

JANUARY 1993

Vol. 3 No. 1

# THE PENNY POST

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Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society

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Northern Liberties News Rooms marking on Oct. 1835 cover from the McGill find.

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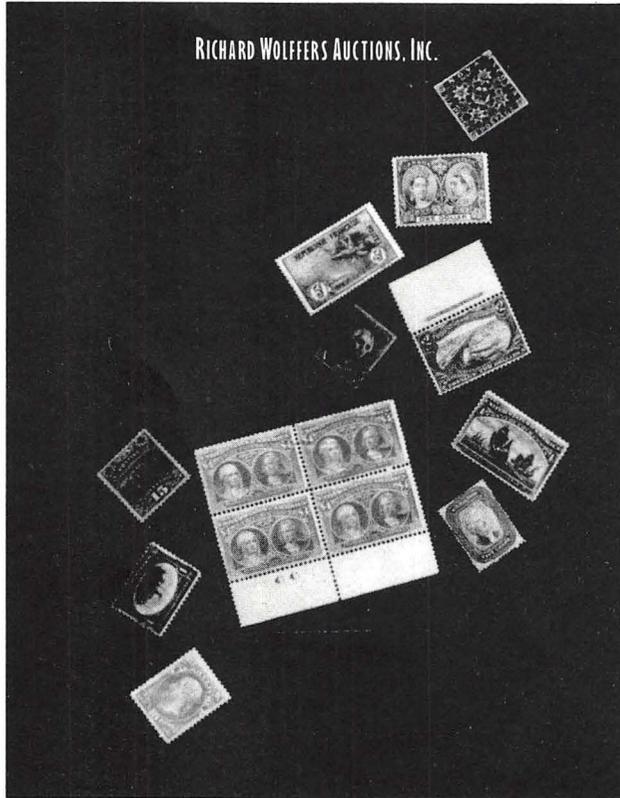
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NORTHERN LIBERTIES NEWS ROOMS  
MEMORIES OF DONALD PATTON  
BALDWIN'S RAILROAD POSTAGE  
A GUY'S DESPATCH DISCOVERY  
ANCIENT MYSTERY COVERS

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# THE PENNY POST



Vol. 3 No. 1

JANUARY 1993

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Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society

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# FROM THE EDITOR

**A** Stamp Society is rather like an ocean and its editor a captain navigating his verbal vessel across at times turbulent and at times halcyon waters. Manning the vessel is a friendly and able crew, consisting of Society steerers and devoted collectors who have come forth with advice and letters and articles, all welcome and vital.

The remainder of this universe is a vast ocean abounding with silent mariners out of sight and voyaging by an unknown compass. I'd like to hear from these Society members. I know through the tribal telegraph that some among this quiet majority have splendid collections, abounding with material ready to sail into articles large and small. Let this be an SOS (though we're in no danger of sinking!) for more articles.

A most exciting stowaway this time — inserted into your *Penny Post* — is Richard Frajola's first installment of his *Carrier And Local Post Catalogue*. With your help, this will ultimately become a book. Compare his listings to your collection and keep him posted.

The remainder of your *Penny Post* takes us on an intriguing journey. Allow me to indulge in a brief preview of the philatelic cargo.

Our major thrust is what many regard as a pioneer of the private posts, Northern Liberties. Calvet Hahn takes us through early discoveries, a survey of postal pieces extant, and into a realm of controversy surrounding the printing/handstamping of the marking. Hahn, a veteran philatelic voice with hundreds of articles to his credit, always has strong opinions and generates reaction. Let's hear your voices

if you have evidence that backs up or (perish the thought!) contradicts his conclusions.

Donald Johnstone, still recovering from the consuming ordeal of producing a masterful book on the postal history of Burlington, Vermont, has penned a personal portrait of a legend in the locals field, Donald Scott Patton. For those who regard Patton's New York Locals book as a bible, Johnstone's reminiscence provides a warm glimpse of the scholarly man so many of us never had an opportunity to meet in person.

As well, we have brief excursions into the realm of:

- ★ An unknown Philadelphia City Despatch Post marking;
- ★ A Guy's Despatch discovery;
- ★ A synopsis and taxonomy of Baldwin's Railroad Postage stamp;
- ★ A Westtown postal history followup;
- ★ A mystery cover submitted by a living giant in our field, Robson Lowe.

I could not go silent into the night without thanking Richard Schwartz, our outgoing President, for his enormous generosity in assisting our writers with research requests and his sacrifice over the past two years in coping with the at times interminable chores of the office. He is truly a Founding Father of this Society and we all owe him a debt of deep gratitude.

He goes on to an even greater task, editing a long-delayed book whose genesis stretches back to Elliott Perry and Arthur Hall, on the Independent Mails. It is my hope to provide in upcoming issues of *The Penny Post* selected aspects of this book as it progresses toward publication.

— Gordon Stimmell, Editor.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

**I**t is with great pleasure that I accept the office of President of the Society, and that I follow the inspiring administration and leadership of our outgoing President, Richard Schwartz. The examples that Dick set of leadership, hard work and scholarship during his too brief term in office are ones that I will endeavor to follow and achieve.

As we begin a new year, I want to encourage each of you to participate in the activities of our Society in every way you can. While we can always use material for *The Penny Post* — I hope that many of you will contribute to the Society by writing articles — we also can use your participation in other ways; by serving on a committee; by writing to me with your suggestions and/or complaints; even just by sitting at our table at shows that you attend. This is your Society. Help your Board of Directors and Officers make it even more meaningful to you and me.

Our Treasurer, Martin Richardson, recently reported to me that as of the conclusion of 1992 our Society had 177 members, including two honorary-gratis members. I would urge each of you who knows a collector of Locals or Carriers or a dealer in this field, who is not yet a member, to “sign them up.” Until we reach the level of approximately 200 paid members, our Society will be restricted in its ability to perform such beneficial functions as issuing random publications and offering seminars.

It is time that we begin to consider the location for the Society’s 1993 annual meeting. There has been some expressed sentiment that it be held at FLOREX in Florida. Others have expressed their desire to hold the meet-

ing in Houston during the American Philatelic Society’s “Champion of Champions” competition and its annual meeting. Still others have suggested a West Coast meeting. I would appreciate hearing from any of you who have thoughts about this.

Finally, it has been suggested that the Society co-sponsor a seminar on Carriers and Locals, working with and under the sponsorship of the Philatelic Foundation. I would appreciate hearing your thoughts on such matters as: Would this generate a sizeable audience? That is, would you be willing to come to New York City to attend? Would it make more sense, at this stage of our maturity as an organization, to share jointly the sponsorship of a seminar with another collecting organization that is compatible with our own? If so, which organizations do you think would be appropriate?

At the moment, the Society does not have a Vice President. If any member is interested in serving in this capacity, please let me know. As a former Vice President, I can assure you that it is a “working position.” The Vice President assists the President by handling many of the routine (mundane?) day-to-day tasks that the President otherwise would field. It is a way, as well, of becoming active in the Society. To my way of thinking, based on my experience, it is a worthy way of becoming active.

Best wishes to each of you for a Happy New Year! May you find in 1993 that “sleeper” among the stamps and covers that you look at which we have each dreamed about.

— *Steven Roth, President.*

# THE NORTHERN LIBERTIES NEWS ROOMS MARKINGS

By Calvet M. Hahn

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The first recorded notice of the Northern Liberties News Rooms markings is found in the 1905 *American Journal of Philately*, page 235. There, two examples were illustrated and it was reported that Charles H. Stone of Cambridge, Mass. had shown two oddities which he found some time ago in Philadelphia. The report adds:

“They are printed in black upon the sheet of paper on which the letter is written. The date of the postmark upon Type 1 is ‘Feb. 19’; that upon Type 2 is ‘May 13.’ Besides the stamp, each sheet bears a printed number in one corner, those upon the sheets from which the above cuts were taken being ‘13’ and ‘17’ RESPECTIVELY. Several copies of Type 1 were found but only one of Type 2.”

There is no listing for these items in Rickett's *Index of Philatelic Literature* which covered all periodical articles through 1912 relative to U.S. locals. Subsequently, several writers have discussed the markings including myself, in *Chronicle* #83 pgs. 184-5. Most have been substantially misleading and the information given, contradictory.

The markings are in black and measure 30.5 mm in diameter. The text reads: “N.L. News Rooms, /VIA/Sub Post Office/ 213 North Third St.” The location is in the Northern Liberties District of greater Philadelphia which is north of Vine St. Elliott Perry in *Pat Paragraphs* #32, pg. 919 gives us data from the contemporary *DeSilver's Philadelphia Directory*:

“The old city was about two miles east to west from the Delaware River to the Schuylkill and one mile north to south from Vine to South Streets, Northern Liberties and Penn Township on the north, Southwark, Moyamensing, etc. to the south, and West Philadelphia (west of the Schuylkill River) were in Philadelphia County but not legally a part of the city until county and city became one geographically by the consolidation of 1854...The ‘Sub-Post Office’ was on Third St. about one square north of Vine — just outside the northern boundary of old Philadelphia, and nearly three quarters of a mile north from the Merchant's Exchange (at 3rd and Dock) which housed the Philadelphia Post Office...”

In looking at the DeSilver's directory for 1831 until 1837 I found three post offices listed: the main one at 107 Chestnut, an office at Kensington at Maiden, near Market, and Spring Garden at Ridge R. near James. In 1837 we find a Penn Township post office listed at Callowhill above Lawrence. All of these are in the area near Northern Liberties and people there may have used one or another.

The significance of this location information is: 1) The News Rooms are about 3/4ths of a mile from the Philadelphia post office and thus too close for a carrier pickup of way letters. A one-mile distance is required. 2) The News Rooms were outside the city limits of Philadelphia and therefore cannot be a sub office of Philadelphia. 3) By 1854 there was no longer a problem in offices, for Northern Liberties was incorporated into Philadelphia by then.

# The "News Rooms."

FREE ADMISSION.

No. 213, N. Third st. a few doors below Callowhill.

These Rooms, forming the most complete and extensive establishment of the kind in the World, is open for Visitors Daily from 6 A. M. till 10 P. M.

There are in the Rooms upwards of *three hundred files of PAPERS*, from all parts of the United States, Europe and Asia!

A. McMAKIN, Proprietor.

 A Blank interleaved copy of the PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY is placed in the Rooms for the purpose of entering Removals or making any corrections which may be necessary.

Figure 1: Advertisement in April 1835 *DeSilver Philadelphia Directory*.

It might be added that on Sept. 15, 1851 when Postmaster General Hall ordered streets to be considered public post roads in major cities, his order for Philadelphia stated:

"...within the limits of the city of Philadelphia, and the Districts of Moyamensing, Northern Liberties, Southwark, and those portions of the District of Spring Garden not embraced within the boundaries of the Spring Garden Post Office..."

in the copy published in the Philadelphia *Public Ledger* on the 20th. It makes clear the fact that the District of Northern Liberties was not served by the Philadelphia post office previously but was separate.

Some writers have held that the operation was a hotel.<sup>1</sup> However, the contemporary advertisement from the April 1835 *DeSilver' Philadelphia Directory* (Figure 1) shows it was a standard news room like Hudsons or Gilpins in New York, which are classed as forwarders. The one difference was that the Northern Liberties News Rooms were not also "foreign letter

offices." Other writers have suggested that the area was served by U.S. letter carriers citing the law of 1825. Actually Philadelphia had had such "penny posts" as far back as the colonial period. However, I have been unable to find any documentation that U.S. carriers handled letters in Northern Liberties and we do know there were no deposit box locations until the 1850s in Philadelphia according to a letter to the Postmaster General sent by the owners of the Blood's local when that company opposed the establishment of a government City Despatch operation. It was accompanied by one signed by the former proprietor of the Northern Liberties News Rooms.

James Rees, a clerk in the Philadelphia office in 1835, wrote *Footprints of a Letter Carrier* in 1836. In it he does not discuss carriers in Philadelphia prior to the 1860s. He does note the major extension of the Philadelphia boundaries of 1854 in which 21 towns and villages were incorporated, adding "In nearly all of these there were separate post-offices."

1. Editor's note: The *DeSilver Directory* for April 1835, on Page 8, does indeed list "Northern Liberties News Rooms" as one of the "principal Hotels in Philadelphia" and notes the address as "213 N. 3rd st — kept by ANDREW McMAKIN."

Stone took his find of covers to John A. Klemann, a major New York stamp dealer of the period for evaluation and disposal. Upon acquiring the items Klemann went to Philadelphia and supposedly found an 89-year-old man in the Philadelphia library who "had a faint recollection" of the News Rooms, according to R.A. Barry's article on the subject in the March 1935 *American Philatelist*. It is on the slender reed of faint memory that most of our published non-documentary information about the covers originates, including the rates charged.

Actually we know from the contemporary *DeSilver's Philadelphia Directory* that there was a Northern Liberties News Rooms in 1833 and that the proprietor was Andrew McMakin. He was not listed in the 1831 directory. As the 1835 advertisement in the *Directory* indicates, he stocked some 300 newspapers and was open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Presumably he also kept market letters and we know he had stationery upon which letters could be written.

Business was apparently not that good, for by the *Directory* published in Jan. 1837 we find he is listed as the publisher of the *Saturday Courier* at Dock Street near Walnut, and dwelling at 279 Race Street. His name is misspelled as M'Mackin. The same issue shows that the Reading Rooms went into new hands and was now at a location several squares (or blocks) away from the former News Rooms. The listing is:

"Northern Liberties Reading Room,  
294 N. 2nd."

There is no evidence that any covers from this new location ever received special markings.

Philatelically, McMakin shows up again in 1851. He is a signer of a 6/28/51 petition in the *Philadelphia Public Ledger* (founded in 1836) published by Blood's Despatch, a major Philadelphia local. McMakin joins a number of other

citizens, including Louis Godey of *Godeys Lady's Book*, in stating: "The undersigned have used, in a greater or less degree since its establishment in 1845, Blood's Despatch Post, and have found it satisfactory...and have pleasure in recommending Blood's Despatch Post for all deliveries throughout the City."

This petition sent to Postmaster General Hall was part of Blood's unsuccessful campaign to stop the post office from initiating a City Despatch in Philadelphia.

### The Covers and Their Provenance

I presently record 16 covers or fronts, and one piece, that bear Northern Liberties markings. The date span is from early October 1835 through late May 1836 with a shift to Type 2 markings sometime in April 1836. There are three finds involved with multiple covers, and the remainder are individual items. Evidence suggests between two and four more covers may exist.

The initial find by Stone was of a group of covers addressed to Mary Evans, a student at the Kimberton Boarding School near Chester, Pa. Lot 8 in the Robson Lowe 10/8/1974 sale of part of the Joseph Carson collection tells us this school was founded by 1823 by Emmor Kimber, the Quaker postmaster of Kimberton, Pa., beginning in 1820. That is a town near Chester. The number of covers in Stone's original find is given as seven by Barry in his previously cited article. A. Eugene Michel in *Stamps* of 9/12/1942 reports the total as nine. I include five among the 16 items recorded.

The second find of covers include three addressed to Alexander McGill, pastor of the Associate Congregation at Carlisle, Pa. I have no record of the date of discovery but it was probably after the 1935 Barry article and possibly after the 1942 Michel article. The ear-

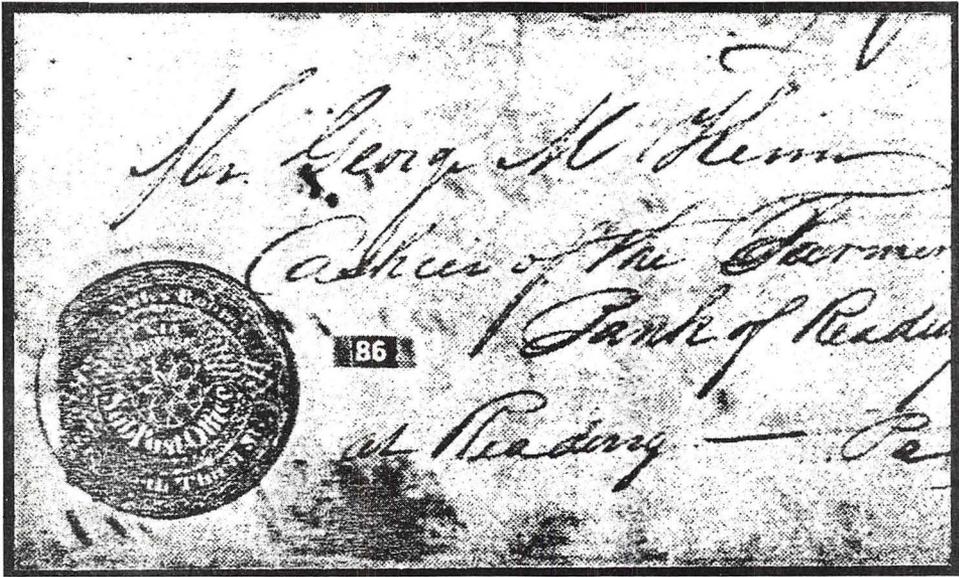


Figure 2: 10/9/1835 front, Type I.

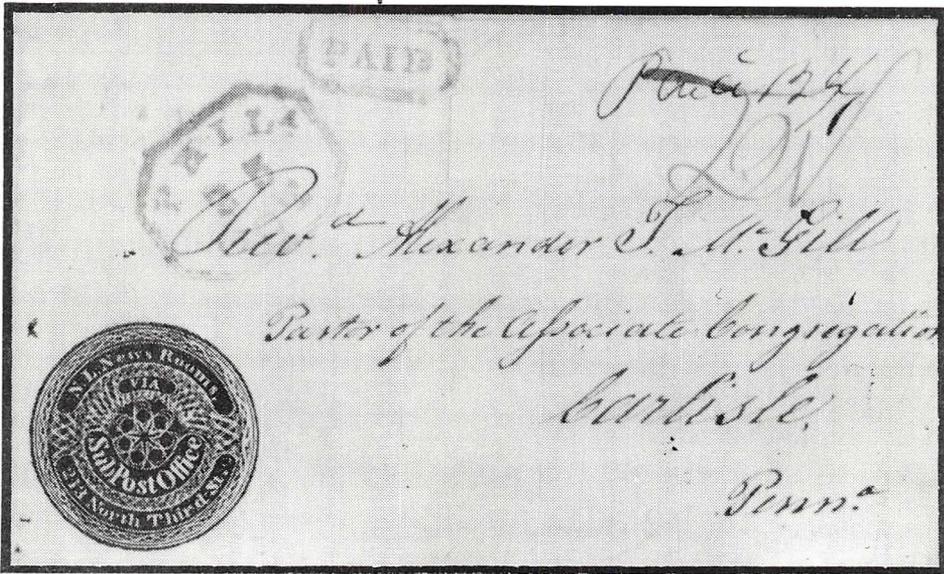


Figure 3: 10/28/1835.

liest of these to surface in auctions was in the Robert Chambers sale of 1950 so the discovery was some time prior to that date.

The third find consists of two items addressed to Joseph M. Smith at Clearfield, Pa. These were discovered by the Reverend E.C. Reeve of Clearfield in the early 1930s and he was unsuccessful

in trying to sell them for \$1 each at that time.

Out of the Stone find of Evans covers, two were sold to Ferrari for \$250 and two to Worthington. Only one appeared in the Worthington auctions when the remainders of the collection were sold by Alfred Lichtenstein. He either kept the other or disposed of it privately. I

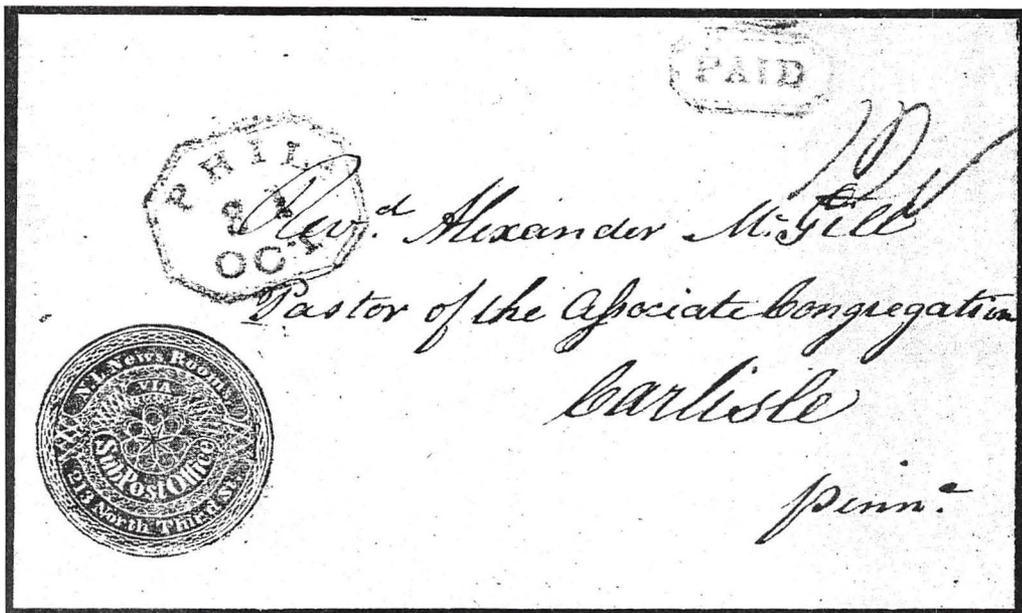


Figure 4: 10/31/1835, finest strike of the marking.

have been unable to identify which Evans cover it is. Another Evans cover was sold to George B. Mason, an old-time dealer and collector. (S. Allan Taylor wrote in the *Philatelist* of 6/16/1890 that E. Allan and his brother George Mason had offices on Liberty St. a few doors from Nassau St. in New York in March 1867.) The Mason copy was acquired by New Jersey Senator Earnest Ackerman and it then went to Elliott Perry. Allegedly, Klemann kept another copy for himself.

In my opinion the most significant of the Northern Liberties covers from a postal history viewpoint is item number 1 in the following listing of the 17 items I can locate. The reason will be discussed subsequently.

1). 10/9 (35) postmarked Reading, Pa. back to Philadelphia on an undated front addressed to George Heine of the Farmers Bank at Reading. In addition to the Northern Liberties marking this front had a chamfered boxed PAID of Philadelphia in red and a 20¢ manuscript rate for a double weight letter. The front was turned and readdressed at Reading back to John Mintzer, at 226

3rd Street, Philadelphia, who is the probable original sender. This address is very close to the Northern Liberties News Rooms location. I first record this item as lot 86 in the John Fox sale of 6/26/1955. It was lot 2 in the Frajola private treaty sale of the Middendorf collection and reoffered as lot 1983 in the Ivy Middendorf sale of 12/14/90. The front is illustrated here as Figure 2.

2). 10/28 (35) Philadelphia postmark and boxed red PAID on a Philadelphia 10/23 letter to Rev. Alexander T. McGill, Carlisle, Pa. with a manuscript 'Paid 12-½' in brown ink crossed out and '12½' in red ink applied to show it was not accepted as prepaid. This was lot 1 in the Frajola Middendorf private treaty sale with a reserve of \$15,000. It is described there as the earliest example which it is not. (See Figure 3.)

3). 10/31 (35) Philadelphia postmark and boxed PAID in red with manuscript '12½' on a cover to Alexander McGill, Carlisle, Pa. It first sold as an 'extremely fine strike' in the William Randall sale at Samuel Paige 12/6/52 where, as lot 99, it brought \$350. The current appearance of the other markings on the cover appear substantially better

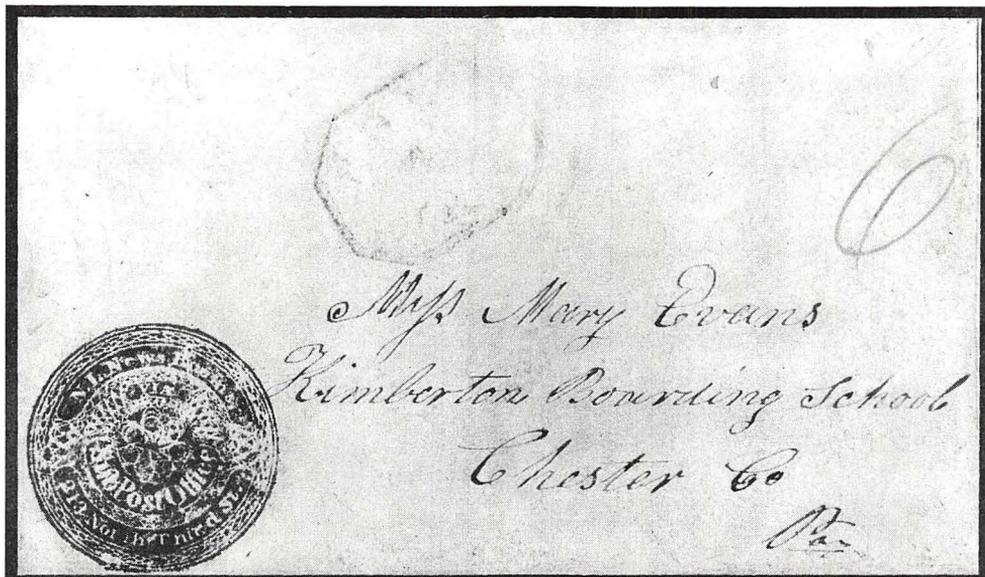


Figure 5: 1/4 (1836).

today than in the illustration at that sale. The item went to Howard Lehman and sold as lot 226 in the Lehman sale at Siegel's on 9/9/70 to Seymour Kaplin for \$1,000. It was then in the Louis Grunin collection and resold to Marc Haas. It was apparently brought in the Haas private treaty offering by David Jarrett and sold as lot 1200 in the Christies Jarrett sale 10/9-10/90 for \$4000/13.000 to the telephone. It is considered the finest strike of the marking. (See Figure 4).

4). 11/10 (35) Philadelphia postmark on piece. This piece was part of the Ferrari lot 134 that sold in the 10th Ferrari sale of 6/28/1924. It is probably from the Evans correspondence. It sold as lot 595 in the Costales sale of 4/15/1948 to Edith Faulstich and was lot 1517 in the Siegel Faulstich sale of 11/19-21/1973 where it brought \$400.

5). 12/1 (35) Philadelphia postmark. I recorded having seen this item in my copy of the Lehman sale in 1970, probably at a smaller auction but can no longer remember the source of the listing.

6). 1/4 (36) Philadelphia postmark and manuscript '6' to Miss Evans at the Kimberton Boarding School. This some-

what ratty cover is the first to show the deterioration of the marking which will be discussed later. It should be the Kleemann, Mason or Worthington/Lichtenstein example. I first note it in auction as lot 18 in the Bruce Daniels sale of 6/4/1954. It next sold as lot 221 in the John Fox sale of 10/22/1962 for \$300 apparently to Middendorf. It was lot 3 in the Frajola Middendorf private treaty sale and reoffered as lot 1984 in the Ivy Middendorf sale of 12/14/90 for \$400/800 to an agent. (See Figure 5).

7). 1/15 (36) Philadelphia postmark and manuscript '6' for an unpaid letter to Miss Evans at the Kimberton school. This was one of the two covers originally sold George Worthington and was lot 939 in the Worthington sale of 10/25/1917 where it brought \$26. Although not noted in recent sales it had good contents discussing the great New York fire of 1835. It found its way into the Caspary holding where it sold as lot 916 in the H.R. Harmer Caspary sale of 3/18-3/21/1957 for \$120. It is next seen in the Middendorf Frajola private treaty sale as lot 4 where the reserve of \$6000 was apparently met.

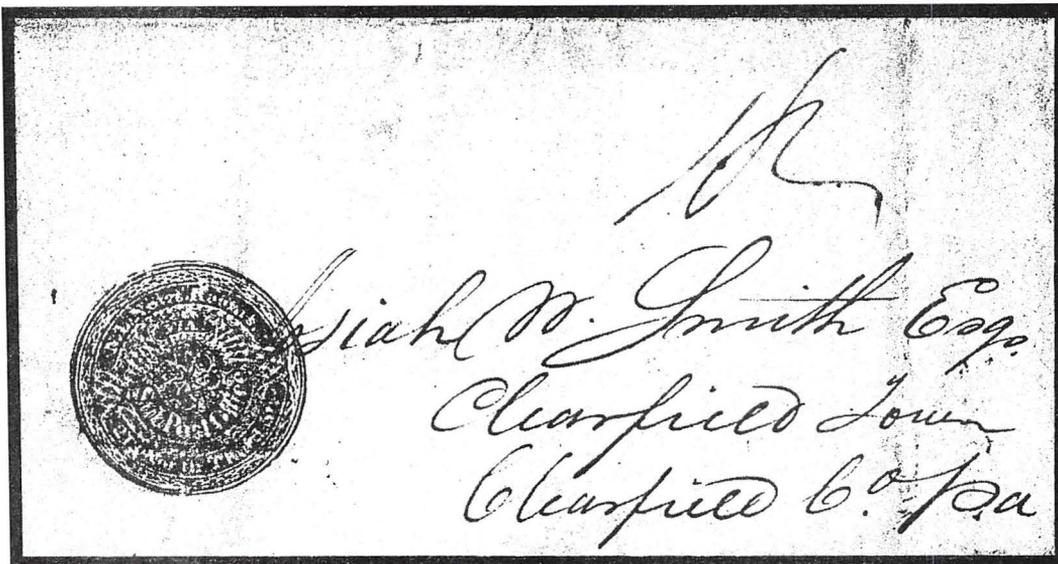


Figure 6: 2/4 (1836).

8). 1/31 (36) Philadelphia postmark and manuscript '12' for an unpaid rate to Mr. Laird at Turbitville, Pa. (Northumberland county). This item was part of the Eugene Klein holding before it sold as lot 87 in the Frank Hollowbush sale of John Fox on 1/1/1966 for \$900 to Elliott Perry. It bears a manuscript directional 'Postmaster will please forward this letter as soon as possible to Laird.' It subsequently appeared as lot 1623 in the Robson Lowe auction of 3/1/1970.

9). 2/4 (36) no origin postmark but a red manuscript '18- $\frac{3}{4}$ ' single rate on a cover to Josiah W. Smith, Clearfield, Pa. This is one of the two items Reverend Reed was unable to sell in the early 1930s. It may be the item sold at the Scott auction in Jan. 1936 for \$21. It sold in the British Guiana Siegel Rarities sale of 3/24/1970 as lot 1 for \$725. I next record it as lot 28 in the Robert Kaufmann net price list of May 1975 for \$3,500 where it may not have sold. It was lot 379 in the Robert Kaufmann sale of 4/28/1981 at which point it entered Middendorf's collection. It sold as lot 5 in the Frajola Middendorf sale meeting

its \$7,500 reserve. This cover is significant in the Frajola analysis discussion of whether the markings were press printed in advance or not. (See Figure 6).

10). 2/19/ (36) Philadelphia postmark and pen '6' unpaid rate to Miss Evans at the Kimberton Boarding School. This cover was illustrated by Stone in 1905 and has a #13 on it, but not on the face. The number may be a numbering in a series of correspondence which is not unusual. No one subsequently has commented upon it and I did not examine it for this point. It is either the Klemann example or the missing Worthington/Lichtenstein or Mason example, probably the last. It sold as lot 365 in the Robson Lowe sale of the Joseph Carson material 10/8/1974 accompanied by two Northern Liberties library tickets. It was next offered in the Simmy sale of 3/31/1976 and then as lot 457 in the Wolffers sale of 9/14/1978.

11). 3/14 (36) Philadelphia postmark and manuscript '12- $\frac{1}{2}$ ' unpaid rate to Rev. McGill at Carlisle, Pa. This may be the 'wonderfully clear' strike sold as lot 2145 in the Stephen Brown Harmer

Rooke auction of 10/30-11/1/1939 for \$75 although the unillustrated Brown copy could also be the 10/31/1835 example. I first definitely record this cover as lot 652 in the Samuel Paige sale of Robert Chambers collection 12/1-2/1950 where it sold to John Fox for \$125. Fox then offered it as lot 314 in the Charles Meroni sale of 11/12/1952 where it brought \$265. It subsequently sold in the Siegel sale of locals of 3/31/1965 for \$875 as lot 840.

12). 3/31 (36) Philadelphia postmark and boxed red PAID and manuscript 'paid' but no rate. Addressed to Henry W. Smith, Attorney, Reading, Pa., this may be the item sold as lot 1 in the Colonel Green sale IX at Scott 6/24-6/1943 for \$92. It was unillustrated there. The cover was definitely lot 1 in the Hugh Barr sale of 3/11/1959 and subsequently sold as lot 904 in the Harmer sale of 2/20/1965. It sold as lot 6 in the Frajola Middendorf private treaty sale with a \$6,000 reserve. (See Figure 7).

13). 4/5 (36) Philadelphia postmark and brown '10' changed to a '6' rate and

addressed to Mary Evans at the Kimberton Boarding School. This item from the Stone find is one of the two items sold Ferrari at \$250. It was part of lot 134 in the 10th Ferrari sale where it brought 7,500 francs. There is a piece missing at bottom and on the back. This went into the Eugene Klein collection and was offered as lot 42 in the David Phillips sale of 3/11/1981. It is the latest known example of Type 1.

14) 4/30 (36) Philadelphia postmark and manuscript red '12' to Messrs. Van Nostrand & Hoople at New York on a front only. This is the earliest recorded example of Type II, which has the center removed, leaving only a star, as well as the deteriorating engine turned portion of the design between the inner and outer borders. This copy was in the Eugene Klein collection and subsequently sold as lot 3 at a John Fox sale. It was offered with a \$7,500 reserve in the Frajola Middendorf sale but did not sell and was lot 1984 in the Ivy Middendorf sale of 12/10/1990 where it sold for \$1,200 to a book bidder. (See Figure 8).

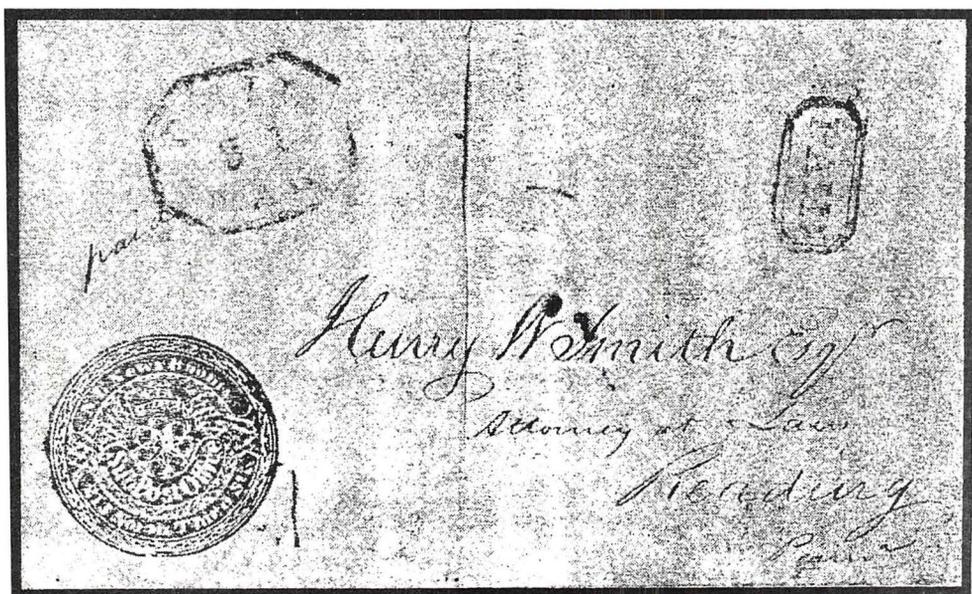


Figure 7: 3/31 (1836).



Figure 8: 4/30 (1836), earliest recorded Type II.

15). 5/4 (36) Philadelphia postmark but no rating on a folded letter headed Bethany and addressed to Thomas Astley at the S.W. corner of Ninth and Walnut in Philadelphia. The item has been silked. It was offered as lot 8 with an \$8,000 reserve at the Frajola Middendorf private treaty sale and reoffered as lot 1986 in the Ivy Middendorf sale of 12/10-13/90 where it sold for \$3000 to the book. (See Figure 9).

16). 5/13 (36) Philadelphia postmark and manuscript '6' rate to Mary Evans at the Kimberton Boarding School. This item, practically torn in two, was illustrated by Stone in his 1905 article where it is noted it has a number 17 inside. It was one of the two items sold Ferrari for \$250 and was part of the Ferrari 10 sale lot 134 which brought 7,500 francs. It was sold at the David Phillips sale of 3/11/1981 as lot 43 with a \$10,000 estimate.

17). 5/20 (36) Philadelphia postmark and '18-3/4' unpaid manuscript rate to Attorney Joseph Smith, Clearfield, Pa. This is the other item from Reverend Reed's find. It was in the Hollowbush collection and sold as lot 88 in the John Fox Hollowbush sale of 1/4/66, where it

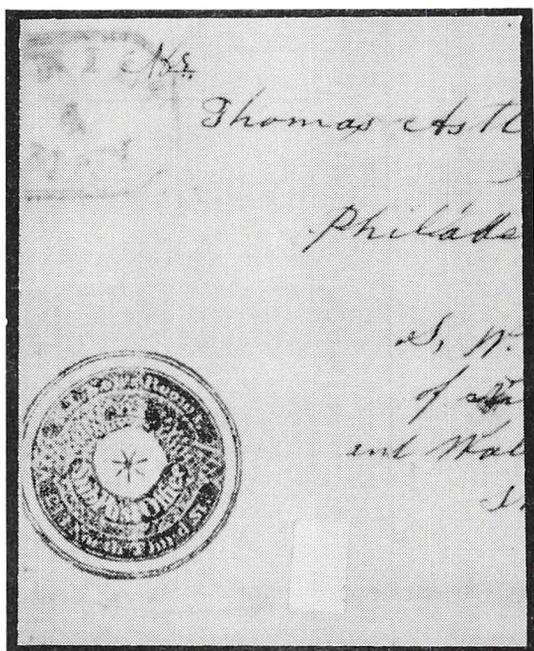


Figure 9: 5/4 (1836).

went to the book for \$1,000. At that time the cover had been somewhat cleaned and the address was re-inked. This went to Middendorf and was lot 9 in the Frajola private treaty Middendorf sale where it apparently met its reserve of \$10,000. (See Figure 10).

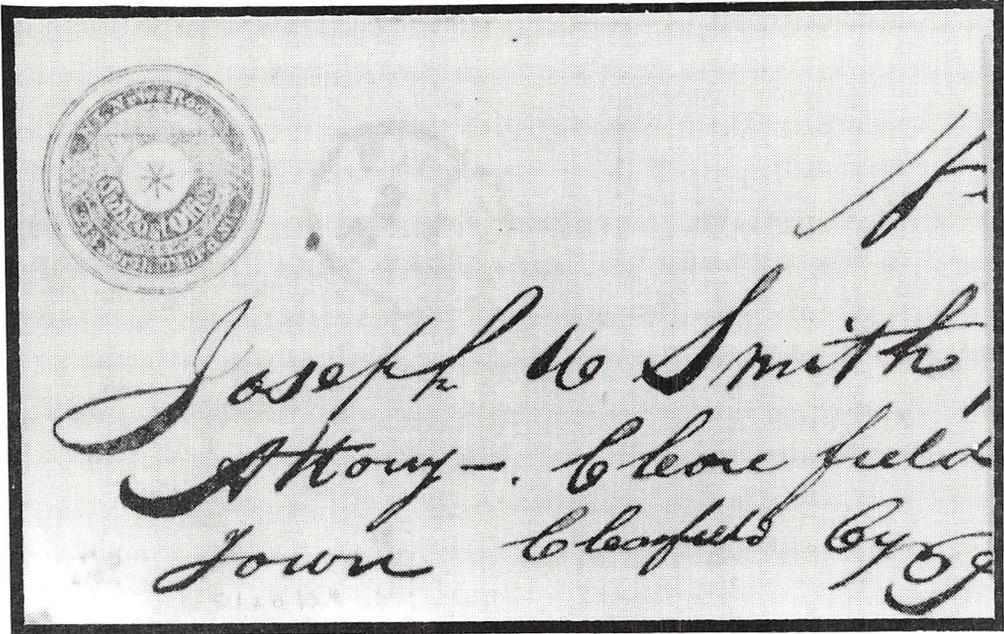


Figure 10: 5/20 (1836).

### The Marking and its Application

A major question exists about how the marking was applied and how it was sold. The fineness of the detail and apparent engine turned design indicates to me that this was not a carved wooden or cork handstamp but rather a metal one. However, I am not inflexible on the point. If it is a wood carving then it deserves to be classed among the greatest as it surpasses in detail the best Waterbury markings. Based upon the surviving examples and using a 1% 'rule of thumb' survival rate, then between 1,500 and 2,000 copies originally existed.

If this item was press printed and sold as preprinted prepaid letter sheets then it would be considered America's first stamp, or rather first postal stationery, preceding the English Mulready items. If not, then such a description is seller hype designed to get higher prices for the items; hype put forth in sales for many years.

Richard Frajola in his private treaty offering of the Middendorf material puts

forth the best analysis of the press printed position that has yet appeared. He says:

"The sheets were press printed with the stamp appearing at the bottom left when properly folded. The device developed defects in the design very rapidly and a large flaw is noted beneath the word 'North' by January 4, 1836. This flaw shows clearly in all the examples used after that date except for the example used on February 4, 1836. This indicates that this sheet was sold prior to use, already imprinted, and used later..."

I concur that defects did develop progressively in the design but have real problems with other portions of Frajola's reasoning, and conclusion that the items were press printed and sold imprinted prior to use. The disagreement is not a minor one for upon it hinges what the items are and a vast difference in relative value scale.

To present the counter argument, I should like to cover three areas: 1) development of defects; 2) positioning of the marking; and 3) press printing before use. Frajola does not discuss a 'blob' defect that appears over the 'R' of

'Rooms' on the examples posted 1/4, 1/15, 1/31 and 2/4 but which does not appear on subsequent examples of either Type 1 or Type 2. If the sheets were press printed that defect should appear on every item from the press run which in terms of probable runs would have to take in the later Type 1 examples. But no later use shows it. This defect is in addition to the one he cites.

Additionally I note two other bottom defects in the engine-turned rim area, similar to the one under 'North' he cites. These are to be found on the same engine-turned band to the left and right of his. One, under the 'd' of 'Third' appears on the 1/15 and 2/19 examples and partly on the 1/4 example but not on the other late copies suggesting it is an inking problem. The other appears under the '3' of '213' on the 1/19, 2/4 and 2/19 but not on other examples such as 1/31. Again, this suggests inking problems.

Even more significant in refuting the 'preprint' nature of the 2/4 cover is the undiscussed break in the outer rim under the 't' of 'North' that begins on the 1/31 cover and is quite clear on the 2/4 and 2/19 examples but weaker on 3/14 and again prominent on 3/31. The 4/5 strike is such one can't tell. It is not found on the Type 2 examples, possibly representing a repair to the device. As this is on the 2/4 example, that item *cannot* have been press printed prior to appearance of the 1/4 flaw that Frajola cites. I hope the above is sufficient to convince readers that the defect evidence is not adequate to prove press printing and that it points both ways.

Taking the second point of positioning of the marking on the sheet which Frajola says falls at bottom left when properly folded, I also have problems here

although I admit he has had an opportunity to examine folds I have not. On the covers as they are presently folded the positions of the strikes run up and down the left side of the cover. Particularly significant is the 5/20 example which is clearly struck at the top left and where the amount of fold underneath can be seen as illustrated here. It is insufficient to permit a different folding that would put the strike at bottom left. At the same time several examples show the strike at the extreme left edge (10/10, 1/31 and 2/19) while others appear much further to the right (2/4 and 5/12). While these shifts could result from improper folding, the normal lettersheet of the period has a central fold giving four leaves. It would not give a variation such as described here at the left. I think the positioning is more consistent with an attempt to handstrike the marking at lower left by a careful man.

The most important evidence that refutes press printing can be seen on the first cover and has not been discussed by any previous writer. It is the fact that that cover is known to have contents and we have a strike showing contents at the left where the outer rim only continues but there is a gap of white space. The fact that this was the only double rated cover and that it is the earliest on record add to the philatelic and postal history significance of it.

At least seven covers show evidence that the marking was applied over a fold so that either a partially missing design or a line across the design resulted. These are the just discussed earliest use, the 10/31 (across the bottom), 2/4 (through the handstamp's address portion), 2/19 (across the very bottom), 4/4 (a band across the middle which suggests some smuggled contents), 5/13 (through the handstamp address) and 5/20 (across the top where

there is a partial failure to imprint. It seems to me that these fold marks through the Northern Liberties strike are strong if not conclusive evidence that the strikes were made after the letters were written and folded. What we have therefore is an unusually ornate handstamp of a news room forwarder rather than an early stamp or postal stationery item or even a hotel cover.

## Rates

It is interesting to note that out of 17 pieces we have two that have no town mark, #1 and #9. This is an unusual ratio for a large town and is normally found when a series of items are deposited at the same time, such as circulars or printed matter. There is no indication on any cover that a rate was charged to bring the item to the post office in downtown Philadelphia. Only two items went out from there unrated. One was a local cover, #15 in the list, while the other had the Philadelphia boxed PAID. All were single rate except for the unusual #1.

Tradition based upon the "faint" memory of Klemman's 89-year-old man tells us that the rate was 5¢. Frajola suggests the rate was 2¢ which went to the U.S. mail carrier. The strongest evidence on rates can again be found on cover #1. While there is no indication of outgoing rate to the Philadelphia post office, the return address on the back of the front is to a street address near the Northern Liberties News Rooms. As I detailed in my series on carriers in *Chronicle*, part of which was cited at the beginning of this, street addresses almost always indicate carrier delivery.

Philadelphia had authorized carrier delivery of mail under the Benjamin Franklin/William Hunter *Instructions* of 1753. On Sept. 21, 1764 it was reported

the right to charge a penny for delivery was "frequently disputed" and therefore the

"Deputy Postmaster General some time since directed the Delivery of Letters in the several Towns gratis. This however is not generally comply'd with being found very burthensome to the Office."

In an as yet unpublished analysis of late colonial rates into Philadelphia, postal historian Bernard Biales has concluded that the penny carrier delivery charge was being collected and reflected in local currency conversions of the sterling rates. We do know such a charge was authorized under the Act of 1794 but there is conclusive evidence it existed in 1789 and earlier. However, I find no record of pickups by carriers, who were "penny posts" in the employ of the postmaster rather than the government outside city limits. It is much more likely that any delivery of letters from the Northern Liberties News Rooms to the post office was arranged and paid for by Andrew McMakin than it was handled by a U.S. carrier. Only in the case of cover #1 does it appear probable that a carrier of the Philadelphia post office was involved and that was only in delivering it for a fee out to Northern Liberties.

If McMakin had to match rates, however, he would probably charge 2-3¢ for delivery. I am informed there was a 3¢ charge from the Salem, Mass. reading room. If McMakin charged for his stationery and for the use of his facilities as indicated by the previously mentioned "library passes," a 5¢ charge would be compatible. His ad says admission was free but not that use of his materials was. The best we can say on the present evidence is that there was a 2¢ to 5¢ charge for the stationery and delivery of the letter, written at the News Rooms, to the Philadelphia post office.

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

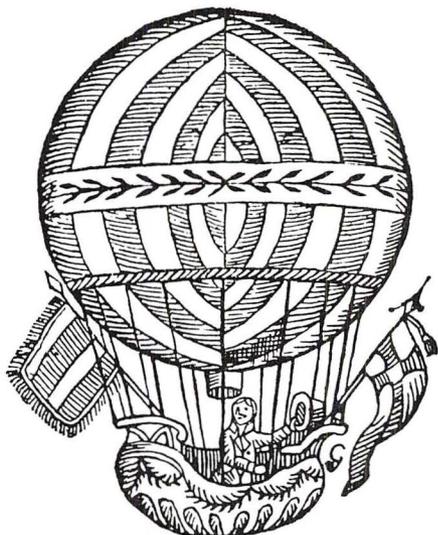


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# WHO WAS DONALD PATTON?

By Donald B. Johnstone

**A**s we look forward to the publication of Patton II, a reprinting of the *American Local and Carrier Stamps* — which appeared in *The Philatelist* from 1957 to 1965 — it seems appropriate to record something about the fine author, Dr. Donald Patton, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude.

It is almost inconceivable to think of someone living in a small English village acquiring sufficient information to write and elaborately illustrate the forgeries and originals of U.S. local stamps, given the difficulties that collectors in this country encounter on this subject while living in the very region of their origin and use. Yet, Dr. Patton did write many well-researched articles as well as Vol. I (New York State) of *The Private Local Posts of the United States*, which appeared in 1967.

Elliott Perry concludes in the book's preface: "To gather into one volume so many facts about so many authentic stamps of such peculiar interest has been no small task. And to add detailed descriptions and illustrations of the genuine varieties and also of forgeries which so often were collected unknowingly in days long gone, has required much patience by a student of unusual ability. Occasionally a fraud may puzzle even an experienced collector, but with Dr. Patton's required reading at hand, no enthusiast should be misled, at least for long."

It is regrettable that Dr. Patton did not live to see the establishment of the Carriers and Locals Society, for this would have pleased him very much. Who can glance through his pamphlets on *Boyd's Local Posts*, *The Local Posts in Brooklyn*, or the New York Vol. I

book on *The Private Local Posts of the United States*, and not marvel at the meticulous India ink drawings of the stamps and forgeries, and not be greatly impressed with his knowledge?

Not only was Dr. Patton a keen observer of minute differences in his numerous published works. While he took a genuine interest in the postal history of the many private posts, and in the postmarks and cancellations used, his deep-seated focus was on how forgeries and facsimiles differed from genuine stamps.

In August of 1958, my wife and I were motoring through Europe following my presentation of some scientific research at an international conference in Stockholm. I had been in correspondence with Dr. Patton after having been introduced by Elliott Perry. The Pattons learned of our trip and invited us to visit them. They owned a 13th-century Rectory building on a seemingly large area of land and another building known locally as the Rectory Cottage in which they resided. This was in Coleshill, a small village in Wiltshire, not far from Swindon, where Dr. Patton was in general practice.

Their cottage was located in a garden setting with many trees and shrubs. The rooms were small and beautifully furnished with antiques. I recall our bed was covered with a hand-knitted bedspread. Dr. Patton's study contained a desk with drawing board where he prepared his now famous illustrations. Whereas his primary interest at the time was in U.S. local stamps and mine in U.S. carrier stamps, we enjoyed long hours of discussion on both groups.



**Donald Scott Patton.**  
Photo courtesy of his daughter,  
Mrs. D. Steck.

The Pattons enjoyed gardening and food preparation. We still remember our first meal of stuffed peppers. The Pattons also enjoyed travel on the continent during their holidays, and gave us a slide show of their recent trip along the Mosel River. The Pattons had two grown daughters who were away at the time of our visit. I did not see Dr. Patton again until 1964 when my visit was somewhat shorter. At that time he was in general practice with two other physicians in Swindon, and was busily engaged, when away from his office, in preparing chapters for Volume I.

Through the kindness of Richard Schwartz, I have been able to read a number of letters written by Patton to Elliott Perry over two decades from 1948 to 1967, and they have provided considerable insight to this student and author of U.S. local posts. He first introduced himself to Elliott Perry in a letter of 1948 when he expressed an interest in joining U.S. Philatelic Research, essentially subscribing to *Pat Paragraphs*. In this letter, Dr. Patton listed his interests as "disinfected mail, forgeries, fakes, bogus, and speculative stamps, Lombardy-Venetia, and ocean mail cancellations."

He went on to indicate his particular interest in the forgeries and fakes seen in several copies of *Pat Paragraphs* lent to him by a friend. Within a month, a second letter to Perry showed further interest in U.S. local stamps of which Patton had accumulated a substantial number. As we all know, Dr. Patton's articles on these stamps began to appear in Robson Lowe's *Philatelist* in 1957 and Elliott Perry began sending comments to Dr. Patton in correspondence between these two people, because in December of 1957 we find Patton reintroducing himself to Perry as he simultaneously thanked Perry for his "constructive and destructive criticism."

"I have now received four or five

commentaries on my current serial in the *Philatelist* from you via our mutual friend, Robson Lowe, and I think it is high time that I wrote to you personally. Firstly, let me say that I am grateful to you for your reasoned criticisms, both constructive and destructive, and hope that you will continue to give me the benefit of your experience, wisdom and advice." He concluded his long letter with: "You must excuse me if the letter appears rather to have developed into an autobiography."

The letter, however, opened a flood-gate with Perry, for there is evidence of considerable correspondence between the two men with a fair amount of stamp material being loaned to each other for study. Also, the two men mimicked each other by interjecting personal family matters, interests and experiences in gardening, the weather, social events, and concerns of the day. This is readily understandable to me, for the letters from Perry to me were often half full of non-philatelic matters. It seems that more letters were going from Perry to Patton than in the other direction, as Patton wrote: "Thank you for your letters of 2 Feb., 25 Feb., 11 Mar., and 24 Mar. No I don't have any other Hartford forgeries than Scott's or Taylor's and only one of those. I also have a bogus label in four colours, presumably Taylor's. I think I had better send you all Floyds for your inspection, and do so now. No hurry to return them. There may be an odd one or two originals amongst the lot labelled reprints with gum. The engraved forgery seems scarce.."

By March of 1964, Dr. Patton wrote: "I have completed much of the New York city posts, and only have eight or ten left to do. This may mean that Vol. I may see publication early next year. Hussey is one of the bigger headaches left, and I'm putting off the day pending publication of your Hussey story." (*Byways of Philately*).

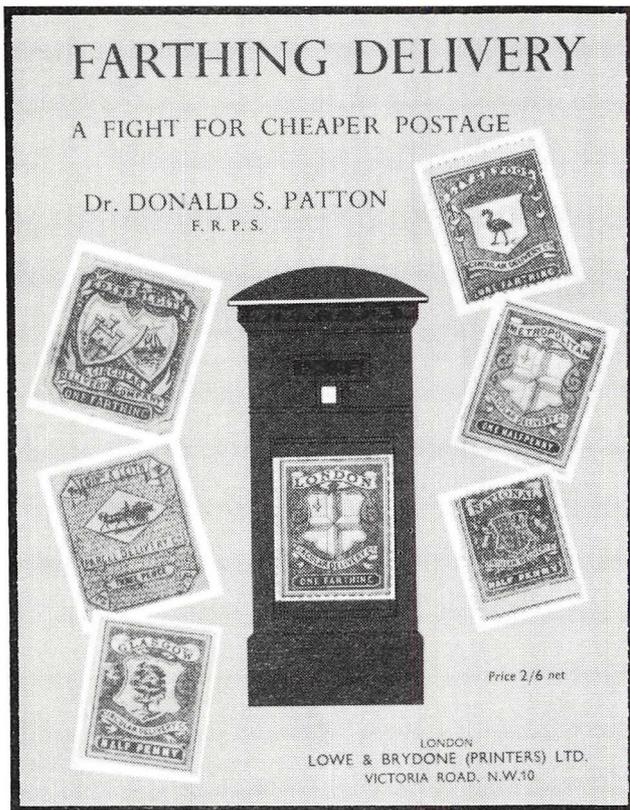
In December of 1964 Dr. Patton was

communicating with Arthur Hall and other local post students. He expressed concern to Perry about recovery from his accident, and wrote: "I have been tidying up the Brooklyn local posts. As you will remember we had much correspondence about the Dove stamps a year or so ago. Now I have written up the other Brooklyn posts — Boyd's Branch, Bush, Walton, Kidder, Robison, Pips Daily Mail, and Ledger Dispatch. Robbie Lowe plans to get out a twenty-page book next year to include all the Brooklyn posts. Had a card today from Don Johnstone who is in Denmark on sabbatical from his university. He came over last summer, and it was nice to see him again. The time was all too short."

In 1965, Dr. Patton made plans to restore the large stone 13th century Rectory building for his home, and sell the Rectory Cottage in which he had been living. To raise some money for this, he was selling off some of his country collections including his forgery collections, with the exception of his U.S. Locals. "I shall be sorry to leave my garden here round the cottage on which I have spent a lot of love and care, and shall have to start all over again at the Rectory."

In January 1967, he thanked Elliott Perry for several letters and photographs. "I am continually grateful to you for your unstinted help over the details which I have no access to, and for the way in which you have so generously shared your knowledge over these past ten years. Volume I seems to be coming along very well, and I am pleased with what I have seen of it so far. Robbie is going to immense trouble, and not a little expense as well, to make a success. He is including a lot of illustrations, many from his own collection which is now becoming a very fine one." Volume I appeared later that year as we all know and appreciate today.

Dr. Patton died in 1985, and it is fitting to conclude this story with the obituary



Patton's first monograph, *Farthing Delivery*, was published in 1960.

for the first time in the English language. As an example of postal history research it set a standard which other students sought to emulate in other fields.

"Quite apart from the historical side, Dr. Patton had a great interest in forgeries, all of the different types being illustrated with diagrams to simplify identification. For many years, the author wrote extensively on the private local posts of the United States, as a result of which the famous volume, *United States Local Posts — New York State*

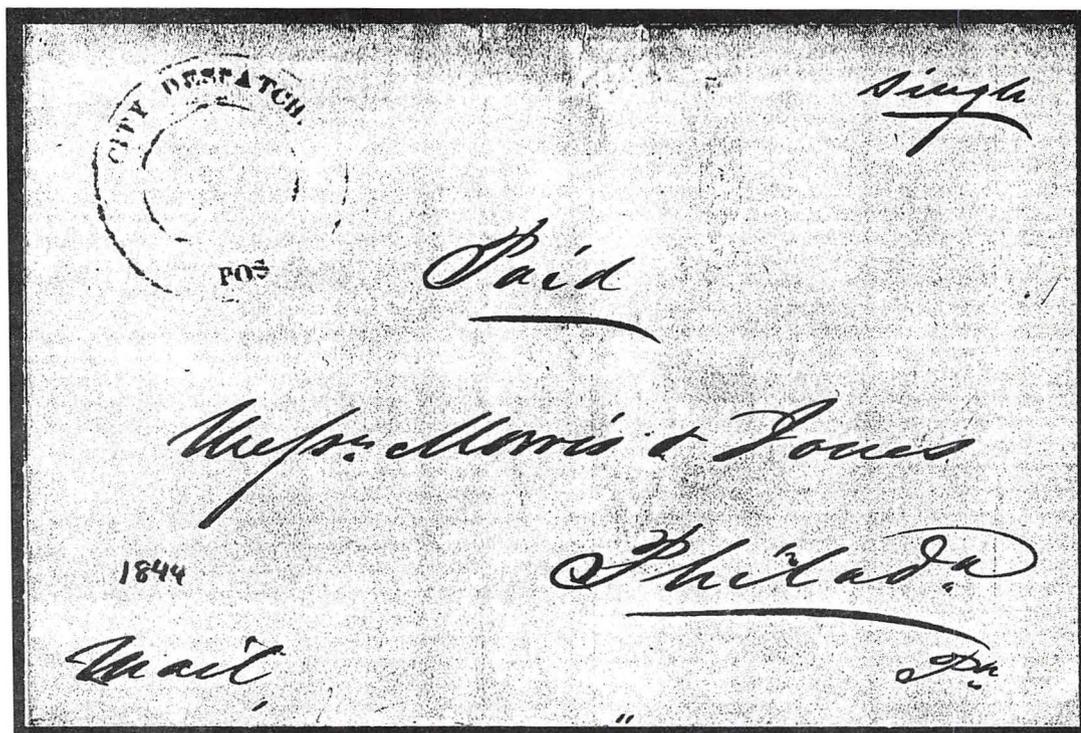
written by Robson Lowe and published in *The Philatelist* in May/June 1985, as this provides additional insight into Dr. Donald Patton's life and interests.

"Donald Scott Patton died at the age of 77 on the 13th April 1985 at his home at Marston Meysey and we lost an old friend. Dr. Patton was known to a wide circle of collectors of local stamps for his researches and writing on stamps that were not included in the standard catalogues. His first monograph, *Farthing Delivery* was published in 1960 and dealt with the background to the Circular Delivery Company founded by Robert Brydone in Edinburgh a century earlier. Brydone successfully started similar services in London and attempted to do so in other cities. *Hamburg* was published at the end of 1963 and was based on the author's serial article which appeared in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*. The complications of the various postal services operated from that city were dealt with

appeared in 1967 and is still the standard work on the subject. At this time he was awarded the Certificate of Honour by the Nugent Clougher Award committee.

"Postal History and Philately were not the only fields of collecting that interested Dr. Patton, and his charming home at Coleshill was alive with Chinese porcelain, compared of course with English imitations, and many other antiquities that had been made famous by imitation. For some years he was the chairman of the Swindon Philatelic Society, and guest speakers had the pleasure of enjoying his excellent cuisine. We remember his splendid spoof talk on Jezaili locals, based on the adventures of Dr. Watson.

"To his widow and daughters we extend our sympathy on the loss of a kindly, intelligent character who gave readily in knowledge and understanding to his fellow collectors." — Robson Lowe, 1 May 1985.



CITY DESPATCH POST. Sept. 25, 1844. The mystery cover. Marking struck in red.

## WHAT CITY DESPATCH POST IS THIS?

By Richard Schwartz

Recently David Golden, a devoted student of Carriers and Locals, showed me a cover that puzzles him. It mystifies me too. It's shown here in the hope that you, dear reader, can identify the post.

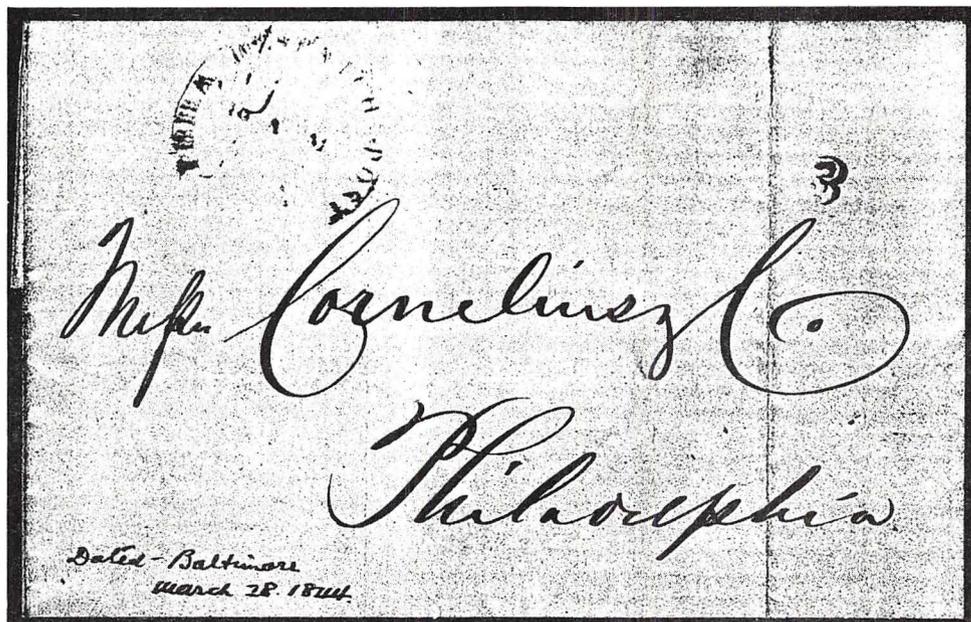
This is an outside letter sheet from Boorman & Johnstone & Co. docketed 9M 25/44, which is the Quaker way of writing Sept. 25, 1844. Cal Hahn informs me that Boorman & Johnstone & Co. is known as an early forwarder in New York City.

The letter clearly did not transit the U.S. mails. One can assume it was carried privately to Philadelphia and turned over to a "penny post" for local

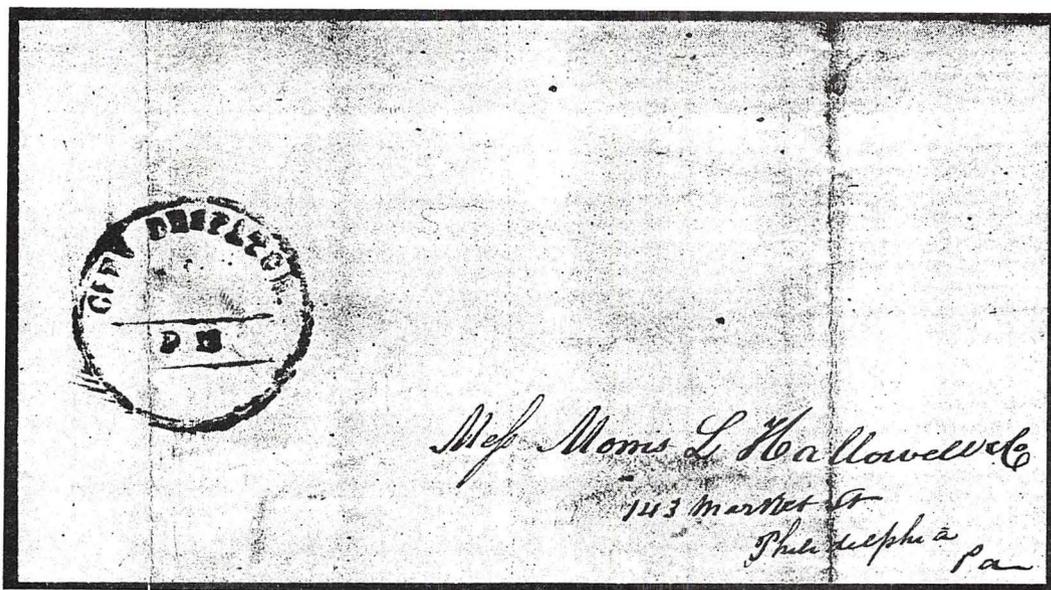
delivery with the fee paid in cash.

The double circle postmark is in red. The outside circle measures 33½ mm, the inner circle 20 mm. No wording appears inside the inner circle and there is no sign that the stamper contained date or time that simply failed to strike.

David Golden acquired it some time ago and temporarily placed it among Blood stampless covers while feeling strongly that it is not a Blood's marking. I concur. The marking is distantly similar to two Philadelphia markings, the Philadelphia Despatch Post and the (Philadelphia) City Despatch. Their markings also occur in red.



PHILA. DESPATCH POST. March 28, 1844. Originated in Baltimore and carried out of the mail to Philadelphia.



(PHILADELPHIA) CITY DESPATCH. Feb. 1, 1844. Local use, marking in red.

It has been stated that Daniel Otis Blood acquired Halsey's Despatch in 1845 to create D.O. Blood & Co. This is ten months after the date of the cover in question. It cannot therefore be attributed to Blood.

Nothing seems to be known about Halsey's Despatch and I have no record of covers or markings. Perhaps this is, in truth, a Halsey marking.

Readers' comments are welcome.

# A MYSTERY IN THREE ACTS

By Carl Kane

## ACT I

### THE DISPATCH OF A GUY

**W**ithin the ever increasing fraternity of stamp collectors who study forgeries, it is only seldom that we report a totally new discovery. Therefore it was with much pleasure that I read the April 1991 issue of *The Penny Post* in which there was an article on Guy's City Despatch by Richard Schwartz. In an editor's note Gordon Stimmell revealed the existence of a forgery of that stamp which had not been previously listed.

The U.S. locals have been so carefully scrutinized by so many top philatelists that it is unlikely that many other old forgeries still remain undiscovered. It is just such a possibility that lures us to examine closely every last stamp for an as yet unreported forgery.

I have a small collection of old glassine envelopes containing bogus stamps, labels and U.S. local forgeries that have not been added to since the 1930s. It was there I found yet another old forgery of Guy's City Despatch.

This forgery bears no resemblance to any I have seen by the classic forgers, Hussey, Scott, Taylor or Moens. Neither does it resemble the work of Upham, Petrie, or Stirling. It is quite crude enough to be a 19th century lithograph and appears to be perforated by a sewing machine needle.

All the stamps were pink or light pink. The latter shows an orange tint under the fluorescent lamp. The distinguishing characteristics are:

The lettering stroke is too thin.

G has 6 white background lines in the center instead of 5.

Y has 4 white background lines



Pale Guy with scratch on S and cleaned version (below, right).

crossing from the upper left in its upper vee section.

S is 1.6mm wide instead of 2mm.

The long comma touches 4 of the white lines of the center circle instead of 3.

CITY measures 7.5 mm wide instead of 8.3 mm.

C includes 4 curved background lines instead of 5.

A has a small rounded top instead of a broad flat top.

C is broadly open instead of almost closed.

H crossbar is above the center of the letter instead of below.

Stamp 26mm high instead of 25mm.

Paper is thick yellowish crude wove instead of white wove, semi transparent.

The perforation is crude and measures 11.

From this small collection, tossed aside and neglected as almost worthless, comes a totally new forgery. In our

sector of philately, that is another story of a frog turned into a prince.

## ACT II: A REAL PRINCE OF A GUY

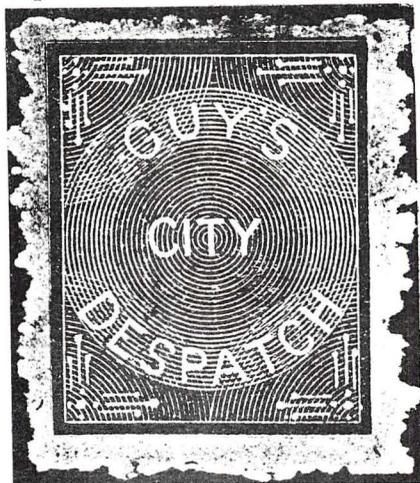
**T**he second act of this mystery unfolded when this discovery was submitted to Richard Schwartz, the author of the previous article on Guy's City Despatch. He agreed this type differs in some significant ways from the common red and blue Guy's City Despatch stamps:

"The configuration of the "S" in GUY'S and DESPATCH. The termination of that letter in this type is flattened, almost horizontal, instead of having a decided upward (or downward) hook. The corner ornaments show many differences."

But Schwartz does not think it is a forgery for the following reasons:

"Was the post around long enough to attract the attention of a forger. It was in existence less than three months. Since it was short lived, the remainders must have been plentiful. Unless the forger knew the pattern and setting instructions for the lathework background, he would find it impossible to come as close to type 1 as is seen."

Therefore he is inclined to think it is a scarce second type of the genuine stamp. A confirmation of that would be



an example properly cancelled on cover. Then he poses some questions:

- 1). Why are these stamps of the second type so scarce?
- 2). Does it exist in blue?
- 3). Why are a few copies of Type 1 found with a sewing machine perforation?
- 4). Why do grown men like us fritter away time on such trivia?"

Could this even be a real print of a guy?

## ACT III: IS THERE ANY PROOF?

**T**he third act need not be the end of this mystery, but only serve to introduce a new possibility. Perhaps these stamps were successive trial proofs which preceded the final printing of the genuine stamp. The following reasons suggest that possibility:

- 1). The general appearance of the first trial proof in light pink was weak, and there was a vertical scratch from the top of the "S" of GUY'S. That was improved by cleaning off the scratch and deepening the shade of color.
- 2). The stamps of the second trial proof were difficult to separate without tearing the adjoining stamp, so the sewing machine perforation was replaced with conventional perforations.
- 3). Color was changed again to a darker pink to improve its appearance.

With these changes, the release may have been given to proceed with the printing of the issued stamp in the still deeper pink color.

Following this line of thinking, one may conclude the dark pink stamp (Scott 74L1) did not show the conventional magenta cancelling ink well so a blue stamp was printed (74L2).

So now we have a guy on trial. Before we essay forth to raise any guy to an altered state, it may be necessary to test what proof there is.

# BALDWIN'S RAILROAD POSTAGE

By Richard Frajola

**T**his brief article is intended to be an update and synopsis of the fine article by H. Warren K. Hale which appeared in the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 13, No.4, in October 1934 and which was reprinted in *Byways of Philately* in 1966. For further background regarding this bogus private post the reader should refer to that article. The listing of types and known colors presented here is new.

## BACKGROUND

This fantasy post was first reported in the philatelic press in June, 1865 when Craig & Melvin, stamp dealers living in St. John, New Brunswick, announced that they were sole agents for the stamps. This advertisement, which appeared in the *Stamp Collector's Monthly Gazette*, published by George Stewart at St. John, mentioned that the set of 15 varieties was available for \$1.50 N.B. currency and that their stock was rather limited. Craig & Melvin continued to offer the Baldwin's Railroad Postage stamps until November, 1865 when Melvin sold out his share in the business to Ridgeway Jones. Craig advertised that he was trying to wind up the affairs of the stamp business in February, 1866.

Apparently S. Allan Taylor had purchased 400 of the Baldwin stamps from Craig & Melvin in the summer of 1865. In Taylor's December, 1865 issue of *Stamp Collector's Record* there appeared a response to a reader (real or imaginary) that stated "Baldwin's Railroad Postage are genuine. New Brunswick is in New Jersey, 20 miles from New York City." In his next issue he

lately tried to explain away the pence denomination on the stamps. Taylor began advertising Baldwin's stamps at 3 cents each in August, 1865 and continued his advertisement until June, 1866.

In the March, 1866 issue of *Monthly Gazette* Stewart exposed the fraud in an article entitled "A Timprophilic Bubble Burst." S. Allan Taylor responded by publishing an article accusing George Stewart of being involved in the fraud. Taylor came out with a new version of the stamp (Type 3) which he began advertising as genuine, one cent each, three varieties; and included one of "N.B. manufacture" gratis. These varieties were advertised by Taylor through May, 1868. In 1871 W. Dudley Atlee listed the post as fictitious as did Coster in 1882.

## THE STAMPS

The stamps exist in three types.

Type 1 (Figure 1) was produced and sold by Craig & Melvin. It was printed by J. & A. McMillan in Saint John, New Brunswick and the design portrays a steam locomotive surrounded by an oval inscribed "Baldwin's Railroad Postage Two Pence." There is no colored flaw at lower left corner in this fine printing. A late state printing of this type exists, coarsely inked, showing a chalky appearance, also lacking the corner flaw.

(Editor's note: Sherwood Springer ascribes this later printing to Taylor, based on the assumption Taylor purchased the original cuts from Craig & Melvin. Frajola disagrees, saying no evidence supports Taylor's purchase of the original cut and so does not feel

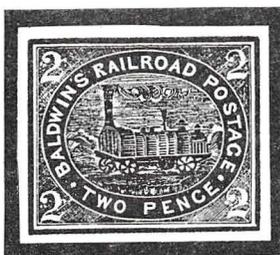


Fig. 1. Type 1.



Fig. 2. Type 2. With added burr.

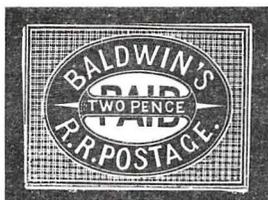


Fig. 3. Type 3.

Taylor produced the chalky printing.

Type 2 (Figure 2) is S. Allan Taylor's copy of the "original" design, and shows a distinct colored flaw on the frame at the lower left corner, near the figure "2". There are at least two printings, one finer (almost as clearly printed as Type 1) and one more chalky, with an added oval white burr in the top frame over "R" of "RAILROAD".

Type 3 (Figure 3) is Taylor's brand new design ("Two Pence Paid") without the locomotive, printed in Boston about 1866. The grid background around the oval was also used by Taylor for his first bogus Bouton's Manhattan Express fraud and for several of his Confederate creations.

The following is a list of the known varieties of the three types. It is interesting that Craig & Melvin advertised 15 varieties. These were most likely black, red and blue each printed on five different colors of paper (white,

gray, blue, yellow and green). I do not know of examples on gray paper but they were mentioned by Stewart. I would welcome hearing from readers who have unlisted varieties. The first three Type 3 colors correspond with the three advertised by Taylor.

**TYPE 1, design showing locomotive, no colored flaw at lower left corner, by Craig & Melvin.**

**EARLY STATE, FINELY PRINTED**

- 2p red on thin white wove
- 2p black on thin white wove
- 2p blue on thin white wove
- 2p red on thick white wove
- 2p black on thick white wove
- 2p blue on thick white wove
- 2p red on bluish
- 2p black on bluish
- 2p blue on bluish
- 2p red on yellow
- 2p black on yellow
- 2p blue on yellow
- 2p red on green
- 2p black on green
- 2p blue on green
- 2p blue on blue gray

**LATE STATE, POORLY PRINTED**

- 2p bistre on thin white wove
- 2p purple on thin white wove
- 2p purple on thick white wove

**TYPE 2, design showing locomotive, colored flaw at lower left corner, by S.A. Taylor.**

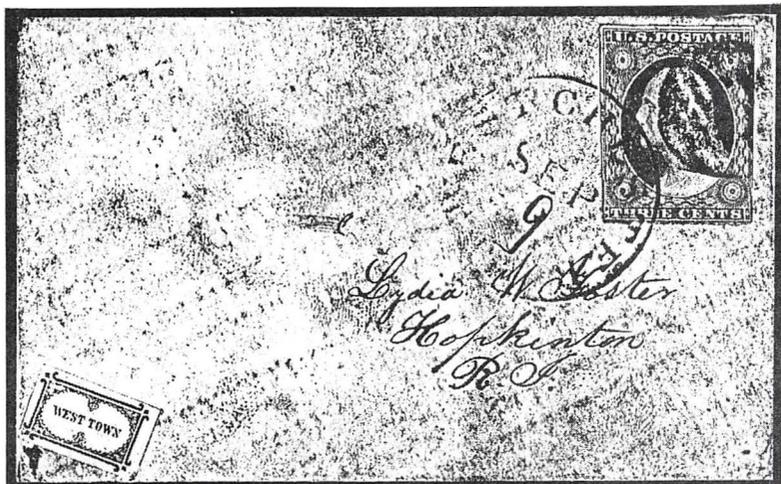
- 2p dark blue on white wove
- 2p plum on yellow
- 2p black on pink, vertical laid
- 2p red on blue surface coated
- 2p plum on blue surface coated
- 2p red on pale violet, surf. coated.

**ADDED OVAL BURR TOP FRAME:**

- 2p plum on white wove
- 2p pale blue on white wove
- 2p blue on pink
- 2p deep violet on white wove

**TYPE 3, design without locomotive, by S.A. Taylor.**

- 2p black on rose
- 2p black on green
- 2p black on yellow
- 2p black on violet gray, vert. laid.



Earliest noted usage of the first (Type IV) stamp: Sept. 7, 1853.

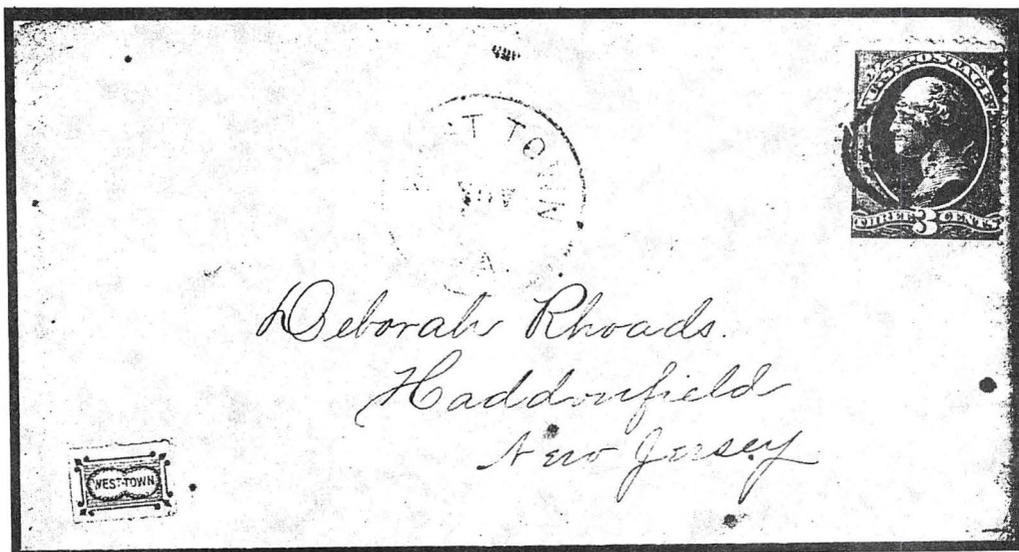
## WESTTOWN REVISITED

**W**e whisk you back to Westtown, last visited in April 1992, to bring news of two discoveries, courtesy of Bill Ullom, an avid collector of Quaker school stamps.

In my article this spring, I asked any members to come forward with covers dating back to actual year of issue of the first Westtown stamp. The smaller cover above bears the first issue (Type

IV) with an enclosure from a student dated Sept. 7, 1853.

Equally exciting is the larger of these two covers, with a "WEST TOWN PA." dated handstamp on a cover to Haddonfield, N.J. Ullom notes this as "the only recorded example with a West Town postmark." It is certainly the first I have seen. Any readers with such a handstamp? --Gordon Stimmell.



A possibly unique WEST TOWN postmark with Type VII stamp.

# A MYSTERY COVER

Robson Lowe submits this unusual item, with this note: "Illustrated is a cover written on Jan. 19, 1839 and carried to Boston by Mr. Heasur, who put it in the post on arrival. The cover received the red circular "BOSTON M.S. ONE CENT" handstamp. Was this a drop letter or a local post?" Society members with knowledge of this handstamp or particular usage are asked to send their solutions to *The Penny Post* Editor.



## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members (Membership #s 193-210) who have recently joined our Society. Let us know your special interests and areas of expertise. And let your journal editor know if you wish to write an article. He's always hungry for hard (or soft) copy for *The Penny Post*. He can also advise you on whose editorial territorial toes you are about to trod. Welcome aboard.

Richard Drews, Chicago, IL  
James E. Lee, Wheeling, IL  
Rick Leiby, Jr. Allentown, PA  
Bruce Fancher, Berkley, MI  
Walter J. Fields, Merrimack, N.H.  
Tom Adams, Newton Lower Falls, MA  
Aksel S. Pedersen, Deposit, NY  
E. Lee Jordan, Jr. Grass Valley, CA  
Lowell S. Newman, Weehawken, NJ  
Walter H. Maurer, Honolulu, HI

William L. Ullom, Canton, OH  
American Philatelic Research Library,  
State College, PA  
Fred Robichaud, Pepperell, MA  
Daniel M. Bagby, Scarsdale, NY  
Stephen E. Cohen, Brooklyn, NY  
Alan Geisler, Paterson, NJ  
Peter F. Erickson, Portland, OR  
Ronald C. Gibbs, Greenville, SC  
Stewart C. Kachel, Dania, FL

# SOCIETY WANT ADS

## WANTED TO BUY

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.

.....

### WANTED

To Buy, Sell or Trade: Philadelphia Locals and Independent Mails on cover. Steven M. Roth, Suite 800, 1233 Twentieth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

.....

### WANTED

Buying BNA local post fantasies, especially early Baldwin's, early Kers. Also Taylor Albany/Boston stamp dealer labels and genuine Barnard's or U.C. Co. Gordon Stimmell P.O. Box 184, 260 Adelaide St. E., Toronto M5A 1N1, Ontario, Canada.

.....

### WANTED

To buy or trade: Blood's and Boyd's local post material, especially postal stationery. U.S. post office seals (OX's), on cover preferred. Martin Richardson, P.O. Box 1574, Dayton, OH 45401.

## AUCTIONS

For a selection of Locals in range of \$10-\$100 apply for free mail auction catalog to Stamps from Overseas, 35 Church Hill, Winchmore Hill, London N21 1LN England. We are Society members. APS member #79175.

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### FOR SALE

Collector will share his U.S. local forgeries. I will trade or sell. Send a SASE for a list or \$25 for a selection of 25 different stamps. Carl E. Kane, 11 Country Club Lane, Brockton, MA 02401.

.....

### WANTED

Will pay top dollar for USA and BNA fantasies. Joseph F. Antizzo, P.O. Box 997, Church Street Station, N.Y. N.Y. 10008. APS 49006.

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*Footnote on Society Adlets: A reminder to members currently advertising. The adlets in this issue are free, but a cheque will ensure they continue to run in upcoming issues of this journal. If you wish to add to, change or delete your ad, please let me know your specific needs by the end of February.*

Adlets are accepted from Society Members only. Your first ad is free, subsequent reprintings cost \$10 each, per issue, which defrays printing of your journal. Send to Editor, P.O. Box 184, 260 Adelaide St. E., Toronto M5A 1N1, Ontario, Canada.

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## ADVERTISING RATES

Outside Back Cover: .....	\$125
All Other Full Pages: .....	\$100
Member Adlets (First ad free): .....	\$10

(Rates are per each issue of the journal)



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