

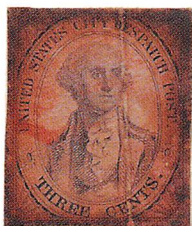
JANUARY 2009

WHOLE NUMBER 66

VOL. 17 NO. 1

THE PENNY POST

Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society



Black on pink
Unglazed, 6LB6
On cover dated
April 7, (1843)



Johnston-Dienstag
Advertising Label



“PENNY POST” handstamp
from Wheeling, Virginia

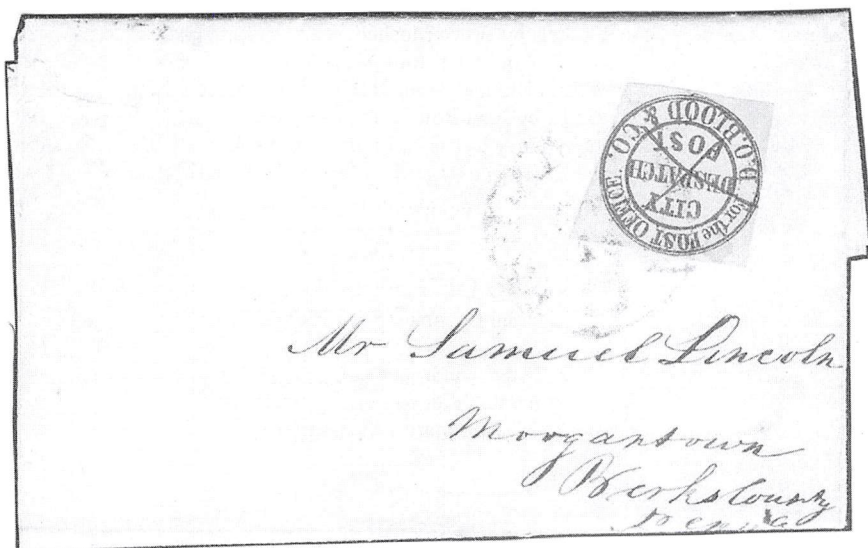
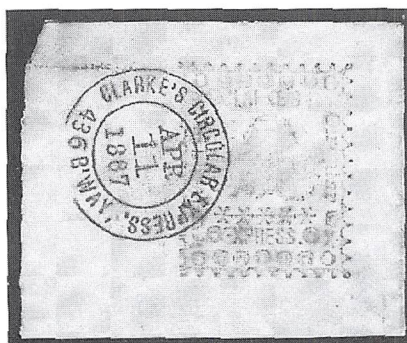
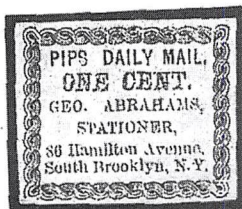


S. Allan Taylor
Moiré overprint

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

U.S. CITY DESPATCH POST
WHEELING PENNY POST
JOHNSTON-DIENSTAG LABELS
TAYLOR FANCY OVERPRINTS
BOYD'S MERCURY STAMPS
AND MORE

Byron J. Sandfield
Major Buyer & Seller of
Carriers & Locals
For Advanced & Beginning Collectors



**PARK
CITIES
STAMPS** 6440 North Central Expressway
Suite 316
Dallas, Texas 75206
Phone: 214/361-4322
www.parkcitiesstamps.com

Member - ASDA, APS, TSDA, ARA
The Carriers & Locals Society

THE PENNY POST



VOL. 17 NO. 1

JANUARY 2009

2000 The Carriers and Locals Society, Inc.
APS Affiliate 211

Official Journal Of The Carriers and Locals Society

Published quarterly in January, April, July and October.
Price per issue: \$10.00 for members, \$12.00 for non-members.

Website: www.pennypost.org

CONTENTS

Editor's Message	Page 2
Penny Post Bulletin Board	Page 3
America's First Carrier Service, The U.S. City Despatch Post by Larry Lyons	Pages 4-15
Index to Advertisers	Page 15
Wheeling Penny Post by Barry Elkins	Pages 16-19
Johnston-Dienstag Special Service Labels by Bruce Mosher	Pages 21-28
Fancy Overprint Forgeries of S. Allan Taylor by Clifford Alexander	Pages 31-36
Boyd's Mercury Stamps – Why Pink and Blue? By John Bowman	Pages 41-50
Perforations on Boyd's Mercury Stamps by John Bowman	Pages 51-59
Bidding at Auction – Then and Now by Larry Lyons and John Bowman	Pages 60-62
Changes to the 2009 U.S. Specialized Catalogue Regarding Carrier and Local Stamps	
by John Bowman	Pages 63-64

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President:.....	John Bowman, 14409 Pentridge Dr., Corpus Christi, TX 78410 E-mail: jbowman@stx.rr.com
First Vice President:.....	Stephen Gronowski, 55 Oak Trail Ct., Alamo, CA 94507-2502
Second Vice President:	Byron Sandfield, 6440 N. Central Exp., Suite 316, Dallas, TX 75206
Secretary / Treasurer:	Martin Richardson, P.O. Box 74, Grosse Ile, MI 48138 E-mail: MartinR362@aol.com
Auction Manager:	Alan Cohen, P.O. Box 929, New York, NY 10025

DIRECTORS

Cliff Alexander, Alan Cohen, Eric Karell, Larry Lyons, Tom Mazza,
Vernon Morris, Martin Richardson, Bill Sammis

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief.....	Larry Lyons, 7 Brightfield Lane, Westport, CT 06880
Local Posts	Stephen Gronowski, 55 Oak Trail Ct., Alamo, CA 94507-2502
Carriers.....	Scott R. Trepel, 60 East 56th St., New York, NY 10022-3219
Expresses.....	Bruce Mosher, P.O. Box 33236, Indialantic, FL 32903
Fakes and Forgeries	Clifford Alexander, 8721 Bluedale St., Alexandria, VA 22308

Address changes should be sent to the Secretary, also back issue orders, other correspondence to the Editor-in-Chief. Reports of new items or articles should be submitted to the appropriate Section Editor or Editor-in-Chief. Do not send stamps or covers unless requested. Any items sent will be protected but no liability attaches to an editor or the Society.

Editor's Message

By
Larry Lyons

I want to wish a Very Healthy and Happy New Year to everyone. It's a start of a new year and perhaps a new collecting interest. Is it time to choose a specialty or expand an existing one? Is it time to put together an exhibit or make a commitment to visit a philatelic show? Is it time to help a fellow collector with information or make a trade? Is it time to forgive one another? Is it time to make new friends and thank old friends for their friendship? It is time to enjoy another year of collecting.

In This Issue

We have two Boyd's original research articles by John Bowman, our President and my long-time personal friend. John is an expert in this area and these two articles provide fascinating new information and insights.

Bruce Mosher, our Express Section Head, gives us a lesson on Johnston-Dienstag Special Service labels which clears up some long standing incorrect information. His article thoroughly explores this subject.

We have an article on a "Wheeling Penny Post" by Barry Elkins. This is about a handstamp from 1862-3 which was previously unidentified. Once again collectors continue to make new discoveries almost 150 years after they occur.

John Bowman is our Society liaison to *The Scott Specialized Catalogue* for carriers and locals. In this issue he gives us an update on the changes you can find in the 2009 *Specialized Catalogue*.

Cliff Alexander, our Forgeries Section Head, has an article for us on the fancy overprints of S. Allan Taylor. I note he began gathering this information in 2006 and has pulled it all together to give us a thorough and interesting survey of Taylor's overprints.

We have a fun article for you on "Bidding at Auction-Then and Now" presented as a point-counterpoint between John Bowman and me. Hope it gives you a chuckle.

I have done elaborate research on the U.S. City Despatch Post and I share that with you in this issue.

Special thanks to all the authors who have given us quality articles for your reading enjoyment.

We have started a new section entitled "The Penny Post Bulletin Board". The material which will be accepted for posting can be a request for specific information or a question to be answered or a brief opinion on a stamp or a cover requesting feedback. Items for sale will be directed to our Auction Manager and will not be posted on the bulletin board. This should prove to be a worthwhile collector service. You can reach me by mail or email, lyonsentrp@aol.com with your articles or items for posting.

Our fifteenth Society Auction was a roaring success with a total hammer amount of \$13,181.50. Much thanks to Alan Cohen, our Auction Manager.

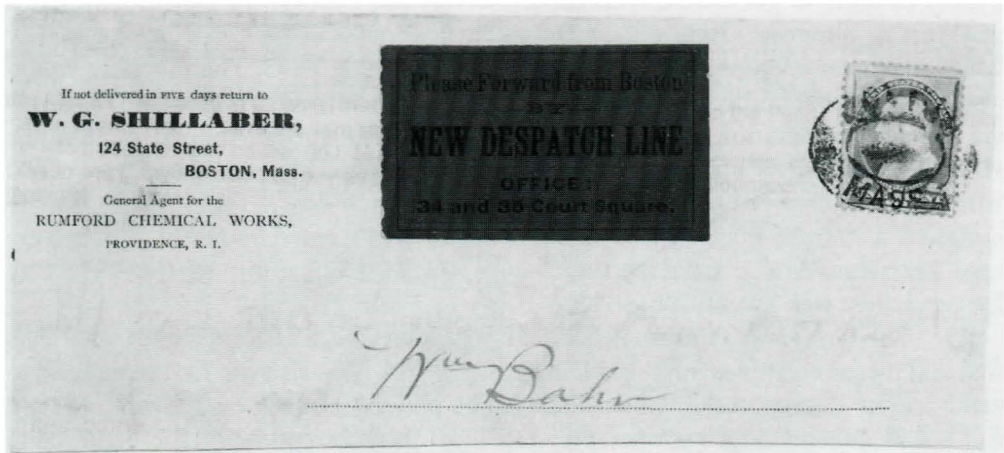
I hope you enjoy this issue of *The Penny Post* and Happy Collecting.

Penny Post Bulletin Board

(Responses should be made to the Editor-In-Chief for forwarding)

A Stirling auction had stamps in it noted "ex Benson". Does anyone have any information on Benson?

Cliff Alexander



I think this cover has a genuine label on it. The Boston directories do not show a "NEW DESPATCH LINE". Does anyone have any other covers or off cover examples of this label? Any information would be appreciated.

Joe Crosby

I am gathering information on "Atlantic Express" which ran between New Orleans and Southwestern Texas from 1856 to 1860. The proprietor was Starr Jones who also ran Jones Express. Does anyone have any idea who might have been Jones' agent/partner in New York and Boston?

Larry Ballantyne

Can anyone send me a scan of the following Taylor forgeries?

Florida Express

British American College Stamp

D.O. Blood's Striding Messenger (III F)

Black on deep red S.C.

Black on deep red S.C.

Black on pale violet blue

Larry Lyons

America's First Carrier Service

The U.S. City Despatch Post

By
Larry Lyons

By an order made by the Postmaster General on August 1, 1842, a carrier service was established in New York known as the "United States City Despatch Post"¹. In order to get started with carrier service the Post Office Department felt it was best to purchase Greig's City Despatch Post, a local post in New York City which had been operating successfully since February 1, 1842. The purchase would also eliminate the competition from that particular local post. August 15, 1842 was the last day of operation of Greig's City Despatch Post and on August 16, 1842 the service continued its operation but now was an official service of the post office with the name changed to "United States City Despatch Post". There wasn't time to print new stamps so the City Despatch Post adhesives created by Greig (40L1) were used but were now official carrier stamps (6LB1). The limit of the U.S. City Despatch Post was Twenty-Second Street.

The Greig's City Despatch Local Post adhesive was to become America's first and most versatile stamp producing plate. It was now also the first plate used to make carrier stamps in the United States. The plate was made by Rawdon, Wright and Hatch. When Greig was operating as a local post he used a "FREE" handstamp in a fancy octagon. See **Figure 1**. The "FREE" actually meant that the stamp was purchased and therefore the letter was prepaid. When Greig's became the U.S. City Despatch Post, the cancel used was a "U.S." in a fancy octagon shown in **Figure 1**. The carrier service also had a circular date stamp which reads "U.S. City Despatch Post", with the "U.S." at the bottom. When Greig operated as a local post his datestamp read "City Despatch Post" with "N.Y." at the bottom. These handstamps can be seen in **Figure 2**. Both the Greig's Local Post datestamp and the U.S. City Despatch Post handstamp were double lined circles with the middle reserved for a date and a clock time. Sometime in 1843 the U.S. City Despatch replaced its double lined circular datestamp with a single line datestamp. See **Figure 2**. We will address this in due time.

The Second U.S. Carrier Adhesive

On September 1, 1842 the U.S. City Despatch Post came out with its first new adhesive design which was black on light blue unsurfaced paper (6LB3). See **Figure 3**. This new adhesive design reads "United States City Despatch Post" at the top as opposed to the Greig's stamp which reads "City Despatch Post" at the top. The side ornaments were also changed but the general appearance with Washington in the middle and "THREE CENTS" at the bottom stayed the same. The original plates and printing size was not used. The new plate was also made by Rawdon, Wright and Hatch. The Greig's local post stamps were printed in a 42 stamp format of 6x7 subjects and the U.S. City Despatch Post stamps were printed in sheets of 100 subjects. Cal Hahn, a noted historian, plated the U.S. City Despatch Post stamps. He

¹ 2009 Scott Specialized Catalogue, page 475.



Grieg's Local Post
handstamp



U.S. City Despatch Post
handstamp

Figure 1. The handstamps that identify covers used while Grieg operated his local post and those of the U.S. City Despatch Post, the first government carrier service.



Grieg's Local Post
datestamps



U.S. City Despatch Post
datestamps

Figure 2. The datestamps that identify covers used while Grieg operated his local post and those of the U.S. City Despatch Post.



Black/light blue



Black/grayish

Figure 3. The first new adhesive design for the U.S. City Despatch (6LB3) is shown at the left and the Grieg's stamp (40L1) is shown at the right.

noted 25 positions on the left and 25 on the right which were repeated to make 100 stamps. His plating analysis can be found in the *Lyons Identifier* in Volume III on pages 1055-1066.² Scott Trepel did pioneer work on the City Despatch Post adhesives and that plating analysis can be found in the study that he published.³

The United States City Despatch Post was initially very successful. By November 1842 they noted carrying 762 letters a day. They had 112 stations with collection boxes. Pick up was 3 times a day.⁴ They employed 8 letter carriers. The stamps were sold singularly at 3 cents each or \$2.50 per 100.

The Unsurfaced Paper Colored Through Adhesives

The major stamp in this category is the black on light blue adhesive (6LB3) which saw major usage. This adhesive was issued September 1, 1842 and is typically found on 1842 covers from September to the end of the year 1842. According to Siegel Auction Galleries lot descriptions the earliest recorded cover with the 6LB3 adhesive is September 2, 1842, the second day of its usage. There is a cover dated August 31, 1842 which is datestamped September 3, 1842 which is the third day of usage for this adhesive. Lot 201 in the Middendorf sale is a cover which is reported to be the earliest use of 6LB3. That cover is dated September 1. There is a cover dated December 31, 1842 which is the latest usage in 1842. Sporadic late usages can be found as the purchased stamps were used. I note a January 31 (1843) cover, an April 2, 1844 cover and a February 14, 1846 cover, all with the early 6LB3 adhesives. The last three covers are not typical of when the majority of the 6LB3 adhesives were used.

In **Figure 4** we see an unsurfaced paper colored through adhesive which has been described as black on wheat. This stamp is cancelled with the U.S. in an octagon, the handstamp used by the U.S. City Despatch Post. This color is not listed in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue* and it should be listed.

We find a black on rosy buff (6LB2) adhesive listed in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue* in the unsurfaced paper colored through section. There is a note to the effect that "some authorities consider 6LB2 to be an essay". This author does not think so. Only about 8-10 unused copies are recorded.

There is also an unsurfaced black on green adhesive (6LB4). There are only two recorded examples. Again there is a note in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue* to the effect that some authorities believe this color to be "a color changeling". It is a very valuable stamp with a *Scott Specialized Catalogue* price of \$11,500.00. No covers are recorded with this color adhesive. There is also a recorded apple green adhesive which has been certified by the Philatelic Foundation. See **Figure 5**. This color should be listed in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue*. Only one example of the apple green color has been recorded. It has been suggested that the black on green adhesive was a trial color impression.

² *The Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States*, Larry Lyons, 1998.

³ *The City Despatch Post 1842-1852 Issues: A Study of America's First and Most Versatile Stamp-Producing Plate*, Scott R. Trepel, Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. 2003.

⁴ USA1, Robson Lowe, March 15, 1972, Lot 1011.



Figure 4. The U.S. City Despatch adhesive in wheat. This is an unsurfaced paper colored through adhesive which is not yet listed in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue*.

The Philatelic Foundation
 70 West 40th Street • 15th Floor
 New York, NY 10018
 EXPERT COMMITTEE

No. 0410555
4/27/04

We have examined the enclosed item, of which a photograph is attached, and *described by the applicant* as follows:

Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA


Cat. No.	Issue	Denom.	Color
6LB4UAR	1842	3¢	blk on yellow green

Scott's unless otherwise specified.

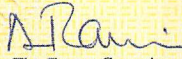
USED

AND WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT:

IT IS GENUINE WITH REPAIRED PINHOLES AT TOP, AND A LARGE SEALED INTERNAL TEAR. * * * * *



E 105043


 For The Expert Committee
 Chairman

Photocopies of this Certificate are not valid.

Submitted by LARRY LYONS

Figure 5. A U.S. City Despatch adhesive in apple green. There has been only this one recorded example. This color is not yet listed in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue*.



Figure 6. The 6LB5d adhesive is a black on green stamp on glazed surface colored paper. It is the first glazed paper stamp issued by the government in the United States. It was issued in the fall of 1842.



Figure 7. The 6LB5, black on blue green adhesive.



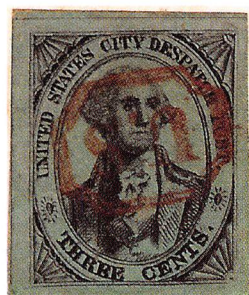
Figure 8. The 6LB5b, black on blue adhesive which was issued in the fall of 1844.



6LB5a
Black/blue green



6LB5c
Black/blue



6LB5e
Black/green

Figure 9. Examples of the U.S. City Despatch Post double impression errors in each of three different colors.

The Glazed Surface Paper Adhesives

The black on green glazed surface paper adhesive (6LB5d) came on the scene in the fall of 1842. According to research done by Bob Meyersburg the earliest recorded date of the 6LB5d stamp is November 26, 1842. This color was in typical use for a full year into November 1843. There are four recorded examples of multiples of the black on green (6LB5d) adhesive with 5 stamps being used to pay the U.S. intercity postage to Philadelphia. More on this in the next section of this article. There is also one cover with only four 6LB5d adhesives to Philadelphia because one adhesive is missing.

Double impressions exist for the black on blue green adhesives and are designated 6LB5a. Double impression examples of the black on blue adhesives are designated 6LB5c and double impressions of the black on green adhesives are given the designation 6LB5e. Examples are shown in **Figure 6**. **The 6LB5d adhesive is the first glazed paper stamp issued by the government in the United States.** An example is shown in **Figure 7**.

At the beginning of 1843 the U.S. City Despatch Post issued a black on blue green adhesive on surface colored paper (6LB5). It is at this time that they also changed to a single circle datestamp. The double circle datestamp had been in use for less than a year. The recording of the time in the datestamp was evidently no longer important and it would be left out of the new datestamp. Over the next four years through 1844, 1845 and into the fall of 1846 the black on blue green adhesive would be the “workhorse” with various shades of reprinting.

The black on blue adhesive (6LB5b) does not appear until the fall of 1844. An example of this stamp is shown in **Figure 8**. The black on blue adhesive is in my



Figure 10. A black on pink unglazed surface colored adhesive 6LB6, on a cover front dated April 7, (1843). This is the only recorded example. The datestamp is the double circle which was not in use after 1843.

opinion a very striking color. There are only two examples of covers with multiple black on blue adhesives (6LB5b). One cover has 4 adhesives and is addressed to Athens, New York and the other has 3 adhesives and is addressed to Ridgefield, Connecticut. More about this is in the next section when we address intercity mail. This black on blue color adhesive continued to be used until the U.S. Despatch Post closed in November 1846.

The black on blue green adhesive (6LB5) is also recorded on cover with the New York Provisional 9X1d.

Double impression errors on glazed surface paper adhesives occurred in three different colors. These are shown in **Figure 9**.

Last but not least there is a black on pink adhesive (6LB6). This stamp is on a cover dated April 7. The U.S. City Despatch circular datestamp on this cover is a double line circle which leads to the conclusion that the year date is ca. 1843. There is only one recorded example of the pink adhesive. It is shown in **Figure 10**.

Intercity Covers

The independent mail companies began handling intercity mail in early 1844 and were put out of business by an Act of March 1845 which became effective July 1, 1845.

There are eight recorded intercity covers with United States City Despatch Post adhesives. **These covers mark the beginning of prepayment of intercity postage by adhesive stamps in the western hemisphere.** The covers are recorded between the dates of May 25, 1843 and June 13, 1845. A listing of these eight

Table 1
The Eight Recorded Intercity Covers of The U.S. City Despatch Post

	<u>Adhesives</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Note</u>
1.	6LB5d (5)	May 25, 1843	To Philadelphia	Strip of 3 + pair
2.	6LB5d (5)	May 30, 1843	To Philadelphia	Two pairs + single
3.	6LB5d (5)	June 16, 1843	To Philadelphia	Strip of 4 + single
4.	6LB5d (5)	July 5, 1843	To Philadelphia	Strip of 5
5.	6LB5d (4)	August 23, 1843	To Philadelphia	4 singles + 1 missing
6.	6LB5d (5)	Nov. 1, 1843	To Pleasant Valley, N.Y.	5 singles
7.	6LB5b (4)	Oct. 18, ca. 1844	To Athens, N.Y.	Strip of 3 + single
8.	6LB5b (3)	June 13, ca. 1845	To Ridgefield, Conn.	3 singles

recorded covers can be found in **Table 1**. Five of the covers have five U.S. City Despatch adhesives, black on green (6LB5d). One cover has our black on green (6LB5d) adhesives with one missing. One cover has 4 black on blue adhesives (6LB5b) and one cover has 3 black on blue adhesives (6LB5b). The five covers with five adhesives are to Philadelphia. The rate was 12½ cents for the 80/150 mile zone. At the wholesale rate of 2½ cents per stamp the five adhesives would be correct for the 12½ cents U.S. postage rate. This fee was the intercity rate and included the carrier rate to the post office. The only cover with 4 carrier adhesives (other than the

one to Philadelphia with one stamp missing) to is to Athens, New York. The four carrier adhesives at the wholesale rate of 2½ cents per stamp accounted for the 10 cent rate for the 30/80 mile zone. This writer believes the post office accepted the carrier stamps at the wholesale rate. The one cover with 3 carrier adhesives is to Ridgefield Connecticut. The balance of the postage on this cover was presumably paid in cash. There is a manuscript notation “10” which has never been explained. This cover can be seen in the Middendorf sale catalogue.⁵ The intercity carrier covers just described are among the most prized covers of all carrier covers.

The First Government Overprinted Stamp

On July 1, 1845 the price of the U.S. City Despatch Post carrier service rose to 4 cents retail and 3½ cents wholesale. This was necessary because the post office “drop letter” rate was increased on the same day to 2 cents from 1 cent. Congress raised the drop letter rate out of fear that the new postage structure which established the 5 cent and 10 cent postage rates would cause a severe decline in postal revenues. The 5 cent and 10 cent rates laid the foundation for the first general issue adhesive stamps to be issued in this country in 1847. Because the intercity rate was lowered Congress hoped to offset some of the anticipated losses by raising the drop letter rate. A “drop letter” is a piece of mail that is brought to the post office for pickup by the addressee. Drop letters are not transmitted to another post office.

“The consequences of this legislation for the U.S. City Despatch Post were immediate and dire. Prior to July 1, 1845 a drop letter could be taken by the carrier to or from the post office for 3 cents, which included 2 cents for the carrier department and 1 cent for the post office (drop postage). Beginning July 1, an extra cent was required for the drop postage, making the total amount equal to 4 cents. Although other classes of mail were unaffected by the drop-rate increase (including carrier letters that by-passed the main post office), the U.S. City Despatch found itself at a severe disadvantage competing with local posts, who generally charged 2 cents for a city letter. In the post-July 1 period, not only did Boyd flourish, but many smaller local posts entered the scene, hoping to capture a share of the market for intra-city letter delivery.”⁶

A new overprinted stamp (6LB7) came into use. See **Figure 11**. The “THREE” in cents at the bottom of the stamp has a red line through it because the retail cost of the stamp was now 4 cents. The overprinted “2” was the cost of the “drop letter” rate. Covers without U.S. stamps that were dropped at the post office after this drop letter rate change have a large circular date stamp with a large “2” and “cts” at the bottom. See **Figure 12**. Scott Trepel proved the “2” from the overprint on the adhesive stamps (6LB7) is the same as the “2” in the New York City drop rate circular datestamp. He did this by scanning and superimposing the images. If a letter was carried by the U.S. City Despatch Post during the new rate period it would also have their handstamp. The cover shown in **Figure 11** has both the U.S. City Despatch Post handstamp and the New York City circular datestamp indicating the 2cts drop letter rate. It is the only recorded cover with both handstamps and the 6LB7 adhesive.

⁵ Richard C. Frajola, Inc. Sale No. 4. (Middendorf), May 1990, Lot 215.

⁶ Siegel Auctions Galleries, Golden sale, November 15-17, 1999, Lot 315.

There are only three recorded covers with the red “2” surcharge on the U.S. City Despatch Post adhesive which is listed in the *2009 Scott Specialized Catalogue* as 6LB7 with a value for a cover shown in italic as \$70,000.00. The three recorded covers are dated January 9, 1846, February 14, 1846 and March 2, 1846. The stamp on the March 2, 1846 cover was originally affixed on the back of the cover and was torn in half upon the opening of the letter. A true philatelic travesty. Previous research has indicated that the overprint was created in late 1845 or early 1846. The dates of the three recorded covers indicates early 1846. There had been a fourth



Figure 11. The only recorded U.S. City Despatch Post cover with both the U.S. City Despatch handstamp and the New York City circular datestamp indicating the 2 cts drop letter rate. The adhesive has the price struck out. This is the 6LB7 adhesive. There are three recorded covers with this adhesive.



Figure 12. A drop rate cover from the new rate period which began July 1, 1845 and required 2 cents for a drop rate fee. The previous rate was 1 cent. This cover also has the datestamp of the U.S. City Despatch Post.

cover with an overprinted stamp dated October 29 (1845 or 1846) but the Philatelic Foundation determined the stamp did not originate on this cover and the adhesive was subsequently removed. The rarity of the overprinted U.S. City Despatch Post covers suggests that it was in use for a limited time. There is also a decline in the presence of surviving 1846 U.S. City Despatch Post letters reinforcing the belief that the New York City carrier service was in trouble due to the competition from the New York City local posts. If you ever wondered why certain New York City local posts first appear the 1845-1849 time period, this is the reason. These included Dupuy & Schenck, Messenkopes, G.A. Mills, Bouton's Broadway Post Office, Gordon's, Hanford's, New York City Express Post, Union Post, Bouton's Manhattan Express, and Franklin City Despatch. Boyd's was already in existence and they issued new adhesives in this time period which were used extensively, and far in excess of their previously issued adhesives which are much rarer.

The Postmaster General discontinued the U.S. City Despatch Post on November 28, 1846. The government service was succeeded by a private post. This private post was "Mead's Post Office City Despatch". Abraham Mead had been a letter carrier for the U.S. City Despatch Post. An example of the Mead's adhesive and handstamp is shown in **Figure 13**.

After November 1846 outstanding U.S. City Despatch Post stamps were redeemable at the New York Post Office or remained valid for use locally on letters which were delivered by Mead's Private Local Post. Examples of such use are very rare. There is a December 24, 1846 letter with a U.S. City Despatch stamp on a drop letter cancelled by the drop letter postmark of the New York Post Office before being turned over to Mead's for delivery. The 2 cents was due from the addressee for the drop letter postage.⁷ This cover is shown in **Figure 14**.

Government carrier service in New York had been forced to stop its operations and would not appear again in New York City until 1849. The U.S. mail adhesives (6LB9-11) were issued at that time.

Summary

The U.S. City Despatch Post originated from the purchase of Greig's City Despatch Post and used their stamps with a different cancel. The U.S. City Despatch Post issued the second U.S. carrier adhesive (6LB3) in a slightly new design on unsurfaced colored paper on September 1, 1842. In 1843 the U.S. City Despatch Post began using glazed surface paper adhesives. This would be the first government use of a glazed paper adhesive. In early 1846 the U.S. City Despatch Post issued the first government overprinted stamp. This was necessitated by the increase in the post office "drop rate" from 1 cent to 2 cents. The U.S. City Despatch was unable to compete with the local posts due to the rise in the drop rate and was forced to stop its operations. This was perhaps the only time in our history where free enterprise put the government out of business.

⁷ Richard C. Frajola, Inc. Sale No. 4. (Middendorf), May 1990, Lot 209.



Figure 13. Mead's Post Office City Despatch replaced the U.S. City Despatch Post when it was discontinued in late November 1846. The outstanding U.S. City Despatch stamps were valid for use through Mead's. The Mead's datestamp was similar to the U.S. City Despatch datestamp but with "P.O." at the bottom. The Mead's stamp has "TWO CENTS" at the bottom.

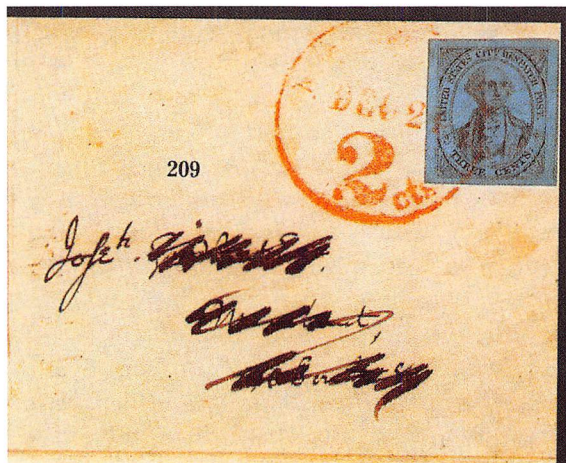


Figure 14. A. U.S. City Despatch (THREE CENTS) adhesive on a cover dated December 24, 1846 which is during the Abraham Mead operation of the Post Office City Despatch Post. Mead was reimbursed for accepting the U.S. City Despatch Post adhesives.



Figure 15. A double impression error on the black on green adhesive, 6LB5e. The folded letter is dated February 18, 1843.

Suggested Scott Catalogue Revisions

The black on wheat unsurfaced paper colored through adhesive shown in **Figure 4** should be added to this section of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue*. The suggested designation is 6LB2A.

The black on apple green unsurfaced paper colored through adhesive shown in **Figure 5** should be added to the *Scott Specialized Catalogue*. The suggested designation is 6LB4A.

ADVERTISERS IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
James E. Lee	20
Spink Shreves Philatelic Galleries, Inc.	29
Matthew Bennett, Inc.	30
Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions	37
H.R. Harmer, Inc.	38
Nutmeg Stamp Sales.	39
Stanley M. Piller	40
Park Cities Stamps	Inside Front Cover
Eric Jackson	Inside Back Cover
Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.	Back Cover

Wheeling Penny Post

By
Barry Elkins

My major collecting interest is the independent post offices of Philadelphia County. I recently acquired from Ebay the cover shown in **Figure 1**. The cover was listed as an example of a Deming's Penny Post usage, which it certainly is not; not much information is available concerning Deming's Penny Post, but the only known examples used on cover are from the early 1850s. The cover has a US #65 1861 cancelled by a circular grid, with the postmark of Frankford, PA. The month is illegible, and there is no year date. However, the year must be 1862 or 1863, since the Frankford Post Office closed on August 28, 1863.

The cover is addressed to Mr. Edward Jones at Wheeling, Virginia. In the same handwriting is the inscription "in care of Penny Post". There are also two "PENNY POST" pointed oval handstamps. An example is shown in **Figure 2**.

I performed a Google internet search for "Wheeling Penny Post" and found the following citation from "History of Wheeling City and Ohio County, West Virginia and Representative Citizens", by Gibson L. Cranmer, Biographical Publishing Company, Chicago, 1902. Since Thomas McLain was still alive when the book was written in 1902, the information in the cited book is taken from an interview of the subject by the author.

On page 815 under Thomas Baird McLain:

"All of the McLain brothers, except Thomas Baird, served apprenticeships at the printing trade in the establishment of their father, later working as journeymen in different printing offices of the city. In 1856, one of the brothers, Robert Baird, learned the drug business, and in 1858 "set up" a small drug store in Ritchie town in a one-story frame building belonging to the late Dr. R. W. Hazlett, at what is now the corner of Thirty-eight and Jacob Streets, the subject of our sketch being employed as clerk and errand boy. About 1860 the brothers established a penny post office in their drug store, which proved to be quite remunerative to them and a great accommodation to the townspeople who took advantage of it. It was a forerunner of the postal substation idea. People who wanted their mail brought down from the city signed an order to the postmaster to have their mail put into the penny post box, and every morning it was carried down to the drug store, distributed into the proper boxes, and delivered when called for at a charge of a penny for each letter or paper. During this time, the younger brother boarded and lodged at the family residence on North Main Street, between what are now Eighth and Ninth Streets, and walked to and from the little drug store stopping on the way at the post office for the penny post mail."

Wheeling in 1860 was the most important city in western Virginia, and was growing rapidly. Ritchie town, cited as the location of the penny post, changed its name to South Wheeling in the 1860s and was incorporated into Wheeling in the 1870s. There was no post office in Ritchie town or South Wheeling in 1860, and no carrier service is known to have existed in Wheeling in 1860.

The Wheeling Post Office in 1860 was located at 16th and Market Streets, in the Custom House. A probable route traveled by Thomas McLain from 8th and Main Streets to the Post Office, and then to the drug store, is shown in the Mapquest map shown in **Figure 3**. The Custom House, shown in **Figure 4**, is also known as West Virginia's Independence Hall. In 1861 in this building a convention of delegates from western Virginia resolved to remain in the federal Union after Virginia had decided to secede.



Figure 1. Frankford, PA to Wheeling, Virginia “in care of Penny Post”. Two additional “PENNY POST” pointed oval handstamp markings.



Figure 2. Pointed oval “PENNY POST” handstamp marking of Wheeling Virginia Penny Post.

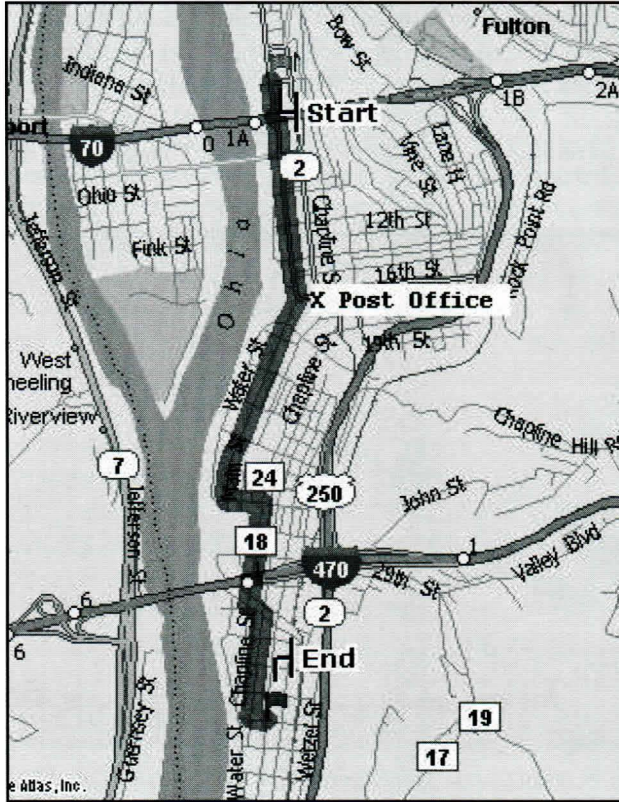


Figure 3. Possible route, highlighted in blue, taken by Thomas McLain from his home (Start) to the Post Office and then to the drug store, location of the Wheeling Penny Post (End).



Figure 4. Wheeling, (West) Virginia Post Office. Picture taken about 1880.

M O V I N G

Let us know.



Local Posts Literature and Auction Catalogs

Listed below is a sampling of the titles available from our inventory
of Locals and Carriers related titles.

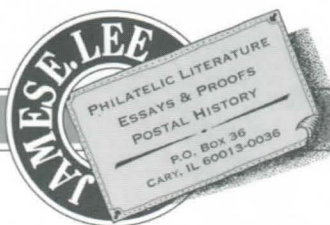
For a complete listing visit our website: www.jameslee.com.

Books

- *The Fresno and San Francisco Bicycle Mail of 1894*, Cooper, 1982, 134p, HB. \$50.00
- *The Chatham Square Post Offices and Swarts City Dispatch Post*, Hall, 1941, 34p, CC. \$10.00
- *Handbook of Private Local Posts*, Hurt & Williams, 1947 ed., 169p, HB. Covers local posts of the world (Billig's handbook no. 6). \$40.00
- *Boyd's Local Posts in New York City: 1844-1882*. Patton, 49p, CC. \$15.00
- *The Local Posts in Brooklyn, NY: 1844-1882*, Patton, 28p, CC. \$10.00
- *Private Local Posts of the United State: Volume 1 – New York State*, Patton, 1967, 350p, HB. \$45.00
- *U.S. Letter Carrier Stamps of Philadelphia under the Fee System*, Perry, 1954, 18p, CC. \$10.00
- *Byways of Philately: Privately Owned Posts and Early Locals*, Perry & Hale, 1966, 281p, HB. \$37.50
- *One Hundred Years Ago*, Perry & Hale, 1942, 68p, CC. Story of City Dispatch Posts. \$30.00
- *Pat Paragraphs*, Perry, 1981 reprint, 648p, HB. \$55.00

Auction Catalogs

- *Amb. J. William Middendorf II Collection of Carriers and Locals*, Frajola net price sale no. 4, • 1990, 787 lots, illustrated. \$25.00
- *Alfred Caspary Collection of U.S. Carriers and Locals*, HRH, 1957, 1046 lots. \$40.00
- *Cyril F. dos Passos Collection*, Robbins, 1981, 299 lots of Boyd's, Hussey's and Swart's. \$15.00
- *Josiah K. Lilly Collection – Part V*, Siegel, 1967, 402 lots of locals and carriers. \$35.00
- *David Golden Collection of U.S. Carriers and Locals*, Siegel, 1999, 1620 lots. Two vol. HB \$100.00. Three vol. SB in slip case \$75.00.



Order by phone, fax or e-mail. Terms: check, Visa or Master Card info with order. Shipping: \$5.00 for the first book, \$1.00 for each book thereafter. Foreign orders: additional postage.

James E. Lee LLC
P. O. Box 36-LC, Cary IL 60013-0036
(847) 462-9130 • Fax (847) 462-9140
E-mail: jim@jameslee.com

Visit our website: www.jameslee.com

Use this direct link to check our large stock of Confederate literature:
www.jameslee.com/books.htm

Johnston-Dienstag Special Service Labels

The majority were confiscated and destroyed
by the Secret Service

By
Bruce H. Mosher

During the Summer of 1906, Samuel P. Johnston and his business associate, J. L. Dienstag, were operating an advertising agency at 2170 Post Street in San Francisco—the *Johnston-Dienstag Company*. Around that time, these owners are known to have been searching for an ‘out-of-the-ordinary’ way to reach some of the top executives in San Francisco in order to advise them of the services that their company provided. They subsequently conceived the idea to create a distinctive advertising label that they could affix to envelopes similar to a postage stamp, in anticipation that their unique label would capture the recipient’s immediate attention and curiosity. These envelopes would contain the company’s advertising literature they wished to be read by the targeted executives. Further, Johnston-Dienstag would employ uniformed, ‘special service’ messengers to personally deliver the label-franked envelopes to the executives.¹ The resulting advertising label that was designed and used is illustrated in **Figure 1**.



Figure 1. Johnston-Dienstag advertising label of 1906.²

Johnston and Dienstag were very careful in specifying the attributes of their advertising label. Even though they wanted to simulate a ‘stamp-like’ product, they avoided putting a denomination value on it, or any wording relating to “post,” because of potential violations of U.S. Postal regulations. However, they made a serious mistake when they pasted their unique label in the upper right corner of many envelopes, thus occupying the space normally used for a postage stamp. This practical oversight would eventually hasten the government’s action to end the use of these advertising labels, as we will learn below.

The orange-brown, or light brown, Johnston-Dienstag label features a flying eagle in its central design and was lithographically printed on unwatermarked, white wove paper. The back of the label is fully gummed. This label measures 35 x 21 mm

¹ Thomas, Fred B., “It happened in San Francisco,” *Weekly Philatelic Gossip*, April 3, 1954.

² Right illustration courtesy of William Sammis.

across its single-lined border, and is perforated 12 x 12. This label has previously been designated as 'JSDD-L1' in the Mosher cataloging system.³ One report of an imperforate version of this label (see **Figure 2**⁴) remains unverified at present because no imperforate pairs are known. So we speculate that while this label obviously existed at the printer without perforations, it may not have been intended for use in that format. The **Figure 2** label may have been created by trimming off the sides of a perforated label that previously exhibited generous side margins.



Figure 2. Imperforate looking Johnston-Dienstag label.

The Johnston-Dienstag Company procured their own canceling device and used it to handstamp each label that was affixed to their envelopes as evidenced in the **Figure 1** through **6** illustrations. The label shown in **Figure 3** portrays a legible strike of approximately 40 per cent of this hand cancel. This circular cancel is about 24 mm in diameter and contains the curved inscription 'SAN FRANCISCO CAL' around the inside top of the circle. The month (as a three letter abbreviation) and day follow in two lines in the center; and '1906' is arched inside the bottom of the circle. Most of the private cancellations reported to date are struck in purple ink, but one cancel appears to be in black ink. The cancellation dates known so far are October 16, 24 and 25, all in 1906. If anyone has knowledge of additional cancel dates on these labels, the author would appreciate a color scan of same.



Figure 3. Most of the right side of the Johnston-Dienstag private cancellation is clearly visible.⁵

³ Mosher, Bruce H., "Express Catalog Update-Part 2," *The Penny Post*, October 2006, p. 65.

⁴ Lyons, Larry, "Johnston-Dienstag Company San Francisco, California," *The Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States*, Volume II, p. 717.

⁵ From Larry Lyons' collection.

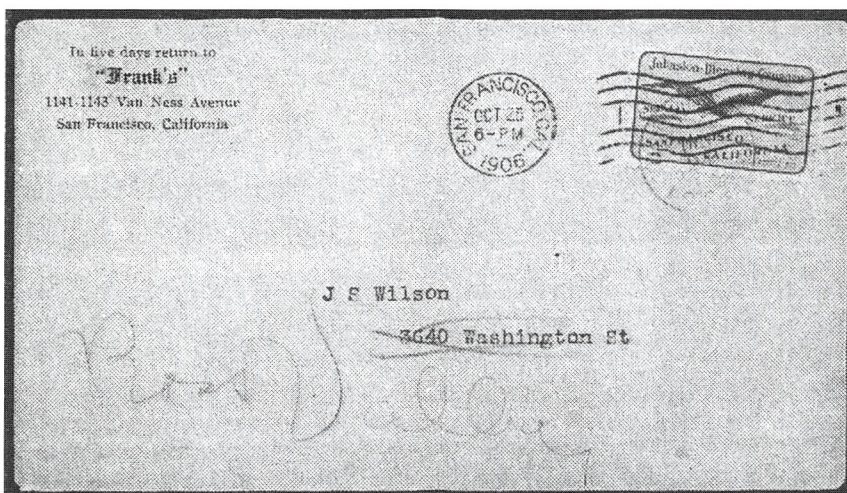


Figure 4. Postal and private cancellations tie the Johnston-Dienstag label.

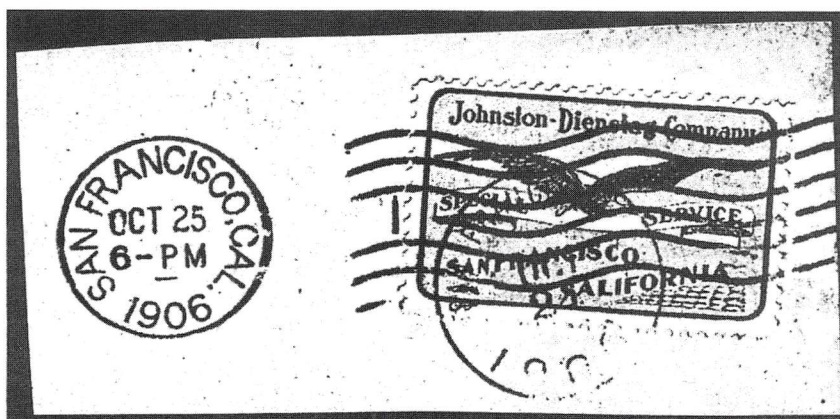


Figure 5. Enlargement of the cancellations on the Figure 4 cover.⁶

Apparently, late in 1906, some of the Johnston-Dienstag envelopes were messenger delivered to addresses where the intended recipient was absent or had moved away. It is probable that after the messenger found this situation existed, he deposited the envelope into the U.S. mail for postal forwarding, but without affixing a U.S. postage stamp to pay for the forwarding journey, a significant oversight. This would also appear to be the case for the cover shown in **Figure 4**—i.e., the private cancel was initially applied as discussed above, but for whatever reason, the envelope was eventually ‘mailed’ and consequently received a machine-cancel

⁶ Lyons, Larry, Volume II, p. 717.

postmark at the San Francisco Post Office. The introduction of these privately 'franked' covers into the mail stream did not go unnoticed by the San Francisco Post Office authorities who subsequently took decisive action to terminate the usage of the Johnston-Dienstag labels (i.e., 'imitation stamps' as they were also called) as will be discussed below.

Few covers have survived from the Johnston-Dienstag, 1906 private deliveries. A second known cover is shown in **Figure 6**; it bears a Johnston-Dienstag label that is canceled and tied with their familiar handstamp on October 24, 1906.⁷ There is no Post Office stamp nor cancellation on this cover, so very likely it was delivered to the addressee by a Johnston-Dienstag special messenger. Interestingly, the return address on this cover (and also on the **Figure 4** cover) is not what might have been expected as it reads: *In five days return to/ "Frank's"/ 1141-1143 Van Ness Avenue/ San Francisco, California*. We know that "Frank's" was not a subsidiary of the Johnston-Dienstag Company. These two covers (in **Figures 4** and **6**) seem to prove that Johnston-Dienstag messengers also delivered other consigned mailpieces, which means that Johnston-Dienstag was actually functioning as an illegal local post in 1906.

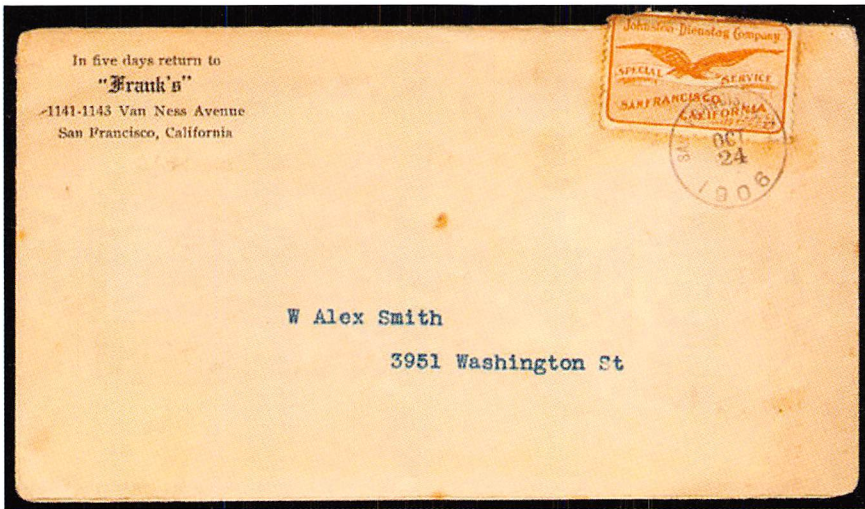


Figure 6. Scarce 1906 cover with the label tied by a private cancellation.

Abraham L. Frank was in business as a haberdasher selling men's furnishings at 1141 Van Ness Avenue in June 1907 (and probably sooner) through October 1908 (and maybe later) per Internet accessible, San Francisco directories. This property was on the west side of Van Ness and was not consumed by the firestorm after the April 18, 1906 earthquake, nor was it dynamited by the Army when the Van Ness fire break was created in late April by demolishing buildings on the east side of the Avenue. The initiation of Frank's business cannot be precisely ascertained, but he was not recorded as being in business at that location (or any other location) in June

⁷ Lot 219 in the Schuyler Rumsey Sale #20 on April 15-17, 2005 (sold for \$450.00).

1905, nor in April 1906 when the earthquake struck. Soon after the quake fires subsided in San Francisco, we know that the surviving mansions on the west side of Van Ness Avenue were converted into retail stores. It is probable that Abraham Frank was fully aware of these developments and established his haberdashery in one of the converted stores prior to October 1906. It then seems reasonable to postulate that the envelopes delivered by Johnston-Dienstag for Frank, may have contained advertising information about his new business.

Johnston-Dienstag may have also delivered mailpieces for other firms, in addition to Abraham Frank. But, this will probably only be confirmed if more label-bearing covers with other customer's corner cards are subsequently discovered. No information has been found that explains how much Johnston-Dienstag charged clients for special messenger delivery of their items. An educated guess would be about five to ten cents per item, based on what similar delivery organizations were charging in the U.S. around the beginning of the Twentieth Century. The affixed Special Services label on the aforementioned covers may well have documented that a delivery fee had been paid, much like an ordinary postage stamp indicates.

The first published philatelic-recognition of the Johnston-Dienstag labels occurred late in 1906. Henry A. Kidder wrote about the label in his "Chronicle of New Issues" column in the November 17th issue of *Mekeel's Weekly*. He describes a collector's label-franked cover that was handstamped by Johnston-Dienstag on October 25, 1906. This cancel is the same day as on the cover shown in **Figure 4**; possibly Kidder was describing that cover, although it was not illustrated. However, Kidder does not mention a Post Office cancellation on his cover, nor any corner card inscription. So, maybe Kidder's column did document a third Johnston-Dienstag, label-bearing cover that existed at one time.

The demise of Johnston-Dienstag's use of labels is definitely of philatelic interest and very germane to this report. It turns out that in September 1954, George B. Sloane, the renown philatelist and philatelic writer, also demonstrated a keen interest in learning this information. On September 23rd he wrote to the U.S. Treasury Department seeking information about the fate of the Johnston-Dienstag Company labels. Mr. Sloane promptly received a very informative response from the Secret Service that is documented in **Figure 7** as a facsimile of the actual letter sent to him. The information discussed in this letter was based on a search of pertinent old Secret Service records at The National Archives.

The primary historical points revealed in the **Figure 7** letter are summarized as follows:

- On December 24, 1906 the Secret Service opened an investigation into the Johnston-Dienstag Company's 'imitation stamps' (i.e., the 'advertising labels' illustrated and discussed herein) because of a complaint filed by the Post Office Department.
- On December 26, 1906, the Assistant U.S. Attorney decreed that all Johnston-Dienstag Company 'stamps' and printing plates are to be confiscated.
- On December 27, 1906, a Secret Service Agent and a Post Office Inspector seized about 85,000 "imitation special service stamps" from the Johnston-Dienstag Company in San Francisco.

- The Secret Service also confiscated the lithograph stone that was used to print the ‘stamps’ from the Schmidt Lithographing Company (located at 5th and Adeline Streets in Oakland).

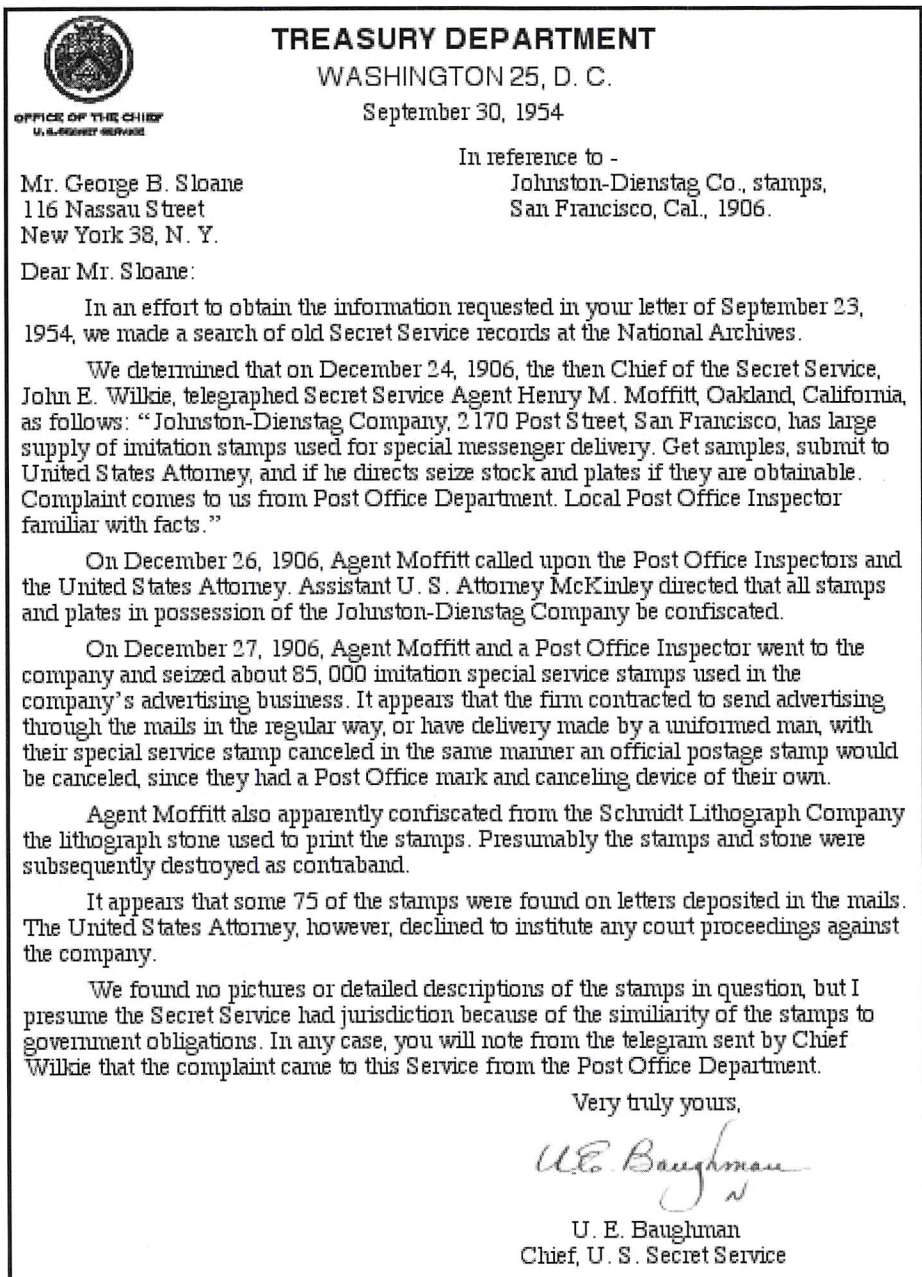


Figure 7. 1954 Secret Service informational letter (facsimile).

- No traces of the 1906 confiscated material were found in 1954 by the Secret Service, so the ‘stamps’ and lithograph stone were presumed to have been destroyed after their confiscation.
- During 1906–07, approximately 75 of the Johnston-Dienstag ‘stamps’ were found on letters deposited in the U.S. mails.
- The U.S. Attorney never instituted any court proceedings against the Johnston-Dienstag Company for their illegal operations.

George B. Sloane commented in his notes that possibly this was the only case in the U.S. suppression of “independent” posts where the Secret Service became involved. It appears obvious that Johnston-Dienstag terminated their illegal post activities after December 26, 1906.

The total quantity of Johnston-Dienstag labels printed in 1906 is unknown, but by postulating beyond the 85,000 that were confiscated, we can blithely estimate that a nice ‘round’ number was originally printed, such as 90,000 or maybe 100,000 labels. If this assumption is correct, it would mean that about five to fifteen thousand labels might have been used on the envelopes distributed by Johnston-Dienstag messengers during the last three months in 1906. In this regard, use of five thousand labels seems more plausible to this author, rather than fifteen thousand. But, we hastily note that in today’s collecting inventory, very few Johnston-Dienstag labels are expected to still exist (probably less than 50⁸), and even fewer label-bearing covers are still around (less than two dozen covers are estimated).

In conclusion, we make note of the continuing promulgation of an unfounded ‘myth’ concerning the Johnston-Dienstag labels which cites their emergency usage as stamps soon after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. No factual basis has been found to support this speculation. George B. Sloane aptly summarized the historical situation surrounding the appearance of these labels in his June 1955 correspondence to an inquiring stamp dealer:

“The stamp first came to philatelic notice in a notice by Henry A. Kidder, in *Mekeel’s Weekly*, November 17, 1906. He reported a cover postmarked, October 25, 1906, at San Francisco. Some later reports in the philatelic press referred to it as an “emergency” issue in San Francisco, as a result of the earthquake. The quake was in April and while there was a postal emergency in San Francisco for a week or so following, there was no emergency in October. It appears that the Johnston-Dienstag Co., were in the advertising business and worked up this stamp for use on material which their messengers delivered about the city, either for themselves or for clients.”

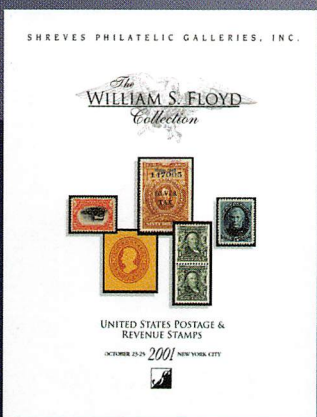
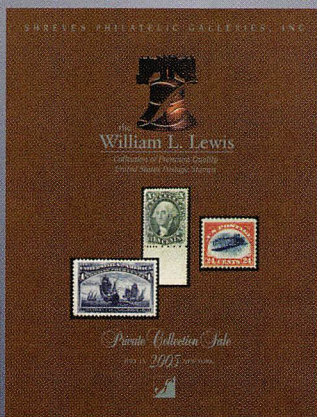
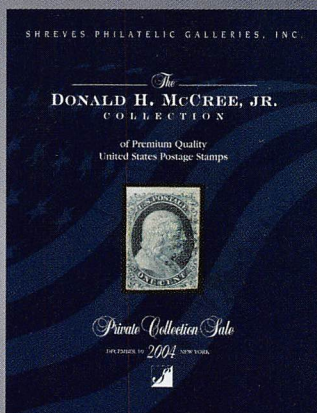
⁸ Seven off-cover Johnston-Dienstag labels are known to the author. Four are illustrated in this article.

Acknowledgments

We are indebted to Mark Baker, Richard Frajola, Larry Lyons and William Sammis for sharing their materials relating to Johnston-Dienstag labels so we could generate this interesting philatelic story. We also thank Leonard Piskiewicz and Randy Stehle for their helpful suggestions in tracking down information pertaining to “Frank’s”.

Appeal for Express Articles

In order to keep the Expresses Section alive in *The Penny Post*, we need to receive and publish some articles about Express or Delivery Company topics that are authored by the membership (or even by nonmembers). Please take a few moments to identify a story in this field that you would like to write about and then let me know about it including when you believe you can submit a draft article. Your article doesn’t have to be based on brand new, in-depth research as long as it addresses some aspect of the private express field. If you need any help with your composition, please let me know and we will provide whatever assistance you require. We can be contacted at bhmexp@digital.net, or P.O. Box 033236, Indialantic, FL 32903. Thank you in advance for contributing to the Expresses Section of *The Penny Post*.



OUR CATALOGS SPEAK VOLUMES...

A Shreves auction catalog says a great deal about our company. Unsurpassed attention to detail. In-depth philatelic knowledge. Award-winning marketing expertise. Record-breaking prices realized. Teamed with our famous "First Class" service for every client, Shreves has been able to attract many of the most well-known and acclaimed collections to come on the auction market. Discerning buyers and sellers alike know that high quality U.S. and foreign stamps and covers deserve a superior catalog - and auction firm - that continues to set the standard for excellence.



SHREVES
PHILATELIC GALLERIES, INC.

800 556 STAMP 800.556.7826
www.shreves.com

Dallas & New York

14131 Midway Road, Suite 1250 • Addison, Texas 75001-9829 • 972/788-2100 • FAX 972/788-2788
145 West 57th Street, 18th Floor • New York, N.Y. 10019 • 212/262-8400 • FAX 212/262-8484

Three Continents, One Philosophy: To serve buyers and consignors worldwide.

For more than half a century, Matthew Bennett has distinguished itself as a premier stamp auction house. With its recent acquisitions of Zurich Asia in Hong Kong and HA Harmers Auctions SA of Switzerland, Matthew Bennett now has a global reach spanning three continents. Whether you are a buyer seeking high-quality stamps, accumulations or postal history, or a seller considering the consignment of your collection, we are here to serve your needs.

*For more information about our upcoming auctions or consignment details,
please contact:*



MATTHEW BENNETT INTERNATIONAL
An Arthur Maury Company

UNITED STATES • FRANCE • SWITZERLAND • HONG KONG

200 Rector Place, Suite 41D New York, NY 10280 United States

212.842.0425 phone 800.628.4223 toll-free 212.217.9331 fax

www.bennettstamps.com info@bennettstamps.com

Fancy Overprint Forgeries of S. Allan Taylor

By
Clifford J. Alexander

During his 42 years in business as a stamp dealer, S. Allan Taylor was one of the most prolific stamp forgers in the world. From 1863 until 1905, he created and sold hundreds of different counterfeit stamps in many colors and on different types of paper.¹ *The Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries & Bogus Posts of the United States*² by Larry Lyons is the primary reference source for Taylor's forgeries of United States carriers, locals and bogus posts. This three-volume work lists a number of unusual papers and patterns variously described as "moiré," "fancy papers," or "special printings." These stamps also are sometimes on paper that is ribbed vertically, horizontally or diagonally. Taylor's overprint stamps, which are among the rarest of his creations, are the subject of this article.

Explanation of Terms

Experienced stamp collectors undoubtedly are familiar with the common terms used to describe colors and papers. However, it may be helpful to review the following terms that are relevant to the Taylor overprint forgeries discussed in this article: "moiré patterns," "quadrille design" and "ribbed paper."

Webster's Third New International Dictionary gives as a primary definition of moiré "an irregularly wavy finish use produced on a fabric." Webster's two primary pronunciations are "mò-rā" and "mwä-rā." Moiré is the adjective from the French verb "moirer," which means "to water" and is most often used in the context of textile fabrics. In *Fundamentals of Philately*, L.N. Williams notes that moiré "is a French term, meaning "watered," and used generally to describe the pattern of "watered silk."³

Philatelically, moiré describes a similar pattern printed on paper, usually in color on the back of the stamp. Webster's secondary definition is "a ripple pattern on the face or back of a stamp." **Figure 1** is the 1¢ brown, British Honduras stamp with a traditional philatelic moiré pattern of uniform wavy lines on its surface.



Figure 1.

¹ See George B. Sloan, "Sloane's Column," *Stamps Magazine* (March 21, 1953).

² Larry Lyons, *The Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries & Bogus Posts*, Vol. I-III (1998) ("Identifier").

³ L.N. Williams, *Fundamentals of Philately* (Rev. 1990) at p. 60.

There are two other terms that are often used in the context of Taylor's overprint forgeries. "Quadrille" design describes a rectangular pattern printed on paper. Strictly speaking, it refers to a square, which is technically a rectangle with equal sides and 90 degree corners. When the corner angles of the rectangles are not all 90 degrees, these patterns are referred to as "oblong quadrilles." Both types can be found on Taylor forgeries.⁴

In addition, Taylor's overprint forgeries sometimes are found on ribbed paper. Williams described ribbed paper as having "an uneven, corrugated surface, rather like exaggerated laid lines, but covered by passing the paper between rigid rollers."⁵ The lines in ribbed paper often are obvious from the face and back of a stamp even without a strong backlight.

Taylor Forms

The January 2003 issue of *The Penny Post* featured an article by John D. Bowman, Gordon Stimmell and Larry Lyons explained the printing forms used by Taylor to manufacture his forgeries.⁶ The authors reported that, when he printed his forgeries, Taylor bound together a "cliché" of individual stamp typefaces. In their article, the authors identified 28 different forms or groups of forgeries that came from the same clichés. Messrs. Lyons, Stimmell and Bowman have continued to identify forms based on types of paper and colors; and the total is now over 85.

In many cases, Taylor used the same form for a number of different printings. For example, the Forms Article reports that Form 2 was printed in black ink on nine different colors of paper; and Form 4 was printed in four different ink colors on a total of nine different types and colors of paper.⁷

The Forms Article also pointed out that "Taylor supposedly gathered paper and ink remainders from local printers, and used what he had on hand to prepare his forgeries."⁸ This helps explain why many Taylor forgeries of real local posts, as well as bogus post stamps, are found on papers and with a wide variety of colors that bear no relation to the real stamps. It also might explain why the fancy patterns, ribbed paper and unusual color patterns are so rare and difficult to find.

The author has found thirteen types of Taylor forgeries of carriers, local and bogus posts with fancy overprints. Three of these are on white wove paper. Six are on cream colored wove paper. Two are on diagonally ribbed paper; one is on vertically ribbed paper and one on horizontally ribbed paper.⁹ Examples of each type of known Taylor overprint pattern are reprinted in **Figures 2-14**.

⁴ Williams identifies the French 1892 (April) 15 cent as having a quadrille design and the Morocco 1898 5-cent to 1 peseta as having an oblong quadrille design. *Id.* at p. 52.

⁵ *Id.* at p. 62.

⁶ John D. Bowman, Gordon Stimmell and Larry Lyons, "S. Allen Taylor 'Forms' Known Colors and Subjects," *The Penny Post*, Vol II, No. 1 (Jan. 2003) pp. 22-35, ("Forms Article").

⁷ *Id.*, at p. 24.

⁸ *Id.*, at 22.

⁹ The author has recorded other Taylor forgeries on ribbed paper but without fancy overprint patterns.

List of Taylor's Fancy Overprint Stamps

The listing that follows describes the types of Taylor overprint stamps of U.S. carriers, locals, bogus posts and Confederate post offices known to the author. The forgery and bogus references are to the Lyons *Identifier*.

Black on Light Blue Paper Diagonally Ribbed SW to NE Overprinted with Rows of Alternating Gold Dots and Gold Four-Leaf Clovers (**Figure 2**):

Bentley's Dispatch (Forgery D1)
Flynn's Penny Post (Bogus 1)
Steinmeyer's City Post (Forgery G)
Crosby's Special Message (Bogus 1)

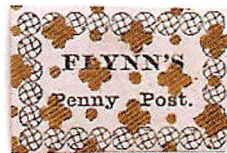


Figure 2.

Black on Light Blue Paper Diagonally Ribbed NW to SE Overprinted with Rows of Alternating Gold Dots and Gold Four-Leaf Clovers (**Figure 3**):

Bentley's Dispatch (Forgery D1)
Crosby's Special Message (Bogus 1)
Gunn's Despatch (Bogus)
Steinmeyer's City Post (Forgery G)
Walton & Co. (Bogus 1)

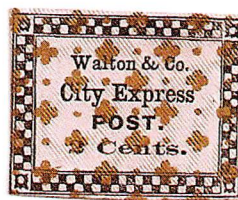


Figure 3.

Black on Horizontally Ribbed Salmon Surface Colored Paper Overprinted with Horizontal Gold Obloid Quadrilled Lines (**Figure 4**):

Bell's Despatch (Bogus 1)
Bronson & Forbes (Forgery B)
City Despatch Post (Cole's) (Forgery B)
Gordon's City Express (Forgery C)
Russell's Eighth Ave P.O. (Forgery E)
Winan's City Post 10 Cents (Bogus B)



Figure 4.

Black on Vertically Ribbed Salmon Surface Colored Paper Overprinted with Vertical Gold Obloid Quadrilled Lines **Figure 5**):

Hanford's Pony Express (Forgery B)
Robison & Co. (Forgery E)

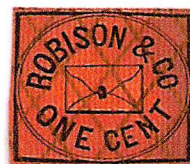


Figure 5.

Black on Cream Colored Wove Paper Overprinted with Gold Diagonal Quadrilled Dotted Lines and with Circles at the Intersections
(Figure 6):

Bronson & Forbes (Forgery B)
City Despatch Post (Cole's) (Forgery B)
Gordon's City Express (Forgery C)
Hanford's Pony Express (Forgery B)
Robison & Co. (Forgery E)
Russell's Eighth Ave Post Office (Forgery E)
Bell's (Bogus 1)



Figure 6.

Dark Green on Cream Colored Wove Paper Overprinted with Gold Diagonal Quadrilled Dotted Lines and with Circles at the Intersection
(Figure 7):

Kidder Express Post (Forgery C)
Bradway's Dispatch (Bogus 2)



Figure 7.

Light Green on Cream Colored Wove Paper Overprinted with Gold Diagonal Quadrilled Dotted Lines and with Circles at the Intersections
(Figure 8):

Kidder Express Post (Forgery C)



Figure 8.

Burgundy on White Wove Paper Overprinted with Gold Diagonal Quadrilled Dotted Lines and with Circles at the Intersections (Figure 9):

Crosby's City Post (Forgery A)
Franklin City Despatch Post (Bogus 2)



Figure 9.

Milky Blue on White Wove Paper Overprinted with Gold Diagonal Quadrilled Dotted Lines and with Circles at the Intersections (Figure 10):

Charleston SC (Confederate Postmaster Forgery)
 Columbia PO (Confederate Postmaster Forgery)
 Fredericksburg PO (Confederate Postmaster Forgery)
 Galveston Post Office (Confederate Postmaster Forgery)
 Macon GA Post Office (Confederate Postmaster Forgery)
 Rheatown TN Post Office (Confederate Postmaster Forgery)



Figure 10.

Light Blue on Cream Colored Wove Paper Overprinted with Gold Diagonal Quadrilled Dotted Lines and with Circles at the Intersections (**Figure 11**):

Charleston SC (Confederate Postmaster Forgery)
 Columbia PO (Confederate Postmaster Forgery)
 Fredericksburg PO (Confederate Postmaster Forgery)
 Galveston Post Office (Confederate Postmaster Forgery)
 Macon GA Post Office (Confederate Postmaster Forgery)
 Rheatown TN Post Office (Confederate Postmaster Forgery)



Figure 11.

Blue on Cream Colored Wove Paper Overprinted with Crimson Cloudy Lines (**Figure 12**):

Cheever & Towles (Forgery B)
 Letter Despatch E.D. Prince (Bogus 1)



Figure 12.

13):
 Crimson on Cream Wove Paper Overprinted with Blue Crossroads (**Figure**

Bell's Dispatch (Bogus 1)
 Petersburg Post Office (Confederate Postmaster Forgery)



Figure 13.

Red on White Wove Paper Overprinted with Gray Wavy Dashed Lines
(Figure 14):

Franklin City Despatch Post (Bogus 2)
Crosby's City Post (Forgery A)



Figure 14.

Based on the examples that have been seen to date, the author has only been able to determine that the black on light blue diagonally ribbed paper stamps overprinted with alternating gold dots and gold clovers were printed most likely by Taylor using the cliché for Form C. The Forms article lists the following stamps as comprising the Form C cliché.

Arthur's City Post Bogus 1, Barnard's Cariboo Express Forgery E, Bentley's Despatch Forgery D, C & W Bridge Bogus 5, Charleston P.O., Crosby's Special Message Post Bogus 1, Flynn's Penny Post Bogus 1, Glen Haven Daily Mail Type IV Forgery A, Gunn's Despatch Bogus, Hackett's Bogus 1, Hall & Neill's Despatch Post Bogus 1, Jefferson Market Post Office Bogus 1, Johnson's Box Forgery 3a, Moody's Penny Post Bogus B, Roadman's Penny Post Bogus 5, Springside Post Office Forgery, Steinmeyer's City Post Forgery G, Walton & Co. City Express Bogus 1, Warwick's Bogus 14.¹⁰

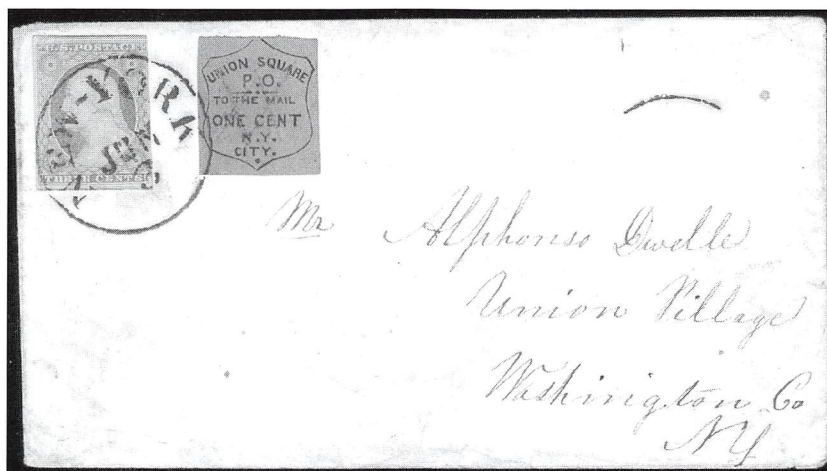
The author has not been able to associate the remaining overprint forgeries with any of the other 27 forms identified in the Forms Article.

Forgeries are an important part of their hobby for many collectors of carriers and locals. Taylor's creations in particular are a fascinating subset of forgeries. The author would appreciate receiving from readers scans of Taylor forgeries with overprint patterns both to expand the knowledge of these colorful designs and also confirm the existence of those that we presume exist but have not yet seen.

The author would like to express his appreciation for the assistance provided by John Bowman, Larry Lyons, Gordon Stimmel and Geoff Rosamund in connection with the preparation of this article.

¹⁰ Forms Article, at p. 30.

The finest collections are built with
passion and precision.



Please visit our website at:
www.rumseyauctions.com

email: srumsey@rumseyauctions.com

Schuyler
Rumsey
Philatelic
Auctions

47 Kearny Street
San Francisco
California 94108
t: 415-781-5127
f: 415-781-5128

Please note our new address and phone numbers.

U.S. Postal History.

When selling or buying, come to the firm that has been a key purveyor of America's great classic covers since our inception in 1940.

Are you on our catalog mailing list?



Your collection deserves the attention of the Harmer expert philatelists and auctioneers. Call us to learn the many ways we can help you achieve the highest possible value when you are ready to sell.



H.R. Harmer, Inc.

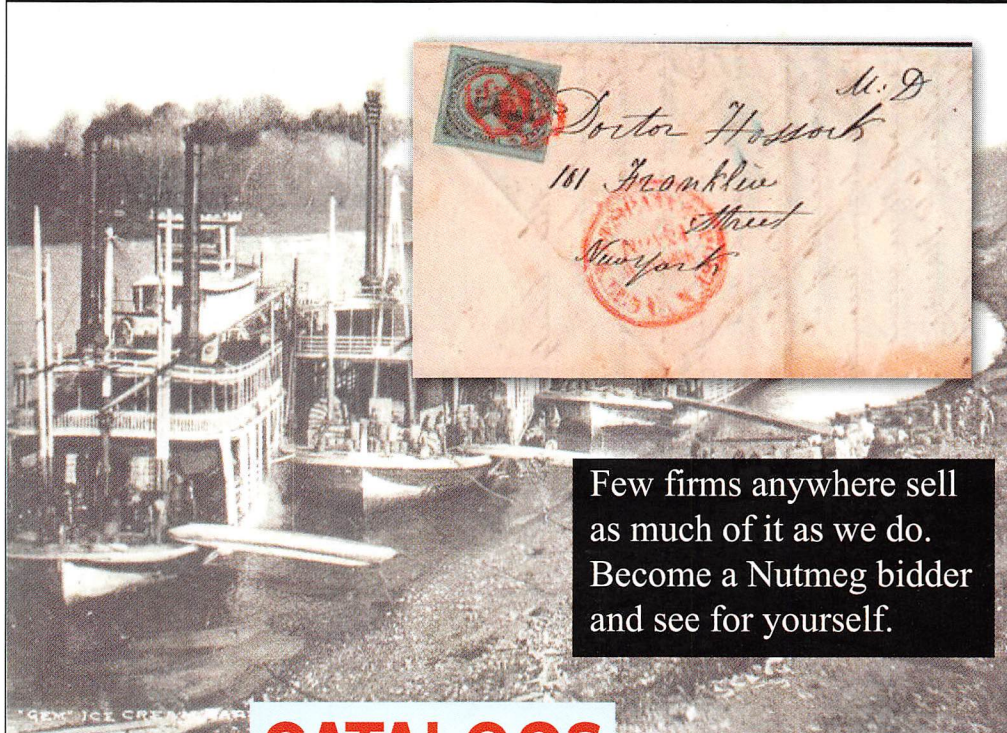
www.hrharmer.com

5 Francis J. Clarke Drive
Bethel, CT 06801 USA

Phone: 203.702.8490 | Fax: 203.702.8491

E-Mail: hrharmer@hrharmer.com

U.S. postal history your cup of tea?



Few firms anywhere sell as much of it as we do. Become a Nutmeg bidder and see for yourself.

CATALOGS
They're yours
FREE always.



Special Note to Buyers of Great Material: Someone told us recently that there are still some serious collectors who haven't availed themselves of the rather fantastic opportunity to become a bidder in Nutmeg's world famous Mail Auctions.

What? How can that be?

Here's the deal. Find a postal card (or get on your computer) right now and send us this message: "Send catalog." Two little words.

Those two little words might just be the best ones you've uttered since you said, "I do!" They'll open up doors you never dreamed of. Why? Because no one consistently offers the kinds of fabulous stamps and covers we do!



U.S., U.S., U.S. and more U.S.
Thousands of lots. All the time.
(But wait. We do foreign, too!)

Call Toll Free
1-800-522-1607
for your free catalog.

Nutmeg Stamp Sales

5 Francis J. Clarke Circle
Bethel, CT 06801

Email: info@nutmegstamp.com



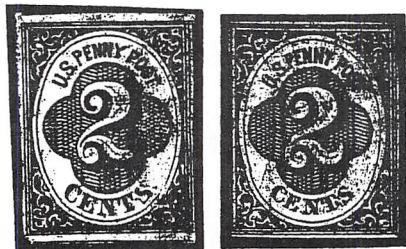
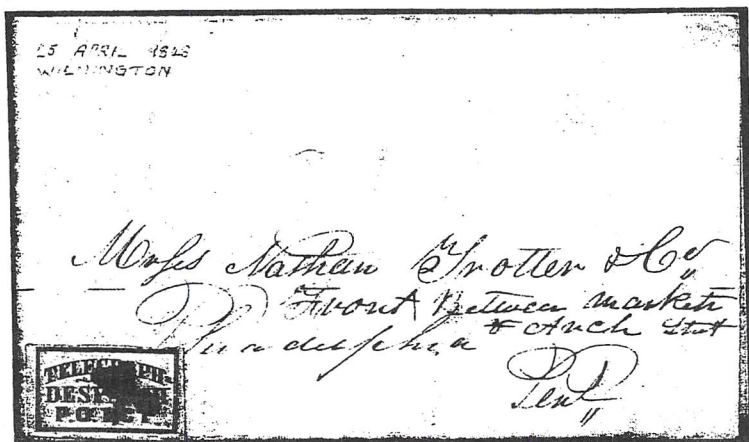
Look for us on the Web: www.nutmegstamp.com



An Escala Group Company

Buying, Selling & Appraisals

- ★ Classic U.S. Stamps & Postal History
- ★ U.S. 19th Century Proofs & Essays
- ★ Confederate Stamps & Covers



STANLEY M. PILLER

800 S. Broadway • Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Phone (925) 938-8290

Fax (925) 938-8812

Email: stmpdlr@aol.com

Boyd's Mercury Stamps – Why Pink and Blue?

By

John D. Bowman

All Rights Reserved 2008

Boyd's was one of longest-lived local posts, and because it enjoyed a good business in New York City from 1844-1883,¹ many stamps and covers survive today. The adhesive stamp issues may be divided among three general design types: eagle on globe in oval (1844-67), framed eagle (eagle inside of fancy design) (1867-78), and the Mercury issues (1878-1883). Each of these design types is associated with a slightly different name: Boyd's City Express, Boyd's City Dispatch, and Boyd's Dispatch respectively. As far as we know today, the design changes and name changes were not associated with changes in ownership, but more likely a result of the changing nature of Boyd's business and changing its addresses.

The Mercury adhesives were printed in three design types, incorporating color variations of pink and blue, wove and laid papers, and a number of different perforations. The purpose of this article is to suggest why both pink and blue stamps were issued. **I believe that the pink paper stamps were designated for use on local delivery of letter mail, while the blue paper stamps were intended for circulars, newspapers, and other bulk business mail. The nominal value of each was one cent.**



Figure 1. A pink example of Boyd's 20L56 on a cover dated February 19, 1883.

¹ It is not clear when Boyd's letter delivery service ended, although covers are known dated 1885 and possibly later.

The problems in analyzing the Boyd's Mercury issues include not enough dated covers, the lack of known Boyd's advertisements during this time period, the numerous perforation varieties that have been noted, the large number of handstamps employed over the period of use, and the scarcity of some issues.

Historical Notes

William and Mary Blackham purchased the business from John T. Boyd, Jr., at the end of 1860. Surviving covers suggest that the new owners' postal business of delivering local mail and letters to the New York Post Office was successful at first. However, their postal business declined, and around 1866 one cent (20L24-20L25) and two cent stamps (20L23) were prepared.² The designs imitated the eagle on globe designs that were used by John T. Boyd. The second (blue paper) one cent stamp (20L25) is likely the second printing when stocks of 20L24 (lilac paper) were depleted. The two cent stamp on cover is not common, and the one cent stamps on covers are scarce to rare. It is not clear why two denominations were issued at this time, but it is possible that Boyd's established a two cent rate for local letter mail and a one cent rate for business mail. Later one cent covers are tied with a 1 Park Place handstamp. Boyd's City Dispatch relocated from Fulton Street to 1 Park Place, probably in 1873.

Boyd's covers with adhesive stamps from mid-1868 through mid-1878 are decidedly uncommon, and dated covers from this period are difficult to locate. During this time, Boyd's issued a number of postage stamped envelopes with the framed eagle design, starting in 1867, and began to issue bank notices with their stamp designs on them in 1874. These are all scarce, with the possible exceptions of Scott 20LU13 and 20LU18. The framed eagle design adhesive of 1877 was replaced by Mercury stamps and envelopes in mid-1878.

Charles Coster wrote in *The Collector's World* of 1879:³

"Boyd's Dispatch is one of the oldest local posts in the United States, as it extends back to 1844. It has issued many stamps, - of several quite distinct designs - those now in use having for the central device Mercury bearing a flag inscribed *Boyd's Despatch*. This stamp as first issued in 1878 - was of 2¢, (or \$1.50 per hundred) and was printed in black on dark crimson paper. About November of the same year, the color of the paper was changed to flesh or rose, the value remaining as before.

"In February or March 1879, owing to competition from *Douglas' Despatch*, Mr. Boyd reduced his tariff on letters to 1¢, and since that time the flesh colored stamp has been sold at 1¢.

² References to Scott or the Scott catalog refer to the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps & Covers*, JE Kloetzel, Ed., Sidney, OH: Scott Publishing Co.

³ Coster CH. Boyd's Dispatch. *The Collector's World* 1879 July; 1:67.

"In March or April, 1879, there appeared a stamp of identical design, but printed in blue or pale blue paper. This label is used for circulars, newspapers &c., and is sold at the rate of \$0.75 per hundred.

"This 'Mercury stamp' as it is designated by collectors, is also found impressed on amber envelopes of 136x98mm. It first came in black; but, about four months ago the color was changed to red; and in March or April last a change of value was made, from 2¢ to 1¢., as in the case of the adhesives. Mr. Boyd says that the stamp was also printed in black on an envelope of smaller size; but we have not met with any specimens.

"Boyd's post, in by-gone years, had many boxes located throughout the city for the reception of letters to be distributed by its carriers; but, a while ago, they were all withdrawn. The proprietor has recently commenced to place them again in central localities."

Coster, a careful student of early US locals, provides a reason why Boyd's covers during this period are scarce in the last paragraph, but does not account for Boyd's removal or replacement of its boxes. It is likely that Boyd's was pressured by the government to discontinue letter mail service.

Coster noted the nominal face value of the red stamps (20L43-20L43A) and the "flesh" stamps (20L44), both introduced in 1878, was two cents each or \$1.50 per hundred. He goes on to say that Boyd's reduced its fee on letters to one cent due to the opening of Douglas' City Despatch in early 1879, and the "flesh" stamps were then sold at that price. Shortly after the fee reduction, Boyd's introduced a blue on blue stamp (20L46), sold at \$0.75 per hundred. Douglas' issued both a pink and a blue non-denominated stamp (59L1-59L2), and the *Scott Catalogue* gives the face value at one cent and two cents respectively. Guy's City Despatch in Philadelphia also issued a pink and a blue stamp (74L1-74L2) during their period of operation from April to June, 1879, but in this case the *Scott Catalogue* gives face values at one cent for each stamp.

Dr. William Mitchell did not make note of any Boyd's Mercury stamps in his journals, although he was a contemporary and often did announce new issues of local posts.⁴ Dr. Mitchell's list in Sterling's 1887 (sixth) catalog only mentions four Mercury stamps: 2¢ black on pink, 1¢ black on blue, and 2¢ black on red, all dated 1878, and a 1¢ mauve dated 1880. J. W. Scott noted 1¢ blue on blue perf 12, 1¢ black on rose perf 11 and perf 12, and 1¢ black on mauve with irregular perforations, all dated May 2, 1878; he listed 1¢ black on blue perf 16 and perf 12, and 1¢ black on rose perf 12, dated Sept. 28, 1878.⁵ Fred Hunter prepared a more extensive list in 1891, listing all three Mercury types and closely approximating today's catalog listings.⁶

⁴ Mitchell WH. *The Bayonne Philatelist*, Oct. 1883 – Oct. 1884; *The Independent Philatelist*, Nov. 1884 – Feb. 1891.

⁵ Scott JW. Boyd, John T. *Amer J Phil* 1888 Oct; 344-48.

⁶ Hunter FW. Boyd's City Post. *The Metropolitan Philatelist* 1891 Nov.; 157-161.

For unknown reasons, Boyd's mail business seems to have increased beginning in mid-1878, and resulted in an increase of surviving covers until May 4, 1883, when Boyd's and Hussey's offices were raided by government postal inspectors and mail was seized.⁷ (However, tolerable fines were imposed, and Boyd's continued to service mail, albeit at a lesser volume, for a few more years.)

Boyd's distributed bank notices for the Importers' and Traders' National Bank from 1874 through 1881 (Scott 20LU45-20LU51). In addition, it prepared notices for the National Park Bank around 1880 that apparently were not used (Scott 20LU54) and a postal card for Fleischmann's Viennese Bakery, a rare item recently listed (20LUX13). These indicate Boyd's attempts at identifying commercial customers for non-letter mail prior to and during the Mercury period to avoid further government suppression of local mail delivery for individual customers.

Mercury Stamp Colors – Used for Different Classes of Mail Matter?

The suggestion of different colored stamps for different classes of mail has not been studied since Coster's contemporary 1879 article.⁸ After examination of many covers and stamps, I believe that this was the original reason for the different colors. **The pink group of stamps was intended for local delivery of letter mail, while the blue group of stamps was intended for circulars, newspapers, and other volume business mail.**

According to Needham, the type I adhesives (20L37-20L50) were printed by C.O. Jones beginning in 1878.⁹ Type II (20L51-20L54) was printed by J. Gibson in 1881. Type III (20L55-56) was printed by the *Evening Post* in 1882. The printers were noted in Hunter's article, but without year dates given.¹⁰ (Needham's statements are known to contain inaccuracies.) The Mercury envelopes (20LU33-20LU44A) are known in two design types L70 and L71, with L70 resembling the first Mercury adhesives; L71 is a new design, yet still similar to the stamp issues.

All of the adhesive Mercury stamps were printed in shades of pink and in blue by each of the three companies, so clearly Boyd's continued to order and use two colors throughout the Mercury period. It is useful to review the color history of the Mercury stamps by earliest dated examples to determine the accuracy of Coster's statements and to see if a pattern emerges to explain the two general colors of the Mercury stamps.

Scott 20L37-20L42 are imperforate color trial proofs prepared around June 1878, some of which may have been used postally, according to the *Scott Catalogue*. There are a number of additional color/paper types known of these color trials, but all are rare.

⁷ Sloane GB. Postal Raid on Local Posts, in *Sloane's Column*, West Somerville, MA: Bureau Issues Association, 1961:155. Postal inspectors and US marshals intercepted the carriers of Boyd's and Hussey's and seized the private mail on May 4, 1883.

⁸ The idea was first mentioned to the author a number of years ago by fellow Boyd's collector Lawrence LeBel. A personal communication by the author with Richard Schwartz did not result in an opinion or information about this.

⁹ Needham HC. U.S. Local Stamps – A Concise History and Memoranda. *The Philatelic Gazette*, 1917; 7:86-92.

¹⁰ Hunter, *op cit*.

Boyd's settled on a black on orange-red stamp for the first Mercury issue, Scott 20L43A, known used in July and early August 1878, and changed to the crimson stamp (20L43) toward the end of August.¹¹ A dull brown red shade (20L43a) is known used in early October 1878.¹²

The black on pink wove paper Scott 20L44 was issued in November 1878.¹³ The blue on blue wove 20L46 was the next issued, in March 1879.¹⁴

What was the Rate for Pink vs. Blue?

If Coster is correct about the price reduction of the pink 20L44 to one cent in early 1879 in order to compete with Douglas' City Despatch, then why was a blue stamp issued shortly thereafter? Was it done because Douglas issued both pink and blue stamps? If so, why did Douglas issue both colors? An ornate handstamp was usually used to cancel Douglas' pink stamps, while the blue ones are more often cancelled with a plain cork killer. One might infer that the Douglas' ornate cancel was used on letter mail and the cork killer on other classes of mail. It is not known, however, whether Douglas' issued his blue stamp before or after Boyd's blue Mercury. But Coster does say that Scott 20L44 was sold for one cent in February or March 1879, and the blue on blue Scott 20L46 was prepared in March or April 1879 and sold for \$0.75 per hundred. Either the pink stamps were sold individually at one cent apiece and the blue in quantities of one hundred for a reduced rate, or both colors were available for one cent each or at \$0.75 per hundred. **No two cent rate was in effect.**

If the blue stamps were to be bought by the hundred, they more likely represented bulk mailings for Boyd's business customers, whether they were used on commercial business mail, circulars, newspapers or some other type of bulk distribution. The fact that the blue on blue 20L46 was the first blue paper stamp issued by Boyd's is supported by Coster's note as well as known dated covers. The blue on blue stamp is scarcer than the black on blue 20L45. A smaller initial printing order for 20L46 seems appropriate if Boyd's was seeking new business customers for bulk mail. One would also expect the survival rate for "junk" mail to be less than that for letter mail. It also makes sense that Boyd's needed an alternative to city letter delivery; Douglas' City Despatch was suppressed shortly after it opened, and Boyd's must also have been under pressure or was excused for some unknown reason.¹⁵

¹¹ Bowman JD. Boyd's First Mercury Design – The Red Stamps. *The Penny Post* 1995 Apr; 5(2):20-24.

¹² Hunter, *op cit*. Hunter listed three shades of the red Mercury stamp.

¹³ Coster CH, *op cit*. He notes the paper color was changed to flesh or rose about Nov. 1878, and the author notes the earliest use of this stamp as Nov. 15, 1878, perforated 11.

¹⁴ Coster CH, *op cit*. He notes it was printed in March or April 1879. In addition, the author notes the earliest use of this stamp as Mar. 8, 1879, perforated 12, with another example dated Apr. 19, 1879 and perforated 11.

¹⁵ Perhaps Douglas' City Despatch advertised its mail services while Boyd's did not, thus inviting intervention by the US post office. Boyd's survived until the present time by changing the nature of its business away from letter mail under pressure from the government post office.

Coster's contemporaneous statements may be accurate, and his dating can be verified by known covers. The differentiation between pink and blue stamps may not hold true for 20L56, the last Mercury stamp, which after the raid of May 1883 may have been used more or less indiscriminately for all classes of mail.

Because Douglas' City Despatch was quickly suppressed by the US post office, Boyd's could have reverted to its initial two cent rate for local mail delivery, having no further competition. But if so, how could Boyd's continue to service letter

	Scott #	Ink/Paper Color	Perf	EKD
I	20L44	Black/pink wove	11	1878/11/15
I	20L46	Blue/blue wove	12	1879/03/08
I	20L44	Black/pink wove	12x11	1879/03/28
I	20L46	Blue/blue wove	11	1879/04/19
I	20L44	Black/pink wove	11.5	1879/08/09
I	20L44	Black/pink wove	12	1879/10/07
I	20L50	Black/lilac pink laid	12.5	1880/06/17
I	20L45	Black/blue wove	12	1880/09/09
II	20L51	Black/blue wove	16	1881/00/00
I	20L50	Black/lilac pink laid	12	1881/04/07
II	20L54	Black/lilac pink laid	12	1881/11/07
II	20L54	Black/lilac pink laid	16	1881/12/10
II	20L53	Black/pink laid	12	1881/12/21
II	20L51	Black/blue wove	16X12	1882/00/00
II	20L53	Black/pink laid	16x12	1882/01/26
II	20L54	Black/lilac pink laid	16x12	1882/02/09
III	20L56	Black/pink wove	12	1882/02/16
II	20L52	Black/pink wove	12	1882/06/01
II	20L52	Black/pink wove	16x12	1882/08/14
I	20L50	Black/lilac pink laid	13.5	1882/09/14
III	20L56	Black/pink wove	12x8	1883/02/07
III	20L56	Black/pink wove	12x16	1883/02/20
III	20L56	Black/pink wove	12x12x12x10	1883/02/27
III	20L55	Black/blue wove	16	1883/03/01
III	20L56	Black/pink wove	12x10	1883/04/12

Table 1. Listing of Boyd's Mercury Stamps by Earliest Known Dates (EKD) and Perforation. Other perforation types are known but not dated. (EKD is intended to take into account single used stamps which have some or all of the date handstamped on them, as opposed to Earliest Known Use (EKU) which implies use on cover.)¹⁶

¹⁶ Census maintained by author, which is extensive but not exhaustive. It is based on collectors' holdings, auction listings, published articles, notes left by Elliott Perry, George Sloane, Henry Abt, and private records maintained by Richard Schwartz and David Golden.

mail in spite of the post office's continued suppression of this enterprise? It is just as likely that Boyd's kept their rate at one cent for local letters, while allowing commercial users to purchase blue stamps at a discount by the hundred. And it is very possible that the pink stamps were sold at one cent to any customer who did not desire bulk distribution of at least one hundred items. Thus, some business customers may have desired smaller distributions of mail than the "breakeven" point of 75 one cent pink stamps vs. 100 blue stamps at \$0.75.

Sequence of Use of Mercury Stamps

Table 1 lists the earliest known dated usages of each stamp according to its perforation.

This approach suggests that the first Mercury stamps issued were the pink Scott 20L44 and the blue 20L46 in 1878 and 1879 respectively, and that these might have been replaced by the pink 20L50 and blue 20L45 in 1880. The black on lavender Scott 20L47 is scarce on cover, and I have recorded one from Golden's records dated April 3, 1880. The black on lavender 20L47 may have replaced 20L45. It must also be noted that the dating of the blue stamps is tenuous as I record only two dated covers each for 20L45 and 20L46.

The author has not been able to verify the existence or any record of a blue on lavender 20L48, and it may not exist. Neither Elliott Perry nor George Sloane had seen examples of this stamp.

The black on pink laid Scott 20L49 is difficult to distinguish from the black on lilac pink laid Scott 20L50. It may exist, but even with an expertization certificate this author reserves judgment, since its rarity has no apparent explanation.

Notably, Hale's 1966 *Byways* book does not include listings for 20L48 or 20L49, even though it included varieties known to Hale, Middendorf, Perry and Sloane.¹⁷

The Type II Mercury design stamps (Scott 20L51-54) include three pink and one blue. The lilac pink on laid paper 20L54 and the pink on laid 20L53 seem to have been issued first, according to Table 1, followed by the pink on wove 20L52. The black on blue wove 20L51 is rare on cover but may have been used in 1881 along with the pink stamps.

The Type III Mercury design stamps (Scott 20L55-56) include the pink 20L56 first used in February 1882 and the blue stamp 20L55 known used in March 1883.

Therefore, the use of pink colors for local delivery mail and blue colors for commercial mail is supported by the fact that all three printers prepared both colors on order from Boyd's, that a reprinting was done for the type I stamps in both colors around the same time, and that pink stamps are more common as might be expected if the survival rate were higher for letter mail than commercial mail.

¹⁷ Hale HWK. Boyd's Essays – Perforations, in *Byways of Philately*, Elliott Perry, Ed., Federalburg, MD, J.W. Stowell Printing Co., 1966:179-80.

Mercury Stamp Cancellations

Boyd's handstamps have been illustrated previously.¹⁸ Boyd's provided the date and time of letter delivery service in its handstamps from its inception, apparently in an effort to impress upon his customers that his service was reliable and speedy. The Blackhams used both dated and undated handstamps during their ownership from 1861 until 1883 or later. With the rare exception of a cover with date added by hand, the actual periods of use of undated handstamps are not known. By examining stamps and covers with handstamps, it is possible to provide some idea of how often a particular stamp is associated with dated vs. undated handstamps.

#	Cxl 26	Cxl 27	Cxl 28	Cxl 30	Cxl 32	Cxl 33
	Dated	Dated	Und.	Dated	Und.	Dated
20L44	R	S-C	R	R	R	
20L50		R		S	R	R

Table 2. Handstamps on Pink Type I Mercury Stamps with Handstamps and Relative Scarcity. (R = rare, or less than 6 known; S = scarce, or 20 or less known; and C = common or more than 20 known. Cxl = cancel. Und. = undated.)¹⁹

Scott #	Cxl 25	Cxl 27	Cxl 28	Cxl 29	Cxl 31	Cxl 32
	Und.	Dated	Und.	Und.	Und.	Und.
20L45	R	R	R	S		
20L46		R	R	R		
20L47		R*	R	R	R	R

Table 3. Handstamps on Blue Type I Mercury Stamps with Handstamps and Relative Scarcity. * A single stamp with a portion of an apparent cancel 27 is known, but the date does not show.

Combining perforation types, the type I pink 20L44 and 20L50 are most often used with dated handstamps and are rarely found with undated ones. The blue and lavender 20L45-20L47 are most often used with undated handstamps, but the use of dated handstamp 27 on all three issues is perplexing.

¹⁸ For a complete listing of Boyd's handstamps, refer to Bowman JD and LeBel L, "A Comprehensive Survey of Boyd's Postal Markings" in *The Penny Post* 1997 July; 7(3):2-12, and Larry Lyons *Identifier* Vol. III for the same listing but incorporating two corrections to the article.

¹⁹ These indications of relative scarcity are more likely to be accurate for rare items than for scarce items, as many examples undoubtedly exist that were not recorded or were recorded without reference to the perforation or handstamp. Some error in assigning cancellation types is likely.

Scott #	Color	Cxl 27	Cxl 30
		Dated	Dated
20L51	Blue	R	R
20L52	Pink	R	R
20L53	Pink	S	S
20L54	Lilac Pink	R	S

Table 4. Handstamps on Type II Mercury Stamps with Handstamps and Relative Scarcity.

Scott #	Cxl 27	Cxl 28	Cxl 30	Cxl 36	Cxl 38
	Dated	Und.	Dated	Und.	Und.
20L55	R		R	R	R
20L56	R	R	C		R

Table 5. Handstamps on Type III Mercury Stamps with Handstamps and Relative Scarcity.

For the type II Mercury stamps, the author knows of only two off-cover examples of the blue 20L51 stamps with the year date visible in the handstamp. This stamp on cover is not listed in the *Scott Catalogue*. The pink 20L52-20L54 stamps are only known used with dated handstamps. The rarity of used blue type II stamps might be due to loss of bulk mail business by 1881, sufficient quantities of blue or lavender type I stamps on hand when Boyd's changed printers, or lack of survival based on their commercial usage.

Likewise, used examples of the blue type III stamps are rare, while unused specimens are common. Because Boyd's third printer was ordered to prepare blue stamps, their scarcity in used condition seems to support a lack of survival or loss of bulk mail business as the reason none of the blue stamps are common in used condition or on cover. The pink type III, 20L56 was used almost entirely with dated handstamps, with only a few possible exceptions known to the author, and these probably represented use after the raid of 1883.

Therefore, analysis of dated vs. undated handstamps supports the idea that the pink stamps were intended for letter mail while the blue stamps were intended for bulk or commercial mail or other matter.

Analysis of Covers

It is difficult to make generalizations about the use of Boyd's covers. However, the author has noted all-over illustrated covers, illustrated corner cards, and printed corner cards used with pink stamps. Blue stamps are uncommon with corner cards, except perhaps The Silk Association of America and North British & Mercantile Insurance Co. In Boyd's later days, pink stamps (Scott 20L56) can be

found with address labels glued on (or fallen off), suggesting later indiscriminate use of the type III pink stamp.

It is noteworthy that Boyd's Mercury postal stationery is known used predominantly from November 1878 through December 1881, but that from October 1879 through June 1881, covers with Mercury stamps on them are much scarcer than the Mercury postal stationery.²⁰

Conclusions

The contemporary account by Coster, the relative abundance of used pink stamps over blue stamps, and the apparently intentional use of dated handstamps for pink adhesives and undated handstamps for blue stamps all suggest that Boyd used pink stamps for local mail delivery and blue stamps for commercial or bulk mailings, until sometime in the 1880's when the pink type III stamp was used indiscriminately. It is possible that Boyd's initial attempts at commercial mail led to their ultimate preparation of address labels and lists that became a substantial part of their business success well into the twentieth century. Definitive conclusions are not possible given the lack of known advertising by Boyd's during this period, failure to document their issue by contemporary writers, and the scarcity of dated blue stamps and covers.

Scott numbers 20L48 and 20L49 may not exist. Please let me know if you can add any additional information.



Figure 2. A pink example of Boyd's 20L53 on a cover dated November 15, 1878.

²⁰ L. LeBel, Personal communication, 2002.

Perforations on Boyd's Mercury Stamps

By

John D. Bowman

All Rights Reserved 2009

Stamp collectors know that stamp varieties can be fun and valuable to collect. This is one reason I have enjoyed collecting US local posts. Many varieties are not listed or priced, so it is not hard to find discoveries or decide what is common versus uncommon.

The Scott *Catalogue*¹ indicates that many perforation varieties are known for the Boyd's Mercury issues of 1878-1883 (New York City). There are three design types based on the toe of Mercury in the design. According to Needham, the type I adhesives (20L37-20L50) were printed by C.O. Jones beginning in 1878.² Type II (20L51-20L54) was printed by J. Gibson in 1881 and type III (20L55-56) was printed by the *Evening Post* in 1882. Like some of the US regular issues, certain perforation varieties of the Boyd's Mercury stamps are scarce or rare. This article will identify the collectible varieties of perforations on these stamps and add to the perforations currently listed.

During the period of use of the Mercury stamps, all US stamps including official stamps were perforated 12. The reasons for the various perforations observed on the Mercury stamps are not known, but because they were printed privately, the printers could have used different perforating wheels in their perforating machines from time to time. For example, the contemporary Douglas' and Guy's local NYC stamps are known perforated 12 as well as other perforations.

In *Byways of Philately*,³ Elliott Perry listed a compilation of perforation varieties from the collections of Hale, Middendorf, Perry and Sloane. Patton listed the same varieties plus three additional ones, as well as mentioning "rough" and "clean" perforations for some stamps.⁴ I have verified most of these in **Table I**, but need reader feedback about those in the "Verified" column with question marks (jbowman@stx.rr.com).

Table 2 lists the earliest dates known for each perforation type of the Mercury stamps, and **Tables 3, 4 and 5** assess their relative scarcity.

¹ References to Scott or the Scott catalog refer to the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps & Covers*, JE Kloetzel, Ed., Sidney, OH: Scott Publishing Co.

² Needham HC. U.S. Local Stamps – A Concise History and Memoranda. *The Philatelic Gazette*, 1917; 7:86-92.

³ Hale HWK. Boyd's Essays – Perforations, in *Byways of Philately*, Elliott Perry, Ed., Federalsburg, MD, J.W. Stowell Printing Co., 1966:179-80.

⁴ Patton DS. *The Private Local Posts of The United States, Volume I*, London, Robson Lowe Ltd., 1967:92.

Table 1.

Scott #	Type	Perf	Patton 1967	Perry (Byways) 1966	Verified
20L37	I	imp	x		x
20L38	I	imp	x		x
20L39	I	imp	x		x
20L40	I	imp	x		x
20L41	I	imp	x		x
20L42	I	imp	x		x
20L43	I	12	x	x	x
20L43A	I	12	x	x	x
20L44	I	11	x	x	x
20L44	I	11.5	x	x	x
20L44	I	12	x	x	x
20L44	I	12x11	x	x	x
20L44	I	11x12	x	x	x
20L44	I	11.5 x 11			x
20L44	I	12.5	x	x	x
20L45	I	11	x	x	x
20L45	I	11.5	x	x	x
20L45	I	11.5 x 11			??
20L45	I	12x11	x	x	x
20L45	I	11x12	x		
20L45	I	12	x	x	x
20L45	I	12.5	x		
20L46	I	11	x	x	x
20L46	I	11.5	x	x	x
20L46	I	12	x	x	x
20L47	I	11	x	x	x
20L47	I	11.5	x	x	
20L47	I	11.5 x 11			??
20L47	I	12	x	x	x
20L47	I	12 x 11.5			??
20L47	I	12.5	x	x	
20L47	I	11.5 (3) x 12			??
20L48	I	??			??
20L49	I	13.5	x		x
20L50	I	12	x	x	x

Scott #	Type	Perf	Patton 1967	Perry (Byways) 1966	Verified
20L50	I	12.5	x	x	x
20L50	I	13.5	x	x	x
20L51	II	12	x	x	x
20L51	II	16	x	x	x
20L51	II	16x12	x	x	x
20L52	II	12	x	x	x
20L52	II	16x12	x	x	x
20L53	II	12	x	x	x
20L53	II	16x12	x	x	x
20L54	II	12	x	x	x
20L54	II	16	x	x	x
20L54	II	16x12	x	x	x
20L55	III	16	x	x	x
20L56	III	12	x	x	x
20L56	III	12x10	x	x	
20L56	III	12x16	x	x	x
20L56	III	12(3) x 10	x	x	x
20L56	III	12x8	x	x	x

Table 1. Perforation Varieties Reported for Boyd's Mercury Stamps. The "Verified" column indicates the author has verified the existence of the variety. A "???" in this column indicates a variety reported elsewhere but not verified by the author.

Table 2.

	Scott #	Ink/Paper Color	Perf	EKD
I	20L44	Black/pink wove	11	1878/11/15
I	20L46	Blue/blue wove	12	1879/03/08
I	20L44	Black/pink wove	12x11	1879/03/28
I	20L46	Blue/blue wove	11	1879/04/19
I	20L44	Black/pink wove	11.5	1879/08/09
I	20L44	Black/pink wove	12	1879/10/07
I	20L50	Black/lilac pink laid	12.5	1880/06/17
I	20L45	Black/blue wove	12	1880/09/09
II	20L51	Black/blue wove	16	1881/00/00
I	20L50	Black/lilac pink laid	12	1881/04/07

	Scott #	Ink/Paper Color	Perf	EKD
II	20L54	Black/lilac pink laid	12	1881/11/07
II	20L54	Black/lilac pink laid	16	1881/12/10
II	20L53	Black/pink laid	12	1881/12/21
II	20L51	Black/blue wove	16X12	1882/00/00
II	20L53	Black/pink laid	16x12	1882/01/09
II	20L54	Black/lilac pink laid	16x12	1882/02/09
III	20L56	Black/pink wove	12	1882/02/16
II	20L52	Black/pink wove	12	1882/06/01
II	20L52	Black/pink wove	16x12	1882/08/14
I	20L50	Black/lilac pink laid	13.5	1882/09/14
III	20L56	Black/pink wove	12x8	1883/02/07
III	20L56	Black/pink wove	12x16	1883/02/20
III	20L56	Black/pink wove	12x12x12x10	1883/02/27
III	20L55	Black/blue wove	16	1883/03/01
III	20L56	Black/pink wove	12x10	1883/04/12

Table 2. Listing of Boyd's Mercury Stamps by Earliest Known Dates (EKD) and Perforation. Other perforation types are known but not dated. (EKD is intended to take into account single used stamps which have some or all of the date handstamped on them, as opposed to Earliest Known Use (EKU) which implies use on cover.)⁵

Table 3.

Perf	11	12	12x11	11x12	11.5	12.5	13.5
20L44	C	C	S	R	R	S	
20L45	C	C	S		R		
20L46	R	R			R		
20L47	C	S			R	R	
20L48							
20L49							R
20L50		S				S	S

Table 3. Perforations Known on Type I Mercury Stamps with Relative Scarcity. (R = rare or less than 6 known, S = scarce or less than 20 known, and C indicates common or more than 20 known.)

⁵ Census maintained by author, which is extensive but not exhaustive. It is based on collectors' holdings, auction listings, published articles, notes left by Elliott Perry, George Sloane, Henry Abt, and private records maintained by Richard Schwartz and David Golden.

Table 4.

Perf	12	16	16x12
20L51	R	R	R
20L52	R		R
20L53	C		S
20L54	S	S	R

Table 4. Perforations Known on Type II Mercury Stamps with Relative Scarcity.

Table 5.

Perf	12	16	12(3)x10	12x10	12x16	12x8
20L55		C				
20L56	C		S	R	S	R

Table 5. Perforations Known on Type III Mercury Stamps with Relative Scarcity.

Although the briefly used red 20L43-20L43A's were perforated 12, the subsequent pink issue 20L44 was perforated 11. The blue on blue 20L46 was perforated both 11 and 12 about the same time. 20L44 can be found perforated 12x11 or 11x12 around the time 20L46 was used. Late in 1879, 20L44 is found perforated 11 ½ and 12. **Table 2** indicates that 20L44 and 20L45 are commonly found perforated 11 or 12, and 20L47 is commonly perforated 11.

Conclusions

Type I stamps (20L37-20L50), printed by C. O. Jones, are found in a large variety of perforations, varying from perf 11 to 13.5. These are known from around 1878-1881. Type II stamps (20L51-20L54) were printed by J Gibson, and are known only in perf 12, 16 or a combination of each. They were used around 1881-1882. The Type III stamps, printed by the *Evening Post*, are known in perf 12, 16 and a few combinations including these perfs plus 10 and 8.

A number of these perforation varieties seem to be rare or scarce. Please let me know of any additional information you may have.

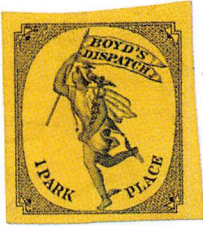


Figure 1. 20L41 Imperforate trial color proof, black on lemon.



Figure 2. 20L43A Perforated 12, black on orange red, on cover to casket company. July 5, 1878, earliest known usage.



Figure 3. 20L44 Perforated 11, black on pink wove Type I design. Tied to 1879 all-over illustrated advertising cover.



Figure 4. 20L46 Perforated 12, blue on blue Type I design.

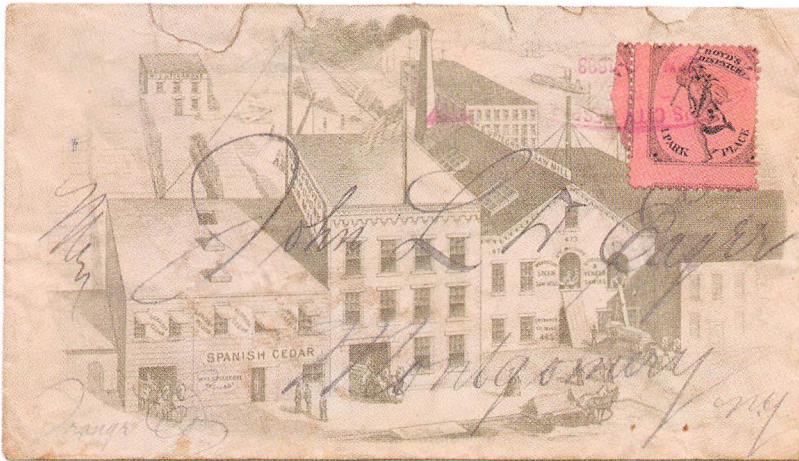


Figure 5. 20L52 Perforated 12, black on pink wove Type II design. Tied to Jan. 10, 1883 all-over illustrated advertising cover.

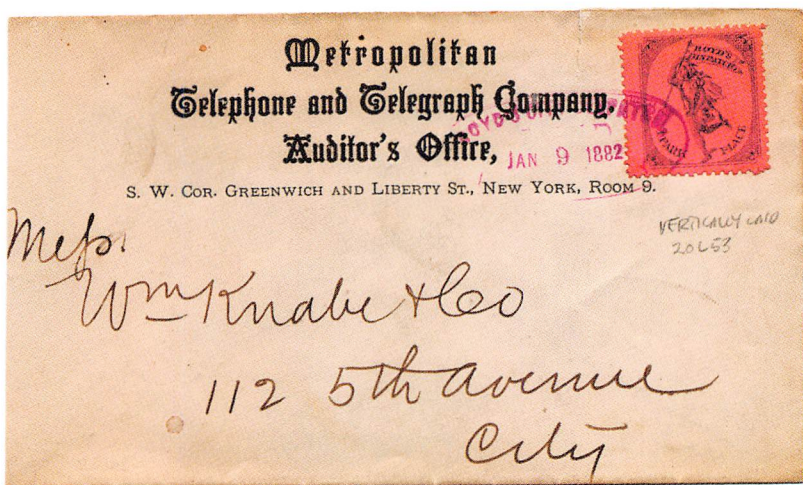


Figure 6. 20L53 Perforated 12, black on pink laid Type II design. Tied to Jan. 9, 1882 telegraph cover, earliest known usage.



Figure 7. 20L55 Perforated 16, black on blue Type III design.



Figure 8. 20L56 Perforated 12, black on pink Type III design. Tied to July 11, 1882 cover with scarce “SPECIAL” handstamp.

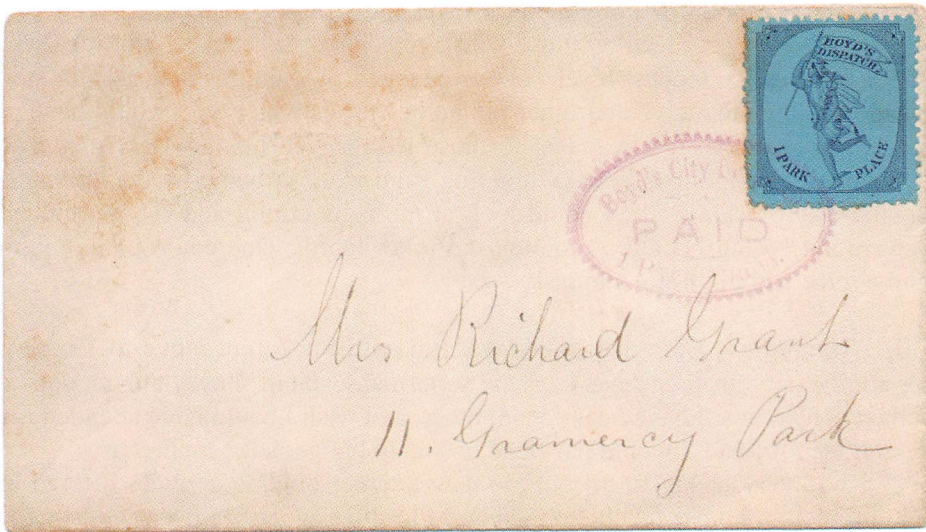


Figure 9. A blue example of Boyd’s 20L46 on a cover with handstamp Type 29. The stamp is perf 11.5.

Bidding at Auction Then and Now

A Point Counterpoint

By Larry Lyons and John Bowman

Mr. L. - This is a tale which can only start with “I remember when...” I must tell you that I have old school values and I believe in the old traditions. Very recently everything has changed with the age of internet bidding. The questions I want to discuss are “is this good?” and “what is now missing?”

I attended my first auction sales in 1968, about 40 years ago. I was personally present at a lot of name sales and at most rarities sales. As for the carrier and locals field, the Siegel Auction Galleries in New York City has dominated this field with most of the important sales of recent years. I personally attended the name sales for Golden, Hall, Schwartz, Kuphal, DK, Johnstone, Meyersberg, Hahn, Richardson, and recently Geisler. Let me tell you what it used to be like and what it meant to me. I always felt that a name sale was a day for honoring the named individual. To me it was a celebration about the collector and what he had accomplished. I always felt compelled to attend to add my presence as a devoted student who appreciated the named collector and his collection. A large added bonus was the mingling and meeting with other collectors who probably felt the same way and also felt compelled to attend personally. I was able to put faces to the names of people I had heard much about and to whom I exchanged emails, some on a regular basis. I made it a point of introducing myself and shaking hands with some of the very great collectors as well as those who appreciated the carriers and locals field but on a much more modest level. We exchanged pleasantries and usually stories about the “man of the day” and other philatelic stories which you would have paid admission to hear. All this was lost to those who stayed home. Now it is lost to those who are “incognito attendees” bidding from work or home by the internet. As far as the auction sale itself, I could look at the competition and see the bidders—they were not hiding behind a monitor and a keyboard. One could judge the men from the mice without using a mouse.

Mr. B. – Having lived in Alabama all my life until my recent move to Texas, and being a university professor has kept me from many stamp shows and auctions due to budget constraints. I have been to a number, and wish I could have attended many more, but then if I had, I would have had no stamp budget left for purchases.

I was very happy to try out the new internet bidding services offered by a couple of auction houses. Although using an auction agent has been the usual way for some bidders to go, while others prefer mail or email bids, the new services offer up the ability to hear the auctioneer, and participate in close to real-time. Sometimes I bid just as foolishly as if I were at the live auction because I get caught up in the spirit of the active bidding. On a small number of occasions, the internet has failed me and I could not get bids through for items I wanted.

And meeting the great collectors at the auction? Sure, good fun. But I do not have to interact with the snooty ones there.

Some Stories

Mr. L. - I remember a particular sale attended by lots of collectors from out of town. There were some great local and carrier covers from Cleveland and when the best of the lots went on the block two collectors stood up to bid. It was an awesome experience—kind of like a shootout at the OK Corral.

I remember a sale when a bidder lost track of the lots and failed to raise his paddle for the one he wanted. The rule is the lot can be reopened only if it didn't sell on the floor. The lot had sold on the floor and an altercation ensued as the non-bidder argued to have the lot reopened. Eventually the whole room got involved—all with raised voices. It was theatrical and comical. The lot was not reopened but when selling resumed no one knew where the sale was at! My laughter brought tears to my eyes.

Mr. B. – The auctioneer turned the sound off. I had no idea what was happening nor why the auction had stopped suddenly. So I went to the restroom.

Mr. L. - I remember a lot in a sale worth about \$1,500.00 with no bidders. The auctioneer said “okay who will give me \$50.00?” He then rattled off numbers at hands so fast people didn't have time to lower their arms before he was at \$500.00. The lot eventually sold for near its value.

I remember people coming back late from a food break and missing out on bidding for something they wanted. This story is certainly more colorful than the line “my internet service went down.” The latter is known to only one person but the former is known by all those present.

Mr. B. – During the food break, I can make eggs Benedict and enjoy it during the next session. Or, I can uncork a special wine.

Mr. L. - At one particular sale I knew two of the floor bidders would want the same lot and would both be very aggressive. I seated myself where I could watch them both without getting whiplash. This was great.

Mr. B. – My whiplash problem was trying to watch the sale and listen to it, while my DVR was replaying a pro football game.

Mr. L. - At one sale in 1995, I met Dick Schwartz who greeted me with “I've heard a lot about you. Now come to lunch with me.” You can't go to lunch with your computer ladies and gentlemen.

Mr. B. – I had an invitation once for lunch at a show, and got stuck with the bill.

Mr. L. - At the Hall sale when it came time for the Pony covers to be sold, three new people walked into the room. A great collector sitting next to me touched my arm and said “Oh crap, here come the big boys!” In a matter of just a few minutes

\$800,000.00 was hammered in just 25 lots and then the big boys got up and went away. The hair on our arms was standing up from this electric event. The only way you can get this jolt at home is to stick your finger in the socket.

Mr. B. – When these covers came up, it was time for my bathroom break. I am not a big boy.

Mr. L. - At one sale Cal Hahn who was sitting next to me, hit my arm and ordered me to “put your hand down!” This can’t happen at home folks.

Mr. B. – So? Cal Hahn hung up on me two times during our phone conversations about philately. When I stayed with Cal for a visit to NYC, he told a mutual friend that I snored, and the mutual friend suggested he pull down his pants and sit on my face when I did that. That should not ever happen, folks.

Home vs. Live

Mr. L. - At home you can’t see people roll their eyeballs.

Mr. B. - I am so glad no one can see me roll my eyes.

Mr. L. - You can’t tell at home if you are bidding against a dealer who is constrained by the maximum bids given to him. You can’t see if the lead bidder is with the house or on the floor. You can’t see fellow collectors grow old and become frail but still attend in person and still have the passion for collecting in their eyes. If the auctioneer turns off the sound, the internet bidder has no idea what is being discussed while the auction stops.

Mr. B. - New technology now adds digital cameras that will zoom in and focus on the person talking. Universities and corporations are using this for distance learning and for virtual meetings. The auction houses that use live Internet bidding have captured a large audience of users and unknown numbers of spectators. Perhaps one day video will be broadcast in addition to sound. This would enrich the remote bidding experience.

Mr. L. - My conclusion is that you miss a lot by bidding on the internet. The loss of those “in person” experiences can’t be replaced. It’s a hobby and being there was part of the enjoyment. Yes I have used the past tense because few go in person anymore. At the recent Geisler sale there was only myself and one other collector and he stayed for about 40 minutes so I was basically the only collector attendee. Obviously the modern version of attending via the internet rules. I’m an old fossil and I need to adapt. But I will always treasure the moments I described above, and the many others that always made the price of admission worth it to me.

Changes to the 2009 *US Specialized Catalogue* Regarding Carrier and Local Stamps

By
John D. Bowman

The C&LS uses a committee approach to recommend updates to the *Scott US Specialized Catalogues* for the Carriers and Locals Section. I have served as chairman and solicit input from several members and dealers about what should be recommended. The Scott Catalogue Update Committee consists of Cliff Alexander, Marty Richardson, Gordon Stimmell, Scott Trepel, Stephen Gronowski, Byron Sandfield, Vernon Morris, and Larry Lyons. In addition, I use Eric Jackson's monthly price list, and other member input continues to arrive.

Here is a list of the recommendations that we made which were accepted:

1. Above 6LB2, "Engraved plate of 50 subjects (C24) arranged in two panes of 25" has been added.
2. 1L4 – This is found with initials of both "LR" and "ICW."
3. 12L2 used tied to cover with US 2c stamp (Scott # 220) has been added.
4. 163L1a has been added as a variety; "CENTS" is misspelled as "CETNS". Gordon Stimmell has written about this (*Chronicle*, Feb. 2007). (**Figure 1**)
5. 15LU6Ab – Red on brown. After review by specialists of all of the buff and brown shades, we recommended that this listing be discontinued. A note has been added that "15LU6A exists in many shades, from buff to brown, as a result of various printings and changes over time."
6. L54 - The illustration of Boyd's type IV was of 20L5 in gold on white, which is much scarcer than the usual 20L4 black on green. The image has been replaced with 20L4.
7. 20L5 - the date was changed to 1848. See explanation in *Penny Post*, April 2007 page 17.
8. A variety of 20L7, partially erased transfer, is now listed. It is known on cover and also in a block of unused stamps. It was reported in the *Penny Post*.
9. Mercury series design descriptions have been improved for collectors.
10. 33L7 and 33L8 now have new illustration L93a.
11. 53L2 Cressman & Co. now has a listing for the unique stamp on cover, acid tied.
12. 62L3 now includes a listing for "On cover, not tied" with a dash for the price.
13. 69L1 is now listed only on cover.
14. 83L1 Homan's – Several different typographical varieties exist, and are noted in the new catalogue.

15. 89L1 is more commonly found not tied when on cover. A listing for “On cover, not tied” for *\$1000* in italics has been added.
16. 89L3 – New description added to more accurately reflect the four known examples.
17. 117L1-117L7 – (Pomeroy’s) Scott Trepel’s recommendations from the *Penny Post*, Jan. 2004 have been incorporated into a major relisting of this section.
18. 155L1 – McGreeley’s Express may have been an authentic service, but we do not know of any used examples. The listing for used single was dropped.
19. 111L1 – “On cover, not tied” has been added.
20. 127L1 – Ricketts & Hall. Based on Stephen Gronowski’s April 1994 article in the *Penny Post*, the Scott listing has been substantially updated.
21. 130L1, a listing for “On cover, not tied” was added.
22. 168L1, a new listing for **Smith’s City Express Post** has been added with a new number (see *Penny Post* July 2002, pp. 9-16.) The item illustrated has PF cert 401525. Smith’s was the successor to the American Express Co. (4L1) (**Figure 2**)
23. 133L2 – There are three known examples, all on cover. (See Siegel Hall sale lot 760.) Listings for unused and used singles have been deleted. A listing for on cover with a dash for value has been added.

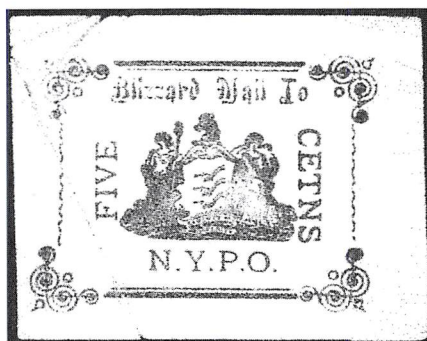


Figure 1. This variety of Blizzard Mail has been added to the *Scott Specialized Catalogue* as 163L1a.



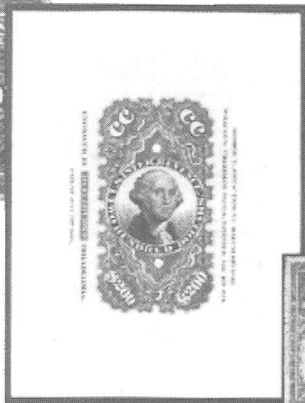
Figure 2. The Smith’s City Express Post has been added to the *Scott Specialized Catalogue* as 168L1.

Phenomenal.

Our Website Is Always Changing. Shop Our Auction & Hundreds of Stamps In Full Color!



By the way, you can view our latest giant price list at our site...or send for it by mail. It's free!



U.S. Revenue Stamps

Penny Post readers can relax in the comfort of their home and review one of the world's largest stocks of revenue stamps at our Internet web site. Locals and Carriers are there, too!

But wait, there's more! Our very large web site is one of philately's most exciting. It's full of entertaining full-color graphics and up-to-date information on the revenue stamp world. And it changes all the time...so one visit is never enough.

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 price list or send your want list for custom approvals tailored to your needs.

Eric Jackson

P.O. Box 728 · Leesport PA 19533-0728

(610) 926-6200 · Fax: (610) 926-0120

Email: eric@revenueer.com

www.ericjackson.com



When the most valuable collections of
Carriers and Locals are sold,
one firm is chosen again and again.



When David Golden decided on the firm to handle his collection of Carriers and Locals—the largest and most valuable ever sold—he chose Siegel Auction Galleries.

When Richard Schwartz, past president of the Carriers and Locals society, decided to sell his massive collection, he chose the Siegel firm.

And, when the Hall family looked for an auction firm with the ability to sell one of the most important collections of Carriers and Locals ever assembled, they chose the Siegel firm.

Our knowledge, relationships with collectors, and state-of-the-art presentation (print and digital) qualify us above all others to handle collections of Carriers and Locals.

Buying or selling, it makes sense to deal with the leader.

Robert A. Siegel

AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.

www.siegelauctions.com

60 East 56th Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10022
Phone (212) 753-6421 Fax (212) 753-6429 E-mail: stamps@siegelauctions.com