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# THE PENNY POST

Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society



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BATES & CO.

THE CITY DESPATCH POST 1842-1852

LOCAL COVERS WITH U.S. 3¢ STAMPS 1851-1857

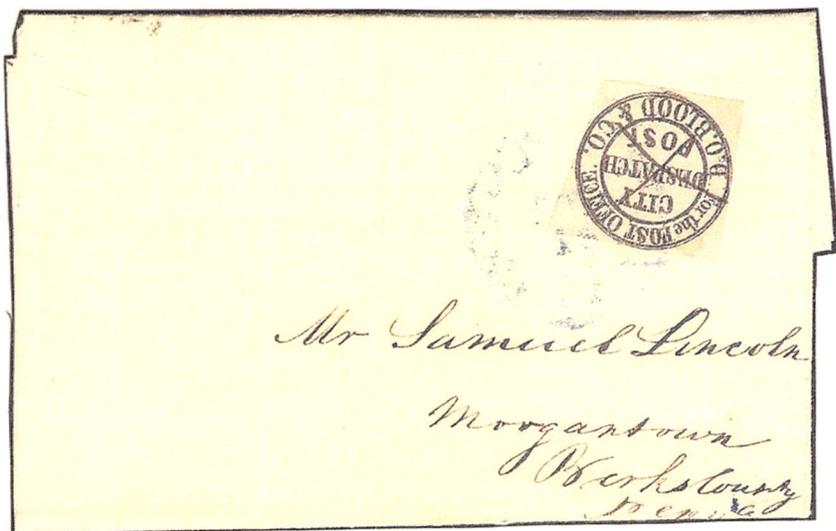
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# THE PENNY POST



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*THE PENNY POST / Vol. 19 No. 1 / January 2011*

# Editor's Message

By  
Larry Lyons

First and foremost, our Society President, Cliff Alexander has his first message to the members in this issue. Together we urge you, as members, to get more involved. Doing work for the Society is really play time and you will reap the satisfying rewards. I am in need of an assistant editor. The job can be as little as editing articles, doing scans and assembling articles. It can include research if you want to have that sort of adventure. Don't say "someone else can do it." Be the one to step forward and join our special group of devotees. We also need an ad manager to make calls and gather ads. The Society needs this revenue and right now no one is doing this job. We need a volunteer.

We are on a campaign to increase membership. We added 17 new members last year, an increase of 10%. We hope to exceed that number in 2011 and both Cliff Alexander and I will be concentrating on finding new members for our Society to increase interest in our field of study and produce collectors for the long term future of our hobby. We will keep you posted on our progress. In the meantime please consider giving a gift of membership to one of your stamp collecting friends. The gift is tax deductible so Uncle Sam will financially assist you.

Some of our new members and many of our long time members are also in the Classics Society. We will be presenting a series of articles of particular interest to Classics Society collectors. The first of these articles is in this issue and is entitled "Local Stamps on Cover with the U.S. Three Cent stamps of 1851-1857." I am the author and the covers presented are of interest to members of both Societies.

John Bowman has done some extensive research on Bates & Co. which appears in this issue. His research and presentation are quite interesting, culminating with some new ideas. Special thanks to John for his efforts which included contacting other members for their input.

We have an article on the Empire City Despatch which updates the 1975 research on this company. This article is co-authored by John Bowman and myself.

Our Forgery editor, Cliff Alexander joined forces with Bruce Mosher and John Bowman to do the research and article on Simplified Identification Tips to the Bucks Richmond Express bogus stamps. The article presents 21 different examples in three major categories. This research was quite difficult and will now lead to more on the subject of Confederate forgeries. Much thanks to this threesome for doing this article.

I have been doing extensive research on the local posts of New York City. In the last issue of *The Penny Post* I presented the local posts of Down Town NYC; more on that in the future. This issue has my article on the City Despatch Post stamps of 1842-1852.

Extra special thanks to Alan Cohen, our Auction Manager, for his work on Society Auction #19 which was very successful.

Our yearly Society meeting will be in Columbus, Ohio in August. Please try and attend. This is the major stamp show of the year and you won't be disappointed.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *The Penny Post* and Happy Collecting.

# President's Letter

By

Clifford J. Alexander

This is my first letter to Society members since my election as president, and I should begin by thanking the past presidents. Since Tom Mazza helped incorporate the Society on November 8, 1990, there have only been three before me. Richard Schwartz was the first president and served for two years. Steve Roth was president from 1992 to 1999. And my close friend, John Bowman, has been president for the last eleven years.

Special thanks should go to Marty Richardson and Tom Mazza who have been directors from the beginning. Marty has been the Society's only treasurer. Scott Trepel, Eric Jackson and Byron Sandfield also have been important supporters of, and contributors to, the Society for many years and have served on the board of directors.

One of the most important responsibilities – and member benefits – is *The Penny Post*. The Society has been fortunate that Gordon Stimmel served as editor the first half (January 1991 to April 1998, a period of seven years) of the Society's life and Larry Lyons the second (January 2000 to present, eleven years and running). Their work has greatly contributed to our better knowledge of carrier services, independent mails, expresses and local posts.

Another valuable activity that has helped support the Society is our auction. Alan Cohen has managed the auction from its start in 2001. Special thanks to Alan for doing this job for ten years and counting. Marty Richardson has posted the lot pictures on our website for all of the auctions and also deserves special thanks for all his work for the Society. There are many other persons who have devoted valuable time and energy toward helping the Society, and I plan to acknowledge their important contributions in future letters.

A big challenge for the Society – and other associations of collectors – is membership. Your board of directors, president and editor are discussing ways to bring new collectors to the area and increase Society membership. One initiative will be to try to have at least one article in each issue of *The Penny Post* that appeals more broadly, and reinforces the relationships with, U.S. classics and express collectors. However, the Society's areas of focus remain the same as in the beginning:

- U.S. official and semi-official carrier services
- U.S. local posts of the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- U.S. independent mails
- Eastern U.S. package expresses of the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Fakes and forgeries of U.S. Carriers and Locals
- U.S. and Canadian phantasy stamps of the 19<sup>th</sup> century

Members can help in a number of ways. One is to encourage friends to join the Society. Another is to assist Larry Lyons, our editor, by offering suggestions for articles or even working on articles for *The Penny Post*. If you have an interest in

writing an article and would like assistance, feel free to contact me and I will put you in touch with someone who can help.

I hope to be able to get in touch with members on an individual basis over the next year. I would also like to encourage you to contact me with questions, requests, ideas or even criticisms you might have. My telephone number during the day is 202-778-9068, and my e-mail address is [clifford.alexander@klgates.com](mailto:clifford.alexander@klgates.com).

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# Bucks Richmond Express Simplified Identification Tips

By  
Clifford J. Alexander,  
Bruce H. Mosher and  
John D. Bowman

This article is the result of a collaborative project involving Bruce Mosher,<sup>1</sup> John Bowman and myself. Although there is an old story about a local express company that was operated in Richmond, Virginia by an African American gentleman named Buck,<sup>2</sup> the Bucks Richmond Express stamp is bogus. Nevertheless, at least 20 versions of the stamp exist, some of which date back to the mid-1860s.

The first step in identifying the types and subtypes of Bucks Richmond Express stamps is to separate them into the three principal categories:

1. Type I stamps all have a period after “ONLY” and no dash under the first “S” of “STATES.” There are no reported 25¢ or 50¢ stamps of Type I.
2. Type II stamps all have no period after “ONLY” or “Cents” and have a dash under the first “S” of “STATES.” There is no reported 1¢ stamp of Type II.
3. The Type III stamp has ornaments resembling Maltese crosses in the four corners instead of the eight point stars found in Types I and II.

The following types and numbers are based on the system first published by Rooke.<sup>3</sup> However, we have included a new Type III and a number of new sub-types.

## Type I Varieties

Type I.1



The final “S” in “BUCKS,” final “S” in “EXPRESS,” “O” in “ONLY” and “CO” in “CONFEDERATE” are taller than the other letters. The line under “Cent” and “Cents” is 4.5 mm. (1¢, 2¢, 5¢, 10¢, 15¢, 20¢ reported)

<sup>1</sup> Bruce Mosher is the author of the principal reference book and catalog on express emissions, *Catalog of Private Express Labels and Stamps, United States 1839-1918, Canada 1841-1926* (2002).

<sup>2</sup> The story was attributed to George Sloane. See Harry F. Rooke, “A Closer Look at Bogus Confederates -- In Particular, “Buck’s Express,” *The Cinderella Philatelist* (October 1969), pages 73-76.

<sup>3</sup> Harry F. Rooke, “*Crazy Confederates or Bogus Adhesives*,” *Confederate Philatelist*, Vol. 13, No. 7, Whole No. 128 (Jan.-April 1969), at pages 36-39.

Type I.2



One of only two engraved versions, this type has a 1.2 mm gaps above “CONFEDERATE” and below “STATES ONLY”. This is wider than the other stamps in Types II and III. The shading lines point up to the right. The stamp is on thin, transparent pelure paper. (only 20¢ red on white reported)

Type I.2a



These stamps also have a 1.2mm gaps like Type I.2 but are not engraved, and the shading lines point down to right. (1¢, 2¢, 5¢, 10¢, 20¢ reported)

Type I.2b

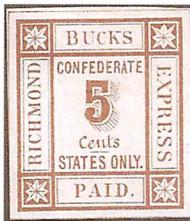


Same 1.2mm gap as Type I.2, not engraved but on thin, transparent pelure paper. (only 20¢ black on white reported)

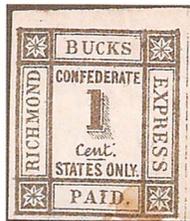
Type I.3



The crossbar of “t” in “Cents” is only on the right side of the upright and points up; and there is no period after “Cents.” (2¢, 5¢, 10¢, 15¢, 20¢ reported)



I.3A



I.3a



I.3b

Type I.3A Same as Type I.3 but the numbers are narrower. The 2¢ is 4.5 mm wide (vs 5 mm); the 5¢ is 6 mm (vs. 7 mm); and the “2” of the 20¢ is 6 mm (vs. 7 mm). (only 2¢, 5¢, 20¢ reported)

Type I.3a Same as Type I.3 except there is a period after “Cent.” (only 1¢ black on white reported)

Type I.3b Same as Type I.3a except the period touches the “t” of “Cent.” (only 1¢ black on white reported)



I.4

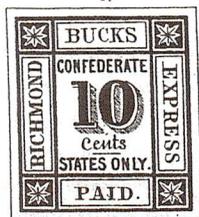


I.5

Type I.4 Same as Type I.3 except 11 shade lines inside “0” vs. 9 or 10 in I.3. (only 20¢ red brown on white reported)

Type I.5 The “t” of “cents” is tall with a horizontal cross bar; the “P” of “PAID” is separated and has a thick vertical upright; and the line under “Cent” and “Cents” is 4 mm. (Some of these stamps are from versions of the Gold Sheet.) (1¢, 2¢, 4¢, 5¢, 10¢, 15¢, 20¢ reported) (Note: this is the only reported 4¢ Bucks stamp.)

Type I.5a Like Type I.5 except this is the original, sharp, engraved illustration from the Moens 1864 catalog that Type I.5 is based on. The stamp also has a complete outer frame line and “4.” above the design. (only 10¢ black on white reported)



Type I.6 Like Type I.1 except the first “S” of “STATES” is lower than the other letters; and the “F” of “CONFEDERATE” has short strokes). (1¢, 2¢, 5¢, 10¢, 15¢, 20¢ reported)





II.A



II.A1

### Type II Varieties

Type II.A The numbers are filled in with horizontal lines and the “ts” of “Cents” is complete. (2¢, 5¢, 10¢, 15¢, 20¢, 25¢, 50¢ reported)

Type II.A1 Same as Type II.A except “ts” of “Cents” is partially missing. (2¢, 5¢, 10¢, 15¢, 20¢, 25¢, 50¢ reported)



II.B



II.C



II.D

Type II.B Only known stamp with a “50” value that has the “5” and “0” filled in. The numbers are thin with a single shadow line. (only 50¢ reported)

Type II.C The outlines of the numbers are crooked. (only 15¢, 20¢ and 50¢ reported)

Type II.D The “5” has a different frame line around all sides and the top stroke is curved. (only 5¢ and 15¢ reported)



II.E



II.F

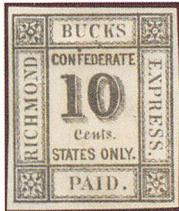


II.G

- Type II.E The number is solid like Type I.1 but it has small words in borders like other Type II stamps; “EXPRESS” is 8 mm long and 1.5 mm tall. (only 10¢ only reported)
- Type II.F The number is solid like Type I.1 but it has large words in borders; “EXPRESS” is 9 mm long and 2.5 mm tall. (only 10¢ reported)
- Type II.G Has a solid number with no background shading. (only 5¢ reported)

### Type III Variety

Type III



Has ornaments resembling a Maltese cross in all four corners and a period after “EXPRESS.” (only 10¢ reported)

The authors would like to express their gratitude to the following persons for the valuable assistance they provided during this project: Jim Czul, Leonard Hartmann, Larry Lyons, Bill Peters and Steve Roth. We also would like to acknowledge the important research on Bucks Richmond Express by Richard Frajola, whose earlier collection can be viewed on his website at [www.rfrajola.com/csa/boguscsaindex.htm](http://www.rfrajola.com/csa/boguscsaindex.htm).

# Local Stamps on Cover with the U.S. Three Cent Stamps of 1851-1857

## Part I

By  
Larry Lyons

The 1847 U.S. regular issue was demonetized July 1, 1851. The 1851 issue replaced it. The focus of this article is the period of usage of the first U.S. three-cent stamp from the 1851-1857 issues used in combination with local stamps. According to Carroll Chase<sup>1</sup> there were fourteen plates used to make the first three-cent U.S. stamp. The first date of issue was July 1, 1851. This stamp saw usage into 1861 when it was demonetized due to the outbreak of the Civil War.

Many of the local posts did not survive into the 1850's. However, a number of companies are known having their stamps used in combination with the 1851-57 issue three-cent stamp. This study is a focus on local post adhesives; therefore it excludes locals who only had handstamps and it excludes government carried mail that did not have a government adhesive applied to the cover to pay the postage. This article will focus on the local companies that took mail to the post office during the time that the 1851-57 three-cent stamps were in use. The carrier stamps on cover with the U.S. three cent stamps will be the focus of a third separate article. This article will cover some locals in the A-K part of the alphabet. Part II will cover the locals L-Z and will appear in our next issue of *The Penny Post*.

Having defined the scope of this study let's now see some of the local posts on cover with the first U.S. three-cent stamps.

### D.O. Blood & Co., Philadelphia

D.O. Blood & Co. was formed by Daniel Otis Blood and Walter H. Blood in 1845. They were the successor to the Philadelphia Despatch Post. The small rectangular Blood's stamps were issued beginning in 1848. These stamps have catalogue listings as 15L12 thru 15L17. The number of covers with these adhesives is enormous. The number of covers in conjunction with U.S. adhesives is also quite large. One can find covers with the small Blood's stamps with US #10, #11, #14, #24, #25, #26, #64, #64b, #65 and others. Covers are known with three #7 or with three #9. Two covers have two 12¢ #17 adhesives. Most of the rectangular Blood's adhesives were cancelled with acid and a very high percentage have the Blood's stamp on a different portion of the cover than the U.S. stamp. Sometimes the stamps were placed close together and received a Philadelphia cds which tied both stamps to the cover. **Figure 1** shows a Blood's 15L13 acid tied on cover used with the three cent orange brown US #10 position 19L1E. The U.S. stamp is tied by a blue grid in ink matching the Philadelphia circular datestamp of July 2 (1851). This is the second

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<sup>1</sup> The 3¢ Stamps of The United States 1851-1857 Issue, Carroll Chase, Tatham Stamp & Coin Company, 1929 revised 1942.

day of use of the three cent 1851 adhesive and the earliest known local adhesive combination.

### **Blood's Penny Post, Philadelphia**

This is Blood's Penny Post after the company was acquired by the general manager, Charles Kochersperger in 1855 when Daniel O. Blood died. The 15L18 stamp saw a lot of use, most of which was local delivery. The cover shown in **Figure 2** is an example to-the-mails with a three cent dull red US #26 Type II stamp paying the postage to Algonas, Michigan. The cover is dated June 26.

### **Bradway's Despatch, Millville N.J.**

**Figure 3** shows a Bradway's Despatch adhesive on a cover with a US three-cent brownish carmine #11 to Bridgeton, New Jersey, circa 1857. There are two recorded Bradway covers used in combination with the three cent 1851 issue. This cover is handstamped "March 27" and the other recorded example is dated January 15. Millville is located in Cumberland County in southern New Jersey, about ten miles east of Bridgeton.

### **Broadway Post Office, New York City**

Not a great many Broadway Post Office covers exist. The cover shown in **Figure 4** has a Broadway Local Post, 26L2 adhesive on a cover with a vertical pair of three cent dull red, US #11 stamps paying the double rate to Constantia, New York. The date of the cover is March 4, 1854.

### **Bronson & Forbes' City Express Post, Chicago, Illinois**

W.H. Bronson and G.F. Forbes operated this local post in Chicago from mid-1856 through early 1857. Fewer than a dozen Bronson & Forbes covers are known. Several are hotel covers. All but two covers have uncanceled local stamps. The example shown in **Figure 5** is a tied example in conjunction with US #11 to Iowa City, Iowa. The datestamp is May 3. Since the post ceased to operate in early 1857, the most probable year date of this cover is 1856.

### **Brooklyn City Express Post, N.Y.**

The Brooklyn City Express Post had a variety of proprietors during the time period of 1854 to 1864. Previous to that it was known as Boyd's Brooklyn City Express Post, Walton & Co. and Kidder's. The name had become Brooklyn City Express post when the post was sold to Issac Snedecker in 1851. He sold it in 1854 and there were several different owners over the next ten years. Quite often the Brooklyn City Express Post stamp is found on the opposite side of the envelope as the US stamp and is often pen or pencil cancelled. The cover shown in **Figure 6** has a two cent black on blue Brooklyn City Express post adhesive, 28L5, in combination with the three cent dull red US #11 stamp. The datestamp is October 22. This is a turned mourning cover. It was originally addressed to a woman in Kingston, N.Y. but the sender apparently changed his or her mind, refolded the envelope and readdressed it.



**Figure 1. A Blood's 15L13, acid tied on a cover to Watertown, Massachusetts. The postage was paid with the orange brown US #10. The Philadelphia circular datestamp is July 2 (1851). This is the second day of use of the three cent 1851 adhesive.**



**Figure 2. A Blood's Penny Post, 15L18 adhesive on a cover to Algonas, Michigan. The postage was paid with the dull red US #26.**

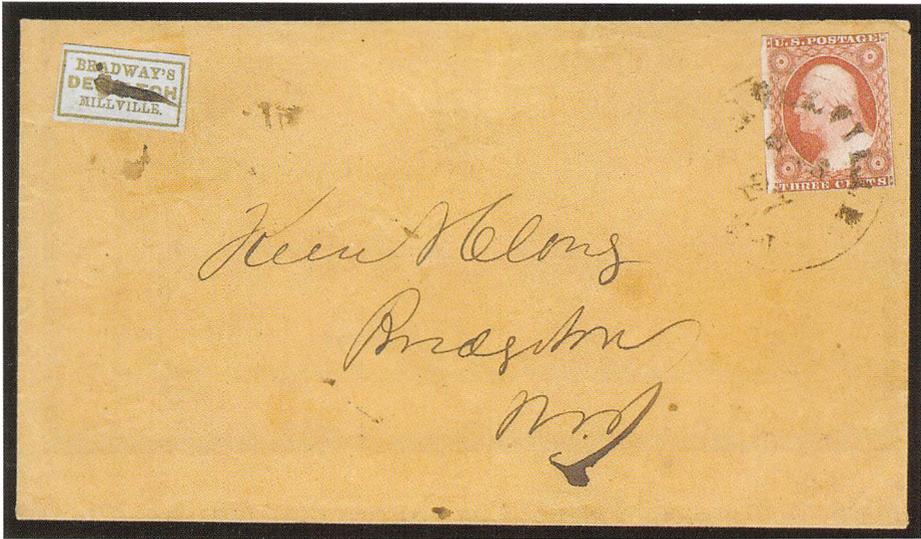


Figure 3. A Bradway's Despatch, 21L1, adhesive on a cover to Bridgeton, New Jersey. The postage was paid with the Brownish carmine US #11.

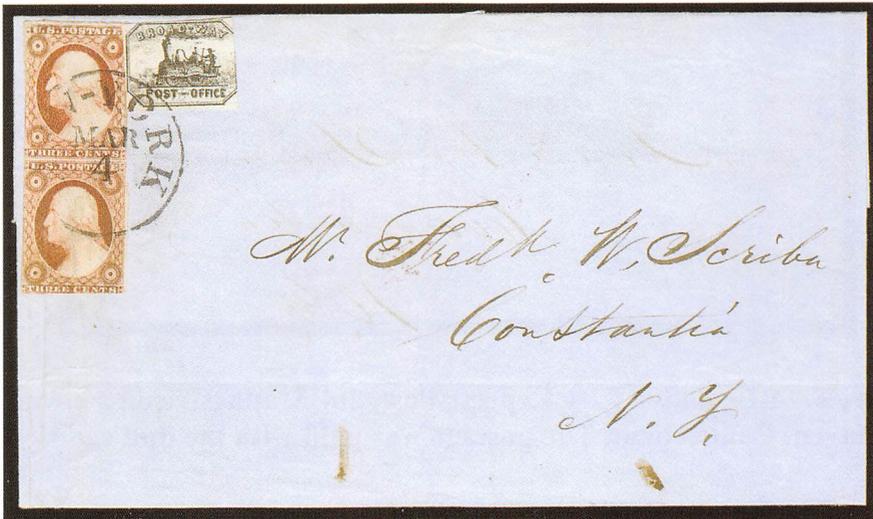


Figure 4. A Broadway Post office, 26L2, adhesive on a cover to Constantia, New York. The postage was paid with dull red US #11.



Figure 5. A Bronson & Forbes' City Express Post adhesive, 27L1, on a cover to Iowa City, Iowa. The postage was paid with the dull red US #11.

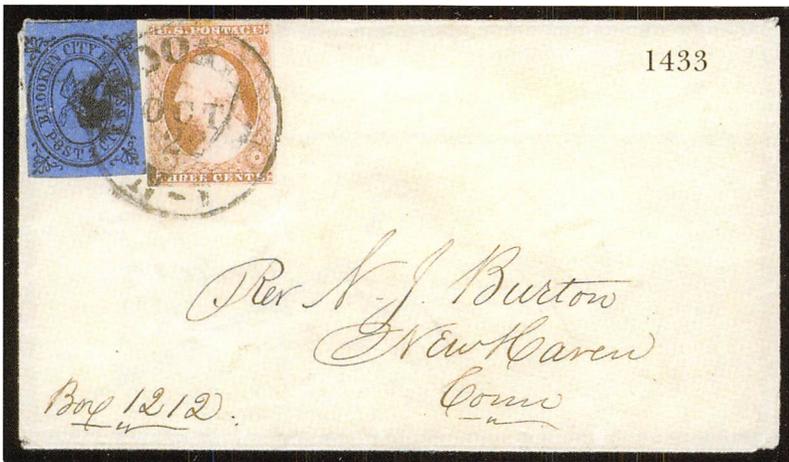


Figure 6. A Brooklyn City Express Post, 28L5, adhesive on a cover to New Haven, Connecticut. The postage was paid with the dull red US #11.

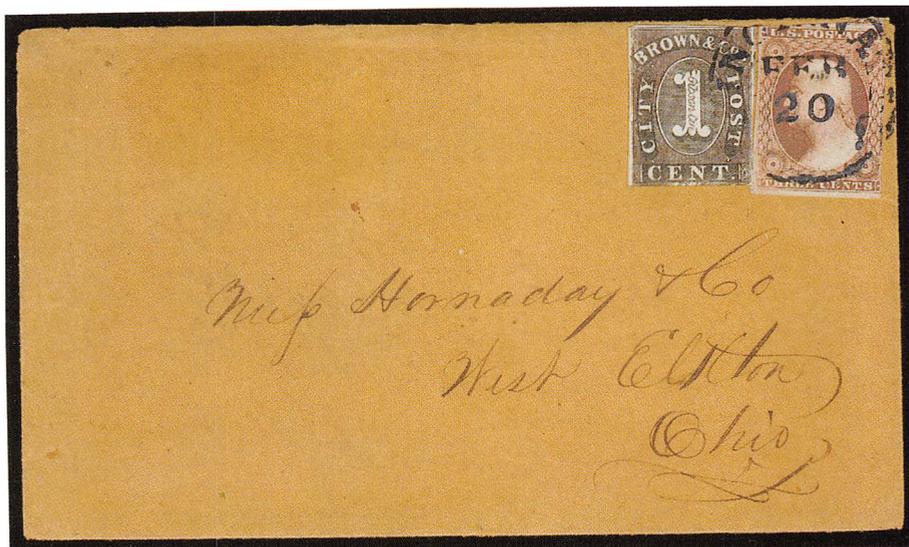


Figure 7. A Browne & Co. adhesive, 29L1, on a cover to West Elkton, Ohio. The postage was paid with the dull red US. #11.



Figure 8. A City Despatch, 41L1, adhesive on a cover to Cincinnati. The postage was paid with the dull red US #26.



Figure 9. A City Letter Express Mail, 45L1, adhesive on a cover to Binghamton, New York. The postage was paid with the dull red US #11.



Figure 10. A Cressman & Co.'s Penny Post, 53L1, adhesive on a cover to Jersey City, New Jersey. The postage was paid with the dull red US #11.



Figure 13. A Glen Haven Daily Mail, 71L2, adhesive on a cover to Bonsack's Virginia. The postage was paid with the brownish carmine US #11.



Figure 14. A Grafflin's Baltimore Despatch, 73L1, adhesive on a cover to New Albany, Indiana. The postage was paid with the rose US #11.

### **Browne & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio**

This local post was started by John W. S. Brown in 1852. Covers are known for local delivery and to the post office. The usage period dates from 1852 to 1854. **Figure 7** shows a Browne & Co. 29L1, adhesive on a cover to West Elkton, Ohio. The U.S. postage was paid with the three cent dull red #11 stamp. The datestamp is February 20.

### **City Despatch, Philadelphia, Pa.**

This local post operated in Philadelphia from about February to July 1860. **Figure 8** shows the 41L1 stamp on a cover to Cincinnati with the three cent dull red US #26. The cover is dated February 17, 1860.

### **City Letter Express Mail, Newark New Jersey**

This local post was established by Augustus Peck and Thomas Jacques on June 12, 1856 to provide delivery service to the city of Newark because the government did not have carriers operating at that time. The post only operated for a few months. The cover shown in **Figure 9** has a three cent dull red US #11 stamp tied together with the local post stamp by the circular datestamp of August 22, (1856). Four examples of the City Letter Express Mail adhesive are recorded tied on cover from June 12, 1856 through September 29, 1856. There are three other examples not tied on covers.

### **Cressman's & Co.'s Penny Post, Philadelphia, Pa.**

Vernon Morris' research article in the Collectors Club Philatelist<sup>2</sup> narrowed the usage of this local post to 1854. This was established by the Type 68 Philadelphia handstamp appearing on one cover. This handstamp is only known from January 28, 1854 to September 18, 1855. One cover is dated December which would have to be 1854 to fall in the datestamp usage period. One cover is known in combination with a three cent dull red US #11 and is dated April 23 (1854). See **Figure 10**.

### **East River Post Office, New York City**

This local post was established by Jacob D. Clark and Henry Wilson in 1850. The post was sold to Jacob Adler in 1852 and run by him until 1865. Later usages are known on cover with US #26 and US #65 stamps. **Figure 11** shows the 62L4 adhesive on a cover to Newton, New Jersey. The postage was paid by the three cent dull red US #11. The cover is dated January 25.

### **Floyd's Penny Post, Chicago, Illinois**

John R. Floyd advertised the start of his Penny Post in July 1860. In June 1861, after the outbreak of the Civil War, Floyd sold the firm to Charles W. Mappa, but continued to assist in managing the post for several months before leaving for war in January 1862. Mappa in turn sold out to Kimball & Waterman in May 1862, and the post continued at least until November 1862 and then closed. Shown in

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<sup>2</sup> The Collectors Club, *Philatelist*, Vernon Morris, September-October 2002, pages 237-246.

**Figure 12** is the blue Floyd's Penny Post adhesive, 68L1, tied on cover with the three cent red Type II, #26 stamp paying the postage to Grafton, Massachusetts. The datestamp is March 25, probably 1861. Floyd's Penny Post covers with the three cent 1857 issue rather than the three cent 1861 issue are extremely rare.

#### **Glen Haven Daily Mail, Glen Haven New York**

This local post was begun in 1850 by the Glen Haven Sanitarium proprietors to carry mail from the local sanitariums and health facilities to the post offices in Scott, Homer and Tully, New York. **Figure 13** shows a Glen Haven Daily Mail adhesive, Type II, 71L2, on a cover tied with the three cent brownish carmine US #11 to Bonsack's, Virginia. The datestamp is October 15.

#### **Grafflin's Baltimore Despatch, Baltimore, Maryland**

This local post operated in Baltimore, Maryland and was established by Joseph Grafflin in about 1856. **Figure 14** shows a Grafflin's Baltimore Despatch adhesive, 73L1, tied together on a cover with a three cent rose red US #11 stamp to New Albany, Indiana. The datestamp is December 30.

#### **Homan's Empire Express, New York City**

This post was probably started by Richard S. Homan and operated for a short period of time in 1852. The four known covers are dated January 30<sup>th</sup> through May 8<sup>th</sup>. **Figure 15** shows the 83L1 on cover with a US #11, brownish carmine stamp, to Moses Kimball, Museum, Boston. It is a letter from an actor enquiring if there is an opening in Kimball's theater company. The letter is datelined from 61 Van Dam St., in NYC, on May 5, 1852.

#### **Hopedale Penny Post, Hopedale, Pennsylvania**

This local post was created by a farm community in Hopedale, Pennsylvania by a community meeting held February 2, 1849 to provide local mail service to and from the post office in Milford. **Figure 16** shows the 84L1 local on cover with US #11 to Upton, Massachusetts. The cover is dated January 14 (1852). There are about 17 Hopedale covers from 1852-55. Of these 14 still have US #11 stamps affixed. Only three tied covers are recorded.

#### **Kellogg's Penny Post & City Despatch, Cleveland, Ohio**

This local post existed in Cleveland, Ohio. Usages are known from 1853 and 1854. All of the known usages are to-the mails. **Figure 17** shows the 92L1 on cover with US #11 to Canton, Ohio. The cover is dated September 27 (1853). The other Kellogg's covers do not have U.S. stamps.

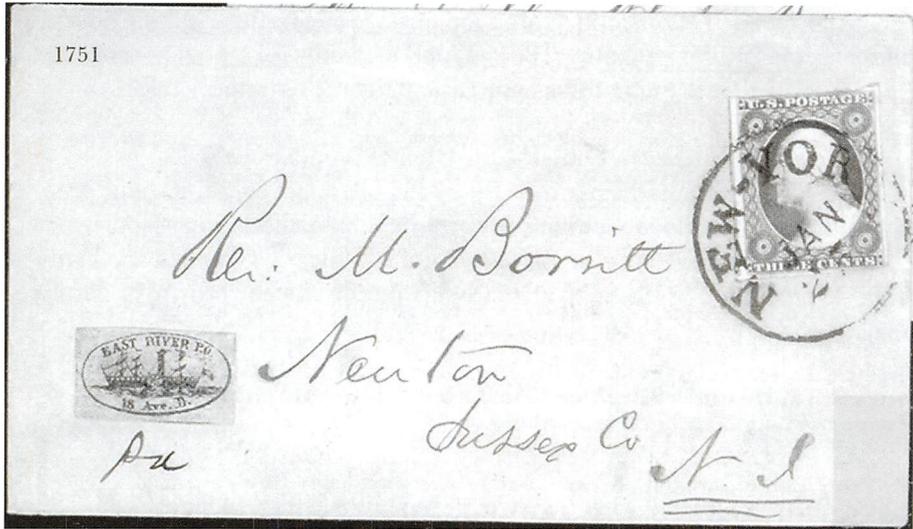


Figure 11. An East River Post Office, 62L4, adhesive on a cover to Newton, New Jersey. The postage was paid with the dull red US #11.



Figure 12. A blue Floyd's Penny Post, 68L1, adhesive on a cover to Grafton, Massachusetts. The postage was paid with the red US #26.



Figure 15. A Homan's Empire Express, 83L1, adhesive on a cover to Boston. The postage was paid with the brownish carmine US #11.

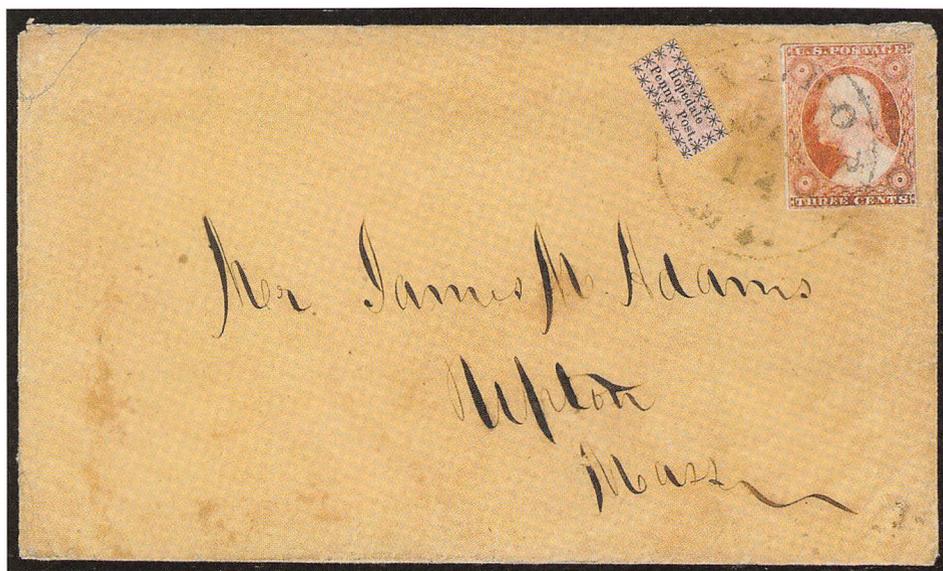


Figure 16. A Hopedale Penny Post, 84L1, adhesive on a cover to Upton, Massachusetts. The postage was paid with the brownish carmine US #11.



**Figure 17. A Kellogg's Penny Post & City Despatch, 92L1, adhesive on a cover to Canton, Ohio. The postage was paid with the dull red US #11.**

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- Blood's, 15L18, Siegel (Richardson), Dec. 20, 2006, Lot 1184.
- Bradway's 21L1, Siegel (Kuphal), Nov. 15-16, 2006, Lot 1413.
- Broadway, 26L2, Siegel (Kuphal), Nov. 15-16, 2006, Lot 1421.
- Bronson & Forbes, 27L1, Siegel (Kuphal), Nov. 15-16, 2006, Lot. 1426.
- Brooklyn, 28L5, Siegel (Kuphal), Nov. 15-16, 2006., Lot, 1433.
- Browne & Co.'s, 29L1, Siegel (Kuphal), Nov. 15-16, 2006, Lot 1436.
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- City Letter Express Mail, 45L1, Siegel (Kuphal), Nov. 15-16, 2006, Lot 1483.
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- Floyd's Penny Post, 68L1, Siegel (Kuphal), Nov. 15-16, 2006, Lot 1532.
- Glen Haven Daily Mail, 71L2, Siegel (Kuphal), Nov. 15-16, 2006, Lot 1551.
- Grafflin's Baltimore Despatch, 73L1, Siegel (Kuphal), Nov. 15-16, 2006, Lot 1558.
- Homan's Empire Express, 83L1, Siegel (Golden), Nov. 15-17, 1999, Lot 1179.
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- Kellogg's Penny Post, 92L1, Siegel (Kuphal), Nov. 15-16, 2006, Lot 1601.

# Bates & Co.: New Bedford and New York Express

By  
John D. Bowman

Bates & Co. has been the subject of three recent articles in the *Penny Post*, following Mike Gutman's 2005 "Hale & Co. Independent Mail Company 1843-1845" book.<sup>1,2,3</sup> This article will update the published information about Bates & Co. and suggest a new understanding of the company based on previous information. **Amos Bates, Hale's agent in New Bedford, used the same boxed collect markings on his mail as well as those he carried for Hale.**

The 1987 *American Stampless Cover Catalog Volume II* published by David G. Phillips and introduced by Hubert Skinner lists "E. C. Bates & Co. – 1844" as established at New Bedford, MA, who was reported to be the agent at New Bedford for Hale & Co. of NYC. However, this is incorrect.

The ASCC catalog does not illustrate the E. C. Bates handstamp but describes it as "Forwarded By/E.C. Bates & Co./Boston" 43 x 15 mm in red. I have not seen an example of this handstamp, but an advertisement listing E. C. & I. G. Bates was posted in a New York newspaper on April 20, 1859 and is shown in **Figure 1**. The address noted is 99 State Street, Boston, and it is likely that there is no relationship with Amos Bates or New Bedford in 1844-45. Readers are invited to submit an example of the ASCC E.C. Bates handstamp to myself or to the Editor. The focus of this article is on the Bates & Co. run by Amos Bates in 1844-45.

As noted by Gutman in his book<sup>4</sup>, Amos Bates was the proprietor of Bates & Co. as well as Hale's agent in New Bedford. Amos Bates used two handstamps that were quite similar to those that Hale used: an oval forwarded handstamp and an identical box collect handstamp, so Gutman suspected that Bates did double-service with the box collect handstamp. Amos Bates' initials "AB" as well as "NB" are noted cancelling adhesives on several Hale's covers originating from New Bedford. See **Figure 2**. Gutman believes that agents of Hale such as Bates had a supply of adhesives, which had been printed in Boston.<sup>5</sup> Because the adhesives come from many different towns, it seems clear that Hale did distribute them to his agents.

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<sup>1</sup> Michael Gutman, "New Hale & Co. Collect Handstamp." *The Penny Post* 14(1): 39-40, Jan 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Larry Lyons and John Bowman, "An Interesting Conjunctive Usage Cover – Bates & Co. to Overton City Mail Nantucket MA to New York City." *The Penny Post* 14(2):71-72, April 2006.

<sup>3</sup> Doug Clark, "Two Bates to Hale Covers to New York." *The Penny Post* 16(3):19-20, July 2008. Please note that the two figure captions were swapped with their figures.

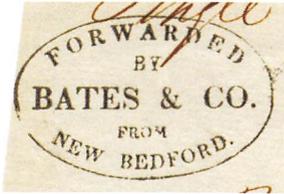
<sup>4</sup> Michael Gutman, *Hale & Co. Independent Mail Company 1843-1845*, 2005, published by Michael S. Gutman.

<sup>5</sup> Michael Gutman, personal communication, Jan. 18, 2011.

David Snow reported that Amos Bates was listed as Superintendent of the City Clock in the 1849 New Bedford directory and earlier was listed as a member of the Fire Department in 1836.<sup>6</sup> It seems that Amos Bates had a sense of civic duty!

Amos Bates ran his express between New Bedford and New York. Most of the known examples originated in New Bedford. Bates not only handled Hale's mail from New Bedford, but also from Nantucket and Wareham.<sup>7</sup> When Bates acted as Hale's agent in New Bedford, covers to Boston bear HAL-BOS-F24.<sup>8</sup> Less common are Bates covers from New York City to New Bedford.

**Handstamps**

BAT-NB-F01		Red and black
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BAT-NY-F02		Red
------------	---	-----

BAT-NB-C01		Black
------------	--	-------

BAT-NB-C02		Red
------------	---	-----

BAT-NY-C03		Red
------------	---	-----

The relationship with Hale handstamps is apparent when comparing these images with those attributed to Hale. The black BAT-NB-C01 is identical with the one illustrated in *The Penny Post* in 2006 by Gutman and designated by him as Hale

<sup>6</sup> David Snow, personal communication, Jan. 19, 2011.

<sup>7</sup> Michael Gutman, personal communication, Dec. 3, 2010.

<sup>8</sup> Michael Gutman, personal communication, Jan. 20, 2011.

C-10A.<sup>1</sup> The red BAT-NB-C02 has also been illustrated in *The Penny Post* as a Bates handstamp.<sup>2</sup> Doug Clark recognized that this handstamp was used by Bates & Co. in his article.<sup>3</sup>

In addition, a number of covers exist with Hale adhesives cancelled with Amos Bates' "AB" or "NB" pen cancel on the stamp. See **Figure 2**.

The rare black BAT-NB-C01 boxed collect handstamp appears on two covers in this census – one with a Bates and Co. oval and the other with a Hale & Co. oval (**Figures 3** and **4**). It differs from the red handstamps not only in the denomination but also with the four ornamental corners.

Gutman has recorded 34 examples of the BAT-NB-C02 boxed collect handstamp, and most of these are clearly usages where Bates functioned as Hale's agent in New Bedford.<sup>1</sup> His dates of usage are September 14, 1844 to May 11, 1845.

Clark's article lists two Bates to Hale covers from New Bedford to New York.<sup>3</sup> His Figure 2 is likely a Bates cover rather than Bates to Hale, since Bates did operate independently sometimes (note that the captions are swapped for the two figures in Clark's article.) His Figure 1 shows a BAT-NB-F01 oval in red and a Hale's straight-line "PAID".

### Census

For purposes of this article, the census below only lists covers that demonstrate Bates & Co. as an independent mail carrier, and without Hale's markings. Nonetheless, Bates was likely Hale's agent in New Bedford even though some covers bear little evidence of service by Hale.

#### Census of Bates & Co. Covers as An Independent Mail Carrier

Date	Handstamp 1	Handstamp 2	Notes
?	NB-F01 black	NB-C01 black	Front only to NYC.
1845-06-09	NB-F01 red	NB-C02 red	Folded letter from N. Bedford to NYC street address to Mess. Abby & Furman
1844-07-18	NB-F01 black	NB-C01 black	Folded letter from New Bedford to NYC. Ex-Jarrett. Frajola sale Mar. 21, 1992 lot 262.
1844-08-03	NY-F02 red	NY-C03 red	Folded letter from NYC to N. Bedford. To Mess. Tobey & Rickitson.
1844-08-03	NY-F02 red	NY-C03 red	Folded letter from NYC to N. Bedford. To Mess. Tobey & Rickitson. Different from above.
1844-09-11	NB-F01 red	NB-C02 red	Entire from New Bedford to NYC. Pencil "8". Frajola sale May 30, 1987, lot 650.
1844-10-07	NB-F01 red	NB-C02 red	Folded letter from N. Bedford to NYC. Reported by Doug Clark PP July 2008.

Date	Handstamp 1	Handstamp 2	Notes
1844-11-20	NB-F01	NB-C02	Folded letter dated New Bedford Nov. 20, 1844 to Mess. Hendricks & Brothers, Merchants, NY. Ms. "Bates & Co. Express" at LR. Knapp collection volume 64.
1845-02-06	NB-F01 red	NB-C02 red	75L1 with red paid, not guaranteed to originate in Siegel's To Mess. Penfold & Schyler. Golden sale # 817 lot 1129 of 11-15-1999. Hammered for \$550.
1845-02-21	NY-F02 red	NY-C03 red	Folded letter from NYC to New Bedford Mess. Swift & Allen. Frajola sale May 30, 1987, lot 649.
1845-05-09	NB-F01 red	NB-C02 red	Folded letter from N. Bedford to NYC, Mess. Penfold & Schuyler, 178 Front St. Siegel Hall sale # 830 lot 236. Hammered for \$210.
1845-05-27	NB-F01 red	NB-C02 red	Folded letter from N. Bedford to NYC street address, J. W. Lowden, Esq.
1845-05-31	NB-F01 red	NB-C02 red	Folded letter from N. Bedford to NYC street address, J. W. Lowden, Esq. Ms. "8 Cents Paid".

A cover with Amos Bates signature, apparently as docketing with a Quaker date of 5 mo 2d 1845, exists on an outer folded letter to Bigelow & Bros, Boston, with red oval Gray's New Bedford/Express/9 Elm Street, Boston. It bears a dollar amount of 80 and a pencil notation "will come in for a receipt." See **Figure 5**.

### Discussion

Amos Bates sometimes competed with and other times serviced Hale's service between cities. There is no question that he was Hale's agent in New Bedford. However, at times he seemed to operate as an independent agent, conjunctively connecting with Hale for forwarding services. At other times, he seemed to act as a typical agent of Hale, placing his initials on adhesives or using the boxed collect handstamp that Gutman identifies as a Hale marking. Bates' oval marking is certainly similar to that of Hale's.

I have attempted to present a census of those covers that seem convincingly to be serviced by Bates & Co. acting as an independent mail company, rather than an agent of Hale.

An aside comment on rates is that covers bearing a manuscript rate marking of "8c" represent an unpaid 6c fee between cities plus 2c for local delivery. Hale

covers show both 2c and 8c as unpaid fees.<sup>5</sup> How fees were divided among independent mails is a matter of conjecture since no factual information is available.

### Acknowledgment

Thanks to Larry Lyons, Mike Gutman and David Snow for providing important references and comments to improve this article.

**Travelling Register.**

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Chief Cabin Passage..... \$130  
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PERSIA, Capt. Judkins.	CANADA, Capt. Lang.
ARABIA, Capt. J. Stone.	AMERICA, Capt. Wickman.
ASIA, Capt. E. G. Lott.	NIAGARA, Capt. Rylie.
AFRICA, Capt. Shannon.	EUROPA, Capt. J. Leitch.

These vessels carry a clear white light at mast-head ;  
 green on starboard bow ; red on port bow.

CANADA, Lang,	leaves	Boston,	Wednesday,	April 20.
EUROPA, Leitch,	"	N. York,	Wednesday,	April 27.
ARABIA, Stone,	"	Boston,	Wednesday,	May 4.
AFRICA, Shannon,	"	N. York,	Wednesday,	May 11.
NIAGARA, Millar,	"	Boston,	Wednesday,	May 18.
PERSIA, Judkins,	"	N. York,	Wednesday,	May 25.
CANADA, Lang,	"	Boston,	Wednesday,	June 1.
ASIA, Lott,	"	N. York,	Wednesday,	June 8.
AMERICA, Millar,	"	Boston,	Wednesday,	June 15.
AFRICA, Shannon,	"	N. York,	Wednesday,	June 22.
ARABIA, Stone,	"	Boston,	Wednesday,	June 29.
PERSIA, Judkins,	"	N. York,	Wednesday,	July 6.

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E. C. & I. G. BATES,  
 99 State street, Boston.

Or,  
 E. CUNARD,  
 4, Bowling Green, New York.

New York, [April 20, 1859. 2726-B-17

Figure 1. 1859 advertisement by E.C. & L.G. Bates.



Figure 2. A red Hale & Co. adhesive from Boston with initials "A.B." by Amos Bates.



Figure 3. Front only, Bates & Co. forwarded oval and 6 1/4 cents collect box, both in black.

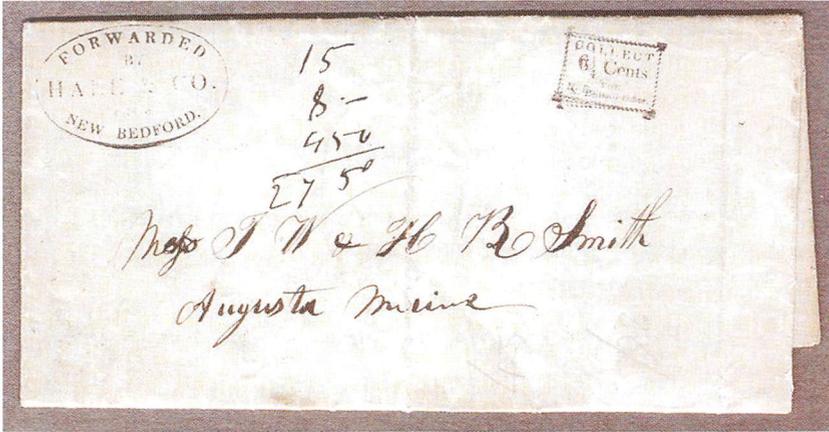


Figure 4. Hale & Co. forwarded oval and 6¼ cents collect box, both in black. The handstamp is type BAT-NB-C01 (C-10A).

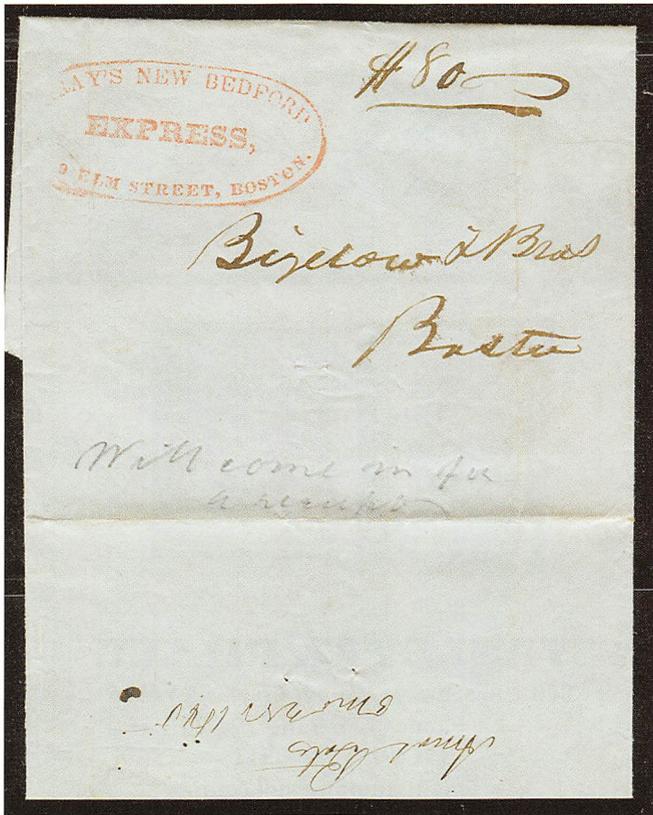
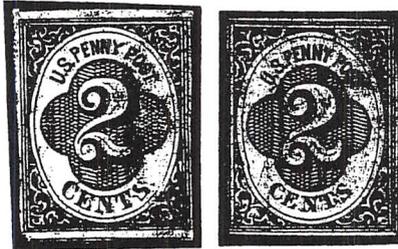
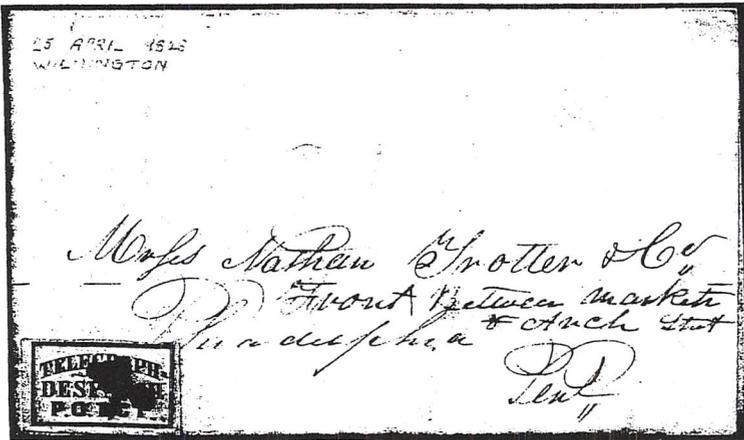


Figure 5. Amos Bates' signature on a letter dated May 2, 1845 to Bigelow & Brothers in Boston.

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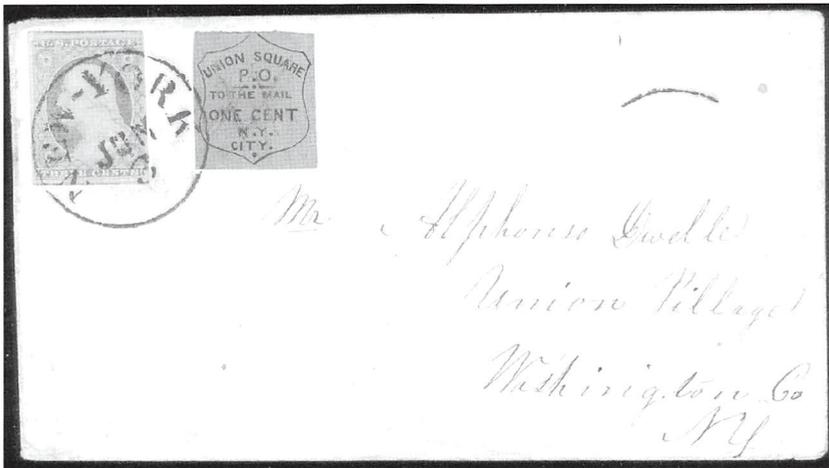
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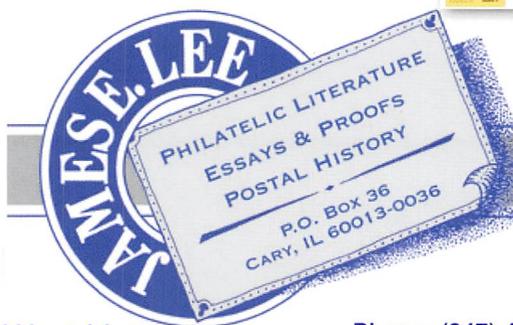
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# Empire City Dispatch Co.

By

John D. Bowman and Larry Lyons

The Empire City Dispatch Co. adhesive is listed in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue* for 2011 as 64L1, with a value of \$1.50 unused and no used values listed. An example of the Empire City Dispatch Co. adhesive is shown in **Figure 1**. Based on Donald Patton's description in his *Private Local Posts of the USA Vol. I*, the catalog states that this 1881 post was "established by J. Bevan and Son and was almost immediately suppressed by the Government."

Patton's source was Henry C. Needham<sup>1</sup>, who wrote "J. Bevan and Son organized and commenced business in the dispatch of local mail early in 1881 at No. 23 Dey Street, New York City. The Government suppressed the issue of stamps almost immediately. Many remainders were on hand, and these were sold to Mr. G. B. Calman<sup>2</sup>. The stamp may still be obtained in quite considerable quantity from the wholesale dealers."

The Empire City Dispatch Co. adhesive is typographed in black on pale green colored-through paper which is vertically laid and perforated 12. The only examples which appear used are believed to be philatelically cancelled, and no covers are known from this post, with or without the adhesive.

Jerry Kedrierski published an article in the *S.P.A. Journal* of June 1977 (pp. 639-41) about this stamp. He illustrated pieces that led him to the conclusion that the stamps were printed in two horizontal panes of 100 stamps each (10 by 10) separated by a gutter. (See **Figures 2** and **3**). He also notes that "mint copies are plentiful and even blocks are far from scarce." A statement still true today.

Kedrierski's pieces were all perforated vertically and imperforate horizontally. The vertical perforations were into the stamp design at the left. Another larger piece is shown in **Figure 4**. This piece is a partial late left pane of vertical rows 6-10 and horizontal columns 1-10. This is a match to Kedrierski's partial pane shown at the left of figure 2.

Max C. Kaye wrote a letter to the editor of this journal, claiming that he had purchased the two illustrated partial sheets from a man who had bought an old home in Westfield, Mass., and found the stamps in that house. Kaye said he traded them several years later to a Mr. Bill German for some US revenue stamps. However, he kept a block of six (2 x 3) imperforate stamps, which were illustrated in his letter.

Larry Lyons has two full panes of 100, with margins on all four sides. It is possible these are the early printings of the right and left panes of 200 since the right margin is quite wide compared to the left. Perforations are normal throughout the

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<sup>1</sup> Needham published a series of articles in *The Philatelic Gazette*, published by the Nassau Stamp Co. from 1910-1917. These were known as "Concise History of Local Posts in the US." Later, Elliott Perry took Needham's articles to task for publishing much misinformation.

<sup>2</sup> The Calman brothers bought the Scott Stamp and Coin Company from J. Walter Scott in the nineteenth century.

right pane and the left pane is missing only one vertical row of perforations between vertical rows 8 and 9. See **Figures 5** and **6**.

Lyons also provided a scan of a similar pane of 100, but with wider margins at the left than the right, which had no vertical perforations between the eighth and ninth columns of stamps, resulting in ten horizontal pairs imperforate between, but perforated all around.

Lyons also has a partial pane of 50 (5 x 10) which has part of the sheet margin at right and bottom, and all at the top. This multiple is perforated vertically but without any horizontal perforations. The vertical perforations are into the stamp design. This piece is not the same as those described by Mr. Kedrierski.

John Bowman reports the following examples:

1. Vertical pairs and blocks imperforate horizontally. See **Figure 7**.
2. Horizontal pairs imperforate vertically between but perforated all around. See **Figure 8**.
3. Pairs and blocks imperforate all around. See **Figure 9**.

You might suppose from what I have described that all sorts of remainders exist including what would otherwise be called “printer’s waste.” Thus, singles and other examples exist with perforations well into the stamp design on every side due to careless perforating. I have not, however, seen any extra rows of perforations.

What about “used” stamps? We do not know of any adhesives used on cover. However, some stamps are known with cancellations that are not on cover. The Golden sale included a 64L1 applied beneath a U.S. 183 as a possible attempted use. This is lot 1052 in Siegel sale 817.

The more common cancellation device was a circular handstamp struck in purple “Empire/City/Dispatch.” It has been seen on singles and multiples. See **Figure 10**. A few other stamps are known with pen cancels. One stamp has been certified with a Wells, Fargo cancel (PF 463683). It is a contemporary extraneous cancel, not a cancel by the local post. See **Figure 11**.

Well-centered examples and blocks are desirable. All stamps should have full original gum, unless hinged or soaked.

Scott catalog values are \$1.50 for an unused single and \$7.50 for a block of four. These are reasonable. The imperf variety is listed with a dash for value; it should be listed as a pair for \$30.00 and a block of four for \$75.00 and a block of six for \$200.00 in italic.

The horizontal pair imperforate between is listed at \$85. It should probably be lowered to \$60 with a block of four as \$135.00.

A vertical pair imperforate between is also listed at \$85. We suggest the value be lowered to \$40 and a block of four listed at \$90.00.

These suggested price changes will be submitted to the Scott Publishing Co.

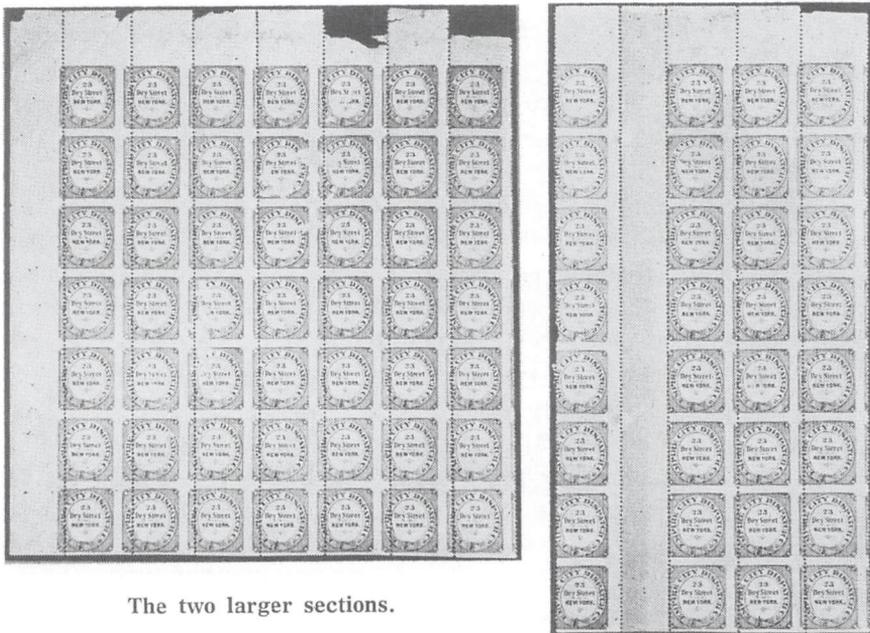
In the April 2001 *Penny Post*, John Halstead described and illustrated Forgery A and Forgery B of the Empire Despatch Co. Forgery A appears as a cut in Scott’s 1890’s albums and his article in the *American Journal of Philately*, December 1888, p. 405. Halstead’s copy is dark blue on white wove paper and imperforate. See **Figure 12**. The continuing study of S. Allan Taylor forgeries by

Larry Lyons has found this blue stamp in Taylor’s packet #34 which would attribute this forgery to Taylor. It is a rare Taylor forgery. There are other equally rare Taylor forgeries included in this packet and these stamps are evidence that Taylor made some forgeries based on *Scott Catalogue* cuts. This will be subject of a near future article which is in planning and research at the present time.

Halstead had not seen an example of his Forgery B, which appeared as a cut in Moens’ 1891 catalogue. It may not exist as a forgery, only as a catalog cutout.

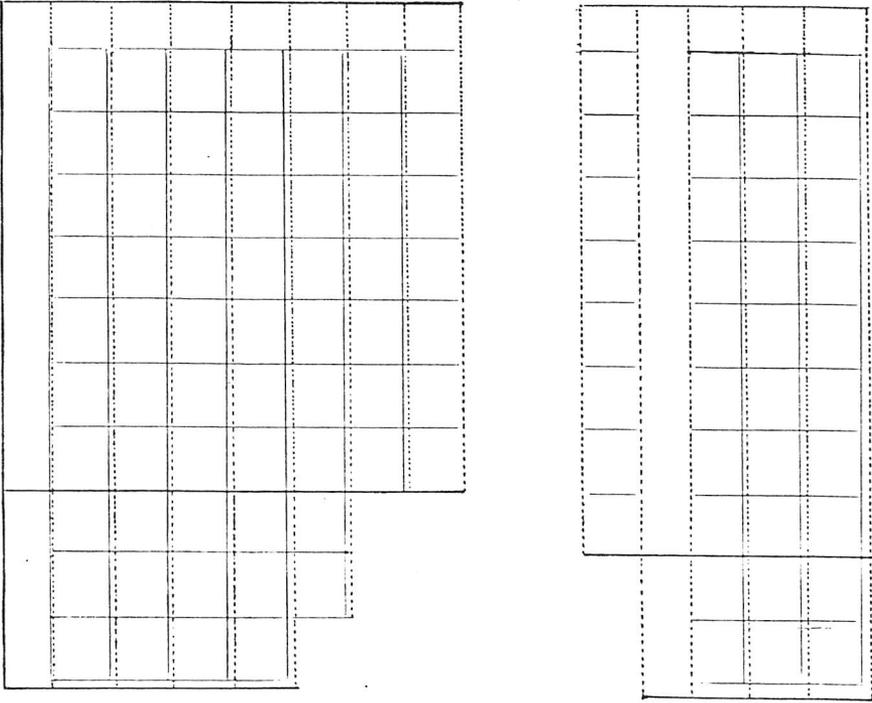


**Figure 1. 64L1 Empire City Dispatch Co. A well centered copy.**



The two larger sections.

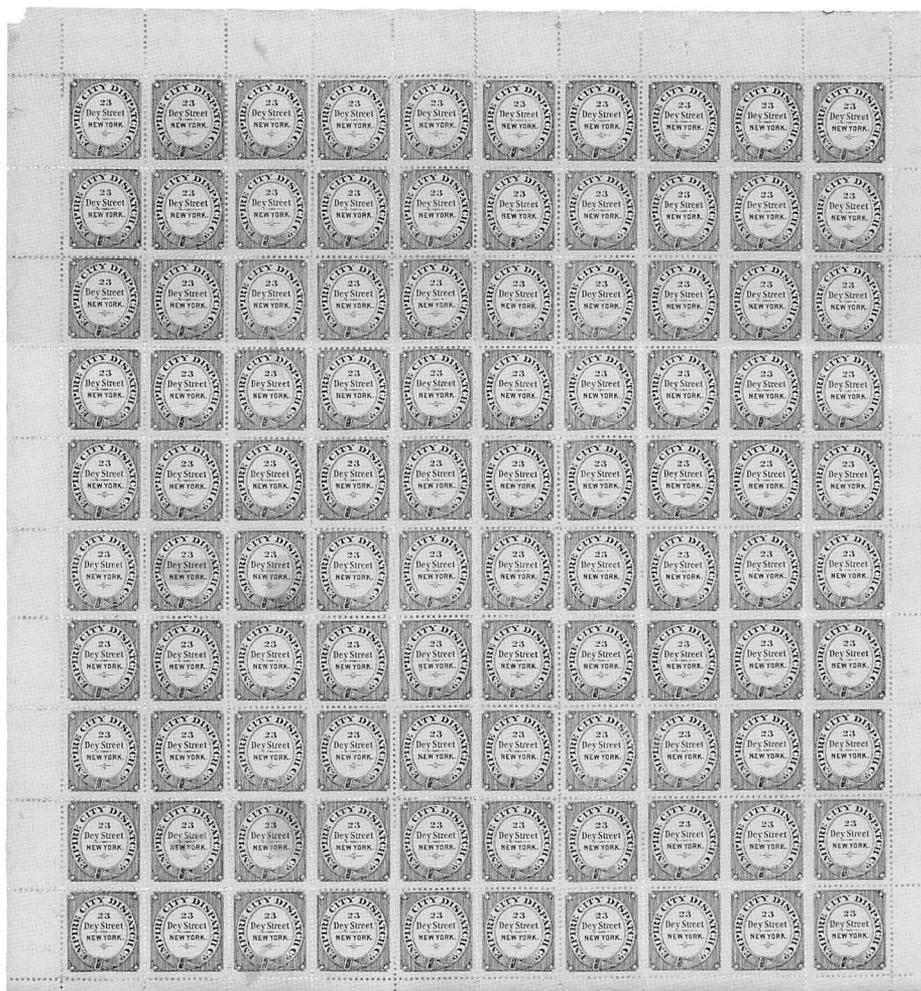
**Figure 2. Kedrierski’s large pieces of 64L1. At the left is a partial late left pane of 7 rows and 7 columns. At the right is 1 vertical row of 8 stamps from the left pane and the first three vertical rows of 8 stamps from the right pane. This is presumed to be a late printing.**



**Figure 3. Kedrierski's plating. The gutter in the right-hand piece indicates that there were two horizontal panes, most likely of 100 each (10 x 10).**



Figure 4. A partial late left pane of vertical rows 6-10 and horizontal columns 1-10. This is a match to Kedrierski's partial pane shown at the left of Figure 2. Lyons collection.



**Figure 5. Presumed to be an early full left pane of 10x10 stamps with a row of vertical perforations missing between vertical rows 8 and 9. These are the only perforations missing on this pane. Lyons collection.**

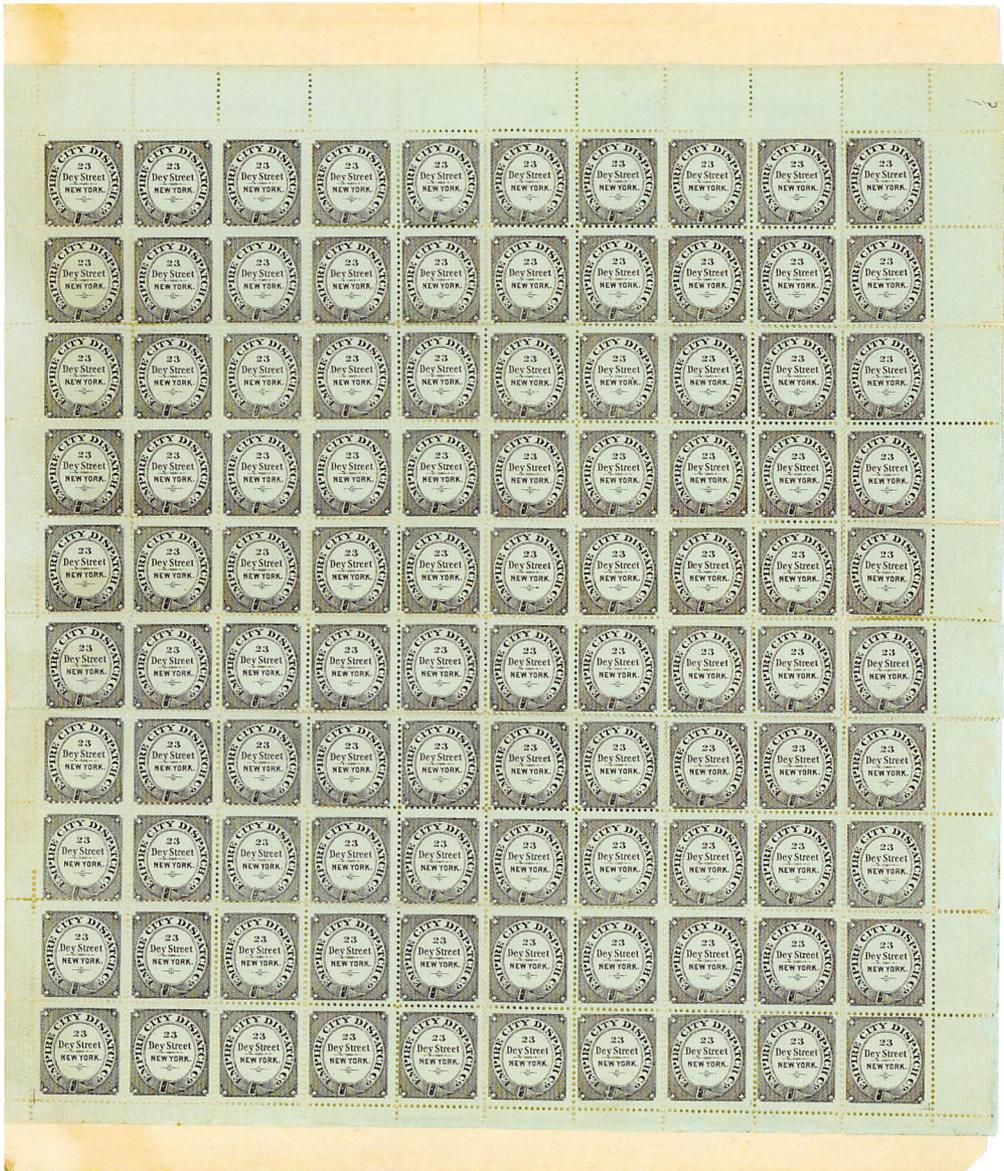


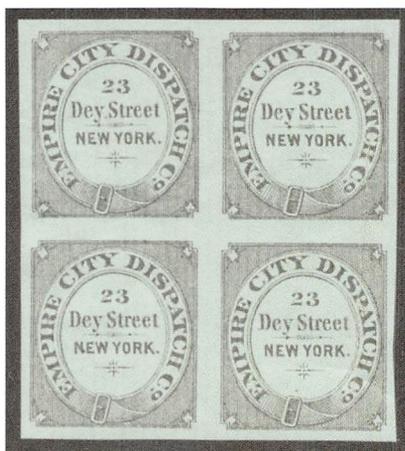
Figure 6. Presumed to be an early right pane of 10x10 with no missing perforations. Lyons collection.



**Figure 7. Block of 12, imperforate horizontally.  
From the left pane vertical rows 1-4.**



**Figure 8. Horizontal pair, imperforate between, perforated all around.**



**Figure 9. Block of four, imperforate. Most probably prior to perforating but equally probably with perforations missing on a late printing. The paper matches the earliest printing sheet. An imperforate block of six has been certified by the Philatelic Foundation and is probably the largest imperforate block.**



**Figure 10. Block of four with purple circular handstamp.**

**The Philatelic Foundation** No. 463683  
 70 West 40th Street • 15th Floor  
 New York, NY 10018 04/21/2008  
**EXPERT COMMITTEE**

We have examined the enclosed item, of which a photograph is attached, and *described by the applicant* as follows:

Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

<u>Cat. No.</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Denom.</u>	<u>Color</u>
64L1	1881		black, green

Scott's unless otherwise specified.

USED,

**AND WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT:**  
 IT IS A SCOTT 64L1, BUT WITH A PHILATELIC "WELLS, FARGO" CANCEL  
 BEARING NO RELATION TO THE LOCAL POST. \*\*\*\*\*



463683

  
 For The Expert Committee  
 Chairman

F 171319

Photocopies of this Certificate are not valid.

**Figure 11. An Empire City Despatch adhesive with a genuine partial Wells Fargo cancel. This cancel may indicate actual use of the Empire adhesive. As indicated on the PF certificate the Wells Fargo cancel bears no relation to the local post. Lyons collection. Ex. Robson Lowe.**

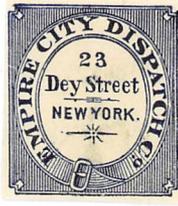


Figure 12. Forgery A of the Empire City Dispatch Co. This stamp appears in S. Allan Taylor's packet #34 and should be attributed to Taylor.

**M O V I N G**  
Let us know.



# The City Despatch Post 1842 – 1852

## Some New Perspectives

By  
Larry Lyons

In 2003 Scott Trepel published a study on the City Despatch Post 1842-1852. His focus in that presentation was “A Study of America’s First and Most Versatile Stamp-Producing Plate.” His 44-page, well-illustrated booklet traces the diversity of the City Despatch Post plate from its creation in 1842 through major plate modifications made during the Greig’s, Mead’s, Cummings & Wright and Cole’s ownership of the City Despatch Post. Trepel includes a study of the changes to the plate and paper varieties of the various adhesives. He talks about overprints and control marks and his guide to plating the Cole’s City Despatch Post “CC” stamps is phenomenal and thorough original research in this area. To do this plating research, Trepel used one or more of the distinguishing marks that link each position back to the corresponding position on the original City Despatch Post, 40L1, sheet of 42 which is 6x7.

### The Story

The historical story is presented by Scott Trepel and the important highlights will be repeated here along with some differences this author finds which lead to some new perspectives.

The City Despatch Post stamp (40L1) was first available when the post was formed by Alexander M. Greig and was announced on February 1, 1842. The stamps were used under Greig’s private ownership of this local post until mid-August 1842, when the post was acquired by the government. By an order made by the Postmaster General on August 1, 1842, a carrier service was established in New York City known as the “United States City Despatch Post.” In order to get started with carrier service the Post Office Department felt it was best to purchase Greig’s City Despatch Post which had been operating successfully since February 1, 1842 and had introduced the first local post adhesive prepaying the cost of the letter carrying service either to the post office or for local delivery. The purchase by the government would also eliminate the competition from that particular local post. August 15, 1842 was the last day of the operation of Greig’s City Despatch Post and on August 16, 1842, the service continued its operation but now was an official service of the Post Office with the name changed to “United States City Despatch Post.” **Figure 1** shows an example of a letter carried by Greig’s Local Post and **Figure 2** shows an example of a letter carried by the U.S. City Despatch Post using the same adhesive. **Figure 3** shows a use of the first new adhesive issued by the United States City Despatch Post.

The U.S. City Despatch Post functioned well until mid-1845. On July 1, 1845 the price of the U.S. City Despatch Post carrier service rose one cent to 4 cents retail and 3½ cents wholesale. This was thought necessary because the post office “drop letter” rate was increased by Congress on the same day to two cents from one cent. Congress raised the drop letter rate out of fear that the new postage structure

which established the five cent and ten cent postage rates would cause a severe decline in postal revenues. The consequences of this legislation for the U.S. City Despatch Post were immediate and dire. The U.S. City Despatch found itself at a severe disadvantage competing with local posts and new local posts which sprang up, who generally charged two cents for a city letter. On November 28, 1846 the government discontinued carrier service in New York City.

The Postmaster General allowed one of its carriers, Abraham B. Mead, to continue the U.S. City Despatch Post as a local post. Government carrier service in New York City had been forced to stop its operations and would not appear again until February 1849.

### **Mead's Ownership of the City Despatch Post**

On November 30, 1846, Abraham Mead announced his new operation. The City Despatch Post plate was altered to change the value of the adhesives to "TWO" cents from "THREE" cents. An example of a letter with a Mead's adhesive is shown in **Figure 4**. Scott Trepel continues the story with the following:

After the transition from a government carrier operation to a private post, the New York postmaster, Robert H. Morris, announced that the U.S. City Despatch Post 3c stamps could be redeemed or used on mail, "I having made an arrangement with the 'Post Office City Despatch' to pay them for the delivery of such letter." There is one recorded cover with the obsolete carrier stamp accepted by Mead (ex Caspary and Middendorf).<sup>1</sup>

Although Mead's announcement states that 2c stamps were available on November 30, 1846, this cannot be the case. Mead was probably anticipating having stamps available, but the Rawdon, Wright & Hatch records indicate fulfillment dates of December 5 and 6, 1846. The earliest Mead cover reported by Calvet M. Hahn is an 1846 stampless folded letter with the City Despatch Post circular datestamp dated November 30. The earliest 40L2 stamp on cover is an 1846 folded letter to Portland, Maine, with the stamp tied by Mead's red "Free" cancel and a separate red "New-York 10 cts. 8 Dec." integral-rate circular datestamp. It was offered in Robert Kaufmann's October 1978 private treaty catalogue, and the cover appears to be genuine (but not expertized). The next earliest 40L2 use is a folded cover (docketed 1846) with the stamp just tied by the red "Free" cancel and a matching "City Despatch Post P.O. Dec. 9, 4 O'Clock" circular datestamp (Siegel Sale 860, lot 840).<sup>2</sup>

The ending date for Abraham Mead's ownership of the City Despatch Post can only be established by the evidence indicating the beginning date of the Cummings and Wright ownership of the post. Here is what Scott Trepel has to say on the subject.

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<sup>1</sup> The City Despatch Post 1842-1852 Issues, Scott R. Trepel, Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. 2003, page 6.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, page 6.

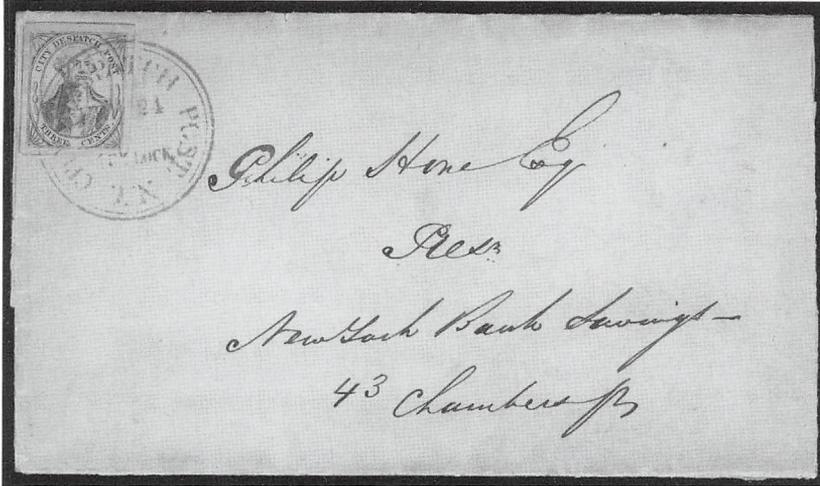


Figure 1. A letter dated February 24, (1842) carried by Greig's City Despatch Post with the 40L1 adhesive. This is a Greig's local post use of this stamp which is tied by a clear strike of the red "City Despatch Post N.Y." handstamp. The double circle handstamp indicates the date and 1 o'clock delivery. The contents of this letter is signed by Alexander Greig. Siegel Auction, (Kuphal sale), November 15-16, 2006, Lot 1209.



Figure 2. The same stamp as in Figure 1 but now the operation is a carrier service owned by the government and still operated by Greig beginning on August 16, 1842. This is a U.S. City Despatch Post, 6LB1, stamp on cover with the stamp tied by a "U.S." in an irregular octagon. The cover is dated December 2 (1842) and the double circle datestamp reads "U.S. City Despatch Post" and indicates a delivery time of 9 o'clock. Siegel Auction, (Kuphal sale), November 15-16, 2006, Lot 1213.



**Figure 3.** The first new adhesive design, 6LB3, black on light blue unsurfaced paper adhesive of the U.S. City Despatch Post. This cover is dated September 3, 1842 and is the earliest written letter showing this adhesive with the first new design. Lyons collection. PF



**Figure 4.** A letter dated February 2, 1847 under the Mead's ownership of the City Despatch Post. There is one red "FREE" handstamp. The time of delivery in the single circle datestamp is 4 o'clock. Siegel Auction, (Hall sale), November 13-14, 2000, Lot 563, Ex. Caspary.



**Figure 5.** A Cummings City Post adhesive, 55L3, used by Cummings and Wright under their ownership of the City Despatch Post. The single circle datestamp is March 25, 1847. The “FREE” handstamp was applied twice by Cummings and Wright. Siegel Auction (Geisler sale), December 3, 2008, Lot 1169.



**Figure 6.** A Mead’s City Despatch Post use of the 40L2 adhesive. The value of the stamp has been changed from “THREE CENTS” to “TWO CENTS”. This cover is dated January 11, 1847. The adhesive is tied by one red “FREE” handstamp. The letter is addressed to Henry Edward Moring, a known merchant who was at 97 Wall Street. Lyons collection.



**Figure 7. Folded letter dated March 25, 1847 from Glasgow, Scotland carried out of the mail to New York and then given to Cummings & Wright for local delivery to 118 Broad Street. There are two strikes of the red “FREE” handstamp which support Trepel’s conclusion of double strikes under the Cummings & Wright ownership period. Siegel Auction (Hall sale), November 13-14, 2000, Lot 565.**



**Figure 8. A Cummings City Post letter and heart adhesive, 55L3, used by Cummings and Wright under their ownership of the City Despatch Post. The single circle datestamp is March 22, 1847, three days before the example shown in Figure 5. The “FREE” handstamp was applied twice and the time of delivery was left blank. Lyons collection. PF**



**Figure 9.** A folded lettersheet with a 40L4 adhesive tied by a red October 25, (1847) handstamp. This is the earliest known use of the Cole's 40L4 adhesive. PSE certificate certifying earliest use. Lyons collection. This cover will be discussed further in the next issue of *The Penny Post*.



**Figure 10.** A cover dated May 15, 1847 with the pink 40L3 adhesive. This is a use of this adhesive under the Cummings & Wright ownership of the City Despatch Post. Siegel Auction, (Hall sale), November 13-14, 2000, Lot 567. PF



Figure 11. A cover dated December 13, 1847 with the pink 40L3 adhesive. This is a use of this adhesive under the Cole's ownership of the City Despatch Post. Siegel Auction, (Hall sale), November 13-14, 2000, Lot 568.



Figure 12. Cover dated July 22, 1848 with the Cole's Post Office City Despatch adhesive 40L5 tied by a red "PAID" handstamp. The double circle "Cole's City Despatch P.O." handstamp is in matching red ink. Siegel Auction, (Kuphal sale), November 15-16, 2006, Lot 1231.

Post Office City Despatch Under Cummings and Wright

### (March 1847 to October-December 1847)<sup>3</sup>

There is evidence, documentary and circumstantial, that Mead only briefly operated the Post Office City Despatch, beginning on November 30, 1846 (the announced date) and ending sometime in March 1847. It is known that the post was taken over by Alfred H. Cummings and Robert Wright, and there is documentation that this change took place no later than May 15, 1847, in the form of a receipt on that date from the “P.O. City Despatch”, signed “Cummings & Wright, Proprietors”. However, the takeover date probably precedes March 25, 1847, based on the existence of certain covers.

One key piece of evidence is a March 25, 1847, cover with the Cummings’ City Post stamp (55L3) used in conjunction with Mead’s red “Free” cancel and “City Despatch P.O.” circular datestamp (John A. Fox sale, May 22, 1970—see **Figure 5**). Also indicating a March takeover date is the existence of two distinct patterns of postmark application. On locally-addressed covers dated in December 1846, and in January and February 1847, the Mead 40L2 stamp is cancelled by the red “Free”, which is applied only once in conjunction with the circular datestamp (**Figure 6**). Beginning with a March 20, 1847 cover. See **Figure 7** for a similar cover dated March 25, 1847. The “Free” is consistently applied twice on local covers.

Another example of a Cummings City Post stamp on a City Despatch cover when the City Despatch Post was under the proprietorship of Cummings and Wright is shown in **Figure 8**. This example is dated March 22, 1847, three days before the example shown in **Figure 5**. The example shown in **Figure 7** indicates that Cummings & Wright were running the City Despatch Post as early as March 25, 1847 and there is a similar cover dated March 20, 1847. Based on this knowledge the Mead’s proprietorship of the City Despatch Post can be given as November 30, 1846 through March 19, 1847, a period of less than four months.

The 40L2 adhesive issued under Mead’s ownership of the City Despatch Post was honored by Cummings & Wright after they took over ownership of the City Despatch Post. An example is shown in **Figure 7**. There are about 20 covers with the 40L2 adhesive dated between December 1846 and October 1847.<sup>4</sup> These would all be under the ownership period of Cummings & Wright. Cal Hahn listed 36 covers with 40L2 adhesives. Only seven of the 40L2 stamps on cover were under the Mead’s ownership of the post.

The observation of one red “Free” and a “City Despatch P.O.” circular datestamp on covers under Mead’s ownership and two red “Free” handstamps and a “City Despatch Post” circular datestamp under Cummings & Wright’s ownership of the City Despatch Post is in my belief a significant new piece of historical data which I believe must be attributed to Scott Trepel. Scott Trepel continues his narrative with the following:

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid, page 7.

<sup>4</sup> Siegel sale, May 4, 1995, Lot 663.

During the Cummings and Wright period, the green 40L2 stamp continued to be used, and a second stamp on Pink glazed paper (Scott 40L3) was introduced. Examples of the Green 40L2 stamp are recorded on covers dated from December 1846 through October 1847. The Pink 40L3 earliest recorded usage is May 15, 1847. Calvet M. Hahn's published census in the Penny Post (October 2001) lists 36 covers with 40L2, but some of the stamps did not originate and several dates are incorrect. An analysis of corrected data indicates that the Cummings & Wright operation of the Post Office City Despatch—beginning in March 1847, as previously explained—might have ended as early as October 1847, but certainly terminated prior to January 27, 1848, when the first Cole “CC” usage is recorded.<sup>5</sup>

Here I have some new information which gives a new perspective on the proprietorship dates of operation of the City Despatch Post.

### **New Information – A New Perspective**

There is a Cole's 40L4 “CC” adhesive tied on a cover dated October 25, (1847) which has been certified as the earliest known use of this adhesive. See **Figure 9**. This cover means that Cole took over the City Despatch Post prior to October 25, 1847. It also means that Cole had the original plate modified by adding “CC” to each position prior to October 25, 1847.

In his initial review of this article Scott Trepel questions the year date of this cover which he believes could be 1849. According to Trepel's analysis in his brochure, “during the period from mid-1849 thru June 1850, manuscript cancels are used without any other markings on covers carried to the mails.”<sup>6</sup> Beginning in November 1848 the 4-bar grid is first recorded and is used to cancel stamps on out of town mail. This cover does not have a 4-bar grid cancelling the stamp. This cover needs further investigation and study and will be discussed in the next issue of *The Penny Post*. Scott Trepel points out that “the use of black ink for the “Free” cancel and late 40L3 usage suggests a possible changeover to Cole's management, because black ink does not appear on recorded covers during the Mead/Cummings & Wright period from December 1846 through October 1847.”<sup>7</sup> This is consistent with my newly presented October 25, 1847, Cole's ownership cover and my new perspective.

Scott Trepel proposes, and I concur, that the timeline of ownership of the Post Office City Despatch Post from Cummings & Wright to Charles Cole took place in late October 1847.

### **The Pink 40L3 Adhesives**

The pink 40L3 adhesives were issued under the Cummings & Wright ownership of the City Despatch Post. Cole accepted these pink adhesives when he took over ownership of the post. **Figure 10** shows a pink 40L3 adhesive under the

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid, page 8.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, page 19.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, page 8, Figure 17.

ownership of the City Despatch Post by Cummings & Wright. **Figure 11** shows a pink 40L3 adhesive under the ownership of the City Despatch Post by Charles Cole.

Scott Trepel states “among the properly-dated genuine covers there are no 40L2 or 40L3 usages between October 13 and December 13, 1847, a span of two months.”<sup>8</sup> Trepel also adds “the entries in the Hahn census between these dates can be shown to be incorrect (a full analysis is beyond the author’s present scope).”<sup>9</sup> I do not comprehend the significance of this based on my assessment that Charles Cole took over ownership of the post prior to October 25, 1847. The black on pink 40L3 adhesive on the cover shown in **Figure 11** is dated December 13, 1847 and may be the latest recorded 40L3 on cover but it is not an example of the pink adhesive used under the ownership of Cummings & Wright. It is an adhesive honored under the ownership of the post by Charles Cole.

### **P.O. City Despatch Post under Charles Cole**

The City Despatch Post plate entered its third and final state of existence with the post’s takeover by Charles Cole. The modified plate previously used by Mead and Cummings & Wright was acquired by Cole and altered to include his initials on each stamp. The so-called “CC” issues span a period from October 25, 1847 through 1852, in this author’s opinion. Scott Trepel points out there is an absence of recorded “CC” covers from July 1850 through the end of 1851 suggesting the post was dormant during this period. The black on yellowish buff, 40L8 “CC” issue seems to have some use in 1849 and then again after the post resumes operation in late 1851. There exists a manuscript “Paid” E.N. Barry” postmark on one 40L8 cover, circa 1852 which seems to be evidence the City Despatch Post adhesives might have been used by a fifth proprietor, Edward N. Barry. This would be a sixth ownership if you included Greig’s operating of the U.S. City Despatch Post as a government carrier.

### **Additional Remarks**

Scott Trepel did much ground-breaking work producing his analysis of the City Despatch Post 1842-1852 issues. His booklet contains 34 pages of in depth analysis of the “CC” stamps, the hand etched initials and the inverted initials on these stamps. Also included is a discussion of the “C” manuscript control marks. Trepel includes much useful information on the various handstamps used during the Cole’s ownership of the City Despatch Post. Three of his observations are repeated here:

From July 1850 until the end of 1851—a period of eighteen months—there are no “CC” covers, stamped or stampless.”<sup>10</sup>

“The covers cancelled by the “free” in black (ink) (Dec. 13, 1847-Feb. 8, 1848) were carried by the Post Office City Despatch to the post office for out-of-town mailing. Currently there are no recorded city-

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid, page 8.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, page 8.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, page 13

delivery covers with the “Free” in black. In fact, there are no recorded city-delivery covers handled by the Post Office City Despatch (under Cole) prior to May 1848.”<sup>11</sup>

“The absence of city-delivery letters in this January-April 1848 period raises the possibility that Cole was only carrying mail to the post office in the early phase of his operation.”<sup>12</sup>

“The first use of the new “Cole’s City Despatch P.O” double circle datestamp is recorded in late May 1848.”<sup>13</sup> See **Figure 12** for an example dated July 22, 1848.

### **Cole’s City Despatch P.O. Circular Datestamp**

According to Scott Trepel, the earliest known use of this handstamp is May 27, 1848. See **Figure 12**. Trepel also finds no city delivery covers carried by the City Despatch Post prior to this date.

### **Final Remarks**

It is my hope that I have added something to this difficult puzzle. It is my belief that additional information will present itself when a study is made of the other local posts operating in New York City and a thorough analysis of the carrier service after February 1849. I wish to conclude with two of the paragraphs which appear at the end of Scott Trepel’s terrific epic work:

“It is the potential for discovery—correction, the *certainty of discovery*—that renders this publication a temporary expedient. There is a distinct possibility that the author’s plating has errors. There is a great likelihood that some of the theories based on recorded covers will be proven wrong with the emergence of previously unobserved covers. Some of the cover dates rejected by this author may prove to be correct and genuine, thereby altering the patterns gleaned from the data.

For all of these shortcomings and the certainty of error, the author asks for the reader’s indulgence and forgiveness. To those who wish to ferret out new discoveries, the author assures that the effort will be rewarding. Having experienced many different aspects of philately over a fair number of years, the author can attest to the challenge and satisfaction in studying the City Despatch Post issues.”<sup>14</sup>

### **Acknowledgement**

Special thanks to Scott Trepel for reviewing this article. More discussion in the next issue of *The Penny Post*.

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid, page 17.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, page 17.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, page 18.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, page 25.

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