

# UNITED STATES INDEPENDENT MAIL STAMPS 1844-1845

## INTRODUCTION

For approximately eighteen months—from December 1843 until the end of June 1845—a privately-owned system of mail routes competed with the United States post office. Known to the public as the “Opposition Post Office” or “Independent Mails,” this group of private letter-carrying firms won a huge share of the market along the most lucrative Eastern routes.

It is not overstating the case to say that by challenging the postal monopoly, the Independent Mails were the catalyst for American postal reform in 1845.

Elliott Perry, an authority on Independent Mails, estimated that as many as *22 million letters* were carried by private companies during one year. If accurate, this figure represents approximately *half* of the letter volume Perry estimated would have been handled by the U.S. post office without competition from the Independents.

Most of the individuals and companies that started to carry letters in 1844 had already established their reputation as express operators who transported packages and valuable freight between cities.

Among the major advantages offered to the public by the Independents were:

- Cheaper postage (one third of U.S. rates)
- Fast service along an established transport network
- Conveniences such as letter drop boxes and stamps
- Incentives to prepay postage (discounts on stamps)

In response to the threat posed by Independents, the U.S. government mobilized against them through arrests, lawsuits and finally legislation to expand and enforce the postal monopoly. The result was the Act of March 3, 1845—effective July 1—which reduced postal rates and gave postal authorities the power to prosecute anyone who attempted to carry letters between cities.

The new laws against private mail routes forced the Independents to terminate letter-mail operations on June 30, 1845. Thus ended a short-lived but very significant era of private enterprise. However, its impact on the U.S. postal system is still felt today.

## CONTENT AND ARRANGEMENT OF EXHIBIT

This exhibit focuses on the stamps issued by nine Independent Mail companies in 1844 and 1845. **These stamps are the first to be regularly used in the United States to prepay postage on mail carried between cities.** They were preceded only by the stamps issued in New York (City Despatch Post, 1842) and Philadelphia (Robertson-Blood, 1843) for use on locally-addressed mail.

Every issue is represented in this exhibit by the largest recorded multiple (if one exists), all known paper and printing varieties, cancellations and covers showing how the stamps were used. The covers include examples of conjunctive usage, involving two or more firms for delivery from the sender to the addressee. Many items were acquired from the important collections formed by David Golden, Richard Schwartz, the Hall family and Edgar Kuphal.

Census data is based on records of Independent Mail stamps and covers maintained by Scott R. Trepel and the Hale census published by Michael Gutman.

## AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY

The American Letter Mail Co., the second largest of the Independent Mail firms, was founded by Lysander Spooner, an advocate for “Cheap Postage”. Operations started in January 1844. Offices were established in New York City, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore (closed March 1844). Sometime in June 1844, Spooner sold his interest in the firm, but the company under new management continued to carry mail until June 30, 1845.

### 1844 (January) Small Eagle Issue—“20 for a Dollar” Printed from Engraved Plate of 20 Subjects (5 x 4)

According to Dr. Julius Blanchard, the Eagle vignette on the Small Eagle stamp was made from a stock die originally engraved by Durand, Perkins & Co. In 1832 the firm went out of business, and its assets were sold to Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson, who probably printed the stamps.

**This is the third engraved stamp issued in the United States.**



Die proof in Black on India mounted on card.  
Scratches at left indicate it is a reprint proof  
made long after 1844.



Second Printing on Medium/Thin Paper. Complete sheet of 20.  
The supply of Small Eagle sheets that reached philatelists probably came from the estate of Lysander Spooner, founder of the American Letter Mail Co.



First Printing on Thick Paper.  
Philadelphia to Boston, February 9, 1844.  
The pencil "2c" indicates an additional 2c charge for local delivery.



First Printing on Thick Paper.  
New York City to Boston, March 12, 1844.  
Cancel applied by brush in vivid red ink.

No office markings were used prior to April 1844.





First Printing on Thick Paper. **Baltimore** to New York City, January 26, 1844.

**This is the earliest recorded usage from Baltimore and the second earliest date of any American Letter Mail Company cover.**  
Service commenced January 23, 1844. January 25 is the earliest recorded usage.



First Printing on Thick Paper. **Baltimore** to New York City, March 4, 1844.

Stamp cancelled by **red Oval of Stars fancy cancel** on arrival at New York City.  
American Letter Mail Co. service south of Philadelphia was terminated in March 1844.





First Printing on Thick Paper. Boston to New York City, March 9, 1844.

Stamp cancelled by **red Oval of Stars fancy cancel**.

Based on other covers, it has been determined that this cancel was applied at New York City.

Therefore, the stamp on this letter was cancelled on arrival.



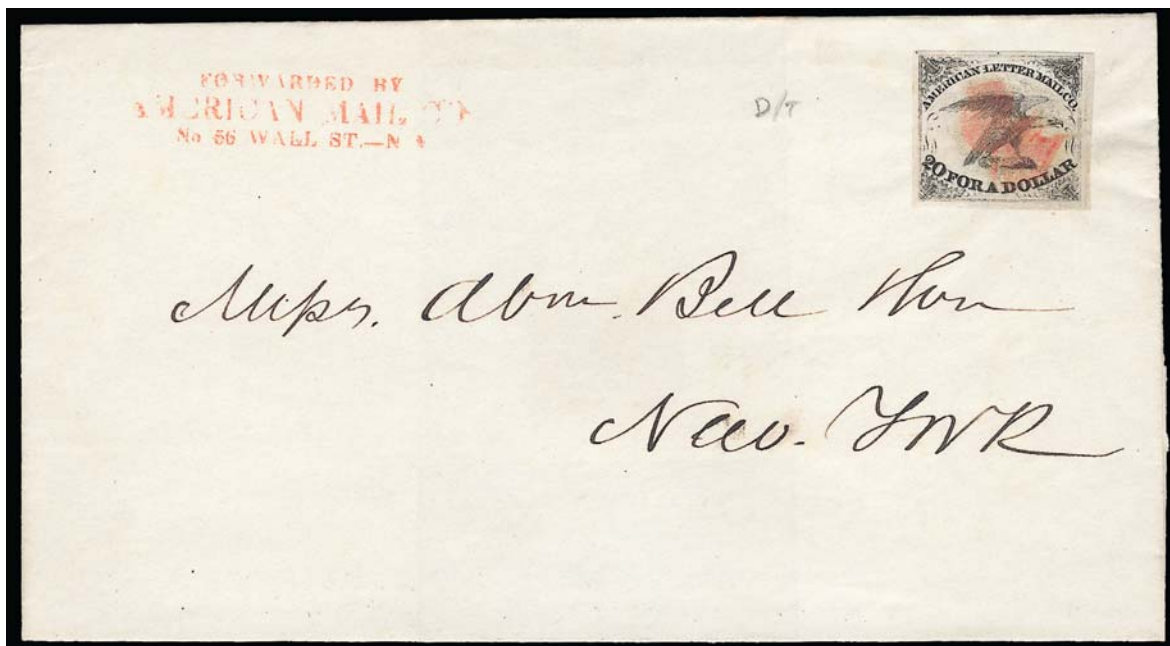
First Printing on Thick Paper. New York City to Boston, April 8, 1844.

Stamp cancelled by **red "6" rate handstamp**.

**The only recorded example of this numeral handstamp used as cancellation.**



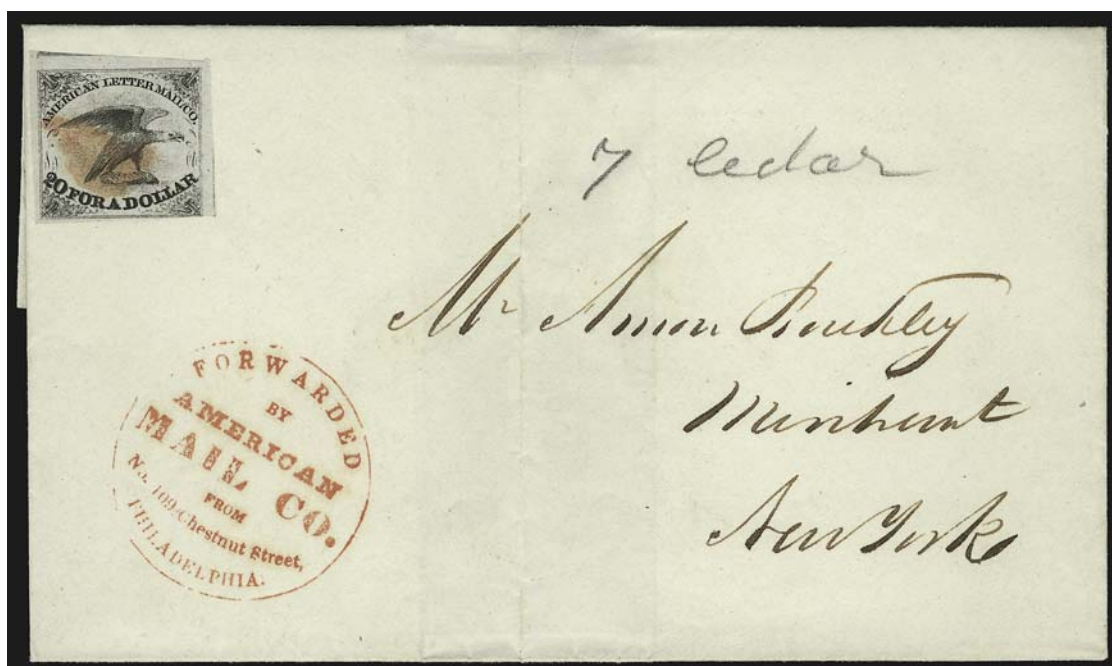
Second Printing on Medium/Thin Paper.  
Boston to New York City, June 15, 1844.  
Boston office handstamp applied at origin.



Second Printing on Medium/Thin Paper. **Double Transfer.**  
Boston to New York City (undated).  
New York office handstamp applied at destination.



Second Printing on Medium/Thin Paper.  
New York City to Boston, August 3, 1844.  
Boston office handstamp applied at destination.



PFC 2001

Second Printing on Medium/Thin Paper.  
Philadelphia to New York City, August 6, 1844.  
The circular red handstamp and red smear cancel were applied in Philadelphia.





PFC 2003

Second Printing on Medium/Thin Paper.

New York City to Philadelphia, October 14, 1844.

The Philadelphia circular red datestamp is the scarce type with "Oct 14" date.



Second Printing on Medium/Thin Paper.

Philadelphia to **New Haven**, August 24, 1844. ALMCo. mail to this office is scarce. The red circle was applied at Philadelphia. Stamp cancelled by **manuscript "C" initial**.

**Largest Recorded Used Multiple of the Small Eagle Issue**



Vertical pair of Second Printing on Medium/Thin Paper..

Double rate from Boston to New York City, July 1, 1844.

Letter handstamped and stamps cancelled "Paid" on arrival in New York.

**Five pairs of the Small Eagle are recorded on covers.**

**No intact multiple larger than a pair is recorded.**

**Conjunctive Usage with Pomeroy's Letter Express**



Philadelphia to Albany N.Y., July 18, 1844.

Second Printing on Medium/Thin Paper.

Cancelled by red "Paid" (probably applied at New York City).

**Delivered in Albany by Pomeroy & Co. and handstamped with its Albany office circle.**

Evidently, Pomeroy's Albany office provided local delivery service to other Independents.



**Double Conjunctive Usage with Pomeroy and Wells' Letter Express**

PFC 1996

Unknown origin (possibly Philadelphia) to Detroit Mich., docketed Sep. 14, 1844.

Second Printing on Medium/Thin Paper.

Pair tied by red "Paid" (applied by Pomeroy's Letter Express).

Bottom half of **Letter Express 10c Black on Pink Glazed** used as 5c and tied by pen cancel.

The American Letter Mail Co. stamps pay the 10c rate to Detroit. The Letter Express bisect was affixed as an accounting device to credit Letter Express for its share of postage.

**One of three recorded combinations of American Letter Mail Company and Letter Express stamps.**

**1844 (August) Large Eagle Issue—Black and Blue (Unstated Denominations)  
Printed by Lithography from Stone of 20 Subjects (4 x 5)**

The Black and Blue Large Eagle stamps are recorded as early as August 1844, soon after Lysander Spooner sold out his interest in the firm. They were probably prepared by the new management.

The two different colors may have originally been intended for single (Black) and double (Blue) rates. Why? Because unlike the Small Eagle design, the Large Eagle does not have a denomination stated, and the color scheme is identical to Great Britain's 1p Black and 2p Blue issued just a few years earlier in 1840. The two stamps were ultimately used to pay single rates (5c when sold at 20 for \$1.00).

The Large Eagle stamp design and the banknotes of the era have the imprint of W. L. Ormsby of New York. However, the vignette is known on printed material dated in the 1830's. It is likely that Ormsby incorporated the Large Eagle stock die into his engravings. The vignette was used to make the design matrix for the lithographic transfers.



Proof of Vignette Die



Black  
"J. Gray, Agent"



Blue  
"EHB" initials



Two blocks of four rejoined in their respective positions on the original sheet of 20.  
Positions 1-4/5-8



Block of four (Positions 1-2/5-6) and pair (9-10) rejoined in their respective positions on the original sheet of 20.

PFC 2001

“ESS” Portion  
of Watermark →



Vertical strip of four,  
Positions 8/12/16/20  
with watermark (Pos. 12)  
**The paper mill watermark  
is known on this strip and  
one unused single.**

PFC 2001



**Largest Recorded Multiple of the Large Eagle Issue**



PFC 2003

Block of twelve with part original gum  
Positions 5-8/9-12/13-16

**Four of the five recorded blocks are displayed in this exhibit (this is the largest recorded).**



PFC 2000

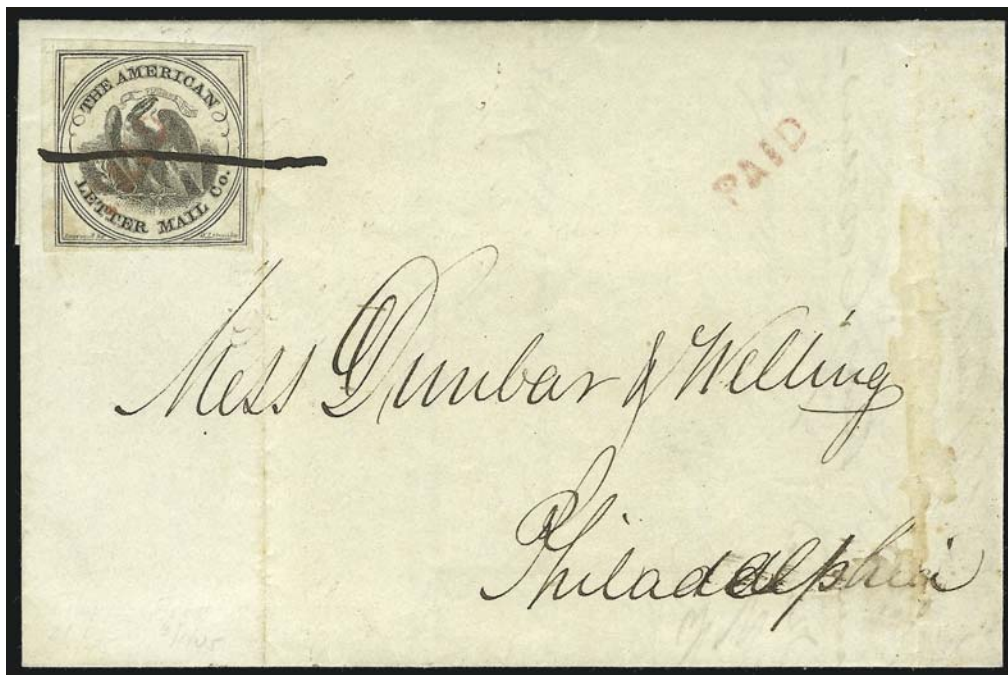
Boston to New York City, December 19, 1844.  
 The red oval handstamp was applied on arrival at the New York City office.  
**This is the only recorded example of the “Boston” manuscript cancel.**



To Philadelphia from unknown origin, date circa April 1845.  
 The red circle was applied at Philadelphia on arrival.  
**The blue manuscript “Allegania” tying stamp is one of two recorded examples.**



New York City to **New London**, May 29, 1845. ALMCo. mail to this office is scarce.  
The red oval and “Paid” were applied at New York City.  
Stamp cancelled by “X” and “**EHB**” initials.



**Providence R.I.** to Philadelphia, May 1, 1845.  
Cancelled by sans-serif red “Paid” (probably applied at Providence) and broad pen stroke.





Philadelphia to Boston, August 26, 1844.

Philadelphia red circle and Boston red oval handstamps. **Manuscript “C” cancel.**

The **pencil “2 cts”** indicates an additional 2c charge for local delivery.



Boston to Philadelphia, August 29, 1844.

The red circle was applied at Philadelphia on arrival.

The **manuscript “S” cancel** is scarce.



PFC 2000

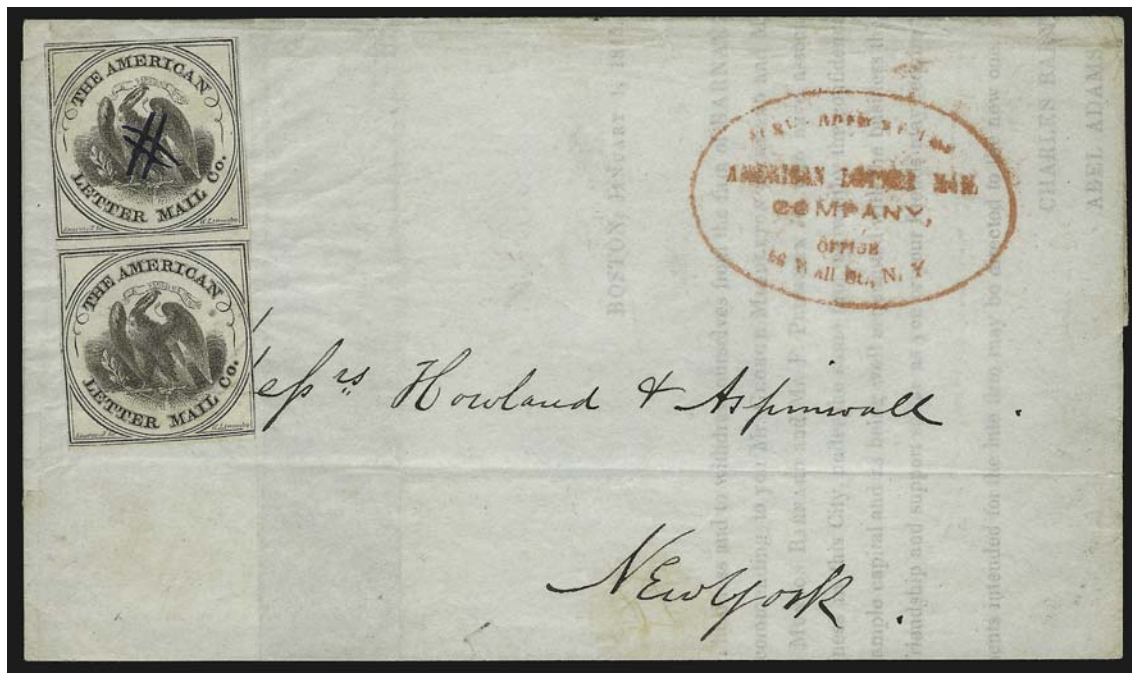
Philadelphia to New York City, December 3, 1844.  
The red circle applied at Philadelphia is the scarce type with "Dec 3" date.



PFC 2000

Philadelphia to New York City, April 19, 1845.  
The red circle was applied at Philadelphia. Sender marked letter "Stamped".





PFC 2001

Vertical pair paying double rate from Boston to New York City, January 1, 1845.

The red oval handstamp was applied on arrival at the New York City office.

The bottom uncanceled stamp may have been covered by another letter during cancellation.



Two stamps paying double rate from Philadelphia to New York City, February 14, 1845.

The red oval was applied at New York City on arrival.



**Largest Recorded Used Multiple of the Large Eagle Issue**



Horizontal strip of three, Positions 14-16.

Triple rate from New York City to Boston, November 5, 1844.

Letter handstamped and stamps cancelled "Paid" on arrival in Boston.

**This is the largest recorded used multiple and the only one of its size known on cover.**

**Conjunctive Usage with Other Independent Mail Companies**

PFC 2001

Bangor Me. to New York City, September 14, 1844.

Red oval applied by **Gilman's Express Boston office**, who carried the letter from Bangor to Boston, then given to American Letter Mail Co. for transport to New York City.



PFC 2003

Boston to Troy N.Y., September 22, 1844. **Conjunctive usage:**

- 1) **Wm. Wyman (Boston)**, who did not operate a route to Troy
- 2) **American Letter Mail Company—Boston to Troy (6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>c prepaid)**

Small "Paid" applied by Wm. Wyman (Boston), who gave the letter to ALMCo. in Boston.

**Triple Conjunctive Usage with Wyman and Pomeroy's Letter Express**

PFC 2000

Boston to Buffalo N.Y., August 9, 1844.

**Triple conjunctive usage:**

- 1) Wm. Wyman (Boston), who did not operate a route to Buffalo**
- 2) American Letter Mail Company—Boston to Albany (6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>c prepaid)**
- 3) Pomeroy's Letter Express—Albany to Buffalo (6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>c prepaid)**

Framed handstamp and small "Paid" applied by Wm. Wyman (Boston).

Pencil "12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" total prepaid rate covered by 5c Large Eagle stamp, which is cancelled by red "Paid" at Boston. The stamp represents American Letter Mail Co.'s share of prepaid postage.

Carried by American Letter Mail Co. to Albany where given to Pomeroy's Letter Express for transport to Buffalo. Large red "Paid" applied at Pomeroy's Albany office.



### The Blue Eagle

The Large Eagle in Blue is recorded on covers dated from August 1844 thru June 1845, but the greatest concentration of dates falls into the period after the Act of March 3, 1845, which meant the imminent demise of the Independent Mails.

It is likely that the Black and Blue stamps were originally intended to pay the single and double rates, following Great Britain's color scheme, but very few Blue stamps were utilized. By mid-1845, when the end of the American Letter Mail Co. was certain to come on July 1st, the remaining Blue sheets were released and sold as single-rate stamps.

By the same reasoning, it is illogical to think that a new printing in Blue would have been made after March 1845, when it was known that private mails would be stopped on July 1st.



PFC 1999

Large Eagle in Blue paying single 5c rate (sender's notation "Single Pd")  
from Philadelphia to New York City, June 12, 1845.

Stamp cancelled by **agent's manuscript initials ("DB")**.

Red circular handstamp applied at Philadelphia office and  
orange-red "Paid" applied on arrival in New York.

**Twelve covers are recorded with the Blue Eagle.**

### The Blue Eagle Tied on Cover



Large Eagle in Blue paying single 5c rate (sender's notation "*Single Pd*")  
from Philadelphia to New York City, June 13, 1845.

**Stamp cancelled and tied by agent John Gray in manuscript ("J. Gray").**

Red circular handstamp applied at Philadelphia office and  
orange-red "Paid" applied on arrival in New York.

**Only two of the twelve Blue Eagle stamps recorded on cover are tied by the cancel.**

## **BRAINARD & COMPANY**

Brainard & Co. operated to and from New York, Albany and Troy on the Hudson River steamboats, except during the winter when navigation was impossible. Operation started circa June 1844. Brainard & Co. was closely associated with Hale & Co.

**1844 Issue—"20 for one Doll." in Black and Blue  
Printed by Typography (probably from a Plate of 20 Subjects)  
Used at Troy and Albany Offices of Brainard & Co.**

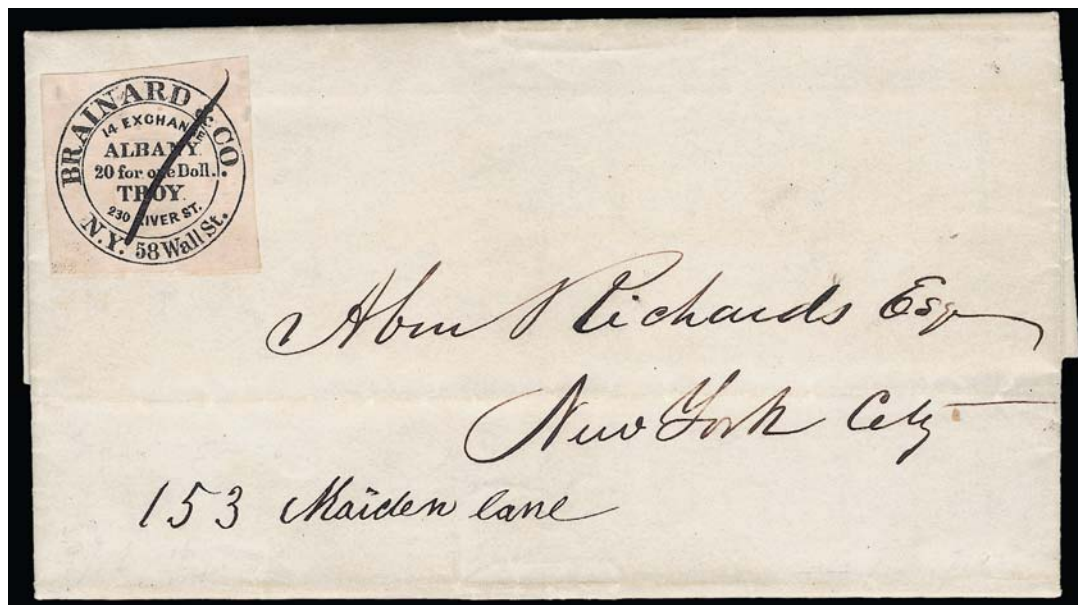
**5c Black**



Unused block of four with right sheet margin.

**The only recorded multiple of any Brainard & Co. stamp.**





PFC 2000

Troy N.Y. to New York City, September 16, 1844.



Albany N.Y. to New York City, July 18, 1844.

Red flat oval handstamp applied at Albany office.

**There are nine recorded covers with the 5c Black stamp.**

5c Blue

**The Earliest Recorded Use of Brainard Stamp (also a Conjunctive Usage)**



PFC 2006

Albany N.Y. to Philadelphia, July 5, 1844.

Stamp cancelled by **ornate "B" initial** found on early Brainard & Co. usages thru Albany office.

**Conjunctive usage with either Hale or American Letter Mail Co.  
for transport to Philadelphia.**

**This July 5, 1844, cover is the earliest recorded use of any Brainard & Co. stamp.**



Troy N.Y. to New York City. Undated but probably January-February 1845.

Cancelled by **ms. "F" initial** applied by **Hale's Troy agent, L. Farwell**. Hale & Co. carried Brainard's mail by L.I. steamboat and connecting rail during winter months.

**Only two of the nine recorded 5c Blue covers are cancelled with the manuscript "F" initial.**



PFC 2001

Albany N.Y. to Boston, August 23, 1844. Red ovals applied at origin and destination.

Stamp cancelled by **ornate "B" initial** found on early Brainard & Co. usages thru Albany office. Pencil "*Paid/ALM*" refers to **American Letter Mail Company** postage for transport to Boston.

**One of two recorded conjunctive usages of Brainard stamps with American Letter Mail Co.**



## HALE & COMPANY

James W. Hale (1801-1892) operated the largest of the 1844-45 Independent Mail firms. Elliott Perry estimated that Hale carried 60% of the *Independent Mail* volume during this period. Hale claimed to have more than 1,000 agents and 100 offices.

### 1844 (March) Blue with “13 Court St.” Address—“20 for \$1.00” Printed from Stereotype Plate of 20 Subjects (5 x 4)

The first Hale & Co. stamps were printed in Blue and Red shades. Robson Lowe reported the printer was S. Dickinson of Boston. They were sold for 6c each or “20 for \$1.00” as stated in tiny type on one of the envelopes within the design. The first issue has the “13 Court St.” address on the center envelope. The earliest recorded usage is a Blue on cover dated March 14, 1844 (Gutman records), probably close to the date of issue. The same plate was used for all printings. The plate exists in three states:

**First State:** “13 Court St.” address, issued in Blue (eku 3/14/1844) and Red (eku 8/27/1844)

**Second State:** Address deleted, issued only in Blue (eku 6/1/1844, shown in this exhibit)

**Third State:** Address deleted, damaged plate (eku 9/20/1844)

Hale & Co. stamps were cut with rectangular margins and octagonally around the design. All stamps in this exhibit with octagonal margins are described as “Die Cut.”

**Hale’s stamps were the world’s first “Envelopes on Stamps” thematic issue,  
the first to be overprinted and the first to be precancelled.**



First State.

Philadelphia to New York City, November 21, 1844.

**Large “P” ms. cancel** found on mail from Hale’s Philadelphia and Baltimore offices.



First State Die Cut. Boston to New York City, May 29, 1845.  
Red "Paid" cancel applied at Boston.

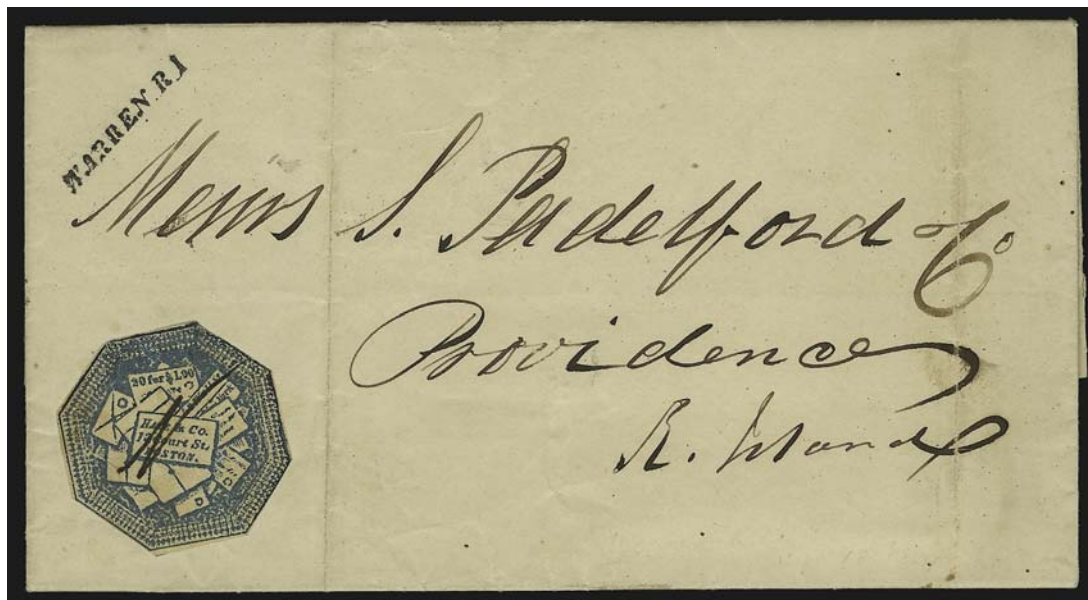


First State Die Cut. Boston to New York City, June 6, 1845.  
Red "Paid" cancel applied at Boston over collect box.



PFC 2001

First State Die Cut.  
New York City to Boston, August 30, 1844.

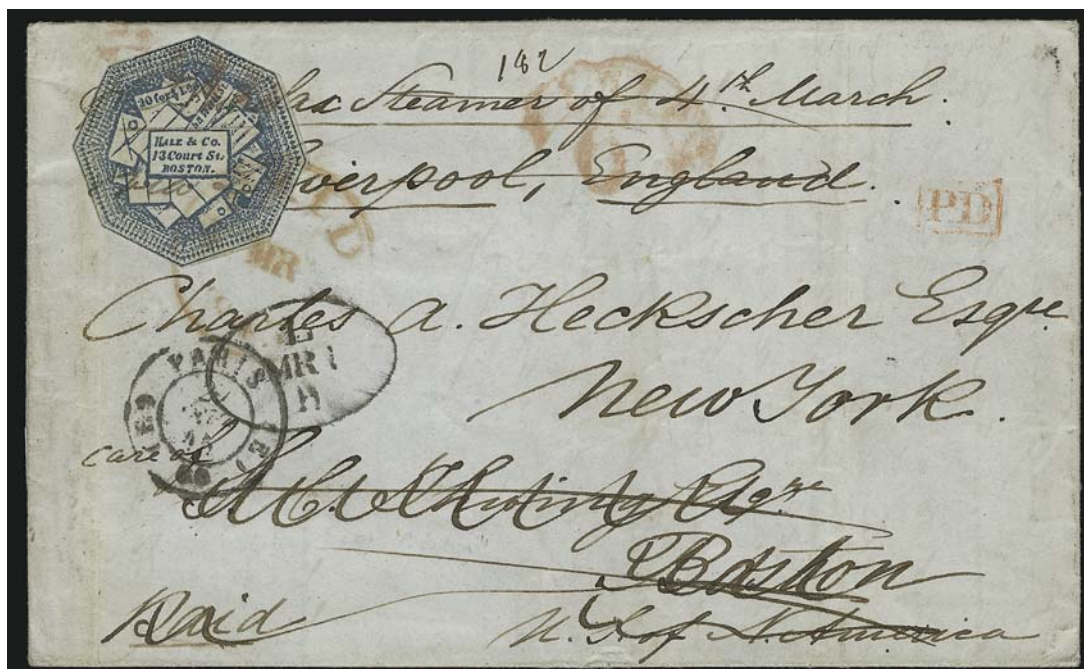


PFC 2001

Dark Blue First State Die Cut.  
Warren to Providence R.I., September 18, 1844.  
**The only recorded cover with the "Warren R.I." straightline handstamp.**  
Large "N" ms. cancel or control mark is found on Hale covers to or from Providence R.I.



### Hale Stamp Used to Forward Letter from France



PFC 2001

First State Die Cut.

**Paris, France, to Boston, forwarded to New York City by Hale & Co.**

Paris, February 27, 1845, datestamp. Received at Boston, March 18, 1845, with red "Ship 6" handstamp. Forwarded by S. C. Thiving to New York City.

Hale stamp tied by large red "Paid" applied at Hale & Co.'s Boston office.

**One of two recorded examples of a Hale & Co. stamp  
 used to forward a ship letter from a foreign country.**



PFC 2001

Two Shades of First State Die Cut. Boston to New York City, March 26, 1845.



First State on Pelure Paper Die Cut. Three affixed in overlapping arrangement.

Triple rate from Wilkes Barre Pa. to Philadelphia, August 22, 1844.

Red oval handstamp applied by Hale's **Schuylkill Haven Pa. office**—the only recorded example.

Addressed to "Box 488 Post Office" referring to Hale's rental box.

Strip of Three Containing "Wail" for "Wall" Variety



PFC 2000

First State Positions 17-19, strip of three with left stamp (Pos. 17) "Wail" for "Wall".

Triple rate from Boston to New York City, July 3, 1844.

Red framed handstamp applied at Boston office.





Grayish Blue First State, horizontal strip of three, Positions 2-4.  
Triple rate from Boston to New York City. Undated, but 1844 usage based on cancel.  
Framed handstamp applied at Boston office.



Light Blue First State, horizontal strip of three, Positions 1-3.  
Triple rate from Salem Mass. to New York City, June 9, 1845.  
Red "Paid" cancel applied at Boston office.

**Conjunctive Usage with Savory & Company**

PFC 2001

First State. Salem Mass. to New York City, June 20, ca. 1844.

**Savory & Co.'s Salem and Boston Express label tied by "Paid" handstamp and ms. "10 cts"**

The Hale stamp was probably affixed by Savory & Co. to indicate prepayment of Hale's share.

**The only recorded combination of Hale's stamp and the Savory & Co. label.**



PFC 2001

**From the Same Correspondence**

First State. Salem Mass. to New York City, June 10 (ca. 1845).

Red "Paid" cancel applied at Boston office.

Addressed to "Box 23 Hales P.O."—Hale kept rental boxes for patrons.

**1844 (August) Red with "13 Court St." Address—"20 for \$1.00"  
 Printed from Same Stereotype Plate of 20 (5 x 4) Used for Blue  
 Used Exclusively from New England Offices (primarily Boston and Portsmouth)**



**Lower stamp with "Edgartown M.V." and  
 "Edgartown" (with tiny "5") in manuscript.**  
 Presumably, one is a control mark or precancel, and the other is a cancellation.



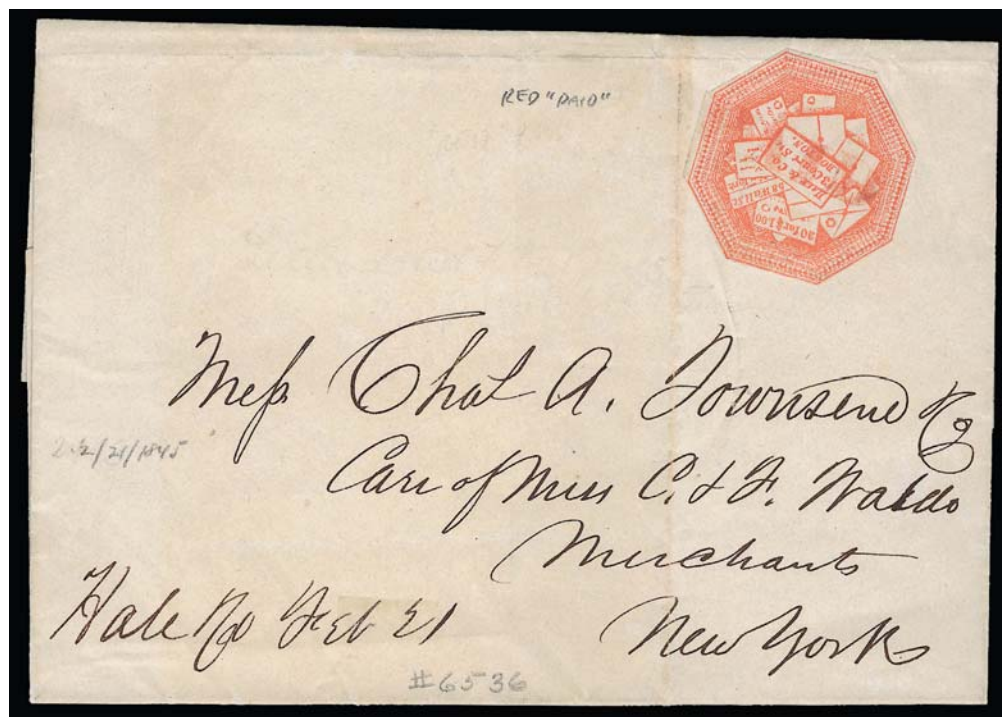
PFC 2001

First State Die Cut. Boston to New York City, February 15, 1845.

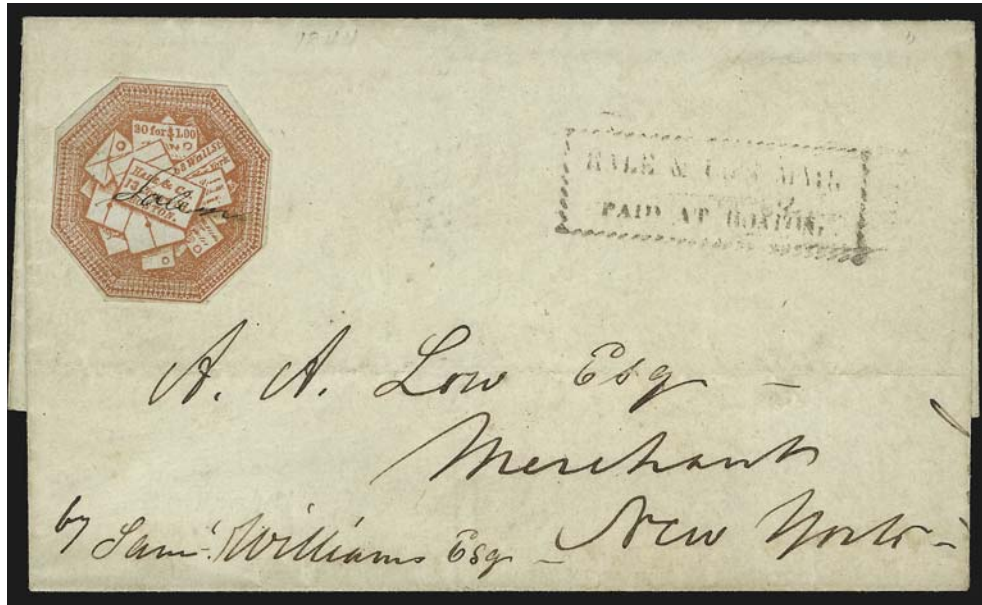




First State Die Cut. Boston to New York City, November 21, 1844.  
Tied by Boston office red framed handstamp.



First State Die Cut. Boston to New York City, February 21, 1845.  
Red "Paid" cancel applied at Boston office.



PFC 2001

First State Die Cut. Salem Mass. to New York City, November 27, 1844.  
Stamp has **ms. "Salem" control mark**. Framed handstamp applied at Boston office.



PFC 2001

First State Die Cut. Springfield Mass. to Boston. Undated.  
Stamp has **ms. "CR" control mark (Connecticut River)**.





PFC 2001

First State. Worcester Mass. to Boston, November 16, 1844.  
Stamp has **ms. "W"** cancel or control mark.



PFC 2001

First State Die Cut. Double rate from Boston to New York City, February 27, 1845.  
Red ovals applied at Boston office.



**Largest Recorded Red Hale Stamp Franking**

Three First State singles paying triple rate (two enclosures)  
from Northampton to Lenox Mass., December 17, 1844.

Each stamp has ms. "T" (Thayer) control mark and "C" (Connecticut River) cancel.

The "T" initial of Hale agent Thayer is orientated to the design of each stamp.  
The "C" cancels are orientated to the cover, proving that the "T" was applied to sheets before use.

**This is the only recorded cover with three Hale & Co. 5c Red stamps,  
which is the largest number recorded on one cover.**

### Address Change Overprints After Move from 13 Court Street to 23 State Street

The change-of-address overprints—handstamped and handwritten—were implemented after Hale moved its Boston office from 13 Court Street to 23 State Street in April 1844 (this date according to Robson Lowe). The earliest recorded date of use of the Address Deleted stamp is June 1, 1844 (shown in this collection).

The “City Despatch Office, 23 State St.” overprint on the Blue and Red first issues was made from a handstamp that was used by the Boston office of Hale’s agent, W. B. Kimball. A modified version of this marking has the words “City Despatch” deleted and is found on a June 22, 1844, cover with the Address Deleted stamp (Gutman collection).

The Blue single and Red pair displayed here were discovered in New York City in 1893. They were found in a hidden compartment of a desk by Charles Gregory, who documented his discovery in an article published in the January 1894 *Metropolitan Philatelist*.

### Red Handstamped Overprint on Blue “13 Court St.” Stamp

CITY DESPATCH  
OFFICE,  
23 State St.



PFC 2000

5c Blue First State Die Cut with Red Overprint  
Position 1 (affixed to card)

**The only recorded example.**

**Black Handstamped Overprint on Red “13 Court St.” Stamp**

CITY DESPATCH  
OFFICE,  
23 State St.



PFC 2001

5c Red First State Partly Die Cut with Black Overprint  
Horizontal pair, Position 7-8 (affixed to card)

**The only recorded multiple (one other single recorded).**



### Address Crossed Out by Hale's New York City Office

PFC 2000



Lines through "13 Court Street" address applied by New York City office to sheets prior to use.  
Found only on 5c Blue First State stamp.



5c Blue First State with manuscript lines through address applied at New York office prior to use.  
Positions 1 and 2 (severed pair).

New York City to New Haven Conn., August 3, 1844. Pencil "2" for local delivery charge.

**The pen lines follow the orientation of the stamp designs, not the letter, proving that they were applied to sheets prior to use and not to mail.**

**“23 State St.” Manuscript Overprint by Hale’s Boston Office**



5c Blue Second State (Address Deleted) with manuscript “23 State St.” overprint applied at Boston office prior to use.

Boston to New York City, August 7, 1844. Stamp tied by Boston office’s red “Collect” box.

**One of two recorded examples of the “23 State St.” manuscript overprint on Hale’s Blue stamp (both Second State with address deleted)**

**“23 State St.” Manuscript Overprint by Hale’s Portsmouth N.H. Office**



PFC 2000

5c Red First State Die Cut with manuscript “2(3) State St.” overprint applied at Portsmouth N.H. office prior to use.

**One of three recorded examples of the “23 State St.” manuscript overprint on Hale’s Red stamp (two others on cover, one shown below).**



PFC 1973

5c Red First State Die Cut with manuscript “23 State St.” applied at Portsmouth N.H. office prior to use.

Docketed with Mar. 26, 1845, origin date. Stamp tied by manuscript cancel.

**One of two recorded covers with the “23 State St.” manuscript overprint on Hale’s Red stamp (one other stamp known off cover, shown above).**



### Line Through Address Applied in Manuscript by Hale's Portsmouth N.H. Office



5c Red First State Die Cut with “13 Court St.” address crossed out by Portsmouth N.H. office.

Stamps have “P” and “NH” for Portsmouth, New Hampshire, as well as precancels.

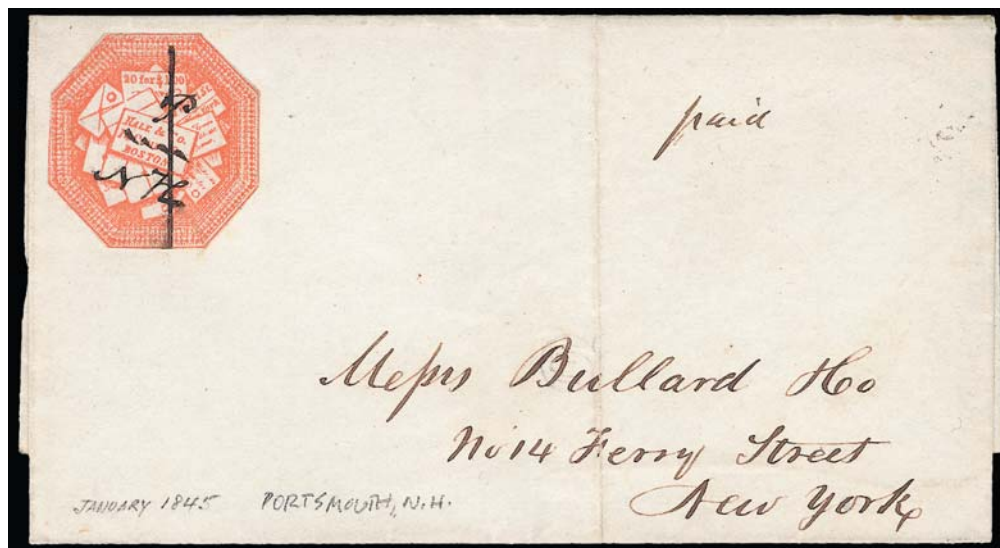
**There are ten recorded examples of the Red stamp with line through address, including six covers, one front and three off-cover stamps.**



PFC 2003

5c Red First State Die Cut with line through address,  
“P NH” (Portsmouth N.H.) and crossed precancel lines.

Portsmouth N.H. to New York City. Front with Boston office oval. Dated “March 26” (1845).



5c Red First State Die Cut with line through address,  
 “P NH” (Portsmouth N.H.) and vertical precancel line.  
 Portsmouth N.H. to New York City. Undated.



5c Red First State Die Cut with line through address,  
 “P NH” (Portsmouth N.H.) and vertical precancel line.  
 Portsmouth N.H. to New York City, January 19, 1845.

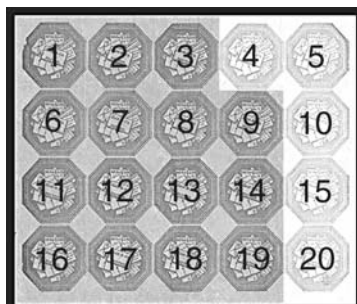
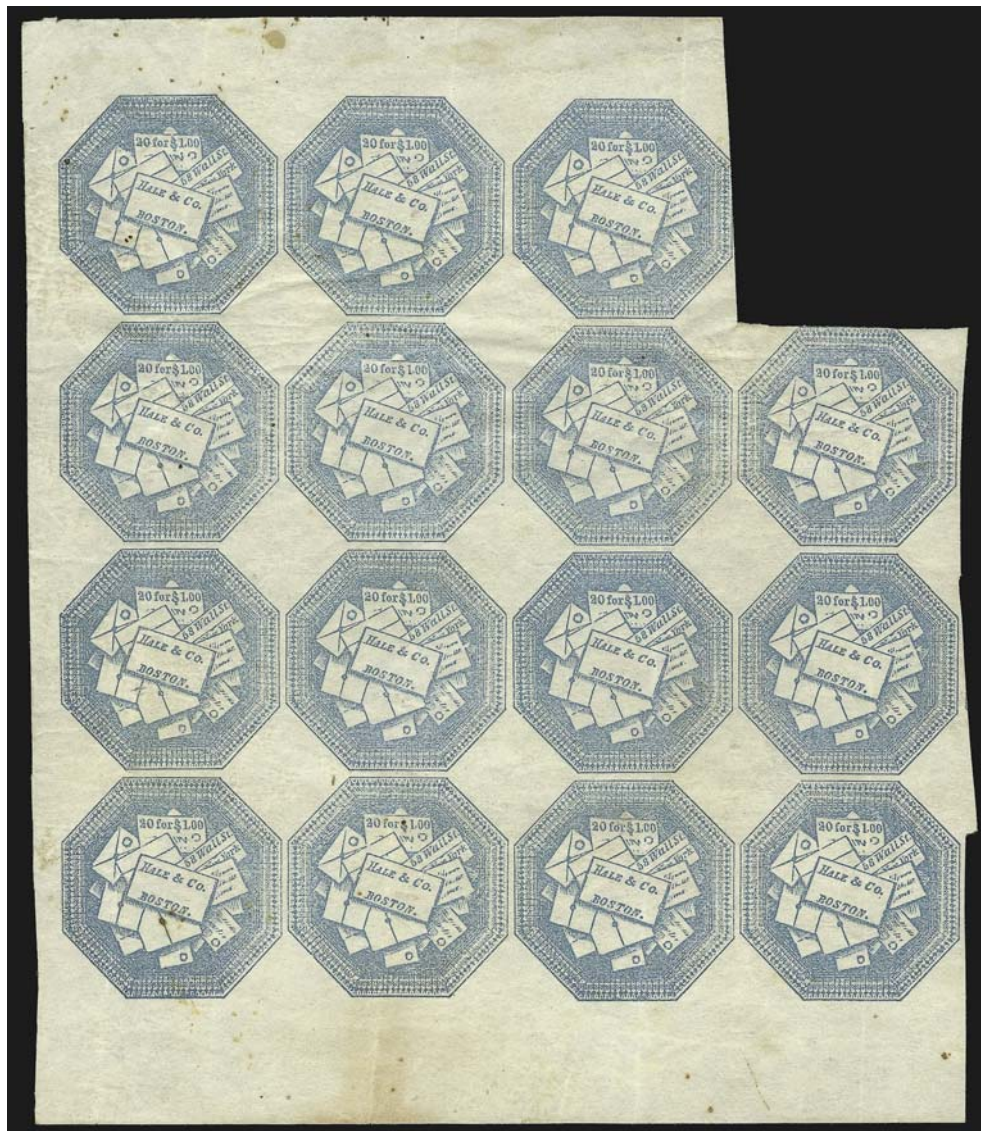
Sender's forwarding instructions at bottom.

“and delivery” written to the right of stamp by Hale’s agent, referring to local delivery in New York City. Additional forwarding instructions in the same hand are written on back.

**There are six recorded covers bearing the Red stamp with line through address.**



**“13 Court Street” Address Deleted from Stereotype Plate**

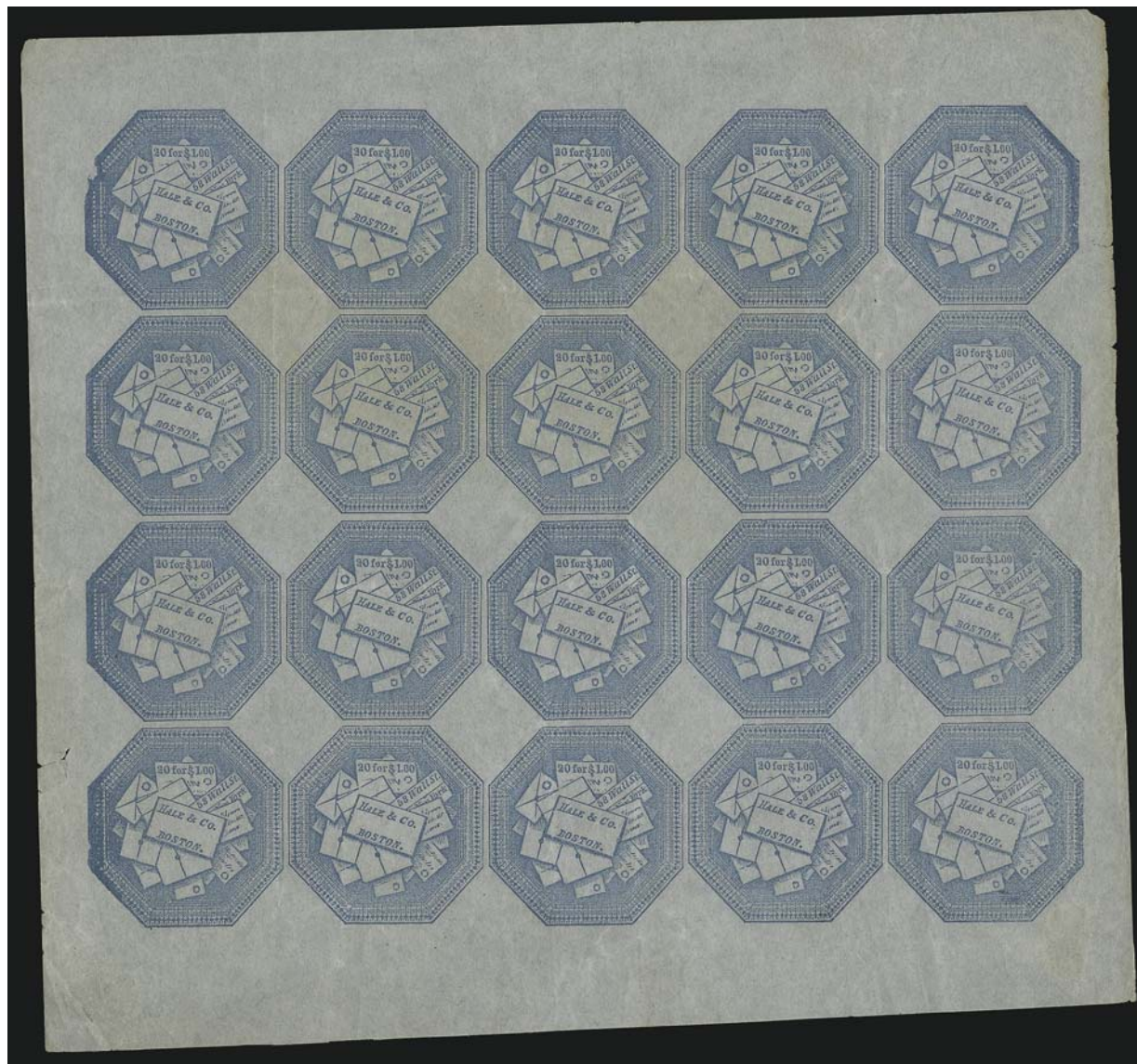


Second State (no damage to plate)

Block of 15 with original gum (diagram shows positions on sheet)

**This is the second largest recorded multiple of any Hale stamp. It is the only block recorded from the Second State of the plate.**



**The Only Recorded Complete Sheet of Any Hale Stamp**

Third State (damage to plate on Positions 1/6/11/16 and 4-5/10/15/20)  
Complete pane of 20 (gum removed)

**This is the only known complete sheet and  
the largest recorded multiple of any Hale & Co. stamp.**

**The Earliest Recorded Use of Hale Stamp with Address Deleted**



PFC 2003

Second State.

Boston to New York City, **June 1, 1844**. Stamp tied by Boston office's red "Collect" box.

**The earliest recorded use of a Hale stamp from altered plate with address deleted.**

### Hale Stamp Used on Cover to St. John, New Brunswick

Service to Eastport Me., St. John and St. Andrews, New Brunswick, was announced by Hale & Co. in an advertisement appearing in the July 4, 1844, edition of the *Morning Courier and New York Enquirer*. The rate to St. John was advertised at 12½¢, twice the value of the stamp on this letter. The difference may have been paid in cash or disregarded.



PFC 2001

Third State Die Cut. Bradford Mass. to **Annapolis, Nova Scotia**, via St. John, New Brunswick.

Letter dated October 19, 1844, and again on October 26 with writer's notation:

*"Must finish this letter intending to put it in at Haverhill this afternoon."*

Red "Great Eastern Mail" oval and framed handstamp tying 5c.

Backstamped St. John, New Brunswick, November 1, 1844, where it entered mails.

Ms. "7" (7d) currency rate for 61 miles distance between St. John and Annapolis.

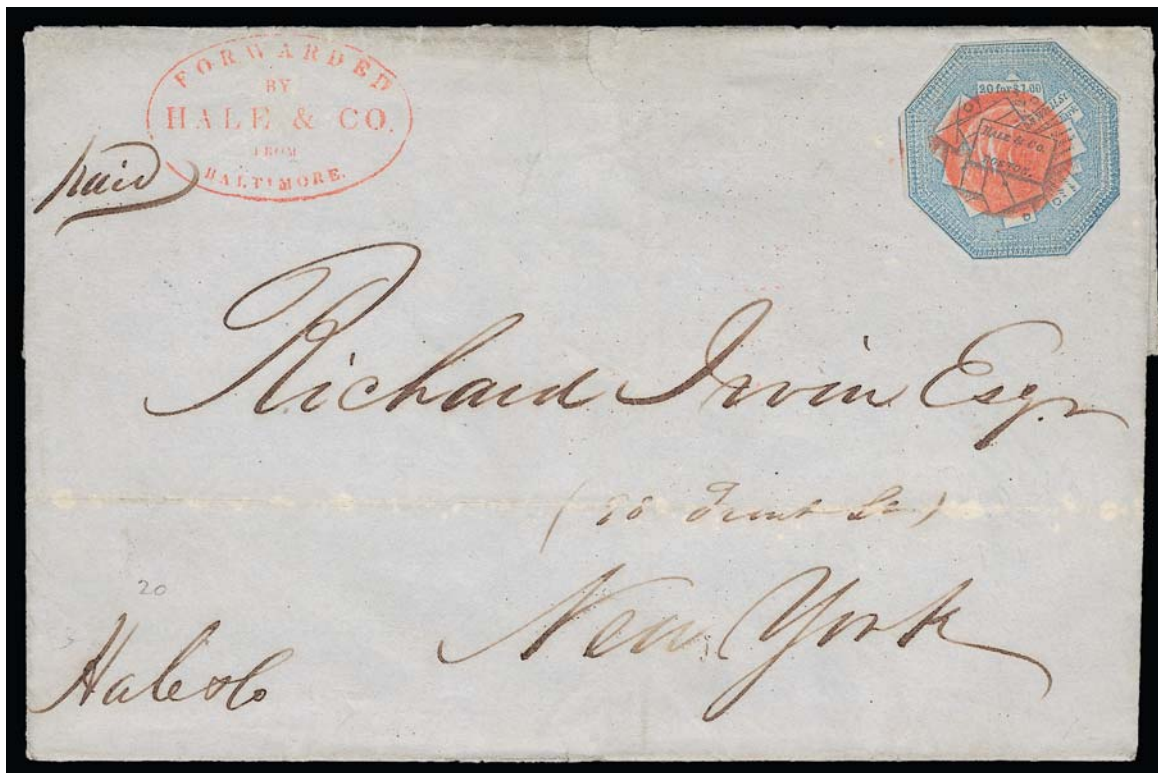
**The only recorded example of Hale's advertised service to St. John, New Brunswick.**

**The only recorded example of an Independent Mail stamp that paid for service from the United States to a foreign country.**



**“WE” Negative Seal Used by Hale’s Baltimore Agent, William Edwards**

The two recorded “WE” covers, shown on this page and the next, indicate that the Negative “WE” seal was used interchangeably with the Baltimore and Philadelphia office handstamps. The initials are those of Hale’s Baltimore agent, William Edwards.



PFC 2000

Light Blue Third State Die Cut. **Baltimore** to New York City, June 9, 1845.

Red negative seal with **“WE” initials** of Hale’s Baltimore agent, William Edwards.

Matching red oval handstamp of Baltimore office.

**One of two recorded examples of the “WE” cancel.**  
**This is the only use with Baltimore office handstamp.**

**“WE” Negative Seal Used by Hale’s Baltimore Agent, William Edwards**



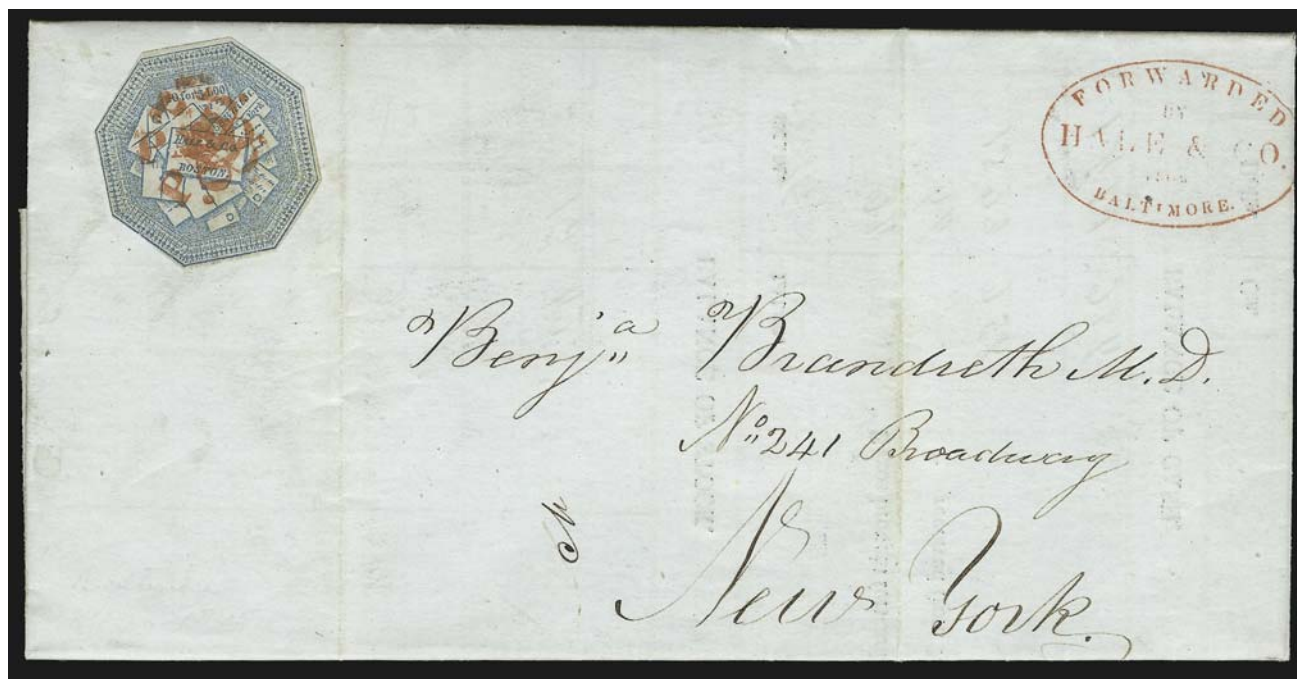
Light Blue Third State. **Baltimore** to New York City, June 16, 1845.

Red negative seal with **“WE” initials** of Hale’s Baltimore agent, William Edwards.

Matching red oval handstamp of Philadelphia office.

**One of two recorded examples of the “WE” cancel.**

**This is the only use with Philadelphia office handstamp.**



Light Blue Third State Die Cut, Position 17 "Wail". **Baltimore** to New York City, May 5, 1845.  
 Cancelled by multiple criss-crossing strikes of red "Paid".  
**One of seven recorded covers with Hale's stamp used from Baltimore.**

PFC 2001



Light Blue Third State Die Cut. New York City to **Baltimore**, May 21, 1845.





Light Blue Third State Die Cut, Position 1. **Baltimore** to New York City, June 23, 1845.  
One week before the end of the Independent Mail era.

PFC 2000



Second or Third State Die Cut. **Philadelphia** to New York City, April 14, 1845.

The large **manuscript "R"** cancel is known on Hale covers from Baltimore and Philadelphia, as shown by the two covers above.



Second State. Boston to New York City, July 1, 1844.  
Red framed handstamp applied at Boston office.



PFC 2000

Second State. Boston to New York City, July 13, 1844.  
Red framed handstamp applied at Boston office.





Deep Blue Second or Third State. Boston to New York City, September 24, 1844.  
Handstamps applied at Boston office.



Light Blue Second or Third State. Boston to New York City, October 12, 1844.  
Handstamps applied at Boston office.





Light Blue Second State. Boston to New York City, August 15, 1844.  
Handstamps applied at Boston office.



Light Blue Second State. Boston to New York City, April 9, 1845.  
Red oval handstamps applied at Boston office.



Second State Die Cut, Position 17 "Wail". **New Bedford Mass.** to Boston. Undated envelope.  
Stamp has "AB" magenta manuscript initials (A. Bates, New Bedford agent).



PFC 2001

Second State Die Cut, Position 11. **New Bedford Mass.** to Philadelphia, July 15, 1844.  
Stamp has "NB" magenta manuscript initials (New Bedford).



Second State Die Cut. **Northampton Mass.** to Boston, August 21, 1844.

Stamp has manuscript "T" control mark (A. W. Thayer, Agent)  
and manuscript "C" cancel (Connecticut River).

Letter mentions "Please send bill and receipt by Hale & Co."



Second State Die Cut. **Northampton Mass.** to Boston, August 27, 1844.

Stamp has manuscript "T" control mark (A. W. Thayer, Agent)  
and manuscript "C" cancel (Connecticut River).



**Used from Danvers, Massachusetts**

PFC 2001

Danvers Mass. to Brooklyn N.Y. Undated (large part of folded cover). Probably August 1844.  
Light Blue Second State Die Cut, Position 15, with **tiny manuscript "E. S. Dan's."** overprint  
applied by E. W. Simpson, Hale's agent in Danvers.

**One of four recorded examples of the Hale & Co. Danvers office handstamp.  
Three of the four have manuscript overprints or control marks.**



Second or Third State Die Cut. **Haverhill Mass.** to New York City, December 23, 1844.  
Stamp has “h” **magenta manuscript control mark** applied by the Haverhill office.



Second or Third State Die Cut. **Haverhill Mass.** to New Bedford Mass., September 2, 1844.

One stamp has “h” **magenta manuscript control mark** applied by the Haverhill office.

Other has **manuscript “Haverhill” control mark**.

The presence of two different control marks suggests that one stamp was used by sender, and the other was applied at Haverhill office to uprate the letter.

**Used from Pittsfield, Massachusetts**



Light Blue Second State Die Cut, Position 20. Pittsfield Mass. to Boston, July 30, 1844.

Red oval handstamp reads "Forwarded by Hale & Co., No. 5 Exchange, Pittsfield, Mass."  
Manuscript "P" cancel on stamp.

**One of three recorded covers from Hale's Pittsfield office (two bear stamps).**





Second State, Position 4. **Salem Mass.** to Boston, June 29, 1844.

Stamp has **red manuscript "S" control mark.**

Pencil notation "*Hale & Co. 23 State St. Mail for Salem closes at 4½pm*".



Second State Die Cut. Double rate from **Salem Mass.** to New York City, August 14, 1844.

Each stamp has **manuscript "Salem" control mark.**

**Two Stamps from Different States of Plate with Different “Salem” Control Marks**

PFC 2001

Right stamp Second State Position 16. Left stamp Third State Position 6. Both Die Cut.  
Double rate from Salem Mass. to New York City, November 30, 1844. Cancelled at Boston.

Each stamp has **manuscript “Salem” control mark in different handwriting**,  
proving that the control marks were applied to sheets prior to use.



Second State Die Cut. **Portland Me.** to Boston, September 5, 1844.

Small red "Paid" handstamp at upper right.

The manuscript "2c" at upper left indicates an additional charge for local delivery in Boston.



PFC 2000

Second State. **Springfield Mass.** to New York City, July 22, 1844.

Stamp has manuscript "CR" control mark (Connecticut River) and "X" cancel.





PFC 2001

Light Blue Third State, Position 5. **Staten Island N.Y.** to Boston, May 14, 1845.

The first red “Paid” was applied to the letter, then the stamp was affixed over the “Paid” and cancelled by a second strike, followed by a third strike at left.



Second or Third State. **Worcester Mass.** to Salem, April 9, 1845.

Stamp has manuscript “W” cancel or control mark.



PFC 2001

Light Blue Second State Die Cut. Double rate from Boston to New York City. Undated.  
Red framed handstamp applied at Boston office.



Light Blue Second State Die Cut. Double rate from Boston to New York City, July 31, 1844.  
Red framed handstamp applied at Boston office.





Third State. Double rate from New York City to Springfield Mass., December 19, 1844.  
Red ovals applied at New York office.



PFC 1974

Third State, horizontal pair, Positions 1-2.  
Double rate from New York City to Philadelphia, April 18, 1845.  
Red ovals applied at New York office.





PFC 2001

Second State, vertical corner-margin strip of three, Positions 1/6/11.

Triple rate from Norwich Conn. to New Bedford Mass. Undated (ca. 1844).

Each stamp has **manuscript magenta “n” control mark**.

Cancelled by red handstamps applied at Boston.

Four-line Norwich office handstamp.

**The only recorded multiple used from Hale & Co.’s Norwich office.**



Third State Die Cut, horizontal strip of three, Positions 17-19, and single.  
 Quadruple rate from New York City to Boston, January 18, 1845, marked “4 Sheets”.  
 The strip was cut to shape but all three stamps are still joined together at the sides.

### Quadruple-Rate Franking



Third State, Positions 4, 15, 14, 8.

Quadruple rate from New York City to **New Haven Conn.**, October 17, 1844.

Hale & Co. mail to this office is scarce.

Each stamp cancelled by different shape pen mark resembling short-hand.

**Conjunctive Usage with Crofoot's Letter Office**

PFC 2001

First or Second State, Position 17 "Wail" for "Wall".

Newburyport Mass. to Worcester Mass., Oct. 16, 1844.

**Conjunctive/turned usage with Crofoot's Letter Office**

Red oval applied by Crofoot's Letter Office for transport to Northampton.

Hale Co.'s black "Great Eastern Mail" oval. Hale stamp cancelled by manuscript "C" initial (Northampton office) for transport to Worcester.

A message was added to letter and it was mailed a second time  
from Worcester to New York City by Hale & Co.



**Conjunctive Usage with Jerome & Company's Express**

Second State. **Stamp precancelled.**

Frankfort Me. to New York City, August 14, 1844.

**Conjunctive usage with Jerome & Co.'s Express.**

Black framed handstamp applied by Jerome & Co.'s Express for transport from Frankfort to Boston.

Red "Great Eastern Mail" oval applied by Hale for transport to New York City.

The stamp was probably affixed by Jerome & Co. to indicate prepayment of Hale's share of postage.

### Conjunctive Usage with Pomeroy's Letter Express



Second State. Salem Mass. to Utica N.Y., August 10, 1844.

Sender's notation "**Independent Mail Paid**"

Stamp has **red manuscript "S" control mark**. Red cancel at Boston.

Carried by Hale to its Albany office, then given to **Pomeroy & Co.** for transport to Utica.  
Pencil "**Collect 6 1/4**" applied by Pomeroy & Co. for its share of postage.



Second State, Position 5. Salem Mass. to Utica N.Y., August 4, 1844.

Stamp has **red manuscript "S" control mark**. Black oval applied at Salem. Red cancel at Boston.

Carried by Hale to its Albany office, then given to **Pomeroy & Co.** for transport to Utica.  
Pencil "**Collect 6 1/4**" applied by Pomeroy & Co. for its share of postage.

**Conjunctive Usage with A. Roberts & Company's Express**



Third State.

Concord N.H. to New York City, September 22, 1844.

**Conjunctive usage with A. Roberts & Company.**

Carried by Roberts from Concord N.H. to Boston, then by Hale & Co. to New York City.

Roberts & Co. black oval and "Paid 5" (indicating money received for 5c rate).

Hale's oval handstamp and tying framed cancel applied at Boston office.

Stamp applied by Roberts & Co. as an accounting device.



## HARTFORD MAIL ROUTE

The Hartford Mail Route was operated by Francis A. Fuller and Edward W. Parsons, both residing in Hartford Conn., beginning in late July or early August 1844 and continuing until June 30, 1845. The route between Hartford and New York could be navigated by rail and/or steam. Fuller was an agent for Thompson's Express and a principal in Phillips & Co. Express. Parsons was a bookseller with an office next door to Phillips & Co. The Hartford Mail Route connected with Hale & Co., and several covers are endorsed "Hale & Co." It is possible Hale was a principal.

### 1844 Black on Glazed Paper (Unstated Denomination)—5c on Yellow and 10c on Pink Printed from Engraved Plate of 12 Subjects (6 x 2)

The Hartford Mail Route stamps were printed from an engraved copper plate of 12 subjects. Glazed paper was used: Yellow for 5c stamps and Pink for 10c stamps. Some believe that a third Buff-colored paper was used (shown below); others believe that the Buff paper is chemically changed. In an 1895 interview with E. W. Parsons, one of the principals in the firm, reported by W. H. Bruce in *The Eastern Philatelist*, the design of a giant mail-carrier stepping across hemispheres was attributed to a Shakespearian metaphor, cited in Julius Caesar, Act 1, Scene II. Cassius speaks:

Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world, Like a Colossus, and we petty men, Walk under his huge legs, and peep about, To find ourselves dishonourable graves.



(5c) Yellow  
Position 3



(5c) Buff  
Possibly a color changeling  
Position 6

**Southbound Usage with “Hartford” Precancel**



(5c) on Yellow, Position 3. Manuscript “Hartford” applied before use.

Hartford Conn. to New York City, September 9, 1844.

**Conjunctive Usage with “2” Cents for Local Delivery**



PFC 2000

(5c) on Yellow, Position 9. Manuscript “Hartford” applied before use. “X” pen cancel.

Hartford Conn. to New York City, December 10, 1844.

**Pencil “2”** charge for local delivery in New York City by City Mail Company.



**Conjunctive Usage with City Mail Company for Local Delivery**



(5c) on Yellow, Position 2. Manuscript "South" applied before use.

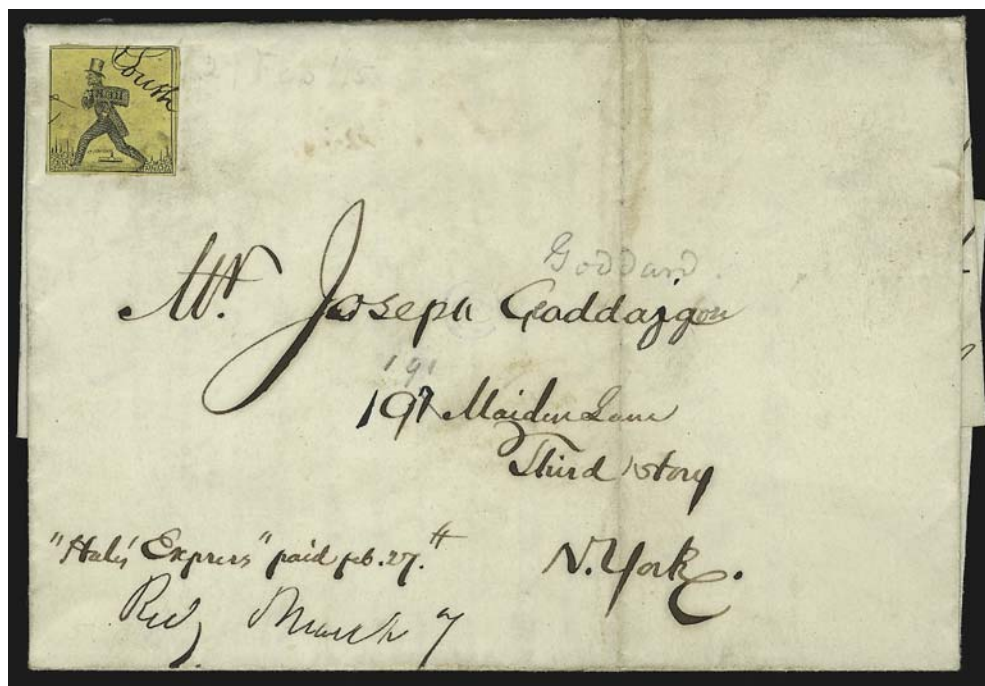
Hartford Conn. to New York City, May 15, 1845.

**Conjunctive usage with City Mail Company for local delivery.**

Red City Mail Co. oval handstamp at right, "2" charge and street address applied in red crayon by City Mail Co.

Sender's routing notation "Hale & Co." The two firms were closely associated.

## Sender's Routing by "Hale's Express"



PFC 2001

(5c) on Yellow, Position 3. Manuscript "South" applied before use.

Hartford Conn. to New York City, February 27, 1845.

Sender's routing notation "Hale's Express paid Feb 27". The two firms were closely associated.

**The Only Hartford Mail Route Stamp Tied on Cover by a Handstamp**



PFC 2001

(5c) on Yellow, Position 3.

Hartford Conn. to Philadelphia, February 2, 1845.

**Conjunctive usage with Hale & Company**

Red "Paid" applied by Hale & Co., who carried letter to Philadelphia.

**The only recorded Hartford Mail Route stamp tied on cover by a handstamp.**



### The Largest Recorded Multiple



PFC 2000

Vertical Pair of (5c) on Yellow, Position 1/7.

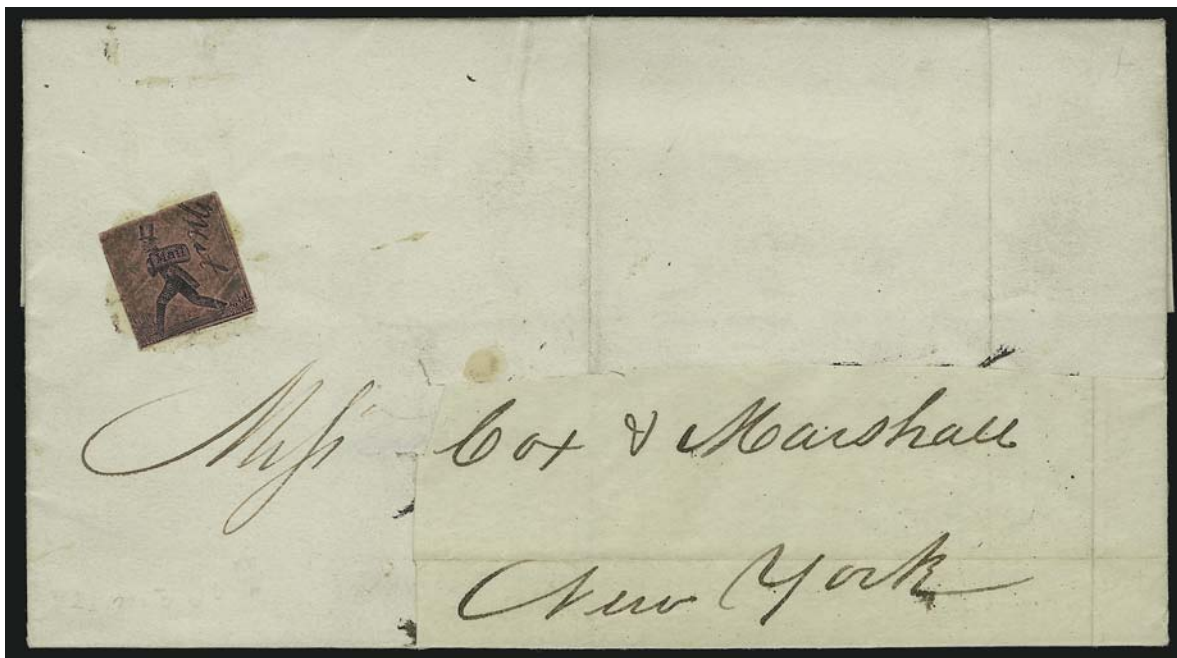
Double rate ("Paid 2") from Hartford Conn. to Philadelphia, June 25, 1845.

#### Conjunctive usage with Hale & Company

Red "Paid" applied by Hale & Co., who carried letter to Philadelphia.

**One of two recorded Hartford Mail Route pairs used on cover.**

**1844 10c Black on Pink Glazed Paper**



PFC 2001

(10c) on Pink, Position 7.

Manuscript "West" applied before use.

Double rate from Hartford Conn. to New York City, November 21, 1844  
(addressee's name removed and repaired)

**One of nine recorded examples of the Hartford Mail Route 10c Pink (five on covers).**

## HOYT'S LETTER EXPRESS

David Hoyt was Pomeroy's Rochester agent and started the Hoyt's Letter Express in July 1844. The firm carried mail along the Genesee Valley Canal and connected with Pomeroy's Letter Express for continuing service. Hoyt issued stamps, but few are known, and the latest usage is August 23, 1844, which indicates a brief period of use.

### 1844 Black on Vermilion Glazed Paper (Unstated Denomination) Printed from Typeset Form (Number of Subjects Unknown)

#### Pair of Hoyt's Stamps with "Lettcr" Error and Conjunctive Usage with Pomeroy and Boyd



PFC 1981  
Stain removed at right

(5c) Black on Vermilion.

**Vertical pair with "Lettcr" typographic error in top stamp.**

Double-rate cover front from unknown origin to New York City, delivered August 8, 1844.

Carried by Hoyt's Letter Express to Rochester N.Y. via the Genesee Valley Canal.

**Conjunctive usage with Pomeroy's Letter Express (Rochester to New York City)  
and with Boyd's City Express Post for local delivery.**

Vertical pair of Pomeroy's Letter Express 5c Blue paying double rate.

Red Boyd's datestamp and "Paid J.T.B." handstamp applied in New York City.

**The only recorded multiple of Hoyt's Letter Express Stamp.**

**One of two recorded examples of the Hoyt's "Lettcr" error.**

**One of four recorded Hoyt's and Pomeroy conjunctive usages.**



### **LETTER EXPRESS (WELLS)**

Wells & Co.'s Express was founded by Henry Wells in February 1844. It operated routes to and from Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit and Chicago. In July 1844 the firm advertised mail-carrying service. For points east of Buffalo, Pomeroy's Letter Express was used (followed by Overton after Pomeroy closed). The Letter Express ceased operations in November 1844.

### **1844 Goddess of Commerce Issue—"20 for \$1.00" Printed from Typograph Plate (Number of Subjects Unknown)**

The oval Letter Express stamps depict the Goddess of Commerce surrounded by bales and barrels with a merchant vessel in the background. These symbols of private enterprise reflect the economic growth of the United States during the 1840's. The stamps were used along the western routes, a region that prospered after completion of the Erie Canal.

### **The Only Recorded Unused Multiple of the 5c on Green**



5c Black on Green.  
Unused (gum removed).



5c Black on Green.  
Pen cancel.

### Conjunctive Usage of 5c on Green with Pomeroy's Letter Express



PFC 2007

5c Black on Green.

New York City to Cleveland, July 20, 1844.

#### Conjunctive use with Pomeroy's Letter Express.

The advertised Pomeroy's Letter Express rate to Cleveland was 12½ ¢ (two stamps).

The red "Pomeroy's Mail" straightline was applied at their Buffalo office. The black "Paid" is of uncertain origin. Pencil "Buffalo" indicates where the letter was given to Wells' Letter Express for the rest of the trip to Cleveland.

The 5c stamp was applied as an accounting device to give credit to Wells for its share of postage.

**The only recorded westbound Pomeroy/Wells conjunctive usage bearing a Letter Express stamp.**

### The Only Recorded Conjunctive Usage of Three Companies' Stamps



5c Black on Green. Vertical pair and single.  
Cleveland O. to New Haven Conn., August 5, 1844.

#### Triple conjunctive use with Pomeroy's Letter Express and American Letter Mail Company.

The advertised Letter Express rate to New Haven was 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>c (paid by three oval stamps).

The Letter Express carried the letter from Cleveland to Buffalo. Pomeroy's Letter Express carried the letter from Buffalo to New York City. American Letter Mail Co. completed the trip to New Haven.

Each company received one-third of the postage represented by the three Letter Express stamps.

Pomeroy's share is represented by the two 5c Black on Yellow stamps,  
which were applied by the Letter Express office.

American Letter Mail Co.'s share is represented by the one Large Eagle stamp,  
which was applied by the Pomeroy office.

In effect, the Pomeroy and American Letter Mail Co. stamps are credits, reflecting  
accounting between firms for the division of the postage paid by the sender.

The Letter Express stamps are cancelled by pen. The Pomeroy stamps are cancelled by red "Cd."

The Large Eagle stamp is uncanceled; the "Paid" and three-line handstamps  
were applied at the American Letter Mail Co. office in New York City.

**This is the only recorded Independent Mail cover with the stamps of three different companies.**



**The Largest Recorded Multiple of Any Wells' Letter Express Issue**

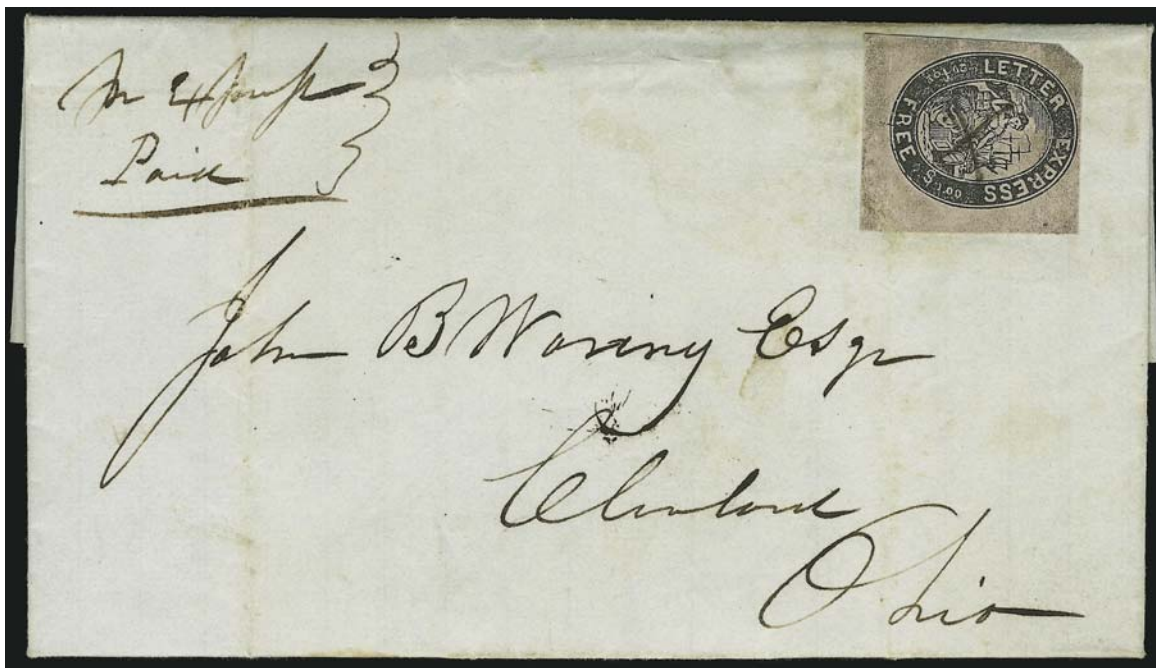


PFC 2003

5c Black on Pink.

Unused block of 10 from the top left corner of sheet (with original gum)

**This is the only recorded block of any of the Wells' Letter Express issues.**



5c Black on Pink. Detroit Mich. to Cleveland. September 5, 1844.

The following letters to New York City were carried by Letter Express to Buffalo or Albany and from there by another carrier (Overton & Co.). The advertised rate was 12½c (two oval stamps or one circular stamp). The Buffalo-NYC portion of the route was serviced by Pomeroy's Letter Express until sometime in October 1844. Letter Express ceased operations in November 1844.



Vertical pair of 5c Black on Pink. Cleveland to New York City. October 9, 1844.



Horizontal pair of 5c Black on Pink. Detroit Mich. to New York City. October 1844.



PFC 2000

Four 5c Black on Pink.

Double rate from Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, to New York City, September 14, 1844.

Letter mentions bank draft enclosure, thus double rate.

**The only recorded double-rate franking of the Goddess of Commerce Issue.**



### Conjunctive Usage with Pomeroy's Letter Express



5c Black on Pink. Front panel.

Cleveland to Allen's Hill, New York (south of Rochester), August 6, 1844.

#### Conjunctive usage with Pomeroy's Letter Express stamp.

The pair of Letter Express stamps prepays the  $6\frac{1}{4}$ c rate from Cleveland to Buffalo and from Buffalo to Allen's Hill by Pomeroy (additional  $6\frac{1}{4}$ c).

Pomeroy's share is represented by the 5c Black on Yellow stamp, which was applied by the Letter Express office.

**One of three recorded conjunctive usage covers with the 5c Oval stamp on Pink and Pomeroy's Letter Express stamp.**

**1844 Marine, Sword and Flag Issue—"20 for \$1.00"**  
**Printed from Typograph Plate (Number of Subjects Unknown)**

The circular Letter Express stamps depict an American marine charging ashore with sword raised and Union Flag waving, and a naval vessel in the background. The design, chosen for stamps that would be used in the Great Lakes region, has been described as a commemoration of the Battle of Lake Champlain during the War of 1812. Two types were produced, which differ in the lettering around the circle. They are easily distinguished by the paper: Type I was printed exclusively on Pink paper, while Type II was printed on Scarlet paper..

**Type I—Bold Letters Around Circle**  
**Printed Only on Pink Glazed Paper**



Type I.  
Pen-cancelled.



PFC 2000

Type I. Horizontal pair, pen-cancelled.  
Multiples of this issue are rare.

**The Largest Recorded Multiple of The Marine, Sword and Flag Issue**



PFC 2007

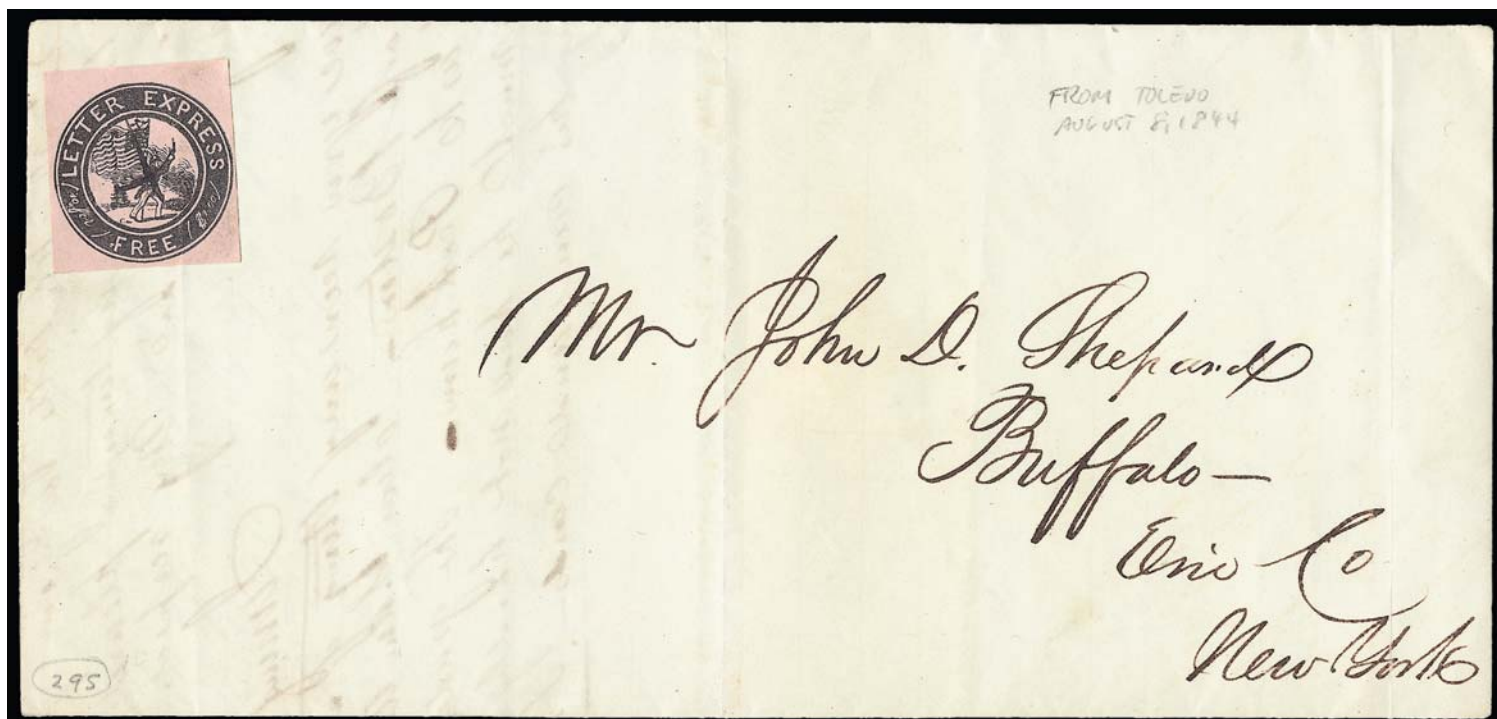
Type I.

Strip of three, pen-cancelled on piece.

**This is the only recorded strip of three, the largest multiple extant.**



**Double-Rate Use of Type I**



Type I.

Double rate from Toledo O. to Buffalo N.Y., August 8, 1844.

The advertised Letter Express rate to Buffalo was  $6\frac{1}{4}c$  (one oval stamp).

**Type II—Tall Thin Letters Around Circle  
Printed Only on Scarlet Glazed Paper**



Type II.  
Lettering around circle differs from Type I.

Both PFC 2000

**The Only Recorded Type II Multiple (Tête-Bêche Configuration)**



PFC 1995  
PSE 1991

Type II.

**Tête-Bêche pair with one stamp bisected.**

This multiple paid the 12½c rate that applied to several destinations serviced by the Letter Express.

**This is the only recorded Tête-Bêche configuration of any Letter Express stamp.**

**The pair (one and one-half stamps) is the only recorded 10c Scarlet multiple.**



**Double-Rate Use of Type II**



PFC 2007

**Type II.**

Double rate from Buffalo N.Y. to New York City, September 28, 1844.

The advertised Letter Express rate from Buffalo to New York City was 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>c (one oval stamp).

Red crayon street address at lower left.

**One of five recorded covers bearing the 10c Type II on Scarlet.**

### Conjunctive Usage with Pomeroy's Letter Express and Boyd's Local Post



PFC 2001

Type II.

Cleveland O. to New York City, delivered July 19, 1844.

#### Conjunctive usage with Pomeroy's Letter Express and Boyd's City Express Post.

The advertised Letter Express rate to New York City was 12½¢ (paid by one circular stamp).

The Letter Express carried the letter from Cleveland to Buffalo.

Pomeroy's Letter Express carried the letter from Buffalo to New York City.

Boyd's City Express Post delivered the letter to the 163 Front Street address.

Pomeroy's share is represented by the 5c Black on Yellow stamp,  
which was applied by the Letter Express office.

**One of four recorded covers with the Letter Express 10c Scarlet,  
three of which are used in combination with a Pomeroy's Letter Express stamp.**

**This cover is the only 10c Scarlet/Pomeroy combination delivered by Boyd's local post.**

### Conjunctive Usage with Pomeroy's Letter Express



EX PERRY

Type II.

Monroe Mich. to New York City, October 5, 1844.

#### Conjunctive usage with Pomeroy's Letter Express stamp.

The advertised Letter Express rate to New York City was 12½c (paid by one circular stamp).

Pomeroy's (or another carrier's) share is represented by the 5c Black on Yellow stamp, which was applied by the Letter Express office.

**One of four recorded covers with the Letter Express 10c Scarlet, three of which are used in combination with a Pomeroy's Letter Express stamp.**

#### Conjunctive Usage with Pomeroy Stamps in October 1844

The Letter Express carried this letter from Monroe to Buffalo or possibly further east to Albany. From there it was carried by another firm to New York City. Pomeroy's Letter Express had previously announced it was going out of business, but other covers prove that Pomeroy was still carrying mail into early October. The Albany-Buffalo route was taken over by Wells' Letter Express, and the Albany-New York City route went to Overton & Co. The presence of the Pomeroy stamp on this letter indicates that Pomeroy may have still been involved in one leg of the route or that Pomeroy stamps were still valid for the purpose of crediting a portion of the prepaid postage.

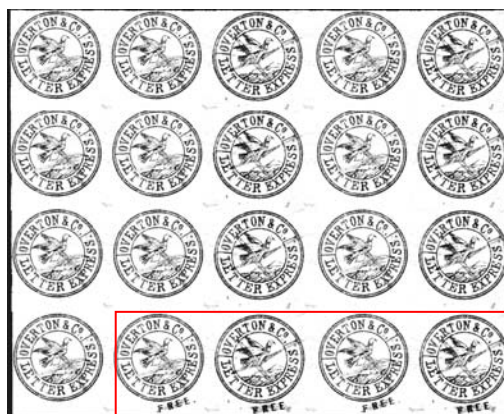


## OVERTON & COMPANY

Overton & Co. was a letter-and-package express and foreign-mail forwarding agency founded by Richard C. Overton prior to July 3, 1844, and closed June 30, 1845. The principal route was between Boston and New York. Overton & Co. issued stamps for use on inter-city letters.

### 1844 Bird & Letter Issue—5c Black on Greenish (Unstated Denomination) Printed from Typographed Plate (Probably 20 Subjects)

The Overton stamps are known with and without “Free”. An article by Richard Schwartz (*Penny Post*, Oct. 1994) puts forth a theory explaining the meaning of the “Free”. Stamps were sold singly at 6¼ cents each, or 20 stamps for a dollar (5c each). Therefore, the purchaser of a sheet of 20 would essentially receive four free stamps. For emphasis, “Free” was added below four positions. The existence of a bottom left corner margin stamp without “Free” rules out a sheet of five rows of four. If the sheet were four rows of five, the four last stamps would have the “Free” (diagram shown below).



“Free”

Red “Cd.” cancel (old Pomeroy device)

### The Earliest Recorded Use of Overton Stamp



PFC 2001

New York City to Providence R.I., docketed July 29, 1844. Red oval and pen cancel.  
Overton's earliest advertisement is dated July 3, 1844. On July 22, expanded service was announced, including the route to Providence R.I.

**This July 29, 1844, cover is the earliest recorded use of the Overton & Co. stamp.**



PFC 2009

Valentine from Albany to student at Yale College in New Haven, February 1845.  
Overton (5c) Black on Greenish cancelled by "Cd." formerly used by Pomeroy.  
Carried by Overton to New York City and handstamped by City Mail Co.  
Placed into regular mails with red New York Feb. 15 circular datestamp and ms. "20" rate.

**Conjunctive Usage with Letter Express and One of Three Known Pairs on Cover**

Horizontal pair. New York City to Detroit, October 3, 1844.  
 Stamps pen-cancelled. Red "Paid" applied en route (see notes below).

**Conjunctive usage with Wells' Letter Express and possibly Pomeroy's Letter Express.**

**One of three recorded pairs of the Bird & Letter stamp on cover.**

#### **Use of Pomeroy Markings on Overton Covers**

The 12½c rate is paid by the pair. The letter was carried by Overton to Albany. Pomeroy had already announced it would stop carrying letters, but covers indicate that the firm was still carrying mail in early October. The Albany-Buffalo route was taken over by Wells, and the Albany-NYC route went to Overton.

The "Paid" handstamp has features which exactly match the "Paid" at the center of the "Pomeroy & Co.'s Express, Paid" handstamp found on covers dated from November 1843 to January 1844, carried between its Albany and NYC offices. The "Paid" without the outer lettering next appears on Pomeroy covers dated from August 1844. These covers indicate that the Albany office had possession of the "Paid" device.

The Pomeroy "Paid" and "Cd." markings are next recorded on Overton covers. The "Paid" is found on covers dated in early October 1844, and the "Cd." is known on Overton stamps. Pomeroy and Overton had offices in the same building in Albany, and it seems certain that Overton inherited these devices when Pomeroy quit the mail business.



**The Only Recorded Multiple with “Free” Imprint**

PFC 2000

Horizontal pair with “Free” Imprint.  
New York City to Detroit Mich., October 18, 1844.

**Conjunctive usage with Wells’ Letter Express.**

12½c rate paid by pair. Carried by Overton to Albany, then by Letter Express to Detroit.  
By mid-October, Pomeroy was out of business, and Wells took over the Albany-Buffalo route.

**The only recorded multiple of the Bird & Letter “Free” Stamp.**

**One of three recorded pairs of the Bird & Letter stamp on cover.**

### POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS

Pomeroy's Letter Express was established in June 1844 as a letter-carrying business, separate from the package express of Pomeroy & Company, which was founded in July 1841 by George Pomeroy. The principal route was between Buffalo, Albany and New York City. Pomeroy announced the end of mail service in September 1844, but letters carried in early October are recorded.

#### 1844 (June) Issue—Black on Yellow Glazed Paper—"20 for \$1" Printed from Engraved Plate of 40 Subjects (Two Panes of 20, 4 x 5)

The plate of 40 subjects (right and left panes of 20) existed in two states. In one state, some or all of the 40 subjects had the value "\$1" incomplete or obliterated, and stamps were printed from this state of the plate exclusively on Yellow Glazed paper. The same paper was used to print stamps from the plate with the Value Complete.



Value  
Complete



Value  
Incomplete



PFC 2001

Value Complete. Buffalo to New York City, July 3, 1844. Early use.  
Red "Cd." cancel.

#### Conjunctive usage with Boyd's for local delivery.

Boyd's datestamp and "Free" applied July 5.

Postscript reads: "*Pomeroy & Co. are carrying letters now between here & NY for 6c each or 20 stamps for a dollar. It reduces the expense*".

**Value Incomplete—Black on Yellow Glazed Paper**



Value Incomplete. Red "Cd." cancel applied at Albany.

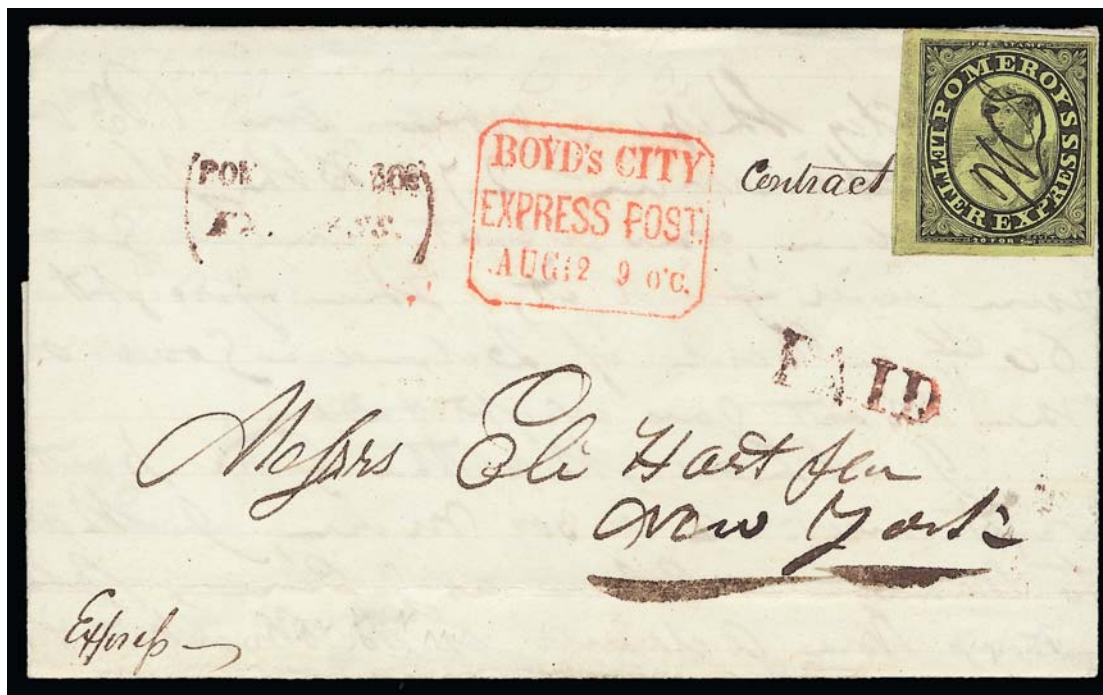
New York City, to Albany, July 10, 1844.

**Approximately twelve examples of the  
Value Incomplete plate variety are known on cover.**



Value Incomplete





PFC 2000

Value Incomplete. Manuscript "WCS" cancel.  
Penn Yan N.Y. to New York City, August 9, 1844.

Red "Paid" and "Pomeroy & Co.'s Express" applied at Albany.

**Conjunctive usage with Boyd's datestamp applied August 12.**



PFC 2001

Value Incomplete. Red "Cd." cancel.  
Geneva N.Y. to New York City, August 14, 1844.

**Conjunctive usage with Boyd's datestamp applied August 16.**

**Triple Conjunctive Usage with Hale and Crofoot**

Value complete.

Unknown origin (probably Buffalo N.Y.) to Newburyport Mass., circa August 1844.

**Triple conjunctive use with Hale & Co. and H. T. Crofoot's Newburyport Letter Office.**

Pomeroy's Letter Express carried the letter from its Buffalo office ("Pomeroy's Mail") to Albany.

Hale & Co. carried the letter from Albany (red oval) to Boston.

H. T. Crofoot (blue oval) carried the letter from Boston to Newburyport.

The total amount of prepaid postage from the western New York origin to Newburyport Mass. was 12½c, or two stamps.

The Pomeroy stamp paid half the rate, and the Hale & Co. 5c Blue Second State paid the other half. It is not clear if or how Crofoot was compensated.

**This is the only recorded cover with a combination of Pomeroy and Hale stamps.**

**It is one of five recorded triple-conjunctive usages involving stamps.**



Value Complete. Albany to New York City, August 6, 1844.  
Red "Cd." cancel applied at Albany.



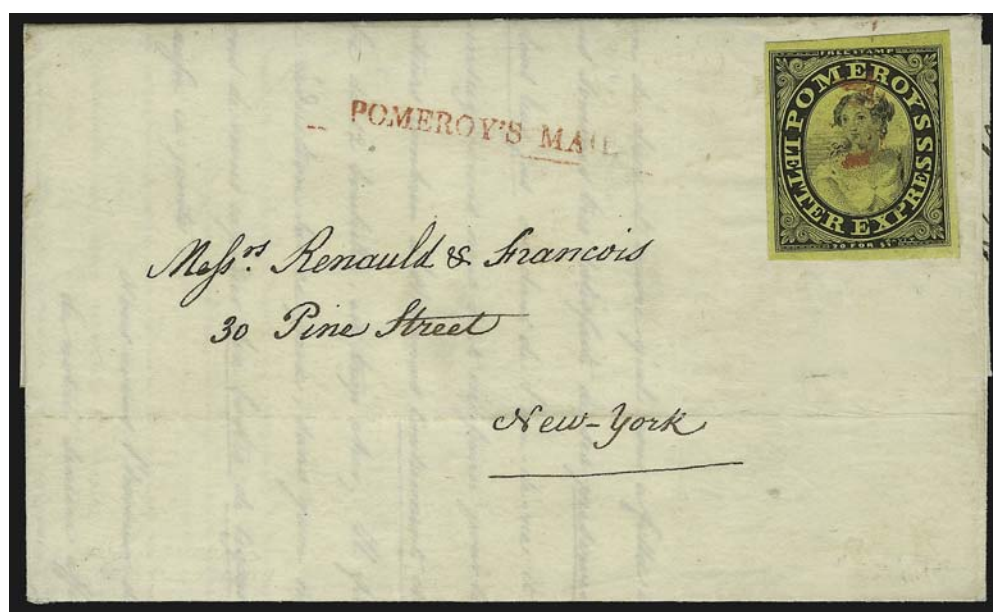
Value complete. Albany to Syracuse N.Y., August 16, 1844.  
Red "Cd." cancel and scarce "Pomeroy's Mail" handstamp applied at Albany.





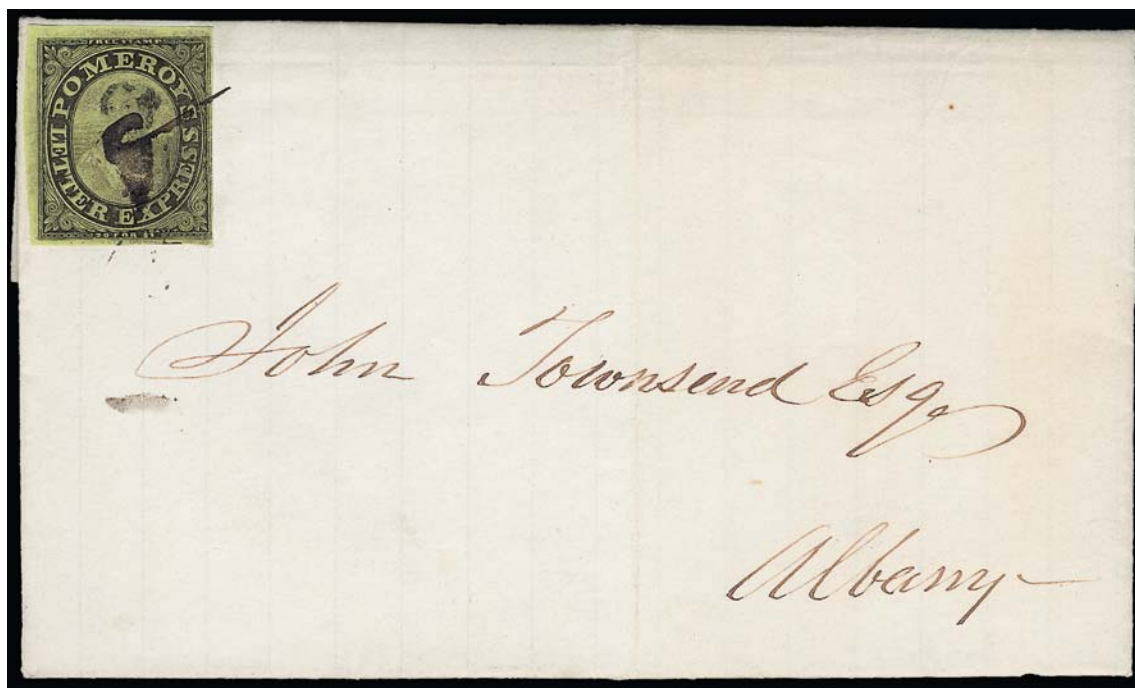
PFC 2000

Value complete. Buffalo to New York City, July 18, 1844.  
Red "Cd." cancel and "**Pomeroy & Co.'s Express**" handstamp.



PFC 2001

Value complete. Buffalo to New York City, July 18, 1844.  
Red "Cd." cancel and scarce "**Pomeroy's Mail**" straightline.



PFC 2000

Value Complete. Rochester to Albany, August 7, 1844.  
**Manuscript “C” cancel** applied by Rochester agent, Daniel Hoyt.



PFC 2000

Value Complete. Rome N.Y. to Albany, July 18, 1844.  
**Manuscript “Rome” cancel.**



PFC 2001

Value Complete. Red "Cd." cancel.  
 Whitehall N.Y. to New York City, August 5, 1844.

**Conjunctive usage with Boyd's for local delivery.**  
 Boyd's datestamp and "Free" applied August 8.



Value Complete. Red "Cd." cancel.  
 To Philadelphia, possibly from Racine, Wisconsin Terr. (contents), ca. July 1844.

**Conjunctive usage with American Letter Mail Company**  
 American Letter Mail Company Philadelphia circle on back.



# 1844 Issue Colors and Papers—Issued/Unissued

## Thick Wove Paper (Unissued)



Black on Buff

Black on Yellow  
Surface-Colored

Black on Yellow Colored-Thru  
(Ungummed)

Black on Orange-Yellow Colored-Thru  
(Gummed)

## Thin Pelure Paper (Some Probably Issued)



Deep Milky Blue

Black

Chocolate Brown (Unissued)

## Thin Handmade Bond Paper (Issued)



Blue

Black

Lake



Orange Red/Dull Red

Chocolate Brown (Unissued)

Bright Yellow (Unissued—1 Recorded)

## Medium Fibrous Paper (Unissued)



Blue

Black

Red

Orange

Brown

## 5c Lake on Thin Handmade Bond Paper



5c Lake. New York City to Albany, July 31, 1844.

Manuscript "RLO" cancel and red "Pomeroy & Co.'s Express" handstamp (modified).

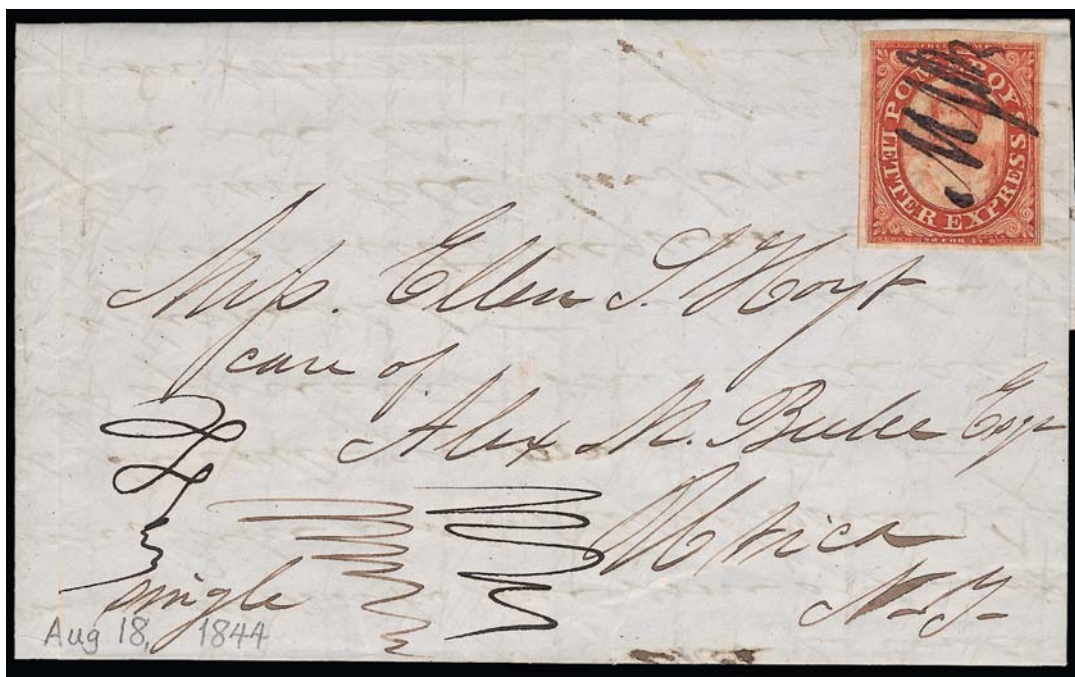


PFC 2001

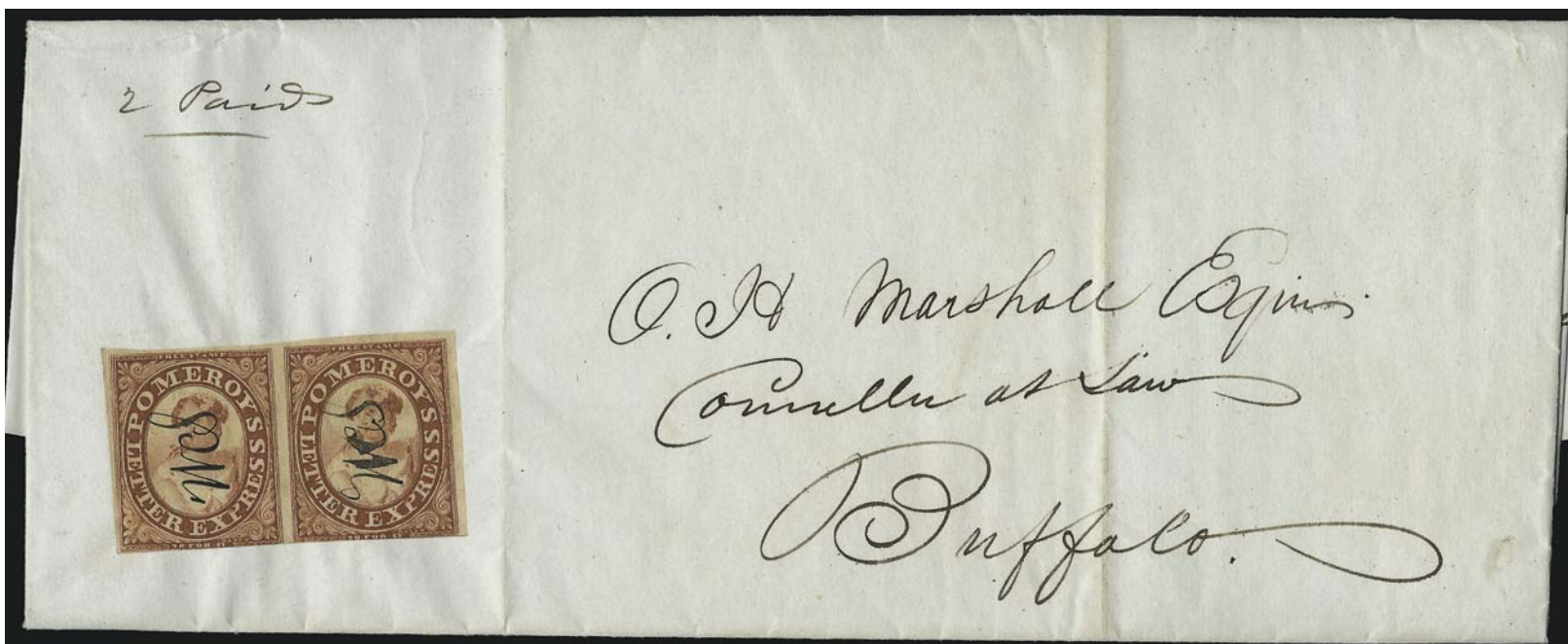
5c Lake. New York City to Albany, August 6, 1844.

Red "Paid" cancel probably applied at Albany.





5c Lake. New York City to Utica, August 18, 1844.  
Manuscript "NYk" cancel.



Pair of 5c Lake.  
Double rate from New York City to Buffalo, July 30, 1844. Sender's notation "2 Paid".  
Manuscript "WCS" cancel.





PFC 2000

5c Lake. New York City to Detroit Mich., August 14, 1844.

**Conjunctive usage with Wells' Letter Express.**

Pomeroy carried this letter to Buffalo (paid by stamp).

Wells completed the trip to Detroit (ms. "Collect 6")



**Same correspondence (for comparison).** Horizontal pair of Overton 5c Bird & Letter Issue.

New York City to Detroit, October 11, 1844.

Pomeroy's "Paid" handstamp (Albany) is present on this conjunctive-use cover to Detroit, but it is not certain if Pomeroy was actually involved in carrying mail at this date.

See Overton & Co. for a detailed explanation of this usage.

## 5c Black on Thin Handmade Bond Paper



5c Black. Probably Buffalo origin to New York City. Undated.  
Red "Cd." cancel. Scarce red "Pomeroy's Mail" straightline.

Conjunctive usage with Boyd's datestamp and "Paid J.T.B." applied July 23 (1844).



5c Black. Probably Buffalo origin to New York City, July 9, 1844.  
Manuscript cancel. No Pomeroy office markings.

Conjunctive usage with Boyd's datestamp and "Paid J.T.B." applied July 15.





5c Black pen-cancelled. Double rate from Buffalo to New York City, September 3, 1844.

Conjunctive usage with Boyd's datestamp applied September 6.

A turned usage. The letter was originally sent by Hale, but it was received as a Steamboat letter with 52c postage due. The writer is returning it with an explanatory note.



**One of Three Recorded Multiples of 5c Black on Cover**

PFC 2001

Pair of 5c Black. Double rate from New York City to Buffalo via Albany., August 17, 1844.  
Red "Pomeroy & Co.'s Express" handstamp. The "Paid" cancels applied at Albany.

**One of three recorded multiples of Pomeroy's Black stamp on cover  
(the only larger on-cover multiple is a strip of four).**

**The Only Recorded Combination with a Boyd's Stamp**



PFC 2000

Lake Champlain N.Y. to New York City, August 24, 1844.

**Local delivery prepaid with Boyd's City Express Post 2c Green, First Issue,  
affixed over Pomeroy's Letter Express 5c Black.**

Cancelled by red "Free" with Boyd's datestamp applied August 27.

**5c Orange Red on Thin Handmade Bond Paper****The Earliest Recorded Use of a Pomeroy Stamp on Unglazed Paper**

PFC 2000

5c Orange Red. Auburn N.Y. to New York City. No origin indicated (July 1844 docketing).

Ms. "Paid" cancel on stamp. Tiny red "Paid" known used from Auburn.

**Conjunctive usage with Boyd's for local delivery.**

Boyd's datestamp applied July 3 (1844), indicating June 30-July 1 origin date.

**The earliest recorded use of a Pomeroy stamp other than the Black on Yellow Glazed.**



**The Largest Recorded Multiple of 5c Orange Red on Cover**



PFC 2000

Vertical strip of three of 5c Orange Red, Positions 12/16/20.

Triple rate from Albany to Norwich N.Y., August 16, 1844.

Scarce red "Pomeroy's Mail" handstamp and "Paid" straightline both applied at Albany.

**The largest recorded multiple of Pomeroy's Red stamp on cover.**

**5c Blue on Thin Handmade Bond Paper****Pomeroy's Stamps Used to Forward Letter Sent Through U.S. Post Office**PFC 2000  
Repaired tear

Mount Vernon O. to Rochester, forwarded to New York City, August 31, 1844.

37½c double rate via regular U.S. mails. Given to Pomeroy's Letter Express at Rochester.

Pair of 5c Blue (uncancelled) applied at Rochester pays double rate.

**Conjunctive usage with Boyd's for local delivery.**

Boyd's datestamp applied August 31.

**The only recorded combination of Pomeroy's Letter Express and U.S. government mails.**

**One of six recorded 5c Blue pairs on cover.**

## Conjunctive Usage with Hale &amp; Co.



PFC 2000

Horizontal pair of 5c Blue. Rochester N.Y. to Boston, July 1844 (no day indicated).

Carried by Pomeroy from Rochester to Albany, then by Hale & Co. to Boston.

Half of prepaid postage credited to Hale & Co.



PFC 2000

Horizontal pair of 5c Blue. Rochester N.Y. to Boston, July 31, 1844.

Carried by Pomeroy from Rochester to Albany, then by Hale & Co. to Boston.

Red Hale Albany office oval. Half of prepaid postage credited to Hale & Co.

**Six covers with 5c Blue pairs are recorded.**



## WM. WYMAN'S LETTER OFFICE

William Wyman established his "cheap postage" letter express on August 1, 1844, with service between New York and Boston. On December 14, 1844, Wyman sold the business to Overton.

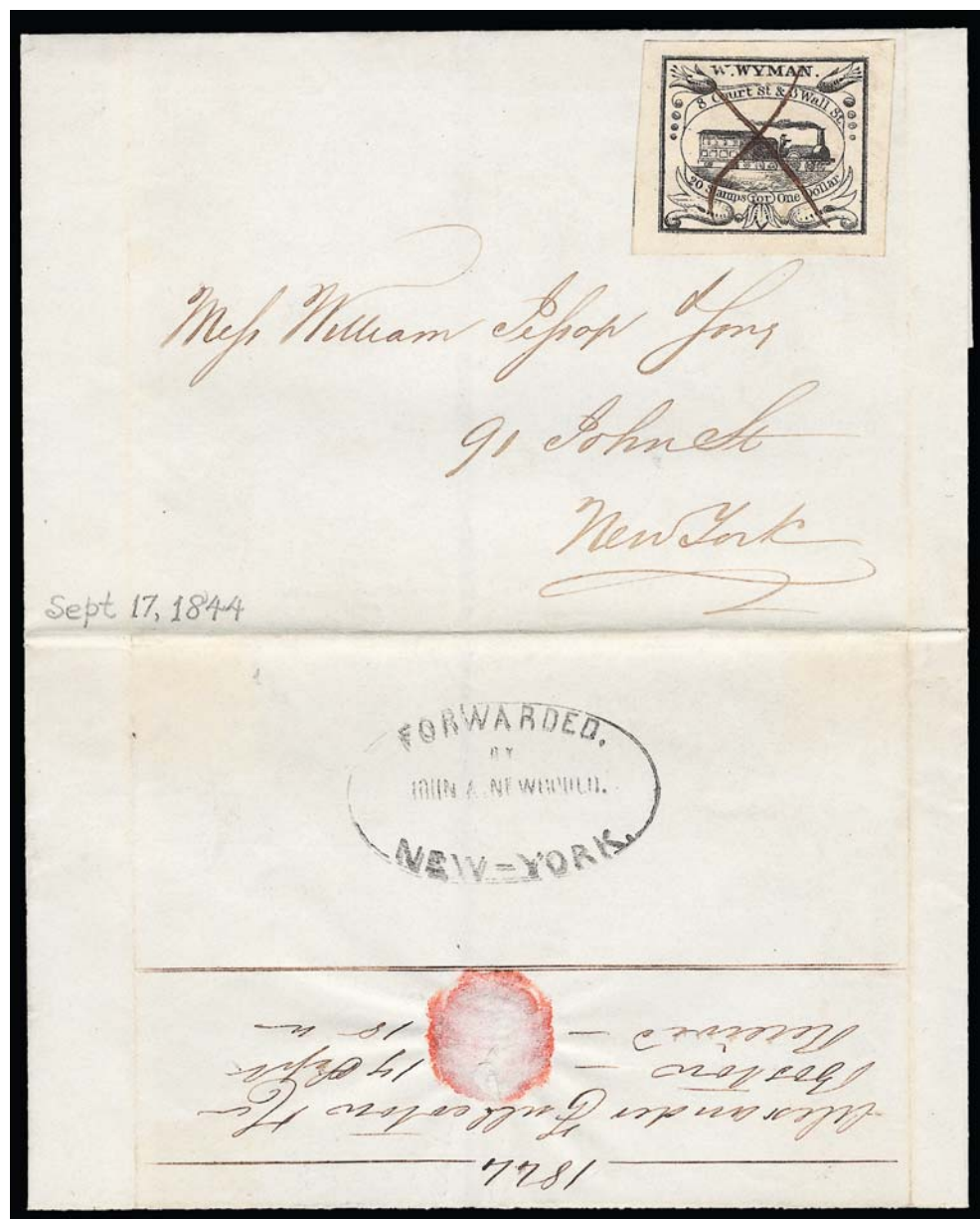
### 1844 Issue—"20 Stamps for One Dollar" Printed from Engraved Plate (Probably 20 Subjects)



Boston to New York City, November 20, 1844.

Manuscript "X" cancel and red framed handstamp applied in Boston.

**The world's first stamp to depict a locomotive.**



PFC 2000

Boston to New York City, September 17, 1844.

Carried by Wyman to New York City.

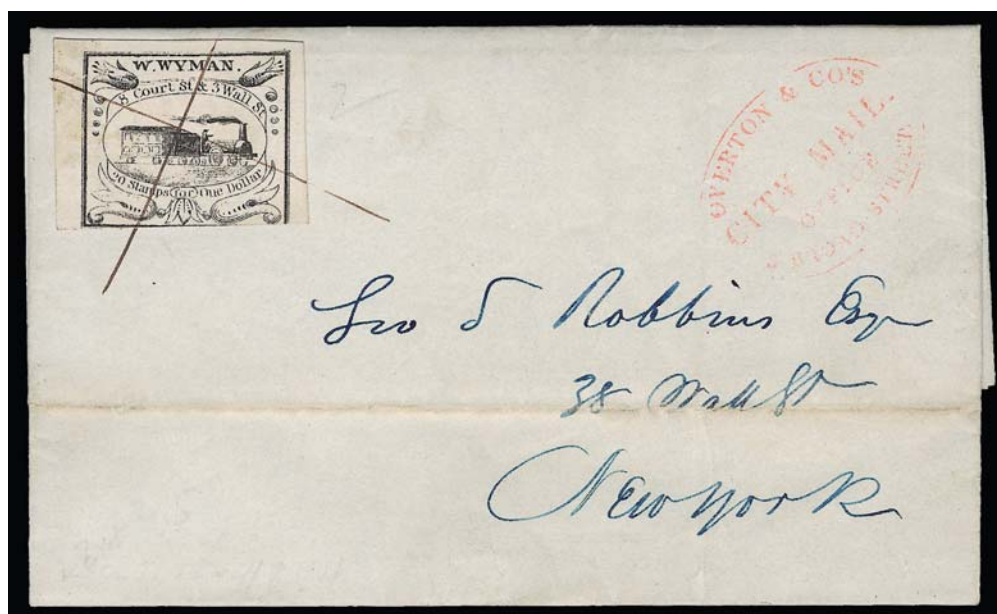
“Forwarded by John A. Newbould” oval backstamp (Newbould may have applied this marking before the letter was carried by Wyman or after it arrived in New York).

**Wyman's Stamp Used After Sale to Overton & Co.**

Following the sale to Overton & Co., Wyman announced that his distinctive Locomotive stamps—the first stamps in the world to depict a train—could be redeemed or used on mail given to Overton. In a postscript to the letter below, the writer informs us *"I will use Wymans last stamp on hand today"*.



Cancelled by red oval handstamp of  
**Overton & Co.'s City Mail office.**



PFC 2000

Boston to New York City, December 31, 1844.

The cover bears the red oval handstamp of **Overton & Co.'s City Mail office.**

Postscript reads *"I will use Wymans last stamp on hand today"*.

**Only two recorded covers show acceptance of Wyman's stamps by Overton.**



**Wyman's Stamp Used After Sale to Overton & Co.**



PFC 2009

Boston to New York City, January 26, 1845.

The cover bears the red oval handstamp of **Overton & Co.'s City Mail** office.

**Only two recorded covers show acceptance of Wyman's stamps by Overton.**

**This is the only recorded double rate.**