

BLOODS 15L11: Part 11

By

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On July 1, 1845 D.O. Blood & Co. was formed, and acquired the Philadelphia Despatch Post including its remaining stamps, 15L3, the **world's first pictorial stamp**. During the next few years, three variations of the "striding messenger" stamps were printed. The final two issues, 15L5 and 15L6,¹ had been designated "City Stamps" and reserved for *local door delivery*.

By January 1846, Blood & Co. developed an entirely new *geometric double circle* stamp design, dedicated for *outbound* letters only, with inscription "**For the POST OFFICE,**" the **world's first special purpose stamp**.² Their business **paradigm shifted** to a bifurcated private postal service.

In early 1848 a new name quietly appeared, with profoundly different adhesive stamp designs, and *color*! Blue stamps. Green stamps. No more black, white, and shades of gray. The next **five stamp issues**, four of which appeared during 1848, heralded "**BLOOD'S DESPATCH.**" Physical dimensions of their stamps were conspicuously different. Whereas D.O. Blood & Co. stamps had been large squares, Blood's Despatch stamps trended somewhat smaller and rectangular. What did not change was the very successful bifurcated business model.

The immediately previous article reviewed 15L10, a light blue "post office stamp" intended to replace D.O. Blood & Co. 15L7, 15L8, and 15L9 issues. The topic of this article was the business model companion-counterpart 15L11, Blood's Despatch "city stamp," intended to replace D.O. Blood & Co. 15L5 and 15L6.

15L11

The stamp design in **Figure 1** measured 23mm high by 19.5mm wide, and has been listed in the *Scott Catalogue* as 15L11 "black on pale green," 1848 for 2 cents.³ Its vertical vignette consists of a double line oval *absent* a rectangular frame, but within which was inscribed "**BLOOD'S**" at top, "**DESPATCH**" at bottom. In the center a *dove carried an envelope* marked "**PAID,**" same large envelope carried by the enormous striding messenger, for identical local door delivery in Philadelphia. 15L11 was a "city stamp" intended to service "city letters."

No 15L11 stamps were perforated, although for only the second time in the nation, several examples appear to have been mechanically die cut, this time precisely around an oval design. No multiples, on or off cover exist, although panes and sheets were quite likely based upon other 1848 company issues such as 15L13,⁴ prior 15L5,⁵

¹ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 6: 15L6," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 2, April 2014, Whole No. 87, page 58.

² Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 7: 15L7," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 3, July 2014, Whole No. 88, pages 29, 53.

³ *Scott 2012 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, Nineteenth Edition*, Scott Publishing Co., 2011, Sidney Ohio, page 545.

⁴ Robert Siegel Auction Galleries, sale 925, November 15, 2006, lot 1315, Kuphal.

⁵ Robert Siegel Auction Galleries, sale 830, November 13, 2000, lot 437, Hall.

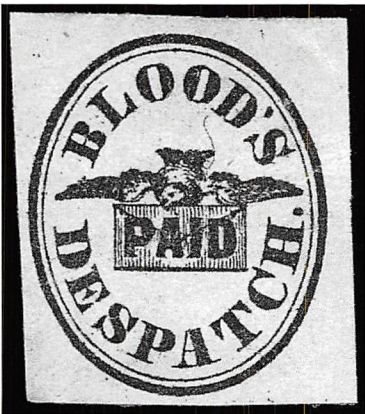


Figure 1. Unused pale green 15L11 with dove carrying large PAID letter.

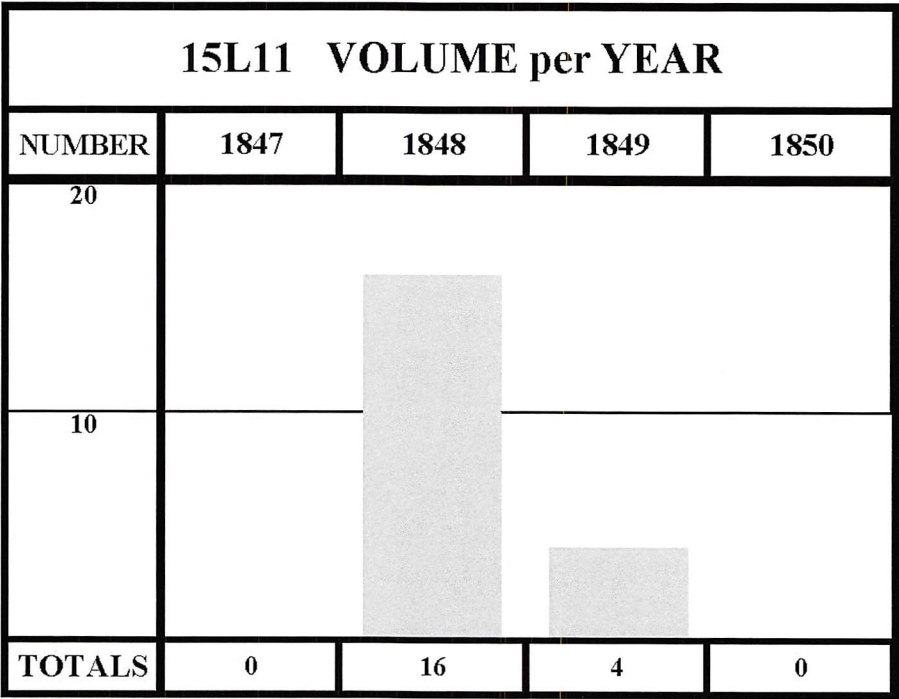


Figure 2. Twenty 15L11 were year specific.

and a companion-counterpart 15L10 vertical pair. The 15L11 frameless oval lent itself to free hand “cut trapezoid” separation, a crude expedient derivative of cut rectangle technique. A few examples, however, were carefully hand cut oval or octagonal shaped.

As with *all* predecessor issues, no 15L11 stamps were monetarily denominated. Since mid-1846, single stamps of either functional type were 2 cents. No designated monetary value facilitated wholesale volume discounts, different price structure for each service type, different price schedule by quantity, while always remaining flexible and ready to modify any features.

15L11 Description Census

1. April 7, 1848; folded letter; outbound New York; cut trapezoid, four bar grid;⁶ red Clarke 430e double strike straightline handstamp (Remele P6-a), red New York cds. To: “Silas Pierce Esqr / Merchant / Boston”. Apfelbaum 402 June 3, 1976 lot 316; (Apfelbaum April 22, 1977 lot 418); Kelleher 663 January 28, 2015 lot 1186. March 17, 2015 PFC 526212. Morris collection.
2. (April 18, 1848); partial front; local delivery; cut trapezoid, “connected dots” cancel; non-contemporary pencil “*April 18, 1848*”. To: “Henry D. Gilpin / Washington Squa(re--).”⁷ Nutmeg 167 March 18, 2008 lot 5952. May 5, 2008 PFC 464469. Morris collection.
3. April 24, 1848; folded letter; local delivery; bottom margin cut trapezoid, six bar grid⁸ double strike cancel. To: “Messrs Charnley & Whelen / No 9 S. 3rd St / Philadelphia”. Lowe Christies September 9, 1981 lot 750. Corwin collection.
4. May 4, 1848; folded letter; local delivery; cut trapezoid, six bar grid cancel. To: “Mr Saml Bispham. / 261 High. St.”⁹
5. May 30, (1848); folded letter; outbound Virginia; cut trapezoid, four bar grid cancel; blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds. To: “Mr Layton Y. Atkins / Fredericksburg / Virginia”. June 5, 2009 PF 476843.
6. July 8, 1848; folded letter; local delivery; cut trapezoid, six bar grid cancel. To: “John Haseltine Esqr. / No 10 South / Wharves / Philad.”¹⁰ Siegel 825 June 27, 2000 lot 1605, Schwartz. Ex Roth.
7. July 18, 1848; part printed Insurance Policy Expiration notice; local delivery; cut trapezoid, four bar grid double strike cancel. To: “R. Neff / No 6 Nor.

⁶ Earliest recorded Morris Handstamp Type D, which was used until July 24, 1849.

⁷ 24 Washington Square in 1849 McElroys Philadelphia City Directory, page 137.

⁸ Morris Handstamp Type C has been recorded from December 8, 1847 until November 29, 1849.

⁹ Present day location is 629 Market Street.

¹⁰ Few doors south of present day Market Street.

Wharves.”¹¹Lowe “USA 1” 3720 March 1, 1973 lot 1668, Patton. Siegel 627 December 13, 1983 lot 1612.¹²

8. July 22, (1848); ladies embossed envelope; local delivery; cut trapezoid, six bar grid cancel, tied by tiny stains. To: “Mr. George Grier. / Library St. / Philadelphia”.
9. August 18, 1848; folded letter; outbound New Jersey; cut trapezoid, six bar grid cancel-tied by impression; blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds. To: “M^{rs} W. McBlair / Care of E.L.Vaux Esqr / Elizabeth Town / New Jersey”. Siegel 764 December 13, 1994 lot 1611; Siegel 908 March 17, 2006 lot 4606. November 9, 2000 PFC 350415. Ex Hollowbush. Stromberg collection.
10. August 1848; envelope; local delivery; originated in Cape May New Jersey; cut trapezoid, six bar grid cancel; manuscript “*Cape Island / Aug. 1848.*” To: “J. S. Smith Esq. / 65 So. 4th.”¹³ Siegel 927 December 20, 2006 lot 1097; Regency Superior 65 March 1, 2008 lot 2554. April 21, 2008 PFC 463565. Morris collection.
11. September 1, 1848; folded printed notice; (local delivery); cut trapezoid, large dot in each corner, perpendicular four bar grids cancel; remnant of Bloods advertising label on reverse. To: Unknown #1. Siegel 773 March 26, 1996 lot 166.
12. September 6, 1848; part printed notice; local delivery; bottom right corner sheet margin cut trapezoid, four bar grid cancel. To: “Geo: W Carpenter Esq^r.”^{14, 15, 16} H.R. Harmer 1071 March 20, 1957, lot 582, Caspary; Siegel 965 December 3, 2008 lot 1094, Geisler. January 26, 2009 PFC 473063.
13. September 7, 1848; folded letter; local delivery; hand cut to shape, four bar grid cancel. To: “Mssrs Cornelius & Co / in Cherry St above 8th / Philadelphia”. Bennett 304 May 9, 2006 lot 1721.
14. October 12, 1848; (envelope), adjacent district Northern Liberties delivery; cut trapezoid, four bar grid cancel, tied by stains. To: “William Henry Trotter Esqr / 256 North 4th Street”. (Apfelbaum October 1973 lot). Shachat collection. Ex Roth.
15. October 21, 1848; folded letter; adjacent district Southwark delivery; cut trapezoid, four bar grid cancel. To: “Mr Joseph Elkinton / 377 Sou 2nd St.”¹⁷ Bennett 304 May 9, 2006 lot 1706. Regency April 26, 2008 lot 1523.

¹¹ Few doors north of present day Market Street.

¹² *The Chronicle*, May 1976, Vol. 28, No. 2, Whole No. 90, page 92.

¹³ Present day 212 South 4th Street, just south of Walnut.

¹⁴ Northeast corner of present day 8th and Market Street.

¹⁵ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 5: 15L5,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, page 32.

¹⁶ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, page 42.

¹⁷ In 1858 he is listed working at today’s address 783 S.2nd Street and living next door at 785 S. 2nd

16. December 24, 1848; (folded letter); outbound New York; die cut to shape, perpendicular four bar grids cancel; (blue) Philadelphia Clarke 74 cds double strike; 5 cent 1847 general issue Scott #1, USPCS ID 10641, cancel-tied by grid in circle. To: "Gilbert F. Davis Esqr / N^o 45 – Pine Street / New York."¹⁸ Siegel 285 April 1, 1965 lot 662. July 24, 1981 PF 100249. Gronowski collection.
17. June 28, 1849; folded letter; outbound Washington D.C.; hand cut to shape, four bar grid cancel-tied; blue Clarke 74 Philadelphia cds; manuscript "*Private*". "To / President Taylor / Washington City / D.C." Ex Wagshall. Alexander collection.
18. July 13, (1849); folded letter; outbound New Jersey; cut trapezoid, four bar grid; blue Clarke 74 Philadelphia cds. To: "Mssrs Burdsall E^r / Rahway / NJ". Lowe Christies September 9, 1981 lot 750. Corwin collection.
19. November 24, 1849; (folded letter); local delivery; die cut to shape, six bar grid cancel; Bloods Handstamp.¹⁹ To: "Mr W^m Magee / (60 Sassafrass Street / Philadelphia)."²⁰ Lowe "USA 1" March 1, 1973 lot 1671, Patton.²¹
20. December 3, 1849; envelope; local delivery; bottom margin cut trapezoid, four bar grid cancel; pink advertising label. To: "David M Stone E. / 34 Church Alley / Phila". Siegel 458 September 23, 1974 lot 1474. Siegel 1101 June 23, 2015 lot 654, Stimmell.
21. (1849-50); envelope; local delivery; cut trapezoid, Bloods Handstamp²² cancel-tied. To: "Miss Sophia Greene / N^o 3 / South Penn Square". Christies October 9, 1990 lot 1148, Jarrett.
22. (1850-51); envelope; local delivery; cut trapezoid, Bloods Handstamp²³ cancel-tied; manuscript "*By Bloods Dispatch, which has no match, / You'll go at once I mean... and then / at once address S.....*". To: (Sophie Green) "South Penn Square, No 3". Siegel 294 January 6, 1966 lot 210. Rumsey 19 December 3, 2004 lot 1033. January 27, 2010 PFC 483752. Morris collection.
23. Undated; piece; (outbound); cut to octagon, uncanceled, tied by blue indistinct Philadelphia cds and manuscript penstroke "X" cancel from two 1847 5 cent Scott #1 general issue stamps. To: Unknown State #2. September 16, 2010 PFC 490220. Morris collection.

Street; both between Catherine and Fitzwater Streets.

¹⁸ 1948 Doggett New York City Directory lists Gilbert Davis at 45 Pine Street and William Streets.

¹⁹ Old ASCC Type 9, Morris Type 14.

²⁰ *McElroy's 1849 Philadelphia City Directory*, page 246 lists "Wm Magee, gauger, 60 Sassafrass" which today is Race Street.

²¹ *The Chronicle*, May 1976, Vol. 28, No. 2, Whole No. 90, page 92.

²² Old ASCC Type 9, Morris Type 14.

²³ Old ASCC Type 10, Morris Type 15.

24. Undated; large legal envelope; local delivery; partially torn trapezoid, four bar grid cancel-tied; light green advertising label on reverse; manuscript "*From J. R. Tyson.*" To: "For / William M. Meredith Esq., / Walnut St."²⁴ Bennett 257 February 8, 2003 lot 3599. April 30, 2003 PFC 396898; April 27, 2010 PFC 486187. Morris collection.

25. Undated; folded letter; local delivery; hand cut to shape, four bar grid cancel-tied. To: "Mssrs Lindsay & Blackiston / N.W. corner 4th & Chesnut / Philadelphia". Siegel 925 November 15, 2006 lot 1311, Kuphal; Siegel 980 December 11, 2009 lot 2992.

26. Undated; mourning envelope; adjacent district Northern Liberties delivery; (top margin) cut trapezoid, four bar grid triple strike cancel, one tied. To: "To. Miss. E. Schmidt / Corner 4th & George Street / Northern Liberty Phila". Siegel 830 November 14, 2000 lot 450, Hall. March 29, 2001 PFC 365954. Morris collection.

27. Undated; envelope; local delivery; partially torn trapezoid, four bar grid cancel-tied. To: "Ths. David / 171 Market". Frajola March 19, 1994 lot 284; Siegel 285 April 1, 1965 lot 659; (Gibbons Merker October 11, 1974 lot 1288); (Gibbons Merker September 29, 1976 lot 3877); Shreves September 26, 1996 lot 182; Harmer International June 6, 2015 lot 145. Ex Gibson.

28. Undated; ladies embossed envelope; local delivery; cut trapezoid, four bar grid cancel; light green advertising label on back flap. To: "Mr. Charles Casstasis / Care of J Fratone & Co / No 90 South Front St / 90 South Front St Phila." H.R.Harmer 1071 March 20, 1957 lot 579, Caspary; Siegel 824 May 31, 2003 lot 383; Siegel 862 May 31, 2003 lot 64, DK; Siegel 1063 December 19, 2013 lot 1733. December 5, 2000 PFC 358658. Morris collection.

29. Undated; folded letter; local delivery; cut trapezoid, four bar grid cancel; pink advertising label. To: "Edward Johnson, / (laborer) / Burd's Court / Between Locus^t & Spruce / and 10^t. and 11^t."^{25,26} Harmer 1835 Feb 15, 1977 lot 117. Shachat collection.

30. Undated; folded letter; local delivery; cut trapezoid, six bar cancel. To: "Charles Eben Esq / 57 North 6th St."²⁷ Kelleher 633 December 14, 2012 lot 332. August 11, 2009 Weiss certificate 16 15L1115; January 29, 2013 PFC 510047. Morris collection.

²⁴ As President of the city's Select Council Mr Meredith's office would probably be in the Old City Hall, next to Independence Hall.

²⁵ *McElroy's 1850 City Directory*, page 478 describes "Burd's ct, s from 124 Locust".

²⁶ Edward Johnson is listed as "porter, 16 Washington ab 11th in *McElroy's 1849 City Directory* page 188 and *McElroy's 1850 City Directory* page 207.

²⁷ Very near Arch Street.

31. Undated; envelope; local delivery; cut trapezoid, six bar grid cancel. To: "Mr. William Hennessey / Care F N Krug & Co / no 6 & 8 church alley / Phila". Siegel 927 December 20, 2006, lot 1098, Richardson.
32. Undated; front; local delivery; cut trapezoid, four bar grid cancel. To: "Joseph B. Townsend, Esq. / Attorney at Law / 309 Arch Street."²⁸ Nutmeg 167 March 18, 2008 lot 5952.
33. Undated; folded letter; local delivery; cut trapezoid, six bar grid cancel. To: "Mrs George. Clymer / 230 Spruce Street / below 7th South Side --- ". Frajola June 6, 1990 lot 393, Ambassador Middendorf; Siegel 825 June 27, 2000 lot 1604, Schwartz. Lyons collection.
34. Undated; part folded letter; local delivery; hand cut to shape, six bar grid cancel; manuscript "*Paid*". To: "W^m L Price Esqr. / No 3 Mercantile Library Build / Library Street / Philad^a." September 9, 2011 PFC 498919. Morris collection.
35. Undated; folded letter; local delivery; cut trapezoid, six bar grid cancel. To: "W^m G. Mentz Esq / N^o. 53 north 3^d. St. below Arch 8th". Corwin collection.
36. Undated; envelope; local delivery, cut trapezoid, four bar grid cancel. To: "Miss Mary T. Chierdell / 315 Pine Street / Phila ----a". Bennett 304 May 9, 2006 lot 1707. Ex Markovits.
37. Undated; folded letter; adjacent district Southwark delivery; cut trapezoid, four bar grid cancel. To: "Mssrs Tatham & Broth / first Wharf Below / Cedar Street / Phila." Siegel 830 November 14, 2000 lot 451, Hall.
38. Undated; part folded letter; adjacent district Southwark delivery; (top left corner) cut trapezoid, six bar grid cancel; pink advertising label on reverse. To: "(Thath)am & Brother / South S^t Whr / Southwark". Siegel 817 November 15, 1999 lot 515, Golden; Siegel 853 December 19, 2002 lot 2621, Johnstone. February 25, 2003 PFC 395520. Morris collection.
39. Undated; folded letter; outbound New York; cut trapezoid, four bar grid cancel; (blue) Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds. To: "For W^m B Hudson / No 105 Sixth Avenue / New York". Apfelbaum 247 May 15, 1969 lot 440.
40. Undated; folded letter; outbound Maryland; cut trapezoid, faint four bar grid cancel; (blue) Clarke 73 Philadelphia cds. To: "Mr W^m. E Tenbrook / Hancock / Maryland". Stollow April 1, 1974 lot 502; Wolffers 72 September 14, 1978 lot 471.
41. Undated; (folded letter); (local delivery), cut trapezoid, four bar grid cancel. To: Unknown #3. Stollow January 6, 1957 lot 1756.

²⁸ Present day 813 Arch Street.

42. Undated; piece of cover; (local delivery); bottom sheet margin cut trapezoid, six bar grid cancel-tied. To: Unknown #4. Siegel 830 November 14, 2000, lot 452, Hall.
 43. Undated; envelope; local delivery; die cut to shape, six bar grid cancel-tied. To: "S.M.G." (Sarah McAllister Grant) / Unknown. Lowe "AMERICANA" 3887 October 8, 1974 lot 239. NO PHOTO
- A. Undated; envelope; adjacent district Spring Garden delivery; die cut to shape, six bar grid cancel-tied. To: "Nathan R. Potts Esq / 8th & Spring Garden St / Philadelphia". H.R.Harmer 2352 July 22, 1970 lot 1333. Gronowski collection.
- B. Indeterminate; wrapper; local delivery; (contents "*Trenton feby 19th 1849*"); cut trapezoid, six bar grid cancel; manuscript "*July / 184(7)*". To: "Mssrs Gobrecht Rm 4. / 268 Arch below 10th / Phila". H.R.Harmer 1071 March 20, 1957 lot 580, Caspary; Siegel 747 February 17, 1993 lot 75; Siegel 925 November 15, 2006 lot 1310, Kuphal. October 31, 1990 PFC 232083. Alexander collection.

Excluded 15L11 Covers

Two suspicious 15L11 covers were withheld. Census letter A was addressed to "8th & Spring Garden Street," clearly inside Spring Garden District. Since Spring Garden had their own government post office for delivery, private posts were forbidden, acknowledged by Blood & Co. in contemporary newspapers.

Census letter B is suspicious for several reasons. Its February 1849 letter contents were unusual by originating in Trenton, New Jersey. The cover was an older style wrapper, and strangely dated July 184(7). Furthermore, the contents don't appear to match the cover in size, shape, or year. The 15L11 stamp is not tied to the cover, and more likely than not, added decades later.

15L11 Photographic Census

All but one of 43 examples have been photographed in auction catalogs and/or philatelic literature. All 42 in addition to the excluded 2 have been posted on the Carriers and Locals Society website.

Of 42 photographed genuine covers, 34 are available in **color**, **81%**. The remaining 19% consist of eight in black and white (census numbers 6, 7, 11, 16, 19, 39, 40, 41).

Old auction catalogs all too often did not include a cover's entire address. The photograph of four examples had been reduced to the stamp *only* (census numbers 11, 23, 41, 42), and the destination accordingly listed as "Unknown." However, auxiliary markings suggest whether the cover was local versus outbound. Altogether, the address of 91% have been identified, 39 of 43 covers. Four of the 39 addresses as given were less than complete, but identified from collateral sources, such as other covers in this census (census numbers 22, and 38), from a Robson Lowe auction catalog description (census number 43), and from a city directory (census number 19).

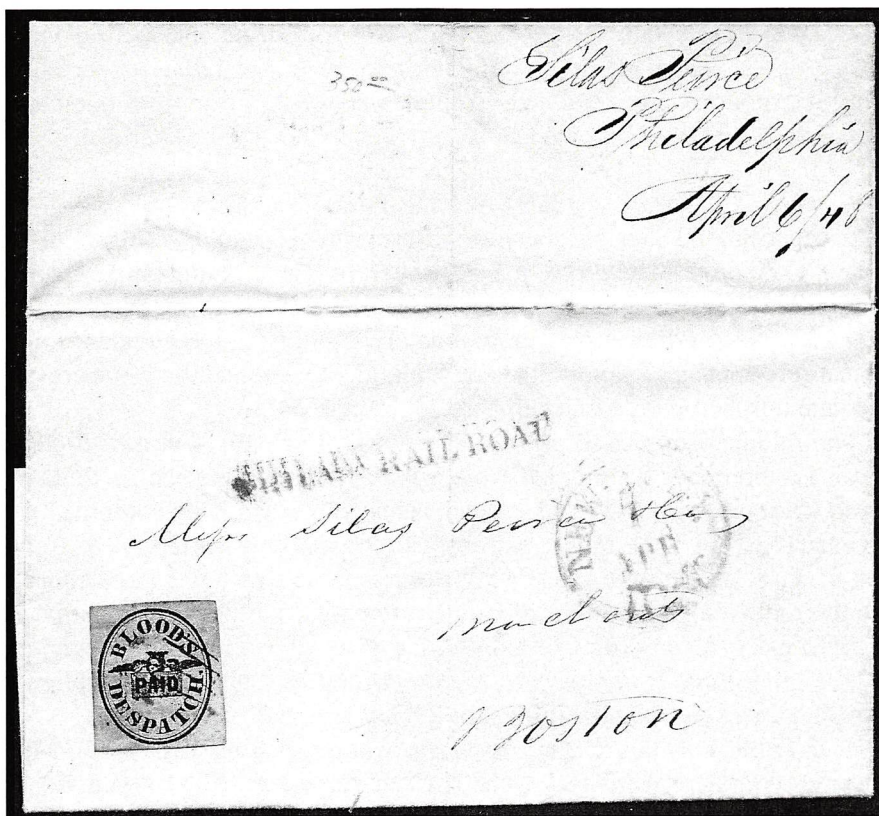


Figure 3. The earliest recorded 15L11 entered the mail at the New York post office on April 7, 1848.

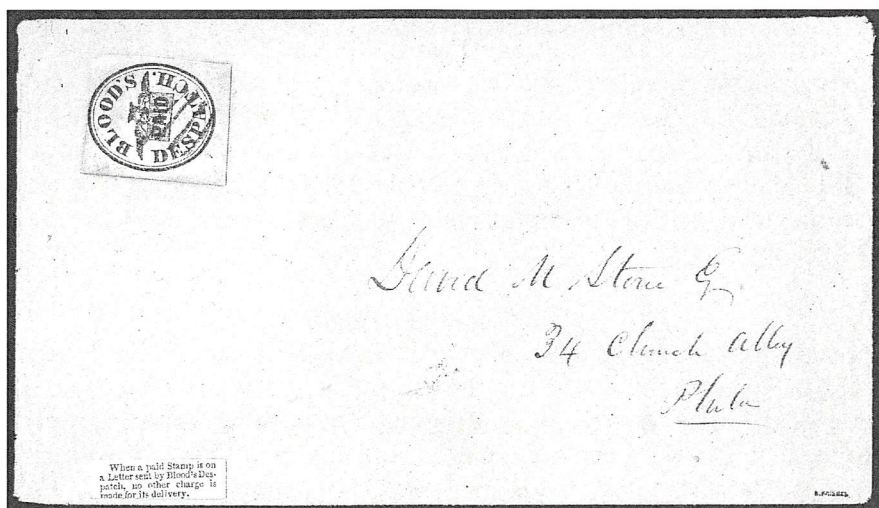


Figure 4. The latest recorded 15L11 date certain cover was December 3, 1849.

15L11 Cover Data Base

A 2% survival rate for private posts covers during this period has been selected for this series of articles,²⁹ although may be too generous, especially with advancing years. Forty three genuine examples suggests an original population of *approximately 2150*.

15L11 Service Time

Evidence based data is associated with *varying degrees of certainty*. Of **Table I data** only 16, approximately **37% are date certain** (census numbers 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20), ie. day, month, and year (identical to 15L10). The final 21 covers in the census, approximately 50% of the total evidence, include *no* information of any type pertaining to day, month or year, and therefore are entirely year and date unspecified (census numbers 23 through 43).

The middle group of 6, or 14%, are not year specific, but a restricted time period can be indirectly determined from auxiliary markings such as Philadelphia circular datestamps,³⁰ and Blood's Despatch Hanstamps. Given the numerically small 15L11 census, narrow time range, and limited cds marking variety, 4 of 6 (census numbers 2, 5, 8, 18) can be reasonably determined to within *one* calendar year, whereas the remaining 2 of 6 allocated into a two year period (census numbers 21, 22). Therefore, 20 of 43 examples, **46% are year determinate**, and graphically demonstrated in **Figure 2** *year specific* volume. Of the 20 year dated examples, 16 are **1848 for 80%**, whereas the remaining 4 or **20% were 1849**.

The **Table I** evidence confirms *Scott Catalog* listing 15L11 as 1848. The earliest three covers are April 1848. The **earliest recorded 15L11 is April 7, 1848**, an untied but fully dated cover (census number 1), shown in **Figure 3**. The second is an April 18, (1848) partial front. The third a fully dated April 24, 1848.

The latest recorded *date certain* 15L11 cover was **December 3, 1849**, an untied example shown in **Figure 4** (census number 20), one of only 4 scattered throughout 1849. The longest philatelic period was 605 days, or 86 weeks (20 months). One very far outlier (census number 22), was 1850 and possibly January 1851, based upon the cancel-tied Blood's Handstamp, but technically year uncertain.

Sixteen 15L11 covers cluster between **April 7, 1848 and December 24, 1848**. Therefore, the reasonable *active* philatelic 15L11 lifespan was only 261 days, or 37 weeks (8.5 months); and the respective greatest 15L11 business activity was 1.88 covers per month. No 15L11 exclusive philatelic period existed, even if restricted to only "city stamps".

15L11 Service Location

Final destinations are summarized in **Table II**. Letters were collected by Blood & Co., largely from hundreds of boxes, and sorted at Blood's office. Almost **80% were local**, but surprisingly **20% outbound**. The great majority, 34 covers, were door delivered by Blood's Despatch; 26 in the old city, 5 to an adjacent district with no post office, shown by map in **Figure 5**; and 3 of 4 entirely unknown. From the

²⁹ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, page 38.

³⁰ Ibid.

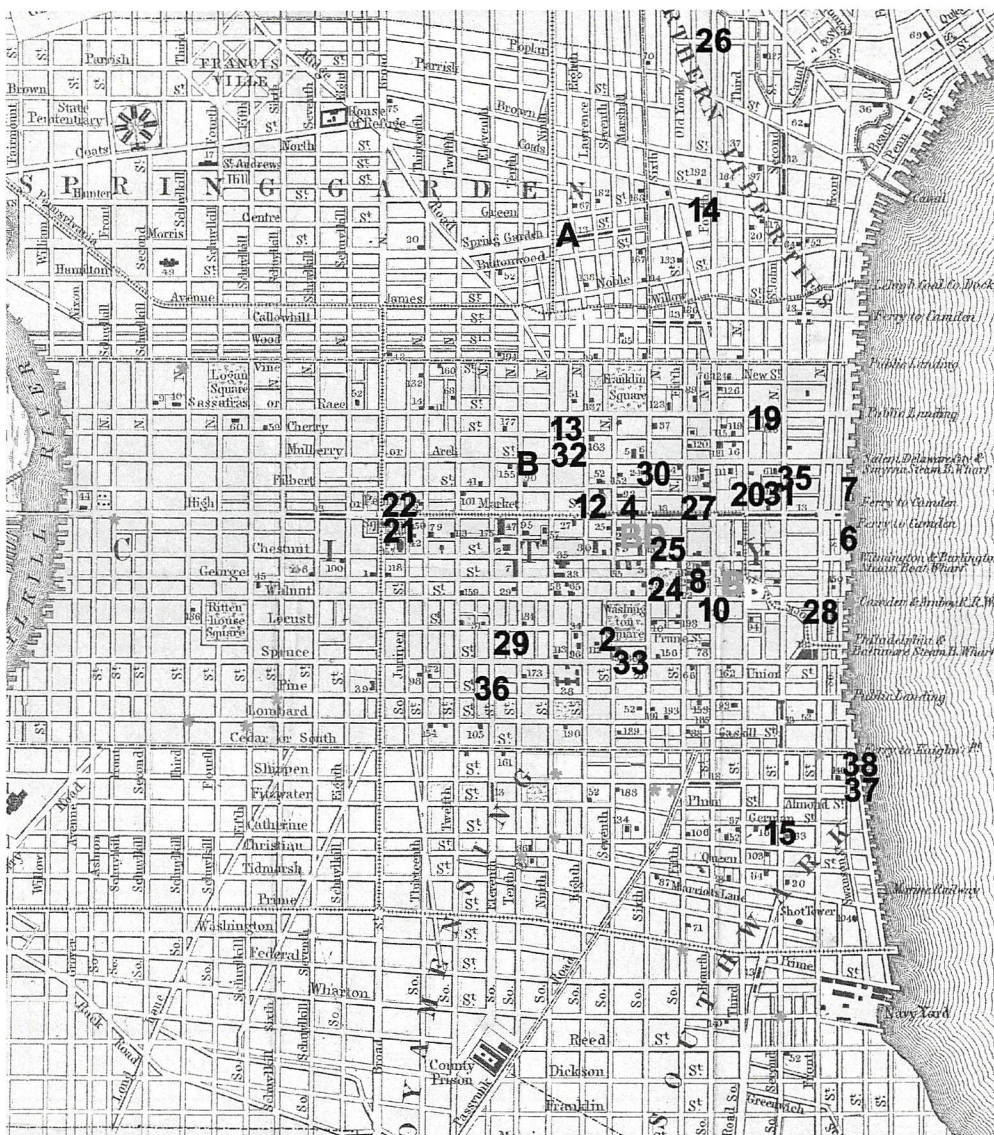


Figure 5. Green “P” for three post offices. Red “BD” new office; “B” old office; asterisk perimeter collection boxes.

Table I. Chronological 15L11 evidence, parenthesis if believed probably genuine, although lacking absolute certainty.

No.	DATE	COVER	15L11	CANCEL	TIED	LABEL
1	April 7, 1848	folded letter	cut trapezoid	four bar grid	no	-
2	(April 18, 1848)	partial front	cut trapezoid	connected dots	no	-
3	April 24, 1848	folded letter	bottom margin, cut trapezoid	six bar grid, double strike	no	-
4	May 4, 1848	folded letter	cut trapezoid	six bar grid	no	-
5	May 30, (1848)	folded letter	cut trapezoid	four bar grid	no	-
6	June 8, 1848	folded letter	cut trapezoid	six bar grid	no	-
7	June 18, 1848	part printed Insurance notice	cut trapezoid	four bar grid, double strike	no	-
8	July 22, (1848)	ladies envelope	cut trapezoid	six bar grid	(ink stain)	-
9	August 18, 1848	folded letter	cut trapezoid	six bar grid	(impression)	-
10	August 1848	envelope	cut trapezoid	six bar grid	no	-
11	September 1, 1848	printed notice	cut trapezoid	dot in corners four bar grids	no	remnant
12	September 6, 1848	part printed notice	bottom corner margin, cut trapezoid	four bar grid	no	-
13	September 7, 1848	folded letter	hand cut to shape	four bar grid	no	-
14	October 12, 1848	(envelope)	cut trapezoid	four bar grid	(stain)	-
15	October 21, 1848	folded letter	cut trapezoid	four bar grid	no	-
16	December 24, 1848	(folded letter)	die cut to shape	perpendicular four bar grids	no	-
17	June 28, 1849	folded letter	hand cut to shape	four bar grid	four bar grid	-
18	July 13, (1849)	folded letter	cut trapezoid	four bar grid	no	-
19	November 24, 1849	(folded letter)	die cut to shape	six bar grid	no	-
20	December 3, 1849	envelope	bottom margin cut trapezoid	four bar grid	no	pink label
21	(1849-50)	envelope	cut trapezoid	Blood handstamp	Blood handstamp	-
22	(1850-51)	envelope	cut trapezoid	Blood handstamp	Blood handstamp	-
23	Undated	piece	cut to octagon	no	blue cds manuscript "X"	-
24	Undated	large envelope	cut trapezoid	four bar grid	four bar grid	light green
25	Undated	folded letter	cut trapezoid	four bar grid	four bar grid	-
26	Undated	mourning envelope	top margin, cut trapezoid	four bar grid, triple strike	four bar grid	-

Table I. (cont'd.) Chronological 15L11 evidence, parenthesis if believed probably genuine, although lacking absolute certainty.

FEDERAL STAMPS & MARKINGS	ADDRESSEE	OUTBOUND	No.
red Clarke 430e PHILADA RAILROAD sfl red New York cds	Silas Pierce Esqr Merchant / Boston	Massachusetts	1
no	Henry D. Gilpin / Washington Squa(re-)	no	2
no	Messrs Chamley & Whelen / No 9 S. 3 rd St. / Philadelphia	no	3
no	Mr Saml Bispham. / 261 High. St.	no	4
blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds	Mr Layton Y. Atkins / Fredericksburg / Virginia	Virginia	5
no	John Haseltine Esqr. / No 10 South / Wharves / Philad	no	6
no	R. Neff / No 6 Nor. Wharves	no	7
no	Mr. George Grier. / Library St. / Philadelphia	no	8
blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds	M ^{rs} W. McBlair / Care of E.L. Vaux Esqr / Elizabeth Town / New Jersey	New Jersey	9
manuscript "Cape Island / Aug. 1848."	J. S. Smith Esq. / 65 So. 4 th	no (from New Jersey)	10
no	Unknown #1	(no)	11
no	Geo. W Carpenter Esq	no	12
no	Mssrs Cornelius & Co / in Cherry St above 8 th	no	13
no	William Henry Trotter Esqr / 256 North 4 th Street	Northern Liberties	14
no	Mr Joseph Elkinton / 377 Sou 2nd St	Southwark	15
blue Clarke 74 Philadelphia cds 5 cent 1847 general issue, ID 10641, tied by grid cancel	Gilbert F. Davis Esqr / N ^o 45 - Pine Street / <u>New York</u>	New York	16
blue Clarke 74 Philadelphia cds manuscript "Private"	To / President Taylor / Washington City / D.C.	Washington, DC	17
blue Clarke 74 Philadelphia cds	Mssrs Burdsall E ^t / Rahway / NJ	New Jersey	18
Bloods handstamp	Mr W ^m Magee / (60 Sassafrass Street / Philadelphia)	no	19
no	David M Stone E / 34 Church Alley / <u>Phila</u>	no	20
no	Miss Sophie Greene / N ^o 3 / South Penn Square	no	21
manuscript "By Bloods Dispatch, which has no match, / You'll go at once I mean, and then / at once address S"	(Sophie Greene) / <u>South Penn Square, No 3</u>	no	22
blue indistinct Philadelphia cds two 5 cent 1847 general issues, ID none, tied by cds & "X"	Unknown #2	Unknown state	23
manuscript "From J.R. Tyson"	For / William M. Meredith Esq	no	24
no	Mssrs Lindsay & Blackiston / N.W. corner 4th & Chesnut / Philadelphia	no	25
no	To. Miss Schmidt / Corner 4th & George Street / Northern Liberty Phila	Northern Liberties	26

Table I. (cont'd.) Chronological 15L11 evidence, parenthesis if believed probably genuine, although lacking absolute certainty.

No.	DATE	COVER	15L11	CANCEL	TIED	LABEL
27	Undated	(envelope)	cut trapezoid	four bar grid	four bar grid	-
28	Undated	ladies envelope	cut trapezoid	four bar grid	no	light green
29	Undated	folded letter	cut trapezoid	four bar grid	no	pink
30	Undated	folded letter	cut trapezoid	six bar grid	no	-
31	Undated	envelope	cut trapezoid	six bar grid	no	-
32	Undated	front	cut trapezoid	four bar grid	no	-
33	Undated	folded letter	cut trapezoid	six bar grid	no	-
34	Undated	part folded letter	hand cut to shape	six bar grid	no	-
35	Undated	folded letter	cut trapezoid	six bar grid	no	-
36	Undated	envelope	cut trapezoid	four bar grid	no	-
37	Undated	folded letter	cut trapezoid	four bar grid	no	-
38	Undated	part folded letter	top left corner, cut trapezoid	six bar grid	no	pink
39	Undated	folded letter	cut trapezoid	four bar grid	no	-
40	Undated	folded letter	cut trapezoid	four bar grid	no	-
41	Undated	(folded letter)	cut trapezoid	four bar grid	no	-
42	Undated	piece of cover	bottom margin, cut trapezoid	six bar grid	six bar grid	-
43	Undated	envelope	die cut to shape	six bar grid	six bar grid	-
A	Undated	envelope	die cut to shape	six bar grid	(six bar grid)	-
B	Indeterminate	wrapper	cut trapezoid	six bar grid	six bar grid	-

Table I. (cont'd.) Chronological 15L11 evidence, parenthesis if believed probably genuine, although lacking absolute certainty.

FEDERAL STAMPS & MARKINGS	ADDRESSEE	OUTBOUND	No.
no	Ths. David / 171 Market	no	27
no	Mr. Charles Casstasis / Care of J Fratone & Co / No 90 South Front St / 90 South Front St Phila.	no	28
no	Eward Johnson, / (laborer) / Burd's Court / Between Locust & Spruce / and 10 ¹ and 11 ¹ .	no	29
no	Charles Eben Esq / 57 North 6th St.	no	30
no	Mr. William Hennessey / Care F N Krug & Co / no 6 & 8 church alley / Phila	no	31
no	Joseph B. Townsend, Esq. / Attorney at Law / 309 Arch Street	no	32
no	Mrs George. Clymer / 230 Spruce Street / below 7 th South Side	no	33
manuscript "Paid"	W ^m L Price Esqr. / No 3 Mercantile Library Build / Library Street / Philada.	no	34
no	W ^m G. Mentz Esq / N ^o 53 north 3d. St. below Arch 8 th	no	35
no	Miss Mary T. Chierdell / 315 Pine Street / Phila---a	no	36
no	Mssrs Tatham & Broth / first Wharf Below / Cedar Street / Phila.	Southwark	37
no	(Thath)am & Brother / South St Whr / Southwark	Southwark	38
(blue) Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds	For W ^m B Hudson / No 105 Sixth Avenue / New York	New York	39
(blue) Clarke 73 Philadelphia cds	Mr W ^m . E Tenbrook / Hancock / Maryland	Maryland	40
no	Unknown #3	(no)	41
no	Unknown #4	(no)	42
no	S.M.G. (Sarah McAllister Grant) (NO PHOTO)	(no)	43
no	Nathan R. Potts Esq / 8th & Spring Garden St / Philadelphia	Sping Garden	A
manuscript "July / 184(7)"	Mssrs Gobrecht Rm 4. / 268 Arch below 10th / Phila	(from New Jersey)	B

district group of five, 3 were delivered in Southwark (census numbers 15, 37, 38), and 2 in Northern Liberties (census numbers 14, 26).

Of the 9 outbound covers, 8 were to the nearby Philadelphia post office (census numbers 5, 9, 16, 17, 18, 23, 39, 40), confirmed by blue Philadelphia circular datestamp. Only one (census number 1) had been transported by Blood's Despatch directly to the railroad agent "favor bag" for transportation to the New York post office³¹ for entry into the government mails to Boston. Two covers were each addressed to New Jersey and New York. One cover each to other nearby states, such as Maryland, Virginia, Washington D.C., and Massachusetts. One unknown State, but surprisingly none to Pennsylvania, unlike virtually all previous articles. No covers were addressed to Canada. No transatlantic covers.

Only one 15L11 originated from an *inbound bootlegged* letter handed over to Blood's Despatch (except perhaps census letter B), for local delivery (census number 10), similar to one 15L6 example.³²

15L11 Cover Type

Table III is a summary of various cover types bearing a 15L11 stamp. From a data base of 43 examples approximately half, 23, were *folded letters, representing 53%*, demonstrated in **Figure 3**. **One third were envelopes**, clearly the trend by mid-century, shown in **Figure 4**. Three printed notices (census numbers 7, 11, 12), were local business matters.

Two examples were only cover *fronts* (census numbers 2, 32). The data also include two "piece of cover" examples (census numbers 23, 42), although one displayed three stamps. No wrappers (except census letter B) were identified.

15L11 Cancel Types

Table IV is a summary of 15L11 cancel types. **98% were cancelled** by Blood's Despatch, 42 of 43 covers, appropriate for "city stamps." Only one example, census number 23, was not cancelled by the private post, understandable since outbound mail did not present a threat of reuse in another city. Cancels on the other 8 outbound letters was not necessary, and perhaps overkill resulting from routine treatment of "city stamps."

A Blood's Despatch **grid handstamp cancelled 91%** of the evidence. A "4 bar grid"³³ was employed on 24 covers, and "6 bar grid"³⁴ on 15 covers. Approximately 10% were *multiple* strikes of grid cancels; three were 4 bar grids (census numbers 7, 16, and 26), and one 6 bar grid (census number 3). Two covers were cancelled by **Blood's Despatch circular handstamps** (census number 21 and 22), **Figure 6**,³⁵ which includes a stamp detail rotated counterclockwise 150 degrees to better demonstrate the handstamp company *address* superimposed on the stamp design in an otherwise confusing conglomeration.

³¹ Vernon R Morris Jr MD, "Bloods Part 10: 15L10," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 23, No. 2, April 2015, Whole No. 91, pages 49-52, 56.

³² Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, pages 42, 55.

³³ Morris Type D recorded from May 3, (1848) until July 24, 1849.

³⁴ Morris Handstamp Type C recorded from December 8, 1847 until November 29, 1849.

³⁵ Morris Handstamp Type 14, and 15 respectively.

Table II. Summary of 15L11 address destinations. 80% were local.

15L11 ADDRESS		
Total	Location	Census Number
26	Philadelphia old city	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 43
5	Philadelphia district	14, 15, 26, 37, 38
2	New York	16, 39
2	New Jersey	9, 18
1	Maryland	40
1	Washington D.C.	17
1	Virginia	5
1	Massachusetts	1
4	Unknown	11, 23, 41, 42
43	All Locations	

Table III. Summary of 15L11 cover types.

15L11 COVERS		
Total	Cover Type	Census Number
21	Folded letter	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 25, 29, 30, 33, 35, 37, 39, 40, 41
2	Partial folded letter	34, 38
1	Large envelope	24
9	Envelope	10, 14, 20, 21, 22, 27, 31, 36, 43
2	Ladies envelope	8, 28
1	Mourning envelope	26
0	Embossed envelope	none
1	Front	32
1	Partial front	2
2	Piece	23, 42
3	Printed notice	7, 11, 12
0	Wrapper	none
43	All Types	

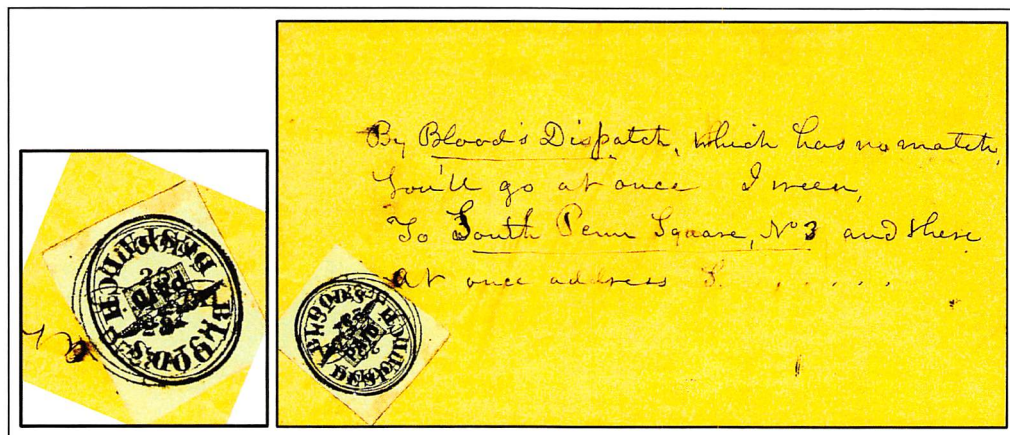


Figure 6. “Bloods Despatch, which has no match,” with rotated enlargement of new address handstamp cancel.



Figure 7. Outbound 15L11 private letter to President Taylor.

Although no Blood's penstroke cancels were identified, two "dot cancels" exist, the "de minimus" penstroke,³⁶ (census number 2 and 11) and perhaps the latest such recorded.

15L11 Cover Auxiliary Marking

Auxiliary markings provide additional postal information regarding handling and delivery. In the context of private posts, all markings not intended to prevent reuse of the private post stamp have been considered auxiliary markings, both manuscript and handstamp, government and private. More than one marking may appear on a single cover.

Table V identified that only **30%** of 15L11 covers included an auxiliary marking, 13 of 43 in the data base, and very low (stark contrast to counterpart 15L10). Identical markings repeated on a single cover were not included in this assessment. Two different types of markings appeared on each of 4 covers (census numbers 1, 16, 17, 23). No covers showed three or more different auxiliary marking types.

Eleven of 18 markings, **60%**, were **government circular datestamps**, eight of which were blue Philadelphia, **Figure 7**. One of two red New York handstamps was a cds, the other a straightline PHILAD^ARAILROAD (Remele P6a), both in **Figure 3**, (census number 1). However, no red numeral "5" in circle handstamp, no blue circular railroad postmark, or blue PAID in lozenge. No Wilmington, Baltimore or Canadian circular datestamps.

Only one Blood's Despatch auxiliary marking (census number 19) has been identified, which included the company address, **Figure 4**, but did not cancel the Blood's Despatch stamp.

Manuscript markings appeared on only 6 covers. One manuscript "X" government cancel, census number 23. One manuscript "*paid*" (census number 34). Most common were nonspecific manuscript *notations*, on four covers (census numbers 10, 17, 22, 24), although one provided a spectacular Blood's endorsement, **Figure 6**. No manuscript "10", "5" or "free" markings were identified.

15L11 Stamp Shape

Table VI is a summary of the various types of 15L11 shapes in the data base. Although manual separation of previous issues has been properly assumed,³⁷ no 15L11 panes or multiples have been identified. No mechanical separation of adhesive stamps in any form had yet existed in the United States, government or private post.

Three examples, **7%** were **die cut** (census numbers 16, 19, 43), first documented by the highly esteemed scholar Robson Lowe forty years ago. He declared census number 19 was "the only example of a mechanically separated Blood known."³⁸ Nevertheless, **Figure 8**, (census number 16) is another example which incredibly is also combined with a 1847 general issue stamp. **Blood's Despatch was the second in the nation to mechanically separate stamps, after Hale & Co.**

³⁶ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, pages 43, 55, 58.

³⁷ Robert Siegel Auction Galleries, sale 1063 December 19-20, 2013, lot 1728.

³⁸ Robson Lowe USA.1 *Basel*, March 1, 1973, lot 1671.

Table IV. Summary of 15L11 cancel types.

15L11 CANCEL		
Total	Cancel Type	Census Number
24	4 bar grid	1, 5, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41
15	6 bar grid	3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 19, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 38, 42, 43
0	pen stroke	no
2	dots	2, (11)
2	Blood's handstamp	21, 22
0	acid	no
(1)	Uncancelled	23
43	Total	(42 covers)

Table V. Auxiliary markings appeared on less than one third of 15L11 covers.

15L11 AUXILIARY MARKINGS		
Total	Marking Type	Census Number
1	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 71) cds	5
2	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 71a) cds	9, 39
3	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 74) cds	16, 17, 18
1	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 73) cds	40
1	blue Philadelphia indistinct cds	23
1	red New York cds	1
1	red Philadelphia (Clarke 430e) sl	1
1	grid	16
1	Blood's handstamp	19
1	manuscript "X"	23
4	manuscript notation	10, 17, 22, 24
1	manuscript "Paid"	34
18	All Types (43 covers)	(13 covers)

Table VI. Summary of 15L11 stamp shapes.

15L11 STAMP SHAPE		
Total	Shape	Census Number
34	Cut Trapezoid	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 12, 14, 15, 18, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42
2	Partially Torn Trapezoid	24, 27
3	Hand Cut to Shape	13, 17, 34
3	Die cut to Shape	16, 19, 43
1	Cut to Octagon	23
43	All Types	

Table VII. Just over one quarter of 15L11 were tied.

15L11 TIED to COVER		
Total	Marking Type	Census Number
1	blue Philadelphia cds	23
2	Blood's Handstamp	21, 22
5	4 bar grid	17, 24, 25, 26, 27
2	6 bar grid	42, 43
1	manuscript	23
2	stain	8, 14
13	All Types	(12 covers)

Table VIII. 15L11 combined with 1847 government stamp.

15L11 COMBINATION 1847 COVERS		
Total	Cover Type	Census Number
1	one 5 cent 1847 stamp	16
1	two 5 cent 1847 stamps	23
0	one 10 cent 1847 stamp	0
2	All Types (43 covers)	

The great majority, however, were hand separated. The oval design without frame was unlike any predecessor rectangular stamp (even counterpart 15L10 oval design which had been housed within a square frame). 15L11 stamps were free hand separated, but only *approximating* a rectangle, typically *not parallel* and more accurately defined as a geometrical trapezoid, **Figure 9**. **84% were “Cut Trapezoid”** configurations, 36 of 43 in the data base. Three examples, were carefully “Hand Cut to Shape” (census numbers 13, 17, 34), shown in **Figure 7**. One example was skillfully trimmed down to a “Cut Octagon” (census number 23), **Figure 10** (not infrequently encountered on earlier double circle stamp designs).

Only two were “Partially Torn” apart by hand (census numbers 24 and 27), similar to some companion-counterpart 15L10 examples.³⁹

15L11 Tied to Cover

Table VII summarized 15L11 stamps tied to their cover. Only **28% were tied**, or 12 of 43, (identical percentage to companion-counterpart 15L10) of which 3/4 were by **Blood’s Despatch**, most typically grid cancels. Five were 4 bar grids (census numbers 17, 24, 25, 26, 27). Two were 6 bar grids (census numbers 42, 43). Two were Bloods Handstamps (census numbers 21, 22). Only one was tied by accidental government postmark (census number 23), in addition to manuscript marking.

Stains on two covers coincidentally tied 15L11 (census numbers 8 and 14).

15L11 Correspondence

A philatelic census with multiple covers to the same person or address constitutes a philatelic correspondence. Only two persons appeared twice each in the data base. The address for Sophie Green (census numbers 21 and 22) was revealed on the former as No 3 South Penn Square, shown in **Figure 6**. Unsolicited praise and adulation for Blood’s service was ensconced across the latter, **Bloods Dispatch has no match**. Sophie, unfortunately, has not been identified in contemporary city directories.

Two covers were addressed to Tatham & Brothers in the Southwark District (census numbers 37 and 38).⁴⁰ Tatham & Brothers was established in 1840 as sheet lead and pipe manufacturers. Senior partner among five brothers was George Tatham. Brothers Henry and William were also in the Philadelphia business office at 226 and 228 Spruce Street; whereas brothers Benjamin and Charles were in their New York office. George Tatham was a member of the Board of Trade, subscribed to many benevolent associations, and died in 1888.⁴¹

Also, a single correspondence to a very important person is noteworthy. **Figure 7** was a *private* letter addressed to sitting President of the United States Zachary Taylor (census number 17). However, it was not a presidential free frank, but charged 5 cents (the only sitting Presidential Free Frank by private post was President

³⁹ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2015, pages 37, 37, 38, 53.

⁴⁰ *McElroy’s 1849 City Directory*, page 369 lists TATHAM & BROTHERS, manufacturer of sheet lead and pipes, 1st whf below Ceder, which today is South Street.

⁴¹ Philadelphia Inquirer; August 20, 1888; Volume 119, Issue 43, page 8.

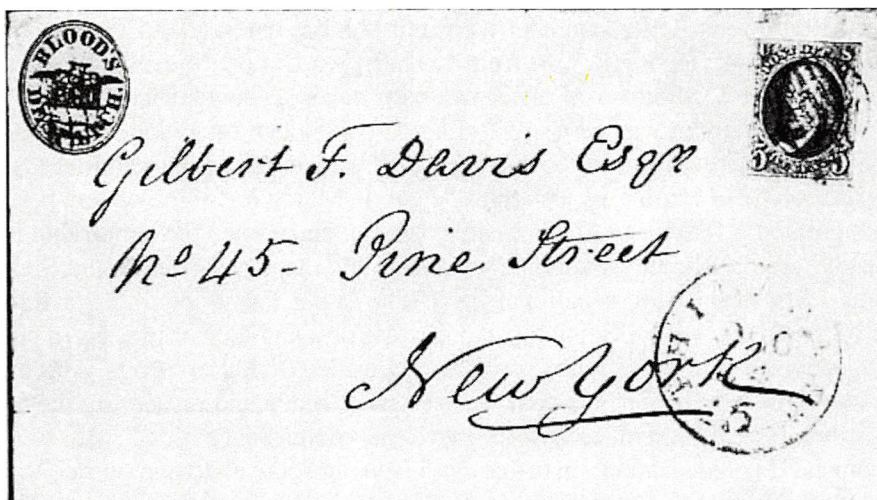


Figure 8. The nation's second mechanically separated stamp.

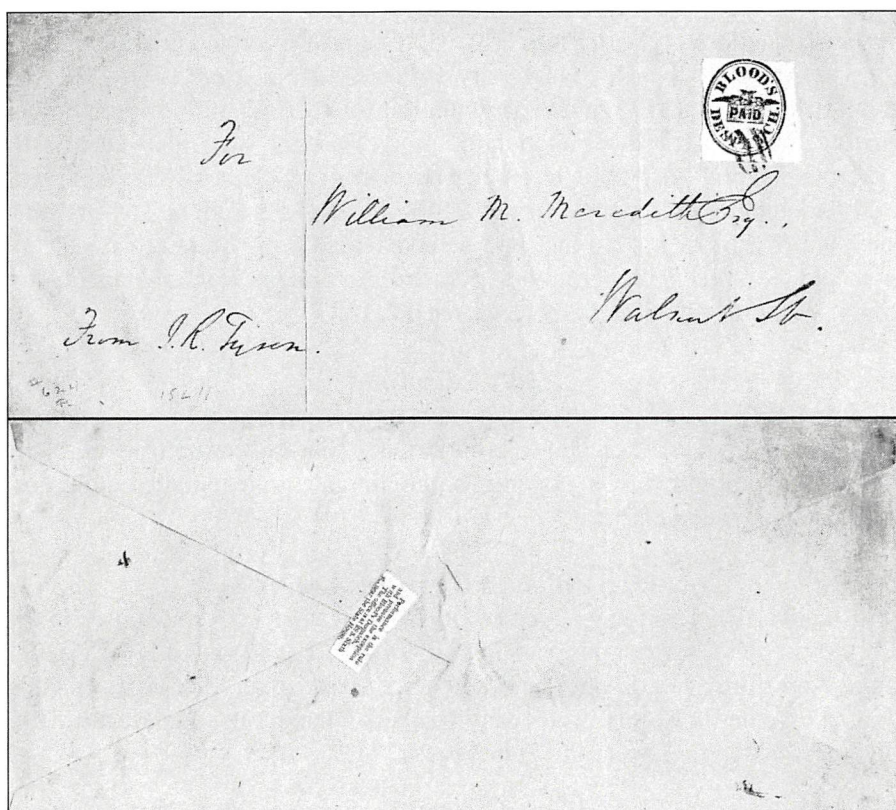


Figure 9. Local 15L11 to William Meredith, Secretary of Treasury for President Taylor.

Polk).⁴² However, the Taylor cover is interesting for *why* it was not a free frank.

Although the letter contents were not signed, the sender's closing remark informed President Taylor it was from a "lady who knows how to make a bad husband," **Figure 11**. Some oval office behavior never seems to change.

Zachary Taylor was born in Virginia on November 24, 1784, a descendant of Pilgrim William Brewster. He became the 12th President of the United States, shown by daguerreotype in **Figure 12**. His term began on March 4, 1849, one day before he was inaugurated.⁴³ Taylor had been a career officer, and earned the name "Old Rough and Ready" in the Second Seminole War. From his many victories in the Mexican-American War he became a national hero. The Whig Party convinced a reluctant Taylor to lead their ticket, despite his unclear platform and lack of interest in politics. Once in office he was indifferent to programs considered vital to Whigs. Although he was a southern slave owner, his goal was sectional peace and preserving the Union. As the threat of Southern secession grew, he increasingly sided with northern abolitionists. He died suddenly in office at 65 from an acute abdomen on July 9, 1850, just two months prior to California joining the Union.⁴⁴ He was buried in Louisville, Kentucky.

A second important American was William M. Meredith, the addressee in **Figure 9**. Meredith was President Taylor's Secretary of the Treasury, also shown by contemporary daguerreotype in **Figure 13**. Meredith was born in Philadelphia on June 8, 1799, and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania at age 13 in 1812. He was admitted to the bar in 1817, gained a reputation for fearless and inflexible honesty, and elected President of the Philadelphia Bar. Meredith was also elected to the Pennsylvania General Assembly, as a Federalist, from 1824 until 1828, and president of the Philadelphia City Council from 1834 until 1849. President Taylor wanted a Pennsylvania Whig for his cabinet and selected Meredith. Meredith raised import duties to pay for recent debt in the Mexican American War and acquisition of California. William Meredith died on August 17, 1873.

15L11 Valentines

Apparently 15L11 did not include any valentines. **Table I** reveals *none* of the 19 month specific covers included February. Only four covers (census numbers 21, 22, 36, 43) were addressed to an apparent single female, none included month or day, and none contained a valentine.

15L11 Blood Advertising Labels

An advertisement label appeared on **14%** of 15L11 covers, shown in **Figure 9**. All six examples (census numbers 11, 20, 24, 28, 29, 38) were local city letters, consistent with little need on outbound letters to advertise in other cities. Two labels were joined together in **Figure 14** (census numbers 24 and 29), and described Blood's Despatch new office was "near the State House."

⁴² Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 9: 15L9," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 23, No. 1, January 2015, Whole No. 90, page 32.

⁴³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zachary_Taylor.

⁴⁴ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California>.



Figure 10. Outbound 15L11 fully pre-paid, over 300 miles.

*A Lady who knows him to make a true
Husband*

Figure 11. Anonymous closing to "private" letter for President Taylor.

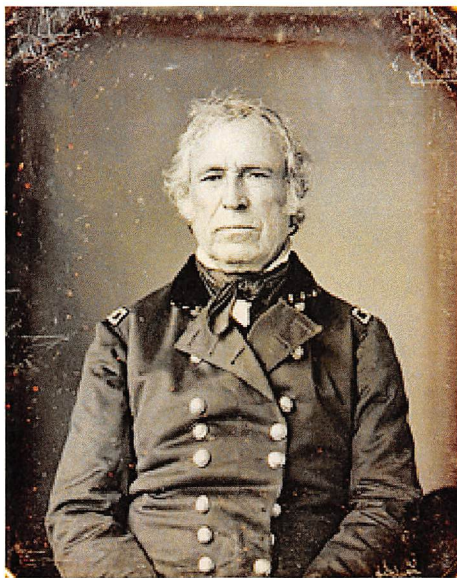


Figure 12. Zachary Taylor was the 12th United States President.

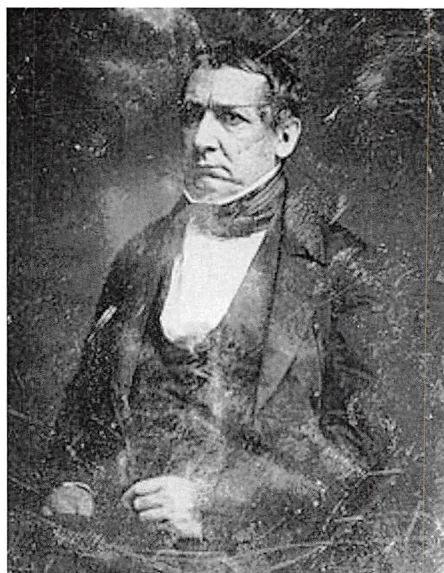


Figure 13. William M. Meredith was Secretary of the Treasury under President Taylor.

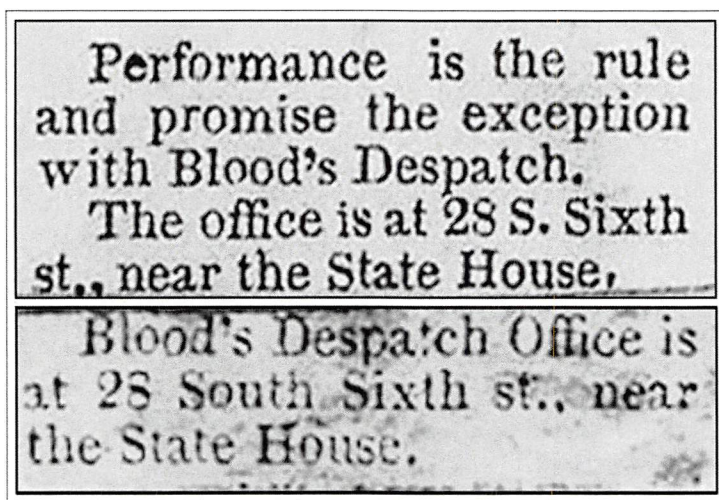


Figure 14. New address labels from two 15L11 covers.

15L11 Circulars

Although business circulars in mass had been encouraged by Blood & Co., only three covers were printed notices (census numbers 7, 11, 12). Furthermore, **Table 1** does not include special Blood self-advertisement circulars with sample demonstrations of new stamps, defined service types, or volume discounts,⁴⁵ as had been the case in early 1847.

15L11 Rate

During 8 ½ months of 15L11 *active* philatelic lifespan and the previous two years, retail cost per single service had been 2 cents, collect or prepaid by stamp. Blood's Despatch did continue identical volume discounts advertised under the new company name,⁴⁶ **Figure 15.** 15L11 "city stamps" had been available for twenty cents a dozen! Furthermore, 8 dozen "city stamps," or **96 were only \$1.00**, just over 1 cent per stamp (1.05 cents per stamp), discounted 48%. Although 15L11 was Blood's Despatch replacement of D.O. Blood & Co. striding messenger "city stamps," large numbers of 15L6 stamps must have been already printed, were apparently omnipresent at Blood's principle office, retail stores, and patrons, but still valid for current and future service,⁴⁷ never requiring an exchange period.

15L11 Government Combinations

General issue government stamps in combination with 1511 were possible after July 1, 1847, the first day of federal government prepayment stamps. Since Blood's Despatch didn't issue stamps until eight months later, March 1848, all 43 covers with 15L11 were *candidates* for combination with federal stamps. However, 15L11 was a "city stamp" intended for local door delivery, which largely precluded outbound service, or need for government prepaid stamps.

In 1992 Robert Meyersburg assembled a casual census of Blood & Co. stamps in combination with 1847 general issue stamps.⁴⁸ Meyersburg reported one 15L11 combination with 1847 general issue stamp, provided a black and white photograph (census number 16), but did not include any source references. **Figure 8** has not been seen in public for many decades. The United States Philatelic Classics Society has classified it ID 10641.

One other combination has surfaced, on a "piece" of cover, but not included in the USPS classification, **Figure 10.** All three adhesive stamps are tied by both penstroke and blue Philadelphia cds, to the sad remnant of an otherwise outstanding *outbound* 15L11 cover with destination probably beyond 300 miles.

Table I and **VIII** therefore identified **2 combination 15L11 and 1847** general issue stamps, less than **5%** of the data (census numbers 16, 23). In each case the sender *prepaid in full both private post collection and outbound government mail transportation*. They also represent both rates; the former a 5 cent rate prepaid by a single 5 cent stamp, and the latter a 10 cent rate pre-paid by two 5 cent 1847 stamps.

⁴⁵ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2014, pages 48-50.

⁴⁶ Public Ledger July 21, 1848 Vol. XXV, No.1, page 2.

⁴⁷ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2014, pages 47-51.

⁴⁸ Robert B. Meyersburg, "1847 Postage Stamps Used in Combination with Carrier and Local Adhesives," *The Chronicle*, Vol. 44, No. 1, February 1992, Whole No. 153, page 11.

"TIME IS MONEY."—Persons sending Letters, Papers, or Messages of any kind to the Post office, or any other part of the city, and wishing to save both "time and money," will make use of

BLOOD'S DESPATCH.

Boxes of which will be found **INSIDE** the Principal Drug and other Stores, in all parts of the city. All of Blood's Despatch Box Stations are designated not by boxes hanging on the exterior posts or outside of the doors, but by **SMALL NEAT SIGNS**, placed on the shutter or door, reading thus:

**BLOOD'S
DESPATCH
BOX INSIDE.**

The name "Blood's" being always in **RED** letters.

PAID STAMPS are a great convenience in the use of Blood's Despatch, and persons can have them sent to any part of the city, by dropping a note into any of the boxes, stating the number and kind, (whether City or Post office Stamps) required.

PRICES.

City Stamps.		Post Office Stamps.	
1 dozen,	10 cents.	3 stamps,	5 cents.
1 "	20 "	6 "	8 "
2 "	25 "	12 "	12 "
4 "	50 "	24 "	20 "
6 "	80 "	50 "	40 "
8 "	81 00 "	100 "	75 "

GOVERNMENT STAMPS at par can be had at the Box Stations, and at the **OFFICE.**

3721-tmy15x1 28 South **SIXTH** Street.

Figure 15. Same "City Stamp" rates for 15L11 in July 1848 at new address.

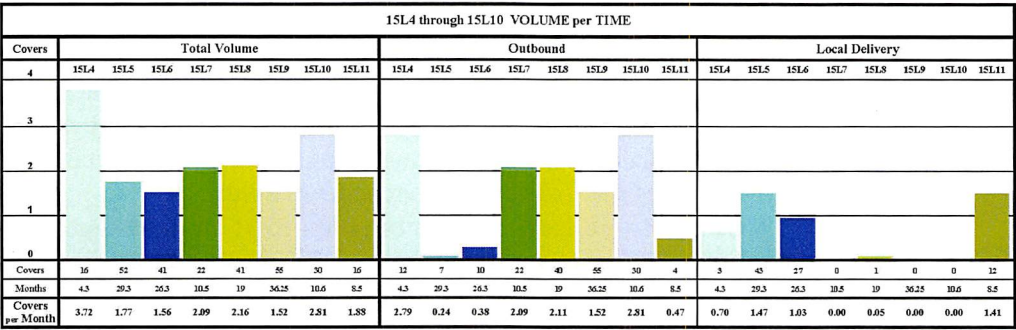


Figure 16. Graphic business activity of Blood stamp issues in covers per month.

15L11 Transatlantic

No 15L11 transatlantic covers have been identified.

15L11 Volume – Time Analysis

Figure 15 reveals the 15L11 cluster period of 16 covers was from April 7, 1848 until December 24, 1848. During these 8 1/2 busiest months 15L11 philatelic activity was 1.88 covers per month, **Figure 16**. During the cluster, 75% were local delivery, with 4 outbound (census numbers 1, 5, 9, 16) to a government post office, typically the Philadelphia post office.⁴⁹ The full census was slightly greater with 79% local service, 34 of 43 covers.

15L11 Time Line

The most active period of 15L11 was 1848, with a sprinkling of remainders in service during 1849 as late outliers. However, during 1848, former D.O. Blood & Co.'s striding messenger stamps appear on many local covers, likely well after their printing. **Figure 17** graphically demonstrates that prior striding messengers "city stamps" such as 15L6, serviced city letters throughout all of 1848 into late 1849. Moreover, three 15L5 very late far outliers have been identified throughout 1850.

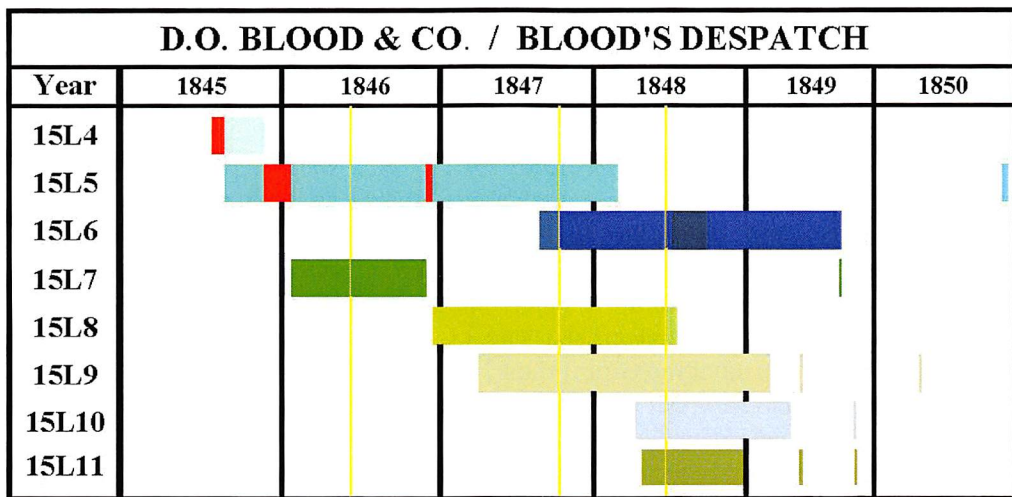


Figure 17. 15L11 time-line eclipsed by 15L6 "City Stamps."

Blood's Despatch Stamps

A new company name emerged circa 1848 under enigmatic circumstances. No greater Blood's scholar than Robson Lowe reported "In 1848 Walter Blood left the business which was re-organized and Charles Kochersperger joined the firm as an

⁴⁹ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2015, pages 32, 36, 37, 44, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56.

assistant.”⁵⁰ Daniel Blood apparently remained in charge. Although assumed to be correct, no independent verification exists. Although the new company name was not listed in city directories until 1849,⁵¹ “Blood’s Despatch” first appeared on November 1, 1847 in the Public Ledger newspaper.⁵² “Blood’s Despatch” handstamps have been recorded by **December 29, 1847**.⁵³ Prepaid adhesive *stamps* named Blood’s Despatch were advertised in the Public Ledger on January 29, 1848, and January 31, 1848, although none identified for another 8 weeks. The earliest recorded Blood’s Despatch adhesive stamp was 15L10 on March 22, 1848, but the subsequent two were not until May 1848. Three 15L11 covers, however, have been identified during the interim in April 1848. Therefore, during early Spring 1848 three of the first four surviving covers bearing a new Blood’s Despatch stamp were 15L11, although the earliest was a 15L10. These companion-counterpart “city stamps” and “post office stamps”⁵⁴ were an entirely new design style and color, for an entirely new Blood’s line. The two were likely released for sale at about the same time.

The name “Blood’s Despatch” appeared on a *regular* basis in newspapers after November 1, 1847, deemed the origin of the new company.⁵⁵ All Blood’s timeline bar graphs are marked by thin vertical yellow line commemorating November 1, 1847, shown in **Figure 17**.

Blood’s New Office

On **May 25, 1848** another significant Blood’s Despatch announcement was a new location at 28 South Sixth Street.⁵⁶ **Figure 18** reveals a more central and convenient location as the population and business growth was clearly shifting inland west and away from the Delaware River. Sixth Street above Chesnut [sic] was very near the State House, today’s Independence Hall. The map in **Figure 5** included both locations, since each sold and serviced 15L11 “city stamps.” Such a company milestone has been marked by a thin vertical yellow line on timeline bar graphs.

Within several months and by the end of May 1848 Blood’s Despatch vacated the office held for several years by D.O. Blood & Co. *above* the Girard Bank at 48 South Third Street (across from the Philadelphia post office). By the end of July a curious newspaper notice⁵⁷ advertised sale of *another* Despatch Post which had operated in the *basement* of the Girard Bank, **Figure 19 bottom**. Perhaps a small short lived private post had survived by proximity to D.O. Blood & Co. **Figure 9 top** is an 1849 city directory advertisement⁵⁸ for Stait & Co. at 48 S. Third,⁵⁹ who in conjunction with Eagle City Post likely took advantage of the opportunity.

⁵⁰ Robson Lowe, *U.S.A.1 ‘Basel,’* March 1, 1973, sale 3720-3722, page 33.

⁵¹ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2015, pages 45, 46.

⁵² Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2015, pages 47, 48.

⁵³ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, pages 32, 43, 46, 60, 61.

⁵⁴ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2014, pages 47, 50.

⁵⁵ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2015, pages 49, 56.

⁵⁶ Public Ledger May 25, 1848 Vol. XXV, No. 53.

⁵⁷ Public Ledger July 22, 1848 Vol. XXV, No. 102, page 2.

⁵⁸ *McElroy’s 1849 Philadelphia City Directory*, page 2 pre-amble.

⁵⁹ Elliot Perry, “The Carrier Stamps of the United States, Philadelphia Chronicle,” *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classics Postal Issues*, November 1982, Vol. 34, No. 4, Whole No. 116, page 240.

THE Business of BLOOD'S DESPATCH has increased to such extent that it has been found necessary to remove from Third street to a more central position and convenient Office, at 28 South SIXTH Street, above Chestnut. my25-tMyl3r

Figure 18. May 25, 1848 notice of new Blood's Despatch office.

EAGLE CITY POST
AND
TELEGRAPH MESSAGE DELIVERY,
AT
ADAMS' PACKAGE EXPRESS,
80 Chestnut Street and 48 S. Third,
*And all the MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH OFFICES, from
Sunrise to Sunset, during the Winter Months, and from
seven A. M., to seven P. M., in Summer.*

~~~~~

Particular attention given to the serving of PAID or UNPAID Letters, Circulars, and all communications. A special messenger can be obtained at any reasonable hour for a moderate compensation.

**STAIT & CO.**

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**DESPATCH POST FOR SALE**—One now doing a good business. The owners having to leave the city, will sell low. Apply at 48 South THIRD St., basement story. jv22-1t

Figure 19. July 1848 newspaper, and 1849 city directory at top, for business under Girard Bank.

**THE PROPRIETORS** of BLOOD'S DESPATCH having become convinced of the *unsafety* of the Despatch boxes hanging outside, have long since adopted the convenience of SIGNS, and of having the boxes inside, under the immediate care of the attendant, thus being secure from storm or depredations of any kind. j-12-tmy15r

Figure 20. June 1848 notice about Blood's Despatch signs.



## Spring Garden District

A 1796 map by Varie shows Spring Garden as a small settlement centered on Eight Street (then Garden Street), between Vine Street and Buttonwood Lane, extending from Seventh Street west to Ridge Road.<sup>60</sup> On March 22, 1813 the district was incorporated, bounded by Vine Street on the south, Fairmont (then Coates) on the north, Broad Street on the west, and Sixth Street on the east. On March 21, 1827 the district *doubled* to 1100 acres by adding part of Penn Township, thereafter extending west to the Schuylkill River, and further north to include the north side of Poplar Lane.<sup>61</sup>

By 1831 Baldwin Locomotive Works began building locomotives in Spring Garden just west of Broad Street, and by the end of the century occupied eight city blocks and almost 200 acres. The Panic of 1837 unfortunately had reduced production from 40 locomotives to only nine in 1840, but rebounded in 1857 to 66.<sup>62</sup>

The earliest post office in Spring Garden District recorded in Philadelphia city directories was 1829 at “Ridge r near James,” at today’s Tenth Street.<sup>63</sup> Several years later the city directory reported the post office at Eight and Callowhill, one block south and two blocks east, remaining there for almost two decades, 1837<sup>64</sup> through 1855,<sup>65</sup> Respected Philadelphia scholar Robert Stets had reported a district opening on April 14, 1828, but initially the “Penn Township post office,” strangely servicing *eastern* Spring Garden District.<sup>66</sup> According to Stets, however, and for completeness, a growing village in *western* Spring Garden District along the Schuylkill River opened a post office on December 14, 1831 allegedly a “Spring Garden post office” at Callowhill and 24<sup>th</sup> Street, then William Street.<sup>67,68</sup> The source of Stets information is unknown and not verified.

The Postal Act of March 3, 1845 effective July 1, 1845,<sup>69</sup> prevented private companies from transporting letters to another political district served by a government post office. The government transported mail between the old city of Philadelphia and nearby Spring Garden and Kensington. Blood’s Despatch respected the law, but eager to inform the public,<sup>70</sup> how to recognize it’s nearest box locations, **Figure 20**,<sup>71</sup> to hopefully capture nearby patrons from these forbidden districts. Perimeter Blood’s Despatch box locations are shown by red asterisks in

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<sup>60</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring\\_Garden\\_District,\\_Pennsylvania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring_Garden_District,_Pennsylvania).

<sup>61</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring\\_Garden,\\_Philadelphia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring_Garden,_Philadelphia).

<sup>62</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baldwin\\_Locomotive\\_Works](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baldwin_Locomotive_Works).

<sup>63</sup> Desilver’s Philadelphia Directory and Stranger’s Guide, 1929, appendix second page.

<sup>64</sup> *McElroy’s PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1837*, preamble last page, 1st Edition, Philadelphia, 1837.

<sup>65</sup> *McElroy’s PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1855*, page 96 back of book, 18<sup>th</sup> Edition, Philadelphia, 1855.

<sup>66</sup> Robert J. Stets and John L. Kay, *Independent Post Offices of Philadelphia County 1800-1867*, Associated Stamp Clubs of Southeastern Penna. & Delaware, 1979, page 34.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*, page 39.

<sup>68</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, Cressman & Co’s, *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 81, No. 5, September-October 2002, page 240.

<sup>69</sup> Theron Wierenga, *Postal Laws and Regulations of the United States of America, 1847*, page 67, reprinted Holland, Michigan, Wierenga, 1980.

<sup>70</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2014, page 52.

<sup>71</sup> Public Ledger June 12, 1848 Vol. XXV, No. 68.

**Figure 5.**<sup>72,73,74</sup> The adjacent districts of Northern Liberties, Southwark, and Moyamensing, however, were lawfully infiltrated with many collection boxes. Conspicuous by their absence are no red asterisks within Spring Garden and Kensington, due to the presence of a green “P” for government post office.

**Figure 20** reveals that collection boxes were *inside* the store to protect from bad weather and depredation. **Figure 15** just above center reveals “All of Bloods Despatch Box Stations are designated not by boxes hanging on the awning posts or outside of the door, but by SMALL NEAT SIGNS, placed on the shutter or door, reading thus: BLOOD’S DESPATCH BOX INSIDE. The name ‘Blood’s being always in RED letters.”

Undated census letter A was excluded from 15L11 data primarily due to a street address well within Spring Garden, and only blocks from its post office. Had Blood’s Despatch collected this example, it should have been delivered to the Philadelphia post office for intercity mail to the Spring Garden post office, a precedent established by a 15L5 cover.<sup>75</sup>

### City Stamp for Railroad / Ferry

While a “city stamp” like 15L11 satisfied the more costly local door delivery, nine examples were outbound all of which only required delivery to one location. **Table II** identified the final destination of 8, since one was unknown (census number 23). Eight examples entered the government mail via the Philadelphia post office; one example (census number 1) entered the mail at the New York post office, a “favor bag” example identical to numerous companion-counterpart 15L10 examples.<sup>76</sup> **Figure 3** is highly unusual as an example of both: outbound “city stamp,” and expedited “favor bag” entry into the mail at New York.

### Theory

15L11 was Blood’s Despatch “city stamp,” successor to D.O. Blood & Co. striding messenger, both serving *local* delivery. 15L10 was Blood’s Despatch companion-counterpart “post office stamp,” successor to D.O. Blood & Co. series of double circle geometric stamps for *outbound* letters. City letters were more labor intensive requiring delivery to thousands of individual addresses, whose volume discounts were correspondingly not as generous as for outbound mail, all delivered to a single nearby location. Blood’s Despatch office moved in May 1848, achieving greater proximity for city letters, and although further from the post office had minimal downside by also being closer to the city railroad Depot at Eleventh and Market Street.<sup>77</sup>

Blood’s Despatch was the **second in the nation and possibly the world to mechanically separate stamps**. **Table 1** confirms a die cut stamp by December 24, 1848, **Figure 8**. In New York City Boyd’s City Post also soon began the die cut

<sup>72</sup> Public Ledger March 29, 1848 near Northern Liberties and Southwark.

<sup>73</sup> Public Ledger April 19, 1848 near West Philadelphia.

<sup>74</sup> Public Ledger June 16, 1848 near Camden.

<sup>75</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2014, pages 25, 35, 36, 45, 46, 52, 54, 55.

<sup>76</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2015, pages 49-54.

<sup>77</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2015, pages 50, 51.



process, recorded by January 8, 1849.<sup>78,79</sup> In 1844 Hale & Co. had experimented with die cut 75L1 and 75L5 stamps.<sup>80</sup> Great Britain didn't experiment with rouletted stamp separation until 1850 or 1851.<sup>81</sup>

### 15L11 Summary

A new company name, Blood's Despatch, with namesake 15L11 "city stamps" conceptually replaced D.O. Blood & Co. striding messenger designed stamps, for the slightly more expensive service of local door delivery to thousands of individual street addresses. Blood's Despatch concurrent "post office stamps" 15L10 replaced D.O. Blood & Co. double circle geometric design stamp. Both service types were advertised in **Figure 15**. It is unknown if a purchase-sale agreement was executed, or if money exchanged hands. Actually, great volumes of D.O. Blood & Co. stamps were outstanding, large numbers had not yet been put into service, some probably still for sale, but all valid and accepted during the subsequent years. No exchange period was in effect.

The name Blood's Despatch appeared in newspapers by November 1, 1847, on handstamp markings by December 29, 1847, and on new adhesive stamps by March 22, 1848 (15L10), or April 7, 1848 for 15L11. Moreover, within several months, May 25, 1848, the new company moved from Third to Sixth Street, following city growth west, and in very close proximity to the "State House" on Independence Square. By 1849 the new company name appeared in Philadelphia city directories.

Blood's Despatch *single* service remained 2 cents, either collect or pre-paid, local delivery or outbound service. *Volume discounts continued, and were unchanged.* Old city private post commerce had been allowed to penetrate Northern Liberties, Southwark, and Moyamensing, but restricted from Spring Garden and Kensington, where a government post office had been established. In short, the company function had not changed, although the adhesive stamp, handstamp designs and office location did. The world's first bifurcated system of special purpose service was viable, continued, and thrived.<sup>82</sup>

Always seeking innovation, Blood's Despatch was first in the nation to mechanically separate adhesive stamps. The die cut technique first appeared on December 24, 1848, but did not gain traction. Perhaps Blood's steep volume discounts made impractical the tedium of handling hundreds of individual stamps. Government mechanical separation by perforations was several years distant.

A data base of 43 covers with genuine 15L11 stamp has been tabulated, all but one photographed, 80% in color, 90% with full address, and 75% were serviced during 1848. The earliest and latest *date certain* examples were April 7, 1848 and December 3, 1849 respectively, defining the longest possible philatelic lifespan of 20

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<sup>78</sup> May 3, 2015 person email communication from John Bowman records the earliest Boyd's die cut was 20L7 on January 8, 1849.

<sup>79</sup> May 4, 2015 personal email communication from Lawrence Lebel recorded several on and after July 3, 1849.

<sup>80</sup> July 27, 2015 personal email communication from David Snow.

<sup>81</sup> Ray Simpson, FRPSL and Timothy Burgess, "The Treasury Roulette: Fact or Fiction / A New Appraisal of the Variety," *London Philatelist* March 2013 Vol. 122, Whole Number 1403, pages 60, 61, 69.

<sup>82</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2014, pages 52, 53, 54.



months. However, after dismissing outlying examples, a significant **15L11 cluster** has been identified between **April 7, 1848 and December 24, 1848**, only 8.5 months of philatelically *active* service.

Of 43 covers **80% were local door deliveries**, consistent with a “city stamp.” Surprisingly 20% were transported to a United States post office, most to Philadelphia, representing patron overpayment for a cheaper “post office stamp” service. **Figure 3** was a highly unusual example was a “city letter” on outbound mail transported by “favor bag” to the New York City post office.

By a small majority most were folded letters, while envelopes represented one third. About 15% included an advertising label, all “city letters.” No valentines or mass business circulars were identified.

Approximately 85% were hand cut “trapezoid” shape. The **nation’s second mechanically separated stamps** were 15L11 and appeared by December 1848 as “die cut.” One special example was die cut 15L11 combined with 1847 government general issue, **Figure 8**.

**98% were cancelled** by Blood’s Despatch to prevent local reuse, exceedingly high but not surprising for a “city stamp.” **28% were tied** to cover, typically by Blood’s 4 or 6 bar grid handstamp (previous articles of “post office stamps” were also about 28%).<sup>83,84</sup>

Barely one third of 15L11 covers displayed an auxiliary marking, half by government, usually circular datestamps, but many were manuscript.

A bifurcated business model had been created and well executed by D.O. Blood & Co. for several years, achieving an exceedingly high system compliance rate exceeding 99%.<sup>85</sup> Successor Blood’s Despatch compliance rate for companion-counterpart 15L10 had also been impeccable, but patron compliance fell somewhat for 15L11.

15L11 “city stamps” would *not* be expected on outbound letters, or combined with 1847 government stamps.<sup>86</sup> Either patron expedience, and/or small extravagance, produced nine *outbound* 15L11 examples, of which two, or from the entire 15L11 census **5%, were combined with government stamps**. This small combination number is understandably much lower than the prior four articles covering outbound “post office stamps,” with typical combination prevalence of at least 10%<sup>87</sup> and even reached 20%.<sup>88</sup>

“City stamps” included 15L5,<sup>89</sup> 15L6,<sup>90</sup> and 15L11. Collectively only three covers and one piece have been identified as outbound “city stamp” combined with 1847 general issue. Furthermore, from the same group only one “city stamp” has been recorded on outbound “favor bag,” a 15L11.

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<sup>83</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2015, pages 57, 58.

<sup>84</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2015, pages 37, 39, 55.

<sup>85</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2015, pages 54, 55, 60.

<sup>86</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, pages 50, 52 54.

<sup>87</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2015, page 58.

<sup>88</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2015, pages 39, 43, 55.

<sup>89</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2014, pages 34, 51.

<sup>90</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, pages 48, 49.

In conclusion, under poorly understood circumstances in late 1847 D.O. Blood & Co. began operating under a new moniker "Blood's Despatch" first appearing in a November 1, 1847 Public Ledger, but no recorded stamps until early Spring 1848. Two months later, May 25, 1848 the company relocated several blocks west, following the expanding population base. 26 South Chesnut was just off Independence Square and the Liberty Bell. The company had promptly issued new design and color prepayment stamps, the first two of five issues. 15L10 "post office stamps" and companion-counterpart 15L11 "city stamps" attempted to slowly phase out respective double circle and striding messenger stamps. Blood's Despatch continued the very successful bifurcated private post system designed by D.O. Blood & Co. Numerous retail "agents" in various businesses continued to sell stamps and collect letters. These "stations" were identified by red signs just outside their store with box inside, protected from weather and predators. Volume discounts were continued at same rates, and former D.O. Blood & Co. stamps were honored and serviced during a tranquil and seamless transition.

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