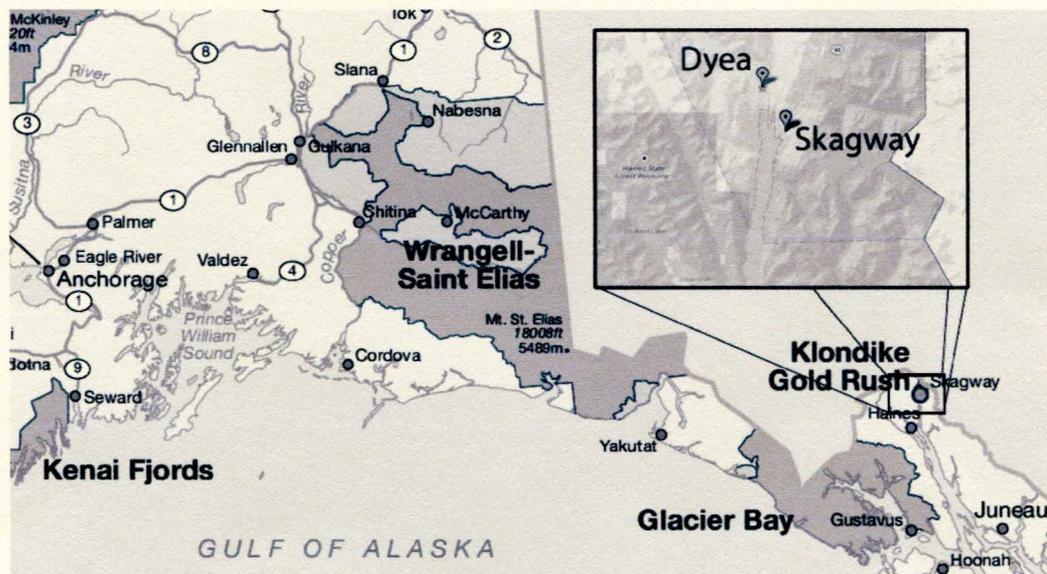


# M<sup>c</sup>GREELY'S EXPRESS

The legitimacy of this local post has been disputed. The only known covers that use the stamps are philatelic in nature. The story of the McGreely's Express was told by S.C. Marcuse around 1901.

In 1898, there was no regular mail service between Skagway and Dyea, Alaska. During this time, the two towns served as starting points for Klondike Gold Rush trails. According to Marcuse, a man named McGreely would deliver mail between the two cities by boat. Marcuse, who had arrived in Dyea in January of that year, offered to make stamps for McGreely in return for having his mail delivered for free. The stamps were used for only a short time in March of 1898. In April, the US Post Office established a regular mail service in the cities, and McGreely's Express was no longer needed.

Private carriers were known to fill in postal service gaps during the Klondike gold rush. The existence of a short-lived McGreely's Express is possible. However, S.C. Marcuse, was a San Francisco stamp collector who probably had an interest in producing philatelic stamps for sale.



MAP OF ALASKA SHOWING LOCATIONS OF DYEA AND SKAGWAY

The stamps were produced in San Francisco. They were lithographed in sheets of fifty, consisting of ten rows of five stamps each. The stone used to produce the stamps was supposedly destroyed in the earthquake and fire of 1906.

# M<sup>c</sup>GREELY'S EXPRESS



155L1  
25¢ BLUE ON WHITE  
GENUINE



155L1  
25¢ BLUE ON WHITE  
GENUINE  
BOTTOM MARGIN POSITION



155L1  
25¢ BLUE ON WHITE  
GENUINE  
RIGHT MARGIN POSITION

A variation in at least one position results in two dots printed in the bottom right corner.



155L1  
25¢ BLUE ON WHITE  
GENUINE  
TWO DOTS VARIATION



155L1  
25¢ BLUE ON WHITE  
GENUINE - HORIZONTAL PAIR  
BREAK UNDER "A" IN SKAGUAY & TWO DOTS VARIATION

In 1902, S.C. Marcuse had some of his stamps overprinted and distributed to the first exhibition of the Pacific Philatelic Society in San Francisco.



155L1  
25¢ BLUE ON WHITE  
GENUINE  
PHILATELIC OVERPRINT

# McGREELY'S EXPRESS

The cover below, mailed in 1929, features a "genuine" McGreely's stamp, a Klondike Airways stamp, and two Canadian postage stamps.

This is a A.C. Roessler cover. Roessler was a philatelist who specialized in first flight covers. He became infamous for fraudulent covers featuring bogus stamps. The Klondike Airways stamp, sometimes listed as a semi-official, although most of it on cover are not legitimate.



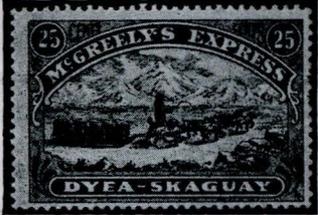
155L1 : 25¢ BLUE ON WHITE  
CANADA CL45 : 25¢ BLUE ON WHITE  
CANADA 126 : 1¢ YELLOW (TYPE II)  
GENUINE  
DAWSON, YUKON, CANADA BARRED ELLIPSE DUPLEX CANCEL  
JANUARY 5, 1929

The airmail envelope is was printed by A.C. Roessler, as indicated by a printed corner on the reverse. The address label on the front has been removed.

# McGreeley's Express

According to S.C. Marcuse's story of the express, two thousand stamps were printed. Of those two thousand, about half were used and the remainders were split between McGreeley and Marcuse.

Around 1940, however, antiques and hobby dealer J.M. Standish reported that he purchased between 3,500 and 4,000 stamps in full sheets. From these sheets stamps were broken and sold to collectors and dealers for several years.



*McKeel's 6-15-42*

**NOW SELLING**  
 This stamp at \$2.50 ea. ungummed. Price-list of pairs, blocks, sheets upon request. For full story of this stamp see *Mekeel's Weekly* of March 17, 1941.  
**J. M. STANDISH, 5202 Grove St., Oakland, Calif.**

ADVERTISEMENT FROM  
*MEKEEL'S WEEKLY*, JUNE 15, 1942

**BREAKING A SHEET OF THE  
 SCARCE  
 MC GREELEY EXPRESS  
 Scott No. 155 L 1**

Single, perf. all around .....	\$2.95
Single, straight edge .....	1.95
Block 4, perf. all around .....	14.95
Block 4, straight edge .....	10.95

*"STAMPS" Limited Supply NOV. 2, 1946.*

Money order or draft with order.

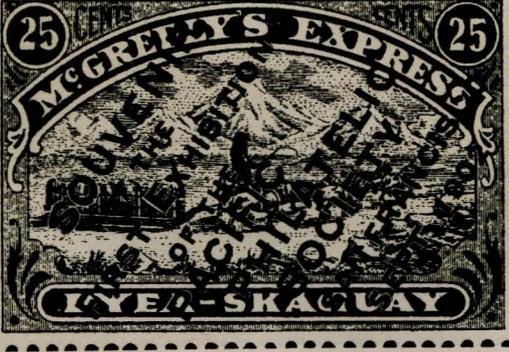
**APS      Martin Finkelstein      SPA**  
 108 East 13th St.                      Kansas City 6, Mo.

ADVERTISEMENT FROM  
*STAMPS*, NOVEMBER 2, 1946

Although the stamps were almost certainly produced for only philatelic reasons, they remain a popular collectable item due to their design and history.

REPRINT OF THE FIRST (SEPT. 1902) U.S.A. PHILATELIC SEAL  
 "PACIFIC PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO"

PUBLISHED BY F. H. DIETZ, N. Y. C.  
 ORIGINAL SEALS FROM  
 L. A. GOETZ, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.



APPROVED BY  
 NATIONAL POSTER STAMP SOCIETY  
 CHICAGO, ILL.  
 CERTIFICATE No. 125

Actual size of original (blue) seal (1 1/8" x 1 7/8"), overprinted (in black) on McGreeley's Express (blue 25c) stamp (showing dog team pulling heavy sled, and, driver on foot—Dyea to Skaguay, Alaska) reading:—"Souvenir of the First Exhibition of the Pacific Philatelic Society, San Francisco, Sept. 1902." Printed in sheets of 50 stamps, quantity unknown.

REPRINT OF MCGREELEY'S PHILATELIC SEAL