

THE
MIKE FARRELL
COLLECTION
OF INDEPENDENT MAILS

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

MEARIS' CITY DESPATCH POST

The information and identification within these selections is the individual work of the Farrell Collection. It is always recommended to consult multiple sources for additional information or opinions. Local post company descriptions are based on information available at the time of writing. Descriptions in the Farrell Collection were written based on personal research and sources including, but not limited to: Articles in the Carriers and Locals Society's The Penny Post; Amos Media's Scott Catalogue; Patton's The Private Local Post of the United States; Springer's Handbook of North American Cinderella Stamps; Lyons' Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States; articles in the USPCS's The Chronicle; Mosher's Catalog of Private Express Labels and Stamps; The Eastern Independent Mail Company Study Group's Eastern Independent Mail Companies and Express Mail Companies 1840-1845; Elliot Perry's Pat Paragraphs; James N. Drummond's Catalog of Philatelic Miscellany; and the notes of George Sloane and Gordon Stimmell.

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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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MEARIS' CITY DESPATCH POST

Established by Malcom W. Mearis in January 1846, this Baltimore local post carried letters within the city and to the post.

Mearis was a lawyer who was inspired by local posts in New York and Philadelphia. The post received mail at 100 letter box locations throughout the city, with his office located in the Jarvis Building. In the first three months of operation, the rates for delivery were 2¢ for letters carried locally, and 1¢ for letters to the mails. They also offered a special "fast horse" service to deliver letters directly to US mail agents for 2¢.

ADVERTISEMENT
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THE BALTIMORE CLIPPER
JANUARY 24, 1846

The stamps issued by Mearis were typeset, and printed in a form with multiple stamp types, based on the kind and arrangement of type elements. At least ten stamps were printed from a plate, evidenced by plate reconstructions with. Stamps were printed in two columns, with 2¢ stamps at left and 1¢ at right.

1846-1848 H. W. Mearis, Auctioneer.

CITY DESPATCH POST.

THE UNDERSIGNED, desirous of being useful to his fellow citizens, begs to inform them that he has established a "City Despatch Post" similar to those in the other large commercial cities of the Union, by which persons, at the most distant points of the city, may communicate with each other without delay or trouble, and at a very small expense. It has been found eminently useful in New York, Philadelphia and Boston, and is now sustained and encouraged by all classes; and the undersigned, in offering himself to the public, pledges all that fidelity and industry can do to make it a convenient and useful establishment, and only asks, in return, the confidence and support of his friends and the public.

100 boxes will be posted at the different points of the city, specially enumerated by bills. The charge will be, upon a communication delivered to any part of the city, two cents, and letters to go out of town will be regularly mailed for one cent, which must be paid at the box. I will receive at the Golden Horse, cor. Howard and Franklin sts. until quarter before 9; Mortimer & Mowbray's, cor. Charles and Baltimore streets, until 10 minutes before 9; and at Taylor, White & Co. and Sun office, until five minutes before 9 o'clock, A. M. All letters to go East, which will be carried by me to the mail agent at the lower depot by fast horse, for two cents each. Notices delivered for associations and clubs at a small charge; also small packages delivered to any part of the city. Good collections attended to for a small percentage.

MALCOLM W. MEARIS.

Persons will please direct their communications so that there may be no mistake in the delivery.

References—Z. Collins Lee, Lambert Gittings, Geo. M. Robertson, Hugh McEldery, T. Yates Walsh, James O. Law and Wm. H. Watson, Esq's, and business men generally.

ja33 lw*

TRUE PLACE OF OUR UNION



103L3A - HORIZONTAL PAIR
GENUINE | PF CERT 0346655

103L3	103L2
2¢ BLACK ON GRAY	1¢ BLACK ON GRAY
KELLY TYPE F	KELLY TYPE A
DIAMOND CORNERS	DIAMOND CORNERS
"CITY DESPATCH" SANS-SERIF	"CITY DESPATCH" SANS-SERIF
NARROW "POST"	NARROW "POST"
LYONS POSITION 3	LYONS POSITION 4

The pair shown here is one of three se-tenant pair known. Only twelve complete stamps (and two fragments) are recorded. It was previously of the Caspary collection.

MEARIS' CITY DESPATCH POST

In April 1846, Mearis changed the rates to 3¢ for unpaid letters, and 2¢ for paid deliveries both within the city and to the mails. The cover shown here is dated April 28, 1846 and has no stamp affixed. The

manuscript "3" indicates the rate for delivery of an unpaid letter during this time period.

FROM AND AFTER THIS DATE, upon all communications unpaid, to be delivered in the city, the charge will be 3 cents—but as usual, Stamps to pre-pay can be had here and at the Head Office, at 25 cents per dozen. Upon all letters to go to the Post Office for Mail the charge will be 2 cents, which must be paid at the Boxes or they will not be mailed. Notices for Societies, Circulars and Catalogues, Invitations to Parties, Balls, &c. &c., served at a low charge by the hundred, by calling at the office, Jarvis' Building, corner of North and Baltimore streets. Collections of all kinds attended to with promptness.
ap24-46 **MALCOM W. MEARIS.**

ADVERTISEMENT
PUBLISHED IN
THE BALTIMORE CLIPPER
APRIL 22, 1846

The cover below is one of seven covers recorded with the circular "City Despatch Post" handstamp, and the only entire cover mailed at the 3¢ unpaid rate.



MEARIS CITY DESPATCH POST
RED CIRCULAR HANDSTAMP
MANUSCRIPT 3 - UNPAID DELIVERY WITHIN CITY
APRIL 28, 1846

In May, Mearis advertised the business for sale, and on May 20, Charles W. Reed purchased the post. Reed operated the local until October, when it passed to William Taylor and his agent R.K. Ford. The post became the Johnson & Co.'s City Despatch Post around November, 1847.



ILLUSTRATION OF
HANDSTAMP