

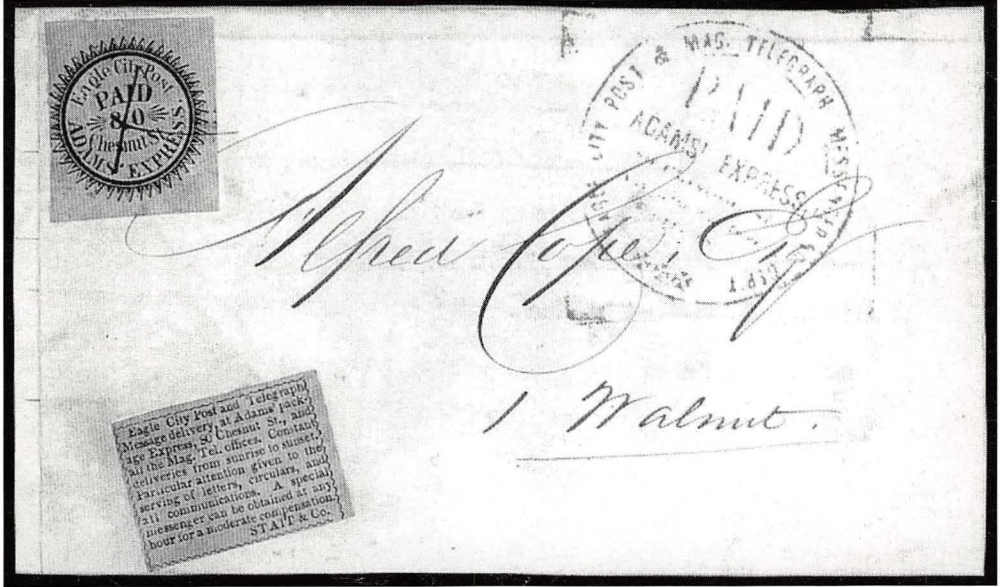
JULY 2000

WHOLE NUMBER 32

VOL. 8 NO.4

THE PENNY POST

Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society



Eagle City Post, Philadelphia, PA, 61L2 Adhesive with Stait & Co. Label and Type C Handstamp reading "Eagle City Post & Mag. Telegraph Messengering Dept."

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BEGINNINGS OF ADHESIVE POSTAGE IN THE U.S. PART IV
A RUSSELL LOCAL ADHESIVE ON COVER FROM COLUMBIA, S.A.

A ROBISON & CO. PLATE VARIATION

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THE PENNY POST

VOL. 8. NO. 4



JULY 2000

2000 The Carriers and Locals Society, Inc.
APS Affiliate 2 It

Official Journal Of The Carriers and Locals Society

Published quarterly in January, April, July and October.
Price per issue: \$6.50 for members, \$8.50 for non members.

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

The Penny Post is back in business and I am honored to be the new Editor. I hope you like the first issue under my command.

A very, very special thank you to Gordon Stimmell for being our Editor for seven years. He did a very fine job, winning numerous awards and often writing many of the research articles or contributing his wealth of information to other author's articles. I am honored to follow in his footsteps. It is my intent to provide a magazine not only worthy to the readers of The Carriers and Locals Society, but of the highest possible caliber. This magazine is dedicated to being a quality, scholarly publication. I hope that you are able to learn from these articles and that it increases your zeal for this wonderful section of philately.

I want to hear from you. If you have something that adds to one of our presentations or you have a differing point of view, jot it down and drop me a line. If you find something of interest, share it with us. We are prepared to accept any format from hard disc from either MAC or PC to napkin notes with food stains. You can tell me what you would like to see or what you would find of interest and we will, if we can, provide an article. We welcome and request your input and contributions in the way of articles.

I want you to know that I am confident in the abilities of my Section Heads, and combined with our available library and personal holdings, we feel ready to provide scholarly research on any topic of our field.

Several people promised that if I became Editor they would write articles. It is now time to make good on those promises.

If you have an item that should be listed in the Scott catalog, but is not currently listed, we need to publish the research before the Philatelic Foundation can review and give an opinion. With a valid opinion in hand we can get the Scott Publishing Company to make additions or changes.

I have been the Carrier and Local Liaison Chief for the committee to propose changes to the Scott Catalog. My committee consists of John Bowman, Steven Gronowski and Richard Frajola. We have completed the task of rewriting the entire list of catalog prices and we expect this to form the basis of the 2001 *Scott Specialized* catalog. We will make future corrections based on sales and private treaty transactions and other valuable input. We will also try to correct the dates of usage printed in the catalog by slowly doing the required research.

We are all excited about the future of The Carriers and Locals Society. John Bowman, our new President is an enthusiastic, knowledgeable and wonderful leader. I wish him all the best and I know that I will enjoy working with him.

I hope that you enjoy the educational research articles presented in this publication. If you are thinking of writing an article, please let me know the subject matter. We can help by making your life easier and your presentation more complete.

I look forward to hearing from you, the members of The Carriers and Locals Society, and it is my pleasure to serve you as Editor of our magazine.

Larry Lyons

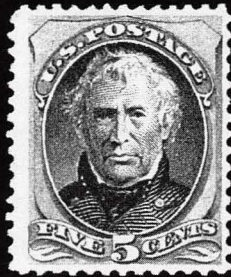
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Scott #PR101, o.g., PFC
Catalog value: \$ 19,000.00
Realized Price: \$ 52,250.00
A record price for any
Newspaper stamp - sold in
Shreves January 2000 Sale



Scott #5, used, PFC
Catalog value: \$ 35,000.00
Realized Price: \$ 77,000.00
The \$77,000.00 realization in Shreves
January 2000 Sale is the highest price
ever paid for a used #5



Scott #204, unused, PFC
Catalog value: \$ 40,000.00
Realized Price: \$ 96,250.00
Sold in Shreves January 2000 Sale -
the highest price ever paid for any
Special Printing stamp

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WILLIAM B. STAIT

And the Eagle City Post

By

Larry Lyons

In the April 1991 issue of *The Penny Post* (Vol.1 No. 2) Gordon Stimmell presented a greatly informative article about Eagle City Post and Stait's Despatch. In that article we learned that William B. Stait, a former employee of the American Letter Mail Company (1844-5) started The Eagle City Despatch Post in the summer of 1845 presumably at 85 Chestnut Street in Philadelphia. This was about one month after the demise of the independent mail companies¹. According to Robson Lowe, William Stait also worked in conjunction with Adams' Express Company.² No dates have been determined for this affiliation.

This article intends to shed some more light on Stait's operations, clarify some dating errors and draw some conclusions as to when Stait started his affiliation with Adams' Express. Up to this point it has been accepted by authorities, that the relationship between Stait and Adams' Express had begun by October 1846 and lasted until 1859. This article will closely examine the nature and dates of this relationship.

HANDSTAMPS

Handstamp Type A

The first handstamp (Type A) utilized by the Eagle City Post, was used from July 30, 1845 to October 1846. It made no mention of Adams' Express and gave the Eagle City Despatch Post address as 85 Chestnut Street. (See figure 1) It is possibly that the existence of this handstamp led previous authorities to erroneously assume that there was no link between Stait and Adams Express at 80 Chestnut Street, prior to October 1846 (when it is believed that the Eagle City Post moved to 80 Chestnut Street).

The Philadelphia city directories for 1845 and 1846 show that Adams & Co. listed its address as 85 Chestnut Street. (see figure 2) Based on the address given in the Type A handstamp, Adams & Co. and the Eagle City Post were clearly affiliated prior to October of 1846.

Handstamps Types B-G

The subsequent handstamps (types B-G) (See Figure 3) all locate the Eagle City Post at Adams' Express designations and give the address as 80 Chestnut Street. These handstamps span the time period of 1846-1850. Later handstamps with the name of both companies give the 48 S. 3rd Street address and occur between 1848-1856 (See Figure 4). This was a second office address for the Eagle City Post. There was also an office at 116 Chestnut Street in 1852-3. This was also a subsequent address of Adams' Express.

¹The Penny Post, Vol 1, No. 2, April 1991, pages 4-23, Gordon Stimmell

²Description of the Eagle City Post given in Robson Lowe Ltd., March 1-2, 1973 sale



Figure 1, Eagle City Despatch Post at 85 Chestnut St. Handstamp Type A

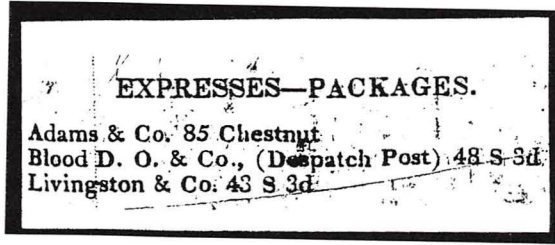


Figure 2 Philadelphia City Directory 1945



Figure 3, Handstamps Types B-G



Figure 4, Hanstamps with 48 5 3rd St. Address

In the August 1991 issue of the Penny Post (Vol. 1 No. 3) Norman Shachat of the Pennsylvania Postal Historian stated that he had in his collection a type E handstamp on a cover dated January 26, 1848. This pre-dates Stimmell's earliest known use (February 1, 1849) of this handstamp by approximately one year. In the same article, Shachat stated that he had in his collection a Type C handstamp on cover dated July 18, 1849. The usage of the Type C handstamp on this date, post dates Stimmell's latest known use (June 1, 1849) by approximately one and a half months. Finally, lot 1767 in the Robson Lowe sale of March 1 & 2, 1973, is a type C handstamp used on a January 2, 1849 cover with a 61L2 adhesive. This usage extends Stimmell's time period by a month for this handstamp.

ADHESIVES

61L1

This primitive stamp is printed in black on pelure paper. The stamp reads "Eagle Post" with an address of 80 Chesnut Street. "Chestnut" is misspelled as "chesnut" on this stamp and on the "sawtooth" 61L2 stamp. Conversely "Chestnut" is correctly spelled on all the handstamps, including the early type A handstamp.

Figure 5 is an excerpt from an 1837 railroad advertisement which also spells "Chesnut Street" without the middle "T".³ Figure 6 is an 1856 corner card with "Chesnut" also missing the middle "T".⁴ The Adams & Co. corner card in figure 7 also has the "Chesnut" spelling.⁵ From these several examples, it is apparent that in the late 1840's and early 1850's, "Chesnut" was an acceptable spelling or abbreviation of "Chestnut".

Figure 8 is lot 548 from the May 1990 Middendorf sale held by Richard Frajola. This cover was sent from Norristown, Pa. to Philadelphia, Pa. The 61L1 is cut to shape and the cover bears a red Norristown, PA August 7 CDS and "5" cents due handstamp. The letter was delivered "from the mails" by the Eagle Post, who presumably applied their stamp. The addressee Nathan Potts is listed in the 1845 and 1846 Philadelphia city directories as living or working at the address on the cover.

Figure 9 is lot 750 from the Caspary sale held by H.R. Harmer, Inc. on March 18-21, 1957. This cover is used locally and has the manuscript initials of "WS" (William Stait). Lot A1031 in the Golden sale is a 61L1 single on piece. (See Figure 10) Finally lot 1899 in Siegel sale 797 contained an unused 61L1 single with the "Paid" torn off. These four example of the 61L1 adhesive, comprise all the known copies.

If we conclude that the primitive circular Eagle Post adhesive 61L1 preceded the "sawtooth" adhesive, then it was probably in use no later than October of 1846 (assuming that the Robson Lowe cover is really an 1847 usage). This conclusion is based on the confirmed 1845 and 1846 addresses for the addressee on the Middendorf cover. Furthermore according to Scott Trepel, the appearance of the manuscript "WS" may have indicated a provisional usage prior to issuance of the 61L2. The extremely few surviving copies of 61L1 also indicates a short usage period.

³Pittsburgh, the story of an American City, Stefan Lorant, Page 90.

⁴U.S.A. I, Basel, Robson Lowe Ltd, London, March 1, 2, 1973, Lot 1752

⁵U.S.A. I, Basel, Robson Lowe Ltd, London, March 1, 2, 1973, Lot 1772

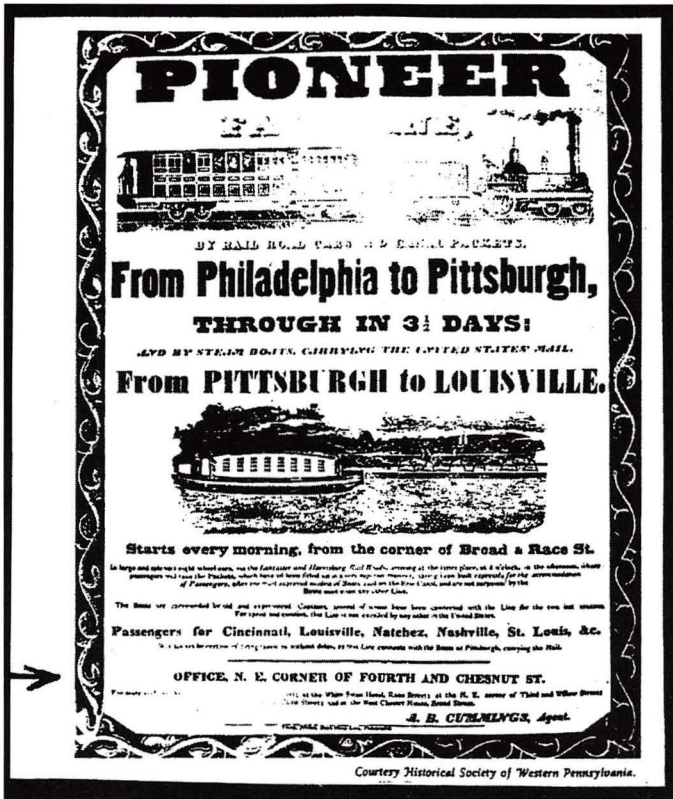


Figure 5, 1837 Railroad Advertisement

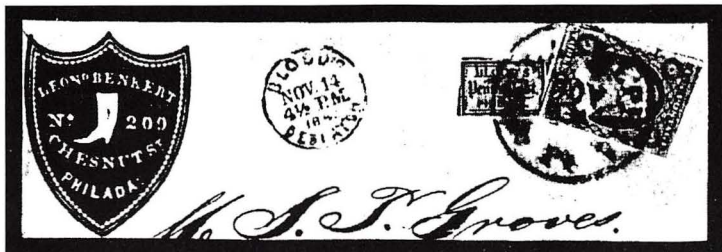


Figure 6, 1856 Corner Card

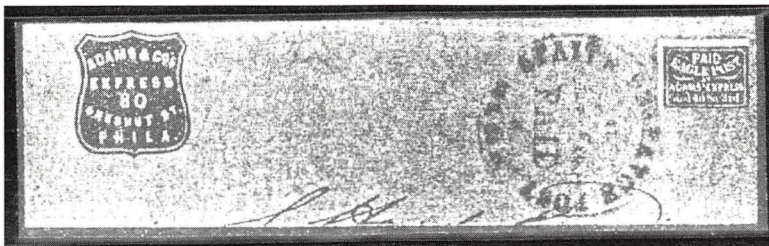


Figure 7, Adams' & Co's Corner Card

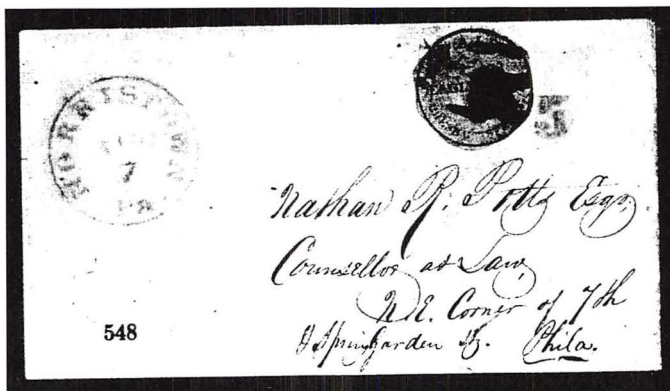


Figure 8, 61L1 on August 7, 1845 Cover (Year Presumed)

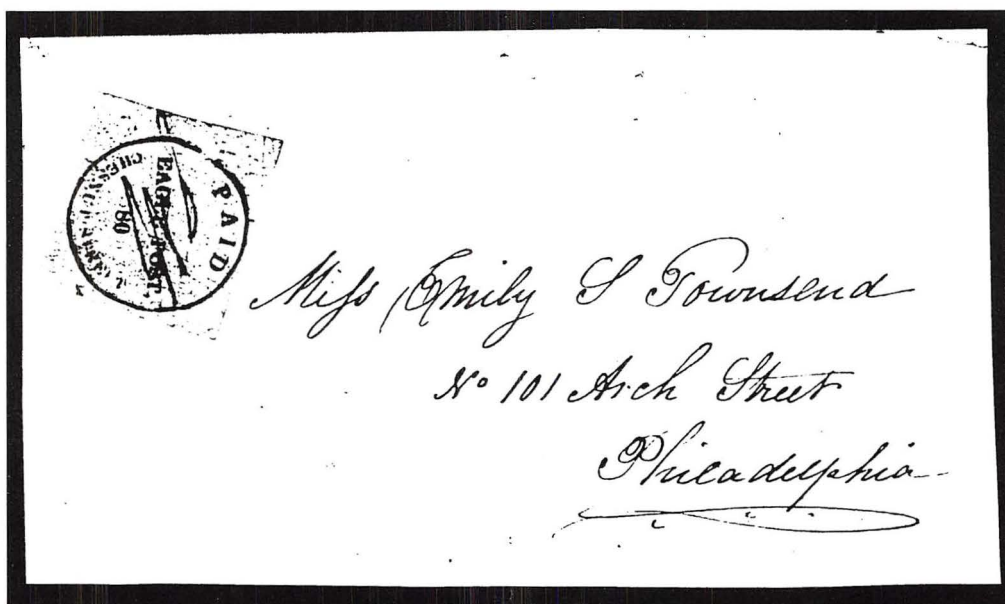


Figure 9, Caspary Cover



Figure 10, 61L1 On Piece

Stait started the Eagle Post about July 30, 1845, as indicated by the earliest known use of the type A handstamp. The Middendorf cover (figure 8) is dated August 7th. Based on all the preceding information it is my belief that this was August 7, 1845. As previously set forth, if my assumptions are correct, then the circular typeset adhesive 61L1 was only in use from about July of 1845 to probably no later than October of 1845. A period of about 4 months.

61L2

The Eagle City Post “sawtooth” adhesive (61L2) confirms the working partnership between the Eagle City Post and Adams’ Express at 80 Chestnut Street. According to Stimmell these adhesives are known used as early as October 1, 1846.⁶ In the David Golden sale, Scott Trepel repeats this assertion in his description of lot A1031. As set forth below, proof of an earlier usage may exist.

Robson Lowe’s March 1-2, 1923 Basel sale, U.S.A. 1, lot 1766 contained a 61L2 “sawtooth” adhesive on cover dated January 10, 1846. This cover also has a type B handstamp (which is presumably red) and a red “Paid” handstamp. Stimmell in his article asserted that the type B handstamp is known used from November 10, 1846 to January 14, 1849.⁷ Therefore the aforementioned cover would indicate a usage 10 months earlier than that previously reported for the handstamp B and a 9 month earlier usage for the 61L2 adhesive. It must be considered though, that the sender of the letter may have forgotten to change the date, as it was still early in the year (i.e. January 10). This could be a January 10, 1847 usage.

THE STAIT/ADAMS’ EXPRESS CONNECTION

Based on all of the above, one can conclude that from the beginning of the Eagle Post, Stait had a connection to Adams’ Express. His first adhesive shows the 80 Chestnut Street address, which also appeared on most of his handstamps and the “sawtooth” adhesive. It was previously assumed that the original name of Stait’s company was Eagle City Despatch. This was subsequently shortened to Eagle City Post no later than October 1, 1846 and finally to Eagle Post as early as March 1849.

It was also previously surmised that the Eagle City Despatch Post gave its address as 85 Chestnut Street to distinguish it from Adams’ Express. This assumption does not hold true though, as the city directory address for Adams Express was also 85 Chestnut Street (See figure 2)

Stait’s Despatch Post was in existence from late 1851 until 1859.⁸ This assumption is based on handstamp types and dates of usage. (See Stimmell’s listing in his Penny Post article). Personally, I believe that this is incorrect and that the names Eagle Post and Eagle City Post were used interchangeably. The “sawtooth” stamp with the inscription “Eagle City Post” is found after March 1849. Furthermore there are newspaper advertisements for the Eagle City Post dated 1850. These are signed at the

⁶See footnote 1

⁷See footnote 1

⁸See footnote 1

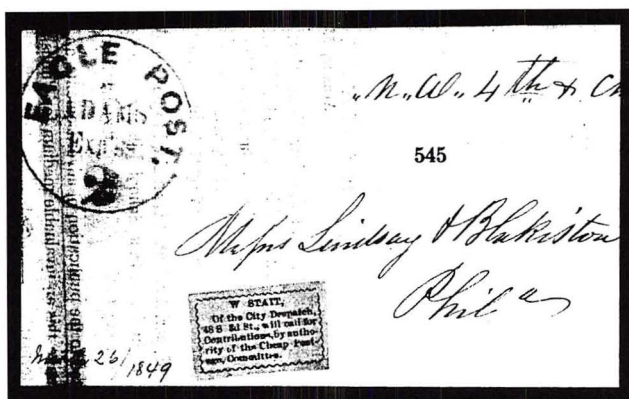


Figure 11, Type 4 Label on March 26, 1849 Cover

bottom “Stait & Co.”. Perhaps most conclusively though, is figure 11, which shows a W. Stait label on a March 26, 1849 cover. The label refers to the Eagle City Despatch at 48 S. 3rd Street. Stait would not refer to that company if it was defunct at that time.

The Stait Labels

Stait and his carriers delivered various forms of mail to local homes and businesses in Philadelphia. The letters originated either in Philadelphia or towns served by the Adams’ Express lines. Adams received his fee on the inter-city mail while Stait got his fee on the intra-city business.⁹ This was a perfect opportunity for Stait to advertise his business by using labels. The various Eagle City Post labels were probably used as advertising during the entire existence of the company. The eight types of labels (including 3 genuine and 5 forgeries) are described in full in Appendix A.

The Eagle City Post labels apparently were used before the W. Stait labels, as the former states “By the proprietor formerly of the American mail company”. This was probably an early introductory business inducement, based on Stait’s previous connection with the successful American Mail Company. Furthermore, the W. Stait labels give the 48 S. 3d St. address, which was one of the addresses for the post only after 1848.

Figure 12 is lot 378 from the February 5, 1983 Frajola sale. This is referred to as a Type 1 label. Figure 11 is lot 545 from the Middendorf sale. This is a Type 4 label on a cover dated March 26, 1849 with a type F handstamp.

Gordon Stimmell in his 1991 article stated that “Stait leaped on the telegraph band wagon in 1847 and by 1849 used a handstamp trumpeting “Eagle City Post & Mag. Telegraph Messengering Dep’t with a link to all the magnetic telegraph offices”.¹⁰ Figure 13 is an enclosure on “N.Y. and Washington Magnetic Telegraph Office” stationary dated Jan. 21, 1848 with a Stait & Co. label. Lot 384 in the Frajola sale of February 1983 shows the same enclosure with the same label on a note dated Dec. 1,

⁹See footnote 1

¹⁰See footnote 1

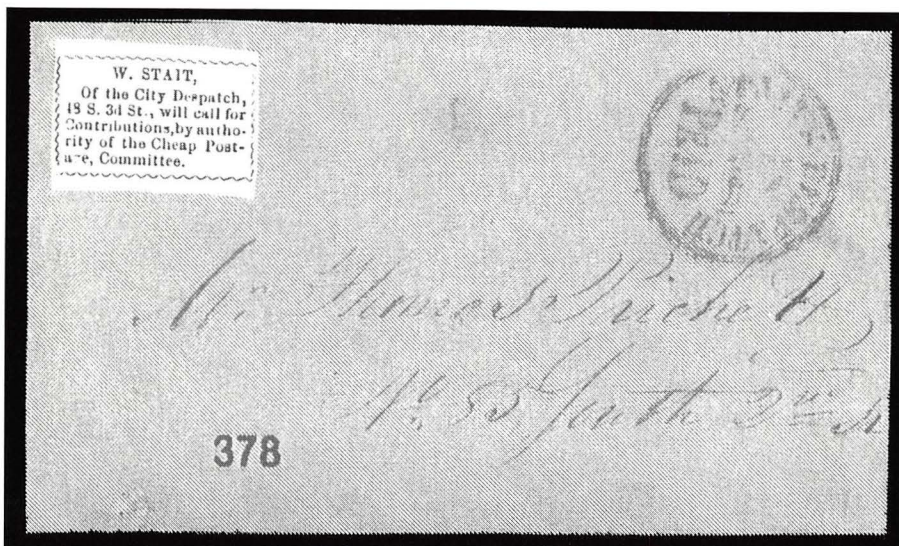


Figure 12, Type 1 Label on Cover

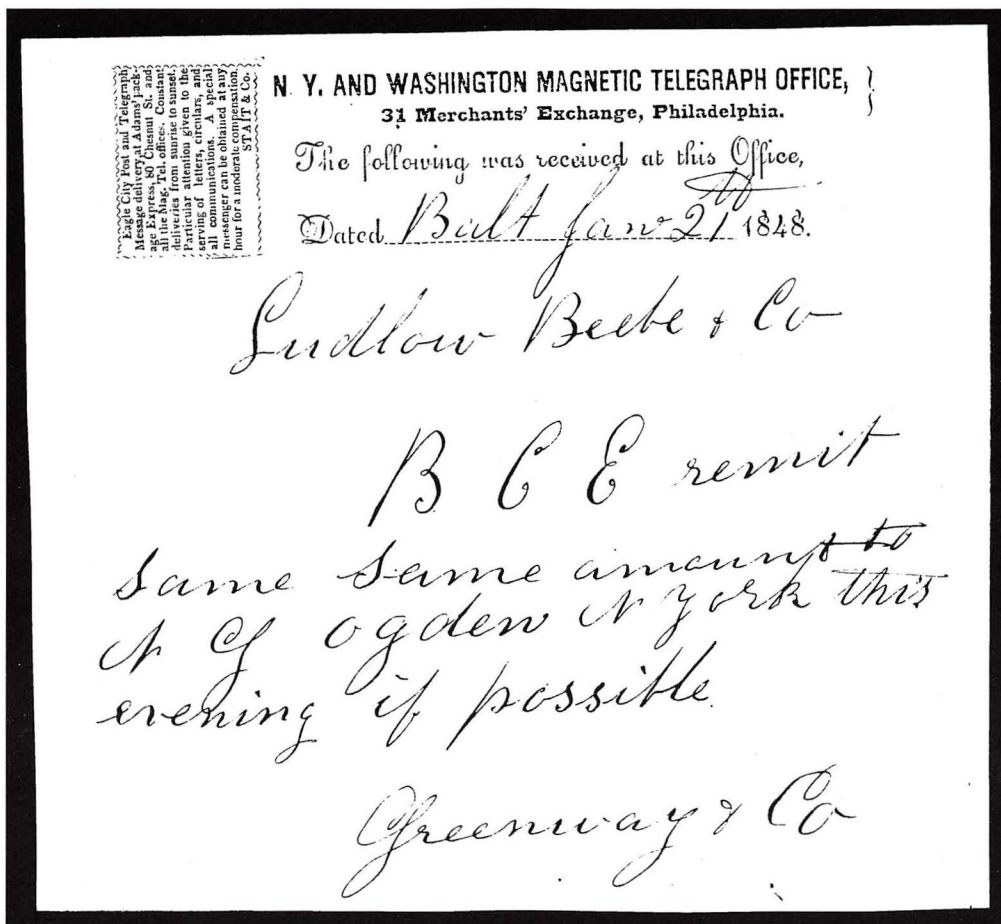


Figure 13, 1848 Magnetic Telegraph Office Stationery

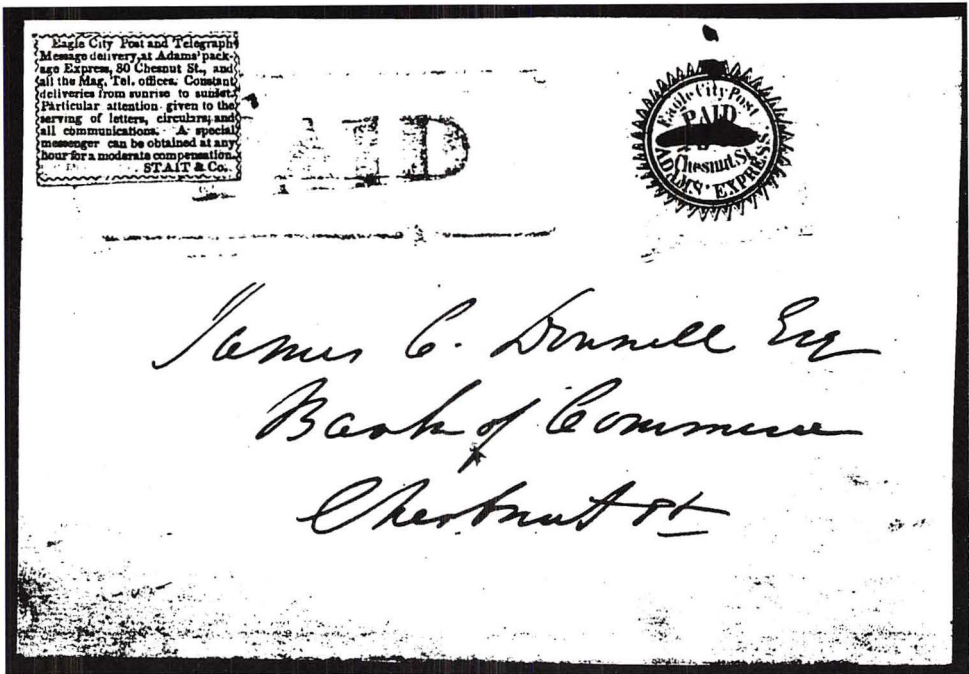


Figure 14, Cover from Boker Collection



Figure 15, Embossed Stationary

1847. Figure 14 is the same label on a cover with the “sawtooth” stamp, from the John Boker collection. It should be noted that the labels in figures 13 and 14 have Chestnut missing the middle “T”.

Figure 15 is embossed stationery of the magnetic telegraph office picturing the capital of Pennsylvania with a different Stait & Co. label attached. Figure 16 pictures lot 1037 from the Golden sale. This is an Eagle City Post label with a handstamped Atlantic & Ohio telegraph office imprint on a brown cover. This genuine label is not

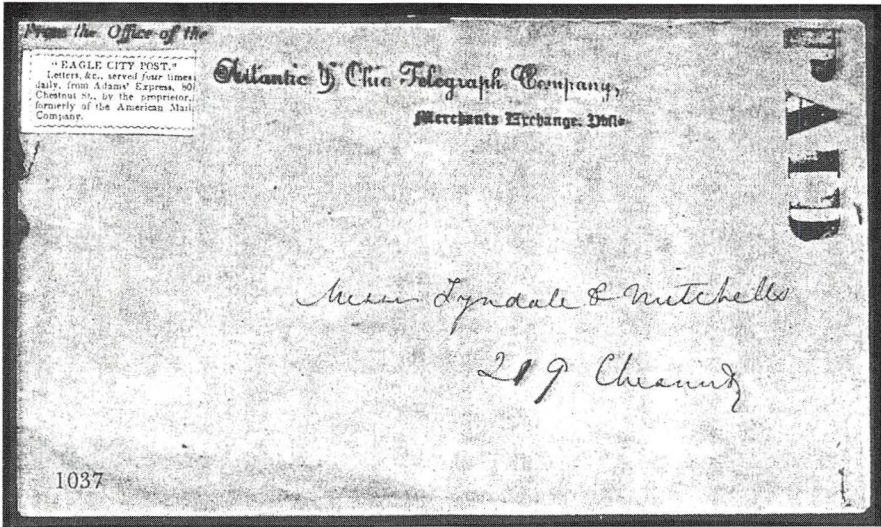


Figure 16, Label on Imprinted Cover

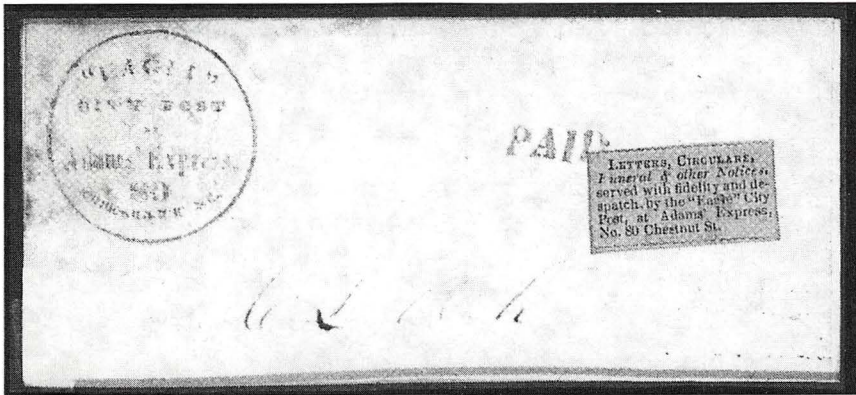


Figure 17

among the six pictured in the Lyons Identifier on page 436. Figure 17 is another type of Eagle City Post label on a cover with a type B handstamp, sold as lot 810 in the September 16, 1981 Robert Kaufmann sale.

One of Stait's Eagle City labels promised "Constant deliveries from sunrise to sunset" and in a pioneer hint of special delivery mail, "a special messenger can be obtained at any hour for a moderate compensation". (See Figure 13)

Figure 18 shows an Eagle City Post Label similar to Figure 17. The one in Figure 18 has the last line in italic. These labels read:

LETTERS, CIRCULARS
Funeral and other notices,
Served with fidelity and despatch by the
Eagle City Post at Adams' Express,
No 80 Chestnut St.

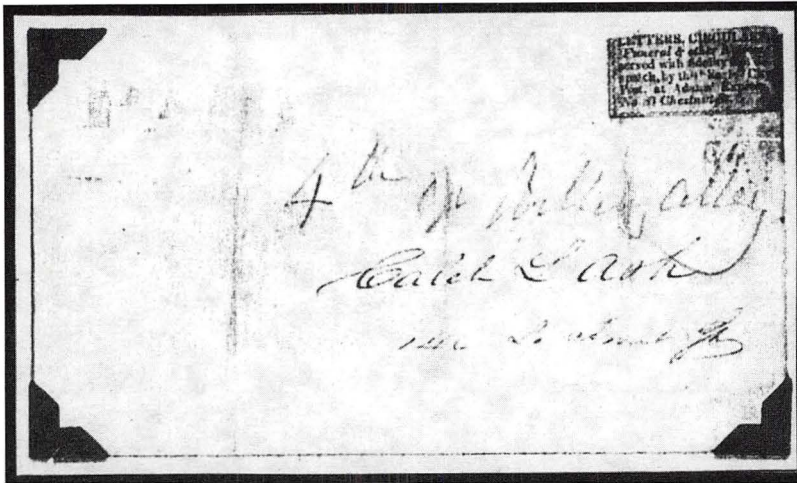


Figure 18. Nov. 5, 1847, Knapp Collection

W. STAIT, CHEAP POSTAGE COMMITTEE LABELS

Thanks to Don Reuter from “The 1871 Shop” in South Lyon, Michigan, I turn my attention to the W. Stait, Cheap Postage Committee labels. There are eight different types including five forgeries. The different types with their characteristics are as follows:

Type 1 (Original)

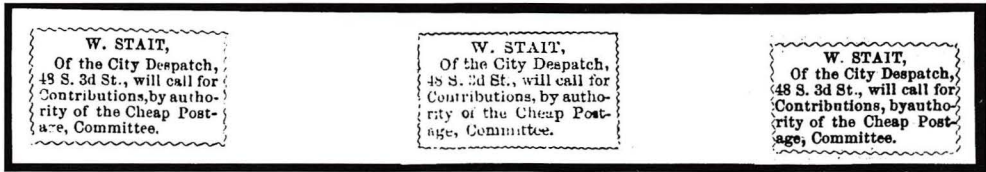
1. The border corners are different than all the other types.
2. The “C” in “Contributions” has a middle break.
3. There is a darkening in the top loop of the “s” in “Contributions”.
4. The color is black on bright yellow semi glazed paper.

Type 2 (Probably Hussey)

1. The “os” in “Post-” are touching.
2. There is a break in the right border at the bottom.
3. There can be one or two dots after “authority”.
4. The color is black on dark yellow fully lightly glazed paper.
5. There is a break in the top border over the “S” of “Stait”.

Type 3

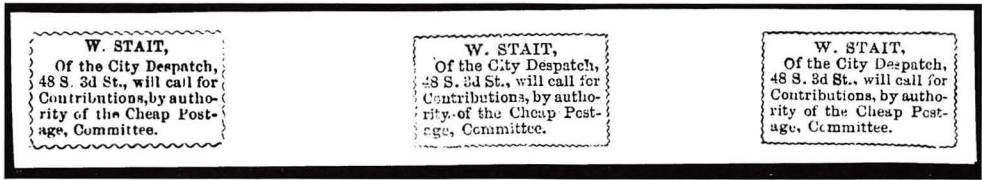
1. The left and right borders are very close to the letters.
2. There is no space between the “byautho-”.
3. The color is black on orange-yellow with a dull glazed surface.



Type 1

Type 2

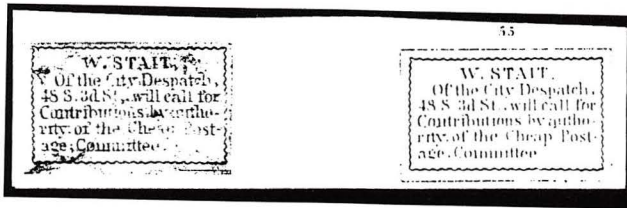
Type 3



Type 4

Type 5

Type 6



Type 7

Type 8

Type 4 (Original)

1. There is a break at the left and right of the top border.
2. The border and lettering is different from Type 1.
3. There is no break in the "C" in "Contributions" and there is no darkening in the top loop of the "S".
4. The color is black on bright yellow with a dull glazed surface.

Type 5 (Probably Hussey)

1. There is a period and a dot after "authority".
2. There is an ink mark before the "O" in "Of".
3. This is probably a second printing variety of Type 2.
4. The color is black on dark yellow fully lightly glazed paper and bright yellow fully glazed paper.
5. The "os" in "Post" are not touching.
6. There is a break in the top border over the "S" in "Stait".

Type 6 (Probably Hussey)

1. The border is very small waves.
2. There is a break in the “t” of “Post-”.
3. There is a break in the bottom border under the “t” in “Post-”.
4. The color is black on orange yellow glazed surface color paper and bright yellow fully glazed paper.
5. There is a break in the bottom border under the “s” of “Post”.

Type 7 (Moen)

1. The “s” in “Post-” is tall.
2. The “t” in “Post-” does not have a full turned-up foot.
3. There is a semi-colon after “Postage;”.
4. The color is brown on green paper colored through.

Type 8 (Moen 1864)

1. There is a period after “Contributions.”
2. There is no period after “Committee”.
3. There is an outer rectangular border.

Note: I have a strip of 4 of types 5 & 6 tete beche, with types 5 & 6 on bright yellow fully glazed paper.



Type 19



Type 20

BOGUS LABELS

Figure 19 is the familiar S. Allan Taylor creation, which is shown on pages 436 and 986 of the Lyons Identifier. Figure 20 is another bogus label submitted by Glen LaFontaine of Feeding Hills, Mass.

THE DAVID GOLDEN SALE

November 15-17, 1999

BY LARRY LYONS

Sales of important Carrier and Local stamps occur very infrequently. There have been only two great collections of this material dispersed in the last decade, those of Ambassador J. William Middendorf, II primarily sold as a net price sale by Richard Frajola in 1990, and that of David Golden sold by Robert A. Siegel, Inc. in 1999. It is highly recommended that one attend these special events. There are many benefits to being present on the floor and you get to meet a lot of new people and put faces to the names you already know. It can be very beneficial to view rare stamps and get a feel for the paper, gum, and usage. Some of the difficult colors can be compared to items you already may have and some items you may not have been able to previously identify can be compared for identification. This sale contained some new items, which will lead to new listings and new listing varieties. The Carrier and Local section of the *Scott Specialized* catalog will be entirely reprinted for 2001.

I had met David Golden at more than one previous sale and I had previously spoken to him on the telephone several times. We have been promising to get together for about two years now since we live close to each other. I introduced him to several people at the sale and I sat on his right for four of the sessions. I spoke with his wife who is a very wonderful person and I met his terrific adult children. David gave me insights on how he acquired some of the pieces and he was cheerful and witty throughout the different sale days. I am happy to say that I now have some items that are "ex-Golden".

Preparing for this sale was a task requiring inspiration. The catalog, which was beautifully prepared by Scott Trepel of the Siegel Auction Galleries Inc., contained 1620 lots and was presented in 572 pages with all the pictures in color. Histories and rarity information was presented throughout. An enormous amount of research was required and we are all thankful to Scott Trepel for doing a very admirable job on a controversial and esoteric subject which is still evolving and continually being researched. The Golden Sale will be talked about and pieces will be argued for many years to come. This journal will present these arguments and will of course allow replies and present third and fourth party opinions. Everyone is invited to participate. The intent is to stimulate interest, critique research and allow this section of philately to occupy its special place in the stamp collecting hobby.

As I previously stated, preparation for this sale was probably a challenge to everyone. Some were probably so overwhelmed by the amount of material and felt that prices would be so high that they limited their bids to a few items.

The competition to buy Carrier and Local material is a battle of special interest groups. Specialist competition came from those who collect the individual posts, such as Blood's or Boyd's, from collectors of groups of posts, such as those who collect the 1844 Independent Mails or Philadelphia local posts, collectors of

individual cities such as New York, St. Louis and Cincinnati, from thematic collectors, such as those who collect birds or trains, collectors of individual United States stamp issues, such as 1847 issue or 1851 issues, and finally, those collectors wishing to purchase outstanding rarities of the United States. Some of these specialties had hot competition and of course there is overlap which causes more competition. Many items sold for over the estimates and some sold for just below the estimates. This was a fully reserved sale and the entire room was willing to pass items, which had opening prices, which were considered too high. The sale realized about 3.7 million dollars and about \$300,000.00 of material was not sold. I saw weakness in the over \$50,000.00 category and some weakness in the \$20 - \$30,000 range. There was also a definite lack of interest in Baltimore Posts at the prices that they were offered. Predominately there was keen interest and great competitive demand which greatly curtailed dealer purchases.

After two of the sessions I met with a small groups of people and the conversations were intriguing, highly insightful and just plain enjoyable. This is one of the benefits of attending a sale that I like the most.

There are some new comers to the field of Carriers and Locals. I tried to answer as many questions as I could about expected price realizations, since the Scott catalog is mostly useless in this field. I tried to be as helpful as I could. In more than one instance stamps with catalog values of \$300.00-\$400.00 sold for several thousand dollars as expected. In preparation for the sale I developed a personal pricing theology which I applied to most of the stamps and covers. I'm pleased to say that I was within a close range of the prices realized for a high percentage of the lots. I will talk about this more in a separate future article.

When articles are written about the highlights of an auction sale the focus is usually on the rarest pieces and the highest priced realizations. I always felt that this interested only a very small number of collectors who could afford such items. I like to focus on the more affordable lots and those that attracted attention for reasons other than atmospheric prices. A short review of the Carrier section of the sale follows and I will review the Locals in the next issue.

In the Carrier section of the sale lot 18 (LO1) sold for \$5250.00 and lot 13 (LO1) sold for \$4000.00. Lot 13 had larger margins but lot 18 was a face-free red "New York" cancel, hence the higher realization. Both stamps had a thin or two. Lot 17 (LO1) on piece with a black New York circular date stamp brought \$7500.00. Items on piece or with clear interesting usage markings will usually prove to be more valuable than single unused stamps.

Lot 48 (LO6) was a multiple of 18. As singles they would catalog approximately \$3600.00. There was keen interest in multiples throughout the sale and this one being the largest recorded multiple and one of only two plate number blocks known brought \$12,000.000.

Pages 79, 80 and 81 of the catalog contained nine examples of the 1854 "City Post" issue without the Honour's name (4LB3). See figure 1. Trepel explains that "the frequency of initials on these stamps, in contrast with other issues, suggests that they were designed without a specific name and used by more than one carrier". There were two 4LB3 covers in the Mittendorf sale and both were presented again here. (Lot 249 space and 252) The first two lots sold brought \$4250.00, which exceeded the estimates and all of the lots were gobbled up at strong prices.



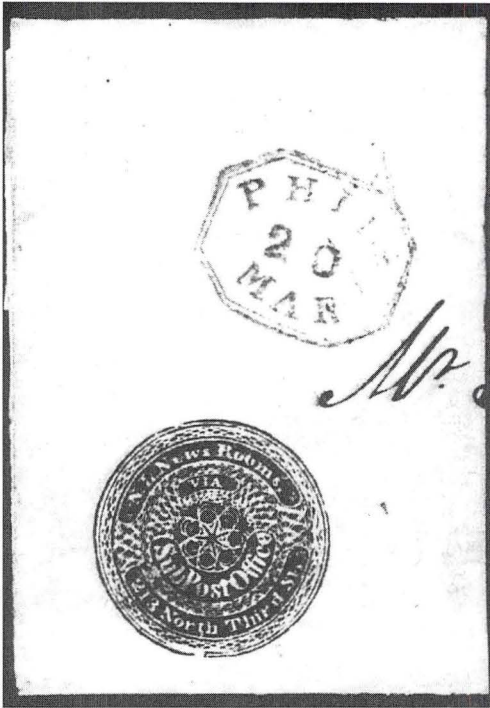
Figure 1, 1854 (Honour's) City Post, 4LB3, Golden Sale Lot 247 which sold for \$4,250.00, plus 10%.



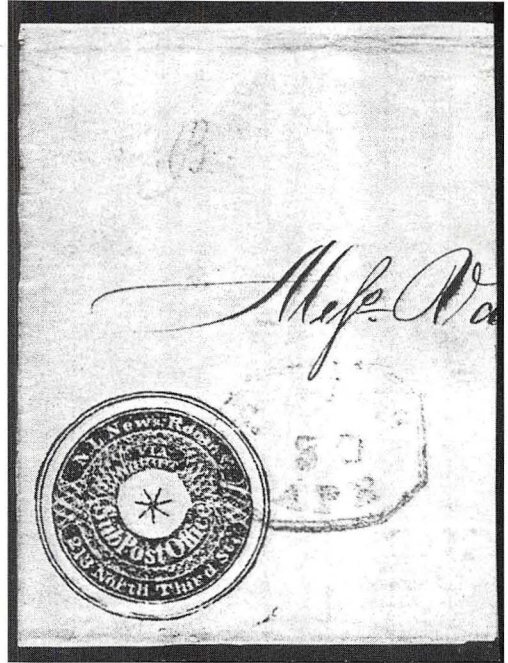
Figure 2, Brown & McGill's U.S.P.O. Despatch, 5LB3. Probably the finest known. Sold for \$4,500.00, plus 10%.

Lot 285 featured a blue Brown & McGill's U.S.P.O despatch (5LB2) tied on cover with a red #26 which was tied by a blue "Louisville Ky. May 25, 1859" circular datestamp which also caught the corner of the carrier stamp. This is a very appealing cover. Similar covers sold for \$4,500.00 in the Mittendorf sale. (This was not one of them). This cover was ex-Boker and Meyersburg. I believe that David Golden acquired this cover privately. The cover brought \$7000.00, a nice respectable price against an estimate of \$3000-\$4000 despite the fact that the 5LB2 was missing a piece at the top left. The black Brown & McGill's stamp is by far the rarer of the two. There are 13 recorded copies. Lot 286 was a large margined copy, which is probably the finest unused example. See figure 2. It brought \$4500.00. Lot 287 was a used example, which is stained and has a thin. It brought \$950.00. For comparison the Mittendorf Lot 180 was \$2500.00 for an unused example. Presently, the catalog reads \$700.00 for a mint stamp and \$1750.00 for a used copy. Both prices are in italic. Lot 288 was a black 5LB3 on piece with a #26. This brought \$13,500.00 and will be a separate Scott catalog listing. The sale of this piece in 1973 for \$1,750.00 was the basis for the Scott used stamp value. The stamp on piece went up nearly 8x in sale price in 26 years.

The Northern Liberties News Rooms Sub Post Office from Philadelphia is unlisted in the Scott Catalog, but both types are depicted under Local Handstamped



Type I



Type II

Figure 3, Northern Liberties News Room, established a Sub-Post Office in 1835. A Philadelphia Carrier.

Covers on page 341 of the 2000 Scott specialized catalog. There are many, including this writer who believe that the Northern Liberties should be listed in the Carrier section of the catalog. Siegel's presented the Northern Liberties as the first item in the Philadelphia section of the Carriers book. This was a subtle statement. About 15 of the type I are known and about four of the type II. See figure 3. The three type II copies sold in the Golden Sale were all ex. Mittendorf being lots 7,8 and 9 in that sale. The list prices for lots 7,8, and 9 in the 1990 Mittendorf sale were \$7500.00, \$8,000.00 and 10,000.00. At the Golden Sale lots 342, 343 and 344 respectively brought \$5500.00, \$6000.00 and \$4000.00. David Golden may have negotiated a better price than the listed prices when he made his purchases. The prices realized would have been a lot higher if the items were Scott listed. Lot 340, which is the type I brought \$10,000.00. The estimate was \$10,000-\$15,000.00 and most of the known copies that have made it to market in the last few years have sold in the estimate range.

The U.S.P.O. Philadelphia, 1c black on rose "S" (7LB2) is extremely rare with only 4-5 believed to exist on or off cover. The single stamp (lot 347) brought \$2600.00 and lot 348 with the 7LB2 untied on cover brought \$4000.00. These were low realizations for the rarity involved. There is also the possibility that the stamp did not originate on the cover.

Lot 386 featured a U.S.P.O. Philadelphia, 1c black "sausage stamp" (7LB13) cancelled with a red star on a buff cover used with a 3¢ brownish carmine #11. This is a very rare combination. The cover is visible creased at the upper right under the stamp with no crease on the stamp. The stamp has a small dirty area at the bottom right, which should appear on the cover. I saw this as a genuine stamp with a genuine red star cancel on a cover to which it did not originate. This was my opinion despite the recently issued PF certificate. The item failed to attract a bid, despite the catalog description which indicates that only three covers are known in combination with the 1851 issue and the black (7LB13).

Lot 390 featured a U.S.P.O. Philadelphia, 1¢ blue on buff (7LB14) single stamp. It sold for \$2400.00. This is a rare carrier stamp with fewer than a dozen known. This stamp is a case of competing virtues. It has primitive qualities that attract some, but is ugly to others. Of course it is "Philadelphia" and this is its strongest virtue. Lot 3899 with the same (7LB14) stamp on cover received a PF certificate indicating that the stamp is genuine on a cover to which it does not belong.

Lot 297 featured a 6LB3, U.S. City Despatch Post from New York, with the U.S. orange-red framed cancel and a matching U.S. City Despatch Post double line circular datestamp. The usage date is September 1st 1842 and this cover was described as "The earliest recorded use of the first stamp issued under the Post office's authority." This cover is discussed in Cal Hahn's, "The Beginnings of Adhesive Postage in the U.S., Part V" which is presented in the next issue of *The Penny Post*.

The U.S. Penny Post from St. Louis, 8LB1, comes in two types. The Scott catalog pictures both types but does not give them separate catalog listings. I will try to rectify this in the 2001 specialized catalog. Lots 421 and 422 are type I and lots 423 and 424 are type II. According to Scott Trepel's research there are 4 known of type I and 9 of type II. To see four stamps at one time is incredible. Judging by rarity alone the type I should be twice the price of the type II. The prices realized did not reflect this and the "St. Louis" factor took precedence. It is noted that the prices realized were in keeping with those of recent sales but far below the Mittendorf estimates.

In conclusion, you are to remember that Carrier and Local stamps draw interest from collectors with other fields of interest. The "Warton's" and "Brown & McGills" depict eagles for example. Some topical collectors have interests in trains or boats. Many local collectors specialize in certain cities or states. There is competition from a variety of directions and this makes for a more wholesome hobby. The special interest groups definitely drive this area of philately.

To those who were able to win a lot or two you are congratulated and you will always remember it as coming from "The David Golden" collection. It is always extremely rare for a collector to be unhappy with a purchase. The opposite is usually true. We always regret the ones we didn't buy.

The David Golden collection was astounding in its depth and breadth. Many of the lots will appear in different exhibits that collectors are planning. I know of at least four different subjects being prepared for future display.

The field of Carriers and Locals has benefited greatly from this great collection. I extend my personal thanks and well wishes to David Golden for bringing his collection to market and allowing it to be shared by us all.

A CRITICAL LOOK AT THE UNION POST LOCAL

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For over thirty years I have puzzled over the Union Post local of New York and some of the inconsistencies in the data reported. It is time to critically look at what is known. The post used both handstamps (on mail coming into New York City) and adhesives (on mail going out of town). At one point or another, credence has been given to two to three reported handstamp varieties reported and some six adhesive varieties. No covers were known to the early students.

First Report

Apparently the earliest record of this post was made by Charles Mekeel in the May 10, 1888 issue of the *American Philatelist* new issues column by W.C. Stone. There a blue on blue adhesive was reported inscribed UNION/POST/H.R.S. The last letter has been in dispute over the years. The late John A. Fox who handled a number of the covers called it an 'I'; it might also be read as a 'G'. This identification problem has hindered determination of the post's owner. (*Editor's Note: I asked my wife, who is a calligrapher, what the letters could be and she said, emphatically, that they can only be H.R.S.*)

The listing was reported the following year on page 55 of J. Walter Scott's 49th edition of his stamp catalog listing in the *American Journal of Philately* and on page 290 of the same Journal reporting an Addenda. J.B. Moens added the listing to his 1892 catalog. Further listings were incorporated by Henry Needham in his ill-famed 'Concise History' serialized first in the *Philatelic Gazette* beginning in 1915 and continued in the *American Philatelist*. The reference is to page 130 of the January 1921 issue of the latter publication. Here Needham gave additional information and misinformation, mixing up dates and other relevant data.

The Handstamps

Rather than report the listings of adhesives as they appeared it is more useful to record the handstamps. There is generally less problem of faking, for handstamps have generally been underappreciated by collectors and dealers so there has been less historic incentive to alter them.

The handstamped covers are dated circa 1846, specifically between May through September of that year. (See Figure 1) This fits in with the steamboat season on the Hudson, which was open for travel from March 15th through to December 15th. The source towns of in-bound covers tend to be from the Hudson River towns. This also suggests that the local was located near the Hudson River towns and near the Hudson River wharves.

While none of the covers have steamboat directionals or vessel names, they seem to come from mid-Hudson towns. In John H. Morrison's *History of American Steam Navigation* (published 1903) one finds on page 148 the following:

"...It was always one of the objects of the competing lines before 1850, in their trips down the river, to endeavor to arrive in advance at either Hudson or Catskill, and thus secure the passengers waiting to go down the river."

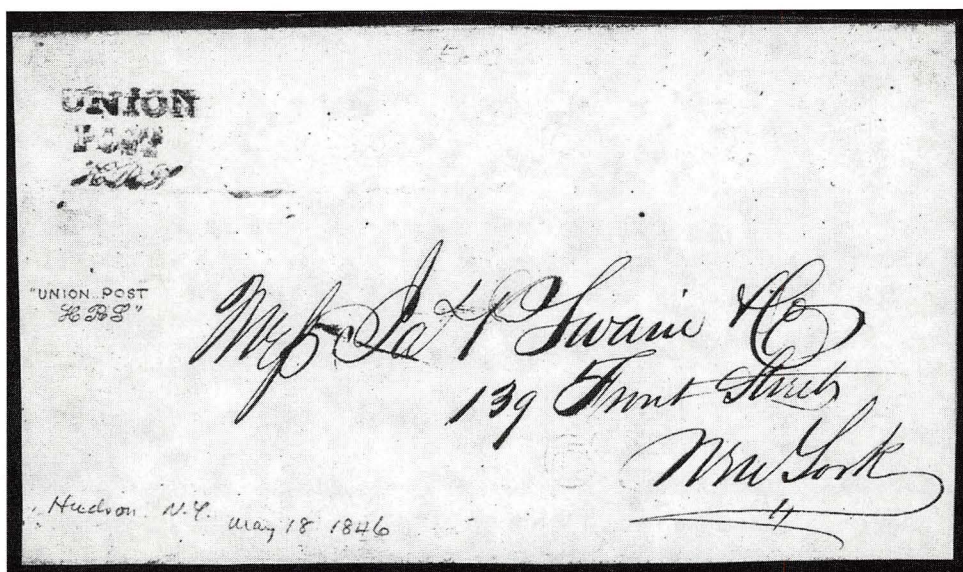


Figure 1, Union Post from Hudson, N.Y. to N.Y.C., May 18, 1846 (Lyons' Collection)

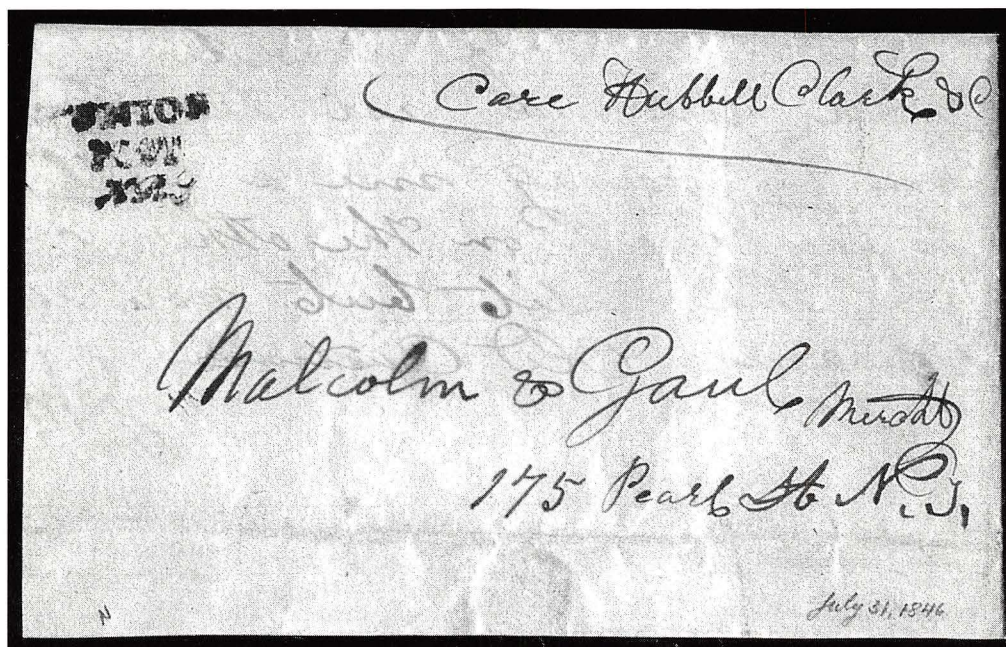


Figure 2, Union Post from Hudson N.Y. to N.Y.C. July 31, 1846, A Dry Printing

In July, 1846 a small vessel, the *Wave* out of New York attempted to get into the evening departure trade by reducing passage to 25c. The dominant lines met the new competition by offering free passage during July and August. This competitive fact may explain the origins of many Union Post incoming covers.

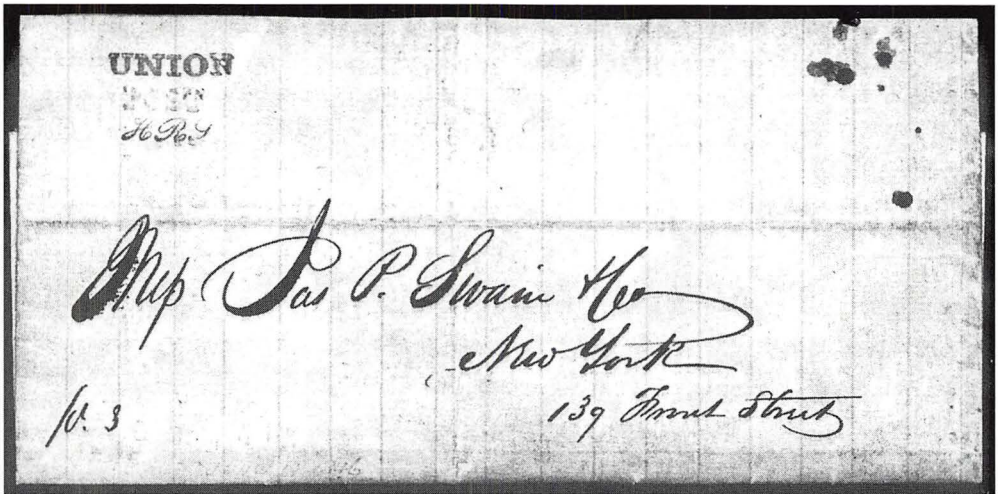


Figure 3, Union Post from Hudson to N.Y.C., June 19, 1846, Ex-Boker

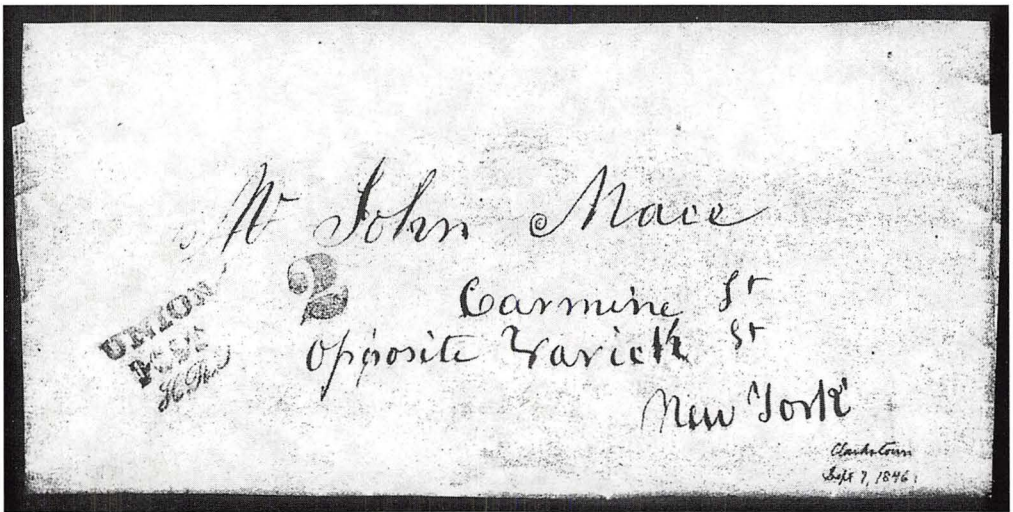


Figure 4, Union Post from Clarkstown, N.Y. to N.Y.C. September 7, 1846

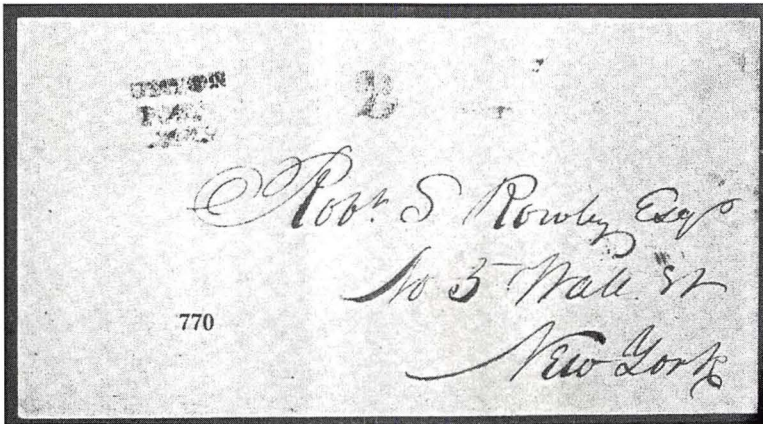


Figure 5, Union Post with Free Floating "2" Ex-Middendorf

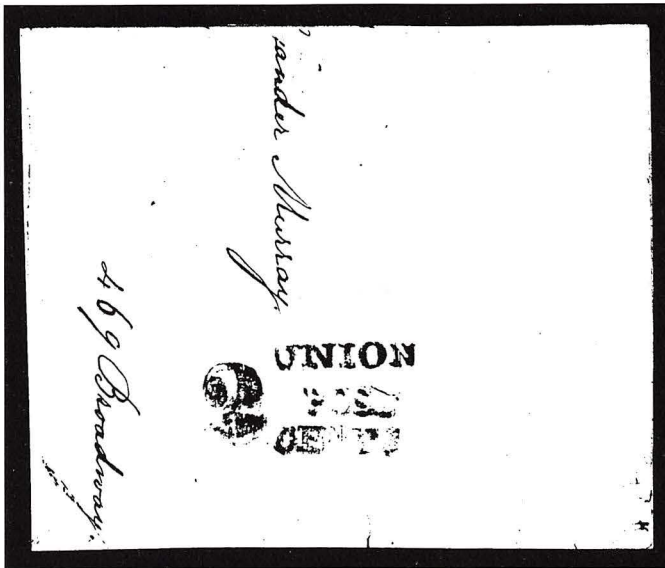


Figure 6 to N.Y.C. "Floating 2" (Lyons' Collection, Ex-Schwartz)

In addition to the Albany lines, there were specific lines and vessels running to the lower Hudson ports. During the mid-1840s these included the *Utica* and *Washington* running to Catskill, the *Emerald* and *Eureka* to Poughkeepsie and the *Highlander* and *Thomas Powell* to Newburg. The *R. L. Stevens* ran to Saugerties and the *Arrow* to Nyack stopping at Piermont in 1846. The *Fairfield* serviced Hudson.

To date my records show seven incoming letters with the handstamped marking of the Union Post. None have periods after the initials as described in the early listing records and in the Patton handbook. The periods are an optical illusion created by the starting 'ball' at the beginning of the succeeding letters. The stampless covers are:

- 1) Datelined Hudson, N.Y. May 18, 1846 with a medium blue handstamp. The cover is addressed to Messrs. Jas. & P. Swain & Co., 139 Front street. It is signed by Sloane and was sold as lot 1236 in the Robson Lowe Patton sale of 3/15/1972 after which it went into the David Golden holding. (See figure 1).
- 2) Datelined Hudson, N.Y. June 19, 1846 this letter is struck with a light blue handstamp and bears a manuscript 'pd 3c'. It was lot 1005 in the Caspary sale of 3/21/1957 and lot 489 in the John A. Fox sale of 7/30/1959. It then passed into the John Boker collection and into the David Golden holding. (See Figure 3) First listed by Scott in 1889.
- 3) Datelined Hudson, N.Y. July 31, 1846, this letter is from John Gaul, a dry goods merchant. It bears a dry print dark blue handstamp and is addressed to Malcolm & Gaul, c/o Hubbell Clark & Co., 175 Pearl Street. It sold as lot 490 in the John Fox sale of 7/30/59 and then entered the David Golden holding. (See figure 2)

- 4) Dated Clarkstown, N.Y. (now New City in Rockland County) September 7, 1846 this may be the basis of the 1890s listing of Nyack as source of the post. The cover has a blue handstamp with both initials and a free floating '2' rate. Addressed to John Mace, Carmine Street opposite Varick, New York. This cover was lot 1006 in the Caspary sale, then lot 488 in the John Fox sale of 7/30/1959 and lot 966 in the Harmer sale of January 20, 1961. (See figure 4).
- 5) Undated brown envelope with a blue handstamp and free-floating '2' rate, this is addressed to Robt. S. Rowley, 5 Wall Street, New York. Lot 770 in the Frajola Middendorf sale. (See figure 5).
- 6) Undated cover piece with blue handstamp and a free-floating '2' at left. The bottom line reads 'CENTS', possibly representing doctored initials. The 'T' of "POST" is also odd. This piece is addressed to Alexander Murray, 469 Broadway. It sold as lot 769 in the Frajola Middendorf sale. (See figure 6).
- 7) Undated handstamp in blue with initials on a cover with a '12' rating. No other data. This was lot 67 in the H. Herst sale of 6/27/1958.

Summarizing the stampless data, we have 6-7 examples with three bearing a floating '2' rate and one with a 'paid 3c'. The date range is May into September, 1846 with the later covers having the '2' rate. Two of the first four are ex-Ferrari. (See Figures 2 and 4).

Adhesives

The earliest reported item is the blue on blue adhesive recorded by Mekeel in 1888, was reported to bear initials. This adhesive on a cover was postmarked U.S. EXPRESS MAIL/N. YORK/MAY/19/N.Y. and is addressed to Messrs F. & H. (addressee not in my records) at Newbury, Vt. Most of the cover is illustrated on page 244 of Donald Patton's *Private Local Posts of the United States, Vol. 1*. The adhesive was listed in 1889 in the 49th editions of Scott's catalog and the date was given in the *Addenda*, where it was joined by a second adhesive listing for a red on blue adhesive found on a cover dated September 5, 1846.

The first blue on blue adhesive was listed in the Moens catalog in 1892. It was in the Henry Needham holding and was privately offered in 1936 by Y. Souren. It was delisted from the *Scott Specialized* in 1972. One problem was that the express mail handstamp, representing service northward from New York, differs from other examples known on that route in 1846.

In his 'Concise History' published serially originally in the *Philatelic Gazette* and continued in the *American Philatelist*, Henry Needham reports on the Union Post on page 130 of the latter's January 1921 issue. He indicates a second blue on blue adhesive on cover from Nyack, N.Y. September 5, 1846 addressed to the North River Insurance Co., Greenwich Street, New York. (Note this date matches the Scott red on blue listing.) Needham further confuses matters by listing the May 19, 1846 U.S. Express Mail item, not as blue on blue paper, but rather as red on blue paper and he also included the May 18, 1846 stampless item as a blue on buff adhesive, saying he had examined all three. He adds to these a red on red adhesive and a blue on green. These listings pervaded the *Scott Specialized* for many years, as he was considered the outstanding authority.

The blue on green glazed paper was added by the Scott catalog to its listings in its 1882-3 edition. This item has the word UNION misspelled UNOIN. This is a Valentine cover postmarked NEW YORK/18/FEB/10 cts. (straightline) and is addressed to Mr. Walter S. Cheaney, Prattsburgh, N.Y. I record this New York circular date stamp from April 22, 1847, to April 1851. This raises the question of whether the untied adhesive originated on the cover. (See figure 7).

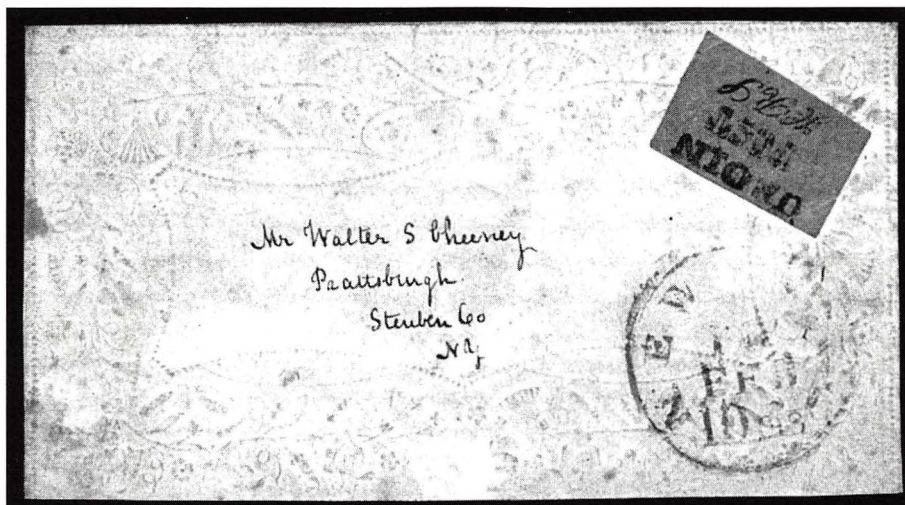


Figure 7 Misspelled Union Adhesive, Blue on Green (Ex-Boker) 140L3(a)



Figure 8, Union Post Normally Spelled, Blue on Green 140L3

This unique item went into the Ferrari collection and was lot 1003 in the Caspary Harmer sale of March 21, 1957 where it sold to Lilly and was subsequently resold as lot 896 in the R.A. Siegel Lilly sale of September 14, 1967. It subsequently became part of the John Boker holding. It is currently listed as 140L3 in the *Scott Specialized*.

A damaged normally spelled version of 140L3 is recorded on a cover from New York postmarked NEW YORK/AUG/22/5 Cts. addressed to Martin Griffing, Danbury, Ct. that is datelined 1847. (See figure 8). The Philatelic Foundation examined it on April 8, 1974 and issued a 'decline' opinion certificate on the cover. The existence combined with the Ferrari 'error' blue on green, suggests that either the post operated more than a year longer than other evidence indicates or that both of the adhesives may be concoctions made up like the well-known Ferrarities.

I have not been able to further trace the original red on blue adhesive reported in 1889 as being dated September 5, 1846, which is a plausible date. Needham's confusing report suggests it was in fact a now delisted blue on blue. However, there is a red on blue adhesive that falls into the correct time frame. This is postmarked NEW YORK/9/JUN/5cts., with an untied adhesive, on cover to Peter C. Lefever at Kingston, N.Y. This cover was lot 1004 in the Caspary sale and then lot 897 in the Lilly holding. It subsequently was in the John Boker collection. (See figure 9). The dateline is New York City. In addition to recording this cover, the *Scott Specialized Catalog* seems to indicate that an off-cover example also exists.



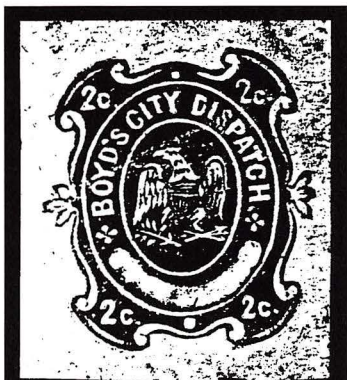
Figure 9, Union Post, Red on Blue, 140L4 (Ex-Boker)

In summary, on the adhesives, we have a red on blue known from one or two covers in the appropriate period and a certified blue on green error and non-error variety both of which fall well outside the time frame otherwise known for operation of the post. There are also several delisted examples of a blue on blue adhesive.

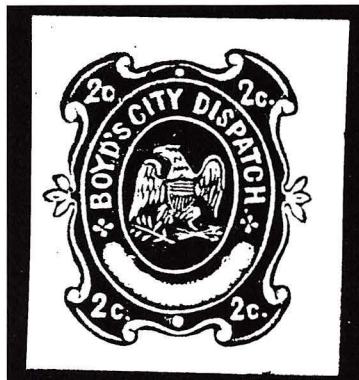
BOYDS CITY DISPATCH ENTIRES

1874 AND 1875

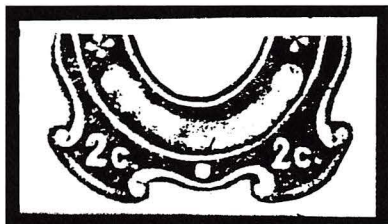
BY
LARRY LYONS



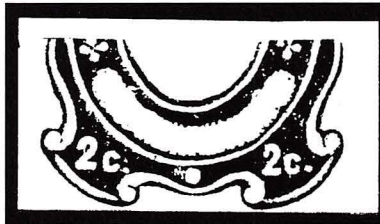
1874
First State of Die
Traces of Old Address



1875
Second State of Die
No Trace of Address



Enlarged Address Label
Showing Traces of Address



Enlarged Address Label
Showing No Traces
of Address

By 1867 Boyd's City Express had become Boyd's City Dispatch. The address in the bottom label of the stationary was 39 Fulton Street. In 1874 Boyd's was moved to 1 Park Place. A new Die was not created until 1876. For two years, (1874 and 1875), the old Die was used with the address eradicated from the bottom label creating a blank sausage area. The 1874 usage shows traces of the old address. This was the first state of the Die. This was further scrubbed for the 1875 usages creating a second state of the Die. In order to distinguish 20LU22-25 (first state of Die) from 20LU26-28 (second state of Die) one must first determine the state of the Die and then the paper type. Magnification is recommended. The next page shows a 20LU45 from 1874, which is a first state of the die showing traces of the removed address.

BOYD'S BANKING AND INSURANCE SPECIAL DISPATCH, No. 1 PARK PLACE.

JAMES BUELL, *President.* E. H. PERKINS, JR., *Cashier.* EDW. TOWNSEND, *Assist. Cashier.*

The Importers' & Traders' National Bank of New York,



New York, 3/9 1874

You are credited as proceeds for collection of items as stated below. Distant items may not be paid at date of this communication (we credit after waiting, as we suppose, a sufficient time to receive notice of non payment) and may be returned unpaid, in which case they will be debited to your account.

Yours respectfully, E. H. PERKINS, Jr., *Cashier.*

NOTE OR BILL.	AMOUNT.	EXPENSES.	PROCEEDS.
✓ 920 <i>Clarke</i>	27 48	10	27 38

Please send Pass Book, and withdraw unpaid collections.

To *J. H. Perkins*

20LU45, First State of the Die With Visible Traces of the Removed Old Address

UNDERSTANDING BOYD'S TREFOILS

BY LARRY LYONS

TREFOIL – “A clover with three leaflets. A decorative design with three leaf-like parts”.

There are two sets of the 39 Fulton St. envelope corners. The first set (20LU 12-16) is typographed on laid paper. The second set (20 LU 17-21) is typographed on wove paper. Within each set there are two states of the die. The first state of the die is Type A, which is shown in figure 1. The second state of the die is Type B, which is shown in figure 2. The two states are distinguished by the shape of the Trefoils and the thickness of the lettering. Sometimes magnification is necessary to see the Trefoils clearly. Do not be misled by the Scott catalog pictures. Only some varieties have heavy filling of the right middle leaf with a rounded end as depicted in the catalog.



Figure 1
Type A
20LU12-16

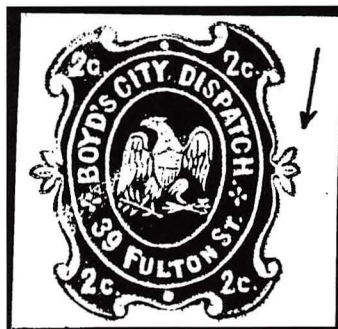


Figure 2
Type B
20LU17-21

According to the American Journal of Philately on page 347 of the October 1888 issue, the Type A was in use in 1869 and the Type B in 1872. These dates are not correct. The 20LU13 and 20LU14 only come Type B and these covers are found dated from March to December 1867. The 20LU20 only comes Type B and is known used in February 1867. I believe that the Type A was first used in early 1866, and the type B in 1867.

The American Journal of Philately goes on to say that the “address erased but with traces still showing” was issued in 1874. This concurs with the Scott Specialized Catalog and the previous article. The American Journal of Philately goes on to say that the type with the “address erased, but no traces of the address left” was issued in 1874. This is incorrect according to the Scott Specialized catalog which gives this type’s usage as 1875.

In the Philatelic Journal of America on page 148 of the April 1889 issue we find the following additional information:

“In 1876 the philatelic world hailed a new Boyd, as Mr. Blackham (Boyd’s successor) made a pleasing change in the many variations of a long-used design. A new word engraving was prepared of the annexed design.”

The picture from the Philatelic Journal of America is show as Figure 3. This is not part of the Scott Specialized catalog and perhaps it did not see usage. It is, however, the same design as the 1877 Type L68 shown in Figure 4, which is the 20L29 with the address changed to No. 1 Park Pl.



Figure 3



Figure 4

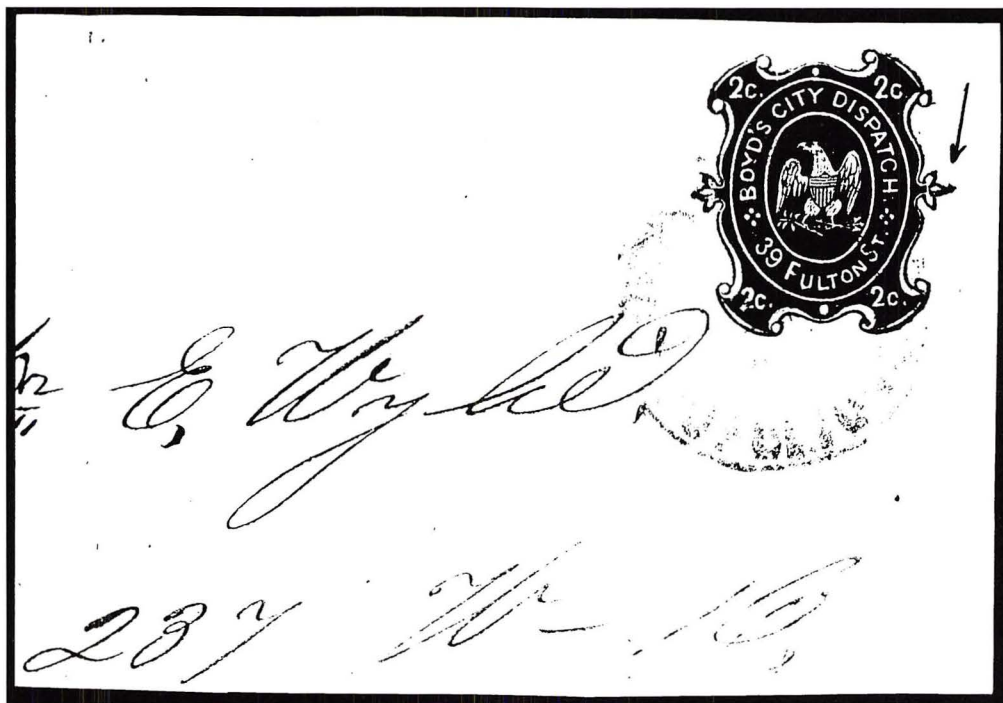
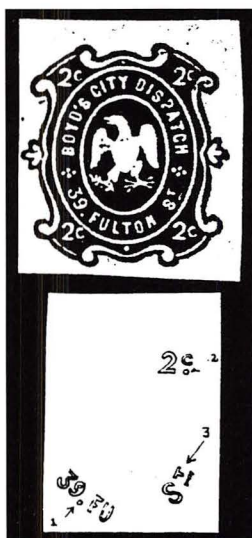


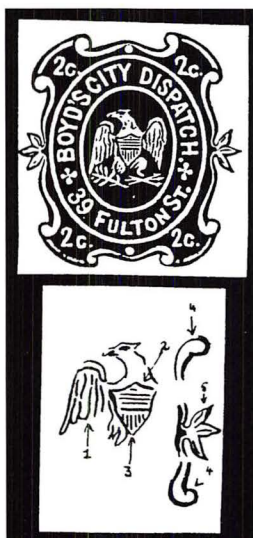
Figure 5, 20LU12, Type A, Not The Original Die.

The item pictured in Figure 5 is a genuine usage cover, which is not any of the previous types. It easily can be called a Type A, but it is clearly a new die.

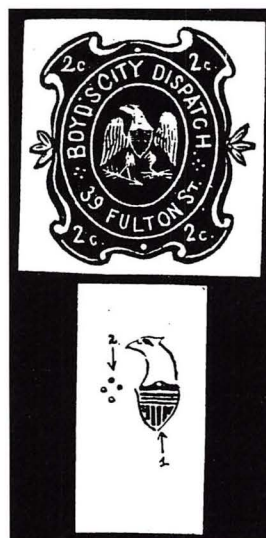
The three forgery types are shown below for the sake of completeness.



Forgery A



Forgery B



Forgery C

An Exhibition Collection Sale

William McCarren

Michael D. Rubin

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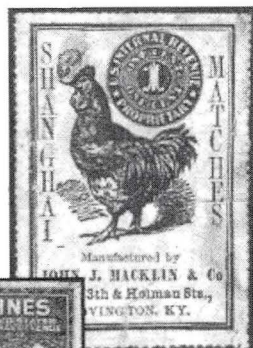
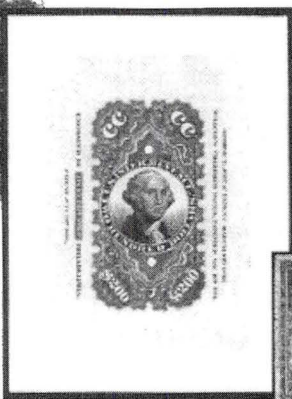
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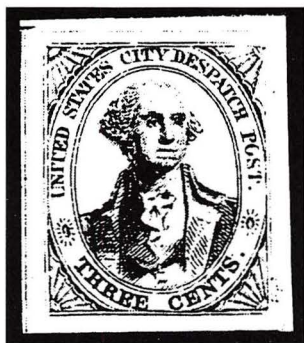
THE BEGINNING OF ADHESIVE POSTAGE IN THE U.S.

By Calvet M. Hahn

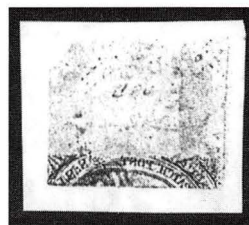
Part I Penny Post 5/4:6-27.

Part II Penny Post 6/1:8-24.

Part III Penny Post 6/3:2-20.



6LB2-5 POS 12L



Position 7L

Editors Note:

Part I starts with the rise of the **North Atlantic Steam Transports** and tells of the **First New York Local**, (Dec. 20, 1839) The New York Penny Post Association. Also in Part I is a discussion of the **Founders of the First U.S. Adhesive Local**, a story of Alexander M. Greig and Henry Thomas Windsor. There is a section on the **Early Greig Operation** and info about the **Plate and Die**, the **Essay and Reprint Die** and **Cancellations**. The story continues with **The Philadelphia Despatch Post** and the Shift to **Blood's Despatch**. Part I concludes with discussions of lithography and **The Striding Messenger**.

Part II starts with **The Political Situation** during the adhesive introduction era. There is information on **Harnden's Early Handstamps** and **The U.S. Express Mail under Harnden**. There is an historical explanation of the **Origin** of the **U.S. City Despatch Post** and a discussion of **The Surcharge Provisional** (6LB3 & 6LB5).

Part III deals with **The United States City Despatch Post**. One can find here the extensive **Perry Plating**, the **Position Dots** and the **Double Transfers**.

The following is an addenda to Part III, Parts IV and V by Cal Hahn immediately follow.

Larry Lyons, Editor

THE BEGINNINGS OF ADHESIVE POSTAGE IN THE U.S.

CORRECTIONS – PART III

In the editing of the plating portion of the 'Beginnings of Adhesive Postage' certain problems developed that I was not given the opportunity to correct. In the Simplified Plating section a paragraph was dropped out,

"There are six positions where a laydown line can be seen in the 'E' of 'THREE' (positions 14, 16, 18 and 24R and 19 and 21L). A dot is found between the 'C' and 'E' of 'CENTS' on position 7, 17, and 22R, while the word 'STATES' needs examination to check for laydown lines through the 'E' (positions 14 and 16R and 25L) and the 'S' (19L)."

There are repeated references to the May 1995 Siegel sale. There were two sales on May 4-5 with the U.S. City Despatch material being in that of the 4th. Under position 3R, lot 631 is 6LB5d; however, it is not 3R but 4R.

Position 6R can also be found on a cover of September 23 to John Leveridge which has a PF certificate. In position 7R additional plating information was omitted. In this position a short vertical line in the background above the second 'E' of 'THREE' can be seen. There is also a laydown scratch over the 'ES' of 'DESPATCH' running into the background to the right of the head. A typographic error in position 16R has the bottom dividing line ending with a 'knot' not a 'knob' as it should. On 8R traces of a vertical laydown line can be seen opposite the final 'E' of 'THREE'.

The position 25R Sharp cover is historically important as a key example of the dark green printing so that its provenance should also note it was lot 272 in the Harmer Moody III sale of November 27, 1950 before being cleaned and that it was also part of the Boker holding in more recent times. Another 25R cover of date significance is the January 10, 1843 example addressed to 'one of the ladies of the French opera' that is ex-Knapp, and later lot 169 in the Norvin Green sale of January 19, 1956 at Mozian.

In the left side plating, the 6L Caspary/Middendorf cover can also be found in the Col. Green sales and the Seybold dispersal. Position 7L has the only known offset on the back of one of the adhesives. (See the picture on the previous page). The citation of lot 632 in the May Siegel sale as position 10L is wrong; it was correctly described under 15R in the text. Pg. 11 on 15L, the John Dodd cover is not found in the Caspary sale as a check of the PF photographic record of these covers revealed. The ex-Caspary/Kapiloff position 24-25L was vandalized sometime after the Caspary sale by cutting off the bottom line plating characteristics to improve its appearance.

Readers will note the poor quality of reproduction of 17R and 19R as well as the omission of 4L, 5L and 21L. As a non-collector of local adhesives, I could only use poor photocopies of the first two. If any readers have examples of these five positions in closeup photographic form it would be appreciated if they would supply the illustrations to the 'Beginnings' series.

Calvet Hahn

Part IV

THE FIRST NEW YORK LOCAL

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At the same time that England was being agitated by postal reform, a similar movement was taking place in New York. On December 20, 1839, the New York Penny Post Association, located at 62 Canal Street, announced the inauguration of a service of distributing letters and small packages throughout New York City in the *New York Journal of Commerce*, figure 1.

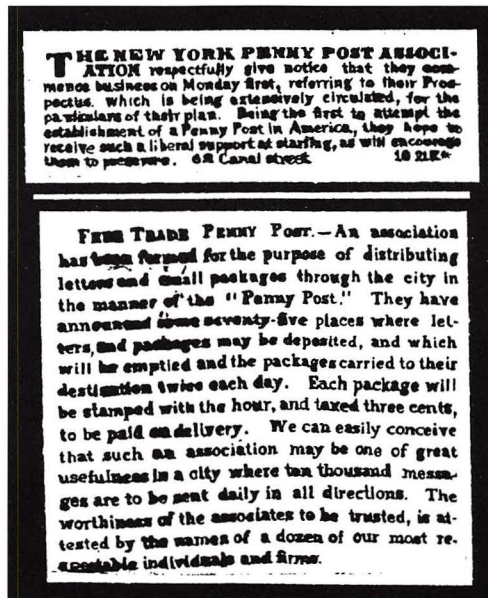


Figure 1

On page 152 of his *Spreading the News*, Richard Johns states erroneously that this organization began in 1838 citing the article done by Henry E. Abt on the subject in the 1949 *Collectors Club Philatelist* pages 100-5. That article, however, notes the December 20, 1839 advertisement as the earliest source.

Abt put his finger on a key point that helped bring down the New York Penny Post. That point was the collection of payment from the recipient, as reported in the original notice. He also noted that the local intended to deliver small packages, although none have yet been recorded, and that it didn't really provide for delivery to the mails, although that was quickly changed and at least six such letters are known.

To date a copy of the local's prospectus has not been located, but the *Journal of Commerce* notices and editorial comment give us the effective starting date, fee, and location of the first of the New York locals.

It needs to be remarked that the venture was a speculative one. During the period of operation of the New York Penny Post and Package Delivery Association, the Panic of 1837, a major depression, was in full swing and the turn up didn't begin until 1842. Never the less, initial response was good and on January 21, 1840, the Journal of Commerce reported:

“The Penny Post established a few weeks since, we understand, succeeds well and has enough business to insure its permanency...”

There was competition for the Penny Post from its beginning. One competitor was James Hale, whose Hale's News Room was the successor to the Hudson News Room of 1835. This operation served as a mail forwarder of intercity mail and eventually evolved into a major intercity independent mail company with its own adhesives. Also serving the intercity mail needs was William Harnden's express company that had begun in February, 1839. It focused more than Hale on carrying letters, between New York and Boston but was barely hanging on financially prior to receiving a contract with the Cunard line in May, 1840.

Competition in taking letters from the mails came from the 'penny posts' who operated out of the post offices since early colonial days. Letter boxes had been established throughout the city by 1833, and the number of carriers had risen to sixteen by 1835. However, the major fire of December 1835 reaped financial ruin for many of them, and those who survived were cautious of taking on business where they had to collect from the customers and were financially responsible for the letters. Thus, there was an opportunity for a local post, particularly for letters that came via travellers and not from the mails.

The office of the new local was at Canal and Mercer Streets, a block west of Canal and Broadway (where the subsequent Broadway City Despatch Post was located at 417-8 Broadway.) Most of the Penny Post's letters were destined for locations in the financial district downtown from its offices. The new local had far more boxes (75) than the government's carrier service and it had boxes in major New York hotels. There would have been boxes along Broadway at the Carleton House (#350), American House (#229), Astor House (#221), Franklin House (#197), Howard's Hotel (#176), City Hotel (#123), and the Mansion House (#39).

It may be significant that covers are known with a hotel forwarder from Howard's Hotel about two months after it opened for business February 17, 1840 and the hotel became a significant forwarder of out-of-town mail between Troy and New York; similarly, the Franklin House of Hayes and Treadwell is known to have begun forwarding out-of-town mail by August, 1840.

Various lists of known New York Penny Post covers have been published in the philatelic literature. A problem with these lists is that unlike other locals, many Penny Post covers originated out-of-town and the lists sometimes refer to the origin date and sometimes to the Penny Post handstamp date.

There are between fifteen and twenty covers recorded with the red double bordered 34mm circle NEW-YORK/date/time/PENNY POST. None is known from the earliest period of operation. The earliest cover (1) is one with the Penny Post c.d.s. of JAN 29/10 O'C of 1840 together with a New York post office c.d.s. of the same date addressed to the Rev'd C.F. Hluge in Pennsylvania. The address has

been obliterated. This cover was offered as lot 626 in the Harry Dinsmoor sale of September 27, 1957 at the Harrington-Moore Boston auction and was cited in Abt's article, but he was not aware it was a 'to-the-mail' cover as he said none were known.

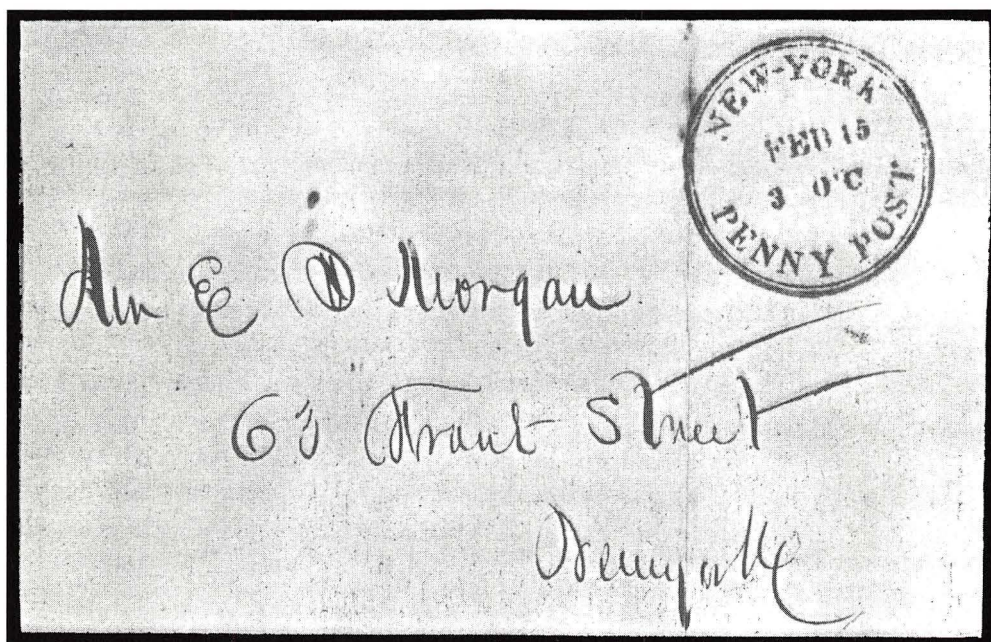


Figure 2, Red New York Penny Post Handstamp, February 15, 1840

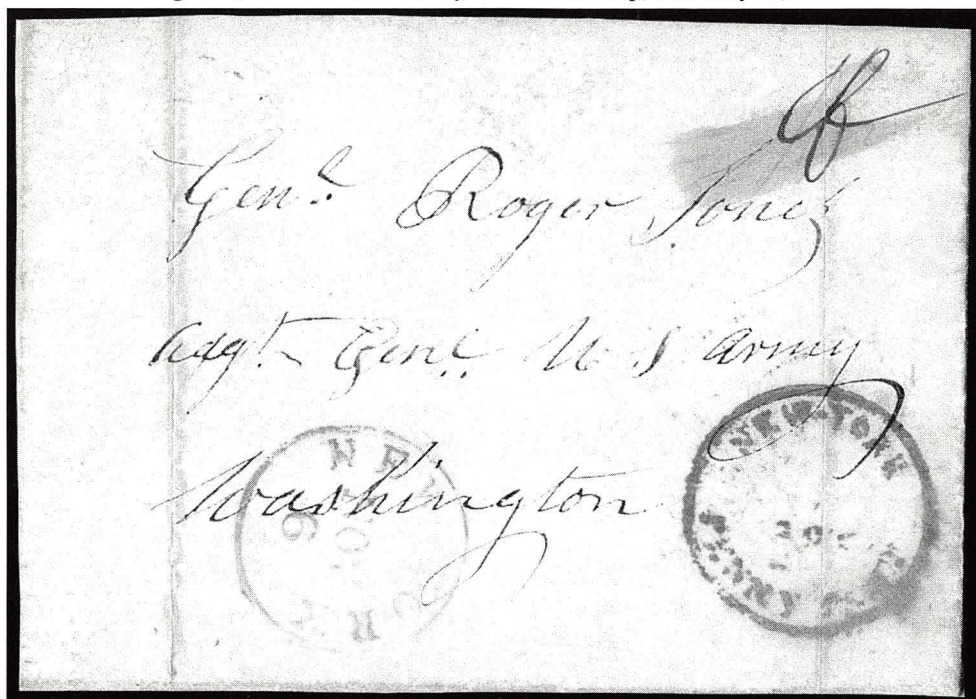


Figure 3 Sole Free Franked Cover (Census #15)

Among the other red Penny Post covers are: 2) February 1, 3 O'C Penny Post with a PAID, addressed to J. Jay. 3) February 2, addressee unrecorded. 4) February 8 3 O'C and PAID. 5) February 10 3 O'C and PAID to Rev. Wm. R. Williams, ex-Harold Brooks and Alfred Caspary. This cover has a manuscript 'P.P Assn Postage Paid' and is illustrated in Elliott Perry's *One Hundred Years Ago*. 6) February 15 to E.D. Morgan, Front St., ex-Knapp and illustrated on page 258 in Donald Patton's *Private Local Posts of the United States*. 7) February 27 3 O'C local use to Dr. F. Drake, ex-Kapiloff. 8) March 7, 10 O'C and PAID. 9) March 26 local use to Dr. Benjamin Drake, ex-Kapiloff. 10) April 9, 3 O'C local use and PAID to Rev. Whittingham that also bears a manuscript 'Pd. 3c.' 11) May 2, 3 O'C to-the-mails example to Thomas Fletcher, Philadelphia, ex-Caspary. Golden sale lot 1392. 12) June 23 10 O'C ex-Mason to Thomas Foulke, Spring House, Pa. Golden sale lot 1391. 13) September 4 picked up at the post office where a New York c.d.s. was applied on this cover from Sing Sing that is addressed to William White, ex-Knapp. 14) October 3, 3 O'C to Hector Morrison, Clinton Hall (illustrated in Abt's Penny Post *Collectors Club* article); most recently lot 1393 in the Golden sale. 15) November 3, 2 O'C to the mails with a New York post office c.d.s. Addressed to General Jones, Washington, D.C. and bearing a manuscript 'f' for free. This only franked example is seen as figure 3. 16) November 6, 3 O'C illustrated in the John Fox March 1967 auction. 17) November 10, 3 O'C to-the-mails with a PAID and a NYC c.d.s. This is addressed to Elizabeth Sprague, Rutland, Vt. This has the hour slug but not the date and is illustrated in *The Penny Post* July 1995.

Not counted as a red or black is a cover of December 9, 1840 struck in both red and black with a 10 O'C slug. It sold as lot 571 in the John Fox sale of February 7, 1957. It represents the shift from the red to black markings and represents the black ink pad being used with a handstamp that still had red ink on it. The black strikes of the New York Penny Post are about two to three times as common as the red with almost forty items recorded. They begin in December 1840.

The black strikes of the local include: 1) December 28 to-the-mails with a December 29th NYC c.d.s. to Gainsville, Ala., ex-Caspary. 2) January 16, O'C with no time slug on a front addressed to Bates Cook, the state comptroller at Albany. It is a front only, ex-Meroni. 3) January 19 without a time slug on a cover originating earlier at Troy, ex-Sheriff. 4) January 22, O'C (no time) on a local cover addressed to J. Harvey (Zimmerman sale November 27, 1971.) 5) January 24 6) February 15 no time slug, on a Valentine addressed to Miss Avery. 7) February 15, no time slug, on a Valentine to Jacob Walton that is ex-MacBride and illustrated by Abt. 8) February 15, 3 O'C on Valentine with a colored flower interior sent to E. B. Morgan. This may be a duplicate listing of the red (knapp cover 5).

Also found in black are: 9) February 27, 3 O'C, reportedly ex-Knapp but not in Knapp sale. 10) March 2 on incoming cover from Salem, ex-Hollowbush. 11) March 26, 3 O'C. 12) April 1, local use to Miss Avery, ex-Kapiloff. 13) May 4 on incoming cover from Troy May 3rd, addressed to Seth Low, ex-Hollowbush. 14) May 10 on a cover from Troy May 9, addressed to E. G. Hazen, ex-Knapp. Lot 1291 (illustrated in Knapp photo files, book 67). 15) May 17, local use. 16) May 18 on a

cover originating in Troy, May 17th, addressed to Seth Low. 17) May 27, no time slug on a Montreal origin cover of May 15th, addressed to Prince Ward King. This is illustrated in the two-part *Stamp Collector* article November 10 and 24, 1973. 18) May 28, on a cover originating in Boston. 19) May 28, no time slug on a cover to Howland & Aspinwall that originated at Machias, Maine on May 15th. (illustrated in the *Stamp Collector* article). 20) JUN slug only on a cover originating in Baltimore June 7th and addressed to Joseph Hyde, New York Bible House with pen back notation '9 Coenties Slip upstairs' and a pencil "J&N Briggs, 40 South" which is a reference to the cargo discussed inside. 21) June 15 local 1c drop letter use to John Mitchell, New York, ex-Kapiloff. 22) June 15, reported by Myersburg. 23) June 18, no time slug, sent to Seth Low, New York and originating in Albany, exHollowbush. (Myersburg termed this a local origin cover.) 24) June 19, no time slug, written at Troy on the 18th, to Jacot & Co., ex-Worthington. 25) June 23, 10 O'C. 26) June 24 no time slug, local use, Caspary lot 911. 27) June 29, reported by Myersburg. 28) June 29, second example of this date reported by Myersburg.

Also included in the black Penny Post lists are: 29) August 2, to R. Hoe & Co., origination July 29th at St. Johns, ex-Knapp. Lot 1290 (illustrated in the Knapp photo files, book 67). 30) August (??) to Calvin Day, originating at Providence, R.I. 31) August 10, no time slug, addressed to John Mitchell, reported by Abt. 32) AUG date slug, originating at Troy on 19th and addressed to Elizabeth Bell, ex-Kapiloff. 33) August 28, to E. G. Hazen, originating at Troy on 27th, ex-Knapp. Lot 1292 (illustrate in Knapp photo file, book 67). 34) September 2, local use. exHollowbush. 35) September 4, 3 O'C reported by Myersburg 36) SEP slug only, to A. Richards, originating in Boston on September 9, ex-Kapiloff and one of the two latest reported. 37) September 9, no time slug, to Rev. Hale, Baptist Mission Rooms, exDinsmoor. 39) Penny Post newspaper wrapper for the New York *Journal of Commerce* of 9/5-9/20, ex-Mason and Knapp, illustrated by Abt and in the *Stamp Collector* article. This piece was Abt's clue to locate the initial advertisement of the local (figure 5 in Part I.) 40) A number of other wrappers are unsubstantiated but Golden had two as do I, and Knapp owned two, so at least four exist. There is a report of a September 29, 1841 example.

In addition to the almost sixty covers recorded above, there are two reports of adhesives. One is a rumor of a yellowish buff adhesive allegedly sold to Ferrari. It could be one of the Wuesthoff bogus items or a cut-out of a handstamp on yellowish buff paper. It is probably not genuine. The second report was made by Elliott Perry in *Pat Paragraphs* in April 1941 where he illustrated this part cover with its gold on black label tied by an orange NEW YORK PENNY POST/FREE handstamp on a cover to Mr. Cartwright, c/o M. Braddon & Co., Front St. This cover was considered bogus by Perry, Abt and Costales.

Among the rarities of New York Penny Post covers are the sole free franked cover, the four newspapers wrappers, and the sole 1c charge on a drop letter. There are about six examples with PAID handstamps and a similar number of covers to-the-mail while covers with month slug only are rare (2-3) while hour slugs other than the 3 O'C are scarce. Seemingly only one cover is known 'from-the mails.' It would also be an important rarity.

The local's operations petered out toward the end of 1841 partially due to the ongoing Panic of 1837, which was just reaching its depths. Although some Philadelphia banks had resumed payments in 1841, the United States Bank suspended operation in early 1841. A second problem was that the Penny Post was geared to collect payment upon receipt, with the only paid covers apparently having been deposited in its main office. Conditions did not favor prepayment. Third, the system of outlets was limited and concentrated upon receiving mails brought by travelers and deposited in hotel boxes.

A London merchant, Henry Thomas Windsor, using Alexander Greig as his agent, purchased the New York Penny Post and created the successor City Despatch Post, the first U.S. stamp-issuing operation. A report by Charles Windsor, son of the founder, was published in the *American Journal of Philately* (June 1894) when he was 79 stated his father had been in New York in May, 1841 (when the operation of the Penny Post was most active) and again in the autumn at which time he resolved,

“to venture on the formation of a Penny Post for the city
on the lines of Sir Rowland Hill's system.”

The New York Penny Post remains were sold to Windsor and Greig on January 15, 1842. No covers from the last days of its operation are known although there probably were Christmas packages handled by the local as package delivery was one of its functions.

No owner or founder of this first American local has been positively identified. The only speculation was in the two-part *Stamp Collector* piece where the case was made that the founder may have been Barnabas Bates, the former assistant postmaster of New York. Bates was born in 1787 in Manchester, England and came to America as a youthful runaway in 1801. He became a Baptist minister at Bristol, R.I. and in 1815-16 became naturalized. He then obtained the Bristol postmastership which he left prior to 1822.

Bates was in New York by late 1829 when he spoke against Sunday mails. Sometime prior to 1835 he became the city's assistant postmaster and remained as such until sometime in Jonathan Coddington's postmastership which began in 1837. During the 1830s he was also reported as a 'special agent' for the Post Office in the *Annual Reports of the Postmaster General*. He was one of the founders of the Cheap Postage movement, and one of those helping to push through the major rate reduction in 1845.

In 1839-40, Mr. Bates had a downtown office at 15 Nassau near the post office in the financial district. He resided at 496 Broadway (between Broome and Spring) according to the *Longworth Directory* published in June, 1839. In 1840 he was at 8th street near Fifth; In the edition published in June, 1841 he was at 622 Broadway (between Prince and Houston). He seems to have moved annually in this period and consequently it is not unlikely he had a location at 62 Canal which is in the general area of his residences. His frequent moves suggest he was not in a settled circumstance. The run of hotels on Broadway where Penny Post boxes would have been located is on a line between his residences and 15 Nassau.

It might be noted that several covers involved religious institutions and the Penny Post Association. More significant as an indication of Bates' involvement with the local are his comments in his 1848 pamphlet, '*A Brief Statement of the Exertions of the Friends of Cheap Postage in the City of New York.*' In this pamphlet he notes that he published the first American article in favor of cheap postage in the *Hunt's Merchants' Magazine* issue of March 1840,

"This, it will be remembered, was before any information could have been obtained in this country as to the practical operation of Rowland Hill's system in Great Britain, and was the first article ever published in the United States in favor of cheap postage..."

On page 10 of Bates' 1848 '*Brief Statement*' he added,

"It is now seven years, said Mr. Bates, since first he agitated the subject of cheap postage in the newspaper press of this city, and six years ago in one of our ablest merchantile periodicals."

As this statement was made on July 1, 1846 and the only item in the newspapers **prior** to the Hunt article was the Penny Post Association advertisement announcement this comment associates it with Bates.

There are some seven reasons to suggest Bates founded the New York Penny Post: 1) His very early association with the campaign for a Penny Post including city delivery. 2) His English background which would have led to him having early information about Hill's proposals and would have lead to the later contact with Windsor. 3) His citation of newspaper agitation for cheap postage in 1839 of which the only evidence was in the Penny Post notice. 4) His past experience as assistant postmaster of New York and knowledge of the letter carrier operations during their first period of collection service. 5) His rapid moves after 1837 around the area where the Penny Post was based. (Only Mark Spencer, who lived at 51 Greene, among all other key members of the Cheap Postage Association lived anywhere near 62 Canal.) 6) Bates' self-effacing nature as evidenced by the fact he kept out of the limelight in the Postage Association's leadership, serving behind the scenes as secretary. 7) The concordance of phrases from Bates' known writings and the initial Penny Post announcement. Both refer to letters being 'taxed'; the 'establishment of a Penny Post in America' suggests early knowledge of Hill's activities, while the use of 'Penny Post Association' is unusual and parallels the later 'Cheap Postage Association' phrase coined by Bates.

The local was finally abandoned by mid-January, 1842 when the *Journal of Commerce* reported in its issue of January 14, 1842 that,

"..arrangements being made for reorganizing the city post, under the agency of Mr. Alexander M. Greig..."

William H. Hudson's new newspaper the *New York Evening Post* (founded February 13, 1840) commented in its February 25, 1842 issue upon the new City Despatch local, referring to its 'reliable management' as though there had been a reliability problem with the earlier New York Penny Post.

CHESTNUT STREET LINE

BY LARRY LYONS

From 1900 up until 1921 this Post was listed in the *Scott Specialized* catalog. (See figure 1). At that time this adhesive was delisted presumably because it was thought to be clipped from an omnibus ticket and nothing was known about the Post's operations or proprietor. I believe that no one had examined a copy on cover in the 1920's. In the early 1950's this cover came in-to the marketplace through Eugene Costales and the pink stamp on cover was submitted to the Philatelic Foundation in 1956. It was considered genuine by Perry and Sloane, but the Philatelic Foundation declined to render an opinion. They felt that they had insufficient information to arrive at a definite conclusion.

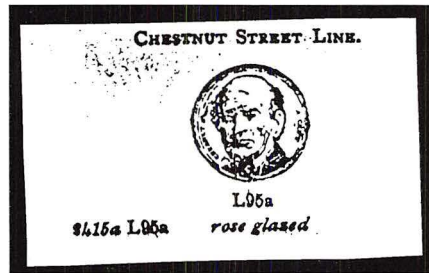


Figure 1, 1917 Scott Catalog Listing

The pink stamp on cover was sold to Frank Hollowbush in 1958 and later appeared in the August 1966 John Fox sale.

Scott Trepel of the Siegel Auction Galleries presented a very thorough history and explanation of this Post in the David Golden Sale. See lots 911 and 912.

The pink stamp on cover is tied by a June 10, 1856 receivers manuscript.

Trepel explains that "The Chestnut Street line local stamp is believed to have been issued in 1856 for use on letters dropped into mail receptacles mounted on omnibuses on the Chestnut Street route, which included the location of the Philadelphia Post Office on the Dock Street side of the Merchants Exchange Building".

This item was submitted to the Philatelic Foundation after the November 1999 David Golden sale. As of June 19, 2000 there has been no rendered opinion. I will keep you advised.

Buenos Dios Senior Russell!

By Stephen Gronowski

In 1854 David Russell purchased Price's Eighth Avenue Post Office from James Price. The Price's Eighth Avenue Post Office adhesive is 120L1 and it first appeared in 1854. Price may have also issued the unique Eight Avenue Post Office adhesive (63L1) in 1852.

From 1852-54 Russell was listed as being in the cigar business and residing at 263 Spring Street. In 1854 he moved to 387 Eighth Avenue and later to 410 Eighth Avenue, where he remained until 1857-58. The fact that he resided on Eighth Avenue in 1854 was probably the reason why he decided to maintain that designation in the post's name. Conversely he may have moved to Eighth Avenue to live closer to the post's operation.

In 1858-59 Russell was residing at 217 west 37th Street with no occupation given. In 1855-56 Russell's occupation was given as "express" and in 1856-58 it appeared as "subpost" at 410 Eighth Avenue.

Covers bearing stamps of Russell's Eighth Avenue Post Office are very rare. Scott Trepel's census of known covers of the post (from the Golden sale) indicates five 130L1 covers (3 tied), three 130L2 covers (1 tied), four 130L3 covers (1 tied) and one known off cover copy of the 130L4.

The cover shown in figure 1 bears a copy of the 130L1 adhesive of the post as well as a strike of the very rare company handstamp (see figure 2). I have only seen this handstamp used on intracity usages.

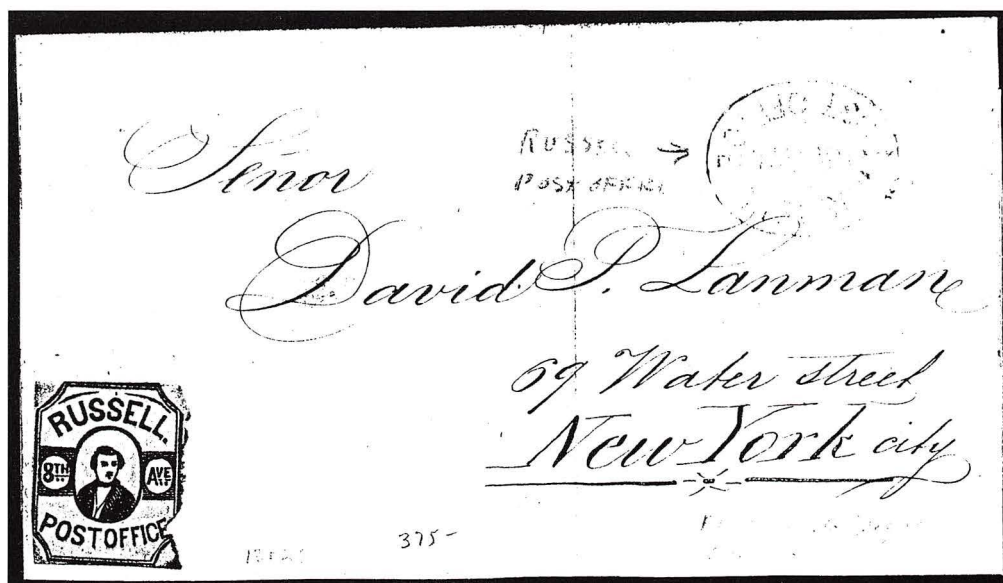


Figure 1, Russell Adhesive on Cover From Columbia, South America

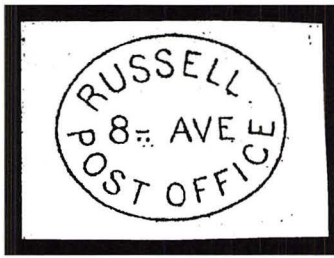


Figure 2, Rare Russell 8th Ave Post Office Handstamp. Note the line with two dots underneath under the missing “TH” After 8. This appears on the genuine adhesive and on Forgery A adhesives.

At first glance the cover appears to be an intra-city delivery within New York. As we all know though, looks can be deceiving.

The cover is in fact from the Lanman-Kemp correspondence. The Lanman-Kemp correspondence was purchased in the 1970's by Robert Kaufmann (who sold this cover to the author) from the original discoverer. The correspondence contained an incredible 14,000 covers, most of which came from South America. According to Kaufmann the find contained only two covers bearing locals. One was this cover, while the other bore a “Metropolitan local”⁴. Kaufmann did not specify if the Metropolitan local was a Metropolitan Errand & Carrier Express Co. or Metropolitan Post Office stamp. In all likelihood it was the later, as most of the covers I have seen bearing the former, are intra-city usages.

The present cover was in fact sent from Piedecuesta, New Granada, Columbia and is datelined April 4, 1856. Not surprising the contents are in Spanish. It was apparently privately carried from Columbia into New York and turned over to Russell's Eighth Avenue Post Office for delivery to the addressee. Apparently the addressee had an arrangement with the sender and Russell's/Metropolitan to have mail delivered from the ship to the later for local delivery.

The Robson Lowe Ltd March 15, 1972 USA I sale featured several similar covers, that were referred to as “bootleg mail”⁵. These may generally be described as covers from destinations outside of New York, privately carried into the city (in an apparent attempt to avoid paying postage) and turned over to a local post or the U.S. City Despatch Post for delivery to the addressee. The origins of the covers in the Robson Lowe sale are Boston, Stockbridge, Rochester, Utica, London and Santo Domingo. All of these were delivered locally in New York by the U.S City Despatch post.

I would be interested in hearing of other “bootleg mail” local or carrier covers from other society members.

¹The Private Local Posts of The United States Of America, Vol. I, pg. 167, Donald Patton.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Personal correspondence from Robert Kaufmann.

⁵Robson Lowe Ltd., USA I, March 15, 1972.

A Robison & Co. Plate Variation

By Stephen Gronowski

Robison & Co. operated in Brooklyn, N.Y. about 1855-56.¹ Elliot Perry, in Pat Pararaghs, lists three possible proprietors of the post.² These are Cornelius D. Robinson, 1857-58, express, 140 Chambers, Francis Robison, 1857-58, express, 707 Greenwich and William Robison, 1852-53, city express, 64 Cedar.

The stamps of the post are very rare, indicating that it was in existence for probably a short time. Only one copy is known on cover. This is tied by a "Paid" cancellation and used locally within Brooklyn. The cover also bears a strike of the oval company handstamp (See figure 1). It was discovered in 1895 and has been a highlight of the Ferrari, Caspary and Boker collections.

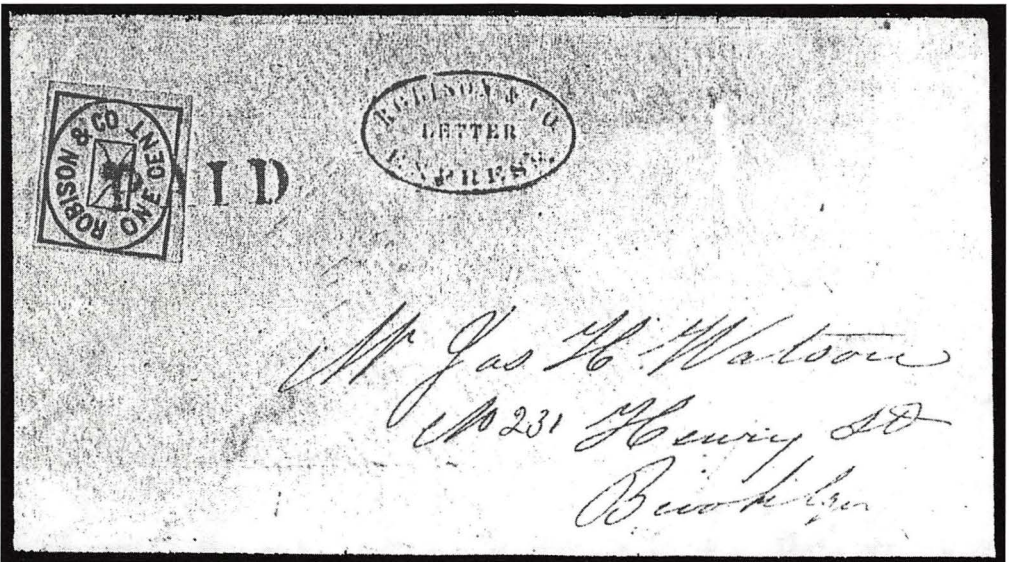


Figure 1, The only known Robison Adhesive on Cover



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

Recently an unused copy was sold as lot 421 in the 2000 Robert Siegel Rarities sale. In describing the stamp Scott Trepel cites the existence of eight copies (including the one unique cover) in his census.

In June of 1982 I was fortunate enough to purchase a copy of this

elusive stamp in the infamous J.H. Stollow sale. (See figure 2) I use the word “infamous” since many of the carrier and local items in that sale turned out to be fraudulent. Fortunately, the Robison & Co. stamp was genuine and I was able to obtain a P.F. Certificate. In a recent conversation with Scott Trepel he informed me that he was previously unaware of the existence of this copy and that he would now add it to his census raising, to nine the total number of known copies.

Nonetheless, the stamp is interesting, for it appears to be a variety of the genuine adhesive. There are several particular characteristics of this stamp that differentiate it from most of the other genuine copies. They are as follows:

- 1) The top of the envelope is uneven.
- 2) The bottom of the envelope is uneven.
- 3) There is what appears to be a scratch in the plate just below the second “O” in “ROBISON”. This could even be the bottom part of the “O” chipped away on the plate, resulting in the condition in #4.
- 4) The bottom of the second “O” in “ROBISON” has worn away.
- 5) The end of the lower loop of the “C” in “CENT” has also worn away.

In 1994 I was fortunate enough to buy another copy of this stamp (see figure 3). This copy was once in the Lilly and Boker collections and is signed by George Sloane. I was immediately struck by the fact that this copy also had the five aforementioned plate variations. This same stamp is shown in Pat Paragraphs on page 458.

The fact that as many as two of the nine known copies of this stamp have these five characteristics leads me to believe that the subjects in the plate were few (perhaps as few as 4). If these stamps were printed in sheets of 25, 50 or 100, the odds simply weigh against the possibility that one third of the surviving copies belong to the same position in the plate.

This argument is further buttressed by the fact that no known multiples of the stamp exist and that no copy shows any portion of an adjoining stamp. (although this may have been caused by wide spacing between the subjects on the plate). Sometimes stamps printed in sheets of four have wide spacing between the subjects in the plate.

The stamp shown in Figure 4 has only characteristics 3 & 4, and the “c” in “cent” is chipped at the top.³

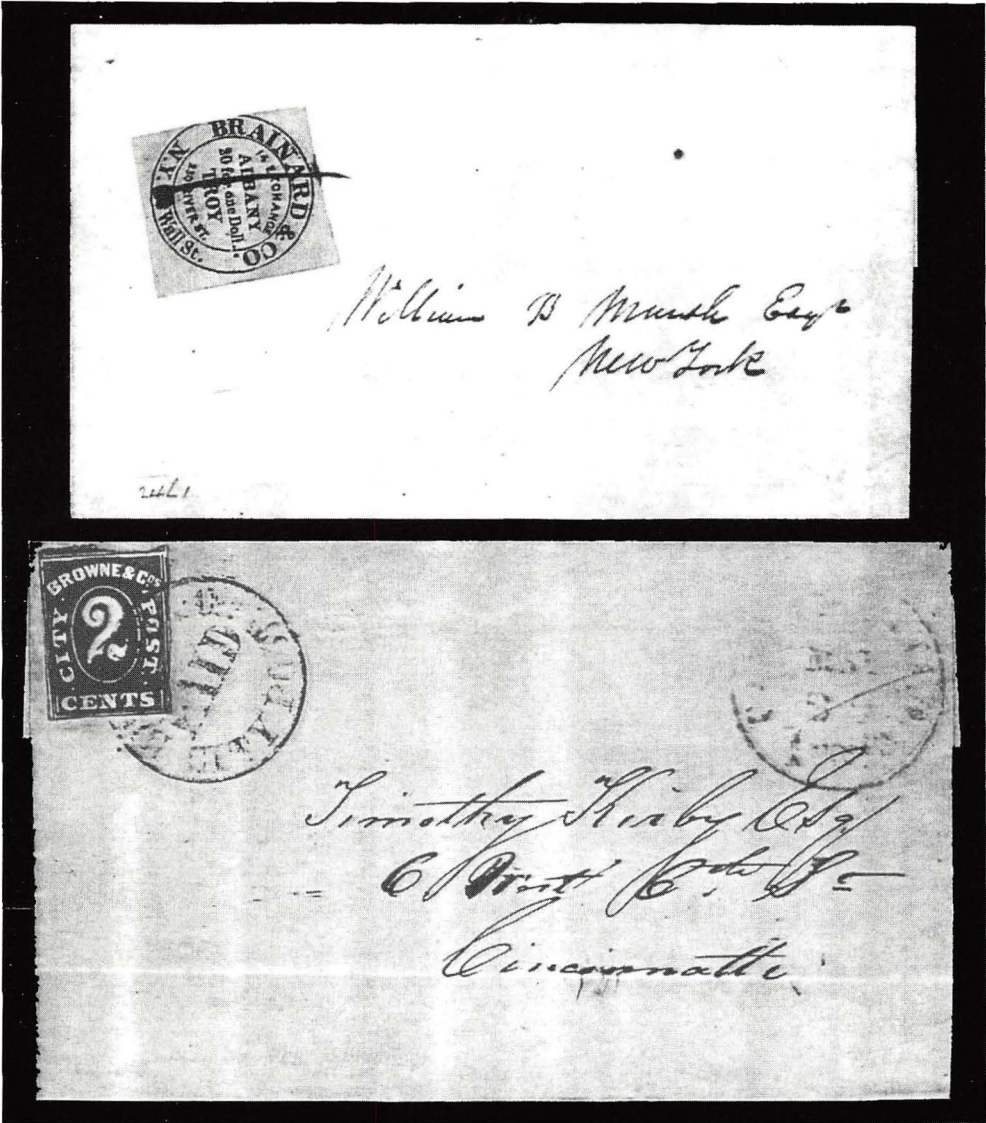
It would be interesting to see if any of the other copies of this stamp have the five characteristics of this variation.

¹ The Private Local Post of The United States Of America, Vol. I, Donald Patton, pg. 290.

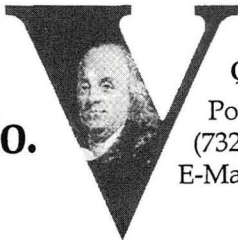
² Pat Paragraphs, Elliot Perry, pg. 457.

³ Siegel Sale, June 27-29, 2000, Lot 1898

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