

THE  
MIKE FARRELL  
COLLECTION  
OF PRIVATE US MAIL SERVICES  
INCLUDING THE HISTORY, FORGERIES, & FANTASIES OF  
UNITED STATES LOCAL POSTS, CARRIERS,  
INDEPENDENT MAIL ROUTES, & EXPRESS CO.S

CUMMING'S CITY POST



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Unless otherwise noted, stamps are identified by their Scott Catalogue numbers and forgeries are identified by their Lyons Identifier type. Express labels and forgeries are identified by their Mosher's Catalog numbers. Western express franks are identified by their listing in the United States Postal Stationery Society catalog. Scott numbers in parenthesis under listed forgeries represent approximately what stamp the forgery is attempting to imitate.

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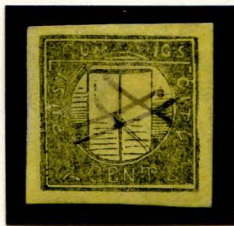
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# CUMMING'S CITY POST

Established in 1844 by Alfred H. Cummings, this local post operated until 1847. Scott's catalog lists stamps in four different designs issued by this post, all of which are rare to find as originals.

The first design, which is the most commonly forged, is a square design with a central image of a sealed letter. Genuine stamps of this design were printed in black on three kinds of glazed surface colored paper: rose, green, and yellow.



55L3  
GENUINE  
TYPE I  
2¢ BLACK  
ON YELLOW SC

The second stamp design featured what appears to be a small cherub in flight. It is sometimes called the Cummings Cupid stamp. It is known printed in black ink on green or olive paper.

The third design is a simple oval design with the numeral "2" in a diamond at the center. It is known in black on vermillion.



PHOTOCOPY  
EXAMPLE OF  
55L5  
FROM SIEGEL AUCTION  
SALE 817 LOT 1011



PHOTOCOPY  
EXAMPLE OF  
55L7  
FROM SIEGEL AUCTION  
SALE 830 LOT 600

A fourth design is listed, described as the same image as the first stamps, but with the name "Cumming's" erased. This stamp is believed to be unique and even photographs of the design are difficult to find.



# CUMMING'S CITY POST

Before the post issued adhesive stamps, handstamps were used on covers. A red oval reading "CUMMING'S / EXPRESS / POST" is the earliest known, recorded used around 1845. This handstamp was sometimes used alongside adhesive stamps.

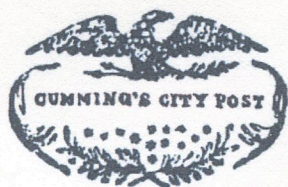
The cover below was carried by Cumming's, marked with the red oval handstamp and a red manuscript "2".



CUMMING'S EXPRESS POST RED OVAL HANDSTAMP  
ON PARTIAL COVER WITH MANUSCRIPT "2"  
RED NEW-YORK CDS - FEBRUARY 18  
PHOTOCOPY OF REVERSE

This cover is addressed to Eliza King, "Pupil at the New York Institution for the Blind". The New York Institution for the Blind was founded in 1831 to better care for the growing population of blind people admitted to almshouses. The back of this cover contains parts of four lines of text relating to music and song - the NYIB started its music program in 1833 and was considered a success for many years.

Later handstamps used by Cumming's City Post / Express include eagle and train designs.



COPY OF EAGLE  
HANDSTAMP DESIGN  
AS PUBLISHED IN  
THE AMERICAN STAMPLESS  
COVER CATALOG VOL. II



COPY OF TRAIN  
HANDSTAMP DESIGN  
AS PUBLISHED IN  
THE AMERICAN STAMPLESS  
COVER CATALOG VOL. II



# CUMMING'S CITY POST

Of the "Type I" stamps, there are two very similar forgeries that are attributed to J. W. Scott. The first one is identical to the illustration in his catalogues. Two quick identifiers are in "CUMMING'S": The right leg of the "N" is shorter than the left, and the top curve of the "S" is bigger than the bottom curve.



TYPE I  
FORGERY E  
SCOTT - ALBUM CUT  
2¢ BLACK  
ON CREAM  
(55L1)



TYPE I  
FORGERY E  
SCOTT  
2¢ BLACK  
ON GREEN SC  
(55L2)



TYPE I  
FORGERY E  
SCOTT  
2¢ BLACK  
ON YELLOW SC  
(55L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY E  
SCOTT  
2¢ BLACK  
ON VIOLET  
(55L1)



TYPE I  
FORGERY E  
SCOTT  
2¢ BLACK  
ON DULL VIOLET  
(55L1)



TYPE I  
FORGERY E  
SCOTT  
2¢ BLACK  
ON PINK VIOLET  
(55L1)



TYPE I  
FORGERY E  
SCOTT  
2¢ BLACK  
ON GRAY BROWN  
(55L1)

This other forgery copies the design, but adds a large dot on the left side of the letter. There are a few other minor differences, such as the loop of the "P" in "POST" being more rectangular.



TYPE I  
FORGERY A  
SCOTT  
2¢ BLACK  
ON GREEN SC  
(55L2)



TYPE I  
FORGERY A  
SCOTT  
2¢ BLACK  
ON LIGHT GREEN SC  
(55L2)



TYPE I  
FORGERY A  
SCOTT  
2¢ BLACK  
ON WHITE  
(55L1)



TYPE I  
FORGERY A  
SCOTT  
2¢ BLACK  
ON WHITE  
VERTICAL PAIR  
(55L1)



# CUMMING'S CITY POST

S. A. Taylor made two forgeries of the "Type I" stamps. The first one of his two designs is easy to recognize, as it has a very thick loop on the "2". There are also only five lines on the left side of the letter.



TYPE I  
FORGERY B  
TAYLOR - FORM B2  
2¢ BLACK  
ON RED ORANGE SC  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY B  
TAYLOR - FORM B2  
2¢ BLACK  
ON LIGHT BLUE SC  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY B  
TAYLOR - FORM AB14  
2¢ RED  
ON CREAM  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY B  
TAYLOR - FORM AB14  
2¢ BLACK  
ON CREAM  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY B  
TAYLOR - FORM AB14  
2¢ BLACK  
ON PINK  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY B  
TAYLOR - FORM AB18  
2¢ BLACK  
ON WHITE  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY B  
TAYLOR - FORM AB18  
2¢ BLACK  
ON OFF-WHITE  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY B  
TAYLOR - FORM AB18  
2¢ BLACK  
ON LIGHT BLUE  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY B  
TAYLOR - FORM AB18  
2¢ BLACK  
ON LIGHT ORANGE  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY B  
TAYLOR - FORM AB18  
2¢ BLACK  
ON GREEN SC  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY B  
TAYLOR - FORM BB5  
2¢ BLACK  
ON LIGHT VIOLET SC  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY B  
TAYLOR - FORM BB8  
2¢ BLACK  
ON BRIGHT GREEN SC  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY B  
TAYLOR - FORM BB8  
2¢ BLACK  
ON LILAC SC  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY B  
TAYLOR  
2¢ BLACK  
ON YELLOW  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY B  
TAYLOR  
2¢ RED  
ON PEACH  
(55L1 - L3)



# CUMMING'S CITY POST

Taylor's other forgery has a very large "S" in "CUMMING'S", and there are six lines on each side of the letter. This design also has an extra dot on the left side of the letter, near the middle of the outline.



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM 3  
2¢ BLACK  
ON BRIGHT GREEN SC  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM 3  
2¢ BLACK  
ON LIGHT BLUE SC  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM 3  
2¢ BLACK  
ON MAGENTA SC  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM 14  
2¢ BLACKISH BROWN  
ON WHITE  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM 14  
2¢ BROWN  
ON CREAM V LAID  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM 19  
2¢ BLACK  
ON GREEN SC  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM 19  
2¢ BLACK  
ON VERMILION SC  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM AA15  
2¢ DARK NAVY BLUE  
ON WHITE  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM AA15  
2¢ BLUE  
ON WHITE  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM AA15  
2¢ BLUE  
ON BLUISH  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM AA20  
2¢ BLACK  
ON BLUE GRAY  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM AA20  
2¢ BLACK  
ON PINKISH  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM AA20  
2¢ BLACK  
ON PEACH  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM AA20  
2¢ BLACK  
ON PEACH V LAID  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM AA20  
2¢ BLACK  
ON PALE PINK V LAID  
(55L1 - L3)



# CUMMING'S CITY POST



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM AA21  
2¢ BLACK  
ON PEACH  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM AA21  
2¢ BLACK  
ON PALE ORANGE  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM AA21  
2¢ BLACK  
ON PURPLE  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM AA24  
2¢ BLACK  
ON GOLD YELLOW SC  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR - FORM AA24  
2¢ BLACK  
ON GREEN SC  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR  
2¢ BLACK  
ON TEAL SC  
(55L1 - L3)



TYPE I  
FORGERY C  
TAYLOR  
2¢ BLACK  
ON WHITE  
(55L1 - L3)

The next forgery was made with the engraving used for the "Type 1" illustration in C. H. Coster's 1882 edition of *The United States Locals and Their History*, which was published by J.-B. Moens. The same illustration was used by Moens the year after for his own catalogue.

On this design the heart-shaped wax seal on the letter has a more rounded point, and the heart is mirrored, with the point towards the left.



TYPE I  
FORGERY D  
MOENS  
2¢ BLACK  
ON GREEN SC  
(55L2)



TYPE I  
FORGERY D  
MOENS  
2¢ BLACK  
ON VERMILION SC  
(55L3)

# CUMMING'S CITY POST

No forgeries are known of the "Type II" and "Type III" stamps, which weren't illustrated in any catalogue until the early 1900's. Scott did have an illustrated stamp for a "City Post" in his catalogues, which appears to be the "Type IV" stamp for "Cumming's City Post".



TYPE IV  
FORGERY G  
SCOTT - ALBUM CUT  
2¢ BLACK  
ON CREAM  
(55L8)

The next stamps are of a modern bogus design, attributed to David M. Stirling. On them, the value has been changed to 1 cent, and the letter is completely empty except for a large 1 in the center.



FORGERY F  
STIRLING  
2¢ BLACK  
ON DARK GREEN SC



FORGERY F  
STIRLING  
2¢ BLUE  
ON GRAY BLUE SC