

LOS ANGELES LOCAL EXPRESSES

GREENSLADE'S

Around 1885, Greenslade began referring to himself as "Lewis the Light". He was known for wearing peculiar clothing and causing public disturbances, often in or near churches. Among his eccentricities, he claimed he could live forever, predict natural disasters, and produce and move rain clouds with balloons.

Greenslade spent the rest of his life traveling around the United States, frequently being committed to prisons or insane asylums.



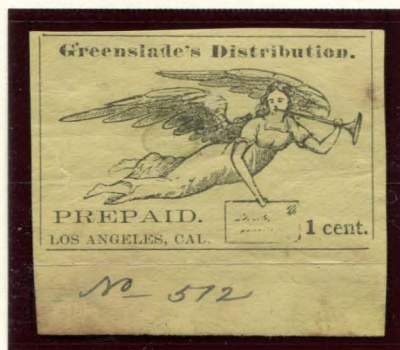
"GENUINE"
MOSHER # GRND-S9
EXTRA 2ND LIMIT
3¢ BLACK ON FLESH



"GENUINE"
MOSHER # GRND-11
PREPAID
1¢ BLACK
ON BUFF



"GENUINE"
MOSHER # GRND-11
PREPAID
1¢ BLACK
ON PINK



"GENUINE"
MOSHER # GRND-12
PREPAID
1¢ BLACK
ON DEEP YELLOW

LOS ANGELES LOCAL EXPRESSES

GREENSLADE'S

This primarily philatelic Los Angeles post was founded by Lewis Burgess Greenslade, supposedly open for only a few months in the summer of 1883. Accurate information is difficult to obtain. The only used stamps with dated postmarks are off-cover with datestamps from Los Angeles and New York around 1888 - these examples were most likely sent through the U.S. Post by Greenslade in an attempt to make the post appear more legitimate.

Greenslade got his start in stamp dealing after stealing a collection from a collector in Massachusetts and then fleeing to Toronto. In Toronto he dealt stamps and published philatelic newsletters for several years until he was caught conspiring with engravers to produce forgeries. Afterward he moved to California where he submitted a patent for a medicine label. It was here that he created the Greenslade's stamps.

The stamps were printed in sheets of twelve, each stamp a different type. Ten stamps were text-only in a decorative rectangular border: ½¢ Special Circular, 1¢ Newspaper, 1¢ Extra Post Due, 2¢ Too-Late, 3¢ Extra 2nd Limit, 5¢ Extra Post Haste, 5¢ Extra Suburban, 5¢ Parcel, 10¢ Parcel, \$1 Five Hour Messenger. The 1¢ Distribution Prepaid and 2¢ Registration stamps were larger and illustrated with angels.



"GENUINE"
MOSHER # GRND-S2
SPECIAL CIRCULAR
½¢ BLACK
ON YELLOW



"GENUINE"
MOSHER # GRND-S3
NEWSPAPER
1¢ BLACK
ON DEEP YELLOW



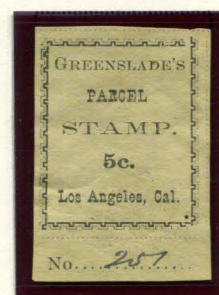
"GENUINE"
MOSHER # GRND-S3
NEWSPAPER
1¢ BLACK
ON GRAY



"GENUINE"
MOSHER # GRND-S4
EXTRA POST-HASTE
5¢ BLACK
ON SALMON



"GENUINE"
MOSHER # GRND-S5
EXTRA TOO-LATE
2¢ BLACK
ON PURPLE



"GENUINE"
MOSHER # GRND-S7
PARCEL
5¢ BLACK
ON YELLOW