

JANUARY 2012

WHOLE NUMBER 78

VOL. 20 NO. 1

THE PENNY POST

Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society



Double-rated 10c Overton Boston to New York City presumably for local delivery with OVT-NYC-F03 City Mail handstamp. Two handstamped OVT-BOS-C01 5's in black and manuscript "10" below, matching manuscript "Pr Overton Exp". Very early usage of City Mail handstamp.
(From the John Bowman collection)

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GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY FANTASY

WESTERVELT'S POST PART III

TRIFET'S EXPRESS

OVERTON & COMPANY CITY MAIL PART IV

HANDSTAMPS OF OVERTON & CO.

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THE PENNY POST / Vol. 20 No. 1 / January 2012

Editor's Message

By
Larry Lyons

I want to wish a very Healthy and Happy New Year to everyone. Perhaps in 2012 you will start a new collecting interest in a section of carriers and locals. Is it time to choose a new specialty or expand on one you have already started? Is it time to put together an exhibit for others to see? It is certainly time to commit to attending a philatelic show. I guarantee it will be an enjoyable experience. Is it time to help a fellow collector with information or make a trade? It is time to make new friends and thank old friends for their friendship. It is time to enjoy another year of collecting.

Announcement

I am extremely pleased to announce that John Bowman has taken the position of Assistant Editor of *The Penny Post*. John was president of the Carriers and Locals Society for ten years beginning in 2000. His assistance in helping correct, research, illustrate and prepare articles for publication in our journal will free up some of my time to do other good things for our Society. John has been my good friend for over twelve years and this will give us a chance to work closely together. Welcome aboard John!

Penny Post Awards

The Penny Post was entered in the Literature competition at Chicagopex in November of 2011. The Penny Post received a gold medal in the competition in which there were 53 entries. Only 4 journals received gold medals. A book received the Grand Award for philatelic literature and there was no reserve Grand Award. *The Penny Post* continues to be the research journal by which others are compared. This was the 20th gold medal award *The Penny Post* has received.

Articles in this Issue

It is of note that authors are collaborating to produce jointly authored articles. This issue contains Part III of the Westervelt's series co-authored by John Bowman and Bob Markovits. Special thanks to them for their research in this area. We are also getting companion articles as a result of authors being kept advised as to what articles are planned for the next few issues of this journal. Cliff Alexander has a companion article for the Westervelt's series entitled "Westervelt's Post through the journalistic lens of S. Allan Taylor's Publications." Much thanks to Cliff for this research article.

I have edited and illustrated Part IV of the Overton series written by Cal Hahn. A companion article by John Bowman illustrates the handstamps of Overton & Co. The final part will appear in our next issue.

We have an article on the Grand Trunk Railway newspaper stamp fantasy from Cliff Alexander. Bruce Mosher presents a research article on Trifet's Express in Boston and Bill Sammis tell the story of his investigation into a Blood's Despatch dove handstamp on an old newspaper. Bill also has a 'What is it?' on a curious Flax

Post Direct Mail stamp. In keeping with the “What’s It?” theme we have an article by John Bowman asking this question about a handstamp on a folded letter carried by the American Letter Mail Company. Much thanks to Cliff Alexander, Bruce Mosher, John Bowman and Bill Sammis for authoring these enjoyable articles. If you are puzzled or want to share something interesting with our readers just drop me a line or email at llyons@philatelicfoundation.org. If you can explain or provide additional information on one of our “What is it?” queries please share it with us. We’d love to hear from you.

Put on your calendar to visit with us at NApEX in McClean, Virginia, June 1-3, 2012. A good number of our members will be attending this show. At one previous event John Bowman and I counted over 30 attending members. This event probably will stack up with Society attendees in about that number. Cliff Alexander is in charge of organization our Society dinner and planning speaker presentations. If you want to give him a message you can reach him at Clifford.Alexander@klgates.com.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *The Penny Post* and Happy Collecting in 2012. If you want to enhance the enjoyment of our hobby experience see the suggestions in the first paragraph of this *Editor’s Message*.

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Grand Trunk Railway Newspaper Stamp Fantasy

By
Clifford J. Alexander

The Grand Trunk Railway (GTR) newspaper stamp was an early fantasy creation of S. Allan Taylor (**Figure 1**). The stamp has a black double border and is 30 x 30 mm (1 3/16 x 1 3/16 inches wide). It is printed in black on yellow buff paper colored through and states that the stamp is “For One Newspaper Only” that should “be called for by Consignee at the Station on the G. Trunk Railway to which it is addressed.”

The stamp was quickly debunked as a fantasy. In the December 1, 1872 edition of the *Canadian Philatelist*, the editor reported that “we have the authority of an employee of the company in stating that they never knew anything at all about the stamps.”

Taylor first offered the stamp for sale in the December 1871 edition of his publication, *The Stamp Collector's Record* which was printed while he was living in Boston. It was one of 86 stamps identified in a “Price List of U.S. Local Stamps. All One Cent Each.” At least 20 of the stamps on Taylor's list were bogus.

The Grand Trunk Railway

The GTR was originally established in 1852. By 1867, it was the largest railroad system in the world and operated over 1,300 miles of track in eastern Canada and the Northeastern United States. (**Figure 2**).

Taylor began to publish the *Record* when he was living in Montreal, Canada in the early 1860s. Taylor moved to Albany in 1864 and lived there for only about nine months, when he moved to Boston. While in Montreal, Taylor published issue Number 1 of the *Record*, which was dated February 15, 1864. This was the only issue published in Montreal and the only one of what he later called “The First Edition.” When he resumed publishing the *Record* in [1868], he started with Number 1 of the Second Edition.

While living in Montreal, did Taylor have a bad experience with GTR that was a catalyst for his creation of the GTR stamp? Page one of Taylor's first *Record* included an editorial comment directed at GTR and two other Canadian institutions. “We boldly take our stand in the ranks of the journals of Canada, and we respectfully state for the benefit of the Ministry, the Opposition and the G.T.R., that our influence may not be purchased either through fear, favor, affection, or hope of reward.”

The GTR printed and utilized many forms and other types of printed materials. **Figure 3** is an example of a small envelope that may have been used for passenger tickets. However, the GTR is not known to have issued any stamps during the mid 19th century.

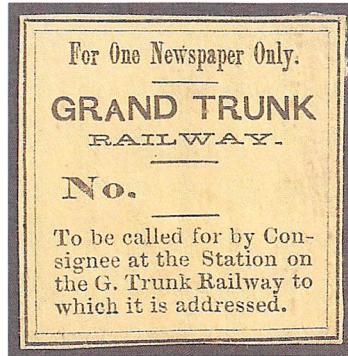


Figure 1. The S. Allan Taylor Grand Trunk Railway Stamp.

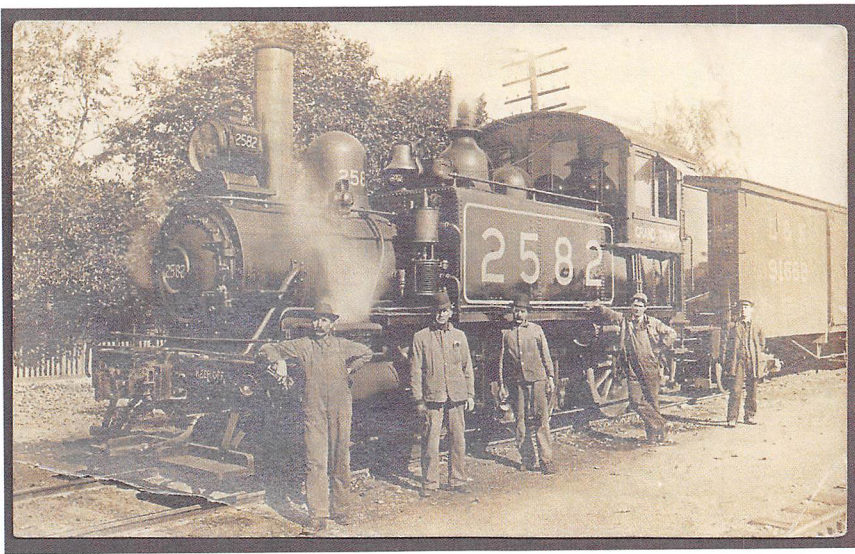


Figure 2. The Grand Trunk Railway, established in 1852, operated in Eastern Canada and the Northeastern United States.

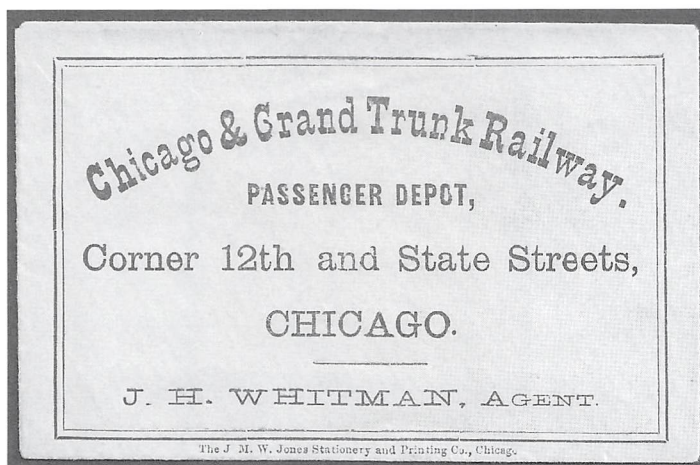


Figure 3. A small envelope which may have been used for passenger railway tickets on the Chicago & Grand Trunk Railway.

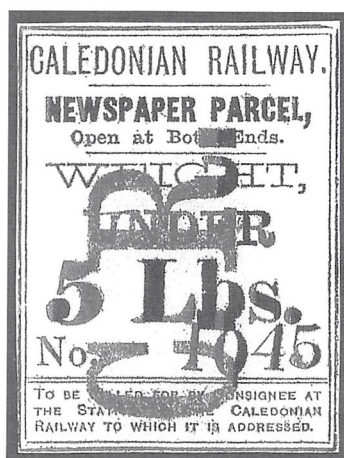


Figure 4. A railway newspaper stamp issued by the Caledonian Railway in Scotland. This might have been the source for S. Allan Taylor's fantasy stamp.

Taylor's GTR Stamp

When Taylor decided to create a fantasy GTR stamp, he did not model it after any known Canadian or U.S. railroad stamps. He looked across the Atlantic and copied word for word certain newspaper stamps then in use by British and Scottish railroads. Railroad stamps first appeared in England and Wales in 1855. By 1870, there were at least eight railway newspaper stamps in England and Wales

similar to the GTR stamp. One of the first of these was issued by the Caldonian Railway in Scotland, which opened in the Fall of 1847 and might have been the source for Taylor's fantasy (**Figure 4**).¹ **Figure 5** is a block of four stamps printed for the North British Railway Company showing consecutive numbers applied prior to use.

The Grand Trunk's Railway stamp is unusual for a Taylor creation in that it is only found in black on yellow buff paper. In a January 2003 *Penny Post* article, Larry Lyons, John D. Bowman and Gordon Stimmel described Taylor's method of operation.² He often collected scrap paper from printers and bound together a group, or "cliché," of print blocks. The same clichés might be used to print a group of 15 to 25 stamps in different colors and on different types of paper. This helps explain why virtually all Taylor stamps have been reported in more than one color, paper or both.

The Larry Lyons "Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the U.S." lists the stamp in black "on white wove paper" as well as black on yellow buff paper colored through. However, this author has only seen the yellow buff paper version. The *Identifier* identifies the source of the illustration and information as "Springer 1st ED, p. 13."³ The 2nd and 8th Editions of Springer's Catalogue only list the GTR stamp in one color, black on yellow buff. The author has not seen it in black on white wove paper. If copies on white wove do exist, they may have been cut out from a catalog or other reference source.



Figure 5. Stamps printed for the North British Railroad Company. They are black on blue paper.

¹ H. L'Estrange Ewen, "Railway Newspaper and Parcel Stamps of the United Kingdom," (First Edition 1906), at p. 34.

² Larry Lyons, John D. Bowman and Gordon Stimmel, "S. Allen Taylor 'Forms' Known Colors and Subjects," *The Penny Post*, Vol. II, No. 1 (Jan. 2003) pp. 22-35.

³ Larry Lyons, "The Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States" Part III (1998), at p. 1287.

A What's It?

By
William W. Sammis

A recent acquisition has me stumped. Perhaps a member can step forward with more information concerning the **Figure 1** labels that appear to have been printed to advertise the services of a company. They are modeled after the three-cent Washington stamp from the Bank Note series of 1870-1881 (**Figure 2**). Like the federal stamp these labels measure 20 mm x 25 mm. In addition to duplicating the green color of the stamp a pinkish-red label was printed. Unlike the Bank Note stamps the labels have an additional frame line around each vignette measuring 23.5 mm x 27.5 mm. This frame line has been partially lost to the perforations that measure 10.5 as apposed to the perf. 12 found on the stamps. The paper is thick with no watermark.

The information printed on the labels would lead us to believe that there existed perhaps a circular delivery company operating under the name the Flax Post. Any corroboration?



Figure 1. “FLAX POST EAST & WEST DIRECT MAIL.”
(Enlarged to 200%)

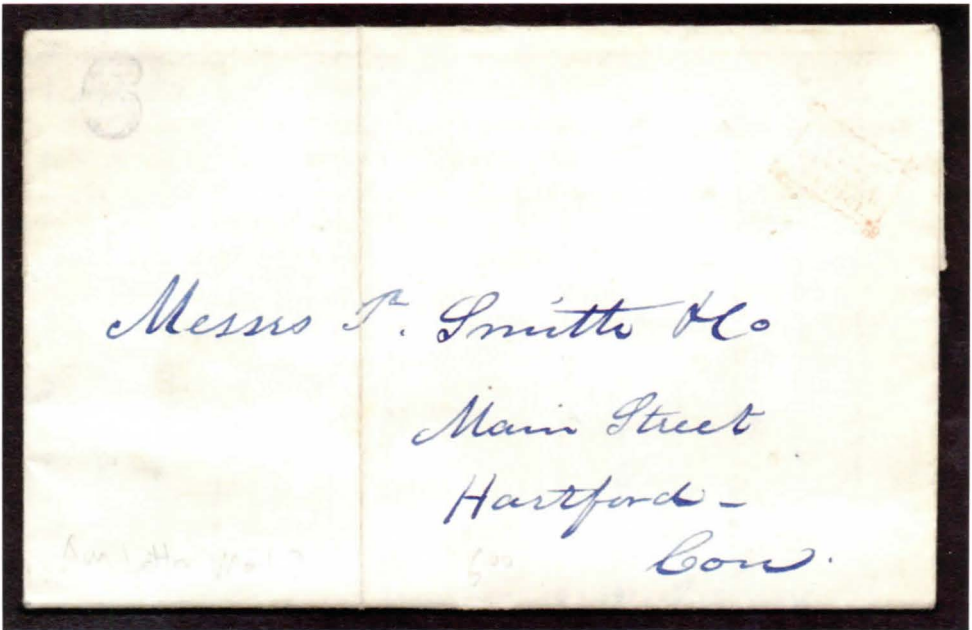


Figure 2. Three-cent Washington Stamp – Bank Note Series

What Is It?

By
John D. Bowman

The folded letter below originated in New York City on August 7, 1844 directed to Hartford, CT and bears the red "Collect 6 ¼ c for New York Office" of the American Letter Mail Company (ALM-NYC-C05). It also bears a handstamped black "6" measuring 8.5 x 12 mm of a type I have not seen. It is ex-Cal Hahn, who suggested the black handstamp was applied in Hartford by an agent of the American Letter Mail Company. That explanation seems reasonable, but I have not seen another. That being said, covers to Hartford by American Letter Mail Company sometimes bear the rarest of their handstamped markings. Any ideas from our readers?



A Blood's Despatch Handstamp?

By
William W. Sammis

When equal parts of vivid imagination and unbridled optimism are combined the result can be combustible. (Finding customers possessing these qualities kept our friend S. Allan Taylor in business for many years.) The author, being on P.T. Barnum's "A List", was intrigued when the **Figure 1** item came up on E-bay recently. The description read "Blood's Despatch Local Unlisted Variety – Red Handstamp On Piece". The handstamp was obviously copied from J.W. Scott's forgery of Blood's stamp featuring a dove and an envelope (see **Figure 2**). But what if the reverse were true? What if Scott actually copied his stamp from a previously unrecorded Blood's Despatch handstamp!? (There's that rush of imagination and optimism.) After all Donald S. Patton wrote, "This (**Figure 2** stamp) verges on being a bogus production; whoever was responsible for it was sadly lacking in observation!"¹ What if the forger (who we now believe to be Scott) wasn't looking at one of Blood's adhesives but was actually using a legitimate handstamp as his model? And Scott did have his own "Forgery A"² (see **Figure 3**) that more faithfully mimics the real Blood's Despatch dove stamp. Why make another that was a bogus effort? Further, the handstamp in the E-bay lot was on a piece of newspaper, and it has been my experience that when handstamps are used thusly the examples tend to be rare as the newspapers are usually discarded after being read. (By now the mustangs of optimism were out of the corral and galloping across the plain leaping majestically to conclusions!) Of course I had to bid on the lot and after receiving it came the fun of figuring out what I had purchased.

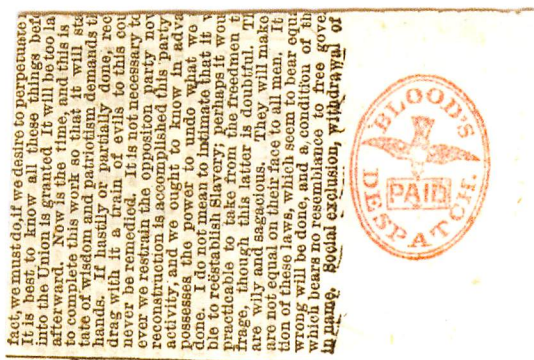


Figure 1.
Handstamp on newspaper piece



Figure 2.
J.W. "Forgery C"²

¹ Donald S. Patton, *The Philatelist*, "The American Local and Carriers' Stamps – XXXVII", 12/1960, p. 71.

² Larry Lyons, *The Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States*, Vol. I, 1998, p. 113.

I made transparencies of the handstamp and of Scott's "Forgery C". When compared they are quite close but not identical. For instance the apostrophe in the handstamp has a flat top while on the stamp it is fuller and rounded. Also the box that contains the word "PAID" is positioned differently with respect to the lettering on the two emissions. This is particularly noticeable at the bottom right corner versus the "C" of "DESPATCH". So which came first?

I was hoping to be able to date the newspaper scrap and that this date would fall within the period during which Blood's Despatch was in operation in Philadelphia: 1848-1854.

First the good news: The back of the newspaper piece referenced a lecture given by a geologist, Professor James Hall. Enough of the title of the lecture is present so that I was able to track it down through Google®. Now the bad news: Professor Hall read this paper at Hartford, Connecticut in early 1867; too late for the handstamp to be considered a new-find Blood's. But wait! Could it be a new-find J.W. Scott handstamp fabrication? (There's that never-say-die optimism again.) I would think a newspaper date of circa 1867 would fit with Scott's heyday. If the handstamp is a more modern creation I have to give the forger credit for affixing it to a nineteenth century newspaper.

For comparison below (**Figure 3**) is Blood's adhesive ("Original") and some forgeries ("A, B, D and F") that more closely resemble the original than does Scott's "Forgery C":

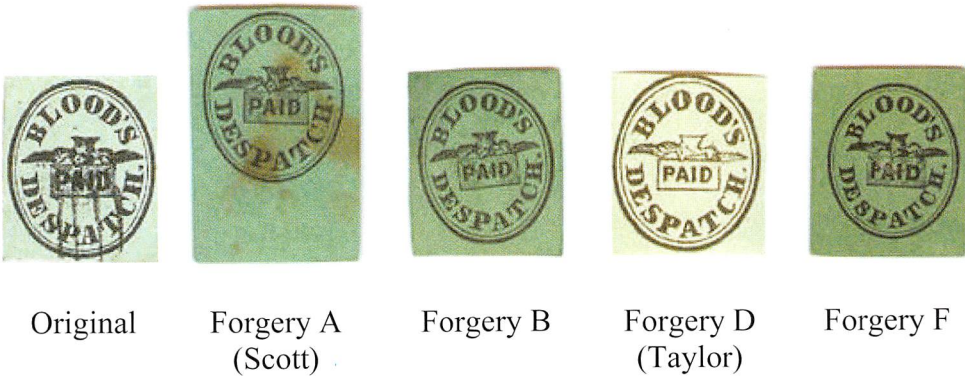


Figure 3. Blood's Dove Stamp and Forgeries³

And now, the rest of the story: After writing the above it occurred to me get it touch with a recognized Blood's expert, friend and Society Secretary-Treasurer, Marty Richardson (something I should have done first rather than last). Marty tells me that these "gems" were the creation of a Chicago dealer in the 1950s and were stamped onto newspaper scraps from the 19th century. He has examples in both red and black. The membership is now informed but will miss out on the emotional highs and lows experienced by the author. Correspondence invited: cds13@cornell.edu.

³ Ibid.

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The Subject is Centering

By
Larry Lyons

We have welcomed a number of new collectors into our special field of carriers and locals and with these new collectors comes a new way of looking at how a collection is built. I have mentioned in the past that we have almost as many different ways of collecting as we have members. Some collectors concentrate on a single post such as Pomeroy, Crosby, Boyd's Hussey and Blood's. Some collect only a single city such as New York, Philadelphia, Boston or Baltimore. Some center on a single state. Some collect only the Independent Mail companies or up to a certain date. Many collect only postal history and equally as many only collect stamps. Some exclude stampless covers and handstamps and some exclude postal stationery. Many have a single stamp financial limit such as \$500.00, \$1,000.00 or \$1,500.00. Some collect the stamps they can't afford as forgeries of those stamps. A very great number of collectors have forgery collections. I estimate this number to be in the 1,000 range. This greatly exceeds the number of serious genuine carrier and local stamp collectors. We also have many collectors who collect more than one or two of these specialty areas I have just mentioned. This article, mainly for our new collectors, is about stamp centering on carrier and local stamps. In the next issue of *The Penny Post* I will write about the gum on carrier and local stamps.

Local Stamp Centering

Some of the local stamps are rare and the collector will not have a choice between two examples to choose the better one. Some local stamps are unique and therefore there is no choice other than take it or leave it. In some instances only a handful of examples are recorded and none are fault free or well centered. Many local stamps will come on the market only once in a decade and some haven't been seen over a longer period of time. Putting the rare examples aside, let's take a look at some common local stamps and what you might expect.

20L56

The Boyd's 20L56, black on pink stamp, has a catalogue value of \$.40. It is a Mercury Series stamp, Type III, pictured in the *Scott Catalogue* as L65b. In the Type III mercury stamp the wing on the left ankle is much more curved in its upper margin and its tip points above the "P" in "PLACE." It is pretty easily identified by this one characteristic. I believe this stamp was printed in sheets of 100 (10x10) which should have produced well centered stamps. Since this is a very plentiful local stamp with certainly thousands of known examples one might expect to find well centered and off centered examples. Unfortunately most are not well centered. See **Figure 1** which shows four examples. None of these are probably acceptable to some of our new collectors who are more quality conscious than many of the old time collectors who only wanted a fair example and would be happy with the third stamp in **Figure 1** which is close at the left and right and not equally margined at the top and bottom. Stamp four in **Figure 1** could qualify as misperforated and could



Figure 1. Four examples of centering on the 20L56 stamp.



Figure 2. The best centered example the author could locate in his collection.



Figure 3. Three examples of the 39L1 stamp.



Figure 4. Among the best centered examples of L06 the author could locate.



Figure 5. A block of 18 of the L06 Eagle carrier stamp. Siegel (Golden), November 15-17, 1999, Lot 48.

sell to an error collector. Stamps 1 and 2 in **Figure 1** show parts of adjoining stamps but unfortunately parts of these stamps are cut into the design by the perforations.

Another example is shown in **Figure 2** and may not be fully acceptable to one who wants to collect well centered stamps but it is the best example I have been able to find in more than 20 years of collecting. I am embarrassed to say this and I've easily seen 2,000 examples of this common stamp. The lesson here is just because it is extremely inexpensive doesn't mean you will easily (or ever) find a well centered example with four equal markings. I have asked my fellow collecting friends to share their best examples of 20L56 with me. John Bowman owns a spectacularly centered example but I decided not to show it to the readers until next time. In the meanwhile please check your collection for a well centered example of 20L56 and drop me a line if you have such a stamp. I can be reached at

llyons@philatelicfoundation.org. I will report on the results of this survey in the next issue.

39L1

Now let's take a look at the Cincinnati City Delivery stamp, 39L1. This stamp has an unused *Scott Specialized Catalogue* value of \$2.50 and a value of \$12.50 in used condition. The *Scott Specialized Catalogue* pictures an extremely fine to superb example of this stamp. In **Figure 3** one can see three typical examples of this stamp. I believe the printing size was 25 (5x5) and 16 of the 25 stamps, (64%) have at least one straight edge. A great majority of the stamps without straight edges are off center. This post was suppressed after only a couple of weeks of operation and that accounts for the higher value of a used example (as well as demand). This stamp can be found with VF-XF centering, but not often. My opinion is that a well centered example is worth more than the catalogue value and most examples are worth less than the catalogue value.

L06

The perforated Eagle stamp, L06, can present a dilemma to the collector. It is notoriously off center and to make matters worse it is not found with good margins. An example is shown in **Figure 4**. The famous David Golden collection featured two examples of this stamp in fine condition.¹ In addition Golden had a bottom sheet margin block of 18. See **Figure 5**. The large block tells the collector what to expect for margins on a single stamp.

Summary

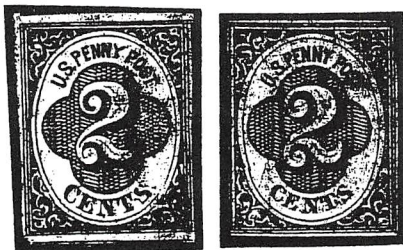
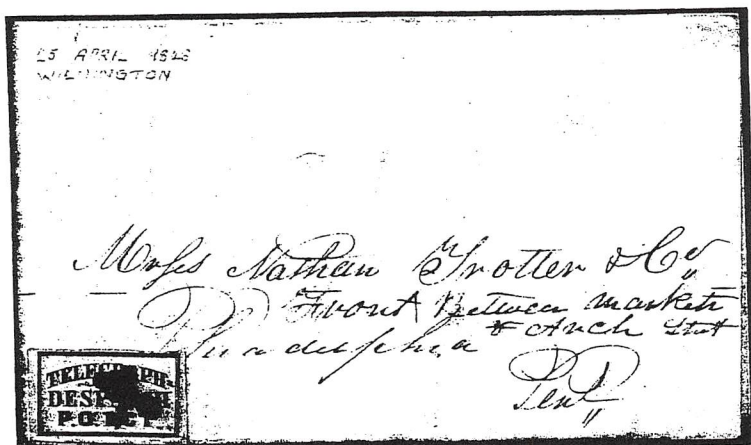
It can be said that the perforated carrier and local stamps present a challenge to find in well centered condition. I preach the "get-one, you-might-not-see a better-one" approach to collecting in the field of carrier and local posts. One of my friends has dubbed this the "human vacuum cleaner method."

Welcome to our new collectors and I look forward to hearing your criteria for collecting in this fascinating field. I recommend back issue of *The Penny Post* for study and learning. I also recommend the set of books "The Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States." I am the author and sets of this "Identifier" are still available from me or your philatelic book dealer.

¹ Siegel (Golden), November 15-17, 1999, Lot 49.

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Westervelt's Post

Part III

Published Studies of the Post

By

John D. Bowman and Robert L. Markovits

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This is part III of a continuing series on Westervelt's Post. Part I was concerned with the proprietor, Charles H. Westervelt, who he was and what he did. Part II provided an account of the rich philatelic history concerning this post and its early collectors. This part will review and compare what students of this post have published.

Iver Johnson published a pamphlet about Westervelt's Post in 1914, which is important for collectors today because it is the earliest serious study of the post. The six varieties of the first issue typeset stamp that Iver R. Johnson illustrates (**Figure 1**) do not correspond with Lyons' identification of originals (**Figure 2**). These differences and the existence of additional "originals" will be covered in a subsequent article.

The second issue "Indian Princess" design has six types of originals according to Lyons (**Figure 3**), while Johnson's article numbers the same six varieties in a different sequence (**Figure 4**), perhaps the second setting of the six types. Johnson's sequence is Lyons' positions 3, 1, 2, 6, 4, 5 in a 3x2 block. Johnson next illustrates Lyons' second reprint of the envelope stamp as the third issue of Westervelt's (**Figure 5**). He says that the design was damaged at the bottom because "the original wood block, from which the electrotpe used to print the illustration was made, was in the hands of the original printers, for forty years, it is only natural that it should become more or less damaged."

For the fourth issue "General Grant" design, Johnson illustrates a single "printed from an electrotpe from the original wood block kindly loaned by Mr. Henry Jonas of Goshen, N.Y." (**Figure 6**) He also depicts the upper half of a sheet of six (3x2) "reproduced from an electrotpe of the actual printing plate, kindly loaned by Dr. William Evans, Norfolk, Virginia." (**Figure 7**) Then he shows the lower half of the sheet "reproduced from an electrotpe of the actual printing plate, kindly loaned by Mr. A. W. Dunning, Newton, Mass." (**Figure 8**) Johnson states that an original cut to shape third issue is known in a collection formed in 1865-1866, and the fourth issue was probably used in 1866.

Using Johnson's article and examining Lyons' *Identifier*, pages 1175-76, it can be deduced that the upper half of the plate, owned by Dr. Evans, was used to prepare Lyons' third reprint, a setting of three General Grant impressions with the second reprint envelope stamp to the left (**Figure 9**). Johnson says the wood block for the envelope stamp left the hands of the original printers in 1902 or 1903.

Johnson goes on to state that "several issues of reprints were made. It is almost certain that all reprints were printed for Westervelt, at his order, in the office



Figure 1. The six varieties of the first issue typeset stamp this is an illustration from Iver R. Johnson. The positions do not correspond with the Lyons Identification of originals.



Figure 2. The Lyons identification of originals. The lowercase letters are from the 1993 Richard Frajola publication of a partial catalogue of carrier and local stamps and their reprints and forgeries.



Figure 3. The Six types of originals according to Lyons as recorded in his Identifier.



Figure 4. The six types of originals according to Iver R. Johnson. These are not in the same position order as shown in Figure 3.



Figure 5. Iver R. Johnson's illustration of Lyons' second reprint of the envelope stamp. This is the third issue of Westervelt's.



Figure 6. Iver R. Johnson's illustration of the fourth issue "General Grant" design. This is printed from an electrotype from the original wood block.

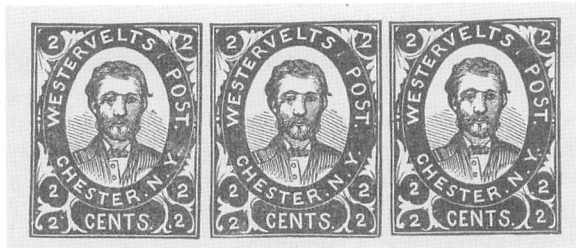


Figure 7. The Iver R. Johnson's depiction of the upper half of a sheet of six (3x2), reproduced from an electrotype of the actual printing plate.



Figure 8. The Iver R. Johson's depiction of the lower half of a sheet of six reproduced from an electrotype of the actual printing plate.

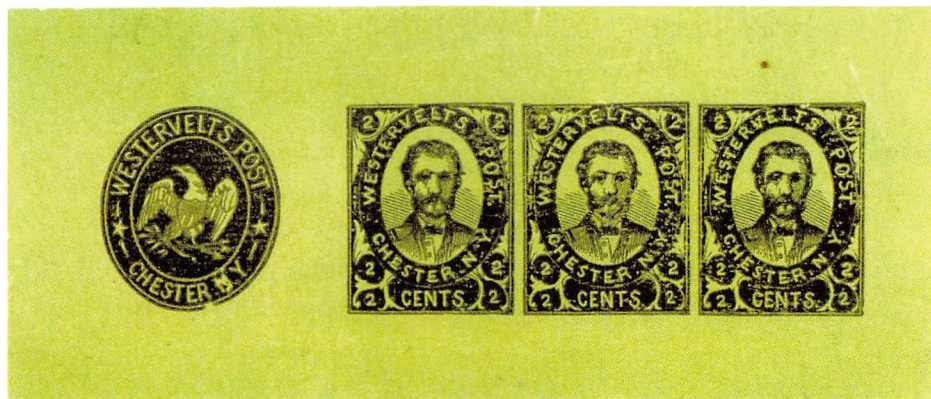


Figure 9. Lyons' third reprint. A setting of three General Grant impressions with the second reprint envelope stamp to the left. This compares to the upper half of the plate shown in Figure 7. Iver Johnson said the wood block for the envelope stamp left the hands of the original printers in 1902 or 1903.

of the *Democrat* at Goshen, N.Y., as the printing plates of the fourth issue were there until 1893, since which time but few, if any, reprints were made from these plates.”

In 1907, Severn commented:¹

R.R. – There is no record of reprints of the Westervelt locals, the low quotations on certain of the stamps at this day, being due to the liberality with which the specimens were distributed by Mr. Westervelt during the period of the post's existence, and afterwards. It seems that Mr. Westervelt was not unaware of the possibilities of profit through the sale of his stamps to collectors and we have been told that he sold and distributed complimentary little envelopes containing his stamps and including color and paper varieties and also envelope stamps which are not catalogued, nowadays. To account for the stamped envelopes and to reflect the somewhat quizzical regard for the issues that was entertained by philatelists of a time contemporaneous with the existence of the post, we extract the following from a leading paper of the 60's: “The next stamps claiming attention are those issued by C.H. Westervelt, of Chester, New York. This gentleman has for several years past conveyed letters between the villages of Chester Depot, East Chester and West Chester, New York, and this post being a public convenience in the vicinity, has continued to exist in defiance alike of United States district attorneys, U.S. marshals, grand juries, acts of congress, and various other mighty and persuasive influences which, in any other country under the sun, would have long since confined Mr. Westervelt to some dungeon, and his post would have been ‘suppressed by the

¹ CE Severn. “Queries and Comment,” *Meekel's Weekly Stamp News*, Vol. XXI, No. 20, May 18, 1907.

government,' with a vengeance. The prospectus of Mr. Westervelt's Post forms a standing advertisement in the columns of the Goshen *Democrat*, embellished with engravings of his stamps. The stamps are of three kinds. The first issue is an oblong type-set label, and was pictured in the *Once A Month* for July, 1864. The second issue has for a device the head of an Indian maiden. The third emission has for a design the effigy of General Grant. The inscription is similar in all the issues. The stamps are printed in both red and black on white and colored papers. There is also an emission of stamped envelopes having for a device that well-known and familiar fowl, the American eagle, in his favorite defensive attitude, as depicted on the metallic currency which in your youthful days, formed the circulating medium of our beloved country."

To underscore that there was a problem with reprints or other non-postal material of Westervelt's here is a quote from the new publication *The Stamp Journal* from 1909:²

We present herewith a print of the two-cent "Westervelt Post" [General Grant type illustrated]. We have the original die in our possession, obtained from Henry Jonas, a philatelist of the Empire State. To every one sending us 50 cents, for a yearly subscription to the *Stamp Journal*, we will, if requested, mail a die proof on Bristol board gratis.

The notoriously inaccurate Henry C. Needham wrote in 1921 about Westervelt's Post.³ The complete article is transcribed below.

Charles H. Westervelt for many years conducted a General Store and Hotel at Chester, New York. His patrons were in the habit of leaving mail matter with him for delivery to the Village Post Office which was located in what was known as the 'Lower Village,' about half a mile away. In 1863 he conceived the idea of making a small charge for the carrying of such letters, and prepared stamps which he attached to the mail matter passing through his hands. Mail for his regular customers was delivered to him at the Lower Village, and by him carried free to his local office; the usual Government stamps were attached to all such matter. He had a regular schedule of departure and receipt of mail, meeting all outgoing and incoming trains. After using his stamps for about four years a letter which he had handled, the cover of which bore one of his stamps, found its way to the Dead Letter Office at Washington. The Clerks there called the attention of the Government Officials to the stamp on the cover, the Inspectors investigated, called on Mr. Westervelt and directed that the use of his private stamp cease. No further stamps were issued or sold, although the carrying of the mail between his store and the Post Office was continued, and did so continue for many years.

² Anon. *The Stamp Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 2, p. 20, Feb 1909.

³ Henry C. Needham. "United States Local Stamps – A Concise History and Memorandum," *The American Philatelist* Vol. 34(10): 375-6, July, 1921.

After the suppression of the Post, Mr. Westervelt printed many of the stamps of Type III, hereinafter mentioned, on various colored papers, which will be noted from copy of advertisement which he inserted in one of the stamp papers of the day.

Stamps of Types I and II were type set; Type III was an electro-plate and a portion of this plate is still in existence. The Types from which I and II were printed were distributed, and there were no reprints made therefrom prior to such distribution.

All of the stamps of this Post were actually in use. The stamps, Type II, contain six varieties to the sheet. The difference is apparent in the ornaments at the top, and type setting at bottom and top; the stamps of the Type also show an error in that the letters "S" in "POST" at the bottom of the stamp occurs with the figure "8" substituted.

Mr. Westervelt offered his stamps of Type III in the following advertisement which appeared in the Stamp Collector's Record about 1867:

'Westervelt's Post, Chester, N.Y. Mr. C. H. Westervelt begs to inform the stamp collector's fraternity that he has several thousand of the stamps on hand, printed in different colors from usual issue, which are offered at reduced rates.' Again, 'Mr. C. H. Westervelt begs to announce that his stamps, with portrait of General Grant, are on sale by the 100 or 1000 or lesser quantities.'

All stamps were printed at the office of the Goshen Democrat, Goshen, New York.

The envelope stamps, hereinafter mentioned show quite a difference in type from the adhesives; the design consists of a double circle, Eagle in centre, of a type greatly resembling Boyd's No. 1. Within the circle at top, and above the Eagle, are the words "Westervelt's Post", below "Chester, N.Y."; no value.

All the stamps from which the value is omitted were sold at one cent each.

Reprints and counterfeits were made both in England and America.

Mr. Westervelt died in October, 1893.

In the above article, Needham illustrated Lyons' Forgery C of Type I, Forgery C of Type II, Forgery B of Type III (all attributed to J. W. Scott), and an illustration similar to Lyons' First Reprint of the envelope stamp or corner card. This is in contrast to Evan's articles for the latter two types.

A letter from Mr. H. R. Holmes of the British Museum in London dated January 6, 1950, to Elliott Perry notes:

2. Westervelt's Post, Chester, New York. This post is represented by copies (singles) of 144L1, 144L2, 144L3. The Indian princess type is represented

by single copies of: black on white, on yellow, on pink, on flesh; red on white, yellow, flesh, orange. Portrait of Grant singles of black on white, on yellow, on green, on flesh, on pink; red on yellow. There is an entire envelope of this post, red on white, and there is a note on it which says that it was obtained from the proprietor – penciled on the reverse is “Chester Westervelt; Proprietor; Nov. 21st, 1871.” It is unused. There is also a cut square black on bluish and a cut-to-shape orange on yellow....

P.S. The envelope measures 4 ¼ “x 2 4/16” and the stamp is printed at the top left corner.

The following description is of the Tapling collection. A response from Perry to Holmes was written on June 16, 1950, and part is quoted below:

The Scott catalog description of Type L273 is now correct, but as late as 1939 the illustration was a “picture” of the old J. W. Scott counterfeit. #144L1 and 144L2 are known on covers, or with authentic postmark, but my present opinion is that 144L3 exists only as a reprint.

About 1914 a pamphlet on the Westervelt Post was prepared by Iver R. Johnson of Chicago, personally known to Dr. Hennan, but not to myself. I think this was reprinted from the United Stamp Company Herald (Chicago) of that year, Vol. III, pp. 81-4, 73-8, 85-8. The present research has shown that the arrangement of the first type (L273) in Johnson’s pamphlet was not correct.

Indian Princess. The photo enclosed is believed to be from a reprint setting. The PO8T error for POST is No. 3 position in the sheet. All the multiples seen agree with this arrangement. But Johnson’s plating put positions 3 and 8 in positions 1 and 4 respectively, thus making the PO8T come in the No. 2 position. Stamps from another setting (the original?), which have border ornaments wrongly placed, and not corrected in the setting of the photo, have not been found in pairs or larger, hence it is not yet known if the arrangement or setting which Johnson’s pamphlet shows as the original was correct. However, Johnson’s illustration of the reprint setting follows his original setting by placing PO8T in No. 2 position, and position 3/8 as 1/4. His “reprint” setting does not show the PO8T position, which is very odd, as this variety is as common as any of the other five. I have more than a dozen sheets in various colors, etc., from the setting of the photo, not to mention single copies or smaller multiples containing the PO8T, which agree in color and paper with other reprints.

Two counterfeit types of the Indian Princess are known; both are easily recognized by the shape of the letters in POST (no stop) or PO8T. (with stop). The first occurs in many colors of ink and paper; the other has been found in black on white, flesh, and lilac blue. Johnson also lists it in red on flesh, but I have not found any of the latter.

The stamps with portrait of General Grant (or Westervelt) are also very puzzling. They seem to be all originals or reprints, except one counterfeit type which is rare.

The Henry Jones who Johnson mentions is still alive in Goshen, NY (about five miles from Chester), and his son now publishes a newspaper there. Westervelt's stamps were printed in the office of that newspaper.

I am delighted to know about the stamped envelope. It is the first definite proof that the so-called stamped envelope was not an adhesive. A few cut squares such as you mention are known, but none of them are cancelled, and some were printed from the die after it became damaged. Both of the illustrations shown by Johnson are from this damaged electro. Both Dunning, who owned the electro, and Dr. Evans, who is mentioned by Johnson, passed on some years ago.

There is evidence that William W. Steele, Elliott Perry, George B. Sloane and others attempted to make sense out of the mixture of originals and reprints, but their research was not published. Elliott Perry states that "Some evidence indicates it was in operation as late as 1868."⁴

In 1956, Robson Lowe published an article concerning the types of the first issue Westervelt's, the typeset issue, after reviewing Donald Patton's 1951 draft for his later article (see below), which included Patton's observations about the collections of Roland King-Farlow, Ian Hamilton, A. L. Pemberton and Humphrey Golding. Lowe relied on his own collection as well as those of Sir Nicholas Waterhouse, H. W. K. Hale of Montreal, Elliott Perry, C. J. Phillips and Dr. G. Blythe.⁵ Lowe, for the first time, illustrates enlarged photographs of the first issue. He describes 12 general types of these typeset stamps. Lowe also showed a photograph of the first issue sheet of six with a notation "apparently in the writing of the late C. J. Phillips 'The right hand col(umn) never were on originals, set up for the Reprints and are cfts (counterfeits)". Blythe "to my surprise produced a similar sheet to the Perry photograph and a sheet of the third type (Westervelt's head) **with an example of the first type se-tenant.**" Here, Lowe's reference to Westervelt's head refers to the General Grant design, which Iver Johnson believed was actually a figure of the young Mr. Westervelt.

William W. Steele sent a letter to Elliott Perry dated March 20, 1961 in which he stated:

Your kind note of March 17 received. I hadn't expected the Gen. Grant stamps to be sent, but this is much appreciated as it will give me an opportunity to see for myself the different color varieties involved, and how some may agree or not agree with the *Scott* listed Indian Princess stamps with the same color names.

From the information I have, there should be three printings of these Gen. Grants: (1) the original printing presumably printed in sheets of six; (2) the

⁴ Perry, Elliott. Letter to Warren Hale, August 24, 1950.

⁵ Robson Lowe. "Westervelt's Post, Chester, New York," *The Philatelist* (London) 22(7):195-98, April, 1956. Also privately printed by D. Wood & Son, Perth.

printing made in conjunction with the Indian Princess setting of six; and (3) the printing of six containing the se-tenant single of the Westervelt first stamp type L273.

Of the *Scott* listed Gen. Grant stamps, we already know that five of the listings are known to have been printed from the printing which also included the Indian Princess stamps: 144L19, 144L20, 144L21, 144L22 and 144L23.

I strongly suspect 144L26, 144L25, 144L24 and 144L16 as falling in the same category. You have a red on buff Indian Princess (unlisted by either *Scott* or Johnson) which is very well printed, and because of this excellent printing, I expect the 144L25 Gen. Grant to have been printed on the same sheet with it. We will see how they compare, if included in your Gen. Grant material.

The Gen. Grant cover shown in the Iver Johnson book is dated March 12, and the letter that was in the cover is said to have been dated March 11, 1868. So the stamps were apparently being used well into 1868. This is significant, as this represents over a year's time from the date Westervelt advertised his reprints in the "Stamp Collectors Record" and the "Stamp Collectors Magazine" dated Bath, England, Feb. 1, 1867. It is unfortunate that the color of the stamp was not mentioned. This would be a very interesting cover to see, as it could indicate usage of the reprints.

The biggest stumbling block that I have found concerning the Indian Princess stamps has been in the type wear. The wear of the type seems to go backwards, concerning the order in which the stamps would logically be thought to have been printed. It is almost as though the Indian Princess – General Grant originals were the dual printings, since there is little, if any, type wear on these printings. The stamps printed from this same setting, but apparently printed separately from the General Grant setting, show greater type wear, and the other setting from which apparently no Gen. Grants were ever printed shows the most type wear. Yet the greater the type wear, the apt we are to find stamps that have been used. The only conclusion I can come to is that probably the seemingly worn type was in reality nothing more than dirty type which was later cleaned to make the reprints.

I don't recall whether I asked you this before or not, but in the Johnson listing of the first Westervelt type (L273), you have penciled in "W.H. has red on yellow used – not on cover." I presume W.H. is Warren Hale. Did you see this stamp personally? Is Mr. Hale still living? Any idea where this stamp might be today?

Donald Patton did not publish this post in his series of articles in Robson Lowe's *The Philatelist* from 1957-1965.⁶ In Patton's published Volume I of 1967, a

⁶ Patton wrote a series of articles in this journal, but never completed writing about all the posts. The local posts of the state of New York were published in book form, but Volume II (the remaining articles in *The Philatelist*) has not been published as of this writing.

section on Westervelt's is included.⁷ Patton illustrated and described 12 types of the first typeset stamp issue (actually 13 types, because he listed two "sub-types" for type 10) and seven forgeries, relying on Lowe's earlier study. He noted six types of the second Indian head stamp and six reprint types, as well as two forgeries. For the third General Grant stamp, Patton cited two printings, one original and one a reprint, and one forgery. Patton noted that the *Stamp Collector's Record* towards the end of 1866 included an advertisement from C. H. Westervelt offering the availability of "several thousands of his stamps on hand, printed in different colors, from usual issue, which he offers at reduced rates." Another ad appeared announcing that "his new stamps with portrait of General Grant are now ready and on sale by the 100 or 1000 or lesser quantities." Patton believed that Mr. Westervelt quickly realized that his stamps might sell better to the philatelic trade than for his services, and that, like George Hussey, he made reprints for sale to stamp collectors and dealers.

Raymond V. Seaman was a major collector of Westervelt's Post, and Richard Schwartz purchased his collection around 1972 for about \$750.⁸ Seaman was postmaster for some years at Gilbertsville, NY, and was born near Chester, NY.⁹

In January 1993, Richard Frajola published the "W" section from his never-completed catalog of carrier and local stamps and their reprints and forgeries. This was distributed as a supplement to members of the Carriers and Locals Society. Based on Sloane's outstanding reference collection, Frajola organized the Westervelt items to clarify the originals and reprints.

Larry Lyons published his *Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States, Volume III* in December 1998. He based the Westervelt section on Patton's and Frajola's work, including a cross-reference to the different types listed in each. *Because this is the most recent compilation and is widely available, we will use this as our starting point for comments and further clarification, with all due respect to the previous students, particularly Richard Frajola, who mounted and annotated the George Sloane reference collection and also published a listing of the stamps and forgeries.*

To be continued.

⁷ Donald Patton. *The Private Local Posts of the United States, Volume I*. Robson Lowe Ltd (London). 1967, pp 304-319.

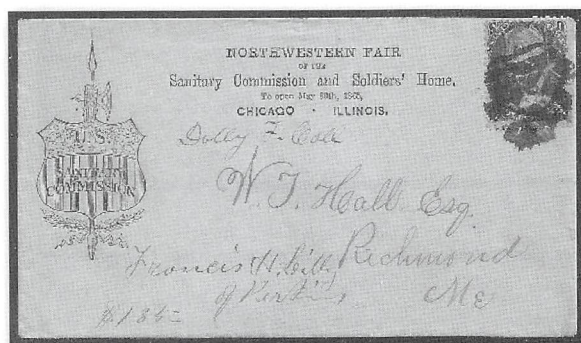
⁸ Richard Schwartz. Personal notes and records.

⁹ Anon. "Raymond V. Seaman". *Stamps*. July 22, 1972.

Robert and Marjorie Sered Kantor Collection of Sanitary Fair Postal History, Proofs, and Stamps The Second and Final Part

In 1995 the Robert A. Siegel auction firm sold the main part of the Kantor collection. The core of their collection, the greatest ever formed, was comprised of the material held by Elliott Perry, Dr. Ludwig Simon, William W. Steele, J. William Middendorf II, and Vincent Domanski. The Kantors offered us the balance of the collection in April of this year. It contained almost 400 Fair, Sanitary, and Christian Commission covers, a large number of reprinted Great Central Fair trial color proofs, and stamps (both mint and used.).

This material is on our website at: www.jameslee.com listed under essays and proofs - Schemikow Die Essays & Great Central Fair Proofs and Stamps, and Postal History - Civil War.



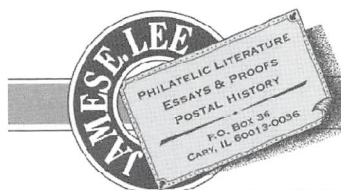
Northwestern Fair - Chicago
(Ex-Kantor)
\$500.00



Metropolitan Fair for the U.S. Sanitary Commission cover
(Ex-Steele, Kantor) \$500.00



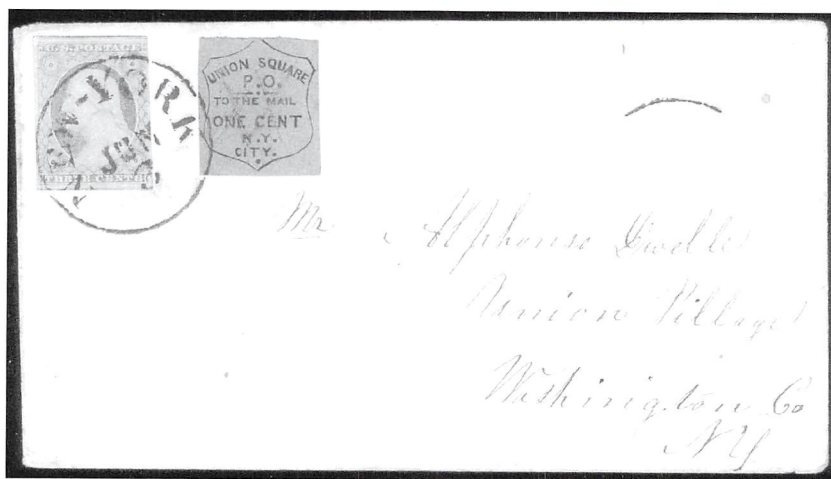
WV12TC Double paper with
four-point star cut out design.
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Please note our new address and phone numbers.

Trifet's Express in Boston (It probably never existed)

By
Bruce H. Mosher

Ferdinand M. Trifet was a well-known stamp dealer during the second-half of the 19th Century. His philatelic specialty was buying and selling foreign stamps. He conducted his business for about 33 years from several downtown Boston store addresses, as he appeared to change locations rather often. Interestingly, Mr. Trifet's establishments contained a lot of other merchandise in addition to stamps and supplies as he sold many items that were akin to those found in a bountifully stocked stationary store.



Figure 1. Ferdinand Marie Trifet (circa 1885).

Trifet's business chronology can be traced through his continuous listings in the Boston city directories that spanned the 1867 through 1899 time frame. In 1867, his record simply stated: "Trifet Frederick(sic),¹ foreign stamps, 57 Court (street)." However, in an 1892 philatelic advertisement (see **Figure 2**), Trifet claimed he was "The oldest established Stamp Dealer in America," and that he began dealing in 1866. We suspect his boasting may not have been totally correct, but he probably would have argued around the definition of "established" (or some other point) until he validated his allegation. His admonition "notwithstanding all statements to the contrary by envious competitors" in the ad provides a revealing clue that not everyone accepted Ferdinand's assertions. We are just beginning to notice the feisty side of Mr. Trifet's demeanor.

¹ The 1868 Boston directory corrected this naming error as the comparable citation reads: "Trifet Ferdinand, foreign-stamps, 20 State."

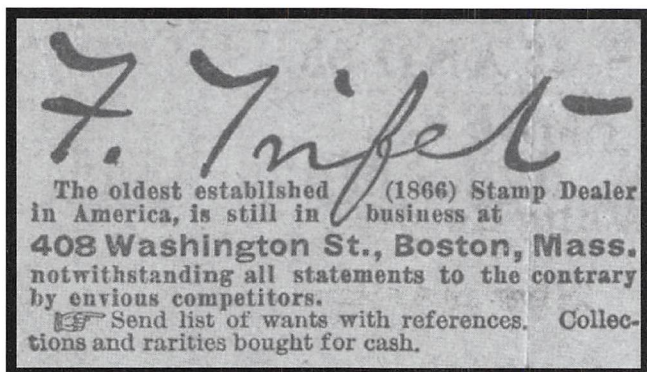


Figure 2. Advertisement in the December 1892 *New Jersey Philatelist*.

Mr. Trifet was born in Paris, France on September 10, 1848.² His first experience with stamp collecting was in 1860, when he bought stamps from dealers in New York City. Ferdinand Trifet became quite a publisher during his merchandising lifetime. In 1866 he published his first philatelic price list and in 1867 he produced a monthly journal, *The American Stamp Mercury* (see **Figure 3**) which continued to 1871. The journal's title was subsequently changed to *Trifet's Monthly Stamp Circular* that was published in 85 issues between January 1874 and May 1881 under several similar titles. Trifet also continued to publish price lists that grew into large stamp catalogues. Trifet's annual catalogues were published up to at least 1894 and maybe beyond that. One of the last acknowledgements of Trifet's business is found in the 1899 Boston directory, which reads: "Trifet Ferdinand, foreign stamps and music, 36 Broomfield." Ferdinand Trifet passed away on September 26, 1899 at age 51.

The diversity of copious articles carried by Ferdinand Trifet's retail firm is partly exposed in his 1880 advertisement shown in **Figure 4**. This ad included a promotional giveaway to induce subscribers to send fifty cents to Trifet for twelve issues of his *Trifet's Monthly* publication. A sampling of the free premiums offered by Trifet as ordering incentives include embossed pictures, Decalcomanias, oil chromos, foreign stamps, chromo cards, panel pictures, chromo mottoes, sheets of colored perforated card, Christmas and Birthday cards, sheets of various figures for picture books, reading books, coin and stamp catalogues, stamp albums, scrap books, photograph albums, mechanical orguinettes,³ perforated card ornaments, fancy papers, photographs of prominent men, women and celebrated paintings, and hundreds of other "things". Presumably Trifet stocked and probably sold all of these "curious, beautiful and useful" articles in his store.

² *Philatelic Journal of America*, December 1885.

³ Musical instrument controlled by perforated paper.

THE American Stamp Mercury

VOL. I.

BOSTON, OCT. 25, 1867.

No. 1.

The American Stamp Mercury.

Published on the 25th of every month by F. TRIFET.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES, 50 CENTS PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

TO GETTERS UP OF CLUBS. To any person sending us three subscribers, Packet No. 34 of our list will be given; five subscribers, No. 21; eight subscribers, No. 25.

The postage (12 cents a year) must be paid at the office where the paper is received.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

10 cents per line for one insertion, or 50 cents for six months.

All letters respecting the paper should be addressed to F. TRIFET, Publisher of Stamp Mercury, Box 444, Boston, Mass.

PROSPECTUS.

We will not make any great noise about our coming into this world, as we leave all the praising part in the hands of our friends and contemporaries of the Philatelic Press, but will merely give a prospectus of what the Mercury will be.

CONTENTS.

The Mercury will contain each month, a correct and complete list of all newly issued stamps, illustrated with at least two engravings from the best local artists.

Original Articles.

Extracts from other Papers and Magazines.

CORRESPONDENCE; in this department any letter sent to us that would interest the collecting public in general, will be reproduced. We would therefore ask of our correspondents who may know anything about Stamps, Albums, &c., not previously noticed, to contribute to this part of the publication.

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENTS. In this column we will endeavor to answer to the best of our abilities all questions sent us.

In addition to the above, there will be other suitable materials, all strictly relating to stamp matters.

For Terms &c., see above.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

We have a large number of interesting articles which, on account of space we have to leave out; therefore if we receive two hundred subscribers before Nov. 10th. we will increase our size to eight pages, thus making it the largest STAMP Journal in America.

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.



AUSTRIA AND AUSTRIAN ITALY. The new issue now numbers two additional values, viz:—
25kr. and soldi. violet.
10 " " Salmon.

The first is identical with the others of the same valuation, but the 50 is considerably larger, as will be seen by our illustration of the soldi one, and its general appearance is more effective than the lower value. The paper is the same as that employed for the other members of the series—woven, and the perforations very fine. Their facial value are, respectively in gold, twelve and twenty-four cents.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC. The current issue of 1866 being exhausted, the 5 centavo is temporarily struck off on a thinnish paper without watermark and unperforated.

BOLIVIA. The stamp of which we give an engraving, is supposed to be one coming from Bolivia, our contemporary. *The Stamp Collector's Magazine*, describes it as being rough in execution, rather above the average in size, and the color a deep sap-green.



Figure 3. Inaugural issue of Trifet's *American Stamp Mercury* journal.

GIVEN AWAY!

We are desirous of obtaining during the next twelve months 50,000 subscribers to

TRIFET'S MONTHLY,

And in order to do so, we propose to offer the most liberal terms ever offered by any publisher. We issue a Premium List, which gives a full description of hundreds of

Curious, Beautiful and Useful Articles,

Priced at the lowest figures. Our offer is to send the MONTHLY one year to any new address on receipt of **Fifty Cents**, and to give, free of cost, to the person sending the name, fifty cents' worth of any of these articles. We have not room to enumerate all the bargains, but the following are a few samples:—

Fifty cents for Trifet's Monthly one year and 15 sheets of embossed pictures; or 2 sheets of Decalcomanie; or 1 oil chromo, 24x30 in.; or 200 foreign stamps; or 75 chromo cards, no two alike; or 3 panel pictures, 8½ x 21 in.; or 4 chromo mottoes, 8½ x 21 in.; or 4 sheets white, tinted, black, and silver perforated card; or a fine selection of Christmas cards; or a fine selection of Birthday cards; or 5 sheets of Paper Soldiers, Theatre Scenery, Animals, etc., for picture books; or any of hundreds of other things.

We also give for two or more subscribers such premiums as Books, Coin, and Stamp Catalogues, Stamp Albums, Scrap Books, Photograph Albums, Mechanical Orgulnettes (playing *any* tune by turning a crank), Perforated-Card Ornaments of all kinds, photographs of all prominent men and women and celebrated paintings, fancy papers of all kinds, etc., etc.

Send for a specimen copy, which will be sent free to any address mentioning **ROMANCE OF PERFUME LANDS**. Address all communications to

TRIFET'S MONTHLY, 25 SCHOOL STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

Figure 4. 1880 'give away' promotion for *Trifet's Monthly* subscribers.⁴

Ferdinand Trifet is also remembered for publishing many books and papers containing vocal and instrumental music, classical and otherwise. Trifet's *Monthly Galaxy of Music* (1887–94) and *Monthly Budget of Music* (1890s) were his best-known periodicals in the music field. No doubt these publications were also vended in his Boston stores.

Sometime during the 33 years of Trifet's business endeavors, it is suspected that the adhesive shown in **Figure 5** was issued. This label is black on yellow paper that is colored through and the outer frame measures 28x28.5 mm. Larry Lyons first reported the label in 2007⁵ and Larry provided the color image shown here. Only a single specimen of this label has been reported and, as might be suspected, there are no known records concerning the designer, production or distribution of this Cinderella.

⁴ Frank S. Clifford, *A Romance of Perfume Lands, or, the Search for Capt. Jacob Cole*, 1880, on unnumbered page prior to the title.

⁵ Larry Lyons, *The 2007 Pricing Guide for Unlisted Carriers, Locals, Fakes Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States*, June 2007, p 59.



Figure 5. Enlarged illustration of Trifet's Express label.

Not a single reference has been located that mentions a "Trifet Express" service of any nature in North America. The closest similarity to a Trifet enterprise that has been found was his "Forwarding Agency" endeavors that began in 1867 and were announced in the December 25, 1867 issue of *The American Stamp Mercury* (see **Figure 6**). The touted functions of the Forwarding Agency are partially similar to that of contemporary express businesses, but Trifet himself did not identify it as an 'express' service. He further stated that all patron-requested purchases would "be sent by the cheapest and safest means," certainly implying that Trifet was not personally involved in the merchandise delivery activity.⁶ It does not seem likely that Trifet's Forwarding Agency activities would have been contemporarily classified as an 'express' service. A "Trifet's Express" is not listed in any Boston city directories of that period.

It occurred to the author that perhaps a review of other Trifet journals and catalogue publications⁷ might reveal a pronouncement concerning the Trifet label plus some information about Trifet's elusive express service. But then sensible recognition of the subject matter in the label created significant suspicion that perhaps Trifet was not the creator of this label. After all, why would a seemingly successful proprietor depict a dumb donkey (i.e., a jackass) as the central theme on an emission, which was destined to advertise his express service? A 'notoriously slow jackass' and an 'express delivery service' seem to be oxymoronic representations of any potential business venture. A rational assessment of this situation leads to speculation that businessman Trifet was probably too smart to ever issue such a label in support of any express service he might have been associated with. Upon serious reflection on these potential factors, the author did not summon

⁶ Trifet's store was probably within walking distance of several Boston General Express offices that would have provided easy access to the many local expresses that serviced the entire New England area.

⁷ Copies of many of Trifet's philatelic publications reside at the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) in Bellefonte, PA.

Trifet's plethora of publications in order to search them for links to the illustrated label.

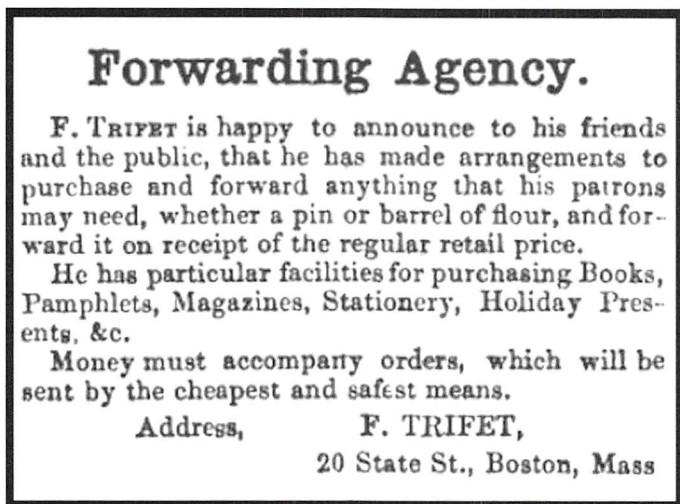


Figure 6. Trifet's 1867 Forwarding Agency announcement.

If the author's hypothesis is correct that Trifet did not issue this label that bears his name, who might have sponsored the Trifet's Express label? The possibility of it being a 20th Century Cinderella fabrication is always a consideration to keep in mind. However, the label's design certainly looks like it may have come from a 19th Century source although no known label similarity comes to mind. We previously mentioned Trifet's 'feisty' nature and have further found that Trifet had a lengthy feud with J. W. Scott⁸ over philatelic disagreements about which Trifet was passionate and also S. Allan Taylor clandestinely duped him during the late 1860s when splitting up possession of a group of stamp printing plates.⁹

It seems plausible that someone who despised Trifet was responsible for creating the label as a protest statement or get-even vehicle, which could be paraded in front of Trifet and possibly embarrass him. Certainly Scott and Taylor had the skills, resources, and probably sufficient reason to create the **Figure 5** label to annoy their archrival and no doubt he had other Boston acquaintances who were equally motivated.

Most likely we will never know with any certainty the real story behind the Trifet Express label. For now, this potential business endeavor will be classified as another bogus express, which is being recognized through its phantom label.

Our sincere appreciation goes out to Larry Lyons for introducing his unique Trifet's label and sharing his research information regarding Mr. Trifet.

⁸ Alan F. Harlow, *Paper Chase / the Amenities of Stamp Collecting*, 1940, pp 31–34.

⁹ *The Stamp Lover*, August-September 1935, pp 72–73.

Westervelt's Post Through The Journalistic Lens of S. Allan Taylor's Publication – *The Stamp Collector's Record*

By
Clifford J. Alexander

In this and the last two issues, *The Penny Post* has been running a series of articles on Westervelt's Post written by John Bowman and Bob Markovits. Charles H. Westervelt is believed to have started his local post operation in 1863 and closed it due to government suppression in 1867 or 1868. Westervelt's carriers delivered mail from his store in Chester, New York to the nearest post office about one-half mile away in East Chester.

During the approximately four years that the Westervelt's Post offered a letter mail service, S. Allan Taylor – the philatelic dealer and counterfeiter – was ascending among the ranks of experts in the new hobby. In February 1864, while living in Montreal, Taylor published the first philatelic journal in North America, *The Stamp Collector's Record*. Taylor moved to Albany, New York later that year, and in December 1864, resumed publication of the *Record*. The three-year period from December 1864 to September 1867 was Taylor's most prolific as a journalist. He published 33 issues of the *Record* from Albany and also Boston, where he moved in September 1865.¹

We do not know whether Taylor and Westervelt knew each other personally. But it is clear from a review of the total of 42 issues of the *Record* published by Taylor over a period of 13 years that the two had a philatelic business relationship in which Taylor published announcements of Westervelt's new issues and offered Westervelt stamps for sale, and Westervelt placed regular advertisements in the *Record*. As a result, the *Record* offers some interesting information on, and a good timeline for, Westervelt's stamps.

Type Set Issue

The first mention of Westervelt's Post was in the July 1865 issue of the *Record*, which ran the following advertisement:

WESTERVELT'S POST, Chester
Orange Co., N.Y., Mr. C.H.
Westervelt, begs to inform the stamp
collecting fraternity, that he has several
thousand of his Stamps on hand,
printed in different color from usual
issue, which he offers at reduced rates.
Address as above.

¹ A comprehensive article on the life of S. Allan Taylor was written by Jan Kindler, "Caveat Emptor – The Life and Works of S. Allan Taylor," *Philatelic Literature Review* Vol. 15, No. 2 (1966), at p. 59-88.

Note that this advertisement refers to “several thousand of his Stamps... from usual issue.” This clearly was a reference to Westervelt’s first issue, the type set stamp.

The next mention in the *Record* was not until the November 1865 issue when the following advertisement for “New Stamps” appeared:

Mr. C.H. WESTERVELT begs leave
to announce that he has several
thousand of his New Stamps on hand,
printed in various colors, for collectors
which he offers for sale at reasonable
rates. Address
C.H. WESTERVELT,
Chester, Orange County, N.Y.

Indian Head Issue

In that same November 1865 issue on the first page, Taylor included the following short announcement:

WESTERVELT’S POST, CHESTER, N.Y.
--Mr. Westervelt has lately issued a
new stamp. The design is an Indian’s
head in rectangular fancy frame impression,
in red and black ink, on fawn,
yellow and blue paper. Attention is
called to his advertisement in another column.

Taylor’s first nine issues of the *Record* listed a day, as well as the month and year, on the cover. Beginning in October 1865, when he first began publishing from Boston, Taylor only listed the month and year. In general, however, it is likely that announcements of a new stamp issue were published in the month following introduction. This would indicate that the Indian Head stamp was first introduced around October 1865, not 1864 as early catalogs listed it.

Grant Issue

The next reference in the *Record* to Westervelt’s Post was four months later in the March 1866 issue. Taylor published the following announcement:


UNITED STATES
WESTERVELT’S POST, CHESTER N.Y.—
A new stamp has been issued by Mr. Westervelt,
value two cents. The design is a bust of
General Grant in oval frame work, printed in
green, and various other colors, see advertisement
in another column.

Westervelt had only a very short advertisement in that issue of the *Record* and did not expressly refer to the new Grant issue: "WESTERVELT'S POST, CHESTER ORANGE CO., N.Y. Stamps by 100 or 1000. CHARLES H. WESTERVELT, Proprietor."

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STAMP COLLECTOR'S RECORD.


NEW STAMPS.

UNITED STATES.



We annex an engraving of the new 15c. stamps, effigy of President Lincoln, which has just been issued; a few sheets were printed in mauve, but instructions were received from the P. M. General directing the remainder to be printed in black; proofs in blue, red, and other colors are extant.

We are informed by good authority that the expediency of the issue of a 15c. and 21c. envelope is under consideration by the P. O. Department.



WESTERVELT'S POST.—By special permission of Mr. C. H. Westervelt, we give an engraving of his new stamp, described in our last Number, and request the attention of Collectors to his advertisement in another column. He informs us that he will shortly issue a stamped envelope, of which due notice will be given.

HAMBURG.—A set of stamped envelopes, consisting of a 4, 14, 14, 2, 3, and 4 schilling, has just been issued by the city of Hamburg.

NORWAY.—A 3 schilling, mauve color, has just been issued; the design is similar to the current issue.


HOLSTEIN.—A new stamp, of similar design to the present issue, value 14 schillings, of a deep violet color, has just been issued.

PRUSSIA.—Two stamps for the pur-

pose of prepaying registered letters are about to be issued by the kingdom of Prussia, the values 10 and 30 silber groschen, respectively, are expressed in large figures in the centre; the colors are red and blue.

BRAZIL.—Essays for this country have lately made their appearance, evidently from the press of some of the New York Bank Note Companies. The effigy of the Emperor and the arms of Brazil are represented, and are certainly an improvement on the unique type used in that country at present.

MULTUM IN PARVO.
(Concluded.)



On the subject of the Baldwin stamp we have a few words more to add for the benefit of the interested portion of the Timbrophilic public. The Blowhard informs us that the Baldwin stamps are announced by those who have them for sale as "*An obsolete local of considerable rarity,*" this, it is presumed, is intended to show up the barefaced audacity of the wretches who got up the pretended Baldwins; but, singularly enough, the Blowhard neglects to inform the public in what Journal the Baldwins were announced as such. Nor does he think it worth while to remind a forgetful public that it was in the columns of that delectable journal itself that the notice of the Baldwins first appeared, where, in the various numbers of that sheet for June, July, August, September, and October, 1865, the said announcement will be found. We don't think any further comment is necessary on our part, and when we state that from intelligence lately received from good authority in

Figure 1. Page 2 of the Stamp Collector's Record, April 1866, showing the image of Grant on the Westervelt stamp.

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However, Taylor's announcement in the March issue indicates that the Grant portrait stamp was first printed around February of 1866. In the April issue, Taylor had an illustration of the stamp (**Figure 1**) and the following announcement:

WESTERVELT'S POST – By special
permission of Mr. C.H. Westervelt, we give an
engraving of his new stamp, described in our last
Number, and request the attention of Collectors to his
advertisement in another column. He informs us that he will
shortly issue a stamped envelope, of which due notice will be given.

In the June 1866 *Record*, Taylor provided a list of local posts still in operation, notwithstanding efforts by the U.S. Government to suppress them. He included the following: "CHESTER, N.Y. – Westervelt's Post. This institution delivers letters between the villages of Chester, Chester Depot, East Chester Depot and West Chester, twice daily. By the existing mail arrangements the letters between these places would require *forty-eight hours in transit*." In addition, Westervelt placed an advertisement in the June 1866 *Record* for the Grant stamps.

WESTERVELT'S POST, CHESTER, N.Y., --
Mr. C.H. Westervelt begs to announce that his New Stamps,
with portrait of General Grant,
are now ready and on sale by the 100
or 1000 and lesser quantities.
Address C.H. WESTERVELT, Chester
Orange Co., New York.

Westervelt continued to run this same advertisement for the Grant stamps in almost every issue of the *Record* until November, 1866. Some authors have written that the portrait on the stamp bears a striking resemblance to Westervelt himself. While there is a resemblance, this June 1866 advertisement should make it clear that Westervelt himself promoted the stamp as having "a portrait of General Grant."

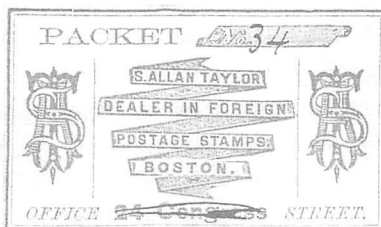
Stamped Envelope Issue

In the August 1866 issue of the *Record*, Taylor made his first reference to the envelope stamps. In a section headlined "S. Allan Taylor's Notices," he listed a number of sets of stamps and envelopes for sale, including: "Westervelt's Stamped Envelope [entire env.] three varieties, two cents each." He continued to run the same offer for three varieties of envelopes in the *Record* until May 1868. The August 1866 advertisement indicates the stamped envelopes must have been first printed around July of 1866.

Taylor's Packets of Stamps

In the July 1866 *Record*, Taylor published for the first time a list of packets of stamps for sale under the headline "S. Allan Taylor's Notices for May 1866." Thirteen packets were on the list, including the following which expressly mentioned "Westervelt's (new issue):"

Packet # 34
 S. Allan Taylor



11 cents
 or 6 pages

11 Cental

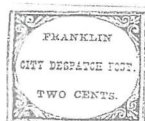


Figure 2. First page of Taylor Packet 34.

Packet #34 S. Allan Taylor



Figure 3. A second page from Taylor Packet 34.

Packet No. 9 contains 125 Local or Express stamps, including all the varieties mentioned above, and all the College Stamps; also, Roadman's Russell's, Winslow's, Westervelts (new issue), Clark's, Gordon's, Langton's, and many other rare varieties Price, \$1.00

Taylor continued to include Westervelt's Post stamps in Packet No. 9 until the October 1876 issue, the last *Record* published by him.

I am not aware of any Packet No. 9s in a collection. Virtually all Taylor packets were integrated into collections, most likely affixed to album pages, and the envelopes discarded. However, the Luff Collection at the Philatelic Foundation has one apparently complete Taylor packet of local post stamps. It is Packet No. 34. The address of "24 Congress Street" is scratched out and a manuscript "11 Central" written below, where Taylor lived at the turn of the century which indicates that Taylor continued to sell his packets of stamps for at least 35 years (**Figure 2**).

Based on the Luff Collection, Packet No. 34 had 198 stamps, including thirteen carriers, three postmaster provisions, two telegraph stamps and one envelope cut corner. All but three Hussey reprints appear to be forgeries or bogus issues dreamed up by Taylor. Included in the packet were five Westervelt stamps, one General Grant and four Indian head. All five were Taylor forgeries (**Figure 3**).

After September 1867, Taylor sporadically published nine additional issues of the *Record* until the last in 1876. There were no references to, or advertisements for, Westervelt's, except for the continuing inclusion of "Westervelt's (new issue)" in Packet No. 9. In addition, in the December 1871 issue of the *Record*, Taylor included a full page "Price List for U.S. Local Stamp. All One Cent Each." Among 117 local and bogus post stamps, Taylor included "Westervelt's Post (Chester, New York)."


Handstamps of Overton & Co.

By
John D. Bowman

Overton & Co. has been the subject of a *Penny Post* series published posthumously by the late Cal Hahn. The final installment will appear in the next issue.¹ It is fitting to embellish the Perry/Hall/Hahn² research on this intercity/local private post with an overview of the handstamps used by the company. This will provide the reader with a frame of reference for the illustrations presented in Hahn's series.

Overton & Co. was founded July 3, 1844 by Richard C. Overton of 12 (or 15) Allen St. in New York City (NYC). It operated between NYC and Boston by steamer and railroad, carrying letter mail for five cents each (adhesives, \$4 per 100). Overton advertised 14 letter boxes in NYC, with collections at 4PM and leaving the 3 Broad St. office for Boston at 4:30PM. After July 18, 1844, service from Boston to NYC apparently commenced. In early August, 1844, Overton's became a package and parcel express when it acquired Damon & Co.'s to extend operations northward to Albany via the Hudson River. Around the same time, conjunctive service was offered south to Newark and Philadelphia, and then to Baltimore, presumably through the American Letter Mail Company. Services as a local delivery post in NYC began December 7, 1844. No examples of foreign letter forwarding are known although he advertised this service.



The purpose of this article is to provide a standard nomenclature for each handstamp utilized by this independent mail company. One additional item has been noted as a two-line typeset handstamp "FORWARDED BY/OVERTON & COS. EXPRESS"³ but is not included here as it has not been seen. If a reader can supply a scan and information about this handstamp to jbowman@stx.rr.com, it would be greatly appreciated.

OVT-BOS-F01		Black Red	34 x 21 mm
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¹ The first article in the series is Hahn CM, Overton & Company, *The Penny Post* Vol. 19(2), Apr 2011.

² Cal Hahn had a copy of the Hall-Perry manuscript of the independent mails, a never-published book that Elliott Perry had planned and advertised. Much of Hahn's series must be properly attributed to Elliott Perry. The whereabouts of the entire manuscript are not known to me, despite many years of searching.

³ Hahn CM, Overton & Company, *The Penny Post* Vol. 19(3), July 2011.

OVT-NYC-F02		Black Red	34 x 21 mm
OVT-NYC-F03		Red	32 x 24 mm
OVT-BOS-C01	5	Black Red	5 x 6 mm
OVT-BOS-C02	6	Black Red	6 x 6 mm
OVT-BOS-P01	PAID	Black	12 x 5.5 mm
OVT-NYC-P02*	PAID	Red	23 x 6.5 mm

* Used by Pomeroy's Albany office initially, then by Overton on covers in early October 1844.

MOVING

Let us know.



Overton & Company City Mail

Part IV

By

Calvet M. Hahn

Introduction by John D. Bowman Prior to Part I

Illustrated by Larry Lyons

Introduction of the City Mail Operation

A significant change in Overton's New York operation began December 6, 1844. This change was the addition of a local city letter delivery to the intercity Independent Mail operation, e.g. Overton was now also a local post. The shift is reported in the December 10th *Courier & Enquirer*:

CITY LETTERS DELIVERED EVERY HOUR

OVERTON & CO., No. 3 Broad Street New York have established a 'CITY MAIL' delivery every hour, South of Chambers, Frankfort and Dover Streets, from 8 A.M. until 4 P.M. Above that section and below 3 and 5 P.M.

A box for the deposit of letters is at the Journal of Commerce Office and all the principal Hotels and buildings in Wall Street.

Letter postage 2 cents. Stamps \$1.50. Circulars, Cards &c. \$1 per hundred.

This ad represents both a significant increase in the local delivery service offered by the company geographically as well as in the nature of the services. It is the first mention of a 'CITY MAIL' operation as an entity. A new handstamp is introduced at this time with the Overton City Mail name. Two early examples are my 8 cent cover dated at Providence, R.I. December 12, 1844 and answered the 16th and an undated 2 cent local letter to Rev. P. P. Irving, 281 Broadway, that has a more complete strike and which refers to a bill dated December 7th, that was likely handled on that day or a day or two later. (See **Figure 1** for the earliest known example on a folded letter dated December 6, 1844.) I also record stampless dates of 12/18 from Providence, and a local use of 12/24 in the Hall holding that is addressed to J. Mace, 75 Carmine St. with a pen '2' rate that also bears the company's red "PAID". Another special example is shown on the cover of this journal.

Hall had a January 2, 1845 cover, originating in Providence and addressed to Truesdall Moore 62 Wall St., which he acquired from Herman Toaspern (1893-1936), who apparently bought it from a Mr. S. in 1930 and then put his 'Toasty' handstamp on it. It only has the Overton City Mail 3 Broad handstamp. Hall also had a local use dated January 6, 1845 printed invitation to General Morris at 1 Broad which bears a pencil '2' rate, and a January 23 use from Albany dropped in New York that only has the 2 cent local rate. A second local use of January 22nd is a printed invitation to Edward Baldwin, 2 Hanover Sq. inviting him to a club meeting at Delmonico's. The Carmen Puliofito holding has a January 2, 1845 cover from Boston to David Hull, Broadway and Wall St. This cover has only the Boston handstamped black '6' and the New York Overton City Mail handstamp.



Figure 1. The earliest recorded example of the Overton & Co. City Mail handstamp from New York. The letter is dated December 6, 1844. Compliments of John Bowman.



Figure 2. Folded letter dated February 26, 1845. This was described by author Cal Hahn as a “blurred 7 Broad Street which appears as 1 Broad Street.” The editor suggests it might be an underinked “3 Broad Street.” Siegel (Golden), November 15-17, 1999, Lot 1408.

A conjunctive use is a January 1, 1845 cover from Concord N. H., which bears a black "PAID" and is addressed to Rev. Milton Badger, American Home Mission Society at 150 Nassau St. In addition to the City Mail oval the only rating is a manuscript "paid 6". Also recorded is a Providence cover of January 10, 1845 to J. A. Ackley, Trust House, (150 added in pencil and corrected to 158 Nassau St.) (Note: This is the same last name as that of the general agent for the American Letter Mail in 1845.)

Although this December advertisement seems to propose new adhesive stamps at 1½ cents each when bought in quantity or 2 cents singly, no such stamps are known on cover during the ensuing half-year, nor do any local covers show traces of stamps removed. It has long been assumed that the City Mail adhesive (46L1) was produced at this time, but I have been unable to record any evidence to support this. On the other hand it is quite possible an unknown local adhesive reading Overton's City Mail which was what was offered. Additionally, we also have no Valentine adhesive use from February 1845 when the company apparently changed ownership as denoted below.

The new handstamp is a red 32 x 24 mm oval OVERTON & CO'S/CITY MAIL/OFFICE/3 BROAD STREET. No similar new handstamp was introduced at the Boston end of the route. This handstamp replaced the previous 'Forwarded by' handstamp. By mid-February, the firm no longer advertised under the Overton & Co. name. Rather it was now known as the City Mail Company. A one-time advertisement in the *New York Daily Express* of February 15th is the earliest supporting documentation yet found of this change, which may represent an ownership change as well:

LETTERS, VALENTINES, &c. The City Mail Company, No. 3 Broad Street, (late Overton & Co.) have made arrangements to deliver letters with great dispatch and certainty. Letters may be deposited (sic) in any of their boxes, or brought to the office in Broad St.

The new City Mail handstamp continued with an address at 3 Broad Street until at least February 28, 1845. However, the street number is blurred to a '7' on a Hendricks Brothers cover as early as March 22, 1845, and to a '1' on a March 27th Hendricks 93 Water St. cover in the Hall holding, ex-Knapp. Also See **Figure 2.**, which is a folded letter dated February 26, 1845. (*Editor's Note: This could be an underinked "3" which makes it look like a "1".*) This blur is also found on an April 5, 1845 cover (lot 1517 in the Bennett March 1999 sale), and also clearly on May 15th, indicating that the company had moved its office by then. The 7 Broad Street-address is not one associated with Richard Overton in the city directories. (*Editor's Note: The April 5, 1845 cover from the Bennett sale clearly shows a "3 Broad Street" and not a blurred number. The conclusion of this editor is that Overton was still at 3 Broad Street through at least April 5, 1845.*) A cover dated June 1845 has "blurred 3" which Cal Hahn called a "7". The cover appeared in a Bennett sale, and was described as "3 Broad Street". Under magnification the editor reads this as "3 Broad Street. See **Figure 3.**¹

¹ Bennett, June 27, 2002, Lot 225. 1982 PF as 3 Broad Street.

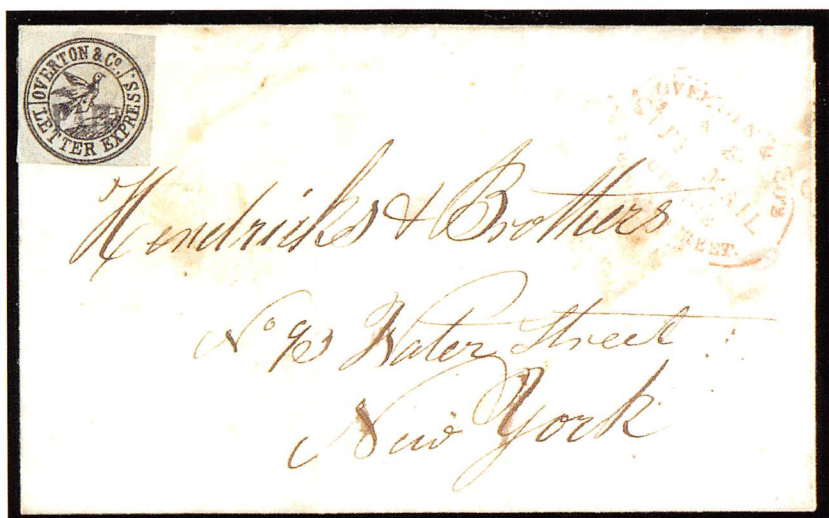


Figure 3. A June 1845 folded letter with the Overton & Co., 113L1, adhesive. The address in the handstamp is blurred and Cal Hahn believed it to be “7 Broad Street.” Under magnification the editor reads this as “3 Broad Street.” Bennett sale, June 27, 2002, Lot 225, PF



Figure 4. The “Overton & Co.” is mostly obliterated and the number in “Broad Street” is missing. According to the author this June 16, 1845 letter indicates an ownership change. Siegel (Golden), November 15-17, 1999, Lot 1406.

Several other blurred numbers have been seen but the street number is completely omitted by June 16, 1845, (lot 1406 in the Golden sale), which also has a partial erasure of the OVERTON & CO. name. See **Figure 4**. In my opinion this confirms an ownership change for the City Mail operation. A possibly earlier item is an undated conjunctive use cover in the Carmen Puliofito holding which is addressed to Miss C. C. Prince, c/o R. L. Conkling, 82 Amity St., which also bears the Pomeroy PAID as well as a manuscript 'express' and 'paid 2 cents' in the same hand. The address is '* Broad' for the Overton City Mail marking. In addition to the June 16th item, I record three examples with both the Overton and street address omitted. **Figure 5** shows an example dated June 12th to Messrs. Hendricks & Brothers, 93 Water Street referring to a bill for copper and inquiring upon which boat it was shipped. An apparent second example of June 16th was lot 568 in the Harmer sale of June 22, 1988. It has a pen '8' rate showing out-of-town origin, while a copy of June 18th is seen on a cover from Boston that also bears a DAVENPORT & Co. oval (discussed in the next segment of the series).

Two covers refute this analysis, and I believe both are misreadings of June for January dates. One is a June 3rd stampless example with a clear City Mail 3 Broad Street address, lot 1407 in the Golden sale, while the other is a June 6th Overton adhesive cover from Providence to Hendricks & Co. at 93 Water St., New York with an Overton & Co. City Mail handstamp. This latter is after the date cited below when both name and address are reported differently, e.g. 'Late Overton' and '7 Broad'.

Introduction of New Local Adhesives

On June 3, 1845 a notice was published in the New York Courier & Enquirer introducing the sale of the new, rare 'City Mail' adhesives (Scott 46L1). It reads:

CHEAP POSTAGE—By the City Mail Co. and Letter Express—Late Overton & Co. Office No. 7 Broad Street—Postage to Boston, 5 cents; to Providence, New Haven, Hartford, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Albany and Troy 6 cents.

Letters delivered at any part of the city three times a day, postage 2 cents.

Letters deposited in any of the boxes of this company, will reach their destination with promptness and regularity. Stamps for city letters are for sale at \$1.50 per hundred.

In addition to introducing a documented new City Mail adhesive, a gray paper stamp showing a rectangular box within an ornamental frame that reads "CITY MAIL (in double-line sans-serif letters)/FREE STAMP" (in smaller solid sans-serif capitals) with bracketed lines above and below, this advertisement also mentions a Letter Express. The new adhesive is not recorded in unquestioned use until after the end of the independent mail era on July 1, 1845. Furthermore, no covers with the old Overton handstamps are seen after this June 3rd date, only those with the name fully or partially erased.

The use of the words 'FREE STAMP' on the 46L1 adhesive is unusual. The word 'FREE' is otherwise found on only three locals, the first being the Overton (113L1) where it is below the stamp and usually cut-off. Robert Kaufmann has theorized that the sheets were of 20 stamps each, with "FREE" stamps at the bottom, which Schwartz accepts, only modified to propose they are five rows of four with four "FREE" stamps at bottom. However, note the Patton off-cover UL corner example. The word "FREE" is also found inside the design of Wells' Letter Mail adhesives (96L1-3) and the Franklin City local (16L1), which also has the brackets similar to the City Mail adhesive. Except for this last, all are contemporary with the 46L1 adhesive.

The stylistic similarities with the Franklin City local (the name which indicates a location near the City Mail's Franklin Square office), and its later date suggest a possibility of a successor post. There is about a year and a half time gap between the two adhesives; however, a mysterious New York hand struck local the CITY POST/P.O. fills in most of this time gap with no overlaps, although that fact may be only a coincidence. (See my series on 'Beginnings of Adhesive Postage' for further comment on the City Post/P.O.)² See **Figure 6**.



Figure 6. The mysterious City Post/2/PD handstamp. The ownership of this post remains unknown.

It is possible, but unlikely, that the City Mail adhesive was released prior to this notice, for one of the earliest reported covers has an upper left sheet margin horizontally creased adhesive untied in the lower left corner of the cover where there is also a very clear example of the red Overton & Co.'s City Mail Office 7 Broad Street handstamp. This cover, which bears a 1999 PF 'priority service certificate', was part of an old-timer's collection acquired by Richard Schwartz and dispersed as part of the Golden dispersal (lot 977), see **Figure 7**. Inside, it is addressed to Robert H. Morris, Postmaster, New York City and the enclosure, discussing a postal appointment, is datelined May 15, 1845. As Robert Morris didn't take office until May 21st there is a question about the date of mailing, as Overton is no longer recorded as operating the City Mail after February 15th.

Another problem cover is the Morgan cover, ex-Caspary, Lilly and John Boker with an uncancelled stamp on a June 18, 1844 datelined cover. See **Figure 8**. This is an impossible date for the City Mail adhesive to be used. Ferrari had a cover with an uncancelled stamp with a damaged upper left corner used to out-of-town. It sold in his 10th sale, but I don't record it subsequent to its appearance as lot 6466 in

² *The Penny Post*, Cal Hahn,

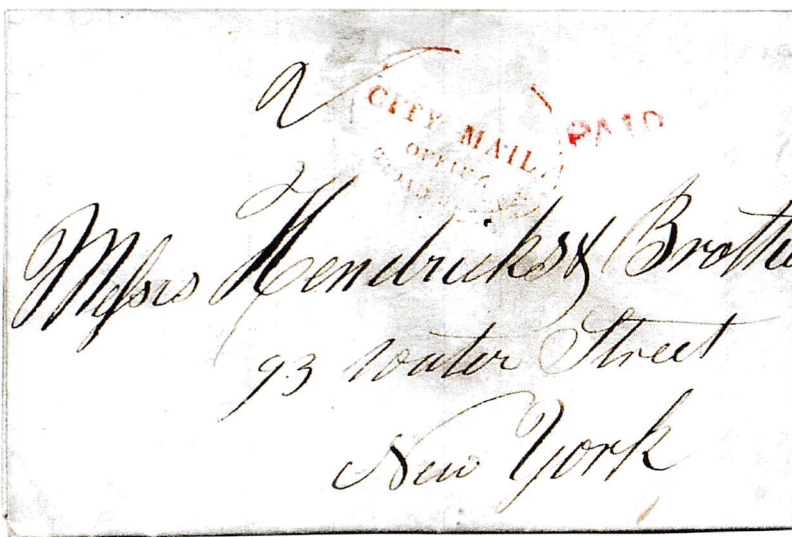


Figure 5. A folded letter dated June 12, 1845 with a clear “City Mail” handstamp with the “Overton & Co.” omitted and the number in the address also missing. This is the earliest example indicating a change of ownership of the company. Lyons collection.



Figure 7. A folded letter dated May 15, 1845 with the City Mail, 46L1 adhesive. According to author Cal Hahn this is a clear “7 Broad Street” example with the “3” modified to a “7”. Some students question whether the adhesive belongs on this letter. Siegel (Golden), November 15-17, 1999, Lot A977. This lot did not sell in the Golden sale. Siegel, (Gordon N. John), November 14, 2003, Lot 2076.



Figure 8. City Mail adhesive, 46L1, on a folded letter dated June 18, 1844. This would be an impossible date of use. According to Scott Trepel the adhesive was subsequently removed from this cover. Ex. Boker and Caspary (Lot 717) and Ex. Lilly (Lot 715).

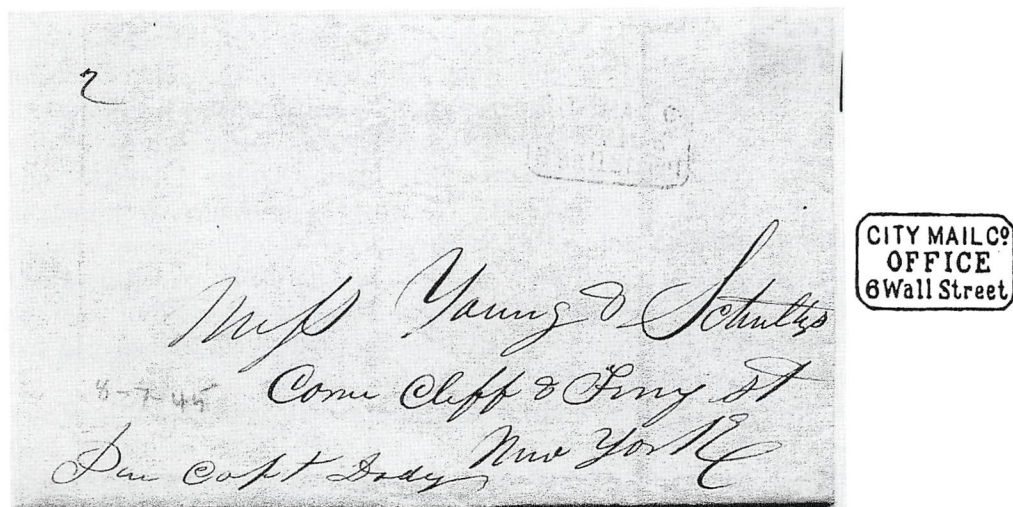


Figure 9. A folded letter dated August 7, 1845 with the chamfered 26x15mm boxed “CITY MAIL CO. / OFFICE/ 6 WALL STREET” handstamp.

the Y. Souren locals' sale offering of May 9 and October 14, 1936. In the Golden catalog Trepel reported the adhesive was now off cover.³

A companion stampless cover from the same old-timer's collection mentioned above has the new chamfered 26 x 15 mm boxed CITY MAIL/OFFICE/6 Wall Street, in black, which is dated August 7th. While this is the earliest locally dated cover I record, the Hollowbush holding had the same date with the strike in red, which is the usual color, as well as a manuscript '2' rate, See **Figure 9**. It is addressed to Young & Schultz, corner Cliff and Ferry streets and was sent down the Hudson 'pr Capt. Dody' from Middletown, N.Y. It reports sending goods for sale. A competitor for the earliest use is Middendorf lot 526⁴, which originated in Charleston, S.C. on August 2nd and was sent by mail to New York for delivery to Edward R. Wyle, 13 Old Slip, who authorized the City Mail Co. to pick it up for him. It also has a red CITY MAIL 6 Wall St. handstamp. As express mails of the period took a minimum of four days from Charleston it is probably a later use.

A few other stampless CITY MAIL 6 Wall covers are known. An ex-Hollowbush 'for the mails' use is postmarked August 11, 1845 and addressed to Henry Seamans in Detroit. In the Carmen Puliofito holding is a fourth stampless example datelined August 21, 1845 at Boston and addressed to L. M. Roche, 54 Water St., N. Y. It has a manuscript '2' local delivery rate and the red boxed City Mail. A fifth out-of-town origin item is marked 'paid to New York' in manuscript and is addressed to Walter Lowry, Mission House, 23 Centre Street. It has the red City Mail box and a manuscript rate that may be a '20' for a double rate.

In addition to the two previously described covers with adhesives and the Ferrari cover, there are just three City Mail covers with adhesives killed with the company's PAID and a stampless example from which the adhesive has been removed. A September 15th cover to Cornelius W. Lawrence with the adhesive tied by a cover file fold was in the Boker collection. See **Figure 10**. He acquired it as lot 290 in the John Fox sale of 3/10/67, where it was sold with Sloane's signature: it may be a Hollowbush remainder. The other example is the latest recorded with a CITY MAIL handstamp—the Mathewes cover, dated October 15, 1845, and addressed to 14th and Third. See **Figure 11**. This cover is ex-Hunter, Worthington, Mason, Malcolm, Richardson and Golden (where it received a PF 'priority service' certificate stating the stamp on it is lifted and repaired with the killer enhanced and the stamp put back on the cover.) It was described as having a piece torn from the adhesive's corner in the 1900 Hunter sale lot 1089 description and as damaged and repaired in the Worthington sale, lot 686 description.

The third item is a piece with the City Mail adhesive addressed to Henry Scudder, Councilor, N.Y. with a poorly struck red "PAID" killer in the Hall holding; the adhesive may not have originated. Finally, there is a 'fourth' cover from which a tied adhesive was removed; it is the 2nd latest recorded, dated September 24, 1845, and sent on by the New York post office on the 25th to the addressee T. L. Thompson, Philadelphia. It contains a notice from the Union Transportation Company. Additionally, Elliott Perry noted an example of February 15th, which is

³ Siegel sale (Golden), November

⁴ Frajola sale, Middendorf,

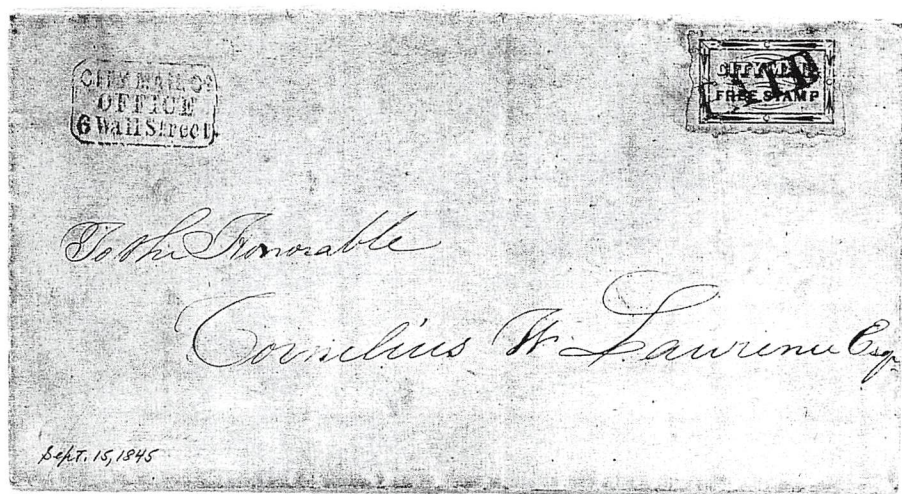


Figure 10. A cover dated September 15th, 1845 which the 46L1 adhesive and the “City Mail” boxed handstamp. John Fox, March 10, 1967, Lot 290. Ex. Boker.



Figure 11. A cover dated October 15, 1845. According to author Cal Hahn this is the latest recorded example of the boxed “City Mail” handstamp. Siegel (Golden) November 15-17, 1999, Lot A978, also Siegel, November 15-16, 2006, Lot 1484. Also Siegel, September 26-28, 1972, Lot 1773 and Siegel, December 13-16, 1983, Lot 1681. Ex. Worthington.

either too early in 1845 or rather late, being the Valentine period in 1846. If the latter, it would indicate an attempt to briefly become a Valentine local. Summarizing, we have about six stampless examples and two or three certified and several suspect adhesive covers, as well as several off cover adhesives.

The City Mail address at 6 Wall Street is the one reported for Richard Carlton, Overton's custom brokerage in the 1845-46 city directory. The directory was issued early in July 1845 and compiled probably in May. It suggests he has taken back control of the operation by the date of the first use of the 10 Wall handstamp, if not in May or June and that the '7 Broad' covers did not involve him.

The fifth and final chapter of this article will appear in the next issue of The Penny Post.

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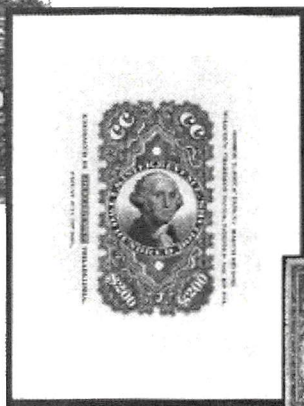
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