

THE
MIKE FARRELL
COLLECTION
OF INDEPENDENT MAILS

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

BANCROFT'S CITY EXPRESS

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BANCROFT'S CITY EXPRESS

These stamps were designed in 1865 by John Appleton Nutter, a young Montreal stamp dealer. It was based on a nearby company operated by Edward I. Bancroft, who ran a genuine city express (eventually succeeded by Sharpe's City Express). Although Nutter had hoped to enter an agreement with Bancroft that the stamps would be legitimately used, Bancroft's Express never issued or used any kind of stamp for payment.

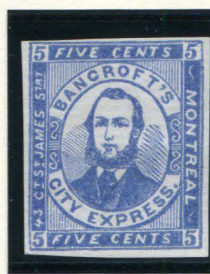
Nutter's first woodcut design was not approved, so he worked to produce a second design with the face in profile. Before Nutter's final design was printed, S. Allan Taylor copied the rejected die and offered his counterfeits for sale. The Taylor bogus became the more common of the two. Bogus 1A is a variation in which the top right corner of the border is slightly damaged.



BOGUS 1A
TAYLOR - FORM 11
5c BLUE
ON WHITE



BOGUS 1A
TAYLOR - FORM 11
5c BLUE
ON PINK H LAID



BOGUS 1A
TAYLOR - FORM 15
5c ULTRAMARINE
ON WHITE H LAID



BOGUS 1A
TAYLOR - FORM 15
5c ULTRAMARINE
ON WHITE V LAID



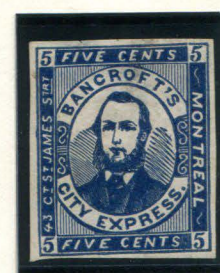
BOGUS 1A
TAYLOR - FORM 15
5c BLACK
ON WHITE H LAID



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM S18
5c BLUE
ON BLUISH V LAID



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM S18
5c BLUE
ON WHITE



BOGUS 1
TAYLOR - FORM S18
5c DARK BLUE
ON WHITE



BOGUS 1A
TAYLOR
5c DARK BLUE
ON WHITE



BOGUS 1A
TAYLOR
5c PALE BLUE
ON WHITE



BOGUS 1A
TAYLOR
5c GREENISH BLUE
ON BUFF

BANCROFT'S CITY EXPRESS

Nutter continued to sell stamps of his second, copper engraved design, which are the more scarce of the two varieties. Although Nutter never produced another postage stamp, he did produce an advertising label with his own portrait in the center.



BOGUS 4
NUTTER
5¢ BLUE ON WHITE
PERFORATED 12 1/4



BOGUS 4
NUTTER
5¢ BLACK ON WHITE
POSSIBLE PROOF



BOGUS 4
NUTTER
5¢ BLUE ON WHITE
CUT CLOSE



BOGUS 4
NUTTER
5¢ BLUE ON WHITE
STRIP OF THREE
PERFORATED 12 1/4

BANCROFT'S CITY EXPRESS

BANCROFT CITY EXPRESS, MONTREAL

By W. L. BABCOCK, M. D., Detroit, Mich.

A correspondent has requested information in reference to this famous item. Readers of MEKEEL'S will recall that our English correspondent, Fred. J. Melville, recently made inquiries in reference to our erstwhile and wayward friend, S. Allen Taylor, of earlier memories. The Bancroft City Express label ap-



peared in 1864 or early in 1865. There are three varieties, two made from a wood cut and issued by Mr. Nutter of Montreal. The wood cut was rather crude. S. Allen Taylor, then living in Albany, New York, obtained a copy. In this period there was a considerable popularity of U. S. locals. Taylor evidently saw the possibility inherent in the issue. From the wood cut he had a copper plate engraved and a third fine looking specimen of this label was produced. The face value was 5c, and it was intended as a city express post for local delivery in Montreal. The specimen in the collection of the writer from which the illustration is taken is canceled "E. I. B." in black ink. The stamp is in a shade of deep blue with an alleged three-quarter profile of Bancroft and his address at 43 Gt. St. James Street, Montreal, on the two sides; "Five Cents" above and below, with the numeral "5" in four corners; and "Bancroft City Express" in the white label surrounding the profile. It was alleged at the time that Mr. Bancroft, who conceived the express idea, arranged with Mr. Nutter to make the original issue. That it was a fake from the start is evident, when it is understood that the Canadian Post Office Department was delivering local letters at that time in Montreal for 1c. S. Allen Taylor advertised the stamp as a genuine postage express stamp in issue No. 4 of

his house organ. It was claimed at that time that Mr. Bancroft's sanction was obtained through Mr. Nutter. In issue No. 7 of Taylor's paper, he admits that it was a fake. In one of his Albany price lists the stamp is offered at 5c, but after he moved to Boston, his price lists show the stamp at 1c. In Coster's History of U. S. Locals, the following appears under the designation of Bancroft City Express, Montreal: "Never had any more than a fictitious existence". Further information about this fake may be found in the *Canadian Philatelist*, Quebec, December, 1872, issue and the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* of 1865, Volume No. 3. We are indebted to our old friend, W. C. Stone, "Sine Die", of Springfield, for the above references.



BOGUS 4
NUTTER
5c BLUE ON WHITE
PERFORATED 12 1/4
CANCELLED WITH
"E.I.B." INITIALS

ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN
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