

JANUARY 1994

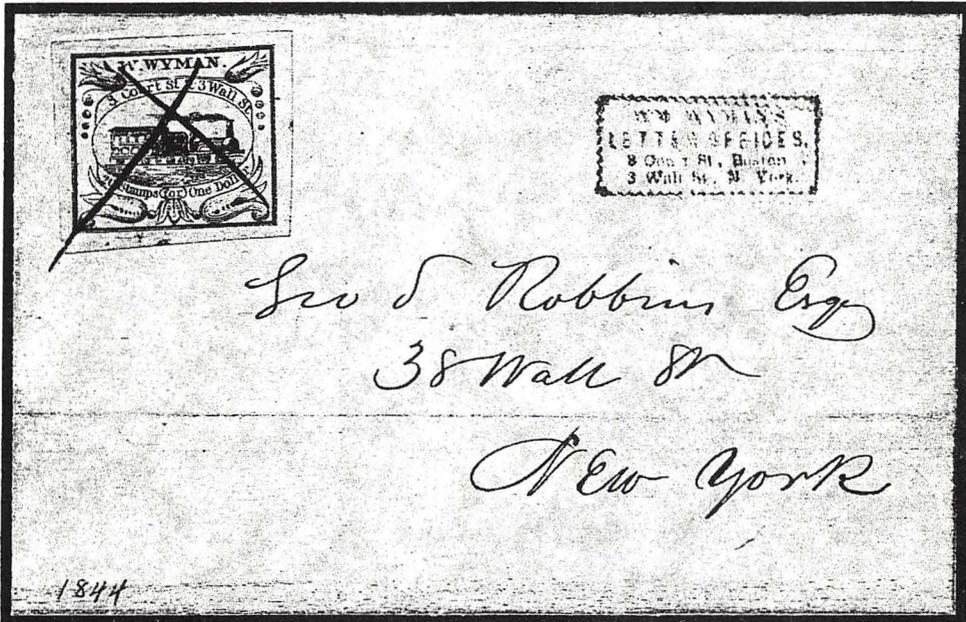
Vol. 4 No. 1

# THE PENNY POST

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Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society

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Genuine Independent Mails Wyman stamp tied to Nov. 1, 1844 cover.

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INDEPENDENT MAILS: WYMAN FORGERIES

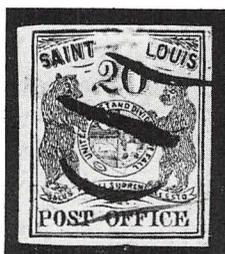
THE PRECANCELS OF HALE & CO.

LOOKING FOR THE REAL MR. SMITH

A PHILADELPHIA POSTS FOLLOWUP

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# RICHARD WOLFFERS AUCTIONS, INC.



USA: 1845 20c St.  
Louis Bear Provisional  
on greenish paper



USA: 1851 1c blue, Type IIIa,  
Horizontal pair

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# THE PENNY POST



Vol. 4 No. 1

JANUARY 1994

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APS Affiliate 211

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Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society

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## OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

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Steven Roth, Byron Sandfield, Richard Schwartz, Gordon Stimmell.

# FROM THE EDITOR

**O**ur cover photo features a folded letter bearing Wyman's Letter Offices stamp and spotlights Richard Schwartz's latest instalment in his series on forgeries of the Independent Mails companies. His reports are yielding glimpses into the manuscript notes of Arthur Hall and Elliott Perry that Dick is melding into a book.

The reign of Independent Mails lasted from January 1844 to June 30, 1845. Several of these posts had a far shorter life. William Wyman launched his inter-city post in late July, 1844 and it did a brisk business between Boston and New York City, especially in September, October and November. But by mid December, failing health forced Wyman to pass patrons of his post to Overton, a fellow Independent Mail operator. By January 1845, Wyman was dead.

Typically, Wyman's stamp is most appealing, being the earliest depiction on any stamp (as opposed to express label) in the world of a locomotive. Beyond that, the train was catalyst for a revolution in communication and diffusion of the American population in the 1840s. Wyman's stamp aptly symbolizes that explosion and the brief power wielded by Independent Mail companies to move mail more speedily, efficiently and cheaply than the Post Office of the day. Congress felt the Independent Mails were indeed a train out of control and applied the brakes permanently by edict on July 1, 1845. It marked the end of one of the most entrepreneurial eras in the field of philately.

Also in this issue, Michael Gutman focusses on a larger Independent Mail company, Hale & Co. which oversaw a giant web of postal operations in dozens of cities that linked by mutual consent to other Independent Mail firms.

Michael elucidates another pioneering aspect of Independent Mail companies, the use of pre-cancels, which Hale agents employed on their stamps to and from several cities in the 1844-45 period. His analysis springs from his excellent exhibit and examination of hundreds of Hale covers. He unearths data that has never been published before.

Despite Congress, the enterprising spirit endured in such City Posts as Priest's Despatch of Philadelphia. Steven Roth and John Halstead have fused their collective research talents in this issue, exploring both the life of the post and its stamps and forgeries.

Priest's Despatch is shrouded in mystery. The purported proprietor, Solomon Priest, is not properly listed in the Directories of the day as connected with a post or despatch operation. No ads have yet surfaced to help make such a link. Roth engages the reader in the paper chase: To discover evidence to back "facts" that have been accepted as gospel for decades.

This is not always a rewarding endeavor. Owners of such posts tried to keep a fairly low profile in the mid-1850s. Those with loyal patrons did not need to advertise beyond their district and some feared newspaper announcements would attract the wrong kind of glare — that of postal authorities.

My own opinion is that many smaller posts were run by businesses (tobacco-nists were among the major players in Philadelphia) strictly as a sideline for the convenience of store customers. As such, researchers 140 years later often detect lots of smoke, but no fire. But hell, it sure is challenging to try and dig up some last glowing embers.

— Gordon Stimmell

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**T**he 1993 Annual Meeting of Members and Directors was held at CHICAGOPEX as scheduled. Thomas C. Mazza, Dick Schwartz and Gordon Stimmell were elected as directors to replace the expiring terms. John Halstead was appointed Secretary and Lawrence LeBel Publicity Officer, both effective immediately.

The Board decided to create a Society Newsletter, to be published by John Halstead at sporadic intervals, to provide Members with information that should not (or cannot, because of timing) be placed in the *Penny Post*. The first issue will contain the full minutes of the meetings and the Financial Report concerning the Society.

Some other highlights that will be reviewed at length in the Minutes are:

- The Society is very sound financially;
- Dues have been reduced to \$25;
- The next Annual Meeting will be held in Cleveland at Garfield-Perry in March;
- A new section concerning unusual or problem covers will be added to the *Penny Post* in the upcoming year.

Please send John Halstead information (including awards) concerning any local posts, carriers, independent mails

and/or express exhibits that you see at various shows (especially local and regional shows that most Members might not get to), even if the exhibitor is not yet a member of the Society. Also welcome are spot news and upcoming events in our field.

On another front, the Society's Scott Catalogue Review Committee has wrapped up its gathering of data on Carriers. This information will soon be submitted to the Scott *U.S. Specialized Catalogue* to update its listings.

Now we move on to the much more onerous task of tackling Scott's section on U.S. locals and independent mails. As many of you are aware, the current catalogue listings still contain many photos of known forgeries that have unwittingly duped collectors and dealers for decades. In addition, there are many textual errors that need to be updated based on the new research discoveries made in the last few years by members of our Society.

We solicit any help in these areas as well as price updates (with documentation). See the full notice on Page 25 of this issue. Please survey your collections and research notes. Suggested changes should be submitted to Donald Johnstone, 8 Rudgate Road, Colchester, Vermont 05446.

-- Steven Roth

## SOCIETY DUES

Basic Annual ... \$25  
Contributing ... \$26-50

Sustaining ... \$51-500  
Patron ... Over \$500

Patron Hall Of Fame ... David Golden, Thomas C. Mazza.

Dues, payable by January, should be sent to Martin Richardson, Treasurer.

# PRIEST'S DESPATCH

By Steven M. Roth<sup>1</sup>

## I

### Who Owned The Post?

**L**ike most of the private Locals Posts in Philadelphia which sprang up in the late 1840s and 1850s to compete with the carrier services offered by the Philadelphia Post Office, Priest's Despatch coexisted for a few years and then unceremoniously disappeared. As a result (and this is the circumstance with respect to many Philadelphia private posts), we know very little about Priest's Despatch.

Charles Coster offered (and Henry C. Needham repeated) the unsubstantiated statement that Solomon Priest owned and operated Priest's Despatch in the year 1854, and possibly earlier. In fact, we do not know who operated this post.<sup>2</sup> While Coster was a reputable authority and was writing only 20 years after the event, my research into this question has neither confirmed nor refuted his assertion, although the little evidence available tends to argue against Coster's position.

Because datable covers carried by Priest's Despatch suggest that the post operated from late in 1851 into 1855 (see Section III, below), if Coster and Needham were correct in assigning ownership to Solomon Priest, we would expect to find reference to him in the City Directories for this period of operation, not merely for one year. We would not expect, however, given the manner of the Directory listings with respect to other operators of Philadelphia private posts,<sup>3</sup> to find Solomon Priest's occupation listed as, for example, *letter carrier*, *expressman*, *post boy*, etc., or by any other designation which would sug-

gest that Solomon Priest owned and operated a private post. In fact, we find Solomon Priest *listed only for the year 1854* and no occupation given for him.<sup>4</sup>

A fairly well known postal historian, who prepared a proposed review of an earlier issue of *The Penny Post* (Vol. 2, No.3 August 1992), and in particular a review of my article on Cressman & Co.'s Penny Post, which appeared in that earlier issue,<sup>5</sup> "took me to task" for having merely set forth in my article the Directory listings of Cressman for only one year (in that case, for 1856), rather than also listing the Cressmans for the years that preceded and followed the year of Cressman & Co.'s Penny Post's operation. It was his contention that I should have given the complete Cressman listings for each of the years of operation of Cressman & Co.'s Penny Post, and for surrounding years, so readers and future researchers could draw their own conclusions from the listings, however obvious these conclusions might have been to me. I agree with him. At the very least, a complete, accurate and wide ranging listing would have obviated the need for others to repeat my research in the City Directories.

Accordingly, although the evidence from datable covers suggests that Priest's Despatch operated from 1851 into 1855, I decided to surround these dates when looking in the City Directories, arbitrarily selecting 1848 and 1860 as sufficient end dates. The listings (other than for the year 1854 which lists Solomon Priest) under the surname Priest are set forth in the Endnotes. Each group of listings is taken from an individual annual volume of *McElroy's*

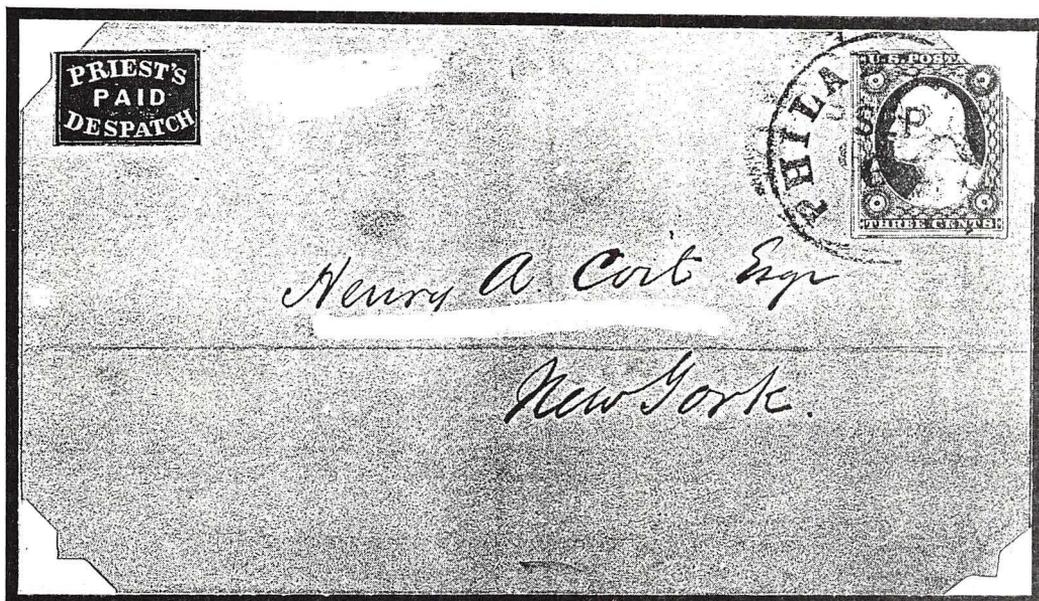


Figure 1: Legitimate cover with black on yellow Priest forgery added.

*Philadelphia City Directory* for the year given.<sup>6</sup> The *McElroy's* listing for 1854, containing the reference to Solomon Priest, is:

1854

Priest, Benjamin, blacksmith, 1 Fries' ct.  
 Priest, George W., rigger, 156 Swanson  
 Priest, Geo. W., rigger, Renigan ct.  
 Priest, Joseph, brass founder, 2 Fries' ct  
 Priest, Solomon, 35 Noble

What is evident from this review of the *McElroy's Philadelphia Directory* listings is that it does not yield a discernible clue as to who might have owned and operated Priest's Despatch. This is also true of Coster's statement in his article (also without an indication of his source or any proof) that "... (Solomon Priest) established his office at 141 Chestnut Street..." I have been unable to find any listing for Solomon Priest at that address, nor could I find any other mention of this address other than by Needham and by George Sloane, who wrote in his notes on this post that, "Needham reports that Priest's establishment was at 121 (*sic*) Chestnut St., and residence at 35 Noble St. I am

unable to contradict him." On the other hand, Needham did note correctly, I believe, that Solomon Priest's home address was 35 Noble Street.<sup>7</sup> In actuality, we have no idea where the office of Priest's Despatch was located — not from City Directories and probably not from Coster's and Needham's contention. Beyond this, in my search of contemporary Philadelphia newspapers, I was unable to find any advertisement or notice respecting Priest's Despatch to give us more information.<sup>8</sup>

## II

### Priest's Fakes & Counterfeits on Cover

**J**ohn P. Halstead, in his companion piece to this article, discusses in great depth both genuine stamps and their imitators. Counterfeits of the stamps exist in great numbers, and some are difficult to distinguish from the genuine emissions unless studied in correlation with a good reference collection. The danger to us all, of course, is not only that we might purchase a counterfeit stamp thinking it genuine,

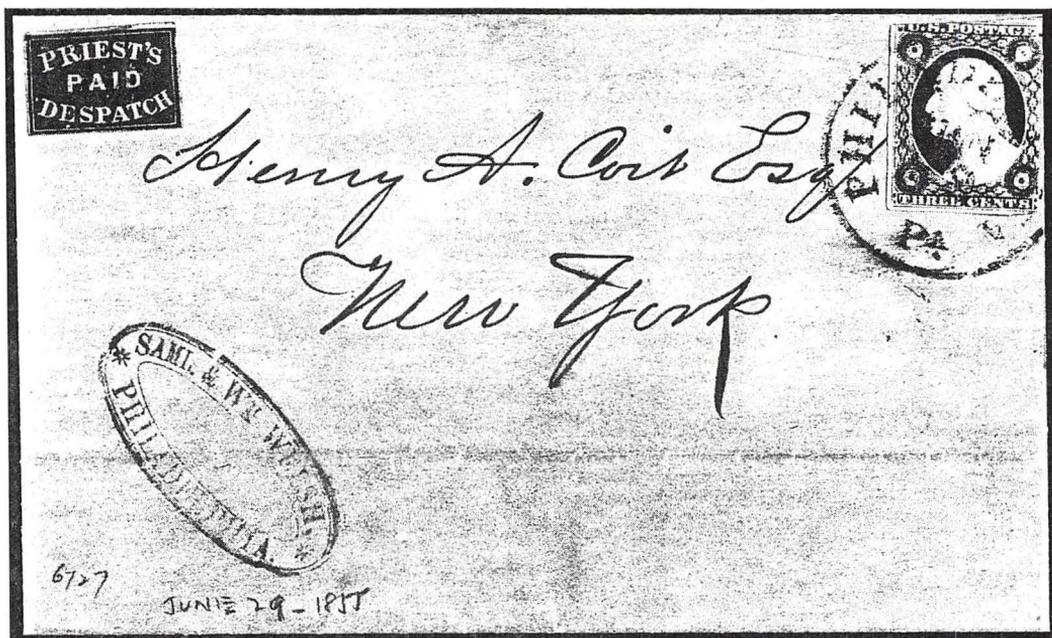


Figure 2: Legitimate cover with black on rose Priest forgery added.

but also that the stamp (and/or cover on which it resides) might obtain a respectable cachet from the passage of time or the churning of its provenance. For this reason I illustrate here two covers that recently came to my attention. The stamps are very close to the genuine and could easily fool you. They are both Forgery A counterfeits, by John Halstead's classification. One stamp is black on rose paper; the other is black on yellow. (It is also known in

black on blue). Both of the covers (Figures 1 & 2) are otherwise legitimate, but each has had the counterfeit adhesive added to it. Both covers are from the "Henry Cort, Esq. / New York" correspondence. I do not know the present location of the cover illustrated as Figure 1, but the cover shown as Figure 2 currently is circulating among dealers, and has been offered recently by at least two dealers as a genuine cover.<sup>9</sup>

### III

#### Census of Known Genuine Priest's Despatch Covers

**A**s this census will demonstrate, very, very few of the adhesives were cancelled; those that were cancelled are stamps that are on cover. One of the cancelled stamps (121L4) is tied to its cover, but I believe (as I will show later in this census) the cancel was added to the stamp and cover on or after 1976. There are no known handstamps linked with this Company.

#### 121L1 (L238)

- Uncancelled on small envelope. Local use. H.R. Harmer sale 11/12/53, Lot #1462.
- Uncancelled on partial cover. Addressed to "Millville/Cumberland Co./N.J." Date "1851" pencilled on cover. Siegel sale 4/1/66, Lot #832.

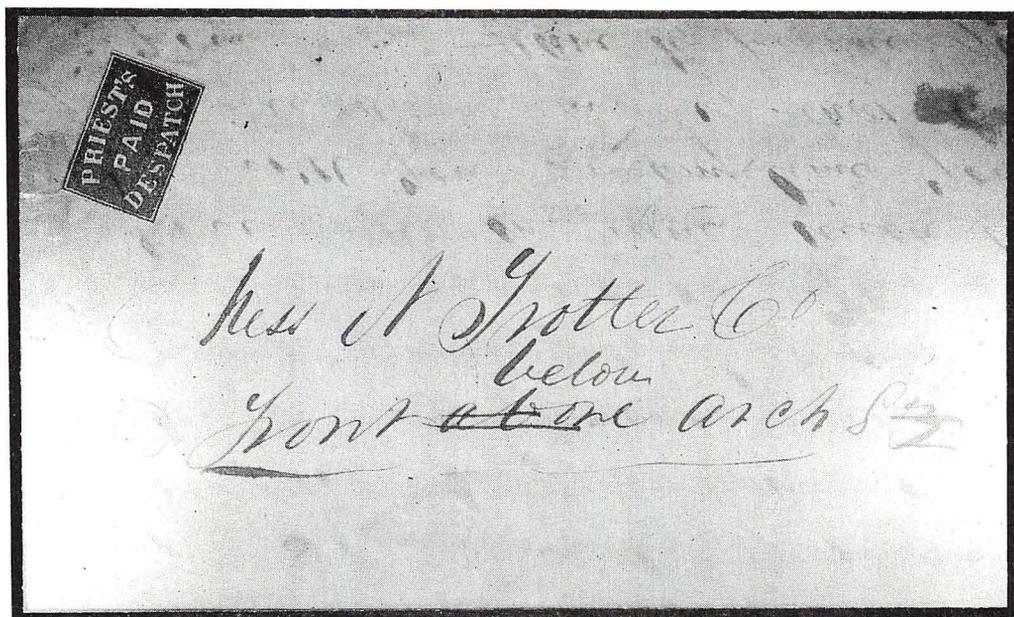


Figure 3: Genuine 121L2 on cover cancelled by two pen strokes.

### 121L2 (L238)

- Cancelled by two pen strokes; not tied. See Figure 3. H.R. Harmer sale 3/21/57, Lot #941; Frajola Net Price sale #4, Lot #725; Ivy, Shreve & Mader sale 12/14/90, Lot #2350. Ex Caspary; Middendorf. S.M. Roth collection.
- Uncancelled. Addressed to 'Cha. A Heckscher, Esq/45 South St/New York'. Red Philadelphia CDS Type C-33 ("PHILADELPHIA, PA / MAR / 23 / 3 CTS/PAID"). "Recd 24 March" written on face of cover. Folded letter internally dated 1855. Siegel sale 9/14/67, Lot #845. Ex-Lilly.
- Cancelled by one pen stroke through each of "P" and "D" of "PAID". Not tied. Addressed to "Mrs. W.H. Wilson/NYC". Red "New York/Jan/ 5 CTS". Red straight-line handstamp "PHILADA. RAILROAD" on cover face. Siegel sale 4/1/65, Lot #833.
- Uncancelled. Noted in Sloane Records: "Used at Phila. July 1852." Ex-Needham. Vauston.

### 121L2A (L238)

- Cancelled by pen cross ("X") at either end of "PAID". Not tied. Addressed to "Mr. Thos B. Woolman/ Burlington/ N Jersey". Blue "PHILADA. Pa/ NOV/ 16/ 5 cts." CDS Type C-43 on face of cover. J.W. Brown collection.

### 121L3 (L238)

- Uncancelled. Addressed to "M (?) Sanderson & Son." Blue upper left corner advertisement: "National Express Co./ New York/ Montreal & Quebec". No Philadelphia CDS on this NYC corner card. Destination not visible in photograph. H.R. Harmer sale 10/31/51, Lot #915.
- Uncancelled. With #11 tied in upper right corner by smeared Philadelphia CDS. Jeweler's advertisement on rear flap. H.R. Harmer 10/31/51, Lot #916; Siegel sale 9/14/67, Lot #846.
- Uncancelled. With #11 tied by indistinct October 1 Philadelphia CDS in upper right corner. Addressed to "Messrs/Chas. H. Scyinboor (?) & Co./ New York." Siegel sale 1/6/66, Lot #279; Edgar Mohrmann & Co. sale 10/23/74, Lot #715. Ex-Boker.

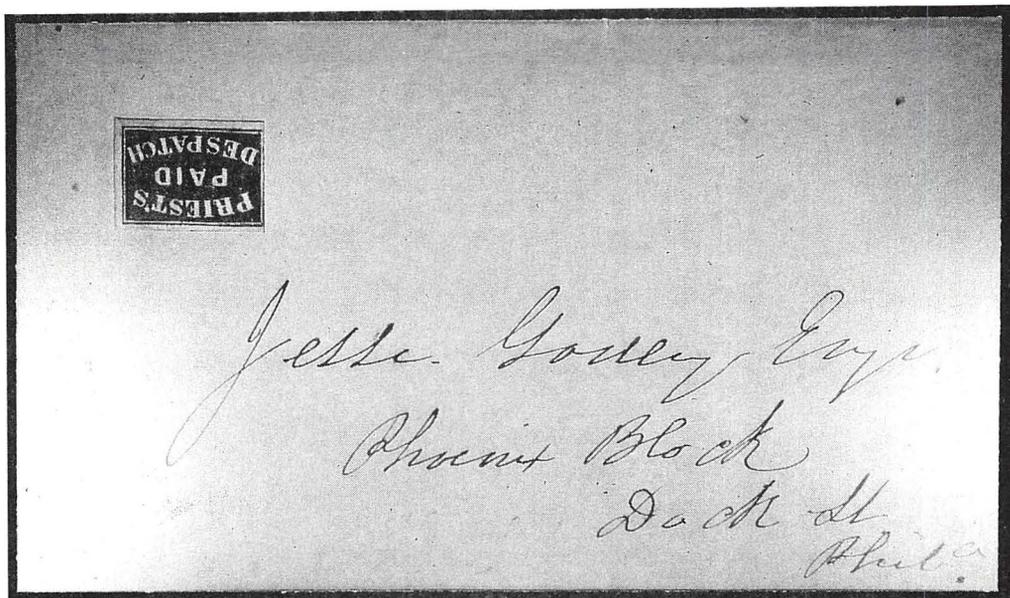


Figure 4: Genuine 121L4, uncanceled, cover docketed Sept. 16, 1851.

#### 121L4 (L238)

- Canceled and tied by reddish smear. Same cover in Schiff sale 6/9/76, Lot #86. The cover was illustrated, and did not have the smear cancellation. With #11 tied by "PHILADELPHIA, PA./ Nov/ 2" CDS. Addressed to "Miss Conelia H. Reed/ East Boston/ Mass". Also inscribed in lower left corner: "Care of A.Reed Esq./ Union Stone E.B." J.W. Brown collection.
- Uncanceled. See Figure 4. Receiving docketing on back: September 16, 1851. Signed by George Sloane and Robson Lowe. J.Fox sale 9/20/67, Lot #256; Robson Lowe sale 3/1/73, Lot #1804; J. Kaufman sale 4/4/77(?), Lot #942. S.M. Roth collection.
- Uncanceled. Cover front and flap only. Addressed to "Mr. Wm. S. Prior/ Attorney & Counselor at Law/ ?" Siegel sale 9/14/67, Lot #848. Ex-Needham, Lilly, Boker.
- Uncanceled. Addressed to "Mr. Henry Seybert (?)" local usage. Signed by George Sloane and Elliott Perry. Siegel sale 5/14/61, Lot #1430; R. Lowe sale 3/1/73, Lot #1805.
- Uncanceled. Addressed to "L. Samuel(?)/ 93(?) Nassau St./ New York". With #11 tied by "PHILADELPHIA PA/ Apr/ 5/" CDS.
- Uncanceled. With #11 tied by an unreadable Philadelphia CDS. Addressed to "J.R.(?)".
- Uncanceled. Blue "PHILADELPHIA PA/ 5 cts." CDS Type C-46. Addressed to "Millheim/ Centre Co./ Pa." Manuscript "PAID" in upper right corner. Internally dated March 25, 1852. Kukstis sale 2/90/93, Lot #674.
- Uncanceled. "PHILADA Pa. 4/24/10" CDS Type C-66. Handstamp "PAID" in blue octagon. Addressed to "Miss Wyatt?/ Monrow/ Ala." Siegel sale 4/1/65, Lot #835.

#### 121L5 (L239)

- Uncanceled. Noted by George Sloane in his notes. Ex-Caspary according to Sloane, but not found in the Harmer's Caspary sale.

#### 121L6 (L239)

- Uncanceled. See Figure 5. With #11 tied by Philadelphia CDS. H.R. Harmer sale 11/12/53. Lot #1463; Siegel sale 9/14/67, Lot #850; Siegel sale 10/29/75, Lot #425. Ex-Lilly. S.M. Roth collection.

- Uncancelled. Addressed to "Miss Sally Wheeler/ N 95 Lime(?) St/ Phil". Small Valentine cover. R. Schwartz collection.
- Uncancelled. With #11 tied by "Philadelphia Pa/ Sep/ 21" CDS. Addressed to "Dr. N. Adams/ & Mrs. Adams/ Boston/ Mass." H.R. Harmer sale 11/12/53, Lot #1464; H.R. Harmer sale 10/19/54, Lot #1054.
- Uncancelled. With indistinct Philadelphia CDS tying #11. Internally dated 1854 folded letter to New York City. Siegel sale 4/1/65, Lot #836.
- Uncancelled. On small E.L. to New York City. Dated 1/10/55 by recipient. Ex-Gibson. Lowe sale 3/1/73, Lot #1806.
- Uncancelled. With #11 tied by black "PHILADELPHIA/ PA/ DEC/ 27" CDS. Addressed to: "T.R. Poizat Esq.(?)/ West Chester/?" Harmer Rooke sale 3/7/51, Lot #356.

### 121L7 (L239)

- Uncancelled. See Figure 6. Philadelphia CDS Type C-46. Harmer Rooke sale 3/21/57, Lot #944; Frajola Net Price sale #4, Lot #726 (incorrectly described as #121L5). Ex-Caspary, Middendorf. S.M. Roth collection.
- Uncancelled. Philadelphia CDS Type ? (APR/28); With #11. Addressed: "Mr. Daniel Black/ Eastonn (*sic*) Penna". No date, but CDS reported used 1851-52. S.M. Roth collection.
- Uncancelled. Addressed to "C.A. Heckscher, Esq./ New York." With #11 tied by April 19 Philadelphia CDS. Harmer Rooke sale 3/27/67, Lot #255. S. Springer collection.
- Uncancelled. On 3¢ 1853 Government embossed envelope #U10. Cancelled by Philadelphia Dec. 16 CDS. Addressed to "Mr. Robert -/Port Gib-/ Calif." Receiving docketing on face: "Recd 6 Jany 54." Costales sale 2/5/52, Lot #101.
- Uncancelled. Addressed to "Major A.W. Burry (Bussy?)/ Burlington/ New Jersey". "PHILADELPHIA PA./ Dec./ 30/ 5cts." Siegel sale 9/14/67, Lot #852. Ex-Lilly.
- Uncancelled. Addressed to "T.R. Poizat/ West Chester/ New York". With #11 tied by faint unreadable Philadelphia CDS. Harmer Rooke sale 3/7/51, Lot #357. Ex-Eno.
- Uncancelled. With #11 tied by Philadelphia CDS of February -. J.Fox sale 4/4/53, Lot #1016.

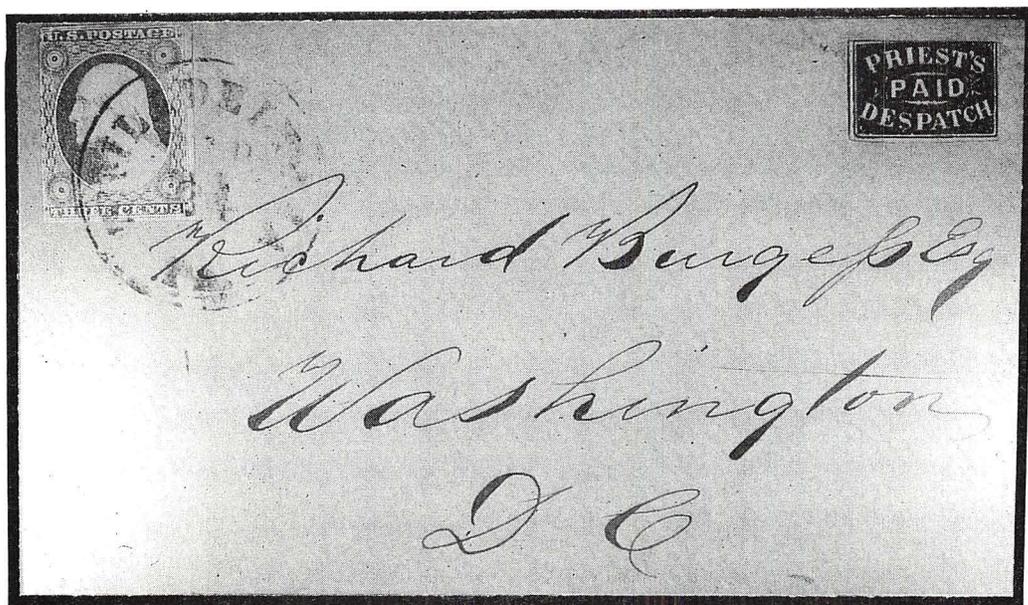


Figure 5: Genuine 121L6, uncancelled, on cover with #11 tied by CDS.

Cancelled (?). Described as cancelled by light manuscript cancellation, but cover not illustrated. Catalogue description says blue "PHILADA Pa/ ?/ 5cts" (CDS Type C-?). Siegel sale 4/1/65, Lot #837.

Uncancelled. Addressed to "Mr. Thomas B. Woolman/ Burlington/ New Jersey". Philadelphia CDS Type C-46 (reported used 1851-53). Elliott Perry Photofile.

121L8 (L239)

I know of no reported covers bearing this adhesive.

121L9 (L239)

Uncancelled. On small 1851 cover. Siegel sale 4/1/65, Lot #838.

\*\*\*

Please send me your reports (with photocopy of corrections and additions to my descriptions and/or new listings).



Figure 6: Genuine 121L7, uncancelled, on cover with Philadelphia CDS.

## FOOTNOTES

1. (Copyright) 1993 Steven M. Roth
2. Coster, "The United States Locals and Their History", *American Journal of Philately*, p. 185 (Dec. 20, 1874); Needham, "United States Local Stamps. A Concise History and Memorandum", *The American Philatelist*, Vol. XXXIII, p. 322 (June 1920).
3. See for example, the listing for George Carter as set forth in *McElroy's Philadelphia City Directory*, cited in S. Roth, "G. Carter's Despatch", *Penny Post*, Vol. 2, No. 4 (Nov. 1992), p. 23.
4. *McElroy's Philadelphia Directory for 1854* (Biddle 1854).
5. *Id.*, p. 4, 9.
6. 1848  
Priest, Benjamin, blacksmith, 1 Fries' ct.  
Priest, Charles, engineer, 4 Fries' ct.  
Priest, George, tailor, 37 N 4th ab Cherry

Priest, Isaac, blacksmith, Jackson ab Adams

Priest, John, bootbinder, Baker ab 7th

1849

Priest, Ann, 10th and Nectarine

Priest, Benjamin, blacksmith, 1 Fries' ct.

Priest, Charles, engineer, 4 Fries' ct.

Priest, George, tailor, 37 n 4th ab Cherry

Priest, Isaac, blacksmith, Jackson ab Adams

Priest, John, bootbinder, Baker ab 7th

1850

Priest, Ann, 10th and Nectarine

Priest, Benjamin, blacksmith 1 Fries' ct.

Priest, Charles, engineer, 4 Fries' ct.

Priest, George, tailor, 37 n 4th ab Cherry

Priest, Geo. W., rigger, rear 156 Swanson

Priest, Isaac, blacksmith, Jackson ab Adams

Priest, John, bootbinder, 290 S 6th

Priest, Joseph, japanner, 7½ Bread

Priest, Lewis, reporter, 335 S 6th

Priest, Maris, rear 209 Cherry

Priest, Mary Ann, shop, Corn & Decatur

1851

Priest, Benjamin, blacksmith, 1 Fries' ct.

Priest, Charles, engineer, 4 Fries' ct.

Priest, George, tailor, 37 n 4th ab Cherry

Priest, Geo. W., rigger, rear 156 Swanson

Priest, Isaac, blacksmith, Jackson ab Adams

Priest, Joseph, brass founder, 2 Fries' ct.

Priest, Mary Ann, shop, Corn & Decatur

1852

Priest, Benjamin, blacksmith, 1 Fries' ct.

Priest, Charles, engineer, 4 Fries' ct.

Priest, George, tailor, 37 n 4th ab Cherry

Priest, Geo. W., rigger, rear 156 Swanson

Priest, Joseph, brass founder, 2 Fries' ct.

Priest, Mary Ann, shop, Corn & Decatur

1853

Priest, Benjamin, blacksmith, 1 Fries' ct.

Priest, George, tailor, 37 n 4th ab Cherry

Priest, Geo. W., rigger, Renigan ct.

Priest, Joseph, brass founder, 2 Fries' ct.

1854 (See Text)

1855

Priest, Benjamin, blacksmith, 1 Fries' ct.

Priest, Davis, clerk, SE 6th & Merchant

Priest, Geo., 290 S 6th

Priest, Jacob, cigars, 713 N 2d

Priest, John, mach. 5th and Moore

Priest, Joseph, brass founder, 2 Fries' ct

Priest, Louis S., printer 10 Janes

Priest, Wm., gas fitter, 1 Fries' ct.

1856

Priest, Benjamin, blacksmith, 1 Fries' ct.

Priest, C.J., messenger, SW 13th & Market, h 6th S 13th

Priest, Geo., 290 S 6th

Priest, Isaac, farmer, Mulberry (Myk)

Priest, James, tinsm. Gay (myk)

Priest, Joseph, brass founder, 2 Fries' ct.

Priest, Joseph, acct., 25 Bank, h 302 St. John

Priest, Mary Ann, widow, 1 Com ab Decatur

(The 1854  
Directory  
listing of  
Priests  
is given in  
preceding  
text on  
Page 5.)

1857

Priest, Benjamin, blacksmith, 1 Fries' ct.  
Priest, C.J., messenger, SW 13th & Market, h 6th S 13th  
Priest, Geo., 290 S 6th  
Priest, Isaac, farmer, Mulberry (Myk)  
Priest, James, tinsm. Gay (myk)  
Priest, Joseph, brass founder, 2 Fries' ct.  
Priest, Joseph, acct., 25 Bank, h 302 St. John  
Priest, Mary Ann, widow, 1 Coon ab Decatur  
1858

Priest, Benjamin, blacksmith, 1107 Fries' ct.  
Priest, C.J., messenger, 1300 Market, h 13th bel Market  
Priest, George, mach, 604 Sears  
Priest, Geo., 529 S 11th  
Priest, Jacob. segarmr., 824 Callowhill  
Priest, Jas., tailor, 1429 Wood  
Priest, Joseph, salesman, 1030 Wood  
Priest, Joshua, mach., 1141 Washington (C)  
Priest, Mary Ann, widow, 1 Coo.ab Decatur  
Priest, William, 1107 Fries' ct.

1859

Priest, George, mach, 604 Sears  
Priest, Geo., 529 S 11th  
Priest, Jacob. segarmr., 824 Callowhill  
Priest, Jas., tailor, 1429 Wood  
Priest, Joseph, salesman, 1030 Wood  
Priest, Joshua, mach., 1141 Washington (C)  
Priest, Mary Ann, widow, 1 Coon ab Decatur  
Priest, William, 1107 Fries' ct.

1860

Priest, Ann, 1030 Wood  
Priest, Ann M., dressmaker, 513 N 10th  
Priest, Charles, printer, 1614 Drury  
Priest, George, 529 S 11th  
Priest, George, machinist, 1023 Anita  
Priest, James, tailor, 1429 Wood  
Priest, James S., tinsmith, Mulberry (Myk)  
Priest, John, 529 S 11th  
Priest, Joseph, clerk, 212 S 11th  
Priest, Joshua, machinist, 415 Greenwich  
Priest, Mary A., widow Levi, 1304 Lancaster  
Priest, Richard R., ambrotypist, Main n Grape, h Baker (myk)  
Priest, William, gasfitter, 1107 Fries' ct.

7. *Id.* The Philadelphia City Directories for this period usually listed the residence of the individuals, not their places of occupation. Occasionally, it would also list the business address of an individual, but in that case it would precede the residence address with the letter "h." When, as in the instance of Solomon Priest, only one address was given, it would be reasonable to assume that it was his residence address.

8. I examined the *Philadelphia Daily Public Ledger*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and the *North American and Daily Advertiser* for the relevant period, all without success. These three newspapers, however, do not represent the only newspapers published in Philadelphia from 1851-1855, so that advertisements or notices concerning this post might yet be found with further searching.

9. I have been attempting to purchase this cover (at less than the current, full retail price for a genuine Priest's on cover) to take it off the market, but have not yet been successful.

10. The identification numbers are from *Scott's 1993 Specialized Catalogue Of United States Stamps*.

11. In describing each cover in the census, I will give as much detail as possible so that the cover will not hereafter again be counted and added to the census. Unfortunately, I have not examined most of the covers "in person", so that frequently I have had to rely on overlapped or partial photographs appearing in auction catalogues. Indeed, some of the descriptions given here are very sparse. I request that collectors who have or who come upon additional information concerning the listed covers please contact me so I can eventually update and/or correct this census for future publication.

(The 1854  
Directory  
listing of  
Priests  
is given in  
preceding  
text on  
Page 5.)

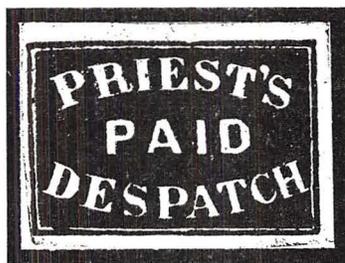
# PRIEST'S ORIGINALS

By John P. Halstead

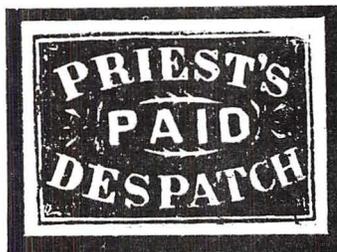
Scott's *U.S. Specialized* catalogue depicts two types of Priest's stamps: L238 and L239. The former is genuine, but the latter is Scott's own version, a cut which has been foisted on unwary collectors ever since his 1890s albums or before. The basic design of the originals of both types emulates, in larger format, the stamp issued by George Carter in the 1840s. It also bears a distinct resemblance to the semi-official carrier stamps (7LB11-13) issued by Philadelphia Postmaster Thomas F. Goodwin in 1850, one year before Priest's stamps appeared.

Both genuine types are easily distinguished from all known counterfeits. In the originals the top horizontal member of the E/PRIEST'S is shorter, the tail of the R is more tightly curled and the outer frame line is thinner. The stamps are typographed. L238 occurs on glazed-surface paper in silver/vermilion and gold/dark blue, as well as on wove paper colored through in bronze/bluish, black/rose, blue and yellow. L239 occurs only in black on yellow, blue, rose and emerald wove papers colored through. The listing in the current Scott's catalogue appears to be accurate.

The lettering of L239 is almost identical with that of L238, but a barbed arc has been added above and below PAID, while a delicate floret design has been inserted at each end of the same word. The arcs and florets were entered by hand on each position of the litho stone, the result being that both of these ornaments have personalities of their own. The rays of the florets go off in erratic directions. The arcs vary in length and in horizontal positioning from stamp to stamp. Moreover, the barbs of the arcs



Genuine L238.



Genuine L239.



Scott L239 cut.

point in all possible combinations of direction: both to the left, one to the left and one to the right, etc. It also appears, on some copies, that an attempt was made to introduce small corner ornaments similar to those on Goodwin's carriers, but the results are indistinct. One would say that L239 was made from an altered stone of L238 were it not for the fact that the horizontal measurements of L239, both overall and in the lengths of the words PRIEST'S and

DESPATCH, are consistently ½mm. less than the same dimensions of L238. L238 measures 19½ X 13mm. overall; L239, 19 X 13mm.

The order in which the various colors were printed and issued is unknown. Henry Needham stated that the earliest stamps were the metallic colors on glazed paper, but he offered no proof. In *The American Philatelist*, June 1920, p.322, he reported a cover with an enclosure dated Aug. 7, 1851, but he failed to stipulate which stamp was on the cover. Steven M. Roth's survey of the known covers lists a 121L1 (silver/vermilion) with the year 1851 pencilled on the cover, and his Figure 4 portrays a 121L4 (black/rose) dated Sept. 16, 1851 on the back by the recipient. Since the metallic stamps seem to be scarcer than the others (not a single off-cover copy has been reported), the likelihood is that Priest experimented with them briefly in mid-1851, found them unsatisfactory, and turned to the black stamps by late summer; this notwithstanding the fact that the metallic stamps are known used as late as 1855.

There are no known multiples of either type, but a copy of 121L6 (L239) in the collection of Richard Schwartz shows the frame line of an adjacent stamp approximately ½mm. to the right, and Sloane noted that the "Barr sale Feb. 1953 had an off cover single showing part of another stamp at top —

very close together", but the type is not identified. Nearly all copies of both types are cut close, but some copies of L238 show a wider margin than ½mm on all sides, so the Barr sale stamp was probably an L239. At least six plate varieties of each type can be distinguished, but more undoubtedly exist.

Although the "chic range of colored papers"<sup>1</sup> used for these stamps would make one suspect that Priest had an eye on the philatelic market, the scarcity of the stamps alone proves otherwise, and besides, there was virtually no philatelic market at the time. The survey of existing originals made by Steven Roth and myself is presumably incomplete, but for what it's worth, we have seen or had reported to us 35 covers and 16 off-cover stamps. On the covers, only four of the Priest's stamps are genuinely cancelled, all in manuscript. None of the off-cover stamps is cancelled. I have been able to examine originals of 121L2A, 4 and 6, as well as photocopies of all the others except 121L5 and 8. What accounts for the disparity between the numbers of copies on and off cover is anybody's guess. Additional off-cover copies are doubtless to be found among the photos in Elliott Perry's papers, but after the theft of his collection, the identity of each photo was lost. The authors of these articles would appreciate receiving a xerox copy of any original not previously reported.

## THE PRIEST FORGERIES

Only one example of a bogus L239 has come to my attention, and it is not a stamp but the cut which first appeared in J.W. Scott's albums in the 1890s and is still being used in the *U.S. Specialized* catalogues of the 1990s, a fairly long run for a "stamp" which apparently does not exist. The Scott cut differs from genuine stamps as follows:

- 1. The shape of the right leg of the R is entirely different.
- 2. The first S/PRIEST'S sits back on its tail.
- 3. The A and T/PATCH are out of line. In the original they are in perfect alignment.
- 4. The top horizontal stroke of the E/PRIEST'S is, indeed shorter than the bottom stroke, but not short enough.

□ 5. No indistinct corner ornaments are visible.

□ 6. The florets are much too heavy.

All known forgeries are of Type L238.

## FORGERY A

When A.C. Kline<sup>2</sup> published his *Stamp Collector's Manual* in Dec. 1862 and referred to Priest's as printed in black on white, yellow, pink and blue papers, he was probably referring to this counterfeit, because the originals do not appear on white paper. Its provenance is unknown. It is the most deceptive imitation of the original L238.

The tail of the R is not as tightly curled as in the original and is closer to the I. The top and bottom horizontal strokes of the E/PRIEST'S are the same length. The A/DESPATCH is squatter and fatter than the original.

Printed in black on yellow, surface-colored paper with a glaze that varies from heavy to barely discernible. Also printed in black/white wove and on wove paper colored through: yellow, orange-yellow, flesh and blue (shades). Typically printed on a thick, stiff wove paper varying from .0035''-.0045'', but occasionally thinner, .0030'', is seen.

A curious copy from the Carl Kane collection appears almost to be embossed. It is clearly printed in black on a fine wove paper, flesh, colored through, .0035'' thick, gummed and handstamped on the back with a large "F". Possibly a proof?

Forgery A is commoner than all but Taylor's, and yet, to my knowledge, the only illustration ever to appear in print of this fraud was in Moens' *Catalogue prix-courant de timbres-poste*, 1891, Planche 72. This may account for its having deceived a good many dealers as well as collectors.

## FORGERY B

Although there is no clue to its origin, a black/green stamp is listed by J. Bal-

lieu on p. 52 of the 2nd edition of his *Guide de l'amateur de timbres-poste* published in 1864. This could refer to the original black/emerald (121L9) or to Forgery B printed in black/white and on flesh, gray-green and light blue papers colored through.<sup>3</sup> Curiously, Bailleu's 3rd edition of 1865 lists only the blue, yellow and rose papers, which conforms to the genuine stamps.

I have not actually handled a copy of this forgery, but photocopies show it to be very like Forgery A, except that there is no upturned tail on the R, the first S/PRIEST'S is sitting on its heels, and the hole in the P/PAID is square and in D/PAID rectangular. This is one of the rare counterfeits.

## FORGERY C

J. Walter Scott's forgery of L238 was first illustrated, I believe, in the series of articles by Charles H. Coster in Scott's *American Journal Of Philately* in 1874<sup>4</sup> at the very moment Scott was raging at his editor, Joseph J. Casey, for selling fraudulent Berford's Express stamps. Casey was fired, but Scott continued to sell his own fakes for another ten years or so, until he found they were reflecting on the sales of his albums and catalogues. His bogus cut was still being used to depict the genuine stamp nearly 100 years later in the *U.S. Specialized catalogue*.<sup>5</sup>

The forgery, made from the same die as the cut, is printed in black on yellow surface-colored glazed paper (.0030''-.0035'') in rose (shades) and purple, colored-through. A single black/blue copy was reported by Richard Frajola, and another unique specimen turned up in Carl Kane's collection on a very thick (.0052'') stiff buff paper, colored through and gummed.

At first blush this fraud is not unlike Forgery A, but most of the letters of PRIEST'S and DESPATCH are out of

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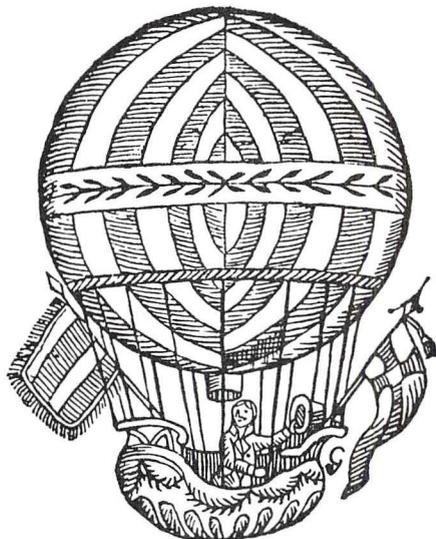
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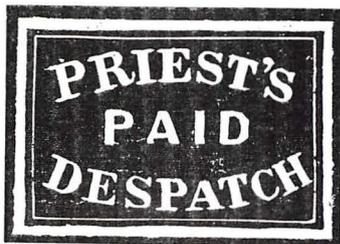
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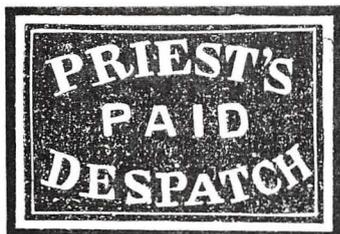
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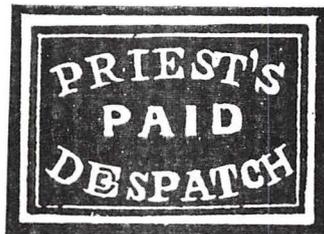
Forgery A.



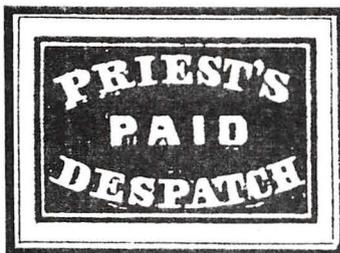
Forgery B.



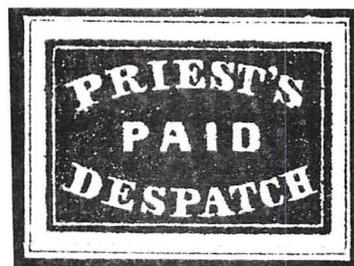
Forgery C (Scott).



Forgery D (Taylor).



Moens 1864 cut.



Forgery E (after Moens).



Forgery F.



Forgery G.

alignment, the letters of PAID are too thin and the printing is often splotchy, quite inferior to the Forgery A prints.

## FORGERY D

Samuel Allan Taylor's handiwork is easily recognized by the bizarre E/DESPATCH, by the riot of colors in which it appears and by its slightly smaller size (18½ X 12½mm.). Two of the forms on which Taylor produced them have been identified by Sherwood Springer. In parenthesis below is thickness noted, followed by number of copies reported.

**Form 4:** Pale purple/ white wove (.0028"-.0045", 6); Pale purple/ laid (.0028"-.0030", 1); Green/ white wove (.0030"-.0035", 17); Green/ laid (N/A, 1); Black/laid (N/A, 2); Black/ gray-green, C.T. (.0035", 2); Black/ violet-blue, S.C. (.0035", 3).

**Form 5:** Red/ white wove (.0030-.0060", 16); Red/ yellow glazed S.C. (.0035", 2); Red/ gray-violet, S.C. (.0035", 2).

**Unknown Forms:** Brownish black/ white wove (.0035-.0050", 7); Deep black/ white wove (N/A, 2); Brown/ white wove (.0045", 1); Blue (shades)/ white wove (.0035-.0040", 8); Black/ green S.C. (.0040-.0042", 1); Black/ dark rose C.T. (.0035-.0040", 3); Red/ laid (N/A, 1).

Other colors undoubtedly gushed forth from Taylor's shop and remain to be recorded.

## MOENS' 1864 CUT

The earliest representation of a Priest's stamp that I have seen appears as a cut on Planche 31 in J.-B. Moens' *Catalogue de timbres-poste illustrees*, published in Brussels in 1864. Since he repeats the paper colors listed by Kline in 1862, he probably had a copy or copies of Forgery A to use as his model, although he managed to make all the letters too small, and it has the usual Moens extra frame line.

## FORGERY E

If Patton was right in assuming that forgeries were made from all the illustrations in Moens' 1864 catalogue, this forgery seems to fit that description, although the light colored inner frame line is somewhat thinner than that of the Moens cut. Only two copies have been reported: one in black/white wove, the other in black/yellow paper colored through.

## FORGERY F

The lone copy of this forgery, reported by Sherwood Springer, bears a superficial resemblance to Forgery E but differs in several details. The P/PRIEST'S lacks the bottom serifs. The D/PAID resembles an O. The left leg of A/DESPATCH is fatter. The first S/PRIEST'S and the S/DESPATCH are quite different from those letters on the original. There is no extra line around it. A blotchy print, in dull vermilion on white wove paper.

## FORGERY G

This monstrosity is so crude that no one but the veriest tyro would be taken in by it. Reported by Geoffrey Rosamund in England, it is perhaps a modern European production. Printed in black on stiff, yellow wove paper, colored through, about .0040" thick.

Apart from those mentioned in the text, I wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the following who loaned material to be examined: J.W. Brown, Bruce Fancher, Dave Meriney, Tom Miller, Byron Sandfield, Gordon Stim-mell and Varro Tyler.

## FOOTNOTES

1. Quoted from *The Penny Post*, Nov. 1992, p.31.
2. Pseudonym for John William Kline, early Philadelphia stamp dealer. See *Philatelic Literature Review*, v. 42, no. 1, p.24.
3. As reported by Richard Frajola.
4. Issue of Dec. 20, 1874, p. 185.
5. See the 1965 edition. By 1972 it was finally expunged.

# THE PRECANCELS OF HALE & COMPANY

By Michael S. Gutman

I entered the world of Independent Mail carriers through my enduring interest in U.S. precancels. In the precancel world it has long been thought that Hale & Company created the first precancels. This was a somewhat uninformed opinion as very few precancel collectors knew much about the Independent Mail carriers.

My earliest Hale precancel is dated June 25, 1844. I have several Pomeroy precancelled covers with the earliest dated July 30, 1844. So for now we'll assume the precancel collectors made a lucky guess. Perhaps our Pomeroy experts can enlighten us further.

My intention in this article is to provide the information I have collected over 15 years on the three cities in which Hale & Company definitely precancelled their mail.

Boston was by far the most prolific city with a significant number of covers showing up over the years. Portsmouth N.H. had a much more modest output with a small number of covers surfacing in auctions. The last of the three—some is New York which was discovered within the last ten years and about which there is no mention in any of the literature.

As few readers have much precancel knowledge, a brief history and definition of the field may be helpful. First, a precancel is a stamp which has been cancelled before it is affixed to the envelope. Precancels on U.S. stamps became quite widespread starting about 1890 and continued to grow in usage through the 1930s. The primary reason for their use was as a labor saving device for the post office, as an entire

sheet of stamps could be cancelled at once (usually with the name of the town and state where they were to be used) which would save the post office a great deal of labor since they would not have to handstamp each envelope individually.

However, the practice of precancellation (without the city and state name) appears much earlier than 1890 and in fact can be found on the first stamps issued in 1847. My guess is that precancellations were used then as a labor saving device, perhaps to discourage re-use, and may have simply been another form of cancellation.

For early precancels one might then ask, how can a collector tell a precancellation from a post cancellation? The simple answer is that it's not always possible to tell one from the other. There is one instance in which it is clear that the stamp was precancelled and that is when the cancellation goes right to the edge of the stamp but does not go onto the cover. It is this last definition I use here to discuss the precancels of Hale & Company.

## BOSTON

My research on Boston has been far easier than the other two cities because of the relatively large number of covers I have been able to accumulate over the years. The information presented here is based on 31 covers, 29 from my own collection, and two from auction descriptions which provided enough information to be included.

Figure 1 is an excellent example of the Boston precancel, appearing here on

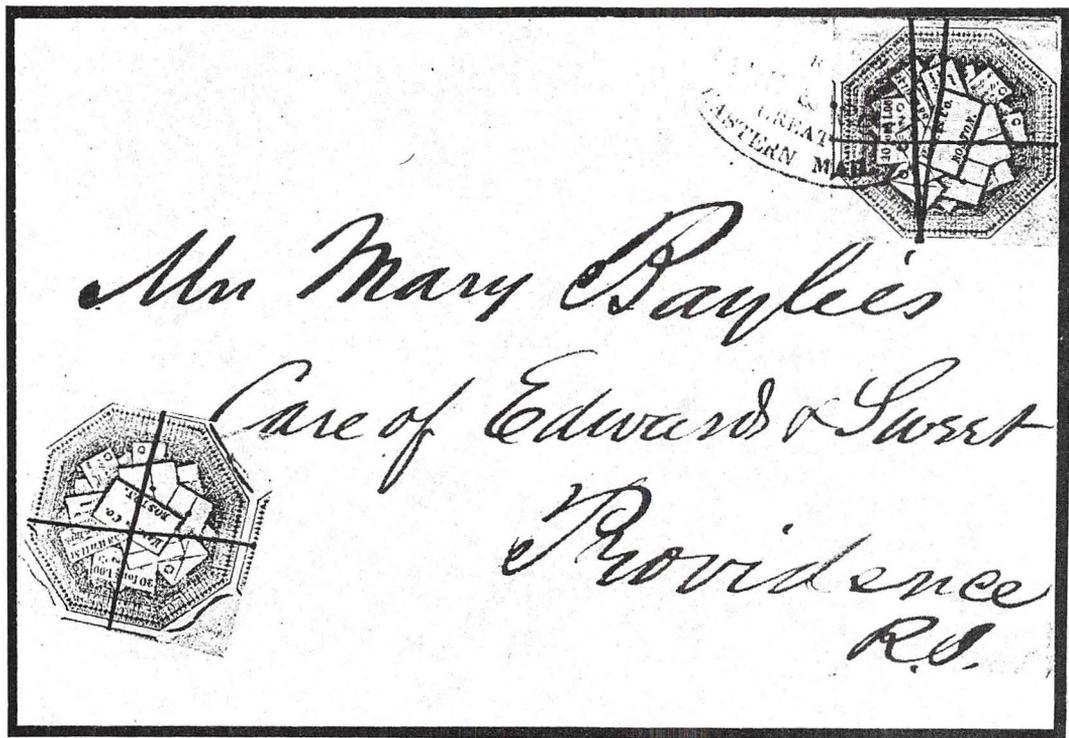


Fig.1: Boston precancel on 75L5 (double rate) Boston-Providence, Sept. 9, 1844.

a double rate cover to Providence dated Sept. 9, 1844. Among these 31 covers the earliest usage is June 25, 1844 and the latest is Nov. 15, 1844, less than a five month period out of the total 18-month period of Hale activity from Boston. (I have one cover dated April 24, 1845 to be discussed at the end of this article). Frequency of usage is also of interest, with one in June, five in July, three in August, six in September, eight in October, one in November and six which are undated.

Twenty-seven of the covers originated in Boston, two originated in Newburyport and Maine respectively, receiving their precancels in Boston where they were transferred from either Crowfoot or Jerome, and two do not contain information regarding origin. None of the covers originated from the same company or individual, leading me to conclude that the precancelled stamps were applied at the Hale office in Boston. Fifteen had New York as their des-

tinuation with the balance spread among the cities of Albany, Schnectady and Troy in New York, Haverhill, Springfield, Pittsfield and New Bedford in Massachusetts, and Providence, Baltimore, Bangor, Philadelphia and New London filling out the balance.

Eight had ruled precancellations and 23 were hand drawn. Black ink was used for 26, purple ink for three and two from auction descriptions were unknown. In usage, 28 are single rate covers, two are double rate and one is a triple rate cover. Figure 2 is a reasonable sampling of the various forms of the precancellation.

Two surprising facts emerged from the research. All stamps precancelled were 75L5 (blue without address), adding evidence to the supposition that they were all applied at the Hale office. Hale moved his offices in Boston from 13 Court Street to 23 State Street on or about April 1, 1844, an event which gave birth to the 75L5 with the deleted

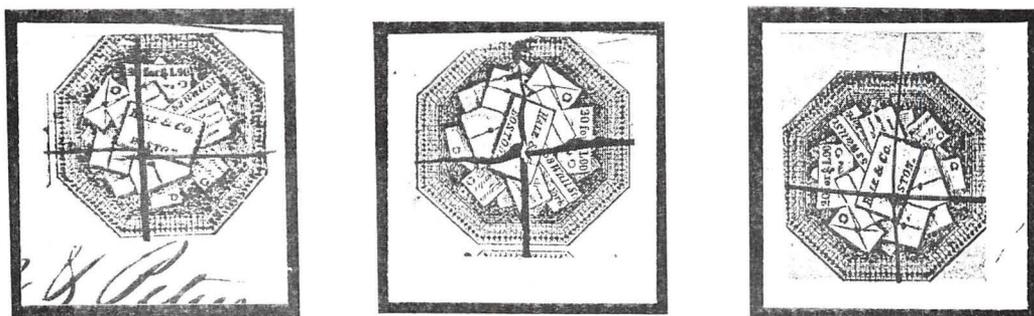


Fig.2: Various forms of the Boston precancellation.

address (inked out by pen strokes). It should be noted here that 75L1 (blue stamp with address) appears on covers as late as June 1845, perhaps from stocks companies had purchased earlier. Finally, none of the stamps on any of the 31 Boston covers were cut to shape!

## PORTSMOUTH

**P**ortsmouth is a seacoast town in the state of New Hampshire. It is about a 70 mile ocean trip north from Boston. It was a prominent ship building town in the 1800s and therefore it is not surprising that Hale carried mail by ship to and from Portsmouth.

Research of Hale in Portsmouth has been quite difficult because so few covers are known. The information provided here is based on seven covers I believe to be legitimate, three of which are from my collection and four from auction descriptions. (I will discuss two other covers later which I believe are not legitimate).

Hale advertised mail service from Portsmouth as early as July 1844 but the earliest cover I have is dated Oct. 18, 1844 and the latest Jan. 19, 1845, about a three month period. All of the covers originate in Portsmouth with destinations to six different seacoast cities including Charlestown MA, New Haven, New London, New York, Boston,

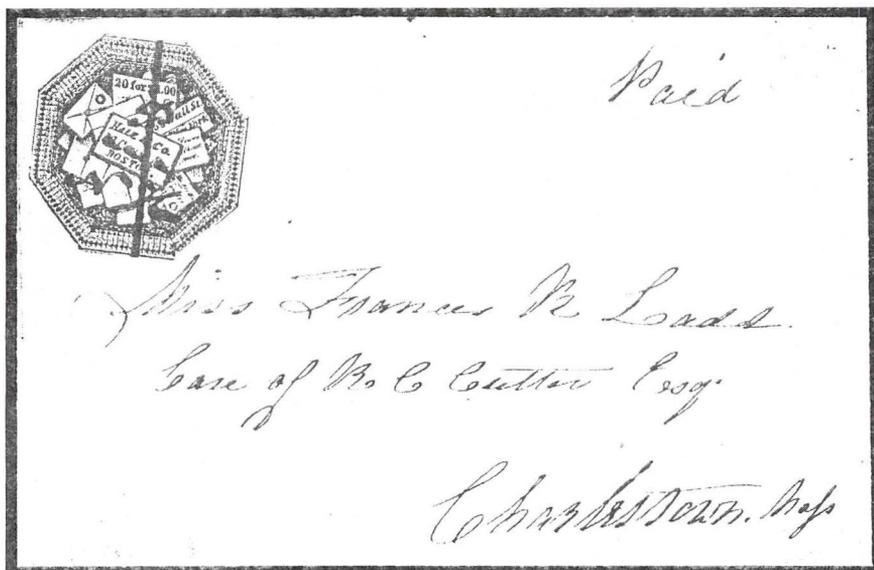


Fig.3: Portsmouth NH precancel on 75L2 dated Dec. 7, 1844 to Charlestown MA.

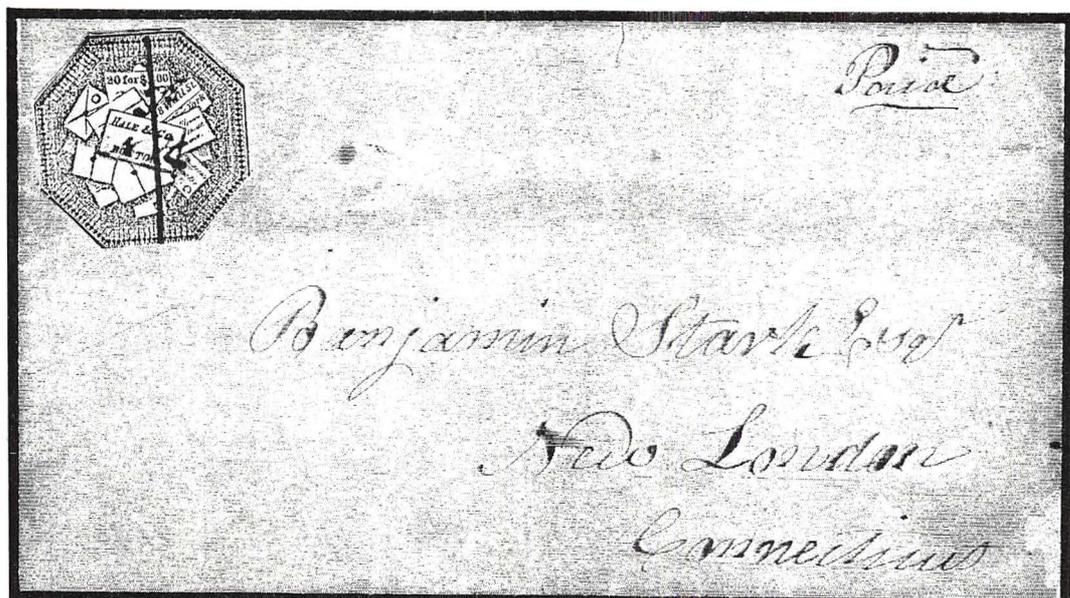


Fig.4: Portsmouth NH precancel on 75L5 dated Nov. 19, 1844 to New London CT.

Saco ME, and one unknown.

Five of the covers bear Hale's 75L2 (orange with address) and two bear the 75L5. All are cut to shape which is exactly the opposite of the Boston precancels. The 75L5 covers are dated in October and November and the 75L2 covers are dated in December and January. Figure 3 shows the distinctive Portsmouth precancellation on the 75L2. There is a vertical black ruled line with the initials "P" over "N H" in black, standing for Portsmouth, New Hampshire. There is a dotted black line which crosses out the address of 13 Court Street. Figure 4 shows the precancellation as it appears on the 75L5. There is a vertical black ruled line, with the initials "P" over "N H" in an almost orange ink, with no dotted line since the 13 Court Street address does not appear on the 75L5. The precancellation is the only known cancellation of any kind from Portsmouth by Hale.

There are two other purported Portsmouth covers worth mentioning because I believe they are not legitimate and have been the source of misinformation in the early literature. The first originated in Providence and bears

a 75L2 with a precancellation similar to the Portsmouth 75L2 precancellation, plus a Boston precancellation. There is also a Hale Forwarded oval from Providence. The cover has been written up over the years attributing the "P" to Providence and "N H" initials to the Hale postmaster in Providence, one Nathan Hale. There is no factual basis for any of this and it appears to emanate from someone with a fertile imagination. The second cover originates in Taunton, MA bearing a 75L1 with a precancellation similar to the one used on the 75L2 except the letters and vertical line are much finer and the line crossing out the address is not dotted. I would feel a lot better about Portsmouth if I could see a few more covers, especially ones with 75L5s.

## NEW YORK

The precancellation from New York was first shown to me about ten years ago by R. Malcolm Hooper. Since then I have come into possession of two additional covers and therefore the information appearing here is based on three known covers. The earliest of the covers is dated Sept.

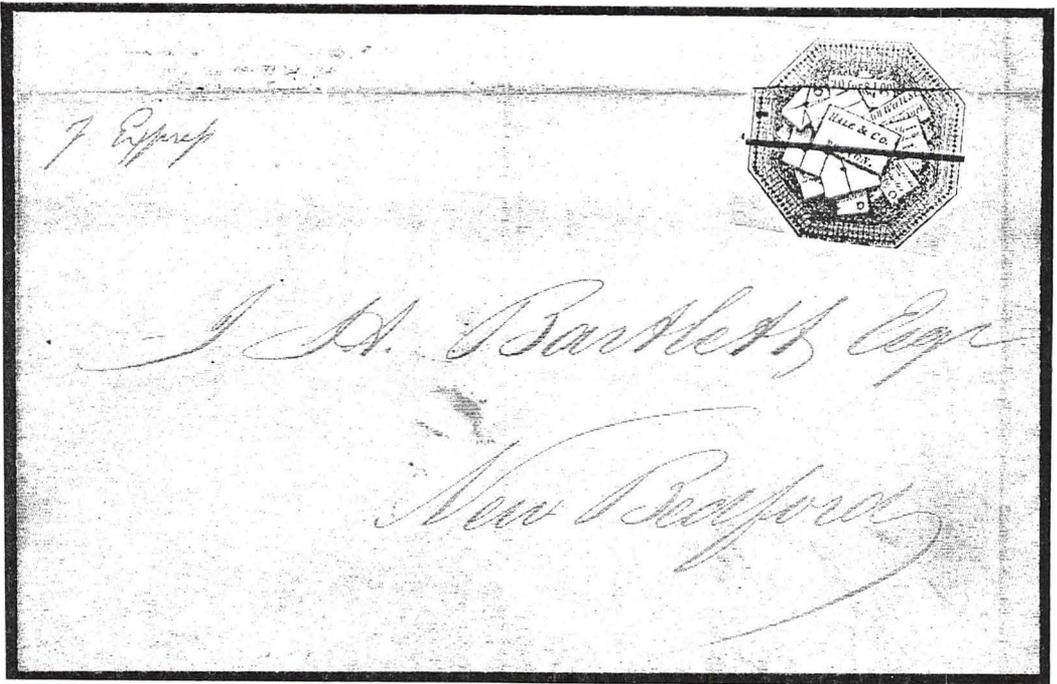


Fig.5: New York precancel on 75L5 dated Sept. 16, 1844 to New Bedford MA.

16, 1844 and the latest Nov. 7, 1844, less than a two month period of use. Two definitely originate in New York while one is of unknown origin. Two are addressed to Boston and one to New Bedford.

All bear 75L5s with two not cut to shape and one cut to shape. All three bear a black horizontal line, two ruled and one hand drawn. Figure 5 shows a clear example of the New York precancellation.

### SOME QUESTIONS

**M**uch remains to be discovered about Hale's precancelling activities. I have two covers and a copy of a third which still perplex me. Figure 6 shows a beautiful (but perhaps fake) cover from Boston to New York with a Hale 75L5 precancel covered by a Boyd 20L2. Everything looks correct including the Hale forwarding oval, the Boyd oval, the Collect Six Cents Hale box because the letter had an enclosure and therefore was double rate, a faint manuscript "paid"

which the sender probably thought was correct, and finally the manuscript "collect 6/2" for the unpaid double rate and Boyd's fee for delivery. The major problem is it is dated April 24, 1845 — more than 5 months later than any other Boston precancel date.

The second mystery is a cover from a Siegel sale of September 1972 which shows a cover to Bangor, Maine purported to be from Boston with a 75L5 showing a horizontal hand drawn line very similar to the New York precancellation. The third enigma is a cover I have which may be from New York but has no origin information, is dated July 11, 1844 and has a horizontal hand drawn purple ink precancellation on a 75L5.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Richard Frajola for so much of his time, information and material supplied over the years and to invite anyone with additional information to contact me so I can enlarge my understanding of all aspects of Hale's activities. My address is PO Box 926, Framingham, MA 01701.



Fig.6: Hale and Boyd combo cover, Boston to N.Y., 4/24/1845, possibly a fake.

## SCOTT CATALOGUE REVIEW COMMITTEE SOLICITATION

The Scott Catalogue Review Committee is no longer confining its attention to the carrier stamps, but is opening it to the consideration of the local stamps. Hence, we solicit your input to any editorial changes you deem important. Illustration alterations or new entries require a clear glossy print. We remind you that for price changes, supporting evidence, such as auction realizations, are essential. Send your recommendations to:  
Donald Johnstone, 8 Rudgate Road,  
Colchester, Vermont 05446.

# THE FORGERIES OF WYMAN'S LETTER OFFICES

The following analysis is a further preview of work-in-progress based on the Perry-Hall manuscript on Independent Mails. — *Richard Schwartz.*

**T**his Independent Mail company operated principally between Boston and New York. It was short-lived, less than five months, from late July to December 1844. Worsening illness was probably the cause, as Wyman died shortly after.

The company's handstamp reads "Wm. WYMAN'S LETTER OFFICES". An early advertisement was signed merely WM. WYMAN. Another, two months later, was headed "W. WYMAN'S EXPRESS MAIL". The stamps stated simply "W. WYMAN."

## GENUINE — SCOTT 149LI

Lithographed. The "2" in "20" has a pronounced inward loop and touches the curved frame at bottom. Periods in "W. Wyman." No period after each "St". The top of "St" breaks the double lines of the cartouche. Printed in black on white or cream toned wove paper. Used copies usually cancelled by a thickish penmark "X", more rarely by a single stroke. Also known struck with the Overton oval handstamp.



Genuine 149LI.

## FORGERY A

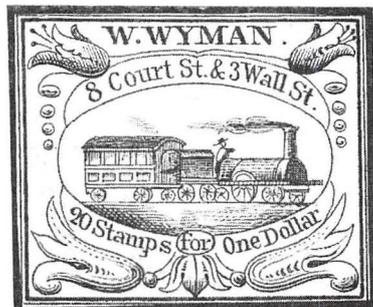
A George Hussey forgery. As in the genuine, the "St." interrupts the cartouche lines above it. Periods after each "St." The base of the "2" is straight. The "O" in "20" touches the oval frame line above it, as does the "f" in "for". In black on thin, medium and thick white paper and on light manila paper. Noted in a block of ten, 2 X 5.



Forgery A (Hussey).

## FORGERY B

A J.B. Moens forgery which originally appeared in his 1864 catalogue. A copy has been recorded in black on yellow paper. Period after each "St." The "2" has a large loop at top, a short base and touches the zero. The rear brim of the engineer's hat is a long line.



Forgery B (J.B. Moens).

## FORGERY C

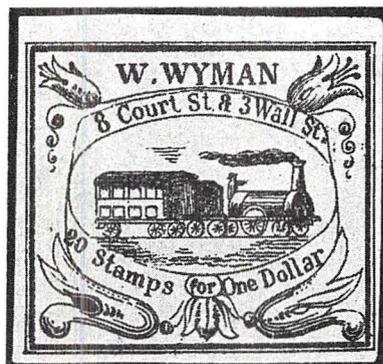
Used by Scott to illustrate the genuine stamp until 1942. Single frameline around design. No periods after each "St". The "3" leans forward. The plume of smoke is long and thick. The "p" in "Stamps" has a one sided serif. Noted in black on thinner porous and on thicker stiff wove paper.



Forgery C (Scott).

## FORGERY D

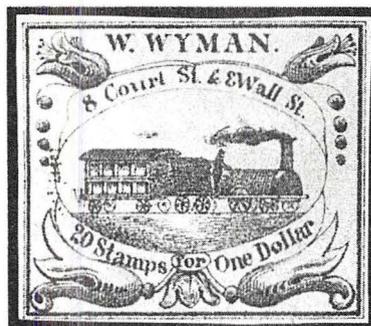
Maker unknown. The letters in "Wyman" vary in height. The "Y" touches the cartouche beneath. No period after "Wyman". The curved frame line at bottom left passes through the "2". Seen in black on colored papers: gray, yellow, light blue gray, green, light green, and blue.



Forgery D.

## FORGERY E

Maker unknown. Letters of address are too small. The "3" is backwards. The stamp has a thin rectangular outline outside the frame lines, easily visible in multiples. In black on bluish manila and on yellow. Also light yellow brown, pale brownish purple, purple, pale red brown and blue. Exists with fake double line oval handstamp.

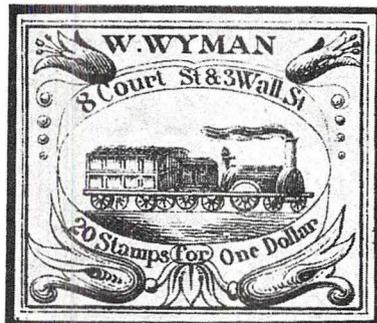


Forgery E.

## FORGERY F

Maker unknown. Overall design rather well executed, but the "C" of "Court" touches the upper left floral ornament. No period after "Wyman", which is located off center to the left. The engineer looks like a fireplug with an outstretched arm. Noted only so far in black on white.

N.B. No S. Allan Taylor forgeries have been reported.



Forgery F.

# DID S. ALLAN TAYLOR SOMETIMES TELL THE TRUTH?

By Calvet M. Hahn, (C) 1993

**G**ordon Stimmell's July 1993 *Penny Post* article on the Smith's City Express Post served as a red flag to this iconoclast, particularly his comments about S. Allan Taylor.

Let me begin with the cited statements by S. Allan Taylor, made in February 1869. At that point, Taylor stated the American Express was organized by "Jacob T. Smith and --- Dobson", that it failed in August or September 1858, after Smith purchased it and that it was located at 186 Laurens Street. Taylor added that Mr. Dobson went on to become "renowned as a banjoist." Mr. Stimmell correctly points out the unsavory nature of Mr. Taylor, but goes on to ridicule the idea of researching the Taylor data. This was my red flag. While I hold no brief for S. Allan Taylor, it is possible he tells the truth on occasion.

## The Location

**T**he address 186 Laurens Street does exist in New York. It is located between Houston and Bleecker and is just south of Washington Square. The reverse city directory for 1851 shows it was then the site for the Eylers & Strauss candle company. However, right across the street at 187 was a music link with William Comes, a music teacher. There is a musical connection.

## The Dobson Family

**T**he Dobson of Smith and Dobson who was involved with the American Express Company

local was from the family of William P. Dobson, a cooper. The elder Dobson, whose wife was Mathilda, had an artistic family all of whom were born in New York, according to the 1860 Census.

At the time Trow published the *Wilson City Directory* for the year ending May 1, 1852, William A. Dobson was not listed in Manhattan. He arrived there in time for the directory for the year 1852/3, which listed him as residing at 16 Clarkson Street. The following year's directory shows the address at 44 Clarkson. He is still at that address in the 1854 and 1855 listings, but by the time of the directory for the year ending May 1, 1856 he is at 34 Renwick, a small street just past the Hudson and Canal Streets intersection. He is now working at the Fulton fish market.

It is in this same directory that the Dobson children first show up at separate addresses. Charels E. Dobson is listed as a printer (a good occupation for making local adhesives, it might be noted) at 348 Third Street in the village along with Henry C. Dobson, a clerk. Henry is 22 at the time.

In the directory for the year ending May 1, 1857, William A. Dobson is still a cooper but working with Dobson & Welsh fishmongers. Charles E. Dobson is joined at 348 Third Street by his brother Frank P. Dobson, a clerk. Neither is listed in the 1860 Census in Manhattan although they are back in the city in 1861.

In the Trow's *City Directory* for the year ending May 1, 1860, William A. Dobson has apparently died, for 53-year-old Mathilda is listed as a widow at

34 Renwick, along with their 24-year-old son William S. (L. in the 1860 *Census*) Dobson, a butcher. Also living there are 22-year-old James S. Dobson, a painter, who moves out by the time of the *Census* to live with his new 17-year-old wife Francis. According to the *Census*, 14-year-old Edward Dobson is also living at the family home on Renwick. According to the *Census*, another resident is 21-year-old William J. Anderson. Anderson was a partner in the city express local of Anderson and Nichols at 66 Courtlandt in 1857 and in Anderson & Hardick at the same address in 1859.

In the Trow's directory for the year ending May 1, 1861 George C. Dobson, listed as a laborer in 1857 and 1858, is listed in music along with Henry C. Dobson. The former is at 190 Ludlow and the latter at 641 Fourth Street. In 1858, Henry C. Dobson was listed as a printer and according to the 1860 *Census* he was then a professor of music living with his 22-year-old wife, Laura.

In the final Trow's *Directory* checked, that for the year ending May 1, 1862, there is a listing for Charles E. Dobson & Brother, banjoes, at 560 Broadway. Frank P. Dobson is also listed at 561 Broadway with 'Banjoes' as his occupation.

## Jacob T. Smith

**T**aylor tells us the Jacob T. Smith was involved in the American Express local and the subsequent Smith's City Express Post. The first in-period record of a Jacob T. Smith in the Trow's publication of the *Wilson City Directory* is found in the issue for the year ending May 1, 1857 when Jacob T. Smith is listed as a reporter living at 212 Sullivan Street, two streets east of Laurens. According to the 1860 *Census*, Smith was a 24-year-old Virginian at this date. There are earlier listings for a

Jacob Smith, bookseller at 69 Canal, living at 108 E 26th Street, who is probably not related to Jacob T. Smith.

Trow's *Wilson City Directory* for the year ending May 1, 1858 shows Jacob T. Smith, composer, living at 348 Sixth Avenue. I suspect there may be an error in the address, for in both 1856 and 1857, Charles E. and Frank P. Dobson lived at 348 Third Street. Is it possible all three were living in the same building in 1857?

The directory for the year ending May 1, 1859 shows Jacob T. Smith, express, living at 202 Greene Street, two streets west of Laurens. In the subsequent directory for the year ending May 1, 1860, he is listed as a publisher at 566 Broadway. In the Trow's *Wilson City Directory* for the year ending May 1, 1861, he is again listed as a reporter, living at 159 Greene Street. A second Jacob T. Smith is reported in this directory as an 'eraser' at 658 Broadway, living at 69 Bleeker. There was no Jacob T. Smith listed in the Trow's directory for the year ending May 1, 1862.

The 1860 *Census* does not show a Jacob T. Smith. It does show a 25-year-old Jacob Smith, clerk, living with his mother, 46-year-old Cornelia Smith and his older 26-year-old sister Catherine as well as a younger 17-year-old Sam, cloakmaker, 14-year-old Emeline, 12-year-old Ann, 5-year-old Walter M. and 1-year-old Juliet. This may be the Smith of the local post.

## A Surplus Of Smiths

**I**n an as yet unpublished portion of my ongoing work on locals and philatelic incunabula series appearing in *Collectors Club Philatelist*, I note that beginning in the Trow's *Wilson City Directory* for the year ending May 1, 1860 there is a listing for a William C. Smith. This Smith advertised in that directory as a 'New York City Express' with offices at 1 Park Place, site of the

Broadway Hotel and 239 Broadway. He lived at 187 West 26th Street. In the 1860 Census this Smith is apparently a 32-year-old born in Ireland.

In this same directory, which shows Jacob T. Smith as a publisher and no longer an express, there is another listing of a Smith's express, 66 Courtlandt Street, going to Orange, N.J. (Here I draw attention to the Dobson family home resident, William Anderson, whose express was located at 66 Courtlandt.)

The Trow's directory for the year ending May 1, 1862 shows this Orange, N.J. express, E.G. Smith & Co., is still at 66 Courtlandt, while the William C. Smith 'New York City Express' is still in existence, but now located at 67 Courtlandt, with William C. Smith living in New Jersey.

### Conclusions From Census and Directory Data

**T**here are no contradictions in the census and city directory listings to S. Allan Taylor's remarks concerning the American Express Post and the Smith's City Express Post, although not every point is supported. Consequently, I would accept Taylor's statements and conclude the American Express local was at 186 Laurens Street and that the principals were members of the Dobson clan, particularly Charles E. Dobson and probably Frank P. Dobson as well with other family members serving as runners in between musical gigs, along with Jacob T. Smith.

The directory dates suggest that late in 1856 or early 1857, Jacob T. Smith and the Dobson brothers got together as a result of common musical interests, possibly at William Comes' teaching studio on Laurens Street, and decided to

form a city express local in the area just south of Washington Square in Greenwich Village. William Anderson may also have been involved as a partner or advisor.

With the death of their father and growing careers in music, the Dobsons pulled out. Jacob T. Smith continued the local by himself, or with Anderson, in 1858 and withdrew in 1859, possibly selling the operation to William C. Smith who moved it down to the City Hall area just north of Nassau Street. William C. Smith continued the operation through at least 1861, making it possible for early dealers to obtain genuine stamps.

*(Editor's note: Cal Hahn disagrees with conclusions reached by me regarding which Smith's is possibly genuine and does not accept the long-held wisdom regarding the real American Express Company stamp. These observations may form the basis for a future article in The Penny Post.*

### Mystery Cover Alert

We'll be launching a new niche in the *Penny Post*, Mystery Cover Corner. We are asking Members to send in photocopies of Locals and Carriers on covers that have baffled their best efforts and research. Emphasis should be on rare markings, bizarre usage, or posts about which we still know very little. Hopefully, our combined expertise will help solve these nagging mysteries. Please send your submissions to the Editor.

# PHILADELPHIA SUPPLEMENTAL

The following is a Letter To The Editor from Calvet Hahn supplementing and updating Steven Roth's article published in the October, 1993 *Penny Post*.

To The Editor:

Steven Roth's article on the 'short-lived' Philadelphia posts is both illuminating and provocative. In addition to his three basic methods of approach I should like to suggest it is also fruitful to look into the contemporary records of the expresses and independent mails as revealed in such works as Stimson's *History of the Expresses*, whose varied editions contain different levels of information on the companies or the express broadsides and the *Express Messenger* newspaper he published in the 1850s, as a number of the personages involved worked in several fields. It was the use of this source channel that permitted me to put together data on the Cholwell locals (*Stamp Collector* 7/16/1984).

Mr. Roth, in particular, questions the reliability of the city directories. He and I have probably made the most extensive use of them of anyone writing on locals today. While I concur that some are unreliable, the unreliability factor is not as high as most market surveys that are currently used by businesses for decisions. Survey work has a high 'unreliability' factor. Conversely, there is a heavy degree of moving in and out of town for express, independent mail and local proprietors. I tried to give some feel of this in my study of the Stone's City Post (*Stamp Collector* 8/25/73). I refer readers to that piece to see how extensive the moving about was. I might also note that the unreli-

bility factor varies from city to city and directory proprietor to proprietor. I believe Mr. Roth is basing his view almost solely on the Philadelphia directories.

In his III City Despatch, Roth lists five covers. My records of lot 591 of the Kaufmann sale shows his was dated 2/1/45, not an unknown 1844 date. My records also show stampless examples of 1/25/45, 1/27/45 and 1/29/45 (no rate on this last). There is also an 8/2/45 item with PAID sold by Robson Lowe. His Type II cover F "Prompt Delivery" sold as lot 1256 in the Hollowbush Fox sale of 1/5/66 to Elliott Perry for \$42. I was the underbidder.

In the V. City Express Post, the unique EXPRESS/POST is also known on 1/22/46. Robert Kaufmann who auctioned it in 1984 attributed it to Spence & Brown. The oval item, Fig. 10 seems to be the succeeding handstamp. This was on a cover from Wilmington, Del. to Morris & Jones at Schylkill 7th & ?. A later example sans oval is known from Oxford, Pa. 7/24/46.

In the T.A. Hampton section, Roth lists only 4 handstamped covers. In addition to the PAID example illustrated (there is one from the Orne correspondence, as well as another from the Jones correspondence which the Levy records show sold as lot 1078 in the Harmer sale of 2/22/73, which he lists as part of his 77L2 listing. In the 2 Cent version there is also a 10/26/1847 cover from the Lt. Campbell correspondence. His 3 Cent item is ex-Tuttle and dated 2/14/48 from the Plowman correspondence.

— Calvet M. Hahn.

# ERIC JACKSON



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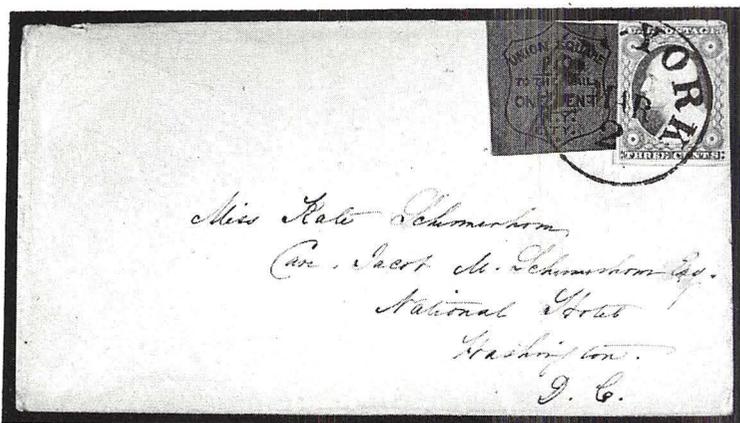
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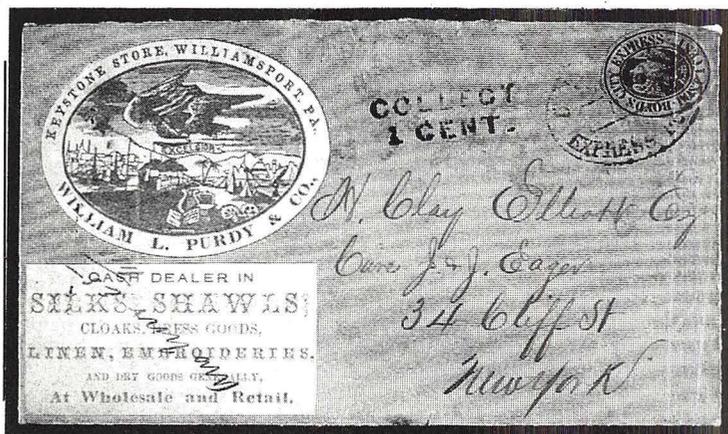


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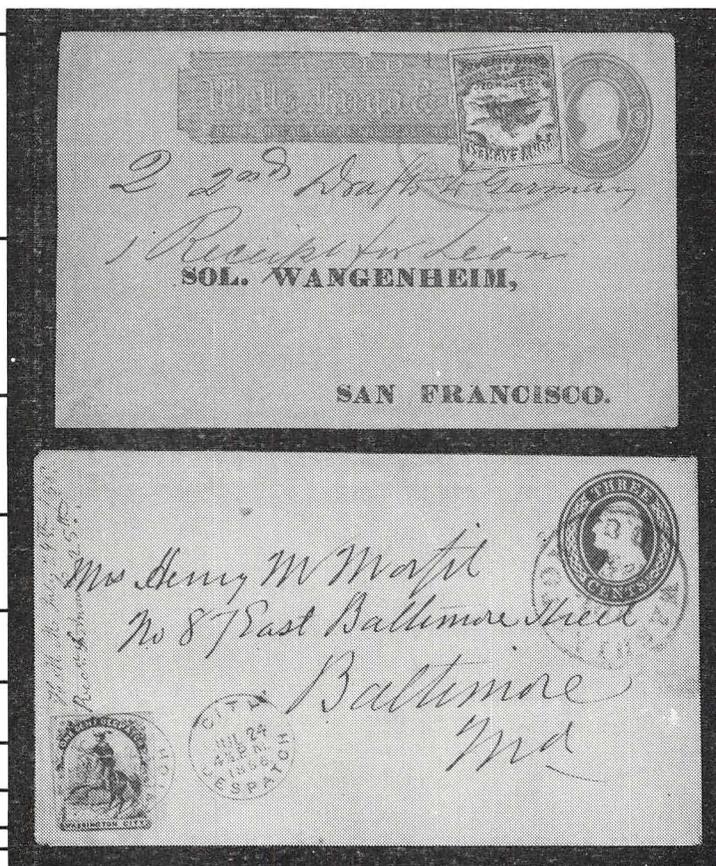
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