

THE
MIKE FARRELL
COLLECTION
OF PRIVATE US MAIL SERVICES
INCLUDING THE HISTORY, FORGERIES, & FANTASIES OF
UNITED STATES LOCAL POSTS, CARRIERS,
INDEPENDENT MAIL ROUTES, & EXPRESS CO.S

THIRD AVENUE POST OFFICE



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Descriptions in the Farrell Collection were written based on personal research and sources including, but not limited to: Articles in the Carriers and Locals Society's *The Penny Post*; Amos Media's *Scott Catalogue*; Patton's *The Private Local Post of the United States*; Springer's *Handbook of North American Cinderella Stamps*; Lyons' *Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States*; articles in the USPS's *The Chronicle*; Mosher's *Catalog of Private Express Labels and Stamps*; The Eastern Independent Mail Company Study Group's *Eastern Independent Mail Companies and Express Mail Companies 1840-1845*; the United Postal Stationery Society's *The Western Express Companies 1850-1890 A Catalog of Their Franks and Hand Stamps*; Elliot Perry's *Pat Paragraphs*; James N. Drummond's *Catalog of Philatelic Miscellany*; auction lot descriptions from Seigel Auction Galleries, Kelleher Auctions, H.R. Harmer, and Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions; in-period directories and newspaper archives; and the notes of George Sloane and Gordon Stimmell.

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Unless otherwise noted, stamps are identified by their Scott Catalogue numbers and forgeries are identified by their Lyons Identifier type. Express labels and forgeries are identified by their Mosher's Catalog numbers. Western express franks are identified by their listing in the United States Postal Stationery Society catalog. Scott numbers in parenthesis under listed forgeries represent approximately what stamp the forgery is attempting to imitate.

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THIRD AVENUE POST OFFICE

Third Avenue Post Office (3rd Ave. Post) stamps and handstamps are known used on mail around 1855. These covers indicate that although the post made local deliveries, most of the post's business was carrying letters from boxes and pick up locations to the government post office for further delivery. Other than the existence of these genuine covers, very little in-period or confirmed information is available regarding this local.



139L3
GENUINE
2¢ BLACK ON
YELLOW PAPER
DIE CUT



139L6
(LIKELY) GENUINE
2¢ BLACK ON
BUFF PAPER
DIE CUT

The post is attributed to Simon Rothenheim, who is listed as a clerk in New York City directories (*Doggett's* 1854-1855; *Trow's* 1856-1857). Most of the information about the history of this post originates

3RD AVENUE P. O.

According to Mr. S. Allan Taylor, this post was established in 1855, or 1856, by one S. Rothenheim, a carrier for Boyd's post. The stamps he made himself, with a handstamp of either brass or metal. He afterwards gummed and trimmed them carefully, and put them up in pill-boxes for sale, on the principle that they got lost and destroyed better that way, and more were the sooner asked for. Street letter-boxes being generally kept at groceries, the usual place for the stamps was the till or cash-drawer, where they got greatly tossed about, and being separate, small, and gummed, they were easily destroyed. The stamp was similar in size and shape to the oval East River post office labels, the inscription being AVE. 3, P. O. S. R.,

PAID. The impression was black on green. Copies of this stamp are virtually unattainable; but those of a forgery, of Montreal manufacture, lettered 3RD AVENUE S. R. POST OFFICE, in an oblong, are plentiful.

from S. Allan Taylor. Taylor's accounts were referenced in the first known record of the post: "Notes on the United States Locals VIII." by W. Dudley Atlee, published in *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* vol. 10 (1872). Genuine examples of the 3rd Ave. Post stamps are very scarce today. According to Taylor, this was by design, as the reason the stamps were die cut was to make them easy to misplace (requiring customers to purchase more). Taylor profited from their scarcity by producing many forgeries and bogus stamps under the post's name.

SECTION OF ARTICLE "NOTES ON THE UNITED STATES LOCALS VIII" BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE
FROM THE *STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE* VOL. 10, 1872

THIRD AVENUE POST OFFICE

S. Allan Taylor is responsible for most of the forgeries and bogus stamps that exist of the "Third Avenue Post Office". His forgery with the closest resemblance to the real stamps has a dash instead of a period between "AVE" and "POST".



FORGERY A
TAYLOR - FORM AB15
2c BLACK
ON GRAY BLUE
(139L4)



FORGERY A
TAYLOR - FORM AB15
2c BLACK
ON GREEN SC
(139L1)



FORGERY A
TAYLOR - FORM AB15
2c BLACK
ON DARK GREEN SC
(139L1)



FORGERY A
TAYLOR - FORM AB15
2c BLACK
ON VERMILION SC
(139L2)



FORGERY A
TAYLOR - FORM BB4
2c RED
ON GRAY BLUE HLAID
(139L4)



FORGERY A
TAYLOR - FORM BB4
2c RED
ON ORANGE
(139L5)



FORGERY A
TAYLOR - FORM BB4
2c RED
ON BLUISH GREEN
(139L8)



FORGERY A
TAYLOR
2c RED
ON ORANGE YELLOW
(139L3)



FORGERY A
TAYLOR
2c RED
ON BUFF
(139L6)

This unlisted forgery appears to be cut from a catalogue. It is very similar to Taylor's forgery, but with slightly different lettering and a period between "AVE" and "POST".



UNLISTED FORGERY
2c BLACK
ON WHITE
(139L6)
CATALOGUE CUT

THIRD AVENUE POST OFFICE

Taylor's second forgery is nothing like the original stamp, and could also be considered a bogus stamp. The stamp is smaller, and the top line reads "AVE. 3." while the bottom line reads "POST OFFICE".



FORGERY A
TAYLOR - FORM AB18
BLACK
ON LIGHT BLUE



FORGERY A
TAYLOR - FORM AB18
BLACK
ON BRIGHT GREEN SC



FORGERY A
TAYLOR - FORM AB18
BLACK
ON GREEN SC

The other bogus stamp Taylor made is rectangular, and comes in two variations with the R in "3RD" being a different size.



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM M1
BLACK
ON WHITE V. LAID



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM M1
BLACK
ON OFF-WHITE V. LAID



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM M1
BLACK
ON GREEN SC



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM M1
BLACK
ON VERMILION SC



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM M1
BLACK
ON YELLOW SC



BOGUS 1 VAR
TAYLOR - FORM M1
BLACK
ON WHITE



BOGUS 1 VAR
TAYLOR - FORM M1
BLACK
ON GREEN SC



BOGUS 1 VAR
TAYLOR - FORM M1
BLACK
ON VERMILION SC

THIRD AVENUE POST OFFICE

The next bogus is similar to Taylor's rectangular bogus, but with a smaller "3RD" and the period after "S" in "S. R." is higher up.



BOGUS 2
BLACK
ON PINK SC



BOGUS 2
BLACK
ON BRIGHT GREEN SC



BOGUS 2
BLACK
ON GREEN SC

Another similar rectangular bogus exists, this time with the top line reading "AVENUE 8 RD". The printing of this stamp is poor and can result with some periods missing.



BOGUS 3
RED (SHADE)
ON WHITE



BOGUS 3
RED (SHADE)
ON WHITE

This final, probably modern, bogus is an oval stamp like the original stamp. It has the top line reading "AVE. 3. P.O." and the bottom line reads "PAID".



MODERN BOGUS 4
BLACK
ON GREEN SC
V. PERF 11