

THE  
MIKE FARRELL  
❧ COLLECTION ❧  
OF INDEPENDENT MAILS

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

BALDWIN'S RAILROAD

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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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# BALDWIN'S RAILROAD

The Baldwin Railroad Postage stamp, featuring the central image of a locomotive and a face value of "2 pence", is a bogus created by the firm Craig & Melvin in St. John, New Brunswick, Canada.

Edward A. Craig and Robert J. Melvin went into business as coin and stamp dealers in spring of 1865. At this time, the two also created their own bogus for sale. The name for the post was supposedly inspired by an "H. Baldwin" who operated an express office on the European and North American Railway line.

These stamps were printed by J.&A. McMillan. During the first printing, three colors of ink were used on five colors of paper. 1,500 stamps were printed, 100 of each color combination.

In advertising their business, the pair claimed they were the sole agents for the sale of "Baldwin's Railroad Postage" and that they received their stock from the proprietor himself. They claimed that the stamp was an obsolete local of which only a few existed.



BOGUS 1  
CRAIG & MELVIN  
2p BLACK  
ON WHITE



BOGUS 1  
CRAIG & MELVIN  
2p BLACK  
ON BLUE



BOGUS 1  
CRAIG & MELVIN  
2p BLUE  
ON YELLOW



BOGUS 1  
CRAIG & MELVIN  
2p BLUE  
ON BLUE



BOGUS 1  
CRAIG & MELVIN  
2p RED  
ON WHITE



BOGUS 1  
CRAIG & MELVIN  
2p RED  
ON BLUE



BOGUS 1  
CRAIG & MELVIN  
2p RED  
ON GREEN

# BALDWIN'S RAILROAD



BOGUS 1  
CRAIG & MELVIN  
2p YELLOW ORANGE  
ON WHITE



BOGUS 1  
CRAIG & MELVIN  
2p PURPLE (SHADE)  
ON WHITE



BOGUS 1  
CRAIG & MELVIN  
2p PURPLE (SHADE)  
ON WHITE



BOGUS 1  
CRAIG & MELVIN  
2p PURPLE (SHADE)  
ON WHITE

By fall of that 1865, Craig and Melvin both left the business, selling their remainders for wholesale. Much of the stamps were bought by S. Allan Taylor, who in the United States tried to pass the stamps off as New Jersey locals.

He also acquired the die, which he reworked to print additional stamps, identified by a flaw in the lower left corner. An additional clear flaw is seen on bogus 2A, in the border above the first R of "RAILROAD."



BOGUS 2A  
TAYLOR - FORM AA16  
2p GRAYISH BLUE  
ON WHITE



BOGUS 2A  
TAYLOR - FORM AA16  
2p VIOLET BROWN  
ON WHITE



BOGUS 2A  
TAYLOR - FORM AA16  
2p RED BROWN  
ON WHITE



BOGUS 2  
TAYLOR - FORM AB5  
2p RED VIOLET  
ON LAVENDER SC



BOGUS 2  
TAYLOR - FORM AB5  
2p RED VIOLET  
ON GREENISH BLUE SC

# BALDWIN'S RAILROAD



BOGUS 2  
TAYLOR  
2p BLUE  
ON WHITE



BOGUS 2  
TAYLOR  
2p BLUE  
ON YELLOWISH



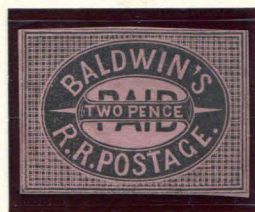
BOGUS 2  
TAYLOR  
2p BLACK  
ON PINK V LAID



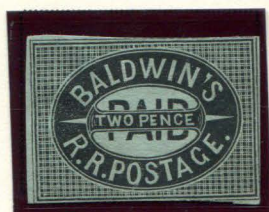
BOGUS 2  
TAYLOR  
2p BLACK  
ON PINK H LAID

In 1866, George Stewart, Jr. exposed the stamps as fakes. Taylor did not give in after the claims were made. Instead, he created his own stamp for the bogus post. This stamp, which read "PAID" in center, he claimed was the genuine stamp of Baldwin's Railroad Post, and that the previous stamps were forgeries created by Stewart. He also published a letter *supposedly* written by the post's proprietor to "prove" the authenticity of the bogus post itself.

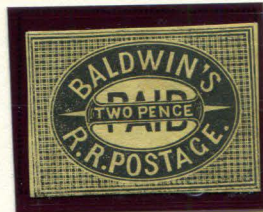
Taylor continued to sell both his "genuine" bogus and the remainders of Craig & Melvin's stamps (which he listed as "manufactures") for several years.



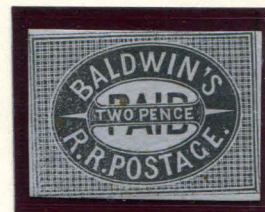
BOGUS 3  
TAYLOR  
2p BLACK  
ON ROSE



BOGUS 3  
TAYLOR  
2p BLACK  
ON GREEN



BOGUS 3  
TAYLOR  
2p BLACK  
ON YELLOW



BOGUS 3  
TAYLOR  
2p BLACK  
ON GRAY V LAID