

THE  
MIKE FARRELL  
COLLECTION  
OF INDEPENDENT MAILS

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

UNION DESPATCH (STILES'S)

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.

Colors listed for stamps and forgeries are the opinions of the Farrell Collection based on viewing physical copies of the pieces under consistent lighting. Colors in the .pdfs may be slightly inaccurate due to manipulations from the scanning process, computer monitor settings, or (in event that the files are printed for offline viewing) the printing process.

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.

Copyright Amos Media Company - 2020

The Scott Numbers are the copyrighted property of Amos Media Company, and are used here under a licensing agreement with Amos. The marks Scott and Scott's are Registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and are trademarks of Amos Media Company. No use may be made of these marks or of material in this publication, which is reprinted from a copyrighted publication of Amos Media Company., without the express written permission of Amos Media Company, Sidney, Ohio 45365.



# UNION DESPATCH (STILES'S)

These mysterious stamps were long considered bogus. The excess of forgeries and extreme rarity of real stamps made it suspicious to many collectors. Recorded in philatelic journals as early as 1875, the stamps were not listed as genuine in the Scott *Specialized Catalogue* until 2018. The genuine stamps can be identified by a background of very thin (almost invisible) vertical lines behind the horse head in the center of the design, and irregular perforation.



170L1  
GENUINE  
5¢ BROWNISH RED  
ON WHITE

The Union Despatch stamps are attributed to the Union Despatch express and freight company established by William and Edmond Stiles around 1855. Stiles's office was headquartered in Chicago and operated until at least 1860 with the Stiles family as proprietors. The stamps, known in 5¢ and 20¢ denominations, were probably used to pay for the delivery of packages.

Although most experts agree that these stamps originated with Stiles, there is no printed evidence to tie the Union Despatch stamps with the company specifically. A key argument in linking the stamps to Stiles is the use of rough, irregular perforations on the stamps, which are some of the earliest examples of perforated stamps.

Perforation machines were in early development in the 1850s. In 1856, Chicago experimented with perforating machines on the imperforate 3¢ US stamps of 1851. These "Chicago Trial" perforations are very similar to the rough 12½ gauge perforations on the Union Despatch stamps. This observation makes Chicago, home of Stiles, the most likely origin of the stamps.

ADVERTISEMENT PUBLISHED IN  
EVENING MIRROR, NEW YORK, NY  
SEPTEMBER 23, 1857

**UNION DESPATCH COMPANY,**  
**The Quickest and Cheapest Freight Line,**  
**AGENCIES IN ALL THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS**  
**AND CITIES.**

**TIME AND CONTRACTS.**

Office and Depot on West Street (from Chambers to Read Street, New York.

General Western Office, 13 Dearborn Street, Chicago, E. G. STILES & Co., Proprietors, 205 Chambers Street, New York.

This Company forward Freights of all classes, buy and sell merchandise, produce, machinery, and property of every description. Sell for manufacturers, collect notes and accounts, and do a general Express and Commission business throughout the East and West.

REFERENCES:

M. ANTHONY, 308 Broadway, N. Y.  
 WHITE, HOWLAND & CO., 50 William street, N. Y.  
 OFFICER & BROTHER, Bankers, Chicago, IL.  
 CHARLES W. BADGER, Newark, N. J.  
 JAYCOX & GREEN, Syracuse, N. Y.  
 HAYNES, WHITE & Co., Green Bay, Wis.

And our Agents throughout the Country. see 5m



# UNION DESPATCH (STILES'S)

Adding to the mystery of the Union Despatch stamps, none of the forgeries are attributed to any the major local post forgers (Scott, Hussey, Taylor, or Moens). None of the four recorded forgery types have an identified forger.



FORGERY A  
5¢ RED (SHADE)  
ON THIN WHITE



FORGERY A  
5¢ RED (SHADE)  
ON WHITE



FORGERY A  
5¢ RED (SHADE)  
ON STIFF WHITE



FORGERY A  
5¢ RED (SHADE)  
ON STIFF WHITE



FORGERY A  
5¢ RED (SHADE)  
ON STIFF WHITE



FORGERY A  
5¢ GREEN (SHADE)  
ON THIN WHITE



FORGERY A  
5¢ GREEN (SHADE)  
ON WHITE



FORGERY A  
5¢ GREEN (SHADE)  
ON STIFF WHITE



FORGERY A  
5¢ GREEN (SHADE)  
ON STIFF WHITE

# UNION DESPATCH (STILES'S)



FORGERY A  
5¢ BLACK (SHADE)  
ON THIN WHITE



FORGERY A  
5¢ BLACK (SHADE)  
ON WHITE



FORGERY A  
5¢ BLACK (SHADE)  
ON STIFF WHITE



FORGERY A  
5¢ BLACK (SHADE)  
ON THICK CREAM



FORGERY A  
5¢ RED (SHADE)  
ON ROUGH WHITE  
VERTICAL STRIP  
OF THREE

The Union Despatch Forgery A stamps are known printed in multiples or on papers with forgeries of other locals, such as Warwick's or Boyd's (below).



FORGERY A  
5¢ RED (SHADE) ON ROUGH WHITE  
PAIR WITH  
BOYD'S FORGERY D, TYPE X

The style of the Boyd's forgery on the pair above is attributed to S.A. Taylor, but it appears to be a copy of Taylor's design rather than an original forgery.



# UNION DESPATCH (STILES'S)



FORGERY A  
5¢ GREEN (SHADES) ON THIN WHITE  
TÊTE-BÊCHE PAIR

Union Despatch Forgery A stamps are known printed in multiples or on papers with forgeries of other locals. Impressions were not uniformly arranged, resulting in tête-bêche or turned pairs.



FORGERY A  
5¢ GREEN (SHADES) ON ROUGH WHITE  
HORIZONTAL STRIP OF THREE



FORGERY A  
5¢ BLACK (SHADES) ON THIN WHITE  
HORIZONTAL PAIR

# UNION DESPATCH (STILES'S)



FORGERY B  
5¢ RED (SHADE)  
ON WHITE  
(170L1)



FORGERY B  
5¢ RED (SHADE)  
ON WHITE  
(170L1)



FORGERY B  
5¢ GREEN (SHADE)  
ON WHITE  
(170L1)



FORGERY B  
5¢ GREEN (SHADE)  
ON WHITE H. LAID  
(170L1)



FORGERY B  
5¢ GREEN (SHADE)  
ON WHITE - CANCELLED  
(170L1)



FORGERY B  
5¢ BLUE (SHADE)  
ON WHITE  
(170L1)



# UNION DESPATCH (STILES'S)



FORGERY C  
5¢ RED (SHADE)  
ON WHITE  
(170L1)



FORGERY C  
5¢ GREEN (SHADE)  
ON WHITE  
(170L1)



FORGERY C  
5¢ BLUE (SHADE)  
ON WHITE  
(170L1)



FORGERY C  
5¢ BLACK (SHADE)  
ON WHITE  
(170L1)



FORGERY D  
5¢ RED (SHADE)  
ON WHITE  
(170L1)



FORGERY D  
5¢ GREEN (SHADE)  
ON WHITE  
(170L1)



FORGERY D  
5¢ BLUE (SHADE)  
ON WHITE  
(170L1)

A bogus stamp using the Union Despatch name and border design with the central vignette crudely copied from the Penny Express Co. stamps.



BOGUS 2  
5¢ DULL RED  
ON WHITE



BOGUS 2  
5¢ GREEN  
ON WHITE



BOGUS 2  
5¢ LIGHT BLUE  
ON WHITE



BOGUS 2  
5¢ BLACK  
ON WHITE



BOGUS 2  
5¢ PURPLE  
ON WHITE



BOGUS 2  
5¢ DULL RED  
ON RED



BOGUS 2  
5¢ DULL RED  
ON ORANGE