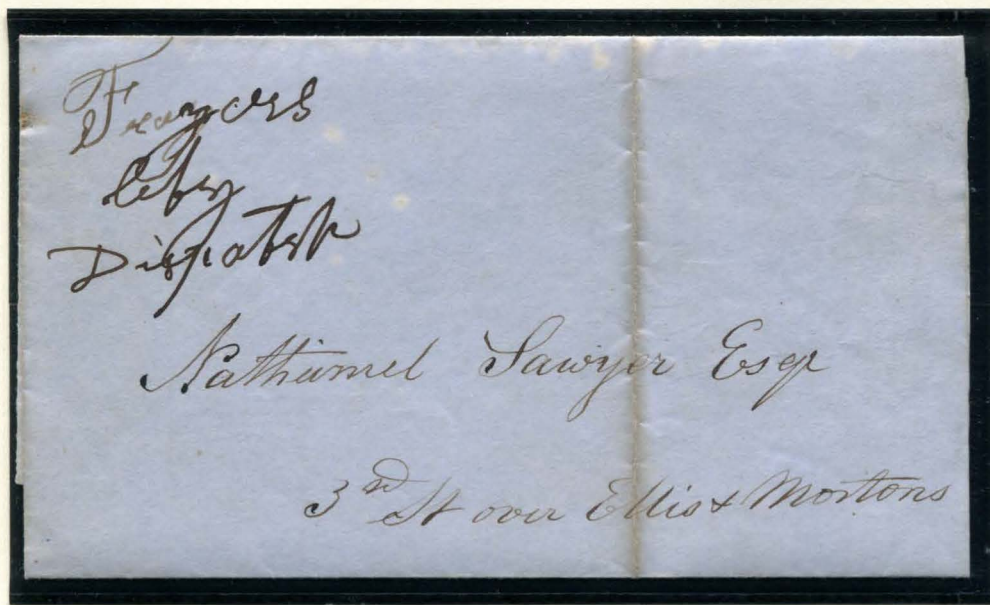


FRAZER & CO. CITY DESPATCH

Hiram Frazer worked for the Cincinnati carrier department for eight years before retiring to start his own local post in 1845. Frazer established the Frazer & Co. City Despatch post, working with his son, Hiram Jr., and Joseph Haskell.

On February 3rd, 1848, Frazer was reappointed as a U.S. Letter Carrier for the city. He worked as an official carrier until June 5th, 1849. Frazer stamps on letters delivered during this time are considered government-carrier items, not locals.

After retiring again from government carrier work, Frazer continued to operate his own post until 1853.



FRAZER'S CITY DESPATCH - STAMPLESS COVER
"FRAZER'S CITY DESPATCH" MANUSCRIPT NOTATION ON FRONT
MARCH 21, 1848 - CARRIER USAGE

The cover above was delivered by Frazer in March of 1848, which falls within the period that he was working as an official government carrier. The stampless cover was sent via his mail route, as indicated by the manuscript notation on the front of the letter.

The letter contains a printed notice for a meeting of the New England Society for the funeral solemnities of former president John Quincy Adams. Timothy Walker, the president of the society, gave an Oration of Adam's life and character at the meeting, which took place roughly one month after Adam's funeral in Washington D.C. The letter is addressed to Nathaniel Sawyer, an attorney.

FRAZER & CO. CITY DESPATCH

Frazer & Co. City Despatch issued three different stamp design types. The first stamp, which is very rare, was a simple circular design.



ILLUSTRATION
OF TYPE I
PHOTOCOPY OF
MODERN FACSIMILE

The second Frazer & Co. stamp featured an eagle and was issued in four colors to indicate local, incoming, out of town, and unpaid deliveries. The yellow stamps, as shown below, carried paid letters to the post office. The cover below was mailed during the period when Frazer was a government carrier, and therefore represents usage as a carrier stamp.

Since the letter was deposited in the mails without a prepaid stamp, we can assume that the sender paid Frazer directly in cash to care for the payment.



69L4 : TYPE II - GENUINE
USED ON COVER
RED STRAIGHT LINE HANDSTAMP & MANUSCRIPT "PAID" MARKINGS
RED "CINCINNATI O." 10¢ INTEGRAL-RATE CDS
DECEMBER 30, 1848
PF CERT# 519800

FRAZER & CO. CITY DESPATCH

It is believed that the pink "eagle type" stamps carried unpaid letters to the post office.



69L2
TYPE II - GENUINE
2¢ BLACK
ON PINK
FAINT CANCEL
PF CERT# 0357317

The eagle type of Frazer & Co. stamps, were used on letters throughout much of Frazer's operation. At some point, however, Frazer crossed through the "& Co" on the stamps. Only three examples of this variation are recorded.

The exact reasoning for this change in name is unknown. One possibility is that the change was made to reflect the death of Frazer's son and partner, Hiram Jr., who was killed in 1847 while fighting in the Mexican-American War. Another possibility is that Frazer was preparing for a name change, reflected in the "Frazer's City Express Post" name on the third stamp type.



69L5 VAR
TYPE II - GENUINE
2¢ BLACK
ON GRAYISH
LINE THROUGH "& CO."
MANUSCRIPT CANCEL



69L5 VAR
TYPE II - GENUINE
2¢ BLACK
ON GRAYISH
LINE THROUGH "& CO."
MANUSCRIPT CANCEL
APEX #156659

FRAZER & CO. CITY DESPATCH

The type II eagle stamps are the most commonly counterfeited Frazer & Co. stamp type. The forgeries shown below were printed by Scott, and are known as "Forgery A".

These Scott forgeries were produced in two different printings. During one printing, the stamps were printed on a form that also included a Steinmeyer forgery (Forgery D). Part of this forgery is present in the upper margin of the stamp featured at left, below.



FORGERY A
TYPE II
2¢ BLACK
ON PINK (SHADE)
SURFACE COLORED
SCOTT
(69L2)
PARTIAL STEINMEYER
FORGERY IN TOP MARGIN



FORGERY A
TYPE II
2¢ BLACK
ON PINK (SHADE)
SURFACE COLORED
SCOTT
(69L2)
DARK FLAW UNDER "H"
IN "DESPATCH"

In the other printing of the forgery, a dark flaw is present near the inner rectangular border under the "H" in "Despatch". This flaw is constant throughout this printing, which did not include a Steinmeyer forgery close enough to appear in the upper margin. An example of this printing is featured at right, above.

S. Allan Taylor produced two different forgeries of this stamp, which are known as "Forgery B" and "Forgery C".



FORGERY B
TYPE II
TAYLOR - FORM 12
2¢ RED (SHADE)
ON WHITE
(69L2)



FORGERY B
TYPE II
TAYLOR - FORM 12
2¢ RED (SHADE)
ON WHITE
(69L2)



FORGERY B
TYPE II
TAYLOR - FORM 12
2¢ RED
ON GREY
(69L2)

FRAZER & CO. CITY DESPATCH

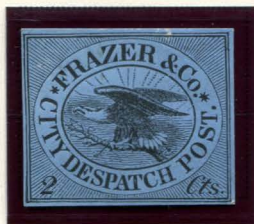
There are several significant differences between Taylor's two Frazer forgery designs. One easy way to identify the Taylor forgery types is by counting the eagle's tail feathers. One forgery has six tail feathers, and the other has seven.



FORGERY C
TYPE II
TAYLOR - FORM B1
2c BLACK
ON PINK SC
(69L2)



FORGERY C
TYPE II
TAYLOR - FORM B1
2c BLACK
ON YELLOW SC
(69L4)



FORGERY C
TYPE II
TAYLOR - FORM B2
2c BLACK
ON LIGHT BLUE SC
(69L5)



FORGERY C
TYPE II
TAYLOR - FORM B2
2c BLACK
ON RED ORANGE SC
(69L2)



FORGERY C
TYPE II
TAYLOR - FORM AB17
2c BLACK
ON BRIGHT GREEN SC
(69L3)



FORGERY C
TYPE II
TAYLOR - FORM AB17
2c RED VIOLET
ON TAN
(69L4)



FORGERY C
TYPE II
TAYLOR - FORM AB17
2c BLACK
ON LILAC SC
(69L2)



FORGERY C
TYPE II
TAYLOR - FORM AB 17
2c BLACK
ON ORANGE SC
(69L2)



FORGERY C
TYPE II
TAYLOR - FORM BB5
2c BLACK
ON LIGHT VIOLET SC
(69L2)



FORGERY C
TYPE II
TAYLOR
2c BLACK
ON DARK BLUE-GREEN SC
(69L3)



FORGERY C
TYPE II
TAYLOR
2c BLACK
ON SCARLET SC
(69L2)

FRAZER & CO. CITY DESPATCH



FORGERY C
TYPE II
TAYLOR
2c BLUE
ON PINK
(69L2)



FORGERY C
TYPE II
TAYLOR
2c BLUE
ON LIGHT VIOLET
(69L2)



FORGERY C
TYPE II
TAYLOR
2c BLACK
ON PALE BLUE SC
(69L2)



FORGERY C
TYPE II
TAYLOR
2c BLACK
ON YELLOW SC
(69L2)



FORGERY C
TYPE II
TAYLOR
2c BLACK
ON GOLDEN YELLOW SC
(69L2)

Some fake stamps are "cancelled" with fake markings to make them appear more legitimate.



FORGERY C
TYPE II
TAYLOR
2c BLACK
ON ORANGE SC
(69L2)
WITH FAKE CANCEL

FRAZER & CO. CITY DESPATCH

The third type of Frazer's stamp is known as a "Valentine" stamp. It featured an image of Cupid riding a horse while holding a whip and a letter. The crude drawing has sometimes been described as a "woman riding a jackal." The name on these stamps read "Frazer's City Express Post".



69L7
TYPE III - GENUINE
2¢ BLACK
ON GREEN
PF #416317

The example above is slightly discolored by time, giving it a blue appearance rather than it's original green shade.

This design is very similar to the image used for the stamps of Baker's City Express, another Cincinnati local post.

There are not as many forgeries for this stamp design. The example below is a modern printing of a forgery design originally created by Scott.



FORGERY A - MODERN
TYPE III
SCOTT
2¢ BLACK
ON GREEN
(69L7)

FRAZER & CO. CITY DESPATCH

In 1973, the Philatelic Society of Cincinnati produced a souvenir certificate including facsimiles of all the issued Frazer & Co. City Despatch stamps. This certificate was issued at the Cinpex stamp show. Along with facsimiles of the Frazer & Co. stamps in all known colors, the certificate also includes a brief history of the post.

The facsimiles included on this certificate are all recorded as forgeries by Lyon's *Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries & Bogus Posts*. They are listed as: Type I "Forgery B"; Type II "Forgery D"; and Type III "Forgery B".

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CINCINNATI

CINPEX '73



1845

AUGUST 25-26



1845-1851



1848-1851

THE LOCAL STAMPS OF FRAZER & CO.

The local stamps issued in Cincinnati by Frazer & Co. were among the earliest in America. Hiram Frazer Sr. had been an official carrier for the Cincinnati Post Office. He resigned in October 1845 and founded his own private service. He and later his son, Hiram Frazer Jr., continued in business at least until 1851 when the United States issued its own carrier stamp. It had as its subject the same eagle that Frazer used.

In 1973 the United States issued a 'Love Stamp' just before Valentine's Day. Hiram Frazer did the same thing 125 years ago. The horseman on his 1848 stamp is Cupid. Most of these locals have been discovered on Valentines.

(Illustrations are reproduced 1 1/4 actual size)

PHOTOCOPY OF SOUVENIR CERTIFICATE
REDUCED TO ~20%
- SEE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR ORIGINAL -

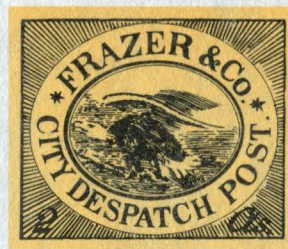
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