MIKE FARRELL COLLECTIONS OF INDEPENDENT MAILS

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

ADAMS CITY EXPRESS

The information and identification within these selections is the individual work of the Farrell Collection. It is always recommended to consult multiple sources for additional information or opinions. Local post company descriptions are based on information available at the time of writing.

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 USPCS's The Chronicle; Mosher's Catalog of Private Express Labels and Stamps; The Eastern Independent Mail Companies and Express Mail Companies 1840-1845; Elliot Perry's Pat Paragraphs; James N. Drummond's Catalog of Philatelic Miscellany; and the notes of George Sloane and Gordon Stimmell.

Colors listed for stamps and forgeries are the opinions of the Farrell Collection based on viewing physical copies of the pieces under consistent lighting. Colors in the .pdfs may be slightly inaccurate due to manipulations from the scanning process, computer monitor settings, or (in event that the files are printed for offline viewing) the printing process.

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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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 semilegitimate. 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.

LETTER CARRIERS ARRESTED .- Two letter carriers, named Henry and Fordinand Fuller, were yesriers, named Henry and Fordinand Fuller, were yesterday arrosted by officer Bilger, of the Third District Police Court. on a charge of abstracting a letter containing ten dollars from a letter box, and appropriating it to their own use. The letter containing the money was deposited in a box at No. 95 Cedar street, where the accused pretend they have an express office. After the arrest of the parties, their office was searched, and about four hundred letters directed to various persons found and left at the Jefferson Market Police Office, where their owners can obtain them upon application. A book containing their routes was also found, from which it appears they had letter boxos at the following places:

——South street, corner of lock slip: Nos. 223 and

their routes was also found, from which it appears they had letter boxes at the following places:

——South street; corner of Fick slip; Nos. 223 and 200 South street; corner of Fike and Water streets; corner of Ludlow and Hester streets; corner of Ludlow and Delancey streets: No. 411 Grand street; corner of Delancey and Sheriff streets; Third street, corner of Arenus D; corner of Stanton and Columbia streets; No. 64 Avenue A; No. 29 Avenue B; No. 39 Avenue B; Sth street. corner of Avenue D; 183 South street; 142 West alreet; corner of Avenue D; 183 South street; 142 West alreet; corner of Avenue D; 183 South street; late west lessy and Fulton streets; 215 Washington street, between Vesey and Fulton streets; 215 Washington street; corner of Chambers and West streets; corner of North Moore and West streets; corner of North Moore and West streets; corner of North Moore and Greenwich streets; corner of Hudson and Desbrosses streets; corner of Greenwich and Spring streets; corner of Christopher and Green streets; corner of Harlmond and Urcanwich streets; corner of Bank and Greenwich; corner of Ninth avenue and 17th street; corner of Ninth avenue and 17th street; corner of Ninth avenue and 33d street; drug store in Ninth avenue and 40th street; corner of Eighth avenue and 37th street; corner of Eighth avenue and 33d street; corner of Eighth avenue and 29th street; corner of Eighth avenue and 25th street; corner of Third avenue.

It is only necessary to a

It is only necessary to add, that these boxes were labelled Adams's Express. Both prisoners were committed for examination.

THE BROADWAYER This place of amuse-

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

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 1¢ 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.

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)



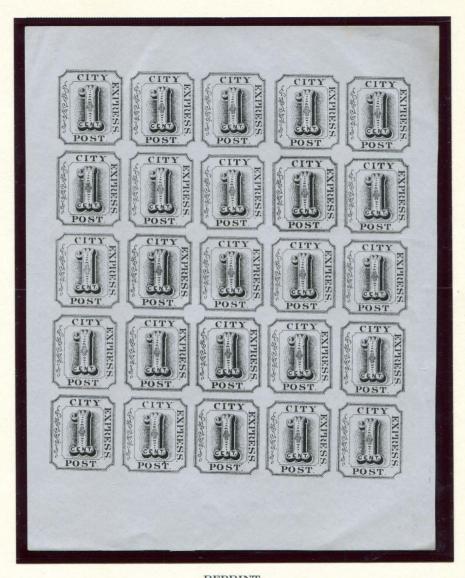
REPRINT 1¢ BLUE (SHADE) ON BUFF (2L3)



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



REPRINT 1¢ GRAYISH GREEN ON BUFF (2L3)



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



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



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



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



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

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 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)



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



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



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



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 I¢ 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 If BLUE ON WHITE (2L3)



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

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



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



FORGERY C TAYLOR - FORM 1 1¢ BLACK ON BLUISH (2L3)



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



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



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



FORGERY C TAYLOR - FORM AAS I&BLACK ON DULL YELLOW (2L3)



FORGERY C TAYLOR - FORM AAS 1¢ BLACK ON DULL BLUE (2L3)



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



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



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 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)