

THE
MIKE FARRELL
COLLECTION
OF INDEPENDENT MAILS

INCLUDING THE HISTORY, FORGERIES, & FANTASIES OF
UNITED STATES, LOCAL POSTS, CARRIERS,
INDEPENDENT MAIL ROUTES, & EXPRESS CO.S

ADAMS CITY EXPRESS

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Unless otherwise noted, stamps are identified by their Scott Catalogue numbers and forgeries are identified by their Lyons Identifier type. Scott numbers in parenthesis under listed forgeries represent approximately what stamp the forgery is attempting to imitate.

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(ADAMS') CITY EXPRESS POST

Originally named "Adams' City Express Post", this local New York City post operated around 1850-1852. Not much other than speculation was known about the operation until new evidence was published in the Collector's Club *Philatelist* in 2014.

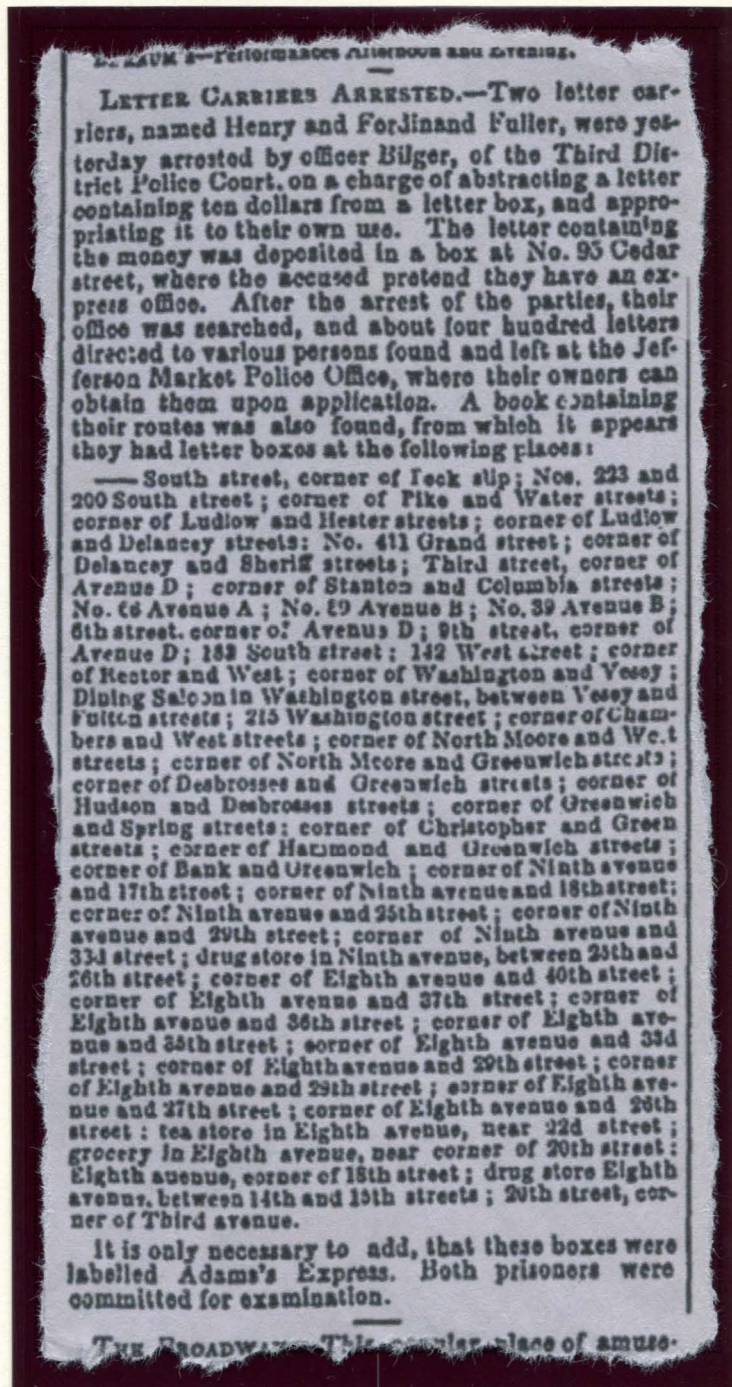
The post was a scam run by the brothers Henry and Ferdinand Fuller. In 1850, Henry worked as a letter carrier for the Bowery Post Office, but was arrested for opening letters entrusted to him for delivery. Despite being caught, he must have still seen mail theft as a lucrative opportunity. The following year, Henry and Ferdinand set up their own local post under the name "Adam's City Express."

Although the Fullers used their business as a means of robbing customers, the post was probably at least semi-legitimate. The brothers set up at least fifty post boxes and produced stamps for their patrons.



EXAMPLE OF ORIGINAL
ADAMS' CITY EXPRESS
2¢ STAMP
(2L2)
FROM SIEGEL SALE 925

Enough trust must have been built between Adams' City Express and its customers that over 300 letters were confiscated from their office on Cedar Street after their arrest in late August, when Henry was caught taking \$10 from a letter that was deposited in one of their boxes.



NEWSPAPER CLIPPING FROM THE EVENING POST
NEW YORK CITY, THURSDAY, AUGUST 28TH, 1851

(ADAMS') CITY EXPRESS POST

After over ten days in jail, the brothers were released and charges were dropped on a writ of *habeas corpus*. According to a September 15th news report, the trial was so delayed while the police magistrate attempted to obtain "sufficient evidence to commit them for trial."

Once released, the brothers continued with their scam, this time dropping the name "Adams" and working under "City Express". They produced a new series of stamps, replacing the word "ADAMS" on the left side with scrollwork.



2L3
GENUINE
1c BLACK
ON GRAY

This second post was even shorter lived than their first, running only briefly during the autumn of 1851. When the brothers were once again caught taking money from letters entrusted in their care, they were arrested. This time they were charged not only with theft, but also for carrying letters outside the mails.

Regarding the legitimacy of the stamps, covers dated from April to August 1851 may have been genuinely delivered to the post through Adams' City Express. Covers dated in September or October of 1851 may have been genuinely delivered by City Express.

While original stamps from the operation are extremely scarce, there are plenty of reprints of the City Express Post stamps. It is very difficult to tell the reprints apart from the originals, and often the only way is by checking the paper. Genuine stamps are printed on a more grayish pelure paper, while the reprints were printed on a slightly thicker paper, in shades from white to buff.

(ADAMS') CITY EXPRESS POST

The reprints of the 1¢ stamps were printed in black and in shades of blue. The blue ink can sometimes change into a grayish green over time. Full sheets exist out of twenty-five stamps, arranged five by five.



REPRINT
1¢ BLACK
ON WHITE
(2L3)



REPRINT
1¢ BLACK
ON WHITE
(2L3)



REPRINT
1¢ BLACK
ON OFF-WHITE
(2L3)



REPRINT
1¢ BLACK
ON BUFF
(2L3)



REPRINT
1¢ BLACK
ON CREAM
(2L3)



REPRINT
1¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON WHITE
(2L3)



REPRINT
1¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON WHITE
(2L3)



REPRINT
1¢ GRAYISH BLUE
ON WHITE
(2L3)



REPRINT
1¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON OFF-WHITE
(2L3)



REPRINT
1¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON BUFF
(2L3)



REPRINT
1¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON BUFF
(2L3)



REPRINT
1¢ GRAYISH GREEN
ON OFF-WHITE
(2L3)



REPRINT
1¢ GRAYISH GREEN
ON BUFF
(2L3)

(ADAMS') CITY EXPRESS POST



REPRINT
1¢ BLACK
ON WHITE
FULL SHEET OF TWENTY-FIVE
(2L3)

(ADAMS') CITY EXPRESS POST



REPRINT
1¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON WHITE
FULL SHEET OF TWENTY-FIVE
(2L3)

(ADAMS') CITY EXPRESS POST



REPRINT
1¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON WHITE
FULL SHEET OF TWENTY-FIVE
(2L3)

(ADAMS') CITY EXPRESS POST



REPRINT
1¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON WHITE
FULL SHEET OF TWENTY-FIVE
(2L3)

(ADAMS') CITY EXPRESS POST



REPRINT
1¢ GRAYISH BLUE
ON WHITE
BLOCK OF TEN
(2L3)

(ADAMS') CITY EXPRESS POST

The 2¢ stamps reprints were also printed in black and in shades of blue. The full sheets are made of fifty stamps, consisting out of five groupings of ten stamps each, arranged two by five. Three groupings are side by side on the top part of the sheet, followed by two groupings sideways underneath them.



REPRINT
2¢ BLACK
ON WHITE
(2L4)



REPRINT
2¢ BLACK
ON OFF-WHITE
(2L4)



REPRINT
2¢ BLACK
ON BUFF
(2L4)



REPRINT
2¢ BLACK
ON GRAYISH
(2L4)



REPRINT
2¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON WHITE
(2L5)



REPRINT
2¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON WHITE
(2L5)



REPRINT
2¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON WHITE
(2L5)



REPRINT
2¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON OFF-WHITE
(2L5)



REPRINT
2¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON OFF-WHITE
(2L5)



REPRINT
2¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON OFF-WHITE
(2L5)



REPRINT
2¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON BUFF
(2L5)

(ADAMS') CITY EXPRESS POST



REPRINT
2c BLACK ON WHITE
FULL SHEET OF FIFTY
(2L4)

(ADAMS') CITY EXPRESS POST



REPRINT
2¢ BLUE (SHADE) ON WHITE
FULL SHEET OF FIFTY
(2L5)

(ADAMS') CITY EXPRESS POST



REPRINT
2¢ BLUE (SHADE) ON WHITE
FULL SHEET OF FIFTY
(2L5)

(ADAMS) CITY EXPRESS POST



FORGERY A
1¢ BLACK
ON WHITE
(2L3)



FORGERY A
1¢ BLUE
ON WHITE
(2L3)



FORGERY A
1¢ BLACK
ON WHITE V LAID
(2L3)



FORGERY A
1¢ BLUE
ON WHITE V LAID
TÊTE-BÊCHE PAIR
(2L3)



FORGERY A
1¢ BLUE
ON WHITE V LAID
(2L3)



FORGERY B
1¢ BLUE
ON WHITE
(2L3)



FORGERY D
1¢ BLACK
ON WHITE
(2L3)



FORGERY D
1¢ BLUE
ON WHITE
(2L3)



FORGERY D1
1¢ BLUE
ON WHITE
(2L3)



FORGERY E
MOENS
1¢ RED
ON WHITE
(2L3)



FORGERY F
MOENS - 1883
1¢ BLUE
ON WHITE
(2L3)



FORGERY F
MOENS - 1883
1¢ BLUE
ON BUFF
(2L3)

(ADAMS) CITY EXPRESS POST

S. Allan Taylor's forgery of 2L3 is known in a variety of colors.



FORGERY C
TAYLOR - FORM 1
1c BLACK
ON SALMON
(2L3)



FORGERY C
TAYLOR - FORM 1
1c BLACK
ON BLuish
(2L3)



FORGERY C
TAYLOR - FORM 1
1c BLACK
ON WHITE WATERMARKED
(2L3)



FORGERY C
TAYLOR - FORM 1
1c BLACK
ON PALE PINK H LAID
(2L3)



FORGERY C
TAYLOR - (FORM 1)
1c BLACK
ON CREAM H LAID
(2L3)



FORGERY C
TAYLOR - FORM AA8
1c BLACK
ON DULL YELLOW
(2L3)



FORGERY C
TAYLOR - FORM AA8
1c BLACK
ON DULL BLUE
(2L3)



FORGERY C
TAYLOR - FORM AA8
1c BLACK
ON DULL GREEN
(2L3)



FORGERY C
TAYLOR
1c BLACK
ON GRAY
(2L3)

(ADAMS) CITY EXPRESS POST



FORGERY AA
2¢ BLACK
ON WHITE
(2L4)



FORGERY AA
2¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON WHITE
(2L4)



FORGERY AA
2¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON WHITE WOVE
(2L4)



FORGERY AA
2¢ BLACK
ON WHITE V LAID
(2L4)



FORGERY AA
2¢ BLUE
ON WHITE V LAID
(2L4)



FORGERY AA
2¢ BLUE
ON WHITE V LAID
TÊTE-BÊCHE
BLOCK OF TWELVE
(2L4)

(ADAMS) CITY EXPRESS POST



FORGERY BB
2¢ DULL BLUE
ON WHITE
(2L4)



FORGERY BB
2¢ BLUE
ON BUFF
(2L4)



FORGERY DD
2¢ BLACK
ON WHITE PELURE
(2L4)



FORGERY DD
2¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON WHITE PELURE
(2L4)



FORGERY DD
2¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON WHITE PELURE
(2L4)



FORGERY DD
2¢ BLUE (SHADE)
ON WHITE PELURE
(2L4)



FORGERY
MODERN (MICHEALS STORE)
2¢ BLACK
ON CANVAS
(2L4)

CRAFTING ELEMENT



FORGERY
MODERN
2¢ BLACK
ON BUFF
(2L4)