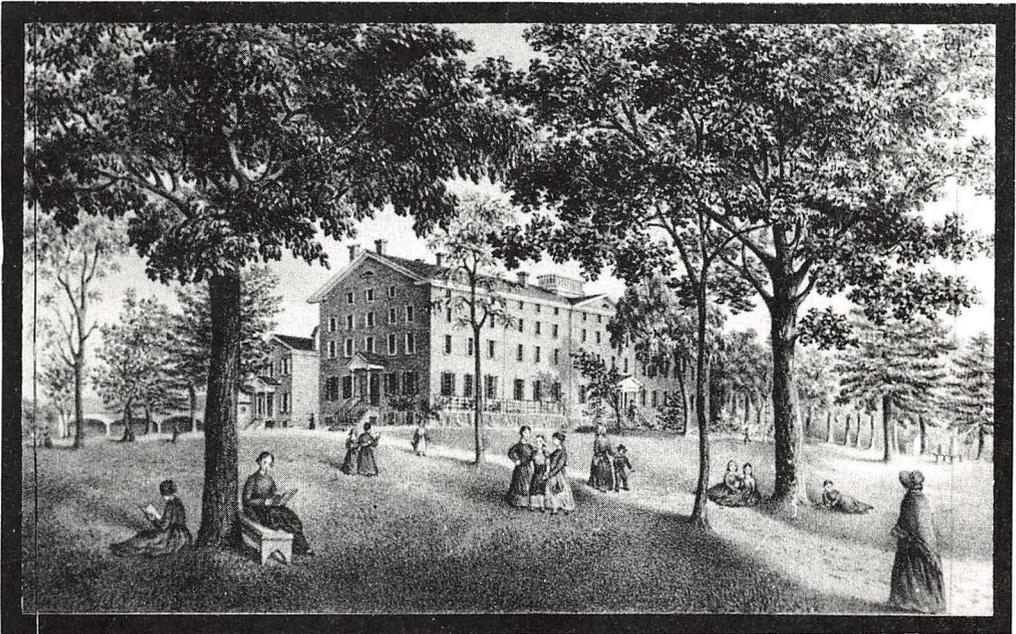


APRIL 1992

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Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society



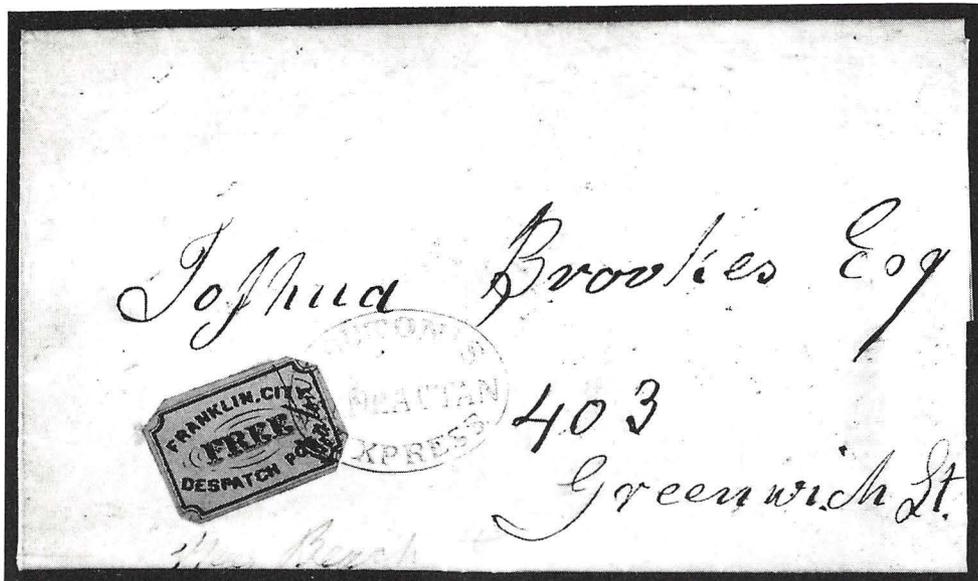
Westtown Boarding School, from an 1858 lithograph by Collins.

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THE WESTTOWN LOCAL

HALE & CO. OFFICES

CITY DESPATCH - PART II



Franklin City Despatch (Bouton's), New York, N.Y. 2c Black on green glazed (16L1) tied on cover.
Sold March 10, 1992. Estimate: \$6,000-8,000. Realized: \$13,750.

Christie's Robson Lowe frequently offers outstanding Locals and Carriers. Our knowledge, experience and expertise help bring together our consignors and our wide range of nationally and internationally based buyers.

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THE PENNY POST



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OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President.....Richard Schwartz

168 Cherry Lane, River Edge, N.J. 07661

Vice President.....Steven Roth

1233 20th St. N.W., Washington, DC 20036

Treasurer.....Martin Richardson

Box 1574, Dayton, OH 45401

Secretary.....William T. Crowe

P.O. Box 2090, Danbury, CT 06813

Editor.....Gordon Stimmell

P.O. Box 184, 260 Adelaide St. E., Toronto M5A 1N1, Ontario, Canada

Advertising Manager.....Richard Frajola

P.O. Box 608, Empire CO 80438

DIRECTORS

William Crowe, Richard Frajola, Helen Galatan-Stone, Eric Jackson,
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FROM THE EDITOR

The prime focus of this issue is an examination of some of the smallest stamps in the world, those issued over a century ago by Westtown School in Pennsylvania.

While Westtown School retains the distinction of oldest secondary school in continuous operation in North America, the Quaker institution founded in 1799 is today totally in tune with 1992.

A recent visit to the school revealed that it is a vibrant place of learning, offering top-notch instruction to students from pre-kindergarten through senior high school.

While the pastoral setting remains rooted in the past and higher level students must still board in their junior and senior years, the school has come a long way from the 1853-1878 era when the tiny stamps saw use.

Kicking off our coverage is Arthur B. Gregg, who surveys the history and types of Westtown stamps. His article appeared previously in the journal for the Pennsylvania Postal History Society a few years back and his text is substantially unchanged.

However, because the covers and stamp types originally illustrating that article were no longer available, other Westtown material had to be located. On this count, Society members came through magnificently.

A special thanks also goes to Esther D.R. Pruett, Clerk, History & Antiques Committee of Westtown School, who resourcefully provided me with our cover lithograph, photographs and contemporary information on the school.

Following Gregg's article, I have

appended some further observations on original stamps and covers, plus a brief survey of forgeries and bogus stamps based on the Sloane and Schwartz holdings and my own reference collection. Finally, I have included a few words penned by a schoolboy of that time, giving a unique glimpse of life back in the early days of Westtown.

Among other articles rounding out this issue is a census of Hale & Co. offices, a survey by Michael S. Gutman, one of the foremost students of that classic Independent Mail operation.

Hale & Co., despite the massive number of surviving covers, remains one of the most unchronicled of posts, with articles rarer than hen's teeth.

I have often mused over why H. Warren K. Hale picked Hussey's as his philatelic passion rather than his namesake Hale & Co. Whatever, Gutman's first article is most welcome and hopefully, the harbinger of more to come.

In the new feature department, Robson Lowe has submitted an enigmatic piece for our Mystery Cover Corner that has so far stumped our experts. Perhaps you can unravel the mystery.

And, should you possess some equally baffling item, please feel free to submit it so the light of to our Society group wisdom — or ignorance — can shine upon it.

Finally, I would like to thank those members who submitted fresh data expanding my own knowledge of Squier's forgeries. Their observations can be found in our Forgery Follow-Up, a new feature debuting in this issue.

Gordon Stimmell
Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Society is gradually resolving issues touched upon at our first annual meeting last November. Directors and Officers met in February and addressed urgent priorities. This is a brief report of our progress.

Annual Meeting, 1992. It had been our desire to hold the next annual meeting at a site other than an Eastern city. Regrettably, no practical date and location presented itself. We will therefore convene in November at the ASDA National Postage Stamp Show at the Javits Convention Center in New York City. Planning for the 1993 annual meeting will start sooner and will be targeted for CHICAGOPEX.

Open Elections. It has been the experience of three of the Directors present that across-the-board open elections for small organizations pose overwhelming problems of staffing and administration. A compromise solution was agreed to, of electing Directors who in turn will appoint Officers. To implement this policy we will need volunteers to administer it. Will you offer? Contact Secretary Bill Crowe. You'll find his address on the contents page.

Mail Auction. The Society will hold an Annual Donation Auction by mail with proceeds to go to the Society. Members will be solicited for appropriate items. The lots will be available for viewing at the November annual meeting. More about this in a follow-up letter to the membership.

Expertising Service. The many aspects of launching and maintaining a formal expertising service, least of which is the manpower need, is too formidable for the Society at its present stage. Again, a compromise: A panel of

qualified members will be constituted to offer informal expertising at the November meeting to members wishing an opinion on questionable items.

Sponsorship of *The Penny Post*. The Directors and Officers will renew their efforts to find sponsors willing to underwrite a portion of each issue of the journal. Linked to that effort is a cost reduction plan to substantially lower cost per copy without degrading the quality of the publication. If we succeed we'll be able to reduce annual dues.

Public Relations. Our Society is offering to provide the World Columbian Stamp Expo '92 in Chicago in May with a one-frame educational exhibit that will suggest to viewers the range of collecting areas to be found under the umbrella of carriers and locals.

A member recruiting ad has been produced and sent to 23 auction houses with the request that the ad fill an otherwise blank page when one occurs in their auction catalogues. Verbal response to date has been favorable.

The position of Publicity Manager is open. Who among you is qualified and willing? Call or write me. I'll be delighted to hear from you.

•••

In the January issue in my haste to pat us on the back for the honor our members brought the Society at SEPAD, I unwittingly omitted Tom Mazza from the winners' circle. His fine "New York City Carrier and Local Mail" exhibit, whose subtitle "Street Fighting" aptly described their intense competition, won a Gold and the APS Pre-1900 Medal. All well deserved.

Richard Schwartz
President

THE WESTTOWN LOCAL

By Arthur B. Gregg

Bits and pieces of information have been published over the past 50 years about Westtown School's little auxiliary postage stamp called a "Local" for local delivery.

The late Robert F. Brinton, of West Chester, Pa., in the 1930s 'typed' and 'plated' the two different sizes of this stamp (Ref. #1). His comprehensive "Westtown Local" exhibit won the Class A Award at SEPAD in 1940.

This author had access to unpublished information as well as the Brinton collection and decided it was time to update the material available.

Particular appreciation goes to the late Judge A.B. Maris, who died at 95 after becoming the longest sitting federal judge. His extensive files on the Westtown stamp dates seen on cover and other pertinent data proved enormously helpful. Additionally, I do appreciate the assistance provided by Mrs. Alice Long, Archivist, at the Westtown School.

The "Westtown Local" was first documented by Henry C. Needham, in 1921 (Ref. #2), long after most locals (city deliveries, private posts or independent mail services) had been identified. One cannot write about the Westtown Stamp, without including related historical events and life at the School during its existence. No other description is needed, this is postal history! However, this is not a detailed history of the Westtown School.

The Westtown School, a Quaker institution, retains the oldest secondary school still operating in North America, dating from 1799. It is located 20 miles west of Philadelphia and 4 miles southeast of West Chester, Pa., in what was once rural Chester County. It still retains its pastoral appearance, but today the school has modernized and caters to students from pre-kindergarten through high school.

The School was originally established as a boarding school, providing religious guidance and instruction in academic subjects of the times. Boys and girls of high school age, in the 19th century, came from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland, Indiana, Ohio and New York.

From the beginning thru the 1870's, the students came to stay for extended periods, possibly up to a year, without visits home. During this early period transportation was difficult and costly. One solution was to write frequently to family and friends and anticipate receiving both letters and packages.

The School Committee (ie., board), who ran Westtown School on a tight budget, was not about to miss an opportunity to collect some extra funds. They decided, therefore, to charge a 2¢ fee for each letter a student mailed out from the school, in addition to the required U.S. postage. Its purpose, they stated, was to help defray the wagon driver's wages, who made runs to West

1. Robert F. Brinton Exhibit & Study of Westtown Locals. SEPAD 1940. SEPAD Court Of Honor 1973.

2. Henry C. Needham documented existence of Westtown local in 1921. Reported by Harry M. Konwiser in Stamps, Dec. 18, 1937.



-Photograph courtesy of Westtown School, Westtown, Pa.

Students and staff at Westtown School in an 1860s photograph.

Chester each work day to deliver and collect mail and supplies. This round trip distance was 8 miles.

The fee took effect, most probably, at the start of the Winter Session, beginning in November of 1853. Prepaid stamps were placed on sale for 2¢ each. It was a plain little design (Scott 145L1 measuring 15mm X 10½ mm) printed in red brown on white paper with just the word “WESTTOWN” surrounded by two oval borders (Ref. #3). No written instructions have been located but by convention the little stamp appears on the back of most covers reported, as a seal for the envelope flap. Some are found on the front and on rare occasions next to and cancelled with the U.S. postage stamp, called tied to cover. There was no intentional cancelling applied to this Local.

As of March 4, 1859, mail delivery and

pickup for the School was made at the newly established Street Road Station and Post Office, on the just completed West Chester and Philadelphia Line, only 1½ miles southeast of the School.

The Local, at 2¢, however, remained in force! In fact, the 2¢ fee remained in force for some additional 19½ years ending at the start of the Winter Session beginning in November 1878. It was officially discontinued by the School Committee by the Minutes of their meeting (Ref. #4). This fact has never been documented before and should correct the uncertainty in the Local’s official cessation date. A little levity is in order, as was reported by an assistant teacher during the 1877-78 Winter Session (Ref. #5). In capsule he stated: “The real reason that the fee was discontinued, seems to bear on the fact that the fee was extended to the teachers as well. They

3. Elizabeth R. Sharpless, *Westtown Locals*, 19th Am. Phila. Congress Nov. 1, 1953.

4. Westtown School Committee, *Archives-Westtown School, Minutes of the Meeting Vol. 3*, pg.299, 6/19/1878.

5. J.E. Meyer, Assistant Teacher, *Recollections 1877-78*, *Archives-Westtown School*.

rebelled against the idea and forthwith a meeting was called to see what should be done about it. Their action appeared to play an important role in cancelling the stamp fee for everyone.”

A cover is dated Nov. 1880 with a Westtown Local affixed, and there may be others extant. However, not all stamps were redeemed and stamps found on envelopes could never be used over again. As stated above, after November 1878 they were *not required*.

The major portion of R. Brinton’s 1940 study revealed two stamp sizes and he identified seven so called Types and numerous plate varieties. The large number of varieties resulted from expe-

dience on the part of the printers. Both lithographers referred to their product as a label or tag and I’m sure with the concurrence of the School Committee. From the initial design thru subsequent lettered drawing and border modifications, one can quickly observe that this is not U.S. postage stamp quality. The price was right, however, for in 1857 P.S. Duval Lithographers charged \$15 to make the stone (plate) and print and deliver 41,580 stamps. (Fig. 1).

Following Brinton’s exhibit, a lively exchange of correspondence was initiated among other Westtown special-ists. They took issue with the sequence of the Types as presented in Brinton’s study. Type I should come from the earliest stone by definition. In particular,

Figure 1: LITHOGRAPHERS OF THE WESTTOWN LOCALS

Lithographer P. S. Duval, Ranstead Place, Philadelphia, Pa., printed and delivered 103,700 stamps (By April of 1857 P.S. Duval had moved to S.W. corner of 5th and Minor Streets).

Payment Dates	Quantity Delivered	Delivery Dates
Dec. 12, 1854	5,440	April 26, 1853
	11,712	Sept. 14, 1853
	19,968	Aug. 10, 1854
April 3, 1857	41,580	Dec. 26, 1856
July 15, 1862	25,000	

Lithographer Thomas Sinclair, 311 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa., printed and delivered 150,000 stamps (By December of 1866 Sinclair had moved to 506 & 508 North Street and became T. Sinclair & Son).

Payment Dates	Quantity Delivered
Nov. 25, 1864	30,000
Dec. 14, 1866	30,000
May 18, 1869	30,000
Feb. 24, 1874	30,000
Jan. 22, 1878	30,000

The first printing stone prepared by Lithographer Duval was for 160 stamps (probably 10 X 16). Duval’s second printing stone was for 106 stamps (9 X 12). Duval’s third printing stone arrangement was probably 200 stamps (10 X 20).

In the case of Lithographer Sinclair, the printing stone for the last printing was 240 stamps (10 X 24), since two sheets survive. We assume the earlier printings by Sinclair were the same.

Judge A.B. Maris, Frank Hollowbush, George Sloane and William Coles, in their considered opinion (Ref. #6) came to the following conclusions:

1. That Type IV, not Type I, came from the earliest stone.

2. That Type IV was the only stamp to appear on the earliest stone. (Although a limited number of Type I and Type IV stamps on covers have been located (see Fig. #2), Type IV postmarks are all in the time frame of the printing and usage of the early stone. Type I postmarks appear later, more in the era of the printing from the second stone. And, Type IV as a first design attempt is crude compared to all the other types.)

3. That Types I, II and III are all associated with the 2nd stone and printing. (Uniquely, all the Brinton Types I, II and III on covers seen are in the same

time frame (Fig. #2) of the printing and usage of the 2nd stone. There is no indication on the Lithographer's bill of March 1857 that a consignment of three separate designs were being provided.

Note: Types I, II and III are the large size (Scott's 145L1 — 15mm X 10½mm) all printed and delivered by Litho. P.S. Duval as of Dec. 26, 1856. This lithographer was still under contract to deliver an additional 25,000 stamps, beginning in early 1862. This delivery would be one of the smaller stamp configurations (Scott 145L2 — 12½mm X 8mm).

4. Of the three smaller types, Type V has been identified as coming from the last stone of P.S. Duval, by virtue of its slightly smaller overall dimensions and lean cut lettering as compared to Type VI and Type VII produced by Litho. T. Sinclair.

5. That Type VI followed Type V in delivery and usage. See Fig. #2.

6. Albert B. Maris, U.S. Circuit Judge, Correspondence with George Sloane dated Jan. 17 and Mar. 7, 1850.

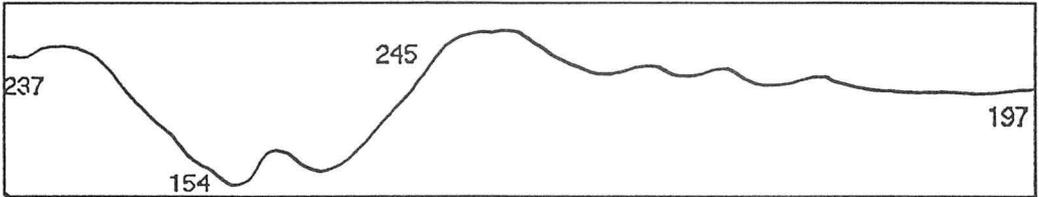
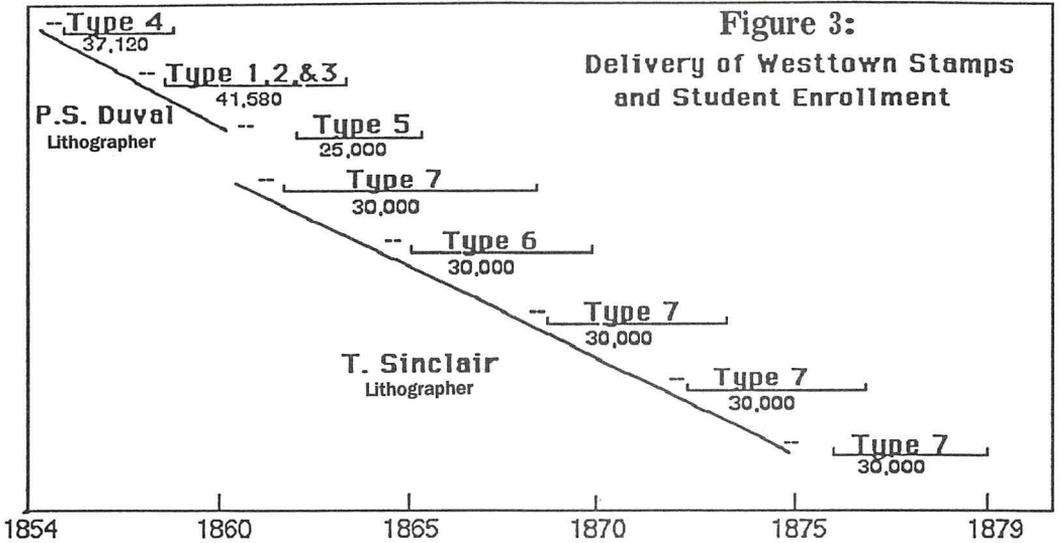
Figure 2:

COVERS TABULATED BY A.B. MARIS - NOVEMBER 30, 1949

TYPE	EARLIEST DATE SEEN	LATEST DATE SEEN	COVERS
1	July 27, 1857	September 7, 1859	8
2	April 1, 1857	January 17, 1861	9
3	December 16, 1856	April 15, 1863	12
4	September 17, 1854	October 3, 1856	7
5	February 5, 1863	January 30, 1865	7
6	April 3, 1865	January 17, 1867	18
7*	November 4, 1859	January 22, 1877	12
7A+	March 17, 1865		1

* This Type 7 cover was purchased in 1978 by the author who confirmed its authenticity and year date with the help of Mrs. Alice Long in the Westtown School archives.

+ Gold-on-Black Type 7A (Type 7 design). Judge Maris confirmed the cover's authenticity in 1948 with the writer of the letter, who was 97 years old at that time.



WESTTOWN STUDENT ENROLLMENT (Nov., 1853 - Nov., 1878)

Before we summarize findings and opinions let us list some data that is missing which would be helpful to have.

1. Missing delivery receipts for most stamp lots and possible missing stamp deliveries not accounted for.

2. Missing correspondence between the School and the two lithographers. Particularly we could use information pertaining to the stamp configuration chosen and changes made in the design Types.

We do have, however, some additional data that might be helpful, such as:

★The 19th century Westtown School class enrollments. (Ref. #7).

★The fact that both winter and summer sessions in the 1800's ran without vacations, with only a week or so between sessions.

★The majority of students at this Boarding School, during the early period would stay for a winter and/or summer session without going home.

With above data the author calculated the stamps consumed by the students over the 25 years of usage, assuming each student, on the average, wrote a letter a week to someone. Using this data and the dates of covers tabulated in Fig. #2, a chart (Fig. #3) was constructed. Reasonable variations from 50 letters per year per student do not change the profile!

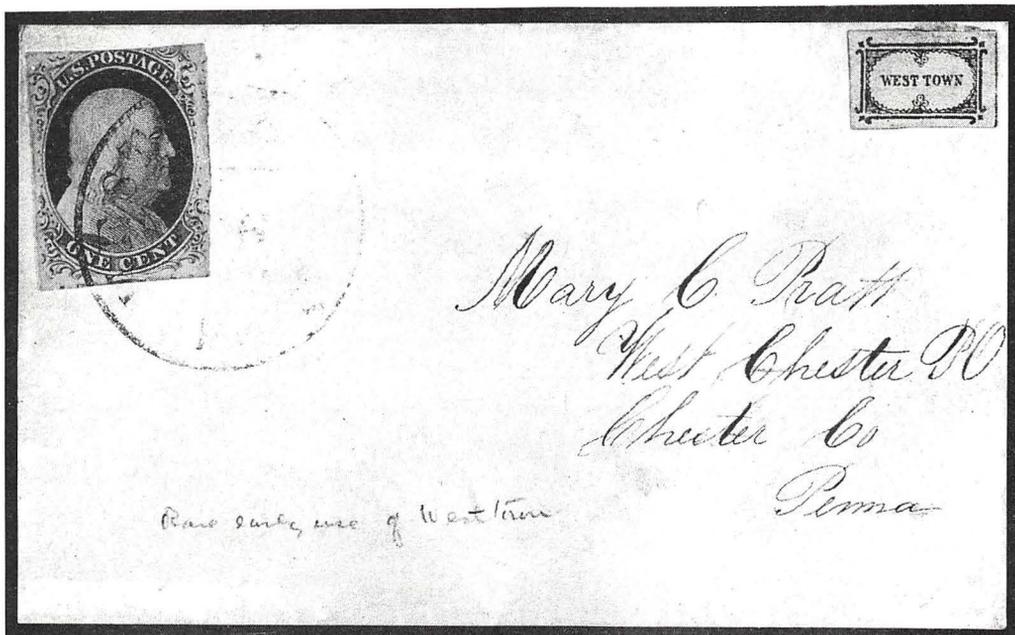
What the constructed Chart portrays:

★No unaccountable stamp deliveries existed.

★Using "payment dates" in estimating missing "delivery dates" is unreliable.

★Type VI was short lived, limited to one 30,000 delivery.

7. Student Attendance Records 1853-1880, Archives-Westtown School.



Early use of the first Westtown stamp design, Type IV, on a cover to the West Chester Post Office using the two cent school rate plus the one cent regular postage. Twenty years later, the final style of Westtown adhesives, Type VII stamps, were in use (see block below), printed in sheets of 240 with 56 stamps inverted in each sheet.

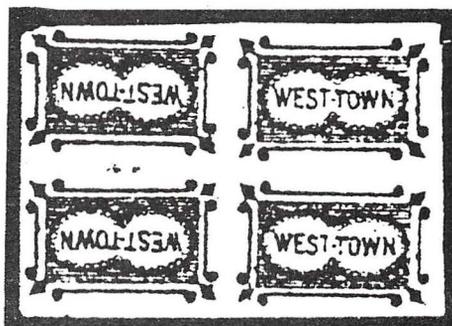
★ It appears that Type VII stamp deliveries arrived and were used at Westtown before Type VI stamp deliveries arrived.

CONCLUSIONS:

★ Type IV (145L1) — This is the one and only large size stamp from the early stone, produced by Lithographer P.S. Duval.

★ Types I, II & III (145L1) — These three Types, all large size stamps, appear to be associated with the same stone, namely the second, also produced by Litho. P.S. Duval. Note: No combination pairs have been located to date, which would be proof positive.

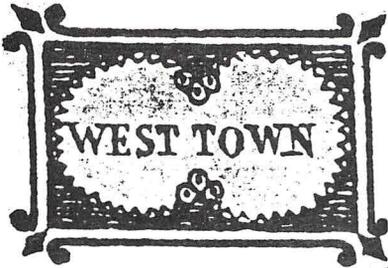
★ Type V (145L2) — This small stamp design was printed by Lithographer P.S. Duval on his last stone. It is slightly smaller than Type VI or VII.



★ Type VI (145L2) — This small stamp design was printed by Lithographer T. Sinclair. It followed Type V in usage.

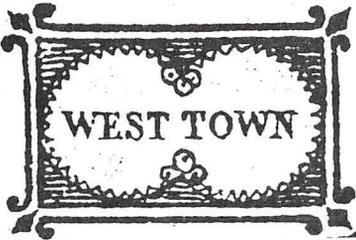
★ Type VII (145L2) — A small stamp design that provided the bulk of stamps delivered to the School by Lithographer T. Sinclair. Note: From the earliest date seen, Type VII may have superceded Type VI in its usage at the School.

THE LARGE DESIGNS



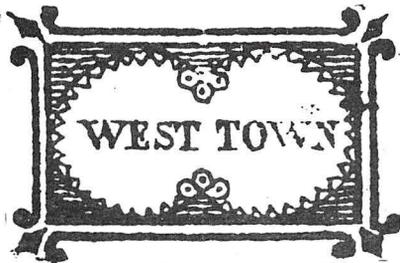
TYPE I

Large size — 15 X 10.5 mm. Letters have serifs. Name centered to left, 'W' almost touching border. 22 points in rim of left circle, 24 points in right. T/TOWN upright nearly lines up between middle eyes of center triads.



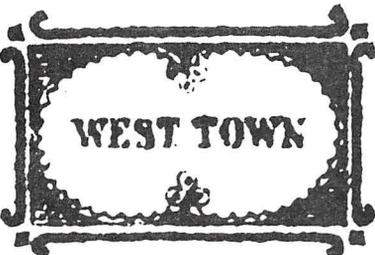
TYPE II

Large size — 15 X 10.5 mm. Letters have serifs. Name well centered. Upper flower in bottom cluster much larger than others. 24 points in each border. T/TOWN between right eyes of triads.



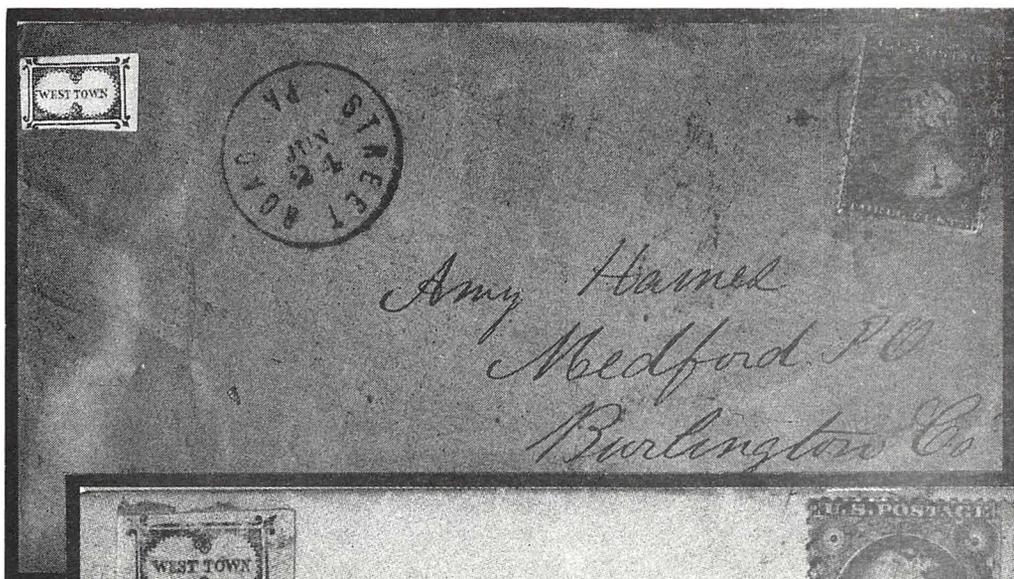
TYPE III

Large size — 15 X 10.5 mm. Letters have serifs. Name centered to right. 'N' looks crowded. Center bottom flower normal. 21 points in border of each circle. T/WEST between left triad eyes.



TYPE IV

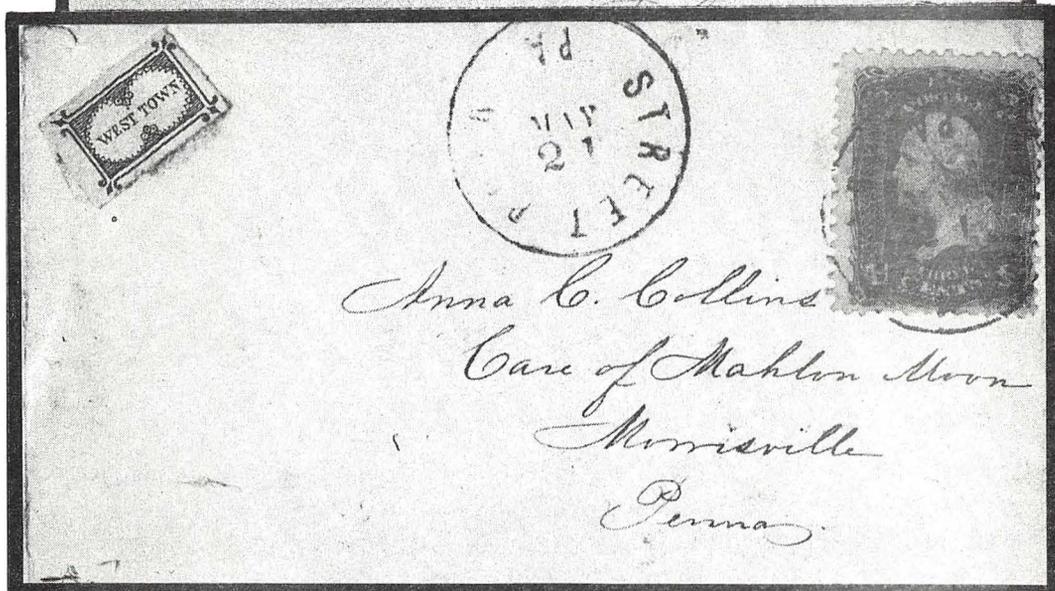
Large size — 15 X 10.5 mm. Letters have serifs, but are heavier and more compact. Name well centered in lots of white space. 'Binoculars' oval rather than two overlapping circles. Corner diamonds small and nearly square. Crude printing. 22 points in left rim and 21 points in right.



*Amy Harnes
Medford, Pa
Burlington Co*



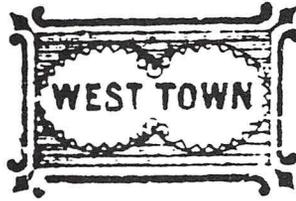
*William J. Hoop
No. 28 South Wharff*



*Anna C. Collins
Care of Mahlon Moon
Morrisville
Penn.*

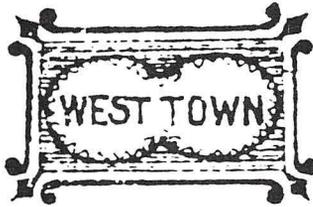
Type I, II and III on covers with Westchester or Street Road Handstamps.

THE SMALL DESIGNS



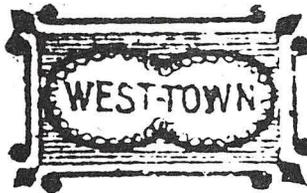
TYPE V

Small size — 12.5 X 8 mm. Letters sans serif. WEST TOWN formed of letters that are even, small, and well centered. No hyphen. 17 points on left, 18 points in right. Upper right diamond resembles a spearhead. Cutting lines exist between stamps.



TYPE VI

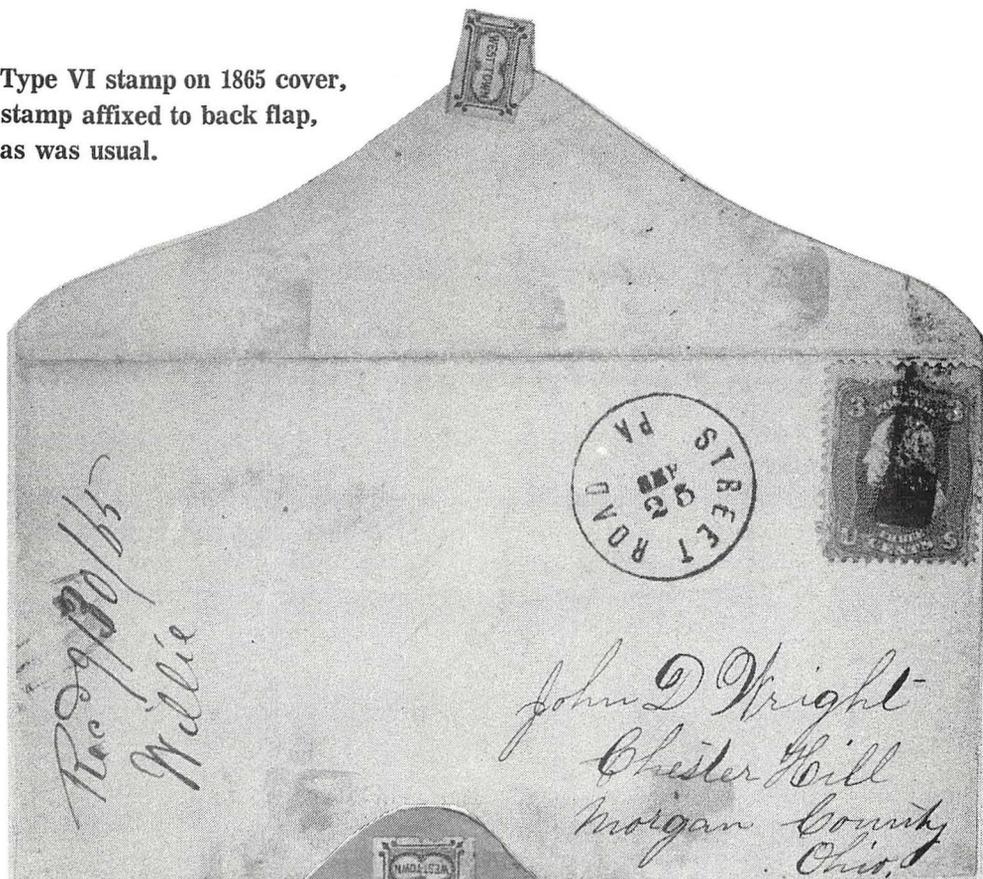
Small size — 12.5 X 8 mm. Letters sans serif, but larger than in Type V. Name has unevenly formed letters, second 'T' especially tall. 18 points in each border. Line very heavy around name-space, which is flatter than in Type V. Traces of fine cutting-guide lines between stamps.



TYPE VII

Small size — 12.5 X 8 mm. Letters sans serif. Period or hyphen between WEST and TOWN. 17 points in border on each side. Flower clusters diminished. Name-space very flattened, outer line very heavy. Balls at ends of side and end brackets heavy and crude. No guide lines between stamps.

Type VI stamp on 1865 cover,
stamp affixed to back flap,
as was usual.



Type VII stamp on back flap
on scarce 1 cent rate
local cover.



ORIGINALS: A POSTSCRIPT

By Gordon Stimmell

Seven major types, four large, and three small, of Westtown stamps have been described in the preceding pages by Arthur Gregg, based on types earlier mapped out by Elizabeth R. Sharpless and Robert F. Brinton.

The chronology of the first four types, as we have seen, is not accurate. George Sloane in 1948 did a detailed census which reordered the types based on dated examples on 96 known covers.

To his pencilled notecards, I have appended my own notes, based on collectors' holdings and 40 additional years of auction records, bringing the Westtown cover total to over 140.

DATES OF USAGE

Sloane's notes show Type IV as first, Type III second, Type I third, and Type II fourth. His cards were obviously viewed by Judge Maris, as the latter's cross-references are penned onto the cards.

Maris, a year later and based on earlier cover dates for the first four types (see analysis of 74 covers in Figure 2 of Gregg's article) agreed that Type IV was first and Type III second in usage, but differed on order of last two, with Type II third and Type I fourth.

As Types I, II and III probably came from the same sheets, order of usage may be rather more of an academic chore than usual.

Complicating any determination of chronology are three factors: 1) Westtown stamps were virtually never tied by postmarks and were easily added to covers later; 2) Early Westchester postmarks lacked the year date; 3) dated enclosures are usually long gone.

For instance, the earliest cover with proven date I had noted for Type IV before seeing the Gregg article was my Hahn cover of Jan. 6, 1855. The only earlier item noted by Sloane was an 1854 catalogue bearing a Type IV (ascribed vaguely to winter 1854-55). Maris, however notes a Sept. 17, 1854 cover (see Figure 2, Gregg article). So where are earlier proven usages for a stamp issued almost a year before? I hope readers can provide earlier proven dates.

All Type IV covers encountered so far bear the Westchester handstamp. About half of Type I-II-III covers carry the Westchester handstamp and half bear the new Street Road P.O. handstamp.

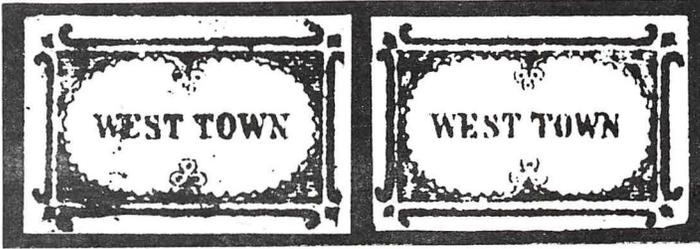
The switchover from Westchester to Street Road P.O. took place by all accounts on March 4, 1859. However, there likely was a transitional period, as I have two late Westchester covers bearing Westtowns dated March 29 and May 15, 1859. The earliest Street Road cover noted so far was Sept. 7, 1859. One assumes there must be earlier dated Street Road covers from the summer months.

Of the small designs, Type V came next, then there is dispute over whether Type VII preceded Type VI. However, Type VII's continued to be used much later than Type VI.

From a taxonomic view, Types I, II and III could all be seen as subtypes of the same type, varying in position of WEST TOWN in the binoculars, and number of points around the rims. (Large multiples of these types haven't survived, so it's impossible to prove my suspicion they are from same sheet. However, they all stem from one delivery of stamps).

TWO MAJOR SUBTYPES

Type
IV



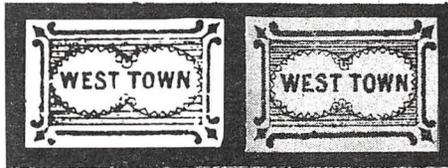
Type
IV-A

So why, I asked, aren't there subtypes of the first design, Type IV, which had three deliveries of stamps? Indeed, close analysis of several collections has uncovered a major subtype not described in the literature.

The long described Type IV has 22 points left and 21 points right. The

subtype I've discovered in several collections has 23 points in each circle, and the letters of WEST TOWN vary as well. The E/WEST has a lower crossbar, S/WEST doesn't lean back, T/WEST and T/Town lack bottom serifs, and the bottom of W/TOWN is higher on the left. (See cut Type IV-A).

Type
V



Type
V-A

Type V has a major subtype as well. By definition, Type V has 17 points around left oval and 18 points around right. A subtype exists with 19 points left and 20 points right, and WEST TOWN spaced further right, so the N/TOWN is closer to the right rim, and the E/WEST has a longer

lower limb. (See cut Type V-A).

Several other subtypes exist, but these two, where the points around the oval differ in number from the classically described types, have occasioned much confusion for many years and most deserve the daylight of publicity.

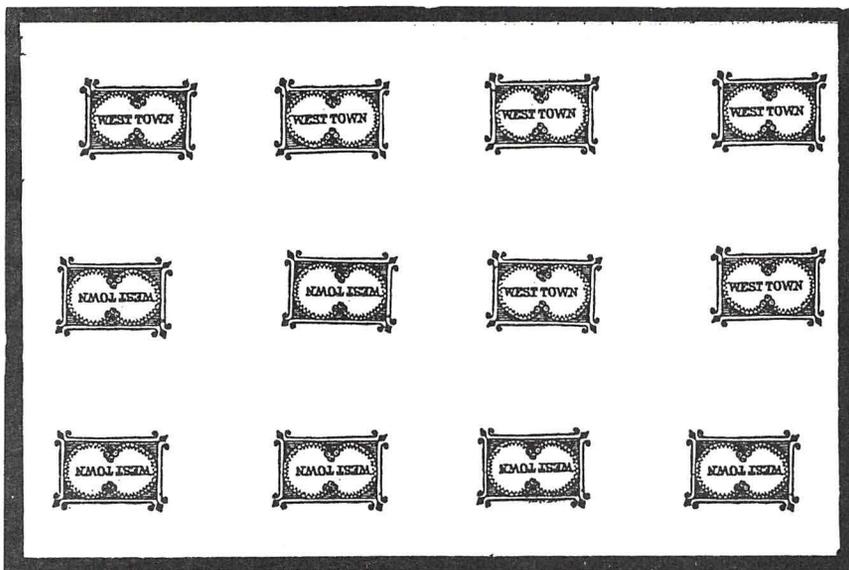
SCOTT CONFUSION

From an overall design point of view, the Scott U.S. Specialized catalogue misses the boat. In an ideal world, Scott should depict the seven main types. However, we realize their space is at a premium.

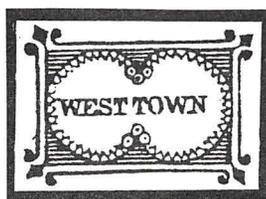
Currently, Scott depicts a deceptive forgery as the large design (145L1), and a genuine Type VII (145L2) as the small design.

Given the fact the illustrations are

so tiny, at a minimum four designs should be shown. The first genuine stamp, Type IV (big binoculars); then one of either Type I, II or III (name left, centered and right) footnoting the three variants. Of the smaller stamps, Type V (even letters WEST TOWN, by first lithographer) should be shown, and either type VI or VII (uneven WEST TOWN, by new lithographer, with and without hyphen).



Pane of 12, Forgery A in Philatelic Foundation Reference Collection.



Forgery A

THE FORGERIES

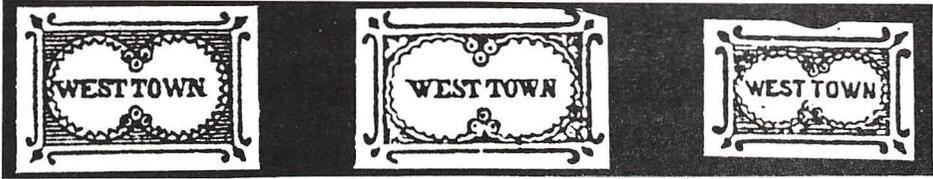


Forgery?

The deceptive Forgery A is currently masquerading in *Scott's U.S. Specialized Catalogue* as the genuine 145L1. This is strange, since early Scott catalogues did not depict the larger type stamp at all. So it is a recent addition, and I doubt J.W. Scott was the perpetrator. The fraud is dangerous because whoever made it was knowledgeable about genuine Westtown stamps and used the real Type I (with WESTTOWN shifted left) for a model and used colors closely matching the wide array of genuine shades. Forgery A is known printed in panes of 12 (4X3) widely spaced stamps (varying ½" gutters), with positions 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 normal and positions 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12 inverted, thus creating one horizontal and four vertical tete-beche pairs. Close examination reveals too many points (25 left, 26 right), upper left diamond is

far too high, and in WESTTOWN, W/WEST usually touches left frame, WES/WEST serifs connect at bottom, and N/TOWN has raised right foot. Common colors include metallic gold, bronze, olive gold, and non-metallic red brown (the so-called "color changeling" alluded to in the Scott catalogue footnotes). A proof exists on India paper.

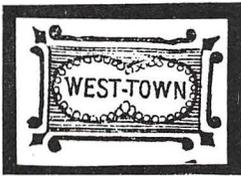
Another potential forgery of Type I was noted in the Sloane Reference Collection and is depicted here (see cut marked Forgery?). It exactly matches the genuine Type I in every respect, except the letters of Westtown lack most of their serifs. Sloane noted: "I do believe it is a counterfeit." The stamp is in metallic gold and on close examination, I believe it to be a genuine Type I with WESTTOWN printed poorly. More examples are needed to make a definitive conclusion.



FORGERIES B, C, and D

These frauds are of French origin and match closely the Moens 1892 catalogue cuts. Forgery B imitates Type I, Forgery C was loosely inspired by Type IV and Forgery D was based on the small design, Type V. All three occur in black on pink surface colored papers, with French catalogue inscriptions on the back. Other colors recorded, without French printed words on the back, include black on orange colored through, reddish bronze and silver

bronze on white. The WESTTOWN of Forgery B is close to that of Forgery A, but with narrow O/TOWN and far fewer points (21/22) around rims. The chief distinguishing features of Forgery C are a squashed fleur-de-lys in upper left corner and a continuous white squiggly border used in lieu of triangular points around the binoculars. Forgery D is marked by elongated, distended stemmed spears and a long, curve-bottomed E/WEST.



FORGERY E

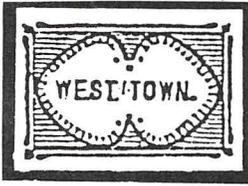


ILLUSTRATION, J. W. SCOTT'S INTERNATIONAL

This forgery is another deceptive creature, but shouldn't be. Yet, I have never seen anyone call it a forgery. And dealers commonly sell it as the real thing, not knowing any better. The design matches the cut used by J.W. Scott for over 50 years as the single Westtown stamp depicted. It occurs in my 1900 *Scott Standard Catalogue*, my 1910 *Scott Catalogue of the Local Stamps of the United States, China, Etc.*, and in *Scott's 1933 Supplementary Catalogue of Miscellaneous United States Local Stamps, etc.* Papa Scott used the same cut for his 1886 *International Album*. Happily, the current Scott catalogue has dropped this "first" design and shows a real Type VII. The letters of WEST-TOWN closely match actual Type VII letters, but the T/Town is smaller than the T/WEST. The bor-

der points, which are semi-circles on the genuine Type VII, are instead full circles, instantly condemning it. As well, the flowers, or triads, lack dots, (indeed the top triad has merged in size with the other balls) and the long flourish lines outside the border are too thick. Finally, the real Type VII runs about .0028" while Forgery E is thick, .0040". The cut above shows a late variant, with bent top flourish line, and comes in gold. Note a wide telltale gap in the round rim balls over the W of TOWN which exaggerates a normal variant of Type VII. I have never encountered this type on any genuine covers.

THE BOGUS STAMPS



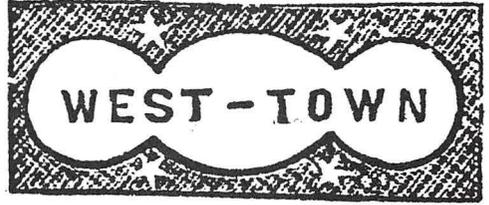
Bogus Type 1

The design of S. Allan Taylor's first Westtown stamp is not too far removed from originals, but the binoculars resemble spades set bottom to bottom, sideways. WEST TOWN has a period after it, the corner spears are very tiny, and the rim ornaments are merely strokes. This has been traced by Sherwood Springer to Form 8 (yellow, purple, purple on yellow CT) and Form 9 (black, black on scarlet and black on pink). The Springer collection has gold versions printed on five papers: On pink-purple, on green, on blue, on dark violet and on brown. It has been noted as well in yellow on orange, so other Forms and colors no doubt exist.



Bogus Type 3

This old-time creation features WEST-TOWN with a period in a quite squashed binoculars bordered by rays rather than points. Outer ornaments have been jettisoned and inside the cross-hatched background are six white balls which in the four corners resemble tiny Saturns with rings. Overall size is wider than original stamp. Light violet, violet on cream, and pink (or light red) are the only colors noted thus far. Perpetrator unknown.



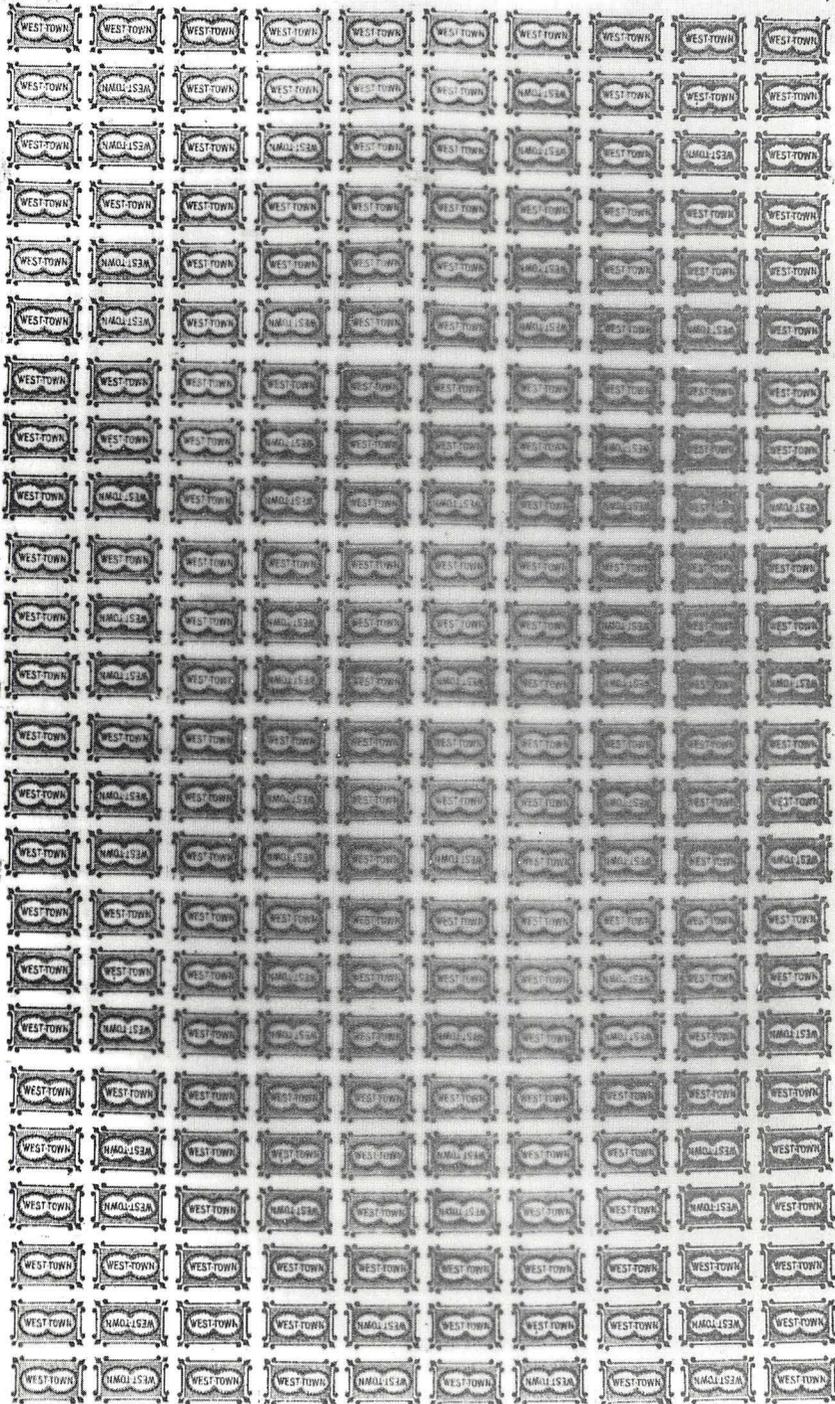
Bogus Type 2

The largest of bogus designs was also created by Taylor and occurs in light and a darker carmine. The design features a triple-binoculars with a widely spaced WEST-TOWN, a cross-hatch background and four white stars outside the dips in the binoculars. Springer notes in his Handbook of North American Cinderella Stamps: "Printed from Form B-4 which also included Brown & McGill's, Browne's Easton Dispatch, Carnes, 2c City Dispatch, McIntire's, McRobish, Price's and Staten Island."



Bogus Type 4

This very homemade effort resides in the Sloane Reference Collection and occurs in black on dark grey paper colored through. The frame of the stamp is hand-drawn in brown ink, leading one to speculate there couldn't be too many of these labor-intensive creations around. Perhaps a schoolboy prank? Probably not by a Westtown student. Too smart for that, they knew there was no such thing as a Westtown "Dispatch".



Rare original sheet of 240 Type VII Westtown stamps with 56 stamps inverted.

If you are a dedicated collector of classic United States stamps and covers, we can help you build a collection of distinction.



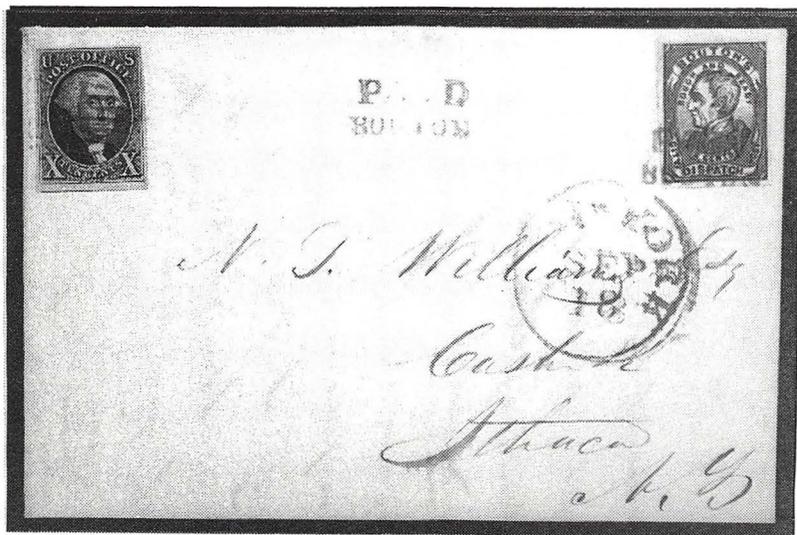
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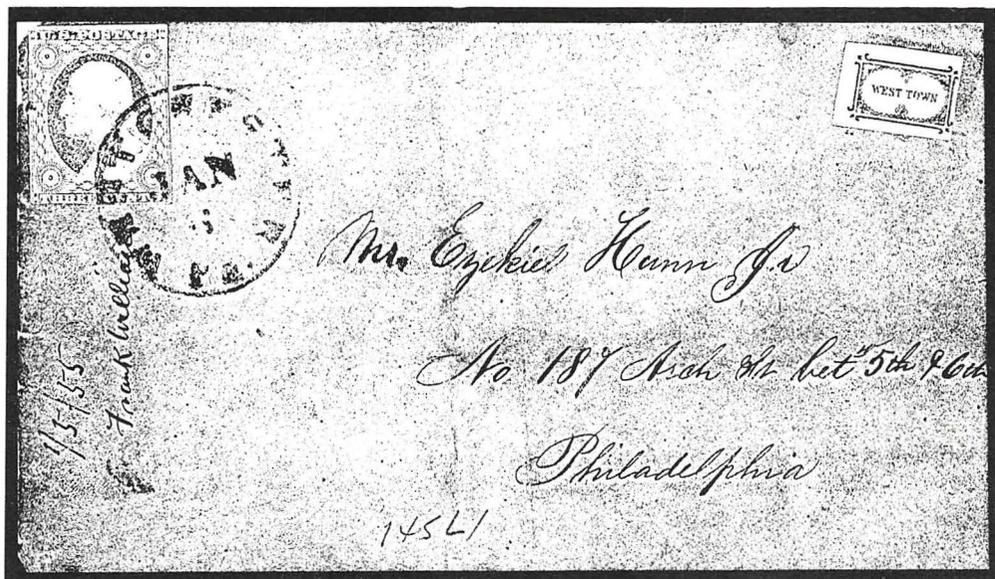
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Jan. 6, 1855 cover from Frank Williams bearing Type IV Westtown stamp.

By Gordon Stimmell

Being sent to Boarding School — no matter how prestigious its reputation to parents — was far from an ideal fate in the minds of many 19th century red-blooded American boys. In the tradition of Mark Twain's rebellious Tom Sawyer, we present here a letter from a Westtown student, Frank Williams, who fancied himself more as an inmate in prison — especially while writing to a chum his own age dwelling in the 'free' world of Philadelphia.

Frank's complaint, penned in 1855, concluded with a postscript to "tear up" this letter. I'm glad his friend, Ezekiel Hann, Jr., preserved the words. The universal mood and modern sarcasm reveal a lively, critical intelligence at play. He had obviously benefitted from the regimen, despite his cathartic diatribe. The letter affords a rare schoolboy's glimpse at life inside Westtown.

Westtown historian Esther D.R. Pruett kindly filled in background:

"Your Frank Williams was Francis C. Williams from 209 Coates St., Phil-

THE UNIVERSAL STUDENT

adelphia and his bills were paid by his father Richard Williams. He entered Westtown at the age of 11 years in 6th mo. 1851, left in 10 mo. 1852, returned in the winter session 1853 and left in summer session 1855.

"Graduation as such didn't exist at Westtown in those days. Students left when they had learned what they or their parents wanted them to learn. I am enclosing a copy of young Frank's expenses. You will note, he spent quite a bit on stamps. Too bad it doesn't say how much of the stamp money was for Westtown stamps!

"We can't find any certain record of any children of his who might have come to the School. Maybe he really did hate the place!"

**A Day In The Life
Of A Westtown Student.**

and as fast as they get hold of them they would take them by their heads - give them a crack - their bodies would fly off leaving its head in their hands quite a new way to kill chickens indeed some were so wild that they had to shoot the Turkey & Chicken & Chicken & Turkey & Turkey & Chicken & Turkey and if you would like some more I can easily write it down again.

You can tell how glad I am that this is my last session at this place for you have to get up before daylight go to meeting three times a week & if I had to come any more I would not be coming for any thing.

As it is nearly time for Christmas I will bring my letter to a close.

I remain yours truly - Frank

P.S. Nothing else to say except that I want you to tear this up as soon as you read it and not let any one else read it.



Dear Zeke

West Town Boarding School
Friday afternoon January 5th 1855

You must indeed excuse me for neglecting to write to you and I will try in future to keep up my correspondence better, but there you are loafing about doing nothing much and therefore can afford to write a page or two to me, but here I am at this old jail studdying (sic) away like an old hoss - teachers taking my name and having to sit at my seat several hours does not pay - do you think so?

Christmas & New Years have passed since what you did they do to me here - So plain are they here that Monday being our lecture night they thought it would be too much like CELEBRATING those days and therefore put it off until Wednesday - I would like you just to come here ONE session and I am sure it would be your last.

Last Monday they took it in their heads to give us a poultry dinner - and being a splendid moonlight night the men about the place together with a great crowd of boys, went to places where they roosted and routed them out - and then they had a chase - and as fast as they got hold of them they would take them by their heads - give them a crack - their bodies would fly off leaving its head in their hand, quite a new way to kill chickens indeed, some were so wild that they had to shoot them, and on Wednesday we had the dinner. There was - "Turkey & Chicken, Chicken & Turkey, Turkey & Chicken, & Chicken & Turkey" and if you would like some more I can easily write it down again.

You can tell how glad I am that this is my last session at this place, for here you have to mind all the bells, get up before daylight, go to meeting three times a week & if I had to come any more I would not come another summer session for any thing.

As it is nearly time for me to go into another class I will bring my letter to a close.

I remain yours truly - Frank

P.S. Nothing else to say except that I want you to tear this up as soon as you read it and not let any one else read it.

**West Town Boarding School.
Friday afternoon January 5th/55.**

Dear Zeke.

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THE OFFICES OF HALE & CO.

By Michael S. Gutman

I have been collecting the independent carrier Hale & Co. for the last 15 years. I entered this area of collecting through my interest in U.S. precancels. Hale & Co. has the earliest known precancellations, from Boston, New York and Portsmouth, N.H.

In the 15 years of collecting, I have discovered that literature about Hale & Co. is far scarcer than the examples of the carriers markings and routes. Finding the people who collect Hale & Co. to compare notes with has been almost impossible.

My aim is to eventually produce a comprehensive understanding of Hale & Co. but that will have to wait until my work schedule allows for the necessary study time.

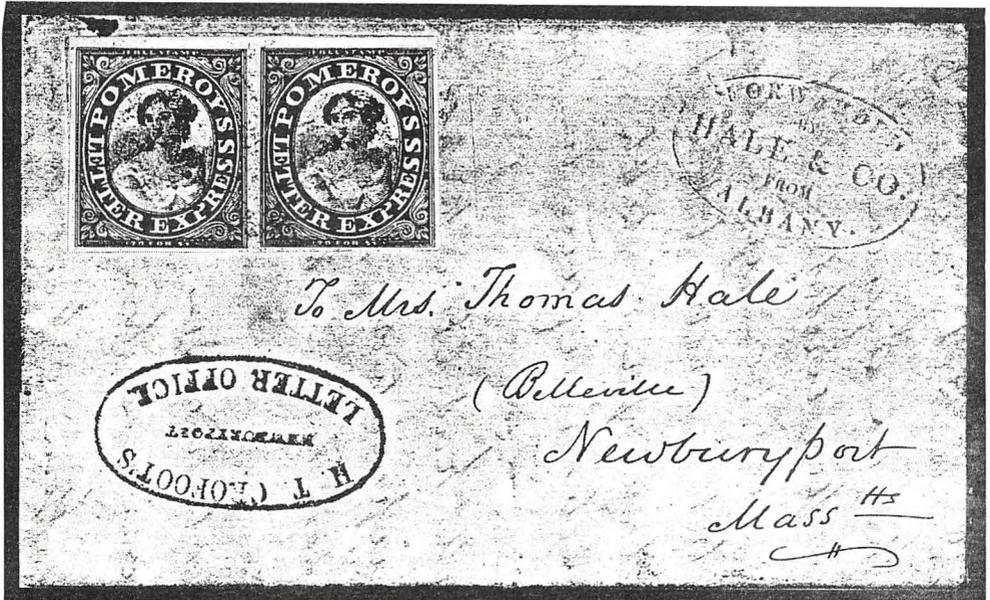
In the meantime I would like to provide some preliminary information in

the hope it will add a little bit to readers' knowledge of Hale & Co. as well as stimulate readers to contact me to increase my own knowledge base.

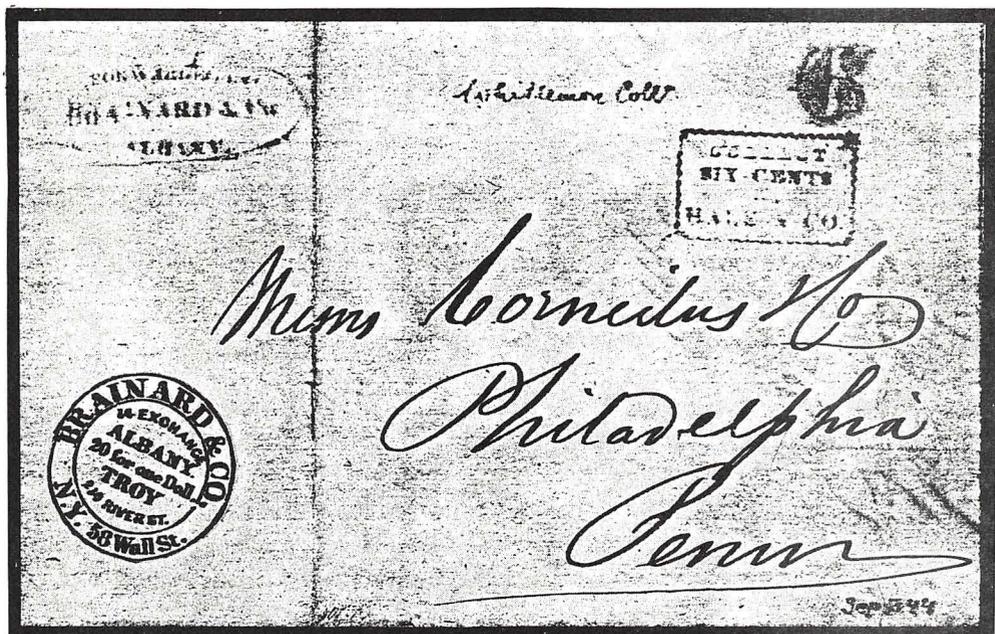
The information presented is based on my own collection of just over 500 covers as well as data I have been able to assemble from literature, auctions and conversations over the last 15 years.

Hale & Co. was in operation from Dec. 1843 to June 30, 1845. There are 23 known offices in which a handstamp was employed which bears the Hale & Co. name. Based on my collection the current ASCC listings would appear to be incomplete and perhaps inaccurate in terms of relative rarity.

The list below shows how many covers I have in my collection from each of these offices.



Triple combination express usage. Pomeroy's Letter Express from Geneva, N.Y. to Albany, by Hale & Co. from Albany to Boston, by H.T.Crofoot from Boston to Newburyport, Mass. Pomeroy pair paid both Pomeroy and Hale usages. July 30, 1844.



Double combination express usage. Brainard from Albany, N.Y. to probably New York City. Thence from New York to Philadelphia, Pa. by Hale & Co.

Danvers, Mass.....	1
Pittsfield, Mass.....	1
Pottsville, Penn.....	1
Norwich, Conn.....	2
Stonington, Conn.....	2
New London, Conn.....	3
Brooklyn, New York.....	4
Baltimore, Maryland.....	5
Haverhill, Mass.....	5
Lowell, Mass.....	5
Middletown, Conn.....	7
New Haven, Conn.....	9
Hartford, Conn.....	10
New Bedford, Mass.....	10
Albany, New York.....	11
Salem, Mass.....	13
Worcester, Mass.....	14
Springfield, Mass.....	16
Northampton, Mass.....	19
Providence, Rhode Is.....	20
Philadelphia, Penn.....	33
New York, New York.....	121
Boston, Mass.....	146

There are three locations from which Hale & Co. covers appear to have originated which used Hale & Co. adhesives with the location name or initials applied to the adhesives in manuscript form.

- Marblehead, Mass.....1
("Marblehead")
- Nantucket, Mass.....1
("Nantucket")
- Portsmouth, N.H.....4
("P/N.H.")

There are two more locations which are reported to have Hale & Co. originations noted in some fashion on the cover.

- Warren, Rhode Island.....0
- Wareham, Mass.....1

Please take time to write me about what you know about Hale & Co. I would like to both expand my knowledge and get some understanding of how many Hale & Co. collectors there are out there.

(Editor's note: Mr. Gutman can be reached at P.O. Box 926, Framingham, MA. 01701.)

CITY DESPATCH POST

The Dr. Leonard A. Kapiloff Collection
Part Two: City Despatch Post Adhesive Stamps

A Commentary
By Scott R. Trepel

In Part One of this series on the Kapiloff collection, the author concentrated on the first two weeks in the life of the City Despatch Post. Attention now turns to the 3¢ adhesive stamp used by the City Despatch Post from its inception until its acquisition by the government in August, 1842.

The Fee Structure

The services offered by the privately owned City Despatch Post benefitted New Yorkers by providing them with fast transmission of letters. The two basic types of services are described as follows:

Local Delivery Outside The Mails — letters carried by the City Despatch Post entirely outside the government mails from one point to another in New York City.

Delivery of Letters to the Mails — letters carried by the City Despatch Post to the post office for deposit into the government mails bound for destinations outside New York City.

At this stage, the City Despatch Post was not authorized to collect letters from the post office and deliver them to street addresses. This carrier service *from the mails* was later provided when the U.S. government acquired control.

For local delivery and delivery to the post office, the City Despatch Post charged 3¢ per letter. Payment could be

collected from the recipient in cash, in which case the letter would be struck with the red City Despatch Post circular handstamp indicating the date and time of delivery. Two examples of collect-on-delivery letters from the Kapiloff collection are illustrated in Figures 7 and 8. The former is unusual because it shows circular delivery handstamps applied at two different times; the first on March 31 (1842) at 4:00 p.m., at which point the letter could not be delivered to the addressee — Col. Samuel Jones Mumford — and again on Apr. 1 at 9:00 a.m. The latter example illustrated (Figure 8) was deposited with the mail forwarding desk at the Howard Hotel on Broadway and Maiden Lane. This lower Manhattan hotel was the location of one of the City Despatch Post's stations. Very few covers are known with the additional hotel forwarder's marking, especially at this early date.

In addition to local delivery and to-the-mails service, the City Despatch Post advertised a "Special Delivery" service for 12½¢ per mile within the limits of the operation. They also advertised a "Registry" service — the equivalent of registered mail — for an additional 3¢ per letter charge. In the 150 years since the inception of the City Despatch Post, not one example of the Special Delivery or Registered Mail service has surfaced. The author keeps alive his hope that one day he will see a folded letter franked by a pair of 3¢ City Despatch stamps, with a neatly applied manuscript "R" marking.

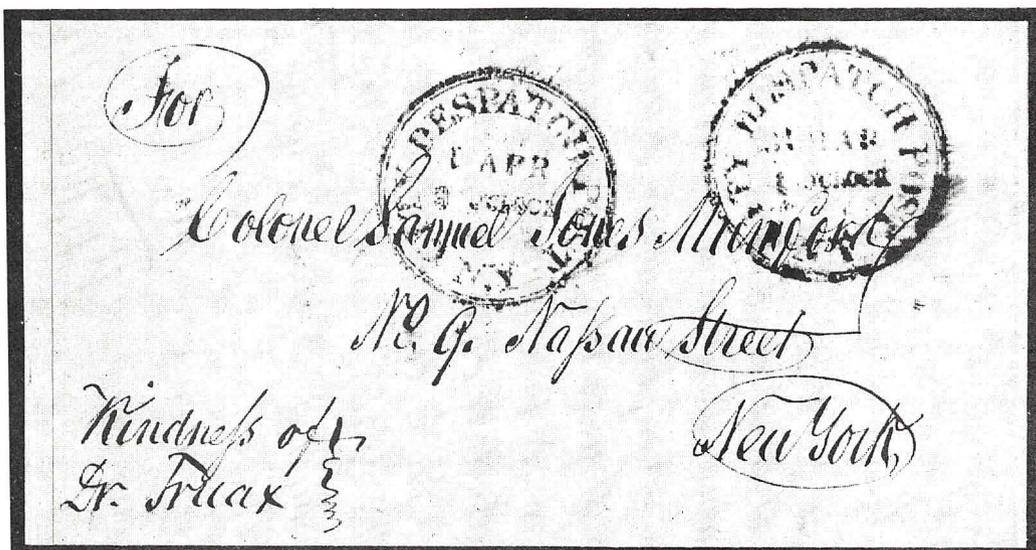


Fig. 7. Collect-on-delivery letter (above) with two City Despatch Post c.d.s., the first unsuccessful delivery on Mar. 31, 1842 at 4:00 p.m., the second on Apr. 1 at 9:00 a.m.

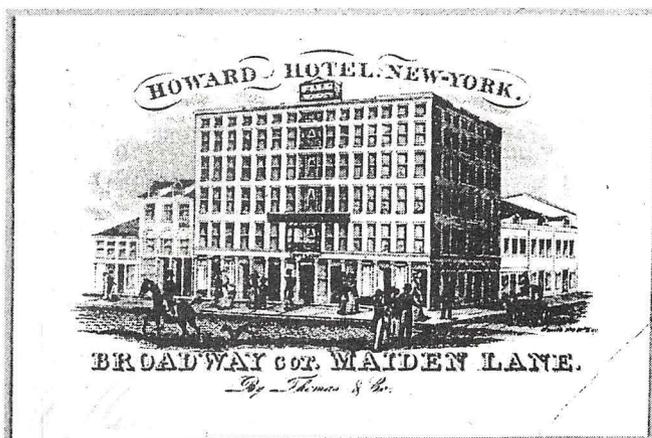
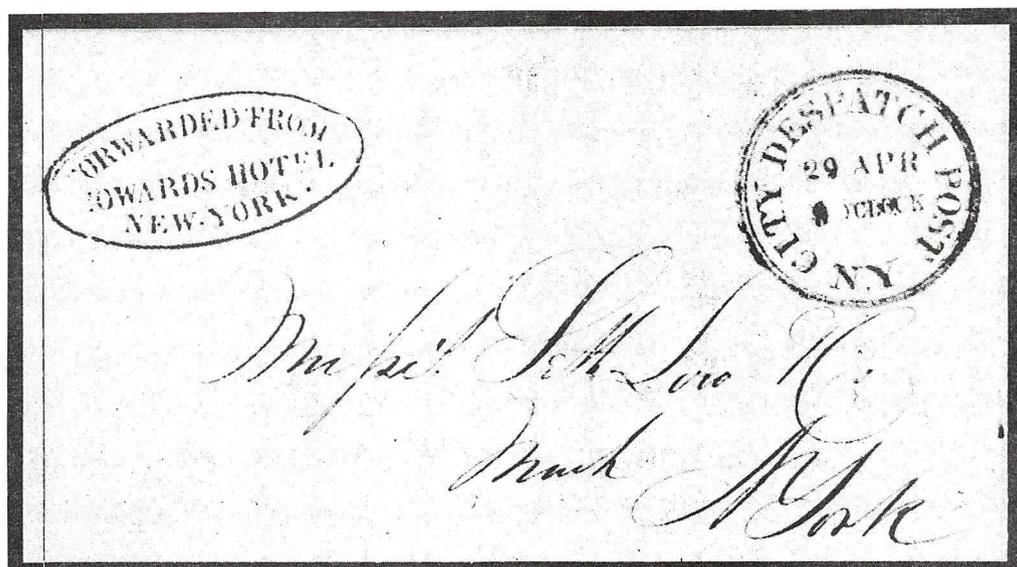


Fig. 8. Calling card of the Howard Hotel (left) and cover (below) with Howard Hotel (Broadway & Maiden Lane) forwarding hand-stamp in conjunction with City Despatch Post c.d.s.



Greig's 3¢ "Free Stamps" — Who Printed Them?

Patrons of the City Despatch Post also had the option of prepaying the 3¢ fee on letters handed over to the post or deposited in one of the letter boxes throughout the city. To facilitate prepayment, adhesive stamps were sold at the Principal Office and through stores "having authority to sell them," as stated in the announcement circulated by Alexander M. Greig. These are the first letter stamps in the United States. They must have been printed by January, 1842, to be ready by the first week of February when the post commenced.

The "Free Stamps", as they were called, were engraved with Washington's portrait and the words, "City Despatch Post/Three Cents," and printed in black on gray paper. They were sold for 36¢ per dozen, or \$2.50 per 100 — the discounted rate for volume obviously representing a ½¢ per letter reduction in the City Despatch Post fee. The stamps exist in panes of 42 — six across and seven down — and were printed on paper measuring approximately 144 by 229 millimeters, imperforate and gummed (see Figure 9).

It has been written many times that Greig's stamp was engraved and printed by Rawdon, Wright & Hatch, security printers known for their work in engraving banknotes and known to philatelists for the 1845 New York postmaster's provisional and 1847 general issue. The circumstances in which the 1842 City Despatch Post stamp was issued so closely align with the later issues that one is immediately drawn to the conclusion that Rawdon, Wright & Hatch printed them all. However, some believe — and no evidence exists to refute their claims — that another printer was responsible for the first City Despatch Post stamp. Here are the relevant facts:

★ The vignette used for Washington's portrait is identical to a stock die vignette found on stock certificates of the period, including one printed by V. Balch of New York for a company chartered in 1840 (see Figure 10). The question raised by this Balch certificate is, was this die the property of V. Balch, or did R.W. & H. have use of it as well? Because Balch was a partner with Mr. Rawdon and Mr. Wright at various times, ownership could have been mutual.

★ The Greig plate was altered in late 1847, probably in December, to produce the "Two Cents" stamp for Mead's successor post to the U.S. City Despatch Post. An entry in R.W. & H.'s manufacturing records for the year 1846 confirms that they printed and delivered 232 sheets on green enamel paper to the City Despatch Post on Dec. 5-6, 1846 (see Figure 11 for excerpt from record books in the American Bank Note Co. archives). This printing is Scott 40L2.

★ No manufacturing records have been cited to prove that R.W. & H. printed Scott 40L1 or 6LB2-6LB7. The manufacturing records for the relevant years were not among the American Bank Note Co. archival material examined by this author. They might be located elsewhere.

Missing from the Kapiloff collection, but of great import, is the so-called "die essay" of the City Despatch Post stamp, ex Caspary and Middendorf (see Figure 12). The die essay shows an elongated oval with more white space above Washington's head, a narrower space between "Three" and "Cents", an apostrophe in the word "Cent", and different ornaments at the sides. How this essay relates to the production of the City

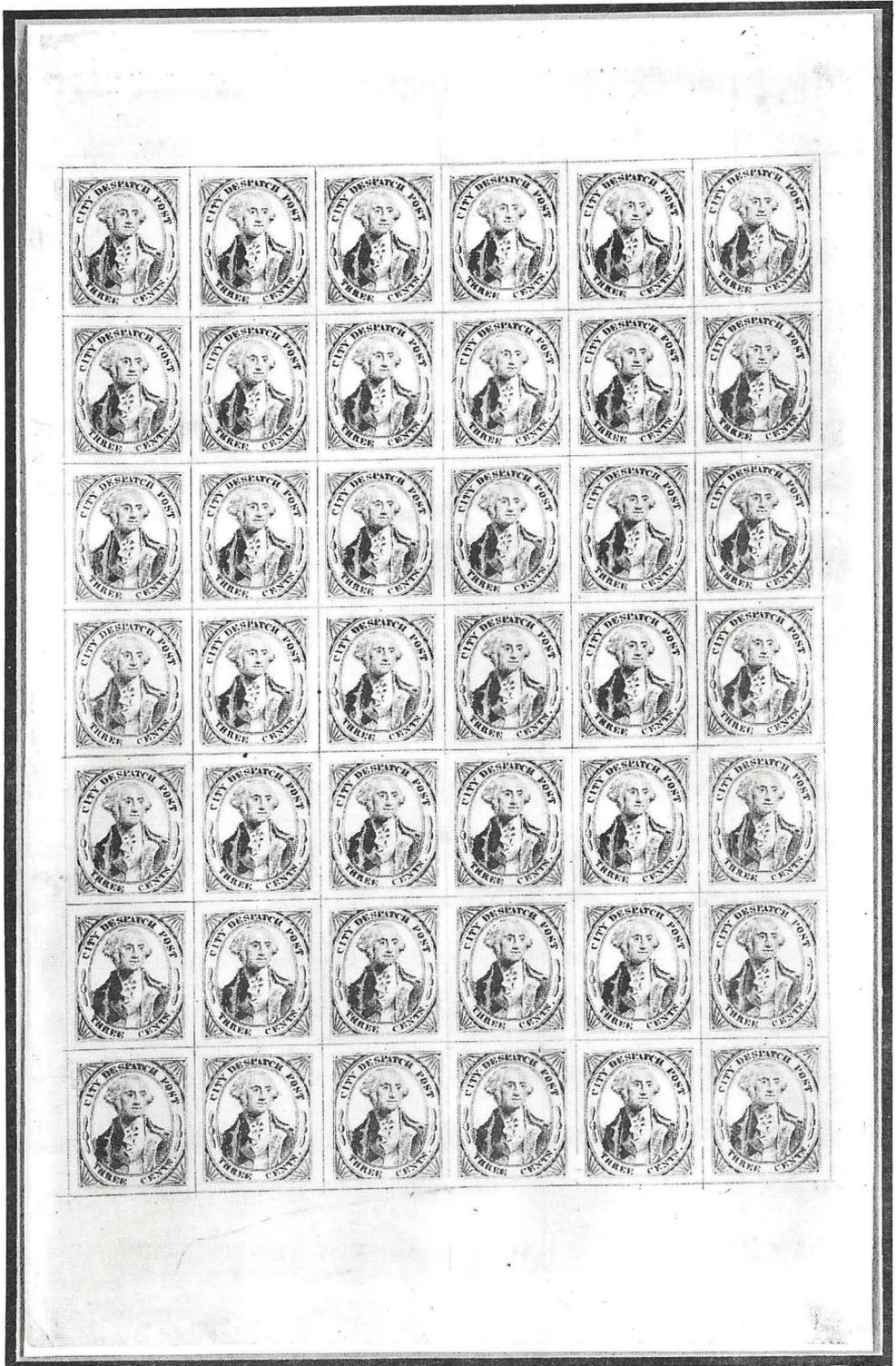


Fig. 9. Complete sheet of 3¢ City Despatch Post stamps with 144 X 229 mm margins.



Fig. 10. Stock certificate, ca. 1840, showing standing Washington vignette and imprint of V. Balch, New York. Balch was a partner with Rawdon and Wright at different times. Vignette at left depicts Hephæstus, Greek god of fire who symbolized metallurgy.

Despatch Post stamp is not known. Rawdon, Wright & Hatch did produce engraved essays for the Canada 3-pence Beaver; therefore, an essay for the City Despatch Post stamp is not atypical of R.W.& H.

A Puzzling Abundance Of Unused Stamps

Three surviving sheets of 42 have been confirmed: 1) ex Caspary, Lilly, Boker, Klein (narrow margins, small tear at left between positions 7 and 13); 2) ex Middendorf (narrow margins); and 3) the Kapiloff sheet illustrated in Figure 9 (full margins at 144 by 229 mm, closed tear at left). A fourth sheet, ex Ackerman, is illus-

trated in Elliott Perry's *100 Years Ago* (P.11). In Perry's illustration, it appears there is a stain on position 36, not found on the other sheets. Therefore, it is very likely this is *not* a duplicate of the three confirmed sheets; however, the distorted and cropped illustration in Perry's book makes positive identification impossible. In addition to the full sheets, there is a large unused block of 24 illustrated in Donald S. Patton's *The Private Local Posts of the United States* (p. 113).

The City Despatch Post sheets, together with many unused singles and blocks, represent a remarkably abundant supply compared to the subsequent U.S. City Despatch issues and the New

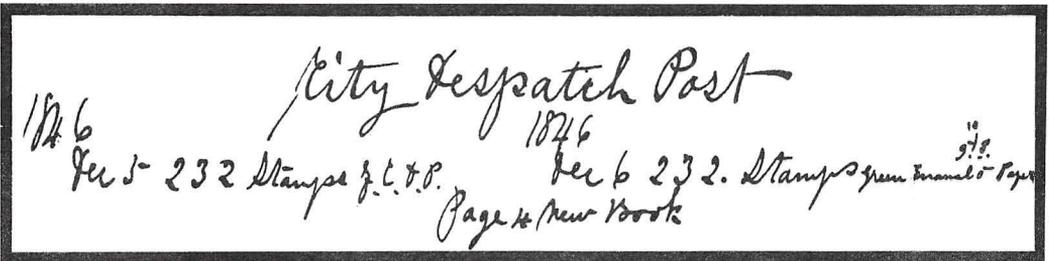


Fig. 11. Dec. 5-6, 1846 entry from record books of Rawdon, Wright & Hatch, showing printing and delivery of 2¢ black on green enamel stamps issued by Mead.

York Postmaster's provisional. Such a disproportion in the scarcity of unused multiples among stamps of the same general type and vintage strongly indicates that remainders of the first City Despatch Post stamp were left in private hands and found their way into the philatelic market.

Why is this so? We know that when the U.S. government bought the City Despatch Post, turning it into an official U.S. carrier service, Greig announced that the U.S. government would "accept" his stamps (see Patton, p. 118). We also know that in December, 1846, after the termination of the U.S. City Despatch Post carrier service, Postmaster Robert H. Morris published an announcement that 3¢ U.S. City Despatch Post stamps could be "redeemed" at the post office or used on letters carried by Mead's successor local post. Based on the relatively large quantity of unused copies of Greig's stamp — including probably four sheets — it is possible that patrons or authorized sellers were "stuck" with the old stamps. The government was very specific about the December 1846 redemption policy during the transition from a local post to official carrier. The more ambiguous policy during the August 1842 transition may indicate that they would accept 3¢ stamps on letters, but had no willingness to exchange the new stamps for Greig's stamps.

Use of Greig's Stamp

While covers bearing the first City Despatch Post stamp are not exceedingly rare, they are much, much scarcer than the 5¢ New York provisional stamp on cover, and are but a tiny fraction of the number of surviving 1847 10¢ covers. With a Scott Catalogue valuation of \$750, a collector is unlikely to run out of money before covers to buy.

Greig was undoubtedly proud of his new stamps, as he used them on circu-

lars he distributed during the first week of operation (see Part One of this series). It seems that letters sent from Greig's office with a stamp affixed had the circular datestamp tying the adhesive. In addition to the circulars distributed by Greig, all of which show the stamp tied by the Type I ("N.Y." inverted) c.d.s., there is a Feb. 24, 1842, letter from Greig to the President of the New York Bank Savings, in which he is soliciting business from the bank. The stamp is tied by the Type I c.d.s. dated Feb. 23 (see Figure 13). This letter is in the Kapiloff collection.

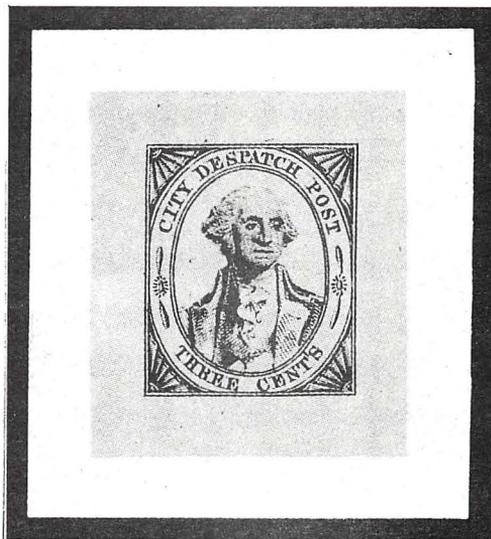


Fig. 12. Die essay differs from issued stamp mainly in ornaments at sides and apostrophe in "Cents". Ex. Middendorf.

On mail deposited with a 3¢ stamp affixed, the normal practice was to cancel the stamp with a framed "Free" handstamp in red. The Middendorf collection (Frajola sale) contained a Valentine described as "the earliest recorded usage of this stamp by the public." The c.d.s. on this cover was illegible and the stamp was cancelled by manuscript; while a Valentine might well have been mailed on or about Feb. 14, one must remember that the custom of the period permitted Valentines to be

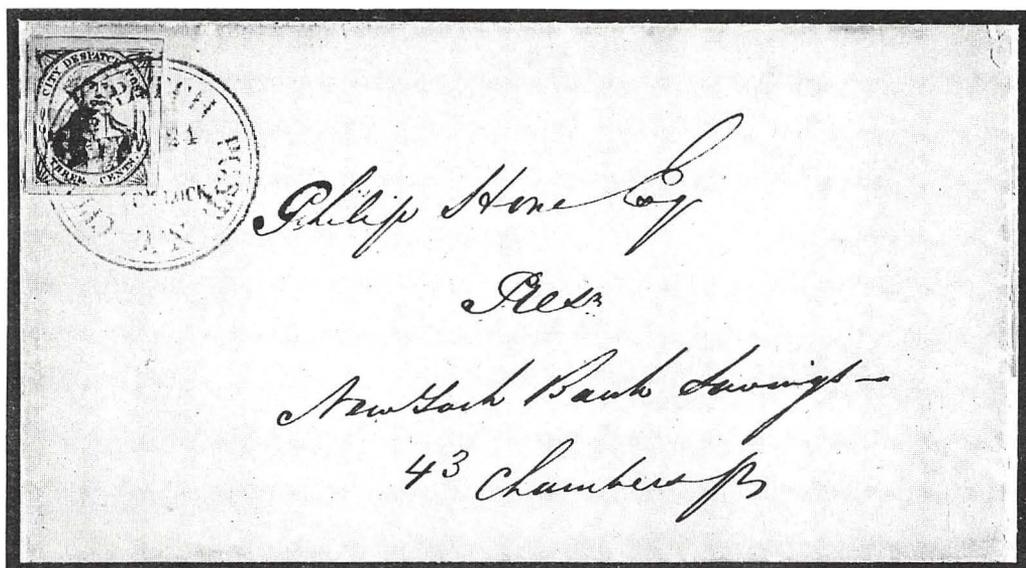


Fig. 13. Letter written by Alexander Greig, proprietor of the post, to president of New York Bank Savings, with type I ("N.Y." inverted) c.d.s. dated Feb. 24, 1842.

sent during the whole month of February. Without a clearly struck c.d.s., it is difficult to state conclusively that this early usage is, in fact, the earliest. The following two lots in the Frajola sale catalogue are Mar. 4, 1842,

covers, each with the Type II ("N.Y." upright) c.d.s. and the stamp tied by the red framed "Free". These are described as the "earliest reported usage" of this upright "N.Y." c.d.s. and "Free" cancel.

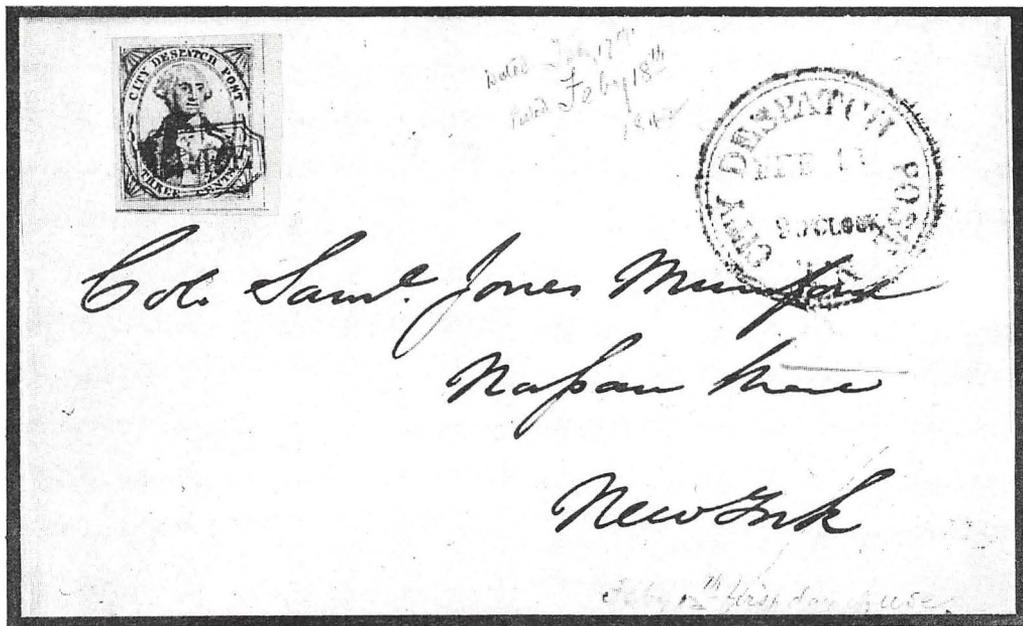


Fig. 14. Feb. 18, 1842 type I c.d.s. on letter to Col. Mumford with 3¢ adhesive tied by "Free" cancel, a very early use of this cancel.

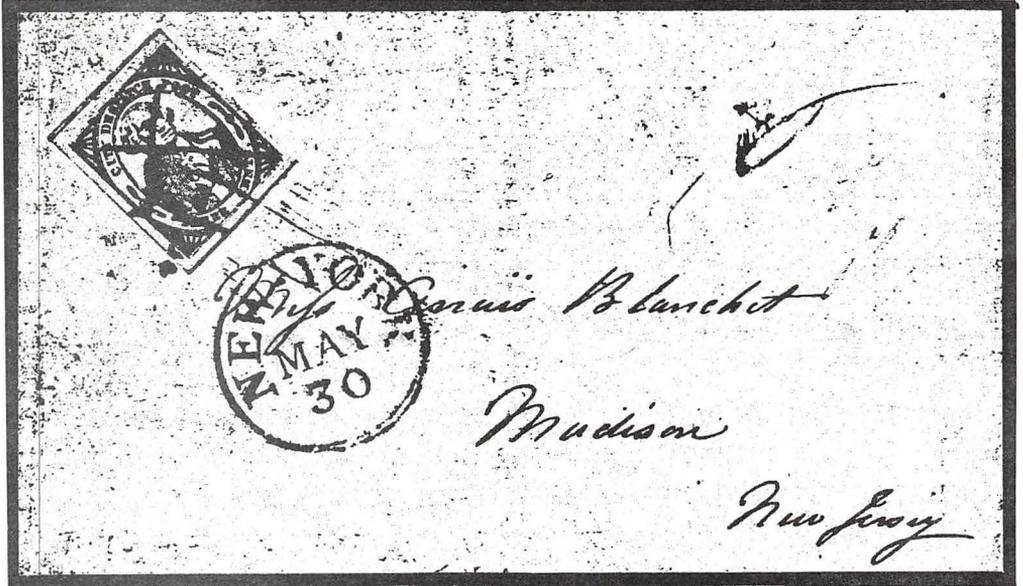


Fig. 15. To-the-mails use of City Despatch Post stamp with manuscript cancel and "New-York" c.d.s. typical of brief period from April to May, 1842.

Illustrated in Figure 14 is a folded letter dated February 17, 1842, sent to Col. Mumford on Nassau Street, with a clearly struck Feb. 18, 1842 "9 O'Clock" Type I c.d.s. and 3¢ City Despatch Post stamp cancelled "Free." Although the stamp is not tied, the usage is plausible

and the Mumford correspondence is a clean one, without any recorded tampering. This Feb. 18, 1842 use of the "Free" handstamp is very early.

Between February, 1842, and August 16 of that year, one finds consistent patterns of usage of the City Despatch Post



Fig. 16. A similar to-the-mails usage. Ex. Middendorf (Frajola sale).

c.d.s. and adhesive stamp. In a particular period — April and May 1842 — there are a few covers addressed to locations outside New York City, which bear normal New York circular datestamps, ms. rates (collect) and manuscript cancels on the 3¢ City Despatch Post stamps. The Frajola catalogue of the Middendorf collection remarked that letters entering the mails during this period were marked in this manner (citing fewer than five recorded examples). The Middendorf collection contained one dated Apr. 16, and the Kapiloff collection contains another dated May 30 with the stamp tied. Both are illustrated in Figures 15 and 16.

The City Despatch Post was a highly successful operation by mid-1842, delivering about 450 letters per day versus approximately 250 letters per day car-

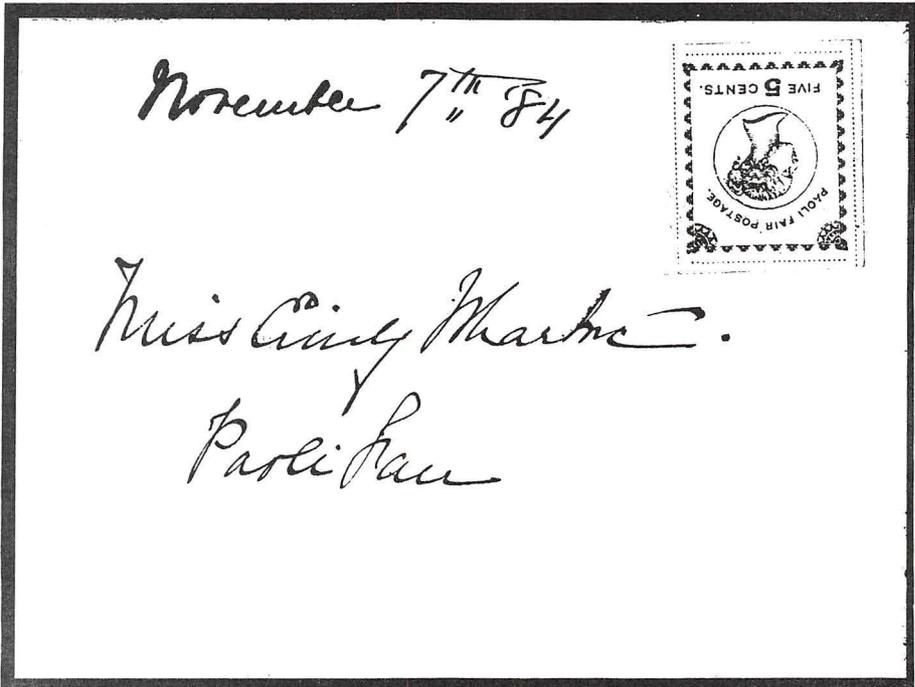
ried by the official U.S. carriers in New York City. On July 21, John Lorimer Graham wrote to Postmaster General Wickliffe, asking for the authority to acquire the City Despatch Post and incorporate it as part of the city's local mail delivery service (see Perry's *100 Years Ago*, pp.18-19 for details of the transaction). He received authorization in a letter written Aug. 1, and the U.S. City Despatch Post commenced operations on Aug. 16, 1842. The latest recorded use of the City Despatch Post prior to this takeover is dated Aug. 13, 1842. This cover (Figure 17) was part of the Middendorf collection and is not contained in the Kapiloff collection.

In Part Three of this series, the author will discuss the early period of the U.S. City Despatch carrier operation.



Fig. 17. Latest recorded use of City Despatch Post service as an independent mail carrier. Sold to U.S. government, as of Aug. 15, 1842. Ex. Middendorf (Frajola sale).

A MYSTERY COVER



By Robson Lowe

Here is a photocopy of my Paoli Fair cover. The cover is dated 7 November 1884.

The stamp portrait resembles the head of Queen Victoria. Inscribed Paoli Fair Postage Five Cents, the stamp is on an envelope addressed to the Fair.

Which Paoli was it? There are towns of this name in Colorado, Indiana, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania.

Paoli in Pennsylvania is 8 miles northeast of West Ouster. Here, on the 20th of September, 1777, General Anthony Wayne was routed by the British.

Can any reader tell me something about it?

Initial Response: The cover was turned over to several of our Pennsylvania experts. Steven Roth sends

along postal historian Ed Harvey's letter:

"I have no reference to any happenings in Paoli. For a time it was a bedroom suburb of Philadelphia — many affluent and influential people lived there but had their business in Philadelphia. The commuter train operated by Pennsylvania RR got the nickname of the "Paoli Local."

"Nov. 7 1884 was election day — a big day for celebrating — drinking — bonfires in the Philadelphia area. There may have been some local celebration of which your cover is a souvenir."

-- Ed Harvey.

Perhaps other Society members can furnish further clues. Please send responses to The Penny Post Editor, Gordon Stimmell.

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I am a Private Collector seeking to buy U.S. carriers and locals. Can also trade some. James Lorin Silverberg, Silverberg & Wade, 1625 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Suite 510 Washington, D.C. 20036. (202) 332-7978.

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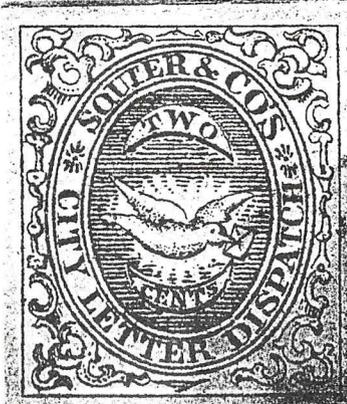
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FORGERY FOLLOW-UP

The article on Squier's forgeries has prompted several Society members to come forth with new information on forgery types, advancing our existing data in that field.



Most exciting is learning of the existence of a bogus Two Cent value version of Forgery J, the Moens imitation. This tip comes from Geoff Rosamond of London England, who runs Stamps From Overseas. The Two Cent forgery, illustrated here, matches the One Cent variety in all other respects and comes in light green on thick white wove paper.

And Ron Janowsky of New Hartford, N.Y., notes an unlisted color of Squier's Type K forgery, orange brown. The

fraud was noted previously only in pale purple. Both on thin, pelurish paper.

Type G forgery, only seen in rose by the author, also exists in green, the color of the originals, submits Thomas Miller of Davenport, Iowa.

Finally, Carl Walske of Silverdale, Washington notes that the modern reprint was cancelled with a red, as well as a blue, Jordan's handstamp.

When I ventured into the unexplored territory of Squier's counterfeits I hoped for reader feedback. Thanks to all for helping widen our pool of knowledge.



Switching local posts, Carl E. Kane of Brockton, Mass., in response to my short piece last year on Dupuy & Schenck frauds, notes the "David Stirling" production, a forgery imitating Scott's fraud, on rough wove thick brownish paper. It is fairly modern vintage, of British extraction.

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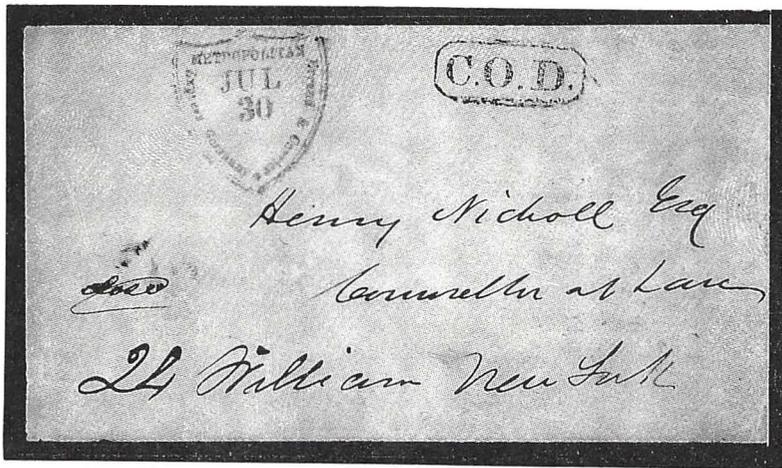
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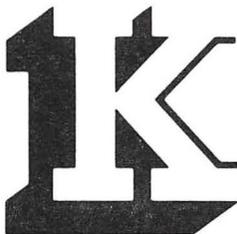
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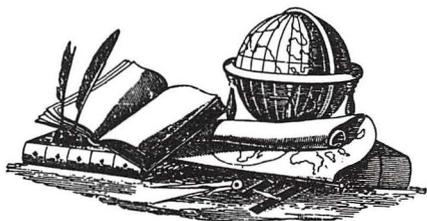
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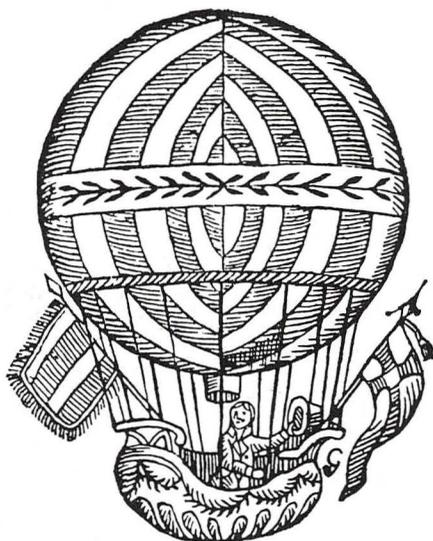
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