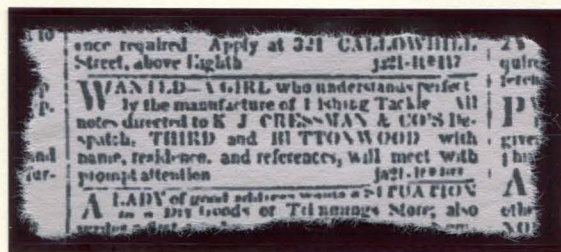


CRESSMAN & CO.'S PENNY POST

Very little is known about this Philadelphia post. It operated in 1856, and produced two stamps of the same design: one printed in gold ink on black glazed surface colored paper, and one printed in gold ink on lilac paper. Genuine stamps of this post are very rare.

An ad in Philadelphia's *Public Ledger* newspaper on January 21, 1856, asks for notes to be "directed to K. J. CRESSMAN & CO'S Despatch" at Third and Buttonwood. This is the listed address for a tobacco dealer named A. R. Stolz.



NEWSPAPER AD MENTIONING
"CRESSMAN & CO. DESPATCH"
PUBLIC LEDGER, JANUARY 21, 1856
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA



53L1 : GENUINE
1¢ GOLD ON BLACK GLAZED
ON PARTIAL COVER ADDRESSED TO
ADAM K. STOLZ

The cover above is address to an "Adam K. Stolz" at a home address of 307 North 3rd St. This is likely the same tobacconist "A. R. Stolz", as handwritten "R" and "K" can be easily misinterpreted.

Of the 12 Cressman names listed in *M^{rs} Elroy's Philadelphia Directory* for 1856, five were listed with occupations dealing in tobacco. There is no mention at all of a Cressman & Co. Penny Post.

It is highly likely that the Cressman & Co. Penny Post operated primarily out of and between Philadelphia tobacco dealerships.

CRESSMAN & CO.'S PENNY POST

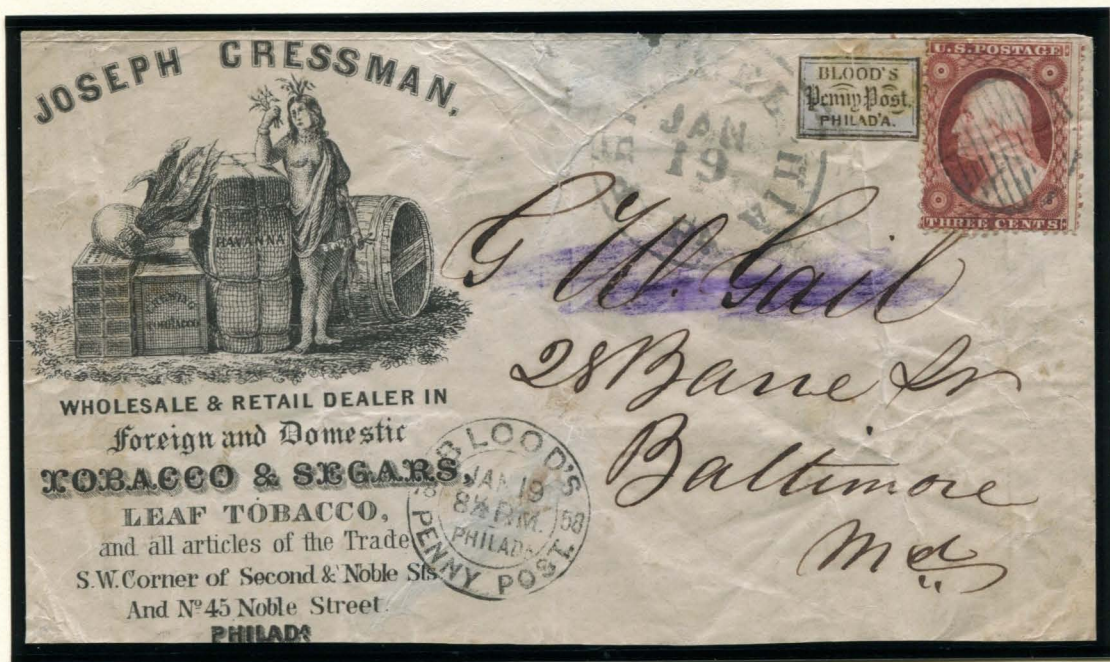


The stamp at left is an example of a genuine gold on black Cressman & Co. stamp. It is cut from an album page where it was mounted under a manuscript "Cressman & Co. heading. This stamp was previously of the Caspary and Middendorf collections, and the back of the page has been signed by US local collector and researcher, George B. Sloane

53L1
GENUINE
1¢ GOLD
ON BLACK

Although the exact proprietor of Cressman & Co. is unknown, it is sometimes attributed to Joseph Cressman, one of the five Cressman tobacconists. If not the owner of the post, it is very likely that Joseph Cressman would have at least had a drop box for the post at his tobacco shop on Noble Street.

Below is a copy of a letter, mailed by Blood's Penny Post in 1858, that features an illustrated Joseph Cressman corner card.



JOSEPH CRESSMAN ADVERTISING CORNER CARD
ON COVER WITH STAMPS 15L14 (BLOOD'S) AND 26A (US POSTAGE)

CRESSMAN & CO.'S PENNY POST

The cover below features a Cressman & Co.'s Penny Post stamp, used to pay for delivery of the letter to the US Post Office. From there it was mailed to New Orleans, prepaid by the 1851 issue 3¢ stamp.



53L1 : GENUINE
1¢ GOLD ON BLACK SC
ON COVER, MAILED WITH
11A : 3¢ DULL RED (TYPE II)
CANCELLED BY PHILADELPHIA, PA, CDS
APRIL 12

CRESSMAN & CO.'S PENNY POST

J. W. Scott's forgery is the only one that uses a serif font for the stamps, and is as such very easy to recognize. This design was also used for the illustrations in his album.



FORGERY A
SCOTT
1¢ GOLD
ON BLACK SC
(53L1)



FORGERY A
SCOTT - ALBUM CUT
1¢ BLACK
ON CREAM
(53L1)

The next forgery was most likely issued by George Hussey. As with most forgeries of this stamp, the text "CRESSMAN & CO'S" fills up the whole width of the stamp, unlike the genuine stamps in which it starts above the "E" and ends above the "S" of "PENNY POST". Unique to this forgery is that the "T" of "POST" almost touches the border, with just a faint line between the top bar and the border.

This forgery was printed in blocks of six, with another block of six tête-bêche to the first block. The six positions can be plated, with the first position sometimes being called a variation. In this position, the ampersand only has the outline of it printed.



FORGERY B
POSITION 1
HUSSEY
1¢ GOLD ON BLACK SC
(53L1)
AMPERSAND ONLY HAS
THE OUTLINE



FORGERY B
POSITION 2
HUSSEY
1¢ GOLD ON BLACK SC
(53L1)
SMALL NICK IN THE TOP OF
THE "S" OF "POST"



FORGERY B
POSITION 3
HUSSEY
1¢ GOLD ON BLACK SC
(53L1)
THE UPRIGHT OF THE "T" OF
"POST" HAS DOTS IN IT



FORGERY B
POSITION 4
HUSSEY
1¢ GOLD ON BLACK SC
(53L1)
THE FIRST UPRIGHT OF THE
"H" OF "PHILAD'A" IS THICKER



FORGERY B
POSITION 5
HUSSEY
1¢ GOLD ON BLACK SC
(53L1)
DENTS IN THE BORDER NEAR
THE "C" OF "CRESSMAN"



FORGERY B
POSITION 6
HUSSEY
1¢ GOLD ON BLACK SC
(53L1)
BIG FLAW UNDER THE "O" OF
"POST"

CRESSMAN & CO.'S PENNY POST

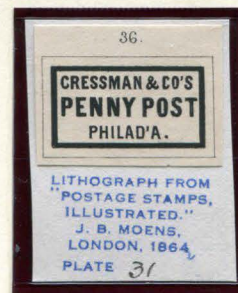


FORGERY B
HUSSEY
1¢ GOLD ON BLUEISH BLACK SC
TWO FULL BLOCKS OF SIX, ARRANGED TÊTE-BÊCHE
(53L1)

The first engraving for J.-B. Moens' catalogues, made by Pierre Schmitz, had an error and spelled the "CO'S" part as "DO'S". The "D" got changed into a "C" for later printings, but still has the squareness of the "D".



PHOTOCOPY
"DO'S" ERROR
SCHMITZ / MOENS
1¢ BLACK
ON CREAM
(53L1)



FORGERY E
SCHMITZ / MOENS
(ALBUM CUT)
1¢ BLACK
ON CREAM
(53L1)

CRESSMAN & CO.'S PENNY POST

S. A. Taylor's forgery is known in a few colors. In this design, the "Y" in "PENNY" is much wider than in any of the other forgeries.



FORGERY C
TAYLOR - FORM AB12
1¢ BLACK
ON RED SC
(53L2)



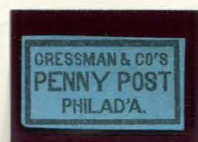
FORGERY C
TAYLOR - FORM AB12
1¢ BLACK
ON LILAC SC
(53L2)



FORGERY C
TAYLOR - FORM AB18
1¢ BLACK
ON WHITE
(53L1)



FORGERY C
TAYLOR - FORM AB18
1¢ BLACK
ON OFF-WHITE
(53L1)



FORGERY C
TAYLOR - FORM AB18
1¢ BLACK
ON LIGHT BLUE
(53L1)



FORGERY C
TAYLOR - FORM AB18
1¢ BLACK
ON BRIGHT GREEN SC
(53L1)



FORGERY C
TAYLOR
1¢ BLUE
ON WHITE
(53L1)



FORGERY C
TAYLOR
1¢ LIGHT BLUE
ON WHITE
(53L1)



FORGERY C
TAYLOR
1¢ PALE BLUE
ON WHITE
(53L1)



FORGERY C
TAYLOR
1¢ BLUE
ON PINK
(53L1)



FORGERY C
TAYLOR
1¢ PALE BLUE
ON PINK
(53L1)