

COOK'S DISPATCH

Cook's Dispatch (sometimes written as Desptach) was a short lived Baltimore local post. The proprietor was Isaac Cook. An advertisement in the 1853 Matchett's City Directory states that the post "will deliver LETTERS, CIRCULARS, BUSINESS CARDS, VALENTINES, WEDDING, PARTY and FUNERAL NOTICES, in any quantity, and of any kinds within the limits of the City."

The advertisement informs that the post made two deliveries each day, that letters would not be delivered unless prepaid, and that stamps were "For sale at the Principal Hotels, Book and Drug Stores, and the office, Rechabite Hall."

There is little additional information known on the post. The stamps are very rare, only six examples are recorded.



5111
GENUINE
1¢ GREEN
ON WHITE

COOK'S 1 CENT DISPATCH.
OFFICE, NO. 4 RECHABITE HALL,
Fayette Street, near Gay

COOK'S DISPATCH, will deliver LETTERS, CIRCULARS, BUSINESS CARDS, VALENTINES, WEDDING PARTY and FUNERAL NOTICES, in any quantity, and of any kinds, within the limits of the City.

Collections made at 8 1/2 o'clock, A. M., and 2 1/2 P. M., deliveries immediately thereafter. Letters designed for the Post Office as well as all other matter delivered promptly.

No Letters taken from the Box, unless prepaid
ONE CENT.

STAMPS
For Sale at the principal Hotels, Book and Drug Stores, and at the Office, RECHABITE HALL.

ISAAC COOK, Proprietor.

N. B.—Cook's Dispatch distributes *Cards Bills and Circulars of every description, by the thousand or the day, at a moment's notice, and warrants satisfaction.* References at the office.

PHOTOCOPY OF 1853 ADVERTISEMENT

Over the years, philatelists have debated whether the Isaac Cook of Cook's Dispatch is the same person as a Reverend Isaac P. Cook, who is listed in Matchett's directory as a bookseller and stationer. Although the same name and related occupation makes this a likely theory, there is no concrete proof that links the two with absolute certainty.

The Cook's Dispatch listing is only known in 1853, so it is believed that the post was short lived. The office at 4 Rechabit Hall, however, would later be used for another local post: Ricketts & Hall operated out of this location in 1856.