

APRIL 2013

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VOL. 21 NO. 2

THE PENNY POST

Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society



Folded letters dated July 28, 1843 to Miss Mary Patterson in Burlington.
The Blood's 15L1 stamp is to the right of the Philadelphia cds. The
"PAID" in the center of the Blood's stamp obliterates an earlier applied
month.

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LOCALS AND CARRIERS IN THE GROSS SALE

AND MORE



Public Stamp Auction

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Thursday, July 18, 2013

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June 18, 2013

To our Auction Manager, Alan E. Cohen

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VOL. 21 NO. 2

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Editor's Message

By
Larry Lyons

Greetings to my fellow carrier, local and eastern express enthusiasts. We have another great issue of *The Penny Post* for you. This journal is devoted to the presentation of original research articles in the fields of **United States** carriers, local posts and eastern expresses. Forgeries in these areas are also researched. If you have a topic on which you want to write we will help you with a sharing of information the likes of which you would not have thought possible. (Unless there is no information). My section heads stand ready to assist you. If you have a question please ask it.

In This Issue

My two good friends, John Bowman and Vernon Morris, continue their full exploration of Boyd's and Blood's with their second articles. We will have articles from both of these esteemed authors well into the future as we learn about Boyd's and Blood's, the two largest of the local post companies. Special thanks go out to these two seasoned and accomplished collectors and authors. Not to be left out is my Part V article on Swarts, the other of the big three local posts. Part V contains a summary and conclusions from the research presented in previous articles.

We also have an article by Clifford Alexander on a Wells Fargo handstamp, which if considered alone might pass muster but the compelling evidence of multiple examples indicates otherwise. Special thanks to Cliff for his article and research on this subject.

An article by William Sammis gives us an insight into Benjamin Riggs telling us about his bath, and Maine Mail and Express Service. Bill Sammis is our Eastern Express section editor and expert with a Maine collecting interest. Thanks to Bill for his article and research.

One of the highlights of the Bill Gross 1847 auction held at the Siegel Auction Galleries was several lots with carrier and local stamps and handstamps. This author presents a review of that sale from my perspective.

2013 Annual Meeting

Please put on your calendar to come to the APS Stampshow to be held in Milwaukee on August 8-11. The C&LS will hold its' annual Society Meeting at this show. There will be great exhibits to see including the multi-frame Champion of Champions exhibits which won Grand Awards at all the shows over the previous year.

The Past – The Future

The Penny Post began in January 1991 with a 32-page issue in black and white. In 2013 we have evolved into a 68-page issue usually in full color. The cost of publication is staggering. The future will most likely usher in an age of a digital journal. The time of holding the journal in your hands (as well as newspaper and books), is going to pass into being a remembrance of the good old days. Many of us

still like to hold the “the printed word” in our hands. If you like what we have done over the years, you should support the Society with your generous donation. (We are a tax exempt c(3)a organization and your donation is tax deductible.) It will be too late to complain when we can no longer afford to publish a printed version of *The Penny Post*. Show your support and send in your check today.

Get More Involved

Perhaps it is time to start a new collecting interest in a section of carriers, locals or eastern expresses. It is also might be the time to expand a subject of interest in which you are already involved. Is it time for you to put together an exhibit of your own? It is certainly time to commit to attending a philatelic show—you will be happy you did. It is time to make new friends and thank old friends for their valuable friendship.

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

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Boyd's Second Adhesive, 20L2

By
John D. Bowman

John T. Boyd issued his second adhesive stamp in September of 1844. It was lithographed like the first issue, but smaller and with a clear background behind the eagle.¹ It is known used from September 12, 1844² until the end of May, 1845 even though the third issue became available around February 14, 1845. These later covers likely represent use of stamps purchased earlier by a business concern or other user of Boyd's services.

The stamp may show lines ruled around each side, sometimes touching the design, and are not continuous between stamps. Some examples with wide margins will show the frame line for the adjacent stamp so that two lines are evident. There is a constant dot between the outer frame lines of the oval design, below and to the right of the "2" and touching both the thick outer and thin inner oval lines. In addition, the thin inner oval is weak or missing below the "NT" of "CENTS." (See **Figure 1** for an enlarged image.)

Like 20L1, these stamps were handstamped with a red "FREE" that does not tie the stamp, suggesting it may have been a precancel. Unused examples are unknown.

Figure 2 is the earliest known cover and is dated September 12 (1844) 3 o'clock.³ It is one of two covers known with the first style octagonal datestamp, the other being dated September 26 and is in the Richardson collection.

The first issue 20L1 was used until the end of September. Boyd's initially provided local delivery service for independent mail companies, most notably Pomeroy's. But by September of 1844, such conjunctive use was largely limited to the American Letter Mail Company and Hale and Company. I record five covers bearing 20L2, including covers to and from Frankfort, ME in the Captain Atwood correspondence. **Figure 3** illustrates a cover to Captain Atwood in Frankfort with the Hale and Co. collect box. It was probably delivered by Jerome & Co. because Hale did not serve Maine directly, although he did advertise service to Maine.

Few collectors are aware that during the early period of Boyd's Brooklyn delivery service, the rate charged was three cents. Later, the rate was reduced to two cents. The author believes that Boyd's Brooklyn handstamp was probably applied in their 45 William Street office in New York, and that there was no Brooklyn office.

Henry Abt⁴ provided the text for an advertisement that appeared in the Saturday *New York Evening Post* of September 28, 1844, which reported an increase

¹ Elliot Perry wrote to Henry Abt on May 7, 1949, in response to Abt's chapter II of his series on Boyd's, that 20L2 shows characteristics of a lithograph rather than an intaglio engraving.

² I have a photocopy of an auction page illustrating a cover with 20L2 whose datestamp seems to read September 6, but I do not know the whereabouts of this cover or which auction it was in.

³ Bowman, John D. *The Penny Post*, Vol. 4, No.4, October 1994.



Figure 1. Used 20L2 with usual red “FREE” handstamp and wide margins showing frame lines all around stamp. Although no multiples nor unused examples are known, it is my opinion that each stamp on the lithographic stone had its own frame lines around all four sides.

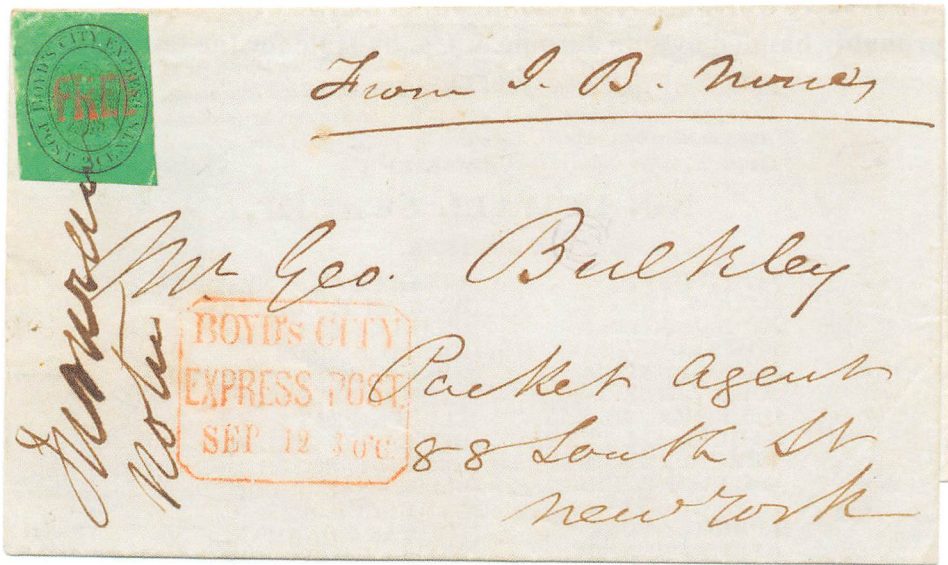


Figure 2. Earliest known use of 20L2 and one of two known with the first octagonal handstamp of Boyd’s. September 12, 1844 datestamp on a circular used for local delivery.

⁴ Abt, Henry E. Series of articles on “Boyd’s City Express Post” published in the *Collectors Club Philatelist* in 1949 and 1950.



Figure 3. Very scarce conjunctive use by Boyd's to Frankfort, Maine, via Hale & Co. Since Hale had no direct delivery into Maine, it was probably handed over to Jerome & Co. by Hale for the last leg of the journey.



Figure 4. November 13, 1844 Boyd's Brooklyn handstamp on cover with 20L2, the only example so used. At this time, the rate from Boyd's to Brooklyn (a separate city with its own post office) was two cents. It is likely that the Boyd's Brooklyn handstamp was applied in the New York office of Boyd's prior to delivery. PFC 453357.



Figure 5. February 6, 1845 Boyd's cover to the mails via New York City to Long Island, with manuscript 10 denoting the ten cent rate for distances of 30-80 miles. During 1844, Boyd's advertised service to the mails for out of town delivery, but examples are very scarce.



Figure 6. Earliest known Boyd's use "to the mails" except for a July example with 20L1. This cover front is dated December 30 (1844) by Boyd's oval and is franked with a 20L2. The blue manuscript "10" pays for delivery to Princeton NJ. "To the mails" covers by Boyd's in 1844 are very scarce.



Figure 7. January 2, 1845 cover with 20L2 and blue manuscript “10” to Exeter, NY. Very scarce early use to the mails by Boyd’s.

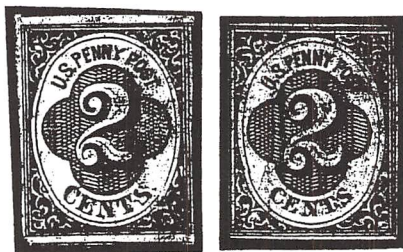
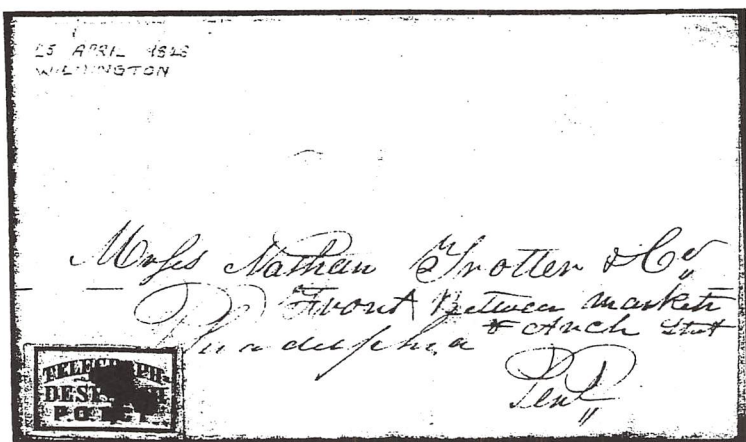
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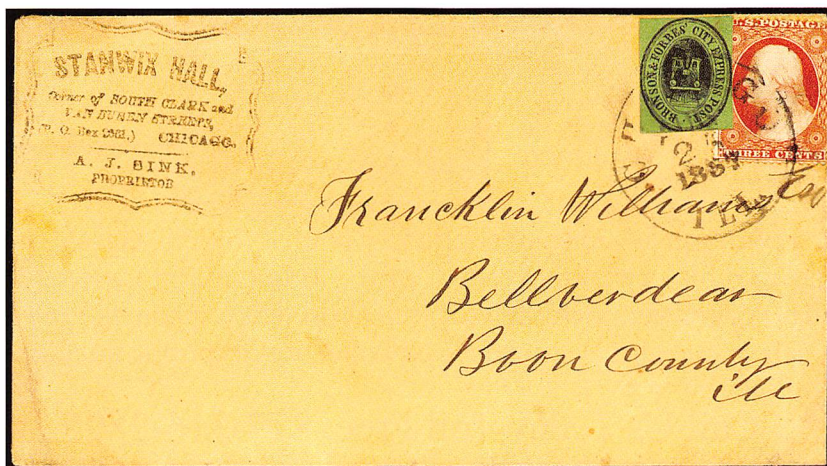
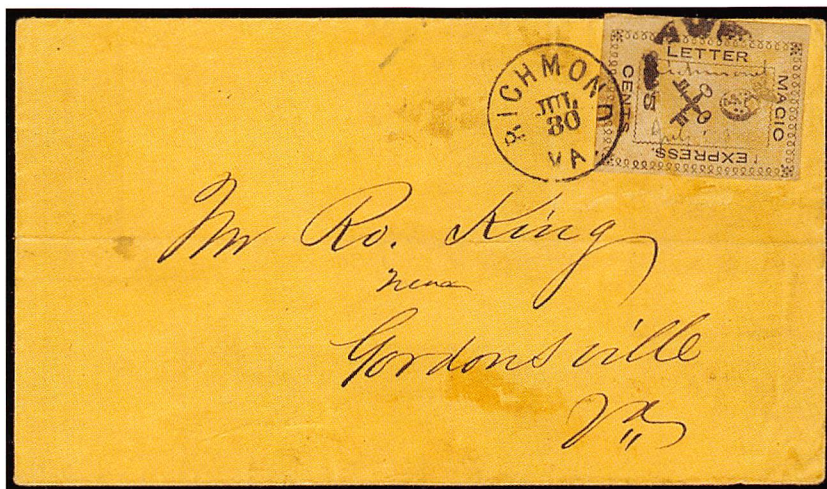
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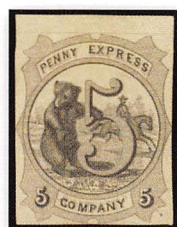
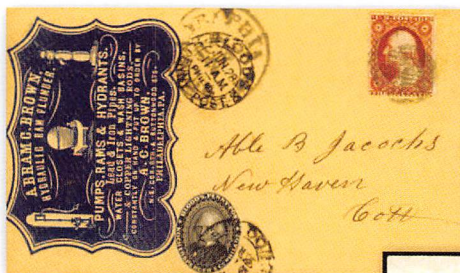
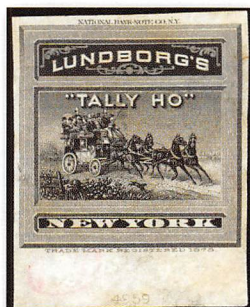
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Wells, Fargo & Co. Handstamp Is It Bogus?

By
Clifford J. Alexander

This article was prompted by the purchase of a local cover delivered by a Post Office Department carrier in New York City on March 26, 1886. The envelope has a brown red 2 cent bank note issue (Scott No. 210) with a duplex cancellation. It is addressed to "Miss Kitty Drummond/436 West 22 St/City" and has the word forgery written in pencil on the front. **(Figure 1)**

The envelope also has a purple oblong handstamp that has a thick outer line with rounded scalloped outer edges and a thin inner line. It measures 43 mm tall by 63 mm and has only been reported in violet.¹ Inside in serified capital letters, it reads "WELLS FARGO & CO./84 BROADWAY/NEW YORK."

Because of a letter that accompanied the cover (which I discuss later), I was intrigued by it and began looking for others. I now have five envelopes originating in New York City with this handstamp. Two are addressed locally to the same person in New York City and three to the same business in San Francisco:

1. November 11, 1872 duplex tying a 3¢ green bank note issue addressed to "Mesr. J.C. Meussdorfer & Bro/San Francisco/Ca." **(Figure 2)**
2. September 16, 1880 duplex tying a 3¢ green bank note issue addressed to "Mesr J.C. Meussdorfer & Bro. /San Francisco/Cal." **(Figure 3)**
3. October 17, 1881 duplex tying a 3¢ green bank note issue on a yellow envelope addressed to Mesr. J.C. Meussdorfer & Bro./San Francisco/Cal." **(Figure 4)**
4. March 26, 1886 duplex tying a 2¢ red brown Scott No. 210, addressed to "Miss Kitty Drummond/436 West 22 St/City." **(Figure 1)**
5. October 5, [1886] duplex tying a 2¢ red brown Scott No. 210, addressed to "Miss Drummond/436 West 22nd St/New York City." **(Figure 5)**

In the case of the two local covers, the Wells Fargo marking is neatly placed sideways at the left. The three covers addressed to San Francisco have the marking placed at the top center or top left of the envelope.

This style of advertising handstamp apparently was not uncommon in the late 19th century. I have one on a cover from an attorney in Utica, NY that included the letter dated "June 26, 1880." **(Figure 6)** Another was offered in the Stephen R. Belasco collection of stamp collectors and dealer advertising covers sold by Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. as lot #2652 on December 10, 2012 (Sale 1037). It was from "N.F. Seebeck/Importer of/Foreign Postage Stamps/P.O. Box 1698/New York" to Germany. Both of these handstamps are smaller than the Wells, Fargo handstamp

¹ John F. Leutzinger, "The Handstamps of Wells, Fargo & Co., 1832-1895," 1968 Ed. at page 268a and 1993 Ed. at page 340.

and have scalloped outer edges that are more pointed than rounded. (Figure 7) In addition, the American Stampless Cover Catalog includes two oval handstamps with scalloped outer edges in the section on “Maritime Mail Markings” at page 116 (Vol. II, 1987 Ed.).



Figure 1.



Figure 2.



Figure 3.



Figure 4.



Figure 5.



Figure 6.



Figure 7.



Figure 8.

Is the Handstamp Bogus?

Covers with this Wells Fargo handstamp appear from time to time. Unfortunately, there has been some confusion over the handstamp; but it appears to be bogus. I have an original letter to Al Zimmerman dated “February 8, 1973” from E.N. Sampson, editor of the first edition of the American Stampless Cover Catalogue. Mr. Sampson wrote the following about the March 26, 1886, cover shown in **Figure 1**:

“In answer to your note regarding lot #140, Siegel must have overlooked it and I am writing Leutzing to drop it from his book. I have one in my “false” collection.

It hurts to drop it but I am sure your conscience would bother you not to do so. I will send you the new material shortly.”

I have been unable to identify the Siegel auction referred to by Sampson. But is not surprising that Zimmerman assumed it must be genuine. This handstamp was known to exist for some time and even was listed in John F. Leutzing’s Wells, Fargo catalogue as being genuine.

The first edition of *“The Handstamps of Wells, Fargo & Co. 1832 to 1895”* by Leutzing was published in 1968. It included the Wells Fargo marking as a genuine handstamp in Group 22, which Mr. Leutzing explained “is a miscellaneous group covering Newspaper, Propaganda or Advertising Use of Handstamps. None were used to cancel mail matter or denote the payment of fees.” The marking also was included by Leutzing in a supplement to the First Edition issued as of April 1, 1971.

A revised edition was published in 1993 for the Western Cover Society by Leonard Hartmann. The Chronicle issue of November 1993² included a review that described the new Leutzing catalogue as containing illustrations “of Wells, Fargo handstamps – predominately cancels, but also including those used as franks, receiving marks, supplementary marks – arranged in groups by physical

² John F. Leutzing, “The Handstamps of Wells, Fargo & Co., 1832-1895,” (1993 Ed.), at page 340.

characteristics, with listing of those offices known to have used the individual markings.”

The 1993 edition no longer listed the Wells, Fargo handstamp among the genuine types of Group 22 handstamps. Instead it was illustrated in a footnote with the following explanation: “The large oval from New York City illustrated below, formerly listed as type 22-3 is now considered to be a bogus marking. In its place, a small Boston shield handstamp was given the designation Type 22-3.”

A number of characteristics make these handstamps suspicious. Most importantly, New York City business directories only list a Wells, Fargo office at 84 Broadway from 1860 to 1873. Four of my covers have cancellations from the 1880s. After 1873, the Wells, Fargo office is listed at 65 Broadway.

Second, the scalloped line does not resemble any handstamp used by Wells, Fargo in other cities. Most Wells, Fargo handstamps bear similarities to handstamps used by the company at its offices in other cities. The genuine New York corner advertisement used, when the company had an office at 82 Broadway from 1860 to 1863, and shown as Type 1-2 in Leutzinger’s 1993 edition, is in the shape of a shield.³ See **Figure 8**.

Third, there is no comma after Wells. Virtually all of the handstamps used by Wells, Fargo include the company’s legal name, which has a comma. Leutzinger’s 382 page 1993 Edition illustrates or references approximately 750 Wells, Fargo handstamps with the names spelled out; and only 22 (3%) are missing the comma between “Wells” and “Fargo.” The comma was officially dropped from the corporate name in 1898.

Finally, it is suspicious that the five covers were sent to only two addressees. This could be a coincidence; but it also suggests the possibility that the handstamp was applied by someone who acquired two groups of correspondence some time after the dates on the covers.

The “Usual Suspects”

In the movie “Casablanca,” when he was told that a crime had been committed, Captain Louis Renault (played by Claude Rains) ordered his men to “round up the usual suspects.” In this case, one usual suspect might be the prolific 19th century counterfeiter S. Allan Taylor. However, he specialized in fake and bogus stamps, and was not known to create bogus cancels.

Another suspect might be the stamp dealer and auctioneer John Fox. He did create bogus cancels, and a number were found in his home after he died. These are currently in the Philatelic Foundation collection. Michael Lawrence wrote an article for the *Chronicle* illustrating bogus Fox handstamps at the PF.⁴ The Wells, Fargo handstamp was not among them, and none of the handstamps in the Fox group resembled it.

The September 16, 1880 cover (**Figure 3**) raises another possibility. John Charles Meussdorfer founded a hat factory in California in the early 1850s. All three of the letters addressed to his company have manuscript docketing at the left side indicating the date sent, date received, sender and subject. The September 16 letter includes the notation “J.A. Nutter/Regarding damages.”

³ An example was sold in Schuyler Rumsey sale 41 (March 30, 2011), Lot 637.

⁴ Michael Lawrence, “John Fox Marking Devices and Fake Covers,” *The Chronicle*, Issue 218, Vol. 60, No. 2 (May 2008) at pages 149-163.”

Was this the same John Appleton Nutter who, in the 1860s met S. Allan Taylor in Montreal and began dealing in stamps? Nutter inspired Taylor to collect locals and Nutter is also given “credit” for coming up with the idea of creating a bogus Bancroft’s City Express stamp—an idea that Taylor quickly copied. Thus far, I have found no evidence that Nutter was a stamp dealer during the latter part of the 19th century. He had no advertisements in philatelic journals, and is not listed in the 1885 edition of John M. Hubbard’s “Stamp Dealers of the World.” And in a paper for the New York chapter of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society titled “The Intertwining of Philatelic and Social History,” Calvet Hahn stated that Nutter quit as a stamp dealer in 1867.

The dates on the four covers are helpful. The four covers appear to be genuine in all other respects. Because the two latest are dated 1886, we can safely assume that the handstamps on at least those two covers were applied sometime during or after 1886. For obvious reasons, the earlier dates on the other two covers cannot be considered evidence that the handstamp was applied prior to 1886.

The author is seeking additional information on covers that contain the handstamp. He also would like to thank Bruce Mosher for his assistance with research for this article. Please respond to me at clifford.alexander@klgates.com.

Locals and Carriers at the William Gross Sale

By
Larry Lyons

On April 9, 2013 the Bill Gross sale held at the Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries under the auction name of Siegel-Shreve, contained the unwanted excess 1847 covers from Gross' great 1847 collection. Among the 1847 stamped material being sold were 6 covers with carrier adhesives and 17 covers with local post stamps or handstamps. In addition, there was 1 carrier adhesive on cover with an 1851 one cent adhesive and 3 local posts covers with various 1851 issued adhesives. The total of the carrier and local covers was 27 making this a major sale in our field of study and collecting.

The 1847 Section

The first carrier and 1847 stamp combination was lot 244, which had the first Boston carrier stamp, 3LB1, and the 5¢ 1847 stamp on an 1850 cover to Providence. See **Figure 1**. The carrier stamp is tied by a beautiful strike of the carrier department ring of pearls cancel and both stamps are tied by the Boston circular datestamp of March 18th. The hammer price was \$4,750 which was above what I felt was a high estimate of \$3,000-\$4000.

The next lot (245) was the only recorded combination of the 10-cent 1847 issue and the Honour's City Post four-line carrier department stamp, 4LB8. The 1847 stamp is cancelled by a perfect strike of a blue "propeller" fancy cancel and the cover front also has a matching "Wilmington & Raleigh Railroad, June 7" ca. 1850 circular datestamp. This lot was hammered for \$4,750 against a pre-sale estimate of \$1,500-2,000.

The cover with the Philadelphia carrier, 7LB1, with initials "LP" and a 5-cent 1847 adhesive, is one of three recorded, and hammered for \$5500 which was within the estimate range.

Lot 250 featured a clear strike of "Blood's Despatch 26 So. Sixth 28" double line circular handstamp on a cover to Boston with a 10¢ 1847 adhesive and a Philadelphia railroad straight line handstamp. The cover hammered for \$4,750 against an estimate of \$3,000-\$4,000. The New York handstamp of Jan 11 was applied on arrival at New York City before the letter continued on to Boston.

Six covers were sold with combinations of Blood's stamps and the 1847 issue for the low estimate or below the estimated prices. These covers are not particularly scarce by local post standards. There were two additional beautiful, Blood's covers, (lots 258-9) with 10-cent 1847 stamps which hammered for \$8,500 and \$6,500 respectively. In my opinion, these were lofty prices for these items.

The only recorded combination of the 10-cent 1847 issue with Bouton's second issue (18L2) adhesive on a cover front dated Nov 9 and docketed 1848, brought \$4,000 hammer which was below the low end of the estimate.

The only recorded combination of the 5-cent 1847 issue with the Eagle City Post "sawtooth" adhesive (61L2) on a 1849 folded letter brought \$15,500 hammer, just over the low end of the hefty estimate. See **Figure 2**. Lot 264 was an untied



Figure 1. 5¢ red brown (1) and blue on pelure (3LB1) on a cover from Boston to Providence dated March 18, 1850. Siegel (Gross), April 9, 2013, Lot 244.



Figure 2. 5¢ red brown (1) and black (61L2) on a cover from Philadelphia to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, datestamped. March 3, 1849. Manuscript "PAID 5 cts" at top right. Siegel (Gross), April 9, 2013, Lot 262.

G.A. Mills' (109L1) stamp on cover with a 5-cent 1847 stamp, with four 1847/local combination covers recorded. The hammer on this lot was \$6,750 which was well above the pre-sale estimate of \$4000-\$5,000. See **Figure 3**.

Only three 10-cent 1847 covers are recorded with the Swarts' "B. Post Office N.Y. Chatham Square" handstamp. Lot 266 was the finest of the three and hammered for \$5,500 against an estimate of \$2000-\$3,000.

The 1851 Section

There was only one lot (336) in the sale with an 1851 stamp on cover with a carrier adhesive. The LO2 Eagle carrier stamp paid the carrier fee and the 1¢ 1851 stamp paid the drop letter rate. The cover, possibly unique, to Philadelphia hammered for \$7,500. The estimate was \$4000-\$5,000. See **Figure 4**. This writer thought the estimate to be quite low and was also surprised by the hammer price which I also thought was low. The lack of bidders was in my mind attributed to the great amount of "goodies" in the sale and everyone trying to guess on what would be purchasable and what might attract heavy attention.

Lot 337 was a unique combination of a Swarts' stamp (136L6 not the 136L4 indicated, this making no difference), and a one cent 1851 stamp paying the drop rate also hammered for \$7,500 equaling the LO2 eagle combination in the previous lot.

There were two spectacular lots (343 and 344) of California Penny Post covers with very interesting 1851 stamp combinations. The first was lot 343 which was a 34LU9 envelope with four three cent 1851 stamps. There are three recorded examples of covers with four three cent 1851 stamps. This writer believes the extra stamps were to pay for other covers not having three cent stamps and the post office crackdown to make sure the government got three cents for each letter. This lot hammered for \$23,000. See **Figure 5**.

The second California Penny Post cover was Lot 344 which was a 34LU9 envelope with a ten cent 1851 stamp and a three cent 1851 stamp. The cover is addressed to actor Henry Coad in Happy Valley, San Francisco. According to the lot description it is possible the letter was written by someone traveling eastward from California who carried the Penny Post entire with him and used it to mail the letter at St. Louis. It is also possible the three cent stamp was added to satisfy the San Francisco postal clerks who in 1856 were insisting that all California Penny Post envelopes pay three cents postage. At this time most California Penny Post envelopes had pre-printed three cent indicia's. They may have felt the ten cent stamp only paid the postage to San Francisco. This usage from St. Louis sent westward to San Francisco is unique and was hammered for \$12,000 despite some minor edge wear and stamp soiling. See **Figure 6**.

All of the selling prices are a result of a combination of rarity, quality and fields of interest that could attract a specific city collector, a locals collector, an 1847 stamp collector or a handstamp collector (railroad, stampless). The 1851 stamped covers were equally attractive for all of these same reasons.

Overall I would say the bidding was quite strong on the carrier and local posts combination lots. Bill Gross generously donated the total proceeds of two million dollars to Doctors without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières and the Millennium Villages Project at Columbia University's Earth Institute.



Figure 3. 5¢ red brown (1) and black on green glazed (109L1) on a cover to Farmington, Maine. The New York datestamp is January 27, (1848). The blue manuscript “due 5” is for a distance over 300 miles. Siegel (Gross), April 9, 2013, Lot 264.

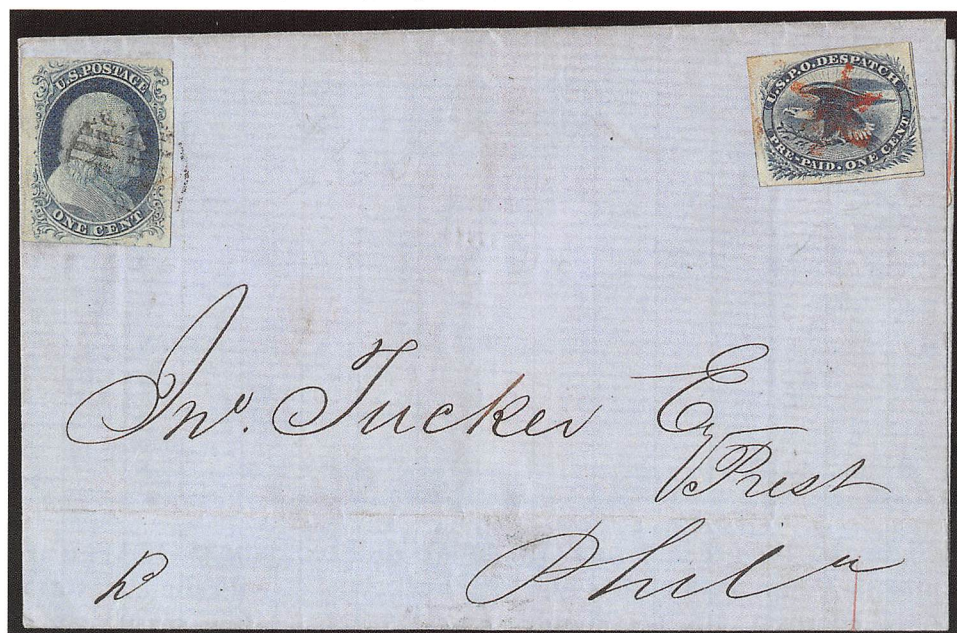


Figure 4. 1¢ blue, Type IV (9) and blue (L02) Eagle carrier adhesive on a Philadelphia cover dropped at the Post Office with the 1¢ stamp paying the drop rate. Siegel (Gross), April 9, 2013, Lot 336.

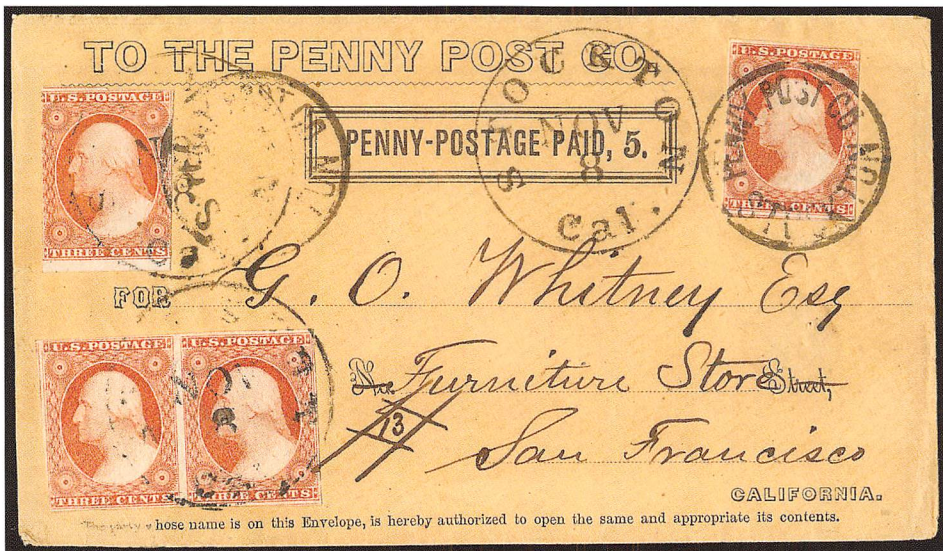


Figure 5. 3¢ dull red type II (11A) on a California Penny Post entire, 5¢ black on buff, 34LU9, with the U.S. stamps tied by California Penny Post, Stockton handstamps and Stockton California circular datestamps of Nov. 8 (1855) on a cover to San Francisco. Siegel (Gross, April 9, 2013, Lot 343.

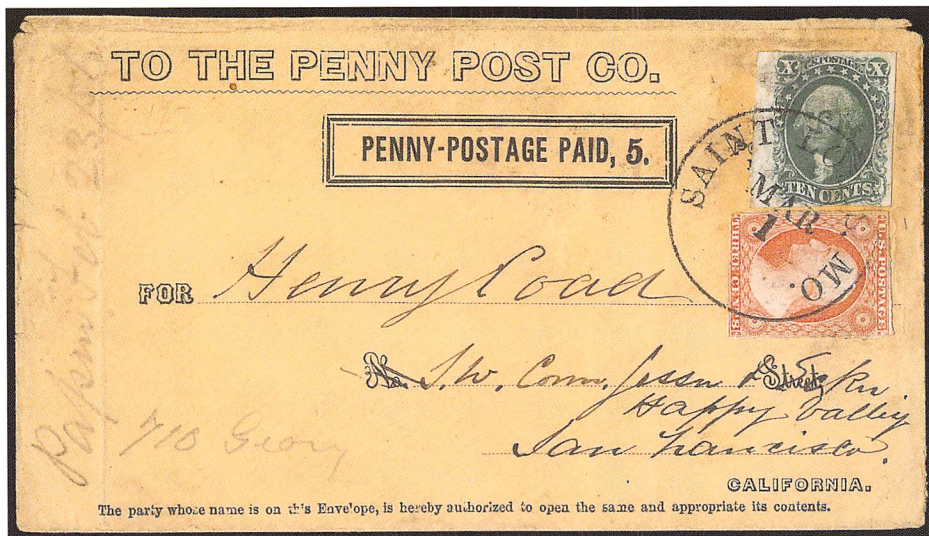


Figure 6. 10¢ green, type I (13) and 3¢ dull red, type II (11A) on a California Penny Post entire, black on buff, 34LU9, with the U.S. stamps tied by a Saint Louis, MO handstamp of March 1, (1856) on a cover to Happy Valley, San Francisco. The manuscript receipt docket to the left is "Papin Feb 23/56". Siegel (Gross), April 9, 2013, Lot 344.

Swarts' City Dispatch Post Findings and Conclusions Part V

By
Larry Lyons

This is the fifth article in a series about the Swarts' City Dispatch Post. The first article introduced the proprietor and showed his stampless covers and handstamps;¹ the second article explored the Swarts' Zachary Taylor stamps;² the third article focused on Swarts' small square stamps³ and the fourth article explored the Swarts' Washington stamps.⁴ This article will provide conclusions from the combined studies of the previous four articles.

A Summary of the Story

Alexander Grieg ran a local post in New York called the "City Despatch" from February 1, 1842 to August 15, 1842. His post was purchased by the post office and continued under Grieg's leadership and was renamed "The U.S. City Despatch Post." This carrier service operated from August 16, 1842 to November 28, 1846. In 1845 and 1846 Aaron Swarts was one of the letter carriers. The N.Y. carrier service ceased doing business because the post office raised its rates as the new postal rates were instituted. The carrier department could not compete with the local posts and went out of business. The branch post office in Chatham Square was closed on January 5, 1847 and ten days later on January 15, 1847, Aaron Swarts announced opening his "branch" which was called "Swarts' City Dispatch Post" and a "Branch Post Office." Swarts' location was at 6 Chatham Square, which was not the same exact location where the official post office service had been located.

It is likely that Swarts first used an eagle handstamp (Type A) with the words "Branch Post Office" in the middle. Only two examples are recorded, both in January 1847. Aaron Swarts also introduced his Type B handstamp oval which reads "SWARTS' / B. / POST OFFICE/ N.Y./ CHATHAM SQUARE." The "B" was an abbreviation of the word Branch but could have been purposely misunderstood as "Branch B." There would be no post office branches A or B until 1856. There was no law against calling your local post a "Branch P.O." until 1864 and it was common for local posts to attach "Branch P.O." to their name. The earliest known use of the Type B handstamp is December 15, 1847. Aaron Swarts met with the Postmaster General and hatched a plan intended to divide New York into two districts on the line of Chambers Street with Swarts appointed as the agent

¹ *Swarts' Stampless Covers and Handstamps, The Penny Post*, Larry Lyons, April 2012, Vol. 20, No. 2, pages 41-57.

² *Swarts' Zachary Taylor Stamps, The Penny Post*, Larry Lyons, July 2012, Vol. No. 3, pages 19-38.

³ *Swarts' Small Stamps, The Penny Post*, October 2012, Vol. 20, No. 4, pages 22-32.

⁴ *Swarts' City Dispatch Post, The Washington Stamps, The Penny Post*, Larry Lyons, January 2013, Vol. 21, No. 1, pages 41-56.

to supervise the carrier service north of this line. In late December of 1848 Swarts announced that he had been appointed but Postmaster Morris denied Swarts' claim and it became obvious the plan was not to be instituted. Swarts turned his attention to monopolizing the moving of mail in his area north of Chambers Street. He purchased Bouton's City Dispatch on or before January 16, 1849. The Bouton stamps depicted Zachary Taylor who took office as president in January 1849. Swarts accepted any Bouton stamps held by the public for payment. The unsold balance of Bouton's stamps were used by Swarts with his magenta manuscript "Swarts" written across the top of the stamp. This was Swarts first stamp.

Swarts introduced a third oval handstamp which reads "POST OFFICE / SWARTS / CHATHAM SQUARE," (Type C). The type C handstamp is found mostly used from February to July 1849. The type B and type C handstamps are known used in combination with the 1847 U.S. General Issue stamps. About 70% of the mail that Swarts carried went to the Post Office headed out of town. There are 43 covers recorded with five cent 1847 stamps and 3 recorded with the ten-cent 1847 stamps.

Aaron Swarts issued his own Zachary Taylor stamps in black on light green, black on dark green, pink, red, pink on bluish paper, red on bluish paper, black on blue gray, and in blue. The order of issue is summarized in the second article in this series.⁵ Swarts' stamps are found in conjunctive use with the Broadway post office local and the Cornwall's Madison Square Post Office local, indicating Swarts' delivery. The Zachary Taylor stamps have no rate on the stamps. They were two cents until 1851 and one cent thereafter. Beginning in the summer of 1851 the government carrier department charged no collection fee for taking a letter to the post office for out of town mail. In 1851 Aaron Swarts introduced his small square stamps. These stamps have words only and say "SWARTS / FOR / U.S. MAIL/ ONE CENT / PRE-PAID." The earliest recorded use of a small square stamp for local use is April 1, 1851 and August 16, 1851 for to-the-mails use. These stamps are known in light blue, dark blue, red, and red on bluish paper. The thin paper light blue stamps were mostly remaindered and were replaced by the Washington stamps. The Washington stamps were valued at one cent and were not used by Benjamin Lockwood after he purchased Swarts in March 1856. Swarts had adopted the Washington design after Taylor died in 1850. The new President was Franklin Pierce a democrat and the Washington stamp was considered non-political. The earliest recorded use of a Washington stamp is March 22, 1852 and the latest recorded use of a Zachary Taylor stamp is in 1858. When Benjamin Lockwood purchased the Swarts' City Dispatch post in 1856 he chose not to continue to use the small square stamps even though there were quantities of the light blue stamps remaining. Instead Lockwood chose to show his allegiance to the defeated party by issuing the Zachary Taylor stone III stamps in deep carmine. These are known used from November 1857 to November 29, 1858. The reprints-counterfeits were produced by G. Hussey in April 1862. The Washington Stamps saw a lot of use over 5½ years into 1858. There are 15 covers recorded to a foreign destination with the

⁵ Swarts' Zachary Taylor Stamps, *The Penny Post*, July 2012, Vol. 20, No. 3, page 36.

Swarts' Washington stamp. There are at least 100 covers recorded with Swarts' Washington stamp and a three-cent 1851 stamp used to pay the postage.

Summary of Periods of Use of the Swarts Stamps







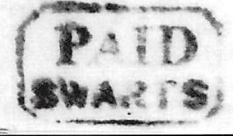


From the fully study of the Swarts stamps a table can be constructed showing the periods of use of all of the various Zachary Taylor stamps. See **Table I.**

Table 1
Order of Issue of the Zachary Taylor Stamps



<u>Year of Issue</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>
1849	Bouton's Stamp (18L1) with Swarts' "PAID" or Swarts' handstamp	Jan. 16, 1849
1849	Bouton's stamp (18L2) with Swarts' handstamp	Feb. 28, 1849
1849	Bouton's stamp with manuscript "Swarts", 136L13	Jan. 30 – Nov. 3, 1849
1849	Stone I Black on dark green surface colored paper, 136L2	June 12, 1849 – March 28, 1852
1849	Stone I Black on blue gray, 136L7	July 24, 1849 – Feb. 14, 1850
1849	Stone II Black on light green surface colored paper, 136L1	June 12, 1849 – Jan. 1, 1851
1849	Stone II Blue on white, 136L8	Dec. 4, 1849 – Aug. 3, 1850
1850	Stone II Pale red-brown on white	1850
1850	Stone II Carmine on white, 136L4 variation	Jan. 31, 1850
1850	Stone IIa Bright red on white, 136L4 variation	January 1850
1850	Stone II Bright red on bluish, 136L6	Aug. 16, 1850 – Feb. 4, 1852
1852	Stone II red on white, 136L4	May or June 1852
1852	Stone II Pink on white, 136L3	Jan. 7, 1852 – Oct. 11, 1852
1857	Stone III Deep carmine on white, 136L4a	Nov. 5, 1857 – Nov. 29, 1858

Based on the census data the author has recorded, the period of use of all the various Swarts handstamps can be determined. See **Table II.**

Table II
The Period of Use of the Swarts' Handstamps

<u>Handstamp</u>		<u>With Zachary Taylor Stamps</u>	<u>With Washington Stamps</u>
Type A		None	None
Boxed PAID		Feb. 1849 – Dec. 1, 1852	March 22, 1852 – Dec. 10, 1853
Type B		Feb. 1849 – Dec. 1852	Late March 1852 – July 17, 1854
Type C		Feb. 1849 – Jan. 10, 1850	None
Type D, D1		June 1849	None
Type E		None	Aug. 1854 – Sept. 1, 1857
Boxed PAID / SWARTS		None	July 17, 1854 – Sept. 1, 1857
Hollow star		Jan. 15, 1851 – Oct. 11, 1851	None
5-sided star		Aug. 15, 1850 – Jan. 1851	None

Some additional information can be summarized from the various census tables that have been compiled. For instance...

<u>Handstamp</u>		<u>Usage</u>
5-sided hollow star		On small square stamps May or June 1851 – August 22, 1853
Grids		On Washington stamps May 1853 – July 17, 1856

Conclusion

Swarts' City Dispatch Post was one of the big four of the local posts along with Boyd's, Bloods and Hussey. Swarts' local post was in operation from January 1847 through at least November 1858, a period of twelve years. During this period of time three different stamp designs were created and a total of 18 different stamps were issued by Swarts' local post. The author believes that Swarts' local post handled about 1.8 million letters and about $\frac{2}{3}$ of this mail went to the post office and $\frac{1}{3}$ was delivered locally.

Aaron Swarts was a very enterprising individual who saw an opportunity when the Chatham Square Branch of the post office was closed at the beginning of 1847. Swarts used handstamps and advertisements to promote his company as if he were a branch of the post office. Swarts wanted to officially be the arm of the post office handling mail in the area north of Chambers Street but the deal was never made with the Postmaster. In March 1856 Aaron Swarts sold his company to Benjamin Lockwood. He apparently foresaw that the 1856 reorganization of the carrier department in New York City would eventually close his operations and he was able to sell his business while it still had legs and was prosperous. To me the most interesting part of the story is the tale of the creativity of Aaron Swarts and his place in the story of the local posts and the political intrigue of the time period. A use of two blue Zachary Taylor stamps on a valentine is shown in **Figure 1**. A previously unrecorded ten cent stamp on a Swarts stampless cover is shown in **Figure 2** and a unique combination of a one cent stamp paying the drop rate with a Swarts adhesive is shown in **Figure 3**. All observations and comments should be sent to the author at llyons@philatelicfoundation.org.



Figure 1. Two blue Swarts, 136L8, stamps paying a double rate for a valentine taken to the post office headed for Grandville, Michigan. The Swarts stamps are tied by the red "PAID" cancel. The New York cds is February 17, 1850. Siegel sale 925, (Kuphal), November 15-16, 2006, Lot 1689.



Figure 2. A ten cent black (2) on a folded letter datestamped January 19, 1848 to Pittsburgh. A Swarts' / B / Post Office / N.Y. / Chatham Square oval handstamp at the lower left. This cover carried to the post office by Swarts. This is a previously unrecorded third example of a Swarts handstamp on a cover with a ten cent 1847 stamp. Siegel (Gross), April 9, 2013, Lot 266. PF

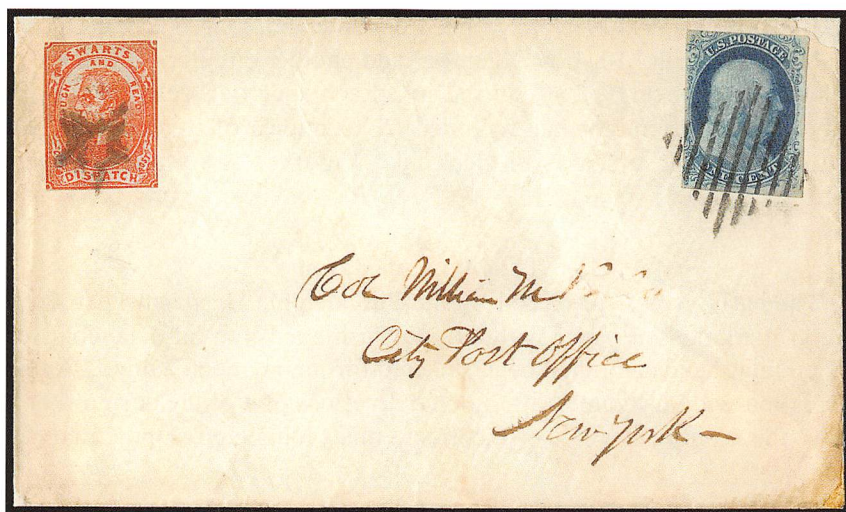


Figure 3. A one cent blue Type II (7) stamp paying the drop rate and a red on bluish 136L6 Swarts stamp. Swarts took the letter to the post office. This is a unique combination. Siegel (Gross), April 9, 2013, Lot 337. PF

BLOODS Part 2; 15L1

By

Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD

Philadelphia was the second city in the United States to be honored with a private company dedicated solely to delivering local mail. The Philadelphia Despatch Post, was described in the local newspapers as a City Despatch Post, owned by Robertson & Co., and fashioned after the former City Despatch Post in New York founded by Greig.¹ This is the second in a series of postal history articles reviewing chronologically the stamp issues of the dominant private post in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia Despatch Post

The Philadelphia Despatch Post was the third entity in the world to produce stamps for prepayment of postage, after Great Britain in 1840, and New York in February 1842. To put this into its proper historical perspective, Switzerland was fourth in March 1843, and Brazil fifth in August 1843.² Postmaster provisional stamps in the United States began July 1845, United States federal stamps in July 1847.

Moreover, for eighteen months the Philadelphia Despatch Post was the only private post in the United States, and the entire world, dedicated solely to city delivery of letters.³

Circular Handstamp Marking

Two handstamp markings, 28 millimeter in diameter with inscription “PHILA. DESPATCH POST.” have been documented. One is dated December 19, 1842 in black ink with “10 A. M.” center,⁴ and another circular handstamp with “3P M” is dated December 31, 1842 in red ink. Each specified delivery time from the company office. The author has recorded 61 examples of this circular handstamp marking, but only the first was in black ink.⁵ **Figure 1** is a representative “3P M” example.

Prepayment Stamp

The early stamps produced by the Philadelphia Despatch Post were simply handstamp markings on paper without gum fashioned into an octagonal form. The “3P M” circular handstamp had been selected for prepayment stamps.⁶ An imperfect stamp creation with designated afternoon delivery as part of the design. For morning deliveries the stamp design was incorrect, misleading, and a potential source of

¹ Vernon R. Morris Jr, MD, “BLOODS Part 1: 15L2,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 1, (Whole Number 82) January 2013, page 18.

² *Ibid*, page 24.

³ *Ibid*, page 25.

⁴ *Ibid*, page 27.

⁵ *Ibid*, page 19.

⁶ *Ibid*, page 34.

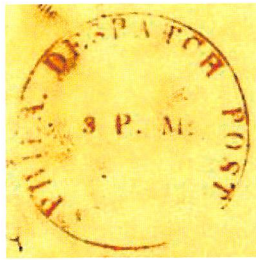


Figure 1. The Philadelphia Despatch Post circular handstamp was fashioned in two types, one each for the two delivery times: 10 AM in Figure 1a from census number 1; and 3 PM in Figure 1b, from census number 14.



Figure 2. Red on bluish paper, Scott Catalog 15L1, from 1843.

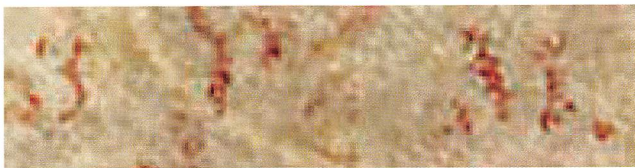


Figure 3. 15L1 stamp design center was inappropriately marked for an afternoon delivery time, “3P M”. Best shown in census number 1 and 14.

confusion. Since modern “white out” was not available the octagonal stamps could be salvaged by obliterating the delivery time with the crude “PAID” handstamp.

The author believes the first Philadelphia Despatch Post “cut out handstamps” were “black,” Scott 15L2.⁷ All six surviving 15L2 examples are on cover, likely prepared prior to December 31, 1842, and known from a short period of time, the latest example on June 13, 1843.

It is probable that in short order the company’s prompt success forecast they would soon sell out of their stock of black stamps. A second and perhaps larger group with same design, was printed in red ink, **Figure 2**. The same “3P M” center handstamp was selected again, best shown in **Figure 3**. The 2012 *Scott Catalog*, seems to erroneously assign Scott 15L1 to this second red handstamp cutout used on covers.

⁷ *Ibid*, page 23.

15L1 Characteristics

The 15L1 stamp design was “primitive,” without the bust of a famous person or pictorial design. Simply a paper cutout of the company’s name prepared from the handstamp. “Primitive” as not a printed sheet of stamps with gum. “Primitive” octagonal shape, not continued by any government or private companies, with the exception of Hale & Co. beginning March 14, 1844 for fifteen months.⁸ The 15L1 stamp design was identical to 15L2, each with “3P M” at center. They differed by color only. 15L1 was “red on bluish,” 15L2 was “black.”

Dates and Time of Service

Fourteen examples of “red on bluish” 15L1 octagonal stamps have survived. The earliest recorded is February 15, 1843. The latest recorded is November 8, 1843.

The Philadelphia Despatch Post delivered letters twice a day from its “principal office” at 83 South Second Street. This strategic location was a few hundred feet away from the main post office and across from the confluence of Dock and Second Street.⁹

Description Census

- (1) February 15, 1843; folded letter; local delivery; manuscript “*R&Co*”, bold red “3P M”; faint red “PAID” handstamp cancel, bold red “circle of dots” cancel; red “10A M” circular “PHILA. DESPATCH POST.” auxiliary handstamp. To: “Mr. Thos. G. Hollingsworth. / 136 South 2. St.”; Harmer sale 1071, March 20, 1957, lot 558, Caspary; Siegel sale 817, November 15, 1991, lot 491, Golden. Ex Lowe. Kramer collection.
- (2) April 19, 1843; folded letter; to the Mails, New York; manuscript “*R&Co*”, (red) PAID handstamp cancel, (red) bold 12mm single line numeral “3” cancel; (red) Philadelphia circular datestamp, Clarke 59 (f), manuscript 12 ½ rate. To: Robert M Ludlow Esq / Office of the Camden & Amboy Rail Road Co- / New - York”. Ex Boker.
- (3) June 13, 1843; (folded letter); local delivery; cut square, manuscript “*R&Co*”, (red) bold PAID handstamp cancel, (red) 6mm outline numeral “3” cancel; auxiliary (red) 12mm single line numeral “3” handstamp, (red) Philadelphia circular datestamp, Clarke 59(f), manuscript “*Refused*”. To: Mr. Fred Fritz / (Phila)”. Harmer sale 1071, March 20, 1957, lot 560, Caspary. Ex Boker.
- (4) June 20, 1843; folded letter; local delivery; manuscript “*R&Co*”, red “3 PM”; bold red PAID handstamp cancel, two red 6mm outline numeral “3” cancel; two red “PM” circular “PHILA. DESPATCH POST.” auxiliary handstamp. To: “Mr Maurice McNamee/ Shippen betw 3 & 4th St / Blacksmith”. Siegel sale 817, November 15, 1999, lot 492, Golden. Signed Lowe.

⁸ Vernon R. Morris Jr, MD, “The Earliest Fancy Cancel in America,” *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 89, No. 3, May-June 2010, page 183.

⁹ *Ibid*, pages 26-27.

- (5) June 27, 1843; (folded letter); to the Mails, New York; manuscript "*R&Co*", (red) "3PM"; (red) bold PAID handstamp cancel, "circle of V's" cancel; (red) Philadelphia circular datestamp, Clarke 57 (ba), blue manuscript "12 ½" rate. To: "Mssrs E.Fabrequettes fits & Morris / Merchants / New York". Harmer sale 573, October 17, 1950, lot 451, Schenck; Harmer sale 1071, March 20, 1957, lot 559, Caspary. Ex Ferrari, Boker.
- (6) July 28, 1843; folded letter; to the Mails, New Jersey; manuscript "*R&Co*", red "3P M"; bold red PAID handstamp cancel, three red 6mm outline numeral "3" cancels; red Philadelphia circular datestamp, Clarke 59f, manuscript "6" rate. To: "Miss Mary G. Patterson / St Mary's Hall / Burlington". Siegel sale 645, May 20, 1985, lot 354. Robert Kaufmann sale 58, May 13, 1989, lot 837. August 20, 1997 PFC 317269. Morris collection.
- (7) July 28, 1843; folded letter; local delivery; manuscript "*R&Co*", red "3P M"; two red bold "PAID" handstamp cancels, three red double line 6mm outline numeral "3" cancels; auxiliary manuscript "*paid*". To: "Mssrs Lattin & Hamlin / Commerce St / bet. 4th & 5th Sts". Siegel sale 925, November 15, 2006, lot 1293. Sloane records.
- (8) August 29, 1843; folded letter; to the Mails, Virginia; manuscript "*R&Co*", red "3P M"; bold red PAID handstamp cancel, two red 6mm outline numeral "3" cancels; red Philadelphia circular datestamp, Clarke 59f, manuscript "Chg-", and blue manuscript "18 ¾" rate. To: "M R. H. Garnett esq / Lloyd's / Essex County / Virginia". Siegel sale 896, June 4, 2005, lot 519. Stimmell collection.
- (9) September 19, 1843; folded letter; local delivery; manuscript "*R&Co*", red "3P M"; bold red PAID handstamp cancel, red 6mm outline numeral "3" cancel; red "PM" circular "PHILA. DESPATCH POST." auxiliary handstamp. To: "Dr-William Blanding / Corner- 5th.. Willow St- / Phila". Siegel sale 825, June 27, 2005, lot 1589.
- (10) October 10, 1843; unknown; to the Mails and Mt. Pleasant, Ohio; torn stamp tied by red Philadelphia circular datestamp; Park Bernet Galleries sale 282, May 6, 1941, lot 1022, Knapp.
- (11) November 1, 1843; folded cover; local delivery; manuscript "*R&Co*", red "3P M"; bold red PAID handstamp cancel, red 6mm outline numeral "3"; red "PM" circular "PHILA. DESPATCH POST." auxiliary handstamp. To: "Mssrs Carter & Scattergood / 11 & 14 Minor Sts / Phila". Siegel sale 868, November 14, 2003, lot 2047. Ex Schwartz, Coles. October 17, 1983 PFC 123255; February 9, 2009 PFC 473478.

- (12) November 8, 1843; folded printed notice; local delivery; manuscript “*R&Co*”, excellent red “3P M”; faint red PAID handstamp cancel; red 6mm double outline numeral “3” cancel; “PM” circular “PHILA. DESPATCH POST.” auxiliary handstamp. To: “Henry D. Gilpin Esq / 99 Walnut St”. Siegel sale 817, November 15, 1999, lot 493, Golden. Ex Gibson, Lowe. Lyons collection.
- (13) Undated; folded letter; local delivery; manuscript “*R&Co*”, red “3P M”; red PAID handstamp cancel, 12mm single line numeral “3” cancel; red “PM” circular “PHILA. DESPATCH POST.” auxiliary handstamp. To: “A.D.Bache, L.L.D. / Chesnut St. 5th door East of Schl. 6th / Philadelphia”. Siegel sale 862, May 31, 2003, lot 61; Siegel sale 1000, December 8, 2010, lot 1316. Ex Schwartz. July 15, 2003 PFC 399,826. Morris collection.
- (14) Undated; folded letter; local delivery; manuscript “*R&Co*”, excellent red “3P M”; red PAID handstamp cancel, red 12mm single line numeral “3” cancel; excellent red “3P M” circular “PHILA. DESPATCH POST.” auxiliary handstamp; To: “George H. Richards Esq. / 34 Sec ----- / Phila.” Christie’s Robson Lowe sale 5926, June 18, 1985, lot 54. December 6, 1985 PFC 151759. Gronowski collection.

Photographic Census

- Figures 4a, b, c: Hollingsworth; cover, stamp, cancel.
 5a, b: Ludlow; cover, stamp.
 6: Fritz; cover.
 7a, b: McNanee; cover, stamp.
 8a, b: Fabrequettes; cover, stamp.
 9a, b, c: Patterson; cover, stamp, obliterator.
 10a, b: Hamlin; cover, stamp.
 11a, b: Garnet; cover, stamp.
 12a, b: Blanding; cover, stamp.
 13a, b, c: Scatttergood; cover, stamp, cancel.
 14a, b: Gilpin; cover, stamp.
 15a, b: Bache; cover, stamp.
 16a, b: Richards; cover, stamp.

15L1 Cover Data Analysis

Table I is the data base for 14 surviving covers with a 15L1 stamp. All 14 surviving stamps are on the covers of folded letters. Census number 12 was a printed notice. Envelopes were not readily available during 1843.

Only 13 covers have been photographed. All “red on bluish” stamp designs show the company name with “3P M” at center, **Figure 17**. All of the timed centers were obliterated by red “PAID.” All stamps bear a manuscript “*R&Co*” control marking in black ink, **Figure 18**.



Figure 4a.



Figure 4b.

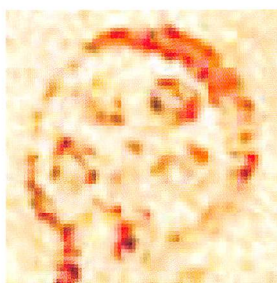


Figure 4c.

Figure 4. Census number 1 was locally addressed to Hollingsworth on February 15, 1843; shown as full cover in Figure 4a, 15L1 stamp only in Figure 4b, and the unusual “Circle of Dots” cancel in Figure 4c.

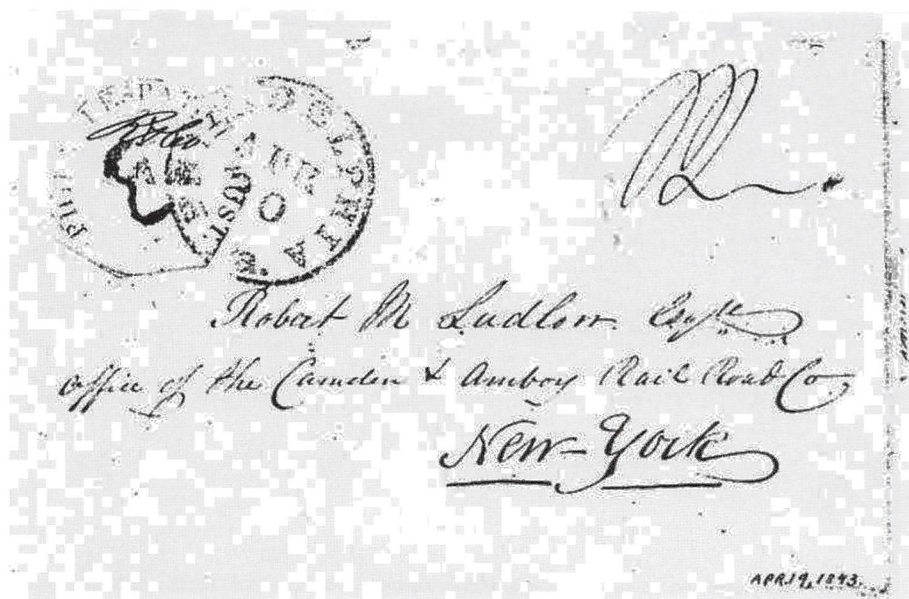


Figure 5a.



Figure 5b.

Figure 5. Census number 2 was addressed to Ludlow in New York City on April 19, 1843; the full cover is shown in Figure 5a, and 15L1 stamp in Figure 5b. Not photographed in any auction catalogs, and not seen in 40 years. Ex Boker.



Figure 6. Census number 3 is sent to Fritz in Philadelphia on June 13, 1843. An auxiliary 12mm numeral 3 is present. Although a specific street address may not be written, The 1840 McElroy city directory listed Frederick Fritz at 366 North 6th Street, just at the east edge of the Spring Garden District. Since the government post office was involved this cover may been held at the post office as a drop letter until picked up by Mr. Fritz. This photograph is from the Boker exhibit page, but otherwise has not been seen or in any auction catalog since the Caspary sale 56 years ago.



Figure 7a.



Figure 7b.

Figure 7. Census number 4 was locally addressed to McNamee on June 20, 1843; as full cover in Figure 7a, and 15L1 stamp only in Figure 7b. Cancelled by two red 6mm outline numeral 3 in the center, which are barely distinguishable. The city directory listed Morris McNamee as a “black and white smith.”

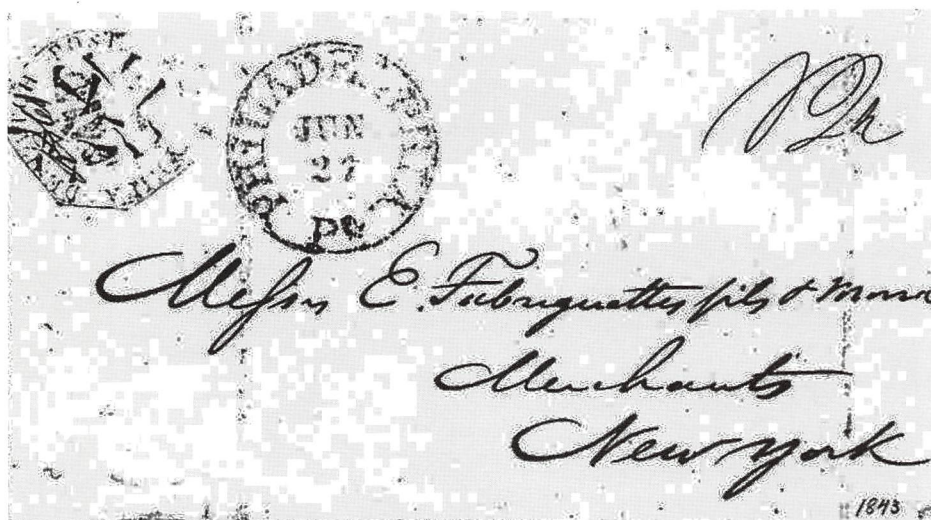


Figure 8a.



Figure 8b.

Figure 8. Census number 5 was addressed to Fabrequettes in New York on June 27, 1843; shown as full cover in Figure 8a, and 15L1 stamp only in Figure 8b. The “Circle of Wedges” cancel may be unique. The covers last auction appearance was 56 years ago in the Caspary sale. Ex Ferrari and Boker. (Eugene Fabrequettes, who was an importer at 61 Maiden Lane. His house was listed at 36 Walker. Doggett p113).



Figure 9a.



Figure 9b.



Figure 9c.

Figure 9. Census number 6 was addressed to Patterson, New Jersey on June 28, 1843. Shown in full cover in Figure 9a, and 15L1 stamp only in Figure 9b. Figure 9c reveals the irregular nature of the “PAID” obliterator.



Figure 10a.



Figure 10b.

Figure 10. Census number 7 was locally addressed to Hamlin on July 28, 1843. Figure 10a as full cover, and Figure 10b as 15L1 stamp. Twice struck was the 6mm numeral “3” cancel, and the “PAID” obliterator.

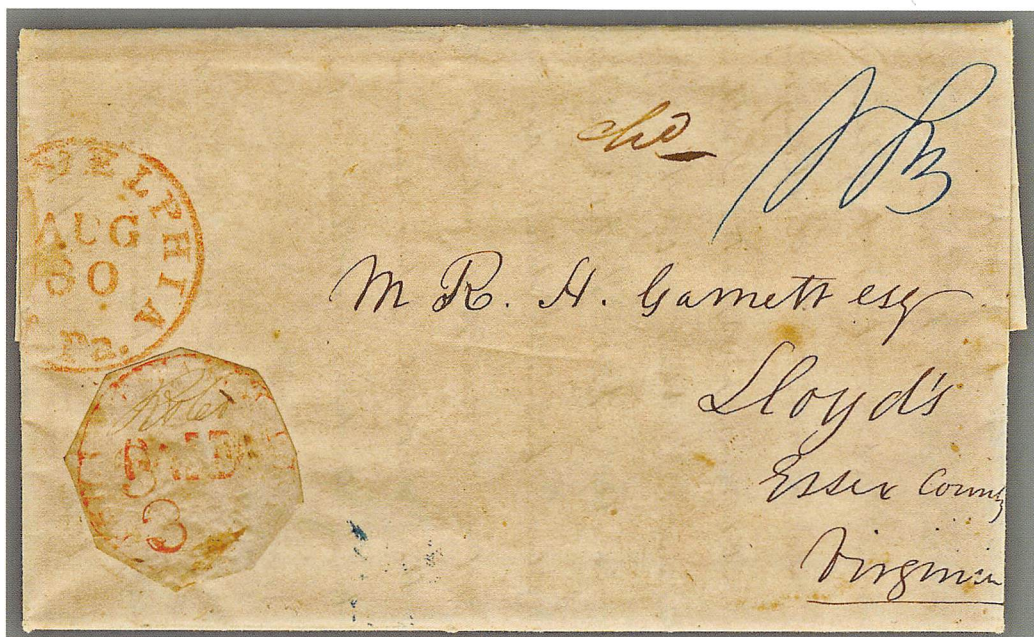


Figure 11a.



Figure 11b.

Figure 11. Census number 8 was addressed to Garnett in Virginia on August 29, 1843. The entire cover in Figure 11a, and 15L1 stamp in Figure 11b. The stamp was cancelled twice by a 6mm outline numeral 3, in addition to the “PAID” obliterator.



Figure 12a.



Figure 12b.

Figure 12. Census number 9 was locally delivered to Blanding on September 19, 1843. Figure 12a is the full cover, and Figure 12b the 15L1 stamp. A 6mm outline numeral 3 is struck just above the “ID” of the “PAID” obliterator.



Figure 13a.



Figure 13b.



Figure 13c.

Figure 13. Census number 11 was locally addressed to Scattergood on November 1, 1843. Figure 13a is the full cover, and Figure 13b the 15L1 stamp, cancelled by excellent strike of 6mm outline numeral 3, shown in Figure 13c.



Figure 14a.



Figure 14b.

Figure 14. Census number 12 was locally addressed to Gilpin on November 8, 1843. Figure 14a is the full cover, and Figure 14b is the 15L1 stamp. The “3P M” stamp design is visible in the center.



Figure 15a.



Figure 15b.

Figure 15. Census number 13 was locally addressed to Bache on undated cover. Figure 15a is the full cover, and Figure 15b is the 15L1 stamp, cancelled by a 12mm single line numeral 3.



Figure 16a.

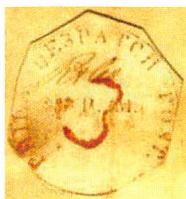


Figure 16b.

Figure 16. Census number 14 was locally addressed to Richards on undated cover. Figure 16a is the full cover, and Figure 16b the 15L1 stamp only. “PAID” was too faint to obliterate the underlying “3P M” stamp design in the center, but was also cancelled by a 12mm single line numeral “3.”



Figure 17. From census number 12 is “3P M” stamp center partially obliterated by PAID. The inappropriate stamp design delivery time is also seen well in Figure 16.

All stamps were handstamp cancelled. Color photographs of 10 confirm red ink for each one. Black and white photographs of 3 are presumably red. No cancels are believed to be in black ink. Numeral “3” cancelled 11 of the 13 photographed stamps.

Additional postal markings appeared on all 14 covers. Of the 8 covers delivered directly to local individuals and businesses, 7 were marked with the company named circular handstamp, and therefore appears on half the 15L1 covers. Of the 6 covers delivered to the government post office, all were struck by the Philadelphia circular datestamp; 5 were outbound to the mails; one was retained in Philadelphia as a “drop letter.”



Figure 18. Manuscript “R&Co” was a control mark applied on each and every 15L1 stamp that has survived. Shown is the example from census number 13, addressed to Bache.



Figure 19. From census number 11, reveals the crude “obliterator” handstamp “PAID.”

Cancellation Types

Table II summarizes the cancellation types. A cancel is a mark applied to the stamp to prevent reuse and potential subsequent unpaid postal service. Cancels may be in handstamp or manuscript form.

All 14 surviving examples were struck by a crude “PAID.” The letters “PA” are invariably not as tall as the letters “ID,” **Figure 19**. All 14 appear to be in red ink: confirmed red in census numbers 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 14; *presumed* red in census numbers 2, 3, 5, and 10. Two strikes of PAID were applied on census number 7. No strikes confirmed in black ink have been recorded. The author believes that the crude “PAID” was an *obliterator* of the flawed stamp design with inappropriate “3P M” at center,¹⁰ rather than intended to “cancel” possible reuse for postal service. The crude PAID was probably applied on the *day of sale* to avoid confusion over actual future delivery times.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, page 24.

Other handstamp markings are present on 15L1 stamps, which are *true cancellations* to prevent reuse. They were probably applied on the *date of service*, rather than the day of sale.¹¹ All appear to have been in red ink. More than half of the census was cancelled by a 6 mm numeral “3” in outline form; census numbers 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12 confirmed in red, with census number 3 presumed red. Three other examples were cancelled by a 12 mm tall numeral “3” in single line form; census numbers 2, 13, and 14, but only the latter two confirmed in red. Black has never been identified as a numeral “3” of any size or type.

A “Circle of Dots” canceled one 15L1 cover, census number 1. Likewise, one “Circle of Wedges” cancel, census number 5. The latter may be unique, and not found on any of the three issues by the Philadelphia Despatch Post. “Circle of Wedges” has similar to the Maltese Cross cancel used in England about that time and presumed red, **Figure 20.**

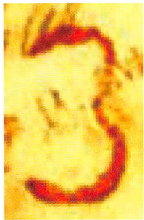


Figure 20a.



Figure 20b.

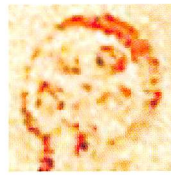


Figure 20c.

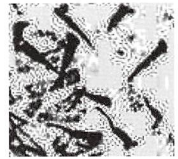


Figure 20d.

Figure 20. Various 15L1 cancellations. Figure 20a is a 6mm outline numeral 3; Figure 20b is a 12mm single line numeral 3; Figure 20c is the “circle of dots”; Figure 20d is the “circle of wedges.”

Government applied Philadelphia circular datestamps were certainly not intended to cancel or assist private posts. From the little information known about census number 10, the government circular handstamp marking by coincidence or accident, tied that 15L1 stamp to it's cover. Only one black and white photograph from 1941 of this cover exists, and is not available.

Cover Auxiliary Handstamps

Auxiliary markings are defined as additional markings on a cover which did not cancel stamps, but provided additional pertinent postal information regarding its handling and delivery, and of use to philatelist by recording postal actions. The great majority of markings are straight-line or circular handstamps, although some exist as manuscript. The local post handstamp confirmed it's service, in the form of rate charged, paid service, and whether a morning or afternoon delivery occurred. As an extention of his concept, the post office applied its circular datestamp to indicate which city and on which cde the government performed a service. For the philatelic student, the government cds functions as additional information for date and type of service, ie “To the Mails.”

¹¹ *Ibid*, page 26.

Table III summarizes auxiliary handstamps which appear on the surviving 15L1 covers. All are confirmed or presumed in red ink. These markings were probably applied at the *time of service*. Prior to the day of service, of course the cover sheet was in the possession of the sender and *not available* to the Philadelphia Despatch Post.

Half of the surviving examples are found with an associated "PHILA. DESPATCH POST." timed circular handstamp marking. This marking distinguished between a morning or afternoon delivery. It never functioned as a stamp cancellation. Only one "10 A M" style survived, census number 1. Much more common is "3P M," found on census numbers 4, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 14. All are confirmed in red ink. "PHILA. DESPATCH POST." was apparently reserved for only locally delivered letters, and none going to the post office. Of the eight examples delivered to a local address, seven had displayed the "PHILA. DESPATCH POST." marking (census number 7 did not).

Almost half of the surviving examples bear a government marking. Census numbers 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 10 demonstrate a Philadelphia circular datestamp. All six were applied at the main Philadelphia Post Office, after being delivered there by the Philadelphia Despatch Post. Five of six were outbound mail. Census number 3, however, was intended for a Philadelphia resident, although no address was given. Confirmed in red ink are numbers 6 and 8, the others unknown, but very likely red.

Government circular datestamp corroboration by "Clarke type" can be helpful¹² for the advanced student with special interest in Philadelphia postal history. Census numbers 2, 3, 6, and 8 are Clarke 59, which is known used from mid 1841 until mid 1846, while subtype 59f is red and recorded in a more narrow time period, earlier 1843 until later summer 1844, and shown in census number 6 in **Figure 9!** Census number 5 bears a Clarke type 57. Census number 10 is unknown. The important message is the *Philadelphia cds was 30 mm in diameter, and very close in size to the 28 mm Philadelphia Despatch Post marking. Government circular datestamps on rare occasions accidentally contacted the private post stamp, as apparently the case in census number 10, philatelically tying the stamp to cover.*

Only census number 7 does not bear a circular private post or government handstamp marking. However, an auxiliary manuscript marking "paid" exists. Only one other manuscript auxiliary marking occurs in this group. Census number 3 was marked "refused." No auxiliary markings were handstamp "PAID."

In summary, all 14 surviving 15L1 examples bear some type of auxiliary marking. Seven were Philadelphia Despatch Post, and six were Philadelphia circular datestamps. However, these two bold handstamp markings were *mutually exclusive*, and none appeared together. Only census number 7 has a manuscript rather than handstamp auxiliary marking.

Service Location

Table IV identifies addressee location. Almost two thirds of the surviving examples were delivered locally, nine of 14. Eight were delivered directly by the

¹² Tom Clarke, *A Catalog of PHILADELPHIA POSTMARKS, 18th Century to Present, Part 1*, pages 14-15, 1991.

Philadelphia Despatch Post to a street address, six within the city limits were, and two to adjacent districts, Northern Liberties, and Southwark. However, one of the 9 cannot be fully determined. Census number 3 must have been delivered by the private post to the main post office where it was marked with the Philadelphia circular datestamp. More likely it was intended as a “drop letter” to be picked up by the addressee, and remained in the old city.¹³ However, if not picked up after two days, it may have been forwarded by carrier, or more unlikely the intercity post to the Spring Garden District where the addressee is believed to have resided. To complicate matters further, the cover bears a manuscript “refused,” which may have been at the post office or the Spring Garden location.¹⁴ **Figure 21** is a map distribution of local delivery addresses. Since census number 3 final delivery location is uncertain, the residence has been selected, but designated by a *much smaller number*.

Five examples were outbound letters delivered by the Philadelphia Despatch Post to the main post office for entrance into the government inter-city mail system. All destinations were out of Pennsylvania to nearby states. The distribution was equally divided, one each to New Jersey, Virginia, and Ohio, with the exception of New York receiving two.

Government Combinations

Because 1843 was prior to federal government prepayment stamps, no prepayment stamp combinations were possible. Census number 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 10 were service combinations, bearing a Philadelphia Despatch Post prepayment stamp for delivery service to the post office, and Philadelphia circular datestamp for government service.

Incorrect Scott Catalog Numbering

The Philadelphia Despatch Post issued three different prepayment stamps. The first two were “primitive” octagonal shaped stamps, all placed into service and exhausted prior to the end of 1843. The topic of this article, 15L1 “red on bluish” octagonal stamps, has been listed for decades in Scott Catalog as 15L1. The previous article in this series reviewed the “black” octagonal stamp, Scott Catalog 15L2. Collectively only twenty octagonal stamps have survived, and all are on covers, most of which are dated (eighteen of twenty).

From this small data base, reasonable evidence exists to suggest the catalog sequence should be reversed.¹⁵ The earliest 15L2 was in December of 1842.¹⁶ The earliest 15L1 example was not until February 15, 1843, *at least six weeks later*.

¹³ Vernon R. Morris Jr, MD, “What is a ‘Drop Letter’ and a ‘Drop Dead Letter’?,” *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classics Postal Issues*, Vol. 55, No. 4, (Whole Number 200), November 2003, pages 248-250.

¹⁴ Vernon R. Morris Jr, MD, “Cressman & Co’s”, *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 81, No. 5, September- October 2002, pages 240- 241.

¹⁵ *Ibid*, page 24.

¹⁶ *Ibid*, page 33.

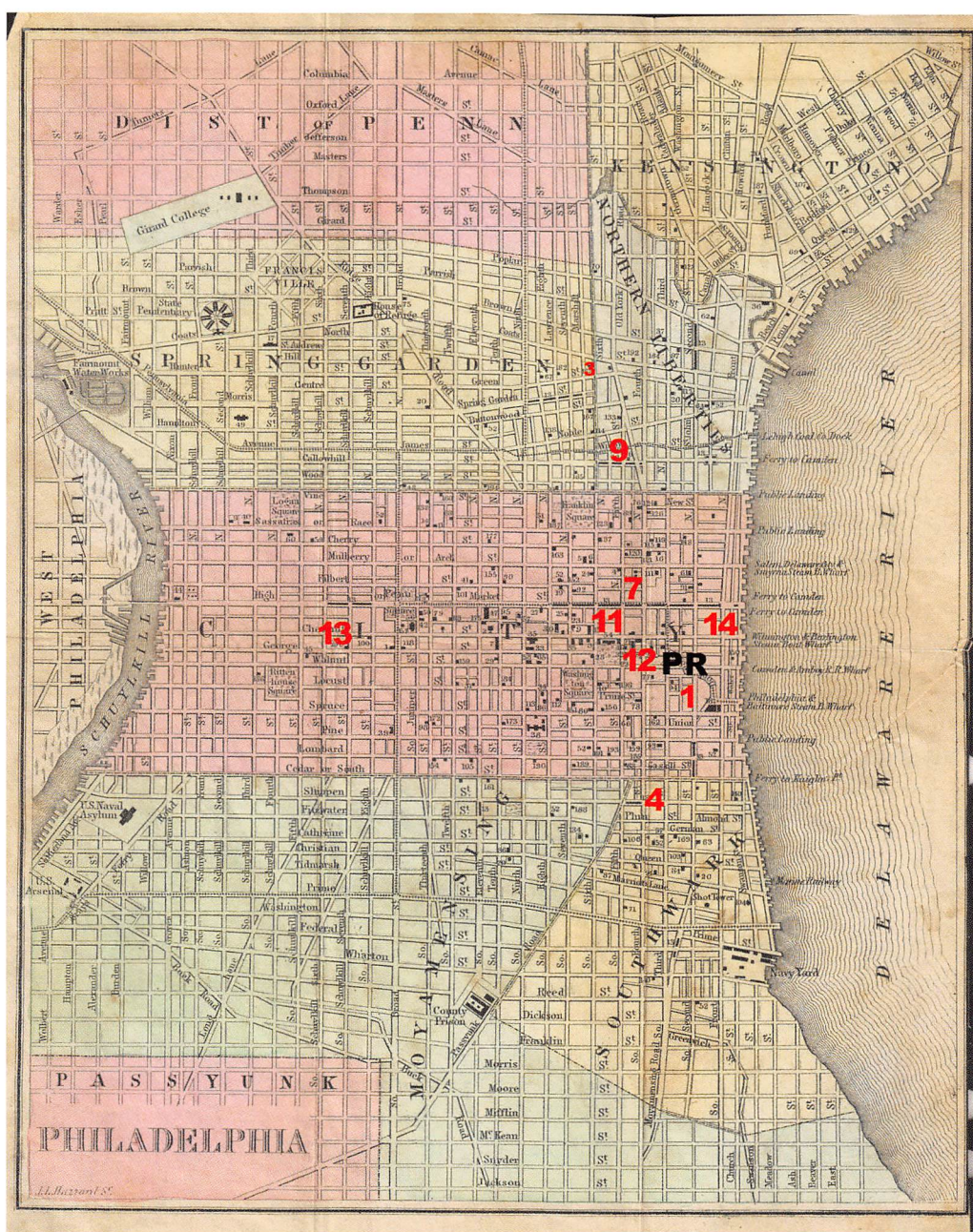


Figure 21. Contemporary map of Philadelphia. “R” indicates the principal office of Robertson’s “Philadelphia Despatch Post.” “P” locates the main post office in the old city of Philadelphia. Eight local census numbers have been identified by the Pennsylvania Historical Society. Census number 3 was probably a drop letter.

DATE	COVER	15L1 RED on BLUISH	15L1 CANCEL	AUXILIARY MARKING	ADDRESSEE
1. February 15, 1843	Folded letter	1. "R&Co" 2. Bold red "3P M"	1. Red "circle of dots" 2. Red PAID	1. Red "10 AM" circular "PHILA. DESPATCH POST"	Mr Teos. G. Hollingsworth. / 136 South 2d. St. OLD CITY
2. April 19, 1843	Folded letter	1. "R&Co"	1. (Red) PAID 2. (Red) 12 mm single line numeral "3"	1. Philadelphia circular datestamp	Robert M Ludlow Esq / Office of the Camden & Amboy Rail Road Co - / New - York NEW YORK
3. June 13, 1843	-	1. "R&Co" 2. Cut square	1. (Red) PAID 2. (Red) 6mm outline numeral "3"	1. (Red) 12 mm single line numeral "3" 2. Philadelphia circular datestamp 3. Manuscript "Refused"	Mr. Fred Fritz / (Phila) DROP LETTER or SPRING GARDEN
4. June 20, 1843	Folded letter	1. "R&Co" 2. Red "3P M"	1. Red PAID 2. Two red 6mm outline numeral "3"	1. Two red "PM" circular "PHILA DESPATCH POST"	Mr Maurice McNamee / Shippen betw 3 & 4 St / Blacksmith SOUTHWARK
5. June 27, 1843	(Folded letter)	1. "R&Co" 2. (Red) "3P M"	1. (Red) PAID 2. (Red) "circle wedges"	1. Philadelphia circular datestamp	Mssrs E. Fabrequettes fits & Morris / Merchants / New York NEW YORK
6. July 28, 1843	Folded letter	1. "R&Co" 2. Red "3P M"	1. Red PAID 2. Three red 6mm outline numeral "3"	1. Red Philadelphia circular datestamp	Miss Mary G. Patterson / St Mary's Hall / Burlington NEW JERSEY

Table 1. Data base table for 15L1.

7. July 28, 1843	Folded letter	1. "R&Co" 2. Red "3P M"	1. Two red PAID 2. Three red 6mm outline numeral "3"	1. Manuscript "paid"	Mssrs Lattin & Hamlin / Commerce St / bet. 4 th & 5 th Sts OLD CITY
8. August 29, 1843	Folded letter	1. "R&Co" 2. Red "3P M"	1. Red PAID 2. Two red 6mm outline numeral "3"	1. Red Philadelphia circular datestamp	M R. H. Garnett esq / Lloyd's / Essex County / <u>Virginia</u> VIRGINIA
9. September 19, 1843	Folded letter	1. "R&Co" 2. Red "3P M"	1. Red PAID 2. Red 6mm outline numeral "3"	1. Red "PM" circular "PHILA DESPATCH POST"	Dr-William Blanding / Corner-5 th & Willow St- / Phila NORTHERN LIBERTIES
10. October 10, 1843	-	-	-	1. Red Philadelphia circular datestamp	Mount Pleasant, Ohio OHIO
11. November 1, 1843	Folded letter	1. "R&Co" 2. Red "3P M"	1. Red PAID 2. Red 6mm outline numeral "3"	1. Red "PM" circular "PHILA DESPATCH POST"	Mssrs Carter & Scattergood / 11 & 14 Minor St / Phila OLD CITY
12. November 8, 1843	Folded printed notice	1. "R&Co" 2. Red "3P M"	1. Red PAID 2. Red 6mm outline numeral "3"	1. Red "PM" circular "PHILA DESPATCH POST"	Henry D. Gilpin Esq / 99 Walnut St OLD CITY
13. Undated	Folded letter	1. "R&Co" 2. Red "3P M"	1. Red PAID 2. Red 12mm single line numeral "3"	1. Red "PM" circular "PHILA DESPATCH POST"	A.D Bache, L.L.D. / Chesnut St. 5 th door East of Sehl. 6 th / Philadelphia OLD CITY
14. Undated	Folded letter	1. "R&Co" 2. (Red) "3P M"	1. Very faint red PAID 2. Red 12mm single line numeral "3"	1. Red "3PM" circular "PHILA DSPATCH POST"	George H. Richards Esq. / 34 Sec Sixth ----- / Philada. OLD CITY ?

Table 1. (cont.). Data base table for 15L1.

15L1 CANCEL		
Total	Cancel Type	Census Number
13	Red PAID	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,11,12,13,14
8	6 mm outline numeral “3”	3,4,6,7,8,9,11,12
3	12 mm tall single numeral “3”	2,13,14
1	Red small “Circle of Dots”	1
1	“Circle of Wedges”	5
1	Unknown	10

Table 2. 15L1 handstamp cancellation types.

AUXILIARY COVER HANDSTAMPS		
Total	Handstamp Type	Census Number
6	Philadelphia circular datestamp	2,3,5,6,8,10
6	“PHILA. DESPATCH POST.” - 3PM	4,9,11,12,13,14
1	“PHILA. DESPATCH POST.” - 10AM	1
1	12 mm tall single numeral “3”	3

Table 3. Auxiliary cover handstamps.

ADDRESS		
Total	Location	Census Number
6	Old City	1,7,11,12,13,14
1	Northern Liberties District	9
1	Southwark	4
1	Philadelphia Post Office / Spring Garden District	3
2	New York	2,5
1	New Jersey	6
1	Ohio	10
1	Virginia	4

Table 4. Addressee locations. Census number 3 was addressed to an individual without street location, and most likely a “drop letter” given to the postmaster to hold. The addressee resided in the Spring Garden District.

November 8, 1843 was the latest recorded 15L1 (census number 12). The latest recorded 15L2 was June 13, 1843 (census number 6), *almost five months* before the latest 15L1.

15L1 & 15L2 Combined Data Analysis

The combined total of 15L1 “red on bluish” and 15L2 “black” stamps is 20, *of which 19 have been photographed, 15 in color*. All 19 stamps have a manuscript “R&Co” control marking in black. All 19 stamp designs show the company name with “3P M” in center. The center time in all 19 had been obliterated by a like color “PAID.”

All 19 stamps were likely cancelled in red ink. Of the 19, 15 were confirmed in red, and 4 presumed red. Confirmed for 15L1 was census number 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14; for 15L2 was census number 1, 2, 3, 4, 6. Presumed red for 15L1 was census number 2, 3, 5; for 15L2 was census number 5. Of the combined census photographed in color, 15 of 15, or **100%, were in red**. None are confirmed canceled in black ink.

Of the 19 photographed stamps, 15 were cancelled by a numeral “3”; 11 on 15L1, 4 on 15L2. The 15L1 census numbers were 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14. The 15L2 census numbers 1, 4, 5, 6. Of the combined census almost **80% were cancelled by a numeral “3.”**

Of 20 covers 19 demonstrate auxiliary markings; 15L1, census number 7, is manuscript. An **auxiliary handstamped marking appears on 18 for 90% of the covers**. For all 6 letters delivered to the Philadelphia Post Office, a government circular datestamp was applied; 15L1 census number 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, and 15L2 none. Of the combines 12 delivered by the Philadelphia Despatch Post directly to an individual or business, all were handstamped by their named circular marking; 15L1 were census numbers 1, 4, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15L2 were census number 1, 2, 3, 5, 6. The two circular handstamp markings are *mutually exclusive*, and do not appear together. Therefore, for the combined census of 18 auxiliary markings, two thirds of all circular auxiliary handstamp markings were on private post letters.

The 12 Philadelphia Despatch Post auxiliary markings each revealed the delivery time of day. The morning delivery occurred on 4; 15L1 census number 1, and 15L2 census number 1, 2, 5. The afternoon delivery occurred on 8; 15L1 census number 4, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15L2 was census number 3, 6. Therefore, for the combined census of 12, **one third were morning and two thirds were afternoon deliveries**.

Of the 6 delivered to the main post office, 5 were on outbound mail. All 5 were 15L1, census number 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10. Compared to the concurrent 15L2 outbound service of zero, 35% of 15L1 outbound is high. The sample pool is very small, but the differential quite high. A qualified statistician has concluded “the number of red stamps sent out of state is *significantly greater* than the number of black stamps... $p=.019$.”¹⁷

¹⁷ Personal email communication from Elizabeth M. Hudak, Ph.D. on April 12, 2013.

Theory

Five of fourteen 15L1 survivors were addressed outside Pennsylvania, per **Table 1**. More than one third were delivered to the federal government's Philadelphia main post office to enter intercity mail. Evidence demonstrates that all 15L2 covers were local delivery to a street address. To within a very statistically significant degree of confidence, only 15L1 serviced letters delivered to the government. The author speculates that the red 15L1 stamp was probably chosen for post office delivery, while simultaneously valid for a local service. *Evidence demonstrates that 15L1 was a dual purpose prepayment stamp.*

A high correlation exists for both 15L1 and 15L2 auxiliary cover handstamp markings and type of service. The Philadelphia Despatch Post handstamp was employed for local delivery by the private post, but not for *any* letter delivered to the main post office, even a "drop letter."¹⁸ *Perhaps the private post desired to be below the radar*, especially since located directly across Dock Street. To the contrary any letter turned over to the government received a Philadelphia circular datestamp. The Philadelphia Despatch Post auxiliary handstamp mark *does not exist in conjunction with a Philadelphia circular datestamp.*

The author submits the *change of handstamp color and stamp color to red may have served to mimic the red color, commonly used during 1843 by the government*, Clarke type 59f. Perhaps the Philadelphia Despatch Post was sensitive to its competitive position with the federal government and specifically the Philadelphia carriers.¹⁹ By blending in better with the contemporary postal markings perhaps the private company would be less conspicuous. The casual observer may have been sufficiently confused and believed the private post may have been an arm of the government. The similarities in red are best demonstrated on census number 6 in **Figure 9a**.

Delivery time must have been important, but only on local letters delivered to a street address. Understandable as outbound letter delivery became a matter for the post office. Moreover, prospective future private post patrons lived in Philadelphia and not other states.

Significance

The Philadelphia Despatch Post was the third entity in the world to issue prepayment stamps. Most 15L1 survivors served concurrently with 15L2.²⁰ While these two octagonal stamps were active throughout most of 1843, they were the only private post prepayment stamps in the United States, and for that matter, the entire world. 15L1 participated in the advancement of written communication through specialization and innovation of postal service dedicated and restricted solely to local service in one city.

Gone undetected for 170 years was 15L1 and 15L2 stamp design stating a delivery time. An oblitative strike of "PAID" in the same color was sufficiently

¹⁸ Vernon R. Morris Jr, MD, "What is a 'Drop Letter' and a 'Drop Dead Letter'?", *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classics Postal Issues*, Vol. 55, No. 3, (Whole Number 199), August 2003, page 177.

¹⁹ *Ibid*, page 250.

²⁰ *Ibid*, pages 16-37.

successful to disguise the flawed stamp design for almost two centuries. The timed auxiliary cover handstamp marking further ameliorated the predicament by accurately recording the delivery time of day.

Summary

The “red on bluish” 15L1 and 15L2 “black” stamp are identical in all ways except color. Both appear to have been expediently “manufactured” by the Philadelphia Despatch Post during the first years that stamps were ever issued. Timed circular handstamp markings were fashioned into octagonal shapes, and sold without gum as prepayment for future postal service. Although the handstamp specified delivery time, conversion to a prepayment stamp for future service on an unknown delivery time was a flawed method which resulted in a flawed stamp design! The octagonal shape may also have been *hand labor intensive*. The octagonal shape was primitive, and in retrospect an experiment which did not survive the test of time.

All 14 surviving 15L1 stamps remained on their original cover. Only 13 have been photographed. All 13 demonstrate a manuscript “*R&Co*” control marking in black ink (as all 15L2). All 13 “red on bluish” 15L1 stamp centers are red “3P M,” and all obliterated by red “PAID” (similar to the black 15L2 “3P M” obliterated by black “PAID”). Obliteration most likely occurred on the *day of sale, to promptly remedy the flawed design*. The PAID obliteration of “3P M”, however, was surprisingly *successful and has gone undetected by all admiring philatelists for the past 170 years!*

All 13 photographed 15L1 stamps were cancelled to prevent free additional postal service. Cancellations were probably on the day of service. All 15L1 examples photographed in color were *cancelled in red ink, 100% of the combined census*. Numeral “3,” cancelled 11 of 14 Scott 15L1 stamps, and 79 % of the combined census.

All 14 of the 15L1 covers bear an auxiliary marking, 13 were circular handstamp markings, one manuscript. For 15L1 an almost equal split existed between the private post, and the government’s Philadelphia circular datestamp. These two namesake handstamps were *mutually exclusive*, and never appeared together on any 15L1 covers. The *Philadelphia Despatch Post handstamp was found on 66% of the combined census*,

The most common recorded delivery was “3P M.” Of the 7 examples of 15L1 with timed handstamps, 6 were afternoon deliveries. The combined census proved *afternoon delivery was 66%*.

For 15L1 examples 8 of 14 were delivered to local individual or business, and the remainder 6 to the post office. For the combined census, *70% were locally delivered to individuals and business’s*.

15L1 “red on bluish,” however, appears to have been *multipurpose*. This stamp of course, served to prepay letters delivered to any local address including individuals, businesses, and even to the post office in Philadelphia. Since the post office was located directly across the street (**Figure 21**), such short a delivery must have been the most lucrative! The Philadelphia Despatch Post circular hanstamp auxiliary marking on the cover was reserved, however, for delivery to individuals

and business's. This proud marking was *never* applied on any letters delivered to the post office, as if attempting to go unnoticed by the government.

Once delivered to the main post office, the government circular datestamp was applied as an auxiliary cover handstamp marking. Outbound letters entered the federal inter-city mail system. However, some addressees were Philadelphians in possession of a paid letter box at the post office for their own regular pick up. Typically an account was established to satisfy the postmaster's emolument for a "drop letter,"²¹ as probably the case with census number 3.

"Red on bluish" 15L1 were probably printed once the company realized its supply of 15L2 stamps would soon be exhausted. The author speculates that the Philadelphia Despatch Post *conversion to red prepayment stamps and red auxiliary cover circular handstamp marking may have been intended to better disguise their postal marking to appear more like the commonly used red color and circular style Clarke 59f of the Philadelphia post office*. Conversion was by the very end of December 1842.²²

The Philadelphia Despatch Post was on the cutting edge of evolutionary specialization in written communication. A new service had been provided in the third largest English speaking city in the world. Along with the 15L1 companion 15L2, these "primitive" octagonal stamps were extremely important in the development of postal service. The next article will discuss the third and final issue by the Philadelphia Despatch Post, and another paradigm introduced by the Philadelphia Despatch Post that was anything but primitive.

²¹ *Ibid*, page 150.

²² *Ibid*, page 24.

Benjamin Riggs – His Bath, Maine Mail and Express Service

By
William W. Sammis

On May 1, 1857 the Eastern Express Company was formed by consolidating three existing companies: Hodgman, Carr & Company, Carpenter & Company and Winslow & Company. This gave the Eastern Express Company the most comprehensive network within the state of Maine to date.

By October 21, 1857, and possibly from the company's inception, Benjamin Riggs was their agent at Bath, Maine with an office address of the Sagadahoc Block. **Figure 1** is an Eastern Express Company receipt issued at Bath on October 21, 1857 and signed by Riggs as agent. (All figures are reduced.)

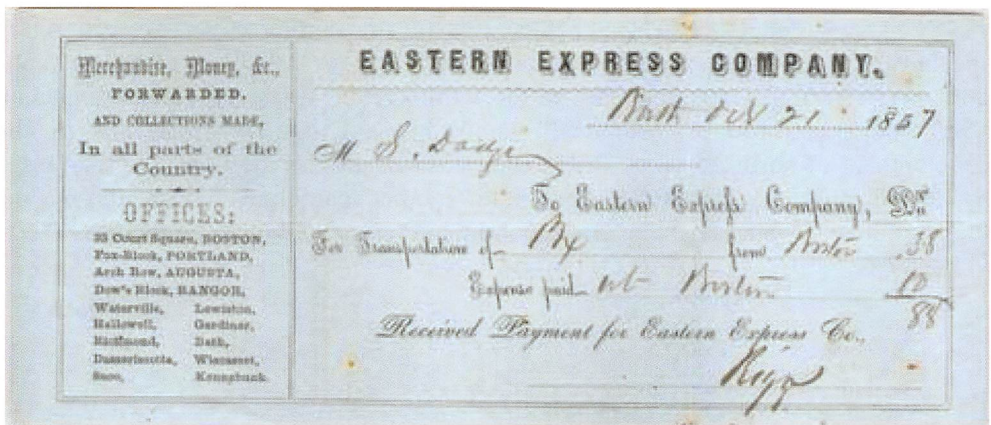


Figure 1.

During this same time period residents at Bath, Maine would use “Riggs’ Mail” as their Post Office Department mailing address. **Figure 2** is a letter written on December 31, 1857 at Woolwich, Maine. I assume that it entered the mails at the Woolwich Post Office, postage was paid and the “PAID” handstamp was affixed. The mile and a half route to Bath would have included a trip across the Kennebec River on the Sagadahoc steamboat ferry. The letter, from a school friend, is addressed to Mary Baker with her address at Bath being “Riggs’ Mail.”



Figure 2.

Figure 3 is an insurance policy issued by the Bath office of the Lincoln Mutual Fire Insurance Company with an effective date of March 23, 1859. It was sent locally to John Nichols, the policyholder, with a Bath cancel on the one-cent stamp (drop rate) that appears to read March 26th. Like the **Figure 2** cover, “Riggs Mail” was considered an adequate address in Bath.

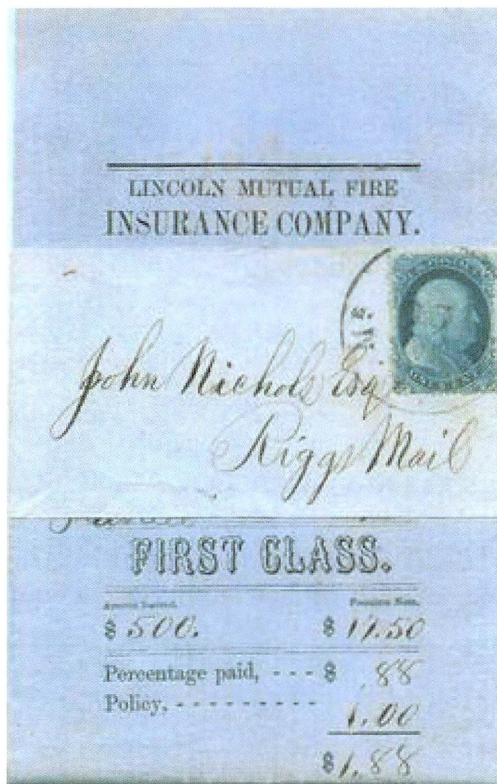


Figure 3.

Challenges for the membership:

1. Are there other examples of “Riggs’ Mail”?
2. Can members supply additional information about Benjamin Riggs and his Mail and Express services?
 - a. Did Riggs, for a fee, offer local delivery of letters from the Bath Post Office?
 - b. Did Riggs maintain a box (rented from the Post Office Department) at the post office where “Riggs’ Mail” could be held for pick up for a fee?
(Riggs could have collected fees by the letter [if delivered] or through a subscription fee [if letters were held for pick up].)
 - c. How long was “Riggs’ Mail” in operation?
 - d. How long did Benjamin Riggs work for the Eastern Express Company?

I invite correspondence at cds13@cornell.edu.

**Carriers and Locals Society
Auction #24**

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Closing date for consignments
June 18, 2013

To our Auction Manager, Alan E. Cohen

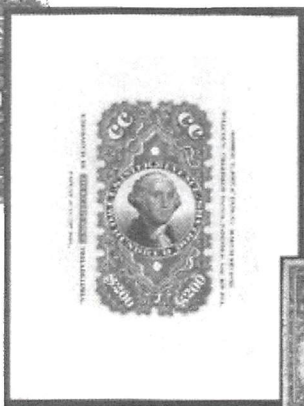
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