

The American Local and Carriers' Stamps—LVI

A Study of the Forgeries, Reprints and Bogus Stamps

By DONALD S. PATTON

(Continued from page 63)

BROWN'S CITY POST, NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.

William P. Brown was one of America's old time stamp dealers, established about 1860, who achieved a small niche in the Hall of Philatelic Fame by issuing five local stamps in 1876. These were used in the New York City Local Post which he operated in 1876. The late George Sloane, writing in "Sloane's Column" ("Stamps", April 11, 1942), had this to say of Brown:

"'Old Man' Brown was one of the first stamp dealers I ever knew, and I traded with him frequently around 1914-15, when I used to barter off to him used parcel post stamps of various values for other stamps and coins that held my interest at the time. He was located at 65 Nassau Street, in the street store now occupied by a jeweller. He never used tweezers and with his dirty fingers pawed his stamps and corroded coins alike throughout the day as he hobbled behind the counters. He looked like a street corner Santa Claus and definitely like a character out of Dickens, as Alvin W. Harlow so aptly pictured him in PAPER CHASE. He died in 1929, well into his eighties.

In 1876, Brown conducted his stamp business from 145 Nassau Street, between Beekman and Spruce Streets, and from there ran his short-lived city post, a block or so around the corner from the old General Post Office, which squatted so long just below City Hall. The post office was new then, having been opened only the year before, but the neighbourhood was familiar to Brown, who is believed to have started his business on a street corner adjacent to City Hall, where, it is reported, he displayed his stock, tacked up, item by item, to a board.

His local post stamps, all printed in black, and imperforate, come on five colours of paper, bright red, yellow, green, violet and vermilion, and are rather scarce, especially so used, and particularly on cover.

When used they were cancelled with a circular handstamp, 'BROWN'S CITY POST'".

ORIGINALS (Scott 31 L1 — 31 L5) (Illustration)

The design depicts a round-hatted gent. (? "Old Man Brown" himself) trundling a wheelbarrow of letters to the post. Judging by the paucity of used examples of the stamp, this was probably wishful thinking on the part of the proprietor! Above the barrow is the date 1876. Round the central picture is a circular frame with the inscriptions, in white, on a dark ground—"FROM BROWN'S STAMP DEPOT" (upper half) and "145 NASSAU ST. N.Y." (lower half). The two inscriptions are separated at each side by an oval ornament and two white dots. The whole stamp is framed by a single line frame and the words "CITY POST" appear at the top and "ONE CENT" at the bottom.

The stamps are typographed in black on thin surface coloured paper in the following colours:

1c. Bright Red.	1c. Yellow.	1c. Green
1c. Violet.	1c. Vermilion.	

Scott 31 L1 — 31 L5



Original

Bogus

BOGUS STAMP (Illustration)

This is really a caricature of the original stamp, now rather scarce. It is an imitation of Brown's design with certain additions. Brown is being urged along by the Foul Fiend himself, in a manner reminiscent of the Bewick woodcut of the belated traveller, and the words "THREE LIMPS TO THE POST OFFICE" have been added outside the circle. The date above the barrow is 1877.

Sloane (*ibid*) suggests that this label was produced in derision of Brown and his post; Brown was an eccentric and very probably unpopular with other stamp dealers, who lost no opportunity to ridicule him. The caricature is generally attributed to Taylor, a "character" in his own right, who certainly possessed the inventiveness and the means to have fathered this burlesque.

The caricature is typographed. I have only seen it in Red on Pale Blue paper coloured through, but it very probably occurs in other colours as well.

[To be continued]

EUROSTAMP - 1962

A visit to this Exhibition, held in the Ceylon Tea Centre in London during the first week in December, showed a variety of exhibits from several European countries sent by many well-known collectors.

Among the more interesting exhibits was a splendid display by Mr. William Frazer of London, who was showing some delightful Mulready covers, also several very amusing caricature envelopes, the latter being the work of Spooner and Fore. These proved to be a source of great interest to all.

To bring us right up to the present day, Mr. Francis Field was exhibiting some fine jet-flight air mail covers, with first-flight covers carried by Boeings and Caravelles and other modern planes to all corners of the earth. These covers, together with Mr. R. G. Parsons' collection of European Air Letter sheets, which include wartime, commemoratives, and an air letter issued privately by a shipping line, form a most interesting and vivid chapter in the story of Air Letters.

More fascinating exhibits were a letter written before the Battle of Prestonpans, and another old letter written during the Fire of London.

Mr. Debruyne of Belgium sent to the Exhibition Europa issues, also various European commemorative covers. Poland, Czechoslovakia and other Eastern European countries were well represented by the collection of Mr. Ter-Organian. The Swedish Postal Museum sent an exhibit of modern issues depicting the history of culture through the ages. Stamps of 1871 issued by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge were on display, also various wartime forgeries, and some European locals, and a copy of the rare Gauthier Freres stamp. For Postal Historians the information regarding the new Essex postmark should be devoured. This mark—"S.X. post goes and comes everyday—1675" in a double lined circle, was discovered on letters from Harwich.

Mr. Cyril Harmer produced an intriguing exhibit in the form of a "Post Office Tea stamp". This "stamp" was printed, in purple, on leaflets of the Post Office Tea Association in the 1870's. From this it appears that Post Masters distributed tea throughout the country, but the G.P.O. suppressed the issue. This "stamp" is not unknown, but if anyone can throw any light on the subject they are invited to do so. Could this be called the mystery of the "Tea Stamp" in the Tea Centre???

"BURRUS" REPORT OBSERVATIONS

Mr. W. E. Lea wrote us on 12th December pointing out that the total cost to him of the Moldavia 1858 27p. black on rose on cover was £771.8.3. (we had reported £675 + 10 to 15% buyer's commission). The strips of five and three of the 5p. black on azure was sold for 1,200,000 Belgian Francs plus 15% paid by the buyer—£9,080 (we do wish that our English clientele would get into the habit of paying us a commission when they buy as well as when they sell—it is such a meritorious gesture to the poor auctioneer).

Mr. Lea also bought the first of the two Swedish covers from the Burrus collection bearing four fine copies of the 3 sk. bco. for 28,600 German marks (£2,550 sterling). This had been reported to us as realising 20,000 DM. plus the auctioneer's 10% benefit, whereas it had been knocked down for 26,000 DM. + 10%.

A further interesting observation by Mr. Lea referred to total exports from the London Sales (£69,234 out of £85,601). Mr. Lea feels that the report hardly did justice to the English trade who had competed enthusiastically for so many pieces that went abroad. Personally, we feel that the balance is fairly held if 15% to 20% of a collection imported into England remains here. This country is the great international centre for buyers in the philatelic world and it would not retain this status for long if British collectors and traders bought the whole or even the greater part of such collections as the Burrus property provides.

The American Local and Carriers' Stamps—LVII

A Study of the Forgeries, Reprints and Bogus Stamps

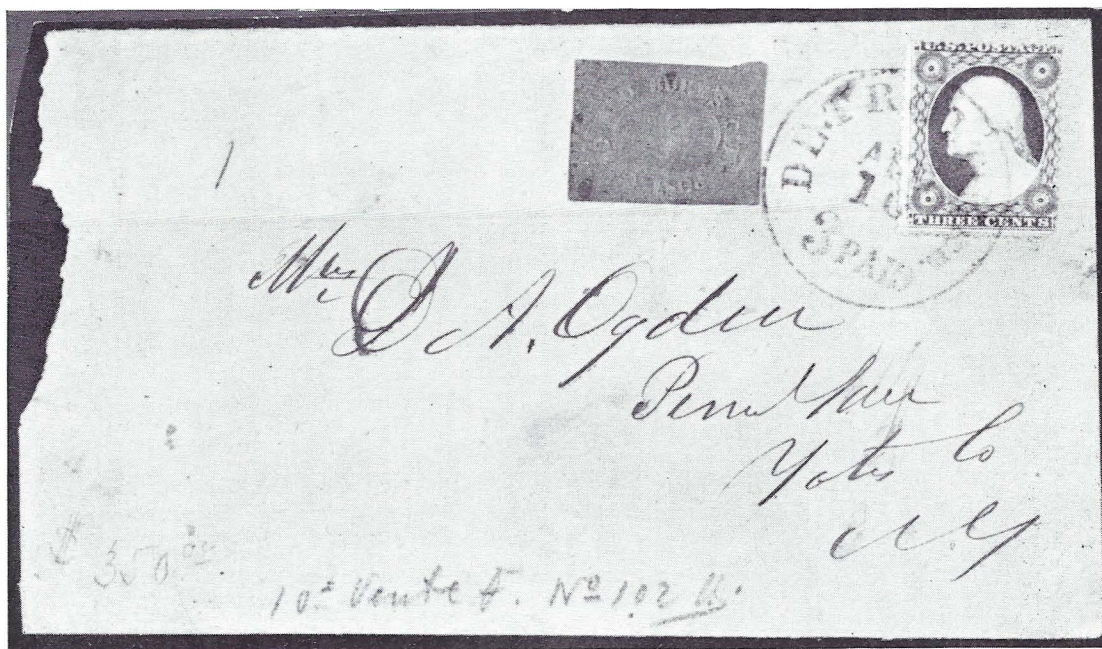
By DONALD S. PATTON

(Continued from page 91)

BURY'S CITY POST, NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. (Illustration)

This was a local post operating not earlier than 1857 nor later than 1861. Nothing is known of the history of the post and no D. F. Bury is listed in the New York City directories nor is there any indication in the directories of any Bury who appears to have been connected with a local post, city express or mail service.

The Scott catalogue lists two types of stamp for the post — L90 and L91. Lot 679 in the Caspary sale of U.S. Locals and Carriers was a cover once in the Ferrari collection and probably unique, bearing the Bury stamp (L90) in conjunction with two Government 3c. tied by a "DETROIT. MICH. 3 PAID" circular cancellation. On the evidence of this cover Elliott Perry suggests that the locale of Bury's Post may have been Detroit and not New York. In the late 1850s there was no letter carrier service in Detroit and although a much smaller place then than it became later, there might have been enough business there to tempt someone to start a local post.



Scott L90 is printed in colourless embossing on dull blue paper, and is inscribed "BURY'S CITY POST ONE CENT" within double lined oval frame. There is a five-pointed star in the centre of the oval.

According to Perry, L91 is similar to a handstruck postal marking except that the latter has a stop after "D F B" and has no rectangular frame.

There are no reprints or forgeries of either stamp.

BUSH'S BROOKLYN CITY EXPRESS, BROOKLYN, N.Y. (Illustration)

Another local post about which very little indeed is known. Perry ("Pat Paragraphs, 54, p. 1806) mentions a John O. Bush recorded in the New York directories almost continuously from 1851 to 1858, as "Carrier" of "newspapers" in New York City, and from 1853 his home there was at 86 Varick Street.



The post used an oval framed handstruck mark inscribed "BUSH'S/BROOKLYN CITY/ N.Y./2 CENT EXPRESS" which is recorded on covers of 1848 and 1850.

The same handstamp was used to make adhesives of which a single cut-to-shape example in red on green paper is known.

There are no forgeries of the Bush stamp.

[To be continued]

Reviews

THE DOTTED CIRCLE POSTMARKS OF SCOTLAND

This book is published by the Scottish Postmark Group, and is expected to be the first of a series dealing with postmarks.

Though the dotted circle type was in use in Scotland over a period of 38 years from 1857 onwards and was in use at the same time as the normal type, the purpose for which it was intended has not been definitely established.

Only three towns are commonly found with this type, Edinburgh, Greenock and Dundee and these are all in duplex form. The dotted circle in single form, referred to as "Skeletons" in the record book, appear to have been issued to eight places, but so far only two of them have come to light. All the available information about these distinctive markings is included in the book, which is obtainable from David C. Jeffries, 11 Craigcrook Avenue, Edinburgh 4, price 12/6d. post free.

A.L.P.

Bahamas Post Offices. Compiled by G. J. Raymond. Obtainable from the author, P.O. Box 35143, Houston 35, Texas, U.S.A. (\$1 post paid).

This limited edition sets out on ten pages over two centuries of Bahamas postal history. These islands are notoriously known for their dearth of postal records and this booklet is the culmination of years of work into the postal history and information regarding the various Post Offices. It is the first time that maps giving the geographical situation of each office have been published and an alphabetical list is a useful preface to this handy work.

J.F.

The American Local and Carriers' Stamps—LVIII

A Study of the Forgeries, Reprints and Bogus Stamps

By DONALD S. PATTON

(Continued from page 135)

CLARK & CO., NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

This post was in operation for a short time in 1857 (February and March) and was then sold to Brady, who continued to operate the post under the title of BRADY & CO (q.v.) at 97 Duane Street, during the remainder of 1857 and early 1858. Search of the New York directories for 1857-58 by Perry has not yielded any definite information. In the 1857-58 and 1858-59 editions, Clark & Co. are listed as in the "glove Business" at 335 Broadway. No other Clark & Co. was listed. In the 1858-59 edition C. C. Clark is listed as a "Broker" at 378 Broadway and lived at 96 Duane Street, across from Brady's address at 97 Duane. In both editions of the directory a George R. Clark appears as "carrier" and in 1857-58 a Thomas Clarke is given as "letter carrier", and during the succeeding three years is given as "carrier".

The likeliest candidate would appear to be C. C. Clark, of 96 Duane Street. Only one stamp was issued by the post, typographed in red on yellow paper coloured through. The design shows a (?) letter collection box, fastened by staple and bar, with the words "ONE CENT" across the front and the name "CLARK, & CO" on a semi-circular backboard to the box. The same design and colours were also used by Clark's successor, Brady.

Two covers bearing the stamp were in the Caspary collection; both stamps were tied to cover by a blue "PAID" cancellation in an octagonal frame. One of the covers was dated March 1857.

DESCRIPTION OF ORIGINAL (Scott 48 L1) (Illustration and diagram)

Typographed in red on yellow wove paper coloured through. Design of wooden box fastened by staple and bar. The words "ONE CENT" appear across the lower part of the front of the box, in slanting unserifed capitals. There is a semi-circular backboard to the box and the name "CLARK, & CO" appears round the top of this. There is a rather straight comma after "K" and it is not joined to the foot of "K". There is a squarish period after "CO". The "C" of "CLARK" is squarer, less curved and broader than the "C" of "CO". There are five horizontal shade lines at the left side of the top of the box. The fifth line (at the front of the lid) is very close to the edge of the lid and is joined to it in places. There are three lines in the top of the hapse fastening the box. The left end of the bar touches the eighth vertical shade line from the left. The first line reaches down to about level with the lower third of the "O" of "ONE"; the second line ends about level with the middle of "O". The third line ends about level with the upper third of "O". There are six lines of about equal length above the left half of the bar; there are six vertical lines below the left half of the bar, the two lines at left being much shorter than the others. There is a short thick triangular piece shaped rather like a hook below the left end of the bar. There are three oblique lines, one of them short, below and to right of this hook. Below them and to their left are what appear to be the letters "N P".

The "E" of "ONE" is considerably broader than the "E" of "CENT". There is a rather vertically elongated period after "CENT". There are five vertical lines in the right hand side of the box, all reaching from top to bottom of the side. There is a single frame line round the stamp.

REPRINTS (Illustrations and composite diagram)

Reprints were made by Hussey; according to Coster they were printed in the colour of the original stamp, as well as in "several fancy hues on white paper". The only reprints seen by the writer are in dull red on slightly toned thin wove paper, in dull red on white vertically laid paper and in blue on vertically laid paper.

There are two settings.

SETTING I (Illustration)

This consists of a small sheet of 20 stamps. Two horizontal rows of five with a gutter of about 10 mm. between the rows were printed; the paper was turned and re-fed to take a second impression of the same two rows upside down. The space between the upper two

SETTING II (Illustration)

This consists of horizontal strips of three stamps on vertically laid white paper and is met with in dull red and in blue. The stamps are separated by approximately $1\frac{3}{4}$ cm. Types 1, 3 and 4 were used for this setting. These show most of the type characteristics listed under Setting I and in addition the following extra signs:

TYPE 1

Small break in left hand edge of top of box between the 2nd and 3rd lines. Defective N.W. corner frame lines. Break in right hand edge of top of box.

TYPE 3

Break or damage in top of "R" of "CLARK". Break in edge of box between 8th-9th vertical lines above left side of bar.

TYPE 4

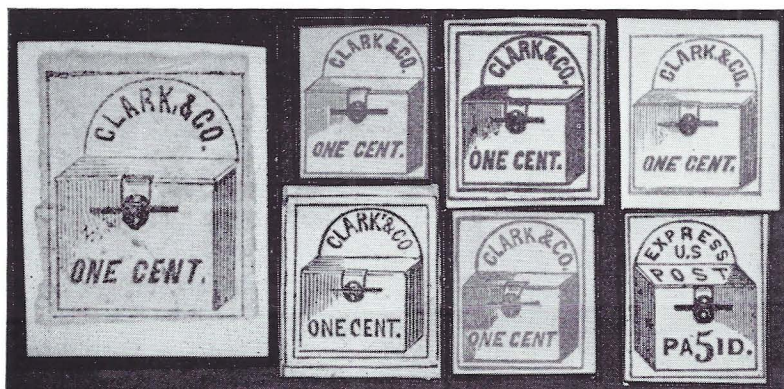
Break in edge of front of box between tops of 8th-9th vertical lines. Break in the vertical line above left side of bar, immediately to left of hapse.

Clark & Co., New York City, New York

*Forgery A
(Scott)*

*Forgery B
(Taylor)*

Forgery C



Original

Forgery D

Forgery E

*Bogus
U.S. Express
Post (Taylor)*

FORGERIES**FORGERY A** (Illustration and diagram)

Typographed in red on yellow wove paper coloured through. This forgery was made by Scott. There is no comma after "K". The period after "CO" is round. There are only two lines in the top of the hapse. The left end of the bar reaches to the tenth vertical line from the left. The period after "CENT" is round. There are six vertical lines in the right side of the box. All the vertical lines on the front of the box are well above the "O" of "ONE". There are no oblique lines below the left side of the bar and no trace of the letters "N P".

Red on yellow wove paper coloured through.

FORGERY B (Illustration and diagram)

Typographed. This is Taylor's forgery and is met with in a number of different colours and papers. There is an extra frame line round the stamp. There is a somewhat triangular period after "K", attached to the right foot of that letter. The letters "LA" of "CLARK" are joined by their feet. There are only two lines in the top of the hapse. The left end of the bar reaches the eleventh vertical line from the left. There are six horizontal lines in the top of the box; they are rather thick and dark and tend to run together. There are six vertical lines in the right side of the box, also rather thick and dark. The two vertical lines to the left of "O" of "ONE" reach down to the upper third of that letter. Noted in the following colours and papers:

FORGERY C (Illustration and diagram)

Typographed. There is a squarish period after "K", very close to both "K" and "&" but touching neither. The letters "LA" of "CLARK" are joined at the foot. There are three lines in the top of the hapse. There is a break in the semi-circular line above and to right of "A" of "CLARK". There are five lines in the top of the box, the fifth is very close to the edge of the box, as in originals. The left end of the bar reaches to the eighth line from the left. The right hand end of the bar is thicker than the left. There are two short oblique lines and two dots below the left end of the bar. There are five lines in the right side of the box, all rather close together. Noted in the following colours:

BC Blue.

BC Carmine.

FORGERY D (Illustration and diagram)

Typographed. There is a comma after "K", on a level with the top of the letter. The words "ONE CENT" are in upright instead of sloping capitals. There is an extra frame line round the stamp. The left end of the bar is thicker than the right and reaches to the eighth vertical line. There are four horizontal lines on the top of the box and four vertical lines in the right side. Only noted in:

BC Pale blue on white wove paper.

FORGERY E (Illustration and diagram)

Typographed. There is no period or comma after "K", and no stop after "CENT". There are three lines in the upper part of the hapse. The dark part of the hapse is vertically shaded. The first vertical line reaches to the bottom of the box and there are two short lines below the "O" of "ONE". The left end of the bar reaches to the ninth vertical line. There are eight vertical lines in the right side of the box. Only noted in:

Red on yellow wove paper coloured through.

KEY TO DIAGRAMS**ORIGINAL**

1. Top of "C" squarish.
2. Comma, not joined to "K".
3. Top of "C" rounded.
4. Square period after "CO".
5. Three lines in top of hapse.
6. Five lines in top of box; the fifth line is very close to the edge of the box.
7. Letters "N P" below left end of bar.
8. "E" of "ONE" broader than "E" of "CENT".
9. Elongated stop after "T".

REPRINT

See text.

FORGERY A (Scott)

1. No comma after "K".
2. Rounded period after "CO".
3. Two lines in top of hapse.
4. No oblique lines or letters below left side of bar.
5. Rounded stop after "T".

FORGERY B (Taylor)

1. Extra frame line.
2. Triangular period joined to foot of "K".
3. "LA" joined at foot.
4. Two lines in top of hapse.

FORGERY C

1. Three lines in top of hapse.
2. Two short diagonal lines and two dots below left side of bar.
3. Right end of bar thicker than left.
4. "LA" close or joined.
5. Period after "K" close to "K" and "&" but touching neither.
5. Break in semi-circular line above and to right of "A".
7. Rectangular stop after "CO".

FORGERY D

1. Extra frame line.
2. Comma at level of top of "K".
3. Two lines in top of hapse.
4. Letters of "ONE CENT" in upright capitals.

FORGERY E

1. Three lines in top of hapse; short extra line below edge of box.
2. Dark part of hapse vertically shaded.
3. No stop after "CENT".
4. Two lines below "O" of "ONE".
5. "AR" close or touching.
6. No comma after "K".

U.S. EXPRESS POST (Illustration)

No genuine post of this name is known. The design represents a "mirror" version of the labels of Clark & Co. and Brady & Co. of New York, with the box facing the other way round. By way of added variation the word "PAID" with a figure "5" in the middle (as "PA 5 ID") appears on the front of the box in place of the words "ONE CENT" to be found on the Clark and Brady stamps. The words "U.S. EXPRESS" appear on the back-board to the box and "POST" on the lid. The whole production is redolent of Taylor. Noted in the following colours:

Blue on white wove paper.

Red on lavender glazed surface coloured paper.

Red on blue glazed surface coloured paper.

BC=Bogus Colour.

[To be continued]

The American Local and Carriers' Stamps—LIX

A Study of the Forgeries, Reprints and Bogus Stamps

By DONALD S. PATTON

(Continued from page 165)

CALIFORNIA CITY LETTER EXPRESS CO., SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Information concerning the history of this post is extremely meagre. The post was a local one and evidence of dated covers shows that it was operating between 1861-1867. The post was organised by J. W. Hoag (spelt Hoog on the stamps), who was also the proprietor of the Contra-Costa Express.

The post used rather large stamps with a somewhat ornate frame and a long inscription, partly advertisement, stating the functions of the post and giving Hoog's address. The stamps, which occur in red, in blue and in green, were all of the denomination of 10c. There are three sub-types of the stamps, differing in the wording of the inscription and in the details of the frame.

THE STAMPS (Illustration and diagram)

TYPE I (Scott Type L 92) (Scott 33 L 1, 2 and 3)

Inside the frame, between scroll ornaments, is the value "10 CENTS", at top and bottom. The value also occurs at each side, on the left reading up, and on the right reading down. The inscription, in nine lines, fills the remainder of the space within the frame. It reads:

"Wedding cards, Notices/and Letters delivered,/by the California/City Letter Express/
Co. Office at Hoogs/& Madison's, Real/Estate, House Bro-/kers & Rent Collectors,/418 Montgomery St."

The frame consists of double lines, with a space between, which are rounded at the corners. In the middle sections of each side of the frame, the inner line is thicker than the outer, and in these sections there is a third, thin, innermost line. At right and left side of the stamp the side frames are interrupted by a fleur de lys ornament. In this ornament, at the junction of the three petals, there is a small oval with a dark inverted "C" inside. The tips of the upper petal in each ornament are long and pointed. There are three short vertical lines in the upper petal of each ornament and equally there are three short vertical lines in the stem of the ornaments. Inside the circular corner frames is a scroll and leaf ornament, the leaf part being shaded with short vertical lines. The frame lines are not continuous and there are numerous symmetrical breaks in both outer and inner frame lines (refer to diagram for their position).

Type L 92 occurs printed in red, blue and green, on wove paper.

TYPE II (Scott 33 L 4, 5 and 6)

The frame is identical with that of Type I, or at least so similar as to merit no separate description. The denomination "10 CENTS" is also exactly similar and occurs on all sides of the stamp. The inscription, also in nine lines, reads as follows:

"If you have Wedding/Cards, Notices, Letters,/etc, to be delivered/leave them for
Cali-/fornia City Letter Ex-/press, at Hoogs & Madi-/sons, Real Estate, House/
Brokers and Rent Collectors,/Montgomery Street"

Type II occurs printed in red, blue and green on wove paper.

TYPE III (Scott 33 L 7 and 8)

The frame is similar to that of both Types I and II with the exception that the fleur de lys ornaments are omitted. The side frames have breaks in the centre, and above and below each corner.

The inscription has the same wording as that of Type II with the following differences: California is abbreviated to "Cal'a" and occurs at the end of the fourth line; Hoogs & Madisons is in bolder lettering and occupies the whole of the sixth line. The inscription therefore reads as follows:

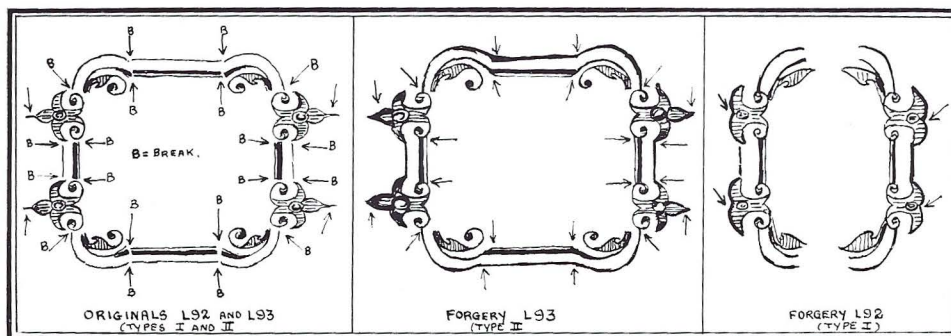


II Genuine I



Forgery I

Forgery II



"If you have Wedding/Cards, Notices, Letters/etc. to be delivered/leave them for Cal'a/City Letter Express at/HOOGS & MADISONS/Real Estate, House Bro-kers & Rent Collectors Office/Montgomery Street".

Type III occurs printed in red and in blue on wove paper.

In Types I and II the fleur de lys ornaments project well beyond the side frames and in examples cut close, with small margins, are frequently mutilated. This may be the reason why one of the forgeries shows these ornaments without the central upper petal.

No special cancellation was used by the post. Used stamps are generally cancelled with a pen stroke.

FORGERIES (Illustration and diagram)

There is a scarce forgery of both Types I and II. Both appear to have been made by the same forger.

FORGERY OF TYPE I

In this forgery the central or upper petal of the fleur de lys is missing and the remaining two petals have a thick bracket shaped outline. Otherwise the frame is a fair copy of the original, but there are no breaks in the various segments and the outer frame line is too thick and heavy. There is a small circle or oval in the upper part of the stem of each ornament and there is some attempt to imitate the small inverted "C" inside each oval. The inscription is identical in wording with that of the original, but the figure "4" of "418" looks more like a "1".

Review

Experimental Duplex Cancellations of Scotland. Published by The Scottish Postmark Group. Obtainable from D. C. Jefferies, 11 Craigmock Avenue, Edinburgh 4. Binding, Boards. Pages, 28. Illustrations, plenty. Published at 10/-. Post free.

This excellent handbook is the second produced by the Scottish Postmark Group and is a companion to "Dotted Circles" reviewed in "The Philatelist" for March 1963. The publication is strongly bound and has interleaving, deals comprehensively with the subject, the Scottish equivalent to the English "Spoon" Experiment and includes full details of the duplexes which emanated from twelve places from Inverness to Dumfries. It is fully illustrated, deals with degrees of rarity but fortunately makes no attempt at pricing. The edition is limited.

J.F.

The American Local and Carriers' Stamps—LX

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By DONALD S. PATTON

(Continued from page 186)

CALIFORNIA PENNY POST CO.

This Post was established in 1855 by J. P. Goodwin and partners. It acted both as a local city post, in San Francisco, using adhesive stamps, and also collected letters for mailing through the Post Office to other cities in California, using for this purpose special pre-paid envelopes. Advertisements of the Post, which occur on its printed envelopes, state quite clearly the functions and scope of the post. For example, the following is printed in the left upper corner of the firm's envelopes (Scott 34 LU 14):

"LETTERS enclosed in these envelopes, Papers, and other mail matter, Small Parcels, Daguerrotypes, etc., directed to the Agent of the Penny-Post Co., and deposited in ANY Post Office, WILL BE DELIVERED IMMEDIATELY on the distribution of the Mails, in SAN FRANCISCO, SACRAMENTO, MARYSVILLE, & STOCKTON, and in these cities only for the present".

Another of the Post's envelopes (Scott 34 LU 3a) has this inscription:

"LETTERS & other MAIL MATTER deposited in any Post Office, will be DELIVERED in SAN FRANCISCO, SACRAMENTO, STOCKTON & MARYSVILLE, immediately on arrival of the mails, if addressed to the care of the 'PENNY POST CO'".

A third envelope carries the following advertisement printed on the left half of the envelope (34 LU 7):

"THE PENNY POST CO. delivers letters enclosed in these envelopes immediately on the distribution of the Mails, in San Francisco, Sacramento, Stockton, Benicia, Coloma, Nevada, Grass Valley, and Mokelumne Hill".

At first the Post operated in San Francisco, Sacramento, Stockton and Marysville, but later branches were opened in Benicia, Coloma, Nevada, Grass Valley and Mokelumne Hill. Letters were transported to the General Post Office and mail received there for local delivery.

A letter formerly in the Knapp collection shows that the Post ran into a certain amount of trouble with the Government Post Office; the letter, written by H. L. Goodwin, Superintendent of the Penny Post Co., and addressed to the United States Postmaster General, dated 4th August 1855, states that the Penny Post Co. is compelled to send letters by Express because the Sacramento Postmaster closes the mails too early for them. "This is why we do an express business, not because we desire it, but because we are compelled to".

Another cover formerly in the Knapp collection, addressed to the "Agent, Penny Post Co., Sacramento, Cal.", was endorsed "Other letters retained", and Knapp noted that: "The Penny Post Co. advertised that they would call for letters at the Post Office and deliver them to the addresses, thereby hastening their delivery. The Government objected and held back mail addressed in care of the Penny Post, the result being a big lawsuit against the Government".

As usual, however, the Government won in the end, and the operations of the Penny Post ceased after a year to eighteen months of service, due to Government pressure.

The Penny Post Co. used single circle handstamps inscribed "PENNY POST CO." and town name. These are recorded for San Francisco, Sacramento and Stockton, and occur struck in black or in blue.

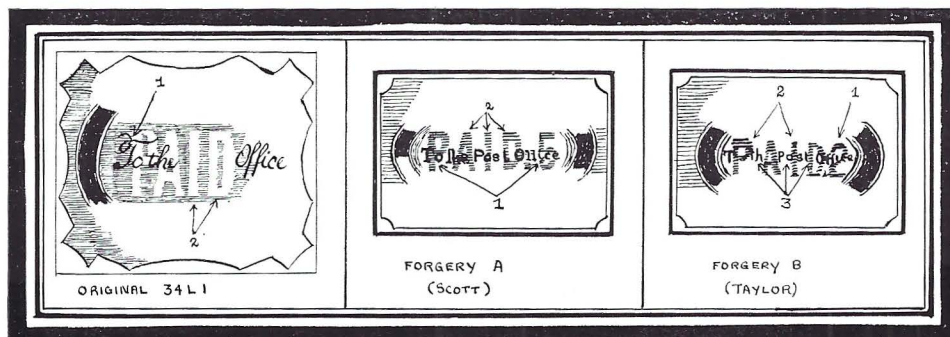
The adhesive stamps are either uncanceled or cancelled with a pen-stroke.



Type L94 (34 L 1)

Type L95 (34 L 2 and L 3)

Type L96 (34 L 4)



THE STAMPS

SCOTT TYPES L94, L95 and L96 (Illustrations and diagram)

2 CENTS BLUE (Scott 34 L 1)

Lithographed. Size 23×20 mm. There is a single outer thin rectangular frame line. Within this is a second thin inner frame line with incurved sides and a projecting truncated section at each corner. None of the points of this inner frame line touch the outer frame. Within the ornamental frame is a horizontal oval band of solid colour bearing the word "CALIFORNIA" in colourless letters at the top and the words "PENNY POST CO." in colourless letters at the bottom. There is a period after "CO.". The letters of the inscriptions are unserifed block capitals. There is a single thin line framing the oval on both outer and inner sides. The space between the oval and the inner ornamental frame line is shaded with parallel horizontal lines. The space within the oval is also shaded with thin parallel horizontal lines and these are so interrupted across the centre of the oval as to form the word "PAID" followed by a figure "2". The interrupted ends of the lines form the outlines of the letters and the figure. Across the centre of the oval, and superimposed on "PAID 2" is the inscription "TO THE POST OFFICE" in copperplate script characters.

2c. Blue.

3 CENTS BLUE (34 L 1a)

Lithographed. This stamp is in the type of Scott L 95, but differs in small details. It is a very rare stamp and was unlisted until recent years. Possibly not more than one or two copies exist.

TYPE B (TAYLOR) (Illustration)

Typographed. The design is exactly similar to the Scott bogus type but the lettering of the inscriptions and the figure "5" are larger. The outer rectangular frame line is thicker. Noted in the following colours and papers:

- | | | | |
|----|--|----------------|-------------|
| A. | Surface coloured paper, more or less glazed. | | |
| | Black/Green. | Black/Magenta. | Black/Blue. |
| B. | Paper coloured through. | | |
| | Black/Blue. | Blue/Pink. | |
| C. | White wove paper. | | |
| | Indigo. | Light Blue. | |

THE ENVELOPES

As already stated the post used a number of prepaid envelopes and in some cases their prepaid stamps were printed on U.S. Government envelopes. Only one type of the Company's prepaid envelopes has been forged (L98), both by Scott and by Taylor, and these are encountered only as cut-outs. The following is the list of pre-paid envelopes:

1855-59.

(a) Oblong design (Scott Type L97), approx. 52×31 mm., lithographed to the left of the U.S. embossed envelope stamp; in addition to the value, the particular service is shown in the oblong frame. In the left corner there are the directions of the "Penny Post Co."



Type L97 (34 LU 4)

	"PAID"	Colour	Service	Scott No.
1	2c.	black	"To the Post Office"	34 LU 1/5
2	5c.	blue	"City Delivery"	34 LU 2
3	5c.	black	"From the Post Office"	34 LU 3
4	7c.	black	"To and from the Post Office"	34 LU 4

(b) Oval design (Scott Type L98), lithographed to the left of the U.S. embossed envelope stamp; lettering in relief; in the left corner are directions headed "The Penny Post Co." and the words "TO THE PENNY POST CO." appear in heavy sans-serif type above the address.

5	7c.	vermilion	"CALIFORNIA PENNY POST PAID SEVEN CENTS COMPANY"	34 LU 6/7
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(c) Type-set design (Scott Types L98A, C) in frames, on envelopes bearing the imprint along the top, in large hollow letters, "TO THE PENNY POST CO."

(i) Treble frame of three plain rules, the middle one thick.

	Legend	Type	Colour	Scott No.
6*	PENNY-POSTAGE PAID. 5	all sans-serif bold	black	34 LU 8/9
7*	PENNY-POSTAGE PAID. 7	all sans-serif bold	black or blue	34 LU 10/11
8	COLLECT PENNY-POSTAGE	all sans-serif bold	black	
9	OCEAN PENNY POSTAGE	medium serif bold	black	34 LU 13
		broad serif light		

(ii) Fancy frame (Scott Type L98B).

10*	Penny Postage Paid, 7	antique	black	34 LU 12
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(d) Type-set design (Scott Type L98D) in fancy frame, inscription above commencing "Write Plain" and at left "Letters enclosed in these envelopes".

11	CALIFORNIA Penny Postage PAID 7		black	34 LU 14/15
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* Known on U.S. envelopes bearing the embossed postage stamps.

FORGERIES OF ENVELOPES 34 LU 6 and 7 (Scott Type L98)**FORGERY A (Scott) (Illustration and diagram)**

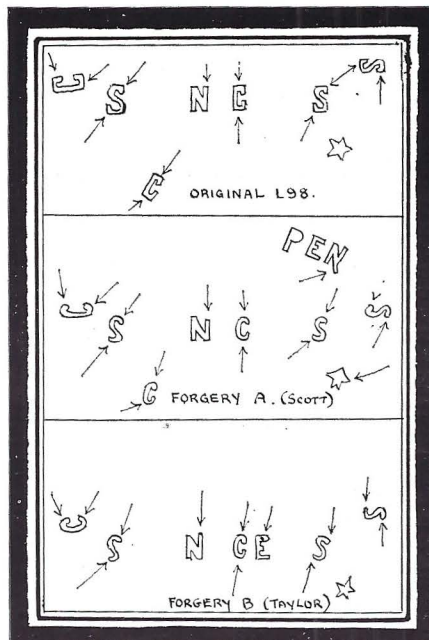
Typographed. Printed in red on white medium paper and also, as with many of the Scott counterfeits, on a thicker and stouter white wove paper. The "C"s of "CALIFORNIA" and "CENTS" have rounded tops and bottoms. (In originals the tops and bottoms of the "C"s are flattened and squarish.) The lower curves of the "S"s (POST, CENTS and SEVEN) have no serifs. The right upright of the letter "N" of "SEVEN" is shorter than the left. The lower part of the right upright of the first "N" of "PENNY" is prolonged downwards. The star at the right is more like an arrow with the shaft broken off.

Only occurs as a cut-out in Red on white wove paper.

FORGERY B (Taylor)
(Illustration and diagram)

Typographed. All the "C"s in the inscriptions are rounded at top and bottom. None of the letters "S" have any trace of a serif to their lower curves. The right upright of the "N" of "SEVEN" is longer than the left. Only met with as cut-outs in the following colours:

- BC Deep Blue on white wove paper.
- BC Blue on white wove paper.
- BC Bright Milky Blue on white wove paper.
- BC Dark Blue on light blue paper coloured through.
- BC Dark Blue on pink paper coloured through.
- BC Black on white wove paper.

**BOGUS ENVELOPE STAMP (Illustration)**

Typographed. Printed in blue on pale green paper and only met with as a cut-out, usually gummed. Within a shield-shaped frame, with three points at top, is the inscription, in five lines, "CALIFORNIA/CO./PENNY POST/FOR THE/POST OFFICE", with a large figure "5" between the last two lines of the inscription. There is a scroll ornament each side of "CO".

ENVELOPE STAMPS



Forgery A

Bogus

Forgery B

[To be continued]

5 CENTS BLUE (34 L 2)**10 CENTS BLUE (34 L 3)**

Lithographed. Both values are Scott Type L 95. The design consists of a horizontal oval band in colour with the inscription "CALIFORNIA" (top), "PENNY POST Co." (lower half), in colourless serified capitals. Between upper and lower inscriptions is an ornament something like an elongated Maltese Cross. Within the oval band is "CITY DELIVERY" ("CITY" in serified capitals; "DELIVERY" in unserified capitals), with the figure of value between the two words. The figures of value are ornamented. Outside the oval at each corner of the stamp is a spandrel ornament consisting of scrolls and flowers.

5 CENTS BLUE (34 L 4) (Illustration)

Lithographed. This is a large rectangular stamp. Background of horizontal and parallel lines. In the lower half of the stamp the interruptions of these lines forms the word "PAID" and figure "5" in uncoloured relief. Superimposed on this inscription, in two lines, are the words "FROM THE POST OFFICE/CARE OF THE PENNY POST CO." in copperplate script characters. In the upper half of the stamp is the inscription "CALIFORNIA/PENNY POSTAGE" in two lines and, at each side of "CALIFORNIA", a colourless figure "5". At top right of the stamp, to the right of the figure "5", is an oval medallion with bust.

All the adhesive stamps of the California Penny Post Co. are very fine lithographs and were probably printed by Britton & Rey, of San Francisco, the printers of the Wells Fargo Pony Express stamps.

FORGERIES

No forgeries of 34 L 1a, 34 L 3 or 34 L 4 have been recorded. There is a forgery of 34 L 2, the work of Scott, but it bears so little resemblance to the genuine stamp that it should more properly be classified as a bogus stamp. Taylor copied the Scott forgery of 34 L 2 to make an imitation, in various colours, of 34 L 1.

FORGERY A (SCOTT)

(Illustration and diagram)

Typographed. Printed in Blue on fairly stiff white wove paper. The forgery is smaller than the original. It lacks the ornamental inner frame, merely having indented corners. The letters of "CALIFORNIA" are sloping serified capitals. The centre of the oval is unshaded and the inscription "PAID 5" is formed by short parallel strokes. "TO THE POST OFFICE" is in upper and lower case block letters. The outer rectangular frame line is much thicker than that of the original.

5c. Blue.

FORGERY B (TAYLOR) (Illustration and diagram)

Typographed. This purports to be an imitation of 34 L 1, but in reality is a copy of the Scott forgery with the figure "5" replaced by "2". It is a fairly faithful copy of the Scott production and makes the same mistakes. It occurs in the following colours:

Blue (shades). BC Black. BC Red. BC Orange.

BOGUS TYPE

This is a complete fantasy and bears no relation to any of the issued stamps. There are two types, differing in minor details, one by Taylor and one by Scott, but which one imitated the other is not known.

TYPE A (SCOTT) (Illustration)

Typographed on thin wove paper with a pronounced mesh. Occurs in black and in blue. Thick outer rectangular frame. Horizontal oval which touches the frame at all four sides. Lining the oval is a series of small circles with dots within, separated by small triangular dashes. At top, inside the oval, is the inscription "CALIFORNIA PENNY POST CO." in upper and lower case block type, and at bottom the words "PAID TO THE POST OFFICE". Across the middle of the oval is "5 CENTS". Outside the oval the corners are filled in with parallel horizontal lines. Occurs in:

Black. Blue.

*Forgery A**Bogus A**Forgery B**Bogus B*

Noted in the following colours:

- 10c. Green on horizontally laid stout paper.
- 10c. Carmine on vertically laid stout paper.

FORGERY OF TYPE II

The frame is a fair imitation of the original, but the various breaks are lacking and the frame lines are continuous. The outer frame line is thicker and heavier than the corresponding line in the original. The fleur de lys ornaments are coarser and heavier. The points of the upper or central petal are much thicker and blunter than on the original. There is an attempt at imitation of the small oval in the stem of the ornaments, but it is usually mis-shapen. There is no clear small inverted black "C" in the oval as in originals. The wording of the inscription is identical with that of the original.

- 10c. Green on horizontally laid paper.
- 10c. Red on vertically laid paper.

The paper is fairly thick and hard and the stamps are gummed with thick shiny brownish yellow gum.

* * * * *

An uncatalogued stamp of this Post has been submitted by Elliott Perry. The design consists of a running horse bearing a banner in its mouth on which is the inscription "PAID 10c.". "DISPATCH POST" in upper right corner and "HOOGS & MADISON/MONTGOMERY ST./SAN FRANCISCO, CAL" in lower left corner. Small figure "10" in each corner of the stamp. The whole is enclosed in a double lined rectangular frame. The stamp is printed in dark red and the cancellation is struck in blue.



[To be continued]

A passable forgery printed in blue on very thin transparent paper exists. The forgery has a cancellation struck in black.

(Acknowledgement is made to Elliott Perry for permission to reproduce the original and the forgery.)

Letter to the Editor

BURMESE CANCELLATIONS

Dear Sir,—I should like to thank Mr. Davis for his letter (April issue) setting forth part of the researches carried out by Col. Martin and himself. In this connection I should like to ask a question or two and rectify an omission.

Namayan is shown as having used "B/136", whereas both Mr. Renouf and Jal Cooper showed this office as having used "B/135". Has the previous information been proved incorrect, and, if so, what office actually used "B/135"?

Just for the record, "B/165" was used at "SARAWAH", not "SERAWAH" as quoted. Evidence of this is the despatch mark on two covers used prior to 1857. (This office subsequently became Henzada.)

I wonder why Port Blair (B/227) was added as an apparent afterthought? It was definitely within the "Circle", even if not a "founder member". The fact that this office also used the Type 9 duplex should be noted.

Finally, a word of warning to those interested. Type 9 was used in India, where "127" and "129" were allocated to offices; it is therefore essential that at least part of the left hand portion of the duplex is available, to prove beyond doubt the cancellation having been applied in a Burmese office.—Yours faithfully,

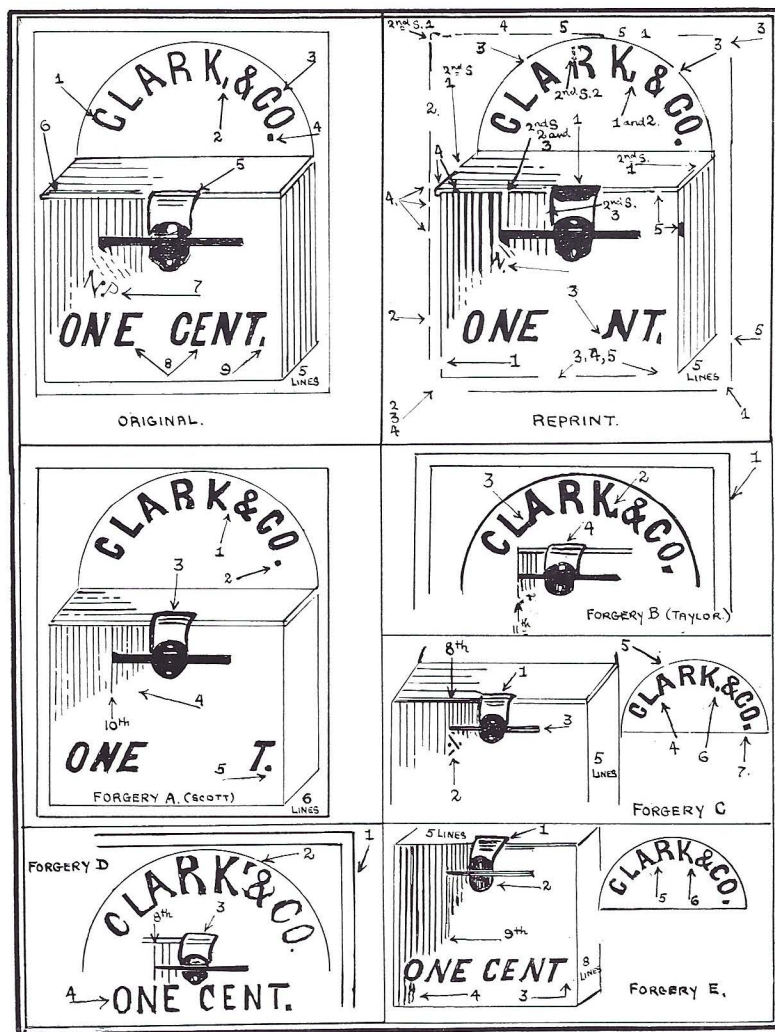
VERNON A. ROWE.

RAILWAY STRIKE PRECAUTION

In the event of the unhappy Railway Unions deciding to worsen their lot by holding a national railway strike, the date of which coincides with that of any auction to be held at 50 Pall Mall, the date of the sale will be postponed for one week.

Bournemouth Stamp Auctions will be held as scheduled but transport will be laid on to and from the local airport on request.

- (a) Wove paper coloured through.
 Red on yellow. *BC* Green on yellow. *BC* Blue on pink.
BC Black on dull grey-blue. *BC* Black on light blue. *BC* Green on green.
- (b) White wove paper.
BC Black. *BC* Carmine (shades). *BC* Dull purple.
BC Pink. *BC* Blue (shades). *BC* Brown.
BC Dull orange. *BC* Pale mauve. *BC* Green.
- (c) Surface coloured glazed paper.
 Red on yellow. *BC* Carmine on grey-blue.
- (d) Laid paper.
BC Milky blue (vertically laid). *BC* Blue on pink (horizontally laid).



rows and the inverted lower two rows is approximately 31 mm. In each block of ten the horizontal spacing between stamps is uneven; the distance between first and second stamps is $5\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; between second and third stamps $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm., and between third and fourth and fourth and fifth stamps approximately 4 mm. The sheet measures 12×15 cm.

There are five identifiable types in each horizontal row. These are as follows:

TYPE 1 (positions 1 and 6)

Large break in upper frame line extending from above "RK" to above "C". Comma joined to foot of "K". All three lines in the top of the hapse are blurred into a dark mass. Only one separate line is visible in the top of the box, all the other lines and the edge of the box are joined to make a solid patch of colour. Most of the vertical lines at the left of the front of the box are thick, blurred, and joined to make a solid mass of colour. Small break in left side of box above S.W. corner. Only three lines show below the left side of the bar. The others are blurred into a solid triangle of colour below the left end of the bar.

TYPE 2 (positions 2 and 7)

The upper two horizontal lines on the top of the box are separate, the remainder are more or less joined or run together. Comma joined to foot of "K". Large break in left side frame line opposite "CLA". All vertical lines in right side of box thick and more or less joined.

TYPE 3 (positions 3 and 8)

Frame lines broken at N.E. corner. Break in left side frame line opposite "CL". Four separate horizontal lines in top of box. Two lines in top of hapse. Foot of left upright of "N" of "CENT" defective. Small breaks in semi-circular line above "A" and "&".

TYPE 4 (positions 4 and 9)

Break in upper frame line above "L". Three breaks in left side frame opposite the front corner of top of box. The corner is slightly bent down and there is a dot of colour in the edge of the top of the box above the space between the second and third vertical lines on the front.

TYPE 5 (positions 5 and 10)

Breaks in upper frame line above "R" and "K". Breaks in both lines of front edge of box below period after "CO". Three separate horizontal lines in top of box. Small break in left side frame line opposite rear corner of side of box.

Types 1 and 2 are heavily printed. In types 2, 3 and 4 the frame lines at S.W. corner are missing. In all five types there are breaks in the bottom outline of the box, most extensive in types 3, 4 and 5.

REPRINTS

Setting I. Top row of five

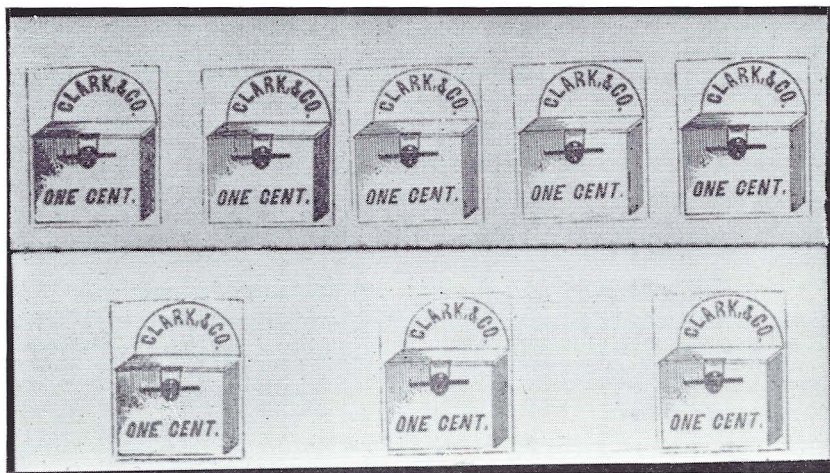
Type 1

2

3

4

5



Setting II. Bottom row of three

Type 1

3

4