some varieties are not included in the 2003 *Scott Specialized Catalogue*.⁸ The National Park Bank notice, Scott No. 20LU54, is known only in unused condition, and is scarce. A long-unlisted but known Boyd’s

⁶ Bowman JD. Boyd’s framed eagles. *The Penny Post*. Vol. 8(5):4-13, October, 2000.

⁷ For a complete listing of Boyd’s handstamps, refer to Bowman JD and LeBel L, “A Comprehensive Survey of Boyd’s Postal Markings” in *The Penny Post*, Vol. 7(3):2-12, July, 1997, and Larry Lyons *Identifier* Vol. III for corrections to the article.

⁸ Bowman JD. Proposed *Scott* revisions to Boyd’s bank notices. *The Penny Post*. Vol. 9(3):4-16, July, 2001.

postcard for Gaff Fleischmann & Co. exists in used condition but is rare and desired by postcard collectors as well as locals collectors.

Later Boyd's covers, with handstamps only or with stamps and handstamps, sometimes have address labels pasted to the cover. It is likely that these address labels were prepared by Boyd's, as their mail business declined and they turned to preparing custom mailing lists and address labels for commercial mail.

Common Reprints

The collector has already been warned about reprints of 20L11-13 and 20L23-20L25 that exist and are often sold as originals. Aside from these, there are only a few other reprints of any significance for Boyd's stamps.



Figure 17. 20L8 original and reprint, the original showing frame lines.

Scott No. 20L8 has been reprinted in black on bright blue-green surfaced paper that is hard to separate from the originals. However, there are no dividing lines on this reprint nor other reprints, so originals should show the dividing lines between the stamps on one or more of the edges if cut large enough (Figure 17). In addition, the originals are on a true green surfaced paper. Another group of reprints of this stamp was made on a highly-glazed but dull green surfaced paper, with three distinguishing transfer varieties.

Most of the reprints of 20L11 occur on a pale green paper that seems to have faded with age and can be plated to Plate C. Harder to distinguish is another set of reprints from Plate C which are printed in colors very close to the original. These are always lighter in shade than the dull green originals.

The red on white 20L12 was not reprinted in its original color, but the dull orange on white 20L13 was. The reprint color is practically identical to originals, so that unused copies must be plated to determine if they are originals or reprints. Unused originals of 20L11-20L13 are very scarce. Used examples are also scarce, but are almost always authentic.

Fortunately for collectors, a fairly large number of original remainders of 20L23 exist in blocks and other multiples, which is not the case for 20L11-20L13, each rare as a multiple. The work of former students has elucidated that there were three plates prepared for these stamps. Plates A and B were used for originals, and Plate C was used

for reprints. The later 20L23 is most interesting, because it was printed in a work-and-turn fashion from Plates A and B in three different arrangements or settings, giving rise to a number of tete-beche pairs, blocks and larger multiples, all of which are unused remainders. The work-and-turn printing method involved placing Plates A and B as A over B, A over inverted B, and B over A, for the three settings. As each plate consisted of a pane of 25 stamps (5x5) aligned in three different arrangements or settings on the printing stone, both vertical and horizontal tete-beche examples exist. When the first half of the sheet had been printed from the two plates, the sheet of paper was turned and the other half printed. As a result of this manual turning of the paper sheet, variations in spacing and offset between panes can be found in cross-gutter examples.



Figure 18. Scott reprint sheet of 10, tete-beche horizontally.

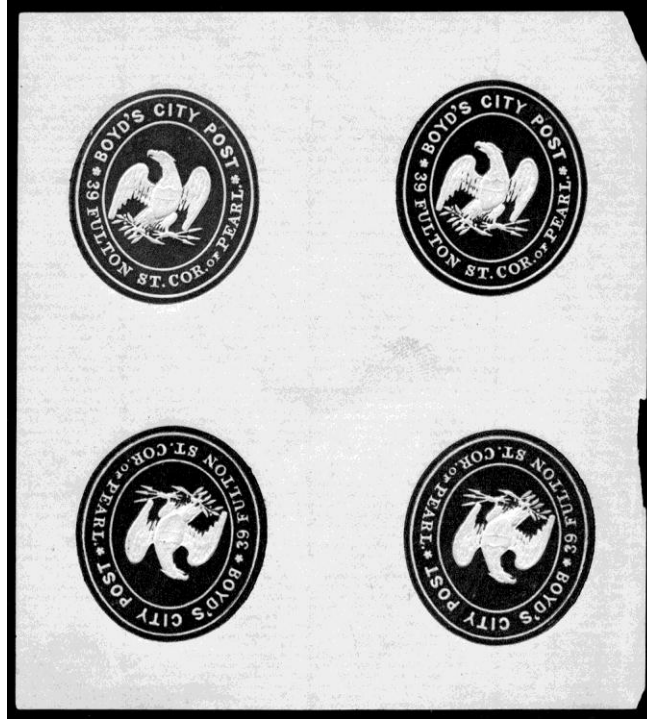


Figure 19. Scott reprint sheet of 4, tete-beche vertically.

It has been reported that J. W. Scott obtained the envelope die for the first series of postage stamped envelopes, 20LU1-20LU11A, and made reprint envelopes. He also prepared sheets of ten and of four to make the numerous unused cut square examples on papers of several colors and laid lines (Figures 18 and 19). However, an acceptable system for telling the reprint entires from the unused original entires has not been developed, so collectors should be careful of unused entires of this series. That being said, reprint entires are scarce in their own right, unlike the cut squares. The Scott reprint cut squares are common and often offered as unused original cut squares, and collectors should generally regard these as reprints.



Figure 20. Forgery G, prepared in several colors, with values of 1c, 3c, 5c, 7c and 9c.

Aside from these reprints, numerous forgeries exist of every type, including fantasy denominations of 3c to 9c (Figure 20). These are not difficult to distinguish from the original stamps. In some cases, forgeries are much scarcer than the stamps they imitated, which is true for forgeries of many other local posts.

Collecting Boyd's

A collector can form the nucleus of a Boyd's stamp collection within a short time and without expending a lot of money. With patience, most of the listed stamps, except the trial color proofs, can be obtained.

The collector desiring a postal history collection of Boyd's can readily find a number of covers, both stamped and stampless, to add to his collection. A variety of examples can be collected; for example, various combinations of handstamps and stamps, diecut stamps on cover, covers taken to the US post office by Boyd's, conjunctive uses with other independent mail or local companies, Western express company mail from California to NYC delivered by Boyd's, and even conjunctive uses with US post office carriers.

An advanced collector can attempt to identify and obtain the ten transfer types known for each of the framed eagle stamps. It is a challenge just to obtain unused and used specimens for each of 20L26-20L36, especially 20L28-20L31 which are rare. In addition, there are varieties, such as double transfers, incompletely erased transfers, printed on both sides, lithographic constant flaws, multiples, perforation variations, and so on, that exist but are not commonly recognized.

The collector of forgeries can have a field day with Boyd's. Larry Lyons' *Identifier* enumerates over one hundred types including odd denominations, and many of these exist in two or more colors. Here again, it would be quite challenging to build a collection including even 50% of all the types and colors.

Because Boyd's was one of the most successful local posts, and lasted longer than any other, stamps and covers are more common than many other local posts. The company has persisted until today, by changing its business tactics (Figure 21). The collector should always be careful when purchasing unused stamps, as remainders, reprints and forgeries are plentiful for some stamps. Unused remainders of items such as 20L15, 20L23, 20L25, 20L56 and 20LU50, are common and collectors should not expect to pay much for these.

AN INSTITUTION FOR THE PROMOTION OF CIRCULAR ADVERTISING AND FOR THE COMPILATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF LISTS OF ALL KINDS OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR ALL PARTS OF THE CIVILIZED WORLD

CHANGES
IN TITLE AND LOCATION
OF THIS CONCERN
DURING ITS EIGHTY-ONE YEARS
OF EXISTENCE
IN NEW YORK CITY
1830

Started in Business as
BOYD'S CITY EXPRESS POST
at 137 Broadway
1845

45 William Street
1867

BOYD'S DISPATCH POST
41 Fulton Street
1878

BOYD'S CITY DISPATCH
1 Park Place
1888

5 Murray Street
1892

16 Beekman Street
1909

19-21 Beekman Street



During the years from 1844 to 1880, before the U. S. Government prohibited private posts, this concern issued its own stamps. We give attached below an original, of interest to philatelists.

ORIGINAL
BOYD STAMP
1878



BOYD'S CITY DISPATCH

DEPARTMENTS FOR

COMPILATION OF SPECIAL LISTS, ADDRESSING OF ENVELOPES, ENCLOSING & MAILING
REPRODUCTION OF TYPEWRITTEN LETTERS, TYPEWRITING
DELIVERY OF CIRCULAR AND SAMPLE MATTER IN NEW YORK

19-21 BEEKMAN STREET

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE, BEEKMAN 4540-4541

E. J. WILLIAMS
MANAGER

New York, December 5, 1911.

OUR LISTS ARE FORWARDED CHARGES PAID ON RECEIPT OF AMOUNT SPECIFIED

The Continental Iron Wks.,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Sirs:-

It is our desire to notify our customers of Changes, Revisions and New Compilations, in which they are interested, as promptly as possible, but the great increase in our List business and number of customers, makes this more and more difficult.

The filling in and returning to us of attached blank will be of mutual benefit in this respect.

We enclose advance information, consisting of our Condensed Price List and State Tabulation. Our General Price List is now in preparation. Inquiries for detailed information concerning any list that may be desired, or for any other service rendered by this concern, will receive our immediate attention.

Yours very truly,
BOYD'S CITY DISPATCH.

W/G.
(2 encs.)

2500

Figure 21. Advertising letter including sample of Boyd's stamp.