

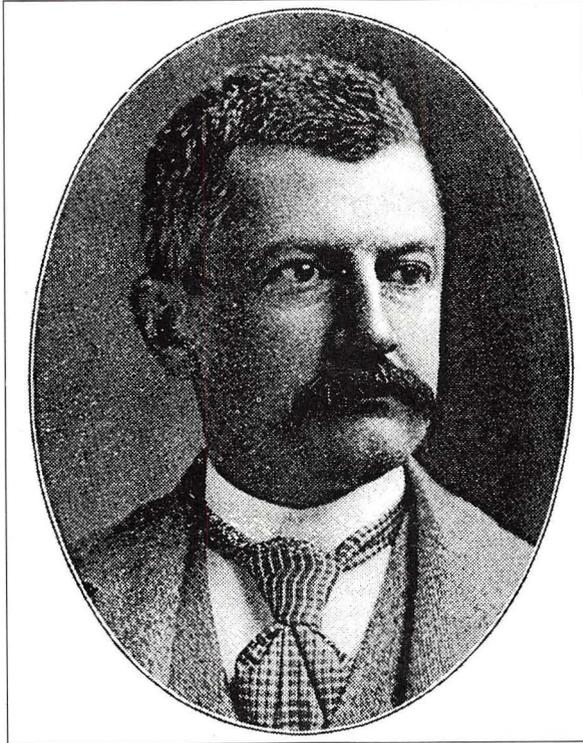
APRIL 1998

WHOLE NUMBER 30

VOL. 8 NO. 2

THE PENNY POST

Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society



CHARLES HENRY COSTER

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CHARLES HENRY COSTER – LOCALS PIONEER
WELLS FARGO ORIGINALS & FORGERIES (II)
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THE PENNY POST



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Editor: Gordon Stimmell.....P.O. Box 184, 260 Adelaide St. E. Toronto Canada
President: Steven Roth.....P.O. Box 57160, Washington DC 20037
Vice-President: Robert B. Meyersburg.....6321 Tone Ct. Bethesda, MD 20817-5812
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AWARDS

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1994 Sescal California.....Vermeil
1993 Stampshow Houston.....Gold
1992 Sescal California.....Vermeil

A FOND FAREWELL FROM THE EDITOR

By Gordon Stimmell

It has been a wild joyride, this string of years putting together the *Penny Post*. But all great things must come to an end, and hopefully, the *Penny Post* will live on.

My mind spans back to a meeting in the Collectors Club of New York, ca. 1990. It was here in this building that echoes a mini-Greek temple dwarfed amid the glass and stone towers of Manhattan, that the idea of this journal and our Society had its genesis.

The reasons for my undertaking the editorship of the *Penny Post* were urgent. I envisioned several vital goals as I accepted stewardship and creation of this journal.

Chief among the motives? To finish what several generations of local and carrier legends, such as Elliott Perry, somehow did not complete: To change over fifty fake illustrations masquerading as the real stamps in the Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue.

That, thanks to enlightened leadership at Scott Publishing reacting to one of my articles, was accomplished at last.

The other prime goal was to finally illuminate dozens of local posts that had dwelled in darkness for nearly 150 years. These were the posts Donald Patton and Elliott Perry never had the opportunity to cover fully.

That task has been largely met over the last seven years in the form of major articles by myself and a kaleidoscope of major writers in the field. Sure, some posts can use finessing. And new discoveries occur every year as growing censi are fed into new databases and fresh conclusions emerge.

But generally the difficult posts I personally felt needed most desperate exegesis have been exposed finally to the light of day.

I could not have done it alone. My chief mentor was Richard Schwartz, the largely unsung and modest hero of this wonderful journey into knowledge. Dick prefers to stay

mostly out of the limelight. He has generously shared his records, accumulated knowledge and postal history notes from his predecessors such as Perry, with me and many other scholars over the last decades.

When I hit nasty problematic areas in the local posts, such as detecting the genuine from reprints of Floyd's, or Cheever & Towle, or Chicago Penny Post, Dick was there with his wit and his wisdom to help. We all owe Dick an enormous debt.

I also want to thank my first living mentor, Sherwood Springer, who gave me an appreciation and vast background on the local post and carrier forgers of the 19th century. His understanding of the tricks of the printing trade opened new doors to me.

A special thanks to two members of the Society who have made it run, and helped me with the journal too many times to count: Steven Roth and Marty Richardson, who have been the backbone of the Society.

I will continue authoring benchmark articles on locals and carriers, hopefully in the *Penny Post* should we find someone to take on the burden of editorship. I have sounded the alarm that I had other goals in my life for three years and that the burden was becoming too great for me to bear alone, but no one has come forward to pick up the reins. In the end I was writing, editing, soliciting articles and advertising, setting the entire journal into type and laying it out by hand, proof-reading and shipping it to the printer like some kind of latter day Erasmus.

New challenges in my life, and meeting nearly all the goals I originally faced have conspired to end this glorious reign.

I fervently hope someone on reading this has the background, energy and knowledge to take up the task of being editor.

A deep thank you to all who contributed.

REMEMBERING ROBSON LOWE

Robson Lowe, one of the deans of 20th century philately, died recently. Robert Meyersburg, a longtime friend, contributed these comments:

“Robson Lowe, member #1 of our Carriers and Locals Society, passed away last August at the age of 92. I was privileged to know him for the past 49 years as both a brilliant philatelist and a good friend. I will not go into his philatelic achievements – they are surely well-known to all the *Penny Post*’s readers; but I would like to say a few words about Robbie’s personal side. His knowledge of English history was monumental and he loved to share it. Consequently, his hands-on guided tours of the New Forest in southern England were never-to-be-forgotten experiences, as were lunches and dinners on both side of the Atlantic, where philatelic matters were kept on the back burners and all ears were bent to Robbie’s raconteurial skills. We will all sorely miss him.”

Gordon Stimmell, editor of the *Penny Post*, who only met Robson Lowe once, on August 15, 1994, shares the encounter:

“On that evening in London, I took a cab to St. James Square where a fragile and rosy-cheeked Robson Lowe greeted me at the East India Club. After a drink we entered the grand dining room where two centuries of East India governors’ portraits glare down from the walls. Robson’s age, 90 at the time, only allowed him melon and salmon as main courses, but we shared a solid bottle of East India Club Claret from their own vineyards in France. He told the story of his buying the British Guiana Magenta for \$90,000 to the horror of Christies’ management

in the 1930s and triumphantly selling it for \$120,000 three months later. Now, he says the world’s most famous stamp is valued at \$1 million plus, but oxidation and exposure to light have turned it virtually black and he wonders if the investors group who owns it will ever be able to unload it.

Robson told several tales that evening, but the best related to his dining during World War II with Winston Churchill at the Club. Robson’s words, as I remember them:

“During the War Years – 1942 – Churchill, a Club member, was dining one evening here. After drinks, he had to go to the BBC to do his wartime chat to the nation, before returning to dine. He hailed a cab to carry him to the BBC, a 21-pence drive, and before getting out, said to the driver: ‘Will you please wait until I am done here and then drive me back to the Club?’

“The driver apologized and refused. ‘Sorry, guv, but me and the missus always listen to the Prime Minister between 8 and 9 and I wouldn’t want to miss it for anything.’

“Churchill, beaming with self satisfaction, leaned into the cab and pressed a one-pound note into the cabbie’s palm and said: ‘Here, my good man, keep the change.’

“The driver, looking at the pound, which was enormous money in those days, said: ‘Well, guv, I’ll be ‘appy to wait for yer, who cares about that fat Churchill twit anyways.’

Robson concluded: “Churchill, after delivering his nightly radio address and having the cabbie deliver him back to the East India Club, repeatedly burst with laughter over dinner as he regaled fellow members with his encounter.”

CHARLES HENRY COSTER (1852-1900) – A GREAT AMERICAN PHILATELIST

By Herbert A. Trenchard

INTRODUCTION

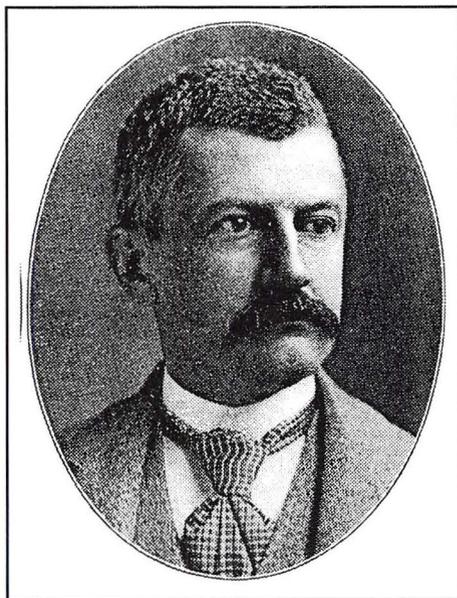
Collectors of U.S. carriers and locals know of Charles Henry Coster. He wrote the first book on the subject, published in 1877.¹ He then revised and expanded his work, which was published in two parts in 1882 and 1885.²

But there is confusion about who Coster was. He has been described as an employee of Moens, the Brussels stamp dealer and publisher, who sent him to America to write his book. He's been thought to be French, probably because his revised books on U.S. locals are in that language.

Charles Henry Coster was an American. He was born in Newport, Rhode Island on July 22, 1852. He died in New York City on March 13, 1900, in the prime of his career as a Wall Street financier.³

His forebears were Dutch merchants who settled in New York in the late 18th Century. He grew up in New York City, entered early into commerce, and had a brilliant career.⁴ His son described the family as among that small group of New Yorkers represented by Edith Wharton, a relative, in her novels on New York's Gilded Age.⁵

Coster became a stamp collector in his teenage years. By the 1870s he was recognized as one of America's most prominent philatelists. During the 1870s and 1880s, he was one of the



**Photograph (c. 1897-98)
from "King's Views of the New York
Stock Exchange."**

most prolific philatelic writers in the world.

Coster's philatelic activities were wide-ranging. Typical of the era, he collected everything. But he had special interests. His collection of U.S. locals was probably the best of its time. He had an important collection of forgeries. His collection of U.S. stamped envelopes was called the best in America.

Coster is remembered today for his books on U.S. locals. But he also wrote extensively on U.S. stamped en-

velopes, world-wide postal cards and Confederate provisionals.

He was involved in the philatelic politics of the 1870s. Coster was a founder and vice-president of the National Philatelic Society. He duelled in print with the great English philatelists W. Dudley Atlee and Edward Loines Pemberton about the descriptions and history of U.S. locals and Confederate provisionals.

Coster was part of a movement to organize a stamp club in New York City and issue a journal to rival J.W. Scott's *American Journal of Philately*. He challenged Scott, his early mentor on other occasions. Yet he was a prolific writer in Scott's journal. It was Scott who first serialized Coster's work on locals and published his book in 1877.

In the late 1870s, Coster became philatelic editor of a new journal, and later became its editor and publisher. He wrote extensively in many journals on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

Coster was well known in Europe. He joined La Societe Francaise des Timbrologie in 1877. He had a paper read at the Congres Internationale des Timbrophiles in 1878.

He became closely associated with Jean-Baptiste Moens, the Brussels stamp dealer and publisher. Between 1878 and 1884 Coster's updated and expanded work on U.S. locals appeared serially in Moens' *Le Timbre-Poste*. This work was published by Moens in two parts in 1882 and 1885.

Coster retired from organized philately in the early 1880s. He left a large body of published works. His name continued in print as new writers and students cited them. During his brief philatelic career he was at the center of the major events in American philately. He was a great American philatelist.

After his withdrawal from active philately, Coster pursued a brilliant busi-

ness career. He was a partner of J. Pierpont Morgan & Company, becoming famous for his work on railroad reorganization. When he died suddenly in 1900, at age 47, he sat on the boards of directors of 59 corporations. He was lauded for his outstanding achievements, cut short by his untimely death.

In the following sections, Coster's active and diverse philatelic career is described, with emphasis given to his work on U.S. locals. To this day, Coster's books on U.S. locals are recognized as among the most important ever written.

FROM STAMP COLLECTOR TO PHILATELIST

Charles H. Coster was a typical collector of the 1860s. He collected the stamps of all countries. But he had a special interest in U.S. locals. The collecting of U.S. locals in the 1860s was a daunting task. Many of the genuine stamps were very scarce. The dealers of the time had produced a deluge of imitations, reprints and bogus issues.

John Walter Scott was the first philatelist to try to identify the genuine U.S. locals and separate them from the other products. Charles H. Coster helped him in this endeavor. Scott himself was guilty of contributing to the problem, and in fact was still selling "genuine reprints" and "imitations" into the 1870s. But he realized his financial success as a stamp dealer could only be improved by his establishing his integrity, and by convincing collectors that the products he sold were correctly described. His goal was to attract new collectors – especially serious, intelligent, and affluent ones. Toward that end, Scott began, in August 1868, a series of articles on "United States Local Posts" in his new

American Journal of Philately in which he described the genuine issues, forgeries and imitations.⁶

Scott's introduction to the series noted some difficulties:

"Genuine original impressions of most of the local stamps are nearly unobtainable; Nearly every U.S. local stamp has been counterfeited, some as many as four times; [Collectors] may consider themselves lucky if they possess one [genuine] in every twenty [stamps]."

Charles H. Coster contributed to Scott's work, helping him produce the section on Boyd's. "We compiled this article from specimens in our own collection, and from a large number that were kindly lent us by Mr. Coster, who fortunately had the stamps on original letters."⁷

By 1871, Coster was recognized for his knowledge and his important collection of U.S. locals. In August 1871, William P. Brown, a well-known New York stamp dealer, published a list of "U.S. local or despatch stamps describing over 220 distinct varieties and omitting all bogus manufactures and colors which are not authentic, compiled for us by C.H. Coster of this city, and it is, we believe, the most complete list ever given."⁸

Brown also wrote, "We have in our store a collection of over 1200 varieties of counterfeit stamps, the property of C.H. Coster of this city, which our friends may examine at their pleasure."⁹

Coster was among the collectors and dealers who participated in the first stamp auctions in 1870. He was cited as one of the major purchasers.¹⁰

Coster made his debut as an author in August 1871 with a brief letter in Scott's *American Journal of Philately*.¹¹ In it he criticized statements made about Boyd's locals by W. Dudley

Atlee in the English journal *The Stamp-Collectors Magazine*.¹² Coster, with youthful exuberance, wrote, "[Atlee's] attempted corrections are full of the usual blunders of English writers when they take up the U.S. locals subject." Coster was then just 19, and Atlee was one of England's most knowledgeable philatelists.

Atlee responded, which prompted Coster to write another letter expanding his criticism of Atlee's work.¹³ Coster also wrote a letter to *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, enclosing a copy of the Boyd's "1 cents" which Atlee denied existed.¹⁴

Edward Loines Pemberton, then England's most famous philatelist, began a series, "Notes on the Locals of California and the Western United States," in December 1871.¹⁵ In it, he took a swipe at Coster, stating, "It is hopeless to expect that any of our better-informed brethren in the States will give us the benefit of what they do know on the subject." He added, "I am not prepared to gauge the amount of knowledge that Mr. Coster deems necessary to form what he would call a lamentable display of ignorance."

Coster had made his mark. He was well known on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. But he hadn't yet written any important work on U.S. locals. In February 1872 Coster made his first small beginning by writing a short letter in which he described some U.S. locals in his collection which were not yet listed in any catalog.¹⁶

COSTER EXPANDS HIS HORIZONS

Most of Coster's activities in 1872 were involved in areas not related to U.S. locals. In early 1872, he and two fellow New York philatelists, Joseph J. Casey and Willard K. Freeman, announced their plan to form

Supplement.

The Stamp World:

An Illustrated Monthly Magazine, devoted to the interests of Stamp Collectors.

The Official Journal of the N.Y. Philatelic Club
 J. J. CASEY, W. K. FREEMAN,
 C. H. COSTER, Managers.

The first number will appear June 1st.
 Subscription—United States and Canada, \$1.
 Abroad—Five Shillings, or Six Francs, postage free.

We take pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to the above advertisement, and from our short business connection with the gentlemen at the head of the enterprise, whose names are so well known to Philatelists both at home and abroad, we feel sure that no pains will be spared to make this the leading organ of Stamp Collectors on this Continent.

We are duly authorized to receive subscriptions.

—The Canadian Philatelist has suspended as the publishers are about to retire from the business. They must have made a fortune. (?)

—Another Amateur Paper soon to commence publication in this city is *The Laurel*. Will somebody please start one (or two)?

WHAT THE PRESS SAY OF

The Collector.

Complete files sent to any address, post-paid, for 20 cents.

- "Neatly printed."—*Academy*.
- "Brim full of good things."—*Index*.
- "Very creditably edited."—*Newb. Journal*.
- "The best philatelic publication in the United States."—*Our Boys*.
- "One of the neatest journals that visits our sanctum."—*Young Industry*.
- "The contents are far superior to any stamp journal of its size in the United States."—*Comet*.

WHAT THE PRESS SAY OF OUR Descriptive Price Catalogue.

Containing complete descriptions of all Government Postage Stamps issued to date, with our prices for each.
 Price fifteen cents, post free.

- "Handsomely printed."—*Cub*.
- "Well worth the price."—*Index*.
- "A very complete compilation."—*Newburgh Journal*.
- "Exceedingly neat in appearance."—*Our Youth*.
- "Very tasty and the best we have seen."—*Amateur Gazette*.
- "Neatest and best... handsomely bound, in colors, and gives the names and prices of every stamp issued."—*Comet*.

Below are extracts from our Catalogue, showing the general style of it:

BERMUDA.

Wmk. C. C. and Crown.

1865. *Head of Victoria to left.*

* 1 penny red	5	4
* 2 " blue	15	3
* 6 " violet	40	15
* 1 shilling green	75	20

FRENCH COLONIES.

Eagle in centre, square.

1 centime, 1862, olive green	1	2
5 " " green	4	3
10 " " 1860, bistre	8	3
* 20 " " 1866, blue	15	6
40 " " 1860, orange	25	3
* 80 " " 1866, rose	50	8

JAMAICA.

Laurated head of Victoria to left.

Wmk. a pine apple, also C. C. and Crown.

1 penny, 1860, blue	10	2
2 " " rose	10	3
3 " " 1863, green	10	2
4 " " 1860, vermillion	15	4
6 " " lilac	30	4
1 shilling, " brown	50	5

Announcement for "The Stamp World" and the N.Y. Philatelic Club in *The Collector* (April 1872).

the New York Philatelic Club and to publish *The Stamp World*.¹⁷ Coster, Casey and Freeman had written various philatelic works, many published in J.W. Scott's American Journal of Philately. There is no question their plan was a direct threat to Scott and his growing philatelic empire. So Scott must have been greatly relieved when neither the society nor the journal came into existence. It is probably no coincidence that it would be almost two years before Coster again wrote in Scott's journal.

Charles Coster submitted another letter to *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*.¹⁸ In it he criticized Edward L. Pemberton for incorrect statements about the Petersburg, Virginia Confederate provisional stamp.¹⁹ In response, Pemberton accused Coster of being "hood-winked." He added, "We should like to see some clear statements from the pen of Mr. Coster ... Let him take the initiative for once, appear in the role of instructor, and not in his celebrated character as criticiser. The change would gratify everyone, and would have the charm of novelty for himself."²⁰ Coster sparred with Pemberton for the rest of 1872.²¹

Coster continued his letter-writing. He took issue with J.W. Scott about the differences between the "City Despatch Post" and the "United States City Despatch Post."²² Several important postal documents had recently come to light about these two concerns. Scott and others had concluded that the latter had preceded the former and that both were private operations.²³ Coster concluded otherwise, stating that the "City Despatch Post" was first and was a private post. It then became the "United States City Despatch Post," operating under the authorization of the New York City Postmaster. Coster based his conclusions

C. H. COSTER wants to purchase all kinds of rare Stamps. U. S. Locals, Confederate Provisionals, and Western Envelope Franks. Cash or other Stamps given in exchange. Correspondents wanted in all Foreign countries, and Southern and Western states. Newly issued stamps always on hand.
Address. C. H. COSTER.
239 West-14th-st., New York.
P. O. Address, Box 86, New York.

Advertisement in *The Collector* (April 1872).

in part on covers from his own collection.

Coster's public differences with Scott gave Pemberton another opportunity to chide him. In an editorial, he wrote, "We find Mr. C.H. Coster in his popular role given in criticiser. What a pity that (with one or two exceptions) American amateurs will not part with the information with which they seem to be so abundantly stocked, till the facts are regularly drawn from them. They remind one of the giants in *The Pilgrim's Progress* for they lay in wait for unwary philatelic searchers after truth, and then, when the pilgrims stumble and fall, they rush out upon them and smite them."²⁴

Pemberton continued, "Mr. Coster is evidently a philatelist of the thorough school, so it is to be regretted that his opinions should have to be attacked before the world is favoured with an exposition of them."

Coster must have finally gotten the message! He began his first lengthy work in October 1872 on "The City Delivery Posts of San Francisco."²⁵ The choice of subject may have been Coster's not-so-subtle barb at Pemberton who a year earlier had begun a series on the same subject.

Coster continued this series in 1873. He also wrote two papers in a new journal *The Stamp Collector's Guide: "Philatelic Review of 1872,"*²⁶ and a note on Stait's Despatch.²⁷

He also was cited in Scott's journal by Willard K. Freeman in his serialized work on U.S. stamped envelopes.²⁸

Coster's writings in 1873 included two articles on Confederate States stamps, published in England.²⁹

"A HISTORY OF UNITED STATES LOCALS"

Things began well in 1874. Scott appointed Joseph J. Casey editor of *The American Journal of Philately*. In March, Casey announced that, "A History of all United States locals from the pen of one of our ablest collectors" would soon begin.³⁰

In the April 20, 1874 issue of Scott's *American Journal of Philately*, the first section of Charles H. Coster's, "The United States Locals and Their History" appeared.³¹ With Casey as editor and Coster as writer, Scott's journal received praise from all quarters.

In his introduction, Coster stated, "So many articles on the United States Locals have already been attempted, generally to result in failure or at the most very partial success, that I now take up the subject with no little hesitation."

George Overy Taylor, editor of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* praised Coster's work: "When the series is complete, it will form a standard work of reference, for Mr. Coster evidently possesses a thorough knowledge of what he is writing about. He fairly states the case for and against the acceptance of doubtful locals."³²

Coster's articles on the U.S. locals contained information he obtained from various sources, including former employees and proprietors of many long-defunct companies. He also interviewed the operators of those companies still active. George Hussey and his successors were questioned

Wanted to Purchase for Cash

ALL KINDS OF

**UNITED STATES
& CONFEDERATE
LOCALS.**

They can be easily found on o'd letters, between 1843 and 1860, and on letters from Southern States during the war.

Address,

C. H. COSTER,
P. O. Box 1471, NEW YORK.

Mr. Coster desires to say that he is not a dealer, and wishes to correspond *only* with advanced collectors.

An advertisement in *The Curiosity Hunter* (April-May 1874).

about their production of imitations and reprints carried out since 1862 for the "benefit" of collectors.

He used the earlier work of J.W. Scott on U.S. locals, and the knowledge of the pioneer stamp dealer William P. Brown. He used material from his own extensive collection and from other important philatelists.

Coster also began a companion work in October, 1874, "Notes on the Franked Envelopes of the Letter Express Companies of the United States."³³ In the introduction, he thanked, F.A. Philbrick of London, and Mrs. A.G. Craig and C.W. Lomler of San Francisco for their valued assistance. He neither thanked nor cited Pemberton for his early work. Coster may not have forgotten Pemberton's stinging remarks.

Coster continued to update and amend his 1874-75 articles. By the time J.W. Scott published Coster's book in 1877, it was far larger and

more comprehensive than his original papers in *The American Journal of Philately*.

It was the first book published in the U.S. devoted to the history and listing of postage stamps. It was an immediate success and quickly sold out.

Coster's book was later reprinted on two occasions. In 1879, Scott included it verbatim as an appendix to his catalog. In 1912, the editors of the *United Stamp Company Herald* in Chicago published it with slight modifications. Details of Coster's book and its reprints are given in a special appendix at the end of this paper.

A STAMP CLUB IN NEW YORK CITY

The National Philatelic Society was organized on October 17, 1874, with Charles H. Coster elected vice-president. The Society was New York City's second stamp club.

The first stamp club, the New York Philatelic Society, had been organized in 1867. It was the second stamp club ever formed anywhere. J.W. Scott had strongly supported it, and *The American Journal of Philately* was first issued under its aegis. The New York Philatelic Society didn't survive long, and quietly disappeared by 1870. There was a failed attempt to revive it in 1871.³⁴ Coster, et al. had tried to form a new club in 1872, but that attempt also failed.

The National Philatelic Society survived several early crises but by the 1880s and 1890s prospered. It was absorbed by the Collectors Club of New York in 1902.³⁵

"THE BERFORD ABOMINATIONS"

Charles H. Coster played an incidental role in an event which led to the disgrace of Joseph J. Casey, his

FOUNDERS OF THE SOCIETY.	
Joseph J. Casey,	New York.
Chas. H. Coster,	"
J. N. T. Levick,	"
N. Barnett,	"
Philip H. Jacobs,	"
Benjamin Betts,	Brooklyn.
Jesse K. Furlong,	"
Geo. B. Mason,	"
J. Allan Mason,	"
ft. R. Bogert,	"

OFFICERS FOR 1874-75.	
PRESIDENT,	
Jesse K. Furlong.	293 Broadway, N. Y.
VICE-PRESIDENT,	
Chas. H. Coster.	48 South St., N. Y.
SECRETARY AND TREASURER,	
R. R. Bogert,	219 Livingston St., Brooklyn.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,	
Benjamin Betts,	P. H. Jacobs,
J. N. T. Levick.	

The National Philatelic Society, founded Oct. 17, 1874.

friend and editor. Casey never forgave him.

It all began with an 1874 article, "The Berford Abominations" which appeared in a philatelic scandal sheet, *The Timbrophilist*, published by C.A. Lyford & Co. of Boston.³⁶ Lyford was a member of the notorious "Boston Gang," creators of philatelic forgeries and fantasies of all kinds. S. Allan Taylor was its best known member. Taylor and the "Boston Gang" were by then known pariahs among knowledgeable philatelists.³⁷

Taylor, Lyford and their cronies hated the New York dealers, especially Scott. Scott took every opportunity to heap abuse on them and they retaliated in kind.

Typical of the style of *The Timbrophilist* was the article, "Why is this Thus," noting: "What ails the *A.J. of Philately*, and wherefore does that windy oracle cease to blow its own trumpet? Is the gasometer of the gigantic establishment out of order, or

has the refining influences, Latin idioms and long-winded perorations of the unnamed Hibernian [Joseph J. Casey] who ‘edits’ the thing, quite clogged up its speaking trumpet? Clearly the *Journal* will lose its character of champion blower of the world unless more hydrogen is introduced into its columns, and we trust that the modest Mr. John Walter S[cott] and his henchman Charley [Coster] will arrange with the Manhattan Gas Co. for an additional supply as rapidly as possible.”³⁸

In the *Timbrophilist* article, the “Berford Abominations,” the author (probably S. Allan Taylor) writes that Joseph J. Casey, editor of Scott’s journal, had sold copies of the Berford Express stamps which he claimed had been reprinted from the original stones. But in fact they were not reprints at all. Instead, they were lithographic imitations, “made one day last winter in the office of the New York Graphic Company Photo-Lithographers, and the edition consisted of 300 sets, which were duly paid for at the usual price for such work.”

This was a terrible shock to J.W. Scott. It was a throwback to the 1860s and early 1870s when imitations were made in wholesale quantities, and peddled by every stamp dealer in the world as “genuine” or as “reprints from the original stone.” Scott had spent the last six years trying to upgrade the status of stamp collecting and his reputation as a reliable and honest dealer so that affluent and serious collectors (like Coster) would enter the hobby. He had tried to identify and attack the forgers and cheats who were still in the stamp business. The actions of Joseph J. Casey, the editor of Scott’s prestigious *American Journal of Philately*, threatened to damage Scott’s reputation and stamp



One of the “Berford Abominations” (L. Lyons, *The Penny Post*, Vol. 6, No. 4, Oct 1996.)

business. To make it worse, it was S. Allan Taylor who had discovered the source of the “Berford Abominations” and identified Casey as the person who had the imitations made.

Scott acted quickly. He checked the story, confronted Casey, and fired him as editor of the *American Journal of Philately*.

Scott wrote the story of the event in his journal, reprinting the *Timbrophilist* article, and told his readers of his firing of Casey.³⁹ As a further rebuke to Casey, his name was crudely removed from the title page of the journal.

Coster wrote a letter to Scott’s journal which appeared with Scott’s story. In it, Coster accused his friend and colleague Casey of gross deception. He had purchased from Casey what he was told were reprints, and in good faith sold or traded them to other dealers and collectors. Coster promised to make full reparations for the Casey imitations. He also reported that Casey sold them to him as a “practical joke of the hughest (sic) kind.”⁴⁰

There is more to this story. Casey was ridiculed and abused in print on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean for

years. He threatened to sue Scott and Coster, but did not. Casey did sue the editor of a small New York stamp journal for slander, won the case, but had to admit that the Berford's were imitations.⁴¹

Casey never forgave Coster for his letter. In subsequent years, Casey would take every opportunity to attack both Coster's work and character. Casey blamed Coster more than anyone else for his misfortunes.

BACK TO PHILATELY

The year 1875 was busy for Coster. He continued his series on U.S. locals. He also began a series on the "Plimpton" envelopes.⁴² He was reported to have the best collection of U.S. entire envelopes in the country.⁴³

Coster wrote an article about the U.S. government Special Printings of 1875.⁴⁴ These were reprints of the U.S. stamps issued in 1847, 1857-60, 1861-66 and 1869. Some were printed from new plates; none were valid for postage. Since the original dies for the 1847 issues were lost, new dies were made. Typical of the attitudes of his time, Coster called the imitations of the 1847 stamps "counterfeits," and the rest "official reprints." In the mid-1870s, collectors in Europe were very angry about the deluge of remainders and reprints emanating from government vaults. Coster and the members of the National Philatelic Society issued a resolution strongly protesting the actions of the U.S. Post Office Department.

Coster didn't neglect his work on U.S. locals. He reported on a number of interesting covers bearing locals that he'd just acquired.⁴⁵

In 1876, he wrote about various U.S. and foreign issues.⁴⁶ He enlarged his study of U.S. postal stationery to include the Reay Department enve-

lopes.⁴⁷ Coster also wrote a dissertation on what constituted "philately." It was reprinted in various journals for the next decade.⁴⁸

Coster began a series of articles in May 1877 on foreign postal cards.⁴⁹ This series started another controversy with Casey. Joseph J. Casey succeeded in getting himself elected President of the National Philatelic Society, despite the residual effects of the "Berford" affair. But his election split the society and nearly led to its demise. Charles Coster and others resigned in protest.

Coster had begun his study on foreign postal cards under the aegis of the National Philatelic Society. So when Coster began to publish after his resignation from the Society, President Casey accused him of the unauthorized use of Society material.⁵⁰ Coster replied that his articles were based on his own collection, and that he had every right to publish.⁵¹ Casey and Coster continued their dispute for several years.

The year 1877 saw the publication of Coster's *The United States Locals and Their History* by J.W. Scott. The limited printing (about 100 copies) sold out quickly (see the Appendix).

NEW FIELDS TO CONQUER

Coster was elected a corresponding member of La Societe Francaise de Timbrologie in 1877. The members of this esteemed society organized a Congres International des Timbrophiles in Paris in 1878 during the International Exposition. Six Americans were on the committee, including Coster and his nemesis, Joseph J. Casey.⁵² Casey had finally managed to overcome the stigma of the "Berford" affair.

PREFATORY.

During the years 1874 and '75 I published in the *American Journal of Philately* a series of papers upon the United States Locals and the Western Envelope Franks, which forms the basis of the present work. My original articles were the result of some years of careful investigation; but subsequent events have shown that they were far from complete. Hence, in the course of their revision, I have had occasion to insert many new facts, to illustrate or describe additional stamps; and, indeed, to include not a few local posts previously unknown. At the same time I have been enabled to improve the general arrangement of the subject, which is confusing (rather than complicated) under any circumstances, and therefore requires to be presented with all possible perspicuity.

Leaving the reader to judge for himself as to the measure of success which has attended my efforts, I gratefully acknowledge the aid received from many friends, among whom I would mention Messrs. J. K. FURLONG, J. W. SCOTT and W. P. BROWN, of this city; Mrs. A. G. CRAIG and C. W. LOMLER, Esq., of San Francisco; and F. A. PHILBRICK, Q. C., of London.

C. H. C.

NEW YORK, July 10th, 1877.

Coster's Foreward to his 1877 book.

Coster was the only American to have a paper read at the Congress. His work, "The Semi-Official or Provisional Stamps of the United States" was translated into French, and published in its proceedings.⁵³ It is a review of the U.S. Postmaster Provisionals, with a lengthy section on the "United States City Despatch Post."

THE END OF AN ERA

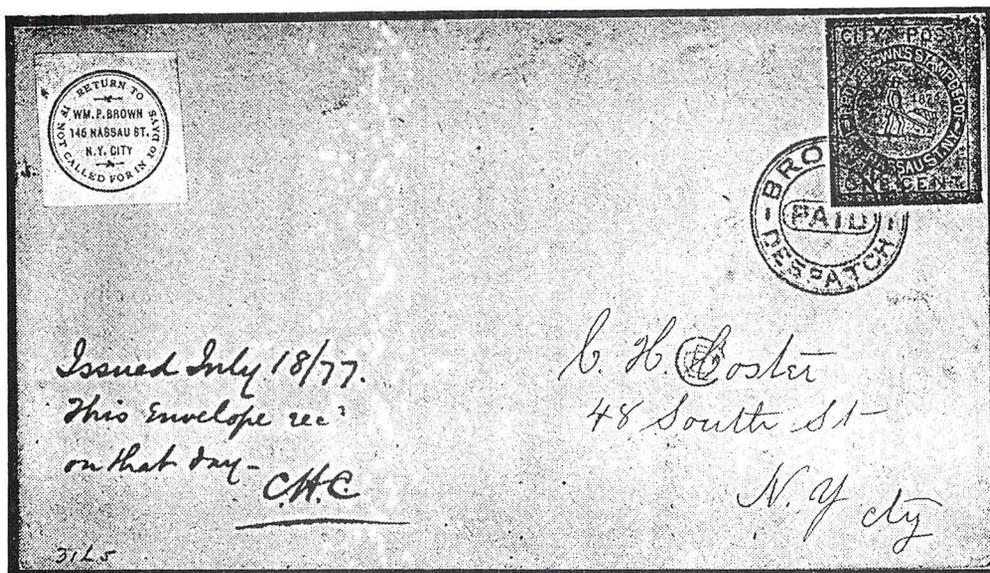
At the end of 1878, J.W. Scott announced that his *American Journal of Philately* would cease to be a serious philatelic publication. Instead it would become an advertising medium for his stamp and coin business, and his growing business in other collectibles.

Coster had already cut his ties with Scott. In September 1878, he became the philatelic editor of a new journal,

The Collector's World published by B. Batchelor in New York City. He wrote many articles on various subjects in this journal. He didn't forget his favorite topic, however, and wrote "Dangerous Locals," in which he identified several counterfeit locals on cover which had recently come on the market.⁵⁴ He also wrote an article, "Local Posts of the City of New York."⁵⁵

Even before Scott published Coster's locals book in 1877, Coster had begun to expand, correct and update it. Scott reprinted Coster's original work in 1879. Coster lamented that he wished he'd had a chance to edit it.⁵⁶

In early 1878, Coster turned over the first sections of his much updated and greatly expanded work on U.S. locals to J-B Moens, the famous Brussels stamp dealer and publisher. Moens published the first installment in *Le Timbre-Post* in April 1878.⁵⁷ This se-



A "First Day Cover" from William P. Brown to C.H. Coster.

ries continued through November 1881. It was then issued as a book in the series "Bibliothèque des Timbrophiles" in 1882. One hundred fifty numbered copies of the book were printed. (See Appendix for details.)

Coster became the editor and publisher of *The Collectors' World* in May 1879. But in October 1879, he announced the termination of his journal: "The management of a philatelic paper requires much more time than we are able to bestow on it."⁵⁸

Termination of his journal essentially ended Coster's active philatelic career. There is no doubt that his growing prominence in New York financial circles influenced his decision.

Another reason which may have also influenced him was the publication in 1879 of W.E.V. Horner's "History and Catalogue of the Stamped Envelopes of the United States."⁵⁹ In it Horner cited the earlier work of E.L. Pember-ton and W.K. Freeman. He also particularly noted Coster's important work on the Plimpton envelopes.

Coster, like others, considered the

study of U.S. stamped envelopes one of the great challenges in American philately. He had already begun to write on the subject and had plans to write further. He was an original and thorough researcher and writer, as shown in his seminal work on U.S. locals. The publication of Horner's work ended any opportunity for Coster to write a book on U.S. postal stationery.

Coster did write a lengthy and detailed review of Horner's book in which he highly praised it.⁶⁰ Horner's publishers used portions of Coster's review in their publicity for Horner's book.

Coster submitted parts of his own incomplete work on U.S. postal stationery to J-B Moens for publication. But publication was delayed. When they finally appeared in *Le Timbre-Poste* they were accompanied by an editorial comment that they had been submitted before the appearance of Horner's book.⁶¹

There is no record that Coster remained a philatelist after the early 1880s. His collection of locals may

have been sold.⁶² His name still appeared in print as other authors cited his works. Journals throughout the world re-published some of his earlier articles. He was still on the rolls of La Societe Francaise de Timbrologie in 1895, but not in 1896.

Coster's name remained prominent in philately through the 1880s because of the serialized publication of his updated work on U.S. locals in *Le Timbre-Poste*. His updated and revised work on the franked envelopes of the private posts appeared between September 1882 and March 1884.⁶³ Moens published this section in book form in 1885, as Part II of Coster's U.S. locals study. There were 150 numbered copies. Many of the two parts were bound together and sold by Moens during the next decade.

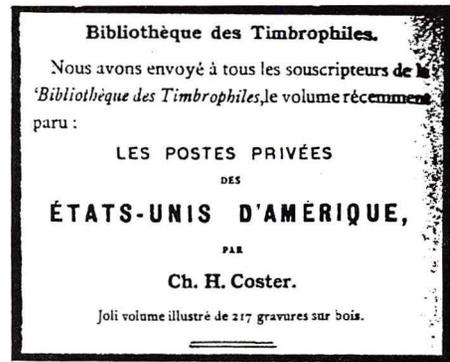
Coster and his many contributions to philatelic scholarship were nearly forgotten by subsequent generations. Collectors of U.S. locals were aware of his two books, but because both were rarely seen, there was confusion about them and their author.

Despite his work on U.S. locals having been published over a century ago, much of what Coster wrote on U.S. locals remains relevant. Coster is the link back to those eras when the private mail carriers operated and issued their stamps, when the stamp "mania" occurred leading to the issuance of the reprints and imitations, and when philatelists took the first steps to study them and their postal history.

Coster was a great pioneer American philatelist.

AFTER PHILATELY

Coster had a distinguished career in New York business circles. He became a partner in the recently organized banking firm of Drexel, Morgan and Company in 1884. It later became



Moens advertisement for Coster's 1882 book.

J. Pierpont Morgan and Company.

He was one of J.P. Morgan's most important associates during the 1880s and '90s when Morgan became the most powerful financier in the world.

"[In 1884] Morgan found his most valued coadjutor, Charles H. Coster. Coster was a man in a million. He had the mystic genius for figures... The tremendous series of reorganizations perfected by Morgan in the now traditional railroad reconstruction era between 1884 and 1895 would have been impossible without the aid of Coster ... Morgan often paid tribute to the peerless genius of Coster, freely acknowledging his debt."⁶⁴

"Pierpont [Morgan] selected partners not by wealth or to fortify the bank's capital but based on brains and talent ... Most impressive was Charles Coster, a pale man with neatly brushed hair, pensive eyes, and handlebar mustache. As a young man, Coster had published a history of stamps, and his compulsion to organize and clarify never left him. He was the obscure wizard of Morganization."⁶⁵

"His mastery of detail was complete, his grasp of a problem immediate and comprehensive and his power of work astonishing."⁶⁶

“Men saw him by day – a white-faced, nervous figure, hurrying from directors meeting to directors meeting, at evening carrying home his portfolios of corporation problems for the night.”⁶⁷

In 1886, he married Miss Emily Pell, descended from the politically important Claibornes of Virginia and the Pells of Pelham, New York. They had three daughters and a son.⁶⁸

Charles Henry Coster died on March 13, 1900 from pneumonia. He was only 47 years old. His death sent tremors through financial circles. He was J. P. Morgan’s most trusted ally in his reorganization of railroads and the steel industry. Coster sat on the boards of directors of 59 corporations.⁶⁹ J.P. Morgan was a pallbearer and accompanied the family to the private burial.⁷⁰

“The indispensable Coster, working toward what would be seen as Morgan’s greatest triumph, the amalgamation of the United States steel industry, finally exerted himself too much and expired in 1900. Being a Morgan partner may have meant becoming a millionaire, but it was also a shorter route to the hereafter.”⁷¹

FINAL NOTE

Coster’s obituary in *Mekeel’s Weekly Stamp News* called him a “studious philatelist, a charter member of the National Philatelic Society, and, far in advanced of those times, his devotion to U.S. locals was distinctly marked. His book on locals stands today as a classic to which all students of philately who wish information must turn ... Notwithstanding the years that have passed, Mr. Coster’s work in philately will remain a standard work – a basis to which all writers on U.S. locals must turn for data on which to base their new works.”⁷²

J.W. Scott reminisced, “As a young man he was personally known to all the older collectors of New York while his book on U.S. locals has permanently identified his name with stamp collecting in the U.S. His later career among the big financiers of the country gained him great prominence in railroad circles but it is doubtful if it yielded him the same pleasure as his earlier efforts.”⁷³

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank the Smithsonian Institution Libraries for use of material in the National Postal Museum Branch. I particularly thank Timothy Carr, Librarian, for his encouragement and support. I also thank Joseph F. Antizzo for supplying me with illustrations of Coster and the “first day cover” from William P. Brown.

APPENDIX – COSTER’S BOOKS ON U.S. LOCALS

English Language

1. *The United States Locals and Their History* (Scott & Co., NY,) 1877, 111 pages, 175 illustrations. Coster thanked J.K. Furlong, J.W. Scott, and W.P. Brown of New York City; Mrs. A.G. Craig and C.W. Lomler of San Francisco; F.A. Philbrick of London.

The number of copies of the book was probably about one hundred.

The illustrations were made from woodblocks produced by J.W. Scott. Scott also used them to produce imitations which he sold for many years in cheap packets. These illustrations were also used by J.W. Scott and later the Scott Stamp and Coin Company in their catalogs and journals.

2. Coster’s entire book was reprinted without change (except for the dele-

tion of Coster's foreword) in J.W. Scott's 1879 special catalog. The illustrations of the locals are identical to Coster's 1877 book. The number of copies of this book was probably about one hundred. The full title is: *A Revised List of the Postage Stamps and Stamped Envelopes of All Nations*, Scott & Co., NY (1879). "Mr. Coster's list of U.S. locals or private post stamps has been added entire."

3. In 1912, the editors of a new journal, *United Stamp Company Herald* (Chicago), began a serial reprinting of "Coster's U.S. locals."

Coster's text for his 1877 book was retyped with a few changes in text and organization. The illustrations were, with a few exceptions, identical to those in Coster's 1877 (and 1879) work.

The editors planned to include an appendix containing updated information. They also planned to produce a new table of contents and index. Upon completion, all would be combined in a new book. None of these plans were carried out.

The Coster "reprint" was printed on high quality coated paper, each section sent along with the monthly issues of the journal *United Stamp Company Herald* beginning with volume 1, number 1 (Jan. 1912). Coster's text comprised 105 numbered pages and included 175 illustrations. The number of copies issued was small.

Coster's "reprint" was included with a bibliography of U.S. locals, carriers, postmaster provisionals, and Sanitary Fair articles compiled by William R. Ricketts. Titled, "United States Local Sections of the Philatelic Literature Bibliography Index," (1912) it was recently reprinted in *Philatelic Literature Review* (Second Series) volume 39, (nos. 2 & 3) 1990.

French Language

Coster revised, corrected, and updated his 1877 book. The text originally appeared in the Belgian journal *Le Timbre-Poste* between 1878 and 1884. It was subsequently issued in book form in two parts in 1882 and 1885:

1. *Les Postes Privees des Etats-Unis D'Amerique (Illustre de 217 Gravures sur Bois) (Part 1) Les Timbres Adhesifs*, (J-B Moens, Bruxelles) 1882, 217 illustrations, 179 pages, 150 numbered copies.

2. *Les Postes Privees des Etats-Unis D'Amerique, Illustre de 15 Gravures sur Bois*, (part 2), *Les Enveloppes Timbrees* (J-B Moens, Bruxelles) 1885, 15 illustrations, 102 pages, 150 numbered copies.

These two parts were sold separately or bound together. Moens offered them for sale throughout the 1880s. They were not reprinted.

The illustrations used in the texts were made from woodblocks produced by J-B Moens. Some of these may have been used to manufacture imitations. The illustrations were also used in catalogs and pricelists of J-B Moens through the mid-1890s.

ENDNOTES

Journal Abbreviations

AJP. *The American Journal of Philately* [First Series], J.W. Scott (New York, NY)

CW *The Collector's World*, B. Batchelor (New York, NY). The philatelic department was conducted by Chas. H. Coster. He became the publisher and editor for volume 1, number 8 (May 1879) to volume 1 numbers 11 and 12 (Oct 1879).

SCM *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Stafford Smith & Smith (Bath, England).

TP *Le Timbre-Poste*, J-B Moens (Bruxelles, Belgium).

NOTE: From 1874 on, Coster usually used "C.H.C." on his published works.

1. Chas. H. Coster, *The United States Locals and Their History* (Scott & Co., NY) 1877. See special appendix for details.

2. Ch. H. Coster, *Les Postes Privees des Etats-Unis D'Amérique*, (Part 1) *Les Timbres Adhesifs* (1882); (part 2) *Les Envelopes Timbrees* (1885) J-B Moens, Bruxelles, Belgium. See special appendix for details.

3. "Death of Mr. Coster," *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* vol. 14, no. 13 (March 29, 1900) 136; *London Philatelist* vol. 9, no. 100 (April 1900) 112; "Death List of a Day, Charles Henry Coster," *New York Times* (March 14, 1900) p. 7, col. 5.

4. "Obituary, Charles H. Coster," *New York Daily Tribune* (March 14, 1900) p. 4.

5. "The Letters Between Bernard Berenson and Charles Henry Coster," Edited by Giles Constable (Leo S. Olschki, Florence) 1993, page ix.

6. J.W. Scott, "United States Local Stamps," *AJP* vol. 1 (Aug. 1868) 45-6. Also vol. 1 (1868) 61-2, 66-8, 83-4; vol. 2 (1869) 17-8, 41-2, 77-8, 131-2; vol. 3 (1870) 60-1, 133-4; vol. 4 (1871) 19-20, 79-81; vol. 5 (1872) 23-6, 37-9, 65-6, 106-8, 121-2.

7. *Ibid.*, vol. 3 (Nov. 20, 1870) 133.

8. [C.H. Coster] "List of U.S. Despatch Stamps," *Kuriositi Kabinet (Curiosity Cabinet)* vol. 1, no. 12 (Aug. 1871).

9. "Descriptive Price Catalogue of Government Stamps for Sale by William P. Brown, 53 Nassau Street, N.Y.C.," Second Edition (Sept. 1871).

10. "Auction Sale," *AJP*, vol. 3 (Sep 20, 1870) 107. Coster's annotated cop-

ies of J.W. Scott's auctions no. 1 and 2 (May 28, and Oct. 3, 1870) and Mason's auction (Sept. 8, 1870) are in my library.

11. C.H. Coster, "Boyd's Postage Stamps, A Criticism," *AJP* vol. 4 (Aug 20, 1871) 97-9.

12. W. Dudley Atlee, "Notes on the United States Locals, (part 1)," *SCM* vol. 9 (July 1871) 106-110.

13. W. Dudley Atlee, "Boyd's Express Stamps," *SCM* vol. 9 (Nov 1871) 175-6; Chas. H. Coster, "Correspondence," *AJP* vol. 4 (Nov 20, 1871) 134-6; W. Dudley Atlee, "Boyd's Express Stamps," *SCM* vol. 10 (Jan 1872) 15.

14. Charles H. Coster, "Correspondence - Boyd's City Express *One Cents* Stamp," *SCM* vol. 9 (Dec 1871) 13.

15. Edward L. Pemberton, "Notes on the Locals of California and the Western States, I," *SCM* vol. 9 (Dec 1871) 182-4; (part II) vol. 10 (March 1872) 33-6; (part III) vol. 11 (May 1873) 126-8.

16. C. H. C[oster], "United States Locals," *AJP* vol. 5 (Feb 1872) 28.

17. "The Stamp World (advertisement)," *The Collector* (Newburgh, NY) vol. 1, no. 6 (Supplement) (April 1872); *James R. Grant & Co's Philatelic Circular* no. 5 (June 1, 1872).

18. Charles H. Coster, "The Petersburg Stamp," *SCM* vol. 10 (July 1872) 112.

19. [E.L. Pemberton], "Investigations I, the Petersburg Provisional Stamp," *The Philatelic Journal* vol 1 (Apr 15, 1872) 57-61; 133-5.

20. *Ibid.* (June 15, 1872) 116-17; E.L. Pemberton, "Investigations, II, The Petersburg Provisional Stamp," (Aug 15, 1872) 133-5.

21. Charles H. Coster, "The Petersburg

- Stamp," SCM vol 10 (Aug 1872) 128; "The Petersburg and Pleasant Shade Stamps - Mr. Coster's Reply to Mr. Pemberton," SCM vol 10 (Sept 1872) 143-4; "The Petersburg Stamp: Further Reply of Mr. Coster," SCM vol 10 (Oct 1872) 159-60.
22. Chas. H. Coster, "The City Despatch Post," AJP vol 5 (July 1872) 86-7.
23. [J.W. Scott], "City Despatch Post," AJP vol 5 (May 1872) 63-4.
24. [E.L. Pemberton] *The Philatelic Journal* vol 1 (Aug 15, 1872) 132.
25. C.H. Coster, "The City Delivery Posts of San Francisco," (part 1) SCM vol 10 (Oct 1872) 148-51; (part 2) vol 11 (May 1873) 67-70; (part 3) (Nov 1873) 162-3. Also see Charles H. Coster, "The Penny Express Company Post," vol 10 (June 15, 1872) 135.
26. C.H. Coster, "Philatelic Review of 1872," *The Stamp Collector's Guide* (Meriden, CT) vol 3, no 2 (Feb 1873) 25.
27. [C.H. Coster], "Newly Issued Stamps, Discoveries, Etc.," loc. cit. p. 26.
28. Willard K. Freeman, "The Stamped Envelopes, Sheets and Wrappers of the United States," AJP vol 7 (Jan 1, 1873) 2-3, et seq.
29. C.H. Coster, "Extracts from my Private Note Book," SCM vol 11 (Dec 1873) 182-4; (part II) vol 12 (March 1874) 45-6.
30. [Joseph J. Casey], "Answers to Correspondents," AJP vol 8 (March 20, 1874) 52.
31. C.H.C., "The United States Locals and Their History," AJP vol 8 (April 20, 1874) 58-61. Also vol 8 (1874) 76-9, 93-6, 106-11, 123-6, 141-4, 156-8, 171-6, 185-8; vol 9 (1875) 11-4, 19-23, 42-4, 142-3.
32. C.H.C., "Notes on the Franked Envelopes of the Letter Express Companies of the United States," AJP vol 8 (Oct 20, 1874) 152-6. Also vol 8 (1874) 178-80; vol 9 (1875) 61-4, 70-3, 85-9, 130-2, 149-53.
33. [Editor's Review], SCM vol 12 (Sept 1874) 143.
34. J.B. Chittenden, "Scott in Philatelic Organizations," *Collectors Club Philatelist* vol 3, no 2 (April 1924) 65-73.
35. Herbert A. Trenchard, "A Brief History of Stamp Collecting in New York City," *Collectors Club Philatelist* vol 75, no 4 (July-Aug 1996) 215-23.
36. "The Berford Abominations," *The Timbrophilist* vol 3, no 3 (Sept 1874) p. [3].
37. Varro F. Tyler, "Philatelic Forgers, Their Lives and Works," *Linn's Stamp News* (1981). For Lyford see p. 73-4; for Taylor see p. 131-3.
38. "Why is This Thus," *The Timbrophilist* vol 3, no 3 (Sept 1876) p. [1].
39. [J.W. Scott], "Reviews of Philatelic Publications," AJP vol 8 (Oct 20, 1874) 163-4.
40. Chas. H. Coster, "The 'Berford' Stamps?" *ibid.*, p. 164.
41. See *The Philatelic Snoozer* (M. Kottshofski & Co., NYC) vol 1, no 1 (Jan 1877), no 2 (Feb 1877). See also: "Stampy Joe" (report from *New York Herald*, Feb 8, 1877) in *The Western Philatelist* vol 5, no 31-2 (March-April 1877) 8; "The Berford Stamps" (based on a report in the *New York Herald*, Feb 11, 1877) in *The Coin and Stamp Journal* vol 3, no 2 (Feb 1877) 3.
42. C.H.C., "The 'Plimpton' Envelopes," AJP vol 9 (July 20, 1875) 107-112. Also vol 9 (1875) 121-6, 138-9,

169-171; vol 10 (1876) 17-20, 39-40, 130-2, 158-9; vol 11 (1877) 12; vol 12 (1878) 22-3.

43. "Answers to Correspondents," AJP vol 9 (Aug 20, 1875) 128.

44. C.H.C., "A Caution to Collectors," AJP vol 9 (May 20, 1875) 73-6.

45. C.H.C., "Notes on the United States Locals," AJP vol 9 (Sept 20, 1875) 142-3.

46. C.H.C., "Extracts from my Private Note Book," AJP vol 10 (June 20, 1876) 94-5; (Dec 20, 1876) 185-6.

47. C.H.C., "The Reay Department Envelopes," AJP vol 10 (Nov 20, 1876) 170.

48. C.H.C., "Philately," *The Western Philatelist* (Chicago) vol 5, no 28 & 29 (Dec 1876-Jan 1877) 1-2; no 31 & 32 (Mar-Apr 1877) 1-2; no 33 & 34 (May-June 1877) 1; vol 6, no 35 & 36 (July-Aug 1877) 1; no 38 (Oct 1877) 1.

49. C.H.C., "A Reference List of Post Cards," AJP vol 11 (May 20, 1877) 81-7. Also vol 11 (1877) 106-110, 115-7, 137-140, 146-9, 170-2, 186-8; vol 12 (1878) 3-4, 23-4, 26-7, 38-9, 61-4, 94-9, 123-6.

50. [J.J. Casey], "The N.Y. Philatelic Society," *The Coin & Stamp Journal* (NYC), vol 3, no 6 (June 1877) 43; no 9 (Sept 1877) 70. See also [J.W. Scott], "The National Philatelic Society," AJP vol 11 (July 20, 1877) 111; "Answers to Correspondents," *ibid.* p. 112.

51. Chas. H. Coster, "To the Editor....," *The English Journal of Philately or Stamp Collector's Magazine* vol 1, no 5 (Jan 15, 1878) 39.

52. *Congres International des Timbrophiles* (Neuilly, France) 1880, p. 8.

53. Chas. H. Coster, "Les Timbres Semi-Officiels des Provisoires des

Etats-Unis," *Congres Int'l des Timbrophiles* (1880) 169-89. Coster's original English-language manuscript, "The Semi-Official or Provisional Stamps of the United States," was offered for sale at 155 sh. ("unique") in *The Philatelic Literature Catalog* (2nd ed.), Albert R. Harris, London (1942).

54. [C.H. Coster], "Dangerous Locals," CW vol 1, no 7 (March 1879) 51; no 8 (May 1879) 59.

55. [C.H. Coster], "Local Posts in the City of New York," CW vol 1, no 9 (July 1879) 67; no 10 (Aug 1879) 73-5.

56. [C.H. Coster], "Our Book Table," CW vol 1, no 9 (July 1879) 71.

57. C.H. Coster, "Les Postes Privees des Etats-Unis d'Amerique," TP vol 16, no 184 (April 1878) 30-2; vol 16 (1878) 44-7, 62-4, 69-72, 85-8; vol 17 (1879) 26-7, 43-4, 80, 99-100; vol 18 (1880) 99-104, 110-112; vol 19 (1881) 23-8, 38-40, 58-62 83-4, 104-8, 117-120.

58. [C.H. Coster], "To Our Readers," CW vol 1, no 12-13 (Oct 1879).

59. W.E.V. Horner, *History and Catalogue of the Stamped Envelopes of the United States*, (L.W. Durbin, Philadelphia) 1879.

60. [C.H. Coster], "Book Notices," CW vol 1, no 4 (Dec 1878) 26-30; no 7 (Mar 1879) 53.

61. Ch-H. Coster, "Les Envelopes Timbres des Etats-Unis," TP, vol 16 no 190 (Nov 1878) 78-80. Also vol 17 (1879) 8-12, 32-6, 85-91; vol 18 (1880) 29-36, 45-7, 86-90; vol 19 (1881) 8. Also see [J-B Moens] TP vol 17, no 196 (April 1, 1879) 32.

62. "Was an Authority on Stamps. The Late C.H. Coster Once a Prominent Philatelist," *N.Y. Times* (March 15, 1900) 14.

63. C.H. Coster, "Les Postes privees des Etats-unis d'Amerique, Troisieme Partie, Enveloppes Timbres," TP vol 20, no 257 (Sept 1882) 87-89. Also vol 20 (1882) 96, 105-8, 116-120; vol 21 (1883) 7-8, 63-4, 70-2, 79-80, 95-6; vol 21 (1884) 8, 15-16, 23-24.

64. John R. Winkler, *Morgan, the Magnificent*, Garden City Publ. Co., Garden City, NY, (1930) 117.

65. Ron Chernow, *The House of Morgan*, Atlantic Monthly Press, NY (1990) 69.

66. *Ibid.*, the author quotes J.P. Morgan, p. 69.

67. Lewis Corey, *The House of Morgan*, Ams Press, New York (1969) 118.

68. See endnote 3.

69. See endnote 67, page 118.

70. "Funeral of C.H. Coster. Gathering of Representative Business Men at Grace Church," *N.Y. Times* (March 17, 1900) 14.

71. Andrew Sinclair, *Corsair, The Life of J. Pierpont Morgan*, Little, Brown & Co., Boston (1981) 116.

72. See endnote 3.

73. [J.W. Scott] *Metropolitan Phil* vol 12, no 24 (March 17, 1900) 207.

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WELLS FARGO & CO., ORIGINALS & FORGERIES

Part II, by Larry Lyons

SHIELD DESIGN

\$1 Blue on thin wove paper 143L6

NEWSPAPER STAMPS

TYPE I

"TO BE DROPPED IN NEW YORK
POST OFFICE"

Black on White wove paper 143LP1

TYPE II

LATHEWORK BACKGROUND

Blue 143LP2

TYPE III

"AP" NEARLY TOUCHING

Blue on thick paper 143LP3;

Blue on thin paper 143LP3a

Rouletted 10 Thick paper 143LP5

Thin paper 143LP5a

TYPE IV (WEN5)

"PAID W.F&CO." "W" TOUCHES

Blue Imperforate 143LP4

TYPE IV (WEN6)

Blue Rouletted 10 143LP6

TYPE IV (WEN7)

Perforated 12 or 13 143LP7

TYPE V

"PAID W.F&CO." "W" DOESN'T TOUCH

Blue Perf 11, 12 or 12 1/2 143LP8

TYPE VI (WEN8)

"OVER OUR ROUTES IN THE US"

Blue 143LP9

TYPE VI

Vertical Pair Imperf between 143LP9a

TYPE VI

Horizontal Pair Imperf Vert. 143LP9b

TYPE VII (WEN9)

"PUBLISHERS PAID STAMP"

Blue 143LP10

ENVELOPES 10c Red 143Lu1

10c Blue 143Lu2

25c Red 143Lu3

THE SHIELD DESIGN OF 1861

ORIGINAL

LITHOGRAPHED

1. There is no horizontal line dividing the shield under the "1/2 OZ."
2. There is a small comma half way between "WELLS," and "FARGO".
3. There is a period after "OZ."
4. There is a period after "\$1,00." which has a comma after the "1."
5. The lower loop of the ampersand has a slight bulge to the left.
6. There are two lines through the dollar sign that both point inside of the tube below.
7. The belt buckle has an extremely fine line center division.

REMAINDERS

LITHOGRAPHED

1. There is a hand drawn horizontal line dividing the shield under the "1/2 OZ.". The line is drawn in blue or red. Editor's Note: Copies with vertical red lines are true remainders, while the single copy originals with horizontal blue line drawn in may have been 19th century dealer misguided attempts to replicate originals.

FORGERY A

LITHOGRAPHED

1. There is a horizontal line dividing the shield below the "1/2 OZ.". The horizontal line does not reach to the shield border at either side.
2. There is a wedge shaped period instead of a comma after "WELLS."



Original



Remainder



Forgery A



Forgery B

3. There is a period after "OZ."
4. There is a period after "\$1.00."
5. The background around the shield is a mesh grid.
6. The ampersand has a small upper loop and the lower loop bulges down to the left.
7. There are two lines through the dollar sign. One points to the inside of the tube below and the other points to the right side of the tubular ornament below.
8. The belt buckle at the bottom has a center division.
9. This is Frajola's 1WE6F1.
10. The colors:
Blue on White, Blue on Bluish

FORGERY B

TYPOGRAPHED (TAYLOR)

1. There is a horizontal line dividing the shield below the "1/2 OZ". The horizontal line reaches to the shield border at both sides.
2. No punctuation after "WELLS".
3. There is no period after "OZ".
4. There is no period after "\$1,00".
5. Background around the shield is solid.
6. The ampersand has a bulge to the left on the lower loop.
7. There is a comma in the valve after the "1" so it reads "\$1,00".
8. There are two lines through the dollar sign and both point to the right side of the tube below.
9. The belt buckle at the bottom does not have a center division.
10. At the very bottom right there is an arrowhead.
11. The "2" in "1/2" has a sharp point at the left side of the footstroke.
12. "1" in "\$1,00" has no bottom serifs.
13. The colors:
 - a. On White Wove Paper
Red, Blue
 - b. On Paper Colored Through
Red on Cream, Blue on Mauve,

- Blue on Cream, Blue on Blue
- c. On Surface Colored Paper
- Red on Purple, Red on Yellow

FORGERY C

LITHOGRAPHED (MOENS)

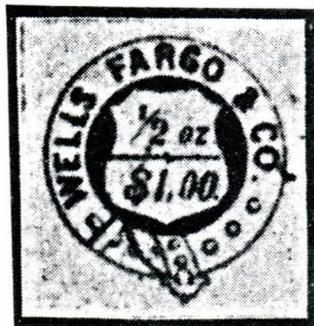
1. There is a horizontal line dividing the shield below the "1/2 OZ". The horizontal line reaches to the shield border at both sides.
2. No punctuation after "WELLS".
3. There is no period after "OZ".
4. There is a period after "\$1,00."
5. Background around shield is solid.
6. The ampersand has a bulge to the left on the lower loop.
7. There is a comma in the value after "1" so it reads "1,00".
8. There are two lines through the dollar sign and both point to the right side of the tube below.
9. The belt buckle at the bottom does not have a center division.
10. There is no arrow head at the bottom right.
11. The "2" in "1/2" does not have a sharp point at the left side of the foot-stroke.
12. The "1" in "\$1,00." has a small bottom left serif.
13. The color: Blue



Forgery C



Forgery D

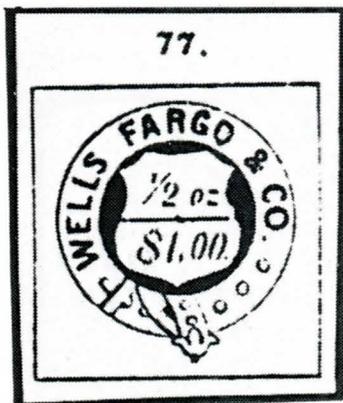


Forgery E

FORGERY D

TYPOGRAPHED (SCOTT)

1. There is a horizontal line dividing the shield below the "1/2 OZ.". The horizontal line does not reach to the shield border at either side. The left side of the line points to the space between "W" and the "E" in "WELLS.".
2. Very small period after "WELLS.".
3. There is a period after "OZ.".
4. There is a period after "\$1,00.".
5. Background around shield is solid.
6. The ampersand has a small upper loop that is balanced over a smoothly curved lower loop. The arms are long and thin.



Forgery F

7. There are two lines through the dollar sign and both point to the right side of the tube below. Lines are far apart.
8. The belt buckle at the bottom does not have a center division.
9. The "1" in "\$1.00." has bottom serifs.
10. The color: Blue

FORGERY E TYPOGRAPHED (AFTER MOENS)

1. A horizontal line divides the shield below the "1/2 OZ". The horizontal line does not reach to the shield border at the right side, but does connect to the shield border at the left side. There is a dot in the middle of the line.
2. There is no period after "WELLS".
3. There is no period after "OZ".
4. There is a period after "\$1,00."
5. Background around shield is solid.
6. The ampersand has very short arms and the lower loop bulges to the left, but is not angular. The loops have only pin head openings.
7. There are two lines through the dollar sign that point to the edge of the belt line below.
8. The belt buckle at the bottom does not have a center division.
9. The quality printing of the Moens' work is missing.
10. The colors: Gold on Cream

FORGERY F LITHOGRAPHED (MOENS 1864)

1. A horizontal line divides the shield below the "1/2 OZ". The horizontal line reaches to the shield border at the left, but not at the right side.
2. No punctuation after "WELLS".
3. There is no period after "OZ".
4. There is a period after "\$1,00."
5. Background around shield is solid.
6. There is a comma in the value after the "1" so it reads "\$1,00".
7. There are two lines through the dol-

- lar sign and both point to the right side of the tube below.
8. No arrowhead at the bottom right.
9. "1" in "\$1,00." has no bottom serifs.
10. There is an extra frame line around the stamp.
11. The color: Black on White

THE NEWSPAPER STAMPS

ORIGINAL TYPE I LITHOGRAPHED

1. There is cross-hatch shading to the right of each letter in 'PAID'.
2. The "T" in "TO" does not have a long left serif on the cross of the "T".
3. There is no line at the left outside of the oval inscription label.
4. There are horizontal lines in the background between the letters of "PAID".
5. This is Frajola's 1WEN1
6. The color: Black

FORGERY A TYPE I TYPOGRAPHED (SCOTT)

1. There is no cross-hatch shading to the right of the letters in 'PAID'.
2. There is a long left serif on the cross of the "T" in "TO".
3. There is a line at the left outside of the oval inscription label.
4. This is Frajola's 1WEN1F1
5. The colors: Gray Black

FORGERY B TYPE I LITHOGRAPHED (COSTER 1882)

1. The second "P" in "DROPPED" is very thin.
2. The "B" in "BE" looks like a "D".
3. The "I" in "IN" is not a straight line.
4. Background consists entirely of dots.
5. The SW corner has a pointed leaf.

6. The "R" in "EXPRESS" does not have a straight leg.
7. The color: Black on White

ORIGINAL TYPE II LITHOGRAPHED

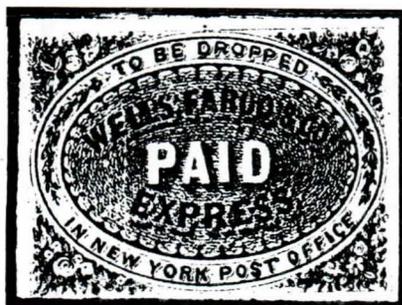
1. The background in the center oval consists of fine lathework.
2. The "S" in "ROUTES" is not falling forward.
3. The "R" in "NEWSPAPER" has a straight uncurved leg.
4. The "S" in "NEWSPAPER" is more evenly spaced after the "W" than in Forgery A.
5. Top of "S" in "ROUTES" flattened.
6. This is Frajola's 1WEN2
7. The color: Blue

FORGERY A TYPE II TYPOGRAPHED (SCOTT)

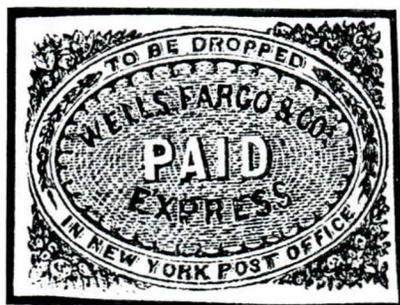
1. The lathework inside the center oval is not as fine as in the original.
2. The "S" in "ROUTES" is falling forward at the top.
3. The "R" in "NEWSPAPER" has a long leg that curves upward.
4. The "S" in "NEWSPAPER" is too far forward from the "W" at the bottom of the letters.
5. Top of "S" in "ROUTES" is curved.
6. This is Frajola's 1WEN2F1
7. The colors: Light Blue, Dark Blue

FORGERY B TYPE II LITHOGRAPHED (COSTER 1882)

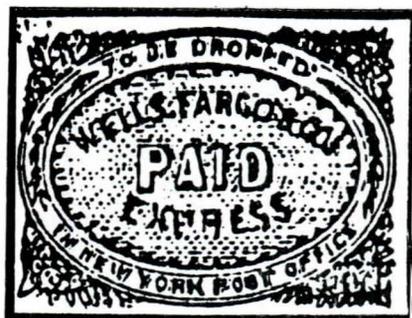
1. Similar to the Scott Forgery A.
2. The second "I" in "CALIFORNIA" has a top left serif.
3. The "R" in "NEWSPAPER" has a thin turned up foot.
4. The "N" in "ONE" does not have a top left serif.
5. The "E" in "ONE" has a long thin bottom serif.
6. The outer border line is very uniform.



Original Type I



Forgery A



Forgery B



Original Type II



Forgery A



Forgery B



Original Type III



Forgery A

7. The "S" in "NEWSPAPER" is angular like in Forgery A.
8. The color: Black on White

ORIGINAL TYPE III LITHOGRAPHED

1. The base of the right upright of the "A" in "NEWSPAPER" nearly touches the base of the upright of second "P".
2. The "W" in "WELLS" is very close to the oval frame line.
3. The bottom label inscription reads OVER OUR CALIFORNIA ROUTES in double letter capitals.
4. There is no white label around "WELL, FARGO & CO.".
5. There is a period after "WELLS.".
6. The flowering vine at the right in the oval label has two large flowers and is finely drawn.
7. There is no horizontal bar on the "G" in "FARGO".
8. The imperforate stamp is Frajola's 1WEN3a on thick paper.
9. The rouletted 10 stamp is Frajola's 1WEN4.
10. The perforate stamp is Frajola's 1WEN3b on thin paper.
11. The colors: Blue

FORGERY A TYPE III TYPOGRAPHED (TAYLOR)

1. The "S" in "NEWSPAPER" is very close to the "W" and the back of the top loop of the "S" is cut off.
2. Large break in the bottom outer frame line below the word "OUR".
3. The bottom label inscription reads "OVER OUR CALIFORNIA ROUTES." in unserifed capitals.
4. The "UTE" in "ROUTES" are connected at the top.
5. The final "A" in "CALIFORNIA" is detached from the uprights.
6. The letters of "OVER" increase in size going to the right.
7. The word "OUR" is raised up.

8. The vine at the right in the oval label is long and thin.
9. There is no period after "ROUTES".
10. There is a long thin comma after "WELLS,".
11. This is Frajola's 1WEN3F1
12. Colors: Dark Blue on White vertically laid paper; Light Blue on White.

FORGERY B TYPE III TYPOGRAPHED (SCOTT)

1. The inscription "ONE NEWSPAPER" is too large.
2. The bottom label inscription reads "OVER OUR CALIFORNIA ROUTES" in double lettering.
3. There is a small comma after "WELLS,".
4. The top loop of the ampersand has a large center opening.
5. The vine at the right in the oval label is long and is tightly clustered.
6. There is a bold vertical line between the "LL"s of "WELLS," which consists of six short horizontal lines.
7. The background in the center oval consists of horizontal lines with colorless loops.
8. There is a short vertical line between the "LS" of "WELLS," which consists of three short horizontal lines.
9. This is Frajola's 1WEN3F2.
10. The colors: Light Blue, Dark Blue

FORGERY C TYPE III TYPOGRAPHED

1. The inner oval has no frame line.
2. Bottom inscription reads "OVER OUR CALIFORNIA ROUTES" in double lettering.
3. The loops of the ampersand are two diamonds.
4. There is a comma after "WELLS," that is centered in the left upright of the "A" in "PAID".
5. The "R" in "FARGO" is too tall.
6. The "C" and the "O" in "CO" are both angular.



Forgery B



Forgery C



Forgery D



Forgery E



Forgery F



Forgery G



Forgery H



Forgery I

7. "G" in "FARGO" has a horizontal bar and a vertical leg not present in the original or Forgeries A or B.
8. The vine at the right in the oval label is wide with grapes and has a single vine line up and a single vine line down.
9. This is Frajola's IWEN3F3
10. The color: Blue

FORGERY D TYPE III ENGRAVED

1. There is one thin vertical line between the two "LL"s of "WELLS,".
2. The bottom inscription label reads "OVER OUR CALIFORNIA ROUTES" in double lettering.
3. Stroke after the "S" in "WELLS".
4. The loops of the ampersand are two diamonds.
5. The "A" and the "R" in "FARGO" are the same height.
6. The "G" in "FARGO" has a horizontal bar and a vertical leg the same as in Forgery C.
7. The vine at the right in the oval label is wide with grapes and has a single vine line up and a single vine line down.
8. This is Frajola's IWEN3F4.
9. The colors: Blue (Shades), Gray, Red, Green.

FORGERY E TYPE III ENGRAVED (AFTER MOENS)

1. There is no vertical line between the two "LL"s of "WELLS,".
2. The bottom inscription label reads "OVER OUR CALIFORNIA ROUTES" in double lettering.
3. There is a period after "WELLS." that touches the background design.
4. The ampersand is over a portion of the front curve of the "D" in "PAID" which looks like a "B".
5. The top loop of the ampersand touches the background design.

6. The words "OVER OUR" are very close together.
7. The "WELLS. FARGO & CO" is written on a colorless band that stops far short of the inner oval border line.
8. This is Frajola's 1WEN3F5.
9. The colors: Blue

- FORGERY F TYPE III
LITHOGRAPHED (MOENS)
1. The "WELLS, FARGO & CO" inscription is in a white label that does not extend to the sides of the inner oval.
 2. There is no period after "CO".
 3. The bottom inscription label reads "OVER OUR CALIFORNIA ROUTES" in double lettering.
 4. There is a comma stroke after "WELLS," that is not below the line of the letters.
 5. Ampersand has large loop centers.
 6. The vines at the left and right side in the oval have tendrils going horizontally.
 7. The "S" in "WELLS," is a little short.
 8. The "D" in "PAID" is broad.
 9. This is Frajola's 1WEN3F6.
 10. The color: Blue

- FORGERY G TYPE III
TYPOGRAPHED
(AFTER MOENS)
1. "WELLS, FARGO & CO" inscription is in a white label that does not extend to the sides of the inner oval.
 2. The bottom inscription label reads "OVER OUR CALIFORNIA ROUTES" in double lettering.
 3. There are six plate position varieties:
 - a. The "R" in "OVER" is bold and raised up. The "S" in "ROUTES" has a short top arm. The bottom curve of the "S" in "ROUTES" is angular.
 - b. There is a thick stroke after

- "WELLS," that is like a period. The top loop of the ampersand is small and pointy at the left side.
- c. There is a stroke after "WELLS," that nearly touches the "F". The "TE" in "ROUTES" is short. The top arm of the "E" in "ROUTES" is short.
 - d. There is a wedge shaped period between "WELLS." and "FARGO". The top loop of the ampersand is squashed small. There is a stroke under the "E" in "ONE".
 - e. There is a dark flaw at the front of the lower curve of the "S" in "WELLS,.". The ampersand has a lower loop that bulges to the left.
 - f. There is a small period before "ONE". The ampersand has large loop centers and a thin bottom line.
4. The color: Gold on Cream
 5. This is from the gold sheet.

- FORGERY H TYPE III
LITHOGRAPHED
(MOENS 1864)
- 1-9. The identifying characteristics 1-9 of Moens' Forgery F are repeated.
 10. There is an extra border line around the stamp.
 11. There is a white space over the "S" in "NEWSPAPER".

- FORGERY I TYPE III
LITHOGRAPHED
(COSTER 1882)
1. The "WELLS, FARGO & CO." inscription is in a white label that does not extend to the side of the inner oval.
 2. The bottom inscription reads "OVER OUR CALIFORNIA ROUTES" in unserifed capitals without double lettering.
 3. There is a vertical line between the "LS" in "WELLS".
 4. An apostrophe after "WELLS".
 5. The left side of the "A" in "PAID" has been drawn in.



Original Type IV



Forgery A



Forgery B



Forgery C

6. The "E" in "ROUTES" is connected to the inner oval line.
7. The top of the "T" in "ROUTES" is concave.
8. The ornament at the left side has a hook at the top.
9. The color: Black on White

ORIGINAL TYPE IV
 "PAID W.F & CO with
 "W" touching"
 LITHOGRAPHED

1. The "W" in "WELLS," touches the inner oval ornaments.
2. Crossbar in the "A" of "FARGO" is not detached from the uprights.
3. There is a small thick comma after "WELLS," that does not touch the lower label border.
4. The bottom left corner reads "PAID" in a dark label.
5. Bottom right corner reads "W,F &CO" in a dark label with the "O" in "CO" inside the pincers of the "C".
6. The lower label inscription reads "OVER OUR CALIFORNIA ROUTES" in unserifed capitals.
7. The ampersand in "WELLS, FARGO & CO." has a bottom loop that bulges to the left. Ampersand is about 2/3rds the height of the letters. The top loop is leaning forward.
8. The lettering of "WELLS, FARGO & CO." is different than in TYPE V particularly the "G".
9. This is Frajola's WEN5, 6 and 7.
10. The color: Blue

FORGERY A TYPE IV
 "PAID W.F & CO
 TYPOGRAPHED

1. There is a period after "WELLS.".
2. Top of the left upright of the "N" in "ONE" touches the oval border.
3. The bottom right corner reads "W.F.&CO" in a dark label with no "O" in the "C".

4. The lower label inscription reads "OVER OUR CALIFORNIA ROUTES" in unserifed capitals.
5. The ampersand in "WELLS, FARGO & CO." has the loops connected outside the left side and the top arm is very thin and ends in a point.
6. The "T" in "ROUTES" has a very thin upright.
7. The lettering of "WELLS, FARGO & CO." is thick.
8. Top curve of the "S" in "WELLS," is connected to the bottom curve.
9. The ornament in the oval ring at the right side consists of two vines growing out of an eyeball with diagonal line under the eye. There is a dot between the two vines.
10. The crossbar of the "A" in "FARGO" is not detached.
11. There is a squarish period after "NEWSPAPER."
12. The ampersand has only one arm that divides into two parts.
13. The stamp is imperforate.
14. This is Frajola's 1WEN5F1 (indicated as 1WEN3F1).
15. The colors: Dark Blue on White, Dark Blue on Blue paper colored through.

FORGERY B TYPE IV "PAID W.F & CO"

TYPOGRAPHED (TAYLOR)

1. The ornament in the oval ring at the right side consists of three vines growing out of an eyeball with a diagonal line under the eye.
2. The crossbar of the "A" in "FARGO" is detached.
3. There is a bold period after "NEWSPAPER."
4. The bottom right corner reads "W.F&CO" in a dark label with the right side of the "O" of "CO" under the curved pincer ends of the "C".
5. The lower label inscription reads "OVER OUR CALIFORNIA ROUTES" in unserifed capitals.

6. There is a wedge shaped comma after "WELLS," that touches the border of the white label.
7. The front of the top loop of the ampersand is angular.
8. There are two breaks in the top outer frame line above the space between the "EW" in "NEWSPAPER" and over the "P".
9. The stamp was issued imperforate.
10. This is Frajola's 1WEN5F2.
11. The colors: Light Blue, Dark Blue, Blue on Rose paper colored through

FORGERY C TYPE IV LITHOGRAPHED (COSTER 1882)

1. There is no period after "ROUTES".
2. First "E" in "NEWSPAPER" small.
3. The comma after "WELLS," is long and thin.
4. The ornament at the right side that resembles an eyeball does not have a diagonal line underneath.
5. The "W" in "WELLS," touches the inner oval ornaments.
6. The lower label inscription reads "OVER OUR CALIFORNIA ROUTES" in unserifed capitals.
7. The ampersand has a detached front.
8. The color: Black on White

ORIGINAL TYPE V (W not touching) LITHOGRAPHED

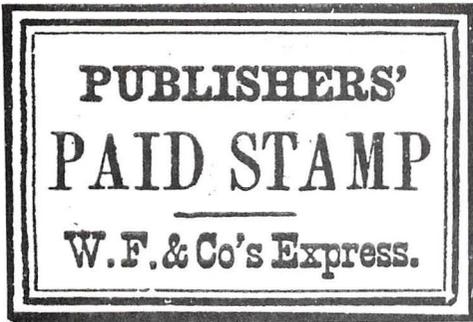
1. The "W" in "WELLS," does not touch the inner oval ornaments. The "W" is 1/2 mm from the ornaments.
2. Crossbar in the "A" of "FARGO" is not detached from the uprights.
3. Thin comma after "WELLS," touches the lower label border.
4. The bottom left corner reads "PAID" in a dark label.
5. The bottom right corner reads "W.F&CO" in a dark label with the "O" in "CO" in between the flat pincers of the "C".



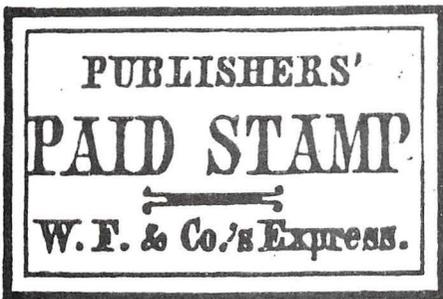
Original Type V



Original Type VI



Original Type VII



Forgery A

6. The lower label inscription reads "OVER OUR CALIFORNIA ROUTES" in unserifed capitals.
7. The ampersand in "WELLS, FARGO & CO." has a bottom loop that does not bulge to the left. The ampersand is much shorter than the letters and is smaller than in TYPE IV. The loops are one over the other.
8. The lettering of "WELLS FARGO & CO." is different than in TYPE V particularly the "G".
9. This is 143LP8.
10. The color: Blue

ORIGINAL TYPE VI LITHOGRAPHED

1. The bottom label reads "OVER OUR ROUTES IN THE U.S." in unserifed capitals.
2. The "WELLS, FARGO & CO." is within a white label.
3. The comma after "WELLS," is long and thin and touches the border of the white label.
4. The top loop of the ampersand has a nose and the ampersand is only 2/3rds as tall as the lettering.
5. The serifs on the diagonal of the "N" in "ONE" and in "NEWSPAPER" extend to the left and to the right.
6. In the bottom right corner it reads "W.F&CO" with the "O" in "CO" in between the pincers of the "C".
7. Stamp was printed both Perf 11 and Perf 12.
8. The stamp was also printed Perf 12 watermarked.
9. This is Frajola's 1WEN8.
10. The colors: Blue

ORIGINAL TYPE VII "PUBLISHERS" LITHOGRAPHED

1. There is a thin border line inside of a bold border line.
2. The top line reads "PUBLISHERS" in serified capitals.



Imprints on Postal Stationery



3. The middle line reads "PAID STAMP" in tall serified capitals.
4. Bottom line reads "W.F.&Co's Express." in upper and lower case serified lettering.
5. There is a line between the middle and last lines that extends from above the middle of the ampersand to above the end of the first "E" in "Express."
6. These were printed in sheets of 50 producing virtually all different minor types.
7. This is Frajola's 1WEN9.
8. The color: Blue

2. The lettering of "PUBLISHER'S" is thinner and shorter in length.
3. Lettering of "W.F. & Co.'s Express." is different than the original.
4. The apostrophe in "Co.'s" has a very long tail.
5. There is a period after "Co." that doesn't exist in the original.
6. The "P" in "PAID" touches the thin inner border.
7. The color: Black on White

IMPRINTS ON POSTAL STATIONERY

FORGERY A TYPE VII LITHOGRAPHED (COSTER 1882)

1. There is a fancy double line with end ornaments under "PAID STAMP" instead of a single line.

1. The 10c Red is on a US envelope #U34 (1WES1a)
2. The 10c Blue is on a US envelope #U34 (1WES1b)
3. The 25c Red is on a US envelope #U34 (1WES2)

THANKS TO MANY PENNY POST AUTHORS

By Gordon Stimmell

Over the past 30 issues of *The Penny Post*, many talented authors contributed to our pages. With one exception, they sought no compensation for their labor. Before I go, I would like to pass on my editorial gratitude for many jobs well done.

Richard Schwartz: Dick is the wizard in the field of locals and carriers, with an enormous knowledge of even the darkest nooks. He contributed an eclectic range of articles and generously provided source material for other writers who contributed.

Steven M. Roth: Steve's many articles showed great strength in Philadelphia posts, an area that still needs exegesis. He, after Dick Schwartz's tenure, as President kept our Society alive and humming. His overall contribution has been enormous.

Donald B. Johnstone: Don is one of our gifted writers who penned many short insightful articles on Carriers. These provided us with original research in an area where few are still authoring articles.

John D. Bowman and Lawrence LeBel: I group these two philatelists together because they are both the living experts on Boyd's, which both wrote on separately, and recently, together, in a major article updating the hand-stamps of the post.

Robert B. Meyersburg: Another living legend in the field. Bob contributed pieces on discoveries in carriers and the New York Penny Post. A major article concerned the Official Carrier Stamp Dies.

Stephen L. Gronowski: An avid collector, Stephen zoomed in on some of the truly rare local posts, such as Roche's and Ricketts & Hall, providing illuminating insights.

Michael S. Gutman: When it comes to Hale & Co. material, Michael is king of the mountain, and provided two important pieces on the Hale offices and pioneer pen pre-

cancels. We hope to see more comprehensive articles in the future. Will someone give this man a sabbatical so he can do a book?

John P. Halstead: In the early days of our Society, retired history professor John provided our first major local post overview, on Jenkins Camden Dispatch. He set the high tone in *The Penny Post* for other authors.

Herbert A. Trenchard: Early bibliography, indexes, incunabula, forgers, pioneer auction sales and 19th century philatelists are Herb's forte. He has been working with Timothy Carr at the Smithsonian who also has made bibliographic contributions. See Herb's Coster biography in this issue.

Scott R. Trepel: Thanks for a terrific series based on data from the Kapiloff holding of City Despatch Post. Scott has backed our little Society for many years and we eagerly await publication of his promised book on pre-1847 stamps of the U.S.

Carl E. Kane: A master of forgery knowledge, Carl contributed a fine piece on Winan's Flying Bomb forgeries.

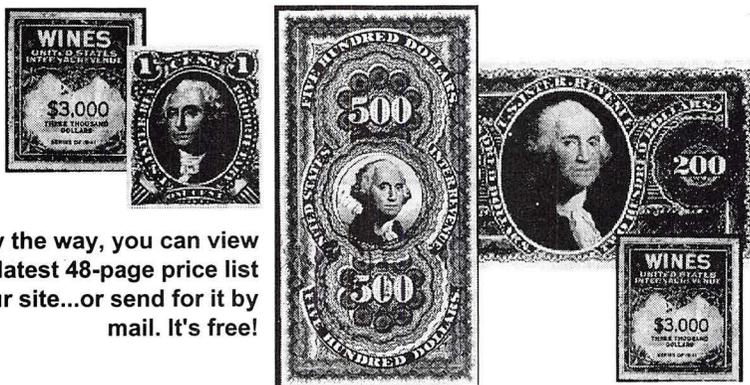
Calvet M. Hahn: One of the most crusty characters I have ever had to work with. His knowledge is encyclopedic and he shared wonderful articles, on Dr. Mitchell, Northern Liberties News Rooms, and his historic Beginning of Adhesive Postage in the U.S. series. Unfortunately, Cal eats editors for lunch and we had an inevitable parting of the ways.

Larry Lyons: A major compiler of forgeries, Larry has provided expansive roundups in recent *Penny Posts*. He is publishing three tomes on forgeries this year.

Stamp Dealers: Many have helped our Society through the years. Of special note are Eric Jackson, Scott Trepel of Robert Siegel, Byron Sandford of Park Cities Stamps, Ventura Stamp Co., and in the early days, Richard Frajola and Robert G. Kaufmann.

Update:

Our Internet Website Has A Brand New Look. Shop Our Auction & Hundreds of Stamps In Full Color!



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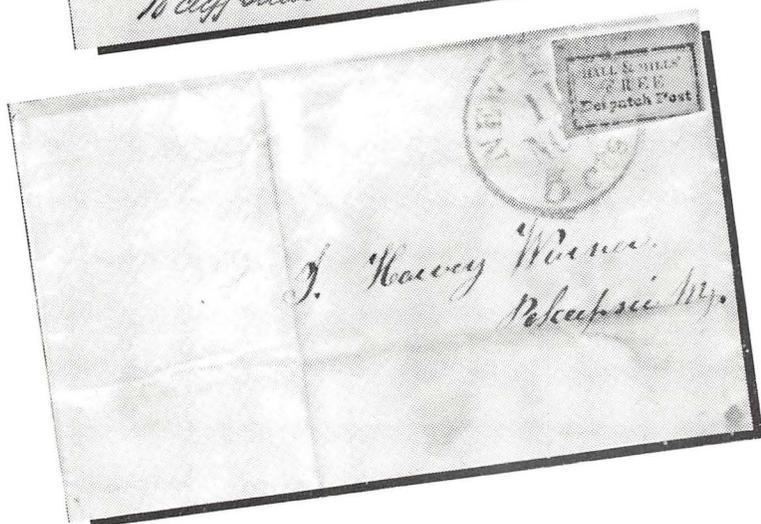
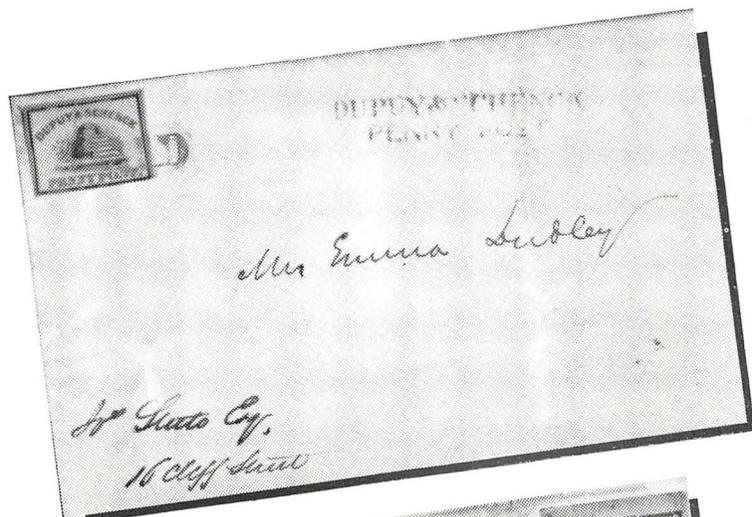
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Scott listed revenues, embossed & stamped paper, beer stamps, taxpaid revenues, possessions revenues, proofs & essays, local stamps, and philatelic literature. America's finest stock. Write, call or visit our site to get our latest 48-page price list or send your want list for custom approvals tailored to your needs.

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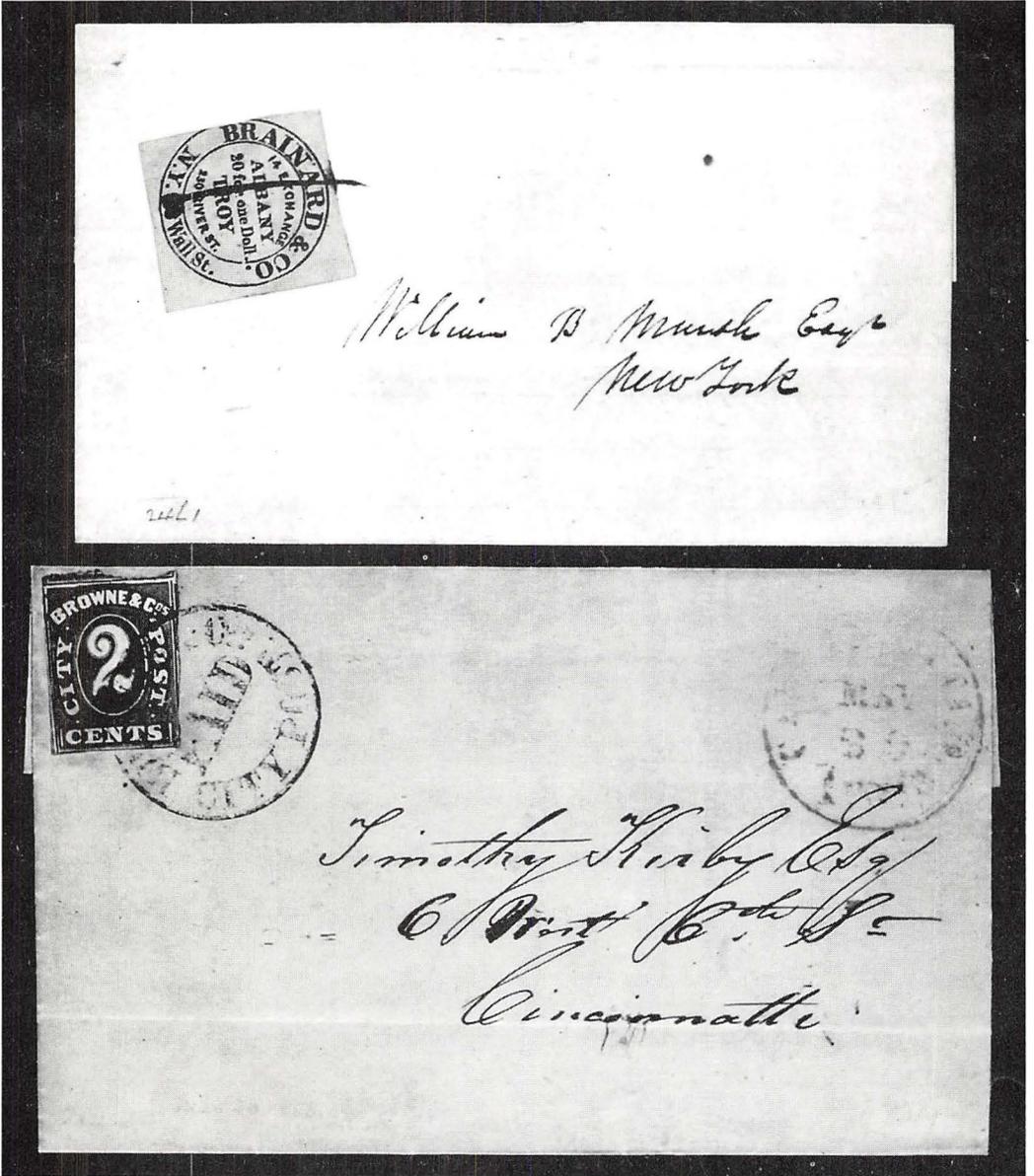


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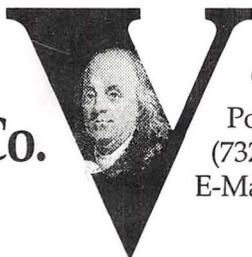
6440 North Central Expressway
Suite 316
Dallas, Texas 75206
Phone: 214/361-4322

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