

THE  
MIKE FARRELL  
❧ COLLECTION ❧  
OF INDEPENDENT MAILS

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

GEORGE H. GRAY & CO.

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Unless otherwise noted, stamps are identified by their Scott Catalogue numbers and forgeries are identified by their Lyons Identifier type. Scott numbers in parenthesis under listed forgeries represent approximately what stamp the forgery is attempting to imitate.

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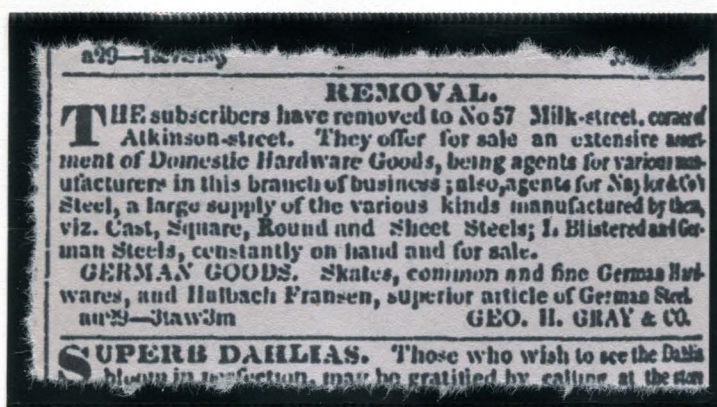
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# GEORGE H. GRAY & CO.

George H. Gray was a commission merchant operating in Boston, Massachusetts, primarily during the period of 1840 to 1850. Gray & Co. purchased hardware and goods from Europe, which they sold and shipped to retail merchants along the east coast.

Aide from forwarding goods, Gray & Co. took up the practice of also delivering letters from the ships. These letters were marked with a handstamp or a die cut adhesive stamp. Three types of stamp are recorded, although there is some question as to whether two of those types truly served stamps or if they served instead as only advertising labels.



GEORGE H. GRAY & CO. ADVERTISEMENT  
FROM *THE BOSTON COURIER*  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1844

The first type of stamp, a red circular cut stamp reading "Geo. H. Gray & Co. Boston" is decorated with an ivy leaf ornament at the bottom, is recorded on five covers dated between 1847 and 1848. Two of those stamps are marked with a manuscript "2" directly below "Boston", implying a 2¢ delivery rate.



PHOTOCOPY EXAMPLE  
GEO. H. GRAY STAMP  
TYPE I  
WITH MANUSCRIPT "2"  
FROM SIEGEL, 2005  
SALE 896, LOT 552



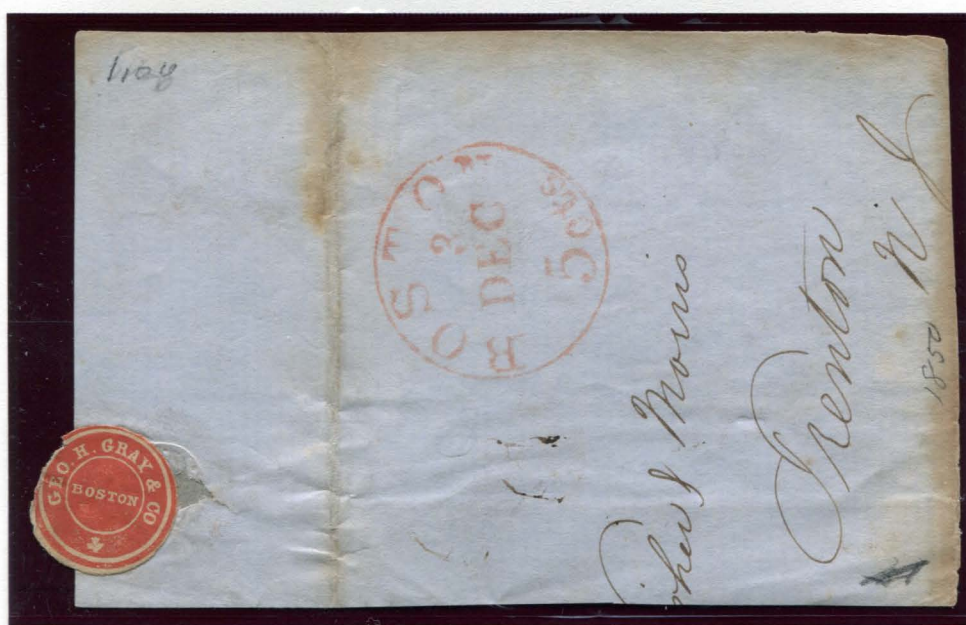
PHOTOCOPY EXAMPLE  
GEO. H. GRAY  
HANDSTAMP  
FROM *AMERICAN STAMPLESS*  
COVER CATALOG

# GEORGE H. GRAY & CO.

The second George H. Gray & Co. stamp is similar in design to the first. The text on this stamp is printed in a different font, and the ornament at the bottom is changed to a three-leaf design.

Unlike the first stamp, which is known tied to cover and with a "2" surcharge, there is less evidence that the Type II stamp was used as payment for delivery rather than as an advertising label. The cover below is the only known example of this stamp.

This partial cover is marked with a red, Boston circular date stamp. Although there is no printed year date, this datestamp, listed in the *American Stampless Cover Catalog*, was known to be used in Boston between 1846 to 1851. It is addressed to Trenton, New Jersey.



TYPE II : 2¢ RED ON WHITE  
GENUINE ON COVER  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS DATESTAMP - DECEMBER 3 (1850)  
MOSHER: GRYA-L2  
ASCC # 532-33

In 1856, George H. Gray went into business with a man named Danforth. The final known Gray & Co. stamp has the same size and shape as the first two, but is green and reads "Geo. H. Gray & Danforth" around the outer rim without any ornament at the bottom. This Type III stamp, like the Type II stamp above, is unique. Only one example is known, on an 1856 dated cover to Pictou, Nova Scotia.