

OCTOBER 1993

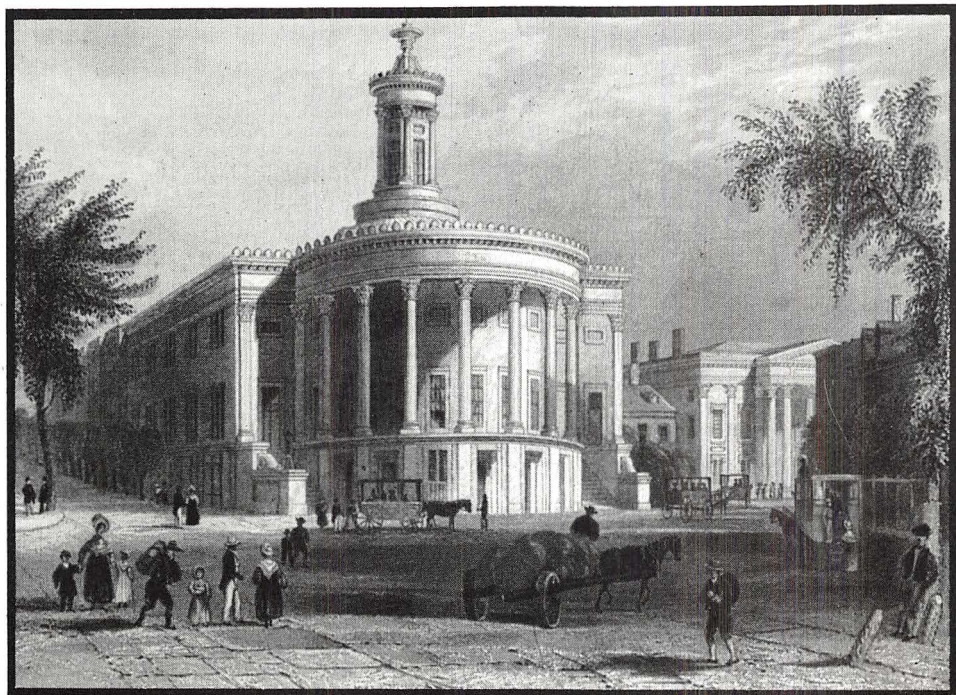
Vol. 3 No. 4

# THE PENNY POST

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Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society

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Hub of many Philadelphia local posts: The Merchant's Exchange Building.

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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SHORT-LIVED LOCALS OF PHILADELPHIA

AN ADAMS & CO. EXPRESS ODDITY

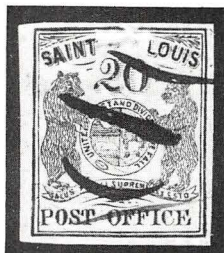
AMERICAN LETTER MAIL FORGERIES

UPDATING THE LEDGER DISPATCH

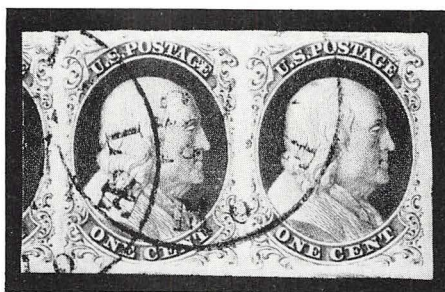
POSTAL 'CHECK-MARK' MYSTERY

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on greenish paper



USA: 1851 1c blue, Type IIIa,  
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# THE PENNY POST



Vol. 3 No. 4

OCTOBER 1993

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APS Affiliate 211

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Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society

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## CONTENTS

Editor's and President's Messages .....	Pages 2-3
Some Short-Lived Local Posts of Philadelphia, By Steven M. Roth.....	Pages 4-30
Auner's Despatch Post (Pages 5-7) .....	Chestnut Street Line (Pages 8-10)
City Despatch Post (Pages 10-11) .....	City Dispatch Post (Pages 11-13)
City Express Post (Pages 14-16) .....	De Ming's Penny Post (Pages 16-17)
T.A. Hampton City Despatch (Pages 17-22) .....	G.S. Harris Despatch Post (Page 23)
Morton's Post (Pages 23-24) .....	Spence & Brown Express Post (Pages 24-25)
Teese & Co. Penny Post (Pages 26-27) .....	Telegraph Despatch P.O. (Pages 27-28)
T. Walters Despatch Post (Page 28) .....	Footnotes (Pages 28-30)
Postal 'Check-Mark' Mystery, By Lowell S. Newman .....	Page 30
A Rare Adams 'Poker-Chip' Variety, By Benjamin Wishnietsky .....	Page 31
Forgeries of American Letter Mail Company, By Richard Schwartz .....	Pages 32-35
Ledger Dispatch — A Fugitive Post, By Gordon Stimmell .....	Pages 36-39

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# FROM THE EDITOR

**W**e've done it again. The *Penny Post* has garnered another most gratifying award at an international philatelic publications competition: A coveted Gold at STAMP-SHOW 93 in Houston, Texas.

In tendering the Gold Medal — one of just four bestowed in a field of over 200 entries — the judges made a pertinent, and timely, suggestion. They advise that a Cumulative Index be inserted, as a key to articles that have appeared in our chronicle since its inception.

The directors of our Society concur with me and, beginning as early as January, we will run the index in every quarterly issue, probably located near the back of the journal.

All the page needs now is a Cumulative Index editor to sort the former issues and articles out and list them alphabetically by post. Perhaps two divisions, Locals and Carriers, would be another way of breaking it down.

I welcome suggestions and most especially, a volunteer to handle the task each issue.

**T**his expanded edition of the *Penny Post* is largely devoted to detailed examination of the many local posts of Philadelphia. Our President, Steven Roth, has made an invaluable contribution to the field with his extensive examination of posts in that city that seldom come under the spotlight of publicity.

Posts contained in Steven Roth's wide research net include: A.W. Auner's Despatch, Chestnut Street Line, City Despatch and City Dispatch, City Express, De Ming's Penny Post, T.A. Hampton City Despatch, G.S. Harris Despatch, Morton's, Spence & Brown, Teese & Co., Telegraph Despatch P.O.

and the enigmatic T. Walters Despatch.

As Roth points out, much remains cloaked in mystery on the origins and short life of some of these posts. His work pushes beyond a number of former frontiers and charts a clearer path for others to follow in the future.

**A** third preview of work-in-progress by Richard Schwartz on the Hall-Perry Independent Mails manuscript also graces this issue. The *Penny Post* has been excerpting tantalizing bits of data as it emerges. This time, Schwartz dissects forgeries of American Letter Mail Company.

We emphasize that this is a work-in-progress and all Society members are requested to forward suggestions, additions, corrections or just plain observations on Dick's articles as they appear. With your input and shared knowledge, the Independent Mails book to ultimately emerge will be as complete and accurate as possible.

**R**ounding out this issue is my article on The Ledger Despatch, one of those Johnny-come-lately posts that arose and vanished so fast most contemporary collectors never knew it had existed beside them in their own city.

Unlike the other 'Fugitive Posts' the feds quickly squashed, the owner of Ledger Despatch kept no remainders to flog to dealers of the day. Besides, he didn't stick around town long enough.

No one seems to have recognized the not-so-obvious forgeries of Ledger Despatch. One matches the Scott cut and another mimics a late Moens catalogue illustration. Society members may possess other forgery types in their collections. Let's hear from you!

--Gordon Stimmell

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

**W**ith the publication of this issue of the *Penny Post*, we have now completed three volumes of this informative journal.

Our thanks should go out to our Editor, Gordon, who originally created issue No. 1 in a very attractive and professional endeavor, and who has managed steadily to improve the look and content of our publication.

Gordon's very hard work and his skills have again been recognized outside our Society's membership. The *Penny Post* was entered by our esteemed Treasurer, Martin Richardson, in the literature exhibit at STAMP-SHOW 93 in Houston; it won a Gold Medal! Gordon was not aware the journal had even been entered, so the news came as a wonderful surprise!

And the Cumulative Index idea raised by the judges, and seconded by Gordon, is a solid one well worth pursuing. The judges suggested an index for each volume, together with a sporadic cumulative index. We are open to ideas and actively searching for a member among you who has had experience in creating an index and is willing to undertake this project. If you wish to be Cumulative Index editor, please contact either Gordon or me.

Speaking of volume three of the *Penny Post*, this is also the close of our third year in existence. In spite of those individuals who argued (and to some extent still believe) that there was no need for our Society or for our specialized journal, our membership slowly continues to grow. Furthermore, we are very solid financially.

One vital matter facing us is a discussion of the \$35-a-year dues. With our improved financial footing, we can at last consider reducing the burden for those members who find it a stretch to fork out that much money each year. Our sustaining and patron membership remains strong and one item on the agenda all the directors seem to agree upon is a reduction in entry-level dues as soon as possible.

This will be a prime focus at the Annual Meeting of the Society's members and directors to take place at CHICAGOPEX at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13. Please let me know if you have any agenda items in addition to those I proposed in my letter to each of you.

Gordon informs me that for the moment he has been forced to drop the "Society Adlets" due to lack of interest. He points out that if enough members submit adlets at some future date, the classifieds can be reinstated.

Finally, two quick items, but very important ones: Please consider writing for the *Penny Post*. Your piece does not have to be long or elaborate, in fact, Gordon prefers short articles that add variety to the mix in the magazine. But it would be a great help to broaden our base of contributors. Gordon and I will assist you in any way we can if you would like our help.

Second, if you have fakes and forgeries in your holdings, check them against Richard Frajola's insert catalogue, and report to him any additions or modifications to his reports. Any new information we can get into the proposed catalogue will benefit us all.

— Steven M. Roth

# A Report on Some Short-Lived Local Posts of Philadelphia<sup>1</sup>

Introduction: The Posts<sup>2</sup>

By Steven M. Roth

**T**he City of Philadelphia is well known to postal historians, in part, for its highly successful local despatch post, Blood's Despatch (later known as Blood's Penny Post), which competed against the government carrier service for twenty years before succumbing to financial and legal pressures exerted upon it by the United States.<sup>3</sup> Other Philadelphia private local Posts, such as the Eagle City Post (later renamed Stait's Despatch) also competed successfully against the Philadelphia Carrier Department for many years.<sup>4</sup> But other Posts came and went fitfully, existing for only a brief time, leaving as the only evidence of their existence fewer than one-half dozen reported covers and/or examples of adhesives. It is this latter group about which I wish to report.

Most of the private local Posts we will examine are known (at least in name) to students and collectors of locals. These include the Posts operated by Auner, De Ming, Hampton, Harris, Morton, Spence & Brown, and Teese, as well as the posts known as City Despatch, City Dispatch, City Express and Telegraph Despatch. Some of the Posts, however, are not so well known, e.g., the Chestnut Street Line and T. Walters Despatch.

The purpose of this paper is bring together in one place all of the postal history information (publicly reported or not) *known to me* in the hope that others will then come forth with additional and/or corrective reports.<sup>5</sup> I am

especially interested in learning of covers not reported in my censuses. *I regard this report as preliminary only.*

## Approaches to Researching Private Local Posts

**T**hree methods generally are used to research private local Posts. The most empirical approach is, to accumulate information from the examination of extant covers, keeping careful records of each one examined or noted, and looking for patterns of use or markings that offer clues about when, where and how the Posts operated. Another method is to study contemporary newspapers for the city where the Post was located, looking, for example, for advertisements or for lists of letters being held (to be claimed by the recipients). Yet another approach is to examine the City Directories for the relevant period, taking care to surround the date(s) when you believe the Posts operated, checking several years before and after those dates. I have used all three methods in my research of Philadelphia local Posts (and other approaches, too), generally with mixed results.

For me the most frustrating and tedious method of research has been the reading of contemporary Philadelphia newspapers, hoping to find some mention of a local Post. Not only have I found it very inconvenient to steal large blocks of time to sit before a microfilm

reader at the public library, but I have had difficulty with the small (and often out-of-focus) newsprint. Occasionally, however, I do make a discovery that spurs me on.

Such was the case when I researched the Blood's Despatch article (cited in Footnote 3) in the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*, the *North American and Daily Advertiser* and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. The *Public Ledger* yielded a treasure trove of information about Blood's, while I could find no mention of this Post in the latter two newspapers.<sup>6</sup> This has been true, too, with respect to the short-lived local Posts in Philadelphia. I have found some information in the *Public Ledger*, but not in other newspapers of the day. Although my review of contemporary Philadelphia newspapers has barely scratched the surface of available resources, I suspect that further research into newspapers will continue the pattern of not finding mention of the short-lived Posts.

I have used the Philadelphia City Directories from 1842 (the year of the first local Post in Philadelphia) through 1862 (the year of the operation of the last regular private Post in Philadelphia)<sup>7</sup> to try to establish the addresses of the offices of the Posts and the identities of owners/operators. The results generally have not been too useful. For one thing, I question the reliability of the Directories. For example, I have found that successive (year-to-year) volumes of the Directories are often inconsistent, even when published by the same publisher, so that a person listed in one year might not be included in the following year, only to reappear again the next year. While it is conceivable that the person might have left Philadelphia for the year that his listing did not appear (only to return again the following year), this "skipped year" occurrence has happened with sufficient frequency to make removal from the City a less likely explanation than publisher's carelessness.

Another problem with using the Directories to identify the owners/operators of the local Posts is that even when we do know the identity of the person who ran a Post, rarely does the Directory give the operation of the despatch as his stated occupation. Rather, some other occupation generally is listed (e.g., tobacconist), thereby suggesting that the Post despatch business usually was ancillary to the other, described occupation. This, of course, is an acceptable and understandable choice of listing, but it does not help much in research.

A third method of researching the private local Posts is to examine folded letters and covers that they carried. This, to my way of thinking, is also the most pleasant and gratifying endeavor. It becomes useful as a research tool only when careful notes and records are kept about each cover, and these records are integrated into a larger data base (listing similar covers or uses found in auction catalogues, for example), looking for useful patterns to reveal themselves. Happily, sometimes such a pattern emerges, resolving a question or, more likely in this field of inquiry, suggesting a new line for study.

### I. A.W. Auner's Despatch Post

**T**he local Post operated by Alfred W. Auner existed as early as Feb. 6, 1851, but we do not know how long it continued in operation. The extreme scarcity of covers suggests its duration was very, very brief.

Auner, himself, appears to have resided in Philadelphia until the year 1864, the last year in which he was listed in the City Directory.<sup>8</sup> The Directory for 1851<sup>9</sup> lists Alfred W. Auner as a tobacconist, giving his address as 334 Sassafras Street (soon renamed Race Street). Beginning in 1852 (according to the statement by George Sloane in his column published on Feb. 1, 1941 in

*Stamps* magazine), and then continuing through 1855 (the last year referenced by Sloane in his column), Auner was listed as a printer whose address was 124 North 10th Street. My own examination of McElroy's City Directories from 1852 through 1857, however, disclosed no mention whatsoever of Alfred W. Auner. I assume that Sloane, who was notoriously accurate in his record keeping, either had not examined the McElroy's Directories himself or had examined some other publisher's directories, not available to me.

Indeed, had I not decided to surround the date of one of the two reported covers (to be discussed below), and had I not kept checking the Directories for the years after 1855, I would have concluded, erroneously to be sure, that Alfred W. Auner had resided in Philadelphia *only in the year 1851*, and that he had operated his private post only in that one year. While this latter conclusion would have been consistent with the only datable cover, it might not have been accurate. In fact, in the City Directory for 1858, Alfred W. Auner appears again, listed as a *printer*, with his shop given at 12 South 8th Street, and his home at North 10th and Race



Figure 1: A.W. Auner's stamp.

Streets. This listing continued unchanged until 1864 when he is described as a *stationer* at 158 North 10th Street, residing at 160 North 10th Street.<sup>10</sup>

*Scott's Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps* for 1993 gives only one listing for A. W. Auner's Despatch Post. It is Scott #154L1. The adhesive is described as "Typeset, black on grayish (paper)". This might be correct, although George Sloane, who examined and recorded the only reported off-cover example of the stamp (the basis for the Scott's listing and illustration), described the adhesive as black on



Figure 2: Feb. 6 1851 cover bearing Auner adhesive.



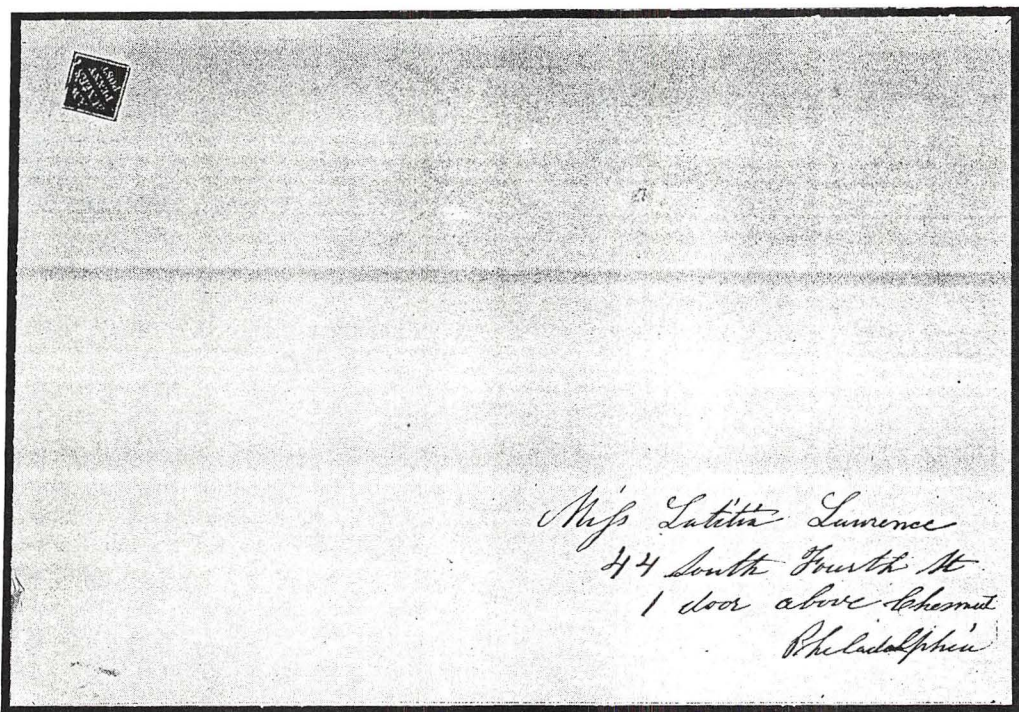


Figure 3: The diamond-shaped unlisted Auner's adhesive, gold on blue.

white paper.<sup>11</sup> (See Figure 1) Two copies of Scott #154L1 are reported, one off cover and one on cover, as described below. However, a second adhesive, *not listed in Scott's Specialized*, is also known. (Note that I am merely calling attention to the listing of #154L1 by *Scott's Specialized* without the listing of the other known adhesive. I am not suggesting that the absence of the listing for the second adhesive argues that it is a bogus emission. No inference, one way or the other, should be taken from the omitted listing).

The off cover example of Scott #154L1 was purchased by Elliott Perry in a Harmer Rooke Sale held in October 1952. Perry paid \$210 for the stamp. Its current location is not known to this writer. The only reported example of Scott #154L1 on cover was acquired in 1941 by the well known collector Frank Hollowbush from a Philadelphia dealer named Willard Snyder. The cover remained in the Hollowbush collection

until his death, when it was auctioned by John A. Fox as Lot #224 in the Aug. 15, 1966 Sale of part of the Hollowbush collection. It realized \$380. (See Figure 2) The stamp on the cover was described by George Sloane in his notes as *black on grayish paper*, cancelled with a black pen mark "X". The cover was postmarked Feb. 6, and dated internally 1851.<sup>12</sup>

The only other reported Auner's adhesive (the unlisted stamp) is also on cover. (See Figure 3) There are two known examples. The stamp is bronze (or, perhaps, gold) on blue paper. It is inscribed: "A.W. / AUNER'S / PENNY / POST". The cover, which appears to have been a large Valentine envelope, was addressed for city delivery. The date is unknown.<sup>13</sup>

The second reported example of this unlisted adhesive is on a piece, and is represented by a photograph which resides in the Sloane files.

## II. The Chestnut Street Line

The Chestnut Street Line was a horse drawn omnibus that ran along Chestnut Street, and passed the Dock Street side of the Merchants' Exchange where the Philadelphia Post Office was located. (See Figure 4) According to Elliott Perry in notes he had prepared for Eugene Costales (when Costales owned the only known cover from this Line), the western edge of this omnibus route was near the Schuylkill River, about two miles from the Post Office. No record appears, however, of there having been a letter box located on the Chestnut Street Line, although there are records of other such travelling letter boxes on horse drawn omnibuses serving other, heavily populated sections of Philadelphia and its environs (e.g., in the Kensington and Southwark Districts).<sup>14</sup> Perry argues that the convenience of having such a travelling receptacle should be obvious with respect to houses and businesses located along or near Chestnut Street, but which were not near the Post Office at Third and Dock Streets.

The Chestnut Street Line was mentioned in philatelic literature as early as 1863 when Kline noted it in his *Stamp Collectors Magazine*,<sup>15</sup> and then again in his 1865 edition.<sup>16</sup> Another reference to this omnibus line occurred in 1895 in the *Philatelic Monthly & World*.<sup>17</sup> And, finally in the nineteenth century, the *American Journal of Philately* referred to the Chestnut Street Line in its March 1898 issue.<sup>18</sup> In the twentieth century, the Chestnut Street Line was referred to by Henry Needham in his *Concise History*.<sup>19</sup> Patton also discussed the Line in his series of articles which appeared in *The Philatelist*.<sup>20</sup> Curiously, neither Costales,<sup>21</sup> nor Sloane nor Perry discussed the Chestnut Street Line in their various publications.

The adhesive stamp (or, as I will discuss below, possibly the ticket receipt) is black on rose glazed paper. It is inscribed: "CHESTNUT/ STREET/ LINE/ 1CENT". It has the portrait in three-quarters profile of a man said to have been Stephen Girard. Sloane notes the image does not match any Girard portrait he was able to find.<sup>22</sup>

Sloane had an off-cover example of the adhesive in his reference collection;

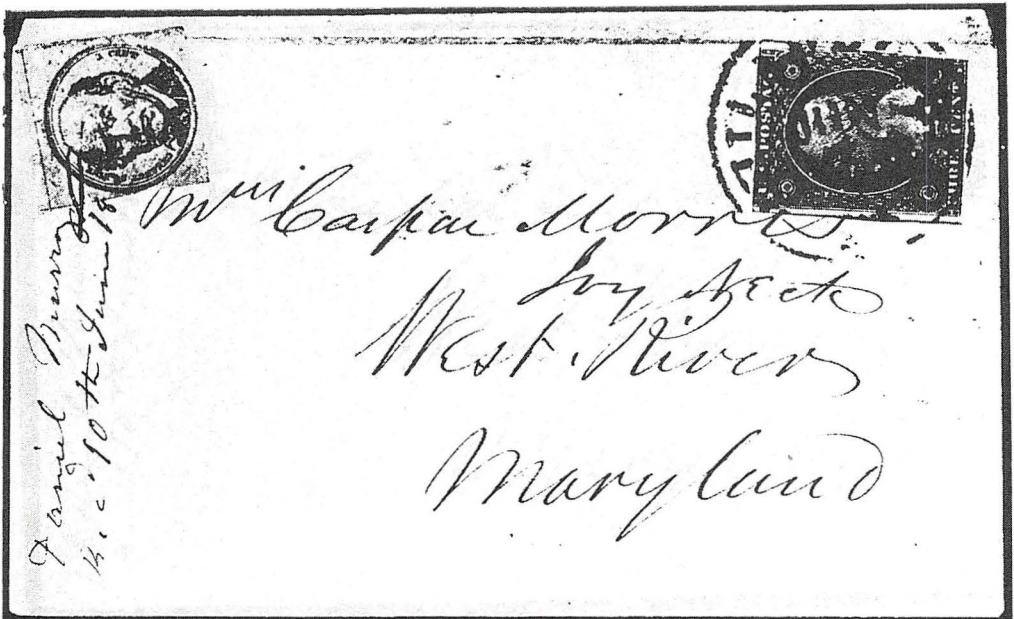


Figure 5: The Chestnut Street Line adhesive or label on unique cover.

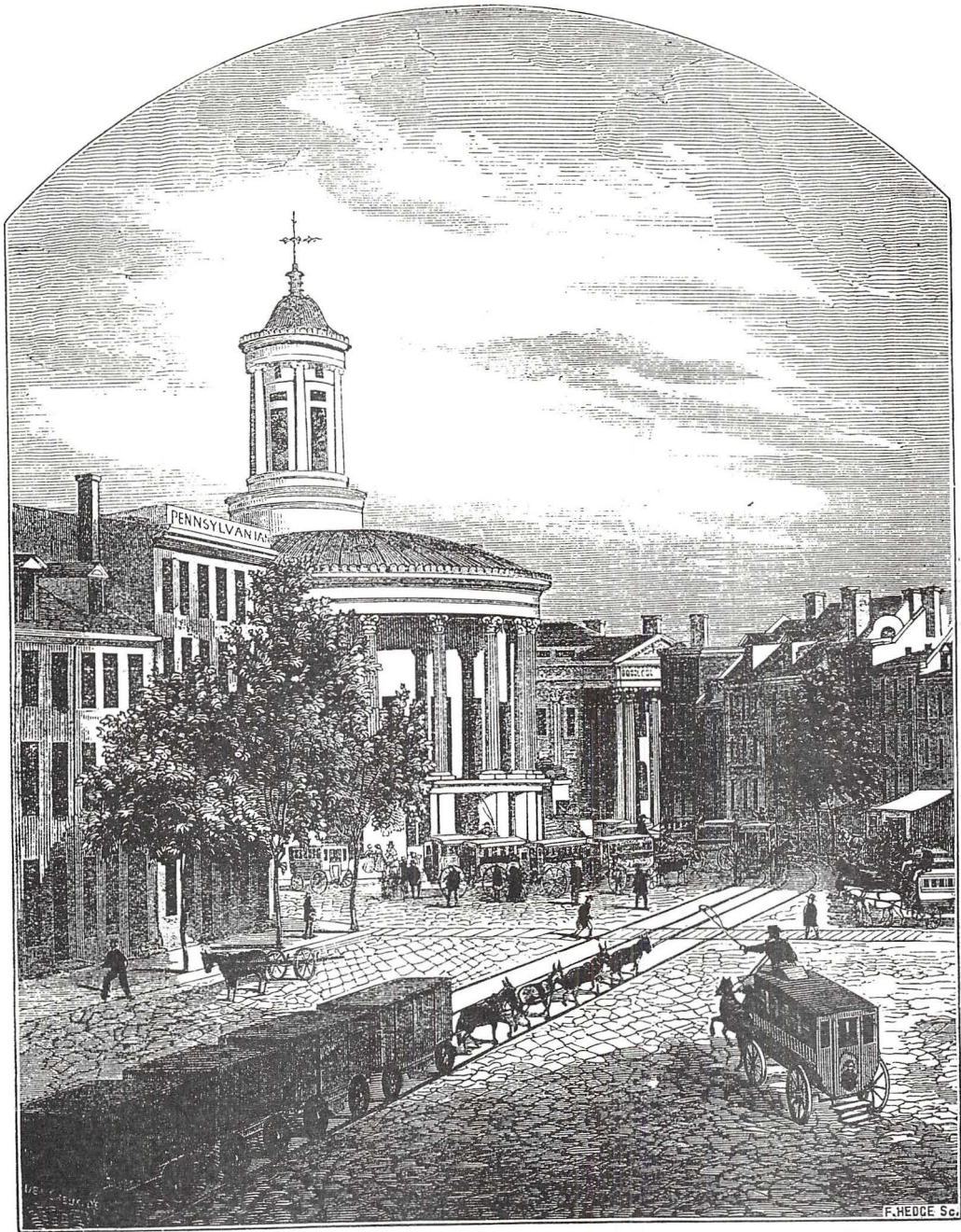


Figure 4: Omnibus Depot, Merchants' Exchange Building and Dock Street.

there also is one copy reported on cover addressed to West River, Maryland. (See Figure 5) The cover also is franked with a 3¢ 1851 imperforate stamp, tied by an indecipherable Philadelphia CDS. The Chestnut Street Line adhesive is tied by the manuscript notation: "Daniel Murry, recd 10th June 1856".

Needham initially did not believe that the adhesive was a genuine local post stamp. He wrote: "This stamp...is merely a part of a Philadelphia Street Railway ticket; it has no philatelic value."<sup>23</sup> He seems to have changed his mind, however, for when the cover came up for sale as part of the Ferrari

offering in Paris on June 18, 1924 (Lot #104), Needham purchased the cover.<sup>24</sup>

Sloane and Perry believed that the Chestnut Street Line provided authentic local despatch services and that the stamp was a genuine local post stamp. Perry seems to have believed, from the docketing of the cover, that the Post operated prior to the establishment of the horse drawn omnibus along Chestnut Street. Perry wrote in his notes to Costales:

"A suggestion that the adhesive was a ticket for transportation on a street car appears to have received some credence, but does not agree with several known facts. The horse car line Chestnut St. *began operation several years later (in 1859) and at no time was the omnibus or street car fare as low as one cent.*"<sup>25</sup>

George Sloane expressed his view on the authenticity of the cover and the operation of the Chestnut Street Line in a series of letters exchanged with Winthrop S. Boggs, who wrote to Sloane on behalf of the Expert Committee of The Philatelic Foundation requesting Sloane's "...opinion as to the status of this stamp."<sup>26</sup>

Sloane replied to Boggs, writing in pertinent part:

"I have little data on the Post except that I regard the stamp as genuine and have no doubt the post sic. was a genuine operation....I have a single of the stamp in my reference collection, and I know the cover you describe, which I believe was found in a book. According to my notes the cover was once in the Ferrari collection, and when sold there was acquired by Needham. Needham in his locals articles had dismissed the stamp as part of an 'omnibus ticket', but probably revised his opinion later upon his acquisition of the cover....I have not made a check to see when Scott first listed it and when it was dropped."<sup>27</sup>

Boggs replied to Sloane's Mar. 3rd request for a follow-up report by writing that,

"...the item was returned without an opinion being expressed by the Committee....We

gathered what information we could but the Committee felt that it was insufficient to arrive at any definite conclusions...."<sup>28</sup>

I believe that this remains the uncertain status of the item today.

I have been told that there are several types of bogus emissions concerning this Post.

### III. City Despatch Post<sup>29</sup>

**W**e know very little about this despatch Post which appears to have begun operations in late 1843 and to have ended its business in 1845. According to Robson Lowe writing in *The Chronicle*,<sup>30</sup> the City Despatch Post was acquired by Robertson & Co. in 1843 from its founder, although I have seen *no direct evidence* to support this claim.<sup>31</sup> However, in his auction held on Mar. 1, 1973, Robson Lowe offered a cover — said to be unique — described (in pertinent part) as follows:

"1630 24.10.1843 E from Hotel Rea...WITH THE ONLY KNOWN EXAMPLE OF THE FIRST CITY DESPATCH ADHESIVE endorsed "Paid 8 AM"...Ex-Gibson".

Support for Mr. Lowe's statement that the City Despatch Post was the predecessor of Robertson & Co. and, therefore, in Blood's Despatch's lineage, is found in Lot #1635 of the same sale which contained a folded letter bearing the first "Striding Messenger" adhesive<sup>32</sup> (which was used by Robertson & Co.). This cover also contained on its front "...a faint impression of the CITY DESPATCH PM handstamp." The folded letter was dated May 3, 1845.

The Post is known to have used one handstamp in two varieties. One variety is a red 32mm circle with (i) "CITY DESPATCH" around the top (inside the border), (ii) a horizontal incomplete diameter line (through the center), and (iii) the letters "PM" immediately below the line. (See Figure 6) The other

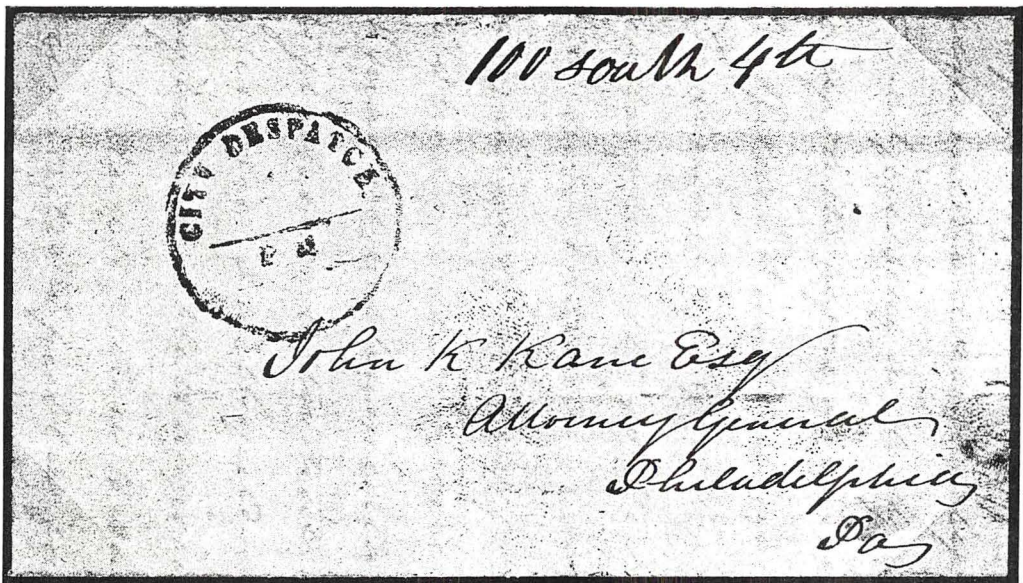


Figure 6: City Dispatch Post Jan. 25, 1845 "PM" handstamp.

variety is similar except that it has the letters "AM" below two (2) horizontal lines, both of which were below the center of the circle.

I have recorded five (5) covers carried by this Post, as follows:

1. -, 1844. SFL, datelined "Franklin House". R. Kaufmann Sale May 13, 1989, Lot #911.

2. Jan. 7, 1845. SFL. City delivery. Ex-Jarrett. S.M. Roth collection. (See Figure 6).

3. Feb. 1, 1844. SFL. City delivery. Illustrated in "The Penny Post", Vol.3, No. 1 (Jan.1993), page 22.

4. Mar. 5, 1845. SFL from Clarksville, Virginia to Philadelphia. Endorsed "By Mr. Spencer". The letters "AM" variety. Manuscript "3". R. Lowe Sale Mar. 1, 1973, Lot #1635; Christie's Sale Sept. 10, 1981, Lot #738; Lowell Newman & Co. Sale No. 8, Aug. 31-Sept. 2, 1993, Lot #1531.

5. May 3, 1845. SFL with Scott #15L3, cancelled with red "PAID" and endorsed "R. & Co."; faint impression of City Dispatch PM handstamp. Endorsed "Politeness of Mr. Ashton" on face of folded letter. Ex-Middendorf. R. Lowe Sale Mar. 1, 1973, Lot #1635. Middendorf Lot #377. G. Stimmell collection.

#### IV. City Dispatch Post

This Post existed in 1860.<sup>34</sup> The earliest cover I have recorded is dated Feb. 13, 1860; the latest is dated July 25, 1860. Three handstamps are associated with this Post; all are recorded in black. The scarcest handstamp is a 23mm circle with the words "CITY DISPATCH." around the inner rim of the circle; the word "PAID." runs horizontally across the center. (See Figure 7) I call this the *Type I* handstamp. I have recorded four examples of this handstamp.<sup>35</sup>

The second scarcest handstamp (*Type II*) has the words "CITY DISPATCH PROMPT DELIVERY." around the inner rim of the circle. The date and time are located horizontally in the center. (See Figure 8) I have recorded this handstamp used only thirteen days -- from July 13 through July 25. Both Types I and II handstamps have been recorded used on the face of the cover only, never as a cancellation.

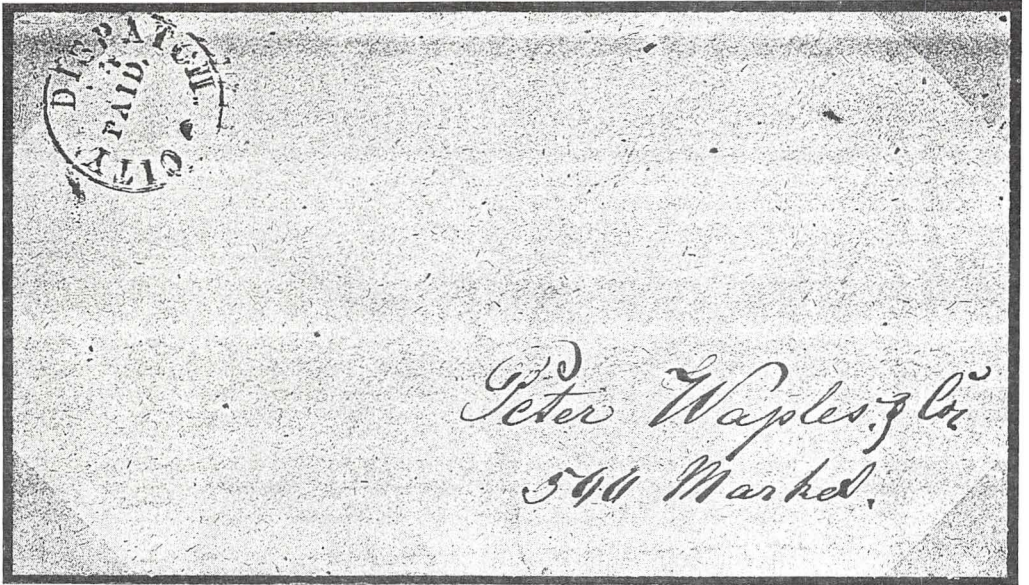


Figure 7: City Dispatch Post, scarce Type I "PAID" handstamp.

I have recorded six examples of the Type II handstamp.

The third handstamp (*Type III*) consists of a 16-17mm circle with cross-hatching in it, struck in black. It was always used to cancel Scott #41L1 when it was used at all.<sup>36</sup> Covers showing the Type III handstamp are undated unless they contain receiving docketing or the Philadelphia octagonal CDS cancelling a stamp used to carry the cover "to the mails". Type III is the most common of the three handstamps.

The covers I have recorded are as follows:

1. *Type I* handstamp:

A. Apr. 18, 1860. Folded auction notice. Ex-Hollowbush. John A. Fox Sale Jan. 5, 1966, Lot #1255.

B. No date. City use. Printed circular in envelope. Addressed to "Peter Wayles & Co./570 Market". (See Figure 7) S.M. Roth collection.

C. July 17, 1860. Used on cover with Type II & Type III handstamps and Scott #41L1. Addressed to: "D.K. Houtz/11th & Washington Avenue/Phila"; Siegel Sale Mar. 21, 1965, Lot 776; William Fox Sale Apr. 10, 1974, Lot 86.

D. No date. Used with Type III handstamp & Scott #41L1. Addressed to "Isaiah Martin Esq/1345 N 2nd". H.R. Harmer, Inc. Sale

July 22, 1976, Lot #1356.

2. *Type II* handstamp:

A. July 13. Used with Scott #41L1 and Scott #26 which is tied with large Philadelphia octagon with year date. Ex-Waterhouse. H.R. Harmer Ltd (London) Sale June 27-30, Lot #879.<sup>37</sup>

B. July 13. Used with Type III handstamp & Scott #41L1. "2 M". Ex-Hollowbush. John A. Fox Sale Jan. 5, 1966, Lot #1271.

C. July 13. "11 M". Used with Type III handstamp & Scott #41L1. Addressed "Vestryman/Ledger Office/Phila". Siegel Sale Apr. 1, 1965, Lot #777; R. Kaufmann Net Price Sale No 9, Lot #437.

D. July 16. "5 PM". (See Figure 8) Used with Type III handstamp and Scott #41L1. Addressed to "Messrs. Nathan Trotter & Co./No. 36 North Front Street/Philadelphia" Ex-Middendorf. Middendorf Lot #521. S.M. Roth collection.

E. July 17. Docketed on face with 1860 year date. Used with Types I and III handstamps & Scott #41L1. "5 M". Addressed: "D. K. Houtz/Phila". Ex-Gibson. Siegel Sale Mar. 21, 1965, Lot #776; Wm. Fox Sale Apr. 10, 1974, Lot #86.

F. July 25. "5 M". Addressed: "Mr. W.H. Helweg/(Book Maker)/No 410 Green St./Phila. Pa".

3. *Type III* handstamp:<sup>38</sup>

A. See covers listed with Type I and Type II handstamps, above. Also,

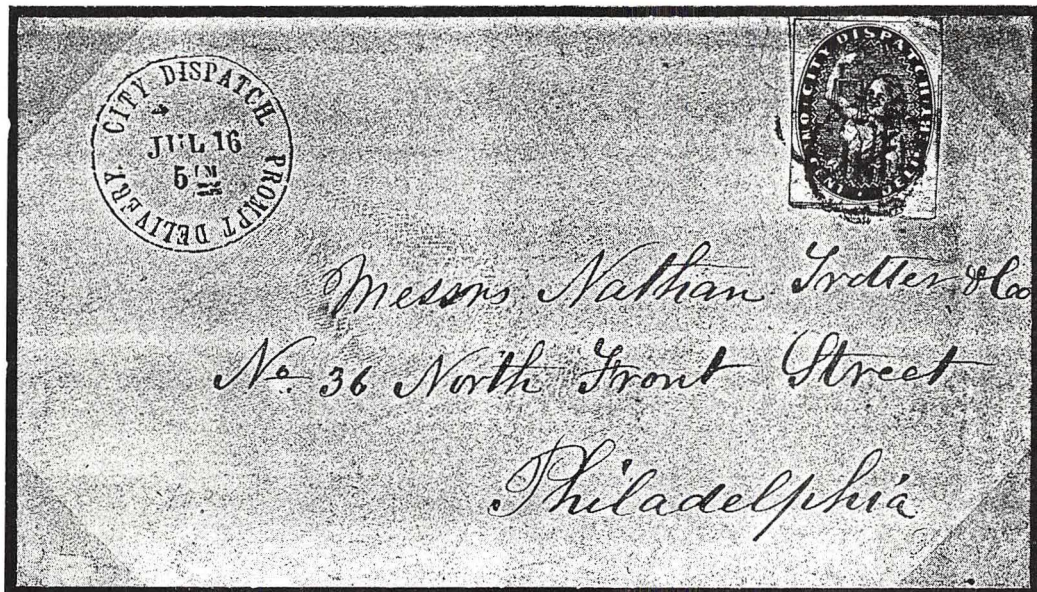


Figure 8: City Dispatch Post, Type II "Prompt Delivery" handstamp.

B.No date. Addressed to "Joseph K. Wheeler/No. 305 Pine Street/Philadelphia".

C.No date. Addressed to "Robt. H. McGrath Esq./1114 Arch St./Philadelphia". Mayflower Sale, Aug. 14, 1965, Lot #644.

D.Feb. 13, 1860. Addressed to "Mr. L. Smedley/Care of Lancaster Road Co./Thirty Fifth St./Phila." Ill. cc. Ex-Hollowbush. John A. Fox Sale Jan. 5, 1966, Lot #1270; Siegel Sale Oct. 27, 1968, Lot #885.

E.No date. Addressed to "Saml. Agnew Esq./Nw Cor. of Filbert & 11th/Phila." Pencil "Paid". S.M. Roth collection.

F.No date. Addressed to "Mount Airey Lodge No.235 I.S. of SF/Mount Airey/Phila County/Penna". With Scott #26, tied by CDS. S.M. Roth collection.

G.May 5, 1860. Used with Scott #24 (x3), tied by octagon Philadelphia CDS. R. Kaufmann Sale Apr. 21, 1982, Lot #1693.

H.No date. John A. Fox Sale July 27, 1967, Lot #938.

I.No date. Siegel Sale Dec. 17, 1959, Lot #1436; John A. Fox Sale July 27, 1967, Lot #939.

J.No date. Siegel Sale May 12, 1975, Lot #1404.

K.No date. Partially visible address to : "N.S. Lawrence". Siegel Sale Sept. 28, 1972, Lot #1772.

L.No date. Siegel Sale May 27, 1967, Lot #375; Sotheby Sale August 1980, Lot #2010. The cover has written on its face the word "ffram" (?).

M.No date. Partially visible address to "Mr. Thos. D. Wattson/Care of"; H.R. Harmer Sale Jan. 20, 1965, Lot #925; Siegel Sale Aug. 14, 1973, Lot #467.

N.No date. Partially visible address to "S. R. Wylie Mitchel/1235 Chestnut St." John A. Fox Sale Mar. 31, 1961, Lot #608; Siegel Sale July 9, 1969, Lot #395.

O.No date. Described as "...tied large part folded ltr to N.Y." Partially visible name "Rohe". Apfelbaum Sale May 15, 1969, Lot #442.

P.Feb. 15, 1860. Siegel Sale April 15, 1971, Lot #1850.

Q.No date. Partially visible address to "J.J.Mic.../927". Siegel Sale June 17, 1973, Lot # 1335.

R.No date. Partially visible address to "Mr. S. Silver/?/Chestnut Street". Siegel Sale Aug. 17, 1965, Lot #740.

S.Mar.12, 1860. With Scott #26. Both stamps tied by Philadelphia octagonal CDS. Addressed to ".../Hyattstown/Mercer Co./N..."

T.April 30, 1860. With Scott #26, tied by Philadelphia octagonal CDS. Addressed to "Thomas MacNamara Esq./Attorney at Law/Belle Fonte/Center County/Penna."

U.May 1, 1860. With Scott #26. Stolow Sale Jan. 24, 1962, Lot #430; Siegel Sale Apr. 15, 1971, Lot #1852.

V.No date. Addressed to "Mr. J. H. Little/No. 243 Sth 5th St./Philadelphia". Ex-Baker. G. Stimmell collection.

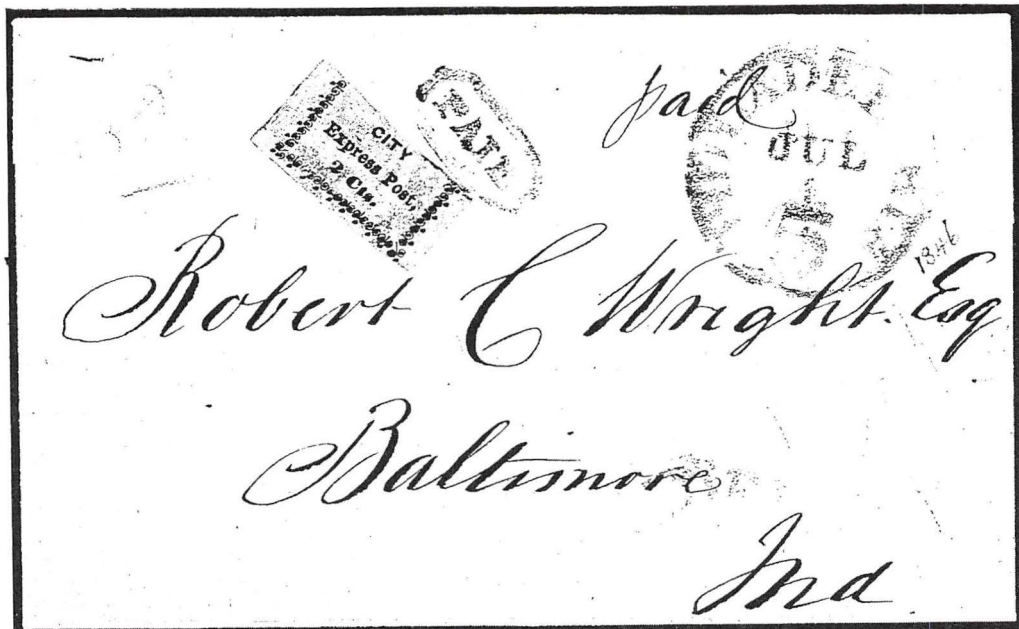


Figure 11: The unique known example of 44L1 on July 1, 1846 cover.

## V. City Express Post

**W**e know very little about this Post, which appears to have operated from 1844 through 1846. These dates are in conflict with the dates of operation given by Patton (1846-1850),<sup>39</sup> but they are supported by an examination of known covers. I do not know the basis for Patton's dating.

Robson Lowe<sup>40</sup> wrote that this Post was started by Calvin Tyson, who sold the business to Daniel O. Blood on Nov. 24, 1846. None of my research for my *Blood's Despatch Revisited* article either confirmed or disproved this statement. Although it has been frequently repeated in the literature, I do not know the basis for Mr. Lowe's assertion. Indeed, Calvin Tyson was not listed in any *McElroy's City Directory* for the years 1843 through 1852 (the last year I examined).

The City Express Post used one, or possibly two, handstamps. Each is known in one example only. One handstamp was used on a folded letter dated Nov. 26, 1845. It is inscribed: "EXPRESS/POST", in black. There is

a manuscript "2 cents" below the handstamp. (See Figure 9) However, I do not know if this is a *City Express Post* marking or the *handstamp of some other despatch Post* called the Express Post.<sup>41</sup> Nonetheless, this marking has always been treated in the literature as if it were the handstamp of the City Express Post.

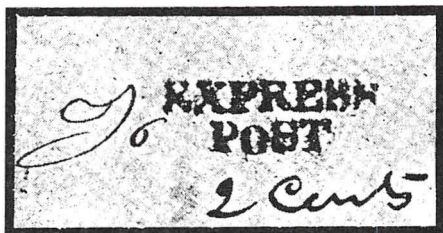


Fig. 9: Express Post handstamp.

The other handstamp is an oval marking, in black, and is inscribed: "CITY EXPRESS/2 cts./POST." It was used on Feb. 7, 1846 on a SFL sent for City delivery. (See Figure 10)<sup>42</sup> Although Patton purports to describe a second example of this handstamp, which he says was offered in the Caspary Sale<sup>43</sup> as Lot #711 (and which was described as black on buff, cut circular, "...an unlisted adhesive or cut out handstamp





Fig. 10: Oval City Express cancel.

from envelope...”), in fact Patton erroneously described the handstamp of the *Philadelphia* Despatch Post, as an examination of the Caspary catalogue reveals.

The City Express Post issued three stamps in two designs, as follows:

1. 2¢ Black. Scott #44L1.
2. (2¢) Black on Pinkish paper. Scott #44L2.
3. (2¢) Red on Yellow paper. Scott #44L3.

Each is extremely scarce. There is only one reported example each of Scott #44L1 and #44L3, as described below.

1. #44L1. (See Figure 11).  
Only known example. On July 1, 1846 folded

letter to Robert C. Wright Esq., Baltimore, Maryland. Blue Philadelphia Type C-39 CDS (reported used 1846-1847); stamp tied by blue Philadelphia octagonal “PAID” handstamp. Ex-Ferrari; Gibson; Lilly; Middendorf. Siegel Sale Sept. 14, 1967, Lot #711; Middendorf Lot #522.

2. #44L2. (See Figure 12 for design):

A. Jan. 5, 1846. Printed circular to Burlington, New Jersey. Blue Philadelphia “2” in double circle handstamp; blue CDS Type C-8 (reported used 1844-1845). Ex-Gibson; Middendorf. Middendorf Lot #523.

B. Apr. 27, (1846). Internally dated. Addressed to “Mr. E.C. Estes/No. 122 Water Street/New York/City”. Blue Philadelphia “PAID” octagon; “5” in double circle handstamp and manuscript “Paid”; CDS Type C-?. Ex- Emerson; Knapp; Sloane; Hollowbush. H.R. Harmer Sale Oct. 31, 1951, Lot #391; R. Lowe Sale Mar. 1, 1973, Lot #1762.

C. May 4, (1846). Internally dated. Blue “PAID” octagon handstamp and manuscript “Paid”; CDS Type C-39 (reported used 1846-1847). Addressed to “Mr. E.C. Estes Esq./No. 122 Water Street, New York/City” Ex-Caspary; Lilly. H.R. Harmer, Inc. Sale Mar. 20, 1957, Lot #713; Siegel Sale Sept. 14, 1967, Lot #713.

D. No date. City delivery. Addressed to “Miss E.L. Townsend/101 Hahft(?)/Philad”. Ex-Caspary. H.R. Harmer, Inc. Sale Feb. 20, 1957, Lot #712.

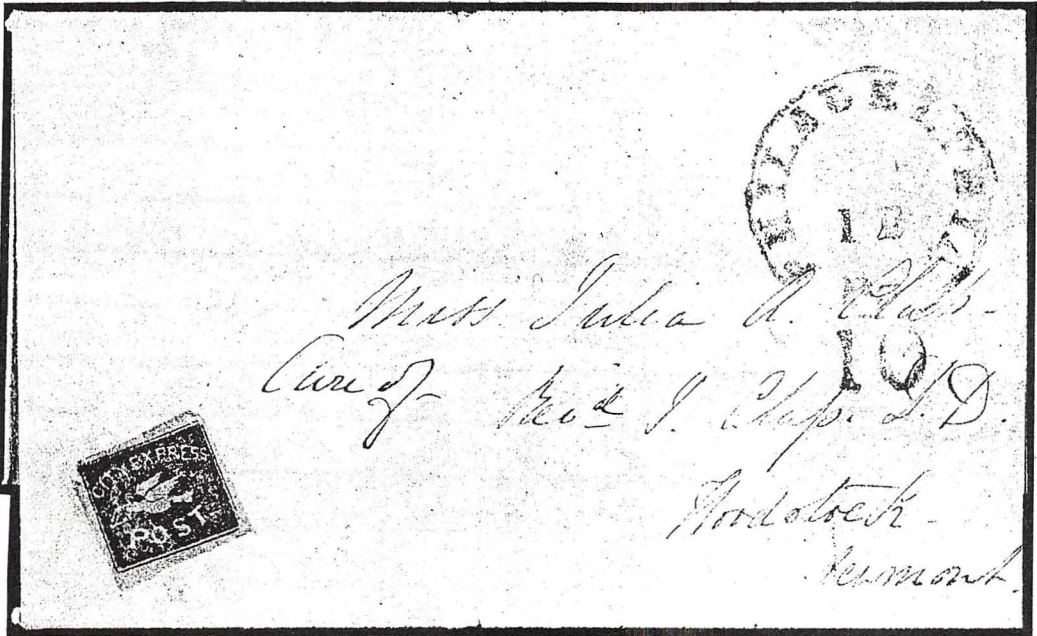


Figure 12: City Express 44L3 on undated FLS to Vermont.

E. July 16, -). Blue "PAID" octagon handstamp and CDS Type C-43 (reported used 1846-1850). CDS double struck, once lightly.

F. No date. On piece. Signed "Robson Lowe". Ex-Boker. Edgar Mohrmann & Co. Sale Oct. 22-24, 1974, Lot #671.

3. #14L3. No date. (See Figure 12)

On SFL to Woodstock, Vermont. Blue CDS with attached "10"; This is CDS Type C-62 (reported used 1846-1847). Ex-Caspary, Lilly, Middendorf. H.R. Harmer, Inc. Sale Mar. 20, 1957, Lot #714; Siegel Sale Sept. 14, 1967, Lot #714; Middendorf Lot #524.

## VI. De Ming's Penny Post Frankford, Pa.

I have included De Ming's Penny Post because Frankford, Pennsylvania was part of the City of Philadelphia and Philadelphia County during the existence of this despatch Post. Until 1854, Frankford, which lies to the northeast of the Old City of Philadelphia, was an independent Borough operating its own post office. On Feb. 2, 1854, the Pennsylvania Act of Consolidation became law, and all independent Townships, Boroughs and Districts located within the boundaries of Philadelphia County became part of the *City*

of Philadelphia.<sup>44</sup> However, the U. S. Post Office was not required to recognize state drawn city boundaries, and generally did not in the case of Philadelphia County. Indeed, most of the independent post offices located in Philadelphia County continued to operate after Consolidation as they had before. Frankford, for example, operated as an independent post office until Aug. 15, 1863, when it became Station F of Philadelphia.

Writing in 1917 in *The Philatelic Gazette*, Henry Needham had this to say of De Ming's Penny Post:

"Frankford, a part of the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has the honor, and one of its citizens the emoluments of this Post (De Ming's) and its business.

"We have been unable to find any data as to its history.

"Stamp lithographed.

"One Type Only. 1 cent, Black on bluish gray."<sup>45</sup>

Apparently, Needham fueled Perry's feud with him when, writing later (according to Perry), Needham provided some substantive information about De Ming's<sup>46</sup> that had been made available to him by Perry, from Perry's

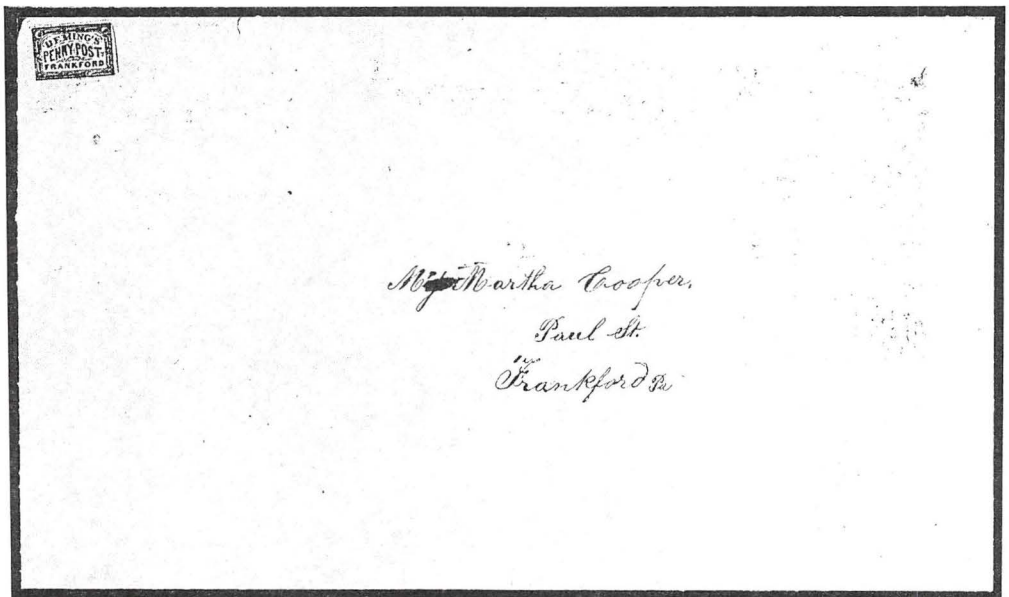


Figure 13: De Ming stamp (58L1) on huge Valentine (vastly reduced here).

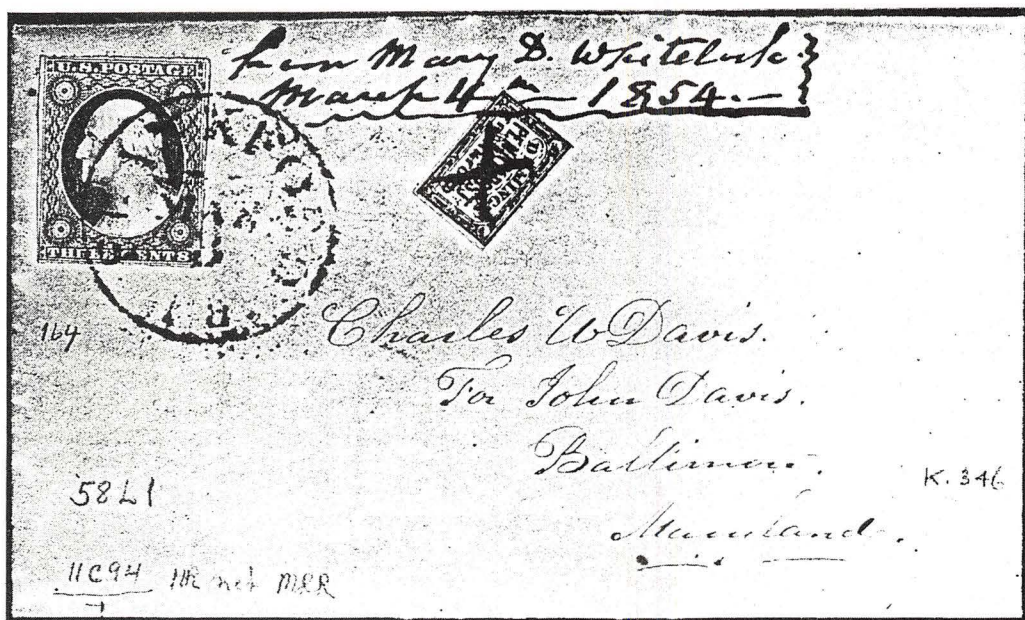


Figure 14: March 4, 1854 cover, De Ming stamp tied by docketing in pen.

own research.<sup>47</sup> To that end, Needham wrote that:

“This stamp was evidently issued about 1855 by Sidney De Ming who conducted a small newspaper and carrier business at Frankford; from 1856 to 1860 he was a reporter.”

This still is all we know about this Post.

There are two covers reported with the De Ming’s Penny Post adhesive (Scott #58L1). One saw local Frankford use; the other was taken to the mails for carriage by the U. S. Post Office to Baltimore, Maryland. The covers are as follows:

1. No date. Large Valentine entire addressed to “Ms. Martha Cooper/Paul St./Frankford Pa.” (See Figure 13). Stamp uncanceled according to Sloane’s notes even though the auction description said “acid cancelled”. No postmarks on envelope. Ex-Hollowbush. Laurence & Stryker Sale July 30, 1951, Lot #?; Siegel Sale Sept. 28, 1972, Lot #1779; Siegel Sale Apr. 27, 1990, Lot #471.

2. Mar. 4, 1854. (See Figure 14) Scott #26 tied with black Frankford, Pa. CDS Type H-1; De Ming’s stamp cancelled with black penned “X”, but not tied. Receiving docketing: “from Mary D. Whitelock/Mar. 4th,

1854”. Docketing ties De Ming’s adhesive. Ex-Knapp. Bruce Daniels Sale June 1954, Lot #?; Edgar Mohrmann & Co. Sale Oct. 16, 1973, Lot #142.

## VII. T.A. Hampton City Despatch

**T**homas A. Hampton appears to have operated this local Post, based on the dating of extant covers, from 1847 to sometime in 1849. Examination of *McElroy’s City Directory* for each year from 1844 through 1851 failed to disclose a listing for him. He did appear, however, in the *City Directory* for the year 1852, listed as:

“Hampton, Thos. A., printer,  
Marshall ab 5th (S).”

He was not listed again.

The Hampton Post issued two types of adhesive stamps and used three types of handstamps, plus one that has had the rate altered by writing. The adhesive stamps are described as follows:

1. Scott #77L1. Black on white paper. Typeset. Inscribed: “For the POST OFFICE/CITY/DESPATCH/PAID/T.A. HAMPTON.” (See Figure 15)

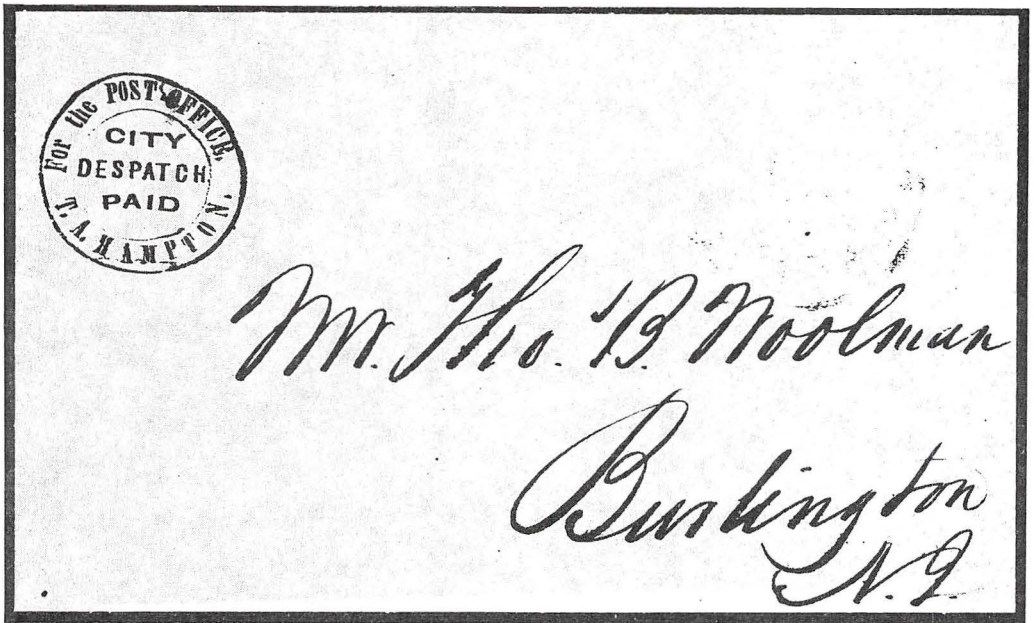


Figure 15: T.A. Hampton 77L1 cut to shape on cover.

2. Scott #77L2. Jet Black on white paper. Typeset. Inscribed: "DESPATCH POST/PAID/\*T.A. HAMPTON\*". (See Figure 16)

The handstamps were similar in form and text to adhesive Scott #77L2, but had in their center either the word "PAID",

"3 Cts." or "2 Cts." In one instance, the "2 Cts." was reported overwritten in ink "3 Cts". All of these handstamps are reported in black.

The reported covers are as follows:

1. Scott #77L1.

A. Nov. 22, 1849. Cut to shape. City delivery

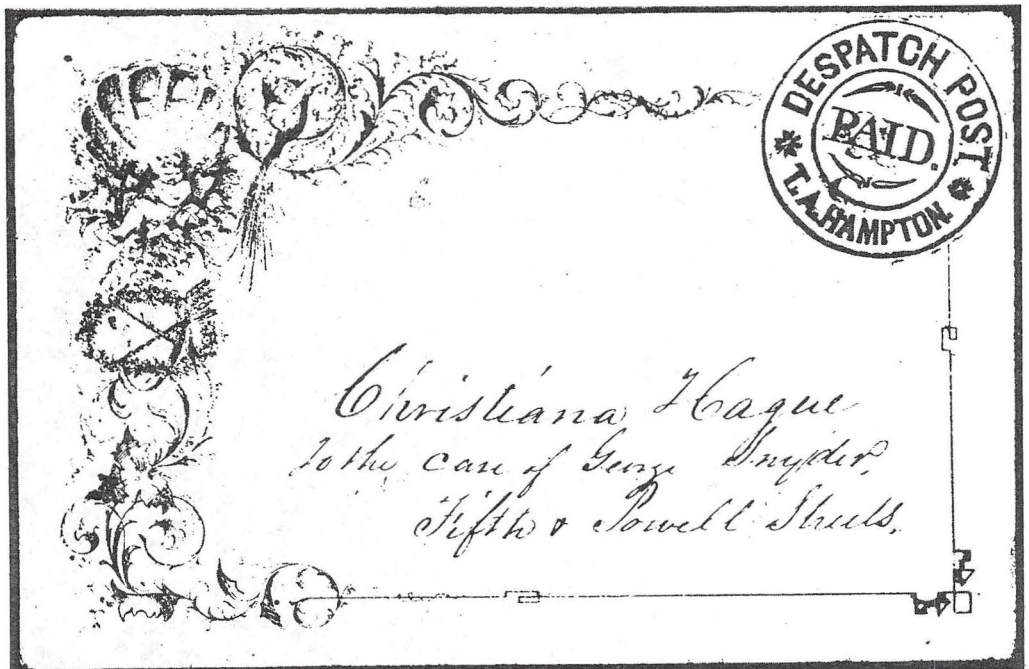


Figure 16: T.A. Hampton 77L2 cancelled with ms. "3" on ornate cover.

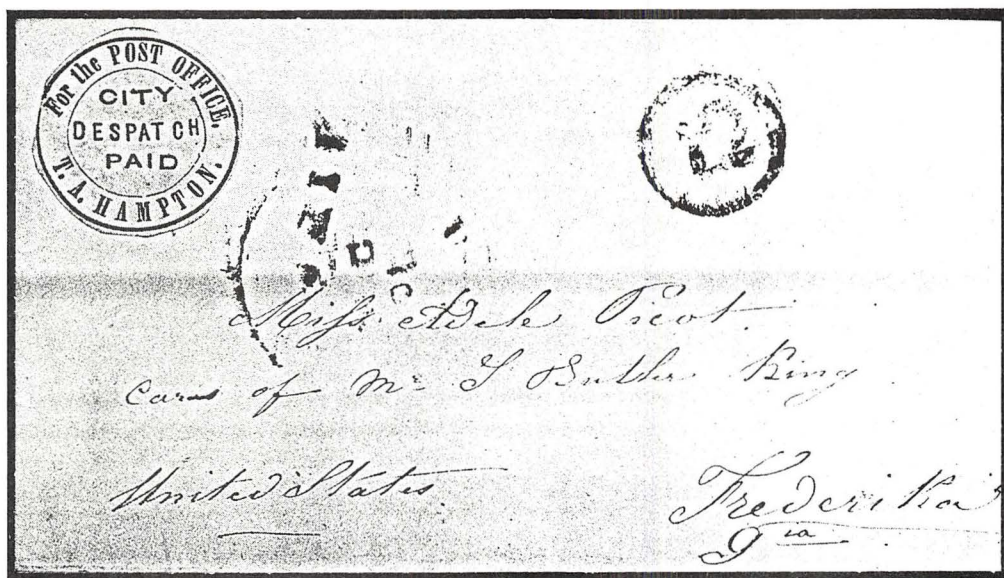


Figure 17: A 77L1 Hampton stamp that does not belong to this cover.

to "Ms. Benjaline French/No. 390 North 7th St." H.R. Harmer, Inc. Sale, Oct. 31, 1951, Lot #904; R. Lowe Sale Mar. 1, 1973, Lot #1784.

B. Oct. 5, 1847. Cut to shape. To "Mr. Daniel Blade/Easton/Pa." H.R. Harmer, Inc. Sale, Oct. 31, 1951, Lot #905; Siegel Sale Jan. 6, 1966, Lot #276; William Fox Sale Apr. 10, 1974, Lot #97.

C. Aug. 22, 1848. (See Figure 15) Stamp repaired at bottom. H.R. Harmer Sale, Oct. 31, 1951, Lot #906; Siegel Sale Apr. 1, 1965, Lot #?.

D., 1847. Adhesive tied by blue CDS Type C-43 (reported used 1846-1850). Siegel Sale Jan. 6, 1966, Lot #275. Partially illustrated. Only reported example of #77L1 tied by CDS.

E. No date. Stamp does not belong on cover. (See Figure 17) Cover to Frederika, Georgia; Handstamps "12" in circle, "SHIP" and indistinct Philadelphia CDS. Ex- Caspary; Middendorf. H.R. Harmer, Inc. Sale Mar. 21, 1957, Lot 814; Siegel Sale May 1, 1965, Lot # 806; Middendorf Lot #606; Ivy, Shreve & Mader Sale Dec. 14, 1990, Lot #2299.

F. Aug. 7, (1847). Dated internally. Addressed to: "P.H. Purviance, Esq./Auditor General/Harrisburg." John A. Fox Sale Sept. 8, 1978, Lot #197.

2.Scott #77L2.

A.No date. (See Figure 16) Cancelled with

manuscript "3" in black. Needham collection. Signed "Geo. Sloane".

B. May 23, 1849. Addressed to: "?kinson, Esq./Cashier/New Orleans/La". Ex-Gibson; Lilly. Siegel Sale Sept. 14, 1967, Lot #778; R. Lowe Sale Mar. 1, 1973, Lot # 1783.

C., 1847 SFL. Addressed to "Morris & Jones/Corner Schuylkill ab Market/?" H.R. Harmer, Inc. Sale Feb. 12, 1973, Lot #1078.

There are four covers and one piece reported bearing T. A. Hampton handstamps only, as follows:

1. "PAID".

A. Aug. 14, 1847. (See Figure 18) Lowe says that the adhesive (#77L2) was printed from this handstamp. R. Lowe Sale Mar. 1, 1973, Lot #1780.



Fig. 19: "3" overwrites "2".

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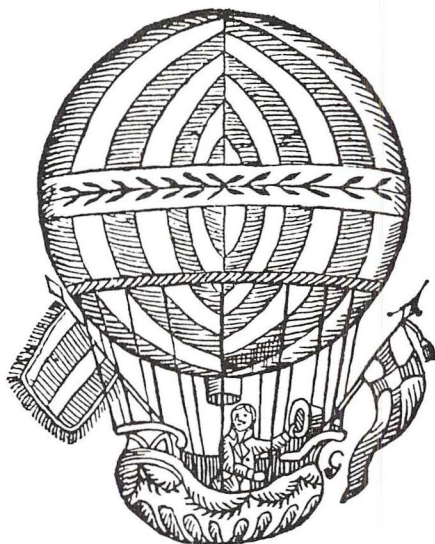
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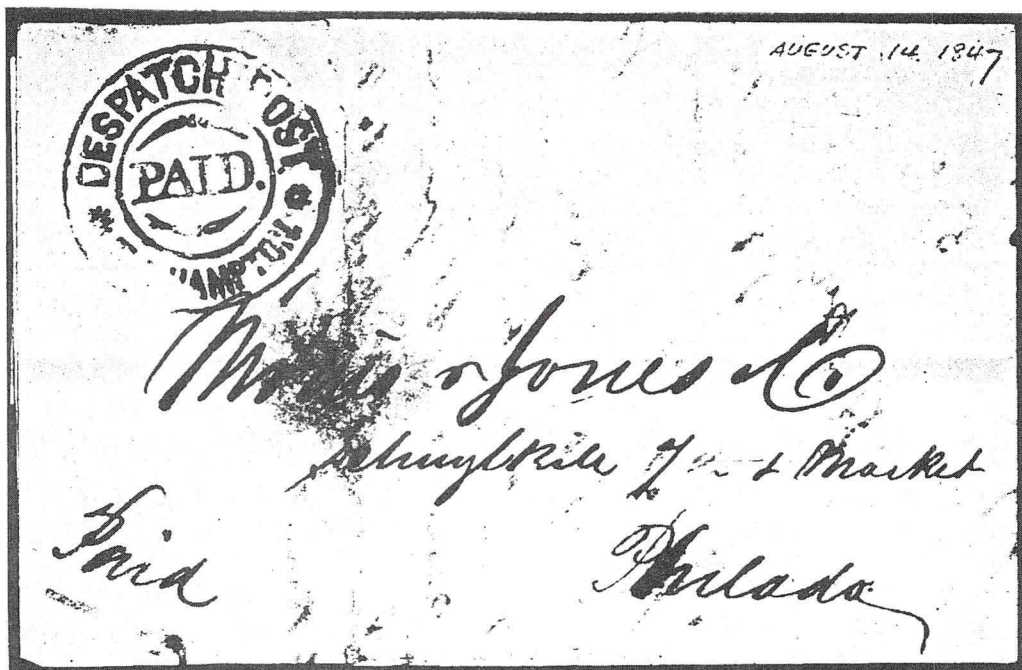


Figure 18: This handstamp apparently inspired the adhesive stamp, 77L2.

2. "2 Cts."

A. July 25, 1847. City delivery. R. Lowe Sale, Mar. 1, 1973, Lot # 1781; Robert Kaufmann Sale July 10, 1981, Lot #359.

B., 7,1847. From Coatsville to Philadelphia. Cover initialled "EP" Elliott Perry. Ex-Hollowbush. R. Lowe Sale Mar. 1, 1973, Lot #1780a.

3. "3 Cts."

A. No date. R. Lowe Sale Mar. 1, 1973, Lot #1782.

4. "2" overwritten in ink as "3".

A. No date. On piece. (See Figure 19). Illustrated and noted in George Sloane's file.

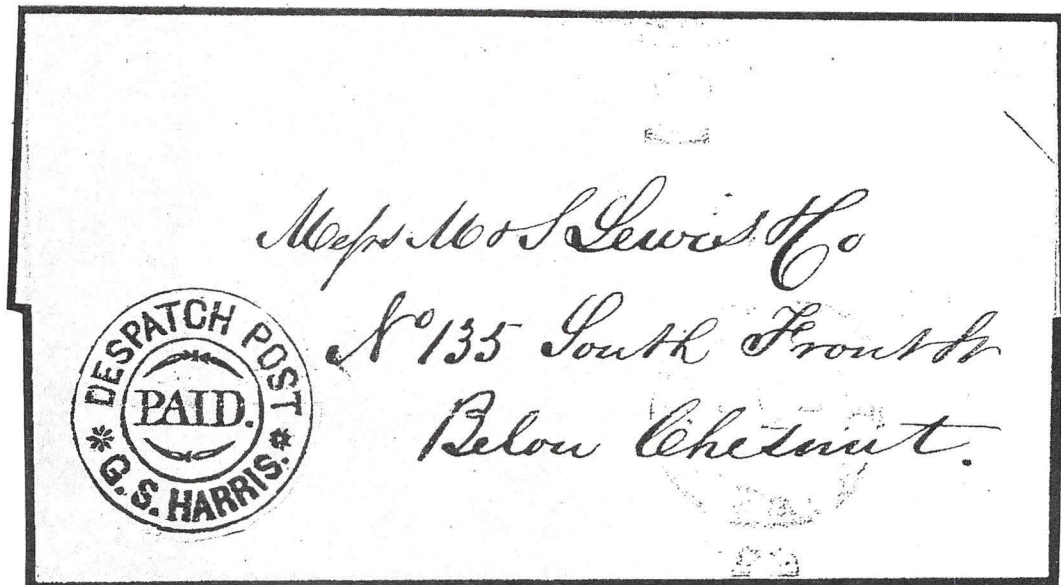


Figure 20: G.S. Harris 79L2 on July 5, 1847 folded letter sheet.



## VIII. G.S. Harris Despatch Post

It has been written that this Post was the predecessor to T.A. Hampton's Post, and that Harris sold his business to Hampton in 1847. I know of no direct evidence to support this view, but there is a deductive basis for such a conclusion. The only reported cover bearing a Harris adhesive is dated July 5, 1847; the earliest Hampton cover is dated Aug. 7, 1847. Why should this sequence of dates be suggestive of a lineage between the two Posts? Perhaps because the two Hampton adhesives and the two Harris adhesives are identical except for the change of the name of the Post at the bottom of the design. Obviously, this is probative, but not conclusive.<sup>48</sup>

There are two types of adhesives known. The first, Scott #79L1, is identical to Hampton's Scott #77L1, except for the name change. I know of no reported cover bearing this adhesive. The second, Scott #79L2, is identical to its Hampton counterpart (#77L2), with the name altered. I have recorded one

example on cover. (See Figure 20)<sup>49</sup> This SFL was dated July 5, 1847, and was addressed for City delivery. It has a blue CDS with the "2" (¢) attached rate for the drop letter fee. This CDS (Type C-24) has been reported used in 1846-1847.

My examination of *McElroy's City Directory* for the years 1844 through 1850 discloses that G.S. Harris was not listed in 1844 through 1846, but that he was listed from 1847 through 1850 as "Printer, 119 N 4th".

## IX. Morton's Post

We know nothing about this Post. There is no "Morton" in the City Directories who could be confidently discerned as someone operating a despatch Post. Nonetheless, the circumstance of the discovery of the first Morton's cover lends authenticity to it. Alfred Caspary's collection contained a letter from the person who had discovered the Morton's cover, written to John Klemann, describing the find:<sup>50</sup>

"S.W. Woodhouse, Jr., Adviser  
1015 South 48 Street

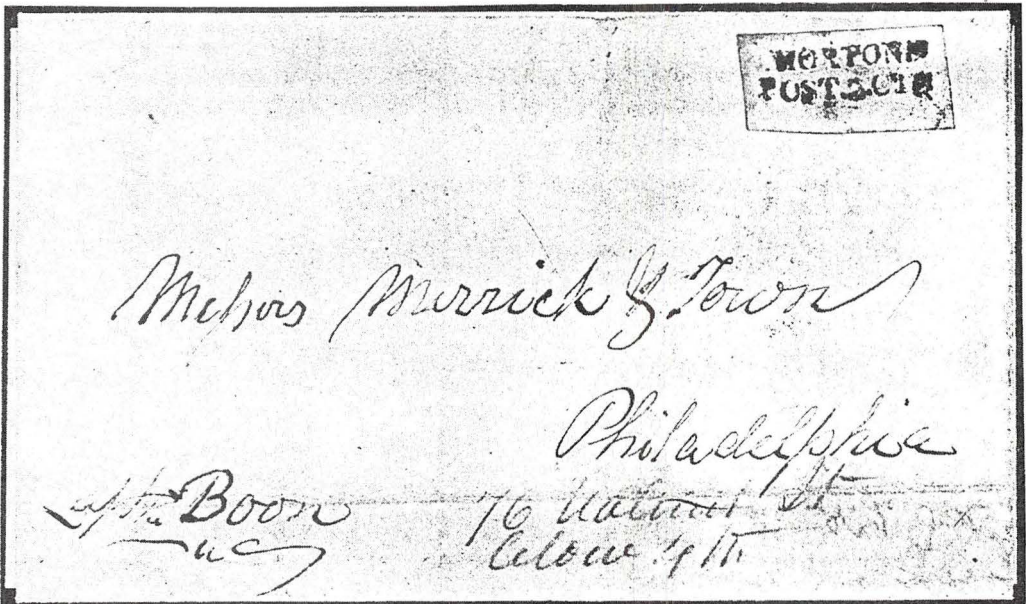


Figure 21: Morton handstamp affixed by wafer to April 15, 1846 cover.

Apr. 29, 1930  
Mr. J.J. Klemann, Jr.  
70 Nassau Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Klemann:

I at once recognized the Morton Post. It was found by me in a bundle of Testimony among the papers of the late William M. Meredith, at one time Secretary of the Treasury in the Cabinet of Zachary Taylor.

The find, as you will recollect, occasioned a good deal of excitement, but some good items had been ruined by fire, and almost all of the correspondence during those critical and much sought-for years 1848-52, either to or from William Meredith, being official, only had franks.

If my memory serves me correctly, This Morton Post together with two other locals, the familiar Bloods stepping over the old Exchange, were found together in one bundle.

Very sincerely yours,  
S.W. Woodhouse, Jr."

I have recorded only two covers, as follows:

1. "MORTONS/POST/2 CTS" black handstamp. (See Figure 21) This appears to be a handstamp on a piece of adhesive; it is affixed to the folded letter by a wafer. Folded letter originated in Port Penn on Apr. 15, 1846. Ex-Caspary; Middendorf. Bartel's Sale #96 (1920), Lot #72; R. Lowe Sale Mar. 1, 1973, Lot #1779; R. Lowe Sale Sept. 8, 1981, Lot #793; Middendorf Lot # 696; Christie's Sale Sept. 10, 1991, Lot #793; Christie's Sale Dec. 15, 1992, Lot #443.



Figure 22: Mortons Post 2 variety.

2. "MORTONS/POST/2" black handstamp. (See Figure 22) Folded letter without contents. No date. Addressed: "Mr. George T. Campbell Esq/Counselor at Law/Phila"; manuscript "98 south fourth" in upper right corner. John A. Fox Sale July 30, 1959, Lot #474; Siegel Sale Feb. 17, 1993, Lot #117.

## X. Spence & Brown Express Post

This Post is a mystery to me. Not only do we know nothing about it, but one of the two covers recorded makes no sense, although Perry, Sloane and Denwood Kelly all concluded that the cover is genuine. Despite their intuitive belief that the cover is "good", however, the cover also made no sense to Sloane and Kelly according to their notes; Perry did not discuss the cover, per se.

Perry published his study of this Post in *Pat Paragraphs*.<sup>51</sup> He concluded that the Spence and Brown were James K. Spence and Emmanuel D. Brown, among all of the Spences and Browns listed in the City Directories for the relevant period. My examination of the Directories reveals the following (consistent with Perry's findings): Spence was not listed in 1842 or 1843. He was shown as a "collector" from 1846-1848, at 48 South 6th Street. He was not listed in 1849. In 1850 his address was listed as "sch 6th ab High"; no profession was given.

Emmanuel D. Brown was listed for every year from 1844 through 1850. In 1844 and 1845, no profession was given for him. From 1846 through 1850, he was shown as a "collector", with his address changing each year beginning in 1846.

The Post issued two adhesives, known as Scott #159L1 and #159L2. Both are illustrated in Scott's *U.S. Specialized*. It also used one handstamp. It, too, is shown in Scott's *Specialized* under the Locals Handstamps section.

Covers are very rare. I know of no example of Scott #159L1 on cover. I have recorded only one example of #159L2 on cover and one example of the handstamp. Sloane's file has a letter from Denwood Kelly stating that Mr. Kelly had heard of a second example of #159L2 on cover in the Ackerman collection;<sup>52</sup> I have not recorded such a cover,

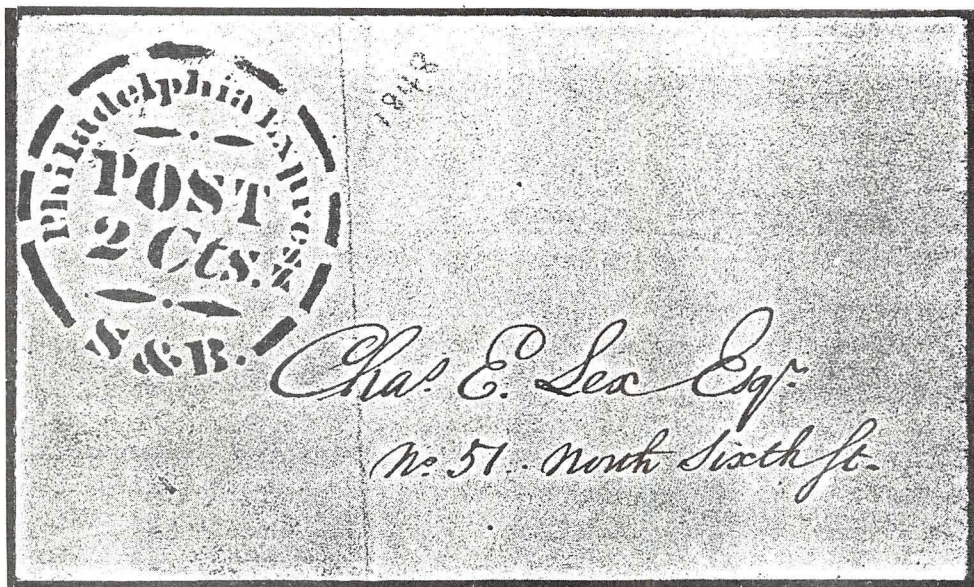


Figure 23: Stencil-style handstamp of Spence & Brown on cover.

nor is there any reference to the cover (other than in Kelly's letter) in Sloane's file.

The two covers I have recorded:

1. Stenciled-type black handstamp reading: "PHILADELPHIA EXPRESS S&B/POST/2 Cts." (See Figure 23). The SFL is dated internally July 21, 1848. Ex-Needham; Gibson; Middendorf. Siegel Sale Apr.

1, 1965, Lot #839; Middendorf Lot #735.

2. #159L2. Jan. 28, 1848. On cover addressed to Baltimore. No Philadelphia or Baltimore postmarks. Stamp cancelled by manuscript "X"; stamp also cancelled and tied by manuscript "S/B". (See Figure 24).<sup>53</sup> Ex-Gibson; Middendorf. H.R. Harmer, Inc. Sale Oct. 3, 1961, Lot #531; Siegel Sale Apr. 1, 1965, Lot #842; Middendorf Lot # 736; Christie's Sale Sept. 25, 1991, Lot #85.<sup>54</sup>



Figure 24: Spence & Brown original (upper right) and forgery (lower left).

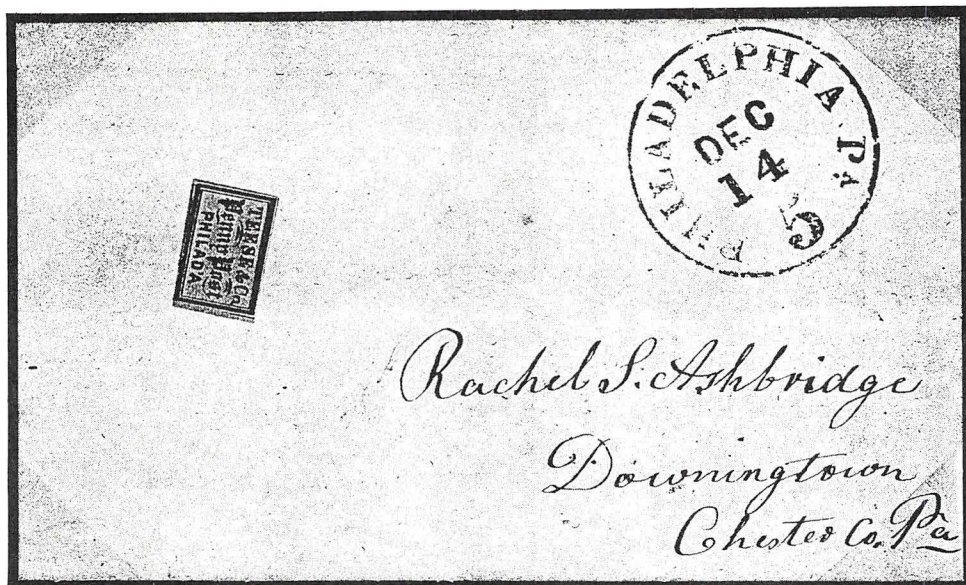


Figure 25: Teese & Co. stamp, uncanceled on cover.

## XI. Teese & Co. Penny Post

**W**e know very little about this Post, although from the few extant covers we can date its operation from very late in 1852 through 1854. Further, we may have identified its operator. *McElroy's City Directory* for 1852 lists a Mitchell Teese, at Washington below 6th, giving his occupation as letter carrier, presumably working for the Carrier Department of the Philadelphia Post Office. Teese is again so listed in 1853. In 1855, we find a listing for Mitchell B. Tees; no occupation is given. Neither Teese nor Tees was listed in 1854, nor from 1856 to 1860.

The fact that Mitchell Teese was listed as a *letter carrier* in the Directory for 1852, and that it appears that he also had started his local Post late in 1852, raises the question whether the Teese & Co. Penny Post adhesive should be treated as a semi-official emission, rather than that of a private post, at least for 1852. I believe that the answer is "no"; that Teese probably had resigned from the Carrier Department

sometime before beginning his Post late in 1852. I have reached this conclusion based on my understanding that the Philadelphia City Directories were compiled in the Spring of each year and printed in July or August of the same year.<sup>55</sup> While we cannot be sure, it is likely that Teese left his government letter carrier position sometime in the late Spring through early Fall of 1852, after the information for the directory had been compiled, thereby giving rise to the listing as we have it.

Teese's adhesive (#137L1) is very imitative of Blood's #15L14 and #15L15. (See Figure 25) I have recorded twelve Teese & Co. Penny Post covers:

### 1. Stamp tied:

A. Sept. 2, -. Tied with Scott #11. Addressed to Mumford, N.Y. Ex-Malcolm. Siegel Sale Sept. 26, 1972, Lot #1903.

B. No date decipherable. Tied by CDS in combination with Scott #11. Addressed to Baltimore, Maryland. Illustrated Tobacco Dealer's Advertisement on rear flap. available. Siegel Sale Apr. 1, 1965, Lot #850.

C. No date. Tied in combination with Scott #U10 entire. John A. Fox Sale July 16, 1968, Lot #543.

D. Feb. 11, 1854. Tied to folded letter by red CDS "3 cts./PAID" (Type C-32, previously

reported used 1847-1850). Addressed to "Dr. William Johnson/White House/Hunterdon County/NJ". Ex-Jarrett. Christie's Sale Mar. 10, 1992, Lot #2085.

E.-10, 1853. Tied by CDS Type C-46 (reported used 1851-1853). Manuscript "5". Addressed to "Moses McClean Esq/Gettysburg/Penna." R. Kaufmann Sale Jan. 25, 1983, Lot #615.

F.Mar. 1, 1853. Tied by 4-pronged pen cancel. Addressed to "Miss Susana Polk/ Third St. below Chestnut/ Philadelphia". G. Stimell collection.

### 2. Stamp cancelled, but not tied:

A.No date. Corner illustrated card, but only the partial-name "BACON" is discernable in the illustration. Manuscript "X". John A. Fox Sale Mar. 24, 1958, Lot #610; Siegel Sale Apr. 1, 1965, Lot #850.

B.No date. Manuscript pencil cancellation. Unreadable CDS. Addressed to Brook Ville, Maryland. R. Kaufmann Sale July 10, 1981, Lot #399.

C.No date. With Scott #9 which is tied by CDS. Manuscript "X" on Teese adhesive. Cover has imprint: "Mint of the United States". Addressed to "Messrs. Nathan Trotter & Co." Siegel Sale Apr. 1, 1965, Lot #849.

### 3.Stamp uncancelled.

A.Dec. 14, 1852. (See Figure 25) CDS Type C-47 (reported used 1852-1854). John A. Fox Sale Mar. 24, 1958, Lot #611. S.M. Roth collection.

B.Aug. 7, 1853. With CDS Type C-32: "3 cts./PAID" (reported used 1847-1850). Addressed to Clinton, New Jersey.

C.Sept. 29, 1853. With CDS Type C-32 (reported used 1847-1850). Manuscript "Paid 3". To Columbia, Pennsylvania. R. Lowe Sale Mar. 3, 1971, Lot #1808.

## XII. Telegraph Despatch P.O.

The earliest mention of this Post occurred in the *American Journal of Philately*<sup>66</sup> when the 1¢ adhesive (Scott #138L1) was described as having been found "...in an old time collection recently purchased by us....hitherto unchronicled." (sic) Later, in the same volume of the *American Journal of Philately*,<sup>67</sup> C.A. Burger stated that the stamp had been "...used in Philadelphia some forty years ago."<sup>68</sup> Then, in April 1896, the second type stamp -- the 2¢ -- (#138L2) was discovered. The announcement came in *The Philatelic Monthly*, which pointed out the spelling error in the word "TELEGAPH" (sic). Only the 1¢ stamp is illustrated in Scott's *U.S. Specialized*, although both stamps are listed. Further, the catalogue erroneously attributes the same design to both denominations although

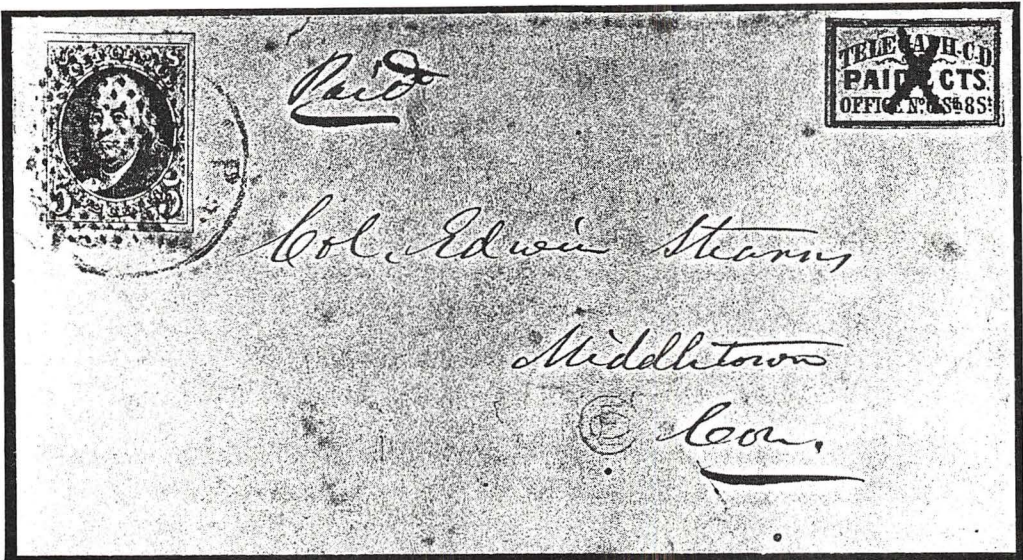


Figure 26: The undated cover bearing 138L2 the "Telegraph" stamp.

the designs are significantly different.

There are three covers reported with #138L1 and one with #138L2, as follows:

1.#138L1. Black on yellowish paper.

A. No date. Cancelled with manuscript "X". Addressed to Washington, D.C. Siegel Sale Apr. 1, 1965, Lot #853.

B. Apr. 25, 1848. SFL from Wilmington, Delaware to Philadelphia. Illustrated in 28 Chronicle 90, page 90. Addressed to "Messrs. Nathan Trotter & Co/Front between Market/and Arch Streets/Philadelphia/Pa". Ex-Gibson; Perry. R. Lowe Sale Mar. 1, 1973, Lot #1790.

C. Jan. 12, 1849. Stamp cancelled with manuscript "X". Cover also has "FREE" in octagon. Addressed to Washington, D.C. Ex-Caspary; Middendorf. H.R. Harmer, Inc. Sale Mar. 21, 1957, Lot #994; Siegel Sale Apr. 1, 1965, Lot #852; Middendorf Lot #763; Christie's Sale Sept. 25, 1991, Lot #86.

2. #138L2. Black on yellowish paper.

A. No date. (See Figure 26) Note design differences from Scott's Specialized illustration of #138L1: "TELEGAPH C-D/PAID 2 CTS./OFFICE No. 61 Sth 8 St." Used with Scott #1b. Ex-Caspary; Lilly; Weill; Cole. H.R. Harmer, Inc. Sale Mar. 21, 1957, Lot #995; Siegel Sale Sept. 14, 1967, Lot #882; Siegel Sale Oct. 3, 1992, Lot #277.

We have no idea who operated this Post from its office at 61 South 8th Street.

### XIII. T. Walters Despatch Post

**W**e know nothing about this Post. We do not even know if it really existed. There are no reported

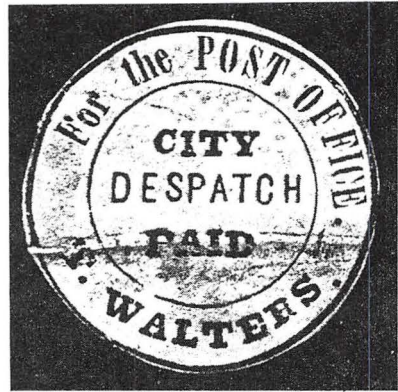


Figure 27: The T. Walters Despatch Post adhesive which resembles Hampton, Harris and others.

covers. The adhesive resembles those of Auner, Hampton, Harris and some of Blood's emissions. It is shown here as Figure 27. However, without some evidence that the Post actually existed, we can only accept Figure 27 tentatively as genuine.

### Conclusion

This report reflects notes taken over the past several years. Although I aspire to have complete and accurate records, there no doubt are covers and auction records I have not seen, or, perhaps, which I have noted incorrectly. I request that readers of this report add to, supplement and/or correct this report. The results will be published in *The Penny Post*.

### FOOTNOTES

1. "Short-Lived" obviously is a subjective term. I am using it to describe those private local posts that did not last more than five or six years. In some cases, they lasted less than one year. Some of these Philadelphia posts have already been studied and written about in *The Penny Post*; others are the subject of current or future studies, and will not be reported upon in this article.
2. With respect to most articles I have researched and published in *The Penny Post*, I am pleased again to express my gratitude to Richard C. Frajola for his counsel and generous loan of local post records in his possession.
3. See, for example, S.M. Roth, *Blood's Despatch Revisited*, *The Penny Post*, Vol.1, No.4 (Apr. 1991), page 4ff.
4. See G. Stimmell, *Eagle City Post and Stait's Despatch*, *The Penny Post*, Vol.1, No.2 (Apr. 1991), page 4ff.
5. I will not discuss the counterfeit or forged adhesives associated with these local posts. This will be the subject of articles in future issues of *The Penny Post*.
6. It was not surprising that the *Public Ledger* would have taken such an active role in promoting Blood's business. Prior to his purchase of the Despatch Post on July 7, 1845, Daniel O. Blood was the Chief Clerk at the *Public Ledger*. Beyond that, his brother-in-law was one of the three owners of the *Public Ledger*. Blood retained close ties with the newspaper after he left its employ, and placed his Company's advertisements in it, not in its rival

- newspapers. No wonder then, that the *Public Ledger's* competition did not mention Blood's Despatch.
7. The last regular local Post to operate in Philadelphia was Blood's Penny Post. It closed its business on Jan. 10, 1862. Thereafter, in April 1879, Guy's Despatch rocketed onto the scene, only to go dark three months later as a result of a court's order to cease business.
8. *McElroy's Philadelphia Directory for 1864.*
9. *Ibid.*
10. As I stated in the *Introduction* to this article, it is my belief that most of the local posts were operated as ancillary businesses, so that the *primary occupation* of the operator would be given in the City Directory. If I am correct in this theory, it is understandable that so many of the persons whom we believe operated the private posts were *printers* (who could manufacture their own adhesives and handstamps) or were *stationers* (who would sell writing paper and accessories *such as local stamps*). Less logical, but easily explainable I believe, is that so many of the apparent operators were *tobacconists*. I believe that the answer here is found in the existence of very heavy "foot traffic" present in the tobacco shops, so that the tobacconist would operate his private post as a convenience to his customers, and also make some profit.
11. However, Sloane in his notes did describe the only example he had seen *on cover* as black on grayish paper.
12. The blue Philadelphia CDS appears to be Type C-43, known to have been used 1843-1850. Sloane's description of this CDS in his *Stamps* article is consistent with this typing since he describes the marking as containing the term "PHILADA." (thus Type C-43), rather than containing the term "PHILADELPHIA" (as in Type C-46), known used 1851-1853). Unfortunately, an examination of the photograph of the cover does not resolve the dating issue.
13. The cover, according to Sloane's notes, was briefly owned by Hollowbush who had purchased it from Earl Alpfelbaum. Hollowbush was forced to return it to its original owner when it was discovered that the cover had been stolen from her collection, sold to an innocent dealer, and then innocently resold to Alpfelbaum. Hollowbush was never able to persuade the woman to part again with the cover. I do not know its present location.
14. R.F. Weigley, *The Border City in Civil War: 1854-1865*, in *Philadelphia: A 300 Year History* (NY/London 1982), p.379.
15. *Stamp Collectors Magazine*, 1863, page 60.
16. *Ibid.*, page 77. Kline had not mentioned the Chestnut Street Line in his first edition in 1862.
17. *Philatelic Monthly & World*, Vol. XXI, page 73.
18. *American Journal of Philately*, Vol. XI, March 1898, page 126.
19. H. Needham, *United States Local Stamps: A Concise History and Memoranda*. Serialized in part in *The Philatelic Gazette*; The reference to the Chestnut Street Line is at page 245. The serialization was completed in the *American Philatelist*.
20. *The Philatelist*, "The American Local and Carriers' Stamps — part VII", pp. 133-134.
21. E. Costales, *U.S. Locals*, reprint by United States Company Herald.
22. The "stamp" was depicted in the 1906 Scott Catalogue and the 1910 Scott Standard Catalogue of Local Stamps, but was deleted sometime around 1933.
23. Needham, *Op. Cit.*, page 245.
24. Perry's note for Costales.
25. I have not been able to verify Perry's statement concerning the amount of the omnibus fare nor if the service began along *Chestnut Street* in 1859. I do know that horse drawn trolley service began elsewhere in Philadelphia and the County Districts as early as 1855. Weigley, *Op. Cit.*, p.379.
26. Letter, dated Jan. 27, 1956. Although Boggs requested information about the "stamp", he had actually described the cover to Sloane as well as the adhesive.
27. Letter, dated Jan. 31, 1956. Boggs did not thereafter respond to Sloane, so Sloane again wrote to him on Mar. 3, 1956, requesting a report on the Expert Committee's findings.
28. Letter, dated Mar. 7, 1956.
29. In the Jan. 1993 issue of *The Penny Post* Richard Schwartz wrote about and illustrated a newly discovered City Despatch Post handstamp marking on cover. *What City Despatch Post is This?*, *The Penny Post*, Vol.3, No.1, page 22. I do not know whether Mr. Schwartz' Post and the one I am writing about are the same company.
30. 90 CHRONICLE 28 (May 1976), page 86.
31. Robertson & Co. was the predecessor of Blood's Despatch.
32. Scott #15L3.
33. Although the photograph was too weak to confirm that the letters are "AM" rather than "PM", I have examined the cover and am satisfied the strike, although very weak, is "AM".
34. For an excellent study of the stamp (Scott #42L1) issued by this post, see, R. Lowe, *Philadelphia City Dispatch/One Cent Delivery*, 72 CHRONICLE 23 (Nov.1971), page 172ff.
35. I used to believe that this handstamp was the product of a local Post not associated with the Post here under discussion; that they merely had similar names. However, I have since discovered two covers which have convinced me that both Type I and Type II handstamps were used by the same Post. One cover bears both handstamps on its face along with Scott #41L1; the other bears a Type I handstamp and Scott #41L1 on its face. Both covers are set forth in more detail in the census.
36. Sometimes the adhesive was cancelled with the Philadelphia CDS when the letter was carried "to the mails".
37. This cover and several other Type II covers dated "July 13", showed enough in the catalogue illustrations to satisfy me that they are different covers under the same date. None showed enough to give a more detailed description than I have given.
38. All reported examples of this handstamp are used to cancel Scott #41L1. Other stamps and markings on a cover are mentioned in this census. Several covers described in the census do not contain enough information to identify them beyond the sale catalogue. Perhaps later sales, showing more of the covers, will allow us to expand the descriptions and prevent us from counting as two distinct covers what is really two illustrations of the same item.
39. Patton, *Op.Cit.*, Part-LXIV, page 88.
40. 90 CHRONICLE 28, pages 87-88.
41. The cover is partially illustrated in the R. Lowe Sale held on Mar. 1, 1973, as Lot #1761.
42. This cover was grouped with Figure 9 as part of Lot #1761 in the Mar. 1, 1973 R. Lowe Sale.
43. *Caspary Sale*, Part 8, Lot #711, Mar. 18, 19, 20, 21, 1957. H.R. Harmer.

44. E. Price, *The History of the Consolidation of the City of Philadelphia* (Lippincott 1873), page 47; H. Leffman, *The Consolidation of Philadelphia* (City History Society of Philadelphia 1908), pp.36-37.
45. Reprinted in E. Perry, *Pat Paragraphs*, Feb. 1848, No. 50.
46. *The Philatelic Gazette*, Jan. 1918.
47. Perry, *Op. Cit.*
48. There are several examples of the mimicking of adhesive designs among Philadelphia local posts, even though I know of no ownership relationship among them. For example, T.A. Hampton's Scott #77L2 was strikingly similar to Blood's Scott #15L7, #15L8 and #15L9; So were Blood's Scott #15L14 and #15L15 and Teese's #137L1. (See Figure 25).
49. Ex-Caspar; Middendorf. Siegel Sale Mar. 18-21, 1957, Lot #819; Middendorf Lot #614; Christie's Sale Sept. 25, 1991, Lot #79.
50. Letter, dated Apr. 29, 1930. A copy of the original letter is in the George Sloane file on Morton's Post.
51. Feb. 1948, No. 50.
52. Letter, dated Sept. 10, 1953, from Denwood Kelly to George Sloane. Mr. Kelly states in this letter that the then owner of the #159L2 cover had stated to him that she had a letter from H.A. Robinette stating that a similar cover was located in the Ackerman collection.
53. I do not understand how this cover got from Philadelphia to Baltimore or what role Spence & Brown played in Philadelphia with respect to the cover's transit. I assume that the adhesive did not pay for delivery in Baltimore.
54. Sloane's notes indicate that the adhesive shown in the lower left corner of the photograph is a counterfeit that was hinged onto the cover for comparison.
55. Letter from Calvet M. Hahn to author, dated Oct. 13, 1992, and notes enclosed therewith.
56. Vol. VI., May 31, 1893, page 282.
57. Vol. VI., July 31, 1893, page 375.
58. George Sloane's notes.
59. Note too, the misspelling of "TELEGRAPH".

•••

## A 'CHECK MARK' MYSTERY

By Lowell S. Newman

While it is generally acknowledged that the majority of mail handled by carrier services in major cities was letters being delivered 'from the mails' rather than 'to the mails', it has been difficult to identify such from the usages in cities that did not employ specific carrier service handstamps or notations. Research into ink manuscript markings found on covers entering Philadelphia and Washington has led to the conclusion that there is a way of recognizing some, but not all, of these usages at those cities.

The markings relevant to this classification are ink check marks which appear in the top central portion of the cover's face. As the markings are in ink rather than the pencil ms often associated with carrier service notations, it is felt the markings were applied by the post office staff during the sorting of the mails and denote the pre-payment of the carrier fee by means of a charge to the addressee's post office account. The period of use for this notation system

seems to be from the mid 1830s (probably after the Act of 1836) until mid 1851 when the new reduced postage rates were introduced. One Washington cover with a similar marking from the early 1820s has been seen, but the character of this mark suggests it may be a recipient's docket rather than a postal marking. It should be noted that covers from large business house correspondences do not bear these markings, an occurrence which we would expect as the large houses picked up their mail at the P.O. rather than paying carrier fees on large numbers of incoming letters.

The author would appreciate having copies of any covers bearing these markings along with pertinent date and origin information if not clearly evident. A major article covering these marks and associated manuscript notations is being prepared by the author along with Robert Meyersburg and Steven Roth, and any additional information will be gratefully acknowledged. Copies should be sent to Lowell S. Newman, 1500 Harbor Blvd. Weehawken, NJ 07087.



# A 'POKER CHIP' VARIETY

By Benjamin Wishnietsky

**A**dams & Co.'s Express, California began operations in San Francisco in Dec. 1849. In 1853 the first of several types of postage stamps was issued. The second issue, Scott's Type L2, was issued later in 1853. It was first printed on wove paper and usually has the manuscript initials of one of the officers, "LR" for Louis Reed or more rarely "IBW" for Isaiah B. Wood.

Type L2 was also issued on cardboard stock with a pink glazed surface (cream colored back). This is Scott's 1L3, called the "Poker Chip." It probably was issued as a substitute for money, although, because of its design, it technically could be used as a stamp. It is mostly known without officer's manuscript initials. The writer is not aware of any used on cover.

Illustrated is a 1L3 that is printed on the cream side of the cardboard. The back is pink. It also has the initials "LR" of Louis Reed. When it was shown to Elliott Perry in 1972 he reported that it was the only one known to him.



Richard Schwartz, who supplied the information for this article, comments as follows:

"It may be that at the beginning 1L3 was intended to bear an initial control mark as did its predecessor 1L2 but the idea was dropped when it was realized that it was not intended to serve postal use and therefore needed no such control or validation."

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# THE FORGERIES OF AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY

This third preview showcases work in progress on the Perry-Hall manuscript on Independent Mails. Forgeries of Hale & Co. debuted in the April issue and Pomeroy's appeared in the July *Penny Post*. — Richard Schwartz.

## Scott Type L12 The Small Eagle

### Genuine, Scott 5L1

Engraved. This was the third stamp in the United States to be printed from an engraved plate. The first two were printed in 1842 for the City Despatch Post and the U.S. City Despatch Post. The eagle vignette was a stock die used for some time by bank note engravers. Only the framework was original. Sheet size consisted of 20 stamps, 5 across and 4 down. Recognizable features of the genuine stamp are the extended thin serifs of the upper inscription and the inward loop of the head of the "2".

Three printings are recognized by the paper used:

- Pelure, 1.8-2.2 mils, noted used Jan. 26, 1844.
- Thick, 4.4.5 mils, noted used Feb. 4, 1844.
- Normal, 3.2-3.7 mils.

### Forgery A (Perry-Hall H-1)

Lithographed. Attributed to Hussey, who used two stones to print this forgery. They are referred to as Type A-1 and Type A-2. (This is Patton Type A).

Stone A-1. Horizontal strips of five of the 5L1 forgery were transferred to a lithographic stone, alternating with strips of the Broadway Post Office forgery, Perry Type D, Patton Type E. A sheet of 50 (10 alternating rows) is known. A multiple of two rows is shown here. The vertical space between the American Letter Mail stamps ranges



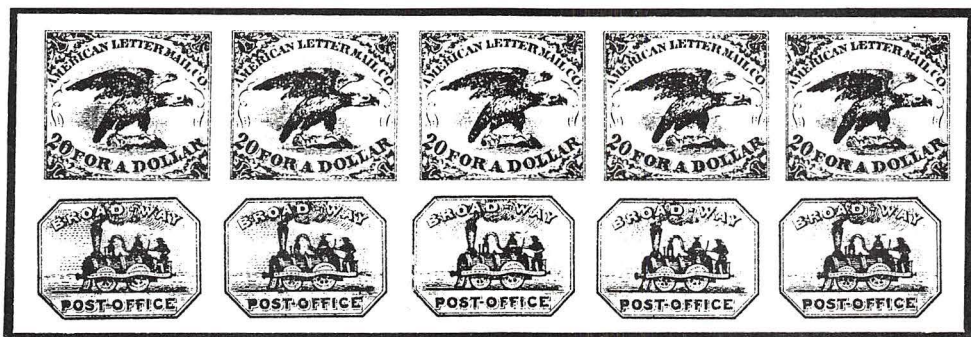
Genuine 5L1



Forgery A: Hussey



Forgery B: Scott



Stone A-1: Alternating strips of American Letter Mail and Broadway stamps.

from 2.25 to 3 mm. The printing was black on somewhat yellowish, or white paper. The color is a deeper black than that of the second stone, whose description follows, and there are fewer flaws and less evidence of wear. The lettering is larger than the originals and the tail of the "R"s in the lower inscription does not turn up. The top of the "2" ends as a ball instead of an upward curl.

□ Stone A-2. In this stone seven copies of Forgery A in a horizontal row were repeated eleven times to make a sheet of 77 stamps. Each horizontal row consisted of a transfer of a row of five stamps from Stone A-1 with the sixth and seventh stamps additional transfers from the same row. Vertical space between stamps measures 4 to 4.5 mm. Printing is a grey black on thin white paper.

#### Forgery B (Perry-Hall S-1)

Typographed. A Scott forgery, illustrated in Scott's *International Album*, 1888. This crude forgery has background shading of horizontal lines but no shading above the eagle. The tail rests on the rock. As late as 1914 this was used as an illustration of the genuine stamp in the Scott catalog.

#### Forgery C (Perry-Hall U-1)

Lithographed. Source unknown. (Patton Type B). The letters in the lower inscription are too tall and somewhat condensed. The "O" of "CO." touches the right frame line. Seen in black,

green, and orange red. Some copies show a dot beneath "ET" of "LETTER". Such specimens are known bearing a bogus cancel in black of a seven line grid in an oval (Patton D).

#### Forgery D (Perry-Hall U-2)

Lithographed. Source unknown. (Patton Type C). A crude and blotchy imitation of Hussey's forgery A. Except for the upper right corner, the corner ornaments are not recognizable. The "O" of "CO." touches the right frame line. Noted only in black on thick paper.

#### Forgery E (Perry-Hall M-1)

Moens in his catalog of 1864 illustrated only the 5L1 among the stamps of *The Local and Independent Posts of the United States*. The cut was the inspiration for Forgery E, a cruder representation known in black, reddish brown, blue, and gold, all on white paper.

#### Forgery F

Moens printed, in French, Coster's book *The Private Posts of the United States*. The 1882 edition contains illustrations of Type L12 and Type L13. Type L12 is a different representation than that used above. It is included here, although no forgeries have been noted and may never have been produced.

S. Allan Taylor? A striking omission from the list of known forgeries of Type L12 is any example that can be attributed to S. Allan Taylor. He may never have produced one.



Forgery C



Forgery D



Forgery E



Forgery F

### Reprints of 5L1

In 1887 a Boston stamp dealer, E.A. Holton, obtained the original plate from the estate of Lysander Spooner, founder of the American Letter Mail Company. Holton stated that the plate was so badly corroded that a full sheet of 20 could not be printed from it. Nevertheless, in 1887 he made a trial printing. A sheet from that printing exists, on soft white paper 6 to 6.5 mils thick. It clearly shows the corrosion damage along the upper left margin and in scattered places in the pane itself. In addition, position 7 shows a plate bruise across the rock upon which the eagle stands. After a partially successful cleaning of the plate reprints were made in deep black on white paper approximately 2.5 mils thick. The paper is watermarked OLD HAMPSHIRE BOND USA, a watermark not used earlier than the second half of 1895.

In 1933 the Frank P. Brown Stamp Company of Boston printed a quantity

of sheets in six colors: magenta, yellow orange, ultramarine, apple green, orange, and light vermilion and marketed them to stamp dealers as "trial color proofs from the original plate". Also offered were the stamps individually mounted in sets of the six colors. Early sets bore a rubber stamped imprint "proof" on the back of each stamp.

In 1934 the Brown Company failed and the court appointed receiver advertised that he would receive offers for the remaining proof sets and the plate. The plate has not appeared since and its whereabouts are unknown.

A modern facsimile, lithographed, occurs in black, green, purple, yellow and red on stiff yellowish-white paper, accurately depicting the original stamp but with deteriorated, blotchy detail. This comes from a single subject stone, not the full 20-subject original plate so is not a true reprint. "Facsimile 1974" is handstamped on the reverse of each.

## Scott Type L13, The Large Eagle



Genuine 5L1 and 5L2



Forgery G



Forgery H

Genuine, Scott 5L2, 5L3

Engraved, bearing the legend "Engraved by W.L. Ormsby". This may mean only that Ormsby prepared the stamp die, combining the eagle vignette with the lettering and frame, as the die of the eagle was in use for at least ten years before the stamp was produced. The black stamp, 5L2, was used from August 1844 through June 1845. The change in design of the stamp was probably occasioned by the change in management in the summer of 1844, Spooner having withdrawn after six or seven months to cut his losses. 5L3, the blue stamp, is believed to have come into use in the spring of 1845 but the only known covers are dated June to and from Philadelphia and New York City. Examples on or off cover are seen far less often than the black stamp, understandable as the company ceased operations June 30, 1845.

Forgery G (Perry-Hall S-2)

Typographed. Attributed to Scott (Patton A). This is the only counterfeit known of the large eagle. In the genuine stamp the top and bottom inscriptions show a thin outline. In Forgery G the outline is interrupted in the top inscription and almost completely missing in the lower. "Engraved by W.L. Ormsby" is missing. Found in black and in blue on thick on on thin white paper.

Forgery H

Typographed. A companion to the small eagle, Forgery F, in Moens. Not known to have been produced for sale to collectors.

Type L13 has not been reprinted.

# LEDGER DISPATCH

## Apprehending A Fugitive Local Post

By Gordon Stimmell

Collectors entering the locals field for the first time do not always clearly discern approach patterns, primarily due to the Scott U.S. *Specialized* catalogue, which lumps many distinct areas into a single alphabetical litany.

As one gains knowledge, related areas soon stand out. One main group is the Independent Mail Routes, which, unlike strictly local city posts, operated wide networks of delivery between various cities from 1844 to mid-1845.

Another favored area of specialization involves four posts, Hussey, Boyd, Blood or Swarts, which issued a wide variety of stamps as they survived many years despite government crack-downs. The stamps are obtainable and the depth of variety almost limitless.

Some choose to ignore such categories and select strictly a single post, or one city or state. Or the collector might opt for a temporal approach, say, a focus on the classic period of locals from 1842 to 1847, up to the issuance of the first regular U.S. stamps.

One fascinating niche is what I call the **Fugitive Posts**. These brave — or foolhardy — local city posts arose very late in the game, long after most operations were forced out of business by federal edicts and postal legislation. And because these latter-day entrepreneurs flouted already entrenched laws, most faced instant extermination.

Posts I corral into this category are **Allen's City Despatch** of Chicago (1882); **Guy's City Despatch** of Philadelphia (1879); **Douglas' City Despatch** (1879) and **Bevan's Empire City Dispatch**

(1881), both of New York City; **Staley's** two posts, **Cincinnati City Delivery** (1883) and **St. Louis City Delivery** (1882); and **Edward Pidgeon's Ledger Dispatch** of Brooklyn (1882).

No one seems clear today on what context or social milieu acted as catalyst for this sudden renaissance of local posts. But certainly part of the flowering was philatelic in nature. In almost every case, remainders of the stamps flooded the market after each of these posts was suppressed.

The grand exception was **Ledger Dispatch**. Unlike the other posts cited above, philatelists of the day did not learn of the post's existence until after it had folded. No remainders surfaced, either from the owner or from his printer. And owner Edward Pidgeon (not "Edwin" as Scott notes it) did not indulge philatelists as was the fashion with "favor" cancellations either for profit or fame after the post was suppressed.

But why is the stamp so rare? It did, after all, go through two printings, the rose (95L1) and a red version (95L2). And why did no remainders turn up even after the post was shut down? And why has no one depicted the real stamp, or discovered the forgeries?

Both George Sloane (*Stamps*, Nov. 5, 1955) and Donald Patton (*The Private Posts of the U.S. — New York*) referred to an article by Philip La Tourette in the Sept. 1883 *National Philatelist* which in part answers our questions. As neither Sloane nor Patton quoted the pertinent data, I will quote directly from La Tourette's article:



**Ledger Dispatch:**  
A rare block of four showing red roulette gutter dashes running between central stamps in a sheet.

*"In December, 1882, a young man named Edward Pidgeon hired two rooms in the old Willoughby Building, No. 419 Fulton St., Brooklyn, hired a few carriers, issued a stamp and commenced carrying mail matter for the public. A number of business houses finding that they could have their letters delivered for 80 cents a hundred, immediately bought stamps and had their city mail transmitted through this Post-Office which was called the Ledger Dispatch. The first stamps used were light pink, but as soon as the issue was exhausted the proprietor had a dark red, and finally a Purple Stamp printed. About the time the Purple Stamps appeared the Government interfered, notifying him that his business was*

*illegal, and that he must discontinue his operations. As he disregarded this order he was visited by the Marshalls Deputies, his place closed, all his stamps on hand destroyed and a fine imposed upon him. As he saw at once that his business was destroyed, he redeemed all the stamps in the possession of his customers and left Brooklyn. Since then (ie, by Sept. 1883) the Willoughby Building has been partially destroyed by fire no less than three times in as many months. So that all traces of the Ledger Dispatch are obliterated. Unfortunately and very curiously the stamp collectors in New York and Brooklyn knew nothing about all this until after the post was closed, being so close to home it was entirely overlooked."*

So the post lasted from December 1882 until no later than May 1883. But where did Edward Pidgeon go? George Sloane's meticulous research talents turned up one tantalizing clue in the *Quaker City Philatelist* of Philadelphia in April 1887 (Vol. II, No.4, notes by Wm. H. Mitchell):

*"Among these I mention the Ledger Dispatch of Brooklyn...It was understood, soon after the suppression of this Post by the P.O. Department, that its proprietor, Edward Pidgeon, went to either Montreal or Quebec, and opened a similar Post there. Can any of our Canadian friends send us any information, either yea or nay?"*

Admittedly, it's a bit late for me to reply from Toronto to this century-old query, but I regret that I know of no such Canadian post. There was a Montreal Parcel Delivery company that issued stamps, but I have so far turned up no connection to Edward Pidgeon. I would suspect he kept a very low profile if he did engage in further postal operations.

George Sloane presumes that the existing rare examples of Ledger Dispatch stamps "likely were acquired by contemporary dealers from customers of the firm." If that was the case (and I agree with his supposition), it is odd that to this day, no Ledger Dispatch stamp has turned up on cover.

However, both the red and rose stamps off cover exist with an indistinct straight-line blue cancellation, with letters reading vertically (5 characters occupy the depth of one stamp). The copy in Sloane's Reference Collection is blurry and, he notes, "may have" read "Ledger Dispatch". To my untrained eye, the full cancel looks like it must have been very long, the depth of three stamps vertically — a handstamp more appropriate for parcel rather than letter use. That would also explain the utter lack of any surviving stamp on a regu-

lar envelope. But we may never know.

Originals were typographed with a red or rose roulette (looking like a colored sewing machine stitch) quite wide (3.5 mm) of the design. On stamps positioned on the outer margins of the sheet, no roulette exists facing the near margin. Based on an existing inner block once owned by John Boker, that means a sheet was comprised of at least 16 stamps, but more likely the full pane was limited to 20 or 25 subjects. No sheets have survived.

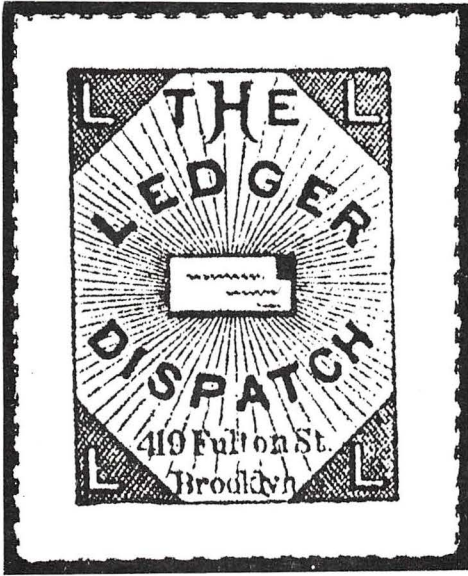
Do not go by the Patton illustration of an original in his N.Y. Posts book. It is the dull purple-brown forgery that La Tourette seems to have been the single source for, and whose description (quoted above) prompted the early Scott cataloguers to add "purple" as a genuine color for decades.

Please also note Patton's words: "The late George Sloane recorded these stamps printed in rose and in red, rouletted 12 in colour. The stamps are so rare that neither of these varieties have been seen by the writer although the two examples illustrated here have been available for close examination."

The original, not seen or shown by Patton, is illustrated here. The fraudulent example illustrated by Patton on the left in his article is based on an 1880s Moens illustration, and exists in dull purple brown. The example shown (twice) at the right in Patton is an outright forgery I have not seen myself. As well, a very convincing forgery matching the Scott catalogue cut exists in red. The 1994 Scott catalogue cut continues to depict this forgery, as it has since the 1890s.

Here, before another century elapses, is a rundown of characteristics of the original Ledger, the Moens imitation and the Scott forgery. The third forgery, depicted in Patton, is so poor I will not try to describe it.





Original 95L1-2

## THE ORIGINAL

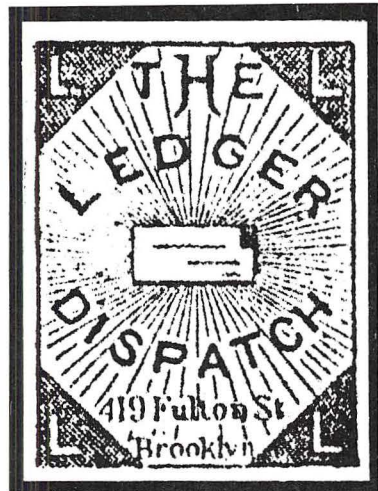
- Normal "o" in Fulton
- G 'closed' by background line
- Smooth top edge to central envelope
- "4" crossbar extends beyond upright
- Radial lines mostly hit corner triangles
- "H" of THE uprights flat and even
- Vertical line threads between "It" of Fulton and to 2nd "o" of Brooklyn
- Both "o"s of Brooklyn same size

The original exists in rose or in red on porous wove paper with smooth gum.

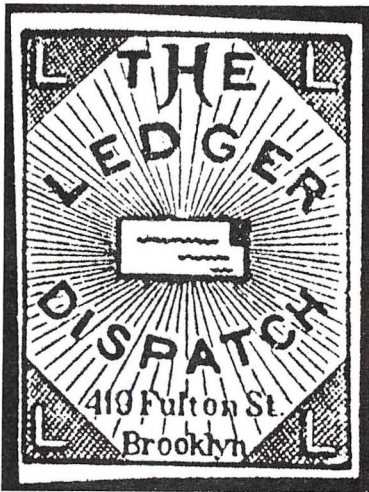
## MOENS-BASED FORGERY

- Slanting "E" of THE
- Right upright "H" of THE hooks up
- No vertical line between "It" of Fulton and 2nd "o" of Brooklyn below
- An area of radiate lines are missing to the left of central envelope

Noted in dull brown purple on hard wove non-porous paper with brown toned gum.



Moens style forgery



Scott forgery

## THE SCOTT FORGERY

- High "o" in Fulton
- Open "G" in LEDGER
- Bump in central envelope's top edge
- Crossbar in 4 stops at upright
- Radial lines mostly fail to near or touch the corner triangles
- "H" of THE upright is high and pointed at right
- Vertical line broken between "It" of Fulton and doesn't reach 2nd "o" of Brooklyn
- 1st "o" of Brooklyn larger than 2nd "o"

Exists in bright red on hard wove non-porous paper with smooth gum.

# ERIC JACKSON



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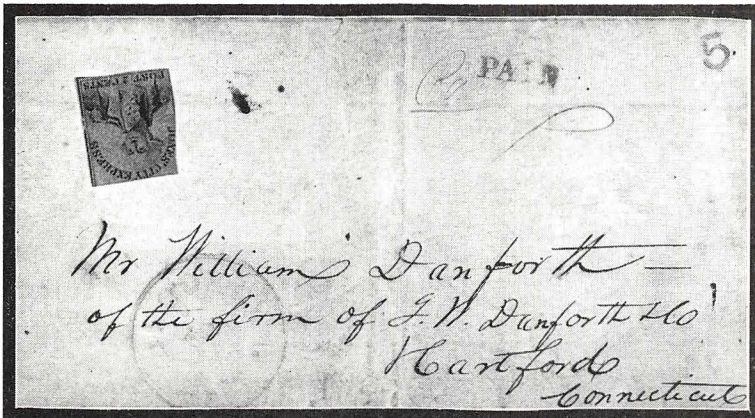
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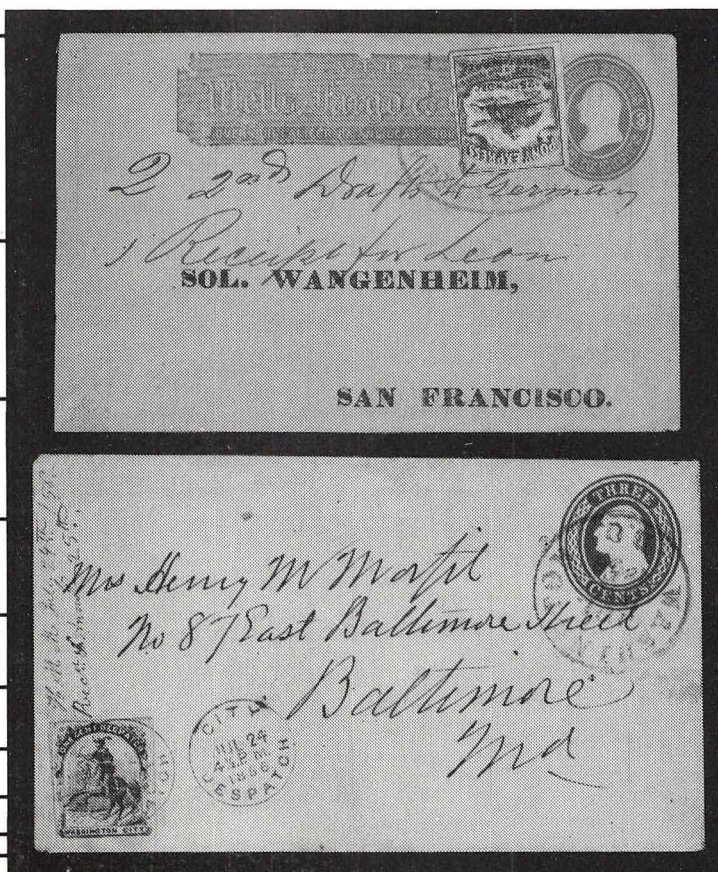


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