

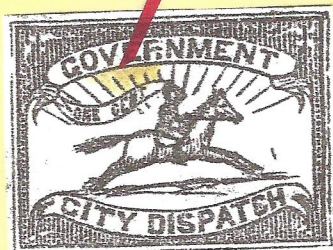
BALTIMORE CARRIER STAMPS

Government City Dispatch

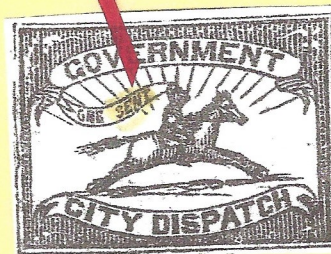
Effective July 1, 1851, carriers were authorized to collect and deliver mail to the post office for a fee of one or two cents per piece. Home delivery and pick-up of mail was still some years away. Carrier stamps were issued under the authority of the Postmaster General of the United States and their use signified payment of the carrier fee. The carrier department was also allowed to pick up *and* deliver mail *within* the city. This mail did not enter the mails and required no U.S. postage stamps. Carrier stamps were only valid in the city in which they were issued. The Post Office Department paid some carriers a salary and others derived their pay from fees paid for their service.

The Government City Dispatch stamps were issued in 1857 in two different colors, black and red, on white paper. The face value of these stamps was one cent. The stamps were printed in panes of 10, two columns of five and probably eight panes to a sheet. The four center panes were printed tête-beche. There are two easily recognized varieties in each pane. In position 2, the four rays under VER of GOVERNMENT are shorter than the other rays and do not meet the curved line under GOVERNMENT. In position 7, CENT is spelled SENT. Examples of both varieties in both colors are seen on the following pages. An uncut pane of the black stamp is also shown. The largest known multiple of the red stamp is a block of six.

This exhibit shows single examples of these carrier stamps off cover as well as examples on cover showing various usages, including local usage. The carrier stamps are also shown pen or pencil cancelled by the carrier as well as by the post office circular date hand stamp. A selection of forgeries is also shown.



Position 2 – short rays



Position 7 - Sent

GOVERNMENT CITY DISPATCH

Uncut pane of 10 with identifying characteristics of each position.

Position 1
Break in upper left side
frame.

Position 3
Weak right frame, almost
dotted.

Position 5
Weak upper left frame line
and blot of color lower left.

Position 7
CENT misspelled as SENT.

Position 9
Heavy upper right frame
line.



Position 2
Four short rays under VER
of GOVERNMENT.

Position 4
Blob of color, lower left
frame line corner.

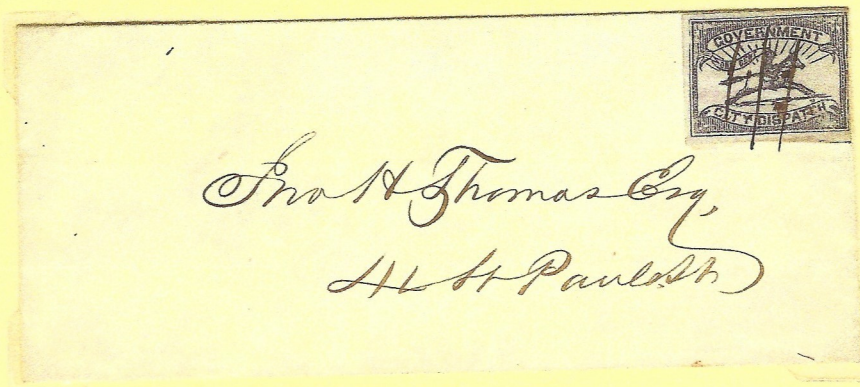
Position 6
Break in upper left frame
line and break in image at
right side.

Position 8
Breaks in lower frame line
and bulge in frame line under
D of DISPATCH.

Position 10
Heavy lower left frame line.

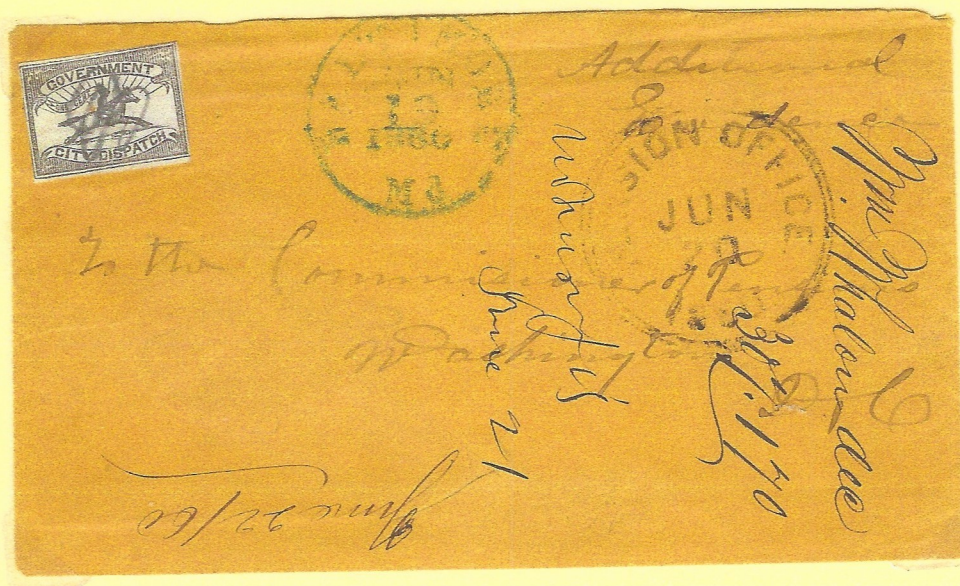
The Black Stamp

Local Usage

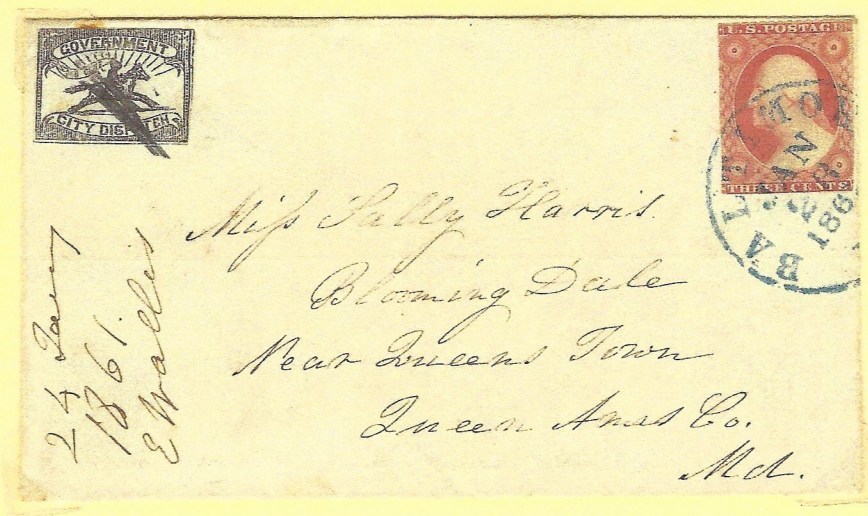


Position 2, short rays.
Pick-up and delivery within the city.

For Delivery to the Post Office.

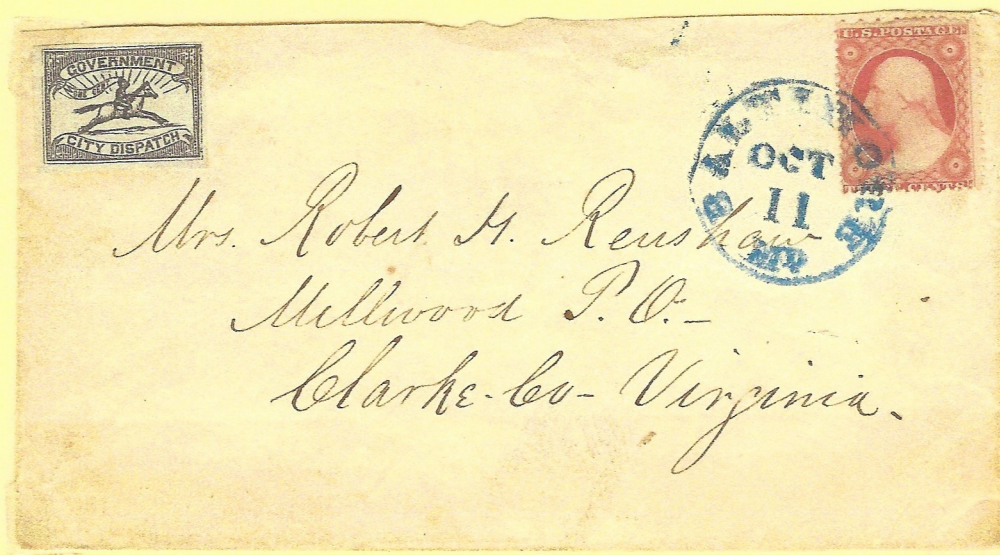


Position 1
From Baltimore to the Commissioner of Pensions in Washington, DC.
This letter could be sent free of U.S. postage to a government official.
The carrier stamp paid for the transport to the Baltimore Post Office.



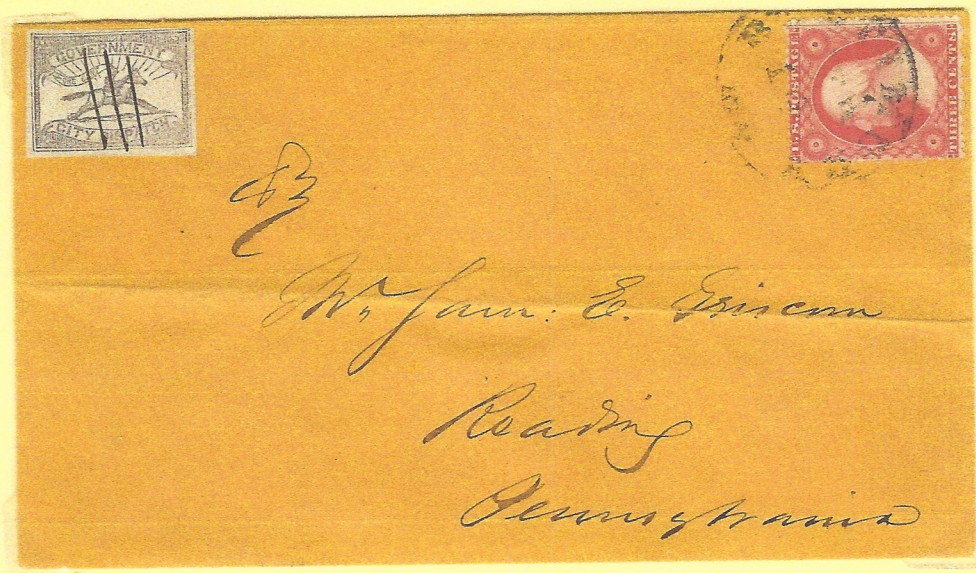
Position 2 – short rays

The carrier stamp was pencil-cancelled by the carrier and a blue CDS was applied at the Baltimore Post Office, January 23, 1861.



Position 2, short rays

The carrier did not cancel the carrier stamp. Blue CDS applied at the Baltimore P.O.



Position 3

The carrier pen-cancelled the carrier stamp and a black CDS was applied in Baltimore.



Position 3

Both the carrier stamp and U.S. postage stamp are cancelled with a blue CDS applied at Baltimore P.O., November 20, 1860 (contents dated).



Position 4

The carrier stamp is pencil-cancelled with initial W (Edward Wartman or Joseph Weathers or Thomas Willis). Both stamps are tied by a black Baltimore CDS.

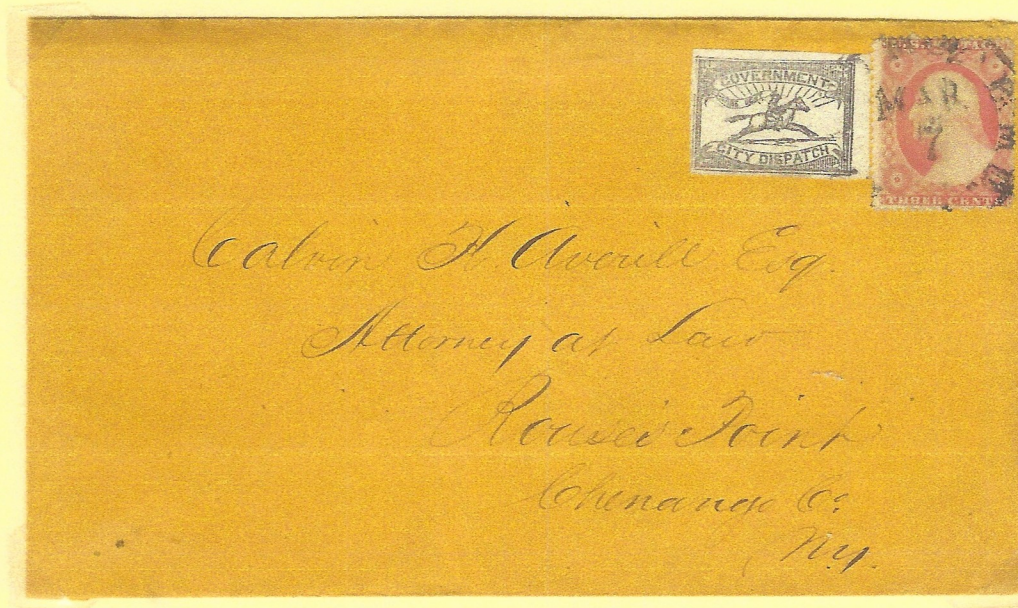


Position 5

Both stamps are cancelled with a blue Baltimore CDS, May 24, 1860.
Forwarded from Hartford to New Haven, Conn.



Position 5
Both stamps cancelled by a black Baltimore CDS.



Position 6
Both stamps cancelled by a black Baltimore CDS.



Position 7, CENT misspelled.
Both stamps cancelled by a blue Baltimore CDS.



Position 10
Both stamps cancelled by a blue Baltimore CDS on April 25, 1861;
13 days into the U.S. Civil War.



Position 4



Position 6



Position 8

Uncancelled stamps



Position 4



Position 6

Pen cancelled stamps



Position 2, short rays



Position 3



Position 5

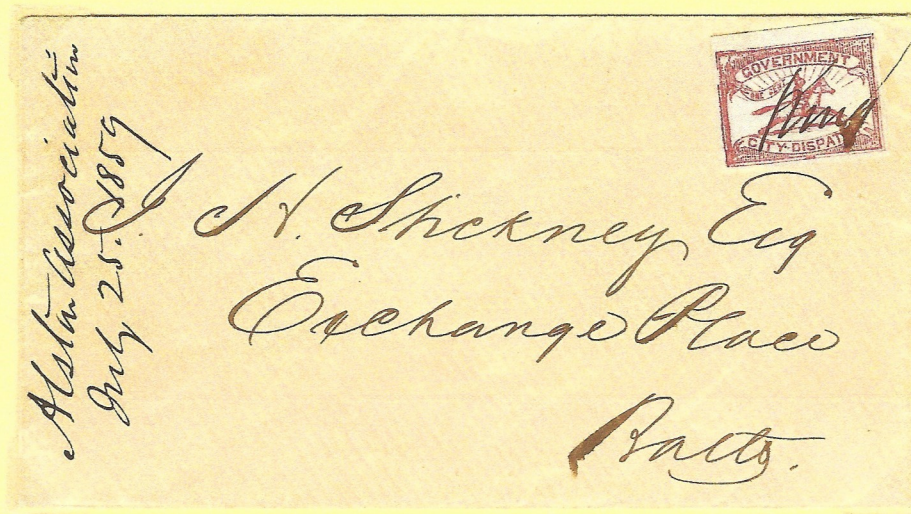


Position 4

Cancelled by a blue Baltimore CDS

The Red Stamp

Local Usage



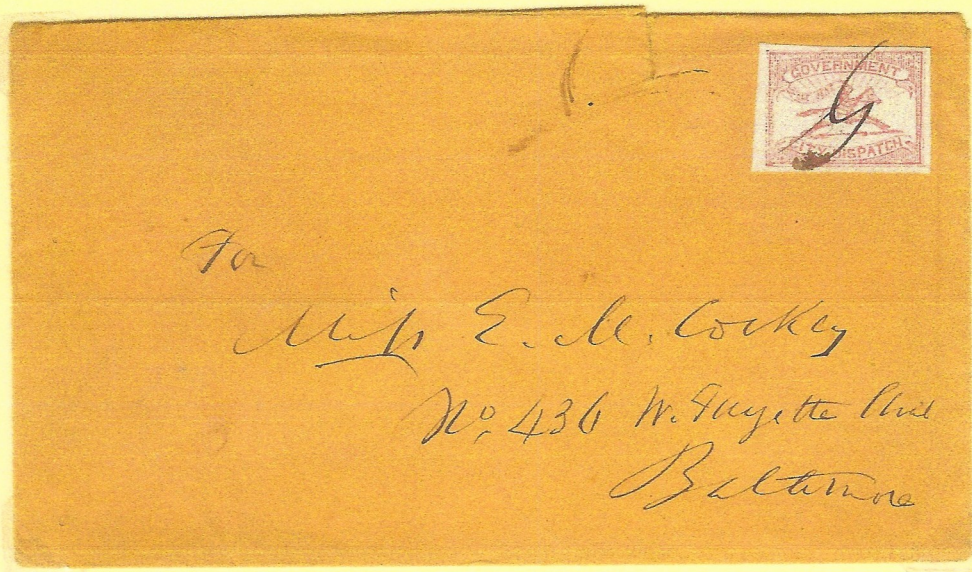
Position 1

The carrier stamp is pen cancelled by the carrier, "KING" (William J.; 1855-1861).
Full name cancels are scarcely seen.



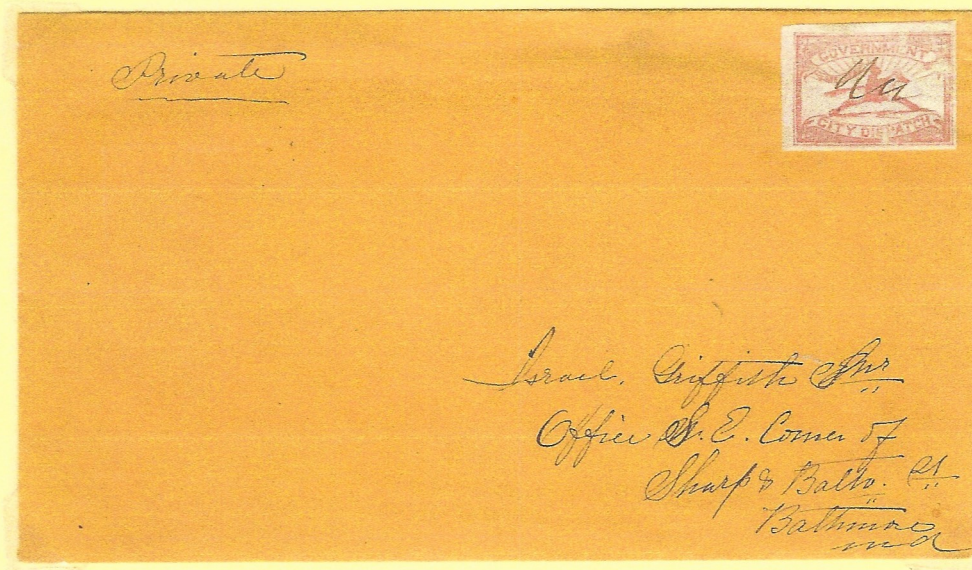
Position 2, short rays

Pen cancelled by the carrier with an "F" (John Fusselbaugh (1855-1859)).



Position 5

Pen cancelled by the carrier with a "G" (William Geisendaffer or Conrad Gerhardt or George German)



Position 6

Pen cancelled with a "W" (Edward Wartman or Joseph Weathers or Thomas Willis)
Contents are dated October 5, 1859.



Position 9

Pen cancelled with a "H" (Thomas Harvey, 1855-1859)

Contents are dated November 28, 1859.

For Delivery to the Mails



Position 1

Pencil cancelled by a "W" (Edward Wartman, or Joseph Weathers or Thomas Willis). Both stamps tied with a black Baltimore CDS. Contents dated November 10, 1859.



Position 6

Both stamps cancelled with a black Baltimore CDS.



Position 7, misspelled CENT

Both stamps cancelled with a blue Baltimore CDS.

Note the letter is addressed to Justin Morrill, father of the Land Grant College legislation.



Position 10
Both stamps cancelled with a blue Baltimore CDS.



Position 2, short rays
Unusual usage on embossed envelope



Position 3
Dominic Rayhice



Position 5
John Fusselbaugh

Pen cancelled with the carrier's initials.

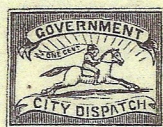
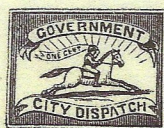


Position 3



Position 6

FORGERIES



Lyons Type B2 in four different colors.



Lyons Type D

Hussey forgeries in both colors.



Mrs. William J. H. H.
 Care of Genl. S. Van Rensselaer
 Haverhill
 Albany N. Y.

Lyons Type J

(The Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States; Larry Lyons, 1998)